

GIVE & TAKE:
THE TRIBE AGAINST THE GODS
EPISODE 3: FIRST BLOOD

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1 INT. THE TOWER - COMMUNITY ROOM - EARLY MORNING

A folding table has disappeared beneath MONEY.

Not much money.

Envelopes. Coins. Grocery cards. Pay envelopes. A pension statement. A child's piggy bank shaped like a peach.

Women move through the room before work, dropping things onto the table.

Ji-yeon adds part of her hospital pay.

A café worker empties her tip jar.

An older woman puts down three folded bills.

A CHILD climbs onto a chair and places the peach piggy bank beside them.

His mother immediately picks it up.

MOTHER

No.

CHILD

It's mine.

MOTHER

Exactly.

She gives it back to him.

At the end of the table, Aera sits with a calculator, making neat columns.

Bitna drops a screwdriver beside the money.

AERA

What is that?

BITNA

Contribution.

AERA

It's a screwdriver.

BITNA

Tools count.

Airiseu sets down a cordless drill.

AIRISEU

Then count this bad boy.

BITNA

Show-off.

Yun-hee enters carrying a paper bag.

YUN-HEE

Six boiled eggs.

AERA

We're doing the budget.

YUN-HEE

People eat during budgets.

She adds the eggs to the table.

Aera looks at money, tools, food, cards, names.

Nothing fits her columns.

MAIN TITLES.

2 INT. THE TOWER - COMMUNITY ROOM - MORNING

The Circle is full.

On the floor inside it:

TUITION NOTICE.

DENTAL ESTIMATE.

PRESCRIPTION.

RENT ARREARS.

BUS PASS.

A photograph of a broken refrigerator.

Yun-hee holds the rice paddle.

YE-SEUL

Min-ji needs tuition by Friday.

WOMAN

I need the insulin today.

ANOTHER WOMAN

My sister can come here if we pay the deposit
on the shop.

Aera checks the ledger.

AERA

If we put more into income-producing work
now, we'll have more next month.

A WOMAN in a wheelchair, SUN-OK, looks up.

SUN-OK

More for who?

AERA

For everyone.

SUN-OK

Eventually.

Aera looks at her.

SUN-OK

I need the battery this week.

AERA

I know.

SUN-OK

Then don't spend that money on something that pays us back next month.

Small laughter.

Aera doesn't laugh yet.

3 INT. THE TOWER - COMMUNITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

AERA

I'm saying we protect the fund by helping the
things that can grow it.

SUN-OK

Things.

AERA

Businesses.

SUN-OK

People run businesses.

AERA

Yes.

SUN-OK

And people who cannot run businesses?

Silence.

Sun-ok crosses her arms.

A BLOCK.

Aera's face changes.

AERA

What principle?

SUN-OK

Nobody eats because she produces enough to
deserve food.

Twinkles begin around the Circle.

SUN-OK

Nobody gets medicine because she made
herself profitable.

More.

SUN-OK

If this place only works for women who can
work--

She gestures to the Tower around them.

SUN-OK

Then you built another workplace.

Aera looks at her ledger.

Closes it.

4 INT. THE TOWER - COMMUNITY ROOM - LATER

A new sheet on the wall:

NEED FIRST. CAPACITY SECOND.

Underneath:

FOOD.

MEDICINE.

HOUSING.

EDUCATION.

ESCAPE.

Yun-hee looks around.

YUN-HEE

Any block?

None.

Consensus.

Aera reaches for the cash box.

Aera removes the brass key.

Her leaf-and-gold mask flickers into being — instinctive, almost defensive.

She places the key in the center of the Circle.

The mask disappears.

Sun-ok raises one finger.

SUN-OK

One more thing.

Aera waits.

SUN-OK

Whose money is that?

AERA

The foundation account started it.

SUN-OK

That isn't what I asked.

Aera understands.

She removes a small brass key from her key ring.

Places it in the center of the Circle.

AERA

Not mine.

Airiseu picks it up.

AIRISEU

Good.

AERA

Who holds it now?

