

FIXER AND LAW

EPISODE 1 - THE RAT AND THE COCKROACH

Written By

Sam Tracton

sam.tracton@gmail.com  
267-625-9553

FADE IN:

**EXT. THE BASTION - DAY**

A COCKROACH skitters over a lifeless desert that surrounds a massive cliffside. The cliff is shielded by a glowing ENERGY DOME. The sky above is one enormous rumbling storm cloud.

JUDGE EMCEE (V.O.)

Neither defense nor prosecution  
have proven their case beyond a  
reasonable doubt! Thus, justice  
shall guide the champions' fists.  
Lawyers, remain at your benches.

The cockroach skirts around the energy dome, which deflects lightning and fire tornados that veer too close to the cliffside and the city up against it, THE BASTION.

Crystalline APARTMENTS are built into the cliffside, shining brighter and fancier the higher up they go. At the bottom of the cliff and sprawling out to the edge of the energy dome is a dirty, tightly packed, conventional city, THE BASE.

**EXT. THE BASE - DAY**

A giant holographic SCREEN hangs in the air above streets thick with grime and thicker with people.

FIX (24), a brick wall of a black woman with a stoic scowl and a keen eye, stands amidst the sea of people. She stares up at the screen as Judge Emcee's PRO WRESTLER voice booms.

JUDGE EMCEE

Fixers, take the floor!

BOOKIE 1 (O.S.)

Hey! Stop! That's my money!

Fix turns to see PUNK (18), a gaunt thug, shove through the crowd with a DUFFLE BAG leaking cash. Two BOOKIES chase him.

Fix shrugs and starts to turn back to the viewscreen.

Punk shoves little old lady AGNES (80), BANDAGES around her head and TRACKER ANKLET on her foot, into the mud as he runs.

Fix stomps towards Punk with a face full of fury.

JUDGE EMCEE (O.S.)

For justice and the verdict...

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY**

JUDGE EMCEE (20), a peppy, bubblegum pink-haired woman in a judge's robes, raises a gavel on an elevated desk.

JUDGE EMCEE

... Fight!

**INTERCUT COURTROOM/THE BASE**

- **COURTROOM:** The gavel smacks a BOXING RING BELL in the middle of a golden SCALES OF JUSTICE. *RING!*

- **THE BASE:** Punk raises a scratched-up REVOLVER into the air. *BANG! BANG!* The crowd scatters in terror, rats scurrying under their feet. Fix stalks towards Punk.

- **COURTROOM:** Spotlights illuminate two people in a concrete pit. KERVANOS (22), a cocky female brawler in a suit with five GOLD RINGS on one hand, charges a bulky SUITED MAN (30).

The suited man moves to block. Kervanos's rings spark with electricity. Her fist strikes the suited man's arms. *CRACK!*

- **THE BASE:** A lightning bolt flashes above as Punk shoots at Fix. Fix raises her arm to block.

- **COURTROOM:** Kervanos lays into the suited man. The suited man blocks her taser rings, shocking him through his suit. *ZAP!*

- **THE BASE:** A flattened bullet falls from Fix. Her coat has a bullet hole but the red pinstripe SUIT beneath is unmarked.

*BANG!* Fix recoils, another bullet striking her chest. Another coat hole, another unmarked suit beneath. A LOCKET flies out of her pocket.

Fix clutches her pocket. Livid, she charges. Punk SCREAMS. He fires more shots. Fix weaves through them.

- **COURTROOM:** Kervanos SMASHES the suited man's head into the pit's wall. Repeatedly.

- **THE BASE:** Fix takes the gun and CHUCKS Punk to the ground.

**END INTERCUT**

*RING! RING! RING!*

Fix glances up at the giant viewscreen. Spotlights shine on Kervanos's victory pose. The broken suited man is carried away on a stretcher.

Fix narrows her eyes at Kervanos's taser rings. Judge Emcee's voice is no longer a Pro Wrestler's, but peppy and light.

JUDGE EMCEE (V.O.)

The prosecution fixer has won! On the charge of unpaid parking tickets, this court hereby finds the defendant -- guilty!

An ARS LOGO flashes on the screen, text below it reading: "Public broadcasts are made possible by the Ars Corporation. Building a new world for you after the end of the world!"

Punk scrambles to his feet and runs from Fix.

*WHACK!* Punk is smacked by a CANE. He drops to the ground.

Fix scrambles to grab her locket from the ground. She opens it and gazes mournfully at a photo in a CRACKED FRAME.

In the framed photo is a young Fix holding a fresh red suit with a bright smile. She's surrounded by Agnes, GIO (29), and KARNA (29), a scraggly man in a rumpled YELLOW SUIT.

Fix lovingly rubs a finger over Karna's face. She rubs a new crack in the glass. She scowls at Punk.

She CLENCHES Punk's revolver.

Fix stomps towards Punk. She cocks the gun and raises it at his head... only for a cane to rise to block her path.

Agnes, the cane's wielder, shakes her head at Fix.

