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**"SLIDECAGE"**

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SLIDERS

"Slidecage"

FADE IN

1  
THRU OMITTED  
2

1  
THRU  
2

2A INT/EXT. HOTEL DECK - DAY - ON FERNS AND GREENERY (D1)  
moving.

2A

REMBRANDT (O.S.)  
Lower...a little lower...now a  
little to the right...that's  
it...perfect.

Arrive:

2B ON REMMY AND MAGGIE

2B

Soft music is playing. Remmy is lying on a massage table under a towel, getting worked over by a beautiful masseuse. Maggie is sitting in a beach chair next to the table, wearing a bikini, holding a reflector under her chin to concentrate the rays. Remmy just groans as the masseuse works. After a moment, a muscular young man in shorts brings Maggie a drink on a tray. She takes it, he starts away.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

(X)

The waiter leaves.

(X)

(X)

She sips the drink.

REMBRANDT

A cryin' shame to have to leave a  
place like this.

(X)

(X)

CONTINUED

2B CONTINUED

2B

MAGGIE  
No Kromaggs. No bad cops. A  
world where good tans and massages  
are compulsory.

(X)

Maggie finishes her drink.

(X)

QUINN (O.S.)  
This is really just an inversion of  
the Lorentz transformation. See:  
X prime equals X minus UT.

WIDEN as Rembrandt and Maggie look over to see QUINN and COLIN at a nearby table, engrossed in the laptop computer before them. Its screen shows a diagram of the two micro-dots, spewing out numbers, which then combine into a complex scroll of equations.

COLIN  
I still cannot quite grasp the  
geometry of space-time.

QUINN  
Be patient. Got to give yourself  
space. And time.

MAGGIE  
Hey, how about you geniuses take a  
break, get the kinks out?

QUINN  
You're loose enough for the rest of  
us.  
(holds up the timer)  
Two minutes thirty. Everybody out  
of the pool.

Maggie and Rembrandt grumble. Rembrandt tips his masseuse, who exits. He and Maggie go off behind two changing screens, their heads visible above them as they change.

REMBRANDT  
So what do you think it'll be this  
time? Polar ice world? Talking  
dog world?

QUINN  
For once, I can tell you.  
(excitedly, off Colin)  
We're going home.

Rembrandt and Maggie are stunned.

REMBRANDT  
You're kidding.

CONTINUED

29A CONTINUED 2

29A

KALDEEN

Are you a painter, too?

REMBRANDT

No. I'm a singer.

KALDEEN

I've heard of songs. They are a human weakness. Are you from the home world?

Rembrandt stiffens, gets a suspicious look.

REMBRANDT

This more of the interrogation?

KALDEEN

(surprised)  
No, just talking.

REMBRANDT

I'm not from the home world, never seen it. And from the way it's going, doesn't look like I will.

He looks at the chain, shakes his head.

REMBRANDT

When my mama was dressing me for kindergarten, I never expected to wind up here.

KALDEEN

Tell me about your mother.

(X)

REMBRANDT

Why?

(X)  
(X)

KALDEEN

I never knew mine.

(X)  
(X)

Rembrandt looks at the boy, thinks to say no. But then he feels sympathy for him, this outcast.

(X)

REMBRANDT

Well, where should I start?

KALDEEN

At the beginning.

Rembrandt looks at Kaldeen a moment. There's something about this kid. Very un-Kromagg.

30 OMITTED

30

31 INT. CONDUIT CENTRAL - NIGHT

31

The space suit hangs on a hook. Maggie stands studying it.

THOMAS (O.S)  
Made it myself so I could explore  
outside.

CONTINUED

39 CONTINUED 2

39

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Want to know why I'm here in the walls? During the war, I was assigned off world, Eighth Armored Division. It got so bad, I cracked, ran off. When I came back, they were all dead, all my friends, nothing but blood and meat. I lost it, wandered for months, years. Finally I wanted to come home, but it was too late. I landed here.

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

(beat)

It was only right. I should have been with them.

Maggie comes down to his level, speaking softly. Off the image of Quinn and Colin on the monitor:

MAGGIE

Thomas, you couldn't save your friends... but maybe you can save mine.

He looks at her and a change comes over him.

40 OMITTED

40

40A INT. ARRIVAL AREA - NIGHT

40A

Quinn and Colin move toward the closed door that the Kromaggs passed through with the unconscious Remmy. Quinn carries a long piece of metal.

QUINN

The Kromaggs took Remmy through there.

He angles the piece of metal into the corner of the door to use it as a lever to force the door open. He puts his shoulder to it, then pauses, thoughtful.

