

PROD. #K1823  
2/4/97 Draft  
LIMITED DISTRIBUTION



"THE BREEDER"

(FORMERLY: "COLD WAR")

Written by  
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#K1823

SLIDERS

"THE BREEDER"

CAST

QUINN MALLORY  
WADE WELLES  
REMBRANDT BROWN  
MAGGIE BECKETT

PARAMEDIC  
DR. NATALIE SYLVIUS  
D SQUAD CAPTAIN  
D SQUAD OFFICER  
SALESMAN  
MAN  
AUSTIN DIGGS  
SECURITY GUARD  
TAMI  
ROGER

#K1823

SLIDERS

"THE BREEDER"

SETS

INTERIORS:

WORMHOLE  
HOSPITAL  
    CRYOGENICS LAB  
    CRYO UNIT  
    CORRIDOR  
HOTEL ROOM  
    CORRIDOR  
CLOTHING STORE  
BAR  
SECURITY OFFICE  
HEALTH CLUB  
    FRONT DESK  
    LADIES LOCKER ROOM  
    MAIN WORKOUT ROOM  
    CORRIDOR  
    ANOTHER CORRIDOR  
    STEAM ROOM

EXTERIORS:

SWAMP WORLD  
PARK  
STREET  
BAR PARKING LOT  
CONDO COMPLEX  
HEALTH CLUB  
MEDICAL BUILDING PARKING LOT

THE BREEDER

TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. SWAMP WORLD - NIGHT

The Sliders stand knee deep in murky swamp water, grasping long wooden poles that they fiercely jam down into the swamp. Quinn has the TIMER in one hand. We can't see what kind of creatures they're battling, but from the struggle, it appears the waters are infested with them.

REMBRANDT

Damn! These things are everywhere!

WADE

I can't keep this up much longer!

QUINN

TEN MORE SECONDS!

Out of the black water, a SLIMY CREATURE, the size of a rock crab, leaps onto the back of Quinn's thigh. He YELLS as it's small legs pierce his pants and dig into his skin.

Wade and Remmy are too busy with their own battles to notice.

MAGGIE bends down and grabs at the creature, pulling it off Quinn, but as she flings it away, another crab-like creature leaps out of the black water and ATTACHES ITSELF TO THE FRONT OF HER FACE. She lets out a MUFFLED SCREAM, yanks it off and hurls it into the water. Quinn OPENS THE VORTEX (CGI). Maggie's COUGHING, GAGGING. Struggling to get something out of her throat. Rembrandt grabs Wade's hand and they leap.

QUINN

(to Maggie)  
You okay?!

Maggie nods, although it doesn't look it.

QUINN

Come on!

He leads her into the vortex.

INT. WORMHOLE - (STOCK)

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

The VORTEX OPENS (CGI) and the Sliders tumble out, falling onto the ground. It was an extremely violent ride. Quinn, Remmy and Wade land near each other. Maggie's a slight distance away. They slowly get to their feet. Except for Maggie. The others don't notice at first.

REMBRANDT

That gets my vote as the all time worst world.

He gives Wade a hand to help her up.

WADE

Thank God we only had five minutes on it.

QUINN

I'm wiping that world's coordinates off the timer right now.

WADE

Where's Maggie?

She turns to see Maggie lying motionless, face down on the ground a short distance away.

WADE

Quinn.

He turns. They rush to her. Turn over her lifeless body.

QUINN

Maggie!

No response. Camera goes close on her face, bringing into focus a red, rash-like mark where the creature had attached itself.

WADE

(eyeing red mark)  
Oh my god.

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. PARK - NIGHT - MINUTES LATER

Wade and Rembrandt kneel near Maggie's lifeless body. The red rash on the front of her face is still evident. Quinn hurries up followed by two PARAMEDICS. They're dressed in YELLOW SLICKERS and wear YELLOW OVERSIZED RUBBER GLOVES. One Paramedic carries something that looks like a large BLUE FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

PARAMEDIC  
(to Wade and Remmy)  
Step back, folks.

As they do he activates the tank. A burst of bluish-white vapor envelops Maggie.

QUINN  
(alarmed)  
What are you doing?

PARAMEDIC  
(isn't it obvious?)  
Shutting down her system.

The Sliders exchange a surprised look as the paramedics lift Maggie's stiffened body and lay it on a gurney. Rembrandt touches Maggie's arm.

REMBRANDT  
(to Quinn; concerned)  
She's ice cold.

PARAMEDIC  
(duh)  
That's what happens when you're frozen. She'll thaw her out just fine after they make a diagnosis.

The Sliders watch as they roll the gurney toward the navy blue ambulance.

WADE  
It must be their way of preventing any further damage until they get to the hospital.

INT. CRYOGENICS LAB - NIGHT - LATER

Maggie lies on a table inside a glass cubicle. One of several in the lab separated by curtains.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Maggie's slowing thawing. The red rash has subsided. Outside the cubicle, medical personnel move about their rounds as Remmy and Quinn look in the cubicle. Wade eyes a thermometer that's attached to the glass of the cubicle.

QUINN

One of those swamp things jumped on her face just before we slid.

REMBRANDT

She swallow it?

QUINN

No. She got it off but she may have swallowed some of that water.

REMBRANDT

Well at least the rash on her face is going away.

WADE

(steps up to them)

Another three degrees and her body temperature will be back to normal.

DOCTOR NATALIE SYLVIUS, early 30's, beautiful, her lab coat hanging open revealing a halter top and mini skirt, approaches.

DR. SYLVIUS

I'm Doctor Sylvius. I'd like to ask you a few questions.

QUINN

Is she going to be all right?

DR. SYLVIUS

Well, we don't have all the test results yet, but her vital signs seem strong. Has she eaten anything unusual recently?

The Sliders exchange a glance. Should they tell her the whole story?

QUINN

Not that I know of. But she may have taken in some swamp water.

DR. SYLVIUS

Swamp water? Where?

WADE

Uh... out in the country.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

DR. SYLVIUS  
When did this happen?

REMBRANDT  
Well, about... a few hours ago.  
(to Quinn and Wade)  
Although it seems like a world  
away.

Sylvius eyes them a beat, unsure, then...

DR. SYLVIUS  
I'd like to show you something.

She leads them across the room to an X-ray reading light  
during...

DR. SYLVIUS  
We did a CAT scan and took some  
X-rays. Everything turned up  
normal except for something we  
can't identify in her stomach.

As she hangs an X-ray up against the fluorescent X-ray  
light...

DR. SYLVIUS  
When was the last time she ate?

QUINN  
About six hours ago.

The Sliders eye the X-ray. Sylvius uses a pointer to locate  
the spot.

DR. SYLVIUS  
As you can see her stomach's empty,  
except for some kind of solid  
object, about the size of a pea,  
right here. If it was ordinary  
food it would have been digested by  
now. Could there have been  
anything in the swamp water she  
swallowed?

As the sliders consider their answer...

ON MAGGIE

Regaining consciousness, she slowly sits up. Takes in her  
surroundings. Then... her upper body starts to undulate,  
rhythmically. Fear crosses her face. Clearly she is not in  
control of the body movement. The fear on her face changes  
to a demonic look.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

Her face contorts (CGI) a beat then returns to normal. Her mouth spasms open. From inside, the head of a SNAKE-LIKE CREATURE (CGI) pokes out then ducks back in. Her mouth shuts.

Terror returns to Maggie's face. She tries to scream, but can make no sound. Then, her face turns demonic again. Possessed by the alien creature inside her, she bolts off the table, throws open the door to the cubicle and rushes for an exit, crashing into equipment and knocking over several medical personnel.

ON SLIDERS

They react to the commotion. Quinn hurries across the room. Looks into the cubicle.

QUINN  
(to Remmy and Wade)  
She's gone!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

CAMERA DOLLIES down the dark, deserted alley. The only SOUND we HEAR is retching. Camera settles. Finds Maggie doubled over against a dumpster retching green slime. Offscreen we hear Quinn's voice in the distance.

QUINN (O.S.)  
Maggie!

Maggie hears it. Slowly straightens up. Uses all she has to call out.

MAGGIE  
Quinn!

QUINN (O.S.)  
(closer)  
Maggie!?

Quinn appears at the mouth of the alley. Spots her.

QUINN  
Wade! Remmy! I found her!

He hurries into the alley.

QUINN  
Maggie! What are you doing here?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MAGGIE  
It's okay. I'm feeling a lot  
better.

Wade and Remmy rush up. Maggie leans back against the wall.  
Remmy eyes the slime on the ground.

REMBRANDT  
You gotta get back to the hospital.

MAGGIE  
No. I'm fine. I got rid of  
whatever was making me sick.

WADE  
I think you should at least have  
the doctor look at you.

MAGGIE  
(edgy)  
I said, I'm fine.

They look to each other. No one's on board, but they're not  
in the mood for an argument.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

It looks like La Reina Center in Sherman Oaks. A coffee  
house, sidewalk restaurant, record store, etc. Hangout for  
the 20's crowd, many of whom sit at the sidewalk restaurant  
tables.

A black, unmarked MINI-VAN approaches, prowling the street.  
Some in the crowd notice. They get up, move away, trying to  
be inconspicuous. The van stops. The driver's window  
lowers. A hand emerges holding a high-tech scanning device  
aimed at the sidewalk.

Half a dozen young people notice the IMPLANT PLATE on their  
wrists START TO BEEP. Panic. They start to scatter. Four  
MEN in jeans and black T-shirts (D Squad) jump from the van  
and give chase.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Sliders make their way out of the alley. Up ahead they  
spot two men in jeans and black T-shirts struggling with a  
young woman, her wrist plate BEEPING as she yells for help.

QUINN  
Hey!

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Quinn, Remmy and Wade rush to help the girl. The weakened Maggie hangs back. The two men drag the girl toward the sedan when Quinn and Remmy grab them.

QUINN

Let her go!

In the struggle, Wade goes to the girl's aide just as the two other black T-shirts appear. Three of them slam Quinn and Remmy against a parked car.

D SQUAD CAPTAIN

What the hell do you think you're doing?

QUINN

Wade, run!

Before she can move the fourth man grabs Wade and the girl. The man pinning Quinn yanks his wallet out and flashes a badge.

D SQUAD CAPTAIN

D squad.  
(he yanks up Quinn's arm)  
Where's your tag?

Quinn has no idea what he's talking about. The guy holding Wade pulls her over to D Squad Captain.

D SQUAD OFFICER

(shows Wade's wrist)  
She doesn't have one either.

D SQUAD CAPTAIN

Get 'em in the van.

WADE

Where are you taking us!?

QUINN

We were trying to help her!

REMBRANDT

Hey, wait a minute.

As the three men lead Quinn and Wade to the mini-van, the D Squad Captain grabs Remmy.

D SQUAD CAPTAIN

Don't push you're luck. You may be post reg but I could still take you in for obstruction.

Remmy stops. Can only watch as Quinn and Wade are put into the van with the frightened young girl.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

Maggie comes up alongside Remmy, still weak and holding her arms around herself. She's freezing even though it's not that cold a night.

REMBRANDT  
(notices her shivering)  
You're sick, girl.

MAGGIE  
I'm fine. I'm just cold. Where  
are they taking them?

REMBRANDT  
(concerned)  
I don't know.

As he leads her down the street...

REMBRANDT  
Let's get you back to the hotel.

MAGGIE  
What hotel?

REMBRANDT  
We stay at the Chancellor Arms when  
we're in L.A. In case we get  
separated we always know where to  
hook up.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Remmy's on the phone. It's hot in here. His forehead shows beads of perspiration. He undoes another button on his shirt as he talks into the phone.

REMBRANDT  
All they said was they were "D  
Squad." Then they took them away.  
(annoyed)  
Yes, I'll hold.

Maggie comes out of the bathroom in a robe having just showered. She looks perfectly healthy now. He's uncomfortably warm.

REMBRANDT  
Man it is hot in here.

He crosses to a thermostat on the wall.

MAGGIE  
Really? It feels great.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

REMBRANDT

(eyes thermostat)  
No wonder. The heat's set at  
ninety.

He adjusts the thermostat. He turns his attention back to  
the phone.

REMBRANDT

Yeah, I'm here. Were their tags  
glowing?

(beat)

They didn't have wrist tags.  
(listens, then,  
concerned)

I see. Yeah. Where would that be?

He grabs a pencil and scribbles some information on a pad.

REMBRANDT

Thank you.

He hangs up. Looks at Maggie, concerned.

MAGGIE

What is it?

REMBRANDT

(incredulous)  
They got some kind of mandatory  
organ donor program on this world.  
Everybody between the ages of  
eighteen and twenty five gets a  
wrist implant with their medical  
profile. When someone needs an  
organ transplant they go out and  
pick up one of these people.

MAGGIE

(realizing)  
They're going to implant Quinn and  
Wade.

REMBRANDT

Yeah. She said it's usually done  
at the nearest medical facility.

He starts for the door. She stops him.

MAGGIE

What are you going to do? Walk in  
and tell them to let them go  
because they're from another world?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

He realizes she's right.

MAGGIE  
How long 'til we slide?

Remmy crosses to his jacket on a chair near the window. Behind him Maggie's upper body starts to undulate rhythmically. Fear crosses her face, then her expression turns into a demonic glare as she eyes Remmy.

HER POV

All the colors in the room and on Remmy's clothes are extremely intense giving it a surreal look.

RESUME

Maggie approaches, the demonic glare now shifts to a look of lust and determination. Remmy checks the timer.

REMBRANDT  
Tomorrow night.

MAGGIE  
Don't worry. We'll be off this world before anything happens to them.

He turns to her. She's standing very close to him.

REMBRANDT  
That's not a risk I want to take.

She puts her hand inside his shirt on his chest.

REMBRANDT  
What are you doing?

MAGGIE  
I like you.

He's clearly uncomfortable with the obvious come on. She slips her arms around his waist. He removes them.

REMBRANDT  
Look, I think this is a little inappropriate, especially when my friends are in trouble.

He moves away. Grabs his jacket. Now she comes up behind him and puts her arms around his waist.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

MAGGIE  
(seductively)  
They're not in trouble.  
(and then)  
I want you.

He whirls around.

REMBRANDT  
(backing away)  
Hey! I appreciate that you find me  
attractive but I told you I'm not  
interested, okay?

She advances on him. Her demeanor changes from seductive to  
intense.

MAGGIE  
(seething)  
I need a baby.

REMBRANDT  
(astonished)  
What?

She grabs him and pulls him to her. He struggles to break  
her grasp but she suddenly seems much stronger.

REMBRANDT  
Cut it out.

She grabs his head and pulls it to her, forcing her mouth on  
his. He struggles to break away, finally managing to force  
her face from his.

REMBRANDT  
What the hell's wrong with you?

He shoves her, breaking her grasp. She has him cornered  
near a window.

REMBRANDT  
(threatening)  
Keep away from me.

She takes a step toward him. Opens her mouth. The SNAKE-  
LIKE CREATURE DARTS OUT OF HER MOUTH TOWARD HIM. (CGI)  
Remmy SCREAMS. The snake recoils back into her mouth.

REMBRANDT  
(freaked)  
What the hell?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 4

She rushes at him. He rears back and delivers a roundhouse with such force it nails her jaw, driving her CRASHING through the window. As she falls from sight, Remmy stands staring, chest heaving, trying to make sense of what just happened. After a beat he cautiously moves to the window. Looks out.

HIS POV

Stuck against the side of the building like Spiderman is Maggie. She eyes him demonically, then jumps off the building to the sidewalk, fifteen feet below. As she runs out of sight...

RESUME REMMY

Hold on his astonishment and we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Maggie, in a robe, huddles near the corner of a building, standing over a street vent, warming herself with the white steam that billows up from the sidewalk. She leans out around the corner of the building and watches young couples and singles enter and exit the happening Chancellor bar.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A surreal, modern, stainless steel high-tech room, lined with two rows of half a dozen beds. Mounted at either end is a 35" TV monitor. Strapped down in ten of the beds are eighteen-year-old boys and girls. Strapped in the other two, next to each other, are Quinn and Wade. Quinn's just coming out from under his anesthetic. He looks to Wade who's already awake and staring at the ceiling.

QUINN

Hey. You okay?

She holds up her arm revealing the silver disc implanted on the top side of her wrist.

WADE

I'd feel better if I knew what this was.

Quinn checks his own wrist. Same silver disc.

The TV monitors come on automatically and the face of a bureaucrat fills the screen. He talks to the camera

BUREAUCRAT

Congratulations. You have just been inducted into the organ donor program. The silver disc implanted in your wrist carries your complete medical profile.

As he continues we see medical assistants enter and begin unstrapping the people in their beds.

BUREAUCRAT

As you know, from now until the time you turn twenty five you could be called upon to donate one of your organs to help save a life.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BUREAUCRAT (CONT'D)

If you are called and the organ is life sustaining, then your body will be cryogenically frozen to preserve the rest of your organs until such time as they're needed.

He continues to talk in the b.g. as Wade and Quinn are unstrapped. Wade eyes her silver disc.

WADE

(astonished)  
Quinn... this is barbaric.

QUINN

And we thought the military draft was bad. Look, chances are nothing's going to happen before we slide.

The parents of the donors have now entered and approach their children, helping them out of the beds. Remy appears and rushes up to Quinn and Wade.

REMBRANDT

(worried)  
Hey, thank God I found you. We got a big problem.

QUINN

It's okay, Remy.  
(re: discs)  
I'm sure we can get these discs removed on the next world. And we should be...

REMBRANDT

That's not the problem. It's Maggie.

WADE

The thing in her stomach.

REMBRANDT

Yeah. Only it's more than just a thing.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Maggie, still in the bathrobe, walks along a sidewalk. Some people eye her with mild curiosity but it's L.A. and hardly the weirdest sight to be seen. She stops in front of a woman's clothing store window. Eyes the mannequins, then moves inside.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - NIGHT

Empty except for the Middle Eastern SALESMAN dressed in a sharkskin suit, shirt open three buttons revealing some gold chains. Maggie walks to a rack of clothes. The salesman approaches, amused at the bathrobe. He's tries to be funny.

SALESMAN

Get locked out of your house.

She turns to him. Sizes him up. Expressionless, she puts her hand on his chest. The guy loves it.

SALESMAN

I understand. You have no money.  
That's okay. We can make other  
arrangements.

She withdraws her hand.

MAGGIE

Sorry. You're not hot enough.

SALESMAN

Of course not. That's because I'm  
working.

He steps closer.

SALESMAN

But don't worry. I can get hot  
very fast.

He puts his hands on her hips. She backhands her forearm into his head, driving him backward and over a display case then calmly turns back to the rack and picks out an outfit.

INT. CRYOGENICS LAB - NIGHT

Quinn, Remy and Wade meet with Sylvius. The mood is grave.

DR. SYLVIUS

Her blood tests revealed several  
extreme abnormalities so I had the  
DNA lab run some tests. The  
results are rather astonishing.  
That round object we couldn't  
identify at first now seems to have  
been some kind of egg. And it's  
rapidly replicating.

QUINN

How rapidly?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DR. SYLVIUS

About nine times that of normal cell multiplication.

QUINN

(to Remmy)

No wonder that thing got so big so fast.

DR. SYLVIUS

It also seems to be imitating aspects of the DNA of its host.

WADE

Are you saying it's cloning her?

REMBRANDT

That can't be right. What I saw come out of her mouth was some kind of snake.

DR. SYLVIUS

Look, right now all we know is we're dealing with some kind of symbiont. And it could be very valuable.

REMBRANDT

Valuable? Trust me you don't want to be around this thing.

DR. SYLVIUS

I'm not so sure. Right now it's in a breeding cycle so it may be more aggressive. But if we can harness it and learn how it replicates the DNA of its host, it's possible we could generate replacement organs.

QUINN

(getting it)

And put an end to your mandatory organ donor program.

WADE

Look, I don't think harnessing it is your immediate problem. If she starts laying eggs inside other men and we don't know who they are...

REMBRANDT

You're gonna have one hell of an epidemic on your hands.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

QUINN

(to Wade)

So where does a woman go when she  
wants a man?

WADE

Singles bar.

REMBRANDT

The closest bar's the one in the  
Chancellor Arms.

DR. SYLVIUS

That's a gay bar.

The Sliders exchange a look.

DR. SYLVIUS

But there are a number of bars in  
that area.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Busy with the yuppie crowd looking for love in all the wrong  
places. AUSTIN DIGGS, former Broadway choreographer, 30ish,  
hip, black, works behind the bar.

Fast talking, he's everybody's best five minute friend. He  
moves fast and has a flair for the overly dramatic both in  
his clothes and in his speech. Wears a red open-necked  
shirt with gold ankh around his neck. He knows everything  
that's going on in this town. If he doesn't know something,  
it probably hasn't happened yet. Maggie enters. Her  
expression determined, somber. She looks hot in her new  
outfit. A one piece silver lame micro mini-skirt. It  
clings to her curves like saran wrap to a hero sandwich.  
She moves to a spot at the end of the bar.

