

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

The Seekers; Story behind the story.

The Seekers are buried on planets as they first develop technology, and are a failsafe device to prevent that planet from becoming a threat to other civilizations. A Seeker is an artificial life form that absorbs the stimuli of its surroundings and the native population to program itself. They adapt to and infiltrate their surroundings and develop the personalities and emotions of the natural inhabitants. After a year of living in the planets' society they receive the signal to converge on the North Pole and make the final judgment of the planet. By copying the characteristics of the native life forms, they judge the world using its own standards; a peaceful race will produce peaceful Seekers who will want to spare the planet, while a violent race will produce violent Seekers who will let the planet die. By this system the planet is the recipient of a cosmic-scale "reaping what you sew."

Each seeker is equipped with a bracelet that provides them with minimal protection, tracking, and directions, along with offensive and defensive abilities. The seekers will morph this bracelet into other objects to blend in with the populace, but they will always keep it with them. That will be a subtle clue as to the identity of the Seekers as the story progresses. Their bracelet will also interface with another device that was buried near them. When the year of infiltration is up all 12 Seekers (a subtle comparison to that of a jury) will receive the signal to dig up their device, and interface it with their bracelet, radically increasing their powers. Then they meet at the North Pole, where at least three of the devices are needed to deactivate the doomsday device that is buried there.

The Seekers; the story and the characters

The start of the story shows a few of the Seekers awakening. This introduces Arthur Norden and his archeological dig and cave in caused by the awakening Seeker and the scene in Las Vegas with the female Seeker. Another Seeker emerges underwater because of the ocean encroaching on the land he was buried under. He first develops gills but then loses them when he spies humans surfing. Also included is a scene in a war-torn area of Africa where a Seeker emerges into an impoverished village during a raid. He has adapted the form of a teenage boy, and he witnesses horrific actions and is then taken away with other boys to serve in the militia. The story then jumps forward five months.

Arthur Norden – In that time Norden has begun his new dig to find the reason for the cave in. Because of his radical reputation he has minimal help; at the time of Jennifer's arrival to interview him he is speaking with a grad student who is resigning because his professors are threatening that associating with Norden will affect his grades. Norden is left with all unskilled labor, day laborers, homeless people, and Pablo, the 8 year old son of a worker who died in the cave in.

Jennifer Hart – Accompanied by her light and sound men Mark and Kenny, Jennifer arrives with her nephew Bobby at the dig site. Bobby is young and sarcastic, but underneath that, a hopeful child.

The female Seeker in Las Vegas has found a friend and a place to live. A local stripper named Melanie (Mel) who gave her a place to stay as well as getting her a job at the club as well. Mel believes her new friend lost her memory, and gave her the name "Stacy" but she dances under the name "Amnesia" their own private joke.

The teenage boy in the militia has suffered and seen great suffering. After only five months he has built great rage, made up his mind that this world needs to die, and wants to ensure it now. He slaughters his captors/commanding officers and found his device, activating it early and gaining its power. He now goes by the name Raze and goes to find the other Seekers. He is enraged to find the one closest to him is quite peaceful and content with the simple life of a farm hand in China. Raze kills him, takes his bracelet, and activates the second device, giving himself even more power.

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

All of the Seekers have received signals that 2 devices have been activated. The Gatherer shows up at the dig site of Arthur Norden to find the device and the Seeker he senses nearby. He finds the device but is interrupted by the intervention of Section P so he activates the device himself. He is attacked by Section P agents and he flees. Unprepared and trying desperately to hide, the Gatherer tries to accomplish his goal of uniting the Seekers early. Each Seeker is alerted whenever another device is activated but they don't know why it is happening so early and who is doing it, so they are almost as lost as everyone else.

When the Gatherer flees the dig with his device, Norden follows in a news van as best he can. Jennifer jumps in with him alone, having lost her camera crew in the chaos. Unknown to them, Bobby and Pablo have hidden in the back of the van, so they unwittingly take them along.

