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"PROPHETS AND LOSS"

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#K2805 - "Prophets and Loss" - 2nd Pink Revs. 9/22/97

SLIDERS

"Prophets and Loss"

CAST

QUINN MALLORY
REMBRANDT BROWN
MAGGIE BECKETT

CADMUS
JANE
GARETH
SAMSON
PRISONER (MALE)

(X)
(X)

3 CONTINUED

3

QUINN
One of these slides you're going to
get trapped in a world you don't
want to stay in.

REMBRANDT
But I'll have money.
(then)
Where are we?

QUINN
Looks like a monastery.

MAGGIE
Oh, fun.

They start to walk toward a gate. Quinn checks the timer.

REMBRANDT
How long have we got?

QUINN
Seventy-two hours.

4 ANGLE ON CADMUS

4

in the shadows of the cloister. As the Sliders approach the
far gate, he slips out and follows them.

5 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

5

As the Sliders move out onto a sidewalk. Looks like a
normal city street, but a little cleaner. All the people we
see are pleasant looking, well dressed, clean cut -- men in
suits or jackets, women in dresses -- no slacks or shorts.
No street people or homeless. The Sliders stroll on. (X)

QUINN
Looks fairly normal.

MAGGIE
Too clean.

5A SLIDERS' POINT OF VIEW - ANGLE ON STREET

5A(X)

REMBRANDT
No Kromaggs, which makes it just
fine with me.

CONTINUED

5A CONTINUED

5A

QUINN

If we've got three days, I want to find a library, maybe talk my way into a lab, and get to work on this timer. Got to be a way I can program the coordinates to my brother's world. All I can do is hope he's got the coordinates for our home world.

Quinn stops a moment, struck by what he's just said.

MAGGIE

What is it?

QUINN

'My brother's world.'

They continue walking.

(X)

QUINN

I just can't seem to get my mind around the idea that I've got a brother.

(X)

REMBRANDT

A brother, a new father and mother, another whole new world where somebody may have slammed the hell out of the Kromaggots. Lot to get a mind around, Q-Ball.

They pass a trash can. Maggie sees a newspaper and takes it out of the can.

MAGGIE

(reading)
'Uprising in Detroit Ended. Master Oracle Declares Michigan Rat Free.'

REMBRANDT

What? I've been to Detroit. Trust me, they've got rats.

QUINN

(looking at paper)
Master Oracle? That guy looks like Newt Gingrich.
(to Maggie)
Politician back home.

Maggie opens the paper and reads further.

MAGGIE

'Welcomers ceremony draws a Hundred Thousand to Rose Bowl.'

CONTINUED

5A CONTINUED 2

5A

REMBRANDT
Welcomers? Doesn't sound like a
football team.

MAGGIE
(reading)
'Jason Five, RadRat Sentenced to
Re-Config.' What does that mean?

No one has a clue.

(X)

5B ANGLE ACROSS STREET

5B(X)

Maggie continues to read as they pass a large poster on a
wall. Under a big photo of Charles Darwin, in big print:
DEMON DARWIN. HERETIC. ORACLE LECTURE SERIES STARTS
FRIDAY. ORACLE CENTER.

(X)

QUINN
I guess the Charles Darwin of this
world did something really
terrible.

6
THRU OMITTED
7

6
THRU
7

8 ANGLE ON CADMUS

8

who has been following them. He pauses now and takes out a
miniature communicator -- like a cell phone -- punches in a
code, then talks.

CADMUS
This is Cadmus. Three intruders
have just transported into the
cloister by some unknown method.
Two men, one woman. Have central
enforcement mark them for
surveillance. They could be useful
to us, or... they could be
dangerous.

Cadmus snaps the communicator shut and starts off up the
street, following the Sliders, and we...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

15 CONTINUED

15

JANE
A special provenance from the
Master Oracle himself. 'Sighted'
leaders can make law.

Maggie nods her understanding. Jane looks at Maggie carefully, then at Quinn and Remmy, as if studying them more closely. Remmy notices, gives her a nod and a smile. Jane lowers her eyes, thinking, then gives her attention to the stage once more.

16 ANCIÉ ON STAGE

16

As the music dies down and Cadmus moves to a podium.

(X)

CADMUS
Welcome to this assembly of the
Oracle, followers of the way. This
is a very special assembly because
we have a group of Welcomers going
through the portal to the other
side, to the next world to make it
ready for us.

(X)

At this, there is a gasp from the audience and then
applause.

