

IN THE SHADOWS OF NOVEMBER

EPISODE FOUR
STILL STANDING

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(NOVEMBER - EPISODE 4-1)

EXT. SPACE - EARTH - DAY

Space above the United States. The scars where cities used to be before the bombs is visible.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

897 this is Warlock. Do you copy?

(pause)

897 this is Warlock. Do you copy?

897 (V.O.)

10-4 Warlock. I copy. How are you?

WARLOCK (V.O.)

Doing fine. Another check on radiation levels in our area and they are still clear,

897 (V.O.)

Sounds good. Safe and quiet here, too. Were you on any of the unlisted channels before?

WARLOCK (V.O.)

Negative, hadn't had time today.

897 (V.O.)

Something big went down in St. Louis.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

What do you mean big?

897 (V.O.)

Something big and bad.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

The suspense is killing me.

EXT. ST. LOUIS STREET - DAY

There has been a terrible battle here. The remains of a military convoy are scattered across the street with lots of dead bodies and burnt transports.

897 (V.O.)

Big military convoy got kicked.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-2)

WARLOCK (V.O.)

What?

897 (V.O.)

Yeah, a big one. At least 30 troops, lots of ammo, armor, and things that go boom.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

Are you serious?

897 (V.O.)

Yes, picked up the distress call. Lost some of it, there was a hell of a lot of cackle in the background, and it sounds pretty much like they got taken.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

It wasn't a Torchlight team. It was regular army?

897 (V.O.)

Affirmative.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

I'd hate to be in St. Louis. A nuclear blast would be nothing compared to the way that town is going to light up now.

BLACK:

TITLE OVER: St. Louis, Missouri,
March 14th
125 days since the bombs

EXT. ST LOUIS TRADING POST

This is a big and complex trading post. Tents are numbered, lanes are lettered, there is more order here than any outpost before. There is also a lot more variety. "Fallout free clothes" are for sale and trade. "Gas cans \$30." "Full Gas Cans \$70." "Antibiotics: \$100 pack of 12." "Light Bulbs \$75 each."

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-3)

There are signs that ban weapons dealers. Most of the people are wearing mismatched but comfortable clothes that they either begged, traded, borrowed or stole in various degrees of quality. A pair of jeans and a tuxedo jacket, different color shoes, or even two left shoes as a pair to get by.

There is also a very large military presence. US military patrols canvas the area. Very sharp and in control.

EXT. BLANKET TENT 456

A BLANKET DEALER, 50s, male, is dealing with a BLANKET BUYER, 50s, male.

BLANKET DEALER

Throw in the can of beans and you've got a deal.

BLANKET BUYER

They're lima beans. Add an extra blanket and you'll get enough for hot chili.

BLANKET DEALER

I haven't had chili since...

BLANKET BUYER

Before 11/9?

BLANKET DEALER

On 11/9, actually. Deal.

The buyer trades food for blankets.

EXT. RECYCLE TENT 119

Freely taking things to be recycled. One crate of old papers, one of empty beer and soda cans, one with credit and debit cards filling up rapidly. A RECYCLER, female, 30s, is talking to a CITIZEN, female, 20s

RECYCLER (O.S.)

I think the ATM's are still in the bigger cities but I doubt there's any cash in them anymore. No one has been able to get a response since 11/9 so they're just decorations in most places.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-4)

CITIZEN

I heard the town cryer saying
the government was bringing
most of the systems back online.

RECYCLER

Yes, I've heard that to.
But the official word is that
it is most of the government
systems. Private systems,
banking will take extra time.
Not sure the numbers will match
anymore.

CITIZEN

I should have figured that.
Probably lots of things restricted,
like the channels.

US Army Captain KINSELL, male, 30, regular army, with 4 armed
troopers behind him marches through the area. People clear out
of their way and there is general quiet as they pass.

EXT. CLOTHING TENT 721

CLOTHING SELLER #1 and #2, both male 50s, smooth talkers.

CLOTHING SELLER #1

Well, 11/9 changed lots of things,
but some stuff never goes out of
style.

CLOTHING SELLER #2

It looks great. Green and
yellow always go good together.
Don't worry, it'll ride up
with wear.

The CLOTHES BUYER, male, 20s, has neon green pants and a yellow
sport coat on.

EXT. CONTAINER TENT 228

Containers of every size imaginable. The CONTAINER SELLER, 20's,
male is intent on making a deal.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-5)

CONTAINER SELLER

Now, if you want gas in it,
we're looking at a different deal.

