

STAR TREK

RENAISSANCE

"The Ground Beneath Her Feet"

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TEASER

EXT. QUARRY -- NIGHT

Running. As fast as her feet will take her. We pull up and out from a pair of bare feet running along the cruel, stone filled landscape below to reveal a GIRL her MID-TEENS desperately trying to escape what looks like an old quarry.

The quarry is lit in various places by huge spotlights, which make the ugliness of it all the more apparent. A KLAXON fills the cold night air, and two more spotlights turn on from what appear to be GUARD TOWERS and begin following her, not far behind her.

From within a building, two more spotlights appear, with the familiar hum of shuttlecraft accompanying them. The girl clutches on to a LARGE BLUE STONE that she is holding -- it appears to be VERY SLOWLY burning her flesh, we can see the discomfort on her face.

The shuttles fly overhead, and the girl clings to the stone even more tightly, bringing it closer to her clothed chest. Behind her we hear the ring of a TRANSPORTER and for a brief instant as the girl turns around we see FIVE LARGE KLINGONS joining the pursuit.

As she runs they fire weapons in her direction, luckily the erratic nature of the landscape is causing them to have an unsuccessful aim.

The girl continues to run until she is at the edge of a large drop that leads to a stream/sewage out-take a fair distance below. Seeing this, she takes a deep breath and from her run she bounces into a powerful jump that takes her through a FORCEFIELD and lands with a roll on the other side of the stream.

As she stands she looks behind her, to see the guards looking confused and stumbling around for their communicators as the girl runs away into the distance.

As we pull out and behind the guards to a wide shot of the girl running away into the darkness we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

TALORA is standing looking out at the stars on the viewscreen. (NOTE: We are not at slipstream.) The turbolift doors open and Talora turns to see CROSS entering.

CROSS

Report.

TALORA

Captain, we're picking up a distress call from a civilian transport ship.

CROSS

Why aren't we at slipstream?

TALORA

The civilian ship is inside Klingon territory.

CROSS

Great. How far inside?

TALORA

Approximately twenty light years past the Federation's side of the border.

Cross raises his eyebrows, sighs.

CROSS

Take us to slipstream, Lieutenant.

QUINLAN

Aye aye, Sir.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise jumps from warp to slipstream.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY -- DAY

The girl we saw in the teaser walks through what appears to be the slums district of a small Klingon city. She is wearing long rags, having somehow managed to form part of them into a hood to conceal her non-wrinkled forehead from the rest of the old wrinklies around her.

She is in the middle of a moderately sized crowd -- apparently a main street.

She keeps attempting to stop some of the friendlier looking Klingons, but her small quivering voice is nothing in comparison to the roar of some of the Klingons.

She looks resigned, about to give up, before a glimpse of hope crosses her eyes. She looks up and sees a sign post written in Klingon.

She manages a half smile before carrying on in the direction of the sign post as we pull back to reveal a Klingon speaking into a communicator looking intensely in her direction.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise rips through slipstream.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIEFING ROOM

Cross is surrounded by the senior staff, all stood at a wall display, we can see long range sensor scans of numerous ships.

CROSS

Some of you aren't going to like what I'm about to tell you.

The crew look back, blank, half expecting what he has to say.

CROSS (CONT'D)

We picked up a distress call from a civilian transport inside Klingon space just under ten minutes ago and...

GREY

(interrupts)

Sir, I don't have to remind you that Starfleet...

CROSS

(interrupts, then mimicking Grey)

That Starfleet have expressed specific instructions that the Enterprise not enter Klingon space under any circumstances.

(beat)

You're right and you don't have to remind me. But I'm not going to sit idly by and let a civilian ship be destroyed in a fight that isn't their own.

GREY

How do we know that?

CROSS

It's a civilian ship, Lieutenant.

GREY

Like the Klingons at Coular?

The room becomes extraordinarily tense, no one makes eye contact with either Cross or Grey.

CROSS

I don't want to hear from you for the rest of this meeting unless it's relevant.

Grey remains quiet and only acknowledges him with a small movement of his head.

CROSS (CONT'D)

If anyone else has any disagreements with me on this, they can voice them now.

No one speaks.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Good. Dismissed, we'll be arriving shortly.

He sits back in his chair as they all walk out on to the Bridge. Elris hangs back. Cross doesn't notice before:

CROSS (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Assuming our resident Judas doesn't sabotage the slipstream before then.

ELRIS

Judas?

He finally notices Elris.

CROSS

I didn't think it would be you who'd be the obligatory hang back...

(beat)

That's who he is.

ELRIS

Judas betrayed Jesus Christ. Has Lieutenant Grey betrayed you?

CROSS

Who said anything about me?

ELRIS

I don't understand.

CROSS

He's not betraying me, he's not just
betraying the morals of the Federation --
he's betraying his own.

Elris doesn't nod, doesn't show any sign of agreement, just
looks intrigued by Cross's answer for a beat.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Is there any worse kind of betrayal?

Elris looks up, directly into Cross's eyes.

ELRIS

I wouldn't know.

Cross looks at her, something passes between them.

CROSS

If there's nothing else?

ELRIS

I'll talk to you later...

Cross nods as she leaves via another door. After she has
left Cross stands and looks at the display still on the wall,
before exiting on to the Bridge.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

Cross enters, and looks over at Talora.

CROSS

Join me, Commander.

As he enters, she follows him through.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- READY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Cross seats himself on his side of the desk and indicates
for Talora to take a seat on the guest side.

CROSS

You didn't say anything in the
meeting.

TALORA

I got the impression that if I did I
would also be asked to remain silent.

CROSS

Why?

TALORA

You dismissed Lieutenant Grey.

CROSS

Tell me you can tell the difference.

TALORA

I can.

CROSS

Then why did you stay quiet?

TALORA

You would not have liked what I had to say.

CROSS

Which is?

Talora takes a breath.

TALORA

I think that you should inform Starfleet. There may be another ship in the sector that we don't know about that will cause less controversy from entering Klingon space.

CROSS

You're worried that I'm doing this off my own initiative? To prove something?

TALORA

To be blunt, yes.

CROSS

How about I'm doing it if I'm doing it from my heart?

TALORA

I don't believe that your heart would stop you from calling Starfleet.

CROSS

(sarcastically)
Not yet anyway.

TALORA

If we go ahead with this mission we cannot afford to fail.

CROSS

While we can still interfere with whatever it is the Q'tami have planned for us, I think we can afford to mess up on just about anything.

(beat)

But we won't. Not today.

