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"PROPHETS AND LOSS"

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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 distinctive white 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.

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.

QUINN

Looks fairly normal.

MAGGIE

Too clean.

REMBRANDT

No Kromaggs, which makes it just  
fine with me.

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.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED

5

QUINN (CONT'D)

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

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.

The Sliders pass a newsstand and stop to check out a stack of  
newspapers. Maggie picks up a paper, Quinn pays for it with  
some coins, and they continue up the street as they look at  
the headlines.

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.

6 INSERT - THE PAPER

6

We see the headline and next to it a two-column photo of the  
Master Oracle. Looks a lot like Newt Gingrich.

7 BACK TO SCENE

7

as Maggie opens the paper and reads further.

MAGGIE

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

QUINN

Welcomers?

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED

7

REMBRANDT  
Doesn't sound like a football team.

MAGGIE  
(reading)  
'Jason Five, RadRat Sentenced to  
Re-Config.'

REMBRANDT  
What does that mean?

No one has a clue. 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. CHANCELLOR CENTER.

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

REMBRANDT  
Chancellor Center. Could that be the hotel?

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. They're headed for the center. 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. CHANCELLOR HOTEL - DAY 9

In this world, the sign over the door says: CHANCELLOR CENTER -- THE ORACLE -- LOS ANGELES. Quinn, Maggie and Remmy 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 Chancellor 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? 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.

REMBRANDT

Good to meet a Welcomer. Always liked getting welcomed better than not getting welcomed.

And they follow her, along with the last of the others, into the center.

11 INT. CHANCELLOR CENTER - DAY 11

The inside is arranged like a church or large meeting hall. Several hundred seats in rows, now filling with people. There is a raised platform at the front. Two white suited men sit in high-backed chairs facing the audience. 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.

12 A NEW ANGLE 12

to pick up the Sliders making their way to some seats with Jane. An usher hands each of them a brochure.

13 CLOSER ON JANE AND THE SLIDERS 13

as they take their seats.

JANE

(sotto)  
Our Chief Oracle is Gareth, a truly  
gifted man.

14 ANGLE ON STAGE 14

Cadmus standing behind 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.

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 Gareth moves to a podium.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED

16

GARETH

Welcome to this assembly of the Oracle, followers of the way. It is a blessing to see all of you this morning. 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 he continues.

GARETH

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.

19 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.

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED

20

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 gray 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

rises spontaneously to its feet, applauding and cheering.

22 THE SLIDERS

22

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

CUT TO

23 EXT. CHANCELLOR CENTER - DAY

23

Quinn, Maggie and Remmy come out of the assembly with the rest of the congregation. Jane is with them.

JANE

I hope you will join our assembly.

MAGGIE

We're just passing through.

JANE

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

She smiles and walks away. The Sliders turn and head out toward the street.

24 WITH THE SLIDERS

24

as they pause on the sidewalk and watch the people come out of the center. Then they look up at the building that they know better as a hotel.

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 center.

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. After they start to walk away, she turns and crosses back into the center.

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 Chancellor Center. Quinn isn't there.

MAGGIE

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

REMBRANDT

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

MAGGIE

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

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED

26

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.

27 INSERT - MAGAZINE

27

A picture of an Oracle/Rationalist Debate. The Oracle is Pat Robertson. The Rationalist, Hugh Hefner.

28 BACK TO SCENE

28

MAGGIE

Is it a religion, a life style, what?

QUINN

Near as I can figure from this stuff, 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.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED

28

REMBRANDT

Yeah, their family values.

QUINN

Obviously on this world, those people have won the argument.

(another book)

According to this, there is no Bill of Rights. 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. Most folks on Earth Prime don't vote and when that happens, you generally get the kind of government you deserve.

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. Nothing about what they call '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?

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED (2)

28

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 f me.

Quinn grins at that, and we....

CUT TO

29 EXT. STREET - NIGHT (N1)

29

Very few people out. The Sliders make their way along the street toward the Chancellor Center, and go inside.

30 INT. CHANCELLOR CENTER - THE ASSEMBLY ROOM - NIGHT

30

The lights have been dimmed and the room is empty except for two people sitting in the front row of seats. The Sliders enter cautiously and look around. They take seats in the rear row. 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 row and smiles, then comes up the aisle toward the Sliders.

