

STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE

"Right There Behind You, Part II"

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TEASER

BLACKNESS

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

SEQ: Pivotal scenes from "Right There Behind You, Part I."

FADE TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

A dark corridor on the deactivated Enterprise. Y'lan scuttles up a wall, lurking in the corner where wall and roof meet, as we see two SPECIAL OPS SOLDIERS, like the ones we saw in "Living in the Shadows" walk below him.

CUT TO:

INT. ORGANIC ROOM

Y'lan and B'kral, as well as the Creature.

T'PHLAN
Y'lan -- it's the Q'tami. They're
coming for your vessel -- your crew.

Y'LAN
Elaborate.

But it is too late. T'phlan bursts into a PURPLE FLAME and IMPLODES. Y'lan looks on at what is happening and for the first time since we met him we see an emotion play across his alien face -- shock.

CUT TO:

INT. REFORMIST SHIP -- BRIDGE (FLASHBACK: "DEAD AND BURIED")

The display now reads 0:01, before flicking over to 0:00.

We cut to a wide view of the Bridge which explodes in a huge ball of flames and proceeds to head down to the corridor.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Y'lan feverishly works at the transporter console, attempting to set up the transporter to work within acceptable parameters, apparently not with much luck.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

The figure materializes -- it's Dojar. He stands, looking around in a state of semi-shock.

DOJAR

Y'lan... I...

He doesn't get to finish his sentence, though, as he pulls his hands up to his head and SCREAMS in pain.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Dojar lying on the floor, looking up at Y'lan.

Y'LAN

I beamed you out of the escape pod.

DOJAR

No... before that. I saw you... I saw everyone.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE -- LATER

DOJAR

I saw your thoughts, Y'lan.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE -- LATER

DOJAR

So we go and warn the crew that the Faction are trying to harm them?

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan working on a console, manipulating the projection of the Milky Way as Dojar watches.

Y'LAN

The Q'tami have eyes everywhere. If they have sent a Q'tami to kill a member of the Enterprise crew then that Q'tami will always be one step ahead of us. Waiting for us to make a mistake.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Y'lan faces Dojar, who stands next to one of the wall consoles.

Y'LAN
(abruptly)
Someone is coming.

DOJAR
What do you mean, com--?

He is cut off by the unmistakable sound of a TRANSPORTER, and both Y'lan and Dojar whirl around to see A Q'TAMI beam in to the back of the bridge -- pointing a weapon at both of them.

Q'TAMI
If either of you move, I will be
forced to terminate you.

HOLD on a wide-shot of this tense tableau for a moment, with Dojar's shocked expression and Y'lan's unexpressive facade...

FADE TO BLACK.

DOJAR (V.O.)
And now, the continuation.

FADE IN:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

We open on the same scene from the conclusion of the previous part: the Q'TAMI pointing a weapon at a shocked DOJAR and an inscrutable Y'LAN.

Y'lan, as usual, seems completely unperturbed by the sudden development.

Y'LAN
State your intentions.

Q'TAMI
Unnecessary. You are already aware
of my purpose aboard this vessel.

A beat. The Q'tami starts pacing around the rear of the Bridge, but always keeping his weapon trained on Y'lan.

Y'LAN
Yes.

Q'TAMI

You cannot be permitted to interfere further with our mission.

Y'LAN

What is the purpose of your mission?

Q'TAMI

Our purpose does not concern you. All that is required is that you do not interfere further.

Dojar finally musters the courage to speak up.

DOJAR

Like hell we will! You expect us to just stand aside and --

Y'LAN

(interrupts)

Enough, Lieutenant.

(to Q'tami)

What threat does the crew of the Enterprise pose to you? Why do you wish to eliminate them?

Q'TAMI

We have our reasons.

DOJAR

(laughs derisively)

Well, that's a big surprise.

The Q'tami regards Dojar as a Human would a bug.

Q'TAMI

(dismissively)

You could not possibly understand our reasons even were I to explain them to you.

He then turns his "back" to Dojar, ignoring him completely.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

(to Y'lan)

I have presented our warning. Do not attempt to cause further interference.

Y'lan appears as calm as ever.

Y'LAN

You know that I will not allow the Enterprise crew to be harmed.

Q'TAMI

And you know that I will not allow
our mission to fail.

Y'LAN

Yes.

Without making another move, the Q'tami disappears in a
TRANSPORTER BEAM.

Y'lan remains completely still, contemplating. Dojar slowly
moves forward, still in shock over the sudden turn of events.

DOJAR

(quietly)

So... what do we do?

Y'LAN

Our mission has become infinitely
more complex. However, we will
continue as planned.

DOJAR

And what about the Q'tami?

Y'lan pauses a beat before answering.

Y'LAN

I will deal with him when the time
comes.

DOJAR

You don't sound too confident about
that, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

I am not. This confrontation has
provided more information about these
attacks.

DOJAR

(expecting more)

And...?

Y'LAN

And I now know who is behind them.

We HOLD on Y'lan's ever-impassive face, before we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Continuous action from the teaser.

Dojar is flabbergasted after Y'lan's revelation.

DOJAR

(impatient)

Well, don't just keep me in the dark,
Y'lan! Who's doing this to us? And
why?

Y'lan pauses a beat.

Y'LAN

The Q'tami is... an individual with
whom I was familiar in the past. We
interacted frequently at one time --
before I was forced to enter stasis.

DOJAR

A friend, you mean.

Y'LAN

No. As I said before the --

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

-- Q'tami do not have
friendships as you conceive
of them.

DOJAR

(simultaneously, mimicking)

-- Q'tami do not have
friendships as you conceive
of them.

DOJAR

Yes, I know. But he's one that you...
knew well?

Y'LAN

I know all Q'tami equally well.

DOJAR

Don't give me that runaround, Y'lan,
I know what --

Y'LAN

(interrupts)

There is no benefit to debating the
nature of Q'tami social relationships
at this juncture. It is sufficient
for you to know that I am familiar
with this Q'tami's activities in the
past.

DOJAR

And just what does he want? Why is he trying to kill the crew?

A beat. Y'lan seems to hesitate, considering.

Y'LAN

I am as yet uncertain of the motive behind his actions.

(another beat)

It is likely that he is operating as a member of the Faction.

Dojar takes a breath, about to speak, but:

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

However, I can not establish a more concrete objective at this time. For now, I believe it best that we continue in our efforts to protect Lieutenant Grey.

A beat.

DOJAR

(puzzled)

Wait... two hours ago you were adamant about digging deeper into this conspiracy, Y'lan. Now you just want to go on reacting?

Y'LAN

Not simply reacting. But given the current circumstances, I believe that we should first ensure the immediate safety of the crew.

Dojar doesn't look convinced; he knows there's something fishy in the way that Y'lan is evading the question, but he lets the matter drop for now.

DOJAR

Okay... so what do we do?

Y'LAN

What is Lieutenant Grey's current location?

Dojar consults the computer readouts on the nearby console.

DOJAR

It took me a while to track him down after he left San Francisco -- from what I can tell he's working as a sort of unofficial consultant for Yoyodyne Corporation in Dar Es Salaam.

(MORE)

DOJAR (CONT'D)

I don't know what he's doing exactly -- since he's not officially working for Yoyodyne there weren't any direct records. But I managed to locate him in the local spaceport files -- forty minutes ago he boarded a shuttle flight to Copernicus City on Luna.

Y'LAN

Then that is where we will go as well.

DOJAR

(concerned)

And what will we do when we get there?

Y'LAN

Whatever is necessary, Lieutenant.

