

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Caretaker"

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STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Caretaker"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXTREME CLOSEUP - A TATTOOED FACE 1

of an intense Native American man in his late thirties. This is CHAKOTAY. Suddenly, he is illuminated by interactive light as we hear an explosion and he is shaken but his expression doesn't change...

TUVOK (O.C.)

Shields at sixty percent...

TORRES (O.C.)

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

Another explosion rocks the picture and we slowly move to reveal Chakotay is sitting in a Maquis cockpit, looking through the front window, flying the ship, calm in the midst of battle.

2 VARIOUS ANGLES - INT. MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) 2

Behind him is B'ELANNA TORRES, a half-Klingon, half-human woman in her twenties who is frantically working the consoles of the barely spaceworthy craft. At a side panel is TUVOK, a 150-year-old Vulcan (in human appearance terms that's about sixty)... two other Maquis N.D.s are in the rear at consoles...

TORRES

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

CHAKOTAY

(calm, focused on his work)

Be creative.

TORRES

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

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

More blasts and shakes... we begin to share their claustrophobia as we never cut outside the ship during this battle, but we can see the looming Cardassian warship out the side and rear window panels firing at us as we twist and turn, trying to evade it...

CHAKOTAY

(calm)

Initiating evasive pattern omega.
Mark.

He hits some controls... they veer to the left and hold on. On the monitor, the face of GUL EVEK appears.

EVEK

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

Chakotay hits a panel... cutting off Evek... Another near miss... the shots continue... struggling to maintain control of the craft...

CHAKOTAY

Maintain phaser spread.

TUVOK

Shields at fifty percent.

CHAKOTAY

(beat, turns to Torres,
very serious, simply)

I need more power.

TORRES

(sighs, mind working)

Okay... Okay, take the weapons off-line... we'll transfer all power to the engines...

TUVOK

(raises an eyebrow)

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

TORRES

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

(off their look, shrugs)

You wanted 'creative'...

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

CHAKOTAY
(pressing panels
urgently)
Tuvok, shut down all the phaser
banks.
(to B'Elanna)
If you can give me another forty
seconds at full impulse, I'll get
us into the Badlands.

TUVOK
Phasers off-line.

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

TUVOK
Acknowledged. Firing photons.

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

CHAKOTAY
Just fifteen seconds more...

TUVOK
(off console)
The Cardassian ship is not
reducing power... it appears
they're following us in...

CHAKOTAY
(thoughtful)
Gul Evек must feel daring today.
I wonder how far his courage will
take him. Are you reading any
plasma storms?

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

CHAKOTAY
Changing course. We're in.

The ride gets naturally bumpier...

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

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (3) 2

CHAKOTAY

Hold on...

And suddenly the view out the windows seem to explode in gaseous flame... and now we finally cut outside to see...

3 EXT. SPACE - THE MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) 3

moving into a huge flailing plasma storm with electromagnetic flares whipping out dangerously like tentacles... the small ship is able to maneuver through the holes of space between the tentacles... but...

4 ANGLE (OPTICAL) - THE CARDASSIAN SHIP 4

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

5 INT. MAQUIS SHIP 5

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

TUVOK

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

TORRES

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

CHAKOTAY

(meaning us too)

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

They grin at each other with relief...

CHAKOTAY

(to Tuvok)

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

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

TUVOK

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

CHAKOTAY

We're in no hurry...

He stands up and stretches, pats B'Elanna on the shoulder with appreciation for her good work... she acknowledges with some discomfort, not one to easily accept a compliment, even a silent one. He moves to a rear panel and begins to make repairs. Other N.D.s move in and out of the back participating in repair activities as well. (There are twenty or so crewmembers on board.)

TORRES

You ever think about what'll happen if they catch us?

CHAKOTAY

My great-great-grandfather wrote something in his spiritual diary (Indian TECH?) that I've never forgotten.

He says a long line in an Indian language (TECH)... and off her curious look, he grins, translates...

CHAKOTAY

'Don't look back.'

She almost smiles. Tuvok reacts to something he sees on his readouts... presses panels...

TUVOK

Curious...

Torres moves over to share his view...

TORRES

Chakotay, look at this...

As he moves over... looks at the read-outs... Tuvok continues to press panels...

TUVOK

We've just passed through some kind of coherent tetrion beam.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

TUVOK (Cont'd)
It seems to be coming from a
subspace field... and now there
appears to be a massive
displacement wave moving toward
us...

6 INSERT - AN OKUDAGRAM (OPTICAL)

6

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

CHAKOTAY (O.C.)
Another storm?

TUVOK (O.C.)
It's not a plasma phenomenon. The
computer is unable to identify.

7 RESUME

7

TORRES
It's within visual range.

CHAKOTAY
Put it on screen...

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

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

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

CHAKOTAY
Anything left in those impulse
generators, B'Elanna?

TORRES
(furiously pressing
panels)
We'll find out.

TUVOK
It's still exceeding our speed...

CHAKOTAY
Maximum power...

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

TORRES
(frustrated)
You've got it...

Outside the windows, it's getting brighter, like the sun is coming out... the ship begins to vibrate...

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

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

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

8 EXT. MATTE SHOT - FEDERATION REHABILITATION COLONY - ESTABLISHING (OPTICAL) 8

SUPER: Federation Rehabilitation Colony, Kairus Three, Stardate 48214.9.

9 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY (OPTICAL) 9

Starting closeup on an electronic anklet with blinking lights... moving up the leg to find an athletic human in his late twenties, lying on his back on the ground, in a twisted position, his shirt off, wearing a mini-visor and using a 24th century laser tool to meld part of a house frame together. This is TOM PARIS.

JANEWAY (O.C.)

Tom Paris?

10 NEW ANGLE 10

to see the approach of Starfleet Captain ELIZABETH JANEWAY, a charismatic woman in her early forties, in uniform. She has a warm thoughtful face and remarkably attentive eyes that suggest a deep awareness of all that is going on around her. He acknowledges his name, but there is an attitude that he has toward her uniform that we may note.

JANEWAY

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

Paris always wears a smile -- he stands up.

PARIS

About what?

JANEWAY

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

PARIS

(light laugh)

I'm already doing a 'job'... for the Federation...

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

JANEWAY

I've been told the Commission is very pleased with your work.

PARIS

Sounds like you've been checking up on me.

JANEWAY

I guess you could say that. They've given me their approval to discuss this matter with you.

Paris studies her a beat, shrugs.

PARIS

Then, I guess I'm yours.
(beat)
Will I need a shirt?

And off Janeway's even look as she considers him...

11 EXT. PARK - DAY

11

Children playing in the background... a carousel spins and plays -- some things have been saved in the 24th century -- finding Paris letting a water fountain splash him in the face then wiping it over his head and through his hair with his hands... he's not much cleaner but he's wetter and cooler. He moves to a yellow and gold umbrella covering a hotdog vendor replimat where Janeway is ordering a couple of franks...

COMPUTER VOICE

Specify condiments.

JANEWAY

One with Keladan leeks, and capsicum relish... One with...
(looking to Paris)

PARIS

I'm a purist. Just mustard.

JANEWAY

(to com)
...mustard...

12 CLOSER ON THE REPLICATOR (OPTICAL)

12

as it creates the two hotdogs as ordered.

13 WIDER

13

as they take them and begin to walk and talk and eat...
trying to break the ice --

JANEWAY

I enjoyed serving with your
father. I was his science officer
during the Arias Expedition... I
learned a great deal from him...

PARIS

(evenly, without
attitude)

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

A beat, he waits for her offer.

JANEWAY

I'm leaving on a mission to find
a Maquis ship that disappeared in
the Badlands a week ago. We'd
like you to come along.

PARIS

(nods, understanding,
smiles as usual)

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

(beat)

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

JANEWAY

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

PARIS

What's so important about this
particular Maquis ship?

JANEWAY

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

PARIS

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

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

JANEWAY

That's what we intend to find out.

Paris mulls it over, considering the offer. Janeway glances at him, adds a detail to provoke a little more interest from him.

JANEWAY

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

Paris smiles a careless grin...

PARIS

Yeah. I met him when I joined the Maquis.

JANEWAY

I heard the two of you didn't get along too well.

PARIS

(with false humor)

Chakotay would tell you he left Starfleet on principle -- to defend his home colony from the Cardassians after the Federation left. I, on the other hand, was forced to resign from Starfleet. He considered me a mercenary -- fighting for anyone who could pay my bar bills. Trouble is he was right. I have no problem turning in my 'friends' from the Maquis, Captain. All I need to know from you is -- what's in it for me?

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

JANEWAY

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

PARIS

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

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

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

JANEWAY
I'll look into it.
(beat)
Officially, you'd be a Starfleet
observer during the mission.

PARIS
Observer? Hell, at least let me
do what I do. I'm the best pilot
you could have.

JANEWAY
You'll be an observer.

A beat as he puts the amused, tongue-in-cheek mask back
on...

PARIS
But I get a uniform and
everything?

JANEWAY
A uniform and everything.
(evenly)
When it's over, you're cut loose.

PARIS
(smiles)
The story of my life.

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

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

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

14 EXT. SPACE - A SHUTTLE (OPTICAL)

14

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

15 INT. SHUTTLE

15

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

PARIS

Stadi, you're changing my mind about Betazoids.

STADI

Good.

PARIS

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

STADI

I can be warm and sensual.

PARIS

Just not to me.

STADI

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

PARIS

Only when they're in visual range.

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

STADI

That's our ship. That's Voyager.

16 ANGLE - THROUGH THE WINDOW (OPTICAL)

16

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

17 CLOSE ON PARIS

17

for a reaction.

STADI (O.C.)

Want to take a closer look...?

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

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

as the small shuttlecraft moves into the station on thrusters, it takes us up close and personal past Voyager -- a sleek bullet of a ship, built for action, capable of holding a crew complement of one hundred and twenty-five.

19 INT. QUARK'S 19

Paris, carrying a duffel over his shoulder, ENTERS... it's busy... glances around as he moves to the bar and sits... a Ferengi bartender moves to take his order...

PARIS

Romulan ale in a tall glass.

The Ferengi goes to get the drink as Paris overhears and turns to the sound of --

20 ANGLE - QUARK AND HARRY KIM 20

the latter a young Starfleet Ensign in his early twenties. Looks fresh scrubbed and right out of the Academy.

QUARK

(starts during Paris' walk to the bar)

...and if I may say so, it's been my special pleasure to see many young officers like yourself come through these portals... at the beginning of illustrious careers... I know your parents must be very proud of you, my boy.

KIM

'Proud' isn't the word for it. You should have seen them when I was leaving the Mars colony... they hugged and kissed me in front of every senior officer... I didn't hear the end of that for the next eight, eight years...

QUARK

Can't blame your mom and dad for caring about you, lad... you never know what can happen out here in the vast unknown of deep space...

KIM

Yeah, I guess you're right.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

QUARK

With that in mind, no, well, I
wouldn't want to intrude...

KIM

What?

QUARK

I was just going to suggest your
parents might like something from
you... to mark this momentous
occasion...

("remembering")

I just happen to have a little
something that might suffice...

Quark pulls out, from under the bar, a case with
gorgeous, sparkling gemstones...

QUARK

A very strange creature named a
Morn gave me these Lobi gemstones,
many many years ago...

In the background, Morn turns to the sound of his
name...

QUARK

(continuing)

...imagine how they might look
beneath your mother's delicate
chin as a necklace... or cuff
links for your father, perhaps...

KIM

(dazzled)

They must be very expensive...

Quark looks at him with disappointment... begins to put
them away...

QUARK

Ah. Well. If you have to ask
about price... they probably
aren't for you...

KIM

Wait a minute, I wasn't asking...
I was just... you know, Starfleet
officers don't carry currency...

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

QUARK

I offer easy credit terms... You humans are so reliable about your debts...

As Quark pulls out a PADD, Paris moves over to intervene...

PARIS

He's telling you the truth... these are Lobi gemstones...

QUARK

(who is this guy?)
Investment quality Lobi gemstones... this is the contract... the first forty paragraphs are just boilerplate language, don't bother reading that...

PARIS

(casual, overlapping)
Didja know you can find these on any planet in this system?

QUARK

...that's an exaggeration...

PARIS

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

(to Quark)

How much you selling these for?

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

QUARK

I might be willing to negotiate the price...

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

21 ANGLE - KIM AND PARIS

21

moving toward the door.

KIM

Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

PARIS
Don't mention it.

KIM
Harry Kim.

PARIS
Tom Paris.

They shake.

KIM
What's your ship?

PARIS
Voyager.

KIM
Yeah? Mine too! I just got here
this morning. This is my first
assignment since I graduated from
the Academy.

PARIS
(dry)
No kidding.

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

22 INT. VOYAGER CORRIDOR

22

as the airlock rolls open and Kim and Paris ENTER...

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

PARIS
Not exactly.

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

PARIS
Yeah. I remember feeling like
that.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

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

23 INT. SICKBAY

23

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

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

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

DOCTOR
Can I help you?

PARIS
Ensign Tom Paris reporting for duty.

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

DOCTOR
Oh yes... the... 'observer'...

PARIS
That's me.

The Doctor studies him a little too long... Paris is quick to pick up on it... having felt this before from others...

PARIS
(with attitude)
As a matter of fact, I seem to be observing some kind of problem right now... Doctor...

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

A coolness from his eyes cross between them.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

DOCTOR
(continuing)
We never actually met.

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

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

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

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

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

24 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

24

As they ENTER...

KIM
What was that all about?

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

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

25 INT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL

25

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

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

MARK

The vet called...

JANEWAY

And?

MARK

And I was right.

JANEWAY

She's pregnant?!

MARK

The puppies are due in seven weeks.

JANEWAY

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

MARK

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

JANEWAY

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

MARK

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

JANEWAY

Yes.

MARK

Fine, I'll pick her up in the morning.

JANEWAY

Thanks, honey.

MARK

When do you leave?

JANEWAY

As soon as I approve these system status reports.

MARK

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

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

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

JANEWAY

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

MARK

Aye, Captain.

JANEWAY

See you in a few weeks.

(quick beat)

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

MARK

Yes, dear.

He signs off. She goes back to her reports... satisfied, she stands, about to go to the Bridge when the chime rings...

JANEWAY

Come in.

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

JANEWAY

Gentlemen, welcome aboard Voyager.

KIM

Thank you, sir.

JANEWAY

Mister Kim...

(pausing in her intent)

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

He relaxes...

JANEWAY

(continuing)

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

KIM

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

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (3)

25

JANEWAY

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

KIM

I understand.

JANEWAY

We're getting ready to depart.
I'll show you to the Bridge.

She leads the way, small talking --

JANEWAY

(continuing)

Did you have any problems getting
here, Mister Paris?

PARIS

None at all, Captain.

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

26 INT. BRIDGE

26

as they ENTER from the Ready Room to see the most advanced, impressive Bridge facility in the history of Star Trek... several officers and Supernumeraries are working... the Security Officer is a human Lieutenant named ROLLINS. Lieutenant Stadi is at conn... preparing the ship for launch... she moves across to the Ops console... another young officer is working in it...

JANEWAY

This is your station, Ensign Kim.
Would you like to take over?

KIM

Yes, Ma'am.

JANEWAY

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

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

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

JANEWAY

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

STADI

Course entered, Captain. Ops has
cleared us.

JANEWAY

Ready thrusters...

KIM

Thrusters ready.

JANEWAY

Engage.

27 EXT. SPACE - DEEP SPACE NINE (OPTICAL)

27.

As Voyager departs the station on her first adventure.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

28 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 28

At warp.

29 INT. OFFICER'S MESS 29

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

PARIS

Tomato soup.

COMPUTER VOICE

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

PARIS

Plain.

He's a purist.

COMPUTER VOICE

Specify hot or chilled.

PARIS

(impatient)

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

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

PARIS

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

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

KIM

Is it true?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

PARIS

(very casual)

Was the accident my fault? Yes.
Pilot error. But, it took me a
while to admit it.

(reacting to the soup)

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

KIM

They said you falsified reports...

PARIS

That's right.

KIM

(disbelieving)

Why?

PARIS

(stupid question)

Because I didn't want to get
caught.

KIM

(confused)

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

PARIS

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

KIM

(beat, taking it all in)

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

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

PARIS

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

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

PARIS

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

KIM

(beat)

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

Paris reacts, for a moment he's touched... but those feelings are too hard to deal with so he blows by them with a joke and a smile...

PARIS

You have bad taste in friends, Harry... but then so do I.

Their eyes connect and they smile... bonding further...

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE

Janeway to Paris.

PARIS

Go ahead.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE

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

They react and EXIT.

30 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

30

Entering the plasma storm filled Badlands.

31 INT. BRIDGE

31

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

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

JANEWAY

(to Paris)

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

PARIS

(studying the graphic)

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

Stadi speaks to Rollins, leaning over to point on the graphic...

STADI

That would take them here...

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

ROLLINS

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

JANEWAY

Adjust our course to match...

STADI

Aye, Captain.

Stadi moves quickly to her position... Janeway moves back toward her chair and Paris follows...

JANEWAY

The Cardassians said that their warship forced the Maquis into a plasma storm where it was destroyed. But our probes haven't picked up any debris...

PARIS

A plasma storm might not leave any debris...

JANEWAY

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

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

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

JANEWAY
Origin, Mister Kim?

KIM
Some kind of subspace field.
(pressing more panels)
There's also a displacement wave
moving toward us...

JANEWAY
On screen.

32 ANGLE - INCLUDE THE LARGE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

32

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

JANEWAY
(to Stadi)
Put some distance between us and
that wave, Lieutenant...

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

KIM
The wave is accelerating...

JANEWAY
Full impulse.

33 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

33

Moves to full impulse but the subspace wave roars ahead
quickly picking up ground...

34 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

34

The interactive light from the screen gets brighter...

KIM
The wave is overtaking us... it
will intercept in twenty
seconds...

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

JANEWAY

Red alert. Can we go to warp?

STADI

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

KIM

Eight seconds...

JANEWAY

Brace for impact...

KIM

Three...

Whiteout.

35 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

35

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

36 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

36

As the whiteout is ending and the ship spins, the Conn station explodes... sparks fly from consoles, gaseous leaks break out... Finally it stabilizes... everyone has been thrown roughly to the floor... Janeway pulls herself up... as do others... the Viewscreen is off... Supernumeraries attend to the damage...

JANEWAY

Report!

Kim scrambles to his post...

KIM

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

Paris looks over and sees Stadi still lying on the floor unconscious... he moves to examine her...

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

JANEWAY

(to com)

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

ROLLINS

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

JANEWAY

Bridge to Sickbay.

(no answer)

Doctor, can you hear me...

She moves to see if Stadi is okay... she's not... she
has a nasty bruise on her head... Paris looks up at
Janeway...

PARIS

She's dead.

KIM

(off readouts)

Captain, something's out there!

JANEWAY

I need a better description than
that, Mister Kim.

KIM

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

JANEWAY

Can you get the Viewscreen
operational...

KIM

I'm trying...

37 ANGLE - AS THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

37

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

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

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

On Janeway's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

38 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 38

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

39 INT. BRIDGE 39

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

KIM

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

JANEWAY

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

KIM

Our sensors can't penetrate it.

JANEWAY

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

KIM

Massive bursts of radiant energy... There's some sort of ancillary data feed being transmitted as well.

JANEWAY

Transmitted to whom?

KIM

Uncertain, Captain. They seem to be directed toward a nearby G-type star system...

JANEWAY

Try hailing the Array.

With static on com --

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

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

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

KIM
No response from the Array.

Janeway moves to exit...

JANEWAY
Kim, get down to Sickbay, see
what's going on...
(to a Lieutenant at the
rear console)
Mister Rollins, the Bridge is
yours.

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

40 INT. ENGINEERING

40

as Janeway arrives and takes stock... there are several
crewmembers with cuts and bruises... a couple including
the chief engineer are dead and have been already
covered with tarps... some are seriously hurt and
unable to contribute...

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Warp core micro-
fracture. Breach imminent.

JANEWAY
(to a non com)
Get the wounded to Sickbay... call
security for any assistance you
need...

He acknowledges; she moves forward to the senior
engineer left in charge, an Ensign in his thirties
named CAREY.

JANEWAY
What's the warp core pressure?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

CAREY

Twenty-one hundred kilopascals and
falling.

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

JANEWAY

Lock down the magnetic
constrictors.

CAREY

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

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Warp core micro-
fracture. Breach imminent.

She takes a beat to consider what the Ensign has said
but feels she has little choice.

JANEWAY

I don't intend to keep them locked
for long, Ensign... and lower the
anti-matter flux ratio to zero-
point-one... we've got to get the
reaction rate down before we try
to seal it...

He acknowledges, moves off...

41 INT. CORRIDOR

41

Outside Sickbay... heavy smoke coming out of the
medical area... as Kim and Paris arrive at the
scene... Kim gets a fire extinguisher from a
compartment and they push in...

42 INT. SICKBAY

42

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

PARIS

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

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

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

KIM

Computer, is this ship outfitted with an emergency medical holograph?

COMPUTER VOICE

Affirmative.

KIM

Initiate the program.

43 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

43

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

ZIMMERMAN

Please state the nature of the medical emergency.

KIM

Multiple percussive injuries...

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

ZIMMERMAN

Status of your doctor?

KIM

He's dead.

ZIMMERMAN

(to no one in particular)
Four cc's of trianoline.

KIM

Trianoline?

The doctor reacts, looks up, impatient.

PARIS

We lost our nurse too...

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

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

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

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

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

ZIMMERMAN
Tricorder.

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

ZIMMERMAN
Medical tricorder.

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

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

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

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

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

(to the patient, without
warmth)
No concussion. You'll be fine.
(to Kim, brusque)
Clean him up.

Moves on to the next patient...

44 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

44

The Engineer has installed a liquid patch across the warp core leak... at both ends are electromagnetic poles... Another engineer works a panel... and an optical jumps between the two electromagnetic poles and the patch begins to glow...

JANEWAY

Unlock the magnetic constrictors.

CAREY

Constrictors on-line.

JANEWAY

Pressure?

CAREY

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

Janeway allows herself a satisfied smile...

ROLLINS' COM VOICE

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

JANEWAY

What kind of scan?

ROLLINS' COM VOICE

I'm running an analysis. It
appears to be some kind...

He never finishes.

JANEWAY

Bridge?

No response. She looks across Engineering to see a greenish beam sweeping across the room... as it passes through people, they're DEMATERIALIZING...

JANEWAY

Janeway to Bridge. Respond.
(no response, yelling to
Carey)
Initiate emergency...

But before she can finish, the beam sweeps across and they're all gone...

45 INT. SICKBAY (OPTICAL)

45

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

ZIMMERMAN

(to patient)

You're not seriously hurt. You can return to your station.

A moment later, the beam sweeps through the room and all the living beings DEMATERIALIZE... leaving Zimmerman standing alone, looking around confused... he moves to a companel... presses it.

ZIMMERMAN

This is the emergency holographic doctor speaking. I gave no permission for anyone to be transported out of Sickbay.

(there is no response)

Hello? Sickbay to Bridge?

(beat, to Bridge)

I believe someone has failed to terminate my program. Please respond.

His confusion continues...

46 EXT. FARMYARD - DAY

46

A charming bucolic setting... traditional frame farmhouse with a wide front porch... a couple of apple trees in the yard... a barn around back... rolling hills stretching for miles. It's a balmy summer day, a few flies are buzzing around the flower garden which flanks the house. It's the essence of nostalgic mid-Americana in a timeless setting... maybe suggesting late 19th century or turn of the century rather than anything more modern.

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

AUNT ADAH'S VOICE

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

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

AUNT ADAH

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

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

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

PARIS

Captain...?

JANEWAY

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

KIM

(off his tricorder)

There's no indication of (TECH) matter... all this must be some kind of holographic projection...

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

AUNT ADAH

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

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

JANEWAY

(speaking for the group)

No, thank you. My name is Elizabeth Janeway, Captain of the Federation Starship Voyager --

AUNT ADAH

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

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

AUNT ADAH

Why, here they are now.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2)

46

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

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

(to Kim)

We're glad you dropped by...

AUNT ADAH

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

BANJO MAN

Let's have a little music...

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

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

47 EXT. FARMYARD - A LITTLE LATER

47

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

PARIS

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

JANEWAY

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

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

AUNT ADAH

Have some fresh corn on the cob...

JANEWAY

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

AUNT ADAH

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

JANEWAY

Wait for what?

AUNT ADAH

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

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

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

A big shaggy farm dog comes barking up to her, tail wagging, does some kind of mild "trick"... like holding up a paw, or sitting on his haunches. Absently, instinctively, while still working the tricorder, Janeway reaches down and scratches the dog's head... then reacts as she remembers it's not a dog, just a projection...

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

48 KIM AND PARIS

48

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

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

The root cellar's right over there...

She gestures toward the cellar doors. Kim scans them.

KIM

What's down there?

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

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

She snuggles against Paris, who smiles appreciatively at her.

KIM

Paris, she's only a hologram.

PARIS

No reason to be rude.

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

PARIS

What?

KIM

Sporocystian life signs...

49 THE BARN - THEIR POV 49

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

50 BACK TO SCENE 50

Kim and Paris begin moving toward the barn.

KIM

What's in the barn?

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

(to Paris)

Nothing but a big ol' pile of hay.

(tugs his arm)

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

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

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

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

51 INT. BARN (OPTICAL) 51

as they ENTER. Sunlight filters through slats in the wood, casting strange shadows. There's an eerie quality to the place.

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

See? Nothin' but hay...

Kim lifts the tricorder.

KIM

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

PARIS

Where?

Kim turns to scan the entire barn.

KIM

(reacts)

It's everywhere.

Kim adjusts the tricorder...

51 CONTINUED:

51

KIM
(off tricorder)
I'm also reading some kind of
massively parallel processing
device... it may be the
holographic generator...

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

KIM
I'm reading humanoid life signs...
over here...

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

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

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

52 THE DOG

52

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

PARIS
Paris to Janeway --

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

53 EXT. FARMYARD (OPTICAL)

53

Janeway reacts to the interrupted hail.

JANEWAY
Janeway here.
(beat)
Paris?

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

53 CONTINUED: 53

JANEWAY

Come on...

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

54 INT. BARN (OPTICAL) 54

Paris struggles to his feet as Kim is attacked by the dog to keep him away from the wall. Suddenly Aunt Adah and others APPEAR in front of them, brandishing pitchforks. Janeway and the others rush in. Behind them, the barn door slams SHUT.

AUNT ADAH

(voice of the Banjo Man)

Very well. Since no one seems to care for any corn...

(beat)

We shall have to proceed ahead of schedule.

One wall of the barn DISAPPEARS to reveal --

55 THROUGH A DOOR - THEIR POV - MATTE (OPTICAL) 55

A shocking sight -- a long row of bodies suspended in a vast chamber by forcefields... the row stretching into an impossible distance... tubes running from the bodies into the ceiling like perverse artificial life support systems. They are all Maquis members, including B'Elanna (seen prominently by Kim), Tuvok and Chakotay -- all of them unconscious and pale.

56 KIM 56

gasps at the horrible sight.

57 ALL THE HOLOGRAMS (OPTICAL) 57

explode into blinding LIGHT which envelops them... and then...

58 INT. CHAMBER (OPTICAL) 58

Paris and Janeway are in a horizontal position... Kim the same, nearby...

59 ON KIM 59
as he looks up with horror to see --

60 HIS POV 60
sharp probes coming down slowly from the ceiling...

61 VARIOUS REACTIONS 61
from Janeway and Paris as the probes come down and down
and...

62 KIM 62
he yells as the probe penetrates his chest... and in
the last throes of agony, he glances over with pained
eyes and sees...

63 HIS POV - PARIS 63
mad as hell, looking back at him, the probe in his
chest...

64 KIM 64
mercifully loses consciousness.

65 JANEWAY 65
struggles to hold on to consciousness as long as
possible but finally she loses the battle and she too
goes pale and passes out...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

66 INT. ENGINEERING - CLOSE ON JANEWAY 66
recovering consciousness... she gets her bearings
quickly... all the same people who were transported
away from Engineering are back in roughly the same
places they were before...

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

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

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

She's up and moving.

JANEWAY
How long were we over there...

INTERCUTTING AS
NEEDED:

67 INT. BRIDGE

67

He checks panels...

ROLLINS
Almost three days...

68 INT. ENGINEERING

68

JANEWAY
All senior officers report to the
Bridge immediately.

69 INT. SICKBAY

69

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

ZIMMERMAN
(to Paris)
Could you explain what has
transpired...?

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

PARIS
Computer, locate Ensign Kim.

COMPUTER VOICE
Ensign Kim is not on board.

Off Paris' reaction...

70 INT. CORRIDOR

70

Janeway moving with urgency to a Turbolift...

PARIS' COM VOICE
Paris to Captain Janeway. Kim
didn't come back with us... he
must still be over there...

JANEWAY
Acknowledged. Computer, how many
crewmembers are unaccounted for?

COMPUTER VOICE
One. Ensign Harry Kim.

She reacts.

71 INT. TURBOLIFT - CONTINUOUS

71

as she ENTERS.

JANEWAY
Bridge.

The doors close... it begins to move.

ROLLINS' COM VOICE
Captain, the Maquis ship is
powering up its engines.

JANEWAY
Tractor them, Mister Rollins.

72 INT. BRIDGE

72

Janeway ENTERS... a beat later so does Paris...

ROLLINS
I've got them, Captain.

JANEWAY
Hail them.

73 ANGLE (OPTICAL) - INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN

73

CHAKOTAY
We will not surrender to you...

JANEWAY
Commander Chakotay.

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

CHAKOTAY

That used to be my rank.

JANEWAY

I'm Elizabeth Janeway. And I'm not asking you to surrender. One of our crewmen is missing... was he transported back to your ship by accident?

CHAKOTAY

(beat)

No. A member of my crew is missing too... my engineer.

JANEWAY

(beat)

Chakotay -- the Demilitarized Zone, the Cardassians, the Federation, they're all thousands of light years away. I don't think all that means much out here, do you?

CHAKOTAY

(a thoughtful beat of consideration)

Are you suggesting we work together to recover our people?

JANEWAY

(extending the olive branch)

Why don't we meet to talk about it?

He studies her.

CHAKOTAY

I'd like to trust you, Captain. I've admired you for a long time.

Another few beats, then he glances at Tuvok, nods...

CHAKOTAY

Three of us will transport to your ship.

He cuts transmission.

74 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

74

ROLLINS

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

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

JANEWAY

(to her crew)

Put down your weapons.

(to Chakotay, re:
phasers)

You won't need those here.

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

JANEWAY

It's good to have you back, Tuvok.

Off Chakotay's reaction...

TUVOK

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

CHAKOTAY

(cold)

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

TUVOK

(straightforward)

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

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

CHAKOTAY

I see you had help.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

74

PARIS

It's good to see you too,
Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY

At least the Vulcan was doing his
duty as a Starfleet officer. But
you... you betrayed us for...
what? Freedom from prison?
Latinum? What was your price this
time, (Indian swear word TECH)?

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

JANEWAY

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

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

JANEWAY

Do you have any idea why your
engineer was taken? Or what this
Array is doing here?

CHAKOTAY

(shakes his head)
We were told nothing.

JANEWAY

Our sensors can't penetrate the
Array... we're going to have to go
back over there...

Chakotay acknowledges.

JANEWAY

Tuvok, have a weapons team meet us
in the Transporter Room; tell them
to break out the phaser rifles...

TUVOK

Aye, Captain.

He leads out Chakotay and the other Maquis...

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED: (2)

74

JANEWAY

Mister Rollins, coordinate with
the Maquis ship -- if you don't
hear from us in one hour - move
both ships away from the Array...

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

PARIS

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

JANEWAY

(beat)

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

PARIS

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

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

JANEWAY

Come on.

And as they EXIT...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

75 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 75

beside the huge Array.

76 EXT. FARMYARD (OPTICAL) 76

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

TUVOK

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

Janeway reacts.

JANEWAY

You and Parker go check out the barn. Collect as much information as you can about the inner workings of this Array, Mister Tuvok.

Tuvok acknowledges, moves off with the N.D. toward the barn. They move to the holographic Banjo Man. The old man opens his eyes and stops playing... he shows little reaction to the intruders...

CHAKOTAY

(impatient)

What have you done with our crewmen?

BANJO MAN

They are no longer here.

Paris takes an aggressive step toward the man, but Janeway gestures for him to back off. Approaching the man reasonably...

JANEWAY

Why have you abducted two of our people?

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

There is some guilt in the old man's manner... he gets more and more somber as the scene continues...

BANJO MAN

I mean you no harm. If I had any other alternative... but there is so little time left...

JANEWAY

Time left for what?

BANJO MAN

(self-absorbed)

I must honor the debt that can never be repaid.

(off their puzzled looks)

It's none of your concern. I wish I didn't have to involve anyone else. But I'm running out of time... my search has not gone well...

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

JANEWAY

Perhaps... we can help you in your search... if you'll tell us what you're looking for...

BANJO MAN

There is nothing you can do. You don't have what I need. The others might. You will have to leave them.

CHAKOTAY

We won't do that.

BANJO MAN

(evenly)

I've heard that before. I've had to destroy ships that tried to challenge me. I do not mean you any harm. You are free to go. If it is ever possible to return your people, I promise you it will be done.

