

THE MIDDLEMAN
Episode #1013
"The Doomsday Armageddon Apocalypse"
Graphic Novel Script

Written By
Javier Grillo-Marxuach
And
Hans Beimler

THE MIDDLEMAN
"The Doomsday Armageddon Apocalypse"

TITLE: THE FOLLOWING PAID COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS OF ABC FAMILY OR *THE MIDDLEMAN*.

FADE IN

ON MANSERVANT NEVILLE (PLAYED BY MARK SHEPPARD, ESTABLISHED IN EPISODE #1011, "THE CLOTHARIAN CONTAMINATION PROTOCOL") - STANDING ON A BLACK STAGE IN HIS SUIT AND DARK SHIRT.

ANY RESEMBLANCE TO STEVE JOBS DOING AN APPLE KEYNOTE ADDRESS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL. NO, REALLY, IT IS. DON'T YOU PUT THAT ON ME, I'M SERIOUS.

MANSERVANT NEVILLE
Hi there. I'm Manservant Neville -
CEO of Fatboy Industries...

THE SCREEN BEHIND MANSERVANT NEVILLE

Lights up with an image of the uMaster: a white, chubby, cube-shaped device.

MANSERVANT NEVILLE (CONT'D)
...and inventor of the uMaster.
(a beat, then)
They said no one would buy a solar-
powered, handheld device made
entirely of recycled parts...and
now, one in every twenty five
humans owns a uMaster...why?
(beat)
It makes your life easy.
(then)
So take charge...and remember,
uMaster makes you the master!

*
*

The uMaster morphs into the Fatboy mascot - the now-familiar pig-nosed, red-haired, red faced homonculus seen in every consumer product ever shown throughout the series.

*
*

FADE TO THE FATBOY INDUSTRIES MASCOT AGAINST A BLACK BACKGROUND WITH A LEGEND UNDERNEATH:

UMASTER - FROM FATBOY INDUSTRIES

CUT TO BLACK

TITLE: WE NOW CONTINUE WITH OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM.

FADE IN

EXT. WENDY AND LACEY'S LOFT - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

*

CAPTION: THE ILLEGAL SUBLET WENDY WATSON SHARES WITH ANOTHER YOUNG, PHOTOGENIC ARTIST (AND OCCASIONALLY WITH HER SPIT-CURLED FORMER-GUITARIST BOYFRIEND) - 10:30 P.M.

*

*

*

WENDY'S VOICE

Tyler Ford. You are not trying to convince this analog girl to get a uMaster!

TYLER'S VOICE

I'm telling you, the way Manservant Neville talks about it...this new software upgrade is going to be the best thing ever. Total game-changer.

*

INT. WENDY AND LACEY'S LOFT - NIGHT

Wendy sits on the bed in her shorts and a Jolly Fats Wehawkin belly shirt as Tyler takes off his jacket and tie.

WENDY

OK, let's pretend for a moment that this art school reprobate is willing to suspend her burning desire to while away a Friday night making out with the former lead guitarist of a neo-hippy jam band and is actually willing to give her newly-minted-tech-sector-workaholic boyfriend thirty seconds to talk about his project...

(then)

...what will this revolutionary new software upgrade for the world's most influential hand-held device actually do?

*

TYLER

Well...I have absolutely no idea.

*

(as Wendy LAUGHS)

*

No...seriously, now that I think about it, all I've heard Manservant Neville say is how amazingly powerful it's all going to be but -

Wendy and Tyler's conversation is interrupted by a visibly upset Lacey - standing at the top of the spiral staircase:

(CONTINUED)

LACEY

Hey Wendy -

WENDY

Lacey - how was the Vegan Palace? *

LACEY

The seitan fritters were an aria -
but that's not what I came to say.

WENDY

What's the matter?

LACEY

I need a monster pep talk...see,
Warren's downstairs.

WENDY

Perfect Warren?

LACEY

Perfect Warren.

(then)

Third date at the Vegan Palace...we
got there in his electric
scooter...and he's president of the
Guerilla Recycling Collective -

TYLER

The guys who break into people's
homes and separate their garbage? *

LACEY

- he even wears hemp underpants and
volunteers for Habitrail for
Humanity! *

TYLER

You mean Habitat for Humanity.

LACEY

No. I mean Habitrail for Humanity -
they're even better.

(then)

And now Perfect Warren's on the
downstairs couch, and he's totally
got that third date look in his
eye.

TYLER

Ooh. I've given that look.

LACEY
- and I...can't.

WENDY
You can't?

LACEY
I can't.

WENDY
Lacey, if you can't...you can't.

LACEY
No. I mean - you gotta talk me into
this, Dub-Dub...I gotta make a
move...this is Perfect Warren. We
have everything in common - and how
many Perfect Warrens are there in
the world? I can't turn him away!
(then, small)
Can I?

Wendy puts her hands on Lacey's shoulders, then:

WENDY
Lacey. Go downstairs and start
making some of that stinky tea...

LACEY
...the Tibetan cleansing brew that
makes your breath smell like Jerry
Garcia's buttcrack?

WENDY
One and the same. I'm gonna dig up
some of my old telenovela VHS's -
and me and Tyler are gonna be
watching on the downstairs couch in
a tick.
(then)
Perfect Warren's going down like
the Atari Lynx.

LACEY
(a smile, finally)
You're the best dub-dub.

Lacey bounds down the stairs, leaving a concerned Wendy and
Tyler behind:

TYLER
Still not over your Sexy-Bossman,
is she?

And off Wendy...

EXT. JOLLY FATS - DAY (ESTABLISHING)**CAPTION: MIDDLEMAN HEADQUARTERS - 9:30 A.M.**

WENDY'S VOICE

You said you couldn't date Lacey
because she's not the only woman
you love - fine, I can buy that - I
can buy that like a bag of chips -

INT. MIDDLEMAN HEADQUARTERS - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Wendy RUSHES behind a clearly uncomfortable Middleman.

WENDY

- but you gotta give me something.
Who is this mysterious goddess?
When do you see her? Where does she
live? What is her name?

THE MIDDLEMAN

Sweet crispy won-tons, Dubbie! I
try to foster camaradery and
understanding in the workplace but
this line of questioning is
downright inappropriate -

WENDY

Inappropriate? You have
surveillance cameras in my bedroom -

THE MIDDLEMAN

- I'm your senior manager and that
requires a certain obscurity in my
methods and -

WENDY

- I've got Ida treating my private
life like it's her own private
Skinemax and you can't tell me?

THE MIDDLEMAN

What you see is what you get with
me - the rest is on a need to know
basis...you are just going to have
to take it on trust.

WENDY

Lacey's holding a torch for you,
you're holding a torch for Lacey -
the longer you ignore that, the
longer you stomp on her heart with
cleats.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Middleman EXPLODES, his tone uncharacteristically harsh:

THE MIDDLEMAN
Dammit, Dubbie! I've told you as
much as I can, why can't you
respect that?

And with that, The Middleman steps into a room and SLAMS the door shut.

Wendy just stands there, stunned...until The Middleman steps back out of the door, somewhat sheepishly.

WENDY
Wow. Dude. Too much club.

THE MIDDLEMAN
Uh. This is awkward.

WENDY
Your imminent apology?

THE MIDDLEMAN
No. We have a Code 7 distress call.

WENDY
Code 7: one of our trusted allies
is in jeopardy?

THE MIDDLEMAN
Let's go to work.

And off Wendy, watching him go...

EXT. FAMOUSE FASHION HOUSE - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

NOTE: The establishing shot and interior set designs for Famouse were first used in *The Middleman*, Episode 1003 "The Accidental Occidental Conception."

As The Middlemobile pulls up -

*

CAPTION: FAMOUSE FASHION DESIGN STUDIO (AND COVERT HALFWAY HOUSE FOR RECOVERING SUCCUBI) - 9:15 A.M.

WENDY'S VOICE
If you're talking to me again,
could you tell me why Roxy
Wasserman would put in a Code 7
distress call to us?

*

The Middleman just glares.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WENDY'S VOICE (SECOND BALLOON)
(CONT'D)

I guess that means you still aren't
talking to me.

