

Please Episode 2

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Tales of the Forgotten Fiction Network

SFX: The sound of the Woman's body hitting the ground.

(Gasp) MARIE

SETH
Fuck.

EVIE
Tasha... luv... put the gun down, now.

TASHA (V.O.)
My hand rarely shook anymore, but it was now. Marie's gasp tore me up. Seth sounded so disappointed. Evie was trying to help... but all I could do was make an enraged sound. I took a step closer to the woman's dead body and I-

SFX: More gun shots.

TASHA (V.O.)
(A broken scream of anger)

SFX: Gunshots continue until the clip empties, and the gun is just making a clicking sound as Tasha continues to pull the trigger.

EVIE
Hey... darlin it's all right.

TASHA
No, it's not Evie! How many people did she get killed? How many?

SETH
She won't hurt anyone else, Tasha. That's what matters.

TASHA
Is it?

EVIE
It has to be. We change the things we can. Only the things we can.

TASHA (V.O.)
I didn't lower the gun. I couldn't look away from the woman, because I didn't... I didn't want to look at them. I didn't want to see the disappointment on their faces because I...

MARIE

It is all right, Tasha. If you had not done it-

SETH

I was going too.

EVIE

Would've had to fight me for it.

SFX: Evie spits on the body.

TASHA (V.O.)

I closed my eyes. I wanted to scream. I wanted this pain to stop. I wanted to look at them. To be brave enough to just look at them but I... I didn't.

TASHA

Let's go.

TASHA (V.O.)

I opened my eyes and put my gun away. Avoiding all of their gazes, I got back in the jeep. We left that bitch's body to the crows and sped off.

2 EXT. FIGHT CLUB

2

The faint sounds of a people in a parking lot. Cars coming and going. Engines revving obnoxiously.

Tasha is still in the jeep, staring out the windshield at nothing, her mind replaying the conversation she had with her crew before she came here:

EVIE

Where yah goin' luv?

SETH

Hey, you need to blow off steam, I'm with you. Let us watch your back, T.

MARIE

Please Tasha, let us accompany you.

TASHA

No. Please get out. I'll be back later.

TASHA (V.O.)

That's what I told them. They probably wouldn't be at the base camp when I came back. They were probably done with my shit. Gods knew I was.

(MORE)

TASHA (V.O.)(cont'd)

And the thought they might not be there,
that I might have finally driven them
away...

TASHA

Fuck!

SFX: Tasha looses it again, banging her hands violently on the steering wheel. We hear the car door open and slam shut. The sound of her footsteps as she trudges across the dirty parking lot the fight club.

She bangs her fist against a heavy metal door. We hear the sound of a rusty metal eye slot pulling backwards.

TASHA (cont'd)

I want in on a match tonight.

SFX: We hear the sound of the slot again, this time closing. The heavy metal door creaks open, leaking out the faint sounds of pulsing music.

TASHA (V.O.)

They called this place Cliffhangers. It was an unsanctioned fight club, and by fight club I mean stupid people like me, versus the kind of monsters my crew and I killed. In the protected cities the Organizations ran these kinds of club for their soldiers. They passed it off as training, but really it was just another way to line their pockets and rumor was that most of the Organization's soldiers were immortal anyway. Lucky motherfuckers.

3 INT. FIGHT CLUB

3

SFX: Music gets louder. Rowdy sounds of the fight club. People drinking, talking, yelling.

NOTE: Let's get some volunteers to get us some authentic background dialogue for this scene.

TASHA (V.O.)

I fucking hated this place, but it wasn't the first time I'd been here. It smelled like blood, b.o., and the grotesque smell of the kind of creatures that went bump in the night. There was a center ring, closed off by nanite reinforced glass that was secure enough, though six months ago they made the mistake of bringing in a creature that punched right through it and killed half the crowd before they took it down.

BOOKIE

Tash! What's up girl?

TASHA

What have you got for me tonight?

BOOKIE

Lemmie see... I can slot you in next match
No weapons, fists only. Payout is fire if
you don't die.

TASHA

Fine. Put me in and spot me two stims.

BOOKIE

Two huh? Damn girl. You s-

TASHA

Yes, give them to me.

BOOKIE

Okay. It's your brain. Here you go. Good
luck, babe.

TASHA (V.O.)

She passed me two vials full of a dark red
liquid. Stims were a nasty cocktail that
made a person superhuman for about ten
minutes. They also increased aggression,
were addictive as hell if you weren't
careful, and had a high probability of killing
you every time you took one.

TASHA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I stepped aside, leaning against a wall and
stared down at the two vials. If Evie knew
she'd kill me. She'd been addicted to these
things for a while before I found her, and
I'd helped her get clean. Marie would be so
damn distressed. I closed my fist around
the vials.

FLASHBACK

WOMAN

Oh. I know who you are. You used to live in
one of the protected cities. I remember
what happened to your family. Sad.

□Sound of Tasha's gunshot killing the woman.

□END FLASHBACK

4 INT. BACKROOM

4

TASHA

Fuck it.

TASHA (V.O.)

I made my way to the back area where fighters got checked in.

RODNEY

Fuck me. Tasha? You fighting tonight? How lucky am I.

TASHA (V.O.)

My skin scrawled as I came face to face with Rodney. Rodney was a fucking tool. He ran a crew of meat heads with too much testosterone and not enough sense. I noticed the five guys around him were new. I wasn't surprised. He touted himself as a monster killer, but he usually got his crew killed. I remained shocked people still followed him, but outside of "protected" areas things were getting worse and people did what they had to do.

TASHA

You're in my way.

RODNEY

(laughs)

My bad. Make that money. I'll buy you a drink after.

TASHA (V.O.)

I ignored him and pushed past. I got checked in with the right people, and took my spot near the door to the cage. I had no idea what I would be fighting. I didn't care, I just needed to hurt something. Something that wasn't me, something that wasn't my crew. I set the vials down on the stool next to me and started tapping up my hands.

MARIE

Please do not do this.

TASHA (V.O.)

What the fuck. I startled, turned around and was staring at Marie. Her beautiful brow was furrowed. She didn't look disappointed she looked... deeply concerned, determined, and a little afraid.

(MORE)

TASHA (V.O.)(cont'd)

Of what I didn't know, but it pulled at my heart to see her that vulnerable.

TASHA

Marie... you shouldn't be here.

TASHA (V.O.)

She looked at me in silence for a heartbeat. Then she stepped closer and closed her gentle hands over mine.

MARIE

Please. I know you are in pain. In mourning. That you grieve for them. Can we not ease your pain another way? I am sure there is a way, that I could find it.

TASHA

I... Did you come alone?

MARIE

I asked them to wait outside. I wanted to... try to reach you. Evie is furious. Seth has a most serious look on his face.

TASHA (V.O.)

Before I could look away I felt her hand on my face, keeping my gaze on hers.

MARIE

Come with us. Let us help you in another way.

TASHA

I'm just... so fucking angry.

MARIE

Yes, with reason. So many good reasons. But, it is not all you are. I have seen this. I know this. Perhaps, the thing you need most to be reminded of is that you are not alone. We can help you. We want to try.
(very softly)

Please.

TASHA (V.O.)

The reminder that I was not alone was dirty pool. A single tear spilled down my cheek before I could stop it. Marie caught it with the gentle touch of her fingers and very surprisingly kissed my cheek right after. Her lips were so soft, and sent a jolt through me that was anything but anger.

(MORE)

TASHA (V.O.)(cont'd)

I looked at her, and saw the faint blush in her cheeks, the courage she was displaying by being here. For me. I thought of Evie and Seth outside. My new family. I wanted them, I realized. I was bone tired of self destructing. I wanted them to help me get past all this. Maybe even start really living again. I took a breath, squeezed her hand back and nodded.

TASHA

Okay.

TASHA (V.O.)

Marie's face lit up and it was the most beautiful thing I'd seen in a long time. I smiled back at her.

RODNEY

Damn this is cute. Anyway, you ready for your match, Tasha?

TASHA (V.O.)

I saw Marie tense, and I tightened my grip on her hands, hopefully to reassure her. I looked over her shoulder at Rodney.

TASHA

I'm out. They can get someone else to fight this match. Excuse us-

TASHA (V.O.)

Before I could finish, two of his goons shot forward and grabbed Marie by the arms, yanking her backwards, one of them pressing a pistol to her temple. That beautiful expression transformed into one of fear and my rage was quick to boil right back to the surface.

TASHA

Get your fucking hands off her!

RODNEY

(chuckling)

Fairs fairs in here. You agreed to the match and I've got a fuck ton of money on it. So either you fight, or I'll throw her in the cage in your place.

TASHA

I balled my hands into fists, eyeing the group, sizing them up. Calculating who I could take. How I would have to do this.

(MORE)

TASHA (cont'd)

If I could do this, without them hurting Marie. In those quick seconds I realized I couldn't take them all. Not alone. Not without Seth and Evie. Fuck.

TASHA (cont'd)

Fine. But if something happens to her-

RODNEY

Yeah yeah, we know. All you gotta do is hold up your end.

TASHA (V.O.)

I cast Marie an apologetic glance. I was even a little mad at the damn fool for following me into my own personal hell but, she cared didn't she? That's what people did when they cared about you. I wouldn't lose her. Not for my own mistake.

TASHA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I picked up one of the vials and drank it down. I pocketed the second one. I heard the distressed sound Marie made watching me, Rodney laughed, and they took her away. But quickly all that became a distant noise as the drug hummed through my body, making me feel powerful and sent my rage to brand new heights. I heard the announcer call my name, and I got into the cage.

SFX: Rowdy cheering crowd.

TASHA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I don't remember much of the fight. That's what this shit will do to you. It was just one creature, something thick, and I remembered it smelled awful. I think it was slow. It's mistake. I think it hit me once or twice, and that hurt, but the blows I landed were harder. It had weak spots. Like it's eyes. It's face. It's throat. I remembered the way I screamed and laughed when I tore it apart with my bare hands. I remember the roar of a cheering crowd, but I didn't give a shit about any of that. I had to get to Marie.

SFX: During Tasha's VO sounds of her fighting a big ass creature. Stomping as it comes into the ground. Sounds of her striking it, it trying to claw at her.

Glorious squelching sounds as Tasha rips it's throat out Road House style. Overlay with appropriate crowd cheering.

TASHA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Blinking the blood and sweat out of my eyes, I pushed people out of my way as I walked crowd side again, searching for Rodney, trying to temper down the rage I felt boiling inside of me. I kept repeating over and over that I couldn't kill him until Marie was safe. Marie had to be safe.

RODNEY

(claping)

Tasha! Woo! That was amazing. Damn lady. When you are and your crew going to work with mine?

TASHA

Let her go.

TASHA (V.O.)

I was thirsty as hell. There was a bottle of something on his table, I picked it up and drank it.

RODNEY

Yeah about that. I've got another proposition for you.

TASHA

Excuse me?

RODNEY

C'mon, lady. We could make a killing tonight. And I'm being an absolute gentlemen to your girl here. So, here's my plan...

TASHA (V.O.)

He started talking. Thinking he could deal and keep Marie at his side a little longer to get me to go another few matches. I wouldn't have been well received to his threat had I not been jacked up. Drugged as I was, I was even less level headed. He should have let her go.

TASHA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I pulled the sound vial out of my pocket, and swallowed down the tasteless red liquid. I heard Marie's warning shout. Truth be told I remember very little after that.

TASHA (V.O.) (cont'd)

I know I threw a bottle in Rodney's face. Kicked a table into another guy. Someone was bashed with a chair. My fists. I broke another bottle and slashed someone's throat, I think it was Rodney's but I couldn't be sure. I managed to get hold of a gun, all the while shouting at Marie to get down, screaming in my rage. At some point it all became too much for my body to handle and I collapsed onto the dirty floor. I remember seeing Marie over me, hearing her shout for someone. I remember hearing Evie curse, Seth shouting warnings. Gunfire and screaming and chaos. After that, I sunk down into the black and for the first time I didn't really want to be there.