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#K2810 - "Common Ground" - 1st Yellow Revs. 10/3/97

SLIDERS

"Common Ground"

CHRONOLOGY PAGE

SCENES	1 - 28	DAY #1	(X)
SCENES	29 - 57	NIGHT #1	(X)
SCENES	58 - 91	DAY #2	

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.

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)

I'm more troubled that you ordered
the perimeter guns tested before I
withdrew to the safety of the
garrison.

(X)

(X)

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

KROLAK
A miscommunication. Those
responsible have been punished.

(X)

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

11 CONTINUED

11

The Sliders turn at the sound of approaching footsteps.

12 KROMANUS

12

walks down the stairs.

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 ingenious.

(X)

Kromanus moves to a large desk. 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.

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 desk.

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.

CONTINUED

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

Kromanus enters. He removes his uniform jacket and tosses it over a chair. (X)
(X)
(X)

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

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

(X)

Kromanus moves to his map table. He touches the stud on his uniform and the map becomes a:

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
rogue human for some time.

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.

They exchange a serious look. They move to... (X)

A LARGE PICTURE WINDOW looking out onto the landscape. (X)

18
THRU OMITTED
19

18
THRU
19

(X)

20 THEIR POINT OF VIEW 20(X)

We see a high, wide view of the Kromagg garrison, a maze of shattered architecture. Krolak leads a squad of Kromagg soldiers marching a ragged group of human POW's into a building. (X)
(X)
(X)

MAGGIE

Human survivors. (X)
(X)

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED

20

KROMANUS (O.S.)
Prisoners of war.

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

KROMANUS
We haven't taken many.

QUINN
I imagine your troops made sure of that.

KROMANUS
They didn't have to.
(off Quinn and Maggie's look)
On most of the worlds we conquer, the inhabitants offer only minor resistance. Their primitive weapons are no match for us. But these humans...

He steps forward and stares out the window.

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.

Kromanus touches the jeweled stud on his tunic and the window POLARIZES OUT, going completely black.

A20A
THRU OMITTED
B20A

A20A
THRU
B20A

20A MAGGIE

20A

makes careful note of the jeweled stud.

KROMANUS
They chose death over surrender.

MAGGIE
The Battle of California.

KROMANUS
What?

CONTINUED

20A CONTINUED

20A

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
Kromagg 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. 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

I hate to put a crimp in your
social life, but forget it.

(X)

(X)

(X)

MAGGIE

If we don't get the timer back,
we're gonna join those guys
outside.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

CONTINUED

20A CONTINUED 2

20A

QUINN
We'll find another way.

MAGGIE
There might not be another way.

QUINN
I said forget it.

MAGGIE
When did you become my chaperone?

QUINN
It's not worth the risk. If the
'Maggs lay a hand on you, I...

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

MAGGIE
Thanks, Quinn. I didn't know you
cared.

Off Quinn's concerned expression...

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 protective coveralls and visors 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...

27B CONTINUED

27B

SCARRED MAN

(death rattle)
Stop them...

He slumps back and lies still, eyes wide.

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

He reaches the door and pulls at the handle. It's locked.
He jerks at the handle, desperate to get out.

28 OMITTED

28 (X)

29 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - MORGUE - NIGHT (N1) 29(X)

Bodies. Remmy is nowhere to be seen. The door opens and the Kromaggs roll in a gurney, dropping off another body.

They exit. As the door swings shut...

29A A HAND 29A

lashes out, grabbing the door just before it closes.

Rembrandt steps out of the shadows. He eases out the door.

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.

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, man.

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?

CONTINUED

35 CONTINUED

35

QUINN

(frustrated)
You think I like standing by and
doing nothing? But we can't save
everybody.

REMBRANDT

So, we just leave this Earth to
rot? Like my Earth?

QUINN

It was my Earth, too. Look, I know
how you feel about the Kromaggs.
After what they did to you, I can't
blame you.

REMBRANDT

You don't have any idea what they
did to me. You think I can just
forget? Walk it off, Remmy, it's
over.

QUINN

So, what? It's payback time. Is
that it? What are you going to do?
Kill every 'Magg you see? Is that
what you want, Remmy? To be a
killer?

REMBRANDT

You don't understand.

QUINN

Then tell me. Tell Maggie. Tell
somebody, man.

Remmy is tight-lipped.

QUINN

You know I'll follow you anywhere,
but you've got to deal with this.
Or it's gonna eat you up until
there's nothing left.

Remmy and Quinn lock eyes.

CUT TO

36 INT. KROMAGG GARRISON - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

36

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

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

CONTINUED

36 CONTINUED

36

REMBRANDT

I saw them wheel a body out of
there.

(then)
Keep an eye out.

Quinn gives him a look.

CONTINUED

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 more slides will that
take? A hundred? A million?
(then)
Maybe you're right about me,
Q-Ball. Maybe this is about
payback. About spilling some
Kromagg blood for a change.

MAGGIE
Remmy...

REMBRANDT
But it doesn't really matter what's
inside me right now. I left a lot
of good people behind in that
'Magg prison. Wade was one of
them. I can't just walk away
again. Not this time.

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

Quinn glances at Maggie. She nods.

(X)

CONTINUED

44 CONTINUED 2 44

QUINN

Neither can we. (X)

Rembrandt smiles.

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 COMMANDER'S DESK 49

As she steps around the desk, 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.

CONTINUED

81 CONTINUED

81

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.

(X)

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

KROMANUS

(to Quinn)

You're correct, human.

CONTINUED