

Episode 36: “Miracles and Malice” -Written and Directed by JV Torres

>>>SCENE ONE

[intro music/sound of alarm]

Spartan Mendez: Command! Requesting override of the Regent’s escape door. [sound of jarring a door handle and pounding]

Command: [beep] Request granted. Opening the Regent’s door. [sound of electronic latch opening and people hurrying down a stairwell]

Spartan Thomas: Put your hands where I can see them! Now! [sounds of women screaming in fear and scurrying about]

Woman 1: Lord Capone is sedated—stand back! If you move an inch further, I will snap his neck!

Mendez: If you harm the Regent—

Woman 1: [cutting him off] If I harm the Regent, you fail. Now, STAND BACK!

Thomas: Ok. Everyone calm down. [music intensifies] What is it that you want? Because if you wanted to kill the Regent, he would already be dead.

Woman 1: I want to get out of here—ALIVE! [sounds of struggling and dragging someone on the floor] Have a car for me outside—I’ll take the Regent and let him off once I am a safe distance.

Mendez: [scoffs] Seriously? You want a getaway car?

Woman 1: [sounds of oohs in fear] I will break Lord Capone’s neck with very little effort and you know it. If I am going to die, I’ll take this piece of garbage with me!

Thomas: Ok, we’ll get you a car. Let’s just take it down a notch and we’ll— [sound of a gunshot and people scattering]

Mendez: Damn it! Who took that shot?

Jacob: I did. [dramatic music]

Thomas: My Prince! That was incredibly dangerous. You could have killed Lord Capone!

Jacob: [surprised at himself] Yes, but I didn’t. I saved him instead.

Capone: [sounds of regaining consciousness] What? What’s going on? Jacob? What the—Why is everyone standing around me?

Mendez: Sir, there was a—a security breach. It appears foreign agents sedated you and attempted to access restricted intel from your office.

Capone: Yes, this young lady here with the head wound—she—we [sounding very confused]. Uh, we were playing a game. [pause] Wait. Where's the other one?

Jacob: She's upstairs in your office. She's dead, too. [more dramatic music] We shot her in the head as well.

[boom]

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>>>SCENE TWO

[transition music]

Narrator: After the breach of the Regent's Zenana, the king ordered Capone become Jacob's subject. He was treated harshly initially—shunned by everyone in the castle. Jacob became the new Regent and Princess Monica lobbied for him to summon Lord Richards (who was working on behalf of the king in Africa). Monica convinced Jacob Lord Richards could provide good advice as he settled into his new role. Richards came to New Eden to assist his Prince, but also to assist Princess Monica with her plans. Richards, Prince Jacob and Monica discussed future plans for when Asilas was no longer king. Richards anticipated a very important role in the kingdom under a *King Jacob*. At first, their conversations were light, but it didn't take long for Princess Monica and Lord Richards to turn their attention to King Asilas's vulnerabilities. And they even joked about leaving the king open to an assassination. Monica said she would prepare Jacob for an ascension to the throne "sooner rather than later" just in case. [boom]

[transition action music]

Monica: Look, Lord Richards, I don't want you to get the wrong idea. I'm just exploring all the different possibilities.

Richards: Possibilities? With all due respect, My Princess, these conversations we've been having would be considered treasonous. [pause] Suggesting we expose our king to an assassination is so incredibly dangerous. Honestly, you don't understand how powerful Asilas truly is.

Monica: He's just a man. He bleeds, he gets sick, and he breathes like everyone else.

Richards: But he's not like everyone else. There are many things about the king the public doesn't know. They can't know. And I can't say what they are—because I don't know the extent of his capabilities either.

Monica: But you know some things? Maybe even his weaknesses, don't you? What's the harm in telling me?

Richards: You really don't understand. Asilas can read people's minds. He can sense traitors around him. He's incredibly accurate in his hunches. The very fact we're talking about this—he might pick up on it. We're probably already in danger.

Monica: Don't be such a coward. How would he know what we talk about? Tell me, when was the last time you were in the same room with the king? Are you even helping him with the war effort?

Richards: I'm really not supposed to talk about that one way or the other, my apologies, My Princess. But I will tell you I am not involved in the war effort. I just give my opinion when it is asked of me. [pause] I haven't had a face to face meeting with him since we met in Israel.

Monica: After the Antarctica campaign—when he rode off on his white horse. [scoffs] Gosh, that man is such a drama queen.

Richards: Look, if you are serious about this—and you really want me to risk my life, then you need to tell me who else you are involved with in this plot?

Monica: [surprised] Excuse me? No one. I make my own moves here, Lord Richards. I am going to be queen someday—no matter what.

Richards: [in a concerned tone] What I meant was, are you discussing these matters with anyone else?

