

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

REVISED
*02/23/01 be

"Destiny"

40840-269

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by
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FINAL DRAFT

FEBRUARY 23, 2001

VOYAGER: "Destiny" - 2/23/01 CAST

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Destiny"

CAST

JANEWAY	DEXA
CHAKOTAY	BRAX
KIM	NAOMI
PARIS	OXILON
DOCTOR	NOCONA
TUVOK	MINER
TORRES	
SEVEN OF NINE	
NEELIX	
COMPUTER VOICE	

Non-Speaking

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Natural Law"

SETS

INTERIORS

VOYAGER

ASTROMETRICS LAB
BRIDGE
BRIEFING ROOM
CORRIDOR
GUEST QUARTERS - BEDROOM
GUEST QUARTERS - LIVING AREA
MESS HALL
NAOMI'S QUARTERS
TURBOLIFT

DELTA FLYER

COCKPIT
AFT SECTION

NEELIX' SHIP

TALAXIAN SHIP

CAVES

CAVERN
MAIN CAVERN
DWELLING

EXTERIORS

SPACE/VOYAGER

ASTEROID FIELD
DELTA FLYER

ASTEROID SURFACE

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Destiny"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

PEROGIES	per-OH-geez
HAAKONIAN	hah-KON-ee-un
RINAX	RYE-naks
THERMALYTE	THER-muh-lite
DEXA	DEKS-uh
BRAX	BRAKS
OXILON	OKS-uh-lon
NOCONA	nah-KOH-nah
TALCHOK	TAHL-chok
GODO	GO-doh
AXIANA	aks-ee-AH-nah
TAGA	TAH-guh
PHANOS	FAH-nohs
PALEONTOLOGY	pay-lee-un-TAH-luh-gee

STAR TREK: VOYAGER"Destiny"TEASER

FADE IN:

1 CLOSE ON A COLORFUL, OLD FASHIONED JUKE BOX 1

Colored LIGHTS are FLASHING. Instrumental sixties rock-n-roll MUSIC is playing. REVEAL we're in --

2 INT. MESS HALL 2

A party is in progress. JANEWAY, KIM, PARIS, TUVOK, TORRES, looking further along in her pregnancy, NAOMI WILDMAN and a dozen or so CREWMEMBERS are enjoying themselves. NEELIX moves through the crowd with a tray of hors d'oeuvres. Torres takes a few.

TORRES
These are delicious.

KIM
(light)
Leave some for the rest of us.

TORRES
Hey, I'm eating for two.

Paris approaches.

PARIS
Great party, Neelix.

NEELIX
(agreeing)
Everyone seems to be enjoying it.

PARIS
Except the Doctor.

He points out the DOCTOR, sitting at a table with a TRICORDER, SCANNING one of the appetizers. Neelix approaches the table, light.

NEELIX
Those are for eating, not scanning.

DOCTOR
(frowns)
What exactly are they?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

NEELIX

Cheese perogies.
(proud)
Zefram Cochrane's favorite.

DOCTOR

They have absolutely no
nutritional value.

NEELIX

This is a party, Doctor. Sometimes
you have to forget about nutrition.

DOCTOR

The least you could've done was
include a vitamin supplement when
you replicated them.

NEELIX

"Replicate!?" I made them myself.

Neelix continues to make his way through the crowd. He
offers the tray to Captain Janeway who's standing with
Naomi. Janeway takes an hors d'oeuvre, looks at both of
them.

JANEWAY

You two have outdone yourselves.
I've never seen "First Contact
Day" celebrated quite like this.
(to Naomi)
When I was your age, all it meant
was a day off from school.

NAOMI

Neelix and I thought we should
make it more fun.

JANEWAY

(smiles)
Well, you've certainly succeeded.

NAOMI

(to Neelix)
When's Commander Tuvok making his
presentation?

Janeway reacts with curiosity.

NEELIX

Now's as good a time as any.

Neelix moves to the center of the room.

NEELIX

May I have everyone's attention
please?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

Paris turns OFF the MUSIC. The crowd quiets down and looks to Neelix.

NEELIX

In honor of the three hundred and fifteenth anniversary of his ancestors' arrival on Earth, I've asked Mister Tuvok to recite the first words spoken to humans by a Vulcan.

(to Tuvok)

Commander...

Tuvok looks reluctantly at Neelix.

TUVOK

Is this really necessary?

NEELIX

You promised.

TUVOK

(resigned)

Very well.

TUVOK moves to the center of the room. A long beat. He raises his hand and parts his fingers in the traditional Vulcan greeting. A moment of anticipation, and then... he speaks exactly four words.

TUVOK

"Live long and prosper."

That's it. The crowd applauds. Neelix moves to the JUKE BOX.

NEELIX

And now, some more of Zefram Cochrane's favorite music...

He TURNS it back ON and does a little DANCE to the MUSIC. He motions to Tuvok to join him.

NEELIX

Come on, Mister Vulcan!

*

TUVOK

Vulcans do not dance.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (3)

2

NEELIX
But it's tradition.

TUVOK
There is no tradition, Mister
Neelix. This ceremony is entirely
your invention.

PARIS
(tweaking him)
Don't be a "wall-flower," Tuvok.

*

Even Janeway gets in on the fun:

JANEWAY
This is an official ship function,
Commander.
(lightly)
Don't make me order you to dance.

But Tuvok is rescued by the ENTRANCE of CHAKOTAY who
crosses to Janeway.

CHAKOTAY
Sorry to interrupt, but I've got
some interesting news.
(he turns to Neelix)
You might want to hear this.

He pulls Janeway and Neelix aside.

CHAKOTAY
Long range sensors have detected
several hundred lifesigns
approximately four point nine
light-years away...
(beat)
They're Talaxian.

OFF Neelix...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes.)

3 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 3

Voyager at warp.

4 INT. MESS HALL (OPTICAL) 4

After hours. Neelix and Naomi are cleaning up from the party. Neelix is all business.

NEELIX

Save those perogies. I'll serve them
for breakfast. Everything else goes
into the replicator for recycling.

Naomi is frustrated with Neelix' serious mood.

NAOMI

Neelix!

NEELIX

What?

NAOMI

Why aren't you more excited?

NEELIX

(shrugs)

I always feel a bit of a let-down
when a party's over.

NAOMI

You know that's not what I meant.

(beat)

Aren't you looking forward to
seeing the Talaxians?

NEELIX

It's a little early to assume that
will happen.

NAOMI

Seven detected their lifesigns!

NEELIX

Indistinct lifesigns. It could be
a mistake.

Naomi's not buying Neelix's objection.

NAOMI

Voyager's sensors are pretty accurate.

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED:

4

NEELIX
(avoiding the issue)
You forgot to empty the tea pots.

Naomi, frustrated, carries a tea pot into the Galley.

NAOMI
Come on, Neelix. Aren't you even
curious how they got there?

*

A beat, Neelix reluctantly entertains her question.

NEELIX
Well, if we're just speculating...
quite a few of us left Talax after
the Haakonians took over.

NAOMI
But why would these people come so
far? Talax is thirty thousand
light-years away.

NEELIX
(shrugs)
I don't know. People left in
large groups... to look for better
places to live.
(light)
Maybe this group just kept on going.

NAOMI
(a thought)
You might be related to some of
them!

NEELIX
Now you're being silly. There
were billions of people on Talax.
(beat)
Besides, most of my family was on
Rinax, the third moon.
(beat)
Now, come on. I'm tired, it's
time for me to go to bed.

*

Naomi can see that Neelix needs some space. She nods.

NAOMI
Good night.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

Naomi starts towards the EXIT. But after a beat Neelix calls her back.

NEELIX

Naomi...

She turns.

NAOMI

Yes?

NEELIX

How about a game of Kadis-Kot?

She looks at him surprised.

NAOMI

You just told me you were tired.

NEELIX

I don't think I'd be able to sleep.

(admitting it)

I'm too excited.

*

OFF the moment...

5 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

5

Voyager dropping out of warp.

6 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

6

CLOSE ON the Turbolift Doors as they open. Neelix steps out.

NEELIX

Are we there yet?

Janeway, Chakotay, Tuvok, Paris and Kim are at stations. They turn at Neelix' question.

JANEWAY

Not exactly.

Off his look, she indicates the VIEWSCREEN which DISPLAYS a vast ASTEROID BELT.

JANEWAY

The lifesigns appear to be coming from inside that asteroid field.

Neelix reacts to the surprising news.

NEELIX

From a ship?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

TUVOK

We're not detecting any vessels.

NEELIX

No response to hails?

KIM

Not yet.

NEELIX

I hope they're all right.

CHAKOTAY

There's a lot of interference.
Maybe they haven't received our
transmissions.

NEELIX

Can we move in closer?

PARIS

Voyager's too big to maneuver
safely in there.

(to Janeway)

But we could take the Flyer.

NEELIX

Captain?

A beat, then Janeway nods at the idea.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. SPACE - DELTA FLYER (OPTICAL) 7

Maneuvering through the asteroids

8 INT. DELTA FLYER - COCKPIT (OPTICAL) 8

CHUNKS of ROCK and ICE STREAK by outside the Flyer's
windows. Paris is at the helm. Tuvok's monitoring
shields as Neelix looks on, nervously prattling away to
cover his apprehension and anticipation.

NEELIX

It wouldn't have hurt you to do a
few steps.

TUVOK

(annoyed)

I'm trying to concentrate on the
shields, Mister Neelix.

NEELIX

I think you were just afraid.

(CONTINUED)

8

CONTINUED:

8

TUVOK

That's absurd.

NEELIX

It's understandable. There were a lot of people watching.

TUVOK

Vulcans don't experience fear.

NEELIX

I'm going to make it my personal mission to get you to dance at least once before we reach Earth.

TUVOK

I suggest you find a more productive hobby.

Suddenly, Neelix' eyes go wide and he ducks.

NEELIX

Watch out!

The Delta Flyer LURCHES as Tom PULLS on the joystick to avoid an oncoming ASTEROID.

PARIS

(re: asteroid)

I saw it, Neelix. You don't have to shout.

NEELIX

Sorry.

(beat)

Maybe we should turn back before one of those things hits us.

TUVOK

We've undertaken this mission at your request, Mister Neelix.

PARIS

It's a little hard to fly with the two of you bickering. You sound like B'Elanna and me when we're trying to pick a name for the baby.

NEELIX

I was only making conversation.

TUVOK

You have been talking continuously since we left Voyager.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

PARIS
(lightly)
If you two don't stop it, I'm
going to come back there and
separate you.

They're chastened for a moment, then something on
Tuvok's console catches his eye.

TUVOK
I've localized the lifesigns.
Bearing one zero eight mark twenty-
six.
(beat)
They appear to be inside a large
asteroid.

NEELIX
Inside?

The ship is suddenly ROCKED and there is a BRIGHT FLASH
from outside.

NEELIX
What was that?

TUVOK
(working his console)
A thermalyte explosive... thirty
point six kilometers to port.
(he works)
I'm detecting another
projectile... heading directly
toward us. Evasive maneuvers.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. SPACE - ASTEROID FIELD (OPTICAL)

9

A EXPLOSIVE CHARGE CRASHES into an ASTEROID, BLOWING IT
UP into pieces just as the Delta Flyer flies by,
catching the brunt of the shock wave.

10 INT. DELTA FLYER COCKPIT

10

SHAKING HARD. Consoles SPARKING.

TUVOK
We've lost shields.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

PARIS
Main propulsion is off-line.
We're going to have to make an
emergency landing.

NEELIX
Where?!

PARIS
(off console)
The Talaxians' asteroid is the
closest...

Tuvok works his console, concerned.

TUVOK
The surface is covered with
craters... ice fields...

PARIS
We don't have a choice.
(beat)
Hold on.

11 EXT. ASTEROID SURFACE (OPTICAL)

11

The Delta Flyer SKIDS across the ICE and ROCK on the
ASTEROID'S SURFACE and SCREECHES into a large CAVERN,
SCRAPING and SPARKING against the sides. Finally it
SLAMS against a ROCK WALL!

12 OMITTED

12

13 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

13

Voyager outside the asteroid field.

14 INT. ASTROMETRICS LAB

14

SEVEN OF NINE is working. Janeway ENTERS. (NOTE: avoid
the Domescreen.)

JANEWAY
Problem?

(CONTINUED)

14

CONTINUED:

14

SEVEN OF NINE

We've lost contact with the Away Team.

Janeway reacts.

SEVEN OF NINE

I also detected some unusual energy discharges in the asteroid field.

JANEWAY

What kind of discharges?

SEVEN OF NINE

It's difficult to tell because of the interference, but they appeared to be thermolytic explosions.

She indicates readings on her console.

SEVEN OF NINE

I believe several of them were in close proximity to the Flyer.

JANEWAY

Source?

SEVEN OF NINE

Unknown.

A grim beat as Janeway considers.

JANEWAY

We'll need to send a rescue team.
(beat)

Work with B'Elanna. Try to modify the shields on one of the shuttles to withstand these explosions.

OFF Janeway's concern, as Seven EXITS...

15

INT. SUBTERRANEAN DWELLING (OPTICAL)

15

Rough stone walls, but comfortably furnished with a FEW HIGH TECH TOUCHES. Neelix regains consciousness to find a pretty Talaxian woman, DEXA, treating his injuries. He's groggy and disoriented and there's a BRUISE on his head. He starts to rise, but Dexa stops him. She's reserved, but firm.

*

DEXA

Stay still.

Concerned, he gingerly touches the bruise on his head.

*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

DEXA

Don't worry. It's not serious.

Neelix takes in his surroundings, beginning to remember what happened.

NEELIX

Am I... inside the asteroid?

DEXA

Yes. This is my home.

NEELIX

Where are my friends?

DEXA

If you mean the aliens who were on the ship with you, they're safe.

NEELIX

I'd like to see them.

A beat.

DEXA

You need to rest.

Neelix feels a little dizzy, realizes she's right, and lies back. Dexa waits a beat, then asks coolly:

DEXA

What were you doing in the asteroid field?

NEELIX

Looking for you.

Dexa reacts. Neelix awkwardly tries to clarify.

NEELIX

Well not you specifically. But my ship detected Talaxians. I haven't come across any for years, so --

*

A beat, Neelix realizes he's rambling.

NEELIX

I'm sorry...

(beat)

I'm Neelix.

DEXA

Dexa.

(a hint of a smile)

I had an uncle named Neelix.

Neelix smiles.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

DEXA

Are there other Talaxians on your ship?

NEELIX

I'm the only one.

Dexa is surprised and a little disapproving.

DEXA

Why are you living with aliens?

The question confuses Neelix. The answer's obvious:

NEELIX

They're my friends.

(beat)

Did you receive our hails?

DEXA

Yes.

NEELIX

Why didn't you respond?

DEXA

We avoid contact with outsiders.

Neelix remembers what happened in the Delta Flyer.

NEELIX

We were attacked -- there were explosions...

(tentatively)

Did you...?

