

STAR TREK VOYAGER



"Caretaker"

FINAL DRAFT

SEPTEMBER 1, 1994

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

REVISED

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09/06/94 pk
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"Caretaker"

#40841-721

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FINAL DRAFT

SEPTEMBER 1, 1994

STAR TREK: VOYAGER - "Caretaker" 09/01/94 - CAST

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Caretaker"

CAST

JANEWAY

CHAKOTAY

KIM

PARIS

TORRES

TUVOK

ZIMMERMAN

KES

NEELIX

COMPUTER VOICE

JABIN

QUARK

MARK

GUL EVEK

BANJO MAN

AUNT ADAH

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

OCAMPA NURSE

OCAMPA DOCTOR

DAGGIN

TOSCAT

CAREY

CAVIT

HUMAN DOCTOR

ROLLINS

STADI

GOO CREATURE

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

N.D. MAQUIS CREWMEMBERS

Non-Speaking

N.D. KAZON-OLGA

N.D. OCAMPA

N.D. FARM NEIGHBORS

STAR TREK: VOYAGER: "Caretaker" - 09/02/94 - SETS

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Caretaker"

SETS

INTERIORS

VOYAGER

ENGINEERING
SICKBAY
READY ROOM
CORRIDOR
BRIDGE
MESS HALL
HOSPITAL ROOM
NEELIX'S QUARTERS
READY ROOM
SICKBAY
TRANSPORTER ROOM
BATHROOM

MAQUIS SHIP
BRIDGE

ACCESS SHAFT
QUARK'S
BARN
CHAMBER

SHUTTLE
OCAMPA COURTYARD

EXTERIORS

VOYAGER

MAQUIS SHIP
NEW ZEALAND
CARDASSIAN SHIP
PARK
KAZON-OLGA
DEEP SPACE NINE *
ARRAY
WAVE
ENCLAVE
FARMYARD/BARN
OCAMPA CITY/COURTYARD
CONSTRUCTION SITE
KAZON SHIP
SHUTTLE
UNDERGROUND VALLEY

STAR TREK: "Caretaker" - 09/01/94 - PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Caretaker"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

AL-BATANI	al buh-TAN-ee
ANGLA'BOSQUE	ang-gluh BAHSK
AN NOCK-TUH ZAB	an-NOCK-tuh-zab
B'ELANNA TORRES	bay-LAH-nuh TOR-res
BETAZOIDS	BAY-tuh-zoydz
BIONOMIC	bi-oh-NOME-ik
BOLIAN	BOWL-ee-'n
CALDIK	CAL-dick
CARDASSIAN	car-DASS-ee-en
CAVIT	CAV-it
CHAKOTAY	chuh-KO-tay
CORMALINE	CORE-muh-leen
COY YUH	COY-yuh
DAGGIN	DAG-in
DILITHIUM	die-LITH-ee-um
DYE-boh	DYE-bo
FERENGI	fer-EN-gee
GRAVITON	GRAV-ih-tahn
GUL EVEK	gul ih-VEK
JABIN	JAY-bin
JANEWAY	JAYN-way
JUILLIARD	JOO-lee-ard
KAZON	KAY-zahn

Page 2.

KAZON-OLGA	KAY-zahn OH-gluh
KES	KESS
KILOPASCALS	KILL-oh-pass-culls
KOLADAN	ko-LAY-dn
LATINUM	LA-tin-um
LOBI	LO-bye
MAJE	MAZHE
MAQUIS	mah-KEE
NEELIX	NEE-lix
NUCLEOGENIC	noo-kee-oh-JEN-ik
OCAMPA	oh-KAHM-puh
POK-TOY	POCK-toy
POO CUH	poo-KUH
ROMULAN	RAHM-yul-un
SPOROCYSTIAN	spor-oh-SIS-tee-n
STADI	STAH-dee
TERIKOF	TARE-ih-koff
TETRION	TEH-tree-on
TOSCAT	TOSS-kat
TRIANOLINE	try-AN-oh-leen
TRICOBALT	try-KO-bahlt
TUVOK	TOO-vahk
VOLNAR	VOLE-nahr
VULCAN	VUL-kn
ZAKARIAN	zuh-KARE-ee-n

STAR TREK: VOYAGER"Caretaker"TEASER

A1 CRAWL TO BE SUPERED OVER BLACK: A1

Unhappy with a new treaty, Federation Colonists along the Cardassian border have banded together. Calling themselves "the Maquis," they continue to fight the Cardassians. Some consider them heroes, but to the governments of the Federation and Cardassia, they are outlaws.

FADE IN:

B1 EXT. SPACE - A MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) B1

screaming through space, hotly pursued by a Cardassian Warship, firing on the smaller ship.

1 INT. MAQUIS SHIP - CLOSE ON A TATTOOED FACE 1

of an intense Native American man in his late thirties. This is CHAKOTAY. Suddenly an explosion illuminates his face.

CHAKOTAY

Damage report.

2 WIDER, INCLUDING TORRES AND TUVOK 2

B'ELANNA TORRES is a half-Klingon, half-human woman in her twenties who is frantically working the consoles of the barely spaceworthy craft. At a side panel is TUVOK, a Vulcan man.

TUVOK

Shields at sixty percent...

TORRES

A fuel line has ruptured.
Attempting to compensate...

Another explosion rocks the cockpit; smoke begins to seep in.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

TORRES

Dammit! We're barely maintaining impulse. I can't get any more out of it...

CHAKOTAY

Be creative.

TORRES

How am I supposed to be "creative" with a thirty-nine-year-old rebuilt engine...

More blasts and shakes. On the monitor, the face of GUL EVEK appears.

EVEK

Maquis ship, this is Gul Evek of the Cardassian Fourth Order. Cut your engines and prepare to sur...

Chakotay hits a panel... cutting off Evek... the shots and explosions continue.

CHAKOTAY

Initiating evasive pattern omega. Mark.

He hits some controls.

2A EXT. SPACE - MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL)

2A

banks and turns to escape the hotly pursuing Cardassian vessel, which is not fooled and lets loose with another blast.

2B INT. MAQUIS SHIP

2B

TUVOK

Shields at fifty percent.

CHAKOTAY

(to Torres)

I need more power.

She shoots him a look, but, mind racing, comes up with something.

TORRES

Take the weapons off-line... we'll transfer all power to the engines.

(CONTINUED)

2B CONTINUED:

2B

TUVOK

Considering the circumstances, I'd
question that proposal at this
time.

TORRES

What does it matter? We're not
making a dent in their shields
anyway.

(to Chakotay)

You wanted creative...

CHAKOTAY

(pressing panels
urgently)

Tuvok, shut down all phaser banks.

(to B'Elanna)

If you can give me another thirty
seconds at full impulse, I'll get
us into the Badlands.

(CONTINUED)

2B CONTINUED: (2)

2B

TUVOK
Phasers off-line.

CHAKOTAY
Throw the last photons at them and
then give me the power from the
torpedo systems...

TUVOK
Acknowledged. Firing photons.

We hear the launch. A beat later the flash and roar of
the bombs exploding against the Cardassian shields.

CHAKOTAY
Are you reading any plasma storms
ahead?

TUVOK
One... coordinates one-seven-one
mark four-three.

CHAKOTAY
That's where I'm going...

*

The ride gets even bumpier...

*

TUVOK
Plasma storm density increasing by
fourteen percent... twenty...
twenty five...

CHAKOTAY
Hold on...

And suddenly light plays on the faces of the crew... and
now cut outside to see...

*

3 EXT. SPACE - THE MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL)

3

moving into a huge flailing plasma storm with
electromagnetic flares whipping out dangerously like
tentacles... The plasma flares roar out and around the
Maquis ship... which barely maneuvers between them...

4 OMITTED

4

5 INT. MAQUIS SHIP - TUVOK - CLOSE-UP (INTERACTIVE LIGHT) 5

TUVOK

The Cardassian ship is not reducing power... they're following us in...

6 CHAKOTAY - CLOSE-UP (INTERACTIVE LIGHT) 6

CHAKOTAY

Gul Evек must feel daring today.

7 EXT. SPACE - THE CARDASSIAN SHIP (OPTICAL) 7

in pursuit of the Maquis ship is forced to veer off to avoid a plasma flare... even so, as it whips by a flare, the tentacle whips across a nacelle and a section of the ship explodes with serious damage and it spins out of control...

8 INT. MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) 8

As they take readings... more relaxed... the ship is still shaking from the plasma storm activity outside...

TUVOK

They're sending out a distress signal on all Cardassian frequencies...

TORRES

Evek was a fool to take a ship that size into the Badlands...

CHAKOTAY

(meaning us too)

Anyone's a fool to take a ship into the Badlands.

They grin at each other with relief...

CHAKOTAY

(continuing, to Tuvok)

Can you plot a course through these plasma fields, Mister Tuvok?

TUVOK

The storm activity is typically widespread in this vicinity... I can plot a course, but I'm afraid it will require an indirect route...

*

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

CHAKOTAY

We can use the time to make some repairs...

He starts to stand when suddenly a BRIGHT LIGHT -- significantly different from the interactive light they've experienced so far -- flashes in the room.

*

CHAKOTAY

What was that?

TUVOK

(off his panel)
Curious. We've just passed through some kind of coherent tetrion beam.

CHAKOTAY

Source?

TUVOK

Unknown.

Torres and Chakotay react, move over to share his view...

TUVOK

Now there appears to be a massive displacement wave moving toward us...

9 INSERT - AN OKUDAGRAM (OPTICAL) 9

showing a "fog" bank rolling in... wiping across the graphic toward them...

CHAKOTAY (O.C.)

Another storm?

TUVOK (O.C.)

It's not a plasma phenomenon. The computer is unable to identify.

10 RESUME 10

CHAKOTAY

Put it on screen...

We do not include the monitors... but from their reaction, it is incredible...

TUVOK

At current speeds, it's going to intercept us in less than thirty seconds...

Chakotay moves to the pilot's seat again...

CHAKOTAY

Anything left in those impulse generators, B'Elanna?

TORRES

(furiously pressing panels)
We'll find out.

TUVOK

It's still exceeding our speed...

CHAKOTAY

Maximum power...

TORRES

(frustrated)
You've got it...

Light on the crew's faces is getting brighter, like the sun is coming out... the ship begins to vibrate...

TUVOK

The wave is continuing to accelerate... it will intercept us in eight seconds... five...

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

The light outside gets brighter and brighter, the ship shakes more and more... until it seems to woosh through the hull like an ocean wave of light crashing in and as we stay a beat in the whiteout...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

11 EXT. NEW ZEALAND FROM THE AIR - DAY - ESTABLISHING 11
-STOCK

SUPER: Federation Penal Settlement, Auckland, New Zealand.

12 CLOSE-UP - AN ELECTRONIC ANKLET (OPTICAL) 12

with blinking lights... moving up the leg to find an athletic human in his late twenties, lying on his back on the ground, in a twisted position, his shirt off, wearing a mini-visor and using a 24th century laser tool to meld repairs of some mechanical equipment. This is TOM PARIS.

JANEWAY (O.C.)

Tom Paris?

He reacts to the voice -- looks over to see...

13 HIS POV - STARFLEET BOOTS 13

Tilting up to reveal KATHRYN JANEWAY, a charismatic woman in her early forties, in uniform. She has a warm thoughtful face and remarkably attentive eyes that suggest a deep awareness of all that is going on around her. Paris reacts, turns off his laser... puts it down... he acknowledges his name by removing his visor, but doesn't stand up... There is an attitude that he has toward her uniform that we may note. *

JANEWAY

Kathryn Janeway. I served with your father on the Al-Batani. I wonder if we could go somewhere and talk. *

Paris always wears a smile.

PARIS

About what?

JANEWAY

About a job we'd like you to do for us...

PARIS

(light laugh)
I'm already doing a "job"... for the Federation...

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

JANEWAY

I've been told the Rehab Commission
is very pleased with your work.
They've given me their approval to
discuss this matter with you.

Paris studies her a beat, shrugs, stands.

PARIS

Then, I guess I'm yours. *

He grins at her. And off Janeway's even look as she
considers him... *

14 EXT. PARK - DAY

14

Moving with them as they walk. *

JANEWAY

Your father taught me a great deal.
I was his science officer during
the Arias Expedition...

PARIS

(evenly, without
attitude)

You must be good... my father only
accepts the best and the brightest.

A beat, he waits for her offer.

JANEWAY

I'm leaving on a mission to find a
Maquis ship that disappeared in the
Badlands a week ago.

PARIS

I wouldn't if I were you.

JANEWAY

(dry)
Really...

PARIS

I've never seen a Federation
Starship that could maneuver
through the plasma storms.

JANEWAY

(evenly)
You've never seen Voyager.
(off his reaction)
We'd like you to come along.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

PARIS

(nods, understanding,
smiles as usual)

You'd like me to lead you to my
former colleagues.

(beat)

I was only with the Maquis a few
weeks before I was captured,
Captain. I don't know where most
of their hiding places are.

JANEWAY

You know the territory better than
anyone we've got.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

PARIS

What's so important about this particular Maquis ship?

JANEWAY

My Chief of Security was on board. Undercover. He was supposed to report in twice during the last six days. He didn't.

PARIS

Maybe it's just your Chief of Security who's disappeared.

JANEWAY

Maybe.

*

Paris studies her. She's obviously someone who would be a formidable adversary... as well as a committed friend. Janeway glances at him, adds a detail to provoke a little more interest from him.

JANEWAY

That ship was under the command of another former Starfleet officer named Chakotay. I understand you knew him.

Paris smiles a careless grin...

PARIS

That's right...

JANEWAY

The two of you didn't get along too well, I'm told.

*

*

PARIS

(with false humor)

Chakotay would tell you he left Starfleet on principle -- to defend his home colony from the Cardassians. I, on the other hand, was forced to resign. He considered me a mercenary -- willing to fight for anyone who could pay my bar bills. Trouble is he was right.

(beat, smiles carelessly)

I have no problem helping you track down my "friends" in the Maquis, Captain. All I need to know is -- what's in it for me?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (3)

14

Janeway studies him, not liking him very much, but needing him.

JANEWAY

You help us find that ship. We help you at your next outmate review.

PARIS

Uh uh. I get the anklet off first. Then I help you.

Janeway figured this was coming -- she can negotiate with the best of them -- this is the deal she was looking for.

JANEWAY

I'll look into it.

(beat)

Officially, you'd be a Starfleet observer during the mission.

PARIS

Observer? Hell, I'm the best pilot you could have.

JANEWAY

You'll be an observer. When it's over, you're cut loose.

PARIS

(smiles)

The story of my life.

He's using his roguish charm to try and impress her and it almost seems like he's coming on to her with his soft eyes and tone of voice. For much of the scene, it almost seems to be working. Now, she takes a beat and moves an inch toward and speaks softly --

JANEWAY

If a member of my crew gets hurt because you make a mistake, you won't have to worry about an anklet, Mister. I'll make sure you don't see daylight again.

She leaves. He laughs at himself. An empty laugh.

15 EXT. SPACE - A SHUTTLE (OPTICAL)

15

At impulse... it zooms by the camera and we pan with it to reveal that it's approaching DS9.

16 INT. SHUTTLE

16

Paris is in the co-pilot seat, in a red Starfleet uniform, a lot cleaner than the last time we saw him... the pilot is also attached to the crew of Voyager. She is an attractive Betazoid Lieutenant named STADI. He's been working on her the whole trip... she enjoys the flirting but doesn't take the bait... playful --

PARIS

Stadi, you're changing my mind about Betazoids.

STADI

Good.

PARIS

It wasn't a compliment. Until today, I always considered your people to be warm and sensual...

STADI

I can be warm and sensual.

PARIS

Just not to me.

STADI

Do you always fly at women at warp speed, Mister Paris?

PARIS

Only when they're in visual range.

Beat. She smiles to herself. Adjusting their approach, looking out the window --

STADI

That's our ship. That's Voyager.

17 ANGLE - THROUGH THE WINDOW (OPTICAL)

17

to see Voyager for the first time... docked at a DS9 pylon.

STADI (O.C.)

Intrepid Class... Sustainable
cruise velocity of warp factor nine
point nine-seven-five... fifteen
decks... crew complement of one
hundred forty-one... bio-neural
circuitry...

