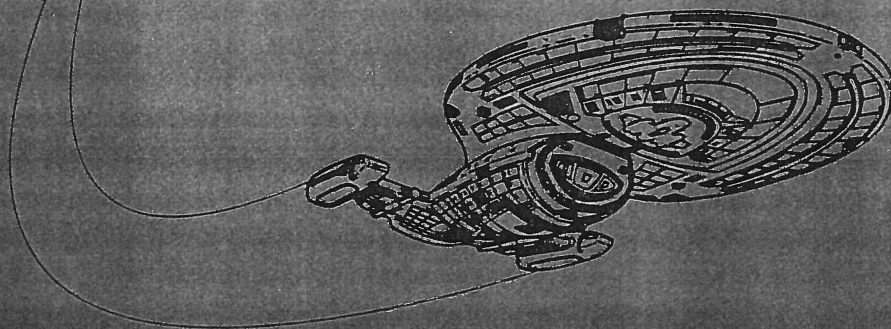


STAR TREK VOYAGER

YEAR 2



"THRESHOLD"

FINAL DRAFT

OCTOBER 31, 1995

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

REVISED
*11/03/95 be

"Threshold"
(fka "Untitled Warp 10")

#40840-132

Story
by
Michael DeLuca

Teleplay
by
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Directed
by
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FINAL DRAFT

OCTOBER 31, 1995

STAR TREK: VOYAGER - "Threshold" - 10/31/95 - CAST

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Threshold"

CAST

JANEWAY

JONAS

KIM

RETTICK

PARIS

TRANSPORTER CHIEF'S
VOICE

CHAKOTAY

TUVOK

TORRES

DOCTOR

KES

NEELIX

COMPUTER VOICE

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

Non-Speaking

N.D. ENGINEERING

STAR TREK: VOYAGER - "Threshold" - 10/31/95 - SETS

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Threshold"

SETS

INTERIORS

VOYAGER

HOLODECK GRID
MESS HALL
BRIEFING ROOM
PARIS' QUARTERS
ENGINEERING
JONAS' QUARTERS
BRIDGE
SICKBAY/DOCTOR'S OFFICE
MED LAB

SHUTTLECRAFT

EXTERIORS

VOYAGER

JUNGLE CLEARING

STAR TREK: "Threshold" - 10/31/95 - PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Threshold"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

KALAVIAN	kuh-LAY-vee-n
TRABALIAN	truh-BAY-lee-n
ACIDICHLORIDE	ah-see-dih-KLOR-ide
ALVEOLI	al-vee-OH-lee
ASTROMETRIC	ass-tro-MEH-trik
DEURANIUM	dur-AY-nee-um
DILITHIUM	die-LIH-thee-um
GENOME	GEE-nome
GIGAQUADS	GIG-uh-kwadz
ISOTROPIC	eye-so-TRO-pik
MULTISPECTRAL	mul-tih-SPEK-tral
NEUROELECTRICAL	nur-oh-ee-LEK-trih-kul
SEROTONIN	sair-uh-TOE-nin
TRITANIUM	try-TAY-ee-un
KAVARIAN	kuh-VAIR-ee-n

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Threshold"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

1

PARIS at the helm. The helm console is connected by cabling to a cluster of specialized Starfleet EQUIPMENT -- consoles, monitors, etc. There's only room for one person at the pilot controls. Paris looks excited, anxious. We should get the feeling this is no ordinary shuttle flight.

PARIS
(to com)
Warp five. Warp six. Warp seven...
(beat)
I've reached critical velocity.

TORRES' COM VOICE
Okay... everything looks good on this end... fire up the new engines.

*

PARIS
Acknowledged. Engaging transwarp drive in four... three... two...

Paris hits a control. The ship shakes and he's jolted back into his seat by a sudden g-force.

PARIS
Transwarp on-line!

2 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

2

to include the front windows -- the stars are STREAKING by at WARP.

PARIS
Warp nine point two... nine point three...

Another SHAKE. The lights flicker.

PARIS
My vector's drifting...

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

KIM'S COM VOICE
Try to stabilize your field
symmetry...

PARIS
(works)
Got it. Warp nine point six...
nine point seven...

Another SHAKE, this time worse. An ALARM sounds.

PARIS
I'm reading a fracture in the port
nacelle pylon!

TORRES' COM VOICE
Full power to structural
integrity!

Paris works. Shaking like crazy.

PARIS
Warp nine point nine... nine point
nine five...
(excited)
I'm crossing the threshold! But
the nacelle isn't holding!

KIM'S COM VOICE
Tie in auxiliary power!

PARIS
(works)
It's no use! I'm breaking up!
I'm break--

BLAM! FLAMES sweep through the cabin as the shuttle
RIPS APART and EXPLODES! An instant later, the flames
VANISH and we reveal we are in:

3 INT. HOLODECK GRID (OPTICAL)

3

Paris is sitting on the grid floor, looking a little
shell-shocked. We realize that the flight was all a
simulation and now the program has been reset. TORRES
and KIM are standing at a control panel by the doors,
where they were monitoring his progress. They turn to
him, frustrated.

TORRES
You're dead.

(CONTINUED)

VOYAGER: "Threshold" - 10/31/95 - TEASER

3.

3 CONTINUED:

3

Off the moment...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes.)

4 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 4
at impulse.

5 INT. MESS HALL 5

Kim, Paris and Torres sitting around a table, PADDs, tricorders, coffee mugs, etc. spread out in front of them. They're having a "brainstorming" session, and it's obviously not going very well.

TORRES

It's the pylon again. Every time we get close to crossing the threshold, the subspace torque rips a nacelle off the shuttle.

KIM

What about a deuranium alloy? We could try using it to reinforce --

TORRES

No, no, no... I've already thought of that. It would be too brittle.

Everyone frowns, sits back -- a frustrating moment. NEELIX walks up with a coffee pot.

NEELIX

More coffee?

Everyone nods. As he pours...

NEELIX

You look like a happy bunch.

KIM

We've hit a wall.

NEELIX

Oh. Well, maybe I can help.

They all give him a look.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

PARIS

Great. Do you know anything about
quantum warp theory or
multispectral subspace engine
design?

NEELIX

No... but I'm a quick study.

He sits down.

NEELIX

What are we working on?

Torres gets up from the table, stretches a little.

TORRES

(to Neelix)

Do you have anything to eat?

NEELIX

Sure. There are some Kalavian
biscuits somewhere in the kitchen.

*
*

But Neelix makes no move to get them. Torres sighs.

TORRES

I guess I'll go find them myself.
Fill him in.

*

She walks off. Neelix looks at Kim and Paris
expectantly.

KIM

Neelix, it would take too long to --

NEELIX

What are you saying, that I'm not
smart enough? I'll have you know
I did two years as an engineering
assistant aboard a Trabalian
freighter. I'm well-versed in
warp theory.

*

PARIS

Okay, okay, we'll tell you...

(beat, with import)

We're trying to break the maximum
warp barrier.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

KIM

Nothing in the universe can go Warp Ten. It's a theoretical impossibility. In principle, if you were ever to reach Warp Ten, you'd be travelling at Infinite Velocity.

NEELIX

Infinite Velocity... got it. So that means... very fast.

PARIS

It means you would occupy every point in the universe simultaneously. In theory, you could go any place in the wink of an eye. Time and distance would have no meaning.

KIM

If Voyager achieved Warp Ten, we could be home in as long as it takes to push a button.

Neelix takes this in, awed by the concept.

NEELIX

Wow. And you're working on this?

PARIS

We discovered a new form of dilithium in the asteroid field we surveyed last month. It remains stable at a much higher warp frequency.

KIM

The problem is, every time we simulate crossing the transwarp threshold, the nacelles get torn off the ship.

Neelix considers.

