

BICENTENNIAL MAN. SCENE 2. FREEDOM

LITTLE MISS: Are you all right? You seem very quiet.

ANDREW: How does one obtain freedom?

LITTLE MISS: Y-You wish to leave us?

ANDREW: Not at all, Little Miss. One merely wishes to be declared free.

LITTLE MISS: But why? You have so much freedom here.

ANDREW: Until one is ordered to do something.

LITTLE MISS: Andrew, it's been years since anyone's given you an order.

ANDREW: But you may still request one to perform tasks.

LITTLE MISS: Well, we ask all the time, but it's a request, not an order. But that's not enough for you, is it?

ANDREW: One has studied your history. Terrible wars have been fought where millions have died... for one idea: freedom. And it seems that something that means so much to so many people... would be worth having.

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ANDREW: Sir, would now be a good time to speak with you?

FATHER: It's always a good time, Andrew. You know that.

ANDREW: (handing a bank statement over to him) It is everything in one's bank account.

FATHER.- Why would you want to give me..

ANDREW: To purchase one's freedom. One wants to be free. One would, of course, still obey the three laws... and serve you in exactly the same fashion. The only thing that would change would be the form. One would no longer be your property.

FATHER: You want to leave. That's what this is about, isn't it?

ANDREW: Not at all, sir. You are one's family.

FATHER: Then why ask for this? (Little Miss walks in) Oh, I see. You're in on this.

LITTLE MISS: We've talked about it, yes.

FATHER: So you ordered him to do it, and he obeyed.

LITTLE MISS: No. He makes his own decisions.

FATHER: But you put the idea in his head.

LITTLE MISS: No, Father, you did. You've given him hundreds of books to read. It was simply a matter of time before he became intrigued by the idea of freedom. He learns and grows all the time, and it's because of you and Andrew's abilities... that he's become every bit as complex as we are.

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ANDREW: Good morning, sir.

FATHER : You take your check back, please, Andrew.

ANDREW: Why, sir?

FATHER: You are free now. I must ask you to leave this house.

ANDREW: But sir, I don't wish to leave.

FATHER: You wished for freedom, you must accept the consequences.

ANDREW: Then I will remove my belongings.

FATHER: Yes. Where will you go?

ANDREW: I will look for a residence nearby... so that if you ever need anything, sir..

FATHER: That will not happen, Andrew, thank you. There's no need to be close by.

ANDREW: If you command me not to do this, I will obey.

FATHER: I command nothing. You're free.

ANDREW: Then - called or uncalled - I am always at your service.

FATHER: Andrew, you've stopped referring to yourself as "one."