

AETHER TORRENT #11  
"KARRUN'S GIFTS, PART 2"

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. ANCIENT'S BLOCK - DAY

CIRRUS's yellow eyes dart back and forth.

Cirrus elbows AVANI, who uselessly clutches her mythril ingot. Avani turns her head. Cirrus doesn't move hers.

CIRRUS (V.O.)  
Get down, I'll handle this.

AVANI  
(whispers)  
I'm not helpless.

CIRRUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Right now you are. Earth magic  
doesn't work on this surface and  
you couldn't hit them from here  
anyway. Stay as flat as you can.

Avani reluctantly pockets her ingot and lays flat. A sudden RUSH OF AUDIBLE WIND violently FLAPS her hair and skirt.

The wind also moves the recently-purchased violin case.

Cirrus (wind tiger) stands dramatically in the street. Her robe flutters down behind her.

ROOFTOPS

The four raiza and two human SKYSWIMMERS wearing loose white and gray clothes make up a 30-yard hexagon from their positions on the block's rooftops.

The lead SKYSWIMMER with graying hair, the only one of them who ever speaks, begins rotating the aluminum pole he holds overhead.

SKYSWIMMER  
Is that resistance I feel? I  
warned you about that.

The other Skyswimmers rotate their poles.

STREET LEVEL

Four silent spiraling WIND SPEARS fly down towards Cirrus.

Cirrus's shoulders TENSE. Her collarbone wings FLAP --

And the wind spears UNRAVEL inaudibly.

A large and audible one WHISTLES laterally towards Cirrus at the street level.

Avani looks up from her duck-and-cover position.

Cirrus takes a few steps forward and throws her weight behind a FLAP of her wings.

The wind spear UNRAVELS far from its target but still blows some audible WIND over Cirrus and Avani.

Avani smiles a little.

A wind spear the same size as the last one suddenly and silently SMASHES into Avani's leg from a low angle. The spear SHREDS her skirt off and throws her up like a rag doll.

Avani mouths an inaudible SCREAM.

The wind blows over Cirrus and she turns her head --

In time to see Avani HIT the side of a building and the street, in that order. Her undergarments are modest half-thigh black leggings.

Avani's ingot clatters away and hits the violin case.

Avani's shoulder is dislocated, her sandals are long gone, and her arm bandages are loose. She's still conscious, despite it all.

SKYSWIMMER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Odd. That should have sheared  
off some skin.

Cirrus's wind tiger face shows shock as best it can.

INT. CITADEL - THRONE ROOM - DAY

TORI gets out of her high-backed chair, struggling with the impact of Karrun's recent revelation.

TORI

*Grampus* worked for you too?!

KARRUN blinks, bewildered. She stands near Tori's chair and has over a foot of height on her.

KARRUN

How do you know of *Grampus*?

TORI

I told you I worked in Meddon. Well guess what, I worked for *him* there. I found his hideout and for a year and a goddamn half I had to work for him or he'd kill me. And now he's dead.

Karrun takes a moment to comprehend that.

KARRUN

Young fool. If you had mentioned my name to him even once, he'd have treated you like royalty.

Karrun beckons to Tori and walks towards one of the many arches in the walls.

KARRUN (CONT'D)

Come. Tell me everything *else* you neglected to mention.

Karrun pushes a wood panel. It sinks with a MECHANICAL CLICK.

EXT. ANCIENT'S BLOCK - DAY

Avani clenches her jaw and POPS her arm back into place. She looks surprised that she heard it.

Cirrus unravels two more silent wind spears. We can hear Cirrus's wings FLAP, but the unraveling wind is still silent.

Avani crawls towards her ingot and the violin case.

AVANI (V.O.)

This strange surface may block  
your power, o Lord, but I know  
nothing can block your will.  
Deliver us, that I may deliver  
this gift to the one you sent.

Avani clutches the violin case and takes off her bandages.

ROOFTOPS

The lead Skyswimmer frowns. Quits spinning his pole.

The other Skyswimmers follow suit.

STREET LEVEL

The Skyswimmer's voice wafts in. Cirrus and Avani listen.

SKYSWIMMER (V.O.)

Very well. If wind spears are  
useless against you, then we'll  
have to be gruesome.

Cirrus TENSES.

She JUMPS on Avani, pinning her down on her back --

Just as a massive AIR DISTORTION presses them from all sides.