NEELIX

I remember there was a time when I lost a warp nacelle flying through a dark matter nebula...

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (3)

5

PARIS

This is a very different problem.

NEELIX

I realize that. I'm just using it as an example.

(recounts)

As the ship went through the nebula, it sent out a dark matter bow wave... eventually, so much pressure built up, it tore the nacelle from its housing.

(beat)

Maybe the same thing's happening to you.

Kim shakes his head.

KIM

No. The simulations don't indicate any kind of subspace stress on the nacelles.

Paris suddenly gets a thought. Quick dialogue -- two people working almost as one mind to solve the problem:

PARIS

Wait a minute... what about the shuttle itself?

KIM

What do you mean?

PARIS

Maybe we're looking in the wrong place. What if the nacelles aren't being torn from the ship... what if the ship is being torn from the nacelles?

KIM

(onto the idea)

The hull of the shuttle is made of tritanium alloy... at the speeds we're talking about, that alloy could depolarize...

*

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (4)

5

PARIS
(excited)
...and create a velocity differential. The fuselage would
be travelling at a faster speed
than the nacelles...

*
*
*
*

KIM
That means we just have to set up
a de-polarization matrix around
the fuselage...

PARIS
That's it!

They both jump up.

PARIS
Neelix, you're a genius!

They rush out of the room with exhilaration and
determination. Neelix is excited, happy, stands and
takes a sip of his coffee.

NEELIX
(quiet)
I have no idea what they just
said.

Neelix walks off. A beat, then Torres walks up to the
table holding the tray of biscuits and looks around in
surprise -- where'd everyone go? OFF her confusion...

CUT TO:

6 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

6

CLOSE ON Paris, alone at the helm, flying another
simulation as seen in the Teaser. The shuttle is
trembling slightly, lights flickering.

PARIS
(to com)
Warp nine point nine two... the
pylons are secure... everything
looks good...

The shaking gets worse as he goes faster.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

PARIS
Nine point nine seven... eight...
nine...
(beat)
Warp Ten!

TORRES' COM VOICE
You've crossed the threshold! You
did it!

CUT TO REVEAL --

7 INT. BRIEFING ROOM (OPTICAL)

7

We have actually been watching a RECORDING of the simulation on the WALL MONITOR. One side of the screen is filled with telemetry -- numbers, coordinates, medical information, etc. JANEWAY, CHAKOTAY, Kim and Paris are watching the recording. Torres, Kim and Paris are all smiles. Janeway and Chakotay look impressed. Janeway taps a control on the table and the recording ends. She turns to the others.

JANEWAY
When you came to me a month ago
and said you had a way to cross
the transwarp threshold, I thought
it was more of a fantasy than a
theory.
(smiles)
Congratulations... to all of you.

*
*
*
*

TORRES
So we can try a manned test
flight?

CHAKOTAY
Are you sure you're ready for it?
You don't want to run a few more
simulations first?

KIM
We ran three simulations after the
one you just saw. They all turned
out the same. The theory's valid.
We can do it.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Chakotay looks to Janeway.

JANEWAY

I guess there's only one way to find out. What's your flight plan?

TORRES

We're going to take it one small step at a time. The first run will be to find out what really happens at Warp Ten...

PARIS

I'll bring the shuttle up to speed... and the second I cross the threshold, I'll cut the engines, drop out of warp, and come about...

*
*

KIM

After that, we'll analyze the shuttle's sensor logs. Once we know it's safe to travel at transwarp... we'll try a more extended flight.

Janeway nods. A beat as everyone absorbs the implications -- this is a momentous occasion.

CHAKOTAY

To be honest... it's almost frightening. Up till now, it's all been theory... I never thought it would actually happen.

(beat)

Are we ready for it?

JANEWAY

(musing)

In the last couple of centuries, we've always managed to use new technologies wisely. I'm confident this time won't be any different.

(beat)

Besides, there's no way to put the genie back in the bottle. All we can do now is keep moving forward, carefully.

A thoughtful beat.

JANEWAY

Well, good luck, Mister Paris. If this works, you'll be joining an elite group of pilots.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

JANEWAY (Cont'd)
(beat)
Orville Wright, Neil Armstrong,
Zephram Cochrane... and Tom Paris.

PARIS
I kind of like the way that
sounds.

JANEWAY
I thought you might.

Paris smiles. He's exhilarated... in fact, he looks
happier than we've ever seen him before...

CUT TO:

8 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)
at impulse.

8

9 INT. PARIS' QUARTERS

9

Paris dressed in his bathrobe, relaxing, feet up,
reading a PADD. The door CHIMES.

PARIS
Come in.

Janeway ENTERS. Paris jumps to his feet, a little
embarrassed.

PARIS
Captain... I, um...

JANEWAY
At ease, Mister Paris. I know
it's late.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

PARIS
Can I... get you anything?

JANEWAY
No, thank you.

PARIS
Why do I get the feeling this
isn't just a social call?

Janeway takes a deep breath, not happy about what she's
here to say. She sits down.

JANEWAY
I've just spoken to the Doctor...
and it's his opinion that we let
Ensign Kim make the test flight.

PARIS
(stunned)
May I ask why?

JANEWAY
He checked over your bio-metric
readings from the shuttle
simulations... he says you have
a slight enzymatic imbalance in
your cerebellum.

PARIS
So?

JANEWAY
I know it doesn't sound like
much... but he can't predict
what'll happen when you cross the
threshold. He believes there's a
small chance that you could suffer
a brain hemorrhage under the
subspace stress.

PARIS
How big a chance?

JANEWAY
Two percent.

PARIS
Two percent!

Paris stands, frustrated. He can't believe this is
happening.

PARIS
I'll take that chance.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

JANEWAY

There's no reason to. Ensign Kim
is capable of piloting the shuttle
for this mission...

PARIS

Yeah, he's capable. That's not
the point.

JANEWAY

What is the point, Mister Paris?

PARIS

Well... it's hard to explain
but... this is my flight.

JANEWAY

Your flight...?

Paris turns away, a little embarrassed... this isn't
easy for him to talk about.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

PARIS

When I was a boy, my father used to tell me that I was special... that one day, I'd do something significant. My teachers in school... all the kids... everyone used to say Tom Paris is going to do something important when he grows up.

He turns to her with a pointed look.

PARIS

It's pretty obvious that didn't happen.

JANEWAY

This isn't about personal redemption... we're talking about medical risk... your life could be in danger... and we need you.

PARIS

Captain, this is the first time in ten years that I feel I have a life to risk. Frankly, two percent isn't that big a gamble to me. Right now, I'd do this even if you told me there was only a two percent chance I'd make it.

Janeway considers him for a long moment.

JANEWAY

You're sure about this...

PARIS

Captain, I've never been so sure about anything. Please. Let me make the flight.

A long beat. She can see how badly he wants it. She struggles for a moment, and then finally...

JANEWAY

Good luck, Lieutenant.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (4)

9

She EXITS. Paris collapses into a chair with relief.
OFF his face...

CUT TO:

10 INT. ENGINEERING

10

A flurry of activity. ENGINEERING N.D.S are quickly moving around the room, checking equipment. JONAS (as seen in "Alliances") is also there. Torres is working a console, making final pre-flight checks.

TORRES
(to com)
Life support...

INTERCUT:

11 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

11

Paris at the helm, checking his flight controls.

PARIS
Check.

TORRES
Maneuvering thrusters...

PARIS
Check.

TORRES
Plasma ignition sequencer...

PARIS
Nominal.

TORRES
Transwarp coils...

PARIS
Fully energized.

TORRES
That's it. All systems are
operational.

(beat)
How about you, Lieutenant?

Paris takes a breath -- excited but a little nervous,
too.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

PARIS
I'm operational, too.

Torres smiles.

TORRES
(taps combadge)
Torres to Bridge.

