

FARSCAPE™



"Nerve"

written by
Richard Manning

SEASON 1
EPISODE #19

U.S. #10119

AUS. #19

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Rev. Pgs. (1, 3-5, 10-11, 36-36A, 51, 55)
Rev. Pgs. (28-28A, 42-43)
Rev. Pgs. (20-22, 28-28A, 33-33A, 42A, 43, 45-48)

Production Draft

May 27, 1999
June 3, 1999 **BLUE DRAFT**
June 7, 1999 **PINK REV.**
June 11, 1999 **YELLOW REV.**
June 23, 1999 **GREEN REV.**

FARSCAPE

"Nerve"

COLD OPEN

1 INT. CARGO BAY

1

CLOSE on an improvised "punching dummy" -- an eight-foot-tall canister wrapped with insulation -- as FISTS SLAM into it, over and over again.

WIDEN to reveal AERYN wielding the fists with machine-like determination. She's alone in her "exercise area" (seen in Episode 5). Enter CRICHTON in b.g.

CRICHTON

Here you are.

Aeryn ignores him, keeps belting the "dummy", adding an occasional kick to the routine.

CRICHTON (cont'd)

Sure you oughta be exercising?

AERYN

Why not?

CRICHTON

Oh, I don't know... maybe because not all that long ago, a Commando damn near skewered you with his handy Swiss Peacekeeper Army Knife --

*
*

AERYN

The muscles are completely healed. Did you want something?

CRICHTON

Is your Comms on the blink? We called you three times for dinner.

AERYN

Not hungry.

CRICHTON

You coulda said so. Kinda rude not to pick up.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

AERYN

Will you leave me alone? *

Crichton's surprised by her vehemence.

CRICHTON

No. Something's the matter and I want to know -- *

Aeryn abruptly makes a sharp GAGGING sound, puts a hand to her mouth, and COUGHS sharply. She promptly wipes off her hand -- but not before Crichton's seen that she coughed up a small amount of blackish goo.

CRICHTON (cont'd)

Hell's that? You sick?

Aeryn quickly walks away. Crichton catches up to her --

CRICHTON (cont'd)

Hey. . Get back here --

Crichton grabs her arm. Aeryn spins, throwing a punch. Crichton, fully ready for it, catches her fist in his hand -- and is even more surprised at how her skin feels:

CRICHTON (cont'd)

You're ice cold!

Aeryn tries to pull loose. Crichton holds onto her -- and is alarmed that this task is much easier than it should be.

CRICHTON (cont'd)

Cold and weak. Okay, knock off the "completely healed" crap and talk to me. Better yet, talk to Zhaan, closest thing we have to a doctor --

Crichton reaches for his Comms. Aeryn stops him.

(CONTINUED)

1

CONTINUED: (2)

1

AERYN

No. Don't summon the others. Just --
just let me get to my Prowler.

CRICHTON

Huh? Why? You feel like taking a
drive? Last I looked, we weren't
within Prowler range of anything --
(stops, realizing)
It's that bad?

A small nod from Aeryn.

AERYN

I didn't lie to you. My muscles are
healed. But the knife must've pierced
my paraphoral nerve. Once damaged, it
cannot regenerate. Within fifty or
sixty arns, it will fail and I will
die. Nothing can be done.

CRICHTON

Hold on -- there's gotta be some kind
of treatment --

AERYN

The only treatment is a tissue graft
from a genetically compatible donor.

CRICHTON

Then let's find one. We've got, what,
two or three days?

AERYN

At the most. And we're nowhere near a
Sebacean colony.

That stops Crichton -- but only for a moment.

CRICHTON

No... but there's a Peacekeeper Base
less than twenty arns away... and our
Commando visitors were kind enough to
give us the coordinates.

Aeryn looks at Crichton with a faint glimmer of hope.

2

INT. COMMAND

2

Crichton addresses a skeptical D'ARGO, ZHAAN, CHIANA, and RYGEL, Rygel's munching on a plate of food cubes.

RYGEL

You aren't just *fahrbot* -- you're *magra-fahrbot*!

CRICHTON

Hey, I pulled it off once --

CHIANA

Yeah, by the skin of your *mivonks*.

D'ARGO

Your masquerade as a Peacekeeper fooled four battle-weary Commandos -- briefly.

ZHAAN

Infiltrating a top-secret Gammak Base is quite another matter.

D'ARGO

Even if you get in, you still have to find a tissue match --

ZHAAN

-- obtain the tissue sample --

CHIANA

-- and get your butt out again.

RYGEL

Frell Crichton's butt! What about our butts? If he's found out, we're put at risk too.

D'ARGO

With Moya's pregnancy this far along, she may not be able to get us away.

CRICHTON

I already checked with Pilot. He says Moya's all rested up and ready for one Starburst. We can run if we have to.

ZHAAN

Has the Prowler been repaired?

CRICHTON

DRDs have it looking good as new.

ZHAAN

Then your plan could work...

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

2

Crichton looks to the others -- "see?"

ZHAAN (cont'd)

...although it more than likely won't.

CRICHTON

So we just do nothing and watch Aeryn die? Everybody's just fine with that?

Zhaan and D'Argo are somber. Even Rygel is conflicted.

D'ARGO

John, I do not wish to see Aeryn die.

ZHAAN

Nor do I.

CRICHTON

No? Coulda fooled me.

(to Rygel)

What about you, big guy?

Rygel, concealing his discomfort, avoids Crichton's gaze and reaches for another Cube:

RYGEL

What's the difference what we want?

We must face reality. The only sensible course of action is --

Crichton's had enough of Rygel. He sweeps an arm across the table, knocking Rygel's plate and Food Cubes flying. Zhaan's shocked, D'Argo's indifferent, Chiana's amused.

ZHAAN

John!

Crichton ignores Zhaan, gets in Rygel's face:

CRICHTON

Sorry, Rygel, I didn't catch that.
What were you gonna say?

RYGEL

(swallowing hard)

...is to do everything in our power to save Aeryn's life...

Crichton nods -- "that's more like it" -- then exits with determination. Once Crichton's gone, Rygel sourly finishes:

RYGEL (cont'd)

...even though it's likely to get us all killed.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

3 INT. AERYN'S QUARTERS

3

Aeryn's quarters are unadorned; she's never added a single personal touch. Aeryn leans weakly on something for support, occasionally shivering. Crichton's in his Peacekeeper disguise (not his Captain's outfit from Ep. 18, but one of the Covert Ops Marauder Team's fatigues from that episode).

AERYN

This mission is foolhardy. It makes no sense for you to get killed as well. Best to simply cut our losses --

CRICHTON

Don't start the martyr stuff again. No way I'm just gonna let you die.

AERYN

Why not?

Crichton gives her a look. Aeryn knows what it means, but can't bring herself to acknowledge that she does.

PILOT'S VOICE

Crichton? We've reached the designated coordinates.

CRICHTON

(to his Comms)
Thanks, Pilot.

Time to go. An awkward moment for Crichton and Aeryn.

AERYN

Do humans have any particular rituals for this type of situation?

CRICHTON

A power handshake and a "good luck" are always in order...

Aeryn frowns: "show me." Crichton clasps her hand, gives it a solid shake. Aeryn returns it with:

AERYN

Good luck. -- How was that?

CRICHTON

Perfect.

Neither lets go for a long beat.

4 INT. THE COMMAND

4

Zhaan eyes the Forward Portal, which is filled by a HUGE, JUPITER-LIKE PLANET (CG). PILOT is on clamshell. *

PILOT

An uninhabitable gas giant... but it has a large moon on the far side.

ZHAAN

Large enough to have an atmosphere?

PILOT

Yes. The base must be located there. In this orbit, the planet's huge mass will shield us from it completely. *

5 INT. MAINTENANCE BAY/TRANSPORT HANGAR

5

Crichton enters. Chiana's waiting by the Transport Hangar door. She's wearing a jacket or cape over her usual attire.

CRICHTON

What's with the wrap?

CHIANA

Travelling outfit.

CRICHTON

Yeah? You going someplace?

CHIANA

With you.

CRICHTON

Think again.

CHIANA

I'll think out loud. What you need on this jaunt is a talented burglar, smuggler, spy, and distraction-causer.

*
*

CRICHTON

You're volunteering? What's your angle?

Chiana has an angle, but tries to cover it by playing hurt:

*

CHIANA

Can't you believe I might want to earn my keep aboard this boat?

CRICHTON

You? No.

*

He turns to go.

*

CHIANA

Well at least take this.

*
*

Chiana tosses him the Ident Chip which she grabbed from Larraq in Ep. 18. Crichton, surprised, inspects it.

*
*

CHIANA

A Peacekeeper Ident Chip, maximum security clearance.

*

CRICHTON

How'd you get it? I never saw you grab it off that Marauder Captain.

*

CHIANA

'Course you didn't. Told you I was talented. But, hey, you want to go solo, so who am I to argue?

Chiana starts off. Crichton's uncertain.

*

CRICHTON

Whatever you're up to, I could use the help... if you really are gonna help.

*
*

Chiana holds her head up, meets his gaze full on -- "count on it." Crichton still isn't fully convinced, but:

*

CRICHTON (cont'd)

Okay, come on.

*
*

6 EXT. SPACE - MOYA (CG) 6
Moya orbits the planet. The Prowler emerges and heads away.

7 OMITTED 7 *

8

INT. PROWLER

8

Crichton and Chiana, mid-flight. Crichton's piloting, less *
than expertly. *

CRICHTON

We'll do the same routine we pulled on *
those Marauder Commandos. *

CHIANA

You're the boss man and I'm your meek *
little server? *

CRICHTON

They bought it, didn't they? *

Crichton adjusts a control -- too much. The Prowler lurches. *

CHIANA

You sure you don't want me to fly this *
thing? *

CRICHTON

You know how? *

Another lurch. *

CHIANA

Yeah. Do you? *

Crichton doesn't reply; something's caught his attention: *

CRICHTON

Whoa, check that out -- *

9

EXT. GAMMAK BASE (CG)

9

The Prowler flies toward a huge, dead-looking factory.

CHIANA'S VOICE

Some kinda mining complex? Maybe a *
refinery. *

CRICHTON'S VOICE

Whatever it is, looks like somebody *
nuked it but good, a long time ago. *

10

INT. PROWLER

10

CRICHTON

Could be camouflage... could be dead.

(CONTINUED)

CHIANA

(indicating readouts)

It isn't dead. Eight targeting systems have just locked onto us.

CRICHTON

Typical warm Peacekeeper welcome...

Crichton switches on the radio, acts arrogant and annoyed:

CRICHTON (cont'd)

Prowler to Gammak Base! What's with the weapons locks, you idiots? Can't you tell a friend from a foe?

LT. HESKON'S VOICE

Prowler, identify yourself.

CRICHTON

On an open channel? Uh-uh. You want to count my teeth, do it after I land.

10

CONTINUED: (2)

10

LT. HESKON'S VOICE

The channel is secure. If you don't identify yourself, we --

CRICHTON

(mildly)

You'll what? Shoot me down? Son, it's not a great idea to gun down a superior officer without even peeking at his Ident Chip...

LT. HESKON'S VOICE

(after a long beat)

Prowler, you have a landing vector.

CRICHTON

Thank you so much.

Crichton signs off. Chiana nods approvingly.

CHIANA

You're not completely untalented yourself.

10A

INT. GAMMAK BASE - HANGAR SILO (CG)

10A *

The Prowler flies in low, enters the hangar silo. *

11

INT. GAMMAK BASE - HANGAR

11

CLOSE on the barrels of two Pulse Rifles held by a pair of mean-looking GUARDS. ADJUST ANGLE to reveal their target: the parked Prowler.

Crichton's just emerged from the cockpit. (Chiana isn't visible at the moment.) The Guards keep their guns at the ready as two male Peacekeepers approach Crichton:

LT. HESKON, the radio voice, is young, clean-cut, loyal, but lacking experience. COMMANDER JAVIO (hard J) is middle-aged and not overly intelligent, but shrewd enough to maneuver himself out of combat and into this cushy job.

JAVIO

I'm Tollona Javio, Commander of this base. This is Lieutenant Heskton. And you'd be...?

Crichton plays it as gruff and self-assured as the real Larrag played it in Ep. 18:

(CONTINUED)

CRICHTON

Larraq. Captain. No regiment. And don't even think about asking what my assignment is.

JAVIO

Wouldn't dream of it, Captain. But we do need to see your Ident Chip.

*
*

Crichton casually flips the Ident Chip to Lt. Heskon, whose eyes widen like a rookie cop who's seen his first FBI badge. He inserts it into a wall-mounted Security Reader. A BLUE INDICATOR LIGHTS: all OK. He returns the Chip to Crichton.

*
*

LT. HESKON

Ident Chip verified, sir.

CRICHTON

Happy now?

JAVIO

Delighted to have you with us, Captain... though I am wondering how you knew this base was here...

*
*

CRICHTON

(shrugs)

Keep wondering. I'll need quarters for myself and my personal server.

*
*
*

JAVIO

Your...?

Crichton looks to the Prowler as Chiana comes around from the far side, looking around the hangar and wiping off her brow.

*
*

CHIANA

Make sure the quarters are comfort-cooled, Larraq... it's hot in here.

*
*
*

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

Javio and Lt. Heskon are open-mouthed. Chiana starts to
 remove her jacket, pretends to have difficulty, smiles at
 Lt. Heskon: "would you mind?" Lt. Heskon gallantly helps her
 off with her jacket, revealing she's altered her usual attire
 to make it extra-sexy... and giving Lt. Heskon a clear view
 of her assets in the process. Crichton scowls -- this isn't
 how they rehearsed it. Javio regards Crichton curiously:

JAVIO

You brought a civilian with you?

CRICHTON

(a calm warning)

You getting nosy again?

JAVIO

Just admiring your taste. May I offer
 food and drink to you and your...
 "server"?

Crichton's about to demur, but Chiana beams:

CHIANA

I'd love some refreshment.

12 INT. GAMMAK BASE - CANTEEN

12

The base's mess hall, bar, and recreation area. Most patrons
 are UNIFORMED PEACEKEEPERS, but off to different sides are
 TECHS and MEDICAL PERSONNEL. It's a clique-ish place; the
 various groups don't mix much.

Chiana's at the bar with Lt. Heskon and several other male
 Peacekeepers. She finishes a steaming beverage; two of the
 men promptly offer her fresh ones. She takes a drink:

CHIANA

I could get real fond of this place --
the *raslak* is good and strong.

LT. HESKON

That how you like it?

CHIANA

Strong and hot. Make the mouth
tingle... but go down slow and smooth.

Chiana gives Lt. Heskon a come-hither look. He and the
others grin ear to ear. Chiana's the life of the party.

ANGLE ON Crichton and Javio sitting at a private table with
some ungodly-looking drinks; Crichton has to force himself
not to wince at each sip. Javio's eyes are on Chiana.

JAVIO

I've never seen a species quite like
hers. What did you pay for her? *

CRICHTON

You don't want to know. *

JAVIO

Does she give good... value?

CRICHTON

She has her moments.

ANGLE on a small group of TECHS having lunch at a table. *
BIXX, male and nerdy, is technobabbling away to a Female Tech *
(it's GILINA, but we never see her face in this scene): *

BIXX *

...so my theory is, if we increase the
birdge count, the anti-irradiated
hontz shielding can absorb more of the
bym-ler particles...

The Female Tech, bored, idly stirs her food with a utensil. *
She glances past Bixx -- and sees Crichton at the far end of *
the room. She's so astonished that she drops her utensil. *
Bixx misinterprets this: *

BIXX (cont'd) *

Startling idea, isn't it? Of course, *
it might kemperize the system beyond *
tolerance, but I think it's doable. *

The Female Tech, still staring at Crichton, gets to her feet *
and starts toward him -- but thinks better of it, stops in *
her tracks, and exits fast. Bixx, surprised, watches her go. *

BIXX (cont'd) *

Something I said?

ANGLE on Chiana and her suitors at the bar.

CHIANA

Females outnumber males here five to one? What do you poor guys do for... fun?

*
*
*

LT. HESKON

Not very much.

CHIANA

I'd say I got here just in time.

Chiana puts a hand on Lt. Heskton, startling him -- but he's not complaining. The others LAUGH appreciatively.

CHIANA (cont'd)

Five to one I'll never be bored here!

*

Lt. Heskton and the others grow abruptly quiet as they see something O.S. Chiana turns to see what's intimidated them:

*
*

ANGLE on the doorway as a new, ominous figure appears: SCORPIUS. He's half-Sebacean and half-alien; his appearance is unsettling, but not because he's grotesque or ugly. On the contrary, he could easily be considered handsome -- in a dark, dangerous, predatory way. His uniform is unusual -- more elegant yet more severe than those of other Peacekeepers -- this is no run-of-the-mill storm trooper; he's Gestapo.

*
*
*
*
*
*

Scorpius surveys the room, sees a grinning Javio at the farthest end. (Crichton has his back to Scorpius and is obscured from Scorpius' POV.) Scorpius catches Javio's eye, nods curtly -- "come here."

*
*
*

ANGLE ON Javio as his smile vanishes. He gets up.

JAVIO

Excuse me, Captain... duty calls.

Crichton turns to look, but Scorpius has already exited. Once Javio's gone, Crichton BANGS on the table:

CRICHTON

Chiana! Front!

CHIANA

Yeah, yeah -- coming.
(sliding her drink over to Lt. Heskton)
Keep it hot for me.

*
*
*

Chiana crosses to sit down with Crichton. This is the first chance they've had to speak privately since they arrived.

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

CRICHTON

What are you doing? This wasn't the plan. You're acting like a groupie!

*

Chiana gives Crichton back his earlier words:

*

CHIANA

They bought it, didn't they?

CRICHTON

What happened to meek and subservient?

CHIANA

(in seductive voice)

Different jobs require different... tools.

CRICHTON

Close up your tool chest! You're drawing a lot of attention.

*

CHIANA

Away from you! The more they watch me, the less they look you over.

Crichton has to concede she's got a point.

CRICHTON

Well, before they elect you Centerfold of the Year, do you suppose we might get on with saving Aeryn's life?

*

*

*

13 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PASSAGEWAY #1

13

Lt. Heskon leads Crichton and Chiana down a passageway. They pass various PEACEKEEPERS, TECHS, and GUARDS.

LT. HESKON

Your quarters have been assigned. Level Four, number Six-Lerg-Five.

*

(CONTINUED)

CHIANA

You're so helpful.

Behind them, Crichton rolls his eyes -- Chiana's really pouring it on thick. At the end of the passageway is a more elaborate Security Reader. *

LT. HESKON

I'll need your Ident Chip, sir.

CRICHTON

Again?

Crichton hands it over. Lt. Heskon plugs it into the Security Reader, then indicates a slot in the device:

LT. HESKON

If you'll insert your hand here...

Uh-oh. Crichton and Chiana hide their panic: *

CRICHTON

This is getting ridiculous. You know who I am. Let us past. *

LT. HESKON

Sir, everything beyond this point is Security Three-Velka -- genetic verification required. *

CHIANA

Is this really necessary? Larraq gets so impatient with delays. *

Chiana strokes Lt. Heskon's arm, but he won't be put off. *

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

He motions for a trio of passing GUARDS to join them and
await orders. *

LT. HESKON

Captain, I must ask you to place your
hand in the device.

CRICHTON

I must ask you, Lieutenant, what makes
you think you can give me orders --

LT. HESKON

I'm Chief Security Officer of this
installation --

CRICHTON

Not for long, if this is how you treat
a superior officer --

Lt. Heskon signals the Guards, who efficiently surround
Crichton and Chiana with drawn guns.

LT. HESKON

You will comply -- now.

Crichton has no choice. He inserts his hand, winces as an
unseen needle jabs his skin. As the Reader analyzes --

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

14 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PASSAGEWAY #1

14

As before. The Reader HUMS. To everyone's astonishment, a BLUE INDICATOR LIGHTS. Crichton has no idea how he got away with this, but he makes the most of it.

CRICHTON
Satisfied, Lieutenant?

CHIANA
Now, Larraq, he's only doing his job.
Let's get to our quarters so I can do
mine. *
*
*

She teases Crichton's ear lobe with a finger; he plays along.*

CRICHTON
Yeah, well... I'm for that.

LT. HESKON
I'll show you there immediately.

CRICHTON
Six-lerg-five -- I'll find it myself.

Crichton glares; Lt. Heskton, not about to push it, allows Crichton and Chiana to proceed without him. *

LT. HESKON
Yes, sir.

15 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PASSAGEWAY #2

15

A mystified Crichton and Chiana walk, speaking in low tones:

CRICHTON
How'd we ever pull that off? Did you
do something to the Ident Chip?

Chiana shakes her head. From an open doorway, a WHISPER:

GILINA'S VOICE
Larraq! In here!

They stop, startled. Crichton signals he'll go in first --

16 INT. GAMMAK BASE - GILINA'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

16

A cubical with a bed, a laptop-type computer, and a door to imply a bathroom. The female Tech from the Canteen throws her arms around Crichton:

FEMALE TECH

John!

She kisses Crichton before he can respond. At that moment, Chiana darts in, yanks the Tech off Crichton, SLAMS her against the wall, and draws back a fist. Crichton can now see that the Tech is Gilina.

CRICHTON

Gilina -- ?

(stops Chiana)

Wait! This is a friend!

(to Gilina)

How'd you get here? You were assigned to Crais's ship --

GILINA

Crais was ordered to shuttle half his Techs back to First Command for a new assignment: a secret research project.

CRICHTON

To do what?

GILINA

They won't tell us... and we're all working on isolated tasks so we don't find out. But we all assume we're developing weaponry of some kind.

CRICHTON

New Peacekeeper weapons... just what this galaxy needs. How'd you find out I was here?

GILINA

I saw you in the Officer's Lounge -- wearing that uniform -- I knew you'd never pass the genetic scan --

(nods toward her laptop)

-- so I overrode the security program... and made sure you were assigned quarters on this level.

CHIANA

You did all that? From Here?

(impressed, to Crichton)

This is a good friend.

17 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PASSAGEWAY #3

17

Javio walks with Scorpius. Scorpius's voice is smooth, measured, dispassionate -- and not to be disobeyed.

SCORPIUS

Not acceptable, Commander. We must increase the efficiency of the Aurora Chair.

*
*

JAVIO

Then find me more Techs. We're understaffed.

SCORPIUS

Understaffed... or mismanaged?

That chills Javio.

18 INT. GAMMAK BASE - GILINA'S QUARTERS

18

Crichton, Chiana, and Gilina. Crichton holds a small vial brought from Moya.

CRICHTON

...unless I find a match for this and bring back some healthy tissue, Aeryn will die. Will you help us?

*
*
*

GILINA

Of course. Stay here. I'll take the sample to the Medical Unit.

*
*

CRICHTON

Hold on -- I don't want to put you at risk --

*

GILINA

I won't be. I can fake the work orders. The Med Techs won't ask questions. We're used to secrecy.

*
*
*
*

CRICHTON

It's still too dangerous. I'll go.

*
*

GILINA

You should keep hidden. Suppose someone here knew the real Larrag?

*
*
*

CHIANA

She's right. One close call's enough.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

Crichton knows they're right, but he still doesn't like it.
Gilina smiles, lovingly touches Crichton's cheek as she takes
the vial from him.

*
*
*

GILINA

I'll be fine, John. Don't worry.

*
*

Gilina exits. Chiana also heads for the door.

*

CHIANA

I'll head back to the Lounge and let
our friend the Chief Security Officer
buy me another raslak.

*
*
*
*

CRICHTON

Gonna keep him preoccupied while
Gilina's on the move? Good idea.

*
*
*

CHIANA

Yeah. Besides, I'm still thirsty.

*
*

And Chiana exits.

*

19 INT. AERYN'S QUARTERS

19

Aeryn's weaker than before; she appears to be asleep. A SOUND makes her eyes pop open: Rygel's in her room.

RYGEL

Oh. I came to see how you were doing.

AERYN

You came to see if I was dead yet so you could go through my possessions.

RYGEL

I resent your unfounded accusation! Furthermore... you have no possessions worth taking.

AERYN

How inconsiderate of me.

RYGEL

Exactly!

D'Argo enters.

D'ARGO

Your Eminence. You're needed on the Command.

RYGEL

I am? For what?

D'ARGO

Pilot wants someone there at all times. We could be discovered by Peacekeepers at any moment, and a quick decision may be required.

RYGEL

A quick and correct decision. I accept this vital responsibility.

Rygel exits.

AERYN

Did Pilot actually request that?

D'Argo gives her a look -- "what do you think?"

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

AERYN (cont'd)

Thank you. If a warrior cannot die in battle, at least she should die alone.

*
*

Aeryn's tiring again. D'Argo gets the point; he exits.

*

20 INT. GAMMAK BASE - CANTEEN

20

Chiana's once again at the bar with Lt. Heskon and a few other Peacekeeper officers.

CHIANA

...then I found out the hard way that Anzarians shed certain parts of their anatomy after use... Talk about something to remember him by!

Everyone LAUGHS. Then Javio steps up.

JAVIO

Duty cycle complete, Lieutenant?

LT. HESKON

Oh. No, sir. I was, uh, keeping our guest company --

JAVIO

Thank you. That will do.

It's not a suggestion. Lt. Heskon and the others exit, leaving Javio alone with Chiana. She finishes her drink.

CHIANA

Thought I'd get at least another round out of 'em.

JAVIO

Raslak? We can do much better than that.

Chiana eyes Javio with interest.

21 OMITTED

21

*

22 INT. MAINTENANCE BAY - LAB SECTION

22 *

Zhaan's at her bench, mixing potions. D'Argo's pacing.

D'ARGO

She's weakening fast. This is no way
for anyone to die, even a Peacekeeper.
Do something.

*
*

ZHAAN

D'Argo, all I can do is ease her
journey. The damaged nerve regulates
toxin-removal functions. Poisons that
build up in her body are killing her.

*
*
*

D'ARGO

Filter them out.

ZHAAN

I don't have the means to do that.

D'Argo turns away, frustrated. Rests a hand on a bulkhead.
Looks at the smooth surface of Moya under his fingertips.

D'ARGO

But Moya does... doesn't she?

Zhaan, frustrated herself, is about to round on D'Argo and
tell him what a dumb idea that it. Then she stops, thinks
about it for a beat. Maybe it isn't such a dumb idea...

23 INT. GAMMAK BASE - CANTEEN

23

Chiana and Javio are at a private table, finishing what
appears to have been a truly sumptuous meal. Javio pours
Chiana more of an expensive-looking beverage.

CHIANA

Not a bad way to live.

JAVIO

Not at all. How would you like to stay? Whatever you're getting from Larraq, I can easily double.

CHIANA

I'm getting quite a bit. 'Course, I'm worth it.

JAVIO

I think you're selling yourself short. Covert Ops types are always flying off to some backwater planet and getting shot up. This is much more civilized.

When Chiana speaks, she's no longer playing a role, but speaking from the heart:

CHIANA

Lot to be said for stability... I'm gettin' tired of running from system to system with a guy who's got a real talent for getting in danger...

*
*

JAVIO

Exactly. With me, you'd be comfortable... and protected.

*
*

Chiana gives it serious thought. Javio feels her leg.

JAVIO (cont'd)

Shall we continue this discussion in my quarters?

Chiana smiles, peels Javio's hand off her leg, gets to her feet. She's neither shocked nor offended.

CHIANA

My policy's "no free samples." Let me consider your offer on my own.

Javio nods semi-graciously. Chiana exits.

24 INT. GAMMAK BASE - GILINA'S QUARTERS

24

Crichton's pacing. Gilina enters from the passageway.

*

GILINA

Good news.

*
*

CRICHTON

They found a match for Aeryn's genetic sample?

*
*
*

GILINA

Better. There's no need to find a donor. Our medics can now synthesize paraphoral tissue.

*
*
*
*

CRICHTON

Your medics can cook up a cure for Aeryn?

*
*
*

She smiles, holds up a small hypo-like object.

*

GILINA

They already have. One dose, some rest, and she'll be as healthy as ever.

*
*
*
*

Crichton lets out a long breath. That's a lot off his mind.

*

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

CRICHTON

"Thanks" doesn't even begin to cover it.

GILINA

Nothing to thank me for...
(puts her arms around him)
...but go ahead anyway; I don't mind.

They kiss -- both human-style and Sebacean-style as in Ep. 7. It takes Gilina a moment to catch her breath, then:

GILINA

You're welcome...

She moves to kiss him again. Crichton, aware that time is short, gently breaks the embrace.

CRICHTON

I have to get back to Moya... if I'm too late, Aeryn dies...

GILINA

(nods, understanding)
And I don't dare keep you here. If they capture you...
(forcing a brave smile)
All we ever do is say goodbye to each other.

CRICHTON

Yeah... you'd think it'd get easier...

Gilina begins to reach for Crichton once more. She stops herself, realizing she's only making it more difficult for both of them. She musters the strength to say:

GILINA

Go.

She hands him the hypo. Their hands touch -- and remain so for a beat -- but that's as much of a farewell as they'll permit themselves. Crichton exits with the hypo.

25 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PASSAGEWAY #4

25 *

Scorpius walks with NIEM, his second-in-command.

SCORPIUS

Get Stark back in the Chair.

NIEM

I doubt we'll get results. His mind
is nearly shattered.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

SCORPIUS

And increasing the Extraction Level
will only hasten the damage. Still...

Crichton walks past them without making eye contact. But
Scorpius turns to take a second look at Crichton -- *

ANGLE ON CRICHTON - SCORPIUS'S POV: A strange, alien POV --
perhaps part infrared, part X-ray, part electromagnetic --
revealing colorful patterns across Crichton's body.

ON SCORPIUS, not liking what he's seeing. He thunders:

SCORPIUS (cont'd)

That man is an impostor! Detain him! *

Niem and two passing Guards surround Crichton. He knows he
has no chance -- but there's something he needs to do, so he
BELTS Guard #1, elbows Niem aside, and makes a break for it.

Guard #2 TACKLES Crichton, who clutches at a trash container
(fire extinguisher, potted plant, any free-standing object
you'd find in a hallway) for support, but goes down. Guard
#1 presses a control on his belt -- and ALARMS ECHO.

Crichton twists, PUNCHES Guard #2, and nearly breaks free --
but the ALARMS have brought more Guards into the fray;
Crichton is quickly overpowered. The Guards look to Scorpius*
for orders. *

SCORPIUS (cont'd)

The Aurora Chair. *

Niem and the Guards drag a groggy Crichton out; Scorpius
follows. MOVE IN CLOSE on the toppled container to see why
Crichton put up a fight: jammed under the rim (and hidden
from casual view) is the hypo with the Aeryn cure.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

26 INT. GAMMAK BASE - INTERROGATION ROOM

26

Crichton's locked in the Aurora Chair -- a mean-looking thing, bristling with electronics. Niem is behind a console.

CRICHTON

You've really screwed the pooch! My name's Larraq, I work for Covert Ops --

SCORPIUS'S VOICE

Unfortunately, wrong on all counts. *

Scorpius enters, nods to Niem, who works the console. The Chair CRACKLES to life, ZAPPING Crichton's head with waves of searing pain. Scorpius nods again; the torture ceases.

SCORPIUS (cont'd)

I am Scorpius.

CRICHTON

(still gasping for breath)

But of course you are. *

(eyeing Scorpius's uniform)

You're a Peacekeeper? Funny, you don't look Sebacean.

SCORPIUS

On the other hand, you do look Sebacean, yet your energy signature is quite dissimilar. What species are you... and who are you working for?

CRICHTON

Get stuffed.

(no reaction)

Didn't that translate? Here's one I learned from a Peacekeeper. "May the Living Death take you." *

Niem ZAPS Crichton although Scorpius hasn't signalled for it. Scorpius sharply raises a hand; Niem turns off the ZAPS. *

SCORPIUS

You attempt to provoke me. Perhaps you're hoping I'll lose my composure and kill you before I can extract any information. *

(shakes his head)

Not likely.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SCORPIUS (cont'd)

Are you familiar with the Motak Four colony? Terraformed by Sebaceans and invaded by a race called Scarrans. They executed the defenseless colonists, but kept several females for breeding experiments. Most were failures. I was not.

*
*
*
*
*

CRICHTON

Matter of opinion.

SCORPIUS

By the time the Peacekeepers arrived and liberated the planet, my mother was dead. I chose to --

*
*
*

CRICHTON

Wait, don't tell me. You became a good little Peacekeeper soldier so you could go fight those nasty Scarrans. Hey, maybe you'd even be lucky enough to kill your own father.

*
*
*

SCORPIUS

That's exactly what I did, even though I never learned who he was. For ten cycles, I led a project to develop a virus fatal to Scarrans, then I headed the commando team that invaded their planet and released it. The Scarran race is now extinct.

*
*
*
*

CRICHTON

You slaughtered an entire race?

SCORPIUS

Yes. I tell you this so you can abandon any thoughts of provoking me into rash action. You see, I long ago learned the advantages of patience.

*
*
*

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

Scorpius nods to Niem -- who ZAPS Crichton repeatedly. But *
these ZAPS are different -- more precise, almost surgical. A *
nebulous IMAGE FORMS on a small monitor at the foot of the *
Chair. One more ZAP, and the IMAGE coalesces into: *

MEMORY IMAGE: A scene of Crichton aboard Moya with Zhaan,
D'Argo, and Rygel.

Scorpius, Niem, and Crichton watch the Image until it
DISAPPEARS, leaving Crichton drained and weak.

CRICHTON

What was that?

SCORPIUS

A memory. Random and indistinct at
the moment; it will take some time to
map your neural patterns.

CRICHTON

You stay the hell out of my --

Scorpius nods to Niem, who gives Crichton one sharp ZAP just
to stun and silence him so Scorpius and Niem can confer.

SCORPIUS

That was a Leviathan ship, was it not?
I seem to remember a report of an
escaped Leviathan prison transport.
Have Javio check the datafiles.

(to Crichton)

You are a most interesting spy.

Scorpius nods to Niem. As more ZAPS hit Crichton --

27 INT. MAINTENANCE BAY - MED BED AREA

27

Aeryn's on an improvised "med bed" as in Ep. 18. A *
bulkhead's been opened, exposing several of Moya's fluid *
conduits; some have been pulled out and connected, IV-style,
to circulatory vessels in Aeryn's arms and legs. Zhaan puts
a bandage-like covering over the last of the entry points as
D'Argo and a few DRDs look on.

ZHAAN

This may help stabilize you until
Crichton returns with the cure. *

AERYN

You're sure this won't hurt Moya?

ZHAAN

Pilot says no. The amount of toxins
your body generates is insignificant
to Moya, given your relative sizes.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

AERYN

But what about her baby?

D'ARGO

Its mass is already well over a sakmar. This will not affect it.

AERYN

Well, whether it works or not, Zhaan, I compliment you on your ingenuity.

ZHAAN

Actually, it wasn't my idea, it was --

D'Argo catches Zhaan's eye, shakes his head.

ZHAAN (cont'd)

-- Pilot's.

Aeryn, tiring again, closes her eyes. D'Argo exits.

28 INT. GAMMAK BASE - GILINA'S QUARTERS

28

Gilina, frantic, types commands on her laptop -- with no response except an ERROR SOUND. Chiana slips silently in.

GILINA

John's been captured --

CHIANA

Yeah, I figured as much when the alarms went off. So push some buttons, work your magic, find out where they're keeping him --

*
*

GILINA

I can't access main control. They must have shut down the grid because they suspect somebody is helping him -- sooner or later they'll find out who.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

 CHIANA
Calm down. We gotta think.

29 INT. GAMMAK BASE - INTERROGATION ROOM

29

Javio's reporting to Scorpius. Random MEMORY IMAGES FLASH on the monitor as Niem ZAPS Crichton, who speaks with effort: *

CRICHTON

Wasting your time... I'm not a spy... *

JAVIO

According to the report, the Leviathan had a Delvian, a Hynerian, and a Luxan aboard. No mention of a creature like him... or his female accomplice. *

SCORPIUS

Whom you have yet to locate. *

Niem's located an intriguing IMAGE, "homes in" on it: *

NIEM

Here's something... *

MEMORY IMAGE: Crichton and Crais from Ep. 1, scene 61: *

CRAIS (ON MONITOR)

You charged my brother's Prowler in that white death pod of yours. *

CRICHTON (ON MONITOR)

Death pod?! *

(remembers) *

You - you're talking about that near miss I had the first minute I was here! That was an accident! *

CRAIS (ON MONITOR)

It was no 'near miss' for my brother. *

The IMAGE BLURS OUT suddenly. Niem adjusts controls. Javio's surprised; he recognized the man -- *

JAVIO

That was Captain Bialar Crais... the Leviathan escaped from his convoy... *

SCORPIUS

Indeed. As I recall, he received special dispensation from the Council to head into the Uncharted Territories and hunt it down. *

Javio's even more surprised that Scorpius knows this. *

JAVIO

Right, but First Command lost contact with his Carrier some time ago. *

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

SCORPIUS

(to Niem)

I want to see more of that.

NIEM

I can't locate it again, sir, but I've found something linked to it...

MEMORY IMAGE: Crichton and Crais from Ep. 8, scene 40:

CRAIS (ON MONITOR)

It changes nothing! Tauvo is dead!
Struck down by a weak, pathetic, and
inferior being! This must be avenged.
I swear it in Tauvo's name, Crichton --
you'll die at my hands.

The IMAGE ENDS.

SCORPIUS

Well. I suspect our Captain has gone renegade.

(considers, then:)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

SCORPIUS (cont'd)

Broadcast a wide-dispersal message coded for Crais's Command Carrier. Direct him to come immediately.

*
*

JAVIO

You think he'll actually show up?

SCORPIUS

Certainly. Tell him we have his prey.

*

Javio exits. Scorpius strolls to Crichton's side.

SCORPIUS (cont'd)

..."Crichton", was it?

Crichton, almost passed out, can only manage a feeble glare.

SCORPIUS (cont'd)

But of course you are.

*
*

30 INT. GAMMAK BASE - GILINA'S QUARTERS

30

Gilina's pacing. The door to the bathroom is open a crack.

GILINA

What's taking so long?

CHIANA'S VOICE

This stuff doesn't go on very easily.

GILINA

It's made for covering wounds, not camouflage.

*

A made-over Chiana emerges from the bathroom. Her face and hands are (approximately) Sebacean-flesh-coloured, her hair's in a different style and colour, and she wears a prim and boring Tech uniform. In the room's dim lighting, it's good enough to pass -- and it helps that Chiana sounds and acts nothing like the sexy party girl of before; she's now a meek, scared inconsequential Tech.

*
*
*
*
*

30

CONTINUED:

30

CHIANA

(in meek tech-voice)
Do you think this is okay?

GILINA

I don't even think John would recognize you.

CHIANA

(in normal voice)
Let's track him down and find out.

GILINA

How? With the Grid down, I can't access Main Control --

CHIANA

Not from here.

Gilina ponders this. Good point. She packs up her laptop.

31

INT. GAMMAK BASE - INTERROGATION ROOM

31

Crichton's locked in the Chair again, getting ZAPPED by Niem. Scorpius and Crichton watch the monitor as:

MEMORY IMAGE: Quick cuts of Crichton with various aliens: the Tavlek firefight (Ep. 4, Act 4); Nam-Tar (Ep. 9), Matala (Ep. 5); Volmae (Ep. 6), etc.

SCORPIUS

Your memory holds an impressive array of other races, Crichton. You're a quite well-traveled spy. *

CRICHTON

For the ninth time, Scorpius, I'm not a spy... *

Scorpius ignores this, turns to Niem:

SCORPIUS

His previous missions are unimportant. I want to know who sent him here, and why. Keep searching.

More ZAPS.

CRICHTON

(through the pain)
It's deja vu all over again...

MEMORY IMAGE: Crichton and "Jack Crichton" in the Memory Hive (Ep. 16, scene 50);

(CONTINUED)

31

CONTINUED:

31

CRICHTON (ON MONITOR)
(about the Aliens)
You think somebody's going to live
with those guys?

JACK CRICHTON (ON MONITOR)
The Ancients have stories about a
world that will welcome us. I can
only hope they're true --

Suddenly, the monitor goes blank. Niem's stunned; that's
never happened before.

SCORPIUS (cont'd)
Malfunction?

NIEM
No. He's put up a neural block.

Scorpius, mildly surprised, eyes Crichton with new interest.

CRICHTON
Hey, I didn't do that. Maybe this
Chair of yours has blown a chip.

(CONTINUED)

SCORPIUS

Break through it. Increase the
Extraction Level.

Niem adjusts the console. The ZAPS grow bigger -- and more
painful; Crichton MOANS. Just when it seems he can't take
any more, an IMAGE appears on the monitor --

MEMORY IMAGE: The added Memory Hive scene from Ep. 16:
Crichton paralyzed in the shaft of light, facing "Jack
Crichton", as incomprehensible equations surround him.

CRICHTON (ON MONITOR)

What -- are you -- (doing to me)

JACK CRICHTON (ON MONITOR)

Implanting information deep within
your mind. These are the necessary
equations to create a wormhole.

Scorpius whirls abruptly, reacting big time to "wormhole".
Crichton, despite his agony, is astonished at what he sees on
the monitor.

CRICHTON

What -- when did this happen? --

CRICHTON (ON MONITOR)

You're -- teaching me how to --

JACK CRICHTON (ON MONITOR)

No. You'll never be able to access
this data consciously. In fact, you
won't even remember this part of our
encounter. We won't give you wormhole
technology, John --

CRICHTON (ON MONITOR)

Why -- not?

JACK CRICHTON (ON MONITOR)

Because if you're not smart enough to
discover it yourself, you're not smart
enough to handle it wisely. You'll
have to find it on your own. The
unconscious knowledge we're giving you
will guide you, nothing more. That's
as much as we can do...

(with a smile)

...but it should be enough. You're
already on the right path.

(a beat)

And I apologize for --

The IMAGE FREEZES there. Niem is about to try another ZAP;
Scorpius, galvanized, motions for Niem to hold off.

SCORPIUS

Well! Our spy has an interest in wormhole technology!

Crichton's still thunderstruck by what he's seen.

CRICHTON

He gave me the equations...

SCORPIUS

And that's why you came to this base.

*
*
*
*
*
*

CRICHTON

Huh? You're not tracking, pal.
What's this place got to do with...
(realizing)
...unless... is that what this base is
for? All this top-secret research...
you're trying to build a wormhole.

SCORPIUS

As are you.
(re Jack, on monitor)
That creature knows how... but he
wouldn't tell you. Or so you thought.
(almost a smile)
So you sought that knowledge here...
never realizing you already had it,
locked deeply away.
(to Niem, hard)
Find it. Segment his mind -- as many
layers as it takes.

CRICHTON

No -- wait --

More ZAPS rock Crichton. He SCREAMS. The ZAPS continue
until Crichton begins to convulse. Niem halts the ZAPS.

NIEM

He has to recuperate -- or his mind
will simply liquefy.

SCORPIUS

He seems to be an exceptionally strong
species. A short recuperation...

He pats Crichton's shoulder in an almost paternal gesture.

SCORPIUS (cont'd)

...and we'll start again.

32 INT. THE COMMAND

32

Rygel's nearly dozing off. Pilot appears on the clamshell.

PILOT

A Peacekeeper Command Carrier is
approaching the planet!

RYGEL

What?! Crais's ship?

PILOT

Moya cannot tell. It is at extreme
range.

32 CONTINUED:

32

RYGEL

Can it see us?

PILOT

It may not. Given this planet's mass, we might escape detection.

RYGEL

And if we run, we'll definitely give our position away...

PILOT

Should we prepare for Starburst?

RYGEL

Why are you asking me? I don't --

Then Rygel recalls he's been given the command.

RYGEL (cont'd)

Decisions, decisions. Worst part of being Dominar... people were always asking me things...

(thinks it over)

That ship may just be heading for the base. If that's the course it's taking, we do nothing. If it starts toward us -- Starburst immediately.

PILOT

(surprised)

That's sensible. Thank you, Rygel. *

Pilot disappears from clamshell; Rygel closes his eyes again.

RYGEL

Captain Rygel to you.

33 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PRISON CELL

33

A makeshift cell: one cot, one Peacekeeper security camera, and one inhabitant: STARK, a jittery, crazed alien with half a face. The missing half is covered by a metallic plate. Two Guards force-march the groggy Crichton in and dump him on the cot, to Stark's frenetic displeasure. *

STARK

Hey! Hey! Don't put that thing in here! I don't want a roommate! *

The Guards ignore him and exit. Stark starts in on Crichton:

STARK (cont'd)

That's my bunk! Get off my bunk! Go on! This is my side! Your side's over there! Stay on your side!

(CONTINUED)

CRICHTON

Fine... don't want any trouble...

*

Crichton's wasted, too weak to argue. He gets off the cot.

*

STARK

You were just in my chair, too!
Weren't you?

CRICHTON

...Scorpius's chair?

*

STARK

Scorpy! Scorpy puts me in the Chair!
Over and over and over and over...

CRICHTON

The Chair did this to you?

Stark merely goes on sing-singing. Crichton's appalled. He slumps into a corner of the cell, mutters to himself:

CRICHTON (cont'd)

"Warning: Prolonged exposure to memory-ripping machines can be hazardous to your sanity"...

34 INT. MAINTENANCE BAY - MED BED AREA

34

Aeryn's asleep on the Med Bed. Zhaan watches her from a short distance away. D'Argo enters, joins Zhaan. Quietly:

ZHAAN

The treatment is working... but all it's doing is stopping her from deteriorating further.

(a beat)

Why didn't you want her to know it was your idea?

D'ARGO

She expressed a desire to die in solitude. As a fellow warrior, I should accede to such wishes and not attempt to interfere.

ZHAAN

But you did interfere. You may have saved her life. D'Argo, despite her words, she doesn't want to die.

D'ARGO

No. I don't even believe she truly wants to be alone. Still, I --

*

*

*

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

An EARTHQUAKE HITS -- or at least that's what it seems like. *

D'ARGO

Pilot? Pilot! Are we under attack?

More TREMORS. DRDs skitter about. Aeryn writhes on the Med Bed, muscles spasming violently; Zhaan and D'Argo rush to keep her from being thrown off. Pilot appears on clamshell:

PILOT

No -- it's Moya -- she's having muscular contractions --

ZHAAN

Is she giving birth?

PILOT

I'm not sure --

Another TREMOR. Aeryn's having trouble breathing.

ZHAAN

It's killing Aeryn -- we must stop the treatment -- D'Argo, hold her still! *

D'Argo does so as Zhaan quickly disconnects Aeryn's "IVs".

PILOT

Moya can't help it -- her body chemistry's changing rapidly -- it's out of her control -- *

With the IVs out, Aeryn's spasms are decreasing; the immediate crisis is past. Moya's TREMORS decrease as well.

ZHAAN

It's all right, Pilot. We've isolated Aeryn; she's safe for the moment.

PILOT

I'll let Moya know.

Pilot, relieved, vanishes from the clamshell. Aeryn's breathing normally, but she's still pale and unconscious.

D'ARGO

"For the moment"...

ZHAAN

Let's hope Crichton gets here soon...

As Zhaan and D'Argo somberly regard Aeryn --

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

35 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PASSAGEWAY #5 35

Gilina (carrying her laptop) and the Tech-ized Chiana walk. A Guard hustles past them without a second look. Gilina finds the door she's looking for, and they duck into --

36 INT. GAMMAK BASE - CONDUIT JUNCTION POINT - CONTINUOUS 36

-- a dark closet full of optic cables and breakout boxes and such. Gilina unlimbers her laptop, patches it in.

GILINA

This should bypass the Grid and hook us directly into Main Control --

CHIANA

Yeah, fine, spare me the technobabble.

36A EXT. GAMMAK BASE (CG) 36A

A Peacekeeper Transport from Crais's Command Carrier flies into the landing silo.

37 INT. GAMMAK BASE - INTERROGATION ROOM 37

Stark's in the Chair; Niem ZAPS him; Scorpius looks on. On the monitor is a BLURRED IMAGE, impossible to read.

STARK

Again, Scorpy! Thrill me again!

More ZAPS. Niem scowls; no progress. Javio appears in the doorway. Behind him are CRAIS -- even more disheveled and on edge than in Ep. 8 -- and two GUARDS from Crais's Carrier. *

JAVIO

Sir, Captain Crais has arrived --

Crais pushes past Javio, marches in, and confronts Scorpius: *

CRAIS

Where is he? Where's Crichton?

SCORPIUS

This way, Captain.

Crais bristles, but follows Scorpius out of the room.

38 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PASSAGEWAY #6 - CONTINUOUS

38

Scorpius and Crais emerge into the passageway for a chat.
Crais's two Guards stay at Crais's side.

CRAIS

I have orders to recapture the
Leviathan and its passengers --

SCORPIUS

Captain. Crichton possesses vital
information. Until I get it, you may
Not have him. *

CRAIS

I order you to release him to me!

Scorpius almost smiles at this.

38 CONTINUED:

38

SCORPIUS

Your adherence to orders is...
selective.

(off Crais's reaction)

You've repeatedly failed to cease the
pursuit and return to First Command. *

Crais's Guards react with surprise, looking curiously to
their Captain. Crais avoids eye contact, tries to bluster:

CRAIS

(lying outright)

I've received no such orders --

SCORPIUS

(waving it away)

Your dereliction of duty is not my...
prime concern. Give me your full
cooperation... and you can have
Crichton when I've finished with him.

CRAIS

Give me Crichton now, and I'll get you
any information he possesses.

SCORPIUS

Torture alone would be ineffective.
Only the Aurora Chair can extract the
knowledge I seek. *

CRAIS

But the Chair might well kill him
before you can find it. *

SCORPIUS

Therein lies the statement I must
break. You know this human better
than anyone. What would persuade him
to stop resisting the Chair?

As Crais considers the question --

39 INT. MAINTENANCE BAY - MED BED AREA

39

Aeryn sleeps; D'Argo and DRD keep watch. A small TREMOR
shakes her groggily awake. She realizes her Ivs are missing.

AERYN

D'Argo? What happened to...?

(CONTINUED)

39

CONTINUED:

39

D'ARGO

Moya's undergoing pre-birth contractions. Her changing hormone levels made the treatment too dangerous.

Aeryn knows what this means for her. She nods stoically.

AERYN

It was a good attempt. It failed. You don't need to sit here and wait for me to die.

D'Argo gets halfway to his feet, then stops himself.

D'ARGO

I don't mind.

Aeryn reacts; there's two ways to interpret that.

AERYN

There's nothing you can do. Go on, leave me.

D'Argo studies her closely. Is this what she really wants... or is there something in her eyes that contradicts her words?

D'ARGO

Officer Sun... Luxan warriors have a tradition called *Plebna*. When one of our own is dying, another stands with him... escorts him to the brink of the next realm. I would be honored to perform this service for you.

Aeryn desperately doesn't want to die alone, but shrugs:

AERYN

Well. If you feel you must.

D'ARGO

I feel I must.

Aeryn nods: "go ahead, then." As D'Argo sits down --

40

INT. GAMMAK BASE - CONDUIT JUNCTION POINT

40

Chiana and Gilina look at readouts on the patched-in laptop.

GILINA

Found him. A cell on Level Nine.

(entering commands)

There's a Security Eye in his cell --

I may be able to patch into it --

INTERCUT WITH:

41 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PRISON CELL

41

Crichton's alone. A faint voice is heard:

GILINA'S VOICE

John, it's Gilina. Don't move.

Crichton freezes. (NOTE: Crichton can't see Gilina, only hear her... but on Gilina's end, a "camera's eye view" of Crichton in the cell appears as a hologram on her laptop.)

GILINA (cont'd)

Keep your back to the wall camera and it's safe to talk. I've bypassed the audio to the monitoring station.

Crichton adjusts his position so his back's to the Eye.

CRICHTON

You all right? They on to you?

GILINA

No -- Chiana and I are in hiding.

CRICHTON

Chiana, listen -- I stashed the tissue gizmo under a security checkpoint, third leg of the hallway past the T-intersection. Got it?

*
*

CHIANA

Yeah.

*

CRICHTON

Good. Find that thing and take off.

GILINA

We have to get you out of there --

CRICHTON

Forget me. Get Chiana back to Moya now. Aeryn can't have much time left. (hearing FOOTSTEPS approach)
Someone's coming --

Crichton sprawls onto the floor and pretends to be exhausted as Scorpius and Crais enter.

CRICHTON (cont'd)

Crais?

42 INT. GAMMAK BASE - CONDUIT JUNCTION POINT

42

Chiana's all business, but Gilina's confused.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

CHIANA

Problem is, once I take off, they can blast me out of the sky before I get half a metra...

*
*
*
*

Chiana breaks off: Gilina's not listening.

*

GILINA

I don't understand... why won't he save himself? Does Aeryn mean that much to him?

*

Chiana can see this is trouble. To keep Gilina on task:

*

CHIANA

Are you serious? Aeryn's just a shipmate. John's in love with you.

*
*
*

GILINA

He is?

*
*

CHIANA

Why do you think he's staying? He doesn't want to leave you. Once Aeryn's okay, we'll come back with reinforcements and get both of you out of here.

*
*
*
*
*
*

GILINA

He...he wants to take me with him?

*
*

CHIANA

Absolutely. But that can't happen unless I get back to Moya now.

*
*
*

Chiana indicates Gilina's laptop: "do your thing." Gilina nods with renewed purpose, begins typing commands.

*
*

43 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PRISON CELL

43

As before: Scorpius and Crais stand over a bitter Crichton.

*

CRAIS

You are dead, Crichton, but you have one choice: do you wish to save the lives of your shipmates on Moya?

CRICHTON

What are you talking about?

CRAIS

Why do you think I'm here? I've recaptured the Leviathan.

*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

CRAIS (cont'd)

The fugitives are back in my custody. However, whether I deliver them alive or dead is up to me.

*
*
*

CRICHTON

What would keep them alive?

*
*

SCORPIUS

Stop resisting the Aurora Chair. Allow us to probe freely for any information we wish.

CRICHTON

This isn't a very good choice.

CRAIS

You aren't in a very good position.

CRICHTON

Zhaan and the others -- are they okay?
(pointedly)

Aeryn?

CRAIS

They're unharmed, as is the Leviathan.

Crichton

All of them are in perfect health?

CRAIS

Yes. But that could easily change.

Crichton nods slowly. Now he's certain Crais is lying and Moya hasn't been captured... But he plays along as if he believes Crais. He wearily gets to his feet.

CRICHTON

All right. Fetch the Comfy Chair. I'll behave. If there's a chance it'll save the others...

Scorpius motions O.S.; two Guards enter for Crichton.

44 INT. GAMMAK BASE - CONDUIT JUNCTION POINT

44

Gilina's furiously typing commands into her laptop. She triumphantly completes what she's doing:

*
*

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

GILINA

There. I've programmed a "blind spot" into their targeting systems. Keep your Prowler on this trajectory and they won't even see it.

*
*
*
*
*

Gilina indicates data on the laptop. As Chiana memorizes it:

CHIANA

How'll I know if it works?

GILINA

You won't get blasted out of the sky.

Chiana grins. Good answer.

CHIANA

Now I just have to get to the Prowler

*
*

GILINA

I'll give you a diversion.. How much head start do you want?

*
*
*

CHIANA

On... four hundred *microts*.

*
*

Gilina nods. They shake hands in farewell -- then realize that wasn't a great idea; some of Chiana's flesh-coloring has come off on Gilina's hand. As they LAUGH nervously --

*

45 INT. GAMMAK BASE - INTERROGATION ROOM

45

Scorpius, Crais, Niem. One Guard unstraps a groggy Stark from the Chair and walks him out; the other shoves Crichton toward the Chair.

CRICHTON

Hey! Gently! I'm cooperating now. Treat me nice.

CRAIS

(relishing this)

We will.

46 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PASSAGEWAY #4

46

Chiana the Tech finds the trash container Crichton was talking about. But there's a pair of Guards chatting at the end of the passageway; they'll notice her instantly if she starts messing with the container.

A large Peacekeeper male strides past. Chiana, timing it perfectly, "accidentally" turns into his path so he collides with her -- knocking her down and toppling the container.

LARGE PEACEKEEPER MALE

Watch it, Tech!

CHIANA

I'm sorry, sir -- please forgive me --
all my fault --

Chiana timidly scrambles to clean up the spilled trash from the container as the Large Male exits. The Guards make no effort to hide their SNICKERING at the clumsy little Tech.

CLOSE on the container as Chiana finds the hypo Crichton hid. Unnoticed by the Guards, she palms it.

47 OMITTED

47 *

48 INT. GAMMAK BASE - CONDUIT JUNCTION POINT

48 *

Gilina's doing a silent countdown. She completes it, hits a key on her laptop -- and horrendous SIRENS go off.

49 INT. GAMMAK BASE - INTERROGATION ROOM

49

Scorpius, Crais, Niem, Crichton, and the Guard all freeze at the SIRENS. Niem and the Guard are alarmed; they know what that sound means --

*

49 CONTINUED:

49

NIEM

Evacuation warning -- reactor overload!

SCORPIUS

(suspicious)

Find out.

*
*

Niem exits. The Guard's worried -- and distracted. Crichton seizes the opportunity, BELTS the Guard, and makes a break for it. Crais tackles Crichton -- and the fight is on.

PLAY the brief but intense FIGHT as Crichton gives a good account of himself -- but is ultimately overpowered by Scorpius, Crais, and the Guard.

50 INT. GAMMAK BASE - PASSAGEWAY #1

50

Peacekeepers, Guards, and Techs are running around confused as the SIRENS blare. Chiana makes her way to --

51 INT. GAMMAK BASE - HANGAR - CONTINUOUS

51

Guards are running out of the hangar as Chiana enters. She sees why: Javio's inside, shouting at the departing Guards:

JAVIO

Clear this area! Get everyone away from the reactor core! Emergency radiation gear is on Level Ten!

*
*
*

After the last Guard exits, Javio uncouples the fuel conduits that have been refueling the Prowler. Realizing he's stealing her ride, Chiana rushes up, waves to get his attention, speaks in her disguised "meek Tech" voice:

*

CHIANA

Commander Javio! Wait! That Prowler is non-operational!

Javio pauses. He doesn't recognize Chiana.

JAVIO

What's the matter with it?

As she steps closer, we see -- but Javio doesn't, yet -- that her "makeup" has been rubbed off part of her forehead by her trash can "fall", revealing her true skin color underneath.

CHIANA

Uh, there's a faulty component in the froonium drive, causing instability of the... stabilizers. It may have been fixed... If I could have a look...

*

(CONTINUED)

51

CONTINUED:

51

Chiana heads for the cockpit -- but before she can get in, Javio sees her rubbed-off forehead, and the game's up. He draws his sidearm, aims it at Chiana.

JAVIO

Very good. But... no. Get away from there.

Chiana drops the meek-Tech voice, speaks normally:

CHIANA

So you can ditch? I always thought the Commander was the last one to evacuate.

JAVIO

Funny, I believe just the opposite.

CHIANA

We can both leave...
(a sexy smile)
And continue our earlier discussion.

JAVIO

Won't work twice. Move.

CHIANA

(a sigh)
Okay, I'll move...

And move she does -- launching an acrobatic kick that sends the gun flying. They both lose their balance, tumble from the Prowler -- and another FIGHT is on. Javio's bigger and stronger, but Chiana moves with catlike grace, dodging Javio's attacks and landing several good shots of her own.

Javio knocks Chiana sprawling, dives, gets the gun. Chiana, thinking fast, positions herself in front of the refueling device. The instant Javio FIRES, Chiana uses her agility to somersault clear. The SHOT pierces a pressurized conduit and IGNITES the resulting stream of fuel -- turning it into a FLAMETHROWER that barbecues Javio.

Chiana's horrified -- she expected enough damage and mayhem to serve as a diversion, but not that. She snaps out of it and rushes toward the Prowler cockpit.

52

INT. GAMMAK BASE - INTERROGATION ROOM

52

Crichton's being fastened into the Chair by the Guard and by Crais, who's making the restraints extra tight. Niem has just returned and is reporting to Scorpius: *

NIEM

It was a false alarm. The reactor is operating normally.

(CONTINUED)

52

CONTINUED:

52

Lt Heskon enters, out of breath:

LT. HESKON

Sir -- a Prowler has just launched
without authorization --

SCORPIUS

Crichton's accomplice. Destroy it.

LT. HESKON

We can't, sir. It's -- disappeared.
No sensor readings at all.

SCORPIUS

The false alarm was a diversion. Who
triggered it?

LT. HESKON

We don't know. We're still checking.

In other words, Chiana got away, and they aren't onto Gilina
as yet. Crichton can't hide his satisfied smile. Scorpion
sees it, almost smiles back. Very calmly:

SCORPIUS

Crichton will tell us.

PUSH IN on Scorpion's hand as he reaches to the console and
pushes a control to maximum. On the SOUNDS of VIOLENT
ZAPPING and CRICHTON SCREAMING --

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG

53 INT. MAINTENANCE BAY - MED BED AREA

53

Aeryn's at her lowest ebb. A HISS as Zhaan gives Aeryn a "shot" in the sternum from the PK hypo. Aeryn, feeling the "shot," forces her eyes open, tries to focus on Zhaan and D'Argo. *

AERYN

What was that?

ZHAAN

Your tissue graft. Crichton succeeded.

AERYN

Crichton...? Then... I won't die?

D'ARGO

As you once said to me: you will die... but not today. *

Aeryn manages a smile. Then Aeryn catches sight of Chiana, still in Tech disguise (though her clothes and makeup are quite mussed from her battle with Javio). *

AERYN

Are you sure about that? I've already begun to hallucinate.

CHIANA

(in meek Tech voice)

Gee, Officer Sun, all of us Techs -- well, we really want to see you pull through --

AERYN

At last... someone who makes an even worse Peacekeeper than Crichton... *

Aeryn's used up her energy, but as her eyes are closing: *

AERYN (cont'd)

Where is he? I want to see him. *

D'Argo, Zhaan, and Chiana trade uncomfortable glances. *

D'ARGO

You will. Soon. *

Aeryn falls asleep. *

ZHAAN

Let's let her rest.

CHIANA

Great idea. Some of us desperately
need to bathe.

Zhaan and Chiana start out. D'Argo stays at Aeryn's side.

ZHAAN

D'Argo?

53 CONTINUED: (2)

53

D'ARGO
I'll stand watch. Just in case. *

ZHAAN
There's no need. The DRDs can
monitor...

But D'Argo's already pulled up a chair. Zhaan smiles; so be it. She and Chiana exit, leaving D'Argo sitting somberly at Aeryn's bedside as Aeryn sleeps.

54 INT. THE COMMAND

54

Rygel gesticulates to Pilot (on clamshell). Zhaan enters.

RYGEL
Why the yotz are we still here? The
Prowler's back aboard, isn't it?
Let's Starburst away before Crais
finds out we're here.

Another CONTRACTION ROCKS the Command. *

PILOT
We can't. Starburst is not available.
Nor is propulsion. We will be
fortunate just to maintain orbit.

ZHAAN
Pilot, I thought Moya was prepared for
one Starburst.

PILOT
She was. But no longer --

An even bigger CONTRACTION almost knocks Zhaan and Rygel off their feet.

PILOT (cont'd)
-- she has gone into what appears to
be full labor. *
*

RYGEL
Now?! She can't do this to us now!

(CONTINUED)

PILOT

She has little choice. And -- she is very frightened.

ZHAAN

That's a natural reaction during the birthing cycle --

The biggest, baddest CONTRACTION yet ROCKS the Command -- toppling Rygel and SLAMMING Zhaan against a bulkhead.

PILOT

Moya tells me that this is not a natural birthing cycle... she's now certain that...

(faltering)

...there's something wrong with her child... it is not a normal Leviathan. *

ON Zhaan and Rygel, chilled by these ominous words --

THE END