YUN-HEE

Nobody permanently.

SUN-OK

Rotate it.

YE-SEUL

And every withdrawal still needs Circle approval.

Aera looks at the key in Airiseu's hand.

AERA

Good.

5 INT./EXT. GANGHWA - VARIOUS - DAYS - MONTAGE

A CAFÉ closes.

The handwritten sign says:

REOPENING SOON.

Its espresso machine travels through the Tower loading entrance on a handcart.

A woman removes the sign from a SMALL CLINIC.

The next morning she examines a patient inside the Tower.

A bicycle repairwoman works beneath an apartment awning while three children hand her tools she did not request.

A basement kitchen fills containers with kimchi, rice and soup.

A handwritten receipt reads:

PAY WHAT YOU CAN.

WORK IF YOU CAN.

EAT EITHER WAY.

A laundromat owner reroutes deliveries.

A FARMER unloads vegetables.

Instead of cash, she leaves with repaired irrigation equipment.

A Tower resident paints over an old shop sign.

Underneath appears:

COMMON GOOD COOPERATIVE.

Nobody cuts a ribbon.

They open the door.

6 INT. MIN-JUN'S CRIMINAL HEADQUARTERS - ACCOUNTING ROOM - NIGHT

Rows of numbers glow across three monitors.

Dong-wook scrolls.

Min-jun stands behind him.

DONG-WOOK

Recycling is down eleven percent.

Click.

DONG-WOOK

Liquor, eight.

Click.

DONG-WOOK

Protection, seventeen.

MIN-JUN

Protection doesn't fall seventeen percent in a week.

DONG-WOOK

It does if seventeen percent stop paying.

He opens another file.

DONG-WOOK

Three cafés. Clinic. Laundry. Repair shop. Two food suppliers.

MIN-JUN

Who took them?

DONG-WOOK

Nobody.

Min-jun looks at him.

DONG-WOOK

That's the problem.

He brings up photographs.

Women carrying tables into the Tower.

A delivery van.

A café refrigerator.

DONG-WOOK

They didn't change owners.

MIN-JUN

Then where did they go?

DONG-WOOK

Away from us.

Min-jun studies the screen.

7 EXT. SMALL CAFÉ - BACK ALLEY - DAY

The café is half dismantled.

Stone Lion carries a refrigerator dolly toward a truck.

A YOUNG GANGSTER approaches with two men.

YOUNG GANGSTER

Boss says the café stays.

Stone Lion keeps strapping the refrigerator.

YOUNG GANGSTER

You hear me?

STONE LION

Yes.

YOUNG GANGSTER

Then stop them.

Inside, two women remove shelves.

Stone Lion tightens the strap.

YOUNG GANGSTER

They owe protection.

STONE LION

From what?

The gangster stares at him.

STONE LION

Who are we protecting them from?

One of the women stops working.

Nobody speaks.

Stone Lion wheels the refrigerator onto the truck.

STONE LION

I'm not stopping them.

YOUNG GANGSTER

Min-jun ordered it.

STONE LION

Then tell Min-jun I refused.

He pushes the refrigerator inside.

8 INT. MIN-JUN'S PRIVATE CLUB - WOMEN'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Mirrors. Cosmetics. Dresses hung by number rather than name.

Chae-won counts cash twice.

Ji-a quietly wraps leftover fruit in napkins and slips it into her bag.

Hye-won examines a diamond bracelet against her wrist.

The door opens.

Aera enters.

All three women go still.

HYE-WON

Wrong room.

AERA

Probably.

She closes the door behind her.

CHAE-WON

Did Min-jun send you?

AERA

No.

HYE-WON

Then you're very brave or very stupid.

AERA

Both have been suggested.

Ji-a almost smiles.

Aera places three ordinary business cards on the counter.

No logo.

An address. A phone number.

AERA

If you need somewhere for your mother, sister,
child, friend--

Ji-a's hand stops inside her bag.

AERA
 They can come.
 CHAE-WON
 And us?
 AERA
 You too.
 HYE-WON
 What do we have to do?
 AERA
 Nothing.
 HYE-WON
 Nobody gives something for nothing.
 AERA
 Then test us.

