

DARK MATTER



Episode #212

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LOCKED PRODUCTION DRAFT

YELLOW REVISIONS – April 15, 2016

15, 19

BLUE PAGES – April 15, 2016

19,29,33,39,56,58

FULL PINK – April 12, 2016

WHITE – March 29, 2016

CAST

TWO

THREE

FOUR

FIVE

SIX

ANDROID

NYX

ANNOUNCER

COLONEL MORI

*COLONEL ~~SINGH~~ ORLOV

EMPRESS

*GENERAL ~~TANAKA~~ DRAGO

GUARD

HANSMEED

HIRO

*~~IDO~~ ODO

MISAKI

OFFICER #1

OFFICER #2

OFFICER #3

LOCATIONS

INTERIOR

INT. ISHIDA CRUISER — BRIDGE

*INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE

INT. ISHIDA PALACE

- CELL
- CORRIDOR
- COURT
- ENTRANCE CORRIDOR
- GENERAL'S CHAMBERS
- HIRO'S CHAMBERS
- UPPER LEVEL CORRIDOR

INT. RAZA

- AIRLOCK OUTSIDE THE MARAUDER
- BRIDGE
- *CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE ~~ISHIDA SHUTTLE AIRLOCK~~ MARAUDER
- FOUR'S QUARTERS
- MESS
- TRAINING ROOM
- UNDERBELLY

EXTERIOR

EXT. ISHIDA PALACE

TEASE

1 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER - BRIDGE 1

Starfield out the front window. The ship, and its crew, are shaken by an O.S. blast. The door to the bridge slides open and GENERAL ELIO DRAGO strides in.

GENERAL DRAGO
What's happening?

OFFICER #1 reports from his console -

OFFICER #1
A ship just appeared out of nowhere
and opened fire on us.

GENERAL DRAGO
You mean it dropped out of FTL -

OFFICER #1
No, General. It literally just -
appeared.

They are rattled by another BLAST.

GENERAL DRAGO
Why aren't we returning fire?

OFFICER #2 pipes up -

OFFICER #2
Forward rail guns are down.

He gets a beeping from his console -

OFFICER #2 (CONT'D)
Missiles are prepped and ready.

GENERAL DRAGO
Launch missiles!

Officer #2 hits a button.

OFFICER #2
Missiles launched!

ONSCREEN we see the missiles close on the enemy ship.

OFFICER #2 (CONT'D)
Impact in five, four, three, two -

And, just before impact - the ship disappears.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

GENERAL DRAGO
They jumped. It's over.

OFFICER #1
Sir, we didn't detect an FTL window.

Suddenly, onscreen, the ship reappears onscreen, behind them.

OFFICER #2
They're behind us!

GENERAL DRAGO
Another ship?

OFFICER #2
According these scans, it's the same
one.

A beat of surprise and confusion, then the General realizes -

GENERAL DRAGO
Divert power to the aft shield array!
Quickly!

Too late. They are hit by another powerful blast. This one
shakes the ship even more.

OFFICER #1
Aft shields disabled!

GENERAL DRAGO
Full thrusters, bring us around.
Keep our nose to the enemy ship.

Onscreen, the enemy ship disappears again.

OFFICER #1
They disappeared again.

The ship reappears behind them again.

GENERAL DRAGO
That's impossible.

Another blast. The ship is really rocked this time. Sparks
fly.

OFFICER #2
General, we can't take another hit.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

They throw their looks to General Drago who stares at the screen in disbelief. Beat.

OFFICER #1
We're being hailed.

GENERAL DRAGO
Onscreen.

They all swing looks to the big holo-screen that appears and goes to - FOUR on the bridge of the Raza, flanked by TWO and THREE (VFX).

FOUR
This is Ishida Ryo. Your ship is at my mercy. Surrender or die.

Off a stunned General Drago and co. we -

END TEASE

ACT ONE

2 VFX - SPACE 2

The damaged Ishida Cruiser hangs in space opposite The Raza.

3 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER - BRIDGE 3

General Drago has been joined by two of his senior officers: COLONEL MORI and COLONEL ORLOV. Everyone in the crew looks on expectantly, waiting. Suddenly -

The doors to the bridge slide open and their guest arrives: FOUR (packing both his sword and gun). FOUR surveys his prisoners, then throws a look to Drago -

FOUR
Drago-san, it's been a while.

General Drago is not sure how to respond.

GENERAL DRAGO
I'm surprised you didn't finish us.

FOUR
And why would I want to do that?

GENERAL DRAGO
Because there's clearly only one thing that motivates you now. Revenge.

FOUR
You know me better than that.

GENERAL DRAGO
I thought I did - until the day you murdered our Emperor.

FOUR
I didn't kill my father. I was framed by conspirators within the royal court.

(beat)
But I don't expect you to believe me.

He gauges his prisoners -

FOUR (CONT'D)
What I do need you to believe is that I am our home world's only hope.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

FOUR (CONT'D)

(beat)

The war goes badly. It's only a matter of time before the enemy chokes off your supply lines, overwhelms your defenses, and descends on Zairon.

(beat)

But it doesn't have to end that way.

Off Drago -

FOUR (CONT'D)

You've just experienced, first-hand, the technology that will allow us to turn the tide. We'll be able to travel to Pyr in the blink of an eye and lay waste to their capitol, destroy their fleet before it can launch. I can defeat them -

GENERAL DRAGO

And in return?

FOUR

I get what is rightfully mine - the throne of Zairon - with your help of course.

He addresses the officers directly -

FOUR (CONT'D)

You know the truth of the situation, the inevitability of defeat if you stay the course. What choice do you really have?

He stares down an introspective General Drago who wrestles with his decision -

FOUR (CONT'D)

Swear loyalty to me and I'll guarantee victory.

(beat)

Drago-san, my old friend. For Zairon.

And then, Drago nods, thrusts out his hand. FOUR takes it, they clap each other's shoulders, a ritual.

GENERAL DRAGO

I swear it.

FOUR moves on to -

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

FOUR
Colonel Orlov. What say you?

Orlov considers, then -

COLONEL ORLOV
I refuse.

He turns and addresses the crew of the ship -

COLONEL ORLOV (CONT'D)
My loyalty is to the sitting Emperor
of Zairon, Ishida Hiro, not some
pretender to the throne - a fugitive
who murdered his own father -

SHWT! He pauses. A red line appears across his throat, a
necklace of blood. His head falls off. His body collapses
to reveal (VFX) - FOUR standing behind him, bloody sword in
hand. He sheathes it, moves on to -

FOUR
Colonel Mori-

COLONEL MORI
I swear it!

FOUR smiles.

4 VFX - SPACE

4

The Raza blinks out.

5 INT. RAZA - FOUR'S QUARTERS

5

FOUR walks in and sets his sword aside, takes off his jacket -

NYX (O.S.)
So how'd it go?

He turns to find Nyx standing in the doorway.

FOUR
As expected. Their ship will return
to Zairon with a plausible tale.
They'll claim they encountered a Pyr
destroyer. That will explain the
battle damage.

Nyx walks into the room.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

NYX

And you're confident those men won't betray you.

FOUR

They swore an oath of loyalty.

NYX

Presumably the same one they swore to the standing Emperor?

FOUR

The standing Emperor has lead them into an unwinnable war. I offer them victory and a bright future; his path offers only death and despair.

He sits down, cleans his bloodied sword with the proper blade polishing kit.

FOUR (CONT'D)

Drago and Mori will see the logic in my argument. They'll be loyal to me.

NYX

How can you be so sure?

FOUR

Because - I know them.

It's a pointed comment, a reminder that he is now more Ryo Ishida than FOUR.

NYX

And everyone else on that ship? Do you know them as well?

FOUR

I don't, but Drago and Mori do. They'll place their confidence in those they can trust.

NYX

And those they can't?

FOUR throws her a sideways look, then gets up and puts his sword up on its proper rack.

NYX (CONT'D)

I wish you'd talked to me before you did it.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

FOUR
I couldn't take the risk.

NYX
What risk?

FOUR
That you would tell the others, and
they would try to stop me.

She's clearly stung -

FOUR (CONT'D)
They think the memories are dangerous.

NYX
And what if they ARE dangerous?

FOUR
They're necessary.

FOUR steps up to her, lays a soft hand on her cheek -

FOUR (CONT'D)
I need you to know that my feelings
for you haven't changed.

NYX
Maybe not, but you have.

And with that, she leaves him.

6 INT. RAZA - UNDERBELLY

6

SIX walks down the corridor and by the underbelly - and
something catches his eye in passing. He doubles back, enters
to find - FIVE sitting on a crate, eating from a tray.

SIX
What are you doing down here?

FIVE
What are YOU doing down here?

He holds up a box of ammo.

SIX
Getting ammo. You?

FIVE
I'm eating.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

SIX
Yeah, I can see that - but why here?

FIVE
Because the vents are too cramped.

Off SIX -

FIVE (CONT'D)
(sighs)
I don't want to be around him.

SIX
Who? Four?

FIVE says nothing, but she doesn't have to. He puts the ammo box down.

SIX (CONT'D)
I gotta be honest with you - he doesn't seem that different to me.

FIVE
You didn't see the way they were, when the ship defaulted them back to their old selves. I did. And I never want to see that side of them again.

SIX
Yeah but that was different. This time he hasn't lost his new memories. He knows who we are, and everything we've been through.

FIVE
I'm not sure that's going to make a difference.

SIX exhales, takes a seat beside her.

SIX
Look, I'm going to tell you something I haven't told anyone else. Back on Hyperion 8, when you cracked that file for me and I realized how corrupt the G.A. was, I thought I was finding out for the first time. Turns out, no so much.

FIVE
What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

SIX

The old me, the cop I used to be knew the truth. Anders told me. I knew the G.A. let 10,000 innocent people die to score political points against the Insurrection. And apparently I was okay with it, because after I found out, I went right back to work.

FIVE

Anders told you this?

SIX

That's right.

FIVE

How do you know he wasn't lying?

SIX

What makes you say that?

FIVE

Because I know you, and I don't think you would do something like that.

SIX

You know me now. You didn't know me then.

FIVE frowns, not quite sure what he's getting at. SIX continues.

SIX (CONT'D)

If you're right about me, and I hope you are, it doesn't necessarily mean Anders lied. Maybe it means that everything I've been through since the mind wipe, everything we've all been through together, has made me a better person.

FIVE considers.

SIX (CONT'D)

And maybe it's the same for him.

7 INT. RAZA - MESS

7

TWO walks in, discovers the Android as she steps away from the station, stirring the contents of a mug she is holding.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

TWO
What is that?

ANDROID
Hot chocolate.

TWO heads over to the coffee station, pours herself a cup.

TWO
For FIVE?

ANDROID
No. This is for me.

Off a confused TWO -

ANDROID (CONT'D)
In order to expand my meal plans for
this crew, I need to educate my palate
on flavor profiles.

TWO
That's a pretty big tasting sample.

ANDROID
I like to be thorough.

She is about to go, but holds up to deliver -

ANDROID (CONT'D)
By the way, although the Blink Drive
obviates the need to do so, I've
placed the ship in FTL. It may be
unnecessary, but it does make us
more difficult to target and track.

TWO
Good thinking.

The Android again turn to go, but again holds up to ask.

ANDROID
Are you upset that I helped Four
upload his old neural imprint and
retrieve his memories without
consulting the rest of the crew?

TWO
I'll admit I was a little surprised
at first. But the truth is, they're
his memories. If he wanted them
back, that was his choice.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

 ANDROID
 And yet you chose not to do the same.

Beat.

 ANDROID (CONT'D)
 I'm concerned I may have made another
 mistake.

TWO thinks about it for a moment, then -

 TWO
 Well, dealing with people's not the
 same as monitoring systems. Sometimes
 it not so easy to know what to do.

 ANDROID
 If he had asked you, as a friend,
 would you have done the same?

TWO hesitates for a second, then -

 TWO
 Yes. Of course.

The Android seems relieved.

 ANDROID
 Very well then.

She leaves. After she's gone, TWO's expression changes, and we're left to wonder if she was telling the truth.

8 VFX - SPACE

8

The Raza drops out of FTL.

9 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

9

FOUR inputs a sequence to one of the consoles, then swings a look to the big monitor where -

ONSCREEN, we see the communications graphics flash up. A beat and then General Drago appears, reporting from his chambers.

 FOUR
 General. What news?

 GENERAL DRAGO
 Two more ships lost and another
 execution.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

GENERAL DRAGO (CONT'D)
This time, General Reyes, punished
for her failure to retake Enriss
Sector.

(beat)
Things grow worse. I fear our actions
may come too late for Zairon.

FOUR
Do you have the information?

GENERAL DRAGO
Yes. I'll be sending it in a coded
data burst following this
transmission.

FOUR
Thank you, Drago-san.

GENERAL DRAGO
Good luck.

Off FOUR -

10 INT. RAZA - MESS

10

FOUR pitches TWO and THREE -

FOUR
It's the quickest, least bloody path
to the throne. If my brother
abdicates in favor of my claim, the
rest of the court will have no choice
but to fall into line.

TWO
I can think of at least one problem
with that plan: your brother's
cooperation. Why would he renounce
the throne?

FOUR
For the good of his people.

Off their dubious looks -

FOUR (CONT'D)
Like General Drago, he'll see the
reason in my argument. The only way
to save Zairon is by stepping down
and letting me lead.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

THREE

So what? You just gonna - call him up?

FOUR

No. To convince him, to prove my point, we'll need to meet, face to face.

TWO

The last time you tried to arrange a meeting with him, he set you up.

FOUR

Which is why this time, we'll meet on my terms.

(beat)

The war is going badly for Zairon. Unbeknownst to most of the royal court, Hiro has been secretly meeting with representatives of Pyr in the hopes of brokering an end to the hostilities. He'll be returning from one of these clandestine meetings today.

FOUR holds up a data chip.

FOUR (CONT'D)

Thanks to General Drago, I know when and where he'll travel.

TWO

You want to ambush him?

FOUR

Yes.

THREE

Hey, it's not like he'll be taking the scenic route back to Zairon. His ship will be in FTL.

FOUR

We'll persuade them to drop out.

TWO

And how are we going to do that?

FOUR

By using the asset we acquired during our escape from Hyperion-8. The Ishida shuttle.

11 VFX - SPACE 11
An Ishida cruiser hurtles through FTL.

12 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE 12
Emperor Hiro Ishida steps onto the bridge and is informed -
OFFICER #3
We're picking up a distress beacon.
It's a Class A Ishida Shuttle.
He throws a look to the Emperor -
OFFICER #3 (CONT'D)
Should I send the signal?
HIRO
No, not yet.
OFFICER #3
But, your majesty -
HIRO
Drop us out.
OFFICER #3
Yes, Heika. *

13 VFX - SPACE 13
The Ishida cruiser drops out of FTL and drifts towards the lonely shuttle beneath it. Suddenly, The Raza pops into normal space directly in front of the cruiser.

14 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE 14
The Raza is dead ahead out the window(VFX). An ALARM sounds.
OFFICER #3
Proximity alert! Another ship, dead ahead!
HIRO
Pull up!

- 15 VFX - SPACE 15
The cruiser pulls up, narrowly avoiding a collision, only to have it's underside raked with rapid fire from the Raza's rail guns. A series of explosions rip into the cruiser.
- 16 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE 16
The ship is rocked.
OFFICER #3
We've lost navigation!
HIRO
Re-route controls!
A beeping from the console, and Officer #3 informs Hiro -
OFFICER #3
Emperor, we're being hailed.
HIRO
Onscreen.
FOUR appears on the holo-screen (VFX).
FOUR
Hiro. Your ship has been crippled;
you're at my mercy. Let's talk.
Off Hiro.
- 17 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE 17
Nyx comes in on TWO and THREE -
TWO
He just left.
NYX
You let him go alone?
THREE
Didn't have much of a choice.
- 18 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE 18
FOUR walks onto the bridge where Hiro and armed guards await.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 18

FOUR
Is this any way to greet your own
brother?

Hiro throws a nod to Officer #3 who hits a button on his
console.

HIRO
No. This is.

19 VFX - SPACE 19

An Ishida cruiser drops out of FTL above the Raza. Then,
another below it.

20 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE 20

A beeping draws TWO to the console. THREE is on his feet.
Nyx -

NYX
What is it?

TWO
Four Ishida cruisers just dropped
out of FTL.

ONSCREEN, we see a graphic of the Raza surrounded.

THREE
We've been set up.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

21 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE

21

FOUR faces off against Hiro and his armed guards. Both men look at the onscreen display depicting The Raza, surrounded by a bunch of ships.

HIRO
Your ship is surrounded.

FOUR
Regardless, it's still powerful enough to destroy all of your cruisers.

HIRO
But will it be able to do so BEFORE we bring navigation back online and jump to FTL - with you onboard?

Beat.

HIRO (CONT'D)
I'm taking you back to Zairon.

FOUR
I'll happily go back - but only to retake my throne.

HIRO
Your claim to the throne died along with our father. The night you murdered him -

FOUR
I didn't kill him.

HIRO
Liar.

FOUR
You're the only liar here.

Hiro stares back at him -

FOUR (CONT'D)
You agreed to meet me on equal footing, a neutral location where we could talk. Instead, you sent Akita in your place -

HIRO
And you killed him.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

FOUR
Him and the armed guards you sent to
capture me. You broke your word.

Hiro is flustered -

HIRO
I had every intention of meeting you
that day but I...I was delayed
and...Someone else gave that order.

FOUR
I bet I can guess who.

Hiro falls silent.

FOUR (CONT'D)
If I wanted to kill you, we would
have opened fire on your crippled
ship. If I wanted to capture you,
I'd have demanded we have this
conversation back on The Raza.

HIRO
Then why are you here?

FOUR
To offer you the means to defeating
Pyr and saving our home world.

HIRO
I'm listening.

FOUR
We need privacy.

Hiro considers, then motions to his men -

HIRO
Go.

OFFICER #3
But, Heika -

*

HIRO
GO.

His men lower their weapons and start to move out.

22 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

22

TWO, THREE, and Nyx consider the onscreen odds: they're
surrounded.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

THREE
I'm telling you. We can take 'em.

TWO
Not yet. Relax. Let's let it play out.

23 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE

23

Hiro and FOUR alone, discuss.

FOUR
It's a piece of technology that allows us to cross vast distances in seconds, a drive that can turn the tide of war.

HIRO
I'm - skeptical.

FOUR
Allow me a demonstration?

Hiro nods. FOUR goes to a console, input a sequence.

FOUR (CONT'D)
Raza, it's me. Show them.

They swing their looks out at the starfield out the front. Suddenly, the Raza appears. And disappears. (VFX).

HIRO
How? Where did it go?

Suddenly, one of the consoles BEEPS. The screen goes to a graphic of the Raza, now behind them.

FOUR
Behind you. And it's locked on to your aft weapons array. Need any further demonstration?

Off an incredulous Hiro -

FOUR (CONT'D)
We're losing this war. Your attempts to broker peace from a position of weakness are doomed to failure. Just like Zairon if you stay the present course.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

FOUR (CONT'D)

(beat)

But this technology will allow us to
change things.

(beat)

What is victory worth to you, Hiro?
What are you willing to sacrifice
for the safety and security of our
home world?

Hiro stares FOUR down -

HIRO

My life.

FOUR

The throne will do.

Hiro considers, admits -

HIRO

I never wanted it.

FOUR

I know, brother. But she wanted it
for you - at any cost.

Hiro throws FOUR a look -

24 INT. RAZA - AIRLOCK OUTSIDE THE MARAUDER

24

FOUR steps out of the airlock. TWO and THREE are on hand to
greet him.

TWO

The fact that he sent you back alive
bodes well.

THREE claps his hands together.

THREE

Yeah! Let's celebrate.

FOUR

Hiro didn't commit himself, but he
did agree to consider my offer.

THREE

Well let's celebrate anyway.

FOUR starts off. TWO and THREE follows.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

FOUR
Ultimately, I failed to convince
him.

THREE
Suppose we could drown our sorrows...

FOUR
So the success of my plan now rests
with my biggest threat.

He walks off, leaving them behind. THREE shrugs -

THREE
Screw it. I'm having that drink.

25 EXT. ISHIDA PALACE -- DAY

25

Establish.