HOLD for a moment on Dojar's doubtful look, and then...

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The CARDASSIAN SHIP enters orbit of EARTH'S MOON.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan and Dojar stand looking at a monitor of GREY arriving on the moon through a SPACE PORT, and ENTERS the TAVERN that we saw in "I'm Not Scared."

DOJAR

So how do we play this one? It looks like the room's mostly filled with Humans.

Y'LAN

Agreed. But we do not have another option -- I must beam down and protect Lieutenant Grey.

DOJAR

We do have another option -- I can go.

Y'LAN

No.

DOJAR

Y'lan -- no offense but I'm a humanoid.

Y'LAN

(interrupts)

It is you who should take offense.

Dojar grunts.

DOJAR

Look at everyone down there, Y'lan -- there's going to be a big difference between a hooded Cardassian and a hooded Q'tami walking into that bar.

Y'lan ponders this for a moment before:

Y'LAN

The opposing Q'tami could be waiting around any corner, waiting to strike. It is an unacceptable, dangerous situation to put you in.

DOJAR

I'm a security officer -- that's part of my job description!

Y'LAN

There is a vast distance between maintaining security on a starship and facing a Q'tami, Lieutenant. It is --

DOJAR

(interrupts)

Y'lan, I've just completed weeks of Marine training! I've gone up against the Q'tami at least twice. If anything happens I can handle it.

Y'lan looks at him.

Y'LAN

You must not draw attention to yourself once you have reached Lieutenant Grey's location. Only fire your weapon if it is absolutely necessary and signal me as soon as you have eliminated the threat.

DOJAR

Understood.

Y'LAN

From the information that we have, the Lieutenant is due to meet a crew member from the cargo ship, Archimedes -- a suspected Reformist sympathizer.

DOJAR

What's Erik doing helping them?

Y'LAN

Unknown. But you must not make yourself known to him or interfere with his activities.

DOJAR

And I'm looking for a Klingon?

Y'LAN

A Klingon Reformist has been selected by the Q'tami as the assassin.

Dojar nods, before turning and walking towards the exit.

Y'LAN

Be careful.

Dojar stops and looks back at him, Y'lan's just told him to be careful. Wow.

DOJAR

Thanks.

Y'lan just looks back, not saying a word, as Dojar gives him a smile and turning around and EXITING.

CUT TO:

INT. TAVERN

The same tavern we saw in "I'm Not Scared." It's a TWENTY-SECOND CENTURY ERA TAVERN, decorated with HUMAN SPACE MEMORABILIA from that era, as well as a LIVE ON STAGE BAND that plays on a RISEN PODIUM in the corner, playing the classics from the days of the twenty-first and twenty-second centuries.

The tavern is full of TRADERS crowded around the central bar area with various DRINKS in their hands. It should be noted that only a small minority of the people present are from species other than human.

We close in on the door, as a hooded figure ENTERS. He stops for a moment and looks over to the bar, where we see Grey sits, drink in one hand, fiddling with something in the other underneath the bar. After a quick beat, he continues walking, looking around the bar, until he sees a number of hooded figure, like himself. There are only two however, which have a direct line of sight of Grey.

Dojar walks over towards the back of the bar, where he can see both hooded figures as well as Grey, just as the door to the tavern OPENS and SEAN (from "I'm Not Scared") ENTERS.

Dojar takes a seat and watches as Sean looks around, finds Grey and walks over to him. They begin a conversation. Dojar pulls a CARDASSIAN COMMUNICATOR out of his garment, and presses a button on it. He speaks QUIETLY into his communicator.

DOJAR

Y'lan?

INTERCUT:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan is standing watching over what is currently playing out in the tavern. We can see, from an aerial view, Grey and Sean, as well as Dojar and the other hooded figures about the room on what Y'lan is seeing.

Y'LAN

Go ahead.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

A Human male's just entered the bar
can you confirm that he's the man
from the Archimedes?

Y'lan walks over to the console and moves some holographic controls and the view he is seeing sweeps down in front of Sean, so that we can see his face. He moves some more controls and an image of Sean matches up with key points on the real Sean's face and eyes, identifying him.

An unintelligible message appears in Q'tami text below the image.

INTERCUT:

INT. TAVERN

Same as before, Dojar sitting watching Grey and Sean.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Identity confirmed.

DOJAR

Good. What about everyone else down
here -- it would be helpful if you
could pick out our Klingon for me.

INTERCUT:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan moves yet more controls and the image moves from Sean to one of the other two hooded figures.

Y'LAN

I am detecting only two Klingon life signs in the tavern.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Both wearing hoods?

Y'LAN

Correct. Both are Reformists, but only one has a direct line of sight with Lieutenant Grey. One Klingon is sixty-three degrees clockwise from your current location, the other one hundred and seventy-eight, currently obscured from your view.

On the image of the bar we see Dojar discreetly looking around at the suspects.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Understood. What should I do?

Y'LAN

Wait.

INTERCUT:

INT. TAVERN

Same as before.

DOJAR

Understood. Out.

He puts the communicator back where it came from, and looks around, seeing Grey and Sean still chatting. The camera moves downwards through the scene, giving a blur on what's happening, indicating that time has sped up. Once it's reached eye level with Grey and Sean after a second or two, it stops and time returns to normal.

Dojar notices Sean turning, but he's looking out of Dojar's line of sight and he's unable to see what he's looking at. We notice Sean getting slightly more edgy and hurrying proceedings as Dojar tries to see what he was looking at. He finally sees it -- a hooded figure using a KLINGON COMMUNICATOR.

INTERCUT:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

We hear a KLINGON VOICE, apparently the Klingon using the communicator, as Y'lan listens with great interest.

INTERCUT:

INT. TAVERN

Dojar stands and walks around the bar to get a better view at what's going on, his view is partially obscured and we hear a PHASER BLAST.

INTERCUT:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan looks down at the image as phaser fire tears across the room, as Grey pulls Sean to the floor as a second phaser blast flies over their heads and as Dojar increases speed to get around to the scene of the discharge.

END INTERCUT.

INT. TAVERN

Dojar RUNS around the corner, where he sees Grey pushed to the floor with Sean beneath him, and the attacker about to fire again. Dojar PICKS UP a table and THROWS IT in front of Grey and Sean, as he himself pulls out his own PHASER and aims at the attacker and FIRES. He gets him in one shot square in the chest, and the hooded figure drops to the floor, presumably dead.

Dojar quickly puts his phaser away and pulls out his communicator.

DOJAR

Y'lan?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Prepare for transport.

Dojar says nothing as Grey turns and looks at him.

GREY

Hey!

Dojar doesn't say a word, as he is IMMERSED in a TRANSPORTER BEAM and taken away to safety.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Cardassian ship orbits the moon.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Dojar RUNS IN as Y'lan stands looking at the image of the Tavern.

DOJAR

How'd I do?

Y'LAN

Your mission was reasonably successful.

DOJAR

What do you mean, "reasonably"?

He stops, as he sees Grey looking down at Sean, who lays with blood all around him. There's a beat.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

It doesn't look like it was successful at all.

Y'LAN

You were successful in protecting Lieutenant Grey, which was your primary assignment. Regrettably, the Klingon contacted his associates informing them of the Lieutenant Grey's meeting before killing his contact.

DOJAR

(saddened)

He wasn't even the target.

Y'LAN

Indeed. This action proves how reckless the Faction are.

DOJAR

I could have stopped it.

Y'LAN

You did everything that you could have done. You cannot afford to dwell on such matters right now. It is crucial that we stop this Q'tami before any more innocent lives are lost.