**9 INT. MIN-JUN'S PRIVATE CLUB - WOMEN'S DRESSING ROOM -
 CONTINUOUS**

Chae-won picks up a card.

CHAE-WON
 If I walk out, who pays my rent?
 AERA
 I don't know.

Chae-won laughs once.

CHAE-WON
 That's useful.

AERA
 I can promise you a bed. Food. Safety. I cannot
 promise you'll like being poor.

That lands.

Ji-a touches the card but doesn't take it.

AERA
 Who is the fruit for?

JI-A

Nobody.

Aera waits.

JI-A

My son.

Chae-won looks at her.

Hye-won does too.

JI-A

My mother has him.

AERA

Does Min-jun know?

JI-A

No.

AERA

Good.

HYE-WON

You think poverty with women is freedom?

AERA

No.

HYE-WON

There is always a price?

AERA

Nothing.

A beat.

AERA

Then don't come until you're sure there isn't one.

Hye-won looks at the diamonds on her wrist.

HYE-WON

These are real.

AERA

I know.

Aera leaves the cards.

She exits.

Chae-won takes hers.

Ji-a takes hers.

Hye-won leaves hers on the counter.

Then looks at it.

10 INT. THE TOWER - SIDE ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON

The ordinary brass key from Episode 1 enters the lock.

Turns.

Bong-cha steps inside.

Alone.

No guard.

No suitcase.

Just her university bag and portfolio.

She closes the door behind her.

Across the corridor, a little girl is doing homework while an unrelated older woman peels an apple beside her.

A toddler runs past.

YOUNG WOMAN (O.S.)

Shoes!

The toddler doubles back, grabs his shoes and keeps running.

Bong-cha watches.

A woman passes carrying laundry.

WOMAN

You need someone?

BONG-CHA

No.

A beat.

BONG-CHA

I don't think so.

The woman nods and keeps going.

No one announces Bong-cha.

No one bows.

No one calls Aera.

Bong-cha looks down the corridor.

For the first time in days, nobody is waiting to know where she is going.

She walks deeper into the Tower.

11 INT. THE TOWER - COMMUNAL KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Bong-cha follows the smell of soup.

The kitchen is crowded but strangely calm.

A GRANDMOTHER chops scallions.

A UNIVERSITY STUDENT washes rice.

JI-YEON, still in hospital scrubs, eats standing up while checking a child's spelling homework.

Two small children argue over the last dumpling.

CHILD 1

I had four.

CHILD 2

You had five.

CHILD 1

That one was broken.

YUN-HEE

Broken dumplings still count.

She takes the dumpling, tears it cleanly in half and gives them each a piece.

Problem solved.

Bong-cha watches.

Yun-hee notices her.

YUN-HEE

You hungry?

BONG-CHA

No.

Yun-hee puts a bowl in front of her anyway.

YUN-HEE

Good. More for you.

Bong-cha sits.

Across the table, a little girl finishes eating and carries her bowl to the sink.

A WOMAN reaches automatically to take it.

The girl pulls it back.

LITTLE GIRL

Mine.

She washes it herself.

Bong-cha smiles.

BONG-CHA

Does everybody work here?

YUN-HEE

Everybody does something.

BONG-CHA

What if they can't?

YUN-HEE

Then they do something else.

BONG-CHA

And if they can't do anything?

Yun-hee looks at her.

YUN-HEE

Then they live.

Bong-cha looks down at her soup.

12 INT. THE TOWER - NURSERY - LATER

Floor mats. Toys repaired with tape. Shelves labeled by hand.

Three babies sleep.

One woman folds laundry.

Another reads aloud to six children.

A toddler wakes and begins to cry.

Three women look up.

The nearest one picks him up.

BONG-CHA

Where's his mother?

WOMAN

Working.

BONG-CHA

You're family?

WOMAN

Not yet.

She bounces the child.

WOMAN

Give it a month.

The toddler grabs her nose.

