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"HEAVY METAL"

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REVISED PAGES

1st Pink Revs. 1-51

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SLIDERS

"Heavy Metal"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. OCEAN - DAY (STOCK) (D1)

Water. Lots of it. We're in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. A large merchant vessel steams into view.

2 EXT. SHIP - BRIDGE - DAY

A female sailor wearing a peacoat over a turtleneck stares (X) intently out to sea through a pair of binoculars. Her name is (X) BRICE. The ship's distinguished, middle-aged CAPTAIN steps up (X) beside the sailor.

CAPTAIN

What do you have?

Brice hands the binoculars to the captain, who looks through (X) them.

BRICE Something in the water, sir. Ten degrees off the port bow.

The captain looks for a beat, then lowers the binoculars. He considers for a moment, then...

CAPTAIN Bring us ten degrees to port. Reduce speed to half ahead.

BRICE

Aye, sir.

The captain starts to walk away, then stops.

CAPTAIN

And man the deck guns. Just in case.

Brice nods and looks for a beat after the Captain before we go (X) to...

1.

1

2

(X)

(X)

3 EXT. SHIP - DECK - DAY

> Brice watches as several sailors help the Sliders up a gangway (X) onto the deck. They have blankets wrapped around them and their hair is damp.

> > DIANA

Thank you.

The Captain steps up.

CAPTAIN

The Sliders stare at him in shock. Suddenly, the Captain bursts into hearty laughter.

Tickets please.

CAPTAIN

Just kidding! Tickets please. I've been waiting years to say that. Welcome aboard. I'm Captain Thompson. **(**X)

REMBRANDT

Thank you, Captain. We're very grateful.

CAPTAIN

Very lucky is more like it. How did you get out here?

There is a short beat as the Sliders exchange a subtle "What'sour-cover-story-here?" glance. Mallory pipes in first ...

MALLORY

We were out fishing. Sprung a leak.

MAGGIE

A big one.

(X)

(X)

(X)

DIANA Captain, where are we bound for?

CAPTAIN Bound for trouble if we sit dead in these waters much longer.

The Sliders now notice two sailors manning a large deck gun. Lookouts warily scan the horizon with binoculars.

CONTINUED

CAPTAIN

Mr. Brice, prepare to get under way. (to Sliders) If you have any needs please ask a member of my crew. If you'll excuse me.

He moves off chuckling to himself.

CAPTAIN

Tickets please.

Off the Sliders' reactions we cut to...

4 INT. SHIP - WARDROOM - DAY

The Sliders sit around a galley table, still wrapped in blankets. Empty plates sit before them and they sip coffee from mugs. Diana tinkers with the timer.

MALLORY

(looking at his fingers) Man, am I pruny.

MAGGIE

What the hell happened? We've never slid into the middle of the ocean before. How long before we pop out of the wormhole underground? Or a thousand feet in the air?

MALLORY

Something like this really shakes my confidence in the whole process.

REMBRANDT

Q-Ball said there was some kind of "spatial displacement failsafe" that would only let us slide onto dry land.

DIANA

Something's wrong with the timer.

MAGGIE

Duh.

DIANA

It's having trouble locking onto a stable set of slide coordinates.

CONTINUED

3

(X)

3.

(X) (X)

MALLORY Getting it wet probably didn't help.

Diana continues to check the timer.

DIANA

It's pretty weatherproof. I don't
think the seawater hurt it.
 (then)
Have you ever changed the batteries
in this?

REMBRANDT

No time for jokes, girl.

DIANA

No joke. A loss of power might explain why we weren't able to lock onto a solid landing site. (then) You didn't think it would just run forever, did you?

Maggie and Rembrandt exchange a slightly embarrassed look. Of course they did.

REMBRANDT

I don't suppose a trip to Radio Shack for batteries is going to do the trick?

DIANA

(shakes her head) (X)
I can probably give it a jump start
from my PDL, but we could be in for (X)
some rough slides.
 (then)
If we can slide at all.

Off their grim expressions, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

4.

ACT ONE

5 EXT. SHIP - DECK - DAY

Rembrandt, Maggie and Diana walk along the deck. They are now back in their regular clothes. Sailors move past them.

DIANA We've got three days until the next slide window. I can probably have the timer recharged enough by then to open the wormhole. After that I don't know.

They glance at two sailors manning one of the large deck guns.

REMBRANDT I wonder what they're looking for?

DIANA

(lightly) Maybe there be sea monsters.

Maggie and Rembrandt give her a stern look.

MAGGIE Don't even joke about it.

Mallory steps up.

MALLORY Ready for some good news?

REMBRANDT

Always.

MALLORY We dock in Hawaii in two days. Aloha wahines.

Remmy and Maggie exchange a look.

MAGGIE

Hawaii? We're not heading back to the mainland?

MALLORY What's the big deal? I thought you guys'd be itching for a change of locale.

CONTINUED

5

(X)

REMBRANDT

Haven't you wondered why we always end up somewhere in California. Why we don't slide into New York or Paris?

MAGGIE

It's our sliding radius.

MALLORY

Sliding radius?

Off his confused look...

6 EXT. SHIP - BRIDGE - DAY

6

We follow the Sliders as they climb a stairway up toward the bridge. Their conversation continues...

REMBRANDT

We have a four hundred mile radius from the point of our original slide. We have to be inside that zone when the timer reaches zero.

MALLORY

Or?

MAGGIE We don't know. We've never been caught outside the zone before.

MALLORY

Maybe nothing happens. Maybe you just move your "sliding zone" and start over.

MAGGIE

Yeah, maybe. But if the timer's on the fritz I don't want to start sliding from an island in the middle of the Pacific. We could end up right back in the drink.

DIANA

Or the vortex might not open at all. Or we might slide in, but never slide out. Or--

MALLORY

I get the picture.

CONTINUED

REMBRANDT

We have to get back to the mainland.

7 INT. SHIP - BRIDGE - DAY

The Sliders are now crowded into the ship's bridge as Remmy talks to Captain Thompson.

CAPTAIN

You want us to turn around?

REMBRANDT

It's very important.