Fix's face softens. She lowers the gun. Agnes pats her head and pulls out a LEMON DROP. Fix eagerly snatches it up.

Agnes grabs the duffle bag of cash. The two bookies arrive. The bookies leer at Punk, cracking their knuckles.

BOOKIE 2

Oh, you done gone did it now. Ars took your home, but we'll take--

The duffle bag is thrown into Bookie 2's arms. He and Bookie 1 glance at Agnes and Fix. Fix casually CRACKS her neck.

AGNES

You don't want to miss the rush, dearie.

The bookies turn to see the viewscreen fight crowd now swarming their food truck. They dash towards their truck.

BOOKIE 1

Guilty verdict payouts to the left!  
Left! New bets to the right!

BOOKIE 2

A murder trial tomorrow with  
Prosecutor Joshi, the Asura  
Prosecutor! Hundred to one that the  
trial goes to the Fixer Stage!

AGNES

Ooo, about tomorrow's assault  
trial! Put me down for--

BOOKIE 2

New law, Agnes. You can't bet on  
your own trial anymore.

AGNES

What?! This is an outrage!

Punk GROANS and sits up. He spots Agnes and wilts in shame.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Good to see you, dearie. Ready to  
take the witness stand for me?

PUNK

I... I can't. I'm sorry, Agnes.  
Richard Ars is after me for not  
saying I saw you hit him. He finds  
me, I'm dead. I need cash to hide--

Punk looks up at Fix and pales in horror and recognition.

PUNK (CONT'D)

Y--You're her! The Rat of The Base!

Punk SHRIEKS in terror and books it down an alley.

AGNES

I hope Kervanos spooks that easy.

FIX

Little Lakky still your lawyer?

Agnes nods. Fix SMIRKS, cold and calculating.

FIX (CONT'D)  
 She does her job and gets  
 reasonable doubt, we get to the  
 fixer stage. Then I'll do my job.

Fix marches down the alley. Two rats scurry under her feet.

**EXT. THE BASE - ALLEY - DAY**

Two URCHINS (13) spray twirly mustache graffiti on a POSTER of Judge Emcee winking. They spot Fix and Agnes coming down the alley and book it, dropping a SPRAY CAN.

The poster says 'TRIALS DONE IN A DAY! LAWYERS OR FIXERS WILL SEE JUSTICE DONE!' with an ARS LOGO in the corner.

Fix kicks the spray can up into her hand. She nonchalantly sprays devil horns on the Ars Logo and walks past.

Fix stomps passed rows of boarded-up shops plastered with Ars Corporation POSTERS. She and Agnes reach the alley's end.

**EXT. GIO'S TAILOR SHOP - CONTINUOUS**

Fix and Agnes walk into a hole-in-the-wall shop, its half-broken sign flickering GIO'S. No Ars Corporation poster.

**INT. GIO'S TAILOR SHOP - DAY**

Pristine dress suits adorn mannequins, contrasting the dilapidated shop. Fix rifles through the counter's drawers. The contents range from silk to Kevlar to steel armor plates.

Agnes raises her leg with a tracker anklet on it.

AGNES  
 She favors taser rings.

FIX  
 Insulated suit then.

Fix grabs a GREEN TIE from a drawer. METAL plates jingle within the fabric.

AGNES  
 It's your first trial since  
 Karna's. You sure you're up for th--

Fix whirls on her, pointing the tie at her like a sword.

FIX

I *will* win, Agnes. That's my job, my only job in that courtroom. I'm not letting them lock up another one of my family.

Agnes pats Fix's side. They share a commiserating look.

Agnes pulls Fix's red pinstripe suit off of her and grabs insulation, thread, and sewing needles from the drawers.

AGNES

Maybe Lakshmi will prove it outright? Win in the lawyer stage?

Fix scoffs.

FIX

Nah. She's gonna see she needs me.

**EXT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - DAY**

One of the largest crystalline apartments, scores of people thrumming about inside. Judge Emcee's voice rings over a PA.

JUDGE EMCEE (O.S.)

Medic to courtroom five! I repeat, medic to courtroom five!

LAKSHMI JOSHI (19), a slight, frazzled woman in Karna's unbuttoned yellow suit, dashes through the throngs of people. She sifts through unkempt documents as she runs.

LAKSHMI

Okay, okay, Mr. Ars claims Agnes hit him unprovoked. I gotta prove he hit her first. I can do that! The medical report'll do it, right? Right! Just gotta get to the lobby--

Lakshmi finds the plain doors of the DEFENSE LOBBY blocked by the plump, snotty HUGH ARS (8) and Bookie 1. Bookie 1 leers at Hugh's princely clothes while the boy licks his lollipop.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

Um, excuse me--

ACHOO! Hugh SNEEZES and shoots a bright smile up at Bookie 1.

HUGH

Really? You can get my papa an even better Fixer than the prosecution?

BOOKIE 1  
Badda-bing, badda-boom, kiddo!