They remain unharmed in a tight dome of undistorted air.

ROOFTOPS

The pole-twirling Skyswimmers tighten their perimeter.

STREET LEVEL

Cirrus strains visibly and stands up, pushing against tons of  
air pressure.

AVANI

What's happening?

CIRRUS (V.O.)

They're trying to crush us, and  
damn it they're strong. I can't  
fight back!

AVANI

What? Why not?

ROOFTOPS

The Skyswimmers rotate their poles hand-over-hand. They've gathered much closer but are still out of Cirrus and Avani's lines of sight.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

They control the air, so I can't sense where exactly they are.

STREET LEVEL

CIRRUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I can try to attack randomly and hope for a hit, but this bubble of mine is taking up almost all my strength already. If I wear myself out, we'll be crushed!

A large wind spear SMASHES audibly into Cirrus's air bubble. Cirrus TENSES and GRUNTS against the blow.

Avani rolls over and splays her hands on the ground.

AVANI (V.O.)

Great Teizen below, please!  
Deliver us!

More wind spears SLAM against the bubble.

INT. CITADEL - THRONE ROOM LOBBY - DAY

SOMER's raiza face shows satisfaction as best it can.

He walks by the two large human GUARDS and takes a seat.

SOMER

I'm back. I guess the archon is still occupied?

GUARD

Yes. Where did the messenger go?

SOMER

Oh, other business. Something about a bird.

EXT. CITADEL - INNER WALL - DAY

Tori and Karrun stand on an inner wall of the citadel. The 20' wall leads from an arch in a rounded section of the inner structure to a perimeter guard tower.

KARRUN

So in summary, dear, your friend Avani killed one Nexus supplier in Meddon and insisted that you help her overthrow another in Rannom. Now she is in a polis led by me, the executive Nexus supplier.

Karrun turns dramatically to face Tori. The sun hangs between late afternoon and early evening.

KARRUN (CONT'D)

That cannot be coincidence! She used you to harm the Nexus! And the monster is her accomplice!

Several shades of doubt mingle in Tori's face.

Tori turns her back to Karrun and leans on one of the square rises (a *merlon*) along the wall's edge.

TORI

I admit I don't know much about either of them yet, so there's an outside chance that could be true. *If* it is, why I should care if a criminal group hurts?

Karrun SIGHS and runs a hand over her slick head.

KARRUN

The Nexus is not criminal. Advancing elementalism is more important than you can imagine. It's a gift to the world!

TORI

Then why fund it by extortion  
and black markets? If that's  
even all you're funding it with!

KARRUN

Do you love me, Tori?

Karrun hit a nerve. Tori's voice catches in her throat.

TORI

The Mom I love taught me that  
the only way to live was to  
embrace greatness. How can the  
same person make people suffer  
for profit with common freakin'  
crooks working for her? It's  
just *wrong!*

Karrun approaches Tori from behind, speaks in a soothing tone  
and puts her huge hands on her shoulders. Tori allows this.

KARRUN

"Wrong" and "right" do not  
objectively exist, Tori dear.  
There is only choice and the  
willpower of the chooser.

(leans down, hugs)

I am merely a raiza who chose to  
fund and supply the Nexus via  
organized crime. I do not care  
if my choice is loved or hated,  
legal or illegal. The question  
is not who is going to let me,  
it is who is going to stop me.

Tori grips the merlon.

EXT. ANCIENT'S BLOCK - DAY

Another wind spear HITS the bubble. Cirrus's legs shake.

Avani presses the ground, praying. When nothing happens, she  
turns her head, tears streaming from her brown eyes.

She notices the violin case at the inside edge of the bubble.

FLASHBACK:

INT. TORI'S ROOM - DAY

Somer makes wavy gestures in the previous episode.

SOMER

See, the simplest forms of  
elementalism are vibration:  
waves, wind, heat, tremors.  
Sound is vibration too.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. ANCIENTS' BLOCK - DAY

Avani's eyes shine with a plan.

SOMER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

If you're not careful, you can  
forget the basics.

EXT. CITADEL - INNER WALL - DAY

Tori stands still and tensed under her mother's hug -- a dam  
ready to burst.

TORI

So you're saying that causing  
physical suffering for personal  
profit isn't the *basest* thing a  
sapient being can do?

KARRUN

It is not only for my benefit.  
And even if it were, suffering  
can be useful, dear.