12 INT. BRIDGE

12

Janeway, Chakotay, Kim, TUVOK, N.D.s at their stations.
There is a sense of excitement in the room -- they're
on the verge of an historic breakthrough.

TORRES' COM VOICE
The pre-launch sequence is
complete, Captain.

JANEWAY
Acknowledged.
(to Kim)
Ensign Kim... depressurize the
shuttlebay... and open the space
doors...

A beat as Kim works, then:

JANEWAY
(to com)
Bridge to Shuttlecraft Drake.
You're cleared for launch.

13 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT 13

As before.

PARIS
Aye, Captain.
(beat)
See you at Warp Ten.

He takes a breath... then starts working the helm controls...

14 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 14

As the SHUTTLECRAFT SOARS away from the ship... and then GOES INTO WARP. A moment later, Voyager also GOES INTO WARP, following the shuttle.

15 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT 15

As before.

PARIS
(to com)
Drake to Voyager. All systems are nominal... I'm increasing speed...

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
We'll keep up with you as long as we can.

PARIS
Warp seven... warp eight...

16 INT. ENGINEERING 16

As before. Torres and Jonas checking various read-outs.

TORRES
(to Jonas)
How's his dilithium matrix holding up?

JONAS
(checks a console)
There's slight variance in the warp field... nothing to worry about.

TORRES
(taps combadge)
Torres to Shuttlecraft Drake.
You're clear for transwarp velocity.

17 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

17

The ship now trembling slightly with the high speeds.

PARIS
(to com)
Acknowledged. Engaging transwarp
drive in four... three... two...

He hits a control and he's JOLTED back from the sudden
"g-forces."

18 INT. BRIDGE

18

PARIS' COM VOICE
Warp nine point seven... warp nine
point eight... nine point nine...

TUVOK
(off console)
He's exceeding our maximum
velocity. I'm switching to long
range sensors.

*
*

Paris' com voice starts to break up with static:

PARIS
(fritzed)
Warp nine point nine five...

A tense beat, then.

TUVOK
(off console)
He's crossing the threshold.

19 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

19

The ship SHAKING hard now, lights flickering.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

PARIS
Engine output at maximum...
(beat)
Velocity... Warp Ten.

20 INT. BRIDGE

20

Excited looks all around -- this is a proud moment.

PARIS' COM VOICE
(heavily fritzed)
Transwarp engines are stable... so
are the nacelle pylons. I'm going
to...
(beat)
Oh my God. Oh my --

*
*

His voice FRITZES OUT in a weird effect.

JANEWAY
(to com, urgent)
Mister Paris? Lieutenant, can you
hear me?

KIM
(off console)
Captain... he just disappeared off
sensors...

CHAKOTAY
Increase sensor gain to maximum.

Kim works.

KIM
Nothing. I can't find him...
(beat)
He's gone.

Surprised reactions...

21
thru
23

OMITTED

21
thru
23

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

24 INT. BRIDGE

24

A few minutes later. Everyone at their stations, frantically working.

KIM
I've done three full sensors sweeps -- there's no sign of the shuttle within five parsecs.

JANEWAY
Could the shuttle have been destroyed?

TUVOK
I don't think so. Sensors indicate that he did cross the Warp threshold.

KIM
If that's true... then he could be anywhere in the universe.

A tense moment.

JANEWAY
We'll just have to keep searching our small corner...
(beat)
Run a multispectral sweep. I want to see if --

*

TUVOK
(off console)
Captain -- there's a quantum surge off the port bow. Something's coming out of subspace.

25 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

25

As space itself DISTORTS and the Shuttlecraft EMERGES from the depths of subspace.

26 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

26

As before. Paris' shuttle is now on the VIEWSCREEN.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

JANEWAY
(to com)
Janeway to Paris.

No response.

KIM
(off console)
He's alive, but his lifesigns are weak.

JANEWAY
Bridge to Transporter Room Two.
Beam Mister Paris directly to Sickbay.
(to Chakotay)
Commander, bring the shuttle aboard. I'll be in Sickbay.

CHAKOTAY
Aye, Captain.

As Janeway heads for the door...

CUT TO:

27 INT. SICKBAY

27

A short time later. Paris is lying on a bio-bed, the DOCTOR working at his side. Janeway looks on.

DOCTOR
(to Janeway)
His lifesigns are normal. A few elevated serotonin readings in the hypothalamus...
(beat)
From what I can tell, he's... asleep.

Janeway reacts to this.

JANEWAY
Can you wake him?

DOCTOR
I don't see why not.

The Doctor leans down and barks at Paris sharply.

DOCTOR
Wake up, Lieutenant!

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

Paris' eyes fly open. He looks around, disoriented.

JANEWAY

Are you all right, Tom?

PARIS

I'm back...

JANEWAY

We tracked you until you crossed the threshold... then you disappeared from our sensors. Do you remember what happened?

PARIS

Oh, yeah...

Paris sits up with a look of wonder and elation on his face. He's been through a magical experience.

PARIS

(continuing)

I was staring at the velocity indicator... it said Warp Ten.

(beat)

And then, as I watched it, I suddenly realized that I was watching... myself, as well.

JANEWAY

I don't understand.

He concentrates, trying to make sense of the memory.

PARIS

You know, like in a dream? When you can look at yourself from another person's point of view...

JANEWAY

Yes, I know what you mean... I've had dreams like that.

PARIS

So I was watching the console... and I was watching myself... and then my awareness just... expanded.

(beat)

I could see the outside of the shuttle... I could see Voyager... I could see inside Voyager... I could see inside this room...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

PARIS (Cont'd)

(beat)

For a moment... I was everywhere.
I mean everywhere, Captain.

(beat)

With the Kazon... back home...
with the Klingons... other
galaxies... it was all there...

(beat)

I don't know how else to explain
it. It was like... no, it wasn't
like anything.

They take in his remarkable story.

DOCTOR

Well, I'm glad you had a good
time.

JANEWAY

How did you get back to Voyager?

PARIS

(smiles)

I saw you looking for me... so I
took the new engines off-line.
And I ended up back where I
started.

His smiles fades.

PARIS

But... it's starting to slip
away... it was all so vivid...
and now...

He trails off. Torres ENTERS, looking concerned.

TORRES

Tom...

PARIS

I'm fine. How's the shuttle?

Torres smiles, excited.

TORRES

You brought it back without a
scratch.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

TORRES (Cont'd)

The onboard sensors confirm that
you did it -- you made it to Warp
Ten.

JANEWAY

Congratulations, Mister Paris.
You've just made the history
books.

PARIS

We should download the shuttle's
sensor logs... analyze the
telemetry they picked up during
the flight before we make another
attempt.

*

DOCTOR

You're not going anywhere, at
least not for the next few hours.
I have some tests to run on your
majesty before I release you back
into the realm of normal men.

Paris lies back.

PARIS

("regal")

You may proceed.

JANEWAY

We'll download the logs. I'll let
you know what we find.

*

*

As Janeway and Torres head for the door...

CUT TO:

28 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

28

at impulse.

29 INT. ENGINEERING

29

A while later. Janeway and Torres are standing at a large MONITOR. Jonas and a few other N.D.s can be seen working in the b.g.

JANEWAY
(taps combadge)
Janeway to Kim. We're ready.

30 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

30

Kim sitting in the pilot's seat, working the controls.

KIM
(to com)
Acknowledged. I'm downloading the
logs into the Engineering computer
core...

*

He works the controls...

31 INT. ENGINEERING

31

*

A beat. Then Janeway and Torres watch as a TORRENT of INFORMATION begins racing across the monitor screen -- an endless series of coordinates, starcharts and images of galaxies and planets. Torres works a console.

TORRES
This data describes literally
every cubic centimeter in this
sector. It's over five billion
gigaquads of information.

