

IN THE SHADOWS OF NOVEMBER

EPISODE TWO
SOMETHING IN THE WATER

Written by Bill Albert

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EXT. LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - EVENING

Little Rock was ground zero for one of the bombs. A large portion of the center is simply gone, everything else is laid waste. Miles out of town, outside the blast range, there is a single rider, November, standing next to a motorcycle.

She looks at the city and we see flashing lights reflect on her helmet. She gets on the motorcycle and starts riding outward, towards a storm.

EXT. COUNTRY ROADS - BRIDGE OVER CREEK - NIGHT

It is a dark and stormy night. There is rain and lightning and various roads where no one would dare to be. There is a bridge over a small creek and underneath, sheltered is the motorcycle with a waterproof sheet over it parked on the bank. It remains dry.

November is here, wrapped in a torn blanket, drops of rain on her body. Despite the tremendous storm she is sound asleep, calm and quiet, and lightning flashes on her face.

EXT. COUNTRY ROADS - BRIDGE OVER CREEK - MORNING

November is still asleep, and we hear TRUCKS off in the distance driving away. She slowly wakes, muddy but mostly dry.

She sits up and looks at the motorcycle, glad it is safe and dry she tosses the ragged blanket aside. She realizes how dirty she is and walks to the bank, kneels, and without looking cups water in her hands. She takes a drink, then spits the water out in surprise and looks down. She sees a stream of blood in the water and looks upstream.

She gets up and starts running to the bend. She skids to a stop as she sees something. She walks forward to see five bodies, each riddled with gunshots, carelessly dumped in the water. We hear TRUCKS in the distance.

BLACK

TITLE OVER: Gosnell, Arkansas
 March 8th
 120 days since the bombs

EXT. STREET - MORNING

November walks into the small town. There is silence here, no cars or people, lawns are unkempt, trash is on the streets. It is obviously deserted.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE 1 - MORNING

The first house she comes to has been ransacked, the garage door is open, she looks inside and sees no cars, an empty freezer, and junk.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE 2 - MORNING

She goes to the second house. The front door is torn off the hinges and tossed aside. There are worn and unreadable markings spray painted on the door. November looks inside but does not enter.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE 3 - MORNING

She approaches the third, this one has a door and she stops and looks at markings on the door. From top to bottom the markings are 13 DEC, 1320, USM, None, None. It gets her attention.

She opens the door and looks inside. The house is relatively intact, she enters but does not touch anything, looks at family photos as if they should mean something to her, then leaves.

INT. IRENE'S HOUSE - MORNING

There hasn't been a lot of activity in this house for months, but it is relatively clean. We can barely hear humming in the distance and it slowly increases. After a pause it is IRENE, 70+, blind, carefully moving through the house with a pitcher of water for the plants. She knows exactly how many steps it takes to get from one plant to the next, so she doesn't miss a drop or a step.

She suddenly stops moving and singing and just listens. Is there something there? She continues to the next. pot. She stumbles a bit as she moves, tries to steady herself, and knocks a small ceramic vase off a stand. She stops but there is no sound of it hitting the floor.

A hand moves the vase back where it started. The woman stops, listens, hears nothing but smiles.

IRENE

Thank you, dear.

She goes on about her chore and leaves November standing still to not disturb the woman. The woman sings herself away and November leaves quietly.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - MORNING

The shelves are mostly empty. The place has been ransacked and there is no power.

November is on the hunt, carefully searching. She's very aware, suspicious of what she can't see, but determined to make it happen. Looking into small spaces, corners, not missing a spot. Suddenly she sees something, carefully inspects it, then smiles in victory. A bag of chips. They are pickle flavored and she looks at them dubiously.

She freezes when she hears FOOTSTEPS approaching. Unfortunately, the person, DONNY, male, late teens, walks right in front of her. He stops in surprise and looks down on her. He is immediately in bully mode. November is not very impressed.

DONNY

I'll take the chips.

NOVEMBER

You better get some help.

DONNY

Don't think I need any help with you. Gimme the chips.

NOVEMBER

Take the pretzels.

There is a shelf loaded with untouched bags of pretzels.

