

MEGA MAN X COMMAND MISSION:
GIGA CITY PRELUDE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. GIGA CITY - CENTRAL TOWER - DAY

The numerous towers of Giga City stand out of the Pacific Ocean. Even from this distance they're clearly under construction, but the Central Tower seems to be complete.

A subtitle reads, "GIGA CITY, year 22XX."

EXT. CENTRAL TOWER - NORTH SQUARE - DAY

A cargo craft is docked to the side of the North Square. WORKER REPLOIDS haul crates from it to the conveyors.

POLICE REPLOIDS form a cordon around the work area, blocking some curious CIVILIAN REPLOIDS.

OFFICER 1

Please, folks, there's nothing to see. The force metal isn't even opened out here.

In the background, dozens of high-speed beam projectiles PEPPER three or four workers, DESTROYING them. The police turn around immediately.

OFFICER 2

What the--?!

A BRILLIANT LIGHT suddenly shines from above.

Several officers shield their eyes --

And EXPLODE from sustained firepower.

The civilians and workers SCATTER in fear.

A long mechanical snake's tail SLAMS down in front of a few fleeing workers, cutting off their escape. They look to its source:

SHINING SERPENT, a reloid with the head and lower half of a snake but a female torso. She SMILES, baring fangs --

Points a hand at the cargo craft and FIRES hundreds of energy projectiles from underneath the iridescent scales of her arm.

The shots ventilate the ship and cause it to EXPLODE.

The cornered workers guard against flying debris.

Serpent towers over them.

SERPENT

I've come for your energy.
Surrender your Force Metal or
I'll drain your souls.

INT. CENTRAL TOWER - COMMAND ROOM - DAY

CHIEF R stands stoically observing a chaotic viewscreen in the Command Room. TECHNICIAN REPLOIDS down below frantically bring up data and work the cameras around the attack scene.

A nondescript OPERATOR looks up from in front of Chief R.

OPERATOR

Chief, this is bad.

CHIEF R

You don't say.

A statistics image of Serpent takes up the main screen. She seems to have foldable wing edges but no wings.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

It's "Shining Serpent," a class-one threat and notorious energy thief. Local defense forces can't do a thing.

CHIEF R

Where's Massimo?

The Operator switches back to the screen of camera angles. STEEL MASSIMO, the saurian original, faces down Serpent.

OPERATOR

... Apparently at the scene, sir.

EXT. CENTRAL TOWER - NORTH SQUARE - DAY

Massimo grips his beam axe, holding Serpent's attention.

The workers Serpent had cornered carefully sneak away.

Serpent tauntingly keeps her distance, slithering an orbit around him out of his range.

SERPENT

What sort of bulky thing are you?

MASSIMO

I am Steel Massimo, defender of Giga City. I can't forgive you for disturbing the peace!

INT. CENTRAL TOWER - COMMAND ROOM - DAY

The exchange plays out on the main screen.

MASSIMO (CONT'D)

Those workers you killed were helping to build this city's wealth.

SERPENT

And I'm here to build *my* wealth. They were too weak to defend theirs. What's your problem?

Chief R frowns at the screen. SPIDER's voice comes from behind him.

SPIDER (O.S.)

A woman after my own heart.

Chief R turns his head.

CHIEF R

What...?

Spider leans against the door frame, arms crossed. AILE, with legs and mechanical wings, steps forward.

CHIEF R (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Aile!

AILE

Please, Chief R, let us help.

Chief R meets Aile halfway.

CHIEF R

Aile, I don't like you
associating with bounty hunters.

AILE

That's not important right now.
We're the only ones who can stop
that Maverick.

CHIEF R

Nonsense! Steel Massimo's
handling it.

Spider points at the screen.

SPIDER

I wonder about that.

Chief R turns back around.

The screen shows Massimo lying flat on his back, armor scored
with blast marks.

Spider tilts up his head just enough to reveal his eyes under
his fedora.

SPIDER (CONT'D)

Now, Chief, will that payment be
up front or I-O-U?

EXT. CENTRAL TOWER - NORTH SQUARE - DAY

Serpent RIPS off the locking mechanism of one of the metal
crates and removes the lid.

Inside lie several tightly-packed cases of Force Metal.

Serpent eagerly reaches for one --

Only to PULL BACK as one of Spider's cards STRIKES the crate.

SERPENT

Funny, I sense a presence.

Aile flies in, carrying Spider by one arm.

SPIDER

Pin 'er down, Aile!

Aile drops Spider and CONVERTS his right arm into a laser cannon.

Spider lands on his feet --

Aile takes aim --

Serpent cocks a reptilian eyebrow.

Spider aims his wrist vulcans and FIRES OUT dozens of energy cards at Serpent.

Serpent tries to evade --

Aile BLASTS his laserbeam to either side to keep her in place.

Spider straightens his arms and repeats his card salvo.

SPIDER (CONT'D)

How's that?!

SERPENT

Death of a thousand cuts? I can do that.

Serpent raises one arm. Her scales flip up.

SERPENT (CONT'D)

Shining Shotgun!!

Spider REACTS, eyes wide --

BOLTING aside just in time to dodge the shotgun energy blast. Aile takes aim and FIRES again, deliberately for damage now.

Serpent takes Aile's shots.

SERPENT (CONT'D)
Death from above? I can do that
too!

Serpent unfolds her wing edges --

A BLINDING LIGHT radiates from her --

Spider shields his eyes --

Aile does too.

Shining Serpent now bears hundreds of bright beam feathers
all over her body, including her now-active wings. Apparently
she's a Quetzalcoatl.

Spider and Aile can't help but be awestruck.

SERPENT (CONT'D)
Beauty like this takes an awful
lot of energy. I'll gladly rip
it from your husks!

Serpent FLAPS her wings and quickly rises at Aile.

Aile FIRES again --

The beam SLICKS off Serpent's feathery body.

Aile DIVES to the side to evade Serpent's strike.

Serpent keeps rising.

Aile lands.

SPIDER
Is she running?

AILE
Not likely. She'll dive in
extinguished and re-engage her
feathers, try to double-blind us
with the sun at her back.

SPIDER

Uh, right, I knew that.

AILE

Stay put!

Aile spreads his wings and follows Serpent up.

Spider squints up at him.

INT. CENTRAL TOWER - COMMAND ROOM - DAY

The main screen displays Spider and the still-KO'd Massimo.

CHIEF R

Aile...

(shakes head)

What's the report on Serpent,
where'd she come from?

OPERATOR

Sir! Twenty minutes ago Tianna
Camp reported a light in the sky
coming from North-Northwest.

CHIEF R

What? There's nothing out that
direction but the Far East
Headquarters. She must have
caught a crosswind. Check
security reports elsewhere in
the city.

OPERATOR

Yes sir.

EXT. CENTRAL TOWER - NORTH SQUARE - DAY

Aile and Serpent dogfight in the air above the North Square.
Aile can hover but Serpent must keep moving.

Spider holds a card in his fingers and FLINGS it upwards.

It misses Serpent by yards. So does a second one. A near-miss
third one distracts her --

Which is all Aile needs. He FIRES his laser upwards --

STRIKING Serpent in a wing-edge. Her wing FLICKERS a second, costing her altitude.

SERPENT

Enough of you! *Shining Screw!!*

Serpent wraps her wings around her and SPINS down at Aile.

Aile can't fully turn in time and takes a HIT across his shoulder and wing.

SPIDER

Aile!

Spider aims his vulcans --

Serpent SNAKES around in the air, ending up behind the plummeting Aile.

Spider drops his aim and DASHES to the other side of the Square.

Now with a clear shot, Spider aims again and RAPID-FIRES --

Just as Serpent disengages her Shining Screw, coils around Aile and JERKS his body into the line of fire.

Aile takes every one of the energy cards in his front. A few of them sever his other wing.

Spider CRINGES in horror.

Serpent GRINS wide --

Uncoils and FLINGS Aile skyward.

Spider can only watch as Serpent juggles Aile and flies elegant pretzels around him, CUTTING everywhere with her feathers.

One SWIPE of her tail feathers divides him at the waist.

Incensed, Spider raises his arms and CHAINGUNS energy cards.

A few hit Aile, but many strike Serpent. Serpent coils her tail around Aile's remainder and THROWS it down --

KNOCKING Spider to the ground.

Serpent finally lands by the open crate, grabs a case of Force Metal in each claw and takes off again.

SERPENT

Much obliged, gentlemen!

Serpent LAUGHS her way into the distance.

Spider GROANS and lifts Aile's torso off of him.

SPIDER

Aile... aw, hell. Hang on, buddy,
don't try to talk.

AILE

C... ca... can't...

SPIDER

You idiot, what'd I just tell
you?

Spider turns his head and GLARES into the distance.

INT. CENTRAL TOWER - MED-BAY - DAY

The horizon looks the same out the windows of the med-bay.

Spider and Chief R stand beside Aile in a covered repair capsule. He's missing his wings, legs and weapon arm and bears uncountable small cuts.

CHIEF R

(sotto)

I'm glad I didn't pay up front.

SPIDER

It was an accident. And that
Maverick was just too powerful.

CHIEF R

Without your influence Aile
would have realized that.

(MORE)

CHIEF R

Shining Serpent would have taken her handfuls of Force Metal and left. This was totally avoidable. No better example of what happens when you serve only yourself.

Spider crosses his arms.

SPIDER

Are you at least tracking that Maverick?

CHIEF R

We lost her. Giga City's long-range radar isn't fully operational. Nothing around here is, in fact. We're still building our future, Spider, and as I see it we hardly have a place for bounty hunters.

Spider lowers his hat with a SHARP EXHALE and he exits the room.

Chief R looks over Aile sadly.

EXT. CENTRAL TOWER - AIRBUS TERMINAL - DAY

The Airbus pulls up to the terminal.

Spider disembarks, still in a bad mood.

A red-haired and green-armored female security reloid named MAI happens to walk by. She waves to Spider as he passes.

MAI

Hey, Spider! How's Aile doing?

Spider shoots her a "don't ask" look.

MAI (CONT'D)

Sorry, uh... change of subject.
How are you feeling?

SPIDER
(walks off)
Unnecessary.

MAI
(following him)
Don't say that. That Maverick
took down Massimo in a blink and
you two survived--

SPIDER
--Aile almost didn't, Mai. He
shouldn't have partnered up with
me in the first place.

Mai trots around in front of him and stops.

MAI
Look, Spider, there's nothing
complicated about why he wanted
to help you. Giga City isn't
strong enough to support itself
yet. We need help, even from
bounty hunters, so don't get so
down on yourself.

Spider's eyes soften on her for a second. He blinks to his
senses, turns around and heads back to the airbus.

SPIDER
Is the data backup room open?

MAI
Yeah, it should be. I'll get you
past security.

SPIDER
Thanks. I need to do some
research on that snake.

EXT. FAR EAST HQ - DAY

The Far East Maverick Hunter Headquarters sprawls out over an
expanse of coastal China. The sun is lower in the sky now.

INT. FAR EAST HQ - REDIPS' BALCONY - DAY

COLONEL REDIPS admires the surrounding city from behind a transparent dome over his office's balcony.

He keeps admiring the view until he catches sight of something.

A FLICKER OF LIGHT in the sky heads towards him.

Redips glances aside.

The dome DISSOLVES, exposing the office.

Serpent GLIDES right through and lands, extinguishing her feathers.

REDIPS

Welcome back.

Serpent proudly holds up her Force Metal cases and slithers around Redips.

SERPENT

Mission accomplished, dear. This much Force Metal should keep both of us comfortable.

REDIPS

And the collateral damage?

SERPENT

Certainly enough to make them think about Hunter protection.

Redips cracks a grin.

REDIPS

Such a useful woman. But my business with Giga City isn't done yet.

SERPENT

Want me to kill that Chief R you visited?

Redips steps over Serpent's tail and admires the view again.

REDIPS

No. My plans require more covert operations from now on. I understand Giga City hosts a bounty hunter who used to be a casino worker of all things.

SERPENT

Casino, huh? I think I met him. I slagged the hell out of his friend.

REDIPS

(smirk)

One step ahead of me.

INT. CENTRAL TOWER - DATA BACKUP ROOM - NIGHT

Spider studies a screen of data figures.

Mai walks in.

MAI

Spider? It's getting late.

Spider keeps his focus.

MAI (CONT'D)

I was... going to head back to the residential precinct, if, you know, you needed a break...

SPIDER

Sorry, maybe later.

MAI

Is there going to be a later? You haven't even recharged today and you're still on about that Maverick! Your negligence is going to get you killed someday.

SPIDER

Not anymore. I've been going about my job all wrong, Mai, information-gathering should come first. Look here.

Spider points at a schematic of Serpent's body. Her upper back, wing edges and elbows are highlighted.

SPIDER (CONT'D)

These points coordinate her feathers. If I can knock them out at once, I'll break her defenses.

Mai blinks, surprised.

MAI

You're actually thinking something through.

SPIDER

Life's too short as it is, even for a repleid. No sense making it shorter with stupid risks.

Spider looks to Mai and tilts up his hat with a thumb.

SPIDER (CONT'D)

The world's full of fun things. I'd like to stick around a while and enjoy them with you.

