

STARGATE ATLANTIS
"THE TOWER"
EPISODE #0215
DIALOGUE CONTINUITY SCRIPT

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Prepared by:
Line 21 Media Services Ltd.
#122 - 1058 Mainland Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2T4
Phone: (604) 662-4600
line21@line21cc.com

DIALOGUE

TEASER

01:00:46:16 ELDRED: I'm sorry to have kept you waiting, but it's harvest time, and we must
prepare our tribute for the tower.

01:00:54:09 SHEPPARD: The tower?

01:00:55:27 ELDRED: You must come from a distant land indeed if you have not heard of the
 tower. I don't know of anyone who is not under its protection.

01:01:02:17 TEYLA: Protection from what?

01:01:04:11 ELDRED: The Wraith.

01:01:09:11 SHEPPARD: Is this tower close by?

01:01:12:03 ELDRED: I will show you. Come.

01:01:27:18 ELDRED: There.

01:01:32:21 SHEPPARD (O/S): Is it my imagination...

01:01:34:05 SHEPPARD (CONT'D): or does that look a lot like--

01:01:35:21 TEYLA: The central spire of Atlantis?

01:01:38:05 SHEPPARD: Yes.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

01:03:03:02 SHEPPARD: How exactly do the people in the tower protect you from the Wraith?

01:03:06:11 ELDRED: They have a great weapon capable of annihilating the Wraith ships
 which descend from the sky.

01:03:10:27 MCKAY: What kind of a weapon?

01:03:12:10 ELDRED: Thousands of bright lights rise up from the ground beneath the tower,
 swarm the ships, and destroy them.

01:03:18:18 MCKAY: Really? Thousands of bright lights.

01:03:21:10 TEYLA: And you have seen this?

01:03:22:14 ELDRED: I have never seen a Wraith ship. They have not come for many
 generations...

01:03:26:15 ELDRED (CONT'D O/S): but there are times that the Lord Protector sees fit...

01:03:29:04 ELDRED (CONT'D): to demonstrate this power to his people.

01:03:33:00 SHEPPARD: We'd really like to meet this Lord Protector.

01:03:37:03 ELDRED: That may prove difficult. Only members of the royal court are allowed in
 the tower.

01:03:41:01 TEYLA: Perhaps they would consider making an exception just this once.

01:03:44:22 ELDRED: I'll do what I can.

01:03:46:27 SHEPPARD: Thank you.

01:03:49:20 RONON: You know this weapon he's talking about?

01:03:51:03 SHEPPARD: We call them drones. We've used them to defend Earth and Atlantis,
but we could really use some more.

01:03:55:27 MCKAY (O/S): And not only that.

01:03:57:25 MCKAY (CONT'D): If these people have working drones, they must also have a
ZPM.

01:04:00:21 TEYLA: Eldred said the Wraith have not come in a long time. Perhaps this
technology is no longer operational.

01:04:05:16 MCKAY: Well, I'll know more if I could get a little closer, take some readings.

01:04:10:14 WEIR (INTO RADIO): Do you think this Eldred is telling the truth?

01:04:12:29 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): There's no reason for him to lie.

01:04:14:19 WEIR (INTO RADIO): And you say the tower looks a lot like Lantian architecture?

01:04:17:14 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): Well, it was overgrown by vegetation, but otherwise,
 there was definitely something familiar about it.

01:04:22:26 WEIR (INTO RADIO): So the people in the tower could be Ancients?

01:04:25:29 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): I don't know.

01:04:26:29 SHEPPARD (CONT'D INTO RADIO): The feudal society doesn't fit the profile.
 Why would the Ancients want to lord over a bunch of simple farmers?

01:04:32:13 WEIR (INTO RADIO): I don't know. Either way, we should talk with them.

01:04:35:17 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): Agreed.

01:04:40:18 BALDRIC: We're approaching the base of the tower. This is as close as I dare
 bring you.

01:04:45:19 MCKAY: I take it people like you don't get invited up for barbecues too often?

01:04:50:18 BALDRIC: The tower is for nobles only.

01:04:52:15 MCKAY: Uh-huh, and what makes them noble, hmm?

01:04:57:06 BALDRIC: Blood.

01:05:00:03 MCKAY: Right.

01:05:08:14 SHEPPARD: What are these guys?

01:05:10:29 RONON: Soldiers from the tower.

01:05:14:14 SHEPPARD: Whoa, whoa, whoa.

01:05:15:12 SHEPPARD (CONT'D O/S): Take it easy.

01:05:17:21 CONSTABLE: Who are you?

01:05:18:27 SHEPPARD (O/S): Lieutenant Colonel John Sheppard. Who are you?

01:05:21:15 CONSTABLE: I am a Constable of the Lord Protector's Guard, and this village
 scum dared to defy me.

01:05:29:09 CONSTABLE (CONT'D): It's clear we're going to have to make an example.

01:05:31:19 SHEPPARD: I don't think so.

01:05:33:00 ELDRED: Please, Colonel... it's my fault.

01:05:37:21 SHEPPARD: If you think I'm going to sit here and let you whip an innocent man,
 you're sorely mistaken.

01:05:42:28 OTHO (O/S): Constable...

01:05:45:14 OTHO (CONT'D): You may stand down.

01:05:51:16 OTHO (CONT'D): You are the strangers who requested an audience, are you not?

01:05:57:07 SHEPPARD: That's us.

