

# **THE SEEKERS**

SCRIPT BY IVAN JAMES

10 SCRIPT PAGES

REVISED: August 26<sup>th</sup> 2011

## **PAGE ONE (5 Panels)**

1/ Open on a full frontal shot of ARTHUR NORDEN (a rugged late 20's/early 30's male - think young Harrison Ford but a pinch more weathered). He stands at the mouth of the Death Valley cave site where the now notorious cave-in occurred. He wears sunglasses to shield the bright rays of the sun. He has a brown leather back pack strapped to his back and a kerchief tied around his neck. His overall look says, "cool modern day archaeologist." He looks confused.

**LOCATION BOX:** Death Valley, California

**NORDEN:** It's just YOU? Where's your crew? Where's your CAMERA?

2/ Cut to a panel of JENNIFER HART (a very attractive mid 20's female). She tries to hide her looks with bangs and unneeded glasses. She wears a scarf around her neck to cover her face from the occasional sand storm. She has a side satchel strapped over one shoulder and holds a leather covered notebook in one hand. Her bangs and ponytail blow to one side as a light breeze blows through.

**JENNIFER:** It's just me... And the story will be in PRINT. That is if there is a STORY here at all.

3/ Cut to a side shot panel that has both Jennifer and Norden in the frame.

**NORDEN:** Look. It's like I already told you on the phone. There's only ONE story to tell here and I've told it a THOUSAND times to you press media vultures before. YOU'RE the one who said that YOU believed ME.

**JENNIFER:** No. That's what you HEARD. What I SAID was I want you to MAKE me believe you. So let's get to it shall we? If you're telling the truth and we can PROVE it, I could be up for ANCHOR next year.

4/ Cut to an over the shoulder shot in between both Jennifer and Norden. They are inside of the cave at the location Norden saw the GATHERER burrow up from. Norden is pointing down at a small clearing amidst the rubble of rocks that litter the cave.

**NORDEN:** There - RIGHT there. That's where he burrowed up from.

**JENNIFER:** That's solid ROCK. There's not a single sign of any type of "burrowing."

**NORDEN:** Well, when I say "burrow," I really mean the floor kind of just opened up and a naked man built like a BULL-DOZER floated up from the opening. Then the floor just closed up under him.

**JENNIFER:** Riiiiight...

5/ Cut to another panel still inside the cave where Norden and Jennifer are looking at each other.

**JENNIFER:** Then how do you explain the cave-in?

**NORDEN:** Good question. You get a degree in journalism?

**JENNIFER:** Ha HA.

**NORDEN:** Well, when the human THING saw us. He yelled out some gibberish and Hulk smashed the ground. The shockwave knocked me on my back side and the cave started to come down. And in the blink of an eye - he was gone...

**JENNIFER (THOUGHT BOX):** ...Why do I keep doing this to myself...

## **PAGE TWO (4 Panels)**

1/ It is night. A light rain falls on a large linebacker sized male. This is the GATHERER codename TOY BOX. He stands outside of a barn near a clothes line that has various articles of clothing blowing in the wind. He is wrapped in a white sheet (presumably from the clothes line.) Something off panel has gotten his attention.

**LOCATION BOX:** Beatty, Nevada

**BARBIE (OFF PANEL - WHISPER):** Toy Box?

2/ BARBIE (The female seeker from Vegas) still adorned in only her t-shirt and bracelet, steps out from the side of the barn. Toy Box is leaning forward trying to determine who she is.

**TOY BOX:** Barbie?

**BARBIE:** Aye. Have you honed in on any others?

**TOY BOX:** Negative. I need an amplifier.

3/ Barbie is pointing far off into the distance at a radio tower whose red light is blinking and lighting up the dark sky. Toy box is looking in the direction in which she is pointing.

**BARBIE:** That looks suitable. We need to obtain better CLOTHING as well.

**TOY BOX:** That's debatable.

**BARBIE:** Excuse me?

4/ Cut to a closer side shot of the two. Toy Box is smirking and his focus is affixed on the tall beautiful exposed legs of Barbie.

**TOY BOX:** These humans may lack intelligence and compassion, BUT their shells are quite attractive.

**BARBIE:** Do I need to remind you of the GRAVITY of our mission?

**TOY BOX:** Do I need to remind YOU that no one GATHERS better than Me? Relax. We'll gather the awakened, find the device - and be onto another rock in no time.