TALORA

(smiles)

I will inform the crew.

CROSS

Better tell Hal first, he might run out of whiskey.

Talora raises an eyebrow.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Let me know as soon as we arrive.

Talora nods and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- ENGINEERING

Grey storms into engineering and towards the QIC, he looks at it menacingly before storming into his office. He picks up a PADD and looks down at the console that it was laid on and rises the PADD up, and slams it down into the console.

GREY

I hate that man.

He pushes the PADD aside and sits down at a stool. For a moment he just looks plain bored, and sighs, before inspiration strikes and he rapidly starts hitting keys on the console.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise approaches a transport ship from behind, there are no other vessels visible.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

We start on a view from the back of the Bridge looking out towards the viewscreen at a stricken transport vessel. We hear the swishing of doors open and pan to one side to reveal Cross entering from his Ready Room.

CROSS

Report.

TALORA

We're approaching the transport.

CROSS

Any sign of the attackers?

DOJAR

Not yet, but we should assume that they're still in the immediate vicinity.

CROSS

Agreed. Any life signs from the transport?

DOJAR

I'm not sure, there's too much interference.

Cross looks at the viewscreen, seeing nothing that could be causing interference.

CROSS

What's its source?

DOJAR

It appears to be emanating from inside the ship itself.

CROSS

Get Y'lan on it.

Dojar nods as Cross makes his way towards his chair, and sits down. He leans in next to Talora.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I've been in touch with Admiral Delfune...

TALORA

Delfune?

CROSS

Yeah, apparently she's been promoted to the general day to day running of Starfleet "interests" in this sector...

TALORA

Convenient.

CROSS

I didn't have time for the pleasantries. She's not happy that we're heading into Klingon territory, but she hasn't got a choice unless she's planning on leaving a civilian ship stranded in a war zone.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- UNSPECIFIED LOCATION

We switch to a new view of the conversation from directly behind Cross and Talora.

We hear the odd footstep and other noises from other Bridge personnel more amplified than usual, but we still have good sound -- enough to clearly understand what the two are saying.

After a moment or two, we begin to pull away from what we see is a console, until we pull back past someone watching Cross and Talora...

TALORA

She authorized our presence here?

CROSS

For the duration of this mission, yes, then we're straight back out again.

Talora nods.

TALORA

Understood.

Cross pulls back away from Talora.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

We're no longer watching on the computer console anymore, we're now on the Bridge again.

CROSS

Y'lan, have you got anything?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Nothing Captain, other than a strange reading emanating from the ships life support system.

CROSS

That might just be what we're looking for, Y'lan.

Y'LAN

I do not see how it could be of any significance, Captain.

CROSS

Explain?

Y'LAN

My table is detecting nothing more than a slightly modified oxygen compound in the ships atmosphere -- I do not see how it could be interfering with your scans.

Quinlan REACTS to this news, she is obviously uncomfortable about it.

CROSS

Okay, keep looking. Do you have any reason to believe that it could be harmful to an away team?

Y'LAN

Negative. As I have already stated I am detecting nothing more than a modified oxygen compound.

Cross nods and closes the comm. He turns to look at Talora.

CROSS

Assemble an away team -- I want to be in and out of here as fast as we can.

Talora nods and heads towards the turbolift, indicating for Dojar to join her as she goes.

Quinlan looks edgy, looking like she is about to stand up and then not, before finally making her mind up and actually standing up and turning to face Talora.

QUINLAN

(bluntly)

Commander, I want to go with you.

Talora looks intrigued, but nods in agreement and Quinlan runs to catch the waiting turbolift. The camera closes in on the closing doors...

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY -- DUSK

The same girl we saw earlier, still walking through the city, but a much quieter part of it, large skyscrapers hover in the distance however, implying that we are not far away from a major business/residential area. A very different sight to what we saw earlier.

The girl looks exhausted, almost on the verge of collapsing but hauls herself along towards a SPACEPORT where a number of transports are docked.

She stumbles into the main entrance and as we see a transport similar to the one we saw on the main viewscreen of the Enterprise we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- CORRIDOR

The familiar shimmer of the transporter effect appears on the screen and Talora, Dojar, Quinlan and Elris materialize, along with another N.D. security officer. All bear HAND PHASERS and after the usual look-before-you-scan routine, Elris and Quinlan pull out tricorders.

ELRIS

I'm detecting one life form, it appears to be stable.

TALORA

Where?

ELRIS

Through there.

She indicates a door.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

But I'm also detecting a large amount of organic mass. Though there.

She indicates another door.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

I think it's Klingon.

TALORA

Is there any indication as to why our sensors couldn't scan the interior of the ship?

ELRIS

I can't see why...
(to Quinlan)
Have you got anything?

Quinlan shakes her head.

QUINLAN

I'm going to go and investigate this oxygen compound.

Talora nods, as Quinlan walks down the corridor and indicates for Elris and the security guard to go into the room where the life form has been detected. Talora and Dojar head for the other door Elris indicated.

Elris puts away her tricorder and replaces it with a phaser she takes point with the guard slightly behind her. The guard presses some keys to open the door before we hear:

VOICE

No!

Elris and the guard share a look of concern before both plunging into the room ready to fire...

OPPOSITE ANGLE

Talora WHIPS AROUND to see Elris and the N.D. about to enter the room.

ORIGINAL ANGLE

Heavy breathing as Elris and the guard...

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

...storm in, weapons aimed, brows furrowed, ready to fight... only to find the girl that we saw earlier crouched in a corner sweating profusely and rubbing the sides of her head. She repeats her earlier plea.

GIRL

No! Get out! You can't come in here! Get the hell out! This is mine!

Elris looks at the guard who after a cautious look around nods back at her, and Elris pulls out her medical tricorder. Before she even scans her she can see that there's something wrong.

ELRIS

She's got a fever...
(looks at tricorder)
I need to get her back to the ship --
her blood pressure's rocketing.

The guard nods and Elris kneels down beside her and hits her comm. badge.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Elris to Enterprise, two to beam
directly to Sickbay.

GIRL

No! It's not supposed to be this way. I'm supposed to be...

Elris and the girl disappear in the transporter glow shortly before the guard looks around the rest of the room and begins to cough...

CUT TO:

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- CORRIDOR

Quinlan walks down a dark, empty corridor, only lit by the light from her phaser and tricorder.

Very creepy, the shadows are in a constant state of motion due to the various lights on the tricorder and Quinlan's constant movement. We can hear the guard coughing in the distance as he EXITS the room he found the girl in.

