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"PROPHETS AND LOSS"

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ADDED SCENE

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SLIDERS

"Prophets and Loss"

TEASER

FADE IN

1 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY (D1)

1

A kind of cloister one might associate with a church or monastery. The VORTEX OPENS near a central well, and Quinn is dropped onto the grass next to it. After a moment Maggie drops in. No Rembrandt. The vortex stays open.

QUINN
Where's Remmy?

MAGGIE
He's still at the ATM.

QUINN
Again?

2 ANOTHER PART OF THE COURTYARD

2

Quinn and Maggie don't know it, but their dramatic arrival has been observed by a man on the other side of the courtyard. His name is CADMUS, and he wears a business suit. He reacts with surprise to the open vortex and the sudden appearance of these two people. Then he draws back into the shadows of the cloister to observe without being seen.

(X)
(X)

3 BACK WITH QUINN AND MAGGIE

3

The vortex still open. Now Rembrandt comes tumbling out, just as the VORTEX CLOSES behind him.

QUINN
That was...too close.

MAGGIE
Did you get any money?

REMBRANDT
No. And the thing almost ate my card.

The Sliders start to pick themselves up and dust themselves off.

CONTINUED

3 CONTINUED

3

QUINN
One of these slides you're going to
get trapped in a world you don't
want to stay in.

REMBRANDT
But I'll have money.
(then)
Where are we?

QUINN
Looks like a monastery.

MAGGIE
Oh, fun.

They start to walk toward a gate. Quinn checks the timer.

REMBRANDT
How long have we got?

QUINN
Seventy-two hours.

4 ANGLE ON CADMUS

4

in the shadows of the cloister. As the Sliders approach the
far gate, he slips out and follows them.

5 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

5

As the Sliders move out onto a sidewalk. Looks like a
normal city street, but a little cleaner. All the people we
see are pleasant looking, well dressed, clean cut -- men in
suits or jackets, women in dresses -- no slacks or shorts.
No street people or homeless. The Sliders stroll on.

(X)

QUINN
Looks fairly normal.

MAGGIE
Too clean.

5A SLIDERS' POINT OF VIEW - ANGLE ON STREET

5A(X)

REMBRANDT
No Kromaggs, which makes it just
fine with me.

CONTINUED

5A CONTINUED

5A

QUINN

If we've got three days, I want to find a library, maybe talk my way into a lab, and get to work on this timer. Got to be a way I can program the coordinates to my brother's world. All I can do is hope he's got the coordinates for our home world.

Quinn stops a moment, struck by what he's just said.

MAGGIE

What is it?

QUINN

'My brother's world.

They continue walking.

(X)

QUINN

I just can't seem to get my mind around the idea that I've got a brother.

(X)

REMBRANDT

A brother, a new father and mother, another whole new world where somebody may have slammed the hell out of the Kromaggots. Lot to get a mind around, Q-Ball.

They pass a trash can. Maggie sees a newspaper and takes it out of the can.

MAGGIE

(reading)

'Uprising in Detroit Ended. Master Oracle Declares Michigan Rat Free.'

REMBRANDT

What? I've been to Detroit. Trust me, they've got rats.

QUINN

(looking at paper)

Master Oracle? That guy looks like Newt Gingrich.

(to Maggie)

Politician back home.

Maggie opens the paper and reads further.

MAGGIE

'Welcomers ceremony draws a Hundred Thousand to Rose Bowl.'

CONTINUED

5A CONTINUED 2

5A

REMBRANDT
Welcomers? Doesn't sound like a
football team.

MAGGIE
(reading)
'Jason Five, RadRat Sentenced to
Re-Config.' What does that mean?

No one has a clue.

(X)

5B ANGLE ACROSS STREET

5B(X)

Maggie continues to read as they pass a large poster on a
wall. Under a big photo of Charles Darwin, in big print:
DEMON DARWIN. HERETIC. ORACLE LECTURE SERIES STARTS
FRIDAY. ORACLE CENTER.

(X)

QUINN
I guess the Charles Darwin of this
world did something really
terrible.

6
THRU
7
OMITTED

6
THRU
7

8 ANGLE ON CADMUS

8

who has been following them. He pauses now and takes out a
miniature communicator -- like a cell phone -- punches in a
code, then talks.

CADMUS
This is Cadmus. Three intruders
have just transported into the
cloister by some unknown method.
Two men, one woman. Have central
enforcement mark them for
surveillance. They could be useful
to us, or... they could be
dangerous.

Cadmus snaps the communicator shut and starts off up the
street, following the Sliders, and we...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

9 EXT. ORACLE CENTER - DAY

9

A huge thirties era deco building. The Sliders approach on the sidewalk, moving among the crowds of polite, well-groomed people. They stop and look things over.

MAGGIE

What do you suppose the 'Oracle' is?

QUINN

Could be some kind of church.

Suddenly, there is a loud, musical chime filling the air. The people on the sidewalk all stop whatever they're doing and head for the entrance of the Oracle Center.

10 WITH THE SLIDERS

10

as they watch the people all move toward the center. A young woman passes them, pauses and looks back, sees they're not heading for the center, and turns back to talk to them. Her name is JANE.

JANE

Aren't you coming to the assembly?

QUINN

Ah...well, we're new in the area...

JANE

Why don't you join me?

Jane takes Maggie by the arm and starts in. Quinn and Remmy follow.

JANE

Newcomers are always welcome at our assemblies.

(extending her hand)

My name is Jane. I'm soon to be a Welcomer.

MAGGIE

(shakes hands)

I'm Maggie. And this is Quinn and Rembrandt.

(X)

CONTINUED

- 10 CONTINUED 10
- REMBRANDT
Good to meet a Welcomer. Always
liked getting welcomed better than
not getting welcomed.
- CUT TO
- 10A OMITTED 10A(X)
- 11 INT. ORACLE CENTER - THE ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY 11
- Vast. Railings. High altar. Two men in suits sit in high-backed chairs facing the audience. One of them Cadmus. Behind the men, upstage on the platform, is a large archway with some kind of chamber inside. This is the Portal. Ethereal, new age music is playing as the audience assembles and stands quietly (No seats. Everyone stands throughout presentation).
- 12 A NEW ANGLE 12
- to pick up the Sliders making their way in with Jane. An usher hands each of them a brochure.
- 13 CLOSER ON JANE AND THE SLIDERS 13
- as they take their places.
- JANE
(sotto)
Our Chief Oracle is Gareth, a truly
gifted man.
- 14 ANGLE ON STAGE 14
- Cadmus sitting next to Gareth. Cadmus is taking note of the Sliders' arrival.
- JANE'S VOICE
The other man is the Chief
Counselor, Cadmus. They are both
'sighted' leaders.
- 15 BACK TO SCENE 15
- with Jane and the Sliders.

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED 15

JANE
A special provenance from the
Master Oracle himself. 'Sighted'
leaders can make law.

Maggie nods her understanding. Jane looks at Maggie carefully, then at Quinn and Remmy, as if studying them more closely. Remmy notices, gives her a nod and a smile. Jane lowers her eyes, thinking, then gives her attention to the stage once more.

16 ANGLE ON STAGE 16

As the music dies down and Cadmus moves to a podium. (X)

CADMUS
Welcome to this assembly of the
Oracle, followers of the way. This
is a very special assembly because
we have a group of Welcomers going
through the portal to the other
side, to the next world to make it
ready for us.

