

Emperor

Written by
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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

Birds-eye view of the city. Lights twinkle around the skyline, while cars hover at great speeds, leaving colorful trails of lights behind them; IT'S THE FUTURE.

RAIN (V.O.)
I once saw a graffiti that read
"the future is unwritten".

The camera dances gracefully around the hi-tech skyscrapers, as it takes us to...

RAIN (V.O.)
But when you can control the past,
you can write and re-write the
future as much as you like. So
much so, that you can re-right it
until there's no future at all.

The camera slows down as we reach a large glass building. It has a sign that reads "TCB" and bellow in smaller letters its motto "The future is now".

RAIN (V.O.)
The future is not now, the future
is the past.

INT. TCB BUILDING - NIGHT

NEIL walks briskly across a hallway, next ED a TCB officer in uniform. Neil does not wear a uniform but seems to outrank Ed.

Ed tries to keep up with Neil's pace, while holding up an electronic tablet in front of him to read.

ED
(Excited) It must be really
something.

They turn into another hallway and reach a door.

ED
(Stumbling for words) I mean,
having contact with them. Knowing
you know (Pause). The future.

Just as they reach the door, something catches Neil's eye. He grabs the tablet.

NEIL
The future is now.

ED
I know, I know. But I wonder what
the future version of me pans out
to be. You know?

Neil sighs and hands him back the tablet without paying him too much attention.

There is a sort of countdown timer by the security panel. The the countdown reaches zero turning green.

ED
(Smiles) Maybe I'm filthy rich in
the future.

Neil looks at him before going for the biometric door scan.

NEIL
How much do you earn at your
current position?

Ed lifts his finger and opens his mouth to respond but realizes his point before uttering the words.

ED
Well, maybe I won the lottery.

NEIL
When was the last time you bought
a lottery ticket?

Ed sighs

ED
Good point.

The door opens and Neil heads in.

ED
Good luck, Sir.

Neil nods without looking back.

INT. TCB BUILDING (BRIEFING ROOM) - NIGHT

NEIL walks into the empty round room and walks to a small desk and chair in the center of the room.

He sits and a glass screen pops up in front him.

He touches a button and a dozen vertical screen light up on the room walls. Each screen has a title and a calendar clock bellow, showing the date and time of the image.

The dates are formatted in a +Years/Days/Hours/format. For example: +2 years, 2 days, 2 hours and a second and millisecond spinner.

Each image is a 3D hologram of a high ranking official. The dates on all the screens are in the future and the further ahead they are, the less discernible the rendered image is.

The three screens directly in front of him screens contain the same person, PRIME DIRECTOR STONE, in different timelines. The center one being +10 years ahead and the other two at +15 and +5 years respectively.

On the first two he's as TCB Director and in the third one he's Prime Minister. The other officials dates around the room vary from the +5 to +10 range.

STONE (+10 version)

The mainframe screener has detected a rift in the timeline.

SENIOR OFFICER

It's a small kink, nevertheless the implications could be momentous; or not. As the algorithm graphs shows.

Neil looks at his screen.

STONE (+15 version)

As we are all aware of, the only way to make sure the rift remains insignificant, is if we crush it in its infancy.

STONE (+5 version)

You'll be transported immediately to the Weimar Headquarters for the launch so we can avoid this ripple grows up to be a tsunami.

SENIOR OFFICER
TCB agent Davis didn't pass his physical so he won't be joining you.

NEIL
Will he be back?

A moment of silence among the officers.

SENIOR OFFICER
He has been an excellent agent. But the sun has reached the horizon.

STONE (+5 version)
He will retire with an impeccable record.

NEIL
Does he know?

Another moment of uncomfortable silence.

STONE
It's been agreed that you should tell him.

NEIL
(To himself) Of course.

STONE
After your return.

INT. TCB BUILDING (GYM/HALLWAY) - NIGHT

The hallway has a glass wall that looks into the gym. To each side there are all sorts of exercise equipment. In the center, a martial arts dojo.

A group of young cadets are being grilled by their INSTRUCTOR.

NEIL and ED approach from the hallway and stand looking through the glass at the young men training.

The Instructor lines them up facing the glass wall.

INSTRUCTOR
(To Neil) These are our best men.

The gym door opens and an OFFICER comes in followed by three female cadets.

INSTRUCTOR

And women.

The male cadets look confused as the women join them. They're especially unimpressed by the presence of RAIN, who looks almost a foot shorter than the other two.

The Instructor looks at his line-up and picks out JOHN to join him at the center of the dojo.

John is tall, strong and arrogant. He's the alpha dog.

The instructor points at Rain and she walks to join them at the center.

John scoffs.

JOHN

(To the Instructor) You are kidding, right?

The instructor ignores him and turns his attention to Rain.

INSTRUCTOR

(To Rain) Do you want to pick someone less "dangerous"?

The instructor walks delighted to Rain, passes her by and turns around talking to her ear but for all to hear.

INSTRUCTOR

Or someone from your same sex? You know, an easy prey.

RAIN

I already had three cadets for lunch but I think, I can make room for dessert, Sir.

Some of the cadets laugh.

The Instructor smiles and taps her on the shoulder "that's my girl".

ED

(To Neil) I like her.

The Instructor takes a step back leaving room for John and Rain.

Rain bows to her opponent. Then brings her left arm to the back as she extends her right hand inviting John to strike first.

Reluctantly, John steps forward to confront her.

INSTRUCTOR
What are you waiting for?

John shrugs.

INSTRUCTOR
Hit her!

John sighs and throws her a half-assed punch that she easily dodges.

It's clear she knows how to defend herself, John throws her a new round of punches with more intent, which she gracefully evades.

He adds some color to his routine by throwing a combination kicks, but she can see them coming a mile away.

ED
She's more difficult to hit than
the wind.

INSTRUCTOR
Stop the dance, this ain't your
prom.

The Instructor gives a single clap with his hands, and signal Rain to go into attack mode.

She acknowledges the command, while dodging a high kick from John and gracefully turning around to sweep her leg under him, throwing John into the air.

As Rain keeps turning from the sweep, she alternates legs, to greets him with a heal kick to the head just as he's about to land on the mat.

Angry and humiliated, John stands up and goes after her with a new combo punches. The first she dodges by leaning back and having him miss her nose by just an inch. The second punch she detours with a clockwise movement of her arm, then kicking off his balance to make him fall forward. As he falls, she wraps her arm around his neck and lets herself fall backward with him to the floor.

Rain immobilizes him as she chokes him against the mat.

From below John looks at the instructor and then at his fellow cadets. He looks back at the instructor and closes his eyes before taping the mat, giving up in shame.

Rain lets go and jumps to her feet.

John stands up and the Instructor signals for him to go back to the wall with the rest.

Rain bows as John walks back, looking like he still doesn't know what hit him.

The Instructor calls another one (CADET 1).

As Rain is getting ready, the Instructor point to another one (CADET 2).

He gives a clap and both cadets go after her in full.

She dodges the first few hits until Cadet 2 is able to land a kick in the gut. It's a hard kick that makes her land on her knees.

She puts her hand over her belly and looks at him.

The cadets look at each other and then go to finish her off.

Still on her knees, Rain dodges a kick from Cadet 1, then rolls under his feet and brings him to the ground.

She does a roll to avoid getting hit by the other Cadet and uses her momentum to spring herself into the air with her arms and wraps her legs around the Cadet.

She chokes him with her legs until he taps the mat.

Cadet 2 has now recovered and comes after her.

Rain gives him a replica of the kick in the gut she received earlier.

She smiles dryly to let him know she just returned him the favor.

As soon as he comes to, Rain gives him a combo of kicks, while he clumsily stumbles back trying to fend off the hits.

He loses his balance and falls on his butt.

Rain jumps and lands with her knee to his chest, driving the air out of his lungs.

Still on top of him, she aims her fist to his head giving him a chance to surrender before she strikes. He hits the mat giving up.

She gives him a hand to help him up.

As Rain pulls him up she turns to look to the hallway and sees Neil from behind walking away.

The Instructor comes around between Rain and the Cadet and puts his palms over their shoulders.

INSTRUCTOR
(To the Cadets) Do any of you want
to take her or any of the girls
for a spin or should we call it a
day?

The instructor smiles as he reads the room.

INSTRUCTOR
Dismiss.

The Instructor leans into Cadet 2.

INSTRUCTOR
Don't look so grim. You never had
a chance.

The Instructor puts his hand over her shoulder as the three of
them walk out.

INSTRUCTOR
She's my number one pupil.

The Instructor points at the tall strong ladies that came in
with Rain.

INSTRUCTOR
Those two came in just for show. I
think they're from accounting.

The Instructor looks at Rain as they walk out.

INSTRUCTOR
I've been hearing good things.

RAIN
Like what?

INSTRUCTOR
Stuff. Just stuff.

Rain turns to look to the spot where she spotted Neil.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

RAIN comes in the locker room followed by the other two girls
cadets as the rest of cadets are changing and showering.

CADET 2 who's fully naked, grabs a t-shirt to cover his penis
as he sees them walk in.

JOHN comes forward.

JOHN
Don't cover up. This is a mixed
room.

He gets on her face.

JOHN
Generations of great women fought
a good fight, to make this
possible. So don't steal that
right from them by covering up.

He gets closer.

JOHN
Isn't that so?

Rain just looks at him.

JOHN
If our male bodies make you
uncomfortable, you can just leave.

RAIN
Oh, we're not uncomfortable.
(Looks to each side) Right girls?

The women agree with her.

RAIN
But feel free to cover yourselves
up if you don't feel conformable.
We just came to take a shower like
the rest of you.

Cadet 2 drops his t-shirt to show his full naked body and
carries on minding his own business.

Others follow.

JOHN
They might be fine with it but I'm
not.

Looks at her.

JOHN
Unless you are naked as well.

Rain looks at the girls and the three start striping until
fully naked.

John just stands there..

Rain encourages him to move on, as John stumbles for words and points back to the shower area.

JOHN

I'm not one for parading my privates around. I always take my clothes off in the shower.

RAIN

Oh, so you were bluffing?

JOHN

I wasn't bluffing. I was just making sure you were not here under false pretenses.

RAIN

What pretenses? Like looking at hot naked men?

She looks at the girls.

RAIN

Well, maybe there was something to that. So what are you going to do about it?

John is lost for words.

RAIN

Stop dancing around. Are you going to strip or not?

John looks around realizing that by now, he's the only one wearing clothes. He reluctantly starts striping.

He stops when he only has his briefs to go.

Rain gives him a look letting him know everyone is waiting.

John takes them off and stands tall with false pride.

Rain and the girls have to make a real effort not to laugh.

Girl 1 looks to her vagina and then at his penis.

GIRL 1

I think my dick is bigger than his.

Everyone laughs.