Monica: If I was, hypothetically, I would include them in our discussions when the time was right. Understand?

Richards: [submissive with a sigh] I understand, My Princess.

Monica: All I need you to do right now is try to anticipate where the king will travel to in the coming months. We have some time—now that you are here to help Jacob in his transition. I know we need to take baby steps. But I assure you once Jacob becomes king, I will be the one running the kingdom—and the whole world. And you, Lord Richards, will be one of the most powerful men on the face of the earth. [boom]

[transition music]

[SONG: “WALK WITH DANGER” BY SHAKE SOME ACTION]

>>>SCENE THREE

Narrator: As King Asilas’s war efforts against the Middle Eastern Alliance and China continued to unfold, Pope Innocent XIV quietly became more influential around the world. People made many pilgrimages to the Vatican for a chance to see the Pope. Many hoped he would touch their sick loved ones and heal them. He also traveled to other parts of the world, especially those torn by the Great Revolution and healed the sick. Many even called the Pope *Christ-like*. But behind the scenes, Pope Innocent XIV was mad with vengeance in his heart. His predecessor, Pope Pius the XIV, had scorned him as a cardinal. The two men quarreled endlessly. While the world sung the praises of the most beloved Pope in many generations, he secretly ordered the body of Pope Pius the XIV to be exhumed from his crypt. He wanted Pius to stand trial for crimes committed when he was alive. The corpse of Pius was dressed in traditional Papal attire and was assigned a lawyer to defend his actions. After what was dubbed the “Corpse Trial,” Pope Innocent found Pius guilty of illegally obtaining the Papacy, the rape of minors, crimes against the Church and sentenced him to have his three right “blessing” fingers severed. The severed fingers were burned and his body thrown into the city sewer system—where it was later fished out by locals and given a proper burial.

[transition music]

Asilas: Holy Father, I’ve come to Vatican City for your blessings. I wanted you to hear it from me first before our war campaign in China and the Middle East took a drastic turn. The headlines will likely paint me as a true monster—more than they already have.

Innocent: My son, may my blessings protect you—and may God’s grace light your path always. [pause] Believe me, I am one of the few on this planet who truly understands your plight—and your agony.

Asilas: Holy Father, I am unsure if my chosen methods could ever be forgiven—even though everything inside my soul tells me I must do the deeds I am about to do.

Innocent: Come closer. [sounds of footsteps] Tell your Holy Father what it is that troubles you.

Asilas: Million and millions of Chinese citizens will perish in what will appear as a plague. They will suffer intensely. The thought of it sickens me, but their resistance leaves me no choice.

Innocent: My son, the Chinese—most of them—have denied their creator. For centuries they've fought against our church, against Christ, and against God himself. If your heart tells you that this is the best course of action, then trust in that. If God wills your success, in the end, we will all know you were right and *just* in your actions.

Asilas: You are so different than the last Pope. He—he always thought my decisions were evil and insane.

Innocent: Pius had many dark secrets of his own, Asilas. And not even death could conceal all his deeds—nor spare his ultimate judgement.

Asilas: You mean the *corpse trial*?

Innocent: [scoffs] I suppose it was foolish of me to think that information would escape you.

Asilas: I'm the last person on earth qualified to judge you about it, Holy Father. But honestly, I would not be a very effective *king of the world* if these types of things went unnoticed. [pause] It isn't a big deal to me.

Innocent: Of course, my son. You have more pressing matters. [pause] Come here. Stand a little closer. [sound of sliding feet] In the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit, I bless you. Go and do what you must with the light of the Lord in your heart. [pause] And don't worry about what the public thinks of your actions. You leave their opinions to me. [boom]

>>>SCENE FOUR

[transition music]

Jacob: Capone, I've been instructed to tell you that you've been reassigned.

Capone: Reassigned? To where?

Jacob: It's been decided, given the situation here—the distractions you caused—that it is best for you to be out of sight for a while. You're being sent to Antarctica to oversee the operations there.

Capone: [sounding confused] Antarctica? Wh—Why send me there? There's nothing to oversee. The Drax base has been destroyed—hardly anybody is there now.

Jacob: Good. Maybe you'll show some restraint with few people around. And besides, the Drax base still has that mysterious portal. You will be in charge of the team of scientists trying to figure out how the portal works. That's your assignment. If you don't like it, I suggest you file a complaint with the High Council and the king if you want.

Capone: I don't need to complain to them! You are the Regent. You are essentially the king. If you want to reverse this decision, it's perfectly within your right to do so.

Jacob: And why should I reverse this order? Huh? Tell me why you should spend another minute here at the castle? You've done nothing but treat this beautiful, pristine place like it was your personal whore house. Do you really think your presence here is helping anyone?

