

STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE

"Pandora's Last Gift"

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. CAVE

CROSS sits inside a small cave. The cave isn't furnished except for a wooden chair, which Cross is sitting on. At the opening of the cave, a force field twinkles as snow particles from the mountain hit the cave's force field.

Next to the chair is a tray of food, half eaten. Cross himself is poorly groomed, his hair unkempt and his beard has about a week's growth.

A KLINGON appears at the front of the cave and turns off the force field. He steps in.

CROSS

What's going on? Why have I been
taken here?

A beat. The Klingon doesn't respond. He's just staring at Cross, and taking notes on a PADD.

CROSS (CONT'D)

(more frustrated)

I asked you a question, dammit. Why
am I here? Are you a Reformist?

The Klingon still doesn't say anything.

CROSS (CONT'D)

(angry)

That's it.

He tries to rush the Klingon, but he's no match for the towering man. The Klingon easily tosses him to the side.

With a satisfied grunt, he finishes tapping his PADD and leaves the cave, shutting the force field.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

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

TALORA

Y'lan, what do we know about where
the Captain is?

Y'lan punches some keys, bringing up what appears to be a
flight path on the monitor.

Y'LAN

At first I was unable to establish
the Captain's location, but I believe
that I may have found him.

Y'lan presses some buttons and a display appears, showing a
solar system, which then zooms in on the third planet.

TALORA

How were you able to trace his
location so easily?

Y'LAN

I am unable to answer that question
myself, Commander. But, I believe
that I have found him.

There is a BEAT as Talora looks at Y'lan questioningly, but
Y'lan goes on anyway.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

It appears that the Captain was
abducted by members of the rebel
Klingon group, the Reformists.

TALORA

The Reformists?

Y'LAN

Affirmative. I detected a Reformist
energy signature leaving Ionis around
the time the Captain went missing.
Again I am unable to explain how or
why I detected it.

QUINLAN

(interrupting)

I didn't know they still had the
ability to do that. Last time I
checked, they were down to only a
dozen or so warships.

TALORA

Romulan intelligence has them similarly unarmed. It seems unlikely that they'd have the ships and technology to stage a covert kidnapping without us knowing. Y'lan?

Y'LAN

(brings up picture)

It appears that they used a Napoch-class warship.

(explaining)

Approximately ten years ago, when they were still active, the Reformists built half a dozen prototype ships they called Napoch-class, after their leader. These ships utilize a powerful cloaking device that the Federation never could penetrate, and have the ability to transport while cloaked.

GREY

I'd love to get my hands on one of those.

Y'LAN

Until today, it was assumed that all Napoch-class ships were destroyed by the Klingon Imperial Fleet. That they have any remaining is not good news for the Imperialists or the Federation.

TALORA

Were you able to track the ship?

Y'LAN

Yes. Although their cloaking device hides them from sensors, the ship makes fluctuations in the background energy of space. By analyzing that energy, I have determined that the ship is currently in orbit around a small planet named Gargari III.

QUINLAN

You can't be serious.

(beat)

That planet's been used by the Orion Syndicate for years. Apparently Starfleet's classified it pre-warp and unworthy of further investigation and won't go anywhere near it. I shouldn't tell you this, but I've had opportunity to use that planet more than once for trading.

TALORA

Regardless of that little tidbit, Ms. Quinlan, I'm taking the Enterprise to the planet. We're getting back the captain.

GREY

I know you're not Starfleet, Commander, but that's a pre-warp planet. We can't go there without express approval from Command.

TALORA

That's probably what they were thinking when they set up base there. If we wait, we give them more time to reinforce their position. We need to go. Now.

ELRIS

I agree. We can't just let these Reformist guerillas-

GREY

(interrupting)

Doctor, there are rules for a reason. We can't just disregard the Prime Directive because some terrorists don't want to follow it.

TALORA

We need to get the Captain back. If we wait, it might be too late. We don't even know what their plan is, but we can assume it won't be too friendly. I'm ordering this ship to the planet immediately.

QUINLAN

You might be Captain now that Captain Cross is missing, but I doubt the rest of the crew will follow your orders unless you give them a damn good reason to.

TALORA

When I signed on to this ship, I signed on as the full first officer. You don't have to like it, but you have to live with it. That's an order. I don't want to hear any of you questioning my command again.

(beat)

And I will be making a note about this to Captain Cross when he gets back.

GREY

Then I'm putting my protest on the record.

TALORA

Feel free to do that, Mr. Grey.

(taps comm badge)

Talora to Guer. Set a course for Gargari III, and engage.

GUER'S COMM VOICE

The nav computer is saying that's a restricted planet. Should I override?

TALORA

Yes. The Captain's down there.

GUER'S COMM VOICE

(over comm)

I understand. Course laid in... and we're under way.

INT. BUILDING

The building is primitive, with very little ornamentation except necessary furniture. SEVEN NATIVES are sitting around a square table. Through the windows, we can see that it is dark outside, and there is nothing lighting up the night.

The leader, RAMLA, begins to speak.

RAMLA

This meeting of "The Seven of Hope" shall begin.

(a beat)

Quihona, you have come to me with disturbing news. Is it true that the strange forheaded ones have stolen the caves from those called the Orions?

QUIHONA

Yes, master. I have seen it myself. I saw them in the caves on the mountain. I have seen sparkling glass covering the caves.

RAMLA

I believe that we should begin an expedition to find out what has happened.

MANOS

I agree. Are there any who do not?

QUIHONA

We must not. We will be ridiculed.
While we talk about having hope in
private, acting on these ideas...
It's sacrilege.

RAMLA

Somehow, our people have survived
ridiculing the concept of hope. Some
days, I ask myself how. But this is
not survival. It's bands of people,
competing for resources. Think of
how much better we would be if we
worked together for the common good.

QUIHONA

Yes, master. We've all heard the
speech several times. But try saying
it out there.

(pointing out the
window)

They don't want to hear it.
Hopelessness is their tradition. We
cannot change them.

RAMLA

And hope is ours. Perhaps we will
find something in the caves that can
convince our people to work together.
We've held these secret meeting-held
out hope we'd eventually succeed-for
centuries.

(beat)

It's time we actually did something.

(beat)

Who agrees to the expedition?

MANOS

I agree.

FRANDOS

I agree.

BARKAJ

I agree.

QUIHONA

I agree.

JALAN

I agree.

DELENOS

I agree.

RAMLA

Then it shall be done. We shall set out when the sun rises. Be ready. We will meet in the town square. This meeting of "The Seven of Hope" is now complete.

INT. CAVE

Cross is still inside, several hours later. Another Klingon, KORLETH, walks up to the force field and walks through.

CROSS

(weakly)

Why am I here? What do you want?

KORLETH

You are a prisoner of the Reformist Movement. The Federation is fighting a useless war of propaganda against us. We will use you to get them to stop.

CROSS

They won't listen to you. The Federation doesn't negotiate with terrorists.

KORLETH

(angered)

We are not terrorists. We are fighting for the freedom of our people from the tyranny of the High Council! We ask only for democracy.

CROSS

The Federation believed that before you started destroying civilians. You killed hundreds of innocents civilians in your march to democracy.

KORLETH

We destroyed strongholds of the Imperialists. They used their civilians so that we would look like the dishonored.

CROSS

You've made that argument to the Federation. They didn't buy it. What makes you think they'll listen now?

KORLETH

We have you, Neil Cross. The captain of their flagship.

CROSS

To be honest, I don't know how many of the top brass will care if I'm killed. But either way, your kidnapping me just reinforces the fact that you're terrorists.

KORLETH

I'm an old man. I gave up my family-my wife and children-for a democracy. When I started, I thought it would be a clean fight. The forces of democracy against the forces of tyranny. Just like the revolutions of your people.

(beat)

But it wasn't so simple. They started kidnapping our children in the middle of the night. When we still wouldn't back down, they killed them. What were we to do?

CROSS

(firm)

Just because they killed your families doesn't give you the right to kill theirs.

KORLETH

In the beginning, we attacked their military. But we wanted to show we weren't backing down. So we destroyed the offices of the High Council members. We didn't realize that the High Councilmen employed civilians. Had we realized we'd never have...

(trails off)

We have been gravely dishonored...

CROSS

(unsympathetic)

But you didn't stop there. You blew up an entire building full of civilians not related to the government.

KORLETH

Once we were branded as murderers of innocents, some high up decided we should live up to our name.

(beat)

Most of us didn't agree, but we carried out the attack anyway. We picked our target well -- we destroyed the Imperialist Guilds Office, where civilians would go to be given their career.

(MORE)

KORLETH (CONT'D)

(with contempt)

Under Martok, my people have been forced into whatever career the Imperialists considered most important. Of course, the Klingon Defense Forces drew the most people.

CROSS

You killed thousands of people. And since then, you killed even more civilians. I'm not buying this innocent act, and neither will Starfleet. And kidnapping me won't help.

KORLETH

We won't get anywhere until Starfleet stops their propaganda war. I think they'll listen.

CROSS

We'll see about that.

With that Korleth turns and EXITS, leaving Cross sat alone in the cave. From this we

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise at warp.

INT. READY ROOM

Talora is sitting at her desk. The doors SWOOSH open and Guer walks in.

GUER

Commander.

TALORA

Lieutenant, is there something you require?

GUER

I was expecting to rendezvous with the Corsica in two days. Is that still going to be possible?

TALORA

With all that just happened, I almost forgot about it. A belated congratulations on your promotion, Lieutenant Commander. Whether we'll make it depends on when we get the Captain back.

(determined)

But we've worked too hard to miss that rendezvous. We'll go to slipstream if necessary to get you there on time.

GUER

(surprised)

Thank you, Commander. I appreciate that. Thank you for everything.

TALORA

To be entirely honest with you Commander, you were my first friend on the Enterprise. Even if I did not realize that. I'll be as sad to see you go as the Enterprise will miss your talents.

GUER

Thank you again. I hope I can live up to that.

(MORE)

GUER (CONT'D)

To tell you the truth, even though we've been through all the simulations, I'm still a bit nervous. And with the political situation as it is, I'm sure I'll be seeing all sorts of things I haven't seen in simulations.

TALORA

I'm sure you'll make an excellent first officer. The Corsica will be happy to have you. Although its Captain will never admit to being happy about anything.

GUER

Yeah. A Vulcan captain is going to take some getting used to.

Talora gives away a brief smile, before getting back to her work. With that, Guer walks to the doors and walks back onto the bridge.

INT. CAVE

Korleth walks through the turned off forcefield. He is carrying a small device.

KORLETH

(bragging)

We will finally be able to get some leverage with the Federation.

He puts down the device.

KORLETH (CONT'D)

With this device, I can broadcast our demands all the way to Earth.

He turns on the device.

KORLETH (CONT'D)

The device also has a built-in disruptor. Do anything I don't like...
(taps his pocket)
and you're dead.

CROSS

You'll never get away with this.

KORLETH

Somehow I think the Federation will listen. You are the captain of their flagship after all.

(MORE)

KORLETH (CONT'D)

(beat, aside)

We'll finally get our day. After 20 years, we'll win one.

Korleth taps his communicator.

KORLETH (to comm) (CONT'D)

We're ready here. Activate the transmitter.

KLINGON (over comm)

Transmitter active. We're ready when you are.

Korleth turns and takes a breath, preparing himself for his big moment.

KORLETH

(to transmitter)

This is Commander Korleth of the Reformist Movement. We have captured the Captain of your Starship Enterprise. If you want him back, you will immediately cease your useless propaganda against us. Your lies have gone on long enough.

INT. BRIDGE

Talora, Dojar, and Guer are present.

KORLETH

(on viewscreen)

I repeat, you must negotiate or the captain dies. Korleth out.

TALORA

Y'lan, were you able to get a fix on the transmission?

Y'LAN

They used quite a few bouncing techniques, but it appears to be coming from Gargari III.

TALORA

Mr. Guer, how far away from Gargari are we?

GUER

At maximum warp, 1 day.

TALORA

(taps comm)

Talora to Grey. I need you to prep the Enterprise for slipstream.

GREY

(over comm)

Give me one moment.

(beat)

We're ready. But let's try to keep it to under an hour. At the moment, the engines won't be able to handle much more than that.

Talora looka at Guer.

GUER

At slipsteam, we'll make it to Gargari in just under 25 minutes.