Tori wriggles free of Karrun, *SHOVES* her away and retreats  
backwards several steps, wiping away tears with a fist.

TORI

How can you say that?! Do you  
know what you were to me, Mom?  
You were greatness itself, the  
rarest person in the whole  
stupid pointless world.

(MORE)

TORI (CONT'D)

Every day with you was a gift.  
But now... "Suffering can be  
useful?" *Seriously?* How could  
you have been some evil mobster  
all this time?!

Karrun stares hard at Tori.

Tori stares right back.

Karrun brushes off her suit where Tori shoved her.

KARRUN

I thought you were finally old  
enough to begin charting the  
river I swam in silence. I see I  
was mistaken. As long as you  
worry about quaint abstractions  
like "evil," Tori dear, you can  
never understand me.

EXT. ANCIENTS' BLOCK - DAY

Yet another wind spear HITS and WOBLES Cirrus's air bubble.  
Cirrus clearly can't hold out much longer.

Avani presses the ground with her ingot.

AETHER VIEW

Avani's silhouette is packed with green swirls. Cirrus's is a  
solid mass of swirling white. The air bubble is packed with  
white swirls moving in a pattern distinct from the outer air.

A green VIBRATION WAVE emanates from where Avani's ingot  
touches the ground.

The wave rolls over the surrounding buildings like a radar  
ping, making them briefly visible.

The skyswimmers become briefly visible too.

NORMAL VIEW

Avani looks up in excitement.

AVANI

Cirrus! If I told you where they are, could you knock them down and still hold the air bubble?

CIRRUS (V.O.)

It's worth a shot, but how?

AVANI

Earth magic may control only metals and minerals, but its most basic form, vibrations, can work on anything solid! I can feel where they're standing!

Cirrus's tendrils and wings extend as far as they go.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

Tell me.

ROOFTOPS

The Skyswimmers continue their staff-twirling.

A sphere of air distortion grows next to one of the raiza Skyswimmers. The sphere shrinks tight and BURSTS in a shockwave, causing him to YELL OUT and grab his ear-hole.

The lead Skyswimmer diverts his attention. Two more air bombs BURST by the ears of another raiza and the one other human.

The three afflicted Skyswimmers drop their staffs and fall to their knees.

An air bomb forms by the lead Skyswimmer's right ear.

SKYSWIMMER

Full focus, men!

The air bomb BURSTS. All sounds we hear coming from the right side of the screen suddenly STOP, replaced by a LOW TONE.

The Skyswimmer SCREAMS and holds his ear. Blood trickles out between his fingers.

EXT. CITADEL - INNER WALL - DAY

Tori steadies her breathing.

TORI

You're wrong. I do understand -- that you're a liar! The mother I thought you were never really existed, did she?!

Karrun looms over us, silently absorbing Tori's accusation before BURSTING OUT LAUGHING. If, somehow, we're not yet convinced that she's a villain, her icy tone clinches it.

KARRUN

Do you think your love-biased perceptions are law, Torrent? I am as I always was, and you were too childish to comprehend. So what will you do about it? Will you sever your ties to me and forsake my gifts of strength and freedom? Or will you eat your illusions that anything in this world is "right" and choose to love me for who I really am?

Tori moves her jaw mutely. A SOFT, DISTANT ROAR catches her attention.

Karrun hears it too. She and Tori look West.

EXT. ANCIENTS' BLOCK - ROOFTOPS - DAY

Cirrus rises up from street level inside a loud, localized TORNADO, still in wind tiger form.

STREET LEVEL

Some SHOPKEEPERS in the area leave their stores to see the source of the sound and wind.

Avani, back on her feet, waves her arms at them wildly. She holds her ingot, having no pockets for it anymore.

AVANI

*Back inside! Hurry!*

Avani grabs the violin case by the neck and follows one of the shopkeepers into his store.

EXT. CITADEL - INNER WALL - DAY

Cirrus's thin tornado is visible from the wall.

TORI

It must be Cirrus. Why is she doing that?

KARRUN

If she is wise, she is flying away with your other friend. Both of them will have to die for harming the Nexus.

Tori faces her mother in shock.

EXT. ANCIENTS' BLOCK - ROOFTOPS - DAY

The two remaining raiza Skyswimmers wisely RUN AWAY over their respective rooftops.

