

IN THE SHADOWS OF NOVEMBER

EPISODE SIX
BREAKING THE RULES OF ST. LOUIS

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EXT. ST. LOUIS RAIL YARDS - NIGHT

There is a rumble nearby as a rocket is fired. They all watch the trail across the river and the rocket explodes as it hits the arch.

The arch shakes and crumbles. The three gang members scramble as they disappear and there is some commotion from the other side of the cars.

She realizes there are others approaching and she spins around as she gets surrounded by Barto and the survivors of his convoy, Kinsell, Spotta, Tarlow, Benson and Lambert. Their weapons locked and loaded.

BARTO

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.

(MORE)

November freezes as they close in on her. Barto confronts her, ready to fire. He hears EXPLOSIONS from the other side of the river as the rest of the arch collapses.

BARTO (CONT'D)

That sound may very well be
your guilty verdict.

Kinsell and Spotta rapidly disarm her. Kinsell takes the launcher and examines it. Spotta is behind November with his weapon pressed against her and a tight grip on her hair. He is ready to execute her. Tarlow, Benson and Lambert keep an eye on the area.

NOVEMBER

I'm not who you're looking
for.

BARTO

(weapon aimed at her,
finger on the trigger)
Right now, I just don't
believe that.

NOVEMBER

The launch was just on the
other side of these cars.

KINSELL

Captain, Barto.

Barto maintains his target but nods at Kinsell who walks over
and shows him the rocket launcher.

BARTO

Benson.

BENSON

Yes, sir.

BARTO

Inventory this item.

BENSON

We packaged two launchers
and one rocket each.

Barto looks at November and lowers his weapon. The others,
except for Spotta, follow suit.

BARTO

This one is still armed
and loaded. It couldn't
have been her that fired.
Keep an eye on her, though.
That doesn't make her
completely innocent.

TARLOW

Captain, I think I see
something.

BARTO

What have you got?

Tarlow has spotted something in the direction the rocket launch came from. Barto joins him and they look into the cluttered area.

TARLOW

There's movement over there.
Heading out.

BARTO

After me.

Barto leads them around a few pieces of railroad equipment. November, guarded by Spotta, is brought along with them. He doesn't make his disdain for her a secret and makes some sharp corners with a tight grip on her hair.

There is a brief encounter with a group of gangs. November defensively reacts and fights off one of the gang members but Spotta doesn't loosen his grip. There is some rumbling, a few shots fired, then the gang clears out.

They arrive at the hiding spot where the rocket was fired from. By the way things are stacked it is a clean line of sight to where the arch used to be, and the empty launcher is damaged extensively on the ground.

BLACK:

TITLE OVER:

St. Louis, Illinois, March 15th
126 days since the bombs

They scan the surrounding area for a few moments, find nothing, but stay on guard.

BARTO

(to Spotta)

Keep an eye on her.
Keep her down.

(MORE)

As Barto looks away Spotta brutally forces November to her knees.

BARTO (CONT'D)

Tarlow, Benson and Lambert,
fifteen feet out in each
direction. Stay sharp and
stay out of sight.

TARLOW

(heading east)
Yes, sir.

BENSON

(heading north)
On my way, Captain.

LAMBERT

(heading south)
Affirmative.

Barto takes a look at November, still no faith in her, then he and Kinsell huddle down looking across the river to the west. They scan the collapse of the arch and the fires surrounding it with binoculars.

BARTO

We've lost the Nest.

KINSELL

Yes, sir. Just when I thought
things were finally going
to settle down we're going
to light up again.

BARTO

And there's no reason for
it. We had a peace going
on for the time being. We
were making progress on
negotiations with the gangs.

KINSELL

You remember what Diago said.
This O'Leary got involved
and upset the balance of
things.

BARTO

That's just it. What good
did it do? I'll never
understand that, no matter
how many times I see it.
Things can be going fine,
getting better, and all
it takes is one person.
Someone with a grudge, or
someone who wants revenge,
to tear things apart.

Something off catches November's attention. She looks around out
of curiosity but Spotta grabs her and forces her to sit still.
His finger's on the trigger. He looks at her as if he wants her
to make a run for it.