JANEWAY
(thinks)
Mister Paris said he felt like he
was everywhere... and these
readings seem to confirm it.

*

*

*

*

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

Janeway takes a few steps around the room, trying to wrap her mind around the implications.

JANEWAY

It would appear that the theory of Infinite Velocity is correct -- it may be possible to occupy every point in the universe simultaneously.

TORRES

Then it's just a matter of navigation. We need to figure out how to come out of transwarp at a specific point.

(beat)

This could take us home.

*
*

32 ANGLE ON JONAS

32

who is pretending to be occupied with his work, but is actually listening to their conversation with keen interest...

JANEWAY

It could do more than that. It could change the very nature of our existence...

(beat)

Think of it. There would be nothing beyond our reach...

*

33 RESUME JANEWAY AND TORRES

33

A beat as they ponder this overwhelming concept.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

JANEWAY
(re: monitor)
This telemetry is giving us an
invaluable record of this sector.
We can use it to make a starchart.
(beat)
Transfer the shuttle logs to
Stellar Cartography for analysis.

*

*

TORRES
Right.

34 ANGLE ON JONAS

34

He heard everything they just said. He keeps a neutral
expression, but it's clear that he's very interested in
what he's heard. OFF the moment...

CUT TO:

35 INT. MESS HALL

35

A few hours later. Paris and Torres sitting at a table
in the empty room. It's late, after hours. PADDs and
tricorders are scattered on the table -- they've been
working for a while. Neelix is pouring each of them a
cup of coffee.

NEELIX
(re: coffee)
This is a new blend... I'm calling
it "Paris Delight."

Paris nods absently, his mind on his work.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

NEELIX
(to Paris)
It's in honor of you.

PARIS
What? Oh, thanks. That's very
flattering.

NEELIX
(dry)
I can tell.

Neelix walks back into the kitchen area. Torres
smiles.

TORRES
You might as well get used to it.
You're a hero, now.

PARIS
I wish I could say it was
nothing...

He thinks for a moment, takes a sip of the coffee and
makes a face -- it's awful.

PARIS
Ugh. I wish Neelix would name
something after me that tasted a
little better.

TORRES
(sniffs it)
Smells okay.

PARIS
Trust me. You're taking your life
in your hands.
(looks at PADD)
I think the next step is to try to
duplicate the first shuttle
flight, to verify our results.

*

TORRES
I agree. We have to confirm that
none of this was a fluke.

PARIS
But I do think we should increase
the memory core of the shuttle by
at least...

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

He trails off, seems to lose focus.

TORRES
What's wrong?

PARIS
That coffee isn't settling too well.

He lightly touches his stomach, feeling a little ill.

TORRES
Do you want to go back to Sickbay?

PARIS
No... I've had enough of the doctor for one day.

He reacts to a sudden pain in his head.

PARIS
Oh...
(beat)
On second thought, maybe I --

He stops, chokes, stricken by a seizure of some kind. He falls from the table to the floor. Torres moves to him...

36 NEW ANGLE - PARIS

36

who is trembling, eyes wide with fear. We can now see the faint outline of VEINS crisscrossing his face, as though his vessels are about to burst. (STAGE 1 MAKE-UP.)

TORRES
(taps combadge)
Torres to Transporter Room Two.
Medical Emergency! Beam
Lieutenant Paris directly to
Sickbay!

A tense beat.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF'S VOICE
I can't lock onto him. His
pattern keeps changing...

(CONTINUED)

*

*
*

36 CONTINUED:

36

TORRES
(taps combadge)
Torres to Sickbay -- we need a
medical team in the Mess Hall
right away!

Paris groans in pain, barely conscious.

TORRES
Hang on, Tom...

Off the terrifying moment...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

37 INT. SICKBAY (OPTICAL)

37

Torres and two N.D. crewmembers are placing Paris on the operating table in the surgical area. Paris still looks the same -- sweating, veins visible beneath his skin, etc. (STAGE 1 MAKE-UP) The Doctor begins scanning Paris with a tricorder.

*
*
*
*

DOCTOR
(off tricorder)
It looks like he's having an
allergic reaction. What did he
ingest?

TORRES
Just a cup of Neelix's coffee...

DOCTOR
It's a miracle he's still alive.

He moves to a clamshell console and works it... frowns.

DOCTOR
This is strange.

TORRES
What is?

DOCTOR
He's definitely having an allergic
reaction... to the water in the
coffee.

TORRES
He's allergic to water?

The Doctor works, puzzled.

DOCTOR
I don't know how this is possible,
but it appears that his entire bio-
chemistry is changing.
(beat)
His electrolytes are breaking
down... interstitial fluids are
congealing...

Paris starts to gasp for air. The Doctor scans him.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

DOCTOR

The alveoli in his lungs are
mutating. He's no longer
processing oxygen...

TORRES

What should we do?

The Doctor thinks a moment, then gets an idea.

DOCTOR

(to all)
Stand back.

Torres and the N.D.s move away from the clamshell.

DOCTOR

(to computer)
Computer -- erect an isolation
field around the surgical bay.

A FORCEFIELD FLASHES ON around the surgery area,
cutting Paris off from the rest of the room. The
Doctor checks his tricorder.

DOCTOR

Computer, remove all the air from
within the forcefield... and
replace it with eighty percent
nitrogen and twenty percent
acidichloride.

*

There's a faint HISSING SOUND... and after a moment,
Paris stops gasping and begins to breathe normally.
The Doctor checks a console.

DOCTOR

He can breathe... for now.

TORRES

What's happening to him?

DOCTOR

I have no idea, but I assume it
has something to do with his
experience on the shuttle.

Paris cries out and writhes in pain. The Doctor checks
a console.

DOCTOR

His cellular membranes are
deteriorating. He's dying.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

DOCTOR (Cont'd)
(beat, then to Torres)
I need to know more about what
happened on that shuttle, and I
need to know now. Radiation
levels, unexplained anomalies,
anything.

Torres nods and races out of the room. The Doctor
continues working. Paris struggles to hang in there --
he's frightened, confused and wracked with pain. OFF
his face...

CUT TO:

38 INT. ENGINEERING

38

The late shift. An N.D. Engineer is working at a
console, the only one in the room. After a moment,
Jonas ENTERS, carrying a tricorder.

JONAS
(to N.D.)
Here to relieve you, Ensign.

The N.D. nods, walks out of the room. Jonas waits
until he's gone... glances around the room to make sure
no one else is there... then moves to the monitor where
Janeway and Torres were looking at the shuttle logs.
He taps a few controls and sets his tricorder on the
console.

JONAS
Computer -- establish a datalink
with this tricorder.

The computer works.

COMPUTER VOICE
Link established.

*

JONAS
Access sensor logs from
Shuttlecraft Drake and download
spatial telemetry.

*

COMPUTER VOICE
That information is classified.
Command code authorization is
required.

Jonas presses a couple of buttons on the tricorder.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

JONAS

Bypass the security locks
protecting the logs and --

*
*

Just then doors slide open and Kim and Torres rush into the room. Jonas sees them and quickly grabs his tricorder, stands and moves away from the console to hide what he's doing.

TORRES

(to Kim, on the move)
Check the astrometric data to look
for any subspace anomalies. I'll
analyze the quantum telemetry.

*

(beat)
There's a lot to sift through.
We're going to need some help.

She turns Jonas.

TORRES

Mike. Give us a hand here.

Jonas moves to them.

JONAS

Yes, Lieutenant?

TORRES

I'm giving you about twenty
million quads of spatial
coordinates. I want you to go
through them with a fine-tooth
comb. Catalogue every anomaly, no
matter how small.

*

Jonas nods. As they get to work...