Bong-cha laughs.

A pregnant woman enters carrying clean blankets.

She sees Bong-cha's hand resting unconsciously against her own stomach.

PREGNANT WOMAN

First?

Bong-cha nods.

PREGNANT WOMAN

Everybody tells you what to do?

BONG-CHA

Everybody.

PREGNANT WOMAN

They stop eventually.

BONG-CHA

When?

PREGNANT WOMAN

Never.

They both laugh.

The woman puts down the blankets.

PREGNANT WOMAN

You just get better at saying no.

Bong-cha absorbs that.

13 INT. THE TOWER - ROOFTOP GARDEN - LATE AFTERNOON

Bong-cha steps onto the roof.

Vegetable beds fill broken bathtubs, paint buckets, wooden crates.

The landscape is improvised but intelligent.

She immediately sees what is wrong.

BONG-CHA

Who planted these?

A TEEN looks up from watering.

TEEN

We did.

BONG-CHA

Why are the peppers here?

TEEN

Because there was space.

Bong-cha crouches.

BONG-CHA

They're getting too much wind.

The Teen shrugs.

TEEN

They're alive.

BONG-CHA

Barely.

She looks around.

Bong-cha studies the roof.

Her professional brain switches on.

She grabs a piece of chalk lying beside a crate.

BONG-CHA

Move the peppers there. Trellis here. Herbs stay where they are. Those tubs need drainage before the roots rot.

TEEN

Are you staying?

Bong-cha stops.

BONG-CHA

No.

TEEN

Then write it down.

The Teen hands her a piece of cardboard.

Bong-cha starts sketching.

As Bong-cha sketches, the wind shifts around her.

The battered pepper plants stop whipping.

Their leaves turn toward her.

Bong-cha doesn't notice.

The Teen does.

14 INT. MIN-JUN'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

Dong-wook enters carrying a tablet.

Min-jun is reading financial reports.

DONG-WOOK

She's at the Tower.

Min-jun does not look up.

MIN-JUN

Who?

DONG-WOOK

You know who.

Min-jun looks at him.

MIN-JUN

She left alone?

DONG-WOOK

Yes.

MIN-JUN

No driver?

DONG-WOOK

No.

A beat.

MIN-JUN

How long?

DONG-WOOK

Two hours.

Min-jun returns to the report.

DONG-WOOK

Want me to bring her back?

MIN-JUN

No.

Dong-wook waits.

MIN-JUN

She wanted to leave when she wanted.

DONG-WOOK

Apparently she does.

Min-jun looks up.

DONG-WOOK

Sorry.

MIN-JUN

You should be.

Dong-wook starts to leave.

MIN-JUN

Who's watching the building?

DONG-WOOK

Nobody officially.

MIN-JUN

Officially?

DONG-WOOK

Municipal camera. Two traffic cameras. One shop across the street.

Min-jun thinks.

MIN-JUN

Do not follow her.

DONG-WOOK

Of course.

MIN-JUN

Just tell me when she leaves.

Dong-wook nods, and looks at Min-jun.

MIN-JUN

Don't interfere.

Dong-wook leaves.

15 INT. THE TOWER - ROOFTOP GARDEN - SUNSET

The cardboard plan has become detailed.

Bong-cha has forgotten the time.

Aera comes through the rooftop door.

She sees her daughter kneeling in dirt, drawing irrigation lines with a carpenter's pencil.

Aera almost speaks.

Doesn't.

Bong-cha senses her anyway.

BONG-CHA

The drainage is terrible.

AERA

Can it be fixed?

BONG-CHA

Yes. We can fix it.

Aera smiles.

BONG-CHA

Half of this will drown when the monsoon comes.

AERA

Then tell them.

BONG-CHA

I did.

She points to the Teen and two women already moving planters.

AERA

You've been here awhile.

BONG-CHA

Don't.

AERA

I wasn't going to ask you to stay.

BONG-CHA

You were thinking it.

AERA

Probably.

Bong-cha returns to the sketch.

AERA

Do you want dinner?

BONG-CHA

I already ate.

