The Healing Project:

The Story of The Xilas Syndicate

Spec script

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# The Xilas Syndicate: Spec script

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## Episode 1

### INTRO

Seven-year-old Leon Velasco lays down on his bed at 9 p.m. on a chilly Friday night. His grandmother, Irene Velasco, reads him a story named “Humanity Beyond”.

IRENE VELASCO

The Dolis couldn’t fight the Ecos when they got into a war. “Why can’t we fight them?”, Ernestobo cried. “They’re too tough and fierce,” Yulgo said. “We need to help humans understand how important friendship is,” Ernestobo said. “Let’s spread the message with our powers!”, Yulgo said.

Cut to scene:

As Leon closes his eyes, Irene’s words come to life and he begins to see the alien heroes saving the universe in a scene of imagination. Suddenly, a bell rings and we see Leon as a man in his 20s sitting in his university class. Everyone around him gets up and tries to leave.

*PETER LOWENSKI*

*\*Shakes head\* Leon, what did I tell you about daydreaming in class? It’s chemistry time, not date planning time!*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Sorry, Peter. I was uh…thinking deeply about..uh…alternative medicine’s potential.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Sure you were!*

*PETER LOWENSKI*

*Mr. Velasco, okay, whatever you say. Everyone must stay in class until Leon answers a question accurately.*

*UNNAMED CLASSMATE*

*Oh, man! Not again.*

*PETER LOWENSKI*

*Silence! Okay Leon, to test if you were really paying attention earlier, who was the man who discovered flavonoids?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*It was Hungarian Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi who discovered flavonoids in 1938, even though I already knew this anyway because of your fascination with him that led me to cover The Doctor for my thesis.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Smarty pants!*

*PETER LOWENSKI*

*Excellent Leon, you may proceed to your date planning or whatever you had in your mind earlier.*

### Sequence 1

*In the next class, Leon finds himself at the university lab working on research into Xilas’ growth. Peter walks in and watches him quietly for a few seconds and begins to speak,*

PETER LOWENSKI

Leon, Leon, Leon! You hardly work in class but always find a way to be holed up here.

LEON VELASCO

Oh come on, Professor, you know I already know all those monologues you give in class. I want to work on Xilas. This is what’s going to change the world, away from that crap you see plastered all over the shelves. Xilas is natural, it’s real.

PETER LOWENSKI

Slow down there, Bolt. There is still a lot you don’t know. You’re still a student. Don’t get ahead of yourself just because you’re working on this project. You must remember to keep your mind open.

*\*Leon waves him off in a joking manner and continues his studies\**

### Sequence 2

Leon leaves the lab and after passing the cafeteria, a commercial shows up on the nearest TV.

RODRIGO SONHE

Are you tired of dealing with intense anxiety and extreme misinformation on drugs leading to even more anxiety?

LEON VELASCO

Yes, you’re doing that right now, conman! \*Answering the TV\*

RODRIGO SONHE

We at Sonhe INC. got you covered with Circus. Its exceptional properties will lead to a healthier life in no time! We guarantee it!

ARNOLD SHEPARD

So go to your nearest pharmacy today and buy Circus for only $6.

RODRIGO SONHE

Neither you nor your doctor will be disappointed!

LEON VELASCO

\*Stomps feet and says “idiots” under his breath and then calls his mother’s numbers\* Hi mom, is dad with you?

PENNY VELASCO

Hi Leon, he is. How has your day at school been?

LEON VELASCO

Very eye-opening and irritating. My prof Peter has been educating us so much on Xilas, yet all you see is Circus self-serving baloney in the media. I want to make a difference but don’t know how?

PENNY VELASCO

Remember what Nanny used to read to you when you were younger? I forget, what was that book called again?

CONEJITO VELASCO

Humanity Beyond!

LEON VELASCO

I was just thinking about it today, actually! \*Pauses for two seconds\* Hey, I got an idea!

CONEJITO VELASCO

What is that, Leon?

LEON VELASCO

I want to find a group of people who can help me stop Circus and the morons who distribute it!

PENNY VELASCO

Oh, Leon, I don’t know. You might come across a bunch of users or scammers who only want to help for money!

CONEJITO VELASCO

Plus, we worry about your safety if things go wrong!

LEON VELASCO

Look, it needs to be done! You’ll be grateful I decided to do this in the end!

\*Penny and Conejito look at each other in disbelief\*

### Sequence 3

Leon sits on his phone in class looking at potential groups online.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

What are you doing, Leon?

LEON VELASCO

I’m trying to look for groups so I can find people who can help me with this mission I want to take part in.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Try “It’s okay to be a science nerd” on Newpeepsandmemories. Everyone there is open-minded and willing to take on any challenge. It will be an experience joining it and you know it! I have a friend named Arham there, who I think you will really like.

LEON VELASCO

You’re so sure about everything but okay!

PRUDENCE BARRETT

You won’t regret it!

LEON VELASCO

What is it like?

PRUDENCE BARRETT

We discuss unique discoveries that the general public isn’t aware of.

LEON VELASCO

BINGO! I’m all for it! This Xilas mission is super important to me!

PRUDENCE BARRETT

I’ll send you the link! \*Sends link\*

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### Sequence 4

*Quick sequences show Leon going through his days in the span of over a week and checking his phone and laptop as he bonds with Arham. Finally, after building enough trust and common agreements about society, Leon, Prudence, and Arham decide to meet at “Hipsters Young at Heart Nightclub”. Leon and Prudence show up and wait in the line to get in.*

*BOUNCER*

*I.D*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Here.*

*Leon shows the bouncer a ruffled student I.D from his university.*

*BOUNCER*

*We don’t take student IDs. Do you have a driver’s license or health card?*

*As Leon fumbles around his pockets, unable to find his wallet, Prudence puts her arm around him and smiles at Bouncer in a familiar way. Arham looks around awkwardly a small distance away.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Relax Chewy, he’s with us.*

*CHEWY (BOUNCER)*

*Prudence!! How have you been? Oh yeah, this guy’s with you? Go right in.*

*They walk into the club and as the music is blasting, Prudence introduces Leon and Arham. They both awkwardly say hi and quickly look towards Prudence to lead the conversation. They find a table and sit down ready for a night of bonding.*

### 

### Sequence 5

The gang is looking to order some food, each item showing their individual personalities. Leon orders a beyond meat burger, Arham orders a beyond meat fajita and Prudence orders a large Greek salad. An overworked waitress slugs around the club and finally comes to them. She looks unto them with an uninterested expression.

TANYA BELLA

Welcome to *Hipsters Young at Heart Nightclub.* I’m Tanya and I’ll be your server for tonight. What would you like to order?

LEON VELASCO

I’ll have the beyond meat burger.

ARHAM ABADI

Beyond meat fajita, please.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Just a large Greek salad here.

TANYA BELLA

Okay. The food should be ready in about 40 minutes. Thank you.

\*As Tanya walks away, the group begins to discuss everything.\*

DJ FUNKY TOMATO (STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

Tanya, you look a little down.

TANYA BELLA

Those customers seem nice. I’m just stressed about having to work overtime. I wish Martha didn’t call in sick.

DJ FUNKY TOMATO (STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

You’re a strong woman with a lot of groove. I know you can handle this.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

So Leon, I never thought I’d see you at the club. The star student is usually napping at this time, right? Actually, most of the time.

\*Prudence laughs at her own joke as Arham looks around waiting for his food. Leon thinks of a comeback. \*

LEON VELASCO

Very funny but no, I actually have a big announcement.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Uohh! I love big announcements!!

ARHAM ABADI

Let’s hear it, Leon.

LEON VELASCO

*Well okay, so you know how we were talking about how messed up the system is right? How everything just doesn’t add up. Class divide, health crisis, mental health crisis, housing— you name it, it’s all gone to the dump. I just feel we gotta do something about it, and I know it sounds super cheesy but I think we came to make a difference. I think we should fight against these corporations sucking up the life out of the everyday person.*

ARHAM ABADI

Yeah, fighting against evil sounds great but how do you plan to do that? We’re just students after all.

LEON VELASCO

Yeah, but that’s kind of our strength. We’re young, we can connect with the younger generations that understand the struggle. You look at social media and you see the anger and people are fed up. What I’m studying now with Peter, can change everything.

*\*At the thought of experiments, Arham becomes nervous remembering a dark chapter in his own history that left his right arm permanently scarred.\**

ARHAM ABADI

I don’t know about this. I spilt hydrochloric acid all over my right arm when doing an acid rain-making experiment a while back. What makes you think I can do this?

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Nothing’s impossible! Come on Ar, you got to get past that.

LEON VELASCO

We can start recruiting people online, spreading our message about natural medicine and its benefits. How many people do you know are hooked on the latest pharma scam? We are all studying the field and we all have experience. Why not just go for it and try to save lives?

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Oh come on, Arham, you know we can do it and it sounds fun, I’ve always wanted to be a superhero!! I’m down for this.

\*As the group discussion becomes louder and louder, DJ Funky Tomato can’t help but overhear them as he takes a break from his set of bombastic house music. He doesn’t know anything about the topic but any time he hears the fiery passion of youth he can’t help but be drawn in\*

DJ FUNKY TOMATO (STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

Hey guys, sorry to bother you but I hear you’re in a real pickle. I’m not too familiar with all that science talk but I do know a little about jumping into the deep end. You know why my name is Funky Tomato? I submitted an in-depth tomato model for an art contest in elementary school and won! I didn’t think I was good at anything, while I watched all my friends make sports teams and nail their band and talent show auditions. Here I was, thinking I was nothing. Sometimes no matter how odd or crazy you are, you just gotta go for it, man.

*The group spends the rest of the time chatting to each other about their youth and the different gripes they have with the establishment. Leon pitches the name “The Xilas Syndicate '' to Prudence and Arham, as he explains the connection between them and Xilas, largely seen as useless yet possesses untapped greatness. They both agree.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*I got a name for us but you gotta promise you won’t laugh.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Shoot.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*The Xilas Syndicate.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*What? Xilas? That’s like the most useless thing ever. We might as well call ourselves The Sponge Syndicate.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*No way man. Xilas is the main breakthrough I and Peter am discussing. It may seem useless to the masses or in the textbooks we read but there is a radical solution hidden within it.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Just like us.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Now you’re catching on.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Alright alright, that was kind of cool, Leon Velasco.*

*\*They all smile as Tanya arrives with their food just in time\**

### Sequence 6

*Leon separates from the group and enters a Taxi to go home. Using his upcoming finals as an excuse because some of the strobe lights were overwhelming him.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*\*Almost getting vertigo and lightheadedness from strobe lights while loud dance music plays\* Guys, I think I got to study for my uh..upcoming finals.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Party pooper! Just kidding. Enjoy the rest of your night.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Okay Leon, have a good rest of your night! It was a great discussion.*

*The taxi is dripped in the quiet air, and the rain falls deeply as Leon and the nameless driver remain without conversation. To save them from any more awkwardness the driver turns on the radio.*

*UNNAMED RADIO DJ*

*We have a passing light rain system, which will drop a few millimetres of rain. The overnight low for tonight will be around 60°F, so not much of an AC night. East Arcadia Church is also celebrating its 50th anniversary today. Minister Ryan German hosted a large event for many regulars, new and old. It was memorable, but some neighbours complained about the noise \*Says with a chuckle\*. To West Arcadia, we have a slight traffic jam on Highway 11 near Bobb Avenue, likely due to a possible accident, which police are currently on the look for. The rain has indeed slowed down the road flow a bit. Anyway, there is some controversy among some in the public about Circus being untested and dangerous…*

*\*Leon feels a slight hit of nausea and shock\**

*UNNAMED RADIO DJ*

*There aren’t many details, but some parents have reported their kids having frequent headaches and stomach aches. There has also been an unfortunate rise of children vomiting in classes at school. Anyway, moving on…*

*\*Leon jots notes on his phone that say “Recent controversy among Circus” and “More kids getting sick”\**

### Sequence 7

*At the same time that Leon is in the cab, Peter works late in the lab and learns about Vanilon and the fact that it has fully grown Xilas in its vast vegetation report. Once he knows Vanilon could be the answer, his computer starts to beep with a stay-in-place warning.*

PETER LOWENSKI

Vanilon has a ton of Xilas! Tons of it! \*Screams loudly while saying it\* Wait until my star students know about this one!

\*Distracted professor in another room looks over as he hears Peter scream\*

\*Computer beeps with a stay-in-place warning and Peter looks confused\*

### Sequence 8

A crowded press conference room is littered with some of the biggest reporters in the world, there is a noise that can only come from a press conference of high anticipation. The wide doors open and cameras flash with a tornado of photos. Rodrigo Sonhe, the dashing middle son of one of the biggest Pharma corporations, Sonhe INC. He sits down at the center of the long press conference table and smiles at the journalists.

RODRIGO SONHE

Welcome, everyone. Rodrigo Sonhe, here. I’m grateful you were able to make it. As concerns have been raised among some of you about our newest product. At Sonhe INC. it’s our priority to provide transparent communication with the public and media. So let’s get started.

BARBARA PIQUE

“Barbara Pique, National Editorial —- “Sonhe INC. has spent a large chunk of the year promoting Circus with a company record $560 million PR campaign that has spanned the globe. A lot of independent experts have questioned why a drug that has been polarizing at best and dangerously reckless at its worst is being pushed out so aggressively”.

RODRIGO SONHE

Well Ms. Pique, although I’d be willing to bet it’s Mrs. Pique (arrogant laughter), oh boy I’ll get in trouble with that one I guess. (room erupts into laughter except for a silent Barbara Pique). Ok well back to the topic at hand. Circus is changing. Change is scary for most. Those independent experts you called upon, well there’s a reason they are independent. No board or foundation backs their findings. Circus is a powerful drug, yes sure that can’t be argued, but that’s because it has powerful solutions to cure people of what plagues them the most — pain.

BILL WALTERS

“Mr Sonhe, Bill Walters TYC News — “Your company has held what some have called a monopoly over the pharma industry for decades. What do you say to people who say this has led to an unprecedented level of low standards in the pharmaceutical industry?”

RODRIGO SONHE

Well, Bill, I'd challenge those individuals to produce any industry-backed findings of Sonhe INC.’s failures to maintain high standards. I’m sure they’d only find cobwebs.

*As Rodrigo finishes his words he’s motioned over by a team of bodyguards, he excuses himself and is told about the discovery found by Peter. He rushes to end the press conference. Off-screen, Rodrigo is a wildly aggressive man, he barks orders at his people and grabs one of his key underlings (Kyle Costas) and tells him to “fix this now”.*

### Sequence 9

*Leon reads the breaking news about the sudden ending of the press conference and gets a bad feeling.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Actually sir, can you take me to Arcadia University? It’s only a couple of blocks away. I discovered something and I really need to do something urgently.*

*UNNAMED CAB DRIVER*

*Sure \*In a quiet, annoyed voice\*.*

### Sequence 9.5

*Leon walks past the same TV from earlier, sees a semi-dark cafeteria with one staff member cleaning tables and then enters the room to see a ravaged lab and no sign of Peter.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*What the? I’m in…I can’t believe this.*

## Episode 2

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### Sequence 9.5

LEON VELASCO

\*Calls Prudence\* Hi Prudence. Is Arham still with you?

PRUDENCE BARRETT

I thought you were going to study for your upcoming finals? \*Laughs\* Anyway, he is.

LEON VELASCO

I wanted to, but the latest Sonhe INC. news about the conference prompted me to go to the lab. It’s an absolute wreck. It almost looks like a dungeon in one of those horror movies. I’m not exaggerating. If you have time, you both need to come over to campus to help me figure out some serious crap going on.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

You know me. Always eager to take on a new task, even at midnight.

Arham, what do you think?

ARHAM ABADI

Oh, come on! I’ve been up since 6 a.m. today!

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Do you want to kick butt or not?

ARHAM ABADI

Okay, okay. I guess a once-a-year semi-all-nighter is better than people taking Circus long-term.

LEON VELASCO

There’s no question about that! So, when do you think you’ll be there?

PRUDENCE BARRETT

In about 20 minutes! We’ll just make sure to avoid Highway 11.

LEON VELASCO

Okay gotcha!

### Sequence 10

*Leon and the crew move rooms to further discuss how to continue research, fight against pharma industries and raise funds under The Xilas Syndicate. They finally decide that Tyche City is the place to go.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*This has to be someone powerful. How can the lab be wrecked the moment we start making progress? Peter warned me too. He must have known something big.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Oh man, this really feels like a bad dream. Not even one day into being The Xilas Syndicate and labs are already being blown to smithereens.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*We can’t stay here. It’s too dangerous.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*What, like moving labs?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*No, we gotta figure out a way to get funds for the Syndicate, and fight against baloney power moves like this. Most importantly, we need to get out of Arcadia.*

*All three sit in silence, as they realize what taking on this mission really means.*

### Sequence 11

LEON VELASCO

Goodbye, mom. I know you don’t want me to leave, but this is all very serious.

PENNY VELASCO

I know it is, but I still wish you didn’t leave.

LEON VELASCO

Just know that if you need anything, I’ll do my best to be there.

PENNY VELASCO

I know you will \*With tears in eyes\*.

\*The two hug for several seconds\*

### Sequence 12

LEON VELASCO

Thanks, Prudence and Arham once again, for agreeing to move in with me. It means so much that we can get this done together.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Hey. Tyche City needs more Prudence in its life anyway. Plus, this all couldn’t have been done without Leon the brainiac.

ARHAM ABADI

This is such a good opportunity. I look forward to it. Just so you know, my dad might come to visit shortly, but he’s a really nice man and he’s supportive of everything.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Maybe he can provide some insight?

LEON VELASCO

That’d be great!

PHIL IOANNOU

What’s this about? As a moving truck driver, I like to know the motives behind moving!

PRUDENCE BARRETT

What, are you micromanaging us?

PHIL IOANNOU

Haha, no way \*Says loudly\*! I just want to see how I’m making a difference with whatever’s happening.

LEON VELASCO

I can explain. We are all science students who have learned that Xilas is the answer to some of the world’s most serious problems, yet you see the media constantly bombarded by some of the worst drugs to mankind, such as Circus. We’re on a mission to end it all.

PHIL IOANNOU

You know, I was once confused in life and almost nothing seemed to go right. If there was anyone likely to cause any mishaps, it was me. However, all of a sudden, I crossed the street on a humid night, not paying attention, and heard a car crash. In front of the car was a man, I wanna say maybe 23, lying motionless with blood flowing from behind his head. I realized that I wasn’t paying attention to the road like the other guy, but I got lucky that time. No car was in front of me.

ARHAM ABADI

How does this relate?

PHIL IOANNOU

The point is, that life is a game of luck. Any second could be a moment of intense luck or an extreme lack of it. The only thing to be afraid of in this world is not pursuing what you want without holding back. Cherish everything to your best ability. I know you can do this.

LEON VELASCO

Thanks. What’s your name again?

PHIL IOANNOU

Phil Ioannou - one of Arcadia’s finest moving truck drivers. I’ll give you my card if you ever want to contact me about anything.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Sure thing!

\*Phil gives them their business card as they get ready to unpack the truck\*

ZOILO ALEXANDER

Look at this Kyra, here’s our trio of new neighbours!

KYRA ALEXANDER

We’re Kyra and Zoilo Alexander. An absolute pleasure to meet you all.

ALL THREE CURRENT THE XILAS SYNDICATE MEMBERS

Nice to meet you, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander.

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### Sequence 13

*As the days go on, The Xilas Syndicate have been camping in their apartment building their brand and online presence without pushing their message too strongly, this results in substantial growth in popularity. They lead the group to discuss their goals of educating their audience that Xilas properties are more environmentally friendly than Circus properties.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*We really have a big opportunity here. I mean our audience keeps growing every day, it's really unbelievable.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*But let’s put it out here now! If we do ads I’m totally handling all the L’Oreos offers. Maybe I can just fall into a massive abyss of L’Oreos. That could go totally viral.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Prudence, focus.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Got it, captain.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Anyway as you were saying Arham I agree, I think we can start pushing our message a little stronger now. Even with Xilas’ environmentally friendly angle, I want Sonhe INC. to feel the heat under their privileged selves.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Oh oh oh dude that totally reminds me of this vinegar and leaf science experiment I did a while back, it totally rocked.*

*Arham is uncharacteristically set off by this and begins to yell at Prudence.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Who the heck cares about some stupid vinegar science experiment, why are you always talking about nonsense when we’re discussing serious steps in our mission? Grow the heck up.*

*Prudence, hurt by his words, runs off to the bathroom and starts crying.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*I get where you’re coming from but totally overboard man. She can be very sensitive even if she jokes around a lot, I don’t know what set you off but we gotta work together here, we can’t be fighting already.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Yeah, I get it, I just lost my head because it reminds me of my acid rain-making experience and I was on the edge.*

*Leon puts his hand on Arham’s shoulder and nudges him affectionately. He motions over to the bathroom and Arham quietly goes towards Prudence. He opens the bathroom door and sits next to Prudence.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*I’m really sorry Prudence —my right arm is mangled for life thanks to an experiment that went wrong, so I’m really sensitive about that and I took it out on you. You didn’t deserve it.*

*They sit in silence for a while until Prudence stops crying and looks at Arham.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Thank you Arham and your arm looks cool FYI.*

*\*Suddenly, there is a knock on the door. Leon looks through the peephole and calls Arham over. Arham opens the door to find his father Amar with bags full of groceries\**

*AMAR ABADI*

*Arham why is your buzzer not working? You really need to talk with the supervisor about this. I had to climb 5 stairs with my bad knee.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Missed you too dad.*

*\*Amar walks in and hands the groceries to Leon and Arham\**

*AMAR ABADI*

*Here, take this and put it in the fridge.*

*\*Amar looks around and is horrified by how messy the house is. He looks in the bathroom and sees Prudence wiping her tears\**

*AMAR ABADI*

*Arham, a young lady crying in the bathroom. Did you do something?*

*\*Amar walks back to the kitchen area to confront his son\**

*ARHAM ABADI*

*I lost my head and started yelling at her but now we made up. She basically brought up a vinegar and leaf experiment to sort of provoke me because she knows how much that acid rain-making experiment nearly traumatized me. I just don’t want anyone to remind me about it or associate with it anymore.*

*AMAR ABADI*

*Never yell at a woman, son. You’ll bring shame to your mother. You’re here for your mission, right? Don’t be stuck in the past.*

*\*They spend the next few hours cleaning the house and laughing at Amar’s jokes. He cooks them a big meal and they eat well for the first time they move out on their own\**

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Prudence, I want to sincerely apologize again for losing it at you. I should have used better critical thinking skills before acting out.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Apology accepted. I’m glad we could all make up about this mishap. I was so worried this would end our mission.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Same.*

*AMAR ABADI*

*See, Arham? This is what family and friendship have always been about.*

### Sequence 14

Finally, as the night comes to an end Amar begins to get ready to leave.

AMAR ABADI

Best of luck with everything. Remember, don’t let past mishaps get in the way. With perseverance, you can all achieve so much, as you’ve already been doing.

ARHAM ABADI

Thanks, dad. You made a bigger difference than you’ll realize.

\*Amar leaves the apartment and drenches in sweat during 90°F weather\*

LEON VELASCO

Ready for the online campaign?

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Super ready!

ARHAM ABADI

\*Types “Pharma industries such as Sonhe INC. have repeatedly misled the public into thinking that they have the patients’ best interest at heart. A while back, people had a misconception that Xilas users, who were mostly minorities, engaged in violent crimes during a Depression period in the country, which ultimately led to other plants and drugs, such as the Circus we know today, leading to higher popularity than Xilas. I not only found this offensive as a Middle Eastern, but none of this is true as there was little proof of it. Based on the research we did, it was all propaganda. Any violent crimes were entirely related to other issues, and not Xilas.”\*

LEON VELASCO

\*Types “Capitalism is not the route to go. We need to rely on not only one organization, no matter how well-known, but we also need to consider varying viewpoints from health experts and government officials. How many of you fainted or threw up shortly after taking a Circus drug? Even a small dosage? And how many of you heard about the conference a while back about Circus being untested? There is a reason for all of this. People are picking up that the unhealthy alternatives are taking over, and we must as a team, try to stop this together! Sonhe INC. claims to stop mental illness, but in many cases, they’re doing the exact opposite!”\*

PRUDENCE BARRETT

\*Types “Today’s pharma industries are full of fraudulence and money grabbers. You want people who will actually consider your health and the environment in not just some aspects, but all aspects. We promise that any drugs we release in the future will be fully tested and based on unique findings we have found. That is why you should support The Xilas Syndicate all the way!”\*

Numerous comments on Instantkeepup range from “I see your point,” to “I never thought I’d see the day where such intelligent, well-thought discoveries are made.”

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### Sequence 15

Sequence of worldwide news covering the newest internet trend The Xilas Syndicate ending with Tyche City’s number 1 show “What’s happening Jacqueline”.

\*Cheesy news intro music playing\* The camera pans to a woman sitting in the news anchor seat with a big neon green screen logo that says “What’s happening Jacqueline”.

JACQUELINE STEVENS

Welcome dear viewers to “What’s Happening Jacqueline”. It's 9 p.m. and it's time for today’s top story to sweep the nation.

The screen turns to screenshots of The Xilas Syndicate’s logo and posts.

JACQUELINE STEVENS

You may have heard your kids saying it or the local punks spraying their name across buildings. The Xilas Syndicate is what they call themselves and according to their own words “they are here to shake up the status-quo”. So far the group’s motives are largely unknown and their popularity is largely down to an anti-corporation stance. Schools have reported their young teens have begun speaking a dangerous level of anti-capitalist rhetoric. Whether The Xilas Syndicate is a challenge to the great corporations of the world and a reign of new age socialism or a cheap trick meant to squeeze out the grievances of the youth. Time will tell. Plus, I’d like to ask this to my mate, Brian. So Brian, how would you feel if a bunch of people were all of a sudden pitching new types of drugs on the day we interview The Xilas Syndicate?

BRIAN BRIANI

We’d probably be overbooked! Our news outlet would probably even be drugged out from all of the stories we may have to cover!

\*They both laugh out loud\*

### Sequence 16

MONICA ZABU

\*Grabs watermelon to eat from the fridge then looks at her phone\*

\*Continually scrolls on Instantkeepup and comes across The Xilas Syndicate online campaign\*

\*Joins the online group instantly\*

\*A day later, sees Leon’s post about wanting someone with tech skills to join The Xilas Syndicate\*

\*Has an aha moment\*

Monica goes on to type the following: “Hi Leon, Prudence and Arham. May I introduce myself? My name is Monica Zabu, I’ve been reading through your group posts and I see that you’re looking for someone with superior technical skills. Right here is the gal you’re looking for. I’ve had immense computer knowledge ever since my freshman high school year, and I’d be super happy to bring what I can to the table. I’ve also been a firm believer in social change, and feel that taking part in this mission would be a great opportunity to do so. I would like to meet with you all at Tyche City Park as soon as possible to discuss further what we can do. I know we’ll all rock it if we do this together! I’m so sure!

\*Monica then runs to Lulu Choi’s house next door\*. Lulu is Monica’s best friend.

MONICA ZABU

\*Rings doorbell at least three times as Lulu is distracted with her cat\* Open up, you piece of…

LULU CHOI

Whoa.. is everything okay, Mon?

MONICA ZABU

Lulu! So glad you finally answered! You’re not going to believe this. Here I am at home, feeling hopeless with no direction after school nearly ruined my life, and I came across a little something… that you know… I would like your opinion. Maybe even join me with this?

LULU CHOI

Go on.

MONICA ZABU

Online, I found a group where this rad trio is saving the world to take over harmful drugs based on highly out-of-this-world findings based on their experiences as science students. We must do our part!

LULU CHOI

Whoa..whoa..slow down chick. You know I’m no scientist. My dance instructor, Ariana Dougenis, probably won’t like me as much anymore if I decide to pursue sciences instead of dancing.

MONICA ZABU

Oh come on, girl, find a wide range of hobbies, will ya? This will be fun. We will make an absolutely huge difference in the world if we join The Xilas Syndicate. I just know it! Remember when we were in first grade, and you were convinced that you could never go past the third monkey bar? That was full of baloney, and you’ve always trusted me since that day. Let’s just do this, shall we?

