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"COMMON GROUND"

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1st Pink Revs. Full Script

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SLIDERS

"Common Ground"

TEASER

1 EXT. INDUSTRIAL BATTLEGROUND - DAY (D1) 1

Something very bad happened here. Rotting warehouses stand pocked with bullet holes and scorch marks. Rubble and destruction everywhere. No people.

2 THE SLIDER VORTEX 2

opens, spilling Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt into the scene. They are wearing light clothing and have leis around their necks. Rembrandt balances a tropical drink.

REMBRANDT

And he doesn't spill a drop!  
(looking around)  
We left King Kalihana's pagan  
fertility feast for this?

MAGGIE

Hey, you weren't about to become  
the virgin sacrifice.

Quinn opens his mouth...

MAGGIE

Don't say it, Quinn.

The Sliders gaze around at the destruction. Military-style vehicles lay wrecked. The sky is a SICKLY YELLOW OVERCAST.

QUINN

(glancing up; sarcastic)  
I'm guessing maybe a stage two smog  
alert today.

REMBRANDT

Something nasty went down here.  
How much time we got?

Maggie takes out the timer.

MAGGIE

Long enough. Twenty-seven hours.

REMBRANDT

Looks like a war zone.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

2 CONTINUED

2

A faint WHINE can be heard, rapidly building into the terrifying SCREAM of incoming artillery.

MAGGIE

Sounds like a war zone.  
Incoming!

BLAM! An artillery round carves a crater near the Sliders, showering them with debris.

QUINN

(deadpan)  
It's a war zone.

MAGGIE

Find cover!

Rembrandt drops his drink and the Sliders run up the street, pursued by the BOOM of more explosions. They head toward...

3 A FORTIFIED STRUCTURE

3

bomb-damaged, but the safest-looking structure on the street. As they are about to duck inside, however, Maggie freezes. She sees...

4 A FIGURE

4

stumbling through the debris, seemingly dazed by the shells exploding around him.

QUINN

Maggie, come on!

MAGGIE

There's someone out there.

Another EXPLOSION knocks the figure to the ground. He lies still. Without hesitation, Maggie runs into the barrage toward the downed figure.

MAGGIE

Maggie!

Quinn and Remmy exchange a look. Remmy shakes his head and they both charge out after...

5 MAGGIE

5

who has reached the figure. We now see he is wearing some kind of futuristic haz-mat protective suit that obscures his face. She struggles to pull the limp figure to his feet.

Quinn and Rembrandt arrive and help drag the fallen man to...

6 INT. FORTIFIED STRUCTURE - DAY

6

The Sliders pull the unconscious figure into the relative safety of the building. EXPLOSIONS continue to echo outside.

QUINN  
(angry: to Maggie)  
When did you suddenly become  
shrapnel-proof?

MAGGIE  
What was I supposed to do? Leave  
him?

REMBRANDT (O.S.)  
That woulda been a good idea.

Quinn and Maggie turn to see Rembrandt crouched next to the man Maggie rescued. Remmy has removed his protective hood, revealing ...

A KROMAGG. A bloody gash across his forehead. He looks groggily up at the Sliders, briefly locking eyes with Maggie before passing out.

QUINN  
Now we know what happened here.

REMBRANDT  
(to Maggie:)  
You risked all our necks to save  
a Kromagg?

MAGGIE  
I don't know whist army you were in,  
but I was trained never to leave a  
man down on the battlefield.

REMBRANDT  
A man, no. One of these  
murdering animals, you bet.

QUINN  
Easy, guys. This could be good.

Outside, the sound of EXPLOSIONS fades, growing distant...

MAGGIE  
Good? How?

QUINN  
We're looking for their home world.  
Maybe we can get some information  
out of him.

Quinn kneels down next to the injured Kromagg.

CONTINUED

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6 CONTINUED

6

QUINN

Maybe he can help us find Wade.

REMBRANDT

That's a lot of maybes, Q-Ball.  
What makes you think this 'Magg's  
gonna tell us anything?

QUINN

I don't know. But we're overdue  
for a lucky break. Maybe on this  
earth, the Kromaggs are the good  
guys.

On cue, a squad of four or five KROMAGG SOLDIERS pours into the building. They are wearing the same protective suits as the injured Kromagg and they aim wicked-looking weapons at the Sliders. The sliders raise their hands.

REMBRANDT

Or maybe not.

The Kromagg soldiers part to reveal a KROMAGG OFFICER. He pulls off his helmet exposing a hard face (even by Kromagg standards), a battle scar running down his cheek.

As he glares at the Sliders, we...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN.

7 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - DETENTION AREA - DAY - TIGHT ON MAGGIE 7

restrained on a table. A rather ominous-looking electronic device is suspended over her face.

The scarred Kromagg officer from the Teaser leans close to her. He will be called KROLAK.

KROLAK

Who are you?

QUINN (O.S.)

Leave her alone.

Reveal...

8 QUINN AND REMBRANDT 8

in a holding cell off the main room behind an invisible force field (like the Kromagg cells in "Invasion").

Krolak ignores them. He holds up the timer.

KROLAK

(to Maggie)

What is this device?

MAGGIE

A garage door opener.

KROLAK

(nods)

Most Kromaggs prefer the taste of human eyes raw.

He touches a switch on the device mounted over Maggie's head. It powers up with an ominous HUM.

KROLAK

I like them cooked in their own juices.

Krolak activates the device and a RED LIGHT hits Maggie in the eyes. She clenches her eyes shut and screams.

QUINN

Maggie!

REMBRANDT

Stop it!

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

8 CONTINUED

8

Krolak turns off the device. Maggie gasps.

KROLAK

(re: the timer)

Now. This is a weapon? A  
detonator of some kind?

REMBRANDT

You feel like a big 'Magg now?  
Torturing a woman?

KROLAK

(to Quinn and Remmy)

Each time you speak, your companion  
will be made to suffer.

REMBRANDT

If I get my hands on you --

(X)

Quinn grabs Remmy's arm. Too late. The RED LIGHT flashes  
briefly in Maggie's eyes. She bites back a scream.

MAGGIE

(gritted teeth)

Thanks for the moral support,  
Remmy, but shut up.

KROLAK

You were planning to sabotage the  
project?

MAGGIE

What project?

KROLAK

I'm in no hurry, human.

(hissing in her ear)

I like my eyes a little on the well  
side.

Krolak cranks the power. Maggie convulses in agony.

9 QUINN AND REMBRANDT

9

stare in helpless horror. Then...

VOICE (O.S.)

Enough.

Krolak turns. Reveal:

10 THE KROMAGG MAGGIE RESCUED

10

standing in the doorway. He is now dressed in an impressive military uniform, and the Kromagg guards snap to attention.

Krolak nods deferentially and deactivates the power. Maggie gasps. WISPS OF STEAM rise off her face.

KROLAK

Commander, I am relieved to see you escaped injury.

The Kromagg officer, who will be called KROMANUS, eyes Krolak dubiously. He doesn't answer.

KROLAK

Who knows what might have happened if we hadn't rescued you from these Homo sapien spies.