PARIS

That's not good enough.

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: (2)

76

JANEWAY

You've taken us seventy thousand light years from our home. We want you to send us back -- and we won't leave without the others.

BANJO MAN

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

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

77 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

77

The six members of the Away Team APPEAR... on their reactions... and Janeway's thoughtful expression...

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

78

79 KIM - EXTREME CLOSEUP

79

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

80 KIM'S POV -- THE FACE OF A MIDDLE-AGED OCAMPA DOCTOR

80

followed by another face of a young Ocampa female NURSE, move into his view... they wear alien clothing... their voices are warm and sympathetic which only makes this more horrifying...

NURSE'S VOICE

(telepathic)

Ichor readings are typical... chylyfactive functions appear to be normal...

DOCTOR'S VOICE

(telepathic)

Good.

He smiles down.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED: 80

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

81 WIDER 81

to see Kim is on a hospital type bed, naked under a sheet...

KIM
What am I doing here? Where am I?

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

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

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

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

82 ON HIS HANDS AND ARMS 82

are tumorous growths...

83 KIM'S FACE 83

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

84 MORE TUMOROUS GROWTHS 84

85 KIM 85

reacts with shock...

TORRES (O.C.)
No!

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

86 B'ELANNA

86

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

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

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

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

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

87 INT. BRIDGE

87

Tuvok working at his station...

TUVOK
I've been able to trace the energy pulses from the Array, Captain.

Janeway, Chakotay and Paris move to join him... they look at...

88 AN OKUDAGRAM (OPTICAL)

88

Showing the Array pulsing out the energy into a neighboring solar system...

TUVOK (O.C.)
There are fourteen planets in the nearest system... but the energy pulses are being directed toward only one... the fifth from the sun...

As he presses panels...

89 THE OKUDAGRAM (OPTICAL)

89

changes to a closer view of the fifth planet... and we can see the pulses directed straight to it.

JANEWAY (O.C.)
(reacting to what she sees)

It's virtually a desert -- the whole planet... not one ocean, not one river... but why? At a hundred and fifty million kilometers from the sun, an 'M' class planet should have water...

90 JANEWAY (OPTICAL)

90

presses some panels and an analytical overlay appears on the Okudagram...

JANEWAY
(continuing)
It has all the basic characteristics of an 'M' class planet...

(beat)
...except...
(blowing an analytical equation up larger on screen)
Look at this -- there are no (TECH) particles in the atmosphere...

CHAKOTAY
Without atmospheric (TECH), the ice nucleation process could never occur to produce clouds and rain...

JANEWAY
I've studied thousands of 'M' Class planets -- I've never seen an atmosphere without (TECH)... some kind of extraordinary environmental disaster must have happened here...

PARIS
Do you think the Array is responsible?

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

90

JANEWAY
(shaking her head,
doesn't know)
From this analysis, it's hard to
say.

TUVOK
(checking readings)
There is one other curiosity about
the pulses, Captain. They are
getting faster.

JANEWAY
Faster?

TUVOK
The interval between each pulse
has decreased by point-oh-seven
seconds since we arrived.

Janeway takes a moment to take this in -- what does
this all mean? After a beat --

PARIS
Harry said something about
ancillary data feeds carried in
the pulses... could he and Torres
have been transported to the
planet that way?

Janeway looks to Tuvok who presses some panels, looks
up...

TUVOK
It is possible. The data feeds
have modulation patterns that
could support quantum level
transport.

JANEWAY
(acknowledges Paris'
contribution with a
nod)
Unless someone has a better idea,
I suggest we take both ships to
investigate the fifth planet.

She clearly has the consensus from her own people.
After a beat, Chakotay adds his support...

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: (2)

90

CHAKOTAY

Agreed.

(a beat, as he ponders
something)

But we used all our photons
defending ourselves against the
Cardassians... we will need to be
re-armed.

PARIS

Captain, if we give him torpedoes,
I know damn well he won't hesitate
to use them against us...

Chakotay gives him a hard look...

CHAKOTAY

Would you have my ship go into an
alien system unable to defend
itself?

Chakotay studies Janeway's face... cooperating is one
thing, giving torpedoes to an enemy who might someday
use them against you is another... after a beat --

JANEWAY

Mister Tuvok, have a full
complement of photons transported
to the Maquis ship.

TUVOK

Aye, Captain.

Chakotay nods an acknowledgement to Janeway, glares at
Paris as he EXITS... Paris feels that his advice has
been ignored, but just as he begins to deal with that
rejection --

JANEWAY

Mister Paris, would you take the
Conn.

PARIS

(reacts, surprised)

Aye, Captain.

Paris finally has a station on the Bridge and he moves
into it... we might notice that he breathes deeply as
he sits and his eyes might betray the importance of
this moment to him... but otherwise there is no
ceremony...

JANEWAY

Set a course for the fifth planet.

(CONTINUED)

VOYAGER: "Caretaker" - 06/08/94 - ACT FIVE

61.

90 CONTINUED: (3)

90

And as he enters the coordinates...

91 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

91

followed by Chakotay's ship, moves away from the Array
and into the near-by system as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

FADE IN:

92 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) 92

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

93 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 93

as the Bridge crew gazes toward the Viewscreen. (Paris is at the Conn, and we will get the feeling now that his cockiness is gone. He's been given a position and he's trying to do his best... but he's not confident or comfortable yet.)

JANEWAY

Analysis?

TUVOK

The field contains quantities of inorganic debris, refractory metals... random clusters of partially oxidized organic materials... and high concentrations of volatile gasses.

He looks up at Janeway.

TUVOK

It appears to be a collection of refuse.

JANEWAY

A garbage dump?

TUVOK

Precisely.

JANEWAY

Old or new garbage, Mister Tuvok?

TUVOK

Particle decay scans indicate some of the detritus is less than two decades old.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

JANEWAY
(studying it,
thoughtful)
Nothing like a garbage dump to let
you know you're approaching
civilization...

PARIS
Captain -- I'm picking up thruster
activity in the debris field...
from a small probe, or pod...

JANEWAY
Isolate on screen.

They look up to the Viewscreen --

94 ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

94

to see a strange, small alien pod poking about amidst
the flotsam, like a scavenger combing through a trash
can.

95 BACK TO SCENE (OPTICAL)

95

PARIS
I'm showing a humanoid life form
on board.

JANEWAY
Hail them. Advise the Maquis to
monitor our communications.

The cramped and messy cabin of the alien vessel appears
on screen, filled with an eclectic assortment of junk.
The lone occupant, a short, plump, unkempt being whom
we'll come to know as NEELIX, seems startled by the
hail. He has adopted an air of cultivated elegance and
charm that is at odds with his seedy appearance.

NEELIX
Whoever you are, I found this
waste zone first.

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

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

95

NEELIX

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

JANEWAY

Captain Elizabeth Janeway of the Federation Starship Voyager.

NEELIX

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

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

JANEWAY

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

NEELIX

Neelix. Just Neelix. Do I know it well? I am famous for knowing it well. How may I be of service?

JANEWAY

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

NEELIX

(smiles)

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

(realizing)

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

JANEWAY

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

NEELIX

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

JANEWAY

Th. Caretaker?

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED: (2)

95

NEELIX

(shrugs, yes, it sounds
odd)

That's what the Ocampa call him.
They live on the fifth planet.
They call him the Caretaker --
because he protects them from
their enemies.

JANEWAY

Do you have any idea why he's
abducting ships?

NEELIX

No one does.

(beat)

Did he kidnap members of your
crew?

JANEWAY

As a matter of fact, he did.

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

NEELIX

It's not the first time.

JANEWAY

Do you know where he might have
taken them?

NEELIX

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

JANEWAY

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

NEELIX

I wish I could help... but as you
can see there is so much debris to
investigate today...

Neelix gazes sympathetically at her, tapping his
fingers gently. They are long and tapered, and he uses
them to enhance his air of gentility. Clearly, he is
angling delicately for a payback for his information,
and Janeway realizes that.

JANEWAY

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

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED: (3)

95

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

NEELIX

That wouldn't have occurred to me... As you can tell, I live well. There's very little you could offer me.

(beat, an "idea")

Unless...

JANEWAY

Yes?

NEELIX

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

JANEWAY

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

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

Neelix is dumbfounded.

NEELIX

That seems like a... reasonable arrangement. Shall I come aboard your magnificent ship?

JANEWAY

Of course, we'll beam you over.

He looks at her, perplexed. She realizes he's unfamiliar with transporter technology. This is a different part of space.

JANEWAY

We have a technology which can take you instantly from your ship to ours.

NEELIX

Hah?

JANEWAY

Mister Tuvok, go to Transporter Room Two and meet our guest.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED: (4)

95

JANEWAY (Cont'd)
(he EXITS, back to
Neelix)
We'll tow your ship into our
shuttlebay. The Transporter is
quite harmless. May we?

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

96 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

96

Tuvok ENTERS and tells the Transporter Chief to --

TUVOK
Energize.

Neelix MATERIALIZES on the pad. Neelix looks at his
arms, as though amazed they're whole.

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

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

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

NEELIX
Neelix. Good to meet you.

Tuvok thinks about clarifying but decides better of it.
Meanwhile, Neelix is immediately distracted by a
console panel on the wall which flashes and flickers.
Awed, he draws close to the state-of-the-art
technology.

NEELIX
Interesting. What exactly does
this do?

TUVOK
It manages the autosequencing
control of the Transporter.

NEELIX
Ah. Of course.
(pointing)
And this?

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED:

96

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

TUVOK

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

Exit line --

NEELIX

A what?

And they EXIT.

97 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

97

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

KIM

(calming her)

It's okay... it's okay...

TORRES

Who are you? What is this place?

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

KIM

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

She looks at him curiously...

TORRES

What was Starfleet doing at that Array?

KIM

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

97 CONTINUED:

97

TORRES

You mean you were trying to capture us...

KIM

(dry)

Yeah. Consider yourself captured.
('checking' his robe)
I know I have a phaser here somewhere.

TORRES

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

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

KIM

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

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

KIM

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

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

TORRES

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

KIM

Do you want them to sedate you again?

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

TORRES

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

KIM

What's your name, Maquis?

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED: (2)

97

TORRES

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

KIM

Only that they're called the
Ocampa...

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

DOCTOR

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

TORRES

Why are you holding us here?

DOCTOR

You're not prisoners. In fact, we consider you honored guests. The Caretaker has sent you to us. As long as you're not violent, you're free to leave your quarters.

KIM

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

DOCTOR

A strain of sporocystian tumor... that's really all we know.

KIM

(to Torres)
Sporocystian... I was tracking a sporocystian reading on the Array...

DOCTOR

You must be hungry. Would you care to join me on the courtyard for a meal?

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED: (3) 97

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

98 INT. CORRIDOR LEADING TO HOSPITAL COURTYARD 98

The Doctor, Kim and Torres stand on a moveable walkway... They've changed into the clothes the Doctor brought.

KIM

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

DOCTOR

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

TORRES

What do you mean 'to the surface'?