CAPTAIN

Sorry, folks, but I have cargo that needs to be in Honolulu day after tomorrow. You can hop the next ship back once we get there, should put you back in L.A. by the end of next week.

DIANA

That's too late.

CAPTAIN

Too late for what?

MAGGIE

It's a medical emergency.

CAPTAIN

What's the problem?

MAGGIE

Mallory here has, uh, kidney stones. He can't pass them. Very painful.

MALLORY

What?

Maggie jabs Mallory hard in the side. He nearly crumbles from the kidney punch and groans loudly in pain.

MAGGIE

See?

CAPTAIN I'll have the ship's doctor take a look at him, but that's the best I can do.

CONTINUED

6

7.

DIANA

What about a medivac?

CAPTAIN

A what?

REMBRANDT A chopper. A helicopter to fly us back to L.A.

The Captain just shakes his head.

CAPTAIN

I don't know what a "helicopter" is, but you're not going to find an aeroplane that could fly this far out to sea, even if you could afford it.

Off the Sliders' reactions, we go to...

8 OMITTED

8A INT. SHIP - WARDROOM - DAY

Rembrandt, Maggie and Mallory are gathered around the table. (X)

MAGGIE

Now that you mention it, I haven't seen a contrail in the sky since we slid in here.

MALLORY Why not? Look at this ship. They must have the know-how to build planes.

Diana catches the last of this as she enters.

DIANA It's not their "know-how." It's their raw materials.

REMBRANDT

What have you got?

DIANA

I checked out the ship's library. To see if this world has sufficient technology to help us fix the timer.

CONTINUED

8.

7

8

(X)

8A (X)

8A CONTINUED

MALLORY

Find that Popular Mechanics issue on sliding?

DIANA

No, but I did stumble across a copy of this world's Periodic Table of the Elements.

MAGGIE

(impatient) And?

DIANA

It goes straight from atomic number twelve to fourteen.

They give her totally blank looks.

DIANA

Jumps from magnesium -- bam! -- right to silicon.

Still nothing from the other guys.

DIANA

No aluminum.

REMBRANDT

How is that possible?

DIANA

Either the geology of this world just doesn't contain the element, or these people never mastered the electrolytic process of separating aluminum from bauxite.

MALLORY

So, this is really-heavy-stuff-world?

DIANA

They apparently have some aircraft production, mostly 1930's vintage, but nothing like a modern airline industry.

REMBRANDT

This world's economy must run on the maritime trade.

CONTINUED

8A CONTINUED 2

MAGGIE

So how do we get off this bucket and back to our sliding radius?

MALLORY

(a grin) I suppose we could mutiny.

Suddenly, the ship is rocked by an EXPLOSION. The sound of (X) SHOUTS and sporadic GUNFIRE is heard on deck. (X)

MALLORY

Joke! That was a joke!

8B EXT. SHIP - DECK - DAY

The Sliders rush onto the deck. They take cover as GUNFIRE (X) PINGS off the metal over their heads. Sailors rush to battle (X) stations. The Captain runs past shouting orders to his crew.

> CAPTAIN Clear those guns! Get these passengers below deck!

REMBRANDT

Captain, what's happening?

CAPTAIN

We're being boarded!

MAGGIE

By who?

DIANA

Whom.

Maggie shoots her a look.

CAPTAIN Scurvy bastards come in out of the sun. Can't see 'em til it's too late.

REMBRANDT

Who?

CAPTAIN

Pirates!

The Sliders exchange a surprised look, "Pirates?" As the Sliders watch...

10.

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9 A BOARDING PARTY

moves down the deck, driving back the defending sailors. They don't exactly look like pirates. They wear a hodge-podge of colorful battledress and maritime uniforms. Some have long hair tied with bandanas and all are armed with small arms and knives (there are scars and tattoos, but no eyepatches or peglegs).

Some of the ship's crew resist the attack, but the boarders quickly overpower the sailors and begin rounding up the crew. We see Captain Thompson trying to fend off the marauders with a revolver, but a pirate leaps from the rigging above and tackles the captain, disarming him.

CAPTAIN Do your worst, you scum.

The pirate pulls a knife.

10 THE SLIDERS

see that the Captain is in danger.

REMBRANDT Are we letting this happen?

Without answering, Maggie charges the pirate attacking the captain.

REMBRANDT

Dumb question.

Remmy leads the other Sliders after Maggie. Maggie reaches the pirate first and knocks away his knife with a sexy spinning kick. A few more martial arts blows and the pirate goes down.

PAXTON (O.S.)

That's enough.

Reveal the Sliders are surrounded by a group of pirates, all of whom have their weapons trained on our guys. The pirate known as PAXTON steps forward. He's a tall, striking rogue who clearly commands respect from the other raiders. As two other pirates restrain Maggie, Paxton leans in close.

> PAXTON You should know better than to fight back. You might get hurt. (a charming smile) And what kind of a party would this be if I let my guests get hurt?

> > CONTINUED

9

11.

10

(X)

 (\mathbf{X})

The other pirates laugh.

MAGGIE

I must have lost my invitation to this little shindig.

The pirates "ooh" appreciatively; this one's got spunk. Paxton takes her chin gently in his hand.

PAXTON

I like surprise parties.

MAGGIE

Move that hand or you'll get a surprise. A big one.

More "oohs" from the pirates. Paxton grins. He likes this repartee. He turns to his men. He speaks with a quiet (X) authority they respond to instantly. (X)

PAXTON

Brighton, Henshaw, check the hold. Hunter, I want the charts, logbook and cargo manifest.

He turns to where the Captain is lined up with his crew.(X)Paxton walks slowly down the line of frightened and defiant(X)seamen, finally stopping in front of Brice. He holds her gaze(X)for a beat, then a smile creeps across his face.(X)

P	AXTON	
Good work, Brice.	You brought them	(X)
right to us.		(X)

BRICE

Thank you, sir.

PAXTON

Now get back where you belong.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

Aye, sir.

As she moves to join the pirates, Captain Thompson leaps out (X) of line. He draws back his arm to hit her. (X)

BRICE

CAPTAIN(X)You lying, traitorous...(X)

But Paxton grabs the Captain's arm in mid-swing.

CONTINUED

(intense)

10 CONTINUED 2

PAXTON

Don't.

The Captain steps back, glowering at the pirates. Paxton turns to see a pirate grab a necklace from Maggie's neck.

PAXTON

Not her.

He takes the necklace and places it back around Maggie's neck, gently moving her hair aside to fix the clasp.

PAXTON I haven't got my surprise yet.

He gives Maggie a charming smile and moves off. The other Sliders react as we time cut to...

11 EXT. SHIP - DECK - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

The pirates efficiently move their looted cargo off the ship. (X) Paxton and his second-in-command Brice survey the operation.

PAXTON

A good haul.

BRICE Some weather coming up. We should head back to base.

PAXTON You worry too much. We'll be back on the mainland by nightfall.

They move off to reveal...

12 THE SLIDERS

have been standing within earshot.

MALLORY

(low) Did you hear that? They're heading back to the mainland.

DIANA

Doesn't do us any good.

CONTINUED

11

13.

10

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

- - -

MALLORY

Maybe it does.

REMBRANDT

How?

MALLORY We switch sides. Throw in our lot with these guys. They'll take us right back into our sliding radius.

MAGGIE Reality check. These guys are killers.

MALLORY

They're businessmen. Trust me, I know how gangs work. They constantly need new recruits.

REMBRANDT

(warning) Mallory.

MAGGIE

(overlapping) Don't you dare--

MALLORY

(calling to Paxton) (X) Yo, Blackbeard. Over here. (X)

Paxton cocks a surprised eye at Mallory, but strolls over to see what he wants.

MALLORY I've been watching your operation.

PAXTON

Oh?

MALLORY

Yeah, and it stinks.

The other Sliders wince.

MALLORY

(continuing) You're wasting time. You need better intel. Find out what your cargo is in advance and only go for what you need. In and out.

12

14.

CONTINUED

PAXTON

And you're just the man to shape up our operation?

MALLORY

My friends and I have a little experience in this area. We've just been looking for the right crew to throw in with.

PAXTON

What's your name?

MALLORY

Mallory. Quinn Mallory.

PAXTON And you want to join my crew, Mr. Mallory?

MALLORY

It's not a question of me wanting to join, it's a question of you needing me.

PAXTON

Quinn Mallory. That's a seafaring name. Irish?

MALLORY

Way back.

Paxton steps up close to Mallory, staring him hard in the eye. (X)

PAXTON

Let me tell you something, Mr. (X) Mallory. We don't take kindly to (X) spies from the Coastal Guards. (X)

A hostile murmur runs through the pirate ranks. We hear the words "Coastie... damned coastie...", etc.

MALLORY

Spies?

PAXTON We have a way of dealing with "coasties."

MALLORY

Wait a minute--

CONTINUED

12

15.

PAXTON

The plank.

BRICE

The plank!

An excited cheer goes up from the assembled pirates. Two men grab Mallory and jerk him out of line, quickly binding his hands behind his back.

REMBRANDT

Oh, man.

MAGGIE (shaking her head) He just couldn't keep his mouth shut.

A wooden plank is quickly run over the side of the ship. Mallory is prodded out onto plank at the end of a pirate's cutlass.

MALLORY

You're making a mistake.

PAXTON

We'll let the sharks decide, coastie.

The Sliders watch nervously as Mallory teeters on the end of the plank, and we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

12

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ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 EXT. SHIP - DECK - DAY

Mallory's toes dangle off the end of the plank and a pirate saber prods him toward oblivion.

MALLORY I'm not a coastie! Guys, tell them!

14 THE SLIDERS

14

15

16

13

MAGGIE Great, now he's dragging us into it.

,

DIANA We've got to do something.

REMBRANDT Man, I do not want to go back in that water.

DIANA

(exasperated) Guys!

Maggie and Remmy exchange a look.

Wait!

REMBRANDT

Aw, hell.

15 ON MALLORY

The pirate jabbing at him pulls back his sword for a final poke to send Mallory into the sea.

MAGGIE

16 PAXTON

holds up his hand, and the pirate manning the plank stops in mid-poke. Mallory teeters on the edge. Maggie steps toward Paxton.

CONTINUED

MAGGIE He's telling the truth. He's not a "coastie."

PAXTON Well, that's a relief. Thanks for clearing that up.

He gestures to the pirate to shove Mallory overboard.

REMBRANDT How can he be a spy? This ship (X) rescued us at sea.

Diana points to Brice.

DIANA

Ask her.

Paxton turns to Brice, who nods.

BRICE It's true. Pulled 'em out of the drink like a bunch of drowned wharf rats.

Paxton considers this for a beat. He nods to the pirate with the sword, who pulls Mallory back off the plank. The assembled pirates "boo" with disappointment.

MAGGIE

Thank you.

She turns to rejoin Remmy and the others, but Paxton holds her by the arm.

PAXTON Not so fast. Your friend put an offer on the table. Do you want to join my crew as well?

Maggie looks back and forth between Mallory and Rembrandt and Diana. She gives Paxton the once over.

MAGGIE That depends. What have you got to offer me?

PAXTON You'll get a standard share of the take. Plus I can promise you an impressive bonus package.

CONTINUED

16

(X)

(X)

(X)

MAGGIE

Last time I heard that I wound up with the short end of the stick.

PAXTON

I guarantee you'll be satisfied with what I can put on the table.

17 ANGLE ON THE SLIDERS

watching this exchange. Mallory rolls his eyes.

Oh, please.

MALLORY

DIANA What are they talking about?

18 RESUME SCENE

Paxton is savoring this interplay with Maggie.

MAGGIE

Tell you what, I'll give you a tryout. If I like the way you handle yourself, consider me onboard.

PAXTON You drive a hard bargain.

MAGGIE Competition is stiff out there.

Paxton grins. He turns to Brice.

PAXTON What do you think, Mr. Brice?

BRICE

Mallory reacts.

19.

PAXTON

(to Maggie) Welcome aboard.

Not a word.

Maggie nods and moves to rejoin the other Sliders. Rembrandt raises his eyebrows at her.

MAGGIE

18A ON PAXTON AND BRICE

PAXTON	(X)
You knew that man wasn't a spy, but	(X)
you weren't going to stop me?	(X)

- BRICE (X) I hate to disappoint the men. (X)
- As Paxton shakes his head, we go to...
- 19 EXT. COASTLINE DAY (STOCK)

An aerial establishing shot of rugged California coastline. As the camera sweeps in toward the surf crashing on the shore, we go to...

20 EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY (CABOT COVE)

A small waterfront village. Pirate raiders and colorful locals mingle along the docks. Paxton leads the Sliders through the crowd.

DIANA

Where are we?

PAXTON You won't find it on any map. That's just the way we like it.

MAGGIE Don't you worry about somebody telling the 'Coasties' where you are? (X)

PAXTON

The locals have no love for the Coasties. The Marine Use Taxes are bleeding them dry.

CONTINUED

20.

18

(X)

18A(X)

19

20

(X)

The Sliders note some of Paxton's men distributing loot to the grateful local villagers.

PAXTON We take care of them and they take care of us.

REMBRANDT Sort of like Robin Hood.

Robin who?

MALLORY You steal from the rich and give to the poor.

PAXTON

PAXTON

(smiles) You got that half right.

As they move off...

21 INT. PIRATE HIDEOUT - NIGHT (N1)

Look up "revelry" in the dictionary. This is a boisterous waterfront tavern where Paxton and his men cut loose. The waitresses keep the food and grog flowing as the pirates let off some steam.

CAMERA FINDS Diana working her way through the crowd with a couple of plates of food. Suddenly, she jumps -- she's obviously been pinched. Looking around nervously, she scoots off through the crowd followed by hoots of laughter. She finally reaches a table where...

22 MAGGIE AND REMBRANDT

sit. Diana sets the food down and joins them.

DIANA Somebody just grabbed my... Well, grabbed me.

Remmy and Maggie dig into the food.

REMBRANDT That's just an old-fashioned pirate "howdy."

CONTINUED

21

20

21.

22

DIANA

Whatever happened to buying a lady a drink?

MAGGIE You haven't spent much time in places like this, have you?

DIANA Hey, I used to stop by the student union for a beer. Or two.

Rembrandt and Maggie just give her an amused look.

DIANA

	DIANA			
(defensive)				
Things could get	pretty	wild	around	
finals.				

REMBRANDT

Any luck with the timer? (X)

DIANA

I haven't tried to recharge it yet. That pirate named Brice hasn't let us out of her sight.

She nods subtly toward...

23 BRICE

keeping a sharp eye on them from across the tavern.

24 RESUME SCENE 24

(X)

23

MAGGIE I don't think these folks entirely trust us.

PAXTON

Good evening. (directed at Maggie) I hope everything meets with your approval.

MAGGIE Any complaints and you'll be the first to know.

CONTINUED

22.

(X)

REMBRANDT

We appreciate the hospitality.

PAXTON

Of course. I take care of my crew.	(X)
(to Maggie)	(X)
I thought perhaps you'd like a tour of our operation. See what you're getting into.	(X)

He holds out his hand to Maggie. She hesitates, glancing to Rembrandt and Diana.

PAXTON Your friends are welcome, too. If you'd feel more comfortable.

MAGGIE

(accepting the challenge) I don't need a chaperone. Lead on.

Paxton smiles as she takes his hand and rises. As they leave, Rembrandt and Diana exchange a look.

25 WE FOLLOW MAGGIE AND PAXTON

through the crowded tavern. As they head for the door, the CAMERA SETTLES ON...

26 MALLORY

who has made himself at home much more easily than Diana. He is sitting with a group of pirates, who listen raptly as he spins a yarn.

MALLORY

These guys called themselves Smokers. Biker gang. They had this little contest where you'd take a long pole and run full bore at each other on motorcycles, try to knock the other guy on his rear. I can tell you I cracked a few ribs that day... not all of them mine.

The pirates all grunt approvingly and raise their mugs to Mallory. Enjoying the attention, Mallory reaches for a

CONTINUED

24

23.

25

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26 CONTINUED

drumstick on a platter of food on the table. THUNK! A knife stabs into the drumstick, pinning it to the table. Mallory looks up to see Brice glowering down at him.

BRICE

Games. You think riding a bike and waving a stick around qualifies you to run with us? You slip up around here and you end up dead. Or worse, you end up making me dead.

MALLORY

I can handle myself.

BRICE

You'd better. I'm not going to end	(X)
up hanging from a Coastie yardarm	(X)
because you can't handle a real fight.	(X)

She pulls the knife from the table and walks away. (X)

27 ANGLE ON REMBRANDT AND DIANA

watching the tense exchange.

DIANA Why is he always getting into fights with women?

REMBRANDT

The boy's got some issues.

28 OMITTED

29 EXT. WATERFRONT - NIGHT

Maggie and Paxton stroll along the waterfront. Moonlight reflects off the cove and the muted HUBBUB from the tavern can be heard in the distance.

> PAXTON We've been sailing out of this cove for about three years. Hitting the shipping lanes. Taking what we need to live. Giving the rest to our friends here.

> > CONTINUED

24.

26

28 (X)

29

MAGGIE

Guess I'm lucky to be your friend. I've seen what you do to your enemies.

PAXTON

We do what we have to to protect our way of life.

MAGGIE

That include a good keelhauling now and then?

PAXTON

I didn't expect you to be so squeamish. You asked to join us, remember?

MAGGIE

I don't like killing.

PAXTON

Good. I won't have a man in my outfit who does. But I'll kill -- or die -- to protect my people.

Maggie looks across the water.

PAXTON

I have a feeling you'd do the same.

They continue to stroll for a beat in silence.

PAXTON

You don't care for me, do you, Maggie?

MAGGIE

You're a good leader. You seem competent. Loyal. You take care of your people.

PAXTON

But it's not enough.

MAGGIE

What good's a fight without a cause? It's one thing to break the law for something you believe in. But if you're just doing this for the fun of it, you're nothing but a common thief.

Paxton hesitates, as if he wants to tell her something. But then...

(X)

29

CONTINUED

PAXTON What's your cause?

