

GENESIS AVALON: PATRIOT EPISODE 16 “What Paves the Road to Hell”

\*\*\*\*\*

[Genesis Avalon: Patriot Theme plays]

Genesis Avalon: Patriot, Episode 16: “What Paves the Road to Hell”

[theme music ends]

\*\*\*\*\*

(Beating rain and the occasional passing 18 wheeler can be heard around them as Ben and John drive along miles of empty highway. Music plays on the radio.)

BEN

Where did you even get a car? Not like we can finance stuff.

JOHN

Oh, and you know a lot about financing a car? Maybe you want a pop quiz on interest rates.

BEN

(sarcastic but amused) Oh, there he is. There’s Mr. Pellson. School’s out, though, so you don’t get to give me pop quizzes. (Beat) Still didn’t answer my question.

JOHN

It’s not relevant. I got the car because we need to get to Ohio.

BEN

Ohio?! Why?!

JOHN

Your Freedom Press might be a bunch of hippies...

BEN

(incredulous and under his breath) “Bunch of Hippies”?

JOHN

But they have more information than they know what to do with. I spent a minute reading through some of their maps while we were there. They’ve got intel all around the country, but there’s a huge dead zone around Youngstown.

BEN

Okay, so?

JOHN

Youngstown, Ohio is where Ohio State Penitentiary is located. You were too young to remember

it, but when you were little, it was so bad that inmates went on hunger strikes from the conditions. And if I were a fascist goosestepping asshole, their warden pool would be a real easy place to recruit Stewards.

BEN

So... you want to go to the supermax prison in Ohio because... it's a prison? What, you think this is like Clinton County, we're gonna find more people getting executed?

JOHN

No. I think we're gonna find something the Stewards are hiding. Something or someone. And we're gonna do whatever it takes to get in there and find out.

BEN

Dad... this is not what you told me we were gonna do. You said we were gonna free people, and instead we're going on a seven hour drive to the middle of nowhere on, like, zero information -

JOHN

I'm going with my gut, son. When I was in Iraq what the enemy wanted you to see? *That* was the distraction.

BEN

*Or*, we could just go back to the city, go back to the Freedom Press and ask them to find out what's in there. But nooo. You're too proud. And now you want to do something brave and... and stupid to make yourself feel better! All because you lost your cool!!

JOHN

(snaps) I had to protect you! They were going to kill you, you understand me? There was no talking them down, no negotiating. So I did what I had to do. And you will *not* use that against me. I am your father. Fathers *protect* their children, and you are still a child, Benjamin. We will *not* discuss this again, do you hear me?

BEN

(rattled, but doesn't think he can convince him to stop now) Fine.

JOHN

Excuse me?

BEN

... Yes, sir.

\*\*\*\*\*

(At Freedom Press HQ, Jaina is making a cup of tea when someone else walks in)

KERRI

(Yawns a bit, clearly hasn't been sleeping well. Very low energy) Oh, Jaina, bless you, you've already turned the kettle on.

JAINA

Hey, Kerri. (Little smirk) Yeah, positive effect of living in London now - I've developed a taste for tea over coffee as the ultimate pick me up.

KERRI

Mum always said a cuppa could cure whatever ails you. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to always work. (sighs) Nightmares aren't so easy to banish.

JAINA

I wasn't going to mention, but this is the third time in a row we've had early morning tea. I can blame jet lag, but you don't get that excuse.

(Kerri makes an annoyed noise as she doctors her cup of tea

JAINA

Want to talk about it?

KERRI

Want to? Not particularly. Need to? Probably.

JAINA

Pull up some folding chair. It's not like anyone else is in here. (beat) It is a surprisingly big mess hall, though.