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

99 REVERSE ANGLE - MATTE SHOT (OPTICAL) 99

An extraordinary underground city is spread out before them. It is an architecturally bleak space, devoid of anything organic -- grass, plants -- and composed of shades of grey and silver and artificial blue light. And yet even in its coldness, there is an odd beauty. Anti-grav people-movers move across the horizon. There are escalators and elevators and moveable walkways everywhere. No one walks unless it's a few steps to a food replicator or a shop... the key to this society is convenience in every shape and form... in the background, there are the power plants that run this city... and the pulses from the Array that drive these plants are also noticeable as they are processed by huge receivers that serve as a bizarre skyline...

100 ANGLE - COURTYARD 100

as they step off the moveable walk... and take in the sight...

KIM

(reacting)

We're underground...!

(CONTINUED)

100 CONTINUED:

100

DOCTOR

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

TORRES

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

DOCTOR

Until the Caretaker decided this
was where we must live. Our
ancient journals tell us he opened
a deep chasm in the ground and led
our ancestors to this place. He
has protected us and provided for
all our needs since then.

Passersby stare with awe at B'Elanna and Harry like
celebrities... discuss them among themselves with
telepathy we cannot hear...

DOCTOR

(off their looks)

Please forgive them. They know
you've come from the Caretaker.
None of us has ever seen him...

He leads them to food dispensers where a line of people
receive what looks like puppy chow on sterile trays...

TORRES

(with an unappetizing
trace)

Does he provide your meals too?

DOCTOR

(smiles)

In fact, he does. He designed the
processors that dispense it every
four-point-one intervals. It may
not offer the exotic tastes some
of our young people crave these
days, but it meets our nutritional
needs.

101 NEW ANGLE

101

The moving path now takes them to a seated area where
people eat as they read on monitors scrolling
literature... they get off and move to a table...

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED:

101

DOCTOR

(re: the monitors)

The Caretaker also provides intellectual stimulation... science, medicine, history, mathematics... he has a vast knowledge of the universe. We're fortunate he chooses to share a part of it with us.

KIM

(re: the monitors)

So this is how the Caretaker communicates with you...?

DOCTOR

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

KIM

I'm curious how you've interpreted the Caretaker's reason for abducting us...

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

DOCTOR

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

TORRES

Their protection?

DOCTOR

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

TORRES

(scoffs)

We weren't sick until we met your Caretaker.

KIM

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

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED: (2)

101

DOCTOR

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

TORRES

(interrupting)

There have been others like us?

DOCTOR

Yes...

TORRES

Where are they?

DOCTOR

(with direct eye contact)

Your condition is serious. We do not know exactly how to treat it. I'm afraid the others did not recover.

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

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

FADE IN:

102 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 102

and the Maquis Ship in orbit around the fifth planet.

103 INT. VOYAGER - CORRIDOR 103

Tuvok approaches a door, pushes the panel.

NEELIX'S VOICE

Come in!

The door OPENS and he ENTERS.

104 INT. NEELIX'S QUARTERS 104

As Tuvok comes into the room, he stops as he sees the scene before him.

105 THE ROOM - TUVOK'S POV 105

It is the remains of a gargantuan repast. The bones of some unidentified roast meat are scattered on the table -- and on the floor. Empty and half-empty dishes are everywhere. Garbage litters the floor... crumbs, bones, leaves of greens, melting concoctions... and pitchers of water everywhere.

106 BACK TO SCENE 106

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

107 INT. VOYAGER - BATHROOM 107

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

TUVOK

Sir?

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED:

107

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

NEELIX

Mister Vulcan! Come in, come in!

Tuvok doesn't move.

NEELIX

Please -- I can hardly see you!

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

NEELIX

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

(groping for word)

-- replicator before...

TUVOK

(dry)

I'd never have guessed.

NEELIX

(irrepressible)

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

He sinks under the water again, savoring the sensation.

NEELIX

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

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

TUVOK

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

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

NEELIX

Could you hand me the towel?

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (2)

107

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

NEELIX

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

TUVOK

Do you believe our people might be at this location?

NEELIX

It's not impossible. Maybe. Perhaps not. But we'll find them. Can you have several containers of water ready to bring to the surface? For barter?

(Tuvok acknowledges)

Good. Then we'll get started as soon as I'm dressed. Do these replicators make clothing, as well?

TUVOK

Yes.

NEELIX

Will it make me a uniform like yours?

TUVOK

No, it most certainly will not.

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

108 INT. PLANET SURFACE - MATTE (OPTICAL)

108

A dry, arid terrain, blistering hot and foreboding. The pulses from the Array are visible as they go down to the planet surface and disappear in a rotational sequence into one of five huge craters arranged at an enigmatic five point star formation stretching hundreds of miles across. As we watch, a shimmering field of ENERGY bolts down from the sky to fill the tunnels with a fritzzy field which descends to the unseen depths below. A deep, resonant SOUND accompanies this blast.

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

108

(NOTE: We will continue this SOUND throughout scenes on the planet; first at intervals of about fifteen seconds, and gradually, by the end of Act Eight, speeding up to be almost constant before they cut out completely. When we are underground, the SOUNDS will be appropriately muffled.)

109 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - IN THE DESERT (OPTICAL)

109

Janeway, Chakotay, Paris, Tuvok, and Neelix MATERIALIZE. Neelix has replicated clothing all right -- the 24th century equivalent of a garish leisure suit. The group looks around, getting their bearings. The sun is bright and harsh, and they squint and shield their eyes. They are behind a slight ridge of sand which blocks their view in one direction. Chakotay and Neelix begin climbing the ridge. Tuvok, bearing a tricorder, is taking readings. Paris is watching the energy bolts which blast into the huge tunnels.

TUVOK

Captain, the pulses are coming one-point-four seconds faster than our last measurement.

Janeway observes a pulse go below the surface...

JANEWAY

(thoughtfully)

They're going underground. These craters must be conduits of some kind... Mister Paris, your scans picked up no unusual subterranean activity?

PARIS

No activity at all, Captain. But there's a thick layer of astaline sediment just under the surface. It might have interfered with our sensors.

They move to join Chakotay and Neelix at the top of the ridge. As they reach it, they peer over to see --

110 THE GAZON ENCAMPMENT

110

A strange and alien-looking camp which is located in the middle of what was once a large waterway. Surrounding the camp are the remnants of ancient ruins -- crumbling walls, abandoned structures -- largely covered with sand.

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED:

110

Various rusty objects litter the area, giving the effect of a large trash dump, and it's easy to understand why Neelix might have been attracted to the place. At a remove from the camp are several alien surface AIRCRAFT -- none of them looking too spiffy. There is one STRUCTURE, a cobbled-together affair of various scrap material, awnings, skins -- all thrown together with no seeming pattern.

Various aliens move through the camp. They are a lean, scrawny people who dress in an assortment of unkempt clothing. Some are in nothing more than rags. Their skin is parched and desiccated; the sun has produced blotches and sores on some. This appears to be a camp of people barely able to survive, bereft of creature comforts and living a harsh, hardscrabble life. They are the GAZON, whom we will come to know, over the course of the series, as a lethal, deadly sect who subject themselves to these dire circumstances in return for the possible acquisition of power.

PARIS

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

NEELIX

This planet is in a strategic location. Whoever controls it -- controls many others.

CHAKOTAY

So the Ocampa control a number of planets?

NEELIX

Not the Ocampa. The Gazon.

JANEWAY

(puzzled)

Who are the Gazon?

NEELIX

(pointing)

They are.

JANEWAY

I thought you said you were taking us to...

But Neelix has already sprung forward, marching right into the midst of these seedy-looking aliens, expansive and confident as he addresses them.

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED: (2)

110

NEELIX

My friends! It's good to see you
again!

The others have little choice but to follow him over
the bluff... he beams at the Gazon, sure of a warm
welcome.

NEELIX

(continuing)

Where is your Maie, the ever-wise
Jabin? He'd never forgive me if
I were here and didn't...

Suddenly, every Gazon in sight has a weapon and they're
aiming it at Neelix and our crew... the group erupts in
angry alien walla, half a dozen grab Neelix and lift
him bodily in the air... the Gene Wilder smile never
leaves Neelix's face...

NEELIX

Wait... wait... yes, it's always
wonderful to be back with you but
I must speak with Jabin...

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

NEELIX

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

Their leader emerges from his tent to see what is going
on...

NEELIX

Jabin! My old friend.

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

NEELIX

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

That pauses the action...

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED: (3)

110

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

The group now turns their attention to our people.
After a beat, Paris unhooks a canteen from his belt and
tosses it to Jabin... who catches it, looks at us
curiously, looks at it, opens it and drinks... it
causes much excitement among the Gazon and they
completely forget about Neelix... as the water is
passed around and quickly depleted...

JABIN
(to the crew)
You have more?

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

JANEWAY
Janeway to Voyager. Energize.

111 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

111

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

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

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

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

JABIN
Ocampa?

He glances into the crowd and standing in the back
observing the chaos is KES. Kes is an Ocampa female
(the same species as we have seen caring for Torres and
Kim).

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED:

111

She has a dazzling, ethereal beauty, waifish and fragile. But Kes is not frail: there is a dignity to her bearing, an alertness in her look, that suggests a being of powerful intelligence. At the moment she is dressed in ragged clothing, and her cheeks and shoulders bears bruises which suggest she has been ill treated.

JABIN

She is Ocampa.

(beat)

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

Kes sees them looking at her, reacts with curiosity, glances at Neelix who has moved back to the main group... Janeway considers Jabin as a threat, but decides to put more cards on the table...

JANEWAY

The entity the Ocampa call the Caretaker has abducted two of our people. We believe they might be with the Ocampa.

Jabin grunts with disdain...

JABIN

Caretaker. He is a klagit herder. He cares for those who cannot take care of themselves. He led the Ocampa to the underground water centuries ago. But he has done the Gazon no favors.

NEELIX

He has treated these good people just as unfairly.

(gestures to Kes)

That's why they need the female... to help them find their missing crewmembers.

JABIN

There is no way to get down to the Ocampa. We've tried. They even sealed off the tunnel she took to the surface.

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED: (2)

111

NEELIX

They have a powerful ship with all kinds of technology. Maybe we'll find a new way to get underground. Let us trade you water for this scrawny little thing.

A beat as Jabin considers.

JABIN

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

JANEWAY

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

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

KES' VOICE

(telepathic)

Do not trust them. They will never let me go.

Chakotay turns and looks at Kes.

112 KES

112

makes firm eye contact with him.

113 RESUME (OPTICAL)

113

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

JABIN

(to Janeway)

I have decided to keep the Ocampo female...

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

JABIN

...and all of you.

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

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

NEELIX

Tell them to drop their weapons!

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

NEELIX

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

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

NEELIX

(to Kes)

Come on!

Kes runs to him, he takes her arm.

NEELIX

(to Janeway)

I strongly suggest you get us out of here!

JANEWAY

(taps Combadge)

Six to beam up.

114 INT. VOYAGER - TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

114

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

NEELIX

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

Off our group's incredulous reactions --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SEVEN

ACT EIGHT

FADE IN:

115 EXT. OCAMPA CITY - MATTE SHOT (OPTICAL) 115

Re-establishing.

116 INT. HOSPICE COURTYARD 116

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

KIM

I'm sure Captain Janeway is doing everything she can to find us... maybe the ship's sensors can't read beneath the surface...