- I. The Opening- The Seekers are seen but not explained, only a few are introduced; such as Stacy, Raze, Dude (the beach bum), and the Gatherer. Arthur Norden is introduced in the cave in.
- II. Five months later.
 - a. Raze kills the militia that holds him, finds, and activates his device. The Seekers sense it. Raze goes to the nearest Seeker and slays him, steals his bracelet and activates the second device for himself.
 - b. Jennifer Hart goes to interview Arthur Norden. The Gatherer arrives looking for another Seeker. When Section P arrives the Gatherer takes the device himself. Norden, Jennifer, Bobby, and Pablo follow and witness the fight. Readers learn that Pablo is a Seeker, his "bracelet" morphed into the form of a "GI Joe-like" toy that Bobby admired.
 - c. Other Seekers realize something is going wrong and try to find their own devices early.
- III. Alliances are formed and Seekers travel north.
 - a. Norden, Jennifer, Bobby, and Pablo follow the Gatherer who is on his way to Vegas. They encounter Stacy trying to find her object and join her.
 - b. Another Seeker is revealed who has infiltrated himself into a wealthy lifestyle of greed in Southern France. He appears very ambitious and ruthless. He plans to use the Seeker tech to dominate Earth instead of destroy or save it.
 - c. Raze confronts Dude, the Seeker from the beach, and tries to kill him. Apparently kills Dude and with difficulty (because he doesn't have Dude's bracelet, a tiki necklace) takes his device.
- IV. The Seekers (along with the human companions) converge on the North Pole.
 - a. Seekers meet the Guardian of the device, a solitary Seeker who protects the doomsday device. He has used his power to control a group of Polar Bears.
 - b. Raze and most of the other Seekers arrive. When they do not follow him, Raze attacks.
 - c. The Gatherer arrives and fights Raze. They destroy a great deal of the landscape, but no clear victor emerges. At a crucial time, Dude comes out of the icy water with gills again and uses his bracelet to pull his device from Raze's control. They must kill Raze in order to stop him. The remaining Seekers stop the doomsday device.
- V. The Seekers return their human companions to home, say their farewells and disappear. They all return to their lives, with no way to prove any of it ever happened. The last scene is Bobby opening a backpack and finding Pablo's toy.

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

PAGE 1

Panel 1

Wide shot of a lone figure, the Gatherer, walking along a barren desert road. There is nothing else visible as far as the eye can see.

Panel 2

Smaller panel, bust shot of the Gatherer looking back over his shoulder at a police car coming down the road.

Panel 3

Similar shot to Panel 1, but smaller and not as wide. The Police car passes by, but the Gatherer is nowhere to be seen. There is a large rock where he was.

Panel 4

A small panel shows the Gatherer once again walking down the road.
GATHERER. Where are they?

Panel 5

Bust shot of the Gatherer, who is looking at his bracelet, a very high tech device that incorporates gem-like devices and circuitry. Over his shoulder we see a van coming toward him.
GATHERER. I must find them and gather them.

Panel 6

The point of view from inside the middle seat of the van shows the Gatherer on the side of the road with his thumb extended and the passengers in the front two seats of the van. In the passenger seat is Jennifer Hart, a beautiful blonde dressed in a business suit. Driving is Kenny, an overweight techie kind of guy who is her sound man. She is talking to someone in the middle seat, toward the reader.
JENNIFER. Remember Bobby, don't touch anything. Dr. Norden has a reputation for eccentricity.
KENNY. He's nuts.

Panel 7

Wide shot showing both Jennifer in the front passenger seat and Mark and Bobby in the middle seat of the van. Mark is a small but lanky man with glasses and bushy hair who is Jennifer's camera man; Bobby is her 12 year-old nephew who is playing his video game.
JENNIFER. No, he just has some bizarre ideas.
MARK. Which is PC for nuts.
JENNIFER. Anyway, I don't want you to do anything to set him off.
BOBBY. Whatever.

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

PAGE 2

Panel 1

Jennifer, Kenny, Mark, and Bobby walking to the “Dig” which has a lot of people moving around, a large tunnel with reinforced beams that has workers walking into it, and the office consisting of a small temporary building erected in the desert. Mark has his camera and Kenny has his microphone boom and headset. The workers should all be ragged looking, very dirty with torn clothes.

JENNIFER. Just behave yourself.

BOBBY. You should tell them that.

JENNIFER. Good point. You two need to behave better.

KENNY. Aww, why?

Panel 2

Jennifer with a serious, but not angry expression stands with her hands on her hips. The back of Mark and Kenny’s heads are seen in the foreground.

JENNIFER. Because A) you’re professionals. B) My nephew is twelve, you’re not. And C) I have enough trouble being taken seriously in this business without you two trying to be funny.

MARK. Trying?

KENNY. That’s just hurtful.

Panel 3

Inside the small, temporary office building is Dr. Arthur Norden, a once respected archeologist whose wild stories have made him a pariah to his peers in the field. He is pleading with a young grad student who looks very apologetic. The door is opening and Jennifer’s is peaking in on the scene.

ARTHUR. You can’t do this to me. You know you are the only worker I have left with any experience.

GRAD STUDENT. I know Dr. Norden and I’m really sorry, but my professor is hinting strongly that... associating with you will affect my grades.

Panel 4

Grad student walks out the door while Jennifer, Mark, and Kenny approach. Bobby can just be seen outside the door.

JENNIFER. Dr. Norden? I’m Jennifer Hart with World News Network. Can I get an interview?

ARTHUR. What? Oh, good god, no.

Panel 5

Small, close up panel of Arthur. He is scruffy, unshaven and dirty. He is a man driven to the point of obsession.

ARTHUR. I am NOT interested in doing some interview just so you can twist my words around to ridicule me and make me look crazy!

Panel 6

Close up of Jennifer’s professional look, trying to calm and rationalize with him.

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

JENNIFER. You can't deny that a cave collapsing in the middle of Death Valley caused by a person underneath, burrowing their way to the surface sounds pretty... far-fetched.

Panel 7

Profiles of Arthur on the left and Jennifer on the right show them facing off with each other. Below them looking out to the reader are Mark, Kenny, and Bobby with shocked looks as if to say "This is gonna be bad." ARTHUR. And you can't deny that if World News Network thought this was a real story, they would have sent someone other than the eye candy!

KENNY. Oh. Now that's hurtful.

BOBBY. I think she's gonna hit him.

PAGE 3

Panel 1

Small, extreme close up of Jennifer, trying her best to maintain her composure.

Panel 2

Larger panel of the same close up, but this time she is speaking and repressing a snarl.

JENNIFER. I am here because a respected archeologist's negligence is blamed for the death of four of his colleagues, but he claims that some sort of mole people did it. Then he hires a crew of unskilled laborers and homeless people to dig in the same spot, because no one else will even talk to him anymore. You might think I'm only eye candy, but even I can see there's a story here.

Panel 3

A third close up of Jennifer, this time more calm and turning on the charm.

JENNIFER. There is obviously more to this. Something you feel strongly about. You're willing to give up your career and reputation to pursue this. So now you have the chance to tell your side of the story and you won't? That is what sounds crazy. So do you want to tell your story?

Panel 4

A small panel shows Arthur and Jennifer, shocked, turning toward an off panel voice with confused expressions.

OFF-PANEL VOICE. That is not an option.

Panel 5

A large panel reveals three Section P agents entering the office. They all have black suits and sunglasses. One brunette, female agent (Agent Rockwell) has put her hand on Mark's camera and is holding it down and covering the lens and scaring Mark. The blonde man (Agent Warhol) on the other side is gripping Kenny by the collar and the belt loop and is "bum rushing" him out the door. In the center is the agent speaking, He is Agent Pollock who is African American, has male pattern baldness and is carrying a water bottle.

AGENT POLLOCK. Just as continuing this little... excavation is no longer an option. We have just shut you down.

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

PAGE 4

Panel 1

Arthur is facing out, pointing toward the reader and shouting.
ARTHUR. And who are you?

Panel 2

In profile, Agent Pollock has his arm extended, holding his ID in Arthur's face.
AGENT POLLOCK. I'm Agent Pollock, we are Section P.

Panel 3

Close up of Bobby fighting a laugh.
BOBBY. Snicker.

Panel 4

Wide shot of the office. Bobby is sitting in the corner with his hand over his mouth realizing he just did that out loud and Jennifer is glaring at him. Agent Pollock is talking directly to Arthur. The other agents are clearing off the desk and taking maps off of the wall.
AGENT POLLOCK. Your dig is officially shut down. My agents are loading your workers into a bus, paying them and sending them home.

Panel 5

Close up of Jennifer being very inquisitive and serious.
JENNIFER. Who is Section P?
SOUND EFFECT. Snicker

Panel 6

Close up of Jennifer whipping around to cut Bobby a look. Very serious and not finding the humor.

Panel 7

Bobby has stood up to leave and is pointing to the door. He is still fighting laughter.
BOBBY. Ok, ok, I'm leaving. I gotta go take a Section P.

PAGE 5

Panel 1

Wide angle shot of the outside of the office building while Bobby is exiting the building. The Gatherer is hiding behind the news van in the foreground.

Panel 2

Close up of Arthur in a rage.

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

ARTHUR. I am supposed to take the word of some people I have never met, claiming to be from an organization I've never heard of, telling me to just walk away from finding out what killed my friends and ruined my life?!

Panel 3

Agent Rockwell is looking out of the window while holding a framed diploma in her hand. Arthur is behind her looking out the window as well.

AGENT ROCKWELL. Agent Pollock! One of the workers is going back into the tunnel!
Arthur. That isn't one of my people.

Panel 4

Pollock, barking orders into a mic on his lapel.

AGENT POLLOCK. Agents! Unidentified person entering the tunnel! Get him now!

Panel 5

The Gatherer clumsily runs down into the tunnel. Light from the outside has some of the tunnel lit, and the glow from his bracelet helps light his surroundings as well. From the outside of the tunnel comes an Agents voice.

OFF-PANEL VOICE. Sir! Exit the tunnel immediately or we will open fire!

Panel 6

The Gatherer is searching, using his bracelet. This small panel shows him pointing with it and it glowing. He is anxious and hurried.

Panel 7

Also a small panel, the Gatherer pointing in a different direction the lights on his bracelet all light up. His expression changes to that of "Eureka."

Panel 8

Shown from his point of view we see his outstretched arm with the bracelet pointed at the end of the tunnel.

Panel 9

A slightly larger panel than the other three, but using the same shot as Panel 8 but the lights on the bracelet have changed color and the wall is melting away to create more tunnel.

SOUND EFFECT. Skreeee

PAGE 6

Panel 1

A large panel depicts three different Section P agents facing forward as they round a corner in the tunnel. They have guns drawn and flashlights pointing out to the reader. They also have no sunglasses, because they are in the dark.

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

AGENT. Hands in the air!

AGENT. Freeze!

Panel 2

From the agents point of view we see the Gatherer walking into the newly created tunnel. The walls are ethereal, definitely not natural.

Panel 3

From the same point of view we see the wall sealing itself behind the Gatherer.

SOUND EFFECT. Sssshhhhoooooop

Panel 4

Bust shot of one of the Section P agents who is yelling into his lapel mic.

AGENT. Sir! He has powers! He lost us! Full alert! Full alert!

Panel 5

Back in the office Jennifer and Arthur are listening intently to Agent Pollock's mic. Arthur's eyes are wide with amazement.

JENNIFER. Powers?

ARTHUR. It's him!

Panel 6

Small panel depicts Arthur sprinting out of the door to the office.

Panel 7

Another small panel shows Bobby sticking his head out of a port-a-potty while multiple agents are running by carrying various weapons. Bobby is genuinely scared.

PAGE 7

Panel 1

A large action panel takes the left half of the page. The other panels run vertically down the right half. The large panel shows the Gatherer bursting through the ground with sand scattering through the air. Some agents are pitched through the air, others are scrambling, and some of them who are farther away are already assuming defensive positions. The Gatherer has a technological skin that mimics the gems and circuitry of his bracelet and covers about half of his body.

Panel 2

A smaller panel shows the profiles of the agents as they open fire on the Gatherer. In the background Arthur can be seen running toward them.

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

Panel 3

A full body shot of the gatherer floating, protected by a force field that is stopping the bullets in mid-air. His face does show that the effort is not easy.

Panel 4

Two agents are holding Arthur back as he is desperately and irrationally trying to reach the Gatherer.

AGENT. Sir! Get back!

ARTHUR. Who are you?!

Panel 5

A close up profile of the Gatherer, he is looking to see several helicopters approaching.

PAGE 8

Panel 1

In the foreground of the panel are two Section P agents firing their weapons. Behind them Bobby is running into a tool shed.

Panel 2

The view is of the tool shed with Bobby falling in the door, scared and frantic. Through the open door, some of the action can still be seen.

Panel 3

Bobby is crawling on his hands and knees around a large tool cabinet and is meeting the gaze of an 8 year old Hispanic boy. The little boy is already hiding there and has a large "old school, GI Joe-like" action figure clutched to his chest.

Panel 4

Close up of Bobby who is trying to keep his cool and look comforting, but is still terrified.

BOBBY. Oh, hi. Didn't know this hiding place was taken.

Panel 5

Helicopters have opened fire on the Gatherer, who is now on the ground on his knees having trouble maintaining his force field. The agents on the ground have pulled back away from the line of fire.

Panel 6

The Gatherer is fleeing the helicopters and taking flight. He flies toward the reader who can now see that the skin has morphed to produce a wing-like rocket pack.

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

PAGE 9

Panel 1

Jennifer is standing and calling while agents are running around her. One of those agents is Agent Pollock.
JENNIFER. Bobby! Where are you? Mark! Kenny! You guys better be filming this!
AGENT POLLOCK. He's on the move! Everybody mobilize!

Panel 2

Smaller panel shows Jennifer running to the news van while looking through her purse.
JENNIFER. Gotta follow them. There is no way I am missing out on this. Mark! Kenny! \$%&#!!

Panel 3

A panel of the same size shows Arthur snatching her keys.
ARTHUR. I need these.
JENNIFER. Hey!

Panel 4

The view is from the passenger side door. Jennifer is opening the door and Arthur is already in the driver's seat putting the keys in the ignition.
JENNIFER. You're not leaving without me!
ARTHUR. Whatever.

Panel 5

Wide shot of the news van spinning out, throwing a lot of dust in the air. An agent is standing in front of it waving his arms in the air.
AGENT. Hold it!

Panel 6

A view from behind the van as it turns onto the road and the agent is jumping to the side. Off in the distance, the helicopters can be seen pursuing the Gatherer.

Panel 7

Wide angle shot from a distance that shows the Gatherer projecting a massive pulse wave that is hitting the helicopters. They are knocked around and falling out of the sky, but not exploding.

PAGE 10

Panel 1

The view of the pulse wave as seen from the middle seat in the news van, Arthur is driving and Jennifer is in the passenger's seat. Both of them are looking back because of the voice coming from the back.
OFF-PANEL VOICE. AWESOME!

THE SEEKERS

as told by Brian Wingrove

Panel 2

Bobby is peeking over the seat in the middle of the van with an apologetic grin.

JENNIFER'S VOICE OFF-PANEL. Bobby! What are you doing back there?

BOBBY. We needed a place to hide.

JENNIFER. We?

Panel 3

Same shot as before but the focus of it has pulled back to include Jennifer and Arthur. Jennifer is looking back at Bobby, and Arthur is looking up at the rear view mirror. Bobby is in the same place, but now Pablo is peeking over at the other end of the seat.

BOBBY. I found this kid and he was scared.

ARTHUR. ¿Pablo? ¿Qué estás hacienda? (Pablo? What are you doing?)

PABLO. Ocultar. (Hiding)

ARTHUR. Maravilloso. (Wonderful)

Panel 4

View from behind shows Arthur and Jennifer screaming as a helicopter crashes in front of the van.

ARTHUR. AAAAA!!!

JENNIFER. EEEEE!!!

Panel 5

Long shot shows the helicopter crash and the van narrowly avoiding it.

Panel 6

View inside the van looking from the hood. Everyone else is shaken and scared, but Arthur is still determined. From the back Bobby is yelling, and next to him Pablo is clutching his Action Figure.

BOBBY. NOT AWESOME!

Panel 7

Close up of Pablo, who still looks scared. A closer look at Pablo's action figure reveals it has similar circuitry and gems as the Gatherer's technology hidden in its design.