31 ON SLIDERS

31

As the Enforcer approaches, they quickly take brochures out of holders on the backs of the seats in front of them 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.

REMBRANDT

I guess those guys make regular rounds.

QUINN

I'm going to take a chance and check out the control panel. You guys keep a lookout and give me a signal if somebody's coming.

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED 31

MAGGIE  
(a shade sarcastic)  
Like what, a flare?

QUINN  
How about a sneeze?

Quinn gets up and heads down the aisle. He passes the two people, who have been sitting in the front row and are now leaving. The people smile at Quinn just like everybody else does.

32 ON THE STAGE 32

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

33 MAGGIE AND REMBRANDT 33

rise and move apart toward different aisles to keep watch on either side of the auditorium.

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

sees an Enforcer coming in a side door and quickly sneezes.

36 QUINN 36

drops the panel lid and dashes behind one of the big high-backed chairs.

37 REMBRANDT 37

as the Enforcer passes him, smiles at him. Remmy smiles back and takes a seat and pretends to start meditating.

38 NEW ANGLE 38

as the Enforcer starts for the stage, looking from side to side. He goes up the steps to the stage and crosses out the back door without seeing Quinn.

39 ON STAGE 39

Quinn gets up and goes back to the panel and starts to work. He doesn't find anything unusual and crosses to the portal itself. He pulls back the curtains and starts to examine the chamber and its apparatus. He sees some kind of residue on the floor, reaches down to pick up a handful. Ashes. He suddenly realizes what this thing is and is shocked by it.

40 NEW ANGLE 40

as Quinn comes out of the portal and hurries down the aisle, and Maggie and Remmy cross to meet him. Quinn is excited and somewhat frightened by what he's learned.

MAGGIE

What is it?

QUINN

It's not a sliding machine.

REMBRANDT

Well?

QUINN

It's some kind of high-powered incinerator.

MAGGIE

What?

QUINN

Those people were burned to death.

Just as they react to this news, the lights suddenly go on.

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. CHANCELLOR 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 question...what have we done?

He rises and crosses to Cadmus and takes the timer to look it over. His manner is friendly to the point of being unctuous. He talks to the Sliders as if they're naughty children.

QUINN

And that would be...?

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED

43

GARETH

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. Gareth crosses to Remy.

GARETH

So, what are you?

REMBRANDT

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

GARETH

(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. If you're  
Rationalists, you must carry a  
party card at all times. Weren't  
you aware of that?

The Sliders shrug and shake their heads. No, we didn't  
know.

GARETH

(holds up timer))  
And this.  
(to Quinn)  
What is this?

QUINN

A kind of communicator.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED (2)

43

GARETH

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

QUINN

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

GARETH

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

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. Now, it's getting late and if I don't get at least eight hours, I'm not fit to be around, so...

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. Your sudden appearance has caused us to forget our manners.

(a pause)  
I've told you who I am. And this is my associate, Cadmus. Don't you want to tell me who you are?

QUINN

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

CONTINUED

GARETH

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

MAGGIE

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

REMBRANDT

Always wanted to see the Big Orange.

GARETH

Vacation? Trip to the beach?

QUINN

Something like that.

GARETH

Have you been to Oracle World?

QUINN

Not yet.

REMBRANDT

It's on the list, though.

GARETH

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

MAGGIE

Oh, I love him.

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

GARETH

There's a special exhibit this month: 'The Failure of Reason Through the Ages.'

QUINN

We'll be sure to check it out.

REMBRANDT

As for I.D., and that other stuff, we got rolled this morning just as we came into town.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED (4)

43

MAGGIE

(trying to help the lie)  
They took everything... most of our  
money. We went to the police, but  
they said there wasn't much they  
could do...

QUINN

(joining in)  
And as for the Oracle and the  
Rationalists...We're not really  
into politics up in...  
(quick glance to Maggie)  
Oregon.

GARETH

Isn't there an Oracle assembly in  
your part of Oregon?

QUINN

Not as such.

MAGGIE

We've heard about it, of course,  
and always wanted to see an  
assembly.

QUINN

And now we have. So, if I could  
get our communicator back, we'll  
just get out of your way.

Gareth has been watching this as he would a tennis match,  
back and forth, always with a condescending smile on his  
face. He holds up a hand to stop Quinn.

