

EXEC. PRODUCER: David Peckinpah  
CO-EXEC. PRODUCER: Bill Dial  
PRODUCER: Jerry O'Connell  
PRODUCER: Ed Ledding  
PRODUCER: Marc Scott Zicree  
EXEC. STORY EDITOR: Chris Black  
EXEC. CONSULTANT: Tracy Torme'

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"GENESIS"

Written by  
David Peckinpah

Directed by  
Reza Badiyi

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SLIDERS

"Genesis"

TEASER

FADE IN

1 EXT. A DUSTY WESTERN STREET - DAY (D1)

1

Deserted. Not a soul in sight, until QUINN and MAGGIE come racing INTO SHOT, running hard. They charge up onto the boardwalk, try to gain entry to the storefronts. Everything's locked up tight. They hammer at the locked doors, shout through the windows: "Open up! We need help! Come on, we know you're in there!", etc. No response. Now, in the distance, the SOUND of APPROACHING ENGINES. Maggie keeps pounding as Quinn pulls out the TIMER, drops to one knee and works at it with a small tool.

MAGGIE

How much time?!

QUINN

Less than a minute. If I can just make this last adjustment, we'll be able to track Remmy and Wade's photon trail back to Earth Prime.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

MAGGIE

You've been saying that for three months and ten different worlds. I don't care about getting back to your home earth, just get us out of here.

2 ANOTHER ANGLE - MOTORCYCLES

2

come roaring INTO SHOT at the end of the street. Custom choppers, five or six of them. And straddling them, WARRIORS in full battle dress. A mixture of old and new, cowboys and Indians. Feathers, buckskin, and war paint, lances and tomahawks. The bikes stop, riders gunning the throttles.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED

2

QUINN

Let's go!

He and Maggie sprint for the other end of the street, only to be cut off by:

3 MORE MOTORCYCLES

3

It's a stand-off. The warriors gun their engines; their war cries rend the air.

(X)

MAGGIE

Maybe you should explain again that it's your double on this world that burned down their casino at Little Big Horn.

(X)

(X)

A WAR LANCE thunks into the dirt at their feet.

QUINN

Or maybe not.

4 THE MOTORCYCLES

.4

charge forward; Maggie and Quinn have nowhere to run. Quinn looks at the timer...

QUINN

Now, baby... Now!

Suddenly, the VORTEX OPENS just as the warriors are closing on them. Quinn and Maggie dive in amid a hail of war lances and tomahawks as a motorcycle goes sliding, throwing its RIDER clear.

CUT TO

5 EXT. A LOS ANGELES STREET - DAY

5

Eerily quiet. Cars abandoned, a few overturned. Garbage strewn around. The aftermath of some kind of urban upheaval. A couple of BUMS scavenge, climb through the windows of a looted store as:

6 THE VORTEX

6

OPENS and MAGGIE and QUINN are dumped out. The bums take off on the run. Quinn and Maggie dust themselves off and look around as Quinn checks the timer.

CONTINUED

ACT ONE

FADE IN

7 EXT. ANOTHER L.A. STREET - DAY

7

Quinn is almost jogging with Maggie in his arms, searching desperately for help. She's still breathing raggedly, but seems to be getting enough oxygen.

MAGGIE

Slow up, you're gonna shake me to death before you save my life.

QUINN

We'll find some help, just hang in there...

She tugs at his shirt, getting his attention.

MAGGIE

Quinn... I'm okay. But if you like carrying me...

He reacts, slowly sets her down, relief washing over him. He checks her as her breathing evens out.

QUINN

Amazing. Your lungs must have adapted enough during all the slides to process our oxygen or maybe the pollution index is lower than it was before.

MAGGIE

The L.A. air's getting better?  
Yeah. Right.

(looking around)

In all the excitement, have you noticed that things are definitely weird here? I mean we're not talking home sweet home, unless you grew up in a war zone.

(X)

QUINN

Yeah, where is everybody? Let's get to the Chancellor and hook up with Wade and Remy.

(X)

8 TRACKING WITH THEM

8

as they walk along.

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED

21

MAGGIE

(lowers the gun)  
Yeah, I bet she did.

Quinn steps forward, offers his hand. Marta shakes it.

QUINN

I'm Quinn. Do you know where they are?

MARTA

Not for certain, the Kromaggs hit us hard and fast, some were killed. Your friends weren't in the pile. You have to figure they were taken.

(beat)  
If they're alive you can bet they wish they were dead. You two look pretty ragged, sit down, Otis, crack a jug of water.

Maggie and Quinn take seats at the table as Marta opens a couple of cans of food and Otis brings a plastic water jug and glasses. Maggie and Quinn gratefully accept.

QUINN

When did the Kromaggs invade?

MARTA

Not long after your friends got here. They hit the big cities first, casualties were awesome.

QUINN

San Francisco...

MARTA

It fell right after L.A.

Quinn rises, moves away.

MAGGIE

(to Marta)  
His mother lives up there.

MARTA

Sorry to hear that.  
(beat)  
You never saw weapons like theirs -- freaking space ships shooting lasers, the whole sci fi enchilada. Within a few days they were in complete control.  
(MORE)

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED 2

21

MARTA (CONT'D)

We dug in here, there are other pockets of resistance, but about all we can do is piss them off. So much for friendly extraterrestrials.

(X)

QUINN

They're not aliens, they're differently evolved humans from a parallel world.

MARTA

Yeah, well I never met a human that looks like them. How do you know so much about them?

QUINN

We've run into them before. If there's a chance our friends are still alive, we've got to try to find them, then we head to San Francisco.

(X)  
(X)

MARTA

It's a long shot. The odds are you'll be captured or killed yourselves.

MAGGIE

Yeah, well you can't win if you don't play. Just arm us up and point us in the right direction.

MARTA

If they're alive, they're probably in the hole the Maggs call the Re-Education Center. One of our people's a comgeek with an ear tuned to their mainframe, he can hack their data base.

QUINN

Where do we find this guy?

MARTA

You don't. Not without me.

22 INT. THE BASEMENT - A LITTLE LATER

22

Quinn is loading spare ammo clips, lost in thought. Maggie comes up, gives him the moment, then puts a comforting hand on his arm.

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED

22

MAGGIE

We've got to keep the faith, Quinn.  
We can't last in a fight we don't  
expect to win.

QUINN

(a beat)  
Four years of sliding, more worlds  
than I can count, and I finally get  
them home... to this.

MAGGIE

When we find them, ask them if they  
blame you. You know what the  
answer's going to be.

Play the moment, then...

CUT TO

43 CONTINUED

43

REMBRANDT (CONT'D)  
I tried to find her, but I heard  
she was moved to another prison.

QUINN  
Damn it!

MAGGIE  
We'll find her, Quinn. We'll get  
her back. You've gotta believe  
that.

44 ANOTHER ANGLE - MARTA

44

sticks her head into the cell.

MARTA  
Come on. If they find the body  
we're cooked.

(X)

REMBRANDT  
Marta...

MARTA  
(a grin)  
I couldn't very well give you up to  
the Maggs, you still owe me fifty  
bucks.

CUT TO

45 INT. CELL BLOCK - AT THE SECURITY DOOR - DAY

45

Quinn and the group come through the security door and make  
their way toward the stairs. They're almost there when a  
couple of HUMAN WORKERS round the hall and spot them. The  
group dashes to the stairs and runs down as the workers give  
chase, yelling an alarm.

46 OMITTED

46

46A DOWN THE HALL

46A

Quinn and the others come tearing out. More Workers at the  
end of the hall and a couple of MAGG GUARDS react, chase  
after our fleeing group. Maggie whirls, sprays the hall  
with GUNFIRE before chasing after her friends. The MAGG  
GUARDS FIRE their LASER PISTOLS as they pursue.

56 CONTINUED

56

MAGGIE

We'd all be dead.

REMBRANDT

Feeling this way is worse than death. We should have tried, Maggie.

MAGGIE

(edgy now)

You want to eat yourself up with guilt, fine, but leave me the hell out of it. We did what we had to do, and I'm not apologizing for it. We didn't run out on him, we're going back!

They react as MARTA comes down the stairs INTO SHOT.

MARTA

A runner just brought word from Trevor. He intercepted Magg E-mail; they're moving Quinn to a slave colony on another world.

REMBRANDT

Oh no... no! We'll never get to him in time!

MAGGIE

As long as he's alive, we've got a chance.

(to Marta)

We've got to make our move, even if it means we're short-handed. How many of your people have you been able to reach?

(X)  
(X)

MARTA

Not too many, we're spread pretty thin, but the word will get out. It's better to wait than gamble going in unprepared --

REMBRANDT

-- I'm done waiting, lady! We're probably too late all ready.

He grabs a couple of guns, stuffs one down his pants and fills his pockets with clips. He grabs a flashlight and heads for the stairs, goes up.

57 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

57

Rembrandt is crossing the lobby when Maggie comes out behind him.

MAGGIE

Rembrandt!

He stops, turns toward her.

REMBRANDT

You coming with me?

MAGGIE

You bet. Just you and me against the whole Kromagg force. We don't have a chance in hell, but we'll go down in a blaze of glory. Now's as good a time as any to die.

(X)

REMBRANDT

I'm not asking you to come, don't put it on me.

MAGGIE

You're all I've got. You and Quinn. I already lost everything and everybody else that mattered in my life when the pulsar destroyed my world. So if you're set on getting yourself killed, I might as well take the ride with you.

Remmy stares a long moment, then turns, moves off to collect his thoughts.

MAGGIE

(quietly)

Or we give Marta an hour to put her people together, we go in with a plan of attack, and maybe we get lucky and we all come out alive.

He sits on a bar stool, lowers his head and the sadness held off by anger overtakes him. His shoulders shake with choked tears. Maggie comes to stand behind him, puts her arm around him, and he turns on his stool to hug her.

REMBRANDT

I couldn't save Wade... I tried to, but they clubbed me down, I couldn't get to her...

(beat, getting control)

It's all gone now, my mother, my family, these Magg devils have destroyed our world.

CONTINUED

73 CONTINUED

73

The Driver flips a toggle switch; the VAN EXPLODES in a FIREBALL, washing him ORANGE.

CUT TO

74 EXT. REAR OF KROMAGG CENTER - NIGHT

74

Remmy, Maggie and Marta are crouched at the entrance to the old tunnel system. Marta brings a radio to her lips.

MARTA

M 1, we're a go!

They move quickly into the tunnel.

CUT TO

75 INT. KROMAGG CENTER - COMMANDANT STARKE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

75

Commandant STARKE is shrugging into his tunic (STILL A KROMAGG). Starke's female AIDE comes IN.

(X)

STARKE

What's happening!

AIDE

The rebels blew up the main gate, they've broken the perimeter! We're under attack!

CUT TO

76 INT. KROMAGG CENTER - HOLDING ROOM - NIGHT

76

Quinn and his mother listen to the sound of the conflict escalating outside. Running feet in the hallway, GUNFIRE, shouting, distant EXPLOSIONS... The other prisoners in the holding room are excited, on their feet milling around.

QUINN

I told you, Mom! Didn't I tell you?

MRS. MALLORY

Quinn, you've got to listen to me, I can't wait any longer, I have to tell you.

CONTINUED

76 CONTINUED

76

QUINN

Tell me what?

MRS. MALLORY

The truth. This is going to sound crazy, but I swear to you it's true, no matter how fantastic it is. I promised your... parents I would tell you when you came of age, but I was so afraid of losing you...

QUINN

My parents? Mom, what are you --

MRS. MALLORY

-- Listen to me! I'm not... I'm not your birth mother. Your parents gave you to Dad and me to raise when you were just a baby.

(beat)

They... were our Doubles, Quinn. From another earth. Their world was at war, and they saved you the only way they could, by bringing you here. They were scientists, part of the war effort, they had to return to fight.

(X)

(X)

Quinn is so rocked by this he can't fully comprehend it.

QUINN

You're saying my birth parents were from a parallel earth... This is crazy, this is all some Kromagg mind game --

MRS. MALLORY

-- No! It's the truth, I swear it. They gave me this...

She pulls a hairpin from her hair and DIGS at the flesh on her arm, breaking the skin and exposing a small micro dot. She presses it to his palm, closes his fingers.

MRS. MALLORY

Press this to your forehead, when you're alone. They said your questions will be answered.

QUINN

Who are you, why are you doing this? Why are you telling me these lies --

CONTINUED

80 CONTINUED

80

QUINN

My mom's here, they've got her, I  
can't leave her --

MAGGIE

If we're gonna get out alive, we  
have to go now. Your call.

QUINN

You guys go on, I'm going after  
her.

REMBRANDT

I know how you feel, man...

Remmy butt-strokes Quinn with his rifle, knocking him out.  
He leans to get a shoulder under him, carries him down the  
stairs. Marta goes first, Maggie brings up the rear.

81 A BOTTOM FLOOR CORRIDOR

81

Our group comes OUT of the stairwell, starts down the hall.  
Suddenly, TWO HUMAN GUARDS appear at the other end, OPEN  
FIRE.

MARTA

(as she FIRES)  
Take cover!

Remmy quickly ducks back into the stairwell with Quinn as  
MARTA is HIT and goes down. MAGGIE is FIRING NOW; one of  
the GUARDS is knocked reeling as the other ducks away.  
Maggie kneels beside Marta; she's mortally wounded.

MAGGIE

We're gonna get you out of here.

MARTA

It's too late for me. You're a  
soldier, you know the rules. Go  
on.

MAGGIE

Remmy, help me with her!

MARTA

(squeezes Maggie's hand)  
I guess I'll have to make it easier  
for you...

Her eyes close as the life breath leaves her for the last  
time, and she goes limp in Maggie's arms. Maggie gently  
closes Marta's eyes, says a silent good-bye.

(X)  
(X)

CONTINUED

81 CONTINUED

81

Rembrandt, still carrying Quinn over his shoulder, looks down at the dead freedom fighter, then warily back up and down the hall.

REMBRANDT  
God rest her soul. Come on,  
darlin', we gotta get to those  
tunnels.

(X)

Maggie reluctantly rises, and they move off down the hall.

TIME CUT TO

82 INT. COMMANDANT STARKE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

82

Starke is fishing around in a small pot with a cocktail fork when his female Aide comes IN.

AIDE  
The prisoner Quinn Mallory has  
escaped.

STARKE  
Casualties.

AIDE  
Light. Three rebels killed.

STARKE  
Public executions tomorrow. A  
hundred humans. Retribution for  
the rebel attack.

The Commandant spears something in the jar, brings it up, dripping fluid. It is a human eyeball. The Commandant admires it a moment, then sucks it off the fork as we

CUT TO

83 INT. CHANCELLOR HOTEL - SITTING AREA - DAWN (D2)

83

Rays of first dawn slide through the drapes and across the bed where Quinn lies, still out. Remy is in a chair nearby, dozing. He stirs as Quinn wakes, looks around and rubs the back of his head.

QUINN  
The timer... where's the timer?

CONTINUED

83 CONTINUED 2

83

QUINN

Yeah. But you'll probably want to fit me for a straight jacket when I tell you. The bottom line is I'm not of this world, Remmy. I'm from a parallel earth. My birth parents were sliders.

(X)

Remmy sits heavily back on his chair, concern on his face.

REMBRANDT

Just lie back and rest, man. I'm afraid that little tap I gave you scrambled something in your head.

QUINN

(opens his hand; the micro dot is pressed into his flesh)

I don't have all the details yet, but this micro dot's supposed to fill in the blanks. Stay with me, things may get weird.

REMBRANDT

May get weird? How much weirder can they get?

84 QUINN

84

lies back, closes his eyes and presses the micro dot to his forehead. After a beat, VIVID COLORS begin spreading across his flesh around the micro dot, shimmering with an energy of their own. A look of bliss crosses his face.

QUINN

(softly)  
Wow...

85 QUINN'S "VISION"

85

It's like being inside a kaleidoscope. Swirling COLORS, undulating shapes, very psychedelic as the micro dot reacts with Quinn's body chemistry and brain waves.

After a moment, the mists of color part to REVEAL a young COUPLE. They are man and wife, in their early 30's, beautiful and peaceful people dressed in futuristic jump suits. They are QUINN'S BIRTH PARENTS.

CONTINUED

85 CONTINUED

85

QUINN'S MOTHER

Hello, our precious son. How we wish we could be with you, to help you understand all that we are about to tell you.

QUINN'S FATHER

And we hope you will find it in your heart to understand, and to forgive us. A civil war is raging on our world, and if our side should lose this war, it will mean the end of life for us as we know it. Our enemies are a separate race of higher primates called Kromaggs. We have lived in peace for centuries, but bloody conflict has broken out.

QUINN'S MOTHER

The Kromaggs now control more than half our planet, and the lands that they've conquered have been decimated, the peoples enslaved or killed. Your father and I are working with other government scientists developing a weapon that will drive the Kromaggs from our world, but we fear they may overrun us before the weapon can be finished.

QUINN'S FATHER

Our race against the clock may be lost, and we can not bear the thought of losing you and your brother to the Kromaggs. So we have made the painful choice to place you with our duplicates as foster parents on different worlds to ensure your safety.

(X)

86 QUINN

86

continues watching the "movie" playing in his head...

QUINN

I have a brother!

MAGGIE comes in with a plate of sandwiches and some water just in time to hear this, reacts.

CONTINUED

86 CONTINUED

86

MAGGIE

A brother? Since when?

Remmy shushes her, takes the tray and sets it on a table, nods her to another chair. They both watch Quinn...

87 BACK IN QUINN'S "VISION"

87

QUINN'S MOTHER

If we triumph, the Kromaggs will be destroyed or driven away. But if you're viewing this, you must assume the worst, for we have promised your foster parents to return for you should our side claim victory. They in turn have promised us to tell you the truth about yourself when you come of age and are able to accept it.

QUINN'S FATHER

Know that giving up our children, even in order to save them, is the hardest thing we've ever done. Our hearts will ache for you forever.

QUINN'S MOTHER

We love you, son. The numerical sequence you are about to receive contain the coordinates to your brother's parallel earth. We pray you find him, Quinn. God bless and keep you both.

(X)

His parents blow a kiss as the VISION FADES into SWIRLING COLORS and an ELECTRONIC TONE SOUNDS; it's encoded with the numeric sequence his mother told him of.

88 RESUME THE ROOM

88

Maggie sits on the bed holding his hand as Quinn's head rolls side to side, his lips moving with the numbers filling his head. His eyes slowly open as the "vision" ends; he slowly sits up as Maggie and Remmy wait expectantly.

MAGGIE

Have a good trip?

QUINN

I just met my parents.

CONTINUED

88 CONTINUED

88

REMBRANDT  
Your parents, the sliders.

QUINN  
Yeah.

REMBRANDT  
(to Maggie)  
Q-Ball's not of this world.

MAGGIE  
(wry)  
Tell me something I don't know.

QUINN  
This is real, Maggie. I've got a  
brother. He's on another world,  
but I've got the coordinates.

Maggie rises, backs off to deal with this.

MAGGIE  
Whoa, have I fallen through the  
looking glass here? What are you  
talking about, sliding parents, a  
brother on another world, Quinn's  
an alien, you both went crazy and  
left without me! I want some  
answers. I mean there have to be  
some answers, right?

QUINN  
(rises)  
The good news is I'm not crazy. I  
guess the bad news is that it's all  
true.

Off Maggie's puzzled look,

CUT TO

89 INT. LAST CHANCE BAR - DAY

89

Maggie comes in to find Remy and Quinn at the bar going  
over the blueprints of the Kromagg complex.

QUINN  
There's got to be another way in,  
something we've missed. We have to  
get my mom out of there.

CONTINUED

89 CONTINUED

89

MAGGIE

(X)

(gently)

(X)

It's too late. Trevor sent word  
she was transported right after the  
raid. I'm so sorry, Quinn...

(X)

(X)

(X)

Quinn rises, has to lean against the bar a beat before he  
walks away to deal with his pain.

(X)

(X)

Maggie looks over the trashed back bar, sighs wearily.

(X)

MAGGIE

Too bad the looters got everything.  
I could use a drink. We all could.

REMBRANDT

It's gonna take more than a good  
buzz to get him through this.

CONTINUED

89 CONTINUED 2

89

MAGGIE

How much time have we got till the gateway opens?

REMBRANDT

(checks the timer)

Three minutes and change. Then this gizmo's worth about as much as an 8-track tape player.

He rises, moves to join Quinn, puts a hand on his shoulder.

(X)

REMBRANDT

I can't take your pain away, but sharing it might make it easier to bear.

(X)

(X)

(X)

QUINN

I'll find her. Or die trying.

(X)

REMBRANDT

I feel the same way. I've got to try and find my family. As long as we've got life in us, we've got some fight left.

(X)

(X)

QUINN

The Kromaggs control this whole planet, Remmy. What real chance have we got?

(X)

(beat)

Wade's out there somewhere, we can't just give up on her.

REMBRANDT

But we just can't roll over for these dogs, man. That's not our style.

QUINN

There might be a way to beat the Maggs, but we won't find it here.

REMBRANDT

What're you saying, Quinn? Tell it plain.

Quinn paces, mulling it, speaking almost as if to himself.

CONTINUED

89 CONTINUED 4

89

Remmy checks the TIMER; it counts down to ZERO. He aims it and OPENS the VORTEX.

REMBRANDT

I'm with you, Q-Ball, same as  
always. Finding a way to kick the  
Magg's butts is the only dream  
I've got left.

(X)  
(X)

MAGGIE

I don't trust you two out there  
sliding by yourselves, there's no  
telling what kind of trouble you'll  
get into without me. Let's go for  
it!

They trade grins, and Remmy jumps through the gateway,  
followed by Maggie.

90 QUINN

90

turns, looks back a long moment.

QUINN

We'll be back. Count on it.

He jumps into the vortex; it CLOSES with a crackle of  
electricity. HOLD on the quiet, deserted Last Chance, then

FADE OUT

THE END