INT. FAMOUSE FASHION HOUSE - DAY

The Middleman steps in, followed by Wendy - to find Roxy Wasserman, standing alone in the middle of the studio - none of her usual minions around her. *

WENDY

Where are all the bulimics,
furmongers and Eurotrash? *

ROXY WASSERMAN

No time for snark, wedding train,
you may have just been promoted
from the Olive Garden, but I need a
real man on this job...

WENDY

You did not just mock the vest!

ROXY WASSERMAN

(approaching The
Middleman)

Em-Em...*l'engrais a frappé le
ventilateur...*

SUBTITLE: M-M...the manure has hit the ventilator.

THE MIDDLEMAN

Copy that, Roxy, what's the damage?

SUBTITLE: Je comprend, quels sont les dommages?

Roxy turns to REVEAL two tables behind her, lying on each table is a BEAUTIFUL MODEL, each with a scarf over her head.

ROXY WASSERMAN

Somebody's kidnapping my girls...

And as she pulls the scarves off the tops of their heads to reveal MASSIVE SURGERY SCARS across their foreheads...

THE MIDDLEMAN

(stunned)

In a gadda da vida!

ROXY WASSERMAN

...and cutting them up. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

...and as The Middleman and Wendy react to the sight of these two beautiful fashion models, their foreheads roughly sewn together after a forced and no doubt gruesome surgery...

MAIN THEME

AND WE'RE BACK WITH THE MIDDLEMAN, WENDY AND ROXY WASSERMAN

The Middleman pulls out the BTRS Scanner - AND WE HEAR THE SIGNATURE BTRS SOUND EFFECT: **BORP!...**

...as Roxy Wasserman downloads her information.

ROXY WASSERMAN (CONT'D)

Their names are Olag and Jenna...twins from the Old Country...they were the most powerful girls in the coven, second only to me...been on the wagon for years...

WENDY

The "we don't suck souls" wagon or the "we look good in clothes no ordinary mortal can wear" wagon?

ROXY WASSERMAN

(giving Wendy a stinkeye)
...they were booked for a modeling job downtown - and abducted before they even got there - we found them wandering the streets...

THE MIDDLEMAN

(before Roxy can reply)
It's exactly as I feared. Their pineal glands have been removed.

Roxy Wasserman's eyes turn red, her teeth grow to sharp, saber fangs, and horns grow from her head (see, there's all sorts of stuff you can do in a comic you can't on a basic cable budget!) in a succubinal rage!

ROXY WASSERMAN

I MUST CALL OUT MY HORDES! WHOEVER DID THIS SHALL SUFFER A THOUSAND AGONIES!

(CONTINUED)

THE MIDDLEMAN

You best un-Hulk yourself Roxy -
you take this war to the streets,
you're sabotaging everything you've
spent the last two decades trying
to build.

Roxy fumes for a moment, then turns away with an imperious
gesture:

ROXY WASSERMAN

I NEED CHOCOLATE!

Roxy Wasserman lets out a ROAR of impotent rage and walks
away as The Middleman turns to Wendy.

THE MIDDLEMAN

The pineal gland is the seat of a
Succubus's ability to sway the
minds of men, to get them to think
whatever they desire - anyone who
steals them with such surgical
precision -

WENDY

Is trying to take supernatural
power for themselves.

THE MIDDLEMAN

This is a sock-hop in a dung hill,
we're going to have to -

But before The Middleman can finish his thought - each of the
fallen succubi lift their hands and CLUTCH WENDY'S ARMS...

...Wendy STARTS...

...and EVERYTHING GETS WEIRD - a swirling collage of images *
matching the succubinal twins' monologue -

- strange faces twisted with primal fear -

- a waterfall -

- a snarling black panther!

SUCCUBI (SIMULTANEOUSLY)

The medium! The truthspeaker! The
soothsayer! Only the power of Chac-
Mol can stop them! Only the
waterfall can hide them! Only the
waterfall!

(CONTINUED)

And with that, the succubi let go of Wendy...who is left staring at The Middleman, confused.

CUT TO

INT. FAMOUSE FASHION HOUSE - ROXY'S OFFICE - LATER

Roxy Wasserman sits on her chair, eating bon-bons from an ornate round box.

ROXY WASSERMAN
Olag and Jenna mentioned the Power of Chac-Mol specifically?
(to The Middleman)
This is very disturbing. A bad Omen. Dark times are ahead.

WENDY
What's very disturbing?

THE MIDDLEMAN
We don't know what it means yet.

WENDY
Know what what means?

ROXY WASSERMAN
You know too well the price exacted by the talisman -

WENDY
What talisman?

THE MIDDLEMAN
Keep your garters on, Rox, no one's making the ultimate sacrifice on my watch.

WENDY
Who's making the ultimate sacrifice?

THE MIDDLEMAN
Whoever wields the power of Chac-Mol.

WENDY
What is the power of Chac Mol!?

ROXY WASSERMAN
Chac-Mol is the Mayan Goddess of rain and thunder...her power is held in a talisman the shape of an obsidian panther...it is said that the Power of Chac-Mol was last wielded by Cortez in battle against Montezuma, and allowed him to overwhelm an army of 300,000 Aztecs...it is - at best - a weapon of absolute last resort.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Because of that Ultimate Sacrifice thingy.

ROXY WASSERMAN

Exactly. In exchange for victory, the wielder always pays the steepest price iamginable -

THE MIDDLEMAN

- which is why that particular panther-shaped talisman has remained untouched in the deepest vault of Middleman HQ for centuries.

WENDY

So...we gonna draw straws or what?

THE MIDDLEMAN

No one's wielding the Power of Chac-Mol.

(then)

Our immediate goal is to decypher Olag and Jenna's oracular meanderings - the medium, the truthspeaker and the waterfall -

(best)

- there'll be plenty of time to panic once we know the face of our enemy.

*

ROXY WASSERMAN

Oh, Em-Em...the thought of you making your last stand with a cheesy panther sculpture in one hand and that hideous throwback to Normandy on your shoulders makes me want to weep.

(then)

It can't end this way. Please. For me. At least change your jacket for this mission!

EXT. MIDDLEMOBILE - DAY

Careening through the streets of the city:

CHYRON: THE MIDDLEMOBILE, ALWAYS THREE MILES BELOW THE SPEED LIMIT - 11:00 A.M.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY'S VOICE

It's not a algebra: if someone stole
Olag and Jenna's pineal gland to
take their psychic powers, chances
are they also stole the pineal
glands of a medium, a truthsayer
and a clairvoyant to take theirs...

INT. MIDDLEMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

THE MIDDLEMAN

Like a software bundle of
darkness...except for one thing: a
psychic signature that size would
have undoubtedly set off the
HEYDAR...unless...

*

The Middleman FLIPS a switch:

*

THE MIDDLEMAN (CONT'D)

Ida - it is I - The Middleman -

*

Ida appears on the dashboard screen.

IDA

And here I was hoping for one of my
gentleman callers.

WENDY

You date?

IDA

I have the AARP on speed dial and I
break Earthmen like tindersticks!

*

WENDY

P.M.G.O.!

*

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

Ida, get on the HEYDAR and scan for
bodies of water large enough to
dampen a sizeable psychic
signature. Give preference to any
with waterfalls.

(to Wendy)

A river or lake with enough fish
and algae in it might have masked
the paranormal field just enough to
allow our gland thieves to go
undetected.

*

WENDY

This is not comforting.

(CONTINUED)

THE MIDDLEMAN

Leave the weeping to Roxy, Dubbie,
our dance card's full.

WENDY

Yeah, weird that she'd get so
emotional over this...

(then)

...the thought of you making the
Ultimate Sacrifice...

(spins)

...it's her, isn't it! Roxy
Wasserman is the other woman you
love!

THE MIDDLEMAN

Mother of Hello Dolly! I am plum
tuckered with this -

*

WENDY

Admit it, you're totally hot for
her!

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

She's a man-killing demon from
hell, Dubbie, a single night of
sweet succubus snuggling from that
woman and it's sayonara to my
eternal soul.

