

## SEEKERS

### FULL-SCRIPT FOR 10 PAGE STORY

BY CHRISTOPHER SCHMITT

#### PAGE ONE

##### PANEL ONE

**ART:** Its midday, the Sun is up overhead. There is a green jeep in the distance, a little bit of dust is kicked up from the wheels.

1 CAPTION: Racetrack Playa, Death Valley

##### PANEL TWO

**ART:** A nearly overhead shot, close enough so we can see the three men in the jeep, the driver (Professor Norden) has a serious expression; the other two (Chad and Paul) are more laid back, curious. Everything seems new to the graduate students doing fieldwork for the first time. Professor Arthur Norden is an Indian Jones-like archaeologist, while Chad and Paul are his graduate students who are dressed in blue jeans, t-shirt and work boots.

1 CHAD: This is going to be amazing, Professor Norden.

2 NORDEN: Doubtful Chad, probably going to be nothing more than a hole in the wall.

3 CAPTION(NORDEN): This trip is an exercise in a waste of my talents.

##### PANEL THREE

**ART:** Paul points out toward the desert at something. Chad looks over, but Norden (the driver) doesn't bother he's focused on the road.

1 PAUL: Hey, what's that?

2 CHAD: I forgot you're new to the area. Those are sailing stones.

3 PAUL: They don't move on their own, do they?

##### PANEL FOUR

**ART:** We see what was being pointed at – the Death Valley sliding (sailing) rocks. There is a pair of the rocks resting on the cracked yellow-brown clay surface each rock carved a path through the clay. The path is a jagged line or a straight-line part way then veers off at an angle. In the distance, we see the horizontal line that demarcates the desert basin and the start of the rocky mountain base. (There is a great picture of this at this link:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Racetrack-Playa-Death-Valley-2.jpg>)

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): A recent flashflood uncovered an unknown cave in this dry lake area. I was called in to check it out and to repay an old favor. My friend said there was an unusual symbol scribed near the entrance. I was sure it was just graffiti.

### **PANEL FIVE**

**ART:** The jeep suddenly stops, the Chad and Paul in the back are thrown forward into the backside of the front seats. Professor Norden stands up staring ahead, only the driver can see it. His expression is of complete surprise. This is something he has never seen before. Think of that scene in Jurassic Park when they stop in the jeep and Sam Neil's character see's the Brachiosaurs for the first time.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): I was wrong. Not just some hole in the wall.

## **PAGE TWO**

### **PANEL ONE**

**ART:** The majority of the page will cover what they see. Off in the corner we may see a hint of the jeep, but the focus is the giant carved image of a circle in the clay surface. Inside the circle are eight spokes, much like a wagon wheel. The wheel was drawn by the sliding rocks and we see several of them there at different locations around the carved image.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): This wheel marking in the clay ground happened recently and drawn by the sailing stones.

2 CAPTION(NORDEN): Every step seems more miraculous. I can see the newspapers and television interviews lining up.

### **PANEL TWO**

**ART:** Norden standing several feet from the car staring at the wheel. His surprise is replaced by a stern contemplative look.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): How in the world did these stones draw a circle, let alone the eight intersecting lines?

2 CAPTION(NORDEN): It's been my understanding that the stones move because of several conditions: wind, wet slick clay, and overnight ice formation from absorbed water vapor. All of those are too random to produce anything other than jagged lines.

### **PANEL THREE**

**ART:** We see Chad and Paul at the jeep gathering the equipment. It's all in black plastic suitcases, duffel bags, maybe we see some aluminum rods for scaffolding to hang lamps inside the cave.

1 NORDEN (OFF PANEL): Guys, grab the equipment. Paul take pictures. Chad help me take a few measurements.

### **PANEL FOUR**

**ART:** On the other side of the wheel, in a more of overhead angled satellite view, is the cave entrance and we see the three make their way to it.

## **PAGE THREE**

### **PANEL ONE**

**ART:** Inside the cave, the only sources of light are from flashlights, fluorescent lamps and some ambient light from the entrance. There are several lamps hung to provide that minimum amount of light required to move around. Norden is standing using his forearm to wipe the sweat from his brow. They have been here for hours exploring, stopping whenever they find something new to catalog and carefully note everything. The cave isn't a massive underground system, but rather a sizeable hole in the rock face equivalent to a few large apartments. It isn't just an opening there are many surfaces, pillars of stone that jut out and oddly formed rooms and hallways. It makes for a difficult time to search as everyone wants to be sure that every corner has been explored.

1 CAPTION: Several Hours Later

2 CAPTION(NORDEN): This cave is uniquely shaped. It resembles an apartment with distinct rooms, hallways and closet-like coves.

### **PANEL TWO**

**ART:** Chad is near the middle of the cave where he is cordoning another, smaller (six foot diameter) wheel icon this one seems to be drawn with white paint. He is also brushing away dirt and debris.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): The wheel icon reminds me of a wagon wheel. It is sparingly used which tells me that it is important and therefore serves a purpose.

### **PANEL THREE**

**ART:** Now we see Chad taking pictures of the wheel.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): For lack of any understanding of the people involved, I have dubbed this the Cult of the Wheel.

### **PANEL FOUR**

**ART:** Paul is somewhere at the back of the cave in separate room. He has his fluorescent lamp hung by a rope as he gently brushed away dirt from a wall. We can't tell what's there yet, it's partly obscured by shadow.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): This could be a remote ceremonial center. I'm not familiar with any of the old trading routes in this region.

### **PANEL FIVE**

**ART:** Paul grabs the lamp and flashes it across, we still can't see it, but he does and it elicits a "whoa" kind of look on his face.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): Until we find a written history or a language, answers may be sparse.

### **PANEL SIX**

**ART:** Paul calls them over there; we see both Norden and Chad look up from what they are doing toward the call.

1 PAUL(OFF PANEL): Professor! Chad! Come quick.

## **PAGE FOUR**

### **PANEL ONE**

**ART:** This panel should take up the most the page. Paul has given Chad another lamp and they are both holding their lamps to the wall to reveal a primitive mural. The mural shows a line demarcating the ground from the sky. In the sky, there is the eight-spoke wheel, rays of light emerging from the bottom of the wheel, and off to the right there is the constellation of Orion. On the ground there are two figures walking, they are carrying a box. The box is plain with not real markings on it. There are two poles run through this box that is used to assist in carrying it. The figures are walking off to the right.

1 PAUL: What's this mean?

2 CHAD: Oh, wow.

## **PANEL TWO**

**ART:** Professor Norden takes a closer look at the figures. They are wearing a jagged spacesuit (the wall drawing is crude) and on the figures wrists is what appears to be a jeweled bracelet.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): This will put me on the cover of Time magazine. Astonishing!

2 NORDEN(NORDEN): Chad, give me your lamp.

## **PANEL THREE**

**ART:** Norden looks over to his right and sees that there is more story on the wall. Wipes away dirt from the wall and we see the wheel icon on the ground with a similar figure standing at its center, rays of light emanate from the center.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): I have to be careful; I don't need any of the ancient alien theorists mucking this find with their silly ideas.

## **PANEL FOUR**

**ART:** Norden with his body facing the wall turns his head to look toward the exit from this cove.

1 NORDEN: Could that be the same?

## **PAGE FIVE**

### **PANEL ONE**

**ART:** Norden stands up and walks past Chad and Paul.

1 NORDEN: Paul, take lots of photographs and detailed sketches. Chad help him, there may be more here to find.

2 CHAD: Yes, professor.

### **PANEL TWO**

**ART:** He's staring at the wheel icon on the ground wondering if it's really the same as the one on the mural. There is nothing there and has his doubts.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): What are the odds? Maybe it's a symbolic connection to another site, somewhere more important.

### **PANEL THREE**

**ART:** His back is now turned toward the wheel, but his head is partly turned with a close up of his eye enough so that a reflection can be seen. From the corner of his eye, his doubts are silenced as the ground starts to shimmer around the wheel icon. We can see the shimmering from the reflection in his eyes.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): It was as if it felt my doubts, the ground came to life.

### **PANEL FOUR**

**ART:** A shape rises from the shimmering ground.

1 NORDEN: What the?

### **PANEL FIVE**

**ART:** The shape has completely risen and it seems to be that of a well-built man. Not entirely naked, he's wearing skintight underwear and has the jeweled bracelet. The man is looking toward the ground initially.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): It looked like a man, how's that possible?

### **PANEL SIX**

**ART:** The man looks toward Norden and shows that he has two different eye colors. A new sound emerges.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): But I knew this was real when those eyes locked onto me.

## **PAGE SIX**

### **PANEL ONE**

**ART:** The man walks away and the sound becomes louder.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): I ignored the sound. He turned away thinking nothing of me. I had to know more.

## **PANEL TWO**

**ART:** Norden sees cracks forming everywhere from the epicenter of the shimmering. The effect has weakened the cave structurally.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): I couldn't ignore the sound anymore, the grinding and splitting of stone.

## **PANEL THREE**

**ART:** Norden watches the cracks traveling toward the rear cove before it triggers a response and he calls Chad and Paul to run.

1 NORDEN: CAVE-IN! RUN! Chad, Paul come on!

## **PANEL FOUR**

**ART:** Paul, Chad and Norden are running as parts of the ceiling are raining down like sand in an hourglass and a few chunks of rock falling around them.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): Everything happened so fast, but my mind couldn't process the information that quick and time passed like a Polaroid developing.

## **PANEL FIVE**

**ART:** The cave completely collapses as dust and rocks are flying everywhere; it engulfs Norden, Chad and Paul.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): It felt like being caught in an explosion there was no color, light or sound just the dizzying chaotic void.

## **PAGE SEVEN**

### **PANEL ONE**

**ART:** Norden wakes up from his nightmare. He was lying on a couch shirtless covered in sweat. The nearby coffee table has a nearly empty bottle of whiskey and a shot glass. Scattered throughout the living room are empty bottles, scattered clothes, the place is a complete dump.

1 NORDEN: Huh!

## **PANEL TWO**

**ART:** He's now in a proper sitting position with his elbows resting on his knees, his head cradled by hands.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): Two months had passed since the accident and I still feel like hell and the nightmares persist.

## **PANEL THREE**

**ART:** There is a close up of a newspaper that mentions the cave-in, two casualties, and one survivor with another heading about world-renowned professor suspended and under investigation.

1 CAPTION(NORDEN): It teases and taunts me.

## **PANEL FOUR**

**ART:** Norden looks to his right at something. It's the blinking red light on his answering machine.

1 NORDEN: Sighs

## **PANEL FIVE**

**ART:** He reaches over to press the button

## **PAGE EIGHT**

## **PANEL ONE**

**ART:** Jennifer Hart is standing in the entrance to her boss's office. Hands behind her back with cautious optimism she's excited to tell her boss some good news. Jennifer is a long legged gorgeous blonde with the body of a swimsuit model. Bob is just the opposite, a Ed Asner kind of guy.

1 JENNIFER: I have some great news.

2 BOB: Come in, sit.

## **PANEL TWO**

**ART:** Bob waves her in and tells her to take a seat. His desk is neat and clean, everything in its place, there are awards on the walls. He has a large double window behind him.

1 JENNIFER: You'll like this.

BOB: Is this another story Jennifer? How many times are we going to have to dance this dance?

## **PANEL THREE**

**ART:** She's sitting in one of Bob's comfortable leather armchairs with her legs crossed her arms placed on the armrests.

1 JENNIFER: Yes, but this is nothing crazy.

2 BOB: I don't like this.

3 JENNIFER: I got Norden to give the interview. This is going to be big. I can feel it.

4 BOB: That's impressive, it really is... but, I don't think you're the right person for this.

## **PANEL FOUR**

**ART:** Jennifer isn't seated anymore, but leaning against the front of Bob's desk like she might have just slammed her hands on it.

1 JENNIFER: Are you friggin' kidding me! I'm not some porcelain doll for you to put on display.

2 BOB: I feel that something like this may be too difficult and complicated for you.

3 JENNIFER: Bull—

4 BOB: Hey now.

## **PANEL FIVE**

**ART:** She storms out of Bob's office arms at her sides and fists clenched. The rest of the office is looking at her as she leaves. Either we can still see Bob at his desk or have him standing at his door.

1 JENNIFER: Watch your ratings drop, especially when I decide to quit.

2 BOB: Jennifer, wait.

3 CAPTION(JENNIFER): I just wish that Norden would actually return my calls.

## PAGE NINE

### PANEL ONE

**ART:** It's late (three in the morning or thereabouts) in a neighborhood. All of the house lights are off, the streets are lined with cars and the occasional street light is lit.

1 CAPTION(JENNIFER): Tens day and too many stakes out hours later...

2 CAPTION(JENNIFER): I must be crazy.

### PANEL TWO

**ART:** The focus is the red Honda Civic Jennifer is sitting. We get roughly a side view of the car with Norden's house in the background. She isn't positioned directly across the street, but at an angle, so that Norden can't easily see her if he would leave his home. Jennifer is mostly covered in shadow shown looking at the house.

1 CAPTION(JENNIFER): At any moment some little old lady will call the cops on me.

### PANEL THREE

**ART:** We get a close up of her behind the wheel; she's dressed in black like some clichéd cat burglar.

1 CAPTION(JENNIFER): I feel like a stalker, but I'm committed to getting this story. Then I'll have my leverage and Bob can shove it.

### PANEL FOUR

**ART:** Hours pass and the Sun is rising. Jennifer is half-asleep at this point but Norden leaves his house.

1 CAPTION: Hours later.

2 JENNIFER: Oh! There he is, lets continue with operation stalker.

### PANEL FIVE

**ART:** She watches Norden get in his car.

## **PANEL SIX**

**ART:** She follows Norden in her car as he drives away.

1 JENNIFER: Here we go.

## **PAGE TEN**

### **PANEL ONE**

**ART:** We see a man known as the Gatherer (man from the cave) wandering a road in Death Valley at twilight. He has some clothes that he stole from Norden's Jeep like a jacket and pair of slacks. He's been walking for some time, but slowly like he's unsure of his surroundings.

1 CAPTION: Death Valley, Two weeks after the cave-in accident

### **PANEL TWO**

**ART:** He prefers not to be seen and hides behind some boulders and bushes as a truck passes by.

### **PANEL THREE**

**ART:** He pressed a button on the jeweled, hi-tech bracelet he's wearing.

### **PANEL FOUR**

**ART:** A close-up of the bracelet he's wearing where one of the jewels lights up, indicating his device is operational.

### **PANEL FIVE**

**ART:** We see him watching the truck fade in the distance, he resumes his trek.

### **PANEL SIX**

**ART:** He lifts his arm with the bracelet to his mouth talking into it.

1 GATHERER: Where are you? And the others?

2 VOICE: .....(we can't hear the response)

3 GATHERER: I will find and gather them. The time has come.

## SEEKERS – THE TREATMENT BY CHRISTOPHER SCHMITT

Famed Indiana Jones-like archaeologist Arthur Norden has nightmares from a devastating cave-in that killed his students. Questions over safety and suspicions due to his survival forced him into an academic suspension while he's under investigation. He has flashes of memories of a man wearing a jeweled bracelet that rose from the ground. They have something to do with the mysterious drawings located inside the cave. Hitting rock button he starts to drink himself to death over the guilt.

Reporter Jennifer Hart does whatever she can to get an interview with the publicly discredited Norden to discover that there may be a much larger story than what she originally believed. Hart's a correspondent for the World News Network and is good at her job, but her assignments are beneath her. She's a gorgeous long legged blonde that everyone sees as more of a model than as a serious news reporter. While the network wants to dress and doll her up, Jennifer feels a need to prove herself. She stalks and eventually teams up with Norden on a quest to get answers and in the process uncover what may be the biggest story ever. Clue's from other reports around the world (like the Las Vegas incident) of shimmering grounds, jeweled bracelets, and wheeled icons lend some credence to Norden's dreams, but what does it mean. Norden's guilt becomes an Ahab-like obsession that strains his relationship with Jennifer, while her simple goal of getting the story becomes a moral burden to help humanity and not just revenge.

Meanwhile the mysterious Gatherer who surfaced from the cave-in that Norden survived has begun to locate Seekers. Seekers are part of an alien race of long-lived humanoids (not including their hibernation process). They are sent to planets as observers and keepers of the device. Generally, they have a non-interference policy, but something happened to change that. Their wrists have a jeweled bracelet linked genetically to them and it provides them with powers and some of their interesting superhuman talents. Some of these powers or talents are common to them all and some are not. There will be good, bad and even a neutral Seeker each having a different experience when encountering humanity as well as a varying degree of purpose, philosophy and sense of responsibility. For example, what if a Seeker woke early and was captured and traded into slavery or put into a WWII concentration camp. I could imagine they would have no love for humanity.

The Gatherer along with the Seekers must determine the fate of the planet and humanity. Among the Seekers, he is their leader, a genetically modified Seeker that can locate other Seekers that are part of his "wheel". The "wheel" is the repeated symbol found at the cave site that Norden was working at before it collapsed.

Two hundred thousand years ago, the Seekers delivered a device whose purpose is to end any sentient race that could bring harm to the galaxy. Man is that sentient race. The device is later removed and becomes known as the Biblical Ark of the Covenant. A Seeker hid the device among the Israelites and removed the tracking beacon making it difficult to locate. Then you can

have this Seeker either seen as or interpreted as a Messenger or have him inserted as historical/Biblical figures such as David or Methuselah. Perhaps this same Seeker creates an order like the Knights Templar to protect and hide the device thereby leaving clues that only members of their order could identify. Unfortunately, so much of this information is lost through time that the device could actually be lost.

The device constantly monitors the technological advancement of man. Then in the 1940s when the first nuclear weapon was detonated signaling the first man-made readings that the device would record. At some point, the atmosphere's chemical composition is irrevocably altered by atmospheric nuclear tests. The device is now charging its batteries using that nuclear fallout to arm itself. Once that device is fully charged, it is up to the Seekers/Gatherer to send the signal for the device to release its energy. Then the device will capture an asteroid from the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and send it on an Earth bound trajectory to create an Extinction Level Event (ELE). It is a fitting demise since humanity is in effect killing themselves by using a power source (nuclear energy) that could help millions of people live better life's, but instead is used to destroy and kill.

The clock is now ticking and the only way to alter its path is to have three Seekers and the device. This makes finding Seekers ever more important.

Due to the haphazard awakening of Seekers, they've caught the attention of a special government paramilitary group called Section P and their mysterious leader. We will discover that this leader is a Seeker whose hibernation was interrupted and his experience among humans was less than pleasant. Not being able to find the device, this Seeker created Section P to do the next best thing, to hunt down Seekers. If he can't have the device then he'll remove Seekers from the equation. His ultimate goal is to remove any chance that humanity could save itself.

The question is then what happened to the device. The Gatherer understands that over time continents shift and things have moved, but that shouldn't have mattered. There was a beacon attached to the device that would lead them there. The beacon is silent –what happened?

There is an epic race to find the device, form alliances and shed blood all in the hopes that humanity will be saved.

They ultimately avert extinction but an accident occurs and a chunk of the asteroid makes it through causing massive damage and loss of life. The aliens are responsible for the devastation and promise to help, but humanity is changed forever. In addition, for the first time discover that the galaxy is much larger than just their planet.