

The Seekers
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PAGE ONE

Five Panels

DEATH VALLEY – THE PRESENT

FIRST PANEL

Arthur Norden sits on a small rock in the middle of the desert that is Death Valley. He is scruffy looking, like a man who has been in the wild for days (which he has). His attention is on the horizon and his expression betrays nothing of his inner thoughts.

SECOND PANEL

Same as the first panel, except now someone off panel is speaking to Norden. His expression is still somewhat blank.

Voice
(off panel)
Arthur Norden?

THIRD PANEL

Same shot again, Norden in the same pose making no effort to turn and see who is speaking to him.

Arthur Norden
Who wants to know?

FOURTH PANEL

Norden is looking slightly annoyed now, but still has yet to turn around and see who is speaking to him.

Voice
(off panel)

My name is Jennifer Hart, Mr. Norden. I'm a reporter for World News Network. I was wondering if I could talk to you for a bit; ask you a few questions?

Arthur Norden

Listen, lady, I'm tell you the same thing I've told every reporter, news caster and two-bit journalist that's come looking for me out here. Why don't you do us all a favor and go....

FIFTH PANEL

Norden has turned around and to see that the person speaking to him is a beautiful, blonde woman. She's smiling, her hair blowing slightly in the wind.

Arthur Norden

...ahead and take a seat, Mrs..... Hart, was it?

Jennifer Hart

Miss Hart, actually, but please, call me Jennifer.

Arthur Norden

Well, Jennifer, if it's a conversation you want, then I'm game. Been a while since I've talked with anybody.

PAGE TWO

Four Panels

FIRST PANEL

Hart is now sitting next to Norden, looking out at the horizon with him. Their backs are to us and the desert valley stretches out before them, beautiful and barren at the same time.

Jennifer Hart

You're a hard man to find.

Arthur Norden

I prefer it that way. Usually.

SECOND PANEL

We are focused on Norden and Hart now, who are still not looking at each other.

Jennifer Hart

It's really beautiful out here.

Arthur Norden

Is that why you came out here, Jennifer, to admire the desert?

Jennifer Hart

I'm sure you can imagine why I'm here, Norden.

Arthur Norden

I can imagine, yes.

THIRD PANEL

Hart is looking at Norden now, and he still staring out into the distance.

Jennifer Hart

Would you be willing to talk about it? About the the incident?

FOURTH PANEL

Norden turns to look at Hart and smiles.

Arthur Norden

Incident? Is that what they are calling it now?

Jennifer Hart

I didn't mean to offend...

Arthur Nodren

No offense taken. You want to talk about the what happened out here, Jennifer? I'll do you one better. I'll show you. I've got nothing else to do.

PAGE THREE

Three Panels

FIRST PANEL

Norden and Hart are walking through the desert.

Arthur Norden

I suppose the story starts with The Timbisha Tribe, who lived here in Death Valley for over a thousand years. When the government turned this area into a national park, they were all but booted off their own land.

SECOND PANEL

The two are still walking, moving away from us.

Arthur Norden

There's not much left of the tribe today, only about 300 or so, but they still tell the story of an ancient place of worship out here in the valley; a place whose exact location was long forgotten. That's what we were out here looking for and I'm reasonably certain we found it.

THIRD PANEL

Norden and Hart are stilling moving away from us, distant silhouettes now.

Arthur Norden

If I had known at the time what was buried there, I wouldn't have ever gone looking for it.

PAGE FOUR

Full page spread

Norden and Hart stand facing a deserted campsite. It was once the site of an archeological dig, and there are signs of that all over, marked off areas, shovels and picks, nothing of great value but it's clear that everybody just left and not much care was given to gather everything. The site sits directly in front of what was once a large cave. It appears to be collapsed now, with rocks and boulders spilling from its mouth.

Arthur Norden

We found the cave after about a month of searching. Everyone was so excited, myself included. Despite what you might have read or seen, I took every precaution necessary. I wouldn't have risked my men's life, I was careful. I'm always careful.

Jennifer Hart

Accidents can happen, no matter how careful you are.

Arthur Norden

This was no accident, Miss Hart.