MAGGIE

It's more like a quest.

Tell me.

But Maggie isn't ready to spill her secrets either.

MAGGIE Maybe another time. It's getting chilly out here. Thanks for the tour.

PAXTON

Hold on Paxton as he watches her go, a faint smile on his lips and maybe something more in his eyes.

30 THRU 36	OMITTED	30 (X) THRU 36
37	INT. SLIDERS' QUARTERS - NIGHT	37
	A room above the pirate tavern. Mallory and Rembrandt hang out while Diana works on her PDL. Maggie enters.	(X) (X)
	MALLORY Have a nice time?	(X)
	REMBRANDT Did you find out anything from Paxton?	
	MAGGIE Other than he's charming, smart, and dedicated as hell?	(X) (X)
	MALLORY And cute?	(X)
	MAGGIE Jealous?	(X)
	MALLORY I'm just thinking about sliding out of here.	(X) (X) (X)

Diana looks up from the PDL.

CONTINUED

29

DIANA

Don't get your hopes up.

REMBRANDT

I thought you said you could recharge the timer?

DIANA

I can. The problem is we're not back in our sliding radius.

MAGGIE

Where are we?

DIANA

My best guess is somewhere down the Baja peninsula. It's hard to tell precisely, but I'd say we're still at least a hundred miles too far south.

The Sliders absorb this information.

DIANA

Unless we can get out of here and back into the sliding zone we don't dare open the wormhole.

MALLORY

(dry) It's the pirate's life for me.

Off the Sliders' reactions, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

37

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

38 INT. SLIDERS' QUARTERS - NIGHT

We're back in the hotel room with the Sliders.

MALLORY

I say we jump ship. Head north. We've still got two days to get back to the sliding radius.

DIANA

How? The only way in or out of this village is by sea.

MALLORY

We steal a boat.

MAGGIE

And how long before Paxton's men catch us? They're already suspicious of us. We sneak out of here, they'll figure we're Coastie spies for sure.

MALLORY

I'm not ready to get fitted for a pegleg and an eyepatch. I say we risk it.

REMBRANDT

And I'm not ready to be drawn and quartered -- whatever the hell that is. I say we don't.

Before the argument can escalate the door to the room bangs open and Brice sticks her head in. Diana hurriedly hides the PDL and timer.

BRICE

Time to earn your keep. Be down at the docks in five minutes.

MALLORY

What's going on?

BRICE

A shipment we've been waiting for came into San Diego today. We hit the cargo terminal in two hours.

CONTINUED

38

DIANA But it's the middle of the night.

Brice stares at her like she's an idiot.

BRICE

(duh) We find the cover of darkness helps facilitate our illegal activities. Five minutes.

She exits.

39	OMITTED	39 (X)
AND		AND
40		40

41 INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A large warehouse piled high with cargo. A door opens and the (X) pirates and Sliders move quietly inside. Paxton gestures for (X) his crew to fan out.

PAXTON Mr. Brice, take the new men and head that way. You know what we're looking for. (to Maggie) You're with me.

Rembrandt cocks an eyebrow at Maggie. She shrugs, what can she do? She heads off with Paxton as Brice leads the other Sliders the opposite way.

42 WITH PAXTON AND MAGGIE

as they stealth through the dimly lit warehouse.

(low)

MAGGIE

What are we looking for?

Paxton doesn't answer. Instead he freezes and holds up his hand for Maggie to be quiet. Suddenly, he grabs her and pulls her out of sight behind a stanchion. They are pressed close together, their faces only a few inches apart.

CONTINUED

29.

38

42

MAGGIE

(very softly) What are you doing?

Paxton gently presses his finger to her lips to "shush" her. They hold the pose as a uniformed security guard passes by. As the guard's footsteps FADE AWAY Paxton doesn't move. Не and Maggie are still pressed close together in the shadows.

MAGGIE

He's gone.

Paxton looks into her eyes for a beat, then steps back.

PAXTON

Can't be too careful.

They move off...

43 ANOTHER PART OF THE WAREHOUSE

> Maggie stands watch as Paxton checks a lot number stencilled onto a cardboard carton. He pulls out a walkie-talkie.

> > PAXTON (into walkie-talkie) Mr. Brice, southwest corner. Bay thirty-two. I've found it.

MAGGIE Found what?

> PAXTON (a grin)

Essential pirate supplies.

A CARTON 44 (X) 44

is sliced open. It's filled with liquor bottles. Reveal... **(**X)

PAXTON, BRICE AND THE PIRATES 45

(X) The pirates are toting cases of gathered around the cartons. booze as fast as they can.

> MALLORY We're risking our lives for booze?

> > CONTINUED

42

30.

CUT TO:

- (X)
- 45

(X)

Paxton pulls one bottle out of a passing case and shows it to the Sliders.

PAXTON

Coastal Guard tax stamp. We'll sell these across the border, it'll finance our operations for six months.

Brice nudges Mallory.

BRICE

Less talkin' more totin.'

As the Sliders pitch in, Paxton gestures for Brice to join him apart from the others. Paxton nods toward a separate area of the warehouse...

46 A SECURE STORAGE AREA

inside a locked cage. Several crates are piled inside with "Property of the U.S. Government" stencilled on them.

47 RESUME SCENE

As Paxton and Brice eye the government cargo.

PAXTON

That's it.

Brice nods. She and the pirate with the bolt cutters head for the cage. While Paxton and Brice are focused on the mysterious crates...

48 THE SLIDERS

are moving liquor. As they walk past a large pile of crates, Mallory steps out of line and ducks out of sight. The other Sliders follow.

MALLORY

This is our chance.

He points to...

49 AN OPEN WINDOW

at the far end of warehouse.

47

46

45

(X)

31.

50 RESUME SCENE

MALLORY

I saw some trucks parked outside. We hotwire one and we're back in the sliding zone by morning.

REMBRANDT

I like this plan.

MAGGIE They'll notice we're missing.

MALLORY

So?

Realizing they're right, Maggie nods and heads for the window. The other Sliders follow.

51 PAXTON, BRICE AND THE PIRATES

have cleared out most of the crates. As they move out of the warehouse, they are startled by a BOOMING VOICE...