KROMANUS

Yes. Troubling.  
(then)

What troubles me more, Subcommander, is why you ordered the perimeter guns tested before I withdrew to the safety of the garrison?

Krolak's face twists into what is probably supposed to pass for a contrite smile.

KROLAK

A miscommunication, Commander. Those responsible have been punished.

KROMANUS

(pointed)  
All of them?

The question hangs there.

KROLAK

Shall I continue with the interrogation?

Kromanus stares down at Maggie. Tears streaming from her eyes, she struggles to hold his gaze.

KROMANUS

No.

KROLAK

Commander, need I remind you of the priority of the project?

He holds up the timer.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

10 CONTINUED

10

KROLAK  
They could be saboteurs.

Kromanus looks at the timer with interest. He takes it from Krolak.

KROMANUS  
Have them decontaminated and brought to my command chamber.

KROLAK  
(surprised)  
Sir?

KROMANUS  
I trust we won't have another 'miscommunication,' Subcommander.

He sweeps out of the room, taking the timer with him. Krolak turns back to Maggie.

MAGGIE  
Sorry to spoil your lunch.

Krolak glowers at the Sliders.

11 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - COMMANDER'S OFFICE - DAY

11

The Last Chance Bar, or what's left of it. The Kromaggs have converted it into a command post: Tactical maps, displays and communications equipment of Kromagg design are set up.

Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt are roughly escorted in by two KROMAGG GUARDS. The Sliders' hands are bound by futuristic handcuffs. (X)

The guards withdraw and close the door, leaving the Sliders alone. Maggie slumps in a chair. Quinn goes to her.

QUINN  
(gently)  
Hey, you hung pretty tough in there, Captain Beckett. How do you feel?.

MAGGIE  
Kinda tingly.

QUINN  
Oh?

MAGGIE  
Not in a good way.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

11 CONTINUED

11

REMBRANDT

Check this out.

On the walls are several tattered, stained posters of anti-Kromagg propaganda:

One shows a heroic human soldier blasting away at a Kromagg Manta ship under the caption "Buy War Bonds!"

Another shows a smiling soldier chatting with an old lady, but he doesn't see her face is half Kromagg. The caption reads, "Your Mother Could be a Kromagg Spy!"

REMBRANDT

The locals didn't give up without a fight.

KROMANUS (O.S.)

No. They did not.

12 KROMANUS

12

steps out of the shadows.

KROMANUS

Welcome to Earth 147... Sliders.

Surprised, the Sliders exchange a look. Maggie gets shakily to her feet.

QUINN

What did you call us?

KROMANUS

That's what you humans call quantum probability translocation, isn't it? 'Sliding.' How cute.

Kromanus sits down at a large command console. The Kromagg produces the timer and looks it over.

KROMANUS

The design is unusual, crude, but it is clearly a transdimensional facilitator. You made it?

QUINN

(covering)  
We found it outside. We don't know what it is.

REMBRANDT

We thought maybe we could trade it for some food.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

12 CONTINUED

12

KROMANUS

During decontamination a spectral scan was done of your tissue. No residual radiation. No biotoxins. Hardly indicative of the native population, don't you agree?

He picks up the timer and walks from behind the console.

KROMANUS

You can tell me where you came from, or I can allow Subcommander Krolak to continue his interrogation.

Maggie wavers. Quinn puts a supportive arm around her.

REMBRANDT

All right. We're Sliders.

MAGGIE

Remmy...

REMBRANDT

Quiet, girl. I'm not letting them go to work on you again.

(to Kromanus)

Your army invaded our world, too. Only we couldn't hold out as long as these folks.

Quinn and Maggie watch him closely. Where's he going with this?

REMBRANDT

My friends and I needed a way out. Any way. Some scientists were working on this thing they called 'sliding.' We stole their gizmo.

(then)

Our bad luck we wound up in a worse hell hole than the one we left.

His face still impassive, the Kromagg eyes Remmy. Then he slowly nods, accepting the story.

KROMANUS

(re: timer)

Possession of this technology by Homo sapiens is forbidden. The punishment is death.

(a beat)

But my life still has some value to me. You saved it, so I feel some...

(MORE)

CONTINUED

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12 CONTINUED (2)

12

KROMANUS (CONT'D)  
(almost disgusted)  
...obligation.

REMBRANDT  
Don't get all weepy. If I'd known  
it was one of you ugly freaks under  
that suit, I'd have let you die out  
there.

12A QUINN AND MAGGIE

12A (X)

react, alarmed by Remmy's outburst, but the Kromagg doesn't appear offended. He steps up to Maggie. (X)  
(X)

KROMANUS  
And you? Would you have let me  
die?

She holds his gaze for a moment, then...

MAGGIE  
Yes. (X)

Kromanus nods again ... inscrutable.

KROMANUS  
What am I to do then?

He looks at the timer, the numbers still ticking down.

KROMANUS  
I cannot let you go. Yet I am  
reluctant to order your executions.

The Kromagg touches a small JEWEL-LIKE STUD on the front of his uniform. The stud GLOWS and the Sliders' handcuffs fall away. The Sliders react with surprise.

KROMANUS  
So, for now you will remain here  
under house arrest.  
(intense)  
But make no mistake, mercy is not  
my strong suit. If you defy an  
order from any Kromagg you will be  
killed. If you attempt to  
interfere with the operation of  
this garrison you will be killed.  
If you attempt to escape... you'll  
die soon enough.

Off the Sliders' looks, we go to...

13 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - SLIDERS' QUARTERS - DAY

13

A suite in the Chandler Hotel. Like the Last Chance, however, it bears the scars of this world's Kromagg War: boarded-up windows, smashed furniture, anti-Kromagg propaganda.

REMBRANDT

(pacing)  
Something here stinks.

Quinn sits down at the desk, sweeping away a cockroach.

QUINN

I get the feeling this place wasn't  
'sanitized for our protection.'

REMBRANDT

Kromaggs don't show mercy. It's  
not in their nature.

MAGGIE

Maybe they're trying to 'good cop,  
bad cop' us.

QUINN

Why? Unless they didn't buy  
Remmy's story about stealing the  
timer.

REMBRANDT

Speaking of... we got less than a  
day to get it back or you better  
get used to the accommodations.

MAGGIE

Was it just me or did it sound like  
that lieutenant tried to frag his  
C.O.?

QUINN

(nodding)  
There's some kind of power struggle  
going on. Maybe we can work it to  
our advantage.

REMBRANDT

Yeah. And it looks like Maggie  
might have some juice with these  
leather-faced creeps. What?

MAGGIE

What?

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

13 CONTINUED

13

REMBRANDT

You saved that Kromagg's bacon and he knows it. That's the only reason we're not dead right now.

(then)

Maybe beauty can finesse the timer out of the beast.

QUINN

Remmy...

MAGGIE

What are you saying?

REMBRANDT

I'm saying we do whatever it takes to get outta here. I already spent three months in a Kromagg 're-education camp.' And what they were doing to Maggie was a sponge bath compared to what they got in store for us. I watched 'em haul Wade away... screaming.

