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"PROPHETS AND LOSS"

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#K2805

SLIDERS

"Prophets and Loss"

CHRONOLOGY PAGE

SCENES	1 - 28	DAY #1	
SCENES	29 - 51	NIGHT #1	
SCENES	52 - 81	DAY #2	
SCENES	82 - 105	DAY #3	(X)

46 CONTINUED

46

The prisoner stands and comes closer to Rembrandt. He has haunted, glazed eyes like a man who has been tortured or maybe begun to be chemically re-configured.

PRISONER
Chemical re-configuration.
Intravenous feed of a drug soup.
Wipes every cell in your brain
clean. Then they feed you what
they want you to know.

(X)

REMBRANDT
So, you just... 'forget' everything.

PRISONER
Everything. After chemical
re-config you're a mindless robot,
a pliable follower of the Oracle
Way. No cares, no fears, no anger,
no hate...
(a beat)
No ideas, no challenges, no
inspirations, no love.

REMBRANDT
Paper didn't say anything about
chemicals.

PRISONER
They don't want you to know.

Rembrandt thinks about that and we move to...

47
THRU OMITTED
48

47
THRU
48

49 BACK WITH QUINN

49

as he paces. Rembrandt crosses over closer.

QUINN

I estimate we've only got about
fifty hours to the slide.

REMBRANDT

Well, you better think of something
good. I'm not staying here for
twenty-nine years with nothing but
white noise between my ears.

50 AT MAGGIE'S CELL

50

She has a visitor. An Enforcer escorts Jane down the
corridor to her cell. Jane is carrying a picnic basket.
Three laser bars zap open and Jane comes into the cell,
putting the basket on the table. As she talks she takes out
packages of food, etc.

(X)

(X)

(X)

JANE

I brought you a few things to make
you more comfortable. Some
sandwiches for you and your
friends...

(X)

(looking over to Quinn
and Remmy)

Didn't know what you liked.

Jane takes out a small vase and some flowers, crosses up to
the sink to put some water in the vase, then comes back down
and arranges the flowers.

(X)

MAGGIE

This is very kind of you.

JANE

(X)

(shrugs)

I'm on a women's committee that
cares for the poor souls who find
themselves on detention. It's all
part of the good work.

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED

50

MAGGIE

Even so...you didn't have to.

JANE

I do it with joy. As I do all my work for the Oracle.

(X)

MAGGIE

Tell me about the Oracle.

Jane reacts to that with surprise, as if she can't believe everyone doesn't know this. Maggie sees the reaction.

(X)

MAGGIE

My friends and I still have a lot to learn.

JANE

The Oracle is a way of life that removes care and doubt. It's a system of belief and behavior based on obedience to the Master Oracle.

(X)

MAGGIE

The Rationalists I've heard about think it's a system of repression and thought control.

JANE

I think that's sad. Through care and love I have seen even the most militant Rationalist come around to our way of thinking.

(X)

MAGGIE

(indicating the brochure)
Yes, I was just getting to the 'care and love' part.

JANE

All part of our training.

(X)

MAGGIE

You told me you were a 'Welcomer.'
When do you expect to go to the 'other side'?

JANE

No Welcomer knows the day or the hour. So we must keep ourselves in constant readiness. I have already settled my earthly affairs, and ceded all my assets to the Oracle.

(X)

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED 2

50

MAGGIE

(surprised)
Wait a minute. You've given the Oracle all your assets. All your money?

JANE

Money. Property. A few stocks I managed to buy. It will be no good to me where I'm going, and the Oracle can use it here for many good works.

(X)

Maggie turns away, thinking, not sure how to proceed. She can't just blurt out that the portal is an incinerator.

MAGGIE

I know that you believe you're going to a better place. We all would like to believe that. But this portal to the 'other side.'

Maggie pauses, unsure how to go on.

JANE

I understand your doubts, Maggie. I had them myself in the beginning. But the more I learned, the more I gave myself to the Oracle, the more I realized it had to be true. There is nothing here for me. I have no family. No real friends. No profession. But on the other side, I will be reunited with my mother and father. There will be no pain, no confusion. Only love and light.

(X)

Maggie has never met anyone like this. Much as she believes Jane is misguided, she can't help but respect her attitude and unquestioning faith. After a pause.

(X)

MAGGIE

What do they have planned for us?

JANE

I don't know. The elders are meeting now.

(picks up an apple from the basket)

Won't you try some fruit? You must be hungry.

(X)

Maggie takes the apple and looks at. Jane is smiling at her with such innocence and love, Maggie can't help but smile back.

(X)

CUT TO

100 WITH MAGGIE AND QUINN

100

as Maggie looks around. Quinn picks up on what she's doing.

QUINN

You didn't expect to find Jane here, did you?

MAGGIE

Expect? No.
(then)
I was hoping.

Quinn nods. They turn and rejoin the group. Quinn punches in the numbers on the timer. The vortex materializes and the Sliders jump in.

101 INT. CHANCELLOR CENTER - DAY

101

Cadmus is at the podium trying to control a chaotic situation. Gareth is being restrained by a couple of Enforcers. To one side of the stage, an Enforcer with an automatic weapon is holding some of his colleagues at bay. The audience is a melee of emotions. People who believe in the Oracle are weeping or yelling at Cadmus. Those who might be leaning Rationalist are shouting at them and urging Cadmus on. We see some of the RadRats from the underground now openly joining the others, shouting their slogans. Cadmus is holding up both arms, trying to calm everybody, and the television cameras are eating everything up.

CADMUS

My friends...my friends...
Please... please...be calm and
listen...

Shouts from the audience: "The Oracle Rules!" "Free Gareth!" "Listen to Cadmus." "The Rats will be Heard!" etc.

CADMUS

(working the camera)
Hear me out! You have all been misled by your leadership. I can't escape the blame myself. I stood by here and watched my friends and neighbors sacrificed to the greed of the Oracle and said nothing because the time was not right. But the time has now come. The truth will come out and the Rationalist cause will be heard.

102 ANGLE ON THE PORTAL

102

as the vortex suddenly appears and Samson comes through it, followed by Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt.

103 THE CROWD

103

is suddenly hushed. Nobody has ever seen anything like this. Many of the Oracle supporters drop to their knees, certain this is some kind of miracle. The Rationalists are stunned, don't know how to react.

104 ON THE STAGE

104

Cadmus is as knocked out as anyone. Samson crosses quickly to the podium, to the mike.

SAMSON

I have returned to continue the fight for the rational and the right.

There is cheering from his supporters and a shout of "The Oracle is Right!" from someone. Samson quiets everyone with a wave of his hand.

SAMSON

No. The Oracle is not right.

Rats in the crowd cheer.

SAMSON

The Rationalists may not be right either.

Rats in the crowd boo.

SAMSON

But, for a change, we are going to have a free and open forum to find out.

(points to the portal)

I am not a Welcomer come back from the 'other side.' What you just saw was not a miracle, but the result of pure science. A kind of science that is not to be feared, but to be embraced for what it can teach us about our world, and ourselves.

As Samson continues, we move to...

105 THE SLIDERS - A MOVING SHOT

105

with Quinn, Maggie and Remmy as they go off to one side of the podium and toward a side exit.

CONTINUED

105 CONTINUED

105

QUINN

(checking the timer)
We've only got two minutes here
this time. Let's take it outside.
I don't know if these people need
any more shocks.

REMBRANDT

How are they gonna handle what
they've got?

MAGGIE

I think we've started some kind of
revolution here.

QUINN

It was bound to happen. We just
nudged it along. It's their world
and they're going to have to deal
with it. Thomas Jefferson once
said that politics is like the
weather. Every so often you need a
good storm to clear things out.

As they reach the exit.

MAGGIE

(to Rembrandt)
Who was Thomas Jefferson?

REMBRANDT

Big man in my world. Got his face
on some of the money.

And they're gone.

FADE OUT

THE END

Extra dialogue for Samson in Scene 105:

SAMSON

It's time to step out of the shadows of superstition and fear. The Rationalist way will not forbid belief in the Oracle or in any other system, rational or metaphysical. There is room in this world for an infinite variety of thought. But there is no room for slavery of the mind or for tyranny from any ruling class. We will call for a Constitutional Convention to return to the principles of our founding fathers. Freedom of speech, assembly and religion will be restored and will never be violated again by any regime. No government can exist above the people. It must be of the people...