AERA

You do this when you're angry

BONG-CHA

Do what?

Aera looks at the plan.

AERA

Dig in.

BONG-CHA

I know. It's childish.

Aera laughs.

For a moment, nothing between them needs fixing.

16 INT. MIN-JUN'S PRIVATE CLUB - MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

Music. Money. Liquor.

But there are empty tables.

A dealer waits for players who are not coming.

Two hostesses sit together instead of circulating.

At the bar, the bartender counts bottles.

Min-jun crosses the floor.

Everyone straightens.

A FLOOR MANAGER hurries toward him.

FLOOR MANAGER

Slow night.

MIN-JUN

Thursday is never slow.

FLOOR MANAGER

People are staying home.

MIN-JUN

Why?

The Manager has no answer.

At the far end, Chae-won sees Min-jun.

She slips Aera's card deeper into her purse.

Ji-a is beside her.

Hye-won notices.

HYE-WON

You kept it.

CHAE-WON

It's paper.

HYE-WON

Then throw it away.

Chae-won does not.

Min-jun watches the women from across the room.

He cannot hear them.

That bothers him more.

17 INT. THE TOWER - COMMUNITY ROOM - NIGHT

A small Circle. Catering workers, clerks, cleaners, technicians.

BITNA

Nobody leaves unless she chooses to.

A CATERER raises a hand.

CATERER

If one of us walks, they replace her.

A FEMALE TECHNICIAN

If all of us walk, they notice.

YUN-HEE

Same time?

Hands rise. Twinkles.

AERA

I can give the cue.

YE-SEUL

Cue. Not command.

Aera nods.

AERA

Cue.

18 EXT. GANGHWA - CIVIC PLAZA - DAY

Workers assemble a large PUBLIC EVENT.

Foundation banners.

A temporary stage.

Rows of chairs.

Catering tents.

Local officials rehearse entrances.

Women do almost everything.

They carry tables.

Tape electrical cables.

Arrange flowers.

Check microphones.

Register guests.

Pour tea.

Clean.

Aera stands at the edge of the plaza watching.

Bitna beside her.

BITNA

You're smiling.

AERA

No.

BITNA

That's your dangerous smile.

AERA

I don't have a dangerous smile.

Bitna points.

A catering supervisor is directing six women while a male event executive talks into his phone.

AERA

How many women?

BITNA

Here?

AERA

Working.

Bitna looks.

BITNA

Most of them.

AERA

Exactly.

BITNA

You're definitely smiling.

AERA

Find out who wants to leave early.

BITNA

How early?

Aera looks toward the stage bearing Chun-deung's name.

AERA

At the same time.

19 INT. MANISAN FOUNDATION - EVENT OFFICE - DAY

Chun-deung reviews the program with Tae-seok.

A poster reads:

GANGHWA FUTURE PARTNERSHIP FORUM

COMMUNITY. FAMILY. PROSPERITY.

CHUN-DEUNG

Aera confirmed?

TAE-SEOK

Yes.

That surprises him.

CHUN-DEUNG

Speaking?

TAE-SEOK

No.

CHUN-DEUNG

Good.

Tae-seok hesitates.

TAE-SEOK

The Tower businesses are beginning to affect local collections.

CHUN-DEUNG

Collections?

TAE-SEOK

Fees. Permits. Private contracts.

CHUN-DEUNG

Min-jun's problem.

TAE-SEOK

Some of them are foundation vendors.

Chun-deung looks up.

TAE-SEOK

Women-owned firms.

CHUN-DEUNG

Then replace them.

TAE-SEOK

With whom?

A small silence.

Chun-deung closes the event program.

CHUN-DEUNG

Someone always wants the work.

20 EXT. THE TOWER - SIDE ENTRANCE - EVENING

Bong-cha exits.

Stone Lion is across the street.

Not hiding very well.

Bong-cha sees him.

He looks away.

BONG-CHA

Are you following me?

STONE LION

No.

BONG-CHA

Did Dong-wook put you here?

Stone Lion says nothing.