*

PARIS

Bio-neural?

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 17

STADI

Some of the traditional circuitry
has been replaced with gel packs
that contain synthetic neural
cells... they organize information
more efficiently... speed up
response time.

(beat)

Want to take a closer look...?

She doesn't wait for an answer, starts to hit panels...

18 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL) 18

as the small shuttlecraft moves into the station on
thrusters, it takes us up close and personal past --

19 INT. SHUTTLE - OUT WINDOW (OPTICAL) 19

seeing Voyager.

19A EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER 19A

A sleek bullet of a ship, built for action.

20 INT. QUARK'S 20

Paris, carrying a duffel over his shoulder, ENTERS...
it's busy... glances around...

21 ANGLE - TO INCLUDE QUARK AND HARRY KIM 21

the latter a young Starfleet Ensign in his early
twenties. Looks fresh scrubbed and right out of the
Academy. Paris moves to the bar a few yards away...

QUARK

(starts during Paris'
walk to the bar)

...and if I may say so, it's been
my special pleasure to see many new
officers like yourself come through
these portals. I'm sure your
parents must be very proud, my boy.
You know on an occasion like
this...

KIM

I'm really not interested.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

QUARK

Interested?

KIM

You were about to try to sell me
something, right?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

Quark studies this hotshot young man and sees a challenge...

QUARK

I was merely going to suggest your parents might appreciate a memento of your first mission...

KIM

(knowing)

...and you happen to have several to choose from.

QUARK

I do carry a select line of unique artifacts and gemstones indigenous to this region...

A Ferengi bartender moves to Paris and takes his order --

PARIS

Romulan ale in a tall glass...

As the Ferengi gets the ale, Paris continues to overhear and casually observe Quark and Kim who are continuing to spar...

QUARK

(pulling out a case with sparkling gemstones)

Why, quite recently, I acquired these Lobi crystals from a very strange creature called a Morn...

Morn, in the background, turns at the sound of his name. Kim stops Quark's pitch with a hand and a knowing grin...

KIM

We were warned about Ferengis at the Academy.

Quark reacts. The gauntlet has been thrown. Kim turns away, smiles at a passing Dabo girl, confident, on top of his game.

QUARK

"Warned about Ferengis," were you...

KIM

That's right.

QUARK

Slurs. About my people. At Starfleet Academy.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

Kim gives this a second thought... this needs a little spin control... And from here on, the scene moves like lightning...

KIM

What I meant was...

QUARK

(interrupting)

Here I am trying to be a cordial host, knowing how much a young officer's parents would appreciate a token of his love on the eve of a dangerous mission and what do I get for my trouble? Scurrilous insults.

He reaches under the bar looking for a PADD... pulls one out and starts to take "notes."

QUARK

(continuing)

Well, somebody is going to hear about this... what was your name, son?

KIM

My... name?

QUARK

You have one, I presume?

KIM

(shaken)

Kim. Harry Kim. But...

QUARK

...And who was it at the Academy who warned you about...

*

KIM

(nervous energy)

...you know, I think a memento for my parents would be a great idea...

QUARK

...oh no no no no no no no...

KIM

(picking up the display case)

Really. One of these would look great as a pendant for my mother...

QUARK

...Or cuff links for your father...

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (5)

21

KIM

...Cuff links, great idea...

QUARK

They're not for sale. Now, inform your commanding officer that the Federation council can expect an official query from...

KIM

How much for the entire tray?

QUARK

Cash or credit?

PARIS (O.C.)

Dazzling, aren't they?

Paris moves over, picks up one... Quark looks at him -- who the hell is this guy breaking into his routine...

PARIS

(continuing)

As bright as Koladan diamonds.

QUARK

Brighter.

PARIS

Hard to believe you can find them on any planet in this system...

QUARK

...that's an exaggeration...

PARIS

...there's a shop at the Volnar Colony that sells a dozen assorted shapes for one Cardassian lek.

(to Quark)

How much you selling these for?

Last ditch, desperate time for Quark, to Kim --

QUARK

We were just about to negotiate the price...

Kim looks evenly at Quark, slides the container back to him... rises and moves away with Paris. Quark scowls.

22 ANGLE - KIM AND PARIS

22

moving toward the door.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: 22

KIM

Thanks.

PARIS

Didn't they warn you about Ferengi
at the Academy?

Kim laughs at himself... and Paris smiles with him and
they EXIT --

22A EXT. SPACE - ON VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 22A *

23 INT. VOYAGER - ENGINEERING 23

as Kim and Paris ENTER...

KIM

This must feel pretty routine to
you by now... coming on board a
new ship...

PARIS

Not exactly.

KIM

I guess your first posting is the
one you never forget. When I came
aboard this morning, I couldn't
help it... I got goosebumps...

PARIS

Yeah. I remember feeling like
that.

KIM

Have you checked in yet?
(Paris shakes his head)
Come on, I'll take you to Sickbay.

24 INT. SICKBAY 24

A male human DOCTOR is doing a once over of the
computer wall panels with a a female Vulcan Nurse... as
Kim and Paris ENTER...

DOCTOR

Run a level three diagnostic just
to be sure...

The Nurse acknowledges... moves away... he looks toward
Paris and Kim...

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

DOCTOR
Can I help you?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

PARIS

Tom Paris reporting on board.

The name immediately registers on the Doctor's face... his eyes narrow...

DOCTOR

Oh yes... the... "observer"...

PARIS

That's me.

The Doctor studies him a little too long... Paris is quick to pick up on it... having felt this before from others... but he never lets that smile fade...

PARIS

As a matter of fact, I seem to be observing some kind of problem right now... Doctor...

DOCTOR

I was a surgeon at the hospital on Caldik Prime the same time you were stationed there.

A coolness from his eyes crosses between them.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

We never actually met.

Paris acknowledges, both sides know where they stand... only Kim is left out and very curious.

DOCTOR

Your medical records arrived from your last... "posting", Mister Paris. I think everything's in order. The Captain asked if you're on board. You should check in with her.

KIM

I haven't paid my respects to the Captain yet either...

DOCTOR

Well, Mister Kim, that would be a good thing for the new operations officer to do.

Kim acknowledges, still feeling the coolness between the Doctor and Paris. They EXIT... a beat on the Doctor glancing at Paris leaving...

25 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

25

As they ENTER...

KIM

What was that all about?

PARIS

It's a long story, Harry, and I'm tired of telling it. I'm sure someone around here will tell you before long...

And they enter a Turbolift and the door closes...

26 INT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

26

Janeway is busy... getting some coffee out of the replicator, moving to her desk, looking over several PADDs of reports until she finds the one she wants... sitting... making a short notation every once in a while... at the same time, she's talking to a civilian man on the monitor (MARK) who is used to this flurry of activity from the woman he loves...

MARK

The doctor called...

JANEWAY

And?

MARK

And I was right.

JANEWAY

She's pregnant?!

MARK

The puppies are due in seven weeks.

JANEWAY

Mark, you've got to take her home with you.

MARK

With me? I just got the rugs cleaned...

JANEWAY

...she's "with child". I can't leave her in a kennel while I'm...

MARK

...is this another love-me-love-my-dog demand?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

JANEWAY

Yes.

MARK

How could I ever refuse you...

JANEWAY

Thanks, honey.

MARK

When do you leave?

JANEWAY

As soon as I approve these system status reports.

MARK

All right, I won't bother you any more.

That stops whatever else she's got her mind into, she turns to him, intimately...

JANEWAY

Hey, you never bother me... except the way I love to be bothered. Understand?

MARK

Aye, Captain.

JANEWAY

See you in a few weeks.

(quick beat)

Oh and Mark. Go by my house and pick up the doggy bed. She'll be more comfortable.

MARK

I already did. An hour ago.

She grins, realizing he's been teasing her. He smiles back, winks and signs off. She goes back to her reports... inputs information... satisfied, she stands, about to go to the Bridge when the chime rings...

JANEWAY

Come in.

From the opposite door to the Bridge, Kim and Paris ENTER... Kim is unusually stiff at attention...

JANEWAY

Gentlemen, welcome aboard Voyager.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

KIM

Thank you, sir.

JANEWAY

Mister Kim...

(pausing in her intent)

...at ease before you sprain something...

He relaxes...

JANEWAY

(continuing)

Mister Kim, despite Starfleet protocol, I don't like being addressed as "sir"...

KIM

I'm sorry... Ma'am...?

JANEWAY

Ma'am is acceptable in a crunch, but I prefer "Captain".

(Kim acknowledges)

We're getting ready to leave.

I'll show you to the Bridge.

*

She leads the way, small talking --

JANEWAY

(continuing)

Did you have any problems getting here, Mister Paris?

PARIS

None at all, Captain.

She takes note of the emphasis as they EXIT to --

27 INT. BRIDGE

27

as they ENTER from the Ready Room to see the most advanced, impressive Bridge facility in the history of Star Trek... several officers and Supernumeraries are working... the Security Officer is a human Ensign named ROLLINS. The first officer is a human named CAVIT, who stands by Lieutenant Stadi who is at conn... preparing the ship for launch...

JANEWAY

My first officer, Lieutenant Commander Cavit... Ensign Kim, Mister Paris...

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

Cavit shakes their hands... is a little remote with Paris...

CAVIT
Welcome aboard.

She motions to the Ops console and begins to move toward it...

JANEWAY
(to Kim)
This is your station. Would you like to take over?

KIM
Yes, Ma'am.

JANEWAY
It's not "crunch" time yet, Mister Kim... I'll let you know when.

Kim moves into Ops, acknowledging the other officer. Janeway goes to the center of the room, leaving Paris behind and his lack of a station is uncomfortable for him, but that's the way it is... Janeway nods to Cavit...

CAVIT
Lieutenant Stadi, lay in the course and clear our departure with Operations.

STADI
Course entered. Ops has cleared us.

CAVIT
Ready thrusters...

KIM
Thrusters ready.

A beat. Janeway sits in the Captain's chair.

JANEWAY
Engage.

28 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

28

As Voyager departs the station on its first adventure.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

29 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 29

At impulse.

30 INT. MESS HALL 30 *

Paris ENTERS, glances around to see Kim sitting with the Doctor and Cavit... they look up to see him and Paris instantly knows that they've been talking about him... as he moves to the replicator controls...

PARIS

Tomato soup.

COMPUTER VOICE

There are fourteen varieties of tomato soup available from this replicator. With rice. With vegetables. Bolian-style...

PARIS

Plain.

He's a purist.

COMPUTER VOICE

Specify hot or chilled.

PARIS

(impatient)

Hot. Hot... Plain... Tomato soup.

We hear the replicator make his soup. He sees the Doctor and Cavit are leaving now... Kim is looking down at his food, knows Paris is looking at him... Paris, a glutton for punishment, sits down anyway, with false good cheer...

PARIS

There, you see, I told you it wouldn't take long.

Kim is far more serious than we've seen him before.

KIM

Is it true?

PARIS

(very casual)

Was the accident my fault? Yes.
Pilot error.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

PARIS (Cont'd)

But, it took me a while to admit it.

(reacting to the soup)

Fourteen varieties and they can't even get plain tomato soup right...

KIM

They said you falsified reports...

PARIS

That's right.

KIM

(disbelieving)

Why?

PARIS

What's the difference? I lied.

KIM

(confused)

But then you came forward and admitted it was your fault...

PARIS

I'll tell you the truth, Harry. All I had to do was keep my mouth shut and I was home free. But I couldn't. The ghosts of those three dead officers came to me in the middle of the night and taught me the true meaning of Christmas... so I confessed. Worst mistake I ever made. But not the last. After they cashiered me out of Starfleet, I went out looking for a fight and I found the Maquis... and on my first assignment, I was caught.

KIM

(beat, taking it all in)

Must have been especially tough for you... being the son of an Admiral.

PARIS

Frankly, I think it was tougher on my father than it was on me.

Paris gets up... moves to throw away his soup...

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

PARIS

Look, I know those guys told you to stay away from me... and you know what? You ought to listen to them... I'm not exactly a good luck charm.

KIM

(beat)

I don't need anyone to choose my friends for me.

Paris reacts, their eyes connect and they smile...

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE

Janeway to Paris.

PARIS

Go ahead.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE

Report to the Bridge. We're approaching the Badlands.

They react and EXIT.

31 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

31

Entering the plasma storm filled Badlands.

32 INT. BRIDGE (VPB)

32

*

Paris and Kim ENTER... Janeway and Cavit are at a rear console... looking over the shoulder of Ensign Rollins working at the security station... there's an Okudagram of the Badlands and some information from the day of the Maquis ship's disappearance reflected on it...

JANEWAY

(to Paris)

The Cardassians gave us the last known heading of the Maquis ship... and we have charts of the plasma storm activity the day it disappeared... with a little help, we might be able to approximate its course...

PARIS

(studying the graphic)

I'd guess they were trying to get to one of the M-Class planetoids in the Terikof Belt.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

Cavit speaks to Rollins, leaning over to point at the graphic...

CAVIT

That would take them here...

Rollins works, and an OVERLAY of plasma activity covers the graphic.

ROLLINS

The plasma storms would have forced them in this direction...

JANEWAY

Adjust our course to match...

CAVIT

Aye, Captain.

Cavit acknowledges, moves quickly to Stadi at the conn position and tells her what to do out of earshot... Janeway moves back toward her chair and Paris follows...

JANEWAY

The Cardassians claim they forced the Maquis ship into a plasma storm where it was destroyed. But our probes haven't picked up any debris...

*
*
*

PARIS

A plasma storm might not leave any debris...

JANEWAY

We'd still be able to pick up a resonance trace from the warp core...

KIM

Captain, I'm reading a coherent tetrion beam scanning us...

JANEWAY

Origin, Mister Kim?

KIM

(pressing panels)

I'm not sure...

(pressing more panels)

There's also a displacement wave moving toward us...

JANEWAY

On screen.

33 ANGLE - INCLUDE THE LARGE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) 33

This time we see what they see -- a huge subspace tidal wave sweeping across space toward us...

JANEWAY

Analysis...

KIM

Some kind of polarized magnetic variation...

CAVIT

We might be able to disperse it with a graviton particle field...

JANEWAY

Do it.

He moves to tactical... replacing the officer there...

JANEWAY

(to Stadi)

Red alert. Move us away from it, Lieutenant...

STADI

New heading... four-one-mark-one-eight-zero...

34 ANGLE - CAVIT 34

CAVIT

Initiating graviton field...

35 EXT. SPACE - THE WAVE (OPTICAL) 35

Roars ahead...

36 INT. BRIDGE 36

Kim reacts...

KIM

The graviton field had no effect...

JANEWAY

Full impulse.

37 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 37

Moves to full impulse but the subspace wave roars behind it, quickly picking up ground...

38 INT. BRIDGE

38

The interactive light from the screen gets brighter...

KIM

The wave will intercept us in
twenty seconds...

JANEWAY

Can we go to warp?

STADI

Not until we clear the plasma
field, Captain...

KIM

Eight seconds...

JANEWAY

Brace for impact...

KIM

Three...

As the initial impact smashes them...

39 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

39

Well, not space exactly, but a swirling white ocean...
think of the ship as a surfboard riding the curl and then
getting wiped out as the wave crashes down... tossed out
of control... deeper and deeper... some kind of strange
undertow dragging it out to the depths of an unknown
sea... until it disappears in a whiteout.

40 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

40

Slowly fading out of the whiteout to see the aftermath of
destruction -- the conn station console has exploded...
a section of the roof has collapsed... sparks still fly
from consoles, gas leaks from a conduit. Everyone has
been thrown roughly to the floor... Janeway pulls herself
over to Cavit who has been felled by debris from the
ceiling and checks his vital signs... the Viewscreen is
filled with static... Paris looks over and sees Stadi
lying on the floor unconscious by the damaged conn
station... he moves to examine her...

JANEWAY

Report!

Kim scrambles to his post...

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

KIM

Hull breach, deck fourteen... com
lines to Engineering are down...
trying to reestablish...

Janeway's face tells us that Cavit is dead... she
rises...

JANEWAY

(to com)

Repair crews, seal off hull breach
on deck fourteen...

ROLLINS

Casualty reports coming in...
Sickbay is not responding...

JANEWAY

Bridge to Sickbay.