She approaches a door, and taps the controls -- it opens out on to the Bridge. She takes some cautious steps forward...

NEW ANGLE

Another corridor, again barely lit. Talora and Dojar approach a door, and look at each other.

DOJAR

The biomass is in here.

Talora nods. She taps some controls on the side of the door, but it does not open.

Her and Dojar exchange a glance.

CUT TO:

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- BRIDGE

Quinlan walks from console to console, looking at the emptiness on each one of them. There is nothing. The ship is lifeless. Black.

Until we hear a BEEPING. She turns to see a light flashing across the other side of the Bridge from what would have been an Operations console. Quinlan walks over to investigate.

CUT TO:

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- CORRIDOR

Dojar takes off the panel on the door, revealing the wiring behind it. We look through the wiring towards Talora and Dojar, both peering inside the circuitry.

CUT TO:

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- BRIDGE

Quinlan approaches the console, the beeping becomes more rapid as does her pace. She reaches the console to see one monitor flashing NEW BIOSIGNS DETECTED -- CALIBRATING LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS.

Quinlan looks up, startled and presses some keys on the dead console, and miraculously it springs to life -- only to reveal an UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS sign.

Intrigued, Quinlan hits some more keys and pulls up a new screen showing a BIOHAZARD SIGN and the filename KAMIKAZE GAMMA.

Her eyes fill with fear.

CUT TO:

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- CORRIDOR

Dojar holds two wires together, which SPARK.

CUT TO:

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- BRIDGE

Quinlan hits her commbadge.

QUINLAN

Quinlan to Talora -- do not open
that door!

Quinlan turns and runs as fast as she can out of the Bridge and down the corridor.

CUT TO:

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- CORRIDOR

The doors slide open... as Talora and Dojar look in with disgust Talora replies:

TALORA

(grimly)
We just did.

We swing around to see that inside the room there is a pile of about one hundred dead bodies, all in various stages of decay, and not a pleasant sight. We swing back on to Dojar as he winces in pain...

INT. TRANSPORT SHIP -- CORRIDOR

Quinlan legs it as fast as she can through the ship.

QUINLAN

Shit! We need to get out of here,
Commander!

TALORA

Understood. Proceed to meet... Dojar?

We hear a very audible THUD. Quinlan looks confused but carries on running.

QUINLAN

Quinlan to Enterprise, get a lock on everyone over here and get us out now!

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Understood, Lieutenant.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

Peace. Solitude. Calm. Elris stands over her patient, the young girl that we saw on the transport, who is now sedated and at rest. She injects a hypospray into the girl's neck as she looks at some readings on the large readout screen behind her.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Cross to Sickbay, prepare for casualties, Doctor.

Elris looks up and away from her patient, concern in her eyes.

ELRIS

I'm on it. What's happening?

The READ ALERT klaxon begins to flash.

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Cross paces across the Bridge, as the camera closes in on him as Grey and Y'LAN enter from the rear turbolift.

CROSS

We don't know, but something's going on over there.

We close in on the transport ship on the viewscreen...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

Close in on NARV OZRAN at the transporter console as he energizes the matrix, before closing in on the transporter pad, where Talora and Quinlan materialize... and Dojar and the N.D. Security Guard materialize in a pile on the pad.

Talora immediately turns and walks off the pad pulling Quinlan with her.

TALORA

Get them to sickbay...

Just as BOOM! The ship rocks, as we close in on Quinlan. Her expression blank yet in deep contemplation as Dojar and the guard dematerialize.

TALORA (CONT'D)

Talora to Bridge, what's happening?

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Another explosion, this time we swing across the viewscreen to see a KLINGON BIRD OF PREY flying past our view, as what appears to be the remnants of the destruction of the transport fade away...

CROSS

Get up here Commander, we're under attack!

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

I'm on my way.

CROSS

Cale, what the hell just happened?

CALE

The transport just exploded!

Cross sighs and walks across to Cale's console and pushes the hapless young ensign aside.

CROSS

They didn't destroy it...

As a SECOND and THIRD Bird of Prey decloak and begin attacking them.

CROSS (CONT'D)

It self-destructed.

He looks up at the viewscreen and pushes Cale back towards his console before marching back to the center seat, and turning back to look at Y'lan as he goes.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Y'lan, where the hell have those Birds of Prey come from?

Y'LAN

I detected a large buildup of ships at the edge of the system, but they have not posed a threat.

CROSS
(sarcastically)
Until now.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

Elris scans Dojar, a look of concern on her face as she puts a MEDTECH instrument on his forehead, before walking to the security officer and scanning him and injecting him with a hypospray, she continues scanning him before we hear:

GIRL
No!

Elris runs over to her, and indicates for a nurse to go and continue scanning the security guard and another to continue monitoring Dojar.

ELRIS
Hey, hey! It's okay! It's going to
be all right, we've rescued you!

GIRL
It's never going to be all right!
Not anymore, not ever...

BOOM! The ship rattles and rolls, as Elris clings on to the bed for stability.

GIRL (CONT'D)
They're here, aren't they? They're
coming to get me! I can't stay! I
have to leave! I have to leave now!
I have to go and get him!
(beat, then shouts)
Let me out of here! You can't keep
me here! I have free will! I'm me!
Not you! I'm not you!

ELRIS
(calmly)
All right, all right. Let's calm
down. Come on, that's a good girl.

The girl looks at her intensely, as Elris injects her with a hypospray.

GIRL
Girl?
(horrified)
You have no idea...

But she doesn't finish the sentence as she falls back into bliss again, and away from the rumble of the ship being attacked...

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

The turbolift doors open and Talora and Quinlan enter.

CROSS

Commander, the transport just self-destructed.

Talora raises an eyebrow, Quinlan seems to be white. Cross notices this.

CROSS (CONT'D)

You don't look well, Lieutenant.

Quinlan looks up at him, horror-struck.

QUINLAN

I don't think that I am...

CROSS

(confused)

Do you need to go to Sickbay?

QUINLAN

No. I need to be relieved of duty.
I'm responsible for everything that's
happened to that transport ship.

On Quinlan's blank, somber face we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Same as before. The ship continues to rock throughout the remainder of the episode, unless otherwise indicated.

CROSS

What do you mean you're responsible?

QUINLAN

(fragmented)

Seven years ago, when I was working for Devon, I got sent on a mission to keep an eye on a man, Maxwell Coombs. I didn't know what it was, not until we got there. Only that it was going to be dangerous because Mac was there. If Mac was there, you didn't want to be.

CROSS

What happened?

QUINLAN

We'd been sent to hijack a Starfleet shipment of bio-chemicals. We delivered them to some Klingons, not that far from where we are now.

TALORA

What kind of chemicals?

Quinlan looks up.

QUINLAN

Thorium arkenide. It's deadly. In the wrong hands they could kill millions of people.

Cross reacts.

CROSS

I think we'd better talk about this somewhere else.

He looks over to Talora.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Commander, you have the Bridge.

Talora nods, as Cross walks off to his Ready Room, followed slowly by Quinlan.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- READY ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Cross takes a seat and indicates for Quinlan to do so also, but she continues to stand, looking out into space, into the middle of nowhere.

Before Cross can ask her anything more, Quinlan carries on talking:

QUINLAN

I always told myself that I was never hurting anyone. That I was just the middleman. Making a living out of other peoples foul deeds and misfortunes. I've only just recently started to realize that I was very wrong.

Cross remains silent.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Mac and me, I don't think when it came down to it we were all that different. If you hadn't have come along when you did, then...

CROSS

Okay, that's enough.

Quinlan seems to snap herself out of it a bit.

CROSS (CONT'D)

What do these chemicals have to do with any of this?

QUINLAN

I think they're what killed the people on that transport.

CROSS

Are they a threat to my crew?

QUINLAN

I don't think so. The structure of the chemicals that I detected had been modified somehow.

CROSS

I'll inform Doctor Elris -- I want you to go down there now and tell her everything you know.

Quinlan nods. She begins to leave, but stops and turns around.

QUINLAN

Captain, I...

CROSS

(firmly)

We'll talk about it later, Lieutenant.

Quinlan quickly nods, and exits, Cross sits back and SIGHS.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise fights the Klingons, but the Klingons are coming in on hit and run attacks, firing a volley or two and then heading back out of range again.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

Sickbay is extremely underlit in this scene, red alert lights and what look like blue fluorescents are our only source of light.

Quinlan ENTERS to see Elris pulling a SHEET over the security guard's body.

QUINLAN

(under her breath)

Oh my God.

She stands looking at the dark scene for a moment, as Elris, obviously moved by the death of the guard moves on to tend to the now unconscious girl and Dojar.

Quinlan slowly takes some steps forward towards Elris, and stands behind her, looking extremely awkward, not knowing what to say to her, until Elris turns around and JUMPS.

ELIS

Jen! What are you doing here?

QUINLAN

Uh, the Captain sent me down here.

ELRIS

I didn't hear you come in.

QUINLAN

I'm quiet.

Elris looks at her.

ELRIS

Is everything alright?

QUINLAN

I'm not ill. If that's what you're asking. You don't need to worry about me.

ELRIS

Then why are you here? I don't have time to stand about and chat.

QUINLAN

I...

(beat)

I needed to tell you something. The Captain asked me to come down here.

ELRIS

Oh?

Quinlan swallows, prepares herself for what she knows she has to do.

QUINLAN

I'm the reason that man just died.

Elris looks confused, obviously doesn't take Quinlan seriously and walks over to Dojar and begins scanning him again.

ELRIS

What do you mean? You knew just as much as we did about what was over on that ship.

Quinlan closes her eyes deep in regret.

QUINLAN

No. I knew plenty more. I'm not fooling around here, Lea, none of that metaphoric crap. I'm here to tell you how that man died.

ELRIS

How do you know?

QUINLAN

You don't have the time for me to go into it, you just need to know that the core basis of what's attacking Dojar and that girl is a very primitive biological weapon.

ELRIS

I haven't detected anything like that.

QUINLAN

I know. There's a base signature that's emitted as a disguised brain wave, it's not designed to be found.

ELRIS

I thought you said it was primitive?

QUINLAN
In design it is, but...
(shouts)
We don't have time for this, Doctor!

Elris looks shocked at Quinlan's outburst.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)
Give me your tricorder.

Without waiting for Elris to offer her it she snatches it from her hand and begins programming in some information.

It should be apparent that Quinlan is NOT reading from the tricorder in this scene, but that she is telling Elris information that she already knows.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)
They've modified it -- I thought that it had been programmed to target one life sign, but...
(looks at tricorder)
I don't know. I can't make head or tail of this.

She thrusts the tricorder back towards Elris.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)
Look for the brain waves, you'll see what's happening.

Quinlan turns and exits.

ELRIS
Jen! Wait!

But it's too late, Quinlan is gone.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Quinlan storms along the corridor as the ship shakes around her, torn between pure anger and pure guilt.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- REC DECK

Quinlan enters and looks over towards the bar. The bottles glint at her with the reflection of huge explosions outside, though the main window that is usually visible is now covered with hull plating.

The camera closes in on Quinlan, before she turns away and walks over to sit at a table and slams her fists into the clear surface.

A crack appears and a small patter of blood hits the glass before Quinlan slams her knees up into it.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

The ship shakes as Cross emerges back out on to the Bridge again.

CROSS

Report.

Talora is at the center chair, Cale at tactical.

TALORA

The Klingons are continuing their assault, very minimal damage.

CROSS

I don't understand. With what they've been throwing at us, how can we only have minimal damage?

Cale's answer comes off as very snobby.

CALE

The obvious answer -- their weapons are inferior.

CROSS

They must be trying to do something.

CALE

(cocky)

I don't think so, Captain.

BANG! There is a huge explosion at the helm controls, as Grey's voice fills the Bridge speakers.

GREY'S COMM. VOICE

Engineering to Bridge -- they've taken out the QIC!

Talora looks at Cross.

CALE

Impossible.

Cross raises an intrigued eyebrow.

GREY'S COMM VOICE

I don't know what happened, Commander, the core just overloaded.

Cross looks confused.

CROSS

Commander, find out what's happening.

Talora hits some controls on her chair.

TALORA

They're firing at the exact same frequency the slipstream's operating at...

CROSS

That's what they've been doing all along. Why didn't we detect it before?

Talora looks over at a visibly wincing Cale.

TALORA

Perhaps you'd care to explain it to us, Lieutenant?

Cale smiles nervously.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- ENGINEERING

Grey storms through Engineering, heading towards a smoking QIC.

GREY

Boyle, get me some readings on the recharge rate of the core! Francis, I need you to reroute all power through the warp backup core!

BANG! Another huge explosion.

GREY (CONT'D)

What the hell was that?

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise tilts to one side one of its engines is on fire.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Smoke is coming from all over, cables hang from the ceiling, Cross and Talora drag themselves up from the floor and look at the flickering screen to see themselves surrounded by a vast amount of Klingon cruisers.

CROSS

Inferior weapons? Grey! I need
some power to maneuver!

GREY

I'm trying, but I don't think I'm
going to be able to give you anything
more than impulse! They've taken
out one of the engines!

CROSS

Repair time?

GREY

Two hours, if we can hold out!

CROSS

Get on it, use anyone you have to.

GREY

Understood!

BANG! The ship rumbles again. Talora looks down at her
chair.

TALORA

There's a decompression in progress!
Deck sixteen!

CROSS

Seal it off, get a team down there!
Cross to Elris.

No response.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Shit. Commander, get down there!

Talora nods and heads for the turbolift. Cross turns to
face Cale.

CROSS (CONT'D)

You better have some weapons to fire
or God help you I'll kick you through
that viewscreen!

CALE

I have phasers!

CROSS

That'll do start firing.

CALE

I don't have any targets, the
targeting locks are offline!

CROSS

You think that matters? Start firing,
now!

CALE

Where?

CROSS

Anywhere, God damn it!

Cale starts pressing buttons.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Talora EXITS a turbolift and heads towards Sickbay, but as she rounds a corner she's confronted by a forcefield, with debris and a huge gash in the hull on the opposite side.

TALORA

Talora to Bridge!

CROSS

Go ahead, Commander.

TALORA

Sickbay's been hit, Sir.

CROSS

How bad?

TALORA

I don't know, I can't get to it.
Suggest you do a scan from up there!

INTERCUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Same as before, Cross stood over Cale's console.

CROSS

We're working on it.

He walks over to his chair and hits some controls.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I'm not picking up anything... I
don't know if there's anyone left
alive down there.

As we close in on Cross we...

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

Start on the girl, who has fallen off her bed and is resting against it, pan up to Dojar who is beginning to regain consciousness but is holding his head, before we see Elris and another nurse and TORAN NOA beginning to regain their footing. The power is down now, except for the blue fluorescents.

ELRIS
Elris to Bridge!

No response.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
Elris to Engineering, can anyone hear me?

Still no response.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
Damn it.

She walks over to the girl as one of the two nurses walk over to Dojar.

TORAN
You picked one hell of a time to come back around, Lieutenant.

DOJAR
What's happening?

As the nurse begins to fill Dojar in on the situation as she scans him, we move over to see Elris scanning the girl.

ELRIS
How are you feeling? Can you see properly?

GIRL
What is there left to see?

ELRIS
(calmly)
Okay, how about we don't play games for now? I need you to tell me if you can see properly.

GIRL
Yes.

ELRIS

Good, now, follow my finger.

She begins moving her finger around as the girl follows it before we move back over to Dojar.

DOJAR

I need to get back up to the Bridge.

He stands and makes his way towards the EXIT, but is stopped by a FORCEFIELD.

TORAN

The corridor outside's been decompressed. Besides, you're not ready to go anywhere, yet.

DOJAR

Great.

Swing back to Elris and the girl.

ELRIS

Good, I don't think that you have a concussion.

The girl smiles, Elris looks at her tricorder.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

But you're not well.

GIRL

(afraid)

Why?

ELRIS

Why don't we try and find somewhere quiet?

She smiles, and leads the girl off to her office.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- REC DECK

Underneath the glass table Quinlan was sat at earlier, we see Quinlan's face resting above us on the glass. Blood is smeared on it from Quinlan's nose and the glass has cracked where her head has impacted with it.

She slowly begins to sit up, where HAL looks down at her.

HAL

This is b-a-d!

Quinlan groans and stands up and walks away from the table.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY -- ELRIS'S OFFICE

It is relatively quiet in here, we can still feel the ship shaking but the explosions aren't as apparent and it is a peaceful, serene atmosphere.

Elris sits on her desk, looking at the girl.

GIRL

I know what's wrong with me.

ELRIS

You do?

GIRL

They told me.

ELRIS

Who?

GIRL

The Klingons. Who attacked the ship.

ELRIS

And what did they tell you?

GIRL

That I'm dying. That I'd outlive everyone else on the ship. Give me time to think about what I've done.

Elris slowly shakes her head.

ELRIS

The virus is attacking your nervous system. There's nothing that I can do.

A beat as this sets in.

GIRL

How long do I have left?

ELRIS

A few hours. Not long now.

Silence for a beat.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

What have you done to the Klingons to deserve this?

GIRL

Do you want to hear the story of my life?

ELRIS

That bad, huh?

GIRL

No one ever does, just brush me aside like I'm some bruised apple.

ELRIS

I didn't say that I didn't want to.

The girl looks up, a twinkle in her eye. Beat.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

An apple?

GIRL

My Mum used to call me that.

ELRIS

Right.

GIRL

That's the one thing that I remember about her. I close my eyes every night and try to remember what she looked like, things that she'd said to me, but the only thing I can ever remember is her calling me an apple.

Elris looks quite perplexed at why someone would compare their child to an apple, but carries on anyway.

ELRIS

What happened to your mother?

GIRL

I don't know. We were going home to Earth, after the civil war with the Klingons started a few years back. Our ship... it was attacked. Boarded.

ELRIS

What happened?

GIRL

They shot her.

Elris looks at the girl, there is silence for a moment.

ELRIS

I was five when my mother died. She was in an explosion. I like to believe that she died instantly, but the Cardassians... they told me that she was buried alive. That she died slowly.

GIRL

I feel for you, Doctor.

Elris gives her a half smile.

ELRIS

What happened after your Mum was killed?

GIRL

They took me, took anyone who was young enough to not fight back.

ELRIS

How many of you were there?

GIRL

Six. Maybe seven. I can't remember. But there were more from other ships, each and everyone of us Human. I think that there must have been thirty to forty of us.

Elris looks shocked.

ELRIS

And they just held you all prisoner?

GIRL

No. Much worse than that. They made us into soldiers. Into fighting machines.

More shock.

GIRL (CONT'D)

They tried to brainwash us, but a few of us managed to survive it. If you can call it that. I guess we survived, to survive was our aim. But what for? We didn't have a life to live, we just carried on breathing. Carried on walking, each and every day. We couldn't even put ourselves out of the misery.

ELRIS

What do you mean?

GIRL

There were no ropes, Doctor. No sharp blades. They made sure of it. We knew that we could wring each other's necks. But what would happen to the one that was left behind? There's always one, isn't there?

(MORE)

GIRL (CONT'D)

There's always one that stays, that can't escape, no matter how much they try, what lengths they go to. They can never get out.

ELRIS

How did you get out?

GIRL

I had... a friend. Called himself Rick. He was there for me when I needed someone. He kept me sane on a night. I was kept sane somehow, he was just... he was the only person who I knew that I could completely trust.

(beat)

When you come out of a hard day of fighting or quarrying and there's hardly any food and everyone's hungry you really do learn who your friends are. It takes a while, but by the end of the first week you start to catch on.

(beat)

The bastard stole my food the first night I was there. He was just the only person who ever came up to me and said that he was sorry.

Elris smiles.

ELRIS

That was kind of him.

GIRL

You think? I never did like him, not for a long time. I guess I never really talked to him, or appreciated him for what he was.

She sighs, and looks down at the floor.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Then as the people who I could trust, who I thought were my friends became more and more entranced with the life that they couldn't escape, as I became more and more of an outsider, I stood up one night and I left them. For him. Just like that. I could never get over how different he was that first night. We talked all night long and I knew that he'd be the truest person I'd ever meet.

(MORE)

GIRL (CONT'D)

He was kind of burning from the inside out instead of the outside in for a change.

ELRIS

What do you mean?

GIRL

I... he was just himself, no lying or pretending, no crap. Even when he stole my fucking dinner that night he was being true to himself. I couldn't believe it.

ELRIS

How old did you say he was again?

GIRL

We were both sixteen when we talked that first night. Then the next night when we found out how old we both were... there were sparks. Kind of led from one thing to another.

She looks up at Elris.

GIRL (CONT'D)

You know, I mean we had sex.

ELRIS

Yeah, I got that part.

GIRL

And then we started planning our escape.

ELRIS

Interesting transition.

GIRL

It was like divine inspiration.

Elris nods uncomfortably.

GIRL (CONT'D)

What?

ELRIS

It sounds to me like you moved on your feelings very quickly.

GIRL

I don't think I've ever known anything different.

(MORE)

GIRL (CONT'D)

When you're in a place like that you act on things as they happen because you never know if you'll get a chance to come back and do it again.

ELRIS

It sounds a lot like the real world to me.

GIRL

I don't want you to criticize my choices, Doctor, what's done is done. I have my own life and even though there might not be that much of it left in front of me don't take away what I've got behind me.

ELRIS

I'm not.

GIRL

I thought that you were different, but you're just like everyone else, aren't you? You're just trying to steal my life away from underneath my feet, whatever's left of it. Tell me Doctor, are you going to lock me up as well? My body? Are you going to lock it up!?

ELRIS

Okay, I think it's time we relaxed a little.

GIRL

I'll tell you when I want to relax, I lost everything, I lost him and now you tell me to relax! I don't think that's possible, let go of me!

Elris looks confused as she's not holding the girl.

GIRL (CONT'D)

(shouts)

Let go of me!

Elris stands and looks outside the office.

ELRIS

Doctor Toran!

Toran enters, the girl moves under Elris's desk and crawls herself up into a ball and rocks backwards and forwards.

GIRL

I'll never let you catch me. Never.

ELRIS

(to Toran)

Hold her while I get a hypospray to her.

Toran nods and does as he is asked and moves under the desk to restrain her but the girl draws him closer to her and BITES HIM on his mouth. Toran retreats away, but the girl pulls him close to her and holds him, fortunately Elris gets to her from behind and injects a hypospray to the girl's neck.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Are you all right?

TORAN

I think so.

He puts a hand to his wounded mouth and looks at the blood running from it.

TORAN (CONT'D)

Nothing major.

Elris nods and smiles.

ELRIS

Good.

She looks down at the girl.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

She should be out for five or ten minutes and then be back to normal again.

She pulls out her tricorder and examines the girl.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Her nervous system is overstimulating.

TORAN

Is there anything we can do for her?

ELRIS

Only carry on injecting her. It will return her to normal for a while, but she will gradually get worse and worse.

(beat)

If we had some power around here I might have been able to remove some of the elements of the virus and keep her stable until we reached a starbase.

She looks around her.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

But it doesn't look like that's going to happen, does it?

Toran looks glum, as there is another explosion that rocks the ship, and the forcefield on the entrance to the door of sickbay shimmers as the doors fly off into the corridor and out of view.

TORAN

Someone will find us. They have to.

Elris half smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- REC DECK

Quinlan is kneeling beneath the bar which has its panel removed. Numerous wires and circuitry lays out on the floor, and Quinlan holds her tricorder to her mouth, using it as a communicator.

QUINLAN

I understand that, Captain, but...

Static, Quinlan winces it is that loud.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

...you back up here now, I can't lose my best pilot right now.

QUINLAN

You won't, Captain. But I'm going to Sickbay. I have to.

More static.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Sickbay... help... here.

Quinlan ponders for a moment.

QUINLAN

What's that Captain?

More static.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Captain. I'll have them out of there and be back on the Bridge before you know it.

More static.

Hal raises an intrigued eyebrow.

HAL
Very original.

QUINLAN
Fancy going on a rescue mission?

Hal retreats to a corner. Quinlan thrusts a medkit in his direction.

Hal stands up heroically.

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The battle, as before. As the Enterprise streaks past, we see a trio of Klingon Birds of Prey decloak, swoop in, and open fire.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- BRIDGE

Cross turns around to look at Y'lan.

CROSS

Get down there, I don't want Quinlan doing anything stupid.

Cross doesn't look impressed, Y'lan cocks his head, intrigued, yet remains rooted to the spot.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Move!

Y'lan scuttlers off towards an exit, and Cross moves around to look at Cale.

CROSS (CONT'D)

How are you doing, Ensign?

CALE

I think I've disabled maybe three out of the seven ships that are attacking us.

CROSS

Good, keep at it.

Cale nods.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Commander, are communications back up yet?

TALORA

Negative, but Lieutenant Grey reports that they will be back on-line within the hour.

CROSS

As soon as they are send a priority one message to Admiral Delfune -- even if we finish off those ships we're not going to be able to get out of here under our own steam.

TALORA

I thought that we were going to "do things right for a change."

CROSS

We were. Plan's changed.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY -- ELRIS'S OFFICE

The girl is still sitting in the chair, but only Elris is in the room with her now. It is quiet, aside from the rumble from outside. The room seems to be cut off from the rest of the ship.

Elris brushes the girl's hair as her eyes begin to flutter open.

ELRIS

Hey.

The girl groans.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

You gave Doctor Noa quite a nasty bite back there.

The girl doesn't say anything.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Don't worry about it. There's nothing you could have done about it. Next time we'll just sedate you before...

GIRL

If there is a next time.

Elris remains quiet.

GIRL (CONT'D)

I feel like I'm emptying, Doctor. That all of the control I have over myself is being slowly drained away. What's the point in living if you don't have any control anymore?

A beat. She laughs.

GIRL (CONT'D)

I never though I'd hear myself say that.

ELRIS

Why?

GIRL

I hate control. Everyone has it, even when you're somewhere like we were. Everyone has something to lose, everyone has the power to take something away from you. You never realize it, but it's there. It's there.

ELRIS

I don't understand.

GIRL

I don't think anyone does. Not until you're in a place like that. I've been brought up with it now, I understand it. You have a control over me, Doctor, you could kill me at any instant, just as I could kill you.

ELRIS

I think that when you work on a starship, you start to realize that too.

GIRL

It's not just that. It's how you enter into these... relationships with people and never really think about the control you're giving them.

Elris regains her puzzled expression.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Think about it, Doctor. You care about your friends; they should care for you. But how far do you go to follow up on that trust, what if they were dying? What if you had to kill them to live, where does that put you? Are you still their friend or are you their new worst enemy?

(beat, then slowly)

You think about them. You care about them. What is there past that? You never truly know what they think of you. You trust them.

(beat)

And the control that gives them... it can make you do some very dangerous things, Doctor. And ultimately, the only thing that ever gives you is pain and death. I've just started to realize that.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Hal and Quinlan round a corner, and emerge at the forcefield that is protecting sickbay from the vacuum of space.

QUINLAN

Turn around.

Hal puts his back to Quinlan and takes some BEACONS out of a pack that he is carrying off his back and begins setting them up around where the emergency forcefield is active.

We hear the bulkhead groan and Quinlan looks up at the shimmering forcefield.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

We don't have much time.

Hal looks scared.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY -- ELRIS'S OFFICE

Same as before.

ELRIS

What happened?

GIRL

To make me reach that heart wrenching conclusion?

ELRIS

Yeah. But I mean at the camp. Not on the ship.

GIRL

Right.

Beat.

GIRL (CONT'D)

When we weren't being brainwashed, or in "training," they made us work in the quarry. It was huge, but I don't think one tenth of what came out of it will have been worth anything. At least, it all looked like dried up mud to me.

(beat)

A few weeks after Rick and I... we had our first shift together in the quarry and they moved us over to a

(MORE)

GIRL (CONT'D)

new part of it. Fresh. Unbroken. Pretty. I remember that. It was the first time I'd had that thought for a long time. The rocks we found were pretty as well. They burnt our hands.

She holds out her hands towards Elris.

ELRIS

They're radiation burns. I was wondering how you'd got them.

GIRL

Whatever they were they interfered with their forcefields. Let us waltz in and out of them like they weren't even there.

(beat)

Sometimes we didn't have anything better to do than to throw stones at the forcefields. Look for gaps. These rocks, they just went straight through them.

ELRIS

And that's how you escaped.

GIRL

That's how I escaped.

ELRIS

What happened?

GIRL

Remember what I said about trust? It's power in that place. Someone must have realized that we were gone. Everything that we'd built up through that place; everything we'd been through together, and it all came down to that one perfectly innocent betrayal. No joy that we'd gotten out, only jealousy and bitterness.

ELRIS

They were the ones who you left behind.

GIRL

No. They weren't. They were a risk. It wasn't feasible for two hundred of us to walk through a major Klingon city unnoticed.

ELRIS

Was that for you to decide?

GIRL

No. But in the end someone had to make that choice. We made it for them and sealed our fate. Maybe it wasn't the right choice, maybe it was. Either way, it didn't work out right for any of us.

ELRIS

Why?

GIRL

They killed Rick.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Quinlan sets up the final beacon, just as Y'lan rounds the corner.

QUINLAN

Y'lan, what are you doing down here?

Y'LAN

The Captain instructed me to assist you. He does not wish you to do anything "stupid."

QUINLAN

Sounds like the Captain.

(beat)

We're almost done here; the doors are fused so we're going to have to blow them open, but we're just about ready to go in.

Y'LAN

I will follow you.

Quinlan nods.

HAL

Does that mean I can go now?

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY -- ELRIS'S OFFICE

Same as before.

GIRL

He was in front of me.

(MORE)

GIRL (CONT'D)

Faster runner, so obviously... I... his back was smoking. I didn't have time to stop. He'd made me promise not to stop. To keep on running no matter what. He said there wasn't a reason why I should stop. So I left him there. Executed or dead and dying. Whichever is worse.

ELRIS

You did what you had to.

GIRL

Yeah. Survival's all that matters, isn't it? But I left him. I left him there to die without a second thought.

She rubs her head.

ELRIS

What is it?

GIRL

My head... it feels like it's... breaking.

ELRIS

Breaking?

GIRL

It hurts.

She continues rubbing it, almost massaging her temples, Elris goes to get a hypospray.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- CORRIDOR

Same as before, all beacons are in place, Hal takes a swig of something out of a metallic bottle.

QUINLAN

Okay, listen up, here's how it goes. We go in, we get out. Got it?

HAL

I could have said that.

Quinlan gives him a look.

HAL (CONT'D)

What if there isn't an atmosphere in there?

Quinlan throws him a tricorder.

QUINLAN

There is; at least for now, anyway.

(beat)

Everyone know what they're doing?

Hal nods, Y'lan flips a tentacle.

CUT TO:

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY -- ELRIS'S OFFICE

It should be obvious that the girl's condition is quickly deteriorating, as we watch it is getting worse and worse.

GIRL

I can feel it.

ELRIS

Okay.

She reaches out for a hypospray and holds it to the girl's neck, but the girl slaps it out of Elris's hand.

GIRL

No more drugs. No more.

ELRIS

Okay. But you're going to have to calm down.

GIRL

No more drugs. It hurts too much.
How long left?

ELRIS

An hour or so.

Elris brushes the girls hair back, but the girl lashes out again, and pushes her back.

GIRL

Don't touch me! Don't touch me! It
hurts too much. So much!

Elris steps back.

ELRIS

I'm going to have to give you
something...

GIRL

No. I want you to promise me
something...

ELRIS

What's that?

GIRL

Promise me that you'll go back and get them.

Elris nods.

ELRIS

One day I promise I'll go and get them.

GIRL

No one deserves to live through that. Tell them I said that.

(beat)

Tell them they all deserve to die. Tell them that if he died, then they died. Tell them they betrayed us all. They betrayed themselves. They can't do that to us again. Betray. Betrayal. It means so much. So little.

She rubs her head more and screams.

GIRL (CONT'D)

I can't live with this, Doctor! It hurts so much...

The camera closes in on Elris as we hear a loud explosion from outside, as the doors to sickbay BLOW OPEN as Quinlan, Y'lan and Hal enter.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY -- CONTINUOUS

Wind blows through sickbay, apparently decompression is in progress and we can see where, in the corridor where the door has been BLOWN OPEN.

Quinlan activates the emergency forcefield and the wind stops. Hal looks quite relieved.

QUINLAN

Is everyone okay in here?

Various mutterings indicating yes. Dojar rushes over to them.

DOJAR

I need to get to the Bridge.

Quinlan nods and Dojar runs out of the room and over the forcefield.

HAL

Does anyone need any help?

TORAN

Elris is in the other room with the girl we rescued. She might need you.

Quinlan nods and walks towards Elris's office as the evacuation of Sickbay continues. Hal helps people through the door, Y'lan potters around not doing much until something catches his eye; he walks over to it.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY -- ELRIS'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Quinlan ENTERS where Elris is still trying to calm the girl.

GIRL

(snaps)

Who's she?

ELRIS

(aside)

You don't want to know.

(to the girl)

She's here to help us get out of here.

GIRL

Why?

ELRIS

It isn't safe here anymore.

The girl nods.

HAL (O.S.)

Hurry! I don't think we have long!

QUINLAN

Get out of here, Hal!

Elris indicates for Quinlan to help her carry the girl. Quinlan looks at the girl.

QUINLAN (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry.

Elris pulls Quinlan aside.

ELRIS

This isn't the time.

Quinlan nods.

QUINLAN

Let's get her out of here.

Elris nods and they begin to help the girl out of the office, it's obvious the girl's finding it difficult to concentrate as well as move.

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY -- CONTINUOUS

As Quinlan, Elris and the girl enter from Elris's office, Y'lan approaches them, Q'tami scanning device in his hand.

Y'LAN
Doctor Elris, you cannot exit this room.

They stop.

ELRIS
Why not?

Y'LAN
If you will follow me.

QUINLAN
We don't have time for this, Y'lan.

Y'LAN
On the contrary, I believe that this could save all of you.

Elris sighs.

ELRIS
Stay here.

Quinlan nods as Y'lan leads Elris through to another part of Sickbay, where the girl was originally beamed.

Y'lan points at a ROCK which is lying next to one of the beds.

Y'LAN
Who owns that rock?

The camera closes in on Elris as realization comes over her.

ELRIS
Oh, God.

She looks at Y'lan.

Y'LAN
Have you handled it?

ELRIS
I don't think so. No.

Y'lan holds out his scanning device and scans Elris.

Y'LAN
I am not detecting any radiation.

ELRIS
But my patient...

Y'lan looks over in her direction and holds out his scanning device.

Y'LAN
This could prove interesting.

Elris looks at him before marching over to Quinlan and the girl.

ELRIS
Change of plan, we're not moving.

QUINLAN
What?

Elris makes no effort to disguise this from the girl, thinking that she cannot hear what she is saying, but it should be obvious that she does in fact understand.

ELRIS
(indicates the girl)
She escaped using a rock that interferes with forcefields.

Quinlan's eyes widen.

QUINLAN
Oh, God.

Elris hits her commbadge.

ELRIS
Elris to the transporter room.

No response.

ELRIS (CONT'D)
(to Quinlan)
Get down there.

QUINLAN
How am I supposed to contact you?

ELRIS
If you're back here in five minutes,
we'll know either way.

Quinlan nods and exits, Sickbay is now empty except for Elris, the girl and Y'lan.

Elris turns to Y'lan.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Is there any other way to get her out of here? Can't we just put a plank over the forcefield?

Y'LAN

We do not know how the forcefield is affected by the radiation. It may still disrupt it.

Elris fumes.

CUT TO the girl's perspective, as she listens to what they are saying, as she continues to rub her head.

ELRIS

There must be a way! I can't just leave her here!

GIRL

(whispers)
Don't worry.

Elris doesn't hear her, but Y'lan turns and observes her.

ELRIS

What?

Y'LAN

I believe that she has made her own decision.

The girl begins walking towards the door, and Elris walks over to her and blocks her way.

ELRIS

What are you doing?

GIRL

What I have to do! I don't want to die in pain!

She continues rubbing her head.

ELRIS

When we get out of here, I can take you to somewhere that has power. I'll be able to help you!

GIRL

...Don't want help.

ELRIS

I'm obliged to help you.

The girl turns and looks at her.

GIRL
Then help me now.

Beat.

ELRIS
I'm sorry. I can't.

Elris walks over to the girl and tries to maneuver her back to where Y'lan is still standing, watching.

GIRL
I'm sorry, Doctor.

ELRIS
It's all right. You might even thank me for...

GIRL
No.

She pushes Elris aside and towards a bulkhead, as she begins running towards the door, towards the forcefield.

Running. As fast as her feet will take her. We pull up and out...

EXT. QUARRY (FLASHBACK)

...From a pair of bare feet running along the cruel, stone filled landscape below to reveal a GIRL her MID-TEENS desperately trying to escape what looks like an old quarry...

INT. ENTERPRISE -- SICKBAY

She continues running, her face is filled with pain and her run is unstable. She holds her hand out next to her and the name of her friend, Rick crosses her lips one last time as her feet hit the air...

Elris manages to sit up and watch as the girl smiles as her feet fall through the invisible air. Y'lan continues to watch, fascinated.

We go into slow motion as Elris stands up and air begins to blow out once again. Elris grabs on to something to hold on to, Y'lan defies the laws of nature. Elris looks over at Y'lan and shouts for him to do something, however we don't hear her, as the wind is too loud.

Slow motion continues as the girl continues to descend... and descend... and descend. Descending.

Until she is gone.

Elris looks up with tears in her eyes as the wind stops, as Quinlan rounds the corner, as Y'lan continues watching, as the ship continues rumbling.

ELRIS

You know what I've just remembered?

QUINLAN

What?

ELRIS

I never asked for her name.

As the ship shakes once more, we slowly...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

Author's Note: All over the world there are children being forced to fight for causes that they are not old enough to understand or strong enough to do anything about. In many cases this is happening against their will and is leading to their deaths.

Please visit www.amnesty.org