(hard: to Maggie)

I'm not going back. If we miss that window, I'll die before I spend twenty-nine years with these bastards. And I'll take as many of 'em with me as I can.

Rembrandt turns and exits the room. Off Quinn and Maggie's concerned looks, we go to...

14 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - COMMANDER'S OFFICE - DAY

14

Kromanus sits at his command console. Krolak stands before him.

KROLAK

Am I to understand you have granted the Homo sapien spies full access to the garrison?

KROMANUS

House arrest is hardly full access, Subcommander.

KROLAK

But they are humans. Vermin. If this is how you commanded the Twelfth Legion perhaps the Great Struggle was lost from the start.

Too far. Kromanus slowly rises.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

14 CONTINUED

14

KROMANUS  
 (contained fury)  
 You serve at my leisure, Krolak.  
 Pray I do not tire of dogma-spewing  
 Dynasty toadies any time soon.

We hear an ALERT TONE and a gruff Kromagg VOICE announces:

VOICE (O.S.)  
 Interdimensional transmission,  
 Commander. For your eyes only.

For a beat, Krolak and Kromanus stand eye to eye. Krolak blinks first, giving his Commander a curt nod and exiting.

Kromanus returns to his command console. He touches the stud on his uniform, which activates a:

15 VIDEO MONITOR

15

Another Kromagg face appears on the screen. But it's shifting, unclear -- rippled by the transmission from a parallel earth.

Kromanus nods his head deferentially to the screen.

KROMANUS  
 At your command.

KROMAGG LEADER (O.S.)  
 The Dynasty has been tracking a (X)  
 rogue human for some time. (X)

16 A FUZZY IMAGE OF QUINN

16 (X)

appears on the monitor. Kromanus shows no sign of recognition. (X)

KROMAGG LEADER (O.S.)  
 He possesses transdimensional (X)  
 travel capability, and we have  
 reason to believe he has recently (X)  
 arrived on Earth 147. If any  
 member of your garrison  
 encounters him, he is not to be (X)  
 detained.

KROMANUS  
 I do not understand.

16 CONTINUED

16

KROMAGG LEADER (O.S.)

It is not for you to understand.  
Do as you are told, and perhaps the  
disgrace that soils klan Kromanus  
will be lifted. Clear?

KROMANUS

(biting back anger)  
Of course.

KROMAGG LEADER (O.S.)

This human holds the key to our (X)  
ultimate victory. The tracking (X)  
device we implanted in him during (X)  
his captivity on Earth 113 will (X)  
lead us to our home world. (X)  
(then) (X)  
Quinn Mallory will bring about the (X)  
destruction of his own species. (X)

As the camera pushes in on the image of Quinn, we... (X)

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

17 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - CORRIDOR - DAY 17

Quinn and Maggie move cautiously along a corridor of the garrison. This area looks newer and more heavily reinforced (perhaps it's a Kromagg-built addition to the Chandler HQ).

QUINN

I've never seen Remmy like this before.

MAGGIE

If you'd been through what he has, you might be a little freaked about staying in the Kromagg Hilton, too.

QUINN

It's more than that. Ever since we found Earth Prime, he's just shut down. At least I know I might have another home somewhere, but Remmy doesn't have anything left.

(then)

He's never been a hateful man, but now...

MAGGIE

(realizing)

It's the only thing keeping him going.

As they consider this...

18 TWO KROMAGG SOLDIERS 18

come down the hall and Quinn and Maggie are forced to give them a wide berth. The Kromaggs GROWL at them: they'd clearly enjoy disobeying their orders for a piece of these humans. They move off...

QUINN

Remmy's right about one thing. We've got to get the timer back.

MAGGIE

(sarcastic)

So you think I need to do 'whatever it takes' to get out of here?

Quinn turns on Maggie.

CONTINUED

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18 CONTINUED

18

QUINN

(hard)  
Not even as a joke. If the 'Maggs  
lay a hand on you...

He trails off. Maggie softens, surprised by his outburst.

MAGGIE

Thanks, Quinn.

QUINN

Let's just focus on sliding off  
this rock.

They round a corner...

19 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - ANOTHER CORRIDOR - DAY

19

A LARGE PICTURE WINDOW looks out onto the landscape.

Quinn and Maggie stare out the window in shock.

MAGGIE

Oh my God.

20 THEIR POINT OF VIEW - OUTSIDE THE WINDOW

20

We can see that the landscape is ravaged all the way to the horizon (matte). As if the entire planet had been scorched to the ground in one giant cataclysm.

QUINN

(bitter)  
Kromagg urban renewal.

KROMANUS (O.S.)

You're mistaken, human.

Quinn and Maggie turn to see the Kromagg commandant standing nearby.

KROMANUS

This is the work of your own kind.

QUINN

You're lying. No one would do this  
to their own planet.

KROMANUS

On every alternate earth, we face a  
different enemy. Always human, but  
always different.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

20 CONTINUED

20

KROMANUS (CONT'D)

(then)

Some are weak, they die with a  
whimper. Most try to fight us with  
their pitiful weapons. But here...

He steps forward and stares out the window at the shattered  
landscape.

KROMANUS

We killed millions, but they  
wouldn't yield. The war dragged on  
for two years. Even when they must  
have known the battle was lost,  
they didn't stop -- chemical  
agents, biotoxins, atomic weapons.

He touches the jeweled stud on his tunic and a BLAST SHIELD  
begins to close over the window.

(X)

20A MAGGIE

20A (X)

makes careful note of the jeweled stud.

(X)

KROMANUS

In their zeal to destroy us, they  
laid their world to waste.

The window panel seals with a THUNK.

MAGGIE

The Battle of California.

KROMANUS

What?

MAGGIE

On my earth, there was a world war.  
The second of three actually.  
Human against human. The Japanese  
invaded the west coast of my  
country.

Quinn hasn't heard this story of Maggie's earth. He and the  
Kromanag listen with interest.

MAGGIE

Our Marines fought them block by  
block, but they kept pouring in  
reinforcements. When the American  
lines finally broke, they felt they  
had no choice.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

20A CONTINUED

20A

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

We dropped two atomic bombs over  
L.A. and San Diego -- on our own  
soil, on our own troops.

(then)

My grandfather fought there.

Intrigued, Kromanus steps closer to Maggie. Quinn tenses,  
but Maggie doesn't recoil.

KROMANUS

You were a warrior.

MAGGIE

A pilot. Yes.

KROMANUS

I will hear more of your earth.  
You will dine with me tonight.

MAGGIE

I don't think so.

KROMANUS

It was not a request.

Kromanus strides off down the corridor.

MAGGIE

(dry)

Great. Four hours on this world  
and I got a date.

Quinn gives Maggie a worried look.

21 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - CORRIDOR - DAY

21

Rembrandt moves stealthily down another corridor (or another  
angle of the same corridor). He ducks out of sight when he  
hears an ALARM SOUND. Remmy watches A LARGE AIRLOCK-TYPE  
DOOR rumble open.

22 TWO KROMAGG SOLDIERS

22

dressed in haz-mat suits enter rolling a gurney. Something  
lays on the gurney covered by a sheet.

The Kromagg guards leave the gurney unattended and move to a  
row of nozzles along-the wall. They stand under the nozzles  
and are enveloped in a spray of decontamination mist. When  
the fog clears, we reveal...

23 REMMY 23

is gone. The Kromagg soldiers wheel the gurney down the corridor and through a door into...

24 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - MORGUE - DAY 24

The two Kromaggs roll the gurney in through a door and set it up against a wall. They go back out through the door, which seals behind them with a WHOOSH. After a beat, the sheet hanging over the gurney rustles, and...

25 REMBRANDT 25

eases out from under the sheet. He's been hiding on the bottom shelf of the gurney (not cozied up with whatever's under that sheet). Rembrandt looks around with an expression of horror. Reveal...

26 ROWS OF SHEET-COVERED BODIES 26

lining the room. It's clearly a morgue. Remmy turns back to the gurney he was hiding under and flips back the sheet.

27 A BODY 27

lies on the slab. The face is scarred with burn tissue and is weirdly misshapen -- as if the features were somehow taken apart and rebuilt with the wrong DNA blueprint.

REMBRANDT

What the hell?

Rembrandt leans close, morbidly fascinated despite himself. Suddenly, the body GASPS. It's still alive! Remmy leaps back in shock.

REMBRANDT

Damn. Take it easy, man. You'll be okay.

The body grasps at Remmy with gnarled fingers.

BODY

(death rattle)  
Stop them...

He slumps back onto the gurney and lies still, eyes wide, definitely dead this time. Off Remmy's stricken expression, we go to...

28 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - SLIDERS' QUARTERS - EVENING (N1) 28

Maggie looks at her face in the filthy mirror, fussing with her hair. Quinn paces.

QUINN

There's got to be another way.

MAGGIE

You said yourself we have to get the timer back.

(turning to Quinn)

Do my eyes look red?

They look perfect.

Maggie reacts, surprised.

QUINN

In their sockets where they belong. I won't let you do this.

MAGGIE

What happened to your curiosity, Quinn? Don't you want to find out about your home world?

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

QUINN

Not like this.

(X)  
(X)

MAGGIE

What about Wade? If there's a chance of finding out where she is, would you take the risk?

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

Quinn doesn't respond. He knows she's right.

MAGGIE

I'll bring you a doggie bag.

Maggie exits. We hold on Quinn's worried face.

29 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - MORGUE - NIGHT 29

Rembrandt eases through the sheet-covered bodies in the morgue. We see a few mutated limbs dangling out from under the sheets: fused digits, grisly burns, etc.

Remy reaches a door at the far end of the room and eases through into...

30 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - HOSPITAL WARD - NIGHT 30

More like a terminal waiting room. Human beings lie everywhere, on cots and on the floor, moaning in pain.

30 CONTINUED

30

REMBRANDT

Lord have mercy.

Rembrandt moves through the ward, stepping gingerly around the writhing victims -- most of whom have burns or mutations similar to the bodies Rembrandt saw in the morgue.

Remmy kneels down next to one victim, a man is dressed in rags, who otherwise looks relatively unscathed.

REMBRANDT

What did they do to you?

The man doesn't respond. Remmy reaches out and touches his shoulder.

REMBRANDT

Hey, pan.

The man turns his face toward Rembrandt and we see he is horribly mutilated, his eyes fused shut by layers of scar tissue.

GIRL (O.S.)

Forget him. He's out of it.

Rembrandt turns to see...

31 A GIRL

31

probably in her mid-teens, slumped in a nearby cot. Her pretty face is marred by lesions, but she looks better than most of the human wreckage here. Remmy moves to her.

REMBRANDT

They cut his eyes out?

GIRL

Nah, that's from the radiation outside. He was probably too close to the blast zone when we tried to push the Maggs out of Bakersfield.

(beat)

We shoulda let 'em keep it.

The girl squints at Rembrandt closely, taking a good look at him for the first time.

GIRL

You look pretty good. What are you? Phase One?

REMBRANDT

Phase One?

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

31 CONTINUED

31

GIRL

The project. You can't be more than Phase One or Two. You haven't changed enough.

REMBRANDT

'The project?'

(X)

GIRL

Where did you come from?

REMBRANDT

Outside.

GIRL

Nobody comes from outside. Not anymore.

REMBRANDT

What's the project? What's going on here?

GIRL

Nobody knows. They just take you away. Every time you come back different. If you come back at all.

REMBRANDT

What's your name, girl?

GIRL

Penny.  
(a bitter laugh)  
Pretty Penny my dad used to call me. Before they took him away.

She touches the lesions on her face, turning away from Remmy in sudden embarrassment.

PENNY

At least he never saw me like this.

REMBRANDT

C'mon, Penny. I'm gonna get you out of here.

Rembrandt slips his arm around her, trying to get her to her feet. But she cries out in pain. Rembrandt eases her back down.

Suddenly, there is a fearful HUBBUB in the room. Rembrandt turns to see...

32 TWO KROMAGGS

32

enter the ward. They're wearing the Kromagg equivalent of surgical masks, and they look more like scientists than soldiers.

PENNY

It's them. They run the project.  
Get out of here.

REMBRANDT

I'm not leaving you here to be  
turned into some kind of monster.

(X)

(X)

PENNY

You can't save us.

The scientists are moving through the ward. One of them is using a high-tech gun to brand RED TATTOOS on certain victim's arms. They're getting closer. Remmy ducks down behind Penny's cot.

PENNY

Don't let them take you, too.

Remmy is torn.

PENNY

Please.

33 THE KROMAGG SCIENTISTS

33

reach Penny. Rembrandt is gone. Penny stares up at them defiantly.

The one with the tattoo gun reaches down and tags her.

34 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - COMMANDER'S OFFICE - EVENING

34

The door slides open. A Kromagg guard admits Maggie. The door slides shut behind her.

Kromanus is seated behind his desk, his face in the shadows.

KROMANUS

Come in.

Maggie sees a table spread with an appetizing array of food -- fruit, bread', etc.

MAGGIE

(dryly)

All you need is candlelight and  
soft music and you're in business.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

34 CONTINUED

34

KROMANUS

I don't understand.

MAGGIE

Let's not have any illusions that this is a social event. You ordered me here. So, here I am.

KROMANUS

This is not an interrogation. I'd hoped we could at least be... civil.

He rises from behind the desk and steps into the light. Maggie is stunned...

HE'S HUMAN. Or at least he looks human. Though he still wears the commandant's uniform (and speaks in his voice) he now has the face of a handsome young man.

MAGGIE

What the hell is this?

KROMANUS

Most humans find a familiar image less stressful.

MAGGIE

Well, I don't respond well to deception. Did you think the sight of a handsome face would make me forget you're the enemy? You wanted to see me because I was a soldier. Have the courtesy to treat me like one.

The commandant nods. He steps through a shadow, and when he emerges we see he is BACK IN HIS KROMAGG FORM.

KROMANUS

My apologies, Captain.

He gestures to the table.

KROMANUS

Will you join me now?

The ground rules laid, Maggie nods.