LULU CHOI

Okay then. It’s better to try than not to. \*Looks at the group briefly\* You may be on to something, Mon. Let’s roll!

MONICA ZABU

\*Sends another message\* My best friend Lulu Choi, who is not much of a scientist or even has much technical aptitude, is interested in joining. Would you be willing to accept her as well? She just lives next door to me, so it’s as easy for her to meet up as it is for me.\*

### 

### Sequence 17

At Tyche City Public Library, a young reporter feverishly types on his laptop. His glasses reflect the countless words bouncing off his screen, and his blue sweatshirt is long and cozily covering most of his hand. He takes a small break to sip coffee, he decides to scroll through the latest news at National Editorial and sees the top story is in regards to The Xilas Syndicate. As he reads more he has a eureka moment.

MILES RICARD

Score.

### Sequence 18

ARNOLD SHEPARD

Rodrigo, remember before I joined Sonhe INC? I was showering for so long to calm down my anxiety, that it dried my skin so badly that even a cool summer breeze could burn it?

RODRIGO SONHE

Yes, yes Arnold, I remember, but I don’t care anymore. You’re fine thanks to the powerful Circus drug. Onto the next task, which is pitching the new drug.

ARNOLD SHEPARD

I mixed one of our initial Circus products with Jitterjitter beer. It made me puke like crazy to the point of falling. I was limping for at least a few days, but it was absolutely darn worth it.

RODRIGO SONHE

As long as you work twice as hard as you usually do, we can make Circus X even more impressive. Maybe people will also get sick less often from our drugs if we just focus, focus, focus. Maybe we won’t get the Pique or Walters treatment again.

ARNOLD SHEPARD

You know I have mad respect for you non-stop, my dude. I will focus, focus, focus. Sonhe INC. will kiss any other pharma companies goodbye.

RODRIGO SONHE

\*Rodrigo looks at his laptop carefully as he’s on break\*

Holy moly \*He says in anger\*!

ARNOLD SHEPARD

Roddie, what’s going on?

RODRIGO SONHE

These punk rookie scientists are trying to take over our drug and pharma industry, and it seems to be working for them, too. They’re even convinced that people can live for over 100 years if they take Xilas instead of our provenly good stuff.

ARNOLD SHEPARD

People used Xilas back in the day when they were high during the Depression, right? And it only made them engage in more problematic behaviours, such as violent crimes that would indeed shorten lifespans?

RODRIGO SONHE

Exactly. This fairy tale stuff they post simply ain’t true.

ARNOLD SHEPARD

What do you plan to do about it?

RODRIGO SONHE

If it gets real bad, host a BBQ outside their new office, which is apparently the apartment they live in at the moment.

ARNOLD SHEPARD

But why? I’m clueless about your motives sometimes. I remember last year when you prompted us to fight another competitor. I didn’t have the slightest clue what was going on, and neither did your brother. I also think you can go too far sometimes, even though I respect you 100%.

RODRIGO SONHE

Because, these people need to know that WE are the ones with real experience and power, not them.

## Episode 3

### Sequence 19

*Rodrigo slams the door as he returns home.*

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*Dude! You seem to be in a mood! Anything I can do to help?*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Antonio, we must talk. These darn phony scientist kids are trying to ruin our business.*

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*Oh you mean, the Xilas, or whatever it’s called that I saw on the news?*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Exactly. The Xilas Syndicate. I know we don’t use social media much, but you should look at some of their posts. Their findings are based on pure speculation. Pure speculation. They’re students who probably can’t always do their laundry properly, let alone discover a real chemical solution.*

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*Rod, you know Sonhe INC. has been superior for years. You shouldn’t be too worried.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*I’d believe we have potential if Arnold wasn’t useless and always going on about irrelevant stuff.*

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*Give the dude some slack. You know he’s had family issues with Jules in the past, right?*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*And that is why we have our next Circus product, which will cure all the stress in the world. Think about it, Antonio, Circus X, which I have decided to name this new drug, could even stop all of this stress and anger I’m experiencing. We want kids to do well in school without having their legs tremble over a long division problem. We want adults to present on video calls to their strict bosses without feeling like a stroke is about to come on. I know I may seem harsh, but I want to do what’s best for this world.*

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*No no, dude. I know you have the answers. We’re going to kick The Xilas Syndicate to the curb, then celebrate by hopefully adding an even bigger expansion to this mansion. Any ideas? How about an adult jungle gym with zipliners? We can do this. You just need to calm down and not take life so…*

*\*Rodrigo throws an expensive china his mother bought on the ground, shuddering it completely\**

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*Are you serious? Are you serious? \*Screams angrily\* If this was mom 20 years ago, she’d send you to an institution! Looks like you need a good dose of Circus X.*

*\*There is a long pause between the brothers. Finally, Antonio speaks\**

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*Maybe you need to see Jane to calm yourself.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Whatever. \*Takes elevator to top floor anyway\**

*\*As the elevator grows closer he becomes calmer, this place is not one for anger, simply pain\**

*\*His little sister Jane is laying motionless hooked up to wires and IV drops, in a coma. Rodrigo can barely look at his younger sister and bites his lip to the point of bleeding. He clutches the cold bed sheet and thinks how different things would be with her around\**

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Jane,* I’ll always be here for you, I promise you won’t be alone much longer. \*In a quiet, painful voice\*

### 

### Sequence 20

LEON VELASCO

Arham, Prudence, we have a few requests of potential new The Xilas Syndicate members I’d like to review together.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Sure thing!

ARHAM ABADI

Let me guess, Sonhe supporters in disguise?

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Pessimist much?

LEON VELASCO

Please, I don’t want another episode. First off, we have Monica Zabu, who has experience in tech and wants to help our team in that area. She also wants to invite her friend, Lulu Choi, to this group

\*Crew reads her messages\*

PRUDENCE BARRETT

This is exactly what we’re looking for! I like this lady already! I have a feeling we’ll get along great.

ARHAM ABADI

I don’t know. She seems like the type of person who’s insincere and desperate for money. Therefore, only wants to use us for her own advantage.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

And why would you say that?

LEON VELASCO

Yeah, she doesn’t seem half as bad as you think. Maybe, I’ll meet her myself if not everyone is comfortable taking things too fast just yet, just to be sure we will all be on the same page with this thing.

ARHAM ABADI

Meeting her on your own? Is this a date? I think you’re going too far with your motives.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

No Arham, this is exactly what I think Leon should do. I know Leon’s taking this all super seriously and that if any candidate seems not right in the head, he’ll cancel them out.

LEON VELASCO

Totally! If I don’t like her much, I’ll just move on to another potential candidate. That’s how businesses work in recruiting and hiring processes, even though we’re not official, yet.

ARHAM ABADI

What about the other request?

LEON VELASCO

Miles Ricard. He’s a recent college journalism graduate from Limehurst College who wants to network and create lots of digital content to help us get the word out.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

This is going perfectly, you guys.

ARHAM ABADI

We might as well play it by ear.

LEON VELASCO

That’s the attitude I like to witness!

### 

### Sequence 21

On the way to Tyche City Park, Leon texts Monica, “I’m going to mask myself to protect my identity if that is okay with you?” Monica texts, “I’m cool any way!”

LEON VELASCO

Monica Zabu!

MONICA ZABU

Leon Velasco!

\*They both look at each other with prolonged eye contact because there is an obvious attraction there\*

LEON VELASCO

So, uh, how’s life?

MONICA ZABU

Better, now that I have this potential group to get my life together. You see, I’ve had a hard life and was going through such a tough time recently. This is such a life changer.

LEON VELASCO

We’re so incredibly glad. You’ll find our group to be supportive with lots of good times.

MONICA ZABU

What are your other two mates like?

LEON VELASCO

Prudence, while some may think she has a twisted sense of humour at times, is actually a down-to-earth, outgoing, hip, fun-loving woman who knows when to be serious. I think you two might have a lot in common. Arham is a good guy. He’s intelligent and generally friendly. You sometimes have to be careful about what you say to him, but he means well.

MONICA ZABU

Thanks for letting me know what to expect. You seem like a great person..yourself.

LEON VELASCO

It’s the science spark in me that really keeps me going!

\*They both laugh\*

### 

### Sequence 22

*Leon, Prudence, Arham, Monica, Lulu and Miles meet by Tyche’s City landmark statue and discuss everything to find common bonds to further develop their mission.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*It’s amazing to have us all meet in person! Monica, Lulu, and Miles thank you again for requesting to join and sharing your expertise.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*It definitely helps to have more group members to make it more diverse!*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*And to help the message get out faster and more effectively!*

*MILES RICARD*

*It can’t be done without a reporter who has covered not only science-related stories but politics, law, education and you name it \*Says with a chuckle\*.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*I have a story I want to share, which I hope none of you will harshly judge me on.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Oh, Monica, you know that prof deserved what he got and that in the end, you ended up somewhere better than a plain university computer science class.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Okay, here goes. Months ago, I had a professor named Harold Duney. He looked around 65-ish, I’d say. Anyway, most of my other profs were chill, but this guy, ugh. He had the most condescending attitude ever. Always looking for mistakes to bully his students on. He would scream at me and lecture me for being two minutes late, and he lost his temper at me for not meeting a due date when my grandfather was in a serious emergency, which nearly got me to the maximum grieving point. Harold would censor my papers, which was relatively understandable, but still. My university friends could see that I wasn’t myself when around this prof. They hated him, too. My friend Kayla dared me to spray paint “Harold Gooney is a fascist” on the wall outside the campus doors. I did so, thinking that no university staff was watching nor would they ever find out it was me. This other old guy, who I swear looked like he could’ve been Gooney’s brother, caught me right away, completely out of nowhere and demanded my student ID. I refused. But, not even a day later, security and other staff figured it was me, and I got expelled. I was lonely for a while with no direction, but here I am now, at The Xilas Syndicate.*

*MILES RICARD*

*That’s quite a story. I’d say it served him right.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*I probably would’ve done the same thing.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Just promise you won’t do anything like that to any of us, haha.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*This made my day, Monica. Lulu, what about you? Anything exciting?*

*LULU CHOI*

*Admittedly, my out-of-high school life has been nowhere near as dramatic as Monica’s, but I still have an interesting story that may inspire you all. You see, I’m no scientist. I’m actually more into the arts, especially dancing. A few years ago, I saw all these women more experienced than me seemingly have more ambition. I felt discouraged, but Ariana Dougenis, my dance instructor, changed my life for the better. She is a super strict, but caring choreographer. I could tell she saw potential in me right away. She helped me learn even the most subtle foot taps I previously had difficulty with in such a short time. The difference was like day and night. I couldn’t believe it. Looking back, Ariana definitely played a part in helping me believe that I could put my mind to anything, including making a difference in a subject area I didn’t have much interest in before with this group. How about I sing and dance at one of my group’s shows in tribute to our mission once we accomplish everything? \*Lulu laughs\**

*MONICA ZABU*

*They would love it!*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Ariana reminds me so much of inspirational figures in my life, including the ones who helped me start this mission in the first place. Such as professor Peter Lowenski.*

*\*Prudence nods her head\**

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Everyone needs super inspirational figures at some point in their lives.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*And they can’t just be inspirational, they should be Leon brainiacs!*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Hey, easy there!*

*MILES RICARD*

*Monica the computer whiz, Lulu the arts girl, me the journalist, and the other three as scientists, what a group! We can all make this work! One of our promotions should definitely have Lulu dancing and singing in a music video! \*Says jokingly\**

*LULU CHOI*

*I ain’t that camera-friendly yet. \*Laughs\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*Of course, but maybe we should do that once we grow more followers.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*In the end, what matters the most, is that Rodrigo Sonhe’s crew will literally be a circus once we kick butt.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Rodrigo the clown!*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Haha. And that underling of his could be an elephant.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Nah. How about Arnold “Sheep”ard the pet sheep? He’s quite one figuratively. Maybe Antonio can be the elephant.*

*\*Everyone laughs\**

### 

### Sequence 23

RODRIGO SONHE

Arnold, good to see you’re in a good mood \*In a slight insincere manner\*. I’d take it that wife Jules is happier?

ARNOLD SHEPARD

Sort of. She’ll be even happier once she tries this new drug. I’m even more excited about my golf tournament. The team me and my buddy Doug will face is like the golf version of The Xilas Syndicate. No real experience whatsoever.

\*They both laugh\*

ARNOLD SHEPARD

But I’m also ecstatic about Circus X because if plain Circus made me heal fast, so will this chemical imbalance buster.

RODRIGO SONHE

I call it a destroyer, not a buster.

ARNOLD SHEPARD

It will certainly help Jules. Just the other day, she had a drunken panic attack, screaming at me at 4 a.m. while I was sleeping because she thought we were at our trailer and she wanted me to turn the light on to go to the bathroom. I was like “Lady, we’re at home. The master ensuite is literally only a few feet away. You can go to the washroom yourself”

RODRIGO SONHE

Arnold, please, get to work! This is not the time for childish blabbering!

ANTONIO SONHE

Rodrigo, Arnold, the basics are about ready. Come check them out.

ARNOLD SHEPARD

Okay, Antonio.

\*Both Rodrigo and Arnold walk over\*

### 

### Sequence 24

*Miles, Lulu, and Monica are huddled at the apartment watching the newest episode of “Bliss” a show Lulu especially loves. In the middle of a specifically tense sense, the commercials hit. Frustrating Lulu.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Oh noooo!! I hate when they do that.*

*\*Lulu starts hitting the pillow jokingly. A commercial comes on about a new Circus product (Circus X) that becomes a big enough hit with the general public that all six heroes-to-be are feeling hopeless\**

*MONICA ZABU*

*Miles, look up if it's trending.*

*MILES RICARD*

*It’s #1 on worldwide trends.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Oh-oh, that’s not good. Wake up the rest of the group.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Hey sleepyheads rise and shine! Demons INC. is causing trouble again.*

*The rest of the group gets up from their sleep and comes to the living room, where they begin discussing the situation.*

### 

### Sequence 25

### 

Minutes later there is a knock on the door. Prudence runs to the door and opens it without a care.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Welcome welcome mon ami.

\*Suddenly her face is wiped off her smile. A group of masked men kidnaps The Xilas Syndicate and knocks them out with sedative drugs/needles to make them unconscious\*

### Sequence 25.5

The kidnappers bring The Xilas Syndicate to an unknown island. Once the crew becomes conscious in a comfortable and spacious room, Billionaire Adrian Mensah introduces himself.

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Well if it isn’t The Xilas Syndicate. I must apologize for the way you’ve arrived here, you must know I’m a big fan.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Who are you? Where are we?*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Oh, how rude of me, please excuse me, Mr. Velasco.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*How do you know my name? How did you find our base?*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*My name is Adrian Mensah. You may have heard of me or maybe not? This is my island better known as “Mensah Island” by some. I’ve brought you here because I have an offer for you,*

*\*Nobody answers him\**

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Very well — I guess I should start off with a juicer angle. Vanilon it’s an interesting place, right?*

*The whole Syndicate looks indifferently except for Leon who becomes nervous.*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Ah, Mr.Velasco you understand, don’t you? You’re looking to grow Xilas on Vanilon right?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*How do you know that?*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Don’t you worry about that Mr.Velasco, let’s just say you’re not the only one who conducts research.*

*\*Leon looks on in silence contemplating just how much this man knows. For a moment he thinks of Peter, was Adrian responsible? The thought passes him just as quickly as it came\**

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Syndicate! Let me show you something, you may think of me as a detached billionaire but we are more similar than you think.*

*Footage of an old report plays on the big screen. The report mentions Adrian’s history with Sonhe INC. and how he was ousted from the company by a group of insiders that turned against him. At the time of the report, Mensah is on the brink of bankruptcy. He’s interviewed outside Sonhe INC. where he says he was ousted thanks to his outspoken nature and refusal to go along with the “company politics” he vows this won’t be the last of Adrian Mensah as he gets into his car.*

### Sequence 26

\*As the report finishes, Leon’s phone suddenly rings\*

LEON VELASCO

Hello.

JACQUELINE STEVENS

Is this Leon Velasco?

LEON VELASCO

It is.

JACQUELINE STEVENS

Hi Leon, you may recognize me from “What’s Happening Jacqueline?”, one of the area’s most spectacular news outlets. We’d like to request an interview for as soon as possible about your mission.

LEON VELASCO

I’ll think about it and get back to you.

JACQUELINE STEVENS

Great, thank you.

\*Call ends\*

ADRIAN MENSAH

Go for it, Leon. The world needs your words.

LEON VELASCO

I’m pretty sure Jacqueline Stevens is connected to Sonhe INC., so I’m going to have to pass on this one. Fame is nice, but we have to be at least a little selective about who we associate with.

ADRIAN MENSAH

I get what you’re saying.

LEON VELASCO

\*Calls Jacqueline\* Hi Ms. Stevens, I don’t feel like we’re quite ready for an interview yet.

JACQUELINE STEVENS

What, why?

LEON VELASCO

You see, to my knowledge, you associate with Sonhe INC. and Circus. We at The Xilas Syndicate do not support Sonhe INC. in any way.

JACQUELINE STEVENS

How dare you! I could tell you’re hiding something else. I can absolutely tell. Goodbye and we mean it. \*Hangs up abruptly\*

\*Leon looks at his friends with a “What the” look on his face\*

### 

### Sequence 27

*The hate campaign against The Xilas Syndicate starts with the smearing of the group’s online activities such as inflammatory old social media posts that were politically expressive against corporations and certain politicians who voted on a bill that was in support of anti-environment and sabotaging natural medicine policies.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*“Down with the system” and “This is why old fossil politicians should die”. Are these the statements of responsibility “world savers”? Dear viewers, how such a combative group of “radical leftists” can be trusted to carry out such a big operation that can change society? I have no idea. Also, what’s the deal with the “anonymous” status, since when did we start taking orders from faceless people? But I’ll admit it's convenient, tear down society through the promotion of chaos and dangerous ideologies and escape with their identities intact.*

### Sequence 28

*A grizzled bearded Professor Lowenski now finds himself fleeing to Hwarang to escape danger to his life because he’s had too many people going after him since getting fired from his job. His refusal to give up Leon or the research has made Lowenski a target of many powerful people and on this alleyway, in Hwarang a hired assassin is about to end it all. One silenced pistol shot to the head is all it takes, Peter Lowenski is dead.*

*Peter Lowenski: \*Talks to himself as no one else is around\* Maybe looking extensively into Xilas wasn’t such a good idea after.. \*Pistol shoots at him\**

## Episode 4

### Sequence 29

*After an initial period of hesitancy and reserved tension, the crew decides to let loose after an impassioned appeal from Lulu to enjoy these luxuries for all their worth. Monica, Prudence, Lulu and Miles spend the day lounging around the island and having fun with massages, the waterpark and eating quality food. The water park has at least 10 slides including one that is over 100 feet tall.*

*MILES RICARD*

*Whoah, that is the coolest waterslide I’ve been on! I’ve never been on one with a 100-foot-plus drop.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Come get massages with us!*

*\*Lulu and Monica consume protein shakes from a nearby stand\**

*\*An unnamed massage person at the park then gives the four massages\* (This sequence has very quick three-second scenes of them each getting messages)*

*Leon and Arham are much more reserved, preferring to keep themselves on high alert..they sit by the sea, drinking. Since Adrian enjoys Italian food, a lot of it is Greek pasta and pizza and Italian-inspired beers. At one point, Leon and Arham see a guy who looks like Rodrigo flying by. They freak out, but it’s a false alarm.*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*I want you both to try some of my favourites at the food stand Lulu and Monica were just at. Greek pasta and pizza. You see, I ain’t Italian, as I’m of Ghanaian descent, but I’ve always loved Italian food growing up, hence why they’re on the menu. A childhood friend inspired me to like the stuff.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*I never thought olives and fettuccine could go well together.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*It beats coffee chains selling pizza!*

*\*They all laugh\**

*ARHAM ABADI*

*What’s your favourite beer from here?*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Anything with no Circus in it, of course.*

*\*They all laugh again\**

*Suddenly, a man flies by in a helicopter. Leon and Arham freak out.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*RODRIGO! RUN!*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Haha, it’s not Rodrigo. It’s just someone who looks like a nicer clone.*

### Sequence 30

*The grand hall of this hulking mansion is one straight out of Versailles, a picturesque palace. The crew is stunned and overwhelmed standing timidly as one of Adrian’s maids tells them to walk into the dining room to join him for dinner.*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*My favourite Syndicate! Welcome!*

*\*The group timidly wordlessly greet him\**

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Please dig in! My chefs just made this fresh batch a few minutes ago. I can eat Italian food all day so you better hurry.*

*He laughs with a sound similar to a firecracker being shot into a river. The group grabs plates and begins to eat crazily. Arham and Prudence’s plates are so overwhelmed that it almost spills on the floor. Lulu is seen stuffing her face with lasagna and a bowl of lemon shrimps. Monica and Miles are a bit more controlled than the rest but like the others have a look of happiness as they stuff their mouths. Adrian watches on with a smile that has many meanings.*

*\*Suddenly, Leon breaks the lone sound of plates and chewing\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*So Adrian we appreciate the meals but you’ve yet to tell us who you knew who we were?*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Mr. Velasco, you’ve yet to touch your plate? Is the food not to your liking?*

*\*Leon stares at him in silence, making Adrian retreat into seriousness\**

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*I’m one of the most powerful men in the world with an unlimited pool of contacts in the tech industry. Finding you was not that difficult, a VPNN isn’t enough to hide dear Leon.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*So what do you really want?*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*It’s simple, you scratch my back and I scratch yours. I’m looking to send you to Vanilon in return for exclusive corporate rights to the group. I have all the technology and experts to get you ready for this.*

*\*Adrian suddenly motions to his maid\**

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Rebecca, tell Elias to start the projector.*

*The maid Rebecca nods and goes off to do as Adrian orders. A few seconds later the room goes black and a light begins to show a presentation. All the technology needed for the trip is shown with detailed explanations. The team is especially blown away by the Hyperbolic Enclosure, a technology that allows training to be completed quicker than the typical two years. The presentation goes on to talk about the stages of accessing space stations, using vehicles, becoming familiar with the equipment, and having some training outside the station.*

*The presentation ends and eventually, they meet the experienced astronauts that would guide them to Vanilon, including Adrian’s friend Theo Dimitri.*

### Sequence 31

Adrian thanks the astronauts and tells them and everyone else to exit besides The Syndicate.

ADRIAN MENSAH

So Syndicate the choice is on the table.

The group leaves the room and begins to discuss among themselves.

LULU CHOI

I think we should do it guys. How many opportunities will we get to go to space for free?

MONICA ZABU

It’s definitely not free Lulu, we’d be selling our souls.

ARHAM ABADI

I agree with Monica, it doesn’t feel right. We’d be betraying our people.

MILES RICARD

But we have to look at the bigger picture, this is a golden opportunity to save humanity. This is bigger than petty pride.

MONICA ZABU

Petty pride? What on Earth do you mean by that?

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Mika, calm down, you know what he meant. We need this opportunity for our mission.

*Leon is undecided but is convinced by the arguments of Monica and Arham.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*I can’t give away the rights of the group, I just can’t. How can we justify this to our followers?*

*The door opens and Adrian comes out. He tells them to take his time to decide.*

### Sequence 32

*The next day Miles, looking through his phone, comes across Hwarang News in horror once he recognizes the name Peter Lowenski.*

*MILES RICARD*

*Oh..my..word!*

*\*Runs over to Monica, Lulu and Prudence\**

*MILES RICARD*

*You’re not going to believe this. Guys, remember the person Leon brought up earlier?*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Do you mean Rodrigo’s brother Antonio?*

*MILES RICARD*

*No, Peter Lowenski.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Did he discover something unique we need to be on top of? I haven’t even seen him since that class where Leon, Arham and I planned to meet at an Arcadia nightclub.*

*MILES RICARD*

*No. I’d hate to tell you all this, and Monica, since you seem to be good at this kind of stuff, you should maybe talk about it with Leon in private. Peter was in China, trying to get away from all of the madness. So many people went after him for his unverified findings, that an assassin shot him.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*He’s dead? \*Sobs\**

*MILES RICARD*

*Unfortunately, yes.*

*LULU CHOI*

*How do we go about this now?*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Now, I’m in shock. I should maybe take Leon out for ice cream later today to talk about it privately.*

*MILES RICARD*

*Let’s all take time to grieve. We’ll get through this and we’ll be stronger in the end.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Since this island has basically everything, there will hopefully be grief counsellors available.*

### 

### Sequence 33

MONICA ZABU

We need to talk about something but I don’t want too many people to hear.

LEON VELASCO

\*Hopes that Monica confesses a crush but doesn’t say anything\* I’m really excited about Adrian’s offer, aren’t you? We’ll have fun together!

MONICA ZABU

We need to get ice cream. This isn’t the time for excitement.

LEON VELASCO

I’ve had enough sugar today. Can’t we just stay here?

MONICA ZABU

Just come with me.

\*After Leon and Monica finish their ice cream, Monica finally tells Leon\*

MONICA ZABU

Leon, earlier today, we were having fun at the water park. Miles as his journalistic self, looking at a variety of news outlets, learned of something shocking.

LEON VELASCO

What is it? Was Rodrigo feeding giraffes Circus and then kissing them as a pathetic strategy to test the drug?

MONICA ZABU

No, you see, your poor prof Peter had so many people going after him, that once he was in Hwarang, an assassin went after him. He passed.

LEON VELASCO

\*In such horrific, unspeakable shock that we could barely move an inch for 10 seconds, then cries with an unnerving gust of grief and feels as if his ice cream will come back up any second\* This..can’t..be..real.

\*Monica pulls out her phone to show him\*

LEON VELASCO

This isn’t happening. This just isn’t. I can’t do anything.

\*Monica gives Leon a lengthy hug as tears roll down her face, too\*

### 

### Sequence 34

*Everyone tries to comfort Leon as he is grieving. He hasn’t been able to move much aside from thinking of Peter and feeling guilt over his professor’s death. He tries to get his mind off it by participating in group daily Wordle and Heardle challenges and watching CooCoo videos in his room but nothing succeeds.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Leon, my dear friend, I know it’s very, very upsetting, but we’ll come out stronger in the end.*

*MILES RICARD*

*I remember when I lost a teacher I had to sudden death. I will never forget how that felt.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Also, remember what Phil the moving truck driver said about how the only thing to regret in life is to hold things back?*

*LULU CHOI*

*Remember how discouraged I felt when I first started dancing?*

*MONICA ZABU*

*And how my life was a mess after the graffiti incident?*

*\*Leon is still in tears\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*I still don’t know if I’m motivated enough to do the space mission with all this.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*I fully understand. Here’s one way I look at it, which might help, these extreme events may push you to do this mission even more.*

*MILES RICARD*

*Yeah. We have Sonhe INC. all over the media doing no good, and Jacqueline Stevens using a hate campaign against us. We can’t change the past, but we can change the future. We must stop our haters and competitors in any way we can.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Even if it’s all just small steps, we can get through this. We will reinform the public.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*And show them who’s boss.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Well, okay..*

*\*Everyone happily shakes hands and hugs Leon\*  
\*Adrian arrives\**

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*I’m so glad you’re still all in for the space mission. I know this will be an exceptional experience for you all. Peter would be so proud.*

*\*Everyone happily nods their heads and agrees\**

*\*Quick scenes of space training take place\**

### Sequence 35

*Jacqueline is discussing with her team the latest slump in viewership the show is experiencing.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*So team — what the heck is going on?*

*BRIAN BRIANI*

*Well, Ms. Stevens, the viewership has been plummeting for the last month. According to our research, viewers don’t trust us to deliver hard-hitting news. Your recent indifference to The Xilas Syndicate has also made investors second guess this show’s famously centrist reputation.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*So what is it, go harder on those brats? Is that it?*

*BRIAN BRIANI*

*Not just them, we gotta step up the controversial opinions. Animal rights, universal healthcare, class wars, and police funding. You gotta tackle them all.*

*\*Suddenly, her assistant, Nicholas Pappas, tells her there’s a call coming through for her and she tells him to put it on the monitor. Rodrigo comes on the screen with an air of confidence and everyone in the room becomes tense\**

*NICHOLAS PAPPAS*

*Jackie, you got a call. It seems to me like it’s Mr. Big Pharma again.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*Thanks, Nick. This shall be interesting.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Jacqueline baby what’s wrong? You look like you’ve seen a ghost.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*Mr.Sonhe to what do we owe the pleasure?*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*The pleasure? Well that’s this funny little thing, isn’t it? I’ll keep it simple Jack, this coverage you’re pulling simply isn’t up to the standards that we envisioned when we injected the largest investment in the history of media into your show. I want you to bury The Xilas Syndicate or else we’ll bury you.*

*The room is silent as Jacqueline rushingly agrees with what Rodrigo told her. He smiles and the screen goes black. A bee mysteriously made its way to the office, and Rodrigo swallows it after he says his words.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Oh good grief, I just swallowed a bee!*

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*How on Earth did a bee get here?*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Some dimwit must have let the door open too long.*

### 

### Sequence 36

*Hordes of people are passed out and experiencing withdrawal as Circus has become the newest hot drug on the street. Over time, the Circus Craze starts to take over as parents and loved ones become hopeless, unable to stop those around them from abusing the drug. In response to this, the mainstream media remains hushed while Stevens continued to rail against The Xilas Syndicate. Three mothers are by Tyche City Park talking about the harmful side effects of Circus with their children or spouses.*

*UNNAMED MOTHER*

*You see, my daughter has had severe migraines every day in the past week. This was never an issue prior to taking Circus.*

*UNNAMED MOTHER 2*

*My son used to go bowling every weekend. All of a sudden he lost interest. Like, what the heck?*

*UNNAMED MOTHER 3*

*I simply can’t get my husband to stop. Circus X is worse than Dropacco, and that’s really saying something. I taught middle school health for many years, so I know. There must be hidden motives behind these Circus crooks.*

*\*The other two mothers nod in agreement\**

*\*TV plays on building wall at Tyche City Park\**

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*The Xilas Syndicate is apparently planning a trip to space as hinted on their Instantkeepup page. Of course, many are skeptical as to whether they’ll make actual discoveries there. I mean, going to space is a big deal. Brian, if you wanted to make discoveries on a mission, would you do something as far-fetched as space to go for it and feel that you’ll succeed? Or would you rather look for concrete facts in the inside world by inquiring with actual humans?*

*BRIAN BRIANI*

*Space? Not at all. Again, a lot of what they gather on Xilas is speculation and based on few actual facts. First-hand experience on the planet is the most important.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*Very well said!*

### 

### Sequence 37

At Tyche City Central Square *Adrian gives a speech about the launch after a few months of not hearing anything about it. A crowd of people and camera crews are present.*

ADRIAN MENSAH

Friends and friends-to-be welcome. It is my pleasure to be here at our great Tyche City Central Square, a historic place. A place where activist Rudolph Gavins was killed after refusing to comply with the injustice of police violence, being the catalyst for major societal changes that have given minorities like me the chance to move up in the world. But it is also a place for technological advancement, figures such as Howie Lowett, Brenda Samson, and Eusebio Sanchez are technological innovators that have all spoken to the public at this very place. To have my heroes stand in this place before I is a joy I can’t describe. But today it’s not about me. Today ladies and gentlemen we advance, like the fish that crawled from the ocean we are ready for the next steps. Space exploration has been my life’s goal and today I can tell you we are doing more than simple exploration. We are no longer the timid passerbys of the universe, we are confronting and interacting with the galaxy, we are not bound to earth any longer and I Adrian Mensah with the help of The Xilas Syndicate are taking humanity to the next step of our evolution. Our people are dying on the street as corruption has taken a hold of all aspects of society. When I earned my fortune I knew I had a responsibility and now I am alongside the young group of revolutionaries to make a change. I will save humanity, one discovery at a time. Now please help me welcome the leader of The Xilas Syndicate.

Leon is wearing his signature mask that he wears each time he addresses the public but this time he’s a bit nervous so he clears his throat many times before coming to the mic.

LEON VELASCO

*Good afternoon Tyche City. I just want to say in spite of what people say, we really do have people’s best interests in mind. There’s been lots of evidence that people have experienced serious, severe side effects from Circus’ latest drug. I have followers message me daily on my page, several of whom are nurses, so I know this all isn’t made up. There is a serious health crisis going on. If we don’t take action soon, there will be too many unwanted health consequences. Coming from someone who has extensively studied chemistry and space science and has met numerous people in the field, the evidence is overwhelmingly clear that space has lots of Xilas and potential healing powers that we can bring back to Earth.* *Going to space will be no easy adventure, my bud Adrian here knows this, but with perseverance and focusing on goals not just daily, but for every breathing moment, it can be done. Will we survive space? We most likely will. We have a superior spaceship and the exceptional training we’ve gone through has made us prepared for anything that will be thrown at us. That is another message I’d like to give out: Be prepared for almost anything and know what to do when you may likely face especially harsh consequences.* It may seem weird to a lot of you. Our mission and our methods are unorthodox, they are strange and foreign to the older generations while being gimmicky and cheap to the younger generations. We’re unapologetic about our views, we don’t bend to anyone. This society is screwed…

\*The mic experiences a glitch\*

LEON VELASCO

Oh man, that was weird — anyway this society is to the pits. There is no way around it, there is no sugarcoating it. Sonhe INC. and all its cronies have poisoned the well, our brothers and sisters are strung out on the street dying. And society tells us to take it and smile. We at The Xilas Syndicate see through these games of propaganda. We see the answer is Xilas and we are going to space to claim humanity’s salvation. We believe in people, we believe in self-determination and most importantly we believe in the healing properties of the earth, not the latest untested pills. The Syndicate better make you sweat Sonhe INC. because this is a declaration, we aren’t scared, we are not backing down and your end is near.

The crowd erupts into a rapture, and chants of Xilas Xilas Xilas echo through the square as Leon walks off the stage.

### 

### Sequence 38

*The space mission becomes a hot topic among the public and becomes a huge cultural event. The festival has space-themed food shops, several fair rides, and live performances. The syndicate approach their spaceship while changing into their gear and final preparations. Meanwhile, Jacqueline discusses on her show if the group has the best interest of the people in mind while people are dying at record rates from addiction. Leon gives a motivational speech to the crew and as the engineers and astronauts give them their final instructions (This happens in a distance while Jacqueline is talking, so there is no dialogue for the instructions), the crew is set to go off into space.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*There is heavy controversy as to whether The Xilas Syndicate really has people’s best interest in mind, going to space while people are hospitalized and even dying at record rates due to addiction. It’s also not guaranteed that whatever The Xilas Syndicate comes back with will solve this current crisis in any way. In other news, some continue to blame Sonhe INC. for mental health changes because of Circus X, but there’s little evidence for a correlation. As the general public is aware, there are numerous drugs out there that could be playing a part, and they should not be so quick to blame Sonhe INC. Back to Adrian Mensah on his thoughts.*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Well, Jacqueline, despite your comments, I think we’re well-prepared and everything has been well thought-out. My Xilas friends, get ready for takeoff!*

*THEO DIMITRI*

*Alright, are the seats secured?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Secured!*

*THEO DIMITRI*

*Are all gears properly working?*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Sure thing!*

*THEO DIMITRI*

*And we are ready!*

*\*Scene changes to takeoff for five minutes later\**

## Episode 5

### Sequence 39

*Arham is nervous and Prudence is excited, as usual. The crew enjoy the smell of the fresh atmosphere after all the uncleanliness and drama at home. As they all enter space, their phones fly out of their pockets. They freak out, but the astronaut, Theo Dimitri, assures them that the shuttle is secure enough to keep all their belongings safe. Luckily, nothing breaks.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*I have a bad feeling about this.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*We’ll be okay \*Says in a slightly irritated tone\*. We had extensive training, dude. Leon, doesn’t this “air” seem so fresh compared to home?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*It sure does. This fresh atmosphere is already a sign that our findings were indeed accurate.*

*\*Phones suddenly fly out of pockets\**

*EVERYONE*

*AHHH! WHAT THE?*

*THEO DIMITRI*

*Hey, no worries. It’s just the gravity. Your phones will not break or fly out. Everything’s secured.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Thank goodness.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*As long as our phones didn’t hit something particularly rough.*

*MILES RICARD*

*I accidentally dropped my phone on the sidewalk dozens of times. Nothing happened.*

### 

### Sequence 40

*As their journey continues the crew spends most of their time being amazed at being in space and generally horsing around together, mostly laughing at Miles for not having enough paper to report on his findings in space and not bringing a charger to charge his 10% battery phone, while the astronauts focus on their work. It’s treated more as a gag than a super serious scene. But suddenly there is an undefined object getting closer to them. All games stop.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Look at the planets in the distance!*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*I never thought I’d see the day where I see all this for real!*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Miles, are you going to report on this?*

*MILES RICARD*

*I’d like to, Leon, but my phone is only at 10%.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Are you serious, Miles? For this day! Haha!*

*\*Everyone laughs hard\**

*LULU CHOI*

*And Miles’ report reads “I was too high to look after my phone, so I can actually report on my space experience!”*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Secretly high from a Circus X and Dropacco mixture!*

*\*Everyone laughs even harder\**

*ARHAM ABADI*

*What’s this?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Another spaceship!*

*MONICA ZABU*

*No no no please don’t crash! NOOO!*

*The astronauts become cautious while the Syndicate all attempts to see what’s going on. People start freaking out again only to be calmed down by the shouting of a surprisingly angry Arham, earning him praise from stressed-out astronauts. Before they know it the ship is completely swallowed into the hulking object that has now hovered above them. It’s a Mojaki spaceship and it teleports The Xilas Syndicates’ ship into their own. The crew passes out from the sudden lack of oxygen.*

*LULU CHOI*

*This can’t be happening! \*Shaking\**

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Even I'm freaking out! This can’t be real! \*Shaking\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*My parents aren’t going to like this! They did warn me! Peter wouldn’t like it, either! \*Cries uncontrollably\**

*MILES RICARD*

*This is the scariest moment of my life! \*Dry heaves\**

*MONICA ZABU*

*So much for a mission! \*Screams uncontrollably loud\**

*ARHAM ABADI*

*QUIET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! \*In his most angry, loud voice\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*Whoa, Arham.*

*THEO DIMITRI*

*Thank you, Arham! Guys, don’t be freaked out. Space crashes don’t happen that easily, as you can see, we’re simply being swallowed into another space shuttle. You’ll get to meet some new space friends.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Oh, that’s so cool!*

*LULU CHOI*

*I wonder if aliens are in there!*

*\*Everyone suddenly passes out from lack of oxygen\**

*They are awoken by a team of Mojaki travellers who speak to each other in a language close to the sound of dragonflies’ wings clattering. The crew is scared and confused.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*What is happening?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*A bunch of gibberish. It might be best to not respond to them.*

*THEO DIMITRI*

*They’re only completely harmless aliens who are happy to see you.*

*\*One of them looks at the crew with a warm, genuine smile\**

*\*They all smile back at him\**

### 

### Sequence 41

*The Xilas Syndicate spaceship is swallowed by one of the aliens, and an undefined group of aliens are seen hovering above the Syndicate’s passed-out bodies. As the group awakens they begin screaming in panic as it's their first interaction with an alien race. The aliens stare at them blankly and begin screaming back at them as they believe this to be a human greeting.*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*Humans, I greet you in one of your many languages. I believe you call it Norwegian?*

*UNNAMED MOJAKI*

*English my lord.*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*Yes, English that’s what I said.*

*They both stare at each other blankly until Hegro turns back to the Syndicate.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Are you going to eat our brains?*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*What?*

*LULU CHOI*

*Maybe harvesting our organs is your goal?*

*UNNAMED MOJAKI*

*How dare you accuse us of such crimes? In all of my 175 years, I’ve never heard such rubbish. What do you think we are? A bunch of savage Ocanis?*

*LULU CHOI*

*I’m sorry.*

*Lulu apologies without understanding a single thing.*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*Don’t apologize, humans, in our culture we never apologize — we simply learn to do better. Anyway, you must be all confused and we didn’t exactly start off on a strong foot. We are the Mojaki, the universe’s most advanced race. I’m Hegro, prince of the Mojaki and these two are my most trusted generals. We are exploring this portion of the galaxy checking for excessive waste dumping and stumbled upon your ship. We thought we could offer some help.*

*Leon finally gets the courage to speak.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*How did you detect us and why do you want to help us?*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*Well, your technology is rather ancient compared to the usual passerbys so we were instantly on alert and as far as help— we live for up to 300 years and are unaffected by death and disease. Interactions with humans have never been recorded, but we’d like to be the first.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Wait so you guys are pretty much gods?*

*The Mojaki laugh at Prudence’s question.*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*No, not at all although some would tell you we think we are. We are simply a people that believe in concepts such as the rights of the individual. On our planet, Helse, the weakest portion of our society is a reflection of the strongest. We realized we could not move forward with petty class systems. True advancement is only born from comfort, every individual has to be comfortable to create. So the necessities of every Mojaki are taken care of by the society as a whole. This has been the key to our health and peace as a people.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*What kind of technology did you use to extend lifespans?*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*With very little technology, we believed in the power of natural science.*

*Leon is amazed by the Mojaki and believes it’s a clear sign that Xilas on Earth instead of Circus will make people’s life spans much longer.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Sorry to interrupt the history lesson but how exactly do you plan to help us? Are you going to escort us to Vanilon?*

*\*The Mojaki are silent and become tense at the mention of Vanilon\**

*UNNAMED MOJAKI*

*Vanilon…..why would you dare go there?*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*No one has survived entering Vanilon, and if they do they disappear just as quickly. Another factor is the instability of your ship, it cannot reach Vanilon in a decent amount of time for humans. However, I can upgrade the ship if you agree to take me along.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Why do you want to come along?*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*I want to meet him — The Titan.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Okay, that’s a deal.*

### Sequence 42

*As Hegro begins to work on the ship he’s approached by Miles.*

*MILES RICARD*

*Prince Hegro, I was wondering if you had a few minutes?*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*Yeah sure, well your minutes are a lot shorter than mine so I’d hurry it up.*

*He laughs as Miles giggles awkwardly.*

*MILES RICARD*

*I was wondering if I could write about Helse when we get back from Vanilon. I was really inspired by your story.*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*If we survive Vanilon, then yes I think humanity should know what’s possible.*

*A few days pass by and the crew is gathered around the ship as Hegro and The Mojaki are all working on improving their ship.*

*LULU CHOI*

*I just can’t believe this. Aliens, advanced races, The Titan? Like who would believe any of this on earth?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*But Lulu, Jacqueline’s coverage of the event was noticed by many, the information will be credible because it comes from people who really went to space.*

*She continues chewing on her lollipop as she swings her legs. She’s laying down against the wall with her legs up, she closes one of her eyes as she puts out her fingers in front of her and makes the shape of a triangle around a star hovering close to her sight.*

*LULU CHOI*

*A star, a real star. Never seen one before.*

*Cuts to Hegro encircled by the Syndicate as he tells them lore about space and races.*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

The Great Elders are the rulers of the universe, They created the 4 original creations with their own characteristics The Ocani, Mojaki, Ume Kvinna and finally humanity. According to ancient Mojaki legend, the Elders made The Ocani with their blood, The Mojaki with their brains, The Ume Kvinna with their hearts, and humanity with their stomach. As history has passed on they’ve been uninvolved in the affairs of humanity and prefer to observe their more advanced creations in further pockets of the galaxy, none more so than The Ocani, a race of the greatest conquerors in history. The Titan is one of the three Great Elders but was banished by the other two for believing they should be more involved with humanity and share their great knowledge with their youngest offspring. When he was banished The Titan retreated to Vanilon where he made his home, protected by an immense mysterious power.

\*The crew sits in silence and hangs on to every word Hegro says\*

### 

### Sequence 42.5

*With Antonio as the lead, Sonhe INC.’s scientists are working on more Circus X production. In the middle of the loud sounds of machinery and calculations, Antonio sneaks off to an undisclosed port of the complex free from cameras and locks the door behind him.*

RODRIGO SONHE

Antonio, how are our new Circus X drugs coming along? We’re in big demand so it better be going quickly!

ANTONIO SONHE

You have nothing to worry about, promise.

ARNOLD SHEPARD

It’s all going smoothly.

\*Rodrigo walks away and clueless Arnold, distracted by a text from Jules, doesn’t initially notice that Antonio takes off\*

ARNOLD SHEPARD

Antonio, this ain’t washroom break soap experiment time. Where’d you go? \*Talks to himself\*

*\*In the middle of the loud sounds of machinery and calculations, Antonio sneaks off to an undisclosed port of the complex free from cameras and locks the door behind him. He ties a sling around his arm and shoots up on a stronger unreleased Circus X prototype, when taken through his veins the hit comes much faster and stronger but also increases the danger. He begins sweating heavily and closes his eyes while laying down against the wall. He breathes heavily as he says “Here I come Jane.” He keeps this a secret from Rodrigo\**

*ANTONIO SONHE  
Here I come, Jane. You won’t be alone much longer. \*Goes in Circus mode\**

### 

### Sequence 43

*Without the Syndicate’s presence on Earth, the propaganda against them is ramped up to new levels with coverage doxing where members potentially went to school and going as far as interviewing people with shady pasts and criminal histories claiming to be family members of the Syndicate.*

*UNNAMED FAMILY MEMBER OF THE SYNDICATE 1*

*Yeah, my brother was talking about being part of the Syndicate but I just didn’t understand how he was allowed to join with his first-degree murder charge. It showed me their morals were clearly not high. I even tried to join myself to see what it was all about but I was denied because I just wasn’t “committed enough” which was just code. I wasn't a misogynist communist bum sitting on the keyboard all day, I was fine with that.*

*UNNAMED FAMILY MEMBER OF THE SYNDICATE 2*

*I want my daughter back. I haven’t seen her for seven months. I think she might have joined these Xilas weirdos. For me, they are home soil terrorists, as simple as that.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*Those were the words of alleged family members of young folks led astray by The Syndicate of Lies or those who found a second home in its seedy criminal underbelly. Now you might be asking “Jacqueline quit being so hard on them?” Well tough luck, I mean folks we really got to ask ourselves while Tyche City and the world is burning from an unending laundry list of issues. The Xilas posse is going on vanity trips to space with the help of an egomaniac billionaire with a vendetta against the richest corporation in the history of the country. Sonhe INC. invests back into the country and creates endless jobs while Adrian Mensah and his Xilas cronies run off into space. We got problems back on earth buckos and it's time for people like you to stop tricking the good people of this country with your leftist fantasies.*

*Stevens stops shy of revealing their identities fearing the public backlash and her team being unable to crack the discovery. Suddenly the screen turns black and a flash of text is shown.*

*MYSTERIOUS SCREEN TEXT*

*“Time to herd the sheep, oh dear public why is it you are so easy to trick?*

*Simple words that’s all you need to turn against all that’s good*

*The Syndicate cannot speak, but don’t worry I will”*

*At that moment, a tied-up man screams in pain as he is electrocuted repeatedly. A harsh robotic voice tells him to keep quiet and jolts the camera towards himself. He’s wearing military armour and a mask with a snakehead design.*

*OWEN “THE SERPANT” BELL*

*“Little Jacqueline, if you want to keep marching forward with your lies, I’ll pick apart your toys one by one. The choice is yours.”*

*\*The screen turns black again as the public looks on in shock\**

### Sequence 44

*After a restless night and day, Jacqueline and her staff are shaken by the kidnapping of her intern by the masked snake man who authorities have been unable to locate. Petrified Jacqueline retreats to her apartment.*

*She takes a shower and while in a robe she drinks some wine. Suddenly her door unlocks and she hears footsteps towards her living room, she grabs her pistol from her purse and slowly walks towards the sound. She peeks over and sees nothing, relieved she turns around only to find Rodrigo behind her.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*You really need better security, Jack.*

*Jacqueline sits down in total fear.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Now I understand this is a sensitive situation but that crazy loonie is actually a blessing in disguise. We can use this extremist as another hit against The Syndicate.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*I’m just afraid this will only be provoking him further.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Look, Jack, I wasn’t really asking — just telling.*

### Sequence 45

*A group of men at a bar are discussing The Xilas Syndicate negatively, one man calls for their jailing and outing of their identity.*

*BAR MAN 1*

*Circus has changed my life for the better. I’d be devastated if Sonhe INC. goes out of business.*

*BAR MAN 2*

*That’s the problem with modern society. We too often rely on young, non-credible sources to solve our problems, and they often become a mess.*

*BAR MAN 3*

*I hope The Xilas Syndicate all either get destroyed by aliens or get arrested and have themselves identified to the public, so people can crash and invade their residences or parents’ houses.*

*A large protest gathers outside of What’s Happening Jacqueline HQs in support of the intern that’s been kidnapped. The burning of the Syndicate’s symbol takes place while they scream “Burn them all.” Formerly supportive organizations and online pages are all closed in light of the scandal.*

## Episode 6

### Sequence 46

*The Xilas Syndicate meet The Titan, who communicates telepathically, and although he is disgusted with what is happening on Earth, he has full faith in them. The Titan has always taken pity on humanity as masters of their own doom and always wished there would be a great catalyst to push them towards salvation. He sees The Xilas Syndicate as a symbol of this, specifically Leon. The Titan talks about their backstory and humanity story.*

*THE TITAN*

*HUMANS? HUMANS? HUMANS? MEETING ME!*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*It’s a good thing we can read your mind. But we mean no harm.*

*THE TITAN*

*What brings you all here?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*We’re on a serious mission to save the world. I don’t know what your space powers are like with seeing the world, but..*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*It’s gone to the dumps. People are exposing themselves to stuff that doesn't do any good.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*And we want to bring natural resources back to Earth, especially if Xilas.*

*THE TITAN*

*I do indeed see what’s going on. It’s disgusting beyond words. Just looking at the planet sends me into full panic mode. The only way I can recharge is the special naturals that Helse and especially Vanilon give me.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Do you live in Vanilon?*

*THE TITAN*

*I sure do. I can see we’re heading there right now. As for healing humanity, I have always wished there was a way to convince humans that they cause their own doom in this world. It’s not naturals that kill people early, it’s their own actions of taking garbage-filled stuff. My biggest wish is that there would be a great catalyst that could push humanity to salvation, to make life more like Vanilon. My borderline psychic abilities tell me that this group…what are you called?*

*EVERYONE*

*The Xilas Syndicate*

*THE TITAN*

*Thank you. The Xilas Syndicate, with this young man here..*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Leon \*Interrupts The Titan\*.*

*THE TITAN*

*Who planned all this, being a good example, is the perfect ingredient for healing humanity.*

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*Titan, you are right on. This is exactly what they want to do, and it’s amazing that you see the group as this.*

### Sequence 47

*The Titan takes only The Syndicate to a hidden path within his planet at the crack of dawn. The Titan tells them of how he built this planet for himself, by going on a mission of finding the most natural gases and dust possible to form outstandingly natural planet building blocks (By carefully looking at characteristics of neutral helium atoms) but despite all this, finds it a prison more than freedom from his enemies. Leon asks them where they are headed to. The Titan reminds him of the importance of the virtue of patience. Finally, they approach the secret they were searching for.*

*THE TITAN*

*Here’s the place you’ve been waiting for, Vanilon.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Holy crap!*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*I’ve never seen anything like this.*

*MILES RICARD*

*One of my report highlights!*

*LULU CHOI*

*Purple! My favourite colour!*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Best part of this trip for sure!*

*LEON VELASCO*

*So Titan, how was this planet built?*

*THE TITAN*

*I basically went on a painstaking mission that would probably reach the Outer Space record books. Of literally zillions of gases, dust, and planet building blocks, I had to find the most natural ones possible. Some were super rare and took years to find, but I did it. You also need to have a major, and I mean mind-blowing major knack for looking at helium atom traits to create such a planet.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Is it like an Earth version of Heaven?*

*THE TITAN*

*Surprisingly, far from it. Some of my enemies, known as the other two Great Elders, frequently visit and we barely agree on anything.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Like what?*

*THE TITAN*

*The other two, for instance, want to isolate us from the rest of the universe because they feel heavily superior to others, but I believe in sharing what we know with others to help the universe, including Earth, become a much better place than it is. You see, I’ve never liked most humans that much, but I’m willing to help them understand what needs to be done rather than avoid them at all costs.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*And that is why you are so generous to help us on this journey!*

*THE TITAN*

*Exactly! Here’s an even better moment you’ve been waiting for, about to come up!*

*\*The Titan buried the Orb of Healing in the deepest part of the fall to make sure it does not fall into the wrong hands. The Orb is the most powerful object in the universe able to overrule fate itself, which contains Xilas. Anyone who wields its great power is no longer limited by the laws of the universe. He turns to Leon and asks him how he found out about the orb and why he has been keeping it a secret\**

*THE TITAN*

*I buried a little something I want very few people to ever touch, but you guys are exceptions.*

*HEGRO*

*This is it..guys!*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Is it what I think it is?*

*MILES RICARD*

*The final thing we need to help save humanity?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*The Orb of Healing..I just know it!*

*THE TITAN*

*You are correct, sir. It’s the one and only Orb of Healing, placed in the deepest part of the fall.*

*\*Digs orb out\**

*LULU CHOI*

*What’s in it?*

*THE TITAN*

*It has enough properties to make it the most powerful object in the universe, first of all, and it contains tons and tons of Xilas.*

*\*Everyone jumps for joy\**

*So Leon, how did you know about the Orb of Healing prior to me introducing it?*

*\*In a flashback sequence Leon is tampering with equipment and notes in the lab when suddenly a sealed hidden file under Professor Lowenski’s desk drops on the ground. This file is not one that was included in the ones reported to the university as the seal was different and Leon realized this was something different from the usual. He opened it carefully and began reading the notes, they were unfinished equations on the connection between mythological legends, alien technology and human natural medicine. But the professor couldn’t piece it together — something Leon did once he cracked the code on the connecting answer being Xilas\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*It’s a long story, but one day in a chemistry lab full of adventures with my professor, the late Peter Lowenski, a sealed hidden file under Peter’s desk dropped to the ground. Me being a snoop at the time, I looked at it and was incredibly curious because it wasn’t packed with the ones he reports to the university. They were unfinished equations on the connection between mythological legends, alien technology and human natural medicine. Peter couldn’t figure it out despite knowing something was there, but when I asked myself “What could possibly connect to mythological legends, alien technology, and medicine so well, that could also sustain lifestyles such as what happens in the universe?” It hit me. Xilas was the answer and there was a healing orb buried somewhere that obviously hasn’t reached the Earth at any point.*

*THE TITAN*

*Holy cow! You are a genius! Why haven’t you shared this with many people?*

*\*After recounting all this to The Titan, he looks on nervously awaiting the wrath of the God, instead The Titan tells him he’s greatly impressed at his conclusions and tells him he’s the first human to have figured out this connection. He tells him he’s the one that he will entrust with a portion of the Orb of Healing’s power. A power that gives the wielder the tools to save humanity with the power of Xilas combined with the alien technology The Titan infused into it\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*I’ve tried, believe me, but of course, many humans are in their own little world and think a lot of it would be make-believe fairy tale stuff. People who think otherwise have been protesting against us like crazy, believe me. If you meet Sonhe INC., who uses Circus, for example, they do the same things over and over again and get the same negative results, because they simply haven’t figured stuff out. They don’t use common sense.*

*THE TITAN*

*You are the first human I have known of to have come up with this connection. With this, I proudly give you access to Orb of Healing power. With this orb, you can heal humanity with Xilas power combined with alien technology.*

*HEGRO*

*Thank me for some of this too, lol. We’re all heroes.*

*\*The Titan infuses the orb\**

### Sequence 47.5

*The Titan begins to train Leon on how to harness the Orb. Leon must build enough resistance in his body to intake the immense power that will flow through his veins. After an intense period of meditation and physical training. Leon awakens his enlightened form. His skin glows purple from the power of the orb and his eyes are a bright yellow. He can’t hold the form for long but before he lost it he was able to transfer a portion of his power into the rest of the Syndicate, everyone starts freaking out with excitement and fear. The Titan tells him that once the Orb deemed him worthy he was able to transfer his power to the others too.*

*THE TITAN*

*So Leon, in order to harness the Orb of Healing, your body must build enough resistance, perhaps by meditation and physical training. The kind you’ve probably never experienced much on Earth. It’s very intense. Once that happens, the power will flow through your veins.*

*\*Physically guides Leon\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*Oh boy, this is tiring! \*Exercises to gain body to support the orb\**

*THE TITAN*

*You can do it! The Gods all believe in you!*

*\*After several hours of exercising, things change\**

*Leon awakens his enlightened form. His skin glows purple from the power of the orb and his eyes are a bright yellow. He can’t hold the form for long but before he lost it he was able to transfer a portion of his power into the rest of the Syndicate, everyone starts freaking out with excitement and fear. Hegro took off at this point for a rest.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Oh wow, I’m purple and yellow and full of mystical powers! Look out, everyone! \*Suddenly loses form\**

*MONICA ZABU*

*What the?*

*LULU CHOI*

*Probably just a temporary power glitch.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*NO! \*Angrily says\**

*THE TITAN*

*Hey, relax, friend. You still have that power in you. Not only that, but you transferred it to the rest of the group.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*OH MY GOD! WE DID IT, GUYS!*

*\*Everyone cheers with unbelievable joy\**

*THE TITAN*

*Leon, the orb deemed you worthy, and therefore, you were able to transfer this power to the others.*

### 

### Sequence 48

*After the training is complete they return to the place Hegro is only to find him sleeping thanks to the lengthy sleep cycle of Mojaki being 5 days on average.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Hey guys, are we sure he’s not dead?*

*\*They erupt into quiet laughter\**

*THE TITAN*

*The Mojaki cannot be awakened from their slumber so feel free to act normally.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Hey I have an idea*

*\*Monica grabs a marker and begins drawing excessive mustaches on Hegro\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*(controlling his laughter)*

*Oh come on, that’s totally not cool.*

*Even The Titan begins to crack a slight grin while bemoaning the whole thing as childish human buffoonery. Finally, a few days later Hegro, The Titan and The Xilas Syndicate part ways, as the Syndicate tries to head home.*

### 

### Sequence 49

*Jacqueline reports on the latest breaking news involving the death of a 16-year-old*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*Tragic news today as 16-year-old Patricia Li’s death has rocked her community. Reports say Circus-X is responsible for the death while others say a mixture of alcohol and an overdose of Circus-X. Now we have witnesses, Lily Peterson and Tyravon Williams, join the show .*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*Lily, Tyravon thank you for joining us.*

*LILY PETERSON AND TYRAVON WILLIAMS*

*Thank you for having us.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*Now I understand it's a difficult time but what can you tell us about Patricia? What was your relationship with her?*

*LILY PETERSON*

*Patricia was our classmate.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*What has the reaction been among your classmates and friends to the shocking death of Patricia?*

*LILY PETERSON*

*We were at the party and kids usually drink a little and have fun but not a lot of people go that far as the reports are saying. Especially, Patricia, she was always studious and respectful, she would never do something like this, I mean everybody thought she would never do something like this.*

*TYRAVON WILLIAMS*

*I mean Circus-X has been taking out a lot of…*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*Tyravon, how do you think Patricia should be remembered?*

*She cuts him off before he could say anything more about Circus-X*

*TYRAVON WILLIAMS*

*Well, I think she should be remembered as a victim of circumstance. It was one bad night and she didn’t deserve to die. I heard she was complaining about a headache before she took Circu..*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*So sorry that’s all the time we have for today.*

*This report outrages the community and makes Sonhe INC.’s reputation go down a notch.*

### 

### Sequence 50

*As The Xilas Syndicate travels back to Earth they receive communication from Hegro via a relay that their presence has made quite the stir among the universe especially those who were hoping to wield the Orb for themselves. He tells them to be extra careful of what the future holds.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*I can’t believe we all have powers!*

*LEON VELASCO*

*What did I tell you? We would achieve this for sure!*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*What’s Happening Jackcrueline will have something interesting to report now!*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Harold Gooney better like this! Kayla will get such a kick out of me showing him who went to space!*

*LULU CHOI*

*I think all this gravity has inspired me with new moves to show Ariana!*

*MILES RICARD*

*This should all put Rodrigo’s crew to shame!*

*\*Relay calls on\**

*PRINCE HEGRO*

*The Xilas Syndicate, I have an important message for you. I’m proud that you were able to gain orb healing powers. There has been controversy among the alien races over you guys now having powers. Many races, particularly, the other two Great Elders and the Ocani were hoping for the orbs themselves. Be careful about what the future may hold.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Okay, thank you. \*Call ends\* Well we have the powers, so it’s too late.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Those opposing aliens can suck it. We met the good guys who said we could have the powers, and that’s all that matters, right?*

*EVERYONE*

*RIGHT!*

### 

### Sequence 51

*An emergency meeting at the Council of the Galaxy Headquarters (U.N. stand-in) to discuss humanity’s new powerplay. The Mojaki and Ume Kvinna are feeling hopeful that humanity can now be included in the council as a new partner for peace, while the Ocani support the Elders’ worries and harbor a deep insecurity about Earth’s new power. The Ocani warn that if they keep growing they’ll be forced to step in, something that quietly angers the Ume Kvinna and Mojika who have pacifist policies and bad blood with the Ocani.*

*MOJAKI ALIEN 1*

*It’s such a great opportunity for expansion. I don’t understand the fuss?*

*UME KVINNA ALIEN 1*

*We should all just trust The Titan. He is still one of our fathers.*

*OCANI ALIEN 1*

*Since when do we let a disgraced entity like The Titan decide the fate of the universe?*

*\*The room becomes tense. The second Ocani, much more aware of the reputation of his race offers a much calmer response\**

*OCANI ALIEN 2*

*Look, we don’t want the other two Great Elders to step in right? We need to be more careful about who we share the orb powers with! The Titan buried it deep for a reason.*

*MOJAKI ALIEN 2*

*But he trusted them with it, and rightfully so. These people are geniuses to figure out the true meaning behind everything that happens here!*

*UME KVINNA ALIEN 2*

*You Okanis also need to get a grip! The more widespread healing is, the better. I know that you can’t do much besides conquering and enslaving but you are at The Council of the Galaxy. Your bloodthirst won’t work here, not anymore.*

*The first Ocani stands tall in anger as he bangs the table in anger.*

*OCANI ALIEN 1*

*You dare speak of the Ocani in this manner, Kvinna low-life, you were only useful when under Ocani rule.*

*The anger boils over as the screaming between the Ume Kvinna and Ocani becomes louder and louder.*

*MOJAKI ALIEN 1*

*Calm yourselves, our Prince was with them monitoring the whole process. His reports shall clear everything up. Until then take this squabbling elsewhere, you are disgracing this institution.*

*OCANI ALIEN 1*

*Whatever it may be just know — if these humans keep pushing toward this path, we will be forced to remind them of their place.*

*The Mojaki and Ume Kvinna sit in silence, remembering the true destruction the Ocani can and have caused to the universe. They hope humanity never has to experience it.*

## Episode 7

### Sequence 52

*The Xilas Syndicate’s landing is met with learning about Patricia Li’s death from Circus X.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*\*Looks at phone\* I can’t believe this, I always knew Circus X was killing so many but to see a 16-year-old girl lose her life just because Sonhe INC.’s greed doesn’t allow them to test their darn pills properly — it really sets me off.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*This is the time to strike, the public must be behind us totally now. We need to make sure something like this doesn’t happen again.*

*MILES RICARD*

*Actually, we are at an all-time low in terms of approval.*

*LULU CHOI*

*Wait, why? Are we cancelled? I hope we’re not cancelled.*

*MILES RICARD*

*Well, there was a masked maniac who kidnapped one of Stevens’ interns in our name, apparently.*

*\*The rest of the group collectively says WHAT?\**

*MILES RICARD*

*That with Stevens’ ramped-up campaign against us has really soiled our name.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Look, reputations come and go, the reality is that Patricia Li is dead and the next few days will not be the time for downtime or not engaging with goals, we need to get back to The Xilas Syndicate mission right away.*

*\*The crew decides to get back to work without any downtime\**

*Alicia Chen, Patricia Li’s best friend, decides that the mainstream media won’t be able to help her and decides the populist Syndicate is the way her truth can be told. She contacts The Xilas Syndicate over social media and meets them at her favourite place, the Cheer For Natural restaurant.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*\*Looks at new message\* Patricia’s best friend Alicia has contacted us to meet with her about all of this. It’s such a relief to know we still have lots of support.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*Where does she want us to meet?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Her favourite restaurant, Cheer For Natural, which is ironically known for food with natural ingredients that resemble Xilas.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*What a wonderful opportunity! I like this chick! Let’s go, Syndicators!*

### 

### Sequence 53

*At this point, as Alicia talks to the crew about stopping Circus X, they discover on their phones that even Jacqueline and her crew have chosen to slightly halt support for Sonhe INC. and Circus as the public backlash is too strong. With some team members, including Nicholas Pappas, becoming extremely addicted to Circus, Jacqueline realizes the horror she has aided. The Syndicate begin to talk about how to get The Xilas Syndicate back on track for positive media coverage.*

LEON VELASCO

So Alicia, what are your exact thoughts on the situation?

ALICIA CHEN

I was thinking that Sonhe INC. needs to be sued and that we must really investigate what Sonhe INC. is doing. Why are a ridiculous number of people getting sick or dying from Circus X?

MILES RICARD

\*Interrupts\* Well, well, will you look at this? Even Ms. Stevens is losing her support for Sonhe INC.

LULU CHOI

Wow! What changed?

MILES RICARD

The public backlash is too strong at this point for Jacqueline to really defend them.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

I’m looking through it right now. Supposedly, her teammate Nicholas has been super addicted to Circus and it’s led to poor concentration at his job.

ARHAM ABADI

Knowing Jacqueline, she can be swift to throw in the final straws. It didn’t take her long to start a hate campaign after Leon rejected her interview request. It doesn’t surprise me at all that she would rapidly change her mind about Sonhe INC.

MONICA ZABU

I actually don’t really remember her outright supporting Sonhe INC. It’s more that she doesn’t support us rather than she supports them.

ALICIA CHEN

So what do we do for The Xilas Syndicate to regain positive media coverage?

LEON VELASCO

We need to post more content to our followers, such as what the crew discovered during the space mission, and make it very clear why this stuff is superior to Circus.

LULU CHOI

Also, Miles should post articles for not only The Xilas Syndicate followers to see, but for the general public who don’t follow us to see. There’s been very little of our stuff in the media outside of our group for people to really get it.

MONICA ZABU

Do you think news outlets such as The National Post will accept anonymous names, though?

MILES RICARD

In this case, yes. The general public is well aware that we haven’t shared our names publicly yet, and don’t intend to do so for a long time.

DAPHNE ONASIS

\*Walks over\*

You could also promote some of this restaurant’s products. It certainly helps to hook readers and viewers to important issues when it relates to food. Think about it, most of us crave food except for when we’re sick or as bloated as a bunch of party balloons.

\*The crew giggles\*

LEON VELASCO

Do you have any strong recommendations?

DAPHNE ONASIS

My favourites are many others’ favourites are *halloumi chicken fajitas, flaxseed brownies; and the ultimate goat cheese, berry, and beet salad. They not only contain natural properties that resemble Xilas, but many find the food to be much tastier than fast food.*

ARHAM ABADI

That is genius! I think we should go for these promotions!

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Absolutely!

MILES RICARD

\*Takes notes for his report on his phone\* Daphne, can you send the images of these food items to The Xilas Syndicate in a private direct message?

DAPHNE ONASIS

I for sure will. I haven’t even joined yet but will now.

MONICA ZABU

Thanks a ton! It really means a lot!

### 

### Sequence 54

*Rodrigo angrily scolds employees at Sonhe INC., including Arnold, for not paying attention to the Circus drug’s properties.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*What on Earth are we paying for? You idiots are going to tank us to an early grave. This isn’t your local ma and pa shop, this is Sonhe INC. We have a legacy to upkeep, I have a legacy to upkeep. You worms dare bring me down because you refuse to do basic maintenance? Do you understand I could have you all killed and at the bottom of the ocean in under 24 hours?*

*ARNOLD SHEPARD*

*It’s a mystery how the death happened though because there weren’t any super harmful properties.*

*KYLE COSTAS*

*Mr. Sonhe, similar to vaccines, these drugs can sometimes cause adverse reactions and there isn’t much we can do to stop it.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*No proper testing was done and we need to come up with a comprehensive plan to come back to the spotlight before The Xilas Syndicate regains its image.*

*As they are talking, at least 20 people protest outside the office, banging their doors and screaming “FRAUDS!”, “SCAMMERS!”, and “MONEY GRABBERS!”*

### 

### Sequence 54.5

In a dream sequence aided by Antonio’s use of Circus-X Jane is upset over the suffering that’s been caused by her family.

JANE SONHE

How could you do this? How could you cause so much pain?

Antonio begins to move toward her with an apologetic look but Jane is cold towards him.

ANTONIO SONHE

Jane, we did this for you

\*Jane becomes angry and she yells out\*

JANE SONHE

This is not for me, this was never for me.

Riddled with guilt, Antonio begins to cry in pain at what they have become.

### Sequence 55

*Rodrigo, on his phone, is upset at the coverage and that people are not only protesting at the office but also at his mansion.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*They’re lucky I’m not bulldozing them with security, these scum have become so brave recently, did they forget who we are — if it wasn’t for us this city would be a dump and this is the thanks we get.*

*Antonio enters the room with clear signs of being under Circus-X. He staggers over to Rodrigo with anger on his face.*

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*Hey dimwit, how about you get off your high horse, who the heck do you think you are?*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*What the heck are you talking about and what are you on?*

*\*Antonio confronts Rodrigo about the damage they have caused\**

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*People are dying, you psychotic filth, do you understand that you are killing thousands of people? Just because you have the power to do whatever you want doesn’t mean you can. I won’t aid your crusade against the world.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*It’s the cost of Jane’s happiness.*

### 

### Sequence 56

*This scene shows Patricia’s parents, Justin and Esther Li, as well as Alicia, speak out about who Patricia was and that The Xilas Syndicate’s plan to further take on Sonhe INC. may work, as some people still don’t get it that Circus should not ever be used anywhere. The plan is to help people using the orb and Xilas. Justin also brings up that they will actively sue Sonhe INC.*

*JUSTIN LI*

*Patricia \*Sobs\* was the light of my life. She was the sunshine during every summer, the light at the end of every tunnel, and \*Sobs\* most importantly, an exceptional human being.*

*\*Everyone is moved\**

*FUNERAL CELEBRANT GARY SMYTHE*

*Thank you, Mr. Li. I would now like to pass this on to Mrs. Li.*

*ESTHER LI*

*Thank you, Gary. Patricia, I will love you eternally. Your laugh, your smile, your ability to stand up for what is right, your humbleness, your generosity, the positive feedback your friends and teachers gave to me, and your ability to often make family dinners hilarious enough that paying to watch comedians at shows wasn’t worth it. I will miss it all. \*Cries and wipes tears but struggles\**

*\*Everyone is moved\**

*FUNERAL CELEBRANT GARY SMYTHE*

*Thank you, Mr. Li. Could Alicia Chen come on to the stand, please?*

*ALICIA CHEN*

*Thank you, Gary. Patricia, I’m still in utter disbelief of it all. What happened that night at the party with Circus was despicable. Absolutely despicable. Circus distributors are unquestionably full of greed to put themselves first before others. They need to test their darn pills properly. I lost my best friend, who was often my other half. My other half was all of a sudden stolen. It’s one thing to have a friend move away, but this is different. It’s a permanent scar that even the most effective drugs don't heal. Don’t worry Xilas, I still strongly support you. Anyway, we were planning on our girls’ night out at Limehurst’s Lemon and Limes Resort for some drinks, swimming and general goofing around at the hotel. Nobody can replace Patricia. This whole thing has left an unimaginable hole in my heart. Also, we met in third grade when I moved here from China, and we were inseparable for the past eight years. Birthday parties and sleepovers were always the main highlights every year. Arrogant drug developers may have ruined me no longer having any future moments together with her, but they can never ruin the memories. The memories are even more solid and hard than the most wind-resistant buildings. Patricia Li, I will NEVER forget you. \*Cries hard\**

*\*Everyone is moved\**

*FUNERAL CELEBRANT GARY SMYTHE*

*Thank you Ms. Chen, and thank you to all speakers for the heartfelt messages. Patricia certainly seemed like a wonderful human being. Are there other important messages that attendees should be aware of?*

*\*Patricia’s parents and Alicia walk to the podium\**

*JUSTIN LI*

*We strongly support the idea of suing Sonhe INC. for its unethical practices. Neighbours in the past have strongly recommended Angelos Kokkinos of Kokkinos Law Firm.*

*ESTHER LI*

*We should not only meet with him. We should get Jacqueline Stevens to interview us and Angelos on her show.*

*ALICIA CHEN*

*Jacqueline Stevens seems to have really changed her perception of Sonhe INC., so this should work well. The Xilas Syndicate, what do you think?*

*LEON VELASCO*

*I 100% approve of this. People will open up their eyes.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*Let’s just hope that Sonhe INC. doesn’t regain public approval before the suing process occurs.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*Arham, even if they do, it won’t take long for them to decide to throw their reputation out the window.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Monica, Lulu and Miles, what do you think?*

*MONICA ZABU/LULU CHOI/MILES RICARD*

*We fully support this plan.*

*FUNERAL CELEBRANT GARY SMYTHE*

*Good discussion. I look forward to hearing how everything turns out. This service is now finished. Stay well, everyone. Feel free to reach out for any guidance.*

*EVERYONE ELSE*

*Thank you, Mr. Smythe.*

### 

### Sequence 57

MILES RICARD

So crew, tell me what you think! The story starts off with Leon’s discovery through Peter’s notes, what Peter was looking into, the general public’s misconceptions of Xilas, how we got to space, what we discovered in space, how we got the orb, how Sonhe INC. went downhill, the plan after Patricia Li’s passing, and additional elements such as Cheer For Natural’s products.

LEON VELASCO

It’s very well-organized!

MONICA ZABU

So, what do you feel the next steps will be?

LEON VELASCO

I got to present another speech, this time with these findings.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

The message will be absolutely loud and clear to most this time.

LULU CHOI

I fully agree with all of this!

\*Suddenly, the orb’s power begins to heal all former Circus addicts\*

## 

## Episode 8

### Sequence 58

*Former Circus addicts are being treated at Tyche City General Hospitals with Xilas. Jacqueline is on the scene interviewing the former addicts*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*How has your life been affected by Circus-X?*

*FORMER ADDICT 1*

*Circus-X ruined my life, I have a Masters in Engineering. I was working an entry-level position that paid me 155K a year, suddenly before I knew it I was homeless, I couldn’t stop taking Circus, I spent all my money and sold my house just to have a hit. Xilas has offered me peace and an opportunity to restart.*

*The former addict is sitting in the lounge of the hospital with a renewed smile on his face, the first he’s had in years surely.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*How do you feel about The Xilas Syndicate?*

*FORMER ADDICT 2*

*Hey man, for me they are heroes. I saw your show and you slate them way too much, these kids are saving the darn world. At least I know they are saving me.*

*Jacqueline begins to finally see that The Xilas Syndicate has a good side after all.*

*Later on in the day during a live recording of “What’s Happening Jacqueline” Angelos Kokkinos and the Li parents are on the show and make a serious announcement. Antonio is also on the show as a representative of Sonhe INC.*

*ANGELOS KOKKINOS*

*Jacqueline, we are here to announce our formal lawsuit against Sonhe INC. My clients feel strongly about making sure that no one else has to go through what they’ve been through. First as parents, second as citizens of Tyche City.*

JACQUELINE STEVENS

Thank you Angelos and Mr. and Mrs. Li. Antonio, do you have any words?

ANTONIO SONHE

Hi Jacqueline. We apologize for everything. We want to do what we can to fix the situation. I will do what I can to help Rodrigo and his employees get back on track.

JACQUELINE STEVENS

Thank you, Antonio. That is all for today.

### 

### Sequence 59

*At Tyche City’s largest park Leon s gives a heartfelt speech about his mission to save the world with Xilas and what he has discovered during this journey.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*These powers that flow through me are thanks to the Orb of Healing and it's my duty to share this great gift with all our followers. The galaxy is vast and wondrous, we met and interacted with powers far beyond our initial understanding, these powers were kind to us and gave us the tools to accomplish our goal of saving the ignored and banished. This new chapter of humanity will be away from harmful drugs that are destroying us. The new Xilas will lead a world of natural solutions, we can spread this among all of humanity. Join the revolution or stand aside. The corporations will no longer control the destiny of the masses, we are the people and we are strong.*

*Many people, including earlier characters and followers, scream positive comments as The Xilas Syndicate leaves the crowd.*

*PENNY & CONEJITO VELASCO*

*Son! That’s you! So proud of you! \*In tears\**

*IRENE VELASCO*

*Heroes!*

*DJ FUNKY TOMATO (STEPHEN REYNOLDS) & TANYA BELLA*

*It’s the funky Xilas heroes!*

*AMAR ABADI*

*Go get em’!*

*PHIL IOANNOU*

*You understood my message!*

*DAPHNE ONASIS*

*I’m glad my input helped!*

*ANGELOS KOKKINOS*

*GO KICK BUTT!*

*ADRIAN MENSAH*

*Peter would be beyond speechless!*

*REBECCA SAMARA*

*The best of the best!*

*THEO DIMITRI*

*An A+ space mission that was!*

*ALICIA CHEN*

*You’re all unbelievably good people!*

### 

### Sequence 60

*The streets of Tyche City are filled with residents cheering at The Xilas Syndicate’s success in their space mission and their healing of the people.*

### 

### Sequence 61

RODRIGO SONHE

I’m downhearted. I’m ruined. Am I perfect? No! But I was darn close to it. \*Talks to himself\*

\*Rodrigo turns to Jane\*

As long as you opened your eyes again It was worth it, I really thought it was.

\*Rodrigo has many circus pills in his hand and closes his fist to finish the scene\*

### 

### Sequence 62

*As Jacqueline finishes reading about The Xilas Syndicate’s latest success, she reports a shocking discovery made through blockchain technology: Sonhe INC. was discovered to be illegally lobbying for Circus X to be passed through regulations and money was found in many crooked politicians’ accounts from a third-party that is connected to Sonhe INC. And thanks to the specific toxins in the drug, it was tested on endangered animals in increasingly cruel ways resulting in the death of over 3,000 endangered animals taken from protected lands.*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*The Xilas Syndicate has healed former Circus addicts with Xilas in ways many would have never initially expected. The group’s primary member presented a well-written, thoughtful speech about why the Orb of Healing is a gift. Nicholas, what do you have to say?*

*NICHOLAS PAPPAS*

*As a former Circus addict, I’m relieved!*

*JACQUELINE STEVENS*

*On the other side of the battle between drugs, we have the latest on Sonhe INC. Blockchain technology users have discovered astounding practices Sonhe INC. has used to test their drugs. Get ready for this: Sonhe INC. was discovered to be illegally lobbying for Circus X to be passed through questionable regulations. Money was also found in crooked politician accounts from third parties connected to Sonhe INC. Additionally, specific toxins in the drug were tested on endangered animals by using increasingly cruel methods. Over 3,000 animals were killed as a result.*

*BRIAN BRIANI*

*Therefore, we can’t rule out a possible arrest with these individuals.*

*\*Switch to apartment room\**

*\*The Xilas Syndicate cheers and high-fives each other\**

*LEON VELASCO*

*I guess my Rodrigo giraffe kissing theory was right after all.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*We totally did it! This is beyond unbelievable!*

*LULU CHOI*

*I always knew they were conman crooks and that they’d get their butts kicked!*

*MILES RICARD*

*Most stories have happy endings! I’ve always been a firm believer in that!*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*I guess I was nervous for almost nothing this whole time!*

*MONICA ZABU*

*We all did great work! We really did! But let’s give credit to the man who started it all! LEON!*

*\*All five members but Leon scream “Leon for president!” and “Leon For The Win!”\**

*Kyra and Zoilo Alexander overhear them and shout the same things in their room.*

### 

### Sequence 62.5

*After the revelation was made, as Rodrigo, Antonio and Arnold visit Tyche City, they get arrested near the Feta Man’s Supermarket entrance. Sonhe INC. eventually has no choice but to go defunct.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Antonio, I guess we can still go with our mansion expansion, but most importantly, I want the dining room to be nice and upgraded!*

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*Maybe you should position the darn table so the vent is no longer a tripping hazard for our visitors!*

*ARNOLD SHEPARD*

*What about the zipline?*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*Not important at the moment.*

*\*The cops arrive and handcuff the trio\**

*ARNOLD SHEPARD*

*What on Earth?*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*AHHHHHHHHHHHH!*

*ANTONIO SONHE*

*This ain’t real life! Surely, I must be in a Circus AKA Jane state dreaming, but wait a minute, the orb healing! NO, THIS IS REAL FOLKS!*

*LUKE ICARUS*

*Rodrigo Sonhe, Antonio Sonhe, and Arnold Shepard, you’re all under arrest for illegal and harmful practices with Circus.*

*ANDREW PHOENIX*

*Now let’s get your butts in the car. Maybe your time in custody will allow you three to show your sincere selves there more than in the real world.*

*RODRIGO SONHE*

*But you don’t understand!*

*LUKE ICARUS*

*Don’t want to hear about this! It’s final!*

*\*All three scream and cry uncontrollably as they try to move away from the car, while the cops struggle to control their handcuffs\**

*\*People outside the supermarket look at them in shock\**

### 

### Sequence 63

*At a construction site The Xilas Syndicate, except for Leon who visits Peter’s grave, give closing remarks as they watch the construction of their new Xilas Syndicate Academy building. Built using the funds from earlier in the story.*

*ARHAM ABADI*

*When we first started this mission we realized how crazy it would be, we knew we were chipping away at a system that will do everything to keep us down. But no matter what we could not sit by and watch our brothers and sisters dying with no saviours. We hope this academy will make sure that The Xilas Syndicate lives far beyond us.*

*MONICA ZABU*

*This is not an overpriced institution meant to suck up as many funds as possible, this is a place to learn and improve the world — The Xilas Syndicate way.*

*PRUDENCE BARRETT*

*This is the new way, the new path and all I can say is let’s get this party started.*

*LULU CHOI*

*The past few months and even years have been unreal. The Xilas Syndicate saved me. I started to feel I’m a person worth something because I was under the wings of this great movement, I know this place will provide the same comfort for many others.*

*MILES RICARD*

*I’ve always been someone who values the truth so it was a no-brainer to join The Syndicate, and I can say now I don’t regret my decision.*

### 

### Sequence 64

*Leon visits his hometown of Arcadia City to visit Peter’s grave.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*Hey, Prof I just wanted to stop by and tell you — you saved millions. If it wasn’t for your research the world would be in ruins, I know you got Gorgy but for me, you’re my hero.*

*\*He crouches down and puts down a photocard of Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi and some flowers\**

### 

### Sequence 65

*A few months later the original six members train newer members at a newly opened Xilas Syndicate Academy on how to harness the healing orb.*

*LEON VELASCO*

As The Titan would tell me “The body must build enough resistance by meditation and physical training. You must do it as you’ve never done so before. Once that happens, the power will flow through your veins”.

PRUDENCE BARRETT

Once that happens, your skin may temporarily turn purple with flashing yellow eyes.

ARHAM ABADI

However, this transformation will unlikely last too long, but never fear, the powers may spread to others quickly than you’ll notice

LULU CHOI

To get an idea of how this will feel, the power will flow through your veins. It will be quite intense.

MONICA ZABU

We can’t stress this enough, exercise like crazy! Make it hurt but not more than your body can physically handle!

MILES RICARD

This is not like a boot camp! We want to encourage you in the most positive, motivating way possible for you all to use the Orb of Healing, to ensure even further healing.

LEON VELASCO

You all seem like a motivated and positive group of individuals! We know you will rock it!

ARHAM ABADI

We will distribute evaluations of your progress by the end of the week.

\*All group members including the new ones in training, cheer\*

### 

### Sequence 66

In the Velasco home, *Leon is reading the closing paragraph of a report he and Miles created to Irene (Grandmother) about how they saved the world.*

*LEON VELASCO*

*We may not have been born to save the world but.. we grew into it. The Xilas Syndicate proves that you can shift and mould destiny into what you want it to be. We are faceless, young, and come from all walks of life, there is no reason this should have worked — but when we gathered together, the sparks of the revolution were born. The future is bright, and humanity is even brighter.*

*\*Irene smiles at him in tears\**