STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE

"Together We Stand"

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FADE IN:

EXT. COASTAL TOWN -- NIGHT

Stars. The camera looks upwards into the heavens -- but not for long, as a ferocious storm holding cloud majestically steals our peaceful view. A flash of lightning and the beginning of a heavy rain storm masks whatever little view we had left, as the camera pans down to reveal an old narrow street with houses and small shops on either side, leading down to a HARBOR.

A title appears:

ROBIN HOOD'S BAY, ENGLAND

EXT. PIER -- NIGHT

We cut to a new shot of the harbor, before stopping and seeing a HOODED FIGURE walk past the camera and towards a long pier, with the harbor on one side, and a cruel, threatening sea to the other. From the lighting we can not see who it is, or indeed see the figure very well at all. It is only when the lightning strikes that we can see anything in great detail.

Waves fly over the side of the pier from time to time, as the force of one wave slamming into the side builds up the power of another and another until the sea erupts like a volcano, sending water over the high harbor walls.

A sole figure stands next to an old, dead lighthouse, just avoiding the waves that erupt over the harbor wall. We move in closer to reveal ERIK GREY, soaked to the skin. He's wearing civilian clothing, covered with a thick but non-waterproof coat. Rain drips from his blonde hair, which the rain has turned an unrecognizable dark brown.

He looks out to one side of him, were a flash of lightning and a crash of thunder, indicating the storm is directly ahead of him, reveals a rocky outcrop of cliffs.

He reaches into his jacket and pulls out a paper photograph with a grim look on his face, and compares it to the cliffs he can see illuminated by the lightning. They match. As the paper begins to get sodden he puts it back into his pocket, and turns to look out at the sea. He sighs.

Behind Grey, the figure we saw earlier continues to walk down the pier and reaches a position behind Grey. It reaches into a pocket within its cloak and reaches for something, and places it on the sea wall next to Grey still holding on to it, preventing it from falling into the sea.

Grey quickly turns around, surprised. He looks down at what the figure has placed on the wall, looks grim.
GREY
I guess you've finally caught up with me?

The figure nods.

GREY (CONT'D)
I never thought this day would come so soon -- I thought I had so much left in front of me, in front of us. It's like it's some... like...
(sighs)
I can't believe it's happening.

WOMAN'S VOICE
It took me quite some time to track you down, Lieutenant.

GREY
Maybe I don't want to be found.

WOMAN'S VOICE
What brings you here?

Grey hands the photo over to her, as he continues to examine what has been placed on the sea wall -- he picks it up. It's a PADD.

GREY
(half heartedly)
Something someone gave me the other week

WOMAN'S VOICE
I see.

GREY
He died because Starfleet wouldn't protect him. A child -- and Starfleet wouldn't protect him! I don't think I want to go back. Maybe what's happening is a good thing.

WOMAN'S VOICE
You're a talented man, Lieutenant. Starfleet is where you belong.

GREY
It will never be the same. We've tarnished the name of the Enterprise -- she's the only starship in history, in history, to be decommissioned within a year of being launched, with no major damage. It's never going to be same again. Not Starfleet, not me, not any one of us.
The growing wind begins to pull at the figure's hood, before it finally gets the better of it and pulls it down, revealing TALORA.

TALORA
Perhaps. But the Enterprise still has one final journey. And she's not going to set sail without you.

Grey looks up into the cloudy night sky.

GREY (re: stars)
I can't even see where she is. I used to think that was where I belonged, but maybe I am in the wrong place. Maybe I should be down here trying to do some good for the Federation, instead of just sailing through a cloudy night sky.

TALORA
An intriguing metaphor.

GREY
But an accurate one.
(beat)
If there are people out there who can murder innocent civilians and captain starships...

Talora looks at him.

GREY (CONT'D)
Or at least be responsible for their deaths... If there are Admirals who can't protect innocent civilians, and knowingly plunge them head on into death... I don't know where my place is in the universe anymore, Talora. I really don't.

A long, sobering beat.

TALORA
(softly)
Let's go, Erik.

Grey nods, takes one last look around at the surroundings, before the two of them walk together down the pier, and into the dark, cloudy night. As Grey leaves, the photograph slips out of his coat, and soars off into the night...
EXT. SPACE

The Cardassian ship seen in previous episodes floats through the night.

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

The control center appears as active as ever, with various control panels flashing status reports and spouting information. But the room still carries an aura of gloom. GRIL DOJAR and Y'LAN sit, pensive.

DOJAR
What do we do now?

Y'LAN
The Q'tami will try again. They will keep trying until they succeed.

DOJAR
What do you think they will do?

Y'LAN
They may change their tactics. They may use diversions, shields, illusions to achieve their aims.

A console suddenly makes a noise.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)
It's a distress call from Starfleet. It's across the entire fleet.

He looks at Dojar.

Y'LAN (CONT'D)
It's Q'tami.

DOJAR
Setting a course. At least there's one good thing about it. We didn't have to wait long.

Y'LAN
Why is that a good thing?

DOJAR
One thing I can't stand is waiting around.
  (beat)
Let's go.

He presses a button.
RENAISSANCE: "Together We Stand" - TEASER

EXT. SPACE

The Cardassian ship jumps to warp as we slowly...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER
FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

We have a general view of the expansive starship facilities --
there is the usual buzz of activity, of shuttles coming and
going.

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION

A reception area, the same one we saw in "Living in the
Shadows." People filing off various shuttles, and arriving
in transporter bays. Not unlike an airport. Off one shuttle
we see amongst the crowd LEWIS CARTER, carrying a satchel.
He looks around, and then sees the person waiting for him
ADMIRAL DELFUNE. He approaches her.

CARTER
Hello.

DELFUNE
Your shuttle was late.

CARTER
Yes, well I got delayed in San
Francisco. Had some unfinished
business to attend to.

DELFUNE
I don't appreciate being kept waiting.

CARTER
Sorry, it won't happen again.

DELFUNE
You're right, it won't. Come with
me.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- CORRIDOR

Like one of the ones in "Living in the Shadows," a glass
tube that runs between the various ship bays. Through the
walls we see various impressive ships, including a Pelagic
and an old Ambassador class starship, in the bays. Delfune
marches ahead and Carter hurries to keep up.

CARTER
So, are you going to tell me what
this is actually about now? You
seemed rather furtive on the comm.
As needs be, the less publicity we get the better. There, that's why you've come.

She points out of the corridor. Carter looks past her finger to a bay containing a very familiar vessel.

The Enterprise? I don't understand.

This afternoon at fourteen hundred hours the Enterprise begins her final voyage, to the Hellion Expanse. There she will be dismantled and what parts can be salvaged will be removed and used in the manufacture of other vessels.

I see...

Obviously the Enterprise is still of interest to a lot of people, and as such I felt it best if the fact she was finally being scrapped was not broadcast. We don't want a lot of sight-seers and ghouls, wanting to see the march to the guillotine.

But surely only Starfleet personnel are allowed here.

It was about them that I was referring.

Fine, well that's very interesting but I don't see what it's got to do with me.

Starfleet Command in their infinite wisdom decided that the event should be covered by an FNN reporter so that in a week or so people are informed the ship has gone for good. Do you know, we get more messages on the Subspace Comms Network asking "When is the Enterprise coming back?" than anything else?
CARTER
I thought the most frequently asked question was, "When are we going to get another episode?"

DELFUNE
Pardon?

CARTER

DELFUNE
(dissmissively)
Oh. Now your assignment is to journey on the Enterprise to the Expanse, and just describe the emotions of the people on board.

CARTER
Emotions?

DELFUNE
Oh yes. A couple of the crew have decided they want to be on board for the final journey.

CARTER
How touching.

DELFUNE
Nonsense. Sentimentality gets you nowhere. Look at how they've turned out...

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS
Close up of the shuttle carrying Talora and Grey.

INT. SHUTTLE
Grey is at helm, Talora next to him. The atmosphere is muted.

GREY
Approaching the shipyards now.

TALORA
You can almost hear Delfune rubbing her hands together in glee from here.

Grey gives her a wry look.
EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

We see the shuttle going in... It begins to fly through the various bays on its course to the central core reception area.

GREY'S COMM VOICE
This is Lieutenant Erik Grey, requesting permission to dock.

COMM VOICE
Permission granted.

INT. SHUTTLE

Talora is watching out of the window as Grey pilots. Suddenly, she stops and points out.

TALORA
Look, there she is!

Grey looks out.

EXT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- DRYDOCK

The shot favors the shuttle, but in the distance we can see what looks like a familiar shape...

INT. SHUTTLE

As before, Grey and Talora.

TALORA
Let's take one last fly round her, for old time's sake.

GREY
I don't know.

TALORA
Oh, come on. It's our last chance.

GREY
Okay, why not?

EXT. ENTERPRISE -- DRYDOCK

The shuttle turns, and we follow it as she makes her way through the other ships to... the ENTERPRISE. She still looks majestic, and has none of the battle scars she had at the end of the last season. Her lights are lit again, too, in preparation for her final voyage. She looks alive, and active.

INT. SHUTTLE

As before, Talora and Grey.
GREY
You forget how beautiful she is. No matter what happened on her, she's still a wonderful ship.

TALORA
It's going to be hard saying goodbye.

GREY
It always is.

They both look sad and a little wistful.

TALORA
Enough! Let's go get this over with.

GREY
Okay.

He taps in some commands.