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.

GARETH

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

He nods to Cadmus, who picks it up.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED (5)

43

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 cells separated from one another by thin, vertical  
shafts of white light -- laser bars. Quinn, Remmy, and  
Maggie are escorted along the adjoining corridor and into  
adjacent cells. A section of three laser bars zaps off to  
allow the Sliders to enter their cells. Then the bars zap  
back on. A female Enforcer gives each of them a booklet.  
Then they are left alone. Each cell contains a chair, a  
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 QUINN

45

tests a laser bar with a corner of his shirt tail. The  
light quickly burns a hole through the cloth.

QUINN

Tight focus lasers. Very  
effective.

46 REMBRANDT

46

flops on his bunk.

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

I was reading about that in the paper. Did it to some guy named Jason.

PRISONER

Jason Five. He was the Mentor of the Inglewood Pack.

REMBRANDT

Pack?

PRISONER

RadRats. Radical Rationalists. Where have been?

REMBRANDT

Out of the country.

PRISONER

The Oracle treats us like a terrorist group.

REMBRANDT

So, this...re-config...How's it work?

CONTINUED

46 CONTINUED

46

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 of a drug soup.  
Wipes every cell in your brain  
clean. Then they feed you what  
they want you to know.

REMBRANDT

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

PRISONER

Everything. After chemical  
re-config you're a mindless robot,  
a pliable follower of the Oracle  
Way. No cares, no fears, no anger,  
no hate...

(a beat)

No ideas, no challenges, no  
inspirations, no love.

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 MAGGIE

47

who is sitting in her chair, reading the booklet she was handed by the Enforcer. We see Quinn behind her, in his cell, pacing back and forth, restless.

MAGGIE

According to this, the Rationalists  
are just misguided, and with 'care  
and love' can be retrained.

48 ADJUST ANGLE

48

to include Remmy in the cell beyond Quinn. He crosses toward Quinn, away from the RadRat prisoner.

CONTINUED

48 CONTINUED

48

REMBRANDT

And I just heard how they do it.  
There's something called RadRats on  
the loose, and these Oracle guys  
are vacuuming their brains.

(a beat, then)

You don't think they think we're  
RadRats do you? I've been a  
Democrat all my life.

49 BACK WITH QUINN

49

as he paces.

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

She has a visitor. An Enforcer escorts Martha down the  
corridor to her cell. Martha is carrying a picnic basket.  
Three laser bars zap open and Martha comes into the cell,  
putting the basket on the table. As she talks she takes out  
packages of food, etc.

MARTHA

I brought you a few things to make  
you more comfortable. Some  
sandwiches for you and your  
friends...

(looking over to Quinn  
and Remmy)

Didn't know what you liked.

Martha 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.

MAGGIE

This is very kind of you.

MARTHA

(shrugs)

I'm on a women's committee that  
cares for the poor souls who find  
themselves on detention. It's all  
part of the good work.

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

Even so...you didn't have to.

MARTHA

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

MAGGIE

Tell me about the Oracle.

Martha 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.

MARTHA

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.

MARTHA

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

MAGGIE

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

MARTHA

All part of our training.

MAGGIE

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

MARTHA

No Welcomer knows the day or the hour. So we must keep ourselves in constant readiness. I have already settled my earthly affairs, and ceded all my assets to the Oracle.

CONTINUED

MAGGIE

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

MARTHA

Money. Property. A few stocks I managed to buy. It will be no good to me where I'm going, and the Oracle can use it here for many good works.

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.

MARTHA

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. I have no family. No real friends. No profession. But on the other side, I will be reunited with my mother and father. There will be no pain, no confusion. Only love and light.

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

MAGGIE

What do they have planned for us?

MARTHA

I don't know. The elders are meeting now.  
(picks up an apple from the basket)  
Won't you try some fruit? You must be hungry.

Maggie takes the apple and looks at. Martha is smiling at her with such innocence and love, Maggie can't help but smile back.

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

Maybe it will detonate a bomb somewhere else. A much larger bomb.

CADMUS

The scan revealed no transmitting device. The best guess is that it's some kind of switch. It turns something on. Or off. But we don't know what. Naturally we'll have it under observation in the shielded isolation chamber when it counts down to zero.

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.

CADMUS

What do you want us to do with the strangers?