DEXA

No. We're not violent.

NEELIX

Then who fired at us?

DEXA

No one fired at you.

(off his look)

There are miners who use explosive charges... to break apart the asteroids, so they can collect minerals from the debris.

*

NEELIX

I wish we'd known --

Dexa interrupts.

DEXA

Why were you carrying weapons?

(CONTINUED)

15

CONTINUED: (3)

15

A beat as Neelix reacts. Confused by her tone.

NEELIX

It's standard procedure for an
Away Mission...

They're interrupted by a SOUND. Something catches
Neelix' eye O.C. REVEAL a Talaxian boy, BRAX, about
nine years old, cautiously peeking into the room.

NEELIX

Hello.

(beat)

What's your name?

(CONTINUED)

15

CONTINUED: (4)

15

BRAX

Brax. What's yours?

Before Neelix can answer, Dexa interrupts, not harshly.

DEXA

I told you not to come in here.

BRAX

(re: Neelix)

I just wanted to see him.

DEXA

Your supposed to be helping Oxilon.

Brax hesitates, eyes Neelix.

BRAX

He doesn't look dangerous to me.

Dexa shoots Brax a stern look and he runs OFF. Neelix reacts to Brax' comment.

NEELIX

I think you have the wrong idea about us.

Dexa considers this, uneasy.

DEXA

I'm not supposed to be talking to you at all.

A long beat as Neelix evaluates his situation. This is not the reception he was expecting, he's ready to leave.

NEELIX

I'm feeling much better. I'd like to see my friends now.

He gets out of bed and starts towards the door. But Dexa HITS a control. A FORCEFIELD FLASHES ON in front of Neelix, trapping him near the bed. He reacts.

NEELIX

What are you doing...?

DEXA

(firm)

I've been told not to let you leave.

OFF Neelix, stunned...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 16

Voyager outside the asteroid field.

17 INT. BRIDGE 17

Chakotay, Kim and N.D.s at stations. Janeway is impatient and pacing.

KIM

Still no response to hails.

JANEWAY

(to the com)

Janeway to the Shuttlebay.

SEVEN OF NINE'S COM VOICE

Go ahead, Captain.

JANEWAY

What's the status of the shield modifications?

SEVEN OF NINE'S COM VOICE

Lieutenant Torres and I will be finished in a few minutes.

JANEWAY

Good.

(to Chakotay)

Take an Away Team and find them.

He gets up and heads for the Turbolift. But Kim stops him.

KIM

Captain, there's a ship approaching from astern.

*

18 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 18

A massive MINING VESSEL pulls close to Voyager.

19 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 19

As before.

KIM

We're being hailed.

(CONTINUED)

19

CONTINUED:

19

JANEWAY

On screen.

An ALIEN MINER, NOCONA, APPEARS on the VIEWSCREEN. His manner is terse, but calm and respectful. N.D.s work in the background.

NOCONA

Identify yourselves.

JANEWAY

I'm Captain Janeway of the Federation Starship Voyager.

NOCONA

Commander Nocona. This is our asteroid field.

JANEWAY

We weren't aware of that.

NOCONA

Now you are.

Janeway reacts.

JANEWAY

We lost one of our shuttles inside the field. We're preparing to send a rescue team.

NOCONA

All the resources belong to us.

JANEWAY

We're not interested in the resources. We were only trying to make contact with the Talaxians.

NOCONA

(suspicious)

What's your interest in them?

JANEWAY

One of my crewmen's from Talax. He was eager to meet some of his people.

A beat as Nocona considers. He chooses his words carefully.

NOCONA

I doubt they'll give him a warm reception.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

KIM
(concerned)
Why not?

NOCONA
(matter-of-fact)
They're not very friendly.

A beat.

NOCONA
You should have requested
permission before sending in a
shuttle. We have a mining
operation in progress.

CHAKOTAY
Does that explain the explosions
we detected?

NOCONA
(nods)
Mining charges.

JANEWAY
We'd appreciate it if you'd stop
using them until we get our people
out.

NOCONA
I'm sorry, we're on a strict
deadline.
(beat)
But I'll conduct a search for your
crew. If they need help, we'll
provide it.

Janeway's a little suspicious, but she tries to be
diplomatic.

JANEWAY
That's kind of you, but we're
prepared to go in and get them
ourselves.

NOCONA
(forcefully)
I can't guarantee your safety if
you enter the asteroid field.
(beat)
Stay here. We'll contact you when
we find your people.

He BLINKS OUT. OFF the moment...

20 INT. SUBTERRANEAN DWELLING (OPTICAL)

20

Neelix is in bed behind the FORCEFIELD. Brax ENTERS. He stands for a moment and watches Neelix, silently. Neelix gently tries to engage him.

NEELIX

I don't think you're supposed to be here.

BRAX

This is my home. You can't tell me what to do.

NEELIX

No, of course not.

(beat)

I just don't want you to get in trouble.

The boy decides to ignore Neelix. He moves to a MODEL STARSHIP on the TABLE and begins to tinker with it. Neelix watches, tries to make a connection with Brax.

NEELIX

What's the name of your ship?

Brax doesn't answer.

NEELIX

How about "The Two-Tailed Talchok?"

Brax grins, holds back a laugh. Neelix tries again.

NEELIX

"The Fur Fly?"

This time Brax laughs. Neelix senses he's getting through to him.

NEELIX

The ship I come from is called Voyager.

He's got Brax' interest now.

BRAX

Is it big?

NEELIX

(nods)

And fast...

Brax is intrigued.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

BRAX
Can I see it?

Neelix considers.

NEELIX
(re: the forcefield)
It'd be a little difficult for me
to take you there while I'm stuck
here.
(beat)
But if your mother would let me
out...

Suddenly they HEAR voices approaching.

BRAX
That's her.

NEELIX
(whispers)
You better hide.

BRAX
(beat)
You won't tell her I'm here?

NEELIX
(winks)
Of course not.

Brax finds a place to hide just before Dexa ENTERS with
a Talaxian man, OXILON.

DEXA
Neelix, this is Oxilon. Our
council regent.

Neelix stands.

NEELIX
I wish I could say it was nice to
meet you.
(re: forcefield)
But this wasn't exactly the
welcome I was expecting.

OXILON
I'm sorry, but we have to be
careful.

NEELIX
So you hold visitors hostage?

OXILON
You're free to go now.

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED: (2)

20

He hits a control and drops the FORCEFIELD. Neelix steps out, a little surprised.

NEELIX

What about my friends?

OXILON

We've determined they aren't hostile. They've been treated for their injuries and asked to leave.

DEXA

They're aboard your shuttle making repairs. I'll take you there.

A beat. Neelix hesitates.

NEELIX

Now that everything's been cleared up, maybe we could talk... get to know each other a little.

Dexa and Oxilon exchange a look. He nods.

OXILON

If you'd like.

Neelix smiles, relieved.

NEELIX

My friends too?

Dexa looks to Oxilon inquisitively. He shakes his head.

OXILON

I'm sorry.

NEELIX

Why not?

OXILON

We've learned from experience to keep to ourselves.

A beat.

NEELIX

If they're not welcome, I won't stay either.

Dexa looks at Oxilon, disappointed.

OXILON

That's your choice.

Neelix nods a grim goodbye, and they start toward the door. Before they EXIT, Neelix turns to Dexa.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (3)

20

NEELIX

When you see your son... tell him
I said goodbye.

OFF Brax, in his hiding place, watching Neelix go...

21 INT. CAVERN

21

Dexa and Neelix walk through a LONG CAVERN deep inside the asteroid. There are DOORS leading to other (O.C.) dwellings. Talaxian N.D.s pass by as Neelix takes in the scene. Dexa can sense Neelix' disappointment.

DEXA

I know Oxilon seems overly
cautious, but we're not used to
having visitors.

Neelix nods as several more Talaxians pass them.

NEELIX

How many of you live here?

DEXA

Close to five hundred.

She leads him to an area where the tunnel WIDENS and there's a LARGE OPENING in the wall of the cave, forming a window out to:

22 NEELIX AND DEXA'S POV (OPTICAL MATTE)

22

We see a MASSIVE CAVERN several stories tall, filled with a complex network of PASSAGEWAYS CARVED into the ROCK WALLS. The passageways are connected by sophisticated looking LIFTS. The cavern is filled with LIGHTS and a myriad of Talaxian TECHNOLOGY.

23 RESUME SCENE (OPTICAL)

23

Dexa explains some of the cavern's features.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

DEXA

All of our homes are connected to the central cavern by tunnels and lifts.

NEELIX

It must have taken years to build all this.

DEXA

Almost five.

(nods)

And it's still not finished.

They resume their walk.

NEELIX

Where did the technology come from?

DEXA

We arrived here with a caravan of six ships. We disassembled all but one of them and modified their components.

She indicates the rock walls.

DEXA

We converted torpedo launchers to blast away rock and excavate these tunnels.

She points out several large METAL POSTS that come out of the ceiling and into the rock floor.

DEXA

These conduits run into the asteroid's core. We use geothermal energy to melt the ice that covers most of the outer surface. It provides us with oxygen and water.

NEELIX

(impressed)

Who'd have imagined all this inside an asteroid?

As she leads him OFF...

TIME CUT TO:

24 INT. CAVES

24

Dexa guides Neelix through a series of smaller cave tunnels. Neelix tries to make small talk.

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

NEELIX

You're son seems like a wonderful boy.

Dexa is surprised by his statement, a little defensive.

DEXA

How would you know? You only met him for a few seconds.

Neelix realizes he's almost blown Brax' secret. He tries to cover.

NEELIX

True... but I'm a quick judge of character.

Dexa senses Neelix' pretense, intuitively what really happened, smiles.

DEXA

He came to see you while I was out, didn't he?

A beat, Neelix realizes he's caught.

NEELIX

You can't blame him for being curious.

DEXA

He's a lot like his father.
(beat)
No fear.

NEELIX

I'd like to meet your husband.

A beat. Then, matter-of-fact:

DEXA

He's dead.

NEELIX

I'm sorry... I didn't mean to --

DEXA

It's all right. You didn't know.

As they continue down the tunnel...

25

INT. DELTA FLYER - COCKPIT

25

DEBRIS and ROCK WALLS can be SEEN through the WINDOWS. Tuvok and Paris are making repairs. They look up as Neelix and Dexa ENTER from Aft.

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED:

25

PARIS

Neelix, are you all right?

NEELIX

I'm fine.

(beat)

Dexa, this is Lieutenant Paris and Commander Tuvok.

PARIS

Thanks for bringing him back. We were getting worried.

Dexa doesn't respond. She looks around uneasily. An awkward beat.

NEELIX

It was nice to meet you.

Dexa nods, gives him a little smile, EXITS. Paris and Tuvok can see that it didn't go well. But Neelix breaks the tension by cheerfully offering to assist with the repairs.

NEELIX

So, what can I do to help?

PARIS

You can give me a hand with the plasma manifold.

Neelix moves to help Paris. A beat.

PARIS

How did it go?

NEELIX

(shrugs)

They didn't exactly send out a welcoming committee...

(beat)

...but I'm sure they have their reasons.

Neelix smiles weakly.

NEELIX

I guess my expectations were a little high.

Tuvok takes a direct approach.

TUVOK

I regret that you didn't have a more fulfilling experience.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

Neelix downplays Tuvok's observation.

NEELIX

That's nice of you to say,
Commander. But it wasn't a
complete waste of time.

(beat)

I got to meet some of my people
again... even if it was a short
visit.

(beat)

Who knows? It's probably the last
time I'll ever see another
Talaxian.

As they set to work, it's clear that Neelix is masking
great disappointment...

26 EXT. ASTEROID SURFACE (OPTICAL)

26

On the DARKENED, CRASHED DELTA FLYER sitting inside the
cavern where it came to rest. A beat, then systems
LIGHT UP.

27 INT. DELTA FLYER - COCKPIT

27

As before.

PARIS

Good work. Now, we need to run a
systems --

But the computer suddenly BEEPS.

COMPUTER VOICE

Intruder Alert.

PARIS

(wry)

At least we know internal sensors
are working.

OFF the tension...

28 INT. DELTA FLYER - AFT SECTION

28

Moments later. Neelix and Tuvok ENTER with PHASERS and
TRICORDERS drawn. Tuvok follows his readings to the
cargo area, where we... REVEAL Brax, hiding. Neelix
reacts.

NEELIX

Brax.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

TUVOK
You know him?

NEELIX
(winks at Brax)
We're old friends.

BRAX
You said you'd take me to see Voyager.

Tuvok raises an eyebrow.

NEELIX
I don't think your mother would
approve.

A long beat. A disappointed Brax realizes he'll have to
go home.

BRAX
You won't tell her I was here,
will you?

NEELIX
(false confusion)
I have no idea what you're talking
about. You were never here. *

Brax smiles. Neelix turns to Tuvok.

NEELIX
I'll be right back. *

He and Brax EXIT.

29 INT. MAIN CAVERN

29

Neelix and Brax ENTER the cavern but stop short when
they see a confrontation taking place. Nocona and two
of his men are facing off with Oxilon, Dexa and a dozen
other Talaxian N.D.s.

OXILON
Three days isn't nearly enough
time for us to dismantle all our
equipment.

(CONTINUED)

29

CONTINUED:

29

NOCONA

Then you should have begun the first time we asked. We can't wait any longer. Demolition of the asteroid is going to start whether you're here or not.

*
*

Trying to glean what's going on, Neelix instinctively puts a protective arm around Brax.

DEXA

You'd kill us...?

NOCONA

We don't want to hurt anyone. But our patience has run out.

*

OXILON

We've only got one ship. There won't be enough room for any of our belongings.

*
*

NOCONA

It's not our fault you took apart your other vessels.

*
*

DEXA

You can't do this.

Dexa moves forward to confront Nocona. Oxilon tries to stop her, quiet:

OXILON

Dexa... don't provoke them...

She ignores him and moves closer to the miners.

DEXA

Where are we supposed to go?

NOCONA

(unmoved)

I'm sure you'll find a home somewhere.

He starts to walk away but Dexa moves in front of him.

DEXA

This is our home. You have no right to make us go.

*

Nocona BRUSHES PAST her roughly. She STUMBLES. Brax reacts.

BRAX

Leave her alone.

He picks up a STONE and THROWS it at Nocona HITTING him. The Talaxians react. Nocona turns furiously.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

One of the MINERS GRABS Brax roughly. Neelix steps in to defend him.

NEELIX
Don't touch him.

The miner doesn't see Neelix as much of a challenge.

MINER
Are you going to stop me?

He SHOVES Neelix out of the way.

NOCONA
(re: Brax)
Bring him here.

Neelix picks himself off the ground and goes after the miner.

NEELIX
Let him go.

Neelix SLAMS the miner into a ROCK FACE, allowing Brax to BREAK FREE. Neelix PUNCHES the miner in the jaw and then GRABS his WEAPON. Nocona and the other miner reach for their WEAPONS, but it's too late, Neelix already has the drop on them. He eyes Nocona.

NEELIX
You said what you came to say.
Now I suggest you leave.

We're not sure what Nocona will do, but after a moment he backs down and turns to the stunned Talaxians.

NOCONA
You have three days to evacuate.

The miners follow Nocona into the darkness of the tunnel. A beat as Neelix watches them go. He turns to see the Talaxians staring at him, amazed. OFF the moment...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

30

INT. MAIN CAVERN

30

A moment later. Brax comes up to Neelix.

BRAX
You're not afraid of anyone.

NEELIX
(light)
Actually, I was terrified. I just
didn't want you to get hurt.

DEXA
Finally someone has the courage to
stand up to them.

Neelix looks a little embarrassed.

DEXA
You can see now why we're
suspicious of outsiders.

Oxilon approaches, concerned.

OXILON
Thank you for protecting the boy,
but I'm afraid your actions might
make things worse.

DEXA
How could they get any worse?

A beat. Oxilon doesn't have a specific answer, but he
knows what his experience has been:

OXILON
Fighting back has never done
anything but cause us more
trouble.

DEXA
And what has running away ever
done for us?

OXILON
It's kept us alive.

DEXA
Maybe it's time we stayed and
defended ourselves.

(CONTINUED)

30

CONTINUED:

30

A beat. She turns to Neelix.

DEXA

Will you help us?

Neelix is taken aback by her question.

NEELIX

I agree with Oxilon. Fighting
isn't the answer.

(beat)

But I'll try to help.

DEXA

How?

Neelix considers. It's obvious he hasn't thought this through.

NEELIX

We could talk to my Captain... maybe
she can negotiate with the miners...
get them to agree to let you stay.

DEXA

Why would they negotiate?

NEELIX

(beat)

Maybe Voyager has something they
want. We might be able to work
out an exchange.

OXILON

Your Captain would be willing to
do that?

Neelix isn't certain.

NEELIX

The best thing would be for you to come
to Voyager... talk to her yourself.

A beat. Dexa looks hopefully to Oxilon. Finally, he
nods his assent. Excited, Brax looks to his mother.

BRAX

I want to go too.

DEXA

(admonishing)

Brax.

BRAX

Neelix said I could... if it was
all right with you.

Neelix looks to Dexa.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

NEELIX

Why don't you both come? I've
seen your home. I'd like you to
see mine.

OFF Dexa...

TIME CUT TO: *

31 OMITTED

31 *

32 INT. CORRIDOR

32

Janeway is on the move with Oxilon, Dexa, Brax and
Neelix. *

JANEWAY

I'm glad to have you on board.
(to Neelix)
I've contacted the miners.

OXILON

(skeptical)
How did they respond?

JANEWAY

It took some convincing, but
they've agreed to meet with us
tomorrow morning.

Oxilon is surprised.

NEELIX

Thank you, Captain.

JANEWAY

(nods)
In preparation, I'd like to find
out more about your community.

OXILON

I'd be happy to answer your
questions.

JANEWAY

(re: Dexa and Brax)
Neelix, I'm sure you can take care
of our other guests.

NEELIX

Hospitality is my specialty.

OFF that...

33 INT. BRIDGE

33

Chakotay, Kim and N.D.s at Stations. Neelix ENTERS from the Turbolift with Dexa and Brax. *

NEELIX

I'd like you to meet Commander Chakotay, Ensign Kim. This is Dexa... and Brax. *

Dexa nods politely. Brax moves to check out the GRAPHICS FLASHING at the tactical station.

BRAX

What's this?

KIM

The tactical station. *

Brax is fascinated. He doesn't know what to look at next. Neelix picks up the tour.

NEELIX

And that's the science station... the helm... and the Captain's chair.

BRAX

(to Neelix)

Which station is yours?

Neelix hesitates for a moment, a little embarrassed.

NEELIX

Well, actually, I don't --

Kim jumps in, rescuing him.

KIM

Neelix does too many things to have just one station. He's our ambassador, morale officer...

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

CHAKOTAY
(helping out)
...trade negotiator.

Neelix blushes a little, appreciating their efforts.

CHAKOTAY
Without a doubt, he's the most
versatile member of our crew.

Brax is impressed. Neelix nods a subtle thanks to
Chakotay and the others...

34 INT. ASTROMETRICS LAB (OPTICAL)

34

CLOSE ON THE DOMESCREEN, which depicts a GRAPHIC of a
NEBULA. REVEAL --

35 NEELIX AND SEVEN (OPTICAL)

35

explaining the Astrometrics Lab to Dexa and Brax.

SEVEN OF NINE
Our sensors are extremely precise.
We can scan for lifesigns light-
years away.

NEELIX
That's how we found you.

A beat.

SEVEN OF NINE
I have something else that may
interest you.

She works a control and the GRAPHIC CHANGES to an
ORBITAL VIEW of a LUSH PLANET. Neelix and Dexa react to
the IMAGE.

BRAX
What is it?

DEXA
Talax...
(surprised)
You can scan that far away?

SEVEN OF NINE
No. This image is from our
database.

DEXA
It's as beautiful as I remember
it...

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

Seven taps out another command and the IMAGE ZOOMS in on some of the planet's geographical FEATURES. Neelix reacts.

NEELIX

There's the Godo Mountain range --

DEXA

And the Axiana Lakes.

(beat)

That was always one of my favorite places.

NEELIX

Mine too.

Dexa and Neelix exchange a look. Brax interrupts.

BRAX

Why don't we just go back to Talax?

A difficult beat.

DEXA

It's still controlled by the Haakonians. They don't treat Talaxians very well.

(beat)

That's why we left.

BRAX

Maybe Neelix could go with us, and we could fight them. Take the planet back.

Neelix and Dexa exchange a look.

NEELIX

If tomorrow's negotiations go well, you won't have to go anywhere.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

OFF the moment...

36 INT. CORRIDOR

36

Neelix, Brax and Dexa on the move.

NEELIX
Next stop, Engineering.

BRAX
The warp core!

Neelix nods. They HEAR a VOICE.

NAOMI (O.C.)
Neelix!

NEELIX
Naomi...

Neelix stops and waits for her to catch up to them. He seems a little uncomfortable.

NEELIX
I'm sorry. I forgot all about our
Kadis-Kot game...

She puts him at ease.

NAOMI
That's all right. I know you're
busy. I just wanted to meet your
friends.

NEELIX
Of course. Dexa and Brax, this is
my goddaughter, Naomi.

The usually outgoing Brax, reacts shyly to the presence of a girl.

NAOMI
Hi.

A moment of awkward silence, but Dexa breaks it.

DEXA
You live on a beautiful ship.

NAOMI
Thanks.

Naomi turns to Neelix.

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED:

36

NAOMI

Maybe Brax would like to go to the
Holodeck.

NEELIX

That's a great idea.

NAOMI

Lieutenant Paris has a new
program.

(beat)

"Invaders from the Ninth Dimension."

NEELIX

Sounds scary.

NAOMI

(smiles)

Very.

They've got Brax's interest now.

BRAX

What's a Holodeck?

NAOMI

(coaxing)

Neelix is right. It might be too
scary for you.

Now Brax really wants to see it.

BRAX

I'm not afraid.

He turns to his mother.

BRAX

Can I?

Dexa nods her approval and the kids move OFF together.

DEXA

You're lucky to have found these
people.

(beat)

They obviously think a great deal
of you.

NEELIX

The feeling's mutual.

OFF the moment...

37 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 37

Voyager holding position outside the asteroid field.

38 INT. GUEST QUARTERS - BEDROOM 38

Neelix and Dexa are putting Brax to bed. Dexa is starting to tuck him in, but Brax sits up, trying to be grown up in front of Neelix.

BRAX
I'm not tired.

NEELIX
There's nothing like sleeping on a
Starship.

But Brax isn't ready for the day to end.

BRAX
I still didn't get to see the warp core.

DEXA
There'll be plenty of time tomorrow.

BRAX
Can I play Hoverball with Naomi again?

NEELIX
I think that can be arranged.
(beat)
But if you're too tired, she'll
beat you.

BRAX
Maybe I should go to sleep.

Dexa smiles, leans over and gives him a kiss.

DEXA
Good night.

Brax lies down.

BRAX
Good night.
(smiles)
Good night, Neelix.

OFF the moment...

TIME CUT TO:

39 A CANDLELIT TABLE

39

as wine is poured into a glass, REVEAL we are in...

39A GUEST QUARTERS - LIVING AREA

39A

Dexa looks on as Neelix fills two glasses from an exotic looking BOTTLE of WINE. Neelix raises his glass in a toast, Dexa follows his lead.

NEELIX

To the Axiana Lakes.

She smiles and takes a sip of the wine.

DEXA

It's delicious...

NEELIX

(re: bottle)

I've been saving it for fifteen years. I wasn't sure I'd ever open it.

(beat)

But tonight seemed like the right occasion.

An awkward, charged beat. Neelix breaks it by offering her a COLORFUL alien DESERT.

NEELIX

Would you like some more taga cake?

*

DEXA

A little, please.

She takes a bite, obviously enjoying it.

DEXA

I haven't had this in years.

NEELIX

I'm glad you like it. It's a family recipe.

DEXA

You're a good cook.

Neelix blushes a little. Dexa muses.

DEXA

I haven't seen Brax this happy since his father was alive...

*

(CONTINUED)

39A CONTINUED:

39A

A loaded beat. Neelix can't contain his curiosity.

NEELIX

How did he...?

(catching himself)

I'm sorry. You probably don't
want to talk about it...

(CONTINUED)

39A CONTINUED: (2)

39A

DEXA

I don't mind...

(beat)

We'd settled on a planet called
Phanos... there was a lot of unoccupied
territory. But the government
restricted us to a small area.

*

NEELIX

Why?

DEXA

They said it was a quarantine...
to protect their population from
"alien diseases."

Neelix reacts.

DEXA

But it was just an excuse. We
were outsiders, and they didn't
want us mixing with their people.

(beat)

It wasn't long before we realized
we didn't have enough land to grow
what we needed to feed ourselves.

(beat)

Oxilon said we'd just have to
conserve our resources. But my
husband was tired of being told what
to do. So he started farming
outside the restricted zone.

*

*

*

*

*

NEELIX

(catching on)

And they didn't like that...

DEXA

(nods)

A security patrol confronted him.
He told them he had to provide for
his family... that he wasn't
afraid of them.

(matter-of-fact)

There was a fight. He was killed.

NEELIX

(beat)

I'm sorry...

Another beat.

*

(CONTINUED)

39A CONTINUED: (3)

39A

DEXA

After that, we came here.

(with irony)

We thought we'd finally found a
place where no one would bother
us.

*

*

*

She trails off. Neelix tries to be reassuring.

(CONTINUED)

39A CONTINUED: (4)

39A

NEELIX

Maybe this time will be different.

Dexa doesn't look convinced.

DEXA

Maybe.

(beat)

But even if it isn't...

She leans in towards Neelix.

DEXA

Thank you for trying.

For an awkward, charged moment they're close, almost touching. We think they might kiss... but they don't. Neelix breaks the tension, reluctantly...

NEELIX

I should get a good night's sleep
if I'm going to be at my best for
the negotiations tomorrow.

He stands up and starts to go, but Dexa calls him back.

DEXA

Neelix...

(beat)

It's been a wonderful day.

He nods...

40 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

40

Voyager and the miners' ship hovering nearby.

41 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

41

The next day. Neelix, Janeway, Oxilon and Nocona. Mid-negotiation.

NOCONA

They never asked permission to
settle the asteroid.

OXILON

We arrived here five years before
you did.

NOCONA

We've had a claim on the mineral
rights for decades.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

OXILON
On whose authority?

Janeway breaks the tension.

JANEWAY
Isn't there enough to mine here,
without destroying their home?

NOCONA
Their "home" contains more than
thirty percent of the field's ore.
Without that asteroid, the
operation isn't worth the expense.

NEELIX
Would you be open to some kind of
compensation?

NOCONA
All we want are the minerals.

OXILON
And you'd kill us to get them.

Oxilon stands in anger, ready to leave.

NEELIX
Wait.
(to Nocona)
The Talaxians have found a way to
produce a lot of geothermal
energy. Maybe they could share
some of it with you.

*

NOCONA
What do you mean "share?"

*

NEELIX
You could convert it into fuel...
to power your ships.

*

NOCONA
The energy they generate isn't
compatible with our technology.

JANEWAY
We'd be willing to help you make
modifications.

NOCONA
We have quotas to meet. We don't
have time for that.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

JANEWAY
(frustrated)
Commander, the future of more than
five hundred people is at stake
here.

OFF the tension...

TIME CUT TO:

42 INT. MESS HALL

42

Naomi and Brax are playing a game of KADIS-KOT, while
Dexa looks on. Brax is more interested in Naomi's story
than the game.

NAOMI
And once, there was a Transporter
accident. Neelix and Commander
Tuvok got combined... into a
completely different person.

*

BRAX
Really?

NAOMI
You don't think I could make up a
story like that, do you?

Brax is enthralled. Neelix ENTERS.

BRAX
Hello, Neelix.

NAOMI
Want to play Kadis-Kot?

NEELIX
(smiles)
Maybe later.

Trying not to betray his emotions, he looks to Dexa,
motions for her to come with him.

43 NEW ANGLE

43

Dexa gets up and crosses to another part of the Mess
Hall with Neelix. Despite his efforts to put up an
optimistic front, she can tell that the negotiations
didn't go well.

DEXA
I knew it wouldn't work...

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

A beat.

NEELIX

We did get them to make a small concession. They've extended the deadline. You'll have enough time to dismantle your equipment.

Dexa tries to be gracious, but she's very disappointed.

DEXA

Thanks. But there's too much to take with us.

NEELIX

Captain Janeway's agreed to ferry all of you -- and your supplies -- to the nearest M-Class planet.

Dexa nods. She turns to Brax whose been playing the whole time, oblivious to Dexa and Neelix' conversation.

DEXA

Come on Brax, we're going home.

BRAX

(disappointed)
Why?

DEXA

(beat)
We have to pack.

A long beat as Brax realizes the implications of his mother's words. Finally, he glares at Neelix.

BRAX

You said you were going to help us.

OFF Neelix...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

44 INT. SUBTERRANEAN DWELLING

44

Dexa and Brax are packing clothes into a small CARGO CONTAINER. Neelix ENTERS trying to be upbeat. He's brought them a Talaxian SNACK and he's carrying a PADD.

NEELIX

I thought you could use a break.

Dexa smiles weakly at Neelix, but keeps working. Brax ignores him completely.

NEELIX

I made some more taga cake.

*

He offers it to Brax. The boy won't even look at Neelix. Instead, he EXITS. Neelix reacts, disappointed, sets the sweets on a table. He indicates his PADD.

NEELIX

I've been looking at the
Astrometric scans of the planet
we're taking you to. It's got
some interesting topography.

DEXA

(forced)
That's nice.

NEELIX

Forests... lakes...

Dexa manages a smile.

NEELIX

And there's plenty of sunshine...

He shows her the PADD, trying to put a positive spin on it.

(CONTINUED)

44

CONTINUED:

44

NEELIX

...three hours a day in the
summer.

Dexa tries to have a sense of humor about it.

DEXA

That's a lot when you've lived
underground for so long.

A beat. Neelix realizes it doesn't sound so good.

NEELIX

I could talk to Captain Janeway...
maybe you and Brax could stay on
Voyager.

Dexa is surprised by Neelix' offer, but she refuses.

DEXA

You don't have enough room for all
of us, and I can't abandon the
others.

*
*

NEELIX

(beat)
I understand.
(re: packing)
Do you need some help?

DEXA

I know you're trying to be kind.
(beat)
But we'll be all right.

*

An awkward beat. Neelix nods sadly.

NEELIX

I'll see you later.

He starts to leave, but turns back.

NEELIX

It's better this way. At least
you and Brax will be safe.

DEXA

Maybe.
(beat)
But what kind of lesson am I
teaching him? Every time there's
trouble we run the other way.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

OFF Neelix...

45 INT. ASTROMETRICS LAB (OPTICAL)

45

An IMAGE of an M-CLASS PLANET on the DOME. REVEAL
Neelix working as Tuvok ENTERS.

TUVOK

You wanted to see me?

NEELIX

I've detected five warp capable
species within two light-years of
the planet where we're taking the
Talaxians.

(beat)

I'm worried they may be vulnerable
to attack.

TUVOK

(matter-of-fact)

They would be vulnerable anywhere.

NEELIX

I thought maybe you could help me
devise some defense strategies for
their new home.

Tuvok considers.

TUVOK

Frankly, Mister Neelix, they don't
seem inclined to defend
themselves.

NEELIX

No, I suppose not...

TUVOK

But if they were going to make a
stand, their emotional attachment
to their present home might be an
asset.

NEELIX

(taken aback)

Are you saying they should stay?

TUVOK

I'm speaking hypothetically.

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

45

CONTINUED:

45

NEELIX

"Hypothetically..." if they wanted
to defend the asteroid, how would
they do it?

Tuvok considers.

TUVOK

To begin with, they'd need to
establish some kind of
perimeter...

NEELIX

You mean shields?

TUVOK

Yes. But the miners are
monitoring the asteroid. If they
detected the Talaxians erecting a
shield, they'd attempt to stop
them.

*
*

Neelix looks discouraged.

NEELIX

I suppose so...

TUVOK

Your people would need competent
leadership to defend against a pre-
emptive attack.

*

A beat. Neelix considers.

NEELIX

If you had the Captain's
permission, would you be willing
to provide that leadership?

TUVOK

Certainly not. It would be a
violation of the Prime Directive.
(pointed)
And even if it weren't, I don't
believe I'm the person most
qualified to assume that role.

He eyes Neelix. A beat as he realizes Tuvok is talking
about him.

NEELIX

You mean me?

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

TUVOK
I'm merely speaking
hypothetically.

Neelix shakes his head and makes a difficult admission.

NEELIX
I couldn't lead those people,
Mister Tuvok. I'm not a fighter.
(beat)
I'm just a cook... who sometimes
imagines himself to be a diplomat.

TUVOK
On the contrary, Mister Neelix...
(beat)
You're much more than that.

Neelix reacts, eyes Tuvok questioningly.

TUVOK
You're perhaps the most
resourceful individual I've ever
known.

NEELIX
(taken aback)
I always thought you just...
"tolerated" me.

Tuvok considers the accuracy of this observation.

TUVOK
You do have some annoying habits.
(beat)
However, during your time on
Voyager, you've developed many
valuable skills.
(beat)
Skills that would serve you well
if you ever decided to assume a
leadership role.

NEELIX
You really think so?

TUVOK
Let me be clear. I'm not urging
you to do anything.
(beat)
(MORE)

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (3)

45

TUVOK (cont'd)
I'm simply telling you that I
believe you're more than capable.

OFF Neelix, moved...

TIME CUT TO:

46 INT. CORRIDOR

46

Neelix is on the move with an ENGINEERING KIT. Janeway
catches up to him.

JANEWAY
Going somewhere, Mister Neelix?

NEELIX
Just to see my friends.

JANEWAY
(probing)
Chakotay tells me you're using
your own ship. Why not have Tom
take you in the Flyer?

NEELIX
I didn't want to bother anyone.

Janeway's not convinced. She looks at him knowingly.

JANEWAY
You wouldn't be planning anything
foolish would you?

Neelix responds cryptically.

NEELIX
Whatever I do, I promise it won't
involve Voyager.

JANEWAY
That wasn't my question.

NEELIX
I know you have Prime Directive
issues. But I'm not officially
part of your crew, so I don't have
the same constraints.

JANEWAY
You're as much a part of this crew
as anyone else.

Neelix tries to read the Captain.

NEELIX
Are you ordering me not to go?

She looks him in the eye.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

JANEWAY

That depends on what you're going to do.

A beat.

NEELIX

That's up to the Talaxians.

Janeway considers for a moment. Then:

JANEWAY

Safe journey, Mister Neelix.

OFF the moment...

47 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

47

Neelix' ship pulls out of Voyager's Shuttlebay and heads towards the asteroid field.

48 EXT. ASTEROID SURFACE (OPTICAL)

48

The Talaxians' asteroid floating silently as other asteroids tumble around it.

49 INT. MAIN CAVERN (VPB)

49

Neelix is standing in front of the console, talking to the assembled Talaxians. Mid-scene. Though he's here on serious business, Neelix makes his case with a sense of humor:

NEELIX

I know from personal experience that you have forcefield emitters. We could use them to establish a shield grid.

A murmur from the crowd. Neelix hits a control on the console, bringing up a GRAPHIC of the asteroid.

NEELIX

We'd need to deploy a series of them on the asteroid's surface... along bisecting diameters.

He hits another control, and around the graphic, we see TWO BISECTING RINGS appear.

(CONTINUED)

49

CONTINUED:

49

NEELIX

Sixteen emitters should be enough
to form a grid.

*

OXILON

Even if you're right, it would
take weeks for us to dig that many
tunnels to the surface.

*

NEELIX

Commander Tuvok suggested that we
could modify the emitters... so
they could be fired from the
torpedo tubes on your ship...

*

(beat)

*

...implanted in the surface.

Neelix hits another control, and on the monitor, we see
a PROJECTILE fly into the surface of the asteroid and
IMPLANT.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2)

49

OXILON

As soon as the miners realized
what we were doing, they'd attack.

NEELIX

I could provide cover from my
ship. But, you're right, we'd
have to work quickly.

Dexa eyes the graphic, intrigued.

DEXA

We could route power to the
emitters directly from the core.
They'd have a permanent energy
supply.

NEELIX

Good idea.

But Oxilon protests.

OXILON

If we do what you're suggesting,
people are going to be hurt.

A beat as Neelix eyes him.

NEELIX

This is your home. The miners
have no right to force you out.

A beat, as Oxilon considers.

OXILON

I agree. But fighting...?

NEELIX

I don't like it either.

Neelix begins to grow passionate, turns to the others.

NEELIX

But at some point you have to
stand up for yourselves. How do
you know there won't be someone
else to terrorize you the next
place you go?

(CONTINUED)

49

CONTINUED: (3)

49

DEXA
(to Oxilon)
You know he's right.

Oxilon seems to be wavering. The crowd begins to MURMUR
in agreement. Neelix presses him.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (4)

49

NEELIX
No one's worked harder to build
this place than you.
(beat)
Isn't it worth defending?

OFF Oxilon...

TIME CUT TO:

50 A METAL POLE

50

being carried by two Talaxian N.D.s. REVEAL we're in --

51 INT. MAIN CAVERN

51

Lots of activity in the b.g. Talaxians are moving
several of the poles -- the FIELD EMITTERS -- and
working at consoles. Neelix and Dexa are at a monitor.

NEELIX
Wait for my com call. As soon as
the last emitter's in place, start
routing power to the grid.

DEXA
Understood.

*

A beat.

NEELIX
You're scared, aren't you?

Another beat. She nods.

DEXA
You?

NEELIX
(light)
Terrified.

She smiles, looks him in the eye.

DEXA
Be careful.

NEELIX
I will.

A COM VOICE interrupts.

*

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

OXILON (V.O.)
Oxilon to Neelix. The emitters
are loaded. We're ready.

*
*
*

A charged moment between Dexa and Neelix.

NEELIX
I'll see you soon...

He starts to leave, but Dexa grabs him and pulls him
back. A long beat as they eye each other. Then Neelix
kisses her softly. They break and she watches him go...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

52 EXT. ASTEROID SURFACE (OPTICAL) 52

An EMITTER fired from above SLAMS into the rock face and IMPLANTS! The Talaxian ship streaks over the asteroid with Neelix' ship trailing close behind. As they move towards the next "target"...

*
*
*

53 OMITTED 53 *

54 INT. NEELIX'S SHIP 54

A one or two-wall set. Neelix at the helm. Monitoring the Talaxians and keeping an eye out for trouble.

NEELIX

Two more and we're done.

INTERCUT:

55 INT. TALAXIAN SHIP 55

(NOTE: this could be a redress of Neelix' ship.) Oxilon is piloting. Talaxian N.D.s in the b.g. He responds to the com.

OXILON

Acknowledged. We're moving into position for the next one.

An alarm BEEPS on Neelix' console. He reacts, speaks to com:

NEELIX

The miners' ship is on an intercept course. Evasive maneuvers.

55A EXT. ASTEROID FIELD (OPTICAL) 55A *

The miners' ship SWOOPS IN and FIRES on the Talaxian ship.

55B INT. TALAXIAN SHIP 55B

It SHAKES and consoles SPARK. Oxilon reacts nervously.

OXILON

They're targeting our shields!

55C INT. NEELIX' SHIP

55C

He braces himself, speaks to com.

NEELIX

I'll deal with them. Just focus
on your job.

(to himself)

All right Mister Vulcan, let's see
if you were right about me.

As he works...

56 EXT. ASTEROID FIELD (OPTICAL) 56

Neelix' ship FIRES on the mining ship, while the Talaxian vessel STREAKS away toward another pole of the asteroid.

57 EXT. ASTEROID SURFACE (OPTICAL) 57

The mining ship LAUNCHES a CHARGE. It ARCS slowly away from the ship and SMASHES into the asteroid, BLASTING off a large chunk.

58 INT. MAIN CAVERN (VPB) 58

SHAKING from the impact. ROCKS FALL from the ceiling. Dexa and several other Talaxians react, worried. Dexa is at a console displaying GRAPHICS of the asteroid and the three ships, allowing her to monitor the action in space. She coms Neelix.

DEXA

Neelix, you have to hurry.

59 INT. NEELIX' SHIP 59

He tries to reassure her.

NEELIX

Just one more emitter, and you can activate the shield.

60 EXT. ASTEROID FIELD (OPTICAL) 60

The mining ship LOBS another EXPLOSIVE CHARGE. Neelix' ship FIRES, VAPORIZING the charge before it strikes.

61 INT. NEELIX' SHIP 61

It SHAKES hard from weapons FIRE. A console SPARKS. He reacts, hits the com:

NEELIX

Neelix to Oxilon. My weapons are off-line.

INTERCUT:

62 INT. TALAXIAN SHIP 62

Oxilon responds to the news.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

OXILON
We're not in position yet.

NEELIX
You've got to get there... they're
going to launch another charge.

But it's too late.

63 EXT. ASTEROID FIELD (OPTICAL)

63

The CHARGE is lumbering towards the asteroid. Neelix'
ship turns and HEADS TOWARDS IT.

MATCH CUT TO:

64 THE MONITOR (VPB)

64

The GRAPHIC of Neelix' ship on a COLLISION COURSE with
the mining charge.

65 INT. MAIN CAVERN (VPB)

65

Dexa eyes the IMAGE, coms Neelix, concerned.

DEXA
Neelix, what are you doing?

INTERCUT:

66 INT. NEELIX'S SHIP

66

concentrating hard.

NEELIX
Don't worry about me. Just get
ready to bring the grid on-line.

OFF Dexa as she watches the monitor...

67 EXT. ASTEROID FIELD (OPTICAL)

67

Neelix' ship is on a KAMIKAZE COURSE with the miner's
CHARGE. But just as he's about to collide with it,
PHASER FIRE comes from O.C., OBLITERATES the charge...
and allows Neelix' ship to STREAK through the FLAMING
DEBRIS.

68 INT. NEELIX' SHIP 68
He reacts, can't believe he's still alive.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
Delta Flyer to Neelix...

*
*

69 EXT. ASTEROID FIELD 69
as the Delta Flyer, the source of the phaser fire, pulls
up next to Neelix' ship. His com BEEPS.

70 INT. DELTA FLYER 70 *
Tuvok, Paris and Janeway speaking to com.

JANEWAY
...are you all right?

INTERCUT:

70A INT. NEELIX' SHIP 70A
He reacts.

NEELIX
Fine, Captain. But you shouldn't
be here. You're violating the
Prime Directive.

JANEWAY
We're just helping a friend in
distress.

OFF his reaction...

71 EXT. ASTEROID SURFACE (OPTICAL) 71
As the last EMITTER implants.

72 OMITTED 72

73 INT. MAIN CAVERN 73
Dexa works her console.

74 EXT. ASTEROID FIELD (OPTICAL) 74

The Mining ship LAUNCHES another charge, but the shield grid FLASHES ON, REPELS the charge.

75 INT. NEELIX' SHIP 75

as his com BEEPS.

DEXA'S COM VOICE
Dexa to Neelix. The shield's
holding. You did it!

NEELIX
We did it.

OFF Neelix...

76 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL) 76

Voyager holding position outside the asteroid field.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
Captains Log, Stardate 54868.6.
Commander Nocona seems to have given
up his attempts to penetrate the
Talaxians' shield. Voyager's ready
to get underway, but we're giving
Mister Neelix time to say a difficult
goodbye to his new friends.

77 INT. SUBTERRANEAN DWELLING 77 *

Dexa and Brax look on as Oxilon speaks to Neelix.

OXILON
We're grateful for everything
you've done.

Neelix is a bit embarrassed by all the attention.

NEELIX
I'm just happy things worked out.
(beat)
And I'm glad I could spend some
time here... with all of you.

A difficult beat. Neelix looks at all of them, then
reluctantly:

NEELIX
I'd better go.

(CONTINUED)

Brax grabs his hand.

BRAX

Stay here.

An awkward silence. Neelix doesn't know what to say.
Dexa and Neelix exchange a look.

DEXA

He can't, Brax. He has
responsibilities on Voyager.

NEELIX

(beat)

I promise I'll stay in touch as
long as I can.

He looks at Dexa, smiles. OFF the bittersweet moment...

(TAG SCENES TO FOLLOW)