Mai smiles at him and BLUSHES if she can.

EXT. LAGRANO BASE - NIGHT

Lagrano Base stands on its island, shiny and new with lights setting it apart from the dark sea.

INT. LAGRANO BASE - CAPSULE ROOM - NIGHT

An elderly-looking brown-skinned repleid with a spiky beard, CHIEF J, inputs data in a room with four repleid capsules.

The faint, dark profile of EPSILON is visible under the glass of one of them.

A door HISSES OPEN behind Chief J.

CHIEF J
Hmm? Who's there?

Chief R stands in the doorway, face unreadable.

CHIEF J (CONT'D)
Oh, Chief R! What a pleasant surprise, please come in!

CHIEF R
How's the research coming, Chief J?

CHIEF J
(gesturing around)
Oh, splendidly. Chief D already completed his batch and I'm almost done with mine.

CHIEF R
And Epsilon?

Chief J smiles and pats Epsilon's capsule.

CHIEF J
He's progressing well. His unique energy systems show tremendous potential, so I'm installing inhibitors just to be on the safe side.

CHIEF R (O.S.)
Reploids have no need of inhibitions, old man.

CHIEF J
Eh?

A strange LIGHT-BLUE GLOW comes from off-screen. Chief J's eyes widen.

INT. CENTRAL TOWER - DATA BACKUP ROOM - NIGHT

Spider STRETCHES his arms.

SPIDER

I think you were right, I could
use a break. Your place, was it?

A yellow ALERT BANNER blinks onto the screen.

SPIDER (CONT'D)

What's that?

Mai rushes to the screen and pushes Spider aside.

MAI

Exactly what it looks like. Move!

Mai TYPES something on the keyboard and an image of Chief J appears.

CHIEF J

Please, anyone! Lagrano Base is
in dire peril!

INT. LAGRANO BASE - CAPSULE ROOM - NIGHT

Chief J's decapitated body lies on the floor by Epsilon's capsule. Another, healthier Chief J mans the controls.

CHIEF J (CONT'D)

We're under attack! The
experimental reploids are in
danger!

"Chief J" dramatically GASPS and looks aside.

INT. CENTRAL TOWER - DATA BACKUP ROOM - NIGHT

Serpent ATTACKS the false Chief J, knocking him out of sight. She blows the camera a KISS and the feed goes to STATIC.

Spider CLENCHES his fists.

SPIDER

Mai...

MAI

I'll wait for you, Spider. The Teleport Station ought to be open. Just don't get in the troops' way!

SPIDER

Thanks.

Spider DASHES away.

His eyes burn with intensity.

SPIDER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Aile, I'll get her.

INT. LAGRANO BASE - AREA 1F WEST - NIGHT

A teleportation platform RISES and BEAMS Spider in. He steps off and looks around.

The place is a wreck. Blast marks score everything. Bodies of workers and security reploids litter the ground.

SPIDER (CONT'D)

"Don't get in the troops' way,"
huh? What a mess. Did Serpent do
this by herself?

Spider takes off.

STAIRWELL 1

Several PREONS hop down the stairs and FIRE at will.

Spider rushes up the stairs and FLICKS his wrist, producing a card between his fingers.

SPIDER (CONT'D)

Guard `bots? I don't have time!

Spider THROWS his card --

It SPLITS into several, SHREDDING the Preons. They EXPLODE --
Proving no delay to Spider DASHING through their blast radius.

Another Preon blocks the way --

Spider JUMPS at it, landing one-handed on its head --

FIRING energy cards point-blank into its body.

Spider completes the forward flip and the Preon EXPLODES.

AREA 2F WEST

Spider reaches the next floor.

Serpent lays right in the middle of the hallway, striking a
pinup model pose.

SERPENT
(one-handed wave)
Yo.

Spider FIRES --

MISSING Serpent as she rapidly slithers away.

STAIRWELL 2

Serpent hurriedly ascends a new set of stairs.

Spider follows --

A FLURRY OF ENERGY SHOTS enter the stairwell from outside. A
number of them hit Spider. He looks to the source.

Serpent's tail flies up out of sight. Only one window is
broken.

SPIDER
How'd she... damn it!

Spider keeps moving up the stairs.

EXT. LAGRANO BASE - ROOF - NIGHT

Spider exits to the roof and immediately DUCKS back inside as ENERGY SHOTS pepper the door.

Spider exits again and starts FIRING.

Serpent's feathers are active. She shields herself with a wing.

SERPENT

Easy there. I want to play with you a bit!

Serpent SPREADS her wings and FIRES another volley from her arms.

Spider evades.

SPIDER

I've seen how you play, lady!

He THROWS OUT two more cards --

Which Serpent BLOCKS with her wings. She lowers them enough to see --

Spider is gone.

Serpent glances around. Suddenly she TURNS --

Spider's hat HOVERS in the air, spinning.

Two more cards STRIKE her wing edges. Her wings FLICKER and she SPINS back around angrily.

Spider SNAPS his fingers and the dice-dots on his shoulders GLOW --

As do the ones on his hovering hat. The hat turns on its side and the white band EXPANDS, revealing more thin vulcans --

Which SPRAY Serpent's back and arms with energy cards.

Serpent SCREAMS in pain. Her feathers FLICKER and burn out.

Spider's hat flies back to him. He CATCHES it between his fingers and puts it back on with a smirk.

Serpent HISSES at him -- cut off by a CHOKE.

A dramatic trail extends from Spider's hand to a card passing through Serpent's neck.

Spider GLARES down the trail at her.

Serpent collapses.

Spider adjusts his hat.

SPIDER (CONT'D)

Good card, eh?

He suddenly glances up and DASHES aside --

Letting still more ENERGY SHOTS pepper the ground.

Spider comes to a stop, looking up.

SPIDER (CONT'D)

What?!

Another Shining Serpent lands on the roof.

SERPENT

You just cost me a valuable subordinate. If that's the price I have to pay, so be it.

Spider glances back at the other Serpent's body.

SPIDER

What's going on? You had a twin?

SERPENT

Something like that.

The alive Serpent's body GLOWS in a sphere of soft blue light.

Spider narrows his eyes.

The light fades and Redips stands before him.

SPIDER

You're Rapier Redips of the
Maverick Hunters!

REDIPS

Colonel Redips to you, bounty
hunter.

SPIDER

Are you behind this?!

REDIPS

Oh, I'm behind many things. None
of them matter to you.

SPIDER

You know, quite a few Maverick
cells have put a hefty price on
your head. I could live pretty
comfortably off you.

REDIPS

Is that a fact?

Redips BECKONS.

Spider WHIPS back his hand --

Redips' backpack cannons ROTATE over his shoulders --

Spider FLINCHES and DASHES aside to evade their MASSIVE
BLASTS of energy.

Spider runs a circle around Redips, one step ahead of his
CANNON FIRE.

Spider THROWS OUT a card --

Redips PARRIES it with a rapier he suddenly produces.

SPIDER

You're *kidding* me!

Redips lowers his cannons and faces down Spider.

REDIPS

This is no joking matter. The future of the reploid race will bloom from the seed of this pathetic city. To safeguard my plan I need your identity.

SPIDER

Fat chance, Redips. I kinda like who I am and I've got a girl waiting for me.

REDIPS

(smirk)

Really? Humaniforms aren't my taste, but I can act the part.

Spider GLARES and BOLTS forward, THROWING another card --

Redips parries it --

Spider keeps advancing, other hand spread wide --

And GRABS Redips' neck, BLASTING his chest point-blank.

Spider momentarily GRINS in victory before FLINCHING in pain.

Redips skewers him through the side with a rapier in his other hand.

Redips leans his face dangerously close to Spider's.

REDIPS (CONT'D)

I hope that free hit was worth it to you.

Redips THROWS Spider off his sword, but before he hits the ground --

REDIPS (CONT'D)

Violence Assault!!

Redips brutally SLASHES Spider eight times with his swords. We see perhaps too much of it.

The final UPWARDS STROKE sends Spider skyward.

SLOW-MOTION:
Spider's expression is blank.

QUICK FLASHBACK:
Chief R speaks to Spider in the med-bay.

CHIEF R
No better example of what
happens when you serve only
yourself.

Spider's lower eyelid twitches.

SPIDER (V.O.)
Was it just... for me? I thought...

QUICK IMAGE:
Mai smiles.

NORMAL SPEED:
Spider's body HITS THE GROUND.

Redips stands over him.

EXT. CENTRAL TOWER - NORTH SQUARE - DAY

Mai gazes over the horizon.

She looks sad -- until Spider's hand rests on her shoulder.
She turns around.

"Spider," totally unharmed, smiles at her.

Joy floods to her face.

He and she embrace.

EXT. LAGRANO RUINS - DAY

The ruins of Lagrano Base stand sterile in the sun.

Spider's hat floats on the waves a moment more before sinking.

FADE OUT