## **SPLICE**

## V. NATALI THUMBNAIL STORYBOARDS

"PORTRAITS"

**JUNE 7, 2000** 

He starts. It almost seems she's gazing at him through the screen.

In an instant, she is gone.

Clive stands, disoriented, moves from monitor to monitor. Spots her by the toffee vat. Her NAKED BODY silhouetted in the dimness. She turns and again, impossibly, seems to look at him, then slides into the pool to vanish once more.

Clive rushes to a dead monitor and turns it on. A VIEW FROM AN UNDERWATER CAMERA fills the screen.

Dren, breathing effortlessly beneath the surface, sensually rolls her body against the wall of the pool. Her translucent skin almost glows in the refracted light.

Instinctively, Clive reaches out, runs his fingers along her image. As he does this, the hybrid mimics his action.

HER HAND FOLLOWS HIS ACROSS THE WIDTH OF THE SCREEN.

Clive draws back, unnerved. The hybrid continues to stare out beyond the electronic haze.

CLOSE ON ELSA. Unseen by Clive, she's awake, watching.

INT. DREN'S ROOM, CANDY FACTORY -- EARLY MORNING

Elsa emerges from her room. She can hear Dren singing an abstracted version of the De La Soul. The odd, exquisite tones reverberate through the room.

But she's nowhere to be seen.

Curious, Elsa moves stealthily through the clutter, finds Dren in the corner, at the door of her secret alcove, drawing.

SQUEAK! Elsa has accidentally stepped on a squeeze toy. Dren instantly drops her pen and covers the entrance to the alcove with a cardboard box.

Elsa marches up to her.

## ELSA What... what are you hiding?

Dren skulks away like a guilty child. Elsa looks at her bewildered. She takes hold of the box and slides it out of the way to reveal the alcove and its contents.

## INSIDE

The shrine. Barbie in the place of honor. Elsa leans in, enchanted at first. But then her eye catches something else.

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DRAWINGS

On tablet paper. They show a face. Some are quite crude, but there is an evolution to them. In the advanced ones it becomes clear that they are PORTRAITS OF CLIVE.

Elsa picks them up. She turns to Dren.

ELSA (CONT'D)

(marvelling) These are good.

She sets them down.

ELSA (CONT'D)

Are there any of me?

Dren just stares back at her, afraid. Elsa notices that there is one more sheet of paper lying by Dren's foot.

ELSA (CONT'D)

May I?

She picks it up. It's another drawing, only half finished: Clive and the hybrid dancing together.

Elsa takes this in. Hands it back to the hybrid and without another word, leaves.

INT. DREN'S ROOM, CANDY FACTORY -- LATER IN THE MORNING

Clive comes into the room looking like he just rolled out of bed. He finds Elsa hunched over her microscope.

Clive is grappling to understand the changes: Elsa's distance from both himself and Dren. And his own confused feelings.

In the background we hear DREN'S AGITATED JABBERING SOUNDS.

CLIVE

Why didn't you wake me? I had the strangest dream...

Elsa doesn't respond. Clive drapes his arms over her and rests his chin on her shoulder. She stiffens.

ELSA

Something's bothering... Dren.

Clive, troubled, turns to search out the hybrid. She's in her perch as usual.

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