(no answer)

Doctor, can you hear me...

She moves to see if Stadi is okay... she's not... Paris
looks up at Janeway...

PARIS

She's dead.

KIM

(off readouts)

Captain, something's out there!

JANEWAY

I need a better description than
that, Mister Kim.

KIM

I don't know... I'm reading... I'm
not sure what I'm reading...

JANEWAY

Can you get the Viewscreen
operational...

KIM

I'm trying...

41 ANGLE - AS THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

41

comes back on, filtering out static to reveal a huge,
eerie alien space Array... an ominous piece of space
hardware... sending out pulses of energy arcing into
space for reasons we cannot immediately understand... our
first impression of it might be as some strange kind of
weird lighthouse in space...

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

at the base of it, tiny in comparison, is the Maquis ship.

KIM

(stunned)

Captain, if these sensors are working, we're over seventy thousand light years from where we were. We're on the other side of the galaxy.

On Janeway's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

42 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 42

set against the incredible Array in space... the Maquis ship in the background...

43 INT. BRIDGE 43

Seconds later. Janeway has moved closer to Kim... with urgency... Supernumeraries are carrying out the tarp covered bodies of Stadi and Cavit.

KIM

I'm not reading any life signs on the Maquis ship...

JANEWAY

What about on that...
(searching for the right description)
...that Array?

KIM

Our sensors can't penetrate it.

JANEWAY

Any idea what those pulses coming from it are, Mister Kim?

KIM

Massive bursts of radiant energy... They seem to be directed toward a nearby G-type star system...

JANEWAY

Try hailing the Array.

With static on com --

CAREY'S COM VOICE

(urgent, stressed)
Engineering to Bridge. We have severe damage... the Chief's dead... possibility of a warp core breach...

JANEWAY

Secure all engineering systems. I'm on my way.

KIM

No response from the Array.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

Janeway moves to exit...

JANEWAY

Ensign, get down to Sickbay, see
what's going on...

(to an Ensign at the rear
console)

Mister Rollins, the Bridge is
yours.

She EXITS. Kim is on his feet, grabbing a tricorder and moving to the exit... Paris received no orders and after a beat, he moves to join Kim...

44 INT. ENGINEERING

44

as Janeway arrives and takes stock... there are several crewmembers with cuts and bruises being helped by others to EXIT for Sickbay... a couple including the chief engineer are dead and have been already covered with tarps... some are seriously hurt and unable to contribute... there's a small coolant leak from the core...

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Warp core micro-fracture.
Breach imminent.

She moves forward to the senior engineer left in charge, a Lieutenant in his thirties named CAREY.

JANEWAY

What's the warp core pressure?

CAREY

Twenty-one hundred kilopascals and
falling.

She moves to examine the leak in the warp core...

JANEWAY

Lock down the magnetic
constrictors.

CAREY

Captain, if we lock them down, at
these pressure levels, we might not
be able to reinitialize the
dilithium reaction...

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Warp core micro-fracture.
Breach imminent.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: 44

JANEWAY
(acknowledges)
We don't have a choice. We've got
to get the reaction rate down
before we try to seal it...

He acknowledges, moves off...

45 INT. SICKBAY 45

There's been an explosion from the wall console... an electric fire with sparkles is causing heavy smoke... Kim and Paris arrive... Kim has a fire extinguisher... he sprays chemicals to snuff out the fire... the Nurse and Doctor are both dead... Paris examines them with a tricorder...

PARIS
They must have been right next to
the console when it exploded...

Injured people are starting to arrive now... some of them limping badly... Paris and Kim move to assist them to tables...

KIM
Computer, initiate emergency
medical holographic program...

46 ANGLE (OPTICAL) 46

as a holographic man in a Starfleet medical uniform appears. He has no name for now... but we will get to know him in time as DOC ZIMMERMAN. His manner is colorless, dry.

ZIMMERMAN
Please state the nature of the
medical emergency.

KIM
Multiple percussive injuries...

The doctor quickly moves into action, examining the first patient with a leg wound...

ZIMMERMAN
Status of your doctor?

KIM
He's dead.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

ZIMMERMAN
(to no one in particular)
Point four cc's of trianoline.

KIM
Trianoline?

The doctor reacts, looks up, impatient.

PARIS
We lost our nurse too...

Zimmerman frowns, moves to a cabinet, prepares a hypospray.

ZIMMERMAN
(pro forma)
How soon are replacement medical personnel expected?

KIM
That's going to be a problem...
we're pretty far away from
replacements right now...

Zimmerman treats the leg, no bedside manner here, and moves on to the next patient with a head bruise...

ZIMMERMAN
Tricorder.

Kim hands him his tricorder... Zimmerman looks at it, frowns.

ZIMMERMAN
Medical tricorder.

Kim reacts... looks over to the cabinet... finds a medical tricorder and brings it over, gives it to the doctor. He runs it across the head of the officer...

ZIMMERMAN
A replacement must be requested as soon as possible. I'm programmed only as a short-term emergency supplement to the medical team.

PARIS
Well, we may be stuck with you for awhile, Doc...

Zimmerman glances at Paris for a deadpan moment... you'd almost say that he's reacting as insulted... but that would be our projected feelings, wouldn't they...

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2)

46

ZIMMERMAN

There's no need for concern. I'm capable of treating any injury or disease.

(to the patient, without warmth)

No concussion. You'll be fine.

(to Kim, brusque)

Clean him up.

Moves on to the next patient...

47 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

47

Carey has installed a mini-forcefield across the warp core leak... at both ends are electromagnetic poles... Another engineer works a panel... and an optical jumps between the two electromagnetic poles and the patch begins to glow... the nitrogen leak stops.

JANEWAY

Unlock the magnetic constrictors.

CAREY

Constrictors on-line.

JANEWAY

Pressure?

CAREY

Twenty-five hundred kilopascals... and holding...

Janeway allows herself a satisfied smile...

ROLLINS' COM VOICE

Bridge to Janeway. We're being scanned by the Array, Captain... it's penetrated our shields...

JANEWAY

What kind of scan?

No reply.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

Bridge? Janeway to Bridge. Respond.

No response. She looks across Engineering to see one of the N.D.'s DEMATERIALIZING...

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

JANEWAY
(yelling to Carey)
Initiate emergency...

But before she can finish, she and the others are gone...

48 INT. SICKBAY (OPTICAL)

48

As before... Zimmerman is giving a hypospray to another patient...

ZIMMERMAN
(to patient)
You're not seriously hurt. You
can return to your station.

A moment later, one of the crewmembers DEMATERIALIZES.. *
leaving Zimmerman standing alone, looking around *
confused...he realizes everyone has beamed out... he
moves to a companel... presses it.

ZIMMERMAN
This is the emergency holographic
doctor speaking. I gave no
permission for anyone to be
transported out of Sickbay.
(there is no response)
Hello? Sickbay to Bridge?
(beat, to Bridge)
I believe someone has failed to
terminate my program. Please
respond.

His confusion continues...

49 EXT. FARMYARD - DAY

49

A charming bucolic setting... traditional frame
farmhouse with a wide front porch... a couple of willow
trees in the yard... a barn around back... rolling
hills stretching for miles. It's a balmy summer day,
a few flies are buzzing around the flower garden which
flanks the house. It's the essence of nostalgic mid-
Americana in a timeless setting...

PARIS

50

finds himself by some horses (or another interesting
location)... looks around...

KIM

50A

in another location, spots Paris and moves toward him.

51 JANEWAY AND OTHERS

51

She and several of the personnel from Engineering stand in front of the house, slightly disoriented, trying to get their bearings.

AUNT ADAH'S VOICE

Come up here... come on now...

They turn to see a welcoming, grey-haired woman (AUNT ADAH), apron covering a house dress, beckoning to them from the porch.

AUNT ADAH

I've got a pitcher of lemonade and some sugar cookies...

Janeway takes out her tricorder and begins scanning the area. At this point, Paris and Kim appear from around the corner of the house. Kim also has his tricorder out.

PARIS

Captain...?

JANEWAY

Don't believe your eyes, Mister Paris. We've only transported a hundred kilometers -- we're inside the Array.

KIM

(off his tricorder)
There's no indication of stable matter... all this must be some kind of holographic projection...

Janeway acknowledges. They move closer to the porch as a group. There is something completely beguiling about the atmosphere... the balmy day, the shade trees, the grandmotherly woman with her pitcher of lemonade. She smiles warmly at the Engineering crew...

AUNT ADAH

You poor things... you must be worn out... sit down and rest a while... have a cold drink...

She offers a glass of lemonade to anyone who wants it...

JANEWAY

(speaking for the group)
No, thank you. My name is Kathryn Janeway, Captain of the Federation Starship Voyager --

*

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

AUNT ADAH

Just make yourself right at home.
The neighbors should be here any
minute...

She gazes off, behind Janeway, a big smile lighting her
face.

AUNT ADAH

Why, here they are now.

Janeway turns to see a number of people moving toward the
farmhouse... all of them rural folk, most carrying
picnic hampers... a young strapping farmhand... a
grizzled OLD MAN CARRYING A BANJO... a young and lissome
FARMER'S DAUGHTER... several others. They move to our
people, adlibbing greetings.

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

(to Kim)

We're glad you dropped by...

AUNT ADAH

Now we can get started... you're
all invited to the welcoming bee...

BANJO MAN

Let's have a little music...

He sits and begins frailing a merry tune. The old woman
begins clapping her hands in rhythm, and our people
carefully take in this strange scene, bewildered by the
unexpected events.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

52 EXT. FARMYARD - A LITTLE LATER

52

The rural folk have begun spreading the contents of their picnic hampers on the ground. More of our crew have arrived; the Banjo Man plays a jig, and several of the country people are dancing, trying to draw our people into the festivities. Our people converse with them... but are clearly wary of the situation and not directly participating. Janeway is with Kim, trying to get a handle on things, when Paris approaches.

PARIS

The crew's scattered around this "farm," Captain... but they're all accounted for.

JANEWAY

(acknowledges, good)
Move around... scan the area...
see if you can find anything that
might be a holographic generator.

Paris and Kim nod, and move off together. Aunt Adah approaches Janeway, holds out a plate of corn.

AUNT ADAH

Have some fresh corn on the cob...

JANEWAY

(declining)
Can you tell me why we're here?

AUNT ADAH

We don't mean you any harm...
sorry if we've put you out... just
put your feet up and get
comfortable while you wait...

JANEWAY

Wait for what?

AUNT ADAH

Isn't anyone hungry? Come now,
make yourself at home... sorry to
put you out...

She moves along, looking for someone to take her corn. And she's gone. Janeway angles her tricorder in a new direction, trying to unlock the mystery.

A big shaggy farm dog comes barking up to her, tail wagging, does some kind of mild "trick"...like holding up a paw, or sitting on his haunches.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: (2)

52

Absently, instinctively, while still working the tricorder, Janeway reaches down and scratches the dog's head... then reacts as she remembers it's not a dog, just a projection...

The dog bounds off in another direction and wags its tail at --

53 KIM AND PARIS

53

as they round the corner of the farmhouse. There they all but run into the Farmer's Daughter, who seems to have been waiting for them. She smiles at them... a healthy, milk-fed smile, and links her arm in Paris'.

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

The root cellar's right over there...

She gestures toward the cellar doors. Kim scans them.

KIM

What's down there?

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

Potatoes... onions. But it's real private...

She snuggles against Paris, who smiles appreciatively at her.

KIM

Paris, she's only a hologram.

PARIS

No reason to be rude.

Kim swings his tricorder toward the barn. Reacts. Looks up at it.

PARIS

What?

KIM

Sporocystian life signs...

54 THE BARN - THEIR POV

54

Somehow, even in the gentle rays of the afternoon sun, the barn has a strange, ominous look to it, as though it absorbs the sun like a black hole.

55 BACK TO SCENE

55

Kim and Paris begin moving toward the barn.

KIM

What's in the barn?

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

(to Paris)

Nothing but a big ol' pile of hay.

(tugs his arm)

C'mon... let's go see the duck pond...

But Kim seems to be onto something in the barn. They make their way toward the barn, the Farmer's Daughter skipping along with them, trying to dissuade them.

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

There's nothin' in there... it's just a dark, smelly barn... you want some deviled eggs?

56 INT. BARN (OPTICAL)

56

They move through the doorway. Sunlight filters through slats in the wood, casting strange shadows. There's an eerie quality to the place.

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

See? Nothin' but hay...

Kim lifts the tricorder.

KIM

There's a life form here... just one...

PARIS

Where?

Kim turns to scan the entire barn.

KIM

(reacts)

It's everywhere.

Kim adjusts the tricorder.

KIM

(off tricorder)

I'm also reading some kind of matrix-processing device... it may be the holographic generator...

He makes a quick adjustment to the tricorder, reacts --

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

KIM
Paris! Humanoid life signs...
over here...

They start toward the opposite wall. The Farmer's Daughter stares after them, eyes narrowing. Suddenly she VANISHES and then REAPPEARS across the room, in front of Paris and Kim. She's not smiling any more.

FARMER'S DAUGHTER
(voice of the Banjo Man)
I'm not ready for you yet.

They react to this, then whirl as they HEAR a vicious snarl behind them.

57 THE DOG

57

is standing before them, ruff raised, fangs bared, slathering, growling menacingly, his friendly demeanor gone entirely. Paris reacts to this, then hits his combadge.

PARIS
Paris to Janeway --

But suddenly the Farmer's Daughter lashes out with a backhand that sends him flying backwards across the room.

58 EXT. FARMYARD (OPTICAL)

58

Janeway reacts to the interrupted hail.

JANEWAY
Janeway here.
(beat)
Paris?

There's no answer. She puts her tricorder into motion... sees something in the direction of the barn, starts for it at a trot. Beckoning to some of the N.D.s...

JANEWAY
Come on...

They fall in with her, heading toward the barn. Several of the holographic characters disappear... the Banjo Man does not... he continues to plunk on the strings...

59 INT. BARN (OPTICAL)

59

Paris struggles to his feet as Kim is driven back by the dog to keep him away from the wall.

(CONTINUED)

- 59 CONTINUED: 59
- Suddenly Aunt Adah and others APPEAR in front of them, brandishing pitchforks. Janeway and the others rush in. Behind them, the barn door slams SHUT.
- AUNT ADAH
(voice of the Banjo Man)
Very well. Since no one seems to care for any corn...
(beat)
We'll have to proceed ahead of schedule.
- One wall of the barn DISAPPEARS to reveal --
- 60 THROUGH A DOOR - THEIR POV - MATTE (OPTICAL) 60
- A shocking sight -- a long row of bodies, naked under transparent wrappings, suspended in a vast chamber on anti-grav slabs... the row stretching into an impossible distance... probes running from the ceiling into the bodies like perverse artificial life support systems. They are all Maquis members, including B'Elanna (seen prominently by Kim), Tuvok and Chakotay -- all of them unconscious and pale.
- 61 KIM 61
- gasps at the horrible sight.
- 62 ALL THE HOLOGRAMS (OPTICAL) 62
- explode into blinding LIGHT which envelops them and they disappear... and then...
- 63 INT. CHAMBER 63
- Paris and Janeway, also wrapped in the transparent material, are in a horizontal position... Kim the same, nearby...
- 64 ON KIM 64
- as he looks up with horror to see --
- 65 HIS POV 65
- sharp probes coming down slowly from the ceiling...

- 66 VARIOUS REACTIONS 66
 from Janeway and Paris as the probes come down and down
 and...
- 67 KIM 67
 he yells as the probe penetrates his chest... and in
 the last throes of agony, he glances over with pained
 eyes and sees...
- 68 HIS POV - PARIS 68
 mad as hell, looking back at him, the probe in his
 chest...
- 69 KIM 69
 mercifully loses consciousness.
- 70 JANEWAY 70
 struggles to hold on to consciousness as long as
 possible but finally she loses the battle and she too
 goes pale and passes out...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

- 71 INT. ENGINEERING - CLOSE ON JANEWAY 71
 recovering consciousness on the floor... she gets her
 bearings quickly... all the same people who were
 transported away from Engineering are back in roughly
 the same places they were before but lying down...

JANEWAY
 (hits combadge)
 Janeway to Bridge. Anybody there?

