

Minor Changes

Written by Duncan Heath

INT. OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY MAGNUM RAGE PRODUCTIONS. DAY

MAX INOBALA IS AN INTERN FOR FILM DIRECTOR DAN COULTER AND NEPHEW OF EXECUTIVE PRODUCER HERB KAZERMAN, OF MAGNUM RAGE PRODUCTIONS.

Max's cell phone rings. A call to the office is forwarded to Max's cell phone..

MAX INOBALA

Hello. ... (pause and smile) Wait slow down, Yah, ... read your script, liked it, and no, I'm Max Inobla, new Assistant to Dan. He's in at 10 or so. (pause) It read like Jane Eyre time traveling to the '67 San Francisco Summer of Love.

Max and Crystal hear each other in the lobby and approach.

CRYSTAL TENLY

You! You get what I wrote! (then, in the character of Jayne Eyre) 'Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain and little, I am soulless and heartless? You think wrong! - I have as much soul as you, - and full as much heart!'

Recognizing the quote he plays along character of Rochester as well as he can.

MAX INOBALA

Ah, ... 'Then let your will decide your destiny. I offer you my hand, my heart. Jane, I ask you too, pass through life at my side. You are my equal, my likeness... Will you marry me?'

CRYSTAL TENLY

Not bad....Think 'Jayne Eyre' could work on an asteroid?

MAX INOBALA

Ya, with breathable air, and some minor changes. Hey look, call the office at 10, OK?

INT. DAN COULTER'S OFFICE DAY 10:00 AM

DIRECTING SCI-FI FILM PROJECT "ASTER-ROIDAL" DAN COULTER IS SITTING AT HIS DESK WHEN HIS INTERN KNOCKS ON THE DOOR.

DAN COULTER

What do you want?

MAX INOBALA

That script you liked? I read it, The love interest, what's his name? Ferdinand? beams down from space ship full of 1950's hippies.

DAN COULTER

Beatniks, son, they were called Beatniks. ah Max, right? Well Max, you got a lot to learn: Beatniks? Hippies? It doesn't matter. What's written down never makes it to the screen. That's 'cause in my hands this story's gotta move popcorn and soda into-the mouths of paying moviegoers.

Dan's phone rings.

DAN COULTER (cont'd)

Crystal Tenley? .... Call me Dan, and I'm glad you called. I was just looking at your screenplay. The depth and emotion you bring to your characters rivals the great authors. I'm mean, ..from Euripides to Charlotte Bronte. Talking CLASSIC! Of course it's my challenge to bring it to life on the screen. We should make this happen. When can..? great, see you then?

MAX INOBALA

I thought "Aster-Roidal" was a sci-fi sex flick, with green-eyed super-hot space women, chasing astronauts for pleasure before killing them black widow style, then eating 'em. Did the Bronte sisters write about?--

DAN COULTER

Look, Max, I'm gonna help you out here.

(MORE)

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DAN COULTER (cont'd)

They ripped off Shakespeare to make a movie called Forbidden Planet: a masterpiece. Now old William wrote a good story about a Dad and daughter stuck on an island, *instead of* another planet. The play was called "The Tempest."

MAX INOBALA

I read it High School, but...

DAN COULTER

But can you remember a single character in the play? See, EVERYONE knows Robbie the Robot. And Anne Francis. Check out her hot body, and tell me they cast her for her talent. People like my films because I keep them busy wondering about things they think are wonderful. Think about it, if you want to succeed, ... MISO SOUP! Oh God, my electrolytes, Get me some MISO SOUP. and that custom roll, "Now Go Chase Some Tail"!

MAX INOBALA

But the sushi place fired that hottie waitress.

DAN COULTER

No, That's the *name* of the sushi roll: 'Now.. Go.. Chase.. Some.. Tail.'Get it for me, please.

MAX INOBALA

Sure, right away. Amazing insight, Dan! I really want to learn the biz.

DAN COULTER

You do that. First, MISO SOUP!

