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"DINOSLIDE"

Written

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#K1826

SLIDERS

“Dinoslide”

CAST

QUINN MALLORY
WADE WELLES
REMBRANDT BROWN
MAGGIE BECKETT

COLONEL ANGUS RICKMAN
HINDS
GRETCHEN
MALCOLM (FROM “THE EXODUS”)
ANDREWS
WINO
WOMAN

#K1826

SLIDERS

“Dinoslide”

SETS

INTERIORS:

CAVE

EXTERIORS:

SKID ROW

“NEW WORLD”

MAIN SETTLER’S CAMP

AN OPEN AREA

MASS BURIAL SITE

MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN

THE PIT

GRETCHEN’S CAMP

CREEK BELOW

SECOND SETTLER CAMP

HIGH PLAINS

ROCKY OUTCROP

FOREST

DENSE FOREST

DEEPER IN THE WOODS

VALLEY

CAVE

ABOVE THE CAVE

LOWER GROUND

CANYON

NARROW CANYON

HIGHER UP THE CANYON

PLAINS

A SMALL CLEARING

#K1826

CHRONOLOGY PAGE

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SLIDERS

"Dinoslide"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SKID ROW - DAY - A COUPLE OF WINOS (D1)

1

digging through a dumpster react to the SOUND and WIND EFFECTS of an OPENING VORTEX. As they cower,

COLONEL RICKMAN

is flung from the VORTEX, crashes into a stack of garbage cans and goes down hard. He gets to his feet, groggy and unsteady, takes a few staggering steps toward the WINOS. The two men take off running as if from the devil himself... and they're not far wrong.

RICKMAN makes his way slowly toward the mouth of an alley, shielding his eyes from the blinding sun.

IN THE ALLEY

A number of society's cast-offs sleep in the grimy alley, too far numbed by whatever this world's crack or Mad Dog 20-20 is to notice the Colonel as he moves among them. He kneels, pulls his big syringe with shaking hands. Rickman's in bad shape, too long from his last fix of "brain juice." He pulls the collar away from the neck of his victim, plunges the needle deep into flesh, withdraws the precious spinal fluid, then injects the back of his own neck. His face morphs into that of his victim's as the fluid rushes to his brain... a sigh of relief. But the morph is weak, not complete; his own features blend with those of the victim's. Panic now...

RICKMAN

No... it's not holding... no...

He moves to a second sleeping figure, this one a WOMAN, does her like the first one; another shaky, distorted morph into her... Now to a third victim... The fluid morphs him into this victim, holds more clearly as he sags with relief.

RICKMAN

That's better... All better now...

THE STREET

seems to shimmer as another vortex opens and our SLIDERS come tumbling OUT. They are all bundled up in heavy parkas, gloves, etc.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED

1

WADE

I like this place already. No snow..

MAGGIE

I was just starting to develop a taste for blubber.'

They start stripping out of their cold weather gear.

QUINN

It must be over a hundred degrees, we're probably in the San Fernando Valley.

REMBRANDT

I wish you could fix that timer to drop us next to a pool on a day like this.

A WINO staggers toward them, hand out. It's Rickman, still morphed into his wino victim.

WINO

Help out a fella down on his luck?

Maggie pulls a couple of smooth bones from her pocket, a few glass beads.

MAGGIE

Where we came from, this was a lot of money.

WINO

Another pretty girl with a smart-ass attitude.

He goes OFF. The Sliders react to CRIES of alarm from the alley. A WOMAN lurches out into the sun.

WOMAN

Help me... they're dead... they're all dead...

The Sliders run toward her, follow her into:

THE ALLEY

Quinn and Remmy inspect two victims, check for -- and find -- puncture wounds as the Woman babbles on.

QUINN

Rickman. But this man's dead, not comatose.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED 2

1

MAGGIE
(looking at the third
victim)
Damn it! It was him out there
just now!

The FACE is that of the WINO that just panhandled them.
They all charge out toward:

THE STREET

just in time to see RICKMAN'S VORTEX closing.

MAGGIE
We had him! When does our window
open.

QUINN
(checks the timer)
Six minutes and change.

MAGGIE
Good. He won't have much of a head
start when we land.

QUINN
Something's wrong, he's never
killed before, and never hit more
than one at a time, the DNA
mismatches must be taking their
toll on him.

REMBRANDT
Like a junkie shooting bad dope,
the high doesn't last.

WADE
Three people are dead in that
alley, doesn't that mean anything?
It happened, it's real, and it's
like they don't even matter, all
that's important is her revenge

MAGGIE
He killed your friend, you
forgetting that? You want to get
all teary over some winos, be my
guest, but he'll stack bodies like
cord wood if we don't stop him.

Maggie turns and walks off. Wade watches her, then pins
Quinn with a look.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED 3

1

WADE

What are you going to do when we catch him, hold her coat while she murders him?

REMBRANDT

Look, once we get his timer we get home, sweetheart. Just think about that.

WADE

The price is too damn high.

She moves away. Rembrandt starts after her; Quinn stops him with a look.

QUINN

Rickman has to be stopped. We all know that.

REMBRANDT

I just wish Maggie wasn't looking forward to it like she is.

Off their look we:

DISSOLVE TO:

WORMHOLE EFFECT

(It would be really cool to actually see the Sliders inside the wormhole for the first time.)

2 EXT. "NEW WORLD" - DAY

2

The vortex spits out the SLIDERS. They rise, look around it's the New World chosen for the survivors of Maggie's world in "Exodus."

QUINN

(incredulous)

We've been here before. We've gone backwards through the inner dimension.

WADE

The New World, where we transported Rickman's people to save them from the pulsars...

REMBRANDT

Makes sense, the man needs victims with DNA that matches his, he hand picked this whole colony himself. It's one big smorgy for him.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED

2

MAGGIE

We're not far from the settlement,
I recognize those peaks. Is he
here?

QUINN

Yeah, he's here.

Rembrandt is looking O.S., doesn't like what he sees.

REMBRANDT

He's not the only one... My lord
look at that.

They follow his gaze to see:

A DINOSAUR

in the distance, eating leaves from the top of a tree. A
huge dinosaur. It seems to sense them, turns and stares
back, then ROARS.

THE SLIDERS

can't seem to move a muscle. Off this moment,

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. NEW WORLD - DAY

3

The Sliders trudge through the pristine countryside.

REMBRANDT

I can't wait to see Malcolm, he's probably grown an inch. He's gonna be surprised to see us.

QUINN

You promised him you'd come back. I'll bet he's expecting us.

MAGGIE

We just saw dinosaurs and you're rattling on like nothing happened.

QUINN

Been here, done that, got the T-shirt. Should have been with us the first time we ran into dinos.

REMBRANDT

Yeah, not much you don't see if you slide long enough.

QUINN

The good news is that so far all we've seen are plant eaters. The only danger from them is being trampled.

WADE

(looking O.S.)
Someone wasn't quick enough.

4 A JEEP

4

lies upside down, crushed flat by a giant dino foot.

MAGGIE

Imagine the force involved to do that. How would you stop one of those things?

WADE

Is there anything she doesn't think of killing.

Maggie shoots her a look, moves on as Remmy moves in beside her.

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED

4

REMBRANDT

You keep spoiling for a fight,
sweetheart, she's gonna give you
one. That what you want?

WADE

What I want is for things to be
back the way they were before.

