

**STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE**

**"Delfune"**

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- CONFERENCE HALL

Rather like the US Senate, with rows of circular benches facing towards a large podium. Today the conference hall is filled with a mixture of Klingons, noticeably split into two groups on either side of the conference hall, and some Starfleet officials, sitting in between them. They are all talking and gesturing and there is a lot of activity. This all settles down immediately, however, as a figure steps up to the podium and taps the dais. They all fall silent and listen to what ADMIRAL DELFUNE has to say.

DELFUNE

Chancellor, Captain Klarg, members of Starfleet. Today we face a challenge, a challenge whose outcome could profoundly affect each and every one of our lives. We stand on a precipice, looking down into an abyss. If we are not careful, we will fall in, perhaps never to emerge. But I believe that here, today, we can step back. Step back from a conflict that has escalated beyond our control. The Klingons are known as a warrior race, but I cannot believe they wish to be at war with themselves. That aspect of their culture is one that I believe, if they will forgive me for being so presumptuous in suggesting, belongs in their past. We are here today to make sure it does not belong in their future. For Starfleet, this matter...

As she continues to talk, the camera pans round to the back of the hall, where LEWIS CARTER, journalist extraordinaire, speaks directly to camera. He whispers as he delivers his piece, as he doesn't want to disturb the delegates.

CARTER

I am speaking to you today live from inside Starfleet Headquarters, bastion of the great and good Starfleet. It is here, within these hallowed walls, that the great and the good, and sometimes even the not-so-great and not-so good, come to debate, argue, and ultimately agree on how it is best to run our lives.

(beat)

Today is no exception.

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

The Klingon Civil War has, in the past, not been of much interest to us. That all changed on ten weeks ago when a group of Reformists attacked and destroyed a Federation starbase. Starfleet's response was controversial, leading a swift and brutal attack on a Klingon colony. Now the Reformists are threatening further reprisals. In a bid to avert further Federation deaths, an emergency conference has been called by the Federation Council to try and agree a resolution. Leading the Starfleet delegates is the Admiral speaking now, Elizabeth Delfune. Delfune has risen swiftly through the ranks to become one of Starfleet's most prominent personages, but she remains at best an enigmatic figure, little known outside her chosen profession.

(beat)

This week on "Carter Investigates," I have been given exclusive access to follow her around for a day, during this conference, to find out more about this elusive character. What are her politics? What is her goal? What exactly is it that makes her tick? I hope to discover the answers to these questions and more as, once again, "Carter Investigates"...

He turns back and watches Delfune speaking as we cut to a very different opening sequence to the one we're used to -- the opening sequence of "Carter Investigates"...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- MORNING

A glorious shot of the sun rising over San Francisco Bay.

CARTER (V.O.)

Five AM. The day has not yet started for the majority of us, but for Elizabeth Delfune it is already half an hour old.

EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- RUNNING TRACK -- MORNING

We see a figure, Delfune, running around the track.

CARTER (V.O.)

Every morning starts the same, with a twenty minute workout, including completing ten laps of Starfleet's running track. Not bad for a woman just turned sixty five.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

Delfune is seated on her chair, facing Carter who is out of shot.

DELFUNE

It helps me to collect my thoughts, think about the day ahead. Clears the head.

CARTER (O.S.)

And keeps you healthy.

DELFUNE

But of course. My father always said a healthy body leads to a healthy mind. Which is true.

CARTER (O.S.)

He sounds a wise man.

DELFUNE

He was.

CARTER (O.S.)

He's no longer with us, though?

DELFUNE

Sadly not, he died when I was a teenager.

CARTER (O.S.)

Hold old was he?

DELFUNE

Fifty-five.

CARTER (O.S.)

I see. Did he not have a healthy mind?

Delfune looks at him.

CUT TO:

EXT. NURSING HOME -- DAY

The home is ultra-modern, and looks a little sterile. A pair of large iron-wrought gates keep people out, or in. We see Carter entering them and approaching the door as we hear him speak.

CARTER (V.O.)

Elizabeth speaks a lot about her father, and I sense he was an immensely important person to her. I've traveled to San Francisco Bay Nursing Home to speak to the person who knew him best -- Patricia Delfune, Elizabeth's mother.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSING HOME -- SITTING ROOM -- DAY

Carter approaches PATRICIA, who is an elderly woman, sitting looking out of the window.

CARTER

Patrica Delfune?

She looks up.

CARTER (CONT'D)

My name is Lewis Carter, we spoke on the phone.

PATRICIA

Oh yes, of course.

She starts to stand as she offers her hand.

CARTER

Don't stand up, it's fine.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSING HOME -- SITTING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Headshot of Patricia, in a similar framing to the interview with Delfune, Carter out of shot.

CARTER (O.S.)

Elizabeth speaks very fondly of her father.

PATRICIA

Oh she idolized him. And him her. She was a real daddy's girl. He doted on her, encouraged her, made sure she never lacked for anything. Always there to cheer her on.

CARTER (O.S.)

Cheer her on?

INSERT: FOOTAGE OF THE DELFUNES

Maybe fifty years before. Patricia, ALAN, and two children, a girl, Delfune, and a brother slightly older. The two children are having an egg-and-spoon race.

PATRICIA'S VOICE

Oh Elizabeth was a very competitive child, took after Alan in that way. He always spurred her on. She ran a kilometer in ten minutes, he'd say well done, but next time try for nine minutes.

The race ends with Delfune winning, and Alan grabbing her and putting her on his shoulders.

INT. NURSING ROOM -- SITTING ROOM

As before, headshot of Patricia.

PATRICIA

It's just lucky that Peter, her brother, was so laid back.

CARTER (O.S.)

He didn't mind the favoritism?

PATRICIA

It wasn't favoritism. It was just that Elizabeth and Alan were both sporty, and had that in common, whereas Peter was more like me, the academic of the family.

CUT TO:

EXT. FACTORY COMPLEX

A really grisly, gritty, factory complex that seems to stretch on forever, huge industrial pipes and buildings surround the scene, and if it wasn't the twenty fifth century you'd wonder what noxious chemicals you were breathing in. Patricia is in shot, but Carter is once again out of it.

CARTER (V.O.)

I took Patricia on an outing to see where the old family home had been. The site is now a chemicals factory that supplies half the quadrant with essential supplies.

CARTER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Can you see where the garden was?

Patricia points around.

PATRICIA

You can still see the markings on the concrete. Our house ended here, and the garden stretched out for about fifty meters this way. It was a beautiful garden.

She looks miserably at the camera.

CARTER (O.S.)

How long is it since you've been back here?

PATRICIA

Must be twenty five years. We were moved into another home on the other side of San Francisco when they came here, but it wasn't as nice. And I swore I'd never come.

CARTER (O.S.)

And how do you feel, seeing it now?

Her eyes are swimming.