KINSELL

Sometimes it's not even
that. Sometimes, it feels
like, it's just because.
What makes a person want
to do that?

BARTO

It's just the nature of
evil isn't it? I mean,
when a person does something
nice, something helpful
they feel good. I suppose
when the opposite happens,
they do something evil or
harmful, some people feel
good, too.

KINSELL

It sounds so simple that
way. Maybe that's why it's
easy to do something bad.

BARTO

Probably. The big question
is do they ever realize what
they did was evil?

KINSELL

Heaven help them when they
do. What do we do now?

BARTO

Let's get to work.

Barto and KINSELL signal for their team to assemble and they quietly come together.

LAMBERT

There was some movement along
the river bank. Mostly people
coming to take a look.

BENSON

I saw them too. Nobody was
coming in this direction.
Just taking a look at the
destruction.

LAMBERT

Some things never change.

Barto, Kinsell, Benson and Lambert take one long last look at what used to be the arch. Spotta glares hatred at November.

BARTO

Alright, we got two options
on getting back to west
side. Either the rail bridge
or the interstate. However,
since we have a few hours
under the cover of darkness
let's take a look around
this area. See if there's
any other equipment from
the ambush we can find.

SPOTTA

(pointing weapon to
November)
What about her?

BARTO

(to November)

You're still a prisoner. Any attempt to escape will be dealt with accordingly.

NOVEMBER

Understood. As long as you're taking stuff back how about vans of medications, drugs, and other pharmacy items?

They all slowly turn and look suspiciously at November.

BARTO

You've seen it?

NOVEMBER

No, sir.

(MORE)

Spotta is about to strike her but Tarlow quickly stops him. Barto glares at Spotta who get control of his anger.

NOVEMBER (CONT'D)

I know where it's at. I came here looking for something to help a GAVIN from west side. Get her some meds from a warehouse. The guy I encountered inside told me there were vans loaded in the garage area that were scheduled to be delivered 11/10. They've been sitting there ever since.

BARTO

You can get us there?

NOVEMBER

It's on Belmont. I just came from there.

KINSELL

What does she want?

NOVEMBER
Meds for my GAVIN.

BARTO
What else?

NOVEMBER
My weapons back.

BARTO
Not until we see the vans.
(November nods)
It'd be worth the risk.
Okay, just keep in mind
we're keeping an eye on
you. Let's make sure the
area clear.

Spotta takes his finger off the trigger.

Spotta and Tarlow look around some of the train cars and crates.
Spotta glares back towards November. After they are a few steps
out they speak quietly.

TARLOW
Steady, Spotta, just hold
on.

SPOTTA
I know. It's just sometimes,
between the gangs, Torchlight,
free lancers, the Army, and
a lone wolf like that it's
getting harder to tell who's
who.

TARLOW
She's alright.

SPOTTA
You hope.

TARLOW
You won't gain anything by
killing her.

SPOTTA

Perhaps some self-satisfaction.

TARLOW

It's not just the rules
of St Louis you're talking
about breaking.

SPOTTA

My big brother always told
me that rules were meant
to be broken. It drove dad
crazy.

TARLOW

Your big brother didn't
make parole again, did he?

SPOTTA

Good point.

TARLOW

Besides, Barto is also
responsible for you
following the rules. He's
at least willing to
find out the truth.

SPOTTA

Okay, I get your point.

TARLOW

Let's get back.

EXT. VARIOUS ST. LOUIS STREETS

It is a long and dangerous trip. Gang members rove the streets
at night, looting some buildings, protecting others. They are an
expert team of soldiers and November is clearly helping them
keep clear of trouble.

They are approaching a street corner, Barto in the lead, when he
hears something and stops them. He pauses for a moment then
picks up the sounds of a CONVOY approaching and he orders them
to take cover.

He and Kinsell disappear in a dark doorway. Benson and Lambert dive behind a large garbage bin. Tarlow, Spotta and November crowd into a stairwell.

Several heavily armed trucks drive past them. These trucks are loaded and not keeping it a secret that there are lots of guards. The surprising thing is the guards are in uniform. They pass and things settle down.

As they emerge from the shadows November looks at Spotta suspiciously but doesn't say anything. He completely ignores her.

They regroup near the street corner and make sure all is clear.

KINSELL

What the hell was that?

SPOTTA

What are they doing here?

BARTO

(furious)

Those were Torchlight troops!

TARLOW

They weren't supposed to be
dispatched here!

BENSON

There are no notifications
of them here!

BARTO

Quiet down. We'll deal with
it later.

EXT. ALLEY ENTRANCE

Barto brings them to a stop and signals November to come forward. She joins him and he points to the other end of the alley where they can see a warehouse. She nods, that's the one they are headed too. He makes sure everyone is ready and they quietly head down the alley.

They are midway down the alley when they realize it is a trap. From the shadows BIAFRA, female, 19, punk, maniac, steps out

behind Lambert, cocks her weapon, and presses the nozzle against Lambert's forehead. They all freeze and Barto quickly returns to confront her.

BIAFRA

Ohhhhh, lost military.

BARTO

Give it up.

BIAFRA

Ohhhh, my lucky day. With
ammo and weaponry so hard
to come by I'm going to
be rich from you.

SPOTTA

Don't bet on it.

BARTO

Listen up! No way you
can make it out of this
alley.

BELLA

One way, yes. The echoes
from your shots will alert
the entire neighborhood.
You'll have a dozen armed
members here before you
even decide which way to
run.

BARTO

That won't help you.

BIAFRA

(points the weapon
at herself)

Do I look like I want help?
(weapon back at Lambert)

BARTO

What do you want?

BIAFRA

Ohhhh. Nice things. Especially things that go boom. The more I get, the bigger the chances we all survive.

BARTO

No deal.

BIAFRA

Ohhhh....

They look at Biafra waiting for her to speak. She falls back where November is standing, then drops. November's blade is covered with blood. The soldiers look at her without a word.

INT. BELMONT STREET WAREHOUSE - GARAGE

They quietly enter the garage. There are four vans parked here and they examine them to see which ones are loaded with medications.

BARTO

Benson and Lambert, look for keys and anything else we'll need. Spotta and Tarlow monitor the door. See how fast we can get it open. We're going to move as fast as possible.

The soldiers follow their orders. Spotta takes a long look at November before he exits.

KINSELL

This late at night it shouldn't take us too long to get to the interstate.

BARTO

Exactly. Sooner the better and all the space we need in case we pick up any followers.

KINSELL

We'll be ready.

From his coat he pulls out the weapon and the blade they found on November. She looks at him for a moment and then he turns them over to her.

BARTO

You'll need this out there.

NOVEMBER

Thank you.

BARTO

Good luck.

NOVEMBER

Captain, if you don't mind,
I need to get back to my
GAVIN on west side.

BARTO

Alright, you got yourself
a ride. Get anything we might
need on the way.

INT. WAREHOUSE OFFICE

This office has two desks, chairs, and file cabinets. Against one wall is a small cupboard and a refrigerator.

November is going through some desks. As she clears off the top, she sees a calendar. There is a moment as she stops and looks at it as if it were a mystery to her. She leans forward and rests her hands on the calendar surface.

She hears FOOTSTEPS outside and slips behind the door, weapon in hand, as it opens.

Malcolm walks in, looks at the desk and knows someone has been in the office. He shakes his head. He walks to the refrigerator and opens it up.

There are some small plastic containers marked pyridoxine, ascorbyl palmitate, ferrous gluconate, oxidane, etc. He drops two pills in his mouth, washes it down with a slug of oxidane (water), then slowly exits.

November takes a deep breath and waits for him to walk away. She's staring at the calendar on the desk. She starts to leave, takes one last glance at it, then walks out.

INT. WAREHOUSE GARAGE

They have a map of St. Louis and are checking routes.

SPOTTA

West to 16th Street, north
to ramp 64 E and onto the
interstate.

TARLOW

No stops.

BARTO

What about the doors?

TARLOW

Chains on the inside but
they are more to prevent
anyone from coming in.
Locked on the inside so
we can open them, and go.

BENSON

Should we close it?

