

STAR TREK

RENAISSANCE

"This Side of Hades"

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY -- RAINY STREET

A caption comes up:

TAMULNA, DAHKUR PROVINCE, BAJOR

It is not a pleasant looking area -- high narrow buildings crowd down on thin, dirty looking alley ways, strewn with rubbish. The people that are moving through it do not look the happiest or healthiest in the world this is obviously the bad part of town. The rain pours down and casts a gloom on the scene, despite it being the middle of the day. Through this, a figure in a hood hurries through, brushing past people, occasionally bumping into them but not apologizing. We follow his progress down one, two alleyways, before he pauses at a door. He looks up and down the street, nervously, before pushing the door, which sticks before letting him in. Further up the alley, we see two more hooded figures, watching.

INT. WAREHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

An abandoned building, filled with old packing cases, dirty and broken windows, and an atmosphere of must. Through this our figure hurries, up some stairs onto the second floor. He looks around, and spots a packing case with a noticeably more clean side to it. He walks over, and opens the case. Inside is a small laptop communications device. He opens it, and it lights up. Looking round again, he lowers his cowl, revealing BRODY's face. The screen shows nothing but the word "Connecting." Then a voice, heavily distorted, speaks.

VOICE

Report.

BRODY

It's Brody.

VOICE

What happened?

BRODY

We had to abort the mission.

VOICE

We?

BRODY

I -- I had to abort the mission.

VOICE

Why?

BRODY
Starfleet came by.

VOICE
What Starfleet?

Brody hesitates.

BRODY
The Enterprise.

He winces.

VOICE
You have been able to handle the
Enterprise in the past.

BRODY
Not when it was in active service.

VOICE
No excuse.

BRODY
I know, I'm sorry.

VOICE
And the Jackal?

BRODY
I had to abandon it.
(he closes his eyes)
I... I lost the PADD too.

A long beat.

VOICE
The PADD with --

BRODY
Yes.

VOICE
Unfortunate.

There is another long pause.

BRODY
What should I do now?

VOICE
You will wait there for further
instructions. We will get back to
you shortly.

BRODY
I think I was followed.

VOICE

It is quite possible. Janus out.

BRODY

Wait, I --

The laptop goes dead.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Shit.

There is a slight noise behind him. He turns, reacting.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Who's there?

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM

We see nothing but one indistinct figure, sitting. We hear the bleeping of a comm channel, and then another unrecognizable voice answers.

VOICE 2

Hello?

VOICE

It is I.

VOICE 2

What is it?

VOICE

The Enterprise. They have discovered the location of our guests.

VOICE 2

What are your orders?

VOICE

Deal with it. In any way you can.

VOICE 2

Understood.

VOICE

Out.

The figure sits there some more.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE

We see running feet, moving through the thick undergrowth with military ease.

We pan up and see that there are three figures, wearing camouflage suits, so that they are almost unnoticeable against the dense foliage and are only spotted by their rapid movement. Suddenly, the lead figure stops, and waves to the other two to as well. We stop and see through their masks that they are TALORA, DOJAR and QUINLAN. Quinlan is breathing heavily.

QUINLAN

Thank God, I thought I was going to drop dead.

DOJAR

You're unfit, Jennifer.

QUINLAN

I am not unfit, Gril, I am just not used to running for three hours straight.

DOJAR

You're not used to running for three hours straight because you're unfit.

TALORA

Quiet! We're here.

They look to see what she sees...

A SMALL COMPOUND

A square area has been, it would appear, carved out of the jungle, perhaps measuring fifty meters each side. The building is small and unobtrusive, with only a couple of tiered floors, but you get the impression that it could be only the tip of the iceberg. It is surrounded on all sides by barbed wire, and guard posts are stationed at regular intervals. There is a courtyard between the wire and the building itself, which seems to stretch all the way around.

QUINLAN

This is a bit disappointing after three hours running.

DOJAR

What were you hoping for?

QUINLAN

I don't know... A giant super villain lair or something.

TALORA

Look. What do you notice about the guards?

QUINLAN

There's a lot of them?

DOJAR

(getting Talora's
point)

No, look. They're Starfleet.

QUINLAN

Oh yeah.

(moment's thought)

Wait, I wasn't aware there was a
station on this world.

TALORA

Neither was I, and I know all of
them.

DOJAR

What are they doing out here? What
are they there for?

QUINLAN

It looks like to keep people out.

TALORA

Or keep people in.

They look at each other.

QUINLAN

So what do we do? Knock on the door
and say hello?

She laughs but Talora looks at her.

TALORA

I think that's an excellent idea.

She gets up, leaving Quinlan looking perplexed. On her
expression, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE -- ENTERPRISE

The great ship is at warp.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- RECREATION DECK

Start on Cross in extreme close up looking contemplative, before pulling back to reveal him sat drinking at the bar of the Rec Deck.

We hear laughter behind him, and he turns to see Elris and Toran at a table, Elris putting her hand on Toran's as she recovers from whatever joke he's just made.

Cross sighs. He turns his attention back to the vidscreen, which is showing an interstellar Paresises Squares match. Hal walks over to him on the other side of the bar.

HAL

Something on your mind, Captain?

CROSS

No, Hal, I just sighed because I can.

HAL

Ah. I see.

We hear yet more laughter and Cross turns around to see Toran with his arms outstretched and his cheeks bulged out, impersonating someone who is drastically overweight and stomping along on the spot while Elris sits in howls of laughter.

CROSS

What have you been serving them?

HAL

There is such a thing as bartender-customer confidentiality, Captain. I'm sure you'll respect that.

CROSS

Really?

HAL

How the hell am I supposed to know? What am I, a barrister? No, I'm not, I'm bartender.

CROSS

I thought bartenders were meant to be kind and sympathetic.

HAL

Maybe on your world. On mine, our main job is to get the clients so drunk we can raid their wallets.

CROSS

I don't remember you mentioning that on your job application.

HAL

It must have slipped my mind.

Yet more laughter. Cross looks behind him to see Elris on the verge of tears as Toran's fat stomping creation suddenly mutates into a quacking, duck-like creature, imitating a duck that's in fear for its life when it begins to get chased by the fat stomping creature.

CROSS

Look at them. We were like that once.

He continues to watch Toran and Elris.

HAL

I can't imagine you imitating a Bajoran duck, Captain, quite enlightening.

Suddenly without warning Toran collides with a table, collapsing on to his face while Elris lays down on the couch in absolute hysterics. Cross winces.

CROSS

Yep, those were the days.

HAL

Cheer up, Captain, things could be a lot worse...

CARTER

Captain!

CARTER has appeared right behind him, and slaps him heartily on the back.

CROSS

You were saying?

CARTER

Romulan ale, please, Hal. So, Captain, have you been watching the telecast?

CROSS

No...

CARTER

I think you should. Hal, change the channel to forty seven, would you?

Hal does so. The picture changes...

CROSS

Carter, I'm not really in the mood...

CARTER

Just watch...

Cross watches the monitor, which we push in on as we see...

INT. LEVIATHAN -- ENGINEERING

A reporter is speaking, while behind him JOEL and DELFUNE are standing, looking proud. If you look very hard in the background, you might spot KINNAN moving about.

REPORTER

Welcome back to this live broadcast, coming to you from the newly upgraded Leviathan. We're speaking to her Captain, Erika Joel, and Admiral Elizabeth Delfune. Admiral, in terms of the fleet, what does this upgrade mean for Starfleet?

DELFUNE

It is absolutely essential that Starfleet keeps up to date with the latest technological advances, both in and outside the Federation, and that we reflect these advances in our flagship. We want to be able to instill in our citizens absolute confidence that we are on the cutting edge, and that we have all the abilities available to us to defend them.

INT. RECREATION LOUNGE

Cross is watching, transfixed, Carter watching him.

CROSS

"Defend" is an interesting choice of words.

INT. LEVIATHAN -- ENGINEERING

As before, the reporter, DELFUNE, and JOEL.

REPORTER

Captain Joel, list for our viewers, if you will, exactly what has been improved on your ship.

JOEL

We have upgraded the slipstream drive, which can attain speeds fifteen percent faster than before, we have brand new fire control software allowing for greater accuracy of weapons, our shield redundancy has been increased 50 percent. In addition to that, we have new --

INT. ENTERPRISE -- RECREATION LOUNGE

Cross and Carter watching.

CARTER

Pretty snazzy, huh?

CROSS

I heard they were having this. I don't envy anyone having to take her on.

CARTER

How does it make you feel?

CROSS

What do you mean?

CARTER

Well, I mean, if circumstances were different, it would be your ship that had got those improvements first.

CROSS

Yes, well --

CARTER

(interrupting)

It's a year tomorrow.

CROSS

Excuse me?

CARTER

Coular. It happened a year ago tomorrow. Surely you hadn't forgotten?

CROSS

Of course I hadn't.

CARTER

Must be difficult for you. A prestigious Captain, much honored, suddenly finding himself almost an outcast, while others step in and take your place. Do you ever feel yourself being sidelined Captain? Do you ever feel out of it? Even on this ship?

More laughter from Elris and Toran catches Cross's attention. He watches them for a moment.

CROSS

On my ship? What do you mean?

CARTER

Well, look at Commander Talora. Rumor has it that she and Lieutenants Dojar and Quinlan have gone off on some kind of secret mission that you know nothing about.

CROSS

(shortly)

That's rubbish, they've gone on a few days vacation.

CARTER

All those senior officers, vacationing at the same time? I don't think so, somehow. Tell me, Captain, do you know where they've gone?

They lock eyes for a moment.

CROSS

Let me assure you that even if I didn't know, there is no way in hell I would tell you. Good night.

He turns and begins to walk out of the bar.

CARTER

(calling to him)

She looks good, the Leviathan, don't you think?

Cross doesn't answer, leaving the room. Carter smiles to himself as Hal serves him his drink. On the monitor...

REPORTER

This is Martin Perez, for FNN, from the newly upgraded Starship Leviathan.

Carter toasts him.

CARTER

Here's to you.

INT. LEVIATHAN -- ENGINEERING

The broadcast being over, the cameraman and reporter visibly relax, and turn to Joel and Delfune.

REPORTER

(to Joel and Delfune)

Thank you very much, a good report.

JOEL

Excellent. If you will excuse us, we have matters to attend to. Someone will show you the way to the shuttlebay.

REPORTER

Thank you, Captain. Admiral.

Delfune nods her head slightly in acknowledgement, and then follows Joel out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. LEVIATHAN -- CORRIDOR

Joel and Delfune walk along it.

DELFUNE

You seem in a hurry to get out of there, Captain.

JOEL

I don't like reporters, Admiral. Too much prying around.

DELFUNE

Only people with something to hide need be worried by them.

JOEL

We all have something to hide Admiral.

They enter a turbolift.

INT. LEVIATHAN -- TURBOLIFT -- CONTINUOUS

JOEL

Bridge.

DELFUNE

You are right, but in the right hands they can serve a useful purpose. You just have to point them in the right direction.

JOEL

Use them at their own game.

DELFUNE

Correct. They see things people like us never have the chance to.

JOEL

Like on the Enterprise?

DELFUNE

Don't talk to me about the Enterprise. It is a sore subject.

JOEL

Mariel certainly thinks highly of her.

DELFUNE

Mariel is a fool, and will never be President.

JOEL

You're sure of that, are you?

DELFUNE

Of course the FNN told me.

They both smile, as the doors open onto the bridge...

INT. LEVIATHAN -- BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

Joel and Delfune walk on. Various N.D.'s man the necessary stations.

HELMSMAN

Captain on the bridge.

OPSMAN

Captain, there is someone on the comm. waiting to speak to you in private.

JOEL

(to Delfune)

If you will excuse me?

DELFUNE

Of course.

Joel enters...

INT. LEVIATHAN -- READY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

JOEL walks across to her desk and activates her console. We cannot see or hear what the other person is saying.

JOEL

Joel here.

(beat, listening)

Oh really? Remember Central's directive... just ensure they don't get down to...

(beat)

Yes, it sounds like you have it well in hand. Carry on. Joel out.

She looks up, annoyed.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMPOUND

Talora, Dojar, and Quinlan are waiting at a guard station by the entrance. They are in their usual uniforms, and are looking a little fed up.

QUINLAN

How much longer?

GUARD

I have no idea.

TALORA

Patience, Quinlan.

A comm goes fzzt.

DIRECTOR'S VOICE

Let them in.

