

STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE

"One of Our Ambassadors is Missing"

Written by
James Sampson

This teleplay is originally from
www.startrekrenaissance.com

"Star Trek" and related names are registered
trademarks of Paramount Pictures, Inc.
This original work of fiction is
written solely for non-profit purposes.
Copyright 2002 by The Renaissance Group
All rights reserved

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The ship is orbiting a planet that has BLUE oceans and RED continents.

CROSS (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 78512.2. The Enterprise has arrived in the Phelan System to host a diplomatic conference between several worlds who have expressed an interest in joining the Federation. In the current situation, with Starfleet still relatively weak and the Klingon situation becoming increasingly unstable, acquiring new allies is quickly assuming a top priority, which is the reason the flagship has been dispatched. Amongst the ambassadors due to attend the conference are the aforementioned Phelans, the feuding Kolaks and Bolshaks, and the apparently benign Jolans, the latter being particularly proficient in technological matters. On a personal note, I am looking forward to welcoming Admiral Portman, an old friend of this ship and her Captain, back on board to host the meeting.

INT. SHUTTLEBAY

A SHUTTLE comes in and lands. After a moment a FORCEFIELD activates at the entrance, and CROSS and a welcoming committee begin to file forward as the shuttle doors open. The first to emerge is PORTMAN. The welcoming committee SALUTES.

PORTMAN

At ease, gentlemen. Captain.

CROSS

Admiral, it's good to see you again.

PORTMAN

Likewise.

They EMBRACE.

INT. CORRIDOR

As Cross and Portman walk down it, there are a lot of people going about, some in civvies and some obviously not sure where they are going.

PORTMAN

You didn't need to put on a reception committee, you know.

CROSS

Just like to show our new friends our respect for you.

PORTMAN

Oh? And who was watching?

CROSS

Erm... no one, but that's not the point. It never hurts to remind the crew of correct protocol.

PORTMAN

Correct protocol? That doesn't sound much like the Neil Cross I know. You all right? You've had a double whammy recently -- the conference, then the Reformists.

CROSS

It has certainly been an interesting year. I wanted to thank you for supporting Talora taking command while I was... absent. I know there was some debate about what to do

PORTMAN

Delfune. It was mainly Delfune.

Cross makes a face.

CROSS

No surprise there. I suppose she wanted to go in with all guns blazing?

PORTMAN

She did. If the Reformists hadn't fled when they did, I'm sure she would have got her way too. Funny how they just disappeared like that. Can't imagine how they would have got away without the Enterprise noticing anything.

CROSS

Yes... I think the last thing the people on that planet needed at that point was a Starfleet armada bursting in with phasers blazing.

PORTMAN

Quite.

(MORE)

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

(beat)

Neil, are you sure you're okay?

CROSS

I'm fine, honestly.

PORTMAN

You seem a little... on edge.

CROSS

I'm always on edge. You should know that more than anyone.

PORTMAN

Yes, but this time it's even more so.

They enter a turbolift.

INT. TURBOLIFT

Cross and Portman enter.

CROSS

Deck Ten.

The turbolift starts moving.

PORTMAN

Hold.

The lift STOPS.

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

Neil?

CROSS

I'm just concerned how my crew will react to this mission.

PORTMAN

How so?

CROSS

Well, it's just... how can I put this...?

PORTMAN

They don't like change?

CROSS

No, not exactly...

PORTMAN

They'd rather be out saving the galaxy?

CROSS

Definitely not.

PORTMAN

Then...?

CROSS

Put it this way. This mission calls for tact and occasional ass-kissing. I'm just not sure that my staff are... very diplomatic.

INT. Y'LAN'S SCIENCE LAB

Y'LAN is standing by the door, blocking the way in to a LARGE, LUMBERING HULK of a man. This is AMBASSADOR BARKE.

Y'LAN

If you do not leave, I will be forced to do something unpleasant, possibly to your teeth.

BARKE

That's not very friendly.

Y'LAN

Ambassador...?

BARKE

Barke. Cornelius Barke. Esquire. Of the Galactic Consortium of Jolans, ruler of the third house of Barke on Jolan Prime, holder of the sacred keys of Loki from time immemorial.

He pauses and looks smug.

Y'LAN

Does that mean anything?

BARKE

It means I'm very important, so let me in.

Y'LAN

No.

BARKE

Please.

Y'LAN

No.

BARKE

Oh go on.

Y'LAN

No.

BARKE

Just a little look.

Y'LAN

No.

BARKE

I won't stay long.

Y'LAN

No.

BARKE

Why not?

Y'LAN

Ambassador Barke, with your slurring speech and unsteady gait, I believe letting you near my equipment would be a foolish and reckless move and would result in damage.

BARKE

I wouldn't touch your table!

Y'LAN

The damage would not be to the table.

BARKE

Fine. Didn't want to see your table anyway, stupid talking spider.

He turns and staggers down the corridor. Y'lan watches him for a moment, then turns. The second he does, Barke rushes back and pushes past him into the lab.

BARKE (CONT'D)

Ha ha! I'm in. Now what you going to do? Hit me?

He looks smug again.

Y'LAN

Yes.

Y'lan WHIPS out a tentacle, which gives Barke a sharp blow to the head. Barke collapses unconscious.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Y'lan to security. There has been an unfortunate occurrence in my science lab. One of the Ambassadors got in my way.

RENAISSANCE: "One of Our Ambassadors..." - TEASER

6.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

I'm on my way.

As we look at Barke's body, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. SICKBAY

ELRIS is administering to an unconscious BARKE, while QUINLAN, Cross and Y'lan look on.

CROSS

Y'lan, why didn't you just call for Security when he was causing trouble?

Y'LAN

As you can see, Captain, I did not need Security.

CROSS

That's not the point. You can't just go round hitting Ambassadors.

QUINLAN

Not until they've signed the treaty, anyway.

CROSS

Quiet, Quinlan. Doctor, how is he?

ELRIS

Our medical records have only very scanty records of Jolan physiology, but I think he's all right.

CROSS

How can you tell?

ELRIS

He's still breathing.

CROSS

Good enough. Let me know when he wakes up, I have some groveling to do.

Cross' badge CHIRPS.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

Captain, the last shuttle of diplomats is coming in now.

CROSS

Understood. Quinlan, you ready?

QUINLAN

I'll follow you in a minute.

Cross nods.

CROSS

Y'lan, with me.

They both EXIT.

INT. CORRIDOR

Cross and Y'lan walk along it.

CROSS

Y'lan, I would appreciate it if you stayed well away from our guests the next few days.

Y'LAN

Captain, I did not seek to cause a confrontation.

CROSS

No, well, just stay out of the way. And if you do meet another one, and get itchy tentacles, please try and restrain yourself.

Y'LAN

I will try.

CROSS

No, Y'lan, you will succeed.

INT. SICKBAY

Elris and Quinlan as before.

ELRIS

Why are you going with him?

QUINLAN

I've been given escort duty.

ELRIS

What, you mean like prostitutes?

QUINLAN

No, like showing one of the ambassadors round the ships.

ELRIS

Neil must be desperate.

QUINLAN

Thanks for the vote of confidence. I have a Mr. Tooey to look after.

ELRIS

Mr. Tooey? Sounds like some kind of exotic vermin.

QUINLAN

Yes, well, I might not mention that to him. So... you two seem a little happier.

ELRIS

Hmm?

QUINLAN

You and our great captain.

ELRIS

Oh, right. Well, we sorted some things out.

QUINLAN

What like?

ELRIS

Just... things. I don't think we'll be at each other's throats anymore. I think he has enough on his plate at the moment.

QUINLAN

Sounds intriguing.

ELRIS

That's all there is to it. Seriously. Go on, Gossip Officer. Your ambassador awaits.

Quinlan GRINS and EXITS.

INT. ENGINEERING

TALORA is showing Ambassador J'lak and his wife and son around the ship. GREY, KINNAN and various SUPERNUMERARIES are busy at their stations.

TALORA

And this is Engineering.

PROUT

Dad! Engineering! Ask now!

J'LAK

All right, son, in a minute.

PROUT

Now, Dad!

J'LAK

Commandor Tricorder...

TALORA

It's Talora.

J'LAK

Oh is it? I'm terribly sorry, what have I you been calling you?

TALORA

Tricorder.

J'LAK'S WIFE

Don't mind him, Commander, he's as deaf as a post.

TALORA

That's okay.

J'LAK

Sorry. Anyway, Commander Patora, my son here is a big engineering freak...

J'LAK'S WIFE

He loves playing with his equipment back home. He's at it for hours.

J'LAK

And we were wondering if it might be possible if he could have a tour of Engineering.

TALORA

Of course. Lieutenant Grey?

Grey comes over.