Air bombs EXPLODE by their ear-holes --

And they fall quickly, their equilibriums destroyed.

All six Skyswimmers GROAN and clutch their bleeding ears. They repeatedly try to stand up but fall over to one side.

Cirrus has never looked more dangerous. Dusty wind WHIPS around her yet does nothing to muffle her voice.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

(reverberating voice)

Congratulations. You spat into the mother of all winds.

EXT. CITADEL - INNER WALL - DAY

TORI

That is *it*, Mom! I'm *through* with you!

Tori runs towards the arch at the nearer end of the wall.

Karrun's tail SWEEPS out --

TRIPPING Tori at the knees. Tori falls and HITS the ground, turning just fast enough to land on her arm.

KARRUN

You call that running away? I trained you better than that.

EXT. ANCIENTS' BLOCK - ROOFTOPS - DAY

The lead Skyswimmer is on his knees.

SKYSWIMMER

Congratulations. Your victory has made us useless.

The other five Skyswimmers grab their weapons and struggle to kneel facing Cirrus.

SKYSWIMMER (CONT'D)

Those who are useless do not deserve to live.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

(eyes widen)  
What--?!

EXT. CITADEL - INNER WALL - DAY

Facing away from Karrun, Tori pushes herself up, plants one foot on the ground --

And LAUNCHES herself towards the edge of the wall.

Karrun reacts, reaching out to her --

Tori reaches the edge in two strides and JUMPS over it.

EXT. ANCIENTS' BLOCK - ROOFTOPS - DAY

The six Skyswimmers make a flourish with their poles, position them hara-kiri style and INHALE DEEPLY.

SKYSWIMMER

*Choke on our final breath!*

The Skyswimmers THRUST their weapons into their stomachs --  
Their respective ribcages CRACK and COLLAPSE inward --  
And a HIGH-SPEED WIND SPEAR flies out of each of their mouths  
towards Cirrus.

Cirrus braces in midair and the wind around her accelerates.  
Cirrus is obscured in an EXPLOSION of dust and distortion.

EXT. CITADEL - INNER COURT - DAY

Tori ROLLS to an imperfect landing and takes off running.  
She disappears into the citadel through a doorless arch in  
the small courtyard in which she landed.

Twenty feet up, Karrun peers coldly over the parapet.

EXT. ANCIENTS' BLOCK - DAY

Avani exits the random shop. Cirrus LANDS HARD on her feet in  
front of her.

AVANI

*Cirrus!*

Cirrus both stands and breathes shakily.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

That's... that's my limit...

Her legs give out and she WHUMPS to the ground. Avani throws  
herself into a hug.

AVANI

I'm so sorry, they must have  
been after me like in Meddon.  
I've made so many enemies...

CIRRUS (V.O.)

(cracks a smile)

Nice undies.

Avani lightly bonks Cirrus on her head with the violin case.

AVANI

At least I'm wearing something.  
Where did your robe go?

CIRRUS (V.O.)

Forget it. I'm too tapped out to  
take human form for a while.

Confused ONLOOKERS begin assembling.

AVANI

We should move. There may be  
more attackers and I don't want  
any crosswinds hurting these  
people. Can you walk?

CIRRUS (V.O.)

Sure. Gimme a minute.

INT. CITADEL - THRONE ROOM LOBBY - DAY

Karrun throws open the double-doors.

The guards stand at attention. Somer stands up.

SOMER

Ma'am Archon, I have--

KARRUN

--Sit. Stay. I shall return.

Somer sits. Karrun passes him. Somer watches her go.

INT. CITADEL - TORI'S ROOM - DAY

Tori stuffs the black metal box containing her ancient book  
into a duffel bag full of clothes.

Her hands tighten her orange ponytail with a blue elastic.

She slips on a blue denim vest over an ash-gray shirt and  
leaves the vest unbuttoned. The vest conceals her knife,  
strapped to her ribs over her shirt.

Tori hefts her bag and takes a quick glance around her room.  
She wears dark blue jeans and her hiking boots.

She turns around. Karrun stands in front of her open door, too tall to fit directly in the doorway.

TORI

Get out of my way, Mom.

KARRUN

*If you find your friends, how you will escape? The bridge is a greater danger than the wilds, and my men will chase you across either one.*

TORI

(deadly glare)

Get out of my way, Mom.

Karrun steps aside and crosses her arms.

