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"WAITING FOR BECKETT"

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SLIDERS

"Waiting For Beckett"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY (D1)

1

Favor one of the neat, well-tended houses. The mid-day quiet is broken by the familiar ROAR of the vortex tearing space-time open. Flashing through the first floor windows of the house we see a lightning storm of VORTEX LIGHT. From inside the house we hear a WOMAN SCREAM, various CRASHES and the SCREECH of a cat.

As the woman's scream continues in one drawn-out WAIL, the front door of the house bursts open and Maggie, Diana, Rembrandt and Mallory charge out. As they run off the porch and down the front walk they call back...

DIANA

Sorry! We're sorry!

MALLORY

Our bad!

Maggie pushes them along.

MAGGIE

Go, go!

The woman in the house hasn't run out of breath yet. Her SCREAM CONTINUES as the Sliders hit the sidewalk and clear frame.

2 EXT. ANOTHER STREET - DAY

2

The Sliders walk along. Remy is nearly breathless with laughter.

DIANA

It's not funny. That woman was scared to death.

REMBRANDT

(wiping his eyes)
Not the woman. The cat.

He nearly loses it again.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED

2

DIANA

Don't you worry about the effect
we're having on people? We can't pop
out in some deserted alley every time.

MAGGIE

We just get filed away with the UFO
sightings. Remmy's been mistaken for
Bigfoot at least once.

MALLORY

I wouldn't mind getting a cut of the
psychiatrist's bills you've caused.

Remmy finally gets a grip on himself. He pulls out the timer
and checks it.

REMBRANDT

We've got eighteen and a half hours
before we can create any more urban
legends.

(looking around)

We need to check the lay of the land.
I don't recognize this town.

MAGGIE

Beautiful Fresno, California.

They look at Maggie. She seems a bit reluctant to continue.

MAGGIE

I grew up here.

(turning to go)

C'mon, there should be a motel this
way.

She moves off. The other Sliders exchange a curious glance
and follow Maggie.

3 EXT. STREET - DAY

3

Maggie moves purposefully. The other Sliders keep up.

REMBRANDT

We've never slid into your hometown
before, Maggie. How about the grand
tour?

Maggie points absently as she walks.

CONTINUED

3 CONTINUED

3

MAGGIE

Park. Store. Post office. You get the idea.

DIANA

You don't seem too thrilled to be here.

MAGGIE

What do you want to see? The girl's academy where I spent every Christmas from the time I was ten? Or my mom's grave I wasn't allowed to visit?

(a beat, easing up)

Sorry. I got out of here early. It wasn't Norman Rockwell, you know?

MALLORY

Looks like the Becketts left their mark.

He points to a street sign on the corner: BECKETT AVE.

MAGGIE

That used to be Oak Park Drive. Must be a coincidence.

REMBRANDT

(looking across the street)

That's no coincidence.

4 REMMY'S POV:

4

Across the street a sign marks the entrance to MAGGIE BECKETT MUNICIPAL PARK.

5 RESUME SCENE

5

Maggie and the Sliders react to this.

MALLORY

At least it doesn't say Maggie Beckett Memorial Park.

CUT TO:

6 AN IMPOSING MEMORIAL

6

A thick-based obelisk apparently carved out of black granite. A gleaming curve of burnished metal arcs from the top of the black slab, like a rocket taking off. We are...

7 EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE - DAY

7

CRANE DOWN the memorial to find the Sliders stepping up to it. As a slightly shocked-looking Maggie reaches out to touch the stone, Remmy reads the words inscribed there:

REMBRANDT

"To those who dared to reach for the stars. In memory of the Intrepid Five of mankind's first mission to Mars. Lost to the cosmos, their fates known only to God.

Maggie runs her hands down the list of five names etched in the black stone. The last name reads: LT. COL. MARGARET "MAGGIE" BECKETT, MISSION COMMANDER.

DIANA

Oh, Maggie.

MALLORY

Looks like you're a hero.

Off Maggie's stunned look, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

8 EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE - DAY

8

The Sliders are gathered around the Intrepid Five memorial.

MALLORY

Hometown girl makes it big. Sort of.

REMBRANDT

You okay, Maggie?

MAGGIE

I know the drill, Remmy. It's not me, remember?

DIANA

Still. It'd give me the creeps. It's like looking at your own gravestone.

MAGGIE

It's kind of cool actually. On this world I was an astronaut. And a lieutenant colonel to boot. Not bad.

REMBRANDT

Congratulations, colonel, but we better keep you out of sight.

MALLORY

Right. Anyone recognizes you and we got a lot of splainin' to do, Lucy.

Maggie slips on a pair of sunglasses.

MAGGIE

Maggie who?

Remmy smiles and shakes his head as the Sliders move off.

9 EXT. STREET - DAY

9

The Sliders continue to walk and talk. A POSTMAN passes them walking down the street. He's pushing a mail cart but it's hovering off the ground, suspended in the air by some unseen anti-gravity force. The Sliders take note.

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED

9

MALLORY

Pretty high tech.

MAGGIE

Helps explain their space program.
We had a manned Mars mission on the
drawing board but it was still twenty
years away.

MALLORY

Our guys never got past the moon.

REMBRANDT

(to Diana)
You should hit the library while
we're here.

DIANA

Right. Could be some breakthroughs
in quantum theory we need to know.

MAGGIE

Might be fun to find out more about
my alternate.

As the Sliders approach the corner a bus pulls up to a bus stop. On the side of the bus is a photo of Maggie, looking serious in a NASA-style spacesuit with an American flag behind her. The ad copy reads: WHILE IN FRESNO VISIT THE MAGGIE BECKETT MUSEUM AND BIRTHPLACE.

MAGGIE

Oh, please can we go, Remmy? Please,
please, please?

Off Remmy's doubtful look, we...

CUT TO:

10 PHOTOGRAPH OF MAGGIE

10

The same as on the side of the bus. She looks heroic and determined with her space helmet tucked under her arm. WIDEN TO REVEAL we are...

11 INT. MAGGIE BECKETT MUSEUM - DAY

11

It's a modest space, probably a converted home, filled with photos and memorabilia. The Sliders are gathered around the large photo of Maggie.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED

11

MALLORY

I do love a woman in a pressure suit.

REMBRANDT

Maggie, you know this isn't smart.

MAGGIE

Come on. I'm incognito. If we went to a world where you were in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame wouldn't you want to go?

REMBRANDT

If there was any justice in the universe.

Diana is reading a plaque next to the photo.

DIANA

It says the Intrepid spacecraft disappeared without a trace on its way back from the Mars landing. No one knows what happened.

MAGGIE

(thoughtful)

So they made it there. I walked on Mars.