LAKSHMI  
My lobby is right there, can I just  
get by you--

Bookie 1 unfurls a contract and a pen. Lakshmi glares at it.

BOOKIE 1  
(to Hugh)  
Just sign on the dotted line. Oh  
and a teeny-tiny signing bonus of  
five thousand.

HUGH  
A week's allowance? What a bargain!

Hugh pulls out a thick wad of cash and grabs the pen.

Lakshmi snatches the contract and SPEED-READS it.

BOOKIE 1  
Hey! You can't just--

LAKSHMI  
Prosecution fixer substitutions  
must be approved by a prosecutor  
before payment. You are a scam.

Hugh GASPS. Lakshmi glares at Bookie 1. He wilts.

BOOKIE 1  
Is it that obvious?

LAKSHMI  
There are eleven typos. On the  
first page.

She rips the contract up and throws it in Bookie 1's face.  
Hugh sneezes on Bookie 1, who flails away.

HUGH  
Thank you, Ms. Nice Lady--

LAKSHMI  
There's a security guard right over  
there. Go to him, you'll be safe.

Lakshmi zooms into the defense lobby and slams the door.

Hugh shrugs and walks away, merrily licking his lollipop.



PRIYANKA JOSHI (44), her dark blue suit sharp and stately, marches past Hugh. Rabid REPORTERS chase after her.

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - DEFENSE LOBBY - DAY**

Lakshmi dumps her papers onto a cluttered table. She frantically rummages through them.

LAKSHMI

Medical report, medical report,  
medical report, where's the dam--

PRIYANKA (O.S.)

Language. And it's on the chair.

Lakshmi snags the MEDICAL REPORT from the chair. She LEAPS into a dorky victory pose.

LAKSHMI

Yes! I can do thi-- Mom!

Lakshmi CRASHES to the floor. She scrambles up and whirls on Priyanka at the lobby doors.

Priyanka SHUTS the door on the ravenous reporters. She narrows her eyes at Lakshmi's messy documents.

PRIYANKA

This is how you argue your first case? Or do you plan to let your fixer decide some false justice?

LAKSHMI

What? Who do I look like? Karna?

Priyanka looks pointedly at her rumpled suit. Karna's suit. Lakshmi awkwardly chuckles.

Priyanka stalks up to Lakshmi. Lakshmi lowers her head. Priyanka buttons up Lakshmi's messy suit.

PRIYANKA

You are his sister. You are my child. You will have to prove which of us you take after. I hope you will prove to be a proper lawyer who achieves true justice.

Priyanka YANKS Lakshmi's suit straight. Lakshmi WINCES.

Priyanka GLARES down at her. Lakshmi GULPS.

LAKSHMI

If a proper lawyer does their job,  
the fixers need never take the  
floor. That is true justice.

Priyanka nods. She gently kisses Lakshmi's forehead.

PRIYANKA

Good luck, my clever girl.

Priyanka opens the lobby door, flashing cameras greeting her.

REPORTER 1

Prosecutor Joshi! Prosecutor Joshi!  
Do you think you'll win your three  
hundredth case in a row today?!

REPORTER 2

What do you make of those that call  
you 'The Asura Prosecutor'!?

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Priyanka strides down the hall, not even acknowledging the reporters as they rush after her.

Lakshmi watches her mother's imperious elegance. She frowns at her own messy lobby.

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - DEFENSE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS**

Lakshmi pulls out a LOCKET. She opens it to reveal a picture of a younger her and Karna, his yellow suit rumpled.

Lakshmi pouts. She unbuttons her suit and puts the locket away. She looks at the medical report.

LAKSHMI

Ars had a broken leg. Agnes had a  
head wound. Traces of blood,  
dirt... and mucus?

Lakshmi GROANS and sinks her face into the report. A towering person in a red pinstripe suit enters the lobby.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

Get it together. Just your first  
case. Tone-setter for your entire  
career. Not like they don't already  
think you're a worthless failure.

Lakshmi picks her head up and slaps herself.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)  
No! Suck it up, you worthless  
failure. It's Agnes' freedom on the  
line. Do your job and save her!

FIX (O.S.)  
Talk to yourself a lot, do you?

Lakshmi whirls around. Her eyes meet the chest of the person  
in the red suit: Fix.

LAKSHMI  
Who're--

Lakshmi pales at Fix's height. She gapes up at Fix's face.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)  
--you are very big.

Fix preens and pops a LEMON DROP into her mouth.

FIX  
Helps when your job is beating the  
crud out of people.

LAKSHMI  
You're Agnes' fixer?

AGNES (O.S.)  
Yup! Fix's the best in the biz! So  
no need for first trial jitters.

Agnes trots into the room. Lakshmi looks at Fix, confused.

LAKSHMI  
You're a fixer named Fix?

Fix grins. Lakshmi shakes her head, not important.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)  
Jitters, Agnes? I'm not jittery.

Lakshmi's body jitters, her papers crinkling in her grasp.

Fix chortles. Agnes holds up a lemon drop.

AGNES  
Lemon drop, dearie?

Fix sucks on her own lemon drop. Lakshmi cringes.

LAKSHMI  
Uh, no thank you.

She takes a deep breath and looks at Agnes with passion.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)  
I know I'm not my brother. But I  
promise, I will get you a 'Not  
Guilty' verdict as a proper lawyer!

She scowls at Fix.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)  
No fixer duel required.

Fix CRUNCHES her lemon drop. She restrains a venomous smile.

FIX  
You're cute. Didn't get that from  
your shrew mother.

LAKSHMI  
What did you say--

AGNES  
Save it for the courtroom, ladies!  
The legal system awaits!

Agnes drags Fix away. Lakshmi sputters and chases after them.

AGNES (CONT'D)  
Can you believe they made it  
illegal to bet on your own trial? I  
could've made a killing!

#### **INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY**

A courtroom mixed with a stage. An audience split into two galleries covered in shadows, four spotlights illuminating four different points of the courtroom between the galleries.

**Spotlight 1.** The defense desk. Lakshmi stands behind it with a stack of papers on the table. Fix and Agnes sit down next to her, Fix nonchalantly sucking on a lemon drop.

**Spotlight 2.** The prosecution desk, the pompous prosecutor PAYNE FULVOX (40) beams. Sitting at his sides are RICHARD ARS (30) in a top hat and monocle while holding a CRUTCH, and Kervanos, playing with her taser rings.

**Spotlight 3.** The witness stand in the center. Hugh Ars munches on a lollipop and SNEEZES.

**Spotlight 4.** The judge's stand, raised above them all. Judge Emcee smacks a gavel next to the Scales of Justice bell. She speaks in her peppy voice.

JUDGE EMCEE  
Order in the court! Prosecutor  
Payne Fulvox. Your witness.

PAYNE  
Thank you, Your Honor.  
(to Kervanos)  
Watch the objection buzzer, Kerry.

Kervanos keeps her eyes on her rings, but taps the desk next to a bright red buzzer BUTTON with 'OBJECTION!' on it.

Payne shoots an oily smirk at Lakshmi and strides around the prosecutor table to the witness stand. He leans in to Hugh.

PAYNE (CONT'D)  
Mr. Hugh--

ACHOO! Hugh SNEEZES in Payne's face, a glob of MUCUS in the prosecutor's finely coiffed hair.

Payne leaps back and SHRIEKS, pulling out a comb to frantically wipe the mucus out.

Lakshmi blinks in surprise. Fix smirks. Agnes cackles.

AGNES  
Can't believe this old cockroach's  
still prosecuting.

LAKSHMI  
You're twice his age.

AGNES  
Yeah, but I ain't prosecuting.

FIX  
Doesn't look like he is either.

Fix slaps Lakshmi's shoulder. Lakshmi winces.

FIX (CONT'D)  
You'll have reasonable doubt in no  
time. Then I'm on the floor and the  
verdict is ours.

Lakshmi scowls, rubbing the shoulder Fix struck.

Payne smooths out his hair. He COUGHS and composes himself, back to his pompous air. He edges away from the witness.

PAYNE

Mr. Hugh, please tell the court  
what occurred the night Ms. Agnes  
here attacked your father--

Lakshmi's eyes widen. Her arm SHOOTS into the air.

LAKSHMI

Objection!

Lakshmi hits the defense desk's 'OBJECTION!' button.

BBRRR! A BUZZER sounds through the room. A RED LIGHT flashes.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

Presumption of guilt.

JUDGE EMCEE

Sustained.

PAYNE

Very well. Mr. Hugh, could you  
please tell the court what occurred  
the night the defendant allegedly  
attacked your father, the  
respectable Richard Ars?

Payne snaps his fingers and a large HOLOGRAM of Richard is  
projected into the middle of the courtroom.

The real Richard tugs his monocle. It gleams as he raises his  
crutch with a smug and snooty smile.

Hugh pops his lollipop out of his mouth.

HUGH

Papa was showing me one of his  
construction projects in The Base.

**EXT. THE BASE - THE NARROWS - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

BOOM! A wrecking ball obliterates a row of apartments. Hugh  
coughs amidst the dust, holding out his lollipop while  
Richard, with no crutch, grins.

HUGH (V.O.)

It was really dirty.

Hugh sneezes onto Richard's hand. Richard sneers at the MUCUS  
on his knuckles. Hugh sneezes on his lollipop and the ground.

Punk runs up and looks at the demolished apartment in horror.

PUNK

My apartment! Mr. Ars, you said I had more time to get the rent.

RICHARD

You did. I tell you, Hubert, if the poor understood a thing about business they might actually find themselves with money someday.

Richard smears most of the mucus onto Punk. He hisses at the slime still on his hand. Hugh frowns at his dirty lollipop. Agnes walks up and gently guides Punk away.

HUGH (V.O.)

I sneezed on the ground, papa's hand, even my lolli. Which meant I needed some new candy.

