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"ELECTRIC TWISTER ACID TEST"

Written by
Scott Smith Miller

Directed by
Oscar L. Costo

REVISED PAGES

1st Pink Revs.	Full script
1st Blue Revs.	Full script
1st Yellow Revs.	9, 16, 22-25, 31, 32, 34-38, 48, 49, 52, 54-56
1st Green Revs.	9-14, 16, 21, 26, 37, 44
2nd White Revs.	3, 5, 22, 30, 47A
2nd Pink Revs.	10, 12-14, 24-26, 34, 35
2nd Blue Revs.	34, 35

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#K1809

SLIDERS

"Electric Twister Acid Test"

CAST

QUINN MALLORY
WADE WELLES
MAXIMILLIAN ARTURO
REMBRANDT BROWN

FRANKLIN
JENNY
JACOB
CALEB
REED

#K1809

SLIDERS

"Electric Twister Acid Test"

SETS

INTERIORS:

FRANKLIN'S HOUSE
LIVINGROOM
FRANKLIN'S BARN
ROOT CELLAR
UNDERGROUND COMPOUND
WEATHER STATION
JAIL
HOLDING CELL

EXTERIORS:

CLEAR SKY
HORIZON
FIELD
POND
BLUFF OVERLOOKING POND
DESERT
2ND BARREN LANDSCAPE
WATERING HOLE
FAR SIDE WATERING HOLE
ROCK PERIMETER
FRANKLIN'S HOUSE
PORCH
BACK
FRANKLIN'S BARN
OVER TOP
JAIL
WEATHER STATION
GROUND ABOVE

ELECTRIC TWISTER ACID TEST

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CLEAR SKY - DAY 1

Not a cloud to be seen, but we hear lots of rolling THUNDER and the sound brings us down to...

2 EXT. DESERT - DAY 2

A barren landscape, save for scrub and Joshua trees. Suddenly, an OFFSCREEN FLASH OF SWIRLING LIGHT (the Vortex O.S.). A HOWL from the Sliders then a...

4 MAN BOBSLED

flies into frame, the Sliders inside. The Bobsled hits the ground and slides across the ground toward a tree. (X)

QUINN

Look out!

REMBRANDT

Lean left!

The Bobsled just misses the tree as it finally comes to rest. A beat of silence then...

WADE

I told you we'd never finish the run before the timer hit zero.

QUINN

So much for making a quick ten grand.

As the Sliders, dressed in colorful crash helmets and jumpsuits, stumble out...

ARTURO

It's just as well. The way Rembrandt was steering, we would have crashed before the last turn anyway. (X)

REMBRANDT

(to Arturo)
Hey, who kept yellin' faster, faster right in my ear? (X)

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED

2

They take in the barren landscape. Nothing as far as the eye can see.

QUINN

(concerned)
Oh, man.

REMBRANDT

When I said I wanted to lay on some sand on the next world, I didn't mean the desert.

ARTURO

How long are we here, Mr. Mallory?

Quinn takes out the timer, opens it. It begins sparking, crackling with what sounds like a massive SHORT.

QUINN

This thing's going crazy, Professor. I can't get a reading.

The Professor comes over for a look, but Rembrandt and Wade are looking out to the horizon.

REMBRANDT

(pointing)
Hey, check this out, the little dude's gonna surf a dust devil!

THEIR POV

A small DUST DEVIL has sprung up not fifty yards from them. Running alongside it is a 12 year old boy, CALEB, wearing goggles and billowing rag like clothes, holding what looks like a snowboard.

The boy suddenly leaps up, bent legged, with the wooden board beneath his feet and begins "riding" the dust devil. But the "dust devil" begins to build quickly, gathering force, as the ground crackles and sparks beneath it.

RESUME SCENE

The Sliders exchange a look - half amazement, half concern.

QUINN

That's no dust devil, it's a twister!

ARTURO

Extraordinary, it's being generated by electrical current!

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED 2

2

WADE

(alarmed)
He's in trouble!

ON BOY

as the twister begins to grow in size the boy stays with it, but his expression tells us he's beginning to lose confidence. Taken by surprise at how quickly the tornado grows, he CRIES OUT in distress...

WIDEN AS QUINN hands timer to the Professor and runs to a nearby rock formation that seems directly in the path of the oncoming twister. As the twister nears, Quinn leaps off the rock and tackles the kid off the twister. They come thudding down to the sand as the twister moves away then dissipates with an ELECTRICAL FLASH.

QUINN

You alright?

Frightened, the boy runs off. Quinn's vision is obscured by sand that's being blown up from a sudden wind.

QUINN

Hey! Wait!

Quinn runs after the boy...

QUINN

I just want to ask you something!

Suddenly, the boy disappears, seeming to vanish into thin air. Quinn turns back to the Sliders.

REMBRANDT

That's weird, man. It's like
the ground opened up and swallowed
him!

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

Off their mystification...

(X)

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. DESERT - DAY - LATER

3

The Sliders, now in regular clothes, having left their helmets and jumpsuits behind, trudge across the barren landscape. Several TWISTERS (CGI) bob and weave in the distance, then seem to dissipate with an electrical FLASH.

ARTURO

That's the fourth tornado within the hour, they seem as common as lightening on this world.

Quinn stops, opens the timer; it's still going haywire.

QUINN

It's like we're in some kind of land-locked Bermuda Triangle. There's no way to tell how long we have until we slide.

ARTURO

The tornadoes themselves have no effect on the device, the entire atmosphere must be highly charged.

REMBRANDT

At least they don't last long. And count your stars we're not in a trailer park.

WADE

My folks used to make me watch the "Wizard of Oz" every year on TV, like it was some special event. Tornadoes, witches, flying monkeys, poisoned poppies -- great family fun. I couldn't sleep for a week.

REMBRANDT

If a building drops on us, I hope it's a Burger Burglar, I've been hungry since the last world.

They resume their hike under a relentless sun.

WADE

We should have looked a little harder for that kid.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED

3

WADE (CONT'D)
He couldn't survive out here on his
own, there must be other people,
maybe a town.

(X)

DISSOLVE TO:

4 OMIT (4)

4

5 EXT. 2ND BARREN LANDSCAPE - DAY - STILL LATER

5

The Sliders drag their feet as they make their way up a
sloping hill. Quinn's first to hit the crest. He stops,
looks over the rise, then...

QUINN

Water!

The word 'water' quickens the pace of the others who hustle
up alongside of him.

THEIR POV in the distance, a small watering hole.

RESUME SLIDERS

WADE

Yes!

She bolts away, the others following.

6 EXT. WATERING HOLE - DAY - MINUTES LATER - WADE

6

comes rushing toward the water and CAMERA, drops to her
knees and is falling forward to drink when

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED

6

WIDER - QUINN

grabs her feet just as she's putting her lips to the water and quickly drags her away as the other Sliders approach.

WADE

Are you crazy?! I'm dying of thirst!

QUINN

Drink that and you're dying, all right.

He points to something; we WIDEN TO REVEAL some DEAD CRITTER on the bank a short distance from her. And another... and another...

WADE

Oh gross... So much for eight glasses a day...

TIME CUT TO:

7 EXT. FAR SIDE OF WATERING HOLE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

7

The Sliders look over several dead small animal carcasses lying not far from the edge.

