

STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE

"Shadows of a New Dawn"

Story by

Dan Carlson and Rob Jelley & James Sampson

Teleplay by

Rob Jelley & James Sampson

This teleplay is originally from
www.startrekrenaissance.com

"Star Trek" and related names are registered
trademarks of Paramount Pictures, Inc.
This original work of fiction is
written solely for non-profit purposes.
Copyright 2002 by The Renaissance Group
All rights reserved

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

We see nothing, only the glow of hundreds of stars, billions more which we cannot see. The camera basks at this amazing sight for a LONG BEAT before slowly spiraling around to see a Federation Starbase. There is no activity around the starbase, all is peaceful and well, and we can see people walking past the windows every so often.

CROSS (V.O.)

Space... the final frontier... a vast void, filled with nothing but dust, until one moment during an endless eternity, two atoms collided... and made life. All of us, living now, and at any point in time, in all of the different corners of the universe, were created from dust... Over time, primitive life began to develop... and the people gradually realized how their universe was born... but still didn't see the significance of it... all of us brothers, all of us sisters... yet the fight for the dust goes on...

As we listen to Cross's monologue, we see a Klingon ship decloak and approach the starbase, before another decloaks, and another and another until we can begin to see an attack formation developing and heading towards the starbase.

At this point music should gradually begin to build behind Cross's speech, that will have reached the usual volume by the time it ends, muting out any sounds or voices which we hear. We can not hear anything, not even weapons firing...

At this point the lead Klingon ship begins to open fire on the starbase, followed by another ship and another until the fleet of ships has split into four separate waves and surrounded the starbase, all ready to fire or firing.

INT. STARBASE -- COMMAND CENTER

The nerve center of the starbase is shaken by weapons fire as we see the familiar turbolift doors swish open, giving us a quick glance at the rider...

INT. STARBASE -- TURBOLIFT

Looking out at the command center from the inside of the lift, as the occupier steps outside and looks out at the hive of activity going on around him.

EXT. SPACE

The Klingon ships continue with their attack, but the starbase seems to be ready to bite back, with shields now raised, deflecting some of the weapons which are being aimed at it. The starbase finally fires some of its own weapons, the first torpedoes and phasers taking some Klingon ships with them as they disperse into space.

INT. STARBASE -- COMMAND CENTER

The camera swings around to reveal the face of ADMIRAL PORTMAN, barking orders at his crew as he attempts to save his starbase and his crew from impending doom. The odds aren't good... a fleet of Klingon ships against one starbase...

EXT. SPACE

Some of the Klingon ships veer down, heading towards the lower part of the starbase, and begin firing, the shields flicker as they absorb the energy from the weapons being fired, but shields are no match for the amount of ships firing weapons at it, and they gradually seem to slowly fade, before going out of existence all together. The Klingon ships continue to fire, regardless.

INT. STARBASE -- CORRIDOR

Giant windows grace the side of the corridor, where we see two Klingon ships gradually come into view. A female Starfleet officer walks by, before realizing what she is seeing and beginning to run for her life as the Klingons begin to fire. The shields don't last long and the entire section is engulfed in flames before being blown out into space... leaving us with no clue to the fate of the officer...

INT. STARBASE -- COMMAND CENTER

Red alert lights flash and the crew are sweating. Portman continues to shout orders as the command center shakes vigorously. Portman looks down at a console, studying some readings, and looks confused...

EXT. SPACE

We see the Klingons attacking more of the lower sections and more of them being blown out into space as they continue with their attacks. This is an attack unlike anything we have ever seen before, though the starbase has powerful weapons, it is quite simply outnumbered and outgunned, not having any support craft in orbit. The attack is purely devastating.

INT. STARBASE -- CREW QUARTERS

A man pulls on his Starfleet uniform before racing out of his quarters as a woman joins him, coming out of the door. They embrace and kiss, before quickly running out and into the corridor...

INT. STARBASE -- CORRIDOR

Sparks fly and a huge explosion rocks the deck and the two shake, the man falling to the ground. He pulls himself up just as he looks behind him to see a huge fireball heading towards them...

INT. STARBASE -- COMMAND CENTER

The deck shakes with seemingly the most devastating explosion yet and Portman seems to shout some familiar words... "ABANDON SHIP" before heading towards another console as the rest of the crew file into turbolifts and emergency stairwells.

EXT. SPACE

The Klingons come around for another attack, with two of the ships veering off from the rest...

INT. STARBASE -- COMMAND CENTER

Only Portman and two others are left, and they tap their consoles, performing the final weapon and damage control settings before racing for the turbolift...

EXT. SPACE

Escape pods fly away from the starbase's hull and into the debris field where wreckage from the starbase and destroyed Klingon ships rest, but the Klingons aren't coming around for another attack as we first thought... but retreating...

INT. STARBASE -- COMMAND CENTER

Portman hurries past a huge observation port on his way to the turbolift, and as he looks out his eyes widen with shock. The two officers behind him shout for him, but Portman is motionless, and doesn't say anything... and the two officers finally seeing what he is seeing, and let out one last shout, before closing the doors and abandoning their commanding officer...

We finally see what Portman is seeing... two Klingon warships heading towards the starbase, gathering speed as they head towards us...

ANGLE ON PORTMAN

Standing in front of the window with a dumbfounded look on his face, before we cut back to the window with the ships

appearing almost touchable, with the image of Portman reflecting in the window.

EXT. SPACE

The Klingon ships hit their target and there is a huge explosion, sending out a SHOCKWAVE which knocks all of the escape pods off course, vaporizing most of them as it hits them. Suddenly there is another, even bigger explosion as a huge FLASH of white light fills the screen, and from this we...

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. READY ROOM

CROSS is sitting at his desk, staring at a PADD. ELRIS is standing opposite him, hands clasped tightly behind her back, looking straight at him. He looks pale, before looking up at her.

CROSS

(weakly)

I... I don't know what to say.

ELRIS

I'm sorry, Neil. But I've made up my mind.

CROSS

You didn't think of consulting me first?

ELRIS

There was nothing to consult you about. This is my decision. Mine alone.

Cross stands up, and walks around the desk towards her.

CROSS

But it affects us both, obviously.

(beat)

I thought things were better between us now... I thought we'd made so much progress over this last year...

ELRIS

I know you do, but for me, nothing's changed.

He nods.

CROSS

Even though it has for me?

ELRIS

It looks that way. I can't keep on pretending that everything we've been through warrants still being your wife. I think that this last year's proved that.

CROSS

And what makes you think this next year's going to be any different?

(MORE)

CROSS (CONT'D)

Do you think a divorce will change things between us?

ELRIS

Because I've been thinking about leaving the Enterprise.

CROSS

Leaving?

ELRIS

I've been in touch with one of my friends at the research base on Bajor. A new post's opened up... I'm thinking of applying for it.

CROSS

Oh.

There's a long beat.

ELRIS

I don't know what to say to you, Neil... it's...

CROSS

(interrupts)

I understand.

ELRIS

You do?

CROSS

I understand that you're doing this out of spite and that you're doing this because you never have wanted to be here. This is the easy way out for you -- you get rid of me and the Enterprise all in one fell swoop.

ELRIS

That's not it at all! I've made friends here... I've made a life for myself and I've tried more than I ever thought I could. I've had just about as much as I can take of you, and I've had my fair share of experiences out here on the frontier as well. I'm ready to move on.

CROSS

(shouts)

Then move the hell on out of my ready room.

Elris turns to leave, but Cross stops her.

CROSS (CONT'D)

(calmer)

I'm sorry... it's difficult to accept.

ELRIS

I realize that... I know it will take time.

CROSS

Good.

Cross looks at Elris, from the look we can tell that he is still in love with her... and Elris realizes this too, and looks away uncomfortably.

ELRIS

I'm going to get going.

Cross is about to say something when the comm CHIRPS.

GREY'S COMM VOICE

Grey to Captain Cross. Sir, it's time.

Cross flinches -- he does not need this now. He sighs.

CROSS

All right, I'll be right there.
Cross out.

He looks at Elris again.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I need time.

She nods.

CUT TO:

INT. ENGINEERING

There is a large crowd gathered in from of the warp core. There is a banner slung overhead with the words: "Open for Business Again." Amongst the crowd are BOYLE, KINNAN, Y'LAN, TALORA, DOJAR and QUINLAN. There is a raised dais in front of the warp core. Everyone is talking excitedly. GREY enters.

GREY

He's on his way. He sounded a bit... preoccupied.

BOYLE

He's always preoccupied.

A door opens, and Cross enters. The floor murmurs as he steps up to the dais.

CROSS

Sorry I'm a couple of minutes late.

He presses on a PADD and begins to read. As he reads the following speech, we see the various expressions of the people listening to him.

CROSS (CONT'D)

It has been almost a year now since I joined the Enterprise, a year of change and growth, a year of discovery and adventure, a year of highs and a year of lows. We have seen many amazing sights, met many wonderful people. We've given hope where before there was none, inspiration where before there was only despair, and joy where before there was only misery. But we have also encountered many problems, people and races who do not share our quest for enlightenment. When the Q'tami attacked us nearly seven weeks ago, the roof caved in, both literally and metaphorically. We didn't know which way to turn, why this had happened to us, why we had been violated in this way. But now, we have come back, stronger than before, with our eyes opened to the perils that are before us, but with also a new optimism that whatever the future can throw at us, we are ready to face it. I was told that it would be at least two and a half months before the Enterprise would be fully fit again but now, in a feat that through the ages Enterprise engineers have become renowned for, a miracle has been worked, and we stand here, just seven weeks afterwards, and can officially declare the Enterprise fully fit again... Lieutenant?