Bong-cha walks toward him.

BONG-CHA

Tell him I don't need an escort.

STONE LION

All right.

Bong-cha studies him.

BONG-CHA

Why are you still working for them?

Stone Lion looks toward the Tower.

STONE LION

Habit.

She starts walking.

Stone Lion stays where he is.

Bong-cha turns back.

BONG-CHA

You're not coming?

STONE LION

You said you didn't want anyone following you.

BONG-CHA

I did.

STONE LION

So I'm not.

For the first time, Bong-cha looks at him differently.

She walks away alone.

21 INT. MIN-JUN'S PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

Bong-cha enters.

Min-jun is sitting at the dining table.

Dinner for two has gone cold.

MIN-JUN

You ate.

BONG-CHA

Yes.

MIN-JUN

At the Tower.

Bong-cha takes off her shoes.

BONG-CHA

You know where I was.

MIN-JUN

You told me you were going.

BONG-CHA

No. Your people told you.

MIN-JUN

I did not send anyone after you.

BONG-CHA

Stone Lion was outside.

MIN-JUN

I didn't send him.

BONG-CHA

Dong-wook did.

Min-jun says nothing.

BONG-CHA

Same thing, both right hand men.

MIN-JUN

I wanted to know you were safe.

BONG-CHA

I am always safe, husband.

She walks toward the hall.

MIN-JUN

What did you do there?

Bong-cha stops.

BONG-CHA

I ate soup.

MIN-JUN

That's all?

BONG-CHA

I fixed the drainage for their roof garden.

MIN-JUN

You worked for them?

BONG-CHA

Nobody asked me who I belonged to first, you
or my mother.

That lands.

Min-jun looks at the untouched food between them.

MIN-JUN

You belong here.

Bong-cha turns.

BONG-CHA

That word is becoming a problem.

She walks away.

Min-jun sits alone at a table prepared for two.

22 EXT. GANGHWA CIVIC PLAZA - DAY

The forum is underway.

Chun-deung speaks beneath enormous banners:

COMMUNITY. FAMILY. PROSPERITY.

Rows of officials, donors, business owners.

Aera sits in the front row.

Behind them, women work.

Catering.

Registration.

Translation.

Sound.

Cleaning.

Tea.

Flowers.

A FEMALE TECHNICIAN catches Aera's eye.

Aera looks toward Bitna.

One small nod.

The Technician removes her headset.

A caterer sets down her tray.

A clerk closes her laptop.

A cleaner parks her cart.

One by one, women stop.

No announcement.

No chant.

They simply leave.

Chun-deung continues speaking.

CHUN-DEUNG

Ganghwa has always prospered because every
member of the community understands--

His microphone cuts out.

He taps it.

Nothing.

The male EVENT DIRECTOR looks toward the sound booth.

Empty.

At registration, a line grows.

At catering, coffee runs out.

A donor lifts an empty pot.

DONOR

Excuse me?

Nobody comes.

The interpreters stand and leave together.

Chun-deung looks across the plaza.

Women are walking away in every direction.

AERA rises.

Chun-deung sees her.

AERA

Keep going.

CHUN-DEUNG

What?

AERA

You were explaining how the community works.

As the women walk away, Chun-deung's storm mask flashes across his face.

Clouds gather suddenly over the plaza.

A low RUMBLE of thunder.

Nobody turns back.

Then his microphone dies.

The applause never comes.

CUT TO:

23 INT. MANISAN - TEMPORARY EVENT OFFICE - LATER

The immaculate event office looks less immaculate now.

Half-eaten food. Unanswered phones. Men searching through drawers.

Chun-deung stands at the window watching women leave the plaza.

Tae-seok enters.

TAE-SEOK

Municipal services are getting complaints.

CHUN-DEUNG

About the event?

TAE-SEOK

About the Tower.

He hands Chun-deung a tablet.

Businesses operating without updated permits.

Food distribution.

Medical services.

Residential occupancy.

CHUN-DEUNG

Good.

TAE-SEOK

Good?

CHUN-DEUNG

Inspect it.