Capone: I admit I screwed up, but—

Jacob: [interrupting] Screwed up? Lord Capone, you defiled this castle my father built. This was supposed to be a sacred place. A clean, pure place where everyday citizens can have their weddings, picnics and have their children play in our many beautiful gardens. This is America's castle—not Lord Capone's Zenana!

Capone: My Prince, I know you are a decent, young man. A man of integrity and good will. I assure you, my actions here will not go unpunished for the rest of my life. But I ask you to please not send me away—especially not to Antarctica. I want to remain here with my wife and family. I can serve you and the king better if I stay in New Eden.

Jacob: You are a piece of work, Capone. Do you really think your wife even *wants* you here? After the humiliations she has had to endure with you? Tell me something: were you thinking about Geraldine when you had that disgusting harem of women in the castle basement? And you have the audacity to use her and your kids as a reason for me to reconsider keeping you here? I honestly cannot understand why my father holds you in such high regards. It truly befuddles me.

Capone: My Prince, what your father and I have is trust. No matter how much I screwed up—with Geraldine or anyone else—I would gladly die for your father. Not just because he is my king, but because he is my friend. The best friend and ally a man could ever ask for. I hope and pray that someday you will have people around you that you love and trust with your life—as your father has with me. Because without that, you will never have anyone to share your true self with. [pause] I know what I did was wrong and I am ashamed of it. Believe me, I am. But nothing I did here endangered my king—or you or anyone else.

Jacob: I completely disagree. If those Chinese agents had gotten their hands on classified information on your computer, it would have been a disaster of epic proportions. You put the entire kingdom at risk with your stupidity. [sighs] I am going to give you one hour, Lord Capone—one hour! I suggest you pack your things and say goodbye to your family while you still have a moment. That is all. Dismissed! [boom]

>>>SCENE FIVE

[transition music—sounds of a large crowd]

Innocent: My brothers and sisters in Christ, every moment and every good deed we do in this world is a blessing that should never be taken for granted. And we should never second guess what we do for the sake of others—especially if we are given indications from our Lord that we must do them. [crowd cheers] Such is the case for maintaining the purity of law—especially the laws handed down by Moses on Mount Sinai. [pause] St. Paul believed in these pure laws—as we all do. So much so that he was obsessed with them, and he was forceful about the sanctity of the laws. But what many don't realize is St. Paul was consistent—because his heart and mind were open to God all the time. Even in persecuting Christians. Yes, St. Paul persecuted Christians, indeed he did. He did so because he believed it was God's will. [crowd moans uneasily] You may ponder this and ask yourself how this was even possible? How could a man destined to be a Saint in the Holy Catholic Church think God desired for Christians to be persecuted? But focusing on this is truly beside the point. The fact is St. Paul believed in his heart it was God's will and this is why he carried out his deeds—convinced they were just. This was the devotion and eagerness he cradled in his heart

because it was for the purity of the house of God—for the glory of our Almighty Creator! [cheers] His heart openly received instructions from the Lord and risked everything—going full force to complete his mission. [pause] I ask you all to reflect on this: to envision this dichotomy in your minds and relate this to our king. [more cheers] Asilas, like St. Paul was, *is* a forceful man. And like St. Paul, he carries on to honor the purity of the house of God—no matter the personal cost and no matter the burden! [loud cheers] Are his actions the symptoms of a stubborn man? We are all stubborn in our own way—are our actions the symptoms of stubbornness? Stubbornness is something we all can relate to, so St. Paul and King Asilas are like us in that regard. However, Asilas is more like St. Paul in the way God speaks to him. [grumbling] That's right, King Asilas has a heart that is open to the voice of God. Like Moses, like St. Paul, like few others that have ever walked this earth. The king asks for guidance—he asks “What should I do, Lord?” and like a child being led by the hand, our king goes and does what God desires in this world. It is time we all stop questioning our king so much and begin accepting the truth—that he will lead us all to the PROMISED LAND! [crowd cheers “King Asilas! King Asilas!”]

[Outro music]

YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO THE RISE OF KING ASILAS, EPISODE 36: MIRACLES AND MALICE, STARRING:
JV TORRES AS KING ASILAS
DAVID S. DEAR AS POPE INNOCENT XIV
JOHN DOBY AS LORD QUINTIN CAPONE
DOMINIC NOTARO AS PRINCE JACOB
LEYLA BONET AS PRINCESS MONICA
VICTOR MAPP AS LORD ANDREW RICHARDS
LYNN SPENCER AS SPARTAN MENDEZ
TIM LONG AS SPARTAN THOMAS
BETTY CHEN AS CHINESE WOMAN
AND NARRATED BY SERGEI BRAZHNIKOV

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