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"THE EXODUS - PART ONE"

Teleplay by
Tony Blake
&
Paul Jackson

Story by
John Rhys-Davies

Directed by
Jim Charleston

REVISED PAGES:

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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. TERI EASTMAN
DR. VLADIMIR JARIABEK
COL. ANGUS RICKMAN

DR. STEVEN JENSEN
MALCOLM

STREET PERSON
MRS. MALLORY

(X)

#K1825

SLIDERS

“The Exodus - Part One”

SETS

INTERIORS:

BLAKE AIR FORCE BASE
TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY

INTERROGATION ROOM
BASE CATACOMB
INTERROGATION ROOM (NEW WORLD)

LIVING QUARTERS

JARIABEK'S OFFICE
RABBIT HOLE (CAVE) - (NEW WORLD)

EXTERIORS:

CITY STREET
BLAKE AIR FORCE BASE
MILITARY GROUNDS
WALKWAY
BASE QUAD
GUARD GATE

GRASSY FIELD (NEW WORLD)
BASE DUPLEX
GRASSY PATCH OF LAND (NEW WORLD)

SAN FRANCISCO STREET

#K1825

CHRONOLOGY PAGE

SCENE	1	NIGHT #1
SCENES	2 - 5A	DAY #2
SCENES	6 - 11	NIGHT #2
SCENES	11A - 22	DAY #3
SCENES	23 - 30A	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. TERI EASTMAN, (black, 28). Bored, she 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. She crosses to the computer's printer, sits in a chair, studies a printout.

SUBJECTIVE POV - HAND HELD - MOVING

A figure silently enters the room behind Eastman.

RESUME EASTMAN

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

LT. EASTMAN

Oh my God...

She reaches for a phone, punches in some numbers.

SUBJECTIVE POV - HAND HELD - MOVING

The figure closes in on the unsuspecting woman's chair from behind.

LT. EASTMAN

(on phone)
Doctor Jariabek? I'm sorry to call so late, sir. But the SAT 7 satellite has picked up an unusual reading...

INTERCUT

DR. JARIABEK

(concerned)
Can you be more specific,
Lieutenant?

(X)
(X)
(X)

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED

1

LT. EASTMAN

Well, if I'm reading it right, it's
showing an unusual declination for
an object that's just penetrated
the outer plane of our system...

DR. JARIABEK

(a grave realization;
more to himself)

It could only be the pulsar. But
that doesn't make any sense.

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

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

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED 2

1

LT. EASTMAN

(on phone)

Yes, sir... well yes, sir I know
it doesn't make any sense.

(X)

DR. JARIABEK

My calculations indicated it would
miss us. Unless...

(X)

(X)

LT. EASTMAN

Maybe you'd better come down and
see for yourself...

The needle plunges into the soft flesh. Eastman stiffens,
paralyzed as CLEAR FLUID flows into the syringe.

(X)

(X)

DR. JARIABEK (futzied)

Lieutenant...? Lieutenant!

(X)

(X)

Her eyes roll back, her head hits the desk. 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, hunched over his shopping cart overflowing with junk. The only sound is the eerie sound of a distant AIR RAID SIREN. Across the street, TWO THIEVES 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 OFF SCREEN and QUINN slides out, landing smack in-between them on the sofa.

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

(X)

WADE

(X)

(re: couch)

I don't think they were paying retail.

QUINN

I guess we took a bite out of crime.

(X)

(X)

(listens to siren)

(X)

Nothing like an air raid to bring out looters.

(X)

(X)

They listen a beat. Look around.

REMBRANDT

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

ARTURO

Not entirely alone, Mr. Brown.

He indicates the Street Person. Quinn approaches the man, who ignores the Sliders, as he gathers up the scattered cushions and puts them in his shopping cart.

QUINN

Hey man... where is everyone?

STREET PERSON

Gone. All gone. Bomb shelters. It's okay. I like it that way.

The street person looks at Wade with a maniacal grin.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED

2

STREET PERSON

They think they can fool me.
Blaming the Russians. But I know
better.

He pulls out a broken laptop computer from his cart and
starts hitting keys.

STREET PERSON

See? It's all right here.

STREET PERSON

(re: computer)
I got this when I worked for
President North.

The Sliders exchange a glance. The guy's obviously
delusional. Quinn takes Wade's arm and starts to lead her
away. The street person jumps in front of them. As he
rants, he waves the laptop at them.

STREET PERSON

I told Ollie not to get in their
face. But he wouldn't listen to
me. They never listen to me. Now
it's too late. The Commies are
gonna push the button. And then...
KABOOM!!!

The SQUEAL OF TIRES and a CAR rockets onto the block, heads
straight for them. The Street Person scurries away.

QUINN

Look out!

Arturo and Remy jump clear. Quinn tackles Wade, they roll
away as the car misses them by inches. But the driver hits
the abandoned sofa. The car overturns in the middle of the
street.

(X)

ANOTHER ANGLE - AT CAR

The Sliders rush to help the driver who's been thrown
clear. Kneel next to him.

(X)

(X)

QUINN

He's hurt bad.

(X)

Wade whips off her jacket.

(X)

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED 2

2

WADE
Put this under his head.

REMBRANDT
I'm gonna try to find some help. (X)

Remmy turns to go but the man, DR. JARIABEK, 50, wraps a bloody hand around his ankle. He has a Russian accent. He speaks in Russian.

(X)

DR. JARIABEK
(coughing blood)
You must warn them...

QUINN
Warn who?

DR. JARIABEK
Poolsar... trakechtoriya...

ARTURO
In English, Doctor.

