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"REMBRANDT'S ROMANCE"

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#K2813 - "Rembrandt's Romance" - 1st Yellow Revs. 12/5/97

SLIDERS

"Rembrandt's Romance"

CHRONOLOGY PAGE

SCENES	1 - 44	DAY #1	
SCENES	45 - 61A	DAY #2	(X)
SCENES	61B - 72	NIGHT #2	(X)
SCENES	73 - 97	DAY #3	

12B CONTINUED 12B

MAGGIE
Only one chance! Get Remmy up!

Maggie and Colin help Remmy to his feet. He's dizzy, but will make it. Quinn is a different story. Both Maggie and Colin grab Quinn and get him to his feet. Both Quinn and Remmy have their backs to the bulwark near the big hole that has been blasted in the tail.

12C MAGGIE 12C

goes to the hole in the plane and looks out.

12D ANGLE ON GROUND - STOCK 12D

rushing up at dizzying speed as the plane plunges downward.

12E MAGGIE 12E

looks at the timer. Will it get to zero before the plane gets to the ground? It'll be close.

12F EXT. PLANE 12F

as Maggie leans out the hole and holds the timer down. She ACTIVATES THE VORTEX.

12G WITH THE SLIDERS 12G

as they jump into the vortex without parachute. First, Maggie goes with Remmy. Then Colin brings the unconscious Quinn with him. The VORTEX CLOSES.

12H EXT. GROUND - STOCK 12H

The plane crashes in a fireball.

12J EXT. GROUND - DAY 12J

The Sliders, two by two, come out of the vortex over an open field.

13 CLOSER ON THE SLIDERS 13

as Maggie and Colin check out their fallen comrades. Remmy moves a little and groans, but Quinn is lying quite still, and he has a burn on the side of his face.

(X)
(X)

Maggie opens one of Quinn's eyes, then checks his pulse at his throat. Then she shakes him by the shoulders.

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED

13

MAGGIE
Quinn! Quinn! Don't fade out on
me now!

She stops the shaking and turns to Colin.

MAGGIE
I don't know if he's gonna make
it.

(X)

Colin reacts to that. As the impact settles on them, we...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

14 EXT. FIELD - DAY

14

Beneath the copse of trees, Maggie and Colin have made Quinn and Rembrandt as comfortable as possible -- Remmy, still unconscious, keeps moaning and moving a little. Quinn lies ominously, completely still. Colin is holding his brother's hand.

(X)
(X)

MAGGIE

I'll stay with them. You go into town for help.

COLIN

What will I say? What if this is one of those 'strange' worlds?

MAGGIE

Colin, they're all strange. Just be careful, scope things out and get help. Your brother's life depends on it.

She takes out the timer and looks at it. Colin puts down Quinn's hand and rises.

MAGGIE

We're only here for three days, so get a move on.

Colin looks at Quinn a moment, worried, then starts away. Maggie puts down the timer and moves next to Quinn. She looks very worried.

15 EXT. ROAD - DAY

15

Colin is walking along as fast as he can, looking around. There are no houses, only empty roads and rolling hills. After a moment, he hears an approaching noise. It's not a car or a motorcycle, but something big and noisy is approaching. He moves to the side of the road and takes cover behind a bush.

16 ANGLE ON ROAD

16

A two-seat buggy, pulled by a single horse, passes. A man in black clothes, wearing a straw hat, is driving.

17 CLOSE ON COLIN

17

as he watches the buggy. His eyes light up.

CONTINUED

18 CONTINUED

18

COLIN
Thank you. So, is this the way to
El Segundo?

The Driver gives him another suspicious look.

DRIVER
Granada Hills.
(pause)
Sure you're not the one who hurt
his head.

Colin smiles at the Driver, awkward.

COLIN
No. My head is good. Thanks for
asking.

The Driver slaps his reins and the buggy starts away.

CUT TO

19 OMITTED

19

20 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

20

as the buggy rounds a corner and comes down the street. A strange sight. There are a few cars, very small ones that don't make noise or emit smoke, probably electric or some alternate power. A few people ride horses. Quite a few are on bicycles. Some ride Santa Monica-pier type pedicabs. Everyone we see has some kind of weapon -- side arms in waist holsters or in shoulder holsters, some carry rifles. It's a very strange sight. Everything on the street looks like L.A., present day, except there are no gas-driven vehicles and everyone is armed. The buggy pulls up and stops in front of the Emergency Room of Van Nuys Hospital. Colin starts to climb out.

(X)

COLIN
Many thanks.

Colin climbs out and starts toward the hospital.