At this, there is a gasp from the audience and then
applause.

17 JANE AND THE SLIDERS 17

Jane applauds with the rest, then leans over to explain to
our people.

JANE
You're in for a special treat.

18 ANGLE ON GARETH 18

as Cadmus moves to one side and Gareth steps forward. (X)

GARETH
My friends, there is a wonderful
new world waiting for us beyond the
portal. A beautiful place you
might think of as this earth, so
alike will it be. But there we
will know true peace, and
contentment, leaving behind all
cares and concerns. (X)

19 ANGLE ON THE SLIDERS 19

as they look at each other. Is this guy talking about
sliding?

20 BACK TO STAGE

20

as Gareth continues.

GARETH

We must be in constant readiness to go, to cross over when we are called.

The new wave music starts up again as Gareth faces the side of the stage.

GARETH

All witness now the traverse of the Welcomers.

Four people, two men and two women, enter and cross toward Gareth. They are wearing red robes. Two large, muscular young men in slacks and blazers walk behind them. We'll see more of them later. They are Oracle ENFORCERS. Cadmus and Gareth move to each of the Welcomers, embracing each one in turn. The Welcomers then turn and walk upstage to the portal. They go inside the chamber and turn back to face the audience. Gareth and Cadmus close a gate on the front of the portal. There is a wide window in the front of the gate, so we can see the Welcomers in the chamber. Gareth then goes to what looks like a control panel to one side of it. The music reaches a crescendo and Gareth throws a switch. There is a loud electric zapping sound, and through the window, we see a dazzling light display that looks a bit like the vortex our Sliders use. The light flashes, there is a lot of smoke, and when it clears, the Welcomers are gone.

21 THE AUDIENCE

21

spontaneously applauds and cheers.

22 THE SLIDERS

22

react to what they've just seen. Amazed and concerned. Are these Welcomers "sliding" to new worlds?

CUT TO

23
THRU
23A

OMITTED

23
THRU
23A

(X)

23B EXT. FRONT OF ORACLE BUILDING - DAY

23B(X)

Jane, Quinn, Maggie and Remmy are coming out the front door
onto the sidewalk.

(X)
(X)

JANE
I hope you will join our assembly.

CONTINUED

23B CONTINUED

23B

MAGGIE

We're just passing through.

JANE

I see. Well, you're welcome any time. The center never closes.

Jane walks away.

(X)

24 WITH THE SLIDERS

24

as they pause on the sidewalk and watch the people coming out of the center.

(X)

QUINN

I've got to get a look at that portal mechanism.

REMBRANDT

Maybe you should just ask them. They seem awful friendly.

QUINN

I'm not sure about that. There's something not right about these people. If they hate Darwin, what would they make of someone like me?

They start to walk away from the building.

(X)

QUINN

Jane said the place is always open. Let's wait until there are not so many people around and have a look.

25 NEW ANGLE ON JANE

25

She's been standing some distance away observing the Sliders carefully, a worried expression on her face.

CUT TO

26 EXT. PARK - DAY - SOME TIME LATER

26

Remmy and Maggie are sitting on a bench, Remmy working on a bagel and a cup of coffee, Maggie reading the brochure she picked up at the Oracle Center. Quinn isn't there.

MAGGIE

They believe that life here is only to prepare you for life in the next world.

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED

26

REMBRANDT

That's pretty much what I was taught in church.

MAGGIE

The faithful will all be gathered up on the Day of Accounting.

REMBRANDT

Same again. Day of Judgment. Day of Accounting. What does it say about the 'unfaithful'?

Quinn approaches, carrying several paperback books and magazines.

MAGGIE

(looking around)

I haven't seen any. Everybody seems to agree that the way of the Oracle is the way to go.

As Quinn arrives and takes a seat on the bench.

REMBRANDT

You mean the whole country follows one set of rules? No denominations? No political parties? No crazy guys holed up in Idaho with automatic weapons?

QUINN

Well, there are the Rats. (indicates a magazine) It's what they call the Rationalist Party. The Oracle apparently tolerates disagreement with their way as long as the Rats keep it on a low flame.

(another magazine)

They even have debates on television. Naturally the Oracle always wins.

CUT TO (X)

27 OMITTED

27(X)

28 EXT. PARK - TOWN SQUARE

28

The Sliders are walking down the sidewalk. Around them, the people go about their business -- all of them neat, friendly.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED

28

MAGGIE

Is it a religion, a life style,
what?

QUINN

Near as I can figure, it's pretty
much all of those. On Earth Prime
we had a right wing political
movement that wanted to establish a
system based on family values.

REMBRANDT

Yeah, their family values.

QUINN

Obviously on this world, those
people have won the argument.
(another magazine)
According to this, they've got a
lot of rules. No real freedom of
speech without Oracle approval. No
abortion. No sex without Oracle
license. Right dress and behavior
at all times.

REMBRANDT

Sounds like a weekend at my Aunt
Miranda's.

MAGGIE

How did the people let this happen?

QUINN

Must not have been paying attention
when they should have been. When
you don't vote, you get what you
deserve.

They pause as a scruffy-looking man -- the first such one
we've seen -- comes running out of an alley past the
Sliders. He's being chased by two Enforcers.

(X)
(X)
(X)

28A ANGLE ON CHASE

28A(X)

as the Enforcers catch the man, brace him and drag him off.

(X)

28B BACK WITH SLIDERS

28B(X)

as they react to this.

(X)

MAGGIE

Does it say anything in those
magazines about Oracle fashion
police?

(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

CONTINUED

28B CONTINUED

28B

They continue walking.

REMBRANDT

Well, they at least have technology
-- cars, planes, CD players.
Schools must be pretty good.

QUINN

All controlled by the Oracle. No
social sciences. They call that
stuff 'Humanism.' And they teach
nothing but Creation Science.

MAGGIE

That explains 'Demon Darwin.'

QUINN

No 'Big Bang,' no relativity, no
black holes, no chaos theory. But
if that portal is a sliding
machine, they don't follow their
own rules.

REMBRANDT

How's that?

QUINN

Quantum physics predicted parallel
universes. What we do isn't
possible without some understanding
of subatomic particles moving from
one place within the atom to
another without going through the
space in between.

Rembrandt looks at him a long moment, then.

REMBRANDT

I have no idea what the hell you're
talking about, and I seem to slide
just fine.

Quinn grins at that, and we....

CUT TO

28C INT. CHANDLER HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT (N1)

28C(X)

Quinn, Maggie and Remmy are finishing up room service
dinners. Remmy has the television remote. He's been
channel surfing, and now he turns the set off.

(X)
(X)
(X)

REMBRANDT

Nothing but preachers and shows
about how to add a redwood deck to
your house.

(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

CONTINUED

28C CONTINUED

28C

QUINN

I thought the Celebrity Pro-Am golf was pretty good. Who knew Regis Philbin had such a good swing.

Quinn crosses to the window and looks out. Maggie looks over the leftovers on his plate.

MAGGIE

Are you going to eat the rest of your green stuff?

QUINN

No, you can have it. You can finish off the brown stuff, too, if you want.

REMBRANDT

What happened to the kitchen in this hotel? In most worlds, the food here is good.