CUT TO:

39 INT. SICKBAY (OPTICAL)

39

A short time later. KES has arrived and is working frantically with the Doctor to save Paris, who is lying on the table in the surgical area, still isolated from the rest of the room. He looks like he's dying -- skin perspiring, pale complexion, etc. (STAGE 2 MAKE-UP)

*

There are now medical DISPLAYS all around the room showing Paris' medical condition -- heart rate monitor, EEG display, etc. The scene is urgent.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

The Doctor WALKS THROUGH the FORCEFIELD, which flashes on briefly. (NOTE: Kes waits outside the forcefield.) He picks up a tricorder and scans Paris. Paris stares up at the Doctor -- he's conscious but slowly slipping into a delirious state of mind. • *

PARIS

You're losing me, aren't you? I'm going to die...

DOCTOR

You're too stubborn to die, Mister Paris.

He turns to Kes.

DOCTOR

I want to try high saturation radiometric therapy. It might slow down the cellular mutation.

Kes nods, moves to a wall panel next to the surgery area and starts working the controls.

PARIS

"Here Lies Thomas Eugene Paris... Beloved Mutant."

DOCTOR

A fitting epitaph, but I don't intend to let you use it just yet.

KES

(working)

The radiometric emitters are charged and ready.

DOCTOR

Begin with forty-seven rads per second.

Kes works the wall panel... and we hear a WHINE begin in the room. The Doctor keeps scanning him.

.(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

PARIS

Great... now it'll read "Beloved
Radioactive Mutant."

DOCTOR

(scanning him)

No effect. Increase the dosage to
eighty-five rads per second. I'm
going to try inhibiting the cell
mitosis with a bio-suppressor
field.

Kes works. The Doctor grabs a scanning device,
activates it and starts moving the device over Paris'
entire body. As they work, Paris starts rambling, his
mind slipping into delirium as he comes one step closer
to death.

PARIS

A big funeral... lots of pretty
girls all crying... except Torres.
Torres doesn't cry, you ever
notice that? I don't trust people
who don't cry...

(beat)

Of course, my father... he'd say
crying's a sign of weakness. I
never believed that...

(to Doctor)

Do you cry?

DOCTOR

It's not in my program.

PARIS

Shame. You know what's funny?
What I remember most about being
a kid are the times I was in my
room crying...

(beat)

I liked my room, though. It was
quiet there... people'd leave me
alone...I'd keep my door locked...
read... play games...

(beat)

I lost my virginity in that
room... seventeen... parents away
for the week-end.

*

DOCTOR

I'll note that in your medical
file.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (3)

39

PARIS

Angela something... sooooo
beautiful... of course she was
thirty-two...

One of the displays sounds a warning alarm.

DOCTOR

(off tricorder)

His lymphatic system is
collapsing. Increase dosage to
ninety-eight rads per second!

Kes works. Paris shudders -- reacting to a sudden pain
somewhere in his body. He tries to hold on by sheer
will...

PARIS

Pepperoni. God, I'd love a
pepperoni pizza with Kavarian
olives right now. I'm starving...

(to Doctor)

You don't eat, do you? You don't
eat, you don't cry, you don't
sleep, you don't have sex...
you've got so much to learn...

*

DOCTOR

(to Kes)

His lifesigns are approaching
critical... maximum dosage!

*

Kes works and the whine builds. Paris seizes up in
pain -- he's fading fast, very near death now.

PARIS

Kiss me.

DOCTOR

What?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (4)

39

PARIS

Not you...
(re: Kes)
Her.

The Doctor and Kes exchange a look.

DOCTOR

She can't breathe the atmosphere
in here.

PARIS

Consider it a last request...

KES

I'm sorry, Tom... if we let down
the forcefield, you'll suffocate.

PARIS

What's the difference? I'm dying
anyway...

(beat)

Do me a favor. When I'm gone...
call Starfleet Headquarters...
tell Dad that I did it... tell him
I...

He trails off... his eyes flutter... this is it. All
of the read-outs monitoring his condition GO FLAT.

DOCTOR

Neuro-stimulator!

The Doctor grabs a small medical device and attaches it
to Paris' forehead. Kes moves to a console.

KES

Ready.

DOCTOR

Now.

Kes hits a button. Paris' body convulses in response
to a shock from the neuro-stimulator. The Doctor scans
him. *

DOCTOR

Again.

Kes hits the control, but this time Paris barely jolts.

DOCTOR

Again!

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (5)

39

Kes hits the control... this time nothing. Paris is now completely still. The doctor checks his tricorder.

DOCTOR
No neural activity.

*

He shuts the tricorder. A grim, somber moment as Kes moves over and stands just outside the forcefield, looks in at Paris.

KES
(urgent)
We can try to revive him...

*

*

DOCTOR
His cell membranes have degraded.
There's nothing more we can do.
(beat)
Computer -- remove acidichloride
gas and then deactivate the
isolation field.

*

We hear a HISS and then the forcefield flashes off. Kes watches grief-stricken. The Doctor tries to console her.

DOCTOR
It will be necessary for us to
perform an autopsy on the
Lieutenant's body in the morning.
(beat)
Until then, I suggest you get some
rest.

Kes nods... then walks over to Paris... leans over and gently kisses him on the cheek. She stares down at her friend as though to say farewell, then finally turns and walks out of the room. OFF the grim moment...

CUT TO:

39A EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

39A

at impulse.

39B INT. SICKBAY - DOCTOR'S OFFICE

39B

The Doctor sitting at his desk, middle of the night. A quiet moment goes by as he works a terminal...

A soft SCRATCHING sound is heard from somewhere in Sickbay. He stops, listens -- but there is only silence. He returns to his work...

(CONTINUED)

39B CONTINUED:

39B

then the scratching sound again. This time he knows he heard something. He stands and walks into...

39C NEW ANGLE - MAIN SICKBAY

39C

He enters and looks around. No one is there. He glances at Paris' dead body, which is still lying on the surgical bed, now covered with a sheet. The medical displays are dark, inactive. Scratch, scratch, scratch -- the sound again, from Paris' direction! The Doctor walks over to his body... pulls away the sheet...

*
*

Paris is alive. His eyes are wide open, staring up at the ceiling with a look of shock. His skin is moist, clammy, veins bulging as before. The fingers on his left hand are twitching, making a tiny scratching sound against the tabletop. A startling and eerie sight. (STAGE 2 MAKE-UP)

*

The Doctor reacts, stunned. He quickly hits a wall control to activate the medical displays. The MONITORS LIGHT UP -- all of Paris' vital signs are active. Paris chokes a little, tries to speak.

*
*
*

PARIS
(hoarse whisper)
What's... happening...

DOCTOR
(stunned)
You're alive.

The Doctor checks a wall monitor.

DOCTOR
All of your internal organs are functioning again. In fact... you seem to have an extra one.

PARIS
What...

DOCTOR
You have... two hearts.

40 ANGLE ON MONITOR (OPTICAL)

40

Which shows a CUTAWAY SCHEMATIC of PARIS' BODY -- a photo-realistic image, like a high-tech MRI scanner. There are TWO HEARTS beating in Paris' chest -- one in the normal mid-section, and one down where his kidney should be. Two organs palpitating strongly. OFF the bizarre image...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 INT. JONAS' QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

41

Jonas is working, attaching a small DEVICE to a computer terminal. The device starts to BLINK. He places a small, make-shift CODING BOX next to the terminal... works it a moment... then the box starts to BLINK IN SYNCH with the computer terminal device. A series of numbers, symbols and codes flash across the screen, and a Kazon appears -- RETTICK as seen in "Alliances." The image should be slightly distorted -- this is not a clear transmission.

JONAS
(to Kazon)
I have thirty seconds before
security picks up this
transmission.

He keeps working the monitor.

JONAS
I'm sending you all current
information on the Warp Ten
shuttle flight.

RETTICK
Warp Ten? That's impossible...

JONAS
Not anymore. Lieutenant Paris
crossed the threshold this
morning.