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

DR. JARIABEK
Pulsar... the trajectory... eighty-
six... not seven...

A last spasm of breath, then silence. Reactions. As Quinn feels for the man's pulse...

REMBRANDT
You know this guy?

ARTURO
Doctor Vladimir Jariabek. A highly
respected Cosmologist. I've heard
him lecture many times.

QUINN
Well... you won't anymore.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED 4

2

REMBRANDT

By one damn big gun.

The Sliders react to the ROAR of an approaching vehicle. An AIR FORCE SEDAN pulls up. A female OFFICER jumps out, followed by two AIRMEN with "damn big guns."

MAGGIE

Step away from the suspect. Now.

CAPT. MAGGIE BECKETT approaches. Twenty-five and athletic, a former Air Force fighter pilot now working as an Intelligence Officer. Maggie's piercing eyes only hint at the passion and intelligence she possesses. Maggie kneels, checks the dead man. Dismayed, she rises and turns to an Airman.

(X)
(X)

MAGGIE

(tightly)
He's dead.

The Airman's unruffled. She turns to the Sliders, the AIR RAID SIREN continuing it's eerie wail in the b.g.

MAGGIE

Was he alive when you got here?

QUINN

Barely.

MAGGIE

He say anything before he died?

ARTURO

It was mostly gibberish.

MAGGIE

So what part did you understand?

Arturo doesn't answer. Maggie sees the defiance in his eyes, realizes it's useless with him. She turns to Quinn.

MAGGIE

Did you hear what was said?

QUINN

Sorry. He was bleeding too loud.

MAGGIE

Maybe you just need a little motivation.

(to Airmen)
Get them in the car.

CONTINUED

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2 CONTINUED 5

2

The Airmen level their rifles at the Sliders.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED 6

2

QUINN

Okay, look...

(to Maggie)

The guy didn't say anything. But
he gave us this...

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

He reaches into his jacket pocket, freezes when an Airman
PUMPS A ROUND into the chamber of his gun as a warning.

MAGGIE

Real slow.

Quinn nods, slowly pulls the TIMER from his pocket.

MAGGIE

What is it?

(X)

As she reaches out for the timer, Quinn deliberately DROPS
IT. Maggie instinctively bends to catch it. It's all the
opening Quinn needs.

He grabs Maggie and spins her around, enveloping her in a
bear hug. The Airmen reflexively turn their weapons towards
Quinn, giving Arturo and Remy their shot. An uppercut from
Remy and one Airman'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, spins and leg whips him
to the ground. She drops a knee onto his chest, about to
strike him with a martial arts maneuver when she hears a
CLICK from behind. She freezes, glances over her shoulder
to see Wade pointing a sidearm at her back.

(X)

WADE

Get off him.

(X)

Maggie reluctantly rises, but not before using Quinn's chest
as a step stool. He grimaces, shoots her a look. As he
rises...

(X)

QUINN

(then, to Maggie)

Now it's my turn to ask questions.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED 7

2

The AIR RAID SIREN dies.

(X)

REMBRANDT
We're wasting time here, Q-ball.
(re: end of siren)
Let's go before they signal the
all clear.

(X)

(X)

(X)

Quinn grabs Maggie by the arm, pulls her towards the sedan.

QUINN
Wade... pop the trunk.

(X)

Wade opens the driver's door and pops the latch.

(X)

MAGGIE
You're really screwing up.

(X)

QUINN
Yeah? Then how come you're the
one being locked in a trunk?
(to Wade)
Help Remmy cuff the other two.

(X)

(X)

(X)

Quinn and Maggie lock eyes for a beat, then he pushes her
into the trunk. She stares up at him, her eyes red hot.

(X)

MAGGIE
I will find you. I never forget
a face.

(X)

(X)

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

He slams the trunk closed.

(X)

CUT TO

3 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY - LATER

3

A TRUCK with LOUDSPEAKERS RUMBLES down the street, blaring
announcements.

LOUDSPEAKER VOICE
Attention citizens: The Civil
Defense Test has ended. You may
return to your normal activities.
(MORE)

CONTINUED

3 CONTINUED

3

LOUDSPEAKER VOICE (CONT'D)

I repeat, the test has ended, (X)
return to your normal activities. (X)
Attention citizens... (X)

The Sliders hustle around the corner as the truck continues (X)
past. They jam the weapons they took into a dumpster (X)
thru... (X)

REMBRANDT

You must have a damn good reason
why we just didn't tell the truth.

ARTURO

A brilliant scientist is dead, Mr.
Brown. And I believe they killed
him. Reason enough not to trust
them with information.

WADE

He said something about a pulsar.

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. Now we just have to figure
out who we tell.

(wry) (X)
Good bet it's not the military. (X)

(X)

ARTURO

On our world, Doctor Jariabek
consulted the military, but kept an
office at Cal Tech. (X)

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 OMITTED 5

5A EXT. WALKWAY - DAY 5A

Overlooking the inner sanctum of the base. A man leans against the rail, studies his domain. This is COL. ANGUS RICKMAN, mid-30's. Cool, handsome, edgy. A living recruiting poster. He talks on a CELL PHONE.

RICKMAN

I want hourly updates on the trajectory of that pulsar. (X)
(X)

He sees Maggie approach, her eyes flaring.

RICKMAN

I didn't ask how difficult it is. Just do it.

He hangs up as Maggie snaps off a salute.

MAGGIE

You wanted to see me, sir?

RICKMAN

No, Captain, I didn't. But you've given me no choice.

(then)

You've handled this whole incident with Doctor Jariabek very poorly.

MAGGIE

Airman Cooper said you gave him orders to shoot Jariabek on sight. (X)
How the hell am I supposed to command a squad when I don't know what's going on? (X)

RICKMAN

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.

CONTINUED

5A CONTINUED

5A

MAGGIE

(tight)
Yes, sir.

RICKMAN

I spoke to Airman Cooper directly (X)
because I knew you'd resist the (X)
order. And it was a directive (X)
from the highest levels. (X)

MAGGIE

With all due respect, sir, I (X)
shouldn't be left out of the loop (X)
like that. (X)

RICKMAN

I did what I thought necessary. (X)
Accept it and move on. (X)

MAGGIE

(chastised) (X)
Yes, sir. (X)

RICKMAN

I want you to find those people (X)
who escaped, Captain. They could (X)
be Russian agents working with (X)
Jariabek. (X)

MAGGIE

(doubtful)
He defected twenty years ago, sir.

RICKMAN

He was still a Russian. And if he
had succeeded in getting word to
Moscow, the security of the entire
SAT 7 program would have been
breached.

MAGGIE

So it's better that three hundred
million Russians die instead. (X)

RICKMAN

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

He turns back to the railing, stares out at the base.

CONTINUED

5A CONTINUED 2

5A

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

MAGGIE
Yes, sir.

CUT TO

6
THRU
8
OMITTED

6
THRU
8

9 INT. JARIABEK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

9

A single lamp illuminates the cluttered scientist's office,
filled with cosmological charts, maps, etc. Arturo and
Quinn study a computer graph as it's spit from Jariabek's
printer. Wade's at the computer as Remmy listens for
trouble at the door.

ARTURO
Doctor Jariabek was definitely
tracking a pulsar. These readings
indicate it's 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.

ARTURO
This projection says 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.

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED

9

ARTURO

Good, Lord. At that declination,
the pulsar will be in position to
irradiate a part of the Earth.

Remmy starts towards him from the door.

REMBRANDT

Irradiate? You mean like a nuclear
bomb?

ARTURO

Same effect, different method.
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

(awed)
Like a neutron bomb.

REMBRANDT

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

WADE

Professor... that map. Can it
tell you where the pulsar will
strike... and when?

(X)

(X)

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, the soldier's guns drawn. She trains a FLASHLIGHT on
Quinn's face.

(X)

(X)

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED 2

9

MAGGIE
It's Mallory, right? Quinn
Mallory.

Off reactions

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

10 OMITTED 10

11 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY (DAY 3) 11(X)

Windowless, except for a small one in the only door. We can see the back of a Guard through the glass. Quinn sits at a long table under the withering glare of Maggie Beckett. He's tired. Been here for hours -- (X)

MAGGIE

If you expect to get out of here...
(pointedly)
Quinn Mallory... you're going to have to give me more information than just your name.

QUINN

I wasn't born yesterday...
(mimicking her)
Captain Beckett. I don't expect you to ever let me out of here.

MAGGIE

The survival of this country is at stake and it's obvious you're not willing to help, so I'm going to assume you're a Russian operative.

QUINN

Since a pulsar's about to nuke millions of innocent lives and you're not doing a damn thing about it, I'm going to assume you're a cold-hearted killer.

MAGGIE

(growing frustrated)
This isn't about me.
(a beat, then)
And you couldn't be more wrong.

QUINN

You gonna deny you blew Jariabek away?

MAGGIE

(flares)
Yes, I'm going to deny it!

She catches herself. Pulls it back together. Then...

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED

11

QUINN

(wry)
Did I hit a sensitive button,
Captain?

MAGGIE

You know Mallory, you're not
earning any brownie points by
getting under my skin.

QUINN

Too bad. I seem to be pretty good
at it.

They eye each other. A small wry smile crosses her lips.
Despite the circumstances there's an attraction here. She
approaches. Leans into his face. Lowers her voice and
turns deadly serious.

MAGGIE

This isn't a game. And the loser
doesn't just pick up his marbles
and go home.

They lock eyes a beat, broken only when the door opens and
Rickman enters, trailed by DR. STEVEN JENSEN, mid 30's.
He's in a wheelchair. Wears a lab coat.

QUINN

Where are my friends?

RICKMAN

In another room.
(to Maggie)
Captain?

MAGGIE

I'm getting nowhere, sir.

QUINN

That's because there's nowhere to
go. And since you have the guns,
the ball's in your court.

RICKMAN

In that case, let's start a new
game.
(reveals Quinn's timer)
Tell us what this is.

Quinn hesitates.

MAGGIE

Answer him.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED 2

11

QUINN

(a beat, then)
It's called a timer. It has to do
with parallel dimensions.

DR. JENSEN

Does it open the gateway to other
worlds?

Quinn's surprised by Jensen's knowing this.

QUINN

Yeah. You know about sliding?

DR. JENSEN

I've spent the past three years
developing the equipment to access
parallel worlds.

(beat)

Are you from a parallel dimension?

QUINN

We arrived just before Jariabek
died.

(X)

They all react. Maggie eyes Quinn with a hint of
admiration. Quinn turns to her.

QUINN

Hope I haven't disappointed you.

Jensen eyes the by-play, uncertain what to make of it.
Then he turns to Rickman.

DR. JENSEN

Colonel Rickman.

Jensen gestures that he'd like to speak to Rickman alone.
Rickman pushes him a few feet away, leans down and listens
as Jensen whispers.

Quinn sneaks a glance at Maggie, surprised to see she's
sneaking a glance at him. Caught, she quickly looks away as
Jensen and Rickman return.

RICKMAN

As I'm sure Captain Beckett has
informed you, we're at full
military alert. As such, your...
interaction... with Doctor Jariabek
borders on espionage.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED 3

11

QUINN
I just told you I'm not from this world!

RICKMAN
Which makes your case unique. And open to negotiation.

DR. JENSEN
I've run into some problems with my development of sliding.

Quinn knows the drill. Then...

QUINN
And if I don't want to help?

RICKMAN
(re: timer)
I'm sure this is counting down for a reason. If you want it back...

MAGGIE
(to Quinn)
It's your only way out of here.

QUINN
I remember getting past you once before.
(to Rickman)
How do I know you'll let us slide in three days?

(X)
(X)

RICKMAN
You have my word. As an officer and a gentleman.

QUINN
Got anything more convincing?

RICKMAN
The penalty for espionage is death by firing squad.

CUT TO

11A EXT. BASE QUAD - DAY (DAY 3)

11A

Rickman leads Quinn and the other Sliders into the quad.
Maggie trails with TWO GUARDS.

WADE

It looks like you don't have
separation of church and state on
this world. (X)
(X)
(X)

MAGGIE

We used to. But President North
felt the government needed a
strong dose of morality. (X)
(X)
(X)

RICKMAN

(over his shoulder)
You'll be confined to the base.
But you'll have the freedom to move
about at will. Just don't do
anything foolish.

He hands the timer to Maggie, then gestures to one of the
GUARDS.

RICKMAN

(to Wade, Remmy)
This soldier will show you to your
quarters.
(to Quinn, Arturo)
You two follow Captain Beckett.

MAGGIE

This way.

DR. JENSEN

(to Maggie) (X)
You go ahead. I want to show (X)
Mallory our power station. (X)

She starts off. The Sliders linger, then follow. As they
go...

WADE

(sotto to Quinn)
There's something about her I don't
like. No, make that everything
about her I don't like.
(beat)
You trust these people?

CONTINUED

11A CONTINUED

11A

QUINN

No. But I don't have much choice.

REMBRANDT

(sotto voce)

I've been on enough bases to know
there's always a way to sneak off.
I'll try to find us a back door
out.

Quinn nods, then as he and Arturo follow after Maggie...

CUT TO

12 OMITTED

12

13 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - DAY

13

Maggie stands over Arturo, who sits next to several
computers printing out data.

In front of him is a large, futuristic TV monitor.

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED

13

On the screen is a live shot of the Milky Way Galaxy. Our SOLAR SYSTEM is clearly delineated as are numerous CONSTELLATIONS, COMETS, an ASTEROID SHOWER, a second SOLAR SYSTEM... and the PULSAR, which is blinking like a flashing beacon. (CGI) Arturo inspects the computer readouts.

ARTURO

Doctor Jariabek designed this system?

MAGGIE

It's the main reason we're ahead of the Russians.

ARTURO

And you showed your appreciation by killing him. Somehow I think a plaque would have been more fitting.

MAGGIE

Just because I wear the uniform doesn't mean I agree with everything we do.

ARTURO

The Nuremberg defense: "I was only following orders." On my world, an officer can resign his commission. Things must be different here.

He "studies" the screen, leaving Maggie to ponder his words.

13A EXT. BASE QUAD - DAY

13A(X)

Quinn pushes Jensen.

(X)

(X)

QUINN

You've got the ability to track wormholes and store the coordinates of every world you slide to.

(and then)

That's something I wish I had. I've been to a few worlds I'd like to go back to.

CONTINUED

13A CONTINUED

13A (X)

DR. JENSEN

Yeah, well unfortunately, anything I send into the vortex corrupts the integrity of the wormhole and drops out into oblivion.

QUINN

(casually)
That is a problem.

DR. JENSEN

Look, I know you can stall me. So I'll make you a better deal than Rickman's. Give me the ability to transport humans, I'll give you the ability to imprint parallel earth coordinates and track wormholes.

QUINN

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

CUT TO

14 OMITTED

14

14A INT. BASE CATACOMB - DAY

14A

Remmy appears at the entrance. He checks to make sure no one is watching, then starts into the dark tunnel. He wends his way inside, stops when he sees a series of drawings on the brick walls.

Certainly not graffiti, these drawings are the inspired yet raw work of a young artist's imagination. Underneath is a stylized signature, "Malcolm." He starts to raise his hand to feel the bricks when...

MALCOLM (O.S.)

Don't touch that!

Startled, Remmy turns to see a black youngster standing in the shadows. He's MALCOLM, 13. He approaches, holding a box of colored chalk.

REMBRANDT

Hey. How you doing?

Malcolm ignores him, carefully checks the bricks.

CONTINUED

14A CONTINUED

14A

REMBRANDT

How come you're not in school?

MALCOLM

(attitude)

How come you're out of uniform?

REMBRANDT

I'm just... visiting.

MALCOLM

Who? The rats?

REMBRANDT

This is good stuff. How long you been drawing?

The kid shrugs, starts to draw.

REMBRANDT

You know, when I was a kid, I had a place I'd go. A secret place no one else knew about.

MALCOLM

(under his breath)

Why don't you go there now?

REMBRANDT

(ignores it)

I dreamed of being a singer some day, but I wasn't very good. So I'd go to this place and practice. Sing as loud and off key as I wanted. Because I knew nobody else would hear. And then they couldn't make fun of me.

Malcolm stops drawing, looks at him.

MALCOLM

Did you ever get any better?

REMBRANDT

(smiles)

I've got five gold records that say so. And I wasn't as good at singing as you are at drawing.

Malcolm meets his smile.

MALCOLM

So why you trying to sneak out?

CONTINUED

14A CONTINUED 2

14A

REMBRANDT

Who said I was?
(the kid just looks at
him)
Okay. I have my reasons. What I
don't have is a clue.

A beat, then Malcolm gestures deeper into the catacomb.

MALCOLM

Only thing that way is a bad smell.
Come on.

CUT TO

15 OMITTED

15

15A EXT. BASE WALKWAY - DAY - MINUTES LATER

15A

Malcolm and Remy sneak across an isolated part of the base
quad. Remy's on constant alert for signs of trouble.

REMBRANDT

Your folks know you're skipping
school?

MALCOLM

My dad's in Texas. My stepmom...
well, she doesn't know anything
right now.

REMBRANDT

I don't follow.

MALCOLM

She went into a coma last night.
They say they don't know why.
(then)
But it can't be too good. They're
bringing my dad back tonight.

REMBRANDT

I'm sorry.

Malcolm shrugs, then points to an ARCHWAY leading to
another part of the base.

MALCOLM

That's it. They never guard it
anymore. Just walk across and
you're out of here.

CONTINUED

15A CONTINUED

15A

REMBRANDT

Thanks Malcolm.

Remmy starts across the archway, glances around. No one in sight. He's halfway across when he TRIPS A HIDDEN LASER BEAM (CGI) and an ELECTRICAL JOLT drives him backward. Remmy collapses, writhing in pain. Malcolm races to him.

MALCOLM

You okay?! I'm sorry! That's never happened before. Please. You gotta believe me.

REMBRANDT

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

Remmy glances back at the laser, knows exactly why it's never happened before.

CUT TO

16 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - DAY

16

Quinn works on placing his power chip in Jensen's timer. On the table is a framed photo of Jensen 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. JENSEN

Yeah. She gave it up last year.

QUINN

I bet that lowered flight morale. She's a good looking lady.

DR. JENSEN

Has a good heart too. Came to see me every day in rehab.

QUINN

What happened?

DR. JENSEN

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

QUINN

I'm sorry.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED

16

DR. JENSEN
Don't be. They've developed a treatment to reconnect it using donor brain tissue. But because of protests from some bleeding hearts, they're unable to use it.

(then)
But I'll ski with Maggie again one day.

QUINN
So you two are still dating?

DR. JENSEN
Naw. We got married.

Disappointment crosses Quinn's face. Tries to hide it.

QUINN
I'm sorry, I didn't know.

DR. JENSEN
(enjoying his discomfort)
I know you didn't. She kept her maiden name. Maggie's Dad was a General, she was his only child, and she didn't want the name to die with him.

(X)
(X)
(X)

RICKMAN
(approaching)
Any progress, Doctor?

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

Quinn finishes implanting the chip, then...

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

He aims it. The VORTEX OPENS. (It's a different vortex than ours.) (CGI) Jensen's delighted, YELLS OVER THE ROAR of the vortex at Rickman.

DR. JENSEN
Now we just have to build a clone of his chip.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED 2

16

The VORTEX DIES and CLOSES just as...

Colonel! MAGGIE (O.S.)

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED 3

16

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

MAGGIE

SAT 7 just picked up a globular cluster of pulsars approaching our solar system. That pulsar that's about 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 forty-three hours for this cluster to pass by us. In that time the earth will make at least two full rotations... exposing every inch of this planet to the bombardment of radiation.

(X)

Shaken reactions.

DR. JENSEN

Oh my God...

ARTURO

(to Quinn)
And it will happen before we slide.

Off the stunning news...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

17 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - DAY - LATER

17

Wade pensively watches Quinn, Arturo and Jensen study computer printouts across the room. Rembrandt enters through the main door, sees Wade's look.

REMBRANDT

What is it?

WADE

(apprehensive)

The Professor spotted more pulsars.
Enough to destroy everything.

REMBRANDT

(beat as it sinks in)

You mean this world's going to end?

WADE

(nods, then)

It already has for Russia.

REMBRANDT

(a whisper)

Sweet Mary...

RICKMAN (O.S.)

Doctor Jensen.

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

RICKMAN

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

(then)

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

QUINN

But you can't just go to any world.
A lot of them are uninhabitable.

MAGGIE

That's why you and I are going to
scout them.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED

17

Quinn shares an unsettled look with his friends. Dr. Jensen's concerned too.

QUINN

I don't have a say in this?

MAGGIE

Sure. You volunteered.

(X)

CONTINUED

DR. JENSEN
Colonel, I understand the time
pressure, but isn't there someone
else we can send instead of Maggie?

Rickman looks at Maggie. She flushes.

MAGGIE
I've been chosen, Steve. It's my
duty.

DR. JENSEN
But I haven't tested this thing
with one person, much less two!
And I don't want to lose you.

MAGGIE
I don't want to lose you, either.
But if this mission isn't
successful, we're all lost.

A beat, then Jensen reluctantly nods.

REMBRANDT
(to Quinn)
I'm going with you.

WADE
So am I. We're a good team, we
know each other's moves. (X)
(X)

RICKMAN
No! I need you here to help me.
(to Remmy)
And you I don't trust. Our
security cameras caught your escape
stunt.

QUINN
It's okay, guys. I'll be fine.

ARTURO
I'll continue the work with Jensen,
see if we can develop a power chip
that can transport as many people
as possible.
(lowers his voice)
You realize, if we're to survive,
we have to go with these people and
slide from their new world.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED 3

17

QUINN

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

(then)

Let's do it.

Quinn takes the timer from Dr. Jensen and punches in some numbers as Maggie gives her husband a quick kiss, smiles confidently. She gently takes his hand.

MAGGIE

I trust your work. Even if you
don't.

Jensen smiles, nods. Quinn indicates the timer.

QUINN

I'm setting it to return in thirty
minutes. In case it's a hostile
environment.

He aims, shoots and the VORTEX ROARS TO LIFE.

(X)

QUINN

Let's hope the first time's the
charm.

(X)

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

CUT TO

18 EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY (NEW WORLD)

18

Quinn and Maggie fly out of the O.S. vortex. Disappear a beat. As they get to their feet, they find themselves standing in waist high grass.

MAGGIE

Wow. That was some ride.

QUINN

They always are.

MAGGIE

This doesn't look like LA.

QUINN

It may not be. Your husband's
geographic spectrum stabilizer is
like mine. It has a five hundred
mile radius.

Maggie cups her hand over her eyes, looks around.

CONTINUED

18 CONTINUED

18

MAGGIE

Looks good so far.

QUINN

(knows better)

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

They start to move.

MAGGIE

What the hell is that?

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

(X)

Suddenly, the GROUND SHAKES.

QUINN

Earthquake...

(X)

(X)

A huge shadow blocks out the sun. They turn, look up.

MAGGIE

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!

They take off through the high grass.

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!

They jump just as the golf club SWINGS INTO CAMERA.

CUT TO

19 OMITTED 19

19A EXT. BASE QUAD - DAY 19A

Empty. Rickman appears, trailed by Wade. (X)

(X)

WADE
I understand defending yourself
from attack. But not giving
civilians a chance to escape isn't
war. It's slaughter.

RICKMAN
Warning the Russians would have
revealed our Star Wars technology
to the Chinese. Which, in the
bigger picture, would have put
American lives at stake.
(and then)
And American lives are what I'm
trying to save now. But I need
your help.

WADE
(wary)
What for?

CONTINUED

19A CONTINUED

19A

RICKMAN

I need to compile a list of people who will be transported to the new world. I'm told you're computer savvy. I can't ask one of my own people to be involved. They may not make the cut.

WADE

(disdainful)
Make the cut? This isn't JV basketball, Colonel.

RICKMAN

You're right. It isn't. But somebody has to make these decisions.

WADE

Choosing who lives and who dies? I don't want that on me.

RICKMAN

If you don't help me, I may not get the job done in time and then nobody will be saved.

WADE

(beat)
What would you want me to do?

(X)
(X)

RICKMAN

Compile a list of the top people on this base, weighting it by their performance evaluations. Those people have earned it.

WADE

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

RICKMAN

I never spoke to the President.

WADE

(astonished)
What?

RICKMAN

All we'd end up taking would be his friends. Politicians who have no usable skills.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

19A CONTINUED 2

19A

RICKMAN (CONT'D)
I don't believe that's right. This
is the most egalitarian method I
could think of.

Beat as she considers, then...

(X)

WADE
Okay. Where do I start?

(X)

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 spots Malcolm approaching, carrying a
large piece of poster paper folded in half.

MALCOLM
Hey.

REMBRANDT
Hey. What's that?

MALCOLM
(sitting)
Something I drew. What do you
think?

Rembrandt opens it, revealing a stylized drawing of a woman
in a hospital bed. Her eyes are open, but the pupils
resemble swirling circles.

MALCOLM
She looks right at me but can't
see me.
(then)
It's not too good...is it?

(X)
(X)
(X)

REMBRANDT
No, it's... it's very powerful.

MALCOLM
You're lying. I can tell by your
face.

He snatches the drawing back, rises to leave. Remmy stops
him, gets into his face.

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED

20

REMBRANDT

(flaring)
First of all, I don't lie. And second, you've got to stop waiting for other people to believe in you before you start believing in yourself.

MALCOLM

How do you know what I believe? You don't even know me.

REMBRANDT

I know you better than you think. Someone told you once that you weren't good enough, that you didn't have any talent. And you believed them. Well, guess what? They were wrong. You hear me? They were wrong.

(X)
(X)

The passion of Remmy's words, the fire in his eyes... only a fool wouldn't listen. Malcolm looks down at his art.

MALCOLM

(beat, then)
There's a competition next month at school.
(re: artwork)
You think I should enter this?

A tough moment for Remmy, then he forces a smile.

REMBRANDT

Yeah. I do.

Malcolm nods. He will.

MALCOLM

Thanks.

An awkward beat, then...

REMBRANDT

Have you heard from your Dad?

MALCOLM

He's supposed to be here in an hour or so. You want to meet him?

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED 2

20

REMBRANDT

(simply)

Sure.

(and then)

Malcolm. You said it was your
stepmom who's in the hospital.
Where's your birth mother?

MALCOLM

She lives in San Francisco. But I
don't see her much.

(uncomfortable, he rises)

I gotta go. See ya later.

A solemn Remmy waves an okay.

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)

This could be a mine shaft, maybe
an abandoned well.

(X)

(X)

QUINN

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

MAGGIE

I've been through worse.

QUINN

Oh, right. You're the big, tough
fighter pilot. I can hear your
brass clanging. Why'd they ground
you?

(X)

(X)

MAGGIE

(edgy)

I wasn't grounded. It was
voluntary.

(X)

QUINN

Because of your husband.

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED

21

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

(wry smile)
I married one. You're brilliant
and complex. And sometimes a big
pain in the butt.

(X)

(X)

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.
(checks timer)
Still a minute to go.

MAGGIE

I had a horse once that size.

She starts toward it. Quinn grabs her arm.

QUINN

I wouldn't.

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED 2

21

She yanks her arm out of his grip.

MAGGIE

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

QUINN

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

(deliberate)

Don't go any closer.

MAGGIE

(in his face)

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

QUINN

Since you don't know the first thing about sliding, that's not 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.

He aims the timer UPWARD. Activates the VORTEX. (CGI)
Offers her a hand. She ignores it. Gets up on her own.

QUINN

After you.

An icy look, then she jumps into the vortex. Quinn follows.

CUT TO

22 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - DAY

22

Rickman confers with Dr. Jensen 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. JENSEN

About a hundred and fifty people can slide each trip.

RICKMAN

And how many trips can we make?

ARTURO

That depends on numerous factors. Not the least of which is whether Mr. Mallory finds a suitable world.

He looks at his watch.

ARTURO

It's time.

The WIND RUSTLES their hair and they squint at the O.S. light as Maggie slides into the lab. Quinn's right behind her. He stumbles into Maggie, she catches him. For an awkward moment they're in an embrace. Then quickly disengage. She spots her concerned husband, moves to him.

DR. JENSEN

Are you okay?

MAGGIE

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

RICKMAN

Any luck?

QUINN

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

Rickman looks to Maggie.

MAGGIE

It was inhospitable, sir.

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED

22

RICKMAN
How fast can you get back out
there?

QUINN
Right away. But we'll cover more
worlds if we don't slide back here
after each one.

RICKMAN
Whatever it takes.

QUINN
Any progress with the new power
chip?

Before Arturo can answer...

MAGGIE
(no time for this)
Mallory. Let's go.

He shoots a look to Maggie. Then...

QUINN
(to Arturo)
Like sliding with General Patton.

As he aims the timer...

CUT TO

23 EXT. BASE DUPLEX - NIGHT (NIGHT 3)

23

A BRIGHT PORCH LIGHT shines at the front door, until a ROCK
SHATTERS IT. A beat, then the door opens and CORPORAL
EASTMAN steps out into the darkness. Looks around. Sees
the broken glass at his feet. What the hell?

He bends to study the glass. A flash of movement and A
NEEDLE'S JAMMED INTO HIS NECK. He stiffens as fluid's
taken, collapses when the needle's pulled from his neck.
PULL BACK TO INCLUDE over the attacker's shoulder. See him
plunge the needle into his own neck. He reacts to
approaching voices. Withdraws the needle and rushes out of
frame.

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

ANOTHER ANGLE - SIDEWALK

Remy's strolling on the sidewalk, nearing the duplex
when...

CONTINUED

23 CONTINUED

23

Hey Remmy. MALCOLM (O.S.)

CONTINUED

23 CONTINUED

23

Malcolm crosses the street to join him, holding a grocery bag.

MALCOLM

(re: bag)
You like ice cream?

REMBRANDT

As long as it's not praline.

MALCOLM

(he winces)
Oh man.
(then a smile)
Hosed ya. It's caramel cream.

(X)

REMBRANDT

How are things going with your Dad?

MALCOLM

Great. We've been playing Battleship. I beat him three times

They start up the walk towards the darkened duplex door.

MALCOLM

I've been telling him all about you.

REMBRANDT

Good. I have some things to tell him myself.

They freeze, see the man lying motionless and face down by the door.

MALCOLM

Dad!

The boy rushes to him. Remmy hurries up, 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"...

24 OMITTED

24

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

25 OMITTED 25(X)

25A EXT. BASE DUPLEX - NIGHT - HALF HOUR LATER 25A(X)

A military crime scene. Remmy stands near the doorway, (X)
watching MP's do their thing. Wade approaches Remmy with a (X)
cup of coffee. Hands it to him. (X)

WADE
Here. Have some coffee. (X)
(and then)
What were you doing here in the (X)
first place?

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

WADE
(knowingly)
You didn't want him going anywhere.

REMBRANDT
The only solace might come from
being with your loved ones when
it's time. (X)
(takes a sip)
Now Malcolm won't even have that
little bit of comfort.

Rickman approaches holding some files. (X)

RICKMAN
(to Rembrandt) (X)
I've been looking over your
statement. You told the MP's you
didn't see anyone outside Corporal
Eastman's quarters.

CONTINUED

25A CONTINUED

25A

REMBRANDT
Someone deliberately broke the
porch light to make sure.

RICKMAN
Say over?

REMBRANDT
Malcolm's Dad was suckered outside.
Somebody wanted him in the dark.

WADE
(surprised)
You're saying he was attacked.

RICKMAN
You have any proof of that?

REMBRANDT
Just that you've had twenty people
fall into comas in the last three
months. I don't think a smart man
writes that off to "coincidence."

WADE
(caution)
Rembrandt....

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

REMBRANDT
(pressing)
But if I am right, and the person
responsible for these comas gets on
your approved list, you'll 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 Remy hands Wade the
rest of his coffee.

(X)

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

(X)

CONTINUED

25A CONTINUED 2

25A

He exits.

WADE
You can't just ignore this. If
there's a psycho out there
attacking people

RICKMAN
My problem. Not yours.
(pulls her aside)
I've looked over the preliminary
list you've prepared. We need to
narrow it down to people who would
be most valuable in establishing a
new colony. Doctors, engineers,
that kind of thing.

(X)

He hands the file to Wade, sees her somber expression.

WADE
I don't want to be the one to cross
names off the list.

RICKMAN
I know it's not easy. But we have
to take the best and brightest.

WADE
What about children? Your new
world will need a future.

RICKMAN
(beat)
We'll take as many as we can.
(then)
Think of the ones we're saving,
Wade. That's where you need to
focus.

Turns to leave, stops.

RICKMAN
Be sure to eliminate anyone who
doesn't have O negative blood.

WADE
(knows why)
Universal donors.

RICKMAN
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 O.S. 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.

QUINN

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

MAGGIE

Then maybe this is the place 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 sees Maggie, reacts.

MAGGIE 2

Oh my God...

CUT TO

27 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (NEW WORLD)

27

Identical to the secure interrogation room the Sliders were in on Maggie's earth.

CONTINUED

27 CONTINUED

27

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

MAGGIE
What happens if we miss it?

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

Maggie reacts, then...

MAGGIE
Okay... so what's the procedure for
a situation like this?

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 a
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?

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

I wouldn't be.

QUINN

Everyone has vulnerabilities.
(she hesitates)
Come on, Captain. Your ego's
running out of time.

MAGGIE

(beat, then)
She's logical. To the point of
myopia. She'd never think there's
a chance for escape. 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. Especially someone like you.

QUINN

(hmm, interesting)
Really.

MAGGIE

(covering)
Only because you intrigue her. She
thinks you're bold, dangerous. You
must be if you'd do something this
daring.
(then)
Lucky for us she doesn't know the
real you.

QUINN

Or maybe she does and it scares
her.

He doesn't give her a chance to respond as he strides to the
door, YELLS at the Guard.

QUINN

Tell your Captain we're ready to
talk.

CUT TO

28 INT. TRACKING STATION/LABORATORY - NIGHT

28

Arturo and Jensen hover over the tracking computer. Remmy'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.

REMBRANDT
I wanted to get ahold of Malcolm's birth mother. At least that way, he wouldn't die alone.

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. It's his only chance, Wade.

(X)
(X)

She mulls this...

(X)

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

(beat)
But by the time he finds out, Malcolm will be off this world.

(X)
(X)
(X)

A smile between them.

(X)

ARTURO (O.S.)
Oh Lord...

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED

28

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

WADE

Professor...?

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

REMBRANDT

What is it?

ARTURO

(shaken)

The first pulsar beam just hit the Eastern seaboard.

REMBRANDT

How long do we have?

DR. JENSEN

The next wave of radiation will arrive in twenty-two hours.

(X)

ARTURO

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

WADE

If Quinn finds the right world, they'll need one.

(X)
(X)

Off this --

CUT TO

29 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (NEW WORLD)

29

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.

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED

29

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

QUINN
Wouldn't you keep your prisoners
waiting?

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 I'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
If we could have duplicated your
mind as well, 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
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 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.

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED 2

29

MAGGIE 2

What happens when this reaches zero?

QUINN

It uh... signals one of our satellites.

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?

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, 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 (CGI), 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 OMITTED

30

30A EXT. GUARD GATE - NIGHT

30A

A single SENTRY works inside a lighted booth at the isolated gate. On his desk, a radio broadcasts a news report about the destruction of the Eastern Seaboard. A movement outside draws his attention. Curious, he steps out of the booth.

CONTINUED

30A CONTINUED

30A

Nothing. Must have been his imagination. Just as he turns to step back inside, the now familiar HAND WIELDING THE HYPODERMIC NEEDLE ENTERS FRAME BEHIND HIM. It quickly buries itself into the base of his skull. The sentry stiffens as the needle draws fluid. Full, the needle is withdrawn and the sentry collapses.

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

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.

The VORTEX opens O.S. 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.

(spots his house)

Hey... that's my house. We're in San Francisco!

MAGGIE

(coughs)

So this is your home world?

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.

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED

31

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

QUINN
(sniffs)
Mrs. Randall's making her chicken
soup.

Maggie COUGHS again.

QUINN
You okay?

MAGGIE
Yeah, fine.

They reach the front door. Quinn knocks. Maggie hangs
back. COUGHS again. The door opens revealing MRS. MALLORY.
Shock as she looks at Quinn. Then she throws open the
screen door.

MRS. MALLORY
Oh my God! Quinn!

She throws her arms around him. Tears fill her eyes; she
holds him like she'll never let him go.

(X)

MRS. MALLORY
(a prayer answered)
I never thought I'd hold you again.

Quinn gently pushes her away.

MRS. MALLORY
(unsure)
Quinn? What's wrong?

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

Behind them, Maggie starts to COUGH. Quinn and his mother
are too involved to notice.

(X)

(X)

MRS. MALLORY
(totally confused)
What?

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

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED 3

31

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

QUINN
Wrapped in silver paper?

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. In the background, Maggie is having
trouble getting enough oxygen. She clearly is struggling
to breathe through her mouth.

QUINN
(a whisper)
I can't believe it... I'm finally
home.

A beat as mother and son reconnect, then he looks over his
mother's shoulder at Maggie.

QUINN
Mom, I want you to meet...

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

QUINN
Maggie?!

Maggie COLLAPSES AS SHE CONTINUES STRUGGLING TO BREATHE.
Quinn catches her.

MAGGIE
(between gasps)
Can't breathe... this air.

MRS. MALLORY
Quinn, what's wrong!?

MAGGIE
Open... the vortex...

QUINN
I can't! It's got twenty five
minutes before I can activate it!
(MORE)

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED 4

31

QUINN (CONT'D)
(to Mrs. Mallory)
She's gonna die. Call nine-one-
one!

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

Maggie continues wheezing, gasping, struggling to suck in
air. FREEZE on Quinn as he cradles the unconscious Maggie.
SUPERIMPOSE: "TO BE CONTINUED"

(X)
(X)

FADE OUT

END OF PART ONE