KERRI

We used to have bigger numbers when this all started. Well, suppose it's a bell curve. At first, it was just us: Casey and Bobby leading the charge, Evan pulling in as many healthcare and first responders we could find, and Julian and I setting up our network from all our former press contacts. The ones that had escaped. And then it started to grow... we picked up people headed to Steward towns, kids that needed care but couldn't get it. We stockpiled pharmaceuticals that the government wanted to ban or make people pay for out of pocket. (Little disbelieving chuckle) We had people come to us that had been rationing their insulin. And when they went to their insurance companies, nothing. Nothing. Senators? Told them they were un-American and to just work harder. Anyone who wasn't white, upper-class, already voting for the party of "American values and tax cuts for the rich" was on the chopping block.

JAINA

So what happened?

KERRI

(takes a moment to consider how to put it) Five years of resistance happened. And there were... casualties.

JAINA

Bobby.

KERRI

Among others, yeah. And it wasn't all death, mind you. We realized early on that some people just... Not ready. Or able to fight. Not everyone was willing to leave their families behind in Canada or Mexico or Europe, like I was. (little sarcastic chuckle) Honestly, I remember thinking some of them were being selfish. Or... or childish, maybe, I don't know. But... but now I'm not so sure.

JAINA

I'm not really one to talk... I was gone all this time. And as Sam just spent the last two days reminding me... if you don't take care of yourself, you can't help anyone else. I'm terrible at following that kind of advice, by the way. Just in case you were thinking I was about to start acting like I'd been doing that all along. I have definitely not. Which is why I'm staying.

KERRI

... Good. That's good. We need that.

JAINA

I'm sensing a "but".

KERRI

But, I don't know if it's... enough. For me. Personally. I'm... (sighs, quietly, almost to herself) Gods, this is ridiculous, I'm being ridiculous...

JAINA

(Actually worried about her now) Kerri. Hey. Talk to me. What's wrong?

KERRI

Have you ever... (swallows) Had to kill someone? I mean... I mean, like, an actual person. Not a demon.

JAINA

(a little haunted) I have. Yes. More than once.

KERRI

How did you get past it? (sniffs, is at that point of sleep deprivation where the crying is going to happen any second) I've... I've never. I mean... there was a guard at the prison and he drew his gun and I had mine, but I never

JAINA  
Kerri...

KERRI  
thought I'd use it and - and - (catches herself before she really starts to cry) I can't stop seeing his face.

JAINA  
I... I don't have any easy answers there. I had to kill people who were close to me and I... I didn't handle it well. I sort of just... pushed it down and tried to move on, tried to tell myself that they were demons and it didn't matter. Eventually, I had to face the fact that Roxie... and Assara... they were in there. And when I faced that... it hit me like a ton of bricks. Knocked me on my ass. But what happened to you? It was self-defense.

KERRI  
"It was self-defense" It doesn't matter! I've never - I told myself I would never... never *be* like them. I've handled guns before, but I've never used one like that and I... I never wanted to.

JAINA  
You're not the same as them, Kerri. You did what you had to because it was either you or that guy. And you were only there because you were rescuing other people that had never done anything wrong in the first place.

KERRI  
But it doesn't change that I killed someone. And.... and I don't know... I just... I feel... so twisted up.

JAINA  
Maybe that's the point.

KERRI  
What?

JAINA  
Maybe the point is that you aren't okay with what happened. That's the thing that makes you different from them. If you were okay with it, then maybe I'd be worried you're "just as bad as them." But from where I'm sitting? All you did was rescue my husband and face lethal danger with courage. (deep breath) Why don't we go talk to Evan, see if he has any sleeping pills or something he can recommend? You need to rest.

KERRI  
(little scoffing laugh) Oh, really? Now I know you're just parroting Sam. I heard him giving you that same rubbish last night.

JAINA

Yeah, well, he's not wrong... I've spent a lot of time beating myself up. Now I'm gonna take care of myself *while* I take care of everyone else.

KERRI

Blimey, don't do anything by halves, do you?

JAINA

Nope, not really.

(As if he heard his name, Evan walks in quickly, muttering to himself as he goes to make coffee.)

EVAN

(under his breath) Half case of 4 by 4 gauze left, but we still need more morphine or codeine, (ignoring them, still doing mental math) What i really need is tramadol, but maybe we could swing some ketamine, would at least help with the acute cases. No, that won't work either. And we lost the freezer...

JAINA

Evan?

EVAN

(suddenly realizing there is no coffee, just tea) For the love of God, if you're gonna put the hot water on would it kill you to put a pot of coffee on?! Some of us have been up all night!

(Evan tosses coffee supplies in frustration)

JAINA

(Without missing a beat) Yeah, get in line.

EVAN

(realizes he has been an ass) I... I am so sorry, I'm running on a power nap from, like, eight hours ago. I didn't mean to -

KERRI

Don't apologize. You've been doing twice as much as we have.

JAINA

Kerri's been having nightmares, I don't sleep anyway, and you've been in the infirmary for the last day and a half. I tried to ask if you needed help last night but you were heads down, I didn't want to bother you.

EVAN

(sighs) All part of the job, honestly. Guess the good news is that once you learn how to do rotations in ER, you never really forget. It's like riding a bicycle you can't get off... (Under breath) Why did I say that... so stupid...

JAINA

Sounds like you're stretched pretty thin, though.

EVAN

Not me. Our supplies. After the prison break, we've had nothing but informants, refugees and just... people caught in the crossfire show up here. Now, we're able to get them here without the Stewards noticing, thankfully, but... I don't have the supplies for that many bullet wounds. The bullets in the rifles the Stewards carry? I've never seen anything like them. (Sniffs, quietly to himself) So much technology, and all we do is figure out how to rip bodies apart more efficiently...

KERRI

Just how low are we?

EVAN

I have... enough for maybe a dozen more people. And that's assuming none of them is a heavy bleed. We're out of Cel-ex, so nothing left to clot blood quickly. And we have just a few vials left of the higher potency painkillers. Right now, if someone were to come to us with a serious wound, I'd be worried that the pain alone would cause them to stroke out. But, we're the only place a lot of people can go. We can't afford to turn anyone away.

(Casey has been wheeling into the room as they talk)

CASEY

Well, it's gonna be just as bad if we let them in only for them to die, Evan. (beat, has cooled off a bit since seeing Avalon in action, it shows in her attitude) Jaina. I thought you were gonna take a day for sabbatical or whatever it is you do with the gods.

JAINA

Yeah, that's been slow-going. Turns out after six years of telling them to leave me alone... they don't want to talk.

CASEY

I can understand their POV there, I think.

JAINA

Yup, figured you could. (sigh) Look. I can't take back the last six years. But I'm here now. So, I am going to table trying to get the Tuatha de Danaan to answer me. Right now, I'm going to

focus on what I can do for you and the rest of the Freedom Press. You have me and Sam. Use us.

CASEY

After Patriot went fully “Give me Liberty or Give Me Death”, everything’s been locked down. Patrols are doubled, they’ve locked down access to all the hospitals and the supply chain lines have been diverted to fortified warehouses.

JAINA

Has anyone *seen* Patriot? (beat) I haven’t seen Ben around since...wait, when *did* I last see him?

EVAN

He left right around the same time you took Noir back to the border. I think he went to find his father. There didn’t seem to be a lot of grace for his dad with all of us, but... clearly, Ben doesn’t think he’s too far gone.

CASEY

I can only give people so many chances, Evan. And he endangered everyone by making the prison break way worse than it needed to be. The news now says we’re all murderers! Well, except you, Jaina, because they’ve conveniently removed any references to you or what the Overseers are. Which means getting supplies will be nearly impossible.

JAINA

You’re all civilians. And Casey, you’re too fast for people to see -

CASEY

Sometimes I am. But if you think it’s easy to use superspeed to keep myself up right on a prosthetic and a bum knee, then I know someone who’s been trying to reach you about your extended warranty. Point is, all of our faces are on Steward watch lists, and thanks to Patriot, they know that the Freedom Press was there and that Vanguard - yours truly - broke Sam out.

JAINA

(lightbulb goes off over the next line) But you just said they’ve suppressed all information about Avalon. That’s it. That’s how we do this.

CASEY

“We?”

JAINA

No one knows Genesis Avalon is back. So if Sam and I go pick up supplies, they’ll think we’re just two civilians who are desperate. And that gives us the element of surprise. Plus... (sighs) I’ve been thinking about this all wrong. I thought being Avalon couldn’t help this, but clearly, Ben was right. The Stewards used my fear of making it worse to make sure I took no action.



KERRI

Yes, but, I thought you said Avalon couldn't help because she was going to punch things. Against Overseers? Absolutely needed. Sneaking into a hospital, though?

JAINA

I've spent six years teaching Jack and Alicia, our apprentices, to study the Tuatha de Danaan. What it means to represent Avalon in a spiritual sense, not just for combat. I need to take my own advice. I never would have thought to call upon Epona if I hadn't spent time studying and committing her to memory like all the others. I have more tools in my arsenal. I just need to use them. So... give me a list.

EVAN

It's not that easy. Some of it is, but I have to see the drugs, know what I can grab to substitute for others.

JAINA

Okay, fine. You, me, Leo and Sam. Four people can get in and out.

CASEY

For the record, I hate this idea.

EVAN

Do you have a better one? (beat) You wanted Avalon to help, it sounds like you're getting Avalon. Better late than never.

CASEY

(sighs) Fine. Okay. But only because I don't have a better idea.

JAINA

I'll take care of him, Casey. I promise.

CASEY

You better.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Sounds of HEAVY patrolling. Choppers in the distance, cars going by, people on radios. It's not good. John and Ben walks up towards that wall of sound.)

BEN

*This* is Youngstown? (under his breath) Real glad we had all that time in the car for him to give me the silent treatment just so we could get *here*. (Louder, to his dad) This doesn't look like a

city, it looks like a Steward town on steroids. People practically look like zombies, and there are Stewards everywhere. (Beat) This is... not gonna work.

JOHN

Please, we went through worse in New York getting Exodus out.

BEN

So we're just gonna breeze right on past the part where I was almost shot and where the Stewards actually had us in custody? All that stuff you just lectured me on in the car?

JOHN

It's not the same.

(Ben pulls his dad aside)

BEN

You're right. Because this is still a functioning city. There are people living near this supermax, Dad. Standing *right* over there, waiting to go to work.

JOHN

There are people living everywhere. You can't compromise a mission on the risk of collateral damage.

BEN

I hate that phrase. "Collateral Damage". It's like saying "Well it's okay if I break my board so long as I land the sick flip-kick." It... it minimizes the loss. Dehumanizes it.

JOHN

It's how you have to think about things when you're at war.

BEN

And here we are. A mighty army of two. All those tours you did in the middle east before you married mom, they tell you that an army of two guys can totally topple an army of a half a million?

JOHN

Actually, yes, that's exactly what I learned.

BEN

America didn't win those wars, Dad.

JOHN

Exactly. It proves the size of the force does not dictate who will win. All they needed were two or three well placed men to take out an entire unit of the largest army to ever grace the face of the planet.

BEN

Those were terrorists! Like, Al Qaeda and the Taliban and ISIL!

JOHN

That doesn't matter. What matters is that what they did worked.

BEN

So that's what you want to do. You just wanna be a flat out terrorist. Who cares how many civilians die in the process, so long as "what you do works".

JOHN

I want to overthrow the authoritarian government. I want a revolution. It's not 1776. We can't just throw tea in a harbor and call ourselves heroes.

BEN

I'm out.

JOHN

Ben...

BEN

No. I'm not doing this. Not like that.

JOHN

Fine. (pause, thinking around the problem) We don't go in fighting right away. We blend in with the citizenry, get in close. You can do that thing you do with people like you did at the Steward Town last month. Then, once we have enough on our side, we tear down the wall.

BEN

Oh so we've moved right past using the people as cover to using the people as cannon fodder. Fantastic.

JOHN

They aren't cannon fodder, this is their fight too. They are all just too blinded and complacent to see it. Now, come on. Put your hood up, prison's about to start letting in visitors in a few minutes and we need to be in the middle of that group.

BEN

(quiet) This is such a bad idea...

(They make their way across the street and into a crowd of waiting people)

LOYALIST 1

You know my brother says they've got Senators in there now in the south wing?

CITIZEN 1

I thought you said your brother was in the minimum security wing?

LOYALIST 1

Yeah, but that's how he got in there. Turns out, no one wants to be around a bunch of lefty fucks. (Laughs at their own joke)

CITIZEN 2

(a little annoyed, half to themselves) It's not criminal to care about other people, you shouldn't call them that...

LOYALIST 1

Oh, I'm sorry, you say something, snowflake?

JOHN

(trying to blend in) Facts don't care about your feelings. They're right. A bunch of un-American slimeballs don't get your pity.

LOYALIST 1

See? This guy knows what's up. Guess you're smarter than the rest of your people.

JOHN

(Oh, instantly want to punch this racist, has no energy for subtlety anymore) My people.

LOYALIST 1

Oh, sure. And I mean, ya'll would know all about crime and violence.

JOHN

(quiet little growl because he has no patience for this)

STEWARD 1

(over the loudspeaker) The checkpoint will open in 20 minutes.

CITIZEN 3

What? But we've been waiting here for almost an hour.

CITIZEN 2

We should be happy they let us in at all...

BEN

Now, hang on a sec. That's not cool. You're all here following their instructions, right? You didn't do anything wrong. So why are you so okay with them treating you like criminals? They've got us all bottlenecked here and they don't care what you have planned, or why you're asking to see your family or friends. (beat) Doesn't that seem strange? (is trying to rally people but his heart isn't in it, this feels like a bad idea already, there isn't the same kind of magic power behind his voice as there was in the Stewardtown) They're doing their jobs by putting you down, making people scared. Just because you benefit from the system doesn't mean it won't turn on you eventually, too.

CITIZEN 1

Look, kid, you're gonna get in trouble with that kind of talk...

CITIZEN 3

He's just like my kid. Same age, probably. Can't be mad that he has an opinion. We need kids to speak up.

CITIZEN 1

Just because he has an opinion doesn't mean it's a good one...

BEN

So? Someone has to say something. If we don't, we all just get kicked while we're down.

JOHN

Or maybe you like being stuck in this little podunk hoping they'll be nice enough to let you see your family.

(The crowd is getting more restless as this talk keeps going)

CITIZEN 1

You know, I haven't seen you here before. Who are you here to visit?

(There's a moment of quiet as the Citizens get a good look at John and Ben)

CITIZEN 2

(Shouts, desperate and panicked) It's PATRIOT! Patriot's here! And his son! They're both here!

JOHN

What the hell!?

STEWARD 1

(shouting into his comm) I need additional units to the Checkpoint! We an Alpha sighting! Patriot might be in the crowd!

CITIZEN 2

Please! Please, he's over there! You said there would be a reward, I have five kids, I need the money!

JOHN

You RAT! They're just as likely to kill you as anyone else, you STUPID RAT! (Roar as he powers up)

(Patriot powers up with an explosion of power, except this time in the middle of a crowd. The crowd screams as they're all thrown off to the sides)

STEWARD 1

All units to checkpoint! Pursue Patriot!

PATRIOT

You want me?! Come and get me, you bastards!

(Stewards start firing into the crowd, more screams, all the bullets ricochet off of Patriot)

PATRIOT

(laughs) Guess the word didn't get out that those toy guns don't do anything to me.

CITIZEN 1

(gurgles as they've been shot in the crossfire)

BEN

No... NO!

(Ben superspeeds over and catches the injured citizens)

BEN

Hang on! Hang on, I'll help you! I'm so sorry, I didn't know they'd fire on you... hang in there...

CITIZEN 1

(gurgling, trying to talk to Ben) My... my s-sister... my... why... I... I didn't... d-do anything... (dies)

BEN

(just had someone die in his arms, is just... devastated and full of helpless anger. Crying, screams at his father) DAD! *Stop!* You're getting them killed!

PATRIOT

They're either with us or against us, Benjamin! They made their choice! Now they DEAL with it!

STEWARD 1

Close the checkpoint! Pursue Patriot! Bring him down!

PATRIOT

Dammit!

(Patriot rushes the Steward's jeep, flips it and there's a ringing of magical power and an explosion)

BEN

Dad?! DAD!!!

(Patriot can be heard fighting in the distance and the jeeps drive off to pursue him)

STEWARD 1

Bring in the boy!

BEN

Stop it! These people didn't do anything! You don't have to shoot them if it's me you want!

(Steward guns arm)

BEN

(Genuinely scared)

CITIZEN 3

DOWN, kid!

(A citizen steps in the way as they're shot)

BEN

(Noise of pain as he's shot, too) N-No... No, why'd you d-do that...

CITIZEN 3

(gasping for air) R... Run...

BEN

(pained breathing) I'm so sorry...

(Ben sprints away)

\*\*\*\*\*

(In an alley outside a hospital in New York City, it's too quiet for Sam's liking)

SAM

How long have they been gone?

LEO

Uh, about ten minutes later than the last time you asked.

SAM

(frustrated sigh) This was supposed to be in and out.

LEO

Yeah, and Evan said they had at least 3 pharmacies to go through in there, so it might just be that they've got a lot to comb through. (Beat) Know what would have probably made that faster? If we had gone inside to help them instead of playing lookouts. (when Sam doesn't answer) I mean, come on, Sam, what gives? You're Exodus Avalon, you're like, *the* guy to go to for picking a fight. I can't believe you volunteered us for this.

SAM

I didn't think she'd take as long if we were split up. Less time worrying about getting caught if we were out here watching.

LEO

Wooow, that excuse sounds just as weak hearing it as it probably did for you saying it.

SAM

Quit taking the piss.

LEO

Oh, no, thank you. Also, the only one teasing anyone here is you. I was perfectly happy to go in there, Danny Ocean style, grab a contortionist, bring them in there, get the supplies back. And if we ran into trouble, I still have my sword. Just because I don't walk around flashing it at them doesn't mean it's not still on me.

(He jingles his keys in front of him)

SAM

Honestly? A key fob?

LEO

Says the guy who used to wear a literal medallion under his shirt. I'll take the key ring any day. Point is, I didn't want to be out here waiting. I wanted to be in there helping. All I've done is wait for the fight to come to me.



SAM

Yeah, well, don't be in such a rush for it. Wasn't fighting Morgan Le Fay and her entire horde of fae creatures enough of a fight for you?

LEO

Totally different fight, dude. And it was six years ago. I don't want to get rusty. Which is more than I can say for you.

SAM

What's that supposed to mean?

LEO

Jay was able to transform. Why haven't you?

SAM

We're outside a bloody hospital, Leo. You can't honestly think that me running in there all charged with lightning is gonna help them. Besides, look around. Do you see any demons? Any of those Overseer bastards that Jaina fought? No? Then there's no point in me trying to invoke the gods. Not for that. Jaina wants to stay, then I'll support her. But I just spent weeks in custody fighting for my life in a different way.

LEO

(Beat) You don't get it, do you.

SAM

(So tired of this conversation) Get what?

LEO

(more serious now) Sam, this is about so much more than you showing up for a fight. This *is* the fight. I've spent time with the Freedom Press since I got here. They're trying to do everything they can to get any news about Genesis Avalon out to the people and it's not working. If you show up, too, it's only a matter of time before everyone else realizes they're being lied to.

SAM

What do you expect me to do, Leo?! This isn't my home, I'm not a citizen, I can't bloody well vote the bastards out.

LEO

Listen, I don't know! I don't know, okay? I mean... Anything... Anything, Sam, is better than just sitting here and playing lookout. It's not enough. Listen, this might not be your home, but it used to be mine, okay? Anything is better than nothing. We might be able to leave this hellscape, but it doesn't mean we should. If we don't stay and fight when we *can*, then who the hell else is gonna fight for those people who can't fight for themselves anymore?! You know I'm right.

(Beat, Sam doesn't want to admit he's right)

SAM

Let's go find them. They're taking too long.

(He opens the door and slips inside, Leo following after him)

LEO

... Just like that? Okay, super mature, dude.

SAM

You want to get us caught? You can go outside and shout some more, that's sure to do it.

(They walk quickly towards the sounds of people coughing, stretchers moving)

GENESIS AVALON

(can be heard as they get closer) Okay, just a little more to the left.. Yeah.. (groans as she holds a big cabinet up) Okay, move him...

EVAN

Easy, not too fast... (Grunts as he and the intern pull someone free from the fallen cabinet)

INTERN

(grunting as they help pull the person free) I told... the attending a week ago that something about the roof didn't seem right... I should've went with my gut.

GENESIS AVALON

Yeah, well, I'll get this back upright and make sure it stays. (grunts as she puts the cabinet back, then quietly) Goibniu, grant me the skill of your forge. Bind this metal to this place in your unbreakable bonds.

(There's warping metal as the ceiling repairs itself and then finally, it's quiet)

EVAN

Avalon, I need some help getting him to the bed. Can you hand me that board?

INTERN

This is a compound fracture, right?

EVAN

(slightly concerned they're asking that question) What year resident did you say you were?

INTERN

We haven't had residents in a year. I'm just an intern.

EVAN

(Sighs, both sympathetic and disheartened) Okay, well... yes and no. Compound fracture means there's an open wound. He has a complicated fracture, surrounding tissue is affected. You need to get back to the ER and keep repeating "Complicated fracture of the right leg. Patient is alert, But their blood pressure is very high and a stroke risk. ." Just keep repeating that until someone listens to you.

INTERN

Right... thank you. Thank you.

(The intern wheels off with the person)

SAM

(They've reached Avalon. Very disbelieving) What're you doing? What's all this?

GENESIS AVALON

Apparently, this hospital's had water line problems in this wing for months. The ground finally rotted out from under the floor above them and sent a bunch of furniture down on these people. Evan and I got here just in time to help them.

SAM

As Avalon?

GENESIS AVALON

Genesis Avalon can lift a cabinet and bind it to a wall with holy metal. A civilian can't. Argue with me about it later.

SAM

You were supposed to get medical supplies -

GENESIS AVALON

No, I said we would be helping people.

SAM

Oh, that's some bloody brazen talking out both sides of your mouth -

GENESIS AVALON

The roof. Rotted. Sam. Do you have any idea how long this place had to be neglected by the maintenance staff, by a health and safety board, by the *other people working* in order for the roof to completely rot and dump tons of heavy equipment onto the people here waiting for treatment?

SAM

Look, I'm not saying you shouldn't help them, but -

GENESIS AVALON

But what? You really think you would have done nothing if you walked in here, too? Look around you, Sam. These aren't fascists. These are victims. People who have been hurt by Stewards, by other people on the street.

EVAN

She's right. They have one attending physician for the entire ER and a bunch of interns running around trying to learn specializations they don't have.

SAM

Okay, so one underfunded hospital -

EVAN

It's not one, okay? It's all of them. This was my best shot at getting us more painkillers and medical gear and they barely have enough for the patients they have right now. It's why it took us so long to get this far.

SAM

I don't... if people really couldn't get help, they'd be out there protesting -

LEO

How? They can't. Protesting is illegal.

SAM

That's bloody ridiculous.

LEO

Yeah. It is.

GENESIS AVALON

We found what we could, but right now, Avalon can help these people just as much as a doctor can. So... let me do this, I'll meet you guys back at the HQ. Unless, of course, Exodus wants to help.

SAM

(feels guilty as hell.) Exodus can't, but... I can. Just... point me towards something to do.

EVAN

Come on. I'll show you to one of the supply cabinets and what you need to grab...

(They walk off as Avalon moves another piece of rubble)

\*\*\*\*\*

(Back at Freedom Press HQ, Casey is at work at the computers)

JULIAN

Hey, Casey. You need anything? I just got a call from Evan, they should be back in an hour or so.

CASEY

Nah, I'm good.

JULIAN

(as an afterthought) Oh, hey, before I forget. Did you figure out if we can use that footage Kerri took of the Overseers?

CASEY

Still cleaning it up. I'll let you know when I'm ready for Ryan to do their thing.

(There is a magic flash, very similar to Ben's pre-cognition noise)

CASEY

(Winces in pain) Ow... what the...

(In Casey's vision, Gunshots sound. She can hear what's happening in Youngstown, Ohio)

BEN

(Noise of pain as he's shot) N-No... No, why'd you d-do that...

CITIZEN 3

(gasping for air) R... Run...

BEN

(pained breathing) I'm so sorry... (then he runs)

(The vision ends, Casey drops her coffee mug)

CASEY

Arm's been shot...

JULIAN

Casey, you okay? Color just drained right out of your face, but... but you're arm's fine.

CASEY

(quiet, realizes it) It's not me. Ben. He's hurt...

(And Casey flies out of there so fast the room rattles)

JULIAN

What the...

\*\*\*\*\*

(In Youngstown, Casey supersedes onto the scene, crashing into a trash can)

CASEY

Ben? Kid? (louder) *Ben?* Where are you?

(Another trash can is knocked over as Ben stumbles forward)

BEN

I... I tried... But it won't stop bleeding...

(Casey catches him)

CASEY

Easy, I got you... What the hell happened to you?

BEN

I... I tried to s-stop him... I tried... but he won't listen...

CASEY

Who won't? Ben, I gotta get you back, you've lost a lot of blood -

BEN

My dad... There's something really wrong with my dad. (starts to cry a little from how just exhausted and in pain he is) I'm so sorry... I'm sorry, I couldn't make him listen... I'm sorry... That's not my dad, I don't know who that is anymore... I can't help him...

\*\*\*\*\*

[Genesis Avalon: Patriot theme plays]

Featuring the voice talents of:

Laura Post as Jaina Tyler

David Ault as Sam Tyler

Ben Hernandez as Ben Pellson/Minuteman

Juwan Royal as John Pellson/Patriot

Anna Kelly Rodriguez as Casey Sloane/Vanguard

Mark Allen Jr as Evan Spencer

Paul Brueggemann as Leo Blake  
M Siero Garcia as Kerri Arthur and Intern  
Anthony Fleece as Julian Alexander  
Jordan Gotlieb as Loyalist 1  
Jamie Forney as Citizen 1  
Kathryn Pryde as Citizen 2  
Adin Rudd as Citizen 3  
and Tedd Hazard as Steward 1

Sensitivity Readers - Mark Allen Jr and Sarah Palmero  
Written by Kathryn Pryde and Kris Bays  
Music by Josh Molen at [TheTunePeddler.com](http://TheTunePeddler.com)  
Directed by Kathryn Pryde  
Produced by Pendant Productions  
This production is copyright 2024 Pendant Productions  
Genesis Avalon created by Kathryn Pryde, Copyright 2024 Pendant Productions