QUINN

I guess the Oracle has to approve the menus, too. Poly-unsaturated everything. No salt, no fat...

MAGGIE

No chocolate. That's the part I hate.

REMBRANDT

Well, we won't be here long.

MAGGIE

Why do we have to go back to that Oracle place again? All that gives me the creeps. Can't we just lay low here until the time to slide?

REMBRANDT

Those guys who were giving out brochures? Those bulges under their coats didn't look like Bibles to me.

QUINN

You two don't have to go if you don't want to. But I've got to get a look at the mechanics of that machine. I'm getting nowhere adjusting the timer. If these people have sliding technology, there may be something I can copy or borrow.

REMBRANDT

Or steal.

CONTINUED

28C CONTINUED 2

28C

MAGGIE

If you're going, we're going. You know that.

(a beat, then)

I keep thinking about that woman we met. Jane. Something in her eyes.

QUINN

She's a true believer.

REMBRANDT

Is that so bad? You've got to believe in something.

MAGGIE

I believe in myself. I could never surrender my will to some self-righteous guy who says he's got the answers to everything.

QUINN

Does that mean we have no future together?

Maggie probably throws some food at him. Quinn and Remmy laugh, and we...

CUT TO

29 OMITTED

29

30 INT. ORACLE CENTER - THE ASSEMBLY ROOM - NIGHT 30(X)

The lights have been dimmed and the room is empty except for two people standing in the front row, meditating. The Sliders enter cautiously and look around. After a moment, an Enforcer, one of the muscular young men we saw earlier during the Welcomer ceremony, comes out onto the stage and walks down steps into the auditorium. He looks at the two people in the front and smiles, then comes up the aisle toward the Sliders. (X)
(X)
(X)

31 ANGLE ON SLIDERS 31

As the Enforcer approaches, they quickly take out the brochures they were given earlier and start studying. The young man passes them, smiling at them, and moves on. Quinn looks over his shoulder to see that the Enforcer has gone. (X)
(X)

REMBRANDT

I guess those guys make regular rounds.

QUINN

I'm going to take a chance and check out the control panel. If this thing is a sliding machine, maybe I can boost something to fix our timer.

Remmy and Quinn start for the stage.

QUINN

(to Maggie)
Give us a signal if one of those guys comes back.

MAGGIE

(a shade sarcastic)
Like what, a flare?

QUINN

How about a sneeze?

Quinn and Remmy pass the two people who have been sitting in the front row and are now leaving. The people smile at them just like everybody else does.

32 ON THE STAGE 32

Quinn quickly goes to the control panel we saw Gareth operating during the assembly. Remmy comes to the portal.

33 MAGGIE 33

stays by the entryway. (X)

34 QUINN 34
uses a pocketknife tool to unscrew the panel and lift it up.
He quickly checks out the wiring and transistor trays.

35 REMBRANDT 35
is looking at the portal, opens the gate and goes inside. He
looks around in the compartment, looks down at the floor and
reacts to something he sees.

36 OMITTED 36

36A REMMY'S POINT OF VIEW - ANGLE ON FLOOR 36A
We see a slight residue of some kind.

37 REMBRANDT 37
kneels and takes a handful of the stuff. Ashes.

38 OMITTED 38

38A WIDER ANGLE 38A
as Quinn joins Remmy in the compartment.

QUINN
This thing's not a sliding machine.

REMBRANDT
(holds up the ashes)
Tell me about it.

They move out of the portal.

39 ON STAGE 39
as Quinn and Remmy come out of the portal. Maggie comes
down the aisle to join them. She notices their concern.

MAGGIE
What's wrong?

QUINN
This is some kind of high-powered
incinerator.

MAGGIE
What?

CONTINUED

39 CONTINUED 39

REMBRANDT

Those people were burned to death.

Just as they react to this news, they are suddenly hit by two bright spotlights. (X)
(X)

40 OMITTED 40

41 WIDER ANGLE 41

to show that Enforcers are coming in all of the doors and moving fast. Cadmus comes through the door at the back of the stage.

42 THE SLIDERS 42

react to being caught, and seeing no path of escape...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

43 INT. ORACLE CENTER - ORACLE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

43

Quinn, Remmy and Maggie are being spread-eagled and efficiently frisked by a couple of Enforcers as Cadmus stands nearby supervising. The Enforcers put what little they find in the Sliders' pockets onto a tray on a nearby table. Gareth is sitting across the room behind a large desk, apparently busy with paperwork. Maggie is especially annoyed by the frisking. An Enforcer finds Quinn's timer and hands it to Cadmus, who looks it over. After they're finished, the Enforcers move away and the Sliders turn toward Cadmus.

QUINN

Why are we being held? What have we done?

CADMUS

Why were you in the Assembly Room tonight?

MAGGIE

The door was open. Other people were coming and going freely.

CADMUS

Yes. The Assembly Room is always open for meditation and self-renewal. But you were up on the stage looking at the controls to the portal.

QUINN

I was curious about how it works. I'm...well, I'm kind of a scientist.

Gareth looks up from his work.

GARETH

Well, you've just answered your first question.

(off Quinn's reaction)

'What have we done?'

(X)
(X)
(X)

He rises and crosses to Cadmus and takes the timer to look it over.

QUINN

And that would be...?

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED

43

CADMUS (X)
You say you are a 'scientist.'
That's a very dangerous thing to
admit.

REMBRANDT
For whatever it's worth, I'm not
a scientist.

Quinn shoots him a look. Cadmus crosses to Remmy. (X)

CADMUS (X)
So, what are you?

REMBRANDT
I'm...an entertainer. Concerts.
Records. Weddings...bar
mitzvahs...

CADMUS (X)
(turns to Maggie)
And you?

MAGGIE
A tourist.

Gareth turns to the table and sorts through the stuff on the
tray that was taken from the Sliders' pockets.

GARETH
A 'scientist,' an 'entertainer,'
and a 'tourist.' Very little
money. And very unusual.
(holds up a bill, turns
to Cadmus)
Someone named Lincoln is on this
five.
(then)
No identification, no travel
permits, no locator documentation.
No party cards.
(holds up timer)
And this.
(to Quinn)
What is this?

QUINN
A kind of communicator.

GARETH
Really? These numbers are counting
down to something. What?

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED 2

43

QUINN

That's a power indicator. The time I have left before I have to change the batteries.

CADMUS

If it's a communicator, it must communicate with something... where's the other one?

(X)

QUINN/MAGGIE

(at the same time)

There's not one...We lost it.

A pause, then Remmy steps forward.

REMBRANDT

Actually, they're both right. We lost it, so there's not one.

Gareth just smiles at Remmy, quiets him by holding up his hand. Then he turns and hands the timer to Cadmus.

GARETH

(to Cadmus)

Have our technical staff take a look at this.

Cadmus nods and hands the timer to one of the Enforcers, who exits. Gareth turns back to the Sliders. Smiles at them again.

GARETH

Forgive my rudeness. My name is Gareth and I am the Chief Oracle for the Los Angeles area. This is my counselor, Cadmus. Your sudden appearance has caused us to forget our manners.

(X)

(X)

(a pause)

I've told you who I am. Don't you want to tell me who you are?

QUINN

My name is Quinn Mallory. This is Rembrandt Brown, and Maggie Beckett. We're from...out of town.