BARTO

Yes, any change could draw
some attention.

LAMBERT

We got it.

BARTO

Ok. Spotta and Tarlow stick
with the doors for now.
Listen and see if there
is any pattern to passersby,
if there are any regular
patrols. We'll get the vans
ready.

Barto and Kinsell are loading as much into one of the vans as they can fit.

KINSELL

Captain, I should probably remind you that what we are going to do is seriously against the rules.

BARTO

You're right. You probably should.

KINSELL

Not that I'm going to try and talk you out of it. Even though I should.

BARTO

Right again. You probably should. Don't think this isn't going back and forth in my thoughts, too. Follow the rules, follow the rules, I think I was born to follow the rules. That was so much easier inside the military and before 11/9. Not so easy anymore. It's breaking the rules, I can't deny it, but how many people will benefit from all this medication getting distributed properly?

KINSELL

Am I to understand this is the first rule you've ever broken?

BARTO

In the United States Army, yes.

KINSELL

(salutes)

May I say, sir, it is an honor and a privilege to break a rule with you.

BARTO

(returns salute)

May the Rules of St.

Louis be on our side.

EXT. VARIOUS ST. LOUIS STREETS

Slowly and quietly the garage doors open and three vans, #1, #2 and #3, pull out onto the street. Lambert and November close the garage doors tight and, on the surface, they look unchanged from before.

Moving slowly, quietly, and with no lights on they make a few blocks before their luck runs out. A group of gang members camped outside spot them and draw attention to the convoy. They hit the lights and floor it and get on the wider, open interstate just in time.

The convoy is chased by various motorcycles. Shots fired. Motorcycle runs parallel to Van #1. Van slides over and catches cycle between van and bridge rail.

Van #3, Barto and Kinsell, falls behind under attack. #1 and #2 try to protect it, including the back doors of #2 opening up and revealing November with the rocket launcher in hand.

They back off but #3 is damaged and slowing. Barto and Kinsell abandon #3 at the last minute. Jumping to #1 and #2 as they cross the bridge. #3, driverless and no powers, slows to a halt against the railing.

The gangs surround it, letting #1 and #2 cross the river to safety. The gangs raid #3 ready for battle but it is empty, completely empty, and was a decoy.

EXT. MILITARY BASE

The vans come to a safe stop at the military base.

Barto immediately starts reporting about the ambush, what they lost, and what they've recovered. Spotta is unloading, fills a box with various meds, and hands it to November. She is walking away when Barto stops her.

BARTO

Hey, November.

NOVEMBER

Yes, sir.

BARTO

You're good. Big bonus
for signing up right now.

NOVEMBER

You're a good man, Captain.
It's tempting.

BARTO

I was hoping so. It's
looking like there's a
battle growing here.
We need good people.

NOVEMBER

I think I need to drop off
some meds for somebody.

BARTO

Where to after that?

NOVEMBER

North, that's all I can say.

BARTO

Good luck. Stay safe.

NOVEMBER

You, too, Captain.

BARTO

(closer)

It's Michael.

NOVEMBER

(pauses, searching)

November.

She turns and steadily walks away.

INT. REBECCA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Rebecca yawns as she comes out of the bedroom. She stops when she sees Mr. Giggles resting on top of a box. She investigates and find it is the sack November left and it is full of medications.

INT. BARTO'S OFFICE

Barto is reading through a dispatch, tired, when Kinsell enters.

BARTO

We need to set up a Town
Crier today. Some official
Information to be released.

EXT. TRADING POST - DAY

We are near Clothing Booth 2177, Bonnie, Rebecca and others are there. Kinsell is on a small pedestal addressing the crowd with a bull horn. He has several soldiers around him and Barto is standing in the background watching.

KINSELL

Ladies and gentlemen, we
have several updates. The
big news, that we will all
be glad to hear, we have
confirmed, repeat, CONFIRMED,
that Hawaii survived the
bombs untouched!

(applause and cheers)

Communications with them are,
like everything over such a
great distance, sketchy but
we have confirmed they are
untouched and thriving. They
have sunny weather and clear
skies and will be scheduling
shipments of food to the west
coast as soon as possible.
We will give you more
Information as it develops.