GUARD

Aye, sir. All right, you can go through.

He presses a button and the gate opens. As they walk across the courtyard, a front entrance opens and DIRECTOR PHENN, a tall, austere looking Vulcan in plain clothes, comes out to meet them.

PHENN

I am Director Phenn. I apologize for the delay in admitting you.

TALORA

That's okay. My name is Ralorta Jen, and these are my traveling companions,

(pointing to Dojar)

Lordek Rojad, and

(pointing to Quinlan)

Tania Firestarter.

Quinlan makes a face at her.

PHENN

I hear you've been having some engine trouble?

TALORA

That's right.

PHENN

Come in, please.

He leads them into...

INT. COMPOUND -- RECEPTION AND CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Small reception area. Another guard sits behind a desk, which has multiple monitors, showing both interior shots of various corridors and lab-like rooms, and the outside. Phenn leads Talora, Dojar, and Quinlan through.

QUINLAN

Interesting place you've got here, director. Not on any official lists, hidden away in the middle of nowhere...

PHENN

I am afraid it is the nature of our work, we like to keep a low profile. There are a lot of unscrupulous people out there who would be very interested in what we have here.

The three crewmembers exchange glances.

DOJAR

And what would that be?

Phenn looks at them.

PHENN

We are a laboratory, conducting tests on various elements and compounds, finding new properties and uses, that have practical applications for the Federation.

QUINLAN

Cool. What are you working on at the moment?

PHENN

I am afraid that that information is on a need-to-know basis.

QUINLAN

Oh go on, just a teeny weeny hint?

PHENN

I'm afraid not.

They enter...

INT. COMPOUND -- STAIRWELL -- CONTINUOUS

A long drop down the middle confirms the fact that this base goes deep underground. Phenn leads Talora, Dojar, and Quinlan down the iron staircase.

PHENN

What is the nature of your shuttle problems?

TALORA

We don't know... we were forced to make an emergency landing, in the glade about three hours from here.

PHENN

What were you doing in this vicinity?

Quick beat.

DOJAR

We were returning from a science expedition near Bajor.

PHENN

For...?

QUINLAN

(gravely)

I'm afraid that information's on a need to know basis, director.

Phenn looks at them is there a hint of annoyance on his facade? Quinlan smirks behind his back.

PHENN

But of course. Through here...

He leads them off the stairwell...

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Phenn leads them through a corridor, to a set of doors at the end, where a guard is standing and into a room with a washbasin, some basic kitchen facilities, and a couple of sofas.

PHENN

Here are some rest quarters, where you can freshen up, while I try and find someone who can help with your shuttle problems.

TALORA

Thank you.

PHENN

You are welcome. I will see you shortly.

He bows and walks out. Quinlan turns on Talora.

QUINLAN

Tania Firestarter?

DOJAR

You've got to admit, it does fit.

Quinlan humphs.

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR

Phenn stops and talks to the guard.

PHENN

Make sure they do not move from here.

GUARD 2

Yes, director.

Phenn walks on.

INT. COMPOUND -- REST ROOM

Talora, Dojar, and Quinlan look around.

QUINLAN

So what do you think?

Dojar raises a finger, and takes out his tricorder. He scans the room.

DOJAR

It's clear. I can't detect any listening devices.

TALORA

Still be careful.

They look at each other, and then Dojar pulls out the PADD.

QUINLAN

Does it mention anything about chemical research?

DOJAR

It doesn't mention much of anything, just has these schematics, door codes, etcetera. This is where I want to get to.

He points at a room, that has a flashing red dot on it.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Whatever Janus was interested in, is
in that room.

TALORA

Where is it?

DOJAR

Looks to be on the lowest...

Suddenly he winces and sways a little.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(holding his head)

Ahhh...

TALORA

(catching him)

Dojar?

QUINLAN

You all right?

DOJAR

(shaking his head)

Yeah. No, I'm fine now. Just a
momentary headache.

TALORA

You sure?

DOJAR

Yes, don't worry about it. Now, as
I was saying, this room looks to be
on the lowest level. Now...

(he looks at the door)

...all we have to do is get past the
guard... Any ideas?

They look at each other and then at the door.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CROSS'S QUARTERS

Cross is lying on his bed, watching a repeat of the telecast
from the Leviathan -- there is a banner on it reading
"Recorded Earlier."

REPORTER

This is Martin Perez, for FNN, from
the newly upgraded --

CROSS

Off.

The screen goes dark. Cross sighs and lies back, looking at the ceiling. He swallows and closes his eyes. Then he opens them again.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Dammit. Computer, show me Commander Talora's leave of absence request. Read.

COMPUTER VOICE

Accessing...

Then, in Talora's voice:

TALORA'S VOICE

This is Commander Talora making a formal request for a leave of absence to Captain Neil Cross, on behalf of myself, and Lieutenants Gril Dojar and Jennifer Quinlan. The absence would be for a duration not more than forty-eight hours, for the purpose of recreational time which we wish to pass together. I--

CROSS

Off.

Talora's voice stops. Cross gets off the bed and goes over to his sink and mirror. He runs some water and splashes it in his face before looking himself in the eye.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Bullshit. You knew it was bullshit. But Talora's face... she didn't want questions asked. And it didn't bother you...

(beat)

Son of a bitch.

He slams his fist down on the basin. He looks round.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Who'd know?

He thinks, then his face clears.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Computer, locate Erik Grey.

COMPUTER VOICE

Lieutenant Grey is in his office.

Cross grabs his jacket and walks out.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAJORAN CITY

The same as before. It is still raining, but we are now in a slightly more prosperous area. It is market day and the well to do Bajorans who are browsing the stalls, as well as those camping under their stall's shelters, have that fixed expression of people determined not to allow the weather to upset them. Through this, Brody is walking. He stops at a produce stall and examines a tomato-like vegetable.

BRODY

Do you sell any green colleas?

STALLHOLDER

It is too early in the year for them.
You would be better finding Loheg.

BRODY

Is he the trader with the missing
eye?

STALLHOLDER

And the withered hand.

They nod at each other.

STALLHOLDER (CONT'D)

Come, everything is ready...

Another person takes his place, and the stallholder starts to walk with Brody. He leads him down a side way, where some beggars sit propped against the walls, hoping for handouts.

STALLHOLDER (CONT'D)

We have everything set up as you
instructed. We were expecting you
earlier.

BRODY

I had problems with some of your
countrymen.

STALLHOLDER

I hope you were able to deal with
them?

BRODY

(coldly)
Oh yes.

The stallholder looks at him, a little fearfully. They walk through some more of the market.

STALLHOLDER

The market is busy at this time of
the day, usually...

BEGGAR (O.S.)

(shouting)

Pagh wraith!

The two react. A BEGGAR woman they are just passing has stood up, and is pointing right at Brody with a trembling, dirtied hand. Her eyes are completely white -- she is blind -- but rather disquietingly she is able to follow Brody's passage along the alley.

BEGGAR (CONT'D)

You are one with the Pagh Wraiths!

BRODY

What?

Brody, despite his better judgment, has stopped.

STALLHOLDER

Ignore her, she is just a foolish
beggar woman.

BRODY

Wait. What did you say?

BEGGAR

You walk in the shadow of the Pagh
Wraiths. You are their puppet!

BRODY

What do you mean?

BEGGAR

You will bring death to us all! I
have seen it! You will destroy us!

She leans closely to Brody, who reacts to her foul breath.

STALLHOLDER

Come on, let's get out of here!

BEGGAR

Turn back, before it is too late!
Before you unleash Hell itself down
upon us!

STALLHOLDER

Brody!

He pulls Brody away, who is shaken by the incident. The woman continues to yell after them.

BEGGAR

You don't need to walk this path!
Turn back!

BRODY

Who was that?

STALLHOLDER

Who knows? Some crazy woman. Here...

He leads him into a side door...

INT. BAJORAN HANGER -- CONTINUOUS

A rather large-ish shuttlecraft with a sleekness we've seen in the Phoenix, Robert April, and Scimitar classes -- with the name "Capitoline" sits waiting for Brody. Brody walks over to it, still slightly pale, as the stallholder hangs back anxiously.

STALLHOLDER

I hope it is satisfactory. It is
all I could get a hold of in such a
short space of time.

Brody opens the back, and starts to inspect some cases. He opens one and produces a phaser rifle, and another with some small, round disks on them.

BRODY

These are fine.

STALLHOLDER

(relieved)

Oh, good. I don't want to let you
down. Janus has always been such a
good employer...

Brody reacts suddenly, grabbing the stallholder's throat and thrusting him against the wall.

BRODY

What did we tell you? Never mention
that name. Never!

STALLHOLDER

(trying to speak)

Sorry... Mr Brody, sir. I didn't
mean...

Brody lets go of him.

BRODY

(smiling)

Of course you didn't.

He walks back to his new ship and inspects another case's contents.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Is everything fully charged?

STALLHOLDER

I think so.

Brody turns, and shoots the stallholder with a small phaser, vaporizing him instantly. He looks at the spot the stallholder was standing, where there is now a large scorch mark.

BRODY

I think so too.

He turns and, not looking back, enters the carrier.

EXT. BAJORAN HANGER

The entrance drops, and BRODY'S SHUTTLE takes to the air, heading up and away as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. COMPOUND -- REST ROOM

Talora, Dojar, and Quinlan are all standing next to each other, staring at the door, silent and unmoving. Quinlan looks at them.

QUINLAN

This is ridiculous. Surely you can think of something. You're intelligent people... allegedly.

DOJAR

You think of something then.

QUINLAN

Uh uh. Not my role, is it?

DOJAR

What do you mean?

QUINLAN

In the group. I'm the funny one. You're the muscle. Which means...
(turning to Talora)
You're the brains.
(beat)
We're screwed.

TALORA

Let's think logically. How can we distract him?

DOJAR

One of us could pretend to be ill. He'd have to go get help.

TALORA

No, he'd just call for it.

DOJAR

But if whoever it was had to be taken to sickbay...

TALORA

It could be tricky...

QUINLAN

Ahh, to hell with this.

She marches to the door and opens it.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

(to the guard)

Excuse me?

He turns round. She thumps him in the face, and he crumples up onto the floor.

TALORA

Quinlan!

QUINLAN

(dragging the guard
into the room)

Well, we're not going to be sticking around once we've seen this place, are we? Now let's go.

TALORA

No.

QUINLAN

No?

TALORA

Three of us, it's too many. One of us on our own would have much more chance to get there unnoticed.

DOJAR

Especially with the cameras about.

QUINLAN

You're right.

TALORA

I'll go.

DOJAR

No.

(he waves the padd at
her)

I'm more familiar with the base's layout. I'll go.

TALORA

Are you sure?

DOJAR

Yes.

TALORA

Okay. Be careful.

DOJAR

I always am.

He quickly hurries down the corridor, leaving Talora and Quinlan alone together. There are a few moments of silence.

QUINLAN

I spy with my little eye...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- GREY'S OFFICE

GREY is at his desk, reading a PADD, his brow in his hands. He looks tired. The door chimes.

GREY

Come in.

The door opens to reveal Cross.

GREY (CONT'D)

Captain.

CROSS

Lieutenant. I was just wondering if I could speak to you for a moment.

GREY

You're the Captain.

Cross doesn't move in the doorway. Grey looks at him.

GREY (CONT'D)

(reluctantly)

Come in.

CROSS

Thank you.

He does so and the door closes behind him.

GREY

What can I do for you?

CROSS

I want to know where they've gone.

GREY

Where who've gone?

CROSS

You know who.

Grey leans back in his chair and pinches the bridge of his nose with his thumb and forefinger.

GREY

I'm sorry, Captain, I'm tired, can't this wait until tomorrow?

CROSS

(angrily)

No, it can't! I am sick and tired of people sneaking around behind my back, of seeing you having whispered conversations with them that stop when I come up, of mysterious trips to God only knows where.

GREY

(coldly)

Don't you think you're being a bit paranoid?

CROSS

I'm not, and you know I'm not. Now tell me, or do I have to invoke a court martial?

GREY

You don't have the power to do that.

CROSS

Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 99, Paragraph 3. No crewman will withhold information from his or her captain that could jeopardize the safety or well-being of his or her ship or crew mates.

GREY

No one on this ship's safety is being jeopardized.

CROSS

What about Talora's, Dojar's, Quinlan's?

Grey hadn't thought of this. He sighs.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I know you have a problem with me, and that's fine, people don't get on. But I will not have my senior staff embroiled in conspiracies behind my back. Do you understand me?

He is red faced now, leaning across the desk at Grey, seething. Grey coolly looks at him.

GREY

What paragraph covers the situation when the Captain knowing would be more dangerous than the Captain not knowing?

Cross stands up.

CROSS

I can relieve you of duty.

GREY

More threats, Captain?

CROSS

I mean it.

GREY

Oh, I know you do. You're Captain Cross, and you don't take no shit from nobody. If some one does something you don't like, you just blow them out of the skies. Is that what you'll do to me? Is it?

CROSS

Dammit, Grey --

GREY

Here's the thing, Captain. I don't trust you. I'm not speaking for anyone else here, but personally, I don't think you're fit to handle the truth of what is going on. It is a dangerous precipice we are walking along, and I'm worried that if you joined us we would all be pushed off the edge. Besides, how do I know you're not the enemy?

Cross shakes his head.

CROSS

Now who's being paranoid?

GREY

I have work to do.

Cross closes his eyes, and turns. Grey returns to his PADD. As he gets to the door:

CROSS

(quietly)

I regret Coular every moment of every day of my life, and will do so until the day I die. And every action I take is colored by that day. I swear I will never make that mistake again.

(very strongly)

Never.

Grey looks up at him -- does his expression soften ever so slightly?

GREY
(reluctantly)
I will speak with them when they
come back.

CROSS
Thank you.

The door closes behind him, and Grey looks at it,
thoughtfully.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Cross is walking down it, returning to his quarters, when
Y'LAN approaches him from the opposite direction moving, for
him, at quite a speed.

CROSS
Y'lan.

Y'LAN
Captain, where is Dojar?

CROSS
That's what I've been asking. Why?

Y'LAN
I need to speak with him.

CROSS
He's off the ship at the moment.
I'll tell him when he gets back.

Y'LAN
Understood. I urgently need to see
him.

Without saying anything else, he moves on. Cross looks after
him ruefully.

CROSS
Don't we all. Where are you?

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR

A guard walks past the door to the stairwell, and rounds a
corner. After a moment, the door opens, and Dojar cautiously
peers out. Seeing the corridor is all clear, he ventures
out, and sneaks along it, following his PADD schematics.
Suddenly, he stops and looks up. A camera is sweeping the
corridor. He ducks into a doorway until it has revolved
past him and then, following its revolutions, he is able to
sneak past it, and gets to the end. He moves on.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- DIRECTOR PHENN'S OFFICE

Phenn is sitting at his desk, talking to an unidentifiable voice -- is it female?

VOICE

Where are they now?

PHENN

We have them waiting in a room,
guarded.

VOICE

Have you checked their story?

PHENN

I have sent people to check their
shuttle.

VOICE

Good.

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR

Wherever Dojar is now, it must be very deep. There is a definite subterranean feel about the place, the sort you get from military bunkers. He is following his map, and seems to be very close to the room with the red dot now. Again, he ducks into a doorway as a guard walks past.

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND -- DIRECTOR PHENN'S OFFICE

Phenn is working when a comm. goes.

SOLDIER'S COMM VOICE

Director Phenn.

PHENN

Phenn here.

SOLDIER'S COMM VOICE

Sir, we're at the shuttle now.

PHENN

And?

INTERCUT:

EXT. JUNGLE -- CLEARING

A group of five guards are examining the shuttle. One is standing a bit apart and speaking to his commbadge.

SOLDIER

There's nothing wrong with it, sir.
There's no reason it would have malfunctioned.

PHENN'S COMM VOICE

Understood.

SOLDIER

Sir, there's something else.

PHENN'S COMM VOICE

What is it?

SOLDIER

The shuttle -- it's from the Enterprise, sir.

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND -- DIRECTOR PHENN'S OFFICE

Phenn reacts.

PHENN

Enterprise? Phenn to Kalazari, what is the status of our guests?

No answer.

PHENN (CONT'D)

Kalazari!

He turns and activates his console. The picture changes to the corridor outside the rest room where Talora and Quinlan are. There is no guard there. Phenn stands up and begins to walk out of his office.

PHENN (CONT'D)

Phenn to security team four, we have a situation here.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR

Dojar has reached the end of a corridor. There are a few steps down to a large, metallic door, and a notice, reading "Caution: Do not enter unsupervised. Controlled biological area." There is a keypad next to it.

Dojar consults his PADD again -- he has reached the room marked with the red dot. He taps it on the screen, and the code appears. He types it in...

DOJAR
Open sesame...

He walks in and immediately his eyes go wide.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
Oh my God...

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR

Phenn is marching along it, looking grim, with a team of guards behind him, all carrying weapons. He is talking to the soldier at the shuttle on his comm.

PHENN
Return to base immediately.

SOLDIER'S COMM VOICE
Aye sir.

PHENN
But before you do

SOLDIER'S COMM VOICE
Sir?

PHENN
Disable the shuttle.

INTERCUT:

EXT. JUNGLE -- CLEARING

The soldier nods.

SOLDIER
Aye, sir.

He gestures to the others. They raise their phaser rifles, and aim inside, firing at the helm controls. They go up in a cloud of smoke. As they finish, they look up as they hear a ROARING noise overhead, as of a fast-moving jet...

SOLDIER
What was that...?

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- REST ROOM

Talora and Quinlan are sitting around silently, when the door flies open, and Phenn and his guards enter. They glance at the body. Quinlan looks defiantly at them, as though there's nothing out of place.

QUINLAN

Can we help you?

PHENN

Stand up. Move!

Talora and Quinlan look at each, and reluctantly get to their feet. Phenn looks around.

PHENN (CONT'D)

Where is the Cardassian?

Silence.

PHENN (CONT'D)

Where is he?

QUINLAN

I think he went to find the little Cardassian's room.

Phenn turns angrily.

PHENN

This is Director Phenn to all personnel. Intruder alert. We have an unauthorized civilian loose on the base. Find him!

As the alarms go off, Phenn walks slowly and threateningly over to Talora.

PHENN (CONT'D)

You will tell me where he is.

TALORA

(coolly)

I couldn't, even if I wanted to. I don't know where he went...

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- LAB

Dojar is walking round a large, square room, although with a low roof. The lighting is dimmed, and the area is filled with a humming noise.

More importantly, the middle section of the room is filled with nine cylindrical tanks, all lit from within with a bluish tint, all with bubbles running through the liquid inside them. Inside each one a single Q'TAMI hangs, suspended in the liquid, not moving. Dojar walks by each chamber, looking in horror at the creatures suspended within. He runs his hand over one container, while in the background the intruder alarm blares, almost unnoticed.

DOJAR
(whispering)
What is this place?

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR

Phenn leads the procession, with Quinlan and Talora closely behind with guards, barking orders.

PHENN
Seal the perimeter, he mustn't be allowed to escape. Secure the labs, no one must be allowed in or out.

GUARD 4
Your orders, director?

PHENN
The usual containment protocols.

GUARD 4
Understood.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- LAB

Dojar reads some readings on one of the chambers, flicking through, unsure what to do exactly. Despite the alarm there is an atmosphere of almost deathly calm, like the quiet before the storm. Suddenly he reacts, as the door behind him hisses open.

GUARD
Hold it right there! Move away from the chambers! Put your hands behind your head!

Dojar turns and sees five or six guards entering, all with their weapons trained on him. Half dazed by what he has seen, he obeys their orders.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- RECEPTION

The guard who was there before is still on duty, eating a sandwich. Suddenly he hears a roaring sound. He frowns and gets up...

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- LAB

As before, Dojar with his hands behind his head, the guards covering him.

DOJAR

What's going on here?

GUARD

Kneel down.

Dojar catches on to what this means.

DOJAR

You're kidding me.

GUARD

Do it!

Dojar closes his eyes, and slowly kneels down. The guards train their weapons on him, while one checks the chambers. He nods at the leader.

GUARD (CONT'D)

The chambers are secure.

GUARD (CONT'D)

On my mark, men.

Dojar breathes hard, waiting for them to fire...

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- RECEPTION

The guard is half way across the lobby to the door, when we hear a transporter signal. Right in front of him, a small ball starts to shimmer, seemingly suspended in midair. He frowns, puzzled for a moment, and then his face crumples in horror. He begins to run back to his desk...

RECEPTION GUARD

Alarm!

The ball behind him has fully appeared, and instantly detonates. A huge fireball erupts, consuming the entire area and enveloping the area in the blast.

INT. COMPOUND -- LAB

The guards have their weapons trained on the kneeling Dojar.

GUARD

Mark.

As the men pull the triggers, there is a ferocious boom, and the room shakes wildly. The guards are knocked about and stumble, and Dojar sprawls on the floor. The lights flicker, and go off, leaving the room lit only by the weird, ethereal glow of the Q'tami chambers.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Emergency lighting! Emergency
lighting!

After a second or two, the secondary lighting comes on. The guards look around Dojar has gone.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Find him!

The room shakes again after another massive boom -- are they explosions? The compound guard comms Phenn.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Director Phenn, what's going on?

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR

The lights here are flickering, but have not been burnt out yet. The guards are nervously covering Talora and Quinlan, while Phenn is speaking to someone on a wall monitor.

PHENN

I don't know, Ops isn't answering --

The corridor shakes again with another huge explosion.

PHENN (CONT'D)

Are the creatures contained?

COMPOUND GUARD

For the moment, sir.

PHENN

Good. Stay there, we'll head down
to you. Phenn out.

He turns and gestures to the guards to lead Talora and Quinlan with them. They start moving.

QUINLAN

Looks like someone doesn't like you.

PHENN

Move!

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR

The corridor has emergency lighting only. Dojar is hurrying down it as fast as he can. As he is about to turn a corner, he sees some guards running his way. He ducks back into...

INT. COMPOUND -- SMALL LAB -- CONTINUOUS

Dojar looks round the small room and watches through the glass window as the guards hurry past. The room shakes again with another loud noise. He fiddles in his clothes, and produces his commbadge.

DOJAR

Dojar to Talora. Dojar to Talora.

The comm remains silent.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Dojar to shuttle, confirm integrity of comm signals.

Still nothing.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Dammit!

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR

Phenn reaches the door to the stairwell, and urges Talora and Quinlan through...

INT. COMPOUND -- STAIRWELL -- CONTINUOUS

There is an acrid mist slowly permeating the well, one which seems to hurt the eyes of the people. Talora and Quinlan and herded through, followed by Phenn.

PHENN

Move down!

As they start down, there is another transporter sound... Quinlan looks up and sees another ball materializing just above their heads.

QUINLAN

Get down!

As she and Talora react, the ball detonates. The fireball spreads out, but Quinlan and Talora are shielded by the

guards, who are between them and the fire. The entire well shakes, and the stairs jerk, collapsing under them. The struts hold, but it does not give the impression of stability.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- LAB

Inside the Q'tami holding lab, the guards look at each other fearfully. Smoke is now billowing in, despite the fact that the door is closed, and plaster is billowing down from the ceiling. Behind them, the light in the stasis chambers is beginning to change, from the blue to a deeper purple. A small red light begins flashing on one of them.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- SMALL LAB

Dojar is pulling the lab apart, looking for something. Finally, he finds a small console which still looks to be in service. Outside, there is another explosion.

DOJAR

Gril Dojar, serial number 1701 Gamma
Epsilon Psi Phi Omega.

COMPUTER VOICE

You are connected.

DOJAR

Connect me to Federation vessel USS
Enterprise, emergency distress call...

COMPUTER VOICE

Working.

Dojar taps his foot impatiently. As he does, he reacts as his head hurts again, putting a hand up to his temple.

DOJAR

Ow... come on!

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CROSS'S QUARTERS

After the storm, more quiet. Cross is lying in bed, but is still very much awake, staring once again at the ceiling, lost in quiet thought. His comm chirps.

CALE'S COMM VOICE

Cale to Captain Cross. Cale to --

CROSS

Cross here, Cale. What is it?

CALE'S COMM VOICE
Sorry to disturb you, Captain. We're
picking up a distress call.

CROSS
Who from?

CALE'S COMM VOICE
It's from Lieutenant Dojar, sir.

Cross sits up.

CROSS
Patch me through here.

CALE'S COMM VOICE
Aye, sir.

Cross gets up and goes to his wall monitor.

CROSS
Go ahead, Lieutenant.

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND -- SMALL LAB

Dojar breathes a sigh of relief as Cross's face appears.

DOJAR
Captain, it's Dojar, we're under
attack.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CROSS'S QUARTERS

As before, Cross talking to Dojar.

CROSS
Where are you?

DOJAR
(on screen)
We're at...

The picture fuzzes, breaks up, and then comes back again.

CROSS
Dojar, I didn't hear you. Where are
you?

DOJAR
(on screen)
I said...

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND -- SMALL LAB

Dojar talking to Cross on the console. As he speaks, through the glass window on the door, we see a now-familiar small ball materializing outside.

DOJAR

...we're on Ferin 4, under attack --
I think it might be the Q'tami, I'm
not..

The ball outside explodes, blowing the walls in, and throwing Dojar against the opposite wall and down to the floor. He slumps down as the ceiling above him showers down debris. The console clatters to the floor a little way away, from which we still hear Cross's voice.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Dojar! Dojar!

Dojar lies, half buried and unconscious.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CROSS'S QUARTERS

Cross stares at the screen in frustration.

CROSS

Dammit. Bridge, did you get a lock?

CALE'S COMM VOICE

Affirmative, Captain, we have a lock.

CROSS

Set a course, engage slipstream.
I'm on my way.

He grabs his jacket and hurries out of the room, as the picture on his wall console breaks up. We keep on the static as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. COMPOUND -- STAIRWELL

Bodies lie strewn around of the guards, either dead or unconscious. Quinlan and Talora lie a little apart from each other, on top of a couple of the men. The air is thick with smoke and the glow of fires that can be sensed but not seen. Talora groans as she pulls herself back into consciousness. She looks around.

TALORA

Quinlan. Quinlan, you alright?

She gets to her knees, and crosses to where Quinlan lies. She gingerly looks at her, and gently slaps her face.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Quinlan. Jennifer. Wake up.

Suddenly, Quinlan's eyes snap open, and she grabs Talora's wrist. She looks rather wild.

QUINLAN

You!

TALORA

Me.

QUINLAN

Any chance to give me a slap.

She sits up, leaning on her elbows.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Is it over?

Another explosion rocks them, but this one seems to come from the corridor at the bottom of the well.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

I'm guessing not.

They sit up, and Talora grabs a rifle from one of the downed guards.

TALORA

We have to find Dojar, get out of here.

PHENN (O.S.)

(weakly)

Q'tami...

They look over.

Phenn is lying against one wall, a pool of green blood rapidly spreading beneath him. He feebly raises a hand to them. The crew members hurry over.

TALORA

What did you say?

Phenn's voice is thick and bubbly, and he is struggling for breath.

PHENN

You must... protect... the Q'tami.

QUINLAN

There are Q'tami here.

PHENN

You mustn't... let them... get away...

TALORA

Where are they?

PHENN

The bottom level...

Talora nods and gets up. Quinlan follows her, and rapidly they begin to run down the stairs.

PHENN (CONT'D)

Hurry!

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- LAB

The guards are looking more and more scared, as the room is practically filled with blue smoke. Another explosion a little way away rocks the room. Behind them, the red light on the stasis chamber is blinking ever more rapidly. Suddenly, the door to the chamber opens, and a figure walks through the smoke -- initially it is difficult to tell who it is.

BRODY

Hello, boys.

They raise their weapons, but he holds up a phaser and fires. Six phaser beams instantaneously arc out from it, fixing on the guards's rifles. The guards shake for a couple of seconds before they collapse to the ground.

Brody smiles and walks over to the consoles. His face is charred and blackened, but he looks in control of the situation. He is carrying a small backpack, which he now slings to the floor. Opening it, he produces six small disks, and attaches one to each stasis chamber.

He is not looking very closely at the chamber readings -- he does not seem to notice the blinking light. He works fast but methodically.

As he attaches the last one, he says:

BRODY (CONT'D)
Brody to ship, stand by to transport.

DOJAR
Don't move.

Brody turns. Dojar has appeared in the doorway, pointing a rifle at Brody. Brody reacts, but Dojar covers him.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
Don't try anything.

He moves further in, and sees who it is finally. They both react with surprise.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
Brody. I thought you were in prison.

BRODY
I thought you were dead.

DOJAR
We both have to readjust our beliefs, then.

BRODY
Evidently.

For the first time, Brody looks uneasy.

DOJAR
What are you doing here?

BRODY
I might ask you the same question.
...No, wait, let me guess. The data
PADD.

Behind him, the red light on the chamber is now blinking so fast it is a blur.

DOJAR
You got it. Very useful information.

BRODY
I thought so.

DOJAR
What does Janus want with these
creatures?

BRODY

I wouldn't know.

DOJAR

Don't tell me. You're just the
delivery boy.

BRODY

Oh, I'm much more than a delivery
boy.

Behind him, the Q'tami in the chamber with the blinking light
TWITCHES. Once, twice, three times.

BRODY (CONT'D)

So what now? We exchange pithy banter
until the cavalry arrive?

DOJAR

Works for me.

BRODY

Sadly, not for me. You see that
satchel at my feet?

DOJAR

Yes...

BRODY

Inside it there is an small explosive
device brimming with antimatter. It
is primed and set to go off in, oh,
I'd say about six minutes. Now I
don't know about you, but I really
don't want to stick around until
then.

Dojar glances down at the satchel.

DOJAR

You're bluffing.

BRODY

The fear in my eyes tells a different
story. Go on, Cardassian, you know
it's true.

The Q'tami twitches again.

DOJAR

You'd better get defusing it then.

BRODY

Can't be done. Once it's set that's
it.

DOJAR

All bombs can be defused.

BRODY

Not in six minutes. So you see...

The chamber glass begins to crack...

BRODY (CONT'D)

...one way or the other...

A shrill Q'tami SHRIEK begins to rent the air, as biofluid begins to gush out of the chamber...

BRODY (CONT'D)

...you're going to die...

The Q'tami smashes out of the glass. Dojar immediately grabs his head with his hands and begins to scream, collapsing. The Q'tami, enraged, jumps on him as Brody ducks back and quickly presses a button.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Told you.

He begins to shimmer, and dematerialize, as the Q'tami attacks Dojar, who is screaming in pain. At the same time, all six stasis chambers also begin to dematerialize, and disappear. As this happens, Talora and Quinlan appear in the doorway.

TALORA

Quinlan!

Both women train their weapons on the Q'tami, and let rip. The Q'tami, still screaming, is blown to pieces, as tissue matter flies everywhere, covering everything in a thick, visceral substance. The two hurry over and kneel by Dojar, who is shaking and screaming.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Dojar. Dojar!

Dojar continues to scream. Quinlan looks round urgently.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Dojar! Dojar! We need to find something to help him.

Quinlan looks round and, almost instinctively, looks in Brody's satchel. She opens it, and her eyes widen. Inside is a small device, with a large liquid crystal device counting down: 4:53, 4:52, 4:51...

QUINLAN

Erm, Talora...

TALORA

Quinlan, hurry!

Quinlan slowly pulls the bomb out and looks at it.

QUINLAN

Oh shit... Talora, we have to get out of here. Now!

TALORA

Quinlan, we can't move him, he --

Quinlan thrusts the bomb under Talora's eye line. She speaks urgently.

QUINLAN

This is an antibomb.

TALORA

A what?

QUINLAN

An antibomb, you know, antimatter, boom!

Talora looks at her.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

We traded in these with Devon. You can't defuse them, what's what makes them so good. We have to move.

Talora hesitates for a moment, and then nods.

TALORA

Help me with him...

She puts one of Dojar's arms around her shoulder, and Quinlan does the other. They begin to shuffle out.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Cross marches on. At Ops, Lieutenant CALE mans his usual station. Various supernumeraries fill the other positions.

CROSS

Report.

HELM OFFICER

We'll be within transporter range in four point five minutes, Captain.

Cross nods, and turns to Cale.

CROSS

Mister Cale, initiate long range scans. I want to know about any ships coming or going from that planet.

CALE

Aye, Captain. At what distance away from the planet should I stop scanning?

Cross makes a face.

CROSS

Just ships going directly to or away, please Lieutenant.

CALE

Yes, Captain.

Cross sits in his chair and sighs.

CROSS

(shaking his head)
The best crew in the fleet...

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Leviathan cruises sedately through space, past our perspective.

INT. LEVIATHAN -- BRIDGE

Joel marches on to the bridge, followed closely behind by Delfune.

HELMSMAN

Captain on the Bridge.

JOEL

What's going on?

TACTICAL

(looking uncertainly
at them)
Captain, we've picked up a distress call.

JOEL

Where from?

TACTICAL

(glancing at Delfune)
The Ferin 4 compound. They're under attack.

Both women react, but in different ways.

JOEL

Helm, lay in a course, maximum warp.

HELMSMAN

Yes, Captain.

DELFUNE

Ferin 4 compound?

JOEL

It's a science base.

DELFUNE

But Ferin 4 is over twelve light-years away. Are there not any other ships closer?

TACTICAL

No, Admiral, we are the closest.

Delfune looks annoyed.

DELFUNE

Helm, how long will it take us to get there?

HELMSMAN

One point eight hours, Admiral.

The Admiral slumps.

DELFUNE

The attack will be long over by then.

JOEL

Did they say who was attacking them?

TACTICAL

(uncertainly looking
at Joel)

I couldn't make much out, Captain,
the message was heavily distorted.
There was only one word I could make
out.

DELFUNE

And what was that?

BEAT.

TACTICAL

"Enterprise," Admiral.

Delfune and Joel react.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- STAIRWELL

Talora and Quinlan are struggling with Dojar, who has stopped shaking but appears unconscious, up the stairs. The stairs rattle as they move.

QUINLAN

This place doesn't feel too secure.

TALORA

Keep moving.

As they reach a level, two guards emerge from a door and train their rifles on them.

GUARD 6

Hold it!

TALORA

(urgently)

There is a bomb on the bottom level that is primed to go off in a little over three minutes. If you take us prisoner, all that will left of us will be charred corpses.

GUARD 6

You lie.

TALORA

Possibly. Or possibly I am telling the truth. Either way, there is only one way out of here, so even if we are lying, you'll get us.

The guards look at each other.

QUINLAN

(indicating Dojar)

It would be nice if you helped us here.

The guards look, then turn and run up the stairs quickly. Talora and Quinlan roll their eyes.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

And here was I thinking the age of chivalry was dead.

TALORA

Come on.

They carry on.

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND -- LAB

Amidst the shattered glass and the smoke, the bomb continues to tick down. 2:32, 2:31, 2:30...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before, Cross standing in front of his chair.

CROSS

How are we doing?

HELM OFFICER

We're entering the system now, Captain.

CROSS

Cale, any sign of trouble?

CALE

None, sir. I can't see...

Suddenly the bridge RUMBLES, as from a weapons blast. The red alert klaxon starts sounding.

CROSS

Report!

CALE

Captain, a small shuttle has appeared. It's shooting at us --

CROSS

You surprise me. What's a vessel the size of a shuttle doing firing at us? They're either very brave, or very stupid. Return fire.

CALE

I can't, Captain, they've gone to warp. Pursuit course?

CROSS

No, Mister Cale. We have people to find. But I want a full analysis of that ship and her possible headings.

CALE

Yes, Captain.

CROSS

And turn that damn noise off.

CALE

Captain.

The red alert klaxon ceases.

CROSS

Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- STAIRWELL

Talora and Quinlan have reached the top, and burst through into...

INT. COMPOUND -- CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

It is a terrible mess -- blast marks, walls caved in, large piles of debris, unconscious and dead bodies everywhere. Talora and Quinlan push through, still carrying Dojar.

QUINLAN

(puffing hard)

I really wish Dojar had gone on that diet I suggested.

TALORA

(equally tired)

Was that the one that had no proper meals but was full of milkshakes?

QUINLAN

Yes.

TALORA

How many Cardassians have you seen drinking milkshakes?

QUINLAN

Good point.

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND -- LAB

We focus on the bomb -- 0.59, 0.58, 0.57...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before, Cross looking tense.

HELM OFFICER

Captain, we're about to enter transporter range.

CROSS
(taps his commbadge)
Cross to Ozran.

OZRAN'S COMM VOICE
Narv here, Captain.

CROSS
Narv, we're going to need an emergency
transport in a moment. Talora --

OZRAN'S COMM VOICE
-- Quinlan and Dojar. I'm on it,
Captain.

CROSS
Good man.

HELM OFFICER
Entering transporter range now.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPOUND -- RECEPTION

Talora and Quinlan half run, half stumble through, into the open air. The courtyard has giant scorch marks, where the initial bombs went off. So used to the dim emergency lighting inside, they squint at the sudden brightness.

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND LAB

The bomb ticks on: 0.20, 0.19, 0.18...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Ozran at his console, working furiously.

OZRAN
Where are you? Where are you?

CUT TO:

EXT. COMPOUND -- COURTYARD

Quinlan suddenly falls to the floor, exhausted.

TALORA
Quinlan!

QUINLAN
It's no good. I can't go on. We'll
never get away in time anyway.

She looks at Talora, a terrified look on her face. Talora looks back at her.

INTERCUT:

INT. COMPOUND -- LAB

The bomb ticks: 0.02, 0.01, 0.00...

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Ozran at his console.

OZRAN

Ah ha, there you are!

He presses a button.

INTERCUT:

EXT. COMPOUND -- COURTYARD

Talora and Quinlan watch as the building explodes, a huge mushroom of flame blasting out... as they shimmer into nothingness, and the flames engulf the area.

EXT. JUNGLE

Wider shot of the bomb detonating, and billowing up.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Talora, Quinlan, and Dojar all materialize, looking wiped out, as Ozran looks up, grinning.

OZRAN

Hello, you need a lift?

Quinlan closes her eyes and says nothing. Talora is businesslike.

TALORA

We need to get Dojar to Sickbay right away. Transport us.

OZRAN

Okay, here goes.

He taps in the instructions, and Dojar and Talora disappear. Quinlan hasn't moved from where she transported in.

OZRAN (CONT'D)

You okay, Lieutenant?

She opens her eyes, and looks at him.

QUINLAN

Just tell me why can't we, for once,
get away with... oh I don't know,
ten minutes to spare?

OZRAN

(smiling)

Welcome back on board.

She shakes her head, and then thinks of something. She taps
her commbadge.

QUINLAN

Quinlan to Cross.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before. Cross reacts to the comm.

CROSS

Quinlan?

QUINLAN'S COMM VOICE

Captain, did you detect a small vessel
leaving the system?

CROSS

We detected a shuttle, yes.

QUINLAN'S COMM VOICE

Captain, you need to lay in a pursuit
course. It's very important.

CROSS

(looks vexed)

Can I ask why?

QUINLAN'S COMM VOICE

Brody is on board.

Cross reacts.

CROSS

Understood.

He turns to Cale.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Lieutenant?

CALE

(working)

Analyzing his flight vectors now.
Hmmm, this is odd...

CROSS

What?

CALE

According to this, his vessel entered
slipstream.

Short stunned silence.

CROSS

That's impossible.

CALE

That's what it says here.

CROSS

No ship that size has slipstream
capability.

CALE

Captain, I --

Cross goes over and checks Cale's findings. He breathes
deeply.

CALE (CONT'D)

See?

CROSS

(to himself)

Who are we playing with here?

(out loud)

Helm, set in a pursuit course. Engage
the drive.

HELM OFFICER

Aye, Captain.

EXT. SPACE

In the background, we see the planet, as the ENTERPRISE
executes a graceful arc, and streams off into the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Leviathan races past at warp.

INT. LEVIATHAN -- BRIDGE

Joel and Delfune are in the center seats, as the Tactical
Officer looks up.

TACTICAL OFFICER

Captain.

JOEL

What is it?

TACTICAL OFFICER

We've detected an explosion on Ferin 4, in the vicinity of the base.

JOEL

Explosion?

TACTICAL OFFICER

Antimatter, sir.

Joel closes her eyes.

TACTICAL OFFICER (CONT'D)

Sir, the Enterprise was in orbit around the planet at the time of the detonation.

DELFUNE

(angrily)

And now?

TACTICAL OFFICER

Less than two minutes following the blast, she engaged slipstream and left the system.

Delfune and Joel look at each other.

JOEL

There's no chance anyone in the base would have survived that blast. It sounds like Captain Cross has gone kamikaze again.

DELFUNE

Surely it's not possible? His crew wouldn't allow it.

JOEL

Only one way to find out. Helm, lay in a pursuit course. Engage Slipstream.

She looks determinedly at Delfune.

JOEL (CONT'D)

We'll stop him... one way or the other.

On her face, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE -- QUANTUM SLIPSTREAM

The Enterprise races past at slipstream.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

Dojar is lying on a biobed as Elris, Toran, and various nurses move round him in a professional, controlled manner. Various medical devices are beeping. In the background, Talora hangs back, looking worried.

TORAN

BP's ninety over sixty.

NURSE

Resps 15, shallow.

ELRIS

Brain activity is minimal, except in the adulla cortex. He's in a coma. This wounds appear superficial, but let's stop him losing any more blood.

TORAN

Nurse, four CCs hydroxinol. Let's see if we can't get this BP back up.

NURSE 2

Yes, Doctor.

She administers the dose.

ELRIS

(still working on
Dojar)

Commander, what caused this?

TALORA

He was attacked by a Q'tami.

Elris reacts.

ELRIS

A Q'tami?

TALORA

Yes.

ELRIS

(sighs)

Oh boy. Okay, thank you. Nurse?

She and a nurse exchange a pointed look. The nurse nods and walks over to Talora.

NURSE

Commander, we could be some time here. It would be best if you left for the moment.

Talora keeps staring at Dojar, as though she hasn't heard.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Commander?

TALORA

Yes. All right.

She turns quickly, as though pulling a bandage off quickly so as not to feel it as much, and walks out the door...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Talora leans against the wall and breathes deeply.

Y'LAN

Commander.

She opens her eyes. Y'lan has sidled seamlessly up to her.

TALORA

Y'lan.

Y'LAN

Is Lieutenant Dojar in Sickbay?

TALORA

Yes, they're tending to him now.

Y'LAN

I must see him.

TALORA

I don't think they want anyone.

But it is too late -- Y'lan has already entered. The door closes behind him. Talora continues to rest against the wall. After a minute, Y'lan reappears with the same NURSE.

NURSE

I'm sorry, Y'lan, we'll let you know when you can come back.

The door closes. Talora looks at Y'lan.

TALORA

What is it, Y'lan? Y'lan, is it something about Dojar? Y'lan!

But Y'lan has drifted back down the corridor, not answering. Talora sighs, thinks about pursuing him, but in the end walks in the opposite direction.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE -- QUANTUM SLIPSTREAM

As before, the Enterprise races past our point of view.

CROSS (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate 79984.0. We have managed to track Brody's ship, but his vessel is matching our speed at the present time. All we can do for the moment is ensure that we do not lose sight of him. Meanwhile, we await news from Sickbay on Lieutenant Dojar's condition.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- QUINLAN'S QUARTERS

Quinlan is cleaning up, splashing water in her face. She looks in the mirror, and a worn, haggard face looks back at her. As she wipes her face with a towel, her door chimes.

QUINLAN

Come in.

The door opens, and Grey steps through.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Erik.

GREY

Jennifer.

They embrace.

GREY (CONT'D)

Are you all right?

QUINLAN

Bit battered, but I'm okay.

GREY

And Dojar?

QUINLAN

I don't know. That Q'tami was all over him when we came in. We'll have to wait, see what Lea has to say.

Grey nods. He hesitates, which Quinlan notices.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Something on your mind?

GREY

I had a visit from the Captain while you were away.

QUINLAN

Oh?

GREY

He wanted to know where you'd gone.

Quinlan nods.

QUINLAN

What did you tell him?

GREY

I didn't tell him anything.

(beat)

But I'm beginning to think maybe we should.

Quinlan looks at him.

QUINLAN

That's a bit of a U-turn.

GREY

I know. It's just -- some of the things he said to me. They were true.

QUINLAN

What like?

GREY

About endangering people's lives. Your lives. You were damn lucky today to get out of there.

QUINLAN

We accept the risks.

GREY

But what about the point when the risks become too great? When the laws of probability finally snap back, and we aren't lucky. What happens if we...

(struggles)

...if something happens to us. Who carries on the fight then? Us dying will do no good to anyone, it'll only help Janus's aims.

QUINLAN

Whatever they are.

GREY

Right, whatever they are. And now if they've run off with the Q'tami, God only knows what it is they're planning. We need this ship on our side. We need the strength.

(he shakes his head)

I don't like the Captain, I can never forgive him for Coular, but in times like this you don't get to pick your allies. And I think having the Enterprise on our side would be a very important ally.

TALORA

I agree.

They look up, startled. Talora has appeared in the doorway. She, too, looks strained and tired.

TALORA (CONT'D)

It's time we told him.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

A little later. The operation is winding down. A nurse injects Dojar with a hypospray, while Toran is running a medical device over his head and Elris finishes healing the wounds on his bare torso. She sighs.

ELRIS

Okay, done. Anything?

TORAN

(shaking his head)

There is activity in the frontal lobe, but no sign of consciousness.

ELRIS

All right, let's finish up. We can leave him over night, see how he responds to the drugs, reassess him in the morning.

Y'LAN (O.S.)

He will not respond to any of your medication.

Elris turns. Y'lan is standing in the doorway. He approaches the biobed.

ELRIS

What?

Y'LAN

He is beyond your help now.

ELRIS

Why, what's happened to him?

Y'LAN

I am uncertain yet.

ELRIS

Something to do with the Q'tami on the base?

Beat.

Y'LAN

I was unaware that any Q'tami were present. What happened to them?

TORAN

They were Elris shakes her head at him behind Y'lan's back.

ELRIS

We don't know what happened to them.

Y'lan is still staring at Dojar. Elris watches him.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Can you help him?

Y'LAN

I do not know.

He runs his tentacles over Dojar's body, lightly touching his stomach, his chest, his head.

ELRIS

Please try.

The camera begins to close in on Y'lan, who has his eyes closed, in the same state as we saw him in in "Right There Behind You."

As the camera closes in on him we hear the same voice over by Cross, Elris and Talora echoing after each other.

ELRIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Please try...

EXT. DEVASTATED CITYSCAPE

A city that has been, seemingly, torn apart. Hollow shells stand where buildings once were, bodies lie strewn around

the ground, flames ravage what little remains of buildings, there are huge cracks in the surface and there is no sign of life. Dust lies on every path and object visible... it is complete devastation.

Dojar is standing in the middle of what looks like a city square, facing away, wearing his Starfleet uniform. Y'lan approaches him from behind. He doesn't react to Y'lan's presence, but he knows he is there.

DOJAR

Hello, Y'lan. I've been expecting you.

Y'LAN

For longer than you realize.

DOJAR

What is this place?

Y'lan looks around.

Y'LAN

I do not know.

DOJAR

It seems... familiar, but I don't know why.

Y'LAN

It is possible it is a place from some point in your life.

DOJAR

Then why don't I remember it?

Y'LAN

I cannot say.

Beat.

DOJAR

I'm going to die, aren't I?

Y'lan looks at him.

Y'LAN

Perhaps.

DOJAR

You're not very helpful, are you?

Y'LAN

That is why I am here, to help.

Dojar shakes his head and turns, looking at Dojar.

DOJAR

Not just that, Y'lan. I know. I've heard your thoughts.

Y'LAN

Hearing is not the same as understanding.

He walks closer to Dojar.

DOJAR

What do you want?

Y'LAN

I am also present to increase my knowledge of what may be happening to your body.

(beat)

And to discover if it is a threat.

Dojar looks at him in a resigned fashion.

DOJAR

That's all it's about, isn't it? At the end of the day all that matters is what is a threat to you and your precious Hegemony.

Y'LAN

You misunderstand me.

DOJAR

Do I?

Y'LAN

I was referring to the threat posed to the Enterprise. Search inside yourself. You know that to be true.

DOJAR

Why? What's going on?

Y'LAN

The Hegemony are coming. They are going to take you away.

DOJAR

Why?

Y'LAN

I do not know. They would not tell me.

DOJAR

That must annoy you.

Y'LAN

It is true I would like to know what their purposes are. What their interest is in you.

DOJAR

I'm the guy who's heard every single mind in the universe. Surely there's no great mystery involved.

Y'LAN

As I said before, hearing and understanding are two different things. I have heard many things recently. Now I would like to try and understand them.

DOJAR

(nodding)

So you want to help the ship?

Y'LAN

Yes.

DOJAR

What can I do?

Y'LAN

Assist me in finding out what precisely has happened to you.

DOJAR

(angrily)

Your transporter screwed with my head, Y'lan. When I see people in pain it hurts -- that's about it, you know that.

Y'LAN

Perhaps if you informed me of what happened on the planet's surface?

DOJAR

You don't know?

Y'LAN

I have been informed -- of the Q'tami. I do not know, however, how your encounter with them transpired.

Dojar looks at him, uncomfortably.

DOJAR

I'd rather not go back there.

Y'LAN

This crew's life may depend on you
doing so.

Dojar closes his eyes and takes a breath. We see some quick
flashes of the earlier scenes in the lab as Dojar speaks.

DOJAR

My head had been hurting since we
landed. I think it's been getting
worse for a while, but... not
constantly. Not like how it was
down there.

Y'LAN

Could you hear the Q'tami's thoughts?

DOJAR

No.

(frowning in
concentration)

But somehow, I knew they were there.

Y'LAN

Where were they?

DOJAR

In suspended animation.

Y'LAN

How did you have physical contact
with them?

DOJAR

One got free, attacked me. That was
when... everything started hurting...
I couldn't breathe... or think even.
It overtook me.

Y'lan takes this information in, but does not seem affected
by it.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

They're in so much pain, Y'lan. I
could feel them reaching out to me.
To anyone. The only thing I could
feel was pain and fear.

Y'LAN

The Q'tami do not experience fear.

DOJAR

(hollowly)

These did.

Y'lan looks at him curiously, but after a moment:

Y'LAN

We do not.

Dojar shakes his head, not wanting to carry on the argument.

DOJAR

So?

Y'lan turns and begins to walk away.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

Y'LAN

There are no answers here.

DOJAR

What are you going to do?

Y'LAN

I will do what it has always been determined that I will do. What that is is unclear. I cannot remain here, however, without risk to my own neural pathways. I will inform the Captain of my findings.

Y'lan prepares himself to leave, but Dojar continues looking at him, intensely.

DOJAR

Y'lan?

Y'LAN

Yes?

DOJAR

I just realized something.

Y'LAN

Specifically?

DOJAR

You might be the last being I ever see.

Y'LAN

I'm sure that will not be the case.

DOJAR

It doesn't matter. You might be. Just... I want you to make sure that... you know. Things.

Y'LAN

I do not know.

Dojar half sighs, half laughs.

DOJAR

One day you might.

(beat)

Make sure that people know when you do.

Y'lan nods, and he appears to spin around into a bright flash of light leaving Dojar standing alone looking into space. He sighs and seats himself in the middle of the floor, looking around him for a moment or so, before clutching his head in pain and as we continue to close in on him...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

As before, Elris standing by Y'lan, who has his tentacles spread over Dojar. Elris is still speaking, and -- it would appear that no time has passed at all.

ELRIS

Are you going to try?

Y'LAN

I can do nothing.

He turns and begins to walk out. Elris looks at him in anger.

ELRIS

You could at least try!

Y'lan leaves without another word. Elris goes to follow him, but Toran catches her arm.

TORAN

Don't go after him when you're het up. It will do you no good.

ELRIS

I'm not worried about me.

She looks down at Dojar.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

I'm not worried about me at all.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- READY ROOM

Cross is staring out of the window, out to the night skies. His expression is blank. Slowly, he turns, and looks at Talora, Grey, and Quinlan, who are lined up in front of his desk. Talora has a watchful expression, Quinlan a slightly ashamed one, and Grey a determined, resolute one.

CROSS

A year...

QUINLAN

(blurting out)

We wanted to tell you before, it was just...

Her eyes dart fleetingly to Grey, but away. Cross notes this however, and understands. Grey steps forward.

GREY

I did not think it was for the best.

Cross walks over and sits, almost slumps, down behind his desk. He folds his hands in front of him and studiously avoids their gaze.

CROSS

(quietly)

I understand.

(beat)

What do you think they're after?

TALORA

We don't know, Captain. There has been nothing in the activities we've previously been aware of to suggest that Janus had any interest in the Q'tami.

Cross nods, thoughtfully.

CROSS

Then our mission remains unchanged. Catch up with Brody, and ensure that Janus doesn't get its hands on them.

(beat)

All right, thank you for informing me. You are dismissed.

(another beat)

Commander, a word if I may.

Grey and Quinlan turn and walk out...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

Grey and Quinlan walk across to a lift.

QUINLAN

I thought that went well.

Grey looks at her.

GREY

What meeting were you at?

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- READY ROOM

Talora stands to attention, while Cross sits in his chair, staring ahead at the wall. Time passes, the silence grows deeper, more oppressive, more tense. Finally:

TALORA

Captain, I --

CROSS

Don't, Commander. Don't say a word.

He stands up and walks over to his window again.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I don't know what to say.

TALORA

We were in a tough situation, we --

CROSS

(turning)

I thought I could rely on you.

Talora opens her mouth to say something, and then, seeing the pain on Cross's face, she shuts it again. Cross is looking out of his window.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I don't have many friends, Commander. The ones I do have, though -- I rely on them completely. I place my trust in their hands, and I had hoped that they did the same with me.

TALORA

Permission to speak freely, Captain.

CROSS

Please.

TALORA

Captain, when we first learned of the existence of Janus, you were... away... in New Zealand. When we first returned to the ship, you were not in the best shape mentally --

CROSS

And what? You thought I might accidentally go blurt it out to someone?

TALORA

(calmly and steadily)

You had more than enough weight on your shoulders already, sir. I felt any more and your back might buckle.

CROSS

Don't you think it's up to me to make that call?

TALORA

(shaking her head)

No, Captain, I do not think it is. My job as first officer is to ensure the well being of my Captain, to make sure he is able to function at all times...

(choosing her words deliberately)

...to protect him, if needs be.

Cross closes his eyes.

TALORA (CONT'D)

A few months ago, you were in a very dark place. My job was to help you into the light again, not bury you forever.

(beat)

You are my Captain, but also you are my friend. I was worried about you, concerned you would never again be the Neil Cross I started serving with nearly two years ago. I wanted that man back.

CROSS

You'll never have him back. He's gone for good.

TALORA

No, he isn't. He's still there, inside, and he is reappearing. The very fact we have told you now shows how much we consider you better...

CROSS

So now you're my therapy group?

TALORA

No, Captain. We're your family.

This is unexpected, and Cross doesn't quite know how to react to this.

TALORA (CONT'D)

We don't know what Janus is, what they want, what they'll do to get it. We already know how dangerous they are, to what lengths they will go to achieve their aims. But we can fight them, and we are fighting them. We might be but a drop in the ocean, a seemingly insignificant speck, but we can make a difference. But to do that, we need a strong leader, someone who will make the right decisions at the right time, someone who can be the head of our family.

(beat)

Six months ago, we didn't have him. Now? Now, I believe we just might.

Cross sighs deeply and looks back at Talora.

CROSS

We can win.

TALORA

Yes, Captain, I believe we can.

Cross walks over and stands by her.

CROSS

Then that is what we must do.

He looks at her, an inscrutable expression on his face.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Would you still push me over that cliff if I ordered you to?

TALORA

No, Captain, I would pull you back from the edge.

He smiles faintly. He's about to speak again when the door to his ready room opens with no preamble, and Y'lan enters, speaking at once.

Y'LAN

Captain, I must have a shuttle.

CROSS

Y'lan? How about knocking next --

Y'LAN

Captain, the Hegemony are coming for Dojar.

CROSS

What?

Y'LAN

They are coming for him. We must
leave immediately.

CROSS

Why? Are you running away from them?

Y'LAN

No, Captain, I am going to meet them.

Cross and Talora exchange glances.

CUT TO:

INT. LEVIATHAN -- ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE

We are on a part of the ship that we have not seen before this is the ADMIRAL'S BRIDGE, a two-story set with a space for the Admiral's staff to work below, with an "observation level" on the level about, that seems perhaps a little too comfortable. The two levels are connected by a grand staircase of sorts with a large viewscreen, that is all but the height of the room on the opposite wall.

Delfune sits in a comfortable chair on the upper level of the Bridge, alone.

Joel enters and walks up the staircase (NOTE: There are no doors on the upper level -- you have to walk up the stairs to get to the Admiral.)

JOEL

You wanted to see me?

DELFUNE

Yes.

Joel heads for a seat.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

Don't sit down. This won't take
long.

Joel stands, not impressed.

JOEL

(ambiguously)

What do you want, Admiral?

DELFUNE

How far away are we from reaching
the Enterprise?

JOEL

Helm estimates another hour twenty,
Admiral.

Delfune nods. She looks at Joel speculatively for a minute.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Was there anything else?

DELFUNE

What possible motive do you think
Captain Cross would have for attacking
the compound?

JOEL

I don't know sir.

DELFUNE

Do you not?

(beat)

What do you know about the compound?

JOEL

Only what the official records say --

DELFUNE

There are no official records about
this base, Captain Joel. None at
all. And yet you did not seem
unfamiliar with the facility when we
received the distress call. Why
not?

Joel hesitates.

JOEL

Are you testing me, Admiral?

DELFUNE

Let's say I am.

Joel thinks about this for a moment, as Delfune watches
keenly.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

It's possible we're about to launch
an attack on one of our most infamous
vessels. I want to make sure we
have all the facts in front of us.
Don't you think that would be wise?

Joel hesitates.

JOEL

(reluctantly)

The compound was a prison where the captured Q'tami from the attack on Utopia Planitia were being held.

DELFUNE

"Were" being the operative word.

(watching Joel keenly)

How do you know this?

JOEL

I was one of the Captains assigned to keep a periodic check on the facility, to monitor the situation and ensure it remained stable.

Delfune nods.

DELFUNE

Good. I am glad we are on the same page now.

(beat; watching Joel keenly again)

How do you think Captain Cross knew about this place?

JOEL

I don't know -- it's not as if he needed to be told, let alone have the security clearance.

(harshly)

Not after Coular.

DELFUNE

Do you think Cross is capable of this? Again?

JOEL

I don't know what that man is not capable of, Admiral.

DELFUNE

The Q'tami are the reason he's back on board the Enterprise, they're the reason why he's not in a prison cell. What kind of motivation is that?

JOEL

Perhaps he plans to launch a counter strike against the Q'tami, before they can hit back?

(bitterly)

After all, there are all these rumors about why the Captain got the Enterprise back?

DELFUNE

And what rumors have you heard?

JOEL

That the Q'tami believe that one day Captain Cross and the Enterprise will stop them in whatever evil plans they have for our galaxy.

DELFUNE

Evil plans? For shame, Captain, the Hegemony are our friends. It was a rogue element that attacked the shipyards. You've read the reports, you should know that.

JOEL

I know that's what the official reports say. The unofficial ones say something quite different.

DELFUNE

Really? And how do you come to be reading unofficial reports?

Joel looks at her.

JOEL

We all have our sources, Admiral. Not just you.

Delfune nods, smiling. Joel pushes on:

JOEL (CONT'D)

Admiral, we've seen what Cross has done in the past. We have evidence that his crew were on the surface and that one of the Q'tami are dead and the rest missing. He could be planning anything. Either way, we have to go after him.

DELFUNE

The last thing we need is a rogue Captain on our hands, do we?

JOEL

Now there's a worrying thought.

(beat)

I don't know what the hell he's up to, but one way or another, Cross has to be stopped. Before he decides to bomb any more prisons because he doesn't like the people inside.

DELFUNE

I agree. Thank you, Captain.

JOEL

You're welcome.

(starts to walk out)

The last thing we need at the moment
is a problem Captain.

She walks out. Delfune's smiling expression changes instantly
to a grim one.

DELFUNE

No, Captain, we definitely do not
need a problem Captain. Especially
one that reads unofficial reports...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SHUTTLEBAY

Some medics steer Dojar on a hovering stretcher carefully
into a shuttlebay, Elris and Toran supervising. Y'lan sits
at the controls, and off to one side Cross is watching.
Over this, we hear:

CROSS (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Supplemental. Y'lan
has requisitioned the Rubicon for
his rendezvous with the Hegemony.
He informs me that he has high hopes
that they will be able to help Dojar,
but I am still uneasy about placing
my security officer into the hands
of beings we still know very little
about. To that end, I have requested
a member of the medical team accompany
them to monitor Dojar's condition,
and Doctor Toran has volunteered for
the post.

Elris enters the shuttle.

ELRIS

How long will you be away?

Y'LAN

I do not know, Doctor.

Elris looks worried, but Y'lan brushes past her, and out.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

We are ready to leave.

Toran and Elris exchange a glance.

TORAN

I guess this is it, then.

CROSS
 (offering Toran his
 hand)
 Good luck, Doctor.

TORAN
 (taking it)
 Thank you, Captain.

Y'lan has already climbed back aboard the shuttle. Toran turns and is about to get on...

TALORA (O.S.)
 Wait.

They turn. Talora is walking rapidly towards the shuttle.

CROSS
 Commander?

TALORA
 Captain, I would like to request
 permission to accompany the shuttle.

Cross looks at her in shock.

CROSS
 What?

Talora looks round at the gaping faces.

TALORA
 May I have a word with you in private,
 Captain?

CROSS
 Of course.

They separate themselves from the others.

CROSS (CONT'D)
 What's going on?

TALORA
 (hesitating)
 I am... unwilling to see Dojar leave.
 As much as I respect Doctor Toran's
 care, we never know what to expect
 from the Hegemony.

CROSS
 Go on.

TALORA
 I believe the presence of a senior
 member of the crew would provide
 (MORE)

TALORA (CONT'D)
extra security for Dojar, and Doctor
Toran. Diplomacy may be needed at
some point...

CROSS
Talora, I --

TALORA
Please, Captain. Dojar is my friend.
I want to make sure he comes back.

CROSS
What about Brody? And Janus?

TALORA
I think you will be able to handle
things. You can't go too far round
with Lieutenant Grey breathing down
your neck.

Cross sighs and looks into Talora's earnest eyes. She means
it. Reluctantly, he nods.

CROSS
All right.

TALORA
Thank you.

CROSS
Just make sure you come back, too.

TALORA
I have no intention of doing anything
but, Captain.

They begin to walk back, towards the interested party of
spectators. Talora nods to them, and boards the shuttle.
Toran nods to the Captain and then Elris, who returns a weak
smile, before turning and boarding to.

COMM VOICE
Please clear the shuttlebay. Imminent
departure.

As the medical team turn, Cross stands still for a moment.

CROSS
(softly)
Just make sure you do.

EXT. SPACE -- QUANTUM SLIPSTREAM

The Enterprise continues to cruise at slipstream. Focusing
on the secondary shuttlebay as the great ship swoops past,
we see the RUBICON flying out and away, as we...

RENAISSANCE: "This Side of Hades" - ACT FOUR

79.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

A shuttle flies past the camera at high warp.

INT. SHUTTLE -- REAR COMPARTMENT

Talora sits at the rear of the shuttle with Dojar's head laid on her lap. She wipes his face with a wet towel, not wiping sweat off though, merely washing him.

She finishes and gently lifts his head from her, before placing it back down on the cushioned stretcher. She looks at him, as Toran's shadow falls over them.

TORAN

I would like to check his vitals.

Talora nods, and gets up to leave them. She walks through, into...

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT -- CONTINUOUS

Y'lan is sat at the controls of the shuttle, but does not react when Talora sits down next to him. He seems different however, concentrating more perhaps, even more complex than usual -- even more of an enigma.

Talora waits for a second, and when Y'lan doesn't say anything:

TALORA

His condition hasn't changed.

Y'LAN

I realize that.

TALORA

You could show more compassion, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

I have no need for compassion. It will only serve to distract me from my current activities.

Talora sighs.

TALORA

It may... distract... but it also serves to comfort. Perhaps you should try it?

Y'LAN

I have no need for comfort.

TALORA

Are you sure?

Y'LAN

Yes.

TALORA

I'm not very good at reading Q'tami, Y'lan, but it appears to me that you're nervous.

Y'LAN

Nervous?

TALORA

You are hyper-stimulated. You have not rest since we left the Enterprise, nor have you spoken without my prompting. Your tentacles can't appear to remain in one position for more than half a minute.

Beat.

Y'LAN

It would not be a misstatement if it were said that I were uncomfortable.

TALORA

Uncomfortable?

Y'LAN

I do not relish the opportunity to visit the Hegemony.

TALORA

Why not? You're going home.

Y'LAN

I do not wish to talk of it.

Talora raises an eyebrow. Y'lan taps a control.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

We are here.

EXT. SPACE

The RUBICON emerges from warp and immediately comes to a full stop, and hangs in space, seemingly alone.

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Talora leans forward, peering out of the viewscreen.

TALORA

I don't see anything.

Y'LAN

Watch.

EXT. SPACE

Slowly, very slowly, we become aware of ripples running over the Rubicon, like water being blown by a gentle breeze. The area begins to lighten, although the source is far from clear.

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Talora looks uncertainly out, as the shuttle begins to shake.

TALORA

What's going on?

Y'LAN

The Hegemony are creating a slipstream for us to travel through.

TALORA

Slipstream? But I thought we were meeting them here?

Y'LAN

"Here" is a relative term.

Talora looks out as the shuttle is bathed in light -- red and orange and purple.

EXT. SPACE

The light is coalescing into a single whirlpool, which is starting to swirl faster and faster. Not only the Rubicon, but everything around -- all the stars, the dust, everything seem to be drawn into it. Faster and faster the light swirls, as, around the edges, crackles of white light flash, as though there is a tremendous storm. The shuttle shakes harder as it is pulled in, and the whirlpool gives the impression of tremendous heat.

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Y'lan appears serene as Talora looks increasingly concerned. Toran has emerged from the back too, stumbling slightly as the shaking has grown so violent.

TORAN

What's going on?

TALORA

(urgently)

Y'lan, where are we going?

Y'lan turns and looks at her.

Y'LAN

We are going to the Hegemony.

EXT. SPACE

The whirlpool fills the entire screen, and suddenly seems to fold itself inside out, over the Rubicon. Instantly, it disappears, in a blazing flash, and then there is nothing, only the night again.

HOLD for a long beat.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Cross marches onto the bridge. Quinlan is at helm, Cale at his usual post.

CROSS

Report.

QUINLAN

Brody's ship is showing signs of slowing down, sir. I think his slip initiator burned out on him.

CROSS

Are we in hailing distance?

QUINLAN

Yes, sir.

CROSS

Lieutenant Cale, open a channel.

CALE

Channel open.

CROSS

Mister Brody, this is Captain Neil Cross of the USS Enterprise. We've met before.

INTERCUT:

INT. BRODY'S SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Brody is at the helm, looking determined. Cross's voice echoes from his speakers.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

As I'm sure you're aware we have been pursuing you for the past two hours.

(MORE)

CROSS'S COMM VOICE (CONT'D)

Our sensors tell us you are running out of gas and it goes without saying your ship is no match for ours. I would suggest that you drop out of slipstream and surrender yourself to us immediately. Failure to do so will only result in our bringing you in forcefully.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before. Cross waits for an answer. There is none. He waits for maybe half a minute, and then shrugs at Quinlan.

CROSS

So be it. Lieutenant Cale, lock phasers and --

BRODY'S COMM VOICE

Captain.

His voice sounds rough and husky.

CROSS

Mister Brody?

INTERCUT:

INT. BRODY'S SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Brody at the helm.

BRODY

I would advise you to cease and desist, Captain. You cannot know what you're meddling in. There are bigger things than just this ship at stake.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Same as before, Cross standing firm.

CROSS

(softly)

We know you took the Q'tami, Brody. We know why, too.

BRODY'S COMM VOICE

You know nothing!

QUINLAN

Let me shoot him, sir, please let me shoot him.

Cross holds a hand.

CROSS

I know more than you --

BRODY'S COMM VOICE

They find me, they'll kill me!

CROSS

Then isn't it better you turn them over to us?

BRODY'S COMM VOICE

They find you, they'll kill you too. They may already have found us.

CROSS

Mister Brody, you don't know that for certain.

(beat)

What you do know for certain is that we have found you, and after what you did to me and my crew we will have no compunction to bring you down.

Another pause.

QUINLAN

(whispering)

Just one shot.

Cross scolds her with a look. She sighs.

CROSS

What do you say? Turn yourself in, and we can sort this out.

INTERCUT:

INT. BRODY'S SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Brody at helm.

BRODY

No one can! No one's safe! They're everywhere.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Let us try. Please. Otherwise, we will take you by force.

He closes his eyes and swears under his breath.

BRODY

There is an asteroid field about half a light-year from here. One of the biggest has a cavern about thirty feet down, with an artificial atmosphere generator. I will meet you there.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Cale looks up at Cross.

CALE

Got it.

CROSS

All right, Brody, but no tricks.

BRODY'S COMM VOICE

No tricks. Brody out.

QUINLAN

He's got tricks.

CROSS

Yes, Lieutenant, but so do we. So do we.

(taps a commbadge)

Security team three. Report to transporter room three in five minutes.

He turns and begins to walk out.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Quinlan, you're with me.

QUINLAN

Great.

She bounces up and hurries to catch up with him.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Can I shoot him then?

As the turbolift doors close...

CROSS

We'll see.

CUT TO:

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Talora and Toran are slumped in their seats, unconscious. Y'lan is working at the controls, placidly. Through the viewscreen, purple light flows in. Talora starts to move, and slowly sits up.

TALORA

What... What happened?

Y'LAN

You lost consciousness. Your bodies are unused to our way of traveling long distances.

Talora looks round, as Toran slowly groans and looks up.

TALORA

Long distances? How far have we gone?

Y'LAN

In your terms, approximately three million light years.

TALORA

(alarmed)

What?

Y'LAN

The Hegemony does not base itself in one single galaxy, or indeed in your galaxy at all.

Talora shakes her head as Toran, a bit unsteadily, gets to his feet.

TORAN

I'm going to go and check Dojar.

Y'LAN

There is no need to. We are here.

Talora squints and looks outside. She is about to say something to Y'lan when she sees what he is looking at through the window. Her mouth drops open in shock.

EXT. SLIPSTREAM

Start facing the shuttle, before panning around behind it, to reveal a HUGE SHIP that is bigger than anything we have seen before. It is almost the size of a planet, apparently organic and heading straight towards the shuttle. We hold on it for a few moments to let the viewer take the immense sight in.

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Talora is still apparently quite shocked as she watches the ship approaching them.

TALORA
What is it?

Y'LAN
It is a Q'tami vessel.

TALORA
It's ... big.

Y'LAN
Size is irrelevant.

EXT. SLIPSTREAM

We watch as the ship continues to approach the shuttle. The reflection of the slipstream on its organic surface makes the whole thing look completely unreal, even more so when the Q'tami ship towers over the shuttle.

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Talora seats herself next to Y'lan.

Y'LAN
Coordinates are being transmitted
for termination of travel.

Talora looks at her console for a moment, before not seeing what she is looking for.

TALORA
How do you know that?

Y'LAN
I am in telepathic communication
with the vessel.

He taps some controls, and Talora studies the readout.

TALORA
Our arrival terminal is on the
southern hemisphere of the vessel,
on the eastern side.

Y'lan indicates that he has understood and is already piloting around the vessel as Talora continues to watch, trying to resist the urge for her jaw to drop wide open.

EXT. SLIPSTREAM

The shuttle moves around the huge vessel, and we see it from various angles as it flies towards its destination.

Finally, it hovers above one part of what looks like an orifice, and heads towards it.

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

Same as before.

Y'LAN

Termination has been authorized.

EXT. SLIPSTREAM

The shuttle enters the vessels orifice.

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

We see the inside of the vessel, everything is organic and we can see the huge amount of tissue and blood vessels and electrical impulses running throughout it.

INT. ORGANIC VESSEL -- ARRIVAL TERMINAL

Beneath the shuttle is a clear area, with the exception of hundreds of (comparatively) smaller Q'tami ships, with a space left for the shuttle, various Q'tami await its arrival and we see it finally land.

INT. SHUTTLE -- COCKPIT

We hear the shuttle lock down, and Talora and Toran stand, giving Y'lan a gesture to exit the shuttle first.

Y'LAN

It would be best if you did not say
or do anything unless asked.

Talora and Toran both nod.

TALORA

Still uncomfortable?

Y'LAN

Very.

Talora gives him a reassuring pat on the tentacle, before indicating the door.

TALORA

We will succeed.

Y'LAN

Bring Dojar with you.

Y'lan bows his head slightly, before pressing the control for the door to open and exiting. Talora goes with Toran into the back.

INT. ORGANIC VESSEL -- ARRIVAL TERMINAL

Y'lan exits the shuttle and sets foot on the organic vessel. A delegate of three Q'tami approach him... but we hear nothing. After a few moments, Talora and Toran bring out Dojar on his stretcher, before placing him on the ground. Toran looks at Y'lan and then the delegates.

TORAN
What are they doing?

TALORA
Telepathy.

She looks at Toran who gives her a wan little smile as they watch the Q'tami communicate. After a few moments, two of the Q'tami walk over to Dojar, and, picking him up, begin to carry him away.

TALORA (CONT'D)
Where are they taking him?

Y'LAN
For help.

TALORA
What do we do now?

Y'LAN
You will remain here, and the Q'tami will call for you when you are required. I have informed them that you do not possess superior communicative abilities.

TALORA
What about you?

Y'LAN
I am also being taken.

Dojar is brought out of the shuttle.

TALORA
What for?

Y'LAN
I am being held responsible for crimes against the Hegemony. I must answer to them.

TALORA
What crimes?

Y'LAN
I do not know.

Talora sighs.

TALORA

How long is this going to take?

Y'LAN

I do not know.

The Q'tami carrying Dojar transport away in a subtle flash of light, but Talora only sees the transport out of the corner of her eyes and swings around to catch the dematerialization in its final stages.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

I must leave now, Commander.

Talora continues to look at the spot Dojar has vanished from, as we hear Y'lan and the other Q'tami transport away, leaving Talora and Toran alone. Toran looks at her.

TORAN

Ever feel you're not wanted?

Talora doesn't reply.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE -- QUANTUM SLIPSTREAM

The Leviathan races past at slipstream.

INT. LEVIATHAN -- BRIDGE

Joel marches on, looking focused, with Delfune behind her.

JOEL

What's happened?

TACTICAL OFFICER

Captain, the Enterprise has dropped out of slipstream.

JOEL

Where?

TACTICAL OFFICER

They have entered the asteroid field on the edge of the Kressollian Nebula.

JOEL

What's our ETA?

TACTICAL OFFICER

Twelve minutes, Captain.

Joel looks smugly at Delfune.

JOEL

Good.

CUT TO:

INT. ASTEROID -- CAVERN

A large, gloomy cave, ill lit with several flickering neon strips, which are propped against the walls. In the center are the Q'tami stasis fields. There is no sign of movement. Into this scene Cross, Quinlan, and six security officers shimmer into existence, all with their weaponry raised. They look round for a moment, taking in their surroundings.

CROSS

Spread out.

The team do, quickly covering the four corners. Cross and Quinlan remain where they have transported in, looking at the Q'tami.

GUARD 4

All clear, Captain.

Cross and Quinlan approach the Q'tami.

CROSS

I take it these are the Q'tami we are looking for?

POV: CAVERN EDGE

The scene shifts to a person's POV, as he lurks in a dark corner, moving, watching the Captain and Quinlan look at the Q'tami.

CROSS (CONT'D)

What do you make of these readings, Jen?

QUINLAN

Biotechnology was never much of my forte, Captain.

CROSS

But look at the energy levels. They're --

GUARD 4

Hold it!

The two turn and look. Two of the guards are pointing their weapons at the shadows.

GUARD 4 (CONT'D)

We can see you. Come out with your hands where we can see them.

Slowly the figure emerges from the shadows, and we see that it is BRODY.

BRODY
I'm unarmed.

One of the guards cautiously frisks him, and then nod.

GUARD 4
He's clean, Captain.

CROSS
Mister Brody. Long time no see.

BRODY
(warily)
Captain.

CROSS
You want to tell me what's going on?

BRODY
Leave here, Captain. You don't know what it is you're dealing with.

CROSS
Oh, I think I could have a reasonable guess, based on your past exploits.

BRODY
I doubt you could.

CROSS
All right, well how's this for a start? You work for a secret organization called Janus, an organization that seems hell bent on making our lives difficult. They employed you to engineer the attack on Starbase 23 a year ago, and now for some reason they have engaged your services again to attack another Federation facility, this time with the purpose of taking these Q'tami. How am I doing so far?

Brody smiles ruefully.

BRODY
Fifty percent, Captain. Not bad.

CROSS
Care to tell me which part I got wrong?

BRODY

The part about me still working for
Janus.

QUINLAN

Oh come off it, Brody --

CROSS

(to Quinlan)

Wait a minute.

(To Brody)

What do you mean?

BRODY

My employment with Janus has been
terminated.

Cross and Quinlan react.

CUT TO:

INT. ORGANIC VESSEL

Another large, cavernous room, which stretches away into
infinity. Purple light gives the place an uncomfortable
aura. In the center of it, Y'LAN stands, surrounded by twenty
or so Q'tami. None of them move -- we just hear voices.

Q'TAMI 1 (V.O.)

You know why you are here.

Y'LAN (V.O.)

I do.

Q'TAMI 2 (V.O.)

How do you answer the charges?

Y'LAN (V.O.)

I am not of the Faction.

Q'TAMI 3 (V.O.)

But you have been with them.

Y'LAN (V.O.)

I am not of the Faction.

Q'TAMI 4 (V.O.)

You help them. You go against your
own people.

Y'LAN (V.O.)

I am one with the Hegemony.

Q'TAMI 5 (V.O.)

Then why did you attack us?

Y'LAN (V.O.)

I have never attacked you.

Q'TAMI 6

At the shipyards. You aided the crew of the Enterprise.

Y'LAN

That was the Faction I attacked.

Q'TAMI 7

You know that not to be so. Why did you attack us?

Y'lan remains quiet.

CUT TO:

INT. ASTEROID -- CAVERN

As before, Cross, Quinlan, Brody, and the guards.

CROSS

What happened?

BRODY

When the Tears of the Jackal was lost, it was deemed I was no longer of any use to the organization. That, and the fact I leaked the information about the Q'tami holding facility. I am now a "liability"...

CROSS

What did they do?

BRODY

What do you think they did? They did what they always do when someone becomes a liability. They eliminate them.

CROSS

Like Henry Portman?

BRODY

Yes, Henry Portman, and William Ross, and Erika Benteen, and countless others that you could name. It used to be that I was sent to dispatch them. Now they sent someone to despatch me. However, there's a reason I was their number one. I never lose.

CROSS

You assassinated the assassin?

BRODY

Oh yes. And helped myself to one of their ships. But I knew, and know, that is in only a matter of time. Once they have targeted you, they don't stop until they have you. They are coming, Captain. For me.
(looking at Cross)
And for you.

Off the others' reactions...

CUT TO:

INT. ORGANIC VESSEL

As before, with Y'lan and the Q'tami.

Q'TAMI 8 (V.O.)

Have you developed an attachment to this crew?

Y'LAN (V.O.)

I have not.

Q'TAMI 9 (V.O.)

And yet you bring one of them to us to be healed, knowing what is to come to you.

Y'LAN (V.O.)

He is linked to the Hegemony. He is a threat.

Q'TAMI 10 (V.O.)

Did you think that by bringing him you could somehow compensate for your failings?

Y'LAN (V.O.)

I did what was best for the Hegemony.

Q'TAMI 11 (V.O.)

Are you aware of the nature of his link?

Y'LAN (V.O.)

No.

Q'TAMI 12 (V.O.)

He is linked through you. You are the portal through whom he has access to us all.

Beat.

Q'TAMI 13 (V.O.)

He is also linked to the other Q'tami.

As they speak, Dojar appears, suspended above them, still unconscious.

Q'TAMI 13 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He speaks to those who are lost to us...

We focus in on Dojar's face, and hear in his mind a shrill shriek. The camera seemingly zooms through his head...

INT. ASTEROID -- CAVERN

...And out through the head of one of the Q'tami in the stasis chambers. We see a red light on it, flickering again. Meanwhile, Cross continues his interrogation of Brody, while Quinlan looks skeptically on.

CROSS

Why did you attack the base? What's its connection with Janus?

BRODY

Don't you get it?

He walks over to the stasis chambers, and thumps his hand on the glass of one. The light's flickering has speeded up, but goes unnoticed.

BRODY (CONT'D)

It is a Janus base! These... these are Janus prisoners.

Cross reacts.

QUINLAN

Pull the other one, Brody.

BRODY

(passionately)

I'm serious! Under cover of a secure facility, Janus has been experimenting on the Q'tami for the past six months.

CROSS

What on earth does Janus want with Q'tami?

BRODY

(speaking quickly)

Captain, when you saved the shipyards, when you were reinstated on board the Enterprise, it upset Janus's plans, more than you can possibly

(MORE)

BRODY (CONT'D)

imagine. They realized that as long as the Q'tami are a threat, then you will be around -- it's predestined.

CROSS

According to the Q'tami.

BRODY

Who, apparently, know a great deal more about our future than we do. But you are too big a nuisance to Janus, they don't want you active. So, they decided the only way to alter the future was to take on the Q'tami, find a way of tackling them, and thus make your contribution to whatever lies ahead irrelevant.

Cross looks at the Q'tami again.

CROSS

They've been experimenting on them.

BRODY

That's right. Probing them, testing them, finding their weaknesses and their strengths. Testing various chemical and biological weapons again.

(beat)

Torturing them to test their limits on pain, to find the point where they break down. It's a massive prize, Captain.

(looking intensely at

Cross again)

One they will go to any lengths to discover.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Cale frowns at a reading. He taps his commbadge.

CALE

Cale to Grey...

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- ENGINEERING

Grey is at a console.

GREY

Grey here.

CALE'S COMM VOICE

Lieutenant, I'm picking up a
slipstream event in our vicinity.

GREY

What? That's impossible. The only
other ship that could reach us this
quickly is...

(he tails off)

...the Leviathan.

He looks worried, and turns towards the turbolift. Boyle,
who is standing nearby, looks at him.

BOYLE

Where are you going?

GREY

To the Bridge... we could be in
trouble.

CUT TO:

INT. ORGANIC VESSEL -- ARRIVALS TERMINAL

Talora and Toran are sitting on the entrance to the Rubicon,
looking glum. Talora prods Toran when she sees a group of
Q'tami, Y'lan among them, approaching.

TALORA

Y'lan, what's going on? How's Dojar?

Y'LAN

He can be helped.

Talora breathes a sigh of relief.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

However, to cure him his connection
to the Hegemony must be terminated.

TALORA

His connection? What's that?

Y'LAN

Me.

Talora's eyes widen.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Grey marches on and looks at Cale's readings.

GREY

Dammit.

(MORE)

GREY (CONT'D)
(taps commbadge)
Grey to Cross.

INTERCUT:

INT. ASTEROID -- CAVERN

As before, Brody, Cross, Quinlan, and the guards.

CROSS
What is it, Lieutenant?

GREY
Captain, we're about to have company.

Brody closes his eyes as Cross looks at him.

CROSS
Who is it?

GREY'S COMM VOICE & BRODY
(simultaneous)
The Leviathan.

BRODY
(increasingly
hysterical)
I told you, Captain, they're coming.
They're coming for the Q'tami, and
they're coming for us.

QUINLAN
Captain, don't listen to this man,
he's obviously trying to weasel his
way out of this.

GREY'S COMM VOICE
Captain, we're detecting the ship is
armed.

CUT TO:

INT. LEVIATHAN -- BRIDGE

She is at red alert, with Joel and Delfune standing, looking
poised.

HELM OFFICER
Stand by to drop out of slipstream.

JOEL
(whispers)
Here goes...

CUT TO:

INT. ASTEROID -- CAVERN

Brody is panicking, shaking. Cross is immobile and Quinlan looks confused. In the background, the chamber's light is blinking ever faster.

BRODY

(rapidly)

Captain, you cannot allow Janus to have these Q'tami. Once they have them, they're not going to think twice about destroying the Enterprise -- they'd be killing two birds with one stone.

QUINLAN

Captain, this is ridiculous, the Leviathan isn't part of Janus...

She looks helplessly as Cross walks over to one of the Q'tami and looks in.

CROSS

What do I do?

CUT TO:

INT. ORGANIC VESSEL

Dojar is still floating. Suddenly he opens his eyes again and SCREAMS loudly. We zoom into his face...

INT. ASTEROID -- CAVERN

Inside the chamber with the blinking light, a Q'TAMI's eyes SNAP OPEN. A shrill shriek emerges...

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FIVE

TO BE CONTINUED...

STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE WILL RETURN ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2003.