TALORA

Excellent. Mr. Guer, set a course for Gargari at slipstream speed. Engage.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise drops out of warp for a moment, but then opens a SLIPSTREAM TUNNEL, and gets sucked inside.

INT. FEDERATION COUNCIL CHAMBERS

DELFUNE, THEL, PORTMAN, and SEVERAL OTHER ADMIRALS are present. In addition, PRESIDENT DRELL, a fairly imposing human, and the ENTIRE COUNCIL, 25 members made up mostly of humans, is present.

On a viewscreen, Korleth's demand is playing.

THEL

Ladies and gentlemen, this is most disturbing. The planet...

DELFUNE

(interrupting, to Portman)

I told you that Cross was a mistake. But you wouldn't listen.

PORTMAN

(interrupting)

This has nothing to do with Captain Cross. He...

DRELL

We will have order in this chamber! This is not the time to debate political appointments. We have a high ranking Captain kidnapped on a highly-sensitive planet.

(MORE)

DRELL (CONT'D)

(beat)

The only ship in the vicinity is the Enterprise, which is missing her captain, and is currently being commanded by a Romulan.

DELFUNE

We could have the Armageddon rendezvous with the Enterprise and have Captain Gold take over the mission.

PORTMAN

The Armageddon is days away. The Enterprise, with her slipstream drive, will make it to Gargari within the hour. We need to keep Commander Talora in charge.

THEL

We could command her from here. Leave her as a figurehead, but do the actual commanding here.

PORTMAN

That would undermine the whole purpose of the Romulan/Federation exchange. We made her the first officer, let's treat her like one.

DRELL

Time is short, and we've heard the arguments. Do any members of the Council wish to speak before we take this to a vote.

Only one, a young Vulcan named T'LOR raises his hand.

DRELL (CONT'D)

T'lor, you may speak.

T'LOR

Mr. President, logic dictates that we allow Officer Talora to do what we placed her on the Enterprise to do. If we only wished her to be Cross' second in command, but not to take over in his absence, we should not have given her the position of First Officer.

(beat)

The record has shown that Talora has taken over on several occasions, and has performed admirably. I urge the Council to vote to allow Talora to retain command of this vital mission.

DRELL

Are there any further comments.

The remaining members of the council remain quiet.

DRELL (CONT'D)

Then the vote shall begin. You may vote yes or no. A vote of yes shall be a vote to retain Talora on the mission, while a vote of no shall be a vote to discuss further options.

Several seconds pass, and the large screen in front of the Council begins to light up.

FOR: 6 - AGAINST: 5

A BEAT.

FOR: 11 - AGAINST: 10 - ABSTAIN: 2

A BEAT.

FOR: 11 - AGAINST: 11 - ABSTAIN: 2

Several seconds pass.

DRELL (CONT'D)

Who has not voted? The vote will not close until all 25 have recorded their votes.

Immediately after:

FOR: 11 - AGAINST: 11 - ABSTAIN: 3

DRELL (CONT'D)

It appears that I must break the tie. In the interest of time, I am voting to grant Talora command of the mission. With my vote, Talora shall retain control, and this Council is adjourned.

EXT. SLIPSTREAM

The Enterprise glides through the slipstream tunnel.

INT. BRIDGE

Talora is still sitting on the Captain's chair. Guer, SUKOTHAI, and Elris are there as well. Delfune is on the viewscreen.

DELFUNE

Commander, I don't need to tell you that this is a sensitive mission. Giving you command was against my better judgment, but the Council outvoted me. I trust you will prove me wrong, Subcommander.

TALORA

(angry)

Admiral, while I serve on the Enterprise, I would appreciate being called by my Starfleet rank. As far as proving you wrong, that's something Captain Cross and I seem to be doing in abundance lately. Is there anything else, Admiral?

DELFUNE

If I were you, I wouldn't make the mistake of underestimating me, Subcommander. Delfune out.

ELRIS

That woman doesn't get any easier to work with.

TALORA

Her personal views are of no concern to me. The Council has given me command of this mission, so we'll continue to Gargari.

(beat)

In the meantime, I'm going to see if I can find out anything about this planet from my Romulan contacts. I'll be in my ready room.

Talora walks to the ready room. Before she walks in:

TALORA (CONT'D)

Lieutenant, you have the conn.

INT. READY ROOM

Talora walks in and sits down on the Captain's chair.

She SWITCHES ON the computer.

TALORA

Computer, establish a secure channel with Romulus -- Officer Remalak.

COMPUTER

Working. Channel established. Please wait while Officer Remalak is contacted.

(MORE)

COMPUTER (CONT'D)

(a beat)

Channel active.

Remalak's face appears on the screen.

REMALAK

(delighted)

Talora, It's been so long.

(businesslike)

But I don't suppose you called to socialize.

TALORA

No. I assume you're aware of my posting on the Federation Starship Enterprise.

REMALAK

Yes. I can't say I approve of a Romulan on a Federation ship, but...

He trails off.

TALORA

I'd have thought that the head of the Tal Shiar would have considered this an opportunity to gather intelligence.

REMALAK

The Tal Shiar would not risk our mission by placing an operative on a Federation vessel. What do you need?

TALORA

My Captain has been kidnapped by what seems like Klingon Reformists. We've traced him to a planet

((beat))

Gargari III. The Federation's information on the planet is limited, so I was wondering what you know about it.

REMALAK

The name sounds familiar. If you'd like, I can research it and send you what I find. I hope you understand not to call me unless it's absolutely urgent.

TALORA

Yes, Remalak, I do.

REMALAK

I'm glad. Remalak out.

TALORA
(to herself)
Every time I talk to...

She stands up and walks back onto the bridge.

INT. MESS HALL

Three crewmen, JONESS, LESMI, and MATTHEWS are sitting at a table.

LESMI
(gossipy)
I hear Captain Cross is missing;
that he didn't come back from shore
leave.

JONESS
Yeah. I had dinner with Lieutenant
Sukothai last night, and from what I
hear, Talora is running the ship.

MATTHEWS
I don't know about you, but the idea
of a Romulan running the ship...

JONESS
And a Romulan in charge of searching
for the Captain.

LESMI
I'm sure that didn't go over too
well back home. I mean, we're at
peace with them and all, but a Romulan
running a search mission; doesn't
seem like something the Admirals
would approve of.

MATTHEWS
The Admirals don't have all the power.
The Federation Council still votes
on what to do.

LESMI
Could'a fooled me. Last I checked,
the Admirals controlled the Council.

JONESS
We do still vote on the members of
the Council.

MATTHEWS
And the last competitive race was
when, 2380? It's a joke.

LESMI

I'll just say one thing. I hope Talora finds the Captain. I don't know him personally, but he runs the ship damn well.

MATTHEWS AND JONESS

(raising glasses)

Hear, hear.

MATTHEWS

If there's one thing Romulans do well, it's sneaking around. And if the Reformists kidnapped the Captain, having a sneaky Romulan running the show can't hurt.

JONESS

I hope you're right. I really hope you're right.

INT. READY ROOM

Talora is sitting on the captain's chair. The screen is blinking: "CHANNEL ACTIVE."

TALORA

Computer, begin discussion.

The blinking screen is replaced with Remalak's face.

REMALAK

I'm sending you all the information we have about Gargari. The bottom line is this: the people on Gargari, for some reason we were never able to determine, are missing the concept of hope.

(beat)

Absent hope, they will never advance to being a warp-capable civilization.

TALORA

(realizing)

And the Prime Directive will always apply.

REMALAK

And because of this, the Federation won't even send in an observer team. They consider the risk of contamination too great.

TALORA

(inquisitive)

So who took advantage of this?

REMALAK

For a while, the Romulan Empire had a base on the planet in the mountains. But it was never really a strategically necessary planet, so we gave it up.

(beat)

Apparently, the Orions took it over after we left. And from what you're telling me, the Reformists took it from them.

TALORA

Does the information you sent me have the location of that base?

REMALAK

Yes. I'm a busy man. Contact me only in an emergency. I'd imagine Starfleet wouldn't be too pleased about these conversations. Remalak out.

Talora begins to examine the file, as the Romulan Empire symbol vanishes.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE -- AFTERNOON

A wide view of where Cross's cave is located.

INT. CAVE

Cross is in the cave. He is fiddling with his comm badge.

After several seconds he places it near the force field and presses a button. A failure beep sounds.

CROSS

Dammit.

Noise sounds. Cross quickly snatches up his comm badge.

A guard appears in front of the door.

GUARD

Captain Cross. That was your third attempt to escape from here. I assure you, the Reformist Movement would not provide you with the tools to escape captivity. And even if you did, there are a number of guards around your cell. So if I were you, I'd stop trying. Once your Federation agrees to our demands, we'll let you go.

CROSS

Why would you do that?

GUARD

We're not the enemy, Captain. We want a democratic government same as you do. But your government's propaganda is making that very hard to do.

CROSS

You kidnapped me and I'm supposed to believe you did it for noble reasons.

GUARD

I'm not here to debate with you. Stay right here and we'll release you as soon as your government agrees to our demands.

With that, the guard leaves the cave and turns back on the force field. From this we

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE -- MORNING

A wide view of the mountain range. The group of natives is climbing the mountains. The caves can be seen in the distance, including Cross's cave, covered by a twinkling force field.

EXT. MOUNTAIN -- MORNING

The natives are at the center of our picture. At this point, there's no snow on the mountain, but closer to the caves, quite a bit of snow has piled up.

The Seven are climbing.

QUIHONA

Master, we have traveled quite a distance already. Once we get there, what will we do. What again is the purpose of this journey?

RAMLA

(to everyone)

My friends, this journey will be the beginning of a new era for our people. The time for Hopelessness is over.

MANOS

Indeed. This journey is the first any of our kind has taken in millennia. We will convince the people that they must band together for the good of everyone.

QUIHONA

This is more rhetoric. How will this journey accomplish anything? What do we hope to gain that will prove our point?

RAMLA

(excitedly)

There are stories of advances in those caves beyond merely the wheel and fire. We can bring them back -- show the people that by working together we can create technology almost magical.

QUIHONA

But the people have no ruler. Who will we convince? We are only seven.

RAMLA

(confidently)

The power of this idea will convince people. For centuries, seven people have met, plotting to reintroduce optimism into the community. I can only assume that when it started, it was more than just mere hope that they'd accomplish something.

(beat)

And it's the power of this idea that sustained The Seven through 49 different leaders.

JALAN

But each of those leaders only lasted for five or so years, master. And you've already been the leader of The Seven for 20 years.

RAMLA

That's why we must meet our goal. I will not die with the dream still unfulfilled. Whatever it takes, I will lead our people to the stars once again.

QUIHONA

I fear that I will be punished for asking this, but why are we only seven. Surely a larger group would be able to better accomplish this mission.

RAMLA

Finding just seven people for our group has always been a great challenge. It has meant each one of us training his child to forgo the way our people live for a greater goal that often leads to early death.

(beat)

In these mountains, with nobody around us, it may seem that our ideals make such sense to be immediately adopted. But that's not the way our people work.

The Seven are nearing the snowy area, and they pull their cloaks in closer to their bodies.

EXT. SLIPSTREAM

The Enterprise at slipstream.

INT. BRIDGE

TALORA

Open a channel to the Reformists.

Several seconds pass, and the screen is replaced by Korleth's face.

KORLETH

(smiles ruthlessly)

Excellent. You have found us, just as we expected. My name is Korleth, leader of the Reformist forces in this sector. Is the Federation willing to negotiate for your Captain?

TALORA

I'm afraid not. I'm here to demand that you release him.

KORLETH

(laughing)

You? Demanding me? Let me remind you of the reality of this situation. The Federation is not equipped to join the war against the Reformists. And we have your Captain.

(beat)

Your Council thinks they can avoid getting into our war by supporting the Imperialists with propaganda. It is not in your best interests to continue that policy.

TALORA

I have not been given permission to offer you such a settlement, Korleth.

KORLETH

The great Subcommander Talora, following the orders of Starfleet.

TALORA

While I am in this uniform, you will address me as Commander Talora, or Captain Talora while you hold Captain Cross.

KORLETH

All right, Captain Talora. I will tell you this. Find a way to negotiate within 2 hours, or you will be Captain Talora forever. Then again, I don't know if the Federation will let you keep your position if you lose Cross under your watch.

(MORE)

KORLETH (CONT'D)

(disgusted)

Korleth out.

The screen changes back to the planet.

TALORA

(taps comm badge)

Y'lan, I've received a file from Romulus. It contains the location of an old Romulan base on Gargari. I think we should start our search there.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

I have accessed it. I should have a preliminary report in several minutes.

EXT. MOUNTAIN -- AFTERNOON

It has gotten whiter, and snow is actually coming down. The Seven are walking slightly faster than before.

QUIHONA

I sincerely hope this is worth it.

RAMLA

If we get our people to see the virtue of working together, everything will be worth it.

QUIHONA

But it's not just working together. It sometimes seems that way, but there's a deeper problem.

DELENOS

Indeed. Our people see no light at the end of the tunnel. For the most part, we're trained from the time we're small children that the universe conspires against us and nothing we do can turn out well.

FRANDOS

It's only the miracle of The Seven that we have hope and optimism for the future.

RAMLA

Do not worry, disciples. The tide is turning. Just last week, I heard a small child ask his mother why he shouldn't bother trying. I've seen people offer to help each other. And now, we're making this expedition.

MANOS

When we return, they will have to listen. We will have solid proof that working together brings good results.

QUIHONA

I hope so. I really hope so.

INT. BRIDGE

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Y'lan to Talora. I've located the base on the Romulan maps. It's still in relatively good condition, and the Klingons have made some -- improvements.

TALORA

Understood. Talora to the senior officers, meet me in the briefing room immediately.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

Talora and Elris are already seated. Grey, Dojar, Quinlan and Y'lan enter shortly after.

TALORA

Y'lan, what can you tell us?

Y'LAN

Gargari III has been used throughout the past three decades as a covert base as the Federation has classified it as a planet to remain away from. First, as Commander Talora has learned, it was used by the Romulan Tal Shiar group.

(beat)

Because it ceased to be of strategic importance in 2392, during the Sheliak War, the Romulans abandoned the base, but the Orions began using it as a base for smuggling operations.

QUINLAN

But how did the Klingons get there?

Y'LAN

Last year, when the Reformists were being obliterated by the Imperialists, it appears that they invaded the Orion base. On the base, there are signs of struggle and rapid departure by the Orions.

QUINLAN

Yeah. They probably assumed that with the Federation supporting the Imperialists, their enemies wouldn't be likely to come looking for them on Gargari.

TALORA

Possible. But what did you find out about the Captain?

Y'LAN

When the Klingons took over, they quickly converted several of the caves into prison cells. There are approximately 20 finely modulated force fields protecting various caves on the base.

GREY

Can we get through?

Y'LAN

That's part of the problem. The technology we're using is impervious to our scanners. I can detect the force fields, but I can not get through them with either the Enterprise's sensors or the Q'tami sensors.

ELRIS

Then we go down and get them.

Y'LAN

There are two problems there. First, the caves are crawling with guards. We'd have to beam in somewhat distant from the base to avoid being detected.

GREY

And second?

Y'LAN

There is a group of seven natives climbing the mountain toward the caves.

TALORA

Didn't our intelligence say that these people don't have the force of will to organize an expedition like that?

QUINLAN

Maybe it's necessary for their survival?

Y'LAN

I don't think so. The rest of the natives are still concentrated in their villages. And like Commander Talora said, the people wouldn't have the force of will as a whole to send an expedition up for the survival of the whole.

(going off on a tangent)

I must say, the evolution of a race of humanoids without hope is extremely rare. I don't believe my people have ever encountered anything like it before. In fact, I can't conceive of how they've lasted as long as they have...

TALORA

(interrupting)

While this is all fascinating, we need to rescue the Captain. Dojar, Grey, you're with me. Sukoathi will be in command until we get back. Y'lan, if you'd like, you can continue doing anthropological research on these people.

Y'LAN

Thank you, commander.

EXT. MOUNTAINS -- AFTERNOON

Cross's cave.

INT. CAVE

Korleth appears outside the force field and walks in.

KORLETH

Your commander has found you, but she isn't willing to negotiate. But no matter, I upped the ante. If she doesn't find some way to give us what we want in an hour, you're dead.

CROSS

I don't understand you. One minute you're complaining about being the victim of propaganda, the next you're coming in here, ready to kill me.

KORLETH

We are using you so we don't have to be the victim any longer. We are not the enemy.

(MORE)

KORLETH (CONT'D)

The Reformists want a form of government close to what you humans call ideal. But the Federation still backs the Imperialists. Any idea on why that is?

CROSS

I don't think anyone can speak for all of the Reformists. You might have the same ideals as we do, but the next commander might want something entirely different.

KORLETH

All you need to do is look to the words of Napoch.

(praisingly)

Napoch, who began the Reformist Movement! "I pledge my life and my honor to ensuring that all Klingons, whether warrior or cleric, receive equal representation."

CROSS

But Napoch is dead. And the Reformist forces haven't been united under his banner for almost a decade now.

KORLETH

No matter. You will be our greatest victory. When the Federation stops supporting our enemies, we will be able to gain the support of other races, not in your Federation.

CROSS

The way I look at it, you're a hypocrite. One minute you're talking about freedom for everyone, the next you're threatening to kill me if your demands aren't met.

KORLETH

Enough. You will remain here until we've completed our negotiations.

Korleth storms out of the cave, reactivating the force field.
From this we

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE -- LATER

Talora, Dojar, and Grey appear in a TRANSPORTER BEAM, they get a grip on their surroundings before beginning to walk toward the base. They can see the snowy area in front of them; they are behind the natives.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Y'lan to Talora.

TALORA

Talora here. Go ahead.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

You will be outside of the Reformists' sensors for another kilometer and a half. After that point, they will be able to detect you, and you'll still have about 100 meters to go.

TALORA

Is that all the good news you have?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Unfortunately not, commander. The natives we discussed earlier are ahead of you and are closing in on the base. They have already gotten within the Reformists' sensor grid and will reach the base in a matter of minutes.

TALORA

Is there anything we can do?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Not without alerting the Reformists to the fact that we know where they are.

TALORA

We need to avoid contamination. If they go back after having seen the base, it will change the entire course of their civilization.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Commander, I never knew you as one to care so much about Starfleet regulations, but I'll see what I can come up with.

TALORA

I respect regulations when they make sense, Y'lan. Talora out.

DOJAR

I'm going to have to agree with you here, and I imagine our by-the-book engineer will agree as well.

GREY

We need to avoid being seen by the group. I'm still wondering how an expedition of supposedly pessimistic people got started in the first place.

TALORA

That is not our concern. We just need to rescue the captain with as minimal violation of the Prime Directive as we can handle.

DOJAR

Again, I'm going to agree.

(beat)

I can't wait to get back onto the ship and away from these Prime Directive issues.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND AREA

Korleth is sitting on a chair in what looks like the CENTRAL COMMAND AREA of the base. It still bears marks from its Romulan and Orion days, and it seems like the Klingons haven't spent much time decorating it.

WORDAK, Korleth's second in command is sitting in front of a SECURITY CONSOLE.

WORDAK

Captain, I'm detecting motion about 75 meters away.

KORLETH

Humans? They will pay for this!

WORDAK

No, captain. It's a group of seven natives. They're headed right for the base.

KORLETH

Impossible! The natives couldn't band together and get all the way up here if their lives depended on it. That's why we picked this planet.

WORDAK

I don't know what to tell you, sir,
but our scanners are picking up
Gargari DNA, not human.

KORLETH

Where on the base are they headed?

WORDAK

If they keep walking straight, they'll
hit cell 14.

KORLETH

One right next to Cross's cell. I
don't need this complication. Kill
them.

WORDAK

Captain, I accepted kidnapping Cross
as necessary for our overall goals.
But killing an innocent native?
That goes too far.

KORLETH

(realizing)
You're right.
(beat)
Round them up. Put them in cell 14.

EXT. MOUNTAIN -- EVENING

Talora, Grey, and Dojar are getting closer to the base. They
can see the natives in the distance.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Commander, the Reformists are sending
in guards to where the natives are.
I can transport them away, but it
would alert the Reformists and might
make them up the stakes yet again.

TALORA

I don't care. Get them out of there.
Whatever contamination they might
get from being transported is nothing
compared to being captured by
Klingons.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Where would you like me to put them?

TALORA

100 meters in front of us. That
will allow us to protect them in
case the Reformists try to capture
them.

Y'LAN

Wouldn't it be better to put them
back where they came from?

TALORA

We don't know what made them start
the expedition in the first place,
but it could be ground-breaking in
this people's development. We must
let them finish it.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Your logic is strained, but you are
in charge. Energizing.

The Seven are caught in a transporter beam, and rematerialize
in front of the away team. However, they don't notice them.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE (CONT'D)

Commander, I think I should tell
you, the Reformists have just
increased the power to their sensors.
They'll detect you in several seconds.

DOJAR

This day gets better and better.

TALORA

Thank you. We'll maintain radio
silence until I contact you.

Talora out.

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND AREA

WORDAK

Captain, I'm detecting three more
humanoids in the new security
perimeter.

KORLETH

More natives?

WORDAK

No. One human, one Cardassian, and a
Romulan.

KORLETH

The Enterprise. Open a channel to
the Enterprise. And broadcast what
I'm about to say to all Starfleet
commbadges in the area.

Wordak taps a few buttons.

WORDAK

Channel open.

KORLETH

This is Captain Korleth once again.
I warned you before to negotiate or
Captain Cross would die. It seems
you are attempting a little rescue --

EXT. MOUNTAIN -- EVENING

Talora, Dojar, and Grey have stopped to listen to Korleth's message.

KORLETH'S COMM VOICE

-- mission. Let me tell you now:
come any closer and your Captain
will die. Am I understood?

TALORA

(taps commbadge)
We understand.
(taps it again)
Talora to Enterprise.

SUKOATHI'S COMM VOICE

Enterprise here.

TALORA

We're going to need some camping
equipment. It looks like we'll
need to set up camp.

KORLETH'S COMM VOICE

(breaking in, angry)
You will not set up camp. Return to
your ship immediately!

TALORA

You said not to come any closer.
We're not coming any closer. We have
another concern with regard to several
natives who have made an expedition
up to the mountains. We're staying
here to ensure that the Prime
Directive isn't violated any more
than it already has been.

KORLETH'S COMM VOICE

I don't like this.
(beat)
You may remain on the planet. But if
you come any closer, your captain is
dead.

All this noise made its way to The Seven, who have begun heading to Talora's away team.

DOJAR

They're heading toward us.

TALORA

The Klingons have already contaminated this culture. Why else would they be heading to the base? I believe we should talk to them -- make sure the Klingons don't make the situation any worse.

GREY

Are you crazy? Either way it's a violation of the Prime Directive.

TALORA

What do you suggest? That we beam out -- let the Klingons influence the evolution of this society, maybe even kill them?

GREY

I'm noting my objection.

TALORA

Objection noted.

The Seven are coming closer. They begin to call out to Talora.

RAMLA

Outsiders, can you hear me? We have traveled a long way to seek your counsel.

TALORA

(calling out)

We can hear you, but we cannot provide any counsel. It is against our ways.

They reach the away team.

RAMLA

We are The Seven. We seek a way to bring real hope to our people.

TALORA

But how do you have it?

RAMLA

The Seven have secretly nursed the belief in optimism for hundreds of years. We have watched the Hopelessness consume our people, and we seek a way to make it end.

TALORA

But how have your people survived for so long without coming together for a common goal?

QUIHONA

Legend has it that our people come from another world, but that when they came here, disease destroyed most of them. They left a warning to their children: Do not seek to ambition, it will be your downfall.

RAMLA

Over the millennia, our people have taken that warning to be a warning against any kind of hope or optimism, and our children are taught the dogma that everything will always turn out for the worse.

MANOS

Nobody is willing to work together for a common goal. Whenever anyone is foolish enough to bring it up, they are reminded of the warning of our ancestors.

GREY

(to Talora)

I think I see a way out of our Prime Directive problem.

TALORA

Don't keep it to yourself, Lieutenant.
(to The Seven)
One minute.

GREY

Well, these people aren't indigenous to this planet. They were once a warp-capable species, but over time, their people lost it. Ergo, they aren't covered by the Prime Directive.

TALORA

Well, if it's good enough for you Mr. Grey...
(to The Seven)
So how can we help you?

RAMLA

We seek proof that working together will lead to positive results. Our group has been seeking to change the beliefs of our fellow man for centuries, and we finally have the opportunity to do it. We won't let it slip away.

TALORA

I'll see what I can do, but I'm here to rescue the Captain of my vessel.

DOJAR

If you'd like, Commander, I can stay here and guard our new friends until Y'lan figures out a way to rescue the Captain.

TALORA

Sounds good to me.

INT. Y'LAN'S LABORATORY

Y'lan and BOYLE are present.

BOYLE

Thanks for the opportunity to learn more about your Q'tami technology. Lieutenant Grey's been gushing about all he's learned.

Y'LAN

You're welcome Ensign. I called you in because I need to find a way to get through these Klingon force fields and locate the Captain.

Hopefully, once we locate him, we can get a transporter beam through.

BOYLE

What's the problem exactly?

Y'LAN

Normally my sensors can penetrate force fields by getting through during the short period of latency between activations. Essentially, while the force field seems stable to Federation sensors, it's a pulsating energy beam, which has an extremely short, almost undetectable cycle.

BOYLE

So what's wrong here?

Y'LAN

The Klingons are using multiple generators, which fill in the "holes" that are normally between the cycles. It's extremely energy inefficient, but it's far more secure than normal force fields.

BOYLE

Why don't we try modulating our sensors to punch through the field?

Y'LAN

The generators are on rotating modulations. What I need you to do is help me identify a pattern in the modulations. Once we've gotten one of the generator's pattern, we can use the Q'tami technique I told you about to get the Captain out of there.

BOYLE

All right.

Y'lan points to a monitor, and Boyle sits down in front of it and begins studying it intently.

INT. CAVE

Cross has given up getting his comm badge to destroy the force field. He's now making an attempt to punch through the interference and get a transmission through. His comm badge lies in front of him, taken apart.

CROSS

(taps comm badge)

This is Captain Cross to the Enterprise. Do you read?

Seconds pass. Cross tries again.

CROSS (CONT'D)

(taps comm badge)

This is Captain Cross to the Federation Starship Enterprise or anyone in range. Do you read?

INT. Y'LAN'S LABORATORY

BOYLE

Y'lan, I'm detecting some sort of anomalous signal coming from one of the caves.

Y'LAN

I'm going to try to amplify it.

Y'lan starts tapping on his console.

CROSS

Cap... En... range. Do you... ead.

BOYLE
(excited)
That's the Captain!

Y'LAN
Don't get too excited yet. We're
still not any closer to getting him
out.

BOYLE
One second. I think I got an idea.

She starts tapping on the console.

Y'LAN
I think I see where you're going
with this.

The message appears on the screen in wave format. After Boyle taps another few keys, The message gets split up into red and yellow pieces. Enlarging a portion with both pieces, Boyle keys in some more keys and numbers appear.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)
Thanks to the Captain's message, we
have the differential between the
two modulations.

BOYLE
It's just a stroke of luck, but even
though the modulations are randomly
rotating, they're always equally
distant from each other.

Y'LAN
Now we need to figure out the pattern.
There must be one if the modulations
are always equally distant.

BOYLE
It'll only be a little while now.

Y'LAN
(to comm)
Y'lan to Talora. We're making
progress. Sit tight just a little
longer.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAIN -- NIGHT

A small camp has been set up -- the equipment is clearly Federation-issue.

INT. TENT -- NIGHT

Talora and The Seven are huddled inside a tent. Everything is quiet.

TALORA

(timid)

So what exactly brought your people to this planet in the first place?

RAMLA

I don't know very much. All that happened millennia ago. All I know are the legends; the stories every child knows.

DOJAR

I could sure use a story right about now.

RAMLA

It was a small expedition. Apparently it was the first time my people had ever left their home world.

The picture fades, and it's replaced by a new scene.

FADE TO:

INT. SHUTTLE

THREE MALES and THREE FEMALES sit strapped in A SHUTTLE.

The males are RAIMAN, GARAL, and DIJOL. The females are LARIS, JESIQ, and DANYEM.

LARIS

So, are we ready to leave?

RAIMAN

(excitedly)

I can't believe we were picked to be the first ones to go off to a distant planet.

GARAL

It's pretty amazing, isn't it?

JESIQ

I just hope we make it okay. I mean,
we'll never see anyone back here
again. If our new home isn't
hospitable enough...

DANYEM

I wouldn't worry. We'll make it.
Our scientists picked this site out
of hundreds of potentials.

GARAL

Ever the optimist, Danyem. Well I
hope you're right.

FADE TO:

INT. TENT -- NIGHT

As before.

RAMLA

They made it to the planet. This
planet. By the time they got here,
they had six more children, who
couldn't wait to get off the cramped
shuttle.

FADE TO:

EXT. VALLEY

The scene is replaced by the shuttle landing. All six original
occupants have aged considerably, and there are six children,
all teenagers.

The children run off of the shuttle, onto an almost
stereotypical lush green grassy area.

RAIMAN

Wait! We haven't tested the area
yet. It could be dangerous.

DANYEM

Don't worry, honey. Let them enjoy
the fresh air. I'm sure it's safe.

FADE TO:

EXT. VALLEY -- YEARS LATER

The scene is replaced by the same field, with a modern-looking
house built on it.

The six original crewmembers are middle-aged, and their
children are in their twenties.

RAMLA (V.O.)

The disease took a long time to activate, but on the fifth anniversary of their landing, disaster struck.

Raiman is sitting on the lawn of the house, talking to his child. Several seconds later, he clutches his heart, and hits the ground.

INT. TENT -- NIGHT

RAMLA (V.O.)

One by one, the original crew members were struck by the mysterious disease. When their children did the autopsies, they discovered that something that had been present on their home world had triggered a virus. They would never get the virus, but their parents were dead.

GREY

Pretty gruesome story. But it doesn't explain how the hopelessness doctrine came to be.

INT. Y'LAN'S LABORATORY

BOYLE

(frustrated)

Again. Why can't it just be simple?

Y'LAN

Be patient. Eventually we'll find the modulation. It's just a matter of finding the pattern.

Boyle suddenly has an idea. She begins tapping on the console's keyboard. A series of success beeps sound.

BOYLE

I got it. It's a parabolic algorithm.

She taps on the keyboard, and the several colors on the captain's message meld into one color.

Y'LAN

Good work, ensign. But I'm afraid that only solves our communication problem. We'll need a much more precise algorithm to get a transporter beam through.

BOYLE

First things first.
(taps button)
Boyle to Captain Cross.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Cross here. I'm so glad to hear your voice.

Y'LAN

You'll be glad to know that Boyle solved a complex algorithmic problem to get through to you.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

I'm sure it's quite impressive. Now how are you going to get me out of here?

Y'LAN

I'm afraid there are several problems still to grapple with. The algorithm we've come up with handles communications fine, but I don't think it's precise enough for the transporter.

(beat)

Besides for that, the Klingons have installed a dampening field that prevents a confinement beam from getting through.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

So all we've got to do is deactivate the force field and then I've got to leave the dampening field area.

Y'LAN

That's right. If we deactivate the force field...

(trails off)

I have an idea. I'll contact you when I get anything. Y'lan out.

INT. TENT -- NIGHT

RAMLA

So you want to know how the hopelessness myth got started? To be honest, I don't really know.

The Seven have come up with several theories, based on the legends, but we don't even have verification for the legends, let alone the theories.

DOJAR

Don't belabor the point, man. Tell us what the theories are!

RAMLA

Well, one possibility is that the six children, upset that their lives were ruined by over ambition, passed down the warning not to be too ambitious, which over time morphed into an overarching hopelessness doctrine.

GREY

Sounds like a perfectly good theory to me.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

(interrupting)

Y'lan to Talora.

TALORA

Talora here. What have you got for me?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

I've found a way to deactivate the force field keeping Captain Cross captive. The only problem is, there's a dampening field he'll have to escape through before we can beam him up.

TALORA

So you need us to give him cover fire?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Yes, but this needs to be precise. Don't move until I tell you to.

TALORA

Understood. Keep me apprised.

INT. Y'LAN'S LABORATORY

Y'LAN

This will all have to be very precisely. We can shut down the force field by targeting a high intensity confinement beam at the right modulation for just a brief moment.

BOYLE

Understood. As soon as we deactivate the force field, I'll contact the Captain while you contact the away team. He will have to begin running as soon as the away team reaches visual range, so we both need to keep our eyes on this console.

She points to a console with various lines and dots representing the away team and the dampening field.

Two of Y'lan's eyes look at the console whilst two remain on the other. Boyle gives Y'lan a show off look, which Y'lan ignores.

Y'LAN

Three... two... one... force field deactivated.

INT. TENT -- NIGHT

As before.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Talora, start advancing on the position.

INT. CAVE

BOYLE'S COMM VOICE

Captain, on my mark, run out of the cave. You should hear me say mark the same time you see Commander Talora and the rest of the away team.

(beat)

Three... two... one... mark.

The instant she says "mark," Talora and the away team come over the hill, and Cross begins to run.

EXT. MOUNTAIN -- NIGHT

Talora is climbing over the hill, onto the plateau that houses the caves. She can see four guards becoming aware of the situation.

INT. Y'LAN'S LABORATORY

The console shows that the away team is heading close to the dampening field.

BOYLE

Boyle to Commander Talora. If you move another 3 meters toward the cave, you'll be inside the dampening field. Make sure you stay out of it.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

I can't talk right now. I'll do my best, Talora out.

Over the comm, phaser fire can be heard.

EXT. MOUNTAIN -- NIGHT

Talora is firing at the Klingons. She takes one down -- Dojar and Grey each get one. The fourth one grazes her in the shoulder. She winces in pain, but still fires, taking the last one down.

In the meantime, Cross is moving closer to the finish line.

The Seven watch him, in shock over the amount of determination he's showing. Seconds later, he reaches the away team.

RAMLA

Captain Cross, I am glad you are alive.

CROSS

And you are?

TALORA

These are the only seven men on this world who have the concept of hope. It is a unique place -- I'll fill you in on it when we get back to the ship.

QUIHONA

We've made it this far. Captain, you must help us. We need proof that working together can bring good results.

CROSS

I'm sorry, but our people have rules against that sort of thing.

TALORA

I've already told Ramla all about the Prime Directive. He was hoping we'd be able to do something, but we've already violated it so much, I couldn't see doing it anymore.

CROSS

Well, I don't fully understand the situation, but I'll trust your judgment Talora.

TALORA

It's good to hear you say that, Captain. A lot has happened while you were gone. The ship became the subject of a Federation Council vote. A tied vote that had to be broken by the President no less.

CROSS

I'll hear all about it once I get
back onto the ship.

TALORA

Indeed.

Y'LAN

(over comm)

Y'lan to away team. I need to beam
you up right away. Korleth is
advancing on your position. And I'm
sure he's not too happy.

CROSS

Well, it took him long enough.

(to The Seven)

I wish you good luck in your mission.

(taps comm)

Beam us up.

EXT. VILLAGE

Ramla is talking to some people.

TALORA (V.O.)

First Officer's log, Supplemental.
The captain has returned to the
Enterprise, in an ordeal that seems
more surreal than anything else.

The person seems to be rebuffing Ramla. He keeps trying.

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

An entire civilization, devoid of
hope. And just seven men, out of
millions of people to bring the
concept back. Twisted into this story
is the kidnapping of the Captain and
one serious Prime Directive headache.

The person completely rebuffs Ramla.

TEXT ON THE SCREEN: TWO WEEKS LATER

Ramla is talking to someone else.

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

The humans have a story about a woman
named Pandora. She was given a box,
and told not to open it. Soon,
curiosity got the better of her and
she did open it, unleashing all the
evils of the world, leaving just one
thing at the bottom, hope. In the
story, it was hope that would combat
all the evils.

The person seems receptive.

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

But what if a people did not have that concept? What if Pandora's last gift was never given to them? Or what if they consciously chose to throw it away? When I met The Seven, I learned the answer to that question. And I learned just how powerful an idea like hope can be.

The person is listening, and more people come to listen.

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

In the months and years to come, this crew, and myself personally, will need a lot of hope. I hope I can succeed as first officer. I hope I can serve my captain and my crew. And we, the crew of the Enterprise, must hope that the Federation, despite significant signs of decay this crew has seen during our first few months of duty, will continue to survive. Most of all, we must hope that we will continue to do what's right in a galaxy that seems more and more wrong with every passing day.

By the time her dialog is over, the group is listening, and is getting really excited. From this we slowly

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END