**BARBIE:** FINE. But if you attempt to admire this shell any CLOSER, you can add gathering your TEETH to your list.

### **PAGE THREE (5 Panels)**

1/ Close up on a metal futuristic looking pod big enough to hold a person (think of a futuristic looking coffin standing on end). It is buried deep underground and is bursting open like an airlock is being released. A small window on the pod exposes a bright blinding light that also is shooting out of the sides of it along with steam and liquid.

**SFX:** HSSsSsssss

2/ Cut to a panel where the front door of the pod is now lying on the ground. The dimming light and steam highlight a silhouette of a male

that is grasping the sides of the pod pulling himself forward out of the pod. This is code name SOLDIER. (athletic build - physically fit - mid 20's stud) He is nude. NOTE: he wears a stylized jeweled bracelet like Barbie and Toy Box.

**BRACELET:** *Codename SOLDIER - now activated.*

3/ Cut to a blurred "soldier" shooting upward through the ground. It looks as if he has a force field around him that allows him to burrow up through the rock without resistance.

**NO DIALOGUE**

4/ Cut to an above ground shot of a small parking lot out in front of a tucked away bar. There is a crooked sign plastered onto the front of the bar's main sign that says, "LIVE MMA TOURNAMENT TONIGHT! BEER BUCKETS 5 BUCKS!" Soldier is bursting through the surface of the parking lot. A lone drunk onlooker who is exiting the bar can't believe the sight.

**LOCATION BOX:** Fresno, California

5/ Cut to Soldier kneeling down on one knee in the parking lot on top of the now sealed hole from which he came. There is no evidence that the hole ever existed. He has his head down and is pressing a button on his jeweled bracelet. A shimmering beam of light is going from the bracelet to his forehead. He is still nude. A group of young 20's "thug" kids are filing out of the bar. They look to be a "tougher" crowd. One of their friends was probably one of the fighters in tonight's MMA event. The drunk onlooker from the previous panel is pointing at Soldier.

**DRUNK:** Naked... man... MAGICIAN...

**THUG GUY 1:** Look at this guy. He's full on BUCK NEKKED. What are you man, some kind of FRUITCAKE?

**THUG GROUP:** HAhaha

**SOLDIER:** Analyze "Fruitcake."

**BRACELET:** *A rich cake containing any combination of dried or candied fruit and nuts - also meaning - human slang for a crazy or eccentric person; a nut.*

## **PAGE FOUR (4 Panels)**

1/ Soldier is now standing looking at the group of thug kids. Thug guy 1 looks angered. The girls are giggling and the rest of the guys have stepped out in front of the group as if they are ready for a fight. Soldier is smirking at Thug Guy 1.

**SOLDIER:** I am FRUITCAKE...

**THUG GUY 1:** Well I got NEWS for ya buddy. We don't like fruitcakes around here.

**SOLDIER:** My reply was not pertaining to the edible cake.

**THUG GUY 1:** What? Man... GET THIS GUY!

2/ Cut to another random thug guy (Thug Guy 2) who has thrown a punch at Soldier. Soldier has caught his fist and is crushing it. The thug is obviously in a LOT of pain. Soldier looks emotionless. Everyone else looks slightly shocked. And yet another thug guy is running in at Soldier.

**THUG GUY 2:** Ahhhhh. He's BREAKING MY HAND man!!!

**THUG GUY 1:** JIMMY - get his A\*\$!

**THUG GIRL 1:** I don' undastand why you idiots always go lookin' for fights?

3/ Soldier is still crushing thug guy 2's fist. Thug guy 2 is now on his knees crying out in immense pain. Soldier now has one of his legs extended as he has caught Jimmy (the thug who was rushing in on him) with an uppercut cut kick. Soldier's heel is embedded square under Jimmy's chin. Jimmy is flying backward as if he has been clothes lined by the power of Soldier's kick. Thug Guy 1 is screaming and pointing at soldier. The rest of the crowd looks on in awe.

**JIMMY:** UNGH!

**THUG GUY 2:** PLEASE let me go man! I Give I GIVE! I play GUITAR man!

**THUG GUY 1:** MARIO! Help me take this guy DOWN!

4/ Big panel of Soldier frozen in mid air landing a stylized split kick. One kick is striking Mario and the other is striking Thug 1. Both kicks look to be extremely powerful. Soldier's expression is emotionless.

**SFX:** THWAP

**MARIO:** OOF!

**SFX:** WHAM

**THUG GUY 1:** GAH!

## **PAGE FIVE (4 Panels)**

1/ Jimmy, Mario, and Thug Guy 1 lay on the ground unconscious. Thug guy 2 (now shoeless) is in the fetal position holding his hand, writhing in pain. Thug guy 1 is now missing his pants. Mario is missing his shirt. And Jimmy is missing his Jacket. Soldier is now clothed with these garments. He is in the middle of putting on Jimmy's jacket. Others who are present outside the bar are all in awe of the scene.

**THUG GIRL 2:** What are you DOING?!

**SOLDIER:** Trying to save your planet.

**THUG GIRL 1:** Good luck with that.

2/ Cut to a side shot that has Soldier and the two main thug girls present peppered by the rest of the on looking crowd.

**SOLDIER:** What year is it?

**THUG GIRL 2:** Are you SERIOUS?

**SOLDIER:** I am. What is it? 5000... 6000?

**THUG GIRL 1:** Dude. It's 2007. You one of these mental whack jobs or somethin'?

3/ Cut to a closer shot of previous panel. Soldier looks genuinely surprised. Thug girl 1 now wears a flirtatious grin.

**SOLDIER:** Hmm. That's a lot earlier than I expected.

**THUG GIRL 1:** Yeah well, it is what it is I suppose. Wanna go inside and grab a DRINK and talk it ova'?

**SOLDIER:** I am not thirsty. And I must be going.

4/ Cut to a shot of Soldier running away from the bar at full speed. The thug girls and rest of the dazed bar crowd watch him run off in disbelief.

**THUG GIRL 2:** Who the hell was that?

**THUG GIRL 1:** I dunno but he was HOT.

**THUG GIRL 1:** I'm surprised he didn't even give me his numba...

## **PAGE SIX (5 Panels)**

1/ Cut to the inside of a small town radio booth. It's one of those small shack operations that only has enough room for a dj booth and a bathroom. A DJ(an older late 50's male who looks like a chubby Casey Kasem with an obvious toupee) sits in the small booth in front of a microphone and control board. He is leaning forward, saying something into the microphone. There is a big picture window in front of him that exposes the remote rocky expanse that surrounds him.

**DJ:** Well Beatty NV, you've gone an' done it to me again... A night of Lite Rock in your quiet arms has me fallin' in love with you all over again. But unfortunately that's my time. But before I go I'll leave you with something to REMEMBER me by. A night full of Michael McDonald - kickin' off with, "What a Fool Believes..."

2/ Cut to the DJ looking dumbfounded at what he sees outside the picture window. That is a fully nude - approaching Barbie who is smiling seductively at him.

**DJ:** ...Dear GOD...

3/ Cut to a close up impact shot of the dj's head being smashed, face first, into his control board with great force by the hand of Toy Box.

**TOY BOX:** Doesn't - exist...

4/ Zoom out to a shot of Barbie walking through a perfect body-sized hole that has appeared in the picture window. She is finishing up putting on her Vegas t-shirt as she does so. Toy Box is throwing the dj backward out of his seat, smashing him into the wall behind him.

**BARBIE:** Did you break the technology that communicates with the antennae?

**TOYBOX:** Negative. That was just the technology that played the noise.

5/ Cut to a closer full frontal shot of Barbie. She is emotionless.

**BARBIE:** That's too bad...

**BARBIE:** I kind of liked it.

## **PAGE SEVEN (4 Panels)**

1/ Toy Box is seated in the dj's chair looking at the dj's computer monitor. Barbie is hovering over his shoulder looking at the screen as well. Toy Box's jeweled bracelet has been removed and placed out in front of him on the desk top. A beam of light connects his head to his bracelet, and another beam of light connects his bracelet to the dj's pc. A stream of foreign, futuristic looking, hieroglyphics populate the monitor.

**BARBIE:** Have any others awakened?

**TOY BOX:** I'm reading a pod activation occurred no less than an hour ago - about three hundred and fifty miles from here.

**BARBIE:** Well there's our third. That was easy.

**TOY BOX:** Then again... maybe not.

2/ Cut to a slightly more zoomed in shot of the above panel. Toy Box and Barbie are now looking at each other.

**BARBIE:** Let me guess--

**TOY BOX:** --It's Soldier.

**BARBIE:** Sigh. Of course it is... Have there been any others?

3/ Cut to a frontal shot of Toy Box and Barbie from behind the monitor. We see the monitor's glow on their faces.

**TOY BOX:** Negative. Shall we try making contact and hope for persuasion?

**BARBIE:** NOTHING persuades him. TRUST me. His skull has always been too thick.

**TOY BOX:** Well, he who cannot be gathered for cooperation must be --

4/ Cut to a close up of Barbie. She is emotionless.

**BARBIE:** -- TERMINATED.

## **PAGE EIGHT (5 Panels)**

1/ Norden and Jennifer are walking through the sunny desert through a very light sand storm. They carry backpacks with canteens, small shovels etc. They have kerchief/scarfs covering their face and they wear sunglasses. An RV camper is seen off in the distance behind them.

**NORDEN:** I realize that yesterday was probably not the LAND MINE of a story you may have been hoping for. But I think what I'm about to show you today will make up for it.

**JENNIFER:** Let's hope so. I have a twelve year old boy back home who is TERRORIZING the babysitter.

**NORDEN:** Oh yeah... Your own? I mean no offense, but the math doesn't really add up - unless you look REALLY young for your age.

**JENNIFER:** Technically yes, but no. I care for him. He's my nephew.

2/ Cut to a closer frontal medium shot of the above panel.

**NORDEN:** Annnnd is there a Mr. Hart that helps you care for him?

**JENNIFER:** How about we go back to me being the reporter. I ask more appropriate questions.

**NORDEN:** Heh. Right. Sorry.

**NORDEN:** We're almost there anyway. It's right up here over this ridge.

3/ Cut to a shot of Norden and Jennifer climbing up a steep sand dune that leads up to a small rock formation at it's peak.

**JENNIFER:** You should REALLY invest in an ATV.

**NORDEN:** With what money? Your colleagues have pretty much guaranteed that I'll NEVER receive another grant again.

**SFX: BOOM!**

4/ Cut to a closer shot of the above panel. Jennifer has pulled down her scarf and is yelling at Norden. Norden is pulling out a small gun that was tucked into his waistband underneath his back pack.

**JENNIFER:** What the HELL was that?!

**NORDEN:** I have no idea! But get up there and TAKE COVER behind those rocks!

**JENNIFER:** You have a GUN?!

**NORDEN:** Don't judge me! It's for PROTECTION!

5/ Cut to a frontal shot of Norden and Jennifer peeking out over the ridge from the side of the rock formation. Norden has removed his sunglasses and pulled down his kerchief from his face. He looks wide eyed and worried.

**JENNIFER:** What the --

**NORDEN:** -- NO. My EVIDENCE...

**OFF PANEL VOICE:** That did it. We're in.

## **PAGE NINE (5 Panels)**

1/ Cut to a shot of the valley that lies under the ridge. We still see Norden and Jennifer peeking around the rocky formation up above in the background, but the main focus is on what lies in the valley. A serious looking short haired brunette woman (late 20's) dressed in what looks to be all black military garb holds an earpiece in her ear. This is AGENT DAWN. She stands off to the side of a large hole that has recently been blown in the rocky ground. It looks as if a large amount of sand was dug and dumped to the sides in order to get to it. Dust and smoke still linger at the mouth of the hole from the explosive that was used to breach it. There are about a dozen others present in the valley, all wearing similar clothing and looking busy moving around "camp." This is a unit of SECTION P - the government's branch of "Paranormal Hunters." A couple of them are armed with assault rifles - some are reading the monitors of computers that have been set up on top of metal transport crates. There is small crane set up at the mouth of the hole (think of a small braced bobcat vehicle with a tall crane attached to it). There is a thick steel cable being lowered into the hole. There are a couple of all black, all terrain SUV's, along with a few sleek - all black ATV's parked around the make-shift camp as well.

**JENNIFER:** Now THIS is newsworthy... Are they government?

**NORDEN:** If they are, I bet they're the kind that would never admit it.

**AGENT DAWN:** Understood. We will look into it after we retrieve the artifact.

2/ Cut to a shot of two Section P soldiers being raised out of the hole on a small platform by the crane. They have a large, waist high, tarp covered object between them. Agent Dawn is observing them. One of them is addressing Agent Dawn.

**SECTION P SOLDIER:** We have it.

**AGENT DAWN:** Good. Pack it up for transport. We may have had an incident in Beatty. We're moving out.

3/ Cut to a shot of Norden and Jennifer seated behind the rocky formation trying to stay low and as close to their rocky cover as

possible. Jennifer looks both exhilarated and nervous. Norden is smirking at her. He is reaching into his back pocket.

**JENNIFER:** What did they take out of there?!

**NORDEN:** I don't know for certain, but I think I have a good idea.

**NORDEN:** Luckily for you, I made a carbon rubbing of it.

**JENNIFER:** DO share...

4/ Cut to a close up of the carbon rubbing paper Norden holds. It's not the clearest of rubbings but one can definitely make out a diamond shape within a triangle shape - that are both within what looks to be the shape of the sun (a circle broken up by wavy rays that extend outward). There are three lines within the triangle that connect each point of the triangle to the diamond shape within it. But more importantly, there are futuristic looking hieroglyphs present all over the carbon rubbing as well. Note: The hieroglyphs should match those seen on the computer monitor of the radio station where Toy Box and Barbie were looking for other recently awakened Seekers.

**JENNIFER:** What IS it? And why didn't you ever tell anyone about this?!

**NORDEN:** Are you KIDDING? You people painted me out to be CRAZY enough as it was. I didn't want the world thinking I was actually INSANE by adding THIS to the mix.

**JENNIFER:** What do you think it is?

**NORDEN:** Well whatever it is, it's important enough to bring out the GI Joe X-Files division. I think it's either a map or a calendar or I dunno, maybe some kind of instruction manual.

5/ Zoom out to a medium shot of the two still seated behind the rocky cover. Jennifer is looking at Norden with a desperate curiosity. Norden's expression says, "Who knows?"

**JENNIFER:** Made by WHO... TO Who?

**NORDEN:** Now THAT is the question... These markings are nothing I have ever SEEN before. They're not Egyptian, they're not Sumerian... I've looked through every possible book, website, you name it. It's an UNDOCUMENTED language...

**JENNIFER:** Arthur, I think we have ourselves a STORY.

**NORDEN:** Yeah? Well, let's hope we stay ALIVE long enough to tell it.

## **PAGE TEN (8 Panels)**

1-4/ A succession of small panels that all illustrate different hatches blowing like the one Soldier came out of on Page 3 Panel 1. They all should have the hissing sound effect.

**SFX:** HSSsSsssss

5/ Cut to a nude woman being back lit by the neon glow of the signage in the heart of Times Square New York. It is night. She is crouched over and kneeling on one knee. She is a red head, physically fit - mid 20's. Some of the New Yorkers at the busy intersection ignore her, others are staring in disbelief. A mother is walking by her with her small toddler in tow. NOTE: She wears a stylized jeweled bracelet like Barbie, Toy Box, and Soldier.

**LOCATION BOX:** New York City, New York

**BRACELET:** *Codename RAG DOLL - now activated.*

**TODDLER:** Mommy, look at da lady...

6/ Cut to a nude man crouching over and kneeling on one knee in the courtyard of a small Brazilian ghetto. In the distance behind him stands the Christ the Redeemer statue of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is night. A group of Brazilian kids stand around him in shock. He seems to have interrupted their soccer game. He is bald, physically fit - mid 20's. NOTE: He wears a stylized jeweled bracelet like Barbie, Toy Box, and Soldier.

**LOCATION BOX:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**BRACELET:** *Codename PUPPET - now activated.*

**BRAZILIAN KID:** Que diabos...

7/ Cut to a nude woman crouching over and kneeling on one knee on top of the Great Wall of China. It is early morning. No one else is around her. She has dark hair, is physically fit, and is in her mid 20's. NOTE: She wears a stylized jeweled bracelet like Barbie, Toy Box, and Soldier.

**LOCATION BOX:** Beijing, China

**BRACELET:** *Codename BALLERINA - now activated.*

8/ Cut to a nude man crouching over and kneeling on one knee at foot of the Great Sphinx of Giza. It is dawn. No one is around. He has shoulder length dark hair - he is physically fit and is in his mid 20's. NOTE: He wears a stylized jeweled bracelet like Barbie, Toy Box, and Soldier.

**LOCATION BOX:** Giza, Egypt

**BRACELET:** *Codename JESTER - now activated.*

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

# **THE SEEKERS**

A GRAPHIC NOVEL TREATMENT BY IVAN JAMES

REVISED: August 26<sup>th</sup> 2011

**NOTE:** This treatment takes into account that the reader is already familiar with "The Seekers" treatment previously written by Mr. Stan Lee.

Arthur Norden and Jennifer Hart are the main protagonists of this adventure. They team up early on into the adventure and continue a partnered relationship up until its end. At first their relationship starts out as a mutually beneficial one. Norden will get his name cleared and Hart will finally earn her proper journalistic “cred” by breaking what could be the biggest news story ever told. But in the end they will discover that their relationship has blossomed into much more.

But as their journey unfolds, so does the journey of the Seekers. Toy Box, The Gatherer, has awakened from his two thousand year long slumber along with his partner, Barbie. Toy Box’s sole mission is to gather all of his fellow Seekers so they can “attune” their memories and reveal the location of the doomsday device which they planted deep within the Earth prior to their slumber. Once located, three Seekers must activate the device so that the Earth can be destroyed and the Human race prevented from mobilizing their machinations of war into space. However, not all of the Seekers agree that the Earth must be destroyed. The main Seeker who opposes Earth’s destruction is Soldier. In his eyes, the Seekers have no right to decide how the evolution of a certain species plays out. They are galactic peace keepers - not God(s). Soldier knows that three Seekers can also permanently deactivate the doomsday device as well. Either code inputted into the device triggers the immediate teleport evacuation of all Seekers to their home planet. And as soon as they arrive they are immediately assigned to another planet that has shown signs of emergent life. This is the life of a Seeker.

Since there are seven seekers total on Earth, Toy Box and Barbie just need to convince one other to join their cause, which they believe is the only and just cause. Soldier needs to persuade at least two others to join his cause of peace and noninterference. In the event that any Seeker refuses or is unable to “attune” their memories to reveal the location of the doomsday device, they have also left themselves clues on Earth that will lead them to the device as well. Each Seeker contains a hint within their jeweled bracelet that points them to one of the seven puzzle pieces, all of which can lead to other puzzle pieces and eventually reveal the final location of the doomsday device.

During the course of the story, Soldier realizes that his puzzle piece has been taken into custody by Section P; an arm of the government known as the “Paranormal Hunter Division.” Upon further investigation, Soldier realizes that Arthur Norden was the first to stumble upon his puzzle piece prior to Section P. So Soldier decides to tale Norden and Jennifer Hart. He soon comes across and witnesses a confrontation between Norden, Hart, and Section P. Section P have realized that Norden and Hart have been investigating them and uncovering their secrets, so they decide the only course of action is to make them “disappear.” Realizing that Norden and Hart are on a quest for truth but more importantly, that they contain a carbon rubbing of his puzzle piece, Soldier intervenes and saves their lives. Hart, Norden, and Soldier then team up to find the other puzzle pieces that will eventually lead them to the device and prevent the other Seekers from destroying the world.

However, Soldier knows that Toy Box is the only one who can find the other Seekers since he is the Gatherer. And Soldier also knows that Barbie and Toy Box know that his intentions are to deactivate the device. This is because Barbie and Soldier had a relationship on their home world that ended due to their difference in beliefs regarding their race and how they police the galaxy. And all Seekers know that

if you are against the Gatherer and the plan, then you must be terminated before you can deter any others from the mission at hand.

Once the Gatherer nears a Seeker (let's say a few mile radius), the Gatherer can sense their presence. Knowing this, Soldier decides his best option is to keep away from Toy Box and Barbie and find the other Seekers by working the clues of the puzzle pieces. Soldier hopes that finding the other pieces of the puzzle will help him, Norden, and Hart, find the other Seekers themselves while remaining safe from the Gatherer's wrath.

As Soldier, Norden, and Hart travel around the world solving puzzles and traps, they find the Seekers code named Ballerina and Jester.

Meanwhile, Toy Box and Barbie eventually track down the Seekers code named Puppet and Rag Doll. And then they too race off and attempt to solve these puzzles as well. Sometimes Soldier and his companions get there first, and sometimes Toy Box and his companions beat them to it.

And all the while, Section P always interferes and engages both groups. However, Section P interferences are always narrowly overcome by the Seekers and their companions.

All of the globetrotting puzzles involve a lot of elemental themed challenges such as: Puddles of water that act as portals to each other, but if experimented with in the right order, open up access to a pool of water that leads to a puzzle piece - - A Rubix Cube type puzzle where one has to solve a riddle that cleverly suggests the order in which to move the rows - - A tower of moving stone platforms in which one needs to time and ride strong gusts of wind that come from the floor to ascend to get to the top - - Fighting an Earth Gollum that can only be beaten by dousing him with water - - And a riddle that suggests that a Seeker needs to drip his or her blood into something in order for it to unlock - - etc. etc.

Eventually everyone's journey leads to a standstill. Each group roughly holds half of the puzzle pieces and only half of the Seekers are willing to "attune." Ballerina has fallen for Norden which makes Hart jealous (even though she would never admit to it). So Ballerina has sided with Soldier. Puppet is tired of being a pawn for his race and spending centuries asleep rather than living, so he too has sided with Soldier. Rag Doll is excited by terror and is drunk with her power so she would love to see a planet destroyed and move on to destroying others. So she has sided with Toy Box and Barbie. And although Jester has been journeying with Soldier and his companions, leading us to believe that he has been against activating the device the whole time, we learn that it has all been a ruse. He ends up stealing all of the puzzle pieces collected by Soldier and his companions and giving them to Toy Box and his team of Seekers.

This in turn gives Toy Box the location of the doomsday device. As Toy Box and his companions head to retrieve and activate the device, Soldier, Puppet, and Ballerina attempt to "attune" as only three. The images they see are cryptic and sporadic but once they relay what they have seen to Norden and Hart, they realize that the device must be buried somewhere under the Grand Canyon. They then race off to the Grand Canyon to prevent Toy Box and the others from setting off the device and destroying Earth!

Once Soldier and his allies arrive at the Grand Canyon, they realize the magnitude of the Canyon itself. They lose all hope in finding the others in time. That is until Ballerina and Puppet speak up. We learn that they have decided to fuse themselves with Soldier. We learn that Gatherers are made by fusing the souls of three seekers into one. Soldier refuses. He notes that he needs them to deactivate the device. Puppet notes that it is too late anyway. The only hope is to keep the others from activating it and hopefully persuade two of them to flip sides and *deactivate* it instead. If that can't be done, they can at least prevent the activation from occurring at all by taking the others out – granted that would mean Soldier being trapped on Earth forever. No teleport signal, of any kind, would ever be transmitted. Obviously the Seeker's planet would eventually send others, but it would buy Earth more time and allow Soldier to relocate the device. Puppet makes it clear of how tired he is of being a Seeker. Ballerina makes it clear that since Norden could never love her because of his true love for Hart, on top of the fact that she is angered and disgusted with what her people do, she believes her sacrifice will go to the greater good.

So they fuse. Soldier becomes a Gatherer and hones in on the location of the others. But when Soldier, Norden, and Hart arrive – they realize that they are too late. Toy Box, Barbie, and Ragdoll have already entered the doomsday device destruction sequence. Soldier, Norden, and Hart are in complete disbelief. As the counter counts down Hart is emotionally crushed. Norden nervously paces, thinking of what else can be possibly done. Soldier collapses to his knees in utter defeat and failure. Section P burst in and are overjoyed in finding all of the Seekers in one place with nowhere to go.

Once the counter hits zero all of the Seekers begin to glow and then... We see the Earth explode...

We then see the interior of an alien space station. The Seekers have teleported into the middle of what looks to be an alien council floor. However, the Seekers no longer look human. Their true alien forms are exposed. All of them look the same save for one. The kneeling alien Soldier has Norden tightly wrapped around him. He managed to jump onto Soldier prior to teleportation which teleported himself as well. All of the aliens panic and alien Toy Box quickly goes to kill Norden – that is until a booming voice commands him to stop. Norden then composes himself long enough to address the voice and the alien senate and explain to them what it is to be human. He questions their right to interrupt the natural cycle of life of another species and through an eloquent and moving speech, he eventually wins them over. They strike a deal where Norden learns that they can turn back time and send him back to Earth prior to its destruction. However he must agree to be implanted with some of their power so he can prevent Earth's military from ever bringing its war machines to space. Norden agrees.

The story concludes back on Earth. Norden finds Jennifer Hart leaving work and we realize that she has no recollection of the events that have occurred. She does however recognize him and asks if he is an archaeologist. Norden smiles and responds, "Why yes I am... And have I got a story for you."

We pan down a few panels exposing layers of soil and rock. The last panel exposes another doomsday device buried deep underground directly under where they stand.

THE END