

PROD. #K1828  
WRITER'S DRAFT 3/14/97



"THIS SLIDE OF PARADISE"

Written  
by  
Nan Hagan

SLIDERS

"This Slide of Paradise"

TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT (N1)

An island paradise. Silent, serene. The peace breaks into panic. Animals spread the word: Beware, beware -- Danger is moving through the jungle. WE become the danger as our POV MOVES through. WE HEAR a VICTROLA, now that we're at the edge of a fenced compound.

EXT. COMPOUND - THE EAST FENCE

HUMS with electricity. A furry hand drops a bucket of water, a wire falls from the bucket to the fence. ZZZZSTTT. Sparks and then, a portion of the fence goes silent. A non-furry hand clips the fence with wire cutters.

INT. COMPOUND - MAIN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dinner in progress. At the head of the table is Dr. PAULIS PAIVON (Pave-on). He's 50's, bizarre and quite possibly insane. Joining him are LeSANDRA (Le-Sandra) and DEMETER (D-meter), both are human/animal hybrids.

LESANDRA

... his last novel was obviously trying to recapture something he felt was lost in his youth.

DR. PAIVON

Excellent, Lesandra. Quite insightful of you.

DEMETER

She's completely off point.

Lesandra's lips raise, showing her clinched animal teeth.

DEMETER

Fitzgerald's theme wasn't about lost youth, but about youth finding maturity. Any hybrid with half a human gene would have --

At the insult, Lesandra HISSSES angrily at Demeter.

DR. PAIVON

Lesandra! There'll be none of that in this house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

LESANDRA

I'm sorry. I can't help it. The feelings, they're getting stronger.

DR. PAIVON

I'm sorry. I thought I had mastered them with you. I've let you down. Both of you.

DEMETER

No, Father, we let you down. We'll try harder, it won't happen again.

A third servant, LUDI (Lud-I) enters.

LUDI

The east fence... it's gone down.

There are CRASHING NOISES from another building.

DR. PAIVON

See what's going on in the lab.

LUDI

I'm afraid of the old ones. May I take a tranquilizer gun, please?

DR. PAIVON

No, Ludi. They're just angry we fenced them out, but they won't harm us. You can handle this without resorting to violence.

Ludi nods and scampers off. Paivon goes back to eating.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Ludi enters. The overhead light is dead. His flashlight illuminates the lab, equipment trashed. The light catches RED NIGHT EYES. There's a ROAR. A flash of matted hair. A body lunges, attacking viciously. Ludi SCREAMS.

INT. COMPOUND - MAIN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Ludi's SCREAM fills the room. Paivon crosses to a cabinet and pulls keys. His hands shake. He can barely open the locked cabinet.

DR. PAIVON

Quickly, Demeter. Fill the tranquilizer darts.

INT. LAB - SAME TIME

A man/beast, CERES (SEER-IES) has his claw on Ludi's throat.

CERES  
Where's the medicine?

LUDI  
I don't know.

CERES  
It's not you I hate, Ludi, but  
I will kill you.

LUDI  
Please, Ceres.

RICKMAN  
Wait.

Oh, that familiar accent. REVEAL RICKMAN as he picks up Ludi's flashlight and illuminates Ceres and Ludi, as well as himself. He looks strangely animalistic.

RICKMAN  
I thought you said a man would  
come. Where is the Father?

CERES  
What's the difference? We're all  
made of him.

RICKMAN  
I need him. What he has.

CERES  
Father is powerful. He'll come  
with weapons. We won't be able to  
take him here.

Rickman isn't happy, but all the same, he pulls his needle, pierces Ludi and draws what he needs.

RICKMAN  
Is your father so powerful he can  
do this?

He injects himself and MORPHS into LUDI and then back to himself. The vision frightens Ceres.

CERES  
What are you?

RICKMAN  
A little this, a little that.

He smiles... then shakes off a morph chill.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

RICKMAN  
Did you get what you need?

CERES  
No. It's not here.

RICKMAN  
Then kill him and let's go.

CERES  
He looks dead already.

RICKMAN  
Merely suffering. Do him a favor  
and finish him off.

Beat. We HEAR a CRUSHING of Ludi's windpipe. Rickman and Ceres go out the back window just as Paivon, Demeter and LeSandra enter through the front.

Their flashlights FIND Ludi's dead body.

DR. PAIVON  
Oh my God, Ludi.

He rushes to Ludi, cradling him gently. He looks up to the others. A tear rolling down his cheek.

DR. PAIVON  
What beast has done this to you?

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. MEXICAN BORDER TOWN - DAY (D2)

The green digital clock in the town square CLICKS a minute forward. A kind IRISH WOMAN's voice declares:

FEMALE CLOCK VOICE

Two minutes to high noon.

A tumble weed blows across the dirt street. It rolls by a hang-man's platform where QUINN and MAGGIE are, hands-tied, nooses around their necks.

We HEAR THE FIRST FEW BARS of Ennio Morricone's score from "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" only it's on a BAGPIPE.

Quinn and Maggie try to free themselves through

MAGGIE

I'm sorry I didn't fold, but it was a straight flush to the Jack. I knew if I won, Panchito wouldn't take it well. I just didn't think he'd hang us for it.

QUINN

Don't you get it, Beckett? He set you up to look like you were cheating. He played you.

MAGGIE

I should've seen it. The cards were just too good.

Three people exit the bar carrying chairs and beers. They set up close by the platform. Maggie looks afraid.

MAGGIE

You know, I never got a chance to say some things to Steve. I don't want that to happen again, with us.

QUINN

We'll get out of this. Remmy and Wade will

MAGGIE

We have no idea where Remmy or Wade are. This is it, Quinn. Time's up. Game's over.

FEMALE CLOCK VOICE

One minute to High Noon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

A few more people emerge from the bar.

MAGGIE

(oh hell)  
I really care about you, okay.  
That's it. What I wanted to say.  
I mean -- oh, forget it. It's a  
bad time for last minute  
confessions anyway.

QUINN

I know what you're trying to say.  
There is something between us.  
It's been there since the first day  
we met.

Their eyes meet. They almost forget they have nooses around their necks. SPURS JINGLE, JANGLE as PANCHITO comes up the steps, carrying a pewter tankard. He's Hispanic, but he speaks with an IRISH BROGUE.

PANCHITO

How's it feel to be a wee bit this  
side of swingsville? Have you made  
your peace yet with the man above?

QUINN

I will, when the time calls for it.

PANCHITO

Surely not still waiting for your  
friends to come to the rescue, are  
you? Because the chances of that  
happening, Laddie, are about the  
same as a leprechaun showing me the  
way to a potta gold.

He laughs. The CLOCK STRIKES HIGH NOON. An ELECTRONIC  
IRISH GIG plays and then --

FEMALE CLOCK VOICE

High Noon. The pub is officially  
open. Good Tankard's to you all.  
Erin go braugh!

The crowd CHEERS and raises their tankards to one another.

ALL

Erin go braugh!

Panchito raises his tankard in toast, then turns back --

PANCHITO

Been a pleasure having you. Be  
more of pleasure seeing you go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

Quinn and Maggie exchange a look.

PANCHITO  
Any last words before you swing?

QUINN  
Yeah. Adios Amigos.

PANCHITO  
What the devil does that mean?

MAGGIE  
It means, see you later sucker.