35 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - SLIDERS' QUARTERS - NIGHT

35

An agitated Rembrandt gapes at Quinn.

REMBRANDT

She what?

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

35 CONTINUED

35

QUINN

She's having dinner with him.

REMBRANDT

Wish they'd invited me. I'd take a steak knife to that sadistic S.O.B.

QUINN

And now you know why you're not on the guest list. Calm down and tell me what you saw.

REMBRANDT

A damn death camp, that's what I saw. They've got a lab filled with POW'S. They're doing some kind of experiment on them. Genetic engineering or something, I don't know. But it's bad.

QUINN

That must be the 'project' they were asking Maggie about.

REMBRANDT

We've got to do something.

QUINN

We've got to get the timer back.

REMBRANDT

They're butchering these people.

QUINN

(frustrated)

You think I like standing by and doing nothing? But you heard the Commander. We even look at these guys cross-eyed and we end up in front of a firing squad.

REMBRANDT

So, we just leave this place to rot. Like my earth.

Remmy gives Quinn a hard look, refusing to back off. As Quinn lets out a sigh, we... As

CUT TO

36 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

36

Remmy and Quinn move cautiously down the corridor near the morgue/hospital ward.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

36 CONTINUED

36

Remmy points to the airlock door where he saw the two Kromaggs bring out the gurney holding the body.

REMBRANDT

I saw them wheel a body out of there.

(then)

Keep an eye out.

Quinn gives him a look.

REMBRANDT

Sorry.

Rembrandt moves quickly to the door. Quinn follows.

37 AT THE DOOR

37

Remmy looks over the lock, a complicated mechanism.

REMBRANDT

What do you think?

38 TIGHT ON QUINN

38

as he stoops to examine the lock.

QUINN

It's pressure sealed. Probably to keep the contaminated atmosphere out. That's why the 'Maggs wear those moonsuits outside.

REMBRANDT (O.S.)

Q-Ball.

QUINN

(still poking at the lock)

Looks like some kind of a retina scan or something. I can't make heads or tails out of half this Kromagg tech.

REMBRANDT (O.S.)

Quinn.

QUINN

Yeah?

(X)

38A A KNIFE BLADE 38A (X)  
lowers into frame and touches Quinn's throat. Quinn slowly (X)  
turns his head to see... (X)

39 KROLAK AND TWO GUARDS 39  
standing behind him. The guards hold weapons on Remmy. (X)

KROLAK  
This is a restricted area, human.  
You violated a direct order.

Krolak presses the wicked-looking Kromagg blade to Quinn's (X)  
throat.

KROLAK  
And I'm very strict about following  
orders.

As a trickle of blood runs down Quinn's throat, we... (X)

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

40 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

40

Krolak holds the knife at Quinn's throat. He raises the blade, forcing Quinn to his feet.

KROLAK

It's been so hard to get good human eyes on this world.

He lifts the blade until it's an inch from Quinn's eye.

KROLAK

The local varieties are all wilted and rotten.

REMBRANDT

Take it easy. We didn't know this was a restricted area.

QUINN

We just got turned around. These corridors all look the same.

The Kromagg stares hard into Quinn's eyes.

KROLAK

If you're lying, the penalty for spying is death.

QUINN

That's kind of a catch-all punishment with you guys, isn't it?

Krolak gives Quinn a savage punch in the gut. Quinn crumbles to his knees. Remmy tries to step forward, but the Kromagg guards grab him. Krolak jerks Quinn's head back and brings the blade to his face.

REMBRANDT

Hey, what's your commander gonna say when he finds out you've been carving up his guests?

Krolak hesitates, simmering with rage. Then he slowly lowers the knife.

KROLAK

Don't think Kromanus will protect you. He's grown weak. He won't last.

(a hiss)

And then there will be no one to keep you out of the pit, human.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

40 CONTINUED

40

Krolak stands up and straightens his uniform. He nods down the corridor.

KROLAK

Your quarters are that way.

Remmy helps Quinn to his feet and they move off down the corridor.

Hold on Krolak's glowering expression, then...

(X)

41 CHANDLER HOTEL - COMMANDER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

41

Kromanus watches as Maggie picks up a grape from the spread of food laid out on the table.

(X)

MAGGIE

Aren't you going to eat?

KROMANUS

Our dietary requirements are a bit different from yours.

(diplomatic)

I wouldn't want to spoil your appetite.

Too late. Maggie sets down the grape. She wanders toward the command console. The Kromagg eyes her closely.

(X)

KROMANUS

You were a pilot?

MAGGIE

Marine aviator.

Maggie now notices...

42 THE TIMER

42

sitting on the console. The numbers on the timer now read about TWELVE HOURS.

MAGGIE

I flew Harriers. Jump jets. A few hours in F-18's.

KROMANUS

Primitive aircraft. We've destroyed thousands of them.

MAGGIE

Well, you never flew against me.

The Commander reacts, mildly impressed by her spirit.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

42 CONTINUED

42

KROMANUS

You saw combat?

She nonchalantly strolls around the console, positioning it between herself and the Kromagg.

MAGGIE

Some. Mostly close air support during the big Siberian push.

KROMANUS

(amazed)

You are a trained fighter. You tasted combat. Yet you fled your world during our invasion.

Unseen by the Kromagg, Maggie's hand strays toward the timer.

KROMANUS

Are you a coward?

Maggie freezes. She turns back toward Kromanus.

MAGGIE

(biting her tongue)

I'd already given up flying to be with my husband after he was injured.

KROMANUS

(condescending)

How human.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

Kromanus rises and moves toward her. Maggie steps away from the console... and the timer.

KROMANUS

Your mate. He is one of your companions?

MAGGIE

No. He's dead. Do you have a family? Someone waiting back on your home world?

(X)  
(X)

KROMANUS

We do not require sentimental bonds to breed.

MAGGIE

How Kromagg.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

42 CONTINUED (2)

42

The Kromagg nods. Touche.

MAGGIE

What are you doing here?

KROMANUS

Earth 147 is a... proving ground.  
We use it as a training arena for  
new tactics and weapons.

MAGGIE

But what are you doing here?

The Kromagg is thrown by the question.

KROMANUS

Explain.

Maggie steps up close to him. She touches the front of his uniform, running her finger over the various decorations on his tunic.

MAGGIE

How many humans did you kill to get these? How many worlds did you conquer? I figure you'd be up for a cushy command on Kromagg Prime, not shipped off to a ruined planet used for target practice.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

(then)

You must have screwed up big time to get stuck here.

Kromanus glares at her for a long beat. Then...

KROMANUS

You're very perceptive, human. We, too, had a great war. Kromaggs and humans wrestling for dominion over a world.

(turning away)

It raged for years. Until the endless bloodshed finally took its toll on your kind. They lost their will to fight. A weakness of character we do not suffer from.

Maggie watches Kromanus as he paces, fascinated in spite of herself.

KROMANUS

Our victory at hand, I commanded a legion of troops to take the human capital city.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

42 CONTINUED (3)

42

MAGGIE

What happened?

He turns on Maggie, suddenly angry.

KROMANUS

It was a trap. Their scientists  
had developed a terrible weapon.  
And as at your Battle of California  
they proved they had the will to  
use it.

He pauses, composing himself.

KROMANUS

The day was lost. The war was  
lost.

(then)

Our world was lost.

MAGGIE

They made you a scapegoat.

KROMANUS

(stiffly)

I received a command commensurate  
with my battlefield performance.

MAGGIE

One man can't be held accountable  
for the outcome of a world war.

KROMANUS

I'm not a man. Don't insult me  
with your human sympathy. Is that  
why you saved my life? You took  
pity on me?

MAGGIE

I didn't have time to take pity on  
you. I looked out in the street  
and I saw someone about to die. I  
didn't know if it was a human or a  
Kromagg. At the time it didn't  
seem to matter.

(then)

Funny, for a few minutes here it  
didn't seem to matter either.

As Maggie holds the Kromagg's gaze, we...

CUT TO

43 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - SLIDERS' QUARTERS - NIGHT 43

Maggie sits on the bed. Quinn and Rembrandt listen to her story.

MAGGIE

It was very strange. He's ruthless like you'd expect. Hard. But there's something else. It's like he's... haunted.

REMBRANDT

(sarcastic)

Well, gee, maybe we ought to get him some therapy.

QUINN

What about the timer?

MAGGIE

It's there. Sitting on his desk, but I couldn't get it.

Quinn and Remmy exchange a look.

REMBRANDT

Hell.

MAGGIE

But I did get this.

She holds up...

44 THE JEWELLED STUD 44

from Kromanus's tunic. She must have palmed it when she was examining his decorations. Remmy takes it.

REMBRANDT

All right. We can open some doors with this.

QUINN

I don't want to know how you got that.

MAGGIE

Sure you do, but I'm not going to tell.  
(then)  
There's something else, Quinn.

Off Quinn's look...

MAGGIE

He told me about his world. Your world. They lost their war.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

44 CONTINUED

44

QUINN

What?

MAGGIE

Your people developed some kind of secret weapon even the Kromaggs couldn't handle. Kicked their butts right off the planet.

QUINN

(excited)

I knew it. That's why we've got to get there as soon as possible.

REMBRANDT

We've got business here first.

MAGGIE

What are you talking about?

REMBRANDT

This 'project' of theirs. They're experimenting on humans. Turning them into monsters.

MAGGIE

He told me this whole planet is some sort of proving ground for testing weapons.

QUINN

All the more reason for us to get to the home world. To find a way to stop them once and for all.

REMBRANDT

And how many moire slides will that take? A hundred? A million? I'm not leaving these people here to die like lab rats.

Quinn and Rembrandt square off. Neither backs down until ...

QUINN

(sighing)

What's the plan.

45 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

45

Quinn and Remmy move carefully down the corridor. Remmy suddenly holds up his hand: "Hold on." The Sliders duck into an alcove as...

46 TWO KROMAGG GUARDS

46

move past. After they've gone...

47 QUINN AND REMMY 47

continue down the corridor. They come to a closed door.

REMBRANDT

This is it.

Quinn takes out the STUD that Maggie stole from Kromanus and holds it near the door lock. THE DOOR SLIDES OPEN. Quinn and Remmy disappear inside...

CUT TO

48 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - COMMANDER'S OFFICE - NIGHT 48

The door opens and Maggie cautiously enters. She looks around the room, which appears to be empty, and moves quickly to...

49 THE COMMAND CONSOLE 49

As she steps around the console, however, she sees that the timer is gone.

MAGGIE

Dammit. Where is it?

She hurriedly begins searching the room.

CUT TO

50 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - HOSPITAL WARD - NIGHT 50

Quinn and Rembrandt enter and Remmy reacts to something O.C.

REMBRANDT

They're gone.

Reveal:

51 THE WARD 51

is nearly empty. Only a few ragged human POW's remain in a sea of empty cots. Remmy hurries to where Penny was, but her spot on the floor is now vacant. Remmy turns around frantically, looking for her.

REMBRANDT

They took her. They took all of them.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

51 CONTINUED 51

Remmy spots the EYELESS MAN he tried to talk to before, still lying on the floor. He grabs the limp figure by the shoulders. (X)

REMBRANDT (X)  
Where did they take her?

Quinn puts a hand on Remmy's shoulder.

QUINN  
Remmy.

REMBRANDT  
Where? Where is she?

The man's lips begin working. He's struggling to get something out.

EYELESS MAN (X)  
...Phase Four...

Remmy stops shaking him. He and Quinn listen as the man mumbles over and over:

EYELESS MAN (X)  
...the Pit... the Pit... the Pit...

Off Quinn and Remmy's look...

52 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 52

Quinn and Rembrandt hurry down the hall toward...

53 THE AIRLOCK DOOR 53

where they were caught by Krolak earlier. They stop short.

54 KROLAK AND A SQUAD OF KROMAGG GUARDS 54

are gathered around the open airlock. They are wearing the protective haz-mat suits and are herding a shuffling group of HUMAN POW'S into the airlock (Penny is not among them).

55 QUINN AND REMBRANDT 55

huddle around a corner out of sight.

QUINN  
What now?

REMBRANDT  
I'm open to suggestions.

CUT TO

56 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - COMMANDER'S OFFICE - NIGHT 56

Maggie is looking all around the command console for the timer. No luck. As she turns from the console to continue her search, she comes face to face with...

57 KROMANUS 57

He holds up the timer.

KROMANUS

Looking for this.

Maggie grabs for it, but the Kromagg snags her arm in an iron grip.

KROMANUS

Where are the others?

As Maggie grimaces in pain ...

58 EXT. INDUSTRIAL BATTLEGROUND - DAWN (D2) 58

The sun is just breaking over the decimated landscape as Krolak and his soldiers herd a small group of POW'S (three or four) into an area cleared of debris.

The humans are lined up in a depression in the ground -- like an open concrete bunker walled in on three sides.

59 TWO KROMAGG SOLDIERS 59

hang back from the activity. We now see they are Quinn and Rembrandt wearing the Kromagg haz-mat suits.

QUINN

(sotto)

That must be 'the Pit.'

REMBRANDT

Yeah. But what's that?

He nods toward...

60 AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE 60

about the size of a microwave oven set up on a stand in front of the human prisoners. Several Kromagg scientists fuss over it.

On some silent signal the Kromagg soldiers and technicians fall back a distance away from the device. Rembrandt and Quinn are forced to do the same.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

60 CONTINUED

60

In unison, the Kromaggs all lower darkened visors over their faceplates.

QUINN

I have a bad feeling about this.

One of the Kromagg scientists activates a remote control device, and...

A BLINDING FLASH as the device detonates, vaporizing in a contained ball of light.

61 A RIPPLING WAVE OF ENERGY

61

rolls out from the blast, hitting the human POW's lined up in the pit (the energy wave dissipates before it reaches the area where Quinn and Remmy are standing).

62 THE POW'S

62

are enveloped in a crackling shroud of energy. They writhe in pain. The energy wave DISINTEGRATES the POW's, breaking them down into their component atoms until nothing remains.

QUINN

Oh my God.

Off the Sliders' horrified faces, we...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

63 EXT. INDUSTRIAL BATTLEGROUND - DAY

63

Quinn and Rembrandt stare in shock at the pit where the POW's fell victim to the Kromagg weapon.

The Kromaggs all look at each other, exchanging silent nods of satisfaction.

REMBRANDT

(stunned)

What the devil is that thing?

QUINN

Looked like some kind of particle weapon. Probably designed to disrupt the subatomic bonds in living tissue.

REMBRANDT

You mean human tissue.

QUINN

Yeah.

While they've been whispering, the Kromagg scientists have trundled out a second weapon, slightly larger than the first one.

The Kromagg soldiers now march a new group of human POW'S into the pit. This group is larger than the last one, eight or ten prisoners. Among them, Remmy spots ...

64 PENNY

64

The girl from the hospital ward. She stands with the huddled group, a resigned look on her face.

65 THE KROMAGGS

65

lower the darkened visors on their helmets and step away from the device. One of the scientists produces the remote control...

A look of horror dawns on Remmy's face.

REMBRANDT

(shouting)

No !

Remmy rushes forward toward the Kromagg guards.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

65 CONTINUED

65

QUINN

Remmy !

Surprising the Kromaggs, Rembrandt manages to knock one of the guards to the ground.

Remmy shouts to the confused POW's.

REMBRANDT

Run!

They don't have to be told twice. It's chaos as the POW'S scatter into the surrounding buildings.

66 REMBRANDT

66

wrestles a sidearm from the fallen Kromagg guard. He FIRES and a second guard goes down.

Remmy turns the blaster on the Kromagg scientist holding the remote control device. He FIRES and blasts the remote out of the Kromagg's hand.

67 KROLAK

67

draws his sidearm and aims it at Remmy.

68 PENNY

68

has nearly reached the safety of a collapsed building. But she stops when she sees Krolak about to shoot Rembrandt.

PENNY

Look out!

Before Krolak can fire...

69 QUINN

69

blindsides the Kromagg, sending his gun flying.

It's only been a few seconds since Rembrandt charged the guards, and the Kromaggs have already recovered. They quickly surround Quinn and Rembrandt, who is forced to drop his weapon. Rembrandt turns to see...

70 PENNY

70

watching from the rubble. They lock eyes for a moment before she vanishes into the wasteland.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

70 CONTINUED

70

The Kromagg guards force Quinn and Rembrandt to their knees. Krolak steps forward and rips the protective hoods from their suits.

KROLAK

Let me guess. You're lost again.

Quinn and Remmy exchange a grim look.

71 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - DETENTION AREA - DAY

71

Quinn and Rembrandt sit in the cell. They look a little worse for wear.

REMBRANDT

Sorry, Q-Ball.

QUINN

You had to do something.

They both look up at the sound of approaching footsteps.

72 KROMANUS

72

enters holding Maggie firmly by the arm.

REMBRANDT

Maggie.

The Kromagg Commander touches the stud on his tunic and the cell's FORCE FIELD door deactivates. He shoves Maggie inside and reactivates the door.

QUINN

(to Maggie)  
You okay?

MAGGIE

Yeah.

KROMANUS

It appears Krolak was right. I was a fool to believe you animals could be trusted.

REMBRANDT

(incredulous)  
After what we saw outside, you're calling us animals?

MAGGIE

What are you talking about?

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

72 CONTINUED

72

QUINN

(to Kromanus)  
Tell her what you're really doing here. Tell her about the weapon you've built that rips people apart atom by atom.

Kromanus steps close to the energy barrier.

KROMANUS

We will use whatever means necessary to regain the home world.

QUINN

This isn't about winning back your world. This is about revenge. You're going to use that weapon to exterminate every human being on every alternate earth you find.

KROMANUS

It is not my place to question the will of the Dynasty.

REMBRANDT

(laughs bitterly)  
Oh that's beautiful. We had a bunch of guys on our earth who thought like that. 'Just following orders,' they said.

KROMANUS

I don't need to justify my actions to you.

He turns and walks away. Maggie calls after him.

MAGGIE

No, but you have to justify them to yourself.

Kromanus hesitates.

MAGGIE

(contemptuous)  
I thought warriors won their honor on the battlefield. Not by committing mass murder.  
(then)  
You asked me before if I pitied you. I do now.

Without turning back, he exits.

73 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - HOSPITAL WARD - DAY 73

73

Kromanus walks slowly through the hospital ward, which is now completely empty and silent. He gazes thoughtfully at the empty beds. Krolak enters and approaches.

KROMANUS

Have you recaptured the test subjects?

KROLAK

No need, Commander. Our scientists inform me that Phase Four is ready.

Kromanus turns to him in surprise.

KROMANUS

So soon?

KROLAK

Thanks to our ample supply of test animals, we were able to tune the weapon to be 'human specific' more quickly than we anticipated. When the device is deployed, there will be no place on the planet for the vermin to hide.

But Kromanus doesn't appear to be listening. He is staring at...

74 THE EYELESS MAN

74 (X)

laying on the floor. He is dead, his blank, eyeless face turned up to the two Kromaggs.

(X)

(X)

KROLAK

Commander?

KROMANUS

Proceed with the test.

KROLAK

This is a great day for the Dynasty.

Kromanus can't tear his eyes from the dead man's face.

(X)

KROMANUS

Yes... a great day.

Krolak exits, leaving Kromanus alone with the dead human.

75 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - DETENTION AREA - DAY 75

Remmy checks out the force field holding them in their cell. Quinn watches as Maggie paces angrily.

MAGGIE

I should have grabbed the timer when I had the chance.

QUINN

Don't beat yourself up. You got us some important information.

MAGGIE

Nothing that'll get us out of this cell in the next half hour.

Remmy taps his finger on the force field. He gets a shock. Looking through the force field, Remmy notices...

76 AN AIR DUCT 76

on the wall outside the cell. The screws on the grate are slowly unscrewing by themselves.

REMBRANDT

Guys.

Quinn and Maggie move to the force field. They watch as the screws PLINK... PLINK... PLINK... to the floor.

77 THE GRATE 77

slides aside and a figure squirms out of the air shaft.

REMBRANDT

Penny!

78 PENNY 78

steps up to the force field.

REMBRANDT

What are you doing here? You're going to get caught.

PENNY

You saved my life. I couldn't just leave you.

She moves to the wall and presses a switch. The force field POWERS DOWN.

The Sliders step out of the cell. Remmy embraces Penny.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

78 CONTINUED

78

REMBRANDT

Thanks.

She indicates the open duct.

PENNY

Come on. This'll take us outside.

MAGGIE

Outside? The Kromaggs had to  
decontaminate us last time we were  
outside.

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

PENNY

Don't worry. The radiation levels  
have been dropping for months.  
It's no day at the beach, but it  
won't kill you.

QUINN

(checks his watch)  
Twenty-seven minutes till we slide  
out.

MAGGIE

If we find the timer.

REMBRANDT

Aren't you forgetting something?

They turn to Remmy.

REMBRANDT

The Kromaggs' little doomsday  
weapon. If we don't stop them now,  
how long do you think it'll be  
before we start sliding into more  
worlds just like this one?

(to Quinn)  
And that includes your home world.

QUINN

If we try to take out that weapon  
and we miss the sliding window this  
place will be our home world.

Off Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt's somber expressions...

79 EXT. INDUSTRIAL BATTLEGROUNDS - DAY

79

At the "pit" where Rembrandt disabled the last device, we see  
two Kromagg scientists working on...

80 A MUCH LARGER PARTICLE WEAPON

80

Set up in the same place as the smaller one, this one is the size of a refrigerator.

After a moment, the two scientists finish their task and walk off.

81 THE SLIDERS AND PENNY

81

appear from the rubble and move quickly toward the weapon.

REMBRANDT

We saw Little Boy before. This must be the Fat Man. Go at it, Q-Ball.

Quinn moves to the device and peers into the open access panel.

QUINN

I told you I can't figure out this Kromagg technology.

Maggie checks her watch.

MAGGIE

Six minutes. Do what you can, Quinn.

QUINN

(tinkering)  
It looks like this thing's designed to resonate a specific DNA pattern. That's why it kills humans and not Kromaggs.

PENNY

Just destroy it.

REMBRANDT

What'll stop them from building another one?

QUINN

Hang on. I might be able to change these settings.

KROMANUS (O.S.)

Move away from there.

The Sliders turn to see...

82 KROMANUS

82

standing behind them holding a sidearm. He is wearing a haz-mat suit, but the hood is pulled back from his face. (X)  
(X)

Quinn backs away from the device and rejoins Penny and the Sliders.

KROMANUS

(to Quinn)  
You're correct, human.

Covering them with his weapon, Kromanus moves over to the device and looks into the access panel.

KROMANUS

It took our scientists months to set the weapon to disrupt only human organics.

MAGGIE

(bitterly)  
Your hard work paid off. I'm sure you'll get another medal for this.

He steps closer to Maggie, still keeping his sidearm trained on them.

KROMANUS

You may not believe this, Captain, but I find no honor in this duty.  
(then)  
During the Great Struggle our cause was clear: to conquer a world that was ours by birthright.

QUINN

Half yours. Half humanity's. (X)

KROMANUS

With our world lost, our cause has become one of bloody retribution. Genocide.  
(to Maggie)  
There comes a time when even a warrior tires of pointless bloodshed.

He takes out the timer and tosses it to Maggie. The Sliders are amazed.

83 ANGLE ON THE TIMER

83

which is now ticking down from four minutes.

Kromanus holsters his weapon.

CONTINUED

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83 CONTINUED

83

MAGGIE

Thank you.

KROMANUS

(shaking his head)  
Save your gratitude. I'm simply following my orders.

QUINN

What orders?

(X)  
(X)

KROMANUS

Did you really believe your escape from the Kromagg detention center on your earth was a result of your own resourcefulness?

(X)  
(X)  
(X)  
(X)

The Sliders exchange a look. How did he know?

KROMANUS

(to Maggie)  
Consider my debt repaid.

(X)

She nods. Suddenly...

84 A LASER BLAST

84

clips Kromanus in the shoulder, spinning him to the ground.

85 KROLAK AND A SQUAD OF SOLDIERS

85

quickly surround the Sliders. Krolak stands over the injured Kromanus.

KROLAK

(sneering)  
I'm afraid I must take command of this garrison.

KROMANUS

(in pain)  
Fool, you don't know what you're doing.

KROLAK

I'm fulfilling my destiny. I don't plan to end up disgraced like you. Exiled and forgotten on a dead world.

Krolak reaches down and grabs Kromanus by the front of his uniform. He jerks him to his feet and hisses in his face...

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

85 CONTINUED

85

KROLAK

At least have the self-respect to die honorably.

Kromanus slowly raises his head, staring straight into Krolak's eyes.

KROMANUS

I plan to.

Krolak shoves Kromanus aside and turns to the Sliders.

KROLAK

You should be honored. You are about to participate in the final test of the weapon that will rid the universe of your kind forever.

He turns to the Kromagg scientists now standing at the ready.

KROLAK

Deploy Phase Four.

One of the scientists nods and produces the remote control for the particle weapon. He hits a button and we hear the weapon powering up -- a WHINE building gradually in volume and pitch.

86 ON THE SLIDERS

86

Rembrandt turns to Maggie.

REMBRANDT

What's the time?

She checks the timer.

87 ANGLE ON THE TIMER

87

Two minutes to go.

MAGGIE

We're not going to make it.

Remy puts his arm around Penny. Quinn reaches out and grips Maggie's hand.

88 KROMANUS

88

looks into Maggie's eyes.

CONTINUED

Prepared by Earth Prime

88 CONTINUED

88

KROMANUS

I'm sorry.

Maggie nods.

The WHINE from the device has reached an ear-shattering level.

KROLAK

Now!

The Kromagg scientist presses the button on the remote control and...

89 A BRILLIANT FLASH

89

hits the Sliders as the particle weapon EXPLODES, completely disintegrating in a ball of light.

90 A SHOCKWAVE OF ENERGY

90

much more intense than the previous weapon radiates out from the center of the detonation. As the blast wave sweeps over the Sliders, however, nothing happens.

When the energy hits the Kromaggs though, they shriek and writhe in pain.

91 THE KROMAGGS

91

are shrouded in a deadly wreath of energy. As with the humans in the previous test, they are stripped down to their component atoms.

Maggie stares in horror as Kromanus stoically endures the agony of his own disintegration. In a matter of seconds, all the Kromaggs are gone.

For a beat there is silence.

REMBRANDT

What happened?

QUINN

I tried to change the DNA settings so the blast wouldn't affect humans, but I was sure the Kromagg Commander must have seen what I did.

Maggie stares at the spot where Kromanus dissolved into nothingness.

CONTINUED

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91 CONTINUED

91

MAGGIE

He did.

QUINN

You okay?

Maggie nods. Then, all business again, she checks the timer.

MAGGIE

Thirty seconds.

Rembrandt turns to Penny.

REMBRANDT

It's hard to explain, but we're going to leave here. Go to a different world. You can come with us. Start over someplace new.

PENNY

(shaking her head)

No.

REMBRANDT

But there's nothing for you here.

PENNY

(simply)

This is my home. We fought for years to keep it. Now that it's ours again, I can't leave.

As she speaks a few tattered survivors poke their heads out of the rubble, blinking in the light.

PENNY

The Kromaggs may come back. To find out what happened to their project.

(X)

Penny picks up a Kromagg laser pistol dropped by one of the guards.

(X)

(X)

PENNY

We'll make sure they don't get a chance to start over.

(X)

(X)

(X)

Remmy nods.

MAGGIE

It's time.

She activates the timer and we HEAR THE WIND and see the GLOW OF THE VORTEX reflected on their faces.

91 CONTINUED (2)

91

Penny stares in amazement at the O.S. vortex. Remmy hugs her.

REMBRANDT

Good luck.

PENNY

Thank you. For everything.

And the Sliders leap out. As the vortex swallows them,  
we...

FADE OUT

THE END