Hugh sees Agnes pull out a lemon drop and offer it to Punk. Punk dashes off in tears.

Hugh goes towards Agnes and reaches for the lemon drop.

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY**

Hugh points to Agnes.

HUGH

The lady with the candy didn't like me reaching for the candy. And she hit papa with her stick!

The gallery GASPS. Payne saunters to the prosecution desk.

JUDGE EMCEE

Your cross-examination, Ms. Joshi.

The gallery and reporters MURMUR, all eyes on Lakshmi.

REPORTER 1

Joshi? So that's the Asura's daughter. Thought she'd be... more.

REPORTER 2

She is Karna The Crooked's sister too. Watch her carefully.

Lakshmi breathes deep, but her body nervously shakes.

FIX

You gonna stand there and twiddle?  
Or are you gonna do your job?

Lakshmi scowls at Fix. Lakshmi holds her head high and marches to the witness stand.

LAKSHMI

Mr. Ars, you say that the defendant struck your father first. Yet, she was also injured in the incident.

Agnes gleefully points at her bandaged head.

HUGH (O.S.)

She fell down when she hit him.  
She's *old*.

Agnes's forehead ticks with anger. The sudden movement breaks open her forehead wound. Her bandage turns red.

Fix changes the bandage in the blink of an eye. Agnes shoots her a thumbs-up while still glaring at Hugh.

LAKSHMI

So you claim that the defendant attacked your father unprovoked?

HUGH

Un... pro... voked?

LAKSHMI

Without him attacking her first.

HUGH

Oh! Yeah!

LAKSHMI

He didn't hit her at all? Her injury was self-inflicted--

Payne LAUGHS. No one notices Richard's face having paled.

PAYNE

He just said so. Really, does the Asura's daughter have to stoop to badgering a child?

LAKSHMI

I wasn't--

REPORTER 1

Being so harsh with a child? She's as ruthless as her brother!

REPORTER 2

A disgrace to her mother's legacy!



Lakshmi flinches back, her face unsure. Hugh glares at Payne.  
 Agnes nervously watches Lakshmi stumble. Fix SNORTS.

FIX  
 They call that witness badgering?

AGNES  
 Perception of the facts is often  
 more important than the facts  
 themselves.

PAYNE  
 Your honor, the prosecution moves  
 for a verdict. Though if guilty, we  
 are amenable to a minimum prison--

Richard grabs Payne's arm. He furiously whispers in the  
 prosecutor's ear. Payne flinches, highly uncomfortable.

PAYNE (CONT'D)  
 Egh, strike that. Maximum sentence.

JUDGE EMCEE  
 Twenty years?

Agnes pales. Fix sees her and scowls at Lakshmi. She rises.

FIX  
 What are you doing?!

Lakshmi whirls towards her, off-guard. Hugh follows her gaze.

FIX (CONT'D)  
 Your job is to argue! To win or get  
 reasonable doubt so that I can take  
 the floor. You don't get to fall to  
 pieces at a bit of heckling when  
 her neck is on the line--

HUGH (O.S.)  
 Hey!

The entire courtroom whirls towards the irate Hugh.

HUGH (CONT'D)  
 Don't yell at Ms. Nice Lady--Achoo!

Hugh SNEEZES. Lakshmi dodges a wad of MUCUS.

Lakshmi eyes the mucus on the floor. Slowly, she GRINS.

JUDGE EMCEE  
 Attorney Joshi?

Lakshmi grabs the medical report from the defendant's desk. She slams it down onto a SCANNER built into the table.

A giant hologram of the report projects in front of Lakshmi. She touches the image and flicks towards Payne, Hugh, and Judge Emcee, a holographic copy flying to each.

LAKSHMI

Your Honor! This medical report was carried out by first responders on Ms. Agnes at the scene.

Payne, Hugh, and Judge Emcee examine the holographic reports.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

Traces of mucus were in her wound.

HUGH

Huh? But I didn't sneeze on her?

LAKSHMI

No, you didn't, Mr. Ars. But according to your testimony, you did sneeze on your father's hand!

Hugh whirls towards his father in shock. Richard feverishly sweats and tampers with his monocle.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

If Ms. Agnes's injury was self-inflicted, then that mucus could not be there! But it could if, as her testimony claims, Richard Ars attacked her first. With the hand that Hugh had sneezed on!

**EXT. THE BASE - THE NARROWS - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

Hugh reaches for the lemon drop. Agnes turns to him.

Richard barrels in and SHOVES Hugh away from Agnes. Hugh's face falls into the ground. Richard bears down on Agnes.

RICHARD

Don't you dare push your peasant candy on my son, commoner!

He reels back his arm and PUNCHES Agnes in the forehead. The MUCUS on his hand hits the new, open wound.

Agnes falls to the ground.

Richard turns around and takes out a handkerchief. He wipes off his hand only for Agnes to rise behind him like a demon.

Richard turns towards her. The cane comes down on his leg.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
Aaaaaaahhhhhh--

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY**

Richard continues the scream, lost in his traumatic memory.

RICHARD  
--aaaaaaaahhhhhh!

Richard froths at the mouth and slumps face first onto the desk. His top hat falls off. His monocle shatters. His crutch SMACKS into the ground.

The entire courtroom blinks at Richard's breakdown. Fix looks at Lakshmi, begrudgingly impressed.

FIX  
Not bad.

Lakshmi spots Priyanka entering the gallery. She freezes as she hears reporters start to whisper in the audience.

REPORTER 1  
The Asura Prosecutor? She finished already? What was the verdict?

REPORTER 2  
What do you think?

Priyanka ignores the muttering and takes a seat in the gallery. She looms down at Lakshmi.

From the defendant's desk, Fix GLARES hatefully at Priyanka.

Lakshmi coughs into her elbow and smiles up with pride.

LAKSHMI  
Your honor, I move for a verdict.

JUDGE EMCEE  
Agreed. In light of this new information, I hereby find the--

BBRRR! The Objection Buzzer sounds. The red light flashes. Lakshmi whirls on the prosecutor's desk.

Kervanos's fingers press the buzzer button. Payne preens.

PAYNE

Objection! Don't get ahead of yourself, rookie. You haven't proved anything yet.

LAKSHMI

What? The only way mucus could have gotten in the wound--

PAYNE

The only way? Really?

Payne runs his comb through his hair. He raises the comb to show the MUCUS on it from earlier.

PAYNE (CONT'D)

Forensics found traces of Mr. Hugh's mucus all over the scene. The defendant could have hit some when she fell.

Lakshmi looks at Hugh. Hugh fearfully sucks his lollipop.

LAKSHMI

You... you can't prove that!

PAYNE

It's as plausible as your theory, Ms. Joshi. There's no proof to confirm your conjecture either.

Lakshmi runs to the defendant's desk. She ransacks her files.

She looks at Priyanka in the gallery. Priyanka frowns.

FIX

By that logic, Mr. Fulvox, your own arguments are insufficient as well.

Lakshmi whirls toward Fix, who straightens her suit and tie.

Priyanka spots Fix. Her eyes narrow in recognition and hate.

FIX (CONT'D)

Unless you have evidence?

Payne sweats and rapidly combs his hair, strands popping out.

PAYNE

Well... um... not exactly.

FIX

Your Honor, the defense posits that the trial is at a standstill and requests the fixers take the floor.

JUDGE EMCEE

Hmm... sustained.

LAKSHMI

No!

Fix and Judge Emcee turn to a sweating Lakshmi.

JUDGE EMCEE

Ms. Joshi, your objection?

LAKSHMI

I... I...

Lakshmi trembles under Priyanka's judgmental gaze.

JUDGE EMCEE

Attorney Joshi! Your objection? Do you have any new evidence? Any new arguments? If so, present them now!

FIX

Don't worry. I've studied the electrified cow. I can handle her.

Kervanos stops playing with her rings. She GLARES at Fix.

Lakshmi slams her hands on her desk and whips towards Fix.

LAKSHMI

A proper lawyer shouldn't requ--ow!

Agnes whacks Lakshmi's side with her cane.

AGNES

Your brother had a saying. A proper lawyer is a cockroach.

Lakshmi cocks an eyebrow. She points to Payne, who smiles at himself in the reflection of his comb.

AGNES (CONT'D)

He's at the bottom of the barrel, but he is inside of it. Somehow. But that's the point. A lawyer's job is to survive, keep their case alive no matter what.

LAKSHMI

... I promised you that I'd get you  
a not guilty verdict.

AGNES

You're going to do that by blowing  
empty hot air? You got reasonable  
doubt, dearie. You did your job.

FIX

I'll get us the verdict. It's what  
you need me to do.

Lakshmi glances between Agnes and Fix. She looks up at  
Priyanka's piercing glare.

Lakshmi's head falls. Judge Emcee strikes her gavel.

JUDGE EMCEE

Neither defense nor prosecution  
have proven their case *beyond* a  
reasonable doubt! Thus, justice  
shall guide the champions' fists.  
Lawyers, remain at your benches.  
(In Pro Wrestler Voice)  
Fixers, take the floor!

The gallery goes wild with cheers as Hugh hurries to the  
prosecution desk. Spotlights fall on Fix and Kervanos.

Priyanka sneers away in disgust as the cheering gallery leaps  
to their feet around her. She gets up and charges out.

Lakshmi spots her leaving. She looks down in shame as  
holograms of Fix and Kervanos are projected above.

**EXT. THE BASE - DAY**

The holographic screen above the streets showcases Fix and  
Kervanos in a split-screen. The Bookies take money below.

JUDGE EMCEE (O.S.)

For the prosecution, rising storm  
striker Kervanos enters the ring!

BOOKIE 2

Eleven typos! This is why you read  
it out loud first.

JUDGE EMCEE (O.S.)

For the defense, a new face! Will  
it get pounded into paste?! Fix!

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY**

Fix and Kervanos march to the middle of the courtroom floor. They stare at each other. Fix impassive. Kervanos smirking.

KERVANOS

Well, I'll be. I didn't recognize you from across the room.

FIX

You know me?

KERVANOS

What prosecution fixer doesn't know The Rat of the Base? There's a bonus if any of us take you down.

Fix loosens her green tie and pulls it over her head.

FIX

Is it still bigger if I 'accidentally' stay down forever?

KERVANOS

Triple.

Fix puts her wrist through the loop of her tie.

She YANKS her tie from both ends and snaps it straight. Underneath the fabric, metal plates CLICK into place.

Fix smacks at the ground and brandishes her TIE BATON.

FIX

It's gotten low.

The concrete floor is dented from her smack.

Lakshmi sits behind her desk. She wipes sweat from her forehead. Agnes pats her side and offers a lemon drop.

Fix glances back at Lakshmi and glares.

FIX (CONT'D)

Watch me.

Fix and Kervanos are lowered into a deep concrete pit. The fixers are projected onto viewscreens around the courtroom.

JUDGE EMCEE

For justice and the verdict...

Judge Emcee SLAMS her gavel on the Scales of Justice. RING!

JUDGE EMCEE (CONT'D)

... Fight!

Kervanos dashes in and throws a punch with her taser rings.  
Fix blocks. The taser rings FIZZLE against her suit sleeve.

KERVANOS

You came prepared.

Fix SLASHES at Kervanos's chest with her tie baton. It CLANGS against Kervanos's suit, metal plates beneath.

KERVANOS (CONT'D)

So did I--Gah!

Fix HEADBUTTS her. Fix swipes at her head. Kervanos retreats.  
The gallery CHEERS. Payne bangs his desk with his comb.  
Agnes HOLLERS. Lakshmi gulps at the match.

AGNES

Come on, Fix! Quit playing around!

LAKSHMI

She's aiming for her head.

AGNES

I know, right? The eyes, Fix! Go for her eyes! Stop showing off!

Lakshmi looks on at the fight in horror.

Fix backs Kervanos against the wall. Kervanos PUNCHES the tie baton with her taser rings.

ZAP! Electricity courses through the tie.

Fix HISSSES. The metal plates unlink and the baton falls back into a loose tie, hanging from the loop around Fix's wrist.

Fix scrambles to return her baton. Kervanos punches Fix in the face with her taser rings.

ZAP! Fix SCREAMS.

Lakshmi throws her hands over her mouth. Agnes winces.

Kervanos whips Fix around and smashes her against the wall. Again, Kervanos punches Fix's face with her taser ring fist. Again. And again. And again.

Lakshmi looks worriedly at Agnes. The old lady gulps.



Lakshmi steels her face and stands up.

LAKSHMI  
Fight back!!!

Fix sags against the wall, her ears ringing and her eyes darkening. She spots Lakshmi yelling at her over the crowd.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)  
Fight back! If you lose, our client is guilty! So do your job and--

KARNA (V.O.)  
--win. Win and save our client.

Fix's eyes snap open.

She slides her tie's loop from her wrist to her palm.

**INT. CAVERN CELLS - NIGHT**

Priyanka strides through a dark cavern filled with uniformed GUARDS and cells of crystal. CONVICTS glare at her.

Priyanka sits at a table outside one of the cells.

Inside the cell, Karna stirs. He smiles at Priyanka.

PRIYANKA  
Your sister's first trial was today.

KARNA  
Really? How'd little Lakky do?

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY**

Kervanos pulls her taser ring fist back.

KERVANOS  
And the rat is cornered.

She throws her punch.

Fix ducks and wraps her tie loop around Kervanos's wrist.

KERVANOS (CONT'D)  
What--

Fix TWISTS Kervanos's taser ring fist around with her tie. The rings STRIKE Kervanos.

ZAP! Kervanos stumbles, her suit's metal plates carrying the electricity. Fix drives her back. ZAP! ZAP! ZAP!!!

Kervanos SCREAMS.

Fix RIPS the taser rings away and CHUCKS her to the ground.

Lakshmi leaps up and CHEERS. Agnes cackles... only to start sobbing a moment later. Lakshmi turns to her, attentive.

LAKSHMI

What's wrong?

AGNES

I could have made so much money if  
I'd been able to bet on her!

Lakshmi groans.

Fix stows the taser rings in her pocket. She snaps her tie back into its baton state.

Fix stalks towards Kervanos, who struggles to her knees.

FIX

One chance. Yield.

KERVANOS

Go to hell!

Kervanos lunges up. Fix dances around her and puts her in a chokehold with her baton.

FIX

I was born there. The hell you  
prosecution dogs made for the Ars  
and their wallfolk to exploit.

Fix throws Kervanos to the ground and towers over her.

FIX (CONT'D)

If you wake up, tell them this rat  
is coming for her boss. No matter  
what maze they try to cheat with.

THUD! Fix smashes her baton into Kervanos's face. Repeatedly.

Blood splatters across the wall of the pit. THUD! THUD! THUD!

Lakshmi gapes in horror as she watches the beating. The crowd roars in bloodlust and approval around her.

PRIYANKA (V.O.)  
She was unprepared for the  
barbarity of failure.

**INT. CAVERN CELLS - NIGHT**

Karna quirks an eyebrow and smirks.

KARNA  
So her fixer won? I wouldn't call  
that failure. But you always did  
have exacting standards.

PRIYANKA  
If a lawyer does their job  
properly, the fixers need--

KARNA  
--never take the floor. Lovely  
mantra, if wildly unrealistic.

PRIYANKA  
Justice should not be decided by  
who can brutalize the other more.

KARNA  
And yet it so often is.

PRIYANKA  
Your pet was on the floor for her.

Karna looks up, surprised and intrigued.

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY**

RING! RING! RING! Judge Emcee bangs the Scales of Justice.

The pit rises up to the courtroom. Kervanos, now a bloody,  
unconscious pulp, lies on the floor, missing several teeth.

JUDGE EMCEE  
The defense fixer has won!

Fix flicks her bloody tie baton back into a tie and replaces  
it around her neck. She smirks with pride, spotlights on her.

JUDGE EMCEE (CONT'D)  
On the charge of assault, this  
court hereby finds the defendant --  
NOT guilty!

Judge Emcee slams her gavel. The crowd CHEERS.

Payne smacks his bench in frustration. Hugh examines his still foaming father.

Agnes' tracker anklet falls off. She pats Lakshmi's shoulder.

AGNES  
Congrats, dearie! You've won your  
first case!

Lakshmi stares at Kervanos being shoveled onto a stretcher.

KARNA (V.O.)  
Little Lakky and my Rat of The  
Base? Quite the duo.

**INT. CAVERN CELLS - NIGHT**

Priyanka turns away in a huff and marches down the hall. Karna leans back on his cot with a pensive expression.

KARNA  
So, you want to use the evidence  
she has to clear me, do you, Fix?

**INT. CRYSTAL COURTHOUSE - DEFENSE LOBBY - NIGHT**

Lakshmi stares at Fix's bloody tie, haunted.

KARNA (V.O.)  
Should have never told you that I  
left it with her, my loyal rat.

Fix lounges next to a table of documents. Agnes pats her tie.

AGNES  
Always a pleasure watching you  
work, Fix. Don't you think,  
Lakshmi?

LAKSHMI  
Huh? Oh, um, sure.

Lakshmi gathers up her documents from the table. Fix rises.

FIX  
Glad you think so. I'll give you  
better prices than anyone else.

Lakshmi hops back, her papers scattering.

AGNES

Tact, dearie. Butter her up before you try to get another job. Come on! Dinner's on me, girls--

LAKSHMI

No, no! That won't be necessary!

Lakshmi grabs her papers and skitters over to the door.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

Happy to help, Agnes. And you, you're a wonderful fixer but...

Lakshmi nervously opens the door.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

You did great, so great, so don't hesitate to take any other jobs when they come. I'll get by. Agnes has my contact if you need any legal help for... whatever.

Lakshmi and Fix share an awkward look. Lakshmi dashes away.

AGNES

Not the impression you were hoping to leave?

FIX

Does she not want a fixer who wins?

AGNES

She wants to be a lawyer who wins. That's her mother in her.

Agnes makes for the door. Fix's brow furrows in thought.

AGNES (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Still, she has enough of her brother in her to want to win for those who need it.

**INT. GIO'S TAILOR SHOP - NIGHT**

Fix twirls Punk's revolver. She looks at her locket photo of a younger her, Agnes, Gio, and Karna. A happy family.

FIX

I'm gonna do my job, boss. I'm gonna save you. And she has what I need to do it.

She catches Punk's revolver.

**INT. JOSHI APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Lakshmi sits hunched over in a resplendent bedroom. She stares at Karna's picture in her locket, lost.

**INT. TENT HOVEL - NIGHT**

Fix walks into a patchwork tent with Punk's revolver.

She does a doubletake as she spots Punk's CORPSE, a bullet hole in his chest. POLICE SIRENS blare on approach.

**INT. JOSHI APARTMENT - NIGHT**

RING! RING! Lakshmi reaches for a ringing phone.

LAKSHMI  
Joshi residence, Attorney...  
Lakshmi Joshi speaking.

She listens for a few moments. Her eyes widen in shock.

**INT. CAVERN CELLS - MORNING**

A rat scurries out of a wall hole. SPLAT! Fix stomps on it.

A cockroach skitters across the cell block. Lakshmi runs to the crystal door of Fix's cell. She looks inside, bewildered.

Fix CLUTCHES her locket in her pocket. She settles herself.

Fix turns to Lakshmi with a calm façade.

FIX  
You mentioned legal help?

END OF EPISODE