

**STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE**

**"Heat Rising"**

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- REC LOUNGE

The room is busy, it is early evening. ELRIS sits alone having a drink, as QUINLAN bustles in.

QUINLAN  
(excitedly)  
Well? Has he done it yet?

ELRIS  
No, not yet. I think he may have lost his nerve.

Quinlan pulls up a chair and sits down.

QUINLAN  
Ugh, what is wrong with the man?

ELRIS  
It's hardly surprising. Remember how long it took him to ask her out in the first place? I think he lost about ten kilograms through sweating alone.

QUINLAN  
Bless him though.

We see they are watching a couple sitting a little way away from them. He is looking visibly nervous, and the girl is prattling away, seemingly oblivious to his discomfort.

ELRIS  
And look at her, she has no idea at all. You'd think she'd read the signs.

QUINLAN  
Never good at that. After all, she was the only one on the entire ship who didn't know he'd fallen for her. Awww, it was so romantic.

ELRIS  
Oh, please.

Quinlan looks at her surprised.

QUINLAN  
I didn't have you down as a skeptic.

ELRIS

A realist, Jen. I know what lies  
beyond the first throes of passion.  
(she looks pensive)  
Only too well.

QUINLAN

Yeah, well, you and the Captain...  
you were, shall we say, a volatile  
combination.

ELRIS

I remember when we were first  
together. Oh, we were so in love.  
Couldn't be apart from each other  
for a second without starting to  
pine.  
(sighs)  
I thought I'd found my soulmate.

She pulls herself together.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

But I grew older. And wiser. Nothing  
is as easy as you first believe it.  
Eventually... eventually the fire  
dies and all you are left with are  
bitter ashes.

QUINLAN

It doesn't always have to be like  
that. The fire can be relit, you  
know.

ELRIS

I don't think so. I don't have the  
spirit any more.

QUINLAN

That's a shame, to lock yourself  
away like that.

ELRIS

It's safer. Name three relationships  
on the Enterprise that have survived  
this past year and a half.

QUINLAN

There's Ensigns Hafter and Riley,  
there's... umm...

ELRIS

Exactly.  
(beat)  
Erik and Boyle.

QUINLAN

No, I don't think you could class Grey and Boyle as having a successful relationship...

ELRIS

No, they just walked in.

Quinlan looks around. Grey and Boyle are standing at the door, looking round the room as though searching. Quinlan waves to them. As they approach...

QUINLAN

Why does Erik have to come with Boyle attached? She's a pain.

The two reach the table.

ELRIS

Hi.

BOYLE

(eagerly)  
Has it happened yet?

ELRIS

No, still waiting.

The two sit down.

QUINLAN

This is nice, we don't see you out and about much these days.

GREY

Oh, you know, I'm very busy down in Engineering.

BOYLE

Yes, Erik has a lot of work to do. He's far too busy normally for normal things like fun and relaxation... and me.

GREY

I'm here now.

Boyle makes a face. Embarrassed silence.

QUINLAN

So, how do you think he's going to do it?

GREY

How do you mean?

QUINLAN

Well, will he go down on bended knee,  
or sing to her, or what?

GREY

Oh.

BOYLE

Romance, Erik. Remember?

Grey looks very uncomfortable. Then his commbadge chirps.

ASHER'S COMM VOICE

Asher to Grey.

GREY

Grey here.

ASHER'S COMM VOICE

Sir, the conduit manifold has shorted  
again.

GREY

What? I asked someone to have a  
look at it, secure it.

ASHER'S COMM VOICE

Jacobs looked at it, sir.

GREY

Oh Christ. Okay, I'll be right there.  
Grey out.  
(he stands)  
I'm sorry...

BOYLE

Whatever, Erik, whatever.

GREY

See you two later.

Elris and Quinlan look at him sympathetically as he walks  
off.

BOYLE

Amazing, the first night he's had  
off since we came back on board.

ELRIS

He is Chief Engineer, Sarah.

BOYLE

Yeah, well, it's hard.

More difficult silence.

BOYLE (CONT'D)

I'm going to go and say hello to  
Ensign Kilkenny over there. See you  
later.

She gets up.

QUINLAN

(mutters)

Don't hurry back.

ELRIS

See what I mean? Ashes.

Quinlan looks at her.

QUINLAN

Perhaps.

Suddenly there is an (O.S.) shriek. They turn round and the Ensign they've been watching has got down onto his knees and is proposing. The girl clasps her hands together and shrieks "Yes, yes, yes" in a loud, Meg Ryan-esque, fashion, before kissing him. The whole room bursts into applause. As the applause dies down, Quinlan turns back and looks at Elris again.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

But there again... perhaps not.

As Elris watches the happy couple and applauds, we see her thoughtful expression as we slowly...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE -- ENTERPRISE

The ship sweeps through the night at warp.

CROSS (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate 79573.9.  
The Enterprise is en route to the planet Horunis, an empty world save for a small base of scientists stationed there on a long term research mission. We are to carry out the six-monthly visit the scientists receive from the nearest Starfleet vessel, performing health checks and aiding with any minor repair work the base needs. The planet is situated on the edge of the Horunis cluster, from which it takes its name and is well known as being, as the phrase goes, "ten parsecs past the end of civilized space." It is a vast, lonely area of the quadrant, something we have become only too aware of this past week.

(beat)

While it is nice to have finally finished our analysis of microfissures in the region, which I'm sure will be of fascination to someone at Starfleet Science, and while I know the regular visit to Horunis must be carried out, I can't help feeling we are being given jobs that keep us as far out of the limelight as it is possible to be.

(wryly)

It's almost as if Starfleet is ashamed of us or something.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

Elris and various nurses are moving about as Quinlan breezes in.

QUINLAN

Good morning, here to report for my pre-mission inoculation.

ELRIS

Okay, grab a bed.

She walks over to get a hypospray, and taps at it to get the right setting. Quinlan yawns.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Tired?

QUINLAN

Yeah, Ellen kept us up half the night wittering on about Peter and drinking herself under the table.

ELRIS

(mocking)

Awww, true romance.

QUINLAN

Yeah, yeah.

Elris gives her the spray.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Why do we need this anyway?

ELRIS

Horunis has low levels of radiation. It's a precaution, that's all.

CARTER

Prevention's better than cure, eh Lea?

Quinlan turns. Carter has entered behind TORAN NOA.

QUINLAN

Oh good, Harry Hackhead is here.

CARTER

Quinlan, delightful as always.

Toran and Elris exchange a glance as Toran walks past with Carter.

QUINLAN

What's he doing here?

CARTER

I am profiling the good Doctor Toran. Seeing how a new member of the crew settles in, and so on. A lifestyle piece.

QUINLAN

And how are you fitting in?

TORAN

(wryly)

Everyone seems very friendly, they keep following me around.

QUINLAN

Coming down to the planet with us, Carter?

CARTER

Nothing in the universe short of an army of violent Q'tami could persuade me to go down to that Godforsaken cesspool. Hot, smelly and dangerous.

QUINLAN

Sounds just like your quarters.

CARTER

Very amusing. No, thank you. Besides which, can you imagine the sort of people you'll find down there?

QUINLAN

What do you mean?

CARTER

Think about it. These scientists have chosen to strand themselves in the middle of nowhere, with no company and nothing to do except watch rocks. What kind of people would do that?

CUT TO:

EXT. HORUNIS -- DAY

It is a nasty looking planet, grey and orange. There appear to be entire seas of lava, surrounded by grey foreboding looking rock. It looks like a steel refinery has suddenly become a planet.

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Farell, the head of the base, walks in where BAUER is sitting at a console looking worried. In the background Blacklock, the engineer, is fiddling with an open conduit.

FARELL

Bauer. What is it this time?

BAUER

We just got the latest results back from the core probe.

FARELL

Go on.

BAUER

Core pressure just rose another fifty Pascals.

FARELL

So? We're still well within safety limits.

BAUER

Well within safety limits? This is the fourth time in a row it's risen. Look. The rate of increase is exponential. Look.

He shows them a graph with a curve rising.

BAUER (CONT'D)

We're talking major blow out within four months.

FARELL

I'm more than aware of that, Bauer.

BAUER

You seem to be handling it well.

FARELL

There's nothing else I can do, is there?

BAUER

We can drill a hole.

FARELL

Not this again. Look you and I both know --

FARELL AND BAUER

(simultaneously)

-- that regulations state that no unnatural mining operations can be carried out on the planet.

BAUER

I think you've mentioned it once or twice.

FARELL

It would damage any findings we make about this place. We cannot artificially try and control this planet. The whole point is to see what happens with no interference.

BAUER

Fine, so we wait here until the planet explodes, and then write down the results the millisecond before we die?

FARELL

If push comes to shove, yes.

Bauer doesn't appreciate this as another man, DOCTOR LEEN, enters. He is middle aged but still in good shape. He looks very nervous though.

LEEN

Why don't we get the Enterprise crew to take a look at it when they arrive?