REMBRANDT

Yeah, me too. But you have to play
the hand you're dealt, that's all
we can do.

(beat)

It's not Maggie's fault the
Professor's gone.

WADE

(snaps)

I know that, just give it a rest,
all right.

REMBRANDT

(stung)

You can be a real pain in the butt
sometimes.

WADE

You taking her side?

REMBRANDT

No sides, we're all in this
together. You and Maggie at each
other all the time is hurtful to
all of us.

WADE

I heard you, okay? So go get in
her face, and out of mine.

REMBRANDT

Whatever you say.

He goes off, leaving her steaming.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. MAIN SETTLER'S CAMP - DAY - PANNING

5

the remains of the once-thriving settlement. It has been
completely thrashed. Tents are in tatters, supply crates
smashed to kindling, vehicles destroyed, etc. Utter
devastation. No sign of life until CAMERA FINDS THE SLIDERS
approaching, their faces dark with concern.

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED

5

REMBRANDT

My lord, what happened here...

MOVE WITH THEM

as they check out the remains of the camp. Wade studies a number of huge DINO TRACKS in the dried mud.

WADE

Look at this... there was only one of them.

QUINN

One was more than enough. Plant eaters aren't aggressive -- at least they weren't on our world. Maybe things are different here.

Rembrandt has spotted something, goes down on a knee and smoothes the crumpled paper out. It's a faded DRAWING.

REMBRANDT

Malcolm... Q-ball, check this out.

Quinn and Wade come over as he rises, shows them the drawing.

REMBRANDT

That doesn't look anything like the one we saw back there, check the teeth on that sucker.

THE DRAWING

is of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, in full attack mode.

QUINN

T-Rex, talk about your natural born killer.

WADE

You and Maggie checked this world out...

QUINN

So this is our fault? We didn't have time to do more than make sure the air was safe --

WADE

I'm not accusing you!

REMBRANDT

If anything's happened to that boy I'll never forgive myself.

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED 2

5

WADE

There are no bodies, Remmy, that's a good thing. It means they got away.

Maggie comes walking back on the tail of this.

MAGGIE

Not all of them. I found bones over there from ten, maybe twelve people. Hard to tell, they're so badly splintered.

(on Remmy's look)

No kids.

REMBRANDT

Thank God. He's out there somewhere, we've gotta find him before that monster does.

MAGGIE

The T-Rex or Rickman, either one's a killer. Rickman was here. I picked up fresh tracks heading up that way.

WADE

How do you know they're his?

MAGGIE

Only one set of new ones here besides ours, it's gotta be him. He checked the camp out, just like we're doing, then took off.

QUINN

Let's get started.

Remmy tucks Malcolm's drawing away, follows Quinn. Maggie falls in beside Wade.

MAGGIE

You want to stay up on your high horse, that's fine with me. But save the wise cracks. Someone has to stop Rickman, and you won't have to dirty your hands. Civilians never do, they sit back and let people like me -- soldiers -- do the job for them.

WADE

Don't play the martyr with me, this isn't about stopping him, it's about payback, getting even.

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED 3

5

MAGGIE

I can't let it be personal, if I emotionalize it, I'll make mistakes. This is a mission, pure and simple.

WADE

Tell yourself that if it makes you feel better.

MAGGIE

That's the way it is. And I don't give a damn what you believe.

She moves on ahead.

DISSOLVE TO:

6 EXT. AN OPEN AREA - A MASS BURIAL SITE' - DAY

6

The Sliders look at the unmarked burial mounds; there are lots of them.

REMBRANDT

These are all unmarked, like the last ones back there. Must be natives, the settlers would have put crosses, markers, something.

QUINN

They're only a couple of months old, it's like a plague went through this place.

WADE

So why no settlers among the dead?

CUT TO:

7 EXT. MORE MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN - DAY - A SETTLER

7

works his way along a mountain path. Male, dressed in military fatigues. He carries a shotgun. Suddenly, a flock of BIRDS flies from the brush ahead of him; he raises the gun and FIRES.

RICKMAN (O.S.)

Good shot.

The Settler call him HINDS is startled by the VOICE behind him, whirls around to SEE RICKMAN there.

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED

7

HINDS

(shocked)
Colonel Rickman. How did you... I
thought you...

Rickman strikes like a snake, jerks the shotgun away.

RICKMAN

Life's full of surprises.

He butt-strokes Hinds; the man stumbles and goes down. Rickman gets out his syringe, kneels beside him to make the injection. Suddenly, the GIANT HEAD of an ALLASAURUS COMES DOWN INTO FRAME above him. Rickman senses it, rolls away in a panic. HINDS comes around groggily, sees the dino and scrambles away.

WITH HINDS

as he gets to his feet, staggers down the path... the ground beneath him suddenly gives way; he falls from view. The ALLASAURUS lowers its head peers down into the pit...

CUT TO:

8 EXT. MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN - LATER - WITH THE SLIDERS

8

as they make their way along the trail, checking out the brush that's been trampled by the allasaurus as Maggie checks footprints.

MAGGIE

These tracks aren't more than a
couple of hours old. Two sets.

REMBRANDT

Three, counting the dino. It must
have been hunting them.

Quinn spots the SHOTGUN lying in the dirt, goes and picks it up.

QUINN

I guess it didn't do them any good.

MAGGIE

Maybe that's why there aren't any
settler graves back there -- the
dinos eat them whole.

They keep moving... and discover the pit. Faint MOANING drifts up from the hole. They react, kneel to peer down at:

HINDS

CONTINUED

8 CONTINUED

8

lying in the dirt, barely conscious.

RESUME - SLIDERS

QUINN

Hang on, we'll get you out of
there.

He gives the shotgun to Maggie, slips out of his leather
jacket, hands it to Remmy and takes one end.

QUINN

Lower me down.

REMBRANDT

You got it.

Quinn walks down the side of the pit, Remmy using the jacket
to lower him slowly.

WITH QUINN

as he touches down, kneels beside Hinds. The man slowly
comes around.

HINDS

He almost got me...

QUINN

The dino's gone.

HINDS

(shakes his head)
Colonel Rickman. He's here.

QUINN

I know. Just rest easy, you're
safe now.

HINDS

Nobody's safe.

Off Quinn's look,

CUT TO:

9 EXT. THE PIT - LATER

9

Remmy pulls Quinn up from the animal trap; Hinds is over
Quinn's shoulder. Wade and Maggie help lower him to the
ground.

HINDS

Captain Beckett... you've got to
stop the Colonel.

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED

9

MAGGIE

That's why I'm here. What happened, where is everyone?

HINDS

Scattered, just trying to survive the T-Rex. It hunts us... now Rickman... My camp, up there... not far...

He loses consciousness.

WADE

He's in bad shape, maybe there are medical supplies at his camp.

MAGGIE

(she pumps a shell into the shotgun)
You guys take him back. I'll keep after Rickman.

QUINN

Not alone.
(to Remmy)
You and Wade see if you can find his camp, I'll go with Maggie.

REMBRANDT

I don't like splitting up, there's too damn much we don't know about this place.

WADE

Let's stick together, it's gonna be dark soon, we can stay at his camp, get something to eat.

MAGGIE

I doubt the Colonel's taking any rest stops. Do what you want, but I'm staying on track.

QUINN

(gives Remmy the timer)
You hang onto this. We'll double back and find you in the morning, we'll still have plenty of time before we slide.

REMBRANDT

And if you don't get back?

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED 2

9

QUINN
I don't have to tell you. Take
care of yourselves. See you
tomorrow morning.

Quinn and Maggie take off.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. SETTLER'S MOUNTAIN CAMP - DAY

10

A small encampment in a clearing sheltered by trees. A
number -- six or seven -- nylon dome tents, cooking fires, a
common area with camp table, chairs, lanterns etc. No sense
of permanence here. PEOPLE in evidence -- fatigue-clad
MEN, some WOMEN and CHILDREN -- busy with camp chores.

A tall, athletic WOMAN called GRETCHEN is filling some
lanterns with fuel when Remmy and Wade come into camp, the
injured Hinds supported on either side of them.

REMBRANDT
We need some help here!

Gretchen hurries over.

GRETCHEN
Robert...

HINDS
I'm all right, Gretchen...

WADE
I think his ribs are broken.

GRETCHEN
Lie him down here.

She helps them lower him to a pad she spreads on the ground,
unbuttons his shirt, and gently feels his ribs. Hinds
groans. During this:

GRETCHEN
I remember you... The Sliders.
Where are the others?

REMBRANDT
Colonel Rickman killed the
Professor, Quinn's gone after him
with Captain Beckett.

GRETCHEN
But you left this world.

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED

10

WADE

It's a long story. We should wrap his chest, bandage those cuts. Do you have medical supplies?

REMBRANDT

(looking O.S.)
Good lord... Malcolm!

ANOTHER ANGLE - MALCOLM

has entered the far side of the camp; his face lights with joy and disbelief at the sight of Rembrandt. ANGLE ADJUSTS as man meets boy in a happy embrace.

MALCOLM

Remmy! You came back!

REMBRANDT

I promised I would. Let me look at you, must have grown three inches while I was gone... I'm so glad to see you, when we found the settlement all torn up like that...

MALCOLM

Bet you thought the T-rex got me, huh. Not me, man, I'm too fast.

REMBRANDT

I shoulda known no overgrown lizard could catch my man Malcolm.

He hugs the boy again.

WADE AND GRETCHEN

are bandaging Hinds, stealing glances over at the reunion. Gretchen's smile is bittersweet.

GRETCHEN

I can't tell you how many times Malcolm's talked about him, how he's dreamed of him coming back.

WADE

The same goes for Remmy. It killed him to leave him behind. You've been looking after him?

GRETCHEN

(nods)
My own son... Tracy... wasn't chosen for the slide to the new world.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED 2

10

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)
I tried to stay behind, but they
forced me through the hole, Colonel
Rickman said we were needed here.

WADE
I'm sorry. My name is Wade.

GRETCHEN
Gretchen Chambliss.
(Hinds groans, tries to
move)
Just lie still, Robert.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. HIGH PLAINS - WIDE ANGLE - DUSK

11

Quinn and Maggie make their way across a verdant valley as
the sun slides behind the peaks to the west.

CLOSER - MOVING WITH THEM

for a few paces... then Quinn stops...

QUINN
You feel that?

MAGGIE
Vibrations... Earthquake? It's
getting stronger.

The BELLOW of A DINO rends the air.

QUINN
(looking O.S.)
Run! Try for those cliffs!

ANOTHER ANGLE

as they rush TOWARD CAMERA. BEHIND THEM, coming fast, is an
enormous TYRANOSAURUS REX. The monster is gaining on
them...

They rush PAST CAMERA... When the T-REX is about to trample
the LENS,

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 EXT. ROCKY OUTCROP DUSK - QUINN AND MAGGIE

12

climb up and INTO FRAME, both breathing heavily and dripping sweat. Their hands are cut and scratched from the rocks. We HEAR, far below them, the DISTANT ROAR of the T-REX. They pull themselves into a clear area and collapse; neither of them have an ounce of strength left.

MAGGIE
(as they look down the
hill)
Guess those little hind legs aren't
made for climbing.

QUINN
That's what I call a terrific
design flaw.

Maggie gets out a bandana, cleans up her hands.

MAGGIE
That terminator may beat us to
Rickman.

QUINN
Would that bother you, Maggie?

MAGGIE
Not if I get there in time to
watch. Come on, don't give me the
choir boy look, you want him as bad
as I do.

QUINN
I want his timer, that's the only
chance we've got of getting home.

MAGGIE
And there's more nobility in that
than revenge.

QUINN
I'm not judging you.

MAGGIE
The hell you're not.
(beat)
We both know what has to be done.
But I wonder if you've got the
stomach for it when the time comes.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. GRETCHEN'S CAMP - NIGHT (N1)

13

Wade and Remmy sit with Gretchen and Malcolm around a fire, finishing an evening meal.

MALCOLM

You like it, Remmy?

REMBRANDT

(chewing the tough meat)
Delicious flavor, never had chicken like this.

Gretchen and Malcolm share a smile.

MALCOLM

It's not chicken. More like a gopher or a weasel. I trap them.

Remmy manages a weak smile, lowers his fork as Wade shudders.

WADE

(under her breath)
I'm so happy I'm vegetarian.

GRETCHEN

The small burrowing animals and birds are the only animals left. The T-Rexes wiped out everything else.

REMBRANDT

We saw hundreds of graves...

GRETCHEN

Those deaths are on our heads, I'm afraid. The native population had no immunities to the bacteria we brought with us. A common flu virus went through them like wildfire, and they were too superstitious to let us inoculate them.

WADE

But there were bones at the settlement.

GRETCHEN

We lost nearly a dozen people in the T-Rex's attack. We were warned, but nobody took the tales seriously.

REMBRANDT

What tales?

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED

13

MALCOLM

The natives worshiped the dinos, they made animal sacrifices to them to keep them happy. When the game ran short, they came to us, asked for some of our livestock for the feedings.

GRETCHEN

Our stock was too valuable to give up to superstition, so we refused. We'd never seen the T-Rexes; we thought they were just myth. Until they got hungry enough and attacked.

WADE

No more catered meals meant they had to hunt. How many are there?

GRETCHEN

Most of them died of starvation, we've gotten good at hiding. Our camps are scattered all over the mountains. But there's at least one, the biggest and most aggressive. He's stayed alive by cannibalizing the remains of the others.

MALCOLM

Want some coffee, Remmy? Gretchen makes it out of tree bark and fungus, tastes like the real stuff.

REMBRANDT

I better pass. Don't want it to keep me up.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. ROCKY OUTCROP - NIGHT .

14

Maggie and Quinn are huddled close together against the bitter chill. They are eating a meager meal of nuts and berries that they've foraged. Quinn watches as Maggie pulls a wriggling WORM from a pile of dirt in her bandana and sucks it up like a strand of spaghetti.

MAGGIE

Didn't you love doing that when you were a kid?

QUINN

Not with worms.

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED

14

MAGGIE
(offers the bandana)
Better have a couple, you need the
protein. Come on, billions of fish
can't be wrong.

He accepts the challenge, lets her finger a couple of the
slimers into his mouth.

MAGGIE
See, tastes like sushi.

QUINN
You're really enjoying this.

MAGGIE
What I'd enjoy is a fire. I'm
freezing.

QUINN
(as he lies down, curls
into the fetal position)
We can't take a chance on
attracting a dino that can climb.

MAGGIE
Or put out a welcome mat for
Rickman. You going to sleep?

QUINN
Just cold. Spoon yourself against
me, we'll share our body heat.

MAGGIE
That sounds like Slider-ese for
"What's your sign?"

QUINN
Fine. Freeze.

A moment... then Maggie lies behind him, snuggles her body
tightly against his, like two spoons in a drawer. She keeps
moving, snuggling... it's undeniably sexy.

QUINN
Are you about finished?

MAGGIE
(teasing, against the
back of his neck)
No, but I bet you are.

He can't help but laugh.

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED 2

14

QUINN
Yeah, there's nothing like worms on
a woman's breath to turn me on.

MAGGIE
Charmer. Go to sleep. I'll take
first watch.

QUINN
No, you go ahead. I'm already up.

Off her soft laugh, we reluctantly...

DISSOLVE TO:

15 EXT. A SECOND SETTLER CAMP - NIGHT

15

We haven't seen this camp before. It's in more open
territory than Gretchen's, and not as large. Three or four
tents. A lone MAN, the sentry on duty, sits at a small
fire, warming his hands.

WATCHER'S POV

Someone's checking out the camp and the sentry, moving
cautiously through the darkness.

THE SENTRY

hears something, reacts, reaches for his rifle as he stands
and peers out beyond the firelight. He turns on his
flashlight, plays its beam around the perimeter. No.
He moves out to investigate.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE SENTRY

comes into VIEW, playing the beam of LIGHT. He turns; the
BEAM WASHES LENS.

REVERSE - COLONEL RICKMAN

claps a hand over the man's mouth, drives his needle into
the back of his neck. The man struggles, kicks, goes limp
as Rickman lowers him OUT of FRAME.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. SECOND CAMP - DAY (D2)

16

Quinn and Maggie comes INTO the CAMP; it's dead quiet.

QUINN
Hello? Anyone here?

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED

16

ANDREWS (O.S.)
Move and we'll cut you to pieces.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THREE MEN

come into the open as Maggie and Quinn react. All are young, armed with rifles. The one doing the talking is ANDREWS.

MAGGIE
Easy does it, boys. We mean you no harm.

ANDREWS
I know you, you were Rickman's right hand.

MAGGIE
No more. A lot's changed since we left the old world. We're hunting the Colonel, he's here and you're all in danger.

ANDREWS
The Colonel's a good man, once he left we fell apart. Why are you after him?

QUINN
He's gone over the edge. He suffered brain damage in the Gulf War, and he needs live brain tissue to stay alive. He hand-picked the settlers for his new world because their DNA matched his.

ANDREWS
My God... He kills them?

MAGGIE
He sticks a needle in the back of their neck, like a vampire sucking the life out of them. Nobody here is safe until we find him.

ANDREWS
(lowers his gun)
You're too late. He got my brother last night. I found him at first light, had a hole right back here.

QUINN
We need weapons, and we could use your help.

The other two men want no part of this.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED 2

16

ANDREWS

(to the others)

You stay here. I got some settling
up to do with the Colonel.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. FOREST - DAY - REMBRANDT AND MALCOLM

17

move along a trail beside a creek. Malcolm stops, goes to
his knees, fishes in a trap line bursting with fish. Remmy
helps him bring it in, stow the fish in baskets. During
this:

REMBRANDT

Way to go, partner! You didn't
learn to fish and trap like this on
that military base, did you?

MALCOLM

Naw, Bantu showed me. We'd have
starved by now if it wasn't for
him.

REMBRANDT

If it wasn't for you, the way I
see it. Was Bantu one of the
native kids?

MALCOLM

(nods)

I taught him to draw, he taught me
this. Grab that end --

A nearby ROAR rends the morning air, followed by a CRY for
help.

REMBRANDT

What the --

MALCOLM

(scrambling toward a
rise)

T-Rex! He's close!

Rembrandt follows him up the hill; the two of them can only
watch in horror as:

A SETTLER MAN

below, sprawled on his back, tries to roll away from the
T-REX. He gets to his feet, starts to run, but the DINO
LOWERS ITS HEAD and GRABS THE MAN IN ITS HUGE JAWS, LIFTS
HIM away.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED

17

REMBRANDT AND MALCOLM

turn away from the death.

REMBRANDT

Did you know him?

MALCOLM

He wasn't from our camp. He was stupid to be down there on the flats alone.

REMBRANDT

That's a little cold, Malcolm.

MALCOLM

That's the way it is. On this world you can't afford mistakes.

Malcolm heads back down to get his fish. Remy follows.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. DENSE FOREST - DAY - MOVING

18

through mottled sunlight with Quinn, Maggie and Andrews. Quinn and Maggie are now armed with military carbines. Maggie goes to her knee, examines some broken branches, footprints in the damp soil.

MAGGIE

We're close. I can feel his eyes on us.

ANDREWS

He knows we're following him?

MAGGIE

You can bet on it. And if he wants to thin us out and even his odds, this would be a good place for it.

QUINN

We'll stand a better chance if we split up and try to flank him.

MAGGIE

Careful, Quinn. You're starting to think like me.

QUINN

No, I want to take him alive.

CONTINUED

18 CONTINUED

18

MAGGIE
Your choice. But I'm not playing
by your rules.

QUINN
You never have.

MAGGIE
I'll stay on his track. You two
flank me.

19 RICKMAN'S POV

19

He's hidden in the thick brush, watching his pursuers as they separate to hunt him down. He ducks away.

ANGLES - QUINN, MAGGIE, AND ANDREWS

as they stalk through the forest, moving in and out of shadow and light. Heavy ground mist gives the scene an other-worldly feel.

RICKMAN

darts in and out of cover, not running any more, rather working his way back and around his hunters. He stops, watching, listening...waiting...

QUINN

moves cautiously along. He kicks up a COVEY of BIRDS just ahead; the whirl of their wings scares the hell out of him. His gun swings up, ready... he sags as the adrenaline ebbs.

He's just starting forward again when a DISTANT CRY echoes through the woods. Then silence... He can't risk calling out. He heads in the direction the cry came from.

20 DEEPER IN THE WOODS - QUINN

20

creeps along, catches a GLIMPSE of a shadowy FIGURE AHEAD, shoulders his carbine.

QUINN
Freeze!

ANDREWS

turns toward him.

ANDREWS
Over here! Captain Beckett's down!

ANOTHER ANGLE

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED

20

Quinn lowers his rifle, moves quickly toward Andrews, who's turned back way from him. He suddenly whirls back -- it's RICKMAN. He's bringing his rifle around on Quinn when a SHOT RINGS OUT, bites BARK from a tree beside Rickman's head and sends him diving for cover.

MAGGIE

squeezes off THREE MORE SHOTS as Rickman vanishes into heavy cover.

ANOTHER ANGLE

as Quinn joins up with her, shaken by the brush with mortality.

QUINN

How did you know it was him?

MAGGIE

I tripped over Andrews' body back there. Rickman held the morph long enough to sucker you. Maybe I should have let you take him alive.

RICKMAN (O.S.)

So close, Maggie. Another inch to the right and you'd have won our little game. But at least you kept Mallory in the contest.

QUINN

Let's end it right now, Rickman!

RICKMAN (O.S.)

Soon, my friends. I have work to do here. It's time to harvest what I've sown.

Rickman's mocking laughter echoes through the woods. Quinn and Maggie move out as we:

CUT TO:

21 EXT. GRETCHEN'S CAMP - DAY

21

Remmy and Wade are packing some supplies in knapsacks while Gretchen and Malcolm look on.

GRETCHEN

You should wait here, your friends are probably on their way back.

WADE

They should have been here by now.

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED

21

GRETCHEN
But how will you find them? It's
nothing but wild country out there.

REMBRANDT
Maggie was tracking the Colonel.
We'll track them.

MALCOLM
She knows what she's doing, you
don't. But I do. I'll guide you.

REMBRANDT
I can't let you do that.

MALCOLM
You don't have a chance of finding
them without me. I can handle
myself.

REMBRANDT
You sure, partner?

Wade looks to Gretchen; she nods her consent.

WADE
We'll bring him back to you, I
promise.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. VALLEY - A CAVE - DAY

22

Maggie and Quinn come INTO VIEW, check out the opening of
the cave.

MAGGIE
I'll go in alone.

QUINN
The hell you will.

MAGGIE
It could be a trap.

QUINN
Have we got another choice?

CUT TO:

23 INT. CAVE - DAY - QUINN AND MAGGIE

23

enter the dark cave. They move in deeper...

CUT TO:

24 EXT. ABOVE THE CAVE - DAY - RICKMAN 24

uses a big tree limb to lever a pile of ROCKS, jars them loose... The ROCKS TUMBLE DOWN...

CUT TO:

25 INT. CAVE - DAY 25

The light is obliterated as the ROCKSLIDE completely blocks the mouth of the tunnel, sealing Quinn and Maggie up inside. Silence settles.

QUINN

As traps go, I'd say this is a damn good one.

TIME CUT TO:

26 EXT. LOWER GROUND - DAY - REMMY, WADE, AND MALCOLM 26

are tracking Maggie and Quinn. Remmy stops, surveys the hills above with field glasses.

REMBRANDT

There!

WADE

Quinn?

REMBRANDT

Rickman!

THROUGH FIELD GLASSES - COLONEL RICKMAN

is silhouetted against the ridge top. He uses his timer to OPEN his VORTEX, dives through.

RESUME - REMBRANDT

as he lowers the glasses.

REMBRANDT

He just vortexed out.

WADE

We've got to get up there!

REMBRANDT

Just be prepared for what we might find, sweetheart.

Off their looks of dread and concern, we:

CUT TO:

27 INT. CAVE - LATER - QUINN AND MAGGIE

27

are trying to dig out, the FLASHLIGHT BEAM glowing lower now as the batteries are tapped. They HEAR NOISE on the other side, rocks sliding,, tumbling down...

QUINN

It's Remmy and Wade, they're trying to dig us out.

They both start hollering. "We're in here," etc. Some of the ROCKS are pulled AWAY; MUTED LIGHT comes through... More rocks are dug away... and suddenly, the

MALIGNANT EYE OF THE T-REX

appears in the opening, staring in at them.

QUINN AND MAGGIE

tumble away from the opening as the beast ROARS... and keeps digging...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

28 EXT. CAVE - DAY - REMMY, WADE, AND MALCOLM

28

work their way toward the cave. The NOISE of the T-REX can be heard. They reach a vantage point, look toward

THE T-REX - THEIR POV

The dino shovels at the rocks blocking the cave with its nose.

RESUME - GROUP

REMBRANDT

He's sure after something, and Q-ball's tracks are headed that way.

MALCOLM

It's the feeding cave, Bantu showed it to me once. It's where they left animals for the T-Rexes.

WADE

Great. Quinn and Maggie are trapped in the dino drive-up window.

REMBRANDT

At least they're alive. We've got to get old Rex away from there if we're gonna get them out.

MALCOLM

If we make enough noise he'll chase us.

WADE

I hope there's a second part to this plan, you know, where we get away with our lives?

MALCOLM

There's like this escape hatch back down the trail, they dug it to get away after they made the feedings.

REMBRANDT

How far?

MALCOLM

Once he starts after us, we won't have much time.

. CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED

28

WADE

That far, huh?

REMBRANDT

You go on back down there, Malcolm.
I don't want you getting hurt.
(Malcolm starts to argue)
I'm serious, now. Do like I say.

MALCOLM

(grudgingly)
All right.

He moves off down the trail.

CUT TO:

29 INT. CAVE - DAY - MAGGIE

29

is worriedly watching the HOLE in the rocks getting larger.
FLASHES of the T-REX can be seen through the opening. Quinn
comes back IN from exploring the rest of the cave.

QUINN

There's no back door, the tunnel
dead ends.

MAGGIE

I feel like emptying my gun at him,
but it would just piss him off.
I'm one up on you for saving your
life back there. Now would be a
good time to even the score.

QUINN

I'd love to pay that debt, believe
me.

Now, in the distance, we HEAR SHOUTING and HOLLERING... and
so does the T-REX; it turns its head away from the cave.

QUINN

It's Remmy and Wade!

CUT TO:

30 EXT. CAVE - DAY - THE T-REX

30

turns, looks down the hill... bellows with rage.

REMMY AND WADE

are yelling and waving, rattling bushes, whatever they can
do to make noise.

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED

30

REMBRANDT

He's looking at us!

WADE

Why doesn't that make me happy...

Run!

STAY WITH THEM as they scramble down the hill, hit the flat ground and run down the valley. THE T-REX APPEARS BEHIND THEM, also in motion. He's gaining way too quickly on them.

CUT TO:

31 INT. CAVE - DAY - QUINN AND MAGGIE

31

take advantage of the diversion, crawling and clawing their way out the hole in the rock pile the T-Rex made...

CUT TO:

32 EXT. VALLEY - DAY - MALCOLM

32

is staked out at the escape hatch, waving at the hard-charging Remmy and Wade.

MALCOLM

Come on, come on he's almost on you!

REMMY AND WADE

rush at CAMERA, the NOISE of the pursuing dino terrifyingly close. They REACH MALCOLM; all three drop OUT OF FRAME down a small hole just big enough to squeeze through. THE T-REX (LEGS ONLY) thunders UP, STOPS. HIS HEAD COMES DOWN INTO FRAME; HE BELLOWS impotent rage into the hole.

IN THE HOLE

The Dino's breath is like a Ritter fan blowing down into the little tunnel. They start growling TOWARD CAMERA.

WADE

Whew, I thought dog breath was bad...

CUT TO:

33 EXT. CANYON - DAY - WITH QUINN AND MAGGIE

33

They've seen the narrow escape.

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED

33

QUINN

That cut it a little too close.

MAGGIE

Any landing you walk away from is a good landing.

QUINN

Once the dino loses interest and goes back to the cave, we'll hook back up with them.

THE T-REX

roars again...

DISSOLVE TO:

34 EXT. GRETCHEN'S CAMP - DAY

34

The Sliders have reunited and gathered at the camp. Gretchen is serving Maggie and Quinn a meal while they plot strategy with Rembrandt and Wade.

MAGGIE

It just doesn't make sense. Why would Rickman vortex out when he needs the settler's DNA to stay alive?

REMBRANDT

Especially when the two of you were as good as dead, you weren't a threat to him.

QUINN

He plays by the same rules we do. He ran out of time. He had to jump or he'd have been stuck here for 29 years.

WADE

There aren't enough people left here to keep him going that long.

MAGGIE

But he can come back to this world, just like we did. He said he was going to harvest. He's just waiting for the window to open again.

REMBRANDT

So where does that leave us?

CONTINUED

34 CONTINUED

34

QUINN

We've got twenty-two hours left before we slide. If he comes back, we'll deal with him. In the meantime, there's a T-Rex out there that's a clear and present danger to these people. .

Malcolm comes back with fresh spring water, fills their cups.

MALCOLM

Can't kill him, not with the weapons we've got.

GRETCHEN

We wasted thousands of rounds of ammunition.

REMBRANDT

What about explosives?

GRETCHEN

There's nothing left. We used all the dynamite we brought on the slide, clearing land to plant, before the dinos showed up.

QUINN

Maybe there's something we can salvage from the settlement that would get the job done.

GRETCHEN

I can't imagine what.

REMBRANDT

(smiles at Quinn)
But he can.

CUT TO:

35 EXT. ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT - DAY

35

The Sliders and Malcolm pick through the remains of the settlement, looking for anything useful. There's not much left. Rembrandt pulls a reel of cable from the back of a disabled truck, passes it down to Wade and Maggie.

REMBRANDT

Might be able to rig some kind of trap with this, like the snares Malcolm makes.

CONTINUED

35 CONTINUED

35

MAGGIE

Okay, we catch it. Then what?

Nobody's got the answer for this.

QUINN

is digging through some smashed-up crates. He comes across something, kneels, and pulls a SET OF WELDING TANKS from the rubble. The other Sliders approach, Malcolm following.

WADE

Problem solved. We weld his mouth shut. Maggie can hold him still.

Maggie shoots her a look..as Quinn checks the tanks.

QUINN

One's empty, but this one's nearly full. Hit this with a rifle shot and it will go off like bomb.

REMBRANDT

We'll have to get him close enough to it to do some real damage.

QUINN

Yeah, up close and personal.

MAGGIE

That cocky attitude usually means you've got a plan.

QUINN

Yeah, it's killer.

REMBRANDT

(to Malcolm)
Who's the man, huh? Tell me who's the man!

He and Quinn slap hands as we:

CUT TO:

36 EXT. PLAINS - DAY - THE GROUP

36

treks back toward the cave. They have rigged up an Indian-style travois to haul what they've gathered the cable, acetylene bottle, etc. It's slow going...

CUT TO:

37 INT. CAVE - DAY

37

The Sliders are working on Quinn's brainstorm: a contraption that looks like a giant crossbow, comprised of junk gathered at the settlement. (PROD. NOTE: Rather than try to bullshit my way through this, I'll wait to see what art dept./props/EFX comes up with.) Something 'McGyver' in nature. Bottom line: It will fire the acetylene bottle at the T-Rex.

Malcolm comes IN, all out of breath, carrying a canvas bag.

MALCOLM

We won't have to hunt for the T-Rex, I saw him less than a mile down the canyon. Once he gets a whiff of these babies, look out!

He pulls a number of the weasel-type animals from the bag, fresh from his traps.

REMBRANDT

Good job, buddy. We're almost set here.

QUINN

Wade, you and Maggie better get started. And Malcolm, I want your word you'll head back to your camp,

MALCOLM

But I want to help.

REMBRANDT

You did your part, trapping us the bait to get old Rex up here. Gretchen needs you in camp.

MALCOLM

You just don't want me to get hurt.

REMBRANDT

That too.

He hugs the boy. Maggie takes the animals and drops them back in the bag, heads for the cave entrance.

WADE

(worried; to Quinn)
You sure that thing's gonna work?

QUINN

Absolutely. You get him up here, we'll deliver the package.

Wade and Malcolm follow Maggie out.

CUT TO:

38 EXT. VALLEY NEAR CAVE - DAY

38

Maggie and Wade watch Malcolm move off toward his camp. Maggie pulls a couple of animals from the bag, hands them to Wade, gets the others for herself.

MAGGIE

He's a great kid. Wouldn't surprise me if Remmy stays here with him.

WADE

He wants to get home, the same as Quinn and I do.

MAGGIE

Home's where people love you. Has he got someone more important to him on your world?

WADE

His life, that's all.

MAGGIE

News flash for you -- this is your life. All that's waiting back there is your past.

(holds the animals up,
starts swinging them
around)

Come on, Rex! Supper time!

Wade thinks about what Maggie's just said; there's no denying the reality of it. She begins waving the animals, trying not to grimace and give Maggie the satisfaction. In the distance, a DINO ROAR.

WADE

He's got the scent, let's move!

Maggie and Wade start back for the cave.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. GRETCHEN'S CAMP - DAY

39

Malcolm comes INTO the camp, unnerved by the SILENCE.

MALCOLM

Gretchen? Hello, anyone here?
Where did everybody go? Gretch

He freezes as COLONEL RICKMAN steps from behind one of the tents, Gretchen with him. Her hands are tied behind her, and she's gagged with a handkerchief. Rickman has his pistol trained on Malcolm.

CONTINUED

39 CONTINUED

39

RICKMAN

We meet again, Malcolm.

MALCOLM

You killed my father!

RICKMAN

And I'll kill her -- and you
unless you do exactly what I tell
you. Where are the Sliders?

CUT TO:

40 INT. CAVE - DAY

40

Wade and Maggie hug the cave wall as far back from the opening as they can get. Both women are armed with the carbines. We HEAR the T-REX approaching; he's very close. Quinn and Remmy man the crossbow, waiting...

QUINN

Once we fire the bottle, both of
you start shooting.

THE T-REX

lowers its head, LOOKS into the cave. Now it sticks its
HEAD THROUGH THE OPENING, its huge JAWS SNAPPING at the air.

QUINN

waits for the beast to open its mouth, then releases -- or
chops -- the cable with a cry:

QUINN

Now!

They jump back as the cable snaps; the acetylene bottle
rolls harmlessly away. They all trade worried looks. The
DINO ROARS, jams its head further into the pit. Quinn and
Remmy fall back with Maggie and Wade, watching the beast
helplessly as we:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 EXT. CAVE - DAY

41

The T-REX is still doing its best to jam its head into the cave for its dinner.

CUT TO:

42 INT. CAVE - DUSK

42

The Sliders are as we left them -- there's nowhere else for them to go.

MAGGIE

Don't take this the wrong way, Mallory, but your plan sucks. And I'm still one up on you -- you've gotta save my life to even the score.

QUINN

I'd hate to go out owing you.

MAGGIE

So let's do something about it. Get that bottle close to him and I'll get to work.

WADE

It's going to break through any second, the opening's starting to collapse!

THE T-REX

is rooting, its head breaking loose pieces of the cave walls and expanding the hole. A few more feet of penetration and the Sliders will be within reach of the huge jaws.

RESUME - SLIDERS

REMBRANDT

We better feed Rex before we're on the menu, Q-ball.

QUINN

All right. We'll only get one chance. On three.

(to Maggie and Wade)

Don't wait for us. Once you've got a shot, take it.

CONTINUED

42 CONTINUED

42

REMBRANDT

Take lots of 'em.

QUINN AND REMBRANDT

move out quickly, kneel on either side of the big acetylene tank and rise, hefting it between them. They move closer... closer... They're only inches from the huge jaws. Now they start swinging the bottle back and forth between them.

QUINN

One... Two...

REMBRANDT

Roar, fool! Open wide!

THE T-REX

roars, it's maw gaping open...

QUINN AND REMBRANDT

move a step closer on:

QUINN

THREE!

They release the acetylene bottle, sending it flying INTO:

THE T-REX'S OPEN MOUTH

The beast's jaws CLOSE around it.

QUINN AND REMBRANDT

dive off to either side as:

MAGGIE AND WADE

sight down their rifle barrels, waiting...

THE T-REX

seems to gag on the steel bottle, OPENS ITS MOUTH TO REVEAL THE BOTTLE for an INSTANT...

MAGGIE AND WADE

FIRE SIMULTANEOUSLY...AGAIN... AGAIN... AND

THE T-REX'S HEAD

is jerked violently as the BOTTLE DETONATES IN ITS MOUTH.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE EXPLOSION

CONTINUED

42 CONTINUED 2

42

shakes the cave like an earthquake, throwing Maggie and Wade to their knees.

The T-Rex -- what's left -- goes toppling away. SILENCE settles over the cave. They lie there a long moment, savoring their escape from certain death, until...

MAGGIE

Okay, I guess that makes us even.
(to Wade)
Nice shooting.

WADE

Same here.

QUINN

(to Rembrandt)
I think they're bonding.

Rembrandt laughs, and it's infectious. Their laughter lasts a nice long while. Off this,

CUT TO:

43 EXT. VALLEY NEAR CAVE - DUSK

43

The Sliders are on their way back to Gretchen's camp. MOVE IN AS MALCOLM APPEARS, coming from the other direction. Rembrandt goes out to meet him.

REMBRANDT

We did it, Malcolm! That old T-Rex is toast!

As the boy gets there, Rembrandt sees that he's upset.

REMBRANDT

What is it, what's happened?

MALCOLM

(out of breath)
Gretchen... bit by a snake. You gotta help her.

REMBRANDT

You just calm down, now, it's gonna be all right.

QUINN

Show us the way.

They follow Malcolm on OUT of SHOT.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. A NARROW CANYON - DUSK

44

They are climbing up the canyon along an overgrown trail.
They stop to sip from a waterbag.

REMBRANDT

This is pretty remote country.
What was she doing way out here?

MALCOLM

(hesitates)
She was... hunting, yeah she was
hunting birds.

QUINN

It's a long hike from camp, we saw
plenty of birds around there.

MALCOLM

(nervous; snaps it)
She likes it out here, she likes
getting off by herself.

MAGGIE

Lucky you found her, I thought you
were going back to camp.

MALCOLM

(shrill)
You think I'm lying? She got bit
by a snake, we've gotta go!

The kid's on the edge of panic, and they all sense it.
Rembrandt moves closer to him, speaks softly.

REMBRANDT

Something's wrong here, partner.
You know you can trust me. Tell me
what's going on.

Malcolm stares into Remmy's eyes, torn...

MALCOLM

It's just like I told it.

REMBRANDT

(looks at him a long
moment, smiles)
Okay, I know you wouldn't lie to
me.

Malcolm turns away, starts up the trail. The Sliders trade
looks, start to follow. Suddenly Malcolm whirls back,
unable to hold the lie...

CONTINUED

44 CONTINUED

44

MALCOLM

Colonel Rickman... He was at camp
when I got back. He's got
Gretchen, he said he'd kill her...
I'm sorry...

Tears spring to the boy's eyes; Remmy hugs him, settles him
down.

REMBRANDT

You did what you had to, we all
know that. She's gonna be fine,
believe that.

QUINN

Where is he, Malcolm?

MALCOLM

About half a mile up there, it's a
box canyon, there's no way out

MAGGIE

I'll split off, work my way around,
fall in behind him.

QUINN

No. He trained you, he'll be
expecting that.

MAGGIE

So we're just supposed to walk in
there like lambs to the slaughter?

QUINN

Malcolm, you told him we were
trying to kill the dino in the
cave?

(on the boy's nod)

But you didn't know we got out
alive until you met us on the
trail.

REMBRANDT

So the Colonel can't be sure we
didn't all die back there.

WADE

Yeah, I'd say the odds were in the
T-Rex's favor. It was a miracle we
got out alive.

CONTINUED

44 CONTINUED 2

44

QUINN

Let's hope he doesn't believe in miracles.

(to Malcolm)

I know this is scary, but you have to go up there alone and tell him the dino got us all.

MALCOLM

No! He'll kill Gretchen, he'll know I'm lying, he could be watching us right now --

REMBRANDT

If he was we'd all be dead by now! It's got to be this way, it's the only chance she's got. You can do it, partner. I know you can.

MALCOLM

(a beat)

What if he believes me, then maybe he just kills us both right there.

MAGGIE

No, he'll want to see for himself. He'll take you both with him back to the cave.

QUINN

You've got to look him in the eye and tell him we're all dead. Can you do it?

Malcolm looks around at them, then to Remmy.

MALCOLM

I've got to... but I'm scared, I feel like a coward.

REMBRANDT

Courage doesn't mean you're not afraid, it means you act even though you are. That's bravery, that's what makes heroes. I'm proud of you.

He hugs the boy. Off this,

CUT TO:

45 EXT. HIGHER UP THE CANYON - DUSK

45

Malcolm comes up the trail. He freezes when he SEES GRETCHEN tied to a tree in a clearing, still gagged.

CONTINUED

45 CONTINUED

45

He starts toward her when:

RICKMAN (O.S.)
Where are the Sliders?

Malcolm looks around into the shadows, heart pounding in his ears.

MALCOLM
Dead. They never got out of the
cave, the Rex got them.

RICKMAN comes from hiding, moves to GRETCHEN, and brings the blade of a hunting knife near her face.

RICKMAN
You wouldn't lie to me, would you
boy. I'll have to cut her if you
lie to me.

MALCOLM
(a ragged scream)
They're dead, they're all dead!
Let her alone, let her alone I'll
kill you

Malcolm charges at him; Rickman raises his boot, shoves him sprawling in the dirt. He pins him with a long look; is he lying? Rickman listens to Malcolm's harsh sobs of rage a moment...

RICKMAN
You're a brave boy, I can use a man
like you.
(cuts Gretchen loose as
Malcolm gets up)
Let's just go have a look in that
cave, not that I don't trust you.
I just want to savor the moment,
might even take a scalp or two for
my belt. How far is it?

MALCOLM
Two miles, maybe three.

RICKMAN
Lead on.

They move out.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. A SMALL CLEARING - DUSK

46

Malcolm, Gretchen, and Rickman come down the trail INTO SHOT. Rickman stops to sip from a canteen, offers it to Malcolm, who shakes his head.

Rickman moves toward him, offering the canteen.

RICKMAN

Come on now, don't sulk. I know
you must be thirsty

He suddenly grabs him, pulling his .45 and shoving the barrel in his back.

MALCOLM

What are you doing --

Gretchen dives at Rickman, but he steps aside, elbows her to her knees, spins the boy around, eyes probing the shadows.

RICKMAN

-- Sloppy, Maggie. Very sloppy!
You brushed out all the footprints
here, covering your tracks, even
the boy's! Or did he fly this far,
and touched down just back there,
where his tracks begin?

MAGGIE

is behind a rock not far away. Her reaction tells us he's right; she screwed up. She raises quickly, trains her rifle on Rickman.

MAGGIE

I won't miss at this range!

RICKMAN

sees her...

QUINN

is on the other side, rifle on Rickman's back.

QUINN

Neither will I.

RICKMAN

Well, that makes three of us. You
see if I'm hit, even with a clean
head shot, my trigger finger will
jerk, and this boy will have an
exit wound in him you could pitch a
cat through.

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED

46

QUINN

Let the boy go

RICKMAN

I'll give the orders here! I want you all out where I can see you, now!

ANOTHER ANGLE - QUINN, REMBRANDT, AND WADE

slowly comply, but Maggie stands her ground.

RICKMAN

Throw down the rifle, Mallory!

Quinn hesitates; Rickman snaps off a SHOT at GRETCHEN; it kicks dirt up in front of her. The gun's back in Malcolm's back while the reverb is still echoing down the canyon.

RICKMAN

I won't ask again!

Quinn tosses the rifle away.

RICKMAN

Maggie won't give up her gun, she's too good a soldier. She's figuring acceptable casualties about now. But the bottom line is that she's willing to sacrifice all of you to destroy her target. Isn't that right, Captain Beckett?

QUINN

Let him talk.

RICKMAN

I've got some work to do here yet, and when that's done I'll be on my way. But I can't be looking over my shoulder on every world to come.

WADE

That 'work' is harvesting these people, stockpiling their brain fluid to tide you over until you find your next victims, and I helped you choose them.

RICKMAN

They'd have all died back on our world. You gave them all a few months more of quality life. Celebrate that, Wade.

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED 2

46

QUINN
You've got a clear shot, Maggie?

MAGGIE
Anytime you're ready.

RICKMAN
This boy will die, Mallory.

QUINN
Yeah. But if we don't take you down he'll die anyway, it's just a matter of time. So will Gretchen, so will everyone else on this world. I'd have to call them acceptable casualties.

RICKMAN
There's another way. Give me your timer and I'll go. You can live out your lives here in peace, and I know you won't be chasing me. That's a good deal for all of us.

REMBRANDT
What about all the people you'll kill on other worlds, none of us can live with that.

RICKMAN
There's a down side to any deal. Give me the bloody timer or I'll kill this boy right now!

MAGGIE
Don't do it, Quinn.

RICKMAN
(laughs)
You see, Mallory? She knows you, she knows you haven't got the guts to sacrifice the boy.

Colonel Rickman uses his free hand to get out his own timer.

RICKMAN
There are rules about opening the vortex before time's run out, aren't there? But I've never been one for rules. And I'm tired of this game.

He OPENS his VORTEX.

RICKMAN
Give me the timer or I kill him.

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED 3

46

Quinn slowly takes the timer from his pocket.

MAGGIE

No, move aside so I've got a shot!

But Quinn deliberately steps in front of her, blocking her shot at Rickman. Quinn tosses the timer into the dirt at Rickman's feet.

RICKMAN

Pick it up, Malcolm. Easy now.

Rickman kneels down with him, using him as a shield. Malcolm reaches for the timer, but grabs a handful of dirt and throws it back in Rickman's eyes and rolls away from him. Quinn dives at him as he's rising; they both go down right at the edge of Rickman's vortex. They thrash and struggle...

MAGGIE

can't get a clear shot...

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rickman is dragging Quinn toward his vortex when Remmy reaches to pull Quinn to safety. Rickman pushes himself INTO the VORTEX as MAGGIE FIRES a VOLLEY of SHOTS. But the VORTEX CLOSES; Rickman has escaped once again.

Wade hugs Quinn as Remmy and Malcolm see to Gretchen. But Maggie isn't sharing in the touchy-feely mood. She burns Quinn with a hot look of betrayal, then turns and walks off down the trail.

QUINN

watches after her...

DISSOLVE TO:

47 EXT. GRETCHEN'S CAMP - NIGHT (N2)

47

It's late. The camp is quiet. Maggie sits alone at the fire, her face washed orange by the flickering flames. Quinn comes up, feeds a couple of pieces of wood into the fire, warms his hands.

QUINN

Let's get it out in the open, Maggie. You think I made the wrong call today.

CONTINUED

47 CONTINUED

47

MAGGIE

I know you did. We could have stopped him. It could have ended.

QUINN

He'd have shot Malcolm in the back.

MAGGIE

Yeah. But Malcolm would have been his last victim. How many more on how many worlds are going to die because you didn't have the stomach to make the tough call? All you had to do was step aside, give me a shot.

QUINN

(mad now)

Come on, this isn't about people on other worlds! You want to kill him, it's all about revenge

MAGGIE

(hotly)

Either way he's still dead! That's what matters, that's all that counts! You let him go, Quinn! We had him and you let him go!

They glare at each other for a long moment...

QUINN

(softer now)

All I know is I couldn't stand by and watch a little boy be murdered. And it bothers the hell out of me that you could.

He stares at her for a long beat, then walks back toward the tents, leaving her thinking about what he said.

DISSOLVE TO:

48 EXT. GRETCHEN'S CAMP - DAY (D3)

48

Remmy and the other Sliders are having a morning meal. Robert Hinds, the guy they saved, pours them more "coffee."

QUINN

You know, for fungus juice this tastes pretty good.

CONTINUED

48 CONTINUED

48

WADE

With a little steamed milk it would be perfect -- funghi latte.

HINDS

Too bad you're not sticking around for dinner, we're grilling up some T-Rex steaks. Thanks to you guys, we've got meat for the winter.

WADE

("not")

Yeah, I'm really sorry we'll miss that. Remmy here never met meat he didn't like.

But Rembrandt doesn't smile; he's distracted, a little blue.

QUINN

I bet it tastes like chicken.

Gretchen and Maggie come back from the creek, carrying water buckets. Remmy rises, crosses to meet them as Maggie goes back to the fire.

REMBRANDT

I haven't seen Malcolm this morning.

GRETCHEN

He left early to check his trap lines. I think he's afraid to say good-bye to you again, Rembrandt.

REMBRANDT

I know the feeling.

49 EXT. CREEK BELOW CAMP - DAY - MALCOLM

49

sits on the creek bank, tossing pebbles into the water. He hears REMMY approaching, turns to look.

REMBRANDT

Catch anything this morning, partner?

MALCOLM

(shows a string of fish he pulls from the water)
I never miss.

Rembrandt sits beside him. Neither speak for a moment.

CONTINUED

49 CONTINUED

49

MALCOLM

Remmy, I can't go with you. And you can't stay here.

REMBRANDT

How did you know that's what I've been thinking about?.

MALCOLM

Because I've been thinking about it. I wish there was some way we could stay together, but I can't see it.

REMBRANDT

You're too important to Gretchen, she depends on you, all these folks do.

MALCOLM

And your friends need you.

(beat)

I'm not gonna ask you to promise you'll come back. I'm just gonna hope for it.

REMBRANDT

Me too.

Malcolm takes a sheet of folded paper from his pocket and gives it to Remmy, who opens it to reveal a DRAWING that Malcolm's done of he and Rembrandt together.

MALCOLM

So you won't forget me.

REMBRANDT

I never could forget you, son, not in a million years.

He puts his arms around the boy, and that's the way we leave them, CAMERA PULLING BACK and AWAY, holding this timeless image of a man and a boy...

FADE OUT

THE END