DONNY

I don't want the pretzels.

NOVEMBER

It's not like you really have any choice.

Donny moves towards her. The shelf of pretzels vibrates as there is a loud CRASH off.

EXT. GOSNELL STREET - MORNING

November exits the abandoned convenience store with the bag of chips. She sits down on the curb with her back against a newspaper vending machine. There is a weapon she carries tucked in her boot. There are no cars on the streets, no movement from other people at all. She opens the bag to eat.

Limping, Donny exits the store with bags of pretzels trying to move away as quietly as he can without being noticed.

After a few moments, she turns to see a scraggly dog approaching her. It sniffs the bag and wags its tail and she holds the bag away. Looks at the dog, scratches it behind the ears, then feeds it some of the chips. She finishes and finally stands and walks off.

The last newspaper in the machine was dated November 13th with a picture of a nuclear explosion and the headline "NOVEMBER APOCALYPSE"

EXT. METH HOUSE - MORNING

This house has "TL" and "CHM" markings that are a different color from the rest of the door markings. November looks inside and sees chemicals, burners and various instruments strung together. She turns as she hears RONALD, ANDY and KEN, males, 20ish, thugs running down the street towards her.

She casually waits for them to approach and when they are on the sidewalk in front of her, faster than the eye, she has her weapon locked and loaded and pointed directly at them. They fumble into each other and stop with their hands raised.

RONALD

Ok, ok, ok, don't fire.

ANDY

Ok, ok, ok.

KEN

Don't fire.

RONALD

You haven't been into that house, have you? You haven't gone in there?

NOVEMBER

Why?

RONALD

Well, it's not safe in there. It's infested with rats. Very dangerous and deadly.

KEN

Yeah, rats, typhoid, plague, syphilis, that stuff.

NOVEMBER

I'm sure the meth lab isn't too safe either. Yes, I saw it. I hope your buddy is smart enough to know that before his hand gets down to that gun on his belt I'll have put a hole into your chest.

Ronald gives a wicked look at Andy who points at Ken. Ken tries to look cool as he takes his hand away from his gun. November locks her eyes on him and Ken unbuckles his belt and lets the gun drop to the ground.

KEN

Anyway, don't go into the house.

NOVEMBER

I found some bodies in the creek back there. You have anything to do with that?

(MORE)

They fumble for a bit, trying to figure out a way to prove it. Andy, the smart one, shows that his boots are clean and dry. The others follow. She lightens a bit.

NOVEMBER (CONT'D)

Well, perhaps that's not your style. Those markings on the door. What do they mean?

KEN
FEMA markings.

ANDY
Top number is the date the house was officially checked. This one was December 8, 12-8. Going clockwise you get the hazards in the house. CHM for chemicals. The bottom numbers are the survivors and bodies they found. Zero, zero. Nothing here. The last one is the agency, USA for United States Army, etc.

NOVEMBER
(lets the gun relax)
Is the whole town this way?

RONALD
Most of it. There are a few places, sheds and barns, that they didn't bother checking.

NOVEMBER
A cow barn. Where your hide out is?

KEN
How did you know that?

NOVEMBER
Take a deep breath.

KEN
(takes a breath)
What stinks?
(pauses as he realizes it's them)

As they smell themselves November puts her gun in her own belt but leaves it locked and loaded.

RONALD
There's another place we have.
Are you hungry?
(she pauses, nods)
We'll go there.

Ken pauses to pick up his gun but a glare from November stops him. They walk off and November quickly scoops up his gun. She glances back at the door at the "TL" marking, stares at it curiously, then follows.

INT. RED BEAR ONE - LINARCOS' OFFICE - DAY

This is a very fancy and elegant office. There are the sounds of ENGINES in the background but barely noticeable. There is a map of the US on a wall behind the desk. It has some very distinct markings on it at various locations. There is a desk with very few personal items on it and a phone.

The phone rings, sharp and loud, and LINARCOS, mid 50s, business, looking very professional, sits down at a chair and answers.

LINARCOS

Linarcos.

(listens)

Ok, is it significant?

(listens)

Yes, we have had a good success rate there.

