

**EXEC. PRODUCER:** David Peckinpah  
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**CO-EXEC. PRODUCER:** Paul Jackson  
**PRODUCER:** Mychelle Deschamps  
**PRODUCER:** Richard Compton  
**CONS. PRODUCER:** Josef Anderson

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**" DRAGONSLIDE "**

Written by

Tony Blake

&

Paul Jackson

Directed by

David Livingston

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#K1816

SLIDERS

"DragonSlide"

CAST

QUINN MALLORY  
WADE WELLES  
MAXIMILLIAN ARTURO  
REMBRANDT BROWN

MELINDA  
SKULDAR  
GARETH CARR  
O'HARA  
KELLEY  
ALESHA LUJAN  
DIGGS  
SEAN  
CHIEF DRUID  
PHILIP MALLORY

#K1816

SLIDERS

"DragonSlide"

SETS

INTERIORS:

GARETH'S CHAMBER  
GARETH'S UNDERGROUND LAIR  
DRAGON'S BREATH INN  
    LOBBY  
    ROOM  
    BAR  
ALESHA'S OFFICE

EXTERIORS:

WOODS  
EMRYS STREET  
    STREET  
    OUTSIDE DRAGON'S BREATH INN  
DRAGON'S BREATH INN  
GARETH'S ESTATE  
EMRYS PARK  
    ANOTHER PART OF THE PARK  
MERLIN'S BOOKS  
LAKE  
WOODED GROVE

SLIDERS

"DragonSlide"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. WOODS - DAY

1

Rays of sunlight filter through tall pines in a pastoral setting. A beautiful young woman, MELINDA, early 20's, in a flowing dress, darts into frame. Fearful, she looks back over her shoulder, never breaking her stride. As she runs out of frame, we hear the SOUND of HORSE HOOVES pounding the forest floor.

ANOTHER ANGLE

SKULDAR, a gnome-like man of indeterminate age, dressed in jeans and a denim work shirt, guides a galloping horse through the trees. He pulls up, listens to the woods a beat, then goads his mount onward.

MELINDA

weaves through the trees. As she comes into a small clearing she nearly collides with Skuldar's horse. She GASPS. Skuldar, eerily calm, looks down from his mount.

SKULDAR

Melinda. You of all people know there's nowhere to run.

She backs away, then darts into the woods.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Melinda races across the pine covered forest floor when Skuldar suddenly appears again in her path, sitting calmly astride his horse. Melinda backs away.

MELINDA

Skuldar, please...

Skuldar dismounts.

SKULDAR

Save your breath. I'm in a foul mood as it is having to ride this smelly beast.

As he steps towards her....

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

MELINDA

You could say you couldn't find me.

SKULDAR

He'd know.

SKULDAR

backs Melinda against a tree. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a cloth.

MELINDA

breaks from the tree and runs. But after a few yards, Skuldar seems to magically step out from behind another tree, blocking her escape.

MELINDA

If you let me go I swear I will teach you everything I know.

SKULDAR

Worthless to a person without your gift.

His hand grabs her with the speed of a striking snake. She tries to break away but Skuldar clamps the cloth over her face. Melinda struggles to no avail. The drug in the cloth takes effect quickly. Skuldar lays her on the ground as

THE VORTEX

opens behind him. Puzzled,

SKULDAR

turns just as Quinn flies out and collides with him, knocking them both to the ground. They both scramble to their feet. Skuldar pulls a dagger, then reacts, terrified at the sight of Quinn, looking majestic as he's framed by the swirling vortex behind him.

QUINN

spots the unconscious Melinda.

QUINN

What are you doing?

The terrified Skuldar drops his dagger and runs for his horse. As Quinn takes off after him, the other three Sliders tumble out of the vortex, unseen by Skuldar.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 2

1

AT SKULDAR'S HORSE

Skuldar races to his mount, but Quinn grabs him from behind and pulls him to the ground.

ON MELINDA

Wade cradles the unconscious girl's head in her arms as Arturo and Rembrandt rush to

QUINN

who wrestles on the ground with the wiry little man.

ARTURO

(surprised)  
Mister Mallory...

At the sound of the name Mallory, Skuldar gives up his struggle. A look of awe crosses his face.

SKULDAR

You're a Mallory?

Quinn rises.

QUINN

(wary)  
Yeah... why?

A blinding FLASH OF WHITE LIGHT suddenly obliterates Skuldar from view. In an instant it vanishes, leaving a large RED TAILED HAWK in Skuldar's place. The astonished Sliders watch in amazement as the large bird takes flight and we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 INT. GARETH'S CHAMBER - DAY

2

A round room with Druidic drawings and symbols adorning the walls. A small statue of Mercury stands in one corner. In the center of the room is a round table. GARETH, mid-40's, square-jawed, handsome with a weathered face, works over a Cretan Maze, a Druidic form of numerology. As if hearing something only he can hear, he cocks his head.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The red-tailed Hawk lands on the stone windowsill. Gareth continues to focus on his Cretan Maze.

GARETH

You failed, didn't you Skuldar?

A blinding FLASH of WHITE LIGHT obliterates the Hawk. In an instant it's gone and in the Hawk's place is Skuldar.

SKULDAR

(fearful)

I'm sorry, Gareth.

Now Gareth looks steely-eyed over at Skuldar.

SKULDAR

It wasn't my fault. I was attacked.

GARETH

Attacked. By what? I've given you more power than you could possibly need to accomplish this simple task.

SKULDAR

It was a Mallory.

GARETH

(curious)

Another Mallory?

SKULDAR

He came out of the sky... from some kind of swirling tunnel.

Intrigued, Gareth rises, moves to Skuldar.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

GARETH

No human could travel in that form.  
Not even the most powerful Druid.  
(awed at the realization)  
It can only be a Myrddin.

SKULDAR

A wizard? Sir, with all due  
respect, I thought wizards were...

GARETH

Not "were", Skuldar. Wizards  
"are". It was only a matter of  
time before one made an appearance  
again. Although I never thought it  
would be a Mallory.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. WOODS - DAY

3

Wade, Arturo and Rembrandt flank Skuldar's horse as they  
cross a meadow. Quinn rides atop the animal, staring  
mesmerized at the unconscious Melinda nestled in his arms.

WADE

Well, you've had some time,  
Professor. Come up with that  
rational explanation yet about how  
a man can turn into a bird?

ARTURO

Not yet. But I'm sure there are at  
least a dozen.

REMBRANDT

I'd settle for one.  
(to Quinn)  
How's she doing, Q-ball?

Quinn doesn't respond. Doesn't even hear. He's too  
entranced by Melinda.

REMBRANDT

Hey Romeo, snap out of it.

QUINN

Huh? Oh, sorry. I was just lost  
in thought.

WADE

Yeah. And I think we all know what  
kind.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

They reach a simple dirt road snaking across the green landscape. Nearby is a carved wooden marker.

REMBRANDT

"Emrys. Twenty miles." Never heard of it.

WADE

On our world it's a mythical Druid city. The city of higher powers.

QUINN

Druids? I thought they died out in the middle ages.

ARTURO

Like most fringe philosophies, it's popularity ebbed and flowed. But it's always maintained a small cadre of believers.

REMBRANDT

None of which lived in my neighborhood. So what's their story?

Arturo opens his mouth to respond but is cut off by Wade.

WADE

They're like an earth religion. They worship nature, and they believe in magic and mystical powers. In fact, according to legend they're the ones who forged Excalibur.

REMBRANDT

How do you know all this stuff?

WADE

I had braces in junior high. Amazingly, I found myself with lots of time to read.

ARTURO

Here comes a car.

A POLICE CAR pulls up, stops as Arturo flags it down. The emblem reads "City of Emrys Police" against a backdrop of a Druidic protective design. Two COPS step out: O'HARA, a veteran and a hack; and KELLEY, young and idealistic. Instead of police blues, they wear forest green jumpsuits and carry SWORDS instead of guns.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 2

3

O'HARA

Problem?

Remy takes Melinda from Quinn.

ARTURO

We came across this young girl  
being assaulted in the woods.

KELLEY

(to partner)

Hey. That's Gareth's apprentice.

Quinn dismounts as the two cops take Melinda and carry her  
to the patrol car.

O'HARA

(to Sliders)

Don't worry, we'll take her home.

ARTURO

I believe she might need medical  
attention.

The cops open the back door, lay Melinda against the seat.

O'HARA

Maybe you didn't hear. She's  
Gareth's apprentice. She doesn't  
need medical attention.

MELINDA

(stirring)

What... what are you doing?

O'HARA

Relax, Melinda. We're taking you  
back to the estate.

MELINDA

(suddenly agitated)

What?! No... no, please don't do  
that!

(to Sliders)

Please! Don't let them take me  
back there!

The cops slam the back door closed, start to climb into the  
front seats.

QUINN

Wait a minute!

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 3

3

O'Hara puts his hand threateningly on the scabbard of his sword.

O'HARA

This matter no longer concerns you.

Quinn bristles; looks like a dust-up is about to explode when...

KELLEY

(reassuring)

Don't worry, we'll see that she's okay.

The cops climb into the car and pull away, Melinda's MUFFLED PROTESTS fading in the distance. Off Quinn's conflicted look, we...

CUT TO:

4 EXT. EMRYS STREET - DAY - LATER

4

A bucolic avenue dotted with Druid inspired shops: a mystical bookstore (MERLIN'S BOOKS), a Druid plant nursery, etc. Arturo walks with Quinn as Rembrandt and Wade linger behind, fascinated by the different shops.

ARTURO

Don't be so hard on yourself Mister Mallory. We turned her over to the authorities. I'm sure they'll take care of it.

QUINN

I wanted to help her, Professor. By the look on her face, I did anything but.

ANGLE - FAVORING REMBRANDT AND WADE

As they step away from a shop window...

WADE

It makes sense that the Druids would settle America. They were harassed by the authorities in England just like the Pilgrims, only about a thousand years earlier.

She notices Remmy staring at her, smiling.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

WADE  
What?

REMBRANDT  
Who would have thought braces would  
have come in so handy?

She smiles as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. DRAGON BREATH'S INN - DAY - MINUTES LATER

As the Sliders approach the entrance, a strikingly beautiful  
woman exits and brushes past Rembrandt. This is...

ALESHA  
Excuse me.

REMBRANDT  
Alesha?!

The woman stops, looks at Remmy blankly.

ALESHA  
Have we met?

REMBRANDT  
Well, yeah... sort of.

ALESHA  
I'm sorry. I don't remember.

REMBRANDT  
Yeah, well...  
(to Sliders)  
...that happens to us a lot.

Puzzled, she turns to leave.

REMBRANDT  
Hey wait!  
(meaningfully)  
"You have Cleopatra's eyes. And I  
am Marc Anthony's heart".

She stares at him a beat, taking it in, then...

ALESHA  
Is that supposed to be a pick-up  
line?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 2

4

REMBRANDT  
No. It's from a song I wrote. For  
you.

ALESHA  
(blowing him off)  
I don't think so.

REMBRANDT  
You loved it the first time you  
heard it.

She turns and starts to walk off but Remmy grabs her arm.

REMBRANDT  
Look... you and I have a  
connection. It's kinda hard to  
explain...

ALESHA  
No it isn't. I've treated your  
type before. You see a woman,  
create a fantasy romance in your  
mind and then react aggressively  
when she doesn't respond to your  
twisted delusion.

Alesha withdraws a business card, sticks it into his hand.

ALESHA  
Call me. If you have insurance.

She turns and exits, Rembrandt staring after her. He  
glances down at the card.

REMBRANDT  
Dr. Alesha Lujan. Psychiatrist.

WADE  
(taking card)  
What was that all about?

REMBRANDT  
(annoyed)  
What's it always all about? It's  
about meeting people we care about  
who don't even know who we are.

He heads for the Inn, obviously upset. Off the other  
Sliders...

CUT TO:

5 EXT. GARETH'S ESTATE - DAY

5

The police car pulls up and parks near a stone castle-like building. As the two cops exit and reach for the back door we HEAR a SOFT WHOOSH, then...

A LARGE SHADOW (CGI)

... passes over them, its winged outline silhouetted against the stone estate walls. Both cops look up into the bright sky, but only young Kelley cups his hand over his eyes.

HIS POV

Something... a wing, a tail, (CGI) something... crests the roof of the house and disappears.

RESUME THE COPS

KELLEY

(astonished)

Did you see that?

O'HARA

No, sun was in my eyes.

KELLEY

(awed)

I think it was the Dragon...

O'HARA

Come on. You don't buy that crap, do you?

As O'Hara opens the door, helps a sullen Melinda out...

KELLEY

Hey, a lot of people think it exists.

O'HARA

Well, a lot of people are stupid. It was just a big bird.

Melinda turns, shoots a look to Kelley that chills the young officer to the bones. It wasn't a bird and they both know it.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE ENTRANCE

As the threesome near the front door, it opens revealing Gareth, shadowed by Skuldar.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

GARETH  
So. You've found the wayward  
Melinda.  
(to Skuldar)  
Take her inside. See that she's  
comfortable.

As Skuldar leads Melinda inside...

KELLEY  
Sir, I know it's none of my  
business, but she may need medical  
attention.

GARETH  
You're right. It's not your  
business.

He fixes Kelley with a hard stare, then closes the door.  
O'Hara turns to head back to the patrol car, but Kelley  
lingers behind.

KELLEY  
I still don't feel right about  
this. I think he's gonna hurt her.

O'HARA  
She's his apprentice. He can do  
whatever he wants.  
(then, softer)  
C'mon, it's end of shift.

Kelley starts to follow, but he's clearly troubled.

CUT TO:

6 INT. DRAGON'S BREATH INN - DAY

6

We're CLOSE on a hooded Falcon, tethered to a perch. As the  
CAMERA PULLS BACK we find ourselves in a rustic English  
hunting lodge. A large wooden Dragon adorns one end of the  
bar. The male Sliders sit at a nearby table picking over  
the remains of lunch. Quinn and Rembrandt stare moodily  
into their drinks.

ARTURO  
(wry)  
If you're so enamored with this  
Alesha, Mister Brown, perhaps you  
should try a love potion.

He turns to Wade, who's just arrived.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ARTURO

- He's certainly on the right world  
for one, isn't he Miss Welles?

WADE

(sitting down)  
Wouldn't you be surprised.

ARTURO

(teasing)  
Actually, I'm feeling rather left  
out, not having a woman to moon  
over.

REMBRANDT

(annoyed)  
I fail to see the humor, Professor.  
We've been sliding a long time and  
maybe an egghead like you can find  
happiness with a book on cosmology,  
but I happen to enjoy the  
companionship of a woman.

ARTURO

(defensive)  
I assure you I enjoy and certainly  
desire the company of a woman as  
much as the next man. And I don't  
like your implying...

WADE

Stop it! This is a ridiculous  
argument.

(beat, then)

We could all use someone special to  
wrap our arms around once in a  
while. But it's not going to help  
any if we start attacking each  
other.

They all fall silent a beat, then...

WADE

(to Quinn)

I found out who this Gareth guy is.  
The desk clerk said he used to be  
the Chief Druid of Emrys, but the  
council threw him out of the order  
for practicing black magic.

QUINN

Oh great. You're really making me  
feel good.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 2

6

WADE

Hey, she's his apprentice. For all we know she's as dark as he is.

QUINN

She's not.

Arturo and Wade exchange a curious look.

WADE

How do you know?

(beat, then)

Quinn, you've been obsessing about her from the moment you saw her. I know she's beautiful, but I think it's time you let it go.

DIGGS approaches and starts clearing the dirty dishes.

QUINN

Diggs. Do you know anything about a woman named Melinda?

Wade rises from the table, exasperated.

WADE

I've had enough. I'm going up to the room. Anybody coming with me?

REMBRANDT

Yeah, I am.

As they exit...

QUINN

(to Diggs)

So...

DIGGS

She belongs to a Druid named Gareth. They say she was born with a talent for the supernatural.

ARTURO

Is everyone here a Druid?

DIGGS

No. They're the ruling class. Do a real fine job of running things too. Except for the occasional bad apple.

QUINN

Where's this Gareth's estate?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 3

6

DIGGS  
You don't want to know. There's a  
lot of weird stuff supposedly goin'  
on up there.

QUINN  
(to Arturo)  
I can't just sit here knowing I  
handed her over to this guy. I've  
got to go up there.

DIGGS  
Before you do anything you might  
want to talk to a reporter I know.  
Sean Nuinn. He knows more about  
Gareth than anybody.

CUT TO:

7 INT. GARETH'S UNDERGROUND LAIR - DAY

7

CLOSE ON A SHEATHED SWORD

mounted on a wall of a cave. A strikingly unique CREST  
adorns the exposed sword handle. The name MALLORY has been  
etched in old English lettering along the length of the  
sheath.

CAMERA PANS to discover the body of a handsome young man  
(PHILIP MALLORY) encased in clear quartz and embedded in the  
wall next to the sword. Mallery's neither alive nor dead;  
his face is determined but unmoving as he's held in a state  
of suspended animation.

ANOTHER ANGLE REVEALS MELINDA

... restrained hand and foot on a stone altar at one end of  
the cave. Suddenly a figure steps into the light. It's  
Kelley, the young cop.

KELLEY  
(horrified)  
Oh my god...

MELINDA  
Please... untie me.

KELLEY  
What's he going to do to you?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

MELINDA

The moon is sextile Jupiter and now he can raise a demon from the underworld to impregnate me.

As the officer works to untie her feet from the restraints...

MELINDA

He wants me to give birth to an immortal child. Just like the wizard Merlin.

Now Kelley frees one of her hands from the restraints. As he starts working on the other...

KELLEY

For godsakes, why?

MELINDA

Once the child is grown, Gareth plans to take possession of its body. It would mean he could live forever.

GARETH (O.S.)

I admire your skill, officer.

Startled, they turn to find Gareth approaching, dressed in a black ceremonial robe. Skuldar follows.

GARETH

You're the only outsider who's ever found this place.

Kelley pulls his sword. Gareth ignores it.

GARETH

And I admire your concern for the young lady, but I no longer have any need for her to bear me a child. The Mallory Wizard who found her in the woods has an immortal body.

MELINDA

You don't have the power to possess a wizard's body.

GARETH

This one I do. Because he is a Mallory. And I know their weakness.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 2

7

KELLEY

So you're going to let her go?

GARETH

Of course not. I still need her  
mind. Your presence however is no  
longer required.

CLOSE ON GARETH

His eyes turn hot; they glow a garish orange. (CGI)

ON KELLEY

His face contorts as Gareth's power consumes him. The sword  
drops from his grasp, his body goes rigid, then SHATTERS  
into a million pieces (CGI). And off Melinda's horrified  
expression...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

8 EXT. DARKENED ALLEY - DAY

8

Heavy shadows fall across the dead end alley. Arturo and Quinn cautiously enter and make their way through the garbage.

ARTURO  
Could he have picked a more pleasant meeting place?

QUINN  
I had to beg him to meet with us at all.  
(calling out)  
Mister Nuinn?

SEAN (O.S)  
Don't say my name.

The Sliders turn to a darkened corner of the alley where we can barely make out Sean Nuinn's silhouette sitting in the shadows.

SEAN  
You've got one minute.

SEAN NUINN, early 40's, with a grizzled face, hove sits behind a desk eying Quinn and Arturo.

QUINN  
Mister Nuinn, the bartender at the Inn said you know more about Gareth than anybody.

SEAN  
~~You know that already.~~ You just wasted ten seconds.

QUINN  
I'm worried about his apprentice, Melinda. I think he may be abusing her.

SEAN  
I'm sure he is. But certain Druids have developed incredible powers over the course of generations. Gareth's one of them. No one wants to challenge him. Forty seconds.

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(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

ARTURO

Is there any way this Melinda could gain her freedom?

SEAN

Only if Gareth granted it. And that's not likely. He's got a soul black as tar. In fact I'm convinced he's responsible for the destruction of the Mallory clan.  
~~Thirty seconds.~~

QUINN

Mallory clan?

SEAN

Highly regarded white Druids. Gareth feared their power and influence. I can't prove it yet, but I think he found their Achilles' heel and murdered them.  
Twenty seconds.

Arturo and Quinn react. Then....

ARTURO

I seem to remember some Druidic lore about destroying an entire clan.

SEAN

If you wipe out the last of a lineage, they say you incur the wrath of Mercury, god of high magic. I've heard that Gareth keeps the last Mallory brother imprisoned somewhere on his estate to avoid that.

A moment as they take this in, then Arturo and Quinn rise.

QUINN

(astonished)  
Is there some way I could get into Gareth's estate?

SEAN

Sorry, you're out of time.

ARTURO

Why are you so afraid to talk to us?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 2

8

Nuinn rolls out of the shadows revealing he's in a WHEELCHAIR.

SEAN

After I wrote an unflattering article about Gareth, I lost feeling in my legs. Doctors can't find anything wrong.

(a beat)

Think long and hard before you do something you might regret.

CUT TO:

9 INT. INN ROOM - DAY

9

Heavily influenced with English decor. Rembrandt sits on the edge of a bed, on the phone.

REMBRANDT

That's right, I'm from a parallel world.

(he waits, then)

You know, that's the exact word I used the first time it was explained to me. But it's true, Alesha! We've crossed the Einstein-Rosen-Podalsky bridge!

Wade enters, carrying an old, large leather bound book.

REMBRANDT

Uh huh... really? Delusional schizophrenic? No, I can't say anyone's ever called me that before.

(and then)

Uh huh... so does that mean your answer is no?

He flinches at the SOUND of the phone being hung up on the other end. He sighs, hangs up and flops back on the bed.

WADE

So much for honesty, huh?

REMBRANDT

It's true what they say... "Love is a cruel jester".

Wade sits on the end of the bed.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

WADE

What's the story with you two?

(then)

I mean, if you feel you want to talk about it. If not, I understand.

REMBRANDT

That's one of the things I like about you. You never press, but you always get me to open up.

Wade smiles, then...

REMBRANDT

The day my Cadillac was sucked up by Q-Ball's vortex... the day I was gonna sing the National Anthem and kick start my career... that day, I was gonna ask Alesha to move in with me.

(and then)

She was struggling as a back-up singer with the Harlettes, but I could see she had talent. We were gonna be a team. Kind of like Ike and Tina but without the broken dishes.

WADE

It's weird, but we've never really talked about what was going on with you when you got caught up in all this...

REMBRANDT

Yeah, I had a life. And if I could reconnect with Alesha... let's just say she's the kind of woman I'd give up sliding for.

WADE

(re: book)

Well, maybe this can help. I found it at a Druid bookstore. It's a book of spells and potions.

REMBRANDT

(beat, then)

You telling me we're gonna cast a love spell so that Alesha will fall for me all over again?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 2

9

WADE

You game?

REMBRANDT

On a world where a man can turn  
into a Hawk, you bet.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. EMRYS STREET OUTSIDE THE INN - DAY

10

As Quinn and Arturo make their way back towards the Dragon's  
Breath Inn...

ARTURO

I won't deny your worry for this  
girl is justified, but it's foolish  
for you to get involved in what is  
tantamount to a domestic dispute on  
this world.

QUINN

I just can't let a person suffer  
because of a mistake I made. On  
this or any other world.

They reach the Inn. Arturo stops, turns Quinn to face him.

ARTURO

We slide in twelve hours. What can  
you possibly do today that can't be  
undone tomorrow?

Quinn hesitates; he has no answer.

MELINDA (O.S.)

Quinn?

Startled, they turn to find Melinda standing next to them!  
It's as if she appeared from nowhere.

MELINDA

Gareth has released me from his  
claim. I'm free now.

Forgetting all about Arturo, Quinn steps close to Melinda,  
her mere presence almost overwhelming him.

QUINN

I... I'm so glad you're okay. You  
don't know how badly I felt...

She places her index finger against his lips to quiet him.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

MELINDA

It was because of you that Gareth freed me. He fears your clan.

Two customers exit the Inn, brush past them.

MELINDA

May we go someplace where we can talk?

(re: Arturo)

Alone?

QUINN

Sure.

(eyes on Melinda)

I'll be back in a little while, Professor.

ARTURO

(concerned)

Mr. Mallory....

Melinda turns her head and locks eyes with Arturo.

MELINDA

(to Arturo)

He'll be fine.

Her expression remains gentle, but SOMETHING CHANGES IN ARTURO AND HIS APPREHENSION VANISHES.

ARTURO

(as if reciting)

You'll be fine. I think I'll just stay out here and enjoy the fresh air.

(smiling)

Good day, Miss.

Melinda nods politely, then hooks her arm through Quinn's and leads him across the street to the park.

ON ARTURO

He serenely watches them exit a beat, then A LOOK CROSSES ARTURO'S FACE and he BLINKS HIS EYES AS IF TO CLEAR THEM. Puzzled, he looks around as we...

CUT TO:

11 INT. INN ROOM - DAY

11

The shades are drawn tight. Candles provide the light. Wade holds the book of spells as she circles Remmy, who fights to remain crosslegged on the floor.

REMBRANDT  
Honey, I appreciate what you're trying to do. But I'm getting a cramp.

WADE  
Shhhh. We're almost there.

REMBRANDT  
Man, if anyone saw us doing this, they'd say we're way past there.

WADE  
Rembrandt, quiet! You're supposed to concentrate on the object of your desire.

REMBRANDT  
Right, right...

Rembrandt closes his eyes as Wade lifts an opaque bottle containing a scented liquid.

WADE  
(reading from book)  
"Circle of magic, chaste ring of white, capture the face of this man's love at first sight."

She sprinkles it on Rembrandt, who reacts.

WADE  
(reading from book)  
"Consecrate the flowers of this scent... and allow the wearer's heart to claim that which you have destined him to cherish."  
(closes the book)  
That's it. You can open your eyes.

A beat, then Remmy does. As he looks around, a little lost...

WADE  
If we did this right, there's no way Alesha can resist you..

REMBRANDT  
(blankly)  
Alesha who?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

WADE

Alesha who?

Remmy's eyes find Wade, focus. Only something's very wrong.  
He's staring at her dreamily.

REMBRANDT

Have I ever told you how beautiful  
you are?

WADE

Oh-oh...

Off Wade's concern...

CUT TO:

EXT. EMRYS PARK - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Melinda and Quinn drift through the isolated, peaceful  
setting.

QUINN

What will you do now that you don't  
have to serve Gareth anymore?

MELINDA

That's what I wanted to talk with  
you about.

(and then)

I'd like to be with you. If you'll  
have me.

That stops him. He turns to face her.

MELINDA

Ever since the moment I saw you, I  
knew we should live as one.

QUINN

Melinda... I... I want to be with  
you too. But there's a problem.  
You see....

(struggles with this,  
then)

I'm leaving this world in a few  
hours.

MELINDA

(totally accepting)

I expected as much. It is a  
wonderful power to possess.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 2

11

Totally thrown, Quinn opens his mouth to react, stops. That wasn't the response he was expecting. She leans in, her lips tantalizingly close to Quinn's.

MELINDA

So take me with you. We can travel among the stars, make love in the clouds...

Oh yeah. Quinn's eyes begin to close.

MELINDA

Just promise to be gentle with me. I've never kissed a Wizard.

Quinn's eyes shoot open. Wizard? But before he can speak, Melinda kisses him. Whatever his concerns, they're erased by her touch. When she breaks the kiss, a TINGLY FEELING comes over Quinn.

QUINN

Melinda...?

Quinn touches his lips, realizes something is wrong. He pulls away, can't walk, stumbles to one knee. Melinda watches him impassively.

QUINN

Melinda... help me...

Quinn falls hard to the ground, landing on his back. His eyes are open, he's conscious, but totally immobilized.

He looks up at Melinda, flinches when she's suddenly ENGULFED IN A BURST OF WHITE LIGHT. The light dissipates. She's gone.

ANOTHER ANGLE - CAMERA HOVERS OVER A PRONE QUINN

As we look down at him, we HEAR a SOFT WHOOSH, then the SHADOW of a DRAGON (CGI) crosses over Quinn's body.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE PARK - DAY - SIMULTANEOUS

12

A worried Arturo makes his way into the empty park.

ARTURO

Mr. Mallory? Quinn?  
(to himself)

Damn that boy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

ARTURO (cont'd)  
(then, louder)  
Mr. Mallory? Where are you?

He steps into a clearing, reacts to the growing SOUND of a soft WHOOSH.

ARTURO  
Quinn?

The SHADOW of a DRAGON (CGI) crosses over Arturo. Startled, he looks up, then DIVES OUT OF THE WAY as a BURST OF FLAMES hits the ground where he had been standing.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the SHADOW disappears and the SOFT WHOOSH fades, Arturo rises from the ground, stares stunned at the scorched ground where the flames hit. It's still smoking. What the hell?

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. GARETH'S LAIR - DAY

13

Quinn lies on the stone altar, conscious yet powerless to speak or move. A large smoking cauldron stands at the foot of the altar. A dispassionate Melinda stands over Quinn. Skuldar watches from nearby.

MELINDA  
I'm sorry, Quinn. But when Gareth compels me to do his bidding, I am powerless.

She crosses to the quartz encased Philip Mallory, the pain of his memory very much alive.

MELINDA  
You remind me of Philip. He was the last Mallory to challenge Gareth. He was gentle yet strong. Was he your brother? I suppose I'll never know.

She touches the sword hanging on the wall.

MELINDA  
He carried this sword, forged a thousand years ago under the guidance of Merlin. It was the only weapon that could have slain my master.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

SKULDAR

Philip was a fool. He fell in love  
with you just like all the others  
and that was his mistake.

She looks longingly at Philip.

MELINDA

But Philip was the only one I  
loved. I think Gareth keeps him  
here like this to torment me.

GARETH (O.S.)

How perceptive of you.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Gareth enters.

GARETH

And now the sword is powerless  
(to Quinn)  
...and so are you.

Skuldar drops from his seat on the ledge and brings a black  
Druidic robe trimmed in gold to Gareth. As he helps Gareth  
put it on...

GARETH

You may be a wizard, Quinn Mallory,  
living outside the boundaries of  
space and time. But you still have  
the same flaw as the rest of your  
clan. Unable to resist the beauty  
of my beguiling apprentice.

Gareth raises his arms and starts an INCANTATION as he waves  
an ornate dagger over Quinn.

GARETH

Black fires of a kindle within,  
join elements of eternity above and  
below...

He cuts a lock of hair and drops it in a goblet then ladles  
out a brew from the cauldron into the goblet during...

GARETH

Release my spirit unto him and  
allow me for all eternity to dwell  
within.

He drinks from the goblet. A beat, then Quinn's eyes close.  
Gareth's body goes limp.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: 2

13

Skuldar catches him and lays him down. Another beat, then Gareth's spirit (CGI) exits his body and enters Quinn's. Quinn's body rises to a sitting position. He gets off the stone altar. His VOICE IS NOW THAT OF GARETH.

QUINN/GARETH

At last I have achieved that which  
for so long has eluded me.  
Immortality.

And off the apprehensive look of Melinda we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

14 EXT. EMRYS PARK - DAY 14

CLOSE ON THE TIMER

lying face down on the ground. A HAND reaches into FRAME and lifts it.

WIDEN TO REVEAL ARTURO

holding the timer in the area of the park where Quinn fell. He eyes the timer, then looks around. Damn.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. MERLIN'S BOOKS - DAY 15

The door opens and Wade appears. Rembrandt's right behind her, awkwardly reaching over her to open the door.

REMBRANDT

Let me get that for you,  
sweetheart.

WADE

I know how to open a door,  
Rembrandt.

REMBRANDT

And no one does it more gracefully.  
But why take a chance on breaking  
one of your beautiful little nails?  
(and then)  
They're so cute I could just nibble  
on them.

He takes her hand, she pulls it away.

WADE

Would you stop already?

She starts down the street, Rembrandt right alongside, smothering her.

WADE

How can they be allowed to sell a  
book of spells if they don't know  
how to break them?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

REMBRANDT

(oblivious)  
You know, I love how your hair  
shines in the sun. I love the smell  
of your perfume. I love...

WADE

I know, I know. Everything about  
me.

(stops, turns to him)  
You know what would be a really  
good idea? If we gave each other  
a little space.

Remmy notices a nearby florist cart. With the vendor's back  
turned, Rembrandt snatches up a bouquet of flowers, which he  
shoves into Wade's face.

REMBRANDT

(ad libbing a tune)  
"My love for you is like a flower;  
I'm the bud, you're the bee, take  
all my power."

WADE

Will you put those back?!

She grabs them, hands them back to the vendor.

WADE

Sorry. My friend's a little nuts  
today.

He jumps up on a sidewalk bus bench, addresses the  
pedestrians walking past.

REMBRANDT

How many of you good folk think you  
know what love is?

WADE

Rembrandt, please...

REMBRANDT

I used to think I knew what love  
was. And then I met a woman named  
Wade.

People start to gather. Wade would like to crawl under a  
rock right now. Remmy launches into a speech with the  
passion reminiscent of a revival preacher.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: 2

15

REMBRANDT

I have known what it's like to be lonely. I have known what it's like to be blue. I have known what it's like to have no one. But now I have found...  
(points at Wade)  
...you.

A few of the people applaud and smile. Wade spots a police officer approaching.

WADE

Would you like to know what it's like to be in jail?  
(pulling him down)  
Get down!  
(and then)  
Rembrandt, listen to me. You're not in love with me, you're under a spell. We're just friends. Understand?

REMBRANDT

(beat, then)  
Did you know your tongue peeks out between your front teeth when you say your S's? That's so damn cute!

WADE

(sighs, then)  
I've got to get you some serious help.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. GARETH'S ESTATE - DAY

16

A wary Arturo approaches the front door. He's about to knock when the door swings open, revealing Melinda.

MELINDA

If you're looking for your master, he's not here.

ARTURO

(indignant)  
Madam, to begin with, he is not my master. I am his Professor.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

MELINDA

(amazed)  
You're a wizard too?

ARTURO

(annoyed)  
A wizard?! Oh lord.  
(quickly)  
Of course I'm not a wizard. I'm a  
scientist. I deal in facts,  
reality, not outlandish fantasy.

MELINDA

Then how could you have taught the  
Wizard Mallory?

ARTURO

(incredulous)  
The Wizard Mallory? Quinn Mallory  
is no more a wizard than this door  
knocker.

MELINDA

(stunned)  
I may be young, but I'm not a fool.  
The Wizard Mallory came from out of  
the sky.

ARTURO

We are interdimensional travelers.  
Our work is rooted in the very  
concrete laws of physics. I assure  
you, Mister Mallory is as human as  
you or I.

She eyes Arturo, concerned, unsure whether or not to believe  
him.

ARTURO

Now I suspect he's been involved in  
some kind of foul play and I  
believe you know something about  
it.

MELINDA

(evasive)  
I'm sorry, but I left him in the  
woods.

She starts to close the door. Arturo stops her, then  
sensing her uncertainty, he softens.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 2

16

ARTURO

Melinda, Quinn was very concerned for your safety. When he learned that Gareth was your master, he agonized over having given you to the police.

(and then)

He was willing to put himself in harm's way to help you.

He searches her face a beat.

ARTURO

Please, if you know anything of his whereabouts...

Melinda hesitates. She's obviously conflicted. Finally...

MELINDA

You'd better come inside.

CUT TO:

17 INT. ALESHA'S OFFICE - DAY

17

CLOSE ON REMBRANDT

sitting in a chair. His eyes are open, but vacant.

ALESHA (O.S.)

Can you hear me, Rembrandt?

REMBRANDT

Yes.

WIDEN TO REVEAL ALESHA

as she kneels down next to the chair.

ALESHA

Good. Very good. Now just relax.

Wade appears over her shoulder.

WADE

I didn't think it would be possible to hypnotize someone who's already under a spell.

ALESHA

In my profession, we don't believe in spells and incantations.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

ALESHA (cont'd)  
They're just myths, believed by the  
uneducated and easily seduced.  
(and then)  
No offense.

WADE  
(indicating Remmy)  
I screwed up a love spell and my  
friend is suddenly nuts about me.  
That's a fact, Doctor. Not a myth.

ALESHA  
What it is... is an excuse.  
(and then)  
It's clear to me your friend is  
simply using this "spell" as a safe  
way to express deep, latent  
feelings about you that he's been  
afraid to consciously speak before.

WADE  
(considers, then)  
No way.

ALESHA  
His psyche has latched onto this  
opportunity to give him an avenue,  
the freedom, if you will... to  
state his emotions without fear of  
rejection.

She grabs a chair, moves it across from Remmy thru...

WADE  
So... all these things he's been  
saying are true? He's really in  
love with me?

Alesha turns to Remmy.

ALESHA  
Rembrandt, do you love Wade?

Rembrandt hesitates. Wade's on pins and needles.

REMBRANDT  
I love her in a way most people  
can't understand.

ALESHA  
Tell me how you love Wade.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 2

17

REMBRANDT  
I love her like the earth loves the sun. She brings me light when I'm feeling lost... warmth when I'm cold and afraid... and laughter when the rain has fallen for far too long.

ALESHA  
Do you want to make love to her?

REMBRANDT  
(beat, then)  
It's not like that.  
(and then)  
I'm in love with Wade's soul. If God so blessed me, that's what I would want to touch.

Alesha turns to Wade, whose eyes are misting.

WADE  
Oh, Rembrandt...

Alesha smiles, turns back to Remmy.

ALESHA  
I'm going to wake you now. The "spell" will be broken and you will not remember anything that has been said here. Is that clear?

REMBRANDT  
Yes.

ALESHA  
Awaken now.

A beat, then Remmy's eyes come into focus. He looks to Alesha, then Wade.

REMBRANDT  
Wade... what are we doing here?

WADE  
You remember that love spell I tried?

REMBRANDT  
Yeah.

WADE  
Well, it kind of backfired.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 3

17

REMBRANDT  
(to Alesha; crestfallen)  
So you and I don't have a  
connection?

ALESHA  
Oh, we have a connection. You owe  
me eighty-five dollars.

CUT TO:

18 INT. GARETH'S LAIR - DAY

18

Arturo stares at the inanimate body of Philip Mallory.

MELINDA  
Gareth knew if he killed the last  
of the Mallory lineage, he'd incur  
the wrath of Mercury and risk  
losing his power. So he keeps  
Philip here in suspended animation.

ARTURO  
And the Mallorys were trying to  
stop Gareth from this ludicrous  
quest for immortality?

MELINDA  
It's not ludicrous. It's what made  
Merlin immortal. He was conceived  
by mortal mother from a demon  
father.

ARTURO  
Merlin? Of the legend of King  
Arthur?

MELINDA  
It's not legend. It's New British  
history. Once my immortal child  
was of age, Gareth planned to take  
possession of its body. He's  
obsessed with immortality.

Arturo eyes her. What is he to make of this lunacy.

MELINDA  
You seem to have doubts.

ARTURO  
Doubts? I can't believe I'm even  
having this conversation.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

ARTURO (cont'd)  
And you're saying that Gareth now  
plans to take possession of Quinn  
instead, to gain his immortality?

MELINDA  
Not plans to. Has. But if, as you  
say, Quinn is truly mortal... we  
can exorcise Gareth from Quinn's  
body. It's dangerous, but there is  
no other alternative.

ARTURO  
Good lord.  
(and then)  
All right. What do we need to do?

DISSOLVE TO:

19 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

19

Arturo, now wearing a white ceremonial Druidic hood and gown, uses a pike to guide a flat wooden raft carrying him and Melinda, also in hood and gown, toward the shore.

MELINDA  
Gareth chose me because I had  
demonstrated supernatural talents  
as a child. It was a very high  
honor. So, at sixteen, I pledged  
an oath to him to learn the ways of  
the order.

ARTURO  
But now you are his indentured  
servant. And live in fear of him.

MELINDA  
It's more complicated than that.  
He has given me many of my powers.

ARTURO  
What power could possibly be worth  
the sacrifice of your freedom?

MELINDA  
When I was young, I was caught in a  
house fire. I escaped, but my face  
was badly scarred. Gareth taught  
me how to create the illusion of  
beauty.

The ferry reaches shore. Arturo turns to her, curious.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

ARTURO

Are you telling me the face I'm  
looking at isn't real?

MELINDA

It takes much of my inner power to  
maintain this aura.

Arturo helps Melinda onto the shore.

ARTURO

If I may, nothing as superficial as  
a pretty face is worth throwing  
your life away.

MELINDA

Do you know what it's like to look  
into a mirror and cringe? To be  
afraid to go out in public? To  
always hide your face when a man  
looks at you. It is a far worse  
prison to live in.

ARTURO

Melinda, that which is beautiful is  
not always good, but that which is  
good is always beautiful.

As she considers his words...

CUT TO:

20 EXT. WOODED GROVE - NIGHT - LATER

20

A half dozen Druids in white hooded robes encircle a wooden  
round table in a clearing lit by torches. Among them are  
Skuldar and Quinn. On the table lies the lifeless body of  
Gareth.

SKULDAR

Gentlemen, before you lies the body  
of the mortal Gareth. The man you  
chose to banish from the order for  
using his powers to destroy those  
who would destroy him.

QUINN/GARETH

But it is only my body. Gareth  
Carr now stands before the council  
of Emrys as an immortal, sealed by  
my possession of the Wizard  
Mallory.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

The Druids exchange a surprised look.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Behind a stand of shrubs, an astonished Arturo crouches low next to Melinda, who holds a crescent-shaped wooden wand with two small bells hanging from it. They watch as Gareth's voice comes out of Quinn's body.

MELINDA

Are you certain you can do this?

ARTURO

My friend is essentially dead. If this is the only way to resurrect him, what choice have I?

MELINDA

Remember. Your aim must be true or the spirit will not leave the body.

As Gareth continues to address the council we follow Arturo as he rises and makes his way toward the meeting.

QUINN/GARETH

Now my powers are far greater than any of you alone or together. And so I reclaim my rightful position to rule Emrys and all New Briton.

Arturo hurries up behind Quinn.

ARTURO

(to council)

This man is not immortal!

An angry Quinn/Gareth wheels around to see Arturo.

ARTURO

Quinn, forgive me for what I am about to do.

Arturo reveals a DAGGER and PLUNGES IT INTO Quinn/Gareth's stomach. As the stunned Druids watch, Quinn/Gareth's eyes widen in shock as his blood flows, staining his robe. As he staggers we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

21 EXT. WOODED GROVE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

21

Arturo stands over the mortally wounded Quinn, who writhes in agony on the ground. The Druidic council stands in a circle around them.

ARTURO  
(to the council)  
He bleeds like any ordinary man.

QUINN/GARETH  
(gasping)  
Skuldar...

SKULDAR  
Master, you must abdicate the body  
before the heart stops!

Quinn/Gareth falls prone on the ground. A beat, then Gareth's spirit (CGI) exits Quinn's body and re-enters his own that lies on the table. Suddenly, Gareth rises from the table as Arturo kneels over Quinn.

QUINN  
(breathless)  
Professor... help me.

ARTURO  
Melinda!

As Melinda rushes from the shadows...

GARETH  
(furious)  
Of course! It could have only been  
you!

CHIEF DRUID  
Gareth. Leave this grove at once.  
No vengeful act will take place  
here.

Gareth eyes them... realizes that together they are more powerful than he. Melinda kneels at Quinn's side and holds the wooden crescent shaped wand out over him.

GARETH  
(to Melinda)  
Your destiny lies in the claws of  
the Dragon.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

As Gareth and Skuldar slip off into the darkness...

MELINDA

In the name of Godvyd, fill this being with the light. Lochtufura, Danalora, Nuatha Dannu, tuatha, tuatha.

A beat as Arturo and the others watch anxiously.

MELINDA

(more urgent)

I invoke the name of Godvyd and Naw. Heal this being.

Another beat, then she turns fearful to Arturo.

MELINDA

He's not healing.

ARTURO

You assured me this would work!

MELINDA

I don't understand. I did it countless times as a child. It's what made Gareth claim me.

ARTURO

(desperate, to council)

Gentlemen, surely with your combined powers you must be able to heal this man!

CHIEF DRUID

Only Melinda possesses the secret of spontaneous healing.

ARTURO

(urgently)

Melinda. You told me it takes a great deal of your inner strength to sustain your illusion of beauty. Perhaps, if you release the spell, it will strengthen your powers to heal.

Melinda looks up at Arturo. The implication of what he's suggesting is almost too much to bear.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 2

21

MELINDA

(passionate)  
If I release the spell, Gareth will see to it that I can never cast it again.

ARTURO

You've allowed yourself to become a prisoner of your own vanity. To a veritable Satan. What reward is there in that?

A beat as she considers his words. She's unsure.

ARTURO

Melinda, physical beauty can never heal. But the beauty from within can.

Finally, she turns and looks down at Quinn. As she holds the wand out over him, the right side of her FACE SLOWLY SHIFTS INTO A SEVERE BURN SCAR (CGI).

MELINDA

In the name of Godvyd, fill this being with the light to heal his wound. Lochtufura, Danalora, Nuatha Dannu, tuatha, tuatha.

Finally, Quinn's eyes flutter open. He looks up at them.

QUINN

Professor...

ARTURO

How are you feeling, my boy?

QUINN

(a wan smile)  
For someone who just got stabbed... not bad.  
(to Melinda)  
Thank you.

Arturo and Melinda breathe a sigh of relief.

CUT TO:

22 INT. DRAGON'S BREATH BAR - NIGHT

22

Wade sits alone at the bar near the caged falcon, nursing a beer, deep in thought. A beat, then Remmy enters, sits next to her.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

WADE

Where have you been?

REMBRANDT

Well, since you wouldn't tell me what happened today, I went back to see Alesha... excuse me... Doctor Lujan. She is definitely not the girl I knew on our world.

WADE

And?

REMBRANDT

And she told me what you wouldn't. I feel really weird about this.

WADE

Don't. You weren't yourself.

REMBRANDT

Alesha thinks I was. And now that I know what was said... so do I.

He takes Wade's hand.

REMBRANDT

Look. Spell, hypnosis, whatever... fact is, I do feel something special for you.

(then)

Maybe it's because we're the only two normal people on this journey. Q-Ball and the Professor... well, they're eggheads, having a grand time sliding around the universe. And I'm not saying it isn't an adventure...

WADE

But.

REMBRANDT

But mostly, I just want to be back home... enjoying life with people I love.

Wade nods. Knows exactly what he means.

REMBRANDT

Being with you, well... at least I get part of my wish.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: 2

22

Wade smiles, then leans across to him and they hug as only the best of friends can do. They break as Arturo rushes in.

ARTURO

Thank God I've found you two! Come on, we're leaving!

As they get off their bar stools...

REMBRANDT

What's the rush?

ARTURO

You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. DRAGON'S BREATH INN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

23

Melinda stares at her reflection in an Inn window. As she tentatively touches the burn scar, Quinn steps into frame.

QUINN

Do you regret what you've done?

She turns to him, conflicted.

QUINN

I know how much you've sacrificed for me. I wish there was some way...

He trails off.

MELINDA

(gently)  
But there isn't.

There's a heartfelt moment between them that's finally broken when the Inn's doors burst open and the other Sliders appear. Wade sees Melinda, stops...

WADE

(puzzled)  
Quinn...?

QUINN

Melinda's life is in danger. She's going to slide with us.

Before anyone can respond, they react to the SOUND of a soft WHOOSH growing closer.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

MELINDA  
(knows what it is)  
No... oh no!

SPECIAL AERIAL SHOT - THE DRAGON'S POV

Five heads turn upwards towards the sound. As the CAMERA ZEROS IN ON THEM, their horrified reactions escalate. The CAMERA ZOOMS EXTREMELY CLOSE ON MELINDA.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The astonished Sliders duck as two DRAGON CLAWS drop into frame and snatch Melinda by her shoulders, pulling her away into the night sky. Her cries of terror fade as she disappears.

WADE  
Oh my God...

REMBRANDT  
What the hell was that?!

QUINN  
(to Arturo)  
There's only one place it can be taking her.

ARTURO  
No. You'd be doing exactly what Gareth wants.

QUINN  
Impregnating Melinda is the only way he can become immortal now. I can't let him do that to her.

A beat, then Arturo turns and heads back into the Inn.

QUINN  
Where are you going?

ARTURO  
To get the falcon. We're going to need all the help we can get.

Off Remmy and Wade's puzzled look...

DISSOLVE TO:

24 EXT. GARETH'S ESTATE - NIGHT - RE-ESTABLISHING

24

25 INT. GARETH'S LAIR - NIGHT

25

A worried Melinda sits in a stone chair guarded by Skuldar.

SKULDAR

So now you've lost your pretty face  
and all for nothing.

MELINDA

Not for nothing. I saved a good  
man's life.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Sliders rush into the Lair, led by Quinn. Rembrandt's  
last in, holding the caged falcon.

QUINN

Melinda.

SKULDAR

(to Melinda)  
Your 'good' man seems to have a  
death wish.

Suddenly a BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT. When it's gone, Skuldar  
has changed into a HAWK. The Hawk takes off toward the  
Sliders.

CLOSE ON SLIDERS

They shield their faces as the Hawk swoops down on them.

ARTURO

Mister Brown. The falcon!

Rembrandt opens the cage and the Falcon flies out.

WIDER ANGLE

The Hawk flies out of the lair. The falcon flies out behind  
it.

REMBRANDT

Well, how do you like that?

ARTURO

Falcons are the Hawk's natural  
predator.

WADE

Quinn. We slide in just a few  
minutes.

Quinn moves to Melinda...

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

QUINN

Come on. We're taking you with us.

The now familiar WHOOSH of WINGS and a LOUD ROAR from behind makes the Sliders turn.

ANOTHER ANGLE REVEALS

The DRAGON. Standing in the entrance of the lair. It raises its head and spreads its wings. As the Sliders rush behind the stone altar for protection...

REMBRANDT

Tell me I'm dreaming.

QUINN

I wish I could.

WADE

Got some scientific explanation, Professor?

The Dragon lets loose a BOLT OF FLAMES that strike the altar as the Sliders duck.

REMBRANDT

That thing's gonna barbecue us.

MELINDA

You must get the sword!

As Rembrandt darts from behind the altar to the wall where the sword hangs.

MELINDA

No. Only a Mallory can wield it.

Remmy tries taking it off the wall, but he can't budge it. Another BOLT of FLAMES toward Remmy, who dives back to the altar.

REMBRANDT

(to Melinda)  
I wish you would have said that before I ran out there.

QUINN

Professor, we've got to distract it somehow.

ARTURO

What would you suggest Mister Mallory? Throw a rock at it?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 2

25

Quinn just looks at him... yeah. Arturo mutters as he darts out the other side of the altar to the wall. He picks up a rock and hurls it at the Dragon. The Dragon turns toward Arturo with a ROAR and

QUINN

uses the moment to rush for the sword. He easily lifts it off the wall.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Dragon turns back to Quinn. Another BOLT of FLAME. Quinn holds the sword in front of him, deftly deflecting it (CGI). The Dragon starts toward Quinn.

WADE

The only way to slay it is to pierce its heart!

QUINN

(facetious)  
Sure. No problem.

The Dragon comes closer. Another BOLT OF FLAME. Quinn wields the sword again to deflect it (CGI).

MELINDA

Believe in yourself! The sword will fly true for a Mallory.

Quinn rears back and heaves the sword at the Dragon. It flies end over end toward its chest. As it draws close to its target the Dragon straightens up, beating its wings just as

THE SWORD

finds its mark, the blade burying itself up to the hilt in the Dragon's chest.

RESUME SCENE

The Sliders and Melinda watch in awe as the life ebbs from the huge beast. It slowly falls over onto its side, then starts to MORPH into Gareth. The astonished Sliders approach. As they look down at Gareth...

GARETH

(to Quinn)  
Don't think you've won.

The Sliders react as Gareth takes his last breath and dies.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 3

25

ARTURO  
Miss Welles. I believe for once...  
I have no explanation.

A CRACKING SOUND draws their attention...

MELINDA  
Ohmigod. Philip!

The Sliders turn to see

PHILIP MALLORY

stepping out of the quartz tomb. Melinda rushes toward him. They embrace, then Melinda pulls back. She turns the burned side of her face away from him.

He gently turns her face back to him.

MELINDA  
No. Please, I don't want you to see...

PHILIP  
Are you going to deny me the chance to look upon your radiant beauty?

She faces him fully. His love for her is more powerful than any physical flaw. As they kiss...

ON SLIDERS

Arturo notices Quinn staring forlornly at the lovers.

ARTURO  
To love and win is the best thing.  
To love and lose... the next best.

Quinn looks at Arturo. Knows he's right.

WADE  
(holding timer)  
Okay guys. It's time.

Wade activates the VORTEX. Quinn gives one last look at Melinda, then turns and jumps. Arturo follows. Then Wade takes Rembrandt's hand.

WADE  
Shall we?

They share a warm smile, then jump together. The CAMERA PANS to

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 4

25

GARETH'S BODY

A beat, then the corpse slowly dissolves into a SWIRL OF  
WHITE GAS. As if with a mind of its own, it FLOATS UP and  
into the vortex just before it closes and we...

FADE OUT.

THE END