EXT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- DRYDOCK

The shuttle turns, and leaves the Enterprise behind as it heads back towards the Central Core.

INT. SHUTTLE

As before, Grey at helm, Talora beside him.

GREY
So is anyone else coming?

TALORA
Yes...

(she doesn't look happy)

I contacted Elris, but she said she wouldn't be able to get here in time. But she is sending someone else...

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION

The reception area is as busy as ever. Carter is walking through it watching the people when suddenly he hears a commotion.

QUINLAN (O.S.)
Excuse me, excuse me...

We see JENNIFER QUINLAN hurrying through, and barging up to an information panel on the wall.
QUINLAN (CONT'D)
Computer, has the Enterprise left yet? Am I too late...

Carter hurriedly moves over to her.

CARTER
Hi.

Quinlan turns and looks at him.

QUINLAN
Hi.

CARTER
You must be Jennifer Quinlan.

QUINLAN
I must be. Who the hell are you?

CARTER
Lewis Carter, FNN.

He offers his hand, which Quinlan accepts.

QUINLAN
I have no idea what that means. Friendly Nanite Nurses? Fantastically Noisy Nausicaans? Help me out here.

CARTER
Federation News Network.

QUINLAN
Oh, you're a journalist.

CARTER
Some people would say that was an exaggeration.

QUINLAN
It explains the greasy hair and the secondhand suit. What can I do for you?

Carter pulls Quinlan over to a less conspicuous corner of the area.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)
Who we hiding from?

CARTER
I'm here covering the Enterprise's departure.

QUINLAN
Why are we whispering?
CARTER
Admiral Delfune feels it would be best if the general population weren't aware at the present time that today is the day the Enterprise leaves.

QUINLAN
Screw that, I'll announce it to the whole world.

CARTER
Please don't. It... it might jeopardize your chances of coming on the trip.

QUINLAN
Oh yeah. You're smarter than you look. Are the others here yet?

CARTER
I don't believe so.

QUINLAN
Fine, then you can buy me a coffee. And we'll see if we can come up with some more amusing acronyms for FNN.

She leads him away.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

We become aware of a large black hulk moving slowly through the cosmos. We can't make out any detail -- we can't even see its shape fully -- but we know it's massive. The voices we hear are fluidic, oscillating.

VOICE 1
Our mission nears its end.

VOICE 2
Agreed.

VOICE 1
Where are Y'lan and the Cardassian now?

VOICE 2
They are in the K'tarn Nebula.

VOICE 1
Good, that is far from our course vector. Our plan will be unimpeded.

VOICE 2
At first.
VOICE 1
We will have enough time.

VOICE 2
Agreed. The hologram is working.

VOICE 1
Good.

VOICE 2
The mission will not take long.

VOICE 1
Setting a course now for the Sol System.

VOICE 2
I will report back. Our objective will soon be achieved. Soon.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- CAFE

Talora and Grey enter and start to queue for one of the replicators.

GREY
It's a shame really, the ship has never been in better shape. Waste of resources.

TALORA
If only they'd known that it was all for nothing...

Suddenly she spots something and points it out to Grey. We see what they are seeing: Quinlan and Carter talking in a corner. They walk over.

QUINLAN
And then I injected him with the drug, went out like a light.

GREY
Hello, Quinlan.

Quinlan looks at them and smiles.

QUINLAN
Erik, hi.

She embraces him. Then turns to Talora, who looks stiffly at her.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Talora.
TALORA
Quinlan.

QUINLAN
This is Lewis Carter, a reporter for FNN, he's going to be joining us on the voyage.

TALORA
How delightful.

Grey and Talora sit down.

QUINLAN
So what have you guys been up to?

TALORA
Went back to Romulus and met old flame.

GREY
I had fun on a freighter trying to avoid Klingon Reformists. You?

QUINLAN
Old acquaintance tried to kill me.
(beat)
Well, at least we're keeping ourselves busy.

DELFUNE (O.S.)
Some wouldn't say that was necessarily a good thing.

They turn and look up. The Admiral is standing there.

QUINLAN
(dryly)
Oh good, now the party can really get started.

DELFUNE
If you will follow me. We're ready to launch.

TALORA
Fine.

They stand and start off.

DELFUNE
Lieutenant Grey, a word if I may? The rest of you go on.

They nod and head off, Grey hanging back.
GREY
What can I do for you, Admiral?

DELFUNE
We have a problem. The Hawking is docked at present, and has developed a rather... peculiar problem in its central computer core.

GREY
The Hawking... Let me guess, a science vessel?

DELFUNE
But of course. She is meant to launch tonight to record the Beta Sapphire supernova. It's imperative she does so or she will miss it, but at the moment it looks unlikely. I was wondering if you'd mind helping the team over there?

GREY
But I won't get back from the Hellion Expanse until tomorrow...

He looks at Delfune.

DELFUNE
I wouldn't ask if it wasn't important.

He nods.

GREY
Of course I'll go over.

DELFUNE
I'm sorry you're missing the voyage.

GREY
These things can't be helped. Duty comes first.

DELFUNE
Good man.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- TRANSPORTER BAY

Talora, Quinlan, and Carter enter. There, standing behind the console, is NARV OZRAN.

OZRAN
Commander.
TALORA
Narv! What are you doing here?

OZRAN
I never left. When we got back I saw there was a space open for a transporter chief here, applied, and here I am.

TALORA
It's good to see you. You know where we're going?

OZRAN
A little bird told me.

They go and stand on the pad.

TALORA
Three to beam up.

OZRAN
Make that four.

He types in a command, and then goes and stands next to them.

OZRAN (CONT'D)
You don't think I'd miss it, would you? The Enterprise has been very good to me.

Talora and Quinlan smile and Carter looks wary as they shimmer into nothingness...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

...and shimmer back into cohesion here. There are no people in the room though, but the lights are on. Talora, Quinlan, Carter, and Ozran all step off.

TALORA
Lights. Makes a change from the last time we were here.

CARTER
Why?

Quinlan looks at Talora as they realize her mistake.

QUINLAN
(covering)
Because, because... we turned out the lights before we left.
She makes a face at Talora. They walk out, but Ozran holds back a minute.

    TALORA
    You coming?
    OZRAN
    In a minute.

She nods and walks out, as Ozran walks round to the console his console.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TURBOLIFT

Talora, Quinlan, and Carter all stand inside.

    CARTER
    That was a Gorn.
    QUINLAN
    Give the man a round of applause.
    CARTER
    I didn't know there were any Gorns in Starfleet.
    TALORA
    Well, he is half-Trill.
    CARTER
    What?

He looks confused, and Talora and Quinlan grin as the doors open again...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

Talora, Quinlan, and then Carter walk out, to be met by the surprising sight of someone sitting in the Captain's chair and someone at helm. The guy sitting in the Captain's chair turns.

    BOND
    Ahh, welcome aboard.
    TALORA
    Thank you.
    BOND
    I'm Commander Bond.
    TALORA
    I didn't realize there was going to be a crew on board.
BOND
Only a skeleton crew -- myself, Lt Barry at helm and a couple down in engineering. You're just honored guests today.
(to comm)
Engineering, are we ready?

ENGINEER'S COMM VOICE
We are.

BOND
(taps button on chair)
This is Commander Bond on the Enterprise, we're ready to go.

SUPERNUMERARY'S COMM VOICE
Acknowledged, Enterprise. Free to go. Good luck.

BOND
Thank you.

He turns to Talora and Quinlan, while in the background Carter is watching everything keenly and every so often writing things down.

BOND (CONT'D)
Today you're just honored guests, so just sit back and enjoy the ride.
Helm, take us out.

HELM OFFICER
Aye, sir.

As the ship begins to move on the viewscreen Talora and Quinlan sit a bit dejectedly at one of the empty stations.

QUINLAN
I guess we really aren't needed any more...

They watch the viewscreen.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- CORRIDOR

Grey, on his way to the Hawking, stops and watches as the Enterprise slowly turns and moves out of the bay. He stands stiffly as it goes, but do we see the slight quiver of the lips?

GREY
(whispers)
Godspeed, Enterprise.
EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The ENTERPRISE leaves and turns ninety degrees, before warping into space as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise at warp.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Talora and Quinlan are sitting rather miserably at the Science and Operations stations, watching BOND and his helm officer at work. Carter sits in Commander Talora's old chair, interviewing Bond in the Captain's chair.

CARTER
So, is it a great honor to sit in the chair of the Captain of the Enterprise?

BOND
It is! In fact, for a very short while, it's as though I am the Captain of the Enterprise!

CARTER
You have a lot to live up to.

BOND
Yes, when you think of the names that have sat in this chair. Archer, Kirk, Garrett, Picard...

CARTER
And Cross?

BOND
(hesitates)
Well, I suppose so.

CARTER
You hesitate. Wouldn't you class him with those other names?

BOND
Well, not quite.

CARTER
So you think he's more like one of the also-rans, like April, say, or Harriman?

BOND
Erm...

Our view swings to Talora and Quinlan who are watching this with disgust.
QUINLAN
Look at him, badmouthing the captain like that. Makes my blood boil.

TALORA
Well, have you ever seen his program? You know what it's like.
(beat)
Helm, what's our ETA to the Expanse?

HELM OFFICER
Four point two hours, Commander.

QUINLAN
Four hours? I'm not sitting here for four hours. I'm going to go and have a final look round.

TALORA
Agreed.

They get up and walk to the turbolift. Carter looks up.

CARTER
Where are you going?

TALORA
We're going for a walk.

CARTER
Can I come?

QUINLAN
No.

She shuts the turbolift door in his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The large black hulk. We see it is slowly passing through an asteroid belt.

VOICE 1
We are ready.

VOICE 2
Scanning now.

There is a pause.

VOICE 2 (CONT'D)
Scan is negative.

VOICE 1
How can that be?
VOICE 2
Unknown. What is our course of action?

VOICE 1
We must discover what has happened.

VOICE 2
How?

VOICE 1
By any means necessary.

The hulk continues to move... and do we see a small red planet in the distance?

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Talora and Quinlan wander down it.

QUINLAN
This is horrible. I hate it like this, all empty. At least when it was dark it didn't really look like our ship.

TALORA
Yes...

QUINLAN
What?

TALORA
I was just thinking. About what happened. About the references to Janus. About the Klingons on the ships.

QUINLAN
We were close to finding out something.

TALORA
We were. We are...

She turns to Quinlan.

QUINLAN
What do you mean?

TALORA
I mean I'm not going to give up. We lost the Enterprise because of this thing, we lost our Captain, we lost Dojar...

(MORE)
TALORA (CONT'D)
(beat)
And I don't want that loss to be in vain.

QUINLAN
What do you want to do?

TALORA
I don't know. Not yet. But if I do want to do something, dig deeper, try and unearth something... do I have your support?

QUINLAN
You want to go behind Starfleet's back again?

TALORA
Possibly.

QUINLAN
You want to poke your nose in where it's not wanted?

TALORA
Definitely.

QUINLAN
Risk your life for who knows what?

TALORA
Most probably.

QUINLAN
Sounds fun. Count me in.

TALORA
I knew I could rely on you.

They've wandered now into...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- ENGINEERING -- CONTINUOUS

Quinlan and Talora look round. There are three or four people milling around, who look up briefly at the two.

QUINLAN
This doesn't look right either without Erik sweating away over something or other. You know...
(imitating Grey)
"The warp core is at ninety nine point nine efficiency, it's not good enough dammit!"

Talora smiles.
TALORA
It's a shame he's not here. But I imagine he's quite happy working on the Hawking...

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- OPERATIONS

The same command center seen in "Living in the Shadows." A lot of people moving about at various consoles. At one end Grey is tapping furiously at a console. Suddenly it goes pzzzt and starts alarming.

GREY
Son of a bitch! Hawking, did you read that?

HAWKING ENGINEER'S COMM VOICE
Negative, lieutenant, it's not at our end.

Grey taps for a moment.

GREY
No, you're right. I see the problem, there's a gel pack gone. I'll go and replace it.

He gets up and walks over to a Jefferies Tube opening. He unhooks it and crawls in. As he disappears in, Delfune enters and walks over to a senior-looking guy.

DELFUNE
You wanted to see me, Commander?

BRIGGS
Yes, Admiral, look at this.

He points at a console reading.

DELFUNE
What the hell is that?

BRIGGS
That's what we're wondering.

Delfune frowns and taps her commbadge.

DELFUNE
Science bay, are you reading an unidentified mass coming from coordinates two two four mark eight one?

COMM VOICE
Confirmed.
RENAISSANCE: "Together We Stand" - ACT TWO

BRIGGS
Could be a cloaked ship.

DELFUNE
That size?

OFFICER
(sounding alarmed)
Commander Briggs, I'm reading a massive energy build up.

BRIGGS
Coming from the mass?

OFFICER
No, sir, coming from in here...

Suddenly there is a high pitched WHINE... and all around the room, NUMEROUS Q'TAMI suddenly beam in. Hordes and hordes of them. They leap down from the ceilings and off the walls. Delfune and Briggs duck under cover, and begin firing at them as the people begin to run in panic. The red alert claxon rings out.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

Grey is working on the gel pack when he hears the commotion. He turns and begins to crawl quickly back out, unholstering his phaser. As he gets to the end, he looks out...

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- OPERATIONS

There is chaos. Q'tami are sending people flying everywhere with their tentacles, as phaser fire criss-crosses in the air. It also becomes apparent that the phaser fire is deflecting off them again, as it did in the beginning of "Faction Protocols." The Q'tami are in much the ascendancy...

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

Grey quickly scoots back down, pulling the cover onto the exit. He taps his commbadge.

GREY
Grey to Hawking, we're under attack!
Hawking!
(beat)
Hawking come in!
(beat)
Shit. Grey to science bay.
(MORE)
GREY (CONT'D)

(beat)
Dammit, comms are down...

He continues to crawl to a cross-section of the tubes, and quickly begins to crawl...

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION

The Q'tami are here too, rampaging through the reception area. People are running, and screaming, as the Q'tami attack. One man gets to a console and taps in...

MAN
Mayday, mayday, shipyards are under attack! Mayd--

He is suddenly whipped away by a tentacle, and sent flying through the air. The force smashes him through an airlock from a shuttle, hitting the release mechanism. The shuttle starts to fall away as the automatic forcefield protects the people inside from the vacuum of space. The man slumps to the floor.

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The shuttle begins to fall through the air, and as it does so we see the various ships docked begin to EXPLODE. One after another after another they go up, like a chain reaction. The shuttle bounces off one ship, as it DETONATES.

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- OPERATIONS

The computer starts issuing a warning in its cold, clinical voice.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning, structural stability of area is compromised. Warning. Protective forcefields are offline. Warning.

Delfune and Briggs, still cowering in a corner, look up.

BRIGGS
It can't be...

He can't help but look out of the viewscreen.

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The entire outside is a BLAZING INFERNO, as the fireballs join and coalesce. The glass walk ways come undone and fall, and people trapped in them are sucked out into the void. If there was air, we'd hear them screaming.
Our perspective changes to a wider angle, where we can see the entire shipyard complex -- dozens of drydocks and other facilities. All we can see is a giant fireball, gushing through the air. And next to it is the black hulk. We still cannot make out what it is, but finally we see some scale: next to the shipyards, it is huge.

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

Grey is climbing down a ladder hurriedly, when suddenly all of it below him is wrenched off. Suddenly, he is dangling over an inferno, and being sucked towards it.

GREY

Shit!

He holds on for dear life and tries to get at an access port that will close off the tube below him. He strains for it, but slips again, down another couple of rungs. Tears come into his eyes, and he begins to cough, as the air becomes thinner and thinner.

Finally, he scrabbles for his phaser. He pulls it out, and aims at the port. Now holding on with only one hand, he aims and fires once, twice, but his aim is way off. Suddenly he LETS GO.

GREY (CONT'D)

Arggh!

As he falls, he fires again wildly and, what do you know, hits the port. He lands on the newly closed trap door awkwardly and with a thud, banging his head and trapping one leg beneath him. He cries out in agony before passing out.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise at warp.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Carter is walking along a corridor. He gets to a door and opens it, walking into...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- REC LOUNGE -- CONTINUOUS

It used to be Ten Forward, but now it's the recreation lounge. In one corner are sitting Talora and Quinlan, both looking out at the warp trails.

TALORA

And then there were those people who chased us off the...

Quinlan nudges her to shut up, as she has spotted Carter.
CARTER
Hello, you two. I wondered where you'd got to, skulking down here.

QUINLAN
Hello, Carter.

CARTER
Mind if I join you?

QUINLAN
Yes.

Carter pulls up a chair and sits down.

CARTER
I used to date a girl like you.

QUINLAN
She has my sympathies.

CARTER
And mine! I hope you don't mind, but part of this assignment is to talk to you, about how you feel about this day, and so on.

QUINLAN
I've got two words for you.

TALORA
(warningly)
Quinlan.

Quinlan looks wryly at Talora, then turns back to Carter.

QUINLAN
No comment.

CARTER
So, you feel quite defensive about this? Must be hard, seeing the ship that rehabilitated you being scrapped. How does that make you feel?

QUINLAN
Is murder still illegal?

TALORA
Not on Stanos IV.

QUINLAN
We're not passing anywhere near there, are we?

CARTER
All I want is a couple of comments.
QUINLAN
Go away.

CARTER
Fine.

He stands up and begins to walk out. Then he stops and turns back.

CARTER (CONT'D)
I'm only trying to provide a fitting epitaph for this ship. I think she deserves one.

He walks out. Quinlan rolls her eyes at Talora.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- OPERATIONS

It is now lit by the fires outside, but slowly the Q'tami are regaining some order. Some carry equipment in, while others herd the prisoners. One Q'tami pulls Delfune and Briggs out from their hiding place. Delfune raises her phaser and points it defiantly at the Q'tami.

Q'TAMI
Your weaponry will not harm us.

Delfune fires it at the Q'tami, but it is blocked again. The Q'tami seems unperturbed.

Q'TAMI (CONT'D)
Your course of action is useless.

DELFUNE
What do you want?

Q'TAMI
You. You are in charge.

DELFUNE
I am.

Q'TAMI
Come with me.

Delfune looks at Briggs and then slowly turns to follow him.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION

Here, too, some order is now being reined in. People are huddled into small groups, with Q'tami carefully guarding them while others carry Q'tami equipment through, placing it in the center of the area.
The place is a mess, with bodies laying strewn everywhere, while outside fires still blaze. The Q'tami leads Delfune through the carnage.

**Q'TAMI**
You see our capabilities?

**DELFUNE**
I see nothing but vicious animals. Only they could do something like this.

**Q'TAMI**
If you are trying to insult me, it will not work. I do not care what you or any of your kind think of me.

**DELFUNE**
If you don't care, what is it that you want?

**Q'TAMI**
One of your ships.

**DELFUNE**
Then you shouldn't have destroyed them.

She walks to the windows and looks out. Her face quivers with emotion, and for the first time we see another side to her, as her mask drops, just for a moment.

**DELFUNE (CONT'D)**
(whispers)
So many people...

She turns back to the Q'tami, and her face is red with rage.

**DELFUNE (CONT'D)**
(yelling with fury)
How dare you do this to us? How dare you? We do nothing to you but offer our hand in friendship, and this is how you repay us? Let me assure you that for every life you take, we will do the same, but tenfold! We will not rest until every man and woman you have killed is avenged. I promise you that.

**Q'TAMI**
You have offered us no hand but one of war.

**DELFUNE**
We have been in talks with the Hegemony--
Q'TAMI
We are not members of the Hegemony.
We are the Faction. We did not want
this to happen. We just wanted peace
to be left on our own, but that could
not be so. We are only doing what
we must to protect ourselves.

DELFUNE
I know nothing about any so-called
Faction.

Q'TAMI
Then perhaps you should monitor the
activities of your underlings more
closely. Using your method of marking
the passage of time, on Stardate
78702.3 one of your Captains destroyed
one of our ships.

DELFUNE
Who?

Q'TAMI
Cross of the Enterprise.

DELFUNE
(makes a face of
disgust)
I might have known.

Q'TAMI
Furthermore, it will not be the last
time. Our future predictions show a
high degree of probability that the
Enterprise will be involved again in
attacks on us in the next two years,
attacks that will create great
difficulties in carrying out our
duties.

DELFUNE
(sharply)
Duties? What duties?

Q'TAMI
That does not concern you.

DELFUNE
I think it does. As much as I and
Captain Cross do not see eye-to-eye,
I don't believe he would attack you
unless he had a good reason.

Q'TAMI
He wanted to take back the Q'tami we
had taken from his ship.
DELFUNE
Yes, well, Neil Cross doesn't take kindly to people or things close to him being attacked. I've learnt that the hard way. Why does he attack you in the future?

Q'TAMI
You do not need to know that.

DELFUNE
I think I do, if this is the sort of stunt you pull. Do you do something like this again?

Q'TAMI
Enough! You will listen to me clearly and carefully. I want the Enterprise brought here. Now. And I want her captain and senior crew handed over to us.

DELFUNE
I think that will be a bit difficult.

Q'TAMI
You will manage. For every hour our demands are not met, we will kill one of your people here. Do I make myself clear?

Delfune seethes, but clearly has few options for the moment.

DELFUNE
Perfectly.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise flies by at warp.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Commander Bond is still in the command seat, sitting up squarely as he imagines all captains of the Enterprise do. There is a blip.

HELM OFFICER
Commander, we're being hailed.

BOND
What? From where?

HELM OFFICER
It's a fleet-wide signal... Priority One.
INT. ENTERPRISE -- REC LOUNGE

Talora and Quinlan, as before. Both are now silent and staring out the window. Talora's commbadge chirps.

BOND'S COMM VOICE
Bond to Talora.

TALORA
Yes, what is it?

BOND'S COMM VOICE
I think you should come and have a look at this, Commander.

Quinlan and Talora look at one another, then quickly get up.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before, but now Carter is there as well. Talora and Quinlan enter via the turbolift.

TALORA
What's going on?

BOND
(grimly)
We've just received a hail. Helm, put it on screen.

On the screen appears Delfune, looking battered from the battle. In the background, we see people and Q'tami.

DELFUNE
This is Admiral Elizabeth Delfune at the Utopia Planitia Shipyards. We have been attacked and overrun by Q'tami separatists calling themselves the Faction.

Talora and Quinlan start and look at each other.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)
Many are already dead, and unless their demands are met, our captors are saying even more will die. They are demanding that the starship Enterprise NCC-1701-G be brought to them, together with her senior officers: Captain Neil Cross, Commander Talora...
INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

Grey is sitting on his trap door, slowly coming round and nursing his leg, and listening to the message which is being transmitted through what remains of the shipyards.

DELFUNE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...Lieutenant Erik Grey...

He closes his eyes, desperate, not knowing what to do...

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- OPERATIONS

This is where Delfune is sending the message from. The others watch her as she speaks, almost impassively.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)
Doctor Elris Lea, and Lieutenants Gril Dojar...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before: Talora, Quinlan, Carter, Bond, and the supernumeraries watching the transmission.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)
...and Jennifer Quinlan.

Quinlan closes her eyes.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)
If they are not handed over, the Q'tami tell me they will kill one of us every hour until their demands are met.

The screen goes blank.

HELM OFFICER
End of transmission, Commander.

Everyone is stunned for a moment, aghast. Then Bond turns and looks at Talora.

BOND
What do we do, Commander?

Talora looks at him as though in a dream.
TALORA
There's only one thing we can do, Commander.
(beat)
We go back.

Off her expression we slowly...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Continuous action from the end of Act Two.

BOND
Go back? Are you kidding? What can we do?

TALORA
(ignoring him)
Helm, set a new course for the Sol System.

BOND
Belay that order.

Talora wheels on him.

BOND (CONT'D)
It's suicide!

TALORA
Quinlan, would you deal with him?

Quinlan walks sweetly over to Bond.

QUINLAN
Commander Bond, let's get this straight. This is not your ship. It never was, and never will be. It's ours. And now people are in trouble and need our help, and it is our job to go and do whatever we can.

(beat)
Now, if you do not want to spend the rest of the trip in extreme pain, I suggest you cooperate.

Bond looks at her nervously.

BOND
What do you have in mind?

TALORA
We need to know what's going on at the shipyards.

HELM OFFICER
Commander, we're being hailed again. It's Starfleet Command.
TALORA

On screen.

The screen flickers and changes. On it appears the fraught face of ADMIRAL GONZALES (from "Delfune").

TALORA (CONT'D)

Admiral.

GONZALES

You know the situation?

TALORA

Only what we heard from Admiral Delfune.

GONZALES

We are holding an emergency meeting of the Council now to determine our course of action. In the meantime, lay in a course for Earth, maximum warp.

TALORA

We already have done so. Admiral, about Erik Grey...

GONZALES

Grey was still on board the shipyards when they attacked. However, given the Q'tami are still demanding him, my guess is he is among the casualties; otherwise they would have him by now.

TALORA

So we don't know if--

GONZALES

Now is not the time for speculation. Be ready for further instructions. Gonzales out.

The screen goes blank.

QUINLAN

That was curt. Not very sympathetic to Erik.

TALORA

No, and I didn't like the phrase "be ready for further instructions," either.

QUINLAN

You don't think they'd seriously think of handing us over, do you?
TALORA
Of course not.

Quinlan looks doubtfully at her.

TALORA (CONT'D)
But just in case, I suggest we come up with an alternative plan of action.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

Grey is as he was at the end of Act Two, lying at the bottom of the shaft. Slowly he begins to ease himself up, but winces with pain from his leg and sits down again hard. He starts to breathe.

GREY
On the count of three. One. Two. Three!

He moves again, pulling himself up a rung on the ladder, and this time bites down on his uniform as the wave of pain from his leg hits him. He sweats for a moment, but finally it subsides. He is now holding himself up with his hands on the ladder.

GREY (CONT'D)
And again. One, two, three!

He begins to pull himself up again...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CONFERENCE ROOM

Talora, Quinlan, and Bond are standing round the table, looking at a schematic. The door opens and Ozran enters. Carter begins to follow him in, but Quinlan quickly stops this.

QUINLAN
No. Senior staff only.

Carter opens his mouth in protest but the door shuts in his face. The door immediately opens again.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)
I thought I said--

CARTER
Admiral Delfune's orders.

QUINLAN
But--
TALORA
Just leave it, Quinlan we don't have time.

Carter looks smugly at Quinlan as Ozran walks over to the table.

OZRAN
What are we doing?

TALORA
This is a schematic of the shipyards before the attack. We've received preliminary estimates about the damage based on available data. Here.

She presses a button. Nearly two thirds of the schematics disappear. Quinlan whistles.

QUINLAN
They don't do anything in half measures, do they?

TALORA
Starfleet hasn't been able to get any firm data from the yards, but preliminary estimates are in the range of three to four thousand people killed...

Stunned looks all around.

TALORA (CONT'D)
...And given the number of people likely to be in the central core area at the time of attack, and going by past experience of Q'tami attacks, it's likely we're dealing with at least fifteen hundred hostages.

QUINLAN
So we can't blast our way in?

TALORA
No. Look at this.

She presses a button. The footage of Delfune from earlier appears on the screen. As the Admiral mouths silently on the recording, Talora points things out.

TALORA (CONT'D)
This looks like it's the main reception and administration area. You can see in the background the Q'tami herding the hostages. Look how they're positioned.
They all peer closely.

  OZRAN
  The hostages are facing outwards.

  TALORA
  Right.

  QUINLAN
  A Human shield.

  TALORA
  Given the Q'tami's known predilection for ramming attacks, it's unsurprising they'd take steps to ensure we don't follow their example.

  CARTER
  Very clever aliens. I should do a program about them.

Everyone stares at him.

  CARTER (CONT'D)
  Carry on...

  BOND
  Look at the flames out there, we couldn't do much anyway.

  OZRAN
  How did they get control so quickly?

  TALORA
  Computer, replay footage from time index fifteen thirty.

They watch again the attack on Ops. As they do so, something catches Talora's attention.

  TALORA (CONT'D)
  (abruptly)
  Computer, hold. Back ten seconds.

The computer plays again.

  TALORA (CONT'D)
  Hold again.

  QUINLAN
  What is it? What do you see?

  TALORA
  I'm not sure. Computer, magnify this area...

  (MORE)
TALORA (CONT'D)
(she traces it on the screen)
...and enhance, magnification factor twenty.

The computer does so. In the corner we see a blonde head poking out of a Jefferies Tube, before disappearing back in again quickly.

QUINLAN
Erik?

TALORA
Computer, run back by ten minutes.
Play frame by frame at thirty second intervals.

They watch as Grey, stuttering, goes over and enters the Jefferies Tube.

TALORA (CONT'D)
Computer, show us those schematics again.

The schematics replace the monitor image. Quinlan traces a finger.

QUINLAN
That Jefferies Tube is still intact. He could still be there. Like the Admiral said, the Q'tami wouldn't have asked for him if he was already in their hands.

BOND
Wonderful, he's still alive. So what? How can we use that?

TALORA
That, Commander Bond, is what we have to figure out.

She and Quinlan look at each other.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

Grey has managed to pull himself onto a flat area. He is soaked in sweat and grimy, but has a determined look in his face. We can see he is looking down through a blasted gap at the scene in Operations below. Delfune and a couple of others sit in a desultory group as the Q'tami patrol. Grey looks round and, seeing none of the aliens are watching, he quickly climbs down...
INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- OPERATIONS

Delfune sits in the corner. Grey quickly crawls over to her, and puts his finger to his mouth as she starts to speak.

GREY
Sssh.

DELFUNE
Lieutenant Grey. I thought we'd lost you.

GREY
I thought you'd lost me.

Delfune watches the Q'tami consulting together in the corner.

DELFUNE
You know what they want?

GREY
(nods)
Yes. Any word from Starfleet yet?

DELFUNE
None. All comm systems are down.

Grey reaches in his pocket and hands Delfune his phaser.

GREY
Here.

DELFUNE
It's useless at the moment. They deflect the shots somehow.

GREY
Dammit. They did the same thing when they attacked the Enterprise.

DELFUNE
How could they do that though?

GREY
Let me think. As well as the weapons, the comms are down as well. They must be using some kind of localized dampening field. If they used that, the Q'tami's comms would be as useless as ours.

DELFUNE
Why would they use a debilitating device like that?
GREY
Well, look at it this way. How many Q'tami have you seen on board?

DELFUNE
Maybe thirty at most.

GREY
Right. They couldn't overpower all of us if we had our weapons.

DELFUNE
Then why not attack with more?

GREY
Maybe they don't have more. Maybe they're just stage managing a gigantic bluff.

DELFUNE
That could work in our favor.

GREY
Exactly.

DELFUNE
The first thing to do then is to get the weapons back. Where would the dampening field be generated from? Their ship?

GREY
No, they wouldn't want to disrupt their ship as well. It'd have to be something they've brought on board.

DELFUNE
They've brought so much equipment on board. Where would be a good place for a dampening field?

GREY
(sighs)
It wouldn't matter at this range. It could be anywhere.

DELFUNE
Then that must be your mission. Find it.

GREY
The words "needle" and "haystack" spring to mind.

DELFUNE
You'd better get moving then.
Grey nods sadly. He turns and quickly reenters the Jefferies Tube.

    DELFUNE (CONT'D)
    And Erik? Good luck.

He nods and crawls off. Suddenly we become aware of a fracas going on at the other side of the room. Two Q'tami bring in a crew man whom we soon see is COMMANDER BRIGGS.

    BRIGGS
    No, please!

Delfune stands up.

    DELFUNE
    What is going on?

    Q'TAMI
    Admiral, one hour has elapsed.

    DELFUNE
    No, you can't. Give them more time!

    Q'TAMI
    No negotiation.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Talora, Quinlan, Bond, Ozran, and Carter march in from the Conference Room.

    TALORA
    Report.

    HELM OFFICER
    Commander, we're receiving another fleet-wide message from Utopia Planitia.

    TALORA
    On screen.

On the viewscreen appears the Q'tami holding Briggs, with Delfune standing to one side.

    Q'TAMI
    Federation, our demands have not been met. You know what the penalty must be.

    BRIGGS
    No! Please, anything!
The Q'tami reaches up with a tentacle and quickly snaps Briggs' neck. After a moment, the Q'tami lets the body slump to the floor.

Q'TAMI
One hour, and then another will die.

The screen cuts out. The Bridge crew looks aghast for a moment.

HELM OFFICER
Oh my God.

BOND
This is too much. Even the Admiral was shaking!

TALORA
What? Admiral Delfune never shakes.

BOND
She was there. Helm, isolate Admiral Delfune and show her from that last recording.

TALORA
That isn't necessary.

The image reappears, but in mute and with only the Admiral visible, the rest blurred. Her hands are indeed shaking.

BOND
See what I mean?

Carter suddenly frowns.

CARTER
I don't think that was shaking.
Play it again.

The helm does so.

TALORA
Mr. Carter?

CARTER
(triumphantly)
Sign language. She's using Deltan sign language. I did a whole program on it a while back as part of my community service.

TALORA
Computer, translate hand movements of image using Deltan sign language matrix.
On the screen we see a blown up picture of Delfune's hands, slowed down.

COMPUTER VOICE (CONT'D)

Carter looks triumphantly at Talora.

CARTER
Told you.

HELM OFFICER
Commander, being hailed again. It's Admiral Gonzales again.

TALORA
Let's hear what he has to say. On screen.

Gonzales appears looking very grave. He is seated in a meeting room with other Admirals, including THEL and CHIANG.

GONZALES
Commander, I presume you just saw that?

TALORA
Yes, sir.

GONZALES
We cannot hesitate any further. All attempts to communicate with the Q'tami have been blocked, and we cannot hope to get past their ship. We have only one option left.

TALORA
You want us to surrender?

GONZALES
I'm afraid so.

TALORA
Admiral, if you just gave us a bit more time--

GONZALES
There is no more time! We cannot allow any more needless deaths. The Penal Colony holding the Captain have been informed and are ready to release him.
Beat. Talora takes a minuscule glance at Quinlan.

    TALORA
    Understood sir. ETA, helm?

    HELM OFFICER
    Thirty minutes to enter Sol System.

    GONZALES
    I'm sorry, Talora. Gonzales out.

He signs out. Talora looks at Quinlan.

    TALORA
    We have thirty minutes to think of a plan.

    QUINLAN
    Surely you're not thinking of going against orders?

    TALORA
    Why not? What have we got to lose now?

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

Grey makes his way along. As he does so, he reaches for his commbadge again and presses it. Still nothing.

    GREY
    Dammit.

He leans against the wall, and thinks. Then something dawns on him. He reaches in and gets his phaser out. He smashes it against a sharp corner at a bend, and it opens. He pries open his commbadge and connects the wires to the power cell in the phaser. He presses it again. There's a slightly different noise.

    GREY (CONT'D)
    There. That gives us a comm radius of -- oh, say twenty kilometers. Now, is there anyone out there to hear it? This is Lieutenant Grey, calling...

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise swoops past our point of view. In the background, we see the beautiful planet Earth.
INT. NZ PENAL -- CROSS'S CELL

NEIL CROSS is pacing up and down, when his door opens and a GUARD enters.

GUARD
They're here.

He stands aside and lets Talora enter.

TALORA
Captain.

CROSS
Talora.

They embrace. And then they look at each other.

CROSS (CONT'D)
I hear we're to go to our horrible deaths at the hands of the Faction?

TALORA
Afraid so.

CROSS
Business as usual then?

TALORA
Certainly is.

CROSS
You have an idea?

TALORA
Of course. We make it up as we go along.

CROSS
It really is business as usual.

He looks at her wryly as they walk out.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Cross materializes on the pad with Talora. Ozran is at the controls, and waiting too are Carter and Quinlan.

CROSS walks slowly forward.

QUINLAN
Welcome aboard, Captain.

CROSS
Thank you, Quinlan.
QUINLAN
I took the liberty of getting you a uniform.

CROSS
Thank you. Ozran.

OZRAN
Captain.

CROSS
I could use a familiar face in Engineering.

OZRAN
I'm on my way, sir.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Cross hurries down it urgently, pulling on his uniform as he talks. Behind him Talora and Quinlan race to keep up, and lagging just behind but keeping pace is Carter. The corridors are bathed in the red alert light.

CROSS
When did this happen?

TALORA
About three hours ago.

CROSS
How many hostages do they have?

TALORA
Approximately fifteen hundred, sir. Including Admiral Delfune.

CROSS
Oh well, every cloud has a silver lining, I guess.

(taps commbadge)
Ozran, what can you tell me?

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- ENGINEERING

Ozran is rushing about, trying to master Engineering as best he can with a staff of about four.

OZRAN
Captain, I'm doing my best, but the Enterprise is not equipped for any sort of mission like this.
CROSS'S COMM VOICE
It'll have to do, Chief.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

As before Cross, Talora, Quinlan, and Carter.

CROSS
Are we in communication with them?

TALORA
No, sir, there's a communications blackout around the yards.

CROSS
What support do we have?

TALORA
None, Starfleet want us to go in alone, shields down, kissing their boots.

CROSS
Of course. Speaking of which, where the hell is Y'lan?

TALORA
No idea, he's been missing for some weeks.

CROSS
Marvelous. How do we know he's not involved?

TALORA
We don't.

They reach a turbolift and enter.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TURBOLIFT -- CONTINUOUS

CROSS
Bridge.

CARTER
Captain, if I may just--

CROSS
How about Lea? Does she know what's going on?

Talora and Quinlan look at each other.
TALORA
(quietly)
We haven't contacted her, but I'm sure she's heard.

CROSS
Best get it sorted quickly then, before she turns up as a noble martyr.

CARTER
(loudly)
Captain, if I might just have a word--

Cross looks at Carter as if noticing him for the first time.

CROSS
I'm sorry, who is this jackass?

Carter thrusts out his hand.

CARTER
Lewis Carter. Federation News Network.

CROSS
Oh, Christ. What the hell is he doing here?

TALORA
Delfune's orders.

CROSS
Of course he is. Remind me again why we have to rescue her?

TALORA
I think it would be frowned on if we didn't.

CROSS
Pity.

The door opens...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

Cross walks out slowly and looks around. Talora, Quinlan, and Carter file out behind him. Bond waits for him.

BOND
(stiffly)
Captain on the Bridge.

CROSS
Thank you, Commander...?
BOND
Bond, Commander Bond.

CROSS
Oh good, you'll be helpful to have along.

QUINLAN
(heading for helm)
I hope everyone remembers where they sit...

Cross hesitates then, and looks at his chair. Quinlan and Talora both go to their places.

CROSS
I'm not sure I do...

He looks thoughtful.

QUINLAN
Bloody hell, someone's gone and rearranged my console! This took me ages to get how I liked it.

TALORA
In times of war, we all have heavy burdens to carry, Quinlan.

Cross, noticeably not sitting, looks over at Bond. Carter steps forward.

CARTER
Captain, please, just a few words...

TALORA
Mr. Carter, if you don't want to spend your time on this mission in the brig, you will be advised to keep quiet.

CARTER
But just...

He looks at Talora, who shakes her head warningly at him. Carter looks back at Cross, who seems almost not to be with them.

CROSS
(quietly)
Commander, open a channel to Command.

BOND
Channel open, Captain.
CROSS
Starfleet Command, this is the Enterprise, Captain Neil Cross taking temporary command, as per orders. Request permission to depart.

GONZALES'S COMM VOICE
Request granted. Good luck, Enterprise.

CROSS
Acknowledged with thanks. Quinlan, if you will do the honors?

QUINLAN
Of course.

She presses her console. Suddenly the whole bridge jerks backwards, throwing everyone.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)
Sorry, still getting used to this new layout. (beat) There.

She presses again, and we see on the viewscreen the ship beginning to move. Carter moves forward determinedly.

CARTER
Captain, I really must insist.

TALORA
Carter...

CROSS
It's all right, Talora. Let's give him enough rope to hang himself. What can I do for you, Mr. Carter?

CARTER
I was just wondering what your plans were. What you're going to do when we get there.

CROSS
What we're going to do? What we always try and do, Mr. Carter. We're going to save the day.

He turns back to the viewscreen as the Enterprise clears spacedock doors.

EXT. SPACEDOCK
THE ENTERPRISE heroically turns and heads off into the distance, as slowly...
FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The massive black hulk still looms ominously in front of them. The fires still rage but slightly less so.

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION

The Q'tami continue to monitor the situation with their equipment as the people remain standing against the walls. The camera pans up through the ceiling into...

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

Grey making his way slowly along, still with his commbadge and phaser. He gets to an opening in the wall and slowly and carefully eases it to one side, peering into...

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- STORAGE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

It is empty of people, and only has small consoles and boxes dotted around the room. He checks the room is empty and then goes over to one of the consoles.

GREY
(whispering)
Computer, status of sensors.

The console flickers, stutters, then:

COMPUTER VOICE
Sensors are non-operational.

GREY
This is hopeless.

He slumps down at the corner, and looks at his commbadge again. Desultory he taps it.

GREY (CONT'D)
This is Erik Grey, calling to anyone out there. This is Erik Grey, please respond...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before; Cross standing in front of the center chair, Talora sitting beside him, Quinlan at helm, Bond at ops and Carter just watching. Bond looks up.

BOND
Captain, we're receiving a hail. It's... as far as I can make out, it's coming from inside the shipyards.
TALORA
They've detected us.

BOND
I'm not sure, it's a Federation signature. Audio only.

CROSS
Let's hear it.

The comm comes on. It is very crackly and breaks up every so often.

GREY'S COMM VOICE
...Grey, calling to ... there.
...Respond.

CROSS
Erik? This is Captain Cross. Can you hear me?

GREY'S COMM VOICE
...tain? Is that you?

INTERCUT:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- STORAGE ROOM

Grey sits up, suddenly alert. Cross's voice is distorted too.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
...is. Where are you?

GREY
Captain, listen, we don't have much time. The Q'tami are using a subspace dampener field generator, somewhere on board here, to block our phasers. We need to find it, but it's played havoc with our sensors. You need to find it.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
...nowledged. Hang firm.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before; Cross, Talora, Quinlan, Bond, and Carter.

CROSS
We don't want them to detect our...

The ship suddenly SHAKES.
BOND
The Q'tami ship has opened fire.

TALORA
Too late.

CROSS
Raise shields and go into evasive maneuvers. Talora, help Bond. We need to find that generator.

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS
The black hulk is turning and firing on the Enterprise.

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION
Three Q'tami move with purpose towards a door in a corner. With a flick of a tentacle, the door bursts open into...

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- STORAGE ROOM
The Q'tami enter -- but the room is empty. They look up and see the Jefferies tube open. One whips a tentacle, knocking it off, before all three rise and enter the tubes...

Q'TAMI 2
We must find him quickly.

Q'TAMI 3
Agreed.

We hear them scuttering down the tubes quickly. One of the boxes slowly opens and Grey peers out.

GREY
Smarter than the average Q'tami...

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- OPERATIONS
As before with the hostages. The lead Q'tami turns to Delfune.

Q'TAMI
A rescue is being attempted.

DELFUNE
Did you expect anything else?

Q'TAMI
It will not succeed. Our ship is ten times as strong.
Delfune
Then you should have nothing to worry about.

Cut To:

Ext. Space -- Utopia Planitia Fleet Yards

It is noticeable the hulk is not moving far, but the energy beam blasts from it are hitting home. The Enterprise's shots, on the other hand, do not seem to be doing any damage at all.

Int. Enterprise -- Bridge

As before. The red alert klaxon is going.

Cross
Report.

Bond
Shields are down to forty nine percent.

Cross
Quinlan, you're going to have to be a lot quicker.

Quinlan
I'm sorry, Captain, I'm rusty on maneuvering a ship this large.

Cross
I suggest you remember quickly.

Quinlan
I'm trying...

Cross
How much longer on the scan?

Talora
Every time we're hit the computer loses track. We've only scanned seventeen percent--

The bridge rocks again under an impact from a shot.

Bond
Shields at twenty nine percent.

Cross
Find that dampener!
INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION

GREY eases out of the storage room, and watches the Q'tami carefully. He sneaks along one wall, and manages to turn a corner, into...

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- CORRIDOR

This leads into a corridor which is free from Q'tami. He hurries down it as fast as his leg will allow him to. He gets to a door, and tries to enter it.

COMPUTER VOICE
Access denied. Access to the armory permitted only to senior personnel.

GREY
Override, code Grey four seven Epsilon.

COMPUTER VOICE
Access denied. You do not have security clearance.

GREY
Dammit!

He looks around. A Jefferies tube opening stands by him. He hesitates. Can he enter with the Q'tami roaming round inside them?

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before. It rocks again under another impact.

BOND
Shields at fourteen percent!

CROSS
Talora?

TALORA
(shaking her head in frustration)
It's no good, Captain. Only twenty six percent, there's no sign of the damn thing.

Suddenly Cross notices Carter beginning to inch towards the turbolift.

CROSS
Where are you going?
CARTER
I thought I might try and find an escape pod...

CROSS
Don't be a fool, they'll shoot you out of the sky.

Carter whimpers.

QUINLAN
Hold on, here they come again!

The bridge rocks again under a massive barrage. The console Bond is using explodes, and he cries out as he is thrown to the floor. Talora presses some buttons.

TALORA
We've lost shields completely.

Cross turns and looks at the screen ashen faced.

QUINLAN
They're preparing to fire again. Should we flee?

No.

QUINLAN
Captain?

CROSS
Our mission was to save the people on board that station. Our deaths will do that. Hold firm.

He looks round at Carter.

CROSS (CONT'D)
I hope you got enough footage.

Carter looks at him fearfully.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The hulk slowly swings around and prepares to fire one more time. It begins to, but the shot is knocked off course by a new phaser barrage. Out of the void comes the CARDASSIAN FREIGHTER of Y'lan and Dojar. It fires hard on the hulk, which turns its attention to them.
INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Y'lan stands at weapons, impassive as always. Dojar sits at helm with a triumphant smile on his face.

DOJAR
Afternoon, Captain, mind if we play too?

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
Dojar?

DOJAR
Yes, Captain. Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before. They all look at each other.

CROSS
Feel free to join the party. Talora?

TALORA
Scanning now.

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The hulk is now taken up with fighting the Cardassian ship -- which is maneuvering with much greater agility than would be suggested by its massive bulk. The Enterprise is left temporarily alone.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

Grey crawling along it. Suddenly from behind he hears scuttling. He looks back and sees Q'tami approaching. He hurries quicker.

GREY
(taps commbadge)
Any time you like, Commander.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before.

TALORA
Working on it, Erik. Working on it.
We see a close up of her console. The computer is homing in on an area.

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- JEFFERIES TUBE

The Q'tami are right behind GREY, who is moving as quickly as he can. It looks to be futile though, as a tentacle reaches out... but he is over an opening, and drops just as the tentacle is about to hit him, into...

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- ARMORY -- CONTINUOUS

Grey lands with a thud, and cries out in pain. With a supreme effort, he gets himself together and gets over to a bank containing phaser rifles, as the Q'tami jump into the room behind him. He turns and looks at them.

GREY
Now would be a good time, Talora.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before.

TALORA
Got it! It's in the central core.

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- ARMORY

As before.

GREY
I'm nowhere near the central core.

One Q'tami lashes out at him, and whips his phaser away.

GREY (CONT'D)
If you kill me, you'll never get the Enterprise.

Q'TAMI
The Enterprise is already ours.

GREY
They would leave rather than let you have it.

Q'TAMI
We shall see.
It moves over and picks him up, ready to smash him to the ground.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before.

CROSS
Quinlan, take us in.

QUINLAN
What?

CROSS
Into the shipyards. We have to destroy that generator without hurting those people.

QUINLAN
You're... not kidding, are you?

CROSS
Now, Quinlan!

QUINLAN
Okay...

CROSS
Get ready, Talora.

EXT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- DRYDOCKS

The Enterprise moves into the, through the flames. The giant hulk turns quickly to try and fire at them, but the Cardassian ship attacks them again.

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION

Through the flames, like the rising of a phoenix, the ENTERPRISE bursts through, flying through the docks the ships were in. The hostages stare and point out of the windows, and the Q'tami react. In the background, we see for the first time what they have been guarding -- a Q'tami console like device.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before.

QUINLAN
Changing frequency to counter forcefields.

CROSS
Fire.
INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION

As before. An arc of phaser fire cuts through the forcefields holding the atmosphere in, flying harmlessly over the people and striking first the Q'tami and then the generator, which instantly self-destructs and explodes.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- ARMORY

Grey is about to be thrown against the wall when the phaser attached to his comm badge glows again. He quickly snatches it and fires into the head of the Q'tami. Immediately it lets him go, screaming. He drops to the floor, and rolls over to the phaser rifle.

GREY
Sorry to disappoint you. Better luck next time.

He picks it up and shoots at the Q'tami. One explodes, another tries to grab the rifle, but Grey shoots the tentacle off it, before blasting it to smithereens. He looks at the third.

GREY (CONT'D)
You want some?

The Q'tami roars and leaps at him, but Grey shoots him out of the air. He quickly picks up a few more rifles, and hurries out.

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- RECEPTION

People are cheering at the dead Q'tami, as Grey appears.

GREY
Here.

He starts to distribute the rifles, as more Q'tami appear. They start shooting them, and the Q'tami start dropping. The Starfleet officers quickly spread out...

CUT TO:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- OPERATIONS

The Q'tami there turn as people barge in and begin firing. They don't have the time to react as they start dropping. The one holding Delfune panics and begins to turn, but drops to the floor in front of her. Delfune looks at him.

 DelFUNE
Excellent.
EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The black hulk is starting to flicker as the Enterprise reappears out of the shipyards.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before.

    CROSS
    Cross to Dojar and Y'lan. What's happening?

    INTERCUT:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHIP -- BRIDGE

Y'lan and Dojar, as before.

    Y'LAN
    An illusion, Captain. The generator was creating the impression of a vast ship, when as you can see, it is no bigger than yours.

EXT. SPACE -- UTOPIA PLANITIA FLEET YARDS

The black hulk image finally disappears, and is replaced by a small Q'tami vessel, roughly the size of the Enterprise. It turns away quickly, and jumps into warp.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before.

    QUINLAN
    Should we pursue it, Captain?

    CROSS
    Not with our shields. Cross to Grey. What's happening?

    INTERCUT:

INT. UTOPIA PLANITIA -- OPERATIONS

Grey enters to see Q'tami lying dead everywhere.

    GREY
    The situation is under control, Captain. Thank you.

He looks up at Delfune, who looks back at him and nods. Grey smiles.
INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before. Everyone breathes a sigh of relief.

CROSS
Stand down from red alert, then. Lieutenant Dojar?

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE
Captain?

CROSS
Would you mind reporting to my ready room? You have some explaining to do.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE
Understood, Captain.

Talora silently watches, her emotion unreadable, as Cross breathes a sigh of relief and we slowly...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR
FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE -- EARTH SPACEDOCK

The ENTERPRISE has returned.

INT. STARFLEET COMMAND -- DELFUNE'S OFFICE

Delfune is sitting behind her desk, with crutches propped against it, and a black eye. The door chimes.

DELFUNE

Come in.

The door opens and Cross enters. Delfune looks at him.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)

Neil.

CROSS

Admiral. You wanted to see me?

DELFUNE

Yes. Please, sit down.

Cross does so.

CROSS

How are you feeling?

DELFUNE

I'll survive.

CROSS

I'm glad to hear it.

Delfune looks at him wryly.

DELFUNE

I suppose you've read the report?

CROSS

With great interest.

DELFUNE

The Q'tami went to a great deal of trouble to get rid of you.

CROSS

It would seem they had quite a grudge against me.

DELFUNE

I'm wondering if there's any species out there that doesn't.
CROSS
I don't think the tribbles have any reason to complain.

DELFUNE
Under normal circumstances, I would just put this terrible incident down to another example of you creating trouble, but it's more complex than that. It wasn't just you they wanted.

CROSS
And from my limited experience, the Q'tami wouldn't even understand the concept of vengeance, let alone do what they did for it.

DELFUNE
For once I agree -- as does the Council. This wasn't about you destroying one of their ships.

CROSS
What was it about then?

DELFUNE
They said that you would interfere with their plans again. It would appear that you and your crew are a threat to them and whatever it is they are planning.

CROSS
It's nice to feel useful.

DELFUNE
It must be. Evidently they decided that before they put whatever they're planning into operation they'd get rid of something that could stand in their way. Namely, you and your crewmates.

CROSS
I bet you wish you'd thought of that.

DELFUNE
(ignoring this)
We've contacted the Hegemony, but as usual we've got nothing back from them.

CROSS
What did they say?
DELFUNE
The gist was they don't care one way or the other. I think they rather welcomed the fact that the Faction were concentrating more on us than on themselves.

CROSS
It makes you wonder why, though.

DELFUNE
Why?

CROSS
Why they are concentrating on us. The Q'tami seem to enjoy pointing out that we are beneath them, as ants are to us. Why then are the Faction bothering about us? What do they hope to achieve?

DELFUNE
I don't know. But I imagine you're going to have fun finding out.

CROSS
Excuse me?

DELFUNE
The Faction are a threat to us now. It would be foolish to take away something that are evidently a threat to them, for whatever reason. Therefore, the Federation Council has decided to recommission the Enterprise, with you in command.

Cross stares at her, momentarily stunned.

CROSS
Won't... won't the Reformists have something to say about that?

DELFUNE
The Reformists have just signed a peace treaty with the Federation and the Imperialists, a treaty I myself had a great deal of influence in. They'll play ball.

CROSS
I see.

DELFUNE
Your orders are simple. (MORE)
DELFUNE (CONT'D)
To reform your senior staff -- all those who were targeted by these creatures -- and to find out what the Faction is up to. Amongst all the other missions the Enterprise is used to receiving.

CROSS
(overwhelmed)
I... understand. Thank you, Admiral--

DELFUNE
This isn't a pardon, Neil. You have a permanent scar on your record and I'm going to make damn sure the Enterprise is the last ship you ever command. If matters were different, have no doubt you'd be spending the rest of your days in the penal colony.

CROSS
I do.

DELFUNE
However, matters are not different. And, given your recent service in alleviating the shipyard situation--

CROSS
Where I rescued your ass, you mean?

DELFUNE
(patIENTly)
Where you and your crew saved the hostages, the Council felt they had no choice.

CROSS
I promise they won't regret their decision.

DELFUNE
I already regret it. However, the rest of the crew mustn't be informed of why you are being relaunched. It would not be in their best interests.

CROSS
What do we tell them then?

DELFUNE
That due to your sterling service in saving the shipyards, the ship has been recommissioned.
CROSS
It's a bit thin.

DELFUNE
It'll have to do. I expect the Enterprise to launch within a week, understood?

CROSS
Yes, Admiral.

DELFUNE
All right, dismissed.

Cross nods, and turns to go.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)
Oh, one more thing, Neil.

Cross turns back.

DELFUNE (CONT'D)
You understand that with her tarred record, the Enterprise will not be returned to her status as the Federation flagship. It would not present an acceptable image for Starfleet.

Cross's face drops, but he nods, understanding.

CROSS
May I ask which ship will become the flagship?

DELFUNE
(thin smile on her lips)
The Leviathan. Under Captain Joel.

CROSS
(stiffly)
A good choice.

DELFUNE
Now get moving. You'll be wanting to greet your new crew member.

CROSS
New crew member?

DELFUNE
Oh, yes. I'm sure you're going to get on like a house on fire.
INT. ENTERPRISE -- SHUTTLEBAY

Quinlan and Talora are ticking names off a PADD as crewmembers disembark. They both look at the latest addition.

QUINLAN
You've got to be kidding me.

Carter beams at them.

CARTER
Hello. Lewis Carter, signing aboard.

QUINLAN
What the hell are you doing here?

CARTER
Oh, hasn't anyone told you? Here...

He hands Quinlan a PADD.

CARTER (CONT'D)
The FNN has been negotiating with Starfleet to have a reporter placed aboard every starship, sort of a man on the front line, if you like.

QUINLAN
I don't like. I haven't heard anything about this.

CARTER
It's a new initiative. I think it's an excellent idea, don't you?

QUINLAN (dryly)
Fabulous.

CARTER
Since the Enterprise is in the forefront of news at the moment, it's seen as an ideal slot for a pilot run of the scheme. And since I've had experience of you all already, who better for the job?

QUINLAN
I can think of several people. Talora, do you know about this?

Talora comes over and reads the PADD. Carter beams again.
QUINLAN (CONT'D)
(aside to Talora)
See who the order's signed by?

TALORA
Delfune. Perfect.

CARTER
I hope I don't get in anybody's way.

TALORA
This says you have access to the Bridge?

CARTER
Yes, and to staff meetings, although it is of course Captain's prerogative what I can report from them.

TALORA
Of course. Welcome aboard, Mr. Carter.

CARTER
Thank you. Now Ensign, which way to my quarters?

Quinlan blanches.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- ENGINEERING

Grey is walking round, tutting, as LIEUTENANT SARAH BOYLE stands aside.

GREY
This is terrible. Nothing is where it used to be. This is going to take weeks to sort out.

BOYLE
Then you should be in your element then.

GREY
Yeah.

He sighs.

BOYLE
What is it?

GREY
I... I don't know.

(MORE)
GREY (CONT'D)
A week ago, if you'd asked me, I'd have said there was no way I wanted to get back on this ship. But now...

BOYLE
Now?

GREY
The Q'tami are hunting us. For what reason we don't know. So it's better that we all stick together, watch each other's backs.

BOYLE
Yeah.

GREY
And yet... and yet I don't know whether I want to. I can never forgive the Captain for what he did on Coular. And how can I serve under a Captain I don't respect?

BOYLE
You're not serving under a Captain you don't respect. You're serving a crew and ship you do.

She takes his hand.

GREY
Yeah.

(shakes his head)
Anyway, these phase alignments won't correct themselves.

BOYLE
I'll leave you to it.

GREY
Thanks.

She wanders off, but Grey still looks unhappy.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- Y'LAN'S LAB

It is in darkness. The door opens and Y'lan enters, followed by Dojar. Both are carrying equipment, as the room is empty.

Y'LAN
Please place the equipment over there.

Dojar does so.
DOJAR
Phew, this stuff is heavy. Why couldn't we transport it?
(beat)
Don't tell me, let me guess. Some gobbledygook Q'tami reason that'll mess up the transporters.

Y'LAN
No, I did not wish to wait in the queue.

DOJAR
Fair enough. So. Good to be home?

Y'LAN
Home? This is not my home.

DOJAR
Well... it is a bit.

Y'LAN
The Q'tami do not have an attachment to any particular location. We do not need to feel a bond with certain places to feel more comfortable.

DOJAR
Sounds a bit miserable. Home is where the heart is.

Y'LAN
Q'tami hearts are very different in structure to bipeds.

DOJAR
Yeah, that's true. Y'lan, what do you think is going to happen?

Y'LAN
In what way?

DOJAR
With the attackers.

Y'LAN
I do not know.

DOJAR
One thing is encouraging. They're not as powerful as we thought. If they have to try and bluff us to think there's thousands of them...

Y'LAN
There are many thousands of them. Millions, even.
DOJAR
Then why did they attack the shipyards with barely thirty? And why did they create an illusion of that giant ship?

Y'LAN
I do not know. The Q'tami's ways are...
(thinks)
...becoming more difficult for me to follow.

DOJAR
That must feel difficult for you. (hesitates)
Y'lan, I just wanted to say thank you.

Y'LAN
Thank you?

DOJAR
Yeah, for everything you did for me. And for this crew.

Y'LAN
I just did whatever needed to be done.

DOJAR
I know, but still. Thank you.

Y'LAN
You are... welcome. (beat)
Please put that console over here.

Y'lan begins setting up his equipment again, and Dojar carries a large box to the center of the room.

Talora and Quinlan enter.

TALORA
Dojar. The computer told us you were here.

Dojar starts, looks round.

DOJAR
Sorry, I was a bit distracted. Talora, it's good to see you again.

They hug.
TALORA  
(still in the hug)  
We thought we'd lost you.

DOJAR  
Takes more than an exploding ship to get rid of me.

They break off.

QUINLAN  
I didn't doubt you'd be back for a second.

DOJAR  
Thanks, Jenn.

They hug too.

QUINLAN  
Don't do that to us again.

DOJAR  
I don't plan to.

QUINLAN  
I see Y'lan's got you working already?

DOJAR  
Yeah.  
(beat)  
I owe him a lot.

Y'LAN  
The Lieutenant has been most helpful.  
Without him, my mission to protect you would have been much harder.

DOJAR  
We make quite a team when we put our mind to it.

QUINLAN  
It sounds it.

TALORA  
Dojar, we need a word with you.  
Y'lan, will you excuse us?

Y'LAN  
Of course.

Talora, Quinlan and Dojar exit. Y'lan watches them go.
INT. ENTERPRISE -- REC LOUNGE

It is very busy with lots of excited new crewmembers celebrating their transferal. Talora, Quinlan, and Dojar are sitting in a corner.

DOJAR
Why here?

TALORA
We have to be on our guard all the time. We don't know if the ship is bugged or not. At least here it'll be harder to listen in.

DOJAR
You're thinking of Janus.

TALORA
Of course.

DOJAR
I've still got that data from the Reformist ships. I've been looking at it, but the cryptography is like nothing I've ever seen before.

QUINLAN
We should get Grey to look at it.

TALORA
(sharply)
No.

QUINLAN
What? Why?

TALORA
I don't know. It's just the less people know of this, the better. No one else can know. No one. Agreed?

DOJAR & QUINLAN
Agreed.

TALORA
We don't know what we're dealing with here. We can't be too careful.

QUINLAN
So what's the plan?

TALORA
Keep our eyes and ears open.

(MORE)
TA_ORA (CONT'D)
That's all we can do at the moment. Janus seems pretty determined, I'm sure it, whatever it is, will turn up again at some point.

She looks across. Carter has just entered.

TA_ORA (CONT'D)
(indicating him)
You never know where there are spies, lurking in our midst. You never know.

They look over. Carter cheerfully waves to them as he goes to the bar.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- READY ROOM

Cross is staring at himself in the mirror. The door chimes. He turns.

CROSS
Come in.

The door opens. He starts.

ELRIS
Hello, Neil.

Elris walks into the room slowly.

CROSS
Lea. When did you get here?

ELRIS
Just shuttled in this morning.

CROSS
Welcome back.

ELRIS
Thank you.

CROSS
Although I'm not sure it's entirely appropriate to be welcoming someone on a voyage of the damned.

ELRIS
Voyage of the damned?

CROSS
We're on the Faction's hit list.
ELRIS
So I heard. But we've faced them before and not done too badly.

CROSS
Luck has to run out sooner or later.

ELRIS
Perhaps. But I tend to be a bit more optimistic about our future.

CROSS
That's good to hear.

Beat.

ELRIS
I'm sorry I didn't come to visit.

CROSS
That's okay. I needed some time. It's good to see you now, though. (beat)
I still love you, you know.

ELRIS
And I still love you. But things can never...

CROSS
(nods)
I know. I think finally we have moved on.

ELRIS
Good.

CROSS
Welcome aboard, Doctor.

Cross offers his hand. Elris smiles and hugs him instead.

ELRIS
(still in the embrace, whispering)
I'm always here for you.

They part.

CROSS
Thank you.

His comm chirps.

QUINLAN'S COMM VOICE
Captain, we're ready for departure.
CROSS
On my way.

He makes a gesture for Elris to go first.

CROSS (CONT'D)
After you, Doctor.

ELRIS
Thank you, Captain.

They exit.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

Cross and Elris walk in. Quinlan is at helm, Talora at the side. At the back, Carter is filming it all with a small camera.

CROSS
Must you film everywhere?

CARTER
Historic moment, Captain.

CROSS
It wouldn't matter if you missed it, Mr. Carter, historic moments have a habit of happening regularly on this ship.

(beat, to comm)
Cross to Starfleet Command, requesting permission to depart.

GONZALES'S COMM VOICE
Gonzales here, Enterprise. Permission granted. Good luck.

CROSS
Lieutenant Quinlan, take us out.

He looks around at the crew and then back to the front.

CROSS (CONT'D)
Let's go get them.

Quinlan engages the engines.

EXT. SPACE -- EARTH SPACEDOCK

The ENTERPRISE turns and slowly but surely sets off, before jumping to warp. The adventure has begun again...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END