TALORA (CONT'D)

LtLieutenant, this is Ambassador J'lak and his wife, Madame J'lak, and his son Prout. This is Lieutenant Grey, Chief of Engineering. They've just arrived for the conference.

J'LAK

Delighted to meet you, Lieutenant Gay.

GREY

Welcome on board the Enterprise.

TALORA

Mr. Prout here would like a tour of Engineering.

Beat.

GREY

Delighted to. Kinnan, come...

TALORA

Lieutenant, I think a tour would be better coming from the Chief of Engineering.

GREY

Oh. Right. Yes. Of course.

PROUT

Yay!

J'LAK

We'll pick him up in a few hours. Now, Commander Petunia, I'm very interested in seeing your Astrometrics Lab...

They leave, leaving Prout and Grey staring at each other.

GREY

Hello. My name is Lieutenant Erik Grey. You may call me Lieutenant Grey.

PROUT

Sup.

GREY

Pardon?

PROUT

Can I press the buttons?

GREY

No.

PROUT

Oh go on.

Grey leads him over to a console.

GREY

You may press that one.

He points.

PROUT

This one?

He PRESSES the console. The LIGHTS go out.

GREY

No, that wasn't the one I was talking about.

The lights come back on again. Prout has vanished.

GREY (CONT'D)

Now try again, this time... Prout?
Where are you?

Kinnan taps him on the shoulder. Grey looks. Prout is standing by the warp core, giving it a good kick.

PROUT

Ours is much bigger than this old thing.

GREY

(panicked)
Please don't kick the warp core!

INT. SHUTTLEBAY

There are a few scattered SHUTTLES around, but only one rather bored looking SUPERNUMERARY doing something. QUINLAN dashes in.

QUINLAN

Oh crap. Have I missed them?

SUPERNUMERARY

Yep.

QUINLAN

The ambassadors?

SUPERNUMERARY

Gone.

QUINLAN

The captain?

SUPERNUMERARY

Not happy.

QUINLAN

Dammit.

She goes to run out again when her comm chirps.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Cross to Quinlan.

QUINLAN

Captain, I'm sorry, I got waylaid.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

If you can find the time, we're having an informal get together in Ten Forward for the ambassadors. It would be nice if you could get there, but only if you can fit it

(MORE)

CROSS'S COMM VOICE (*CONT'D*)
into your busy schedule. I expect
Mr. Tooley will be waiting in his
quarters to be picked up.

QUINLAN
Captain, I...

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
(interrupting)
I don't want to hear it. Cross out.

SUPERNUMERARY
Busted.

QUINLAN
Oh, shut up.

INT. TEN FORWARD

There are several people standing round in AMBASSADORIAL
GARBS, including the J'LAKS, while the Starfleet personnel
are in their ceremonials, including TALORA, CROSS, and
PORTMAN. HAL is behind the bar as always, and is playing the
raconteur.

HAL
And the Bolian said: "Banana? I
thought it was a..."

PORTMAN
Thank you, Hal, that will be all.

He moves two of the AMBASSADORS away, and goes over to Cross.

PORTMAN (*CONT'D*)
I've never known anyone who had so
many jokes about Bolians.

CROSS
Yes. I did warn you about my crew.

PORTMAN
Yes. Speaking of tact, watch this...

Portman goes up to one of the ambassadors, NENLI.

PORTMAN (*CONT'D*)
Ambassador Nenli, I think this might
be the perfect time to speak to
Ambassador Skottry.

NENLI
That son of a...

PORTMAN

(interrupts)

Yes, yes, but I think it might time to bury the hatchet. Unfortunate term of phrase, actually...

NENLI

I will not.

PORTMAN

Listen. I know you are a reasonable man. A good man. And it's people like you we need in the Federation at the moment.

NENLI

Really?

PORTMAN

Absolutely. People with your intelligence are sorely lacking in the hierarchy at the moment.

NENLI

Well, yes, I imagine they are...

PORTMAN

But a sign of good faith would be if you were to try and resolve your world's differences with the Kolaks.

NENLI

But they dishonoured...

PORTMAN

I know, I know, but they didn't do it on purpose.

NENLI

But still...

PORTMAN

Please. You would be showing yourself to be the bigger man here.

Beat.

NENLI

All right.

He walks over to where Ambassador SKOTTRY is standing. Portman returns to Cross.

CROSS

Delicately done.

PORTMAN

Thank you.

CROSS

I'm not entirely clear why those two worlds are at war.

PORTMAN

I don't think it's technically possible for two pacifist worlds to be at war. Two more peaceful people you couldn't imagine.

CROSS

So...?

PORTMAN

It's more a playground spat. The Bolshak ruler, as a symbol of devotion to his new bride named an asteroid that encircles their two worlds after her.

CROSS

That's nice. Why did the Kolaks object?

PORTMAN

They didn't. They just blew it up.

CROSS

Why?

PORTMAN

They have a sport based around it. Imagine a world with no warfare, they have to work off aggression somehow, the Kolaks do it by blowing up asteroids.

CROSS

And the Bolshaks?

PORTMAN

Were not happy. It was a deadly insult.

CROSS

So what did they do?

PORTMAN

The worst punishment they could deal out.

CROSS

Which was?

PORTMAN

They refuse to speak to them anymore.

CROSS

That's it?

PORTMAN

It's a big thing in their world.
Still, they appear to be speaking to
each other now.

They watch the two Ambassadors for a moment. It soon becomes clear that they are not discussing the weather. Voices start being raised.

CROSS

They appear to be yelling at each
other.

Finally, Nenli strikes out at Skottry, and floors him, before stomping out. Cross and Portman rush over.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I thought you said they were
pacifists?

PORTMAN

See what happens when a world joins
the Federation? Ambassador, are you
all right?

SKOTTRY

He hit me.

PORTMAN

Yes he did.

SKOTTRY

On the nose.

They help him into a chair.

PORTMAN

There, there.

SKOTTRY

It hurts.

PORTMAN

Yes, yes.

Turns to Cross and whispers:

PORTMAN (CONT'D)

Might be a good idea to go and have
a word with Nenli.

CROSS

Right.

He goes and leaves.

INT. CORRIDOR

Cross hurries along it, and as he does so his comm chirrups.

ELRIS'S COMM VOICE

Elris to Cross.

CROSS

What is it, Doctor?

ELRIS' COMM VOICE

It's Ambassador Barke, sir, he's awake, and he's not happy. He wants to speak to you.

CROSS

Now?

ELRIS'S COMM VOICE

I'd say so. He's going quite red with fury.

Over her comm channel we hear a ROAR.

CROSS

Right. I'll be right there. Cross out.

He changes direction, and as he does so runs into QUINLAN.

QUINLAN

Captain.

CROSS

You haven't seen an Ambassador along here, have you?

QUINLAN

I was about to ask you the same thing.

CROSS

What?

QUINLAN

You know Mr. Tooley, the ambassador I'm meant to be watching?

CROSS

Yes...

QUINLAN

No one's seen him. The shuttle
manifest shows he was on it, but no
one's seen him since he came on board.
He's vanished.

OFF CROSS' REACTION WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SICKBAY

Barke is pacing around angrily while Elris and AGOLIVE are in the background. Cross enters.

CROSS
Ambassador Barke...

BARKE
Who are you?

CROSS
I'm Cross.

BARKE
Yes, I'm cross too. Can you imagine what that octopus did to me?

CROSS
I know, I'm sorry about that.

ELRIS
Ambassador Barke, if you'll just...

CROSS
Doctor, please leave this to me.

ELRIS
Fine. Good luck.

BARKE
All I wanted to do was look at his lab. It's my field, you see. I'm a scientist.

CROSS
As you know, Y'lan comes from a species... very different from most. He thinks differently, and

BARKE
He insulted me too. Said I had slurring speech, and an unsteady gait. I, Cornelius Barke. Esquire. Of the Galactic Consortium of Jolans, ruler of the third house of Barke on Jolan Prime, holder of the sacred keys of Loki from time immemorial.

As he has said this, he has slowly FLOATED up to the ceiling, much to Cross and Elris's amazement. Barke suddenly stops his spiel and looks around.

BARKE (CONT'D)
Why am I on the ceiling?

CROSS

I don't know.

(taps his comm badge)

Cross to Engineering, are you having some problems with environmental controls?

INT. ENGINEERING -- CONTINUOUS

Grey is in the foreground, looking harassed, while in the background we see Prout has erected a FORCEFIELD round one corner, behind which he is taunting Kinnan and several others, sticking his tongue out.

GREY

Yes, we're just trying to reroute now.

PROUT

NER NER ne NER NER!

KINNAN

Just wait 'til we get hold of you, you little brat!

GREY

Hang on, Captain, we'll have them back in a minute.

INT. SICKBAY -- CONTINUOUS

Cross, Elris and Agolive are all hanging onto things to stop them floating up. Barke THRASHES about wildly on the ceiling.

