TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. SCIENCE LAB

Y'lan is working on his equipment. Suddenly, the door SWOOSHES open. Lieutenant Kenigon rushes into the room. He is quite angry.

KENIGON
(angrily)
Y'lan, I need to talk to you.
(without waiting)
I demand that you delete all my personal information from your "databanks." Immediately.

Y'LAN
I won't do that. The information I collected is very important to my studies. I will not delete them.

KENIGON
What makes you think you have the right to spy on my personal quarters?

Y'LAN
I was simply gathering information for my study of your race. I will not delete it.

KENIGON
(more angry)
We'll just see about that.

Kenigon storms out of the room.

INT. READY ROOM

The door chimes.

CROSS
Enter.

Kenigon walks through the door, obviously trying to restrain himself.

KENIGON
Captain, I just spoke with Y'lan -- asked him to delete the personal "records" he collected of me, and he refused.
(losing it)
Who does he think he is? Nobody can just spy on us like that and get away with it.
(MORE)
KENIGON (CONT'D)
(trying to calm himself)
Captain, please insist that he delete the personal records he collected.

CROSS
I understand, crewman. I'll see what I can do. I'll tell you this -- you're not the first to come to me about this. It seems like everyone on the ship wants me to throw Y'lan in the brig.
(a beat)
I'll talk to Y'lan. Dismissed, crewman.

Kenigon leaves the room, only slightly happier.

CROSS (CONT'D)
(sighs)
Computer, access all my intraship messages.

COMPUTER
You have seventeen messages from crew members waiting. How would you like to access them?

CROSS
Give them to me in original video, one at a time.

The screen switches to a list. One item is highlighted.

COMPUTER
First message from Crewman Tom Gangas.
Stardate 78260.3.

GANGAS
(on computer)
Sir, I didn't want to bother you directly, but this is important. I want you to order Y'lan to delete all the data he collected about me. I still can't believe he thought it would be acceptable. Anyway, thank you, Captain.

COMPUTER
End of message.

CROSS
Save and play next message.

COMPUTER
Next message from Lieutenant Brian Owoseny. Stardate 78260.7.
OWOSENY
(on computer, angry)
Captain, I just heard about what Y'lan did, and I insist that you force him to delete all --

Cross' commbadge beeps.

CROSS
Computer, pause message.
(to commbadge)
Cross here.

DOJAR
Captain, please come to the bridge. There's something here you should see.

Cross nods and stands up.

CROSS
Computer, keep messages active and save my place.

Cross follows Dojar into the Bridge.

INT. BRIDGE
SUKOTHAI and GUER are present. Dojar is the highest ranking officer present aside from Cross.

The door closes behind Cross.

CROSS
Report.

SUKOTHAI
Captain, we picked up a planet that our scans can't penetrate while we were doing routine long-range scans.

CROSS
And I was just starting to think that things were calm on the home front. Can we tell how it's being shielded?

SUKOTHAI
No. We can't even figure out where the power for the shield is coming from.
 (thinking aloud)
The Klingons definitely have the technology to do something like this...
CROSS  
(finishing)
But why? Mr. Guer, lay in a course  
for the planet, maximum warp.  
(to Sukothai)
Lieutenant, send a message to  
Starfleet -- tell them we're  
investigating a suspicious cloaking  
signature.  
(beat, then to Guer)
Engage.  
(taps comm badge)
Cross to Talora. Sorry for the early  
-wake up call, but I need you on the  
bridge right away.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER
EXT. ENTERPRISE

The great ship at warp. A beat, then the Enterprise drops out of warp near a planet. The planet is visually covered, entirely, by what looks like cloud cover.

INT. BRIDGE

As before. Talora is now present.

CROSS

Report.

SUKOTHAI

Scans still aren't penetrating the barrier.

CROSS

Try using visual scanners. See if the computer can clean up the image of the planet and see what's underneath.

SUKOTHAI

One moment.

She taps some keys. There are a couple of beeps, then a hum, and finally a failure beep.

SUKOTHAI (CONT'D)

I'm sorry -- the cloud cover is completely opaque. I can't see anything through it.

CROSS

What's the makeup of that cloud cover?

SUKOTHAI

It's hard to tell. It looks like a combination of water vapor and an electromagnetic barrier. Nothing we've got can get through.

CROSS

(taps comm badge)

Cross to Y'lan. See if your sensors can do a better job of getting through the planet's energy barrier than ours.

INT. SCIENCE LAB

Y'LAN

One moment.
CROSS'S COMM VOICE
You've got it.

Y'lan begins to adjust settings on his Q'tami computer. A series of failure beeps sound, and Y'lan stops working.

Y'LAN
The EM barrier seems to be preventing my sensors from penetrating the cloud cover, but I'm not detecting any energy source nearby. It's likely that the power source for the cloak is on the planet itself.

(beat)
That setup would prevent scanners from detecting the cloak unless they were scanning that specific planet.

INT. BRIDGE
As before.

TALORA
That explains why nobody picked it up before. Even the Tal Shiar wouldn't waste the resources to systematically scan every planet around.

CROSS
Mr. Guer, launch a probe onto that planet.

GUER
Aye, sir. Probe launched.

EXT. SPACE
The Enterprise is in orbit around the planet. A small cylindrical tube shoots out from the Enterprise and ZOOMS toward the planet. It enters the planet's atmosphere, and fizzes through the barrier.

INT. BRIDGE

SUKOTHAI
I've lost track of the probe. It made it through the barrier, but I lost it as soon as it went through.

CROSS
I need options, people. How do we get more information?

TALORA
The transporters aren't going to be able to get through that barrier.

(MORE)
TALORA (CONT'D)
If we want to get an away team to
the ground, we're going to need to
use a shuttle.

CROSS
I don't want to risk an away team
just yet. Sukothai, I want you to
run a check in the Starfleet database
to determine if this sort of thing
has happened before.

Sukothai taps some keys. Talora walks over to the science
station and begins working on the computer.

SUKOTHAI
There are 47 incidents of cloaked
planets in the database. Of the 35
in which the cloak's power supply
was on the planet itself, 27 of the
incidents involved the Klingons.

TALORA
(cutting in)
Captain, I've just done a check of
the ion trails nearby. The Reformists
have been within a light year of
this planet quite a few times in the
last year.

CROSS
All right. Dojar, I want you to lead
an away team to the surface. Just
find out what you can and come back.

Something tells me communications won't be working through
the barrier so you'll need to rely on your own judgment. If
the Klingons are down there, I want to know about it.

DOJAR
I'll be in the shuttlebay in ten
minutes. Just give me a little time
to gather a team together.

Dojar begins walking to the turbolift. The lift slides open
and Dojar walks in.

INT. TURBOLIFT

DOJAR
Dojar to crewmen Lesmi and Joness--

The door slide shut.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
(to computer)
Shuttlebay.

(MORE)
DOJAR (CONT'D)
(to comm badge)
I need you to meet me in shuttlebay immediately. I need you on a mission to this mystery planet we're investigating.

LESMI'S COMM VOICE
(female)
Right away sir.

JONESS'S COMM VOICE
(male)
On my way, sir.

The turbolift doors slide open, and Dojar walks out.

INT. SHUTTLEBAY

LESMI is already present. Dojar starts to approach Donna Lesmi, when Harry Joness walks out of the turbolift. All three approach the shuttlecraft Nova.

DOJAR
All right. Here's how it's going to work. The transporters and sensors aren't working through the barrier that surrounds this planet, so we're on our own once we get through it. We don't know what the energy in the barrier'll do to our shields, so we'll need to be on our toes while we're crossing it.
(a beat)
I picked you two for this mission because I know you can think on your feet. We're gonna need that. Any questions?

LESMI AND JONESS
No, sir.

DOJAR
All right, then let's get on our way.

The three of them head into the shuttlecraft and strap themselves in.

INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

DOJAR
(taps commbadge)
Dojar to bridge-- we're ready to launch.
CROSS' COMM VOICE
We'll be monitoring your progress for as long as we can. Try to increase power to your transmitter to break through the barrier once you've gotten to the other side.

The shuttle doors close.

DOJAR
Opening launch bays.

INT. SHUTTLEBAY
The shuttlebay doors slide open, and the shuttle begins moving.

INT. SHUTTLECRAFT
The open bay doors are clear through the shuttlecraft window, and space is coming closer.

LESMI
An interesting choice for a first mission, Dojar. I mean, we've been through all the training, but I'd always thought our first mission would be a simple escort mission or something like that.

DOJAR
I've seen how you two did in my training classes. I don't think I could ask for a better team than you two.

LESMI
Thanks...

JONESS
(interrupting)
Sir, we're approaching the planet's atmosphere. Five seconds... four... three... two... one... and we're entering the atmosphere.

The shuttle rocks with explosions. A console in the back explodes, and both Joness and Lesmi frantically push buttons.

LESMI
I'm increasing power to the transmitter. Trying to raise the Enterprise.

JONESS
I'm losing thruster control.
(MORE)
JONESS (CONT'D)
Transporter control is fluctuating.
We've got to get out of here.

The scene is chaotic. More panels are exploding, and sparks rain down from the ceiling.

LESMI
I've raised the Enterprise, but I can only get a binary connection. I'm sending our sensor logs to the Enterprise.

JONESS
I'm losing transporters. I think one of our nacelles was torn off by the barrier. We're going to have to crash land.

DOJAR
All right. Mr. Joness, try to set us down as softly as you can.

JONESS (screaming over noise)
I'll do what I can.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE

The shuttle is careening down with very little control. It hits the ground with great shock.

INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

The shuttle is shaking violently, tossing the three inhabitants around ruthlessly. After several seconds, the shaking stops and the shuttle is still.

INT. CROSS'S QUARTERS

Cross walks to the replicator.

CROSS
Hot chocolate, touch of mint.

The hot chocolate materializes in the replicator. As Cross takes it, the door chimes.

CROSS (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
Enter.

Quinlan walks through the door. Cross realizes he's about to get another lecture from Quinlan.
CROSS (CONT'D)
(preemptively)
Look, I'm really quite busy. Unless it's important.

QUINLAN
It is.

CROSS
(sighs)
Out with it, then. But try to make it brief.

QUINLAN
You've got to make Y'lan delete all that private data he collected. There's not a person on the ship who's not outraged by his conduct.

CROSS
I know. I've been drowned in complaints over the past few days. I take it it's reaching a breaking point.

QUINLAN
Yeah, it's all anyone's talking about. Some people are even talking about asking Starfleet to toss him off the ship.

CROSS
(realizing)
All right. I'm going to insist he gets rid of that data right away. It's starting to become a ship morale problem. Happy?

QUINLAN
(skeptical)
All right. I'll be leaving now.

Quinlan slowly walks to the doors, and they slide open. She tosses a backward glance at Cross and walks through.

INT. EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

We are inside the EXECUTIVE's office, the office of the planetary leader. Also present is JOLAN, the leader of the church on the planet.

Jolan is dressed in a long flowing robe with a hood that is covering most of his face. The Executive is also wearing a robe, but it is less conservative.
JOLAN
Mr. Executive, you continue to cut the funding to the church. My people seem especially concerned about your latest cut to the Church Charitable Community. I'd be careful about angering such a large constituency, (sneering) Executive.

EXECUTIVE
We both know that I was elected to improve the quality of life of the citizens of the world. I will continue to cut the unnecessary religious funding if it means increased funding to things that matter, like education and health care.

JOLAN
I think you go too far in interpreting the people's votes as a mandate, Mr. Executive. We will see if they continue to support you. Something tells me they will not.

Jolan leaves the room with a flourish of his robes.

Before he has a chance to breathe, a YOUNG MAN walks into the office.

YOUNG MAN
(unusually professional)
Sir, I'm sorry to disturb you, but the military is reporting an unidentified craft in the Richmond sector.

EXECUTIVE
Can you put in on the screen.

The young man nods and taps some buttons on the Executive's desk. A screen behind him lights up and a small map appears. A red light blinks in the center, and a box on the lower right hand corner shows a picture of the shuttle.

EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)
That's definitely nothing we have. Is it an Opposition Craft?

YOUNG MAN
I sure hope not. It's far more advanced than anything I've seen, sir.
EXECUTIVE

All right. Tell the War Minister to search and identify the craft. But do it slowly and carefully. I can't afford to lose anyone.

INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

The shuttle is strangely quiet. There's a small amount of smoke coming from the ceiling, and only emergency lights are on.

DOJAR

Lesmi, can you get emergency power back online? We need to find out where we are, and fast.

LESMI

Sir, the shuttle's fried pretty good. I could probably get emergency power back, but most of the conduits are fused together. I doubt if too many of the systems will work.

Lesmi begins typing on the touchpads. She only gets a few successful beeps for many more failure beeps.

She continues through Dojar's comments to Joness.

DOJAR

Do it. Joness, see if you can repair any of the mechanical damage. Maybe some of those conduits are salvagable.

Some of the LCARS consoles begin to light up, but many are flickering.

JONESS

Aye, sir. I'll see what I can do.

He walks over to one of the panels and takes it off.

More of the lights get steady.

LESMI

Sir, I have some of the systems back online. I think I can do a short-range scan to start figuring out where we are.

DOJAR

Start the scan.

Lesmi punches some keys.
LESMI
Sir, we appear to be in a small wooded area in close proximity to a large city.  
(panic)
There is a team of military people advancing on the shuttle. We're going to need to get out of here.

DOJAR
Joness, forget about the repairs.  
Lesmi, lock out all of the systems. We don't need this planet's military getting hold of this kind of technology. It looks like we've already violated the Prime Directive.  
(beat)
Phasers on stun, wide beam. Let's go.

EXT. PLANET
Dojar, Lesmi, and Joness exit the shuttlecraft.

Approximately ten meters away, a team of military men is setting up a large device.

DOJAR
(yelling, pointing phaser)
Step away from that device.  
Immediately.

The soldiers turn their attention to the emerging crewmembers.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
Listen, I don't want to cause any more damage than I already have. Please step away from that device.

LEAD SOLDIER
Not likely. Drop your weapons and come here slowly. You're coming with us.

DOJAR
I'm sorry I have to do this.  
(to away team)
Fire.

All three of them quickly fire the phasers, felling about half of the soldiers. The other nine soldiers begin to draw their sidearms, and the away team fires again. They hit another four, and the remaining five fire.

The away team dives for the ground. After several seconds of firefight, they manage to stun the remaining soldiers.
DOJAR (CONT'D)
Let's see if they have anything they can use. But we've got to be quick. I'm sure there's more where they came from.

The three members of the away team begin searching the soldiers.

LESMI
Sir, I've found several ID cards, but none of the soldiers I've searched so far seem to be carrying any money.

JONESS
Maybe these people don't have any money.

DOJAR
Wait. This one is carrying a wallet with several large bills. (beat) But he seems to be the only one. All right, we should each take a set of clothes from the soldiers and whatever equipment we can carry. We'll have to play it by ear to avoid being suspicious, but we most certainly can't stay around here.

LESMI
(points) There is a road over there. According to my sensor readings, it leads to the city. Perhaps we can find more information there.

As the away team heads off, we --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

The Executive is sitting at his desk, reading something on his computer, when the WAR MINISTER enters.

WAR MINISTER
Sir?

EXECUTIVE
(looks up, sighs)
Yes?

WAR MINISTER
Our first attempt to search the unidentified vehicle failed. The people inside incapacitated all of the members on the team with what they describe as "stun guns."
(beat)
They also stole clothing and money from the team, presumably in order to blend in better.

EXECUTIVE
Money? Why was a soldier carrying money?

WAR MINISTER
I don't know. It is against regulations, but in any case, these people appear highly dangerous. I suggest alerting the military.

EXECUTIVE
That sounds like a good idea. Put the military on high alert. Find these men-- and bring them in. I want to talk to them myself.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

The away team is walking on the road, and they are almost at the main road. Vehicles can be seen, which are mostly small, one-person vehicles and much larger vehicles. All are noiseless and smaller than early 21th century earth vehicles with similar passenger space.

The away team makes their way to an intersection.

Several seconds later, the cars stop, and a sign on the other side of the street switches to walk.

DOJAR
It seems that we can cross the intersection now.
The away team crosses the street and walks into what appears to be a large parking lot. They cross the lot in seconds and walk into the front of the shopping mall.

INT. MALL

The interior of the mall is lined with stores, many religious in nature. The people milling about are wearing various forms of the robes the monks are wearing.

LESMI
That's interesting. Even what looks like the rebellious teenagers are wearing robes. They're just not covering very much.

A woman approaches them.

WOMAN
(to Lesmi)
Would you like to sample some perfume?

JONESS
What kind you got?

DOJAR
(abruptly)
No, thank you.

The woman walks away insulted.

LESMI
(playfully)
Hey, what if I wanted to try it?

DOJAR
(seriously)
We're still on a first contact mission. We need to find what we're looking for and get out of here. Although I must admit that "shopping" a bit might get us some information.

LESMI
Where to go first?
(looking around)
The Robe Shoppe, Candy of the Gods--do all these stores have a religious bent?

DOJAR
I'd like to get us into some more inconspicuous clothes. Perhaps the Robe Shoppe.
INT. ROBE SHOPPE

The three of them enter the shop, which has robes for sale of many different varieties, ranging from extremely modest to skimpy robes which barely covered anything.

SALESPERSON
Welcome to the Robe Shoppe, can I help you?

DOJAR
We're looking to buy three robes.
(beat)
casual style.

SALESPERSON
I think I have just the thing for you.

INT. MALL

The three of them exit the store, looking far less conspicuous.

JONESS
We have more money than we thought.
That only cost us a fraction of the money we have.

DOJAR
Yeah. It seems like we'll do pretty well.

We do need to find out about this planet's culture. That store over there looks pretty religious, which seems to be this planet's culture. The shop owner can probably help us out.

The away team walks to the store, which has slightly subdued lighting compared to the other stores nearby. They walk through the door. The only one in the store is an old shopkeeper, JOLEN.

JOLEN
What can I do for you today? Would you like a Brahal stick
(thinks better)
or perhaps a Xirac pole to attract a mate, eh?

DOJAR
We're just visitors here. We were trying to find out about this city here.

JOLEN
You're a strange one, aren't you.
(MORE)
JOLEN (CONT'D)

(beat)
I don't know anyone who doesn't know about Koresh. You're standing in the city where the universe began, son. There's only a few insane people on the entire planet who don't believe in religion, though I dare say they've been growing larger in number lately.

(thinks)
I don't know how anyone can say we're not alone in the universe. Our scientists have made attempts to leave the planet, but those ships were destroyed when they entered heaven.

(becomes incoherent)
It's nonsense, nonsense I tell you.

DOJAR
We were wondering where we could find a transmitter. We need to contact our friends in--

(fumbles)

LESMI
the Draylar colony.

JOLEN
(continues babbling)
Nonsense, it's nonsense.

DOJAR
(to away team)
We're going to have to find out about the transmitter from someone else. But we've got to do this fast. I think I'm starting to get some weird looks.

JONES
How about that one, Little Shed of Radios. They'd probably have information about what we're looking for.

The away team walks to the store, which is full of esoteric electronic devices, chips, and wires.

CLERK
Welcome to the Radio Shed, how can I help you?

DOJAR
We were looking for information on high-powered radio transmitters. We have some-- friends in the

(MORE)
DOJAR (CONT'D)
(beat)
Draylar colony we need to contact.

CLERK
Well, normally I would suggest using
the telephone, but if you really
want a high-powered transmitter, we
have a 50 watt transmitter here in
the shop. And we can order up to 200
watt transmitters from the catalog.

LESMI
We need something like 10,000 watts.

CLERK
(surprised)
Whoa. The only thing around here
that's that powerful is in the
Executive's office in Ragalex. He
uses it to transmit emergency messages
all over the planet.

DOJAR
That should do. Where is this
Executive located?

CLERK
Look, I don't know what you want
with such a powerful transmitter,
but you can get to the Executive
Mansion on the Regalex Express. It'll
cost about 7 specrats.

DOJAR
Thank you.

INT. TRAIN STATION

Dojar, Lesmi, and Joness are present. They are waiting on
line at track 12, which is labeled Regalex Express. The train
is there, and people are boarding.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise in orbit.

TALORA (V.O.)
First officer's personal log. Despite my previous opinions regarding rescue missions, I cannot help but feel that we must do what we can to ensure that Dojar makes it home.
(beat)
Perhaps it's the time we spent in the McKeggan Wormhole-- I don't know.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

CROSS, ELRIS, TALORA, GREY, QUINLAN, and Y'LAN are sitting around the conference table.

TALORA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It seems that the time I've spent with the humans is rubbing off on me, and oddly, it is not as bad as I thought it would be.

CROSS
What exactly do we know?

GREY
The away team managed to send their logs after they crossed the barrier by increasing their transmitter power to one kilowatt. Unfortunately, their computers were malfunctioning so they were only able to send the data in binary format.

CROSS
What are the chances that they made it?

Y'LAN
The away team sent the status of the shuttle along with their sensor logs. The shuttle had lost main power, and the only way they would have survived is in the unlikely event that they made a successful crash landing.

TALORA
The three people on that team were extremely talented. I'm sure they would have found some way of landing if it was possible.
(MORE)
(beat)
But what did they see once they got through the barrier?

GREY
From what I can tell, there's a civilization on the planet. Their technological development is similar to Earth's development in the mid twenty-first century. However, there doesn't seem to be any space travel at all on the planet. The furthest they've gotten is some airplane travel.

CROSS
What about the Klingons?

GREY
I've done every analysis of the data I can think of, and as far as I'm concerned, the Klingons have never been on that planet.

A beat.

ELRIS
I've done a medical analysis of the data, and all three members of the away team sustained no injuries. I'm sure they'll find a way to contact us if they found a way to land.

GREY
Our computers acknowledged receipt of the data, so the team knows we got it.

QUINLAN
The Dojar I know will do whatever he can to contact us.

TALORA
Did the data they sent indicate how we might safely get through the barrier if we were to go through again?

Y'LAN
Surprisingly, the away team was extremely efficient in sending the information using a simple binary transfer. If you wish, I can spare some time from my studies to analyze the data and find a way to send a shuttle through the barrier.
CROSS
Get to it.

GREY
Sir, there's one more thing.
(beat, Cross nods)
According to the regs, we're in a Prime Directive situation. We must treat it as such.

CROSS
You're absolutely right, Lieutenant. I'll keep that in mind, but for now, rescuing the away team is the most important thing.

Grey starts to protest, then.

GREY
(reluctantly)
Understood, sir.

INT. TRAIN TERMINAL
The train is a hybrid shuttle/airplane. The line has gotten considerably shorter since we last saw this scene, and the away team is practically at the front of the line.

DOJAR
(mid-conversation)
Don't worry, I'm sure the Captain is doing everything he can to find us.

LESMI
I hope so. I don't want to be stuck here for the rest of my life.

DOJAR
I imagine things would be a bit worse for me, but I wouldn't give up hope yet. Captains of the Enterprise have a habit of searching for missing crew until the last possible hope is lost. Captain Cross will find us. Don't...

The ticket collector interrupts them.

COLLECTOR
(bored)
Ticket please.

Dojar, Lesmi, and Joness show their tickets to the ticket collector, who waves them on. There are only three more people after the away team, so Dojar hurries Lesmi and Joness along to their seats.
INT. SHUTTLETRAIN

The shuttletrain has two rows of seats, with three seats on each side separated by an aisle. Dojar, Lesmi, and Joness are sitting in one group of seats.

Dojar has the aisle, Lesmi has the center, and Joness has the window seat.

---

ANNOUNCER
Attention ladies and gentlemen. This is a shuttle to Regalex. The total distance will be 450 kilometers, and the total time of the trip will be 15 minutes. Please keep your buckles closed for the duration of the trip, and may God bless these travelers.

ALL
Amen.

---

INT. SCIENCE LAB

Y'lan is working on his device. Talora is present, and pacing around the room.

TALORA
(impatient)
Do you have anything yet?

Y'LAN
I have taken significant time away from my other studies for this favor for your captain. I assure you, I am working as quickly as I can. Although your presence is--

TALORA
(interrupting)
I understand. I'll be less (beat) intrusive.

Y'LAN
(almost rudely)
That is most helpful. I will be most pleased when this task is complete so I can return to my service of the Hegemony.

Y'lan's computer beeps. Talora goes to alert, then relaxes slightly. She looks at Y'lan expectantly.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)
I believe I have discovered a shield modulation which should protect a (MORE)
Y'LAN (CONT'D)
shuttle from the harmful energy of
the barrier. My first simulations
show that the modulation is
successful.

TALORA
What are we waiting for?
(taps commbadge)
Talora to Cross. Y'lan's found a
solution.

Y'LAN
Captain, it appears that a simple
shield modulation change will allow
a shuttle to penetrate the barrier
and make it through unscathed.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
How long would it take to equip a
shuttle with this change.

Y'LAN
Theoretically, the change could be
made in the prefablight sequence or
even once the shuttle had already
been launched.
(beat)
I believe my job is done, sir. I
will return to my previous task, but
will be available should my solution
be less than successful.

CROSS' COMM VOICE
All right. Cross to the senior staff.
Meet me in the conference room.
Immediately. It appears we may be
able to attempt a rescue after all.

INT. SHUTTLETRAIN
Dojar, Lesmi, and Joness are sitting quietly on the
shuttletrain, attempting to avoid calling attention to
themselves. It is clear from the view in the window that
they are traveling extremely fast, but there is barely any
turbulence.

ANNOUNCER
Attention ladies and gentlemen, with
the grace of god, we will be arriving
at our destination in less than one
minute. Please remain in your seats
as we approach our destination.

JONESS
That was pretty quick. I hope
nobody...
ANNOUNCEER
Once again, attention ladies and gentlemen, are approaching Regalex. Because of the recent increased military surveillance, the police will be making a random sweep of the train. Please have your IDs ready.

DOJAR
(whispering)
We need to get out of here.

JONESS
How? It's not like this is a wide open space. There are uniformed crewpeople all over the place.

LESMI
We'll need a distraction. Dojar, as soon as we dock at the Regalex port, you leave. I'll take care of the distraction.

Lesmi whispers to Joness inaudibly. Dojar moves to a seat up front, which is unoccupied.

There is a bump as the shuttletrain docks with the Regalex station. The doors open.

Lesmi embraces Joness passionately and begins to kiss him.

The police enter the shuttletrain. As the police get closer to the away team, Lesmi breaks the embrace and slaps Joness across the face.

LESMI (CONT'D)
(pretends anger)
How dare you say those things.

You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

The police advance quickly to Lesmi and Joness, and Dojar slips out of the shuttle. Someone notices, but in the confusion, he's unable to alert the police.

Joness reacts to the police's advance.

JONESS
(mock apology)
I'm sorry officer. It was my fault. It's all under control now.

LESMI
You're damn right it was your fault. We're sorry--
POLICEMAN
(interrupts)
That's quite all right. We have a
search to conduct. Try to behave
yourselves in the future when you're
in public.
(beat)
Can I see some identification, please?

Lesmi and Joness, still pretending to be ashamed, show the
IDs they stole from the soldiers...

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

CROSS, ELRIS, TALORA, GREY, and QUINLAN are present.

CROSS
Y'lan, what have you learned?

Y'lan brings up a picture of a shuttle on the conference
room viewscreen.

Y'LAN
Here is a shuttle with normal shield
modulation.

Y'lan presses a button and the shuttle begins moving toward
a barrier surrounding a planet.

Y'LAN  (CONT'D)
As the shuttle enters the barrier,
gamma radiation in the barrier renders
the shields inoperable.

Y'lan presses another button, and lightning-like energy spikes
out within the barrier, hitting the shuttle and damaging it.

Y'LAN  (CONT'D)
With the shields inoperable, simple
EM radiation also in the barrier can
seriously damage the ship. To solve
this problem, we can alter the shield
modulation to protect the shuttle
from the gamma radiation.

CROSS
Will the shuttle crew be able to
contact the Enterprise?

Y'LAN
If the shuttle's transmitter is
broadcasting at 10,000 watts or
higher.

CROSS
Make the adjustments.
Talora appears anxious.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Talora, would you like to lead the away team?

TALORA
Yes.
(beat)
Thank you, Captain.

CROSS
Mr. Grey, you go with her. And make sure you leave at the first sign of trouble. I can't afford to lose any more officers.

Y'LAN
Captain, I must add that there is still some risk to this plan. Risking more people on this mission appears to be a waste...

TALORA
(retorts)
I think it's becoming increasingly clear that we don't share your priorities, Y'lan.

CROSS
That's enough. Y'lan, thank you for your concern, but I'm not willing to give up on the away team quite yet. Talora, Grey, get to the shuttlebay immediately. I want to launch within the next few minutes.

Talora and Grey exit the room.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Everyone except Y'lan, you're dismissed.

Elris and Quinlan exit as well. As the doors swish open, they look at each other, then Cross. They smile and walk out, and the doors swish closed.

Y'LAN
Captain, before you say anything, I know that the crew has been talking about the data I collected, but it's absolutely essential that I retain it
(beat)
for my studies.
CROSS
Humans, and most humanoid races that I know of, value their privacy. Invading that privacy by installing scanners in private quarters was entirely out of line.

Y'LAN
It's not as if anyone other than members of the Hegemony will ever see any of the data I collected. We need the information in order to determine several important things about the races in this quadrant, and simple observation is not sufficient.

CROSS
I'm afraid this ship's crew doesn't care what you plan to do with the data. The fact that you invaded their privacy in the first place.
(beat)
It's completely unacceptable.

Cross' commbadge chirps.

TALORA (V.O.)
Talora to Cross. We're ready to launch the Agamemnon.

CROSS
Understood. Begin prelaunch sequence. I'll be on the bridge in a moment.

INT. SHUTTLETRAIN

The police are at the front of the train. The search has concluded.

POLICE
Thank you for your cooperation. As soon as we have left the vehicle, you may begin the exit procedure.

LESAMI
(to Joness)
That was too close.

JONESS
We need to get off this thing and find Dojar.
(beat)
I can't believe this is our first mission. Remind me to recommend a longer training class when we get back.
LESMI
(attempts humor)
As soon as we get back then. Sure, that's the first thing I'll do.

As the pair exit the shuttletrain, we --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
LESMI and JONESS exit the shuttle. After several seconds, they spy Dojar and covertly walk over to him.

DOJAR
Firstly, thanks. That was brilliant, Donna.

LESMI
Welcome, sir.

JONESS
(joking)
You didn't have to hit me that hard, Donna.

DOJAR
(continues)
Second, I've become acquainted with the layout of this place. It's mostly a small island which houses...

A police officer walks over to the three of them.

POLICE
You, take off your hood.

Dojar attempts to run away, but the policeman grabs him and removes his hood.

POLICE (CONT'D)
The three of you are on the government's search list. You're coming with me.
(beat)
I'm taking you to the Governmental Investigation Office. I hear the Executive himself wants to deal with you three.

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle Agamemnon is approaching the planet's atmosphere.

INT. SHUTTLE

TALORA
Talora to Enterprise, we're approaching the barrier.

GREY
Activating shield modulation now. Shields at full strength. Twenty seconds until we reach the barrier.
INT. BRIDGE

CROSS
We'll continue to follow you as long as we can. Try to transmit once you're through the barrier.

GUER
Captain, they have reached the barrier.

SUKOTHAI
Their transmission is still coming in loud and clear at 10,000 watts.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
We have approached the barrier. We are entering with shields at full, transmitters at 10,000 watts.

CROSS
We read you, Agamemnon. Proceed.

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle enters the barrier. Instead of sparks, the shuttle slides through the barrier cleanly.

INT. INVESTIGATIVE OFFICE

Dojar is sitting in what appears to be a medical room, with large equipment all over the room. A single, highly decorated man, QUAMLER, is in the room with Dojar. Next door, through a glass window, an officer is questioning Lesmi and Joness. All of them are in Starfleet uniforms, with their commbadges still on.

QUAMLER
Who did you say you were again?

DOJAR
Lieutenant Dojar, serial number SC927-127 of the United Federation of Planets. I need to see your Executive.

QUAMLER
I hear the Executive wants to speak to you too. But we need to find some things out first. Where'd you get your prosthetics done? They're quite convincing.

DOJAR
For the third time, I am not from your planet.

(MORE)
DOJAR (CONT'D)
I am a Lieutenant on the USS
Enterprise, an interplanetary vessel.
It is imperative that I see your
Executive or the course of your
civilization could be irrevocably
damaged.

QUAMLER
(laughing)
That was quite convincing, I must
say. Nevertheless, I will scan you,
to find out who you really are.

INT. QUESTIONING ROOM
One man, JOWAL, is questioning Lesmi and Joness.

LESMI
Like I said, that man in the other
room...

JOWAL
(joking)
I would hardly call him a man.

LESMI
(continuing)
is our superior officer. We crash-
landed on this planet on a routine
survey mission and would be more
than happy to leave your planet and
get back home.

JONESS
All we need is a transmitter that
can broadcast at 9,000 watts and
we'll be out of your hair.

JOWAL
(mock surprise)
Is that all you need. Why then, I'll
just take you to the Capitol building.
I'm sure they'll let you use their
transmitter for such an
(emphasizing)
important mission.

JONESS
Look, your friend is scanning the
Lieutenant. You'll see that we're
not lying. Just wait a bit.

JOWAL takes out a small pad. Trying to hold back laughter--
JOWAL
Ok, let me recap your story for my records. The three of you are aliens. Two of you are from a planet called Earth and the other is a -- did I get this right? -- Cardassian.

LESMI
(resigned)
Yeah. Cardassian.

Suddenly, Quamler's voice comes over the comm.

QUAMLER
I don't know how this is possible, but this guy looks like he's the genuine article. I'm a little worried about letting him near the Executive, but we have our orders. We have to bring him into the Inner Office.

INT. SHUTTLE
The shuttle has made it through the barrier with minimal incident.

TALORA
Talora to Enterprise. Agamemnon still transmitting at 10,000 watts. Do you read?

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
(some static)
We copy you.

SUKOTHAI'S COMM VOICE
Try ramping up the power to 12,000 watts. It should clear up any remaining interference.

Talora taps some buttons.

TALORA
Agamemnon reports transmitter at 12,000 watts. Am I coming in clearer, copy.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
This is the Enterprise. We copy you loud and clear. Sukothai suggests running the transmission through the shield frequency modulation you used to improve the quality of your data transmission.
TALORA
Aye, sir. Adjustments made. The Agamemnon will keep an open frequency as long as we are able.

INT. EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

The Executive is arguing with JOLAN, the religious leader, once again. Through one way glass doors, we can see that the away team is on the other side.

JOLAN
Mr. Executive, if people find out about this, the church will dissolve. The unity of this world will be destroyed.

EXECUTIVE
There are far more important things to this world than the stability of the church, Jolan. I've long suspected that you've been using the highly religious nature of the people to accomplish your agenda.
(beat)
Now you've confirmed it.

JOLAN
I wouldn't be so quick to dismiss the church. Quite a few people will do whatever I ask, with or without a reason.

EXECUTIVE
Somehow I doubt even you are that evil, Jolan. The people of this world have the right to know that their church is one giant sham.

JOLAN
That has been your agenda since you came into office. I doubt even solid evidence would convince the people. Religious people are quite passionate. You'd just be causing more instability in our world.

EXECUTIVE
Whatever you think of my agenda, I have a duty. I ask you to leave now.

Jolan storms out of the room, walking right past the away team. The Executive motions the away team into his office.

Dojar walks in first, followed by Lesmi and Joness.

Before they have a chance to fully sit down--
EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about that. The political situation, for those of us in the know anyway, is somewhat tense at the moment.
(beat)
My name is Rakof W'qabi. I'm the Executive of almost the entire planet that we call Farsu. It must have been difficult for you to get here.
(beat)
Please introduce yourselves.

DOJAR
My name is Lieutenant Gril Dojar. I'm the security officer aboard the Federation starship Enterprise. These (points)
are Donna Lesmi and Harry Joness, two members of my away team, also from the Enterprise.

EXECUTIVE
Impressive. We have honored guests today.

DOJAR
There are far more impressive people aboard...

EXECUTIVE
Nonsense.
(beat)
Let us discuss what must be done. I would like to hold a press conference -- tell everyone what has happened.

DOJAR
I'm afraid we would prefer if you did not. Our people have a maxim of noninterference. We do what we can to avoid changing the culture of any developing world.

EXECUTIVE
I can certainly understand that, but you must appreciate the position I am in. I cannot allow the farce we have been living in for so long to continue any longer.
(beat)
You see, because our skies are opaque, my people do not believe in the existence of extraterrestrials.
(MORE)
EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)
(almost sneering)
they believe that God created the entire universe just for the Farsu people.
(with conviction)
I will not allow you to leave. Your existence is far too important to my people. I will reveal you.

JONESS
I think I may have a third option.

INT. SHUTTLE

TALORA
Talora to Enterprise, do you copy.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
(static)
We still read you. Have you located the shuttle.

TALORA
We have descended another kilometer, and I think we've picked up the shuttle. It appears to have crashed landed in a clearing. In addition, it seems that the military have taken the shuttle apart.

GREY
Although I'm sure the away team made sure that the shuttle was locked down before leaving it.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
Can you locate the away team, Commander?

TALORA
One moment, Captain.
(beat)
I have located them. They are in the Capitol building -- in what appears to be the office of this world's leader.

CROSS
Hail them. Keep an open frequency in the meantime.
INT. EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

JONESS
(continues)
...if we can somehow clear the skies, we'll allow the people of this planet to discover the truth for themselves is a far less catastrophic manner than being visited by aliens.

DOJAR
It still smacks of a Prime Directive problem, but I don't see that we have much choice.
(to Executive)
Mr. Executive, we're going to have to speak...

Dojar's commbadge chirps.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
Talora to the away team, do you read? Come in away team.

DOJAR
(to Executive)
One moment.
(taps commbadge)
Dojar here. I can't tell you how glad I am to here your voice.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
We're picking up all three members of the away team -- would you like us to beam you up?

DOJAR
Give us one minute. I'll contact you when we're ready to beam up. Dojar out.
(to Executive)
I'm going to return to my ship and discuss this proposal with my Captain.

EXECUTIVE
You're going to have to discuss this quickly. People are starting to talk, and I can't sit on this forever. If I don't do this soon, the church will have their own spin on it.

DOJAR
I'll be as quick as I can.
(taps commbadge)
Dojar to Talora. We're ready to beam up.
All three members of the away team disappear in a transporter shimmer.

INT. SHUTTLE

TALORA
Agamemnon to Enterprise, copy?

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
(lots of static)
We're still here. It looks like a descent of 50 kilometers is about all this connection can take.

TALORA
We have the away team and we're 45 making our ascent now. Something tells me we're going to need a staff meeting.

DOJAR
Captain, we've already interfered quite a bit in this planet's civilization. We need to repair the damage, and fast.

CROSS
(less static)
I'm interested to hear your report as soon as you get back. If it can't wait, I'll call a staff meeting for 15 minutes from now.

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle breaks through the barrier again without incident, and begins its approach of the Enterprise.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Dojar, the last of the senior staff to arrive, obviously came right out of the shuttle, as he hasn't had a chance to shower or change his clothes yet.

CROSS
Thank you for coming so quickly, Mr. Dojar.

Dojar sits down.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Lieutenant, what exactly is the situation down there?
DOJAR
Quite a few people know about the Enterprise. The Executive, the planet's President, wants to release all the information to the public. I explained the Prime Directive concerns, but he feels that he has no choice but to do something.

CROSS
So what do we do?

DOJAR
I've convinced him to keep quiet if we were to work on clearing up the skies, allowing the people of the planet to discover the truth for themselves.

TALORA
It's still a pretty serious Prime Directive violation.

QUINLAN
We're going to have a PD violation no matter what we do. Unless we help, the Executive will reveal everything.

GREY
We've already violated the Prime Directive in ways I've only read about. Doing something as drastic as changing a planet's atmosphere seems extremely risky. I wouldn't do it.

DOJAR
If we don't, the entire planet will learn of the existence of extraterrestrials far before their time. The Executive seemed pretty intent on getting the word out. This is our only choice as far as I can tell.

CROSS
We don't have too much of a choice. Grey, you're right, we've already messed up pretty bad. But clearing the skies might prevent the problem from getting worse. I'm willing to do that, but I'll only clear the skies partially -- let the process take some time.

(beat)
Y'ilan, how difficult would something like that be?
Y'LAN
I have already taken quite a bit of
time away from my work for the
Hegemony, but I will help the
Enterprise once again. The procedure
is quite complicated, but I believe
I can modify the deflector dish of
the Enterprise to eliminate most of
the EM interference. With that
interference gone, quite a bit of
the water vapor would sink and
eventually condense.

GREY
They'd have a rainy couple of years,
and their sea level would rise
slowly...

Y'LAN
According to my sensors, there isn't
enough vapor in the sky to cause a
disastrous change in the planet's
climate.

CROSS
I think we should send Mr. Dojar
back again. Let the Executive deal
with someone he already knows. Talora,
Grey -- you two take Mr. Dojar back
down to the Executive's office. While
you're there, get rid of the shuttle's
remains. Dismissed.

Y'lan, Talora, Grey, Dojar, and Quinlan leave the room. Elris
remains.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Doctor?

ELRIS
Captain, have you had any luck
convincing Y'lan to delete the data
he collected?

CROSS
We had one conversation where I
thought I was making progress, but
the launch of the Agamemnon
interrupted us. And now we have bigger
things to deal with.

Elris gives him a look.

CROSS (CONT'D)
I promise I'll deal with it as soon
as I have a moment -- okay?
ELRIS
(reluctantly)
Okay. Thank you, Neil. I know your job can be hard.

INT. EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Dojar walks through the doors of the office.

EXECUTIVE
(jubilantly)
Welcome back, Mr. Dojar. Were you able to persuade your Captain to go along with our plan?

DOJAR
Yes. But he's only willing to clear the skies partially. It will allow you to send up space vehicles, but change will take some time, as it should.

EXECUTIVE
I suppose I will have to live with that. It will allow the church to continue to exist for a while, and although that doesn't please me too much, it does solve one thorny political issue.

DOJAR
At the moment, we're still trying to program our computers to accomplish this feat. We're not yet sure if we'll be able to do it, but we're putting our best minds to work on the problem.

EXECUTIVE
I'll keep sitting on the story for as long as I can, but I must tell you, the religious leader is getting quite anxious. I don't know what he'll do next. Return now, to your ship, and contact me the moment you know whether you will be able to do us this benefit.

DOJAR
If you could, would you lock down this area of the Capitol. We don't need someone seeing me beaming in.

EXECUTIVE
You're absolutely right. I'll have security lock down the Inner Office. You can beam in here.
Dojar nods.

EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)
May your ship continue to be a blessing to all that it encounters.

INT. SHUTTLE

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE
Dojar to Agamemnon. One to beam up.

TALORA
Energizing, now.

Dojar appears in a transporter shimmer.

DOJAR
Did you get rid of the remains of the shuttle?

GREY
I did. I even returned the ground you crashed on to its original pristine condition.

DOJAR
(laughs)
Excellent. Commander, we're ready to return. And not a minute too soon.

TALORA
(sarcasm)
I see you enjoyed this mission almost as much as the mission to the wormhole.

DOJAR
Oh, not quite as much as crewmen Lesmi and Joness. Quite an interesting first mission. Something tells me we won't see those two volunteering for too many missions for a while...

INT. SCIENCE LAB

Cross enters the room.

Y'LAN
I have nearly completed my recalibration, Captain. I will be ready to begin in moments.

CROSS
I'm here to talk about the data you collected. We never finished our last conversation.
Y'LAN
I thought we were clear. I simply will not delete the data. Your human fixation with privacy is not nearly as important as the needs of the Hegemony.

CROSS
Our fixation with privacy takes precedence on my ship. I can't have your presence disrupt my ability to do my job.

Y'LAN
Captain --

CROSS
(interrupts)
I'm here to give you an ultimatum, Y'lan. Either you delete the data or you can leave this ship. This situation hasn't gotten any better, and I'd prefer to avoid any difficulties. Your doing this for yourself as much as you're doing it for me.

(beat)
I'd hate to see you cross some of the crewmen that have been in my office lately.

Y'LAN
I'm disappointed Captain, but if that's the case, I will delete the data. Remaining on this ship is far more valuable to the Hegemony than several days worth of personal data.

CROSS
I knew you would come around, Y'lan. I'll inform the crew as soon as the current crisis is over.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR
INT. BRIDGE

CROSS, TALORA, DOJAR, GUER, and SUKOTHAI are present.

CROSS
Can we launch a probe with the new shielding to keep an eye on what's going on while we wait for Y'lan to finish his calibration?

SUZOTHAI
That shouldn't be a problem. I'll reprogram a probe immediately.
(beat)
Done.

CROSS
Launch the probe.

SUZOTHAI
Launched. The probe will reach the barrier in five... four... three... two... one... it's in. I am still reading it.

CROSS
Excellent. Can you scan the Capital Island, Regalex?

SUZOTHAI
Yes. The probe is responding. It'll take me a few moments to locate the capitol.
(beat)
I've found it. There appears to be a buildup of people outside of the Capitol.

CROSS
Does this civilization have any video broadcasting capabilities?

TALORA
There are 700 television stations on the planet. Scanning.
(beat)
I've found what looks like a news station.

CROSS
Sukothai, put it on screen.

The viewscreen changes to a news channel.
RENAISSANCE: "Clear Blue Sky" - ACT FIVE
46.

ANCHOR
Religious extremists are rushing the Capitol in Regalex today. They refuse to provide any reason for their sudden riot, but show no signs of leaving. We're there live.

The channel switches to the riot near the Capitol.

The anchor is trying to avoid people rushing him.

Military forces are present closer to the Capitol, attempting crowd control.

REGALEX ANCHOR
As you can see, quite a few people have gathered here. The Farsic military has been able to hold off the advance so far, but I don't know how much longer they'll be able to protect the Executive.
(beat)
According to several of the militants, they were told to riot by the leader of the church, but apparently, he didn't provide them with any reason.

CROSS
Turn it off.
(beat)
Things are getting pretty tense down there. Something tells me it has something to do with our interference, and I can only hope all those people don't know what's happened.
(taps commbadge)
Cross to Y'lan, how are those recalibrations going?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE
They are complete. I can begin whenever you're ready.

CROSS
Dojar, I'm going to need you to return to the Executive and tell him that we've been successful in our plan. He's got to pacify those extremists. Talora, you take him down again. Once you get down there, finish the negotiations and get up immediately. Understood.

TALORA
Understood, Captain.

Talora and Dojar walk through the turbolift doors.
EXT. ENTERPRISE

The shuttle launches from the Enterprise, and heads toward the planet. Within seconds, the shuttle enters the planet's atmosphere.

INT. SHUTTLE

TALORA
All right. You need to get in there, tell the Executive that we'll be clearing the skies, and get out.

DOJAR
I understand. If you don't hear anything within five minutes, beam me back up.

TALORA
Understood. And Lieutenant?

DOJAR
Yes?

TALORA
It's good to have you back.

Dojar smiles.

TALORA (CONT'D)
All right. Step on the transporter pad. I'm going to beam you directly to the Executive's office. Try to make it quick.

Dojar nods, then walks over to the pad. He steps on it. Seconds later he dematerializes.

INT. EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

JOLAN, the leader of the planet's religious community, is once again arguing with the Executive.

JOLAN
I have the ability to make your life very difficult, Executive. If I were you, I'd bury this "alien story." Your military won't be able to hold back the extremists for very long.

EXECUTIVE
I cannot bury a story this big. If you turn my life into a living hell, so be it.
JOLAN
Don't pretend to be a martyr, Executive. You've been waiting for this for years...

He is interrupted by Dojar shimmering in.

EXECUTIVE
(hurriedly)
Let me think about it for a few minutes. You wait outside and I'll see what I can do.

JOLAN
Just a few minutes. And you better be ready to do what I want when you return.

He storms out of the room just as Dojar finished shimmering in.

EXECUTIVE
The situation is getting out of hand. Did your Captain figure out a way to clear the skies?

DOJAR
Yes. We've successfully configured our ship's deflector to clear up the skies. You can tell that guy out there that you won't release the information to the public.
(beat)
And you won't, will you?

EXECUTIVE
(relieved)
No. I'm not going to have to do that anymore.

DOJAR
How do I know you'll keep that promise?

EXECUTIVE
Now that the people will find out for themselves, I'll be fine to wait for progress. And believe it or not, I understand about your Prime Directive. I won't say a word.

DOJAR
That'll have to do.
(taps commbadge)
Dojar to Talora. Everything is cleared up down here. Beam me up when you're ready.
As Dojar begins shimmering out, the Executive calls back Jolan.

JOLAN
Are you willing to meet my demands or not, Executive?

EXECUTIVE
(happy)
As a matter of fact, I will meet your demands. I won't speak a word of our mysterious guests to anyone, and your precious church will continue to thrive.
(beat)
Satisfied?

JOLAN
(pleased with himself)
Indeed. Thank you for coming around, Mr. Executive. I'm sure we will both continue to have an excellent working relationship.

EXECUTIVE
And I assume you won't be talking about our visitors with anyone.

JOLAN
(scoffs)
After all of this, I won't share the information with a soul. As far as I'm concerned, I was seeing things.

INT. SHUTTLE

DOJAR
Well that's over. I won't be sad to see that planet recede from our viewscreen.

TALORA
Me neither. You might want to lay off the away missions for the near future. You haven't had too much luck lately.

DOJAR
If I'm not mistaken, Ma'am, last time I was missing, it was with you.

TALORA
Very true. Well, it won't be too soon when we get back to patrolling along the border.
DOJAR
These scientific missions always seem to lead to trouble. We can't seem to discover a wormhole or an interesting planet without ending up in a rescue mission.

A panel begins bleeping.

TALORA
We are approaching the barrier. Agamemnon to Enterprise, do you copy?

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
You're coming through loud and clear. The rioting seems to have dispersed. I assume you accomplished your mission.

DOJAR
Yes, sir. And I'm looking forward to getting back on the Enterprise for a sonic shower and a long nap.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
Enterprise copies. We hope to see you soon. Enjoy your shower. I'm giving you the night off.

INT. BRIDGE

CROSS
Cross out.

TALORA
Agamemnon copies, out.

CROSS
Cross to Y'lan. Are you ready to begin Operation Clear Blue Sky?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE
My macros are prepared. The Enterprise will have to enter a static orbit around the planet. Once in orbit, we will need to engage the deflectors for approximately 2 hours, after which time the EM radiation will be mostly dissolved, and the visual blockage will remain only 17 to 25 percent.

CROSS
Get to it. Cross to the senior staff. Meet me in the conference room in fifteen minutes. Mr. Dojar, you are excused.
EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise stops moving. The deflector shoots out a vertical beam, covering quite a bit of the planet. As the planet turns, the beam covers more distance.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

CROSS, ELRIS, TALORA, GREY, QUINLAN, and Y'LAN are present.

CROSS
I believe Y'lan has something to tell the crew.

Y'LAN
After much thought, I have decided to delete the data I collected about the crew's personal activities.

ELRIS
(aside)
Thank god.

Y'LAN
Please inform your subordinate units about my decision.

QUINLAN
This will probably help turn the talk of the ship to something less vitriolic.

CROSS
I'm sure, in time, members of the crew might even come to respect you, Y'lan. I, for one, hope that you have learned a bit about human behavior from this experience.

Y'LAN
It would seem I have learned more about human behavior through my failure than I could ever have hoped to uncover through my initial surveillance. It would appear I have quite a bit to learn.

CROSS
Now that this bit of nasty business is over, we still have some time until the skies around Farsu have been cleared. I suggest we all get a few hours of sleep or relax a bit. Dismissed.
RENAISSANCE: "Clear Blue Sky" - ACT FIVE

52.

Everyone files out of the room.

FADE TO:

EXT. YARD

A small boy is playing in his yard. It is dark, as there are still no stars in the sky at all.

Suddenly, a small bit of light begins to shine on the boy. He looks up and the camera sweeps to the sky. As the sky brightens slowly, a single star shines through the cloud. As the star brightens, we

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END