PAGE FIVE

Five Panels

FIRST PANEL

Flashback. Norden is with a team of archeologists, the campsite outside the cave is now busy with activity.

Arthur Norden

(narration)

Finding this place was one of the biggest discoveries of my career. We spent a week planning and mapping out its interior before we even did any digging.

SECOND PANEL

The team discovers a hidden room within the cave. It looks somewhat alien and unnatural, not exactly what one would expect inside an Indian burial chamber.

Arthur Norden

(narration)

One of my men found a chamber inside of the cave, a room of sorts. It didn't take us long to realize it wasn't Native American in origin. I had never seen anything like it. We were careful not to disturb anything inside the room. There was the feeling that we were on to something important.

THIRD PANEL

A silhouette of a man is engulfed in energy, burst from the floor of the hidden room. His entry into the room is causing large amounts of damage, and the beginnings of a cave-in.

Arthur Norden

(narration)

Things happened fast after that, and I only remember bits and pieces. But, this much I am sure of, a man burst from the floor. There was light everywhere, like an explosion. I could feel the energy in the air. That's when the cave-in happened.

Most of us barely escaped the collapse.

FOURTH PANEL

Flashback is over, back in the present now. Norden is looking at the collapsed cave, and Hart is looking at him.

Arthur Norden

*And now comes the part where you tell me I'm crazy and the cave-in was my fault
and I'm trying to cover it up with made-up story.*

Jennifer Hart

Why would I do that?

Arthur Norden

Every other journalist that's come out here has.

Jennifer Hart

I don't think you're crazy, Mr. Norden. But you have to admit, it's a lot to believe.

FIFTH PANEL

Arthur is looking at Hart now, his eyes narrowed and a serious look on his face.

Arthur Norden

*Doesn't matter much if people believe it or not; it's the truth. The cave-in was
caused by a force that burrowed out of the earth. It was man....*

PAGE SIX

Full page spread

A nude man walks down a dark, desert highway. This is the Gatherer, the man Norden saw burst forth from the interior of the cave.

The road stretches out before him, but the night sky, with stars and a bright moon is the main focus of the image.

Arthur Norden

....or something that looked like a man.

PAGE SEVEN

Four Panels

FIRST PANEL

The Gatherer stops in front of a billboard that is old and weathered. The words on it are still visible, and it says HANK'S PIT STOP – GAS, MAPS, SOUVNEIRS AND FOOD – 1 MILE.

SECOND PANEL

A close up of the Gatherer's high tech bracelet. He is pressing the buttons on it.

THIRD PANEL

A faint light is scanning the letters on the billboard and a faint light is shining on to his face. A transferring of information is taking place.

FOURTH PANEL

The Gatherer smiles and looks down the road.

The Gatherer

English? Not the language I would have guessed.

PAGE EIGHT

Four Panels

FIRST PANEL

A different light on The Gatherer's bracelet lights up.

SECOND PANEL

He presses the button and speaks into the bracelet.

The Gatherer

Where are you?

THIRD PANEL

The Gatherer is listening to someone on the other end of his bracelet, although we cannot hear who he is speaking to.

FOURTH PANEL

The Gatherer speaks again into the bracelet.

The Gatherer

I will find the others and gather them. The time has come.

PAGE NINE

Three Panels

FIRST PANEL

Hank's Pit Stop, a rundown diner/gas station. There are two cars in the parking lot.

SECOND PANEL

Inside Hank's Pit Stop now. An older waitress is behind the counter and two customers sit in a booth eating.

THIRD PANEL

The door opens and The Gatherer steps into the diner. Everyone is turning to look at him.

The Gatherer

I am in need of a map.

PAGE TEN

Three Panels

FIRST PANEL

The old waitress is wide eyed, staring at The Gatherer.

Waitress

Honey, you need some clothes, that's what you need.

The Gatherer

Clothing? Yes, I will be in need of that, as well.

SECOND PANEL

The waitress and the customers look even more confused now, maybe even a little bit concerned.

Waitress

(to The Gatherer)

I'm guessing you ain't got a wallet on you?

Second Customer

You in some kind of trouble, buddy?

THIRD PANEL

The Gatherer is smiling and looking at the waitress and customers, who are looking at him intently.

The Gatherer

Where exactly are we?

Waitress

Just outside of Death Valley. You sure you're okay?

The Gatherer

Death Valley. How fitting.

TREATMENT

Throughout the Earth, there are six keys buried that can lead to the destruction, or survival, of mankind. These keys were buried when the Earth was at its infancy by The Seekers, elite members of an alien race charged with monitoring the planets progress. The keys allow the Seekers to deactivate a massive doomsday device that was also buried on the planet. This device, called only The Machine, is a mountain sized robot capable of wiping out all life on a planet. Now that Earth has been considered a potential threat to the galaxy, The Seekers awake from their slumber beneath the planet and evaluate the planet and its inhabitants. It is up to them to decide if mankind must indeed be destroyed.

As life on Earth progressed through the centuries, humans were naturally drawn to the great power radiated from the keys buried below the surface. The energy given off by the keys is immense, although most humans are completely unaware of it, but they feel the pull all the same. For example, why was Las Vegas built out in the middle of a desert in the middle of nowhere? Because underneath the desert is one of The Seekers keys, silently drawing people towards it. This complicates things for our heroes, since each key is now located underneath a major, human built, city or structure that draw millions of people. Washington DC is another key. Paris' Eiffel Tower, New York City's JFK airport and so on.

There is also one more complication for the aliens and humans in the form of a character named Milo Dean. Milo is a Seeker that was accidentally awoken from his life-sleep early. Nearly fifty decades early, in the 1960s to be exact. The thing is, during these decades, Milo fell in love with the mankind. He adores rock 'n roll, Walt Whitman, comic books, Hunter S Thompson, Martin Luther King Jr and MTV. He is obsessed with art, beauty and emotion. He will be the Seeker that joins the humans in their quest to find the keys, since he wants nothing more than for humans to keep going. He believes, despite all the follies, that man is capable of great things. He's seen it and he wants to help the other Seekers see it, too. Naturally, the free-spirited Milo will bond quickly with the young Bobby. In Bobby, Milo sees everything worth saving about mankind.

There is a total of six Seekers (one for each key), and one Gatherer, the head of the aliens that is mission leader. The Gatherer is charged with rounding up all the

Seekers (and the keys) and listening to their votes on the survival or destruction of mankind. It takes three Seekers, each wielding two keys, to deactivate The Machine. However, The Gatherer's decision is final, and he makes the choice to deactivate The Machine or to let it begin its genocide. Throughout the series, Milo, along with Norton and Hart, will slowly convince the other Seekers that humans are worth saving, but unfortunately, the Gatherer disagrees and refuses to listen to them. He will become the main villain of the story.

As The Seekers begin to awake all over the Earth, The Gatherer awakens in Death Valley and causes the cave-in that kills two members of Norden's team. Hart then comes to Death Valley and does a human interest piece on Norden and his claim that a man or creature burrowed up from the Earth and caused the cave-in. In Los Angeles, Milo sees the story on the news and quickly heads out to Death Valley, knowing that Norden is telling the truth and that the endgame for mankind has just been put into motion. Once there, Milo joins forces with Hart and Norden. When it becomes clear that Milo is telling the truth about the impending destruction of all life on Earth, Hart, Norden and Bobby become dedicated to helping him find the keys and the other Seekers.

Of course, as our heroes are the cause of disturbances in major, densely populated cities, they attract the attention of Section P, the elite paranormal hunters. Led by Agent Cross, these specially trained agents hunt down the Seekers and unknowingly complicate the plan to save mankind. Agent Cross is not an evil man, he's a Captain Ahab figure, willing to chase the white whale at all cost. He is man obsessed with his job, dry and humorless, but not a killer or murderer. In the end, Section P joins forces with the Seekers as they attempt to stop the Gatherer and The Machine.

Everything leads up to the discovery that The Machine is buried in Mount Rushmore. The two groups, The Gatherer with the Seekers he has convinced to join him and the humans with the Seekers that have joined in their cause, head to the monument and the final battle takes place. The Machine begins to rise, the mountain begins to crumble, and The Gatherer begins to kill the Seekers to prevent them from stopping the great machine. Of course, the heroes defeat him, and Milo and the other Seekers sacrifice their lives to deactivate The Machine.