TRENT IS IN A DARK ROOM (PRESUMABLY A LAB WHERE HE WORKS). HE IS WORKING ON SOME MECHANICAL DEVICE THAT GLOWS FROM INSIDE A LARGE MECHANICAL CYLINDER. WE CAN NOT SEE THE DEVICE BUT SEE THAT IT IS GLOWING INSIDE THE CYLINDER. LIGHT SPILLS OUT FROM THE TOP OF THE CYLINDER AND THROUGH SPACES ON THE SIDE OF THE CYLINDER THAT ARE PART OF SOME MECHANICAL FRAME.

VOICE-OVER DISCUSSION RAMPS UP INTO AN ARGUMENT. WE LEARN THAT *PRO-TRENT* MAN IS HIGHER AUTHORITY LIKE PRESIDENT OR CHIEF COMMANDING OFFICER OR SOMETHING.

THE SCENE IS A CENTRALLY FRAMED CONTINUOUS SHOT. CAMERA SLOWLY PUSHING IN ON TRENT DURING THE DISCUSSION. HE IS CLEARLY INTRIGUED BY WHAT'S INSIDE THE CYLINDER AND CONTINUES TO MOVE BACK TO IT WHILE WORKING ON SOMETHING ELSE OFF SCREEN LEFT AND RIGHT. THE DEVICE CLEARLY HAS HIM DISTRACTED. HE IS EQUALLY EXCITED, NERVOUS, AND STRESSED.

Name	St at us	Thumbnail	Description	Charact ers
DD_Act2_S7_1			Back to viewer; in dark room  Trent alone in a dark room	Trent
DD_Act2_S7_2		+me cheane al noise	Zoom in	Trent

DD_Act2_S7_3	Side shot	Trent
DD_Act2_S7_4	front ; Quarter Angle	Trent
DD_Act2_S7_5	Pro and Con are arguing	Trent; Pro & Con
DD_Act2_S7_6	"And what about the research he refused to publish? You really want to send someone who withholds critical discoveries? That's a red flag, and you know it. He's sitting on something dangerous and hiding it."	Trent; Con
DD_Act2_S7_7	"Dangerous? The facts around that are murky at best. He didn't publish because he wasn't ready to, not because he was hiding anything unethical. If anything, it shows he's careful—he won't	Trent; Pro

	release something half-baked just to get credit."	
DD_Act2_S7_8	"Or he's hoarding it. Maybe he wanted to control the outcome, decide how it's used. You really think we can trust him with an interplanetary mission when he's already shown he can't collaborate?"	Con
DD_Act2_S7_9	"Control the outcome? That's a stretch. He was cautious, not reckless. And collaboration? Trent may not be a textbook team player, but when it counts, he gets the job done. He's meticulous—he didn't want the research out there until he was sure it was rock solid."	Pro
DD_Act2_S7_10	"Meticulous, or selfish? This mission isn't just about genius or innovation. It's about trust. And if he couldn't share his findings then,	Con

	what's stopping him from keeping things to himself out there?"	
DD_Act2_S7_11	"You're making assumptions. There's no proof he acted unethically, and frankly, the details around that project were never fully investigated. What we do know is that Trent is the best problem-solver we've got. You're letting this one incident outweigh everything else he brings to the table."	Pro
DD_Act2_S7_12	"It's not one incident. It speaks to his mentality—he's out for himself. That's dangerous on a mission where we need complete transparency and cooperation."	Trent; Con
DD_Act2_S7_13	"Out for himself? I disagree. He's protective of his work because it matters to him—he's not careless. And	Trent; Pro

		he's not looking for personal gain. You think that outweighs his qualifications? His physical and mental readiness? The way he outperformed every other candidate?"	
DD_Act2_S7_15	* monat	Trent moves right;  Trent searching his desk for something; Pro & Con muffled arguing continues	Trent
DD_Act2_S7_16	* money	Trent moves left;  Trent searching his desk for something; Pro & Con muffled arguing continues	Trent
DD_Act2_S7_17		"I think it's a risk we can't ignore. Someone who doesn't play by the rules can jeopardize everything."	Trent; Con
DD_Act2_S7_18		"And that's where you're wrong. I'm not dismissing the risks, but this mission isn't about playing by the rules. It's about pushing boundaries. Trent is the mission. We can't rely on the same kind	Trent; Pro

		of people who've brought us this far-we need someone who will go further."	
DD_Act2_S7_19		Trent is looking even more anxious;  "You're gambling on that. We need someone we can trust to follow protocol when things go sideways."	Trent; Con
DD_Act2_S7_20		Trent is looking even more anxious;  "No, we need someone who can think when things go sideways.  And Trent has proven, time and again, that he's exactly that person. Whether you like it or not, he's the best candidate."	Trent; Pro
DD_Act2_S7_21	000	Trent is more nervous looking inside the object;  "We can't ignore his past—"	Trent; Con

DD_Act2_S7_22	Trent is more nervous looking inside the object;	Trent; Pro
	"I've heard enough. I'm making the call. Trent goes forward. If we want this mission to succeed, we need someone who can think outside the box, not someone who just checks off every line on a protocol sheet."	

Suddenly, a co-worker walks into the lab and flicks on the lights, breaking the tension and focus. He jokes with Trent sarcastically about what he's working on asking if it's something that will take over the world.... Trent responds clearly nervous that co-worker knows what he's up to.



DD_Act2_S7_24	Zoom	*Jeff turns on lights*  "What are you doing here in the dark Trent? You're creepin' me out!"	Jeff
DD_Act2_S7_25		<pre>(waits a moment to collect himself) *places lid on object &amp; turns around* "You know, the usually creepy stuff"</pre>	Trent
DD_Act2_S7_26		(sarcastically) *grabs item off shelf*  "Yea. I know you. Always plotting and planning something big. You got big plans for humanity?"	Jeff

DD_Act2_S7_27	(pauses as if he's been caught) " um yea, nah. Not that big Just a little thing I've always wanted to try."	Trent
DD_Act2_S7_28	(puts back the item from the shelf he's been playing with while prodding trent) "Oh yea? Let's see bud."	Jeff
DD_Act2_S7_29	(suddenly; stands up) "Shit! Sorry, I gotta run. Can you help me lock up? I forgot to call Caroline back. She's going to kill me."	Trent
DD_Act2_S7_30	(laughing) "Jumpy aren't we?! Yikes man. Ok, I'll help ya. But you gotta show me what you've been up to	Jeff

		after hours."	
DD_Act2_S7_31		(places object in bag; picks up his bag) "Definitely. I'll show you later. But I gotta run."	Trent
DD_Act2_S7_32		They exit the scene together, Trent ahead of Jeff.	Jeff & Trent