CADMUS

So it would seem? The question is...how far?

(X)

MAGGIE

Oregon, actually. Way up in the interior. This is our first trip to L.A.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED 3

43

CADMUS
Vacation?

QUINN
Something like that.

GARETH
Have you been to Oracle World?

QUINN
Not yet.

REMBRANDT
It's on the list, though.

GARETH
'The World in Six Days' is showing
at the Imax Theatre. It's really
something. And the Dark Age
Dungeon Ride. There's new music
this year by John Tesh.

(X)

MAGGIE
Oh, I love him.

The Sliders laugh uncomfortably. Are they out of trouble
here? Or what?

QUINN
So...if we can get our communicator
back, we'll get on over to Oracle
World and enjoy ourselves.

GARETH
I'm afraid we'll have to detain you
for a while.

He nods to the Enforcers, who step forward.

QUINN
Wait a minute, we're being
arrested?

MAGGIE
On what charges?

Gareth looks surprised.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED 4

43

GARETH
Charges? I'm sorry, I thought you
were paying attention.

He nods to Cadmus, who picks it up.

CADMUS
You are unknown to the authorities.
You have no means of identifying
yourselves. You're vagrants. And
you're in possession of a
'scientific' device. The first
three are misdemeanors.
(a beat, the smile is
gone)
The last is a felony.
(to the Enforcers)
Take them.

The Enforcers start to herd them out. Rembrandt turns
back...

REMBRANDT
Hey, wait a minute...we didn't do
anything...

An Enforcer zaps Remmy in the butt with a little,
hand-held "sting gun."

REMBRANDT
Ow! Man what is that thing?

And they're gone. Gareth thinks for a moment, looks at
Cadmus, then returns to his desk.

CUT TO

44 INT. DETENTION BLOCK - NIGHT

44

A row of steel-barred, traditional jail cells. Quinn,
Remmy and Maggie are escorted along the adjoining corridor. (X)
Quinn and Remmy are put into cells here. Maggie is escorted
away to another section. Each cell contains a chair, a (X)
small table, a bunk bed, and standard sink/toilet combo in
upper wall. We can see a prisoner lying on a bunk in the
cell beyond Remmy. The other cells are empty.

45 OMITTED

45 (X)

46 REMBRANDT

46

flops on his bunk.

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED

46

REMBRANDT

You know, Q-Ball, before I started hanging with you, I hardly ever went to jail. Now? Everywhere I go...

He sits up and looks at the prisoner in the next cell. He's lying flat on his back.

REMBRANDT

(to the prisoner)

Hey, pal, what are you in for?

The prisoner looks over at him. A young man, somewhat disheveled, long hair, beard, raggy clothes.

PRISONER

Thinking.

Rembrandt nods. Makes about as much sense as anything else here.

REMBRANDT

What do they do to you for that?

PRISONER

Re-config.

REMBRANDT

Saw something about that in the paper. How does it work?

The prisoner stands and comes closer to Rembrandt. He has haunted, glazed eyes like a man who has been tortured or maybe begun to be chemically re-configured.

PRISONER

Chemical re-configuration.
Intravenous feed of a drug soup.
Wipes your brain clean. Then they feed you what they want you to know. (X)

REMBRANDT

So, you just... 'forget' everything.

PRISONER

After chemical re-config, you're a mindless robot. No cares, no fears, no anger... (X)
(X)
(X)

(MORE)

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED 2

46

PRISONER (CONT'D)

(a beat)

No ideas, no challenges, no love.

(X)

REMBRANDT

Paper didn't say anything about chemicals.

PRISONER

They don't want you to know.

Rembrandt thinks about that and we move to...

47
THRU OMITTED
48

47
THRU
48

49 BACK WITH QUINN

49

as he paces. Rembrandt crosses over closer.

QUINN

I estimate we've only got about fifty hours to the slide.

REMBRANDT

Well, you better think of something good. I'm not staying here for twenty-nine years with nothing but white noise between my ears.

50 AT MAGGIE'S CELL

50

in another section of the prison. She has a visitor. A female Enforcer escorts Jane down the corridor to her cell. Jane is carrying a picnic basket. The Enforcer opens the cell door and Jane goes in, putting the basket on the table. As she talks, she takes out packages of food, etc.

JANE

I brought you a few things to make you more comfortable.

(X)

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED

50

Jane takes out a small vase and some flowers, crosses up to the sink to put some water in the vase, then comes back down and arranges the flowers.

(X)

MAGGIE

You shouldn't have.

(X)

JANE

I do it with joy. As I do all my work for the Oracle.

MAGGIE

Tell me about the Oracle.

Jane reacts to that with surprise, as if she can't believe everyone doesn't know this. Maggie sees the reaction.

MAGGIE

My friends and I still have a lot to learn.

JANE

The Oracle is a way of life that removes care and doubt. It's a system of belief and behavior based on obedience to the Master Oracle.

MAGGIE

The Rationalists I've heard about think it's a system of repression and thought control.

JANE

I think that's sad. Through care and love I have seen even the most militant come around to our way of thinking.

(X)

MAGGIE

(indicating the brochure)
Yes, I was just getting to the 'care and love' part.

JANE

All part of our training.

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED 2

50

MAGGIE

You told me you were a 'Welcomer.'
When do you expect to go to the
'other side'?

JANE

No Welcomer knows the day or the
hour. I have already settled my
earthly affairs, and ceded all my
assets to the Oracle.

(X)

MAGGIE

(surprised)
Wait a minute. You've given the
Oracle all your assets. All your
money?

JANE

It will be no good to me where I'm
going, and the Oracle can use it
here for many good works.

(X)

Maggie turns away, thinking, not sure how to proceed. She
can't just blurt out that the portal is an incinerator.

MAGGIE

I know that you believe you're
going to a better place. We all
would like to believe that. But
this portal to the 'other side.'

Maggie pauses, unsure how to go on.

JANE

I understand your doubts, Maggie.
I had them myself in the beginning.
But the more I learned, the more I
gave myself to the Oracle, the more
I realized it had to be true.
There is nothing here for me. But
on the other side, there will be
no pain, no confusion. Only love
and light.

(X)

(X)

Maggie has never met anyone like this. Much as she believes
Jane is misguided, she can't help but respect her attitude
and unquestioning faith. After a pause.

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED 3

50

MAGGIE

Jane, if you knew this 'traverse'
to the other side might cause your
death, would you still go?

JANE

Of course.

Jane is smiling at her with innocence and love.

(X)

CUT TO

51 INT. CHIEF ORACLE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

51

Gareth is behind his desk. Cadmus enters.

CADMUS

So far, the technical unit can't
make out what the 'communicator'
is.

GARETH

How do we know it's not some kind
of bomb. That thing could be the
detonator.

CADMUS

We've X-rayed it, and scanned it
with the magnetic imager. There is
no explosive material in it.

GARETH

Then what is it?

CADMUS

The best guess is that it's some
kind of switch. It turns something
on. Or off. But we don't know
what.

GARETH

These people worry me. They could
be part of some Rationalist
infiltration. I'm getting reports
of increased RadRat activity all
along the Pacific coast.

CONTINUED

51 CONTINUED

51

CADMUS
What do you want us to do with
these three?