INT. BOARD ROOM OF MAGNUM RAGE PRODUCTIONS A MONTH LATER. IT IS THEIR 4TH MEETING.

CRYSTAL TENLY

Look Dan, I just don't see the story that way. Here's why I ask, I don't know which one got me thinking,.... I mean your movie posters.

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DAN COULTER

Crystal. I get it. You take pride in that film degree from Swarthmore, the Iowa summer writers camp, and your Writer's Guild status, ... but there's a reason my posters are all over the walls of Fine Arts buildings: The films are winners!

CRYSTAL TENLY

Commercially, yes, but, ... **"The Cowboy Sludge Monster Fighters"**? **"Botany Bay on Mars: Alien Women's Prison Colony"**? Did you consult with Carl Sagan when you made **"The Black Hole G-Spot"**..?

DAN COULTER

Crystal. ...Crystal, Film makers can't rely on just old literary tools. You gotta see it! The cowboys fighting the sludge monsters; they were dealing a death blow to post-modernist boredom. The slippery jail cell sex on Mars?... is a cry for justice against inter-stellar male chauvinism. Two different species, having sex. A Renaissance! Can't you see? It's man kind's best destiny?

CRYSTAL TENLY

Do you understand what it means to 'rage against the dying of the light'? My character Diane is fighting an Oedipal struggle. Her father won't let her go for the love of her life, Ferdinand, a counterculture hero. And the light is a rich metaphor, not a starship phaser.

DAN COULTER

Of course, I get it, but I need flexibility with the actions and dialogue ... to make your Charlotte Bronte-Beatnik more ...persuasive! And the 'light' needs to build more tension. We have to do this right. We don't want our audience to miss the ... weight of your social criticism! Oh, 'fore I forget, sign the contract with the amended release form.

(MORE)

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DAN COULTER (cont'd)

It extends you access rights to the  
filming and editing processes without  
the burden of undue participation.

Crystal is signs the contract. Dan takes the document. Their  
fingers touch in crossing.

DAN COULTER (cont'd)

Tomorrow night? Dinner? I'll send a  
car, say six?

CRYSTAL TENLY

Do you appreciate real gravitas?

DAN COULTER

I still like to call it weight,...  
but you have it where it counts.

Crystal smiles and leaves.

INT. FOYER OF MAGNUM RAGE PRODUCTIONS

DUSTY JETABLE

DUSTY JETABLE, PRONOUNCED 'JE-TAHB' FORMER SCREENWRITER, IS  
IN THE FOYER. SHE HOLDS A MANILA ENVELOPE.

It starts with dinner, right. It  
always does.

CRYSTAL TENLY

Sorry, you are?

DUSTY JETABLE

Dusty, Dusty Jetable, I'm a writer  
too. Worked here before. So what is  
yours about?

CRYSTAL TENLY

23rd Century Diane chooses to time  
warp, back to a 1950's Brooklyn  
tenement apartment. She embraces  
beatnik feminism and re-lives it so  
she can use her knowledge to re-make  
our world.

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DUSTY JETABLE

Mine was about surviving the Depression. He turned it into class warfare on an interstellar cruise ship. *The Grapes of Wrath* meets *The Love Boat* - in space! He promised all the story's meaning... delivered none. Honey, let's talk and keep this. you might use it someday. It's all in there, with my number.

Dusty hands Crystal a manila envelope and leaves.

INT. BOARD ROOM OF MAGNUM RAGE PRODUCTIONS DAY WEEKS LATER.

Seated are Crystal, and Max as Dan Enters.

DAN COULTER

Surprise, surprise, Crystal I didn't expect you. Here for an update on the project?--

CRYSTAL TENLY

There'll be some minor changes. ...., ...you'll come to see the light. Dan, some stories don't age well.

MAX INOBALA

Times have changed. Good thing I'm learning; thanks to you, Dan. Learning the biz... Study people, you never know what you'll learn.