(glances at map)

In fact, we could be in that area very soon. Keep the patrols locked and loaded. I'll personally check it out.

(firmly puts down phone)

(MORE)

Linarcos looks at his computer and enters a password. After several warnings a US military website, lots of warnings and restrictions, comes up on the screen. He types in another password and the site clears him.

Linarcos calmly works through the site. He looks at deployment orders, shipment details and personnel rosters.

LINARCOS (CONT'D)

Thought that area was restricted.

They shouldn't be there.

(MORE)

There is a KNOCK at the door. Linarcos shuts down the monitor.

LINARCOS (CONT'D)

Enter.

The MAGICIAN enters. He is an absent-minded professor type in his mid-20s with lots of tools hanging on his overalls. His hair is unkempt.

MAGICIAN

Good day, sir.

LINARCOS

Welcome, have a seat.

MAGICIAN

I've been working out the problem.

LINARCOS

Do you think you can solve it?

MAGICIAN

Finding out why is easy. First, we have to find it.

LINARCOS

Well, we're actively looking. We've got our resources working on it and other sources listening. We'll find it.

MAGICIAN

Then we'll be even. Always like even numbers.

LINARCOS

Yes.

MAGICIAN

Any signatures in the mountains?

LINARCOS

None. I didn't really expect anything there. They are all so far from the last contact point there wouldn't have been time to get there. More than likely it's somewhere in the plains.

MAGICIAN

Lots of places to hide there.

LINARCOS

Despite being something easy
to find.

MAGICIAN

I'm ready for it when we do.

Linarcos picks up the phone and pushes a call button.

LINARCOS

Captain Koenig, what's our ETA
for Arkansas?

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Even the flight crew is armed. KOENIG, 50, pilot, looks at the display.

KOENIG

(headset)

2 hours, 37 minutes.

EXT. RED BEAR ONE - DAY

Linarcos's large private jet cuts through the sky. There is an impressive number of fighter escorts.

INT. HIDE OUT - DAY

This building has been left intact and is fairly clean. November is eating at a table across from Ken and Andy. Ronald enters in new clothes and drying his hair. He sniffs himself before approaching. He starts to come around the table next to November but a glance from her warns him off and he sits across from her.

NOVEMBER

This isn't bad.

ANDY

Made it myself.

NOVEMBER

Where did you get the supplies?

RONALD

(after a glance from
the others)

There used to be a Big Kalm
Shopping store just outside of
town. We took it over. It keeps
us fed. Keeps supplies coming.

NOVEMBER

And plenty of bullets, I imagine.

She slides the gun to Ken, who pockets it.

RONALD

Well, yes, we have to hang on
to what we have.

NOVEMBER

So, who watches the building while
you're here?

They glance at each other to see who will answer. They are
trying to impress her.

RONALD

It's taken care of.

There is the sound of a TRUCK pulling up outside. The men relax.
The doors open and MARK and LENNY, late 20's, boss thugs, come
walking in. These are bigger, heavily armed men much more of a
threat than the first three. Their boots are covered in dried
mud and blood.

MARK

We'll have to load up the
tractor and head out to
Strellner's farm later. We've
taken control of the dairy
operation.

KEN

That was easy.

LENNY

Well, I think it was a waste
of five good bullets, but it
got the job done.

Ronald, Ken and Andy freeze in their seats.

MARK

Shelly made a run for it,
but we got her.

There is a creak in the room and Ken spins around with his gun on November. She is already standing and has her weapon pointed at them.

NOVEMBER

You killed them and dumped the
bodies in a creek.

LENNY

Sure, we did. We own this town
now. We take what we need.

NOVEMBER

(weapon aimed at Ronald)
I think ownership is about to
change.

LENNY

Doubtful.
(to Ken)
Shoot her, you idiot.

ANDY

We could keep her. Have her run
the farm with Sheila.

NOVEMBER

I wouldn't bet on that.
(to Ken)
You heard him, shoot me, you idiot.

Ken is confused for a moment. November jumps on to the table and kicks Andy hard. He drops out of sight. Ken aims and pulls the trigger, but the gun only clicks at him.

NOVEMBER

I know how you feel about the
bullets.