WENDY

So? It's a doomed romance, no
wonder you're paralyzed with
indecision -

Ida POPS BACK UP ON THE DASHBOARD SCREEN:

IDA

Listen up, chowderheads! I got a
hit on your waterfall - there's
only one large enough in the thirty
mile zone to rate...a man made lake
just outside of the Kerr-Avon Labs.

EXT. KERR-AVON LABS - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

An industrial complex nestled next to a large lake with a
waterfall.

CHYRON: KERR-AVON LABS - 12:15 P.M.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY'S VOICE
Somebody cleared out of here in a
hurry.

INT. KERR-AVON LABS - DAY

Wendy and The Middleman shine their flashlights on the
remains of a lab - as well as a significant amount of
surgical equipment and several empty beds.

THE MIDDLEMAN
Lots of beds...they could have had
a whole mess of psychically active
subjects here...

...Wendy picks up a file jacket left on the floor...

WENDY
(reading)
"Gauda Prime Protocol...clairvoyant
test subject -"

SLAM! SLAM! The heavy steel doors of the lab close behind
Wendy and The Middleman...

...and then a RACKET - CLONK! CLONK! CLONK! - The Middleman
and Wendy turn to see...

...a MASSIVE ROBOT, armed with machine guns for arms! *

The Middleman draws his Middlegun and FIRES - but his bolts
of energy merely BOUNCE OFF THE ROBOT!

Wendy LEAPS ONTO A LAB BENCH, vaults over the robot as she
draws her sidearm and FIRES as she TWIRLS OVERHEAD - *

- but as she LANDS in a power crouch behind the robot the
robot deploys a NERVE GAS NOZZLE and SPRAYS WENDY IN THE
FACE! *

WENDY (CONT'D)
(passing out)
Nerve...gas...

- DODGING BULLETS as he backs away, The Middleman takes a gas
mask from his utility belt and puts it on...

...as the robot bears down on him, FIRING its guns!

The Middleman - sweat beading on his forehead -

- THROWS himself onto the robot. *

(CONTINUED)

He slips a GRENADE into its exoskeleton and - *

KA-BLOOOEY!

- the robot EXPLODES into a million pieces as The Middleman rolls away.

CUT TO

A FINAL SHOT OF THE MIDDLEMAN

Carrying a passed-out Wendy through the burning remains of the lab.

CUT TO BLACK

OVER BLACK

THE MIDDLEMAN
Deep breaths, Dubbie. You need the oxygen.

INT. JOLLY FATS - OPS - DAY

Wendy comes to on a Eames Chaise (last seen in episode #1009 "The Obsolescent Cryogenic Meltdown")...and breathes from an oxygen tank as Ida cranks up the supply.

IDA
Don't just puff on it, honeypot, it ain't Maui Wowie. *

WENDY
Am I alive?

IDA
If you can call what you do living.

WENDY
How did we walk into an ambush? *
(then) *
And who leaves a combat android to guard an abandoned lab?

IDA
Caught you with your tidy-whiteys around your ankles, did they?

Now we see The Middleman: Over by the desk, studying the Real Time Situation Recording Archive. Visibly perturbed, The Middleman rubs his chin. *

(CONTINUED)

THE MIDDLEMAN

They knew we were coming...whoever was working out of the lab knew about our movements and knew it with enough time to clear out and leave a heavily armed battle robot to kill us and cover their tracks.

*

WENDY

But how? Did they hack our surveillance? Did they steal the power to read people's minds from all those succubi and mediums and -

The Middleman stands - pissed.

THE MIDDLEMAN

The only reason we're alive is dumb luck - a utility belt stuffed with grenades and a universal key, and that's no way for a Middleman to live.

(then)

I pooped the woobie today, Dubbie - and I almost got you killed.

WENDY

You saved my -

THE MIDDLEMAN

Dammit, Dubbie, I'm slipping.

WENDY

Did you actually just say "dammit?" Again? For the second time in one day?

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

When that murderous robot came after us...I had one thing and one thing alone in my mind...and it's the reason I didn't see the attack coming. I've lost my focus and I know the reason why.

(turning to Wendy)

Stay here, study the Real Time Situation Archive and the HEYDAR - don't step out of HQ until we get to the bottom of this.

WENDY

Where are you going?

THE MIDDLEMAN

There's something I have to do -

WENDY

You mean like go to the bathroom,
bake a cake? We do have a mission,
remember - the bad guys stealing
supernatural powers?

THE MIDDLEMAN

I won't be any good to you until
this is settled.

And off Wendy and Ida, watching as The Middleman steps away.

MONTAGE

Wendy and Ida work diligently - studying the HEYDAR, tapping
the real time situation recording archive...

...while The Middleman hits...

INT. MIDDLEMAN HEADQUARTERS - CHANGING ROOM - DAY

...(established in episode 1002 "The Manicoid Teleportation
Conundrum") and changes out of his Middle-Uniform into
civilian clothes! A white button-down shirt and Khakis. *

INT. THE MIDDLEMOBILE - DAY

The Middleman drives with purpose.

INT. MIDDLEMAN HEADQUARTERS - OPS - DAY

Ida wears a Byzantine apparatus on her head - it looks kind *
of like a colander - which she uses to scan Wendy - who looks *
at a printout...

WENDY

Nothing on the HEYDAR, no signs of
heightened paranormal activity
anywhere in the city -
(to Ida)
- you getting anything on that?

IDA

Nothing yet, but that might just be
all the THC in your system blocking
the body scan. *

(then)

Wait a minute...I got a hit.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IDA (CONT'D)

It's an Ultra Low Frequency
signal...very faint...coming from
you...it's disguised into the
background radiation in the
atmosphere but...

(then)

...oh, no...

CUT TO

INT. WENDY & LACEY'S LOFT - HALLWAY - DAY

The Middleman steps out of the elevator to see NOSER, sitting on Lacey's Vespa...guitar in hand...

NOSER

Yo, Wendy's boss, you know what I
need?

THE MIDDLEMAN

I'm gonna guess you either need a
freak or a hero.

NOSER

Oh, I definitely need a hero.

THE MIDDLEMAN

You and me both, Mister Noser.

And with that, The Middleman SLAMS open the door to -

INT. WENDY & LACEY'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Where Lacey sits on the egg chair...STANDING to face The
Middleman.

Their eyes meet. No words need to be said.

The Middleman closes the distance between them - he scoops up
Lacey in his arms and kisses her, passionately on the lips.

SMASH CUT TO

EXT. WENDY AND LACEY'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

The Middleman and Lacey's embrace remains in view through the
loft windows as -

- A SPONTANEOUS DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS erupts over the city
skyline!

(CONTINUED)

But the moment is cut by the SOUND OF THE MIDDLEMAN'S MIDDLEWATCH.

CUT TO

WENDY - AT HEADQUARTERS

Pissed off - talking into her Middlewatch as Ida works behind her to put something in A STEEL BOX WITH A TEMPERED GLASS WINDOW. *

WENDY
Boss, it's me, pick up, now!

THE MIDDLEMAN (ELECTRONIC BALLOON)
Can this wait, Dubbie?

WENDY
No. This is a red ball.
(then)
Ida just discovered that I've been bugged - we've had surveillance on us for several weeks.

INTERCUT WITH THE MIDDLEMAN

Standing by the window as Lacey stands aside, stunned...

THE MIDDLEMAN
Someone planted surveillance on us?
Who?

...Wendy turns to the metal box... *

...inside, on a stand is a diamond tennis bracelet (the one given to her by Tyler in episode 1012 "The Palindrome Reversal Palindrome"). *

WENDY
My boyfriend.

And off Wendy's rage...

SMASH CUT TO

INT. JOLLY FATS - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Tyler stands on the interrogation chair (first seen in episode #1005 "The Flying Fish Zombification"), head, arms and body bound by straps.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Who sent you? How long have you
known about my being a Middleman?
Before you started dating me?

TYLER

I swear to you - I got the bracelet
from Manservant Neville!

WENDY

So you're working for him? *

TYLER

Yes - I mean - I don't understand
what's going on here - what is a
Middleman? *

WENDY

Did you set us up to be killed?

