FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT -- DAY

Dojar and another Cardassian, Simad, stand in a small apartment.

VOICE (V.O.)
Previously on "Star Trek: Renaissance."

SIMAD
(coughs)
So, what brings you here?

DOJAR
The Enterprise is delivering food supplies to Cardassia.

INT. SICKBAY

Elris at her desk with Dojar stood over her.

ELRIS
Lieutenant, we have very specific orders with regard to Cardassia. You know I'm not allowed to treat anybody without going through the Cardassian government.

INT. FACILITY ROOM

A longish room, with windows along one wall. An attendant stands at each window.

Long lines of Cardassians stem from each. A door on another wall. Every few moments, the person at the front of each line walks away with a small package -- not bigger than a small medkit.

Near the front of the line stands Dojar. He shifts from foot to another. He looks as if he's been here a while. The DOOR opens, and a tall Cardassian man walks out. He's clad in military garb.

He carries a large package, about the size of a grocery bag. Dojar stares as he walks by. His attention is caught by another, similarly dressed man who comes through the door with a similar package.

The door shuts, and Dojar shifts back to his other foot. He turns to the man behind him.
An attendant swipes a card through a little machine. After a response from the computer, she takes a small package out and gives it to Dojar, also returning the card.

DOJAR
Did you know that I'm in Starfleet? On my ship, a meal is usually enough to fill one's stomach.

ATTENDANT
(surprised)
Sir, there's a door to your left. I'm very sorry about the mix-up.

INT. BRIDGE

Cross stands, talking, the rest of the Bridge crew watch around him.

CROSS
It has recently come to my attention that the government of Cardassia has been distributing the aid provided by the Federation poorly, in an unfair manner. The Federation is committed to helping all of Cardassia's citizens, not just the wealthy or well-connected. But this commitment requires the help of the Cardassian government as well.

(beat)
Until Cardassia adopts and adheres to a policy of equal distribution, regardless of race, past, or social status, the Federation cannot provide any aid. I am hereby suspending all humanitarian aid to Cardassia.

INT. CREW QUARTERS

The Diplomat and Elris in the Crew Quarters.

CROSS (V.O.)
He's a telepath, but not the type you know of. He has the ability to take consciousnesses and mix them with his own. A telepathic meeting room where negotiations can take place with total control over all actions.

ELRIS
So you could never look into someone's mind who...

(MORE)
ELRIS (CONT'D)
(beat)
Who, didn't know that you would probe him. Could you arrange one of your meetings?

INT. SICKBAY

The image is blurred, implying that we are inside one of the Diplomat's meetings. Cross, Elris and the Diplomat are all present.

CROSS
(slowly, unsure)
I don't know how to talk to you anymore.

ELRIS
Have you ever known how to talk to me?

CROSS
I think we've argued so much I've forgotten what it's like to be friends.

ELRIS
Friends?

CROSS
(nods)
Friends.

Elris SMILES. At this point another Cross and Elris appear next to them, passionately kissing.

INT. CORRIDOR

Cross and Elris stand facing each other in a corridor, neither looking very pleased.

ELRIS
Somebody was thinking about it, Neil, and I know that it wasn't me.

Cross stands in silence, not knowing what to say to that.

INT. SICKBAY

Elris stands, examining Boyle.

BOYLE
(with a cheeky smile)
So how are things between you and Captain Cross these days?
ELRIS
(stiffly)
The Captain and myself are fine.

BOYLE
You and Cross are the talk of the ship.

INT. CORRIDOR

Cross and Elris stand facing each other.

ELRIS
Open your eyes to the world around you, Neil. Look at how others see you and how others see the world. You might learn something.

From this we...

FADE TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise at warp.

INT. CARGO BAY

GREY and DOJAR are walking amongst a cargo bay packed with crates. The crates are packed both side by side and on top of each other, making it look like a supermarket, with aisles between each line of crates.

GREY
I didn't think the suspension would last very long.

DOJAR

Bureaucrats and politicians don't see what we see.

GREY
It still doesn't make it right.

DOJAR
Why not? My people are receiving aid again.

GREY
What's stopping it from happening again?

DOJAR
The aid distribution administrators have been replaced by a committee of (MORE)
DOJAR (CONT'D)
representatives from all of the different sectors on Cardassia.

GREY
It doesn't sound very reassuring. If it were I, I would have Starfleet distributing the aid.
(beat)
No offence.

DOJAR
You don't trust Cardassians?

GREY
Of course I do. I just believe that when it comes to politics, anyone can become corrupt.

DOJAR
(shakes head)
I disagree. The citizens are working for the citizens.

GREY
Have you heard of Communism, Lieutenant?

DOJAR
Of course I have. And this isn't it.

GREY
There's a difference?

DOJAR
The politicians are working to rebuild Cardassia, if the citizens can't work for themselves, what hope do we have of becoming a major power again?

GREY
(hypocritically)
I'll believe it when I see it.

DOJAR
If you're so sure of yourself, what's stopping Starfleet from doing the same?

GREY
They're not working for themselves they're working for a people who rely on them...

DOJAR
(sarcastic)
The joys of monarchy.
GREY
This is quickly turning into an inaccurate political slandering.

DOJAR
I'd hardly call it slandering, Lieutenant.

GREY
Dojar, my mother's from Denmark. The only country on Earth, besides bloody merry old England, that insisted on retaining its monarchy when it joined the world government.

DOJAR
And I'm from Cardassia. The only power besides the "bloody merry old Dominion" that was left in ruins and defeated after the war.

GREY
Maybe we should leave it?

DOJAR
(nods)
Maybe we should.

GREY
(murmurs)
But I was right.

Dojar eyes him, faking disgust, but before he can reply:

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
Talora to Dojar and Grey, we're approaching Cardassia, Lieutenants. Are the cargo containers ready?

DOJAR
We're preparing them now, Captain.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
What's taking so long, gentlemen?

GREY
Just some political... slandering, Sir.

INT. BRIDGE

Regulars TALORA and QUINLAN man their posts, while Y'LAN stands beside Talora. Other officers man the other posts.
TALORA
(smiles)
As long as you're not planning a mutiny.

Y'lan looks intrigued.

INT. CARGO BAY

Same as before.

GREY
We're not there yet, Sir.

QUINLAN'S COMM VOICE
(jokingly)
I don't think we have anything to worry about, Sir. Lieutenant Grey couldn't stage a mutiny if his favorite self-sealing stem bolt depended on it.

Dojar laughs.

GREY
I could!

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
Don't get any ideas, Lieutenant.

Grey laughs.

DOJAR
We'll try, Commander.

INT. BRIDGE

Same as before.

Y'LAN
I would very much like to see this mutiny. When is it due to take place?

TALORA
On that note...

INT. CARGO BAY

Grey and Dojar smile.

DOJAR
We'll be ready in five minutes, Commander.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
I'll inform the Captain. Talora out.
Grey walks past Dojar and pulls out a tricorder, and begins examining the crates. The tricorder emits a strange beeping sound.

GREY
That's odd.

DOJAR
What?

GREY
The label on this container states fruit and vegetables, yet I'm detecting self sealing stem bolts.

DOJAR
Your favorite.

Grey grunts.

GREY
Not the time, Lieutenant, not the time.

DOJAR
Sorry, Sir.

Dojar walks over to where Grey's standing.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
Shall we take a look?

GREY
We wouldn't want any civilians finding they had some of these for dinner.

Dojar walks forward and unlocks the crates, before lifting it open, though we cannot see what is in them as the camera cuts back to a shot showing Dojar and Grey's reaction.

GREY (CONT'D)
Those aren't stembolts.

DOJAR
No.

GREY
I'm going to the bridge.

Dojar nods and as Grey walks off the camera swings around to reveal a crate of STARFLEET WEAPONS. From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER
FADE IN:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

Out of the window we can see Cardassia slowly rotating beneath the Enterprise.

The entire senior staff are sitting in their usual seats as Grey speaks. Cross does not look pleased, and sits with his elbows on the table, resting his chin on his clasped hands.

GREY
...at least another twenty percent contained weapons.

TALORA
Why didn't we detect them originally?