REMBRANDT

Great. We finally find water and it's poisoned.

Quinn finds a piece of scrap metal, picks it up.

QUINN

(tosses the metal)
It's not poisoned...
(the WATER BUZZES AND
CRACKLES as the metal
hits)
Still waters run hot.

ARTURO

So ends the mystery of the burns on the animal carcasses... and Miss Welles' alien experimentation theory.

WADE

(sweetly)
Would you like me to get you a drink of water?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED

7

Quinn tries the timer again; no luck. Arturo moves to Quinn, keeping his voice down to avoid alarming Wade, who's moving off away from the ugly scene.

ARTURO
It would seem the entire surface
of this planet is electrically
charged, not merely the
atmosphere. The consequences of
this may be very grave.

QUINN
If we can't stabilize the timer, I
won't be able to open the gate.

REMBRANDT
(grim realization)
We're never gonna slide.

FAVORING WADE

as she gazes out into the distance, a bright smile breaking over her face. She calls to the SLIDERS behind her.

WADE
Come look at this!

The other Sliders hurry UP to JOIN HER, their faces mirroring hers as they look toward...

THEIR POV

In the distance, a perfect little FARM COMMUNITY (CGI). An oasis of green ringed by a moat-like rock formation and obviously unmolested by tornadoes.

RESUME SCENE

REMBRANDT
All right!

ARTURO
Brigadoon, here we come!

DISSOLVE TO:

8 EXT. ROCK PERIMETER - DAY

8

As the Sliders make their way over the low rock formation. Once they're inside the perimeter, Quinn tries the TIMER again. This time, no sparking or cracking.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED

8

QUINN
Professor! Look at this, the timer's stabilizing! (X)
(X)

Arturo comes over, looks down at the TIMER: all appears normal now. (X)
(X)

ARTURO
Remarkable... Of course... these rocks must be lodestone! (X)
(X)

REMBRANDT
Okay, I'll bite. What do rocks have to do with the timer?

QUINN
Lodestone are magnetites. Whatever electrical charge is interfering with the timer seems to have the same polarity as these rocks.

ARTURO
(to Wade, Remmy)
If you two remember your elementary school science...

WADE
(dislikes being lectured to)
I get it, Professor. Opposites attract, similars repel.

ARTURO
This is good news, very good news indeed. How long until we slide, Mr. Mallory? (X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

QUINN
Twenty three hours and eight minutes. (X)
(X)
(X)

They resume climbing through the rocks. (X)

As they jump down off the last rock they spot A MAN locked in wooden stocks, and obviously dead. Next to him is a hand written sign: "Outcasts caught raiding will be executed."

REMBRANDT
That's a helluva welcome sign.

ARTURO
Harsh environments create harsh people.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED 2

8

REMBRANDT

Maybe we should just keep going.

(X)

QUINN

We can't let fear of the unknown
make our decisions for us. There's
too many questions about this place
I want answers to. We're
explorers, right? So let's go
explore.

They start forward again. Rembrandt's muttering...

CUT TO:

9 INT. FRANKLIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

9

A sparsely furnished room, reminding one of the Amish.
FRANKLIN MICHENER, mid-40's, tall, lean and severe, chairs a
meeting with six other men around a table, all dressed like
farmers. JACOB, mid 20's sits across from Franklin. The
mood is grim.

FRANKLIN

These outcasts are relentless, like
rats! How many do I have to
execute before the raids stop?

Franklin's daughter JENNY enters with a coffee pot, refills
the men's cups. Late teens to early 20's, the beautiful and
wholesome "farmer's daughter".

JENNY

I just spoke with Mrs. Backus.
Someone stole half her food supply
from her shed sometime during the
last two hours.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED

9

FRANKLIN

Two hours? I thought you found where they were getting in?

JACOB

We find a tunnel opening and seal it, they open a new one.

(beat)

A person gets desperate enough, he'll do most anything to feed himself, or his family. People like that don't scare. We might try and talk to them, see if we can't reach some kind of --

FRANKLIN

(slams the table angrily)

No! The outcasts were banished for cause, Jacob! You don't reason with trash like that!

(beat)

It's no coincidence the rats never use the tunnels we stake out, someone's warning them -- one of us.

There's clear threat in his words. He looks around the table; eyes are quickly averted. All but Jacob's. Jacob holds his stare.

JACOB

No man here would betray you, Franklin.

A long beat...

CUT TO:

OMIT (10)

(X)

11 EXT. FRANKLIN'S PORCH - DAY

11

Jenny exits and stops at the sight of something off screen.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED 11

HER POV

Arturo, disappearing into the barn across the way.

ON JENNY

She glances back toward the men inside, then looks back at the barn.

CUT TO:

12 INT. FRANKLIN'S BARN - DAY 12

Quinn sits on a hay bale. As Wade clears a spot on the floor to sit, Remmy opens a wooden cabinet and takes out a jar of preserved fruit. Arturo enters, calls:

(X)

ARTURO

Water anyone?

Wade and Rembrandt move to Arturo, drink from a dipper he offers. Quinn sits pensively on a hay bale, lost in thought.

(X)

(X)

(X)

REMBRANDT

Thirsty, Q-Ball?

(X)

Quinn, seemingly in another world, just shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED

12

REMBRANDT

(comes over)
What's up, man?

QUINN

This barn. It reminds me of a trip I took with my folks one summer. To my mom's sister on her farm in Minnesota. I was eleven, never been out of the city before. I thought life couldn't get any better. I remember telling my mom and dad I never wanted us to grow any older. I wanted everything to stay just like that forever.

(beat, then)

It was the last trip I took with my dad. He died two months later.

A quiet moment. The barn door SQUEAKS. They turn to see...

JENNY

quietly standing in the doorway, eyeing them. A low RUMBLING NOISE begins to grow in the distance.

ARTURO

Miss, I assure you we intend no harm. We've traveled a long way and...

JENNY

Are you from Reed's camp?

A moment as the Sliders try to guess the best answer.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED 2

12

JENNY
Look, it's all right. But you
can't stay here. It's too
dangerous.

As the RUMBLING NOISE grows quickly LOUDER...

WADE
What's that noise?

JENNY
Just a tornado.

Jenny opens the door. They all look out toward the horizon.

THEIR POV

A large upside down twister (CGI) in the distance, bigger
than any we've previously seen. Blue flashes of lightning
dance about it as it quickly grows larger and heads in their
direction.

RESUME SCENE

Remmy's ashen faced.

REMBRANDT
"Just?!"

ARTURO
Don't worry Mister Brown. The
lodestone will protect us, the
electrically charged tornadoes
can't enter the town.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED 3

12

WADE

It's getting closer professor.
Are you sure it can't cross those
rocks?!

(X)
(X)
(X)

THEIR POV

The tornado (CGI), blue ribbons of lightning darting around the top, jumps the lodestone perimeter. Moving quickly, it cuts a path right toward them, the ROAR now almost deafening.

RESUME SCENE

JENNY

Oh my god... this can't be
happening... it can't...
(then)
Follow me! Come on, move
quickly...

She races across the barn to a ROOT CELLAR and throws open the door. The terrified Sliders follow, Quinn going last.

13 EXT. OVER TOP OF BARN - DAY (CGI)

13

The twister heads right for the barn as slats on the roof start bouncing up and down, then rip away.

14 INT. ROOT CELLAR - DAY

14

Quinn jumps down and pulls the door shut behind him. Jenny slides the dead bolt as the Twister ROARS overhead. The Sliders yell to be heard above the SOUND OF SPLINTERING WOOD.

REMBRANDT

(to Arturo)

So much for all that science mumbo jumbo you gave me!

QUINN

This ever happen before?!

JENNY

Never! This place is safe!
It's safe!

(X)
(X)

WADE

(under her breath)

I think you'd better put that in the past tense.

(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

REMBRANDT

Man, I ain't heard noise like this since a hurricane took my destroyer and stood it on its nose in the middle of the Atlantic!

The SOUND OF CRASHING METAL -- they involuntarily recoil.

(X)

A RIPPING SOUND and the doors to the root cellar vibrate.

REMBRANDT

It sounds like it's stuck right on top of us!

WADE

Why did it stop moving?!

JENNY

I don't know! It makes no sense! There's nothing electrical inside the lodestone to attract it!

A horrible thought hits the Sliders simultaneously. Another loud CRASH. Quinn pulls out the timer.

QUINN

It's going crazy again!

JENNY

(horrified)
Where did you get that?!

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED 14

Suddenly a LOUD EXPLOSION overhead, then SILENCE.

ARTURO

(X)

(beat)

It just burned itself out.

REMBRANDT

I can't believe this. We're walking around with a tornado magnet.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. FRANKLIN'S PORCH - DAY 15

The men stand horrified as they eye the pile of rubble that was once Franklin's barn.

16 INT. ROOT CELLAR - DAY 16

As they all lean against walls, catching their breath...

JENNY

(re: timer)

You mustn't let my father see that. If he catches you with it, there's no telling what he'll do, he'll think you brought the twister on us.

QUINN

I'll bury it here until we slide.

He starts to kneel down when the door to the root cellar is yanked open revealing a grim Franklin. He tramps down into the cellar. Jacob remains above, with about a dozen town residents. All look down into the cellar.

FRANKLIN

Jenny. Who are these people?

JENNY

I... I don't know. They were in the barn when I came in.

He spots the timer in Quinn's hand and grabs it.

FRANKLIN

It's electronic.
(to Jacob and Martin)
This is what brought the twister!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED

16

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

(to Quinn)

Not only raiding our food supplies,
but trying to destroy my town?

QUINN

No. Look, we just needed...

FRANKLIN

(interrupting)

The only thing you need... is to
pray for a quick death.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16A INT. FRANKLIN BARN - DAY - TIGHT ON QUINN 16A

as his HEAD is jerked up INTO FRAME. He's sweating heavily, breath ragged, eyes dull with pain -- he's in the midst of a beating.

QUINN

I told you the truth.

WIDEN OUT to REVEAL QUINN tied, arms spread, to the stalls. JACOB interrogates him, as another man, MARTIN deals out the punishment with his fists.

JACOB

That you're travelers from another planet. We're simple people, not stupid. Tell me the truth! Where are the other outcasts? Who leads them, you?

Quinn says nothing. MARTIN drives a fist into Quinn's midsection.

JACOB

(he can't watch much more of this)

Tell me.

QUINN

We come from another dimension. The device Franklin took from me is our timer, it opens the vortex we slide through --

Martin starts to hit him again, but Jacob grabs his arm; enough.

MARTIN

But Franklin said --

JACOB

I know what he said.

17 INT. FRANKLIN LIVING ROOM - DAY 17

CLOSE ON A PAIR OF HANDS

as they lift a circuit board out of the timer. ANGLE UP TO REVEAL Arturo, Wade and Rembrandt, their hands tied

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED

17

behind them, watching with concern as Franklin studies the board. Jenny hovers nearby.

WADE
What are they doing to him out there?!

FRANKLIN
Whatever is required to get the truth.

REMBRANDT
Man, we told you the truth!

Franklin glares contemptuously, then looks back to the timer.

ARTURO
(re: timer)
You're holding the device that opens the gateway. Let me explain again, we'll go more slowly --

Franklin flares; he doesn't like being challenged.

FRANKLIN
I'm sick of your lying tongues!
This brought the twister!

He flings the circuit board at the fireplace. The Sliders grimace as it caroms off the stone face.

FRANKLIN
And I'm going to make sure that neither it... nor you... is a threat any longer.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. FRANKLIN'S HOUSE - DAY

18

The Sliders are herded towards a horse-drawn wagon, Jenny and her father trailing. Jacob and Martin appear with Quinn, whose hands are tied, but he holds his head up defiantly.

WADE
Quinn!

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED

18

QUINN (X)
(obviously in pain)
I'm all right...
(to Franklin) (X)
Look, they didn't break your laws,
I did! I'm the one who brought the
timer into your town! Just banish
me.

FRANKLIN
If they are truly innocent, God
will know and spare them.

ARTURO (X)
What kind of barbarians are you, (X)
you call yourself a society? (X)
We've done nothing! (X)

Franklin gestures to Martin, who prods Quinn toward the (X)
wagon. As Franklin turns for the house, Quinn makes urgent
eye contact with Jenny. She hesitates, then...

JENNY
Father?

He stops at the base of the porch as she nears.

JENNY
Maybe they didn't know our laws.

FRANKLIN
Ignorance is never an excuse.

As he starts up the stairs, Jenny looks to Jacob for help.

JACOB
What about the girl? She's of
child bearing age.

That stops Franklin. He turns and eyes Wade critically
thru...

WADE
I'm not leaving my friends.

QUINN
(sotto voce)
Do it!

FRANKLIN
(beat)
She's poor stock, skinny, (X)
narrow-hipped... (X)

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED 2

18

JENNY
Hard work is all she needs. It
will clear her mind and strengthen
her body.

FRANKLIN
(considers, then to
Jenny)
All right... but she's your
responsibility.

Franklin goes into the house as Jenny heaves a sigh of relief, shoots a look of thanks to Jacob. He acknowledges it before following Franklin in.

WADE
(to Quinn)
I don't want to stay here without
you!

QUINN
(sotto voce)
We'll find a way back. But you've
got to get the timer.

Martin grabs Quinn roughly and drags him to the wagon. Others push Arturo and Rembrandt along behind.

ANGLE - JENNY AT THE PORCH

Grim, she looks away, then glances back into the house.

HER POV - THROUGH OPEN DOOR

Franklin carefully retrieves the circuit board from the floor near the fireplace and studies it.

RESUME JENNY

It's not lost on her.

ANGLE - WADE AND THE WAGON

She watches with trepidation as two Men climb up front. (X)
The Driver takes the reins, pulls the wagon away. We HOLD (X)
ON WADE watching her friends being taken from her, then...

DISSOLVE TO:

19 EXT. THE DESERT - DAY

19

Desolate, unforgiving, empty... except for the single wagon appearing almost ghostlike from over a ridge.

ANGLE - IN THE BACK OF WAGON

Arturo and Remmy sit on either side of Quinn, bracing him with their bodies as the wagon bumps and jars along. Quinn winces in pain.

QUINN

I don't know which is worse...
this ride or the beating.

REMBRANDT

I've never been banished before.
Except for that time in Abilene.
Those cowboys just didn't get
Motown.