ROLLINS' COM VOICE
 (shaky)
 Yes, Captain. We're here.

She's up and moving.

JANEWAY
 How long were we over there...

INTERCUTTING AS
 NEEDED:

72 INT. BRIDGE 72

He checks panels...

ROLLINS

Almost three days...

(off console readings)

Captain, the Maquis ship is
powering up its engines.

73 INT. ENGINEERING 73

JANEWAY

Tractor them. All senior officers
report to the Bridge immediately.

She moves to EXIT...

74 INT. SICKBAY 74

Everyone is back where they started, groggy, but there
is no Kim. Zimmerman remains perplexed by the whole
thing... Paris is realizing now that Kim is missing...
his eyes search the room for him...

ZIMMERMAN

(to Paris)

Could you explain what has
transpired...?

But hell, he's a hologram; Paris doesn't have time to
chat with a hologram right now... he ignores the
question...

PARIS

Computer, locate Ensign Kim.

COMPUTER VOICE

Ensign Kim is not on board.

PARIS

(reacts, hits combadge)

Paris to Captain Janeway...

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE

Go ahead.

75 INT. BRIDGE 75

Janeway moving with urgency as she arrives...

PARIS' COM VOICE

Kim didn't come back with us... he
must still be over there...

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

JANEWAY

Acknowledged. Computer, how many crewmen are unaccounted for?

COMPUTER VOICE

One. Ensign Harry Kim.

She reacts. A beat... moves to her position.

JANEWAY

Hail the Maquis.

76 ANGLE (OPTICAL) - INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN

76

JANEWAY

Commander Chakotay, I'm Captain Kathryn Janeway.

CHAKOTAY

How do you know my name?

JANEWAY

We were on a mission to find you when we were brought here by the Array... One of our crewmen is missing... was he transported back to your ship by accident?

CHAKOTAY

(beat)

No. A member of our crew is missing too... B'Elanna Torres, my engineer.

JANEWAY

(beat)

Commander, you and I have the same problem... I think it makes sense to try and solve it together, don't you?

CHAKOTAY

How can we...

He hesitates, looking for the words.

JANEWAY

I'm fully aware that your crew is wanted for crimes committed in the Demilitarized Zone, Chakotay, but the Demilitarized Zone is thousands of light years away. I don't think that means much right now, do you?

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

A beat. Chakotay glances at Tuvok, nods...

CHAKOTAY

Three of us will transport to your ship.

He cuts transmission. Paris arrives on the Bridge.

77 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

77

ROLLINS

They're powering down their engines. Dropping their shields.

Chakotay, Tuvok and another Maquis crewman MATERIALIZE on the Bridge... they have phasers at the ready, just in case it's a trick... as they appear, Rollins and other Supernumeraries begin to draw phasers as well...

JANEWAY

(to her crew)
Put down your weapons.
(to Chakotay, re:
phasers)
You won't need those here.

He studies her and finally accepts her word. He holsters his phaser. His colleague does the same. Tuvok, the spy, never really brandished it in the first place. Janeway smiles warmly at the Vulcan.

JANEWAY

It's good to have you back, Tuvok.

Off Chakotay's reaction...

TUVOK

I must inform you that I was assigned to infiltrate your crew, sir. I am Captain Janeway's Chief of Security.

CHAKOTAY

(cold)
Were you going to deliver us into their waiting hands, Vulcan?

TUVOK

(straightforward)
My mission was to accumulate information on Maquis activities. And then to deliver you into their... "waiting hands"... that is correct.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

Chakotay feels betrayed and angry at himself for falling for the ruse, but his eyes settle on Paris and they're really full of hate now...

CHAKOTAY

(scathing)

I see you had help.

PARIS

It's good to see you too,
Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY

At least the Vulcan was doing his duty as a Starfleet officer. But you... you betrayed us for... what? Freedom from prison? Latinum? What was your price this time, Poo-CUH?

Janeway moves to put a quick stop to that in no uncertain terms... speaks softly, firmly...

JANEWAY

You're speaking to a member of my crew. I expect you to treat him with the same respect you would have me treat a member of yours.

(beat)

Now, we have a lot to accomplish and I suggest we all concentrate on finding our people and getting ourselves back home.

Chakotay and Paris stare each other down for a long beat... until Chakotay finally backs off... but this will be a conflict that lasts a long time.

TUVOK

Based on my initial reconnaissance, Captain, I am convinced we are dealing with a single entity in the Array... I would suggest that he scanned our computers in order to select a comfortable holographic environment... in effect, a waiting room -- to pacify us, prior to a biometric assessment...

PARIS

An examination?

TUVOK

It is the most logical explanation. Why else would we have been released unharmed?

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED: (3)

77

PARIS

Not all of us were.

JANEWAY

(to Tuvok)

Break out the compression phaser rifles... meet us in Transporter Room Two. We're going back. We'll divide into two teams. Mister Tuvok, while Chakotay and I look for Kim and Torres, your job is to find out as much about this Array as you can... it brought us here, we have to assume it can send us home.

Tuvok acknowledges, leads out Chakotay and the other Maquis...

JANEWAY

Mister Rollins, maintain red alert, keep us on constant transporter locks...

Rollins nods... she begins to leave... once again Paris has no orders... it takes him a beat to get this out of his throat...

PARIS

Captain... I'd like to go with you.

JANEWAY

(beat)

If this has something to do with what Chakotay said...

PARIS

It doesn't. I'd just... hate to see anything happen... to Harry.

They study each other a long time. Finally seeing that this really matters to him, she nods.

JANEWAY

Come on.

And as they EXIT...

78 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 78

beside the huge Array with the Maquis ship.

79 EXT. FARMYARD (OPTICAL) 79

Janeway, Tuvok, Paris, Chakotay, and the Maquis N.D. walk into in the yard; several people have the compression rifles. All evidence of the recent festivities is gone; no one is there, except the lone Banjo Man who eerily plucks the banjo, several yards away, out of earshot, his eyes closed as he plays. Tuvok looks at his tricorder...

TUVOK

There are no humanoid lifeforms indicated, Captain. Kim and Torres are not within tricorder range. They may not be on the Array.

CHAKOTAY

(re: the Banjo Man)

He can tell us where they are.

JANEWAY

(acknowledges, to Tuvok)

Maintain your com link... I don't want to lose anyone else...

Tuvok acknowledges, glances at the Maquis N.D. who joins him and they move off toward the barn. Janeway, Paris and Chakotay move to the holographic Banjo Man. The old man opens his eyes and stops playing... he frowns at the intruders... is rather dismissive and arrogant...

BANJO MAN

Why have you come back? You don't have what I need.

And Janeway confronts him forcefully; she's angry.

JANEWAY

I don't know what you need. And frankly, I don't care. I just want our people back and I want us all to be sent home.

The old man blinks at her aggressiveness. Smiles, slightly patronizing...

BANJO MAN

Well now, aren't you contentious for a minor bipedal species...

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

JANEWAY

This minor bipedal species doesn't take kindly to being abducted.

BANJO MAN

It was necessary.

CHAKOTAY

Where are our people?

BANJO MAN

They're no longer here.

JANEWAY

What have you done to them?

BANJO MAN

(ignoring the question)

You don't have what I need. They might. You'll have to leave them.

CHAKOTAY

We won't do that.

JANEWAY

We are their commanding officers. We are entrusted with their safety. They are our responsibility. That may be a concept you don't understand...

For some reason that hits home with the Banjo Man... he connects in a real way with Janeway...

BANJO MAN

(softer)

No. I do understand. But I have no choice. There's so little time left.

JANEWAY

Left for what?

BANJO MAN

(self-absorbed)

I must honor the debt that can never be repaid.

(off their puzzled looks)

But my search has not gone well...

Janeway glances at the others, as perplexed as they are about this enigmatic man. Taking a new tack --

JANEWAY

Tell us what you're looking for. Maybe we can help you find it.

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED: (3)

79

BANJO MAN

You? I've searched the galaxy
with methods beyond your
comprehension. There is nothing
you can do.

(sighs)

You're free to go. If it's ever
possible to return your people, I
promise you I will.

CHAKOTAY

That's not good enough.

JANEWAY

(firm)

You've taken us seventy thousand
light years from our home. We
have no way back unless you send
us -- and we won't leave without
the others.

BANJO MAN

Sending you back is terribly
complicated... Don't you
understand? I don't have time...
not enough time...

The old man has had enough of this and suddenly there's
a transport flash and our people find themselves back
on --

80 INT. BRIDGE

80

Rollins and Supernumeraries are in the midst of clean
up and repair operations. They turn to see the five
members of the Away Team now on The Bridge... on their
reactions... and Janeway's thoughtful expression...

81 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - KIM'S POV -- LOOKING UP AT
A BRIGHT LIGHT

81

82 KIM - EXTREME CLOSEUP

82

his eyes reacting to the light as he awakens with a
start...

83 KIM'S POV -- THE FACE OF A YOUNG OCAMPA NURSE

83

moves into his view followed by another face of a
middle-aged Ocampa DOCTOR... they wear bland, colorless
alien clothing... their voices are warm and
sympathetic which only makes this more horrifying...
The room is simple and extremely low-tech -- in fact,
it is non-tech.

(CONTINUED)

83 CONTINUED: (2) 83

NURSE'S VOICE
(telepathic)
He's regaining consciousness...

The doctor moves over, smiles down.

DOCTOR'S VOICE
(telepathic)
How do you feel?

84 WIDER 84

to see Kim is on a hospital type bed, naked in a gown...

KIM
What am I doing here? Where am I?

The Nurse nods she can handle this while he sees to the other patient. He moves away... The Nurse is genuinely concerned about Kim and the circumstances he finds himself in. She speaks aloud to him.

NURSE
Please, don't try to move yet...
you're very ill...

KIM
Ill? There's some mistake... I'm
not...

As he rises on an elbow and pulls an arm up out of the sheet to get up... he stops because, he sees --

85 ON HIS HANDS AND ARMS 85

are tumorous growths...

86 KIM'S FACE 86

as he reacts to the sight and he looks to his chest to see --

87 MORE TUMOROUS GROWTHS 87

88 KIM 88

reacts with shock...

TORRES (O.C.)
No!

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED: (2) 88

...he turns to the voice to see the Doctor pushed hard to the wall as he's elbowed by --

89 B'ELANNA 89

She pauses for an instant as she sees Kim for the first time, looking at her... she has tumors on her neck and arms... She bolts quickly for the door. The Nurse hits an alarm as the Doctor moves to grab her... B'Elanna makes a noise that almost sounds like an animal and knocks him to the floor viciously... but two rugged Orderlies arrive at the door... grab her and bring her back inside...

DOCTOR'S VOICE
(telepathic, calmly)
Hold her still...

And as they do, she sees herself in a mirror, sees the tumor on her neck, reacts with shock and fear... and then the Doctor puts a small medical device against her upper back and she loses consciousness.

DOCTOR'S VOICE
(telepathic)
Bring her over here...

As they take her back to the bed, on Kim's reaction...

90 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 90

beside the Maquis ship and the pulsing Array.

JANEWAY (V.O.)
Captain's log, Stardate 48315.6.
We've traced the energy pulses
from the Array to the fifth planet
of the neighboring system...

91 INT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL) 91

Janeway is working, near exhaustion, at her desk, taking readings from a PADD, examining a monitor on which we can see an Okudagram of the fifth planet in the neighboring system... and this is a good time to mention that this Ready Room, unlike others we've seen in the past, is the office of a science officer... and should have appropriate equipment to service her investigative needs... Red alert has ended.

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED:

91

JANEWAY (V.O)
(continuing)
...and believe they may have been
used in some fashion to transport
Kim and Torres to the planet's
surface.

A chime.

JANEWAY
Come in.

Tuvok ENTERS.

TUVOK
Captain, I've observed something
peculiar about the pulses.
(off her reaction)
They're getting faster.

JANEWAY
Faster?

TUVOK
The interval between each pulse
has decreased by point-four-seven
seconds since we arrived. I can
offer no explanation.

Janeway sighs, frustrated...

JANEWAY
That's only one of the mysteries
we're dealing with, Mister Tuvok.
Look at this --

He moves to observe the monitor...

92 THE OKUDAGRAM (OPTICAL)

92

the fifth planet... and we can see the pulses directed
straight to it.

JANEWAY (O.C.)
(reacting to what she
sees)
It's virtually a desert -- the
whole planet... not one ocean, not
one river... It has all the basic
characteristics of an "M" class
planet... except...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

92

JANEWAY (Cont'd)
(blowing an analytical
equation up larger on
screen)
...there are no nucleogenic
particles in the atmosphere...

93 RESUME

93

TUVOK
That would mean the planet is
incapable of producing clouds and
rain...

JANEWAY
(acknowledges)
I've studied thousands of M class
planets -- I've never seen an
atmosphere without nucleogenics.
There must have been some kind of
extraordinary environmental
disaster.
(beat)
As soon as repairs are complete,
we'll set a course for the fifth
planet...

Tuvok acknowledges but sees she is clearly exhausted...

TUVOK
Captain, you require sleep...

JANEWAY
(beat)
Kim's mother called me just after
he left Earth... a delightful
woman, her only son... he'd left
his clarinet behind... she wanted
to know if she had time to send
it... I had to tell her no... did
you know he played the clarinet in
the Juilliard Youth Symphony?

TUVOK
I didn't have the opportunity to
meet Mister Kim.

JANEWAY
I barely knew him. I never seem
to have the chance to get to know
any of them. I have to take more
time to do that... it's a fine
crew... and I've got to get them
home...

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

TUVOK

The crew will not benefit from the leadership of an exhausted Captain.

JANEWAY

You're right. As usual.

(beat)

I've missed your counsel, Tuvok.

TUVOK

I am gratified that you came after me so I can offer it once again.

JANEWAY

(beat)

I spoke to your family before I left.

TUVOK

Are they well?

JANEWAY

Well, but worried about you.

TUVOK

That would not be an accurate perception, Captain. Vulcans do not "worry".

JANEWAY

They miss you.

TUVOK

As I do them.

JANEWAY

I'll get you back to them. That's a promise, Tuvok.

Tuvok acknowledges. And he EXITS. On Janeway's committed expression...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

94 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) 94

as they approach a field of debris. It's a vast sprawl of detritus -- obsolete satellites and probes, wrecked spacecraft, rotted freighters and tankers whose contents have eaten through their hulls. It's a weird and eerie mass of flotsam which suggests toxic pollution.

JANEWAY (V.O.)

Captain's Log, supplemental. I've been informed that we've encountered a debris field, in which sensors have detected a small vessel. A humanoid lifeform is on board.

95 OMITTED 95

96 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 96

As she arrives... Tuvok at Tactical, Supernumerary at Conn, Rollins at Ops, Paris still an observer.

JANEWAY

Hail them.

The cramped cabin of the alien vessel appears on screen, filled with an eclectic assortment of junk. The lone occupant, whom we'll come to know as NEELIX, seems startled by the hail. Neelix is, frankly, unattractive but in a teddy bear sort of way. He takes great pride in his appearance but what can anyone do who hasn't seen water in two weeks... from our point of view, he might seem rather, well, dirty. He has adopted an air of cultivated elegance and charm rather like the concierge at a one-star hotel. (The key to Neelix is to understand that there is not a more noble heart in the universe... he is a survivor who will scavenge and wheel and deal but he wouldn't harm a fly and has a core sense of honor. He is extremely loveable.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED:

96

His purpose in life will become to make himself useful in any way he can to us. His reward for proving himself a valuable mate is a lifestyle he never dreamed about.)

NEELIX

Whoever you are, I found this waste zone first.

JANEWAY

(realizing his concerns)
We're not interested in this debris, Mister...

NEELIX

Neelix... and since you are not interested in my debris, I am delighted to meet you...

JANEWAY

Captain Kathryn Janeway of the Federation Starship Voyager.

NEELIX

A very impressive title. I have no idea what it means but it sounds very impressive.

His smile is warm, his humor is natural and Janeway feels comfortable sounding him out.

JANEWAY

Do you know this area of space well, Mister Neelix?

NEELIX

I am famous for knowing it well. How may I be of service?

JANEWAY

Do you know anything about the Array that's sending energy pulses to the fifth planet?

NEELIX

(smiles)

I know enough to stay as far away from it as possible.

(realizing)

Wait. Let me guess. You were whisked away from somewhere else in the galaxy and brought here against your will.

JANEWAY

It sounds as though you've heard this story before.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED: (2)

96

NEELIX

Sadly, yes. Thousands of times... well, hundreds, maybe fifty times -- the Caretaker has been bringing ships here for months now...

JANEWAY

The Caretaker?

NEELIX

(shrugs, yes, it sounds odd)

That's what the Ocampa call him. They live on the fifth planet. Did he kidnap members of your crew?

JANEWAY

As a matter of fact, he did.

Neelix's eyes turn sad and sympathetic... he nods.

NEELIX

It's not the first time.

JANEWAY

Do you know where he might have taken them?

NEELIX

I've heard they're sent to the Ocampa. Nothing more.

JANEWAY

We'd appreciate any help you could give us in finding these Ocampa...

NEELIX

I wish I could help... but as you can see there is so much debris to investigate today... you'd be surprised the things of value some people abandon...

Clearly, he is angling delicately for a payback for his information, and Janeway realizes that.

JANEWAY

Of course, we'd want to compensate you for your trouble.

He looks at her as though it were the furthest thing from his mind.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED: (3)

96

NEELIX

There's very little you could offer me.

(beat, an "idea")

Unless...

JANEWAY

Yes?

NEELIX

Unless... of course, you had... water...

JANEWAY

(reacts momentarily, but of course, it makes sense)

If you help us find our missing crewmembers, you can have all the water you want.

Neelix is dumbfounded.

NEELIX

That seems like a... reasonable arrangement.

JANEWAY

Good, we'll beam you over and tow your ship into our shuttlebay. Mister Tuvok, go to Transporter Room Two and meet our guest.

Tuvok EXITS. Neelix looks at her, perplexed.

NEELIX

Beam?

She realizes he's unfamiliar with transporter technology. This is a different part of space.

JANEWAY

We have a technology which can take you instantly from your ship to ours. It's quite harmless. May we?

Neelix stares at her, then lifts his arms in an attitude of acceptance. All these wonders seem too good to be true.

97 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

97

Tuvok ENTERS and tells the Transporter Chief to --

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED:

97

TUVOK

Energize.

Neelix MATERIALIZES on the pad, immediately ducks, eyes wide and gasps. He looks at his arms, as though amazed they're whole.

NEELIX

Astonishing... you Federations are obviously an advanced culture.

Neelix smells ghastly and though Tuvok is too polite to tell us, his reaction makes it clear.

TUVOK

The Federation is made up of many cultures. I am Vulcan.

NEELIX

Neelix. Good to meet you.

Tuvok thinks about clarifying but decides better of it. Meanwhile, Neelix is immediately distracted by all of the technological consoles in the room.

NEELIX

Interesting. What exactly does all this do?

The Transporter Chief coughs lightly as the body odor gets closer...

TUVOK

I assure you that everything in this room has a specific function. However, it would take several hours to explain it all. I suggest we proceed to your quarters. Perhaps you would care for a bath.

Exit line --

NEELIX

A what?

And they EXIT.

98 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

98

Close on B'Elanna as she regains consciousness... this time, Harry moves to her side... she sits upright immediately... her eyes glancing around for a threat... they still have gowns on...

(CONTINUED)

98 CONTINUED:

98

KIM
(calming her)
It's okay... it's okay...

TORRES
Who are you? What is this place?

She's immediately on her feet, restless, examining the room they're in...

KIM
My name is Kim. Harry Kim. I'm
an Ensign on the Starship Voyager.
I was kidnapped from the Array
just like you were. I don't know
where we are...

She looks at him curiously...

TORRES
What was Starfleet doing at that
Array?

KIM
We were looking for you, actually.
One minute, we were in the
Badlands... the next...

TORRES
You mean you were trying to
capture us...

KIM
(dry)
Yeah. Consider yourself captured.
("checking" his gown)
I know I have a phaser here
somewhere.

TORRES
I don't find this at all amusing,
Starfleet.

She's been moving throughout the room during this...
steam building up again inside... checking the
doorway...

KIM
There's no point... it's locked...

B'Elanna loses her temper again... pounds on the door
furiously... Kim moves over and steps between her and
the door, grabbing one hand...

KIM
Hey, hey... what's that going to
accomplish...

(CONTINUED)

98 CONTINUED: (2)

98

She doesn't want to calm down... resisting him...

TORRES

...What are they doing to us?
What are these things growing on
us...?

KIM

Do you want them to sedate you
again?

That brings her down... she moves away, angry but
internalizing...

TORRES

You're right, Starfleet.
(a throwaway)
It's the Klingon half of me. I
just can't control it sometimes.

KIM

What's your name, Maquis?

TORRES

B'Elanna. B'Elanna Torres.
(beat)
Have they told you anything?

KIM

Only that they're called the
Ocampo... I can tell you one
other thing -- their medicine is
from the dark ages... the nurse
actually tried to bleed me this
morning...

The door opens... B'Elanna starts to bolt, but a look
from Kim stops her in her tracks... the Doctor ENTERS,
stands by the door just in case there's further
trouble. Harry and B'Elanna keep their distance. He
is extremely sympathetic and warm, a terrific bedside
manner. He carries two outfits on his arm.

DOCTOR

I hope you're feeling better. I
know how frightening this must be
for both of you. I've brought you
some clothes if you'd care to
change.

TORRES

Why are you holding us here?

DOCTOR

You're not prisoners. In fact, we
consider you honored guests. The
Caretaker has sent you to us.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

98 CONTINUED: (3)

98

DOCTOR (Cont'd)
As long as you're not violent,
you're free to leave your
quarters.

KIM
(re: the tumors)
What's wrong with us... what are
these things?

DOCTOR
We really don't know... You must
be hungry. Would you care to join
me on the courtyard for a meal?

B'Elanna and Harry exchange a glance... they are
hungry...

99 INT. CORRIDOR LEADING TO HOSPITAL COURTYARD

99

The Doctor, Kim and Torres. They've changed into the
clothes the Doctor brought.

KIM
If we're not prisoners, we'd like
to return to our ships and our own
doctors.

DOCTOR
That isn't possible. You see
there's no way to get to the
surface...

TORRES
What do you mean "to the surface"?

But as they come out into "daylight", the question
answers itself... for as they look up, they see--

100 REVERSE ANGLE - MATTE SHOT (OPTICAL)

100

An extraordinary underground city is spread out before
them. It is an architecturally bleak space, devoid of
anything organic -- grass, plants -- and composed of
shades of grey and silver and artificial blue light.
And yet even in its coldness, there is an odd beauty.
Anti-grav people-movers move across the horizon. There
are escalators and elevators and moveable walkways
everywhere. No one walks unless it's a few steps to a
food replicator or a shop... the key to this society is
convenience and conformity in every shape and form...
the clothes the Ocampo wear are of one drab color...
although they are not uniforms, they are very similarly
tailored...

101 ANGLE - COURTYARD

101

as they take in the sight...

KIM
(reacting)
We're underground...!

DOCTOR
Our society is subterranean.
We've lived here for over five
hundred generations.

TORRES
But before that... you lived on
the surface?

DOCTOR
Until the warming began.

KIM
The warming?

DOCTOR
When the surface turned into a
desert and the Caretaker came to
protect us. Our ancient journals
tell us he opened a deep chasm in
the ground and led our ancestors
to this place. He has provided
for all our needs since then.

Passersby stare with awe at B'Elanna and Harry like celebrities... discuss them among themselves with telepathy we cannot hear... The faces of these people on the courtyard are the faces we have seen in cultures like Soviet Russia, with dull eyes and little exuberance for living... a subtle stagnation dominates their existence... (but they are still intelligent, living beings and should never slip into a "zombie" like state).

DOCTOR
(off their looks)
Please forgive them. They know
you've come from the Caretaker.
None of us has ever seen him...

102 NEW ANGLE

102

As they reach a bank of food dispensers... they find a crowd in a long line...

(CONTINUED)

102 CONTINUED:

102

DOCTOR

Oh, I'm afraid one of the food dispensers has failed again... the service attendant must be busy elsewhere...

(V.O., telepathic to the long line)

Would you please excuse us...

The crowd sees the visitors, reacts to them as VIPs, and move back with awe, allowing them to the head of the line... we can see in the process that everyone gets the same identical food on sterile plates -- it looks like puppy chow... alien utensils are provided as well. It's all provided, there are no choices to be made.

TORRES

(re: the unappetizing puppy chow)

Does he provide your meals too?

DOCTOR

In fact, he does. He designed and built this entire city for us after The Warming. The food processors dispense nutritional supplements every four-point-one intervals. It may not offer the exotic tastes some of our young people crave these days, but it meets our needs.

103 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

103

They now move past a huge screen with images of nature as these people can never know it... like having an ocean video on your VCR. Images of rivers and forests and trees and blue sky are accompanied by beautiful soothing music. A crowd of people observe the images with hypnotic intensity.

KIM

(re: the monitors)

Is this how the Caretaker communicates with you...?

DOCTOR

He never communicates directly. We try to interpret his wishes as best we can.

They move to --

104 A SEATED AREA (OPTICAL)

104

where people eat... as they watch the same images on giant screens.

KIM

I'm curious to know how you've interpreted the Caretaker's reason for sending us here...

They sit. The Doctor nods, a reasonable question, and knows it's time for full disclosure about their disease... after a thoughtful "medical" beat...

DOCTOR

We believe he must have separated you from your own species for their protection...

TORRES

Their protection?

DOCTOR

From your illness. Perhaps he is trying to prevent a plague.

TORRES

(scoffs)

We weren't sick until we met your Caretaker.

KIM

Why would he send us to you if he thought this is an infectious disease?

DOCTOR

He must know we're immune. From time to time, he asks us to care for people with this disease. It's the least we can do to repay his...

TORRES

(interrupting)

There have been others like us?

DOCTOR

Yes...

TORRES

Where are they?

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED:

104

DOCTOR
(with direct eye
contact)
Your condition is serious. We
don't know exactly how to treat
it. I'm afraid the others did not
recover.

As Harry exchanges a glance with B'Elanna...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

FADE IN:

105 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 105
and the Maquis Ship in orbit around the fifth planet.

106 INT. VOYAGER - CORRIDOR 106
Tuvok approaches a door, pushes the panel.

NEELIX'S VOICE

Come in!

The door OPENS and he ENTERS.

107 INT. NEELIX'S QUARTERS 107
As Tuvok comes into the room, he stops as he sees the scene before him.

108 THE ROOM - TUVOK'S POV 108
It is the remains of a gargantuan repast. The bones of some unidentified roast meat are scattered on the table -- and on the floor. Empty and half-empty dishes are scattered... and pitchers of water everywhere.

109 BACK TO SCENE 109
as he absorbs this Falstaffian scene. From another room, he can hear a voice trilling a vague melody in a falsetto voice. He follows the sound to the door of the next room, but doesn't enter.

110 INT. VOYAGER - BATHROOM 110
Clouds of steam roil through the room, all but obscuring the bathtub. The singing (for want of a better word) grows louder. Tuvok, at the door, peers into the steam.

TUVOK

Sir?

A head appears above the rim of the tub -- a drenched and very much cleaner Neelix, who is perfectly at home and at ease even though Tuvok is observing his bath.

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED:

110

NEELIX

Mister Vulcan! Come in, come in!

Tuvok doesn't move.

NEELIX

Please -- I can hardly see you!

He takes one step inside the door, but doesn't look directly at him.

NEELIX

I want to thank you for your hospitality. I must admit I haven't had access to a... a food replor --

(groping for word)

-- replicator before...

TUVOK

(dry)

I'd never have guessed.

NEELIX

(irrepressible)

And to immerse myself in water!
Do you know what joy this is?

He sinks under the water again, savoring the sensation.

NEELIX

Nobody around here wastes water in this manner... A good sand scrub -- that's the best we can hope for.

He pours water over himself from a pitcher on the side of the tub, luxuriating.

TUVOK

I'm pleased you're enjoying yourself, but we're in orbit of the fifth planet. We need your assistance.

Neelix springs to his feet in full naked view of Tuvok.

NEELIX

Could you hand me the towel?

A bit taken aback, Tuvok grabs a towel, hands it to him without looking at him.

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED: (2)

110

NEELIX

If you will scan the southern continent, you'll find a range of extinct volcanoes. Follow the foothills north, until you discover a dry river bed. You'll find an encampment there.

TUVOK

Do you believe our people might be at this location?

NEELIX

It's not impossible. Maybe. Perhaps not. But we'll find them. We'll need several containers of water to bring for barter...

(Tuvok acknowledges)

Do these replicators make clothing, as well?

TUVOK

Yes.

NEELIX

Will it make me a uniform like yours?

TUVOK

No, it most certainly will not.

Neelix shrugs and moves towards the other room singing happily in his falsetto voice. After a beat and a private reaction, Tuvok follows.

111 EXT. KAZON-OGLA SETTLEMENT - DAY - MATTE (OPTICAL)

111

A dry, arid terrain, blistering hot and foreboding. A strange and alien-looking mining camp which is located in the middle of what was once a large waterway. Surrounding the camp are the remnants of ancient ruins -- crumbling walls, abandoned structures -- largely covered with sand. At a remove from the camp are several alien VESSELS. There are STRUCTURES to house the miners.

Various aliens move through the camp. They are a lean, scrawny people who dress in an assortment of unkempt clothing. Their skin is parched and desiccated; the sun has produced blotches on some. This appears to be a camp of people barely able to survive, bereft of creature comforts and living a harsh, hardscrabble life. They are the KAZON-OGLA, whom we will come to know, over the course of the series, as a lethal, deadly sect.

112 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

112

at the edge of the encampment... Janeway, Chakotay, Paris, Tuvok, and Neelix MATERIALIZE. Well in the background, we can see the Array's pulses flash from the sky every few seconds... and we may notice them going into a huge crater... a deep, resonant SOUND accompanies this blast. (NOTE: We will continue this SOUND throughout scenes on the planet; first at intervals of about five seconds, and gradually, by the end of Act Eight, speeding up to be almost constant before they cut out completely. When we are underground, the SOUNDS will be appropriately muffled.) At the appearance of the crew, a few of the Kazon react, quite scared... they retreat, yelling an alien warning to others...

KAZON WALLA

Dye-boh! Dye-boh!

The group looks around, getting their bearings.

PARIS

Why would anyone want to live in a place like this?

NEELIX

The rich cormaline deposits are very much in demand...

CHAKOTAY

The Ocampa use it for barter?

NEELIX

Not the Ocampa. The Kazon-Ogla...

JANEWAY

Kazon-Ogla? Who are the Kazon-Ogla?

NEELIX

They are...

(throwaway explanation)

Kazon sects control this part of the quadrant... some have water, some have ore, some have food... they all trade and they all try to kill each other...

Now, many aliens are coming out of structures... well-armed and ready for anything...

JANEWAY

I thought you said the Ocampa had our people --

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED:

112

But Neelix has already sprung forward, moving to meet the swarm of approaching aliens... expansive and confident as he addresses them.

NEELIX
(overlapping)
My friends! It's good to see you again!

But as the approaching swarm sees it's Neelix, they erupt in angry Walla, mob him without stopping... half a dozen grab Neelix and lift him bodily in the air... the Gene Wilder smile never leaves Neelix's face...

NEELIX
Wait... wait... yes, it's always wonderful to be back with you but I must speak with your Maje, the ever-wise Jabin...

As our people are quickly disarmed by the Kazon, they watch helplessly as Neelix is dumped, standing against a wall... an ad hoc firing squad readies his execution... the angry walla grows in fury...

NEELIX
Very amusing, very amusing. I enjoy a joke as much as the next man.

Their leader (JABIN) arrives to see what is going on...

NEELIX
Jabin! My old friend.

But Jabin doesn't move to intercede, glares at Neelix, glances at the crew... The firing squad raises their weapons to fire... the panic in Neelix's eyes betrays his smile...

NEELIX
Water! I have water to replace all that I borrowed!

That pauses the action...

NEELIX
(pointing to the crew)
Their ship has technology that can make water out of thin air.