DUVALL (O.S.)

Yo. Ho. Ho.

The pirates don't have time to bring their weapons to bear before they are surrounded by a squad of armed COASTAL GUARDSMEN. A man in the uniform of a Coastal Guard officer steps out from the shadows to confront the pirates. A long scar is carved down his cruel face. His name is...

PAXTON

Duvall.

52 THE SLIDERS

have reached the open window. Mallory is boosting Diana up onto some crates to reach the window. Maggie turns back at the sound of Duvall's voice.

MAGGIE

What's that?

MALLORY A diversion. Count your blessings.

We go back to ...

52

51

50

32.

(X)

53 PAXTON AND DUVALL

facing each other.

DUVALL.

It's been a while, captain.

PAXTON

You've looked better. (indicating the scar) The kids must love you on Halloween.

DUVALL

You try stitching yourself up with fishing line and a sharpened chicken bone.

(he steps closer) But it reminds me that I still owe you a little something in return.

PAXTON

I don't suppose that would be a fair trial by a jury of my peers?

Duvall smiles evilly. The armed Guardsmen cock their weapons with an ominous CLICK-CLACK.

54 ANGLE ON THE SLIDERS

> Mallory and Diana crouch by the open window. Rembrandt has climbed up onto a crate and is reaching down for Maggie's hand.

DIANA

(urgent) Maggie, come on.

Maggie is torn.

REMBRANDT

Maggie.

She looks up to Remmy and the other Sliders and back across the warehouse toward Paxton and his men...

55 BACK WITH THE PIRATES

The Guardsmen level their weapons at the pirates.

PAXTON You won't end this by putting a bullet in me.

CONTINUED

53

55

(X)

DUVALL

How about a couple dozen bullets?

Suddenly, a wall of crates and barrels piled nearby splinters apart as a forklift comes crashing through. Paxton looks at the forklift and he catches Maggie's eye as she works the controls. Tumbling barrels send Duvall and his men sprawling, giving Paxton's pirates a chance to draw their weapons.

BULLETS FLY as the pirates regroup and withdraw. Maggie leaps from the forklift and Paxton takes her by the arm. As Duvall's men are forced to retreat, we see the other Sliders have rejoined the pirates. As the pirates withdraw, Mallory casts a dark gaze at Maggie.

56 INT. SLIDERS' QUARTERS - EARLY MORNING (D2)

Since they're all back in their room, the Sliders obviously haven't gotten away.

MALLORY

(deep sarcasm) Gee, look where we are... again.

MAGGIE I wasn't going to run while those men were being executed.

DIANA Those men are the bad guys.

MAGGIE Are they? Ask the people in this village.

MALLORY They made me walk the plank!

MAGGIE And that's a bad thing?

MALLORY

I don't care if there's something going on between you and Paxton--

MAGGIE

(cutting in)

What?

CONTINUED

34.

MALLORY

-- but you may have cost us our only shot at getting out of here.

REMBRANDT

Hey! Just cool down. Maggie made a judgement call. We live with it and we move on.

MAGGIE

What are you saying, Remmy? You think I blew the call, too?

REMBRANDT I doesn't matter. We'll just find another way out of here.

Maggie's anger abruptly turns inward... Did she endanger the rest of the team? She turns and heads out the door.

57 EXT. WATERFRONT - MORNING

Maggie walks along the waterfront wrestling with her feelings. She finds a quiet spot and sits down, gazing out at the water.

PAXTON (O.S.) I wanted to thank you.

Maggie looks up to see Paxton standing behind her.

PAXTON

Can't act too grateful in front of the men, though... makes me look wimpy.

MAGGIE

Can't have that.

He sits beside her.

PAXTON

You saved my life.

MAGGIE

You're welcome.

(a beat) What if I needed to leave here?

CONTINUED

35.

PAXTON

(surprised)
I wouldn't be happy about that.
 (then)
Still pursuing your quest?

MAGGIE

I'm not so sure what it is anymore. What about you?

PAXTON

What about me?

MAGGIE

You risked your life -- and <u>mine</u> -for a few cases of whiskey? If that's all you have going on here, why I should be a part of it?

Paxton thinks about this for a beat.

PAXTON

I used to be a captain in the Merchant Marine. Played by the rules, made a pretty good living running freight up and down the coast.

MAGGIE

Steering clear of your kind.

PAXTON

It wasn't the pirates you had to worry about. The Coasties want you to believe they're protecting the sea lanes. But men like Duvall are blackhearted. It isn't enough that they bleed us dry with the Marine Taxes, then you've got to line the pockets of Duvall and his kind just to stay in business.

He abruptly stands up and turns away. Maggie watches him carefully.

PAXTON

I got sick of it. I refused to pay Duvall his kickback. So, he and his thugs bombed my ship. Sunk it in Santa Barbara harbor. My wife and son were aboard. You think we're just a bunch of thieves. (MORE)

CONTINUED

36.

(X)

PAXTON (CONT'D) Every man on this crew has lost someone to the Coasties. That's our cause.

Maggie moves closer to him.

MAGGIE I'm sorry. I know what it's like. To lose someone.

PAXTON

Do you?

MAGGIE

Yes.

She takes his hand. He looks into her eyes. Suddenly, something just pops and these two are all over each other. As it starts to get pretty steamy, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

58 INT. PAXTON'S QUARTERS - DAY

A room similar to the Slider's quarters, but more elaborately decorated. It's filled with nautical souvenirs and treasures the pirates have plundered. Blue light reflecting from a secret O.S. grotto flickers across a large bed where we find Paxton and Maggie tangled in the sheets.

> MAGGIE Wow. It's been a while.

PAXTON You could have fooled me.

She laughs, a little embarrassed.

MAGGIE My life doesn't leave me much room for romance.

PAXTON

Tell me.

MAGGIE You never know how long you'll be in one place.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

57

MAGGIE (CONT'D) What time you do have you spend hustling a job or scrounging a meal. Or staying a step ahead of the local authorities.

Paxton laughs.

MAGGIE You meet some good people sometimes. People you might like to know better. But then it's time to go again.

PAXTON

Sounds lonely.

They lay there quietly for a moment.

MAGGIE But, you know, it's not a bad life either. Exciting. And you always have your friends.

PAXTON

I know.

Maggie looks at him with a small realization.

MAGGIE

I guess you do.

PAXTON Thanks for not running out on me the other night.

MAGGIE You knew about that?

He nods.

PAXTON I know you have something else you need to do, but if it can wait. I, uh...

She turns to him expectantly. And suddenly an EXPLOSION rocks the room.

MAGGIE

What's that?

Paxton rolls out of bed, grabbing his clothes and his weapon.

58

38.

CONTINUED

Stay here.

PAXTON

MAGGIE

He heads for the door.

Like hell.

59 EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY

A Coastal Guard raid is underway. Duvall and his men are (X) firing at the pirates, who scatter to take up defensive positions. Paxton rushes from the tavern and quickly moves to rally his men.

PAXTON		
Mr. Brice! lookouts!	How did they get past the	(X) (X)

BRICE Must have come ashore up the coast, sir. They came in behind us on foot.

PAXTON Defensive positions! (X) (X)

Maggie follows Paxton from the tavern and immediately takes cover as GUNFIRE ricochets around her. Rembrandt, Diana and Mallory appear and scurry to Maggie's position.

MAGGIE

You guys okay?

REMBRANDT Yeah. For the moment.

MALLORY

(to Maggie) Where have you been?

MAGGIE

Oh, around.

DIANA

What do we do?

60 SLIDERS' POV

They see Duvall exhorting his troops forward.

CONTINUED

60

39.

59

(X)

(X)

(X)

DUVALL No prisoners!

61 RESUME SCENE

MAGGIE

Don't get caught.

As GUNFIRE EXPLODES around the Sliders, we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

61

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ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

62 EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY

The Sliders take cover as the Coasties press their attack. Paxton and Brice are leading the defense.

> MAGGIE We're sitting ducks out here.

MALLORY I wish your pirate buddy trusted us with some guns.

As the GUNFIRE flies around them, Mallory sees...

63 A PIRATE DEFENDER

take a hit and go down, losing his weapon.

64 RESUME SCENE

MALLORY

I'm going for that gun.

DIANA

Mallory!

But he's already gone. The Sliders watch anxiously as...

65 MALLORY

dodges BULLET HITS as he charges for the gun. He dives and comes up with the rifle. He FIRES as he tries to work his way back to the Sliders. But he doesn't see a GUARDSMAN coming up (X) behind him. Just as the Coastie FIRES, Brice dives on top of Mallory and they roll out of the line of fire.

MALLORY

Thanks.

BRICE (X) I'm not here to save your tail. (X)

MALLORY Thanks anyway.

CONTINUED

41.

62

63

64

65

(X)

Mallory starts to rise, but he finds himself staring down the barrel of Duvall's gun. Duvall stands over them with two Coasties.

DUVALL

Ahoy there.

BRICE (X) Aw, hell's bells. (X)

Duvall nods to the Coasties, who roughly grab Mallory and Brice and haul them off.

66 PAXTON

66

69A(X)

(X)

(X)

rallies his pirates, who have gained the upper hand in the battle.

PAXTON They're on the run, lads!

67 BACK WITH THE SLIDERS 67 who see Duvall and the Coasties hauling Mallory and Brice off (X)

into the woods. (X)

DIANA

Mallory!

But they can do nothing but watch helplessly as Duvall's men retreat with their prisoners. (X)

68 AND 69	OMITTED	68 (X) AND 69

69A EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY (A BIT LATER)

Paxton moves confidently through the chaos, a calming presence (X) as he tends to his injured men. The Sliders intercept him. (X)

REMBRANDT			(X)		
What	is	our	next	move?	(X)

PAXTON We leave. Fast. Duvall must have tracked us after the last raid. He'll be back with more men. 42.

69A CONTINUED

DIANA

What about Mallory?

PAXTON

What about him?

Maggie grabs Paxton and spins him around.

MAGGIE

He's a member of your crew. Just	(X)
like Brice. I thought that meant	(X)
something to you.	

PAXTON

It does. Right now I'm thinking about the ones that are still breathing. We have to go or we'll all end up like Mallory... or them. (X)

He points to a couple of pirate bodies, covered with blankets, (X) lying nearby. He starts to move away, but Maggie follows him. (X) They now talk privately, away from the others. (X)

> MAGGIE What if it were me they'd captured?

PAXTON

You tell me.

He gestures around at the pirates on the waterfront, loading boats and tending to wounded.

PAXTON Would you want me risk all of their lives to come after you?

MAGGIE

Give us some weapons and we'll go ourselves.

PAXTON

Forget it.

MAGGIE

Why?

PAXTON Because I don't want to risk losing you, too. I... I'll need a new first mate.

CONTINUED

69A

43.

69A CONTINUED 2

Maggie is taken aback by this. He's asking her to stay with him.

MAGGIE I'll think about it. But only if you help us rescue Mallory.

Maggie holds his gaze. The moment is broken when Rembrandt steps up.

REMBRANDT

There's something you need to hear.

70 INT. PIRATE HIDEOUT - DAY

The Sliders and Paxton are gathered around a radio on the bar. The camera roves over their faces as they listen intently to Duvall's VOICE on the radio...

> DUVALL (V.O.) ...these repeated attacks on life and property must stop. As an example to those who flout our maritime laws, the prisoners taken in this morning's raid with be publicly executed at noon tomorrow.

The Sliders react to this.

DUVALL

However, leniency may be shown if the property stolen from the government docks in San Diego is returned intact.

Paxton snaps off the radio.

DIANA That's it. We just return the cargo you stole in exchange for Mallory.

Paxton turns to the other pirates gathered around the room.

PAXTON Keep loading the boats. I want to be out of here in one hour.

As the pirate's disperse...

PAXTON (to the Sliders) It's not that easy.

CONTINUED

44.

REMBRANDT

No, it's just that easy. You load those crates on a boat and we'll make the swap.

Paxton turns to walk away, but Rembrandt grabs him by the arm.

REMBRANDT What the hell is wrong with you? You're going to let a man hang for a few cases of tax-exempt whiskey?

Paxton stares hard at the Sliders, weighing a decision.

71 INT. STOREROOM - DAY

The crates stolen in the raid are piled up in the room. We see the crates from the secured area of the warehouse with the U.S. Government stencils on them.

PAXTON This isn't about whiskey.

He pries open one of the cases and we see it's full of bolts of heavy black cloth.

REMBRANDT

It's about cloth?

PAXTON It's more than just cloth.

Diana handles the fabric.

DIANA

This is carbon fiber.

REMBRANDT

What kind of fiber?

DIANA

You coat it with a special resin and you can form it into any shape. When it hardens it's stronger than steel but very lightweight.

MAGGIE You make airplanes out of it.

CONTINUED

45.

REMBRANDT

That's what this is about. Whoever has this stuff can start a whole aircraft industry.

DIANA

You could reshape the entire economy of this world.

PAXTON

That's why I'm going to dump it in the ocean.

DIANA

What? Why?

MAGGIE

I know why. Once they can build planes big enough to move a lot of cargo the merchant ships become obsolete.

(to Paxton) You become obsolete.

PAXTON

I'm not ready to give up our way of life. Not quite yet.

MAGGIE

And you think destroying one shipment of this stuff is going to save it?

PAXTON

It's a start.

MAGGIE

You destroy this and they'll just make more. You think if Edison hadn't invented the lightbulb someone else wouldn't have figured it out?

PAXTON

I'm not ready to surrender who we are. Not without a fight. (then) Who's Edison?

MAGGIE

You're going to have to fight this fight alone. I'm not going to stand around and watch you beat your head against the future.

71

CONTINUED

71	CONTINUED 2	71				
	She looks at Paxton with a sad realization that it isn't going to work for them.					
	MAGGIE You gotta know when it's time to move on.					
	Maggie and Paxton lock eyes for a long beat as he considers what she's said.					
72	OMITTED	72 (X)				
72A	A INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY					
	The warehouse where Paxton's men made their raid the night before. Duvall stands alone. He checks his watch.	(X)				
	MAGGIE (O.S.) Duvall?					
	Duvall turns to see Maggie stepping out from behind a pile of crates.	(X) (X)				
	DUVALL Where's Paxton?					
	MAGGIE Couldn't make it. I've been authorized to negotiate in his place.					
	DUVALL There's nothing to negotiate. Where are the goods?					
	MAGGIE Where are our men?	(X)				
	Duvall nods to someone off camera. Two armed Coasties step into view. They hold Mallory and Brice between them.	(X) (X)				
	MAGGIE You okay?					
	MALLORY Oh, yeah. These guys have been the perfect hosts.					
	DUVALL Now where is it?					
	CONTINUED					

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47.

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72A CONTINUED

Maggie nods for them to follow her.

73 OMITTED

73A INT. ANOTHER PART OF THE WAREHOUSE

> Duvall follows Maggie through the warehouse. The Guardsmen (X) drag Brice and Mallory behind. Rembrandt and Diana stand near (X) the stolen crates, which are covered with a tarp. (X)

> > There you go.

DUVALL

MAGGIE

Thank you.

Suddenly, a half dozen more armed Guardsmen emerge from hiding (X) and train their weapons on the Sliders. Rembrandt and Diana raise their hands.

DUVALL

I'll see you all hang on the six o'clock news.

Duvall steps up to the crates.

DUVALL

I just regret that my old friend Paxton won't be with you.

He throws back the tarp. Suddenly, a gun barrel rises from (X) between the crates. (X)

> PAXTON I hate to disappoint an old friend.

Paxton slowly rises from amidst the crates, a smile on his (X) face and the gun trained on Duvall.

MAGGIE

Surprise.

PAXTON Tell your men to drop their guns.

DUVALL Your days are numbered, Paxton.

CONTINUED

(X)

48.

72A

73 (X)

73A(X)

73A CONTINUED

PAXTON

Maybe. Maybe they are. But yours are over unless they drop those guns.

DUVALL

Lower your weapons.

The Coasties drop their guns. Mallory and Brice join the (X) Sliders. Paxton raises his weapon and levels it right at (X) Duvall.

PAXTON

I've been waiting to do this for a long time.

His finger tightens on the trigger. Duvall flinches.

MAGGIE

Paxton.

Paxton glances at Maggie, then back at Duvall.

PAXTON

Maybe next time.

Paxton and the Sliders disappear into the shadows of the (X) warehouse. **(X)**

EXT. PRIVATE DOCK - DAY 74

> The boat is tied up at the dock and Paxton, Brice and the (X) Sliders stand nearby.

> > MALLORY Thanks for the rescue.

PAXTON I told you. I take care of my crew.

Rembrandt turns to Diana. She checks her PDL.

REMBRANDT

How we doing?

DIANA Charged up and in the zone. We'll make this slide at least.

Mallory turns to Brice.

CONTINUED

73A

49.

74

	7	
	- 1	

50.

MALLORY

Thanks for the ride.

BRICE

Sorry to see you go. (then) We probably should have sold you when we had the chance.

PAXTON

You sure I can't convince you to stay? (to Maggie) I still need that mate.

Mallory clears his throat. The other Sliders discreetly give Maggie and Paxton a moment alone.

MAGGIE

It's tempting. But...

Your quest?

MAGGIE

PAXTON

Yeah. I kind of forget what we were after for a while. But you helped get me back on track.

PAXTON

Glad to be of service.

MAGGIE

What will you do next?

PAXTON

Oh, there are always opportunities for a man like me. Maybe I'll learn to fly.

MAGGIE

Take care of yourself.

And he lays a hell of a kiss on her. It goes on for a beat when Remmy gently interrupts...

REMBRANDT

It's time.

Maggie steps back from Paxton. After a last lingering look she turns and joins the Sliders. Paxton watches them go as they head around the corner of a nearby building. There is a FLASH OF WIND AND VORTEX LIGHT from behind the building.

CONTINUED

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

Paxton raises a curious eyebrow, then simply shakes his head and turns away, as we...

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW