

STAR TREK: RENAISSANCE

"Hidden Agendas"

**Story by
Yehuda Katz & Rob Jelley**

**Teleplay by
Rob Jelley**

For Linda Stockton

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT -- DAY

Dojar and another Cardassian, Simad, stand in a small apartment.

VOICE (V.O.)

Previously on "Star Trek:
Renaissance."

SIMAD

(coughs)

So, what brings you here?

DOJAR

The Enterprise is delivering food
supplies to Cardassia.

INT. SICKBAY

Elris at her desk with Dojar stood over her.

ELRIS

Lieutenant, we have very specific
orders with regard to Cardassia.
You know I'm not allowed to treat
anybody without going through the
Cardassian government.

INT. FACILITY ROOM

A longish room, with windows along one wall. An attendant
stands at each window.

Long lines of Cardassians stem from each. A door on another
wall. Every few moments, the person at the front of each
line walks away with a small package -- not bigger than a
small medkit.

Near the front of the line stands Dojar. He shifts from
foot to another. He looks as if he's been here a while. The
DOOR opens, and a tall Cardassian man walks out. He's clad
in military garb.

He carries a large package, about the size of a grocery bag.
Dojar stares as he walks by. His attention is caught by
another, similarly dressed man who comes through the door
with a similar package.

The door shuts, and Dojar shifts back to his other foot. He
turns to the man behind him.

An attendant swipes a card through a little machine. After a response from the computer, she takes a small package out and gives it to Dojar, also returning the card.

DOJAR

Did you know that I'm in Starfleet?
On my ship, a meal is usually enough
to fill one's stomach.

ATTENDANT

(surprised)

Sir, there's a door to your left.
I'm very sorry about the mix-up.

INT. BRIDGE

Cross stands, talking, the rest of the Bridge crew watch around him.

CROSS

It has recently come to my attention
that the government of Cardassia has
been distributing the aid provided
by the Federation poorly, in an unfair
manner. The Federation is committed
to helping all of Cardassia's
citizens, not just the wealthy or
well-connected. But this commitment
requires the help of the Cardassian
government as well.

(beat)

Until Cardassia adopts and adheres
to a policy of equal distribution,
regardless of race, past, or social
status, the Federation cannot provide
any aid. I am hereby suspending all
humanitarian aid to Cardassia.

INT. CREW QUARTERS

The Diplomat and Elris in the Crew Quarters.

CROSS (V.O.)

He's a telepath, but not the type
you know of. He has the ability to
take consciousnesses and mix them
with his own. A telepathic meeting
room where negotiations can take
place with total control over all
actions.

ELRIS

So you could never look into someone's
mind who...

(MORE)

ELRIS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Who, didn't know that you would probe him. Could you arrange one of your meetings?

INT. SICKBAY

The image is blurred, implying that we are inside one of the Diplomat's meetings. Cross, Elris and the Diplomat are all present.

CROSS

(slowly, unsure)

I don't know how to talk to you anymore.

ELRIS

Have you ever known how to talk to me?

CROSS

I think we've argued so much I've forgotten what it's like to be friends.

ELRIS

Friends?

CROSS

(nods)

Friends.

Elris SMILES. At this point another Cross and Elris appear next to them, passionately kissing.

INT. CORRIDOR

Cross and Elris stand facing each other in a corridor, neither looking very pleased.

ELRIS

Somebody was thinking about it, Neil, and I know that it wasn't me.

Cross stands in silence, not knowing what to say to that.

INT. SICKBAY

Elris stands, examining Boyle.

BOYLE

(with a cheeky smile)

So how are things between you and Captain Cross these days?

ELRIS

(stiffly)

The Captain and myself are fine.

BOYLE

You and Cross are the talk of the ship.

INT. CORRIDOR

Cross and Elris stand facing each other.

ELRIS

Open your eyes to the world around you, Neil. Look at how others see you and how others see the world. You might learn something.

From this we...

FADE TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise at warp.

INT. CARGO BAY

GREY and DOJAR are walking amongst a cargo bay packed with crates. The crates are packed both side by side and on top of each other, making it look like a supermarket, with aisles between each line of crates.

GREY

I didn't think the suspension would last very long.

DOJAR

Bureaucrats and politicians don't see what we see.

GREY

It still doesn't make it right.

DOJAR

Why not? My people are receiving aid again.

GREY

What's stopping it from happening again?

DOJAR

The aid distribution administrators have been replaced by a committee of
(MORE)

DOJAR (CONT'D)
representatives from all of the
different sectors on Cardassia.

GREY
It doesn't sound very reassuring.
If it were I, I would have Starfleet
distributing the aid.
(beat)
No offence.

DOJAR
You don't trust Cardassians?

GREY
Of course I do. I just believe that
when it comes to politics, anyone
can become corrupt.

DOJAR
(shakes head)
I disagree. The citizens are working
for the citizens.

GREY
Have you heard of Communism,
Lieutenant?

DOJAR
Of course I have. And this isn't it.

GREY
There's a difference?

DOJAR
The politicians are working to rebuild
Cardassia, if the citizens can't
work for themselves, what hope do we
have of becoming a major power again?

GREY
(hypocritically)
I'll believe it when I see it.

DOJAR
If you're so sure of yourself, what's
stopping Starfleet from doing the
same?

GREY
They're not working for themselves
they're working for a people who
rely on them...

DOJAR
(sarcastic)
The joys of monarchy.

GREY

This is quickly turning into an
inaccurate political slandering.

DOJAR

I'd hardly call it slandering,
Lieutenant.

GREY

Dojar, my mother's from Denmark.
The only country on Earth, besides
bloody merry old England, that
insisted on retaining its monarchy
when it joined the world government.

DOJAR

And I'm from Cardassia. The only
power besides the "bloody merry old
Dominion" that was left in ruins and
defeated after the war.

GREY

Maybe we should leave it?

DOJAR

(nods)
Maybe we should.

GREY

(murmurs)
But I was right.

Dojar eyes him, faking disgust, but before he can reply:

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

Talora to Dojar and Grey, we're
approaching Cardassia, Lieutenants.
Are the cargo containers ready?

DOJAR

We're preparing them now, Captain.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

What's taking so long, gentlemen?

GREY

Just some political... slandering,
Sir.

INT. BRIDGE

Regulars TALORA and QUINLAN man their posts, while Y'LAN
stands beside Talora. Other officers man the other posts.

TALORA

(smiles)

As long as you're not planning a mutiny.

Y'lan looks intrigued.

INT. CARGO BAY

Same as before.

GREY

We're not there yet, Sir.

QUINLAN'S COMM VOICE

(jokingly)

I don't think we have anything to worry about, Sir. Lieutenant Grey couldn't stage a mutiny if his favorite self-sealing stem bolt depended on it.

Dojar laughs.

GREY

I could!

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

Don't get any ideas, Lieutenant.

Grey laughs.

DOJAR

We'll try, Commander.

INT. BRIDGE

Same as before.

Y'LAN

I would very much like to see this mutiny. When is it due to take place?

TALORA

On that note...

INT. CARGO BAY

Grey and Dojar smile.

DOJAR

We'll be ready in five minutes, Commander.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

I'll inform the Captain. Talora out.

Grey walks past Dojar and pulls out a tricorder, and begins examining the crates. The tricorder emits a strange beeping sound.

GREY

That's odd.

DOJAR

What?

GREY

The label on this container states fruit and vegetables, yet I'm detecting self sealing stem bolts.

DOJAR

Your favorite.

Grey grunts.

GREY

Not the time, Lieutenant, not the time.

DOJAR

Sorry, Sir.

Dojar walks over to where Grey's standing.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Shall we take a look?

GREY

We wouldn't want any civilians finding they had some of these for dinner.

Dojar walks forward and unlocks the crates, before lifting it open, though we cannot see what is in them as the camera cuts back to a shot showing Dojar and Grey's reaction.

GREY (CONT'D)

Those aren't stembolts.

DOJAR

No.

GREY

I'm going to the bridge.

Dojar nods and as Grey walks off the camera swings around to reveal a crate of STARFLEET WEAPONS. From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

Out of the window we can see Cardassia slowly rotating beneath the Enterprise.

