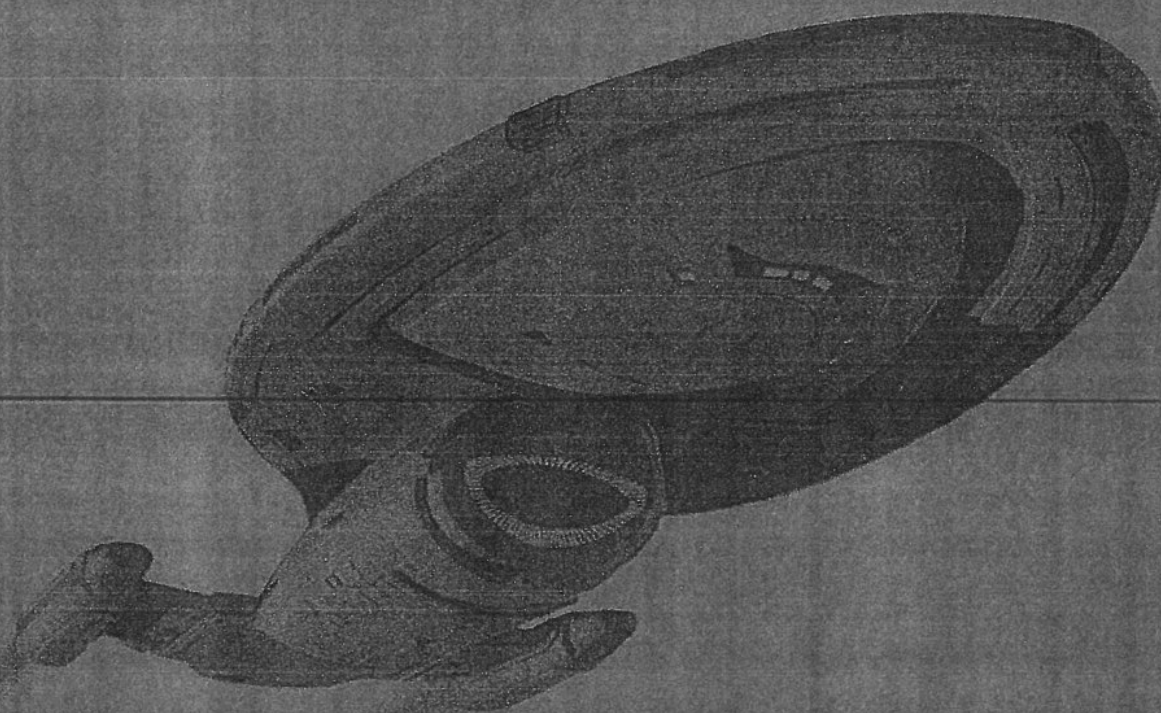


# STAR TREK VOYAGER

YEAR 7



**“Nightingale”**

FINAL DRAFT

September 25, 2000

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Nightingale"

(fka "The Command")

40840-256

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FINAL DRAFT

SEPTEMBER 25, 2000

VOYAGER:

"Nightingale"

-

9/25/00

SETS

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Nightingale"

SETS

INTERIORS

VOYAGER

BRIDGE  
BRIEFING ROOM  
CARGO BAY  
CORRIDOR  
ENGINEERING  
JEFFERIES TUBE  
MESS HALL  
SICKBAY

DELTA FLYER

COCKPIT

KRAYLOR SHIP

BRIDGE  
CREW QUARTERS  
ENGINEERING  
WARDROOM

EXTERIORS

SPACE/VOYAGER  
KRAYLOR HOMEWORLD  
KRAYLOR SHIP  
DELTA FLYER

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Nightingale"

CAST

JANEWAY

ICHEB

CHAKOTAY

LOKEN

KIM

TEREK

PARIS

DAYLA

DOCTOR

GERAL

TUVOK

BRELL

TORRES

ANNARI COMMANDER

SEVEN OF NINE

NEELIX

Non-Speaking

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

VOYAGER:

"Nightingale" . - 9/25/00

SCRIPT NOTE

PLEASE NOTE: PRONUNCIATION GUIDE TO FOLLOW.

STAR TREK: VOYAGER"Nightingale"TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. PLANET SURFACE (OPTICAL MATTE) 1

VOYAGER has set down on an alien landscape to carry out repairs. Anti-gravity platforms HOVER over the hull. \*

JANEWAY (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate 54274.7.  
Lieutenant Torres has finally  
convinced me that I can't put off  
a major maintenance overhaul any  
longer. We've set down on a  
planet's surface, and I've sent  
shuttles to search for supplies. \*

2 INT. VOYAGER - ENGINEERING 2

A complete state of disarray: open panels, sections of  
plasma conduits and other hardware stacked on the floor.  
The warp core is stopped, consoles FLICKER occasionally  
and the room light is LOW. N.D. CREWMEMBERS run scans,  
work on exposed circuitry. \*

JANEWAY is dogging a harried TORRES as they move through  
the room. Mid-scene.

JANEWAY

What about the impulse upgrades?

TORRES

Day after tomorrow.  
(to an N.D.)

Put a new phase compensator on  
that relay.

JANEWAY

Environmental control?

TORRES

The thermal regulators are still  
running a little hot.

JANEWAY

(wry)  
Too bad we can't just keep the  
windows open.

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

2

In the b.g., over the following, ICHEB, carrying a PADD, approaches a console, notices a problem.

JANEWAY

How long until the warp drive is back on-line?

TORRES

Six days.

JANEWAY

You sure you can't get it done any faster?

Torres stops, faces Janeway.

TORRES

Captain, I don't like sitting still any more than you do. But repairs this extensive take time.

\*  
\*

Suddenly several consoles FLICKER RAPIDLY, then go dark. Torres lets out a deep sigh, exasperated, turns to an N.D.

TORRES

Mendez, track down that power drain.

The N.D. nods, moves off.

JANEWAY

I know this ship has been through a lot. But you told me this would only take a few days.

TORRES

That was before I discovered the micro-fractures in the starboard nacelle and the fused relays in the main computer.

Suddenly the consoles come back on-line and room lights come up to NORMAL. Everyone reacts.

TORRES

Who did that?

As she looks around the room, WE SEE:

3

ICHEB

3

nervously step forward and approach Torres and Janeway.

ICHEB

I noticed a charge imbalance in the EPS feed. I'm sorry if I--

TORRES

(impressed)

It could've taken us hours to find that.

ICHEB

I have a Tactical systems report for you.

He hands Torres the PADD, she looks at it briefly.

TORRES

I'd say you're capable of doing more than delivering PADDs, Icheb.

\*  
\*

Icheb reacts, flattered.

JANEWAY

I agree.

(to Torres)

Until we're underway again, he's working with you.

\*

As Janeway heads for the door, she tweaks Torres.

JANEWAY

With him on your team, maybe you can get this job done a little faster.

OFF Icheb and Torres...

CUT TO:

4

EXT. SPACE - THE DELTA FLYER (OPTICAL)

4

at impulse. A glowing, colorful nebula lies in the distance.

5

INT. DELTA FLYER - COCKPIT

5

HARRY KIM is working at the helm while NEELIX dozes in a chair at a rear station. SEVEN OF NINE works at another station. Kim looks over at the sleeping Neelix.

KIM

Neelix?

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

5

But Neelix continues to doze. Kim smiles, works his console.

ON NEELIX as his console CHIRPS and wakes him with a start.

6

INCLUDE KIM AND SEVEN OF NINE (OPTICAL)

6

\*

KIM  
Rise and shine. It's oh-five  
hundred.

Neelix tries to shake out the cobwebs.

NEELIX  
Already?  
(beat)  
I was dreaming we found the  
dilithium and were back aboard  
Voyager.

SEVEN OF NINE  
(wry)  
"Dreaming" is an accurate  
description.

Neelix checks his console.

NEELIX  
Didn't we already scan this  
nebula?

SEVEN OF NINE  
(annoyed about it)  
Four times.

\*

\*

KIM  
(tweaking her)  
I thought the Borg were known for  
being thorough.

SEVEN OF NINE  
The Borg value efficiency, not  
redundancy.

KIM  
I've got a hunch about this  
nebula. There's dilithium in  
there somewhere.

NEELIX  
I once knew a Talaxian miner who  
claimed he could always tell when  
there was a vein of magnesite  
nearby. Said he could smell it.

SEVEN OF NINE  
(dry)  
Magnesite is odorless.  
(to Kim)  
Perhaps our time would be better  
spent on Voyager, assisting with  
repairs.

(CONTINUED)

6

CONTINUED:

6

KIM

I don't want to go back empty-handed.

Neelix works, notices something on his monitor.

NEELIX

I'm getting some fluctuating energy readings...