Tori walks past her. Neither one looks at the other.

Karrun smirks. Tori's RUNNING FOOTSTEPS are heard off-screen.

The model of the turtle-shaped airship still stands on one of Tori's desks.

EXT. ANCIENTS' BLOCK - ROOFTOPS - DAY

The Skyswimmers lay about, chests caved in, very dead.

A few OFFICERS examine the bodies.

Onlookers look up from the street.

The HUMAN OFFICER who spoke briefly in episode 8 takes off his hat.

EXT. MOUNTED POLICE STABLES - DAY

The blue-on-white raiza MESSENGER walks towards the police stables with short Mounted Officer TOM.

TOM

Sorry for the misunderstanding, sir, she said it was hers.

MESSENGER

She must be in cahoots with whoever stole my precious Klauser. One of her friends is a murderer, you know.

INT. MOUNTED POLICE STABLES - DAY

Mounted Officer COR busily sweeps the aisle between the rows of dire kiwi stables. A few DIRE KIWIS remain in them.

Tom and the Messenger enter.

TOM

Hey Cor, you'll never guess what. This messenger says--

MESSENGER

(looks around)

Klauser? Where are you, boy?

COR

Klauser? The big one? The archon's daughter took him out just a minute ago. Said it was important.

MESSENGER

*She stole my mount!*

EXT. SIDE STREET - DAY

Tori rides KLAUSER at high speed. Her bag BOUNCES on her back.

INT. CITADEL - THRONE ROOM LOBBY - DAY

Somer taps a finger on his knee.

Karrun SMASHES the lobby door down. The guards REACT defensively but stand at attention once Karrun enters.

Karrun strides towards Somer, GRABS him by the neck --

Picks him up and SLAMS him against the wall behind the chair, pressing her claws against the gill slits on his neck.

The guards continue standing at attention in the background.

KARRUN

I just got off the wire with  
your brother, Somer.

SOMER

My, my gills!

Karrun leans in close and SQUEEZES his neck, not yet breaking  
the tender gills.

KARRUN

I told him to send certain  
people to do a certain thing. He  
said that you said that I said  
to do it thirty-five minutes  
ago. And not ten seconds before  
I contacted him, he learned that  
the certain people were *dead!*

Somer's gray-on-white face has reddened. He clings helplessly  
to Karrun's arm.

SOMER

Y-you wanted that... certain thing  
done this morning and I failed.  
I knew that those... certain  
people could do it!

Karrun drops Somer and yells in **raizan**. Somer slumps into the  
chair and GASPS for breath, holding his abused gills.

KARRUN

**You acted without my orders!  
What do I keep you around for if  
not to obey me?! I should punish  
you with the guards watching!**

SOMER

**Please, my lady, I'm sorry! What  
must I do to apologize?**

Karrun exhales in a sharp HUFF and speaks English again.

KARRUN

If the girl and the tiger can  
kill those certain people, they  
are not to be taken lightly.

Karrun bares her teeth. We get close enough to see a second  
row behind the ones in front.

KARRUN (CONT'D)

Fetch my sword.

INT. HUMANS' WEARHOUSE - STORE INTERIOR - DAY

TAILOR ZIMURRUR flips through some currency bills in his  
stubby lurutt fingers. The transition from Karrun's teeth to  
his smiling beak should be as jarring as possible.

TAILOR ZIMURRUR

Oh my oh my! And to think I  
wanted to close early-early!

Cirrus (still wind tiger) contemplatively looks between a few  
racks of men's athletic clothes.

Avani examines a rack of pants.

AVANI

Do you sell anything remotely  
feminine?

Avani exits a changing room wearing the same green shirt with  
gold dots -- and a garish kilt. (Pick a color.)

AVANI (CONT'D)

I need something more subdued.

Avani's clothes switch to a medieval monk's hooded robe.

AVANI (CONT'D)

Less standoffish.

She reappears in her shirt and a traditional Japanese men's  
*hakama* skirt, tied not the slightest bit correctly.

AVANI (CONT'D)

Am I even wearing this right?

Cirrus carries a men's white tank top and a pair of gray sweat shorts in her mouth.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

Women *can* wear pants, hon. They won't bite your legs off.

Avani looks resistant to the very idea of pants.

EXT. AIR DISTRICT - STREET - DAY

Tori, seated on Klauser, silently converses with a PEDESTRIAN on a street corner in the Air District. The pedestrian points down the road. There's still enough sunlight out to be day.