(X)

GARETH
Chemical re-config. First thing
tomorrow.

Cadmus reacts to this and exits.

CUT TO

52 EXT. ORACLE CENTER - CLOISTER - DAY - THE NEXT MORNING (D2)

52

Morning activity with a few people up and about, Oracle workers in jump suits, Enforcers, a few civilians. We see Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt surrounded by Enforcers, being led out of a door on the far side of the cloister and brought across the courtyard.

53 WITH THE SLIDERS

53

as they walk along, well guarded by the Enforcers.

REMBRANDT
What do you think will happen now?

QUINN
Breakfast. I hope.

REMBRANDT
Just as long as they don't do that
chemical thing.

MAGGIE
Where do you think the timer is?

QUINN
No idea. And no idea what to do
about it.

REMBRANDT
Not what I wanted to hear.

Suddenly, there is a shout and an explosion.

54 WIDER ANGLE

54

as smoke grenades drop into the courtyard. It's a raid. Armed, dark-clad men in masks leap apparently out of nowhere in the courtyard and come up from the central well. They're everywhere. In seconds, the courtyard is filled with smoke and confusion.

CONTINUED

54 CONTINUED

54

Enforcers try to return fire, but are taken down by the automatic weapons of the invaders. One Enforcer shoves the Sliders toward the Assembly Building, but he's intercepted by one of the dark people and clubbed to the ground. Two or three of the invaders circle around the Sliders, and firing into the advancing Enforcers, move them away. The Sliders have been kidnapped and have disappeared.

(X)

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

55 INT. TUNNEL - DAY 55

The Sliders are being hustled along a dark, winding tunnel. The dark-clad raiders are pushing and pulling them along, flashlights shedding very little light on the wet walls and floor of the tunnel.

56 EXT. FLOOD CONTROL CONDUIT - DAY 56

The Sliders come out of the tunnel onto a high concrete conduit somewhere in the flood system of L.A. The dark-clad raiders motion for them to continue. They have Uzis so the Sliders don't know for the moment if they've been kidnapped or rescued.

57 INT./EXT. TUNNELS AND FLOOD CHANNELS - DAY 57

Various shots as the Sliders are hustled along by their captors, over rushing water in sluices, along more dark and cramped tunnels, across bridges and dams. They're moving in secret passageways farther and farther away from the Oracle Center.

58 INT. MAIN FLOOD TUNNEL - DAY 58

as the Sliders arrive in a large chamber that is apparently headquarters for this bunch. We get our first good look at their captors: dressed entirely in various kinds of black pants and coats, some with surplus army gear of various types. All wear black cloth masks covering their head and face except for the eyes. Now that they've arrived at their H.Q., they start to take off the masks and hats and we see that half of the raiders are women. They all smile at the Sliders, which is not immediately comforting to our people. They've seen a lot of smiles on this world, none of them friendly.

(X)

59 ANGLE ON SAMSON 59

The raider who has been leading the way from the cloister has removed his bullet-proof jacket and mask and turns to the Sliders. He's a tall, rugged-looking fellow.

A big smile as he approaches Quinn and the others.

SAMSON

My name is Samson. Welcome to the underground.

CONTINUED

59 CONTINUED

59

He holds out his hand. After a moment of hesitation, Quinn takes it.

QUINN

Then we're not prisoners?

SAMSON

You're guests of the RadRats.

Other raiders approach Remmy and Maggie, welcoming them, offering food and drink. Remmy is relieved to find that they may be among friends here. At least they have food.

CUT TO

60 INT. MAIN FLOOD TUNNEL - DAY - SOMETIME LATER

60

Samson is showing the Sliders around the chamber. It's a motley, jumbled, crowded headquarters. Rows of bookshelves cobbled together, and they all bulge with books of all kinds. There is a small laboratory with some battered-looking computers, various electronic instruments, chemistry and mechanical experiments in various stations being worked on by RadRats. As they pass by a row of jury-rigged computers, Quinn leans down to note the work being done on one of the screens.

SAMSON

This is all we could save from Oracle book burners. But it's a start. And there are more like us every day.

Samson moves to a desk area that is obviously his space. The Sliders take seats nearby.

SAMSON

We've got hidden labs and libraries all up and down the coast. The Big O thinks he's got everything on rails, but one morning he's gonna wake up and smell the napalm.

QUINN

What about the Rationalist Party. Do you work with them?

SAMSON

Their minds are in the right place, but their hearts have a way to go. The only real change will come through revolution.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED

60

REMBRANDT
Lot of that goin' around.

SAMSON
Now, then, what about you?

MAGGIE
(cautious)
What about us?

SAMSON
A great philosopher once said,
'First things first.' Who are you?
Where do you come from?

A pause. The Sliders look at one another, not sure to trust him.

SAMSON
Don't give me that Oregon business
you laid on the Big O.

MAGGIE (X)
How did you know about that?

SAMSON
We have sources. We know how you
came into this world. You were
seen doing it.

REMBRANDT (X)
We were?

SAMSON
At first some of us thought you
might be Welcomers, coming back
from the other side. That the
Oracle's portal really does work.

A pointed look at one of his followers, who looks at his shoes, ashamed. (X)
(X)

QUINN
The portal is an incinerator.

MAGGIE
And the Welcomers are being robbed.
I met one. She's given everything
she owns to the Oracle.

SAMSON
We know what the portal is, and we
suspected the rest.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED 2

60

QUINN

As for the 'other side.' There isn't one far as I know.

SAMSON

Who can say? You came from somewhere didn't you?

Quinn looks at Maggie and Rembrandt, decides to come clean.

QUINN

We came from earth, but not this earth. My name is Quinn Mallory, this is Maggie Beckett and Rembrandt Brown. I invented a device that allows us to pass through a vortex into parallel worlds.

Samson is blown away.

SAMSON

And you came here to help us?

QUINN

Not exactly.

SAMSON

What else could it be? As the poet said, 'God gives, but man must open his hand.'

REMBRANDT

Which poet was that?

SAMSON

One of the big ones.

(to Maggie)

What's your job on the team?

MAGGIE

We're not really a team, but on my world, I was a Marine captain.

SAMSON

Great. We can always use another fighter.

QUINN

Wait a minute. We're not here for your fight. We have no control over where we go or how long we stay. And the Oracle has the only device that does have control over that.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED 3

60

MAGGIE

If we don't get it back -- the timer -- when the time runs out, we'll be stuck here a very long time.

SAMSON

Then you'll have no choice but to join us.

The Sliders react to that. Obviously a mistake to tell these guys the whole truth. Quinn gets an idea.

QUINN

Let's make a deal. You and your raiders help us get the timer back, and for however long we're here, we'll help you.

Samson shrugs. What can you do for us?

QUINN

When you were showing us around, I noticed one of your people is working on focussed laser parameters.

(X)

SAMSON

Yes?

QUINN

He's doing it wrong.

Samson thinks it over.

SAMSON

You've got a deal.

QUINN

We have to move fast. If you get the timer back for us, we wouldn't have much time left here.

Samson rises and summons a few of the RadRats whom we saw working in the lab areas.

SAMSON

Then we gotta get started right away. As Norm Crosby once said: 'Waste not, want not.'

(X)

REMBRANDT

(to Quinn)
I thought that was Ben Franklin.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED 4

60

QUINN
Different world, different quotes.

Two or three RadRat "scientists" have gathered at Samson's desk.

SAMSON
We need to work up a plan for a
raid on the Oracle compound.
(to Maggie)
Care to join us, Captain?

Maggie nods, Samson turns to Quinn.

SAMSON
I'm sure our technicians have a lot
of questions for you, Professor.

QUINN
It's just Quinn.

Samson pauses a moment, looking at Rembrandt.

SAMSON
And what is your job on the team?

REMBRANDT
I'm a singer.

Samson takes that in for a moment, then...

SAMSON
Interesting.

Samson moves away, Maggie following. The scientists immediately bore in on Quinn, all talking at once.

(X)

CUT TO

61 EXT. ORACLE CENTER - CLOISTER - DAY

61

Gareth and Cadmus are moving through the wreckage from the RadRat raid. Repair is underway to the smoke and fire damage.

CADMUS
We found a tunnel beneath the
compound. We're closing it up.

Gareth rises and crosses back toward the Assembly Room. Cadmus follows.

CONTINUED

61 CONTINUED

61

GARETH

I imagine the RadRats have taken
the intruders far away by now,
perhaps even out of the state.

CADMUS

I don't think so. I believe that
'communicator' is more important to
them than they let on. I think
they'll be back for it. And we'll
be ready for them.

Gareth nods and exits.

CUT TO

62 INT. SAMSON'S WAR ROOM - DAY

62

A small cubicle off the main flood channel, high up on one
of the dams. Through openings in the wall we can see the
rest of the flood channel and maybe a skyline of oil
refinery towers, with smoke and flame blow-offs. Samson and
his command staff are looking at a computer terminal that
features maps and diagrams that he moves with a mouse as he
talks. Maggie is next to him.

SAMSON

They will have closed off the
tunnels we used. And the guards
will be doubled in the cloister and
assembly area.

MAGGIE

I think it would be better to make
a surgical strike with a small
force. Not a big raid like the one
this morning. If you can get
intelligence on just where the
timer is being held, we can
concentrate on that sector.

Samson smiles at her. Maggie's expertise really turns him
on.

CUT TO

63 ANOTHER SECTION OF THE MAIN TUNNEL

63

Quinn is supervising a couple of scientists at a computer
console. Rembrandt is there as well.

(X)

CONTINUED

63 CONTINUED

63

Quinn moves away from the scientists, checks his watch,
anxious.

(X)

(X)

QUINN

(to Remmy)

These people better come up with a
good plan. And fast.

REMBRANDT

I'm not sure about these RadRats.

QUINN

Compared to the Oracle, they look
like the good guys to me.

REMBRANDT

Maybe. Did you see the way the
head man's eyes lit up when he
thought we'd have to stay here.

QUINN

He's fighting for a cause.

REMBRANDT

It's all politics, man. And that
stuff gets all up your head and
twists it around. Power. That's
what it's all about. The guys in
suits have got it, and the RadRats
want it. It's folks in the middle,
like us, who always get hurt.

(X)

CONTINUED

63 CONTINUED 2

63

Quinn nods, then turns as he hears a noise. Samson and Maggie are approaching.

MAGGIE

We've got a plan.

SAMSON

(full of admiration)
Doctor Mallory, your Captain
Beckett here is so...so warlike.
(turning to her)
I like that in a woman.

Quinn and Remmy smile at that, and we...

CUT TO

64
THRU OMITTED
72

64
THRU
72

(X)

72A CLOSE ON THE TIMER 72A(X)
Numbers clicking down from 06:00. (X)

72B INT. TECH OPS ROOM 72B(X)
A couple of technicians are studying the timer. One of (X)
them is about to pry open the back of it when suddenly a (X)
gas canister drops into the room. (X)

73 INT. TECH OPS ROOM - WIDER 73(X)
As the gas mists out into the room. The unmasked workers
react almost immediately and pass out at their stations.
Samson kicks open the vent cover and climbs into the room,
followed by the Sliders, all wearing gas masks. Quinn (X)
crosses quickly and picks up the timer. He checks it -- (X)
ticking down from 6 hours.

QUINN
We've got to lay low for another
six hours.

SAMSON
We've got that worked out.

Or maybe not. As they start back toward the vent, there is
a loud burst of automatic weapons fire.

74 NEW ANGLE 74
Samson and the other RadRat engage the Oracle Enforcers who
have entered the room from doors in opposite walls. The
first burst from their weapons takes out the RadRat and
Samson sees they're badly outgunned. He raises his weapon
in surrender. More Enforcers burst into the room. Samson
is disarmed and knocked to the floor with a rifle butt. The
Sliders are quickly surrounded. Cadmus steps through a
door, protected by a large Enforcer. He crosses to Quinn
and takes the timer away from him.

75 THE SLIDERS 75
react to their capture, and we...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

76 INT. DETENTION BLOCK - DAY

76

This time Samson and the Sliders are all in the same large cell. The only piece of furniture is a long bench, so obviously they won't be here long.

SAMSON

I'm certain my pack is already planning a rescue mission. When we didn't return at the appointed time, they're trained to move.

MAGGIE

How are they going to get past all the security the Oracle has piled on us now?

SAMSON

Trust me. They won't give us up.

REMBRANDT

There's some stuff here I don't understand.

(rises and crosses to the bars of Quinn's cell)
Ever since we got here everybody seems to know what we're doing before we do it.

(to Samson)

You say we were seen sliding in. Then, the Big O's heat is on us right away in the Assembly Room. Then your people bust us out of here. And when we come back for the timer, here's the Big O again like they were in on the plan.

QUINN

More than coincidence.

(to Samson)

Who's running this show?

SAMSON

We have undercover agents very high in the Oracle. I don't know who they are or when they'll move. But they will. 'The biggest campaign is built on the smallest detail.' Julius Caesar. The Second.

CONTINUED

76 CONTINUED

76

REMBRANDT
(angry at Samson)
And I'm getting enough of this
quoting.

(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

77 A NEW ANGLE

77

As Cadmus and one of the Oracle Enforcers enters the corridor and moves along by the cells. He pauses only briefly to look at Samson who glares back, then opens the cell door.

(X)
(X)

CADMUS
Mr. Mallory, I'd like a word with
you in private.

Quinn comes cautiously out of the cell, then follows Cadmus.

(X)

78 A CUBICLE

78

at one end of the detention block. There is a table, two chairs, typical interrogation set-up. Cadmus stands at the table, nods to the Enforcer, who leaves, closing the door.

CADMUS
Sit down.

Quinn does.

CADMUS
I want to ask you a few questions
about your 'communicator.'

QUINN
(a shrug)
You can ask.

CADMUS
It would go a lot easier for you if
I knew exactly what it is and what
it does.

QUINN
I'm not sure you could understand
it.

CADMUS
Try me.

A long pause as Quinn studies Cadmus.

QUINN
If you think I'll betray my friends
to get a better deal for myself...

CADMUS
(cutting him off)
It's a timer. I know that much.
What is it counting down to?
(MORE)

CONTINUED

78 CONTINUED

78

CADMUS (CONT'D)

(nothing from Quinn)

What happens when it gets to zero?

(nothing, then)

Well, let me put it to you this way. I think it somehow controls your passage into and out of this dimension.

Quinn reacts to this.