TAE-SEOK

We already have.

CHUN-DEUNG

Not like this.

He turns.

CHUN-DEUNG

Police. Fire. Health. Building. Tax.

TAE-SEOK

All at once?

CHUN-DEUNG

They want to be a city?

A beat.

CHUN-DEUNG

Inspect their city.

24 EXT. THE TOWER - MORNING

Municipal vans arrive first.

Then police buses.

Then television crews.

Residents watch from upper windows.

Bitna stands inside the entrance.

Airiseu beside her.

Aera approaches.

BITNA

They brought cameras.

AERA

Of course they did.

AIRISEU

Building inspector. Health. Tax. Fire.

BITNA

And riot police.

Aera looks outside.

AERA

Doors stay open for legal inspection.

BITNA

And police?

AERA

No warrant, no entry.

Bitna nods.

AERA

Nobody gives them the picture they came for.

BITNA

Which picture?

AERA

Angry women attacking police.

Bitna looks through the glass.

BITNA

They may make one anyway.

Outside, a shield strikes a woman hard enough to drop her.

Aera moves toward the door.

Bitna catches her arm.

BITNA

Aera.

Aera looks through the glass. Another woman takes the fallen woman's place.

Her leaf-and-gold mask flickers.

AERA

We could stop this now.

BITNA

You could.

A beat.

BITNA

That doesn't mean you get to decide for everyone outside that door.

Aera looks at the women holding the line.

She lets the mask dissolve.

25 INT. THE TOWER - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The doors open.

A BUILDING INSPECTOR enters with two officials.

Aera steps aside.

AERA

Welcome.

The Inspector was expecting resistance.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

We need access to all occupied floors.

AIRISEU

Inspected floors.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

All floors.

AIRISEU

Show me the order.

He does.

Airiseu reads it.

AIRISEU

Inspected floors.

She hands it back.

Behind them, children carry books toward school.

A nurse wheels Sun-ok past.

A delivery woman pushes vegetables toward the kitchen.

The Inspector watches.

This is not what he expected either.

26 EXT. THE TOWER - SAME

Police push residents and supporters back from the entrance.

A YOUNG OFFICER raises his shield.

A WOMAN holds both hands up.

WOMAN

I live here.

OFFICER

Move back.

WOMAN

From my house?

More police arrive.

A commander points.

The line advances.

Women link arms.

No weapons.

No charge.

Just bodies.

A shield strikes one woman's shoulder.

She falls.

Another woman takes her place.

A bottle flies from somewhere behind the crowd.

It breaks near police boots.

Bitna spins.

BITNA

Who threw that?

Nobody answers.

BITNA

Nothing thrown. Nothing.

The police line moves again.

27 EXT. SIDE STREET NEAR THE TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Stone Lion arrives with three of Min-jun's MEN.

The Young Gangster from the café is among them.

YOUNG GANGSTER

Boss says keep the street clear.

STONE LION

For who?

YOUNG GANGSTER

Us.

They round the corner.

See the police pushing women toward the Tower.

Children are being moved through a side door.

One small boy trips.

Stone Lion recognizes JUN-HO.

Jun-ho recognizes him.

JUN-HO

Stone Lion!

Every gangster hears it.

So do several police.

Stone Lion freezes.

The Young Gangster grabs his arm.

YOUNG GANGSTER

Come on.

Stone Lion pulls free.

He crosses toward Jun-ho.

Not toward the police.

Not toward Min-jun's men.

Toward the child.

28 EXT. THE TOWER - CONTINUOUS

A police shield knocks an ELDER WOMAN against the wall.

Stone Lion catches her before she falls.

YOUNG GANGSTER

What the hell are you doing?

Stone Lion hands the woman to Bitna.

STONE LION

My job.

YOUNG GANGSTER

Your job is with us.

Stone Lion looks at the women.

The children.

The police.

Then his former crew.

STONE LION

Not today.

The Young Gangster reaches for him.

Stone Lion steps between him and the entrance.

No weapon.

STONE LION

Go home.