A SEXY WOMAN, 22, hot, is bargaining for a gas can.

SEXY WOMAN

So, let me get this straight.
Either you trade it to me
empty for some cleaner and
stay full, or you trade it
to me full for some cleaner
and get empty?

CONTAINER SELLER

Yes, that's pretty fair.

SEXY WOMAN

Where and when?

CONTAINER SELLER

Well, now, there's a cot in a
private tent in back.

Kinsell and his troops walk through and he glares at the
Container Seller. The Container Seller shrinks back a bit but
when there is no complaint from the sexy woman his squad walks
on.

Kinsell and his soldiers come to a complete stop when his radio
BEEPS.

KINSELL

(to radio)

Go ahead.

SERGEANT (V.O.)

We have a report of a fight.
One person down. Sector G,
block 12, clothes dealer 217.

KINSELL

LET'S MOVE!

Kinsell and his party take off at a full run. Despite the thick
crowd it is very easy for them to move as people keep an eye out

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-6)

for them and rapidly move out of the way as they come through. Soon they arrive at their destination.

EXT. CLOTHES DEALER 217

A few items in the area are tossed about. TYLER, 26, male, messy, dirty, is on the ground along with several items from a display stand and surrounded by BODYGUARDS. He's a bit dazed and is stunned from getting into and losing a fight.

As Kinsell helps him up it is odd just how far from the Clothes Dealer's tent he is. Kinsell and his troops escort him to the tent. BONNIE, 50's, busty, tough old broad, who owns the tent stares Tyler down.

KINSELL

You know the rules against fighting here. What happened?

TYLER

We was making a deal. Made an offer she didn't like and got hit for it.

KINSELL

(to Bonnie)

Is that true?

BONNIE

From this little rat's point of view, yes.

KINSELL

If I take this little rat's point of view I'm going to have to shut you down. There are new rules in St. Louis and you know it!

BONNIE

(cools)

He made an offer for some clothes, he had some stuff to get rid of, but none of the girls were interested. He wasn't going to take no for an answer.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-7)

TYLER

It was a fair offer.

BONNIE

A fair offer for the average person. For below average, way below average, way, way, way below average it wasn't very fair.

(to Tyler)

Trade in your clothes for a shower and soap.

KINSELL

Alright, I got it.

BONNIE

And one more thing. No still means no. No matter what you've got in trade.

KINSELL

(to Tyler)

She's right. You need to learn that.

TYLER

I still shouldn't of been punched.

KINSELL

(deep breath)

Ok, this is it. We got much more important things to do than police sex trades.

(to Tyler)

No, means, no. Learn it!

(to Bonnie)

You're guys! Remind them, removal is the rule, take down is not.

BONNIE

Woo! My guys know better than that. I wouldn't waste them on this rat.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-8)

KINSELL
One of the girls?
(MORE)

Bonnie giggles. TAYLOR, 20, female, one of the girls, smiles and shyly turns away. Kinsell looks at Tyler who's feeling small.

KINSELL (CONT'D)
Thompson, Walcutt, get him out
of here now!

Two of the guards with him grab Tyler by the arms and rapidly pull him off the premises.

BONNIE
Thank you, Captain. Set you
up for the evening?

KINSELL
Now, now, now, Bonnie. You
know the rules.
(she turns to the remaining
soldiers)
They know the rules, too.

Bonnie smiles, the soldiers are embarrassed, they may even come back later, but they snap into line when Kinsell stares them down and follow him as he exits.

EXT. CANNED GOODS DEALER 456

This is a quieter area. Food and other perishable items are sold or traded here. REBECCA, female, 27, has a successful business. Lots of good items and regular trading. Kinsell and his 4 soldiers, Thompson and Walcutt have returned, approach.

KINSELL
(to soldiers)
Stay noticed.

They take positions, weapons in hand, and it's impossible to walk through this area and not pay attention. Kinsell goes to Rebecca. She opens a small gate and he enters. They walk along the goods as they talk.

REBECCA
Anything you like?

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-9)

KINSELL

Very much. Anything new?

REBECCA

Nothing to new. It sounds like the Farmland Federation is going to happen. Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa and the farm states all forming together into a new district.

KINSELL

That's what I heard, too. They feed the country. They'll rule the country when this is over with.

REBECCA

It's hard to imagine this will ever be over with.

KINSELL

I know.

REBECCA

Did you ever think that this could be the new normal?

KINSELL

I've been in the army for 12 years, joined right after high school. One of the things about the army is that the rules rarely, if ever, change. I think some of the things we do today are done the same way they did them during the revolution. But, over the past four months, so many things have changed it's hard to keep up.

REBECCA

Same outside the army. I think we just have to get used to it.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-10)

KINSELL

Yes. We'll have a Town Square briefing later today.

REBECCA

Anything big that I need to know?

KINSELL

(makes sure no one else is near)

United Central States is claiming to be the US capital now. Most of the orders for the military, including mine, come from them. Exactly who is in charge is still up in the air. Most of the cabinet, almost all of congress, was taken out when the bomb at the capital went off. Possibly someone from DHS taking charge.

REBECCA

How is that possible?

KINSELL

It's hard to say. Some areas have gotten communication services back online. A single channel broadcasting system but it's restricted. Details are few and far between, even for us. It's possible two other coalitions will join the UCS in Indianapolis. The United States Republic in the northwest has been joined by Wyoming. There are still only rumors about what's happening in Alaska.

REBECCA

At least there still is an Alaska. Anything from Hawaii?

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-11)

KINSELL

Not a thing. From what we
can tell it's still there.
What's happening is anyone's
guess.

She hands him a jar of fruit. He smiles at her, they share a
moment, then he and his soldiers exit.

INT. ST LOUIS MILITARY BASE - COLONEL BARTO'S OFFICE - DAY.

COLONEL BARTO, male, 40s, is the top of the military chain of
command in St. Louis. His reputation as a commander is two
decades long and is well respected. His office shows class and
distinction. He is holding a meeting with the 7 members of his
command staff including Kinsell, CAPTAIN BARKER, female, 30s,
CAPTAIN LARSON, male, 50s, Major BART, male, 30s, and OTHERS.

BARKER

There's no doubt about it.
There's been an increase of
15% in reports for just the
past week.

BARTO

And probably a bigger increase
in what's not reported. Something
is definitely going on in the
badlands. Stay in steady contact
with your sources on the other
side. Does anyone have any hints
as to what's going on?

LARSON

I can't get anything.

CAPTAIN #1

Nothing clear, just static.

KINSELL

Nothing we haven't heard coming
through the Trading Post.

BARTO

I was hoping we could try
and open up at least one of
the bridges by the end of the

(MORE)

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-12)

BARTO (CONT'D)

week but I don't think we can risk that. For the time being the bridges stay closed over the Mississippi and east St. Louis is off limits to civilians. Watch the patrols.

BARKER

What little barge traffic there is has all been routed to the western shore. The odd thing is there are no questions or objections. It's clear word has gotten to the river folk that east St. Louis is a dangerous place to even get close to.

BARTO

The Nest reports there was a lot of unusual activity along Old Missouri Avenue across the river. I also have been informed that Lincoln Park is still official DMZ for the gangs and there has been some kind of summit there. So far, no news has leaked out of it.

BARKER

Considering the lock down are you going to make your regular patrol there?

BARTO

Yes.

(objections and comments from the officers)

Whatever is happening I think we need to keep a presence in the badlands across the river. No matter what they've got going on the US army will remind them that they are being watched.

(MORE)

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-13)

BARTO (CONT'D)

Hopefully, it will keep some sort of stability in the gangs. No matter how much in control they think they are the US Army still is in charge.

BARKER

You'll go?

BARTO

Yes. A clear chain of command is important. I've been over there continuously since we took control. I've personally spoken with some of the gang leaders. We've made progress.

LARSON

Who's your second in command this time?

BARTO

You went last time, so I'll take Kinsell with me. Barker, you get the next shift.

BARKER

10-4, sir.

BARTO

(checks his notes)

That's it. Except for Kinsell you are all dismissed.

They all file out except for Kinsell. Barto closes the door and they sit in silence for a moment.

KINSELL

Standard ops, sir?

BARTO

Yes, fully loaded.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-14)

KINSELL

(long pause)

Is there anything else, sir?

BARTO

(sighs)

A new dispatch from DHS about handling prisoners. New procedures on bringing them in and what to do with them afterwards.

KINSELL

More paperwork?

BARTO

I almost wish. There are certain prisoners, those who fit certain types, that we are supposed to turn over to Torchlight for interviews.

(Kinsell is shocked)

Specifically, Torchlight recruiters.

KINSELL

Recruiters? I can't believe this.

BARTO

Yes. You're a criminal to civilians, you're not eligible for the US army, but Torchlight would love to talk to you.

They look at each other in disgust and Barto pounds his fist on the papers.

INT. TORCHLIGHT RECRUITING OFFICE - DAY

This is a stark contrast to the US military office. This room is darker, harder, with very little light. There is nothing personal about this office. There are no personal touches or color of any kind and only a clipboard, papers, and a pen are on a desk. A desk has one chair behind it, two chairs in front, and chains hanging from the chair seats.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-15)

The door opens and EVANS and CRAWFORD, both early 20s, delinquents, are brought in by four GUARDS and forced into the chairs whether they like it or not. There is a struggle to control them before CAPTAIN FISHER enters. He is big, brutal, and his very presence gets their attention and they calm down.

FISHER

Shut up. Not one word out of you. You, Evans, police found you when they raided an old Don-Mart store. Charges include resisting. You, Crawford, you literally tossed a member of your own gang under the bus trying to escape from the press gang squad. Both of you are guilty and looking at at least ten years in the state pen. That's hard time.

(pauses)

Or, as an option. 5 years working for me. It's hard time, no doubt, crowd control, armed services, all the food you can handle and more money than you can even hope for.

(hands them the clipboard)

Sign on the line.

(looks at them)

Initials will do.

Evans and Crawford are tough but not to bright. They fumble around trying to initial the sheets on the clipboard.

EXT. MISSISSIPPI RIVER - DAY

There are several barges moving slowly hugging the west bank as they pass through St. Louis. No pleasure craft, no fishing, no traffic on the bridges.

INT. BRIDGE OF BARGE ON RIVER - DAY

CAPTAIN, 55, male, grizzled barge captain, is looking through binoculars at St. Louis. His NAVIGATOR, 40, male, looking professional is at the wheel and there are several other's.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-16)

CAPTAIN

Steady on.

NAVIGATOR

Aye, captain.

CAPTAIN

It's a pity. A year ago we'd have held over for a night and had a feast at "Sid's Seafood Shack."

NAVIGATOR

I remember, sir.

CAPTAIN

I remember Lindy, a waitress there. She could serve bilge waste and barnacle cream and it'd taste good.

NAVIGATOR

Of course, sir.

CAPTAIN

Now it's as quiet as the grave. Or, wait a minute. What's that?

He has seen something with the binoculars and moves to a clearer position. He refocuses, adjusts, checks again.

NAVIGATOR

Captain?

CAPTAIN

Maybe not so quiet after all.

NAVIGATOR

Something new, Captain?

CAPTAIN

(pulls back, eyes wide)
Full ahead. The sooner we get past St. Louis the better.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-17)

EXT. ST. LOUIS STREETS - DAY

The well-armed military convoy pulls out of the base and heads east to the river. This is the convoy during the opening. They are still a presence to be reckoned with and civilians give them plenty of respect.

They turn onto Poplar street and are directly in front of the river. They get to the bridge and pause before the heavily armed barricades. Salutes, official identification and orders, then more salutes. The heavy barricades are pulled back, the convoy passes, the bridge entrance is closed.

They reach the east side of the bridge and pause before exiting. There is no one there. Barto looks at the area and then orders them to precede. They travel slowly and turn off onto Tudor Avenue.

When the last tire of the last vehicle is on Tudor there is an explosion followed by a hail of bullets.

An intense battle follows. The Army is at their best, but the gangs are just too much for them. Barto, Kinsell, SPOTTA, male, 20, TARLOW, female, 26, BENSON, male, 34, and LAMBERT, male, 36, are the only survivors and are forced to withdraw under heavy fire.

They are on the run, finally managing to get cover on East Broadway. The gangs that are chasing them pass and they wait in silence for a moment.

BARTO

Ok, ok, pull back.

They all relax a bit but keep their guard up.

KINSELL

I'll call for backup.

SPOTTA

Got it.

BARTO

Wait!

KINSELL

Sir?

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-18)

BARTO

Just wait a moment. We have to figure out exactly where we are at, first. We can't get help from them if we don't even know where we are. So quiet down, hold your breath for a moment, and make sure they don't circle back looking for us.

They all get into a position that they can see clearly whatever is happening outside, yet they have their weapons locked and loaded. They wait and watch. A few gang members go past, they hear shouts in the distance, but their presence is unnoticed.

BARTO

Ok, we need to find out where we are at. I can't tell from here. Spotta and Tarlow, head to the west end of the building, carefully and quietly, and see if you can get an exact location. Benson and Lambert head east.

They head out as ordered. Barto and Kinsell stay alert.

KINSELL

This is a game changer. An attack that bad is going to be felt.