Dojar attempts to pull himself together.

DOJAR

How does this change things?

Y'LAN

The Klingon's communiqué specified the identity of Lieutenant Grey's contact, as well as informing them of the Lieutenant's presence.

DOJAR

So we have to follow Grey?

Y'LAN

Negative. There is currently no longer a Q'tami threat to Lieutenant Grey.

DOJAR

Agreed.

Y'LAN

I still have no information on a threat to Captain Cross.

DOJAR

He's in a secure penal colony -- there's no way anyone could get in there.

Y'LAN

You do not know the Q'tami.

DOJAR

So what do we do?

Y'LAN

I believe that we should beam down to the Penal Colony and talk to the Captain, as well as his captors.

DOJAR

Captors?

Y'LAN

Is that not the correct word?

DOJAR

No. I don't think it is.

CUT TO:

INT. NZ PENAL -- CORRIDOR

A guard, LOMNOL (the Arcturian whom we saw in "Shores of Elba") walks with a HOODED FIGURE down a corridor.

LOMNOL

You're the first visitor he's had since arrival, Ambassador. You might notice a distinct difference between this Neil Cross and the one you once knew.

Y'LAN

If he is still the same man then he will have no difficulty hearing what I have to say, Lar'oph-Mak'narga-Osil.

The guard looks at him.

LOMNOL

You might be surprised. And please, call me Lomnol.

Y'LAN

I will.

The guard stops at an intersection, a SECURITY CHECKPOINT is waiting before them. It consists of a WORK STATION and FORCEFIELD which cuts the corridor off from the penal colony itself, and another room where presumably more security equipment is kept. There's also a window that looks out on to the workstation and force field.

LOMNOL

I'm going to have to ask you to wait here. I'm sure you'll understand?

Y'LAN

Of course. I have no doubt that you will find my security records up to date and in order.

LOMNOL

Then we shouldn't have any problems, should we? I'll just be a moment.

Y'lan nods, as Lomnol EXITS into the security checkpoint. We see him enter and begin working at a console within the room. No one else is present, except Y'lan, who walks behind the workstation and sees the twenty-fifth century equivalent of a CCTV grid. On part of the grid, CROSS is displayed, lying reading in his cell.

Y'lan looks up just in time to see LOMNOL looking at Y'lan with a strange expression on his face, before getting back to work at the console.

Y'lan LOOKS AROUND, before JUMPING up into an AIR DUCT that runs directly above him...

INT. NZ PENAL -- AIR DUCT -- CONTINUOUS

As he jumps into the duct, his hood BLOWS BACK, revealing him as NOT Y'LAN AT ALL, but the Q'tami we saw on the shuttle in the teaser.

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part II" - ACT ONE 17.

NOTE: The "Y'lan" in the previous scene was never Y'lan at all, the audience will just presume that it is.

From this we...

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. NZ PENAL -- AIR DUCT

Continuous action from the end of Act One.

The Q'tami begins to RUN down the air duct, remarkably quietly and quickly. Below him we can see various prisoners from "Shores of Elba" rushing past, until the Q'tami finally stops over CROSS'S CELL.

He looks down into the cell where we see Cross laid on his bed, reading TRON, KILLER OF REMUS.

The camera pans down, to where one of the Q'tami's tentacles has slid through the air conditioning ducts.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan is standing at the Q'tami console again, while Dojar looks at a birds-eye view of NZ Penal. We see Cross's cell where he lies reading, but no sign of the Q'tami.

DOJAR

How do you suggest we proceed?

Y'LAN

The captain could be targeted at any time during his stay at the Penal Colony. The wisest option may be to warn the guards of a threat against his life.

DOJAR

I think that almost everyone in that wing of the colony will have a threat against their lives.

Y'LAN

There is not much more that we can do.

DOJAR

Other than wait.

Y'LAN

There is no guarantee that we will be able to detect the Q'tami should he target the Captain.

Dojar frowns, and looks at something on the wall where Cross's bed is against. It's a shadow.

DOJAR

Y'lan?

Y'LAN

Yes?

DOJAR

What's that?

The shadow suddenly moves -- it's a Q'TAMI TENTACLE.

Y'lan frantically moves some controls on the console and the view of Cross's cell pulls out into the AIR CONDITIONING DUCTS above -- we see nothing.

CUT TO:

INT. NZ PENAL -- AIR DUCT

The Q'tami lifts a tentacle, and from underneath pulls out something that looks like an ORGANIC EGG. He examines it carefully, before positioning it above the duct looking into Cross's cell.

Suddenly, just as the egg is about to be dropped, we see Y'lan POUNCE on to the Q'tami, slapping some kind of DEVICE on to the other Q'tami, who is instantly silently BEAMED AWAY.

But the egg's been dropped! Y'lan sees this and quickly whips out one of his tentacles to save it. He quickly pulls it back up, but it's PULSATING like crazy. He looks at it before putting it into a part of his body, just as it EXPLODES.

At this point Y'lan suddenly turns a FIERY PINK and begins to SCUTTER UNCONTROLLABLY up and down the air duct, shaking his tentacles and head, before being BEAMED AWAY.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Y'lan BEAMS IN, still discolored and SCUTTERS straight out of the forcefield, uncontrollably running about the transporter room, and just missing Dojar, who stands guarding the other Q'tami that's enclosed within a Q'tami forcefield.

DOJAR

Y'lan?

(turns to Q'tami)

What did you do him?

The Q'tami doesn't respond.

Dojar walks over to Y'lan, who LASHES OUT with one of his tentacles, propelling Dojar into a bulkhead.

Y'lan watches before SCUTTERING OFF again, before coming into contact with a console, and FLYING head over tentacles into the Q'tami forcefield. He lets out a loud SHRIEKING NOISE, indicating he is in pain, and remains on the floor.

Dojar slowly gets up from the corner and walks over to Y'lan.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Y'lan?

No response.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(louder)

Y'lan!

Still nothing -- until a tentacle FLIPS, followed by Y'lan FLIPPING UP -- BOLT UPRIGHT.

Y'LAN

There is no time.

DOJAR

What?

Y'LAN

(affirmingly)

There is no time! The Captain is in danger!

DOJAR

Y'lan... you saved him!

Y'LAN

I must return to the surface. He is in peril.

DOJAR

How?

Y'LAN

There is no time to explain! I must return immediately!

Dojar nods.

DOJAR

Then go!

Y'LAN

Yes... of course. Yes.

He SCUTTERS out of the door once again, leaving Dojar and the Q'tami alone.

Q'TAMI

You will never see him again.

DOJAR

What?

Q'TAMI

I know things, Dojar.

Dojar REACTS to the Q'tami knowing his name.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

Things that are going to happen...
things that have already happened.
Y'lan isn't safe... you aren't safe...

DOJAR

How?

Q'TAMI

I know that you've seen things
Dojar... things that you don't
understand yet...

Dojar looks a bit gobsmacked at this -- how does he know?

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

I don't know if you will ever
understand... but it's never going
to leave you. It's going to destroy
you.

Dojar looks at him intensely.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

Their pain is your pain now, isn't
it? And as your brain begins to
comprehend what you've seen it's
going to cripple you... you're never
going to be able to look at anyone
or go anywhere without feeling it.

What he's saying is beginning to grow on Dojar, he's beginning to realize that there could be a truth to some of what he's saying.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

How do you feel about that?

A beat.

DOJAR

I... I don't.
(beat)
I can control it.

Q'TAMI

But you can't.
(MORE)

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

I've seen what will happen -- when you reach the focal point of life you will not be able to control yourself -- people will die. People you love. People you hate. No matter who. People will die.

DOJAR

Since when did the Q'tami understand the concepts of love and hate?

Q'TAMI

The Q'tami have always understood your concepts of love and hate, Dojar. Our own are more complex than any emotion that you can ever imagine.

Dojar looks at him, a deep distrust in his eyes, among other things.

DOJAR

(doubtfully)

I suppose you're going to say that you can help me understand what's happened to me... help me control it?

Q'TAMI

You need not doubt me.

Dojar turns around and EXITS the transporter room.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

You will destroy yourself.

CUT TO:

INT. NZ PENAL -- CORRIDOR

Y'lan (this time it is the real Y'lan) stands waiting for the guard to return from the office. After a moment, Lomnol ENTERS.

LOMNOL

Sorry for the delay. We've been having problems verifying your identity.

Y'LAN

It's imperative that I see Captain Cross immediately.

LOMNOL

I know it's been a long wait, but...

Y'LAN

I have no time for idle conversation.

Lomnol NODS, also looking a little confused at why Y'lan has changed his attitude all of a sudden.

LOMNOL

If you'd like to follow me.

Lomnol pulls a DEVICE out of his pocket, that's attached to it by some kind of metallic chain -- obviously much stronger than the metals we have today. He aims the device at the area between the guard station and the wall, and a forcefield deactivates.

He walks through, followed by Y'lan.

CUT TO:

INT. NZ PENAL -- CORRIDOR

Y'lan stands at the door to a room, with Lomnol, a TAMARIAN and a VULCAN, all guards, stood beside him. Lomnol taps some controls on the side of the door. A CHIME is heard before Lomnol begins to speak:

LOMNOL

Prisoner 871494, there is a ... being ... who wishes to see you, as a visitor.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Enter.

The doors open, and they enter...

INT. NZ PENAL -- CROSS'S CELL -- CONTINUOUS

NOTE: The following scene is from the episode "Shores of Elba."

Cross is sitting on a bed, next to him lies a leather bound book.

It is titled "Tron, Killer of Remus, Volume I." Beneath that is the smaller type "Translated by H. Tusa." Cross has a bookmark placed into the book.

Lomnol, enters before the TAMARIAN and VULCAN, follow suit.

The final person entering is the most distinctive -- Y'lan. Y'lan's gaze flitters from one wall to another. His expressions are unreadable, but his movements are more jumpy, jittery, uncertain.

LOMNOL

Do you wish to see him?

Cross nods.

Y'LAN
(to Lomnol)
Thank you, Lar'oph-Mak'narga-Osil.

The Arcturian nods.

LOMNOL
As I said before, Ambassador, you
may address me as Lomnol.

Lomnol exits, but the TAMARIAN and VULCAN remain.

CROSS
Y'lan. Well. I don't mean any
offence but you were the last person
I expected...

Y'LAN
(cryptically)
I have my reasons.

Cross looks at him, curiously.

CROSS
Yes. I'm sure that you do. And
whatever they are, I thank you for
coming to me. I could use the
company. How do you find Earth?

Y'LAN
(uncharacteristically
abrupt, still gazing
around the room)
Fine, for one of your worlds.

CROSS
(noticing)
I see.

Y'LAN
Captain, are you well?

CROSS
As well as can be, under the
circumstances. And it's not Cap --

Y'LAN
Any aches? Abnormal occurrences?
Sleeplessness? Failing eye si --

CROSS
(exasperated)
Y'lan, what is going on?

Y'lan gives no vocal response, but his tentacles indicate the two guards standing behind them. Cross notes, and reluctantly accepts.

CROSS

All right. I'm fine. I've experienced nothing abnormal and have had no bodily degradation.

Y'LAN

Has there been any problem with the ventilation system? Unusual noises? Objects repositioned without your knowledge?

CROSS

Y'lan, to my knowledge, nothing out of the ordinary has happened to me or my surroundings, beyond the fact I am a prisoner.

Y'LAN

Captain, are you certain you have noticed nothing abnormal?

CROSS

(emphatically)

Yes. And it's not Captain anymore. It's Neil. Or Mr. Cross.

Y'lan seems to pay little attention beyond the "yes" as if processing and evaluating a position.

Y'LAN

Mr. Cross, keep your eyes and ears open to anything out of the ordinary, no matter how unimportant. Treat everything with suspicion. If you get any indication of something abnormal, contact my residence at once.

CROSS

I'll do that.

Y'lan does a little bow.

Y'LAN

Thank you, Mr. Cross.

Y'lan EXITS.

INT. NZ PENAL -- CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Y'lan exits Cross's cell the camera follows him, looking directly at his face.

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part II" - ACT TWO 26.

As he walks down the corridor, the camera gradually begins to slow, going past him and finally ending on a shot from behind Y'lan, as he walks down the corridor followed by the guards.

From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

A grand view of Earth orbit... with the Cardassian freighter slowly passing our point of view.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Dojar is present. He looks around, thinking, mumbling to himself.

DOJAR
So much pain.

Y'lan enters.

Y'LAN
I've secured the assassin as well as
can be allowed for.

DOJAR
Where?

Y'LAN
The cargo bay.

Dojar half-smiles.

DOJAR
It was cargo that this ship was built
for, you know.
(beat)
They were prisoners, Y'lan. No...
That's too kind a word. Slaves.
Ripped from their homes, thrown into
the bowels of these ships, surviving
by the barest thread and dying by
menial labor.

Dojar then turns around, pointing to the center chair.

DOJAR (CONT'D)
And here, here, sat the man that
made them do it. It's funny,
really... he never saw it for what
it was. The corpses he blew out the
ends of the ship almost routinely...
just another kind of waste. Enforcing
misery was part of the job.
(beat)
And that was only one of them.
(MORE)

DOJAR (CONT'D)

There must have been so many... how
can they have not seen what they
were doing? And the worst of all,
you know something? He'd have thought

(beat)

He'd have thought he was better.
He'd have thought executing slaves
when they'd had a serious but
repairable injury was humanitarianism!

Y'LAN

I find it odd that you didn't mention
this before.

DOJAR

It was at the back of my mind. I
tried to push it out of the way...
but I can't any longer. Do you know
what it's like, Y'lan, to look around
and see the ugly memories of people
I never knew, of a time before I'd
ever been born?

Y'LAN

I can theorize the emotion, yes.

Dojar moves away, sits on the ground. Covers his face with
his hands.

DOJAR

Many rooms and places hold dark
memories.

(beat)

Now I hold them all.

Y'lan looks over at Dojar, who remains sitting in the corner.

As Y'lan EXITS, Dojar removes his hands from his face and
looks out over the Bridge.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

There is a segment at the end of the room with a shimmering
forcefield. It shimmers with a fabric-like, purple glow.
At that side is the Q'tami, who is rather idly walking by,
examining, thinking, each eye focusing on a different part
of the room. Y'lan then ENTERS, but the Q'tami doesn't seem
to register him.

Y'LAN

The forcefield covers the entire
area.

No visual acknowledgement on the Q'tami's part.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

You must tell me what the Q'tami are planning.

Q'TAMI

Tell me you have not become so naive, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

The Q'tami have no reason to strike.

Q'TAMI

But we do.

Y'LAN

Then tell me their motivation -- what is it that they are attempting to achieve?

Q'TAMI

I thought that would have been obvious.

Y'LAN

The death of the Enterprise crew does not serve any foreseeable purpose.

(beat)

You are acting irrationally.

There is a beat.

Q'TAMI

I am from the Hegemony.