BARKE

Getmedowngetmedowngetmedown...!

CROSS

Just a second, Ambassador.

GREY'S COMM VOICE

All right, gravity coming back on... now.

Barke comes to earth with a resounding BANG.

BARKE

OWWWWW!

CROSS

Doctor.

Elris rushes forward and administers to Barke, who landed on his head, and is now sitting up, ruefully rubbing it.

ELRIS

That's going to be a nasty lump.

She runs a tricorder over him.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

I can settle it, though, it'll take about half an hour. There's been no permanent damage done.

BARKE

Damage? DAMAGE? That's it, I'm leaving right now!

CROSS

No, no, no, no. Ambassador. Ambassador Barke, how would it be if I arranged a special tour of Y'lan's lab for you? I promise he won't hit you again. A special treat. On us.

Barke considers.

BARKE

Very well. But I'm warning you, if I get injured one more time, I'm leaving.

CROSS

I don't think anyone can be that unlucky, Ambassador.

INT. ENGINEERING

Grey and Kinnan are still working to lower the forcefield. Prout continues to wave at them behind it.

KINNAN

Charmer, isn't he?

GREY

We have to be diplomatic, he is an honored guest.

KINNAN

I'd like to give him a smack on his honored bottom. There.

The forcefield goes pzzt, and DISAPPEARS.

GREY

Right, Mr. Prout. I think our tour has...

PROUT

Awww. NO! I promise I'll be good. Hey, what's in here?

He sees an OPEN JEFFERIES TUBE HATCH, and scurries in.

KINNAN

Think we can get him a tranquilizer?

GREY

This is not what I imagined I would be doing when I signed up.

KINNAN

Go get him, sir.

INT. JEFFERIES TUBE

Prout has scrambled a little way along it. He opens his pocket, and produces from it a RAT, which looks around. Prout sniggers as he lets it go.

PROUT

Go, little guy, go!

The rat runs off as Grey appears at the other end.

GREY

Hey Prout. Come out of there!

PROUT

Why?

GREY

Erm... There's a very interesting gel pack out here.

PROUT

I'm tired of Engineering.

GREY

Oh.

INT. ENGINEERING

GREY turns to KINNAN.

GREY

What else do kids like?

KINNAN

Eating.

GREY

Brilliant. Hey, Prout, how about we go and get something to eat?

PROUT

(from inside the
Jefferies tube)

What like?

Grey turns to Kinnan again.

GREY

What like?

KINNAN

I dunno. Jelly?

GREY

No. I know, I remember being a child quite well, we used to eat ice cream. All kids love ice cream. Hey, Prout, how about some nice ice cream?

PROUT

(from inside the
Jefferies tube)

What's ice cream?

Grey groans.

INT. CORRIDOR

Quinlan and Cross are walking along it.

QUINLAN

We can't contact Tooley's world by subspace.

CROSS

I've had a communication from Tooley's personal aide, but I can't reach him at the moment. Because of the space on the shuttle, he couldn't join him, so is having to wait until the next shuttle leaves. He was a little concerned -- it would seem the Ambassador has some communication problems?

QUINLAN

In what way?

CROSS

In that he can't, without his medicine.

QUINLAN

And let me guess -- he doesn't have any with him?

CROSS

Right. So he won't be able to call for help.

QUINLAN

Terrific. The odd thing is no one can remember Tooley being on board the shuttle.

CROSS

Quinlan, there were thirty four people on board that shuttle, no one was going to notice anyone they didn't know.

QUINLAN

Where can he have got to?

CROSS

His aide said something about communication difficulties as well. The comm link was very weak, I could hardly see him. I've alerted Dojar, although I should point out if you'd been at the shuttle when it arrived...

QUINLAN

Yes, thank you Captain.

CROSS

I don't want a stranger wandering around my ship. I haven't told the Admiral yet we've lost one of our Ambassadors, and I don't want to tell him. I have enough to worry about with Ambassadors fighting each other, let alone this.

QUINLAN

I will find him, sir.

CROSS

Make sure you do.

He enters a TURBOLIFT. Quinlan sighs. She leans against the wall for a moment, and then frowns. Running down the corridor as fast as possible is the RAT. It disappears around a corner. Quinlan quickly follows it, but it has gone by the time she arrives. She taps her comm badge.

QUINLAN

Quinlan to Dojar.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

No, we haven't found him yet.

QUINLAN

No, we have another problem.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

DOJAR walks quickly towards the door, and calls to two guards who seem to be working at a console.

DOJAR

You two. We have a new problem.

GUARD 1

What?

DOJAR

We have a rat loose on the Enterprise.
Find him.

GUARD 2

What about the missing...?

DOJAR

Find the rat. He was seen on Deck 5.

GUARD 1

What about you, sir?

DOJAR

No, I think I'll stay here.

GUARD 1

You're not scared of a rat, are you?

DOJAR

Of course not.

They look at him, disbelieving.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Right, I'll come too.

(beat)

Well, go on, get moving. We can't
have vermin on this ship with all
these VIPs about!

They quickly hurry out.

INT. SICKBAY

Elris is tending to Barke's lump.

BARKE

How much longer will this take?

ELRIS

Not much longer. Nearly done...

Grey hurries in with Prout, who is covered in a RASH and
BOILS, and is looking most disgruntled.

GREY

Doctor, sorry to interrupt, but we
have a problem.

PROUT

He's poisoned me!

ELRIS
(to Barke)
Excuse me a minute.

She goes over and runs a tricorder over Prout.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
What happened?

GREY
No one told me this species was
allergic to ice cream.

PROUT
Wait until I tell I tell my Dad you
tried to kill me!

ELRIS
This isn't a problem. Hang on.

She goes over to get a HYPOSPRAY.

PROUT
You are so fired now.

GREY
Please don't tell him.

PROUT
Why not?

GREY
I'll -- I'll -- I don't know what
I'll do, but I'll do it if you don't
tell him.

Elris returns and INJECTS Prout.

PROUT
OW!

ELRIS
Oh, don't be such a baby.

Almost immediately his rash begins to clear and his boils
start to dissipate.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
It'll be all gone in a few minutes.

BARKE
Nurse!

ELRIS
I gotta get back to him. You okay?

PROUT

No.

ELRIS

Tough. Lieutenant, no dairy products.

GREY

Well, I know that now.

Elris goes back to Barke.

PROUT

I'm going to my father now.

GREY

No. I'll do anything.

Beat.

PROUT

Anything?

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Nenli is glaring out of the window. Cross enters, followed by Skottry.

SKOTTRY

Oh no, I'm not meeting him again.
He'll hit me.

NENLI

You asked for it, you bounder!

CROSS

Gentlemen, please. Now calm down,
both of you. I've asked you here
now to try and resolve this dispute.
For supposedly peaceful people, you
spend a lot of time bickering.

NENLI

We have nothing to say to each other.

CROSS

And yet you spend a great deal of
time saying it. Now look. You both
want to join the Federation. The
Federation wants you to join. But
we can't sanction your membership if
you are still squabbling about this.
Now surely, you can find some way to
resolve this problem?

NENLI

I don't see how until they apologize,
they dishonored our great leader's
wife.

SKOTTRY

Us, apologize? I like that! You
started it.

NENLI

We did not!

SKOTTRY

Yes you did, you invaded Polant!

NENLI

Rubbish.

CROSS

Could someone explain what you are
talking about?

SKOTTRY

Captain, for many millennia, our two
worlds have had a centennial sunship
race. But in the last race, the
Bolshaks cheated.

NENLI

Lies, lies, lies.

CROSS

How?

SKOTTRY

They took a short cut. Through the
Polant Nebula.

NENLI

You can't prove that.

CROSS

So, in retaliation you blew up their
comet?

NENLI

Asteroid.

CROSS

Sorry, asteroid.

SKOTTRY

We didn't know it was theirs.

NENLI

But you just said we started it when
we went through Polant.

SKOTTRY

So you admit it!

NENLI

I admit nothing, you cad!

SKOTTRY

You jackanapes!

NENLI

Say that to my face.

SKOTTRY

You...

CROSS

(interrupts)

GENTLEMEN.

He looks very annoyed.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Let me get this straight. You guys are at war because one of you cheated in a race?

SKOTTRY

Yes.

NENLI

No.

CROSS

Fine. Then we have to, we have to...

He suddenly stops, as he sees running under the table the rat. He pauses, staring at it.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Ambassadors, would you mind awfully if you came out of here for a minute?

NENLI

Why?

CROSS

I, erm, want to show you something.

SKOTTRY

I have no objection.

NENLI

Me neither.

Cross quickly hurries them out, blocking their view of the rat.

INT. CORRIDOR

Cross continues to push Nenli and Skottry out from the room, but stops again when he sees Dojar crawling along the floor of the corridor, with a tricorder.

CROSS
Lieutenant?

DOJAR
Ah, sir. We're just, erm...

CROSS
I think you may want to look in there.

He points into the conference room.

DOJAR
Thank you sir.

Dojar goes in.

NENLI
How extraordinary.

CROSS
Don't mind him, he's from Cardassia.
I assure you, not all my crew crawl
around on their hands and knees...

PROUT (O.S.)
Whheeee, horsey!

Grey and Prout appear round the corner, Grey giving Prout a piggy back, while Prout whips him energetically. Grey's face is a picture of suffering as he runs past Cross and the ambassadors.

GREY
Captain. Ambassadors.

PROUT
Faster, horsey!

They disappear again round another corner. The Ambassadors turn to Cross.

CROSS
So... can we arrange to meet up a
little later again?

The Ambassadors both harrumph and walk off in opposite directions. Cross closes his eyes as Dojar comes back out.

DOJAR
He's not there now, sir. Are you all
right?

CROSS

Some days I don't know why I get out
of bed...

He walks off as Dojar stares after him as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise continues in orbit of Phelan.

CROSS (V.O.)

Captain's Log, supplemental. Concerns are mounting for the safety of Ambassador Tooey, who still remains missing. Add to this the continuing problem of the Bolshak/Kolak situation, and this conference is turning into more of a headache than we anticipated.

INT. ENGINEERING

BOYLE ENTERS, and walks over to Kinnan.

BOYLE

Robert.

KINNAN

Afternoon, Boyle. Shift starting?

BOYLE

Yep. Where's Erik? I mean, Lieutenant Grey?

KINNAN

Erik, is it?

Beat. Boyle is not amused.

KINNAN (CONT'D)

I don't know. He was looking after one of the ambassador's children, but that was hours ago. I doubt he's still with him.

BOYLE

Oh.

KINNAN

So, you two are getting on well, eh?

BOYLE

I guess.

Her comm badge chirrups.

GREY'S COMM VOICE

Ensign Boyle, will you please report to my quarters at once.

BOYLE

On my way.

KINNAN

Going to his quarters? He's keen.
Don't be too long, will you?

Boyle goes BRIGHT RED.

BOYLE

I'm sure it's not -- I mean...

Kinnan looks at her, grinning. She turns around and quickly
EXITS.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Cross, Portman, Nenli and Skottry are present.

PORTMAN

Gentlemen, we are not leaving this
room until we reach a solution to
this problem.

NENLI

Then we will be here a long time.
Skottry never admits when he's wrong.

SKOTTRY

That's the kettle calling the pot
black.

CROSS

We are not going to get anywhere
here until people start giving ground.
Ambassador Nenli, I am going to ask
you this once, and once only. Did
you cheat at this race?

NENLI

Certainly not!
(beat)
We just took a shortcut.

SKOTTRY

HA!

CROSS

And Ambassador Skottry, did you in
fact know that that comet...

NENLI

Asteroid.

CROSS

...that that asteroid was a special
one to the Bolshaks?

Long pause.

SKOTTRY

We might have done.

NENLI

You damn well did, you rotter.

CROSS

Okay, okay. I think I know the only way we can get back on track here.

NENLI

What's that?

SKOTTRY

Do tell us.

CROSS

We should hold the race again.

The Ambassadors look at each other.

INT. CORRIDOR

Boyle arrives outside Grey's quarters and rings the bell.

GREY (O.S.)

(sounding strained)

Come in!

She opens the door, and a PADD flies past her into the hall. She enters cautiously.

INT. GREY'S QUARTERS

Normally Spartan living area, but now a real mess. Prout has upended the bed, behind which Grey is cowering, while Prout flings whatever he can get hold of at him, namely a lot of padds.

GREY

Quick, get down!

Boyle crouches down behind the bed with Grey.

BOYLE

What's going on?

GREY

We're reenacting the last moments of the Dominion War.

BOYLE

It wasn't like this in my history book.

GREY

No, it wasn't -- sssh.

He holds up a finger. There is silence. Cautiously, they peer over the top of the bed. Prout jumps at them.

PROUT

Boo!

GREY

Oh geez. Well, at least you've stopped throwing things... what?

He stops, as he sees Prout has gone wide eyed at the sight of Boyle.

PROUT

Hello.

GREY

Erm. Prout, this is Ensign Boyle.
Boyle, this is Prout.

PROUT

I like you.

BOYLE

Why thank you, Prout.

Prout runs forward and gives Boyle a big hug.

BOYLE (CONT'D)

Well, I'm pleased to meet you too.
You're a friendly little fellow,
aren't you? Where are you from? Okay,
I think you can let go of me now.

Prout is still hugging her, and copping a feel of her ass at the same time. Grey spots this.

GREY

Hey, stop that!

He pulls him off her.

GREY (CONT'D)

Right.

BOYLE

Oh, Erik, he's only a kid. Where's
he from?

GREY

His father's J'lak. I have to look
after him for a few hours. I'm running
out of things to do.

BOYLE

Why don't we take you to the holodeck?

GREY

I don't know about that, there aren't any suitable programs there.

BOYLE

I have a personal one I take everywhere with me, might do the trick.

GREY

You know you're not meant to use the holodeck for recreation...

BOYLE

(warningly)

Erik.

GREY

Holodeck. Sounds a good idea. What you say, Prout?

PROUT

I love you, Boyle.

INT. CORRIDOR

TWO SECURITY GUARDS are running along, and out of a TURBOLIFT comes DOJAR, who joins them quickly.

GUARD 1

We picked it up in section 12. One life form, small, isolated. Must be the rat.

DOJAR

Good work. Forcefield?

GUARD 2

Yes, but I think we caught him as we raised it, it stuttered.

DOJAR

Well, if we fried him, all the better.

They turn the corridor to find the FORCEFIELD activated. Behind it is BARKE, with a BIG BURN on his uniform and front of his face. He does not look happy.

BARKE

Your Captain will hear about this! How dare you imprison me, Cornelius Barke, of the Galactic Consortium of Jolans, ruler of the third house of

(MORE)

BARKE (*CONT'D*)

Barke on Jolan Prime, holder of the sacred keys of Loki from time immemorial?

Beat.

GUARD 1

That doesn't look much like our rat.

DOJAR

Ambassador, I'm terribly sorry.

BARKE

Not half as sorry as you will be when this forcefield is lowered, my scaly friend.

GUARD 2

Got a way with words, hasn't he?

DOJAR

(whispers)

On the count of three, lower the forcefield.

GUARD 1

And?

DOJAR

On four, run like hell.

INT. TEN FORWARD

It is nearly empty, after the Ambassadorial party. Hal is behind the bar, cleaning some glasses. Quinlan enters.

QUINLAN

Hey, Hal.

HAL

We're closed, Quinlan.

QUINLAN

I'm not here for a drink, Hal.

HAL

Really? Wow, first time for everything.

QUINLAN

I don't appreciate the sarcasm. I was just wondering if you've seen an ambassador about?

HAL

What's he look like?

QUINLAN

I don't know.

HAL

Well, what's his race look like?

QUINLAN

I don't know. They've only recently made themselves known.

HAL

What was he wearing?

QUINLAN

I... don't know.

HAL

So... you don't know what he looks like, and you don't know what he's wearing. It's not a lot to go on, is it?

QUINLAN

Hal, I'm not in the mood.

She turns and starts to go out.

HAL

Oh, well then, you won't want to see that guy over in the corner, then.

He POINTS and we see in a darkened corner a SMALL, seemingly bald figure, staring out into space.

QUINLAN

Is that him?

HAL

He's one of the ambassadors.

QUINLAN

Thanks.

She goes over to him and as she does so, she SNIFFS the air. She winces slightly.

QUINLAN (*CONT'D*)

Ambassador Tooey?

NIB

No.

QUINLAN

Oh. Sorry to disturb you.

NIB

That's okay. I didn't think you'd be looking for me. Nobody does.

Quinlan makes a face and SIGHS. She goes over and sits by him, trying not to react to the smell.

QUINLAN

Why's that?

NIB

Nobody ever does. Even on my homeworld, nobody bothers with me. At conferences they always forget I'm there. Not much call for an off-world Ambassador on a world like ours. We don't tend to mix with other people much.

QUINLAN

Why's that?

NIB

Because of our odor. It seems to be offensive to other races.

QUINLAN

Really? I... I hardly noticed.

NIB

And so my work doesn't get me out much. I spend most nights at home, working on my memoirs.

(gloomily)

This is the most excitement I've had in four decades.

QUINLAN

Well... I'm glad you're enjoying yourself.

NIB

Yes, it's nice to be ignored by a totally different set of people to normal.

QUINLAN

Actually, I kind of know what you're talking about.

NIB

Really?

QUINLAN

Yeah. Being an outcast, alone. Sometimes you feel people don't understand you at all.

NIB

They understand me, they just don't care. I'm not interesting enough to be disliked.

QUINLAN

There, there. Now you're joining the Federation, I'm sure you've got an exciting future ahead of yourself. Maybe even a second volume of your memoirs, eh?

NIB

I doubt that, the first volume is only seven pages long, and three of them are the index.

QUINLAN

Yes, well, I really have to be going...

NIB

Wait. Won't you join me in a drink? This is the longest conversation I've had since I had my house repainted.

QUINLAN

Erm... okay, why not?

Nib hands her a FLASK.

NIB

It tastes better than I smell.

She smiles weakly and takes a swig. She looks surprised.

QUINLAN

Not bad. It tastes kind of like... like... Woah, I feel dizzy...

She goes cross-eyed, and falls off her chair. As she lies there, she sees our RAT scurrying across the floor towards the door.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Rat...

She closes her eyes as she passes out. Nib bends over her.

NIB

(to Hal)

Oh, quickly, she's fallen over.

As he says this, he PALMS Quinlan's COMM BADGE into his pocket, and then hurries over to the bar, where Hal is wiping a glass.

NIB (CONT'D)

She's passed out.

HAL

It's not the first time. I'll let her sleep it out for a bit.

NIB

Okay.

He hurries out.

INT. READY ROOM

Barke is PACING UP AND DOWN YELLING at CROSS, who is behind his desk.

BARKE

This ship is a deathtrap, a veritable deathtrap! It's not safe for man, woman or miscellaneous sexes! How the Federation had the nerve to host this conference here is beyond me. I fully intend to compile a full report to my people, recommending we cease all communications with you immediately!

CROSS

Ambassador Barke, I cannot apologize enough.

BARKE

Damn straight you can't. How I've been treated is an outrage, an outrage! Do you hear me?

CROSS

Loud and clear.

BARKE

I will not tolerate it! I, Cornelius Barke. Esquire. Of the Galactic Consortium...

CROSS

(to himself)

Oh spare me.

(out loud)

Ambassador, please

BARKE

What is it?

CROSS

Surely there must be some way to persuade you to stay?

BARKE

To stay a further day would be to risk life and limb, and I wouldn't want to deprive my world.

CROSS

I can assure you, life is not normally this dangerous on the Enterprise. Well, not like this anyway. What's happened to you has just been a series of unfortunate accidents.

BARKE

Accidents? That spider hit me!

CROSS

That might not have been an accident.

BARKE

I cannot believe a ship like this continues to function. I'm surprised it hasn't blown up by now. I know Enterprises have a habit of doing that anyway...

CROSS

We intend to be the exception to that rule.

BARKE

Well, you're not going about it very well from what I've seen.

CROSS

Look, I have an idea.

BARKE

What is it?

CROSS

You wanted to see the science lab, am I right?

BARKE

Indeed. As a man of science, I am always interested in xenotechnology. I came third in

my year on the subject.

CROSS

Impressive. How many were in your year?

BEAT.

BARKE

Many people.

CROSS

Listen, before the accident in sickbay
, I was going to have Y'lan show you
around it. How about if we still go
ahead with that?

BARKE

Y'lan is the scorpion, correct?

CROSS

I believe he prefers to be referred
to as a Q'tami.

BARKE

He is a strange fellow alright. Can
you guarantee my safety?

CROSS

Absolutely.

BARKE

It won't try and hit me again?

CROSS

Absolutely not.

BARKE

Well then, I accept.

CROSS

Thank you.

(taps comm badge)

Y'lan, report to my ready room
immediately.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Now is not a convenient time, Captain

CROSS

It was not a suggestion, Y'lan, it
was an order. Cross out.

BARKE

Very gracious of me in the
circumstances, don't you think?

CROSS

Oh, exceedingly so. You have been
most cooperative, Ambassador.

BARKE

Actually, to tell you the truth, I have another reason for staying.

CROSS

Why's that?

BARKE

The race. I am always a keen spectator of the Sunship races. Won quite a few grotzs over the years too, I can tell you.

CROSS

Gosh. Well, the race is this evening. Even now, the two competitors are powering up their ships...

INT. NENLI'S SHIP -- ENGINEERING

Nenli and his NUMBER TWO are sitting at a console.

NENLI

What do you mean, we don't have enough energy for mach twelve?

NUMBER TWO

I'm sorry, sir, I didn't know we were going to be racing. There just isn't enough solar energy here to get the power we need in time.

NENLI

Dammit! We cannot forfeit to that miscreant. Think!

NUMBER TWO

Thinking...

Nenli starts to PACE.

NENLI

Now, let me get this straight. We need power.

NUMBER TWO

Yes.

NENLI

Does it necessarily have to be solar?

NUMBER TWO

No. That's just our source, the energy is converted for our needs.

NENLI

So, we could get it from elsewhere,
then?

NUMBER TWO

Yes.

NENLI

From, say... the Enterprise?

NUMBER TWO

Ambassador, we couldn't do that!
They'd notice.

NENLI

Not if we were clever and took it
from a non-vital system.

NUMBER TWO

Like what?

NENLI

Something where a lot of power is
used but isn't necessary...

INT. BRIDGE

GUER at helm, SUKOTHAI at tactical, Talora in charge. Cross's ready room door opens and Cross, Y'lan and Barke enter, walking towards the turbolift.

CROSS

And if there's anything else you
need...

(brief hesitation)

...please don't hesitate to let me
know.

BARKE

Thank you, Captain, but I'm sure me
and Mr. Caterpillar here will get on
fine now.

Y'LAN

Y'lan.

BARKE

That's right.

The turbolift door opens. Barke and Y'lan enter and the door closes. Cross breathes a sigh of relief.

TALORA

Trouble, Captain?

CROSS

Yes, but I think it's sorted out now. The Ambassador has given me a headache.

INT. TURBOLIFT

Barke and Y'lan standing still.

BARKE

So having all those long limbs must be very useful, eh?

Y'LAN

Yes.

BARKE

Bet the ladies love you, eh? Ha ha!

Y'LAN

Why would females prefer me more than males?

BARKE

Well... oh. You're one of those, are you? Great. Well, no funny business with me, I can see you coming. Not that I want to see you... how long does this lift take?

INT. CORRIDOR

There is a turbolift door at the end. Nenli is by it with a small BOX with flashing lights, by an OPEN CONDUIT. Number Two stands at a junction a little away.

NUMBER TWO

Right, all clear!

NENLI

Good!

He presses the box into the conduit and presses a button. His box starts to hum.

INT. TURBOLIFT

Barke and Y'lan as before. Suddenly the lights begin to fade.

BARKE

What the...?

Suddenly a red alert starts to flash.

COMPUTER VOICE

Emergency, emergency. Loss of power imminent. Evacuate immediately -

BARKE

What's happening? The lift's stopped.

Y'LAN

I believe it will start to move again
in a moment. I would hold onto
something.

BARKE

Why?

The lift suddenly LURCHES...

INT. TURBOLIFT SHAFT

We see the lift PLUMMETTING down, before smashing into the
bottom with a resounding CRASH.

INT. CORRIDOR

Nenli and Number Two as before. Nenli reacts to the noise.

NUMBER TWO

What was that?

NENLI

I think we should get out of here.

NUMBER TWO

Agreed.

They quickly run away, Nenli forgetting to put the conduit
back on.

INT. BRIDGE

As before. Cross looks at Sukothai.

CROSS

What was that?

SUKOTHAI

Turbolift 3, sir. It lost all power,
fell five decks...

CROSS

Tell me that wasn't the one...

Sukothai looks at him and nods. Cross taps his comm badge.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Cross to Y'lan. Are you two okay?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

I am fine sir, I was able to brace
myself.

CROSS
And the Ambassador?

INT. TURBOLIFT -- CONTINUOUS

It is dark and smoky, with only RED emergency lighting. Y'LAN has his many tentacles about the lift, and amongst them is BARKE, who is semi-unconscious, suspended by the Q'tami. He has evidently hit his head again, as there is a small trickle of blood coming from his forehead.

BARKE
(delirious, singing)
I am the seal, cooo, cooo...

Y'LAN
The Ambassador appears to be delirious, Captain. He is making a strange noise.

INT. BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

As before. CROSS winces.

CROSS
Oh bloody hell, not again.

OFF HIS ANXIOUS EXPRESSION WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. SICKBAY

Elris and ATKINSON are tending to Barke, who is lying flat on a bed. Y'lan is in the background. Cross and Portman hurry in.

CROSS

How is he?

BARKE

I'm tickety-boo, Captain, and thanks for asking, I really appreciate it. What a nice man you are. A gentleman...

CROSS

Doctor?

ELRIS

He has concussion.

BARKE

That's right, I have con-con-concussion, wheeeee!

PORTMAN

Ambassador Barke, I am so sorry this has happened.

CROSS

We are doing everything in our power to find out what happened.

PORTMAN

From now on, you are having an armed guard

BARKE

Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. Now. Who are you again?

PORTMAN

I am Admiral Portman.

BARKE

Admiral Portman? Ha ha, what a stupid name. Not like me. My name is Barke. That's spelt B-L-R-Z- erm... how does it go?

PORTMAN

Doctor, how long will this last?

ELRIS

He'll be all right in a few hours,
I'm going to give him a sedative
until it wears off.

CROSS

A shame, I prefer him like this.

PORTMAN

Neil?

CROSS

At least he's not complaining and
spitting in my face. Keep us posted,
Doctor.

ELRIS

I always do.

Portman and Cross turn to go, and they are walking out the door

BARKE

Don't worry about me, Porters old
chum, I'll be as right as reign,
with this pretty nurse...

He looks at Elris. BEAT.

BARKE (CONT'D)

Actually, scrub that, she's an ugly
old cow. Ha ha ha!

Elris shoves a HYPOSPRAY into his arm.

INT. CORRIDOR

Portman and Cross walk down it.

PORTMAN

Poor guy.

CROSS

Well, you know as well as I do, you
board the Enterprise, anything can
happen. And usually does.

PORTMAN

You discovered what caused the power
drain?

CROSS

It wasn't an accident. Somebody
deliberately tapped into the conduit.
We found DNA at the scene so it
shouldn't take too long to find out
who it was...

He stops as he sees the RAT running along the floor. Swiftly, Cross turns Portman and starts walking him the other way.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Actually, there's something I have to show you.

(taps comm badge)

Dojar, Deck Ten.

PORTMAN

What's that?

CROSS

Nothing.

INT. QUINLAN'S QUARTERS

The lights are off, but the place is quite neat. Suddenly, the door OPENS and Nib ENTERS. He closes it behind him. He walks over to a computer console, and turns it on.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Level four access requested. Please enter clearance code.

And takes out Quinlan's COMM BADGE. He connects it to a special-looking TRICORDER, and presses a couple of buttons. The tricorder speaks in Quinlan's voice.

QUINLAN'S VOICE

Clearance code Quinlan One-Seven-Alpha-Gamma.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Access granted.

NIB

Computer, show me areas containing caesium gas. List one at a time.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Areas containing caesium gas. Engineering.

NIB

Too crowded. Next.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Sickbay.

NIB

Nope. Too many sick people, I can't stand sick people. Next.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Science lab, deck seven.

NIB

Hold. Who is in science lab at present?

COMPUTER'S VOICE

The science lab is empty at present.

NIB

Perfect. Thank you, nice computer.

He stands up and goes out the door. On the screen we see a schematic of Y'lan's science lab.

INT. CORRIDOR

Just outside the holodeck. Boyle is downloading a program from her padd into the console with Prout holding onto her leg. Grey is standing by them.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Program complete.

BOYLE

There. I think you'll like this, Prout.

PROUT

Yes.

The door opens. They walk into...

INT. HOLODECK -- CLOWN WORLD

The scene is a circus ring, with clowns everywhere. There are posters on the wall saying WELCOME TO CLOWN WORLD! The clowns are doing everything you can imagine clowns doing, including juggling, climbing up stepladders with buckets of water, unicycling and throwing custard pies at each other. Boyle enters, followed by Prout and Grey.

BOYLE

Welcome to Clown World!

GREY

You've got to be kidding.

A clown approaches them.

CLOWN

Welcome to Clown World! I'm Chuckles, your guide.

BOYLE

Chuckles!

She hugs him.

GREY

Oh my God...

Prout has run off at this point.

CHUCKLES

What's wrong with him?

BOYLE

He's just not in the mood.

CHUCKLES

Oh, he's a grumpy grog then. Smile!

Chuckles grabs Grey's lips and pushes them up to make them smile.

GREY

Computer, delete character: Chuckles.

Chuckles SHIMMERS into nothing.

BOYLE

Oh, Erik, you're just like Frowns,
the clown who forgot how to smile.

GREY

I cannot believe you come here for
fun.

BOYLE

It's great, isn't it?

Prout reappears with a water pistol and SQUIRTS Grey straight
in the face with it. He laughs and runs off again.

GREY

Oh yes, it's fabulous.

He wipes himself down.

BOYLE

He seems to be enjoying himself,
anyway.

GREY

I do not appreciate this at all.

BOYLE

Oh, where's your sense of humor?

GREY

I'm sorry, I do not find clowns
amusing.

BOYLE

Oh come on. Lighten up. If you're a good boy, I'll show you my special place behind the bleachers.

She's looking at him sexily now.

GREY

Your special place, huh?

BOYLE

Uh huh. Not even Brains, the clever clown, knows about it.

GREY

Sounds intriguing...

She leads him off as Prout POURS water over another clown.

INT. TEN FORWARD

Hal is sitting Quinlan up, trying to wake her up. She is making small grunting noises, but is still pretty out of it. Dojar enters.

DOJAR

Hal, you haven't seen a rat... What's going on?

HAL

Miss Quinlan had another episode.

DOJAR

Oh no.

He walks over to them.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Quinlan, Quinlan?

HAL

She's moaning every so often, but I can't seem to bring her out of it.

DOJAR

Hmmm, I know an old Cardassian remedy. Can I use your replicator?

HAL

Sure.

Dojar walks over to it.

DOJAR

Rakitjino, with membari spices and essence of Kalayla root.

It SHIMMERS into view. He takes it and walks back over.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Stand back. Quinlan, drink this.

Quinlan mumbles but takes a sip. Then another. Suddenly her eyes open wide.

QUINLAN

Water. Water. NOW!

Hal hurries off and gets a jug. He brings it back. Quinlan downs half of it, and shakes her head vigorously.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Phew, what the hell was that?

DOJAR

It's good, isn't it? Come on, let's get you to bed...

QUINLAN

Wait. Where's the guy that was here?

DOJAR

What guy?

QUINLAN

Small, bald, smelled funny. He was the one that did this to me.

DOJAR

What?

QUINLAN

He gave me something to drink and, bang, I'm out.

DOJAR

Odd. Crewman?

QUINLAN

No. Ambassador.

DOJAR

That description doesn't match any of the Ambassadors I've seen. Was it your missing one?

QUINLAN

No.

(she feels for her
comm)

Damnit, my comm badge isn't here!

DOJAR

I'll get security onto it. We'll find him.

QUINLAN

Yeah, like you've found my missing ambassador?

DOJAR

Well, at least we have a description of this one.

QUINLAN

And like you found the rat?

DOJAR

I wish I hadn't woken you up now.

INT. READY ROOM

Nenli is standing before Portman and Cross, while to one side Skottry stands looking pleased.

NENLI

I don't know what you're talking about.

CROSS

Rubbish. You endangered the life of one of my crewmen, and a fellow Ambassador.

SKOTTRY

And what's worse, you were cheating again!

NENLI

I was not!

SKOTTRY

You were too! It is expressively written in the rules you only use your own steam in the race.

NENLI

Rubbish. Where does it say that?

SKOTTRY

Paragraph seven, point C. I'll have a copy sent to you. If you can read them, that is.

NENLI

How dare you! You insolent...

CROSS

Ambassador Skottry, I think it might be better if you leave.

SKOTTRY

Am I to take it the Ambassador forfeits the race?

NENLI

I will not. Captain, it is entirely unfair

CROSS

Shut up! Both of you! I cannot tolerate much more of this. The race will go ahead, if only to stop this arguing. However, Ambassador Nenli, you will be punished.

SKOTTRY

Give me a five minute start.

NENLI

Five minutes? Five minutes? We might as well not bother racing at all! Five minutes, my foot is what I say to that sir.

SKOTTRY

And you say it so well.

CROSS

Ambassador Nenli, Admiral Portman and I believe your world should not be punished for the actions of one individual. As such, talks to allow your world's entry to membership to the Federation will continue. However, you are no longer welcome on this ship. You must stay on board your own from now on. Do I make myself clear?

NENLI

Perfectly.

SKOTTRY

Ha! You got in trouble.

CROSS

Thank you, gentlemen, that will be all.

They both nod stiffly and walk out.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I don't think this day is ever going to end.

Portman smiles, and then frowns slightly.

PORTMAN

Neil. Was that a rat I saw in the corridor before?

INT. SICKBAY

It is quieter than before, with just Elris and Barke around. Elris checks the sleeping ambassador and then walks through to her office for a moment. She sighs, takes a sip from her mug. Then she frowns, as she sees the RAT scampering round and behind a table in her lab. She follows it, but as she does so ATKINSON comes in, and the rat runs out.

ELRIS

Damn. Elris to maintenance, we have a rat down here.

SUPERNUMERARY'S COMM VOICE

We're on it, Doctor.

ATKINSON

A rat? I don't believe it.

ELRIS

Today I'll believe anything.

She walks back through into sickbay's main area. She stops and stares for a minute.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Oh no...

Barke is nowhere to be seen.

INT. CORRIDOR

Dojar and Quinlan are walking along quickly.

DOJAR

With all these strangers wandering around, it's imperative we find this Nib of yours.

Suddenly the rat runs into the corridor and stops, staring at them.

QUINLAN

Oh my God. Don't move.

DOJAR

I wasn't planning on it.

They stare at the rat and the rat stares at them.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Now what?

QUINLAN

I don't know.

The three continue to stare at each other for a moment.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

I think we're going to have to move again.

DOJAR

But if we move, he'll run off again.

QUINLAN

Good point.

BEAT.

DOJAR

I have a plan.

QUINLAN

What?

Dojar suddenly whips out his PHASER and shoots at the rat. It SQUEAKS and runs like hell again down the corridor.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Don't shoot it!

DOJAR

Don't shoot it? It's a rat!

QUINLAN

Poor little fella.

DOJAR

Poor little...?! We have to get him, he's vermin.

QUINLAN

You don't like rats very much do you?

DOJAR

No. When I was young, my brother tried to make me eat raw vole. I think that's where it comes from.

QUINLAN

Come on, let's get after it.

AS THEY START TO GO:

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Intruder alert! Intruder alert!

DOJAR

What now.

(Taps comm badge)

Security team, report.

GUARD 1'S COMM VOICE

We have an unauthorized entry into
Y'lan's security lab.

DOJAR

On my way. That could be your bald
friend now.

QUINLAN

Or Ambassador Tooey.

DOJAR

Or the rat.

QUINLAN

Hell, let's be honest, it could be
anyone.

They move out quickly.

INT. Y'LAN'S SCIENCE LAB

With red alarms still flaring, Nib is very calmly continuing to place what looks like a small BOMB under Y'lan's table. He finally pushes a button, and hurries to the door. As he exits it, Barke appears.

BARKE

Greetings kind sir. You appear to
have lost your hair. Well, never
mind, you know what they say, hair
today, gone tomorrow, ha ha!

Nib pushes past him and out. Barke grunts and walks in.

BARKE (CONT'D)

Ah-ha! Spiderman's lair. Terrific.

He staggers around for a moment, blearily eyed. He reaches the table just as a SECURITY TEAM, headed by Dojar, appears. Quinlan is in the background, as is Y'lan. Dojar walks in, and points a phaser at Barke.

DOJAR

Stand away from the table, Ambassador.

BARKE

Hello, Ambassador.

(MORE)

BARKE (CONT'D)

I was just examining this table. It has flashing lights, look.

DOJAR

Ambassador, please.

Barke stands up to his full height, trying to look impressive.

BARKE

Don't address me in that uncouth way. I, Cornelius Barke. Esquire. Of the Galactic Concussion of Jacobites, ruler of the third house of Barke on Joker Prime, holder of the sacred keys of Lucky from time immemorial. So treat me with respect.

DOJAR

You're not well.

BARKE

I am fine. Look.

He stands up again, sways suddenly, and falls over. As he does so, he grabs at the table, but instead presses the bomb's button. It goes BLEEP and EXPLODES hurtling him across the room and out the door. He lands in a blackened heap by Y'lan. There is a moment's horrified pause as everyone looks at him and Y'lan.

Y'LAN

That's most peculiar. My table has never done that before.

OFF THEIR EXPRESSION WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise continues in orbit. There are several smaller craft around it, buzzing around.

COMMENTATOR'S VOICE

Hello, and welcome to the seventeenth annual solar ship race between the Kolaks and the Bolshaks. I'm your announcer, Curtis Moss.

(beat)

And the crowd is getting very excited as last minute preparations are being made for this most vital of contests. I can tell you, the atmosphere out there is really building.

INT. SICKBAY

Barke is on the operating table as Elris, Agolive and others run around, administering hyposprays and running scans over him. Dojar and Quinlan watch anxiously as Cross enters.

CROSS

How is he?

QUINLAN

Not good, Captain. Lea doesn't look too happy.

CROSS

Do we know who did this?

Dojar holds up a PADD, on which is a picture of Nib leaving Ten Forward.

DOJAR

This guy. We've identified him as Harrum Nib, a local black marketer. He's involved in a smuggling ring between the Bolshaks and Kolaks.

QUINLAN

I knew something smelled funny with him.

CROSS

Why would he do this?

DOJAR

His ring has profited enormously from the dispute between the two worlds -- with normal trade suspended, he has been able to make a fortune

(MORE)

DOJAR (CONT'D)

in contraband. I guess he wanted to make sure this conference didn't go ahead.

CROSS

This is impressive work. How did you find out about him?

DOJAR

We asked him.

CROSS

Pardon?

QUINLAN

We have him down in the Brig. It was easy to trace him, he was still carrying my comm badge.

DOJAR

We were lucky in a way, thanks to Mr. Barke over there, his bomb was triggered early and so hadn't finished priming itself. Another few minutes and we'd have lost the ship.

CROSS

I'm sure Mr. Barke will be thrilled to have been so helpful.

Elris comes over. Agolive and the other technicians move away from Barke to their instruments along the wall, running further tests.

ELRIS

He's stable. The blast didn't do as much damage as we'd feared, it was mostly peripheral.

CROSS

He's indestructible, isn't he?

ELRIS

I'm going to keep him under sedation for a few hours.

CROSS

To help him heal?

ELRIS

Captain, while he's under sedation he can not be wandering around the ship getting blown up or attacked by a forcefield or plunging to his death in a turbolift.

CROSS

Good point. Thank you, Doctor.
(beat, stares)
Erm, Doctor.

ELRIS

Yes?

CROSS

I know I'm not a medical man, but I
can't immediately see the practical
applications of having a rat on
Ambassador Barke's face.

They turn round, and look. The RAT is sitting on Barke's
face, washing itself.

QUINLAN

I know they say opposites attract,
but it would appear likes do as well.

CROSS

Dojar, get the rat. Now.

ELRIS

Computer, seal off sickbay, all exits.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Acknowledged.

ELRIS

Just in case.

Dojar painstakingly tiptoes up to the rat. Everyone holds
their breath. Suddenly Dojar lunges at the rat, which jumps.
Dojar sprawls over Barke, and nearly knocks him off. Elris
hurries over.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Please don't climb over my patient.

DOJAR

Where'd he go?

QUINLAN

There!

She hurries into a corner.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

I got him! I got him! Someone give
me something to hold him in!

Elris hurries over with a beaker.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Don't be ridiculous.

ELRIS

That's all I've got. Here.

She grabs the struggling rat and shoves it into the beaker. Dojar comes over.

DOJAR

Here. Stand back.

Elris puts the beaker onto the table, the rat struggling to get out of it. Dojar aims his phaser at it.

ELRIS

Wait, that's not a non-breakable...

Dojar FIRES. The rat is knocked out, and the beaker is shattered, bits of glasses flying everywhere.

DOJAR

Everyone all right?

They all pause, and then as one turn and look at BARKE, still blissfully asleep on his biobed. They walk over slowly and peer at him.

QUINLAN

You see any?

ELRIS

There's a bit.

She gently picks up a piece of glass from Barke's chin, which has made him bleed slightly. They inspect some more.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

All clear.

They all breathe a sigh of relief.

QUINLAN

Now that wasn't so hard, was it?

They all stare at her.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

Talora to Quinlan. Your Mr. Tooey's aide has arrived in the shuttlebay. He wishes to speak to you.

QUINLAN

Oh, dammit. All right, put him through down here.

She goes over to a screen and presses a button.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Quinlan here.

A biped male appears on the screen, with a long snout, raggedy ears and whiskers. In short, a rat on two legs.

TOOEY'S AIDE

Ah, hello. Miss Quinlan? I was just wondering whether you had had any luck in tracking down Mr. Tooley yet?

Quinlan turns and looks at the unconscious rat on the table.

QUINLAN

Do you know, I think I might have. I'll be right down.

INT. HOLODECK -- CLOWN WORLD

We are behind the bleachers. Grey and Boyle are cuddled up together. In the distance we can hear the clown circus continuing.

GREY

I'm beginning to see the attractions of Clown World.

BOYLE

I knew you would. Do you think we should check on Prout?

GREY

No, I'm sure he's fine.

PROUT (O.S.)

I can see your boobies.

They look up, aghast. Prout is watching them from above.

PROUT (CONT'D)

I saw everything!

GREY

That's it! Come here, you little...

He gets up as Prout runs off. Boyle pulls the angry engineer back.

BOYLE

Erik! Remember, he's an Ambassador's son.

GREY

I know, I'm just fed up of him. All day, he's been at me, at me, at me. It's like being in the war all over again.

BOYLE

Come on. We'd better go get him.

GREY

I'll go and get him. You should have seen his parents, they were all over him. Spoiled little brat.

They walk round into the main circus ring. They look around.

GREY (CONT'D)

Prout? Prout?

BOYLE

Come on, honey, we've got to go.

Suddenly they hear a CRY, Grey turns round and receives a CUSTARD PIE straight in his face. Prout laughs as he runs off again.

PROUT

You won't want to kiss him again now!

GREY

(beyond angry now)

Dammit, I don't care if his father is President of the Galaxy, that's it! Computer, arch.

The arch SHIMMERS into view.

BOYLE

(warningly)

Erik, what are you doing? Erik, be careful. Don't do anything you'll regret now. What are you doing?

GREY

Just making some modifications to the program. There.

He turns back to Boyle, smiling evilly.

GREY (CONT'D)

Now we wait.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise is sitting in space, with the two SOLAR SHIPS just in front of it. Another little ship, the COMMENTATOR'S POD, circles around.

COMMENTATOR'S VOICE

Here we go. The contestants are primed, the ships are ready, and we are now just awaiting the signal from the starters.

(MORE)

COMMENTATOR'S VOICE (CONT'D)

The race takes place over ten klacks,
and the ships will be going at speeds
of up to four hundred klacks an hour,
an impressive speed by anyone's
standards.

INT. TEN FORWARD

A LARGE CROWD have gathered to see the race. Cross and
Portman stand there too, watching.

PORTMAN

This had better go to plan.

CROSS

I'm sure it'll be fine.

Portman gives Cross a scathing look.

INT. HOLODECK -- CLOWN WORLD

Boyle and Grey stand in the center of the ring, Grey looking
smug.

GREY

Oh Prout, it's time to go. Come on,
son.

BOYLE

Here he is.

Prout appears, holding something behind his back. He walks
up slowly to the two of them.

GREY

(whispers to Boyle)
Here we go. Three.

EXT. SPACE

A small BUOY above the two markers has three lights on it.
The first goes out.

COMMENTATOR'S VOICE

Here we go! Get ready for action!
Three!

The second light goes out.

INT. NENLI'S SHIP -- ENGINEERING

Nenli and Number Two stand poised.

NENLI

Here we go.

INT. SKOTTRY'S SHIP -- BRIDGE

SKOTTRY looks tense too.

COMMENTATOR'S VOICE

Two.

INT. HOLODECK -- CLOWN WORLD

BOYLE and GREY as before, PROUT almost up to them now.

GREY

One.

INT. TEN FORWARD

Same as before. We can hear the commentator's voice over the comm system.

COMMENTATOR'S VOICE

Go! And they're off.

People lean forward, peering out of the window.

INT. HOLODECK -- CLOWN WORLD

As before. PROUT is almost up to GREY and BOYLE.

GREY

Now, computer!

He pulls Boyle back as an AVALANCHE of CUSTARD falls down onto Prout, absolutely drenching him in the stuff. He screams out as Grey grins.

INT. TEN FORWARD

The crowd as before. Cross and Portman frown.

PORTMAN

Has the race actually started?

CROSS

I... think so.

They peer out.

EXT. SPACE

The two SOLAR SHIPS are moving extremely slowly.

COMMENTATOR'S VOICE

There they go! The Kolak ship is in the early lead, going roughly three hundred clicks to the Bolshaks two seven five. My goodness, look at them go!

INT. TEN FORWARD

The crowd cheer as they are from the Ambassador's races, they are used to this speed. Portman watch.

PORTMAN

How far are is the course?

CROSS

Half a light year.

PORTMAN

But that'll take them

CROSS

Six years, four months and seven days. Mr Skottry informs me they change crews every two months.

Portman looks at him.

CROSS (*CONT'D*)

Well, while they're racing, they're not feuding, and they can join the Federation.

PORTMAN

And what happens when they win?

CROSS

Oh, we'll worry about that when we come to it.

See you in six years?

PORTMAN

Absolutely.

INT. HOLODECK

Prout is still blubbing, Grey is looking pleased with himself and Boyle is amazed.

BOYLE

Erik, what have you done?

PROUT

Wah! You just wait until I tell my father. You are going to wish you'd never been born!

GREY

That's fine. We'll call him now. Computer, open a line to Ambassador J'lak.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

Comm link established.

J'LAK'S COMM VOICE

J'lak here.

PROUT

Daddy! He's covered me in boo! I'm
head to toe in poo!

J'LAK'S COMM VOICE

What? Who has? What's going on?

GREY

Ambassador, could you come down to
the holodeck, please,

J'LAK'S COMM VOICE

On my way, and you had better have a
good explanation for this. J'lak
out.

BOYLE

Erik, I Grey holds up a finger.

GREY

Computer, end program.

The holodeck scene SHIMMERS into nothing. Everything
disappears, including of course the custard covering Prout.
He looks around.

PROUT

What the...?

GREY

Oh dear, oh dear, Prout. Your Dad's
not going to be very happy when he
finds you've been making a fuss about
things is he?

PROUT

But the holodeck...?

GREY

Prout, as a keen technical wizard,
you should have known that everything
would disappear. You don't want to
look stupid, do you?

Silence. Prout pouts. The holodeck door OPENS and AMBASSADOR
J'LAK and his WIFE enters.

J'LAK

Now, what is... Prout? Is everything
alright?

Grey raises an eyebrow at Prout.

PROUT

(mumbles)

It's fine.

GREY

We were just having some fun and games. Your son is quite a shot with a water pistol.

J'LAK

Ah yes, takes after his old man. I'm well known for how I handle my pistol.

MADAME J'LAK

Did you thank Lieutenant Fey for having a nice day?

PROUT

(still mumbling)

Thank you.

J'LAK

Good man. Thank you very much, Lt, I'm sure he learned a lot.

GREY

Yes, I'm sure he did. Good day.

The J'laks lead Prout out.

BOYLE

Bye, Prout.

She blows him a kiss. Prout looks at her and BEAMS again. The door closes.

GREY

What'd you do that for?

BOYLE

You are very mean.

GREY

I know, but I couldn't stand it. I had to do something.

BOYLE

Well, I'm glad you enjoyed Clown World in the end.

GREY

In the end? Are we finished here yet? There were some areas I don't think we explored fully yet.

He wraps his arm around her.

BOYLE

Computer, start program again.

As Clown World shimmers into view again, they walk together towards the bleachers.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise, still hanging space. The two SOLAR SHIPS are still fairly close by, moving almost imperceptibly away.

CROSS (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate 78516.9. The conference is over and, after a few...

(beat)

...minor mishaps, I think we can say it was a success. Ambassador Tooey is reunited with his translator, who has restored the Ambassador's medicine to him, so he is no longer confused. But then, confusion hasn't been exactly rare this weekend...

INT. CORRIDOR

Ambassador Barke, on crutches, is being led down the corridor by Elris, with Cross and Portman walk alongside.

BARKE

(uncertainly)

And I saved the day?

CROSS

Yes, Ambassador, without you the ship would have been blown up.

BARKE

And before that? I can't remember a thing since stepping on board of this ship.

CROSS

Nothing happened. At all.

BARKE

The conference?

CROSS

Oh no, you were good at the conference. A big help.

PORTMAN

I think it's fair to say that your oratory skills be not be forgotten in a hurry.

BARKE

Well, I'm not surprised. After all,
I am Cornelius Barke. Esquire. Of
the...

BARKE, CROSS AND ELRIS

(in unison)

...Galactic Consortium of Jolans,
ruler of the third house of Barke on
Jolan Prime, holder of the sacred
keys of Loki from time immemorial.

BARKE

Oh. Did I mention that?

CROSS

Yes, I think you might have done.
Once or twice.

They stand at a junction.

CROSS (CONT'D)

This is where we part company. Good
luck, Ambassador Barke.

They SHAKE hands, as do Barke and Portman. Elris leads him
off down one corridor...

BARKE

And who was that again?

...while Portman and Cross go down another.

CROSS

Thank God he's gone.

PORTMAN

Oh, I don't know. I think his bark...

CROSS

(warning)

Don't say it.

PORTMAN

...was worse than his bite.

He CHUCKLES at his own joke.

CROSS

How long have you been waiting to
say that?

PORTMAN

All weekend. Come on, Neil, I'll buy
you a drink.

He puts his hand round Cross's shoulder as they walk off.

EXT. SPACE

We see Ambassador's Barke's SHUTTLE leave as, in the distance the SOLAR SHIPS continue to make their snail like progress...

COMMENTATOR'S VOICE

And the Bolshak ship appears to be trying to cut in front of the Kolak ship. My goodness, I haven't seen a maneuver like that since the great land race of 2391.

There is the sound of a CLICK. The screen goes black instead of our usual...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END