INT. HUMANS' WEARHOUSE - DAY

Avani exits the changing room wearing outdoorsy Velcro-strap sandals, her original shirt, and men's cargo pants. The khaki pants go well with the gold dots of her shirt.

Cirrus and Tailor Zimurrur glance at each other and nod in approval.

AVANI

Let me try the kilt again.

Tori THROWS the door open and charges in.

TORI

Avani! Cirrus!

AVANI

Tori, what a surprise! Wait there, I have a present for you.

Avani disappears into the changing room.

TORI

There's no *time*--

CIRRUS (V.O.)

--You missed the fun earlier. We went to get you a present and some Air elementalists tried to kill us.

TORI

I already know! Mom--

Avani emerges with the violin case. She unlatches it.

AVANI

--Here it is! A reliable source said you might like it. The case was scratched, though.

Tori makes desperate gestures to impart the urgency of her message, but she quickly trails off, suddenly distracted when Avani shows her the inside of the case.

TORI

Okay, *really*, I appreciate this, but Mom is going... to...

The violin is colored red and black to resemble, as much as possible, the Red Special of real-life guitarist Brian May. The violin's scroll is even tapered to resemble a headstock.

Tori reaches out to it, hands TREMBLING, before seizing it from the case and holding it like a newborn baby.

Avani brims with satisfaction.

Tori turns the violin over. Two tiny wormholes and the inscription "VL06" mar the base of the neck.

TORI (CONT'D)

(awestruck)

This is an authentic Von Luthier Carmine Special!

Avani and Cirrus suddenly share Tori's surprise.

AVANI

The dealer said it was a copy...

TORI

Then his appraisal skills suck.  
This guy named Von Luthier only  
made like *eight* of these!

(looks up)

I... just... why? Why give me a  
treasure like this? I mean I  
barely even know you two.

CIRRUS (V.O.)

It's a little thank-you for  
saving our asses this morning.

AVANI

And to show that, despite our  
differences, we understand you.

Avani hit a nerve. Tori bites her lower lip and stares into  
the Carmine Special's glossy finish.

Zimurrur scratches his beak, not quite sure what's going on.

AVANI (CONT'D)

Now what were you going to say?

Tori looks up from the violin.

TORI

Mom is trying to kill you.

Avani absorbs that. Cirrus drops the clothes from her mouth.

TORI

Remember Grampus? Remember Sir  
Beau? It turns out that she was  
their boss in this group called  
the Nexus. She said you hurt it,  
so she's going to kill you both.

Avani fumbles with the violin case. Cirrus is petrified in  
fear, not even breathing.

AVANI

A-all right, let me just..  
Cirrus? What's the matter?

We've never seen Cirrus more frightened.

CIRRUS (V.O.)  
 (whispered)  
 Title.

TORI  
 What?

CIRRUS (V.O.)  
 Did she give you a title.  
 Another name.

TORI  
 Um...

QUICK FLASHBACK:

Karrun silently speaks to Tori in the throne room.

TORI (CONT'D)  
 I don't remember exactly.  
 Something-something the Whale-  
 Eater? Division One?

The blue in Cirrus's skin fades slightly, almost literally turning her white with fear. She lowers her head and backs away from nothing.

Avani touches her on the shoulder.

AVANI  
 Cirrus? What's wrong?

CIRRUS (V.O.)  
 We have to get out of here.

TORI  
 I know. And I've got the perfect way out. But how do you know--

CIRRUS (V.O.)  
 --We have to get out of here!

EXT. CITADEL - DAY

Karrun's limo rolls away from the citadel. Nightfall approaches.

KARRUN'S LIMO

Karrun sits in the back of her limo, eyes closed, legs crossed, interlaced fingers on her knee.

KARRUN (V.O.)

I can find you in the wilds. I  
can find you on the bridge. If  
you wish to truly leave me, Tori  
dear, you have only one option.

A *nodachi*, a long two-handed Japanese sword, lies in its sheath on the seats across from Karrun.

Karrun opens her eyes halfway.

KARRUN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And there you will understand  
exactly who I am.

EXT. FIRE DISTRICT - DAY

Karrun's limo rolls South through the Fire District.

Our view rises in height. The further up we go, the easier it is to see the hangars at the landing site past the southern wall.

FADE OUT