FARELL

No. We don't want them hanging about any longer than is necessary.

BAUER

Not this again.

FARELL

Yes, this again. Having Federation people here makes me nervous.

BAUER

Not having them around makes me nervous.

LEEN

Farell, there is no reason to feel nervous. No one remembers --

FARELL

No, and I'm not going to give them any reason to. Got that?

Blacklock looks up, as though he's only just realized what's been said.

BLACKLOCK

The Enterprise? You didn't tell me it was the Enterprise coming!

FARELL

Well, it is. Don't get too excited, it's not as if she's the flagship anymore.

BLACKLOCK

No, but still. Even if it's not, they're still amongst the best in the fleet.

(MORE)

BLACKLOCK (CONT'D)

It'll be nice to have some quality engineers giving the base the once-over.

He goes back down to the conduit again.

BAUER

(still annoyed)

Yes, won't that be nice?

INT. ENTERPRISE -- ENGINEERING

Grey is working at his console when Boyle comes storming in, waving a PADD.

BOYLE

What the hell is this?

Grey looks up at her.

GREY

What?

BOYLE

You've only detailed two people to go down to Horunis. Namely, you and me.

GREY

Yes. So?

BOYLE

So, why the hell have you done that?

GREY

Look, you're always complaining we never spend any time together. I thought this would be a good opportunity for us to. You know, romantic.

BOYLE

(sarcastically)

Oh yes, very romantic. You know, this is absolutely typical of you. Your idea of an ideal date is cleaning conduits and adjusting warp core manifolds.

GREY

Well --

BOYLE

And you didn't even ask me.

(MORE)

BOYLE (CONT'D)

This means we're going to have triple the workload down there we would have had with a team. I don't need that.

GREY

I think you're being a bit unreasonable, Sarah, it's hardly as though there's going to be a lot to do down there. I've seen a preliminary message from them, it's not --

BOYLE

Erik, I don't care. You just don't get it, do you? You really don't. It's almost pathetic.

She sweeps off. Grey looks around at the others who have stopped to watch this tirade.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- READY ROOM

Cross is sitting at his desk reading a PADD when the chime rings.

CROSS

Come in.

TALORA enters.

TALORA

We're in hailing range, Captain.

CROSS

Okay.

He stands up and passes Talora the padd.

TALORA

What's this?

CROSS

The Engineering team Grey's detailed. Or rather, the Engineering twosome. It's just him and Sarah Boyle...

TALORA

Interesting. I was under the impression that they were not seeing eye to eye recently.

CROSS

What have you that idea?

TALORA

There have been... whispers.

CROSS

(amused)

I didn't expect you to be the sort to engage in idle gossip, Commander.

TALORA

I don't, but Quinlan for some reason feels the need to fill me in on it.

CROSS

I see.

He looks confidentially but with a glint in his eye at her.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Did she happen to mention why there have been whispers?

TALORA

(primly)

Captain, please.

CROSS

You're right. Come on.

He walks out...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

Cale at his station as Cross and TALORA walk out.

CROSS

Lieutenant Cale, open a channel to Horunis base.

CALE

Sir. Channel open.

The viewscreen view changes to Farell's face.

FARELL

Enterprise? I'm Leo Farell of the Science Research Base Horunis 2. I hear you're paying us a visit.

CROSS

(glancing at Talora with a twinkle)

I've been hearing rumors too. Helm, what's our ETA?

HELM OFFICER

Thirty minutes, Captain.

FARELL

Captain, would you mind if I took a shuttle down with your team to the base? I like to show off our base when I have only-too-rare opportunity.

CROSS

I'm sure our team will be delighted. They're looking forward to coming...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

Boyle is getting her shot with Elris while in the background Carter is continuing to talk to Toran.

BOYLE

The last bloody place I want to go anyway is Horunis Base. I certainly don't want to get all lovey-dovey with anyone while I'm there, least of all Erik. Can you imagine what it would be like?

ELRIS

I can imagine...

BOYLE

Unbelievable. He has no idea at all...

ELRIS

No idea about what?

BOYLE

About anything. He certainly has no idea about me.

ELRIS

There you go. All done.

BOYLE

Thank you.

She hops down off the biobed.

BOYLE (CONT'D)

You know, I envy you sometimes.

ELRIS

Me, why?

BOYLE

Not being attached to anyone. It must be so nice not to have to put up with any crap.

Elris stares at her.

ELRIS  
We leave in twenty minutes.

BOYLE  
Fine.

She turns and walks out. Elris shakes her head and walks over to where Toran and Carter are talking.

ELRIS  
Doctor Toran, I'm going to go and get ready for the trip. You know everything that's happening here?

TORAN  
I do. Have a good trip.

ELRIS  
Thank you.

She turns and begins to leave. Carter watches her with a faraway look on her face.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

BAUER is at his board as Farell walks through.

FARELL  
The ship has arrived, I'm beaming up now.

BAUER  
Farell, look at this.

FARELL  
What?

BAUER  
I sent a short term probe down, just to check the last one's findings.

FARELL  
And?

BAUER  
Pressure has risen again. In the last twenty four hours.

Farell looks.

FARELL  
Another ten Pascals? That is fast...

BAUER

I know, it's even faster than the predicted curve. They need to check it out.

He looks at Farell.

FARELL

All right, we'll get them to take a look at it.

He pats Bauer on the head and leaves. After he has gone, Bauer is still shaking his head and muttering.

BAUER

Pressure.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Cross, Grey, and OZRAN watch as Farell materializes into being on the pad. Cross steps forward.

CROSS

Doctor Farell? I'm Captain Neil Cross, this is Lieutenant Commander Erik Grey.

They all shake hands. Farell seems nervy.

FARELL

Nice to meet you.

GREY

And you.

CROSS

The shuttle is about ready to depart, if you'll come with us.

He turns and leads them out.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Quinlan stops outside quarters and rings the chimes. Elris appears.

QUINLAN

Hey, on your way?

ELRIS

Yeah, ready.

Elris grabs her medkit and they set off.

QUINLAN

Hear about the blowout Erik and Boyle had down in engineering?

ELRIS

Yes, I caught the second part of it in Sickbay.

QUINLAN

Poor Erik. He was only trying to do a nice thing, an engineer's romantic gesture. Heaven knows their relationship has been rocky recently.

ELRIS

It's funny.

QUINLAN

What is?

ELRIS

Remember what you were saying last night about how I should be out looking for a man again?

QUINLAN

Yes?

ELRIS

Well, Boyle said she envied me today not having a man. Didn't have to put up with them.

QUINLAN

(sarcastically)

Oh yes, it must be hard having to put up with someone who tries to spend some time alone with you, who tries to be a perfect gentleman.

ELRIS

Yeah.

QUINLAN

If anyone's hard done by it's him. The way she flirts with other guys is awful, all over them right in front of him. You can only go on so long like that before people begin to talk...

ELRIS

People like you, you mean?

Quinlan dares to look affronted, and then they both laugh.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SHUTTLEBAY -- CONTINUOUS

Elris and Quinlan enter the shuttlebay. Already there are Boyle and Carter. Elris and Quinlan hold back a little bit.

QUINLAN

See what I mean? Look at her, she's all over him. Hope she catches something nasty off him.

Boyle is laughing at something Carter has said. They glance over at them.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Don't make eye contact with her, don't make eye contact with her...

She spots that Elris has made a face.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

You made eye contact with her, didn't you?

ELRIS

And now she's heading our way.

QUINLAN

Terrific.  
(under her breath)  
Slut, slut, slut, slut, slut, slut, sl--

She turns around, in a very insincere friendly voice:

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Sarah, hi.

BOYLE

Hi guys.

CARTER

Hey.

QUINLAN

Not that I'm not delighted to see you, but what are you doing here, Carter?

CARTER

I decided in the end that I would come with you.

QUINLAN

Oh really?

CARTER

Yes, after all, it should be fascinating. Who are these lonely scientists? Why do they do it? What drives them? Etc etc. It should make a great Human interest story.

QUINLAN

(mutters)

There's only one Human you have any interest in besides yourself.

ELRIS

(warningly)

Quinlan...

At this moment Cross, Grey, and Farell enter.

CROSS

Hello, everyone, this is Doctor Farell, head scientist at the base. This is --

FARELL

Captain, if you don't mind we'll have introductions in the base. Time is precious.

CROSS

Of course. Well, have a good trip.

FARELL

Thank you.

QUINLAN

All aboard.

They all pile in. As they do so, Quinlan turns to the Captain and grins.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Sure you don't want to come Captain?

CROSS

As much as I'd like to, I'll leave you to it.

QUINLAN

(good humored, implying the opposite)

Okay, but you're missing out.

CROSS

I'm sure I am, Lieutenant.

Quinlan disappears into the shuttle and the door closes.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I'm sure I am...

CUT TO:

EXT. ENTERPRISE

The SHUTTLE leaves the ship and heads for the planet as we slowly...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. HORUNIS

The shuttle sails low over an ocean of lava. In the distance, we can just make out the silhouette of a range of mountains.

INT. SHUTTLE

Farell is leaning forward over Quinlan looking out over the scene. Elris sits next to her, typing at a PADD. The whole cabin is infused with reflected orange light. Behind them, Carter, Boyle and Grey are sitting, not talking to one another.

FARELL

Second peak from the left, Lieutenant.

QUINLAN

And carry on until morning?

He looks at her and frowns.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Don't mind me, I'm on medication.

Farell quickly retreats and sits down at the back with the other three. Grey looks at Boyle who is obviously very mad at him. He looks back at Farell.

GREY

So, Doctor Farell, tell us the history of this place. Why exactly are you here?

BOYLE

Oh yes, please do, how did you pick out such a lovely spot?

Farell ignores her.

FARELL

Actually, it is rather interesting. Horunis started out as Horunis Four, one of a group of nine planets orbiting a sun about three light-years from here. The sun was in its final stages of decay and the planets' ecosystems had long since died. However, the planets still contained a lot of useful ores, and the Dyson Corporation decided it would be a cheap source for some of the raw materials they use in their manufacturing.

Carter whispers something to Boyle, who giggles. Grey looks at her, and she adopts a mock serious face.

BOYLE

I'm sorry, Doctor, that was rude of me. Please continue your fascinating story.

FARELL

Well, the mining techniques they used were... well, not subtle, if you catch my meaning. To try and save even more labor they just took to detonating huge nuclear devices in the atmospheres, and scooped up the debris that resulted.

GREY

Blowing the planets apart?

FARELL

Right. Only the devices they planted around Horunis Three malfunctioned. Badly.

GREY

I think I heard about that. Weren't a lot of miners killed?

FARELL

Nearly five thousand.

CARTER

That was careless of them.

Boyle giggles again. Farell looks pained.

FARELL

The resulting shockwave knocked Horunis Four clean out of her orbit -- by this time the gravitational pull of the sun had weakened enormously anyway as Dyson had been even taking chunks out of her. Result: a rogue planet, sailing through the cosmos.

QUINLAN

Why did it end up here?

FARELL

The Horunis Cluster has pockets of deep gravity -- imagine if you will a smooth board with chips out of it, and a ball bearing rolling across it. Horunis fell into one of the chips, and has stayed here ever since.

ELRIS

So what made you come here?

FARELL

A Federation ship was dispatched to monitor the planet's progress, to ensure it didn't pose any danger. When it was ascertained it had finally settled, they ran some routine scans on it for the records.

ELRIS

What did they find?

FARELL

Nothing, until they ran a scan on the core.

GREY

What did they find?

FARELL

It had expanded through the substrata. Grown to nearly three times its original size. Something completely unheard of.

Grey whistles.

GREY

Extraordinary.

FARELL

It was a mystery, and I've always been interested in mysteries. I was able to persuade Dyson, to whom the planet still technically belongs, to let me set up this base to study it. Originally we were only going to stay a year, but when it had elapsed we felt we had more work to do... and we've been here ever since.

ELRIS

It must get quite lonely here?

FARELL

It doesn't bother me. I like being alone.

Carter whispers to Boyle who giggles again.

QUINLAN

We're approaching the mountain range now, Doctor.

He gets up and casts a look at Boyle and Carter before going forward to point the way they need to go.

CUT TO:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

The shuttle approaches the base. It is attached to the inner side of a mountain, attached to the rock by a series of large bolts. The base is in sections, which are linked by a network of transparent corridors. It looks a bit like a chemical compound, the elements the sections and the bonds the corridors. The shuttle sails down towards it...

CUT TO:

INT. SHUTTLE

Carter is leaning forward now, looking a little worried, as Quinlan pilots it where Farell is pointing. Elris is watching too, and Grey is having a look too. Only Boyle sits magnificently ignoring it.

CARTER

It's really quite hot here, isn't it?

FARELL

What do you expect? We are in a volcano.

CARTER

Oh, I see.

(double take)

Volcano? V-volcano? Did you say volcano?

QUINLAN

It sounded like he did, that's what I thought I heard. Did you hear that, Lea?

ELRIS

I certainly did.

Carter looks at Farell.

FARELL

Don't worry, it's dormant.

CARTER

Oh. Oh, good.

QUINLAN

(grins)

That's not to say it couldn't erupt at any time, eh Doc?

FARELL  
(playing along)  
Absolutely not.

He smiles at Carter, who quickly retreats back to his seat by Boyle.

CARTER  
We're in a volcano.

BOYLE  
So I heard.

CARTER  
(to himself)  
Everything's going to be fine.

CUT TO:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

The shuttle comes into the docking position on the furthestmost left section.

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- RECEPTION AREA

The crew enter, led in by Farell. Waiting for them is an anxious looking Bauer, Blacklock the engineer and Leen, the doctor.

BAUER  
I need to speak to you.

FARELL  
In a minute. Welcome to the Ritz.

The crew stare around.

CARTER  
It's very grey.

BOYLE  
It's like you, Erik.

Grey looks at her.

GREY  
Can we just get on with what needs to be done?

FARELL  
But of course. This is Jonathan Blacklock, our chief engineer, this is Lieutenant Erik Grey.

As Blacklock shakes Grey's hand:

BLACKLOCK

Good to meet you.

GREY

It's Lieutenant Commander, actually.

FARELL

Oh, sorry.

BOYLE

Yes, get it right, Doctor.

BLACKLOCK

If you'll come this way.

Grey follows with Boyle and Carter following a little way later.

BAUER

Farell...

FARELL

Just a minute. Doctor Elris, this is Jeff Leen, our CMO.

LEEN

If you'll come with me, I'll fill you on the medical histories of the crew, such as they are.

ELRIS

Of course.

They walk off. Farell turns angrily to Bauer.

FARELL

I told you before, don't do that.

BAUER

Another ten Pascals, Farell. Since you've been gone.

FARELL

This is becoming an obsession with you.

BAUER

I know what it is, too.

FARELL

Go on.

BAUER

The pressure has been increasing at a greater rate than the expected curve ever since the Enterprise got into the Expanse.

FARELL

Can you say that for sure?

BAUER

Not for sure, but it fits the facts. They hailed us round the time the rise deviated.

FARELL

Why would it do that?

BAUER

Any number of reasons. Slight shift in gravitational fields in the Expanse, increased EM fields, who knows?

FARELL

Fine, then we don't have a problem.

BAUER

Don't have a problem? Are you kidding? We're in freefall here.

FARELL

The Enterprise is only going to be here for twenty four hours. When it leaves, the rate will fall again, right?

BAUER

Yes, but --

FARELL

Then stop whining. You should be helping in getting rid of them as quickly as possible.

BAUER

Farell, we are in trouble...

But Farell is no longer listening, walking off. As he disappears around a corner:

BAUER (CONT'D)

If you don't do something about it, I will.

He looks very unhappy as he walks off. After a moment, Quinlan emerges from the shuttle entrance. She frowns.

QUINLAN

Now, what was all that about?

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- CORRIDOR

Blacklock has engaged a reluctant Carter in conversation.

BLACKLOCK

The base is constructed like this as it was cheaper to construct single units and connect them together, rather than design a proper base.

CARTER

That's great.

Grey hangs back with Boyle and indicates Carter.

GREY

Why's he coming with us?

BOYLE

Why not?

GREY

You know why not.

BOYLE

Oh, you want to be alone. What about him, then?

Pointing at Blacklock.

GREY

Sarah, please. What is wrong with you? You've been bitching all the way down here, you were very rude to Farrell...

BOYLE

He was boring.

GREY

So? That's not the point.

BOYLE

I was just having a bit of fun.

GREY

There are times and places for fun.

Boyle looks at him wonderingly.

BOYLE

Sometimes I ever wonder what I saw in you.

She hurries on to catch up with Blacklock, while Grey looks upset.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- CORRIDOR

Leen and Elris are walking down it.

LEEN

Most of the men are in good shape.  
Bauer has some high blood pressure...

As he speaks, suddenly Bauer pushes past them at a run, muttering.

BAUER

Stupid Farell, won't listen to anyone,  
well some of us know what we're  
talking about...

He disappears into the science lab at the end of the corridor, about fifty feet ahead of them.

ELRIS

I take it that was Doctor Bauer?

LEEN

That's correct. He can get a  
little... preoccupied.

ELRIS

I'm not surprised. I'm impressed  
that you haven't all gone stir crazy  
in here.

LEEN

Oh, you know, we have a pretty relaxed  
life here. I'm always impressed  
more people on starships don't flip  
out.

ELRIS

Hmm... I don't think we have any  
crazies aboard the Enterprise...

At this moment Quinlan passes them at a run.

QUINLAN

Sorry, can't stop, on important work  
here, sorry.

She also rounds the corner and disappears into the science lab, albeit cautiously. Leen raises an eyebrow at Elris.

ELRIS

Then again...

LEEN

Maybe they're playing a game of tag?

They walk past the door to the science lab. Quinlan is there, peering in.

LEEN (CONT'D)

Can we help you with anything?

Quinlan jumps out of her skin.

QUINLAN

No, not at all. I'm just trying to... mumm---

Elris and Leen, as one, fold their arms, as though waiting for an explanation. Quinlan leans in, confidentially.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

I'm looking for the toilet.

Leen points back up the corridor towards the reception hall.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She starts to move backwards, but as soon as Leen and Elris have left this corridor section and moved into the next, she sneaks back and peers back into the science lab.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- CORRIDOR

Leen and Elris continue to walk down the corridors.

ELRIS

(shaking her head)  
That's my best friend.

LEEN

You have my sympathies.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SCIENCE LAB

Bauer has gone to a locker, and has pulled out a HAZMAT suit, which he is busy pulling on. We can still see Quinlan peering through the door.

BAUER

Irresponsible Farrell, he's not going to be the death of me, that's for sure, I'm going to make sure I'm still standing, I know what he's  
(MORE)

BAUER (CONT'D)  
really afraid of, but it's nothing  
to do with me, this pressure needs  
relieving and I'm going to do it.

He has strapped on his suit, which has a small pack on its  
back. As he turns to go out, Quinlan enters.

QUINLAN  
What are you doing?

BAUER  
Who are you?

QUINLAN  
I'm from the Ent -- hey!

He doesn't care; he's pushed well past her.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- CORRIDOR

Bauer is rapidly making his way back up the corridor, Quinlan  
giving chase.

QUINLAN  
Where are you going? Hey!

She manages to grab him and spin him round.

BAUER  
This base is in serious danger, I  
have to get out there before the  
whole planet breaks apart!

He presses a button on his pack, blasting Quinlan with a  
stream of compressed air. She cries out and is knocked to  
the floor. He turns and continues to rush towards the  
reception hall as she is sits, dazed.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- MEDICAL LAB

Elris is looking around the sparsely equipped room. There  
are a couple of beds, and some scanning equipment, as well  
as shelves half stocked with bottles and hyposprays. Leen  
is sitting at his desk, going through drawers, looking for  
something.

ELRIS  
You weren't kidding when you said  
you didn't have much.

LEEN  
Nope.

ELRIS

How do you get by?

LEEN

We manage. Here it is.

He gets out of a drawer a PADD and hands it to Elris.

LEEN (CONT'D)

They're the crew health records.  
There's nothing very major there.

Elris scrolls down the list then hands it back to Leen. She has a puzzled look on her face. Leen notices this.

LEEN (CONT'D)

What?

ELRIS

I was just wondering why.

LEEN

Why?

ELRIS

Why you would come here?

LEEN

Oh.

His face has dropped and he walks over to another part of the medical bay.

ELRIS

(hastily)

I mean, it's none of my business.

He shakes his head and then turns back to her. His expression shows that he doesn't want to go there.

LEEN

Sometimes... sometimes there are things in your life, events... and after them, you just have to get away. You know what I mean?

Elris stares at him.

ELRIS

Yes... yes, I do. I'm sorry, I shouldn't have pried. It's none of my business.

LEEN

That's okay. Now, you want to get the first guy in?

ELRIS

Sure.

LEEN

We'll do it alphabetically.

(taps a comm unit in  
the wall)

Leen to Bauer, please report to  
Sickbay.

No answer.

LEEN (CONT'D)

Leen to Bauer, please respond. That's  
odd. Why isn't he answering his  
hail?

INTERCUT:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- CORRIDOR

Quinlan slowly wakes up.

QUINLAN

Ughh, my head. Must have had a  
skinful last night.

She opens her eyes suddenly.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Hey, I don't drink anymore.

She looks around her and groans.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

That guy...

She gets to her feet and slowly hurries to the reception  
area.

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- RECEPTION AREA -- CONTINUOUS

Quinlan runs in, and looks around.

QUINLAN

Hello? Doctor Farell?

As she looks round she hears a click from the airlock. She  
looks out of the window, just in time to see the suited Bauer  
floating out of the airlock and disappearing down into the  
mountain, propelled by the pack on his back. He has in his  
hands a rather large looking cylinder shaped object.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

What the hell is he doing?

CUT TO:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

Bauer speeds down the interior of the volcano, heading towards an area at the base just above the molten lava. He has a determined look on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Farell is working at a console as Quinlan dashes in.

FARELL

Yes?

QUINLAN

Umm, I'm sure you're aware of this, but that little guy --

FARELL

Bauer?

QUINLAN

I dunno his name. Anyway, he's gone outside.

FARELL

(alarmed)

What?

QUINLAN

He had a jetpack on his back... and a bit...

She hesitates and can't describe it, finally just miming its shape to Farell.

FARELL

Oh my God.

He presses a button on his console.

FARELL (CONT'D)

Bauer. Bauer, come in! Dammit, Bauer, come in right now!

INTERCUT:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

Bauer has reached the bottom, and is hovering above a rock seam. He is pressing buttons on his cylinder and a whining has started to emit from it... Through his suit's comm system, we hear Farell's frantic voice.

FARELL'S COMM VOICE  
Bauer! Don't be a fool! Bauer!

INTERCUT:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Farell slams his fist down on the console while Quinlan looks on, alarmed.

QUINLAN  
What's he doing?

FARELL  
He's going to try and relieve the pressure on the core.

QUINLAN  
How?

FARELL  
By drilling into it...

QUINLAN  
But isn't that a bit...

FARELL  
No. It's a lot.

INTERCUT:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

Bauer's cylinder is emitting a gigantic laser beam, which cuts deeply into the rock. Grit flies round him and we see it makes impressive inroads. It is evidently sinking deep into the crust.

FARELL'S COMM VOICE  
Bauer! Bauer! Please!

Suddenly there is a roaring sound. Bauer looks around but doesn't stop.

INTERCUT:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

As before, Quinlan and Farell. They react to the rumbling.

QUINLAN  
What's that?

FARELL  
I believe it's the pressure being relieved.

(MORE)

FARELL (CONT'D)  
(beat, grim)  
You better hold on to something.

QUINLAN  
Why?

INTERCUT:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

Bauer, a maniacal glint in his eye, continues to drill. Suddenly the whole rock seam he is drilling into cracks, and a gush of hot lava spews out of it. He cries out for a split second as he is incinerated. The rest of the rock area crumbles too, and the volcano floor collapses, before a torrent of lava is thrust upwards.

INTERCUT:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

As before. Quinlan and Farrell.

QUINLAN  
Oh my God, the volcano...

FARELL  
Yep. It isn't dormant any more...

The whole room is filled with the rushing sound...

INTERCUT:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

The base disappears behind the lava as it is pushed savagely into the air. The violence of the eruption is startling as we slowly...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. ENTERPRISE

The planet of Horunis glows below.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Cross is at his station, and Cale at his. Suddenly Cale's console starts bleeping.

CALE

Captain, we're picking up an eruption coming from the range of mountains Horunis Base is positioned on.

CROSS

Hail them.

CALE

Aye, Captain.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Farell is clinging onto the side of a console as outside the lava gushes past. Sweat drips off him, while QUINLAN works at another console. The noise of the eruption is deafening as the scientists shout to each other.

QUINLAN

Outside temperature now over five hundred degrees Kelvin. How's the structure?

FARELL

We're at ninety seven percent. We can't take much more.

The comm suddenly blips and a heavily distorted message comes through.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

... Base... Is ... Enterprise, what... status?

Quinlan moves towards it, but Farell grabs her arm.

FARELL

No! This must be seen as normal.

QUINLAN

Farell! We need help!

FARELL

No, we don't. The base can take it!

Around them metal creaks and condensation drips off the walls.

QUINLAN

Farell, let go of me.

He does so, and she turns to the console. Farell cracks her on the back of her neck and she falls unconscious down.

FARELL

Sorry, but I won't allow it.

Farell presses the button.

FARELL (CONT'D)

Enterprise, this is Farell. Situation normal, just an eruption. We get them all the time.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Cross looks at Cale uncertainly.

CROSS

Are you sure?

FARELL'S COMM VOICE

(through static)

... fine. ... only thing is...  
might... Communications blackout...  
temporary. Couple of hours...

CROSS

Doctor, I must --

INTERCUT:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Farell as before.

FARELL

(sharply)

We're fine. Will contact you once  
eruption is over. Farell out.

He presses his button. He checks his console again.

FARELL (CONT'D)

Ninety eight percent. Come on, you  
can take it.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

As before. Cross looks at Cale.

CROSS

What do you make of that?

CALE

I dunno, captain.

CROSS

Me neither. Keep monitoring the situation.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING SECTION

Grey, Boyle, Carter, and Blacklock hang on. Sweat freely drips from their foreheads.

CARTER

I don't think I can take much more of this!

BLACKLOCK

Hang on!

Grey tries to get over to hold onto Boyle, but as he does so a window in between them shatters and breaks. Boyle yells out, as the glass cuts her and Grey's face. Through the window, specks of lava are thrown.

BLACKLOCK (CONT'D)

Move back, away from the window!

Grey looks, as another pane smashes, and then another, in a chain reaction. Lava spews in more freely now, burning the floor and cutting Grey off from Boyle and, further back, Carter.

GREY

Sarah!

BOYLE

Go back, Erik! There's too wide a gap! You can't get across!

Defeated, Grey retreats back...

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SICKBAY

Elris and Leen are ducked under a biobed, holding each other close. The floor shakes violently here too but as there are no windows, they cannot see the lava. They can feel it though. Elris looks close to passing out.

ELRIS

It's so hot...

LEEN

Wait, I'll get you a spray.

ELRIS

Wait!

LEEN

It's all right, it's just there.

He indicates a hypospray holder. She nods and he gets up. Halfway across the room, the room shakes even more violently, and he is thrown to the floor, falling awkwardly. He yells as we see that he has landed with his leg bent a funny shape.

ELRIS

Leen!

LEEN

Wait! Don't move!

Elris looks at him helplessly.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Quinlan slowly wakes up and looks around at Farell, who is still furiously typing at his console. Sweat is dripping freely down both of them.

QUINLAN

What the hell?

FARELL

(hurriedly)

I have a phaser here, and I'm not afraid to use it. Now I would appreciate your help here but I will shoot you again if you don't.

QUINLAN

You're mad.

FARELL

Quite possibly, but we don't have much time to debate it at the moment.

Quinlan hesitates, then decides to help him.

QUINLAN

How much time do we have?

FARELL

It shouldn't be... there can't be much more --

As they stand there, gradually the shaking stops, and the roaring dies down. They both look at each other nervously for a moment.

FARELL (CONT'D)

There, I told you --

He starts to walk... and there is a loud CREAK. He stops. He tentatively takes another step -- and there is a sudden shudder, and the ground tilts beneath them slightly. A metallic wrenching sound echoes down the corridor.

QUINLAN

What was that...?

FARELL

Nothing! Probably just the metalwork recovering from the onslaught. Nothing to...

The whole floor suddenly drops beneath them and tilts to forty five degrees, with a much louder wrenching sound, dropping them both to the floor. Quinlan slides away from Farrell.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING

As before: Grey, Boyle, Carter, and Blacklock. The tilting continues with increasingly loud wrenching sounds at intervals. Suddenly, through the glass windows, we see the mountain side disappear upwards as the floor collapses to ninety degrees. All the crew falls towards the bottom end, crying out.

BOYLE

What's happening?

BLACKLOCK

It's the structure, it's coming loose.

CUT TO:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

We see the lava has severed some of the moorings that hold the base to the interior wall of the volcano. At one end, the moorings are giving way one by one, and the collapse is gaining momentum as the base is pulled by the gravity.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SICKBAY

Leen cries out as he slides down the floor, hitting his head hard against the wall that has now become the floor. Above him, Elris holds on, as the drop is of something like thirty feet. The bolts holding the bed to the floor begin to pop.

ELRIS

Leen, get out of the...

Too late, the bed bolts go completely, and as the bed drops down, Elris propels herself across the room and grabs a door on a cabinet, where she hangs, watching as the bed falls onto Leen below her.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Leen! Leen!

The room shakes again as the base drops more before stopping again.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Farell climbs slowly but surely up the side, trying to reach the console. Below, Quinlan has perched on the edge of a desk, and is frantically tapping her comm badge.

QUINLAN

Enterprise, emergency beam out.  
Enterprise!

FARELL

It's no good, communications will be down. The atmosphere is too highly charged...

He stops as the base lurches again, and outside the window we see more rock falling past. The room is now at a completely ninety degree angle to what it should be.

QUINLAN

What do we do then?

FARELL

I'm trying to reach the emergency console... the base has secondary grapples we can use...

He tries to reach it, but slips again, and falls back, catching himself on a chair so he is hanging by Quinlan. The chair's bolts strain as Farell looks at her.

FARELL (CONT'D)

You want to try?

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING

The crew are holding on. Through the smashed in windows, we can see the base is getting closer to the lava each time it falls another few feet. Grey looks around as Carter starts to climb. The base lurches again, and the lava gets a bit closer.

GREY

Carter! Stop moving!

CARTER

Are you kidding me? I have to get away from that lava down there, or hadn't you noticed it?

GREY

Your movement is affecting the base.

CARTER

I don't care.

He tries to haul himself up a bit further, but misses as the base lurches, and falls again. He falls against a table side.

CARTER (CONT'D)

(hysterically)

We're going to die! Don't you realize?!

BOYLE

Lewis!

He stops and looks at her before falling into a depressed silence.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SICKBAY

Elris has managed to climb down to Leen, who is half buried under the bed.

His face has a large gash on it but he is semiconscious, mumbling something under his breath.

ELRIS

Leen. Leen, wake up!

She lightly slaps him on the face, but nothing. She tries to shift the bed, but to no use. She tries again, and as she does so the base lurches. She uses the momentum from it to tip the bed up and over, away from Leen. It clatters to the floor, and the base drops again.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Sorry, but it had to be done...

She bends over Leen, examining him more closely.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Quinlan and Farell are both climbing on different sides of the rooms, using whatever they can get hold of to grab a purchase -- chairs, tables, console edges, etc. Quinlan manages to get herself into a position where she can use a cabinet door to swing across to the console she needs to get to. The door creaks under her weight.

QUINLAN

All right Jennifer, you do this.

She starts to swing, trying to build up momentum to get her across the gap.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

One, two, three!

As she swings across and lets go of the door, the base lurches again, and the console catches her across her front. She cries out as she is propelled forcefully downwards, and smashes into one of the side windows, through which we can see several of the rivets that have come loose. The heat from the lava has weakened the glass and it shatters easily. She rebounds off it down but at the last moment, she grabs the console one down from the one she needs to get at and cries out as the momentum wrenches at her arm.

FARELL

Quinlan, you all right?

QUINLAN

Yeah, just like hanging around, you know?

She manages to pull herself up and rest against the leg of this console. She looks up while, about ten feet below, Farell watches.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

I think I cracked a rib.

(despairingly)

I don't think I can move back up.

Finally she looks at the console she is sitting on. Long strands of wire have come loose from it.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Wait a minute, I've got an idea.

She starts pulling at the wires, wrenching one long one out.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING

The lava is now barely ten feet below the bottom of the base. The closest to it is Grey and a team mate of his, followed by Blacklock, Carter, Boyle and the rest of the team.

BLACKLOCK

One more fall and we'll be in it.

CARTER

Can we start climbing yet?

Grey looks at Blacklock. He nods.

BLACKLOCK

There's no way it'll hold now.

GREY

Move slowly.

As they start to climb cautiously, the base shifts another couple of feet. Grey looks down at the bubbling lava.

GREY (CONT'D)

Maybe not as slowly as that.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Quinlan has fashioned a lasso on the long length of wire she has pulled out. She looks up at the smashed window, her face set in concentration. She begins to swing the wire.

FARELL

What are you doing?

QUINLAN

Watch.

She swings it, and the lasso sails towards the rivets outside attached to the rock, but misses.

FARELL

Very good.

QUINLAN

Shut up.

She tries again. And misses again.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Don't say a word.

She swings it a third time... and the lasso catches the rivet. She tests its strength on her body weight. It seems firm.

FARELL

Now what?

QUINLAN

Now... we wait.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING

The crew are cautiously climbing. Carter, in his haste, grabs a chair that isn't firmly attached to the floor. It gives way. The chair falls with a clatter, and they all freeze.

CARTER

Sorry!

GREY

Sssh!

They all stay motionless. After a few moments, it appears they got away with it.

CARTER

There you go, no harm done...

The base roars and begins to slide again...

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Quinlan and Farell as the base slides.

QUINLAN

Here we go...

As the base slides, she kicks off from the console and hangs by the wire. Around her the base slides down, but she stays still, and as the console she's wanting to get hold of slides past, she lets go of the wire and lands on it.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

I did it! Now what?

FARELL

You need to press the following keys...

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING

The base continues to slide -- this time it doesn't seem to be stopping. The crew climb as they hear the first sizzle from below -- the lava has touched the base.

GREY

Go, go go!

They climb up as lava hisses into the room. The first to reach the exit at the top of the room is Boyle. She presses the door activation, but the door remains shut.

BOYLE

It won't open!

BLACKLOCK

Manual override. On your left.

BOYLE

Oh my God, oh my God.

She strains against the hatch again, finally getting it open. It is a pump mechanism and she starts to pump. Blacklock and Carter have reached her, but Grey is finding getting a route up to the top harder. Below him the lava is spitting at his ankles. The door slowly starts to open...

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Quinlan is following Farell's instructions above the grinding sound as the base slides down the rock.

FARELL

Then enter code four alpha omega seven.

QUINLAN

Alpha what?

FARELL

Omega seven!

QUINLAN

Got it!

She types it in. Immediately the opening where the window was smashed is sealed by a metal plate.

CUT TO:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

We see emergency grapples appear from the side of the base, and bury themselves into the rock, applying the brakes. The base begins to right itself, reversing back to the horizontal. As it does so, though, one of the corridor sections linking the main areas cracks and falls away into the lava below.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING

Grey is still struggling as the room lurches again, this time to the normal angle. The windows that were smashed are sealed, but pools of lava still remain.

BLACKLOCK

Hold on, the grapples have been fired.

They all hold on. The wrenching of the room causes lava to fly about, and one splash hits Carter, who cries out in agony.

BOYLE

Lewis!

BLACKLOCK

Don't move until the base is fully settled!

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SICKBAY

Elris and Leen remain as the room rights itself.

CUT TO:

EXT. HORUNIS BASE

The base has finally stopped moving, and is back to its normal horizontal angle. However, it is now deep within the volcano, and we can only see the top of it sticking out of the lava.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING

Grey, Blacklock, Carter and Elris wait.

BLACKLOCK

There. We're safe.

Boyle and Grey hurry over to Carter. His leg is badly scalded, and he is crying.

CARTER  
Oh shit, help me, help me.

BOYLE  
Sssh, it's all right, it's all right.  
(to Grey)  
What do we do?

Grey takes out his phaser and shoots Carter. He slumps to the floor.

BOYLE (CONT'D)  
Erik!

GREY  
He's in pain, we don't have any medicine. Knocking him out's the best thing for him.

Boyle looks doubtful. Grey goes over to Blacklock, whose looking at some readings.

GREY (CONT'D)  
Now what? Are we safe?

BLACKLOCK  
No, we're not. According to this we're nearly at the bottom of the crater. You see...

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Farell is explaining to Quinlan.

FARELL  
After an eruption the lava level raises by as much as five hundred feet, albeit temporarily. Our base was so high up that it just wasn't an issue. But now...

He looks at Quinlan.

QUINLAN  
How long?

FARELL  
I'd say we've got about half an hour.

She closes her eyes.

QUINLAN

We need to get moving. Sort through this rubble, find the others, get out of here...

FARELL

Even if they are still alive, all the base's systems will be shut down. I don't know whether we'll even be able to get the shuttle moving.

QUINLAN

We have to try.

She turns away.

FARELL

Quinlan, about before...

QUINLAN

You mean when you endangered everyone's lives for your pride.

FARELL

Yeah. It's just -- I didn't realize this would happen. I... You can trust me, I won't do it again.

Quinlan waves his phaser at him.

QUINLAN

You bet your bottom dollar it won't.

Farell reacts, looking to the holder it used to be in.

FARELL

How did you..?

QUINLAN

I used to be a pirate, learned a few tricks of the trade. Let's get to work...

She walks over to a console while Farell stares at her and outside, we see the lava bubbling away.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Heat's rising, Farell. Heat's rising.

We see what she sees, and see a monitor in degrees Kelvin rapidly rising. Quinlan looks at him worriedly as we slowly...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- OPS

Quinlan and Farell are looking around.

QUINLAN  
How long will it hold?

FARELL  
Let's see.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a portable device, which he holds to the wall.

FARELL (CONT'D)  
These walls can withstand heat of five thousand Kelvins for six hours.

QUINLAN  
What is the temperature out there?

FARELL  
Eight thousand.

QUINLAN  
Fantastic.

At this moment, Quinlan's commbadge chirps.

GREY'S COMM VOICE  
Grey to Quinlan.

QUINLAN  
I'm here. Are you all right?

INTERCUT:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING

Boyle is examining Carter, who is surrounded by a small pool of blood. He is breathing heavily, evidently trying not to yell out in pain. In the foreground, Grey is watching them.

GREY  
Me and Sarah are okay, Carter was hit by lava.

QUINLAN'S COMM VOICE  
Excellent news.

GREY  
(whispering)  
It's not funny, Jen.  
(MORE)

GREY (CONT'D)

He's badly burned. I knocked him out, but he's come round again, I can't do any more at the moment.

QUINLAN'S COMM VOICE

He'll be all right. Give him something new to complain about.

GREY

That's just it. He's not saying anything. He's just lying there.

INTERCUT:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SCIENCE LAB

Quinlan and Farell as before.

QUINLAN

Hell, he is in a bad way. What are we going to do?

GREY'S COMM VOICE

We can't get through to the Enterprise. We're going to try and get through to the shuttle at the reception place, see what kind of shape that's in.

QUINLAN

Okay, we'll make our way to you then. Have you heard from Lea?

GREY'S COMM VOICE

No, she's not answering her comm.

Beat.

QUINLAN

Okay, we'll go check on her on our way.

Quinlan out.

She looks worried, then taps her commbadge again.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Quinlan to Elris, please come in. Lea, please. Why won't you answer?

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SICKBAY

Elris is administering a hypospray to Leen. A little way away we see her commbadge, crushed under a table.

Leen slowly comes round.

LEEN

What the...?

ELRIS

It's me. Don't try to move.

LEEN

What happened?

ELRIS

I... don't know. The room just started shaking, and then fell apart.

Leen looks around it.

LEEN

Oh my God.

He slowly moves to sit up. Elris moves to stop him, but he shakes his head.

LEEN (CONT'D)

I'm all right. Ouch, no I'm not.

He has managed to get himself sitting, but cannot get any further.

LEEN (CONT'D)

I feel like I've been given the beaten up by a Nausicaan.

ELRIS

Or a bed at least.

Elris runs a medical tricorder over him. Her face goes pale.

LEEN

I don't like that look on your face.

ELRIS

It's nothing.

LEEN

Doctor Elris, might I remind you I am a doctor too? I know when there's bad news. I'd prefer you to be straight.

Elris pauses a moment, then decides to tell him.

ELRIS

You have four fractured ribs. One has penetrated your left kidney. You have a lot of internal bleeding.

Leen nods, knowing this prognosis isn't good.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

I can patch you up, but with the equipment here, I can't --

LEEN

(presses his finger  
to her lips)

You need to get out of here. While you can.

ELRIS

I'm not leaving you. Someone'll be along in a few minutes, we just got to wait it out.

Leen starts to protest but Elris in turn presses her fingers to his lips.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Doctor Leen, might I remind you that as a surgeon a doctor never leaves her patient's side.

Leen smiles and then nods. Elris goes over to pick up a blanket, and carries it back to him, to cover him up.

LEEN

Bet you didn't think a routine mission like this could turn into... whatever the hell this is.

ELRIS

Actually, I'm beginning to dread the words "routine mission." They usually end up with us fighting for our lives.

Leen chuckles.

LEEN

Doesn't give you any time to stop and think then?

ELRIS

Not a lot, no.

LEEN

I envy you that. All I had to do here is stop and think.

ELRIS

And what do you think about?

Beat.

LEEN  
Regrets mainly.

He is smiling but there is a hint of sadness in his eyes as well. Elris looks back at him.

ELRIS  
(whispers)  
We all have regrets. Here.

She injects him with a hypospray.

ELRIS (CONT'D)  
For the pain.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- RECEPTION AREA

The area is not too bad, with only scattered debris around. However, as in all the areas, the lava outside infuses the interior with an orange glow. Grey is working at the airlock, and frowning as it goes blip. Boyle comes through.

GREY  
How is he?

BOYLE  
He seems okay, the bleeding's stopped a bit. How are things here?

GREY  
The airlock's refusing me admittance. It says the temperature's too high for safe access.

He turns and smiles ruefully at Boyle.

BOYLE  
So what do we do?

GREY  
We try and bypass it. Here. See that conduit over there, with the cover half off?

BOYLE  
Yeah.

GREY  
Have a look at it, tell me if there's any access there.

She goes over and looks.

BOYLE

Mmmm, maybe. There are definitely some entry points.

GREY

Think we can do some rewiring, try and bypass the lock?

BOYLE

Worth a try.

GREY

Let's get to it then.

He goes over and picks up the toolkit. As he passes Boyle one, he stops and hesitates.

GREY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, about getting at you before.

BOYLE

(taking the tool)

No, you were right, we were being rude.

They get to work on their respective circuits.

BOYLE (CONT'D)

It's just lately, you've been so...

GREY

Grey?

BOYLE

I was going to go with preoccupied, but grey fits too.

GREY

Preoccupied...

BOYLE

Yeah and it's dull. You know me, I like to get out, have some fun...

GREY

(bitterly)

Mustn't deprive you of your fun.

BOYLE

Right. But all you've wanted to do since we got back on board the Enterprise has been talk about how much you don't like Captain Cross, how much you wish you weren't here. It's just so boring...

GREY

I can't help it.

BOYLE

Anyone can help it, you're just not trying.

GREY

I don't think that's entirely fair.

BOYLE

Well, it's not entirely fair on me, either, is it? Okay, you have issues. Deal with them and move on, don't bring me down into the well of depression you're carving for yourself.

GREY

Sarah, I --

Suddenly there hear a moan. Carter is in pain in the next room.

BOYLE

Excuse me.

She gets up and goes out towards Engineering.

GREY

(under his breath)

That's right, run back to Carter. Seems like you've done nothing else recently...

He attacks the conduit with renewed vigor.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- CORRIDOR

Quinlan is staring at the partition. The corridor beyond the sealed door that used to lead to Sickbay has just been torn apart. They can see Sickbay in the distance, but there is no way they can get to it. Farell stands back a bit.

QUINLAN

Lea...

FARELL

She might still be alive.

Quinlan turns back and looks at him.

FARELL (CONT'D)

The best we can do is get back to the others. There's nothing here.

QUINLAN

I don't like leaving her.

FARELL

Come on.

He offers his hand in support. Quinlan takes it and leans on him, so she is not putting weight on her injured leg.

FARELL (CONT'D)

Come on, speedy.

QUINLAN

Very funny.

Farell groans as they walk along.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Hey, I'm not that fat.

FARELL

No, I was just thinking.

QUINLAN

Oh. Bad habit, only leads to trouble.

FARELL

Tell me about it. I can't believe this has happened.

QUINLAN

Why did he do it, do you think?

FARELL

Oh, he was worried about the core's increase in pressure. He was trying to alleviate it.

QUINLAN

Didn't he know this would happen?

FARELL

No, he thought the pressure was due to excess gas. He was trying to save his own skin.

QUINLAN

I'm sure the Enterprise could have looked at it from orbit without him risking his life.

(beat)

What?

Farell has reacted to this.

FARELL

I... kind of told him not to.

QUINLAN

What? Why did you do that?

FARELL

I just -- I like solving our problems on our own.

QUINLAN

But why would you do that? We were here to help.

FARELL

I know, I know.

QUINLAN

Instead, he's now dead and we're dead too, if we don't get out of here. I can't believe you didn't --

FARELL

(savagely)

Just drop it, will you?

Quinlan shakes his support off her and looks at him.

QUINLAN

What's going on?

FARELL

I don't want to talk about it. Come on, we have to get moving.

He offers his hand, but Quinlan shakes her head, slightly scared by what she has seen.

QUINLAN

(quietly)

I can walk on my own, thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SICKBAY

Leen and Elris are sitting next to each other. They sit in silence. Then:

LEEN

What are they?

Elris starts.

ELRIS

Pardon?

LEEN

Your regrets, what are they?

ELRIS

Oh.

(she considers)

Just wrong choices made, paths not taken.

LEEN

Your divorce?

Elris looks at him.

ELRIS

How did you know that?

LEEN

(indicating her finger)

Your ring finger has an indent. You wore a ring for many years, but don't now. Do you regret it?

Elris considers seriously.

ELRIS

No. No I don't. I regret what happened between us, but I don't regret it.

Leen smiles gently,

LEEN

That's good.

ELRIS

What about you? What regrets do you have?

LEEN

Worrying about having a swollen ring finger...

Elris reacts.

ELRIS

I wouldn't have thought you'd have had much opportunity to get one in this place.

LEEN

No... that's why I'm here... My Karrie...

ELRIS

I don't understand.

LEEN

I am here because of what I didn't do...

ELRIS

You didn't propose to someone?

LEEN

No, much worse than that...

He winces in pain again. Elris reaches for a hypospray and gives him another shot. His face shows relief again.

ELRIS

Don't try and speak. Save your energy.

He nods, and his eyes flicker as the pain killer's soporific affects take hold. As they do, Elris sneakily runs her tricorder over him again and winces at the results. She bites her lip at the back news -- his condition is worsening.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Save your energy.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- RECEPTION AREA

Grey and Boyle are working silently. Grey looks at Boyle a couple of times before he finally plucks up courage to speak.

GREY

Look, I'm sorry I've been -- preoccupied recently.

BOYLE

Yeah, well, it just gets tedious.

GREY

But, you know, I've been going through some real things lately. Everything that's important to me. Everything that I hold dear, that I believe in, has been taken from me. Do you know what that feels like?

Boyle stares at him.

GREY (CONT'D)

No, I don't think you do. I really don't. know I might be a, what did you call it, "boring fuddy duddy," but I need certain things in my life, certain balances to keep me sane. And, at the moment, I don't have that.

BOYLE

You balance your whole life on your Captain?

GREY

Not just my captain. My work. Do you know how hard it is for me to work on a ship that has the reputation this one does?

BOYLE

You shouldn't care what other people think.

GREY

It's not what other people think, it's what other people know. And what I know. The heart that governs this ship is rotten. And that eats away at me, tears at my soul. But it doesn't matter, because at the end of the day come home, and what do I find waiting for me but you. You. And you're hardly a stable influence, either.

BOYLE

And what's that supposed to mean?

GREY

You know what it means. When I first met you, you were someone I could come to, could talk things over with. But not anymore. Now any time I try and talk to you, you just spit it right back in my face, before running off to one of your more interesting friends. It's like you prefer to talk to them than to me.

BOYLE

I talk to you.

GREY

Yeah, to complain to me, or bitch to me. You know my friends don't like you.

BOYLE

Well, boo hoo.

GREY

And they wonder why I do. And so do I.

Boyle moves looks at him hard for a moment.

GREY (CONT'D)

I've heard people talking about us.

BOYLE

Oh really.

GREY

Yeah, wondering why we're still together. When Rob Kinnan was on the ship a few weeks ago, he couldn't believe we were still together.

BOYLE

Why?

GREY

He said he didn't know you had such commitment. What do you think he meant by that?

BOYLE

I don't know.

Grey glances over where Carter is busy doing something.

GREY

Are you?

BOYLE

Am I what?

GREY

Committed?

Boyle stops and picks up a tool from Grey and looks him straight in the eye.

BOYLE

I'm as committed as I've ever been.

She walks off with the tool. Grey watches after her. He turns back and suddenly frowns. A thin crack has appeared on the window. He looks closer, and sees the crack is slowly creeping across the window. He closes his eyes. They don't have much time. He turns back but Boyle has gone. His eyes moisten, as we slowly...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- ENGINEERING

Boyle is cradling Carter's head as Grey rushes in. He reacts only momentarily to what Boyle is doing.

GREY

Sarah, we have to be quick. There isn't much time left.

She nods and gets up. As they rush through to...

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- RECEPTION AREA -- CONTINUOUS

Boyle tells Grey:

BOYLE

We're losing him.

GREY

We're going to lose all of us if we don't speed up.

He motions to the cracks on the glass. Condensation is now dripping from both the windows and the ceiling. Boyle goes pale and hurries back to the conduit.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- CORRIDOR

QUINLAN is hobbling along as quickly as she can. The glass is cracking slowly but surely, and her uniform is now soaking from sweat. Suddenly she becomes aware that Farell has hung back. She looks. There is a look of absolute horror on his face and he has slumped to the floor.

FARELL

It's happening again...

QUINLAN

What are you doing? Come on, we have to move!

FARELL

I can't, it's happening again...

Quinlan stops and hobbles over to him.

QUINLAN

Please come on.

FARELL

You don't understand. I've been here before.

QUINLAN

You're right. I don't understand. And frankly at the moment, I don't care. Please come on.

FARELL

You go on without me. I --

Quinlan reaches to pull him back, but he lashes out at her.

FARELL (CONT'D)

(angrily)

Leave me alone! I can't face it again --

Quinlan looks round, despairingly. Then she bends down and looks into Farell's eyes.

QUINLAN

What? What can't you face again?

FARELL

The deaths... The deaths...

His voice trails off.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SICKBAY

Elris is looking fearful as all around the windows are starting to buckle. Next to her, Leen is mumbling, only semiconscious. She gasps, as it is now so hot.

LEEN

It all comes down to the maths, you see...

Elris looks at him.

ELRIS

Doctor? Doctor? Can you hear me?

He suddenly opens his eyes, and looks at her.

LEEN

I didn't bother checking the maths.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- CORRIDOR

Quinlan and Farell as before.

FARELL

It was all a rush. Dyson were hurrying us up, to get it done quickly before anyone stopped us. I was on for the biggest bonus of my life.

Behind them, an almighty crack is heard, and a huge line appears in the glass. They don't have long. Quinlan looks at Farell, who has got lost in his own world.

QUINLAN

Please...

FARELL

I gave the figures to him and he said they were fine... but the timing was all wrong. Five thousand people thought they had time to get away... Five thousand people...

He looks at Quinlan.

QUINLAN

(suddenly realizing)

It was your fault the accident happened.

FARELL

I can still hear the miner's screams... in my head...

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SICKBAY

As before, Leen and Elris. Leen is still talking.

LEEN

If only I'd checked them... but I didn't. I said I didn't have time. Too busy.

He looked at Elris... and then breaks into a smile. The heat and drugs are making him hallucinate.

LEEN (CONT'D)

Karrie. You're here. I knew you'd come.

Around them, the glass is starting to shake. The lava is winning the battle to get inside. Elris starts to cry as Leen sees his lost love in her.

ELRIS

I'm not -- I mean....

LEEN

I lost you all those years ago. I told you mining wasn't a woman's work, but you so wanted to be with me...

He reaches for his locket.

LEEN (CONT'D)

I kept it for you, you know. Always knew.. always knew one day you'd return...

He unclasps it, and inside it is a wedding ring, sparkling in the orange light. His trembling fingers hold it up to Elris.

LEEN (CONT'D)

Put it on for me. I love you...

Elris, tears mixing with perspiration on her face, slowly puts the ring on...

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- CORRIDOR

Quinlan is still trying to get Farell to come.

QUINLAN

Come on, now, we have to move.

FARELL

No.

He looks at her, and for a moment his gaze is crystal clear.

FARELL (CONT'D)

Every night for fifteen years I've cried myself to sleep wishing I had died with them. But now... now I have a chance.

QUINLAN

I can't leave you behind.

FARELL

(sadly)

And that's why I'm sorry about this...

He suddenly kicks her, hard, on the leg she is injured in. She cries out in pain, and falls, as he gets up and runs back towards the science lab.

QUINLAN

Stop, what are you --

He gets to the end, to the point where the corridor goes into the airlock, beyond which used to be the corridor to the science lab. He turns back and looks at Quinlan.

FARELL

This time, this time I'm making sure  
I will...

He turns and enters the airlock door, which closes behind him.

QUINLAN

No, wait!

He breathes deeply, and opens the other side. Immediately he is engulfed by lava, and disappears at once. He doesn't make a sound. For a moment, Quinlan just stares and then another crack alerts her to the fact she has to get out of there. She gets to her feet gingerly, and starts to hobble towards the reception area again.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- RECEPTION AREA

Grey emerges from the airlock to the shuttle as Boyle comes in supporting Carter.

GREY

Shuttle's fine.

Boyle nods and helps Carter in. As she does so Quinlan appears from the corridor she was in.

QUINLAN

I think it's time to leave.

GREY

I agree.

He helps her get into the shuttle...

INT. SHUTTLE -- CONTINUOUS

Carter is laid down on the back seats as Grey manages the controls. Quinlan is last in.

QUINLAN

Exactly how much heat can a shuttle  
take?

GREY

We'll soon find out. Hang on,  
everyone...

He starts the prelaunch sequence.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE

We go through the various sections as, finally, the glass gives way and the base is overwhelmed by the lava.

CUT TO:

INT. HORUNIS BASE -- SICKBAY

Elris is cradling Leen's head as the base shudders again. His breathing is much raspier now.

ELRIS

Please hang on, please. They're nearly here.

With effort Leen shakes his head.

LEEN

No. Not any more. Too tired. Won't make it.

ELRIS

No! Come on, come on.

He stops and holds Elris's face, tracing his fingers over her lips.

LEEN

It's all right, Karrie, everything's fine now...

Outside there is the sound of cutting, as the base shakes again. Tears start streaming down Elris's face.

ELRIS

They're nearly here.

LEEN

(gasping again)

Now at last we have a chance... a chance to live again... Don't we?

Elris nods.

LEEN (CONT'D)

We have a second chance... no longer worried about the past, no more living in the past...

With a final sigh he closes his eyes, just as we hear a bang. Elris looks up, to see the shuttle has docked at the airlock.

After a second it opens, and Quinlan emerges.

QUINLAN

Lea, we're here. We came as quickly  
as we could.

ELRIS

(shakes her head)

No. We came ten years too late.

She picks up Leen and carries him quickly to the shuttle, as  
Quinlan watches...

CUT TO:

EXT. HORUNIS

The Sickbay collapses as the shuttle departs, and flies clear  
of the lava, heading back to the sanctuary of space.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. ENTERPRISE

The ship sails past, still in orbit.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

Quinlan enters just as a female ensign runs out, crying.  
She is swiftly followed by a male ensign, who is looking red  
faced.

MALE ENSIGN

I did the best I could!

Elris is standing as though she has just been talking to  
her, while on a biobed Carter lies sleeping, Boyle at his  
side while Toran is monitoring his stats.

QUINLAN

What was that all about?

ELRIS

Turns out Ellen's ring was bought  
from a disreputable Ferengi living  
on Bajor and has given her hand a  
nasty rash. She isn't best please.

QUINLAN

Oh dear.

(she indicates Carter)

How is he?

ELRIS

He lost a lot of blood, but I've  
managed to repair the internal damage.  
He's going to be fine.

QUINLAN

How long's she  
(looking at Boyle)  
been here?

ELRIS

Since we got back. She hasn't left  
her side.

QUINLAN

Bet Erik loves that.

ELRIS

Yeah, I know.

QUINLAN

Poor Erik. I don't know, maybe you're  
right.

ELRIS

About?

QUINLAN

What we were talking about. Before  
all this happened.

ELRIS

Oh, about relationships?

QUINLAN

Yeah. Seems like they're doomed to  
failure on the Enterprise.

ELRIS

No, I'm not sure I agree any more.

QUINLAN

Oh?

ELRIS

I can imagine looking back on my  
life when I'm a little old wizened  
Bajoran living in Katarn Province,  
and thinking about my regrets. And  
you'll know what'll be the worse  
ones?

QUINLAN

Go on.

ELRIS

Not the things I did and got burned  
over. But the things I never did,  
because I was afraid of the fire.

QUINLAN

Time to clear out the old ashes then?

ELRIS

I think so.

QUINLAN

Good for you... And who will be stoking your fires?

ELRIS

I don't know. They should form an orderly queue -- sorry...

Toran has just bumped into her as he walks past, checking a PADD. Quinlan raises an eyebrow.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

No way.

QUINLAN

Why not, you're both Bajoran, you're both Doctors...

ELRIS

There, you've hit the nail on the head. Never mix work with pleasure... Here's a prime example...

She nods. Grey has just entered and walked over to Boyle.

GREY

Hello.

BOYLE

Hey.

GREY

How's Carter?

BOYLE

He's okay.

GREY

Good. Can I have a word with you?

BOYLE

Sure.

She doesn't move.

GREY

Outside.

She makes a face and then moves out with Grey into...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Boyle looks at Grey aggressively.

GREY

I haven't seen you since you got back.

BOYLE

I've been worried about Carter.

GREY

Yeah, I'm not surprised.

BOYLE

What's that supposed to mean?

GREY

I'm not blind, Sarah. I've seen how you are around him. Ever since he's come on board you've been bad tempered and irritable around me.

BOYLE

I've had good reason.

GREY

Don't pull that crap with me. I'm going to ask you, and I want a straight answer. Have you slept with Carter?

BOYLE

Woah, where did that come from?

GREY

Just answer the question.

BOYLE

No.

GREY

Then why have you been like this to me?

BOYLE

We've already done this, Erik. Because you've been so boring and whiny lately. Oh boo hoo, I hate the Captain, I hate my life. Spending all day and all night in Engineering, I never get to see you. I'm sorry if I'm not meant to speak to anyone else Erik, but I can't be like that. I like having, oh yes, what's the word for it? Oh yeah, a life. Friends. Words you don't seem to know anymore. Fun. For you fun is something you need to make an appointment for. For me, my whole life is fun time.

GREY  
(doggedly)  
Have you slept with Carter?

BOYLE  
Oh my God.

Beat, then she makes a decision.

BOYLE (CONT'D)  
Yeah.  
(increasingly reckless)  
Yeah, I did. I fucked him Erik, I fucked him and I fucked him and I've fucked him. I fucked him in his quarters, I fucked him in mine, I fucked him in your bed, Erik, what about that? And you know what? If we get out of this, I'm gonna do it again. Because I want to feel alive, and all you do is make me feel like I'm dying inside.

Grey nods and, without another word, turns and walks slowly away. Boyle turns and walks back into...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY -- CONTINUOUS

Boyle walks past Elris and Quinlan, who are suspiciously near the door. Quinlan says loudly:

QUINLAN  
Bitch.

Boyle turns and looks smugly at her before walking over to Carter, who has opened his eyes. It would seem the whole room heard.

CARTER  
(whispers)  
We didn't actually do it in his bed, you know. I've never been in his quarters.

Boyle looks at him scathingly.

BOYLE  
You just rest.

She is aware the whole room is looking daggers at her, but doesn't care. Quinlan turns and says to Elris:

QUINLAN  
You sure you made the right decision?

ELRIS

Well, it couldn't be any worse than  
them, could it?

They look at each other, sadly, before Quinlan turns and  
leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Grey walks slowly down it, on his own, as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END