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Videodrome

By David Cronenberg

Civic TV...

the one you take to bed with you.

Max, it's that time again:

Time to slowly, painfully
ease yourself back into consciousness.

No, I'm not a dream...

although I've been told

I'm a vision of loveliness.

Who told you that?

I'm nothing less than

your faithful Girl Friday, Bridey James...

here with your wake-up call of today,

which is Wednesday the 23rd.

You got that?

Wednesday the 23rd.

And I have a message.

Remember your meeting this morning at 6:30...

with Shinji Kuraki of Hiroshima Video.

This meeting is to take place...

at the Classic Hotel, suite 17.

And needless to say,

it's your first of the day.

Don't you know anyone

who works 9:

Over and out, Commander.

Civic TV,

the one you take to bed with you.

- Cindy, open the door, will ya?

- Go away.

Come on. You know I love ya.

- Get outta here!

- Will you open the door?

For fuck's sake, open the door!

I want you out of this place!

For fuck's sake, open the door!

You just gotta open

the fucking door!

Well, I looked over the stills.

I am interested a little bit.

- How many shows you got?

- Thirteen.

With a possibility of another six

if the sales go well.

- You got cassettes?
- Of course.
No, hold it.
Uh, show me the last one.
Number 13.
But you won't understand anything.
Everything is set up in the first two.
My audience ain't gonna see
the first two shows. Show me the last one.
What do you think?
Can we get away with it?
Do we wanna get away with it?
I think Oriental sex is a natural.
I think it'll get us an audience
we've never had before.
I don't like it.
It's not tacky enough.
- Not tacky enough for what?
- Tacky enough to turn me on.
Too much class. Bad for sex.
Maybe.
I don't know.
It's soft.
Something too...
soft about it.
I'm lookin' for something that'll
break through, you know? Something...
tough.
Hey, Harlan, uh - Huh?
Oh. Okay.
Here we go.
Now, it'll come through on that.
Now, we only got about 53 seconds,
so keep your eyes open.
They've got an unscrambler scrambler,
if you know what I mean.
It sensed that we were unscrambling...
and, uh, automatically
changed its code on us.
What satellite is it coming from?
- Snooker, I think.
- Country of origin?
Uh, let me see. Uh -
Assuming 53 seconds

represents the period of delay...
I'd say somewhere, uh...
in Malaysia?
Okay, here we go.
This is it.
What is that wall behind her?
What is that, clay?
Yeah. Wet clay.
I think it's electrified.
That's it?
That's it.
Grotesque, as promised.
Okay. Can you hang a search on it
next time it -
Already workin' on it.
I was pretty insulted when it just
shrugged us off in less than a minute.
Well, patrnr, interested?
Yeah. Harlan, can you do something
about these labels?
I mean, uh, this is supposed to be
a clandestine operation, you know?
S, patrnr.
You always find yourself
getting nervous...
even if you've been doing it
all your life, don't you think?
Oh, yeah. Oh, for sure.
- Course, that's part of the excitement of it.
- Mm-hmm.
Want a smoke?
No, thanks.
- Max, just relax.
- Okay.
And now here it is: The Rena King Show.
And this afternoon,
Rena's guests are Max Renn...
controversial president of Channel 83,
radio personality Nicki Brand...
and media prophet
Professor Brian O'Blivion.
Take it away, Rena.
Max Renn...
your television station

offers its viewers...

everything

from soft-core pornography...

to hard-core violence.

- Why?

- Well, it's a matter of economics, Rena.

We're, uh, small.

In order to survive, we have to give people something they can't get anywhere else...

and, uh - and we do that.

But don't you feel

such shows contribute...

to a social climate of violence

and sexual malaise?

- And do you care?

- Certainly, I care.

I care enough, in fact,

to give my viewers a -

a harmless outlet for their fantasies

and their frustrations.

As far as I'm concerned,

that's a socially positive act.

What about it, Nicki?

Is it socially positive?

Well, I think we live

in overstimulated times.

We crave stimulation

for its own sake.

We gorge ourselves on it.

We always want more, whether

it's tactile, emotional or sexual...

and I think that's bad.

Then why did you wear that dress?

- Sorry?

- That dress.

It's very stimulating, and-and it's red.

You know what Freud would

have said about that dress.

And he would've been right.

I admit it.

I live in a highly excited

state of overstimulation.

Listen, I'd really like to take you

out to dinner tonight.

- Professor O'Blivion.

- What do you think?

Do you think erotic TV shows
and violent TV shows...
lead to desensitization...
to dehumanization?

The television screen has become
the retina of the mind's eye.

Yes.

That's why I refuse
to appear on television...
except on television.

Of course, O'Blivion is not
the name I was born with.

That's my television name.

Soon all of us
will have special names...
names designed to cause
the cathode ray tube to resonate.

- Yes.

- Yes, I am. Very interested.

Nicki, is Max Renn
a menace to society?

I'm not sure.

He's certainly a menace to me.

When does the plot,
uh, start to unravel here?

I mean, who is this black guy?

Is he a political prisoner?

There's no plot.

It just goes on like that for an hour.

- Goes on like what?

- Like that.

Torture, murder...

Mutilation.

- We never leave that room?

- Nope.

- It's a real sicko.

- Brilliant.

- For perverts only.

- It's absolutely brilliant.

I mean, look, there's almost
no production costs.

You can't take your eyes off it.

It's incredibly realistic.
Where do they get actors
who can do this?
- Oh, help me. I think he wants it.
- Come on.
It's worth checking out.
Did you have any trouble
locking onto it this time?
Not after I realized
the Malaysia delay was a plant.
- It's not coming from Malaysia?
- You can't fool the Prince of Pirates for long.
Har- Harlan,
where is it coming from?
Pittsburgh.
That's in the U.S.A.
Pittsburgh?
Pittsburgh.
Get professional help.
But it's not me. It's my sister.
It's not your sister.
It's you, lover.
Can't you tell?
Isn't that why you called me?
You want help.
You need help.
You're going insane. I can hear you
disintegrating while you talk to me.
I've got your number, haven't I?
I hate my sister.
I don't want to.
It's ripping me up inside.
But I do. I do.
Will you call our Distress Center?
Will you call
the CRAM Distress Center?
They'll tell you where
to get help, lover.
And you need it.
You need it now.
I will. I will.
Oh, thank you, Nicki.
We'll return to Nicki Brand...
and the Emotional Rescue show

in just a moment.
This is CRAM in Toronto,
and we've got the weather for you.
- Got any porno?
- You serious?
Yeah.
Gets me in the mood.
What's this? "Videodrome."
Torture, murder.
Sounds great.
Ain't exactly sex.
Says who?
- God, I can't believe it.
- I'll turn it off.
No, no, no. It's okay.
I can take it.
Can you get it any clearer?
It's a pirate tape.
They scramble it.
I like it.
- Yeah?
- Yeah, it turns me on.
Take out your Swiss Army knife
and cut me here...
just -just a little.
Looks like somebody's
beat me to it.
I wonder how you get
to be a contestant on this show.
I don't know. Nobody ever
seems to come back next week.
What did you say happened
to your shoulder?
A friend.
I think he'd like Videodrome.
- You let somebody cut you?
- Uh-huh.
What do you think?
Well, I-I don't know.
You wanna try a few things?
Oh.
Oh.
Max, thank God. Masha Borowczyk
has been in your office for an hour.

- Masha.
- What were you doing last night?
- Didn't you get my message?
- I don't think I'm ready for this.
- Coffee. Cigarette. Office. Masha. Go.
- All right. Masha.
She's hot to trot.
I call it...
Apollo and Dionysus.
Masha, does it ever get good?
It's all good.
Darling...
I am looking
for something a lot more...
contemporary.
I want something that's gonna show people
what's really goin' on under the sheets.
This stuff is too - It's too naive.
It's too sweet, like you, darling.
Well, it's your market.
Do you know a show
called Videodrome?
- Video-what?
- D-R-O-M-E.
Videodrome,
like video circus, video arena.
- You know it?
- No.
It's just torture and murder.
No plot, no characters.
Very, very realistic.
I think it's what's next.
Then God help us.
Better on TV than on the street.
Arnold on line three.
You interested in, uh,
tracking it down for me?
I'll see that you get
the agent's commission.
I'm interested.
Let me try.
Max...
did you ever think...
of producing your own show?

Right here?

I could be your agent...

worldwide.

I could sell subterranean

for you everywhere.

- No, I don't have the temperament.

- But if you did...

what kind of show would you do?

I mean,

for the subterranean market.

Would you do... Videodrome?

Max.

- Mm-hmm.

- I'm goin'away tomorrow for two weeks...

on assignment.

Guess where?

L.A.

- Pittsburgh.

- Fabulous.

Don't stay in the sun too long.

I hear it's bad for the skin.

Oh, come on.

Isn't that where they make Videodrome?

Yeah. Why?

I'm gonna audition.

I was made for that show.

Nobody on earth

was made for that show.

Hey. Listen to me.

- Listen to me.

- What?

I want you to stay away from it.

Those mondo weirdo video guys,

they've got unsavory connections.

They play rough, rougher than

even Nicki Brand wants to play.

Do you understand me?

Sounds like a challenge.

Got a cigarette?

It's not a challenge.

I swear. You know, in Brazil,

Central America, those kinds of places...

making underground video

is considered a subversive act.

They execute people for it.

In Pittsburgh, who knows?

Max.

Nicki, don't!

Nicki, don't.

Don't.

- Do you have a hangover?

- No. Stayed up late watching TV.

Did you get in touch
with our friends in Pittsburgh?

In a way.

At a distance.

- Subterranean grapevine.

- And?

Max...

Videodrome is something
for you to leave alone.

It is definitely not
for public consumption.

Channel 83 is
a little small to be considered public.

It is still too public.

- Do you understand me?

- No. What's the punch line?

I think it's dangerous, Max,
Videodrome.

- Why? It's Mafia? They do business.

- No, no.

It's more, um -

How can I say?

More political than that.

- Come on, Masha. What are we talkin' about?

- Videodrome.

What you see on that show...

it's for real.

It's not acting.

It's snuffTV.

I don't believe it.

So don't believe.

Why do it for real?

It's easier and safer to fake it.

Because it has something...

that you don't have, Max.

It has a philosophy...

- and that is what makes it dangerous.
- Whose philosophy?
There must be a name.
Give me a name I can talk to.
Masha, Masha, you know me.
I stay away from the scary stuff.
Max...
you are going to have to
be nice to me for this.
We can take a shower together,
anytime you say.
I'm sure you would be
very beautiful...
but, uh, you're a little older
than I prefer.
Thank you...
so much.
Sell me a name...
and I'll make Apollo and Dionysus
part of the package.
That hurts me, Max.
Hey, the world's
a shithole, ain't it?
Yes, Max.
It is.
Brian O'Blivion.
That is the only name
I have to give.
Professor Brian O'Blivion.
Wait, where you goin'? Come back here.
Hey. Hey, buddy. Got a fag?
- Are they goin'in now?
- Got a cigarette?
- Gotta have a smoke and a cup of coffee.
- Wait a minute.
They don't serve coffee there.
They just serve piss water.
I don't need to put up
with this shit. I'm a young woman.
Take a good look at me.
I'm a good-lookin'woman. I got nice tits.
Let's go.
Hello. Move along.
Move out of my way!

Hello.

Straight down the hallway.

Keep on.

Straight down the hallway.

Keep going, keep going.

Come on. Step along.

- Bianca O'Blivion?

- Yes.

I'm Max Renn. I, uh -

I run Civic TV.

I did a panel show with Prof. O'Blivion.

The Rena King Show.

Oh, yes. You said some
very superficial things.

Violence, sex, imagination, catharsis.

- My exact words.

- What do you want?

I wanna talk with your father...

about a new twist in video

that he may not be aware of.

I love the view.

You look like them,

like one of Father's derelicts.

Think it's a style that's coming back.

In their case, Mr. Renn,

it's not a style.

It's a disease forced on them by their
lack of access to the cathode ray tube.

You think a few doses of TV

are gonna help them?

Watching TV will help patch them

back into the world's mixing board.

Absolutely.

And I guess you encourage Father's derelicts
to make home movies?

The world's mixing board?

Professor O'Blivion sends video letters
all over the world.

- Is the Professor here?

- I am my father's screen.

Once you've told me what this visit is all
about, he may choose to send you a cassette.

If he does, which format
would you like?

If he does, it's gonna
make conversation a little difficult.
My father has not engaged in conversation
for at least 20 years.
The monologue
is his preferred mode of discourse.
Format.
Videodrome.
Is that a Japanese configuration?
- You've never heard of it?
- No.
Then there have been serious gaps
in your education.
Videodrome.
Mention it to your father.
He may want to have a conversation.
I love the view.
Torture, murder, mutilation.
Videodrome.
What you see on that show...
it's for real.
I'm gonna audition.
I was made for that show.
It has something
that you don't have, Max.
It has a philosophy,
and that is what makes it dangerous.
Hi. This is
your wake-up cassette...
and this came to the office
for you by courier.
- What did they say at CRAM?
- They said that Nicki Brand...
is definitely not
on assignment for them.
She had a month off coming.
She decided to take it now...
Don't touch that!
Jesus, Max, you scared me.
What the hell's wrong with you?
I don't know, man. I think I'm gettin',
like, a rash or somethin'.
- Uh -
- What?

Are you all right?
Bridey, I didn't mean to hit you.
Hit me?
You didn't hit me.
No? No.
No, I know I didn't hit you. I meant -
Do you want me to stay here?
- Uh -
- You look awful.
- Can I get you something?
- Uh, no, uh -
No, I'm just, uh -
Uh, I'm -
I'm exhausted.
I was in a deep sleep when you knocked...
and I guess I'm still not out of it.
I'll remember to set the timer.
Don't worry.
- You're sure? Are you sure?
- I'm sure. Yeah.
Thanks, Bridey.
Tomorrow.
Max, that other cassette
is from the office of Brian O'Blivion.
I promised
I'd hand-deliver it directly to you.
Will you call me
if you need me?
The battle for the mind
of North America...
will be fought in the video arena:
The Videodrome.
The television screen
is the retina of the mind's eye.
Therefore, the television screen is part
of the physical structure of the brain.
Therefore, whatever appears
on the television screen...
emerges as raw experience
for those who watch it.
Therefore, television is reality...
and reality is less than television.
Max.
I'm so glad you came to me.

I've been through it all
myself, you see.
Your reality is already
half video hallucination.
If you're not careful,
it will become total hallucination.
You'll have to learn to live
in a very strange new world.
I had a brain tumor...
and I had visions.
I believed the visions
caused the tumor...
and not the reverse.
I could feel the visions
coalesce and become flesh.
Uncontrollable flesh.
But when they removed the tumor...
it was called Videodrome.
I was the -
L- I...
was Videodrome's...
first victim.
But who's behind it?
What do they want?
I want you, Max.
You.
Come to me.
Come to Nicki.
Come on.
Don't make me wait.
Please.
I want you, Max.
You.
Come on.
Come on.
Come to me now.
Come to Nicki.
Don't keep me waiting.
Please.
Please.
Today Lady Luck
may smile on these four players...
and start them on the road
to \$ 12,000-

We have a new group of people
coming in this afternoon...

- so tell the staff about that.

- All right. Good.

Exciting. Very lively.

Careful. It bites.

- You watched the cassette?

- Yeah.

- And?

- It changed my life.

I'm not surprised.

It's dangerous, you know.

Because your father admits

he's somehow involved with Videodrome?

More than that. It bites.

Isn't that what you said?

What kind of teeth

do you think it has?

It triggered off a series of hallucinations.

I woke up with a headache.

- First time ever?

- No, I-I've been hallucinating for a while...

- ever since -

- What?

Since I first saw Videodrome.

How did you come

to be exposed to it?

Pirate satellite dish.

A- An accident.

I made some tapes.

This is part of my own

Videodrome collection.

But that tape is just your father

sitting at his desk.

The tone of the hallucinations is determined

by the tone of the tape's imagery.

But the Videodrome signal,

the one that does the damage...

it can be delivered

under a test pattern, anything.

Mmm.

Damage?

The signal induces

a brain tumor in the viewer.

It's the tumor that creates
the hallucinations.
You let me watch it?
I expect them to come to me eventually
to hurt me. I thought it might be you.
Now I realize you're
just another victim...
like Father was.
Where is your father?
I think I'd better talk to him.
He's in there.
I'm afraid he'll disappoint you.
This is him.
- This is all that's left.
- What are you talking about?
Brian O'Blivion died quietly
on an operating table 11 months ago.
- The brain problem?
- The Videodrome problem.
- You have it too.
- But he was on that panel show with me.
On tape.
He made thousands of them.
Sometimes three or four a day.
I keep him alive as best I can.
He had so much to offer.
My father helped
to create Videodrome.
He saw it as the next phase in the evolution
of man as a technological animal.
When he realized what his partners
were going to use it for...
he tried to take it
away from them.
And they killed him.
Quietly.
At the end, he was convinced
that public life on television...
was more real than
private life in the flesh.
He wasn't afraid
to let his body die.
Tell me about
my Videodrome problem.

My father knows much more
about it than I do.

Listen to him.

Where's Harlan?

He's not in the lab.

- I think he's up in V.T.R. Max -

- Not now.

- Harlan.

- S, patrnr.

Have you been hallucinating lately?

No.

- Should I be?

- Yes.

You should be.

I believe...

that the growth in my head -

this head, this one right here -

I think that it is not

really a tumor...

not an uncontrolled,

undirected little bubbling pot offlesh...

but that it is in fact...

a new organ...

a new part of the brain.

I think that massive doses

of Videodrome signal...

will ultimately create

a new outgrowth...

of the human brain...

which will produce

and control hallucination...

to the point that it will

change human reality.

After all, there is nothing real...

outside our perception of reality...

is there?

You can see that, can't you?

- Max Renn?

- Yes.

Who is this?

Barry Convex would like to talk

to you about Videodrome.

I've got a car waiting

downstairs for you, sir.

Please direct your attention to
the television set in front of you, Mr. Renn.
Mr. Convex has recorded
a little introduction for you.
Hi, I'm Barry Convex,
Chief of Special Programs...
and I'd like to invite you
into the world of Spectacular Optical...
an enthusiastic global corporate citizen.
We make inexpensive glasses
for the Third World...
and missile guidance systems for NATO.
We also make Videodrome, Max...
and as I'm sure you know...
when it's ready for the marketplace,
things will never be quite the same again.
It can be a giant hallucination machine
and much, much more.
But it's not ready.
Those were test transmissions you picked up.
We thought nobody
could tap into them.
He's good, that Harlan.
Good pirate.
Well, now that you have...
I think we oughta have
a little talk, don't you?
I thought maybe... my place?
I hope you realize
you're playing with dynamite.
That's our spring line.
Top secret stuff.
I brought it with me for a trade show
here in town later this week.
Max Renn, I'm Barry Convex.
I -
I think that machinery
you're wearing is...
too much for the shape of your face.
Overwhelms you.
Try something more, uh, spidery...
more delicate.
Here she is.
This is our prototype.

This is the little number
that started it all.

Max...

I would like you
to try this on for size.

I would like to use this machine
to record one of your hallucinations now.

Then I would like to take that tape
back with me to home base for analysis.

Do I get to keep the copyright?

I mean, I'd hate to see it show up as
a Movie of the Week and not get paid for it.

Max, I'm trying to help you.

What makes you think

I need help, Barry?

None of our test subjects
has returned to... normality.

They're all in need
of intensive psychiatric care.

Now, you seem
to be functioning reasonably well...
so far.

I'd like to find out why...
and I think an analysis
of one of your hallucinations...
would be the right place to start.

Will it hurt?

It won't hurt you.

You might catch yourself
sliding in and out...

of a hallucinatory state
after this is all over.

If you do, just relax and enjoy it.

It'll soon go away.

But for now, I think that
you'll find a little S-and-M...
will be necessary to trigger off
a good, healthy series of hallucinations.
That's why our Videodrome show is so strange.
Something to do with the effects of exposure
to violence on the nervous system.

It opens up receptors
in the brain and the spine...
and that allows

the Videodrome signal to sink in.
You mean I'm gonna have
to hurt you, Barry?
'Fraid not. You don't have
to actually hurt anybody.
You just have to think about it.
Wha-a-a -That's too bright!
I can't take it!
- Yes! I forgot! Sorry! How's that?
- Shit.
Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, that's fine.
Okay, we're rolling.
The taping mechanism
is all self-contained.
You don't have to do
anything now but hallucinate.
Yeah. Yeah. Okay.
I'll come back for you later.
You'll forgive me if I don't
stay around to watch.
I just can't cope with the freaky stuff.
Nicki?
- Nicki.
- Well, here we are at last...
right where we oughta be:
On Videodrome.
What are you waiting for, lover?
Let's perform.
Let's open those neural floodgates.
Aah!
Aah!
Aah!
Aah!
Aah!
Aah!
What's going on, Professor O'Blivion?
I mean, really.
Oh.
Oh, Masha.
Harlan...
it's Max.
Can you come over to my apartment?
Right away.
Yeah, I'm serious.
- Come on in.

- Well, here I am, patrnr.
Camera. Flashgun. What's up?
You wanna be a centerfold?
I want you to go
into my bedroom...
and I want you to take a look
at what's in my bed.
Uncover it. Don't be shy.
I want pictures.
- Pictures of what's in your bed?
- Yeah. Do it.
Sure. Okay.
Oh, God.
Well?
Max.
I don't see anything.
You didn't just want me to shoot
your bed, pillows, sheets...
did you?
- It's disa -
- Max, are you in some kind of drug warp?
I've got friends who can help.
Bridey said she came by
a couple of days ago. You were-
Did you tape Videodrome
last night?
If it was transmitted,
the machine would've caught it.
I'll meet you in the lab in one hour.
I wanna see it.
- Jeez, it's not even 7:00 a.m.
- I'm not fucking around! Do you understand?
Well, fuck you. I'm not some fucking
servomechanism you can switch on.
You want me to run around like an asshole,
tell me what I'm doing it for.
Otherwise, I'll see you
during office hours, patrnr.
Harlan... you're right.
It's momentum. I'm runnin' like an express
train here. I don't know how to stop.
Look, I'll meet you
in the lab in one hour.
Okay? And then we'll see if we pulled in

any Videodrome last night...
and I'll tell you what's going on.
Everything. I promise.
Okay?
Okay. I'm sorry
if I freaked out on you.
- I don't work with you for the money.
- I know that.
With pirates, it's never
just for the money, is it?
You want a cup of coffee- No, look.
I'll meet you in the lab in an hour.
Come on in.
Did you look at the tape?
- Did you see me on Videodrome?
- There was no tape.
There was no Videodrome
transmission last night?
Not last night.
- Aw, fuck!
- Not ever.
What -What are you talking about?
I'm out of my depth now, pattern.
I had to bring in the reinforcements.
Max.
An intriguing combination.
Very interesting.
- Don't let me interrupt.
- I think I was saying something like...
"What are you talking about?"
I was playing you tapes, Max.
Prerecorded cassettes.
Videodrome has never been transmitted
on an open broadcast circuit.
Not yet.
I guess Barry sent you here,
what, two years ago?
It has been... two years,
hasn't it, Harlan?
Two. Two wonderful years.
Why?
To get you involved.
To expose you
to the Videodrome signal.

It didn't affect you because
you never watched it!
You knew what was there.
You didn't have to see it.
It really does work
on just about anybody.
Anybody who watches it, Max.
But why would anybody watch it?
Why would anybody watch
a scum show like Videodrome?
Why did you watch it, Max?
- Business reasons.
- Sure. Sure.
What about the other reasons?
Why deny you get your kicks
out of watching torture and murder?
You murdered Brian O'Blivion,
didn't you, you freak?
Did you enjoy that?
North America's getting soft, patrnr.
And the rest of the world
is getting tough.
Very, very tough.
We're entering savage new times...
and we're going to have to be pure...
and direct...
and strong...
if we're gonna survive them.
Now, you and this, uh...
cesspool you call a television station...
and, uh, your people
who wallow around in it...
and, uh, your viewers...
who watch you do it -
you're rotting us away
from the inside.
We intend to stop that rot.
We're gonna start
with Channel 83, Max.
We're gonna use it for our first authentic
transmissions of Videodrome.
I have a hunch it's gonna be
very popular... for a while.
I've gotta be hallucinating now, right?

I mean...
you two can't possibly be for real.
Ah, we did record
your hallucinations, Max...
as I said we would.
And we did analyze them.
You're ready for something new.
That's terrific.
What do you, uh -
What do you want from me?
I want you to open up, Max.
Open up to me.
I've got something
I want to play for you.
Oh, my God!
We want Channel 83, Max.
Give it to us.
Give us Channel 83.
Kill your partners.
Kill them.
Kill your partners
and give us Channel 83.
Aah.
Give us Channel 83.
Kill your partners.
Kill them.
Kill your partners
and give us Channel 83.
Hello, Max.
How ya doin', Max?
Where's Moses?
He's in a meeting with Rafe.
I'll tell him you want him.
Don't.
We dub in a funny track. Gentle comedy.
Mm-hmm.
And you'd be the one to write it?
Yeah. Yeah, I would. I used to write
in high school, then I lost it.
Hi, Max.
You're just in time to throw some light
on an interesting problem.
Don't.
Max.

What the fuck?
Jesus!
It was from the boardroom!
Max, what happened?
Are you hurt?
- They killed -They-
- What happened?
- They killed us!
- What happened?
Jesus! Look out!
Help!
In here! In here!
Get out! Just clear outta here!
Come - Get out!
Let me see.
Max!
Max.
Kill Bianca O'Blivion.
She knows too much.
She can hurt us.
Don't let her hurt us, Max.
Kill her.
Kill Bianca O'Blivion.
Bianca O'Blivion.
I run Civic TV.
I was on a talk show
with your father.
So it was to be you after all.
You've come to kill me.
No. No, I'm Max Renn.
I run Civic TV. I don't-
- I don't kill people.
- Oh, but you do.
You're an assassin now
for Videodrome.
They can program you.
They can play you
like a videotape recorder.
They can make you do
what they want...
and they want you to destroy
whatever is left of Brian O'Blivion.
They want you to destroy me.
Destroy you?

They killed her, Max.
They killed Nicki Brand.
She died on Videodrome.
They used her image to seduce you,
but she was already dead.
Don't back away.
I stole it from them
just for you to see.
Videodrome is death.
That's better.
So much better.
It's always painful
to remove the cassette...
to change the program.
But now that we have...
you'll see that you've become something
quite different from what you were.
You've become
the video word made flesh.
I am the video word made flesh.
And now that you are
the video word made flesh...
you know what you have to do.
You turn against Videodrome.
You use the weapons they've given you
to destroy them.
Death to Videodrome.
Long live the new flesh.
Death to Videodrome.
Long live the new flesh.
It was only 26 hours ago
in the building you see behind me...
that a bizarre, apparently
motiveless shooting occurred...
which has triggered off
an intensive manhunt by Metro Police.
Thirty-four-year-old Max Renn,
president of the Civic TV Corporation...
is being sought in connection
with the shooting deaths...
of two executives
at Channel 83-
You wanna see the monkey dance,
you pay the piper.

See what I'm sayin', Teddy? You know
how much my monkey's batteries cost?
They don't last in the cold.
The cold knocks 'em right out.
I can't dance.
I would if I could.
But, uh, I can't, so -
You got some change, Teddy?
You got somethin'. Half a buck. Teddy, yeah.
A quarter. You got somethin', Teddy.
Can't ya put somethin'in, Teddy?
Well, hello, sport.
They call me Brolley.
How can I help you, sir?
- Just looking.
- Yeah, man.
Well, that's a good one.
There ain't much to see here, but
take your time and have a good look anyway.
Ah, what this?
Yeah, this is one hell
of a scrip you got here.
Very tricky grind.
Can't imagine you'd see things
too clear without them, you know.
Well, don't worry at all.
I'm gonna get you fixed up in no time flat.
Where's Convex?
Oh, setting up his trade show.
- Oh.
- Gotta introduce the spring line.
- What's in the box?
- Your head.
Got your head in this box.
Ah.
You've been busy, Max.
Been readin' about you in the papers.
Have you been
to see Bianca O'Blivion?
- I saw her.
- And she give you any trouble?
No.
Well, that's good.
Maybe you'd like to visit

somebody else now.

- Is that why you're here?

- Maybe.

You've been very useful to us, Max.

We'd like to keep using you

until you're all gone.

Open up to me.

Got something

I wanna play for you.

See ya in Pittsburgh.

Mommy, look at the big ka-boom!

Tracey, come back here!

- Stay with Mommy.

- I want - I wanna see it.

You come with me.

Come on.

We're going home now.

Well, you know me.

- Yeah, we know you.

- And I sure know you.

Every one of you!

We're here to celebrate the arrival

of our spring collection...

the Medici line...

and our theme for this year

is based on two quotes...

from the famous Renaissance

statesman and patron of the arts...

Lorenzo de Medici.

"Love comes in at the eye,"

and "The eye is the window of the soul."

Now, I think that even Pete...

oughta be able to sell the hell

out of a classy campaign like that.

Oh, God!

No!

Death to Videodrome!

Long live the new flesh!

Convex Gagging]

I was hoping you'd be back.

I'm here to guide you, Max.

I've learned a lot

since I last saw you.

I've learned that death is not the end.

I can help you.
I don't know where I am now.
I'm having trouble...
finding my way around.
That's because you've gone just about
as far as you can with the way things are.
Videodrome still exists.
It's very big, very complex.
You've hurt them,
but you haven't destroyed them.
To do that, you have to
go on to the next phase.
What phase is that?
Your body has already
done a lot of changing...
but that's only the beginning -
the beginning of the new flesh.
You have to go all the way now -
a total transformation.
Do you think you're ready?
I guess I am.
How do we do it?
To become the new flesh,
you first have to kill the old flesh.
But don't be afraid.
Don't be afraid
to let your body die.
Just come to me, Max.
Come to Nicki.
Watch. I'll show you how.
It's easy.
Long live the new flesh.
Long live the new flesh.