

**STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE**

**"Together We Stand"**

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TEASER

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...

CUT TO:

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.

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EXT. SPACE

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

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

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.

DELFUNE

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.

CARTER

The Enterprise? I don't understand.

DELFUNE

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.

CARTER

I see...

DELFUNE

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.

CARTER

But surely only Starfleet personnel are allowed here.

DELFUNE

It was about them that I was referring.

CARTER

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

DELFUNE

(irately)

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

Episode. Of "Carter Investigates." My show.

DELFUNE

(dismissively)

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.

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CUT TO:

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.

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 Brigs 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.

CUT TO:

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.

CUT TO:

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...

INTERCUT:

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...

INTERCUT:

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...

INTERCUT:

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.

COMPUTER VOICE

Accessing...

On the screen we see a blown up picture of Delfune's hands, slowed down.

COMPUTER VOICE (CONT'D)

Translation complete. Message reads:  
"Grey find EMF generator." Message  
ends.

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 at 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.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

As before Cross, Talora, Quinlan, and Carter.

CROSS  
Are we in communication with them?

TALORA  
No, sir, there's a communications  
black out 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...

RENAISSANCE: "Together We Stand" - ACT THREE

54.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

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

...knowledged. 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!

CUT TO:

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?

CROSS

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 scuttering. 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.

INTERCUT:

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.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before.

TALORA

Got it! It's in the central core.

INTERCUT:

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.

INTERCUT:

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.

CUT TO:

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.

INTERCUT:

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

ACT FIVE

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.



CUT TO:

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 fore 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.

CUT TO:

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 &amp; 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)

TALORA (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.

TALORA (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