TORRES

What makes you think any of them are still alive?

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

KIM

Should I call for some help...

TORRES

No!

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

NURSE (O.C.)

Are you in pain?

117 ANGLE -- TO SEE THE YOUNG NURSE MOVING TOWARD THEM 117

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

TORRES

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

NURSE

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

117 CONTINUED:

117

She glances furtively around -- the coast is relatively clear... she pulls out an apple-like piece of alien fruit...

NURSE

I could tell you didn't like the Caretaker's food. Some friends of mine grow these outside the city...

She uses a paring knife to cut slices for Kim and Torres... Kim takes a delightful bite. The Nurse has an implied 'guilt by association' subtext -- she is unsettled by recent events, including the kidnapping of aliens by the Caretaker. After a beat, with hesitancy...

NURSE

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

Torres takes a bite too... she exchanges a glance with Kim... senses a vulnerability in the Nurse...

TORRES

Please. We can't sit here and wait to die... Is there any way you can help us?

KIM

The only way we're going to survive is if we can get to the surface and find our people.

NURSE

(beat, then without agreement)

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

TORRES

(pursuing)

What do you say?

The Nurse breaks eye contact...

NURSE

(a beat, shakes her head, confused)

The Caretaker... has been behaving strangely...

(beat)

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

117 CONTINUED: (2)

117

KIM

Power supply?

NURSE

He has multiplied the amount of energy he sends us twenty-fold... they say we have enough stored now to run the city for a hundred generations...

KIM

Nobody knows why?

NURSE

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

She examines her heart for a long beat... Torres and Kim give her room to find the right answer... she sighs... deeply disturbed...

NURSE

I've listened to the stories, the horrifying stories, of what the Caretaker has done... to you and the others who came before you...

(beat)

...Every day, it becomes more and more difficult to trust him.

TORRES

(softly, simply)

Help us.

The Nurse renews eye contact with her, decisively.

NURSE

(reluctantly)

One person I know found a way to the surface, but after she got out, the elders sealed it.

KIM

Do you know where it was?

NURSE

There are access tunnels alongside the energy conduits almost all the way to the surface. A surface tremor apparently left an opening at the top of one of them... the one over there...

(she points)

...but, it was sealed...

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: (3) 117

TORRES
If it was sealed, it can be un-
sealed.

KIM
Can you get us some cutting tools?

They're asking a lot... after a long self-examination:

NURSE
I'll try.

On their reaction...

118 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 118

in orbit of the fifth planet.

119 INT. SICKBAY (OPTICAL) 119

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

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

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

KES (O.C.)
Excuse me...

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

KES
(continuing)
Don't blame Neelix. It's all my
fault. I...

Zimmerman is finished treating her, interrupts...

ZIMMERMAN
That's enough! This is a Sickbay,
not a conference room. Visiting
hours are over.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED:

119

ZIMMERMAN (Cont'd)
Everyone except my patient is to
leave immediately...

JANEWAY
(overlapping)
Computer, end medical holograph
program.

And with just a trace of an irate reaction, Zimmerman
disappears. Kes continues -- with Neelix joining her
in quick counterpoint, almost as though they're one
person.

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

NEELIX
(won't hear this)
No, no, it's a wonderful quality,
her most endearing --

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

NEELIX
Those brutes -- kidnapping you --

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

Janeway steps in to knife through this.

JANEWAY
The rest of your people all live
underground...?

KES
Yes, we've been there ever since
The Warming...

CHAKOTAY
The Warming?

NEELIX
When the surface turned into a
desert...

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (2)

119

KES

-- and the Caretaker came to
protect us.

Our people exchange glances. Trying to add it all up --

JANEWAY

So the Caretaker came into your
lives at the same time the water
disappeared from the surface.

Kes acknowledges.

CHAKOTAY

Would you know what the Caretaker
meant when he told us he had 'a
debt that could never be repaid'?

Kes reacts quizzically...

JANEWAY

Perhaps a debt to the Ocampa...
after all, he has been taking care
of your people for thousands of
years...

Kes has no idea...

KES

(shakes her head)
I'm sorry.

CHAKOTAY

None of this begins to explain why
he brought us here or abducted Kim
and Torres.

JANEWAY

(to Kes)
Can you take us underground to
look for them?

She shakes her head sadly.

KES

Jabin was right. There was only
one way and it's been sealed.

JANEWAY

We don't need an opening... we
have the ability to transport
there directly.

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (3)

119

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

NEELIX

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

But Kes, very much her own woman, demurs.

KES

These people rescued me --

NEELIX

I rescued you --

KES

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

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

NEELIX

Isn't she remarkable?

PARIS

(near him, sincerely)
Yes. She is.

And something in his voice makes Neelix regard him uneasily.

120 EXT. UNDERGROUND VALLEY - MATTE - (OPTICAL)

120

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

121 EXT. ENCLAVE (OPTICAL)

121

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

(CONTINUED)

121 CONTINUED:

121

DAGGIN

Kes!

KES

Hello, Daggin...

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

DAGGIN

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

KES

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

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

DAGGIN

They're at the central clinic.

CHAKOTAY

Are they injured?

DAGGIN

No, they're ill. All the aliens are when they arrive.

(beat)

None of them have survived.

Our people react to this news.

JANEWAY

(to Kes)

Can you take us there...?

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

TOSCAT'S VOICE

No, she cannot.

KES

They don't use telepathy, Toscat. Please speak aloud.

(CONTINUED)

121 CONTINUED: (2)

121

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

TOSCAT

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

JANEWAY

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

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

TOSCAT

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

CHAKOTAY

Maybe you can't, but we can.

TOSCAT

You don't understand...

KES

(interrupts, low key)

That's right. They don't understand... they have no way of knowing that the Ocampo have been dependent on the Caretaker for so long that we can't even think for ourselves anymore... They don't understand that we were once a people who had full command of our minds' capabilities... and that we lost those capabilities... because we stopped using them...

TOSCAT

(to our crew)

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

(to Kes)

In any event, we should not dwell on what's been lost, but on all that's been gained...

(CONTINUED)

121 CONTINUED: (3)

121

KES

Yes. We've gained a mastery of dependence. Of simply taking what we're given.

(Toscat studies her,
coldly)

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

TOSCAT

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

KES

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

(to Janeway)

Come with me. We'll find your people.

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

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT EIGHT

ACT NINE

FADE IN:

122 EXT. OCAMPA CITY - MATTE SHOT (OPTICAL) 122

Pushing to the outskirts of town toward the energy receptor indicated by the nurse... the energy pulses are noticeably faster than before... and we're closer to them now so the sound is louder...

123 EXT. CAVEWALL 123

Torres and Kim are climbing, looking for a way out. They are wearing tools on their belt that the nurse has provided them... they are both gasping for breath -- clearly weakened by their illness and by their exertions.

TORRES

Over here... this looks like an access shaft...

They move to a metal conduit, slide back a door... enter...

124 INT. ACCESS SHAFT 124

They find themselves in a shaft with a diameter of about twenty feet which contains an iron spiral staircase. On the walls of the shaft are banks of TECH equipment and storage cells which glow and hum softly. It's a dark, spooky space and the lights of the equipment cast a strange glow. They look up --

125 THEIR POV - MATTE SHOT (OPTICAL) 125

The staircase spirals up into darkness...

126 RESUME 126

TORRES

Come on...

She starts to climb... and Kim tries to follow but a wave of nausea hits him and he sinks to the foot of the stairs...

TORRES

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

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED:

126

KIM

I'm sorry.

TORRES

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

KIM

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

Tries to laugh...

TORRES

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

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

KIM

I spent my whole life getting ready for Starfleet... I took a double major in Quantum Field Systems and Tactical Strategies so I'd be more well-rounded. I had to take sixty extra hours of course work to graduate. Every step I've ever taken... has been to make me a better officer.

(beat)

And on my very first mission... I'm going to die.

TORRES

We're not finished yet.

(beat)

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

He looks at her, puzzled.

KIM

Sneezy?

TORRES

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

KIM

You went to the Academy?

126 CONTINUED: (2)

126

TORRES

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

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

TORRES

I fit in a lot better with The
Maquis.

KIM

(beat)

You know... I never really liked
Zakarian.

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

TORRES

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

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

127 EXT. OCAMPA COURTYARD (OPTICAL)

127

People reacting to the increasing pace of the pulses...
watching with concern.

128 ANGLE

128

to see Kes, her friends and our crew arriving. They
react with concern... the pulses are gaining momentum
in a mounting crescendo. It's an ominous sound.
Suddenly, they end. Silence.

JANEWAY

(hits combadge)

Away Team to Voyager.

ROLLINS' VOICE

Go ahead.

JANEWAY

What's going on with the Array?

INTERCUT:

129 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 129

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

ROLLINS

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

130 EXT. OCAMPA COURTYARD 130

JANEWAY

Keep me informed. Janeway out.
(to her crew)
Come on... we've got to find
them...

They move into the hospital...

131 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - GAZON ENCAMPMENT 131

Jabin moves to one of his lieutenants... glancing at the sky...

JABIN

(curious)

For as long as history has been
written, the Caretaker has sent
his pulses to the Ocampa. Today,
they end. Why? Might it be a
weakness, a vulnerability?

(beat, thoughtful)

Perhaps, this is also the day the
Gazon seize the Caretaker's Array;
the day we gain permanent control
of this system and all the water
in it. Get everyone to their
ships...

The Lieutenant acknowledges, runs off and Jabin again looks toward the sky, like a general anticipating a great battle, finally moves off after the Lieutenant...

132 EXT. OCAMPA COURTYARD 132

As our crew comes out of the hospital... Kes moves back to Daggin...

KES

They haven't been here since this
morning...

132 CONTINUED:

132

DAGGIN

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

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

JANEWAY

(to Kes)

If they were trying to get to the
surface, how would they go...?

KES

Perhaps the same way I tried... up
one of the access shafts that run
along the energy conduits...

JANEWAY

Mister Paris, go with her.

They acknowledge, move off... Neelix doesn't want to
leave the two of them alone for a second... chases
after them...

NEELIX

Wait, you might need an extra
hand...

And they're gone... to Tuvok and Chakotay --

JANEWAY

We need to talk to every doctor
and nurse at this hospital to find
out what they know about Kim and
Torres...

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

ROLLINS' COM VOICE

Voyager to Captain Janeway.

JANEWAY

Go ahead.

INTERCUT:

133 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

133

As before.

(CONTINUED)

133 CONTINUED:

133

ROLLINS

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

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

ROLLINS

(continuing)

It seems to be trying to seal the energy conduits to the Ocampa.

CHAKOTAY

If the Array is their sole source of energy, why would he seal the conduits...?

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

TUVOK

Perhaps the Caretaker has no more energy to give.

Janeway gives him a look.

TUVOK

Consider the evidence. We've been told the Array has recently increased its energy supply to provide the city with a large surplus for the future. Sealing off the conduits also seals off all access to the Ocampa and protects them from their enemies, the Gazon. Finally, there were the old man's frequent references to "running out of time."

CHAKOTAY

Do you think "running out of time" is another way of saying he's... dying?

TUVOK

It is a reasonable hypothesis.

JANEWAY

(reacts, a beat, mostly to herself)

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

(CONTINUED)

133 CONTINUED: (2) 133

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

134 INT. ACCESS SHAFT 134

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

KIM

Should we go back?

TORRES

There's nothing down there for us, Starfleet.

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

135 EXT. CAVE WALL 135

Paris, Neelix and Kes move along the same route taken by Torres and Kim... she leads them straight to the access shaft...

136 INT. ACCESS SHAFT 136

They ENTER... Paris takes out a tricorder and studies it... reacts...

PARIS

They're in here...

(calls up)

Harry!

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

PARIS

Paris to Janeway.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE

Go ahead.

PARIS

They're in an access shaft, Captain. I can't see them... but they're up there...

(CONTINUED)

136 CONTINUED: 136

They climb...

137 EXT. OCAMPA COURTYARD 137

Janeway, Tuvok, and Chakotay.

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

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

INTERCUT:

138 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE 138

ROLLINS
(furiously working
console)
Stand by...
(shakes head)
Captain... I can't get a lock on
you. The weapon fire from the
Array has irradiated the planet's
crust... the transport beam can't
penetrate it...

139 EXT. OCAMPA COURTYARD 139

Janeway reacts, to Chakotay and Tuvok...

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

They run out...

140 INT. ACCESS SHAFT 140

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

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
Janeway to Paris.

(CONTINUED)

140 CONTINUED:

140

PARIS
(out of breath)
Go ahead.

INTERCUTTING:

141 EXT. CAVEWALL

141

JANEWAY
The Transporters aren't working.
You're going to have to find
another way out when you get to
the top...

PARIS'S COM VOICE
Understood.

JANEWAY
We're a few minutes behind you.

PARIS'S COM VOICE
Captain, I see them!

Reactions and...

142 INT. ACCESS SHAFT - ANGLE UP

142

as they look up to see B'Elanna and Kim collapsed,
weakly at the top of the ladder... they move up to
their side...

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
Don't wait for us. Get them to
safety. Janeway out.

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

142 CONTINUED:

142

PARIS
(continuing)
Come on. We've gotta get out of here.

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

KES
This way.

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

143 INT. ACCESS SHAFT - LOWER

143

Near the entrance. Janeway, Tuvok and Chakotay ENTER and climb in a hurry...

144 INT. CAVE (OPTICAL)

144

Massive rocks block the way out... B'Elanna and Kim are lowered gently; Paris hands Neelix his small phaser...

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

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

145 EXT. SURFACE (OPTICAL)

145

As the rocks blow out... a moment later... the group struggles out, Torres and Kim all but dragged. Paris immediately hits his combadge.

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

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

PARIS
The others are...

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED: 145

He's interrupted by a huge explosion as a torpedo hits the nearby conduit... the cave they just came out of collapses...

146 INT. ACCESS SHAFT 146

Janeway, Chakotay and Tuvok are getting close to the top... when suddenly they look up and all hell's falling in on them... they disappear under the rubble... and the dust blocks off our view...

147 EXT. SURFACE (OPTICAL) 147

Paris reacts, hits his combadge...

PARIS

Paris to Janeway.

(beat, no response)

Chakotay, Tuvok, do you read?

Again, no response.

PARIS

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

NEELIX

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

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

NEELIX

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

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

PARIS

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

Kes, Kim and Torres DEMATERIALIZE.

148 INT. ACCESS SHAFT

148

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

CHAKOTAY

I can't move. My leg is broken.

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

JANEWAY

Help me with him.

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

149 ANGLE - THE STAIRCASE

149

Its connections to the cave wall rip apart...

150 THE STAIRCASE

150

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

CHAKOTAY

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

PARIS

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

CHAKOTAY

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

PARIS

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

(CONTINUED)

150 CONTINUED: 150

CHAKOTAY
Wrong tribe.

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

PARIS
I don't believe you.

151 OVERHEAD ANGLE - LOOKING DOWN THE SHAFT 151
- MATTE SHOT (OPTICAL)

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

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

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

152 RESUME 152

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

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

CHAKOTAY
You're too heavy.

153 ANGLE - AT THE TOP 153

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

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT NINE

ACT TEN

FADE IN:

154 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 154

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

155 INT. SICKBAY (OPTICAL) 155

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

ROLLINS' COM VOICE
Bridge to Janeway.

JANEWAY
Go ahead.

ROLLINS' COM VOICE
Captain, Gazon ships are attacking the Array.

JANEWAY
Set a course, Mister Rollins...
I'm on my way...

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

CHAKOTAY
(to B'Elanna)
We have to get to our ship.

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

ZIMMERMAN
I strongly advise you to rest...

But as Tuvok rises out of his care...

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

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

ZIMMERMAN
Is the crew always this difficult?

155 CONTINUED: 155

KIM

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

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

ZIMMERMAN

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

156 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE SICKBAY - CONTINUOUS 156

Janeway pauses to tell Kes and Neelix --

JANEWAY

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

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

NEELIX

Wait till you see how these people live.

The others move off...

157 INT. BRIDGE 157

as Janeway, Tuvok, Kim and Paris ENTER and move to their stations.

JANEWAY

Bring the weapon systems on line. Red alert.

158 EXT. SPACE - ARRAY (OPTICAL) 158

As Voyager and the Maquis ship arrive. The massive Array is under siege from two Gazon ships.

159 INT. BRIDGE 159

as before.

JANEWAY

Hail the lead Gazon ship.

Kim works his console.

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED: 159

KIM
Channel open.

JANEWAY
On screen.

160 ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) 160

as Jabin appears, speaking from his vessel.

JABIN
I hope you don't intend to
challenge us, Captain.

JANEWAY
Jabin, we have no dispute with
you... all we want is to get home.
Would you agree to a cease fire
while we board the Array?

JABIN
I have no intention of letting you
get control of the Array.

He ends the transmission... a moment later the ship
rocks as he opens fire on us.

TUVOK
Shields are holding. The Maquis
ship is returning fire.

JANEWAY
Fire phasers. Evasive pattern
delta four.

161 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 161

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

162 INT. MAQUIS SHIP 162

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

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
Janeway to Chakotay. Tuvok and I
are beaming to the Array. Can you
hold off the Gazon?

CHAKOTAY
I think so, Captain...

163 INT. BRIDGE

163

JANEWAY

Good. Mister Paris, you have the
Bridge.

And she and Tuvok head for the Turbolift...

164 EXT. FARMYARD - NIGHT

164

Janeway and Tuvok MATERIALIZE. The yard is dark, now,
and a wind is blowing eerily. The explosions and
shakes from the attack outside continue... it's a
strange, spooky atmosphere. They head once more for
the barn.

165 INT. BARN - NIGHT (OPTICAL)

165

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

TUVOK

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

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

JANEWAY

(to Tuvok)

You know what to do.

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

BANJO MAN

My time is ending.

JANEWAY

Are you dying?

BANJO MAN

(acknowledges)

Now, there will be no one to
protect the Ocampo.

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED:

165

JANEWAY

Why is it your responsibility to protect them?

BANJO MAN

We had no choice after the accident...

JANEWAY

(realizing)

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

The old man reacts, a bit surprised.

JANEWAY

(off his reaction)

We knew there'd been an environmental disaster... about the same time you arrived. Was that the debt that could never be repaid...?

BANJO MAN

(acknowledges)

We came from another galaxy to explore. We didn't know our technology would be so destructive.

(beat)

I was chosen to stay behind. Another of my kind stayed with me...

JANEWAY

There's another like you here...?

BANJO MAN

No longer. She tired of the responsibility and left... to explore.

JANEWAY

Why did you kidnap ships? And infect people with the illness?

He looks up at her, startled.

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED: (2)

165

BANJO MAN

Illness...? No, no... it was my
duty... to provide a
replacement... someone who could
continue to care for the Ocampo...
so I searched the galaxy for
anyone with a DNA template
compatible with my own...

JANEWAY

Compatible with your own...

Janeway stares at him, beginning to understand.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

The growths on our people were
sporocystian... just like the
lifesigns we found here...

Her mind struggles with it, but it's the only answer.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

You were trying to procreate...?

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

BANJO MAN

In some species I found a DNA
sequence that was similar... but
none that was identical. Every
attempt failed.

(terribly worried)

I have been dedicated to the
Ocampo for a millennium. How will
they survive without me?

JANEWAY

(a beat, with much
sympathy)

Most of the species we've
encountered have found ways to
survive on their own. It's the
challenge of survival that helps
them to evolve.

(beat)

Maybe the Ocampo will do better
than you think.

PARIS'S COM VOICE

Paris to Janeway.

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED: (3) 165

JANEWAY
Go ahead.

PARIS'S COM VOICE
We've got problems here.

166 INT. BRIDGE 166

All hell is breaking loose. Paris is at conn... Kim at
Ops... the ship is taking serious hits...

PARIS
(continuing)
The Gazon just got some back-up...

167 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 167

under attack by a HUGE Gazon ship -- an eight hundred
pound gorilla weighing in against our guys. We're
taking a beating...

168 INT. BARN 168

JANEWAY
Status of the Maquis ship...?

INTERCUTTING:

169 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) 169

Seeing the Maquis ship fighting the other two Gazon
ships...

PARIS
Holding their own, Captain.

170 INT. MAQUIS BRIDGE 170

As Chakotay and Torres fight their battles and monitor
the communications... Blasts continue to rock their
ship...

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
We need more time.

PARIS'S COM VOICE
Understood. We'll do our best...
Paris out.

(CONTINUED)

170 CONTINUED:

170

CHAKOTAY

He's in trouble.

B'Elanna moves up to look...

171 ANGLE - OVER THEIR SHOULDERS (OPTICAL)

171

to see Voyager trying in vain to evade the huge ship...

PARIS' COM VOICE

Evasive pattern delta five...

Voyager takes a bad hit...

KIM'S COM VOICE

Shields down to twenty-one percent. Structural damage on decks seven and nine... casualties on all decks...

TORRES

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

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

CHAKOTAY

Set a collision course... get the crew ready to beam to Voyager...

TORRES

We're not going without you.

CHAKOTAY

I'll tell Paris to beam me out just before impact...

Torres reluctantly moves away to prepare the crew as we push into Chakotay's intense face... he hits a panel...

CHAKOTAY

Paris, my crew is coming over. Tell one of your crackerjack Starfleet transporter chiefs to keep a lock on me. I'm going to try and take some heat off your tail.

PARIS'S COM VOICE

Acknowledged. But don't think for a second this gets us even.

(MORE)

171 CONTINUED: 171

PARIS'S COM VOICE (Cont'd)
Your life is still mine, (Indian
swear word). Paris out.

Chakotay mutters something in his native language to himself that suggests he is not happy about that one bit.

172 EXT. SPACE - MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) 172

as it turns and then begins a kamikaze run directly at the Gazon ship, which opens fire with everything.

173 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 173

As they stare at the Viewscreen, Torres comes hurrying onto the Bridge from the Turbolift. They watch the Maquis ship hurtle toward the Gazon monster, taking hits, beginning to burn...

PARIS
I'm getting you out of there,
Chakotay...

INTERCUTTING:

174 INT. MAQUIS SHIP 174

The cockpit filling with smoke and fire...

CHAKOTAY
Not yet.

Another few agonizing seconds as the Maquis ship rocks with concussions.