21 OMITTED

21

21A WITH COLIN

21A

as he walks toward the hospital. He's moving with some urgency, but he pauses to let an elderly nanny go past, pushing a baby carriage. He notes that the old woman is packing a Colt Python in a shoulder holster. This nanny is ready for anything.

ACT TWO

FADE IN

43 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - BAR

43

Maggie and Colin sit there, nursing drinks.

MAGGIE

So, as much as I can make out, the war has been over for three years. California seceded from the union, became an independent neutral nation. Lots of international banks here, secret number accounts, that sort of thing. Best economy in the world right now.

COLIN

You've told me the Kromaggs destroy every world they take. What happened here?

MAGGIE

Apparently this was just a supply raid. They plundered the natural resources, coal, oil, precious metals. Most of Europe and Asia is a wasteland. And the center of this country as well. I saw a picture of Montana in the hospital. Looks like a big pit mine.

COLIN

So, no oil, no gas-powered cars. That explains the horses. But why has everybody got a gun?

MAGGIE

Self-protection. The borders are under siege. Refugees from the war. Technically, every citizen is a member of the militia.

HACKETT'S VOICE

So, show me your gun, and I'll show you mine.

44 ADJUST ANGLE

44

to pick up Ralph Hackett, the man we saw taking pictures at the hospital. He's taken the bar stool next to Maggie. He has a British accent.

MAGGIE

I left it in the room. Didn't figure on a fire fight over margaritas.

Hackett smiles and nods.

(X)

CONTINUED

44 CONTINUED

44

HACKETT
Forgive the intrusion. (X)
(offers his hand) (X)
Hackett, Ralph.

MAGGIE
(shakes hands)
Beckett, Maggie.
(indicates Colin)
And this is Colin Mallory.

Colin shakes hands with him.

HACKETT
Just passing through?

MAGGIE
Yes. Couple of friends in the
hospital. When they're better,
we're heading on.

HACKETT
Sorry to hear it. Both about the
hospital and your moving on. Are
your friends in serious condition?

MAGGIE
Not too bad.

COLIN
(innocently)
One is. My brother. He could die.

Maggie shoots Colin a look, "not in front of a stranger."
Colin gulps his margarita.

HACKETT
Well, I'm just passing through as
well, but I know quite a few
doctors in the area -- kind of my
line of work, referrals, that sort
of thing. If there's anything I
can do...

MAGGIE
Thank you.

Hackett gives her a business card.

HACKETT
I'm in 715.

MAGGIE
I appreciate it.

Hackett gets up to go. Then turns back.

CONTINUED

44 CONTINUED 2

44

HACKETT

Say, I've nothing on this evening,
and you two look a little the worse
for wear. Why don't I treat you to
dinner?

(MORE)

CONTINUED

REMBRANDT
Really? Well...all I remember is
this wagon, out of control, wooden
boxes flying everywhere...

GRACE
Was there a fire?

REMBRANDT
I don't remember.

GRACE
You talked of being in a plane.

REMBRANDT
Well, like Maggie said, I must have
been mixed up, thinking about the
war.

GRACE
You fought the Kromaggs?

Remmy is taken aback by this. He's heard nothing of the war
on this Earth. But he covers nicely.

REMBRANDT
Yes. Yes, I did.

GRACE
Good. And it looks like you
survived it pretty well.

REMBRANDT
There were times when I didn't
think I would. It changed my life.

GRACE
Yes.
(then)
It changed a lot of lives.

The phone on his bedside table rings. Remmy answers it.

REMBRANDT
(into phone)
Hello.
(then)
Hey, Maggie! Come on up. The doc
says I'm free to go.

(X)
(X)
(X)

He hangs up. Grace starts to leave.

REMBRANDT
Look, doc, I was thinking.

CONTINUED

51 CONTINUED 2

51

HACKETT
You were in the service?

Maggie is, of necessity, still faking it somewhat. So she's careful to be a bit vague.

MAGGIE
Ah...yes. After California seceded, I stayed with the Marine Corps. Flew fighters off a carrier.

HACKETT
U.N. Expeditionary Force?

MAGGIE
Yes.

HACKETT
North Baltic Push?

MAGGIE
I had a taste of that.

HACKETT
Had some friends involved. Special operatives, undercover, sabotage, partisan fighting...that...

MAGGIE
(finishes his line)
...line of country.

HACKETT
(a smile)
Quite.

The agave tea arrives and Maggie and Hackett pick up their glasses. Hackett proposes a toast.

HACKETT
Death to the Maggs.

MAGGIE
Death to the Maggs.

HACKETT
And to those who give them comfort.

They click glasses and drink.

CUT TO

52 INT. LIBRARY - DAY

52(X)

Colin approaches a carrel that contains a computer with a CD-Rom rig and a big monitor. He carries a file box of CDs and a carton of takeout food. He sits and boots up the computer, then opens the file box and selects a disk and inserts it.

CONTINUED

52 CONTINUED 52

We notice the take-out food carton is labeled "Miguel-San, Fine Japanese/Mexican Take-Out." Colin takes the paper off an item and checks it out -- a flour tortilla, stuffed with crab, avocado and cucumber. He douses it with soy sauce and takes a tentative bite. Not bad.

CUT TO

53 OMITTED 53

53A EXT. THE BEACH - DAY/DUSK 53A(X)

Waves lapping softly on the shore. We PAN right along the beach to see Grace's condo -- soft lights inside. Over this, we hear music. Rembrandt is finishing a song.

54 INT. GRACE'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DUSK 54(X)

Rembrandt at the piano. Grace perched nearby. He finishes the song. Grace smiles and applauds.

GRACE

That was great.

REMBRANDT

Just a little something I'm foolin' around with. It's not finished.

GRACE

Have you made records, been on television? I must have seen you in something.

REMBRANDT

Well...I had a group for a while. Did pretty good. Then we broke up and I tried it solo. Didn't do very good. Then...I guess you could say I got kind of side-tracked.

Rembrandt punctuates that idea with a chord on the piano, then turns to Grace.

GRACE

The war side-tracked a lot of us. Tell me what happened to you.

Rembrandt rises and crosses to refill his wine glass.

REMBRANDT

It was like fighting monsters with pop guns. Those manta ships? I saw high explosive anti-tank shells just bounce off of those things. Then I got captured in a raid.

CONTINUED

54 CONTINUED 2

54

Remmy has to fake it again. His Magg war was, after all, in another world.

REMBRANDT

Not far from here.

Remmy doesn't notice, but we might, that Grace seems relieved at this revelation.

REMBRANDT

While I was in there, they did some work on my mind. I was never the same after. And sometimes, it scares me what I might do.

GRACE

I'm not a psychiatrist, but I think your mind is pretty strong. Anyone who can write a song like that...

Rembrandt turns to her. She's very close. He looks at her warmly.

REMBRANDT

It seems like I've known you a very long time.

GRACE

(a tease)
Tired of me already?

Remmy laughs, and we...

CUT TO

55 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - HACKETT'S SUITE - DAY/DUSK

55(X)

The door opens and Hackett comes in, followed by Maggie.

HACKETT

I've got the referrals you need in my filofax. Won't be a moment.
(points at bar)
Why don't you pour us some brandy? Since the war, it's tough to get good cognac, but I have my sources.

Maggie crosses to the bar, checks out the cognac, pours one glass only. Hackett goes into the other room.

CUT TO

56 INT. LIBRARY - DUSK

56(X)

Colin working away at terminal. He stops at the image of a newspaper page, and we look over his shoulder.

57 ANGLE ON SCREEN 57

A photograph of Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of Great Britain. She's shaking hands with a Kromagg general. An eight column headline announces: THATCHER CLOSES DEAL WITH KROMAGGS FOR NORTH SEA OIL. Sub-head reads: IN RETURN MAGGS PROMISE TO BYPASS BRITAIN.

58 COLIN 58

studying the newspaper, munching his Tokyo Roll.

CUT TO

59 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - HACKETT'S SUITE 59

Maggie still standing at the bar. From the other room, we hear Hackett rummaging around.

HACKETT'S VOICE
Can't be too careful who you give information to these days, even about something as innocuous as medical service. Lots of Thatchers about.

Maggie reacts to that. Thatchers?

60 IN THE LIBRARY 60

Colin, studying another screen full of information on the computer, makes notes on a pad.

VOICE ON CD ROM
'After the North Sea oil giveaway, humans who collaborated with the Kromagg invaders were called Thatchers. After the war, many Thatchers went into hiding in the nation of California.

(X)

(X)

(X)

Colin scrolls more data and studies it.

CUT TO

61
THRU
61A

OMITTED

61
THRU
61A

61B EXT. PIER - NIGHT (N2)

61B(X)

Rembrandt and Grace are holding hands as they walk and talk. We can see the beach and Grace's condo behind them.

CONTINUED

64C CONTINUED

64C

REMBRANDT
I have made up my mind about
something. Meeting you helped me
do it.

GRACE
What?

REMBRANDT
My friend, Quinn, was always there
for me. I want to be here for him.
When the time comes to make the
next slide, if he's not well enough
to go, I'm staying here.

GRACE
I helped you decide that? How?

REMBRANDT
By being here, too.

She smiles at him. They kiss, and we...

CUT TO

65 INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

65

Over Colin's shoulder as he studies another file. The
headline reads: MAGG COLLABORATOR BELIEVED IN SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA. There is a picture, kind of blurry, a figure in
middle distance, maybe taken at an airport.

VOICE ON CD ROM
'The Kromaggs made use of human
doctors when their own medical
service could not handle some of
the native microbes. Doctor Helen
Donavan was a notorious Thatcher
doctor at the Magg evacuation
center in Belgium.'

(X)
(X)

We move closer as Colin hits a key that causes the picture
to fill the full frame of the monitor screen.

VOICE ON CD ROM
'British Special Service has
inserted teams into California to
seek out and arrest fugitive
Thatchers.'

(X)
(X)

66 CLOSE ON PICTURE

66

looks a lot like our Doctor Grace.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

69 CONTINUED

69

MAGGIE
(resigned to it)
What do you want me to do?

Hackett sorts through the photographs on the desk.

HACKETT
If you can help me get positive
identification, I can make an
arrest and take her back to England
to face trial. I have a plane
waiting.

(X)

CONTINUED

74 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - SLIDERS' SUITE - DAY

74

Colin is on the sofa. Maggie is pacing back and forth. Obviously, neither has slept all night.

MAGGIE
I shouldn't have given him anything.

(X)

COLIN
You did what you thought was right.

MAGGIE
When Remmy didn't come back to the hotel last night, I should have known. This thing with her has gone too far. And I've betrayed him.

COLIN
If she did what they say she did, she deserves punishment.

MAGGIE
Were things really that simple in the world you came from?

COLIN
We knew right from wrong.

Maggie doesn't say anything. She just looks at Colin, worried if she's done the right thing. Suddenly, their door bursts open and in comes Remmy. He's carrying a suitcase and he's pretty wound up. He rushes to the table and puts the suitcase on it. As he talks, rapid-fire, he opens the case.

REMBRANDT
Good. I'm glad you're here. They've taken Grace. Goons in ski masks. Broke in and took her.

Remmy flips open the case. Maggie and Colin have crossed to look at it.

75 ANGLE ON THE CASE

75

Foam padded interior with spaces cut to fit an assortment of firearms -- a couple of Uzis, automatic pistols, appropriate ammo.

76 BACK TO SCENE

76

as Colin and Maggie react to this arsenal.

REMBRANDT
Pretty easy to get guns on this world. Didn't even ask for I.D.

Remmy picks up a pistol and starts loading it.

CONTINUED

- 80 ANOTHER ANGLE - ON THE SIDE OF THE HANGAR 80
Here come the Sliders. Colin is in the driver's seat of a wagon, holding the reins to a team of horses that come around the corner at top speed. Remmy and Maggie are in the wagon. (X)
- 81 CLOSER ON WAGON 81
as Colin pulls back on the reins and the horses stop, rearing up. The wagon skids to a stop beside the plane, and Remmy and Maggie jump down to the ground, Uzis up and at the ready.
- 82 ANGLE ON HACKETT AND HIS MEN 82
as they react to this sudden appearance. Hackett, holding Grace by the cuffs behind her back, raises his pistol at the Sliders. The other soldiers drop into firing position with their rifles.
- 83 ANGLE ON SLIDERS 83
Now Colin has joined Remmy and Maggie as they advance slowly on Hackett and his men at the plane.
- 84 ANGLE ON HACKETT AND HIS MEN 84
They aren't giving ground. This is a very tense situation that could get out of hand if anyone just flinches. A stand-off.
- 85 CLOSE ON MAGGIE 85
as she holds her aim steady on Hackett. She takes a deep breath and then relaxes, lowering the gun.
- 86 WIDER ANGLE 86
as Hackett and his men react. What's going on here? Remmy and Colin are curious too. Maggie puts her gun on the ground, then motions for Remmy and Colin to do the same.
- MAGGIE
Come on, guys, put them down. We don't want anyone to get hurt here.
- Remmy and Colin are puzzled for the moment, but they do what she says and put their guns on the ground. Maggie crosses to Hackett.
- MAGGIE
We don't intend to stop this arrest. We just want to delay it. She may be able to save our friend's life.

CONTINUED

90 HACKETT AND THE SLIDERS 90
standing, looking on, not knowing what to expect.

91 GRACE 91
concentrating, breathing even more deeply.

92 QUINN 92
stirs. Moans. The burn on his face dissolves away. His eyes slowly open. He looks around the room, sees his friends. Smiles. (X)

93 ANGLE ON HACKETT AND SLIDERS 93
Remmy, Colin and Maggie reacting with joy. Hackett looking on with great interest.

TIME CUT TO

94 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 94
Grace is still in the room with Quinn. Colin, Remmy, Maggie and Hackett are coming out of the room into the hallway.

HACKETT
Kromagg mind control healing.
(MORE)

CONTINUED