INT. BARTO'S OFFICE - MORNING

BARTO

(to Kinsell)

We haven't actually spoken
with the governor. We're
getting relays from Japan.

EXT. TRADING POST - DAY

KINSELL

In addition to yesterday's
confirmation that Alaska
was also untouched we can
proudly say THE UNITED STATES
IS STILL 50 STRONG!!!

INT. BARTO'S OFFICE - MORNING

BARTO

There's been no affirmative
response from the government
in Alaska. Only a brief update
on setting up an oil supply
line to the mainland.

EXT. TRADING POST - DAY

KINSELL

We also have this announcement
from Secretary of the Department
of Homeland Security, Robert
Tomachio. "My Fellow Americans,
Everyday America is making
leaps and bounds back to
glory. Within a few weeks we
will have full communications
restored and our great American
Government will again take its
place as the rightful leader
of the free world. It will be
different; it will be something
new to deal with the rapidly
changing and growing world
culture, but we still hold

(MORE)

KINSELL (CONT'D)
our truths to be self-evident.
We are strong, we are powerful,
we are the UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA!

The crowd erupts in cheers!

INT. BARTO'S OFFICE - MORNING

BARTO
I think that's where he's
headed. More unification,
more cheers and crowd
pleasing, all with one goal.
He's got the connections to
make it happen, too.

KINSELL
What's the opinion on the
top?

BARTO
Same as always. We are here
to support and serve the
President of the United
States.

KINSELL
No matter how he got the
job.

BARTO
(dejected)
I took the oath when I
signed up. Old soldiers
never die, not without
permission.

KINSELL
So the Town Crier report?

BARTO
Just say what you are supposed
to say.

KINSELL

The rules of St Louis keep changing.

EXT. CAR LOT GATE - MORNING

This is a very well protected car lot. Electrified barbed wire fences, concrete blockades, armed guards and dogs. Trucks, cars, motorcycles, etc.

November walks past the guards without a care in the world. November reaches the entry gate and there is an attendant, COLIN, male, 25, armed and carrying a walkie-talkie, at the gate.

NOVEMBER

Row 7, stall 2.

COLIN

I remember.

Colin hands her the keys to the truck and she walks off. His eyes follow her.

EXT. ROW 7

The truck Kenneth gave her is sitting in a stall. November unlocks the door and climbs inside. She pauses, gently pats the console, then something outside catches her eyes.

Stall 3 has two motorcycles in it.

Andrew, male, 42, and Maggie, female, 40, are cleaning the cycles and locking them up.

November takes a deep breath and pulls the keys from the truck. She casually walks over to the next stall.

NOVEMBER

Hello.

MAGGIE

Good morning.

ANDREW

How are you?

NOVEMBER

Just heading out.

MAGGIE

We just got in. Which way
you headed.

NOVEMBER

North.

ANDREW

Really?

MAGGIE

Not much good up there any
more. Stay away from what
used to be Chicago.

NOVEMBER

That's what I heard.

MAGGIE

Well, if you're determined
to go, go fast.

NOVEMBER

Yes, I was just thinking of
that.

EXT. CAR LOT GATE

The COLIN is talking to GAVIN, male, 25, when the hear a
MOTORCYCLE approaching. He goes the gate and is surprised when
November pulls up on the motorcycle. His Gavin follows.

COLIN

(to walkie)

Gate to Security Shack.

SECURITY (V.O.)

Go ahead.

COLIN

Any current incident or
suspicious activity?

SECURITY (V.O.)
Negative Gate. You have
anything?

COLIN
Negative. Just wanted to
double check on an exit.

SECURITY (V.O.)
10-4

Colin opens the gate and November drives off on her motorcycle.
Colin turns to his Gavin and rolls his eyes.

GAVIN
What?

COLIN
Comes in one day in a 20
year old truck and drives
out the next in a top of
the line cycle.

GAVIN
Upward trajectory!

COLIN
What can't I go upward
like that?

GAVIN
Two reasons. One, you don't
look as good on a motorcycle.
Two, the ever changing rules
of St Louis.