PATRICIA

It's... hard...

INSERT: FOOTAGE OF THE DELFUNES

More of the same home movie footage as before, cut to match the scene at the factory so we can see where the garden was. The two children are chasing each other now, and the two parents are smiling and laughing.

PATRICIA  
...it would have broken Alan's heart.  
He loved this house...

CUT TO:

EXT. FACTORY COMPLEX

As before, Patricia looking.

PATRICIA  
He always said it was his corner of  
paradise.

And now look at it.

CARTER (O.S.)  
It must be very emotional for you.

She nods, and tears trickle down her face.

PATRICIA  
I'm sorry.

CARTER (O.S.)  
Don't be, it's okay, take a minute.

She wipes her face, as the camera zooms into her face for an extreme close-up.

PATRICIA  
I'm okay.

CARTER (O.S.)  
Are you sure?

PATRICIA  
(nods)  
But it's times like this I realize  
why Elizabeth comes back so rarely.  
She'd get upset.

CARTER (O.S.)  
She doesn't come to see you?

Patricia shakes her head.

PATRICIA  
Not very often.

CARTER  
Does that make you unhappy?

Patricia nods.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

More of the Delfune interview.

DELFUNE

I try and get over to see my mother as much as possible. But it can be difficult.

CARTER (O.S.)

Because she's a long way away?

DELFUNE

She's on the other side of the city.

CARTER (O.S.)

What then?

DELFUNE

There's so much work to do here. This is not a nine to five job you know. I'm sometimes working nineteen, twenty hour days. There's not a lot of time left then.

CARTER (O.S.)

She looks a lot like you, doesn't she?

DELFUNE

She does. Only about thirty years older.

CARTER (O.S.)

Do you ever wonder if that's how you'll be when you reach her age?

Delfune looks at him again.

DELFUNE

How do you mean?

CARTER (O.S.)

Well... we don't get any younger, do we?

DELFUNE

(shortly)

I don't think about that.

CARTER (O.S.)

It's only natural to though. Do you never think about your own mortality?

DELFUNE

Never. Can we move on please?

CARTER (O.S.)

I'm sorry, it's just I assumed with  
all the military action you've seen  
you would have automatically given  
it some thought...

DELFUNE

I don't. Move on.

The camera stays on her for a few moments before we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- CONFERENCE HALL

As in the teaser. Delfune at the podium, the Klingons and Federation personages in the audience.

DELFUNE

The Federation is based on a system of peace and understanding, partnership and cooperation. We are all part of one great body. And as with any body if one of her parts are not functioning properly we all feel it. We all feel it, and we all want to do -- something, to help cure it. Just as a body -- doesn't function as well if a limb is cut off, the Federation doesn't function as well if one of our allies are split by internal conflict. It is our instinct, no, our duty to try and fix that problem. This ailment that afflicts the Klingon people at the present time is one that we feel we must step in and do something about. We can feel your pain, and we want it to stop. And that is what we're here to do today.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

Delfune interview, as before.

CARTER (O.S.)

Why is it so important for the Federation to help the Klingon people?

DELFUNE

The Reformists are spreading their attacks to encompass the Federation at large now.

CARTER (O.S.)

The attack on the starbase?

DELFUNE

The attack on the Starbase. The kidnapping of three Vulcan Ambassadors. The poisoning of the water supply on Deneb 4.

CARTER (O.S.)

But why would they attack these non-Klingon targets?

DELFUNE

They wanted attention to their cause.

CARTER (O.S.)

Which you are now giving them? Is that not giving into terrorism?

DELFUNE

No, it isn't.

CARTER (O.S.)

Why?

DELFUNE

We cannot afford to risk the lives of any more of Starfleet citizens lives. It's as simple as that. Before we saw it simply as an internal matter -- just as we wouldn't want the Klingons interfering in Earth matters, we saw no need to interfere in theirs.

CARTER (O.S.)

In your speech you said that any time a part of the Federation was sick, it was the rest of the body's responsibility to try and make it better.

DELFUNE

So it is.

CARTER (O.S.)

So why did the Reformists need to resort to these desperate means? Were the Klingons not sick enough yet?

DELFUNE

We didn't realize the situation was so bad.

CARTER (O.S.)

Why not? Was the Federation ignoring part of its body? Was it because it was seen as a less important part of the body? Say a toe? Are the Klingons the toes of the Federation?

Delfune suddenly leans forward angrily.

DELFUNE

I was not watching the situation, others were, notably Henry Portman. He made a mistake which cost him his life. You want to ask these sorts of questions, go ask him. It wasn't my job.

CARTER (O.S.)

What is your job?

DELFUNE

My job is to protect the innocent citizens of the Federation, to make sure they are safe and protected at all times, and by God I will do anything to make sure they are. Anything.

She looks firmly at Carter off screen.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL

We see Carter walking into a modern-looking school in a pleasant, leafy area.

CARTER (V.O.)

The Admiral's words had shown a streak of determination that perhaps casual observers might not appreciate. To the outside world, the Admiral is very much a background presence she doesn't court the media, and seems to wish to bring little attention to herself, allowing others a more prominent public persona. I wondered if she had always been like. I went back to her old alma mater, Zefram Cochrane High School, and met up with one of her old teachers, Jonathan Lithgow, who is still working there.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL -- CLASSROOM

We see LITHGOW sitting at a table, writing. Carter walks up to him and he dutifully pretends he wasn't expecting him.

CARTER

Jonathan Lithgow? Lewis Carter.

LITHGOW

Hello.

He stands up and shakes the reporter's hand.

CARTER

You've been good enough to show us  
around the school today.

LITHGOW

I have.

CARTER

Shall we go then?

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL -- CORRIDOR

Lithgow walks along, and Carter has retreated behind the  
camera again.

LITHGOW

Along here, this was her locker. I  
looked it up on the computer. Always  
a very tidy girl, whenever we had  
random inspections hers was always  
neat.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL -- ANOTHER CLASSROOM

Lithgow leads the camera in.

LITHGOW

She sat in the final year, the year  
I taught her. Academically brilliant  
in my subject, physics. Very bright,  
but also rather diffident.

CARTER (O.S.)

Yes, she never showed much interest  
in what we were doing. As though it  
was beneath her. Why was that, do  
you think?

LITHGOW

Maybe it just didn't interest her.

CARTER (O.S.)

Was it not the teacher's duty to try  
and interest a pupil?

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL -- GYMNASIUM

Lithgow leads the camera in.

LITHGOW

She wasn't the best at sports, but she always gave her best. Very competitive. Made sure she got into teams through sheer hard work.

CARTER (O.S.)

Her sport was Parisses Squares, wasn't it?

LITHGOW

That's right.

INSERT: OLD HOME MOVIE FOOTAGE

Young Delfune playing a match with the team.

CARTER (V.O.)

Elizabeth was in the school team for the last two years she was at Zefram Cochrane. Here she can be seen playing with her team, in the process of defeating the San Francisco Academy team.

The camera turns and focuses on ALAN, sitting in the crowd cheering.

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

Alan was an enthusiastic and proud supporter of his daughter, always attending matches. Sadly, this was to be the last time he was to see Elizabeth play. Less than a week after this film was shot, he collapsed and died of a heart attack.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSING HOME -- SITTING ROOM

Patricia being interviewed, as before.

PATRICIA

Of course, it was a terrible shock to all of us, but particularly to Elizabeth. She worshipped her father, just as he worshipped her. She took his death particularly badly.

CARTER (O.S.)

Did she cry?

PATRICIA

Of course she cried.

CARTER (O.S.)

What affect did it have on her, do you think, in the long term?

Patricia stops and thinks for a few moments.

PATRICIA

She... had lost her motivation. Whereas before Alan would always be there, pushing her on, spurring her on to bigger and better things, now she didn't. And she needed it really, she needed her father to see her achieving things, otherwise she didn't really see the point.

CARTER (O.S.)

One of the most important roles of a parent is to inspire their children.

PATRICIA

Exactly.

CARTER (O.S.)

Did you inspire her?

PATRICIA

(hesitates)  
I tried.

CARTER (O.S.)

But you didn't?

PATRICIA

I wasn't her father you see.

CARTER (O.S.)

You were her mother.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS

The main lawn in front of the reception building. Carter is doing a piece to camera as various people wander by in the background.

CARTER

Alan had always spoke to Elizabeth about the great Starfleet, and had always hoped she would enroll there. Although he was no longer there, Elizabeth kept her promise and did so on graduating, a graduation which had, I am sure, lost part of its meaning for her.

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

Her years spent studying here do not  
bring back happy memories.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

Delfune being interviewed as before.

DELFUNE

I hated it.

(she smiles grimly)

I hated everything about it. I thought  
that Starfleet as an organization  
had become so obsessed with protocol  
and being seen to do the right thing  
that they had lost sight of the things  
that really matter.

CARTER (O.S.)

For example?

DELFUNE

For example, their non-interference  
policy. Look at Bajor. Millions  
dead through the occupation, and  
what did Starfleet do about it?  
Nothing. "Not our place to  
interfere," they said. Any fool  
could have seen there would be  
disastrous consequences.

CARTER (O.S.)

The Bajoran dead?

DELFUNE

The Dominion War. Never mind the  
Bajoran dead, Starfleet lost millions.  
If the Cardassians had not joined  
the Dominion there wouldn't have  
been anything like the number of  
casualties we suffered. And they  
only joined the Dominion because  
they were weak after leaving Bajor.  
If they'd been forced to leave twenty  
years earlier we wouldn't have had  
the trouble.

CARTER (O.S.)

If Starfleet had forced the  
Cardassians out earlier, would they  
not have been weak still?

DELFUNE

They would have been weaker.

(MORE)

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

They wouldn't have been able to join a tennis club, let alone the Dominion.

CARTER (O.S.)

Some would say that sounded like Fascism.

DELFUNE

The ends would have justified the means. We always knew Cardassia was a potential threat. And, to mix metaphors, a threat is always at its most aggressive when it's cornered. However, Starfleet disagreed with my quote-on-quote "radical" ideas, and thus we clashed. It was a relief to get out of there and onto a starship.

CARTER (O.S.)

Surely you encountered more of the same attitudes then?

DELFUNE

Yes, but I was no longer in a position to make my voice heard, and I welcomed it. I knew would never have the majority view, and I was content with that. I had no craving for power, because I knew it would never be the power I wanted.

CARTER (O.S.)

Starfleet being too much of a democracy for your liking?

DELFUNE

(wryly smiles)  
Sometimes.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACEDOCK

The camera shows the USS ANTIETAM hanging in dock. It is now looking a little old fashioned.

CARTER (V.O.)

Elizabeth was assigned to the USS Antietam, under Captain Farnam, which was an engineering vessel. A dull ship was, it would seem, something the disenfranchised Ensign was perfectly happy to be aboard.

(MORE)

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

At that time she would have been perfectly happy to carry out her commission fixing Starbases and tinkering with ships, hidden away and unnoticed. But war was looming, and with it an incident that was to change Ensign Delfune's life forever, an incident which at the time sparked rumor and innuendo, and to this day has never been satisfactorily explained...

On this comment, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- CONFERENCE HALL

As before, Delfune at the podium, the delegates listening to her.

DELFUNE

The attack on the Starbase came as a massive blow to Starfleet. We all lost people close to us. For some, it seemed to show that a policy of zero toleration was the policy worth pursuing. However, this was a response dictated not by rational thought but by emotion, a reaction of the heart, not the head. Starfleet showed herself to be as emotive and, yes, irrational as the people who perpetrated the attack in the first place. Just because we were hurt, it was not a license to hurt back. Our attack on Coular was wrong, and I hereby offer the Klingon people attacked there our fullest apologies.

A round of APPLAUSE from some delegates, notably one side of the Klingons.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

We had become as guilty and corruptible as the terrorists themselves. While we cannot recover the lives of those who died on Coular, we can make amends. As I am sure you know, we held an extensive inquiry into the affair, an inquiry that found those who were at fault and made sure they were punished. Never again will the good name of Starfleet be sullied in that way. And so I say now to the Reformists -- we've dealt with our extremists. Are you ready to deal with yours? Because only if you show that you are, can this conference hope to achieve any measure of success. I am informed by the Chancellor that there is no Klingon word for compromise...

A small ripple of laughter from all there, Klingons and Starfleet members alike.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

Well, I think it's time to rewrite  
the Klingon dictionary.

A round of APPLAUSE, this time from all present. The sound  
on her microphone dies away as Carter (O.S.) intrudes...

CARTER (V.O.)

On the platform Elizabeth Delfune is  
an impressive figure, collected and  
composed, the calm in the center of  
a very big storm. It was a very  
different persona to the one in  
private that I saw this morning, as  
she prepared for the delegates to  
arrive.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- RECEPTION HALL

A large Klingon buffet is being prepared. Various  
indescribable dishes are being laid out by various waitresses,  
all trying with difficulty not to gag in the gagh. Delfune  
moves amongst them, checking.

DELFUNE

Jo, check the raktajino is brewing,  
will you? The Klingons hate late  
coffee.

The waitress nods and moves off. Carter speaks to her from  
behind the camera as she moves around the tables.

CARTER (O.S.)

How are things going?

DELFUNE

Hectically, as always. No matter  
how much you prepare beforehand,  
things always seem to be rushed at  
the end.

CARTER (O.S.)

Do you enjoy these occasions?

DELFUNE

Not at all. Too much at stake, and  
too many extraneous factors.

CARTER (O.S.)

Extraneous factors? Like the coffee?

DELFUNE

Extraneous factors like the fact I  
don't know what the attitudes of the

(MORE)

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

two Klingon factions will be today. They'll both come with their own agendas. They're a temperamental lot, and very unpredictable.

CARTER (O.S.)

You don't like people being unpredictable?

DELFUNE

Not at all. I like being thoroughly prepared beforehand, so we can ensure the best outcomes for all involved.

CARTER (O.S.)

You prefer being the puppet master to a participant in the audience?

Delfune looks at him.

DELFUNE

I have not been in the audience for quite a number of years.

CARTER (O.S.)

Was the last time you were, would you say, on the USS Antietam? In the audience, I mean. As you had no responsibilities there.

DELFUNE

I preferred being there as I knew I was in control of my own life then. It was ordered, exactly how I liked it.

CARTER (O.S.)

Even at the Bremin Pass?

Delfune looks at him sharply.

DELFUNE

I told you before, I was not willing to discuss that matter, either on or off camera.

(beat)

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have some paperwork to read up on.

She walks away from the camera, which zooms in on her tense face as she walks out.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARFLEET MUSEUM

Carter does a piece to camera in front of the museum building.

CARTER

Elizabeth's refusal to talk about the Bremin Pass Incident is well known. In fact, it is very difficult to get anybody who was involved in the event to talk about it at all. Outside of Starfleet's four walls, it has been a talking point for nearly thirty years, becoming a legend, almost a myth, in its own lifetime. I have come here, to Starfleet's own museum, to see if I could separate fact from fiction.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET MUSEUM -- EXHIBIT ROOM

We follow STANLEY MORRIS, a historian, as he silently points out various artifacts the Museum displays -- old starship models, uniforms, etc.

CARTER (V.O.)

Stanley Morris is curator here at the museum. Denied a place in Starfleet thanks to a chronic lung condition, he has dedicated his life to collecting and documenting Starfleet history and memorabilia. He holds exhibitions all around the world, where Starfleet enthusiasts and wannabes gather, sometimes dressed in uniform, and discuss old missions and ships. He even occasionally persuades members of the more famous crews to come along and take part in question and answer sessions, and to sign autographs. If anyone outside the rank and file of Starfleet knows about Bremin Pass, it is him. I asked him what he thought had happened.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET MUSEUM -- OFFICE

Stanley being interviewed, similarly to Delfune's -- Carter behind the camera.

STANLEY

No idea.

He chuckles. There is a short pause.

CARTER (O.S.)

You must have some ideas.

STANLEY

None. And do you know something? I don't want to know. Some things are better left undiscovered if you ask me.

CARTER (O.S.)

Why do you say that?

STANLEY

It's just what I think.

CARTER (O.S.)

So you have thought about it? It would only be natural to have formed some theory about it.

STANLEY

No.

CARTER (O.S.)

Have you ever spoken to someone onboard the Antietam? Say, Elizabeth Delfune, for example?

STANLEY

Never. I wouldn't dare.

CARTER (O.S.)

Can you tell us, then, what you do know about what happened?

STANLEY

Yes...

INSERT: STOCK FOOTAGE

We see some visuals of an area of space, with a number of Federation ships flying about.

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

Bremin Pass was one of the key points during the Dominion War. It was a bottleneck, surrounded by various Nebulae, that was a short cut between the Cardassian Empire and Federation Space.

(MORE)

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

We had a tenuous hold on it, but were always under attack from the Jem'Hadar. There were about eight military vessels always stationed there, and a number of support ships. The USS Antietam got its first posting there.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDENS

AMBASSADOR LADEDA sits, exactly as Delfune and Stanley did, being interviewed, in a pleasant garden. Carter behind the camera.

LADEDA

We were all quite nervous, I remember, when we heard that's where we were going -- the Bremin Pass was notorious for its high casualty rate.

(beat)

However, the first two months of duty there, we had nothing to do -- we'd just missed an assault, about a week before we arrived, and it seemed the Jem'Hadar were busy licking their wounds. It was actually quite a boring post.

He chuckles.

EXT. GARDENS -- LATER

Carter and Ladedda walk through the grounds talking. CARTER does a voice-over.

CARTER (V.O.)

Niall Ladedda is an Ambassador with the Vulcans, but served on the Antietam as a junior officer. He grew to know Elizabeth well.

EXT. GARDENS -- LATER

As before.

CARTER (O.S.)

What are your memories of Elizabeth Delfune those first couple of months?

LADEDA

To most people she was seen as not very sociable.

(MORE)

LADEDA (CONT'D)

Kept herself to herself, wasn't often out of her quarters when not on duty. I only struck up a friendship with her because we were working on the same system on the ship, installing gel packs. Very tedious work it was.

CARTER (O.S.)

I've read other's accounts that she was an ice queen?

LADEDA

She did have a bit of that about her.

CARTER (O.S.)

Did you melt her?

LADEDA

Excuse me?

CARTER (O.S.)

Did your relationship... develop into anything?

LADEDA

(stiffly)

Not at all. I suppose you could say there was a brief flirtation, but nothing more.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET MUSEUM -- OFFICE

Stanley and Carter are looking at a console screen.

CARTER (V.O.)

While I was at the Museum, Stanley Morris showed me a log book by the Chief Engineer that suggests the Ambassador was not being entirely honest about the nature of his friendship with Elizabeth.

CARTER (CONT'D)

(reading from the log)

Ladeda and Delfune came in together again this morning, late by fifteen minutes. People are beginning to talk.

(turns to Stanley)

What do you think that means?

STANLEY

I think they banging like rabbits  
myself.

CARTER

Why do you think that?

STANLEY

Ladeda told me. He did a signing  
for us a few years back. Nice fellow,  
liked his Romulan Ale. I've got a  
photo of him here, somewhere...

Stanley begins to access the database...

CARTER (V.O.)

Sadly, the romance was not to last...

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDENS

The interview with Ladeda, as before.

LADEDA

After two months, I'd have enough,  
and asked to be transferred. Because  
of my knowledge of gel pack  
installation, I was given a job on  
the Exeter, one of the front line  
ships.

CARTER (O.S.)

Was Elizabeth sorry to see you go?

LADEDA

Of course she was, I was one of her  
few friends. But she understood, as  
well -- it was war time, and people  
have to live with these things.

CARTER (O.S.)

So she wasn't upset?

LADEDA

Not greatly, no.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNNE'S OFFICE

Delfune being interviewed, as before.

DELFUNE

(hesitantly, carefully  
choosing her words)  
I... felt betrayed.

CARTER (O.S.)

In what way?

DELFUNE

That he had not told me of his intentions. He did not mention the fact he had requested a transfer until it came through.

CARTER (O.S.)

What did you say to him when you did eventually meet up again?

DELFUNE

I haven't spoken to him since the day he left the Antietam.

CARTER (O.S.)

Not at all?

DELFUNE

No. Why would I?

CARTER (O.S.)

And how did you cope at the time?

DELFUNE

I didn't need to cope. I didn't have that much invested in our friendship.

CARTER (O.S.)

And I suppose the Incident happening barely a week later proved a good distraction too?

DELFUNE

(very coldly)

Quite.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET MUSEUM -- OFFICE

As before. Stanley tells the story with a real glint in his eye, with relish.

STANLEY

The Jem'Hadar attacked, suddenly. No warning at all, took the Pass completely by surprise. Luckily, the ships there had had two months off, so were sporting for a fight. They gave them a good pasting.

(MORE)

STANLEY (CONT'D)

Unfortunately, Captain Charles, of the USS Venture, got a little too carried away. As the remaining Jem'Hadar retreated back into the nebula, he gave pursuit.

CARTER (O.S.)

And what happened?

STANLEY

He was ambushed. The Jems were determined to get at least one scalp. Fortunately they didn't manage it, the USS Danube came to its aid. Gave it a hell of a bashing, though, left it dead in the water, drifting in the nebula.

CARTER (O.S.)

So the Antietam was called in?

STANLEY

That's right, emergency repairs. They didn't know how long they had until the Jems returned. They worked round the clock, and the Venture was able to get moving within twelve hours. They turned and started back to the Pass.

CARTER (O.S.)

And then it happened.

STANLEY

And then it happened.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLODECK

Carter standing in the center of an inactive holodeck. He delivers a piece to camera.

CARTER

What "it" was, though, is anyone's guess. This is a recreation from sensor logs that were recorded at the time and subsequently leaked, by a person or persons unknown to this day.

EXT. SPACE -- BREMIN PASS (HOLODECK)

The holodeck shimmers into a nebula. We see the USS VENTURE and USS ANTIETAM turn -- the Venture goes to warp speed, the

Antietam looks to follow, disappearing briefly behind a nebula cloud. It doesn't reappear.

CARTER

The Venture went into warp, and the Antietam prepared to follow. It disappeared behind this nebula cloud and by rights should have reappeared a moment later... only it didn't.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET MUSEUM -- OFFICE

Carter and Stanley, as before.

STANLEY

Poof. Just vanished off sensors. Just like that. No contact, no warning, nothing. Extraordinary.

CARTER (O.S.)

What did the Venture do?

STANLEY

They thought the Jems had returned in a sneak attack. They couldn't return as they were still damaged, but they signaled three other ships to go and investigate.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE -- BREMIN PASS (HOLODECK)

As before. Carter standing in the middle of the nebula. We see three other ships appearing. Carter addresses the camera again.

CARTER

The ships arrived within twelve minutes of the Antietam's disappearance, but could find no trace of what had happened to her. Even more bizarrely, they couldn't even find her warp trail, the snail's trail every vessel leaves. It was as though the Antietam had never been there at all.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET MUSEUM -- OFFICE

Carter and Stanley, as before.

STANLEY

The ships had no choice but to return to the Pass and report the Antietam lost in action.

CARTER (O.S.)

And then?

STANLEY

And then, forty-eight hours later, it reappeared. Came out of the bottleneck into the pass on quarter impulse drive.

CARTER (O.S.)

Quarter impulse? Had she been damaged?

STANLEY

That was the thing. There was not a scratch on her. She was as good as new. Better than new, in fact.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE -- BREMIN PASS (HOLODECK)

As before. Carter addresses the camera.

CARTER

Just as the Antietam had disappeared from sensors, she reappeared.

He looks, and the ship reappears in front of him.

CARTER (CONT'D)

These sensor readings are all the evidence the public have to work out what happened.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET MUSEUM -- OFFICE

As before.

CARTER (O.S.)

What happened then?

STANLEY

The ship and crew were immediately called back to earth for an inquiry.

CARTER (O.S.)

Which the public weren't allowed into?

STANLEY

Which the public weren't allowed  
into.

INSERT: STOCK FOOTAGE

We see the crew of the Antietam, including ENSIGN DELFUNE, being escorted hurriedly through a pack of journalists and into a Starfleet building. They have a glazed, ghostly expression about them -- they don't seem to be seeing events around them -- and are deathly pale.

CARTER (V.O.)

The Starfleet inquiry lasted a total  
of twelve days, with a complete media  
blackout.

(beat)

The ruling was never released and  
shortly afterwards the crew were  
split up and sent to different  
commissions. The Antietam herself  
was dismantled and her parts melted  
down. To this day no one knows where  
the ship went or what happened to  
it.

EXT. GARDENS

Ladedda, as before.

CARTER (O.S.)

What do you think happened to the  
Antietam?

Ladedda blows out his cheeks, and shrugs with a grin on his  
face.

LADEDA

Who knows? The Q? The Borg? No  
idea.

CARTER (O.S.)

If it was either of those two, why  
cover it up?

LADEDA

I have no idea. Why don't you ask  
Elizabeth?

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

Delfune's interview, as before.

CARTER (O.S.)

I have to ask you, and I know what  
you will say, but it is for the  
documentary to see you saying it.

(beat)

What happened at Bremin Pass?

DELFUNE

I told you I will not discuss it.

CARTER (O.S.)

Will you ever reveal what happened?

DELFUNE

(very firmly)

No. I won't.

Hold on her face as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- CONFERENCE HALL

It's Delfune's speech again, same audience as before.

DELFUNE

In the past decade the increase of hostility among the Klingon people has saddened us all. No one likes to see what we have seen. Both sides have committed acts, believing that their diametrically opposed viewpoints are correct. It would appear there is no mid-ground. It is our job today to tell the quadrant that is not so. There is always mid-ground. There is always room for compromise. No situation is irredeemable. I will say that again: No situation is irredeemable.

A round of applause.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

Everyone will have to give ground today. Everyone will have to sacrifice a part of what they want for the greater good. And, make no mistake about it, this is for the greater good. On that part at least, I think, we can all agree.

Her voice dims and we get another Carter voice over.

CARTER (V.O.)

That might be so, but the Klingons are not known for their tact. The challenge for Elizabeth Delfune and the other delegates was huge, as soon became clear at the reception.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- CORRIDOR

Carter walking along it, and addresses the camera as he does so.

CARTER

I've just heard that the two factions have arrived and are in the reception hall now.

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

I'm going in now to have a look to see how it's going -- hopefully not too much blood's been split...

He opens the door into...

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- RECEPTION HALL -- CONTINUOUS

Carter walks in. There is silence inside -- on one side of the room one group of Klingons stand staring balefully at the other group of Klingons on the other side of the room. The Starfleet delegates stand looking a little unsure of what to do. Carter looks around and spots Delfune standing.

CARTER

(to camera)

Let's see if we can get a quick word with the Admiral.

He walks up to Delfune, who looks less than pleased to see him.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Elizabeth, hi.

DELFUNE

(coldly)

Mister Carter.

CARTER

So, Admiral, tell me, how do you think it's going so far?

Delfune glares at him.

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

Earlier, Elizabeth had told me how important these preliminary events are.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

The Delfune interview, as before.

DELFUNE

Half the negotiations that go on don't happen during the official meetings in a conference like this. More often than not agreements are made over the canapés, or the post-prandial brandies.

She smiles at him.

CARTER (O.S.)

Or in this case the blood wine?

DELFUNE

Indeed, in this case the blood wine.

CARTER

Tell me, I've always wondered -- is blood wine really blood?

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- RECEPTION HALL

As before, Delfune with Carter.

CARTER

Earlier you told me how important these moments were before the actual conference. What effect do you think this particular event will have on the outcome of the conference?

DELFUNE

(sharply)

They'll know what they all look like. Now, if you'll excuse me...

She walks away from Carter. As the camera watches her go, Carter does a voice over.

CARTER (V.O.)

You might wonder where Elizabeth Delfune's legendary negotiating skills came from. As we've seen, on the Antietam she was perfectly happy to lay low and not be noticed. But the Bremin Pass Incident changed all that. Elizabeth was profoundly changed by it, and returned to Spacedock a whole new woman.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSING ROOM -- SITTING ROOM

The Patricia interview, as before.

CARTER (O.S.)

When did you first notice the change in Elizabeth?

PATRICIA

Oh, the first time she came back from the Antietam, definitely.

CARTER (O.S.)

In what way was she different?

PATRICIA

More confident. It was although she had suddenly woken up from a long sleep. She had a glint in her eye I hadn't seen for many years.

CARTER (O.S.)

When did you last see that glint?

PATRICIA

Oh, before her father died. I remember the first time she came to visit me after the Antietam, she said to me, "I'm going to do something. Something Dad would be proud of."

CARTER (O.S.)

What do you think she meant when she said that?

PATRICIA

Well, it's obvious isn't it? The way she rose through the ranks so quickly afterwards. A new lease of life, that's what she had.

CARTER (O.S.)

Did she ever tell you why she had changed so much?

PATRICIA

Never.

CARTER (O.S.)

What do you think happened to her?

PATRICIA

I have no idea, but I thank God each and every day for whatever it was.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS

Carter does a piece to camera.

CARTER

As Patricia said, following Bremin Pass, Elizabeth's rise through the ranks was quick, meteoric almost.

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

She served on some of the most famous ships of the time -- the Excelsior, the Stewart, the Enterprise-F, on which she served as First Officer under Captain James Winter, before getting her own command, the Enterprise's sister ship, the Caesar. Everyone who came in contact with her were saying the same thing: she was a future star in the making. Big things were being said about her. But she also split opinion -- some said she was cold and calculating, almost ruthless. Those who served under her on the Caesar found her a tough taskmaster and she lost her original First Officer through what was officially described as "a personality clash." However, she also inspired a huge amount of loyalty among her fans. I spoke to her then science officer, now Captain of the starship London, Keith Hinton.

CUT TO:

INT. LONDON -- BRIDGE

HINTON sits in the captain's chair. Although not stern as such, he does have the air of a Vulcan about him, very exact.

HINTON

She inspired a tremendous amount of loyalty amongst us. She had a ferocious temper, but we knew she only ever got cross because she was worried about us. We knew she would die for us, and we'd die for her. She would have done anything for us, to make sure we got back in one piece. And that's why we loved her.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS

Carter continues his piece to camera.

CARTER

For the first year of its life the Caesar had little enough to deal with -- certainly nothing to make the crew think they wouldn't return in one piece. However, all that was to change very swiftly.

INSERT: STOCK FOOTAGE

Various images of SPACE BATTLES, pictures of war wounded etc.

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

The Sheliak War started over a spatial anomaly and ended up costing the quadrant over a billion lives. A spatial anomaly had moved the Tellar System into Sheliak space, which the Sheliaks promptly decided to colonize. Starfleet had a different opinion on the system's future, and were forced into a conflict. The war was to last for eight years.

CUT TO:

INT. LONDON -- BRIDGE

Hinton, as before.

HINTON

At first we were not on the front, we were not primarily a military vessel. And we weren't meant to be involved at all, but I think the Captain was a little frustrated we were not contributing, as it were, as much as she felt we were able to to the progress of the war.

CARTER (O.S.)

So what did the Caesar contribute in the end?

HINTON

I think the record speaks for itself. I think the Captain's record speaks for itself.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

Delfune being interviewed as before.

CARTER (O.S.)

Your reputation was sealed during the Sheliak War.

DELFUNE

A reputation is a constantly changing thing. I wouldn't say it could ever be sealed.

CARTER (O.S.)

You made your name then. You were involved in some crushing victories.

DELFUNE

We did our bit.

CARTER (O.S.)

The Caesar was named as one of the five most influential vessels in the conflict.

DELFUNE

It was.

CARTER (O.S.)

That must have made you very proud.

DELFUNE

I had a sense of satisfaction.

CARTER (O.S.)

Some personal glory, too?

DELFUNE

No. I never try and draw attention to myself.

CARTER (O.S.)

You must have killed a lot of Sheliaks though?

DELFUNE

We must have done.

CARTER (O.S.)

Would you say you were quite ruthless then?

DELFUNE

We had to be. We were at war. We had to win. That's all there was to it.

CUT TO:

INT. LONDON -- BRIDGE

As before, Captain Hinton being interviewed.

HINTON

She became so well known the Sheliaks even had a name for her. Unpronounceable, but I believe the translation was not very flattering.

CARTER (O.S.)

And then came the crowning glory,  
New Istanbul.

HINTON

The crowning glory.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- GROUNDS

Carter walks through the lush grounds as he does his piece to camera.

CARTER

New Istanbul was a Federation planet near to the Sheliak border, seized in an early offensive. After a long and protracted series of conflicts across that sector, the seizure of the Sheliak system Tau Cynga made New Istanbul one of only two Federation solar systems held by the Sheliak, the other being Minzara. It was to be the arena for the final battle of the Sheliak War. In one corner, legendary Sheliak General Snhol and his troops, in the other, the largest assembly of Federation starships since the end of the Dominion War. It was time to end the war once and for all.

CUT TO:

INT. LONDON -- BRIDGE

Hinton as before, being interviewed.

HINTON

We were not initially meant to be involved, but we couldn't not be there. What clinched it was the fact the Enterprise, the Captain's old ship, was leading the vanguard. She said the chance to fight alongside her old ship was one she was not going to turn down. She wanted to watch its back.

CARTER (O.S.)

Another example of her loyalty?

HINTON

Absolutely.

CARTER (O.S.)  
And what happened?

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

Delfune being interviewed, as before.

DELFUNE  
The Sheliaks were defeated. However, being Sheliaks, they refused to surrender, preferring to fight until every last one of them was dead. Snhol's ship was one of the last -- it was a medium-sized cruiser. What we didn't know was it was laced with explosives. When Snhol saw the game was up, he decided to make one last gesture.

CARTER (O.S.)  
Ram the Enterprise?

DELFUNE  
To ram the Enterprise. What better way to go out as a martyr to your cause than to take out the enemy's flagship at the same time?

CUT TO:

INT. LONDON -- BRIDGE

Captain Hinton being interviewed as before.

HINTON  
She had to react in a split second when she saw what was happening. The Enterprise was heavily damaged and couldn't move a whisker. And we couldn't blow her up as she was already too close.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE (HOLODECK)

Carter walks through many small starships, in the middle of an enormous battle.

CARTER  
Elizabeth's solution was original and ingenious. Here you can see the three ships, the Enterprise, the Caesar, and Snhol's ship. We now play at slow motion what happened...

The Sheliak cruiser approaches the Enterprise, and as it gets close, suddenly the Caesar speeds in it's way, raising shields. The Sheliak ship rebounds heavily off the Caesar's shields, sending them both spinning off.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Delfune has maneuvered in between the two ships and diverted all power to the shields. The Sheliak ship, being of light weight, was ricocheted off the shields and sent in a spiral. Delfune made sure they didn't get another chance.

We see the Caesar, still spinning, shoots the Sheliak ship when it's sufficiently away, and it explodes in an impressive display.

CUT TO:

INT. LONDON -- BRIDGE

Captain Hinton, as before.

HINTON

Brilliant. Absolutely brilliant. Of course the Caesar suffered heavy damage from the impact alone, but we didn't lose anyone, and that was the main thing. Wonderful.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

Delfune being interviewed.

DELFUNE

I just did what anyone in my position would have done, protected the flagship. That's all.

CARTER (O.S.)

It's why you'll be in the history books, though.

DELFUNE

You don't know that. I still have some history that hasn't been written yet. If I thought my work was done I wouldn't be happy. So I make sure it isn't. I have a long way to go yet.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- GROUNDS

Carter still walking through, doing his piece to camera.

CARTER

The war was over, and Elizabeth was a hero. So much so that she was asked to participate in the subsequent peace negotiations between the Federation and the Sheliak. Here she got noticed for a new skill, her understanding of complex political issues, one that would serve her well in the future. She drove a hard bargain with the defeated race, and refused to compromise at all. How hard it was is to be shown by the fact some critics thought she was too harsh in her terms with the Sheliak, which was saying something given how much death they had caused.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

As before, Delfune being interviewed.

CARTER (O.S.)

Were you too harsh, do you think?

DELFUNE

Not at all. I wanted to make sure the Sheliaks could never again cause us any trouble at all.

CARTER (O.S.)

And you succeeded.

DELFUNE

I did.

CARTER (O.S.)

Would you say that to have done so, you have to have had a ruthless streak in your personality?

DELFUNE

(thinks)

I... like to ensure that things are done my own way.

CARTER (O.S.)

Are you a control freak then?

DELFUNE

That is for history to judge.

She smiles at him as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- CORRIDOR

On the wall are pictures of the important Admirals through the years, coming right up to the present day. Carter walks down it as he talks to camera.

CARTER

There was no stopping Elizabeth now. Within a year she had been made an Admiral. One onlooker commented that he'd never seen so much conflict in a room -- half the people there looked delighted at the promotion, the other half rather less so.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

As before, Delfune being interviewed.

CARTER (O.S.)

You've always been a, shall we say, controversial figure within Starfleet. Why do you think that you so polarize opinion?

DELFUNE

Because I say what I think. I'm not worried about political correctness, or offending people's sensibilities. My concern is doing my job to the best of my abilities, and ensuring the good of the many, and I don't care how many toes I stand on while I'm doing that.

CARTER (O.S.)

You mean, you don't mind how many people you hurt on the way?

DELFUNE

Well, Mister Carter, you know what they say -- you can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs.

CARTER (O.S.)

And how many eggs have you broken?

DELFUNE

Enough.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- CONFERENCE HALL

Delfune making her speech as before. This time, however, the sound is turned down at the beginning as we see Carter sitting at the back, listening to what she has to say.

CARTER (V.O.)

As I sat listening to Elizabeth's impressive oration, I couldn't help musing on what she had said, and I wondered how many eggs she had broken during this particular conference.

Delfune's speech fades back in...

DELFUNE

As I look out on you today, my heart swells with pride at the thought of what we will achieve. I know that together we can make a better future, not just for this generation, but all the generations to come. Today is the beginning of a new page in Klingon history. Let's make sure it's one with much less needless blood spilt on it.

She stands down to rapturous applause from all parties.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- CORRIDOR

Immediately after the meeting is over, all the delegates are streaming out, including a pleased-looking Delfune. Carter stands in her way.

CARTER

A success, Admiral?

DELFUNE

A resounding success, thank you.

She walks on. Carter turns to the camera.

CARTER

I'm going to try and get hold of one of the Klingons, see what's happened.  
(to Klingon)  
Excuse me.

He stops a bulky-looking KLINGON DELEGATE who glares at him.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Lewis Carter, Federation News Network.  
Can you tell me how it went?

KLINGON DELEGATE

Q'gogh chi manChu!

He walks on. Carter looks at the camera.

CARTER

Universal translator is acting up...

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- BANQUET HALL

That evening -- delegates in formal dining clothes are streaming in, including Klingons. The camera watches as they do.

CARTER (V.O.)

What the Klingon had actually said was that victory was theirs, which was a Klingon version of putting a brave face on it. Both sides had to make large sacrifices, but it seems that there has been a genuine shift in opinion at this meeting. The Reformists have agreed to stop their terror attacks and the Imperialists have agreed to allow four representatives from the Reformists, democratically elected, to sit on the Klingon High Council. The architect of this agreement? None other than Elizabeth Delfune herself.

Delfune walks in to the banquet hall and instantly everyone stands up and gives her a round of applause. She looks pleased, and acknowledges the reaction before sitting down at the table.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

Delfune's interview, as before.

CARTER (O.S.)

You are one of the leading lights of Starfleet nowadays. Would you say you are also one of the most controversial?

DELFUNE

What is controversy? Just a difference of opinion.

CARTER (O.S.)

You seem to have a lot of differences of opinions.

DELFUNE

I wouldn't have got where I am if I had the same thoughts as everyone else, would I?

CARTER (O.S.)

You mean you wouldn't have stood out?

DELFUNE

It's people with a new voice that get ahead. I don't follow the flock.

CARTER (O.S.)

Would you say you have actively sought controversy then?

DELFUNE

Not at all, doing that for its own sake is pointless.

CARTER (O.S.)

And yet you don't go out of your way to avoid it. Some would say, for example, that even suggesting negotiations with the Reformists -- who are, after all, little more than terrorists -- was a bridge too far. How do you think someone like Henry Portman, who died in their attack on the starbase, would react?

DELFUNE

I have no doubt that Henry would have behind me one hundred percent here. We didn't agree on a lot of things, but I think we would be in agreement here.

CARTER (O.S.)

How do you justify it yourself though?

DELFUNE

The attack on the starbase was awful, an unimaginable way to die. But as I said in my speech, the Federation response was no less terrible. It made the terrorists the... terrorees, if there was such a word. Ironically, it was only because of the fact the Reformists became victims that the Imperialists agreed to this meeting

(MORE)

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

at all. Before they said that the Reformists had no reason for their sympathy at all. But now they did. So if it hadn't been for that we wouldn't have had the success we had today.

CARTER (O.S.)

So are you saying the Enterprise going, how can I put this, off the original strike plan was a good thing?

DELFUNE

Not at all. But it's odd how things work out sometimes, isn't it?

She smiles at Carter.

CARTER (O.S.)

Were you surprised the Enterprise did what it did?

DELFUNE

Nothing surprises me about the Enterprise. It's a ship where historically the only thing you can expect is the unexpected. I learned that when I served under Captain Winter.

CARTER (O.S.)

There is still a lot of talk about in the media and general public. The ship is still in dry dock. Do you know what is going to happen yet?

DELFUNE

Yes. In fact, we finished the paperwork this morning.

She reaches for a PADD, presses it a couple of times, and then begins to read.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

This is the ruling of the sub-committee assigned to the decision on the ruling of the Enterprise situation.

(reads from PADD)

"It is in the opinion of this committee that the name of Enterprise has been too sullied, and that for it to continue to serve as Starfleet's flagship would be projecting the

(MORE)

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

wrong image. It is the further opinion that for the ship to remain in service would be a gross insult to the families of those Klingon families who lost members needlessly at the Coular Incident. Thus it has been decided to formally decommission the Enterprise and reassign her crew, should they wish to remain in Starfleet, effective immediately." Signed, Admiral Elizabeth Delfune, and then it lists the other names.

CARTER (O.S.)

Decommissioned? What does that mean?

DELFUNE

She is to be scrapped. Her parts will be used to make up new ships. At least some good will come of this incident.

CARTER (O.S.)

Will there be another ship with the name Enterprise?

DELFUNE

We don't foresee one in the immediate future.

CARTER (O.S.)

And what of her Captain, Neil Cross?

DELFUNE

His situation will be reassessed when he has served out his term.

CARTER (O.S.)

Do you have any sympathy at all for him?

DELFUNE

None. He made a mistake. Showed a weakness. That is unforgivable in my eyes.

CARTER (O.S.)

Showing a weakness?

DELFUNE

Yes. I punish those who do. Not many people make the same mistake more than once.

She looks at him with a thin smile on her lips.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- BANQUET HALL

Everyone is sitting down at the table, eating.

CARTER (V.O.)

Elizabeth is an unforgiving taskmaster, and doesn't tolerate those who fall short in her eyes. She likes to be in control at all times, and made strict restrictions on the making of this documentary -- I had to agree to give her final editing rights, and was under strict instructions not to attempt to contact her brother, who is a scientist involved in research at Starfleet Medical.

We get vox pops from various Admirals sitting at the tables, cut quickly one after another.

CARTER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

What do you think of Elizabeth Delfune?

INTERCUT:

A shot of ADMIRAL CHIANG (from "The Call of Duty").

CHIANG

Excellent negotiator.

We see ADMIRAL THEL (from "Unusual Circumstances" et al).

THEL

One of Starfleet's hardest working Admirals.

And ADMIRAL GONZALES.

GONZALES

She's worked a miracle today.

Finally, the Klingon delegate from earlier.

KLINGON DELEGATE

Balls of steel.

The Klingons around him LAUGH.

END INTERCUT.

The camera continues to move through the people eating as Carter speaks on a voice-over.

CARTER

I could find no one with a dissenting voice at the meal. However, it was noticeable that all the people I asked commented on her professional abilities, her ability to perform. No one said what she was like as a person, what they thought of her outside the walls of Starfleet.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- CORRIDOR

Right outside the banquet halls, everyone is filing out for the night. Delfune looks at the camera as she exits.

DELFUNE

Still here?

CARTER (O.S.)

As always.

DELFUNE

I think we've done enough for one day, don't you? Don't follow me back to my quarters, please.

CARTER (O.S.)

All right.

The camera turns and watches as Delfune walks, alone, down a corridor. She is the only one leaving not in a group, and as she nears the end of the corridor she looks rather alone.

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

As I watched Elizabeth return to her quarters alone, I wondered how much of her private life she has sacrificed for her professional one, how much the burden of responsibility has denied her a degree of personal happiness.

CUT TO:

INT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

As before, Delfune being interviewed.

CARTER (O.S.)

Do you ever get lonely?

DELFUNE

No, I don't.

CARTER (O.S.)

Why not?

DELFUNE

What do you mean, why not? I work solidly from morning to night, sometimes eighteen, twenty hour days. All that time I am surrounded by people working with me, for me or, sometimes against me. I don't have time to get lonely.

CARTER (O.S.)

Do you not think that your life might be lacking something?

Delfune looks at him keenly.

DELFUNE

I didn't get where I am today by wondering about what might have been. I know exactly where I am, and where I'm heading, and that's enough for me.

CARTER (O.S.)

Admiral Delfune, thank you very much for your time.

DELFUNE

Thank you.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- GROUNDS

Carter delivers his final piece to camera as he walks along.

CARTER

Elizabeth Delfune is a figure full of contradictions. The listless cadet that rose to the top of the tree, a woman passionate about her work with no passion in her own life, a figure admired but not necessarily well liked. Mystery and intrigue seem to follow her around, and yet she herself says little. During my day with her, she kept up a steely wall that made it difficult for me to get beyond her professional persona, a wall that she has maintained for many years now. Many questions remain, but one thing is certain.

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

As long as her ambition holds, and her talents remain, the sky really is the limit, and she won't let anyone get in her way.

(beat)

I'm Lewis Carter, and I'll see you soon.

He looks up into the sky and the camera follows his gaze as we slowly...

FADE OUT.

Blackness. But instead of the closing credits, we...

FADE IN:

INT. KLINGON CRUISER -- CORRIDOR

Carter walks along the corridor, talking excitedly to camera.

CARTER

Next week on "Carter Investigates," the Klingons. Friend or foe? In a year which has seen the Klingons in civil war, a war which has affected non-Klingon species, I ask the questions we all want the answers to: who are they? Where are they going? What is the truth behind the infamous "missing ridges" debate? All this and more will be answered when, next week, once again, "Carter Investigates." Don't miss it!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END