BARTO

Definitely. I expect there's going to be a lot of pushback from this.

KINSELL

I can't believe it. That was pretty daring, and stupid, move to hit a US Army convoy. Torchlight, maybe, but US?

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-19)

BARTO

Damn. I should have suspected something when we came off the interstate and the streets were completely empty.

KINSELL

None of us thought this would happen. It's all badlands out here. So many gangs with their own conflict there's little activity. No one walking around seemed so normal here. What if this is the new normal?

BARTO

I suppose that's possible. Maybe this was just another snafu.

They look at each other and smile.

KINSELL

Situation normal.

BARTO

All--

They freeze as the two teams return.

LAMBERT

That end of the building is the corner of Colas Avenue and 13th Street.

TARLOW

We're not that far from where we started.

BARTO

Ok.

TARLOW

Roughly a mile and a half from the river.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-20)

BARTO

Ok, we'll stay secure till
sundown, an hour, then head
over to River Park and
Front. Best thing will be
to try and cross on the EADS
rail bridge. Should be easier
to stay out of sight.

(they hear movement
and heavily armed gang
members come out of
the shadows around them)

Assuming we get to the rail bridge.

(stand-off)

Don't start anything.

(to the gang members)

I'm Colonel Barto, US Army.

DIAGO (O.C.)

I know.

DIAGO, 20's, gang leader, tough and smart, steps in and nods to
his members. They lower their weapons and tensions go down.
Diago and Barto shake hands.

BARTO

Good to see you again. I remember
you from the summit.

DIAGO

Yes, before O'Leary came in.

BARTO

O'Leary?

DIAGO

Yes. He's a bad dude. Came
in and took over the Shamrocks
after Heinley got killed.
Something, O'Leary, rumor
has it, was more than a little
involved with.

BARTO

Heinley was decent.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-21)

DIAGO

Exactly. O'Leary's got the
mox. He's a fast talker, can
get a lot of people to listen
to him, but he's a bad dude.
He went to Gang Lord summit
a few days back. He doesn't
work well with people who
don't agree with him.

BARTO

We'd picked up street gossip
that something went bad.
The attack on us?

DIAGO

Yes. That was him. We're just
fine with you staying west
and leaving the east side
to us. He's got big plans.
Bad plans.

BARTO

Like what?

DIAGO

He's going after the Nest.

BARTO

No. That's off limits. We agreed.

DIAGO

Yes, we agreed. He didn't.

BARTO

He's that sure? Sure, enough to
cross the river for the Nest.

DIAGO

No, he's not that crazy. He's
going to hit it from this side.

BENSON

The ordinance we had today?

DIAGO

Yes.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-22)

BARTO

He wouldn't have to cross
the river.

KINSELL

When?

DIAGO

Tonight, I suspect. Not agreeing
with him we're left out of the
information process.

BARTO

It'll have to be from the
railroad area by the line.

KINSELL

Easy not to be seen there.

Barto looks directly at Diago.

DIAGO

Few blocks north to Trendley
then to the river.

BARTO

Thank you.

DIAGO

I didn't see a thing.

EXT. ST. LOUIS RAIL YARDS - NIGHT

Barto and his team are stealthily working through the rail yards. Checking a location, moving along, looking for any signs. Scanning with binoculars for locations that they could attack the Nest. Nest is the code name for the St. Louis Arch. There is a close call as several gang members go by.

Lambert and Benson come face to face with two gang members. There is hand to hand combat and the gang members are taken down. Barto and the other soldiers catch up with them at the end of the fight and they are subduing the gang members when we hear a MISSILE LAUNCH and a red glare gets their attention.

(NOVEMBER - Episode 4-23)

They let the gang members go and sprint to the area the missile was launched from. They are running as the missile hits the arch and it explodes, shattering the arch and it collapses in pieces. Barto and his team, furious, come to a stop with their weapons locked and loaded.

BARTO

(shouting)

HOLD IT! Before you make
a move I will tell you
that under emergency powers
I have the authority to
immediately execute anyone
acting as a terrorist
against the United States
of America.

We see their target holding a military class rocket launcher. Their target is November.

EXT. SPACE - EARTH - NIGHT

Same shot during the opening.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

Everything just went critical.

897 (V.O.)

I got it, too.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

I'm getting references to St.
Louis.

897 (V.O.)

More of what happened today?

WARLOCK (V.O.)

Sounds like it.

897 (V.O.)

Just when you thought it couldn't
get any worse.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

It can always get worse.