TYLER

Killed? But...you're a temp!

WENDY

Drop the act, Fordo, I want
answers! *

TYLER

Manservant Neville and I were on
his helicopter on the way to a
meeting and I told him the same
thing I told you, that I had always
dreamt of giving my lady
diamonds...and the next day, he
handed me the bracelet, called it a
bonus for all my hard work...

(then)

...what is this place? Are you a
spy or something?

And off Wendy, STORMING OUT and SLAMMING the door.

INT. MIDDLEMAN HEADQUARTERS - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Wendy meets The Middleman, who stands at a control panel in
the hallway. He has been monitoring the interrogation.

WENDY

I say we detonate a truth bomb in
there.

THE MIDDLEMAN

No need to, Dubbie.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

He said he loved me. I slept with him.

THE MIDDLEMAN

The room's lie detection system is on-line - if his voice, cardiac stress and venous pressure analysis is accurate, he's telling the truth.

(then, off her look)

I know young Tyler's record backwards and forth - he doesn't have the resources to hide a cloaked, nano-visual ultra-low-frequency surveillance module in the crystalline structure of a lab-grown diamond.

(then)

Tyler Ford isn't our enemy. It's Manservant Neville.

*

WENDY

Well...it's not going to take Manservant Neville long to figure out we put his turbo-charged tennis bracelet in a virtual reality simulation loop.

THE MIDDLEMAN

Which is why you need to get over your anger and help me get Tyler on our side.

CUT TO

INT. MIDDLEMAN HEADQUARTERS - OPS - MOMENTS LATER

Tyler follows Wendy and The Middleman into Ops, eyes wide with confused wonder...

TYLER

Lemme get this straight...all the time we've been dating, you've been a covert operative for the world's most absurdly secretive organization, fighting monsters and aliens and robots?

WENDY

Yes.

*

(CONTINUED)

TYLER

So you've been lying to me since we met.

*
*

THE MIDDLEMAN

If she deceived you, Tyler, it's because I demanded it. It's my fault, not hers...and don't forget, you were a recruit at this organization...

(off his look)

...but for a twist of fate, it could have been you in the uniform.

TYLER

It's just that...

(after a moment)

...if I'd known, I might have realized that I got my job with manservant Neville and Fatboy Industries because he wanted someone on the inside...all that time I was wearing that suit, doing Manservant Neville's bidding...all I was ever good for was to give you a bracelet.

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

Tyler. There's things we need to understand: why would Manservant Neville kidnap succubi, mediums and clairvoyants?

TYLER

I think I missed that memo.

WENDY

What about Kerr-Avon labs?

TYLER

Kerr-Avon...they're doing the software integration for the Polyditetrahexamono-Triotalon.

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

Prophecies of Orac! A Polyditetrahexamono-Triotalon?

*
*

TYLER

You've heard of it.

IDA

(walking in)

Not since that cheeseball supervillain Doctor Servalan tried to build one to turn all the cellphones in the world into a monomaniacal hive mind.

WENDY

So this Polyditetrahexamono-Trioctalon is some kind of a hive-mind maker?

IDA

Go back to Jamaica, greenie!

TYLER

(to Wendy)

It's the device that's gonna upload the new software upgrade to all the uMasters in the world: linking every uMaster out there into a single, infinitely powerful network.

THE MIDDLEMAN

One in every twenty-five people in the world have uMasters...imagine, the massive super-natural ability of all those stolen pineal glands, coupled with the unlimited computing power of such a network.

(then)

A person whose access to the psychic plane is turbo-charged by the power of so many uMasters would be able to read everyone's thoughts, plant suggestions in their minds and maybe even shape the very nature of reality itself.

(conclusively)

With a working Polyditetrahexamono-Trioctalon, Manservant Neville will have the power of a living god.

TYLER

Not if we can stop him before the software upgrade goes live.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TYLER (CONT'D)

I know all of Manservant Neville's secret codes - I know the headquarters of Fatboy Industries like the back of my hand, and can get to the Polyditetrahexamono-Trioctalon.

THE MIDDLEMAN

Grand Central. Lead the way.

WENDY

Wait - I don't want you to get involved.

TYLER

Because you love me, or because you don't trust me?

*

WENDY

Boss, could you turn around for a second?

The Middleman turns around...and as Wendy plants a kiss on Tyler...

And off The Middleman, pensive:

CUT TO

INT. JOLLY FATS - CHANGING ROOM - DAY

The Middleman stands by a phone on the wall...

THE MIDDLEMAN

Hello, Lacey.

SPLIT SCREEN WITH LACEY - IN THE LOFT

LACEY

Hi Wendy's Boss...I was starting to think that what happened this morning...

THE MIDDLEMAN

Do you wish it hadn't happened?

LACEY

No. But I was starting to think I dreamt the whole thing...

(then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LACEY (CONT'D)

...that and I'm not sure I'm ready
to have two people in my life with
those darned watches.

THE MIDDLEMAN

Lacey, listen to me. It happened,
and it will again if you want it
to.

LACEY

I do.

THE MIDDLEMAN

I just have some business to take
care of. Will you wait for me?

*

LACEY

I've waited this long, haven't I?

...and off the moment...

CUT TO

EXT. FATBOY TOWER - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

Established in episode #1011 "The Clotharian Contamination
Protocol."

**CHYRON: FATBOY TOWER (CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS OF FATBOY
INDUSTRIES AND MANSERVANT NEVILLE) - 8:30 P.M.**

TYLER'S VOICE

This is Manservant Neville's
private entrance - from these
tunnels, he has private access to
every room in the facility.

INT. POLYDITETRAHEXAMONO-TRIOCTALON CHAMBER - NIGHT

Tyler ushers Wendy and The Middleman through an octagonal
door...

TYLER

And as promised, I have the
codes...so ladies and gentlemen,
may I introduce...the
Polyditetrahexamono-Trioctalon.

*

*

REVERSE ANGLE TO REVEAL THE POLYDITETRAHEXAMONO-TRIOCTALON

A giant, Jack Kirby-style machine (the hundreds of harvested supernatural pineal glands are prominent in a transparent chamber at the machine's core - the superstructure of the machine looks like a conflagration of massive uMasters)...

....waiting to be activated and dominate the world inside a massive chamber full of catwalks, mezzanines and the like.

WENDY

Look at all those pineal glands...hundreds of them...it's like a gland-nado.

*

TYLER

A tornado made of glands?

*

WENDY

(conclusively)

Yes.

*

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

Not for long.

But as The Middleman reaches into his utility belt for a grenade...

MANSERVANT NEVILLE (O.S.)

You have to admit...my plan is sheer elegance in its draconian complexity.

WENDY/TYLER/THE MIDDLEMAN

Manservant Neville!

REVEAL MANSERVANT NEVILLE

STEPPING OUT from the core of the machine onto an upraised platform that makes him - quite dramatically - the centerpiece of the array that makes up the Polyditetrahexamono-Triocotalon.

(CONTINUED)

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

It must have been ten years ago that I identified your organization as the only thing on Earth that could stand in my way...it took a lot of time and money to conceal my work from you - to harvest the thousands of pineal glands I needed without disturbing the psychic plane of the world and setting off your HEYDAR...to identify young Mister Ford as the linchpin to your destruction...first as a potential recruit, and then because of his relationship with young Miss Watson...

(then)

...but now everything has gone exactly as I have foreseen - from Miss Wasserman's distress call, to your reaching for your concussive shockwave generator to destroy my machine.

THE MIDDLEMAN

If you know your concussive shockwave generators so well, then you know -

CLICK!

The Middleman activates the switch on top of the grenade.

THE MIDDLEMAN (CONT'D)

- now that I've pushed the fail safe detonation switch, no force on Earth can stop the destruction of your infernal machine.

...and then, something strange happens. The Middleman's grenade turns into a block of cheese.

TYLER

Did your grenade just transform into a block of cheese?

The Middleman looks at the block of cheese on his hand, dumbstruck as Wendy pulls out her BTRS Scanner.

*

BTRS SCANNER SOUND EFFECT: BORP!

WENDY

Yes. At the molecular level.