The group now turns their attention to our people. After a beat, Paris unhooks a canteen from his belt and tosses it to Jabin... who catches it, looks at us curiously, looks at it, opens it and drinks...

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED: (2)

112

it causes much excitement among the Kazon and they completely forget about Neelix... as the water is passed around and quickly depleted...

JABIN
(to the crew)
You have more?

Janeway takes stock of the situation, hits a combadge --

JANEWAY
Janeway to Voyager. Energize.

113 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

113

Two vats of water with spigots appear near-by... a cause for celebration as the Kazon attack the water greedily... the leader studies Janeway carefully as a man who is suddenly facing a powerful new threat ...

JANEWAY
There's more where that came from
if you can help us.

JABIN
(with attitude)
How can we help someone so
powerful they can create water out
of thin air?

JANEWAY
This man --
(points to Neelix)
-- led us here suggesting we might
find a people called the Ocampo.
Do you know where they are?

JABIN
Ocampo?

He glances into the crowd and standing in the back observing the chaos is KES. Kes is an Ocampo female (the same species as we have seen caring for Torres and Kim). She has a dazzling, ethereal beauty, waifish and fragile. But Kes is not frail: there is a dignity to her bearing, an alertness in her look, that suggests a being of powerful intelligence. At the moment she is dressed in ragged clothing, and her shoulders and arms bear bruises which suggest she has been ill treated.

JABIN
She is Ocampo.

Kes sees them looking at her, reacts with curiosity, glances at Neelix who has moved back to the main group...

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED: (2)

113

JABIN
(continuing)

Why would you be interested in these worthless creatures? They only live nine years. And they make poor servants. We caught this one when she wandered to the surface.

JANEWAY
To the surface? You mean they live underground?

Jabin motions to the latest pulse arriving... with disdain...

JABIN
The entity in space that gives them food and power also gave them sole access to the only water on this world -- two miles below the surface...

Janeway considers Jabin as a threat, but decides to put more cards on the table...

JANEWAY
This same entity has abducted two of our people. We believe they might be with the Ocampa.

JABIN
There is no way to get to them. We've tried. The entity has established some kind of subterranean barrier we cannot penetrate.

CHAKOTAY
But she got out...

JABIN
(acknowledges)
Occasionally, some do find their way to the surface... We don't know how... but the Ocampa ~~always~~ seal the tunnels afterwards.

NEELIX
Maybe she could help these good people find a way down...

JABIN
You'd be wasting your time with her.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED: (4)

113

JABIN (Cont'd)
I've used every method of persuasion I know to get her to help us. She won't.

NEELIX
Then she's worthless to you. Let us trade you water for the scrawny little thing.

A beat as Jabin considers.

JABIN
I would be more interested in acquiring this -- technology -- that allows you to create water.

JANEWAY
That would be difficult. It's integrated into our ship's systems.

Jabin nods, considers the offer... moves away to discuss it with some lieutenants... Kes looks at Chakotay.

KES' VOICE
(telepathic)
Do not trust them. They will never let me go.

Chakotay turns and looks at Kes.

114 KES

114

makes firm eye contact with him.

115 RESUME (OPTICAL)

115

As Jabin moves away from his lieutenants, they murmur to the others who begin to spread out from the water containers... Paris notices, glances at Tuvok, who acknowledges with a slight nod that he sees the same thing.

JABIN
(to Janeway)
I have decided to keep the Ocampa female...

One or two of the Kazon lift their weapons. There's a palpable sense of threat.

JABIN
...and all of you.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED: (2)

115

Suddenly, Neelix springs forward. He has concealed a tiny phaser in his shoe, and now he plants it right at Jabin's chin, catching the Maje -- and our people -- completely off guard. (Jabin is between his people and ours.)

NEELIX

Tell them to drop their weapons!

Enraged but impotent, Jabin gestures to his people. A few weapons are lowered.

NEELIX

Drop them, my friends, or he dies
in an instant.

They drop their weapons... Paris, Tuvok and Chakotay quickly re-arm themselves... Neelix turns and blasts the two vats of water which explode, sending water everywhere... the Kazon with much walla scramble to save it as it begins to flow out...

NEELIX

(to Kes)

Come on!

Kes runs to him, he takes her arm.

NEELIX

(to Janeway)

I strongly suggest you get us out
of here!

JANEWAY

(taps Combadge)

Six to beam up.

116 INT. VOYAGER - TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

116

The group MATERIALIZES, Neelix's arms around Kes. As they gaze into one another's eyes --

NEELIX

My dearest -- didn't I promise I'd
save you?!

Off our group's incredulous reactions --

117 EXT. OCAMPA CITY - MATTE SHOT (OPTICAL) 117
Re-establishing.

118 INT. OCAMPA COURTYARD 118
Torres and Kim are alone, looking around the setting,
considering their options... their condition has
weakened a little...

KIM
I'm sure Captain Janeway is doing
everything she can to find us...

TORRES
What makes you think any of them
are still alive?

Her hand goes to her neck as a wave of nausea passes
over her...

KIM
Should I call for some help...

TORRES
No!

She fights it off, willing it away with anger... she
moves to a quiet corner...

NURSE (O.C.)
Are you in pain?

119 ANGLE -- TO SEE THE YOUNG NURSE MOVING 119
TOWARD THEM

B'Elanna pulls away from the Nurse's attention...

TORRES
Are you watching us? I thought we
weren't supposed to be your
prisoners...

NURSE
I wasn't watching you. I was
coming to give you something...

She glances furtively around -- the coast is relatively
clear... she pulls out a small container that contains
a greenish powder...

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED:

119

NURSE

I don't know if it'll help... it's a medicine. There are people who have broken from tradition and left the city... their colony grows fruit and vegetables... they discovered quite by accident that the moss that grows on certain fruit trees has healing properties.

The Nurse is unsettled by recent events, including the kidnapping of aliens by the Caretaker. After a beat, with hesitancy...

NURSE

(continuing)

I'm... sorry for what's happened to you.

Torres exchanges a glance with Kim... senses a vulnerability in the Nurse...

KIM

(re: the medicine)

We appreciate this. But the only way we're going to survive is if we can get to the surface and find our people.

NURSE

(beat, then without agreement)

The elders would say that's against the Caretaker's wishes.

TORRES

(pursuing)

What do you say?

The Nurse breaks eye contact...

NURSE

(a beat, shakes her head, confused)

The Caretaker... has been behaving strangely for the past several months...

(beat)

...abducting people, increasing the power supply...

KIM

Power supply?

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (2)

119

NURSE

He's tripled the energy he sends us... they say we have enough stored now to run the city for five years...

KIM

Nobody knows why?

NURSE

When we ask, we're told to trust the Caretaker's decisions.

She examines her heart for a long beat... obviously, she is having trouble following her elders' directive. Torres and Kim give her room to find the right answer... she sighs... deeply disturbed...

NURSE

(reluctantly)

One person I knew did get to the surface... we never saw her again...

KIM

How?

NURSE

The ancient tunnels that brought us here still exist... over the years, small breaches in the security barrier have appeared... just large enough for someone to get through... but it still requires digging through meters of rock to get out...

TORRES

Can you get us tools to dig with...

NURSE

It would take days... maybe even weeks to break through... you have to rest... conserve your strength...

KIM

Please. It's our only chance.

Off the Nurse's sigh of reluctant cooperation...

120 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL)

120

in orbit of the fifth planet.

121 INT. SICKBAY (OPTICAL)

121

Doctor Zimmerman is healing Kes' bruises with an instrument. Nearby, Janeway, Chakotay, Paris and Tuvok are questioning Neelix. Mid-conversation... overlapping, heated...

TUVOK

If you'd told us what you had planned, we might have anticipated your irrational behavior...

NEELIX

Irrational? We got out of there, didn't we?

KES (O.C.)

Excuse me...

All of them respond to the voice, and turn toward Kes. She smiles at them -- a beautiful, winning smile.

KES

(continuing)

Don't blame Neelix. It's all my fault. I...

Zimmerman is finished treating her, interrupts...

ZIMMERMAN

That's enough! This is a Sickbay, not a conference room. Visiting hours are over. Everyone except my patient is to leave immediately...

JANEWAY

(overlapping)

Computer, end medical holographic program.

And with just a trace of an irate reaction, Zimmerman disappears. A real instrument he was holding drops to the floor. Kes continues -- with Neelix joining her in quick counterpoint, almost as though they're one person.

KES

I never should have gone to the surface. I'm too curious. I'm told it's my worst failing --

NEELIX

(won't hear this)

No, no, it's a wonderful quality, your most endearing --

KES

But it does get me in trouble. I knew the Kazon might find me --

(CONTINUED)

121 CONTINUED: (2)

121

NEELIX

Those brutes -- kidnapping you --

KES

But if they hadn't, I'd never have met you --

(to Janeway)

Neelix stole water from the Kazon and gave it to me.

JANEWAY

Is it possible our crewmembers are being held captive by your people?

KES

We would never hold anyone captive... but the Caretaker has sent aliens to us who are sick and need care...

CHAKOTAY

Sick? What's wrong with them?

KES

I'm not sure. But none of them has ever survived.

JANEWAY

(reacts)

Would you be willing to take us underground to look for our missing crew?

She shakes her head sadly.

KES

Jabin was right. There's no way to get down. The tunnel I came out has been sealed.

JANEWAY

We don't need a tunnel... we have the ability to transport there directly.

TUVOK

Captain, our sensors did not pick up any indication of an underground civilization... the subterranean barrier Jabin described may be responsible. It might also block our transporter...

(CONTINUED)

121 CONTINUED: (3)

121

KES

There are breaches in the security barrier -- where it's begun to decay. That's how I got out...

JANEWAY

(to Tuvok)

Have the Transporter Room begin a sweep for any breaches we might be able to beam through...

Tuvok acknowledges, EXITS... Kes looks intrigued by this, but Neelix is somewhat alarmed.

NEELIX

Kes can tell you where to go... but now that she's free, we're leaving this system together...

But Kes, very much her own woman, demurs.

KES

These people rescued me --

NEELIX

I rescued you --

KES

With their help. It would be wrong not to help them now.

Though disappointed, Neelix nods, then looks up at our people, pride in Kes shining in his eyes.

NEELIX

~~Isn't she remarkable?~~

PARIS

(near him, sincerely)

~~Yes. She is.~~

And something in his voice makes Neelix regard him uneasily.

122 EXT. UNDERGROUND VALLEY - MATTE - (OPTICAL)

122

Miles beneath the surface of the planet, the city is seen in the distance.

123 EXT. ENCLAVE

123

Janeway, Chakotay, Tuvok, Paris, Kes and Neelix. Tuvok and Chakotay immediately start to take tricorder readings.

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED:

123

TUVOK

Captain, the pulses from the Array continue to accelerate -- the intervals between them have decreased another point-eight seconds.

Janeway reacts. They are near a strange little compound set in one of the cave walls. Terraces have been hacked out of the stone and plants are growing in neat ordered rows. Above, banks of grow lights provide artificial sunlight. Several people (including DAGGIN) -- all of them young and trim -- work among the plants, weeding and watering. They pause to observe the strange vision of people appearing out of nowhere... but they immediately recognize Kes...

DAGGIN

Kes!

KES

Hello, Daggin...

They move with delight to greet her... there are hugs and walla of ad lib greetings to her... over which --

DAGGIN

We never thought we'd see you again... how did you get back...

KES

These people rescued me from the Kazon... I'm trying to help them find two of their crewmen. Does anyone know where the aliens are kept -- the ones the Caretaker sends here?

This brings the joyfulness to a halt. During the next, we see in the b.g. the approach of two mature Ocampa, somewhat short and plump.

DAGGIN

I think they're at the central clinic.

JANEWAY

(to Kes)

Can you take us there...?

One of the approaching Ocampa elders (TOSCAT) reacts to this, speaks telepathically.

TOSCAT'S VOICE

No, she cannot.

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED: (2)

123

KES

They can't speak telepathically,
Toscat. Please talk aloud.

Toscat hesitates. He's not an unlikable person; but he represents the attitudes of those who have settled for being taken care of, and who no longer questions that way of life. He's very concerned to see these aliens.

TOSCAT

I didn't mean to be rude. But you should not be here.

JANEWAY

We'll be glad to leave once we find our crewmen.

He eyes Janeway and the others, hoping to make them understand.

TOSCAT

That won't be possible. We cannot interfere with the Caretaker's wishes.

CHAKOTAY

Maybe you can't, but we can.

TOSCAT

You don't understand...

KES

(interrupts, low key)
That's right. They don't understand. They have no way of knowing that the Ocampa have been dependent on the Caretaker for so long we can't even think for ourselves anymore. They don't understand we were once a people who had full command of our minds' abilities...

TOSCAT

(to our crew)
The stories of our ancestors' cognitive abilities are apocryphal... at the very least exaggerated.

KES

We lost those abilities because we stopped using them!

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED: (3)

123

TOSCAT

We should not dwell on what's been lost, but on all that's been gained...

KES

Yes. We've gained a talent for dependence. For simply taking what we're given.

(Toscat studies her, coldly)

I'm going to help them whether you like it or not, Toscat. And I think my friends will join me.

TOSCAT

You defied the Caretaker by going to the surface, Kes. Learn from the experience. Follow the path he has set for us.

KES

I've learned very well, Toscat. I saw the sunlight. I can't believe that our Caretaker would forbid us to open our eyes and see the sky.

(to Janeway)

Come with me. We'll find your people.

Kes exchanges a last defiant look with Toscat, begins to move off, other young people join. After a beat, so does our crew.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

FADE IN:

124 OMITTED 124

125 INT. ACCESS SHAFT - BOTTOM 125

Torres and Kim ENTER a shaft with a diameter of about twenty feet which contains an alternating iron staircase. This is one of the ancient tunnels that the Caretaker provided a millennia ago to take the Ocampo beneath the surface... the hole has been cut through rockface... it has the damp, cold humidity of underground caves... the walls are wet and shining. Kim and Torres have tools and flashlights courtesy of the Nurse... they're still dressed in Ocampo clothes... They look up --

126 MATTE SHOT (OPTICAL) 126

The staircase winds up into darkness...

127 RESUME 127

TORRES

Come on...

She starts to climb... and Kim tries to follow but a wave of nausea hits him and he sinks to the foot of the stairs... They are both clearly weakened by their condition...

TORRES

Don't let it beat you,
Starfleet... come on...

KIM

I'm sorry.

TORRES

It's all right. We'll rest a
minute.

KIM

Maybe I'd do better... if I had a
little Klingon blood in me...

Tries to laugh...

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED:

127

TORRES

Trust me. It's more trouble than
it's worth.

Kim really is in serious pain now... he tries to
appreciate the irony of it all... shakes his head,
laughs...

KIM

I spent my whole life getting
ready for Starfleet... And on my
very first mission... I'm going to
die.

TORRES

We're not finished yet.

(beat)

I know a few things old Sneezy
didn't teach in his Survival
Course.

He looks at her, puzzled.

KIM

Sneezy?

TORRES

Commander Zakarian. Remember? He
must've been allergic to
everything.

KIM

You went to the Academy?

TORRES

Actually made it into the second
year before we "mutually agreed"
it wasn't the place for me.

Kim gives her an understanding smile. He knows she's
saying she was kicked out. Torres shrugs.

TORRES

I fit in a lot better with The
Maquis.

KIM

(beat)

You know... I never really liked
Zakarian.

She smiles at him. The sound of the pulses gets even
more rapid... they react...

TORRES

Listen... they're getting
faster...

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED: (3) 127

Off their curious looks as they listen a beat...

128 INT. OCAMPA COURTYARD 128

People reacting with concern to the increasing pace of the pulses... moving to find Janeway and our crew, as well as some of Kes' friends among them... Kes and Daggin are not there... The pulses are gaining momentum in a mounting crescendo. It's an ominous sound. Suddenly, the pulses end. Silence.

JANEWAY

(hits combadge)

Away Team to Voyager.

ROLLINS' VOICE

Yes, Captain?

JANEWAY

What's going on with the Array?

INTERCUT:

129 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 129

Rollins at his post. He glances up toward the Viewscreen, where the Array stands silent, no longer projecting energy beams.

ROLLINS

It's no longer sending out pulses, Captain. And it appears to be realigning its position.

130 EXT. OCAMPA COURTYARD 130

JANEWAY

Keep me informed. Janeway out.

Kes and Daggin ENTER from the direction of the hospital...

KES

They haven't been at the clinic for hours...

DAGGIN

We can search the city... ask if anyone's seen them...

Janeway acknowledges... the young people move off with urgency and separate...

(CONTINUED)

130 CONTINUED:

130

JANEWAY
 (to Kes)
 If they were trying to get to the
 surface, how would they go...?

KES
 Probably the same way I did... up
 one of the ancient tunnels...

JANEWAY
 Mister Paris, you and Neelix go
 with her and start checking them
 out...

They acknowledge, move off. And they're gone... to
 Tuvok and Chakotay as they all begin to move out --

JANEWAY
 We need to talk to every doctor
 and nurse at this hospital... see
 what they can tell us about Torres
 and Kim...

Suddenly, there are huge BOOMS from above, the ground
 shakes with each one a bit... reactions... some
 panic... some people run for cover... most leave for
 their homes...

130A A HALLWAY

130A

as Janeway, Tuvok, and Chakotay round a corner.

ROLLINS' COM VOICE
 Voyager to Captain Janeway.

JANEWAY
 Go ahead.

INTERCUT:

131 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

131

As before.

ROLLINS
 Captain, the Array is firing some
 kind of weapon at the surface...

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED:

131

He looks up at the Viewscreen at the Array. We see a torpedo-like projectile lancing through space toward the planet.

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED: (2)

131

ROLLINS
(continuing)

It seems to be trying to seal the energy conduits.

CHAKOTAY

If the Array is the Ocampa's sole source of energy, why would the Caretaker seal the conduits...?

Tuvok has been slowly adding things up in his mind during all this.

TUVOK

He would seal them if he no longer intended to use them. To protect the Ocampa from their enemies.

(realizing)

Captain, there is now enough evidence to form a reasonable hypothesis. I believe that the Caretaker is dying.

JANEWAY

(reacts)

Explain.

TUVOK

First, he increases the energy supply to provide the city with a surplus to last at least five years... then he seals the conduits. The logical conclusion is that he does not intend to continue his role as Caretaker.

CHAKOTAY

That doesn't necessarily mean he's dying... he may be leaving...

TUVOK

Doubtful. Not after a millennium of providing for these people. I believe he owes something to the Ocampa. I believe the "debt that can never be repaid" is very likely a debt to them. In addition, there were his frequent references to "running out of time". I think he knew his death was imminent.

JANEWAY

(a beat, mostly to herself)

If he dies, how the hell are we supposed to get home?

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED: (4) 131

As the question hangs in the air, the booms continue to punctuate the background...

132 INT. SHAFT (OPTICAL) 132

B'Elanna and Harry are on the move again... moving higher and higher... the sound of the booms above is louder because they're closer... the stair is shaking pretty well now, they have to hold on every time a boom hits... they are both extremely weak...

KIM

Should we go back?

TORRES

There's nothing down there for us, Starfleet.

They move up again with great effort... we sense they're not going to make it much further...

133 INT. SHAFT - BOTTOM (OPTICAL) 133

Paris, Neelix and Kes ENTER... Paris reads his tricorder... reacts...

PARIS

They're in this one...
(calls up)
Harry!

His voice echoes in the shaft but there is no answer. He hits his combadge.

PARIS

Paris to Janeway.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE

Go ahead.

PARIS

They're in one of the shafts, Captain. I can't see them... but they're up there...

They climb...

134 EXT. OCAMPA COURTYARD 134

Janeway, Tuvok, and Chakotay.

(CONTINUED)

134 CONTINUED:

134

PARIS' COM VOICE
(continuing)
...We're going after them...

JANEWAY
Call for transport when you have
them, Paris. We'll meet you on
the ship...
(hits combadge)
Janeway to Voyager. Three to beam
up...

INTERCUT:

135 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

135

ROLLINS
(furiously working
console)
Stand by...
(shakes head)
Captain... I can't get a lock on
you. The weapon fire from the
Array has irradiated the planet's
crust... the transport sensors
can't find the breaches in the
security barrier...

136 EXT. OCAMPA COURTYARD

136

Janeway reacts, to Chakotay and Tuvok...

JANEWAY
Come on, there's only one other
way out of here...

They run out...

137 INT. SHAFT

137

Paris, Neelix and Kes run up the stairs... booms
continuing... after a beat...

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
Janeway to Paris.

PARIS
(out of breath)
Go ahead.

(CONTINUED)

137 CONTINUED:

137

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
The Transporters aren't working.
You're going to have to find a
breach in the security barrier
when you get to the top...

PARIS
Understood.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
We're a few minutes behind you.
Janeway out.

Paris, Neelix and Kes move up out of frame...

138 THE NEXT LEVEL UP

138

as they run up, looking above them all the time...
Paris reacts...

PARIS
I see them!

138A PARIS, NEELIX, AND KES

138A

as they climb upward.

139 ANGLE UP (OPTICAL)

139

to see B'Elanna and Kim collapsed, weakly at the top of
the stairs... Paris, Kes and Neelix move up to their
side...

KIM
(smiles weakly upon
seeing Paris)
It took you long enough.

PARIS
(dry)
How could I let down the only
friend I've got...?

KIM
Friend. What makes you think I'm
your friend?

PARIS
(hits combadge)
Paris to Janeway. We found them,
Captain.

140 INT. SHAFT - BOTTOM

140

Janeway, Tuvok and Chakotay ENTER and climb in a hurry...

(CONTINUED)

140 CONTINUED:

140

JANEWAY

Good work. Don't wait for us.
Get them to safety.

141 HIGHER UP

141

As Paris helps Kim to his feet, supporting him. Neelix
does the same for B'Elanna.

PARIS

Come on. We've gotta get out of
here.

KIM

Hey, Maquis.

(B'Elanna looks at him)
My side's here. Now, you're in
big trouble.

KES

This way. I know where we can get
through the barrier.

They move off the staircase into a cave... the
explosions very near-by now... major shaking...

142 INT. CAVE (OPTICAL)

142

A complex optical forcefield forms an intimidating net
in front of them, and then rockface beyond that, but
there is a tiny breach in the forcefield that someone
can crawl through...

KES

Whatever you do, don't touch it.
We've been told it'll burn your
skin off...

NEELIX

You crawled through a hole that
small?

Kes slithers easily under the net on her back...

KES

It was the only way out...

NEELIX

Isn't she remarkable?

Kes helps pull B'Elanna under as Neelix and Paris guide
her...

143 INT. SHAFT - LOWER 143
Janeway, Tuvok and Chakotay climb in a hurry...

144 INT. CAVE (OPTICAL) 144
Kim and B'Elanna are on the other side now... and Neelix is in the process of going through on his back... his bulk bringing him awfully close to the forcefield... he sweats... ~~and sucks in his belly just to get it under the field...~~ a moment later, Paris scrambles under quickly. The massive rock face still blocks the way out... Paris hands Neelix his small phaser...

PARIS
(sets the phaser)
I've got it set. Just point and fire.

They point together and press, the phasers go off, the rocks burst apart...

145 EXT. SURFACE (OPTICAL) 145
A moment later... the group struggles out of a cave, Torres and Kim all but dragged. Paris immediately hits his combadge.

PARIS
Paris to Voyager. Can you lock on to us now?

ROLLINS' COM VOICE
Affirmative. But I'm reading only five signals.

PARIS
The others are...

There is a bright flash in the sky behind them as a torpedo-weapon strikes one of the conduits; a huge explosion rocks the area. They look back to see a cloud of dust coming from the cave. Paris reacts, hits his combadge...

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED:

145

PARIS

Paris to Janeway.

(beat, no response)

Chakotay, Tuvok, do you read?

Again, no response.

PARIS

Voyager, prepare to transport everyone in this group except me.

NEELIX

You're not thinking of going back in there...

Paris' look tells him the answer. Neelix is torn. On the one hand, Voyager waits, with its abundant delights. On the other... these people have befriended him... helped save his beloved Kes... He looks at Kes, shrugs, smiles --

NEELIX

The fool needs company. Take care of them, dearest. I'll see you later.

Paris takes off Neelix's combadge and gives it to Kes to hold... Kim and Torres make contact with her. He hits his combadge again...

PARIS

Voyager, make that three to beam up. Lock onto the other combadge and energize.

Kes, Kim and Torres DEMATERIALIZE.

146
thru
147

OMITTED

146
thru
147

148 INT. SHAFT

148

Tuvok has been badly injured; Janeway is trying to staunch his head wound. The considerable shaking from the EXPLOSIONS continues, showering them with rock and shale. Janeway pulls him off the stairs onto the top ledge... Chakotay is down a few stairs, one leg broken, clearly in pain.

CHAKOTAY

I can't move. My leg is broken.

She realizes he won't be able to help with Tuvok... in fact, will need help himself. A moment later, they react to the noise of phaser fire from the cave... Paris and Neelix push some rocks aside and appear...

(CONTINUED)

148 CONTINUED: (2)

148

JANEWAY
(to Chakotay)
Hold on. Neelix -- help me with
Tuvok.

PARIS
I'll get Chakotay.

Neelix moves quickly to assist Janeway and they carry out Tuvok... Paris starts to move to help Chakotay, when there is another boom and a huge shake.

149 INSERT - THE STAIRCASE

149

Its connections to the cave wall rip apart...

150 THE STAIRCASE

150

starts to collapse... drops four feet then miraculously stops... seemingly holding on by the barest of connections... it creaks and sways... there are at least two feet of space between the stairs and the top level where Paris is... Chakotay looks up at Paris...

CHAKOTAY
Get out of here, Paris. Before
the whole thing comes down.

PARIS
I intend to... as soon as I get
you up...

CHAKOTAY
You get on those stairs, they'll
collapse... we'll both die...

PARIS
Yeah, but on the other hand, if I
save your butt, your life will
belong to me -- isn't that some
Indian custom?

CHAKOTAY
Wrong tribe.

Paris looks at him with a grin... then slides out onto the staircase...

PARIS
I don't believe you.

151 OVERHEAD ANGLE - LOOKING DOWN THE SHAFT

151

PARIS

(continuing)

I think you'd rather die than let
me be the one to rescue you.

(CONTINUED)

151 CONTINUED: 151

The stairs creak... drop another few inches...

CHAKOTAY

Fine. Be a fool. If I have to die, at least I'll have the pleasure of watching you go with me.

152 RESUME 152

As Paris lifts Chakotay over his shoulders... Chakotay grits his teeth in pain...

PARIS

Isn't there some Indian trick where you can turn yourself into a bird and fly us out of here?

CHAKOTAY

You're too heavy.

153 ANGLE - AT THE TOP 153

Neelix and Janeway return and react to this remarkable sight... Janeway is impressed as Paris carries him up to the top of the stairs, hands him to Janeway and Neelix who carry him out... Paris follows them... we stay for one-two-three beats on the empty staircase before it collapses.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SEVEN

ACT EIGHT

FADE IN:

154 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) 154

in orbit of the fifth planet. The torpedoes continue to blast by it toward the surface.

155 INT. SICKBAY 155

Doctor Zimmerman clearly feels overworked... he finishes using a small device on Chakotay's legs as Janeway observes... during the scene we'll also reveal the rest of the regular cast is there too...

ROLLINS' COM VOICE

Bridge to Janeway.

JANEWAY

Go ahead.

ROLLINS' COM VOICE

Captain, two Kazon ships are approaching the Array.

JANEWAY

Set a course, I'm on my way...

Chakotay's leg is better. He bends and stretches it and begins to get up...

CHAKOTAY

(to B'Elanna)

We have to get to our ship.

B'Elanna, tumors gone, rises from her bed...

ZIMMERMAN

I strongly advise you to rest...

But as Tuvok rises out of his care...

ZIMMERMAN

I will not be held responsible for the consequences...

He watches in dismay as they all leave... the last one is Kim who is also fully recovered...

ZIMMERMAN

Is the crew always this difficult?

KIM

I don't know, Doc, it's my first mission.

(CONTINUED)

155 CONTINUED: 155

They're all out. Zimmerman finds himself alone, left on again. Calling after them --

ZIMMERMAN

Doesn't anyone know how to turn off the program when they leave?

156 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE SICKBAY - CONTINUOUS 156

Janeway pauses to tell Kes and Neelix --

JANEWAY

It's too dangerous to send you back to the planet right now. I suggest you get to quarters.

Neelix happily agrees... escorts Kes away...

NEELIX

Wait till you see how these people live.

The others move off...

157 INT. BRIDGE 157

as Janeway, Tuvok, Kim and Paris ENTER and move to their stations. Paris still has no station yet. Rollins is at Conn.

JANEWAY

Bring the weapon systems on line. Red alert.

158 EXT. SPACE - ARRAY (OPTICAL) 158

As Voyager and the Maquis ship arrive. Two Kazon ships circle the massive Array as it continues to send its torpedoes down to the fifth planet.

159 INT. BRIDGE 159

as before.

TUVOK

The lead Kazon ship is hailing us, Captain.

JANEWAY

On screen.

160 ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

160

Jabin speaks from his vessel.

JABIN

Have you come to investigate the entity's strange behavior too, Captain?

JANEWAY

All we care about is getting home, Jabin. We're about to transport over to the Array to see if we can arrange it.

JABIN

I'm afraid I can't permit you to do that.

JANEWAY

We have no dispute with you...

JABIN

We have a dispute with anyone who would challenge us...

JANEWAY

This is ridiculous. We have no intention of challenging you...

JABIN

And I have no intention of letting anyone with your technological knowledge board the Array.

He motions to someone off screen.

161 JANEWAY (OPTICAL)

161

JANEWAY

Jabin, can we discuss this like two civilized...

But she is interrupted by what she sees on the Viewscreen: the Kazon ship has fired two weapons, which are hurtling toward Voyager. The ship is rocked by a blast.

JANEWAY

(continuing, to herself,
finishing her above
suggestion)

I guess we can't.

TUVOK

Shields are holding.

(CONTINUED)

161 CONTINUED:

161

JANEWAY

Fire phasers. Evasive pattern
delta four.

162 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 162

Takes evasive action... fires phasers... the Maquis ship engages the other Kazon.

163 INT. MAQUIS SHIP 163

Chakotay and Torres fight their side of the battle...

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE

Janeway to Chakotay. Tuvok and I are beaming to the Array. Can you hold off the Kazon?

CHAKOTAY

I think so, Captain...

164 INT. BRIDGE 164

JANEWAY

Good. Mister Paris, take the Conn.

Paris reacts, does a take, before he quickly moves into position... replacing Rollins.

PARIS

Yes, Ma'am!

And she and Tuvok head for the Turbolift...

JANEWAY

(to Rollins)

Maintain transporter locks, Ensign. Emergency beam out status.

Rollins acknowledges, moves to tactical.

165 INT. BARN - NIGHT (OPTICAL) 165

Janeway and Tuvok ENTER. The barn is dark, illuminated only by a few lanterns which cast long and ghostly shadows through the room. Tuvok is scanning with a tricorder.

TUVOK

The data processing system is behind this wall, Captain...

She acknowledges. But as they begin to move together that way, the sound of the lonely banjo causes her to pause and turn...

JANEWAY

(to Tuvok)

You know what to do.

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED:

165

Tuvok acknowledges and moves off. She follows the plunking chords... and finds the old man huddled in a corner. His image is now semi-transparent. He speaks with an exhausted voice. Gradually, during the next, he assumes cohesion as he allows the banjo to fade away and he is a completely formed figure. He is morose throughout the scene.

BANJO MAN

You're nothing if not persistent.

JANEWAY

We need you to send us back where we came from.

BANJO MAN

That isn't possible. I have barely enough strength to complete my work.

JANEWAY

(confirming)

You're sealing the conduits before you die...

BANJO MAN

(acknowledges)

If I don't, the Kazon will steal the water.

(sighs, defeated)

But in a few years, when the Ocampa's energy runs out, it won't matter. They'll be forced to come to the surface and they won't be able to survive. ~~Without me, they're helpless. I've failed them. You once spoke to me of your responsibility for your crew. The Ocampa were my responsibility.~~

JANEWAY

Something you did turned their planet into a desert, didn't it...

The old man reacts, a bit surprised that she would have guessed this.

JANEWAY

(continuing, off his reaction)

~~We know there was an environmental disaster... about the same time you arrived. That was the debt that could never be repaid, wasn't it...~~

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED: (2)

165

BANJO MAN

(acknowledges)

We're explorers from another galaxy. We had no idea our technology would be so destructive to their atmosphere.

(beat)

Two of us were chosen to stay behind to care for them.

JANEWAY

There's another like you here...?

BANJO MAN

Not any more. She went off to look for more interesting places... ~~she never understood why the Ocampo needed so much care. I didn't realize how vulnerable they were...~~

JANEWAY

Why were you bringing ships here... infecting people with a fatal illness...

BANJO MAN

~~I never meant any harm!~~ They didn't die from illness... they died because they were incompatible.

JANEWAY

Incompatible?

BANJO MAN

Don't you understand -- I've been searching the galaxy for a compatible bio-molecular pattern. ~~ka~~ in some individuals, I found cellular structures that were similar but. ~~↓~~

Janeway stares at him, beginning to understand.

JANEWAY

You've been trying to procreate...?

The old man sighs... he's becoming weaker by the moment.

BANJO MAN

I needed someone to replace me... someone who would understand the enormous responsibility of caring for the Ocampo. Only my offspring could do that...

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED: (3)

165

JANEWAY

Did you ever consider allowing the
Ocampa to care for themselves?

BANJO MAN

(scoffs)

They're children...

JANEWAY

Children have to grow up.

(off his look,
sympathetically)

We're explorers too. Most of the
species we've encountered have
overcome all kinds of adversity
without a caretaker. It's the
challenge of surviving on their
own that helps them to evolve.

(beat)

Maybe your "children" will do
better than you think.

BANJO MAN

They are ignorant, dependent
bipeds...

JANEWAY

Then educate them before you die.
Give them the knowledge they need
to survive...

BANJO MAN

Would you put your most dangerous
technology in the hands of your
children? I would be sending them
the means to destroy themselves...

JANEWAY

You said yourself that in a few
years they'd be doomed anyway.

(beat)

We have another saying -- "if you
give a man a fish, he will eat for
a day. If you teach a man to
fish, he will eat for a lifetime."

The Banjo Man studies her, impressed... almost
smiles...

KIM'S COM VOICE

Voyager to Janeway.

JANEWAY

Go ahead.

KIM'S COM VOICE

We've got problems here.

- 166 INT. BRIDGE 166
All hell is breaking loose. Paris is at conn... Kim at
Ops... the ship is taking serious hits...
- KIM
(continuing)
The Kazon just got some back-up...
- 167 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 167
under attack by a HUGE Kazon ship -- an eight hundred
pound gorilla weighing in against our guys. We're
taking a beating...
- 168 INT. BARN 168
JANEWAY
Status of the Maquis ship...?
INTERCUTTING:
- 169 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) 169
Seeing the Maquis ship fighting the other two Kazon
ships...
- KIM
Holding their own, Captain.
- 170 INT. MAQUIS BRIDGE 170
As Chakotay and Torres fight their battles and monitor
the communications... Blasts continue to rock their
ship...
- JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
We need more time. Can you hold
them off for another few minutes?
- KIM'S COM VOICE
We'll do our best... Kim out.
- CHAKOTAY
They're in trouble.
- B'Elanna moves up to look...
- 171 EXT. SPACE - ON VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 171
trying in vain to evade the huge ship... Voyager takes
a bad hit...

(CONTINUED)

171A INT. MAQUIS BRIDGE

171A

TORRES

Neither of us has enough firepower
to stop that ship...

Chakotay thinks for a moment, pondering the situation.
Then --

CHAKOTAY

I'm setting a collision course...
but the guidance system is
disabled -- I'll have to pilot the
ship manually. Get the crew ready
to beam to Voyager and drop
shields for transport.

Torres moves away to prepare the crew as we push into
Chakotay's intense face... he hits a panel...

CHAKOTAY

Paris, my crew is coming over.
Tell one of your crackerjack
Starfleet transporter chiefs to
keep a lock on me. I'm going to
try and take some heat off your
tail.

PARIS' COM VOICE

Acknowledged. But don't think for
a second this gets us even. Your
life is still mine, (Indian swear
word). Paris out.

Chakotay mutters something in his native language to
himself that suggests he is not happy about that one
bit.

172 EXT. SPACE - MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL)

172

as it turns and then begins a kamikaze run directly at
the Kazon ship, which opens fire with everything.

173 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

173

As they stare at the Viewscreen, Torres comes hurrying
onto the Bridge from the Turbolift. They watch the
Maquis ship hurtle toward the Kazon monster, taking
hits, beginning to burn...

PARIS

I'm getting you out of there,
Chakotay...

INTERCUTTING:

174 INT. MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL)

174

The cockpit filling with smoke and fire...

(CONTINUED)

174 CONTINUED: 174

CHAKOTAY

Not yet.

Another few agonizing seconds as the Maquis ship rocks with concussions.

PARIS' COM VOICE

You're breaking up... stand-by to transport...

CHAKOTAY

Wait!

175 ANGLE - OVER HIS SHOULDER (OPTICAL) 175

to see him moving within a breath of the Kazon ship... and just as you can see the whites of the other crew's eyes...

CHAKOTAY

Now!

Just as he DEMATERIALIZES we see the collision and the explosive fire roars through the window and balloons in our faces...

176 EXT. SPACE - MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) 176

as the Maquis ship plows right into the huge ship, exploding in a violent fireball.

177 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM 177

where a singed and sooty Chakotay steps off the pad.

PARIS' COM VOICE

Transporter Room Two -- do you have him?

Chakotay walks to the Transporter Chief and hits a companel on the console --

CHAKOTAY

They've got me.

Chakotay pats the Transporter Chief on the back with appreciation, EXITS.

178 EXT. SPACE - KAZON SHIP (OPTICAL) 178

burning wildly... drifting... closer and closer to the Array...

179 INT. BARN

179

moving with Tuvok as he joins Janeway and the old man.

TUVOK

I can access the system to send us back to Federation space, but it will take several hours to activate...

JANEWAY

(to old man)

Unless you help us...

He studies her sadly...

BANJO MAN

(near death)

I wish I could. But I have very little time left. I am taking your advice. I've begun to transmit the contents of my data banks to the Ocampo. But I have also initiated a self-destruct program.

JANEWAY

(reacts)

If you destroy the Array, we'll have no way to get home.

BANJO MAN

The Ocampo's enemies cannot be allowed to control this installation. In minutes, it will be destroyed. You have to go now.

Tuvok and Janeway exchange a glance...

180 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

180

The impact of the explosion has carried the huge burning Kazon ship into the Array... it explodes on impact, seriously damaging a wing of the Array.

181 OMIT

181

182 INT. BARN/ALIEN CHAMBER (OPTICAL)

182

Shaking. Sounds of explosions, machinery being wrecked off camera.

(CONTINUED)

182 CONTINUED: 182

The alien chamber hidden by the holographic projection flashes in and out of view and finally the holographic images DISAPPEAR completely... and we see revealed the monstrous, vaporous creature who appears where the Banjo Man once was...

JANEWAY
(hits combadge)
Voyager, report!

183 INT. BRIDGE 183

PARIS
A Kazon vessel just collided with
the Array, Captain... are you all
right?

184 INT. ALIEN CHAMBER (OPTICAL) 184

JANEWAY
Affirmative. Stand-by.

The Creature heaves in the last throes of death...

GOO CREATURE
(in Banjo Man's
telepathic voice)
The termination program... has
been... damaged.
(beat)
The Kazon... must not gain
control... of this
installation...

He dies... vaporizing... all that's left behind is a hunk of what looks like ORE... a misshapen chunk of strange, alien matter.

TUVOK
Shall I activate the program to
get us back...?

Janeway regards him pensively. The old man's pledge to protect the Ocampa is weighing on her.

JANEWAY
And what happens to the Ocampa
after we're gone?

Tuvok realizes what she's thinking...

(CONTINUED)

184 CONTINUED:

184

TUVOK
(in personal, not
"official", tones)
Captain, any action we take to
protect the Ocampa would affect
the balance of power in this
system. The Prime Directive would
seem to apply.

JANEWAY
(thoughtful)
Would it? We never asked to be
involved, Tuvok. But we are. We
are.

Push to Janeway. A long beat. She weighs the
alternatives. Then, she looks at him...

JANEWAY
(with an unspoken
apology)
I'm afraid your family will have
to wait a little longer for you.

Tuvok acknowledges implacably. He stoops and picks up
the hunk of matter left when the Caretaker died.

JANEWAY
(continuing)
Away team to Voyager. Two to
transport.

As Tuvok reacts, they DEMATERIALIZE.

185 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

185

The fight with the Kazon continues as Janeway and Tuvok
come from the Turbolift. The shaking from phaser fire
and the pop of torpedoes against our shields continues
throughout. Janeway is calm and decisive. Chakotay
has come to the Bridge and stands by B'Elanna. Paris
and Kim are on the Bridge, and have been joined by
Chakotay and Torres.

JANEWAY
Mister Tuvok, ready the tricobalt
devices...

TUVOK
Aye, Captain.

JANEWAY
Open a channel to the Kazon.

(CONTINUED)

185 CONTINUED: 185

KIM
Channel open.

186 ANGLE (OPTICAL) - INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN 186

JABIN
Be advised, Captain... I have
called for additional ships.

(CONTINUED)

186 CONTINUED:

186

JANEWAY
(interrupting)
I'm calling to warn you to move
your vessels to a safe distance.
I intend to destroy the Array.

This gets reactions from her own crew as well as
Jabin...

JABIN
You can't do that...

JANEWAY
I can and I will. End
transmission.

The weapons fire grows more intense.

KIM
They're increasing fire, Captain.
Shields are holding.

JANEWAY
Move us four hundred kilometers
from the Array, Mister Paris.

Paris reacts to all this, but he's on the team now.

PARIS
Yes, Ma'am.

Torres can't believe this.

TORRES
What are you doing? That Array is
the only way we have to get back
home --

JANEWAY
(calm, simple)
I'm aware everyone has families
and loved ones at home they want
to get back to... So do I. But,
I'm not willing to trade the lives
of the Ocampo for our...
convenience. We'll have to find
another way home.

TORRES
What other way home is there?

She starts to move to confront Janeway physically, but
Chakotay holds her back. She turns to him...

TORRES
Who is she to be making these
decisions for all of us?

(CONTINUED)

186 CONTINUED: (2)

186

CHAKOTAY
(simply)
She's the Captain.

TUVOK
The tricobalt device is ready.

PARIS
In position.

JANEWAY
Fire.

187 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ARRAY (OPTICAL)

187

Voyager fires and hits the Array... the Array ruptures in a monumental explosion which flings chunks of burning debris miles into space. Past the Kazon ships that no longer bother fighting...

188 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

188

And on the Bridge, everyone stares silently at the Viewscreen, watching the last chance they had of getting home vanish before their eyes. It is a long, quiet moment.

KIM
The lead Kazon ship is hailing us.

JANEWAY
On screen.

JABIN
(low key, cold)
You have made an enemy today.

He ends the transmission.

TUVOK
They are withdrawing, Captain.

On Janeway's reaction...

189 INT. READY ROOM - A SHORT WHILE LATER (OPTICAL)

189

A photograph of Mark and Janeway and a big huggable dog are on the monitor... but she is not looking at them... she's looking toward the stars in her window, thinking about the future, sharing the loneliness that every member of her crew must feel. A chime at the door. She moves back to her desk and turns off the monitor.

(CONTINUED)

189 CONTINUED:

189

JANEWAY

Come in.

Paris ENTERS.

PARIS

You asked to see me, Captain?

JANEWAY

Mister Paris, you have a problem.

Paris' eyes get immediately defensive...

JANEWAY

(continuing)

I've invited Chakotay and the other Maquis to become part of this crew. It seemed the only reasonable thing to do under the circumstances.

And obviously, most of the Maquis don't think a lot of Paris who tried to betray them.

PARIS

(smiles ruefully)

Will you provide a bodyguard for me, Captain?

JANEWAY

It seems you already have one.

PARIS

I do?

JANEWAY

Mister Chakotay said something about his life belonging to you?

(beat)

He'll be taking responsibility for your safety.

PARIS

(smiles)

I think I'm going to enjoy this.

JANEWAY

Don't be so sure. He's also going to be my First Officer. Everyone aboard this ship will report to him... including the Lieutenant assigned to Conn.

She looks evenly at him... and his mask of devil-may-care breaks under the weight of the announcement. There's a lump in his throat as he says...

(CONTINUED)

189 CONTINUED: (2)

189

PARIS

Me?

JANEWAY

(referencing a PADD)

I've entered into the ship's log
on this date that I'm granting a
field commission of Lieutenant to
Thomas Eugene Paris.
Congratulations.

She rises and shakes his hand.

PARIS

(struggling)

For the first time in my life...
I don't know what to say.

She smiles.

JANEWAY

You've earned this, Tom.

He nods, takes a deep breath. She nods that she's
finished... they move to the door...

JANEWAY

I'm only sorry your father won't
know.

PARIS

He'll know... when we get back.

And as he EXITS, Kes and Neelix are approaching
outside... Paris moves by them...

NEELIX

Ah, Captain, we were just coming
to see you.

JANEWAY

We've supplied your ship with
water, Neelix. It's ready to go.

NEELIX

Well, you see... that's what we
wanted to discuss. We'd like to
go with you.

JANEWAY

(smiling)

I'm sorry. This isn't a passenger
ship --

KES

Of course not. We won't be
passengers --

(CONTINUED)

189 CONTINUED: (3)

189

NEELIX

-- we'll be valuable colleagues.

JANEWAY

Colleagues?

NEELIX

Whatever you need is what I have to offer. You need a guide -- I'm your guide. You need supplies -- I know where to procure them -- I have friends among races you don't even know exist. You need a cook -- you haven't lived until you've tasted my angla'bosque. It will be my job to anticipate your needs before you know you have them. And I anticipate your first need will be me.

And Neelix hurries to add --

NEELIX

And where I go, she goes.

Kes can speak for herself and does so --

KES

In my own way, I'm an explorer, Captain. On my world, exploration meant defying the Caretaker just to walk on the surface. I took that chance because I had to. My father taught me that the greatest thing an Ocampo can do is to open her mind to all the experiences and challenges that life has to offer.

(beat)

I can't begin to imagine where this ship might take us. I know I'll never see my homeworld again. But ~~we~~ ^{we both} want very much to be part of your journey.

Janeway, touched, can only nod. How can she refuse someone who speaks to the heart of the Starfleet philosophy?

NEELIX

(with fierce pride)

Isn't she remarkable?

190 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

190

Janeway standing; Kim at Ops, Tuvok at Tactical, Paris, with Lieutenant's pips, sits at Conn. Chakotay at the First Officer's position, Torres at the Engineering station -- both in Starfleet uniforms. Neelix and Kes are in civilian clothes -- Neelix's as tasteless as ever. Janeway is addressing the crew assembled for the first time.

JANEWAY

We're alone in an uncharted part of the galaxy. We've already made some friends here...

(acknowledges Neelix and Kes)

And some enemies. We have no idea of the dangers we're going to face. But one thing is clear -- both crews are going to have to work together if we're to survive. That's why Commander Chakotay and I have agreed that this should be one crew... a Starfleet crew.

(beat)

And as the only Starfleet vessel "assigned" to the Delta Quadrant, we'll continue to follow our directive to seek out new worlds and explore space.

She looks at all her people, those who will bond during this journey.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

But our primary goal is clear. Even at maximum speeds, it would take seventy-five years to reach the Federation...

(beat)

But I'm not willing to settle for that. There's another entity like the Caretaker out there somewhere who has the ability to get us there a lot faster. We'll be looking for her. And we'll be looking for wormholes, spatial rifts or new technologies to help us. Somewhere, along this journey -- we'll find a way back.

There is a silence as the Bridge crew absorbs this.

JANEWAY

Mister Paris, set a course... for home.

(CONTINUED)

190 CONTINUED:

190

PARIS
Aye, Captain.

191 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

191

as it goes into warp. Heading back.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT EIGHT

THE END