She lifts her feet, letting the noose hold her momentarily, and kicks Panchito hard. He falls to his knees just as WADE and REMMY gallop into town on HORSEBACK. Their horses wear racing saddles and brightly colored numbers. Wade and Remmy are in jockey clothes (Remmy's don't exactly fit). They FIRE GUNS into the air. It's a good old fashion last minute western rescue.

The crowd of drunks falls to the ground, cowering, running in all directions. Panchito pulls a gun and fires back. Quinn kicks him from behind and sends him tumbling down the steps, knocking him unconscious. A few others continue to fire at the Sliders. Remmy holds them off.

Wade fires at Quinn's noose, miraculously splicing it, then hops up to cut Quinn loose. He eyes their mounts.

QUINN  
Thoroughbreds?

WADE  
You know how hard it is to steal a horse here? This was the only way we could get close to any.

Quinn's loose. Remmy still holds off the others as Quinn crosses to Maggie to cut her down.

REMBRANDT  
C'mon. We slide in less than a minute.

WADE  
Almost there!

QUINN  
I told you they'd make it.

MAGGIE  
For once, I'm glad to be wrong.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 3

Wade fires at another man, hops onto her horse. Quinn hops onto the back. Maggie hops onto Remmy's and they ride off... firing, and yelling.

REMBRANDT  
Yippee Cay-yeah, mother

We don't quite catch that last part as down the street, they activate the VORTEX and ride in. A beat later, Panchito rises. He runs to the VORTEX and stares in.

PANCHITO  
Jesus, Mary and --

The VORTEX SUCKS HIM UP.

INT. VORTEX TUNNEL (STOCK)

As Panchito goes for a ride, the last thing we hear is

PANCHITO  
JO... SEPH...!

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The Sliders ride out of the VORTEX and pull the horses to a stop, dismounting. They look out to sea. Breathe in the air, the sky, the sun.

WADE  
Finally. Paradise!

QUINN  
Something's not right. We're looking east, but there's land out there.

REMBRANDT  
This'd have to be an island then.

MAGGIE  
With any luck, deserted. Maybe we can have a little peace and quiet.

Wade hands her gun and ammo belt to Quinn, peels off the jockey shirt, leaving a skimpy halter T.

WADE  
And maybe we can catch a tan.

The girls actually exchange a smile. Quinn crosses to Remmy, who peels off the jockey togs (t-shirt underneath).

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

QUINN

By the way. Thanks.

REMBRANDT

That's why we're here.

They do a backhand high-five, then turn, shocked as the VORTEX spits out Panchito. The horses spook and take off. Panchito leaps up, holding his gun aimed at them.

QUINN

Whoa. Hang on, Panchito. No reason to freak out here.

The VORTEX CLOSES. The girls move close.

PANCHITO

What sort of devil's hole is that?

MAGGIE

Remember that story we told you, the one you laughed at?

PANCHITO

No...

MAGGIE

Yeah. Welcome to our nightmare.

WADE

Okay, so what're we going to do with him?

QUINN

We could take him back. We've got his home coordinates in the timer.

MAGGIE

Negative. Let's not forget he was going to hang us. We barely got out of there alive.

REMBRANDT

Yeah. That's a world we don't need to see again.

WADE

Well, I not that thrilled with the concept of party of five.

QUINN

None of us are, but we can't send him back for...

(off the timer)

Twenty-two hours.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

QUINN (CONT'D)

Let's just deal until then.  
Rickman's here too, so eyes open,  
watch your backs.

(turns; to Panchito)

Let me have your gun.

PANCHITO

Nay. No man gets my gun.

REMBRANDT

Fine. Keep it. But let me point  
out a simply rule of mathematics.  
We got two guns. That's one more  
than you. So, don't get any ideas.

Quinn leads them inland.

INT. JUNGLE - FOOTPATH - A LITTLE LATER

Gun in hand, Quinn leads the group through thick brush.  
Panchito brings up the rear, turning at every sound. Wade  
stops, looking around, sensing something.

WADE

Guys.

QUINN

We know. You're starting to get a  
weird feeling.

REMBRANDT

I hate when that happens.

MAGGIE

Why?

QUINN

Because, she's got good instincts.

A NOISE. They all heard it.

MAGGIE

Sounds like it's circling us.

Beat. The sound diminishes.

REMBRANDT

It's moving away.

WADE

Why? So it can come around us?

QUINN

Over there. See those rocks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

Quinn does a silent three count and they all run like hell for the rocks. SOMETHING RUNS BEHIND THEM.

EXT. JUNGLE - ROCK OVERLOOK - CONTINUOUS

Quinn leaps up and helps bring the others up. They stare over the terrain. There is a savage SNARLING in the bushes.

WADE

Whatever it is, it sounds hungry.

REMBRANDT

Yeah, and we're a free lunch up here. We gotta get higher.

He looks up. Not an easy climb. There's that SNARLING again, closer. Panchito FIRES his gun wildly. FLOCKS of BIRDS FLY. ANIMALS PANIC. Quinn pulls his gun down. The GROWLING, SNARLING beast sounds angry now.

QUINN

Stop. You're wasting ammo.

PANCHITO

We've got no cover up here. That thing will be on us any minute.

QUINN

(to Remmy)

Cover us while the girls go up.

Quinn helps lift Wade and Maggie up the back rocks. Panchito HEARS a NOISE that rattles him.

QUINN

Remmy. C'mon. You and Pan

Panchito stands, firing. The beast appears. It's a huge, vicious man/panther hybrid. It ROARS. Panchito takes off running back the way they came, firing wildly..

QUINN

Panchito! No!

The man/panther chases him.

REMBRANDT

I got it here. Go.

Quinn leaps over the rocks and runs back down the footpath.

EXT. JUNGLE'S EDGE - NEAR BEACH

Panchito's almost to the beach, firing wildly as the beast chases him. He turns and CLICK. His gun is empty. The beast leaps with a mighty SNARL. Panchito YELLS.

EXT. JUNGLE - FOOTPATH

Quinn hears the scream, knows what it means. He moves carefully...

EXT. JUNGLE'S EDGE - NEAR BEACH - A MOMENT LATER

Quinn finds the man/panther feasting on Panchito. The beast turns to see Quinn, ROARS and runs, leaping on him. Quinn fires. The panther WAILS and goes down, dead.

EXT. ANIMAL LAIR - SAME TIME

At a small pond, a furry man/beast splashes water on his face. At the sound of the WAIL, the animal looks up. It's RICKMAN. His face, teeth and hands ever more animalistic.

RICKMAN

Gunfire. There must be other men on the island.

(smiles)

Fresh brain food.

Rickman HOWLS. The other pack animals joining in.

EXT. BEACH - SAME TIME

Quinn is over the panther's dead body as the other three Sliders emerge from the jungle. Wade looks up alarmed by the howling in the distance.

WADE

They must know we killed one of them.

REMBRANDT

That looks like a human hand to me.

QUINN

Check out the face. Definite human qualities.

MAGGIE

You're not trying to say that thing is one of us, are you?

QUINN

Not entirely. But it's definitely got some of us in its genetic code.

Wade and Remmy move for a better look. Maggie and Quinn move to Panchito's bloodied body.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

QUINN

He wasn't even supposed to here.

(beat; then)

I need to find something to dig with.

He's about to start off. Maggie catches his hand.

MAGGIE

It's not your fault, Quinn. Not everything rides on your shoulders.

(beat; a smile)

And if I didn't say it before, thanks for not bailing on me when the going got rough with Panchito.

Their fingers interlace. It's an electric moment between them that's only broken when Wade

WADE

Quinn, Maggie. Over here. Now.

They move that way.

QUINN

What's up?

REMBRANDT

Company. All around us.

The Sliders look into the jungle and can see an animal face or two. We see Rickman's smiling face (they don't).

RICKMAN

Aah, wonderful. And I was worried they'd given up on me.

Quinn pulls his gun out of his belt, checks the ammo.

QUINN

Good to go. Let's rock.

They head down the beach. The animals follow and break into a run. The Sliders do as well, firing into the bush.

ON RICKMAN

Running. Enjoying the hunt.

ON THE SLIDERS

Running down the beach, running out of beach to escape on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

REMBRANDT

We're out of sand here. We've got  
to get into the jungle.

Remmy shags inland, fires at the animals.

EXT. JUNGLE - PATH NEAR BEACH

An animal jumps Remmy, taking him down to the ground. Quinn  
appears and helps to beat the beast back. The girls, Quinn  
and Remmy make a break through an opening. Remmy fires the  
last of his ammo. He tosses his gun at an animal.

EXT. JUNGLE - DEAD END

Quinn leads them to a dead end. LeSandra steps out of a  
hidden path, carrying fruit.

LESANDRA

This way... Hurry!

They follow.

EXT. HIDDEN PATH

A narrow path between rocky cliffs. She stops at the edge  
of the path.

LESANDRA

The compound is just beyond the  
clearing. We'll be safe there.

LeSandra drops her fruit, pulls out a tranquilizer gun and  
checks to make sure it's loaded.

WADE

What kind of gun is that?

LESANDRA

Trank Dart gun. It puts them out,  
but doesn't harm them.

QUINN

Them? Aren't you one of the  
animals?

LeSandra looks at him, hurt.

LESANDRA

I am not a beast, if that's what  
you mean.

MAGGIE

Hey, save the 'get to know you'  
chat for later. Let's go...

EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING

LeSandra makes a break across the clearing. The Sliders are right on her heels. You can HEAR beasts around them, HOWLING, but you can't quite get a bead on them.

Out of nowhere, a woman/leopard leaps at Quinn. He fires (missing) and fires again. CLICK. His gun is empty. The beast is one him. LeSandra turns quickly and darts her. She rears back, grabbing the timer as she stumbles away.

QUINN

She's got the timer!

He moves to go after it. LeSandra grabs him.

LESANDRA

Leave it.

(re: two other beasts)

I'm out of darts.

Having no choice, the Sliders must leave their timer behind.

EXT. COMPOUND - MAIN GATE

LeSandra emerges from the jungle...

LESANDRA

Open the gate! Open the gate!

Demeter runs to the gate, turns the electricity off and opens the way. LeSandra and the Sliders enter just a step ahead of the two animal beasts.

The gate is closed. One of the beasts lunges at the gate and when the electricity is turned back on, it fries. The Sliders react to this horrible sight. Off which

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. COMPOUND - MAIN GATE - DAY

Several HYBRIDS rant outside, angry over the new death. The Sliders, Demeter and LeSandra watch. Ceres emerges from the jungle and lopes to the gate. He locks a look with

CERES

LeSandra...

LESANDRA

Ceres, was it you that killed Ludi?

CERES

It was best for him.

LESANDRA

What has gotten in to you? All of you?

She looks to the animals, who regard her as the enemy.

CERES

(a ROAR)  
Anger!

The animals howl. LeSandra seems to wince in mild pain.

CERES

It's hurts, doesn't it? Imagine how much without the medicine.

DEMETER

He can't make enough for everyone.

CERES

Then he shouldn't have made all of us at all!

He ROARS the word: All...

EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING

Rickman looks up as CERES' ROAR ECHOES. Then, he SEES a light in the ground. The timer. He picks it up.

RICKMAN

I've got you now, Sliders. Looks like the hunt is coming to an end.

EXT. COMPOUND - MAIN GATE

CERES

Tell Father, this gate will not  
keep us out forever.

He walks away. The Sliders exchange a look.

DEMETER

It won't, you know.

LESANDRA

Help me into the house.

DEMETER

What about them?

The two animals look to the Sliders.

LESANDRA

They are our guests, Demeter.  
(to the Sliders)

I am LeSandra. This is Dr. Paulis  
Paivon's compound. You are welcome  
to stay as long as you need.

WADE

Thank you.

DEMETER

We're about to have lunch. Please  
join us.

Demeter helps LeSandra to the main house. The Sliders hang  
back for just a minute.

MAGGIE

I wonder if we looked as weird to  
them as they look to us.

Quinn steps toward the gate, sizing up the situation. One  
or two of the animals are still there.

QUINN

We've got to get out there and get  
the timer.

REMBRANDT

Past those things, without weapons?  
I'd say our odds aren't very good.

MAGGIE

This father guy must have some  
guns.

DR. PAIVON

Sorry to disappoint you, but no  
guns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

They turn. Dr. Paivon's on the veranda.

DR. PAIVON  
There's a non-violence policy on  
the island.

WADE  
Really? I don't think those  
animals out there know that.

DR. PAIVON  
They do. They're just behaving  
rather badly these days.

REMBRANDT  
You make it sound like they're  
guilty of using the wrong fork or  
something. One of those things  
just killed a man who was with us.

DR. PAIVON  
(mildly surprised)  
That makes two deaths.

MAGGIE  
Another man was murdered? What did  
he look like?

DR. PAIVON  
He wasn't a man. The other death  
was one of my hybrids.

Maggie's disappointed. She was hoping it was Rickman. Dr.  
Pavion seems distracted.

DR. PAIVON  
I must determine why this violence  
is happening.

He turns to head into the lab. Quinn moves after him.

QUINN  
Wait. We need your help. We lost  
something out there and it's  
important we get it back.

DR. PAIVON  
It's too dangerous to leave the  
compound. The animals are very  
agitated. Give them some time.

MAGGIE  
We don't have time to give them.

WADE  
What about those tranquilizer guns?  
Could you loan us a few of those?

INT. LAB - A MOMENT LATER

Paivon is loading some darts into a trunk gun. The Sliders look around. Remy and Wade find a map on the wall.

WADE

Carson City Beach.

REMBRANDT

That's a new one on me. Where'd California go?

Dr. Paivon regards them. This is news to them?

DR. PAIVON

You must know about the Quake of nineteen oh six?

WADE

I studied it in like the fourth grade. I remember the pictures of San Francisco after it happened.

DR. PAIVON

Tragic how the whole Bay Area sank like that. Fortunately most of the people eventually made it to the Nevada Coast.

Paivon hands Remy a gun.

QUINN

A quake actually broke off the state?

DR. PAIVON

Ripped it into hundreds of tiny islands.

MAGGIE

Which one are we on?

DR. PAIVON

We're in the Santa Barbara Keys. This one here.

(points; then)

Although I'm puzzled that you don't already know that. In fact, I'm puzzled how you got here at all.

QUINN

Our boat capsized. We just swam to the nearest island.

He eyes them. They don't look like they've been swimming.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

DR. PAIVON

My supply ship only comes once a month. You'll have to wait a few weeks to catch a ride out.

QUINN

That should be fine.

Maggie is staring at another wall where there are charts and pictures of Dr. Paivon and the animals.

MAGGIE

You look awfully chummy with the local beasts.

DR. PAIVON

I should be. They're my children. All the hybrids are.

QUINN

(a realization)  
That's why they're so human looking. They're genetic mixtures. You created them.

DR. PAIVON

Yes. Using my own DNA and that of various test breeds. I'm rather proud of my success. Every one is a unique design, bred for specific attributes.

WADE

Genetic engineering.

QUINN

Of the most advanced kind.

REMBRANDT

I thought it was impossible to mix human DNA with that of animals.

DR. PAIVON

Not impossible, just banned on the mainland. The scientific community is too afraid of what might come.

MAGGIE

But you're not?

DR. PAIVON

Science is an adventure into the unknown. There's no room for fear -- only for those who want to venture into the brave, new world.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

QUINN

How long have you been successfully inter-mixing species?

DR. PAIVON

Not quite a year. The initial stages have been very promising. I started with the standard cloning procedure of stripping DNA and implanting a new genetic code. But I soon realized that you didn't need to strip the whole strand, that you could, in fact, interlace DNA from different species. The results have been staggering.

(then; reflective)

I am having a little problem with gene dominance and aging, but given time, those will work out as well.

WADE

But until then, you're just using those poor animals as guinea pigs. No wonder they hate you.

REMBRANDT

Wade...

DR. PAIVON

No. She has a right to her opinion. But let me show you something that might change it.

He crosses to a cabinet and unlocks it. Inside is a large aquarium and inside that is a well-developed baby (about 7 human months), gestating in a warm, yellow liquid.

REMBRANDT

Is that thing alive?

DR. PAIVON

That 'thing' is nine-tenths human and one tenth feline, bred for gentleness and humor. And yes, she's very much alive.

(knocks gently)

Hello, Beatrice.

The eyes open. The fetus smiles. It's truly grotesque and yet, fascinating.

DR. PAIVON

I'm not mistreating any animals. I'm giving life to ones that didn't exist before I created them.

INT. COMPOUND - MAIN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

LeSandra carries goblets to the table. She begins to tremble. The goblets drop from her hands. She falls, seizing violently. Demeter rushes back in.

DEMETER

LeSandra!

She writhes in pain, shaking as an epileptic would.

LESANDRA

Help me.

LeSandra MOANS in pain. Demeter crosses to the locked cabinet, pulling at the latch. It's solid. In desperation, he pulls the cabinet over. It CRASHES --

INT. LAB - SAME TIME

Paivon hands Quinn a dart gun when the CRASHING is heard. He's alarmed and exits running. The Sliders follow.

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Demeter pulls the thin backing off the cabinet, digs through the debris and finds a needle and a vial of medicine. LeSandra is still seizing. She HOWLS in pain. His hands shake. He can't pierce the vial. Paivon rushes in. The Sliders stay out of the way as this plays out.

DEMETER

LeSandra's seizing.

Paivon looks over, pained by the sight. He grabs the medicine, draws and then injects it into LeSandra.

LESANDRA

Father, it hurts.

She's crying in pain. He holds her dearly, rocking her. Demeter cowers. He hates the seizures.

LESANDRA

I feel the medicine. The pain is going away.

He kisses her tenderly on her forehead. She eases.

DR. PAIVON

Demeter, take her to her room.

Demeter gently picks her up and carries her out. Paivon wipes his brow. His hand trembles badly. The Sliders are uncertain what to do or say. Paivon pours himself a drink.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

QUINN

Is she sick?

Beat. Paivon shakes his head.

DR. PAIVON

When Demeter returns, he will let you out of the compound.

Paivon takes his drink and disappears into the house. The Sliders exchange looks.

WADE

When I candy-striped, I worked with people who'd seize up like that. They'd be in incredible pain.

REMBRANDT

We don't know for sure that has to do with his experiments.

QUINN

Doesn't take much of a leap. Ceres said something about the medicine too.

MAGGIE

Let's worry about what Paivon's up to after we get the timer back.

EXT. COMPOUND - DAY - LATER

The Sliders, each with a trunk gun, move out of the compound. Demeter closes the gate, turns on the electricity. The GATE HUMS.

QUINN

At least the hybrids have disappeared.

MAGGIE

Have they, or are they just waiting for a good place to jump us?

She studies the jungle. Quinn makes a decision.

QUINN

Wade, Remmy... hang back some. We'll be harder to attack if we're spread out a bit.

Wade and Remmy nod and allow Maggie and Quinn to move ahead. REVEAL we see this from an animal's POV as he (MEEKA) watches, then turns and lopes away.

INT. ANIMAL LAIR - DAY

Ceres holds the Sliders timer. Several pack animals lay around, just happy to be in Rickman's presence.

CERES

What do you need it for? It's the same as the one you already carry.

RICKMAN

If mine breaks again, I'll have spare parts... Very valuable when you travel the way I do.

CERES

How does this help you travel?

RICKMAN

It opens gateways to other places. Like a ship, it sails you to other islands.

CERES

Then give it back and let them leave.

RICKMAN

I don't want them to leave, Ceres. I want them stopped. Mallory hunts me. He thinks because I slide with his device, he owns me. No one owns me! My life is mine and any man who tries to interfere will lose his.

The animals grow excited by Rickman's strength. He plays to the crowd, moving to each beast with each sentence...

RICKMAN

He's a scientist, just like Father. They think they know everything! What's best for society, what's best for you and me. But look at me, look at yourselves, look what they've done to us. They must pay for these experiments!

He's riled the bunch into a frenzy. Meeka enters.

MEEKA

There're out! In the jungle!

RICKMAN

Are the traps set?  
(off his nod)  
Let's go!

EXT. JUNGLE - PATHWAY

Maggie and Quinn proceed carefully. Quinn looks a little lost in thought. (Remmy and Wade are not in this scene).

MAGGIE

If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I don't think I'd believe it. The experiments Paivon's doing with the animals are wild.

QUINN

Wild isn't necessarily a good thing.

MAGGIE

Aren't you the scientist here? Shouldn't you be excited by the concept of the brave, new world?

QUINN

Don't get me wrong. Science is a really great thing -- in theory.

MAGGIE

And in practice?

QUINN

It has its share of problems.

They arrive at

EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

QUINN

This is where I dropped the timer. It should be right here.

They look for it... Maggie eyes Quinn.

MAGGIE

Just out of curiosity, the problems with science, you talking about Paivon or sliding?

QUINN

All of it, I guess.

Beat. He crosses to her, looking suddenly very serious.

QUINN

It's been an adventure, Maggie. I've braved more new worlds than Paivon can even imagine and now I'm tired. Rickman's here, which means our home coordinates are within reach. And that means --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

He stops. Maybe he should say it...

MAGGIE

I know what it means. You, Wade and Remmy go home, and I find another place to go on to.

QUINN

Maybe there's a way --

MAGGIE

There's no way. I can't live on your world. I'm okay with that.

A NOISE breaks the moment. They drop to the ground, next to one another. A hybrid moves slowly by. Once he's past.

QUINN

I don't know if I am -- okay with it.

A beat. A look. And then, finally, the kiss -- a long and passionate moment. BEHIND THEM, Wade witnesses the kiss. She takes a step back, not wanting to intrude. Her step CRACKS a branch. In one fluid move, Maggie rolls and fires her gun. A DART STRIKES a TREE, next to Rembrandt's head.

REMBRANDT

Have you lost your head, girl?  
What the hell are you shooting at?

Remmy missed what they were up to. Quinn helps Maggie up.

MAGGIE

Sorry.

QUINN

No harm, no foul.

REMBRANDT

Damn lucky you missed.

MAGGIE

Yeah, considering I never do.

WADE

Guess your mind must've been on something else.

Maggie and Quinn exchange a look.

QUINN

We were looking for the timer.  
It's not here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

REMBRANDT

(solemn)  
We're gonna miss the bus, huh?

MAGGIE

Relax. We'll catch the next bus.

They look to Maggie, who's kneeling beside a

MAGGIE

Boot print. Military issue. Not more than a few hours old. I'd lay odds it's Rickman.

WADE

We find him, we find our timer and his.

REMBRANDT

Hello home coordinates.

Remmy and Wade take a minute to enjoy the idea of getting home. Quinn looks to Maggie. Mixed feelings for both.

REMBRANDT

Question is, where do we find him?

QUINN

He might be with the hybrids. Maybe Paivon can tell us where they live out here.

There's a NOISE from behind.

MAGGIE

Everybody down.

They drop. Maggie eyes the ground around them...

WADE

They're everywhere.

MAGGIE

Not to our left. Not yet anyway. There's an opening. See it?

QUINN

Alright, here we go. Maggie, you lead.

She runs for the opening. An animal snarls. Remmy FIRES.

REMBRANDT

Sweet dreams, fella...

The beast goes down. The other animals become enraged. The Sliders exit the clearing, as the pack begins to chase them.

EXT. JUNGLE - VARIOUS

As the Sliders make their escape. They each fire, hitting various beasts.

REMBRANDT

I'm empty.

Ceres is coming up behind them. Wade FIRES. Ceres ducks the shot and stays right behind them.

WADE

I'm out too. Maggie?

MAGGIE

One left.

They look back, 4 beasts are still there. They run faster.

EXT. TRAP AREA

Quinn is ahead of them and triggers a trap and suddenly --

QUINN

Whoa...!

He's HOISTED up by a vine. He drops his dart gun and swings about ten feet above the ground.

QUINN

Get me down.

REMBRANDT

I got it. Watch my back.

Remmy digs a pocketknife out. He tries to get it open.

MAGGIE

Hurry.

REMBRANDT

I can't reach.

WADE

Toss it up.

Remmy does. Quinn (off screen) catches the knife... Some hybrids lope up to the area.

MAGGIE

Next one who takes a step is headed for dreamland.

Maggie holds the beasts away with her one dart.

RICKMAN

Maggie. That you, darling?

Maggie whirls, INSTINCTIVELY FIRING at Rickman, who leaps out of the way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

The moment Maggie's focus is shifted, the animals move in, reaching a trigger. A net drops over Remmy, Wade and Maggie, capturing them.

RICKMAN

What a well-trained soldier you are. Pavlov would be proud.

WE HEAR Rickman's laughter...

WADE

He played you.

Maggie stares daggers. The Sliders struggle against the netting. Ceres picks up Quinn's gun and SNARLS, then fires a dart into each. They go out. Ceres then looks up. But Quinn is gone! Rickman comes out of the bush.

RICKMAN

Dammit, Ceres. He's the one I want!

CERES

We'll find him.

Rickman walks off, as the other animals drag the netting, with the Sliders inside, down the path...

ON QUINN

High in a far tree, camouflaged by branches. He watches as his friends are dragged off, unable to follow (because of the animals left behind). Off which --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. JUNGLE/COMPOUND - NIGHT (N2)

A hybrid lies nearby, sleeping like a big cat. Quinn needs to pass him to get to the compound. He moves quietly, emerging into an open area - very vulnerable. Uh oh -- his foot SNAPS a TWIG. The hybrid looks up, ROARS. Quinn makes a run for the gate...

QUINN

Open the gate!  
(looks back)  
Open the --

The beast lunges at Quinn, taking him down. The noise of attack attracts other hybrids. WE HEAR HOWLING. Quinn defends himself best he can. A paw swipes across his face, ripping down to his chest - drawing blood.

Quinn gets a punch in, but it only seems to anger the beast, who opens his cat-like mouth, exposing dangerous canines that are just about to rip into Quinn's flesh when -- the beast YELPS and goes down. Quinn turns --

LESANDRA

Hurry. Before others come.

He moves into compound, gate closing.

INT. COMPOUND - MAIN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Quinn sits on the couch, shirtless, as LeSandra tends to his wound (a claw mark extends from face, down to his chest). The disinfectant stings.

LESANDRA

Sorry.

QUINN

Where would they take them?

LESANDRA

I've never been out long enough to know where they go at night.

QUINN

Will they kill them?

LESANDRA

A week ago, I would have said no. But they've so different lately; angry, violent.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

LESANDRA (CONT'D)

They blame Father for the pain.  
They were never like that before.

QUINN

It's probably Rickman.

LESANDRA

Who?

QUINN

He's a man we're following. I  
think he might be inciting the  
animals against Father.

LESANDRA

Why would he do that?

QUINN

He's angry. It'd suit him to make  
the animals angry too.

(then)

Do you think they'd kill Paivon if  
they had the chance?

LESANDRA

No, how could they? He's their  
creator.

She caps the bottle, hands Quinn a new shirt.

QUINN

Where is he now?

LESANDRA

The lab.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Quinn enters. Paivon's back is to CAMERA. He doesn't turn  
to see who it is.

DR. PAIVON

Not now. I'm busy.

QUINN

Where do the hybrids live? They  
must have a lair or something.

DR. PAIVON

I said, I'm busy.

QUINN

This is important. They have my  
friends! I have to get to them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

Quinn crosses and turns Dr. Paivon, REVEALING that the doctor holds Beatrice's little body in his hands. She's not moving. Paivon looks devastated.

QUINN

What happened?

DR. PAIVON

They don't all make it.

Quinn isn't sure what to say. Dr. Paivon lays Beatrice down in a small box and covers her with a blanket.

DR. PAIVON

My genes are old. Sometimes they don't replicate correctly and when that happens --

(well...)

A life knows when it shouldn't exist. That's part of the miracle of creation too, albeit, the sad part.

QUINN

I'm sorry.

Dr. Paivon shakes his head sadly, then

DR. PAIVON

The animals, they'll listen to me. I can help you get your friends back, but first, you must help me.

QUINN

(wary)

How can I help you?

DR. PAIVON

I need your DNA.

(off Quinn's look)

My genes are programmed for me, at this stage. I think that's why my hybrids age rapidly; why they exist in such pain. But you're young. You're DNA is healthy.

QUINN

(beat; a decision)

Fine. Take what you need and then we get my friends.

DR. PAIVON

We'll go at first light.

QUINN

No, now!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

DR. PAIVON  
Animals prey at night. We wouldn't  
make it fifteen feet out there.

EXT. ISLAND - MORNING (D3) - ESTABLISHING (STOCK?)

The sun just making it's daily appearance.

EXT. ANIMAL LAIR - MORNING

The CAMERA moves past a sleeping hybrid and into --

INT. ANIMAL LAIR - DAY

CLOSE on RICKMAN's ANIMAL FACE, sideways, smiling strangely.

RICKMAN  
Can you hear me, Maggie?

Maggie, Remmy and Wade are caged in a recessed area.  
Rickman peers in on the sleeping Sliders. Several hybrids  
surround him. The Sliders timer is near him (his is in his  
pocket).

He puts his hand through the cage and gently pets Maggie.  
She stirs, realizes he's touching her and moves away.

MAGGIE  
Get your stinking paw off of me.

RICKMAN  
You always were beautiful when you  
were sleeping.  
(then)  
Your downfall's always been when  
you're awake.

She's disgusted. Rickman looks to Wade, strokes her hair.

RICKMAN  
Why couldn't you be like this one?  
She has a certain charm you lack.

MAGGIE  
Go to hell.

RICKMAN  
Sorry, luv, already there.

He laughs... The hybrids laugh with him like HYENAS.

MAGGIE  
What has happened to you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

RICKMAN

(reels; suddenly serious)

Let's see, who shall I blame for what I've become? First it was the scientists on our world, the brain-trust behind the Agent Yellow they sprayed in the Gulf War. That stuff started to eat my brain away.

(pointed)

Then there's Mallory, thanks to him, I get to exist in a constant state of panic, hunted on every world, unable to stay long enough to get the proper fix...

(then)

And now I've landed here, where thanks to Dr. Paivon and his pathetic experiments the only fix I can get is a sorrowful mix of human and beast.

(to the beasts)

No offense, boys.

He turns, coming close to her.

RICKMAN

Does that adequately explain what's happened to me?

MAGGIE

Am I supposed to feel sorry for you? Would you have rather died on our world?

RICKMAN

(angrily)

Yes! At least then I would have died a man and not the pitiful half-breed addict I've become!

His anger riles the hybrids. They begin to HOWL in cacophony of weirdness. Now, Remmy wakes.

REMBRANDT

What the hell?

RICKMAN

Yes, this is hell. Your ninth circle. Your final stop.

Rickman HOWLS, walking away, inciting the hybrids. Wade staggers up, giving the others a look.

REMBRANDT

That boy's completely lost it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

WADE

(low)  
There's our timer.

Maggie crouches, reaching through the bars for the timer. Rickman turns and puts his foot on her hand, crunching it. They lock eyes. He leans down and takes her hand off the timer, licking it with a grotesque eroticism. She pulls back, completely horrified.

RICKMAN

Oh, Maggie. You used to like it when I'd do that.

Wade and Remmy give a look.

RICKMAN

You mean after all this time with the Sliders, you never mentioned that you and I were lovers?

MAGGIE

Biggest mistake I ever made.

RICKMAN

Not true. Biggest mistake you ever made was marrying Steven because you felt sorry for the poor cripple.

Maggie slaps Rickman, hard. The animals breaks out in anger at her. Rickman reaches in and grabs Maggie by the hair.

RICKMAN

For that, darling, you will be first to feed my need.

WADE

Maggie...

Wade tries to pull Maggie back into the cell, but Rickman's got a hold on her. Rembrandt reaches out too. Ceres' swipes his paw through the bars at him, tearing skin.

REMBRANDT

Damn!

Rickman pulls his needle. Maggie eyes the gleaming metal as it comes toward her. The needle stops when, from behind, Meeka begins to seize. The animals quiet, watching as their friend dies in a horrible, painful way. Rickman crosses and cradles Meeka gently.

RICKMAN

Meeka.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 3

MEEKA

It hurts... hurts bad. I'm not  
going to --

Meeka seizes violently and then, nothing. His body goes  
limp. Ceres GROWLS a low noise.

RICKMAN

Quite a sight, isn't it? They live  
in pain and die in agony. This is  
the great advancement science  
brings to them... And for this,  
that freak, Paivon, thinks they  
should revere him as their God.

(to the hybrids)

A God wouldn't kick you out when  
you get old and sick, to let you  
suffer alone.

Now, we HEAR a MURMUR of "Father, Father, he's here".

EXT. ANIMAL LAIR - A MINUTE LATER

Probably a badly timed visit. Dr. Paivon, Demeter and  
LeSandra approach the lair. Paivon wears something bizarre  
and walks amongst the few hybrids, touching them, like a  
Pope blessing his children.

LeSandra and Demeter hang back, clutching their dart guns in  
fear. Paivon goes to "bless" Ceres, but is shocked when  
Ceres' GROWLS and swipes at him.

DR. PAIVON

Is that anyway to welcome me,  
Ceres?

CERES

You are not welcome here.

DR. PAIVON

(beat; to others)

Do you all feel that way? Because  
if you do, I'll leave.

He looks amongst his hybrids... They do seem hostile today.

DR. PAIVON

Children, you know I love you. I  
love you all.

Rickman steps out of the lair.

RICKMAN

He's a liar!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

Paivon steps back, taking umbrage at this slur. Demeter and LeSandra raises their guns. Paivon waves them off.

DR. PAIVON

It's okay. No need for that.  
(to the animals)

I don't know who this man is, but I assure you all, I am not lying. My affection for you is genuine.

RICKMAN

(riling the hybrids)

How could a father who loves his children treat you as he does? He allows you to live in pain, when all along he hoards the medicine which would ease your lives.

The hybrids make noise about this... Dr. Paivon is starting to feel the heat a bit.

DR. PAIVON

I've explained it before, there's not enough for everyone.

RICKMAN

But there's enough for your beloved servants? Why do they get special treatment, because they're newer models?

He indicates Demeter and LeSandra, who also feel the heat.

RICKMAN

Least you could do is help the old ones die without the pain. Why do you allow them go in such a horrible way?

DR. PAIVON

It's beyond my control.

RICKMAN

Nothing is beyond your control!

DR. PAIVON

That's not true.

The animals get more agitated. Quinn, unseen, slips into the lair.

DEMETER

Father, perhaps we should leave now.

Paivon starts to back up slowly. Rickman advances on him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

RICKMAN

Why would a father who loves his  
children create them like this!

Rickman stops by a hybrid that looks more like a Thalidomide  
victim. Paivon looks over sadly.

DR. PAIVON

That was a mutation. Not my fault.

CERES

When you play, God, it's all your  
fault.

Ceres lunges at Paivon. Demeter and LeSandra step forward  
to dart him. They too are attacked. All hell breaks lose.

INT. ANIMAL LAIR - SAME TIME

Maggie, Wade and Remmy try to open the cage, but can't.  
Tensions are rising.

WADE

We could've gotten Quinn out of  
that trap and made it back to the  
compound, but oh no, you and your  
insane need for vengeance just had  
to shoot at Rickman, didn't you?

MAGGIE

I'm not in the mood to hear it.

WADE

I'm not exactly in the mood to  
spend the rest of my life as brain  
food for him either, but thanks to  
you --

REMBRANDT

Hold that thought.  
(then)  
Q-ball, over here.

Quinn finds the cage, unlatches the gate.

MAGGIE

Good timing. Another minute and I  
might've had to kill Wade myself.

QUINN

Where're the timers?

WADE

Rickman has them on him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

QUINN  
He's out front. We'll never get to  
him now. We'll have to figure  
something out later.  
(leads them away)  
C'mon, Paivon said there's an  
opening out the back.

They head that way.

EXT. ANIMAL LAIR - BACK ENTRANCE

Quinn, Remmy and Wade are topside as Maggie crawls out an opening in the rocks. There is a HELLACIOUS ROAR from below. Wade moves to the edge. She turns back. The look on her face says it all. Remmy steps up next to her. He looks like he could be sick.

THEIR POV - LOOKING DOWN ON THE ANIMAL LAIR ENTRANCE

The hybrids have killed Demeter and LeSandra and parade the dead bodies like trophies.

BACK TO SCENE

All fours Sliders react to the horrible scene.

REMBRANDT  
What a mess this has become.

QUINN  
We'd better get to the compound  
before we're next down there.

EXT. JUNGLE - CLEARING - LATER

The Sliders walk back, disgusted, weary. Wade and Maggie find a moment where they're in step. Quinn and Remmy are a few paces behind, ever ready for attack.

MAGGIE  
About me and the Colonel, don't  
tell Quinn, okay? I'd like to  
explain it to him.

WADE  
I'd like to hear that explanation  
myself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

Not that it's your business, but Rickman wasn't always like he is now. There was a time before. He was an amazing man. I almost married him.

(beat; reflective)

All of this might've been different if I had.

WADE

Oh, that's so perfect, Maggie. It's all about you, isn't it?

Maggie pulls Wade to a stop. Lets a little anger loose --

MAGGIE

When I married Steven, instead of him, he volunteered for the Gulf mission. He wouldn't have gone if it wasn't for me. So, yeah, maybe I'm a little angry because I know he killed Steven just to get back at me. And just maybe when I look at him, I feel a little guilty for the way things've worked out.

(beat; then)

Maybe what you think is my "insane need" for vengeance, might just have to do with ending something, something that shouldn't have been in the first place.

WADE

I'm sorry. I didn't know.

MAGGIE

Yeah, well now you do.

Maggie walks off. A beat later, Remmy and Quinn catch up.

QUINN

What was that?

WADE

She'll tell you.

REMBRANDT

Shh... Hear that?

Something is running for through the forest.

QUINN

Run!

EXT. COMPOUND - MAIN GATE

The Sliders emerge and run for the gate, which is open, electricity off. Remy trips on a vine, just as whatever is chasing them emerges. Quinn turns, dart gun drawn. It's Paivon, dazed and bloodied.

DR. PAIVON

Don't shoot.

(looks back)

Hurry. They're right behind me.

He helps Rembrandt up and the Sliders rush into the compound, closing the gate and switching on the electricity.

Rickman, Ceres and two others rush out of the jungle, right up to the front gate. Ceres GROWLS viciously, swipes at the gate and gets electrocuted. He paw is jolted back.

RICKMAN

Don't Ceres.

CERES

Father must pay.

RICKMAN

Yes. He will. They all will.

He comes close to the fence, holding up their timer. The time is at 16 minutes and counting.

RICKMAN

It's only a matter of time. And not very much of that, either.

Ceres has blood on his face, he licks it, liking the taste.

RICKMAN

(to Paivon)

No matter what you've tried to create in your little laboratory, you can't control what he really is.

(declarative)

He is an animal! One that likes the taste of blood. A taste he'll want again.

Ceres SNARLS and off this we

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT. COMPOUND - LAB

They enter. Maggie sits Paivon down, tend to his wounds.

QUINN

Where's the tranquilizer solution?

DR. PAIVON

In that cabinet.

Quinn and Remmy begin to pull out liquid containers.

DR. PAIVON

What was that timer he held up?

Looks between the Sliders.

MAGGIE

We probably should have told you when we first arrived. We didn't exactly swim ashore.

DR. PAIVON

I guessed as much, but what has that got to do with the device?

QUINN

The timer opens a porthole to parallel Earths, which we use to slide between dimensions.

REMBRANDT

It's the God's-honest truth. We're not from this earth.

DR. PAIVON

No wonder you knew nothing of the 1906 earthquake. The history of this world must be different than your own.

WADE

Yeah. On our world, California's still connected to the main land. San Francisco was totally flattened, but it never sank.

Maggie spots 2 animals through the window, casing the fence.

MAGGIE

How secure is that perimeter fence?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

DR. PAIVON

They already figured out how to break in once, by shorting out the fence. Demeter relayed the power, so it can't happen again, but I'm sure they'll find another way, sooner or later.

QUINN

Either way, we'll be long gone. We'll just fire a few darts, knock them out and we're on our way.

EXT. COMPOUND - MAIN GATE - DAY

Ceres' paces angrily. Other Hybrids build to a frenzy.

CERES

We can destroy the fence!

RICKMAN

No need, Ceres. In nine minutes and twelve seconds, they'll be opening it for us.

CERES

Why wait!?

RICKMAN

I want to see their faces when their vortex closes and they're stuck here for the next 29 years!

Ceres winces in pain, letting out a bone-chilling ROAR.

INT. COMPOUND - LAB - DAY

Wade is at the door, looking out.

WADE

Ceres is in a lot of pain. That's probably why he's so aggressive.

MAGGIE

What's one got to do with the other?

WADE

When an animal is in pain, it's vulnerable. As a defense mechanism, they'll attack anything or anyone that gets near them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

DR. PAIVON

The hybrids have never behaved like that before.

MAGGIE

You don't know that for sure, do you? You let them go when they get old, when they're not useful any more.

DR. PAIVON

Yes, but only so they could roam the island freely.

REMBRANDT

That's convenient. You don't have to watch them die either.

WADE

What you're doing here with your experiments, creating lives to tinker with it's unethical and it's cruel.

DR. PAIVON

If it is, it's a necessary cruelty.

All four of them give Paivon a disgusted look.

DR. PAIVON

As scientists, you must understand. The need to advance always out weighs the need for caution.

MAGGIE

We're not scientists. Only he is. The rest of us are just along for the ride.

QUINN

And for the record. I don't think we should be cloning, engineering, interlacing or messing in any way with genetic codes. Ours or the animals.

DR. PAIVON

Then you're a fool. These experiments can change the very way man is created.

REMBRANDT

I didn't know there was something wrong with the old-fashioned way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

DR. PAIVON

We can do better. Once we learn to control our genetics, we can eradicate deadly diseases, eliminate undesirable genetic attributes...

QUINN

Breed the perfect human. A superior race, right?

DR. PAIVON

Exactly.

REMBRANDT

And who's government gets to decide what's a desirable attribute or not, huh? Who's to say what a perfect human being is? Who's going to say that a man who can split atoms is more valuable than a man who can split wood?

Paivon has no answer. Remmy leans down in his face

REMBRANDT

Who's the fool now, Doctor? I don't know about your world, but on ours, we've been down this "superior race" road before -- and it never comes out good, for anybody.

EXT. COMPOUND - MAIN GATE - SAME TIME

RICKMAN

(calls out)

Sliders. Tick, tock. Seven minutes. Come out, come out wherever you are.

INT. LAB - SAME TIME

REMBRANDT

What the hell is that maniac yelling about now?

WADE

Seven minutes.

Oh... Quinn uses the last of the tranquilizer solution.

QUINN

You got more Ethel-Oxinide?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

DR. PAIVON

That's the last of it.

MAGGIE

You don't keep extra bottles of something that important?

DR. PAIVON

I usually only use a few darts a month. I had no idea I'd ever need it to defend my life.

WADE

How many darts do we have?

REMBRANDT

Four.

MAGGIE

That's not nearly enough.

QUINN

It'll have to do.

MAGGIE

Going out there with only four is a suicide mission. We might knock out a few, but the rest of those animals will tear us apart before we ever reach Rickman or our timer.

QUINN

If you've got a better plan, now would be a good time to share it.

WADE

The medicine... Quinn, think about the way it works, it acts like something morphinic.

QUINN

Is that what it is?

DR. PAIVON

Yes. Epinephrine, they're closely related.

Wade smiles to Quinn, who's grinning right back.

QUINN

Genius.

INT. MAIN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Quinn is filling a dart with the medicine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

DR. PAIVON

It works differently on everybody.  
Too little and it's ineffective.  
Too much and they'll have a heart  
attack and die within seconds.

QUINN

What will half a dart do?

DR. PAIVON

That should be good for a man the  
Colonel's size.

MAGGIE

Fill my darts completely. I don't  
want to take any chances.

DR. PAIVON

That much will kill him for sure.

MAGGIE

I can live with that.

QUINN

I can't. We get out timer back.  
That's it. If we can we grab his  
too, we do. Otherwise, we wait for  
the next world to get it. We don't  
need to kill him.

MAGGIE

Quinn, don't be such a...

QUINN

I've given this a lot of thought.  
Killing him won't bring back the  
professor. It won't bring back  
Steven. It serves no purpose other  
than vengeance. And I don't want  
that to be part of me.

MAGGIE

You mean, you don't want to be like  
me.

QUINN

I mean -- I don't want you to be  
like that, either. I don't want  
that for any of us.

A look trades between Maggie and Wade.

WADE

Quinn, it must be hell to live like  
he is right now. Maybe it'd be  
more humane if we...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

QUINN

Not our choice to make for him.  
(to Remmy)  
How much time?

REMBRANDT

Two minutes.

He hands them each a couple of darts.

QUINN

Focus. We want the timers. Let's  
not muck it up.

He, Paivon and Remmy exit. Wade gives Maggie another look.

WADE

Don't do something you'll regret.

MAGGIE

I did already, when I didn't shoot  
Rickman on the last world.

WADE

You care about Quinn, right?  
(off her look)

I know he cares about you. I can  
see it in the way he looks at you.  
In the way you look at each other.  
You'll blow it if you do this.

INT. LAB - SAME TIME

Quinn enters, searching. Paivon is behind him.

DR. PAIVON

I can't let you take it.

QUINN

You don't have a choice. Normally,  
I don't like to go back on a deal,  
but I should've never given it to  
you in the first place.

He opens a small fridge and finds a sample marked: MALLORY  
DNA. He turns to find Paivon's dart gun on him.

QUINN

Go ahead, shoot. Won't change  
anything. You'll still have to  
find somebody else's DNA to start  
the superior race with.

Quinn undoes the lid of the jar and pours the liquid down  
the sink. Paivon watches, crushed. He lowers his gun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

DR. PAIVON

You haven't stopped me. I'll  
still experiment, using my own DNA.

QUINN

Do what you need to. Just leave me  
out of it.

(heads out; then)

I'd invite you to slide with us,  
but I've already caused enough pain  
in the universe. You I don't want  
responsibility for.

EXT. COMPOUND - MAIN GATE - CONTINUOUS

Quinn exits the lab and joins up with the other Sliders.  
They move to Rickman at the gate. Paivon is on the veranda.

RICKMAN

Excellent. The moment we've all  
been waiting for.

QUINN

We just want our timer and we're  
gone.

RICKMAN

Until the next world, right? Where  
you hunt me and I hunt you. No.  
Time to end this now.

(then)

If you really want it, you'll have  
to come out here and get it.

Rickman's smile is irritating. Quinn raises his gun and  
fires without warning. But Rickman's fast. He side-steps,  
catching the dart with his hand.

RICKMAN

Not going to be that easy, Mallory.  
(off the timer)  
Running out of time... Three. Two.  
One. All gone.

The Sliders watch as the display goes: 00:00:00. Rickman  
takes several steps back, there is a line of hybrids between  
him and the fence. He activates the vortex. WINDS WHIRL.  
LIGHT SWIRLS. TIME TICKS. The animals go insane.

(Note: the action during the activated vortex must edit to  
as close to one minute as possible).

QUINN

Open the gate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

Wade turns off the electricity and the gate opens. They fire their guns, hitting animals, who react and go down.

The animals attack. Quinn fights past one to get out, going after Rickman. He's there, waiting for this chance.

RICKMAN

You lose, Mallory, you'll be my next fix.

QUINN

I lose, I don't really care what happens to me.

Rickman kicks Quinn in the stomach, then flairs his leg, knocking the gun from his hand. They dust it up.

Behind, Remmy, Wade and Maggie's battles bring them outside the compound.

ON PAIVON

The big chicken closes the gate, turns on the electricity. Unseen, Ceres is climbing the fence. He is thrown off by the electricity, INTO the compound. Paivon turns just as Ceres lunges, attacking him.

EXT. FENCE - SAME TIME

Remmy fires at a beast. Wade helps peel the narcotized animal off of Remmy.

REMBRANDT

Go. We'll be right behind you.

WADE

No. We all go or we all stay.

Maggie is in battle and fires twice. That animal seizes up and strokes on the spot. Another animal attacks her. Remmy and Wade race to help.

RICKMAN AND QUINN

fight near the fence. Quinn takes a punch, going down. He's just a few feet from his dart gun. Rickman pulls out the dart that Quinn shot at him...

The others finish with the last beast. Maggie sees Rickman, dart in hand, moving up on Quinn... Quinn grabs his gun, fires into Rickman, who staggers back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED

Finish me. RICKMAN

No. QUINN

Maybe you won't, but Maggie will. RICKMAN

He lunges toward Quinn (drowsily), but from Maggie's POV, it looks like a real threat. She actually hesitates for a beat, then -- Quinn looks over to see Maggie's gun swing into position (good place for a SLO-MO shot?).

Maggie, don't! QUINN

But it's too late. She's already fired. THE DART STRIKES RICKMAN. The second shot of epinephrine takes effect. He begins to shake, seizing horrifically. He steps back, dropping the Slider's timer, backing into the fence.

The electricity grabs him, shaking him grotesquely. His timer fries, melts, becoming one with the melted skin of his hand. The electrification shuts down the fence's power. All is silent except for the VORTEX behind the Sliders, which is growing smaller, power obviously weakening. The Sliders move towards the sickly fried body of Rickman.

What a terrible way to go. WADE

A long beat for all of them.

We're losing the wormhole. QUINN

Quinn picks up their timer and throws Maggie a look. They move towards the vortex. Quinn turns to find Ceres. Their eyes lock. Quinn hands his gun to Ceres.

They're not much, but they'll ease the pain. I'm sorry for what Paivon's done to you. QUINN

Ceres accepts the dart gun with a nod. Quinn turns back to the Sliders.

He played you, Maggie. He knew you'd go for the kill. QUINN

I didn't do it for vengeance. I was trying to help you. MAGGIE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED 2

QUINN

Doesn't matter why you did it.  
He's dead all the same and our home  
coordinates are gone. That's help  
I could have done without.

The barb stings.

WADE

We're right back where we started  
from, lost in the inter-dimension.

REMBRANDT

So, what're we going to do?

QUINN

(beat; strong)  
We keep sliding.

Heads nod. Quinn leads them all into the VORTEX.

INT. VORTEX - STOCK

And so, Mr. Toad's Wild Ride continues...

FADE OUT.

THE END