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"THE EXODUS - PART ONE"

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#K1825

SLIDERS

“The Exodus - Part One”

CAST

QUINN MALLORY  
WADE WELLES  
MAXIMILLIAN ARTURO  
REMBRANDT BROWN

CAPT. MAGGIE BECKETT (MAGGIE 2)  
LT. EASTMAN  
DR. VLADIMIR JARIABEK  
COL. ANGUS RICKMAN  
~~MAJOR ADRIENNE LOWRY~~  
DR. STEVEN BECKETT  
MALCOLM  
AIRMAN  
STREET PERSON  
MRS. MALLORY

#K1825

SLIDERS

“The Exodus - Part One”

SETS

INTERIORS:

BLAKE AIR FORCE BASE  
TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY  
RICKMAN'S OFFICE  
MILITARY MEDICAL WARD  
INTERROGATION ROOM  
INTERROGATION ROOM (NEW WORLD)  
BASE DUPLEX  
LIVING ROOM  
LIVING QUARTERS  
~~CAL TECH OFFICE SCIENCE BUILDING~~  
JARIABEK'S OFFICE  
RABBIT HOLE (CAVE) - (NEW WORLD)

EXTERIORS:

CITY STREET  
BLAKE AIR FORCE BASE  
MILITARY GROUNDS  
ROAD  
GRASSY FIELD (NEW WORLD)  
BASE DUPLEX  
GRASSY PATCH OF LAND (NEW WORLD)  
CAL TECH OFFICE SCIENCE BUILDING  
SAN FRANCISCO STREET

#K1825

CHRONOLOGY PAGE

SCENE	1	NIGHT #1
SCENES	2 - 5	DAY #2
SCENES	6 - 11	NIGHT #2
SCENES	12 - 22	DAY #3
SCENES	23 - 30	NIGHT #3
SCENE	31	DAY #4

SLIDERS

"The Exodus - Part One"

TEASER

FADE IN

1 INT. BLAKE AIR FORCE BASE - TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - NIGHT (NIGHT 1) 1

A high-tech Air Force lab and tracking station. Deserted except for LT. EASTMAN, 28. Bored, he leafs through a magazine. The cover reads "Russia vs USA: The Final Round?" A nearby computer BEEPS. Eastman's unconcerned until the BEEPS increase in number and intensity. He crosses to the computer's printer, studies a printout.

SUBJECTIVE POV - HAND HELD - MOVING

~~A figure silently enters the room behind Eastman~~

~~RESUME EASTMAN~~

He rips off a sheet of the printout, eyes it.

LT. EASTMAN

Jesus...

He reaches for a phone, punches in some numbers.

SUBJECTIVE POV - HAND HELD - MOVING

The figure closes in on the unsuspecting man from behind.

LT. EASTMAN

(on phone)

Doctor Jariabek? I'm sorry to call so late, sir. But the SATS 4 satellite has picked up an unusual reading...

A GLOVED HAND rises into frame, holding a LONG EMPTY SYRINGE. The figure positions it to strike near the base of Eastman's skull.

LT. EASTMAN

(on phone)

I'm not sure I can explain it. Maybe you'd better come down and see for yourself...

The needle plunges into the soft flesh. Eastman stiffens as CLEAR FLUID flows into the syringe. A MUFFLED VOICE on the phone calls for him, but Eastman's paralyzed.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED

1

His eyes roll back, he collapses. The figure grabs the phone before it slips to the floor. Hangs up.

His back still to us, the figure JAMS THE NEEDLE FULL OF FLUID INTO HIS OWN NECK near the base of his skull. A quick CONVULSION as the injection takes effect.

CAMERA PANS AROUND to reveal the attacker. It's impossible to know his real identity because the attacker's face has MORPHED into EASTMAN'S.

It starts to morph back, but before we can see who it is we...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

2 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY (DAY 2)

2

Empty, except for a STREET PERSON at the mouth of an alley, huddled inside his cardboard home.

HIS POV - ACROSS THE STREET

Two LOOTERS carry a sofa out the front of a FURNITURE STORE. The door's been kicked in. The thieves start across the deserted street when the VORTEX opens above them and QUINN slides out, landing smack in-between them on the sofa.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The startled looters drop the couch and run as the other Sliders exit the vortex, their landings cushioned by the sofa's scattered pillows.

WADE

(re: disappearing looters)

What's their problem?

QUINN

(re: couch)

I don't think they were paying retail.

The Sliders rise, take in the empty surroundings.

REMBRANDT

It bother anyone else that we're all alone here?

ARTURO

Not entirely alone, Mr. Brown.

He indicates the approaching Street Person. The man ignores the Sliders, starts to gather up the scattered cushions for his own needs.

QUINN

Hey man... where is everyone?

STREET PERSON

In their bomb shelters if they have one. Praying in church if they don't.

An AIR RAID SIREN starts to wail.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED

2

STREET PERSON  
Damn tests. That's the fifth one  
today. How am I supposed to cadge  
any coin if people don't come  
outside?

Quinn digs into his pocket, comes up with a few bills.

QUINN  
Money for information.

The Street Person takes the money.

STREET PERSON  
Ask me anything.

WADE  
What's with the siren?

STREET PERSON  
~~Ain't you heard? The Russians have~~  
~~aimed more missiles at us. Of~~  
course, that's after President  
North aimed ours at them first.  
(shakes his head)  
We're just one bonehead decision  
away from nuclear war.

The SQUEAL OF TIRES draws their attention. A CAR rockets  
onto the block, heads straight for them. The Street Person  
scurries away.

QUINN  
Look out!

Arturo and Remmy jump clear. Quinn tackles Wade and they  
roll away as the car misses them by inches. But the driver  
doesn't miss the abandoned sofa. The impact sends the car  
out of control and it overturns in the middle of the street.  
Through the broken driver's window, the lone occupant lies  
upside down inside the car.

ANOTHER ANGLE - AT CAR

The Sliders rush to help. Quinn's there first, kneels down  
and pulls the driver through the broken glass.

QUINN  
He's hurt bad.

ARTURO  
Careful. Lay him down gently.

Quinn does. Wade whips off her jacket.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED 2

2

WADE  
Put this under his head.

REMBRANDT  
I'll call nine-one-one.

Remmy turns to go but the man, DR. JARIABEK, 50, wraps a bloody hand around his ankle. We see a CAL TECH ring on a finger. He speaks with a Russian accent.

DR. JARIABEK  
You must warn them...

The man coughs.

WADE  
Don't try and talk.

QUINN  
~~I don't think it's going to matter.~~  
(to man)  
Warn who?

DR. JARIABEK  
Poolsar... trakechtoriya...

ARTURO  
In English, Doctor.

The Sliders react at Arturo's recognition of the man.

DR. JARIABEK  
(struggling)  
Pulsar... the trajectory... eighty-  
six... not seven...

A last spasm of breath, then silence. Reactions. Quinn feels for the man's pulse. Nothing.

QUINN  
He's dead.

He spots something odd about his blood-soaked chest. Quinn unhooks one of the man's shirt buttons and pulls back the fabric.

WADE  
He's been shot.

REMBRANDT  
By one damn big gun.

The Sliders react to the ROAR of an approaching vehicle. An AIR FORCE SEDAN pulls up.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED 3

2

A female OFFICER jumps out, followed by two AIRMEN with "damn big guns."

MAGGIE  
Step away from the suspect.

They do. The officer, CAPT. MAGGIE BECKETT, approaches. Twenty-five and athletic, Maggie's piercing eyes only hint at the passion and intelligence she possesses. The two airmen keep a wary eye on the Sliders as Maggie kneels, checks the dead man.

MAGGIE  
Was he alive when you got here?

QUINN  
Barely.

REMBRANDT  
~~Who is he?~~

~~AIRMAN~~  
An escaped serial killer.

Maggie shoots the Airman an annoyed look. She's obviously unhappy with him. The Airman looks down, knows he's on her list.

MAGGIE  
It doesn't matter who he is. It's a military matter.  
(then)  
Did he say anything before he died?

WADE  
Well, he...

ARTURO  
(pre-emptive)  
No.

Maggie's eyes narrow. She focuses on Wade.

MAGGIE  
That right?

WADE  
(beat, then)  
Not a word.

Maggie's eyes bore into her. Wade stares right back, unflinching. Maggie turns to Quinn.

MAGGIE  
How about you? Did you hear him say anything?

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED 4

2

Quinn shakes his head. Maggie's look at Remmy gets the same response. The air raid siren continues to WAIL.

MAGGIE

I'm going to need you people to come with us.

WADE

Why? We told you we don't know anything.

QUINN

(surprisingly agreeable)  
Let's just go with them, guys.  
We'll give our statements and that'll be the end of it.

Quinn steps up to Maggie, glances over at her sedan.

QUINN

~~Think we can all fit in your car?~~

Her eyes follow Quinn's. It's all the opening Quinn needs. He grabs Maggie and spins her around, enveloping her in a bear hug.

Remmy and Arturo go for the surprised airmen. An uppercut from Remmy and one airmen's out; a forearm to the nose and Arturo's opponent joins him.

Maggie jams her heel down onto Quinn's instep. He BELLOWS and releases her. She pulls away, whips her sidearm out. She's about to level it when she hears a CLICK from behind. She freezes, glances over her shoulder.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Wade points a rifle from one of the unconscious airmen at Maggie.

WADE

My friend called this a damn big gun. And I know how to use it.

Reluctantly, Maggie lowers her sidearm. Remmy takes it from her, ejects the bullet cartridge.

REMBRANDT

I never did like the Air Force.  
You people always think you're such hot stuff.

ARTURO

Are you all right, Mr. Mallory?

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED 5

2

QUINN  
(rubbing his foot)  
I guess. But I don't think I'll  
ever dance the Macarena again.

MAGGIE  
(tightly)  
You're welcome.

QUINN  
Now it's my turn to ask questions.

MAGGIE  
And my turn not to answer them.

REMBRANDT  
No time for this, Q-Ball.  
(re: siren)  
We've got to get out of here before  
they signal the all clear.

~~Quinn nods, grabs Maggie by the arm. He pulls her towards~~  
the rear of the sedan.

QUINN  
Remmy... pop the trunk.

As Rembrandt opens the driver's door and reaches for the  
release latch...

MAGGIE  
You're really screwing up, pal.

QUINN  
Then how come you're the one being  
locked in a trunk?

The trunk lid pops open. Quinn and Maggie lock eyes for a  
beat, then she climbs into the trunk. She stares up at him,  
her eyes red hot.

MAGGIE  
I will find you. I've seen your  
face.

QUINN  
The name that goes with it is  
Mallory. Quinn Mallory.

He slams the trunk closed.

ARTURO  
(already moving)  
Come on. Let's go.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED 6

2

Remmy and Wade take off after him. Quinn hesitates, takes one last look at the closed trunk, then follows after them.

CUT TO

3 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY - LATER

3

CLOSE ON A THEATER MARQUEE

advertising a rerelease of ROCKY IV. The advertisement reads "HELD OVER! GO ROCKY! BEAT THE RUSSIANS!" CAMERA PANS DOWN AND FINDS the Sliders as they hustle around the corner. The street's deserted. As they jam the weapons they took into a dumpster...

WADE

You knew that guy back there,  
Professor?

ARTURO

~~Not personally. On our world he's~~  
Doctor Vladimir Jariabek, a highly  
respected Cosmologist.

QUINN

On our world. Who knows what he is  
here.

ARTURO

He referenced the trajectory of a  
pulsar. Hardly the language of a  
serial killer.

WADE

Pulsar. Isn't that like a meteor?

ARTURO

In theory, they're rotating neutron  
stars. They careen through the  
galaxies emitting short discharges  
of electromagnetic radiation.  
Pulses, in the vernacular.

REMBRANDT

Must not be a theory on this world  
if we're supposed to warn someone  
about them.

WADE

Yeah, but who?

CONTINUED

3 CONTINUED

3

QUINN

He was wearing some kind of school ring.

ARTURO

(beat, then)  
Cal Tech. On our world, he consulted the military, but kept an office at the institute.

He looks at Quinn.

QUINN

I've always wanted to visit Cal Tech.

CUT TO

4 ~~EXT. BLAKE AIR FORCE BASE - DAY - ESTABLISHING~~

4

~~A sprawling military installation.~~

5 INT. RICKMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

5

No nonsense. Like its sole occupant, COL. ANGUS RICKMAN, mid-30's. Cool, handsome, edgy. A living recruiting poster. Rickman sits at his desk, on the phone.

RICKMAN

The problem has been handled, sir. Extreme action was taken, but only as a last option.

The door opens, revealing Maggie. She's pissed, her eyes flaring. Rickman curtly gestures for her to enter. She stands at attention in front of his desk.

RICKMAN

(on phone)  
Yes, sir. And rest assured that closure will be thorough.

He hangs up. Indicates the phone.

RICKMAN

General Stone. He wasn't happy about the mess with Jariabek.

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED

5

MAGGIE

With all due respect sir, he's not the only one. Airman Cooper said he had orders to shoot Doctor Jariabek on sight. How the hell am I supposed to command a squad when I don't know what's going on?

RICKMAN

(tight)  
I don't recall giving you permission to speak freely, Captain.

Maggie fights to hold her tongue.

RICKMAN

Arrogance may be admired in a fighter pilot. But not in an ~~intelligence officer. And that's what you are now. Don't forget it.~~

MAGGIE

Yes, sir.

Rickman rises, steps around his desk towards her.

RICKMAN

From what I hear, you should be thankful you're not dead as well. What happened out there?

Maggie starts to answer, then just shakes her head.

RICKMAN

Find those people, Captain. For all we know, they're Russian agents working with Jariabek.

MAGGIE

I doubt that sir. He defected twenty years ago.

RICKMAN

He was still a Russian. If he'd succeeded in getting word to Moscow, the security of the entire SATS 4 satellite program would have been breached.

MAGGIE

So it's better that three hundred million civilians die instead.

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED 2

5

A beat, then...

RICKMAN

You're entitled to your opinion,  
Captain. Except when you wear that  
uniform.

He starts back for his chair.

RICKMAN

Sweep Jariabek's office clean. And  
keep me informed on the search for  
those suspects.

MAGGIE

(beat, then)  
Yes, sir.

She exits. It's not until she's gone that Rickman sighs  
heavily, shakes his head. ~~He hates when she's right.~~

CUT TO:

6 EXT. CAL TECH OFFICE SCIENCE BUILDING - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)

6

A SECURITY GUARD lets two academics out through the front  
glass doors, waves good night. Sticking a cigarette in his  
mouth, he searches for a match, lights it. But the evening  
breeze blows it out. Annoyed, he pulls another match, turns  
his back to the breeze and huddles over, trying to protect  
the flame.

Thunk. A clenched pair of hands smack him on the back of  
the head. The guard sags to his knees, revealing Quinn and  
Remmy behind him. As they catch him...

QUINN

Wade. Get his keys.

They cradle the guard between them as Wade and Arturo appear  
and open the door. As they drag the unconscious man  
inside...

CUT TO

7 INT. JARIABEK'S OFFICE - NIGHT - MINUTES LATER

7

A single lamp illuminates the cluttered scientist's office,  
filled with cosmological charts, maps, etc. Arturo and  
Quinn hover over Wade's shoulder as she hacks into the  
scientist's desk top computer. Remmy listens for trouble at  
the door.

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED

7

WADE

(eyeing screen)

These file names mean something to you, Professor? Cause it's all Greek to me.

ARTURO

Literally. He's used the Greek names of the planets to label his files.

(taps screen)

What's this icon here stand for?

WADE

Looks like he's hooked up to some kind of satellite feed.

ARTURO

Can you get in?

Wade taps three keys, smiles.

WADE

Can you say "done"?

CUT TO

8 EXT. CAL TECH OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT - SAME TIME

8

Maggie leads three soldiers towards the glass doors. A military vehicle's parked at the curb behind them. She reaches the entrance, stops.

HER POV

No movement inside the lobby. The guard station is empty.

RESUME MAGGIE

She tries the doors. Locked. She turns to a soldier.

MAGGIE

There must be a guard around here somewhere.

As the soldier starts off...

CUT TO

9 INT. JARIABEK'S OFFICE - NIGHT - SAME TIME

9

Arturo and Quinn study a computer graph as it's spit from Jariabek's printer. Wade's back behind the computer and Remy's still at the door.

ARTURO

Well, he's definitely been tracking a pulsar. These readings indicate it's actually going to pass through the outer plane of the solar system.

REMBRANDT

Reason enough to kill the man?

ARTURO

Remember what he said. Eighty-six. Not seven.

WADE

~~I remember it. I just don't know what it means.~~

QUINN

Trajectory of objects passing through space is calculated by degrees and minutes.

ARTURO

And this projection says the declination of the trajectory is eighty-seven degrees, thirteen minutes. But if it's actually off by one degree...

He moves to a WALL MAP of the SOLAR SYSTEM dissected by galactic coordinates. He takes a pencil and follows it across a line near the edge of the solar system.

ARTURO

Good, Lord. At eighty-six degrees, thirteen minutes, the pulsar will be in position to irradiate a part of the Earth.

Remy starts towards him from the door.

REMBRANDT

Irradiate? You mean like a nuclear bomb?

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED

9

ARTURO

Same effect, different method.  
(and then)  
Think of a lighthouse. It emits  
light constantly, but we only see  
the beam for an instant as it spins  
past our field of vision.

QUINN

Pulsars have a similar narrow beam,  
only their ejecta is radiation  
instead of light.

ARTURO

If that beam reaches Earth for even  
a split second, whatever area it  
cuts across would suffer massive  
devastation. Structures would  
survive, but all plant and animal  
~~life would essentially melt.~~

WADE

Like a neutron bomb.

The Professor nods. A beat as they take this in, then...

REMBRANDT

I guess that's worth killing for.  
If you didn't want anyone to know.

WADE

Professor... can you tell where  
that pulsar will strike... and  
when?

The Professor grabs the computer readout, compares it to the  
wall map. A beat.

ARTURO

Russia. In less than twenty-four  
hours.

CRASH! The door's kicked open and Maggie and her team rush  
in, guns drawn. She locks eyes with Quinn. A smile crosses  
her face.

MAGGIE

It's Mallory. Right?

Off reactions

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

10 INT. MILITARY MEDICAL WARD ~ NIGHT

10

MAJOR ADRIENNE LOWRY, black, late 30's, a medical doctor, leads a SUBJECTIVE POV down the center aisle between two rows of beds in a coma ward. Her mood is grim.

DR. LOWRY

We still have no idea what's causing our people to fall into these comas. And now the frequency at which we're seeing victims has increased dramatically.

She stops at the bed of the Lieutenant we saw in the tease who fell victim to the needle in the back of his skull. His eyes are open but vacant, like all the coma patients in this ward.

DR. LOWRY

It was one a week at first. Now it's one every other day.

She moves to the head of his bed. The subjective POV follows.

DR. LOWRY

Until now, we couldn't find anything that linked all these cases. But this morning, I discovered something.

She tilts the Lieutenant's head away to reveal the base of his skull.

DR. LOWRY

Every victim has a puncture wound at the base of their skull. As if some type of needle has been inserted.

She leans down to look more closely at the base of the patient's skull. From behind her, A HAND HOLDING A NEEDLE ENTERS FRAME. It moves for the base of her skull.

DR. LOWRY

We're going to do a brain tap on Lieutenant Eastman later today.

The last words she utters. The hand quickly buries the needle into the base of her skull. Her body stiffens.

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED

10

A beat as the needle drains fluid. Then the hand pulls the needle out. Doctor Lowry collapses to the floor. The figure jams the needle into his own neck. CAMERA SLOWLY PANS around as the attacker morphs into Dr. Lowry.

CUT TO

11 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

11

Four concerned Sliders sit at a long table. Two armed MP's stand sentry near the door. An agitated Captain Maggie Beckett runs the interrogation.

MAGGIE

You don't seem to understand how serious this is. This country is on full military alert. And you're facing espionage charges.

~~QUINN~~

(tense, irritable)  
We've told you everything.

MAGGIE

Stonewalling's not going to help.

QUINN

We are not stonewalling!

WADE

You wouldn't recognize the truth if you heard it.

Maggie and Wade pin each other with a hard stare, then...

MAGGIE

(to Arturo)  
Why'd you lie to us when we asked if Jariabek said anything to you?

ARTURO

Because your airman lied to us first.

QUINN

Not too many Cal Tech graduates become serial killers.

Caught, Maggie won't give them the satisfaction of seeing her react.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED

11

MAGGIE

(to Quinn)

What's the purpose of that electronic device you were carrying?

The Sliders exchange a glance.

QUINN

It's my TV's remote control.

MAGGIE

I'd reconsider that answer if I were you.

QUINN

Yeah, well, you're not me.

~~You know what the penalty for espionage is at a time like this? Death by a firing squad.~~

The Sliders react.

MAGGIE

Now would you like to re-think that answer?

Rickman enters followed by DR. STEVEN BECKETT, mid 30's. He's in a wheelchair. Wears a lab coat.

RICKMAN

Well, Captain?

MAGGIE

They're covering something up.

WADE

(to Rickman)

She's a little confused. You're the ones covering up.

QUINN

You've got a pulsar passing through your solar system that's about to nuke millions of innocent people, and you're not doing a damn thing about it.

REMBRANDT

It's perfect deniability, isn't it? Decimate your enemy without firing a single missile.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED 2

11

RICKMAN

(honestly)  
I applaud your intellect.

ARTURO

This goes far beyond neutralizing  
your enemy. Have you no  
conscience, man?

WADE

Of course not. He's just a drone  
following orders.

(to Rickman)

What are you going to do now? Put  
us in front of a firing squad?  
That gonna make you feel like a big  
man?

Rickman eyes her. He's unruffled. Something about her  
intrigues him. ~~Beckett breaks the moment. Pulls out  
Quinn's timer.~~

DR. BECKETT

People, this device we confiscated.  
Does it have something to do with  
accessing parallel dimensions?

The Sliders exchange a surprised glance. Rickman looks to  
Steven Beckett. It's clear that was a yes.

DR. BECKETT

I'm doctor Steven Beckett. I've  
been developing a device to access  
wormholes leading to parallel  
worlds myself. Where are you  
people from?

The Sliders exhale. Relief.

QUINN

Another world. We slid here  
earlier today, just before we ran  
into that incident in the park.

WADE

Which is why we couldn't possibly  
be spies.

DR. BECKETT

(excited by the  
revelation)  
That's incredible. Did you design  
this?

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED 3

11

QUINN

Yeah.

DR. BECKETT

Colonel, it's possible he could help us break the logjam with our own transport equipment.

WADE

You treat us like criminals and now you expect us to help you?

RICKMAN

Would an apology help?

WADE

It would be a start.

RICKMAN

*My apologies.*

QUINN

Look, we slide again in three days.

DR. BECKETT

(to Rickman)

Then we should get started right away.

(to Sliders)

That is, if you agree.

The Sliders look to each other. Then...

QUINN

Do we have any choice?

RICKMAN

Good. While you work with Doctor Beckett, you'll have to be confined to the base for obvious security reasons. But you'll have the freedom to move about at will. Just don't do anything foolish.

Rickman leads his people out. Arturo and Wade follow. Remmy and Quinn trail. Remmy whispers to Quinn.

REMBRANDT

I've been on enough military bases to know there's usually a way to sneak off. I'll try to get the word out about that pulsar.

CUT TO

12 INT. LIVING QUARTERS - DAY (DAY 3)

12

Spartan but tasteful. The door opens and Wade enters followed by Rickman. She looks around.

RICKMAN

If you need a change of clothes, food, whatever... the PX has your name. It's on Uncle Sam.

WADE

(suspicious)

You treat all your prisoners this good?

Rickman's attracted to her. He has no axe to grind.

RICKMAN

(charming)

You're not a prisoner. I'd like to think of you as a unique guest.

WADE

~~You'll forgive me if I don't sound~~ appreciative. It's hard to take gifts from a mass murderer.

RICKMAN

Ma'am, we all have a job to do. Believe me, I'm not happy about watching innocent people die.

WADE

Then why don't you stop it? Why don't you make a phone call so those people could have a chance?

RICKMAN

I have to weigh the benefits against the dangers. There are over three hundred million people in Russia. Let's say we did let them know. In the panic that would follow, how many would get out?

WADE

We're talking about human life. Even if it's only one, it's worth it.

RICKMAN

We'd also be revealing our Star Wars technology to the Chinese, which, in the bigger picture, would put American lives at risk.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

12 CONTINUED

12

RICKMAN (CONT'D)

(a beat, then)

I guess you could say it's a  
Hobson's choice.

Wade softens. Senses this guy isn't so bad. He moves to  
the door.

RICKMAN

If you need anything, call Captain  
Beckett. She'll take care of it.

WADE

Is she related to Doctor Beckett?

RICKMAN

His wife.

(beat)

What's your relationship to  
Mallory?

Wade realizes he's interested. She's intrigued.

WADE

We're friends.

Rickman nods, then exits, leaving Wade with a million  
thoughts swimming in her head.

CUT TO

13 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - DAY

13

Maggie Beckett stands over Arturo, who sits next to several  
computers that print out data. In front of him is a large,  
futuristic TV monitor.

On the screen is what looks like a live shot of the Milky  
Way Galaxy. Our SOLAR SYSTEM is clearly delineated in one  
area, as are numerous CONSTELLATIONS, a few COMETS, an  
ASTEROID SHOWER, a second SOLAR SYSTEM... and the PULSAR,  
which is extremely close to our solar system, blinking like  
a flashing beacon. Arturo inspects the computer readouts.

ARTURO

You husband designed this satellite  
system?

MAGGIE

Yes. He struck a deal that if this  
was successful, Congress would fund  
his sliding experiments.

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED

13

ARTURO

Not only a scientific genius, but a smart negotiator.

MAGGIE

He's an amazing guy. He also has the ability to inspire people to perform far beyond their potential. I'm living proof.

Across the way, Quinn stands next to Beckett among the scientist's sliding equipment. His photon receiver is the size of a softball. Timing devices half the size of Quinn's and microchip-making equipment lie about a work station.

In front of them, a wormhole tracking board, the size of a 25" TV, rests on a counter. Quinn eyes a small crystal globe with colored lightning flashing inside.

~~QUINN~~

~~You've got the ability to track wormholes and store the coordinates of every world you land on. That's something I only dreamed of.~~

DR. BECKETT

Yeah. But anything I send into the vortex larger than a basketball corrupts the integrity of the wormhole and drops out into oblivion.

Quinn's not sure he really wants to help. Just eyes the globe.

QUINN

(casually)  
That is a problem.

DR. BECKETT

(a beat)  
Look, I know you can stall me until you leave. I'll make you a deal. Give me the ability to transport humans, I'll give you the ability to imprint parallel earth coordinates and track wormholes.

Quinn eyes Beckett a beat. Considers, then...

QUINN

First thing we do is see if my power chip is compatible with your timer.

14 EXT. MILITARY GROUNDS - DAY

14

Remmy walks along a chain link perimeter fence. Looks around to make sure he's not being watched.

MALCOLM (O.S.)  
Looking for somethin'?

Remmy's startled. Turns. Sees nothing.

MALCOLM (O.S.)  
Up here.

Remmy looks up. Sitting in a tree is MALCOLM, 10, holding a basketball. Remmy moves to the tree.

REMBRANDT  
Hey. How you doing?

Malcolm shrugs.

REMBRANDT  
~~How come you're not in school?~~

MALCOLM  
How come you're out of uniform?

REMBRANDT  
I'm not in the Air Force. I'm just... visiting.

MALCOLM  
Then why are you trying to sneak out?

REMBRANDT  
Who said I was sneaking out?

MALCOLM  
Duh.

REMBRANDT  
(playful)  
Well, actually... I'm on a secret mission. Can you help me?

Malcolm climbs out of the tree.

MALCOLM  
If you play some one on one with me.

REMBRANDT  
Uh, sure. But this is a... pretty important mission. How about when I get back?

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED

14

Malcolm nods knowingly. Checks around, makes sure the "coast is clear." Then...

MALCOLM  
This way.

CUT TO

15 EXT. MILITARY GROUNDS - ROAD - DAY

15

Malcolm leads Remmy along a road in a deserted part of the base. Remmy's on constant alert for signs of trouble.

MALCOLM  
Do you know what makes a person go into a coma?

REMBRANDT  
~~What makes you ask that?~~

~~MALCOLM~~  
My stepmom went into a coma this morning. Can you catch something that makes it happen?

REMBRANDT  
I don't think so. Where's your dad?

MALCOLM  
In Texas. They're flying him in tonight.

REMBRANDT  
You all alone?

MALCOLM  
'Til my dad gets in.

REMBRANDT  
Tell you what. When I get back, not only will we play one on one, maybe we can get something to eat, you know, just to hang out 'til your dad gets home.

MALCOLM  
Cool.

Malcolm points across the road.

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED

15

MALCOLM

That's it. Between those two posts. The bottom lifts up real easy.

REMBRANDT

Thanks Malcolm. Meet you on the basketball court when I get back.

He jogs across the road, glancing left and right. No one in sight. He bends down and grabs the bottom of the fence. An ELECTRICAL JOLT drives him backward.

Remy lies on the ground, writhing in pain. Malcolm races over.

MALCOLM

(frightened)  
Rembrandt! I'm sorry! You okay?!  
~~(kneels next to Remy)~~  
~~It's never been electrified before.~~  
Please. You gotta believe me.

REMBRANDT

(pained)  
It's okay Malcolm. I believe you.

CUT TO

16 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - DAY

16

Quinn works on placing his power chip in Beckett's timer. On the table is a framed photo of Beckett standing next to Maggie in front of an F-16. She wears a flight suit.

QUINN

(re: photo)  
So Maggie was a fighter pilot?

DR. BECKETT

Yeah. Before my accident.

QUINN

What happened?

DR. BECKETT

Severed a neuro-transmitter. I was hot-dogging on a ski trip with Maggie.

QUINN

I'm sorry.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED

16

Quinn finishes his task as Rickman approaches.

RICKMAN  
Any progress, Doctor?

DR. BECKETT  
We're about to test the viability  
of Mallory's chip in our equipment.

QUINN  
Okay, it's in. Let's see if it  
works.

He aims it. The VORTEX OPENS. Beckett's delighted.

DR. BECKETT  
Nice work!

He shuts it down. Turns to Rickman.

~~DR. BECKETT~~  
Now we build a clone of his chip.

MAGGIE (O.S.)  
Colonel!

Arturo and Maggie rush up. Looks like they've seen a ghost.  
Arturo carries a piece of the computer printout.

MAGGIE  
SAT Four just picked up a globular  
cluster of pulsars approaching the  
outer plane of our solar system.  
That pulsar that's going to hit the  
Russians... it's just the lead  
piece from a collapsing galaxy.

RICKMAN  
On the same trajectory?

ARTURO  
Yes. But it will take at least  
seventy-two hours for this cluster  
to pass by us. In that time the  
earth will make a full rotation...  
exposing every inch of this planet  
to the bombardment of radiation.  
(to Quinn)  
And it will happen before we slide.

Off the stunning cataclysmic news...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

17 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - DAY - LATER

17

Remy and Wade stride in. They head for Quinn, Arturo and Doctor Beckett, who study computer printouts across the room.

REMBRANDT

Who said this world's gonna end?

WADE

The Professor. He spotted a lot more of those pulsars on their satellite tracking system.

REMBRANDT

Guess it wouldn't have mattered if I'd warned the Russians or not.

Doctor Beckett!

Rickman enters through a side door with Maggie, who's now dressed in fatigues. She carries a backpack and side arm.

RICKMAN

I've just spoken with the President. He wants us to prepare to start shuttling people to a parallel world.

QUINN

You can't just go to any parallel world. A lot of them are uninhabitable.

MAGGIE

We assumed they'd have to be scouted.

RICKMAN

(to Steve)

I understand with his chip in your device, we have the ability to go and come back at will.

DR. BECKETT

Yes. And we can store the coordinates of the worlds we've been to.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED

17

RICKMAN

(to Quinn)  
You've just been drafted. I'm  
sending Captain Beckett with you.

MAGGIE

To make sure you come back.

QUINN

Wait a minute...

For the first time Rickman's anger flares.

RICKMAN

We don't have time to discuss this!  
Open the vortex!

Beckett aims his timer and activates it.

REMBRANDT

Me too.

RICKMAN

(to Wade)  
No! I need you here to help me.  
(to Remmy)  
And you I don't trust. Cameras  
caught your escape stunt at the  
fence.

QUINN

(to Sliders)  
It's okay, guys. I'll be fine.

ARTURO

While you're "scouting," I'll work  
with Doctor Beckett. See if we can  
develop a power chip that can  
transport several hundred people at  
a time.

(lowers his voice)  
You realize, if we're to survive,  
we have to go with these people and  
slide from their new world.

QUINN

I know. So make sure they save us  
a few seats.

Beckett turns to Maggie.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED 2

17

DR. BECKETT  
You nervous?

MAGGIE  
Only if you tell me there's some  
reason I should be.

He hands the timer to Quinn who punches some buttons.

DR. BECKETT  
Good luck, babe.

Maggie hugs Beckett.

QUINN  
I'm setting it to return in thirty  
minutes. In case it's a hostile  
environment.  
(to the Sliders)  
~~Let's hope the first time's the~~  
~~charm...~~

He turns, jumps. Maggie looks back to Beckett. She shoots  
him the thumbs up, then jumps.

CUT TO

18 EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY (NEW WORLD)

18

The VORTEX OPENS. Quinn and Maggie fly out. Disappear a  
beat. As they get to their feet, they find themselves  
standing in waist high grass.

MAGGIE  
Wow. That was some ride.  
(looks around)  
I thought you said we'd land in the  
same geographical spot as we left.

QUINN  
We did. Looks like this world  
didn't build a tracking  
installation here.

MAGGIE  
Well, so far so good.

Quinn knows better than to jump to conclusions.

QUINN  
Yeah. Let's see if we can find  
some signs of civilization.

CONTINUED

18 CONTINUED

18

MAGGIE

(spots something)

What do you think that is?

A WHITE SPHERE, six feet in diameter, rests in the grass ten yards away.

RESUME

QUINN

(suspicious)

I don't know.

Suddenly, the GROUND SHAKES.

MAGGIE

Earthquake?

A huge shadow blocks out the sun. Too fast for a cloud. They ~~turn, look up.~~

Oh my God.

THEIR POV

A MAN, FIFTY FEET TALL, steps into frame wielding a five iron. He positions himself over the white sphere. It's a golf ball. As he starts his backswing...

QUINN

Come on!

He takes off through the high grass, Maggie right behind him.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A small dirt mound surrounds a hole in the ground in the middle of the high grass. On the horizon, the golfer starts his downswing. Quinn and Maggie rush through the grass toward Camera. Quinn spots the hole. As the golf club swings down toward them...

QUINN

Jump!

He jumps into the hole. Maggie follows as the golf club SWINGS INTO CAMERA.

CUT TO

19 INT. RICKMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

19

Wade enters, followed by Rickman. He closes the door. The mood is tense.

WADE

(on edge)  
You're very good at ordering people around, Colonel. Now, you want to tell me exactly what this is all about?

RICKMAN

I need your vow of secrecy.

WADE

Excuse me, but I'm not in the Air Force. I'm not even from your world.

RICKMAN

~~No, but your life is on the line just like the rest of us.~~

A beat, his demeanor turns more conciliatory.

RICKMAN

Look, the job of choosing who goes to the new world and who stays is on my shoulders. It's a lousy job, but like they say, somebody has to do it.

(beat)

And I need your help.

WADE

Why me?

RICKMAN

I understand you're computer savvy. I can't ask one of my own people to help. They may not make the cut.

A moment as Wade considers.

RICKMAN

Believe me, ma'am, I don't like playing God. And I'd sure appreciate any help I could get.

WADE

(beat, finally)  
What do you want me to do?

CONTINUED

19 CONTINUED

19

RICKMAN

Compile a priority list of the top five hundred people on this base, weighting it by their performance evaluations over the past two years. Those people have earned it.

WADE

Wait a minute. What about the President and all those people in Washington?

Rickman eyes her a beat. Should he tell her?

RICKMAN

I never spoke to the President.

WADE

(astonished)

What?

RICKMAN

All we'd end up taking would be his friends. The morally questionable rich and famous. Politicians who have no usable skills. I don't believe that's right. This is the most egalitarian method I could think of.

A small smile crosses Wade's lips. Then...

WADE

Well... my opinion of you has just jumped a few notches, Colonel.

Rickman steps close to her. Wade's intrigued.

RICKMAN

I'm glad to know that, ma'am.

WADE

You can drop the ma'am stuff, Colonel.

RICKMAN

And you can drop the Colonel stuff, ma'am.

Their eyes lock. Then Wade thinks better of it.

WADE

I'd better get to work.

CONTINUED

19 CONTINUED 2

19

He nods.

RICKMAN  
I'll check on you later.

He turns and exits. Wade watches him go. Then exhales.  
It's hot in here.

CUT TO

20 EXT. MILITARY GROUNDS - DAY

20

A downcast Remmy sits on a bench, sipping coffee. He watches a mom with her young child. An enlisted couple holding hands. The knowledge that this will all end soon weighs heavy. He hears a BALL BOUNCING. Looks up. Malcolm comes up, excited.

MALCOLM  
~~Hey Remmy... You okay now?~~

REMBRANDT  
(forced smile)  
Yeah. I'm okay. Heck, I've been up against worse stuff than an electric fence.

MALCOLM  
I just talked to my dad. He'll be home in an hour. He said he's going to take me to Universal Studios this weekend and then to a Laker game next week. He's got box seats.

The pain of knowing Malcolm will never do any of those things is almost too much for Remmy to bear. He just forces a smile.

REMBRANDT  
Your dad sounds like a great guy.

MALCOLM  
He's the best. Hey, you want to come over later and meet him?

REMBRANDT  
(simply)  
Sure.

MALCOLM  
You still bummed about the fence?

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED

20

REMBRANDT

Yeah. Yeah, that's it. It'll pass.

(and then)

Hey Malcolm. You said it was your stepmom who's in that coma. Where's your real mom?

MALCOLM

She lives in San Francisco. But she's coming down on business soon, so I'll get to spend some time with her.

Some kids off screen call for Malcolm.

MALCOLM

I gotta go.  
(runs off)  
~~Come over later!~~

CUT TO

21 INT. RABBIT HOLE - (CAVE) - DAY (NEW WORLD)

21

Quinn and Maggie lean against a wall. Above them, a shaft of light from the hole they jumped in. It's hot down here. They're both tense and irritable.

MAGGIE

(re: tunnel)  
I wonder what this is.

QUINN

Let's hope it's not an ant tunnel.  
(wry)  
So. How do you like sliding so far?

MAGGIE

I've been through worse.

QUINN

Oh, right. You're the big, tough fighter pilot. Why'd they ground you?

MAGGIE

(edgy)  
They didn't ground me. It was voluntary.

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED

21

QUINN  
Because of your husband.

MAGGIE  
(surprised he knew)  
His accident made me evaluate my  
priorities. We hadn't spent a lot  
of time together and... I realized  
it was time to change that.  
(beat)  
What about you? You and Wade a  
couple?

QUINN  
No. Good friends. I'm just your  
basic physicist.

MAGGIE  
Yeah, right. There's nothing basic  
~~about you guys.~~

QUINN  
How would you know?

MAGGIE  
I'm married to one. You're  
brilliant, complex, spontaneous  
risk takers. And sometimes a big  
pain in the ass.

Quinn smiles. Maggie spots something O.S. Her eyes widen  
in fear. Quinn jerks his head around to look.

THEIR POV

A huge but cute RABBIT as tall as they are sits facing them  
down the end of the tunnel. Its nose twitches.

QUINN (O.S.)  
Damn.

RESUME

QUINN  
(re: tunnel)  
Now you know what this is.

MAGGIE  
How much time have we got?

QUINN  
(checks timer)  
Just over a minute.

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED 2

21

MAGGIE

(eyeing rabbit)

I had a horse once that size.

She starts toward it. Quinn grabs her arm.

QUINN

I wouldn't.

She yanks her arm out of his grip.

MAGGIE

It's a rabbit, Mallory. He's a big, gentle giant. Relax.

She starts toward it again. He grabs her arm again.

QUINN

Things aren't always the same as on ~~your~~ own world.

(deliberate)

~~Don't go any closer.~~

She gets in his face.

MAGGIE

Let's get one thing straight. If anybody's going to be giving orders, it'll be me.

QUINN

Considering you don't know the first thing about sliding, that doesn't seem very smart.

MAGGIE

(threatening)

Back off.

She turns back to the rabbit. Takes another step toward it when it bares HUGE FANGS and GROWLS. Maggie freezes. The rabbit lunges. Quinn tackles Maggie, driving her into an alcove just out of reach of the carnivorous bunny.

IN ALCOVE

Maggie's on the ground, breathless. Quinn gets to his feet. He's angry. She's defiant. Won't admit her mistake.

QUINN

Time to go...

(through clenched teeth)

Captain.

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED 3

21

He aims the timer UPWARD. Activates the VORTEX. Offers her a hand. She ignores it. Gets to her feet on her own.

QUINN

Jump.

She jumps up and into the vortex. Quinn follows.

CUT TO

22 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - DAY

22

Rickman confers with Dr. Beckett and Arturo, who work at a table with microchip programming equipment.

ARTURO

That's about as far as we can go with increasing the band width.

~~RICKMAN~~

~~What's your target payload?~~

DR. BECKETT

From what we now know, about a hundred and fifty people each trip.

ARTURO

(checks his watch)

They should be back any second.

He turns to the spot where they slid. A beat, then the vortex materializes. Maggie slides into the lab. A beat later, Quinn slides in, stumbles into Maggie who catches him. For an awkward moment they're in an embrace. Arturo and Beckett hurry over. Quinn and Maggie disengage. She kneels down and hugs her husband.

ARTURO

How was it?

QUINN

(shoots annoyed look at Maggie)

Well, at least the timer works.

MAGGIE

(to Beckett)

It was incredible, Steve. I can't wait for you to try it.

RICKMAN

Any luck?

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED

22

QUINN

Sure. If you like the land of the  
giants and man eating rabbits.

Rickman looks to Maggie.

MAGGIE

It was inhospitable, sir.

RICKMAN

How fast can you get back out  
there?

QUINN

Right away. But we'll cover more  
worlds if we slide from place to  
place without having to come back  
here after each one.

~~DR. BECKETT~~

~~Whatever it takes.~~

QUINN

Any progress with the new power  
chip?

ARTURO

We've maximized the increase in  
band width. It's shrinking the die  
size that will be the big  
challenge.

QUINN

Don't go any smaller than point two  
five. You'll need as many  
execution pipelines as you can get.

MAGGIE

Mallory. Let's go.

He shoots a look to Maggie. Then...

QUINN

(to Arturo)  
Like sliding with General Patton.

CUT TO

23 EXT. BASE DUPLEX - NIGHT (NIGHT 3)

23

Remmy approaches a base duplex. He spots a shadowy figure  
under a tree near the building. The figure quickly turns  
its back to him.

CONTINUED

23 CONTINUED

23

He thinks it odd, but continues on to an apartment door. Checks the number against a piece of paper, then knocks. Waits a beat. No answer.

REMBRANDT  
(knocks again)  
Malcolm?

Another beat. He tries the knob. Locked.

MALCOLM (O.S.)  
Hey Remmy.

Remmy turns to see Malcolm riding his bike up the walk, holding a package.

REMBRANDT  
Hey, little man. How's it going?

MALCOLM  
~~Great. My dad's home. We've been~~  
playing Battleship.  
(gets off his bike)  
He even gave me money to get us  
some ice cream.

He puts his key in the lock. Opens the door.

MALCOLM  
I beat him three times already.

24 INT. DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

24

Remmy follows Malcolm in.

MALCOLM  
I've been telling him all about  
you.

On the floor, motionless and face down, is Malcolm's father.

MALCOLM  
Dad!

The boy rushes to him. Remmy comes up next to him. Turns the man over. He's comatose. His eye float side to side, staring vacantly into space. Malcolm cradles his father's head. Breaks into tears. And as he continues calling "Dad"...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

25 INT. LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

25

Remmy slumps on a couch. Wade brings him a mixed drink.

WADE

Here.

REMBRANDT

(takes a sip)  
Too much water.

WADE

Well, I've never been much of a bartender. Except for the good listener part.

(and then)

~~What were you doing at that apartment in the first place?~~

REMBRANDT

I was going to tell Malcolm's dad about the pulsars.

WADE

Why would you want to put them through all that anxiety?

REMBRANDT

Because the only solace might come from being with your loved ones when it's time. I didn't want his dad going anywhere.

(takes a drink)

And now Malcolm won't even have that little bit of comfort.

A KNOCK. Wade crosses, finds Rickman at the door.

RICKMAN

May I come in?

Rickman enters holding some files, the top one open. Approaches Remmy.

RICKMAN

I've been looking over the statement you made to the MP's.

(eyes folder)

You said you saw someone outside Corporal Tyler's quarters.

CONTINUED

25 CONTINUED

25

REMBRANDT

He was in the shadows. I couldn't see his face.

RICKMAN

You sure it was a man? Maybe it was a woman.

REMBRANDT

Could be. I really couldn't see much.

RICKMAN

(closes folder)  
Don't worry about it. Chances are it's not even connected to the incident.

REMBRANDT

~~But what if it was?~~  
~~(and then)~~  
You've had twenty people fall into comas in the last three months. Call it a hunch, but I don't think that can just be written off as a weird coincidence.

RICKMAN

Maybe you haven't noticed, but I have a real full plate of problems. I don't have time to waste on your "hunch."

REMBRANDT

(pressing)  
But if I am right, and the person responsible for these comas gets on your approved list, you could be taking a whole lot of trouble with you when you slide.

RICKMAN

Then I hope you'll join me in praying you're wrong.

The two men lock eyes a moment, then Remmy hands Wade the rest of his drink.

REMBRANDT

Thanks for the drink. But I'm suddenly having a hard time swallowing.

He exits.

CONTINUED

25 CONTINUED 2

25

WADE

Sorry. He's just feeling pretty bad about Malcolm.

RICKMAN

We're all under a lot of pressure.

(opens another file)

I've been looking over the preliminary list you've prepared. We have too many people. It's time to raise the bar.

(hands file to Wade)

Eliminate anyone who's not O negative.

WADE

(unsure)

Why take only people with O negative blood?

~~RICKMAN~~

~~They're universal donors. As cold as it sounds, it makes the most sense.~~

Off Wade --

CUT TO

26 EXT. GRASSY PATCH OF LAND - NIGHT (NEW WORLD)

26

The vortex opens and Maggie and Quinn slide out, land hard, roll a few feet. They remain on the ground as the vortex closes, trying to recover from the jarring impact.

QUINN

You okay?

MAGGIE

Why does every landing have to be so hard?

QUINN

I've been asking that for three years.

They rise, take in their surroundings. Surprise. It's Blake Air Force base.

MAGGIE

What happened. I thought we weren't going to slide back home.

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED

26

QUINN  
We didn't. It only looks that way.  
One of the quirks of sliding is  
that some worlds are almost  
identical to your own.

MAGGIE  
Then maybe this is the world we've  
been looking for.

They're unexpectedly illuminated by FLASHLIGHTS.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Don't move!

Maggie and Quinn turn to see three MP's running towards  
them, guns drawn. They're led by MAGGIE 2.

MAGGIE  
Oh my God...

MAGGIE 2  
Oh my God...

And off this

CUT TO

27 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (NEW WORLD)

27

Identical to the secure interrogation room the Sliders were  
in on Maggie's earth. The back of a guard's head is visible  
through the small glass window.

QUINN  
(eyeing his watch)  
Twenty minutes till the slide.

MAGGIE  
What happens if we miss it?

QUINN  
We're stuck here. For twenty-nine  
years.

MAGGIE  
(beat)  
What's the procedure for a  
situation like this?

CONTINUED

27 CONTINUED

27

QUINN

There is no "procedure."

MAGGIE

C'mon. You must have been in situations like this before.

QUINN

Oh yeah. I've broken out of guarded rooms, snuck through an active military base and taken back my timer from an armed intelligence officer a dozen times. Piece of cake.

MAGGIE

Hey, you're the "experienced slider." I assumed you'd have some specific strategies in case of capture.

QUINN

Doesn't work that way. Sliding means improvising.

Maggie starts to pace, her mind racing. Then...

MAGGIE

Do doubles share the same personality traits?

QUINN

Sometimes. Sometimes not. But let's say this one does think like you. How would you be fooled into letting two intruders escape?

MAGGIE

I wouldn't be.

QUINN

Everyone has vulnerabilities.

Maggie hesitates.

QUINN

Come on, Captain. Your ego's running out of time.

CONTINUED

27 CONTINUED 2

27

MAGGIE

(beat, then)  
She's logical. To the point of myopia. She'd never think there's a chance for escape from inside a room surrounded by guards. So if we can get her in here, her defenses will be down.

QUINN

Then what?

MAGGIE

Then you flatter her. Tell her how impressed you are with her decisiveness, her strength.  
(hates to admit it)  
She'll like hearing that from a man.

QUINN

I want to see your Captain. Tell her we're ready to talk.

CUT TO

28 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - NIGHT

28

Arturo and Beckett hover over the tracking computer. Remy's on a phone when Wade enters, approaches him.

WADE

Any word on Quinn?

REMBRANDT

(shakes his head)  
They must still be looking.

He reacts to a BUSY SIGNAL, slams the phone down.

REMBRANDT

Damn it. They won't let me get an outside line.

WADE

Rickman's sealed off the entire base.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED

28

REMBRANDT

I wanted to contact Malcolm's birth mother. At least that way, he wouldn't die alone.

Wade puts a comforting hand on his arm.

WADE

You've done all you can.

REMBRANDT

I know. Now it's up to you.

(lowers his voice)

I need you to put Malcolm's name on that list of people going to the new world.

WADE

Rembrandt...

~~REMBRANDT~~

~~It's his only chance, Wade.~~

WADE

Rickman's ordered that only people with O negative blood be taken. Malcolm's not in that group.

REMBRANDT

So lie. By the time they find out, he'll be off this world.

A conflicted Wade doesn't get a chance to respond.

ARTURO (O.S.)

Oh Lord...

They turn to see Arturo and Beckett staring ashen faced at the satellite tracking computer.

WADE

Professor...?

Wade and Remy approach. The two scientists shake their heads in disbelief at the numbers coming up on the screen.

WADE

What is it?

ARTURO

(shaken)

The United States no longer exists as we know it.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED 2

28

ARTURO (CONT'D)  
The first pulsar beam just hit the  
Eastern seaboard...

REMBRANDT  
How long do we have?

DR. BECKETT  
The next wave of radiation will  
arrive in forty-eight hours. It  
will be so massive...

He can't finish. The Sliders exchange a look.

ARTURO  
The good news is the new chip will  
be ready before then. We project  
it should be powerful enough to  
transport about three hundred  
people. ~~At least for one slide.~~

REMBRANDT  
But what if Q-Ball doesn't find a  
world for those people to go to?

Off this --

CUT TO

29 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (NEW WORLD)

29

Maggie and Quinn force themselves to be calm. Maggie  
glances at her watch.

MAGGIE  
Three minutes.

QUINN  
One less than the last time you  
told me.

MAGGIE  
Where the hell is she?  
(awful realization)  
Maybe she doesn't think like I  
do.

Movement at the door. CLICK. It's being unlocked.

QUINN  
Wouldn't you keep your prisoners  
waiting?

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED

29

The door opens and Maggie 2 steps in, holding the timer.  
The Guard closes the door behind her.

MAGGIE 2  
I hear you're ready to talk.

QUINN  
You haven't given us much choice.  
(shakes his head)  
I have to tell you, this is the  
first time we've ever been  
captured.

A flicker of a pleased look crosses Maggie 2's face.

MAGGIE 2  
So you admit you're spies.

MAGGIE  
I underwent plastic surgery in the  
~~hope that we could infiltrate the~~  
base using your identity.

QUINN  
(smiles)  
If we could have duplicated your  
mind as well, maybe we would have  
been smart enough not to get  
caught.

Maggie 2 indicates the timer.

MAGGIE 2  
Tell me what this is for.

Quinn steps towards her, extends his hand for the timer.  
Maggie 2 tenses.

MAGGIE 2  
I'll hold on to it.

QUINN  
Of course. That's the smart thing.  
But really... even if we wanted to,  
how could we escape?

Maggie 2 thinks a moment, relents a little by stepping  
closer to Quinn so he can show her how the timer works. He  
sees the timer's at forty seconds and counting.

MAGGIE 2  
What happens when this reaches  
zero?

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED 2

29

QUINN  
It uh... signals one of our  
satellites.

MAGGIE 2  
For what purpose?

QUINN  
(vamping)  
Depends on what code I tap in.

Maggie 2's so intrigued she doesn't see our Maggie take a tentative step towards her.

MAGGIE 2  
What happens when it reaches zero  
and you haven't tapped in anything?

QUINN  
~~Can't you guess?~~

~~She raises her eyes to his. She's trying.~~

QUINN  
Come on... the answer's right in  
front of you...

Maggie 2 senses movement behind her, turns too late. Maggie leaps at her and the two women tumble to the floor, sending the timer sliding across the floor. Quinn dives for it as the Guard hears the commotion, opens the door to enter.

Maggie jumps off her double, races to join Quinn. The timer hits ZERO and he activates the vortex, the tunnel plowing into the Guard, knocking him back into the hallway.

QUINN  
Go!

Maggie jumps, he's right behind her. The vortex closes and the CAMERA FINDS Maggie 2, still on the floor, staring in disbelief.

CUT TO

30 INT. MEDICAL WARD - NIGHT

30

We're over the shoulder of an anglo MILITARY NURSE working at a desk in the coma ward. The only light comes from a goose neck lamp. On the desk a radio. The talk show host takes calls on the subject of the annihilation of Russia.

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED

30

As the nurse makes entries in a file folder, the now familiar HAND WIELDING THE HYPODERMIC NEEDLE ENTERS FRAME BEHIND HER. It quickly buries itself into the base of her skull. She stiffens as the needle draws fluid from her brain. Finally full, the needle is withdrawn. The nurse falls face down on her desk.

WE FOLLOW THE ATTACKER'S HAND as it jabs the needle into the base of HIS OWN NECK. CAMERA PANS AROUND to reveal RICKMAN. As he pumps the fluid into his skull his face MORPHS into the ANGLO NURSE a beat, then MORPHS BACK to his own face.

CUT TO

31 EXT. SAN FRANCISCO STREET - DAY (DAY 4) (NEW WORLD)

31

A residential street. Regular viewers will recognize the Mallory house with its white picket fence. A beat, then the VORTEX opens and ~~Quinn slides out into the street, followed by Maggie.~~

MAGGIE

(eyes her watch)

We're running out of time to find a new world, Mallory.

QUINN

Thanks for the news flash.

He spots his house.

QUINN

Hey... that's my house.

MAGGIE

We're in San Francisco? I thought you said we'd always land in the same geographical spot.

QUINN

Your husband's timer must have the wrong kind of gyroscope. His stabilizer's got too wide a band.

MAGGIE

(coughs)

So this is your home world?

He walks up to the gate.

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED

31

QUINN

I don't know. I've been down this road before and it's always been a disappointment.

He opens the gate. Swings it back and forth. It SQUEAKS.

QUINN

This gate's squeaked since I was a kid. But worlds can be so similar, it's no guarantee.

Maggie COUGHS again as they make their way up the walk.

MAGGIE

Even if it's not your home world, it looks like it could fit what we need.

(sniffs)

~~Mrs. Randall's making her chicken~~  
soup.

Maggie COUGHS again.

QUINN

You okay?

MAGGIE

Yeah, fine.

Spots an old car in the driveway on the other side of his house. His hopes rise in spite of himself.

QUINN

There's Bernie Massey's Pontiac that got rear ended. He never fixed it.

They reach the front door. Quinn knocks. Maggie hangs back. COUGHS again.

MAGGIE

So how could this not be your home?

QUINN

Last time all this was the same too. But the Golden Gate Bridge was blue.

The door opens revealing MRS. MALLORY. Shock as she looks at Quinn. Then she throws open the screen door.

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED 2

31

MRS. MALLORY

Oh my God! Quinn!

She throws her arms around him.

MRS. MALLORY

I always knew you'd come home.

They disengage. Quinn looks at her, unsure. She senses something's wrong.

MRS. MALLORY

What's wrong?

QUINN

I... I've thought I was home before only to find out it was you on another world.

MRS. MALLORY

(totally confused)  
What?

He's struck by a locket hanging around her neck.

QUINN

Where'd you get this?

MRS. MALLORY

I found it under your mattress about a year after you left.

QUINN

Was it wrapped in sparkling silver paper with a lavender ribbon?

MRS. MALLORY

Yes.

QUINN

(ecstatic)  
It's the birthday gift I was going to give you the day I slid.

The realization is almost too much to bear. He throws his arms around her again.

QUINN

I can't believe it... I'm finally home.

Beat, then he breaks from her. He turns to Maggie...

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED 3

31

QUINN

Mom, I want you to meet...

Stops when he sees Maggie clutching her chest, gasping for air.

QUINN

Maggie?!

Maggie collapses. Quinn catches her.

QUINN

(to his Mom)

Call nine one one!

As she runs into the house, FREEZE on Quinn as he tries to help an unconscious Maggie. SUPERIMPOSE: "TO BE CONTINUED"

FADE OUT

END OF PART ONE