(CONTINUED)

THE MIDDLEMAN
That can only mean one thing...

WENDY
...somebody here has the power to
change reality at will...

THE MIDDLEMAN
...the software upgrade has already
gone live...

TYLER
...and the Polyditetrahexamono-
Trioctalon has been active all this
time?

MANSERVANT NEVILLE
Of course it has you imbeciles!

WENDY
No!

Wendy draws her sidearm - only to see it transformed into a
fuzzy pink bunny!

Wendy looks at the cute creature in her hand as Manservant
Neville gloats.

MANSERVANT NEVILLE
Did you really think I would leave
something as epic as this to
chance? All my life I worked to
make Fatboy Industries the world's
most socially proactive company - I
went green, gave to the poor, set
up solar farms, and personally
saved the whales, but it hasn't
been enough. The world insists on
continuing on its self-destructive
path toward total pollution...now
that I have harnessed the power of
high technology and the force of
the supernatural world to make
myself into a living god...I will
use the power to make the world a
better place!

THE MIDDLEMAN
I've seen this before, Manservant
Neville - no man can take all of
this upon himself, this volume of
power will twist your mind and
corrupt your soul.

CONTINUED: (3)

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

Not my mind! Not my soul! As I
speak, every uMaster in the world
is networking with my brain!

As Manservant Neville speaks -

WE GO OUTSIDE - TO THE STREETS OF THE CITY

*

And we see PEOPLE ON THE STREET WITH THEIR UMASTERS...

*

...but the uMasters escape the grasp of their owners and
LEVITATE into the air...

*

...SWARMING around tall buildings as they fly into the
atmosphere...

**...and finally FORMING A WEB AROUND THE EARTH - united by
LUMINOUS BEAMS OF PSYCHIC ENERGY!**

MANSERVANT NEVILLE (CONT'D)

With my web of psychoactive
technology reaching every corner of
the planet - tapping into the very
consciousness of every living
creature - I have the power to
shape the very fabric of reality...

(with growing megalomania)

...and I shall begin by reversing
the greenhouse effect at the speed
of thought...then I shall turn all
of the petrol burning cars of the
world into efficient hydrogen fuel
cell vehicles with a flick of my
finger! I will cause all of the
endangered species to propagate
with a wink of my eye...

(then)

...and I will turn all the beans of
this world into peas!

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

Excuse me?

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

With my hand on this world's
heavenly tiller, ferrets shall
become marmots, rugs will be soup
and adobe blocks will transmogrify
into rods of uranium - there shall
be a new world order!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WENDY

The power has driven him mad!

Tyler steps up to The Middleman - whispers...

TYLER

I know where the off switch is.
Keep him talking.

THE MIDDLEMAN

(to Tyler)

Watch your six - break.

As the following exchange takes place, Tyler breaks from the pack and rushes toward an Edison switch hidden somewhere in all of the catwalks of this architecturally varied space...

THE MIDDLEMAN (CONT'D)

Manservant Neville - you may think quite highly of yourself, but surely you know that free minds will never submit to your dominion!

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

You are wrong - and I will prove it to you. When the time comes, you will surrender yourself willingly to me.

WENDY

That's never going to happen.

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

You will find it a lot easier to agree once I have taken everything that matters from you.

And with that, Manservant Neville reaches out with one hand and FIRES A BOLT OF LIGHTING AT TYLER.

Tyler SCREAMS - his body twisting in agony as his life energy is completely drained by Manservant Neville's onslaught...

...any resemblance to Emperor Palpatine's Force Lightning is strictly coincidental. No really.

Even if Tyler should become transparent for a moment and you should see his skeleton.

Wendy RUSHES OVER - catching Tyler as Manservant Neville's attack ends and he collapses, pieta-like into her arms.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY
Tyler...

The Middleman arrives at Wendy's side as the tears well up in her eyes.

WENDY (CONT'D)
He's -

MANSERVANT NEVILLE
- and he won't be the first, until
you give in to my reign!

Manservant Neville holds up his hands once more:

**BAMF! WENDY AND THE MIDDLEMAN ARE TRANSPORTED (DOCTOR
MANHATTAN-STYLE) TO:** *

INT. WENDY & LACEY'S LOFT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Wendy and The Middleman's position is unchanged - only there's no Tyler in Wendy's arms.

WENDY
Tyler...please...

THE MIDDLEMAN WENDY
Wendy - Give me an order -

THE MIDDLEMAN WENDY
- I'm sorry. GIVE ME AN ORDER!

Wendy drives The Middleman against the wall, tears of rage streaming from her eyes:

WENDY (CONT'D)
Tell me what I have to do to take
down that son of a bitch and I will
do it. Give. Me. An. Order.

THE MIDDLEMAN *

Manservant Neville teleported us
here for a reason. He wants to
punish us. We need to find Lacey
and Mister Noser at once.

And off Wendy's tear-streaked expression -

SMASH CUT TO

NOSER

INT. WENDY AND LACEY'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Trapped inside a massive diamond!

THE MIDDLEMAN
Mister Noser!

WENDY
Can we cut him out of there?

THE MIDDLEMAN
It's a massive emerald cut diamond -
he's probably in some kind of
stasis -

LACEY (O.S.)
Wendy...is that you?

The Middleman and Wendy exchange glances, then, as he leads
the way, BOUNDING up the spiral stairs -

SMASH CUT TO WENDY'S ROOM

Lacey lies in Wendy's bed...covered by the sheets.

The Middleman reaches over and pulls the sheet from over
Lacey's face to REVEAL **THAT LACEY'S SKIN IS GREY - HER FACE
IS RAVAGED BY BRUISES AND HER HAIR IS FALLING OUT!** *
*

THE MIDDLEMAN
Lacey...no...

LACEY
I don't know what happened...Noser
was rehearsing downstairs because
Anvil was welding in his living
room again...I came up here to take
a nap and...what's wrong with me...
(then)
...I feel...weak...

The Middleman gathers Lacey up in his arms.

THE MIDDLEMAN
Lacey. Listen to me. Everything is
going to be OK. You lie back. Close
your eyes. Sleep, and when you wake
up, this will all have been a bad
dream.
(then)
Do you believe me?

(CONTINUED)

LACEY

Yes.

THE MIDDLEMAN

I love you, Lacey Thornfield.

And off The Middleman, kissing Lacey on the forehead:

SMASH CUT TO

INT. WENDY AND LACEY'S LOFT - CORRIDOR - DAY

The Middleman strides down the corridor with purpose.

WENDY

We can't just leave here there - we
have to figure out what's -

THE MIDDLEMAN

T-cell polymphocytic leukemia.

WENDY

How do you -

The Middleman barrels into the elevator, SHUTS the cage after
Wendy. PUNCHES the down button:

THE MIDDLEMAN

Her name was Raveena Rao. She was
my Middleman.

*

WENDY

I thought you were recruited by a
man.

As The Middleman speaks images of his early days as a
Middleman illustrate his speech...

*

*

...he looks a little like he did in episode #1012 "The
Palindrome Reversal Palindrome" long hair, leather vest,
goatee, tie...he spars with Raveena, trains with her, fights
off a giant - space helmet-wearing, raygun-wielding octopus
with her...

*

*

*

*

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

Now you know the truth.

(then)

Raveena Rao was beautiful,
competent, accomplished...and she
transformed me from a long-haired,
C.O.-punching hothead to the man I
am now...

*

*

(then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THE MIDDLEMAN (CONT'D)

...we did a lot of good in the world...and, eventually, we couldn't deny what we felt...we did our work, we loved each other...and then one day, she came down with this random, meaningless disease.

*

(choking back his rage)

After all the evil we put down...all the mad scientists and aliens...all it took was a conglomeration of rogue cells, and there was nothing I could do.

(then)

She fought it...she suffered...and she was strong, and optimistic, even at the end, when the disease had ravaged her body...when she passed...I cut my hair, shaved my goatee, changed my uniform to match hers...

The Middleman opens the cage to the elevator - and as he barrels down the hallway to the door of the loft building -

*

THE MIDDLEMAN (CONT'D)

...and I swore an oath that I would live clean, forsake all vice and profanity, and do my work without failure...in her honor.