\*  
\*

KIM

(concerned)  
From the nebula?

NEELIX

(off console)  
No...

(beat)  
...from something coming toward us fast...

\*  
\*

Before they can pursue it further, a PHASER BLAST  
SUDDENLY rockets past the bow!

7

EXT. SPACE - THE DELTA FLYER (OPTICAL)

7

A MENACING ALIEN WARSHIP SWOOPS INTO FRAME, exchanging  
FIRE with a CLOAKED SHIP, the prow of which can be  
briefly seen when it FIRES its weapons.

\*  
\*  
\*

OFF the Delta Flyer caught in the crossfire...

\*

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes.)

8 OMITTED 8 \*

9 INT. DELTA FLYER - COCKPIT 9

Kim, Seven, and Neelix are working their consoles. The ship SHUDDERS. \*

KIM

Let's get out of here...

As Kim works the helm, Neelix's console BEEPS.

NEELIX

We're receiving a distress call.

10 ON A MONITOR (OPTICAL) 10

we see the STATICKY IMAGE of a beleaguered ALIEN CAPTAIN, BRELL, from a race known as the KRAYLOR, speaking to us from a heavily damaged Bridge.

BRELL

We have casualties. Please help us...

A console EXPLODES behind the Alien Captain, rocking his ship. He speaks urgently:

BRELL

We're on a humanitarian mission, delivering medical supplies--

WHAM! Another phaser blast ROCKS the ship, JOLTING the Captain out of frame.

11 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 11

The Kraylor ship FRITZES completely into view as its cloak fails. Perhaps a third the size of Voyager, the hull is badly scorched. It's LISTING. \*

12 INT. DELTA FLYER - COCKPIT 12

As before.

KIM  
Reverse course.

NEELIX  
We can't just leave them.

KIM  
Starfleet policy: interference in  
alien conflicts is strictly  
prohibited.

NEELIX  
You heard their Captain, that's a  
medical ship...

SEVEN OF NINE  
Their shields are down. Life  
support is failing on at least  
three decks.

Kim considers for a beat, then:

KIM  
Open a channel to the other ship.

Neelix works...

13 ON MONITOR (OPTICAL) 13

an ALIEN COMMANDER of another race, the ANNARI, APPEARS.  
He eyes Kim, intense, all-business. \*

KIM  
This is Ensign Kim of the Delta  
Flyer. I don't know what you're  
fighting about, but it looks like  
you've won. The people on that  
other ship have casualties. We'd  
like to -- \*

ANNARI COMMANDER  
This isn't your concern.

KIM  
I'm not taking sides, I only want-- \*

The Flyer ROCKS as the Annari ship fires on it.

ANNARI COMMANDER  
Withdraw... immediately.

(CONTINUED)

13

CONTINUED:

13

He abruptly CUTS OFF the transmission. Kim is clearly torn. Seven looks up from her console:

SEVEN OF NINE

They're charging weapons.

A moment of indecision as Kim struggles with the situation. He looks to Neelix:

KIM

Set our deflector beam for a narrow pulse.

They work their panels. Kim turns to Seven.

KIM

Let me know the second their weapons array is fully charged. I might be able to trigger an overload.

She nods. A tense beat as Seven watches her console.

SEVEN OF NINE

Now.

As Kim quickly taps a control on his panel...

14-15 OMITTED

14-15

16 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

16

The Flyer's DEFLECTOR BEAM hits the Annari ship's phaser emitters, causing the Annari weapons array to EXPLODE.

17 INT. DELTA FLYER - COCKPIT

17

As before.

SEVEN OF NINE

Their weapons are off-line, shields are down.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

SEVEN OF NINE (cont'd)  
(beat)  
They're retreating.

Kim gets up, turns to Seven.

KIM  
Take the helm. Neelix, you're  
with me.

OFF Kim, intent...

CUT TO:

18 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

18

Smaller and less sophisticated than Voyager's Bridge, but with a similar layout: A Captain's Chair, large Main Viewscreen, helm, and several workstations. The battle damage is serious and extensive. Lights and consoles FLICKER. A few panels are blown open, SMOKING. Scorch marks cover the walls. The bodies of N.D. KRAYLOR CREWMEN are strewn about. A grim sight.

Kim and Neelix MATERIALIZE IN A TRANSPORTER EFFECT, carrying medical kits. They take in the devastation, quickly begin scanning.

TEREK, an injured young crewman, looks over to Kim, reacts, frightened. Kim approaches him, runs a scan, checking his vital signs.

KIM  
Who's in charge here?

Terek points to a fallen alien, Captain Brell, seen earlier on the Flyer's monitor.

TEREK  
He is.

Neelix scans him, shakes his head. Terek takes this in, devastated.

KIM  
It's okay, we're here to help.  
(reassuring)  
The ship that attacked you is  
gone.

Kim takes a hypospray out of his medkit, is about to administer an injection when a HISSING NOISE is heard from off-screen. They all turn in the direction of

THE DOORS

to the Bridge as they open.

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED:

18

LOKEN, an older and slightly imperious Kraylor scientist, leads two other Kraylor scientists: a male N.D., and DAYLA, a female, onto the Bridge. They have hand weapons drawn. They take in the scene, spot Kim and Neelix, point their weapons at them.

LOKEN

Who are you?

KIM

Harry Kim, from the Starship Voyager. We're responding to your distress call.

A tense beat.

KIM

We can treat your wounded.

Loken considers, lowers his weapon, nods to the others to do the same, looks to Terek.

LOKEN

Where's the Captain?

Terek seems to hold Loken in some deference.

TEREK

Dead, sir. So are the rest of the officers.

NEELIX

(off tricorder)

I'm reading a total of twenty-seven lifesigns on the ship.

DAYLA

(devastated)

There were fifty-six of us...

The others react, shocked and saddened at the extent of their losses.

LOKEN

How are we going to get home without the officers?

KIM

(checking a panel, to Loken)

We need to restore main power. Where's the warp interface?

LOKEN

(shakes his head)

We're passengers, not crewmen.

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED: (2)

18

Terek moves to a console.

TEREK

You can access Engineering systems  
from here.

Kim studies the panel, begins working it.

KIM

Your warp core's intact. I think  
I can bring it back on-line.

(to Terek)

Can you monitor the anti-matter  
flow?

TEREK

I'm not sure...

KIM

(indicates another  
console)

Just watch that readout, and tell  
me if it starts to fluctuate.

Terek moves to the station, carefully watches the  
monitor as Kim works. After a beat, a few LIGHTS come  
up.

KIM

I'm routing emergency power to  
structural integrity.

(beat)

Atmospheric pressure's returning  
to normal.

The aliens relax a little. Kim turns to Neelix:

KIM

We'll go through the ship deck by  
deck, find the survivors.

Neelix nods.

LOKEN

We need to get our cloak back on-  
line.

KIM

I'll take a look at it as soon as  
I've repaired the engines.

\*  
\*

LOKEN

(firm)

The cloak is more important.

Kim reacts. Dayla explains.

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED: (3)

18

DAYLA

The Annari have far more powerful weapons than we do. If they come back, the cloak is our best defense.

KIM

We'll try to get it on-line.

Kim taps his combadge.

KIM

Kim to Delta Flyer.

SEVEN OF NINE'S COM VOICE

Go ahead.

KIM

I need your help, Seven.

(beat)

It looks like we're going to be here for a while...

TIME CUT TO:

19

OMITTED

19

\*

20

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - ENGINEERING

20

A cramped room filled with damaged alien hardware. Terek is calmer now, assisting Kim at an open panel. Various KRAYLOR N.D.s work in the background. After a beat:

TEREK

How did you do it?

KIM

Do what?

TEREK

Disable the Annari warship so quickly.

KIM

(shrugs)

Basically, we used their own weapons against them.

TEREK

How?

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED:

20

KIM

We used a deflector pulse to  
overload their phaser banks.

Terek is deeply impressed. Kim makes an adjustment, and  
the console he's working on LIGHTS UP and HUMS with  
power. He continues to work. Terek gestures to the  
panel.

TEREK

You know a lot about engineering.

KIM

(casual)

It's all part of my Starfleet  
training.

TEREK

Starfleet?

KIM

The organization I work for.

\*

TEREK

They teach you all these things?

KIM

(nods)

We train at an academy.

(shrugs)

And I guess I've picked up a few  
new tricks during my time on  
Voyager.

TEREK

How long have you been Captain?

Kim smiles, looks at Terek.

KIM

I'm just an Ensign.

TEREK

Ensign. What's that?

KIM

A junior officer. The lowest  
ranked officer, actually.

He closes the panel, moves on to another. Terek follows  
him.

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED: (2)

20

TEREK

This is my first deep space assignment. It hasn't gone very well.