DOJAR
A dampening field was in place, a very sophisticated one at that. But unfortunately for whoever put these here...

CROSS
(finishes for Dojar)
It was designed to emit stembolts, and not fruit and vegetables.

DOJAR
(nods)
That's about it.

QUINLAN
But why would these weapons be here? This is aid.

CROSS
That's a good question... and one I want an answer to. Dojar, I want you to find out everything about this batch of aid from the packers of the crates themselves to the transporter chief who beamed them here. Talora, contact Delfune and the Cardassian government; tell them we have a problem with our cargo transporters and that we'll beam the aid down as soon as they're repaired. Grey, take out the cargo transporter for a day or two, and then hand check every one of those crates for weapons.

GREY
Sir, that could take days.
CROSS
Then get someone to help you.

GREY
Yes, sir.

CROSS
The rest of you are free to enjoy Cardassia, but stay out of trouble. Something's going on here and I intend to find out what. I don't want anyone else knowing about this, besides whoever helps Grey. Understood?

The staff all nod.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Then let's get started.

They all stand to exit.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Talora?

TALORA
Captain?

CROSS
Would you mind waiting?

The rest of the staff leave, leaving only Talora and Cross in the room.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Admiral Delfune is behind this.

Talora raises an eyebrow.

TALORA
You have proof of this?

CROSS
She was the one pushing for the aid to be resumed. Suffice to say I was suspicious from the start.

TALORA
It looks like your suspicions have paid off.

CROSS
To be assigned as the Captain who renews the aid effort was humiliating to say the least.

(MORE)
CROSS (CONT'D)
(beat)
At first I thought it was just to spite me, after the incident with the Klingons last month.

TALORA
It appears much more serious then that now.

CROSS
And I was just about ready to bite my tongue and face the crowd.

There is a long silence.

TALORA
Am I dismissed, Captain?

CROSS
(nods)
You are.

Talora nods respectfully and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. TEN FORWARD

Dojar sits alone at a table, looking out at the stars, as they fly past him. He looks content and peaceful. After a while we hear some familiar slapping noises, and the camera pulls back to reveal Y'lan standing behind him.

Y'LAN
Lieutenant Dojar. It is not often that I see you here.

DOJAR
It's not, is it?

Y'LAN
You have a reason for being here?

DOJAR
Not really. I'm just marveling at the wonder of space...

Y'LAN
Marveling? What is there to marvel at in space?

DOJAR
The vastness of the universe! And every star we pass the closer I am to home.
Y'LAN
Is this not your home?

DOJAR
In a way it is. But Cardassia is where I was born, where I was brought up. There's nowhere quite like that, is there?

Y'LAN
I am unsure. I remember very little of my own youth.

DOJAR
Why's that?

Y'LAN
Q'tami remember very little of their life before they reach twenty of the humans' Earth cycles. In some ways it can be very beneficial, but some long for memories of their past.

DOJAR
So where do you consider home?

Y'LAN
I am unsure.

DOJAR
Maybe it is beneficial. Nothing to latch on to... no past.

Y'LAN
On the contrary, Lieutenant. I have 230 Earth cycles of past. That is also devoid of the time I spent in stasis.

DOJAR
What was your first memory?

Y'LAN
Having my telepathic bond to the Hegemony activated. Seeing my race for the first time.

DOJAR
Where was that?

Y'LAN
On board an organic vessel close to the T'olghi Nebula.

DOJAR
How long's it been since you were last there?
Y'LAN
I have not yet returned to that area of space.

DOJAR
It's only been nine months since I were last on Cardassia... and being back is something I've been looking forward to since I left. I'm so happy that I'm almost back.

Dojar smiles and turns to look into space as Y'lan stands up and walks off in the same way he came.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE
The Enterprise in orbit of Cardassia Prime.

CROSS (V.O.)
Captain's Log, Stardate 78928.3. The Enterprise has arrived at Cardassia Prime with some much needed aid, giving me the chance to offer my crew a well-earned rest. I have noted with Command that I'm not happy about the recommencement of the aid, but no one seems to be listening...

(sighs, then pessimistic)
I just hope that the relief mission will be more successful then the last time we were here.

EXT. CARDASSIAN STREET -- DAY
Elris and Quinlan walk through a heavily damaged Cardassian street, looking inside some of the makeshift shops, which are selling herbs and medicines for those who can afford it.

The street itself, is generally in ruins, even twenty five years since the Dominion bombing.

As Elris and Quinlan walk down it we see an elderly Cardassian man repairing some of the structures of a huge, impressive arch way.

By the looks of it, it is almost finished, and a pattern depicting the rebirth of the Cardassian Union symbol is the center piece, amidst an image of the flaming city.

QUINLAN
I've never been to Cardassia before.
ELRIS
Really? I can't imagine a pirate not visiting it.

QUINLAN
(small laugh)
There's not a lot left, that's worth stealing. The Dominion left it in quite a state.

ELRIS
I think they're getting better...
(indicates repair man)
The people seem to go about their work with a passion.

QUINLAN
I don't think it will ever go back to the way it was. They've lost too much. They've had their pride taken from them.

ELRIS
Well look who's talking! This time last year I'm sure you didn't think you'd be wearing a uniform again any time soon.

QUINLAN
I suppose stranger things have happened.

As they round a corner they hear a crowd laughing, followed by an applause and look around to see where it is coming from.

Straight ahead of them there is a moderately sized amphitheater, filled with Cardassians. Elris smiles.

ELRIS
There certainly wasn't anything like this last time I came here.

QUINLAN
Look at the difference between these two streets.
(turns around back to where the man is working)
They've made a whole new life for themselves here.

ELRIS
They've built up what they need to survive.
QUINLAN
They need a theater to survive?

ELRIS
You've got to have some pleasures in life.

QUINLAN
I want to go in; catch the end of the show.

ELRIS (smiles)
We'll see what we can do.

Elris looks over at Quinlan who's positively gleaming.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
I didn't know you were a fan of theater?

QUINLAN
Hell, yeah! I put on my first musical with my friends when I was six!

ELRIS (laughs)
I'd never have guessed.

QUINLAN
We did "Tears of the Fountain."

ELRIS
Ambitious.

QUINLAN (nods)
I'll never forget it. I was Jane Clearlock.

ELRIS
Who played Domo?

QUINLAN
This kid from...

Suddenly from behind them there is a loud crash and Quinlan and Elris fly around to see what has happened.

Behind them they see the street filled with dust, and the two women rush forward. Behind them in the amphitheater the crowd are on their feet, murmuring, with some of the men leaving to assist.

As the dust begins to clear we see the old Cardassian man lying on the floor, groaning. Blood is trickling from his forehead and dust covers his overalls.
As Elris bends down next to him she pulls out her tricorder and begins to scan him, as an elderly Cardassian woman runs up from behind her.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
Mentark! Mentark!

QUINLAN
(to woman)
My friend's a doctor. Let her try and help.

The Cardassian woman looks down at her fallen husband, with tears in her eyes.

ELRIS
His pulse is very weak. I need to get him back to the ship if he's to survive.

QUINLAN
Can we do that?

The man lets out a loud groan and the Cardassian woman kneels down next to him and brushes back some hair that has fallen out of place. He looks up at his wife, smiling.

MENTARK
(to woman)
I'm so glad you're here.

ELRIS
(to Quinlan)
I don't think we have much choice.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
(to Mentark)
As am I.

At this point Elris looks down at the couple, who are now holding hands, looking at each other in the eye. She pauses, just watching the scene before:

QUINLAN
Doctor?

Elris snaps out of her trance.

ELRIS
Sorry. Elris to Enterprise, lock on to my commbadge and beam the two Cardassians and myself directly to sickbay.

OZRAN'S COMM VOICE
One moment, Doctor.
Elris looks up at Quinlan.

**ELRIS**

Looks like we're going to have to do this some other time.

Before Quinlan can reply Elris dematerializes in the familiar glow of a transporter beam, along with the elderly couple beside her.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. SPACE**

The Enterprise in orbit of Cardassia.

**INT. MISSION OPERATIONS**

Dojar is standing outside Talora's office as Talora talks to Delfune on the comm.

**TALORA**

As I said Admiral, we don't expect the cargo transporters to be operational for at least a day.

**DELFUNE**

Understood, Commander. But what's stopping you from using the shuttlecraft to take it down?

**TALORA**

As I'm sure you are aware, two of the Enterprise's cargo bays are full of the crates containing the aid. It would be more practical to wait until the transporters are repaired.

**DELFUNE**

(nods)

Agreed. What happened to the transporters in the first place?

Talora pauses, unsure what to say. Then:

**TALORA**

Lieutenant Grey was rerouting the energy supply to compensate for one of the systems that was damaged during the Q'tami attack. I do not believe that "system overload" describes what happened.

Delfune laughs.
DELFUNE
Understood. Begin beaming down the crates as soon as the transporters are repaired.

TALORA
Yes, Sir.

Delfune nods.

DELFUNE
Delfune out.

Talora sits back in her chair with a look of relief on her face, before:

DOJAR (O.S.)
You have a good poker face, Commander.

Talora looks around, remembering that Dojar is there.

TALORA
Lieutenant. What can I do for you?

DOJAR
I'm having difficulty contacting the officers responsible for the cargo containers.

TALORA
At what level?

DOJAR
All of them. With the exception of Admiral Delfune the officers seem to have been transferred soon after their jobs were complete.

Talora sits back in her chair.

TALORA
At their own request?

DOJAR
Apparently not. Look.

He throws her a PADD that Talora studies.

TALORA
Interesting.

DOJAR
Indeed. Apparently the good Admiral had all of this arranged a few months back before the resumption of the aid was verified with the Council.
TALORA
Good work, Lieutenant; I'll pass this on to the Captain. Have you managed to get in touch with any of the officers yet?

DOJAR
I haven't tried yet...

Talora nods.

TALORA
Understood. Get on it.

A beat.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
(awkwardly)
Commander...

Another beat.

TALORA
Lieutenant?

DOJAR
We're in orbit of Cardassia and I'm stuck checking up on transporter chiefs. I'd like to pay my home a visit.

TALORA
We all have obligations, Lieutenant.

Dojar looks a little upset at this, he was hoping that Talora was relieve him of his task.

DOJAR
Understood.

TALORA
(lightly)
I haven't been home for five years, Lieutenant. Consider yourself lucky.

Dojar gives her a half smile, nods and turns and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Cross is working at a tidy desk, looking at something on his monitor when the door charms.

CROSS
Enter.
The doors part and Talora enters.

TALORA
I have some... interesting news for you, Captain.

CROSS
The Cardassians?

TALORA
No, they believed our cover story, as did Admiral Delfune.

CROSS
Then what?

TALORA
Lieutenant Dojar may have discovered evidence of an even greater conspiracy within Starfleet.

CROSS
How so?

TALORA
It appears that this whole operation has been staged. Personnel associated with the aid have been transferred, apparently planned months in advance.

CROSS
Interesting. Is there any link to Delfune in all of this?

TALORA
Not that I can see, other than the fact that she requested that aid be resumed originally.

CROSS
She wasn't involved at any other point?

TALORA
I don't believe so.

CROSS
I'll look into it. How's Grey's search coming?

TALORA
The last time he reported in, he had found another twenty crates of weapons.
CROSS
Another twenty? How could this have slipped past so many people?

A beat.

TALORA
There is... another alternative, Captain. The weapons were placed there in an attempt to frame us.

CROSS
Frame us?

Talora nods.

TALORA
You were opposed to the aid in the first place, Captain and Admiral Delfune does hold many a grudge against you.

CROSS
She's trying to get me off the ship again?

TALORA
Possible.

CROSS
What do you think, Commander?

TALORA
From the events I have witnessed over the past year, I would say that Starfleet is capable of anything right now.

Cross nods.

CROSS
Thank you, Commander. Let me know if anything else comes to light.

Talora nods and exits, leaving Cross alone in his ready room. From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
FADE IN:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

The entire senior staff is present; all of them are sitting around the conference table in their original positions.

CROSS
...now you all know the evidence, and our theories, it's up to you to reach your own conclusions. I'm not going to press you on this.

Y'LAN
It is interesting to see how you reach the conclusions you have presented, yet you have no evidence to support the situation, only evidence to support the theory.

GREY
It's called deduction, Y'lan. And I certainly wouldn't put something like this past Admiral Delfune.

QUINLAN
So what are we going to do about it? We have heaven knows how many crates of weapons...

GREY
(proudly)
One thousand two hundred and fifty three all together.

They all look at Grey.

GREY (CONT'D)
I erected a special sensor grid to help me detect them.

QUINLAN
Okay, that many. But what are we going to do? We can't just sit here like this forever.

CROSS
We aren't going to. As soon as we find one shred of evidence implicating Admiral Delfune or anyone on the Admiralty I'm going to contact the Federation Council.

QUINLAN
Then what?
CROSS
Then we let them handle it.

QUINLAN
And if they've played a part in it as well?

CROSS
I find it hard to believe that the Federation Council would be corrupt enough to do something like this. Each member is chosen from hundreds of government on the basis of political excellence.

QUINLAN
And each Admiral is promoted on the basis of military excellence.

CROSS
It's not just military.

QUINLAN
Whatever. But you get my point.

CROSS
(slowly)
If the Council is involved... we'll deal with it when it happens.

Quinlan nods.

DOJAR
Captain, I've been in touch with almost everyone involved with the aid.

CROSS
Almost?

DOJAR
Yes, some have been on shift when I called.

CROSS
(nods)
What have you learned?

DOJAR
There wasn't a lot I could ask without telling them that we knew about the weapons. But I did find that their transfers all came with promotions and a transfer to the ship of their choice.
CROSS
That could mean anything.

DOJAR
It could... but it means more then it looks at first sight. For one, each transfer was approved of by Admiral Jasper at Command.

CROSS
Jasper approves of all transfers.

DOJAR
It's a start.

CROSS
You're right... it is, but...

DOJAR
(interrupts)
That's not all, Captain. One of the officers involved in some of the security arrangements was transferred to the ship a few months back.

CROSS
Who?

DOJAR
He's on my security team -- Adam Piller...

Quinlan looks shocked.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
...but that does not mean that he had anything to do with the conspiracy. He's a fine officer and I...

Quinlan nods.

CROSS
(interrupts)
But let's not rule him out, shall we?

Dojar nods.

CROSS (CONT'D)
I want you to talk to him... see if he knows anything, anything at all. From the lowest...

QUINLAN
Captain?
CROSS
Yes?

QUINLAN
Would you mind if... I talked to him? I know him, I may be able to get something out of him that Dojar won't.

CROSS
You know him?

QUINLAN
Yes... I've gotten to know him quite a lot since I...
(beat)
He helped me during my pilot's exam.

Cross nods.

CROSS
Sounds good. If there's nothing else, you're all dismissed.

The staff are about to stand up to leave when Elris begins to speak:

ELRIS
I'd just like to inform you that the injured Cardassian man, who I brought up from the surface yesterday, died this morning.

QUINLAN
I'm sorry, Lea.

To Cross's surprise, Elris doesn't mind that Quinlan has called Elris by her given name.

CROSS
I'm sure you did all you could.

Elris nods.

ELRIS
(solemly)
I did.

CROSS
Is that all?

No one makes a move.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Then you're all dismissed.

They all begin to file out, but Cross remains sitting.
CROSS (CONT'D)

Doctor?

Elris stops, temporarily causing a hold up in the outgoing staff, resulting in Dojar and Quinlan having to step back to let her out.

Cross waits for them to exit, before speaking, but Elris gets there before him.

ELRIS
I know what you're thinking, Captain.

CROSS
You do?

ELRIS
You're thinking that I should never have brought that man on board in the first place.

CROSS
You're right. I am. But I'm also thinking that you did the right thing.

ELRIS
Oh really? Because I don't think you'd be thinking that if it were Dojar or Quinlan who did what I did.

CROSS
What's that supposed to mean?

ELRIS
I think you know.

CROSS
So you'd rather I just reprimand you? Put a mark on your record?

ELRIS
If it's what you'd do to everyone else.

CROSS
It's not. I treat every member of this crew with the same respect and privileges as I do with you, Doctor, and if you think I'm going to change them just because we're separated, you're very much mistaken. What you did was against Starfleet protocols and, you're right, I could have you reprimanded for it.

(MORE)
CROSS (CONT'D)
What you did was for the good of one man who was injured, who you witnessed being injured. If you'd have left him there he would never have lived for as long as he did.

ELRIS
What good does that do him now? He's dead anyway.

CROSS
Exactly. I don't think we need to...

ELRIS
Excuse me?

Cross looks confused.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
You're not letting Starfleet know about my actions because my patient died?

Cross shakes his head.

CROSS
I don't have time for this right now.

ELRIS
Of course you don't.

CROSS
Then maybe we should just let this rest?

ELRIS
Maybe we should.

CROSS
It's what you want, isn't it?

ELRIS
I think so, yes.

CROSS
Then why argue about it?

Elris goes quiet for a LONG BEAT.

ELRIS
I'll be beaming the man's body down to Cardassia in about an hour. I think his wife wants some time alone with him first.
CROSS
How is she?

ELRIS
Good, all things considering.

Cross nods.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
Am I dismissed, Captain?

CROSS
You are.

Elris looks at Cross, nods, and then leaves, leaving Cross sat in the briefing room alone. After a moment the comm system beeps.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
Talora to Cross, we need you on the Bridge, Captain.

CROSS
On my way.

He gets up and exits.

INT. BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

Cross enters through the doors that lead through the briefing room, where the rest of the usual bridge crew are gathered. At their stations are Talora, Quinlan and Dojar. Four other officers are also on the Bridge.

CROSS
What is it, Commander?

Talora indicates the viewscreen where a fleet of Cardassian shuttles are heading towards the Enterprise.

CROSS (CONT'D)
I see.

TALORA
They've hailed us. They claim to be a civilian rights group and are demanding that we hand the aid over to them.

CROSS
What did you say?

TALORA
I informed them that our transporter was down and that there were too many to move on to their shuttles (MORE)
TALORA (CONT'D)
manually. Suffice to say they were not pleased.

CROSS
And now they're...

TALORA
They said they would take the aid by force.

CROSS
They're no match for us... and this won't get them anywhere.

QUINLAN
Quite frankly, Captain I think this is pure impertinence. We generously offer to supply them with aid, and then they come and take it from us by force.

Cross looks around. He sees the five officers that are not on the senior staff.

CROSS
Clear the Bridge.

The crewmen look up from what they are doing.

CREWMAN
Sir?

TALORA
You heard the Captain, Lieutenant.

CREWMAN
Yes, Sir.

With that they all exit into one of the turbolifts. There is a beat before Cross begins to speak again.

CROSS
(to Quinlan)
The fact of the matter is that this isn't aid -- and we can't let them get to it.

QUINLAN
Could they know?

CROSS
I wouldn't rule it out.

A beat.
CROSS (CONT'D)
Dojar, mobilize security teams on all decks, and erect a forcefield around the entrance to Cargo Bays Three and Five, then get down there yourself.

DOJAR
Yes, Sir.

Cross pauses, and looks at Dojar.

CROSS
And, Lieutenant? Don't sympathize with these people just because they're Cardassian. There's more at stake here.

DOJAR
No offense, Sir, but I don't need you to tell me that.

Cross nods.

CROSS
Then get going.

Dojar nods and exits as Cross turns around to look at the viewscreen.

CROSS (CONT'D)
How long until they get into transporter range?

Talora walks back to Dojar's station.

TALORA
Uncertain. Whatever transporters they are using, if any, must be extremely outdated. They are currently well within the average transporter range.

CROSS
Shields up, yellow alert.

Talora nods.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO BAY

Grey and SUKOTHAI are have crates open, checking with tricorders. Dojar enters.

DOJAR
I thought you'd finished here?
GREY
We're creating an inventory.

DOJAR
You didn't do that before? Sounds inefficient, Lieutenant.

GREY
(gives Dojar a smug look)
We checked the crates for weapons, Dojar, not to see which weapons were within them.

DOJAR
Of course.

SUKOTHAI
Why are we at yellow alert?

DOJAR
A Cardassian civil rights movement has decided to take matters into their own hands.

GREY
How so?

DOJAR
They're on an intercept course. They're demanding that we hand over the aid.

GREY
I see.

DOJAR
The Captain seems to think that I would hold back on the Cardassians because they are my own people. He took it upon himself to make sure he got that message across.

GREY
Wouldn't you?

DOJAR
Of course I wouldn't. I'd stun the first Cardassian to walk through that door.

GREY
Of course you would.

DOJAR
What the hell is that supposed to mean?
As we watch, Sukothai takes out her phaser, and stuns Dojar as Grey is replying.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE

Talora is still standing at Doajr's tactical station when it beeps. She studies the readings.

TALORA
Captain, I am detecting weapons fire in Cargo Bay Three.

Cross looks confused.

CROSS
But no one's beamed on board yet.

Talora raises an eyebrow.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Cross to Dojar, what's happening down there?

No reply.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Computer, locate Lieutenant Dojar.

COMPUTER VOICE
Lieutenant Dojar is in Cargo Bay Three.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO BAY

Grey and Sukothai are still scanning the crates.

GREY
Do you have a lock yet?

SUJOKTHAI
Almost.

Grey looks around, increasingly worried.

SUJOKTHAI (CONT'D)
There! Got it!

GREY
Let's beam them out. Nammed to all ships. Energize.

As soon as he speaks, all of the cargo containers begin to disappear as well.
He looks over at Sukothai, before they beam out also, leaving Dojar unconscious on the deck.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE

Talora's console beeps again.

TALORA
I am detecting a mass beam out in Cargo Bays Three and Five.

CROSS
What?

TALORA
All of the supplies are being transported to the Cardassian shuttle fleet.

From Cross's shocked reaction we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
FADE IN:

INT. BRIDGE

Continuous action from the end of Act Two.

Cross is standing next to Quinlan, while Talora still mans the tactical console as Grey enters through the turbolift doors.

GREY
What's going on?

CROSS
The Cardassians decided to take the cargo containers.

GREY (bemused)
I see.

CROSS
You weren't in the cargo bay?

GREY
No, Sir.

He takes his station.

GREY (CONT'D)
What do they hope to achieve? They know we could just beam... oh dear.

CROSS
I suspect you did an efficient job at destroying the cargo transporter, Lieutenant.

GREY
Yes, Sir.

CROSS
We can't just beam it back.

GREY
They're no match for the Enterprise, what's stopping us from attacking them?

CROSS
Unfortunately they're more maneuverable... they're in so close to us that if we fired at them, or used our shuttles, it would do more damage to us then them.
GREY
Then we have a problem.

CROSS
Indeed.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHUTTLE BRIDGE

Grey and Sukothai are at the back of the shuttle. Two occupants of the shuttle sit in the two pilots' chairs.

GREY
Status?

CARDASSIAN
Each shuttle has as many cargo containers as it can hold.

GREY
Good.

He taps some buttons on his tricorder and his and Sukothai's faces morph into two Cardassians.

NAMMED
(mock awe)
The wonders of holographic technology.

CARDASSIAN
What now, Nammed?

NAMMED
Now we go home.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise's underside is surrounded by the smaller Cardassian shuttles, which start to break off, heading towards the surface.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO BAY

An unconscious Dojar begins to stare, as the red alert klaxon begins to sound. He looks around him, unsure of where he is as the Cargo Bay is now totally empty. He hits his commbadge and his voice echoes around the room.

DOJAR
(weakly)
Dojar to bridge.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
Where are you, Lieutenant?
DOJAR
Cargo bay Three, sir.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
I take it you were attacked by the Cardassians?

DOJAR
I was attacked -- but not by Cardassians.

A beat.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
What?

DOJAR
(unsure of himself)
Lieutenants Grey and Sukothai, Sir.

INT. BRIDGE
Same as before.

GREY
What?

Cross looks at Grey.

CROSS
Where were you before you came to the Bridge, Lieutenant?

GREY
Engineering. The entire shift saw me there.

Cross nods.

INT. CARGO BAY
Same as before.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
I think you've been the victim of some Cardassian impersonators, Lieutenant.

DOJAR
I know what I saw, Captain.

INT. BRIDGE
Cross looks confused.

CROSS
Nobody's doubting that, Lieutenant.
DOJAR'S COMM VOICE
But you'd just love it for me to mess up, wouldn't you? To prove that I am a Cardassian sympathizer.

Cross raises his eyebrows.

TALORA
You will watch your tone, Lieutenant.

DOJAR'S COMM. VOICE
Why? If it was Whedon coming down here earlier, I'm sure you wouldn't have told him the same thing.

CROSS
I'd like to see you in my ready room after this, Lieutenant.

INT. CARGO BAY

Dojar remains his posture, unshaken by Cross's demand.

DOJAR
I'll be there.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
Now get back up to the Bridge.

DOJAR
Yes, Sir.

INT. BRIDGE

Same as before.

TALORA
Captain, I am reading three Galor-class warships approaching from the far side of the planet.

CROSS
Hail them.

TALORA
I just did.

CROSS
And?

TALORA
No reply.

CROSS
Great. Open a channel to Cardassian Central Command... wherever it is these days.
A beat.

TALORA
Channel open.

A Cardassian male, dressed in military garb appears on the viewscreen.

DRACHIR
Central Command. I'm Gul Drachir, how can I assist you?

CROSS
This is Captain Cross of the Enterprise we were bringing in some aid to Cardassia.

DRACHIR
Ah yes, the Enterprise. Transporter malfunction, eh?

CROSS
Yes -- but the aid has been stolen by one of Cardassia's civil rights movements. And now we're detecting three unresponsive Cardassian ships approaching us.

DRACHIR
I'm detecting them, but we haven't seen these ships for ten years, Captain.

CROSS
(sighs)
They've been hijacked.

DRACHIR
I will leave you to draw your own conclusions.

Cross and Drachir exchange nods and with that Drachir's image is replaced with the view of the Cardassian shuttles.

QUINLAN
Ever so helpful over at Central Command. It's like a call center representative, I expected to be put on hold.

Cross grunts.

CROSS
We can take on three Galor-class warships, can't we?

Talora is about to say something, before:
GREY
We certainly can, Sir. Those ships are at least twenty-five years old and the Enterprise is a state of the art...

TALORA
(interrupts)
You may wish to study your readings first, Lieutenant.

Grey looks down at his console and raises one of his eyebrows.

GREY
Interesting.

CROSS
What?

TALORA
It appears that the ships not only have state of the art shielding and weaponry, but that some of the parts are Federation in origin.

CROSS
What next?

TALORA
An incoming torpedo.

CROSS
What?

The bridge shakes, as the torpedo hits the Enterprise.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Battle stations. I've had enough of playing cat with these bastards.

Quinlan slyly looks over her shoulder and grins as the Enterprise's bridge darkens, and becomes lit by red light.

EXT. SPACE

The three Galor-class ships approach the Enterprise, weapons firing.

INT. BRIDGE

Dojar enters, Cross turns around and looks at him.

CROSS
Man your station, Lieutenant.

DOJAR
Aye, Sir.
Dojar replaces Talora at tactical. Talora moves out of the way but stops in front of his station and lowers her voice when she next speaks.

**TALORA**
What the hell are you doing, Dojar?

**DOJAR**
I'm st-

The bridge shakes, interrupting the conversation.

**DOJAR (CONT'D)**
Orders, Sir?

**CROSS**
Disable the Galor-class ships.

**DOJAR**
Aye, Sir.

As Dojar works firing at the Galor-class ships, he whispers to Talora:

**DOJAR (CONT'D)**
I'm standing up for my rights. I don't need to have prejudiced orders or questions from him. Not now, and not ever.

**TALORA**
You may think that, Lieutenant, but the Captain has only you in mind when he gives you your orders. You should learn to respect that.

**DOJAR**
If I'm here for any longer.

**TALORA**
What?

**DOJAR**
I've been thinking about returning to Cardassia. For good.

**TALORA**
Why?

**DOJAR**
I want to do something to help my people. I want to see my home again.

(beat)
I feel like I've abandoned everything I've ever stood for.
TALORA
On the contrary, Lieutenant. What would you say that you were doing right now?

DOJAR
Protecting Cardassia from an admiralty, whose orders I obey, which is corrupt and only acts for the good of itself.

TALORA
And the Enterprise will stop it. Captain Cross may have his faults but he is a good man. He won't tolerate actions like this. Ever.

Dojar looks up at Talora as one of the Cardassian warships tilts to one side on the viewer.

DOJAR
One of the enemy ships is disabled, Captain.

CROSS
And the others?

DOJAR
They're moving behind the Cardassian shuttle fleet... they're retreating back to the surface.

QUINLAN
Should I set a pursuit course?

CROSS
Engage.

EXT. SPACE

The Galor-class warships have moved behind the shuttles, and are protecting them from the Enterprise's fire, firing back as well.

INT. BRIDGE

The Bridge shakes again and Quinlan's console explodes, resulting in her falling to the deck. Cross runs forward and checks her pulse.

CROSS
Bridge to Sickbay, medical emergency on the Bridge.

ELRIS'S COMM VOICE
On my way.
Cross gets up from Quinlan and seats himself in the helm, tapping some controls.

CROSS
What's the status of the Galor-class shields?

DOJAR
Thirty-three percent... and buckling on the port side, and forty-six percent on the other.

Cross looks up at the viewscreen, the planet getting increasingly larger.

CROSS
How long until they enter the atmosphere?

A beat.

DOJAR
They just did.

Cross sighs.

CROSS
I'm prepping for atmospheric flight. Grey, shut down the QIC.

GREY
Aye, Sir.

EXT. SPACE
The Enterprise is coming up on the atmosphere at quite a steep angle and as it enters it, fire develops around it, from the friction of the speed the ship is coming in at.

INT. BRIDGE
We see the fire on the viewscreen, and Cross hits some controls on the console to level out. Elris enters from the back and rushes forwards towards Quinlan.

EXT. SPACE
The Enterprise begins to level out and the fire gradually disappears.

INT. BRIDGE
Something beeps on Dojar's console.

DOJAR
What the? Captain, we need to pull up. Now.
CROSS
Why?

DOJAR
We're approaching a highly concentrated subspace minefield.

Cross sighs and hits some controls.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise begins to pull up and goes out of the atmosphere.

INT. BRIDGE

The mood is a mixture of solemnity and annoyance; it is not helped by the smoke still present. Elris injects Quinlan with a hyspospray and she sits up, coughing.

QUINLAN
(weakly)
Did we win?

A beat. Everyone looks at Cross.

CROSS
(firmly)
No.

Another beat, but longer.

CROSS (CONT'D)
(slowly)
Talora, hail Starfleet Command. Tell them what's happened.

TALORA
And about the weapons?

CROSS
That as well. There's no sense in hiding the fact that we know any longer.

TALORA
Captain, with all due respect, I disagree. This could help us flush out whoever has placed the weapons in the aid crates in the first place.

CROSS
And it could get the Enterprise in more trouble then she's already in. You have your orders, Commander.
TALORA
Yes, Sir.

Talora walks towards the turbolift and exits. Cross surveys the battered Bridge.

CROSS
(to Elris)
How's Quinlan?

ELRIS
She'll be fine, she just needs some rest.

CROSS
Good.

He turns around to look at Dojar.

CROSS (CONT'D)
My ready room, Lieutenant.

Dojar nods and walks into the Ready Room, leaving Cross and Grey on the Bridge, as Elris hits some controls on a stretcher, that floats off the floor and Elris pushes it into the turbolift.

CROSS (CONT'D)
(to Grey)
You have the Bridge, Lieutenant. Get some crew up here, and tell Y'lan that I'd like to see him.

GREY
Aye, Sir.

With that Cross exits the stricken Bridge, leaving Grey alone at his engineering station. From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN:

INT. READY ROOM

Dojar stands waiting in the dimly lit ready room, pacing backwards and forwards. The doors slide open, as Cross enters, and Dojar abruptly stops, and stands to face his Captain.

CROSS
Take a seat, Lieutenant.

DOJAR
I'd rather stand, Sir.

Cross shrugs the reply off.

CROSS
Your choice.

Cross walks behind his desk, and moves some PADDs which are in his way and activates his monitor, looking at something on the screen while Dojar watches, impatiently.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Lieutenant Gril Dojar... accepted to Starfleet Academy in 2394 and graduated with honors in 2398. Served aboard the USS Wolfe until...

DOJAR
(interrupts)
With all due respect, Sir, I know my service record.

CROSS
(finishes what he was saying)
Until 2401 when transferred to the newly commissioned USS Enterprise-G under Captain Neil Cross.

(beat)
An exemplary officer.

DOJAR
That last part wasn't there last time I checked.

CROSS
I know. I put it there.

DOJAR
Why?
CROSS
Because I believe you are, Lieutenant. I believe that you have the most potential on this ship and I believe that over the past half hour you've almost thrown that away.

DOJAR
I realize that, Sir.

CROSS
Then why do it?

DOJAR
I'm considering leaving Starfleet.

Cross looks surprised.

CROSS
You are? Why?

DOJAR
I do not feel that I fit in on board the Enterprise... I feel like I've abandoned my home, and that it needs me. Especially now.

CROSS
And it was only the other day when Commander Talora was telling me how well she thought you were fitting in with the rest of the crew.

DOJAR
(sighs)
It's nothing to do with the crew... I know I had some... problems when I first came on board, but they're almost like my family now. But Cardassia needs me.

CROSS
But you don't just abandon your family.

A beat.

CROSS (CONT'D)
I had my family taken from me, Lieutenant. Snatched by a war that I was too young to even understand.

Dojar looks at him.
CROSS (CONT'D)
There isn't a day that goes by when
I wish that my parents were still
here. Or a day when I wish I could
go and talk to my sister, but
nothing's going to bring them back.
I don't know what you think of me,
Lieutenant, but I don't blame you
for that. I do place the blame on
the shoulders of those responsible.

DOJAR
That's good to hear, Captain.

CROSS
If anything, Lieutenant, I feel more
protective of you because of it. I
know how it can feel to feel like
you're isolated... to feel the pain
of being away from... home. But by
leaving the Enterprise you're letting
everything that you've worked for,
for the past seven years slip away
from you. Starfleet needs people
like you, Dojar.

(beat)
I need people like you. I'd like
very much for you to stay.

A long beat.

DOJAR
I have a lot to think about, Captain.

CROSS
I respect that.

Another beat. Cross nods at Dojar, and Dojar turns to leave.

DOJAR
Sir?

CROSS
Yes?

DOJAR
Who do you hold responsible... for
the death of your family?

A beat.

CROSS
I won't lie to you, Lieutenant. I
blame every single Dominion soldier,
and that includes Cardassians, who
ever laid a finger on them.

(MORE)
CROSS (CONT'D)
Whether that finger touched them physically, or pressed the button that resulted in their death. I am a prejudiced person... I don't hide that. But when it comes to my crew I treat everyone equally.

(beat)
I did judge you, from the first second I saw you. And for that I apologize... there's no excuse for that. But as you can see...

He turns around the computer monitor he has been working from that displays the file he read earlier.

CROSS (CONT'D)
I give everyone a chance.

Dojar gives Cross a half smile.

CROSS (CONT'D)
I hope that you decide to stay, Lieutenant.

Dojar nods, before turning and exiting, leaving Cross sat alone in the ready room.

CUT TO:

INT. MORGUE
The lights are dimmed, as the Cardassian woman we saw earlier sits on the bed next to the body of her dead husband.

We remain like this for a while, before we hear the familiar sound of the doors hissing open, which projects a beam of light from the room next door, momentarily lighting some of the room up, before the doors close again.

We hear footsteps and moments later Elris is standing behind the woman.

ELRIS
Hey.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
Hello, Doctor.

ELRIS
If you're ready, we can beam you and your husband back down to the surface any time you like.

The Cardassian woman stands up and wipes her eyes, before turning to face Elris.
CARDASSIAN WOMAN
I'm ready.

Elris smiles.

ELRIS
I've made arrangements for him to be take to a morgue near to your home, and you can begin to make funeral arrangements from there.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
Thank you, Doctor. I don't know what I'd have done without you.

Elris smiles again.

ELRIS
If you'd like to follow me, I'll take you to the transporter room.

The Cardassian woman nods, and takes one last look at her husband, before leaving him. She brushes back his hair before:

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
Safe journey.

She smiles at him, and then turns around, while Elris pulls the sheet over his head. The woman then leaves Sickbay with Elris.

INT. CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Elris and the woman walk down the corridor. The corridor itself is quiet.

ELRIS
My Captain's agreed not to reprimand me for helping your husband.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
That's good to hear. I'd hate for you to get into trouble for what you did.

Elris nods.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN  (CONT'D)
Are you married yourself, Doctor?

There is a pause.

ELRIS
I am.
(beat)
But it's been over for a long time.
CARDASSIAN WOMAN
I see.

ELRIS
Why do you ask?

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
I don't know what to do now... without him.
(shares head)
We did everything together... I don't know how I will be able to live without him.

ELRIS
It's not as daunting as it seems, believe me.

They reach a certain point at the corridor, there is a huge observation window showing Cardassia and the woman stops.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
How long have you been separated?

ELRIS
It's coming up on four years now...

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
Four years? How can a woman like you remain single for four years?

ELRIS
Ohhh... there's been the odd fling, but nothing that lasted.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
What about your husband?

ELRIS
He's...
(beat)
the Captain.

The woman's eyes open a little wider in surprise for a moment, Elris notices.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
I know... hard to believe, isn't it? It's been difficult sometimes.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
Difficult?

There's a long beat, while she decides what to say, or whether or not to say anything at all.
CARDASSIAN WOMAN (CONT'D)

Oh! Don't say anything if you don't want to!

Elris shakes her head.

ELRIS
No, no! I'm just deciding what to say... I think, that he still loves me. In fact, I'm almost certain of it, but that's a long story. We tried to be friends... but we argue a lot...

(small laugh)
In fact it's almost as if we argue every time we see each other.

(long beat)
I think I'm ready to move on.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
From the Enterprise?

ELRIS
I don't know... but; this isn't about me, is it?

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
(sighs)
It sounds like it will be more difficult for you then it will be for me.

ELRIS
(slightly bemused)
Glad I could help.

They begin walking again.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
It will be hard... but then, isn't everything in life hard?

ELRIS
Sometimes it can feel that way. I'm sure you'll do fine.

They reach the transporter room and the doors hiss open.

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

The Cardassian Woman smiles and embraces Elris.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
Thank you for everything, Doctor.
ELRIS
(smiles)
I'm sure you'll be fine.

The Cardassian Woman nods and steps on to the transporter pad.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
If you want to contact me... you
know where I am. I'm so sorry about
your husband.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN
(smiles)
Thank you.

Elris nods and turns back to the console where NARV OZRAN is standing.

ELRIS
Energize, Mr. Ozran.

OZRAN
Aye, Sir.

And with that, the transporter beam takes the elderly Cardassian Woman back to Cardassia. Elris NODS at Ozran, and then turns and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Piller is sitting alone in the office, waiting. He looks agitated, as though he has been waiting for a while.

PILLER
Computer, time?

COMPUTER VOICE
The time is 2100 hours.

PILLER
Great.

He hits his commbadge.

PILLER (CONT'D)
Piller to Quinlan.

No response. Piller sighs.

PILLER (CONT'D)
Piller to Dojar.

DOJAR
Dojar here.
PILLER
Sir, I've been waiting in the security office for half an hour for Lieutenant Quinlan... and she hasn't arrived yet.

DOJAR
Understood. I'll send someone else down there instead.

PILLER
Okay. Any idea what this is about, Sir?

DOJAR
Nothing that I can talk to you about. I'm sorry, Ensign. Dojar out.

Piller sits back and shakes his head.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE
The Enterprise in orbit of Cardassia.

INT. MISSION OPERATIONS
Talora is sitting at a console, reading something when:

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE
Dojar to Talora.

TALORA
Go ahead, Lieutenant.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE
Commander, Ensign Piller has been waiting for Lieutenant Quinlan to question him for half an hour.

TALORA
Lieutenant Quinlan is still in Sickbay.
(beat)
Inform Ensign Piller that I will be there shortly.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE
Yes, Commander. Dojar out.

Talora stands up to leave when something catches her attention on one of the larger consoles. A Cardassian speaking into the camera.
TALORA
Computer, let me hear the sound for feed seven beta.

The computer beeps in response and we hear:

CARDASSIAN
...the Cardassian Union will not tolerate this deceit. The Federation has begun its relief mission once again by supplying weapons to the people of Cardassia. What do they hope to achieve? To cause a rebellion... or is this a warning?

Talora shakes her head.

TALORA
Talora to Cross. The Cardassians know, Captain.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
Understood, Commander. Have you contacted Admiral Delfune yet?

TALORA
Affirmative, I'd expect a call from her within the hour.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
Understood. Cross out.

Talora looks at the screen once more, before exiting.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Cross's door chimes.

CROSS
Enter.

The doors part to reveal Y'lan, and he walks forward into the ready room.

Y'LAN
You wished to see me, Captain?

CROSS
Yes. I need you to track down the weapons that the Cardassians took from the Cargo Bay. Is that possible?

Y'LAN
Perhaps. My new table may be able to detect them.
CROSS
It's working?

Y'LAN
I fitted the final component earlier in the week. It is as adequate as the previous one.

CROSS
I think it's time we tested it.

Y'LAN
I will do my best.

CROSS
Let me know if you find anything.

Y'LAN
I will.

He then turns and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Piller is still waiting when Talora enters.

TALORA
Good evening, Ensign.

PILLER
Commander. What's this all about?

TALORA
As you may, or may not be aware, the relief that we were delivering to Cardassia was stolen earlier this evening. Unfortunately, weapons had replaced the aid that we were carrying.

PILLER
But what does all this have to do with me?

TALORA
According to the relief logs, you were involved with the aid at some point.

PILLER
If I do, I don't remember it.

TALORA
Why did you transfer to the Enterprise, Ensign?
PILLER
I put in a request. Why?

TALORA
You were not encouraged to move away from your previous posting?

PILLER
No. My commander always said that I was meant for greater things, but...

TALORA
Who was your commanding officer?

PILLER
Captain Nikitti.

Talora makes a note on a PADD.

TALORA
And you cannot remember being involved with the aid at any point?

PILLER
Not that I know of. There were security arrangements that I didn't know anything about... but that's expected on a starship.

Talora nods.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Cross sits at his desk alone, once again. The comm beeps.

DOJAR
Dojar to Cross. We're receiving a priority one transmission from Starfleet Command for you. It's Admiral Delfune.

CROSS
Put it through here, Lieutenant.

DOJAR
Aye, Sir.

Cross takes a deep breath and hits some controls on his console, before we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR
FADE IN:

INT. READY ROOM

Cross's monitor changes from whatever it is that Cross is reading to the image of Delfune sat in her office that overlooks San Fransisco Bay. Occasionally, shuttles fly past, their occupants not realizing the conversation between Cross and Delfune is taking place...

CROSS
Admiral, what can I do for you?

DELFUNE
Commander Talora informed me of your situation.

CROSS
Yes, I know.

DELFUNE
You kept what you knew from Command for a long time, Captain.

CROSS
There were certain factors that determined that action.

DELFUNE
Such as?

CROSS
The aid had to be replaced with weapons somewhere. The Enterprise was carrying out her own investigation and report back to Command once that investigation was complete.

DELFUNE
And when the Cardassians stole the cargo containers?

CROSS
I requested that Commander Talora contact you.

DELFUNE
And now all of Cardassia knows about what's happened.

CROSS
What did you expect me to do? Inform Starfleet and let whoever put it there let someone else take the blame?
DELFUNE
It would have come out sooner or later.

CROSS
What strikes me as odd, Admiral, is that the Cardassians have never taken to thieving the aid during previous relief missions, yet this time, when the weapons were present, they seemed to have a sudden change of heart.

DELFUNE
The Cardassians haven't been receiving aid for the past nine months; they have every right to be angry.

CROSS
And that gives them the right to take the aid by force?

DELFUNE
Of course not.

CROSS
So how did the weapons get there in the first place?

DELFUNE
I know as much as you do, Captain.

CROSS
What I know, Admiral, is that the weapons were disguised... by sensor masks and that everyone involved with the aid has been transferred. Kind of makes you suspicious, doesn't it?

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Talora and Piller, as before.

PILLER
I would be...

TALORA
And at some point during the aid's life, you were involved with it. Would that not make it valid to assume that you should be under suspicion also?

PILLER
I suppose so...
TALORA
And when you tell me that you cannot remember having anything to do with it, would that not make it valid to be even more suspicious of you?

PILLER
Commander, I know what you're getting at, but look at my service record, it's exemplary. I haven't done anything.

Talora looks at Piller.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM
Same as before.

DELFUNE
You have just as much evidence to link this to me as I do to you, Captain. But you don't have enough evidence to link this to me because otherwise you would have already reported it to Starfleet Command.

CROSS
True. But I'm sure that in some databank there's evidence linking you to it somehow.

DELFUNE
What you're saying is insubordination. You'd be wise to think carefully about what you say next.

CROSS
I'm aware of that...

DELFUNE
You didn't contact Starfleet Command when you discovered the weapons, you didn't get the weapons back when they were stolen... you didn't even realize that there were two Cardassian saboteurs on your ship.

CUT TO:

INT. SECURITY OFFICE
Same as before.
PILLER
It's all very sketchy, Commander. What you're accusing me of would never hold up at tribunal. And it would never hold up when you're accusing how ever many hundreds of officers of the same... "crime".

TALORA
But it would support the opening of an inquiry at Starfleet Command. If you know anything at all, Ensign, now is the time to tell me...

PILLER
Commander, I don't know anything!

Talora sighs.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Same as before.

CROSS
So we've both got each other pinned down with circumstantial evidence. It doesn't help either of us.

DELFUNE
Agreed.

CROSS
I want an inquiry opened at Starfleet Command.

DELFUNE
To what end?

CROSS
I want whoever did this to be exposed for what they really are. Why would anyone supply weapons to Cardassia other then to cause problems for Starfleet and on Cardassia?

DELFUNE
I will open an inquiry... but the results will already have been decided from the minute that it's opened.

CROSS
What will that be?
DELFUNE
That the whole incident was a mix up... that the weapons that were beamed to the Enterprise had been mistaken for the aid.

CROSS
And what about the sensor masks? The transfers?

DELFUNE
All a coincidence. The crates were mislabeled and your sensors were malfunctioning.

CROSS
People will never believe it.

DELFUNE
People will believe what they're told to believe.

CROSS
I want Admiral Portman placed in charge of the inquiry.

DELFUNE
You're in no position to make demands, Captain.

CROSS
It would result in the correct outcome.

DELFUNE
And that's exactly what whoever set this up doesn't want. Let it rest, Cross. You've played your part, now let us do ours.

CROSS
For the record, I'm not happy.

DELFUNE
Noted.

CROSS
If that's all Admiral?

DELFUNE
It is. Delfune out.
On Cross's mixed reaction to the news that the inquiry will be tainted, we...

FADE TO:

INT. ELRIS'S QUARTERS -- BEDROOM

The lights are out, and the room is lit only by the faint glow from the planet below. Elris lies awake in bed looking out of the window and at Cardassia below her. From her expression it should reveal that she is tired, but has a lot on her mind.

After a few moments, Elris gets up and walks over to a computer console that is on her desk in the main part of the living quarters.

INT. ELRIS'S QUARTERS -- LIVING AREA

Elris sits down at the console and taps some commands into it.

The camera looks down at what Elris is looking at, it reads "FEDERATION LAW -- DIVORCE."

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR

Elris exits her quarters and walks into the corridor. She's not wearing Starfleet uniform, but a comfortable looking dress that wraps around her.

INT. CORRIDOR -- MOMENTS LATER

Elris walks around a corner where she sees Grey working on a conduit on the floor.

ELRIS
Still working, Lieutenant?

GREY
Doctor! Good evening.

ELRIS
How's it going?

GREY
I'll work all night if it means that the ship is repaired for the party on Thursday.

ELRIS
What does Sarah think about that mission statement?
GREY
Oh, she's down another corridor working as well. But what are you doing up?

ELRIS
I can't sleep.

GREY
Ah, a midnight stroll?

ELRIS
Something like that.

Grey nods. There is a long pause before:

GREY
So...
(beat)
What's bothering you?

ELRIS
Excuse me?

GREY
You said you couldn't sleep... there must be a reason for it.

ELRIS
Oh. There is.

Another long pause.

GREY
I get the feeling you don't want to talk about it.

ELRIS
(nods)
I have to have some time to think.

GREY
I understand.
(beat)
Sometimes I just think that people don't feel like they can talk to me because of my personality, and the commitment to my job...

ELRIS
(interrupts)
Oh Erik, no! It's not that all.

Grey smiles.

GREY
Oh... that's good!
Elris smiles as well.

    ELRIS
    I've got a big decision to make... and I don't think talking to anyone else is going to help.

    GREY
    I'm sure whatever you decide to do will be the right thing.

    ELRIS
    I hope so.

Elris smiles and is about to leave when:

    GREY
    Doctor?

    ELRIS
    Yeah?

    GREY
    You're not planning on doing anything stupid, are you?

    ELRIS
    Don't worry about it, Erik. I'll be fine.

    GREY
    Understood.

With that Elris smiles and walks around the corner, leaving Grey looking confused.

Grey finishes working on the panel he has up, before putting his toolkit away and walking around the same corner Elris walked down earlier.

CUT TO:

INT. CROSS'S QUARTERS

Cross is sitting alone, reading a book in one hand, with a cup of steaming hot chocolate in the other. The book he is reading is "A Tale of Two Cities." The comm beeps.

    Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE
    Y'lan to Captain Cross.

    CROSS
    Cross.

    Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE
    Captain, I believe that I have found the weapons that were stolen.
CROSS
Where are they?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE
I believe that the entire batch of weapons are in a secure bunker some five hundred meters below the surface.

CROSS
Do you know who owns the bunker?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE
I do. It is owned by a Cardassian nationalist, a former Gul of the Union.

CROSS
Is he a threat?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE
Unknown. But the weapons are heavily guarded and I do not believe that your transporters could penetrate the shell of the bunker.

CROSS
Damn.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE
Do you require anything else, Captain?

CROSS
(resigned)
No. That will be all, Y'lan. Thank you.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE
Good night, Captain.

Cross nods, knowing that Y'lan will be unable to see him. He looks back at his book before putting it to one side.

CROSS
Cross to Talora.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
Talora here.

CROSS
Are you busy, Commander?

TALORA'S COMM VOICE
Not at the current time.

CROSS
Would you care to join me for a nightcap?
TALORA
Where?

CROSS
My quarters.

TALORA
I will be there in ten minutes.

CROSS
Good. I'll see you then. Cross out.

Cross sits back in his chair, before standing up and walking over to his replicator.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR

Grey walks down a corridor towards a damaged section of bulkhead, where the Q'tami had damaged the ship a few weeks back.

He looks confused, and hits his comm badge.

GREY
Grey to Boyle.

BOYLE
Boyle here.

GREY
Where are you, Ensign?

BOYLE
Fixing the bulkhead you asked me to take a look at. Why?

GREY
Nothing.
(beat)
It doesn't matter. Grey out.

Grey looks around, looking confused.

GREY (CONT'D)
Computer, locate Ensign Boyle.

COMPUTER VOICE
Ensign Boyle is currently in her quarters.

Grey nods, before setting off down the corridor once again.
INT. CORRIDOR -- MOMENTS LATER

Grey walks down yet another corridor towards some quarters. He hits the key pad on the wall, and it charms.

    BOYLE'S VOICE
    Who is it?

    GREY
    Erik.

There is a long pause.

    BOYLE'S VOICE
    Give me a second; I'll be right out.

Grey stands waiting for another second or two, before Boyle, draped in a nightgown appears through the familiar parting doors.

Boyle is about to say something, but Grey gets there first.

    GREY
    You weren't where you said were.

    BOYLE
    Erik, its three in the morning! I was tired, so I came home to bed.

    GREY
    Why lie about it?

    BOYLE
    I... didn't want to disappoint you.

Grey gives her a half smile.

    GREY
    Can I come in?

    BOYLE
    Actually, I was hoping to go back to bed.

    GREY
    (friskily)
    So was I.

Boyle smiles.

    BOYLE
    Maybe tomorrow?

Grey sighs.
GREY
Tomorrow.

BOYLE
Good night, Erik.

She steps back into her quarters and the doors close.

GREY
Good night.

Grey steps back, looks at the door and then turns away and walks down the corridor.

CUT TO:

INT. CROSS'S QUARTERS

Cross and Talora sit alone, the lighting is low, implying that it is late. They are drinking out of glasses, it is apparently something strong from the reactions both have as they raise the liquid to their lips.

CROSS
...And so she basically dismissed it. She didn't admit to being involved, obviously, but we both knew that she had her hands in the jar at some point. She was in there somewhere.

TALORA
This would have been unheard of in Starfleet thirty years ago. It is strange what war and the results of it, even a win, have done to us.

CROSS
(smiles)
Us?

TALORA
Excuse me?

CROSS
You just referred to Starfleet as "us."

TALORA
It appears that I'm becoming more and more Starfleet in my mind. Whether that it is a good thing in the state that the fleet is currently in is questionable.
CROSS
While you're on this ship it's nothing but a good thing.

TALORA
I'm glad to hear that. But you are now involved in an intricate conspiracy.

Cross takes a sip of his drink.

CROSS
I'm aware of that... but I'm not willing to let everything I've worked for over the past year be torn apart because of one Admiral.

TALORA
It has been an interesting year.

CROSS
The year's not out yet, Commander.

TALORA
Perhaps we can hope for a quiet end to it?

CROSS
Don't tempt fate!

They smile and take a sip of their drink.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Y'lan contacted me. He told me where the weapons are being kept.

Talora raises an eyebrow.

CROSS (CONT'D)
They are being held by a Cardassian nationalist. It would take a full-scale operation to retrieve them.

TALORA
Do you plan on letting them keep them?

CROSS
I'm going to find out all that I can about the man who's holding them and then report back to Starfleet. But I have a feeling that the weapons are now where they were intended to be all along.
TALORA
You believe that Starfleet will allow the Cardassian to keep them?

CROSS
I do.

He takes another sip.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Where did you leave Ensign Piller?

TALORA
He denied everything, but I believe that he genuinely is innocent. I believe that we allowed the paranoia the situation introduced to misguide our thinking.

CROSS
Paranoia? We had every right to be suspicious.

TALORA
Indeed. But when that paranoia overwhelms one to the point where it is dictating every action, and thus every result of that, it is misguided.

CROSS
Agreed.

TALORA
The next time a situation such as this one presents itself, we should take greater care in choosing the path that we take.

CROSS
The path that we walk can sometimes be a rocky one.

TALORA
I think that I will be glad to find another.

CROSS
(nods)
Mmmm.
(beat)
Speaking of which, how is Lieutenant Dojar?

TALORA
I think you gave him something to think about... but I can't see him

(MORE)
TALORA (CONT'D)
resigning his commission any time soon.

CROSS
He told you that?

TALORA
Almost.

CROSS
Where is he now?

CUT TO:

EXT. CARDASSIAN VILLAGE

Dojar sits on a large embankment that looks over one of Cardassia's once great cities. It doesn't look as majestic as it was once before, but it is still awe inspiring nonetheless. It is a touching sight, as Dojar looks over his home.

TALORA (V.O.)
On Cardassia. I granted him some shore leave before we left. He needed some time to himself... but I think he's found his place.

At this the camera slowly zooms in on Dojar as he begins to slowly stand up, looking full of power and strength as he does so.

DOJAR
Dojar to Enterprise. One to beam up.

As the transporter effect engulfs Dojar, as he looks across the city skyline once more, we cut back to what Dojar is seeing, and gradually fade out, on the image of the Cardassian city...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END