

Blade Runner – Electric Dreams

Session 03 20-11-25

Next Session 27-11-25 19.00

DAY 1 - EVENING SHIFT

At the start of the evening shift The Blade Runners are in video conference, discussing elements of the case. Bakker wonders why Styles was at The Snake Pit volunteering to be a witness, it doesn't make sense why he would stick around. Although he doesn't mention it now, while investigating the Snake Pit crime scene Novak said, more than once, that he thought Styles was trying to steer them off Leah's trail.

They consider which evidence to upload to the LAPD mainframe, in particular they have some concerns regarding Styles. Bakker and Fenna concur that if they upload the information identifying Styles as a rogue Nexus-8 they cannot undo it and Novak's veteran cop instincts agree, it gives them more options to defer their decision.

The team decide, at least for now, not to upload the data regarding Styles as a fugitive Nexus-8 but they do include the Lilith Memory Lab evidence and Lilith Tyrell's unconventional trauma techniques.

Fenna wants to follow up on the people directly involved and thinks it is worth investigating Leah's apartment, along with Percival for technical and forensic support. Bakker takes the Animoid Row lead so she will go there and rattle some noodle stands.

The word on the street - Novak

Novak decides to work his street contacts for the evening. Unfortunately, he doesn't get much back beyond the certainty that the shooting wasn't a gangland hit, which he already knows, much to his irritation. He also wonders if Leah might return to the Memory Lab to try and find a way to stop her traumatic memories. Perhaps they should warn Lilith Tyrell he wonders.

Leah's apartment - Fenna and Percival

At the run-down apartment block, the lift is out of order so they climb the stairs to the 3rd floor approaching the apartment along a dingy corridor. Percival tries ringing the doorbell a few times. Further down the corridor a door opens and a slovenly yet muscular man bearing an aggressive expression, swaggers over and demands to know what they want. Percival politely asks if he's seen Leah lately.

"Heh, the skin job who lives here, I hear she's dead," he snarls as Percival enquires how he might possibly know that. There is an awkward pause as the message permeates the thick skull of the obnoxious neighbour until, frowning, he retorts, "are you a skin job?" as he pushes Percival on the chest. The thuggish man continues, "heh, not so special eh, tough guy," while Percival regards him with some disgust, before quietly warning, "you don't want to do that."

Fenna quickly intervenes to manipulate the situation and applies her unparalleled mastery of emotional control. Swiftly stepping in and looking the neighbour directly in the eye, she smiles eerily, using her intense expression and commanding presence to dominate the situation. There is a teetering moment of faux defiance before, sweating profusely, the man quickly turns and flees back into his apartment slamming the door hard behind himself.

Percival allows himself a small chuckle before turning his attention to the door and using his technical skills to easily bypass the security as with a discreet click the door opens for him.

Inside, they see a modest apartment similar to their own homes. There are some plates and cups still left out from a light meal but there is no rotting smell so they haven't been left for long.

Percival checks the coffee thermos, still a little warm which would line up with it being made yesterday evening. He finds a book of poetry, *The Collected Works of William Blake*, lying open at the *Tyger* poem. He also notes another page has been ripped from the book. He looks at the other books but doesn't find anything interesting.

Fenna examines a bedside photograph of a young girl that looks a bit like a young Leah and Fenna realises this is the girl from the Memory Lab implant assigned to Leah. Somehow, Leah has managed to get a picture of her daughter who exists only in her memory. With a sudden chill Fenna also realises this girl strongly resembles Lilith's own daughter, Sarah.

Percival also takes a look at the back of the frame, nothing there, so he removes the photo from the frame and on the back of the picture is a stamp with the name Doc Badger. They photograph it and also take it with them.

They proceed to search the rest of the apartment, noticing multiple empty vodka bottles and very little food. Percival takes the poetry book with the torn out page.

Fenna spots the butterfly display, featuring surreal Animoid butterflies, quite a beautiful piece. Fenna recalls the advertisement in the *Sentinel* for The Aurelian, in Animoid Row; the custom butterfly designer. Fenna vid copies the item for evidence.

As they leave, they agree it looks like Leah hasn't been back to the apartment since the shooting.

Animoid Row - Bakker

As her Spinner descends onto Animoid row, Bakker reviews the evidence so far, including Percival and Fenna's recent visit to Leah's apartment.

Bakker checks out the Metrokab stop but doesn't get anything out of them even though, "we always help police."

She pauses to peruse the INFOCOM kiosk, which offers a free, ever-scrolling news ticker (and paid searches of their vast intranet) but finds nothing of interest.

She visits to the nearest noodle stand (Tasty Noodle) and chats them up regarding seeing Leah. Starting off informally without showing her badge she just gets disinterest however after showing her badge she gets politely enthusiastic disinterest. As she wanders away Bakker finds herself wondering how the hell the likes of Novak and Fenna manage this sort of thing.

Looking around she spots a tall pale man in the crowd, it's Styles, he looks round and sees Bakker who is now walking fast after him. He immediately breaks into a run with Bakker in hot pursuit but with a decent head start and after the intervention of an inconvenient Metrokab blocking Bakker, Styles manages to disappear out of sight.

Swearing quite loudly, Bakker stomps off to The Aurelian Butterfly shop. Entering she encounters The Aurelian, an aging blind man with apparently acute senses since he is aware of her location as she enters. She presents her badge to allow him to run his sensitive fingers over the shape before he asks, "how can I help?" Bakker explains about the butterfly her colleagues have vid recced and he jokes viewing it is a bit of a problem for him but he asks Bakker to describe the installation and he recognises it as his work.

When Bakker asks who bought it, he says he remembers a young lady a week or so ago. He claims he doesn't know her.

Bakker's insight ascertains that he's holding something back, he twitched very slightly like a poker player's tell when mentioning the young lady.

Bakker explains in her usual forthright manner that the woman could be in extreme danger, "so please tell me where she is." The Aurelian replies, "she was just a customer I... er... don't know her." He seems somewhat uneasy at Bakker's formidable presence and sensing this she tries to lean on him a bit to manipulate the situation. He starts saying, "look, I'm just an old man," before looking up with a defiant gaze. "So what if I did know her? Yeah, I know Leah and I get sick of people trying to oppress people just because they are replicants, so if I've helped her get away from the oppression she was under, then that is something I'm very content with and if she can find her freedom now that she's in touch with the right people then that's a good thing, Detective."

Bakker presses her point, "so you know that she's got away eh... and you helped her." The old man nods and Bakker goes on, "who were these... right people then, friend?" And he replies, "I think I've said enough." But Bakker disagrees, "No, I don't think you have, come on," she presses him as she manipulates the situation impressively, her imposing presence and soldier's bearing adding to her persuasive power. "Ok, ok, ok, just take it easy," he protests as Bakker's enthusiasm has her practically nose-to-nose with him. "I'll tell, I'll tell." He hushes his voice and half whispers, "The Replicant Underground... to get people off planet." Pausing for a moment to recover his breath he turns his gaze towards Bakker, "look I kind of sensed something in you, you're not just a regular type of cop, are you?" Bakker agrees and relates some of her off-world military experience serving alongside replicant soldiers, before going on to explain, "we've got a crime to investigate and we have to get to Leah for her own protection."

The Aurelian sighs, "I hope you're telling me the truth, Detective Bakker," before continuing, "ok Leah was here, really upset and disturbed... she was raging about Lilith Tyrell, she said she is going to kill her for killing her daughter... she was calling Lilith, her daughter's murderer, I sent Styles out to look for her."

He doesn't know where Styles is but after getting Bakker's word that she won't inform LAPD HQ, he gives her the address of a Replicant Underground safe house where Styles or even Leah could be hiding out.

Looking simultaneously intimidated and impressed; The Aurelian subsides onto a chair behind his counter as Bakker rushes out of the shop towards her Spinner, punching the air as she goes.

In a brief end of shift conference, the Blade Runners share their thoughts.

Both Percival and Novak are concerned for Lilith's safety so they try to call her but only receive a do not disturb notification. Fenna reminds them that the Memory Lab is built like a bunker and has an armoured glass entrance locked with an optical scanner so she should be reasonably safe if she's at the Lab

DAY 1 – NIGHT SHIFT - DOWNTIME

Bakker departs quickly for some strong drinks at a nearby bar, then home for an untroubled sleep.

Fenna goes home to relax and sleep. Her dreams are troubled by a repeating recent memory but she rests well enough.

Percival goes home to see a message he had overlooked earlier from his difficult colleague, Mirren. It seems she's still disappointed and annoyed at him, criticising and pestering him for no apparent good reason. Percival tosses and turns for some time before sleeping, finding the additional stress... inconvenient.

Novak goes home to relax and sleep. He spends his usual night of troubled sleep, plagued by dreams of regret and grudging compliance.