

Forever Has Fallen

Season 1 Episode 5:
Holy Hell

SFX: Wild crowd applause in TV studio.

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"Annnnnnnnnnd, welcome back to Sweden's talking about. Who wants live forever ehh?."

SFX: Crowd - oooohhhh.

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"Of course. So no guessing who is coming out next, because Sweden is taking about... (Drum roll) Karl-Axel Mattiasson, from The Forever Social."

SFX: Wild crowd applause in TV studio.

HAKON (VO)

"Hi, Hakon again. In case you're like, WTF - I've gone back in time, before I met KA, before social networks crashed, before - well when forever fell..."

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"Welcome Karl-Axel."

SFX: Wild crowd applause in TV studio, mixed in with KA - thank, you, thank you and chatter from Stefan.

KA

"Whew! Wow, that awesome, makes me feel more popular than Jesus!"

SFX: Crowd laughs. (I love you KA!)

KA

"Ahhh, thank you, I love you too - I guess."

SFX: Crowd laughs.

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"Ok, ok, everyone settle down - you're not thinking of stealing my show away are you?"

KA

"Noooo, no, no (giggles) All good, I'm kinda busy with other stuff right now."

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"Indeed you are. Digital immortality. Ok - so I'm guessing as a kid, you never came home with a report card saying, this boy lacks ambition."

KA

"Well, no, not exactly. I ehheh, did okay at school. I just don't believe in monopolies and I think why should god have a monopoly on immortality. At least mine is real."

SFX: Crowd applauds.

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"So recently, The Forever Social just ticked over the 5 millionth customer..."

SFX: Crowd applauds.

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"... yes! Very impressive, just a few weeks after your official launch. But it's kind of creepy, don't you think, to have a digital, online version of, I suppose, that's you."

KA

"I am thrilled to be alive at time when humanity is pushing against the limits of understanding - and death is the biggest thing we must understand. I believe we may eventually discover that there are no limits. And that is the aim of The Forever Social."

SFX: Crowd applauds.

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"You honestly believe in digital immortality?"

KA

"I don't believe in it, that implies a need for faith. I know it. It's a fact. Like gravity. It's happening now."

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"And you say, what this is to drive competition against God?"

KA

"(Laughs) Well, god has had a good run. But like all monopolies there's an imbalance. I mean, his/her system of immortality if you like is a bit weird, especially when you attach his version of morality as the membership card to get in. With me, it's \$10 per month."

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"You think it's wrong to be good, to gain God's approval?"

KA

"(Laughs) Oh boy. Do you really mean to tell me the only reason you try to be good is to gain God's approval and reward, or to avoid his disapproval and punishment? That's not morality, that's just sucking up. Looking over your shoulder at the great surveillance camera in the sky, or sweating over the small wiretap inside your head, monitoring your everything."

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"Humm. I feel outgunned here. So, time for some back-up. Please everyone welcome, industrialist, philanthropist and renowned Christian theologian, Jacob Borg."

SFX: Crowd politely applauds, a few gasps.

KA (UNDER BREATH, TO STEFAN)

"You dick, nice set-up."

STEFAN LÖVGREN (UNDER BREATH, TO KA)

"Have to give Sweden something to talk about..."

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"Welcome Jacob to Sweden is talking about... and we are certainly talking about The Forever Social and the promise of digital immortality. Now, you've heard Karl-Axel's comments..."

JACOB BORG

"...indeed I have..."

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"...so, what is your view, as a respected leader in not just the business world, but the Christian faith."

JACOB BORG

"(Clears throat) First, let's establish that God, God is holy, meaning he is far beyond our human understanding or reasoning, which is why we must suffer these silly insolent discussions, by people who do not grasp what holiness is."

KA

"You strike me as an old testament kinda guy. You like the history, the exploration of ancient beliefs?"

JACOB BORG

"Absolutely. Many if not all of the corner stones for Christianity have been laid by a majestic God."

KA

"Majestic God? Humm, interesting phrase. Well based on scripture..."

JACOB BORG

"...You! You know scripture?!"

KA

"Yeah, I've tinkered around with the bible - skipped all of the boring bits, you know descriptions of lineages etc... But fuck - loved Judges. Judges was pretty amazing."

JACOB BORG

"Well, there you have it. Yes, It is an exceptional book and, I dare say, accurately presents what it is to be holy. I'm sure we can do without your colourful verbiage - even in praise."