WENDY

Manservant Neville...he's read our minds...this is how he is going to get us to surrender to him.

The Middleman reaches the front door of the building - turns to face Wendy:

THE MIDDLEMAN

Not like this.

(opening the door)

The power of Chac-Mol is in our vault - it and it alone will allow us to raise the army we will need to eradicate this god-gone-mad...and come vampire puppets, quantum singularities or zombie fish I am going to use it!

The Middleman SHOVES open the doors to the loft...

(CONTINUED)

WENDY
HOLY [BLEEEP!]

REVERSE ANGLE TO REVEAL

**A TWO-PAGE SPLASH OF THE WORLD AS TRANSFORMED BY MANSERVANT
NEVILLE**

Like a Hyeronymous Bosch painting in the Middleman universe.

A giant ZEPPELIN with the head of the Fatboy Industries mascot at its prow hovers overhead, lecturing the word:

FATBOY ZEPPELIN
ALL CITIZENS MUST RECYCLE THEIR
UNDERPANTS! ALL UNDERPANTS MUST BE
TURNED IN TO THE LOCAL CAT SPAYING
FACILITY! ALL CHEESE WILL BE
PASTERIZED ON PAIN OF DEATH!

ON THE STREET

PEOPLE WITH SQUIDS FOR HEADS run wildly, chased by massive badgers wielding flamethrowers.

Hordes of MORBIDLY OBESE MEN get by on SPIDER LEGS.

Two buildings BATTLE EACH OTHER with giant biceps jutting from their sides.

A BUS made of FUR crashes into a GIANT LADYBUG while FIREFIGHTERS shoot marshmallows from flamethrower-like tanks while standing on mushroom caps.

A squad of VOLKSWAGEN MINI-BUSES with wings flies in the background.

*

**AND NOW WE CUT TO A SERIES OF NEWSCASTERS FROM AROUND THE
WORLD**

*

*

AMERICAN NEWSCASTER
...the President attempted to call out the National Guard to deal with the bizarre occurrences overtaking the nation today but was promptly distracted by the sight of his left hand becoming as large as a rhino...with polka dots...

FRENCH NEWSCASTER
...*La Tour Eiffel transformé en poisson mort aujourd'hui...*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

NEWSCASTER WITH THE HEAD OF A DUCK

Quack!

RESUME ON THE MIDDLEMAN AND WENDY

WENDY

Man. Some mother [BLEEPERS] played way too much Super Mario when they were kids.

AMPLIFIED/STORMTROOPER VOICE (O.S.)

MIDDLEMAN! WENDY WATSON! YOU ARE TO BE PERSECUTED AT EVERY TURN!

REVERSE ANGLE TO REVEAL

FATBOY STORMTROOPERS (in body armor - with large plastic heads that look like the Fatboy Industries mascot, carrying massive weapons) -

- and riding KANGAROOS WITH ARMADILLO-LIKE PLATES AND SPIKES!

AMPLIFIED/STORMTROOPER VOICE (CONT'D)

Your possessions will be taken from you! You will be made to walk the streets in suits made of cactus and be flagellated by talking fish! There will be no quarter!

THE MIDDLEMAN

(looking around)

I found our ride, let's go!

SMASH CUT TO

EXT. LACEY'S VESPA - MOMENTS LATER

The Middleman steers down the street-gone-crazy while Wendy holds on to his waist with one arm...

...and THROWS GRENADES at the pursuing stormtroopers with another...

CLOSE ON THE MIDDLEMAN

THE MIDDLEMAN

Keep 'em at bay, we're almost there and I have reinforcements waiting!

WENDY

What kind of reinforcements?

(CONTINUED)

THE MIDDLEMAN
Old, crazy and pissed!

The Middleman points ahead to REVEAL:

EXT. JOLLY FATS WEHAWKIN TEMP AGENCY - CONTINUOUS

Where Ida stands before the front door - looking cranky.

IDA
You two krunkensteins truly fudged
the featherbed this time!

The Middleman SKIDS the Vespa to a halt and dismounts -

THE MIDDLEMAN
Slow them down, Ida!

*

IDA
Oh yeah, this is much better than
watching my stories.

The Middleman and Wendy don't even look back as they rush
inside.

*

*

Ida turns to Face the Stormtroopers, the expression on her
face hardening:

IDA (CONT'D)
Hey Hamburglars! Get some!

Ida MORPHS into full combat mode (as seen in The Middleman
graphic novel: *The Second Volume Inevitability*) -

- and unleashes a HAIL OF GUNFIRE that stops the kangaroo-
riding stormtroopers on their tracks!

UNTIL ONE OF THE KANGAROOS OPENS ITS MOUTH TO FIRE A MISSILE

Which closes the distance to Ida...

KERPLOOM!

...Ida EXPLODES into a MILLION pieces...

...and as her head FLIES UP into the air - half consumed by
fire, her robotic endoskeleton revealed *Terminator*-style...

IDA'S HEAD
Morons.

SMASH CUT TO

INT. MIDDLEMAN HEADQUARTERS - CORRIDOR

Wendy and The Middleman tear ass inside as...

INT. MIDDLEMAN HEADQUARTERS - OPS - CONTINUOUS

..the Fatboy Stormtroopers...well, they STORM IN! Firing their weapons wildly - DESTROYING EVERYTHING!

And as the HEYDAR falls - cratering the compass rose in A BALL OF FIRE...

INT. MIDDLEMAN HEADQUARTERS - CORRIDOR

...the Middleman and Wendy keep running...

THE MIDDLEMAN

They're in the compound!

WENDY

Stay on target - stay on target -

But one of the Stormtroopers reaches in from a side hallway and grabs Wendy!

The Middleman turns to see Wendy - PUNCHING OUT the Stormtrooper as two more arrive to grab her.

STORMTROOPER

Seize her! She is to be taken to Manservant Neville!

WENDY

Go without me! Save the world! Go!
Go!

The Middleman doesn't want to - but knows he has to.

He keeps running as more Stormtroopers enter the corridor, giving chase...

...The Middleman reaches...

INT. DEEPEST, DARKEST VAULT IN HQ - CONTINUOUS

...and PUNCHES IN a code...

...the Stormtroopers ARRIVE AT THE ENTRANCE...

...The Middleman turns to confront them, holding forth an idol in the shape of a BLACK PANTHER!

(CONTINUED)

THE MIDDLEMAN
BEHOLD THE POWER OF CHAC-MOL!
(then)
OH GREAT DEITY OF LAST RESORT, I
CALL UPON YOU - BRING FORTH MY ARMY
THAT IT MAY CLEAN THIS WORLD LIKE A
HOLY THUNDERING STORM OF DIVINE
RETRIBUTION!

THE MIDDLEMAN VANISHES IN A PUFF OF LIGHT AND SMOKE

The Stormtroopers are left there, staring at each other.

STORMTROOPER THOUGHT BALLOONS
????

SMASH CUT TO BLACK

SFX: DING!

And then the parting doors of an elevator into:

INT. UNDERWORLD - TIME HAS NO MEANING OR RELEVANCE

The Middleman steps out from the arriving elevator to find himself in the building lobby seen in episode #1003 "The Accidental Occidental Conception."

The Middleman looks ahead to see the reception desk, still manned by the PERSNICKETY CLERK also seen in episode #1003.

CHYRON: THE UNDERWORLD - TIME HAS NO MEANING OR RELEVANCE.

THE MIDDLEMAN
(to Persnickety Desk
Clerk)
Am I...dead?

PERSNICKETY DESK CLERK
Oh, let me see...walking...
talking...don't look dead to me.

THE MIDDLEMAN
But I'm not carrying the Scythe of
Muadru.*

**CHYRON: *The Scythe of Muadru is required for mortals
travelling the underworld, Episode #1003 - ed.**

PERSNICKETY DESK CLERK
Yes, well...we've done away with
that ungainly thing...here's
version two-point-oh.

(CONTINUED)

The Desk Clerk hands over a BADGE -

- it reads UNDERWORLD VISITOR and has a picture of The Middleman. *

The Middleman clips the badge to his chest pocket, and then...

