LA FEMME NIKITA

Episode 6x07

“THE ENEMY NEVER REALLY STAYS BURIED”

Unofficial Fan-Fiction Teleplay

Written in the continuing H.M. Gautsch storyline

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. MICHAEL AND NIKITA'S HOUSE – MORNING

Quiet.

Almost suspiciously quiet.

A modest house sits beyond a tree-lined road, deliberately anonymous.

Inside, however...

INT. MICHAEL AND NIKITA'S HOUSE – KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS

Boxes.

Lots of boxes.

One reads:

SHAYNE – BOOKS

Another:

SHAYNE – DO NOT TOUCH

A third:

SHAYNE – SERIOUSLY, DAD.

MICHAEL stands over that one.

He considers opening it.

SHAYNE (O.S.)

Don't even think about it.

Michael looks up.

SHAYNE enters wearing sweatpants, a T-shirt, and an expression suggesting she has already survived one parental interrogation this morning.

She takes the box.

MICHAEL

I wasn't doing anything.

SHAYNE

You were staring at it.

MICHAEL

It's in my kitchen.

SHAYNE

Temporarily.

She puts it with the others.

NIKITA enters carrying coffee.

NIKITA

How long until your apartment is ready?

SHAYNE

Property manager says three weeks.

Maybe four.

MICHAEL

Stay as long as you need.

Shayne looks at him.

SHAYNE

You say that now.

NIKITA

He means it.

Michael pours coffee.

SHAYNE

Until Erik comes over.

Silence.

Nikita closes her eyes.

Here we go.

MICHAEL

Sven doesn't need to come here.

SHAYNE

Why?

MICHAEL

You can see him elsewhere.

SHAYNE

I'm forty years old.

MICHAEL

I'm aware.

SHAYNE

You don't sound aware.

Nikita takes her coffee and quietly moves away from the blast radius.

MICHAEL

He's a Valentine operative.

SHAYNE

He's also Erik.

MICHAEL

Exactly.

Shayne stares.

SHAYNE

What does that even mean?

MICHAEL

I don't know yet.

SHAYNE

You have known him for a year!

MICHAEL

Which isn't very long.

SHAYNE

For Section, that's practically a golden anniversary.

Nikita nearly spits out her coffee.

Michael looks at her.

NIKITA

Don't involve me.

A CAR approaches outside.

Michael immediately turns.

MICHAEL

Are you expecting someone?

SHAYNE

No.

Michael walks toward the window.

A stylish older man exits the car.

Confident.

Familiar.

Michael's entire body goes rigid.

MICHAEL

No.

Shayne looks.

Her face lights up.

SHAYNE

No way.

She bolts toward the front door.

Michael follows.

EXT. MICHAEL AND NIKITA'S HOUSE – CONTINUOUS

The visitor approaches.

MICK SCHTOPPEL.

Older.

Still Mick.

Still carrying himself as though the universe is one elaborate confidence game and he already knows the ending.

Michael opens the door first.

MICHAEL

What are you doing here, Mick?

Mick smiles, his ENGLISH ACCENT immediately filling the space.

MICK

Michael.

Wonderful to see you too.

Shayne appears behind Michael.

Her reaction couldn't be more different.

SHAYNE

Uncle Mick!

She pushes past Michael and embraces Mick.

Mick laughs.

MICK

There's my girl!

Michael stares.

MICHAEL

Uncle?

Shayne releases Mick.

SHAYNE

Long story.

MICK

Actually, it's quite entertaining.

MICHAEL

I'm sure.

Nikita appears in the doorway.

She sees Mick.

Stops.

NIKITA

Mick?

MICK

Nikita.

He opens his arms.

MICK (CONT'D)

Miss me?

Nikita smiles.

NIKITA

I'm still deciding.

Mick looks between Michael and Nikita.

Then toward the house.

MICK

So this is domestic bliss.

Michael doesn't move.

MICK (CONT'D)

Terrifying.

Shayne grabs Mick's arm.

SHAYNE

Come inside.

I need your help.

Michael's eyes narrow.

MICHAEL

With what?

Shayne looks directly at him.

SHAYNE

My dating life.

Mick's eyebrows rise.

MICK

Now we're talking.

Michael looks like someone just announced a Red Cell convention in his living room.

CUT TO BLACK.

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

INT. SECTION ONE – OPERATIONS – MORNING

QUINN sits at a systems terminal.

JASON works beside her.

Data races across multiple screens.

JASON

Tell me I'm seeing this wrong.

QUINN

You're not.

Jason enlarges a communications intercept.

A symbol appears.

Quinn's expression changes.

JASON

The Collective.

QUINN

That's impossible.

JASON

In this place, "impossible" usually means we're about to have a terrible week.

Quinn accesses another stream.

Financial transactions.

Weapons movements.

Encrypted communications.

QUINN

Three dormant accounts reactivated in forty-eight hours.

Jason brings up another window.

JASON

And somebody accessed an old Collective communications protocol from Bucharest.

Quinn looks toward the Perch.

QUINN

Get Nikita.

INT. MICHAEL AND NIKITA'S HOUSE – LIVING ROOM – SAME

Mick sits opposite Shayne.

Nikita occupies another chair.

Michael remains standing.

Of course.

MICK

Right.

Tell Uncle Mick everything.

Michael's expression tightens again.

MICHAEL

Stop calling yourself that.

SHAYNE

Ignore him.

MICK

I generally do.

Nikita smiles.

Shayne sits forward.

SHAYNE

Erik likes me.

MICK

Naturally.

SHAYNE

I like him.

Michael shifts.

Mick notices.

MICK

And there's the problem.

He points toward Michael.

SHAYNE

Exactly.

MICHAEL

I'm sitting right here.

MICK

That's rather difficult to miss.

Mick turns back to Shayne.

MICK (CONT'D)

What's Sven done?

SHAYNE

Nothing.

MICK

Nothing?

SHAYNE

He's respectful.

Patient.

Annoyingly persistent.

MICK

Good-looking?

Shayne smiles.

SHAYNE

Very.

Michael walks toward the kitchen.

MICHAEL

I'm going to Section.

NIKITA

We're all going.

Michael stops.

SHAYNE

Not me.

Everyone looks at her.

SHAYNE (CONT'D)

I'm off rotation.

Nikita nods.

NIKITA

And you're staying off rotation.

Michael looks toward Nikita.

MICHAEL

Even if something comes up?

NIKITA

Especially if something comes up.

She looks at Shayne.

NIKITA (CONT'D)

You've been carrying too many missions.

Take the break.

Shayne smiles gratefully.

SHAYNE

Thank you.

Mick leans back.

MICK

Excellent.

That gives us the entire day.

Michael looks toward him.

MICHAEL

For what?

MICK

Dating advice.

Michael leaves.

MICK (CONT'D)

He likes me.

INT. SECTION ONE – OPERATIONS – LATER

Nikita and Michael enter.

Quinn activates the main display.

Jason stands beside her.

QUINN

We have a problem.

MICHAEL

What?

The Collective symbol appears.

Nikita stops.

NIKITA

Where did you get this?

JASON

Encrypted traffic originating in Bucharest.

Quinn changes screens.

QUINN

At first we thought it was somebody recycling old encryption.

Then this appeared.

Images.

Operatives.

Weapons caches.

JASON

Somebody's rebuilding The Collective.

Michael studies the intelligence.

NIKITA

Who's running it?

QUINN

Unknown.

JASON

But they're recruiting.

Another file appears.

SECTION FOUR.

MICHAEL

Why Section Four?

QUINN

Their territory overlaps three of the Collective's new logistics corridors.

Nikita thinks.

NIKITA

Contact Claire.

And Trent.

Michael looks at her.

NIKITA (CONT'D)

If The Collective is rebuilding, we're not handling this alone.

INT. SECTION ONE – VAN ACCESS – LATER

The doors open.

CLAIRE enters first.

Professional.

Controlled.

TRENT follows.

Behind them...

DARWIN.

Nikita sees him.

Her expression changes immediately.

NIKITA

Darwin.

DARWIN

Nikita.

He looks around.

DARWIN (CONT'D)

Section One hasn't changed much.

Nikita studies him.

NIKITA

Some things never change for some people, Darwin.

Darwin smiles.

Not warmly.

DARWIN

Still charming.

NIKITA

Still observant.

Claire cuts between them.

CLAIRE

Can we save the reunion until after we prevent international terrorism?

TRENT

I'd appreciate that.

Michael approaches.

MICHAEL

Briefing in ten.

Darwin looks around.

DARWIN

Where's Shayne?

Michael's eyes sharpen.

MICHAEL

Off rotation.

DARWIN

Convenient.

Nikita hears the contempt.

NIKITA

She's earned it.

Darwin smiles.

DARWIN

If you say so.

INT. SECTION ONE – BRIEFING ROOM – LATER

The Collective's network appears.

Nikita addresses:

Michael.

Claire.

Trent.

Darwin.

Erik.

Mendez.

Jasmine.

Quinn.

Jason.

NIKITA

The Collective has reactivated at least six European logistics channels.

Claire studies the map.

CLAIRE

Section Four has been tracking weapons movement through Croatia.

TRENT

We thought it was Red Cell.

QUINN

It isn't.

Jason activates another layer.

JASON

Different money.

Different encryption.

Same old Collective architecture.

ERIK

Target?

Michael answers.

MICHAEL

Prague.

An intelligence broker named KAREL VOST.

He's facilitating recruitment.

NIKITA

Claire and Trent will handle the secondary location.

Mendez and Jasmine support.

She looks toward Erik.

Then Michael.

NIKITA (CONT'D)

Michael and Erik take Vost.

Alone.

Erik looks toward Michael.

Michael gives nothing away.

ERIK

Understood.

Darwin studies Erik.

DARWIN

Interesting choice.

NIKITA

Problem?

DARWIN

He's a Valentine operative.

I'd like to see how he performs when charm isn't useful.

Michael looks toward Darwin.

MICHAEL

You'll have your opportunity.

ACT TWO

INT. MICHAEL AND NIKITA'S HOUSE – KITCHEN – AFTERNOON

Mick opens the refrigerator.

MICK

Your parents eat like fugitives.

Shayne laughs.

SHAYNE

Technically...

Mick raises a finger.

MICK

Don't finish that sentence.

He finds wine.

Shayne points.

SHAYNE

No.

MICK

Tea?

SHAYNE

Coffee.

MICK

You really are Michael's daughter.

Shayne groans.

They sit.

MICK (CONT'D)

Now.

Erik.

What frightens you?

Shayne's humor disappears.

SHAYNE

That's annoyingly perceptive.

MICK

It's why I'm charming.

SHAYNE

You tell yourself that.

Mick smiles.

SHAYNE (CONT'D)

I don't know what I want.

MICK

Good.

Shayne looks confused.

MICK (CONT'D)

Means you're thinking rather than grabbing the first attractive bloke who smiles at you.

SHAYNE

He got shot protecting me.

MICK

That's either devotion or terrible tactical judgment.

SHAYNE

Michael chose the second one.

MICK

Naturally.

Mick leans forward.

MICK (CONT'D)

But this isn't about Michael.

It's about you.

Shayne looks down.

MICK (CONT'D)

Do you feel safe around Erik?

SHAYNE

Yes.

MICK

Does he respect no?

SHAYNE

So far.

MICK

Does he make you laugh?

Shayne smiles.

There's the answer.

MICK

Then have coffee.

Have dinner.

Have absolutely dreadful sex if that's where it goes.

Shayne nearly chokes.

SHAYNE

Uncle Mick!

MICK

You're an adult!

Shayne laughs.

MICK (CONT'D)

You don't have to decide your entire future before pudding.

The front door opens.

Darwin enters.

Shayne immediately stops laughing.

SHAYNE

What are you doing here?

DARWIN

Nikita asked me to retrieve Michael's Collective files.

Mick looks between them.

MICK

Friend?

SHAYNE

Absolutely not.

Darwin looks Shayne over.

DARWIN

Still playing house with Operations?

Shayne stands.

SHAYNE

Still confusing arrogance with a personality?

Mick's eyebrows rise.

MICK

I like her.

Darwin looks toward him.

DARWIN

And you are?

MICK

Someone with better manners.

EXT. PRAGUE – NIGHT

Michael and Erik move through a crowded street.

Civilian clothes.

No visible weapons.

ERIK

You know...

this is technically our first mission alone.

MICHAEL

Yes.

ERIK

You sound thrilled.

MICHAEL

I'm focused.

ERIK

Right.

They enter an alley.

MICHAEL

Vost frequents a club two blocks north.

You're going inside.

ERIK

And you?

MICHAEL

Watching.

Erik stops.

ERIK

This isn't about Vost.

Michael looks at him.

ERIK

You're testing me.

MICHAEL

Everyone is tested.

ERIK

Darwin certainly seems interested.

Michael continues.

MICHAEL

Darwin doesn't matter.

ERIK

Shayne seems to disagree.

Michael stops.

MICHAEL

Leave Shayne out of this.

ERIK

I'm not the one bringing my opinion of her into operations.

That lands.

Michael turns.

MICHAEL

What does that mean?

ERIK

Darwin doesn't respect her.

You know it.

Michael says nothing.

ERIK (CONT'D)

And whatever problem he has with me...

it's because of her.

Michael studies him.

MICHAEL

Then don't give him ammunition.

They continue.

INT. SECTION ONE – TRAINING BAY – NEXT DAY

Erik has returned from Prague.

Darwin waits.

DARWIN

Sven.

Erik stops.

ERIK

Darwin.

DARWIN

Sparring floor.

ERIK

Why?

DARWIN

Evaluation.

Erik looks toward Michael.

Michael watches from above.

DARWIN

Unless you're only useful when women find you attractive.

Erik steps onto the mat.

ERIK

Fine.

Darwin circles him.

DARWIN

Valentine training teaches seduction.

Control.

Manipulation.

ERIK

Among other things.

DARWIN

And Shayne?

Erik's eyes sharpen.

ERIK

What about her?

DARWIN

Another target?

Erik lowers his hands.

ERIK

No.

DARWIN

Then she's a distraction.

ERIK

No.

DARWIN

Which is it?

Erik steps closer.

ERIK

She's a person.

Darwin smiles.

DARWIN

Pretty answer.

ERIK

Accurate answer.

Darwin suddenly attacks.

Erik blocks.

They spar.

Hard.

Darwin deliberately pushes him.

DARWIN

What happens when she says no?

Erik blocks another strike.

ERIK

I stop.

DARWIN

What if she chooses someone else?

ERIK

Her choice.

Another strike.

DARWIN

What if she chooses a woman?

Erik catches Darwin's wrist.

ERIK

Still her choice.

Darwin breaks free.

Attacks harder.

DARWIN

And if she never chooses you?

Erik knocks Darwin backward.

ERIK

Then I deal with it.

Silence.

Michael watches.

So does Nikita.

Darwin stands.

DARWIN

You expect me to believe that?

ERIK

I don't particularly care what you believe.

Darwin smiles.

DARWIN

There's the real Sven.

Erik lowers his hands.

ERIK

You wanted to know whether I respect women.

Start by respecting Shayne enough to stop talking about her like she's property.

Michael's expression changes.

That one lands.

ACT THREE

INT. SECTION ONE – OPERATIONS – LATER

Quinn works rapidly.

Jason joins her.

QUINN

Prague wasn't the center.

JASON

I know.

He throws another intercept onto the screen.

JASON (CONT'D)

It was bait.

Quinn looks at him.

QUINN

For whom?

Jason enlarges a personnel file.

MICHAEL.

Then another.

SHAYNE.

JASON

For the family.

Quinn immediately activates Communications.

QUINN

Nikita.

INT. SECTION ONE – PERCH – SAME

Nikita receives the alert.

NIKITA

What?

QUINN (V.O.)

The Collective isn't targeting Section infrastructure.

They're profiling Michael's family.

Nikita freezes.

NIKITA

Where's Shayne?

INT. MICHAEL AND NIKITA'S HOUSE – LIVING ROOM – SAME

Shayne sits with Mick.

Darwin remains nearby with the files.

The lights suddenly go out.

Darkness.

Mick stops talking.

Shayne is instantly on her feet.

SHAYNE

Stay down.

MICK

Wasn't planning on tap dancing.

Shayne retrieves a pistol from beneath a side table.

Darwin notices.

DARWIN

Off rotation?

SHAYNE

Off rotation doesn't mean stupid.

Glass breaks.

An intruder enters.

Shayne moves.

Darwin moves faster.

He tackles the operative.

Another comes through the kitchen.

Mick grabs a lamp.

MICK

Really?

At this hour?

He SMASHES it across the intruder's back.

SHAYNE

Uncle Mick!

MICK

What?

I was helping!

Shayne disarms the man.

Darwin pins the first operative.

DARWIN

Collective.

Shayne looks down.

A familiar insignia.

Her expression changes.

INT. SECTION ONE – VAN ACCESS – LATER

Shayne enters with Mick and Darwin.

Michael is waiting.