QUINN

You're the one who saw us slide in.

CADMUS

Never mind that. I want to know what happens when the time runs out.

QUINN

Let's just say you'll have three more RadRats on your hands for a long time.

Cadmus nods and rises.

CADMUS

Not necessarily, Mr. Mallory. Not necessarily.

He indicates it's time for Quinn to go back to his cell. Quinn rises, and we...

CUT TO

79
THRU
79A

OMITTED

79
THRU
79A

79B INT. ORACLE CENTER - ORACLE'S OFFICE - DAY

79B

Gareth, at his desk, is finishing a phone conversation as Cadmus enters.

(X)

GARETH

(into phone)

Yes, we're certain to get a lot of information out of him before he enters Chemical Re-Config.

(pause)

Certainly. Thank you, sir. I'll pass it along.

He hangs up and turns to Cadmus, very pleased with himself.

CONTINUED

79B CONTINUED

79B

GARETH
(to Cadmus, indicating
phone)
The Master Oracle himself. He's
very pleased. Samson is the
highest ranking RadRat yet taken on
the west coast. His re-config will
be a great coup for the Oracle.

CADMUS
I'm sure you're right, but I think
you should consider making a
harsher example of him. And the
others as well.

GARETH
What are you suggesting?

CADMUS
As dangerous as Samson is, the
others are worse. We don't know
where they came from, or if there
are more like them. They have some
kind of advanced scientific
knowledge, and they may have passed
along some of it in the time they
were underground. In short, I
think we need to be rid of them
all.

GARETH
You're saying we should execute
them? The intruders, I understand,
but wouldn't we be giving the
RadRats a martyr with Samson's
death?

CADMUS
As far as the people know he
won't die.

The light comes on as Gareth understands what Cadmus is
suggesting.

GARETH
Ah...

CUT TO

80 INT. DETENTION BLOCK

80

Samson and the Sliders are still in their joint cell.

CONTINUED

80 CONTINUED

80

QUINN

Just for the sake of argument.
Let's say your people can break us
out of here. Then what? Without
the timer, we're stuck here for
twenty-nine years.

SAMSON

Would that be so bad?

REMBRANDT

I'm gonna say 'yes.'

SAMSON

We're going to win.

MAGGIE

How can you be so sure?

SAMSON

Because we're right.

(X)

QUINN

Okay, let's say you get what you
want. What will you do to the
Oracle and the people who believe
in it?

(X)

SAMSON

Nothing. They're free to believe
whatever they want. They just
won't be free to impose those
beliefs on others against their
will. After all, God himself
created our minds. He must have
wanted us to use them.

MAGGIE

Who are you quoting this time?

SAMSON

Me.

They hear approaching sounds. Enforcers?

81 A NEW ANGLE

81

as Jane enters, followed by one of the Enforcers keeping an
eye on things.

CONTINUED

81 CONTINUED

81

JANE

I have wonderful news. I've come to free you.

MAGGIE

That's great! How?

JANE

We will all make the transverse to the next world together.

QUINN

What?

JANE

The Chief Oracle has proclaimed it. Samson and the three of you will be joining us as Welcomers.

REMBRANDT

You mean we're going through that portal?

JANE

(beaming to Maggie)
It's more than I could have hoped for.

MAGGIE

Jane, that portal is not what you think...

QUINN

It's a killing machine.

SAMSON

The Oracle has lied to you. Taken everything you own. And now they're going to take your life.

Jane is shocked.

JANE

(to Samson)
I expected something like that from you.

(to the Sliders)
You can't listen to him. You have to trust in the Oracle.

There's nothing left for the others to say. With a last contemptuous look at Samson, Jane exits.

CUT TO

82 INT. ASSEMBLY ROOM - THE NEXT DAY (D3)

82

The service is in progress. This time, because of the importance of the occasion, there are television cameras present. We may see a couple of monitors and an assistant director with headset, etc. Dressed in red robes, Samson, Quinn, Maggie and Remmy are standing on the stage behind the podium where Gareth is addressing the congregation. There is quite a crew of Enforcers on hand for the occasion. One stands behind each of our people, and there are more scattered around the stage and auditorium. Cadmus is standing near the portal mechanism.

GARETH

My friends and co-workers in the way of the Oracle, the signs of the 'end times' are all around us. The confusion you may be feeling today as you see unrest increase has been foreseen by the Master Oracle. Change is painful, but we know the rewards that come of endurance and steadfast faith.

The new age music starts up.

GARETH

Today we are sending two special groups of Welcomers to that reward.

83 A NEW ANGLE

83

as Jane leads three other "Welcomers" in their red robes toward the portal.

84 MAGGIE

84

watches as Jane and the others cross toward the portal.

85 THE WELCOMERS

85

are all embraced by Gareth and Cadmus. Jane then looks over toward Maggie, crosses to her. Maggie stands and embraces Jane.

JANE

I'll see you on the other side.

She starts to move away. Quinn leans forward.

QUINN

Jane, you must listen to us...

JANE

No, you must believe.

CONTINUED

85 CONTINUED

85

And she goes with the others to the portal. Maggie is emotionally torn by this. Remmy leans down to her.

REMBRANDT

Maybe she's right. We'll certainly know soon enough.

86 ANGLE ON PORTAL

86

as the gate closes and Cadmus moves to the console. The music swells, and Cadmus hits the switch. We see the flash of the incinerator and the Welcomers are gone.

87 MAGGIE

87

Crushed by this. Both Remmy and Quinn try to comfort her.

88 CADMUS

88

has moved to the podium and is addressing the believers.

CADMUS

I'm sure you know that we apprehended the Radical Rationalist Samson and some of his followers in the Oracle compound this morning. We have decided that our re-configuration methods here are inadequate. So we are sending them with the Welcomers to the other side in the hope that the wisdom gained there will provide the means for their salvation.

He turns to Samson and the Sliders, who are nudged to their feet by the Enforcers behind them. Remmy is hit again with one of those little "sting guns" when he is reluctant to move. The music starts again as they are moved toward the portal. As they are led, Samson calls out:

(X)

(X)

SAMSON

This is a fraud!
(points to portal)
That thing is an oven! Your friends aren't on the other side. They're dead! The Oracle has robbed them and murdered them!

(X)

(X)

One of the Enforcers zaps Samson with a sting gun. Samson is stunned into silence.

(X)

(X)

89 ANGLE ON THE AUDIENCE 89

which has been visibly shaken by Samson's shouting. They are talking among themselves, trying to figure this out.

90 THE STAGE 90

Gareth quickly cuts Samson off. (X)

GARETH

You see how perverted these RadRats have become. Re-config on the other side is the only solution. The final solution.

There is still some unrest in the crowd. It could go either way here.

91 AT THE PORTAL 91

as Samson and the Sliders are forced in. Looks like this is the end for our folks. Cadmus steps forward at the last moment. (X)

CADMUS

Mr. Mallory...

Quinn turns to him.

92 INSERT 92

Cadmus taking the timer from his jacket and slipping it to Quinn, who conceals it in his robe.

93 BACK TO SCENE 93

CADMUS

I wish you well on the other side.