\*

Kim indicates a nearby tool.

KIM

Could you hand me that?

Terek picks it up, gives it to Kim, who begins using it as he tries to buck Terek up by recalling his own early experiences:

KIM

My first week on the job didn't go very well either. We ended up seventy thousand light years from home, lost over a dozen crewmembers.

Terek reacts. Kim tries to be supportive.

KIM

But I got through it, and so will you.

\*

Terek smiles weakly.

TEREK

I hope so.

KIM

If you're going to be a starship officer, you've got to accept that adversity comes with the job.

OFF Terek, taking this in...

CUT TO:

21

EXT. PLANET SURFACE (OPTICAL)

21

Reestablishing Voyager, still under repair.

22 INT. CARGO BAY

22

Icheb is working at the free-standing console, eating absently from a plate of strange-looking food as he taps in commands.

Torres ENTERS, carrying a PADD, walks up to Icheb, sees the food.

TORRES

What's that?

ICHEB

A diagnostic of the anti-matter injectors.

TORRES

No, I meant that... "stuff" you're eating.

ICHEB

Nutritional supplements, replicated to meet my metabolic requirements.

TORRES

(wry)

Sounds delicious.

Icheb continues to eat while he studies his diagnostic. She tweaks him, lightly:

TORRES

You know, in the Mess Hall, they have tables and chairs for that.

ICHEB

I prefer to work while I eat. It's a more efficient use of my time.

Torres smiles. She can't help but be a little charmed by Icheb's simple earnestness.

TORRES

You did a great job today. We're ahead of schedule, thanks to you.

Icheb reacts to the praise. Torres hands him the PADD.

TORRES

Here's what we're going to work on tomorrow. I'll see you at oh-six hundred.

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED:

22

He takes the PADD, nods. She starts to leave but when she gets to the door, she turns back and sees him standing in the cavernous room, all alone, working.

TORRES

Icheb.

ICHEB

Yes?

TORRES

What do you do for fun?

A beat. He turns to her, confused.

ICHEB

Fun?

TORRES

Recreation. How do you spend your time when you're off duty?

ICHEB

Between my work and my studies, I don't have much time for recreation.

TORRES

I used to work all the time too, but I've learned that you've got to take a break once in a while.

(beat)

I've been doing a lot of rock climbing on the Holodeck. Maybe when we're finished tightening all the nuts and bolts, you'd like to join me.

Icheb is a bit flustered by her invitation.

ICHEB

I... do have an interest in geology.

Torres smiles. As she heads for the door:

TORRES

It's not about the rocks, Icheb. It's about the climbing.

Torres EXITS. We hold on Icheb for a beat, watching her go...

23

OMITTED

23

\*

24

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

24

Seven, Neelix, and Terek occupy various stations. Kim moves from station to station, checking readouts. Loken, Dayla, and two N.D. Scientists are also on the Bridge, observing.

KIM

The cloak's back on-line...  
impulse and warp drives are  
standing by... shields are at  
ninety-six percent.

Satisfied, Kim turns to Loken.

KIM

I'd say you're ready to get back  
on course.

LOKEN

We appreciate your help.

KIM

(nods)

I hope you have a safe journey --

Loken interrupts.

LOKEN

Mister Kim.

(beat)

I feel guilty asking even more of  
you...

(beat)

But no one on this ship knows how  
to fly it.

Kim looks around at the fearful faces of the alien survivors.

KIM

None of you has ever piloted a  
starship?

TEREK

I trained in shuttles, but nothing  
like this.

Kim considers.

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

KIM

I'll enter a flight plan into the auto-navigation system, and give you a quick course in helm operations. You shouldn't have any trouble...

But Loken is persistent.

LOKEN

Couldn't you take us? This ship needs an experienced commanding officer.

Kim is flattered by Loken's invitation, but reluctant to accept it.

KIM

I'm sorry, but we've already gotten more involved than we should've. And they need us back on Voyager.

LOKEN

It's not just my ship that concerns me. You've made an enemy of the Annari now. But if you dock your ship in our Shuttlebay, our cloak will protect you.

KIM

That's a generous offer, but we'll be fine.

LOKEN

Please, Mister Kim, we can't afford to fail. This ship--

Dayla quickly turns to Loken, concerned.

DAYLA

Loken, don't.

LOKEN

(firm)

We can trust these people.

Kim, Seven, and Neelix react to this exchange, wonder what they're talking about.

LOKEN

I'm a doctor. These people are my research team. We're carrying new vaccines to our homeworld. They'll save thousands of lives.

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED: (2)

24

NEELIX

(wanting to help them)  
I looked at their flight plan. It  
takes them pretty close to Voyager...

Kim considers, decides he can't turn his back on them.

KIM

I'll bring you as far as our ship.  
When we get there, we can discuss  
your situation with my Captain.

The Kraylor are visibly relieved.

LOKEN

Thank you.

SEVEN OF NINE

(sotto, to Kim)  
What about Starfleet policy?

KIM

This is a humanitarian mission.  
(beat)  
Dock the Flyer in their Shuttlebay.

OFF Seven's acknowledgement...

TIME CUT TO:

25

EXT. SPACE - KRAYLOR SHIP (OPTICAL)

25

It picks up speed and SHIMMERS, DISAPPEARING as the  
cloaking device is activated.

TIME CUT TO:

26

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

26

Where Kim, Seven, and Terek occupy various stations.  
Neelix is at the helm.

NEELIX

We're approaching the planet...

KIM

Take us out of warp.

Neelix works. Kim turns to Seven.

KIM

Disengage the cloak --

SEVEN OF NINE

Wait. I'm detecting three alien  
vessels in orbit.

(CONTINUED)

26

CONTINUED:

26

KIM

On screen.

Seven works. THE VIEWSCREEN IMAGE shows the planet with  
three alien vessels in orbit. TEREK reacts, turns to  
Kim.

\*  
\*

TEREK

Those are Annari warships.

(to Kim)

Your people are in danger.

OFF the surprising moment...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

27 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

27

TUVOK at Tactical, various N.D.s at the other stations.  
Two N.D.s work at an open panel, making repairs.

Janeway and CHAKOTAY ENTER with another Annari Captain,  
GERAL, giving him a tour of the ship. He's articulate  
and well mannered. They step around the working N.D.s.

JANEWAY

I apologize for the state of my  
ship...

(lightly)

We weren't expecting company.

GERAL

I hope we're not imposing.

CHAKOTAY

Not at all. Making contact with  
new cultures is a priority for us.

GERAL

For us too.

(taking in the Bridge)

This is a fine ship, Captain.

JANEWAY

One of the best in the fleet.

(beat)

But it could use a new set of  
deuterium injectors.

CHAKOTAY

Any chance you could provide them?

GERAL

I think we can arrange something.  
What are you offering in exchange?

JANEWAY

Zeolitic ore. We mined several  
tons of it from an asteroid field.  
It's high-grade, easy to refine.

GERAL

(nods)

I'll speak to my Supply Officer.

Janeway is clearly pleased by the arrival of this  
unexpected and friendly trading partner. Tuvok's  
console BEEPS. He checks it.

(CONTINUED)

27

CONTINUED:

27

TUVOK

We're being hailed by Ensign Kim.  
Audio only.

Janeway is a little surprised but happy to be hearing  
from Kim, speaks to com:

JANEWAY

Hello, Harry.

INTERCUT:

28

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

28

As before. Loken stands near Kim. The mood is tense.  
Neelix, Seven and Terek look on.

KIM

Captain, is everything all right?

JANEWAY

Of course, why wouldn't it be?

KIM

Our long-range scans detected  
several alien ships orbiting the  
planet...

JANEWAY

I appreciate your concern, but  
there's nothing to worry about.  
We've made some new friends.

The Kraylor react.

JANEWAY

When can we expect you back?

KIM

(covering)

We've run into a slight delay.

JANEWAY

Nothing serious, I hope.

KIM

No, everything's under control.

JANEWAY

Good. Any luck finding dilithium?

KIM'S COM VOICE

I'm afraid not...

She's disappointed, but understanding.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

JANEWAY  
I'll tell the other teams to keep  
looking. See you soon, Ensign.

KIM  
Yes, Ma'am. Kim out.

END INTERCUT.

GERAL  
(to Janeway)  
Dilithium? We can get that for  
you too.

OFF Janeway and Chakotay, who couldn't be more  
pleased...

CUT TO:

29 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

29

The Kraylor are clearly upset.

LOKEN  
She's formed an alliance with our  
enemy!

KIM  
(calming)  
Just because they're talking  
doesn't mean they've formed an  
alliance. It's probably just a  
friendly meeting --

LOKEN  
That's how the Annari operate.  
They come to you as friends... and  
when they've won your trust, they  
declare you subjects of the Annari  
empire.