QUINN

You know, it's funny, I just had the feeling that somehow Maggie's looking down on us.

COLIN

(smiles)

At the end of our road, they say we're reunited with --

Suddenly, several PEOPLE appear in the corridor behind them, running toward them.

PEOPLE

(AD-LIB. "There they are! Get them!" etc.)

CONTINUED

40A CONTINUED

40A

Quinn and Colin put their shoulders to the door -- no good. They turn and run another way. But the way is blocked with more HUMANS running toward them. They're trapped.

Just then, a vent cover opens in the wall and Maggie pops her head out.

MAGGIE

In here!

Quinn is thunderstruck to see her.

QUINN

Maggie. Oh, God.

His face fills with joy and relief. She sees this reaction and smiles, moved. A moment between them. But from behind her, Thomas calls:

THOMAS

Get in. Quickly!

They hurry to climb in, but it's too late. The humans reach them, pull them back out, get all four.

41 OMITTED

41

42 ON MAGGIE AND THOMAS

42

He's frightened, trying to bear up. She looks at him with regret.

MAGGIE

Thomas, I'm so sorry.

He gives her a small smile.

THOMAS

It's good to be alive before I'm dead again.

She smiles back.

43 FAVORING JANIE

43

as she bulls through the crowd up to our guys.

JANIE

If you had brought the Kromaggs down on us, I swear I'd have chased you to hell and gone and killed you all.

(X)

Now she sees Maggie and reacts to her still being alive.

MAGGIE

We're not so easy to kill.

CONTINUED



48 CONTINUED

48

KALDEEN

Run!

Just then, a SECOND KROMAGG rushes up. Kaldeen grabs him, tries to stop him. The Kromagg starts beating Kaldeen. Seeing this, Rembrandt turns and dives at the Kromagg. By then, other Kromaggs appear, leap on Rembrandt and subdue him, hold him tight.

They're shoved roughly against a wall. Rembrandt whispers to Kaldeen as Kolitar strides toward them, out of earshot.

REMBRANDT

You moved that with your mind.

KALDEEN

I happens when I'm scared. They don't know.

Kolitar comes up to them, glaring. Rembrandt clams up.

KOLITAR

Kaldeen. Cover yourself.

Kaldeen looks to Rembrandt, hesitating.

KOLITAR

Cover yourself!

Rembrandt nods. Kaldeen hides his face once more.

KOLITAR

I will think how to deal with you.  
(to Kromagg)  
Take him to his room.

The Kromagg escorts Kaldeen off. Guards stand a few feet behind Kolitar as he faces Rembrandt.

REMBRANDT

My God, how could you do it? He's a human being!

Kolitar says nothing.

REMBRANDT

You got him in some kind of raid, didn't you?

Slowly, Kolitar nods, in the memory.

KOLITAR

My own son was killed and there was no hope of having another. Something about this place prevents it. So I took this one. Everyone is a bit mad here. Some more than a bit. At first, he was a pet. But he was bright and this place is so tedious.

(MORE)

(X)  
(X)  
(X)

CONTINUED

48 CONTINUED 2

48

KOLITAR (CONT'D)  
Then I saw he could be of use.  
(beat)  
Those hydroponics, he designed  
them. And the filters to keep the  
air breathable.

REMBRANDT  
And no one ever told him he was  
human?

KOLITAR  
They were forbidden.  
(moves in closer)  
Enough of this. I will have your  
secret now, and then you will die.

He grabs hold of Rembrandt's head ferociously, begins  
scanning him. Rembrandt is transfixed.

KOLITAR  
Who are you to kill? Who did they  
order you to kill?

Rembrandt's resisting. Kolitar bears down.

KOLITAR  
Tell me!

REMBRANDT  
(in a trance)  
Qui -- Quinn...

Kolitar is stunned, Rembrandt's expressionless, as we...

49 OMITTED

49

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

53 CONTINUED

53

QUINN (O.S.)  
One of your favorite words, isn't  
it?

Quinn arrives around the bend, Rembrandt behind him.

MAGGIE  
Quinn! Remmy, oh Remmy!

Maggie and Colin embrace Quinn and Rembrandt.

REMBRANDT  
Didn't think you could get rid of  
this face, did you? How the crops  
hanging, farm boy?

COLIN  
(perplexed)  
Crops don't hang, Rembrandt.

REMBRANDT  
(ruffles his hair)  
Stay as sweet as you are!

54 ON QUINN AND MAGGIE

54

MAGGIE  
I thought you'd had it.

QUINN  
We keep thinking that about each  
other, don't we?

MAGGIE  
Just keep coming back.

Just then, Kolitar and Kaldeen appear behind them with two more Kromaggs. Janie and her men go for their weapons. Quinn steps between them, holding up his arms.

QUINN  
Easy, we're all friends here.  
(realizes that's not  
true)  
Well, at least we share a common  
interest.

They relent. Kaldeen comes up beside Rembrandt. Rembrandt removes the covering from Kaldeen's face. Kolitar scowls at this, but says nothing (remembering his larger goal, not wanting to start something). Janie is astonished to see Kaldeen.

JANIE  
My God, a boy. A human boy.

REMBRANDT  
Yeah, he's been away at Kromagg  
camp for about sixteen years.

(X)  
(X)

57 CONTINUED

57

JANIE

Or just maybe when we slide out of here, they don't.

QUINN

Safe passage goes both ways. When we get where they're taking us, you have to leave your war behind.

57A FURTHER DOWN THE CORRIDOR - ON REMBRANDT AND KOLITAR

57A

moving along with the others. Kolitar sidles up to Rembrandt, unnoticed by the others. He touches a hand to Rembrandt's brow as they keep moving. Rembrandt's face goes blank. With malevolent confidence, Kolitar speaks low:

KOLITAR

There's something you need...

Surreptitiously, Kolitar slips Remmy a knife.

(X)

DISSOLVE TO

58 INT. SLIDECAGE ROOM - NIGHT

58

All the humans are there now, as are all the Kromaggs. A few are just entering. Maggie, Colin, Rembrandt, Janie and Kaldeen are among them.

59 FAVORING QUINN AND KOLITAR

59

Quinn approaches the steps leading to the Slidecage Tower. Kolitar grabs his arm to hold him back.

KOLITAR

Careful. There is a force field around it that kills all who near it.

Casually, Quinn keys the de-encryption sequence into a control pad on a nearby wall.

60 ON THE SLIDECAGE TOWER

60

As the FORCE FIELD FLASHES and WINKS OUT, turned off.

61 ON KOLITAR AND QUINN

61

Kolitar gapes, impressed.

QUINN

Not anymore.

(grins)

You have to learn to trust me.

Kolitar smiles -- he knows more about Quinn than Quinn suspects.

77 WIDE 77

Thomas escorts Kaldeen over to the far side of the room.

QUINN  
All right. Let's do it.

77A ON KOLITAR AND JANIE 77A

standing a few feet off from each other, across their gulf, eyeing each other with hatred, flanked by their groups.

77B BACK TO QUINN, COLIN, REMBRANDT AND MAGGIE 77B

Quinn keys in the final sequence. There's a BLINDING FLASH, accompanied by the SOUND OF THE VORTEX.

When it clears, Thomas and Kaldeen are alone in the room.

78 ON THOMAS AND KALDEEN 78

THOMAS  
You ever read 'Clan of the Cave Bear'?

DISSOLVE TO

79 OMITTED 79

79A INT./EXT. HOTEL DECK - DAY - ON FERNS AND GREENERY (D2) 79A

REMBRANDT (O.S.)  
(melancholy)  
Blue sky, green trees...

PULL BACK to reveal Maggie, Rembrandt, Quinn and Colin, all sitting in deck chairs, looking out at the terrain.

COLIN  
Not home yet, but there are places a whole lot worse.

QUINN  
We'll get there, bro. You can bet on it.

REMBRANDT  
Wonder where everybody else went.

MAGGIE  
Wherever they are, I can't imagine peace between humans and Kromaggs lasting very long.

Rembrandt shakes his head, looks at Quinn ruefully.

CONTINUED

79A CONTINUED

79A

REMBRANDT  
I was programmed to kill you,  
Q-Ball. I'll never get over that. (X)

COLIN  
It wasn't you who tried to kill my  
brother. It was the Kromaggs.

QUINN  
Got to hand it to them. It was  
the perfect plan. (X)  
(X)

MAGGIE  
Not so perfect. (X)  
(to Rembrandt) (X)  
They didn't count on you making (X)  
a friend who'd stop it. The Maggs (X)  
could get into your head, Remmy... (X)  
but not into your heart.

Rembrandt nods, letting it in. A BEAUTY brings a tray of (X)  
iced tea. The Sliders each take a glass.

REMBRANDT  
To Jules. (X)

MAGGIE  
And Thomas.

QUINN  
Distant friends.

They CLINK their glasses, as we...

80  
THRU OMITTED  
81

80  
THRU  
81

FADE OUT

THE END