HER POV

All the colors in the bar register extremely hot. Diggs  
moves into her line of vision. His red shirt almost too hot  
to look at. He leans across the bar toward to her.

DIGGS

What can I get you?

RESUME

Maggie eyes him a moment. She rubs her arms for warmth.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MAGGIE  
You always keep the air conditioning this cold in here?

DIGGS  
Cold? It must be eighty five in here.

She reaches her hand across the bar and puts it inside Digg's open shirt.

DIGGS  
Sorry, babe. I don't get off 'til two and I already got one babe waitin' for me.

MAGGIE  
That's all right. You're not what I need.

She moves off down the bar.

DIGGS  
I may not be your type, but I like your style.

Maggie approaches a YUPPIE, mid 20's, standing alone at the bar wearing a knit gray turtleneck shirt under a black sport jacket. He eyes her admiringly as she approaches. He starts to say something but she stops him.

MAGGIE  
Don't speak. I'll tell you if I want you.

She pulls the surprised guy's turtleneck out of his pants and runs her hand under it and up to his chest. The guy loves it. But he's not about to talk and jeopardize his chances. Then she withdraws her hand and moves away, leaving the astonished guy just shaking his head.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Sitting alone at a table is a brooding MAN in a blue Armani suit. Tie pulled down, two buttons on his shirt open. He works a small hand-held computer, his eyes riveted to the tiny screen. Maggie approaches. Sits next to him. Without looking up he pushes his empty glass across the table toward her.

MAN  
Vodka rocks.

Maggie just eyes him. The guy looks up.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

Sorry. I thought you were...

MAGGIE

I'm not.

MAN

(attracted to her)

Yeah. I can see that.

They eye each other a beat. He's intrigued.

MAGGIE'S POV

The guy's navy blue suit registers electric blue. His skin a bright orange. His blond hair, blinding yellow.

RESUME

Maggie reaches for his shirt. He grabs her hand and stops her.

MAN

(suspicious)

What do you want?

MAGGIE

I want to touch you.

Why?

MAGGIE

I like you. Don't worry. I won't hurt you.

He eases his grasp on her hand. She slowly slips her hand to his chest, opens the next button on his shirt. Reaches her hand in and holds it against him.

You sure got a unique style.

She withdraws her hand. Starts to get up.

MAN

Where you going?

She ignores him as she moves toward the door. He gets up. Follows her through the crowd.

MAN

Hey. Wait a second.

EXT. BAR PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Maggie enters the lot. She moves through the cars. A beat later the MAN appears. Runs to catch up with her.

Hey!

She doesn't look back. He reaches her, takes her by the arm.

MAN  
(getting peeved)  
What is this? Some kind of game  
you like to play?

MAGGIE  
Look, I'm sorry. I'm not  
interested.

MAN  
Yeah, well a minute ago you were  
real interested.  
(sarcastic)  
What happened? You didn't like the  
feel of my chest hair?

She stares at him a beat. The internal struggle of Maggie and the beast crosses her face. The guy's hand quickly darts to the neckline of her dress, rips it open.

Let's see how you like it.

He puts his hand on her chest. Maggie grabs the man's arm and in one move SNAPS IT, breaking the forearm in the middle. He YELLS in pain. Falls to his knees in shock.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. BAR PARKING LOT - NIGHT - LATER

A blue ambulance, lights flashing, rests in the lot. A small crowd of people congregate. A police car is nearby. Two cops take statements. Diggs talks with one. In the background a Lexus rolls to a stop. Dr. Sylvius is behind the wheel. The Sliders ride with her. They all step out.

DR. SYLVIUS  
This is a big singles hangout.

As they approach the scene...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN  
(eyeing ambulance; to  
Remmy)  
What do you think?

REMBRANDT  
You want to know if I think she's  
capable of doing damage?  
(and then)  
She's capable of anything.

Wade spots Diggs.

WADE  
Quinn. It's Diggs.

They approach.

WADE  
Excuse me. You're the bartender,  
aren't you?

DIGGS  
That's right.

QUINN  
Was there a good looking redhead  
in your bar tonight? Alone. About  
five five, mid-twenties?

DIGGS  
(re: ambulance)  
She's what did this. She was  
something else. You know her?

DR. SYLVIVUS  
(quickly)  
No.  
(and then, carefully)  
We heard about another incident  
where she attacked a man.

She glances at Remmy. The Sliders are hip to her caution.

DIGGS  
She sure had a style all her own.  
First thing she did was complain  
about the air conditioning. Said  
it was too cold. Man if it was any  
hotter in there, I would have  
melted.

REMBRANDT  
Anything else?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

DIGGS

Yeah. She put her hand inside my shirt, felt my chest then told me I wasn't what she needed. Good thing I don't mind rejection.

REMBRANDT

(re: ambulance)  
What happened here?

DIGGS

Seems she felt this guy's chest too only he didn't take rejection too well. He followed her, got a little pushy and she snapped his arm in half.

REMBRANDT

Q-ball...

He gestures for him to step away. They all move off leaving Diggs to return to the scene.

REMBRANDT

Her complaining about it being too cold in the bar... before she attacked me in the hotel, I remember the room was like a sauna. She must have turned the heat up to ninety.

DR. SYLVIUS

She must need an extremely warm environment to lay her eggs.

WADE

So feeling the chest could be her way of checking body temperatures.

DR. SYLVIUS

Exactly.

REMBRANDT

Great. Well, she could be anywhere now. We're gonna have to tell the cops what we know.

DR. SYLVIUS

No. They're not interested in the potential of that creature. They'll shoot her on sight. I suggest we split up.

The Sliders react. Then...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

QUINN  
Okay. So where do you find heat in  
a big city on a cold night?

EXT. CONDO COMPLEX - NIGHT

Quiet, deserted. The common pool and spa area are lit from underneath giving it the look of a serene blue oasis in the midst of the dark shadows cast by the concrete structures.

At the far end of the pool area a figure slips over the concrete perimeter wall. CAMERA PUSHES IN to reveal Maggie holding her arms around herself to ward off the evening chill. She eyes the steam floating up off the spa tub with desire. Walks toward it.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

A lone RENT-A-COP watches Maggie on a black & white SECURITY MONITOR, as she stands on the edge of the spa. Her back toward camera, she slips out of her dress, then sinks into the life giving water.

EXT. CONDO COMPLEX - NIGHT

The Security Guard appears and walks toward the spa. From this angle it seems to be empty. No sign of Maggie. He approaches the edge of the pool. Looks in.

HIS POV

The distorted image of Maggie floating under the surface. He bends down to talk to her.

SECURITY GUARD  
Excuse me, ma'am. But what you're  
doing is illegal. I'm going to  
have to cite you for...

Before he can finish, Maggie's arms explode out of the water and grab his head. She pulls it down under the water. The guard struggles to break free, but Maggie's far too powerful. As his body writhes, half in and half out of the water...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. CRYOGENICS LAB - DAY

CAMERA LOOKS DOWN on a stainless steel table. The dead policeman's body lies under harsh lights. His eyes are open, frozen in terror.

ANOTHER ANGLE REVEALS

the Sliders grimly eyeing the body. Dr. Sylvius steps up, scanning an open file folder.

DR. SYLVIUS

Judging from the description given by one of the condo tenants, the attacker had to be your friend.

REMBRANDT

How can we tell if she... you know... mated with him?

DR. SYLVIUS

The X-rays showed nothing unusual in his stomach. My guess is this wasn't about procreation at all. She probably saw the uniform, felt threatened and attacked in self-defense.

(starts for the door)

I'll be back in a minute. I need to sign the order to freeze this body for organ harvest.

And she exits. A beat as the Sliders stare ashen-faced at the dead officer, then...

WADE

I can't believe Maggie did this.

QUINN

Maggie didn't. Whatever's living inside her did.

WADE

(re: dead man)

To die like that... not knowing what's happening... or why...

REMBRANDT

Maybe it's better that way, sweetheart.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

WADE

His eyes say differently.

(then)

You know, when we started sliding  
all I could see was the adventure.  
Now all I seem to see is death.

QUINN

(a challenge)

Meaning?

WADE

Nothing. Forget it.

QUINN

No, no. Say what you're thinking.  
That this man would still be alive  
if it wasn't for me.

REMBRANDT

Hey, Q-Ball. Come on.

QUINN

And the Professor. He'd be alive  
too if I hadn't invented sliding.

REMBRANDT

It wasn't your fault.

QUINN

It's all my fault! Without  
sliding, the Professor stays home  
and lives. Without sliding, the  
alien never comes here, never  
kills, wouldn't be out there now  
looking for its next victim.  
People are dead and it's all  
because I lost control of something  
I didn't know enough about! Go  
ahead, say it! I know what you're  
thinking because I think it every  
minute of the day!

WADE

(softly)

What about Maggie?

QUINN

Yeah, sure, let's not forget  
Maggie! She's next to die, thanks  
for reminding me!

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

WADE

What I meant is Maggie would be dead right now if we hadn't slid to her world. She owes her life to you.

REMBRANDT

So do the other hundred and fifty people you found a new home for.

WADE

Maggie's not lost yet, Quinn. And she won't die if you'll stop obsessing about your damn ego and focus on finding her.

A beat as this sinks in, then...

QUINN

Okay. We find her. But it's a big city.

REMBRANDT

Well, we know she likes hot water. She craves steam.

WADE

And we know she's looking for healthy men.

QUINN

And that's all we know.

(sighs)

Like I said. It's a big city.

Then a thought strikes Quinn. He moves to a nearby desk, grabs a PHONE BOOK. As he opens it to the YELLOW PAGES...

REMBRANDT

What are you thinking?

QUINN

That Maggie's on foot.

He stops when he finds a heading, starts running his index finger down the listings. Wade looks over his shoulder.

WADE

Health clubs?

QUINN

Just interested in the ones with steam rooms.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

QUINN (CONT'D)  
Remmy, find a street map. Let's  
see which ones are in walking  
distance from the condos.

CUT TO

EXT. HEALTH CLUB - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A Sports Connection-type club. Young men and women in heat.

INT. HEALTH CLUB FRONT DESK - DAY

A young fitness instructor, TAMI, works behind a counter.  
She looks up with a toothy smile as Maggie approaches.

TAMI  
Hi. Welcome to the Club. I'm  
Tami. Can I help you?

MAGGIE  
I'm looking for a man.

TAMI  
This is L.A. Get in line.

She laughs at her little joke. Maggie doesn't.

MAGGIE  
A healthy man. No disease.

TAMI  
(perky)  
Well, like I said.

Maggie starts past the counter. Tami darts out from behind  
the counter, politely blocks her way.

TAMI  
Ooops. Sorry, but you can't go in  
unless you're a member.

A quick FLASH OF SYMBIONT ANGER in Maggie's eyes. (CGI)

TAMI  
Now, if you'd like a complimentary  
tour, I can...

MAGGIE  
Yes. Take me inside.

Tami hesitates. Something about this woman. Still...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

TAMI  
(ever cheerful)  
Okay then. Follow me.

INT. LADIES LOCKER ROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Rows of lockers, benches, mirrors, private showers. Tami leads Maggie into the empty facility.

TAMI  
It's not always this quiet around here. But most of our members are at their jobs this time of day.  
(then)  
What do you do?

MAGGIE  
Reproduce.

That stops Tami. She eyes Maggie with growing concern as Maggie moves towards the glass enclosed shower stalls.

TAMI  
Those are our private showers.

Maggie opens one, turns the faucet as far to HOT as she can.

TAMI  
We're the only club in L.A. with our own line of complimentary shampoos and conditioners...

Maggie puts her hand out to test the scalding water. It's so hot one can almost hear the skin blister.

TAMI  
Doesn't that hurt?

MAGGIE  
(loving it)  
No.

Maggie pulls her shirt off over her head.

TAMI  
What... what are you doing?

Maggie answers by breathing in the billowing steam. She closes her eyes in ecstasy.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

TAMI  
Ma'am, please. You can't use the facilities unless you're a member. Now if you want to sign up, we can take care of that out front.

Still in most of her clothes, Maggie steps into the stall, sighing with delight as the water cascades over her body.

TAMI  
Ma'am, I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to call the manager.

Tami walks towards the locker room door. Suddenly, the symbiont whips itself around her neck from behind. Tami opens her mouth to scream, but the symbiont wraps around her again, choking off her cry for help. As Tami's jerked out of FRAME...

CUT TO

INT. HEALTH CLUB FRONT DESK - DAY

The Sliders enter, approach the empty front desk.

WADE  
(re: empty counter)  
Do we wait?

QUINN  
No. Meet back here in five.

The two men head off towards the section marked "Co-Ed" as Wade peels off in the opposite direction.

INT. LADIES LOCKER ROOM - DAY - SECONDS LATER

Wade enters. The place is empty, the only sound the HISS of water coming from the showers. As Wade passes, she glances at the line of glass stalls.

HER POV

The outlines of two figures in adjoining showers. The steam makes it impossible to identify the users.

RESUME WADE

She hesitates, then continues out a second door.

AT SHOWERS

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

The CAMERA PEEKS over a shower door, REVEALING Maggie, enjoying the hot liquid. CAMERA PANS across to the next shower and peeks over. An unconscious Tami hangs limply from a lucite shower hook on the wall.

INT. MAIN WORKOUT ROOM - DAY

Quinn and Remmy wend their way through the maze of workout machines, eyeing every beautiful woman they see.

REMBRANDT

When we get back home, I have got to join one of these clubs.

QUINN

Don't be fooled, Rembrandt. A lot of these people have spent more time under a scalpel than they have under a barbell.

REMBRANDT

(eyeing a stunner)  
Yeah, and they inject most chickens with hormones. Doesn't make the thigh any less enjoyable.

Several UNIFORMED MEN brush past them and fan out into the room. All activity freezes as the patrons realize the D Squad is here.

One of the men raises a SCANNING DEVICE, sweeps it across the fitness buffs. BEEP. It's coming from the bench press area.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The patrons part to allow the men to close in on their quarry: a young weight lifter. The weight lifter looks around for help, for escape, but there is none. He stares in horror as the uniformed men sweep down on him.

REMMY AND QUINN

can only watch in dismay as the young man is hurried past them. A beat, then the room starts up again. Just another day.

REMBRANDT

I don't understand why they don't fight back.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN  
Different worlds, different  
customs.  
(off Remmy's nonplussed  
look)  
What?

REMBRANDT  
I'm just surprised at how fast you  
can dismiss oppression as a custom.

He walks off, leaving Quinn to ponder that one over.

CUT TO

INT. HEALTH CLUB CORRIDOR - DAY

Wade enters the corridor. She freezes when she sees Maggie,  
dressed only in a terry cloth robe, stepping out of a room  
marked "Jacuzzi". Maggie's eyes are satisfied slits.

WADE  
Maggie... it's Wade.

A look crosses Maggie's face. The slits fade a little.  
She's trying to remember.

MAGGIE  
Wade...?...

WADE  
(slowly approaching)  
Listen to me. You're sick. You  
need to go back to the hospital.

Maggie's eyes FLASH to slits and then back to normal as an  
internal battle rages for control of her mind.

WADE  
(seeing the eyes)  
Maggie?

Maggie stumbles against the corridor wall.

MAGGIE  
(more like herself)  
Wade... help me...

Abandoning caution, Wade hurries to help her friend. As  
soon as she reaches out to steady Maggie, the SLITS  
reappear. A trick. Maggie grabs Wade roughly.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

(a hiss)

You can't stop me.

With incredible strength, Maggie hurls Wade across the corridor. Crunch. Wade's eyes roll back as she slides down against the wall, unconscious. Maggie throws open the door to the Jacuzzi and tosses Wade inside like a rag doll. That done, Maggie smoothes her hair. Back to business.

CUT TO

INT. STEAM ROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Steamy, sweaty and empty, except for ROGER, a strikingly handsome young man in his mid 20's. He leans against a wall, a towel across his waist. He looks to the door as it opens. In the heavy steam, he can just make out a frame against the back light.

ROGER

Either come in or close the door.  
You're letting the steam out.

A beat, then Maggie steps in and closes the door behind her. Then, empowered with her new strength, Maggie softly CRIMPS the door handle onto itself, LOCKING THE DOOR.

ANOTHER ANGLE

She turns and starts towards Roger through the thick steam.

ROGER

(realizing she's a woman)  
Hey, uh... did you know this room  
isn't co-ed?

Maggie doesn't respond as she gets closer. Roger sees her beauty, smiles.

ROGER

Not that I mind having you in here.

She stops directly in front of him. So close to so much skin, Roger has a hard time focusing.

ROGER

So... what's your name?

MAGGIE

What's it matter?

She reaches out, places her hand on his bare chest.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

(pleased)  
You're the one.

ROGER

(equally pleased)  
I never argue with a lady.

Maggie drops her robe. (NOTE: For the rest of this scene, use discretion when shooting Maggie.) She seductively leans in. Roger responds, opens his mouth to meet her kiss. Then the SYMBIONT EXPLODES from Maggie's mouth and propels itself into Roger. His eyes go wide, he GAGS. But his struggles are futile. As Maggie bends him backwards, the symbiont probing deep with the ultimate French kiss...

CUT TO

INT. HEALTH CLUB CORRIDOR - DAY - SAME TIME

Remmy enters the corridor. Quinn hurries to catch up.

QUINN

Hey, Remmy.

Quinn stops him, they face each other.

QUINN

What was that back there?

REMBRANDT

Aw, it's just we've been together so long I forget how different we really are.

QUINN

I don't follow.

REMBRANDT

Q-Ball, we may slide to parallel dimensions together, but we grew up in different worlds. Bottom line is I've seen oppression close up. To you, it's just a word in a history book.

QUINN

So teach me your world. Help me see things through your eyes. Just because I'm a scientist doesn't mean I can't learn.

CONTINUED



CONTINUED

She releases her grasp, snatches up her robe and exits. Groggy, Quinn shakes his head to clear it, glances over at Roger. The man's eyes and mouth are frozen open. He's comatose. Off Quinn --

DISSOLVE TO

INT. CRYOGENICS LAB - DAY

Wade holds a phone to her ear as she watches Dr. Sylvius work over the computers that control the freezing unit. Through the glass we can see Roger lying inside the unit, his body frosty from the seeping gas.

WADE

Okay. I'll be down in a little while.

She hangs up.

DR. SYLVIUS

How's Quinn?

WADE

Remmy says the ER doctor diagnosed a mild concussion. But he should be okay.

DR. SYLVIUS

And how's your head?

WADE

Swimming. But not just from Maggie.

Wade moves a step closer to the window.

WADE

How cold is it in there?

DR. SYLVIUS

(eyeing a monitor)  
Not cold enough. Look at this.

INSERT - COMPUTER MONITOR

A computerized image of Roger's body. A small symbiont is clearly seen near his stomach, its small tentacles attached to his rib cage.

DR. SYLVIUS (O.S.)

The symbiont's not uncomfortable enough to leave the host.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

RESUME SCENE

Sylvius moves to another computer, taps in some keys. More gas flows into the cryo unit. A gauge lowers to -196 C. Monitors showing Roger's heartbeat and rate of breathing markedly slow.

WADE

His heartbeat's down to five per minute. No one can live at that rate.

Sylvius ignores her as she eyes the monitor.

DR. SYLVIUS

The symbiont's moving.

They react in equal parts awe and disgust as Roger's mouth is forced open from inside and the symbiont crawls out onto his neck.

WADE

It's out! Turn the gas off!

Sylvius does, then they rush for the cryo unit, Sylvius grabbing a PAIR OF TONGS on the run.

INT. CRYO UNIT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The door hisses open, gas billows past them as Wade and Sylvius step inside. They cautiously stop a few feet from Roger, their hands and faces turning ice cold. Using the tongs, Sylvius carefully lifts the symbiont off Roger's chest. It slips from her grasp, hits the floor with a sickening THUD.

DR. SYLVIUS

Damnit. It must have been too young to survive at minus 196 without the host.

(then, to Wade)

But the one inside your friend is stronger, more mature. It will have a better chance of survival.

WADE

But what about him?

Almost as an afterthought, Sylvius steps up to Roger, feels his pallid skin with the flat of her palm.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DR. SYLVIUS  
There are ice crystals in his  
blood. That's the problem with  
living tissue. We can't reach  
vitrification without killing the  
very thing we're trying to save.

WADE  
(realization)  
That includes Maggie. Doesn't it.

No answer.

WADE  
You don't care if Maggie dies or  
not. You just want the symbiont,  
no matter what.

DR. SYLVIUS  
(the cold facts)  
With the alien inside her, your  
friend is essentially dead anyway.

She starts for the door.

WADE  
Maybe. Maybe not. But if you  
freeze her, like you did this  
man... it's murder. Pure and  
simple.

Sylvius turns, eyes her coldly.

DR. SYLVIUS  
It's one life in exchange for the  
chance to save more.

WADE  
So that makes it right? Sacrifice  
one person to save another?

DR. SYLVIUS  
My brother was a forced organ  
donor. He was only twenty-three  
when they harvested him. And  
nobody cared if it was right or  
not. So don't ask me to shed tears  
for a stranger.

A beat, then Sylvius casts a quick glance over her shoulder  
at the door. Wade knows what she's thinking. They both  
bolt for it at the same time.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

WADE

No!

Sylvius gets outside the unit first, tries to slam the door shut. But Wade hits it running and slams it back open, knocking Sylvius off balance. Wade rushes from the room. Surprisingly, instead of chasing after her, Sylvius calmly reaches for a phone on a nearby desk.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Medical personnel, policemen, patients fill the hallway just outside of the ER doors. Wade appears, pushes her way through the milling people.

WADE

Excuse me. Sorry.

She's nearing the ER doors when a UNIFORMED MAN holding a cellular phone suddenly steps in front of her. He aims a SCANNING DEVICE at her. Wade's TAG starts to beep. Startled, Wade stares down at her wrist. Sylvius.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The uniformed man and a policeman close in from either side. Wade tries to run, can't.

WADE

Quinn! Rembrandt!

The men have her. They start to drag her away when Remy appears at the ER doors.

REMBRANDT

Wade?!

He starts towards her when two more policemen cut him off.

REMBRANDT

Hey! Get out of my way!

The cops won't be bullied, push him back. The others almost have Wade to an open elevator.

WADE

Rembrandt!

REMBRANDT

Wade!

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

WADE  
Tell Quinn! It's a setup! She's  
got to kill Maggie to get what she  
wants!

That's all Wade can get out before she's pushed into the  
elevator and the doors close. HOLD ON Rembrandt's look,  
then --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. MEDICAL BUILDING PARKING LOT - DAY

Dr. Sylvius approaches her late model car. She presses the remote keyless release and the driver's door lock pops up. She's just opening the door when...

A FIGURE

...rises up from behind and slips a hand around her mouth. Sylvius struggles. Remmy appears on the other side of the car.

REMBRANDT

Q-Ball! Watch the panic button!

Now we realize the attacker is Quinn, but Remmy's warning comes too late. Sylvius presses the red key on her remote. WHOOP! WHOOP!

QUINN

(harsh)  
Turn that thing off or you really will need it.

DR. SYLVIUS

(recognizing the voice)  
Mallory?

She double presses the remote. The whoop dies. Quinn releases her.

DR. SYLVIUS

What the hell are you doing?

QUINN

Proving that I could have killed you if I wanted. But I'm giving you the chance to live. Which is more than you're giving Wade and Maggie.

Sylvius' face hardens. No more games now.

DR. SYLVIUS

I'm doing what I have to for my world, for my people. The alien could make forced organ harvesting obsolete.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

REMBRANDT

We don't give a damn anymore about your world or your people. If you really wanted to change things, you'd fight back. No one can keep you down unless you let them.

DR. SYLVIUS

Brave words, Mr. Brown. Easy to say when you don't have to fight the battle.

QUINN

You two can debate this some other time. You've got Wade prepped for harvest. I want her back. How do we make that happen?

DR. SYLVIUS

(beat, then)

Bring me Maggie. When I have the symbiont, you can have Wade.

REMBRANDT

And if we can't find her?

DR. SYLVIUS

To paraphrase you, Mr. Brown, I don't give a damn about your friend. Harvesting Wade means one less of my people have to suffer.

A cool beat between them, then Quinn and Remmy share a look. What can they do?

QUINN

Deal. But you also take these damn tags out of our wrists.

(off her nod)

And we'll need one of those cold trauma guns. Just in case we get lucky.

DR. SYLVIUS

(a superior smile)

I'll be right back.

She exits. Remmy and Quinn stare after her.

QUINN

How long before the slide?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

REMBRANDT  
Don't know for sure. The timer's  
back at the Chancellor.

QUINN  
Then we stop and get it before we  
go looking for Maggie. If we don't  
find her... we come back here and  
try to break Wade out before it's  
time. Okay?

REMBRANDT  
(beat, then)  
Yeah. I guess it's the lesser of  
two evils.

QUINN  
Yeah. But not by much.

CUT TO

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Footsteps outside, then the door slowly opens and Quinn and  
Remmy enter. Remmy holds the cold trauma gun at the ready.  
As they cautiously step inside...

REMBRANDT  
I don't think she's here.

QUINN  
How do you know?

REMBRANDT  
It's too cold. I must have left  
the air conditioner on.

A quick glance past the bedroom door. Nothing. They  
exhale.

QUINN  
Where's the timer?

REMBRANDT  
Over here.

Remmy slings the cold trauma gun over his shoulder as he  
walks to some dresser drawers. He opens the top one, takes  
out the timer.

REMBRANDT  
One hour and thirty-six minutes.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN  
Not much time to cover a city.

REMBRANDT  
So we split up. Meet back at the  
hospital at three o'clock.  
(hard to say)  
With or without Maggie.

Quinn nods. They start back out, Remmy leading the way. Quinn's about to close the door behind him when he HEARS A SOFT SOUND from inside the room. He hesitates, then cautiously steps back inside.

QUINN  
Maggie?

BAM! The door SLAMS SHUT behind him. Quinn turns and sees Maggie kicking it closed from her hiding place... ON THE CEILING ABOVE THE DOOR. She wears two layers of clothing. One smart alien. Her slitted eyes stare down at him menacingly.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Remmy reacts to the slamming door, hurries back to the door.

REMBRANDT  
Q-Ball?

He jiggles the door handle. Automatically locked.

REMBRANDT  
Q-Ball!!

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Not moving an inch, Quinn stares up at Maggie.

QUINN  
She's in here, Rembrandt.

REMBRANDT (O.S.)  
Open the door!

Maggie GROWLS at the suggestion.

QUINN  
I can't. But that's okay, just  
stay cool.  
(to Maggie)  
Right, Maggie? We just stay cool.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

A smile crosses Maggie's face. Then she LEAPS. Like a panther pouncing on prey, Maggie slams into Quinn, driving him to the floor. The impact jars Quinn hard, he winces. Maggie quickly straddles him, pinning his body with her extraordinary strength.

QUINN

(in pain)  
Maggie... please...

MAGGIE

No more Maggie.

She eyes him with desire. Quinn tries to rise, she pins him back down.

REMBRANDT (O.S.)

Q-Ball? Talk to me, man! What's going on?

QUINN

(a crushed whisper)  
Remmy...

MAGGIE

What's the matter? Don't you want me, Quinn?

QUINN'S POV - STARING UP AT MAGGIE

She opens her mouth. The symbiont slides out, hovers over Quinn's face. As it starts towards his lips...

QUINN

Remmy!

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Remmy yanks the cold trauma gun from his shoulder, aims it at the door knob and lets loose with a blast. The knob freezes instantly.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Quinn tries to turn his head away as he struggles to buck Maggie off his body. But he's losing. The symbiont's right at his lips when...

THE DOOR SPLINTERS OPEN

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

... and Remmy rushes in. The symbiont curls around to strike at him but Remmy lets loose with another blast from the gun. The symbiont recoils from the liquid nitrogen with an unworldly SCREAM and retreats back into Maggie's body.

REMBRANDT  
(still firing)  
Move, boy!

Quinn does, sliding out from underneath Maggie as her body's enveloped by the nitrogen. He scrambles to his feet as Remmy turns off the gun. They stare down at Maggie's frozen form.

REMBRANDT  
Like you said. Just stay cool.

Off this --

CUT TO

INT. CRYO UNIT - DAY

Maggie's strapped to a steel table, her body blasted by sprays of liquid nitrogen.

Nearby, a LARGE, HEATED AQUARIUM sends up a cloud of steam. Open and inviting, the inside of the aquarium has been designed to simulate the swamp environment of the symbiont's world.

INT. CRYOGENICS LAB - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The Sliders watch as Sylvius works the computers. Large band aids cover Quinn and Wade's wrists; the tags have been removed. Remmy checks the timer, shoots a worried glance to his friends. They're running out of time.

DR. SYLVIUS  
(frustrated)  
The alien's moving around, but not out.

She indicates the monitor, which shows the computer image of Maggie's body. The symbiont has grown considerably since the last time Maggie was here.

DR. SYLVIUS  
I'm going to lower the chamber another ten degrees.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN

Maggie's tissue can't last long at that temperature.

DR. SYLVIUS

We have to motivate the symbiont to move into the aquarium somehow. You have a better idea?

Quinn doesn't. Sylvius hits some computer keys, the spray of liquid nitrogen increases.

INT. CRYO UNIT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The temperature plunges. Suddenly Maggie's eyes POP OPEN. The slits look around angrily, focus on the aquarium.

SYMBIONT'S POV

The heat from the aquarium beckons.

RESUME MAGGIE

Her eyes move to the glass window separating the rooms. She spies the people watching her. A knowing look crosses her face, then she closes her eyes.

INT. CRYOGENICS LAB - DAY - CONTINUOUS

WADE

She's too smart to fall for this. She knows we want her out of the body.

Sylvius moves back to the computers.

DR. SYLVIUS

Then we lower the temperature some more. She'll vacate the host. One way or another.

She prepares to type in some more commands. Quinn grabs her hands, stopping her.

QUINN

You lower it any more and Maggie will die.

DR. SYLVIUS

If that's what it takes to get the symbiont out.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN  
I won't let you do that.

DR. SYLVIUS  
We had a deal, Mallory. You get  
Wade, I get the alien.

Quinn doesn't let go of her hands.

DR. SYLVIUS  
All I have to do is scream and a  
dozen security guards will be in  
here in an instant. The choice is  
yours. Let go of me and three of  
you slide. Or don't... and nobody  
goes.

Quinn slowly releases his grip. Then...

QUINN  
You asked if I had a better idea.

DR. SYLVIUS  
I'm listening.

QUINN  
Maybe the trick is to offer the  
symbiont another host. It wanted  
to mate with me. Maybe I can  
convince it to live in me instead.

WADE  
Quinn, no...

QUINN  
Just to lure it out, Wade. Then we  
grab it and put it in the aquarium...

(to Sylvius)  
What do you think?

DR. SYLVIUS  
Might work.

CUT TO

INT. CRYO UNIT - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Quinn enters the unit, dressed in a large parka. The door  
closes behind him with a hiss. He slowly approaches  
Maggie's body. Her eyes are still closed.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Quinn hesitates, then leans down close to her face and softly blows warm air on her lips. Maggie's eyes POP OPEN, startling him. But he forces himself not to react.

QUINN  
Maggie... come be with me...

SYMBIONT'S POV

As Quinn speaks, the heat emanating from him beckons invitingly.

QUINN  
We can finally be together...  
forever...

RESUME SCENE

A beat, then Maggie's mouth opens and the symbiont appears. Quinn starts to imperceptibly back up.

QUINN  
Come on... that's it... come live  
in me...

He exhales softly, using his breath as a trail for the creature. The symbiont snakes out after it.

INT. CRYOGENICS LAB - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Remmy, Wade and Sylvius watch through the glass.

DR. SYLVIUS  
It's working.

REMBRANDT  
(glancing at timer)  
Yeah. But not fast enough.  
(to Wade)  
Less than a minute.

INT. CRYO UNIT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The symbiont's almost completely disengaged from Maggie. Almost two feet long now, it snakes down Maggie's body after Quinn, who continues slowly backing up.

QUINN  
That's it... come on...

As the last of the symbiont clears Maggie's mouth...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN

That's right...  
(it's clear)  
Come to Papa!

Quinn yanks a pair of TONGS from the pocket of the parka and spears the alien with them. The creature, realizing the double cross, SCREECHES and violently struggles to free itself from Quinn's grasp.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The unit's door hisses open and Remmy rushes in, followed by Wade and Dr. Sylvius.

DR. SYLVIUS

Put it in the aquarium, quick!

Quinn wrestles to keep a hold of the symbiont as Remmy hurries to the table, starts to unstrap Maggie.

WADE

(holding timer)  
Twenty seconds!

QUINN

I'm losing it!

Quinn struggles to force the symbiont to the aquarium, but it's gyrations are too strong. It drops from Quinn's grasp, hits the floor.

QUINN

It's free! Watch out!

Remmy finishes untying Maggie, scoops her up in his arms.

MAGGIE

What... what's happening...

REMBRANDT

Hang tight, girl. We're getting out of here.

WADE

Ten!

The symbiont LEAPS at Quinn. He knocks it aside with the tongs. It hits a wall, slides to the floor. Quinn raises the tongs over his head, ready to deal a death blow.

DR. SYLVIUS

Don't hurt it!

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

She shoves Quinn from behind. He stumbles, losing his balance and the tongs. The symbiont launches itself at the unprotected Quinn. He throws up his hands to protect himself. The creature glances off him, landing on Sylvius' face. It latches on firmly.

DR. SYLVIUS

NO!

Sylvius careens wildly as she struggles to pry the alien off her face. Quinn moves to help when...

REMBRANDT

(cradling Maggie)

Q-Ball! No!

WADE

(overlapping)

Five, four, three...

She aims the timer.

QUINN

I can't just leave her!

WADE

(overlapping)

One!

The vortex opens.

REMBRANDT

You wanted to know how I see things different from you? I see the truth of what the good book says! "Reap what you sow"!

QUINN

But it will consume her!

REMBRANDT

Maybe that's the way it's been planned.

WADE

Quinn! We have to slide!

Quinn hesitates a beat, looks back at Sylvius. She collapses to the floor, the symbiont prying open her mouth.

REMBRANDT

You asked me, Q-Ball. I told you. Now we're getting out of here.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 3

He motions to Wade. She slides. Remmy shoots one last look to Quinn, then leaps with Maggie in his arms.

ON QUINN

Torn, he winces as the symbiont starts to crawl inside Sylvius. Then he forces himself to leap.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The vortex dies and closes. The symbiont disappears inside Sylvius. A beat, then a SECURITY GUARD rushes in, kneels to assist Dr. Sylvius.

SECURITY GUARD  
Doctor! Are you all right?

A beat, then Sylvius' eyes POP OPEN. They're slits for just an instant, then they melt back to normal. She looks up at the Guard and smiles.

DR. SYLVIUS  
Yes. I'm fine.

She reaches up, puts her hand on his chest. The guard reacts.

DR. SYLVIUS  
But you feel a little hot.

And off this, we --

FADE OUT

THE END