He sees Shayne.

Immediately crosses to her.

MICHAEL

Are you hurt?

SHAYNE

I'm fine.

He checks anyway.

SHAYNE

Dad.

I'm fine.

Michael turns toward Darwin.

MICHAEL

What happened?

DARWIN

She handled herself.

Shayne looks surprised.

Darwin actually gave her credit.

DARWIN (CONT'D)

Eventually.

There it is.

SHAYNE

And there goes the compliment.

Nikita arrives.

Looks at Darwin.

NIKITA

Some things never change for some people, Darwin.

Darwin smiles thinly.

DARWIN

Apparently not.

Mick walks in behind them.

Michael sees him carrying half a broken lamp.

MICHAEL

Why do you have that?

MICK

Long story.

MICHAEL

Put it down.

MICK

You really haven't changed.

INT. SECTION ONE – PERCH – LATER

Michael and Nikita argue quietly.

Below them, Shayne sits with Mick.

MICHAEL

She stays here.

NIKITA

No.

MICHAEL

The Collective attacked our home.

NIKITA

Which means our home isn't safe.

MICHAEL

Then she'll stay in Section.

NIKITA

Michael.

MICHAEL

Until we eliminate the threat.

NIKITA

Listen to yourself.

Michael turns.

MICHAEL

I'm protecting her.

NIKITA

You're controlling her.

MICHAEL

There's a difference.

NIKITA

There is.

And you're crossing it.

Michael looks through the glass.

Erik approaches Shayne below.

Mick notices him.

Michael's eyes narrow.

NIKITA

Don't.

MICHAEL

He's approaching her.

NIKITA

Yes.

That's generally how human interaction works.

Michael looks at Nikita.

NIKITA (CONT'D)

Darwin tested him.

He passed.

You took him into the field.

He passed.

He saved Shayne's life.

And you're still waiting for a reason to disapprove.

MICHAEL

He's trained to manipulate women.

NIKITA

He's trained to manipulate targets.

Shayne isn't his target.

MICHAEL

How do you know?

Nikita looks directly at him.

NIKITA

Because he treats her choices as hers.

A beat.

NIKITA (CONT'D)

Right now...

you're the one having trouble doing that.

Michael goes quiet.

ACT FOUR

INT. SECTION ONE – COMMON AREA – NIGHT

Mick sits across from Erik.

Shayne stands nearby.

It looks disturbingly like an interview.

MICK

So.

Swedish.

ERIK

Yes.

MICK

Valentine operative.

ERIK

Yes.

MICK

Shot protecting her.

ERIK

Unfortunately.

MICK

Handsome.

Erik pauses.

ERIK

I've been told.

Shayne covers her face.

SHAYNE

This is humiliating.

MICK

Quiet.

I'm helping.

Mick leans toward Erik.

MICK

Intentions?

ERIK

Coffee.

MICK

That's it?

ERIK

Dinner eventually.

MICK

And after dinner?

Erik looks toward Shayne.

ERIK

Whatever she's comfortable with.

Mick nods.

MICK

Good answer.

Michael appears.

MICHAEL

Why are you interviewing him?

Mick looks up.

MICK

Someone has to.

Michael stares.

MICK (CONT'D)

Your technique is rather intimidating.

MICHAEL

It's effective.

SHAYNE

Dad.

Michael looks toward her.

SHAYNE

Can I please handle my own dating life?

Michael looks at Erik.

Then Mick.

Then Shayne.

MICHAEL

Yes.

Shayne blinks.

SHAYNE

Really?

MICHAEL

Within reason.

SHAYNE

And there it is.

Mick laughs.

INT. SECTION ONE – OPERATIONS – SAME

Quinn and Jason isolate the Collective signal.

JASON

Got you.

QUINN

Location?

Jason enlarges the map.

JASON

Vienna.

Claire and Trent enter.

CLAIRE

What's in Vienna?

Quinn looks at them.

QUINN

The Collective's command node.

Trent checks his weapon.

TRENT

Then let's shut it down.

Nikita enters.

NIKITA

Claire and Trent lead.

Mendez and Jasmine support.

She looks toward Shayne.

Shayne waits.

Nikita smiles faintly.

NIKITA (CONT'D)

Not you.

SHAYNE

I wasn't volunteering.

NIKITA

Good.

SHAYNE

I'm learning.

Michael approaches.