Grey steps forward with a piece of engineering equipment. He bends down to a floorplate.

GREY

The last stembolt to be fixed...

He presses the piece of equipment into the floor panel and there is a click.

GREY (CONT'D)

I do now declare the Enterprise open once again.

Everyone bursts into a round of applause.

CROSS

So many thanks to everyone who has worked so hard over the past few weeks, often extra shifts and in their spare time. The ship has never looked better.

The crowd murmur their appreciation. Grey whispers something to Cross.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Oh yes, and this is a double celebration. As you know, at the end of the week Lieutenant Kinnan is leaving us, to take up his new post as Chief Engineer on the Leviathan.

More applause.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Obviously, we wish him well on his new ship. We'll all miss you.

Both Boyle and Grey grin at Kinnan.

CROSS (CONT'D)

However, his leaving creates a gap in the command structure in engineering. Now Lieutenant Grey is an exemplary engineer, but no man is an island, and we needed to find someone who had the necessary expertise to support him, and...

(smiling affectionately)

...the necessary patience to work alongside him. We think we have found that officer.

(dramatic pause)

Please step forward, Lieutenant Boyle.

Boyle looks shocked.

BOYLE

Me?

CROSS

I don't see any other Lieutenant Boyle around here, do you?

She smiles and walks forward.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Now Lieutenant Grey has always been telling us what a good officer you

(MORE)

CROSS (CONT'D)

are, but it was only recently, when we've seen all your efforts around the ship in the repairs, that the rest of us have come to appreciate it. I don't think I could turn around amongst the repair crews without finding you in the middle of them, directing operations and getting your hands dirty. I think the rest of you here would agree too...

A small ripple of applause.

CROSS (CONT'D)

So, it gives me great pleasure to award you this.

He steps forward to her, and fixes another RANK PIP to her collar and smiles.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Congratulations.

Another round of applause.

Boyle steps up to the podium, smiling.

BOYLE

Erm, I don't know what to say. I hope this promotion is not just because I'm sleeping with the boss.

Appreciative laughter. Grey goes noticeably red.

BOYLE (CONT'D)

Awww, look, I've embarrassed him. But, seriously, I'm sure Erik would not mind if I pointed out the debt of gratitude we all have to Rob Kinnan. I may have been there telling everyone what to do and where to go, but without his know-how, I don't think we'd have finished anywhere near as early. Rob, this ship is going to miss you.

More applause.

QUINLAN

(whispering to Talora)

I'm getting tired of applauding. When is someone going to say how great I am?

Talora looks at her disapprovingly as Boyle steps down.

CROSS

Ceremony's over, the party's just getting started. See you all in Ten Forward.

They all start to file out. Grey chats to Kinnan.

GREY

I bet the Leviathan isn't half the ship ours is.

KINNAN

I won't mind as long as it has only half the excitement this one does.

They laugh as they head out.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

A massed field of DEBRIS litters the foreground. In the background, we see a starship approaching. It is the LEVIATHAN.

LEVIATHAN'S OPS OFFICER (V.O.)

We're still getting nothing, Captain.

INT. LEVIATHAN -- BRIDGE

It looks practically identical to the Enterprise bridge, except that it has practically no familiar faces on it at all. In the hot seat is CAPTAIN JOEL. She looks grim.

JOEL

Keep trying, Ensign.

LEVIATHAN'S OPS OFFICER

(in background)

Leviathan to any escape pods. Do you copy?

(continues in background)

She shakes her head as ADMIRAL DELFUNE enters from a turbolift.

DELFUNE

Anything?

JOEL

No. No life signs at all. We've scanned every inch of the wreckage.

Delfune nods.

DELFUNE

It looks like we've lost them.

JOEL

They could have been taken hostage?

DELFUNE

Any attackers causing damage like this won't be very interested in hostages, Captain.

(beat)

Any clue on who did this?

JOEL

Several large pieces of debris do not correspond with Starfleet design.

She leads the Admiral over to OPS and points out something on a panel.

JOEL (CONT'D)

There is a cluster here that could be the remains of a ship. Looks like maybe they were able to take out one with them.

DELFUNE

Can we bring it aboard?

JOEL

We're not detecting any contaminants.

DELFUNE

Good, do so. The sooner we find out who we're dealing with, the better.

CUT TO:

INT. TEN FORWARD

There is a party atmosphere in the room. The center has been cleared of all chairs and an impromptu dance floor laid, complete with spinning mirror ball overhead. HAL, the Saurian bartender, is behind the bar as usual; Quinlan, Cross, Talora and Y'lan sit at one table; Grey, Boyle, Kinnan and their engineering friends at another; Dojar and some others are at a third. Cross is looking distracted, while Quinlan making inroads into the table's bottle.

QUINLAN

Thank the lord for celebrations.
It's the only time Hal breaks open anything other than the synthehol.

The rest exchange glances between themselves.

Y'LAN

Captain, I am uncertain as to the purpose of this gathering.

CROSS

It's a celebration, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

What does it achieve?

CROSS

It makes people happy. We are pleased that the Enterprise is repaired, and we are pleased our friends are making progress in their careers, and we want to share their happiness with them.

Y'LAN

Happiness?

CROSS

Yes, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

Are you happy, Captain?

Cross looks at him for a moment.

CROSS

I am happy for my friends.

Y'LAN

Your bioreadings do not match other people's here.

CROSS

Are you sure you checked everyone?

Y'LAN

No.

CROSS

Why don't you do that then?

Y'LAN

Captain.

He moves off, Cross and Talora looking at each other. FOLLOW Y'LAN as he moves over to Grey's table. Grey is tapping away at a PADD while everyone else is listening to Kinnan telling a story.

KINNAN

And then the bloody conduit explodes, sparks flying everywhere, the whole
(MORE)

KINNAN (CONT'D)

thing's a complete mess, and Erik here is sitting in the middle of it looking utterly perplexed.

Everyone is laughing. They all look up at Y'lan.

BOYLE

Hey, Y'lan, what can we do for you?

Y'LAN

Are you happy?

BOYLE

We are.

Y'LAN

Is Lieutenant Grey?

BOYLE

I dunno. Hey, Erik, what are you doing?

GREY

Just a minute...

BOYLE

Just a minute, my ass. Give it here.

She snatches the PADD away from him.

GREY

Hey!

Boyle reads the PADD.

BOYLE

What is this?

GREY

It's... a poem. I just had the idea for it.

BOYLE

What's it about?

GREY

It's not finished yet.

KINNAN

Oh come on, Erik, let's hear it. I didn't know you were a poet.

Everyone else murmurs agreement.

GREY

All right.

He stands up.

GREY (CONT'D)

(awkwardly)

Oh, Boyle,
You light up my life,
But just like a stembolt,
You deliver me strife.
Sometimes you are efficient,
Sometimes you aren't,
But just like a stembolt,
You are a part of my heart.
I will always love you,
Wherever you may roam,
Whether it be in my toolkit
Or helping to power my home.
So, Boyle, you see,
I will always love you,
Just as I hope that you,
Will always love me.

The others STARE at him for a long beat.

BOYLE

I don't know what to say.

KINNAN

Stick to Engineering, Erik.

GREY

It's meant to be funny.

KINNAN

Is it meant to rhyme as well?

Grey slumps in his seat, as a new dance number starts up.
Kinnan stands up.

KINNAN (CONT'D)

(to Grey, re: Boyle)

You don't mind if I have this dance,
do you? The old assistant chief
with the new?

Grey waves them away.

GREY

Go ahead.

Kinnan and Boyle join the dance floor.

GREY (CONT'D)

(mutters)

Good riddance. The Leviathan's
welcome to you.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Leviathan holds in space at the edge of the starbase's
debris field.

INT. LEVIATHAN -- SCIENCE LAB

Joel, Delfune and a LEVIATHAN SCIENCE OFFICER are looking at
a large green piece of sheet metal with an insignia on it in
a forcefield.

JOEL

There's no doubt where that's from.

DELFUNE

The Klingons.

(urgently)

We need to get back to the Starbase,
now.

JOEL

(taps comm badge)

Helm, lay in a course to Starbase
232 and engage.

LEVIATHAN HELM OFFICER'S COMM VOICE

Aye sir.

JOEL

What do you think this means?

DELFUNE

(shaking her head)

I don't know, Captain, I don't know.

She snaps out of her reverie.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

I need to go and make a call. Inform
me when we reach the starbase.

JOEL

Aye, sir.

CUT TO:

INT. TEN FORWARD

As before. Cross, Talora, and Quinlan are watching Kinnan
and Boyle dance.

QUINLAN

Hey, where's Lea?

CROSS

I don't think she was in a party mood.

QUINLAN

That's a shame, you could have danced with her, eh?

She nudges Cross and wiggles her eyebrows. It's evident she's had a bit to drink. Cross ignores this as his comm badge chirrups.

SUKOTHAI'S COMM VOICE

Captain, we're receiving a Priority One message from the Leviathan. It's Admiral Delfune.

Cross and Talora exchange glances.

CROSS

Understood. I'll take it in my ready room.

He gets up and walks out of the room. Quinlan looks at Talora.

QUINLAN

So Talora, you fancy a dance?

TALORA

I doubt you would remember the steps.

QUINLAN

You're no fun. I'm going to find Lea.

She gets up, rather unsteadily, then sits down again.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Maybe I'll just comm her.

(taps comm badge)

Quinlan to Elris. Quinlan to Elris.

No answer.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Computer, locate Doctor Elris.

COMPUTER VOICE

Doctor Elris is in Sickbay.

QUINLAN

That's funny. Oh well, maybe she's dealing with a patient.

CUT TO:

INT. SICKBAY OFFICE

It is late, the lights are dim. Elris is sitting at her desk -- it is evident she has been crying. We see her comm badge lies on a corner of her desk. She is looking at a PADD, at what though we cannot see. ATKINSON pops his head in.

ATKINSON

I'm going off shift now, Doctor.

ELRIS

(assembles her face)
All right, goodnight.

ATKINSON

You okay?

He circles round to her, so that he can see what's on her PADD. She hastily presses some buttons on it.

ELRIS

Yeah, just on the news net, getting some new journals.

She smiles at him weakly.

ATKINSON

Okay, see you tomorrow.

He goes out. She turns back to her PADD, but just as she is about to change it, her face reacts.

ELRIS

By the Prophets...

We see what she is looking at. On the PADD it has a story: "LATE BREAKING NEWS: STARBASE 23 REPORTED DESTROYED."

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Computer, where is Captain Cross?

COMPUTER VOICE

Captain Cross is in his ready room.

Elris gets up and hurries out.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE

The night shift, including Sukothai in the captain's chair, is there. Elris rushes in from the turbolift.

ELRIS

Sukothai, is Neil in there?

She nods, as Cross comes out, looking deathly pale. He looks at Elris, but doesn't see her. When he speaks, his voice is weak and strained.

CROSS

Sukothai, open a ship wide channel.

SUKOTHAI

Captain?

CROSS

(tersely)

Just do it.

Sukothai nods and indicates she has done so. Cross slumps in Talora's chair.

CROSS (CONT'D)

This is Captain Cross. I have just received word from Admiral Delfune. This morning, a little after oh nine hundred hours, Starbase 23 was attacked by assailants as yet unknown. All...

His voice nearly breaks, as a single tear begins to drop from his eye.

CROSS (CONT'D)

All hands were lost.

He finally looks at Elris, almost imploring her to make it so it isn't so.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Admiral Portman is dead.

As Elris covers her mouth in shock too and Cross fights back the tears, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The ENTERPRISE approaches a starbase (different from Starbase 23) -- the LEVIATHAN is already parked in orbit.

CROSS (V.O.)

(flat monotone)

Captain's Log, Stardate 78981.2.

The Enterprise has arrived at starbase 290 as scheduled, where an emergency meeting has been convened to discuss the Klingon attack yesterday morning.

INT. STARBASE -- BRIEFING ROOM

Present are Cross, Joel, and Delfune. On a wall monitor are ADMIRAL THEL (from "Unusual Circumstances") and ADMIRAL CHIANG (from "The Call of Duty"), a couple of FEDERATION AMBASSADORS and COUNCILMEN, and PRESIDENT DRELL (from "Pandora's Last Gift"), as well as the Klingon MOLAR (from "Changing Symphony").

MOLAR

The Reformists have been getting more desperate over the past few months. We've been able to track and eliminate a number of their bases. They're losing resources fast.

JOEL

Why attack us though?

DELFUNE

Attention. We're an easier target and as supporters of the Imperialist government...

DRELL

I wasn't aware we had formerly declared ourselves supporters of the Imperialists.

DELFUNE

In deed if not in word, President Drell.

JOEL

Declaring war on us is a bit more than just attention seeking, surely?

DELFUNE

Who knows what goes on in the minds of Klingons.

(MORE)

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

(nod to Molar)

Present company excepted, of course.

THEL

So what do we do?

CROSS

We retaliate.

He hasn't spoken before, and some have forgotten he's there. They all turn round and look at him.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Do unto others what they do unto you.

DELFUNE

I agree. And fast. If we don't, we're giving them a charter to do it again. We have to hit them, and hit them hard.

JOEL

Captain Molar, what kind of defenses do their bases have?

MOLAR

It varies. Usually between five and ten Negh'var class ships, maybe a Napoch or two as well.

CHIANG

The Thunderbird is at your disposal, Admiral.

DELFUNE

Thank you, Admrial. This should be a display of force, so we'll call in the Scimitars, too.

CHIANG

Admiral, that seems a bit excessive.

DELFUNE

We have to get our message across, or do I have to remind you that it is because of them Henry Portman's body is drifting in space?

Cross winces at this, and Delfune notices.

CHIANG

We'll have to find them first.

JOEL

I think we have a lead.

She stands up and walks over to a wall console and taps at it. A starchart comes up.

JOEL (CONT'D)

We've been able to trace residual warp signatures leaving the site. They all headed in the same direction, and based on them, we were able to project their destination.

A number of dotted lines span out over the starchart. One goes through a patch of light.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Best guess is they went into that nebula.

Cross reacts when he sees it.

CROSS

Which nebula is it?

JOEL

It's...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. Y'LAN'S SCIENCE LAB

Y'lan is at his science table, placidly, as Cross is standing at him looking very angry.

CROSS

(shouting)

...the Coular Nebula! Did you know they were there, Y'lan? Did you?

Y'LAN

Captain, I had just come out of stasis. I was not certain where I was, let alone know where anybody else was.

CROSS

Y'lan, I have neither the time nor the inclination to play these games with you today. Did you know the Reformists were in the nebula?

Y'LAN

There were no Klingons present when you rescued me.

Cross looks at him doubtfully. There is a beat.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

However, the Hegemony had amassed evidence suggesting that they had been there in your past.

CROSS

Was the base still operational?

Y'LAN

I believe so.

CROSS

You knew they were there, all this time? People have died because of this, Y'lan, does that mean anything to you?

Y'LAN

They would have died anyway. This preoccupation with your mortality is fascinating...

CROSS

You are a member of this crew, and you knew they were a threat.

Y'LAN

Yes, Captain, but I was uncertain to what exactly that threat would entail. I thought it would be intriguing to see. You must remember Captain, although I am a member of this crew our priorities are rarely the same. I am studying your culture, nothing more.

Cross swallows deeply.

CROSS

Are they there now?

Y'lan says nothing.

CROSS (CONT'D)

(fuming)

Answer me, dammit, or I'll have you thrown out of the nearest airlock.

Y'LAN

They are still there.

CROSS

Were they responsible for the attack?

Y'LAN

There is a considerable amount of evidence pointing to that conclusion.

Cross closes his eyes, mentally counting to ten.

CROSS

Y'lan, when we get back I am going to have to think long and hard about whether I want you on my ship any more. Until then, you are confined to quarters.

Y'LAN

Captain, I...

But Cross has already walked out.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

Establishing shot of Starbase 290. The Enterprise and Leviathan are joined by the THUNDERBIRD, which docks by them.

CROSS (V.O.)

Captain's Log, supplemental. With the arrival of Admiral Chiang's Thunderbird, our strike force is building. We expect the final three ships to be here within the day, and our battle plans are nearing completion.

INT. READY ROOM

Cross is sitting working at his PADD when the door chimes goes.

CROSS

Come.

Quinlan enters.

QUINLAN

You wanted to see me?

CROSS

Yes.

Quinlan sits.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I don't believe I told you to sit.

QUINLAN

Sorry, sir.

She quickly stands again. Cross taps at a PADD.

CROSS

I have here personnel reports. We keep a constant track on every single crewman on this ship, as you well know. Do you know who has more strikes against her name than anyone else?

QUINLAN

Talora?

Cross is not in the mood. He begins to read.

CROSS

Stardate 78658.0. Lieutenant Quinlan late for shift. On arrival, her uniform was unclean and her appearance less than desirable. Stardate 78729.4. Lieutenant Quinlan late for shift. Spent the first hour shielding her eyes and complaining about non-existent noise. Stardate 78843.9. Lieutenant Quinlan fails to turn up for her shift. When contacted, says she has a headache the size of Vulcan and "would everyone just leave her in peace and just fu..."

QUINLAN

(interrupting)

It had been a long night, Captain, and I did apologize.

CROSS

You have a problem.

QUINLAN

No, I don't.

CROSS

Quinlan, I saw you at the party last night. There were four bottles on our table. Three of them were yours.

QUINLAN

I enjoy a drink, Captain.

CROSS

It's unacceptable for the Enterprise conn officer to behave like this.

QUINLAN

Fine, what do you want me to do, go to the counselor or something?

CROSS

(coldly)

I don't care whether you go to a counselor or not, I just need to know you're going to be fit for combat tomorrow. I don't want a drunk on my bridge.

This lack of compassion shocks Quinlan. She's piqued by it.

QUINLAN

(equally coldly)

I'll be fine.

The comm chirps.

JOEL'S COMM VOICE

Joel to Cross, please come to the briefing room.

CROSS

On my way.

(to Quinlan as he stands up)

We leave at oh six hundred, you will report to Sickbay at oh five hundred for a blood test. Dismissed.

QUINLAN

Thanks for the concern.

CROSS

Dismissed, crewman.

Quinlan turns and without another word leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. STARBASE -- BRIEFING ROOM

Cross, Joel, Delfune, and Chiang are looking at a table with a big battle schematic on it.

CROSS

Y'lan has been monitoring their communications, their base is on the northern continent of the planet. They also have that old Klingon spy station up and running again.

DELFUNNE

Why didn't you destroy that when you had the chance?

CROSS

Right now, I wish we had.

CHIANG

The slipstream should prevent them from picking up our approach until it's too late.

DELFUNE

Are you sure you can trust this
(spits the word out)
Q'tami's word?

CROSS

I believe so.

DELFUNE

Basing our entire battle plan on its word though...

CROSS

Admiral, believe me when I say this attack's success is the most important thing to me. I wouldn't risk it for anything. Anything.

Delfune pauses for a moment, considering.

DELFUNE

Then we're ready.

They all look at each other grimly.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise docked at the starbase as the camera moves around it.

INT. SICKBAY OFFICE

Elris is seated at her desk. She doesn't look happy and has a tired, pained, guilt driven expression on her face. She's deep in thought and doesn't hear the doors open, or the footstep of feet approaching, or even the figure walking past the glass.

By the time she notices someone is at her door and who it is it's too late as:

CROSS

Was it something I did, said?

Elris slowly shakes her head, and thinks of a response.

ELRIS

This isn't anything personal.

She flinches at her choice of words.

CROSS
 (laughs bitterly)
 Of course it is!

ELRIS
 You know what I mean!

CROSS
 No...
 (beat)
 I don't

A long beat.

ELRIS
 I mean that you haven't done anything
 wrong. To provoke my actions. I've
 just reached a time in my life where
 I feel that I'm ready to...

Cross interrupts, finishing Elris's sentence for her.

CROSS
 Move on? Yeah, you've mentioned
 that.

ELRIS
 It's not your fault.

CROSS
 If it's not then why are you going
 through with this? Why not get the
 divorce if the time comes that you
 really need it?

ELRIS
 Not if. When, Neil. And the time
 is now.

Cross is obviously put back by this and there is a beat.

CROSS
 I see.

There is a long pause.

CROSS (CONT'D)
 I hope that we can still be friends.

ELRIS
 We've already tried that...
 (beat, then slowly)
 ...and I've already told you that
 I've seriously been considering about
 leaving the Enterprise.

Cross remains silent.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

We've tried being friends for nearly a year now, and...

(shakes head)

We can't. We're either fighting or stuck in a place where neither of us can control our feelings for each other...

CROSS

(interrupts)

So you admit that you still have feelings for me?

A beat.

ELRIS

Yes.

(shakes head)

No... I mean no. Not in the way you mean.

(beat)

We had something, Neil, we had something very special. I loved you. But now... it's different. We can't live in the past anymore. It's over.

Cross throws her the PADD.

CROSS

Obviously.

ELRIS

I'm going to go to my quarters -- get some rest for tomorrow.

CROSS

It's your fault, you know.

Elris chooses to ignore him and exits. Cross continues to stand where he is.

CROSS (CONT'D)

It wouldn't be like this if Daniel were still alive... if you hadn't brought that bloody alien into our business!

(beat)

It wouldn't be like this if Henry were still alive.

He feels his way down into Elris's chair, falls back and looks at a photo that Elris has been looking at. It's of him, Elris and Portman together all smiling.

A sharp contrast to the Neil Cross and Elris Lea we now see, as a tear rolls down Cross's cheek...

CUT TO:

INT. TURBOLIFT

And as Elris enters the turbolift, alone as a single tear rolls down the side of her face also: It's finally over.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The star that gives out the light in the system that the Starbase and the Enterprise are in goes behind the Starbase, creating a silhouette of both the Enterprise and the Starbase.

INT. CORRIDOR

Quinlan stomps along it, and hits a door chime. Elris opens it.

QUINLAN

That captain of yours has some nerve...

She breaks off, as she sees Elris is in floods of tears.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Hey, what's going on?

Elris beckons her in.

INT. ELRIS'S QUARTERS -- CONTINUOUS

They are only dimly lit. A few loose tissues are strewn around the room. Quinlan and Elris walk over to the sofa.

ELRIS

I feel so bad.

QUINLAN

About Portman?

ELRIS

(shakes her head)

Yes, but not just that. Last night, before we knew what had happened, I gave Neil divorce papers.

QUINLAN

Oh...

ELRIS

And now all this has happened, I
feel terrible that I've done this to
him. He didn't need that on top of
what's happened.

Quinlan cuddles her as she starts crying again.

QUINLAN

Hey, come on, the Captain's a strong
guy, he'll be all right. You weren't
to know about this.

ELRIS

I'm... worried about him, and his
mood. He's emotional, he reacts
with his heart, not his head. I'm
worried about what he's going to do.

QUINLAN

I'm sure if he does anything too bad
Talora will soon let him know. Come
on, it's going to be all right.
Everything will work out...

Elris continues to cry over Quinlan's shoulder, and from
Quinlan's reaction we can see she is more worried than she's
telling her. From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The armada is now complete: all six ships. There is a silence as we look at the ships.

INT. TALORA'S QUARTERS

The lights are dim. TALORA is asleep in her bed.

COMPUTER VOICE

The time is oh five hundred hours.

Talora stirs, and rubs her eyes.

TALORA

Acknowledged, computer.

She leans to her bedside table and taps her commbadge.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Talora to all senior staff. Last minute briefing in fifteen minutes.

CUT TO:

INT. GREY'S QUARTERS

Grey is sitting on the edge of the bed, hair ruffled, obviously having just woken up. He peers blearily eyed around.

GREY

Sarah? Sarah, where are you?

Reaches for his commbadge.

GREY (CONT'D)

Grey to Boyle. Where are you?

BOYLE'S COMM VOICE

(too sounding a little bleary)

Erik. I wanted to get an early morning workout before we launch, get me warmed up.

GREY

You at the gym?

BOYLE'S COMM VOICE

Yeah.

GREY

All right. Meet me in Engineering
in fifteen.

BOYLE'S COMM VOICE

Okay. Boyle out.

CUT TO:

INT. KINNAN'S QUARTERS

We see that Kinnan is, in fact, lying next to Boyle in bed,
covers discreetly over them. Boyle grins at him.

BOYLE

I'm going to miss you.

KINNAN

You know what they say. "All good
things must come to an end." Besides,
there are plenty of other fish in
the sea.

BOYLE

That's true.

She leans over and kisses him lightly on the cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. SICKBAY

Atkinson and AGOLIVE, as well as some nurses, are bustling
about as Elris enters, still pulling on her uniform.

ATKINSON

Doctor.

ELRIS

Are we all set?

AGOLIVE

We are. How many casualties are we
likely to take?

ELRIS

(jokingly)

What am I? Psychic?

ATKINSON

Are we taking Klingon wounded?

Beat.

ELRIS

No.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR

Quinlan walks along it, looking pale but determined. She runs into Y'LAN, who is being flanked by a SECURITY OFFICER.

QUINLAN

Heading my way, Y'lan?

Y'LAN

It appears so.

They walk together.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Your blood pressure levels are high.

QUINLAN

I didn't sleep very well. Bit twitchy.

Y'LAN

I see.

Quinlan gives him a weak smile.

QUINLAN

It'll be fine.

They enter a turbolift.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

(to computer)

Bridge.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

Talora, Grey, and Dojar are present as Quinlan and Y'lan walk in. They all hold PADDs and Talora is talking.

TALORA

We estimate minimal resistance as they shouldn't know we are coming until we drop out of slipstream. By which time it'll be too late. Y'lan has supplied us with what kind of vessels they are most likely to have.

DOJAR

Most likely?

(MORE)

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Can't you tell us exactly? Haven't you been monitoring them?

Y'LAN

Not constantly.

TALORA

We all know what we're doing?

They nod.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Admiral Delfune will lead the attack from the Leviathan...

A comm chirps.

JOEL'S COMM VOICE

Joel to Enterprise. What is your status?

TALORA

We are just waiting for the captain.

JOEL'S COMM VOICE

Where is he?

TALORA

He's... on his way.

JOEL'S COMM VOICE

Understood. We launch in fifteen minutes. Joel out.

TALORA

(taps comm badge)

Talora to Captain Cross. Where are you?

No answer.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Computer, locate Captain Cross.

COMPUTER VOICE

Captain Cross is in his quarters.

Talora stands up.

TALORA

I'll go.

CUT TO:

INT. CROSS'S QUARTERS

No lights at all, but the glow from the Starbase comes through the window. We see Cross is sitting bolt upright on a chair, staring ahead. In front of him, on a table is a PADD with the picture of him, Portman and Elris on it. The door opens and Talora is revealed standing in the hall.

TALORA

Captain?

After a suspenseful pause...

CROSS

Come on in, Commander.

TALORA

You're due on the bridge.

CROSS

Not for another ten minutes.

TALORA

You are required to make final preparations.

CROSS

I've got a good crew... you can handle yourselves.

TALORA

But the crew needs a Captain... that is what you're here for.

CROSS

I just want some time alone... before the battle.

TALORA

Understood.

She turns to leave, before:

CROSS

Commander?

TALORA

Yes, Sir?

CROSS

Take a seat.

He indicates towards a chair, and Talora turns and sits down.

CROSS (CONT'D)

It doesn't seem like five minutes ago since you were saying that we'd have a peaceful new year, does it?

TALORA

Apparently not.

Cross gives a half laugh.

CROSS

A lot can happen in a few days, can't it? Things change more in a matter of minutes than they do over the course of a whole year.

TALORA

It is a lot harder to contemplate what has happened when it's personal to you.

CROSS

I can't help but remember what the last words were that he said to me... "I fear for the future"... how right he was.

TALORA

We all fear for the future, Captain. It is the one great unknown.

CROSS

Someone once said that all we have to fear is fear itself. But I think the fear of the unknown is a lot more powerful.

TALORA

Yet it is what drives us all. It's what keeps us all living.

CROSS

I've often wondered that. What the point to life is, and I've never found an answer.

(beat)

I thought I'd found it, once. I thought that all I had to live for was hope that things would get better. And for a while they did...

(shakes head)

But after you've lived in POW camp for two years, what do you expect? You soon realize that things aren't so perfect.

(MORE)

CROSS (CONT'D)

(beat)

In some ways I wish I'd never left.
A controlled environment... things
didn't seem so random. Death was
still something that hunted everyone
but apart from that there was nothing.
I just hoped that I'd still be alive
the next day... then the next and
the next. I don't think I can
contemplate how complicated things
are now.

TALORA

I think that a lot of people who are
in prison camps now would disagree.
Freedom is something we all value...
and that can easily be forgotten.

CROSS

How can there be freedom in the galaxy
when there's bastards like the
Reformists?

There's a long pause.

CROSS (CONT'D)

You lost your brother, didn't you?

TALORA

Yes.

CROSS

Ever since I met Admiral Portman
I've considered him the closest thing
I've got to family... and now he's
gone too. I'm beginning to feel
like everyone I care for is being
targeted... and it doesn't feel right.

(beat)

When I was in the POW camp some of
the kids there told me how lucky I
was that I hadn't felt death before,
because I'd never lost anyone before
that. Because I'd clung to the hope
that my Dad and sister were still
alive...

TALORA

I didn't know that.

CROSS

Because I don't talk about it. I
don't talk to people about my own
feelings very well, Commander.

(MORE)

CROSS (CONT'D)

I've only ever found two people like that and now they're both slipping away or have been taken from me. And I don't know where to turn.

TALORA

If I've learned anything over the past year, it's that a first officer's job isn't just professional... it's personal as well.

CROSS

(half smiles)

It sounds like you're volunteering to keep me sane, Commander.

TALORA

(jokingly)

If it's really necessary.

Cross half laughs.

CROSS

Are we ready?

TALORA

We are.

Cross looks at her.

CROSS

Then we'd better get going.

He stands up and looks around his quarters before turning around and walking out of them with Talora by his side.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE

Quinlan is at Conn, Dojar at Tactical, Sukothai at Ops. The turbolift doors open and Cross marches in, followed by Talora.

SUKOTHAI

Captain on the Bridge.

CROSS

Sukothai, open a channel to the Leviathan.

After a moment, the Leviathan's bridge appears on the viewscreen, with Joel and Delfune in the center seats.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Captain, Admiral, sorry about the delay.

DELFUNE

We are ready.

CROSS

We have one thing to do beforehand.
Lieutenant Kinnan, are you ready?

KINNAN'S COMM VOICE

Aye, Captain.

CROSS

Captain Joel, we're sending you an
engineer. Take good care of him,
won't you?

JOEL

We'll do our best, Captain.

CUT TO:

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Kinnan is on the platform, and NARV OZRAN is at the controls.

OZRAN

Good luck, Kinnan.

KINNAN

You too.

Kinnan shimmers into nothingness.

CUT TO:

INT. ENGINEERING

Grey and Boyle are working at two consoles next to each other.

GREY

Why did Lieutenant Kinnan wait until
now to be transported across?

BOYLE

(straight-faced)
I have no idea.

GREY

Oh well.
(taps comm badge)
The slipstream drive is primed
Captain, we're ready to go.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

DELFUNE

(on viewscreen)

We are keeping an open comm link to all ships, Captain, but maintain communications silence as long as possible. We all have our attack plans, let's make sure we don't deviate from them.

CROSS

Understood. Cross out.

The viewscreen turns back to the normal view.

QUINLAN

The Leviathan is moving off. Course is laid in.

CROSS

It's payback time. Engage.

EXT. SPACE

Starbase 290 rests peacefully in the background as the imposing force of six Federation warships slowly maneuver and, one by one, enter the slipstream.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

We see the familiar Coular Nebula last seen in "Aftermath." The SPACE STATION that we last saw as empty and lifeless is now obviously operational again. It is lit and there are several small Klingon vessels swimming around it.

INT. COULAR STATION -- OPS

A typical Klingon set up, all red emblems and smoke. In the center of it stands CAPTAIN KOVOR. One of his lackeys looks up from his console.

KLINGON OFFICER

Captain, the Starfleet ships have launched.

KOVOR

Alert the defense force.

EXT. COULAR NEBULA

As we watch, from the planet a defence force of KLINGON SHIPS, one a NAPOCH class and six NEGH'VARs.

INT. COULAR STATION -- OPS

As before.

KLINGON OFFICER
Captain, the defense force have moved
into position.

KOVOR
Good. Tell the rest of the colony
to evacuate to the bunkers.

KLINGON OFFICER
Yes, Captain.

CUT TO:

EXT. REFORMIST COLONY -- COULAR -- DAY

It is set in a lush green valley. There are about sixty buildings spread around an area perhaps two kilometers square. The buildings appear to have been hastily constructed but have some weathering on them, suggesting they have been there for some time. Despite the ramshackle appearance of the place, the colony seems lively, like any other town on a developed world. Klingons of both sexes and all ages are going about their business. Children play in the streets and vendors ply their trade in a central area. Through this tranquil scene the Klingon Officer's voice on a tannoy breaks through.

KLINGON OFFICER'S VOICE
This is Kor Station, reporting an
imminent Federation attack. All non-
military personnel are ordered to
evacuate into the bunkers immediately.
I repeat, all civilians to head
immediately for the underground.

The Klingons look at each other, and begin to head towards a common goal, a large building on the side of the town. While hurrying, there is no panic or pushing.

CUT TO:

INT. COULAR STATION -- OPS

As before.

KLINGON OFFICER
Now what?

KOVOR
Now we wait. How long until they
reach us?

KLINGON OFFICER
I'm not sure, I think I may be
reading...

The whole station suddenly shakes from a violent force, and the screens light up.

KLINGON OFFICER (CONT'D)

They're here!

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The LEVIATHAN pummels the space station as the other five ships head towards the planet. Coming to meet them are the defense ships, who open fire on them. Soon space is lit by a light show of green and orange fire.

INT. BRIDGE

As before, but now the Bridge is lit with the hue of red alert.

QUINLAN

We've got company.

CROSS

Dojar, target the nearest ship.

SUKOTHAI

I'm reading a mixture of Negh'var and Napoch ships, Captain, uncertain number of each.

The bridge shakes as the Enterprise is hit.

SUKOTHAI (CONT'D)

That was a Negh'var.

DOJAR

Returning fire.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise lets loose a barrage of shots at the nearest attacking ship. Another Negh'var comes to its aid, but is distracted by the THUNDERBIRD. The Enterprise heads for the planet's northern hemisphere, where the LEVIATHAN has already entered orbit. It becomes clear the battle is splitting in two: the Enterprise and Leviathan are heading for the north, the rest of the Starfleet ships the south.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

SUKOTHAI

Captain, the Leviathan is taking some serious damage to its port nacelle.

CROSS

Enterprise to Leviathan, do you need assistance?

JOEL'S COMM VOICE

Negative Captain, continue on target.

CROSS

Dojar?

DOJAR

Targeting now.

EXT. REFORMIST COLONY -- COULAR -- DAY

The Klingons are still continuing their orderly evacuation, when suddenly two torpedoes come streaking through the sky and hit one of the buildings, which erupts in a fireball. The Klingons abandon their decorum, and begin to make a run for it.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

DOJAR

Direct hit.

The room shakes again.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Captain, I cannot target both these ships and the colony, and the Leviathan is having its own problems.

CROSS

Sukothai, what are the Negh'var's weaknesses?

SUKOTHAI

They have a weak dorsal fin, their shields are not as strong as some other classes, they don't handle well in atmosphere, they...

CROSS

Stop. They don't handle well in atmosphere?

SUKOTHAI

That's right...

Short beat.

CROSS

Quinlan, take us down.

QUINLAN

Captain, I would advise strongly
against that.

CROSS

It's not open to debate, Lieutenant.
We have to shake these ships and
target that colony, you got any better
ideas?

TALORA

Captain, I really think...

CROSS

Quinlan, do it!

Quinlan looks at Talora. She hesitates, and then nods.

QUINLAN

Okay, hold onto your hats. We're
going down...

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise, still being pursued by two Negh'vars, angles
down sharply towards the planet itself, almost plummeting.
As the three ships descend we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. REFORMIST COLONY -- COULAR -- DAY

The evacuation continues as intermittent phaser volleys and the occasional torpedo streak through the air onto the town. A few buildings are up in smoke, but there are much fewer Klingons still heading for the central building. On a hill a little away, a Klingon stands watching.

KLINGON COLONY COMMANDER
Stotz to Kovor, evacuation nearly
complete.

INT. COULAR STATION -- OPS

Kovor and the other Klingons are looking strained. There is smoke coming from several of their consoles, and on the viewscreen phaser fire can be seen.

KOVOR
Excellent. The Federation will not
be able to hit our bunkers from orbit.

EXT. REFORMIST COLONY -- COULAR -- DAY

As before.

KLINGON COLONY COMMANDER
Indeed not. Let the dogs do their
worst now...

Suddenly behind him, we see the gigantic bulk of the Enterprise emerging from the clouds, raining fire down onto the colony. Behind it, two Negh'vor ships are giving chase. The commander looks in awe for a moment.

KLINGON COLONY COMMANDER (CONT'D)
It would seem that today is a good
day to die after all...

Before him, two new buildings erupt in a firestorm.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

DOJAR
Captain, we have hit another two
buildings, but the Reformist ships
are still closing on us.

The bridge shudders again as they are hit.

CROSS
(bad-temperedly)

Sukothai, I thought you said these ships were no good in the atmosphere.

SUKOTHAI
I did, Captain. Unfortunately, the Enterprise isn't particularly hot either.

QUINLAN
Captain, I'm going to pull round for another pass.

EXT. REFORMIST COLONY -- COULAR -- DAY

The Enterprise swoops low over the town, causing such a rush of air that the few remaining Klingons on the street are knocked down. As debris from the less stable buildings showers down around them, the two Klingon ships also swoop by, still firing. The Enterprise maneuvers up and around.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

DOJAR
Shields are at sixty four percent. Captain, it would appear we underestimated the weapons capability of these ships.

TALORA
They must have been modified.

CROSS
Sukothai, what life signs are still in that colony?

SUKOTHAI
Captain, I'm picking up a large concentration of Klingons below ground.

CROSS
Dojar, how can we target them?

The bridge rocks again as another shot from the negh'vars hits them.

DOJAR
Captain, I would like to respectfully submit that our priority is dealing with these warships.

CROSS
 Quinlan, lose them.

QUINLAN
 (bites back a sarcastic
 comment)
 Any suggestions how, Captain?

CROSS
 Sukothai, what's the surrounding
 area like?

SUKOTHAI
 All mountainous, Captain.

CROSS
 Excellent... Take us in.

QUINLAN
 Captain, the Enterprise is not
 designed for tight maneuvers like
 this...

CROSS
 I said take us in, Lieutenant.

Quinlan sighs.

CUT TO:

EXT. REFORMIST COLONY -- COULAR -- DAY

The Enterprise swings away from the colony and heads up the valley into the snowy mountains. It goes over the top of a peak and then ducks down. The two Negh'vars follow. The two ships exchange more fire as they duck and rise through the canyons and peaks. A stray shot or two sends showers of snow falling down the mountains.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

SUKOTHAI
 If anyone's interested, we've already
 caused three avalanches.

CROSS
 Dojar, take them out.

DOJAR
 It's not easy, Captain.

CROSS
 I said take them out.

TALORA

Captain, I would advise we retreat
back into space, this is
unnecessary...

CROSS

We have a mission to fulfill,
Commander, and I'm not going to allow
anyone to stand in its way.

TALORA

Captain, I...

CROSS

Stand down, or I will order you to
leave the Bridge.

Talora hesitates.

QUINLAN

It's all right, Commander, I have an
idea.

EXT. MOUNTAINS -- COULAR -- DAY

The Enterprise heads for a narrow pass between two peaks.
One Negh'var continues on a direct pursuit course, the other
veers up out of sight.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

DOJAR

Quinlan, I'm just questioning your
piloting skills, but are you sure
you can fit through there?

QUINLAN

(concentrating)
Just be ready to fire at those peaks
when I say so.

DOJAR

All right...

EXT. MOUNTAINS -- COULAR -- DAY

The Enterprise is nearly at the gap.

INT. BRIDGE

As before. Quinlan's face is a study in concentration.

QUINLAN

Wait... wait... now!

EXT. MOUNTAINS -- COULAR -- DAY

Just as the Enterprise reaches the pass, the phasers fire at the two peaks. The Federation ship squeezes through just before a mass of snow and debris from the two peaks tumbles down. The Negh'var, directly behind them, is caught in the twin avalanches. The weight of snow pushes it into the side of one of the mountains, where it CRASHES.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

QUINLAN

You were saying, Dojar?

The bridge suddenly thunders again.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Dammit!

EXT. MOUNTAINS -- COULAR -- DAY

The second Negh'var ship has reappeared, and is unleashing a veritable torrent of disruptor fire at the ship.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

DOJAR

Shields are down to thirty seven percent.

CROSS

Get us back to the colony.

DOJAR

I'm not sure if we'll make it with our shields the way they are.

CROSS

Then do something to make sure, Lieutenant.

DOJAR

Dojar to Engineering, can you give us any more on the shields?

INT. ENGINEERING

It's a maelstrom of activity, everyone rushing about, keeping the heart of the ship running. Grey answers the hail.

GREY

We could, but we'd have to divert power from the phaser arrays.

INT. BRIDGE

As before. Dojar looks to Cross to guidance.

CROSS

Do it. Quinlan's not the only one
who has good ideas.

INT. ENGINEERING

As before.

GREY

Yes, Captain.
(to himself)
We only just got the Enterprise
looking nice again...

EXT. MOUNTAINS -- COULAR -- DAY

The Enterprise does a long graceful arc and heads back the way it came. The Negh'var continues its pursuit, firing, with the Enterprise's return fire noticeably dimmer than before. As they swing over the last peak, we see the Reformist colony valley spread out as before. It is now covered in smoke and thick yellow flames can be seen.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

DOJAR

Shields are now forty five percent.
It's the best we can do.

CROSS

Sukothai, where is this underground
bunker?

SUKOTHAI

The concentration is over on the
left side of the colony, near that
large water tank. The entrance is
from the building in the center, but
that's not where they are.

CROSS

All right. Dojar, listen carefully.
This is what we're going to do...

INT. BUNKER

A large number of Klingons, a lot of them women and children, listen to the muffled sounds of battle from above. They look at each other, the adults giving the children reassuring looks.

EXT. REFORMIST COLONY -- COULAR -- DAY

The Enterprise seems to be on a direct collision course for the building in the center. Behind them the Negh'var is in close pursuit.

INT. BRIDGE

As before. The bridge continues to shake under the barrage.

CROSS

We need to let the Negh'var get as close as possible.

DOJAR

Captain, I cannot guarantee this will work, nor do I agree with it...

CROSS

Get ready, Dojar. The range is one kilometer.

SUKOTHAI

Negh'var is now four kilometers and closing. Two point eight... Point three... One point five...

Dojar looks nervous, his finger shaking over a button in a console.

SUKOTHAI (CONT'D)

One kilometer!

CROSS

Now, Dojar!

Dojar's finger comes down.

EXT. REFORMIST COLONY -- COULAR -- DAY

A tractor beam shoots from the Enterprise and traps the Negh'var. Instantly, the Enterprise swings upwards, and the momentum pulls the Negh'var down hard. It crashes into the earth by the water tank, as the Enterprise releases the beam.

INT. BUNKER

The Klingons cry out as the roof caves in with the, to them, giant Negh'var. Almost instantly it erupts into a huge fireball which engulfs the whole bunker. The roof collapses on the hellish scene amid Klingon howls of despair.

INT. BRIDGE

As before. Everyone looks stunned.

CROSS

Report.

SUKOTHAI

Direct hit.

Cross nods slowly.

CROSS

Dojar, finish the job here.

DOJAR

Yes, Captain.

EXT. REFORMIST COLONY -- COULAR -- DAY

The Enterprise, now unhindered, lets loose a barrage of torpedoes that quickly decimate the remaining buildings of the colony.

INT. BRIDGE

Deadly silence as the crew survey the damage.

CROSS

Life signs?

SUKOTHAI

None.

CROSS

Good.

Another deadly pause, before a console beeps. The camera moves around the Bridge before reaching the station that's beeping. It's Dojar's, and it's taken him a while to pull himself out of the trance that he's got himself into.

DOJAR

(slowly)

Captain... the Scimitars could use some assistance in orbit...

CROSS

Understood. Quinlan, take us up.

QUINLAN

Aye, Sir.

She hits some controls and the image on viewscreen slowly moves further and further upwards from the decimated Klingon village, leaving the memory of what they have done in each crewman's memory...

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise pulls up through the clouds, as we follow in the wake that she leaves behind, until we have reached space. In the distance we can see the Leviathan taking on a Negh'var.

INT. BRIDGE

Same as before.

CROSS

Status report.

TALORA

The Leviathan has sustained some damage, but is able to keep on fighting... the T'pethan is adrift but salvageable... apparently from a collision with one of the Reformists ships.

CROSS

And the rest?

TALORA

Still fighting. Four are attacking the remaining ships and the Scimitar and the Thunderbird are attacking the station.

CROSS

Dojar, hail the Scimitar and the Thunderbird.

DOJAR

Channels open.

CROSS

This is the Enterprise. We'll take the station from here. Your new orders are to attack the remaining ships.

VOICE

With all due respect, Sir, our orders from Admiral Delfune state other--

CROSS

To hell with orders! Attack the Klingon ships!

VOICE

Understood.

The crew look at Cross, amazed at his lack of respect for the commanding officer's orders.

CROSS

Quinlan, take us in towards the station.

QUINLAN

Already done.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise approaches the station as the Scimitar and the Thunderbird pull away.

INT. BRIDGE

Same as before. The Enterprise shakes as weapon fire hits it.

CROSS

Give me a scan of that station.

DOJAR

It's taken heavy damage... life support has only five minutes of air remaining... many of the bulkheads are unstable... but its weapons are still operational.

CROSS

Target the weakest areas and fire.

EXT. SPACE

We ride on the Enterprise's hull as she attacks the station's lower regions. The station itself is putting up a fair fight and is hitting the Enterprise, but it is no match for the great ship. The Enterprise's barrage is severely hitting the station and it doesn't look like it will be able to survive for much longer.

INT. BRIDGE

Same as before.

DOJAR

We've sustained minimal damage, but the station is beginning to fall apart.

Cross doesn't respond.

TALORA

Shall I order the transporter room to beam aboard survivors, Sir?

There is a long pause, no one speaks.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Sir?

CROSS

Let it fall apart.

(beat)

Let them die.

There is a LONG beat. Tension fills the Bridge as everyone who can see Cross looks directly at him. Cross moves over towards his chair and calmly sits down, where he remains until otherwise stated. Talora looks up at the viewscreen of the damaged station.

QUINLAN

Sir?

CROSS

You heard me, Quinlan.

TALORA

The Klingon crew will be suffocating, Captain.

CROSS

I'm well aware of that Commander.

DOJAR

Sir, this isn't what Starfleet stands for.

CROSS

And I don't give a damn. They didn't give our crew a chance when they attacked it. They could have saved the crew... taken them hostage... but they let them die.

DOJAR

You're letting your emotions get the better of you.

CROSS

While I'm in command, you do what I say. And I say let them die.

Dojar looks disgusted at Cross and turns away from him, while Quinlan busies herself with her console, refusing to look up at the stricken Klingon station.

DOJAR

The station is about to fall in on itself, Sir.

CROSS

Understood.

There is a LARGE EXPLOSION on the viewscreen as, the Klingon station is destroyed. Cross continues to watch where the station used to be, before turning around and exiting, into his ready room. Talora turns to look at Dojar.

TALORA
Casualties, Dojar.

DOJAR
According to our sensors, over two hundred Klingons were on that station, Commander.

Talora continues to look at Dojar, who looks down at his console. Quinlan looks back, shocked. Talora remains in her first officer's seat, not moving to the Captain's chair.

There is a long pause. No one talks. No one moves. The Bridge doesn't shake.

TALORA
Status report.

Dojar reads from his console.

DOJAR
The battle's over. The Klingon ships have all been destroyed except for one... and it's being chased by the Leviathan.

Talora stands and nods.

TALORA
Open hailing frequencies.

Dojar nods.

TALORA (CONT'D)
This is the Enterprise to all remaining ships... set a course for Starbase 290... we're heading home.

Talora nods and Dojar hits a button on his console, apparently cutting the transmission. Talora looks over to Quinlan.

TALORA (CONT'D)
Engage.

QUINLAN
Yes, Sir.

Talora walks back to sit in the first officer's chair.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise turns away from the debris of the station,
and away from Coular, before moving off into warp... and
away from the devastation that they have caused. From this
we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise, the Leviathan, the three Scimitars and the Thunderbird have arrived at Starbase 290 and are in orbit. Noticeably, there are not many battle scars on either ship, only a few scrapes and black areas. As we move around the star comes out from behind the starbase, creating a shadow on the ships in orbit.

TALORA (V.O.)

First Officer's Log, Stardate 78988.6.
The Enterprise has returned to Starbase 290 after a successful campaign against the Klingon Reformist movement.

INT. ENGINEERING

Grey stood working on the induction core as Boyle stands watching behind him.

TALORA (V.O.)

The Enterprise itself sustained minimal damage, and Lieutenant Grey is jubilant that we did not take more then we actually did...

INT. BRIDGE

Dojar stands at his console, deep in thought as the camera pulls back to reveal Quinlan in a similar posture at the helm.

TALORA

...Though some of the Enterprise crew are not so proud of what we achieved. We believe that every Klingon on the planet and station died in the attack, with the exception of one vessel that escaped the Leviathan's chase.

INT. READY ROOM

The room is a mess, Cross's usually tidy desk is covered in PADDs and other items that are littering his desk. Cross himself sits behind the desk, looking in a semi-daze.

TALORA

Captain Cross has remained in his ready room since the end of the attack, and has requested not to be
(MORE)

TALORA (CONT'D)

disturbed. However, he has requested that a wake be held, in Admiral Portman's memory, on the starbase later this evening. The entire crew of the Enterprise is expected to attend. I believe the Captain would expect nothing less.

CUT TO:

INT. STARBASE -- OBSERVATION LOUNGE

The room is crowded, and it is designed to hold hundreds of people. Each officer present is wearing dress uniform -- no exceptions. In the center of the room there is a casket that is raised up on a hand made, finely crafted wooden stand. A plaque rests on top of the coffin, reading HENRY PORTMAN, no mention of his rank or Starfleet standing.

The crowd, apparently, doesn't recognize his Starfleet standing either, as Admiral DELFUNE is present, along with a few others, who are gathered together.

The camera slowly moves over the crowd to a corner, where a solemn Elris and a sober Quinlan stand, staying out of the way in a far corner. The most noticeable thing about Quinlan is that she doesn't have a drink in her hand, while many of the officers around her do.

ELRIS

Did you know it was Henry who introduced me to Neil?

QUINLAN

No.

ELRIS

It was quite a peculiar introduction really... Henry came in carrying Neil, after he'd been hurt by a falling bulkhead and placed him on my operating table.

QUINLAN

Love at first sight?

ELRIS

Hardly. I hated him. It wasn't until after he recovered and he stopped by to say thank you that I even paid any attention to what he was saying.

QUINLAN

What made you change your mind about him?

ELRIS

He was very romantic. He gave me flowers and chocolates, just to say thank you.

QUINLAN

It's not every day you meet a man like that.

ELRIS

No. It's not. And look where it's gotten me.

QUINLAN

On the Federation flagship?

ELRIS

Yes.

(beat)

But I've been thinking about leaving.

QUINLAN

What?

ELRIS

Everyone who I've told has had the same reaction.

QUINLAN

You haven't told me? Other people know?

ELRIS

Only Neil... but he was surprised as well.

Quinlan looks relieved.

QUINLAN

Good... I don't know who'd be here to keep me sane if you went.

ELRIS

You may have to find someone else...

QUINLAN

This isn't just talk, is it?

ELRIS

No. It's not.

On Quinlan's worried expression...

CUT TO:

INT. CREW QUARTERS

We see a white shirt being pulled on, a black tie being tied and a black jacket being put on, before walking out of a door and into another room.

INT. STARBASE -- OBSERVATION LOUNGE

The doors slide open as Grey and Boyle enter. A few officers nod in respect to them, as they walk forwards and shuffle through the crowd towards the huge windows on one of the walls.

GREY

I'm sorry if you didn't like the poem. I didn't mean for it to be serious.

BOYLE

That's what annoyed me, Erik. You couldn't just do what everyone else does and write me a love poem, you had to be different.

GREY

(manly)
But that's what you love about me... right?

BOYLE

If you like.

Grey looks a little disheartened at this remark, and looks out into space, and at the docked Enterprise. After a beat, Grey points to a scar on the Enterprise's outer hull, and is about to comment to Boyle, before turning to her and taking hold of her hand.

GREY

You know? It's times like this that I thank God you're here with me.

Boyle nods, and looks at Grey in the eyes, before looking away from him and around the rest of the room, catching Kinnan's line of sight and smiling at him, as she retreats into Grey's embrace.

BOYLE

You know, Erik? That's one of the nicest things you've ever said to me.

GREY

Really?

As Boyle and Kinnan keep on looking at each other.

BOYLE

Yeah... I don't know what I'd do without you either. I mean, where would I be now if it wasn't for you?

GREY

Not assistant chief engineer, I suppose.

(awkwardly)

But only because I'm you're commanding officer... not because of the other thing... you know?

BOYLE

(seriously)

Of course.

She pulls out of Grey's embrace and looks at him and smiles, before:

BOYLE (CONT'D)

I'm going to go and talk to Rob, do you mind if I leave you for a minute?

GREY

No, go ahead...

Boyle moves off to talk to Kinnan, as Grey moves across to another engineer, and points out what he was going to show Boyle earlier.

CUT TO:

INT. CREW QUARTERS

A view looking at a door, as the figure we saw earlier, now dressed in a full suit steps forwards towards the door, and the doors part open, as the figure steps forward and out into the corridor.

CUT TO:

INT. STARBASE -- OBSERVATION LOUNGE

The camera moves through the crowd towards the casket, where Dojar stands in thought for a moment, before Y'lan walks next to him.

DOJAR

Y'lan... I thought you'd been confined to quarters?

Y'LAN

The captain specifically said that I was confined to quarters until "we got back." I believe that time has passed.

DOJAR

In other words the guard told you that you were free to leave?

Y'LAN

Yes.

They both stand in reflection for a minute, before Y'lan speaks:

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Why is there a casket present if there are no remains resting in it?

Dojar looks away from the coffin for a moment.

DOJAR

Even though there is no body, we like to have something to symbolize our grief. It helps us to come to terms with our loss.

Y'LAN

Your beliefs about life and death are indeed strange.

DOJAR

How so?

Y'LAN

You are only on this corporeal plane for a certain amount of time... you know that. Yet you do not accept it, nor do you look at the life that continues to live on around you.

DOJAR

Maybe it's because we'll never see the person again and that we'll miss them?

Y'LAN

That is the nature of all mortal beings. You know that this day will come, and yet you appear surprised when it does. When death occurs in the Hegemony, Q'tami simply accept there is nothing that can be done and that that entity will never be able to be seen again. Except through time travel.

DOJAR

Not very reassuring, Y'lan. You going to share these thoughts with the Captain?

Y'LAN

I do not believe that I am on "good terms" with the Captain, right now. I do not think that he would wish to see me.

DOJAR

Maybe he won't. But you might be surprised.

Y'LAN

I have been on your vessel for almost a year now, Lieutenant. I almost have all of your reactions worked out. There is very little that surprises me now.

DOJAR

You might be surprised, Y'lan... you might not have seen as nearly as much as you think you have.

Y'LAN

Perhaps not. But if nothing else, it is indeed an intriguing world that you humanoids live in.

DOJAR

Thank you, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

I am unsure as to whether or not that was a compliment.

He smiles, and they both walk away from the casket.

DOJAR

Sounds about right.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR

The figure we saw earlier rounds a corner of a corridor, no one else is present and he walks with his head down.

A figure of solemnity in a sea of solitude.

CUT TO:

INT. STARBASE -- OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Stood near the entrance of the room are Admiral Delfune, Captain Joel and Commander Talora, all looking contemplative.

DELFUNE

Is Captain Cross usually a man for late entrances?

TALORA

If you are implying that the Captain will not be present, I believe that you are very much mistaken, Admiral.

DELFUNE

We'll see. Portman meant a lot to Cross.

TALORA

I have no reason to doubt the Captain's intentions. He requested that this wake take place and reason would suggest that he plans to attend it.

DELFUNE

Human emotion can be a funny thing.

TALORA

I believe that Captain Cross is on top of his emotion.

DELFUNE

Just like when he deviated from the attack plan and took the Enterprise down to the surface? Or how about when he allowed the Klingons on the space station to die? Surely that was simply an act of vengeance?

TALORA

Was the entire mission not an act of vengeance, Admiral?

DELFUNE

It did not involve killing Reformist casualties. You know as well as I do that Cross's actions were impulsive and dangerous. The day he's brought to book, they won't do him any favors.

TALORA

I'm sure that you didn't agonize over Captain Cross's actions... you seem to have quite a tough skin.

DELFUNE

I have, Commander. How else would I live with myself from day to day otherwise? Every Starfleet officer needs one.

TALORA

I understand. Each plan that you have set in motion to attempt to remove Captain Cross from the Enterprise, or set a plan in motion that would result in his removal, have all ended in an embarrassment or a compromise for you.

DELFUNE

What is that supposed to mean?

TALORA

It means, Admiral, that we know what you're doing at Starfleet Command, and that while you are keeping a very close eye on every move Captain Cross makes... we are also keeping a very close eye on you.

DELFUNE

(laughs)
Interesting.

Talora raises an eyebrow at Delfune's response to her speculations.

TALORA

You're not worried about that?

DELFUNE

No, Commander... I just don't care. Who are the rest of the Admiralty going to believe? The controversial Captain Neil Cross and the crew of the Enterprise, or the Admiral that has only one black spot next to her name?

TALORA

That remains to be seen. If history has shown anything, it is never to underestimate the crew of a ship named Enterprise.

DELFUNE

And we wouldn't want to break that tradition... would we?

There is a long beat as both women stand contemplating, apparently totally different thoughts passing each woman's mind.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

I will say this for Captain Cross; he has followed his mentor's trait of not playing by the rules.

TALORA

How so?

DELFUNE

Admiral Portman was always somewhat of a controversial character. He supported the Reformists, he liked to be out on active duty even as an Admiral... and he supported Neil Cross.

Talora pauses, and turns to look at Delfune, looking quite infuriated.

TALORA

I cannot believe that you are comparing one of the finest, bravest, most honorable men I've ever had the pleasure of knowing to a group of evil power hungry Klingons who destroyed one of Starfleet's starbase's and its entire crew. You, whom with every move are removing the values for what Starfleet has stood for, for almost three centuries. To be quite honest, Admiral, I do not believe that you have the right.

Delfune looks quite surprised at Talora's loyalty towards her, Captain, it was not what she was expecting.

DELFUNE

Loyalty is such a rare thing nowadays, it's almost... admirable. But I will give you one piece of advice, Commander. Captain Cross showed today he is not above putting his entire crew at risk to fulfill some personal crusade. Be careful around him. I don't think he's completely stable.

Talora just looks at her, knowing there is an element of truth in what she says.

At this point the doors part and the room falls silent, as the camera cuts back to behind the doors, as the figure in the black suit walks in.

As the figure walks towards the center of the room, the camera slowly moves around until we can see that the figure is none other than CROSS. He stands tall and dignified, and is a stark comparison to everyone else in the room wearing dress uniforms.

Cross stands alone, silent, for a few moments, half expecting someone to say something to him. But nothing comes. He looks out of the window and at the Enterprise, before moving his head back.

CROSS

I'd like to say a few words, if I may.

There is still no noise, no objections, and everyone stands with their eyes intent on Cross. Cross himself only looks at those he believes that he can trust, making eye contact with his senior staff, notably not Y'lan, before turning around to look at Portman's casket as he reaches the eulogy's conclusion.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I knew Henry Portman for a long time.

(beat)

He's been one of those people who's always been there for me, no matter what.

(smiles)

Henry was the man who told me to take hold of everything that life has to offer. He was the man who gave me command of a fine starship and trusted me when no one else would.

(more serious)

And he was also the man who introduced me to my wife... I learned a lot from Henry Portman... he had a heavy influence on my command style, and my decision making, he helped shape my conscience. I believe that any mistakes that I still have now... are just what he hadn't gotten around to rectifying yet...

(beat)

I'm proud to have been able to call this man my friend, and even more so, my mentor.

(beat)

Losing a mentor is one of the greatest challenges you ever face.

(MORE)

CROSS (CONT'D)

It's the moment we finally have to stand on our own two feet, the moment our support leaves us. I think he's prepared me, and all of us, well. I think he'd like us to think this of him, some thoughts on death that I found. It says:

Throughout the poem, Cross should look strong, but still somehow broken. That he'd like to believe what the poem is saying, but still knows that he is going to miss his friend. The words themselves are by Henry Scott Holland, a Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral.

CROSS (CONT'D)

"Death is nothing at all, I have only slipped away into the next room, I am I and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, That we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name,
Speak to me in the easy way which
you always used. Put no difference
in your tone, Wear no forced air of
solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we
always laughed at the little jokes
we enjoyed together, Pray, smile,
think of me. Pray for me.

Let my name be the house hold word
that it always was, Let it be spoken
without effect, Without the trace of
a shadow on it. Life means all that
it ever meant, It is the same as it
ever was; There is unbroken
continuity.

Why should I be out of mind because
I am out of sight? I am waiting for
you, for an interval, somewhere very
near, Just round the corner.

All is well."

Cross bows his head as he turns to look at the casket. He closes his eyes, hiding the one show of emotion that we have seen since he has gotten there.

CROSS (CONT'D)

(quietly and solitary)
You've been like a father to me.
I'm going to miss you.

He rests his hand on the casket, before turning around, semi-recovered from the emotion he briefly shared with the casket.

CROSS (CONT'D)

(quietly, but defined)

I'd like to propose a toast...

(beat)

To Henry Portman. To the finest officer I've ever known. To my mentor. And to my friend.

With that they all raise their glasses.

ALL

To Henry Portman.

As they drink their toast we slowly pan out from the scene as Elris's voiceover is heard.

ELRIS (V.O.)

This is not the end of our story, but merely the beginning. The Captain said the crew of the Enterprise has already faced many dangers, many obstacles, but we know that they are but the tip of the iceberg. Big changes are coming, and with them new perils and new threats to our way of life. Whether they be from the Klingons, the Q'tami, or even those who profess now to be our friends, the only thing we truly know about the undiscovered country is that we know nothing at all. And the worst of those dangers we face, the ones that in the end are the only ones to have the power to destroy us, are those that we face within ourselves, our own personal demons. The hardest fought battles that lie ahead are those for our hearts, and for our souls. It is how we face up to these challenges, and whether we can dig deep within ourselves and find the courage and resolve needed to overcome them, that will ultimately decide our destiny.

We finish on a close up on Cross's face, as he drinks his toast and we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE WILL RETURN ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2002.