01:06:01:09 OTHO: My name is Otho. I have the honor...

01:06:03:18 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): to be chamberlain...

01:06:05:23 OTHO (CONT'D): to the Lord Protector, and you would never be allowed...

01:06:10:01 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): in his presence...

01:06:11:28 OTHO (CONT'D): so armed.

01:06:14:21 SHEPPARD: I guess we'll have to be on our way, then.

01:06:21:02 OTHO: I'm afraid it's too late for that.

01:06:24:21 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): Take this one.

01:06:28:00 ELDRED (O/S): Please, Colonel, don't...

01:06:29:18 ELDRED (CONT'D): resist. The Lord Protector sees all.

01:06:32:11 OTHO: He's does, you know.

01:06:38:00 OTHO (CONT'D): But I suppose you're going to need a demonstration.

01:06:40:23 (MECHANICAL WHIRRING APPROACHING)

01:06:43:20 OTHO: And here it comes.

01:06:51:20 (EXPLOSION)

01:07:03:23 OTHO: Now, please, turn over your weapons. Some of the people here may not survive the next strike.

01:07:17:19 ELDRED: Colonel...

01:07:35:07 BALDRIC: We are not supposed to be here. If the soldiers come--

01:07:38:15 MCKAY: Relax. I'm almost done.

01:07:40:11 TEYLA (V/O OVER RADIO): Rodney, come in.

01:07:43:00 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): Go ahead.

01:07:44:00 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): We have a problem. They took Colonel Sheppard.

01:07:46:18 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): What? Who did?

01:07:48:05 TEYLA (V/O OVER RADIO): Soldiers from the tower. They confiscated our weapons.

01:07:50:18 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): What? And you let them?

01:07:53:17 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): We didn't exactly have much of a choice.

01:07:56:00 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): All right, I'm on my way back.

01:08:00:10 TEYLA: It was definitely a drone.

01:08:02:06 MCKAY: It was pretty good shooting. I mean, if it was their intention to scare
people and not actually kill anybody.

01:08:07:19 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): This is Sheppard. Anyone reading me?

01:08:09:13 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): Colonel, are you all right?

01:08:10:25 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): I'm fine. Is McKay with you?

01:08:12:17 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): I'm here.

01:08:13:25 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): Did you find anything with your scans?

01:08:15:21 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): As a matter of fact, I did. There's definitely an active
ZPM, but it's barely registering, so it's hard to say whether it's depleted or
just not drawing much power right now.

01:08:24:17 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): What else?

01:08:25:27 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): The really interesting part is that it seems to be coming from underground.

01:08:29:21 MCKAY (CONT'D O/S INTO RADIO):Now, when I realized that, I started scanning for subterranean structures. The tower is just the tip of the iceberg. There is a massive structure buried beneath it. It's hard to say without more detailed analysis...

01:08:39:04 MCKAY (CONT'D INTO RADIO): but it could very well be comparable in size to Atlantis itself.

01:08:44:15 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO):Doesn't really surprise me. I'm in the tower right now,
and, uh... I've got to say... It does kind of look familiar.

END OF ACT ONE

01:10:51:02 LORD PROTECTOR (CONT'D O/S): but for the moment I would prefer if you
thought of yourself as...

01:10:53:17 LORD PROTECTOR (CONT'D): a guest.

01:10:56:06 TAVIUS: Father, I must object. This man should be punished. He challenged one of our constables.

01:11:04:00 LORD PROTECTOR: One of our constables?

01:11:06:06 TAVIUS: Forgive me. One of...

01:11:08:23 TAVIUS (CONT'D O/S): your constables.

01:11:08:23 LORD PROTECTOR (O/S): Lieutenant Colonel...

01:11:11:01 LORD PROTECTOR (CONT'D): it would be my pleasure that you dine with us this evening.

01:11:20:22 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): From what I can tell by these readings, the underground structure's not just roughly the same shape and size as Atlantis. It's identical.

01:11:26:29 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): Yeah, it's pretty much the same on the inside, too...
although it's been redecorated.

01:11:31:26 TEYLA (V/O OVER RADIO): If it is a city like Atlantis, then where are the other
spires?

01:11:34:04 MCKAY (V/O OVER RADIO): Probably fell a long time ago. Maybe they were destroyed...

01:11:36:14 MCKAY (CONT'D INTO RADIO): during a Wraith attack, but in the intervening
10,000 years, the whole thing must have been overgrown by the forest.

01:11:41:00 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): One thing's for certain. These people are no
Ancients.

01:11:44:05 MCKAY (V/O OVER RADIO): But from what you're saying, the Lord Protector...

01:11:45:16 MCKAY (CONT'D INTO RADIO): must have the gene required to activate the advanced technology.

01:11:48:07 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): So it would seem.

01:11:49:20 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): Were they using any other technology?

01:11:50:25 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): No, not that I can see. They've turned the control room into a gallery for Royal audiences. There are some systems that seem to be operational, but I think they're just running on automatic.

01:11:59:26 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): Are you certain you are in no immediate danger?

01:12:02:12 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): I don't think so. They don't have me under guard,
and they've even given me my own room.

01:12:09:06 RONON (INTO RADIO): I don't like it. I say we call the troops and get you out.

01:12:12:20 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): I don't think it would work, even if we tried. Look, the combination of the hologram technology and a healthy supply of drones? No, they'd pick us off pretty easily.

01:12:19:13 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): For the moment, I don't want anybody to do anything.
Just keep a low profile.

01:12:24:26 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): Right...

01:12:36:12 PETRA: We are happy you could share our evening meal.

01:12:38:25 TEYLA: The pleasure is ours.

01:12:53:03 ELDRED: We thank the Ancestors for the great bounty bestowed upon us, and we ask that they bless the Lord Protector...

01:12:59:07 ELDRED (CONT'D O/S): that he may ever watch over us and keep us safe.

01:13:05:08 PETRA: Please, enjoy.

01:13:10:11 TEYLA: It is generous of you to remember the Lord Protector in your prayers,
especially after what happened this afternoon.

01:13:17:04 ELDRED (O/S): It is unfortunate...

01:13:18:12 ELDRED (CONT'D): but the soldiers serve the tower, and without the tower, we
 are vulnerable to the Wraith.

01:13:24:22 RONON (O/S): In exchange...

01:13:26:18 RONON (CONT'D): you give them a portion of your crops?

01:13:28:20 ELDRED: Half of every harvest.

01:13:30:23 TEYLA: Half?

01:13:49:12 MARA: I've never known anyone called "Lieutenant Colonel" before. What does it
 mean?

01:13:53:11 TAVIUS: It's not his name, you simpleton. It's his rank.

01:13:56:28 MARA: My apologies.

01:13:58:29 SHEPPARD: That's all right. I don't usually stand on ceremony anyway. How
 about you just call me John?

01:14:05:23 MARA (O/S): All right, John.

01:14:08:16 TAVIUS (O/S): It's obvious to anyone with eyes to see that you're a military man...

01:14:11:26 TAVIUS (CONT'D): which makes me wonder, why is it you question the actions of
my father's...

01:14:16:12 TAVIUS (CONT'D O/S): soldiers? Do you not agree that discipline is necessary?

01:14:20:07 SHEPPARD: I guess I just don't think whipping people is a good motivator.

01:14:24:02 (TAVIUS LAUGHING O/S)

01:14:25:10 TAVIUS (O/S): The villagers are mindless...

01:14:26:22 TAVIUS (CONT'D): brutes. They understand nothing else.

01:14:29:14 SHEPPARD: Maybe because they've never known anything else.

01:14:32:20 LORD PROTECTOR (O/S): I don't think that any of us would deny that the life of
peasants...

01:14:35:14 LORD PROTECTOR (CONT'D): can be difficult, but how much worse would it be if they fell victim to the Wraith?

01:14:40:02 SHEPPARD: You protect them with these... lights, like the one that hit the village today?

01:14:44:11 LORD PROTECTOR: Of course.

01:14:45:22 SHEPPARD: Where do they come from?

01:14:48:09 TAVIUS (O/S): The Lord Protector calls them forth...

01:14:49:12 TAVIUS (CONT'D): with his mind.

01:14:51:05 SHEPPARD: But from where?

01:14:52:27 SHEPPARD (CONT'D O/S): I mean, they rise up from the ground...

01:14:55:16 SHEPPARD (CONT'D): but has anybody bothered to go down there and check it out?

01:14:58:10 MARA: You mean the catacombs?

01:14:59:29 SHEPPARD: Yeah, whatever you call them.

01:15:02:02 MARA: They're dark and filthy. Why would anyone want to go down there?

01:15:04:22 (LORD PROTECTOR GASPING)

01:15:07:09 OTHO: My Lord!

01:15:08:18 LORD PROTECTOR: It's nothing. Leave me be.

01:15:10:22 OTHO: Take him to his chambers.

01:15:18:00 SHEPPARD: What's wrong with him?

01:15:20:06 OTHO: He'll be all right. It isn't the first time this has happened.

01:15:28:22 (TAVIUS BELCHING)

01:15:43:00 MCKAY: Well, that was a particularly unsatisfying meal.

01:15:45:19 TEYLA: We should be honored that those with so little would wish to share with
us.

01:15:48:23 MCKAY: Oh, I'm honored. I'm honored and hungry. Seriously, we should be
feeding them. We've got better food in our emergency rations.

01:15:54:03 TEYLA: I'm not sure that they would accept it. They are a proud people.

01:15:56:29 RONON: Not so proud that they'll stand up for themselves.

01:15:59:11 TEYLA: That could change.

01:16:02:15 MCKAY (O/S): Whoa, whoa, whoa, hold on a minute.

01:16:04:00 MCKAY (CONT'D): We need to be careful, right? We have no idea who's
watching, remember? We are supposed to be keeping a low profile, not
starting a revolution.

01:16:10:28 TEYLA: You cannot seriously believe that this is a just society.

01:16:13:16 MCKAY: It is a society that has not been culled by the Wraith in a long time. That
much we know for sure.

01:16:23:11 MCKAY (CONT'D): Now, where are the emergency rations?

01:16:38:00 MARA: Am I disturbing you?

01:16:40:02 SHEPPARD: Mara. No. Uh, um, how's your father?

01:16:44:07 MARA: He's resting. Thank you for your concern.

01:16:46:10 SHEPPARD: Uh, look, maybe it would be best if I just came back another day--

01:16:52:14 MARA: No, you can't leave! Please, there's a matter of great importance my father
wishes to discuss with you.

01:16:59:00 MARA (CONT'D O/S): Perhaps in the morning? If these chambers are not to your
liking...

01:17:04:17 SHEPPARD: No, no, they're fine.

01:17:05:28 MARA (O/S): Well, then maybe there's something...

01:17:07:13 MARA (CONT'D): I can do to make you more comfortable.

01:17:09:10 SHEPPARD: I don't think so.

01:17:11:13 MARA: Are you certain?

01:17:17:10 SHEPPARD: Oh, wow. I never see this coming.

01:17:22:00 MARA (O/S): You don't find me pleasing?

01:17:23:12 SHEPPARD: No, no, it's not that. It's just...

01:17:33:08 MARA: What you said at dinner, did you mean it?

01:17:35:05 SHEPPARD: Absolutely.

01:17:37:15 SHEPPARD (CONT'D): What did I say again?

01:17:38:17 MARA: About the villagers. My brother thinks it's a sign of weakness, but I know
that it means you'll be a great ruler some day.

01:17:45:12 SHEPPARD: Right.

01:17:50:20 SHEPPARD (CONT'D): Ruler? Wh--what are you talking about?

01:17:53:03 MARA: My father has promised that if we are married, succession will fall to me.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

01:18:28:08 SHEPPARD: We need to talk.

01:18:31:09 OTHO: Colonel Sheppard. Yes. Come in, please.

01:18:37:21 SHEPPARD: Seems that certain people around here have somehow gotten the
wrong idea about me.

01:18:45:18 SHEPPARD (CONT'D): Mara came to visit me last night.

01:18:49:24 OTHO: You must forgive her forward behavior, Colonel. She doesn't have much
time.

01:18:54:15 SHEPPARD: What's that supposed to mean?

01:18:59:28 OTHO: I have many duties here in the tower, the most important of which is as
Royal Genealogist. These scrolls record the bloodlines of the Lord
Protector's family going back 20 generations. It's my duty to study them
in order to determine the best possible match for every member of the
Royal House so that we may maintain the integrity of those bloodlines.

01:19:20:07 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): This is necessary because only one of the royal blood...

01:19:23:04 OTHO (CONT'D): can control the throne chair, which in turn controls the weapon
that protects us from the Wraith...

01:19:30:04 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): but I suspect you know some of this already.

01:19:33:19 OTHO (CONT'D): Most people, when they see the throne chair activated for the
 first time, react as though they've seen some kind of magic, but you...
 you didn't bat an eye.

01:19:43:22 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): What's more...

01:19:45:20 OTHO (CONT'D): you have in your blood the very gene for which our Royal
 Family has been so selectively bred...

01:19:52:17 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): all these generations.

01:19:55:11 OTHO (CONT'D): I scanned you shortly after we met, remember?

01:20:00:06 SHEPPARD: Right.

01:20:02:05 OTHO (O/S): Colonel, you must understand how important...

01:20:03:09 OTHO (CONT'D): this is to us. Over the centuries, despite our best efforts, the
 bloodlines have deteriorated. The ability of each new Lord Protector to
 control the throne chair, it is no longer a certainty.

01:20:15:11 SHEPPARD: Well, then, maybe it's time to start thinking about a new system of
 government.

01:20:20:06 OTHO: You have observed the inequalities of our society, and you disapprove. I
 can hardly blame you.

01:20:26:19 SHEPPARD: You didn't seem to have much of a problem with that in the village.

01:20:29:26 OTHO: I must maintain the image of my authority in front of the villagers. It is my
 duty, but believe me, between the two of us, you are in a better position
 to change things.

01:20:40:10 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): The gene in you...

01:20:43:05 OTHO (CONT'D): is stronger than it has been in any recorded member of the
 Royal Family for 300 years.

01:20:50:15 SHEPPARD: You sent Mara to my room.

01:20:53:14 OTHO: I didn't have to. She understands the situation perfectly well. Right now,
 Tavius is next in line, but the possibility that his sister might one day bear
 children with superior genetic make-up to him or his progeny, that will
 always be a threat.

01:21:10:14 SHEPPARD: So if the old man dies...

01:21:13:08 OTHO: Precisely, and his condition grows worse every day.

01:21:17:27 SHEPPARD: I know someone who may be able to help with that.

01:21:30:08 TEYLA: Dr. Beckett...

01:21:31:10 BECKETT: Good morning. I understand there's a patient waiting for me in the tower.

01:21:34:15 TEYLA: So Colonel Sheppard informed us over the radio.

01:21:36:15 BECKETT: Oh, thank you, Ronon. Do you have any idea what I'm walking into?

01:21:39:25 MCKAY: Not really, no.

01:21:41:24 TEYLA: According to the Colonel, your safety has been guaranteed by the
 chamberlain of the tower.

01:21:46:03 BECKETT: And we can trust him?

01:21:47:17 MCKAY: Not really, no, but I have a backup plan. Look, Baldric, my trusty local guide says he knows a way into the underground city. He's not exactly thrilled about going under there, but I think I can talk him into it.

01:21:58:12 BECKETT: And what good does that do us?

01:22:00:03 MCKAY: Well, if I can find the ZPM, then we can shut these people down whenever we want. Without the drone chair, they're just a bunch of primitive thugs with axes and knives.

01:22:07:11 BECKETT: Axes and knives can cause damage, Rodney.

01:22:09:12 MCKAY: You know what I mean.

01:22:11:14 BECKETT: Great. All right.

01:22:20:03 TAVIUS: Busy as usual, I see. Always making plans, plotting little strategies, all
for the benefit of the Royal House of course.

01:22:29:17 OTHO: Of course.

01:22:30:17 TAVIUS: Of course.

01:22:31:18 TAVIUS (CONT'D O/S): I understand you've recruited someone new...

01:22:33:25 TAVIUS (CONT'D): into your little schemes, this Lieutenant Colonel Sheppard.
Something about medical assistance for the Lord Protector?

01:22:41:24 OTHO: He offered. What was I supposed to say?

01:22:44:04 TAVIUS: Just be careful, Chamberlain. Remember your place...

01:22:47:28 TAVIUS (CONT'D O/S): and remember our...

01:22:48:28 TAVIUS (CONT'D): arrangement.

01:22:50:16 OTHO: What about the Colonel?

01:22:52:11 TAVIUS: I'll deal with him when the time comes.

01:23:08:12 BALDRIC: This is it.

01:23:09:23 MCKAY: All right, let's do it.

01:23:11:16 BALDRIC: I'm not so sure this is wise.

01:23:14:00 MCKAY: Okay, I'm not interested in your primitive taboos, okay? It is a dark and scary place, but it's not cursed or haunted or anything like that. It's perfectly safe.

01:23:24:26 BALDRIC: Actually, the catacombs are prone to earthquakes.

01:23:27:28 MCKAY: They are?

01:23:31:20 BALDRIC: Three village children died in a cave-in just last year.

01:23:36:09 MCKAY: I thought it was a superstition thing.

01:23:37:27 BALDRIC: Oh, no, the danger is quite real.

01:23:40:16 MCKAY: Oh, now he tells me.

01:23:47:28 BECKETT: He's anemic, and both his liver and kidneys seem to be malfunctioning, but he's not running a temperature, so I don't think it's an infection. I'll need to run some more tests.

01:23:56:10 SHEPPARD: I want to talk to him.

01:23:57:15 BECKETT: Right now, he needs to rest.

01:23:58:20 SHEPPARD: Carson...

01:23:59:24 BECKETT: He's not lucid at all.

01:24:01:17 OTHO: Thank you, Doctor.

01:24:03:02 BECKETT: All right.

01:24:04:15 OTHO: Colonel... I am authorized by the Lord Protector to speak with you on his behalf. Please come this way.

01:24:27:20 OTHO: Do you know what this is?

01:24:29:00 SHEPPARD: You tell me.

01:24:31:06 OTHO: It's a flying machine, or at least it used to be. It ran out of power a long time ago. I know you have some understanding of these things, even though you try not to show it.

01:24:43:22 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): I also know that this place was once home to a much more
advanced civilization. Unfortunately, aside...

01:24:51:28 OTHO (CONT'D): from a few trinkets and useless relics, all we have left is the throne chair, and if the bloodline continues to deteriorate, soon that will be taken from us as well.

01:25:04:02 SHEPPARD: What if I told you there was a way around that...

01:25:07:10 SHEPPARD (CONT'D O/S): a way to protect the planet without worrying about all
 these Royal bloodlines or any of that crap?

01:25:12:18 OTHO: That's impossible.

01:25:13:22 SHEPPARD: What if it wasn't?

01:25:15:10 OTHO: Such talk is dangerous.

01:25:17:17 SHEPPARD: He can't watch everyone all the time.

01:25:20:19 SHEPPARD (CONT'D O/S): Look, I know you serve these people...

01:25:23:17 SHEPPARD (CONT'D): but if you're right, and eventually they lose their ability to
 control the chair, well, at that point, what good are they?

01:25:29:12 OTHO: What are you suggesting?

01:25:36:04 SHEPPARD: A drug. Gene therapy. You give it to the people in the village, half of
 them will be able to control the throne chair, no problem.

01:25:44:14 OTHO: You're talking about revolution.

01:25:46:09 SHEPPARD: I'm talking about survival. What's going to happen when the Royal
 Family can't protect this planet anymore?

01:25:54:23 OTHO: And in exchange for this drug, what do you want in return?

01:26:09:26 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): Rodney, come in...

01:26:11:14 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): Go ahead.

01:26:12:20 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): Rodney...

01:26:15:20 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): Say again! I'm not getting very good reception down here.

01:26:19:02 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): I said, have you found anything yet?

01:26:21:08 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): We've only just made our way into the city.

01:26:23:08 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): Look, we may be able to swing a little deal here--
drones in exchange for gene therapy. I just need to know how many they
have left.

01:26:29:27 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): All right, I'm on it. Let's go!

01:26:33:28 (EARTH SHAKING)

01:26:36:20 MCKAY: What was that?

01:26:37:20 BALDRIC: I told you. The catacombs are unstable.

01:26:40:00 MCKAY: All right, we'll just keep moving.

01:26:43:07 (LAUGHTER AND CONVERSATION)

01:26:53:10 BECKETT: Colonel Sheppard, I've completed my examination of the Lord
Protector, and I'm afraid there's nothing I can do for him. He's dying.

01:27:01:26 SHEPPARD: How much time does he have?

01:27:03:14 BECKETT: It could happen any day now, but there's something else. The reason
he's dying is because he's been poisoned.

01:27:10:20 SHEPPARD: What?

01:27:11:26 BECKETT (O/S): Aye. My guess is, it's been done slowly, over the last couple
months, probably in his food.

01:27:19:04 BECKETT (CONT'D): Any idea who'd like to see him dead?

01:27:22:10 SHEPPARD: Yeah, I have a theory.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

01:27:48:29 MCKAY (O/S): This is it.

01:27:50:14 BALDRIC (O/S): What?

01:27:52:18 MCKAY (O/S): Drone storage.

01:27:55:05 BALDRIC: I don't understand.

01:27:57:12 MCKAY: Okay, those brilliant lights that magically rise up into the sky and destroy
the Wraith ships? They're not magic. They're real, physical objects.
They're projectile weapons, incredibly powerful projectile weapons. The
only question is, have you used them all up?

01:28:15:12 BALDRIC: I can't see anything.

01:28:16:27 MCKAY: Okay, hold on. There's a working ZPM in here, so it should just be a
matter of... this.

01:28:39:04 MCKAY (CONT'D): Okay, there are still a few left.

01:28:43:00 (EARTH RUMBLING)

01:28:44:27 BALDRIC: Maybe turning on the power wasn't such a good idea.

01:28:47:14 MCKAY: I think you might be right about that. Let's get out of here.

01:28:57:00 (CAVE IN)

01:29:11:10 BALDRIC: Is there another way out?

01:29:13:07 MCKAY: Technically, no. That's the only way out of this section. There's no need to panic. I'll radio for help.

01:29:20:24 MCKAY (CONT'D INTO RADIO): Colonel Sheppard, it's McKay. Come in, please. Ronon, Teyla, please respond. Anybody?

01:29:38:07 MCKAY (CONT'D): Okay, we may need to panic a little.

01:29:50:21 CONSTABLE: You call this a harvest? I bring this pathetic tribute to the Lord Protector, and I'll be whipped for my insolence.

01:29:56:22 PETRA: This is all we could spare.

01:29:58:12 CONSTABLE: Well, then, maybe there's something besides food that you can offer.

01:30:01:09 PETRA: No... No.

01:30:03:03 (STRUGGLING AND WHIMPERING)

01:30:06:22 RONON (O/S): Hey...

01:30:08:08 CONSTABLE: You again.

01:30:09:10 RONON: Let's see how you do against someone who can defend himself.

01:30:12:18 CONSTABLE: You have an impudent tongue.

01:30:14:15 CONSTABLE (CONT'D O/S): I think I'll remove it.

01:30:44:25 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): Colonel Sheppard...

01:30:46:02 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): Go ahead.

01:30:47:05 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): We have a problem in the village. There has been an...
altercation.

01:30:51:27 BALDRIC (O/S): Where are we?

01:30:53:20 MCKAY: This should be auxiliary control. Yes.

01:31:04:20 MCKAY (CONT'D): God, it's amazing. The layout of this place is almost identical.

01:31:08:24 BALDRIC: Identical to what?

01:31:10:14 MCKAY: Never mind. Okay, we need to access the city's internal communication
system, so...

01:31:16:15 BALDRIC: Remember what happened last time you started turning things on?

01:31:19:05 MCKAY: At this point, I don't think we have much choice.

01:31:23:02 OTHO: This is terrible. I knew Tavius was cruel and vindictive, but to want to murder his own father?

01:31:29:24 SHEPPARD: Raising children can be very dangerous. The key is, we don't let him succeed to the throne. We need to talk to the Lord Protector.

01:31:35:25 OTHO: I'm afraid it's already too late.

01:31:38:14 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): I received word a few moments ago.

01:31:41:01 OTHO (CONT'D): He's dead.

01:31:46:15 OTHO (CONT'D): You must leave now.

01:31:48:21 OTHO (CONT'D O/S): Tavius will arrest Mara...

01:31:51:07 OTHO (CONT'D): and anyone he considers was conspiring with her, and that includes you.

01:31:54:22 BECKETT: What about the villagers?

01:31:56:17 OTHO: He'll kill them all, burn the place to the ground to make an example of them.

01:32:01:07 SHEPPARD: They had nothing to do with what happened.

01:32:03:13 OTHO: It doesn't matter. Any defiance must be crushed without mercy to keep it
from spreading to the other villages.

01:32:08:17 BECKETT: Look, this is the gene therapy we're talking about. You can take it to
the people...

01:32:13:12 BECKETT (CONT'D O/S): and tell them what it means.

01:32:14:12 SHEPPARD (O/S): They don't have to be slaves...

01:32:15:14 SHEPPARD (CONT'D): to this Royal bloodline anymore.

01:32:17:13 OTHO: Well, this may be too late. Tavius will consider this to be treason. He'll fight
it, and if the soldiers support him...

01:32:24:10 (BELL RINGING)

01:32:27:16 SHEPPARD: What's that mean?

01:32:29:02 OTHO: It means news of the Lord Protector's death is already spreading. The
Court is being called to assemble in the throne room. Go now, before it's
too late.

01:32:39:02 BECKETT: Colonel...

01:32:47:23 MCKAY: This is interesting. It looks like the ZPM's almost depleted.

01:32:52:07 BALDRIC: What?

01:32:53:10 MCKAY: The ZPM, it's, uh... Okay, you know what?

01:32:56:23 BALDRIC (O/S): I know, never mind.

01:32:58:20 MCKAY: More importantly, I can't bring internal communications online.

01:33:02:11 BALDRIC: So we can't send a message?

01:33:03:22 MCKAY: No, and my radio won't work because we're too far underground. That leaves us only one option.

01:33:15:15 SHEPPARD: Head back to the village. There's one more thing I need to do.

01:33:17:20 BECKETT: Right.

01:33:21:25 ELDRED: You should not have killed the constable.

01:33:23:27 RONON: Somebody had to do something.

01:33:25:18 ELDRED: Now more soldiers will come.

01:33:26:23 TEYLA: Then stand up to them. Gather your people together and fight.

01:33:29:20 ELDRED: And if the Lord Protector uses the throne chair?

01:33:32:13 RONON: We'll deal with that.

01:33:33:20 PETRA: It's too late to argue, Eldred. What's done is done. The Lord Protector will
take his revenge, on all of us, and if we're going to die, I would rather die
fighting.

01:33:51:27 SHEPPARD: Mara!

01:33:54:00 MARA: John, what are you still doing here?

01:33:55:20 SHEPPARD (O/S): I've been looking all over for you.

01:33:56:27 MARA: You have to leave now.

01:33:58:06 SHEPPARD (O/S): I know, but I want you to come with me.

01:34:01:03 SHEPPARD (CONT'D): We both know what's going to happen if you stay here.

01:34:03:20 SHEPPARD (CONT'D O/S): I can find a safe place for you to go.

01:34:04:28 MARA: John...

01:34:05:28 SHEPPARD: None of this is your fault.

01:34:10:00 MARA: You really would take me with you, wouldn't you?

01:34:12:22 SHEPPARD: Of course.

01:34:13:22 OTHO (O/S): That won't be necessary.

01:34:17:09 OTHO (CONT'D): Mara is perfectly safe now. Tavius has been arrested for the
 murder of the Lord Protector.

01:34:26:21 SHEPPARD: That's good news.

01:34:27:28 OTHO (O/S): You...

01:34:29:15 OTHO (CONT'D): really should have got out while you had the chance.

01:34:36:17 SHEPPARD: What the hell is this?

01:34:39:00 MARA: I'm sorry, John.

01:34:40:22 OTHO (O/S): I was prepared to let you walk away...

01:34:42:11 OTHO (CONT'D): but your colleagues in the village forced my hand. They're
 inciting an uprising, and as the new Lord Protector, that is something that
 I just can't have.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

01:35:30:18 OTHO: Wait outside.

01:35:31:21 TAVIUS: I'll have your head for this, Chamberlain.

01:35:33:08 OTHO: You are in no position to make threats.

01:35:36:24 TAVIUS (O/S): Is it really necessary to insult me further...

01:35:39:07 TAVIUS (CONT'D): by imprisoning me with these people?

01:35:41:08 BECKETT: We're not the ones who committed murder.

01:35:43:10 TAVIUS: True, there is only one murderer in this room. Isn't that right, Otho? Oh, let me guess. He told you I did it. Do I look like the sort of person who knows anything about poisons and chemicals? Otho, on the other hand, is always making elaborate studies of things, topics you and I might find boring, but which sometimes can turn out to be quite useful.

01:36:09:28 BECKETT: You're saying that he's the one that poisoned the Lord Protector.

01:36:12:07 OTHO: I had no choice. I offered to guarantee him the succession. In return, he would spare Mara's life.

01:36:18:02 TAVIUS (O/S): Oh, but you're leaving out the best part. Once I assumed the throne...

01:36:22:14 TAVIUS (CONT'D): Mara was to be given to Otho as his wife. All she had to do was bat her eyes at him a couple of times, and the fool was hooked.

01:36:31:18 OTHO: Guards! It's true we were to be married, and so we will... only now she won't be marrying a lowly servant, but the Lord Protector himself.

01:36:45:29 BECKETT: I really need to stop making house calls.

01:36:52:03 BALDRIC: You said these weapons had great destructive power?

01:36:55:07 MCKAY: Yes.

01:36:56:21 BALDRIC: What do you intend to do with it?

01:36:59:05 MCKAY: Blow a hole straight up to the surface, assuming I can get it to fly in a straight line. I've never actually done anything like this before.

01:37:06:24 BALDRIC: What'll happen if you succeed?

01:37:08:15 MCKAY (O/S): Well, two possibilities.

01:37:09:21 MCKAY (CONT'D): Either we create a nice, sturdy shaft that will give us some much needed air and provide a big enough gap for the radio signal to get through, or it will bring the already unsteady ceiling down on us, burying us both alive.

01:37:22:27 BALDRIC: I prefer to imagine the first possibility.

01:37:25:22 MCKAY: Yes, yes, the power of positive thinking. Very good. While you do that, I
will rely on my experience and expertise.

01:37:33:16 BALDRIC: You said you'd never done this before--

01:37:35:02 MCKAY: General expertise. Will you be quiet while I do this?

01:37:40:00 MCKAY (CONT'D O/S): All right...

01:37:45:00 (SMALL EXPLOSION)

01:37:53:23 BALDRIC (O/S): I can't believe that worked.

01:37:55:29 MCKAY: What happened to positive thinking?

01:37:58:00 BALDRIC: I lied.

01:37:59:15 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): This is McKay. Is anyone reading?

01:38:00:19 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): Rodney, where have you been?

01:38:02:27 MCKAY (V/O OVER RADIO): Where have I been? I have been trapped
underground by an earthquake that blocked of our one exit from this
section of the city. That's where I've been.

01:38:09:16 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): Do you have access to the ZPM?

01:38:10:28 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): No, I don't have access to the ZPM, but thank you for
your concern, by the way!

01:38:15:26 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): Rodney...

01:38:17:02 MCKAY (V/O OVER RADIO): No, no, no, no. No, it's fine. Upon learning that your
beloved friend has nearly died and continues to face the imminent threat
of death...

01:38:23:05 MCKAY (CONT'D INTO RADIO): your first concern is for the ZPM? It's only
natural!

01:38:26:17 TEYLA (V/O OVER RADIO): I am sorry, Rodney, but we have a few problems of
our own. Colonel Sheppard and Dr. Beckett are no longer responding to
our radio calls.

01:38:32:16 TEYLA (INTO RADIO): As well, there is a good possibility that the Lord Protector
is about to launch a drone attack on this village. If that happens,
everyone here will die.

01:38:44:05 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): Oh.

01:38:56:04 MARA: Leave us.

01:39:02:26 MARA (CONT'D): I'm really sorry, John.

01:39:04:01 TAVIUS (O/S): Oh, please.

01:39:05:10 TAVIUS (CONT'D): Don't play the sweet little innocent here.

01:39:09:16 MARA: I never meant for you to get hurt.

01:39:10:28 SHEPPARD: Well, then, help us get out of here.

01:39:12:26 MARA (O/S): I can't...

01:39:14:05 MARA (CONT'D): but I may be able to convince Otho to spare your lives.

01:39:16:16 SHEPPARD: That would be a good start.

01:39:20:08 MARA: In the meantime, I did bring you this. You must tell your friends to leave
before it's too late. For his first act as Lord Protector, Otho intends to
destroy the entire village...

01:39:30:08 MARA (CONT'D O/S): using the throne chair, so that no other villages will ever
rise up against him again.

01:39:35:06 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): Rodney, come in.

01:39:37:10 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): Sheppard, are you all right?

01:39:38:16 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): I'm fine. Listen, I need you to pull the ZPM and cut
the power right away, or Ronon and Teyla are dead.

01:39:43:01 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): I already know all that. Look, unfortunately I am cut off from the ZPM.

01:39:46:29 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): There's got to be something you can do.

01:39:48:10 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): Yeah, I'm working on it!

01:39:49:16 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): Well, work faster.

01:40:13:06 OTHO: These fools... they actually think they can stand against me.

01:40:22:00 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): All right, I think I've got something. According to my readings, the ZPM is nearly depleted. If we can activate enough systems simultaneously, it might drain power completely, thus rendering the drones inert.

01:40:31:10 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): So do it.

01:40:32:20 MCKAY (V/O OVER RADIO): But I can't! I don't have access to enough systems...

01:40:34:25 MCKAY (CONT'D INTO RADIO): to draw that kind of power. I need something really big.

01:40:42:28 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): How about the star drive? The city's just like Atlantis, right-- a city that was designed to fly?

01:40:47:05 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): You want me to fly the city right up out of the ground?

01:40:49:13 SHEPPARD (V/O OVER RADIO): No, you don't have to go anywhere. Just charge
the engines. Should be the single greatest drain on power you can
create.

01:40:55:16 MCKAY (INTO RADIO): You're right. That could work. There's only one problem.

01:40:56:26 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): What?

01:40:57:29 MCKAY (V/O OVER RADIO): This place is pretty unstable. I fire up the engines...

01:41:00:09 MCKAY (CONT'D INTO RADIO): the vibrations alone could cause the whole thing
to come down on us.

01:41:06:15 SHEPPARD (INTO RADIO): It's a risk we're going to have to take.

01:41:19:14 MCKAY: Firing up main engines.

01:41:26:14 (TOWER RUMBLING & SHAKING)

01:41:35:28 MARA: What's going on?

01:41:43:16 SHEPPARD: Let's go.

01:41:45:15 BECKETT: What about him?

01:41:46:17 SHEPPARD: Forget about him.

01:41:50:08 BECKETT: Sorry, wee man.

01:42:01:08 (WHINE OF DRONES APPROACHING)

01:42:25:19 MCKAY (O/S): Well, this is better... I guess.

01:42:40:20 OTHO: You... this is your doing. Seize them!

01:42:46:01 SHEPPARD: You're only Lord Protector if you can control the chair. You said it
yourself.

01:42:53:28 SHEPPARD (CONT'D): It's over. You don't have to bow down to this man...

01:42:56:29 SHEPPARD (CONT'D O/S): or Tavius or anyone else!

01:42:59:21 MARA: John!

01:43:15:07 OTHO: Tavius was right about one thing. I do have a fair knowledge of poisons.

01:43:39:22 SHEPPARD: Got the drones, got a few jumpers, I even got the girl.

01:43:43:04 WEIR: You got the girl?

01:43:44:08 SHEPPARD: Well, I mean, I could have got the girl. I turned her down.

01:43:47:04 WEIR: What did you offer them in return for the drones and the jumpers?

01:43:50:24 SHEPPARD: A supply of medicines and an IDC if they need to reach us. We also
 offered to help them come up with a new way of running things when the
 time comes.

01:43:57:14 WEIR: They didn't offer you king?

01:44:01:09 SHEPPARD: I turned that down, too.

END OF ACT FIVE

FADE TO BLACK

END OF EPISODE