The entire senior staff are sitting in their usual seats as Grey speaks. Cross does not look pleased, and sits with his elbows on the table, resting his chin on his clasped hands.

GREY

...at least another twenty percent contained weapons.

TALORA

Why didn't we detect them originally?

DOJAR

A dampening field was in place, a very sophisticated one at that. But unfortunately for whoever put these here...

CROSS

(finishes for Dojar)

It was designed to emit stembolts, and not fruit and vegetables.

DOJAR

(nods)

That's about it.

QUINLAN

But why would these weapons be here? This is aid.

CROSS

That's a good question... and one I want an answer to. Dojar, I want you to find out everything about this batch of aid from the packers of the crates themselves to the transporter chief who beamed them here. Talora, contact Delfune and the Cardassian government; tell them we have a problem with our cargo transporters and that we'll beam the aid down as soon as they're repaired. Grey, take out the cargo transporter for a day or two, and then hand check every one of those crates for weapons.

GREY

Sir, that could take days.

CROSS

Then get someone to help you.

GREY

Yes, sir.

CROSS

The rest of you are free to enjoy Cardassia, but stay out of trouble. Something's going on here and I intend to find out what. I don't want anyone else knowing about this, besides whoever helps Grey. Understood?

The staff all nod.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Then let's get started.

They all stand to exit.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Talora?

TALORA

Captain?

CROSS

Would you mind waiting?

The rest of the staff leave, leaving only Talora and Cross in the room.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Admiral Delfune is behind this.

Talora raises an eyebrow.

TALORA

You have proof of this?

CROSS

She was the one pushing for the aid to be resumed. Suffice to say I was suspicious from the start.

TALORA

It looks like your suspicions have paid off.

CROSS

To be assigned as the Captain who renews the aid effort was humiliating to say the least.

(MORE)

CROSS (CONT'D)

(beat)

At first I thought it was just to spite me, after the incident with the Klingons last month.

TALORA

It appears much more serious then that now.

CROSS

And I was just about ready to bite my tongue and face the crowd.

There is a long silence.

TALORA

Am I dismissed, Captain?

CROSS

(nods)

You are.

Talora nods respectfully and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. TEN FORWARD

Dojar sits alone at a table, looking out at the stars, as they fly past him. He looks content and peaceful. After a while we hear some familiar slapping noises, and the camera pulls back to reveal Y'lan standing behind him.

Y'LAN

Lieutenant Dojar. It is not often that I see you here.

DOJAR

It's not, is it?

Y'LAN

You have a reason for being here?

DOJAR

Not really. I'm just marveling at the wonder of space...

Y'LAN

Marveling? What is there to marvel at in space?

DOJAR

The vastness of the universe! And every star we pass the closer I am to home.

Y'LAN

Is this not your home?

DOJAR

In a way it is. But Cardassia is where I was born, where I was brought up. There's nowhere quite like that, is there?

Y'LAN

I am unsure. I remember very little of my own youth.

DOJAR

Why's that?

Y'LAN

Q'tami remember very little of their life before they reach twenty of the humans' Earth cycles. In some ways it can be very beneficial, but some long for memories of their past.

DOJAR

So where do you consider home?

Y'LAN

I am unsure.

DOJAR

Maybe it is beneficial. Nothing to latch on to... no past.

Y'LAN

On the contrary, Lieutenant. I have 230 Earth cycles of past. That is also devoid of the time I spent in stasis.

DOJAR

What was your first memory?

Y'LAN

Having my telepathic bond to the Hegemony activated. Seeing my race for the first time.

DOJAR

Where was that?

Y'LAN

On board an organic vessel close to the T'olghi Nebula.

DOJAR

How long's it been since you were last there?

Y'LAN

I have not yet returned to that area of space.

DOJAR

It's only been nine months since I were last on Cardassia... and being back is something I've been looking forward to since I left. I'm so happy that I'm almost back.

Dojar smiles and turns to look into space as Y'lan stands up and walks off in the same way he came.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise in orbit of Cardassia Prime.

CROSS (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate 78928.3.
The Enterprise has arrived at Cardassia Prime with some much needed aid, giving me the chance to offer my crew a well-earned rest. I have noted with Command that I'm not happy about the recommencement of the aid, but no one seems to be listening...
(sighs, then pessimistic)
I just hope that the relief mission will be more successful than the last time we were here.

EXT. CARDASSIAN STREET -- DAY

Elris and Quinlan walk through a heavily damaged Cardassian street, looking inside some of the makeshift shops, which are selling herbs and medicines for those who can afford it.

The street itself, is generally in ruins, even twenty five years since the Dominion bombing.

As Elris and Quinlan walk down it we see an elderly Cardassian man repairing some of the structures of a huge, impressive arch way.

By the looks of it, it is almost finished, and a pattern depicting the rebirth of the Cardassian Union symbol is the center piece, amidst an image of the flaming city.

QUINLAN

I've never been to Cardassia before.

ELRIS

Really? I can't imagine a pirate
not visiting it.

QUINLAN

(small laugh)

There's not a lot left, that's worth
stealing. The Dominion left it in
quite a state.

ELRIS

I think they're getting better...
(indicates repair man)
The people seem to go about their
work with a passion.

QUINLAN

I don't think it will ever go back
to the way it was. They've lost too
much. They've had their pride taken
from them.

ELRIS

Well look who's talking! This time
last year I'm sure you didn't think
you'd be wearing a uniform again any
time soon.

QUINLAN

I suppose stranger things have
happened.

As they round a corner they hear a crowd laughing, followed
by an applause and look around to see where it is coming
from.

Straight ahead of them there is a moderately sized
amphitheater, filled with Cardassians. Elris smiles.

ELRIS

There certainly wasn't anything like
this last time I came here.

QUINLAN

Look at the difference between these
two streets.

(turns around back to
where the man is
working)

They've made a whole new life for
themselves here.

ELRIS

They've built up what they need to
survive.

QUINLAN

They need a theater to survive?

ELRIS

You've got to have some pleasures in life.

QUINLAN

I want to go in; catch the end of the show.

ELRIS

(smiles)

We'll see what we can do.

Elris looks over at Quinlan who's positively gleaming.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

I didn't know you were a fan of theater?

QUINLAN

Hell, yeah! I put on my first musical with my friends when I was six!

ELRIS

(laughs)

I'd never have guessed.

QUINLAN

We did "Tears of the Fountain."

ELRIS

Ambitious.

QUINLAN

(nods)

I'll never forget it. I was Jane Clearlock.

ELRIS

Who played Domo?

QUINLAN

This kid from...

Suddenly from behind them there is a loud crash and Quinlan and Elris fly around to see what has happened.

Behind them they see the street filled with dust, and the two women rush forward. Behind them in the amphitheater the crowd are on their feet, murmuring, with some of the men leaving to assist.

As the dust begins to clear we see the old Cardassian man lying on the floor, groaning. Blood is trickling from his forehead and dust covers his overalls.

As Elris bends down next to him she pulls out her tricorder and begins to scan him, as an elderly Cardassian woman runs up from behind her.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

Mentark! Mentark!

QUINLAN

(to woman)

My friend's a doctor. Let her try and help.

The Cardassian woman looks down at her fallen husband, with tears in her eyes.

ELRIS

His pulse is very weak. I need to get him back to the ship if he's to survive.

QUINLAN

Can we do that?

The man lets out a loud groan and the Cardassian woman kneels down next to him and brushes back some hair that has fallen out of place. He looks up at his wife, smiling.

MENTARK

(to woman)

I'm so glad you're here.

ELRIS

(to Quinlan)

I don't think we have much choice.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

(to Mentark)

As am I.

At this point Elris looks down at the couple, who are now holding hands, looking at each other in the eye. She pauses, just watching the scene before:

QUINLAN

Doctor?

Elris snaps out of her trance.

ELRIS

Sorry. Elris to Enterprise, lock on to my commbadge and beam the two Cardassians and myself directly to sickbay.

OZRAN'S COMM VOICE

One moment, Doctor.

Elris looks up at Quinlan.

ELRIS

Looks like we're going to have to do
this some other time.