Lenny is reaching for his gun and November fires on him, killing him. She kicks Ronald who falls back and grabs the chair to take

a swing at her. She's too fast and he only smashes the table. November lands near Mark. He takes a swing at her, but she ducks and punches him back.

Ronald comes at her and they struggle for control as the others who can rise get to their feet. She kicks him hard and his knee buckles. She fires a wild shot. It hits the table and they duck out of the way. Before they look up, she has burst out the door.

EXT. STREETS - MORNING

November is on the run. The four men, Ronald limping badly, have her out gunned. They climb into the truck and come after her. She doesn't know the area, but they do. She tries to escape down an alley, but they cut her off with a hail of bullets at the other end.

She narrowly escapes but they are still following her. She finds a cover, loses them for a minute, then looks up as she hears a helicopter overhead. She sees the helicopter is going down for a landing and follows.

They are after her, closing in, when she gets to a surprisingly large airport that has been kept open and under guard.

The helicopter has landed, and several heavily armed troops have secured the area. She barely gets through the fence and safety when the men, seeing the helicopter and the armed and US Army uniformed guards, drive off.

November realizes she has escaped them but before she can do anything the guards surround her and take her captive.

INT. MILITARY BASE - MILITARY OFFICE - NOON

This is a functional office at a small airport, pictures of planes, cargo lists, etc., that have been there for months, with a desk and several chairs. The door opens and Captain TAGE, male, 30's, enters. His uniform is like US Army uniforms but there is something not quite right about it. He sits at the desk and looks at papers until there is a KNOCK at the door.

TAGE

Enter.

The door opens and SGT. BLANE, male. 40's, burly and rough, enters with several papers.

BLANE

New reports in from HQ.

TAGE

(takes them and looks
them over)

Thank you, sergeant. Take a seat.
Anything big?

BLANE

Most of this dispatch is routine
stuff, supply routes that are
secure, some that aren't. Command
changes. A directive for recruiting.
They've increased the signup bonus
to 125%.

TAGE

Serious? Any higher and I'll
sign up.

BLANE

Me, too. They don't actually say
it, but scuttlebutt is the
reenlistment bonus will drop 25%
next round.

TAGE

Well, that's the way business
works, isn't it? Can't imagine
they have too much trouble signing
people up. Not much else for
ex-military to do these days.

BLANE

No, sir. There is also a big push
to make offers to people who've already
served. Either for us or them.

(looks and pauses)

Have you gotten any info on HRNs?

BLANE

It's a long, slow process. Anything
above 50 give all the privileges
so there is a lot to cover. Up and
down the scale. There's also 10 to
80 meters to cover.

TAGE

Have there been any noticeable trends?

BLANE

Not yet, lots of local traffic. There is a report, however, from IT, they've secured quite a few of the remaining cell networks, plus receiver dishes. They expect to have the entire government back online in a few weeks.

TAGE

That'll be nice. I actually caught myself wishing a pop up would happen last night. Dog food, underwear, insurance? Anything. It would be so normal.

BLANE

I think there's a new normal for us, sir.

TAGE

Very true.

BLANE

There is also a new list of VIT's.

Tage looks Blane for a long moment. Flashes of anger in his face.

TAGE

Good, I'll go through them right away.

BLANE

The names are...ordinary.

TAGE

Average names? American names.

BLANE

Sadly sir, yes.

TAGE

(shakes his head)
Sometimes I wish we could
execute them all.

BLANE

(rises)
Same way I feel. If you don't
mind, sir. There was some
activity with the locals just
outside the base. I'd like to
take a look and see what happened.

TAGE

Of course, go ahead.

BLANE

Thank you, sir.

Blane exits and Tage looks at papers. A few of them have photos of individuals, varying clarity and grain, as if they were taken from security cameras. Some are crystal clear, others are blurry and hard to make anything out.

The names and crimes are also listed. J. Bliss, R. Hedley, P. Thompson, C. Calkins, T. Walcutt, etc. He shakes his head in hatred for them.

TAGE

Very Important Terrorists!

He takes one, looks closely, then tears it up in a moment of rage as if he were getting revenge on the person.

There is another KNOCK at the door, and he puts the papers in a drawer. He calls to the door and it opens. Blane escorts someone in. The detainee walks as if they own the place, sits in a chair by the desk, puts their feet up. It is November.

NOVEMBER

What?

TAGE

Was she armed?

Blane sets November's weapon on the desk for Tage. He looks at the weapon closely.

BLANE

That was it.

TAGE

Nice.

NOVEMBER

The weapon's not so bad either.

TAGE

(amused)

This is the only weapon you have?

NOVEMBER

(puts her boots on the desk)

That you know of.

TAGE

Ok, I think that's a good place to start.

(to Blane)

Thank you, sergeant. Keep your eyes and ears open today. There was talk that Red Bear One might be on the move. Let me know if you hear anything.

BLANE

Yes, sir.

Blane exits. Tage looks at November but she cannot read his expression.

TAGE

I'm Captain Tage. I'm in charge of the north eastern Arkansas district.

NOVEMBER

You're not part of the army though.

TAGE

I'm an officer for Torchlight. We were officially sanctioned by the Department of Homeland Security after 11/9 to support the US Army in reconstruction.

November stumbles for a moment as if the name should be important to her. As he stands, the slight differences in his uniform from US ARMY uniform. The Torchlight emblem, TL, matches what was on the door of the meth house.

NOVEMBER

I've been...out of touch.

TAGE

I understand. It is easier to reach citizens in the larger districts. There are also so many dislocated citizens who are out of touch. You have been travelling?

NOVEMBER

Yes.

TAGE

Where have you been?

NOVEMBER

I began in Albany a few weeks ago. Headed west to Shreveport, then came north.

TAGE

You tried to get into Texas?

NOVEMBER

No.

TAGE

So, you headed north?

NOVEMBER

Yes.

TAGE

Going where?

NOVEMBER

Just north. To see what's left.

TAGE

Not a lot. Minneapolis, straight north is a radioactive wasteland. As is Columbus, Lansing and Chicago. You didn't come through Little Rock?

NOVEMBER

Chicago? The entire city?

TAGE

Yes, ground zero, we believe, was Dearborn station. Intelligence reports indicated the bombs were delivered by train.

NOVEMBER

26?

TAGE

25. I'm sure info is pretty sketchy. A lot of sources first reported that it was Columbia, South Carolina that was hit. Mixing it up with Columbus. Early reports included Phoenix as a target, but it survived.

NOVEMBER

I was told Austin survived.

TAGE

Yes.

NOVEMBER

Dallas?

TAGE

No, neither was Amarillo.

NOVEMBER

Amarillo? What kind of target was that?

TAGE

We need answers to lots of things.

NOVEMBER

I can't help you with answers.

TAGE

Well, maybe a few. First of all, what is your name?

NOVEMBER

November.

TAGE

Interesting. First or last name?

NOVEMBER

(looks away)

It's all I have.

TAGE

Fair enough. Perhaps something less personal. For instance, several bodies were found in a creek earlier today.

NOVEMBER

Found?

TAGE

Bullets to their heads. From something more powerful than what you are carrying.

NOVEMBER

Any suspects?

TAGE

Hundreds of them. It's a small town with lots of places to hide. Some of the gangs around here we've been looking for.

NOVEMBER

Including 5 punks on a dairy farm and a meth lab?

(Tage looks at her closely, he is impressed)

Well, there are only 4 of them operating today.

TAGE

I imagine you have something
to do with their numbers
getting changed?

NOVEMBER

You have a good imagination.

TAGE

And you could narrow their
location down for us?

November nods tentatively. Tage orders her to follow him and they exit.

INT. OUTER OFFICE - DAY

There are several OFFICERS out here, heavily armed, and one wall is mostly covered with a street map of Gosnell. Tage leads November to it and Blane joins them.

Tage points at where they are on the map and November cleverly traces back her run from the HQ. She indicates the location of the HQ for the thugs.

TAGE

And the meth lab?

NOVEMBER

I've given you enough for
my weapon.

TAGE

And I've only had your word.
Complete and total release after
we've secured the location.

November pinpoints the places on the map. The meth house is actually only two blocks away from the base. Tage looks at her, offers her her weapon. Tage and Blane exit.

EXT. - THUGS HQ - DAY

Lenny, Andy and the rest of them are around a table in a strategy meeting.

RANDY

I think we should try and get her to come back. She'd be a good edition.

ANDY

It's addition, not edition. Didn't you go through school?

RANDY

Yes, I went through school. The day they abandoned it after the bombs. Wasn't much there, though.

ANDY

That's not what I meant!

RANDY

What makes you think you're so smart.

ANDY

She's not coming back! She isn't one of us!

RANDY

You're just mad cause she kicked you in the chest.

LENNY

Shut up, both of you! Now, we have the dairy farm so that'll give us something to trade with. I'll go to Cadillac station tomorrow and make some connections. Ken, I want you to start policing the farm. Pick a few guys you can trust.

KEN

Ray and Shawn are good. I've known them for fifteen years. They know how to handle a weapon.

LENNY

They have their own?

KEN

Shotguns, both of them.

LENNY

Good. Big and mean looking.
We'll need them.

ANDY

I was hoping I would get--

A door is kicked open and a large force of heavily armed Torchlight troops, led by Blane, storm in. Their weapons are locked and loaded, and they easily take over. Tage enters and looks over them.

TAGE

Which one of you is in charge?

They all look at Lenny who stands up and faces Tage. Blane steps forward and shoots Lenny in the chest. The remaining thugs are scared and look at Tage.

TAGE

I want weekly deliveries from the dairy farm to the base and an inventory of what's left at the Kalm superstore tomorrow. If you're good, if you're very good, I'll let you keep 10% of the meth.

RANDY

If we're not good.

Andy bats him.

INT. MILITARY BASE - COMMON ROOM - DAY

This is a small break area in the base, several soldiers about, food and drink, general business, and November finishing a meal. She's getting a bit antsy and wants to get moving. A soldier, SPENCER, male, 22, gets some lunch and notices her sitting by herself. Curiously, he goes over and sits down across from her.

SPENCER

Hello.

NOVEMBER
(looks him over)
Hello.

SPENCER
My name is Spencer.

NOVEMBER
November.

SPENCER
November? That's a pretty unique
name. How did you get so lucky?

NOVEMBER
(tries to smile it off)
I think I just happen to be in
the right place at the right time.

SPENCER
Lucky you.

NOVEMBER
Lucky me.

SPENCER
I've never seen you here before.

NOVEMBER
I just arrived this morning. I
was looking around town and met
up with some gang of thugs.

SPENCER
Oh, I wonder which one. There's
been a few of them we've been
after for a while. We've been
getting rid of them one at a time.
The hardest part is that they are
very small and know all the hiding
spots. Did they hassle you?

NOVEMBER
They tried.

They both laugh and begin to feel comfortable together.

SPENCER

Tried. Good for you. I suspect they learned not to be hassling you anymore.

NOVEMBER

I don't think they had the brains to learn that much.

SPENCER

Good point. So, where were you from? Before the bombs, I mean.

(she looks down)

Oh, I'm really sorry.

NOVEMBER

It's okay. Just something I'm not used to. What about you?

SPENCER

The Land of Lincoln. The great state of Illinois.

NOVEMBER

(pauses)

I think I've been there. It must have just been so long ago I can barely remember it.

SPENCER

Well. lots of people feel that way about my state. If it wasn't Chicago most people just heard of it.

NOVEMBER

I'm sure it's very nice. I've been heading north for a while. I'm sure I'll get there eventually.

SPENCER

Where are you coming from?

NOVEMBER

Louisiana, most recently, before that, Georgia.

SPENCER

Wow, I've heard a few stories about the bad lands. Are they true?

NOVEMBER

I imagine some of them are. There are some bad places, things are out of control, where there are no rules anymore.

SPENCER

Can you tell me more?

NOVEMBER

A week ago, I passed through a town in Alabama, Monroeville. It seemed like a nice town, not too big, not too small. It was in the evening and the only place that looked busy was the main county courthouse so, I checked it out. First, I thought maybe it was a meeting, a community gathering, some type of set up like that. Lots of places having them these days. It didn't take long to see what was going on. The white robes, hoods, the crosses. They were celebrating the return of the south.