MICHAEL

I'll take Sven.

Erik looks up.

ERIK

Again?

MICHAEL

Problem?

ERIK

Not at all.

Shayne approaches Erik.

SHAYNE

Come back in one piece.

ERIK

Planning on it.

SHAYNE

Good.

Erik hesitates.

Then kisses her gently on the cheek.

Shayne allows it.

Michael watches.

His face reveals absolutely nothing.

Mick watches Michael.

Fascinated.

MICK

You all right there?

Michael slowly looks at him.

MICHAEL

Fine.

MICK

You don't look fine.

MICHAEL

Mick.

MICK

Right.

Fine.

EXT. SECTION ONE – VAN ACCESS – NIGHT

The mission team prepares.

Claire.

Trent.

Jasmine.

Mendez.

Michael.

Erik.

Darwin approaches Shayne.

DARWIN

You're really staying behind?

SHAYNE

Apparently taking a break is allowed.

DARWIN

Never thought I'd see it.

SHAYNE

You never thought you'd see a lot of things.

Darwin looks toward Erik.

DARWIN

He passed.

Shayne looks at him.

SHAYNE

Your test?

DARWIN

For now.

SHAYNE

I didn't ask you to test him.

DARWIN

Somebody had to.

Shayne steps closer.

SHAYNE

No.

Nobody did.

Darwin's expression changes.

SHAYNE (CONT'D)

You don't get to decide who is worthy of me.

Michael doesn't.

Adam doesn't.

You definitely don't.

Darwin studies her.

For once, no clever answer.

SHAYNE (CONT'D)

That's the part you still don't understand.

She walks away.

INT. SECTION ONE – VAN – MOVING – NIGHT

Michael sits opposite Erik.

Silence.

Erik finally breaks.

ERIK

Your friend Mick is interesting.

MICHAEL

He's not my friend.

ERIK

Shayne calls him Uncle Mick.

MICHAEL

I know.

More silence.

ERIK

Darwin asked what I'd do if Shayne never chose me.

Michael looks at him.

MICHAEL

What did you say?

ERIK

I'd deal with it.

Michael studies him.

ERIK (CONT'D)

I meant it.

MICHAEL

Good.

Erik nods.

Then:

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

She likes you.

Erik looks genuinely stunned.

ERIK

What?

Michael checks his weapon.

MICHAEL

Don't make me repeat it.

Erik smiles.

ERIK

Wouldn't dream of it.

Michael looks toward him.

MICHAEL

And Sven?

ERIK

Yes?

MICHAEL

Don't make me regret saying it.

Erik's smile disappears.

ERIK

Understood.

A beat.

Michael almost smiles.

Almost.

INT. SECTION ONE – COMMON AREA – SAME

Shayne sits beside Mick.

Nikita joins them.

Three cups of coffee.

For once, Shayne isn't preparing for battle.

MICK

So...

what have we learned?

SHAYNE

That my father is insane.

NIKITA

Known fact.

SHAYNE

Darwin is still an ass.

NIKITA

Also known.

MICK

And Erik?

Shayne smiles into her coffee.

SHAYNE

Still maybe.

Mick looks toward Nikita.

MICK

Maybe?

Nikita smiles.

NIKITA

That's practically a declaration of love around here.

Shayne laughs.

Then Quinn's voice comes over Communications.

QUINN (V.O.)

Mission team has crossed into Austria.

Shayne looks toward the main display.

For a second, instinct tells her to stand.

To work.

To fight.

She doesn't.

Nikita notices.

NIKITA

Let them handle it.

Shayne settles back.

SHAYNE

I'm trying.

Mick raises his coffee.

MICK

To trying.

Shayne taps her cup against his.

SHAYNE

To trying.

CUT TO:

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION – NIGHT

A darkened chamber.

Old monitors flicker.

Images of Section operatives fill the screens.

Michael.

Nikita.

Claire.

Trent.

Erik.

Finally...

Shayne.

A FIGURE sits in darkness.

UNKNOWN FIGURE

Section believes The Collective has returned.

A SECOND FIGURE steps forward.

SECOND FIGURE

Hasn't it?

The first figure watches Shayne's image.

UNKNOWN FIGURE

No.

A beat.

UNKNOWN FIGURE (CONT'D)

It evolved.

The screen displaying Shayne turns RED.

CUT TO BLACK.

END ACT FOUR

END OF EPISODE