PARIS' COM VOICE
You're breaking up... stand-by to
transport...

CHAKOTAY
Wait!

175 ANGLE - OVER HIS SHOULDER (OPTICAL) 175

to see him moving within a breath of the Gazon ship... and just as you can see the whites of the other crew's eyes...

CHAKOTAY
Now!

175 CONTINUED: 175

Just as he DEMATERIALIZES we see the collision and the explosive fire roars through the window and balloons in our faces...

176 EXT. SPACE - MAQUIS SHIP (OPTICAL) 176

as the Maquis ship plows right into the huge ship, exploding in a violent fireball.

177 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM 177

where a singed and sooty Chakotay steps off the pad.

PARIS'S COM VOICE
Transporter Room Two -- do you
have him?

Chakotay walks to the Transporter Chief and hits a companel on the console --

CHAKOTAY
They've got me.

Chakotay pats the Transporter Chief on the back with appreciation, EXITS.

178 EXT. SPACE - GAZON SHIP (OPTICAL) 178

burning wildly... drifting... closer and closer to the Array...

179 INT. BARN (OPTICAL) 179

moving with Tuvok as he joins Janeway and the old man.

TUVOK
I can access the system to send us
back to Federation space, but it
will take several hours to
activate...

JANEWAY
(to old man)
Unless you help us...

He studies her sadly...

(CONTINUED)

179 CONTINUED:

179

BANJO MAN

I have very little time left. The Gazon must not be allowed to control this installation. I must not die and leave it intact. I have initiated a termination program.

JANEWAY

If you destroy the Array, we have no way to get home.

BANJO MAN

I'm sorry. In minutes, all this will be destroyed. You must leave.

Tuvok and Janeway exchange a glance...

180 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

180

The impact of the explosion has carried the huge burning Gazon ship into the Array... it explodes on impact, seriously damaging a wing of the Array.

181 EXT. FARMYARD - NIGHT (OPTICAL)

181

as flames begin to erupt throughout the yard... shaking with the impact of the Gazon ship.

182 INT. BARN (OPTICAL)

182

Shaking. Sounds of explosions, machinery being wrecked off camera. The old man is slowly fading away...

JANEWAY

(hits combadge)

Voyager, report!

183 INT. BRIDGE

183

PARIS

A Gazon vessel just collided with the Array, Captain... are you all right?

184 INT. BARN (OPTICAL)

184

JANEWAY
Affirmative. Stand-by.

The old man is now almost faded away... he looks horrified by the turn of the events...

BANJO MAN
The termination program... has been... damaged.
(beat)
The Gazon... must not gain control... of this installation... they will... destroy the Ocampa...

He fades out completely this time... After a beat, the entire fantasy fades away with him. In its place, a small alien tech chamber. Clearly, the entity is dead.

TUVOK
Shall I activate the program to get us back...?

Janeway regards him pensively. The old man's pledge to protect the Ocampa is weighing on her.

JANEWAY
And what happens to the Ocampa after we're gone?

Tuvok realizes what she's thinking...

TUVOK
(in personal, not 'official', tones)
Captain, any action we take to protect the Ocampa would affect the balance of power in this system. The Prime Directive would seem to apply.

JANEWAY
(thoughtful)
Would it? We never asked to be involved, Tuvok. But we are. We are.

Push to Janeway. A long beat. She weighs the alternatives.

JANEWAY
Away team to Voyager. Two to transport.

(CONTINUED)

184 CONTINUED: 184

As Tuvok reacts, they DEMATERIALIZE.

185 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE 185

The fight with the Gazon continues as Janeway and Tuvok come from the Turbolift. The shaking from phaser fire and the pop of torpedoes against our shields continues throughout. Janeway is calm and decisive. Chakotay has come to the Bridge and stands by B'Elanna. Paris and Kim are on the Bridge, and have been joined by Chakotay and Torres.

JANEWAY

Mister Tuvok, ready a tricobalt device...

TUVOK

Aye, Captain.

JANEWAY

Open a channel to the Gazon.

KIM

Channel open.

186 ANGLE (OPTICAL) - INCLUDE THE VIEWSCREEN 186

JABIN

Be advised, Captain... I have called for additional ships. Unless you yield the Array to us...

JANEWAY

(interrupting)

I'm calling to warn you to move your vessels to a safe distance. I intend to destroy the Array.

This gets reactions from her own crew as well as Jabin...

JABIN

You can't do that...

JANEWAY

I can and I will. End transmission.

Jabin is wiped off the screen. The weapons fire grows more intense.

(CONTINUED)

186 CONTINUED:

186

KIM

They're increasing fire, Captain.
Shields are holding.

JANEWAY

Move us four hundred kilometers
from the Array, Mister Paris.

Paris reacts to all this, but he's on the team now.

PARIS

Yes, Ma'am.

Torres can't believe this.

TORRES

What are you doing? That Array is
the only way we have to get back
home --

JANEWAY

(calm, simple)

I'm not willing to trade the lives
of the Ocampo for our...
convenience. We'll have to find
another way home.

TORRES

What other way home is there?

She starts to move to confront Janeway physically, but
Chakotay holds her back. She turns to him...

TORRES

Who is she to be making these
decisions for all of us?

CHAKOTAY

(simply)

She's the Captain.

TUVOK

The tricobalt device is ready.

PARIS

In position.

JANEWAY

Fire.

187 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ARRAY (OPTICAL) 187

Voyager fires and hits the Array... the Array ruptures in a monumental explosion which flings chunks of burning debris miles into space. Past the Gazon ships that no longer bother fighting...

188 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 188

And on the Bridge, everyone stares silently at the Viewscreen, watching the last chance they had of getting home vanish before their eyes. It is a long, quiet moment.

KIM

The lead Gazon ship is hailing us.

JANEWAY

On screen.

JABIN

(low key, cold)

You have made an enemy today.

He ends the transmission.

TUVOK

They are withdrawing, Captain.

On Janeway's reaction...

189 INT. READY ROOM - A SHORT WHILE LATER (OPTICAL) 189

A photograph of Mark and Janeway and a big huggable dog are on the monitor... but she is not looking at them... she's looking toward the stars in her window, thinking about the future, sharing the loneliness that every member of her crew must feel. A chime at the door. She moves back to her desk and turns off the monitor.

JANEWAY

Come in.

Chakotay ENTERS.

CHAKOTAY

You asked to see me, Captain?

JANEWAY

Are your people satisfied with their quarters?

(CONTINUED)

189 CONTINUED:

189

CHAKOTAY

More than satisfied. Some of them expected to be shown to the brig.

JANEWAY

That wouldn't make much sense under the circumstances, would it? Sit down.

He does.

JANEWAY

Your crew and mine are going to have to work together... if we're going to survive and get back safely...

CHAKOTAY

I'm sure my people will be willing to help whenever they're called on.

JANEWAY

I'm calling on them now. I think we should all be part of one crew.

Chakotay reacts.

CHAKOTAY

Captain, these are people who considered Starfleet their enemy a couple of days ago...

JANEWAY

I know that.

CHAKOTAY

I understand the discipline it takes to run a Starship. Not many of them do.

JANEWAY

That's why I thought it might be a smart idea to appoint you Voyager's first officer.

Chakotay reacts, he's touched and yet sees the humor in this. A beat.

CHAKOTAY

The Federation considers me an outlaw. Would you --

(CONTINUED)

189 CONTINUED: (2)

189

JANEWAY

...I'd restore your commission as Lieutenant Commander. And give your crew appropriate positions.

(beat, she studies his reaction)

And when we get home, I'll do everything I can to convince Federation authorities --

CHAKOTAY

Thank you, but if we get back to Federation space, my crew and I won't be staying to meet with the authorities.

There's tacit agreement in that... if there is any doubt, he gives a quick nod. Accepted.

JANEWAY

There's one thing more. Tom Paris has earned a second chance at a commission as far as I'm concerned. I'm planning on making him a Lieutenant and assigning him to Conn. Any objections?

CHAKOTAY

I should object. Unfortunately, my life belongs to him.

She smiles.

JANEWAY

Then it's agreed.

They rise and move to the door which opens as they approach to reveal Kes and Neelix gathering up the courage to ring the bell. They look up, startled.

NEELIX

Ah, Captain, we were just coming to see you.

JANEWAY

We've supplied your ship with water, Neelix. It's ready to go.

NEELIX

Well, you see... that's what we wanted to discuss. We'd like to go with you.

(CONTINUED)

189 CONTINUED: (3)

189

JANEWAY
(smiling)
I'm sorry. This isn't a passenger
ship --

KES
Of course not. We won't be
passengers --

NEELIX
-- we'll be valuable colleagues.

CHAKOTAY
Colleagues?

NEELIX
Whatever you need is what I have
to offer. You need a guide -- I'm
your guide. You need supplies --
I know where to procure them -- I
have friends among races you don't
even know exist. You need a cook --
you haven't lived until you've
tasted my angla'bosque. It will
be my job to anticipate your needs
before you know you have them.
And I anticipate your first need
will be me.

Janeway looks at Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY
It would be a good idea to have a
guide.

Janeway has to concur. And Neelix hurries to add --

NEELIX
And where I go, she goes.

Kes can speak for herself and does so --

KES
In my own way, I'm an explorer,
Captain. On my world, exploration
meant defying the Caretaker just
to see the sun shine. I took that
chance because I had to. My
father taught me that the greatest
thing an Ocampa can do is to open
her mind to all the experiences
and challenges that life has to
offer.

(CONTINUED)

189 CONTINUED: (4)

189

She smiles at them.

KES

(continuing)

I can't begin to imagine where this ship might take us. I know I will never see my homeworld again.

(beat)

But I want very much to be part of your journey.

Janeway, touched, can only nod. How can she refuse someone who speaks to the heart of the Starfleet philosophy?

NEELIX

(with fierce pride)

Isn't she remarkable?

190 INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

190

Janeway standing; Kim at Ops, Tuvok at Tactical, Paris, with Lieutenant's pips, sits at Conn. Chakotay at the First Officer's position, Torres at the Engineering station -- both in Starfleet uniforms. Neelix and Kes are in civilian clothes -- Neelix's as tasteless as ever. Janeway is addressing the crew assembled for the first time.

JANEWAY

We're alone in an uncharted part of the galaxy. We've already made some friends here...

(acknowledges Neelix and Kes)

And some enemies. We have no idea of the dangers we'll face as we try to get home.

The Captain paces the deck, laying out the plan.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

But we're going to function like a Starfleet crew. We'll set a course toward the Federation... and we'll continue to explore space.

She looks at all her people, those who will bond during this journey.

(CONTINUED)

190 CONTINUED:

190

JANEWAY

(continuing)

At maximum speeds, it would take
seventy-five years to reach
Federation space...

(beat)

But I'm not willing to settle for
that. There's another entity like
the Caretaker out there somewhere
who has the ability to send us
back. We're going to find her.
And if we don't, we'll find a
wormhole, a spatial rift or some
new technology to help us.
Somewhere, along this journey --
we'll find a way back.

There is a silence as the Bridge crew absorbs this.

JANEWAY

Mister Paris, set a course... for
home.

PARIS

Aye, Captain.

191 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

191

as it goes into warp. Heading back.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TEN

THE END