(off picture)

Or she did.

Mallory has wandered off to look at some other displays.

MALLORY

Check this out.

The Sliders gather around a display case. It's filled with childhood souvenirs: report cards, family photos, dolls, etc. Mallory points to a photo of a ten-year-old Maggie (braces, pigtails -- a real photo of Kari if we can find a suitable one).

DIANA

Awww.

MALLORY

(baby talk)

Lookit that wittle face!

MAGGIE

Don't make me hurt you.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED 2

11

Remmy nods to another photo.

REMBRANDT

This your mother?

MAGGIE

Yeah.

She takes off her sunglasses and looks closer at the photo, moved.

MAGGIE

I almost forgot what she looked like. Funny thing about being a Slider, you don't have any stuff. No photo albums. No family heirlooms.

REMBRANDT

Just what you carry in your heart.

Maggie nods. The Sliders are startled by a voice behind them...

MR. XYBO (O.S.)

Maggie Beckett.

They turn to see a slightly quirky man in his forties standing behind them. His name is MR. XYBO.

MAGGIE

What?

MR. XYBO

(off the photo)

She's an inspiration to us all.

Maggie slips her sunglasses back on.

MALLORY

She certainly is.

MR. XYBO

Welcome to our museum. Have you seen our home movie archive? We have an extensive collection of Maggie Beckett baby videos, all her school plays, plus the hard-to-find cheerleader tryout fiasco.

REMBRANDT

That I'd like to see.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED 3

11

Maggie clears her throat loudly and shoots Remmy a look.

DIANA

Who's this?

She indicates a black and white photo of a handsome young man in a Marine uniform shaking hands with an older man in a suit.

MR. XYBO

That is the most influential man in young Maggie Beckett's life. Her father Thomas Beckett.

Maggie reacts quietly to this.

DIANA

Who's he shaking hands with?

MR. XYBO

Well. So much for public schools. I suppose you couldn't find Canada on a map either.

Diana gives him a sour look.

MR. XYBO

That's President Adlai Stevenson.

REMBRANDT

President Adlai Stevenson.

MR. XYBO

He's receiving young Lt. Beckett at the White House after his return from Korea as the war's first jet ace.

Mr. Xybo indicates some more photos on the wall.

MR. XYBO

It was young Maggie's adoration of her father that led to her own military career. Father and daughter were extremely close, especially after the death of Maggie's mother. It was through the nurturing and tireless support of her father that Maggie found the path in life that led her into space.

MAGGIE

(under her breath)
Please.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED 4

11

MR. XYBO

I'm sorry?

Maggie turns away from Xybo and the other Sliders.

MAGGIE

I need some air.

She exits. Mr. Xybo watches curiously as the other Sliders move to follow.

12 EXT. MAGGIE BECKETT MUSEUM - DAY

12

Maggie hurries down the front steps of the museum, whipping off her sunglasses. The other Sliders follow her out and gather round.

DIANA

What is it?

MAGGIE

Close? They think we were close?
The man sent me off to a boarding
school a week after my mother died so
he wouldn't have to deal with me.
Nurture my butt.

MALLORY

Whoa. Alternate universes, remember?
Just because you weren't tight with
your dad doesn't mean this Maggie
wasn't.

MAGGIE

In all the worlds we'll been to we've
found certain things are always the
same. Up is always up, right? Fire
is always hot. Well, the General was
like that. A real force of nature.

She heads off, leaving the other Sliders to exchange concerned looks. Diana starts to head after Maggie, but Remmy stops her.

REMBRANDT

Let her walk it off. Why don't you
check out the library and we'll hook
up at the local motel later.

Diana nods. As the Sliders move off, we find Mr. Xybo watching curiously from the door of the museum.

13 EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE - DAY

13

Maggie gazes pensively at the Intrepid Memorial.

MAGGIE

I was almost an astronaut, you know.

REVEAL Mallory is standing a few steps behind her. He nods silently. She continues, not facing him, still staring at the memorial.

MAGGIE

After I finished test pilot school I was next in line for astronaut training. Then the war broke out. The General decided my place was on the front lines, defending our country. So he rejected my transfer. He was right I guess.

MALLORY

Maybe. But it wasn't his decision to make.

She turns on him.

MAGGIE

Everything was his decision to make.

MALLORY

Sounds like you two had some issues.

MAGGIE

You had it lucky. I saw the hologram of your family. It looked like "Leave It to Beaver."

MALLORY

Sure. Before Ward got sent to the white collar prison farm for embezzling from his company, and Wally and the Beav came home from school every day to find the car on the lawn and June taking a "nap" on the sofa.

MAGGIE

What?

MALLORY

(shrugs)
Thing about holographic generators. They show you what you want to see.

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED

13

Maggie nods. There's a moment of connection between them as we go to...

14 INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

14

This isn't Los Angeles, so this isn't the Chandler. It's a generic motel/hotel room: cheap furnishings, bad art, etc. Rembrandt, Maggie and Mallory listen as a very excited Diana dumps an arm load of books, CD-ROMS and magazines onto the table.

DIANA

You're not going to believe what I found out.

Maggie and Remmy give her a deadpan look.

DIANA

Right. Anyway, apparently on this world in 1944 the German army broke through the Allied lines at the Battle of the Bulge. The war in Europe dragged on for another three years. General Eisenhower was eventually relieved as Allied Supreme Commander.

REMBRANDT

So, Ike never came home a war hero.

MAGGIE

And Adlai Stevenson was elected President.

MALLORY

And this has what to do with anti-gravity mail carts?

DIANA

This.

She pulls a photocopy of a 1950's era newspaper from her pile of material. A photo shows a smiling man (Adlai Stevenson from the photograph at the Maggie Beckett museum) shaking hands with a small, spindly-limbed, grey-skinned EXTRATERRESTRIAL. The headline reads: PRESIDENT STEVENSON SIGNS HISTORIC PACT WITH SPACE ALIENS; DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE ALLIANCE FORGED.

MALLORY

Another tabloid world?

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED

14

DIANA

They don't need tabloids here.

As they talk, Diana puts a DVD disk into a player hooked up to the room's TV.

DIANA

On your world you must have heard all the crazy theories -- a UFO crash at Roswell, New Mexico; a secret deal between our government and extraterrestrials.

MAGGIE

We've seen 'The X-Files.'

MALLORY

'The What Files?'

Diana keys the DVD remote and 1950's vintage black and white news footage plays on the TV. We see the spindly little alien surrounded by a group of grinning, glad-handing men in suits. One of them is handing the alien a ceremonial key. Handshakes all around.

DIANA

It really happened. Only instead of covering it all up in the name of national security the way Eisenhower did, President Stevenson went public. He formed the Reticulan-American Free Trade Agreement...

MALLORY

Rafta?

DIANA

(continuing)
...and American business started benefiting from the alien high-tech.

Through all this Remmy has been listening thoughtfully.

REMBRANDT

I knew it!

The Sliders turn to him.

REMBRANDT

Roswell. Area 51. I always knew they were keeping something from us.

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

(amused)
"They?"

REMBRANDT

You know who I'm talking about.
Black suits, black glasses, black
helicopters. I was in the service.
I know what these guys can do.

MAGGIE

Remmy, I never took you for a
conspiracy junkie.

REMBRANDT

Believe it. Polaroid cameras,
transistors, fiber optics. You think
we came up with all that on our own?
(knowingly)
Velcro.

DIANA

Anyway, that's how this world
advanced its space program so rapidly.

MALLORY

(to Diana)
You really buy this?

DIANA

I think I always did. I became a
scientist because I figured there was
so much out there I didn't know.
Things I had to find out.

She freezes the DVD image on a shot of the extraterrestrial.

DIANA

I've got to try and meet one of them.

REMBRANDT

Count me in.

MALLORY

Good luck.

DIANA

You don't want to meet these beings?
This could be the most significant
event in the history of humankind.

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED 3

14

REMBRANDT

Plus maybe they got some kind of death ray we can use on the Kromaggs.

MALLORY

I'll pass. I've heard those guys wield a pretty mean probe.

MAGGIE

I better lay low here. Keep out of sight.

MALLORY

Now you're thinking.

He picks up a take-out menu from the desk.

MALLORY

I'll get us some food from the diner. You want the Beckett o' Chicken or the Maggie-roni and Cheese?

Off Maggie's look...

15 EXT. MOTEL - DAY

15

From across the street we see Remmy, Diana and Mallory exit the motel. We're too far away to hear them, but they exchange a few words and then Remmy and Diana move off in one direction while Mallory heads the other way. Hold a beat, then...

16 MR. XYBO

16

steps into frame. He has been watching the Sliders and he now focuses his attention on the motel.

17 INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

17

ANGLE ON THE TV where the black and white news footage of the extraterrestrial visitor plays silently. CAMERA FINDS Maggie, sacked out in an armchair, her feet up and Diana's books and news clippings scattered about her.

CLICK-CLICK. We see the doorknob to the room turn. Maggie doesn't stir as the door swings quietly open. A figure enters the room. We only see shadows, feet... we can't tell who it is. As the intruder moves closer to Maggie, he pulls a lockblade from his pocket and unfolds it.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED

17

Maggie dozes in the armchair, her head lolling to one side exposing her throat. The intruder moves closer, bringing the knife closer to her throat. The tip of the blade brushes Maggie's hair and her eyes snap open. Her hand lashes out and grabs the intruder's arm by the wrist.

MALLORY (O.S.)

Ow! Ow!

Reveal the mysterious intruder is Mallory. Maggie has one of his arms twisted in a painful hold, while he grasps a cardboard KFC-style bucket with the other (it says "Beckett 'o Chicken" on it).

MAGGIE

What the hell are you doing?

MALLORY

Leggo! I just brought you some lunch.

She twists his arm a little harder and he drops the knife.

MAGGIE

You gonna cut my food for me?

MALLORY

I didn't know if you wanted the To-Boldly-Go-Slaw or the Semper Fries, so I got both. Ow!

She lets go of him.

MAGGIE.

(even)

What are you doing with that knife?

Mallory shifts nervously, caught.

MALLORY

Okay. Here's the deal. You are some kind of legend on this world. Like Amelia Earhart or something.

MAGGIE

Not me.

MALLORY

(talking fast)

Your double, right. But anything to do with Maggie Beckett is gold. Look.

CONTINUED

He grabs the remote and flips the TV to the local version of the Home Shopping Network. A cheesy commemorative plate bearing the same heroic picture of Maggie's double in her spacesuit is for sale.

ANNOUNCER

And we only have a few of these gorgeous, hand-painted commemorative plates left. A true keepsake of a true American hero, fully authorized by the Beckett estate for only \$299.99.

MALLORY

Three hundred bucks. For a plate. Think how much a lock of the real Maggie Beckett's hair would go for.

MAGGIE

(stunned)

You were going to sell my hair?

MALLORY

That guy from the museum gave me a hundred bucks for your toothbrush.

MAGGIE

(outraged)

You sold my toothbrush?

MALLORY

It was all chewed up anyway.

Maggie angrily shoves Mallory.

MAGGIE

You, you... rotten little weasel.

MALLORY

Come on, you've seen how gullible these people are.

MAGGIE

(overlapping)

You scheming, sneaky...

MALLORY

We've got to pay for this hotel room somehow. Who's the victim?

Maggie is speechless. Suddenly, CRASH! A patio chair comes flying through the window in an explosion of broken glass.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED 3 17

Maggie and Mallory head for the door.

18 EXT. MOTEL - DAY 18

Maggie and Mallory exit the hotel room and come face to face with a (smallish) unruly mob of people gathered around their hotel room. As soon as Maggie appears a hubbub erupts. People cry out from the crowd: "It's her!" "She's a fake!" "Maggie, we love you!" "You sicko!" "Who are you?", etc.

We see Mr. Xybo in the mob...

MR. XYBO

It's her! I told you! It's her!

As Maggie and Mallory are jostled by the surging mob, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19 EXT. STREET - DAY

19

Remmy and Diana move up the street toward the hotel. Diana looks a bit glum.

DIANA

I guess it was too much to hope that
Fresno would have a Reticulan Embassy.

Remmy is flipping through a hardcover book. The cover shows a picture of a Reticulan "grey" alien.

REMBRANDT

According to this the little guys
don't hang here on Earth very much.
Still a little touchy about us
dissecting their peace emissary, I
guess.

DIANA

I wish we could have met one. Think
of everything they've given humanity.

REMBRANDT

More than just velcro, apparently.

DIANA

What do you mean?

He flips the book shut.

REMBRANDT

This world's entire history from the
time the aliens showed up is
different. The Vietnam War never
happened here. Neither did
Watergate. JFK wasn't assassinated
because Lee Harvey Oswald warned the
FBI the Cubans were planning to kill
him. He's a national hero.

As they walk we can hear the sound of an EXCITED CROWD rising
in the background.

DIANA

All because the government didn't
cover up the aliens' arrival.

CONTINUED

19 CONTINUED

19

REMBRANDT

Welcome to a world where Americans
didn't lose faith in their government.

DIANA

Doesn't give Oliver Stone much to do.

The rising HUBBUB of the crowd finally draws their attention,
and they now see the mob crowding around the motel. We can
see Maggie and Mallory being jostled by the crowd.

REMBRANDT

Dammit, I warned her to keep out of
sight.

Remmy and Diana rush toward...

20 EXT. MOTEL - DAY

20

The mob is pulling at Maggie trying to get a piece of her.

MALLORY

Maggie!

He gets a hold of Maggie and tries to pull her clear as the
crowd continues to shout: "Where did you come from!" "You're
a fake! How dare you!", etc.

MAGGIE

It's a mistake! I'm not her!

Remmy and Diana force their way into the crowd, trying to push
their way through to Maggie and Mallory.

REMBRANDT

Maggie!
(shoving people aside)
Out of the way!

DIANA

Leave her alone!

Remmy and Diana are making some headway, but just as they're
about to break through to Maggie and Mallory...

21 A BLACK VAN

21

screeches up to the curb, scattering the crowd. The doors fly
open and a pair of dark-suited men leap out. They grab Maggie
and Mallory and haul them into the van.

22 RESUME SCENE

22

As Remy and Diana try to push through to reach the other Sliders. But they are cut off by the crowd as the van doors slam and the van roars off.

REMBRANDT

Maggie!

There's nothing they can do as the van disappears. Off Remy's hard expression, we go to...

23 INT. DARK SPACE - WE DON'T KNOW WHEN (STILL DAY 1)

23

A cavernous black void (like an empty soundstage). CAMERA FINDS a pool of light in the midst of the emptiness, where we see two people -- Maggie and Mallory -- standing with black hoods over their heads and their hands handcuffed behind their backs. They stand there for a beat, and then...

MAGGIE

(sarcastic; under the hood)

Who's the victim?

MALLORY

How many times do I have to apologize?

MAGGIE

I never even got to eat my lunch.

MALLORY

I could use one of those blended Maggie-ritas right now..

Echoing FOOTSTEPS approach.

MAGGIE

Hey. Who's there?

The two men who hauled Maggie and Mallory into the van appear out of the darkness. They pull the hoods off Maggie and Mallory's heads. They can now see a second pool of light in the darkness about twenty feet away. A modern-looking black desk with nothing on it sits in the pool. Behind the desk, a high-backed leather chair is turned away from camera.

MALLORY

Where are we? What the hell's going on here?

A VOICE echoes eerily...

CONTINUED

23 CONTINUED

23

THE LEADER (O.S.)
I apologize for the security
precautions. Release them.

The two goons undo the handcuffs and disappear into the
darkness.

THE LEADER
Allow me to introduce myself. I am...

The chair spins around revealing a strange little man. He is
slight in build and has a completely bald head. He has
piercing dark eyes and his skin has a pasty grey complexion.
Although he is clearly human, his appearance should be
reminiscent of the Reticulan extraterrestrial we saw in the
news footage.

THE LEADER
(dramatic pause)
The Leader.

Off Maggie's and Mallory's amazed and somewhat bemused
expressions, we go to...

24 INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

24

Remmy and Diana pace the room brainstorming strategy.

DIANA
Why would a world without
conspiracies need men in black?

REMBRANDT
I don't know. But we've got less
than twelve hours to find out where
they took Maggie and Mallory.

In the background, a WORKER in coveralls is measuring the
broken window frame with a tape measure. He has a unit
strapped to his back that looks like a flamethrower or an
exterminator's tank with a logo reading "InstaGlass."

DIANA
Why would they take them?

Remmy cocks his head at the worker, silently indicating that
they shouldn't be discussing this in front of him.

Oblivious, the worker aims the nozzle of his spray tank at the
window and pulls the trigger. A FLUID-LIKE STREAM (CGI)
sprays from the nozzle and hits the empty window frame. The

CONTINUED

24 CONTINUED

24

material spreads out like a liquid, evenly and completely filling the frame. In a second it crystallizes and hardens into a perfect pane of glass. The worker PLINKS the glass with his finger.

REMBRANDT

Uh, thanks.

The worker nods and exits.

REMBRANDT

Somebody must have recognized Maggie. I imagine the government would have a few questions if one of their astronauts who was lost in space suddenly re-entered the world.

DIANA

Who are we talking about? NASA? The Air Force?

Remy grabs the phone book.

REMBRANDT

That's a place to start. If this world really has no secrets, maybe we can get a straight answer from somebody. For once.

As he reaches for the phone, we go to...

25 INT. THE LEADER'S SECRET LAIR - DAY

25

Maggie and Mallory stand before the Leader's desk.

MALLORY

So. You're the Leader.

THE LEADER

I am.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry, what exactly are you the leader of?

THE LEADER

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

MALLORY

Nasa?

CONTINUED

25 CONTINUED

25

THE LEADER

Correct. As I'm sure you can understand we were quite surprised to have one of our astronauts mysteriously return from the dead.

MAGGIE

Yes, about that--

THE LEADER

Your last known location was one-point-six million kilometers from this planet. And now here you are. No re-entry vehicle. No spacesuit.

MAGGIE

I have an explanation for that.

THE LEADER

I'd like to hear it.

MAGGIE

I'm not Maggie Beckett. Yes, I look a lot like her, but this is all just a big misunderstanding.

The Leader gets up and walks around his desk to face the Sliders.

THE LEADER

That was what we suspected as well. Perhaps you were simply perpetrating a hoax for your own personal gain.

MALLORY

That's it.

THE LEADER

Then how do you explain this?

He dramatically produces a plastic "evidence" baggie and dangles it in front of their faces. There is a toothbrush in it.

MAGGIE

It's a toothbrush.

THE LEADER

Yes. Purchased undercover from a reliable source that identified it as your toothbrush.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

25 CONTINUED 2

25

THE LEADER (CONT'D)

A DNA profile of the saliva on the toothbrush is an exact match to the military records of Lt. Colonel Maggie Beckett.

Maggie glares at a chagrined Mallory.

THE LEADER

Welcome home, Colonel.

26 INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

26

Diana looks on expectantly as Remmy talks on the phone.

REMBRANDT

(into phone)

Yes, I know Maggie Beckett died...
I want to know if you picked up someone posing as Maggie Beckett...
I don't know why they'd do that...
What? Me?

(suddenly nervous)

Just a concerned citizen.

He quickly hangs up the phone.

REMBRANDT

I've tried the Air Force, NASA, FBI, CIA. Don't tell me there's a government that doesn't keep secrets. It hasn't been invented.

DIANA

So what now? Do we hit the streets?

He picks up the phone again and dials "0."

REMBRANDT

It always makes me nervous, but I'm gonna call the cops. We describe the van, report Maggie missing. Maybe we'll get lucky.

(into phone)

Connect me to the police.

CRASH! The newly repaired window explodes again as a SWAT-style COMMANDO in military camo and body armor leaps through the glass and levels a compact assault weapon at the Sliders. Before Remmy and Diana can react the door to the room bursts open and three more commandoes flood in.

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED

26

REMBRANDT

(into phone)
Could you hurry, please?

The commandoes grab Remmy and Diana and hustle them out of the room.

27 EXT. MOTEL - DAY

27

The commandoes hustle Remmy and Diana into the back of a large, unmarked panel van parked at the curb. As soon as they all get inside, the van speeds off.

28 INT. VAN - MOVING - DAY

28

It's a mobile command post: video monitors and other high-tech surveillance gear line the walls. Remmy and Diana are crammed awkwardly in the back between the hulking commandoes.

REMBRANDT

What's with all the muscle?

No one answers.

DIANA

Who's in charge here?

THE GENERAL (O.S.)

That would be me.

The Sliders look toward the front of the van, where a distinguished-looking man in his sixties sits at a command console. He is wearing an army green sweater with three stars on the shoulders. For the moment, we'll just call him THE GENERAL.

REMBRANDT

What do you want?

THE GENERAL

The same thing you do, Mr. Brown. To find Maggie Beckett.

Remmy and Diana exchange a look, as we go to...

29 INT. THE LEADER'S SECRET LAIR - NIGHT (N1)

29

The Leader is continuing his interrogation of Maggie and Mallory.

CONTINUED

THE LEADER

Why don't you tell me how you got here?

MAGGIE

Your goons grabbed us.

THE LEADER

I meant on this planet.

MALLORY

I've got a few questions for you. Since when does NASA have a squad of thugs who drive around in black vans abducting people?

THE LEADER

It's for your own protection--

MAGGIE

I've been to NASA, and I don't remember them lighting their offices like this.

(heating up)

Or putting bags over people's heads. Or hiring some pasty-faced mole man to give people the third degree. And what the hell kind of title is "The Leader" anyway?

The Leader stares at her for a beat, then...

THE LEADER

All right, you got me.

MAGGIE

What?

THE LEADER

I don't really work for NASA. Most people would have believed that lie. They believe anything the government tells them. You have a suspicious mind though. I like that. I suppose it's to be expected after what you've been through.

MAGGIE

What I've been through?

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED 2

29

THE LEADER

The big lie, of course. The cover-up. Your heroic demise on the frontiers of space.

He moves in close to Maggie.

THE LEADER

But now the world is going to know the truth. And you're going to help me show it to them.

Off Maggie and Mallory's doubtful looks, we go to...

30 INT. VAN - MOVING - NIGHT

30

Remmy and Diana are talking to the General, while a TECHNICIAN carefully monitors the high-tech gear packing the van.

REMBRANDT

Look, General, if you can help us find our friends we'd really appreciate it, but there's been a big mix-up here. She's not Maggie Beckett.

THE GENERAL

Of course she isn't. Lt. Colonel Beckett died two years ago when the Intrepid return vehicle suffered a major malfunction and disappeared a million and a half kilometers in space.

TECHNICIAN

(to the General)
We may have a fix on them, sir. Scanning software has picked up key phrases on a scrambled satellite phone frequency.

THE GENERAL

Nail it.

DIANA

Then why all this? The troops. What are you looking for?

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED

30

THE GENERAL

Your friend has been abducted by a very dangerous man. If you can even call him a man. His very genetic makeup has rendered him a dangerous psychotic.

REMBRANDT

What does he want with our friend?

THE GENERAL

His paranoid delusions cause him to see conspiracies everywhere. He believes that Colonel Beckett and the other Intrepid astronauts didn't die in space.

(a beat)

He thinks we killed them.

DIANA

What?

THE GENERAL

He and his followers are convinced the Intrepid mission was faked. That the government staged the Mars landing on a Hollywood soundstage and then murdered the astronauts to prevent them from ever revealing the deception.

DIANA

But if he thinks our friend is Maggie Beckett, the real Maggie Beckett, his theory falls apart.

THE GENERAL

Exactly. So, he won't keep her alive. Not for very long.

Remy and Diana exchange a concerned look.

REMBRANDT

How do we know you're telling us the truth?

The General reacts with surprise, maybe even a little hurt by the insinuation that he'd be anything but honest with them.

THE GENERAL

Why would I lie?

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED 2

30

As Remmy and Diana share a look of dread, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

31 INT. THE LEADER'S SECRET LAIR - NIGHT

31

Maggie and Mallory watch as the Leader walks slowly around his cavernous "office."

THE LEADER

The skeptic is an endangered species, my friends. For years those in power have been spoon-feeding the people a steady diet of the truth. Openness. Freedom of information. It's made us soft.

(contemptuous)

A society of believers.

MAGGIE

What's wrong with a relationship based on trust?

THE LEADER

Because eventually it has to break down, and it leaves you unprepared for the lies that must inevitably follow.

(then)

Like the lie that made me.

MAGGIE

What lie is that?

THE LEADER

You may have noticed my... unusual appearance.

MALLORY

You could use a little sun.

Maggie shoots him a look.

THE LEADER

We were told that the Reticulans would bring us prosperity. Technology. MRI scanners. Ball point pens.

MALLORY

Velcro.

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED

31

THE LEADER

Exactly. But we weren't told about the side effects their technology would cause.

MAGGIE

You're one of those side effects?

THE LEADER

In the early 1960's the government began using Reticulan DNA to develop powerful vaccines for childhood diseases. Smallpox, polio, TB were virtually wiped from the face of the earth.

MALLORY

That's a good thing.

THE LEADER

(bitter)

Only for about ninety-nine point nine percent of the population. But what about the other point one percent? What about the children whose bodies assimilated the alien DNA into their own -- turning them into outcasts, freaks.

Maggie and Mallory watch as the The Leader waves his arms in frustration.

THE LEADER

Oh sure, I got massively increased brain capacity, supernumerary nipples and an extra set of eyelids. But I haven't found many women who dig the look.

MAGGIE

I think you're really... striking.

THE LEADER

Save it. I realized that a government capable of doing something like this to its own children was capable of anything. So I founded this organization. A secret society devoted to rooting out the vast network of conspiracies that only I had the vision to see.

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED 2

31

MALLORY

Had any luck?

THE LEADER

Not until now.

(to Maggie)

But your lifeless body will provide
the proof I need.

MAGGIE

Okay, time out. You're also insane,
right?

The Leader gestures and his two goons reappear from the
darkness.

THE LEADER

Your sacrifice to the cause of truth
will be remembered, Colonel Beckett.

He nods to his men, who move in to grab Maggie. Mallory tries
to fend them off, but he's knocked aside.

MALLORY

Leave her alone!

They grab Maggie.

MAGGIE

Hands off!

Suddenly, things happen very fast. A TEAR GAS GRENADE comes
sailing into the room, spraying smoke everywhere. Ropes snake
down from the darkness above and a pair of the General's
commandoes wearing gas masks rappel to the floor. More
commandoes swarm into the room, covering the coughing Leader
and his men.

Then THREE FIGURES in gas masks walk into the room. The lead
figure stops when he catches sight of Maggie gasping. He
gestures to his men who grab Maggie and bring her to him. The
other two figures rush to her side. As the smoke begins to
clear, they pull off their gas masks revealing Remmy and Diana.

MAGGIE

(coughing)

Am I glad to see you guys.

Diana goes to Mallory, helping him to his feet.

REMBRANDT

Likewise girl. You okay?

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED 3

31

MAGGIE

(nodding)
Who's the cavalry?

All this time, the third figure has been staring at her intently. Now, he takes off his gas mask. It's the General.

MAGGIE

(stunned)
Dad.

Remmy and the other Sliders react, looking from Maggie to the General (who we will now refer to as GENERAL BECKETT).

MALLORY

Dad?

General Beckett gives a curt signal to his men and they begin to withdraw, still covering the Leader and his men with their weapons. Two of the commandoes grab Maggie and pull her away from Remmy.

REMBRANDT

Hey!

DIANA

What are you doing?

Remmy starts toward Maggie, but one of the commandoes fires a quick BURST OF GUNFIRE into the air. The Sliders and the Leader's men freeze and the commandoes disappear into the surrounding blackness with Maggie.

REMBRANDT

You said you wanted to help us!

THE LEADER

You can't do this! Your web of lies
will be exposed!

MALLORY

Maggie!

MAGGIE

(from the darkness)
Mallory!

And they're gone. There is a strange beat as Remmy, Diana and Mallory square off with the Leader and his men. As they size each other up, we go to...

32 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

32

A comfortable, nicely appointed office. Maggie is alone in the room efficiently checking the doors and windows for any way out. All locked. She checks the desk. While rifling some files she spies a small framed photograph on corner. It shows Maggie (this world's Maggie) standing at attention in her Marine uniform while General Beckett pins her wings on her chest.

GENERAL BECKETT (O.S.)

Put that down, please.

Maggie looks up to see General Beckett in the doorway. A uniformed guard can be seen behind him. The General enters and closes the door behind him.

MAGGIE

(almost involuntary)

Yes, sir.

General Beckett moves slowly into the room, watching her carefully. She has a hard time meeting his gaze; even in an alternate universe, this man clearly has an effect on her.

GENERAL BECKETT

What do you do when you are
confronted with something that is,
but cannot be?

He walks around her, never breaking his gaze.

GENERAL BECKETT

DNA tests confirm that you are
Margaret Allison Beckett. But that
woman is dead. You can't be her twin.

He picks up another photo off his desk. A young woman (his late wife) holding an infant.

GENERAL BECKETT

I was there when she was born.

MAGGIE

(this surprises her)

I never knew that.

GENERAL BECKETT

You could be a clone, but who would
have the technology? Not that grey-
headed buffoon and his followers.

MAGGIE

I'm not a clone, sir.

CONTINUED

32 CONTINUED

32

GENERAL BECKETT

That's the second time you've called me sir.

Maggie is distracted by the baby picture the General has set down among others on his desk.

MAGGIE

I don't remember you ever having family pictures in your office. You said it was unprofessional.

GENERAL BECKETT

(a fact)
You can't be my daughter.

MAGGIE

You don't know how many times I tried to convince myself of that.

For the first time, his tough, military veneer seems to crack. He seems to wither a bit, stung by Maggie's comment.

GENERAL BECKETT

Who are you?

MAGGIE

(a deep breath)
I'm Maggie Beckett.

GENERAL BECKETT

It's impossible.

MAGGIE

How can you be so sure?

He looks at her for a long beat.

GENERAL BECKETT

I want to show you something.

He gestures toward the door.

33 INT. THE LEADER'S SECRET LAIR - NIGHT

33

The Leader is fuming as Remy, Mallory and Diana look on.

THE LEADER

I can't believe you were duped by that tool of the shadow government.

CONTINUED

REMBRANDT

What makes you any different from them? You kidnapped our friends. You were going to kill Maggie.

THE LEADER

I didn't want to. Do you think we didn't try other means?

The Leader touches an intercom on his desk.

THE LEADER

Send in the clones.
(to the Sliders)
All we needed to do to convince the people that the government had deceived them was to produce one of the missing astronauts in the flesh. Initially, we tried to grow them in vats.

The Leader's two goons lead in an old lady, a little boy and a chicken on a leash.

THE LEADER

We tried a variety of gene-splicing concoctions but we could never get it quite right.
(waving at the goons)
Get out!

The goons lead the clones away.

MALLORY

Why go to all this trouble to prove something you don't even know is true?

THE LEADER

I know it's true. The government could never allow the Intrepid Mars mission to succeed. It would have opened the way to the stars, to the Reticulan Unity. Someday I might even have gone to my ancestral home, to a place I would fit in.
(bitterly)
But they wouldn't allow it.

Diana can't keep herself from staring at the Leader. He finally snaps at her...

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED 2

33

THE LEADER

What? What is it?

DIANA

I'm sorry. I just... I never thought I'd meet someone like you.

THE LEADER

A freak? A non-human?

DIANA

No. Someone who could prove to me the universe isn't an empty place.

THE LEADER

And how have I done that?

DIANA

The proof is on your face.

The Leader is thrown by this frank statement. He shifts nervously.

THE LEADER

It's an empty place for me.

REMBRANDT

Maybe we can help you.

THE LEADER

How?

Remmy looks at Diana and Mallory.

REMBRANDT

There is a secret. But it's not what you think.

Off the Leader's intrigued look...

34 INT. ISOLATION WARD - NIGHT

34

Maggie and General Beckett enter a large hospital ward. The lights are dim and their footsteps echo eerily on the floor. Dust covers shroud high-tech medical equipment and five empty gurneys stand silently separated by plastic curtains.

MAGGIE

What is this place?

CONTINUED

GENERAL BECKETT

A room full of ghosts. Seems like an appropriate place for us to talk.

He turns to face her.

MAGGIE

After all I've been through, I can't believe you still intimidate me this much.

GENERAL BECKETT

I've never even met you.

MAGGIE

Not on this world.

GENERAL BECKETT

I've had enough of these games. I don't know what you want, but as far as I'm concerned you're a threat. You think just because you have her face I should treat you differently?

MAGGIE

You always treated me differently. You pushed me harder. You demanded more from me. And you loved me less for it.

GENERAL BECKETT

How dare you tell me how much I loved my daughter?

MAGGIE

I don't know how much you loved her, but I know how little you showed her. You think I joined the Marines because I admired you?

GENERAL BECKETT

(overlapping)
I've had enough of this--

MAGGIE

(pressing on)
Because I wanted to follow in your footsteps? I joined because the only time you could even see me was when I was wearing that uniform, sir. I never got a hug, so I settled for a salute.

CONTINUED

GENERAL BECKETT

You're talking ancient history.

MAGGIE

What possibly could have changed you?

GENERAL BECKETT

Losing you!

Suddenly, all the steam goes out of him. He sags and the ramrod straight warrior Maggie learned to fear and respect changes into a sad, tired old man before her eyes.

GENERAL BECKETT

A parent should never outlive his child. It's a terrible thing. After my wife died you...

(catching himself)

Maggie was all I had left.

MAGGIE

Then why did you shove me away? Send me off to some boarding school to be raised by strangers.

GENERAL BECKETT

I don't have to justify my actions to you. I wanted my daughter raised right.

MAGGIE

If you want something done right you do it yourself.

GENERAL BECKETT

I didn't think I could!

Maggie is floored by this admission. The General is nearly quivering with emotion.

GENERAL BECKETT

Enough of this. Who the hell are you?

MAGGIE

I'm Maggie Beckett.

GENERAL BECKETT

(shouting)

Stop it! You asked me how I knew you weren't my daughter.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

34 CONTINUED 3

34

GENERAL BECKETT (CONT'D)

(then)

I know because I watched her die in
this room.

He slams his hands down on a gurney.

GENERAL BECKETT

Right here. And there wasn't a damn
thing I could do about it.

Off Maggie's reaction, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

35 INT. ISOLATION WARD - NIGHT

35

Maggie is still reeling from the General's revelation.

MAGGIE

What are you talking about?

GENERAL BECKETT

We didn't lose the Intrepid crew in space.

As he speaks he moves to a nearby TV monitor and turns it on.

GENERAL BECKETT

They returned to Earth alive. Barely.

On the TV monitor we see footage of the isolation ward they are now standing in, except it is bustling with activity: doctors in white isolation suits cluster around the astronauts who lay on the gurneys.

GENERAL BECKETT

Halfway through their return trajectory we discovered a flaw in the ship's radiation shielding. The crew was being bombarded with lethal levels of solar radiation.

MAGGIE

My God.

GENERAL BECKETT

They had six more months of travel time. Six months they knew they were being cooked alive, and all we could do was watch.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry.

On the TV screen the image has now focused on Maggie's alternate. She's strapped to a gurney. Her face is blotchy and swollen with radiation sickness and she writhes deliriously. The General stares at the image, stricken.

CONTINUED

35 CONTINUED

35

GENERAL BECKETT
I never wanted her to go. I didn't
want to risk losing her, too. I
could have had her grounded. But it
was her dream.

Maggie is surprised to hear this.

MAGGIE
She did what she wanted. Why are you
keeping it a secret?

He turns back to her... angry, hurt. He jabs a finger at
Maggie's double's face on the monitor.

GENERAL BECKETT
And let the world see her like that?
In agony. Out of her head.

MAGGIE
She knew the risks.

GENERAL BECKETT
She will be remembered as a hero.

MAGGIE
She is a hero.

GENERAL BECKETT
Enough!

He snaps off the TV monitor.

GENERAL BECKETT
(composing himself)
Now that we've established who you're
not. Why don't you tell me who you
really are?

Maggie sighs and nods.

36 INT. THE LEADER'S SECRET LAIR - NIGHT

36

The Leader is listening to Remmy, Diana and Mallory.

THE LEADER
You're visitors from another
dimension?

REMBRANDT
Pretty crazy, huh?

CONTINUED

THE LEADER

Perhaps not. I've had a theory that the Reticulans may have used a transdimensional drive system to make the journey here from the homeworld.

DIANA

Interesting. It would make interstellar travel feasible. I'd love to hear your theory.

The Leader is clearly flustered by Diana's attention.

REMBRANDT

You help us and we'll give you proof that it's possible to travel between universes.

THE LEADER

You're asking me to abandon my life's work. Your Maggie has presented me with the opportunity to finally expose the one of the most insidious government conspiracies of the century.

MALLORY

Conspiracy to do what? In all the years you've been looking have you found any real evidence that the government is up to something?

The Leader looks stymied.

DIANA

What do you really want? To continue some single-minded crusade against the government? Or to find a way to meet the people who helped make you?

MALLORY

Maybe we can give you that chance.

REMBRANDT

Listen, we've only got three more hours and this opportunity is going to disappear.

Diana reaches out and touches his hand.

DIANA

Please.

CONTINUED

36 CONTINUED 2

36

THE LEADER

There might be someone who can help.

Off Diana's warm smile, we go to...

37 INT. OFFICE - MORNING (D2)

37

General Beckett is sitting on the edge of desk facing Maggie. He has a thoughtful look on his face.

GENERAL BECKETT

It's an amazing story.

MAGGIE

It's true.

GENERAL BECKETT

On your world... what happened to your father?

MAGGIE

He was on a diplomatic mission when the helicopter he was on was shot down. Everyone on board was killed.

GENERAL BECKETT

(nods)

I lost six good men on that shoot-down. Fine Marines. I was in rehab for five months, but I didn't die.

MAGGIE

Maybe that's why you're different from him. You lived through an experience that made you appreciate what you had.

GENERAL BECKETT

You know, before that chopper went down I never told Maggie that I loved her.

(looking her in the eye)

Just because I never said it...

Maggie nods, moved.

GENERAL BECKETT

I've scheduled a press conference in half an hour.

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

Why?

GENERAL BECKETT

To put an end to this. You'll tell the world that you're a fraud. That you were posing as Maggie Beckett to cash in on her good name. You'll apologize for the pain you've caused her family and friends.

MAGGIE

And we'll pretend this never happened.

He opens his hands, "What can I say?"

MAGGIE

I won't do it.

GENERAL BECKETT

You'll do as you're told.

MAGGIE

You're not my father.

(then)

And even if you were I wouldn't do it. Not this time, General.

GENERAL BECKETT

Then you'll sit in a holding cell until you change your mind. And if that means you miss your "sliding window," so be it.

MAGGIE

You're sending me to my room? Is that how you treated your Maggie? Is this the respect you showed her?

GENERAL BECKETT

I'm letting her rest with dignity.

MAGGIE

You're the one who's dishonoring her with this charade, not me. You're no better than that crackpot Leader -- he's chasing lies that don't exist, but you're making them real.

The General presses a button on his desk phone.

CONTINUED

37 CONTINUED 2

37

MAGGIE

She's a hero for how she lived, not
how she died.

The door opens and two armed guards step in. The General nods to them and they take Maggie by the arms.

MAGGIE

I know you believe you're doing it
for her. But this isn't what she
would want. I know.

The guards escort Maggie out of the room. After the door slams, we hold on him for a beat, absorbing what Maggie's said.

38 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

38

Maggie is being led down the hallway by the guards. They need to step to one side to avoid a JANITOR mopping the hall. Suddenly, the janitor turns to face them and we see he's wearing a gas mask. He raises a small AEROSOL CANISTER and sprays it in the guard's faces. They both drop like rocks.

MAGGIE

(surprised)
Mr. Xybo? How'd you get in here?

MR. XYBO

I used to work here. Come on, they
won't be out for long.

Maggie hesitates.

MR. XYBO

Your friends are waiting for you.
Rembrandt says you only have...
(checks his watch)
Thirty six minutes left.

She moves, following him off down the corridor.

39 INT. OFFICE - DAY

39

General Beckett sits at his desk pensively sipping a glass of bourbon. He is looking off-screen at a TV. We hear...

MAGGIE'S VOICE

I guess this is it, pop.

CONTINUED

39 CONTINUED

39

REVEAL the TV screen shows a GRAINY VIDEO IMAGE of Maggie -- this world's Maggie. She's wearing a light, NASA-style flightsuit and a headset. She bobs lightly in the frame as if weightless. She doesn't look well.

MAGGIE

I've strapped everyone down and slaved all onboard computers to Houston. You should be able to dock us with ISS from there.

(coughs)

Before I sign off, I just want you to know that I don't regret a thing. We did it, pop. We walked on another world. Don't let anyone forget that. I'll always love you for letting me go. Intrepid out.

The image goes to SNOW and STATIC. We hold for a long beat on General Beckett's face, before we go to...

40 EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE - DAY

40

It's early and the square is pretty much deserted as Xybo and Maggie hurry across the square.

MAGGIE

Why are you doing this?

MR. XYBO

I was a project engineer on Intrepid.
(this is hard)
I designed the radiation shielding on the return vehicle.

Maggie reacts to this.

MAGGIE

It wasn't your fault.

MR. XYBO

Actually it was. But I've spent a lot of time dealing with that.

They reach the Intrepid memorial. He looks at the names carved on the stone.

MR. XYBO

It's why I founded the museum. Sort of my penance.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

MR. XYBO (CONT'D)

When I saw you there I thought it was a sign. That I was finally being forgiven. That or I was losing my mind.

MAGGIE

You're not losing your mind.

MR. XYBO

I know that now. But it is a sign.
(he looks at the
memorial)

A sign that people haven't forgotten.

MAGGIE

(she squeezes his arm)
No, they haven't.

The Leader's black van pulls up in front of the memorial. The doors open and Remmy, Diana and Mallory hop out.

MALLORY

Look who it is.

MAGGIE

(grinning)
What kept you?

REMBRANDT

We're right on time.
(checks timer)
With two minutes to spare.

The Leader steps out of the van with his two goons.

MAGGIE

What's he doing here?

MALLORY

The Leader had a change of his six-chambered heart.

The Leader's two goons suddenly pull guns and level them at the Sliders.

THE LEADER

Not quite. You didn't expect me to believe your ridiculous story about "sliding" did you? I've heard some whoppers in my day, but man...

CONTINUED

40 CONTINUED 2

40

DIANA

It's the truth.

THE LEADER

The truth is relative.

(to Maggie)

And I still need you to create my
own. Back in the van. All of you.

MR. XYBO

You said you'd let them go.

THE LEADER

How many times have I told you?
Don't believe everything you hear.

He gestures toward the van. The Sliders don't seem to have any choice. Suddenly, Mr. Xybo jumps one of the goons, knocking his gun away. As they tussle, the second goon tries to cover the group. Mallory seizes the moment and punches the Leader in the nose. He buckles. Diana spots a postman walking down the street with his anti-gravity mail cart. She grabs it and shoves it into the second goon, sending him sprawling. Maggie comes up with the loose gun and FIRES A SHOT into the air.

MAGGIE

Hold it.

They all freeze. Suddenly, Diana notices something off screen.

DIANA

Look.

She points to a shop across the street...

41 EXT. TV SHOP - DAY

41

A display of TV's in the window all show the face of General Beckett, standing behind a podium, silently holding a press conference. The Sliders, Mr. Xybo, The Leader and his men all cross the street and crowd around the window. Maggie yells at an EMPLOYEE inside the store.

MAGGIE

Turn it up.

He does.

CONTINUED

41 CONTINUED

41

GENERAL BECKETT

(on television)

...to put an end to the rumors
surrounding the Intrepid and her
crew. I take complete and sole
responsibility for this terrible
deceit. I have done a disservice
both to the people of this country.
And to the astronauts of Intrepid.

The Leader stares dumbfounded, oblivious to a trickle of green
blood coming from his nose.

THE LEADER

What is he doing?

MAGGIE

Stealing your thunder.

GENERAL BECKETT

(on TV)

So, today I am releasing documents
and videotapes that will reveal the
true fate of our astronauts.

(he looks directly at
the camera, as if
he's speaking to
Maggie)

That will reveal the true depth of
their character, their strength, and
their heroism. So that all the
nation will be able to remember them
as I have had the privilege of
remembering them.

FLASHBULBS POP furiously and the General is deluged by shouted
questions.

MAGGIE

(softly)

Thanks, dad.

Diana turns to the Leader.

DIANA

Don't feel bad. There are still
plenty of secrets to uncover.

REMBRANDT

Exhibit "A."

CONTINUED

41 CONTINUED 2

41

Remy aims the timer and the VORTEX OPENS. The Leader stares in amazement.

DIANA

(to the Leader)

Don't twist the truth so much that you forget what you're really looking for.

She turns and jumps into the vortex.

MALLORY

Hey.

He points to the Leader and gestures for him to wipe his nose. The Leader wipes the green blood from his face as Mallory and Remy hit the wormhole. Just as Maggie is about to leap...

MR. XYBO

Wait!

She turns and Mr. Xybo holds something out to her. It's her toothbrush.

MR. XYBO

This is yours.

MAGGIE

(grins)
Uh, keep it.

MR. XYBO

Thanks!

She turns and leaps into the vortex as we...

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW