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Subject: STORY: The Scorpion's tale.

Posted by [rm5248](#) on Tue, 28 Sep 2004 18:32:50 GMT

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The bumping continued, and despite the group's best efforts to stay in their seats, they were still bounced around quite a bit. It was about a five minute drive to the cliff face, before they arrived. The vehicle slowed, and they then stopped, and they all got out. Valdez ordered the junior men to wire the cliff face, and put Parker in charge of them, then both he, and the other two checked the vehicle out for damage. The massive impact with the boulder in the river had clearly dented the side of the craft. Paint had been removed over most of the impact zone, and the armor was heavily gouged. They checked the middle wheel for damage that may hinder their exit from the area. They had been very lucky. If the impact had damaged the drivetrain they would have had to find another way in.

The others returned to the group, and they returned to the APC. The loading ramp closed, and they resumed their seats. Parker noticed a button marked "Restraints" and started chuckling. "Sit back in your seats ladies, I have a treat for you."

He pushed the button, and plastic shoulder harnesses slid out of the inner wall. It was apparently a way of saving space in the cramped compartment, and was why the men hadn't noticed it earlier.

"About time Parker. It's a good thing we aren't airborne." Drubnov quipped as the men snapped the harnesses in.

"Blow it." Valdez ordered.

The cliff face erupted and avalanched as expected. They waited until the dust cleared, then Parker gunned the motor, and proceeded to tackle to unsteady mess they had created. The vehicle did exceedingly well, and even Valdez was forced to admit to its sturdiness. As they crested the hill, Valdez consulted the GPS again, and told Parker to follow the ridge to his left. Sergei looked over his shoulder out the view port to the vehicle's starboard side. In the distance he could see smoke pillars rising in the direction of the gdi base. He wondered what they were from.

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