

Blade Runner – Electric Dreams

Session 04 26-11-25

Case conclusion

DAY 2 - MORNING SHIFT

The Blade Runners are planning their next move in a vidconf call.

Percival is considering a visit to see Lilith at the Memory Lab. He and Fenna discuss the torn page from the book of poetry but they have the feeling that it's probably not too important in light of their more solid leads.

Bakker wonders if they should visit the safehouse and Novak suggests that they all go there. Percival considers whether they should report Styles as a rogue Nexus-8. Is he dangerous? Bakker doesn't think so, she argues he's looking for Leah to make sure she doesn't kill Lilith and he hasn't done anything threatening so far.

Percival enjoys some pleasant moments thinking about deploying surveillance cameras around the Memory Lab before being reminded that the evidence indicates that Leah is hell bent on killing Lilith and they don't have time for that sort of thing. Percival is still wondering about things they don't have time to do when they receive a priority interrupt from Deputy Chief Holden, referring them to this morning's edition of KILL magazine.

Holden's furious face breaks in on the call, "What the hell's going on, are you guys leaking?" He goes on to bark an excerpt of the article, "My contacts in the RDU tell me they are bravely hunting down the skin jobs on the street... KILL magazine's exclusive inside information direct from Blade Runners working the case etc." The Deputy Chief rants on, "you know that Wallace is going to go crazy about this!" Jabbing his finger at Novak he continues, "you were at KILL magazine last night, what were you blabbing about then? Novak points out that Schyler was also a witness at the Snake Pit club and could easily have dreamed up the rest of the 'story'.

Gradually subsiding, Holden turns his attention to Bakker, "are you sure you weren't following up on one of your passion projects, Bakker? Your bleeding heart troubling you?" Bakker insists she had nothing to do with it and with a scowl the Deputy Chief turns his attention to the case, "I've seen your KIA reports but what's your gut feeling, how's it going in general and what's your next move?"

Percival offers, "we found out that Leah intends to kill Lilith Tyrell." Holden goes ballistic again, "What?!!! In god's name man, get over there and do something about it!" Percival protests that they have some other leads that they yet to investigate. Holden's reply is short and to the point, "What do you mean some other leads... you've got intent to murder... go there!"

Swallowing a pill and gulping a glass of water, Holden continues, "look, you've done well up until now, achieved a lot in one day and there will be some good marks on your records but don't screw it up at the end!" he glares at them before abruptly ending the call.

Overcoming their interest in the safehouse lead and Percival's nerdy obsession with surveillance, they finally decide they will all meet up at the Memory Lab since all the evidence seems to point to an imminent murder, with motive and means all accounted for. It suddenly occurs to Fenna, with mounting concern, that if Leah kills Lilith, she is also very likely to abduct Sarah.

The Memory Lab - all Blade Runners

The Blade Runners converge on The Lilith Memory Lab finding the big, reinforced glass doors are locked, they ring the bell, no reply. Percival hacks through the optical sensor security and opens the door. They enter and Percival locks the door behind them.

Hearing a faint groan from around the corner, they move to the north/south corridor to investigate, finding the replicant assistant, Terry lying wounded on the floor. Percival quickly applies his medical expertise establishing that Terry has been shot in the knee and then expertly punched in a nerve cluster, fully disabling him. He whispers, "a woman... protect Lilith... woman shot me, opened the door, surprised me."

Percival attends Terry as the others move stealthily down the corridor. Fenna notices the lab doors are open and she can hear a quiet conversation inside. Moving up they catch sight of their quarry. Leah is gesturing with her blaster in hand and talking to Lilith.

Leah sees them and immediately appeals, "noooo, no no no no, don't interfere, don't stop me!" before turning and targeting her blaster on Lilith who is standing nearby, regarding the rogue Blade Runner with detached caution.

Leah screams at Lilith, "you fucking murderer... you made me have a daughter then you killed her, you sadistic bitch!" Lilith replies nervously, "I am not a murderer, I am a memory designer. The memory has a purpose."

Leah steadies her aim, rock solid, at Lilith's head before ordering, "play back the memory to them, let them see." Lilith complies with Leah's demand and the Blade Runners all experience the memory. Fenna, endures the experience for the second time, grimly holding her exceptional sensitivity and empathy in check.

Leah is shaking with rage and hatred but her voice is steady as she addresses Lilith, "I am going to kill you because you killed my daughter."

Fenna tries to probe for negotiation, saying softly, "put your gun down Leah, we can talk" as Lilith's daughter, Sarah, appears in the doorway of the lab with concern in her eyes, "Mummy, what's going on?" Lilith anxiously moves her gaze to her daughter mastering her emotions to try to speak calmly, "Sarah, you need to go into the other lab, go in there and play."

Assassins

Suddenly there is huge explosion, rocking the building, followed by the sound of the cascading shattered glass of the entrance. Percival is knocked over by the blast but quickly rolls up readying his weapon. Two expressionless figures, clad in unmarked black combat gear enter the building through the wreckage of the entrance. One of them comes around the corner and fires at Percival with a compact assault rifle, missing him but hitting and killing Terry.

Percival snapshots back at the woman assassin, wounding her before dashing back down the corridor and into the main lab, passing Sarah standing in the doorway he brings her along with him.

Bakker storms past Percival at full speed and legs it up the corridor sliding to a halt as she raises her blaster and takes a 44 shot at the woman, unluckily only wounding her further. She fires back wounding Bakker and knocking her back to the wall inflicting a concussion. The assassin woman retreats and takes cover behind the remains of the entrance desk.

Fenna, observing Leah menace Lilith and having planted the seed of negotiation with Leah, tries to appeal to her fellow Blade Runner using her exceptional manipulation abilities to persuade her to help with the attackers. Leah looks over, nods affirmative, and without hesitation joins Fenna, Leah will assist her fellow Blade Runners.

The Five Blade Runners

Fenna notices that Lilith has a curious half-smile on her face, as if Fenna's intervention gives her some satisfaction but she doesn't have time to consider this as along with Leah, the two women move to cover the door, protecting Sarah.

Novak is just beginning to move when they hear another explosion to the south of the building. Swearing beneath his breath, he moves to the doorway covering the corridor, perhaps unsure of which fight to join, north or south. On the north side, the man shoots Bakker, wounding her and agonisingly breaking her left forearm while Novak covers the empty corridor.

Hearing the shots, Novak finally runs up the corridor to the north and takes a shot, wounding the male assassin. Bakker also shoots at the man hitting critically but not well enough to drop him, she then legs it back down the corridor, leaving a trail of blood as she careers into the main memory lab seeking Percival's medical skills. The woman assassin emerges from cover to shoot at Novak, hitting him for a critical wound to match Bakker's, another broken left forearm.

Leah moves purposefully south, blaster raised, to investigate the explosion there, spotting another black-clad figure approaching. Leah shoots and wounds the man, causing him to double up with the pain of cracked ribs.

Fenna thinks about calling backup but realises it will take some minutes and it also means they would not be free to decide what they tell the LAPD. Lilith looks at Fenna's enquiring gaze and says, "the Wallace Corporation I would say, they want to erase us."

Fenna runs down the corridor joining Leah and positioning for a shot. Although she is not very well trained as a shooter Fenna has superb agility so she still aims impressively, hitting and wounding the assassin.

Percival gives Bakker first aid, applying a field hypo and slipping a sleeve on her broken arm then spraying a brace agent to lock it in place.

Back at the north end Novak takes a shot at the man, hitting dead centre with a 44 blaster shot to the chest and smashing him lifelessly to the wall. Novak then runs back down the corridor nursing the agony of his broken arm as he bites down on a strong pain killer.

In the southern end of the corridor, the man rushes forwards and shoots at Leah, missing as he slips in his own blood. Another black-clad attacker, a woman, joins him.

Freshly patched up and with her pain dulled, Bakker runs up the corridor to the north and shoots at the assassin woman, wounding her again. The woman returns fire but misses.

Leah shoots, blowing the male assassin's brains out as his body flies backwards with the sheer force of the 44 round. Fenna shoots at the remaining woman with a sonic round, inflicting crushing damage and breaking her ribs as she slumps against the wall for support.

Percival joins the action, running down to the south, firing at the woman but in the crowded corner with Leah and Fenna, he is unable to aim well and his shot goes wide.

Novak, standing in the lab doorway, quickly sprays a field dressing on his arm to somewhat hold it steady and staggers back north to join Bakker, snap firing a 44 at close range at the woman assassin, the bullet smashing into her, hurling her body across the room like a rag doll.

On the south side of the building the last remaining assassin turns and runs, fleeing the building.

The Aftermath

Bakker jogs back down the corridor, nursing her broken arm, joining the others at the south, passing Leah as she walks deliberately back up to the memory lab and closes the doors behind her. A few moments later they hear a muffled shot.

There is the sound of an assault vehicle lifting off outside, presumably with the only remaining assassin onboard. It quickly fades into the distance.

After a minute Leah walks calmly down the corridor carefully leading Sarah by the hand, her weapon holstered. She is composed as she says, "I killed her, now I'm going offworld, I'm leaving. Styles has arranged it, there's a pickup, you should let me go. I will take Sarah with me."

Regarding her sadly, Bakker says, "you can't do that" and Leah replies, "she's an orphan now, I can be her mother."

Fenna says quietly to the others, "no, we can't let her take Sarah." With defiance mixed with pleading in her eyes, Leah appeals, "you can let me, I can do it, you can decide. I know what it is to be a Blade Runner, I know the authority you have, you don't have to tell them everything."

Fenna replies firmly yet with compassion, "you are not well, Leah."

There is a pause until Leah replies haltingly, "I... I... have... not been well... yes."

Speaking softly Fenna attempts to persuade Leah, using her manipulation skills to build on the influence she has managed to plant in the errant Blade Runner. "You have to let Sarah remain here." Leah looks sadly down at Sarah, then up at Fenna, stating, as if to unwittingly reinforce the negotiated agreement, "I can't have her, you won't let me."

Fenna gently explains, "the memories are implanted, you know that"... and Leah comprehends the import of her words... "just give me... a moment..."

As the other Blade Runners take a step back, Leah crouches down to Sarah's height and gently embraces the little girl, holding her tenderly, her tears splashing down as Sarah hugs her back. They remain clasped together for a few moments, holding onto each other until Leah slowly stands and turns away, "I'm leaving now," and Fenna and Bakker make no move to stop her.

Novak demands, "where are you going, Leah?" and she replies without turning or stopping, "offworld." Novak growls grimly, "you killed your partner." Leah stops a moment and without turning explains, "he was about to arrest Styles and then begin to wrap up the replicant underground group Styles is a part of, I couldn't let that happen." And she resumes her walk away from them.

Novak stands still and orders, "stop her," as Leah walks away, but he is not in command, and the other Blade Runners ignore his attempted order. As Leah walks towards the wrecked emergency exit there is an awkward pause before Novak says, "are you going to stop her, guys?" while still doing nothing himself.

Bakker says firmly, "no, she was traumatised by the implanted memory, they don't do that anymore, it's not fair on her to hold her responsible for the implanted trauma."

Percival who has remained silent until now speaks firmly, "no, I will not stop her."

Leah leaves the building as Fenna looks on with a troubled gaze as the rogue Blade Runner walks slowly towards an air car that lands outside. Styles opens the door and she climbs in without a backward look as the car ascends through the rain, disappearing into the dark clouds of polluted air to the sound of distantly approaching sirens.