CONTINUED

- 93 CONTINUED 93
A smile from Cadmus as Quinn follows the others into the portal.
- 94 IN THE PORTAL 94
as the gate is being closed. Quinn quickly shows Remmy and Maggie the timer. Relief is not really strong enough for their reaction.
- REMBRANDT
It was one of the head guys all along?
- Quinn nods and checks the timer.
- 95 INSERT - THE TIMER 95
Counting down from 10...9...8...7...
- 96 AT THE CONSOLE TO THE PORTAL 96
Cadmus is also watching a timer in front of him...6...5...4...
- 97 WIDER ANGLE 97
as the music swells and...
- 98 THE PORTAL (ON STAGE) 98 (X)
is lit up with the real vortex. When the flash is over, we can see through the glass that the portal is now empty. (X)

CUT TO

- 99 EXT. FIELD - DAY 99
One at a time, the Sliders are dumped down in a meadow. We are somewhere in the country, no signs of life or building around. Samson is coming around just as he makes the slide to this new world. Quinn, Remmy and Maggie pick themselves up and start to look around. Quinn leans down to help Samson to his feet. Samson is still a little stunned from the zapper, but okay.

QUINN
It was Cadmus.

CONTINUED

99 CONTINUED

99

SAMSON

I knew it would be somebody.
(then, re: the timer)
Can that thing get me back?

QUINN

Yes. But we'd all have to go. If
we miss the vortex we'd be stuck
here.

REMBRANDT

I don't know if I want to let those
guys take another shot at cooking
me.

SAMSON

Don't you understand, I've started
something. Millions of people saw
me on television.

(X)
(X)

MAGGIE

I agree with Samson. I think we
should go back, and help him finish
the fight.

Samson embraces her. Remmy is unhappy. Quinn is thinking.
Maggie moves away from Samson and heads up a little rise to
look over the hill. Quinn gets the idea.

QUINN

The people there think the portal
is a way into a better world. And
no one has ever come back. What if
someone did? That someone would
have such a powerful message that
nothing the Oracle said could stop
it.

(to Remmy)

Samson has to go back, and we have
to go with him. We have to do the
right thing.

REMBRANDT

You sound just like my mother.

(then)

You know I'm with you.

(to Samson)

I was wrong about you.

Samson nods. Quinn notices that Maggie has moved away. He
crosses toward her.

100 WITH MAGGIE AND QUINN

100

as Maggie looks around. Quinn picks up on what she's doing.

QUINN
You didn't expect to find Jane
here, did you?

MAGGIE
Expect? No.
(then)
I was hoping.

Quinn nods. They turn and rejoin the group. Quinn punches
in the numbers on the timer. The Sliders get ready to
jump.

(X)
(X)

101 INT. ORACLE CENTER - DAY

101

Cadmus is at the podium trying to control a chaotic
situation. Gareth is being restrained by a couple of
Enforcers. To one side of the stage, an Enforcer with an
automatic weapon is holding some of his colleagues at bay.
The audience is a melee of emotions. People who believe in
the Oracle are weeping or yelling at Cadmus. Those who
might be leaning Rationalist are shouting at them and urging
Cadmus on. We see some of the RadRats from the underground
now openly joining the others, shouting their slogans.
Cadmus is holding up both arms, trying to calm everybody,
and the television cameras are eating everything up.

CADMUS
My friends....my friends...
Please... please...be calm and
listen...

Shouts from the audience: "The Oracle Rules!" "Free
Gareth!" "Listen to Cadmus." "The Rats will be Heard!"
etc.

CADMUS
(working the camera)
Hear me out! You have all been
misled. I can't escape the blame
myself. I stood by here and
watched my friends and neighbors
sacrificed to the greed of the
Oracle and said nothing because the
time was not right. But the time
has now come. The truth will come
out and the Rationalist cause will
be heard.

102 ANGLE ON THE PORTAL (ON STAGE)

102 (X)

as the vortex suddenly appears and Samson comes through it,
followed by Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt.

100 WITH MAGGIE AND QUINN

100

as Maggie looks around. Quinn picks up on what she's doing.

QUINN

You didn't expect to find Jane here, did you?

MAGGIE

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(then)
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CADMUS

(working the camera)

Hear me out! You have all been misled. I can't escape the blame myself. I stood by here and watched my friends and neighbors sacrificed to the greed of the Oracle and said nothing because the time was not right. But the time has now come. The truth will come out and the Rationalist cause will be heard.

(X)

102 ANGLE ON THE PORTAL

102

as the vortex suddenly appears and Samson comes through it, followed by Quinn, Maggie and Rembrandt.

103 THE CROWD 103

is suddenly hushed. Nobody has ever seen anything like this. Many of the Oracle supporters drop to their knees, certain this is some kind of miracle. The Rationalists are stunned, don't know how to react.

104 ON THE STAGE 104

Cadmus is as knocked out as anyone. Samson crosses quickly to the podium, to the mike.

SAMSON

I have returned to continue the fight for the rational and the right.

There is cheering from his supporters and a shout of "The Oracle is Right!" from someone. Samson quiets everyone with a wave of his hand.

SAMSON

No. The Oracle is not right.

Rats in the crowd cheer.

SAMSON

The Rationalists may not be right either.

Rats in the crowd boo.

SAMSON

But, for a change, we are going to have a free and open forum to find out.

(points to the portal)

I am not a Welcomer come back from the 'other side.' What you just saw was not a miracle, but the result of pure science. But a science not to be feared, but to be embraced for what it can teach us about our world, and ourselves. As Charles Darwin said: 'Accurate knowledge is the true wealth of the world.'

(X)
(X)

As Samson continues, we move to...

105 THE SLIDERS - A MOVING SHOT 105

with Quinn, Maggie and Remmy as they go off to one side of the podium and toward a side exit.

CONTINUED

105 CONTINUED

105

QUINN

(checking the timer)
We've only got two minutes here
this time. Let's take it outside.
I don't know if these people need
any more shocks.

REMBRANDT

How are they gonna handle what
they've got?

MAGGIE

I think we've started some kind of
revolution here.

QUINN

It was bound to happen. We just
nudged it along. It's their world
and they're going to have to deal
with it. Thomas Jefferson once
said that politics is like the
weather. Every so often you need a
good storm to clear things out.

MAGGIE

Are you going to start quoting
stuff now?

Quinn smiles and shrugs. As they reach the exit.

MAGGIE

(to Rembrandt)
Who was Thomas Jefferson?

REMBRANDT

Big man in my world. Got his face
on some of the money.

And they're gone.

FADE OUT

THE END

Extra dialogue for Samson in Scene 105:

SAMSON

It's time to step out of the shadows of superstition and fear. The Rationalist way will not forbid belief in the Oracle or in any other system, rational or metaphysical. There is room in this world for an infinite variety of thought. But there is no room for slavery of the mind or for tyranny from any ruling class. We will call for a Constitutional Convention to return to the principles of our founding fathers. Freedom of speech, assembly and religion will be restored and will never be violated again by any regime. No government can exist above the people. It must be of the people...

100 WITH MAGGIE AND QUINN

100

as Maggie looks around. Quinn picks up on what she's doing.

QUINN

You didn't expect to find Jane
here, did you?

MAGGIE

Expect? No.
(then)

I was hoping.

Quinn nods. They turn and rejoin the group. Quinn punches
in the numbers on the timer. The vortex materializes and
the Sliders jump in to return to be RadRats with Samson
until the next slide.

FADE OUT

THE END