KA

"Here's another thought, and this is quick summary of the rapes, murders, vengeful acts etc, perpetrated by this 'holy' god. The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."

SFX: Sporadic applause, picks up pace.

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"Ehh, ok, that's pretty strong..."

JACOB BORG

"Typical... No no, Stefan, it's fine. I would not expect anything less from, from this type of individual. He regards faith as an evil to be eliminated; he takes all religious faith to be blind faith. I have made a fortune based on science and engineering. I keep that fortune with evidence, primarily the type that can be found on a balance sheet. The type of nonsense Mr. Mattiasson has people playing at is nothing more than a juvenile carnival, duping people into an emotionally damaging carousel ride, without let up of both mind and bank account!"

KA

"I can't help wondering, why does God need such ferocious defence? I thought he could look after himself."

JACOB BORG

"God can handle himself just fine.
Protecting yourself from his
judgement is another matter..."

KA

"Ahh, there it is... the threats.
American physicist Steven Weinberg
said, 'Religion is an insult to human
dignity. With or without it, you'd
have good people doing good things
and evil people doing evil things.
But for good people to do evil
things, it takes religion. If you
know what I mean."

JACOB BORG

"And religion delivers so much good
to the world. It is a shame your
ambition to fleece people with false
hope, flying in the face of thousands
of years of established practice,
demonstrating the immutable grace of
God, blinds you and indeed, seems to
have caused a caustic hatred of what
is beautiful, just and love."

KA

"It's my guess that the priests who
rape children or the rabbis who tear
off the flesh from a baby's penis,
pretty much say the same thing."

SFX: Crowd grasps.

STEFAN LÖVGREN

"That's enough...!"

KA

"No!, No it's not, not even close.
That, is all fact. When one person
suffers from a delusion, it is called
insanity. When many people suffer
from a delusion it is called
Religion. And this motherfucker is
the most deluded of them..."

HAKON (VO)

"Whew! Ok, calm the farm. That was,
intense. It certainly got Sweden and
the rest of the world talking about -
well, this brash arrogant and quick
tempered newly minted billionaire. It

got people talking about religion, death, immortality and absolutely, The Forever Social and The Forever Engine. Wanna hear what happens next? I'll let the man himself explain, here's the recording from my interview for the book..."

HAKON

"I have to get to this. You know, *that* talk show..."

KA

"Sweden's talking about..."

HAKON

"Yeah - that one. It think after that performance, should be called, Sweden is asking about WTF."

KA

"Well, Stefan, the host..."

HAKON

"...a good friend of mine..."

KA

"Set it up and he, perhaps got more than he was expecting."

HAKON

"In your own words, what happened?"

KA

"I'm sure you've seen the footage."

HAKON

"Along with a billion other people, but from your perspective, what happened? I'm not a friend of religion, but Jesus, you had a 70 year old man beating the shit out of you."

KA

"(Laughs) yeah, ummm, well, what can I say. Eh firstly I had no idea Jacob Borg was going to be on - no idea at all!"

HAKON

"So you do know Jacob?"

KA

"Oh sure, one of my father's, associates - there's a whole group of them, clinging onto money and power with clammy liver spotted hands."

"So that was blow one - I don't like those type of surprises, bit of a cheap act from you friend Stefan. So, I'm sitting there and don't forget, I know some inside stuff, I know actions about Jacob, what this guy has done which are not so Christian in my opinion. Anyhow, he comes out with his holier than thou shit and I think when I hit the high note about kids being raped..."

HAKON

"I think it was more the, direct association with him, at that point. And the motherfucker name calling did not help."

KA

"Tomato tarmarto - whatever. I'm sitting there and I'm just fucking wired. Like I could see what to say for the next 2 hours, and yeah, obviously hit a raw nerve and boom, up he jumps. Now what you can't really hear - perhaps because his mike exploded - this fucking crazy noise he made, it was like a roar getting choked by a scream, kind like ahhhhhhhhh."

HAKON

"Ok. Exactly, what is going through your mind, right then?"

KA

"Well, at that point, I got this frail old man, making weird noises and he's coming at me - if his skin peeled off and a fucking alien emerged, I would not have been surprised. I wasn't frozen, I was

thinking, he'll charge like an old bull, and stop just short at the gate. So I'm in the chair, he is enraged and comes at me, and then boom, he leaves his fucking feet, didn't trip, he fucking leaps, eyes blood shot like someone poured salt into them and now I'm like, what the fuck! And now he's on me, we go over together and he lands on top, not punching, but fucking clawing, going for my eyes - my fucking eyes!"

HAKON

"Were you scared?"

KA

"No! I wasn't fucking scared. Shocked! Yes! But, I'm laying there, and he's got that stringy type of strength. And I just can't grab his fingers or hands, I'm just wiping em away, protecting my eyes, I mean, who the fuck does that! Pretty vicious shit if you ask me."

HAKON

"So, what was the fall-out from all of this? What happened behind the scenes?"

KA

"My lawyer thought he had hit the fucking jackpot, wanted to sue the old bastard, but you know what, not my style. I think that would have shown a weakness, in my character, running to a lawyer, because some old man hit a year of monthlies in a minute. But what it did do is firm up my position as one of the most hated assholes by the business elite."

HAKON

"And how does that make you feel?"

KA

"Ahhhh! The glow keeps me warm at night."

HAKON (VO)

"With the manhunt in full swing, right now, if it's hate that gives

him a warm glow, KA would be as warm
as freshly baked sourdough,
especially with the holy rollers
looking the steamroll him."

SFX: Knock at door

JACOB BORG

"Enter."

DAVID BORG

"Father, how are you."

JACOB BORG

"Where is he?"

DAVID BORG

"Nice to you too son..."

JACOB BORG

"Oh, don't start that nonsense son.
Do I have to wipe the breast milk
from your upper lip, once again?"

DAVID BORG

"No, father. (sigh). He is still free
as a bird."

JACOB BORG

"The devil takes care his own. I
believe the Lord is testing you my
boy. This is perhaps your chance to
shine, as did Gideon against the
Midianites."

DAVID BORG

"Well, please don't go making
promises to murder me, I think we all
know that Karl-Axel is no more of a
god than Baal."

JACOB BORG

"I'll tell you what. You need to step
this up. What's in play?"

DAVID BORG

"As you know, and thank you for the
help, I'm heading the task force in
Sweden, and more or less for Europe,
with Interpol firmly on side. We have
pulled apart every single part of his
life, torn his homes and apartments
asunder. Frozen all assets, have all

known and suspected associates under surveillance, again, thank you for the Jewish connection, their equipment is very impressive."

JACOB BORG

"Still, no leads?"

DAVID BORG

"My opinion is, he was prepared to vanish. Simple as that. Which means, he planned all of this to absolute perfection. As much as we despise him, he is a very cunning and well resourced adversary. But we have an interesting addition to the unfolding situation, Kiril, he is making moves."

JACOB BORG

"To be totally expected of course. Kiril has a lot of - engagement with that venture. What are you seeing?"

DAVID BORG

"He's got two people working on it here, and they are I must say, not very cautious. One we know very well, Chuck the Hammer, para military lunatic. The other one, never seen her before..."

JACOB BORG

"Her?"

DAVID BORG

"Yes, her. And she seems to be running the show, leading Chuck around like a monstrous Labrador. They have in fact already committed their first crime, kidnaping and we believe, murdering a PR agent, so we are in process of..."

JACOB BORG

"Leave that one alone."

DAVID BORG

"Excuse me... but..."

JACOB BORG

"No buts. Leave it, let those two continue."

DAVID BORG

"Forgive me father, but, but I really believe they have murdered a Swedish citizen, Hakon Blixt's agent."

JACOB BORG

"If these two are Kiril's people, then you can be assured that they are rather exceptional. You want them to help you, and they will because, and think about it, Kiril has involvement and tentacles that you cannot imagine. Therefore, they will be on a trail invisible to you, but if you follow them, they could take you all the way."

DAVID BORG

"I can't just ignore a kidnaping, and quite frankly, I'm pretty convinced they butchered her, especially with Chuck the Hammer around - it's a very safe assumption."

JACOB BORG

"Step back and look at the big picture. God left David unpunished for Bathsheba because there was a greater plan. Trust me, there is much to unfold from here, and those two my boy are your guides."

SFX: Gym music. The clang of weights

ZAKHIRA

"... 10, uuumph, 11, shhhhh, uggghhhh 12, shhhhhh, 13, ugggh, 14, annnnd common, 15! Whew! Ok, big boy your turn! Want to take off some plates?"

CHUCK

"Fuck you. You got millions of program dollars to do that, besides, I can handle 140 K G just fine."

ZAKHIRA

"Yeah, well you got gym candy mister! I know! Hey, what's 2 plus 2? (Impersonates a horse) Common, think fast, tap it out with your feet (Laughs)."

CHUCK

"Can you move. Please? And spot me."

ZAKHIRA

"Sure, (whinnies) (mimicks horse shoes)."

CHUCK

"I just want to train, without this shit, ok?"

ZAKHIRA

"Ok!"

CHUCK

"1, ugggh, 2, uggggh 3, oomph 4..."

SFX: Phone rings.

ZAKHIRA

"Hallo! Yes, we are just doing some think-a-cise."

CHUCK

"5, ugggh, 6, uggggh sevvvven..."

ZAKHIRA

"Well, the way I see it, I believe we are at least 2 years behind him, so lots of ground to catch up..."

CHUCK

"faaark, Zaaakira..."

ZAKHIRA

"Shh! I'm talking to you know...
(Whispers) Mr. 1 hundred..."

CHUCK

"Ahhhh... help..."

ZAKHIRA

"Oh, that's just Chuck, big baby, can't get past.. What did you get to?"

CHUCK

"Faaaarking, help, noooow... Ahhh!"

ZAKHIRA

"I nailed 15, I think he is only half way there."

CHUCK

"Ahhhhhhhhh!"

ZAKHIRA

"Sorry, just a moment, I can't hear you, just, hang on..."

SFX: Weights crash to the floor.

CHUCK

"(coughing and sputtering)"

ZAKHIRA

"Ok, back again, you were saying?"
 "Oh, really?" "Hummm, interesting..."
 "Sounds very worthwhile following up. Yes, we will crack onto it. I just have to lower my temperature - so hello! Ice bath! But I promise, a million promises, we will get moving on this a-s-a-p. With polka dots!"
 Thanks, see ya!"

CHUCK

"Jesus, my chest, what the fuck?!"

ZAKHIRA

"whoa, calm down. Shhhh. It's ok. That was - well, you know. (Whispers) he has a hot lead for us, but first, I have to cool down, because, well, you know. (Normal voice) - So get your big ass up, and have a shower, see you in 30 in reception, ok! We got a naughty boy to catch."

SFX: Muffled news report on.

KA

"Jiminy - turn that up please."

NEWS ANCHOR

"We have now got connection with Liz, in China... Oh, my..."

LIZ

"The scenes are scary. This is much worse than COVID 19. Scientists are saying that a new type of virus which is more aggressive towards lungs and not only is transferred from human to human, but from human to other mammals at full strength."

NEWS ANCHOR

"Sorry, did you say other mammals?"

LIZ

"Yes. You can with catch this from your pet, or give it to your pet, which could infect other people and other pets. They are calling it, and this is my rusty Chinese translation, Full Dose Cross and Trans Host Switching."

NEWS ANCHOR

"How many have been infected?"

LIZ

"The Chinese government is not releasing numbers. But medical sources I have spoken to are, (getting emotional), excuse me, when they talk to me, I see the terror in their eyes. This is extremely contagious and hyper-aggressive towards lung tissue. People literally are suffocating from within. There's dead cats and dogs everywhere."

SFX: Gunfire in the background. Muffled Chinese being screamed.

NEWS ANCHOR

"Is that gunfire? Was that just..."

LIZ

"Umm, I can see the PLA are pouring out of trucks, they are shooting people now in the street. Oh my god, it's totally indiscriminate!"

NEWS ANCHOR

"Liz! Get out of there, get away!"

LIZ

"I've seen people gunned down.. They are rushing everywhere... Are you getting this! The world has to know..."

SFX: Gunfire. Sound of a body dropping/camera equipment/microphone hitting the ground.

KA

"Fuuuuck! What the actual fuck? They just blew her head off, on live TV. Ehh, Jiminy bring up The Guardian... Anything coming out of China?"

JIMINY

"Total shut down, but video got through before closure."

KA

"Caption text and translation please."

JIMINY

"I'm seeing all of the trends, no main news service has caught up yet."

KA

"Well, keep tabs on The Guardian. Ok, looks like first reports were coming out 3 days ago, show me that one - looks like a doctor. So, jesus, mortality rate is over 12% and within 48 hours. China is going into overdrive. They are killing everyone and everything, to stop the spread. Where was she?"

JIMINY

"Chongqing."

KA

"That's only what, 8, 900 Kilometres from Wuhan. Fuck, much bigger city... over..."

JIMINY

"30 million population."

KA

"Thanks Jiminy, it's not a competition. Whew. Jesus, the Chinese didn't learn from COVID 19, and now this. Wow. The rest of the world better hope that they manage to contain it."

JIMINY

"Boarder closures are being announced as we speak. Italy has just announced a lockdown, all citizens to shelter in place. Opps, now I can see most major EU and US airports. Seems like the rest of the world has learned."

KA

"Can you get me Michael, remember the guy from Huawei."

SFX: odd, dial/beeping tone.

MICHAEL (CHINESE ACCENT)

"You are literally the only person I would take a call from now."

KA

"Except of course your glorious leader for life."

MICHAEL

"Talking of life - I'm risking mine right now. You got 60 seconds."

KA

"Well, blowing the brains out of international reporters is one way to get attention."

MICHAEL

"That. That was a... mistake."

KA

"Certainly was. Look Michael - I'm not calling to judge. But I'm seeing this unfold. You're missing the mark, You have not learned from before."

MICHAEL

"You know as well as anyone, we have demolished the wet markets..."

KA

"Whoa! I know, I know. Wild animal trade and all that - you're on top of it, but, I'm talking about a different lesson. But before I share, I'm going to need a promise as a down payment."

MICHAEL

"I'm shocked you even asked - I think it's implied."

KA

"I like to be upfront, also, you are going to be very useful thanks to global xenophobia on your tech - actually right now, I would prefer your government to be tracking me, then any other. And you as one of the princes of the Central Politburo will be super helpful, especially with what I have for you, might mean a Medal of the Republic."

MICHAEL

"Never thinking small. You have a personal gold ticket - what do you have?"

KA

"With all due respect, I thought that from last time you had a tangle with COVID 19 - you would be right on top of the situation at play. You know some of my friends, who let's say are not so friendly to me nowadays."

MICHAEL

"Understandable seeming you totally destroyed a very significant asset."

KA

"You serious? You actually think that?"

MICHAEL

"No! Just seeing if I can get some of that famous KA spark."

KA

"Funny. In any case, as I was saying, these former friends of mine kinda liked Corona V1 - when you have a trilogy of power, getting to number 2 feels better than being last."

MICHAEL

"We of course did look at the Russians, but, there was nothing to see there."

KA

"Michael. Stop. Think, who are you talking to. You know that is bullshit and you know that I know that is bullshit."

MICHAEL

"(Deep sigh). Members of the politburo like to eat certain things, yes, wild and exotic things because..."

KA

"... it makes their dicks hard to do things that very few people ever can dream about doing. Look I get the vanity side of it. But no, I'm not pushing an angle on getting to your leaders. I'm talking about shitting in the sandbox and pointing fingers to get the other kid excluded."

MICHAEL

"As you know, we did our best to offset the damage to our reputation. Which included looking at outside influences. As much as I would love to say, it was not our fault, we could not uncover any evidence, and believe me we were very though."

KA

"I'm sure the re-education camps of 2020 got filled to the brim, but you're not thinking, simple enough. You know how to exploit the West's weakness, leaders are temporary, restricted and we don't act like you do, we won't sacrifice 10 for a 100. But Russia is different, they are too

similar to your style. But the Russians, ahh! They know how to exploit you, because you look at them as peasants. When they did away with a Tzars you my friend lost all respect for them. On the other hand, how do I put it, with the Chinese, you can remove the Emperor from China but you cannot take the Emperor out of the Chinese - that's you weakness, more - blind spot.

MICHAEL

"This was not about targeting out elite?"

KA

"The Russians have never been able to project power. Not once, even against goat fuckers, they got their backside whipped, and whipped goood. So what do you do? You get cunning, just how they manipulate major Western elections, using the West's system of power against them, they looked at you with a whole new different type of lens. You're so full of the glory days of empires, you only have eyes for number 1, not the mangy old bear creeping up behind you."

MICHAEL

"They exploited our global position as the world's factory, to turn the world against against us."

KA

"Number 3, becomes number 2, but looking to close the gap on number 1 and open up the distance on the new number 3. They were disappointed with how it went last time. They hoped for punishing tariffs. Looks to me, they upped the ante. Last time you gifted them a perfect petri dish, full of pangolins and bats and christ knows what else. But since you cleaned that up, they needed a new soft spot."

MICHAEL

"I think I know where that is."

KA

"Better get moving then. Because this time, I think you'll find finger prints. They'll be on the turd they just left behind in your sandbox."