SPENCER

It's very easy for some people to forget their past.

NOVEMBER

(pauses)

There seems to be a sense of boldness everywhere. Like nobody is watching anymore.

SPENCER

With no 24 hour news cycle they hope nobody is watching. Are there good places, too?

NOVEMBER

Yes, some are just the opposite of Monroeville. Some are working well.

They have finished eating.

SPENCER

I imagine you've got quite a few stories to tell.

NOVEMBER

Well, I'm sure you've seen a few things, too.

SPENCER

Well, a few things, but people usually see us coming a mile away. We've never been able to just sit in and watch.

NOVEMBER

You are US Army.

SPENCER

Well, not exactly. This particular dispatch here in Arkansas is part of Torchlight. We're a private group sanctioned by the US, DHS and FEMA after 11/9. With everything spread this wide there are some places the Army wanted watched but weren't important enough to have direct influence over.

NOVEMBER

You operate the same way?

SPENCER

Sort of. Would you like to see more of the base?

NOVEMBER

Sure.

They stand and exit.

EXT. HANGER - DAY

There are various pieces of military equipment, tanks, transports, armor etc., scattered about as they walk through the area. November seems uninterested but her eyes are darting back and forth. She's taking everything in.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Spencer and November enter.

SPENCER

That's all I can show you.
Probably too much.

NOVEMBER

You're so kind.

SPENCER

I'm probably in some trouble.
They'll be looking for you, soon.

NOVEMBER

I've noticed you looking at me.

SPENCER

Well, um, you know. I mean.

They move closer to each other

NOVEMBER

It's okay. I've been looking at
you, too.

INT. SPENCER'S QUARTERS - DAY

November and Spencer have had sex and are now laying back in the bunk. He's asleep, feeling comfortable, but she is wide awake. She stops as if she hears something.

Whispers in the distance that disturb her. Lots of voices including Spencer from before saying "It's very easy for some people to forget their past." She looks around as if she is sure someone else is in the room.

When she can't get it out of her thoughts, she decides it's time to leave.

EXT. HANGER - DAY

Tage has returned with his men from their raid. He is talking to Corporal SINGER, male, 20ish, as his men start to store their equipment. Singer takes notes as Tage speaks.

TAGE

Make sure supplies and provisions is ready for the steady milk delivery. They'll be good for the officers.

SINGER

Yes, sir.

TAGE

Are Catarna or Jackson still here?

SINGER

Catarna is. He's part of Team 73.

TAGE

He used to cook, didn't he?

SINGER

Yes sir, spent three years in Indiana State.

TAGE

Make sure he reports to me tonight.

SINGER

Yes, sir.

TAGE

Alright. Everything should be secured. The prisoner that was brought in this morning, the girl, have her brought to my office.

SINGER

Right away.

Singer runs off and BLANE approaches him.

TAGE

That was a good find.

BLANE

Yes, on several fronts.

TAGE

I want to get Catarna cooking as soon as possible. Meth is becoming the new gold standard with lots of gangs and underground operations. Above ground operations, too.

BLANE

Good pick. He did hard time for that before signing up to Torchlight. He should be able to bring it up to full production. You won't need those idiots at all.

TAGE

Yes, give them a few days and make sure we have 100% control. Then get rid of them.

BLANE

Yes, sir.

Singer approaches and Tage turn to him.

SINGER

Sir, the female is gone.

TAGE

What do you mean?

SINGER

She's unaccounted for. She was in break area eating and took off.

TAGE

What the hell! She just walked off and not one person kept an eye on her! What is it?

SINGER

Nothing, sir.

TAGE

No, you were about to
give me some excuse for
letting her go.

SINGER

No, sir.

TAGE

Out with it! I want to hear it!

SINGER

Well, sir, she was never
officially taken into custody,
just escorted in, and you did
return her firearm to her and
you did allow her to move freely
in a common room. Not the standard
procedure for a suspicious
individual. Sir.

TAGE

OK, check all the guard posts.
Make sure she's left the base.

(MORE)

Singer heads off. Tage is angry with himself and walks to check on some of the troops as they go about their work. Suddenly a buzzer goes off and it gets everyone attention. Tage sees a phone at one station and marches towards it, picks it up and enters a code.

TAGE (CONT'D)

This is Tage.

(listens)

How far out are they? That'll
be just after sundown.

(Blane and Singer catch
up to him and wait patiently)

Affirmative. We'll have everything
ready.

(hangs up, to BLANE and Singer)

That was Colonel Reagan. Red
Bear One will be making an
unscheduled stop here in 2 hours
so we are going to full alert.

(MORE)

TAGE (CONT'D)

Lock down the base, make
sure all non-essential
personnel are off, and prepare
for a class A inspection
from Mr. Linarcos.

Blane and Singer are impressed by this announcement and snap to attention. They know how big this is. Tage dismisses them and they hurry off to do their duties.

EXT. MILITARY BASE - DAY

Various scenes of Torchlight troops getting ready for inspection. They are so busy and so intense on preparing November can easily slip out of the base holding a bag full of something.

EXT. AIRPORT - NIGHT

There is a lot of pomp and circumstances going on as they prepare for Linarcos's plane.

Tage, Blane, Singer and the command staff are ready as the private jet, Red Bear One, with fighter escort, land on the tarmac and taxis towards them. There are reminders that this is Torchlight, not an actual US military unit, but they do act like one.

Red Bear One comes to a stop and Torchlight troops encircle the plane armed and ready to protect it. The main door opens and Linarcos' No 1, MILLER, 40s, dumpy but loyal, exits and meets Tage.

MILLER

Thank you, Captain. Is the
area secured?

TAGE

Tight as a drum. All entrances
to the base are secure and troops
have set up a parameter of one block.

MILLER

Thank you. Mister Linarcos will
be very impressed.

TAGE

I hope so.

MILLER

Yes, one of the nicest things about being in charge of a security force like Torchlight is you get all the protection in the world. Even the president wasn't this protected. Of course, it wouldn't have helped.

(to radio)

We're ready for Mr. Linarcos.

Tage and the troops stand at attention as Linarcos comes down the steps from Red Bear One. Miller leads him along as he inspects the troops and ends with Tage and Blane on the tarmac.

LINARCOS

Thank you, captain. I read your Report just before landing. I'm very impressed.

TAGE

Thank you, sir. We also have a full crew ready to service Red Bear One and your escorts.

LINARCOS

Very impressive. You have secured the town?

TAGE

Yes, sir. There have been some elements that tried to resist us but they have been either eliminated or dealt with.

LINARCOS

Very good. I suspect, in some cases, there is very little difference.

TAGE

Yes, sir. Just this morning we-

As he speaks there is an explosion just a few blocks off the base. A tremendous ball of flame brightens the night sky and the ground trembles. Linarcos immediately darkens and he glares at Tage and his troops. They jump into action and we can see he is a very powerful and dangerous man.

EXT. METH HOUSE - NIGHT

The house has been disintegrated in the explosion. The houses on each side are badly damaged and burning from the fire storm. There are several bodies of Torchlight soldiers thrown across the debris field.

November is sitting on her motorcycle just far enough out of the blast zone. The bag she carried as she left the base is empty. The intense fire is reflected on her helmet. She turns and heads out of town.

INT. RADIO ROOM - UNKNOWN

We are close on the face of a Hamm radio. Levels going as two operators talk. WARLOCK, male, is in the room and 897, male, is responding on the radio.

WARLOCK

897, do you copy?

(pause)

897, do you copy?

897 (O.S.)

I copy Warlock.

WARLOCK

Talk to me, buddy.

897 (O.S.)

My daughter keeps asking when she can use her cell phone again.

WARLOCK

Oh, my, life without cell phones. I can barely remember that.

897 (O.S.)

It sounds like that's on the list. They are gearing up getting government systems back online first.

WARLOCK

That's what I heard on the channels. It's really picking up.

897 (O.S.)

Yes, get the government functioning properly so somebody can take control of the country again.

WARLOCK

Several somebodies.