OFF Kim, troubled by this new complication...

CUT TO:

30 EXT. SPACE - HIGH ABOVE THE PLANET (OPTICAL)

30

The Annari ships break orbit.

31 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

31

Janeway, Tuvok, Chakotay in their usual places. N.D.s  
fill out the various stations.

KIM'S COM VOICE  
Kim to Voyager.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

Janeway and Chakotay react to Kim's voice.

JANEWAY

We didn't expect you so soon.

KIM'S COM VOICE

Actually, Captain, I'm closer than I let on. And I've brought some new friends of my own...

OFF Janeway...

32 INT. VOYAGER - BRIEFING ROOM (OPTICAL)

32 \*

Janeway, Kim, Loken, and an N.D. VOYAGER SECURITY OFFICER. Loken has just finished telling the story of the last few days. Mid-scene.

LOKEN

Our chances of getting home without your help aren't very good. We'd appreciate any assistance you could offer.

JANEWAY

I hope you understand... I need to give this some thought.

Loken nods. Janeway gestures to the N.D., who escorts Loken out of the Briefing Room. After a beat, Janeway turns to Kim.

JANEWAY

You've put me in a difficult position, Ensign.

Kim is silent.

JANEWAY

We could use the help the Annari are offering. But if they find out we're aiding their enemy...

KIM

I couldn't just stand by and do nothing.

JANEWAY

That doesn't justify getting involved in somebody else's fight.

KIM

What would you have done?

Janeway considers for a beat.

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED:

32

JANEWAY

Probably exactly what you did.

KIM

I guess I learned from the best.

She can't help but smile a little.

JANEWAY

If this were simply an errand of mercy, I wouldn't hesitate. But the fact is, these people are involved in an interplanetary war.

KIM

(passionate)

Captain, I've gotten to know them over the last couple of days. You met Loken. They're scientists, not soldiers.

JANEWAY

You've only heard one side of the story --

KIM

You've taken sides before. The Borg resistance, the Vaadwaur--

JANEWAY

Those were different circumstances...

KIM

You were trying to help people in need. How is this any different?

JANEWAY

(wry)

Have you thought about applying to the Advocate General's office? You'd make a good lawyer.

Kim smiles. Janeway isn't completely convinced, but she's wavering.

JANEWAY

I suppose I could spare Chakotay or Tuvok for a few days...

KIM

(quickly)

That's not necessary.

Janeway eyes him, curious. Kim explains:

\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED: (2)

32

KIM

The Kraylor know me. They trust me.

JANEWAY

I'm sure they'd find Tuvok or Chakotay just as trustworthy.

A beat. Kim makes an admission:

KIM

But they outrank me...

(beat)

If you send one of them, it won't be my mission anymore.

JANEWAY

Your mission?

KIM

(nods)

My first real command.

JANEWAY

You've been in command on Voyager before.

KIM

On the night shift, for a few hours. It's not the same thing. You and Chakotay are always a couple of decks away, ready to take over if anything goes wrong.

(beat)

I've been on Voyager for almost seven years, and I'm still an ensign.

JANEWAY

If this is your way of bucking for a promotion...

KIM

No. I understand there's a command structure... and that our circumstances are unique...

(beat)

...but the fact is, if we were back home, I'd be a Lieutenant by now, maybe even a Lieutenant Commander.

JANEWAY

You're pretty sure of yourself, aren't you?

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED: (3)

32

KIM

I know I can do this, and the  
Kraylor are giving me a chance to  
prove it.

Janeway eyes him, considers for a beat, decides to let  
him go.

JANEWAY

I expect you back before we  
complete our repairs.

Kim reacts, excited.

KIM

Yes, ma'am.

JANEWAY

And I'm not sending you alone.

KIM

(starting to protest)  
Captain--

JANEWAY

I want you to take Seven.

(wry)

Since she has no rank, you clearly  
outrank her.

OFF Kim, pleased...

33

INT. VOYAGER - SICKBAY

33

The DOCTOR is working at a free-standing console. Icheb  
ENTERS, approaches the Doctor.

ICHEB

Lieutenant Torres asked me to  
repair a malfunctioning holo-  
emitter.

DOCTOR

It's about time. Whenever I move  
to the far corner of the lab, my  
legs disappear.

Icheb moves to a console, begins to work. After a beat:

(CONTINUED)

33

CONTINUED:

33

ICHEB

Seven of Nine told me you gave  
her... social lessons.

DOCTOR

(nods)

She wanted to get along better  
with the crew.

(dry)

Social skills are one thing the  
Borg never assimilated.

ICHEB

I was hoping you could instruct me  
as well.

DOCTOR

(enthusiastic)

I'd be delighted. Lesson One:  
Making a First Impression --

ICHEB

Actually, I wanted to ask you  
about something specific.

(beat)

How can you tell when someone  
has... romantic feelings for you?

The Doctor reacts, his interest piqued.

DOCTOR

Icheb. This is a surprise. Have  
you caught someone's eye?

ICHEB

I'm speaking hypothetically.

The Doctor knowingly indulges Icheb's ruse, considers  
the question.

DOCTOR

Hypothetically, there are various  
indications of romantic  
attraction.

(beat)

Compliments, for example.  
Invitations to social activities.  
Finding excuses to be in close  
proximity.

ICHEB

But couldn't those things happen  
in a relationship that wasn't  
romantic?

DOCTOR

I suppose so.

(CONTINUED)

33

CONTINUED: (2)

33

ICHEB

Is there a way to be absolutely certain?

DOCTOR

Well, short of an open declaration of affection, there are some fairly reliable physiological responses: elevated blood pressure, increased beta-endorphin production...

Icheb considers this, a plan forming in his mind...

ICHEB

Thank you, Doctor, you've been very helpful.

He taps a few last commands into the console, heads for the door.

DOCTOR

With my guidance, you'll master the nuances of social relations in no time!

But Icheb's already gone. OFF the Doctor...

34

INT. VOYAGER - CORRIDOR

34

Kim is walking, intently studying a PADD. TOM PARIS catches up to him.

PARIS

Take me with you, buddy.

Kim looks at Paris, a little apologetic.

KIM

Sorry, Tom. This is my mission.

PARIS

Oh come on, Harry, I've been itching to get back into space ever since we set down in this dust bowl. I'm tired of cleaning conduits and replacing relays.

KIM

(tweaking him)

You're a married man now. You've got family responsibilities. Leave the Away Missions to the young, unattached guys.

(CONTINUED)

34

CONTINUED:

34

PARIS

That ship's in pretty bad shape.  
You could use a good pilot.

KIM

No thanks.

\*

A beat. Then:

PARIS

I know what this is about.

KIM

(surprised)

You do?

PARIS

Sure.

(beat)

You've got a girl on that ship you  
don't want me to know about.

KIM

(smiles)

There's no girl. Not this time.

PARIS

Then what is it?

Kim stops, faces Paris.

KIM

I don't know how else to say this,  
so I'll just say it.

(beat)

You've always been Captain Proton,  
and I've always been Buster  
Kincaid.

(beat)

It's my turn this time.

OFF Paris, finally getting the point, as Kim moves  
off...

\*

\*

35

INT. VOYAGER - MESS HALL

35

Kim's clearly preoccupied with his upcoming mission,  
studying the PADD we saw in the corridor as he  
approaches the galley, where Neelix works.

NEELIX

I'm glad you're not planning to  
leave on an empty stomach,  
"Captain."

Neelix indicates a couple of pots.

(CONTINUED)

35

CONTINUED:

35

NEELIX

I have Plomek Soup... Eggplant  
Parmesan...

But Kim is too distracted to think about it.

KIM

Either's fine.

NEELIX

Wrong answer.

This gets Kim's attention.

KIM

Excuse me?

NEELIX

If you're going to be a Captain,  
you have to act like a Captain.

(beat)

Never admit you're uncertain about  
anything. You can't be indecisive  
in front of your crew.

\*  
\*

Kim's a little taken aback.

KIM

It's just a snack, Neelix.

NEELIX

When Captain Janeway comes in  
here, she knows exactly what she  
wants.

KIM

Maybe I'm just not as picky about  
my food.

Neelix returns to his cooking.

NEELIX

Whatever you say...

(pointed)

...Ensign.

Kim smiles, getting the message. He locks eyes with  
Neelix, wry:

KIM

Plomek Soup. And make sure it's  
hot.

(CONTINUED)

35

CONTINUED: (2)

35

OFF Neelix, pleased...

CUT TO:

36

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

36

The Bridge is cleaned up now. Dayla and N.D.s are at stations, Loken stands near the Captain's Chair. Kim and Seven ENTER.

TEREK (O.S.)

Captain on the Bridge.

Surprised, Kim turns to see Terek, standing at attention.

KIM

Where'd you learn that?

TEREK

Lieutenant Paris. He told me you were "a firm believer in protocol."

KIM

(smiles)

Take your station, Mister Terek.

TEREK

Aye, sir.

He moves to the helm. Kim's just a little cocky as he walks around the Bridge, inspecting readouts, making sure the ship is ready for the journey ahead. Seven moves to a console, begins to work.

TEREK

Course?

KIM

I'll do it.

He leans over Terek, works the panel.

KIM

Laying in a course, heading one-one-five mark thirty-seven.

A thought occurs to Kim.

KIM

Does this ship have a name?

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED:

36

TEREK

"Medical transport one-three-six."

KIM

I think we can do better than that.

He considers for a moment, then:

KIM

"Nightingale."

The crew reacts, unfamiliar with the reference.

KIM

The name of someone from my homeworld... she was famous for treating wounded soldiers on the battlefield.

Terek and Dayla exchange a look at this, reacting a little tentatively, but endorse Kim's suggestion.

TEREK

It's perfect.

DAYLA

I agree.

KIM

(to Seven)  
Hail Voyager.

She works her panel, nods. Kim speaks to com:

KIM

Kim to Voyager. We're ready to get underway.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE

Acknowledged. Good luck.

KIM

(to com)  
See you in a few days. Kim out.

Kim moves toward the Captain's Chair, does a by-the-book run down of ship's systems:

KIM

Main power.

SEVEN OF NINE

On-line.

KIM

Tactical.

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED: (2)

36

Dayla carefully studies her console, making sure she's reading it correctly.

DAYLA

Shields and weapons... standing by.

KIM

Bring the cloak on-line.

Seven works.

KIM

Warp six.

As Kim settles into in the chair, grips the armrests.

KIM

Engage.

37

EXT. SPACE - KRAYLOR SHIP (OPTICAL)

37

It builds up speed, then SHIMMERS out of view...

\*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

38

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - WARDROOM

38

A small, spare, "Ready Room" off the Bridge, with a desk, chair, and computer console. Kim's Starfleet Academy diploma, and his saxophone on its stand are also evident. At the moment, he's arranging photographs on his desk. Over this:

KIM (V.O.)

Acting Captain's Personal Log,  
Stardate 54277.3. My first day in  
command has been challenging. But  
I've loved every second of it. I  
can't help feeling that this was  
something I was born to do.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Seven ENTERS with an alien PADD, gives him a wry look.

SEVEN OF NINE

The "hourly" status report you  
requested.

KIM

Thanks.

Seven takes in all the personal effects.

SEVEN OF NINE

Why have you brought these items  
aboard?

KIM

(matter-of-fact)

They make me feel more at home.

(CONTINUED)

38

CONTINUED:

38

Over the following he moves to the chair, sits down, picks up the PADD, puts his feet up on the desk.

SEVEN OF NINE

We'll only be on this vessel for a few days. "Decorating" is an inefficient use of your time.

KIM

It's important to forge a personal connection with your vessel, make the ship your own. Ask Captain Janeway.

Seven raises an eyebrow, doubtful.

SEVEN OF NINE

I'll discuss it with her the moment we return.

KIM

Is there anything else?

SEVEN OF NINE

I asked Terek to make a course correction.

KIM

He's never done that before.

(beat)

I'd better check on him.

Kim starts to get up.

SEVEN OF NINE

I believe he's capable of doing it himself...

But Kim is already heading for the door...

39

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

39

Terek is carefully working his panel, alternately tapping controls and looking at readouts.

Kim and Seven ENTER. Kim approaches the helm. Seven stands back a few paces, watching him. He looks over Terek's shoulder, studies his work.

KIM

Status?

TEREK

I've entered the new heading...

KIM

Looks like the guidance vector is off by a couple of microns.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

TEREK

I was about to correct that...

KIM

You need to realign the primary  
navigational sensor first.

TEREK

Yes, sir.

KIM

And make sure it stays locked on  
your guide star. Here, let me  
show you.

It's clear that Kim isn't going to let him finish the procedure. Terek quietly moves out of his chair. Kim slips into it as he continues to work the panel. Seven and the rest of the Bridge crew have been watching this exchange. Kim finishes, gets up, pats Terek on the back.

KIM

Good work.

But Terek doesn't respond, a little stung by Kim's lack of confidence in him. Off Seven, observing...

40 EXT. PLANET SURFACE (OPTICAL)

40

Reestablishing Voyager, still under repair.

41 INT. VOYAGER - JEFFERIES TUBE

41

Torres and Icheb in cramped quarters, almost touching each other. Icheb is clearly uncomfortable being this close to Torres. As he reaches in to remove a component from inside the panel, he bumps her.

ICHEB

Sorry, Lieutenant.

TORRES

Don't worry about it. "Bumping  
elbows" comes with the job.

(smiles)

And you can call me B'Elanna.

Icheb reacts nervously. She pulls another component from the open panel, hands it to Icheb.

TORRES

Put this with the others.

As he grabs it, their hands touch briefly. He quickly sets the component down near a pile of similar hardware.

(CONTINUED)

41

CONTINUED:

41

TORRES

I'm really looking forward to our climb.

Icheb is starting to sweat a little.

ICHEB

Wouldn't you prefer to spend your free time with your husband?

TORRES

(smiles)

If it doesn't involve a race car, a shuttle, or something else he can drive, Tom's not interested.

(lightly)

Besides, since we got married, I see more than enough of him.

But the humor of Torres' mock complaint is lost on Icheb.

TORRES

Hold still.

She puts a hand on his shoulder to steady herself as she leans past him to work on a hard-to-reach component. Icheb reacts to her touch. Her upper body now out of frame, he quickly takes his tricorder and surreptitiously scans her, looking for the metabolic responses the Doctor described. He reacts to the readings with growing concern.

OFF the moment...

CUT TO:

42

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

42

\*

Kim keeps a watchful eye on Terek, Dayla, Seven and the N.D.s at stations. Suddenly, an ALARM sounds. Kim reacts.

KIM

What's that?

DAYLA

I'm reading a power fluctuation... somewhere in the propulsion system...

Seven moves to a nearby station, begins to work.

SEVEN OF NINE

It's destabilizing the cloak.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

KIM

All stop.

Terek works the helm controls. As we hear the SOUND of the engines winding down...

TIME CUT TO:

43 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - ENGINEERING

43

Kim, Seven, and Dayla are working on the warp core while Loken looks on. Kim is a little harried, making adjustments in an open panel, clearly eager to fix the problem and get the ship moving.

KIM

I'm realigning the magnetic containment field.

DAYLA

You may want to re-calibrate the IPS manifold too. Sir.

Kim reacts, surprised by Dayla's technical knowledge.

KIM

I don't think that'll be necessary.

Kim works. The warp core POWERS UP, HUMS steadily.

KIM

The core's stable.  
(closes the panel)  
That should take care of it.

LOKEN

(nervous)  
Are you absolutely certain?

KIM

(wry)  
As a scientist, you should know there's no such thing as absolute certainty.

SEVEN OF NINE

Perhaps we could run a diagnostic before we--

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

KIM

That'd take hours.

(beat)

Captain Janeway wants us back  
before Voyager finishes its  
overhaul.

LOKEN

(persistent)

The cloaking system is delicate.  
It requires constant attention --

KIM

(growing annoyed)

Correct me if I'm wrong, but  
you're a physician...

Loken bristles a little at this comment. Kim tries to  
be a little more diplomatic.

KIM

You have to trust me on this.  
We'll monitor it closely, don't  
worry.

LOKEN

I simply want to ensure that our  
mission is a success.

KIM

You asked me to take command of  
this ship, and that's what I'm  
doing.

(to Dayla)

Tell Terek to resume course.

Dayla nods, EXITS with Loken. After a beat, Seven turns  
to Kim.

SEVEN OF NINE

I've discovered a serious flaw in  
one of the ship's systems.

Kim reacts, concerned.

KIM

Which one?

SEVEN OF NINE

The Captain.

Kim is taken aback. She continues:

SEVEN OF NINE

A Captain's main function is to  
issue orders. Correct?

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2)

43

KIM

Right...

SEVEN OF NINE

And the crew's function is to support  
the Captain and carry out those orders.

KIM

What's your point?

SEVEN OF NINE

Every time you give an order, you  
carry it out yourself. And when  
someone else makes a suggestion,  
you dismiss it.

KIM

These people are inexperienced.  
They need my help.

SEVEN OF NINE

When you first came aboard Voyager,  
did Captain Janeway help you?

KIM

Sure. She looked after all the  
junior officers.

SEVEN OF NINE

(pointed)

By doing your work for you?

Kim considers.

KIM

No. She gave me a lot to do  
actually --

SEVEN OF NINE

(rhetorical)

Because she felt you were more  
capable than she was?

KIM

Of course not. She wanted me to  
learn, gain some confidence...

SEVEN OF NINE

(beat)

I think I've made my point.

With that, she EXITS. OFF Kim...

CUT TO:

44 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

44

The Kraylor ship at impulse, FRITZING in and out of view.

45 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

45

Kim and Loken on their feet, Dayla, Terek, and N.D.s at their stations. Klaxons are SOUNDING. Kim barks orders as the Bridge crew frantically works.

KIM  
Emergency power!  
(to Dayla)  
Re-polarize the containment field.

DAYLA  
I can't...

LOKEN  
(to Kim)  
The cloak's going to fail again!

Although Kim is trying to project authority, we get the sense he's a little rattled.

KIM  
Don't panic. This is a minor malfunction.

LOKEN  
Minor? We're losing our main defense system!

TEREK  
(off console,  
concerned)  
We've been detected. Two Annari vessels are closing on our position.

The crew reacts, alarmed.

TEREK  
Correction. Six Annari vessels.

46 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

46

Several Annari patrol ships SWOOP IN and FIRE at the FRITZING Kraylor ship.

47 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

47

The ship SHAKES HARD from weapons fire. Lights FLICKER, consoles SPARK and SMOKE.

KIM  
Evasive maneuvers!

(CONTINUED)

47

CONTINUED:

47

Kim speaks to com:

KIM  
Kim to Engineering.

BEGIN INTERCUT:

48

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - ENGINEERING

48

Heavy damage, SMOKE and SPARKS. Lights FLICKERING.  
Seven and an N.D. KRAYLOR work frantically. Seven  
speaks to com:

SEVEN OF NINE  
Go ahead.

KIM  
We need that cloak back on-line!

SEVEN OF NINE  
The primary generator has failed.  
I'm trying to --

Suddenly, a console EXPLODES. Seven and the N.D. are  
knocked back.

END INTERCUT.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

KIM

Seven?

(beat)

Seven, come in!

(to Terek)

You have the Bridge.

As Kim gets up to exit--

TEREK

We need you here. \*

Kim hesitates. He knows Terek is right. Dayla rises.

DAYLA

I'll go, sir.

A beat as Kim considers, then: \*

KIM \*

All right. I'll give you  
instructions over the com. \*

She nods, EXITS. The ship JOLTS again. \*

KIM

Charge phasers, target their  
weapons array.

TEREK \*

Which ship?

KIM

The closest one, off our port bow!

As Terek works... \*

49 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

49

The FRITZING Kraylor ship FIRES on an Annari vessel. \*

50 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - ENGINEERING

50

Blown consoles, SMOKE, the body of an unconscious Seven. \*

Having already dragged the N.D. out, Dayla ENTERS, grabs  
Seven's hands, drags her back through the doors as the  
ship ROCKS. She RE-ENTERS, turns to the SPARKING  
consoles as the door to the corridor closes behind her,  
speaks to com: \*

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

DAYLA  
Dayla to the Bridge. Life support  
is failing down here. I've  
evacuated the Engineering crew to  
a secure section...

BEGIN INTERCUT:

51 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

51

As before. The ship is JOLTED by another phaser blast.  
Kim responds to com:

KIM  
Good work. Now go to the cloaking  
generator...

\*  
\*

Dayla moves to a station, coughs.

DAYLA  
I'm here...

KIM  
What's the field polarity?

\*

DAYLA  
Two hundred six point four.

KIM  
That's too low. We're going to  
have to raise it.

\*  
\*

But Dayla's already working.

\*

DAYLA  
I'm bypassing the phase converter.

\*  
\*

KIM  
(reacts)  
Wait. I didn't tell you to do  
that...

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

DAYLA  
Won't that increase the magnetic  
flow?

\*  
\*  
\*

KIM  
Yes, but --

\*  
\*

Dayla coughs, changing the subject.

\*

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

DAYLA

It's like a Class Twelve nebula  
down here.

\*

She carefully opens a panel and reaches in, begins  
working. The ship ROCKS again. More consoles SPARK and  
SMOKE.

\*

\*

\*

Kim checks a console, speaks to com:

\*

KIM

What you're doing isn't working.  
I want you to try --

\*

\*

\*

But this time, Loken interrupts, to com:

\*

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

LOKEN

Dayla, take the warp core off-line.

KIM

(to Loken)

What are you talking about?

LOKEN

(ignoring him, to com)

Bypass the driver coil and shunt power directly to the polaron matrix.

As Dayla, fighting to stay conscious, works...

52 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

52

The cloak re-engages.

53 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

53

As before, but the shaking has subsided. Terek looks up from his monitor.

TEREK

The cloak is back on-line!

Kim and Loken eye each other as he gives Terek an order.

KIM

Get us out of here, full impulse.

Terek works the helm. Kim coms Dayla without taking his eyes off Loken.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

KIM  
Dayla, secure the Engineering  
section and get back to the  
Bridge.

\*  
\*

But there's no response.

KIM  
Dayla?

Loken checks his panel, shakes his head, grim.

\*  
\*

LOKEN  
I'm not reading any lifesigns in  
Engineering.

OFF Kim...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

54 OMITTED

54

55 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - CREW QUARTERS

55

Seven is lying on a cot, still unconscious. Kim sits next to her, scans her with a medical tricorder as an N.D. looks on. After a beat, Loken ENTERS, a grim expression on his face. Kim looks up.

\*

KIM

Dayla?

LOKEN

She's dead.

Another beat as Kim absorbs this. Then:

LOKEN

How's Seven?

Kim eyes him, considers.

KIM

She may be in shock. I'm not sure. Have a look.

Kim gets up and hands Loken his medical tricorder. Loken studies it for a beat.

KIM

What's your opinion, Doctor?

LOKEN

(parroting Kim,  
covering)

I believe... she may be in shock.

KIM

(testing him)

Do you think we should give her a cortical stimulant?

LOKEN

That might be indicated...

(CONTINUED)

55

CONTINUED:

55

KIM

You're no Doctor, are you?

Loken is silent. Kim looks to the N.D., then back to Loken.

KIM

You and I need to talk. Alone.

56

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - WARDROOM

56

Kim ENTERS, followed by Loken.

KIM

What the hell is going on?

LOKEN

(evenly)

I don't know what you mean.

Kim looks him straight in the eye.

KIM

Nothing about this mission is adding up. It's obvious you know a lot more about cloaking systems than biology. So did Dayla.

(beat)

And the second our cloak failed, half a dozen Annari warships came after us -- one little medical transport.

Loken holds Kim's stare, stony-faced.

KIM

The truth.

A tense beat, then Loken relents.

LOKEN

My colleagues and I have been working at a secret base, but not to create vaccines. We've been developing cloaking devices for our fleet.

KIM

(realizing)

This ship is a prototype.

Loken nods.

LOKEN

The Annari know we have it, and they don't want us to get it home.

(CONTINUED)

56

CONTINUED:

56

KIM

(rising anger)

If I'd known you had a military  
objective I never would've agreed--

LOKEN

Our world has been under an Annari  
blockade for three years. The  
planet's protected by a shield  
grid, but it's almost impossible  
to get our ships in or out.

KIM

I convinced Captain Janeway this  
was a humanitarian mission.

LOKEN

(passionate)

It is. The Annari are choking us  
to death slowly. If we can't get  
supply ships through the blockade,  
we can't get food to our people...  
or medicine --

KIM

For all I know, that's another  
lie.

He angrily EXITS into:

57 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

57

Terek at the helm, N.D.s at stations. Kim ENTERS,  
followed by Loken.

\*

KIM

Reverse course.

TEREK

Sir?

KIM

We're heading back to Voyager.

TEREK

I don't understand...

LOKEN

He knows about the cloak.

Terek reacts, apologetic to Kim:

TEREK

I would've told you, but --

(CONTINUED)

57

CONTINUED:

57

But Kim's all business.

KIM

I gave you an order.

TEREK

What about the mission?

KIM

That's not your concern. You want  
to be a starship officer, your job  
is to follow orders.

\*  
\*  
\*

TEREK

Sir, I don't think you --

KIM

(forceful)

This is not a debate. You're  
under my command.

A tense beat. Terek looks from Kim to Loken, then back  
again. Finally:

TEREK

No, sir.

(beat)

Not anymore.

Kim reacts.

KIM

You're relieved.

(to an N.D.)

Take the helm.

But the N.D. doesn't budge. Kim eyes the aliens, all  
facing him defiantly now. After a beat:

LOKEN

I believe you're the one who's  
been relieved.

\*

OFF Kim, realizing he's lost his command...

CUT TO:

58 INT. VOYAGER - CORRIDOR

58

Icheb walking somewhat briskly down the corridor, heading to Engineering. Paris approaches, walks with him.

PARIS

Where are you going in such a hurry?

ICHEB

Engineering, to assist B'Elanna --  
(correcting himself)  
Lieutenant Torres.

PARIS

(lightly)

You've been seeing a lot of my wife lately. Should I be worried?

The humor is once again lost on Icheb, who becomes nervous and defensive.

ICHEB

The repairs are extensive. It's a lot of work--

PARIS

(tweaking him)

You can't fool me. I heard you two were planning to scale some cliffs together.

ICHEB

(flustered)

It was her idea.

Paris can see that Icheb is taking him much too seriously, tries to put him at ease.

PARIS

Relax. Spending time on the Holodeck is good for you. But if you really want to have fun, forget climbing. Try my race car program.

ICHEB

"Race car?"

PARIS

You get to chase me around the track in an old Earth ground vehicle. Three hundred KPH! It'll really get your blood pumping.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

ICHEB  
Are you challenging me to a  
competition?

PARIS  
(smiles)  
Think you can take me?

As Paris heads down an adjoining corridor:

PARIS  
Tomorrow, Holodeck Two, nineteen  
hundred hours.

OFF Icheb, his concern mounting...

59 INT. VOYAGER - ENGINEERING

59

Which is in much better shape than the last time we saw  
it. Torres is working at the warp core. Several N.D.s  
work in the b.g.

Icheb ENTERS, takes a deep breath, mustering his  
courage, and approaches Torres.

ICHEB  
There's something we need to  
discuss.

TORRES  
Sure. As soon as you help me  
finish this diagnostic.

She continues to study her console as Icheb talks.

ICHEB  
I can't do this.

TORRES  
Of course you can. You've done  
dozens of them.

ICHEB  
I'm not talking about the  
diagnostic.  
(beat)  
I'm talking about us.

TORRES  
Us?

ICHEB  
Your interest in me is...  
inappropriate.

Torres faces him, not following.

(CONTINUED)

59

CONTINUED:

59

TORRES

I don't think I understand.

ICHEB

It's obvious you desire a romantic involvement.

TORRES

Excuse me?

ICHEB

You've made all the customary overtures: finding reasons to spend time with me, complimenting me, inviting me to engage in recreational activities.

(beat)

Your husband even challenged me to a ritual contest--

TORRES

What are you talking about?

ICHEB

According to my research, it's a traditional Klingon practice --

Torres is stunned, but can't help being a little amused.

TORRES

Look, I'm sorry, but you got the wrong idea. You seemed a little lonely. I was just trying to be friendly --

ICHEB

I scanned you.

TORRES

You scanned me?

ICHEB

In the Jefferies Tube. Your blood pressure and neurotransmitter readings indicated a state of arousal.

TORRES

(a little indignant)

It was hot. I've been under a lot of pressure. But I certainly wasn't aroused.

(CONTINUED)

59

CONTINUED: (2)

59

An N.D.'s head turns at this last statement. Torres reacts, embarrassed, but realizes Icheb has probably developed a bit of a crush. She pulls him aside.

TORRES

Look, Icheb, I like you. But  
aside from the fact that I'm a  
much older woman, I'm married...

He nods knowingly.

ICHEB

That's why we have to do the  
honorable thing.

(beat)

We should stop seeing each other.

Torres decides it would be better at this point not to argue.

TORRES

You're right. As much as it  
hurts, I'll just have to face the  
truth.

He gently puts a hand on her shoulder.

ICHEB

It's for the best.

HOLD ON Torres, still not quite believing what just happened as Icheb hurriedly EXITS...

CUT TO:

60

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - QUARTERS

60

Seven lies on the bed, resting. Kim ENTERS, gently speaks to her.

KIM

Seven?

She rouses, sits up.

KIM

Feeling better?

SEVEN OF NINE

Well enough to return to duty.

KIM

You won't be returning to duty.  
Not on this ship anyway.

(CONTINUED)

60

CONTINUED:

60

Seven reacts.

KIM

Loken lied to us. There's no vaccine. The cloak is the real cargo.

She gets up, taking this in.

KIM

I ordered the crew to take us back to Voyager, but they refused.

Seven reacts to this.

SEVEN OF NINE

They mutinied?

KIM

(embarrassed)

I guess that's what you'd call it...

(changing the subject)

I've packed some supplies. We'll take an escape pod. I'm hoping the Annari will leave us alone. Treat us as neutral parties --

\*

SEVEN OF NINE

We're not "neutral parties."

\*

KIM

This is a military mission. We can't get involved.

\*

SEVEN OF NINE

We've been "involved" since you first fired on that Annari ship.

KIM

I thought I was helping people in distress.

SEVEN OF NINE

They don't need your help anymore?

\*

A beat of silence. Kim doesn't have an answer for that.

SEVEN OF NINE

Are you abandoning this ship because the mission isn't what you expected... or because being a Captain isn't what you expected?

\*

\*

Kim is offended by the question.

(CONTINUED)

60

CONTINUED: (2)

60

KIM

I'm perfectly capable of  
commanding a starship --

\*  
\*

SEVEN OF NINE

Are you?

Kim's taken aback by her directness.

SEVEN OF NINE

Clearly you're uncomfortable with  
the role. Delegating tasks,  
giving orders--

KIM

Someone died following my orders!

\*

(CONTINUED)

60

CONTINUED: (3)

60

A beat as Seven realizes how heavily Dayla's death weighs on Kim. She softens her tone.

SEVEN OF NINE

You can't blame yourself for that --

KIM

(indignant)

A Captain's responsible for the lives of his crew.

SEVEN OF NINE

People sometimes die on missions.  
Despite the best efforts of the Captain.

But Kim's too full of remorse to take much comfort from that.

KIM

I should've stuck to playing "Buster Kincaid."

SEVEN OF NINE

A Holodeck program can be turned off when it no longer suits you. Reality can't.

A beat as Kim eyes her. Then:

SEVEN OF NINE

If you really feel responsible for this crew, you'll help them get home.

(beat)

Because they won't survive without you.

OFF Kim...

TIME CUT TO:

61 OMITTED

61 \*

62 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

62

On the Viewscreen, we SEE Annari ships orbiting the Kraylor homeworld. They are emitting PULSES of ENERGY. Terek, Loken, and N.D.s at stations. Terek studies the Viewscreen:

\*  
\*  
\*

TEREK

Is that some new kind of weapon?

Loken studies a readout, shakes his head.

LOKEN

They're scanning pulses. Designed to illuminate cloaked ships. If we hit one, we'll be exposed.

TEREK

How are we going to get through?

\*

KIM (O.S.)

We'll find a way.

The aliens turn to see

63 KIM AND SEVEN

63

standing near the doors to the Bridge.

LOKEN

I thought you were leaving.

KIM

(lightly)

I get claustrophobic in escape pods.

(to Terek)

Switch to manual helm control.

Full power to shields.

(CONTINUED)

63

CONTINUED:

63

A tense beat as the aliens consider. Terek looks to Loken. Loken nods. Terek smiles.

TEREK

Aye, Captain..

OFF Kim...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

64 EXT. PLANET (OPTICAL) 64

Reestablishing Voyager.

65 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 65

Janeway, Chakotay, Tuvok, and Tom at their usual stations. Tuvok's console BEEPS. He checks it.

TUVOK

Two Annari ships have entered orbit. They're hailing.

JANEWAY

On screen.

The IMAGE of Captain Geral APPEARS on the Viewscreen. Janeway greets him warmly.

JANEWAY

Captain Geral. We have twelve isotons of ore for you.

GERAL

(coolly)

I'm under orders to escort you out of Annari space. Immediately.

The Bridge crew reacts.

GERAL

You've been supporting our enemy.

JANEWAY

(evenly)

You must be mistaken.

GERAL

A shuttlecraft matching your hull composition fired on one of our ships several days ago. And we recently detected two human bio-signatures on a Kraylor warship.

JANEWAY

I can explain that --

(CONTINUED)

65

CONTINUED:

65

GERAL  
(cutting her off)  
If you don't leave immediately,  
we'll be forced to fire on you.

A tense beat.

JANEWAY  
Our warp drive is still being  
repaired.

GERAL  
Then we'll escort you at impulse.  
You have five minutes to lift off.

Geral ENDS the transmission.

CHAKOTAY  
So much for our new deuterium  
injectors.

PARIS  
What about Harry and Seven?

JANEWAY  
We'll go looking for them as soon  
as we get rid of our "escort."

66

EXT. SPACE - KRAYLOR HOMEWORLD (OPTICAL)

66

An Annari ship emits a SCANNING PULSE and we SEE a  
distorted image of the Kraylor ship briefly SHIMMER into  
view. The Annari ship immediately targets it, FIRES.

67

INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

67

Emergency lighting. The ship SHAKES from the weapons  
fire.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

KIM  
Evasive maneuvers!

Terek works the helm, but the ship ROCKS as they take another HIT. He's tense, frustrated.

TEREK  
There are too many of them!

KIM  
You're doing fine. Just try to stay at least one hundred meters ahead of the closest pulse.

\*  
\*

TEREK  
Yes, sir.

\*

Another SHAKE.

LOKEN  
We should return fire.

KIM  
No, that'll only give them another way to triangulate our position.

The ship SHAKES again from a series of phaser hits. A console SPARKS.

LOKEN  
Our shields are failing!

SEVEN OF NINE  
We're losing structural integrity on the lower decks.

KIM  
Reroute emergency power.

The ship ROCKS again hard as Seven works, shakes her head.

SEVEN OF NINE  
It's insufficient...

Kim considers for a tense beat, then:

KIM  
Open a channel to the lead Annari ship.

TEREK  
Sir?

\*

KIM  
Do it.

(CONTINUED)

67

CONTINUED: (2)

67

TEREK

Aye, sir.

Terek works a control, nods to Kim who speaks to com:

KIM

This is Captain Kim of the Kraylor  
vessel "Nightingale."

(beat)

I'm prepared to discuss terms for  
our surrender.

\*

Shocked reactions.

KIM

End transmission.

\*

\*

Terek hits a control as Loken looks to Kim, stunned.

\*

LOKEN

We trusted you...

KIM

And you still should.

\*

TEREK

They're responding.

Kim holds Loken's gaze.

KIM

I don't have time to explain.

(to Terek)

On screen.

68

OMITTED

68

69

INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

69

The Alien Commander seen earlier APPEARS.

\*

ANNARI COMMANDER  
Your surrender will be  
unconditional.

Tension as the crew watches Kim negotiate, unsure what  
he's up to. But he's forceful, determined.

KIM  
No, it won't.  
(beat)  
Either you allow my crew to  
evacuate to the surface, or I'll  
put this ship on auto-destruct.

\*

The Annari commander reacts.

KIM  
You'll never get the cloaking  
technology. Something tells me  
your superiors won't be happy  
about that.

\*

A beat as the Annari Commander considers.

ANNARI COMMANDER  
Your crew will be taken aboard my  
vessel and brought to an Annari  
detention center.

\*

\*

KIM  
My crew's going to the surface in  
escape pods. Once they're clear,  
you can lock onto this ship with a  
tractor beam.

\*

\*

The Annari Commander eyes him for a beat, then:

ANNARI COMMANDER  
Agreed.  
(beat)  
You have two minutes to evacuate.

He CUTS OFF the transmission. Terek rises, earnestly  
faces Kim:

\*

TEREK  
I will not abandon this ship --

\*

KIM  
I'm glad to hear that because I'm  
going to need you here.

\*

(CONTINUED)

69

CONTINUED:

69

As Terek reacts, curious, Kim turns to Loken.

KIM  
Get your people into the pods.  
Quickly.

\*  
\*

Loken hesitates.

LOKEN  
But the cloak --

KIM  
I've got a plan to save it. If I  
fail...  
(re: Loken)  
...at least the scientist who  
designed it will be alive to  
create another one.

\*

This time, Kim's demeanor inspires confidence. Loken  
nods, and EXITS with the rest of the N.D.s, leaving only  
Seven and Terek. Kim turns to Seven.

KIM  
Scan the Annari's tractor  
emitters. I need to know the  
exact beam polarity.

\*

As Seven works...

TEREK  
What are we going to do?

KIM  
Once they lock onto us, they're  
going to come about, and pull us  
away from the planet. As soon as  
they do, we're going to reverse  
our shield polarity...

\*  
\*

(beat)  
If we time it right, it should  
give us enough momentum to outrun  
them to the defense perimeter.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Terek smiles, recalling one of Kim's earlier feats.

TEREK  
We're going to use their own  
weapons against them.

Seven looks up from her console.

(CONTINUED)

69

CONTINUED: (2)

69

SEVEN OF NINE  
The escape pods are away.

Kim takes a deep breath, then:

KIM  
Disengage the cloak.

A beat as she works. Then the ship JOLTS.

SEVEN OF NINE  
They've locked on.

The ship TREMBLES. A long beat of tension as they hang  
on. Terek is apprehensive.

\*  
\*

TEREK  
Sir?

\*

KIM  
Not yet...  
(beat)  
Steady...

Another tense beat, then:

KIM  
Now.

70-71 OMITTED

70-71

\*

72 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

72

The Nightingale's shields FLARE BRIGHTLY. The Annari tractor beam begins to FRITZ VIOLENTLY and suddenly SNAPS like a rubber band, sending the Kraylor ship careening toward the planet.

73 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

73

The crew holding on as the ship LURCHES.

KIM  
Status?

SEVEN OF NINE  
(off console)  
Shields are failing...

\*

Terek checks his panel.

TEREK  
Four Annari vessels are in  
pursuit. They're closing...

KIM  
Full thrusters!

WHAM! The ship ROCKS!

SEVEN OF NINE  
Shields are down!

KIM  
Get us through that defense  
perimeter, Mister Terek!

TEREK  
Yes, sir!

73A EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

73A

The Nightingale approaches the planet, an Annari ship in hot pursuit. A beat, and then the Nightingale breaks the plane of the planetary shield grid, causing it to FLASH.

73B INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

73B

Terek reacts.

TEREK  
We're inside!

(CONTINUED)

VOYAGER: "Nightingale" - 9/25/00

ACT FIVE

65A.

73B CONTINUED:

73B

SEVEN OF NINE  
The Annari have broken off  
pursuit.

A beat. Then, relieved.

KIM  
Take us to the surface, Mister  
Terek.

OFF the triumphant moment...

TIME CUT TO:

74 OMITTED 74

75 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE 75

Janeway, Chakotay, Tuvok, and Paris at stations. Paris looks up from his console.

PARIS

We just crossed out of Annari space.

Chakotay checks his console.

CHAKOTAY

Our escorts have broken off. They're going to warp.

Janeway gets up, starts giving commands.

JANEWAY

Bring the long-range sensors online.

(to Chakotay)

You and Tom take the Flyer. Start your search at Harry's last known position.

Paris and Chakotay head to the Turbolift.

JANEWAY

Tuvok, send an encrypted message to the Kraylor homeworld. See if they know where Harry and Seven are.

Tuvok reacts to a BEEP from his console. \*

TUVOK

That won't be necessary, Captain.  
(off her look)  
Ensign Kim is hailing us. \*

JANEWAY

From where? \*

Tuvok works, raises an eyebrow.

TUVOK

A cloaked vessel. It's directly astern. \*

OFF that...

CUT TO:

76 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

76

where we see the Kraylor ship SHIMMER into view, just behind Voyager.

KIM (V.O.)  
Acting Captain's Log, Stardate  
54282.5, final entry. New  
cloaking systems are being  
installed throughout the Kraylor  
fleet. Though the mission has  
ended, my doubts about it haven't.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

CUT TO:

77-78 OMITTED

77-78

79 INT. KRAYLOR SHIP - BRIDGE

79

KRAYLOR N.D.s man stations. Kim is preparing to leave.  
He looks around the Bridge, takes one last look at the  
empty Captain's Chair.

TEREK  
The Nightingale won't be the same  
without you, sir.

\*  
\*  
\*

KIM  
(smiles)  
You'll manage.

\*

TEREK  
Our fleet could really use an  
experienced commanding officer  
like you.  
(beat)  
You don't have to leave.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

KIM  
Thanks. But I already have a job.

\*  
\*

Terek nods, understanding.

\*

TEREK  
It was an honor to serve on your  
crew.

Kim is touched, but not sure how to respond. After a beat:

KIM  
You have the Bridge.

OFF Terek...

TIME CUT TO:

80

INT. VOYAGER - MESS HALL

80

It's late. A very tired Kim ENTERS, moves to the galley. Neelix, behind the counter, reacts, happy to see him.

NEELIX

Welcome home!

KIM

It's good to be back. \*

NEELIX

So what'll it be tonight? I have a light, Tula cheese soufflé, or a zesty lasagna.

Neelix expects a quick, decisive answer, but Kim thinks about it for a long beat. Finally:

KIM

You know, Neelix... the truth is... I'm not sure...

Neelix frowns.

NEELIX

I thought we talked about this. A Captain has to be deci -- \*

KIM

(interrupting) \*  
I'm not a Captain, Neelix.  
(beat)  
Not yet, anyway.

OFF Kim...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVETHE END