



"THE HOUR OF RECKONING"

BEARME

THIS SLIDE OF PARADISE

Story

by

Nan Hagan

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SLIDERS

#K1828

"The Hour of Reckoning"  
(formerly: "The Island of Dr. Moreau")

TEASER

T1. EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT (N1)

We open on a tropical island. The animals AGITATED. There is a SAVAGE BEASTIAL ROAR. Gives you the chills. CAMERA MOVES THROUGH THE JUNGLE, a low, loping POV and FINDS A COMPOUND of THATCHED BUILDINGS. The animal sounds crescendo in a complete cacophony of jungle panic. Another SAVAGE ROAR and then things begin to calm. THE POV moves through the compound and up the stairs. We see a mangled body down the veranda -- very dead.

*SERVANT*

T2. INT. COMPOUND LAB

The POV moves into a ripped apart lab. There are overturned cages, beakers broken, destroyed crates. We hear a MOAN and turn a corner, finding a bloodied SCIENTIST on the floor, near death. He looks up, relief in his eyes: Help me, help me please. Now, we HEAR the familiar, scratchy English voice we know asking what happened here (RICKMAN). The Scientist can just muster: my fault... The Scientist clutches at Rickman -- please, help me. Rickman pulls out his needle and -- "I'll put you out of your misery". He NEEDLES the Scientist, taking the necessary brain fluid. Rickman injects himself. His face MORPHS for a second, into the scientist.

CAMERA FINDS a youthful (10 or so), disfigured human-esque face peering in through the window (we'll come to know this boy/animal as JANUS). The face reacts, horrified, barring his teeth and hissing as Rickman MORPHS from the scientist and back to himself. Rickman smiles, pats the man on the back. Thanks...

There's a sound outside. A ROAR. Rickman turns, alarmed, listening... Silence. He goes outside to look around. Is there something out there? The bushes rustle... He pulls a side arm, cocks it. Is that you, Sliders?? Something lunges toward Rickman. He fires wildly and takes off running.

A POV FOLLOWS him, moving through the brush at an amazing speed, gaining on a panicked Rickman. We get a quick look at this part-man, part-savage BEAST. It leaps. And off the painful screams of Rickman being attacked we --

END TEASER

*Janus humming*

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ACT ONE

1/1. EXT. BORDER TOWN - DAY (D2)

We open on a sleepy Mexican border town. QUINN and MAGGIE are on a raised "hang-man's platform", hands tied, nooses around their necks. Quinn gives a look to Maggie. She didn't cheat. He: Why couldn't you just lose? Maggie: No way, she had a full-house. She wasn't going to fold. Is it her fault the guy is a lousy loser? The town clock's little hand jerks forward. One minute to high noon. Maggie wonders where "they" are. Quinn is confident they'll be there. A greasy, desperado (PANCHITO) steps forward: The hour of reckoning is upon them. Anything they want to say before they're hung? Quinn sees something in the distance. Yeah -- How about Adios Amigos? While Panchito laughs (the way evil villains do). Maggie kicks him hard (yes, there), he sinks to in pain. Quinn knocks him down the stairs. REMMY and WADE come in on horseback, FIRING into the SKY. It's a good old fashion last-minute Western rescue. The CLOCK strikes HIGH NOON as Remmy and Wade shoot the gun out of Panchito's hand and then shoot down the ropes. Quinn hops onto Wade's horse and Maggie hops onto Remmy's.

*No Gun  
For  
Panchito  
who he  
goes into  
vortex*

Panchito yells -- not a place in this world they can go that he won't hunt them down! Remmy activates the vortex and they trot into wormhole, horses and all. Panchito approaches the wormhole and stares, to his astonishment, he is sucked up and away.

1/2. EXT. BEACH - LANDING AREA - DAY

They trot out gracefully, pulling the horses to a stop. Quinn and Maggie are untied. A beat later, Panchito is thrown out of the vortex -- one frightened man. Quinn takes his gun. What're they going to do with him? Quinn guesses that when it's time to Slide (8 hours from now), they'll set the coordinates for his world and drop him back.

*"I'm not  
sure I want  
to go back  
to world Jim  
about 10:30  
hurry"  
Remmy  
Takes  
in west  
go back*

As for Rickman. He's here, so everybody watch your backs. Remmy and Wade release the horses. Remmy's rifle is empty. Wade hands Maggie her six-shooter with a belt full of Ammo. Quinn leads them inland. Panchito follows, too afraid to be a problem.

1/3. EXT. JUNGLE TRAIL - DAY

As they walk, something bestial is stalking them (not Rickman). They're chased. What is it? No one knows. Quinn sees something in the brush and discovers, it's Rickman's timer (which is set to leap out later than theirs) and there's blood on it. They've got him now. If he's still alive, he definitely can't go anywhere. More importantly. Now they have their home coordinates. There's a moment of celebration. However, Maggie looks less excited. For the moment, the Sliders have forgotten that she can't home with them.

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**1/3. EXT. JUNGLE TRAIL - CONTINUED:**

INTERCUT Janus moving up on them through the tree.

There is a BEASTIAL ROAR. Janus reacts, fearful of the sound. He runs in the opposite direction. Panchito also reacts. He takes off running. Quinn tells them to stay there as he chases after Panchito. A moment later, a flock of birds flee their jungle perches as we HEAR the SAVAGE SOUND of attack.

**1/4. EXT. BEACH - DAY**

Quinn creeps up to the jungle's edge to see a large, hairy beast crouched over Panchito's dead body, feasting. The beast looks over, GROWLING. Quinn cringes at the sight and recedes.

**1/5. EXT. JUNGLE TRAIL - DAY**

Quinn returns to the others to tell them. The guy is dead. He saw some kind of a beast, but he has no idea what it is -- and he's not sure he wants to know. They head further inland.

**1/6. EXT. ROCK SHELTER - SAME TIME**

Janus returns to a sheltered area where a mangled Rickman is recovering from his attack. He's got a huge claw scrape down his neck. His shirt is bloodied and ripped. Rickman berates the creature angrily: Where is it? Janus, who walks hunched over like an evolved ape, shrugs, then speaks in an odd uncomfortable voice, telling Rickman that people have it. Rickman realizes it's the Sliders. He must get the timer back before they leave with it... and Janus must help them. Janus is afraid, the beast is out there, hunting. Not a good time to be in the jungle. Rickman doesn't care. If Janus wants to leave this island, he's got to help Rickman, otherwise, they're both stuck there. Together, they head off in search of the Sliders.

**1/7. EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING - DAY**

The SLIDERS hear a growl. That thing is circling them. They make a plan to escape to higher ground. Maggie will cover them as they cross. Quinn and Wade make it across. Remmy makes sure Maggie's got him covered, then makes his run. At the same time, Maggie spots Rickman in the brush. She turns from Remmy and fires several times at Rickman. The BEAST is frightened by the gunfire, leaps out, ATTACKING REMBRANDT.

Rickman and Janus watch. Rickman: Good, one less of them to worry about. Maggie turns back to find Rembrandt and the beast fully entangled. Quinn grabs a large branch to fight the beast away. Maggie FIRES, hitting the BEAST. The bizarre animal GROWLS VICIOUSLY and lopes off. The Sliders move to Remmy, who lays bloodied, savaged and unconscious. And off this --

**END OF ACT ONE**

*They meet.  
Janus  
people  
from your  
no climb  
out of  
go you take  
me off  
island.*

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ACT TWO

2/1. EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING - DAY

Wade tends to Remmy, who's still unconscious. Rickman and Janus are still watching them, but determine they'll never get past Maggie now. She'll shoot to kill. They move off.

Wade and Maggie get into a fight about how this is Maggie's fault. She was supposed to be watching out for him. Maggie's defense is that she saw Rickman. So what? Is her need for vengeance more important than their lives? Quinn quells the fight by returning. He's spotted a compound over the ridge. They need to get Remmy there for medical help. Wade lets it go for now, but her anger at Maggie, her distrust -- it's too deep now to put it aside.

2/2. EXT. COMPOUND - DAY

They enter warily. Is anybody here? It's too quiet. A dead body lies at the end of the veranda, flies BUZZING around it. Quinn surmises whatever killed Panchito probably did this too.

*Scientist  
body*

2/3. INT. COMPOUND LAB - LATER

Quinn and Wade enter, having put Remmy in a bed. Is there anything to help him? Maggie says no. Everything's destroyed. She points to the dead scientist. He was attacked too, but also needed. Rickman's been here. Quinn is upset that Rickman is responsible for another death (and by extension, so is Quinn).

*Wade  
Rickman  
has supplies  
into a boat.*

Wade spots a map showing that California split off from the continent and broke into a chain of small islands. They guess that the prophesy about California breaking off during an Earthquake actually happened here.

Quinn finds some notebooks, but can't tell much from them, some kind of DNA experiments. There is a sound from behind. Wade turns to find Janus at the door. He cowers, afraid. She coaxes him in. He sniffs her hand. She wonders aloud: What kind of animal are you? He replies: I am called Janus. The three of them are shocked.

Maggie asks him what a Janus is, but it's Quinn who answers: Janus is the name of a Roman God. He symbolizes among other things, new beginnings. Janus nods. He is the Creator's new beginning. Janus moves to the scientists and cradles him gently, tears flowing... He looks very sympathetic.

*My Creator*

2/4. INT. COMPOUND - LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT (N2)

The Slider's timer is on the table. Janus reaches for it. Maggie startles him by reaching for it first. She tucks it away into her coat. Quinn emerges from the kitchen with some fruit. Quinn asks if Janus has seen another man on the island. Janus eyes him while eating, then shakes his head.

2/4. INT. COMPOUND - LIVING QUARTERS - CONTINUED:

He's been alone here since the Creator was killed by the beast. Maggie regards Janus. Something about him... Quinn asks about the Beast, what is it? Janus tells us the creator made him too. Quinn: You mean he's like you? Janus looks upset. No. He's not like me. Not like me. Janus lopes out of the room, upset. Maggie and Quinn exchange a look. She doesn't trust him. Quinn thinks he's just scared. Quinn goes to check on Remmy.

*burn out. Curt  
Mice dup  
Accur. it  
Accur Memory  
erase for  
fit qtz way  
set off hand drive*

2/5. INT. COMPOUND - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Quinn enters to find Wade with Remmy, who shivers and sweats in pain. Quinn tells her he can't locate the home coordinates here. He needs better equipment to identify which of the coords on that timer correspondent to the leap he and Maggie took. They'll have to wait until another world to make the leap home.

Remmy tells Quinn he's not sure he'll make another world. He's not doing too good. Wade and Quinn exchange a look. What're they going to do? They're due to slide soon, they've got what they need from Rickman. They'll slide, leaving him here forever, getting medical help for Remmy.

2/6. EXT. COMPOUND - VERANDA - NIGHT

There's a NOISE. On the porch, Maggie comes to her feet, grabbing her gun. She moves towards the jungle's edge... To the side, we see RICKMAN, KNIFE in mouth, crawling quietly around her.

He comes up from behind, grabs her. They have a short exchange, that indicates there is more of a personal connection between them than we previously thought... He orders Janus to take the timer from her. He's about to slice Maggie up when --

Quinn comes out, gun in hand. Let her go. Rickman grabs Maggie's rifle, firing at Quinn, who duck and rolls. Rickman knocks the wind out of Maggie and then he runs off into the jungle. Quinn gets up to fire but suddenly, Janus is standing between him and Rickman, holding the timer. Quinn yells for Janus to get out of the way, but Rickman grabs the boy/beast and uses him as a shield, running into the jungle. There go their home coordinates...

Quinn rushes to Maggie. Are you okay? She nods, grabbing his gun. She's going to get him. She takes off into the jungle. He's about to go after too when Wade comes out of the house. It's time to slide. Let's go.

Quinn explains they can't. Rickman got the timer, their home coordinates. Maggie went after him. Wade doesn't care. They have to save to Remmy. They can catch up with Rickman on the next world and get the timer then... Quinn's face shows he's torn. They argue. Should we stay or should we go.

Maggie returns, she lost Rickman. She joins the argument to get Rickman here. To end this now.

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**2/6. EXT. COMPOUND - NIGHT - CONTINUED:**

Quinn finds himself agreeing with Maggie. He too has a lust for Rickman. Quinn tries to play like it's no big deal. He'll send them to a past slide where the world had good medical facilities. This will work, then you'll come back for us. he tells her, it's Remmy's best chance. They'll get Rickman. Remmy'll get help. They'll meet back here in 12 hours. Wade nods.

DISSOLVE to a FLASH OF BRIGHT WHITE. The Vortex opening...  
INTERCUT:

**2/7. EXT. JUNGLE - ANOTHER AREA**

Janus from a vantage point, watches the vortex intrigued. Where do they go? Rickman to other worlds. Janus is excited at the prospect of getting off the island. Rickman says a few encouraging words, then pulls his needle up above Janus' head. Janus turns, seeing this. Fights Rickman off, biting him hard and escaping...

*in Ep 1 by  
explain better  
Me + minimize  
factor*

**2/8. EXT. COMPOUND**

As Wade and Remmy come down the steps. Remmy's awake in great pain. They leap. Leaving Quinn and Maggie. You can see Quinn is having second thoughts. Maggie tells him it's the right thing. They'll make it back... Off which --

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

**3/1. EXT. ANOTHER WORLD - WILDERNESS AREA - NIGHT**

Wade and Remmy land, realizing immediately this is the world they're supposed to be on, but this isn't where they expected to be. This is where they first landed, not where they vortexed out. They're about 15 miles from town and will have to walk the treacherous journey there. They start off.

**3/2. EXT. COMPOUND - NIGHT**

Quinn and Maggie load up and start on the Rickman hunt.

**3/3. EXT. WILDERNESS - ANOTHER AREA - NIGHT**

Rembrandt is unable to go on. He needs water, needs to lay down. He's unable to lift his head to speak. He holds her hand, wanting to talk. There are things, back home, unsettled. He wants to talk about his family, squaring things with them, making amends. He's a man at death's door, preparing to enter. Wade doesn't want to hear any of this. Remmy clutches her tightly. He might not make it and he doesn't want to go without knowing she'll take care of things for him. She agrees to hear him out, only because she knows he'll make it. When he's done, Wade spots (shock) a cave. She's going to leave him there and go for help.

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3/4. EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Rickman is setting traps, vine entanglements for Maggie and Quinn, who, as intercuts will show, track him, finding a trap or two and realizing he's just ahead of them. Maggie and Quinn talk. Quinn has remembered that they can't take Maggie home with them. How is this going to be resolved. Maggie acts like she doesn't care. They can just drop her off somewhere along the line. Quinn doesn't like the idea. Maybe there's some way she can live on their world. Maggie doesn't think so. We have a moment where Quinn realizes that getting home means losing Maggie. An idea he doesn't like.

*Unusable  
Maggie for  
Maggie  
NO (same)  
NO World*

3/5. INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Wade stokes a fire, leaves water for Remmy and goes off...

3/6. EXT. JUNGLE - ANOTHER AREA - NIGHT

Maggie finds a recent shoe print. He's not far. Quinn senses something up ahead. Silently, they split up, to go around what could be Rickman.

3/7. JUNGLE - ON MAGGIE

A POV shows us that Maggie is being watched. The beast leaps out at her, moving in for the attack. It looks like she's a goner. But, Janus appears, bares his teeth, hisses, at the beast, who swats, knocking Janus away. Maggie pulls out her gun, FIRING. The beast moves toward her and just as she is about to be struck by its ferocious paw, she is HOISTED up in the air. A Rickman trap has actually saved her!

~~3/7. EXT. JUNGLE - ANOTHER AREA - CONTINUED:~~

Quinn runs in, holds his gun at the beast, who now moves toward him. Their eyes connect. The beast stands on two legs, about to pounce. SHOTS. The beast rears back, HOWLING, then lays down and dies. He morphs into a human shape -- that of the SCIENTIST. Quinn stands in shock at this. Janus moves to the Scientist, confused, upset. Father? He HOWLS into the night.



END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

4/1. EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Quinn cuts Maggie down. Quinn explains that the scientist must have used his own DNA to experiment with. It's like a clone that went bad. Maggie confronts Janus. She should kill him for helping Rickman get the timer and get away. He reminds her he just tried to save her life. Yeah, but why?? He wants them to take him with them when they leave the island.

*Hagan  
lover  
on  
exposed  
part  
5cm*

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**4/1. EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUED:**

Maggie is against it. He could grow into a beast like the thing they just killed. Does Quinn want to be responsible for unleashing that on a world? Janus promises to show them where Rickman is hiding too. Quinn considers it. He figures they can take Janus to a world where he'll be safe and where people will be safe from him. They strike a deal.

**4/2. EXT. CLIFF WALL - NIGHT**

Wade comes to a drastically raked mountain wall. No way around it, except up. She starts up. The dirt is too soft. It won't support a foothold or hand grabs. She claws up about twenty feet, then her foot gives and she tumbles down to the bottom. She's bruised, but not hurt. She looks around and gets an idea. She starts to collect tree branches. We don't know why.

**4/3. EXT. JUNGLE - SHELTER AREA - NIGHT**

Janus leads them to Rickman's lair. Maggie cautions that this could be a trap. Quinn's willing to risk it, either way, Rickman's on the other end.

They move stealthily through the forest. GUN FIRE pins them down. Janus is suddenly gone. Maggie comments that the little beast took off. The gun fire stops, Rickman is out of ammo. Quinn and Maggie charge that way. Quinn lunges, tackling Maggie. A trigger trap swings out and over their heads. Spiked branches shudder in a tree quite near them. Rickman yells: Good save, but not good enough. He runs off. Quinn and Maggie stand and now, the ground gives out. They tumble into a pit trap.

**4/4. EXT. CLIFF WALL - MORNING (D4)**

Wade is two-thirds of the way up the mountain wall. She has a sack of three-inch long tree branch spikes in her jacket (which she's using as a pouch). A "rope" made of some local vine attaches her to the spikes. She bangs in a spike with a rock and moves up... Just a few more and she's up the mountain. As she stands, we see the URBAN CITY in the distance, sun just beginning to rise. She made it.

**4/5. EXT. PIT TRAP - MORNING**

Quinn tries to lift Maggie up to the top, but the pit is too deep. She can't get a hold and pull herself out. She tumbles back into the pit. Great. Now what? Janus appears. He drops a vine down for them. What took him so long. He wanted to make sure the bad man was gone...

**4/6. INT. AMBULANCE (MOVING) - LATER**

Remmy, near death, looks up, is he hallucinating? No, that's really the sound of a SIREN. And that's Wade above him. An EMT tells her Remmy will be fine and comments on how it's a miracle Wade was able to get help in time.

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4/7. EXT. JUNGLE'S EDGE - DAY

Janus, Quinn and Maggie track again. They hear a VORTEX and take off running that way.

4/8. EXT. BEACH - DAY

They run in just as the vortex closes (we don't have to see it). They think maybe it was Rickman, but no -- Wade and Remmy are here. They re-entered where the first landed. A moment of happy reunion. Remmy's better, but still weak.

Janus spots the bad man on the cliff above. They turn to see Rickman going the other way. Wade tells them to go. She'll take care of Remmy. Quinn and Maggie take off running. Quinn way ahead of Maggie.

4/9. OCEAN OVERLOOK - DAY

Quinn chases Rickman to an overlook. No where to go. No where to run. Quinn holds a gun on Rickman, who tells Quinn he'll have to kill him to get the timer. Quinn doesn't think so. He can take the timer and leave Rickman on the island, where he can't bother anyone any more. Rickman eyes his timer, stalling for time (just 10 seconds left to go). Rickman is backing up to the cliff. Quinn moves to him cautiously, put the timer down. Rickman, you won't shoot. Quinn assures him he will. Rickman activates the vortex. Quinn lunges at him, pulling him down so he can't leap. Rickman gets the upper hand, knocking Quinn away... Maggie arrives on scene and just as Rickman leaps, she shoots. Rickman locks eyes with her and then tumbles over the cliff -- in to the water below, taking his timer with him.

Maggie goes to Quinn, who's angry. How could you shoot him. He's got our home coordinates?? Behind them, Janus sneaks into the vortex and leaps away. Oh shit. Now, Wade and Remmy appear as Rickman's vortex closes.

Wade crosses to Quinn. It's okay. We'll get him on the next world. Quinn: No we won't. There is no next world. He's dead. He's dead and he took our home coordinates with him. Both Wade and Remmy look like they've just been struck in their guts. All their hopes torn from them.

Angrily Quinn states: We're right back where we started from. We may never get home. Quinn walks off into the jungle... And off this --

THE END

*Review Script  
- Ray Wingo -  
NO SIGN of Rickman  
or the timer*