Quinn chuckles, grimaces. Arturo glances up at the Driver and the shotgun rider, speaks quietly to Quinn.

ARTURO

Franklin isn't the simple bumkin he
makes himself out to be. He
disassembled the timer with skilled
fingers, and a few farmers I've
heard keep a set of micro
precision tools lying about.

(X)

(X)

QUINN

(incredulous)
You think he's a scientist? But
look at this community, it couldn't
be more backward!

ARTURO

By design, Mr. Mallory. Franklin
keeps them in darkness, and I
assure you I'm not speaking purely
metaphorically. Knowledge is
dangerous to our Mr. Franklin.

ANGLE - THE DRIVER'S SEAT

The Driver slows the horses, reacts to something ahead, then gestures to the other towns person riding alongside. They hop down and make their way to the back of the wagon.

The Sliders struggle to rise, step for the rear, their hands still tied. The men prod them out, roughly.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED

19

As Arturo and Quinn awkwardly slide off the back of the wagon, they react to a faint CRACKLING SOUND. They turn to see...

THEIR POV

A SWIRLING SANDSTORM (STOCK) blots out the horizon. And it's heading this way.

RESUME SCENE

The Sliders stare in horror at the approaching storm.

REMBRANDT

Oh lord...

QUINN

Hey! You can't just leave us here like this! At least give us some water!

(X)

Remy moves alongside the horse as if to block it.

REMBRANDT

C'mon, you gotta give us a chance!

The Driver strikes out with his whip, driving Remy back. The wagon jerks away, leaving the Sliders helpless. As the first gusts of wind begin to buffet them...

(X)

REMBRANDT

Anybody got any ideas, now would be a good time to speak up!

CUT TO:

20 EXT. BACK OF FRANKLIN'S HOUSE - DAY

20

Franklin directs some men as they stack salvageable pieces of his wrecked barn.

WADE

now dressed in some of Jenny's clothes, kneels on the ground as she works in a nearby vegetable garden. She's lost in thought, worried about her friends.

A SHADOW

suddenly looms over her. She looks up to find...

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED

20

JACOB

standing over her. He offers her a glass of water.

WADE

Thanks.

(X)

ANOTHER ANGLE - TO INCLUDE FRANKLIN

FRANKLIN

Jacob! Let the girl do her work.

JACOB

Just bringing her water.

WADE

Who elected him god?

Franklin shoots a miffed look, then returns to his men. Now
Jenny comes over.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED 2

20

JACOB
Watch your words. This town
wouldn't even be here if it wasn't
for Franklin. When the twisters
came, he was the one who figured
out the lodestone would save us.

(X)
(X)

WADE
So that lets him dictate who lives
and who dies?

An obviously uncomfortable Jacob turns to Jenny.

JACOB
You need to teach her our ways,
Jenny. If she wants to stay alive.

WADE
(to Jacob)
I already know your ways. And I'm
not sure they're worth living
under.

A flustered Jacob wants to respond, can't find the words...
maybe he agrees? He grabs the empty glass and exits. Wade
and Jenny watch him go, then...

JENNY
You must be from another world.
I've never seen a woman act like
you before.

WADE
(wary)
How am I acting?

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED 3

20

JENNY

Like you're an equal. I'm
betrothed to Jacob. But if I
talked back to him... or any
man... like you did?
(shakes her head)
I don't know what would happen.

WADE

Try it. It might surprise you.

JENNY

And them.

They share a smile, then...

WADE

To be honest, I think this world
could use a little female input.

JENNY

My father's not interested in a
woman's ideas. He says we're not
smart enough.

WADE

Your father's wrong, Jenny. About
a lot of things.

Jenny notices her father glance over. She warns Wade with
her eyes, then picks up a nearby hoe and the two women begin
to "work" side by side.

WADE

Jenny what happened to this world?

JENNY

All I know is, when my brother and
I were little, something happened
that made the twisters come. I've
just heard rumors that there was
some type of accident at a
scientific laboratory. We're all
that's left, twisters wiped out the
rest. Now there's only wind and
dust and blowing sand.

WADE

So just you and your brother live
here with your father?

Jenny takes a beat, then...

JENNY

My father banished my brother.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED 4

20

WADE

(incredulous)

He sent his own son away? For what?

(X)
(X)

JENNY

(hesitates, then)

It doesn't matter. But he's out there somewhere. And every night I pray he survives the next day.

(glances around)

Your friends will be all right. The other outcasts will find them.

(X)
(X)
(X)

WADE

How can you know that?

(X)
(X)

JENNY

Trust, Wade. You must have faith.

(X)
(X)

Wade takes a beat, then leans in closer to Jenny.

(X)

WADE

Jenny, my friends and I... we don't belong here. That thing your father took from us, the Timer? I've got to get it back or we can't leave.

JENNY

No... it's too dangerous. You're alive, be happy with that.

(off Wade's crestfallen look)

But I can do something for your friends.

She gestures to the basket of vegetables that Wade's been picking.

JENNY

Bring that and follow me.

Wade grabs the basket, follows Jenny towards the house.

ON FRANKLIN

He sees the women and is unconcerned until Jenny shoots a nervous glance over her shoulder before disappearing inside. We HOLD ON him watching after the girls, then...

CUT TO:

21 EXT. THE DESERT - DAY - IN THE SANDSTORM

21

Harsh stinging winds pummel the Sliders as they stumble blindly through the barren wasteland, their tied hands making it nearly impossible to keep their balance.

(X)

Suddenly a WIND WHIPPED TREE LIMB spins out of nowhere and SMACKS Rembrandt in the head. Hard. He goes down.

QUINN

Rembrandt!

Arturo and Quinn drop to their knees, struggle to turn Remmy over. He's motionless...

QUINN

Rembrandt!

Remmy doesn't move and off Arturo and Quinn's deep concern, we...

FADE OUT.

(X)

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21A EXT. THE DESERT - DAY - IN THE SANDSTORM

21A

The sandstorm rages as Arturo and Quinn kneel over the unconscious Rembrandt. Quinn cradles Rembrandt's head, as...

ARTURO

Mr. Brown! Can you hear me?!

Finally, Remmy stirs, his eyes flutter open. He stares at Arturo a beat as he lets out a moan, then...

REMBRANDT

And I thought I'd never meet a bigger blow hard than you...

ARTURO

Where there's humor, there's life!
C'mon, let's get him up!

QUINN

And go where?!

Good question. The men glance around. Then...

(X)

REMBRANDT

Hey, am I seeing straight?

THEIR POV

Through the swirling wind-blown sand appears a small image heading towards them. It takes a beat to realize this is Caleb, the boy Quinn saved earlier.

RESUME SCENE

Looking for all the world like a desert nomad, he makes his way to the Sliders and produces a knife.

REMBRANDT

All right!

As each man offers up his ropes to be sliced by Caleb...

QUINN

What are you doing out here?!

CALEB

Watching you. It looked like you finally needed some help.

(CONTINUED)

21A CONTINUED

21A

REMBRANDT
"Finally"? You give us too much
credit!

Caleb frees the last Slider, then...

CALEB
Come on.

He leads the Sliders a few feet away then drops to his knees and, using both hands, clears away the sand to reveal a weathered HINGED TRAP DOOR. He rises, looks at the Sliders, then jumps onto the door. He disappears and the door snaps shut behind him.

(X)

Quinn goes first. He jumps and disappears.

CUT TO:

22 INT. UNDERGROUND COMPOUND - DAY - SECONDS LATER

22

An old military quonset-like bunker. What light there is is provided by solar powered lamps. Quinn and Arturo catch Rembrandt as he slides out of a tunnel opening carved into a wall.

REMBRANDT
Whoa, the Bat Cave!

REED (O.S)
It used to be Concord Air Force
Base.

The Sliders turn, discover REED appearing from the shadows with Caleb. Reed's 25, ruggedly handsome, and also dressed in desert dwelling clothes. He eyes the strangers with caution.

REED
Now it's our home.

The Sliders exchange a look.

REED
Caleb tells me you helped him.

QUINN
(a smile to Caleb)
And he's returned the favor..

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED

22

ARTURO

(realizing)
You're the outcasts, aren't you?
We saw one of your compatriots in a
stock outside the town.

Reed's gruff manner softens for just a beat.

REED

Edward Costas. A good man. Used
to work for my father before he
banished him for challenging one of
his decisions.

QUINN

(a realization)
You're Franklin Michener's son...

REED

A title I carry without honor.
(then, back to business)
Come, you look like you could use
some food.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. FIELD - DAY

23

A nervous Wade, holding a care package of foodstuffs,
follows an equally worried Jenny, also holding a care
package, through some brush towards a strand of trees.

JENNY

Hurry. If we're late, he won't
wait for us.

As they reach the strand of trees, a PATCH OF GROUND COVER
suddenly rises up, revealing a pair of eyes peering out.

JENNY

Caleb. It's me.

(X)

The ground cover is thrown back, revealing CALEB. He's
startled by Wade's presence.

(X)

JENNY

It's okay. She's one of us.
(to Wade)
Give him the note.
(Wade hands Jimmy a note)
Take that to Reed.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED

23

JENNY (CONT'D)
Tell him if he finds three men in
the desert to take them in.
They're friends, and they need his
help.

Caleb grins, pockets the note, as: (X)

CALEB (X)
I found them! In the storm! (X)
They're below with us! (X)

WADE (X)
They're safe! (X)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Three men rush out from behind trees and rocks. Caleb (X)
scurries back into the tunnel.

Two men chase Caleb into the tunnel as the other one grabs (X)
Wade and keeps her from following. A grim Franklin appears
from behind another nearby tree.

JENNY
Father... I...

FRANKLIN
Don't insult me by saying you can
"explain".
(then)
You realize I will have to make an
example of the both of you.

HOLD ON Wade and Jenny's fear as we...

CUT TO:

(OMIT 24-26)

27 INT. UNDERGROUND MEETING ROOM - DAY

27

A military style meeting room lit by solar powered lamps.
Quinn, Rembrandt and Arturo are at a table with Reed and
Neil.

QUINN
... the timer is what allows us to
travel to parallel earths.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED

27

QUINN (CONT'D)

But on this world, it will only function in a reverse polarity area like your father's town.

REED

I know my father. He wouldn't destroy it. He's a scientist at heart despite his ranting that it's the devil's work.

ARTURO

So he was a scientist.

REED

Yes, he was head of a big government research project back in the 60's.

Another outcast brings them glass mugs filled with a green liquid.

REMBRANDT

Even if Wade can find the timer, how are we gonna get back into that loony farm and slide when no one's looking?

Good question. As the Sliders ponder the question, Remmy takes a big gulp of his green drink -- and almost spits it across the table. He has to gag it down.

ARTURO

Tasty, Mr. Brown?

REMBRANDT

Tastes like frogs frappe'd in a cuisinart.

QUINN

(studying the green liquid)

Health food, Remmy. Looks like micro-algae.

REED

We grow it in an underground pond. It's the only source of vitamin B you're going to get.

Remmy watches as Arturo and Quinn drink.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED 2

27

REMBRANDT

(to Reed)

You know, I never got along all that good with my father either, but I don't think I would have crossed him if I knew this was gonna be my punishment.

REED

It's not that simple.

CUT TO:

27A EXT. FRANKLIN HOUSE - DAY - JACOB

27A

is approaching the house. He can HEAR Franklin BELLOWING from within; after a moment, JENNY comes RUNNING OUT, face bright with tears.

JACOB

Jenny!

But she runs past him, keeps going. FRANKLIN comes out just as Jacob starts after her.

FRANKLIN

Let her go! Jacob!
(Jacob turns, looks back in confusion)
She wears the shunning.

JACOB

No... No!

Franklin comes quickly to him, cuts him off so he can't go after Jenny.

FRANKLIN

You know the law.

JACOB

But she's to be my wife!

FRANKLIN

No more. She walks among us, but we do not see her, she cries out...
Say it! Say it!

Jacob's clearly conflicted, but Franklin's eyes are challenging, unforgiving...

(CONTINUED)

27A CONTINUED

27A

JACOB (X)
(it's bitter) (X)
She cries out, but we do not hear (X)
her. She is but a shadow among (X)
us... forever. (X)

28 INT. WEATHER STATION - DAY

28

An underground cavern jammed with 1970's computer and meteorological equipment and filled with weather and geological maps. On one wall, a control panel with a row of eight joy sticks surrounded by switches and dials. WARNING signs for HIGH VOLTAGE, and RADIATION abound. Reed leads the Sliders in.

ARTURO
A weather station.

REED
My father worked here with a man named Thomas Malone.

ARTURO
On our world Malone was experimenting with harnessing the energy of the elements.

REED
Here he was experimenting with the natural electro-magnetic dynamos we have underground. He thought he could create electronic tornadoes to benefit mankind.

REMBRANDT
Exactly how would a tornado benefit anybody?

REED
Well, say you needed to level a slum before rebuilding...

ARTURO
Or plow a trench for a canal.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED

28

REED

But the government had other ideas. They saw potential in these electrical "storms" as weapons of destruction.

(X)

QUINN

A dozen tornadoes sent through an enemy city on specific paths could destroy it.

ARTURO

And Mother Nature takes the blame. The perfect "plausible deniability".

REED

Malone hated the idea. He wanted to abandon the project in protest, but my father didn't want to lose the funding.

(beat)

He and my father got into an argument... it got out of hand... and Malone fell and hit his head...

(beat)

My father continued the project on his own.

(X)

(X)

ARTURO

Obviously something went wrong.

REED

When he finally figured out how to tap the energy in the dynamos, he accidentally set off an electrical chain of events that he couldn't control.

REMBRANDT

Kind of like lettin' the electric genie out of the bottle.

REED

(nods)

I found his diary three years ago and confronted him about it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REED (CONT'D)
That night he had me beaten, and taken out here. He said he'd caught me stealing.

REMBRANDT
I'm sorry, man.

ARTURO
Good lord, he created they very forces he now protects the townspeople from. No wonder he fears disclosure of his responsibility, they'd banish him!

REED
And he'll do anything to protect his secret.

QUINN
Including sending his own son out into the wilderness.

ARTURO
(a beat; it's a longshot, but...)
Quinn, before I became a Professor, I worked on a project not all that dissimilar to this for the military. Only we were trying to harness the energy of lightning.

At that moment, the door flies open and CALEB runs in, out of breath. (X)
(X)

CALEB
Reed, there's trouble! They almost caught me... (X)

Reed goes to his knee before the boy, steadies him with hands on his shoulders.

REED
Tell me, Caleb.

CALEB
They were waiting when I came out of the tunnel. They caught your sister... (X)

(looks at the Sliders)
...and your friend. Your father said he's going to make an example of them. (X)

(CONTINUED)

27A CONTINUED

27A

JACOB (X)
(it's bitter) (X)
She cries out, but we do not hear (X)
her. She is but a shadow among (X)
us... forever. (X)

28 INT. WEATHER STATION - DAY

28

An underground cavern jammed with 1970's computer and meteorological equipment and filled with weather and geological maps. On one wall, a control panel with a row of eight joy sticks surrounded by switches and dials. WARNING signs for HIGH VOLTAGE, and RADIATION abound. Reed leads the sliders in.

ARTURO
This looks like a weather station.

REED
It was. My father worked here with a man named Thomas Malone.

ARTURO
The meteorologist?

REED
Yeah.

ARTURO
On our world he was experimenting with harnessing the energy of the elements.

REED
Here he was experimenting with the natural electro-magnetic dynamos we have underground. He thought he could create electronic tornadoes to benefit mankind.

REMBRANDT
Exactly how would a tornado benefit anybody?

REED
Well, say you needed to level a slum before rebuilding...

ARTURO
Or plow a trench for a canal.

(CONTINUED)

REED

A harnessed tornado could do those tasks.

(then)

But the government had other ideas. They saw potential in these electrical "storms" as weapons of destruction.

QUINN

A dozen tornadoes sent through an enemy city on specific paths could destroy it.

ARTURO

And Mother Nature takes the blame. The perfect "plausible deniability".

REED

Malone hated the idea. He wanted to abandon the project in protest, but my father didn't want to lose the funding.

(beat)

He and my father got into an argument... it got out of hand... and Malone fell and hit his head...

(beat)

The government covered up his death so my father could continue working.

ARTURO

Obviously something went wrong.

REED

When he finally figured out how to tap the energy in the dynamos, he accidentally set off an electrical chain of events that he couldn't control.

REMBRANDT

Kind of like lettin' the electric genie out of the bottle.

REED

(nods)

I found his diary three years ago and confronted him about it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REED (CONT'D)
That night he had me beaten, and
taken out here. He said he'd
caught me stealing.

REMBRANDT
I'm sorry, man.

ARTURO
Good lord, he created the very
forces he now protects the
townspeople from. No wonder he
fears disclosure of his
responsibility, they'd banish
him! (X)

REED
And he'll do anything to protect
his secret.

QUINN
Including sending his own son out
into the wilderness.

ARTURO
(a beat; it's a longshot,
but...)
Quinn, before I became a Professor,
I worked on a project not all that
dissimilar to this for the
military. Only we were trying to
harness the energy of lightning.

At that moment, the door flies open and CALEB runs in, out
of breath.

CALEB
Reed, there's trouble! They almost
caught me...

Reed goes to his knee before the boy, steadies him with
hands on his shoulders.

REED
Tell me, Caleb.

CALEB
They were waiting when I came out
of the tunnel. They caught your
sister...
(looks at the Sliders)
...and your friend. Your father
said he's going to make an example
of them.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED 3

28

Jenny... REED (X)
(X)

(to Reed) QUINN
We've got to get them out of (X)
there.

REMBRANDT
What if Wade doesn't have the (X)
timer?

QUINN
I can't worry about that right (X)
now!

Quinn, Rembrandt and Reed move to the door.

ARTURO
Reed. Is there some way I can tap
into your solar power source?

REED
Sure. Why?

ARTURO
(to Reed and Quinn)
I'm familiar with most of this (X)
equipment. There's a possibility (X)
I can create an electrical (X)
perimeter above ground similar to (X)
the lodestone that will let us
slide from here.

Quinn looks to Reed.

REED
It's all yours.
(to Caleb)
Caleb, show him those books we
found down here.

As Quinn and Rembrandt follow Reed out...

CUT TO:

29 INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY

29

A bare windowless cell. A despondent Wade sits on the lone cot as Jenny appears at the cell door, escorted by a stone-face Jacob. She tries to make eye contact, but he won't look at her. He lets her in, then locks the cell behind her and exits.

WADE
Jenny. Will your father banish me?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED

29

JENNY

I don't know. That would have been easier for me.

(on her questioning look)

I've been shunned. From this day forward, no one may speak to me, look at me... I might as well be dead.

She breaks down as Wade comforts her.

WADE

What kind of father would do that to his own daughter?

Jenny sits on the cot, composing herself.

JENNY

He wasn't always like this. You know, when I was small, I loved him so much. Everyday when he'd come home from the air force base, I'd run outside and throw my arms around him. He'd pick me up and spin me around, I never wanted to let him go.

WADE

My dad worked so much, I never got to see him. When he retired I made him promise we'd spend more time together. Then, a month later, I went sliding.

(a beat)

I really miss him.

JENNY

Now there is no truth in my memories. He changed... a darkness came over him. I began to fear him... When he banished Reed... I ached to cry out, but I kept silent.

WADE

(a beat)

How long do you think your father'll keep me here?

JENNY

I don't know. But I fear what he may do.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED 2 29

JENNY (CONT'D)
(and then) (X)
Wade, I always found that at times
like this... it helps to pray.

As Jenny kneels next to her cot..

30 EXT. BARREN LANDSCAPE - DAY 30

Quiet. Then the WHINE of an engine. Suddenly, a MILITARY
JEEP catapults over a sand dune.

REMBRANDT
Hang on!

It hits the ground running. Rembrandt's at the wheel.
Quinn and Reed with him. As it races off...

QUINN
How far can we get on those two
cubic feet of natural gas!?

REED
I don't know. This is the first
time we're using it!

CUT TO:

31 INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY 31

A worried Wade paces as a calm Jenny rises, having finished
her praying. She moves to the bars of the cell.

JENNY
Jacob! Let me out! (X)

A beat, then Jacob approaches. He keeps his eyes from
hers. (X)
(X)

JENNY
(full of emotion)
Jacob, I know no one is to speak
to me... (X)

JACOB
My ears do not hear you. (X)
(X)

She takes his hand, raises it to kiss his fingertips. (X)

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED

31

JENNY

But you do hear me, Jacob. I know you do. My father can deny our marriage, but he can't deny our love! My heart is yours forever...

(he's weakening)

We can have this one night, this moment... let's not grow old wondering what might have been...

A sympathetic Wade watches the tender scene. Jacob can't hide his pain... or his longing.

JACOB

Maybe I can talk to your father...

JENNY

It won't do any good, we both know that. Jacob... would you just hold me...?

Jacob looks longingly into her eyes a beat, then fishes a key out of his jacket and opens the cell. He steps inside. Jenny throws her around him and they embrace.

JENNY

(breathless)
Oh, Jacob...

Wade's touched by the moment. Then, suddenly, Jenny knees him in the groin (NOTE: Please imply this impact, rather than show it). His eyes go wide as he drops to his knees, doubling over with pain. Jenny grabs the key from his hand, unlocks the door.

JENNY

Forgive me... Come on, Wade!

As they hurry out of the cell...

WADE

I've got to get the timer.

JENNY

It's in my father's safe. You go to the tunnel. I'll get it and meet you there.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. ND FARM COMMUNITY LOCATION - DAY 32

Wade races along an ND wall. As she rounds the corner she runs smack into Franklin. He holds a pitchfork to her throat.

FRANKLIN
You continue to defy me. There (X)
can be only one punishment grave (X)
enough for you. (X)

DISSOLVE TO:

33 EXT. POND - DAY 33

As a crowd of somber villagers look on as Franklin and three other men finish securing Wade to the "Dunk" chair; a wooden chair secured to the end of a long teeter-totter type board.

WADE
Please. I haven't done anything to
deserve this.

Jacob breaks through the crowd and hustles over.

FRANKLIN
You find Jenny?

JACOB
(shakes his head)
She must have escaped into a
tunnel.

Franklin is so furious he nearly slaps Jacob, but catches himself short. (X)
(X)

FRANKLIN (X)
You are not without blame in this. (X)

Franklin turns to the villagers.

FRANKLIN
This woman was caught giving food (X)
to the outcasts. She mocks our (X)
laws, now she has even turned my (X)
own flesh against me... (X)
against us! If we are to (X)
survive as a community behavior
like this cannot be tolerated.

Franklin nods to his men who swing the chair and Wade out over the pond. Two more men hold down the other end of the board on the shore. Jacob has to turn away. (X)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED

33

FRANKLIN
(pointed, to Wade)
Her punishment is death by
drowning.

And on Wade's terrified expression we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

34 EXT. BLUFF OVERLOOKING POND - DAY 34

The Jeep roars up, stops. Reed, Remmy and Quinn survey the activity below.

THEIR POV

A screaming Wade is lowered into the pond.

RESUME SCENE

As Quinn jumps from the jeep...

REED

You don't stand a chance, Quinn!

(X)

Quinn reaches over, grabs Reed's knife from his waist sheath. As he starts down the bluff...

QUINN

I'm not going to just let her die!

35 EXT. TOWN POND - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS 35

Wade's underwater, the crowd silent in anticipation. A beat, then Franklin nods and she's pulled up, GASPING for air.

Franklin gestures: Wade's dunked again. Another long beat, then Wade's lifted from the pond. She spits water defiantly.

FRANKLIN

Don't fight your fate, woman.

He gestures to the men, who dunk Wade back under.

A long beat, then a low BUZZ filters through the crowd... Wade must be dead by now. After an impossibly long moment, Franklin nods and the men lift the chair from under the water, only to find....

Wade's gone! Franklin and the crowd react, stunned. Suddenly, on the far side of the pond...

QUINN AND WADE

surface, breathing in deep gulps of air as they struggle ashore.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED

35

FRANKLIN

It's the outcasts! Stop them!

The knife Quinn used to cut Wade free is clearly visible in his hand.

(X)

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE FAR SHORE

The Jeep roars out of the trees and stops at the shore. Remmy hops out and rushes into the water to help his friends.

QUINN

The timer's still at the house...

(X)

(X)

REED

Where's my sister?

WADE

Don't know. She escaped...

(X)

As the Sliders grab on, Reed throws the Jeep into reverse, and we...

CUT TO:

36 INT. WEATHER STATION - DAY

36

A fascinated Caleb watches as Arturo works at the large control panel, carefully adjusting one of the joy sticks. He releases his grip, checks some notations on a pad.

ARTURO

That should take care of that one.

CALEB

(eager to be involved)

Yeah. That one's done.

Arturo looks over his glasses at him, smiles.

ARTURO

So you know what I'm doing.

CALEB

(caught)

Yeah. You're uh... moving those round things that stick out of the ground over our heads.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED

36

ARTURO
Technically, they're called coils.
And if I can get them aligned in
the right manner, perhaps I can
eliminate the magnetic field that
permeates this area.

CALEB
(taking a guess)
And that would be good.

ARTURO
Very good. You see, most worlds
have a magnetic field arising at
the north pole. But your world is
sprouting them like corn, and
that's a problem.

Caleb nods seriously. Maybe he understands, maybe not. But
Arturo likes his spirit. As he adjusts another joystick...

ARTURO
That's why I need to adjust the
coils above ground to face each
other. I'm hoping that will
eliminate this area's magnetic
field and normalize it. Then, my
friends and I can leave this world.

As they share a smile...

CUT TO:

37	EXT. FRANKLIN'S HOUSE - DAY The Jeep pulls up and stops.	37 (X)
	REED The timer's probably in my father's safe.	(X)
	They react to a <u>scream</u> from the rear of the house. Quinn and Reed jump out, leaving Rembrandt comforting Wade,	(X) (X)
38	OMIT (38)	38(X)
39	EXT. FRANKLIN'S HOUSE - DAY Out back, near the destroyed barn, Jenny is wrestling with Martin. The timer lays open at her feet. Quinn and Reed rush toward Martin and Jenny.	39 (X) (X) (X)

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED

39

QUINN (X)
Leave her alone! (X)

Martin releases Jenny, prepares to meet Quinn by grabbing a (X)
pitchfork. Quinn snatches up a broken 2x4 from the barn. (X)
As the two men square off, Reed appears near the house and
runs to comfort his sister.

ANGLE - QUINN AND MARTIN (X)

Martin lunges with the pitchfork, Quinn knocks it out of (X)
his hand with the board. Martin takes off running. (X)

He drops the 2x4, kneels to pick up the opened timer as Reed (X)
and Jenny approach. (X)

Rembrandt and Wade race around the corner of the house. (X)
Quinn holds out the opened timer and the dislodged circuit (X)
board in his cupped hands.

QUINN (X)
We've got a problem here. (X)

REMBRANDT (X)
We got one out front too! Franklin
and his men are coming up the road!

REED
Follow me!

Reed leads them to a nearby tree. He drops and pushes away (X)
some dirt, revealing a small wooden door. As he lifts it (X)
and gestures for the others to go down...

REED (X)
Go! Go!

Rembrandt's in, then Quinn. Franklin and his men are almost
upon the tunnel when Reed dives in, slams the door shut.
Jacob kneels, tries to open the door. It won't budge.

JACOB
Somebody get an axe!

FRANKLIN
(strangely calm)
Don't bother. I know where they're
going.

CUT TO:

39A INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERN - DAY

39A

Caleb is there to meet Wade, Quinn, Rembrandt, Jenny and Reed.

CALEB

Mr. Arturo's still in the weather station.

QUINN

Let's see how he's doing.

REED

(to Jenny)
Come on, I've been saving a room for you, sis.
(to Quinn)
I'll catch up with you.

Wade embraces Jenny.

WADE

Thank you doesn't seem like enough.

JENNY

Take care of yourselves. My prayers are with you.

Jenny and Reed follow Caleb out of shot as Rembrandt, Wade and Quinn head for the weather station.

40 INT. WEATHER STATION - DAY

40

The machinery's up, ready to hum. Arturo checks his calculations with the joysticks one last time. They turn as the door opens and Quinn leads Wade and Rembrandt in.

(X)
(X)

ARTURO

(hugs her)
Good lord, Miss Welles. You look like a drowned cat!

(X)

WADE

With only eight lives left.

REMBRANDT

(re: the control panel)
Is this thing ready to do it's magic?

ARTURO

I've crossed all the digits I own, Mr. Brown. I suggest you do the same.

(to Quinn)

How's the timer?

QUINN

All the King's Horses... but if I can find something to double as a battery contact, it might surprise us.

Arturo starts for a nearby unused control panel.

ARTURO

We should be able to salvage something from this...

(X)

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED

40

ANGLE - QUINN AND ARTURO

(X)

Arturo hands a small strip of metal from the control panel to Quinn.

ARTURO

This should work.

QUINN

Gonna have to.

As he starts to fix the timer using the strip...

ARTURO

All right, everyone. Outside. We slide in eight minutes...

He stops at the control panel, hesitates, then hits a switch. A LOCKING CLICK emanates from each joystick.

ARTURO

God willing.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. GROUND ABOVE WEATHER STATION - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

41

CAMERA PANS the barren landscape, revealing an expanse of bare ground encircled by five rotating COILS. A tunnel door opens from below and Reed leads the Sliders out. First to appear is Rembrandt, who glances around, sees something he doesn't like.

REMBRANDT

Hey Professor? Is this supposed to be happening?

As Arturo exits the tunnel, he shares Rembrandt's O.S. look.

THEIR POV -(CGI)

A small gathering of MEDIUM SIZED TWISTERS are beginning to dust up just outside the coils. Even as we watch, they increase in size and intensity.

RESUME SCENE

As the first gusts of wind reach our Sliders...

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED

41

ARTURO

All by design, Mr. Brown.
Reversing the polarity of this zone
means positive prone twisters would
naturally be attracted to it.

REMBRANDT

(doubtful)
Naturally.

As the others step out...

ARTURO

You see how the coils have locked
into place? They'll keep the
twisters outside this perimeter.
(reassuring)
Trust in science, my friend.

REMBRANDT

Tell that to the people who have to
live in this god forsaken land.

(X)

Quinn snaps the back of the timer into place, and the LED
readout flickers to life. Five minutes and counting down.
Quinn grins at Rembrandt.

QUINN

God hasn't forsaken everything yet,
Rembrandt. We slide in five
minutes.

(X)
(X)

Suddenly, the nearest coil starts to turn.

REMBRANDT

Hey! Somebody's messing with the
coils!

ARTURO

If they're moved too far, the whole
perimeter will collapse and we
won't be able to slide!

QUINN

Stay here! If I don't make it
back, slide without me!

(X)
(X)
(X)

Reed leads Quinn towards the tunnel.

(X)

WADE

Quinn!

But he's gone.

(X)

42 INT. WEATHER STATION - DAY - SECONDS LATER

42

Franklin hovers over the joystick control panel, fighting to turn the locked coils. Jacob, holding a pitchfork, stands nearby, staring in awe at the equipment.

FRANKLIN
Blast these things! (X)
(struggling with a
joystick)
I can barely turn them!

They react as Reed and Quinn rush in. Jacob blocks their way, the pitchfork leveled at them.

REED
For God's sake, leave it alone! (X)

Franklin pulls down hard on a joystick. Desperate, Reed rushes his father. (X)

Jacob lunges at him, sinks the pitchfork into Reed's shoulder.

Quinn nails the vulnerable Jacob with a quick right, sending him crumpling to his knees. (X)

ANOTHER ANGLE

Quinn rushes Franklin, shoves him hard, sends him sprawling. As Quinn moves to the control panel, Franklin rises to stop him, but freezes when he finds himself face to face with the pitchfork, held by his bleeding son. (X)
(X)

REED
Don't think I won't kill you. (X)

REED
(to his father re:
Quinn) (X)
Help him! (X)

Franklin sets his jaw. Fat chance. As Jacob slowly rises from the floor...

REED
How many more innocent people have
to die because of you?

JACOB
What are you talking about?

REED
Tell him.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED

42

Franklin doesn't respond. Reed presses the tines of the pitchfork into the flesh of his father's neck.

REED

Tell him how you created this hell we all live in.

JACOB

(stunned)
Franklin? You brought the twisters?

FRANKLIN

It was a mistake... I never meant for any of it to happen!

JACOB

(reeling)
All this time... we followed you, trusted you...

FRANKLIN

I did the best I could, I tried to hold us together

QUINN

-- Stop lying to yourself! You've held these people hostage with fear, you're a jailer, not a leader. You knew if they ever found out the truth you were finished, so you just kept lying, until the lies became myth.

(X)

FRANKLIN

Jacob, please... I'll make you my equal. We can run the town together.

A beat, then Jacob looks away, shakes his head. Franklin slumps, his facade crumbling.

QUINN

You sacrificed everything to the lies! Your own children!

(beat; trying to reach him)

Maybe it's too late for you, I don't know. But you can still help them! Finish your work, find the answers that will stop these twisters.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED 2

42

FRANKLIN (X)
I can't... (X)

QUINN (X)
Then spend the rest of your life (X)
trying! (X)

REED
(to Franklin)
These people aren't part of our (X)
world, let them go. (X)

FRANKLIN (X)
You'll need to help me. I can't (X)
do it alone. (X)

Father and son regard each other a long beat; Franklin's (X)
talking about more than the immediate situation. Reed (X)
lowers the pitch fork, and Franklin moves to the control (X)
panel. (X)

REED
(to Quinn)
Go.

Quinn reaches out, touches Reed's arm.

QUINN
Take care of yourself. The town's
going to need you.

They share a look, then Quinn hurries for the door...

CUT TO:

43 EXT. GROUND ABOVE WEATHER STATION - DAY - SECONDS LATER

43

Wade and Rembrandt hunker down near the tunnel opening with
a still dazed Arturo. The wind seems as if it'll blow them
away any second. The light is filtered and murky, and we
get the feeling the twisters have blotted out the sun.

REMBRANDT
(eyeing twisters OS)
Those things look like they're
getting closer!

WADE
How much longer?

ARTURO
(eyeing timer)
Twenty seconds!

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED

43

A worried Wade reacts with joy as Quinn appears at the tunnel opening.

WADE

Quinn!

He scrambles out, crab walks against the wind to join them. As she reaches out to grab him...

REMBRANDT

The coils are turning back!

QUINN

But I don't know how much damage there has been to the perimeter!

SPECIAL CGI ANGLE - THE PERIMETER

The twisters have melded into one LARGE, ALL ENVELOPING TORNADO.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Suddenly, one of the coils is wrenched away by the powerful suction.

ARTURO

It's not holding! The perimeter's going to collapse!

SPECIAL CGI ANGLE - THE PERIMETER

The Tornado starts to fold in on itself, as if caving in on the Sliders.

ON SLIDERS

Quinn aims the timer.

QUINN

This is it!

He activates the Timer. The Vortex appears, framed against the lowering darkness of the huge tornado.

QUINN

Go! GO!

(X)

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED 2 43
Rembrandt grabs Wade's hand and jumps up, his free arm (X)
outstretched to the vortex. It sucks them both in. Arturo
jumps, then Quinn and we...
PUNCH TO BLACK (X)
HOLD BLACK (X)
FADE OUT: (X)
44 OMIT (44-45) 44 (X)

THE END