Beat. Things begin to dawn on Y'lan.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

We never act without purpose.

The camera closes in on Y'lan, his face unreadable.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

I believe that you were aware of who was behind the attacks. You just could not face the truth -- how could the Hegemony, that you have served so loyally, be behind an unjustified attack on your... friends?

Y'LAN

They are not my...

(beat)

I have grown acquainted to the crew of the Enterprise, just as any other Q'tami would have done in my place.

Q'TAMI

You have grown weaker.

Y'LAN

I am more powerful then ever.

Q'TAMI

Did you know?

Y'LAN

I knew that the Faction was not behind the attacks.

Beat.

Q'TAMI

Then you behaved exactly as we knew you would. How could one so loyal as you believe such a thing?

Y'LAN

Why are you telling me this?

Q'TAMI

Motivation, Y'lan, motivation.

Y'LAN

I do not understand.

Q'TAMI

Not my motivation, Y'lan. Your own. The tapestry is almost complete, and you are but a thread which is almost in place.

Y'LAN

A tapestry? You use a crude metaphor.

Q'TAMI

Why be more complex then I need be otherwise?

Y'lan takes scutters back slightly, he is apparently baffled.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

You have no reason to doubt me.

Y'LAN

That's how we work. A prime rule of Q'tami deception is to do and to act in matters which to the intended to be deceived are insubstantial. We prey on their perceptions of logic.

Q'TAMI

And don't cling to your irrelevancies,
Y'lan. You knew that I am from the
Hegemony.

Y'LAN

I did not know conclusively.

Q'TAMI

You suspected.

(beat)

Did you trust the Hegemony?

Beat.

Q'TAMI

Why didn't you inform them of your
investigation? Why go out alone,
without any sanction? Why not even
check with the Hegemony to confirm
what was already self-evident? Is
that not rash, Y'lan?

Y'LAN

I did what was necessary. I am
Q'tami. We protect against all
possible contingencies.

Q'TAMI

Protect? Were the bipeds worth
protection?

Beat.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

Do you favor such lowly beings over
the Q'tami?

Y'LAN

I do not.

Q'TAMI

And what if it was the Faction who
wished to make such an attack?

Y'LAN

I am not aligned to the Faction. My
response would have been the same.

Q'TAMI

Then it wouldn't have made any
difference if you'd known the attacks
were that of the Hegemony?

Beat.

Q'TAMI

Then where are your allegiances,
Y'lan? If you can hide information
from the Hegemony and scorn the
Faction -- if it makes no difference
at all to you which side is attacking?
Are you with the bipeds? Whose war
are you fighting, Y'lan?

A long BEAT.

Y'LAN

The Q'tami.

From overhead, we hear a comm BEEP.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Y'lan, the computer's picking up
some strange readings from in there.

Y'LAN

Come to the cargo bay, now.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

On my way.

Y'LAN

Your escape is no doubt underway.

Q'TAMI

I see you still have enough sense in
you not to prevent it. It's odd
that you would have so much sense
here and yet go so firmly against
the Hegemony in our execution when
you knew all you could meet with was
failure.

Y'LAN

The situation is far more complex
then you describe.

Q'TAMI

You have no idea.

Dojar enters.

Q'TAMI

Ah, the biped. I can still help
you, you know. There is still time.

DOJAR

No doubt you'd think erasing my entire
memory would classify as "help."

The Q'tami looks at him.

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part II" - ACT THREE 33.

Q'TAMI

If you wish to suffer pain through
ignorance, so be it.

Y'LAN

Stay alert. He will leave any moment
now.

DOJAR

Isn't there anything we can do?

Y'LAN

No.

Q'TAMI

Farewell, Y'lan.

With that, the Q'tami RIPS OPEN a flap of skin and quickly
pulls out some kind of device, which he activates. The device
emits a blinding white FLASH that completely engulfs the
screen.

Immediately, we hear an alien SHRIEK of pain, and quickly...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

WHITENESS

As at the end of the last act, we see nothing but whiteness.

But we can still hear Y'lan's shriek of pain. Gradually...

FADE TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Y'lan is curled into a tight ball on the floor, Dojar standing over him. The other Q'tami is nowhere to be found.

DOJAR

Y'lan! Y'LAN!

Y'lan suddenly sits up, but does stop and his body topples forward, face first.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(panicking)

Y'lan, answer me!

Y'lan does not move, but he speaks with his head still on the floor, his voice fainter than usual.

Y'LAN

I am alive, lieutenant. I am merely... stunned.

(beat)

Do not concern yourself with me.
The Q'tami must not be allowed to escape this vessel.

Dojar is floored.

DOJAR

You want... but... Y'lan, how am I supposed to do that? I -- I can't do this without you, Y'lan!

Y'LAN

I am not permanently incapacitated. I simply need a few moments to recover. Follow the Q'tami -- I will follow as soon as I am able.

DOJAR

But...

Y'LAN

(weak, but urgent)

Lieutenant, every second you delay
gives the Q'tami more time to escape.
We must not lose him!

Dojar turns, slowly at first, but then exits at a full run.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CORRIDOR

A dimly lit hallway, much like was seen on Deep Space Nine, but more cramped and utilitarian. Near a junction, we see a beam of light strike the wall, as Dojar comes around the corridor, carrying an old Cardassian phaser rifle with a flashlight mounted on it.

He carefully pulls out a Starfleet tricorder -- warily keeping his rifle ready -- and sweeps the area. Dojar JUMPS as the tricorder BEEPS -- found him!

He opens a panel on the wall, and quickly aims his phaser down a...

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- ACCESS TUBE -- CONTINUOUS

...That leads into the bowels of the ship. No sign of movement, but the tricorder is still beeping, and Dojar carefully crawls in, shutting the tricorder for freedom of movement.

He crawls down, quickly but warily, playing the flashlight across the walls of the tube, looking for any sign of the Q'tami.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- ACCESS JUNCTION -- CONTINUOUS

It looks like a typical tube intersection, like on so many other starships. Follow Dojar's perspective as he exits the tube and stands upright. We hear a slight PURRING sound.

Dojar WHIPS AROUND, pointing the rifle at...

A plain greenish-brown globe attached to the wall above the tube hatch Dojar just entered through. Immediately, the purring sound gets LOUDER.

Dojar's eyes WIDEN as he realizes -- a bomb! He hurls himself back into...

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- ACCESS TUBE -- CONTINUOUS

...And rushes down the cramped tube as fast as he can. Faster than anyone might think possible. He escapes back into...

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

...The same corridor he started from, ducking for cover just as the bomb explodes (O.S.), sending a GOUT OF FLAME bursting into the corridor!

Dojar crouches for a minute, catching his breath, almost dazed after the narrow escape. He JERKS at a computer BEEP:

Q'TAMI'S COMM VOICE
Well done, Dojar. I did not expect
you to escape from that ensnarement.

Dojar looks about, worried, at the voice coming from nowhere...

DOJAR
(warily)
I'm sure you don't expect me to find
you, either?

Q'TAMI'S COMM VOICE
Of course not. Remember, I know
what's going to happen.

Dojar shakes his head for a minute, before getting up and moving on down the corridor, opening his tricorder again. It's a minute before he responds again...

DOJAR
Somehow, I doubt that you're really
omniscient.

Q'TAMI'S COMM VOICE
Omniscient, no. But I know so much
more about you, Dojar, and you know
so little about me.

Dojar turns a corner, into another corridor. He's clearly following something...

DOJAR
That might be true. But perhaps
you're not as all-knowing as you
think.

He stops in beside a door, which opens and points his phaser into...

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- ENGINEERING

...The ship's engine room. The Q'tami is standing at a console next to the warp core, clearly fiddling with the controls. He pauses as Dojar aims his phaser rifle, with a clear shot.

DOJAR

...And maybe I know more about YOU
than you think.

The Q'tami stands perfectly still, but shows no hint of
surprise.

Q'TAMI

I see your Starfleet Marine training
is paying off, Dojar. Most bipeds
would still be halfway across the
ship.

(beat)

But do you really expect to defeat
me here?

Dojar's rifle never wavers.

DOJAR

(gaining confidence)

You never know... you might be
surprised again.

(beat, to comm)

Y'lan, he's in the engine room.

A pause -- no response. Dojar's confidence visibly fades
into uncertainty.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Y'lan?

Q'TAMI

Y'lan will not be able to help you.
And so I ask again, do you really
expect to defeat me? On your own?

Dojar's composure starts to falter, but after a second, a
hardened look appears on his face. His hand SQUEEZE the
rifle's trigger...

And nothing happens.

The Q'tami does not change his tone, but we can almost hear
the contempt dripping from each word.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)

You forget that we are so much more
advanced than you, Dojar. This ship
was modified by the Q'tami. A simple
quantum stasis field will harmlessly
disperse any particle beams within a
certain area -- a rudimentary
defensive measure.

(beat)

You cannot touch me.

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part II" - ACT FOUR 38.

Deliberately, the Q'tami turns back to the console and resumes fiddling with it.

Dojar's face turns into a look of pure rage. He suddenly SCREAMS and RUSHES FORWARD, holding his rifle as a bludgeon. He's upon the Q'tami in a flash, but the Q'tami simply thrusts the feint aside with a few tentacles, never taking his eyes off of the console.

Dojar falls back against the floor, dazed. We hold on him for a moment as his eyes lose focus. In the background, an ALARM starts blaring. We then...

FADE TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- ENGINEERING -- LATER

Dojar is in the same position. The alarm is still blaring.

Slowly getting up, Dojar looks around. The Q'tami is gone. He claws his way to the console that the Q'tami had been working at, and takes stock of the situation.

We can't read any of the Cardassian or Q'tami text on the console, but we can guess from the graphics -- a self destruct. Dojar hurriedly works the panel, and after a moment the alarms fall silent.

Dojar takes a deep breath, before heading out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CORRIDOR

Dazed but determined, Dojar slips down the corridor, clutching his useless rifle.

He approaches another door, and carefully enters...

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY -- CONTINUOUS

...The same cargo bay from the earlier scenes. Quiet except for the soft whirring of the equipment -- and minus Y'lan.

DOJAR

Y'lan?

(beat)

Damn...

He quickly rushes back out.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CORRIDOR

A few moments later, Dojar runs flat-out down another dim corridor.

He passes through an intersection, heading for the Bridge, but a second after he passes it, we hear an unmistakable WOOSH from somewhere behind him... a door opening.

Dojar halts. Resolutely, he turns around and steps carefully around the corner, in the direction of the sound.

From a few meters down the hallway, we can see that the door to the Transporter Room is still open. Dojar cautiously moves forward, staying close to the wall, out of sight of whoever's in the room...

Q'TAMI (O.S.)

I would not suggest that you attempt to attack me again, Dojar.

Dojar freezes. Not moving, holding his breath.

Q'TAMI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I know you are standing next to the doorway -- there's no point in trying to conceal yourself. Come in.

We remain focused on Dojar -- and he doesn't move. Continuing to remain as still and as quiet as possible, in the dim corridor. Half petrified with fear, holding a useless rifle, powerless against a foe with superior strength, his only ally injured and missing...

Q'TAMI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Or remain where you are, if you wish.
(beat)

Your tenacity is impressive, for a primitive species such as yours. But you clearly have little understanding of the Q'tami. And you know nothing of what this is all about.

Dojar still doesn't move -- out of fear or indecision, we can't tell.

Q'TAMI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Not only that, but Y'lan has deliberately misled you ever since ce brought you aboard this ship.

(beat)

Did ce tell you my designation?

Nothing.

Q'TAMI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

My designation is B'kral. Before the unfortunate accident which required ces to enter stasis, Y'lan and I collaborated on many functions

(MORE)

Q'TAMI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
for the Hegemony. In your simplistic
terms, we were "friends."

Dojar's eyes widen at this news, then narrow with suspicion.

B'KRAL (O.S.)
I would speculate that you are simply
dismissing my claim as a lie. But
what purpose would that serve? I
simply wish you to realize that you
do not have nearly enough information
to make a proper decision. From the
very start, Y'lan has used you as a
tool -- and has given you no more
information than necessary to do
what ce wanted.

Dojar still remains motionless, but B'kral's words have stuck
a chord.

A beat before B'kral speaks again:

B'KRAL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I had hoped that I could convince
you of the folly of your actions.
You do not understand, and may never
understand, but the Q'tami truly
wish to help you.
(beat)
However, I must leave now. My mission
here is completed.

Dojar still doesn't move, fearing a trap... or something
worse.

Suddenly, we hear a fearsome ROAR from inside the transporter
room. There's a CRASHING noise, and Dojar finally breaks
his indecision and rushes into the...

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

...And sees Y'LAN AND B'KRAL fighting hand do hand (or
tentacle-to-tentacle) on top of the transporter platform!

Dojar watches from near the door, holding his phaser ready
out of sheer reflex than any need.

The fight continues, the two Q'tami a writhing mass of
tentacles -- quite possibly the most alien wrestling match
we've ever seen.

Without warning, we hear a twitter from the (O.S.) computer
console, and the two Q'tami disappear in the flash of a
TRANSPORTER BEAM.

ANGLE ON DOJAR

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part II" - ACT FOUR 41.

Breathless and nearly overwhelmed, as he stares at the spot where the two Q'tami formerly stood.

DOJAR

(whispers)

No...

On his look of despair, we...

FADE TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Cardassian ship drifting into the distance, appearing smaller than we've ever perceived it before.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM

A long shot of an apparently empty room. It is filled with Q'tami-like equipment: organic consoles, monitors, and other undecipherable items.

Our perspective slowly pans around, and we see Y'lan, restrained in an alcove, with a forcefield glittering whenever one of his tentacles makes contact.

B'KRAL (O.S.)

I trust you have recovered from the neural burst you received?

Y'LAN

My physical vessel has repaired itself.

A beat. Y'lan watches something O.S. -- which turns out to be B'kral as he enters our field of view.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Where are we?

B'KRAL

We are secure. Someplace where everyone can see us, but no one will find us.

Y'LAN

What are your intentions?

B'kral begins to work at one of the consoles along the wall, opposite the alcove in which Y'lan is held.

B'KRAL

To provide you with further information at this juncture would not be prudent, nor necessary.

(beat)

Perhaps you have been among the bipeds for too long, Y'lan. Now you echo their expectations. I have no intention of revealing the entire stratagem simply because you are currently imprisoned.

(beat)

You have no need of that information.

As he finishes, a projection of the Milky Way -- identical to the one seen previously on Y'lan's ship -- appears in the center of the room.

The projection zooms in on a particular section -- EARTH and the surrounding region. B'kral highlights one section, and on a callout, we see the old Cardassian ship, accompanied by some Q'tami text.

B'KRAL (CONT'D)

It seems that Lieutenant Dojar is lost without you, Y'lan. There is a disadvantage to relying on tools: if you do not manipulate them directly, they are useless.

Y'LAN

Perhaps you do not give the bipeds enough credit.

B'kral pauses, and then turns to face Y'lan directly.

B'KRAL

My previous analysis was correct -- you certainly have been among the bipeds for too long.

Y'lan says nothing. After a moment, B'kral returns to his work -- calling up other readings in the projection and on the consoles.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

We see the Cardassian ship, drifting as we saw it before.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Dojar is PACING back and forth across the room, simultaneously appearing full of energy and extremely vulnerable.

The equilibrium he had shown previously visibly crumbles... and his emotional state clearly uncertain.

DOJAR

It's over, it's all over... Y'lan was right all along... they're always one step ahead of us.

(beat, suddenly furious)

NO! I can't give up just like that.

If I do, then... then...

(beat, now doubtful)

But there's no one here. I'm just a biped... I can't take on one of them...

Dojar's pace falters, and he collapses to the floor, leaning against the wall.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(whispers)

It's no use... No matter what we
try, he'll always be there... in the
dark, whispering... whispering...

(beat)

Whispering...

He begins to break down completely, crying.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

I've failed. I've failed all of
them.

(shouts)

ALL OF THEM!

In a rage, he turns around and POUNDS the wall he was leaning
against, before crumbling again to lie on the floor.

HOLD on Dojar's prone form for a moment, before we fade to a
montage:

FADE TO:

INT. NZ PENAL -- CROSS'S CELL ("SHORES OF ELBA")

NEIL CROSS is sitting on the bed, reading a leather bound
book. Surrounded by four grey walls, utterly hopeless.

FADE TO:

INT. ARCHIMEDES -- MAINTENANCE TUBE ("I'M NOT SCARED")

A dim maintenance tube on a run-down starship. In the
darkness, ERIK GREY labors on a piece of equipment.

FADE TO:

EXT. CLINIC -- LAKESIDE -- NIGHT ("CHASING THE DRAGON")

A clear, moonlit night, and stars shine brightly. We see
JENNIFER QUINLAN sitting on the edge of the water, in tears.

FADE TO:

INT. ELRIS'S HUT ("HOMECOMING")

ELRIS LEA stands near a window, watching something we cannot
see; a flickering light reflects from her face, and we hear
the sounds of celebration and laughter. But she clearly has
no part on it -- appearing alone and forgotten.

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part II" - ACT FIVE 45.

FADE TO:

EXT. ROMULAN SENATE BUILDING ("THE PUBLIC EYE")

TALORA walks down a grand stairway in front of a building. Partway down, she pauses and looks around. Also alone, but searching for something familiar.

FADE TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

The flashback ends. Dojar has stopped crying, thinking aloud:

DOJAR

They're alone. They have no idea of the dangers.

(convincing himself)

I've got to help them.

With a renewed purpose -- though still clearly afraid -- he gets up and moves to the transporter controls. He stares at them for a moment, almost willing himself to move.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

If I don't do anything, then what good am I? What kind of friend would I be?

He gets to work, digging through files, checking the settings.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Now, where did you go off to, you slimy bastard?

We hear an affirmative BEEP from the computer console. Dojar smiles with faint but building confidence, as we pan around to see what's on the screen:

It's a comet. Hold on the screen for a moment, and then zoom in until we are in...

EXT. SPACE -- COMET -- CONTINUOUS

...And see the comet up close in its splendor. It's a dark, misshapen object, almost black yet still glistening from the Sun's distant light, with a brilliant halo of matter streaming from all sides and drifting to the right off-screen to form its tail.

As we watch, we see the familiar Cardassian ship coast by overhead, slowly approaching.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Dojar stands at the helm console, watching the screens as the ship approaches.

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part II" - ACT FIVE 46.

He's visibly sweating, still uncertain, but he's got an air of resolution about him.

DOJAR

I can do this. I'm chief security officer on the Federation flagship. I'm one of the best in the fleet. I trained with the Marines.

(beat)

I can do this...

CUT TO:

INT. CAVERN

Practically all we can see is darkness. We can barely make out the outlines of the walls of the cave, because they have a dim glow of luminescence in them.

In the darkness, the glimmer of a transporter beam seems positively brilliant as Dojar beams in.

He is wearing a Cardassian-style spacesuit, and his helmet illuminates his face. He slowly lifts his Starfleet tricorder, which makes no sound in the vacuum. This is a ZERO-GRAVITY ENVIRONMENT, and he moves about carefully.

As he moves off, he raises his left arm to point ahead, and we see that a Q'TAMI WEAPON (like the ones that Y'lan and B'kral wore previously) is attached to his forearm.

CUT TO:

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM

As before: B'kral working at a console, and Y'lan imprisoned in the alcove.

In front of the console, we see a series of holographic projections appear in quick succession -- first a profile of CROSS, and then a number of other faces that seem to be connected to the New Zealand Penal Colony -- guards, workers, prisoners.

Y'LAN

Why must the crew of the Enterprise be eliminated?

B'kral does not turn to look at Y'lan, and waits a moment before responding.

B'KRAL

They pose a threat to the Hegemony.

Y'LAN

That is not possible.

(MORE)

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

Such primitive beings cannot possibly threaten the Hegemony.

B'KRAL

Certainly they do not threaten the Hegemony in its entirety. However, we have access to further information regarding these bipeds of which you are not aware. They have knowledge which may jeopardize the Hegemony's agenda.

A beat, as Y'lan digests this information.

Y'LAN

I was not informed of this data.

B'KRAL

No, you were not.

Y'LAN

As an observer assigned to collect data on Federation species, it is standard procedure to provide me with all pertinent data. If the Enterprise crew poses a potential threat, then I should have been made aware of it.

B'kral still does not turn around.

B'KRAL

We do not trust you, Y'lan. You have become attached to the bipeds you were assigned to observe.

Y'lan's voice does not rise, but he still sounds more forceful.

Y'LAN

That is untrue. I simply respect their right to exist.

B'KRAL

Do they not also have a right to exist with the insights and technology that we can provide them? Is that not why you were assigned to observe them?

Y'LAN

Certainly I wish to extend to them the benefits of the Hegemony. But I believe that deaths are unnecessary for the advancement of the Hegemony's agenda.

B'KRAL

As I told you before, we have information of which you are not yet aware.

Y'LAN

Then provide it to me.

B'KRAL

You will receive it... in time.

Y'lan stares at B'kral. B'kral finishes his work at the console and finally turns to face Y'lan.

B'KRAL (CONT'D)

Soon, it will be time for you to return home. Surely you look forward to returning to the Hegemony?

A beat.

Y'LAN

Yes.

B'KRAL

Then I will endeavor to complete my mission with dispatch, so that I will --

He is interrupted by a PURRING alert from one of the consoles. B'kral moves to check it.

B'KRAL (CONT'D)

It appears I have made an error. Your biped friend is braver than he last seemed... and more foolish.

Without another word, he EXITS, leaving Y'lan standing in the alcove, unreadable as always.

CUT TO:

INT. ANOTHER CAVERN

Another dark cave, much like the one that Dojar beamed into. The faintly glowing walls illuminated by an off-screen flashlight.

Dojar enters our field of view, floating slowly in the zero-g environment, pushing himself carefully along the smooth ice and rocks. His expression is grim -- determined but at the same time pensive.

Dojar JERKS as he hears a BEEP signaling an opening comm channel -- and freezes when he hears the voice.

B'KRAL'S COMM VOICE

You should not proceed any further,
Dojar.

Dojar starts to panic again -- he remains completely still and starts desperately searching the walls for signs of his unseen enemy.

B'KRAL'S COMM VOICE (CONT'D)

Persistence is an admirable
characteristic, even among the Q'tami.
(beat)
But in this instance, persistence
will get you killed.

As the Q'tami speaks, Dojar visibly gathers his wits, and regains some of his control. He starts to move on.

DOJAR

Persistence could get you killed as
well, B'kral.

B'KRAL'S COMM VOICE

That is indeed a possibility. But
it certainly won't be by you.
(beat)

Y'lan is dead, Dojar. There's nothing
more you can do.

Dojar stops again, and closes his eyes. The sense of defeat is nearly overwhelming, but he resists.

B'KRAL'S COMM VOICE (CONT'D)

Turn around and leave, now. I will
let you go.

Dojar opens his eyes again, with a look of realization.

DOJAR

You're lying, B'kral. You just want
me to leave... But I won't.

He presses onward again.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

You scare me. You may even be
superior to me in some ways. But
that's not going to stop me from
trying to help my friends.

In the darkness, we see a sudden BLUR of movement, and Dojar is hit by a jumble of tentacles -- B'kral careening full-speed into him in zero-gee. Dojar is knocked aside, but he quickly recovers and tries to twist around.

The Q'tami tries to grapple Dojar, and simultaneously smacking him with various tentacles.

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part II" - ACT FIVE 50.

It's another wrestling match, but almost in slow-motion, as each combatant tries to maneuver without any gravity to pull them.

(Note: B'kral, like Y'lan, does not need a spacesuit.)

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(taunting)

Not used to null-grav movement,
B'kral?

B'kral attempts to use his tentacles to restrain Dojar, but Dojar maneuvers his arms and legs, and manages a mighty HEAVE which sends both of them HURTLING in opposite directions.

A split second later, Dojar slams into the wall of the cave, but the Q'tami is still in mid-air, being further from a wall or outcropping than Dojar -- but only for a second.

Before B'kral has time to react, Dojar brings up his left arm, and FIRES the Q'tami weapon -- blasting B'kral against the wall.

HOLD on the motionless -- though outwardly undamaged -- body of B'kral, curled up against the wall, before we switch to:

ANGLE ON DOJAR

As he cradles the arm with his weapon. It's faintly GLOWING with energy. Appearing fatigued, Dojar slowly pulls the weapon off his arm. He takes a deep breath before moving off...

CUT TO:

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM

As before: Y'lan constrained in the alcove.

We hear a scrabbling sound from off camera, then the door OPENS, admitting Dojar. Fatigued almost to the point of collapse, he nevertheless wears a broad smile as he stumbles in and takes off his helmet.

Y'LAN

Lieutenant Dojar. I am... quite surprised to see you.

DOJAR

(breathless)

Glad to see you too, Y'lan. How do I get you out of that?

Y'LAN
(indicating with a
tentacle)
The controls can be accessed from
that console.

Dojar lurches over to the indicated computer, and begins reading.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)
The yellow button.

The forcefield FIZZLES for a moment before disappearing.
Y'lan steps out.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)
Where is B'kral?

Dojar turns back, and triumphantly holds up the Q'tami weapon.

DOJAR
Dead. I managed to get a clear shot.

Y'lan looks alarmed rather than satisfied.

Y'LAN
Allow me to examine the weapon.

Dojar hands it over, puzzled. Y'lan looks it over briefly,
before rushing for the door.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)
(over his "shoulder")
Where did you leave ces? We must
hurry.

On Dojar's puzzled look we...

CUT TO:

INT. ANOTHER CAVERN -- MOMENTS LATER

Dojar (wearing his helmet again) and Y'lan come around a
corner. Y'lan is moving as fast as he can in the zero-gee
surroundings.

DOJAR
Y'lan, what's so important?

Y'LAN
You did not kill him.

DOJAR
What? But... did I set the weapon
improperly?

Y'LAN

No. But there was insufficient energy. The weapon requires a Q'tami macrochondrion in order to operate to capacity. Without a suitable power source available, the weapon could not kill ces.

DOJAR

(concerned)

You mean...

Y'LAN

Yes, he is still alive.

DOJAR

He's just around that corner.

ANOTHER ANGLE

...To see B'kral, not curled up as we last saw him, but spread out, with his eyes open but with a familiar glazed look...

Y'lan instantly raises the Q'tami weapon and FIRES -- we see a much brighter pulse this time. He looks on for a moment, and our POV shifts to see...

B'KRAL'S BODY -- or what's left of it. Rather than simply stunned, he's been blasted to smithereens. There's little recognizable left.

Y'LAN (O.S.)

He was communicating with the Hegemony.

HOLD on Y'lan and Dojar for a moment...

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE -- COMET

The Cardassian ship pulls away from the comet, heading off into space.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

The door opens, and Y'lan and Dojar enter.

Y'LAN

You are to be commended, Lieutenant. Given the circumstances, you performed admirably.

Dojar is obviously delighted though somewhat downbeat. He smiles slightly.

DOJAR

Mission accomplished, then?

A beat. Y'lan says nothing.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Y'lan? We have succeeded, haven't we?

Y'LAN

Perhaps. It remains to be seen whether the Hegemony has further plans which we have not yet discovered.

A beat. Y'lan moves towards the exit.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

I will attempt to obtain more information.

The doors open, and he starts to exit -- but stops, and turns around briefly.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)

You should rest now, Lieutenant. I believe it is... well earned.

Y'lan EXITS.

Dojar stands there, watching the doors close -- and his smile grows. Mission accomplished... if only for the moment.

CUT TO:

INT. ORGANIC ROOM

Y'lan is standing in the same place we've seen him before, apparently in mid-conversation with the CREATURE.

Y'LAN

(to Creature)

Conduct a search of available neural pathway reservoirs for information pertaining to B'kral, or any Q'tami detected near Federation space.

The Creature nods, then scurries off to the console. Before it starts to manipulate the controls, though, it turns back.

CREATURE

There is a message encoded for your cognizance.

Y'LAN

Deliver it.

The Creature manipulates the controls for a moment. Then, a Q'tami figure appears -- similar to a hologram, but certainly not the same technology.

The figure is B'KRAL.

B'KRAL IMAGE

Greetings, Y'lan. I congratulate
you on the success of your activities.

(beat)

But I warn you: You are already too
late. The Enterprise is already
gone, and the crew are already dead.
You have succeeded, but you have
failed. It's too late.

B'kral's image fades away.

Before Y'lan has a chance to say anything to the Creature,
we hear, as if from a great distance...

DOJAR (V.O.)

Y'lan! Y'lan, wake up!

Y'LAN

(to Creature)

Perform the search as ordered.

The camera begins to spin around Y'lan, faster and faster,
faster and faster, until it is a blur, but instead of
gradually slowing down, we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- CARGO BAY

Dojar is shaking Y'lan, trying to "wake" him.

Y'lan's eyes quickly de-glaze, and he straightens.

Y'LAN

What is the matter?

Less than confident now, Dojar seems on the verge of panic
again.

DOJAR

(quickly)

I didn't want to believe it. But...
But you were right. It's not over.

He hurries over to a console, Y'lan following.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

I hoped this was the end, but...
Well, look.

RENAISSANCE: "Right There Behind You, Part II" - ACT FIVE 55.

He activates a control. On the screen, we see one of the closing scenes from "Delfune" -- a recording of "Carter Investigates"...

DELFUNE

(on the monitor)

"...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.

The recording ends. Dojar sighs, defeated once more.

DOJAR

You were right... the Q'tami have been one step ahead of us all along.

Off Y'lan's ever inscrutable face, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Cardassian ship moving off into the darkness, as alone as ever before...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END