



"WORLD KILLER"

Written

by

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SLIDERS

"World Killer"

TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. STREET - DAY (D1)

Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt emerge along with other patrons from a MOVIE THEATER with a sign proclaiming REVIVAL HOUSE. The marquee reads:

CLARK GABLE      HUMPHREY BOGART  
THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING

REMBRANDT  
Popcorn and a coke! Man, I cannot  
tell you what a joy it is to slide  
into a world where we got time to  
take in a movie!

Quinn peers at the timer as he leads the others over to:

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Where they'll be unnoticed. In the distant background, we can see the Golden Gate Bridge.

QUINN  
Sorry, guys. Time is what we're  
out of... Counting down... Fifteen,  
fourteen...

Rembrandt tenses for the slide as Maggie puzzles:

MAGGIE  
Okay, so Gable I can sort of  
understand, but what kind of world  
would make that Bogart guy a star?  
I mean, he's short, he lisps --

REMBRANDT  
If you don't get it, I can't  
explain it to you.

They walk off camera.

QUINN (O.S.)  
And... hit it!

O.S. we hear the VORTEX OPEN.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

The O.S. VORTEX dumps our guys in an alley that looks just like the one they came from. They brush themselves off.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN  
Still San Francisco...

MAGGIE  
Four hundred mile sliding radius  
and we don't go four feet.

REMBRANDT  
Welcome to the same old same old...

QUINN  
Not exactly...

Quinn's reached:

THE STREET

Dusty and abandoned, cars stopped like dead toys. The letters on the theater marquee hang crookedly, weather-worn:

SHIRLEY TEMPLE W.C. FIELDS  
THE WIZARD OF OZ

QUINN  
Guess the convention's not in town.

REMBRANDT  
Bet it won't be hard getting a  
room...

Quinn motions for them to fan out, check things out.

MAGGIE  
No bodies... Looks like everyone  
just took a powder.

Quinn looks at the timer.

QUINN  
Yeah, well, whatever the story is,  
we're here for a week...

REMBRANDT  
Hello! Hey, anybody!

Silence. Quinn runs a hand along the dusty surface of a car.

QUINN  
I'd say we missed it by a couple  
years...

REMBRANDT  
You think maybe the Kromaggs...?

QUINN  
(shakes his head)  
No blast marks, no rubble...  
They're generally a lot showier...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Our guys are fairly spread out from one another, Maggie heading toward a derelict police car, Rembrandt moving toward some trash cans between two buildings.

MAGGIE

I've heard of bio-warfare  
experiments...

REMBRANDT

You saying that everything's  
dead...?

Quinn moves a trash can aside and freezes, seeing something neither we nor Remmy and Maggie yet see.

QUINN

Not everything...

A LOW GROWL issues forth -- and a big, wild-looking DOG leaps out from between the buildings onto Quinn, who CRIES OUT.

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Quinn's down on the ground, trying to shield his throat, the dog tearing at his clothes as a SECOND DOG leaps into the fray.

Remmy's casting about for something, a weapon, to save Quinn, grabs up a trash can lid.

But before he can dive into the fray -- BAM! A GUNSHOT goes off, ECHOING down the street. The dogs take fright and run off, between the buildings.

Rembrandt helps Quinn up. They look over to:

MAGGIE

who stands by the open cop car, hefting a smoking shotgun in one hand and a key ring in the other.

MAGGIE

Good thing these were still in the door --

(off shotgun)

-- or I wouldn't have been able to get Mama's Little Helper.

EXT. BOOK/MUSIC SHOP - DAY

Abandoned, its door open, dusty stands of books and newspapers out front. Quinn, Rembrandt and Maggie are checking it out.

MAGGIE

picks up a dusty book, reads the cover (which we do not see, nor do we see an author's photo on the back).

MAGGIE

'Get Out of My Face, by Martha Stewart'... Guess you got your wish...

She tosses the book back down.

REMBRANDT

is peering through the grimy window of the store. Amidst the various CDs is a LIFE-SIZE STANDEE of himself, dressed as Pagliacci, with the legend: REMBRANDT BROWN IS PAGLIACCI! Rembrandt sighs as Maggie comes up behind him.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

REMBRANDT  
Get to be Pavarotti and then  
poof! Isn't it a cryin' shame?

MAGGIE  
Depends on what you sounded like...

QUINN (O.S.)  
Hey, guys...

They walk over to Quinn, who's by the newspaper rack. He holds up a newspaper, showing them the date (which we don't see).

QUINN  
That date ring a bell?

They shake their heads. PUSH IN ON QUINN, grim.

QUINN  
It was the day I first went  
sliding...

EXT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - DAY

Abandoned and overgrown, like the rest of the neighborhood. Quinn, Maggie (with shotgun) and Rembrandt near the door.

QUINN  
Family home's still here... Little  
worse for wear...

MAGGIE  
Quinn, just because it's the same  
date you went sliding on your world  
doesn't necessarily mean--

QUINN  
I know, Maggie. But it's not like  
our social calendar's exactly full  
here. So...

He reaches for the knob, then thinks better and KNOCKS. Silence. Maggie throws open the door, they enter and...

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dark and dusty and still. Maggie calls out:

MAGGIE  
Hello! Any Mallorys on the  
premises?

They listen. Silence.

MAGGIE  
Nada.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Rembrandt notices some shelves filled with cobwebbed science trophies and awards.

REMBRANDT  
Man, get a load of these...

Maggie picks one up, reads the inscription.

MAGGIE  
'To Quinn Mallory...'

QUINN  
(studying the awards)  
That's the McKay Prize for  
Scholarship... Pedderson Award... I  
tried for those, didn't win...

REMBRANDT  
Looks like this Quinn's maybe even  
more of an egghead than you, if  
that's possible.

Maggie's put back the trophy, moved over by some framed photos on a piano.

MAGGIE  
Quinn ---

Quinn and Rembrandt approach. Quinn studies the photos.

INSERT - ON PHOTOS

Faded, they show little Quinn with both parents, then a newspaper clipping with a photo of his mother and the headline, NOTED CHARITY WORKER DIES IN CRASH, then photos of an older Quinn solely with his father.

QUINN (O.S.)  
On this world my mom died when I  
was little and I was raised by my  
dad...

BACK TO QUINN

QUINN  
This other me turned out to be  
something...

MAGGIE  
You're no slouch yourself...

A look of doubt crosses Quinn's face.

QUINN  
Yeah...

He pulls out the timer.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN

Except every time I try to retool  
this to accept my brother's  
coordinates...

(gestures frustration)

Each world, I keep hoping for  
physicists to help me... but with  
every slide, we just seem to get  
farther away...

Maggie puts a hand on Quinn's shoulder.

MAGGIE

Quinn...

But he shrugs out of it, doesn't want sympathy.

QUINN

C'mon, let's check out the  
basement.

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - BASEMENT - DAY

Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt stand in what was once a lab,  
but everything long ago was smashed to pieces, as if in  
rage.

REMBRANDT

Looks like they had one hell of a  
party...

QUINN

More like one hell of a tantrum.  
But when this happened and why...

He tosses a twisted bit of metal aside.

REMBRANDT

So what's to do?

MAGGIE

We find food we can eat, keep clear  
of anything that can eat us and  
make it through the week.

QUINN

You guys head on out. I'm gonna  
have a last look 'round.

Maggie eyes him, sensing his need to be alone.

MAGGIE

Don't take too long...

EXT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - DAY

Rembrandt and Maggie stand by an abandoned car across from  
Quinn's house, waiting.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

REMBRANDT

You know, time I was six, we lived in this cracker box apartment with two other families... slept four to a bed... and I remember thinking, what I'd give to have every other soul in the world just plain disappear...

(shakes his head)

Man, I didn't have a clue.

He looks over at Maggie, sees she's peering at the house.

REMBRANDT

You're not half listening to me...

MAGGIE

He's so pigheaded... has to take the weight of the whole world on himself...

REMBRANDT

As opposed to a certain captain I could mention... You're both mighty hard on yourselves. It's part of your charm.

MAGGIE

He's hurting, Rembrandt, lost... I know that feeling.

REMBRANDT

Quinn finds out he's from another world, your home gets blown up and mine gets taken over by Kromaggots. Guess we're all shipwrecked one way or another...

(beat)

Least we're all floating on the same piece of driftwood...

She smiles, then looks back toward the house.

MAGGIE

What's keeping him?

REMBRANDT

(SHOUTS up at house)

Hey, Q-Ball! Shake a leg! We got places to go!

Silence. Then they hear RUNNING FOOTSTEPS ON PAVEMENT -- and QUINN 2 runs from around the side of the house toward them. He's dressed in layers of hard-worn clothes and has wild, ragged hair.

QUINN 2

Oh my God! Oh my God oh my God!

He grabs Maggie up, spins her around and hugs her.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

QUINN 2  
Who are you? I mean, where have  
you been? How did you survive?

She shoves him away -- and now sees clearly that he's a  
duplicate of Quinn.

QUINN (O.S.)  
We just got here...

He looks over and reacts -- Quinn has just emerged from  
the house.

ON MAGGIE AND REMMY

regarding the two Quinns.

MAGGIE  
Nobody here but us Quinns.

FAVORING QUINN 2

Quinn 2 starts backing up, waving them off, as they draw  
near.

QUINN 2  
Oh no... oh no no no... You keep  
back, you -- you --

They keep on coming. He shuts his eyes tight, fists to the  
side of his head, willing it.

QUINN 2  
I am alone... I am alone...

Quinn touches him. Quinn 2 gives a start, eyes snapping  
open like a wild horse.

QUINN  
We're as real as you are... We're  
just not from here.

That gets his attention. He forces control, trying to  
take it in.

QUINN 2  
I -- don't understand...

REMBRANDT  
Friend, we'll tell you the whole  
nine yards. But first -- where's  
everybody else?

Quinn 2's eyes evade. He can't look them in the eye. He  
waves toward the house, struggles to get the words out.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN 2  
I built a machine, in my basement,  
an antigravity machine. At least,  
that's what I thought it was. But  
when the switch was thrown... it  
wiped out every human being on  
Earth!

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

Coleman lanterns and a camp stove set up, coffee all 'round. Quinn 2 sits at the table, trying to take it all in. Quinn leans against the wall.

QUINN 2

Funny thing... I've traveled all over... Somehow I always end up coming back here.

(looks up at them)

Good thing I did.

MAGGIE

So for three years, you thought you were the last man on Earth.

QUINN 2

I was the last man... I mean, it took a long time to dawn on me... At first, I thought maybe it was just local... then I realized -- it was everywhere. We all tell ourselves, 'I feel so alone,' but you have no idea... I'd watch movies, play old records, just to hear a voice that wasn't my own.

QUINN

The device you built must've been a hell of a lot more powerful than mine.

QUINN 2

This wave of light surged out, covered everything. And when it cleared, they were gone...

REMBRANDT

A Slidewave...

MAGGIE

And being in the eye of the storm, it didn't take you.

QUINN 2

It shouldn't have happened. I did everything right...

QUINN

Except test it...?

QUINN 2

That was the test!

(forces calm)

Look, I know what you must think of me. But look around. I've paid the price.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN

(stunned)  
You have --?

REMBRANDT

How 'bout everyone else? You ever think they might not be dead?

QUINN 2

I realized they might've been sent somewhere in time or to some other dimension. But what difference did it make?

MAGGIE

The difference between them being dead and alive.

QUINN 2

I mean, what difference in that I couldn't get them back.

QUINN

So you tried to replicate the experiment?

QUINN 2

Yes... but I couldn't get the exact parameters. In the end, I got so crazy mad, I smashed it all to pieces.

REMBRANDT

Yeah, we saw that.

QUINN

Do you have any notes, diagrams?

Quinn 2 reacts in surprise. And something more -- he doesn't like the question, he's evasive.

QUINN 2

Why?

QUINN

Maybe we can rebuild your equipment, get a line on where you sent everyone.

QUINN 2

I told you, it's impossible.

REMBRANDT

Well, every now and then, we just manage to do the impossible.

QUINN

We've been sliding a while now. Might know a trick or two you don't.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

Quinn 2 weighs it. Then:

QUINN 2  
There might be some notes in the  
storeroom...

He exits toward the storeroom. Quinn shoots Maggie a  
look -- go with him. She follows Quinn 2 out.

REMBRANDT  
That's one cold-hearted hombre.  
It's like nothing matters but him.

QUINN  
Destroying your world's hard to  
face. He's been through a lot...  
and hope's a dangerous thing.

REMBRANDT  
Or maybe this boy's just cut from a  
different cloth.

QUINN  
What're you saying?

REMBRANDT  
I'm saying what might keep you up  
nights maybe he sleeps through.  
We've all seen how different our  
doubles can be.

Quinn looks O.S. toward where Quinn 2 went, thoughtful.

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOUSE - STOREROOM - DAY

Quinn 2 sweeps aside the cobwebs, blows the dust off the top  
box. Maggie looks on as he starts searching.

QUINN 2  
Notes should be in here somewhere,  
if the rats and spiders haven't  
gotten them...

Maggie picks up a box.

QUINN 2  
Careful with that, it's a Nobel  
Prize.  
(beat)  
My dad won it. Not that he cared.  
Till the day he died, all he valued  
was pure science.

MAGGIE  
Quite a collection between the two  
of you.

QUINN 2  
Mine? Kid stuff, didn't mean a  
thing...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

He takes the box, cautious, almost reverential, places it back.

QUINN 2

He was a hard act to follow, you have no idea...

MAGGIE

Maybe I do.

(beat)

Distinguished Flying Cross...

Silver Palm with Cluster...

Congressional Medal of Honor... At home, we called him the General.

He looks at her, thrown.

MAGGIE

There's lots of us... have ghosts.

There's a fleeting moment of connection. Then he goes back to the boxes.

QUINN 2

Aha.

Maggie comes over as he pulls out a big folded paper and unfurls it, revealing a huge, complex schematic of the Sliding Device. Maggie grasps the other end, opens it wide.

MAGGIE

You don't think small, do you?

EXT. RADIO SHED - DUSK (N1)

An electronics store, abandoned like everything else.

QUINN (O.S.)

Remember, skip anything with water damage, corrosion...

INT. RADIO SHED - DUSK

PAN past a dusty SIGN reading EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK with a PHOTO showing a squeaky-clean MANAGER in suit and tie. ARRIVE at Quinn, Rembrandt, Maggie (with shotgun) and Quinn 2 filling hand baskets with equipment to rebuild the Sliding Device. There's a dim light from outside. Dusk is fast approaching.

QUINN

Grab the best of what's at hand.

(to Remmy)

You finding those lithium-ion batteries?