CRYSTAL TENLY

See Dan, I'm afraid our contract is null and void, and this new one places control of the production squarely in my hands. We'll introduce Max Inobla as the star of your next film "The Aster-Roidal Acid Test." The sex starved monsters have been replaced by curious alien travelers seeking a higher consciousness through psychedelic encounters with humans.

MAX INOBALA

My characters still gets to date an alien, right?

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CRYSTAL TENLY

Yes, Max. On their first date they decide to become fellow travelers: 'You're either on the starship or off the starship.' Quite a visual. Speaking of visuals, Dan, some of your early work has resurfaced.

DAN COULTER

This is all intriguing, but I have the green sex-object women on stage 4 so if this fantasy is over, I'll repeat: our contract is binding, Mszzzzzzz Tenly, and...

CRYSTAL TENLY

You've had some indiscretions, Dan. Remember when ...?

Dusty Jetable enters with the manila envelope. She places the envelope in front of Dan who peeks at the contents without revealing the pictures.

DUSTY JETABLE

Oh you were so easy. Fetishes out of this world. You had to know the paparazzi would find out, with a little help. And, Stage 4, Isn't that your preferred venue for these soirees? See Dan, two things: I don't want my husband Herb see these pictures.... Oh, you mean you didn't know? We got married last weekend.

Dusty flashes her new wedding ring.

Las Vegas. So exciting, whirlwind romance. I forgot to say exactly how we met, and by we, I mean you and I, years ago, But bringing up our past now would break his heart. Second, he's not going to believe this:

Dusty points to a photo not visible to visible to audience.

You wearing that leather harness and a dog leash while that dominatrix-animal-trainer walked you like a Dalmation. Word can't get out about this, Dan. It 'd ruin you, and break Herb's heart to see you,....doing those things.

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CRYSTAL TENLY

Crystal pulls out the dog leash and studded collar-harness outfit with the "leather-sex-shop" receipt signed by Dan Coulter. A knock on the door. Crystal has time to remove the receipt but not the leash and collar. Herb Kazerman enters.

HERB KAZERMAN

Don't mind me. I see you've all met Dusty. And this jewel.

Dan turns to Crystal.

HERB KAZERMAN (cont'd)

Dan, where did you find her?

CRYSTAL TENLY

Herb Kazerman, so good to meet you. Audiences are hungry for more sophisticated cinema don't you think?

HERB KAZERMAN

Aren't they always, Crystal? That's why we need another re-write, only the star can't be your beatnik, Diane; instead we'll feature her mother played by Dusty Jetable. A rare opportunity to target that older demographic segment of movie-goers.

Herb faces Crystal

HERB KAZERMAN (cont'd)

You have no objections, do you?

CRYSTAL TENLY

No, ... Herb, ... none at all.

HERB KAZERMAN

Crystal, did you know that before she was a writer, Dusty was an actress? From Mystery Dinner Theater in Orlando, and now, finally, all the way to the silver screen! And Crystal, Dusty wrote the final revisions herself. I'll email them now. Guys, we're gonna run with them.

Herb sends an email from his smart phone and both cell phones of Crystal and Dan 'ping' as the message is received.

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HERB KAZERMAN (cont'd)

Amazing, ... how a woman can change your mind. I hope you have the mettle for all these changes, Danny. And remember I still need to make money.

Herb looks first at Dan, then at the dog leash and collar still on the table.

By the way, I just hope what I've heard isn't true. I mean what they say about old dogs and new tricks. Oh, just one more thing: Dusty has new employment contracts for each of you, reflecting some minor changes. I need them signed, witnessed and notarized today. Did I mention that Dusty is also a Notary Public?

Dusty places contract documents on the table. She pulls out her her Notary Public Stamp and pad and moves them toward the table center. Crystal, Max, and Dan exchange glances. Next to Max sits a copy each of the play "The Tempest" and the screenplay "Forbidden Planet"

FADE TO:NEW  
MOVIE POSTER  
"OEDIPUS  
WRECKS"  
STARRING DUSTY  
JETABLE AND MAX  
INOBALA