17 JANE AND THE SLIDERS

17

Jane applauds with the rest, then leans over to explain to
our people.

JANE
You're in for a special treat.

18 ANGLE ON GARETH

18

as Cadmus moves to one side and Gareth steps forward.

(X)

GARETH
My friends, there is a wonderful
new world waiting for us beyond the
portal. A beautiful place you
might think of as this earth, so
alike will it be. But there we
will know true peace, and
contentment, leaving behind all
cares and concerns.

(X)

19 ANGLE ON THE SLIDERS

19

as they look at each other. Is this guy talking about
sliding?

28B CONTINUED

28B

They continue walking.

REMBRANDT

Well, they at least have technology
-- cars, planes, CD players.
Schools must be pretty good.

QUINN

All controlled by the Oracle. No
social sciences. They call that
stuff 'Humanism.' And they teach
nothing but Creation Science.

MAGGIE

That explains 'Demon Darwin.'

QUINN

No 'Big Bang,' no relativity, no
black holes, no chaos theory. But
if that portal is a sliding
machine, they don't follow their
own rules.

REMBRANDT

How's that?

QUINN

Quantum physics predicted parallel
universes. What we do isn't
possible without some understanding
of subatomic particles moving from
one place within the atom to
another without going through the
space in between.

Rembrandt looks at him a long moment, then.

REMBRANDT

I have no idea what the hell you're
talking about, and I seem to slide
just fine.

Quinn grins at that, and we....

CUT TO

29 OMITTED

29 (X)

ACT TWO

FADE IN

43 INT. ORACLE CENTER - ORACLE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

43

Quinn, Remmy and Maggie are being spread-eagled and efficiently frisked by a couple of Enforcers as Cadmus stands nearby supervising. The Enforcers put what little they find in the Sliders' pockets onto a tray on a nearby table. Gareth is sitting across the room behind a large desk, apparently busy with paperwork. Maggie is especially annoyed by the frisking. An Enforcer finds Quinn's timer and hands it to Cadmus, who looks it over. After they're finished, the Enforcers move away and the Sliders turn toward Cadmus.

QUINN

Why are we being held? What have we done?

CADMUS

Why were you in the Assembly Room tonight?

MAGGIE

The door was open. Other people were coming and going freely.

CADMUS

Yes. The Assembly Room is always open for meditation and self-renewal. But you were up on the stage looking at the controls to the portal.

QUINN

I was curious about how it works. I'm...well, I'm kind of a scientist.

Gareth looks up from his work.

GARETH

Well, you've just answered your question...what have we done?

He rises and crosses to Cadmus and takes the timer to look it over.

(X)

QUINN

And that would be...?

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED

43

CADMUS
You say you are a 'scientist.'
That's a very dangerous thing to
admit.

(X)

REMBRANDT
For whatever it's worth, I'm not
a scientist.

Quinn shoots him a look. Cadmus crosses to Remmy.

(X)

CADMUS
So, what are you?

(X)

REMBRANDT
I'm...an entertainer. Concerts.
Records. Weddings...bar
mitzvahs...

CADMUS
(turns to Maggie)
And you?

(X)

MAGGIE
A tourist.

Gareth turns to the table and sorts through the stuff on the
tray that was taken from the Sliders' pockets.

GARETH
A 'scientist,' an 'entertainer,'
and a 'tourist.' Very little
money. And very unusual.
(holds up a bill, turns
to Cadmus)
Someone named Lincoln is on this
five.
(then)
No identification, no travel
permits, no locator documentation.
No party cards.
(holds up timer)
And this.
(to Quinn)
What is this?

QUINN
A kind of communicator.

GARETH
Really? These numbers are counting
down to something. What?

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED 2

43

QUINN
That's a power indicator. The time
I have left before I have to change
the batteries.

CADMUS
If it's a communicator, it must
communicate with something...
where's the other one?

(X)

QUINN/MAGGIE
(at the same time)
There's not one...We lost it.

A pause, then Remmy steps forward.

REMBRANDT
Actually, they're both right. We
lost it, so there's not one.

Gareth just smiles at Remmy, quiets him by holding up his
hand. Then he turns and hands the timer to Cadmus.

GARETH
(to Cadmus)
Have our technical staff take a
look at this.

Cadmus nods and hands the timer to one of the Enforcers, who
exits. Gareth turns back to the Sliders. Smiles at them
again.

GARETH
Forgive my rudeness. My name is
Gareth and I am the Chief Oracle
for the Los Angeles area. This
is my counselor, Cadmus. Your
sudden appearance has caused us to
forget our manners.

(X)
(X)

(a pause)
I've told you who I am. Don't you
want to tell me who you are?

QUINN
My name is Quinn Mallory. This is
Rembrandt Brown, and Maggie
Beckett. We're from...out of town.

CADMUS
So it would seem? The question
is...how far?

(X)

MAGGIE
Oregon, actually. Way up in the
interior. This is our first trip
to L.A.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED 3

43

Vacation? CADMUS (X)

Something like that. QUINN

Have you been to Oracle World? GARETH

Not yet. QUINN

It's on the list, though. REMBRANDT

Be sure to see 'The World in Six Days' at the Imax Theatre. It's really something. And the Dark Age Dungeon Ride. There's new music this year by John Tesh. GARETH

Oh, I love him. MAGGIE

The Sliders laugh uncomfortably. Are they out of trouble here? Or what?

So...if we can get our communicator back, we'll get on over to Oracle World and enjoy ourselves. QUINN

I'm afraid we'll have to detain you for a while. GARETH

He nods to the Enforcers, who step forward.

Wait a minute, we're being arrested? QUINN

On what charges? MAGGIE

Gareth looks surprised.

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED 3

50

MAGGIE
Jane, if you knew this 'traverse'
to the other side might cause your
death, would you still go?

JANE
Of course.

Jane is smiling at her with innocence and love.

(X)

CUT TO

51 INT. CHIEF ORACLE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

51

Gareth is behind his desk. Cadmus enters.

CADMUS
So far, the technical unit can't
make out what the 'communicator'
is.

GARETH
How do we know it's not some kind
of bomb. That thing could be the
detonator.

CADMUS
We've X-rayed it, and scanned it
with the magnetic imager. There is
no explosive material in it.

GARETH
Then what is it?

CADMUS
The best guess is that it's some
kind of switch. It turns something
on. Or off. But we don't know
what.

GARETH
These people worry me. They could
be part of some Rationalist
infiltration. I'm getting reports
of increased RadRat activity all
along the Pacific coast.

CONTINUED

54 CONTINUED

54

Enforcers try to return fire, but are taken down by the automatic weapons of the invaders. One Enforcer shoves the Sliders toward the Assembly Building, but he's intercepted by one of the dark people and clubbed to the ground. Two or three of the invaders circle around the Sliders, and firing into the advancing Enforcers, move them away. The Sliders have been kidnapped and have disappeared.

(X)

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

60 CONTINUED 3

60

MAGGIE

If we don't get it back -- the timer -- when the time runs out, we'll be stuck here a very long time.

SAMSON

Then you'll have no choice but to join us.

The Sliders react to that. Obviously a mistake to tell these guys the whole truth. Quinn gets an idea.

QUINN

Let's make a deal. You and your raiders help us get the timer back, and for however long we're here, we'll help you.

Samson shrugs. What can you do for us?

QUINN

When you were showing us around, I noticed one of your people is working on focussed laser parameters.

(X)

SAMSON

Yes?

QUINN

He's doing it wrong.

Samson thinks it over.

SAMSON

You've got a deal.

QUINN

We have to move fast. If you get the timer back for us, we wouldn't have much time left here.

Samson rises and summons a few of the RadRats whom we saw working in the lab areas.

SAMSON

Then we gotta get started right away. As Norm Crosby once said: 'Waste not, want not.'

(X)

REMBRANDT

(to Quinn)
I thought that was Ben Franklin.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED 4

60

QUINN

Different world, different quotes.

Two or three RadRat "scientists" have gathered at Samson's desk.

SAMSON

We need to work up a plan for a raid on the Oracle compound.

(to Maggie)

Care to join us, Captain?

Maggie nods, Samson turns to Quinn.

SAMSON

I'm sure our technicians have a lot of questions for you, Professor.

QUINN

It's just Quinn.

Samson pauses a moment, looking at Rembrandt.

SAMSON

And what is your job on the team?

REMBRANDT

I'm a singer.

Samson takes that in for a moment, then...

SAMSON

Interesting.

Samson moves away, Maggie following. The scientists immediately bore in on Quinn, all talking at once.

(X)

CUT TO

61 EXT. ORACLE CENTER - CLOISTER - DAY

61

Gareth and Cadmus are moving through the wreckage from the RadRat raid. Repair is underway to the smoke and fire damage.

CADMUS

We found a tunnel beneath the compound. We're closing it up.

Gareth rises and crosses back toward the Assembly Room. Cadmus follows.

CONTINUED

61 CONTINUED

61

GARETH

I imagine the RadRats have taken
the intruders far away by now,
perhaps even out of the state.

CADMUS

I don't think so. I believe that
'communicator' is more important to
them than they let on. I think
they'll be back for it. And we'll
be ready for them.

Gareth nods and exits.

CUT TO

62 INT. SAMSON'S WAR ROOM - DAY

62

A small cubicle off the main flood channel, high up on one
of the dams. Through openings in the wall we can see the
rest of the flood channel and maybe a skyline of oil
refinery towers, with smoke and flame blow-offs. Samson and
his command staff are looking at a computer terminal that
features maps and diagrams that he moves with a mouse as he
talks. Maggie is next to him.

SAMSON

They will have closed off the
tunnels we used. And the guards
will be doubled in the cloister and
assembly area.

MAGGIE

I think it would be better to make
a surgical strike with a small
force. Not a big raid like the one
this morning. If you can get
intelligence on just where the
timer is being held, we can
concentrate on that sector.

Samson smiles at her. Maggie's expertise really turns him
on.

CUT TO

63 ANOTHER SECTION OF THE MAIN TUNNEL

63

Quinn is supervising a couple of scientists at a computer
console. Rembrandt is there as well.

(X)

CONTINUED

63 CONTINUED

63

Quinn moves away from the scientists, checks his watch,
anxious.

(X)

(X)

QUINN

(to Remmy)
These people better come up with a
good plan. And fast.

REMBRANDT

I'm not sure about these RadRats.

QUINN

Compared to the Oracle, they look
like the good guys to me.

REMBRANDT

Maybe. Did you see the way the
head man's eyes lit up when he
thought we'd have to stay here.

QUINN

He's fighting for a cause.

REMBRANDT

It's all politics, man. And that
stuff gets all up your head and
twists it around. Power. That's
what it's all about. The guys in
suits have got it, and the RadRats
want it. It's folks in the middle,
like us, who always get hurt.

(X)

CONTINUED

63 CONTINUED 2

63

Quinn nods, then turns as he hears a noise. Samson and Maggie are approaching.

MAGGIE

We've got a plan.

SAMSON

(full of admiration)

Doctor Mallory, your Captain Beckett here is so...so warlike.

(turning to her)

I like that in a woman.

Quinn and Remmy smile at that, and we...

CUT TO

64 OMITTED

64

64A INT. TUNNEL - DAY - MOVING SHOT

64A

with our RadRat raider team: Quinn, Remmy, and Maggie in RadRat motley, city camouflage with masks and backpacks, led by Samson and one other RadRat. Only Samson and the RadRat have automatic weapons. Samson is holding a small computer "locater" -- a small key punch pad and a little LED screen which displays a map of the area they are moving through. They're moving away from a big fan.

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

65
THRU OMITTED
66

65
THRU
66

(X)

66A ANOTHER TUNNEL

66A

Much narrower now. They continue on their way.

(X)

67 OMITTED

67

67A SOMEWHERE IN TUNNEL

67A

Maggie, Quinn and Remmy pause to catch their breath.

MAGGIE

We're under Oracle Tech Ops right now. If Samson's inside man is right, the timer is in a safe on the first floor.

CONTINUED

67A CONTINUED

67A

(X)

SAMSON
(indicating the conduit)
That's the way in.

(X)

REMBRANDT
I'm more interested in the way out.

MAGGIE
There's another conduit down from
the safe room and then to the
sewers.

(X)

(X)

REMBRANDT
They're not called rats for
nothing.

Samson and the Sliders crawl into the conduit.

(X)

68 INT. AIR CONDITIONING CONDUIT (STAGE)

68(X)

Samson and the Sliders make their way along the conduit.
They reach a fork, Samson checks his "locator," takes the
right tunnel. They arrive at the vent into the Tech Ops
safe room. Samson looks through the vent.

(X)

(X)

69
THRU OMITTED
70

69
THRU
70

(X)

71 SAMSON'S POINT OF VIEW - ANGLE THROUGH VENT

71

A large room with work tables, various lab equipment. There
is a large safe at one end of the room. There are also
several workers in the room.

78 CONTINUED

78

CADMUS (CONT'D)
 (nothing from Quinn)
 What happens when it gets to zero?
 (nothing, then)
 Well, let me put it to you this way. I think it somehow controls your passage into and out of this dimension.

Quinn reacts to this.

QUINN
You're the one who saw us slide in.

CADMUS
 Never mind that. I want to know what happens when the time runs out.

QUINN
 Let's just say you'll have three more RadRats on your hands for a long time.

Cadmus nods and rises.

CADMUS
 Not necessarily, Mr. Mallory. Not necessarily.

He indicates it's time for Quinn to go back to his cell. Quinn rises, and we...

CUT TO

79 OMITTED

79
 THRU
 79A
 (X)

79B INT. ORACLE CENTER - ORACLE'S OFFICE - DAY

79B(X)

Gareth is finishing a phone conversation as Cadmus enters.

(X)

GARETH
 (into phone)
 Yes, we're certain to get a lot of information out of him before he enters Chemical Re-Config.
 (pause)
 Certainly. Thank you, sir. I'll pass it along.

He hangs up and turns to Cadmus, very pleased with himself.

CONTINUED

79B CONTINUED

79B

GARETH
(to Cadmus, indicating
phone)
The Master Oracle himself. He's
very pleased. Samson is the
highest ranking RadRat yet taken on
the west coast. His re-config will
be a great coup for the Oracle.

CADMUS
I'm sure you're right, but I think
you should consider making a
harsher example of him. And the
others as well.

GARETH
What are you suggesting?

CADMUS
As dangerous as Samson is, the
others are worse. We don't know
where they came from, or if there
are more like them. They have some
kind of advanced scientific
knowledge, and they may have passed
along some of it in the time they
were underground. In short, I
think we need to be rid of them
all.

GARETH
You're saying we should execute
them? The intruders, I understand,
but wouldn't we be giving the
RadRats a martyr with Samson's
death?

CADMUS
As far as the people know he
won't die.

The light comes on as Gareth understands what Cadmus is
suggesting.

GARETH
Ah...

CUT TO

80 INT. DETENTION BLOCK

80

Samson and the Sliders are still in their joint cell.

CONTINUED

85 CONTINUED

85

And she goes with the others to the portal. Maggie is emotionally torn by this. Remmy leans down to her.

REMBRANDT

Maybe she's right. We'll certainly know soon enough.

86 ANGLE ON PORTAL

86

as the gate closes and Cadmus moves to the console. The music swells, and Cadmus hits the switch. We see the flash of the incinerator and the Welcomers are gone.

87 MAGGIE

87

Crushed by this. Both Remmy and Quinn try to comfort her.

88 CADMUS

88(X)

has moved to the podium and is addressing the believers.

(X)

CADMUS

(X)

I'm sure you know that we apprehended the Radical Rationalist Samson and some of his followers in the Oracle compound this morning. We have decided that our re-configuration methods here are inadequate. So we are sending them with the Welcomers to the other side in the hope that the wisdom gained there will provide the means for their salvation.

He turns to Samson and the Sliders, who are nudged to their feet by the Enforcers behind them. Remmy is hit again with one of those little "sting guns" when he is reluctant to move. The music starts again as they are moved toward the portal.

As they pass the podium, Samson breaks free for a moment and rushes to the microphone.

SAMSON

(to the TV cameras)
This is a fraud!
(points to portal)
That thing is an oven! Your friends aren't on the other side. They're dead!

CONTINUED

- 93 CONTINUED 93
A smile from Cadmus as Quinn follows the others into the portal.
- 94 IN THE PORTAL 94
the gate is being closed. Quinn quickly shows Remmy and Maggie the timer. Relief is not really strong enough for their reaction.
- REMBRANDT
It was one of the head guys all along?
- Quinn nods and checks the timer.
- 95 INSERT - THE TIMER 95
Counting down from 10...9...8...7...
- 96 AT THE CONSOLE TO THE PORTAL 96
Cadmus is also watching a timer in front of him...6...5...4...
- 97 WIDER ANGLE 97
as the music swells and...
- 98 THE PORTAL (ON STAGE) 98(X)
is lit up with the real vortex. When the flash is over, we can see through the glass that the portal is now empty. (X)

CUT TO

- 99 EXT. FIELD - DAY 99
99
One at a time, the Sliders are dumped down in a meadow. We are somewhere in the country, no signs of life or building around. Samson is coming around just as he makes the slide to this new world. Quinn, Remmy and Maggie pick themselves up and start to look around. Quinn leans down to help Samson to his feet. Samson is still a little stunned from the zipper, but okay.

QUINN
It was Cadmus.

CONTINUED

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 Sliders get ready to
jump.

(X)
(X)

101 INT. ORACLE 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 (ON STAGE) 102 (X)

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