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
- *CORRIFOR OUTSIDE THE ISHIDA SHUTTLE AIRLOCK, MARAUDER
- FOUR’S QUARTERS
- MESS
- TRAINING ROOM
- UNDERBELLY

EXTERIOR

EXT. ISHIDA PALACE
1 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER - BRIDGE

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)
CONTINUED:

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)
CONTINUED: (2)

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

The damaged Ishida Cruiser hangs in space opposite The Raza.

3 INT. ISHIDA CRUISER - BRIDGE

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)
FOUR (CONT'D)

(beat)
The war goes badly. It's only a matter of time before the enemy chokes off your supply lines, overpowers 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)
CONTINUED: (2)

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.

VFX - SPACE

The Raza blinks out.

INT. RAZA - FOUR'S QUARTERS

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)
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)
CONTINUED: (2)

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.

INT. RAZA - UNDERBELLY

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)
CONTINUED:

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?
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.

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

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

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: (2)

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.

VFX - SPACE
The Raza drops out of FTL.

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

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)
CONTINUED:

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 -

INT. RAZA - MESS

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)
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.
An Ishida cruiser hurtles through FTL.

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.

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.

The Raza is dead ahead out the window(VFX). An ALARM sounds.

OFFICER #3
Proximity alert! Another ship, dead ahead!

HIRO
Pull up!
The cruiser pulls up, narrowly avoiding a collision, only to have its underside raked with rapid fire from the Raza's rail guns. A series of explosions rip into the cruiser.

INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE

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.

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

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.

INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE

FOUR walks onto the bridge where Hiro and armed guards await.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

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.

VFX - SPACE

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

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

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

INT. ISHIDA CRUISER #2 - BRIDGE

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)
CONTINUED:

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.

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

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

(CONTINUED)
22 CONTINUED:

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

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:

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?

Hiroy stares FOUR down -

HIRO

My life.

FOUR

The throne will do.

Hiroy considers, admits -

HIRO

I never wanted it.

FOUR

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

Hiroy throws FOUR a look -

INT. RAZA - AIRLOCK OUTSIDE THE MARAUDER

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)
CONTINUED:

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.

EXT. ISHIDA PALACE -- DAY

Establish.

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

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)
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.

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)
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 -

VFX - SPACE
The Raza flies through sub-light.

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

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE
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)
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 -
INT. RAZA - TRAINING ROOM

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:

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.

INT. RAZA - MESS

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)
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)
CONTINUED:  (2)

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.

VFX - SPACE
The Raza streaks through sub-light.

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE
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.

OMITTED

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

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE
Starfield out the window. The Android informs them -

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

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)
CONTINUED: (2)

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.

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

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE
Our crew react -

TWO
Android, get us out of here.

Off a stunned FOUR we -

END OF ACT TWO
The Raza pops back into normal space, having left Zairon.

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)
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.

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

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

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

She'll try to turn him.

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

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

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.

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

I understand.

I wish you'd reconsider going.
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)
CONTINUED:  (2)

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.

INT. RAZA - MESS

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)
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.
INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

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)
CONTINUED:

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.

The Raza POPS into normal space, approaching Zairon.
INT. RAZA - CORRIDOR  OUTSIDE THE AIRLOCK

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)
CONTINUED:

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.

EXT. ISHIDA PALACE -- NIGHT

Establish the palace at night.

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - ENTRANCE CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

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.

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - UPPER LEVEL CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

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 -

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

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

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

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:

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY

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
I deliver the prisoner unto the judgment of the court.

EMPERESS
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)
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)
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)
CONTINUED: (3)

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)
CONTINUED: (4)

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:

INT. RAZA - BRIDGE

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)
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.

FOUR sits in a bare cell, awaiting the verdict. We hear the door unlock. Misaki steps inside.
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 stepmother'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: (2)

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.

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - ENTRANCE CORRIDOR -- DAY

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.
INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY

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.

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - CORRIDOR -- DAY

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).

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY

The Empress addresses the court.

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

ODO
Death.

EMPRESS
Han-shireikan?

MISAKI
Death.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

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.

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - CORRIDOR -- DAY

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
Establish.

59 INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY
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)
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) 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

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

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)
CONTINUED:

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.

EXT. ISHIDA PALACE -- DAY

The Raza loosens a volley, striking the back of the palace.
INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY

The court is rocked.

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - UPPER CORRIDOR -- DAY

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.

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - HIRO'S CHAMBERS

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 -

INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY

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:

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
INT. ISHIDA PALACE - COURT -- DAY

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)
CONTINUED:

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 -

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