GARETH

Chemical re-config. First thing tomorrow.

Cadmus reacts to this and exits.

CUT TO

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

52

Morning activity with a few people up and about, Oracle workers in white suits, Enforcers, a few civilians.

CONTINUED

52 CONTINUED 52

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 pop up from spider holes in the courtyard and come up from the central well. They're everywhere, appearing like moles from out of nowhere. In seconds, the courtyard is filled with smoke and confusion. 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 to one of the spider holes and down it. The Sliders have been kidnapped and have disappeared into the ground under the Oracle Center.

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 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 of them seem to have kevlar vests and 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.

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. 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 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. Then they move on. Samson is a loquacious sort of fellow, a little self-important, maybe impressed by his own press clippings. But likable.

SAMSON

We have here the beginning of what we need to take back our world from the Oracle. Our numbers are growing daily.

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

SAMSON

There are other secret labs and libraries, storehouses of the knowledge the Oracle would wipe from the face of the earth. But knowledge dies hard. And as the poet said: 'Knowledge is power.'

QUINN

You're the RadRats we've heard about?

SAMSON

(nods)

The Rationalist Party that is in the open is useful, but weak. The Big O has too strong a grip on the people. The only way real change will come will be through revolution.

REMBRANDT

Lot of that goin' around.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED

60

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 0.

MAGGIE  
How did you know about that?

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

REMBRANDT  
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.

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.

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

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?

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED (2)

60

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

I knew it! You were sent to help us in the struggle. It's true what the prophet wrote: 'God gives, but man must open his hand.'

MAGGIE

I don't know about that.

SAMSON

And what do you do?

MAGGIE

On my world I was a Captain in the Marine Corps.

SAMSON

Military background. Good, 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.

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

If that happens 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.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED (3)

60

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 heat transfer mechanics.

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

REMBRANDT

(to Quinn)

I thought that was Ben Franklin.

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. Maggie, why don't you join me? In the meanwhile, I'm sure my associates here have a few questions for Doctor Mallory.

CONTINUED

60 CONTINUED (4)

60

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.

SCIENTIST ONE

I don't understand how photons can have momentum but no mass.

QUINN

Well...

SCIENTIST TWO

In parallel universes is there matter, or just 'ghosts' of matter?

SCIENTIST ONE

And what about the Anthropic Principal?

QUINN

One of my favorites.

Quinn smiles. He enjoys this.

CUT TO

61 EXT. CHANCELLOR 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 and Gareth examine one of the "spider hole" trap doors.

CADMUS

We're closing down all the tunnels we found beneath the compound.

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 then.

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. The scientists begin to squabble among themselves over a calculation. Quinn leans in to correct them.

CONTINUED

SCIENTIST ONE  
Are you saying it's both a wave  
and a particle?

QUINN  
Pretty weird, I know. Niels Bohr  
said anyone who is not shocked by  
quantum physics just doesn't  
understand it.

The scientists get excited and go back to their work. Quinn  
moves away from them, checks his watch, anxious.

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  
white suits have got it, and the  
RadRats want it. It's folks in the  
middle, like us, who always get  
hurt.

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.

CONTINUED

63 CONTINUED (2) 63

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

CUT TO

64 EXT. ROOFTOPS - DAY 64

A moving shot with our RadRat raider team: Quinn, Remmy, and Maggie in RadRat motley, city camouflage with masks, led by Samson and one other RadRat. Only Samson and the RadRat have automatic weapons. All have climbing ropes. Maggie wears a small backpack. They are moving quickly across a rooftop and leap across a narrow alley to another roof.

65 WITH SAMSON 65

He is holding a small computer "locater" -- a small key punch pad and a little LED screen which displays a map of the area they are moving through.

66 ANOTHER ROOF 66

As a dart from a crossbow whacks into a wall. Samson has fired the dart which carries a climbing rope. Samson secures his end of the rope and quickly attaches a small pulley device. Beginning with Maggie, the Sliders grab hold of the pulley and make a slide on the rope across a wider alley to another rooftop. Remmy slides, then Quinn, then Samson.

67 ON THE NEW ROOF 67

As Samson jerks loose the slip knot at the other end of the climbing rope and reels it in. Maggie, Quinn and Remmy pause to catch their breath.