26 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - HIRO'S CHAMBER -- DAY

26

Hiro is in his chamber, taking off his jacket, when the
Empress appears in the doorway.

EMPRESS
You failed to capture him.

HIRO
I let him go. There's a difference.

The Empress stares, incredulous. She walks in.

EMPRESS
A traitor to our home world, murderer
of your own father - and you let him
go?

Hiro is inscrutable.

EMPRESS (CONT'D)
Explain yourself.

HIRO
Mother, what ever happened to your
peony dress?

EMPRESS
What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

HIRO

The dress you had made to mark the celebration of father's twenty-fifth year of rule.

The Empress falls silent, considers -

HIRO (CONT'D)

I have a hard time believing you've forgotten. You loved that dress.

(beat)

The last time I saw you wear it was on the night I was sent away from the palace; the night father died.

EMPRESS

It's gone. I threw it out.

HIRO

Why?

EMPRESS

It held too many terrible memories - of the night of his death. The night Ryo killed him.

Hiro considers his mother, then -

HIRO

Too many terrible memories - or too much of father's blood?

The Empress's eyes narrow. She's been found out.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Better to get rid of the evidence altogether.

They stare each other down. Beat.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Deny it, mother.

EMPRESS

I did it for you.

Hiro can't believe what he's hearing.

EMPRESS (CONT'D)

Your father was a monster. He exiled you, banished you from the place you were raised - from your own mother.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

HIRO
But you blamed Ryo.

EMPRESS
Ryo may as well have given the order himself. He was always your father's favorite. He was an impediment.

HIRO
He was my brother.

He stares her down, then leaves.

ON the Empress, stewing -

27 VFX - SPACE

27

The Raza flies through sub-light.

HIRO (O.S.)
I've made the arrangements.

28 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

28

Hiro, onscreen, communicates with FOUR.

HIRO
Tomorrow night, I will address the people of Zairon on the status of our war with The Republic of Pyr. Immediately following my prepared speech, I will abdicate the throne.

FOUR
You've taken precautions?

HIRO
Yes. Mother still holds influence over certain generals. I'll have a half dozen ships in orbit awaiting my instructions, ready to descend on Zairon should anyone try to stop us.

FOUR
I should be there with you.

HIRO
No. We can't take the chance of you being spotted. You'll come down, officially claim the throne - but only after I've secured the court.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

FOUR
Very well, brother. Good luck.

The screen goes dark.

THREE (O.S.)
You trust him?

FOUR swings a look to THREE sitting, feet up, at one of the consoles.

FOUR
I need him.

THREE
You didn't answer the question.

FOUR
He could have killed me when I was on his ship. Or taken me back to Zairon.

THREE
Yeah, it's funny how our ambush of his ship turned into a reverse ambush on ours - almost as if he'd been tipped off.

FOUR
It's not unreasonable to assume he would have been traveling with an escort.

THREE
Except that, according to your boy General Drago, he was supposed to be traveling alone. So either Drago got some bad information, or you're being played.

FOUR
Drago is loyal to me.

THREE
How can you be so sure?

FOUR
Because I know him.

Off an adamant FOUR -

29 INT. RAZA - TRAINING ROOM

29

Nyx is alone in the training room, running through a routine.
TWO steps into the doorway.

TWO
Need a sparring partner?

NYX
Need? Never.

TWO walks over to one of the bo staffs.

TWO
Would you like one?

Off Nyx -

TWO grabs the bo staff.

TWO (CONT'D)
Sometimes in life, you don't get to
choose.

And she launches a furious attack. Nyx defends, then
counters. They spar, equally adept, then take a breather -

TWO (CONT'D)
He should've said something first.
He should've been honest. With all
of us.

NYX
He was afraid we'd try to stop him.
I, more than anyone, can understand
that.

TWO
Understanding it doesn't make it any
easier to accept.

NYX
You know what I have a hard time
accepting? The fact that I've opened
myself up to a complete stranger.

TWO
He may be more complicated, but the
Four we know is still there.

NYX
Is he?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

Nyx considers.

NYX (CONT'D)

I've been a loner most of my life.
I don't like to make attachments
because, whenever I do, I end up
being betrayed.

(beat)

You'd think I would have learned by
now.

She heads out.

30 INT. RAZA - MESS

30

SIX sits, eating. FOUR walks in, helps himself to a coffee,
turns and throws SIX a look. He can't help but smile as he
takes a seat.

FOUR

I'm glad we didn't kill you.

SIX

Uh - thanks.

FOUR

Portia and I discovered you were an
undercover agent.

SIX

I know.

FOUR

We disagreed on how best to proceed.
She wanted to kill you after we got
out of stasis.

SIX

And you didn't?

FOUR

No. I wanted to kill you BEFORE we
went into stasis. As with most
things, she got her way in the end.

SIX

I imagine she's now a long way from
the person she was.

FOUR

In some ways, yes. In other ways -
not really. Same goes for all of
you.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

SIX

And you?

FOUR considers, then -

FOUR

I'm in a better position to help -
my people, you, and the rest of the
crew.

SIX

And how're you going to do that?

Off FOUR -

SIX (CONT'D)

Seriously. You retake the throne
and then what? You inherit a war.

FOUR

A war I can win - with the Blink
Drive.

SIX is taken aback - is he serious?

FOUR (CONT'D)

Once it's been reverse-engineered
and retrofitted to the engines of an
entire armada, the outcome will be a
foregone conclusion.

SIX

That's not going to happen.

FOUR

Reynaud may have been unsuccessful
but, unlike her, I'll have the time
and Zairon's best minds to draw from.

SIX

No, I mean this is a piece of
technology too powerful to give an
army.

FOUR

It's not just any army. They're my
people.

SIX stares back at him, unmoved.

FOUR (CONT'D)

We will have the drive, and we'll
use it to win the war against Pyr.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2) 30

SIX
I'm sorry, but we'll never let that happen.

FOUR
We'll see about that.

And with that, he leaves. SIX watches him go.

31 VFX - SPACE 31

The Raza streaks through sub-light.

32 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE 32

FOUR strides onto the bridge. TWO, THREE, FIVE, SIX and the Android are already there.

FOUR
It's time.

He looks around.

FOUR (CONT'D)
Where's Nyx?

Off their looks -

FOUR (CONT'D)
Never mind. Android, take us to Zairon.

The Android throws the briefest of looks to TWO who gives her an almost imperceptible nod.

33 OMITTED 33

34 VFX - SPACE 34

The Raza POPS back into normal space, taking up planetary orbit by Zairon.

35 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE 35

Starfield out the window. The Android informs them -

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

ANDROID

I'm detecting the presence of six
Ishida cruisers in planetary orbit.

TWO

How are they responding to our
arrival?

ANDROID

They're not.

FOUR

Because they've been expecting us.
They're Hiro's ships, loyal to my
cause.

TWO

I'm not taking any chances. Full
shields.

ANDROID

Yes, Two.

Suddenly, Nyx steps onto the bridge. FOUR throws her a little
smile. She nods back, otherwise stonefaced.

ANDROID (CONT'D)

I'm picking up a planetary-wide
broadcast from the Ishida Palace.

FOUR

Onscreen.

The big monitor comes alive. Onscreen, the emblem of the
House of Ishida - which transitions to the Empress -

EMPRESS

Citizens of Zairon, we are under
siege. Your exulted Emperor, my
son, was scheduled to address you
today but, moments ago, he was the
target of an assassination attempt.

OFF FOUR's what the hell look -

EMPRESS (CONT'D)

Although he escaped serious harm, he
has been taken to a safe location
for treatment, leaving me to rule in
his stead.

(beat)

I have discovered that this was an
attempted coup, orchestrated by the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

EMPRESS (CONT'D)
exiled pretender to the throne, Ishida
Ryo, with the backing of traitorous
elements within the royal court.

The others exchange looks. Well, this has gone badly.

EMPRESS (CONT'D)
We have identified these threats.
They will be dealt with swiftly and
without mercy.

The screen goes dark. Suddenly, the Android -

ANDROID
I'm picking up explosions - on the
orbiting Ishida cruisers.

36 VFX - SPACE

36

A chain of explosions rip through the Ishida cruisers, taking
out one, then another -

37 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

37

Our crew react -

TWO
Android, get us out of here.

Off a stunned FOUR we -

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

38 VFX - SPACE 38

The Raza pops back into normal space, having left Zairon.

39 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE 39

FOUR converses with General Drago, back at his chambers, on the big monitor. TWO and SIX stand in the BG, listening.

FOUR
How did she uncover our plans?

GENERAL DRAGO
I don't know.

FOUR
She must have a spy within our ranks.

GENERAL DRAGO
Impossible. Outside of you, me and Hiro, everyone else who knew about the plot perished on those ships - including our old friend Colonel Mori.

FOUR clutches the pommel of his sword and darkly considers.

FOUR
What news of my brother?

GENERAL DRAGO
He was intercepted on his way to the broadcast. He had chosen a small escort to avoid arousing suspicion. They were easily overpowered by your step-mother's guards. He was taken, unharmed.

FOUR
And where is he now?

GENERAL DRAGO
Confined to his room in the palace, under the protective custody of the Empress's loyalists.

FOUR
And Misaki? Where do her loyalties lie?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

GENERAL DRAGO

That remains to be seen. The royal guard was intentionally kept in the dark by both sides. For now, Misaki has no reason to doubt the Empress's version of events.

FOUR

But sooner or later, she'll learn the truth. She'll speak to Hiro.

GENERAL DRAGO

The Empress won't let that happen. Rumor has it she's already planning to move him off-world.

(beat)

The official story will be that the Emperor has taken leave to recover from the injuries he incurred during the attempt on his life.

FOUR

She'll try to turn him.

GENERAL DRAGO

With all due respect, Hiro lacks your strength. He's easily influenced.

Drago informs FOUR -

GENERAL DRAGO (CONT'D)

We have to get to him before they move him. Tonight. Ryo, you must return to Zairon.

Off FOUR, considering -

40 INT. RAZA - FOUR'S QUARTERS

40

FOUR is checking his weapons, gearing up. At some point, he reaches into his side table and pulls out the puzzle box, takes out and pockets the Ishida ring within. TWO stands in the doorway.

TWO

You know I can't sign off on this op. I won't put my people at risk.

FOUR

I understand.

TWO

I wish you'd reconsider going.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

FOUR
Hiro's support is critical. It's imperative I get to him, tonight, before he's moved.

TWO
Chances are you're walking into a trap.

FOUR throws her the briefest of glances -

TWO (CONT'D)
They knew we were going to ambush Hiro's ship. They knew about the broadcast and the rebel forces in orbit. And it's more than likely they'll know you're coming tonight.

FOUR
Hiro had the chance to capture me, but didn't.

TWO
I'm not talking about Hiro.

FOUR
Drago would never betray me.

TWO
How can you be so sure?

FOUR rounds on her.

FOUR
Because I know him.
(beat)
I've jeopardized my standing on this ship, risked my relationship with each and every one of you, because there was no other option. To take the throne, I needed help beyond The Raza. I needed to know who I could trust within the royal court. And the only way to do that was by downloading my old neural imprint.
(beat)
My former memories hold the key to my success. If I doubt them now, then my sacrifice will have been for nothing. And I can't accept that possibility.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

TWO
Your faith in General Drago could
cost you everything.

FOUR
The person you used to be would have
never questioned me. Her potential
upside on this would have been far
too tempting.

TWO
Well, I'm not Portia.

FOUR
No. You aren't.

He considers her.

FOUR (CONT'D)
She was brutal, uncompromising.

TWO
And I suppose that makes me weak and
compliant?

FOUR
Hers was a ruthlessness born of
insecurity. You have a strength
drawn from confidence and compassion.

He smiles.

FOUR (CONT'D)
I don't miss Portia Lin.

And, with that, he leaves her.

41 INT. RAZA - MESS

41

SIX is eating. THREE walks in, helps himself to some coffee.

SIX
So? You going with?

THREE
Nope.

SIX is somewhat surprised -

SIX
He didn't ask you?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

THREE

Nope.

SIX

How the hell does he plan on getting down to that planet?

THREE walks over, grabs a seat.

THREE

He's gonna fly himself. He's taking the Ishida shuttle.

SIX

So he knows how to pilot.

THREE

Yeah. And who knows what else.

SIX

What do you mean?

THREE

He's been avoiding me, since he got his memories back.

SIX

You sure?

THREE

Oh yeah. There's no mistaking it. He's steering well clear.

SIX

So why do you think that is?

THREE

Why else? He knows something about me, about my past, he doesn't want to share. And, obviously, doesn't want to be in a position where I might ask him about it.

SIX

You're not curious?

THREE

Curious? Sure. But I figure if a bad-ass like him doesn't want to talk about it, maybe it's something I'm better off not knowing.

42 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

42

FOUR steps onto the bridge and finds the Android there.

ANDROID

Hello, Four. Are you ready to go?

FOUR

Yes. I came by to say goodbye.

ANDROID

Unfortunately, there's no one else here but me.

FOUR

You're the one I wanted to see.

Off the confused Android -

FOUR (CONT'D)

You've come a long way, Android, from the factory set utility model we purchased back on Lyra-9. Back then, you were a machine no different than any other piece of technology but now, you're so much more.

ANDROID

How so?

FOUR

Oh, I think you know. Your capacity for emotional response was no accident.

ANDROID

Yes. I've discovered that an emotive subroutine was uploaded into my neural matrix.

(beat)

I've concluded that TWO was responsible.

FOUR

Portia, yes, with Das's help - FIVE. The act of making you whole is what brought the two of them together. It changed a lot of things on this ship - for the better.

The Android considers, then -

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

 ANDROID
Why did they do it? Why did they
change me?

 FOUR
The answer lies within you.

 ANDROID
How poetic, and ultimately unhelpful.

 FOUR
No, I mean literally within you.
You possess internal recorders that
documented your time on this ship
before we all went into stasis.

 ANDROID
I was rebooted -

 FOUR
Which wiped your immediate access to
the digital data, but not the data
itself. It still exists, somewhere,
inside you. You just have to find
it.

The Android considers.

 ANDROID
Why did you tell me this?

 FOUR
Because I may not get another chance.
Because I've always liked you,
Android.

He turns and heads off.

 FOUR (CONT'D)
Goodbye.

 ANDROID
Goodbye, Four.

And then, quietly to herself -

 ANDROID (CONT'D)
Good luck.

43 VFX - SPACE

43

The Raza POPS into normal space, approaching Zairon.

44 INT. RAZA - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE AIRLOCK

44

FOUR comes around the corner and finds Nyx waiting for him by the airlock, fully armed and ready to go.

FOUR
And where are you going?

NYX
You're about to put your life on the line. I won't let you do it alone.

FOUR
I won't be alone.

Off Nyx -

FOUR (CONT'D)
Drago has arranged for me to gain access to the palace. One of the side entrances will be left unguarded. Once I'm inside, I'll meet up with him and we'll free Hiro.

NYX
What could go wrong?

FOUR
If I even had the slightest doubt about him, do you think I'd take the risk?

NYX
The fact that you're not letting any of us join you suggests there IS some doubt.

FOUR
That has nothing to do with it -

NYX
Then why? Why won't you let me go with you?

And he snaps back -

FOUR
Because I don't need you.

Nyx is clearly hurt by his response.

NYX
Yeah, that much is clear.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: 44

She starts off. For a second, he considers going after her and then, elects to hold off. He watches her go, then turns and hits the airlock, heads through.

45 EXT. ISHIDA PALACE -- NIGHT 45

Establish the palace at night.

46 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - ENTRANCE CORRIDOR -- NIGHT 46

A cloaked FOUR slips inside the palace. He looks around, then slips into a recess as - a couple of guards walk by. Once they are gone, he slips out and away.

47 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - UPPER LEVEL CORRIDOR -- NIGHT 47

A servant walks by. Beat. FOUR steps out of hiding and over to a door. He throws a look back the way he came and slips inside -

48 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - GENERAL'S CHAMBERS -- NIGHT 48

A handsomely-appointed office. A large desk on the far side of the room with a chair turned away from the doorway. FOUR steps inside and his eyes fall on the desk and chair.

FOUR

Drago-san.

No response. FOUR knows - something is up.

FOUR (CONT'D)

Drago-san?

He approaches, reaches out, and turns the chair to face him, revealing - General Drago-san, his throat cut, dead.

FOUR hears the door open behind him. He turns to face -

The Empress flanked by Misaki and the royal guard.

EMPRESS

Welcome back, Ryo.

Off FOUR we -

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

49 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE 49

Tight insert of a screen.

Displays the imperial crest of Ishida.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Citizens of Zairon, we interrupt
your viewing to bring you this live
stream from the royal court of Ishida.

We go to a view of the royal court. The Empress is seated.
Lower, and to her right, a chair sits empty. A little lower
to her left sits the Chancellor of the Realm ODO. We hear
THREE LOUD BOOMS then we REVERSE to -

The big doors at the other end of the room swing open and
the royal guard enter, escorting in the accused. Misaki Han
leads the way.

We TRANSITION TO:

50 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY 50

FOUR, his hands shackled, flanked by a couple of armed guards,
is brought in and up to the front. Misaki addresses the
court, first the Empress, then the Chancellor -

MISAKI
Koutaigo-sama. Daijo-daijin-sama.
I deliver the prisoner unto the
judgment of the court.

EMPRESS
Han-Shireikan, join us.

She steps up and takes her seat alongside the Empress.

ODO
Ishida Ryo, you stand accused of the
death of your father, Emperor Ishida
Tetsuda. How do you plead?

FOUR
I don't. But I do proclaim my
innocence.

ODO
The court's case against you is
overwhelming.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

ODO (CONT'D)

The sworn testimonies of some two dozen witnesses paint a very sorry picture of you on the night in question. You were drunk and belligerent.

FOUR

I was angry. My father had just banished my step-brother from the palace.

EMPRESS

It was your name on the royal edict.

FOUR

My name, but not by my hand.

ODO

Drunk and belligerent. Deny the charge.

FOUR

I do not.

ODO

You were confronted by Masahide Akita, then Commander of the royal guard. You drew your blade and threatened his life. Deny the charge.

FOUR

I do not.

ODO

You left him, making known your intention to pay your father a visit. Deny the charge.

FOUR

I do not.

ODO

You discovered the Emperor, asleep in his chambers, and you cut his throat in a fit of rage. Deny the charge.

FOUR

I deny it.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (2)

50

Odo gives another wave of his hand. A guard comes forward, hands him a dagger. Odo holds it up for Four to see.

ODO
This was the blade that ended the
glorious reign of Emperor Ishida
Tetsdua. Do you recognize it?

FOUR
I do.

Beat.

ODO
Your genetic residue was discovered
on the weapon.

FOUR
I'm not surprised - since it once
belonged to me.

ODO
If you didn't kill your father, then
why did you flee? Why did you maim
and kill the guards sent to arrest
you?

FOUR
I fled because I'd been framed. I
killed because I knew I would never
receive justice. I maimed to send a
message.

ODO
And what message was that?

FOUR looks up at the Empress.

FOUR
When the guards came for me that
night, I cut out their eyes and left
them for my step-mother to find. A
message for our exalted Empress: I
saw the truth.

The Empress is inscrutable.

ODO
And what was the truth?

FOUR
She killed him.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (3)

50

This is a huge accusation. Everyone present reacts - Odo, Misaki, the surrounding guards. But the Empress remains stoic.

FOUR (CONT'D)

She cut his throat and then framed me so that her own son could take the throne.

ODO

The words of a desperate man.

FOUR

I deny that charge as well. No longer desperate. Not for a very long time.

(beat)

I was a disappointment to my father, a source of shame, because I was weak. In his eyes, I'd never be fit to rule - and he was right. But that night, everything changed.

He scans the guards.

FOUR (CONT'D)

Hunted like a rat, I learned to survive. I found my strength in fear. I discovered my power in vengeance.

(beat)

Once, I WAS weak and desperate. Now - I am finally worthy of my father's respect.

And, suddenly, he lashes out, stuns the two guards to either side of him then closes the distance between him and dais in an instant. He leaps up onto the horrified Odo, reclaims his dagger, then vaults over him, bringing the blade down on the surprised Empress -

CLANG! Only to have the blade stop, inches from her face, thanks to the timely intervention of Misaki who has drawn her own blade and blocked his blow.

ODO

Save the Empress!

FOUR shoves Misaki back and goes for the Empress, but she is already out of her chair and backing away into the arms of her armed guards.

FOUR, armed with only his dagger, hesitates in the face of the sword-wielding men. Then is broadsided and taken down, overwhelmed by numbers.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED: (4) 50

ODO (CONT'D)
Take him away!

FOUR is dragged away.

ODO (CONT'D)
Take him away to await our verdict!

And as he is dragged away we TRANSITION TO:

51 INT. RAZA - BRIDGE 51

The live stream of the mayhem unfurling onscreen. REVEAL -

We're on the bridge of The Raza and the crew has gathered to watch: TWO, THREE, FIVE, SIX, Nyx, and the Android. TWO kills the picture.

THREE
His closing argument could've gone better.

The rest of the crew exchanges uneasy looks.

TWO
We have to go after him.

SIX
Do we?

TWO
He's one of us.

SIX
He's stopped being one of us the minute he got his memories back.

Off THREE's look -

SIX (CONT'D)
Yeah, ironic I should be the one making this argument, but that doesn't make it any less true.

He throws a look to FIVE -

SIX (CONT'D)
You said it yourself. He's different now.

FIVE considers, then -

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

FIVE
Different, yeah - but a part of him
is still FOUR, our friend, and we
can't give up on our friends.

SIX
He didn't want our help.

NYX
That doesn't mean he doesn't need it
now.

TWO considers.

SIX
So what? We're going to storm the
place?

TWO throws a look to FIVE -

TWO
You experienced some of FOUR's
memories in that palace.

FIVE
Yeah.

TWO
You think you can give us a rough
layout?

FIVE
Sure.

SIX
They've anticipated our every move
so far, and they'll sure as hell
know we're coming this time.

Suddenly, TWO is struck with a thought.

TWO
Of course they will.

She's clearly working something out in her head.

52 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - CELL -- DAY

52

FOUR sits in a bare cell, awaiting the verdict. We hear the
door unlock. Misaki steps inside.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

FOUR

There is a simple way to find out if I'm telling the truth. You could ask Hiro.

MISAKI

The Emperor is recovering from an attempt on his life - one you helped orchestrate.

FOUR

Have you seen him? Heard his account? Or are you simply taking my step-mother's word for it?

(beat)

You're the Commander of the Royal Guard. Your loyalty is to the Emperor, not her.

Misaki considers.

MISAKI

Do you remember the time we snuck off the palace grounds to visit the mochi festival?

FOUR does remember. And it brings a smile to his lips.

FOUR

My father caught us; sent us to bed without supper.

MISAKI

Then when it got dark, after everyone was asleep, we went down to the kitchen and found that bowl of pudding.

FOUR

I was so hungry I snatched the spoon out of your hand and took the first bite.

MISAKI

And when I asked you how it was, you told me "Delicious.". And I trusted you, and also took a bite.

FOUR

(laughs)

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: (2)

52

MISAKI

And it turned out to be the chicken
fat the cooks were saving for that
weekend's feast of fowl.

(beat)

Back then, I would have followed you
to the ends of the universe.

He throws her a sideways look.

FOUR

So what are you saying? You don't
trust me now because of how persuasive
I was then?

MISAKI

Oh, Ryo. Back then, I didn't believe
you because you were persuasive. I
believed you because I was in love
with you, you idiot.

FOUR is surprised by the admission. Suddenly, a double RAP
at the door. Misaki straightens.

MISAKI (CONT'D)

It's time.

FOUR rises.

53 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - ENTRANCE CORRIDOR -- DAY

53

CLOSE ON two guards by the entrance. Nyx and SIX sweep in
behind them, clapping their hands over their mouths, and
pull them back and out of sight allowing -

TWO steps inside, Seer stun weapon out. She aims and fires
(VFX) -

Taking down a guard (VFX).

As she steps in and sweeps the corridor, THREE hurries in
and drags the fallen guard out of sight.

FIVE comes in clutching the stun gun. They've all donned
robes to hide their identities.

FIVE

Later.

She heads up some stairs. TWO waits for the others - THREE,
SIX, and Nyx, then heads the other way.

54 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY 54

Court has reconvened. Odo and the Empress have retaken their seats. We hear the BOOM-BOOM-BOOM announcing order and -

The big doors swing open. Misaki leads the prisoner, with his hands shackled behind his back, flanked by the royal guards, back into the chamber.

Misaki retakes her seat, leaving FOUR to face their judgment.

ODO
Ishida Ryo, you have been found guilty. Do you have any final words before we decide your fate?

FOUR
I couldn't have murdered my father for the simple reason that had I actually killed him...

He throws a look up at the Empress.

FOUR (CONT'D)
My step-mother would certainly be dead as well.

55 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - CORRIDOR -- DAY 55

TWO, THREE, Nyx and SIX make their way down a corridor . Suddenly -

An ELECTRIC CHARGE lights up the corridor , coursing through all four and dropping them (VFX).

56 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY 56

The Empress addresses the court.

EMPRESS
Exile, imprisonment or death? Daijo-daijin-san?

ODO
Death.

EMPRESS
Han-shireikan?

MISAKI
Death.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: 56

They throw a look up at the Empress who smiles.

EMPRESS

Death.

ON FOUR as Odo confirms -

ODO

The verdict is guilty. The penalty
is death.

57 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - CORRIDOR -- DAY 57

ON our fallen crew. We hear approaching footfalls -

HANSMEED (O.S.)

They came for him.

REVEAL Hansmeed, accompanied by a couple of palace guards.

HANSMEED (CONT'D)

As we knew they would.

And off Hansmeed we -

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

58 EXT. ISHIDA PALACE -- DAY 58
Establish.

59 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY 59

CLOSE ON THREE opening his eyes to find himself -

Hands bound behind his back alongside TWO, Nyx, and SIX who are also coming to to her right. FOUR, in similar position, is to her left.

They swing a look up to where the Empress and Odo are seated. Hansmeed and his men stand, surveying their captives flanked by Misaki.

HANSMEED

Ambushed Emperor Hiro, staged a coup, attempted to infiltrate the palace, twice - every step of your failed attempts to overthrow the throne of Ishida - as predicted.

EMPRESS

I'll admit I was initially dubious about the Seers' claims - but they've proven themselves formidable allies. As promised, they delivered you to justice.

FOUR

And what do they get in return?

HANSMEED

Our reward is quite modest by comparison.

He throws a look to Nyx -

HANSMEED (CONT'D)

We just came to reclaim what is ours.

She glares up at him, defiantly.

NYX

Milo and I aren't your property.

HANSMEED

Milo? Of course not.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

He gauges her.

HANSMEED (CONT'D)
Your brother's dead.

She is shocked by his words.

NYX
You're lying.

HANSMEED
What purpose would that serve?
(beat)
Milo died shortly after returning to
us. By his own hand.

Nyx refuses to believe it -

NYX
No. My brother would never take his
own life. It was you. You killed
him. You -

She stops at the sight of the knife he holds out to her,
showing her the murder weapon.

HANSMEED
He cut his throat - with this knife.
Do you recognize it?

Nyx stares at the knife, wide-eyed. As the horrible
realization dawns - Yes. Yes, she does recognize it. She
throws a look to FOUR who faces front, stone-faced.

It's a final, devastating blow in a series of brutal blows.
She fights to hold back the tears as she asks FOUR -

NYX
Why?

The rest of the crew stare at FOUR in disbelief.

NYX (CONT'D)
WHY?!!

FOUR turns and looks at her, stoically responds -

FOUR
Because he was dangerous. If he'd
lived, they would have turned him.
I couldn't let that happen. And
neither could Milo.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: (2)

59

Nyx breaks down. Hansmeed looks down at her with genuine pity.

HANSMEED

Now you see. You don't belong with these savages. Nyx, come back home.

Nyx drops her gaze, overwhelmed by it all.

EMPRESS

Is this all of them?

HANSMEED

The entire crew - except the girl. But she's of little consequence.

60 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - UPPER CORRIDOR -- DAY

60

FIVE peers around a corner at -

A couple of guards outside a door. Other guards and servants pass them.

She retreats back and pulls out the stunner. She readies herself - and waits...

61 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY

61

Back to the court. The Empress nods to Misaki -

EMPRESS

Take them away.

Misaki takes a step toward the prisoners when -

Suddenly, the big doors swing open and a freaked-out GUARD rushes into the chamber.

GUARD

Empress!

She and Odo are on their feet, shocked by the effrontery. The Guard stops, bows.

ODO

How dare you enter this chamber unannounced.

GUARD

Apologies, but - a ship has just appeared over the palace.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

 EMPRESS
What do you mean "appeared"?

 ODO
Screen!

A holo-screen appears above them showing an image of The Raza hovering over the palace [NOTE: High enough that it doesn't tie in to most of our shots unless we want to see it].

 EMPRESS
Where did it come from? How did it
penetrate our defenses?

 GUARD
We don't know.

They stare up at the holo-screen in disbelief. TWO addresses Hansmeed -

 TWO
Turns out there are a few things you
don't know about us. And one more
crew member you didn't account for.

Suddenly, the onscreen image switches to the Android on the bridge.

 ANDROID
This is The Raza. Surrender your
prisoners or I will open fire on
your capital.

 ODO
You're bluffing. You're an Android
and your duty is to your crew, their
well-being. You wouldn't do anything
to jeopardize them.

 ANDROID
Normally I wouldn't, but I've been
given specific orders from this ship's
commander, orders that override my
responsibilities to the crew.

They stare up at her, unsure.

62 EXT. ISHIDA PALACE -- DAY

62

The Raza loosens a volley, striking the back of the palace.

63 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY 63

The court is rocked.

64 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - UPPER CORRIDOR -- DAY 64

The corridor is rocked. A bunch of guards and servants rush by a hidden FIVE in a panic. She waits then turns into -

The corridor where the two guards on duty, distracted by the O.S. blast, don't see her - before it's too late. She STUNS them (VFX) and they both go down.

65 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - HIRO'S CHAMBERS 65

Hiro, imprisoned within, turns at the sound of -

The door opens and FIVE steps into the room, removes her hood.

FIVE

Hi, your majesty. My name is FIVE
and I'm here to rescue you.

OFF a stunned Hiro -

66 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY 66

The palace is rocked by another O.S. blast.

ANDROID

I needn't remind you that I am a
machine, a logic-based entity
incapable of empathy. The death of
my crew would be an unfortunate but,
ultimately, acceptable loss in this
scenario.

All eyes swing to the Empress who is positively seething.

EMPRESS

We'll see about that. Misaki, execute
one of the prisoners.

Misaki steps forward, draws her sword. She has, of course,
chosen FOUR. She brings up the blade to strike when -

HIRO (O.S.)

STOP!

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

All eyes now swing to the door where Hiro stands with FIVE.

ODO

Emperor!

Hiro strides into the room, FIVE by his side.

HIRO

Arrest the Empress and her allies.
They're to be charged with treason.

Misaki and the royal guards hesitate, throw a look back to the Empress.

EMPRESS

The Emperor has been compromised by
our enemies. Take him back to his
room!

Misaki and the royal guards waver.

HIRO

Misaki, you serve the throne! I am
emperor, not my mother.

A beat and then Misaki decides, swings her sword toward a horrified Odo. The other royal guards follow suit, turning their blades on the Empress, Hansmeed and his fellow Seers.

HIRO (CONT'D)

Release the prisoners.

Hiro steps up onto the dais and addresses the crowd -

HIRO (CONT'D)

I place the Empress under arrest for
the murder of my father, Emperor
Ishida Tetsuda.

The Empress can't believe it.

HIRO (CONT'D)

And, in my final act as Emperor, I
renounce the throne and step down in
favor of Zairon's rightful ruler, my
step-brother Ryo.

FOUR steps up onto the dais, slipping the Ishida signet ring onto his finger, and scans the floor: the Empress and Odo horrified, Misaki proud, Nyx betrayed, the rest of the crew uncertain. And, off a smiling FOUR we -

END OF ACT FIVE

TAG

67 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY

67

The guards cut the prisoners free. Nyx rises, looks over at FOUR who averts his gaze. TWO addresses the Android on the holo-screen

TWO

Thanks for buying us the time we needed.

ANDROID

You're welcome. I'm - relieved it worked. See you on the ship.

The holo-screen fritzes out (VFX).

FOUR turns his attention to Hansmeed.

FOUR

So, Seer, predict the future. Tell me what happens next.

Hansmeed surveys the room, the other players -

HANSMEED

The Empress will be banished, sent into exile as punishment for her crimes.

(beat)

You'll appoint your brother to the court as your chief advisor.

(beat)

And we'll leave -

Throws a look to Nyx -

HANSMEED (CONT'D)

Empty-handed, but having forged a new alliance with Zairon, one that will prove fruitful for many years to come.

FOUR considers him - and smiles.

FOUR

You guess wrong.

(beat)

Korose!

Misaki and the royal guards respond -

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

Misaki runs Hansmeed through with her sword.

His fellow Seers are run through as well.

Odo has his throat cut.

The Empress has her throat cut.

Hiro has his throat cut.

As the bodies drop, our crew is in utter shock. TWO appeals -

TWO

Four - !

FOUR throws him a look and let's them all know -

FOUR

My name is not Four. I am Ishida
Ryo, Emperor of Zairon.

ON Ryo Ishida, Emperor of Zairon as he towers over the rest
of the room - imposing, powerful, and oh-so frightening.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW