

STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE

"Clear Blue Sky"

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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
wakeup call, but I need you on the
bridge right away.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

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 fizzles 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 Jones--

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 Jones 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. Jones, 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 Rechmond 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 Jones.

DOJAR

Do it. Jones, 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 21st 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.

JONESS

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

ACT THREE

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)

TALORA (CONT'D)

(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 Jones 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 Jones 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 Jones are sitting in one group of seats.

Dojar has the aisle, Lesmi has the center, and Jones 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 preflight 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 Jones 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. 31

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.

LESMI

(to Jones)

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

ACT FOUR

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 Jones.

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 Jones.

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 crash 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 in 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 Presi-- 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'lan, 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

ACT FIVE

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?

SUKOTHAI

That shouldn't be a problem. I'll reprogram a probe immediately.

(beat)

Done.

CROSS

Launch the probe.

SUKOTHAI

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?

SUKOTHAI

Yes. The probe is responding. It'll take me a few moments to locate the capitol.

(long 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.

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.

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