Before Quinlan can reply Elris dematerializes in the familiar glow of a transporter beam, along with the elderly couple beside her.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise in orbit of Cardassia.

INT. MISSION OPERATIONS

Dojar is standing outside Talora's office as Talora talks to Delfune on the comm.

TALORA

As I said Admiral, we don't expect
the cargo transporters to be
operational for at least a day.

DELFUNE

Understood, Commander. But what's
stopping you from using the
shuttlecraft to take it down?

TALORA

As I'm sure you are aware, two of
the Enterprise's cargo bays are full
of the crates containing the aid. It
would be more practical to wait until
the transporters are repaired.

DELFUNE

(nods)

Agreed. What happened to the
transporters in the first place?

Talora pauses, unsure what to say. Then:

TALORA

Lieutenant Grey was rerouting the
energy supply to compensate for one
of the systems that was damaged during
the Q'tami attack. I do not believe
that "system overload" describes
what happened.

Delfune laughs.

DELFUNE

Understood. Begin beaming down the crates as soon as the transporters are repaired.

TALORA

Yes, Sir.

Delfune nods.

DELFUNE

Delfune out.

Talora sits back in her chair with a look of relief on her face, before:

DOJAR (O.S.)

You have a good poker face, Commander.

Talora looks around, remembering that Dojar is there.

TALORA

Lieutenant. What can I do for you?

DOJAR

I'm having difficulty contacting the officers responsible for the cargo containers.

TALORA

At what level?

DOJAR

All of them. With the exception of Admiral Delfune the officers seem to have been transferred soon after there jobs were complete.

Talora sits back in her chair.

TALORA

At their own request?

DOJAR

Apparently not. Look.

He throws her a PADD that Talora studies.

TALORA

Interesting.

DOJAR

Indeed. Apparently the good Admiral had all of this arranged a few months back before the resumption of the aid was verified with the Council.

TALORA

Good work, Lieutenant; I'll pass this on to the Captain. Have you managed to get in touch with any of the officers yet?

DOJAR

I haven't tried yet...

Talora nods.

TALORA

Understood. Get on it.

A beat.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

(awkwardly)

Commander...

Another beat.

TALORA

Lieutenant?

DOJAR

We're in orbit of Cardassia and I'm stuck checking up on transporter chiefs. I'd like to pay my home a visit.

TALORA

We all have obligations, Lieutenant.

Dojar looks a little upset at this, he was hoping that Talora was relieve him of his task.

DOJAR

Understood.

TALORA

(lightly)

I haven't been home for five years, Lieutenant. Consider yourself lucky.

Dojar gives her a half smile, nods and turns and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Cross is working at a tidy desk, looking at something on his monitor when the door charms.

CROSS

Enter.

The doors part and Talora enters.

TALORA

I have some... interesting news for you, Captain.

CROSS

The Cardassians?

TALORA

No, they believed our cover story, as did Admiral Delfune.

CROSS

Then what?

TALORA

Lieutenant Dojar may have discovered evidence of an even greater conspiracy within Starfleet.

CROSS

How so?

TALORA

It appears that this whole operation has been staged. Personnel associated with the aid have been transferred, apparently planned months in advance.

CROSS

Interesting. Is there any link to Delfune in all of this?

TALORA

Not that I can see, other than the fact that she requested that aid be resumed originally.

CROSS

She wasn't involved at any other point?

TALORA

I don't believe so.

CROSS

I'll look into it. How's Grey's search coming?

TALORA

The last time he reported in, he had found another twenty crates of weapons.

CROSS

Another twenty? How could this have slipped past so many people?

A beat.

TALORA

There is... another alternative, Captain. The weapons were placed there in an attempt to frame us.

CROSS

Frame us?

Talora nods.

TALORA

You were opposed to the aid in the first place, Captain and Admiral Delfune does hold many a grudge against you.

CROSS

She's trying to get me off the ship again?

TALORA

Possible.

CROSS

What do you think, Commander?

TALORA

From the events I have witnessed over the past year, I would say that Starfleet is capable of anything right now.

Cross nods.

CROSS

Thank you, Commander. Let me know if anything else comes to light.

Talora nods and exits, leaving Cross alone in his ready room. From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

The entire senior staff is present; all of them are sitting around the conference table in their original positions.

CROSS

...now you all know the evidence, and our theories, it's up to you to reach your own conclusions. I'm not going to press you on this.

Y'LAN

It is interesting to see how you reach the conclusions you have presented, yet you have no evidence to support the situation, only evidence to support the theory.

GREY

It's called deduction, Y'lan. And I certainly wouldn't put something like this past Admiral Delfune.

QUINLAN

So what are we going to do about it? We have heaven knows how many crates of weapons...

GREY

(proudly)

One thousand two hundred and fifty three all together.

They all look at Grey.

GREY (CONT'D)

I erected a special sensor grid to help me detect them.

QUINLAN

Okay, that many. But what are we going to do? We can't just sit here like this forever.

CROSS

We aren't going to. As soon as we find one shred of evidence implicating Admiral Delfune or anyone on the Admiralty I'm going to contact the Federation Council.

QUINLAN

Then what?

CROSS

Then we let them handle it.

QUINLAN

And if they've played a part in it as well?

CROSS

I find it hard to believe that the Federation Council would be corrupt enough to do something like this. Each member is chosen from hundreds of government on the basis of political excellence.

QUINLAN

And each Admiral is promoted on the basis of military excellence.

CROSS

It's not just military.

QUINLAN

Whatever. But you get my point.

CROSS

(slowly)

If the Council is involved... we'll deal with it when it happens.

Quinlan nods.

DOJAR

Captain, I've been in touch with almost everyone involved with the aid.

CROSS

Almost?

DOJAR

Yes, some have been on shift when I called.

CROSS

(nods)

What have you learned?

DOJAR

There wasn't a lot I could ask without telling them that we knew about the weapons. But I did find that their transfers all came with promotions and a transfer to the ship of their choice.

CROSS

That could mean anything.

DOJAR

It could but it means more than it looks at first sight. For one, each transfer was approved of by Admiral Jasper at Command.

CROSS

Jasper approves of all transfers.

DOJAR

It's a start.

CROSS

You're right... it is, but...

DOJAR

(interrupts)

That's not all, Captain. One of the officers involved in some of the security arrangements was transferred to the ship a few months back.

CROSS

Who?

DOJAR

He's on my security team -- Adam Piller...

Quinlan looks shocked.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

...but that does not mean that he had anything to do with the conspiracy. He's a fine officer and I...

Quinlan nods.

CROSS

(interrupts)

But let's not rule him out, shall we?

Dojar nods.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I want you to talk to him... see if he knows anything, anything at all. From the lowest...

QUINLAN

Captain?

CROSS

Yes?

QUINLAN

Would you mind if... I talked to him? I know him, I may be able to get something out of him that Dojar won't.

CROSS

You know him?

QUINLAN

Yes... I've gotten to know him quite a lot since I...

(beat)

He helped me during my pilot's exam.

Cross nods.

CROSS

Sounds good. If there's nothing else, you're all dismissed.

The staff are about to stand up to leave when Elris begins to speak:

ELRIS

I'd just like to inform you that the injured Cardassian man, who I brought up from the surface yesterday, died this morning.

QUINLAN

I'm sorry, Lea.

To Cross's surprise, Elris doesn't mind that Quinlan has called Elris by her given name.

CROSS

I'm sure you did all you could.

Elris nods.

ELRIS

(solemnly)

I did.

CROSS

Is that all?

No one makes a move.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Then you're all dismissed.

They all begin to file out, but Cross remains sitting.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Doctor?

Elris stops, temporarily causing a hold up in the outgoing staff, resulting in Dojar and Quinlan having to step back to let her out.

Cross waits for them to exit, before speaking, but Elris gets there before him.

ELRIS

I know what you're thinking, Captain.

CROSS

You do?

ELRIS

You're thinking that I should never have brought that man on board in the first place.

CROSS

You're right. I am. But I'm also thinking that you did the right thing.

ELRIS

Oh really? Because I don't think you'd be thinking that if it were Dojar or Quinlan who did what I did.

CROSS

What's that supposed to mean?

ELRIS

I think you know.

CROSS

So you'd rather I just reprimand you? Put a mark on your record?

ELRIS

If it's what you'd do to everyone else.

CROSS

It's not. I treat every member of this crew with the same respect and privileges as I do with you, Doctor, and if you think I'm going to change them just because we're separated, you're very much mistaken. What you did was against Starfleet protocols and, you're right, I could have you reprimanded for it.

(MORE)

CROSS (CONT'D)

What you did was for the good of one man who was injured, who you witnessed being injured. If you'd have left him there he would never have lived for as long as he did.

ELRIS

What good does that do him now? He's dead anyway.

CROSS

Exactly. I don't think we need to...

ELRIS

Excuse me?

Cross looks confused.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

You're not letting Starfleet know about my actions because my patient died?

Cross shakes his head.

CROSS

I don't have time for this right now.

ELRIS

Of course you don't.

CROSS

Then maybe we should just let this rest?

ELRIS

Maybe we should.

CROSS

It's what you want, isn't it?

ELRIS

I think so, yes.

CROSS

Then why argue about it?

Elris goes quiet for a LONG BEAT.

ELRIS

I'll be beaming the man's body down to Cardassia in about an hour. I think his wife wants some time alone with him first.

CROSS

How is she?

ELRIS

Good, all things considering.

Cross nods.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

Am I dismissed, Captain?

CROSS

You are.

Elris looks at Cross, nods, and then leaves, leaving Cross sat in the briefing room alone. After a moment the comm system beeps.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

Talora to Cross, we need you on the Bridge, Captain.

CROSS

On my way.

He gets up and exits.

INT. BRIDGE -- CONTINUOUS

Cross enters through the doors that lead through the briefing room, where the rest of the usual bridge crew are gathered. At their stations are Talora, Quinlan and Dojar. Four other officers are also on the Bridge.

CROSS

What is it, Commander?

Talora indicates the viewscreen where a fleet of Cardassian shuttles are heading towards the Enterprise.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I see.

TALORA

They've hailed us. They claim to be a civilian rights group and are demanding that we hand the aid over to them.

CROSS

What did you say?

TALORA

I informed them that our transporter was down and that there were too many to move on to their shuttles

(MORE)

TALORA (CONT'D)
manually. Suffice to say they were
not pleased.

CROSS
And now they're...

TALORA
They said they would take the aid by
force.

CROSS
They're no match for us... and this
won't get them anywhere.

QUINLAN
Quite frankly, Captain I think this
is pure impertinence. We generously
offer to supply them with aid, and
then they come and take it from us
by force.

Cross looks around. He sees the five officers that are not
on the senior staff.

CROSS
Clear the Bridge.

The crewmen look up from what they are doing.

CREWMAN
Sir?

TALORA
You heard the Captain, Lieutenant.

CREWMAN
Yes, Sir.

With that they all exit into one of the turbolifts. There
is a beat before Cross begins to speak again.

CROSS
(to Quinlan)
The fact of the matter is that this
isn't aid -- and we can't let them
get to it.

QUINLAN
Could they know?

CROSS
I wouldn't rule it out.

A beat.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Dojar, mobilize security teams on all decks, and erect a forcefield around the entrance to Cargo Bays Three and Five, then get down there yourself.

DOJAR

Yes, Sir.

Cross pauses, and looks at Dojar.

CROSS

And, Lieutenant? Don't sympathize with these people just because they're Cardassian. There's more at stake here.

DOJAR

No offense, Sir, but I don't need you to tell me that.

Cross nods.

CROSS

Then get going.

Dojar nods and exits as Cross turns around to look at the viewscreen.

CROSS (CONT'D)

How long until they get into transporter range?

Talora walks back to Dojar's station.

TALORA

Uncertain. Whatever transporters they are using, if any, must be extremely outdated. They are currently well within the average transporter range.

CROSS

Shields up, yellow alert.

Talora nods.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO BAY

Grey and SUKOTHAI are have crates open, checking with tricorders. Dojar enters.

DOJAR

I thought you'd finished here?

GREY

We're creating an inventory.

DOJAR

You didn't do that before? Sounds inefficient, Lieutenant.

GREY

(gives Dojar a smug look)

We checked the crates for weapons, Dojar, not to see which weapons were within them.

DOJAR

Of course.

SUKOTHAI

Why are we at yellow alert?

DOJAR

A Cardassian civil rights movement has decided to take matters into their own hands.

GREY

How so?

DOJAR

They're on an intercept course. They're demanding that we hand over the aid.

GREY

I see.

DOJAR

The Captain seems to think that I would hold back on the Cardassians because they are my own people. He took it upon himself to make sure he got that message across.

GREY

Wouldn't you?

DOJAR

Of course I wouldn't. I'd stun the first Cardassian to walk through that door.

GREY

Of course you would.

DOJAR

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

As we watch, Sukothai takes out her phaser, and stuns Dojar as Grey is replying.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE

Talora is still standing at Doajr's tactical station when it beeps. She studies the readings.

TALORA

Captain, I am detecting weapons fire
in Cargo Bay Three.

Cross looks confused.

CROSS

But no one's beamed on board yet.

Talora raises an eyebrow.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Cross to Dojar, what's happening
down there?

No reply.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Computer, locate Lieutenant Dojar.

COMPUTER VOICE

Lieutenant Dojar is in Cargo Bay
Three.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO BAY

Grey and Sukothai are still scanning the crates.

GREY

Do you have a lock yet?

SUKOTHAI

Almost.

Grey looks around, increasingly worried.

SUKOTHAI (CONT'D)

There! Got it!

GREY

Let's beam them out. Nammed to all
ships. Energize.

As soon as he speaks, all of the cargo containers begin to disappear as well.

He looks over at Sukothai, before they beam out also, leaving Dojar unconscious on the deck.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE

Talora's console beeps again.

TALORA

I am detecting a mass beam out in
Cargo Bays Three and Five.

CROSS

What?

TALORA

All of the supplies are being
transported to the Cardassian shuttle
fleet.

From Cross's shocked reaction we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. BRIDGE

Continuous action from the end of Act Two.

Cross is standing next to Quinlan, while Talora still mans the tactical console as Grey enters through the turbolift doors.

GREY

What's going on?

CROSS

The Cardassians decided to take the cargo containers.

GREY

(bemused)

I see.

CROSS

You weren't in the cargo bay?

GREY

No, Sir.

He takes his station.

GREY (CONT'D)

What do they hope to achieve? They know we could just beam... oh dear.

CROSS

I suspect you did an efficient job at destroying the cargo transporter, Lieutenant.

GREY

Yes, Sir.

CROSS

We can't just beam it back.

GREY

They're no match for the Enterprise, what's stopping us from attacking them?

CROSS

Unfortunately they're more maneuverable... they're in so close to us that if we fired at them, or used our shuttles, it would do more damage to us than them.

GREY

Then we have a problem.

CROSS

Indeed.

CUT TO:

INT. CARDASSIAN SHUTTLE BRIDGE

Grey and Sukothai are at the back of the shuttle. Two occupants of the shuttle sit in the two pilots' chairs.

GREY

Status?

CARDASSIAN

Each shuttle has as many cargo containers as it can hold.

GREY

Good.

He taps some buttons on his tricorder and his and Sukothai's faces morph into two Cardassians.

NAMMED

(mock awe)

The wonders of holographic technology.

CARDASSIAN

What now, Nammed?

NAMMED

Now we go home.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise's underside is surrounded by the smaller Cardassian shuttles, which start to break off, heading towards the surface.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO BAY

An unconscious Dojar begins to stare, as the red alert klaxon begins to sound. He looks around him, unsure of where he is as the Cargo Bay is now totally empty. He hits his commbadge and his voice echoes around the room.

DOJAR

(weakly)

Dojar to bridge.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Where are you, Lieutenant?

DOJAR
Cargo bay Three, sir.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
I take it you were attacked by the
Cardassians?

DOJAR
I was attacked -- but not by
Cardassians.

A beat.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
What?

DOJAR
(unsure of himself)
Lieutenants Grey and Sukothai, Sir.

INT. BRIDGE

Same as before.

GREY
What?

Cross looks at Grey.

CROSS
Where were you before you came to
the Bridge, Lieutenant?

GREY
Engineering. The entire shift saw
me there.

Cross nods.

INT. CARGO BAY

Same as before.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE
I think you've been the victim of
some Cardassian impersonators,
Lieutenant.

DOJAR
I know what I saw, Captain.

INT. BRIDGE

Cross looks confused.

CROSS
Nobody's doubting that, Lieutenant.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

But you'd just love it for me to mess up, wouldn't you? To prove that I am a Cardassian sympathizer.

Cross raises his eyebrows.

TALORA

You will watch your tone, Lieutenant.

DOJAR'S COMM. VOICE

Why? If it was Whedon coming down here earlier, I'm sure you wouldn't have told him the same thing.

CROSS

I'd like to see you in my ready room after this, Lieutenant.

INT. CARGO BAY

Dojar remains his posture, unshaken by Cross's demand.

DOJAR

I'll be there.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Now get back up to the Bridge.

DOJAR

Yes, Sir.

INT. BRIDGE

Same as before.

TALORA

Captain, I am reading three Galor-class warships approaching from the far side of the planet.

CROSS

Hail them.

TALORA

I just did.

CROSS

And?

TALORA

No reply.

CROSS

Great. Open a channel to Cardassian Central Command... wherever it is these days.

A beat.

TALORA

Channel open.

A Cardassian male, dressed in military garb appears on the viewscreen.

DRACHIR

Central Command. I'm Gul Drachir, how can I assist you?

CROSS

This is Captain Cross of the Enterprise we were bringing in some aid to Cardassia.

DRACHIR

Ah yes, the Enterprise. Transporter malfunction, eh?

CROSS

Yes -- but the aid has been stolen by one of Cardassia's civil rights movements. And now we're detecting three unresponsive Cardassian ships approaching us.

DRACHIR

I'm detecting them, but we haven't seen these ships for ten years, Captain.

CROSS

(sighs)
They've been hijacked.

DRACHIR

I will leave you to draw your own conclusions.

Cross and Drachir exchange nods and with that Drachir's image is replaced with the view of the Cardassian shuttles.

QUINLAN

Ever so helpful over at Central Command. It's like a call center representative, I expected to be put on hold.

Cross grunts.

CROSS

We can take on three Galor-class warships, can't we?

Talora is about to say something, before:

GREY

We certainly can, Sir. Those ships are at least twenty-five years old and the Enterprise is a state of the art...

TALORA

(interrupts)

You may wish to study your readings first, Lieutenant.

Grey looks down at his console and raises one of his eyebrows.

GREY

Interesting.

CROSS

What?

TALORA

It appears that the ships not only have state of the art shielding and weaponry, but that some of the parts are Federation in origin.

CROSS

What next?

TALORA

An incoming torpedo.

CROSS

What?

The bridge shakes, as the torpedo hits the Enterprise.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Battle stations. I've had enough of playing cat with these bastards.

Quinlan slyly looks over her shoulder and grins as the Enterprise's bridge darkens, and becomes lit by red light.

EXT. SPACE

The three Galor-class ships approach the Enterprise, weapons firing.

INT. BRIDGE

Dojar enters, Cross turns around and looks at him.

CROSS

Man your station, Lieutenant.

DOJAR

Aye, Sir.

Dojar replaces Talora at tactical. Talora moves out of the way but stops in front of his station and lowers her voice when she next speaks.

TALORA

What the hell are you doing, Dojar?

DOJAR

I'm st-

The bridge shakes, interrupting the conversation.

DOJAR (CONT'D)

Orders, Sir?

CROSS

Disable the Galor-class ships.

DOJAR

Aye, Sir.

As Dojar works firing at the Galor-class ships, he whispers to Talora:

DOJAR (CONT'D)

I'm standing up for my rights. I don't need to have prejudiced orders or questions from him. Not now, and not ever.

TALORA

You may think that, Lieutenant, but the Captain has only you in mind when he gives you your orders. You should learn to respect that.

DOJAR

If I'm here for any longer.

TALORA

What?

DOJAR

I've been thinking about returning to Cardassia. For good.

TALORA

Why?

DOJAR

I want to do something to help my people. I want to see my home again.

(beat)

I feel like I've abandoned everything I've ever stood for.

TALORA

On the contrary, Lieutenant. What would you say that you were doing right now?

DOJAR

Protecting Cardassia from an admiralty, whose orders I obey, which is corrupt and only acts for the good of itself.

TALORA

And the Enterprise will stop it. Captain Cross may have his faults but he is a good man. He won't tolerate actions like this. Ever.

Dojar looks up at Talora as one of the Cardassian warships tilts to one side on the viewer.

DOJAR

One of the enemy ships is disabled, Captain.

CROSS

And the others?

DOJAR

They're moving behind the Cardassian shuttle fleet... they're retreating back to the surface.

QUINLAN

Should I set a pursuit course?

CROSS

Engage.

EXT. SPACE

The Galor-class warships have moved behind the shuttles, and are protecting them from the Enterprise's fire, firing back as well.

INT. BRIDGE

The Bridge shakes again and Quinlan's console explodes, resulting in her falling to the deck. Cross runs forward and checks her pulse.

CROSS

Bridge to Sickbay, medical emergency on the Bridge.

ELRIS'S COMM VOICE

On my way.

Cross gets up from Quinlan and seats himself in the helm, tapping some controls.

CROSS

What's the status of the Galor-class shields?

DOJAR

Thirty-three percent... and buckling on the port side, and forty-six percent on the other.

Cross looks up at the viewscreen, the planet getting increasingly larger.

CROSS

How long until they enter the atmosphere?

A beat.

DOJAR

They just did.

Cross sighs.

CROSS

I'm prepping for atmospheric flight. Grey, shut down the QIC.

GREY

Aye, Sir.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise is coming up on the atmosphere at quite a steep angle and as it enters it, fire develops around it, from the friction of the speed the ship is coming in at.

INT. BRIDGE

We see the fire on the viewscreen, and Cross hits some controls on the console to level out. Elris enters from the back and rushes forwards towards Quinlan.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise begins to level out and the fire gradually disappears.

INT. BRIDGE

Something beeps on Dojar's console.

DOJAR

What the? Captain, we need to pull up. Now.

CROSS

Why?

DOJAR

We're approaching a highly
concentrated subspace minefield.

Cross sighs and hits some controls.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise begins to pull up and goes out of the
atmosphere.

INT. BRIDGE

The mood is a mixture of solemnity and annoyance; it is not
helped by the smoke still present. Elris injects Quinlan
with a hyspospray and she sits up, coughing.

QUINLAN

(weakly)

Did we win?

A beat. Everyone looks at Cross.

CROSS

(firmly)

No.

Another beat, but longer.

CROSS (CONT'D)

(slowly)

Talora, hail Starfleet Command.
Tell them what's happened.

TALORA

And about the weapons?

CROSS

That as well. There's no sense in
hiding the fact that we know any
longer.

TALORA

Captain, with all due respect, I
disagree. This could help us flush
out whoever has placed the weapons
in the aid crates in the first place.

CROSS

And it could get the Enterprise in
more trouble than she's already in.
You have your orders, Commander.

TALORA

Yes, Sir.

Talora walks towards the turbolift and exits. Cross surveys the battered Bridge.

CROSS

(to Elris)

How's Quinlan?

ELRIS

She'll be fine, she just needs some rest.

CROSS

Good.

He turns around to look at Dojar.

CROSS (CONT'D)

My ready room, Lieutenant.

Dojar nods and walks into the Ready Room, leaving Cross and Grey on the Bridge, as Elris hits some controls on a stretcher, that floats off the floor and Elris pushes it into the turbolift.

CROSS (CONT'D)

(to Grey)

You have the Bridge, Lieutenant. Get some crew up here, and tell Y'lan that I'd like to see him.

GREY

Aye, Sir.

With that Cross exits the stricken Bridge, leaving Grey alone at his engineering station. From this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. READY ROOM

Dojar stands waiting in the dimly lit ready room, pacing backwards and forwards. The doors slide open, as Cross enters, and Dojar abruptly stops, and stands to face his Captain.

CROSS

Take a seat, Lieutenant.

DOJAR

I'd rather stand, Sir.

Cross shrugs the reply off.

CROSS

Your choice.

Cross walks behind his desk, and moves some PADDs which are in his way and activates his monitor, looking at something on the screen while Dojar watches, impatiently.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Lieutenant Gril Dojar... accepted to Starfleet Academy in 2394 and graduated with honors in 2398. Served aboard the USS Wolfe until...

DOJAR

(interrupts)

With all due respect, Sir, I know my service record.

CROSS

(finishes what he was saying)

Until 2401 when transferred to the newly commissioned USS Enterprise-G under Captain Neil Cross.

(beat)

An exemplary officer.

DOJAR

That last part wasn't there last time I checked.

CROSS

I know. I put it there.

DOJAR

Why?

CROSS

Because I believe you are, Lieutenant.
I believe that you have the most
potential on this ship and I believe
that over the past half hour you've
almost thrown that away.

DOJAR

I realize that, Sir.

CROSS

Then why do it?

DOJAR

I'm considering leaving Starfleet.

Cross looks surprised.

CROSS

You are? Why?

DOJAR

I do not feel that I that I fit in
on board the Enterprise... I feel
like I've abandoned my home, and
that it needs me. Especially now.

CROSS

And it was only the other day when
Commander Talora was telling me how
well she thought you were fitting in
with the rest of the crew.

DOJAR

(sighs)

It's nothing to do with the crew...
I know I had some... problems when I
first came on board, but they're
almost like my family now. But
Cardassia needs me.

CROSS

But you don't just abandon your
family.

A beat.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I had my family taken from me,
Lieutenant. Snatched by a war that
I was too young to even understand.

Dojar looks at him.

CROSS (CONT'D)

There isn't a day that goes by when I wish that my parents were still here. Or a day when I wish I could go and talk to my sister, but nothing's going to bring them back. I don't know what you think of me, Lieutenant, but I don't blame you for that. I do place the blame on the shoulders of those responsible.

DOJAR

That's good to hear, Captain.

CROSS

If anything, Lieutenant, I feel more protective of you because of it. I know how it can feel to feel like you're isolated... to feel the pain of being away from... home. But by leaving the Enterprise you're letting everything that you've worked for, for the past seven years slip away from you. Starfleet needs people like you, Dojar.

(beat)

I need people like you. I'd like very much for you to stay.

A long beat.

DOJAR

I have a lot to think about, Captain.

CROSS

I respect that.

Another beat. Cross nods at Dojar, and Dojar turns to leave.

DOJAR

Sir?

CROSS

Yes?

DOJAR

Who do you hold responsible... for the death of your family?

A beat.

CROSS

I won't lie to you, Lieutenant. I blame every single Dominion soldier, and that includes Cardassians, who ever laid a finger on them.

(MORE)

CROSS (CONT'D)

Whether that finger touched them physically, or pressed the button that resulted in their death. I am a prejudiced person... I don't hide that. But when it comes to my crew I treat everyone equally.

(beat)

I did judge you, from the first second I saw you. And for that I apologize... there's no excuse for that. But as you can see...

He turns around the computer monitor he has been working from that displays the file he read earlier.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I give everyone a chance.

Dojar gives Cross a half smile.

CROSS (CONT'D)

I hope that you decide to stay, Lieutenant.

Dojar nods, before turning and exiting, leaving Cross sat alone in the ready room.

CUT TO:

INT. MORGUE

The lights are dimmed, as the Cardassian woman we saw earlier sits on the bed next to the body of her dead husband.

We remain like this for a while, before we hear the familiar sound of the doors hissing open, which projects a beam of light from the room next door, momentarily lighting some of the room up, before the doors close again.

We hear footsteps and moments later Elris is standing behind the woman.

ELRIS

Hey.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

Hello, Doctor.

ELRIS

If you're ready, we can beam you and your husband back down to the surface any time you like.

The Cardassian woman stands up and wipes her eyes, before turning to face Elris.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

I'm ready.

Elris smiles.

ELRIS

I've made arrangements for him to be
take to a morgue near to your home,
and you can begin to make funeral
arrangements from there.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

Thank you, Doctor. I don't know
what I'd have done without you.

Elris smiles again.

ELRIS

If you'd like to follow me, I'll
take you to the transporter room.

The Cardassian woman nods, and takes one last look at her
husband, before leaving him. She brushes back his hair
before:

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

Safe journey.

She smiles at him, and then turns around, while Elris pulls
the sheet over his head. The woman then leaves Sickbay with
Elris.

INT. CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Elris and the woman walk down the corridor. The corridor
itself is quiet.

ELRIS

My Captain's agreed not to reprimand
me for helping your husband.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

That's good to hear. I'd hate for
you to get into trouble for what you
did.

Elris nods.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN (CONT'D)

Are you married yourself, Doctor?

There is a pause.

ELRIS

I am.

(beat)

But it's been over for a long time.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

I see.

ELRIS

Why do you ask?

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

I don't know what to do now... without him.

(shakes head)

We did everything together... I don't know how I will be able to live without him.

ELRIS

It's not as daunting as it seems, believe me.

They reach a certain point at the corridor, there is a huge observation window showing Cardassia and the woman stops.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

How long have you been separated?

ELRIS

It's coming up on four years now...

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

Four years? How can a woman like you remain single for four years?

ELRIS

Ohhh... there's been the odd fling, but nothing that lasted.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

What about your husband?

ELRIS

He's...
(beat)
the Captain.

The woman's eyes open a little wider in surprise for a moment, Elris notices.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

I know... hard to believe, isn't it?
It's been difficult sometimes.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

Difficult?

There's a long beat, while she decides what to say, or whether or not to say anything at all.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN (CONT'D)

Oh! Don't say anything if you don't want to!

Elris shakes her head.

ELRIS

No, no! I'm just deciding what to say... I think, that he still loves me. In fact, I'm almost certain of it, but that's a long story. We tried to be friends... but we argue a lot...

(small laugh)

In fact it's almost as if we argue every time we see each other.

(long beat)

I think I'm ready to move on.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

From the Enterprise?

ELRIS

I don't know... but; this isn't about me, is it?

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

(sighs)

It sounds like it will be more difficult for you then it will be for me.

ELRIS

(slightly bemused)

Glad I could help.

They begin walking again.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

It will be hard... but then, isn't everything in life hard?

ELRIS

Sometimes it can feel that way. I'm sure you'll do fine.

They reach the transporter room and the doors hiss open.

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

The Cardassian Woman smiles and embraces Elris.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

Thank you for everything, Doctor.

ELRIS

(smiles)

I'm sure you'll be fine.

The Cardassian Woman nods and steps on to the transporter pad.

ELRIS (CONT'D)

If you want to contact me... you know where I am. I'm so sorry about your husband.

CARDASSIAN WOMAN

(smiles)

Thank you.

Elris nods and turns back to the console where NARV OZRAN is standing.

ELRIS

Energize, Mr. Ozran.

OZRAN

Aye, Sir.

And with that, the transporter beam takes the elderly Cardassian Woman back to Cardassia. Elris NODS at Ozran, and then turns and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Piller is sitting alone in the office, waiting. He looks agitated, as though he has been waiting for a while.

PILLER

Computer, time?

COMPUTER VOICE

The time is 2100 hours.

PILLER

Great.

He hits his commbadge.

PILLER (CONT'D)

Piller to Quinlan.

No response. Piller sighs.

PILLER (CONT'D)

Piller to Dojar.

DOJAR

Dojar here.

PILLER

Sir, I've been waiting in the security office for half an hour for Lieutenant Quinlan... and she hasn't arrived yet.

DOJAR

Understood. I'll send someone else down there instead.

PILLER

Okay. Any idea what this is about, Sir?

DOJAR

Nothing that I can talk to you about. I'm sorry, Ensign. Dojar out.

Piller sits back and shakes his head.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise in orbit of Cardassia.

INT. MISSION OPERATIONS

Talora is sitting at a console, reading something when:

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Dojar to Talora.

TALORA

Go ahead, Lieutenant.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Commander, Ensign Piller has been waiting for Lieutenant Quinlan to question him for half an hour.

TALORA

Lieutenant Quinlan is still in Sickbay.

(beat)

Inform Ensign Piller that I will be there shortly.

DOJAR'S COMM VOICE

Yes, Commander. Dojar out.

Talora stands up to leave when something catches her attention on one of the larger consoles. A Cardassian speaking into the camera.

TALORA

Computer, let me hear the sound for
feed seven beta.

The computer beeps in response and we hear:

CARDASSIAN

...the Cardassian Union will not
tolerate this deceit. The Federation
has begun its relief mission once
again by supplying weapons to the
people of Cardassia. What do they
hope to achieve? To cause a
rebellion... or is this a warning?

Talora shakes her head.

TALORA

Talora to Cross. The Cardassians
know, Captain.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Understood, Commander. Have you
contacted Admiral Delfune yet?

TALORA

Affirmative, I'd expect a call from
her within the hour.

CROSS'S COMM VOICE

Understood. Cross out.

Talora looks at the screen once more, before exiting.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Cross's door chimes.

CROSS

Enter.

The doors part to reveal Y'lan, and he walks forward into
the ready room.

Y'LAN

You wished to see me, Captain?

CROSS

Yes. I need you to track down the
weapons that the Cardassians took
from the Cargo Bay. Is that possible?

Y'LAN

Perhaps. My new table may be able
to detect them.

CROSS

It's working?

Y'LAN

I fitted the final component earlier in the week. It is as adequate as the previous one.

CROSS

I think it's time we tested it.

Y'LAN

I will do my best.

CROSS

Let me know if you find anything.

Y'LAN

I will.

He then turns and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Piller is still waiting when Talora enters.

TALORA

Good evening, Ensign.

PILLER

Commander. What's this all about?

TALORA

As you may, or may not be aware, the relief that we were delivering to Cardassia was stolen earlier this evening. Unfortunately, weapons had replaced the aid that we were carrying.

PILLER

But what does all this have to do with me?

TALORA

According to the relief logs, you were involved with the aid at some point.

PILLER

If I do, I don't remember it.

TALORA

Why did you transfer to the Enterprise, Ensign?

PILLER

I put in a request. Why?

TALORA

You were not encouraged to move away from your previous posting?

PILLER

No. My commander always said that I was meant for greater things, but...

TALORA

Who was your commanding officer?

PILLER

Captain Nikitti.

Talora makes a note on a PADD.

TALORA

And you cannot remember being involved with the aid at any point?

PILLER

Not that I know of. There were security arrangements that I didn't know anything about... but that's expected on a starship.

Talora nods.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Cross sits at his desk alone, once again. The comm beeps.

DOJAR

Dojar to Cross. We're receiving a priority one transmission from Starfleet Command for you. It's Admiral Delfune.

CROSS

Put it through here, Lieutenant.

DOJAR

Aye, Sir.

Cross takes a deep breath and hits some controls on his console, before we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. READY ROOM

Cross's monitor changes from whatever it is that Cross is reading to the image of Delfune sat in her office that overlooks San Fransisco Bay. Occasionally, shuttles fly past, their occupants not realizing the conversation between Cross and Delfune is taking place...

CROSS

Admiral, what can I do for you?

DELFUNE

Commander Talora informed me of your situation.

CROSS

Yes, I know.

DELFUNE

You kept what you knew from Command for a long time, Captain.

CROSS

There were certain factors that determined that action.

DELFUNE

Such as?

CROSS

The aid had to be replaced with weapons somewhere. The Enterprise was carrying out her own investigation and report back to Command once that investigation was complete.

DELFUNE

And when the Cardassians stole the cargo containers?

CROSS

I requested that Commander Talora contact you.

DELFUNE

And now all of Cardassia knows about what's happened.

CROSS

What did you expect me to do? Inform Starfleet and let whoever put it there let someone else take the blame?

DELFUNE

It would have come out sooner or later.

CROSS

What strikes me as odd, Admiral, is that the Cardasians have never taken to thieving the aid during previous relief missions, yet this time, when the weapons were present, they seemed to have a sudden change of heart.

DELFUNE

The Cardassians haven't been receiving aid for the past nine months; they have every right to be angry.

CROSS

And that gives them the right to take the aid by force?

DELFUNE

Of course not.

CROSS

So how did the weapons get there in the first place?

DELFUNE

I know as much as you do, Captain.

CROSS

What I know, Admiral, is that the weapons were disguised... by sensor masks and that everyone involved with the aid has been transferred. Kind of makes you suspicious, doesn't it?

CUT TO:

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Talora and Piller, as before.

PILLER

I would be...

TALORA

And at some point during the aid's life, you were involved with it. Would that not make it valid to assume that you should be under suspicion also?

PILLER

I suppose so...

TALORA

And when you tell me that you cannot remember having anything to do with it, would that not make it valid to be even more suspicious of you?

PILLER

Commander, I know what you're getting at, but look at my service record, it's exemplary. I haven't done anything.

Talora looks at Piller.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Same as before.

DELFUNE

You have just as much evidence to link this to me as I do to you, Captain. But you don't have enough evidence to link this to me because otherwise you would have already reported it to Starfleet Command.

CROSS

True. But I'm sure that in some databank there's evidence linking you to it somehow.

DELFUNE

What you're saying is insubordination. You'd be wise to think carefully about what you say next.

CROSS

I'm aware of that...

DELFUNE

You didn't contact Starfleet Command when you discovered the weapons, you didn't get the weapons back when they were stolen... you didn't even realize that there were two Cardassian saboteurs on your ship.

CUT TO:

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

Same as before.

PILLER

It's all very sketchy, Commander. What you're accusing me of would never hold up at tribunal. And it would never hold up when you're accusing how ever many hundreds of officers of the same... "crime".

TALORA

But it would support the opening of an inquiry at Starfleet Command. If you know anything at all, Ensign, now is the time to tell me...

PILLER

Commander, I don't know anything!

Talora sighs.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Same as before.

CROSS

So we've both got each other pinned down with circumstantial evidence. It doesn't help either of us.

DELFUNE

Agreed.

CROSS

I want an inquiry opened at Starfleet Command.

DELFUNE

To what end?

CROSS

I want whoever did this to be exposed for what they really are. Why would anyone supply weapons to Cardassia other than to cause problems for Starfleet and on Cardassia?

DELFUNE

I will open an inquiry... but the results will already have been decided from the minute that it's opened.

CROSS

What will that be?

DELFUNE

That the whole incident was a mix up... that the weapons that were beamed to the Enterprise had been mistaken for the aid.

CROSS

And what about the sensor masks?
The transfers?

DELFUNE

All a coincidence. The crates were mislabeled and your sensors were malfunctioning.

CROSS

People will never believe it.

DELFUNE

People will believe what they're told to believe.

CROSS

I want Admiral Portman placed in charge of the inquiry.

DELFUNE

You're in no position to make demands, Captain.

CROSS

It would result in the correct outcome.

DELFUNE

And that's exactly what whoever set this up doesn't want. Let it rest, Cross. You've played your part, now let us do ours.

CROSS

For the record, I'm not happy.

DELFUNE

Noted.

CROSS

If that's all Admiral?

DELFUNE

It is. Delfune out.

On Cross's mixed reaction to the news that the inquiry will be tainted, we...

FADE TO:

INT. ELRIS'S QUARTERS -- BEDROOM

The lights are out, and the room is lit only by the faint glow from the planet below. Elris lies awake in bed looking out of the window and at Cardassia below her. From her expression it should reveal that she is tired, but has a lot on her mind.

After a few moments, Elris gets up and walks over to a computer console that is on her desk in the main part of the living quarters.

INT. ELRIS'S QUARTERS -- LIVING AREA

Elris sits down at the console and taps some commands into it.

The camera looks down at what Elris is looking at, it reads "FEDERATION LAW -- DIVORCE."

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR

Elris exits her quarters and walks into the corridor. She's not wearing Starfleet uniform, but a comfortable looking dress that wraps around her.

INT. CORRIDOR -- MOMENTS LATER

Elris walks around a corner where she sees Grey working on a conduit on the floor.

ELRIS

Still working, Lieutenant?

GREY

Doctor! Good evening.

ELRIS

How's it going?

GREY

I'll work all night if it means that the ship is repaired for the party on Thursday.

ELRIS

What does Sarah think about that mission statement?

GREY

Oh, she's down another corridor working as well. But what are you doing up?

ELRIS

I can't sleep.

GREY

Ah, a midnight stroll?

ELRIS

Something like that.

Grey nods. There is a long pause before:

GREY

So...

(beat)

What's bothering you?

ELRIS

Excuse me?

GREY

You said you couldn't sleep... there must be a reason for it.

ELRIS

Oh. There is.

Another long pause.

GREY

I get the feeling you don't want to talk about it.

ELRIS

(nods)

I have to have some time to think.

GREY

I understand.

(beat)

Sometimes I just think that people don't feel like they can talk to me because of my personality, and the commitment to my job...

ELRIS

(interrupts)

Oh Erik, no! It's not that all.

Grey smiles.

GREY

Oh... that's good!

Elris smiles as well.

ELRIS

I've got a big decision to make...
and I don't think talking to anyone
else is going to help.

GREY

I'm sure whatever you decide to do
will be the right thing.

ELRIS

I hope so.

Elris smiles and is about to leave when:

GREY

Doctor?

ELRIS

Yeah?

GREY

You're not planning on doing anything
stupid, are you?

ELRIS

Don't worry about it, Erik. I'll be
fine.

GREY

Understood.

With that Elris smiles and walks around the corner, leaving
Grey looking confused.

Grey finishes working on the panel he has up, before putting
his toolkit away and walking around the same corner Elris
walked down earlier.

CUT TO:

INT. CROSS'S QUARTERS

Cross is sitting alone, reading a book in one hand, with a
cup of steaming hot chocolate in the other. The book he is
reading is "A Tale of Two Cities." The comm beeps.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Y'lan to Captain Cross.

CROSS

Cross.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Captain, I believe that I have found
the weapons that were stolen.

CROSS

Where are they?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

I believe that the entire batch of weapons are in a secure bunker some five hundred meters below the surface.

CROSS

Do you know who owns the bunker?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

I do. It is owned by a Cardassian nationalist, a former Gul of the Union.

CROSS

Is he a threat?

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Unknown. But the weapons are heavily guarded and I do not believe that your transporters could penetrate the shell of the bunker.

CROSS

Damn.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Do you require anything else, Captain?

CROSS

(resigned)

No. That will be all, Y'lan. Thank you.

Y'LAN'S COMM VOICE

Good night, Captain.

Cross nods, knowing that Y'lan will be unable to see him. He looks back at his book before putting it to one side.

CROSS

Cross to Talora.

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

Talora here.

CROSS

Are you busy, Commander?

TALORA'S COMM VOICE

Not at the current time.

CROSS

Would you care to join me for a nightcap?

TALORA

Where?

CROSS

My quarters.

TALORA

I will be there in ten minutes.

CROSS

Good. I'll see you then. Cross out.

Cross sits back in his chair, before standing up and walking over to his replicator.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR

Grey walks down a corridor towards a damaged section of bulkhead, where the Q'tami had damaged the ship a few weeks back.

He looks confused, and hits his comm badge.

GREY

Grey to Boyle.

BOYLE

Boyle here.

GREY

Where are you, Ensign?

BOYLE

Fixing the bulkhead you asked me to take a look at. Why?

GREY

Nothing.

(beat)

It doesn't matter. Grey out.

Grey looks around, looking confused.

GREY (CONT'D)

Computer, locate Ensign Boyle.

COMPUTER VOICE

Ensign Boyle is currently in her quarters.

Grey nods, before setting off down the corridor once again.

INT. CORRIDOR -- MOMENTS LATER

Grey walks down yet another corridor towards some quarters.

He hits the key pad on the wall, and it charms.

BOYLE'S VOICE

Who is it?

GREY

Erik.

There is a long pause.

BOYLE'S VOICE

Give me a second; I'll be right out.

Grey stands waiting for another second or two, before Boyle, draped in a nightgown appears through the familiar parting doors.

Boyle is about to say something, but Grey gets there first.

GREY

You weren't where you said were.

BOYLE

Erik, its three in the morning! I was tired, so I came home to bed.

GREY

Why lie about it?

BOYLE

I... didn't want to disappoint you.

Grey gives her a half smile.

GREY

Can I come in?

BOYLE

Actually, I was hoping to go back to bed.

GREY

(friskily)

So was I.

Boyle smiles.

BOYLE

Maybe tomorrow?

Grey sighs.

GREY

Tomorrow.

BOYLE

Good night, Erik.

She steps back into her quarters and the doors close.

GREY

Good night.

Grey steps back, looks at the door and then turns away and walks down the corridor.

CUT TO:

INT. CROSS'S QUARTERS

Cross and Talora sit alone, the lighting is low, implying that it is late. They are drinking out of glasses, it is apparently something strong from the reactions both have as they raise the liquid to their lips.

CROSS

...And so she basically dismissed it. She didn't admit to being involved, obviously, but we both knew that she had her hands in the jar at some point. She was in there somewhere.

TALORA

This would have been unheard of in Starfleet thirty years ago. It is strange what war and the results of it, even a win, have done to us.

CROSS

(smiles)

Us?

TALORA

Excuse me?

CROSS

You just referred to Starfleet as "us."

TALORA

It appears that I'm becoming more and more Starfleet in my mind. Whether that it is a good thing in the state that the fleet is currently in is questionable.

CROSS

While you're on this ship it's nothing but a good thing.

TALORA

I'm glad to hear that. But you are now involved in an intricate conspiracy.

Cross takes a sip of his drink.

CROSS

I'm aware of that... but I'm not willing to let everything I've worked for over the past year be torn apart because of one Admiral.

TALORA

It has been an interesting year.

CROSS

The year's not out yet, Commander.

TALORA

Perhaps we can hope for a quiet end to it?

CROSS

Don't tempt fate!

They smile and take a sip of their drink.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Y'lan contacted me. He told me where the weapons are being kept.

Talora raises an eyebrow.

CROSS (CONT'D)

They are being held by a Cardassian nationalist. It would take a full-scale operation to retrieve them.

TALORA

Do you plan on letting them keep them?

CROSS

I'm going to find out all that I can about the man who's holding them and then report back to Starfleet. But I have a feeling that the weapons are now where they were intended to be all along.

TALORA

You believe that Starfleet will allow the Cardassian to keep them?

CROSS

I do.

He takes another sip.

CROSS (CONT'D)

Where did you leave Ensign Piller?

TALORA

He denied everything, but I believe that he genuinely is innocent. I believe that we allowed the paranoia the situation introduced to misguide our thinking.

CROSS

Paranoia? We had every right to be suspicious.

TALORA

Indeed. But when that paranoia overwhelms one to the point where it is dictating every action, and thus every result of that, it is misguided.

CROSS

Agreed.

TALORA

The next time a situation such as this one presents itself, we should take greater care in choosing the path that we take.

CROSS

The path that we walk can sometimes be a rocky one.

TALORA

I think that I will be glad to find another.

CROSS

(nods)

Mmmm.

(beat)

Speaking of which, how is Lieutenant Dojar?

TALORA

I think you gave him something to think about... but I can't see him

(MORE)

TALORA (CONT'D)
resigning his commission any time
soon.

CROSS
He told you that?

TALORA
Almost.

CROSS
Where is he now?

CUT TO:

EXT. CARDASSIAN VILLAGE

Dojar sits on a large embankment that looks over one of Cardassia's once great cities. It doesn't look as majestic as it was once before, but it is still awe inspiring nonetheless. It is a touching sight, as Dojar looks over his home.

TALORA (V.O.)
On Cardassia. I granted him some
shore leave before we left. He needed
some time to himself... but I think
he's found his place.

At this the camera slowly zooms in on Dojar as he begins to slowly stand up, looking full of power and strength as he does so.

DOJAR
Dojar to Enterprise. One to beam
up.

As the transporter effect engulfs Dojar, as he looks across the city skyline once more, we cut back to what Dojar is seeing, and gradually fade out, on the image of the Cardassian city...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END