RAVEENA RAO'S VOICE *
I hoped this day would never
come...

The Middleman turns to see Raveena Rao - a beautiful, tall and athletic black woman in her mid-thirties, dressed in an Eisenhower jacket and tie... *

...a Middleman.

THE MIDDLEMAN *
Raveena Rao?

RAVEENA RAO *
Hello, Clarence Colton.

Yup. That's his name. "Clarence Colton." Drink it in. It always goes down smooth.

RAVEENA RAO (CONT'D) *
You sure made a mess of this one.

THE MIDDLEMAN
What happened to the Power of Chac-Mol? Is everything fixed up in my world?

And off the question...

CUT TO

INT. POLYDITETRAHEXAMONO-TRIOCTALON CHAMBER - DAY

Manservant Neville...who now wears priestly robes, approaches menacingly...

MANSERVANT NEVILLE
The power of Chac-Mol has failed!
The Middleman is dead, and you are
all that remains!

CLOSE UP ON WENDY

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WENDY

You murdered my boyfriend...
destroyed my workplace...trapped
Noser in a giant diamond...gave
best friend Lacey leukemia...and
did god knows what to the only
father figure I've ever known...

WIDER TO REVEAL

That Wendy is standing atop an altar, wearing a Princess Leia-like slave-girl costume, shackled by her wrists and a neck chain to an ornate sacrificial pole!

WENDY (CONT'D)

...and the worst you could think to
do to me was put me in a slave girl
costume?

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

This is merely the beginning!

WENDY

Whatever, pinhead!
(then)
You wanna make me the star in your
little homemade Hentai fanvid, suit
yourself, but stop wasting my time
with the monologues.

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

Animated Japanese Erotica is the
last thing in my vast and god-like
cranium, Wendy Watson...from this
sacrificial altar, you will bear
witness to my master stroke...

(with crowing grandeur)

...if you could see with my eyes,
you would know that this world is
much too sick to live...there is no
fixing it, no way to bring about
perfection but to will it to become
the only truly flawless thing in
all of creation.

(then)

A void.

WENDY

You're going to destroy everything?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

Not destroy - purify! Cleanse the
corruption of mankind's wasteful
ways and bring about a singular
darkness of adamantine simplicity!

(then)

Nothing personal.

And off Wendy...

INT. UNDERWORLD - TIME HAS NO MEANING OR RELEVANCE

THE MIDDLEMAN

Raveena...I need to know why I was
brought here.

*

RAVEENA RAO

Time has no meaning or relevance in
the underworld, Clarence
Colton...won't you at least let me
look at you?

*

Raveena puts her hands on The Middleman's shoulders, sizing
him up. She clearly loves him and is happy to see him.

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

I need to know if everyone up
there...in my world...is safe...

*

TAMARA TARLOW

You look so different. So...clean
cut.

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

When you died...I swore an oath. I
cleaned up and took a uniform like
yours.

RAVEENA RAO

You wear it better than old Dwight
D. ever did.

*

THE MIDDLEMAN

(a smile)

Please. You worshipped that man.

RAVEENA RAO

He wasn't the only one.
(off his look)
And what did you hope to gain from
your promise?

*

(CONTINUED)

THE MIDDLEMAN
The chance to see you again.

RAVEENA RAO *
Just when you were getting over
me...

THE MIDDLEMAN
I don't think I could ever -

RAVEENA RAO *
It's OK, Clarence Colton...I had
always hoped you'd let yourself
love again, I'm glad you found
someone.
(taking his hand)
It seems cruel that the power of
Chac-Mol brought you here.

THE MIDDLEMAN
Can you tell me why?

RAVEENA RAO *
Honey, you called down the power of
the Mayan Goddess of thunder and
rain as a weapon of last
resort...that doesn't happen
without a cost...
(then)
...there's an Ultimate Sacrifice to
be made.

THE MIDDLEMAN
I'm ready to make it.

RAVEENA RAO *
You always were such a fine man. So
decent...even when you had that
mullet.

THE MIDDLEMAN *
You liked the mullet.

RAVEENA RAO *
I'm sorry it came to this. You
deserve better.

THE MIDDLEMAN
Deserve's not a factor. The job is
the job...you taught me that.

RAVEENA RAO *
I wish I hadn't.

Raveena turns to face an elevator door... *

...which opens with a DING!

RAVEENA RAO (CONT'D) *
This way, Clarence Colton.

INT. POLYDITETRAHEXAMONO-TRIOCTALON CHAMBER - DAY

Fatboy Stormtroopers and Scientists (the same plastic heads on lab-coated men) work feverishly while Manservant Neville lords over them.

MANSERVANT NEVILLE
Increase energy to the psychotronic
transmission field! I must have
full power to bring about my great
work!

And as Manservant Neville monologues...

WENDY

...picks the lock on the shackle holding her to the altar...

MANSERVANT NEVILLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Together we will bring about a
final solution of brilliance...

...Wendy's shackle SNAPS!

MANSERVANT NEVILLE (CONT'D)
...that will purge this diseased
world of the plague of humanity!

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

...turns to see Wendy slipping away...

MANSERVANT NEVILLE (CONT'D)
Stop!

...then outstretches his hand and...

ZAP!

A bolt of lightning from Manservant Neville's hand hits Wendy, who falls to the ground with a SHRIEK!

Then as he KEEPS ZAPPING her...causing her ever escalating levels of pain...and, yes, causing her skeleton to be seen through her skin on occasion:

(CONTINUED)

MANSERVANT NEVILLE (CONT'D)

Your feeble skills are no match for
the power of the
Polyditetrahexamono-Trioctalon!

(ZAP!)

You will pay the price for your
lack of vision!

WENDY

(in excruciating pain)

Shut the [BLEEP!] up and kill me,
Palpatine!

Like I said. No resemblance.

Anyway...Manservant Neville makes up his mind to oblige...

...he rears back, his hands bristling with power...UNLIMITED
POWER...

...and as he leans forward about to deliver the death blow...

CRASH!

...all eyes go to the ceiling...

...where a now-familiar elevator BREAKS through the roof...

...and SLAMS onto the floor of the Polyditetrahexamono-
Trioctalon chamber!

The elevator door opens to reveal The Middleman and Raveena Rao!

*
*

THE MIDDLEMAN

Villain! Your reign of terror ends
now!

Wendy looks up and smiles.

Manservant Neville glares, the infernal energy cycling around
his clenched fists!

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

Do you truly believe this is all it
will take to stop me?

The Middleman smiles...

...then raises a bugle to his lips (The Middleman's bugle was
first established in episode #1006 "The Boy Band Superfan
Interrogation") and BLARES!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AND DOZENS OF ELEVATORS CRASH THROUGH THE CEILING!

THE MIDDLEMAN

Manservant Neville - behold my
army!

SLAM! SLAM! SLAM! SLAM! The elevators land on the floor -
their doors opening to REVEAL -

- Middlemen, hundreds of them from every era imaginable -
there's the three we have already established in the *Legends
of the Middleman* spin-off (Barbarian Middleman, Victorian
Middleman and World War Two Middleman and The Middleboy) -

- and many, many more - of every race, gender, creed and
color - Medieval Middleman, Caveman Middleman, Conquistador
Middleman, Civil War Middleman, Roman Middleman, Renaissance
Middleman, Samurai Middleman, Zulu Middleman, Amazon
Middleman...

...even Guy Goddard (from episode #1009 "The Obsolescent
Cryogenic Meltdown") is there...

...and they are all identifiable as Middlemen because in some
way, all their uniforms match the color and geometry of the
classic Eisenhower jacket Middleman uniform!

THE MIDDLEMAN (CONT'D)

A thousand fallen Middlemen, heroes
all - brought back from a plane of
existence your demonic powers
cannot control!

The Middleman all draw their weapons and aim at Manservant
Neville!

MANSERVANT NEVILLE

Fools! I will destroy you all!

Manservant Neville releases his lightning!

THE MIDDLEMAN

FIRE!

The Middlemen all FIRE at once - a fusillade that meets
Manservant Neville's own salvo -

- and ANNIHILATES IT!

Manservant Neville is CONSUMED in a ball of fire from the
Middleweapons and his repelled energy field...

(CONTINUED)

...which engulfs him and all of his minions in a painful eruption of divine retribution!

MANSERVANT NEVILLE
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRRRGH!

Manservant Neville dies...painfully.

THE GATHERED MIDDLEMEN CHEER!

RAVEENA RAO *
The day is ours!

WENDY

Looks up to see The Middleman's hand...reaching into frame to help her up. *

Wendy grabs in him a grateful embrace. *

THE MIDDLEMAN
Sorry I'm late. *

WENDY
I had it handled.

THE MIDDLEMAN
I know.

WENDY
You better.

THE MIDDLEMAN
Nice outfit.
(then)
Steel bra's a bit much.

WENDY
Shut up. *

THE MIDDLEMAN
Wendy, this is Raveena Rao. *

RAVEENA RAO *
(re: the slave girl outfit)
If I had a nickel for every time I wound up in slave girl outfit...
(of Wendy)
...you will be a wonderful Middleman.

CONTINUED: (4)

WENDY

Thanks...but...

(the)

...wait a minute - what do you mean

- I'll be a wonderful Middleman.

RAVEENA RAO *

Someone has to take Manservant
Neville's place up there...set the
world straight and destroy the
Polyitetrahexamono-Trioctalon.

(then)

Someone strong, someone who can
resist the temptation of unlimited
power.

(then)

It's all up to you now, Clarence
Colton.

THE MIDDLEMAN

I understand.

WENDY

Clarence? That's your name?

Clarence?

The Middleman offers her a shrug.

THE MIDDLEMAN

I have to go.

WENDY

So this is it? The Ultimate
Sacrifice?

TAMARA TARLOW *

It is.

WENDY *

No!

THE MIDDLEMAN

It's the price I have to pay.

(a beat, then)

There's something that was once
said to me...by a very great man.

(then)

"There must be no regrets. No
tears. No anxieties. Just go
forward in all your beliefs, and
prove to me that I am not mistaken
in mine."

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

THE MIDDLEMAN (CONT'D)
(then)
Good-bye, Wendy.

...he TURNS TO GO...

...and as he walks up the long steps to the dais before the Polyditetrahexamono-Triotalon...

...Wendy turns to Raveena Rao... *

WENDY
You take care of Clarence.

RAVEENA RAO
The great thing about Clarence is,
he'll take care of all of us. *

The Middleman turns to face the chamber...raises his arms...

...and is ENGULFED BY A CELESTIAL LIGHT!

SMASH CUT TO

THE EARTH'S ORBIT

As all the uMasters un-network...their beams of light ceasing...their glow diminishing...

..and as they SPEED BACK DOWN TO EARTH...

THE MIDDLEMAN

...stands god-like on the dais...

...surrounded by floating uMasters against the epic background of the Polyditetrahexamono-Triotalon and the foreground of an army of Middlemen!

ANGLE ON WENDY

Alone in the frame...a tear welling in her eye...

WENDY
Good-bye.

THE PAGE FADES TO BLACK

A SINGLE SPEECH BALLOON APPEARS IN THE DARKNESS

THE MIDDLEMAN (O.S.)
Jeepers, Dubbie! That was one hum-
dingerly weird day!

FADE IN

INT. WENDY & LACEY'S LOFT - HALLWAY - DAY

The Middleman opens the elevator cage door to usher Wendy into the hallway.

CHYRON: CORRIDOR TO THE ILLEGAL SUBLET WENDY SHARES WITH ANOTHER YOUNG, PHOTOGENIC ARTIST - 5:30 P.M. THE NEXT DAY.

THE MIDDLEMAN

Wasn't it?

(off her look)

A hum-dingingly weird day?

WENDY

What the [BLEEP]? What are we doing here? What's going on?

THE MIDDLEMAN

I'm just walking you home after a tough and challenging day at our very eclectic workplace.

*

WENDY

Did you set the world straight?

NOSER (O.S.)

Yo Wendy Watson.

Wendy looks over to see Noser...

...sitting at his usual spot, strumming his guitar.

WENDY

Hey Noser.

NOSER

You know what I see?

WENDY

Trees of green?

NOSER

Red roses too.

Wendy takes a moment to ponder this - as a smile spreads across her face:

WENDY

It is a wonderful world.

(CONTINUED)

NOSER

That's what I say to myself.

Wendy turns to The Middleman.

WENDY

But you're here. What about the
Ultimate Sacrifice?

THE MIDDLEMAN

It's been taken care of.

That's when the door to Wendy's loft opens...and Lacey
BARRELS out, grabbing Wendy by the arm:

LACEY

Wendy! Where have you been?

WENDY

Uh - at work -

LACEY

Well, you better get your butt in
here and get ready...Tyler's record
release party is in like ninety
minutes and we're going to be late!

WENDY

Tyler's record release?!?

TYLER (O.S.)

Hello! Earth to Wendy Watson!

Wendy looks over to see Tyler, alive and smiling - and
completely unaware of any of the events of this story -
stepping up:

WENDY

Tyler! You're - you're -

TYLER

A major label recording artist
who's about to miss his debut
because his girlfriend's a raging
workaholic? Yes, I am!

She throws her arms around him - shocked -

WENDY

I love you Tyler Ford.

CONTINUED: (2)

TYLER

I love you too Wendy Watson...

(then)

...I keep thinking that I if hadn't followed your advice and taken that job with Fatboy Industries, I never would have gotten my big break.

*

LACEY

Hey. I hate to break up the romance novel but Perfect Warren's going to be here any minute and -

WENDY

Perfect Warren?

LACEY

- did you get hit on the head or something? That boy is perfect.

(re: The Middleman)

And who is this guy?

And that's when Wendy does a double-take: realizing what's going on here.

*

WENDY

That's...uh...Lacey...that's my boss.

(off Lacey)

Pillow Lips? Sexy-Bossman?

LACEY

Right. Whatever...

(to The Middleman)

...look, it's nice to finally meet you, Wendy's boss...

WENDY

You two never met?

LACEY

No, I've never met him, why would I?

(to The Middleman)

But I gotta put my foot down anyway - she can't do any more work today, this is a huge night for Wendy and her boyfriend and for me and my boyfriend and we -

THE MIDDLEMAN

It's OK. I was just leaving.

(then, to Wendy)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

THE MIDDLEMAN (CONT'D)

I'll see you tomorrow. You'll find
your job right where it was...just
like everything else.

Lacey turns her back on The Middleman, ushering Wendy into
the loft...

LACEY

So, just this morning...Perfect
Warren found this bio-diesel-
powered limousine that we're all
going to ride into the party and...

Wendy turns to look back...her face full of sorrow and
gratitude...knowing everything that her boss gave up for them
all to be here...

AND SEES THE MIDDLEMAN

...walking down the hallway, standing straight, holding his
head up high...a man who tonight will sleep the sleep of the *
just knowing that he did the right thing by the world... *

...and for a moment, The Middleman is etched against the *
evening light...a shadow surrounded by light. *

Her hero.

Our hero.

END OF SEASON ONE

*

(CONTINUED)

THE MIDDLEMAN TABLE READ CREDITS: *

The Middleman was more-often-than-not directed by Jeremiah *
Chechik *

This series-ending final episode was written by Hans Beimler *
and myself, Javier Grillo-Marxuach *

The writers of The Middleman are: *

Margaret Dunlap *

Jordan Rosenberg *

Andy Reaser *

Sarah Watson *

The pure, unadulterated Evil of Manservant Neville was *
brought to life by mark Sheppard... *

The sweet, musical Zen of Mister Noser was interpreted by *
Jake Smollett... *

The cranky-but-lovable robot stylings of Ida were brought to *
life by Mary pat Gleason... *

The stalwart romantic idealism of Lacey Thornfield could only *
be essayed by Britt Morgan... *

The plucky, snarky, geeky heroism of Wendy Watson is *
something that would not exist on god's earth without Natalie *
Morales... *

...and finally, the only man alive strong enough to bring you *
the squarejawed heroics of The Middleman is, of course, Matt *
Keeslar! *

*