MAGGIE

We're on the roof of Oracle Tech  
Ops right now. If Samson's inside  
man is right, the timer is in a  
safe on the first floor.

QUINN

Where's the alarm panel?

Samson crosses to them, clicks up a new display on his locater. He and Maggie check the schematic, then Maggie points to a panel on the wall by a ventilator opening. They cross to it. Quinn takes some tools from Maggie's pack, puts small light in mouth, opens the panel and goes to work short-circuiting the alarm system with transistors, etc.

CONTINUED

67 CONTINUED

67

SAMSON  
(indicating the vent)  
That's the way in.

REMBRANDT  
I'm more interested in the way out.

MAGGIE  
There's a conduit from the safe  
room to the basement and from there  
to the sewers.

REMBRANDT  
They're not called rats for  
nothing.

Samson and the Sliders cross to the vent. Samson slips off  
the cover and drops inside. The others follow.

68 INT. AIR CONDITIONING CONDUIT

68

Samson and the Sliders make their way along the conduit.  
They reach a fork, Samson checks his "locater," takes the  
right tunnel.

69 A VERTICAL CONDUIT

69

Samson and the Sliders drop carefully down this conduit,  
bracing their feet on the connecting seams of the tunnel.  
They drop one story, two, reach a cross vent and crawl  
through it.

70 ANOTHER CONDUIT

70

As they arrive at the vent into the Tech Ops safe room.  
Samson looks through the vent.

71 SAMSON'S POINT OF VIEW - ANGLE THROUGH VENT

71

A large room with work tables, various lab equipment. There  
is a large safe at one end of the room. There are also  
several workers in the room.

72 IN THE VENT

72

Samson opens his backpack and takes out a canister. Pausing  
only to make sure the Sliders are pulling their gas masks  
into place, he aims the canister into the Tech Ops room and  
blasts away.

73 INT. TECH OPS ROOM

73

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 drops to the floor, followed by the Sliders. Samson crosses to the safe, takes a small charge of plastique from his pack, divides it, places a charge on each of the two big hinges and inserts a timer detonator. He sets the detonators and they all take cover. In a matter of seconds the plastique blasts the safe door off its hinges. Quinn crosses quickly and finds the timer inside. He checks the timer -- 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 laser-barred 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.

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 nods to someone unseen and the three light bars that form the door to the cell zap off.

CADMUS

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

Quinn comes cautiously out of the cell, then follows Cadmus along the corridor, the Enforcer bringing up the rear.

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 INT. ORACLE CENTER OFFICE - DAY

79

Gareth is finishing a phone conversation as Cadmus enters.

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

79 CONTINUED

79

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. Man is a  
rational creature. All we want is  
to restore rationality as a way of  
life. We want to stop the  
suppression of speech, and get on  
with the search for knowledge, and  
ultimately wisdom.

QUINN

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

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 GARETH 88

is back at the podium addressing the believers.

GARETH

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 consulted the Master Oracle, and have decided that our re-configuration methods here are not up to the task of dealing with these people. 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 pass the podium, Samson breaks free for a moment and rushes to the microphone.

SAMSON

(to the TV cameras)  
This is a fraud!  
(points to portal)  
That thing is an oven! Your friends aren't on the other side. They're dead!

CONTINUED

88 CONTINUED 88

At this point, a couple of Enforcers start to drag Samson away from the mike, but he continues to shout.

SAMSON

The Oracle has robbed them and murdered them!

At this point one of the Enforcers zaps Samson with a sting gun and he collapses and is carried to the portal.

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

In the confusion, Quinn and Remmy jump one of the Enforcers, trying to take his gun, but both are quickly subdued by the other Enforcers. Gareth quickly moves back to the mike.

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 is carried inside the chamber, and the Sliders are forced in after him. Looks like this is the end for our folks. Cadmus steps forward at the last moment.

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 98

is lit up with the vortex which looks like the incinerator effect we've seen before. When the flash is over we can see through the glass that the portal is now empty.

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

(looking around)  
Looks okay to me. I'm not ready to let those guys take another shot at cooking me.

SAMSON

Don't you understand, I've started something and with Cadmus in place, we can finish Gareth, maybe more. Millions of people saw me on television, heard what I had to say.

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 vortex materializes and  
the Sliders jump in to return to be RadRats with Samson  
until the next slide.

FADE OUT

THE END