REMBRANDT

Got ten of them.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Quinn tosses two more in Rembrandt's basket.

QUINN

Take twelve.

REMBRANDT

This world gives self-serve a whole new meaning...

ON QUINN 2 AND MAGGIE

She's going through a pile of circuit boards, selects a few. Quinn 2 checks them.

QUINN 2

Too rusty... but these'll do.

She tosses them in the basket.

QUINN 2

Not that any of this is going to work, you know... I tried.

MAGGIE

Don't like the idea of someone doing something you can't?

QUINN 2

(flares)  
I don't like wasting time.  
This can't be done.

This settles. Maggie studies him intently.

MAGGIE

You're afraid. What of...?

His eyes evade.

QUINN 2

Nothing. Let's get this over with.

QUINN

loads several electronic parts in his basket, including a hand-held BIO-MED SCANNER, as Rembrandt comes up.

REMBRANDT

What's the deal? That's not on the list.

QUINN

It's a bio-med scanner. If the world he slid everyone to already had people on it, we'll need some way to differentiate the ones from here so we can slide them back.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN (CONT'D)

(off scanner)  
I might be able to adapt this to  
detect a trace sliding signature in  
their cells...

REMBRANDT

You know, I was gonna suggest that  
exact same thing...

Rembrandt cracks a grin. Quinn smiles back. Just then, DOG  
HOWLS from O.S.

WIDE

As everyone reacts. Maggie hefts her shotgun.

MAGGIE

Time to be moving on. We got what  
we need?

Quinn makes a quick scan of the carts.

QUINN

Yeah.

REMBRANDT

Now all we gotta do is put it  
together...

ON QUINN 2

Contemplating that, ambivalent and anxious.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - DAY - LOW ANGLE - CLOSE ON THE  
SLIDING DEVICE (D2)

SLOWLY PUSH IN -- it looks huge and impressive, all gleaming  
metal and GLOWING LIGHTS. Then Maggie appears behind it and  
we see that it's actually about eighteen inches high.

MAGGIE

That's powerful enough to slide  
everyone on the planet...?

WIDEN to include Quinn and Quinn 2. Other equipment and  
tools are scattered about.

QUINN 2

The original was smaller, but I had  
to make do.

Quinn reacts to that, surprised. Maggie picks up on it.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

What's the matter, Quinn, got  
device envy?

(beat)

So when we jump to the other world,  
this'll send out a Slidewave?

Quinn attaches a BATTERY PACK to the device.

QUINN

No, we reset it for a narrower  
field...

QUINN 2

Besides, it'd take a lot more juice  
than this battery pack could crank  
out... First time, I crashed the  
entire West Coast power grid.

QUINN

For a test...?

Quinn 2 grows uneasy, but is saved by:

REMBRANDT (O.S.)

Gizmo's looking pretty good...

Rembrandt appears, coming down the stairs.

MAGGIE

Hey Rembrandt, where've you been?

REMBRANDT

No telling what kind of world we'll  
be sliding into... so while you two  
eggheads were jerry-rigging this  
baby, I figured I'd get us some  
coin of the realm.

He reaches in his pockets, pulls out handfuls of 500-dollar  
bills, gold coins and loose diamonds, dumps them on a work  
table. From inside his coat, he withdraws a comic book.

REMBRANDT

Not to mention a mint copy of  
Superman number one... This world  
might be dead, but it does have its  
advantages.

He stuffs it all back into his pockets, as Quinn turns to  
his duplicate, gestures toward the Device.

QUINN

So. The big moment. You want the  
honors?

Quinn 2 stiffens, shakes his head, steps back. Quinn eyes  
him, probing, then hits the button -- the VORTEX appears  
O.S. Old news for our guys, but Quinn 2 gazes at it in  
amazement. Quinn puts on a backpack. Maggie grabs up her  
shotgun.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

MAGGIE  
I'll take point.

She dives O.S.

REMBRANDT  
I never argue with the lady who's  
got the gun...

He follows her into the O.S. vortex. Now it's just the two  
Quinns, gazing into the O.S. energy field. Quinn picks up  
on his duplicate's hesitance.

QUINN  
The world you made... Not up to  
it?

Quinn 2 shoots him a sharp, defiant look.

ON THE VORTEX

as Quinn 2 dives through, Quinn beside him, who grabs up the  
Device as he goes.

INT: VORTEX

Different from what we've seen before, wilder, more jumpy  
and shattery, as if in danger of collapsing any second.  
LIGHTNING arcs across the varied surfaces.

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - BASEMENT - DAY

Quinn 2 and Quinn arrive, spilling out of the O.S. vortex,  
Maggie and Rembrandt waiting, ruffled and worse for wear.  
It's a hard landing, and they've had hard traveling. We  
hear the O.S. VORTEX CLOSE, ENERGY ARCING all about it -- a  
COLLAPSE, a SHATTERING.

The Sliding Device is GLOWING RED HOT and SMOKING: Quinn  
drops it like a hot potato. Quinn 2 gets shakily to his  
feet, rubbing a bruised leg.

QUINN 2  
Is it always that rough?

REMBRANDT  
You mean, like being dragged behind  
a truck in a canvas sack?

There's a smudged and smoking OUTLINE on the wall where the  
vortex had been. Quinn runs a hand along it.

QUINN  
No... the Slidewave may have  
damaged the dimensional pathway...

REMBRANDT  
So what'll that do?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN  
I'm not sure yet...

MAGGIE  
How's the machine?

QUINN  
Cooling down... but I'll want to  
run a diagnostic.  
(scans its readout)  
But I'll say this for it, it landed  
us just where we set it to go.

Quinn 2 is checking out the surroundings. There's no lab  
equipment, only piles of boxes and other stored stuff.

REMBRANDT  
Pretty wild, huh? You travel  
between dimensions, all to wind up  
in the same room.

QUINN 2  
Only none of this is mine...

A CREAK on the stairs. Maggie spins, aiming the shotgun.  
But Quinn pushes the barrel aside, seeing what's there.

QUINN  
No, Maggie...

HIS POINT OF VIEW - ON STAIRS

At the top of the stairs is a LITTLE BOY (6), in worn but  
clean clothes. He stares at them wide-eyed, noncommittal.

REMBRANDT

draws near the Boy, putting on a friendly face.

REMBRANDT  
Well, hey there, buddy...

Like a deer suddenly awakened from a headlight-trance, the  
Boy gasps, turns and runs off.

LITTLE BOY (O.S.)  
Sister! Sister!

Our guys look at each other -- what now? Maggie motions  
them to follow her up the stairs, gun at the ready.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Maggie tops the stairs, the others behind. Before she  
can check out the room, a CROWD OF WHAT LOOKS LIKE HOMELESS  
PEOPLE surge up and swarm over our guys, grabbing at them,  
their possessions, SHOUTING to each other, a wild,  
overlapping BABBLE.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HOMELESS PEOPLE  
New clothes! This one has a  
wallet, with money! Etc.

Maggie's grappling with several over the shotgun. Rembrandt and the two Quinns are overwhelmed by people pushing them down, tearing at them. A SOUND cuts through the DIN -- A SHOTGUN BEING PUMPED.

SISTER CELINE (O.S.)  
Back off! Now!

The crowd instantly releases our guys, clears away -- to reveal SISTER CELINE, a tough-eyed Latina nun wearing a traditional habit -- with the exception that, instead of a crucifix, she wears a chain dangling a rough stone. She approaches Maggie, aiming her SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN.

SISTER CELINE  
And as for you, put up that  
weapon... or you'll be one less  
soul on this blighted Earth.

A tense moment as they glare at each other, weapons in hand.

SISTER CELINE 2 (O.S.)  
You'd better do as she says...

They look over to see:

SISTER CELINE 2

A duplicate, except that her wimple is a different color, her chain has a cross on it and she doesn't have a gun.

SISTER CELINE 2  
She's not one to bluff...

ON QUINN, MAGGIE AND REMBRANDT  
taking this in, as we...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

Quinn sits at the table, flanked by Remmy, Maggie (no shotgun) and Quinn 2, who stand. The residents press in to listen. Maggie and Remmy continually try to shift position so people aren't jammed against them, to no avail.

Sister Celine sits facing them with her gun, the Sliding Device on the table before her. Sister Celine 2 stands nearby. Oil lamps illuminate the room (the house has no electricity.). Sister Celine yells at the YAMMERING CROWD:

SISTER CELINE  
Quiet! I can't hear myself think!

They tone it down. Sister Celine leans in toward Quinn.

SISTER CELINE  
You got some rivets, I give you that... And how you got past the trip wires and the razor blades, not to mention the dogs --

QUINN  
We're telling you, we didn't break in, we --

SISTER CELINE  
-- materialized, right, you're about three years too late.

QUINN 2  
The little kid saw us...

SISTER CELINE  
And last month he saw the Easter Bunny...

MAGGIE

squirms, getting groped. She grabs someone's arm by the wrist, lifts it high overhead (we can't see the offending party behind her).

MAGGIE  
This belong to someone?

WIDE

SISTER CELINE  
Luther, give it a rest...

Maggie drops the offending limb.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SISTER CELINE  
Look, we got no drugs, no fuel, and  
the shelter can't half feed the  
mouths we already got.

REMBRANDT  
You've had some hard times...

SISTER CELINE  
What gave you the first clue?... If  
you're trying to run some scam that  
this box

She reaches toward the Device.

QUINN  
Don't touch that!

He gets a shotgun barrel jammed in his face as Sister Celine  
gives him a frosty stare. He moderates his tone.

QUINN  
Believe me... you wouldn't like it.

She puts up the gun. Impasse.

REMBRANDT  
So what do we do now? Play board  
games?

SISTER CELINE  
Throw them out.

The crowd roughly grabs our guys, starts hustling them off,  
as they struggle. Sister Celine nods toward the Device.

SISTER CELINE  
And maybe I'll keep this as a  
souvenir.

Maggie pulls free, rushes up to Sister Celine.

MAGGIE  
Look, I know you don't buy what  
we're saying --

The others have grabbed Maggie again, but Sister Celine  
waves them off -- finish what you have to say.

MAGGIE  
--so why don't you just tell us  
what did happen three years ago?

SISTER CELINE  
And why don't you drop the act?  
It's not going to --

SISTER CELINE 2  
It started long ago...

Sister Celine turns to Sister Celine 2 (in manner, Sister  
Celine is tougher, Sister Celine 2 the more serene).

ON SISTER CELINE 2

PUSHING IN SLOWLY on her.

SISTER CELINE 2  
God saw what the world had become,  
and he made a terrible rain... And  
he told Noah, bring the animals two  
by two, and he spared them... But  
in time the world became as it had  
been... unholy, corrupt.. and so  
God brought his terrible  
judgment... and he made two by two,  
only this time it was people...

ON QUINN 2

As his eyes move over the crowd's gaunt, twitchy faces, and  
the enormity of what he's done begins to sink in.

SISTER CELINE 2 (O.S.)  
What had been one became two...  
Five billion became ten... and hell  
was made manifest... so that we  
might see what we had done to his  
beautiful Creation... This is our  
penance and our shame.

WIDE

Sister Celine 2 comes out of it, gives a half-embarrassed  
smile.

SISTER CELINE 2  
Anyway, that's one theory... there  
are plenty to go around.

REMBRANDT  
Lord have mercy...

QUINN 2  
(soft, to himself)  
I did it...

SISTER CELINE  
What?

Quinn 2's startled, as if he didn't mean to say it. Then:

QUINN 2  
It wasn't God... I did it.

SISTER CELINE  
You did.

Quinn 2 walks to the Device, gestures at the people nearby.

QUINN 2  
Clear away.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN  
No! It needs to be checked out.

QUINN 2  
Oh, yeah. Right...

He pushes the button. O.S. the VORTEX appears. The crowd reacts in fear and wonder. The Device starts to SPARK AND WHINE.

QUINN  
Shut it down!

Too late. The Device SHORTS OUT. O.S., we HEAR the VORTEX COLLAPSE and vanish.

SISTER CELINE  
Jorge!

A man grabs a pot full of water, moves toward the Device, which is BILLOWING OUT SMOKE.

QUINN  
Don't!

Jorge dumps the water on the Device, putting out the fire.

QUINN  
Great, just great...

QUINN 2  
(to Sister Celine)  
Well?

SISTER CELINE  
Any number of magicians can pull stunts like that.

REMBRANDT  
Then maybe we just better do something they can't...

Rembrandt pulls out the cash, gold, diamonds, dumps them on the table. The crowd MURMURS amazement. Sister Celine is visibly impressed -- and confounded.

REMBRANDT  
With all of this, why would we need to rob you?... But I guess you could rob us.

QUINN  
(leans in close to her)  
You've gotta have some trust...

SISTER CELINE  
(considers, then)  
Perkins!

The crowd parts to reveal the Little Boy.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

SISTER CELINE  
What you saw in the basement...  
you sure of that?

PERKINS  
They came out of nothing. They  
weren't there... and then they  
were.

Sister Celine nods. A beat, then she turns to Quinn.

SISTER CELINE  
So just what do you want...?

DISSOLVE TO

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT (N2)

Quinn and Quinn 2 work on the Sliding Device, lying open on a table. Sister Celine stands over Quinn 2's shoulder, with the gun. A group of residents look on.

Nearby, Rembrandt stands by a line of ragged people, running the souped-up (and wildly improvised-looking) MEDICAL SCANNER over them, one at a time, making notes on a pad.

ON QUINN AND QUINN 2

Quinn 2 removes a part from the device and up-ends it as Quinn looks on. Water pours out.

QUINN 2  
The wrath of the great unwashed...  
and you wonder why I feel superior?

QUINN  
You set something on fire. They  
put it out. Yes, I wonder how that  
makes you superior.

Quinn 2 shrugs, watches Quinn work.

QUINN 2  
Whatever you say... we're not like  
them.

Quinn eyes him, then grudgingly:

QUINN  
I'll give you this... You may have  
a losing personality, but it really  
is an amazing design.

QUINN 2  
It was just for starters. I've got  
lots of --

Rembrandt approaches Quinn, holding his notes. Quinn 2 clams up, not wanting to be heard by anyone else.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

REMBRANDT

I'm scanning these folks, Q-Ball,  
but I can't make head or tail of  
these numbers.

QUINN

Just jot them down. Unless we can  
zero in on the trace signature, we  
won't be able to ship these folks  
back...

(sighs)

Of course, that's assuming we ever  
get this running...

QUINN 2

We needed a visual aid, so I turned  
it on... I had to do something.

QUINN

Yeah, but not that.

ON QUINN 2 AND SISTER CELINE

He notices her standing close behind, alert to the crowd.

QUINN 2

You don't have to hang so close...

SISTER CELINE

Word's gotten out about you, they  
all know you did this to them...

He looks about. They're staring with hate-filled eyes.

SISTER CELINE

So maybe you better be grateful for  
a bodyguard.

Quinn 2's shaken, but won't admit it. He spies a LITTLE  
GIRL nearby, staring solemnly up at him with big eyes.

QUINN 2

You hate me, too...?

She says nothing.

WIDE

As Maggie comes up.

MAGGIE

How's it looking?

QUINN

Not good... We need replacement  
parts, and we can't exactly go back  
where we came from.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

So we go 'round the corner to the  
Radio Shed.

SISTER CELINE

Let me clue you in... this ain't no  
Mayberry. When the Federal  
Government collapsed, all these  
warlords sprung up. One we got  
here's just called the Boss. His  
cops run the streets... and you  
don't want to mess with them.

QUINN

So what are you telling us?

SISTER CELINE

Do what you have to... but do it  
fast.

EXT. RADIO SHED - NIGHT

The shop we saw before, only this version's a fortress:  
razor wire, bars, etc. SEARCHLIGHTS from O.S. POLICE  
HELICOPTERS rake the street. Quinn, Rembrandt, Maggie and  
Quinn 2 approach the entrance, which has a sign: NO  
WEAPONS ALLOWED. Two of the Boss's rough-looking COPS  
flank the entrance. They search through our guys'  
backpacks. One gestures at Maggie's shotgun.

COP

We'll take that.

Maggie jerks away, holding tight to her gun.

MAGGIE

I don't think so.

QUINN

Give it to him.

MAGGIE

No way --

QUINN

We need those parts, Maggie.

She hesitates, then surrenders the gun.

MAGGIE

Do I get a claim ticket?

COP

This ain't no coat check. We  
keep it.

Quinn shoots Maggie a look -- let it go. She relents. She  
and Quinn head in, followed by Quinn 2 and Rembrandt.

INT. RADIO SHED - NIGHT

Rembrandt and Quinn 2 look about at the shelves, which are festooned with signs reading NO CASH NO CREDIT, YOU BREAK IT WE BREAK YOU and LIGHT FINGERS LOSE FINGERS.

REMBRANDT

Why do I get the feeling that the customer is always wrong...

ON THE COUNTER

The MANAGER behind it, whom we saw in the EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK photo. Same shirt and tie, but now he's got a black leather jacket with studs, scar across his face. Quinn and Maggie dump the parts they need on the counter. Rembrandt and Quinn 2 bring up the rear.

QUINN

What'll it cost?

MANAGER

Whadaya got?

QUINN

I'll bet just exactly enough...

The Manager nods, smiling.

EXT. RADIO SHED - NIGHT

Quinn, Maggie, Rembrandt and Quinn 2 exit. The Cop eyes their purchases with avarice.

COP

Made out like bandits...

Maggie starts to say something, Quinn stifles her with a look -- keep on walking. They exit shot. A beat, the Cop watching them. Then he pulls out a cell phone.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Quinn, Rembrandt, Maggie and Quinn 2 walk along with their purchases in their packs. Quinn 2 holds an electronic part. Ragged figures huddle in doorways, alleys, etc. Quinn 2 moves close to Quinn, so the others can't hear.

QUINN 2

You know, I've been thinking... You and I make a good team. This doesn't have to be the end of things. It could be the start.

He stuffs the part in his backpack.

QUINN

What are you saying...?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN 2

We get back, maybe you miss the slide window. We build another of these, a better one.

Quinn starts to protest, Quinn 2 presses on, cutting him off.

QUINN 2

My father was right. I get impatient, make mistakes. But you, you're slow and steady -- For you, the equations --

QUINN

Wait. You're talking about a mathematical mistake?

QUINN 2

What else? I was trying to cut across a continuum without -- it doesn't matter! Most of the world's great discoveries were by accident. Together, we could do something with this, show them it was worth the cost!

QUINN

That's still what it's about for you? Proving your genius?

They've stopped dead. Quinn gestures to the devastation.

QUINN

Haven't you seen? Heard? Look around you...Doesn't this touch you at all?

QUINN 2

Of course... But what happened happened. In science, you can't control every single --

QUINN

Science didn't throw that switch!

An outburst. A distant passerby is startled. Remmy cautions --

REMBRANDT

Quinn...

QUINN

When I tested it, it was small -- and on myself. Not the whole damn world!

(presses in)

You didn't have to draw that much power. You just didn't care what happened.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

QUINN 2  
The universe has risks!

QUINN  
(erupts)  
The universe has no conscience  
so we have to! Let it in. You  
blew it!

QUINN 2  
Quinn --

QUINN  
The answer's no...

Quinn storms off to the front of the group, walking on.  
Quinn 2 shakes his head, keeps walking. Maggie makes a move  
to head after Quinn, talk to him, but Rembrandt stops her.

REMBRANDT  
No, Maggie, let them hash it out  
themselves...

Just then, there's a SOUND behind them. They turn to see a  
POLICE CAR turn a corner some distance back, slowly  
approach, turning on its bubble lights.

REMBRANDT  
What -- we jaywalked?

The car speeds up, right at them, SIREN WAILING TO LIFE,  
COPS leaning out of the windows aiming AK-47s.

MAGGIE  
These aren't like the cops back  
home!

They take to their heels.

REMBRANDT  
Speak for yourself!

The cops OPEN FIRE as our guys run off. Quinn 2 ducks  
behind something for cover, which momentarily delays him.  
Then he hurries after the others.

Quinn leads them down...

AN ALLEY

Too narrow for the car to follow. Quinn 2 can't make it in  
time; he ducks into a doorway to hide.

A beat, then the cop car ROARS up, one COP diving out with  
his gun to give chase on foot, the car speeding off to try  
to cut them off. The cop on foot darts by Quinn 2, not  
seeing him.

Inadvertently, Quinn 2 makes a sound. The cop hears it,  
doubles back, seeing him now.

QUINN

at the mouth of the alley, sees this. He waves Rembrandt and Maggie on.

QUINN

Go!

They hurry off.

QUINN 2

backs, trying to get away. The cop FIRES OFF SHOTS, narrowly missing him.

Just then, Quinn flies into shot from behind the cop, slugging him. The cop goes down hard.

Quinn grabs Quinn 2 and hustles him into cover in the alley. They peer out warily as TWO OTHER COPS run by them and are gone.

A beat, they let out a breath. Quinn 2 eyes Quinn in astonishment, murmurs:

QUINN 2

You came back for me...

QUINN

Not for you... for who I'd be if I didn't...

Quinn 2 stares at him a long moment, silent.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

It's late. Maggie enters. Quinn's working on fixing the Device, trying to lock down a part. But he hasn't enough hands to hold it in place and secure it. It eludes him.

QUINN

Damn it!

Maggie rushes up, taking the pieces.

MAGGIE

Easy...why don't you just ask for help?

He lets her hold it, frustrated, not really wanting to relent. She picks up on it.

MAGGIE

I know...I don't hold it as perfectly as you could if you had four hands...

(smiles)

But then, I guess you do...only you're not speaking to yourself.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Quinn looks at her ruefully, continuing to work on the Device.

QUINN  
God, Maggie, he's such a

MAGGIE  
Jerk?

QUINN  
You see all these versions of  
yourself, sometimes it's not  
pleasant...  
(bitter laugh)  
It never is.

He considers the Device.

QUINN  
I couldn't have built this.

MAGGIE  
You don't know that.

QUINN  
(yes, I do)  
I didn't build it...

He pauses, thoughtful.

QUINN  
You know, after my dad died, I  
always felt like I never met my  
potential... what could I have  
been, what would I have achieved?  
(beat)  
Three years ago, I'd have said I'd  
never know...

Maggie looks at Quinn, eyes kind.

QUINN  
I mean, the parents I remember...  
(rubs his eyes tiredly)  
It all gets so confusing...

MAGGIE  
The ones you remember, the ones who  
raised you, they're your parents no  
matter what you find...

She puts a hand on his arm.

MAGGIE  
We're all made up of everything  
that happens to us... Having your  
mom survive and not your dad...  
maybe that's what gave you the  
heart you have.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

They look at each other a moment, seeing each other, until Sister Celine emerges from the kitchen carrying bowls, Remmy carrying the stew pot, breaking the spell.

SISTER CELINE  
Soup's on. Move it!

Maggie and Quinn move to them. Sister Celine ladles out some stew.

SISTER CELINE  
Mulligan stew, we serve it only for our special guests...

REMBRANDT  
Just don't ask what the meat is.

MAGGIE  
Beggars can't be choosers...

SISTER CELINE  
We're all beggars here... only maybe soon you'll help us have a choice.

FAVORING REMMY

as he considers Sister Celine.

REMBRANDT  
Sister, I been meaning to ask why you wear that rock around your neck...

SISTER CELINE  
It's how our Lord died, crushed under stones.

REMBRANDT  
Huh...

EXT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - BACK YARD - NIGHT

Some flowers and greenery, with barbed wire and a wall keeping the world out. Quinn 2 peers up at the stars. Maggie draws up to him from the house, carrying a bowl of stew.

MAGGIE  
I brought you some stew.

QUINN 2  
(not looking at her)  
Just set it on the rail.

She does so, then comes up to him.

MAGGIE  
What do you see up there?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN 2  
What would you like me to see? My  
dark soul?

MAGGIE  
Look, we're tired... How 'bout you  
give us both a break?

He considers, then relents.

QUINN 2  
I was... remembering. Just after  
mom died, my dad took me up on the  
roof, showed me the stars... He  
said we're all made of star  
stuff... so it's up to us to blaze  
across the sky, burn our lives into  
the world... so we'll never be  
forgotten...

MAGGIE  
(gently)  
There are other ways to matter.

QUINN 2  
Yeah. I'll buy a dog.

She turns away, angry.

QUINN 2  
I'm sorry, I've got a headache and  
I'm not in the mood for sympathy...

MAGGIE  
You know, in some ways you're so  
different, and in some ways you're  
exactly the same...

QUINN 2  
As Saint Quinn?

MAGGIE  
He's no saint. But he cares  
about people... sometimes too  
much... not about being some name  
in a history book...  
(moves in closer)  
I'll let you in on something...  
Daddy's gone... and unless you wake  
up and start caring about someone,  
even if you're not the last man on  
Earth, you're gonna be alone...

He can't smart-ass that, her words hit home.

INT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY (D3)

Quinn, Quinn 2, Maggie and Rembrandt stand beside the  
repaired Sliding Device, Sister Celine near them. Quinn  
addresses Quinn 2.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN

I was right about the sliding signature. We can realign the Slidewave to return the population of your world anytime we like. But there's a catch...The next Slidewave will collapse the path between the two worlds. It should get everyone through safely...

QUINN 2

But it's a one-way ticket...

Quinn nods.

REMBRANDT

Hold on a minute, Q-Ball... World's moved on since three years back. Woman I talked to here, she married someone who 'appeared,' had a kid. Slide takes everyone with a signature, we're gonna smash a lotta stuff up.

They all look at each other a beat, considering. Shit.

SISTER CELINE 2 (O.S.)

Before the change, I was half a person...

They all turn to see Sister Celine 2, having just entered.

SISTER CELINE 2

I'd do good works, touch the lives of others, but somehow no one ever touched me... Then I met my other self... and it was like I'd found home.

ON QUINN AND QUINN 2

Hearing her words, regarding each other.

SISTER CELINE 2

I got to see myself outside myself... a mirror on all my flaws and my strengths...

FAVORING SISTER CELINE 2 AND SISTER CELINE

They look at each other, full of love.

SISTER CELINE 2

Beyond all things, I prize her, being with her, I'd give my life for that...

(beat)

But you have to send us back.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

They study her in all her certainty and sacrifice.

SISTER CELINE 2  
Two worlds, with enough  
abundance... not one that's dying.

Quinn looks at the others, sees the same decision.

QUINN  
All right. We throw the switch...  
Just gotta get the power...

EXT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

Sister Celine stands looking out, flanked by Quinn, Rembrandt, Maggie and Quinn 2. Sister Celine 2 is nearby. People line the stairs YAMMERING in excitement. Sister Celine gestures for silence.

SISTER CELINE  
Stifle it!

They quiet down. She shakes her head.

SISTER CELINE  
I have a dream... a bathtub full of  
bubbles... soft music playing...  
and nothing else.  
(beat)  
Maybe we all have a shot at that,  
but we need to make it happen.  
Electricity.  
(turns to our guys)  
The Boss doesn't care if the little  
people starve in the streets,  
huddle in the dark, freeze in the  
cold... Power to the people means  
just his people.

Sister Celine hands her rifle to Maggie.

SISTER CELINE 2  
The power station's part of his  
fortress, palace, whatever... right  
next to his throne room.

MAGGIE  
And just how do we get there?

SISTER CELINE  
(calls back to the house)  
Roberto!

ROBERTO (50s), a little tough guy in an eye patch, appears.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SISTER CELINE

This is my good right hand, can get anything, fix anything, knows a lot about a little and a little about a lot --

ROBERTO

You forgot to kiss my ring.

SISTER CELINE

-- and, before he got the boot, was a honcho at the power station.

They look knowingly at him. He shakes his head warily.

ROBERTO

Whatever you're thinkin'...

QUINN

Just gotta borrow some juice...

ROBERTO

Nuh-uh, no way...

MAGGIE

If we pull it off, everyone will get a second chance... You'll have hope again...

Quinn 2 produces a stack of silver coins, drops them in Roberto's hand.

QUINN 2

And two-fifty, silver.

REMBRANDT

Now where you been hiding that?

Roberto weighs the money in his hand. He sighs, agreeing.

ROBERTO

Feeder cable shaft'll get us there. But in and out, no photo ops.

MAGGIE

So where do we find this place?

EXT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - DAY

The front door opens, revealing Sister Celine, Quinn, Maggie, Roberto and Quinn 2.

SISTER CELINE

You can't miss it.

They look out in amazement.

THEIR POINT OF VIEW - THE BOSS'S HUGE SKYSCRAPER/BARBARIAN FORTRESS

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

(Think a combination of Tyrell's building in BLADE RUNNER  
and the scariest Medieval castle you've ever seen.)

BACK TO MAGGIE, QUINN AND REMMY

PUSHING IN ON THEM looking out at this intimidating  
structure, as we...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. THE BOSS'S FORTRESS - DAY

A closer shot of the matte painting seen in Act Three.

EXT. THE BOSS'S FORTRESS - POWER STATION

Roberto eases Quinn, Rembrandt, Maggie and Quinn 2 past big generators.

ROBERTO  
Static from the feeder lines made  
the security cams all hinky...

They enter through a doorway.

INT. BOSS'S FORTRESS - FEEDER CABLE TUNNEL - DAY

Quinn (the Device in a backpack), Rembrandt, Maggie (with rifle), Roberto and Quinn 2 hurry along the tunnel.

ROBERTO  
After awhile, they just stopped  
bothering...

He leads them along the low tunnel. The tunnel has several hard turns in it, so they can't see far ahead or behind.

ON MAGGIE AND QUINN 2

Maggie's alert, senses sharp. Quinn 2 looks at her admiringly. Quinn is out of earshot.

QUINN 2  
Look at you, woman warrior... You  
really get off on this.

MAGGIE  
No... my dad did... but I got past  
all that.

Quinn 2's stung, it hits home.

FAVORING ROBERTO

ROBERTO  
Man, this was one cherry job. Toe  
the line, live like Elvis... women,  
cars -- and the health plan!

REMBRANDT  
So what got you canned?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

ROBERTO

They wanted me to fry this guy, you know, wire up this urinal so when he took a whiz -- zap! But I couldn't. I mean, him and me'd been in Boy Scouts...

Suddenly, a VOICE BOOMS OUT of nowhere:

ELDON (O.S.)

Let's just pretend I've fired off a volley to get your attention...

Maggie swings her gun around, looking for the source.

WIDE

Cops with AK-47s appear in the junctures ahead and behind them. They're surrounded. Their commanding officer ELDON (40s, Black, a regular guy) appears, holding a pistol.

ELDON

Now, I don't want to do that 'cause it's a mess patching equipment, prying out slugs. So drop your weapons, okay?

They really have no choice, they do it. Eldon walks up, genuinely sorry to see Roberto, knowing what he'll have to do.

ELDON

Didn't think I'd be seeing you again, Roberto.

ROBERTO

Hey Eldon, we always treated each other square. How 'bout you let us go...

ELDON

If it was just me, I might...  
(off other cops)  
But these guys just can't keep a secret.

INT. BOSS'S FORTRESS - THRONE ROOM - DAY - ON A HUMIDOR

as a BEEFY MAN'S HAND bedecked with ring pulls out a cigar, cuts it and lights it.

THE BOSS (O.S.)

Cubans... hard to come by nowadays... twenty-five hundred dollars apiece. But oh so pleasurable...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

WIDEN as he turns to face his prisoners. The magnificent room is a REDRESS OF THE LAST CHANCE BAR, barbarian-modern opulence, treasures strewn about with savage abandon.

Rembrandt, Quinn, Maggie, Quinn 2 and Roberto stand in a line, under guard. THE BOSS (40s) strides toward them in an audacious, commanding outfit.

THE BOSS  
These were a gift, brought by a petitioner... Now what have you brought me?

(off Rembrandt)  
Spiritual comfort...?  
(off Quinn, Maggie and Quinn 2)  
The optimism of youth...?

Our guys maintain their silence. The Boss reaches Roberto, who's sweating. The Boss's tone is offhand, casual.

THE BOSS  
They don't know me... but you do.  
(off Roberto's eye patch)  
Last time, you had a spare... No such luxury now. So is there something you'd like to tell me, Roberto?

Roberto swallows hard, terrified.

INT. BOSS'S STOREROOM - DAY

Piled with exquisite antique booty. Quinn, Quinn 2, Maggie and Rembrandt sit on various statues and other treasures. An armed cop stands guard at the mouth of the alcove.

REMBRANDT  
Well, at least it isn't another cell...

MAGGIE  
Wonder what Roberto's telling him?

QUINN  
Singing our praises, no doubt...

QUINN 2  
Listen, I've got a plan. We lay it all out for the Boss, offer our services.

REMBRANDT  
Services? Like what?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN 2  
Designing body armor, weapons, that  
kind of thing... in exchange for  
giving us what we need.

MAGGIE  
Like our lives?

QUINN 2  
And research facilities...

REMBRANDT  
So maybe this guy gets to be the  
Boss of sliding...

QUINN 2  
Not if we play it smart.

MAGGIE  
You want to work for this  
sociopath, give him more power...?

Maggie's just getting started, but Quinn cuts her off,  
addresses Quinn 2.

QUINN  
I owe you an apology...

Quinn 2's thrown, it's not what he was expecting.

QUINN  
The Sister was right -- a mirror on  
our strengths and flaws... When I  
saw all your trophies and awards,  
there was a moment -- I envied  
you...  
(beat)  
We both act like it's about what we  
do, not what we are... being  
smarter than anyone...

He turns to Rembrandt.

QUINN  
Remmy -- what's important?

Rembrandt gives a gentle smile, puts an arm around Quinn's  
shoulder. Quinn looks back at Quinn 2.

QUINN  
I'm sorry I haven't gotten through  
to you...

Eldon appears.

QUINN  
(sotto, to Quinn 2)  
But if you say a word, I'll still  
break your neck.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

ELDON

Your presence is requested...

They head off.

ON THE BOSS

Sprawled on his raised throne Barcalounger, one leg over the arm rest. Several steps lead up to it. Roberto stands nearby, sweating.

Quinn, Maggie, Quinn 2 and Remmy are shoved into the room by cops. Eldon carries the backpack holding the Device.

THE BOSS

You know, I really love this job.  
You ask for things and you get  
them.

(to Eldon)

Come.

Eldon draws up to him with the knapsack, removes the Sliding Device and sets it before him.

THE BOSS

Roberto and I have been having the  
most stimulating chat... Hard to  
believe, it's quite a fish story,  
that you caused all of this...  
Still, if it's true, I owe you a  
debt of thanks. You see, my life  
never quite met my expectations.

MAGGIE

What'd you do? Walk behind parades  
with a shovel?

THE BOSS

Close. I wrote greeting cards...

REMBRANDT

Listen, just let us plug it in,  
throw the switch. The world will  
be a much better place.

ALL INCLUSIVE

THE BOSS

Looks pretty good from where I'm  
sitting.

MAGGIE

(to Rembrandt)

Give it a rest... Man's got a heart  
of solid meat.

THE BOSS

Not bad, I'll use that. Eldon...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

With his boot, he nudges the Sliding Device. It rolls down the steps, HITTING the floor with a sickening CRUNCH.

THE BOSS

Read it its rights.

Eldon walks down toward the Device, drawing his pistol.

QUINN

Eldon, wait!

Quinn pulls away from his guards, strides toward Eldon. Maggie's a few feet behind.

THE BOSS

You got a vote here? You don't got a vote.

QUINN

The way I see it, there are two kinds of cops, the cowboy jerks --

MAGGIE

(sotto to Quinn)  
Are you trying to get on his good side?

QUINN

-- and the regular guys, who want to make things better, who don't always like what they're told to do!

The Boss sees that Eldon's listening, doesn't like it.

THE BOSS

Eldon...

Quinn moves in closer, speaks more urgently.

QUINN

That can take the world back the way it was, or at least closer. You blow it to pieces and it stays hell here forever!

ELDON

You know, I'd really like to help you...

(looks nervously toward Roberto's eye patch)  
But I'm no hero...

THE BOSS

Wait.

All eyes turn to the Boss, who looks at Quinn.

THE BOSS

Your moving speech has changed my mind...

(to Eldon)  
Read him his rights first.

ON QUINN 2

Aghast.

FAVORING QUINN AND ELDON

Eldon's shocked -- he really doesn't like it -- but he wheels on Quinn with the gun. Just as he's about to pull the trigger, Quinn 2 dives in between him and Quinn.

QUINN 2

No!

BANG! Quinn 2 takes the bullet, in the shoulder. With a CRY, he crumples.

Quinn kicks Eldon, who falls, dropping his gun. Maggie grabs it up, FIRES OFF A VOLLEY. The other guards and the Boss dive for the cover.

Quinn grabs the Device and Quinn 2 hurries toward the exit. Maggie's keeping the guards pinned, FIRING as she too retreats toward the door.

Roberto is huddled behind a potted palm. Rembrandt rushes up and grabs him by the collar.

REMBRANDT

You're still on our time.

He hustles him out with the others.

ON QUINN, MAGGIE, REMBRANDT, QUINN 2 AND ROBERTO

As they head out the door.

EXT. BOSS'S FORTRESS - POWER STATION - DAY

Quinn, Roberto, Maggie, Rembrandt and Quinn 2 rush toward the power station. Rembrandt helps support Quinn 2 as he runs/stumbles, grimacing in pain.

QUINN 2

(to Quinn)

Damn... See what happens when you get through to me?

They reach the power station door, dart inside.

INT. POWER STATION - CONTINUOUS

A ROW OF BIG GENERATORS, catwalks overhead. Maggie locks the door.

Quinn hurries with Roberto toward a bank of high-voltage breakers with big knife-switches, removing the Sliding Device and various tools from his backpack.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

QUINN  
Talk me through it.

Outside, the SOUND of guards coming on the run. Roberto's distracted, fearful.

QUINN  
Now...

ROBERTO  
Grab that cable, hook the bare wire end to your terminals...

Quinn grabs a pair of heavy-duty cables from the wall, runs them to terminals on the Device.

ON THE DOOR

O.S. bullets strike the metal door. Maggie and Rembrandt fall back.

ON QUINN 2

slumped against a wall. Maggie appears with a rag. She presses the cloth to his wound, puts his hand over it.

MAGGIE  
Keep pressure on it.

She starts to move off to help Quinn, but Quinn 2 holds onto her hand, catches her eye. She smiles, reassuring. He lets her hand go.

EXT. POWER STATION

Eldon looks on, flanked by the Boss.

THE BOSS  
Can't you kill the power!?

ELDON  
Not on this side...

THE BOSS  
Oh, you're a beauty queen, you are, a real champion!

The cops shoot off the lock, surge in.

INT. POWER STATION

As the cops and the Boss rush in.

THE BOSS  
Shoot! Shoot!

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

The cops FIRE wildly. Bullets RICOCHET off the electrical equipment, THROWING OFF SPARKS.

Maggie returns fire, but it's a losing battle. The cops are surrounding them. She FIRES off a burst, which pushes them back. But then her gun's out of ammo.

MAGGIE

I'm out!

REMBRANDT

(to Quinn)  
You got something to do, I'd do it now!

The cable's hooked up to the Device. Quinn's using an Allen wrench to hook the lugs on the other end of the cable to the bus bar on the high-voltage breaker. Roberto stands primed at the big knife-switch. The connection's tight -- Quinn SHOUTS to him:

QUINN

Hit it!

But the bullets are hitting too close to the switch, Roberto cowers back, afraid. Seeing this, Rembrandt dives in, throws the switch. There's a LOUD HUM, the lights dim. Quinn dives for the Device, punches in numbers.

QUINN

Initiating sequence...

Quinn punches the final button on the Device... and the SLIDEWAVE ISSUES FORTH, SURGING OUT, enveloping all in the room in its SWIRLING, BLINDING LIGHT.

EXT. BOSS'S FORTRESS - DAY

The SLIDEWAVE SURGES OUT, RUSHES TOWARD US, enveloping all.

EXT. THE EARTH FROM SPACE

The SLIDEWAVE surges from San Francisco, covers the globe.

EXT. STREET - DAY - ON QUINN, REMMY, MAGGIE AND QUINN 2

in the middle of the street. This is Quinn 2's world, so there are dust-covered cars, other signs of a derelict (until now) world.

REMBRANDT

Yeah! Now that's a ride worth the ticket!

Quinn walks up to several cops, who stand disoriented.

QUINN

Take a rest, boys. You're home...

THE BOSS

stands some distance off, his face a mask of fury and defeat. Rembrandt comes up behind him, taps him on the shoulder.

REMBRANDT

Hey, Boss...

The Boss turns -- and Rembrandt decks him.

REMBRANDT

I cared enough to send the very best...

MAGGIE

eases Quinn 2 to the sidewalk, checks the wound. He hisses in pain.

MAGGIE

Easy... you'll be okay...

QUINN 2

Speak for yourself... I'm not used to taking a bullet.

(softer, a laugh)

But I guess it woke me up...

She smiles at that, he smiles back. But his smile fades as he looks about at the ragged people on the street, wandering as if waking from a dream. Maggie touches his shoulder.

MAGGIE

Hey... We got them back.

He nods, eyes still on them, melancholy.

QUINN 2

But to what...?

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. QUINN'S FAMILY HOME - DAY

We're outside the front door, where a crowd of ragged people stand in line, awaiting assistance. Sister Celine 2, holding a clipboard, interviews one, taking particulars.

SISTER CELINE 2

We'll be getting you blankets and food shortly...

She moves on to the next. Quinn 2 appears in f.g. with Maggie. He's also got a clipboard, surveys the crowd.

QUINN 2

So I'll try the Mother Teresa route. May be a bad fit...

(looks at Maggie, softer)

But what the hell...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

She nods. Quinn and Remmy come up. Quinn holds a jerry-rigged version of his timer.

QUINN

Almost time.

(to Quinn 2)

With the circuitry I've integrated from your specs, we should be able to slide to the coordinates of my brother's world...

(off timer)

If it doesn't burn out first.

QUINN 2

Adopted, a brother... Different worlds, different lives...

MAGGIE

Infinite possibility...

Quinn 2 looks out at the throng doubtfully.

QUINN 2

For them...?

REMBRANDT

They got room to breathe now, thanks to you, buddy.

QUINN 2

All they'll remember is I sent them there in the first place...

QUINN

You could come with us... start fresh...

Quinn 2's surprised at the offer -- and grateful. He smiles, but then looks off at the crowd.

QUINN 2

No. Thanks... I've got work to do.

QUINN

Okay, then.

He shakes Quinn 2's hand, as does Remmy. Maggie's standing still, considering Quinn 2. Quinn and Remmy head off.

QUINN 2

You could stay, you know. I'd rent you a room.

MAGGIE

Thanks, but...

QUINN 2

No.

She nods, then looks off toward Quinn wistfully.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED 2

QUINN 2  
He's a good guy...

MAGGIE  
Yeah...

She regards Quinn 2, kisses him on the cheek then turns and hurries after Quinn and Rembrandt. Quinn 2 watches her go.

ON QUINN AND REMBRANDT

as Maggie joins them, walking off. Quinn looks at the timer.

REMBRANDT  
Next stop, family reunion...

QUINN  
Or God knows what...

MAGGIE  
My father once said, 'You're the captain of your ship... but not of the sea.'

QUINN  
What's that mean?

MAGGIE  
That we accept what the world hands us... and ourselves.

He holds her gaze, nods. He keys the timer.

ON THE VORTEX

Our heroes jump through into the unknown, as we...

FADE OUT

THE END