

**STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE**

**"Absence of Innocence"**

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

A close-in view of the Enterprise shuttlebay. One of the Enterprise shuttles is getting ready to leave the bay.

INT. CORRIDOR

CROSS and TALORA briskly walk down the corridor heading towards a turbolift.

CROSS

I still think that you should go instead of me.

TALORA

Nonsense. You are just as capable of taking part in this conference as I am.

CROSS

But you have a Romulan point of view of what's going on, on board the Enterprise; you'd be better suited for the job.

INT. TURBOLIFT -- CONTINUOUS

They enter the turbolift.

CROSS

(to computer)  
Captain's Yacht.

TALORA

My view would be biased, I am a Romulan on board a Starfleet ship, I don't believe in the way you do things and as a result, how they turn out.

Cross looks at Talora, slightly worried that the woman he is leaving in charge of his ship doesn't agree with his way of doing things.

TALORA (CONT'D)

But of course, I'd never betray your trust, Captain. If Romulans excel at one of your human traits, it is loyalty.

CROSS

I'm glad to hear that, Commander.

TALORA

What do you plan to do about our pilot situation now that Lieutenant Guer has left the ship?

Cross looks at Talora, almost trying to physically examine how much he can trust his XO.

CROSS

How would you like to sort it out?

TALORA

I would be honored... though my techniques at selection may be slightly  
(beat)  
unorthodox.

CROSS

(grins)  
As long as it doesn't leave any of my crew dead, I'm happy with it.

The turbolift comes to a stop.

INT. CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

They EXIT the turbolift.

TALORA

I assure you that I'll do everything in my power to make sure your crew is fully accounted for upon your return. Do I have a list to choose from?

CROSS

I haven't made one up yet... use your own prerogative; get me a CONN officer and two backups by the time I return.

TALORA

Yes, sir.

INT. SHUTTLEBAY -- CONTINUOUS

They ENTER the Captain's Yacht docking bay.

CROSS

And enjoy your shore leave, Commander! You're here for seven days; you'll have plenty of time to select a pilot.

TALORA

Don't worry, Captain; we'll be here when you get back.

Cross boards the yacht with a slightly worried expression on his face. The yacht fires up its engines and as it swings around and past Talora, Cross bangs on his window...

CROSS

(mouths)

Keep an eye on Quinlan!

...To which Talora smiles at and walks out of the Yacht's docking bay as the yacht flies off into the distance.

EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE

A desert like landscape that houses a modern looking city. We can see hundreds of mini tornadoes amongst other forms of bad weather in the atmosphere.

INT. SHOPPING MALL

On the planets surface as a group of Enterprise crew members walk around an indoor alien shopping mall. Through a number of the windows we can see that it is raining outside and mini tornadoes are being formed out of the rain, though it is not noticeably affecting the interior of the mall.

Quinlan walks along the various shops and stalls with Elris and Y'lan, though many other Enterprise crew members are scattered about the mall. Y'lan is walking cautiously, whilst the two women look at the various items of clothing and food on sale.

QUINLAN

Y'lan... why so cautious?

Y'LAN

I have never been to one of these

(beat)

malls before. I find it claustrophobic and discomfoting.

QUINLAN

You're drawing attention to us. Can't you relax and act normally?

Y'LAN

Miss Quinlan, if you were as tall and broad as I am with hundreds of "interested" specimens trying to pretend that they're not looking at you, I'm sure that you would feel exactly the same way I do.

ELRIS

They're people Y'lan, not specimens.

(MORE)

ELRIS (CONT'D)

You should try to stop looking at people through a scientist's eyes all of the time, and open up and look at the wider world.

Y'LAN

I will attempt to do so, Doctor.

Elris goes away from the group to look at some clothing she has spotted, leaving Quinlan and Y'lan alone together.

QUINLAN

I do know how it feels, you know.

Y'LAN

How does what feel?

QUINLAN

To have people pretending that they're not watching you when they are.

Y'LAN

Your past continues to be brought into the present?

QUINLAN

Yes. Cross does it all of the time, and I'm sure he has at least one security guard watching me all of the time.

She looks around and points someone out to Y'lan who is looking at some jewelry on an opposite stand, but keeps looking up at them every few seconds.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

You see him over there? He's watching me right now. Keep on watching.

As Y'lan watches the man keeps looking up at them, and as he becomes increasingly aware that Quinlan and Y'lan have noticed him he keeps looking up less and less, leading to him looking like a pathetic spy, frightened to look up.

Y'LAN

Perhaps we have something in common after all, Miss Quinlan.

Quinlan looks offended.

QUINLAN

I wish people would stop calling me that.

Y'LAN

Miss Quinlan?

QUINLAN

(nods)

I wish people would just call me  
Jennifer some of the time. Even

(beat)

even Twister would be better!

Y'LAN

Twister?

QUINLAN

(amused)

Maybe you're not the type of person  
to call me that after all. What about  
Jennifer?

Y'LAN

Jennifer.

Y'lan looks pleased and they both continue to walk down the row of shops. As they both speak we see someone putting a weapon together on the top of one of the balconies, though we don't see the face or who the target is. Quinlan seems to recognize the place, as she greets various people as they walk past her.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

You recognize this place?

QUINLAN

(nods)

I've been here quite a few times;  
I'm surprised that no one's tried to  
kill us yet.

We cut back to the person assembling the weapon.

Y'LAN

Kill us?

QUINLAN

Let's just say that a few people  
won't be very happy to see me after  
what I

(beat)

borrowed from them last time.

Y'LAN

How long has it been since you  
borrowed these items?

QUINLAN

I'd say that they'd be pleased to  
have them back since...

As Quinlan continues talking we see the person with the weapon load it up on to their shoulder and prepare to fire the

weapon. Through a cross hair we see them aiming it at Quinlan and Y'lan, it is difficult to tell whom the person is aiming it at.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

...Though I never really meant to  
keep it this long...

Y'lan interrupts her and his head and eyes come to life, looking around in all directions, sensing a threat.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Hey! What's wrong with you?

Y'LAN

Quiet.

We see Y'lan's eyes as he suddenly sees a projectile being launched at himself and Quinlan, which explodes, sending debris and shoppers flying everywhere. We flash back to Y'lan's eyes before we see through Y'lan's eyes what he is looking at and what he is hearing. All of the noise of the shoppers around them is drowned out until we can only hear Y'lan's hearts beating and breathing.

As Y'lan looks around we can hear the people he is looking at breathing until he moves his attention on to the balcony. This is all a blur until we see the real assassin aiming his weapon at the two of them.

As he fires the weapon in slow motion Y'lan pushes himself and Quinlan out of the way as a missile fires into the floor resulting in an explosion that sends dust and people flying everywhere and from this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF\_TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. SHOPPING MALL

Quinlan and Y'lan lie on the floor, Y'lan isn't moving but is still alive and awake and Quinlan drags herself out from under his huge mass. As Quinlan gets up she sees the man on the balcony being taken into custody and turns around to see a man stealing an expensive looking necklace. Quinlan runs over to him.

QUINLAN

Hey! What the hell do you think you're doing?

The STALL OWNER is lying on the floor bleeding from a wound on his forehead.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

The owner of this stall is lying over there seriously injured, if not dead, and the first thing you think to do is to steal his goods? You make me feel sick.

And with that Quinlan knocks him out, places the necklace back on the stall and walks away from the scene and towards Y'lan as shocked observers look on.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Y'lan... are you okay?

Y'lan doesn't move but we can tell he is still alive from his steady breathing. Behind them both, we see a member of the local police force taking the man who tried to take the necklace away.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Quinlan to Enterprise, we have an emergency situation at my location. We need a medical team and a security detail, beam myself and Y'lan to sickbay and alert one of the medical staff that Doctor Elris is on the surface.

TALORA'S COMM. VOICE

Acknowledged, Crewman.

Quinlan sighs as the transporter beams herself and Y'lan away.

INT. SICKBAY -- CONTINUOUS

Quinlan and Y'lan appear in the middle of the room, where Nurse Agolive is waiting. Quinlan helps her and another nurse lift Y'lan on to the table.

AGOLIVE

What happened?

QUINLAN

Someone tried to kill us. If it weren't for Y'lan we'd both be dead right now. I don't know how he did it.

Agolive walks over to a large wall monitor and vital functions and life sign readings appear, as well as an overview of Y'lan's body and brain functions and a medical file.

AGOLIVE

There is nothing in Doctor Elris's files that explain how he could have done that.

QUINLAN

Either way, I want him with me next time I try and take a necklace... he can tell me where the security guards are going to come from!

AGOLIVE

This is no time for joking, Miss Quinlan, now you can either stay and be quiet or get the hell out.

QUINLAN

(realizing her mistake)

I'm sorry... does it look like he's going to be all right?

AGOLIVE

From what I can understand of these readings, it looks that way.

QUINLAN

Can you let me know when he regains consciousness?

AGOLIVE

He is conscious...

(beat)

Apparently, he's just not fully aware yet.

Quinlan nods and looks confused at Y'lan again before exiting sickbay.

INT. CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Quinlan watches people watch her as she walks along, watching them "shield" themselves in case she tries to take anything that they don't have.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

Ms. Quinlan, please report to Mission Operations.

QUINLAN

(tiredly)

Yes Ma'am.

INT. TURBOLIFT -- CONTINUOUS

Quinlan walks into a turbolift and rests her head against the back wall, alone at last.

QUINLAN

Mission Ops.

She rubs her hands through her hair and puts her hands behind her neck sighing until the turbolift comes to rest and then walks out into another corridor.

EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE

There is still bad weather over the desert city.

INT. POLICE STATION

A police station on the planet's surface. The man who we saw try to assassinate Y'lan and Quinlan is now in a prison cell. He deals a man next to him some money and points at an image of Quinlan on a monitor. The silent transaction ends and the men walk out of the room. The camera zooms in on the image of Quinlan.

INT. MALL

The same mall as earlier, where Dojar stands watching the local police do their job, until a high ranking looking officer walks up towards him.

GURANTAS

Lieutenant Dojar?

DOJAR

Yes, from the Enterprise. Have you made any progress with the investigation?

GURANTAS

We've taken a man into custody, but we need a statement from your two

(MORE)

GURANTAS (CONT'D)

crewmen who were involved in the attack, and indeed, everyone who was at this location at the time.

DOJAR

Of course. Are you in charge of the investigation?

GURANTAS

No, not really. I'm a lawyer; I'm representing the case.

DOJAR

Representing the case?

GURANTAS

Yes, it must sound strange to you. Our law system works differently to most other cultures that we've heard of.

DOJAR

Can you explain it to me?

GURANTAS

Basically, when an event occurs the planets police force investigates the crime just like any other one would, but they also assign a lawyer to the case, to represent any man or woman who might be involved in it, so that they have all of the evidence. It makes any trials that are held fair.

DOJAR

It sounds very efficient.

GURANTAS

I believe it is, but sometimes it can run into problems.

DOJAR

Problems?

GURANTAS

Nothing you should be worried about, Lieutenant. Do you mind if I go with you back to your ship to question those involved.

DOJAR

Not at all. Dojar to Enterprise, two to beam up.

## INT. MISSION OPERATIONS

The room is relatively full as Security Guards and Medical Personnel report in from the planets surface, letting the Enterprise know their current situation. Talora is standing in the middle of all of what's going on, calmly observing various officers reports until she sees Quinlan and calls her over; walking to her office.

QUINLAN

Aren't you supposed to be on the bridge during situations like this?

TALORA

I'm sure that whoever is in command at the present time can control the situation just as well as I could if it was I who was up there, besides, that is not of your concern right now.

## INT. TALORA'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

They enter an office that is obviously Talora's. It is a typical Romulan office, with PADDs neatly stacked up on her desk with everything neatly arranged. There is a picture frame on her desk a Romulan male, Nelar, which Talora quickly moves aside.

QUINLAN

Then what is my concern, Talora?

TALORA

You will address me by rank, Crewman. Have I made myself clear?

QUINLAN

Yes, Commander. And Jennifer will do fine.

TALORA

(arrogantly)

Crewman, I'd like you to give me a detailed description of what happened on the planet surface.

Talora picks up a PADD and prepares to begin writing down Quinlan's report.

QUINLAN

It all happened so fast, I don't really know. All I do know is that someone fired a missile at either Y'lan or me, resulting in Y'lan saving us both... somehow. I saw the man being arrested by a member of the local police.

TALORA

Is there anything else I should know?

Quinlan sees a FLASHBACK of her knocking out the man who was attempting to take the necklace from earlier on and sees herself putting the necklace in her own back pocket instead of back on the stand like we saw earlier. She sees herself going to her quarters and putting the necklace away.

QUINLAN

(deadly serious)

No. I don't think there is.

Talora eyes her suspiciously, she doesn't like the tone Quinlan has just used and it has raised her suspicions.

TALORA

That will be all, Crewman.

With one last sigh Quinlan turns around and leaves the Mission Ops.

INT. QUINLAN'S QUARTERS

Quinlan ENTERS and we see her go straight to the place where we saw her put the necklace in her vision and nothing is there. She is confused, after all she remembers putting it there, it was in her flashback.

DOJAR

Miss Quinlan, please report to the Briefing Room immediately.

QUINLAN

(sighs)

Can't this wait?

DOJAR

Unfortunately not, we need to discuss your activities on the planet surface.

QUINLAN

(sighs)

On my way.

Still confused Quinlan stands up from her crouching position and goes through the door.

INT. SICKBAY

Doctor Elris is in her office when she hears beeping from one of the consoles in the next room. She quickly walks through to see Nurse Agolive over Y'lan as he begins to sit up.

AGOLIVE

Y'lan's just started to become aware,  
Doctor.

Elris walks over grinning, glad to see Y'lan sitting up.

ELRIS

How are you feeling, Y'lan?

Y'LAN

I do not "feel," Doctor. The only  
emotion that I do feel is that of  
sadness for the people injured on  
the planet's surface.

ELRIS

That's not what you should be worried  
about right now, and if it makes you  
feel better there were only minor  
casualties.

Y'lan just NODS.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Can you tell me what just happened  
to you?

Y'LAN

I believe I may have just experienced  
what you humans call  
(beat)  
a leap of faith.

ELRIS

A leap of faith?

Y'LAN

Intuition may be more appropriate. I  
suddenly became aware of the attacker.

ELRIS

It's like you have some kind of sixth  
sense.

Y'LAN

(distracted)  
It would be my seventh.  
(beat)  
But I have none that I am aware of.

ELRIS

And can you tell me anything about  
the  
(beat)  
state you were just in?

Y'LAN

I believe that when I pushed Miss Quinlan to the ground, I deflected part of the blast. Fortunately, Q'tami have an internal energy reserve which appears to have taken the main blast from the explosion.

ELRIS

I see.

Y'LAN

When the energy was used up, it put me in, what you call, an almost coma like state. While I can see and hear everything that is going on, I cannot respond to the environment or actions around me. I am powerless.

ELRIS

(nods)

That would explain why you have been unaware over the past few minutes.

Y'LAN

As I get older the reaction time will go further and further down until I can fully control my energy and mind as one.

ELRIS

Just out of general interest, Y'lan, but how old are you exactly?

Y'LAN

Five hundred and twenty cycles, it roughly translates to two hundred and sixty of your Earth years. Am I free to leave, Doctor?

ELRIS

I can't see any reason why I need to keep you here, but I'd recommend that you stay here for observation. But since I can't see that happening, I do ask that you take it easy for a few days.

Y'LAN

Thank you, Doctor.

ELRIS

My pleasure.

Without saying another word Y'lan gets up and EXITS sickbay, leaving Elris and Agolive alone together.

AGOLIVE

(re: Y'lan)

I've never seen anything like it before.

ELRIS

Y'lan isn't an it, Kathryn. Just because Y'lan hasn't got a sex like we do it doesn't mean we can treat ce like an object.

AGOLIVE

"Ce"?

ELRIS

Apparently, it's Y'lan's sex. But everyone seems to call him a he, none-the-less.

AGOLIVE

Then what do we call Y'lan?

ELRIS

"Ce," I guess...

The two look at each other confused and then both walk away to get on with their own work.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Dojar to Elris.

ELRIS

Go ahead, Dojar.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Is Y'lan fit for questioning, Doctor?

ELRIS

You just missed ces, Dojar. I think ce's gone back to ces lab.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Affirmative.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

Quinlan is standing looking out of one of the room's giant windows, waiting for Dojar to meet her there. Not long after Dojar and Gurantas enter.

DOJAR

Jennifer, this is Mr. Gurantas, he's the lawyer representing the case you and Y'lan were involved in.

QUINLAN

Glad to meet you.

She walks over to Dojar before she sits down.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)  
(whispers to Dojar)  
I hate lawyers.

Dojar gives her an odd look before she sits down. He takes the head of the table, where Cross usually sits and Gurantas and Quinlan take the adjacent seats, facing opposite each other.

GURANTAS  
Jennifer Quinlan. I haven't seen you for a long while.

QUINLAN  
Excuse me?

GURANTAS  
You keep our lawyer's quite occupied when you come to our planet don't you? I don't think that there's a single lawyer on the planet that hasn't heard of you. In fact, we use most of your cases in training exercises for up and coming young lawyers.

Quinlan shrugs.

QUINLAN  
Great! I'm famous.

GURANTAS  
I was hoping that you might have changed since I first saw your name on that report, but obviously I was wrong.

QUINLAN  
What do you mean? I was on the receiving end; I was almost killed.

GURANTAS  
And wasted no time afterwards to take what you could from injured shopkeepers stalls.

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

DOJAR  
(to Gurantas)  
Why did you not inform me of this before the briefing?

GURANTAS

I didn't see that it was necessary.

DOJAR

(to Gurantas)

Could I have a word with Miss Quinlan alone?

Quinlan and Dojar get up and walk to the far corner of the briefing room.

QUINLAN

(friskily as she walks past Gurantas)

Excuse me.

DOJAR

Please tell me that this man is mistaken, Quinlan.

QUINLAN

(desperately)

Of course he is, I have no idea what he is talking about.

DOJAR

Are you sure?

Quinlan nods in response, a glint in her eye. They both walk back to where Gurantas is waiting for them.

GURANTAS

Lieutenant Dojar, I'd like you to place Quinlan into "protective custody" until I can determine exactly what happened on the surface.

QUINLAN

Protective custody? You b...

DOJAR

(interrupts)

Miss Quinlan, please. It would be best for all concerned if you were placed in custody, we don't know if the assassin will try to strike again.

GURANTAS

(slyly)

And we wouldn't want that, would we?

Quinlan nods in reluctant agreement.

DOJAR

Ensign Piller, report to the briefing room.

PILLER'S COMM VOICE  
Acknowledged.

The doors slide open and a young male Ensign walks in.

DOJAR  
I'd like you to place Miss Quinlan  
here into protective custody until  
further notice.

PILLER  
Aye, Sir.

Piller gestures for Quinlan to start walking and they exit.

INT. BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

On to the Bridge, a lot of people look at Quinlan, disgusted. She walks with her head high, almost proud of herself, even though she obviously isn't. They walk into one of the Bridge's turbolifts.

INT. TURBOLIFT -- CONTINUOUS

PILLER  
Brig.

QUINLAN  
What?! I'm sure Lieutenant Dojar  
just meant for me to be confined to  
quarters.

PILLER  
As far as I'm concerned, the further  
away you are from us, the better.

Quinlan sees his reaction and walks behind him, studying him.

QUINLAN  
(whispers in his ear)  
I'm sure you could make an exception  
for me, just this once Lieutenant.

Piller flinches as Quinlan unexpectedly starts to feel his uniform's back.

PILLER  
(quietly angry)  
That isn't going to get you anywhere,  
Miss Quinlan -- please remove your  
hand or I'll have no choice but to  
report you.

QUINLAN  
(still whispering)  
You wouldn't... you like it, don't  
you?

Piller remains silent.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)  
Has it been a while?

Piller is still silent.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)  
Or maybe you... might want some  
more... She moves her hands from his  
back to his front, as he still remains  
silent. I'm sure Dojar wouldn't  
mind if you came into my quarters to  
make sure that there wasn't any...  
intruders around, Ensign.

PILLER  
(slight grin forming)  
I'm sure he wouldn't. Computer, crew  
quarters.

The turbolift ride ends and they both exit.

INT. CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

And casually walk down the corridor, and stop at Quinlan's  
quarters.

INT. QUINLAN'S QUARTERS -- CONTINUOUS

They both enter Quinlan's quarters, Piller, looking around  
to see if anyone is there.

QUINLAN  
Perhaps you'd like to slip into  
something a little more...  
comfortable?

PILLER  
My quarters are on another deck...

Quinlan moves in close to him once again.

QUINLAN  
(whispers)  
Who said anything about going back  
to your quarters?

Quinlan starts to undo Piller's tunic, but a quarter of the  
way down she notices that he isn't cooperating any more. He  
has seen the necklace.

PILLER  
(seriously, indicating  
the necklace)  
Can you explain this to me, Miss  
Quinlan?

Quinlan looks confused, not knowing how the necklace has  
gotten there; after all it wasn't there earlier.

QUINLAN  
(matter of factly)  
Perhaps you had better take me to  
the Brig after all...

As Quinlan and Piller EXIT the camera pans on to the necklace  
and from this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BRIG

Quinlan is sitting in a holding cell as Y'lan ENTERS.

Y'LAN

Dojar has told me that Gurantas believes you have stolen an item of jewelry from the shopping mall.

QUINLAN

And apparently he's correct.

Y'LAN

Yet you and I both know that the information, and evidence, is false.

QUINLAN

Do we?

Y'LAN

You know as well as I do that you stopped a man from taking the necklace.

QUINLAN

To tell you the truth, Y'lan, I can't remember what happened. I remember beaming aboard, and then I remember thinking about it and I remember pocketing the necklace myself... and both memories feel so real.

Y'LAN

I know that you did not take that piece of jewelry, Jennifer. I have to go to the surface to identify the person that attempted to murder us; I intend to investigate both of our... situations.

QUINLAN

Thank you.

Y'LAN

While you are waiting you should remain in your quarters and avoid the rest of the ship's population. I've asked Lieutenant Dojar to release you, he should be down here to release you within approximately one hour.

Y'lan turns to leave.

QUINLAN

(confused)

Y'lan! Wait! Why are you doing this?

Y'LAN

Because you, like I, are both looked upon with disrespect and fear, and I feel that I owe you it to clear your name. I believe that everyone should have a second chance in life, and if not that then a third and a fourth. I know you did not do this Jennifer.

QUINLAN

(unusually focused)

No one's ever done this for me before.

(Beat)

Thank you.

Y'LAN

Not at all. Goodbye Jennifer.

Y'lan turns and EXITS, leaving Quinlan stood against the force field and sits back down in the brig, with tears in her eyes.

EXT. A PRISON ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

Y'lan and Gurantas stand, waiting for someone to enter. Gurantas stands opposite to Y'lan and Gurantas keeps looking at him, with a scowl on his face.

Y'LAN

Have I done something to offend you, Mr. Gurantas?

GURANTAS

By being here.

Y'LAN

Please explain.

GURANTAS

You're an alien, an outsider; you shouldn't be here, you're interfering with our culture.

Y'LAN

And does Starfleet being here make them any different to myself?

GURANTAS

Of course it does.

(MORE)

GURANTAS (CONT'D)

We are a humanoid species and as close to joining their Federation as we thought possible -- and your species is not. You're an outsider, you don't belong here, Stranger.

Y'LAN

I believe that I do. Fate has led me to this moment in time and space, just as it has led you.

GURANTAS

Fate? Fate didn't get a chance earlier today when you were almost killed.

Y'LAN

Of course it did. It was the will of whatever it is that controls us all that I save myself, if It didn't want me to be alive, then quite simply Mr. Gurantas, then I would not.

Gurantas grunts and turns around, Y'lan feeling less and less comfortable by the minute as we see him uncomfortably shift about the room. The doors open and a guard brings a PRISONER into the room.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

That is not the man who attempted to kill me.

GURANTAS

(surprised)  
Isn't he?

Y'LAN

I saw the real man who fired the weapon seconds before he attempted to kill Miss Quinlan and myself. I can assure you Sir, that this isn't the man who fired the missile.

GURANTAS

You obviously don't understand our legal system.

Y'LAN

Then perhaps you should explain it to me.

PRISONER

(hurriedly)  
It's an unfair system, I didn't do...

GURANTAS  
(interrupts)  
Shut up prisoner...

He turns to look at Y'lan.

GURANTAS (CONT'D)  
Come outside.

Y'lan and Gurantas walk outside, but before they go the prisoner gives Y'lan a sympathetic look.

INT. PRISON CORRIDOR

GURANTAS  
Our legal system works on the basis  
of guilty until proven innocent.  
Since there is no evidence to suggest  
that this is not the man who...

Y'LAN  
(shouts)  
I saw him!

GURANTAS  
(shouts back)  
And you were on the floor unconscious  
at the time!

Y'LAN  
(calming down)  
And I also saw him as I tried to  
find the real man before he fired  
the weapon. And I was unaware, not  
unconscious. There's a difference  
between being unconscious and unaware.

GURANTAS  
Then perhaps you should explain it  
to me, outsider.

Y'LAN  
(growling and making  
his height known)  
I am not an outsider on my ship where  
there is only one of my kind, and I  
am still not an outsider on this  
planet. If it were not for my want  
to find out who really did fire that  
weapon, rest assured Sir, that I  
would not be standing here talking  
to you right now. Now explain your  
system to me, before I show my system  
to you.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise in orbit around the planet.

INT. CORRIDOR

Quinlan walks alone. People look at her like before and avoid her in the corridor, she walks along in a less proud stature then she did before. As she walks along to her quarters she sees a crowd gathered around a notice board, she walks closer to investigate.

The board is an advertisement for new CONN Officers on the ship, and since the Enterprise is not going to be returning to Starfleet Command for some time, the Enterprise has been given permission for Cross to pick three officers himself. Anyone with piloting skills can apply, they do not need a Starfleet commission. Commander Talora's name is on the contact area.

BILLINGS

(to Quinlan)

I hope you're not thinking of going into the training program for this, Quinlan.

CREWMAN 2

We don't want the ship to be involved in any smuggling runs.

They both laugh and walk off, leaving Quinlan looking at the board.

INT. TALORA'S OFFICE

Y'lan is standing facing Talora, crouching down to avoid his head hitting the ceiling.

TALORA

Mr. Gurantas says that you threatened him.

Y'LAN

And he was being racially offensive.

TALORA

And that justifies your actions?

Y'LAN

I believe it does, yes.

TALORA

Then what you did was right, you are excused Mr. Y'lan.

Y'LAN

There is one more item I wish to discuss with you, Commander.

TALORA

And that is...

Y'LAN

The man who Gurantas is holding in custody, he isn't the man who tried to have Quinlan and myself killed.

TALORA

And what do you expect me to do about this?

Y'LAN

While I was on the planet I was told that the penalty for such crimes as this one is death, and the law system works on the basis of guilty until proven innocent.

TALORA

(nods)

Then you must research the situation and decide on what you are going to do about it.

Y'LAN

Then I have access to the appropriate files?

Talora taps some commands on her computer station.

TALORA

You do as of right now, good luck Mr. Y'lan.

Y'LAN

Thank you, Commander.

Y'lan EXITS leaving Talora, not bothered about the situation looking through some files at her station. Seconds after Y'lan leaves, Quinlan ENTERS. Talora looks up for a brief second and looks at Quinlan in disgust before going back down to her work.

TALORA

Can I help you, Crewman?

QUINLAN

Yes actually, you can. I want to enter the running for CONN Officer.

Talora looks up amused.

TALORA

And what makes you think that I'm going to put you in for that?

QUINLAN

Why shouldn't I be?

TALORA

For one, you're a pirate and a thief.

QUINLAN

Ex-pirate, Commander, and you have already judged me before I've even been tried. Y'lan says that I didn't take that necklace and even though I haven't got a clue what happened, I believe him.

TALORA

Y'lan wasn't fully aware at the time... his perceptions could have been altered.

QUINLAN

(silently laughs)

The day I meet a modest Romulan...

She looks up to Talora.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

There's nothing stopping me from going in for CONN Officer and you will see me with the rest of the candidates tomorrow morning Commander, whether you like it or not.

Quinlan EXITS leaving Talora looking at where Quinlan had just stood, impressed.

INT. CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

QUINLAN

Computer, locate Y'lan.

COMPUTER

Y'lan is in Science Lab Six.

INT. Y'LAN'S LAB

Y'lan has his table cleared and sits studying some files he has called up. The door CHIMES.

Y'LAN

You may enter.

Quinlan ENTERS.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Jennifer; I believe I have made some progress into the investigation.

QUINLAN

I thought you only returned to the ship twenty minutes ago?

Y'LAN

I did. Q'tami have the ability to read extremely quickly.

Quinlan SITS ON Y'lan's table, before Y'lan shoots her a glance with a few of his eyes, and Quinlan GETS UP.

QUINLAN

So what have you found?

Y'LAN

The legal system on the planet is that of guilty until proven innocent, which explains why your case is different to most others that you have been involved in. But there is one other major difference, which Gurantas has kept extremely quiet about, which would explain why you have been charged with someone else's crime.

QUINLAN

And that is?

Y'LAN

People on the planet take themselves and how they live very seriously. As you have seen, the people on the planet don't treat you with very much respect.

QUINLAN

And? That happens everywhere I go.

Y'LAN

This is very different. If you, as the Earth saying goes, bruised anyone's ego when you've been down there you could have gotten yourself into a lot of trouble.

QUINLAN

I'll get out of it... I always do.

Y'LAN

Unfortunately for you, from how your case is developing it seems to me

(MORE)

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

that there is someone very powerful  
down there who wants to see you dead.

QUINLAN

(sarcastic)

Sounds like a good place to live.

Y'LAN

As for the man who has been arrested  
for attempting to kill us, he also  
is not the same man, and he has been  
sentenced to death.

QUINLAN

Is there anything we can do to stop  
the charge? Can we find out who the  
original attacker, and thief, was.

Y'LAN

Unfortunately, no. There were over  
5000 people in the mall on the day  
the attack took place. But there is  
one more item that may help us find  
out the identity of our would be  
killer and your thief.

QUINLAN

What's that?

Y'LAN

If I recall correctly, you said you  
remember nothing of what actually  
happened on the planet when you were  
reportedly stealing the necklace?

QUINLAN

Except the flashbacks when I returned  
to the ship. But how does that help?

Y'LAN

I don't know yet...

(beat)

but I'd like you to come down to the  
planet with me tomorrow, there's a  
theory I want to test.

QUINLAN

What's that?

Y'LAN

The...

Y'lan suddenly bolts over in pain, clutching were his stomach  
is and ends up lying on the floor convulsing.

QUINLAN

(shouts)

Y'LAN! Y'LAN! Quinlan to Sickbay, we have a medical emergency in Y'lan's science lab!

ELRIS

Acknowledged, I'm transporting Y'lan here now.

Y'lan disappears in the familiar glow of a transporter beam and Quinlan runs out of the lab and into the corridor.

INT. SICKBAY

The camera is on the doors as Quinlan runs in and then pans around to where Y'lan lies, stabilized. Elris is around him, again checking his vitals.

QUINLAN

Doctor!

ELRIS

Y'lan's going to be all right... again. But it looks as though someone may have tried to poison him.

QUINLAN

Poison him? Why would someone want to do that?

ELRIS

I wouldn't know. All that I do know is that it happened approximately two hours ago.

QUINLAN

(to herself)

That would have been when Y'lan was on the planet's surface.

ELRIS

We'll know more when he regains awareness; it looks like his body is going to be in for a rough time over the next few days.

QUINLAN

Just when we were getting somewhere as well...

Quinlan turns and leaves, leaving Sickbay silent as Elris returns to her office and Y'lan's eyes remain stirring at the ceiling and from this we

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. HOLODECK -- BRIDGE

One of the crewmen who insulted Quinlan yesterday sits at the helm, as Talora looks on.

The viewscreen shows the ship darting in and out of an asteroid field, chasing after a Ferengi fighter. We see the ship's shields flare as the viewscreen shows the front of the ship clipping a rock. The ship spins out of control as a result of the impact and a white glow fills the screen and the Bridge dematerializes...

INT. HOLODECK -- CONTINUOUS

...Into the walls of the holographic training facility.

TALORA

Your accuracy is not as high as it should be, Crewman, I wouldn't want you sitting in the pilot's chair on my Bridge.

BILLINGS

Sir! Yes, Sir!

TALORA

You are dismissed, Crewman.

BILLINGS does a regulation turn and EXITS the Holodeck, as Quinlan enters.

QUINLAN

Jennifer Quinlan, reporting as not ordered.

TALORA

Take a seat, Crewman.

Quinlan sits down, facing Talora.

TALORA (CONT'D)

How much experience have you had piloting space faring vessels?

QUINLAN

I piloted my own ship for over five years.

TALORA

But your ship is certainly not the Enterprise, is it Crewman?

QUINLAN

No, it's not. But I'm sure that if you give me a chance I can pilot the Enterprise just as well.

TALORA

Then why don't you prove that to me?

Quinlan gives a slightly nervous sigh and stands up.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Computer, activate training program delta one.

And the surroundings once again change...

INT. HOLODECK -- BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

This training program is different to the one we saw before. The viewscreen shows that the Enterprise is in a nebula, and an unknown class of ship is heading towards it.

TALORA

For this exercise I will be your tactical officer and the computer will control all other functions.

QUINLAN

(indicating the viewscreen)

What the hell is that? I've never seen that configuration of ship before.

TALORA

It is a ship my people encountered in a nebula some years ago. We have no idea who these people are or why they attacked us... only that they destroyed two of our Warbirds in a matter of minutes, and left a third one limping home.

QUINLAN

And is this what all of the other candidates went up against?

TALORA

No, it certainly is not.

Quinlan raises her eyebrows and looks down at the controls as she expertly moves the Enterprise around the nebula and towards the ship, avoiding most weapon fire in the process.

QUINLAN

How am I doing?

TALORA

Better than I anticipated.

The ship swerves to avoid a collision with the ship as the Enterprise fires back and severely damages the ship. Quinlan turns the ship around for another run at it and the weapons fire of the Enterprise finishes it off as the Enterprise flies through the explosion.

Talora stands looking dumbfounded, she never expected Quinlan to be this good. Quinlan turns around, to look at Talora.

QUINLAN

So how do you think I did, Talora?

TALORA

Excellent, Crewman, but if you are to become the ship's new pilot, which I am not saying you will be, you will address me by my rank.

QUINLAN

(pleased)

Yes, Sir!

TALORA

Of course, my decision may also be based on your past crimes and your current exploits on the planet's surface.

QUINLAN

Understood, but I don't believe that that's entirely fair.

TALORA

I believe it is. The next set of exercises will be in Shuttle Bay 2 at 2000 hours. Dismissed.

And with that Quinlan stands up and EXITS, making no effort to do a regulation turn. The camera zooms in on Talora who sighs and looks absently at the holographic pilot's seat.

INT. CORRIDOR

Quinlan is walking down the corridor when she bumps into NARV OZRAN.

QUINLAN

Ozran! Taking the CONN test?

OZRAN

No, if you'll excuse me...

Quinlan decides to press the issue.

QUINLAN

Why not? You're a shuttle pilot.

OZRAN

Because I'm quite happy with being the Transporter Chief.

QUINLAN

Don't you want a shot at the big chair?

OZRAN

You'll find we don't all share the same ambition Quinlan, now if you excuse me...

Quinlan turns around and regards Ozran as he walks away down the corridor, looking confused as to where he wants to take his life in the future.

INT. Y'LAN'S LAB

The camera pans from a forced open door to where Quinlan sits in the unlit room save a small lamp on Y'lan's desk. She is reading some of the files that Y'lan was showing her the previous day; she picks up the PADDs and sighs, looking at the quantity of them.

The door opens fully and the light from the corridor outside shines in on Quinlan's face. The silhouette of the person is obvious. It is Y'lan. As he enters we can see that he looks very different, his face is a slightly different color and he has a transparent substance coming out either side of his mouth.

Y'LAN

You could have asked, Jennifer.

QUINLAN

I thought you were unaware.

Y'LAN

I was. I only regained awareness just under an hour ago. Doctor Elris does not know that I have left the Sickbay.

Quinlan notices how different Y'lan looks to how she last saw him.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

I notice that you see me in a different light now that I am ill. But do not worry Jennifer... I will recover fully within a matter of hours.

QUINLAN

I'm glad to hear that. Can you tell me what you had found yesterday?

Y'LAN

I now know that the man who is sitting in the prison did not attempt to kill us.

QUINLAN

Us?

Y'LAN

Indeed. Our "crimes" are both entwined. According to the files I have read, which the local police force sent to the Enterprise, I have deducted that the real would be killer set out to kill you, but when another opportunity presented itself he attempted to assassinate me as well.

QUINLAN

I take it that this person would have wanted one of the items I borrowed off him back?

Y'LAN

Correct. And it is more than likely that he was a racist, like most of the planet's population is.

QUINLAN

So where can we find this son of a bitch?

Y'LAN

As I told you before, the local police have already released the man and another is now in custody. It is also more than likely that this man has fled the planet, since he is not a native.

QUINLAN

I don't think so, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

And why do you think that?

QUINLAN

You've forgotten that bad case of food poisoning you've got.

Y'LAN

I know who has done this to me, and he is not the man who tried to kill us. But, I do have my own plans for him.

QUINLAN

So what are we going to do about the man in prison...

(beat)

...and the real assassin?

Y'LAN

I intend to go and drop the charges against the man who is currently in custody. As for the real assassin, I don't think there is much that we can do.

ANGLE: Quinlan, as a realization suddenly comes over her.

QUINLAN

Actually, I think there is.

INT. MISSION OPERATIONS

Quinlan briskly strides in. She sees Talora's office empty and walks to an empty console in the main room, no one seems to notice, as they are too engrossed in their own work.

QUINLAN

Computer, upload criminal record from the planet's surface for Quinlan, Jennifer E.

COMPUTER

Transfer complete.

QUINLAN

Now cross reference every filed...

(beat)

"complaint" against the names of the people who were in the shopping mall at the time of the assassination attempt.

COMPUTER

Operation complete.

QUINLAN

Display.

A list of three or four names appears on the screen and Quinlan looks pleased with herself.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Computer, display the names of those who have left the planet's surface in the time since the attempt.

The computer displays one name and as Quinlan turns around and is about to walk out of the door, Talora walks in and goes to her office.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Computer, save all files regarding this person to Jennifer Quinlan's personal database and restrict use to Jennifer Quinlan.

COMPUTER

Confirmed.

QUINLAN

Clear monitor and delete all records of this exchange.

COMPUTER

Confirmed.

Quinlan turns around and begins to walk before turning her head around fully, in a hurry, and literally bumps into Talora.

TALORA

And what is so secretive that you delete all records of what you've just done and restrict access to one file?

QUINLAN

I don't have to answer to you.

TALORA

(angrily)

While you're on this ship when Captain Cross isn't on board everyone answers to me! And if you still want to be the CONN officer of this ship then you will tell me everything that you have just done.

INT. TALORA'S OFFICE

Y'lan walks in, giving Quinlan an amused look as to what she's done now. Quinlan returns the glare unimpressed at Y'lan's undeveloped sense of humor.

TALORA

Y'lan, I'm glad you could make it.

Y'LAN

I am sure that whatever you think that Jennifer has done can be answered for.

TALORA

Well, for once it seems like she's actually done something right, it's just a shame she didn't decide to share it with us instead of going to pursue it herself.

Y'LAN

(looks at Quinlan)  
You've made a development in the case?

QUINLAN

I know who tried to kill us Y'lan  
(beat)  
and it's because of me that both of us were almost killed.

Y'LAN

Things past can be forgiven.

QUINLAN

I still endangered your life and the life of everyone else around me. If I've learnt anything over the past few days it's that if I am going to get to be the Enterprise's CONN Officer I'm going to cause a lot of problems for you all.

TALORA

It would certainly...  
(beat)  
make things interesting for us.

Quinlan smiles and contemplates her future as the camera swings around to Talora.

TALORA (CONT'D)

I believe that there is a chance that your would-be assassin is still within range of a shuttle. Would either of you like to accompany me?

Y'lan nods his head and Quinlan stands up ready to go, but looks more responsible, perhaps because she is just in the presence of her perhaps future command officer.

TALORA (CONT'D)

I will meet you both in the cargo bay in twenty minutes; there are  
(MORE)

TALORA (CONT'D)

matters that I need to attend to  
before I leave.

Quinlan leaves, but Y'lan stays put, making his presence  
felt.

Y'LAN

I hope that you are not going to  
take Jennifer off the list of  
potential CONN Officers because of  
her actions today.

TALORA

I refuse to comment on my progress  
in selecting a CONN Officer to anyone  
on the crew.

Y'LAN

If I am not going to get a comment  
from you, Talora, I will say one  
thing. Remember that you are picking  
a CONN Officer for the good of the  
ship and not on your personal opinion  
of one individual.

TALORA

I don't need you to remind me of  
that, Y'lan.

Y'lan turns to leave, but Talora looks up from her work and  
stops Y'lan.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Y'lan. Why have you suddenly taken  
an interest in Quinlan's activities?

Y'LAN

Because no one else on this ship  
seems to. Someone needs to look out  
for her.

With that comment Y'lan turns around and starts to leave,  
leaving Talora looking on, pondering what Y'lan has just  
told her. Before he exits, Y'lan turns around.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Commander, there is one more thing...

From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. SHUTTLEBAY

Talora stands in the shuttle bay pacing up and down, while a patient Y'lan stands in a moment of tranquility, contemplating his thoughts. Quinlan ENTERS and walks over to Y'lan. Talora nods at her as she walks in.

QUINLAN

(to Y'lan)

What's up with her?

Y'LAN

I believe she may have just seen a new perspective in our situation.

Quinlan gives Y'lan a strange look saying don't interfere with my business, but Y'lan stays the same, giving Quinlan a firm, and reassured look back.

The shuttle bay doors OPEN as Dojar ENTERS.

TALORA

You're late, Dojar.

DOJAR

I'm having a bad morning, Commander.

Talora looks taken aback by Dojar's attitude and indicates for Quinlan and Y'lan to board the waiting shuttle.

TALORA

Is this going to interfere with your duties, lieutenant?

DOJAR

(shaking his head)

No, sir.

They turn to board the shuttle.

INT. SHUTTLE

Quinlan and Y'lan are in the two rear seats, leaving the front two piloting consoles for Talora and Dojar.

TALORA

(to Quinlan)

Crewman, I'd like you to take the Conn.

QUINLAN

Huh?

TALORA

Your response should have been that of "Sir?" and I believe you heard me the first time.

QUINLAN

(partly  
enthusiastically)  
Yes sir!

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle lifts up and exits the Enterprise, flying off into the darkness of space.

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle is CLOSING IN on an alien ship, and slows as it approaches.

INT. SHUTTLE

Talora walks up to the front of the shuttle and looks into the viewscreen.

TALORA

This is the Starfleet shuttle  
Pathfinder to the attack ship Mirage,  
respond.

A shrewd looking alien named DIMARAK appears on the viewscreen.

DIMARAK

This is the Mirage. How can I help  
you, Starfleet?

TALORA

I'm placing you under arrest for the  
attempted assassination of two of my  
crew members. Surrender peacefully  
or I will be forced to open fire.

DIMARAK

You of all people should know,  
Commander, that Starfleet doesn't  
appreciate people taking pot shots  
at their officers, particularly  
visiting aliens. I aren't about to  
surrender anytime soon.

Dimarak notices Quinlan sat in the conn seat of the shuttle.

DIMARAK (CONT'D)

(smugly)

Do you realize that you have a petty thief piloting your shuttle, Commander?

TALORA

I see you recognize Miss Quinlan, can you enlighten me as to how?

DIMARAK

I seem to recall her "borrowing" something off me a few years back, though I can't seem to recall getting it back.

TALORA

And is that the motive you had for attempting to kill her and another member of my crew?

DIMARAK

She was with the outsider as well!? I'm sorry my plan failed!

TALORA

(sternly)

Mr. Dimarak, I'm asking you one more time, surrender.

DIMARAK

May the devil take you within his grasp!

The viewscreen cuts off.

DOJAR

He's engaging his warp engines, Commander.

TALORA

(smugly)

Take out as many systems as you can, Lieutenant. With the exception of life support.

DOJAR

Yes, Sir.

The viewscreen comes to life with a sea of color as the shuttle fires at the Mirage. The Mirage turns and comes back at the shuttle.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Commander, I'm detecting multiple missile silos and phaser turrets arming all over the ship's hull.

TALORA

Why didn't we detect them earlier?

DOJAR

Unknown.

TALORA

Are we a match for them?

DOJAR

Unlikely if he decides to fire them at us, and, it appears that all of the weapons are armed and ready to fire. Our weapons should be able to penetrate his ablative armor, it's the old deployable shell style.

Talora ponders the options before:

TALORA

Quinlan get us out of here.

QUINLAN

I'll try, Commander.

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle attempts to out maneuver the Mirage as it fires weapons at the shuttle.

INT. SHUTTLE

The shuttle shakes; Talora regains her composure and position in the middle of the floor. Y'lan remains calm, entranced in the viewscreen. Talora looks at one of the panels and sees how well Quinlan is doing well avoiding the missiles, though she is still hitting some, she's avoiding more than are hitting her.

The shuttle suddenly shakes violently and Talora looks at where the weapons fire is coming from on the back of the Mirage.

TALORA

Quinlan, take us around the back of the Mirage. Quickly.

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle slows and the Mirage flies under it.

INT. SHUTTLE

Talora points out the section of the Mirage where the weapons fire is coming from. It is obvious that there is a gap in the armor.

TALORA

Dojar aim for this section here and  
fire weapons.

DOJAR

Yes sir.

On the viewscreen we see the Mirage take heavy damage and a  
gas start to leak from the upper sections.

TALORA

Status?

Y'LAN

My readings indicate that the ship  
has taken heavy damage to its engines  
and life support systems. She isn't  
going anywhere.

TALORA

Beam the pilot aboard and set a course  
back for the Enterprise. Maximum  
warp.

EXT. SPACE

The shuttle takes the Mirage in a TRACTOR BEAM and goes to  
warp.

INT. SHUTTLE

Talora sits at the back station with Y'lan.

Y'LAN

Commander, I'd like to ask you  
something.

Talora NODS.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Would you consider it wrong, to treat  
one man the same as a criminal, even  
if he wasn't, if he'd been treating  
another the same way?

TALORA

Although I am not well versed in  
philosophy or take an interest in  
others affairs, I would say that was  
an accurate assumption. Why do you  
ask?

Y'LAN

The lawyer who has been representing  
our case is racist towards myself.

(MORE)

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

I find it hard to believe that in a culture as advanced as there's that there can be room for one such as he.

TALORA

No matter how advanced a species is, not every member can be as open minded as the majority. Take Earth for example; in the mid twentieth century it was one of the most violent planets for racism in the quadrant. I remember reading a report from the Vulcans a few years back that they would have made contact with humanity almost a century earlier if it wasn't for the prejudice in society.

Y'LAN

Yet now all humans seem to be welcoming towards other societies.

TALORA

No matter how many humans are like that, there are those who are prejudiced. It's a way of life in the galaxy Y'lan, and the only way that it can be changed is by changing their own opinions. Only they, with the help of others, can influence that.

The Enterprise has grown to full size on the viewscreen and the shuttle glides into the shuttle bay.

INT. SHUTTLEBAY

Quinlan, Talora, Y'lan, and Dojar walk out of the shuttle and into the bay and corridor ahead.

TALORA

Miss Quinlan. The new CONN Officer will be announced in Ten Forward at 1500 hours. I hope to see you in attendance.

QUINLAN

I'll be there, Commander.

Talora and Dojar EXIT.

Y'LAN

Jennifer. I need to speak with you.

QUINLAN

I heard what you were saying to Talora in the shuttle. What were you planning on doing to our lawyer friend?

Y'LAN

Teaching him a lesson in race and innocence. A society with an absence of innocence is not a fair one, not to you or anyone on the planet surface.

QUINLAN

But the Prime Directive...

Y'LAN

Jennifer, I am not a member of Starfleet. And as much as I would like to obey their rules and regulations I do not feel that this world is developing as it should. It needs a helping hand.

QUINLAN

All right, but on your head be it.

Y'LAN

You've come a long way in the last few days, Jennifer. Perhaps you will lead a better life from now on?

QUINLAN

Thanks... but under the skin lies the same person who stole, murdered and kicked herself out of Starfleet.

Y'LAN

But under that layer is another. A person who cares about what happens to others and how she is as a person. You have begun to unwrap that layer Jennifer, don't stop now.

The camera slowly zooms in on contemplative Quinlan, considering her future. Y'lan EXITS and after a long beat of contemplation, Quinlan also EXITS.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE

It is still raining outside and the camera closing in on the city from earlier.

INT. SHOPPING MALL

GURANTAS walks along one of the higher railings, looking for trouble below. He sees a team of POLICE walking up the stairs and towards him.

GURANTAS

What can I do for you, gentlemen?

OFFICER 1

Mr. Gurantas, your being placed under arrest under the charge of an attempted assassination attempt.

GURANTAS

This is ridiculous!

Another officer, covered from head to toe, removes their helmet; it is Y'lan.

Y'LAN

On the contrary, Mr. Gurantas. From your laws I would say that this was quite fair.

GURANTAS

You. Outsiders always cause trouble. You. Quinlan.

Y'LAN

You do not deserve to enforce the law, Mr. Gurantas, if you yourself cannot keep an open mind. Even if that law itself is unenlightened.

GURANTAS

You have no authority to tell my race how to live their lives.

Y'lan moves in close to Gurantas, and bows his head as he whispers into his ear

Y'LAN

(whispering)

No, I do not. But if you want to be set free, that is exactly what you are going to do.

The camera closes in on an enraged Gurantas, and from this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. POLICE STATION

Y'LAN stands and signs some forms which are laid out in front of him. Pictures of GURANTAS, the PRISONER and the real criminal and assassin are on PADDs. OFFICER 1 walks up to Y'lan.

OFFICER 1

You may speak to the prisoner now.

Y'lan nods his head and walks through the cells, he sees the man who was imprisoned earlier for trying to assassinate him and Quinlan being set free, he nods in thanks and smiles at Y'lan. At the other end of the cell we see DIMARAK being placed in custody. Y'lan stares at him for a LONG BEAT.

OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)

Don't worry. This case has already caused so much controversy that I don't think they'll risk setting him free.

Y'LAN

And the new laws?

OFFICER 1

There is heated debates about them all over the planet, but, so many people agree with them I'd find it hard for the Government not to insist on them being made law.

Y'lan nods and the two continue walking towards the end of the corridor. They walk up to a cell where Gurantas is inside. Y'lan nods once more at OFFICER 1 and he takes a few steps back, leaving Gurantas and Y'lan to business.

GURANTAS

I did as you asked.

Y'lan stands silently, regarding the cell around Gurantas. After a long beat...

GURANTAS (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to say anything?

Y'LAN

I hope you can see the irony of all this. You have sunken from being one of the most respected members of society to being an attempted murderer.

(MORE)

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

I now hope you understand how others feel when they too are arrested under the same circumstances as you are.

GURANTAS

(sarcastically)

You have opened my eyes.

Y'LAN

I hope that I have. But one thing that I cannot change is your feelings for "outsiders" and I realize that the events of the last day may have made you more wary.

Gurantas regards Y'lan, the same look in his eyes as earlier. Y'lan stares deep inside of them, wondering about his motivations.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

May I ask why you are so afraid of me?

GURANTAS

I believe that our society should be able to evolve on its own, without you coming to interfere, like you have today.

Y'LAN

(shakes his head)

But you know as well as I do that that is not true. If that were the case you would be prejudiced against the rest of the Enterprise crew as well.

GURANTAS

I've always been taught to be cautious of those who are different to me. The Enterprise crew is similar to me, but you are not. Our race has been altered before by outsiders, you have only reinforced that idea.

Y'LAN

And for that I am sorry. But your planet does not seem to have the correct definitions of guilt and innocence that almost every other planet in the galaxy abides by, they must be corrected.

GURANTAS

And what makes you think that?

(MORE)

GURANTAS (CONT'D)

What makes your definition correct  
and ours wrong? Have you ever thought  
of that, outsider?

Y'lan realizes that he isn't going to be able to change the  
opinions of this man. Instead, he settles for what he has  
already achieved.

Y'LAN

I have informed the guard that you  
are to be released at any point within  
the next week at his discretion. I  
hope that gives you time to  
contemplate your thoughts.

Y'lan turns and walks outside and into the rain, that slowly  
pats down on his body. He hangs his head low and looks up  
at the heavens and lets out a deep sigh of defeat.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Y'lan to Enterprise, one to beam  
aboard.

Y'lan's figure disappears into a beam of light and leaves  
the rain patting down onto the ground of where he was just  
stood.

INT. TEN FORWARD

The crew is gathered around Talora, who is holding a Starfleet  
Uniform and some rank pips. A solemn Quinlan ENTERS the  
room and takes a table on her own. PILLER walks towards her  
and takes a seat.

PILLER

I hope you don't mind me joining  
you.

QUINLAN

Not at all, I owe you a drink anyway.

PILLER

I guess you could say that.

QUINLAN

Thank you for not reporting that...  
little incident. The last few days  
have opened my mind up to the faults  
in my life, and I'm setting out to  
change them, whether I get the CONN  
or not.

PILLER

I'm glad to hear that.

A server walks up to them.

SERVER

Can I get either of you anything?

QUINLAN

One Mushaka mind warp and...

Quinlan nods towards Piller.

PILLER

A synthehol.

The server nods and walks away.

QUINLAN

Synthehol? For some reason I considered you to be more adventurous than that.

PILLER

I try not to drink anything strong.

QUINLAN

I need it... for the nerves.

Piller smiles as the server returns with their drinks. They both take their glasses and knock them together.

PILLER

To the future. I hope it turns out the way you want it to.

QUINLAN

Thank you.

Quinlan looks as the doors open as Y'lan walks over to join them.

Y'LAN

I hope I'm not interrupting anything.

PILLER

Not at all.

QUINLAN

How did your meeting go?

Y'LAN

Surprisingly well. I think I've made a positive influence on their society.

Quinlan and Y'lan sit staring out of the view ports, Piller, having no idea how much they've bonded over the past few days sits in the middle of them, wondering when one of them is going to say something.

TALORA

Can I have your attention? I will shortly be announcing the new CONN Officer of the Enterprise-G.

The gathered crowd let off a small cheer as the camera cuts between some of the group we've seen in the holodeck and in various other places as we see their nervous faces.

TALORA (CONT'D)

But first, I would like to give my respect to those who did not get the placement. There will be three people chosen, a head CONN officer, a secondary officer and a night watch officer who will join our other two officers on their shifts.

The camera cuts back to Quinlan while Talora is muttering something about tight rotas and not abiding people who arrive late for their shifts.

QUINLAN

There's no way in hell she's gonna pick me. She doesn't even like me!

Y'lan gives her a bizarre yet reassuring smile and Piller puts his hand on hers, giving her his support. She smiles back at Y'lan.

TALORA

Ensign Whedon will control the night shift Conn.

A round of applause is heard as WHEDON makes his way to the front. Talora hands him his new pips and shakes his hand. He makes his way back to his seat.

Cut back to Quinlan looking extremely nervous.

TALORA (CONT'D)

The secondary Conn. Officer will be Crewman Johnson.

Another round of applause goes off as CREWMAN 2 makes his way to the front. Talora hands him a rank pip.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Congratulations, Ensign.

Another round of applause.

Cut back to Quinlan again.

QUINLAN

I hate him.

Y'LAN

All is calm, Jennifer.

Talora walks forward and hold up a uniform with two pips on.  
A full Lieutenant.

TALORA

The new CONN Officer was not a hard decision in terms of skill. This crew member has talent and a natural ability to control a ship. On the other hand this crew member is one of the most troublesome crew members I've ever had the misfortune of dealing with.

QUINLAN

(sarcastically)

Guess that puts me out of the running, then.

TALORA

The new CONN Officer of the USS Enterprise NCC-1701-G is...

A long BEAT.

QUINLAN

Why must she continually taunt me?

EXT. SHUTTLEBAY

Cross's Captains Yacht is on final approach and glides into its private mooring in the Shuttle Bay.

INT. CORRIDOR

Cross exits the shuttlebay and into the corridor where Talora is waiting. She matches his pace as they head down the corridor.

TALORA

Welcome back, Captain. How was the conference?

CROSS

Painfully long winded. How's the ship?

TALORA

In almost perfect condition, we've been having a slight problem with the EPS manifolds but besides that the ships ready to fly.

CROSS

I presume you've found someone to  
fly it then?

TALORA

Yes.

CROSS

So... who is it?

Talora remains silent as they enter the turbolift.

INT. BRIDGE

Cross walks out closely followed by Talora. We see the back of the new CONN Officer's head. It is a woman. Cross walks up to her and swings the pilots chair around. QUINLAN smiles at him. Cross quickly turns it back around again and looks at Talora.

CROSS

In my ready room. Now.

INT. READY ROOM

The two walk into the ready room and Cross sits down at his desk.

CROSS

What have you done?

TALORA

I promoted Crewman Quinlan.

CROSS

I can see that.

TALORA

Believe me, Captain, she is an exceptional pilot. I had my own doubts over picking her but I believe I made the right choice. Especially after her actions over the past few days.

CROSS

I expect to see the report on my desk within the next hour.

TALORA

Aye, sir.

CROSS

This could take some getting used to.

QUINLAN'S COMM VOICE  
Captain to the Bridge.

Cross sighs and gives Talora a disgruntled look.

INT. BRIDGE

Cross and Talora ENTER.

DOJAR  
We're picking up a distress call,  
Sir.

CROSS  
Where?

DOJAR  
Two light years away. It's originating  
from inside an asteroid field.

CROSS  
Conn. Set a course, maximum warp,  
engage.

QUINLAN  
Aye aye, Captain.

CROSS  
Congratulations, Lieutenant.

QUINLAN  
Thank you, Sir.  
(smugly)  
I look forward to serving with you.

Cross SIGHS and looks again at Talora. He's going to have to  
get used to this.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise going to warp. From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END