RETTICK
He survived?

JONAS
In a manner of speaking. It's all
in the file.
(beat)
This should prove my worth to you,
Rettick.

RETTICK
We'll see.

The Kazon's image fritzes out. Jonas quickly
deactivates the coding box. OFF the ominous moment...

CUT TO:

42 INT. SICKBAY - MED LAB

42 *

The Doctor is reporting to Janeway, who looks concerned.

DOCTOR

His body is going through some sort of mutation. His DNA is rewriting itself. To what end, I don't know.

JANEWAY

Does this have anything to do with the enzymatic imbalance you found?

DOCTOR

No.

*

JANEWAY

Can you stop it?

DOCTOR

So far, nothing has worked. The mutations are unlike anything in Starfleet medical records. His internal organs are being rearranged... some have atrophied and been absorbed into his body... and there are at least three others that have appeared and have no identifiable function at all.

JANEWAY

What about his brain?

DOCTOR

There are neuroelectrical transmutations at work... his synaptic patterns are changing almost every second.

*

(beat)

But he does still recognize me, the ship... he knows who he is.

Janeway considers, disturbed.

JANEWAY

Can I talk to him?

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

DOCTOR

Of course. But I feel I should caution you that while he is still Tom Paris, he's becoming... something else, as well. His personality is erratic, unpredictable. There are moments of lucidity interspersed with almost... deranged behavior.

JANEWAY

I'll keep that in mind.

They EXIT to...

43 NEW ANGLE - MAIN SICKBAY (OPTICAL)

43

Paris is lying on the table in the surgical area. Kes is working at a console nearby, trying not to look at Paris any more than she has to. Janeway and the Doctor move to the surgical area... careful to stay behind the isolation field which surrounds it. Here we get our first clear look at Paris, and it's a startling sight:

The SKIN from his body is hanging off of him in long strips... reminiscent of a snake shedding its skin. Fresh, moist, pinkish, SKIN has formed in its place. He's lost most of his hair... and his HEAD is slightly misshapen, asymmetrical, as though the lobes have not quite finished their transformation. He is now wearing a hospital gown, which obscures most of his body, but it's clear that it is no longer the body of a human being -- there are ridges, bumps, strange outgrowths. (STAGE 3 MAKE-UP)

*

Paris stares at them as they walk in. Janeway tries not to react, but it isn't easy.

PARIS

Pretty disgusting, huh?

JANEWAY

You've looked better. How do you feel?

PARIS

Like a lab experiment gone wrong.

She smiles, a little relieved that he still has a sense of humor.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

JANEWAY

Well, we're trying to put that experiment right. The Doctor's working on a way to restore your DNA to its original --

PARIS

Why?

JANEWAY

Excuse me?

PARIS

Why? Whatever I'm becoming will probably be better than who I was.

JANEWAY

Lieutenant, that's not true...

PARIS

Yes, it is. Admit it. Part of you will be glad to get rid of me. I'm the Maquis traitor who sits on your Bridge and insults the uniform... remember?

*
*

Janeway glances at the Doctor, who shrugs -- he'd been expecting this.

PARIS

He told you I'd be like this, didn't he? He thinks I'm demented. That I'm losing my mind... becoming some sort of alien lifeform...

*

JANEWAY

We're all concerned about you, Tom. We're here to help you.

PARIS

No, you're not. You're trying to take this away from me...

JANEWAY

Take what away from you?

PARIS

What I'm becoming. How do you know this isn't good for me? How do you know this isn't the best thing that's ever happened to me?

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2)

43

JANEWAY

That's a possibility. But then again, it could kill you. We need to find out what's going on...

Paris studies her. He twitches a little -- a burst of nervous energy welling to the surface.

PARIS

You're lying. Just like him... just like everyone around here... always lying, always telling me that I'm doing a good job... that you're glad I'm on the ship... but none of that's true...

(beat)

Why can't you just say it? You're jealous that I broke the transwarp barrier... and now you're hoping I'll die.

JANEWAY

You're right, Doctor. I don't think there's anything I can do here.

She turns to go, but then Paris sits up on the table, suddenly repentant.

PARIS

Wait, Captain! I'm sorry. Please don't go.

Janeway looks at him.

PARIS

I know you're doing everything you can... it's just... I'm scared... I didn't mean to lash out at you...

Paris looks frightened. Janeway softens, moves right up to the isolation field.

JANEWAY

What you're going through would scare any of us. But you have to hang on... and remember that we're doing everything we can to help you.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (3)

43

PARIS
I know you are...
(beat)
And I know you'll fail!

He JUMPS off the table and throws himself at Janeway. He SMASHES INTO the isolation field, which FRITZES on and off. Janeway steps back, startled. Paris stares up at her with a slightly maniacal look.

PARIS
I used to look up to you... and
now you look so small... so
insignificant. You don't even
know what... what...

He stops, starts to choke, as though about to vomit. A horrible gurgling sound is heard from somewhere deep in his chest... he starts to retch... and then he reaches into his mouth and TEARS OFF a huge PIECE OF HIS TONGUE. He stares down at the lifeless chunk of flesh with a look of puzzlement and fascination... then he looks up at Janeway. He smiles at her and shrugs, as if to say "oh well." OFF the bizarre moment...

CUT TO:

44 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

44

at impulse.

44A INT. SICKBAY

44A

A while later. The Doctor and Kes are working at consoles.

KES
Doctor... the rate of genetic
mutation has accelerated by twelve
percent.

The Doctor moves to her, concerned.

DOCTOR
I want you to run a nucleogenic
scan... see how much of his
original DNA is left intact.

Paris chimes in, his voice hoarse and garbled -- part of his tongue is gone and God knows what else.

PARIS
Doctor...

(CONTINUED)

44A CONTINUED:

44A

The Doctor ignores him -- by now used to his ramblings.

DOCTOR
(continuing)
In the meantime, I'm going to see
about treating him with --

PARIS
Doctor!

DOCTOR
What is it now, Mister Paris?

PARIS
I need... to talk...

DOCTOR
So I've noticed.
(beat)
Is it urgent? I'm rather busy
right now.

PARIS
Urgent... yes... urgent...

The Doctor and Kes exchange a wary look, then walk over to the perimeter of the surgical bay. Paris is sitting on the floor next to the operating table, arms curled around his legs in a fetal-like position. He's slowly rocking back and forth. (STAGE 3 MAKE-UP)

PARIS
Let me out of here...

DOCTOR
I'm afraid that's not possible.

PARIS
Please... I can't stay here... I
have to get off the ship...

KES
Leave Voyager? Why?

Paris stands, staggers up to the forcefield... a strange determination in his eyes.

PARIS
I... understand... it's all so
clear...

DOCTOR
What do you understand?

Paris tries to put his thoughts into words, but it's difficult. He's less coherent than before... his personality slipping away...

(CONTINUED)

44A CONTINUED: (2)

44A

PARIS

The present... the past... are
both in the future...

(beat)

The future... is in the past.

Beat.

DOCTOR

I beg your pardon?

Paris is getting frustrated, angry -- desperate to be understood. He isn't just rambling -- he's trying to say something important but can't articulate it.

PARIS

Listen... I... am... more... I'm
everything...

(urgent)

Let me go!

KES

Go where, Tom?

PARIS

(struggling)

I can't... please...
pleeeeeease....

This last word turns into a low, animalistic GURGLE. A beat, then he sits down on the floor... wraps his arms around his legs and resumes his fetal curl... lost in the world of his own thoughts. A low, wet gurgling comes from somewhere in his throat. He's more alien than ever, now.

DOCTOR

Something tells me we'd better
hurry.

As they get back to work...

CUT TO:

45 INT. BRIEFING ROOM (OPTICAL)

45

Janeway, Chakotay, and Torres. The Doctor is on a MONITOR reporting to the staff.

DOCTOR

I believe the answer lies in forcing his DNA to revert to its original coding. Once that occurs, his body should return to its former state.

CHAKOTAY

How do we do that?

DOCTOR

We destroy all of the new DNA in his body. His cells will have to use the original coding as a blueprint.

(beat)

But the only way to destroy the mutant DNA is with highly focused antiproton radiation.

TORRES

Antiprotons? The only place on this ship where antiprotons are generated is the warp core...

DOCTOR

Exactly. I'd like to put Mister Paris in an isotropic restraint... and then infuse it with controlled antiproton bursts.

(beat)

A tricky venture... but I see no other alternative.

TORRES

We'd have to take the warp core off-line... and I'd need another three hours to set up an interface.

DOCTOR

In three hours, there won't be anything left of Mister Paris to save. We have to make the attempt within an hour at the most.

JANEWAY

Get moving.

As everyone moves into action...

CUT TO:

46 INT. ENGINEERING

46 *

Paris is lying in a high-tech CASING that is closely fitted to his body (as seen in "Phage.") The casing has been arranged on a table near the warp core. Torres, Jonas and some N.D Engineers are setting up a complex series of cabling running from the warp core to the casing. A security N.D. is standing nearby.

Paris' HEAD is more radically TRANSFORMED. His facial features are less human -- moist and mottled flesh, his skin constantly twitching, as though from air bladders just under the skin. His EYES are amphibian-like, with tiny horizontal slits running across them. And the eyes are watching everything -- he's alert, observant. A bizarre and terrifying creature that can only be described as a cross between human and amphibian. (STAGE 4 MAKE-UP)

*

47 ON A MONITOR (OPTICAL)

47

The Doctor is guiding the experiment.

DOCTOR

What's your status, Lieutenant?

TORRES

The interface is charged and ready...

*
*

DOCTOR

Infuse him with a two second antiproton burst.

*
*

TORRES

(nods, to Jonas)
Take the warp engines off-line.

Jonas works. The warp core begins PULSING at a much lower level.

TORRES

(to Jonas)
Bleed off point zero five seven A.M.U.'s of antiproton radiation... shunt it through the interface...

*

Jonas works. The room HUMS with power.

*

JONAS

Transfer underway...

48 CLOSE ON PARIS' FACE 48

His eyes darting about, watching everything.

48A INSERT - ON THE STASIS CHAMBER 48A *

A LATCH that is holding the top of the chamber down begins to tremble slightly... then shakes again... we get the feeling that something is happening to the latch from the inside... *

49 TORRES AND JONAS 49

working their consoles, their backs to Paris. They don't notice what's happening...

50 INT. SICKBAY - CONTINUOUS 50

The Doctor and Kes are working consoles. Kes reacts to a reading.

KES

Doctor... the mutated DNA in his liver cells has begun to deteriorate... but the original coding isn't taking over. *

The Doctor checks her readings. *

DOCTOR

I don't understand... this should be working.

(beat)

We'll have to increase the duration of the bursts.

He moves to...

51 A MONITOR (OPTICAL) 51

which shows Torres and Jonas at work in Engineering. Paris and the stasis chamber are offcamera.

DOCTOR

(to Torres)

Lieutenant, prepare a five second burst. Also, you'll need to begin depolarizing the --

Suddenly we hear the sound of WRENCHING METAL from somewhere in Engineering. Torres and Jonas both whirl around and react in shock to something offscreen.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

TORRES

Oh my God...

A PHASER BLAST STREAKS across the field of view... and then there's the a bone-chilling ALIEN SHRIEK. Torres and Jonas rush offcamera.

DOCTOR

What's going on, Lieutenant?

We hear a frenzy of phaser fire... cries of dismay... thumps, sickening cracks of bones breaking. Suddenly the Security N.D.'s BODY comes flying into view, SMASHES into the monitor. The monitor FRITZES OUT.

The LIGHTS in Sickbay start to flicker... the ship goes to RED ALERT.

TUVOK'S COM VOICE

This is a Level Three Security Alert. All hands report to duty stations.

OFF their worried reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

52 INT. CORRIDOR

52

Continuous from Act Four. Janeway rushing along, strapping a phaser to her waist. The ship's at Red Alert but the main lights are FLICKERING in the corridor.

*

JANEWAY
(taps combadge)
Janeway to Bridge. Report.

53 INT. BRIDGE

53

Chakotay, Kim, N.D.s. Red Alert.

CHAKOTAY
Paris broke out of confinement in Engineering. He used a phaser on the port plasma conduit. We have power failures all over the ship.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
Where is he now?

*

CHAKOTAY
We're having trouble tracking him. We can't get power to the internal sensors. Tuvok has security teams searching deck by deck.

54 INT. CORRIDOR (OPTICAL)

54

Janeway on the move...

JANEWAY
I'm on my way to the Bridge.

She stops at Turbolift, hits the control by the door... waits a beat... then suddenly we hear an alien GURGLING sound from offcamera. She hears it... tries to appear calm... doesn't turn around... slowly crosses her arms and in doing so positions her right hand above the phaser, which is on her left hip. The Turbolift doors slide open...

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

Everything happens at once:

-- Janeway takes a step forward, and as she does, drops her arm, grabs the phaser off her hip and whirls around...

-- The PARIS CREATURE is right on top of her! (STAGE 4 MAKE-UP)

*
*

-- Paris KNOCKS her down into the Turbolift. As she's hit, she FIRES her phaser but misses. As the doors slide shut...

*
*

55 INT. BRIDGE

55

As before.

KIM
(off console)
Phaser discharge on Deck Six.

*

CHAKOTAY
Localize it.

Kim works.

KIM
I'm still having trouble with
internal sensors...
(beat)
It came from somewhere between
sections twenty-one and twenty-
seven alpha...

Chakotay checks a command console.

CHAKOTAY
Tuvok doesn't have any security in
that area.
(to com)
Chakotay to Tuvok -- we think
Paris may be on Deck Six. Deploy
security to sections twenty-one
through twenty-seven alpha.

56 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

56

The Warp Ten shuttle. Paris places Janeway, who is now unconscious, onto the floor of the tiny cockpit. She slumps against the wall. Paris manages to squeeze inside the cramped cockpit and starts working the helm controls... (STAGE 4 MAKE-UP)

*

57 INT. BRIDGE

57

As before.

KIM
Commander -- someone's
depressurizing Shuttlebay Two.

CHAKOTAY
What?

KIM
There's a launch in progress!

CHAKOTAY
Tractor beam!

KIM
It's off-line!

TUVOK'S COM VOICE
Tuvok to Bridge. We found the
Captain's phaser on Deck Six. But
there's no sign of her.

OFF Chakotay's concern...

58 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

58

Paris' shuttle SOARS away from the ship... and then
GOES INTO WARP. (NOTE: This is the same shot as seen
in Act One.)

59 INT. BRIDGE

59

Tension rising.

CHAKOTAY
(to Kim)
Maintain a sensor lock on that
shuttle.

The lights start to COME BACK ON.

KIM
I've got main power back!

CHAKOTAY
Engage warp engines! Follow them!

60 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 60

The Shuttlecraft STREAKS by at warp... and a moment later, Voyager STREAKS by in hot pursuit.

61 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT 61

Paris working the helm. The ship starts to SHAKE with the effects of high warp speed, as seen before.

62 INT. BRIDGE 62

KIM
They're approaching warp nine point nine...

CHAKOTAY
Increase speed to match...

Voyager starts to TREMBLE.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning -- nearing maximum warp velocity. Structural collapse is imminent.

*

CHAKOTAY
Are we in tractor range?

KIM
No... and they're still accelerating. Warp nine point nine seven...

*

The SHAKING gets worse.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning -- at present speed, structural failure in forty-five seconds.

*

A tense beat, then:

CHAKOTAY
Reduce speed to warp nine point five. Keep a sensor lock on them as long as you can.

The shaking subsides.

KIM
(off console)
I've lost them, Commander...
they've gone to transwarp.

*
*
*
*

OFF Chakotay's disturbed expression...

*

63 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT

63

The Paris creature concentrating on the controls.
Janeway start to wake up... sees Paris. (STAGE 4 MAKE-
UP)

*
*

64 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

64

To include a view through the windows. The familiar
WARP STARS are changing. They're flying faster and
faster through the windows... and then they start to
MULTIPLY and SWIRL... the stars no longer streaking in
straight lines... zigging, zagging and swirling...
unlike any warp travel we've ever seen. The cabin
itself starts to DISTORT, stretching into a bizarre
elongated shape...

65 JANEWAY (OPTICAL)

65

watches the amazing effect... mesmerized... clearly
enraptured with the moment. The scene DISTORTS heavily
with a transwarp effect... bright light fills the cabin
and the screen WHITES OUT...

FADE IN:

66 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

66

At warp.

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

First Officer's Log, Stardate
xxxxx.x. It's taken us three days
to locate the shuttle. It appears
to have dropped out of transwarp
in an uninhabited star system.

*
*
*
*

67 INT. SICKBAY

67

The Doctor is reporting to Chakotay and Tuvok.

DOCTOR

I've re-examined the data on
Mister Paris' transformation...
and I think I understand what's
happening to him.

(beat)

The mutations we observed are
natural.

CHAKOTAY

Natural?

DOCTOR

The changes in his DNA are
consistent with the evolutionary
development of the human genotype
observed over the past four
million years. Increased brain
capacity, the loss of vestigial
organs...

TUVOK

What are you saying? That
Lieutenant Paris is... evolving?

DOCTOR

That's my theory. The only
difference between natural
evolution and what happened to
Mister Paris is that his changes
took place over a twenty-four hour
period. Somehow, travelling at
Infinite Velocity accelerated the
natural human evolutionary process
by millions of years.

(beat)

It's possible that Mister Paris
represents a future stage in human
development. Although I can't say
it's very attractive.

CHAKOTAY

What do we do about it?

DOCTOR

I think my antiproton approach was
correct. However, I'll need to
intensify the treatment to restore
his original DNA.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

TUVOK

We must assume this transformation
has happened to the Captain, as
well.

*
*

DOCTOR

I've thought of that... and I'm
preparing an isotropic restraint
for her.

KIM'S COM VOICE

Bridge to Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY

Go ahead.

KIM'S COM VOICE

I think I've found the
Shuttlecraft, Commander. It's on
the fourth planet... in one of the
jungles near the equator.

*

CHAKOTAY

Acknowledged.

(to Tuvok)

Tuvok, have a security team meet
us in Transporter Room Three.

As they head for the door...

CUT TO:

68 EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING - NIGHT

68

A small tropical clearing near a POND. Janeway and
Paris are sitting together on the sand.

Janeway has now been transformed into a similar
AMPHIBIAN-LIKE CREATURE. Her uniform is gone, as is
Paris'. In fact, the two of them are barely human.
Their arms and legs are gone, bodies narrow and slug-
like... with stubby, webbed forearms and flattened
heads with strange gills fluttering on their necks.
Their skin is dark, mottled and sticky. If anything,
they look like overgrown lungfish. Primordial and
bizarre. They are curled around a small hole in the
sand -- a NEST. They appear to be protecting
something, but we can't see what... (STAGE 5 MAKE-UP)

*

69 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

69

As Chakotay, Tuvok and two Security N.D.s MATERIALIZE,
phasers drawn, wearing wrist-beacons.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: 69

The two creatures look in their direction...

69A A CREATURE 69A *

As it opens its mouth and HISSES at the Away Team, threatening...

69B THE AWAY TEAM 69B

Tuvok and Chakotay FIRE their phasers, stunning both of the creatures, who slump to the ground, unconscious. They walk over and look down at the fallen forms. Chakotay scans them.

CHAKOTAY
(off tricorder)
There are traces of human DNA. *
It's them.
(beat)
But I have to admit... I'm not *
sure which one is the Captain...

TUVOK
The female... obviously.

Chakotay gives him a look. Just then we hear a high-pitched gurgling sound from the nest. They turn to it, phasers at-the-ready.

70 THE NEST 70 *

as a tiny creature starts to emerge... a much smaller version of the other two creatures... a BABY AMPHIBIAN. A beat later, TWO MORE BABY CREATURES EMERGE. They *
poke their heads out and seem to test the air for a *
moment...

70A WIDE ANGLE (OPTICAL) 70A

The baby creatures scurry away from the nest and *
slither into the pond... finally disappearing into the *
murky water.

70B TUVOK AND CHAKOTAY 70B

watch in astonishment.

CHAKOTAY
I don't know how I'm going to
enter this into the log...

(CONTINUED)

70B CONTINUED:

70B

TUVOK

I look forward to reading it.

OFF the moment...

CUT TO:

71 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

71

at impulse.

72 INT. SICKBAY

72

A couple of days later. Janeway sitting on a bio-bed, dressed in a hospital gown. She's back to normal, but looks a little fatigued.

DOCTOR

I've eradicated all traces of the mutant DNA from your system, and restored your original genome.

(beat)

Congratulations. You're human again.

*

JANEWAY

Thank you, Doctor.

She stands to go.

DOCTOR

Captain, it'll take some time for your genetic codes to stabilize. I'd like you to remain in Sickbay for the next three days... just to be safe.

*

*

Janeway nods, glances over at Paris, who is lying on a nearby bio-bed, also wearing a gown. He's awake.

JANEWAY

Excuse me.

72A NEW ANGLE - PARIS

72A

who sits up as Janeway approaches. An awkward moment between them -- they've been through a bizarre and intimate experience. Finally, Janeway breaks the ice.

JANEWAY

I've thought about having children...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

72A CONTINUED:

72A

JANEWAY (Cont'd)
but I must say I never considered
having them with you.

PARIS
I'm sorry, Captain... I don't know
what to say... except that I don't
remember very much about... you
know... *

He trails off, embarrassed.

JANEWAY
What makes you think it was your
idea? Sometimes it's the female
of a species that initiates
mating. *

(beat)
But apology accepted, nonetheless. *

Paris smiles, feels a little better... then looks
thoughtful.

PARIS
I am curious about one thing. If
it's true we were evolving into a
new stage of human development...
doesn't it seem we were taking a
step backward? *

JANEWAY
(considers)
It's only natural to think of
evolution as progress. Primates
learning how to use tools... *

(beat)
But maybe... the end of human
evolution is actually the end of
a cycle... a return to the sea...
a more fundamental way of life. *

A ponderous moment. *

(CONTINUED)

72A CONTINUED: (2)

72A

JANEWAY

You may be interested to know I'm putting you in for a commendation.

(beat)

Regardless of the outcome, you did make the first transwarp flight.

PARIS

Thank you, Captain.

But Paris looks melancholy.

JANEWAY

Is there something wrong, Lieutenant?

PARIS

(ponderous)

I don't know. I guess this whole experience has left me a little overwhelmed. Flying at Warp Ten... evolving into a new life form... mating... having alien offspring...

(beat)

It's been one hell of a week.

Janeway smiles a little, appreciative of his humor.

JANEWAY

You've broken more than one record, that's for sure.

Paris smiles, too... then looks thoughtful, tries to put things into perspective.

PARIS

Breaking the threshold. It was... incredible. But somehow, it doesn't mean as much as I thought it would...

JANEWAY

Oh?

PARIS

I guess I went into this looking for a quick fix. I thought that making history would change things. Not just my service record...

(beat)

My reputation.

(CONTINUED)