YOUNG GANGSTER

Move.

STONE LION

No.

The word travels.

Two other low-level gangsters hesitate.

Police shove forward again.

Stone Lion turns and plants himself beside the women.

A WOMAN looks at him.

WOMAN

You understand no hitting?

STONE LION

I'm learning.

They lock arms.

29 EXT. THE TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

The line has become strange.

Women.

Residents.

Stone Lion.

Two gangsters who have quietly joined him.

A delivery driver.

An elderly farmer.

No one advances.

No one leaves.

The police commander looks at cameras.

Then at the women.

Then at the municipal inspectors exiting the Tower behind him.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

We're done.

COMMANDER

Violations?

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Some.

COMMANDER

Enough to close it?

The Inspector looks back at the building.

Children watch from windows.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Not today.

The Commander hates the answer.

Behind the police line, reporters are filming everything.

He lowers his hand.

The shields stop.
Then slowly—
The police line steps back.
Nobody cheers at first.
They do not trust it.
The buses begin loading.
Only then does sound rise from the crowd.
Relief.
Laughter.
Crying.
Relief surges through the crowd.
For a moment, Aera's leaf-and-gold mask forms — brighter than before, fed
by hundreds of eyes turning toward her.

AERA

We won.

Bitna sees the mask.
She does not smile.

CUT TO:

30 INT. THE TOWER - COMMUNITY ROOM - NIGHT

Bandages.
Tea.
Bruised shoulders.
A cracked pair of glasses sits beside the talking piece.
The Circle is full.
Aera sits among them.
Yun-hee facilitates.

YUN-HEE

Before anything else. Injuries.

Reports come quickly.

WOMAN

Two stitches.

ANOTHER WOMAN

Sprained wrist.

SUN-OK

My chair survived.

AIRISEU

Unlike the west door.

Small laughter.

Aera exhales.

AERA

But we held it.

Silence.

AERA

We won today.

Ye-seul raises a process point.

Aera sees it.

YE-SEUL

Who is we?

AERA

All of us.

YE-SEUL

Did Mi-sook win?

Mi-sook sits across the Circle.

Doesn't answer.

YE-SEUL

Did the women who got hurt win?

AERA

I meant--

SUN-OK

We know what you meant.

She is gentle.

That makes it harder.

SUN-OK

You don't get to name it for us.

Aera looks around the Circle.

Some women are proud.

Some frightened.

Some furious.

Some simply exhausted.

AERA

You're right.

I was relieved and I called that winning.

A beat.

AERA

It wasn't mine to call on my own.

Aera nods.

AERA

(pointing to her chest)

I was very relieved.

Twinkles. Laughter.

Even Ye-seul.

31 INT. KANG-DAE'S WATERFRONT OFFICE - NIGHT

Dark water beyond the glass.

Kang-dae sits alone before a wall of surveillance screens.

Footage rolls.

THE TOWER ROOFTOP.

Vegetable beds.

THE BASEMENT.

Food storage.

A repair workshop.

A hidden passage opening behind shelving.

A classroom.

A clinic.

A nursery.

Women loading delivery vans.

Maps linking the Tower to farms, apartments, shops, clinics.

Dozens of addresses.

Hundreds of women.

Kang-dae leans closer.

Another screen shows the police retreating.

Another—

Stone Lion standing beside the women.

Kang-dae rewinds it.

Watches again.

An aide stands behind him.

AIDE

Chun-deung says the inspection failed.

No response.

AIDE

Min-jun says Stone Lion acted alone.

Kang-dae changes screens.

The Tower at night.

Ugly concrete exterior.

Warm windows glowing inside.

KANG-DAE

How many?

AIDE

Residents?

KANG-DAE

All of them.

The Aide checks.

AIDE

We don't know.

Kang-dae looks at the network map.

More points appear.

One after another.

KANG-DAE

That's not a shelter.

The aide waits.

Kang-dae finally understands what he is looking at.

KANG-DAE

It's a rival civilization.

On the screen, another light comes on inside the Tower.

Then another.

Then another.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE 3.