

STAR TREK: VOYAGER
>Black Hole Sun<

TEASER

FADE IN:

- 1 External Space - Delta Flyer
The Delta Flyer passes by. We hear the voice of TOM PARIS.
PARIS' VOICE (V.O.)
Delta Flyer's Log, Lt. Tom Paris, Stardate XXXXX.X
Lt. Torres and I have just completed an important diplomatic mission, in which we exchanged some technological knowledge for dilithium crystals. This mission was extremely important for the continuing voyage because Voyager's dilithium crystals will be consumed in a few weeks though their habits were quite nerving ...
- 2 Internal Delta Flyer
In the cockpit of the Delta Flyer we see Lt. TOM PARIS sitting at the consoles and is leaning back in order to see Lt. B'ELANNA TORRES who is sitting in the back area of this tiny vessel. They are in the middle of a conversation.
TORRES
(amused)
... and then they kept on telling me how smart I was at every step of my explanation and they thanked me without stopping. They embraced me, shook my hands and even kissed me the whole time.

PARIS
I hope you didn't broke their noses, did you ??? But I believe they would have thanked you for that, too.

TORRES
Definitely. Perhaps I would have done that, if they had thanked me one more time.

PARIS
It's nice when you're getting respect and appreciation but not in such extends. You know, I had to distribute the food and every time I distributed a single corn of rice they fell around my neck. OK, it's fine that you get a 'Thank You' and get admired, but with this Woorians you get the feeling you're the biggest god in the universe.

TORRES
(funny)
Well, when we arrive back home, I'll build a temple for your holiness and become your high priest.

PARIS
Yeah, home...
(pauses)
- 3 Paris stands up, goes to the shuttle's back area and sits down in front of B'Elanna.

PARIS
Do you have time tomorrow evening ? I've written a new holonovel. During the last month I've browsed a little bit through the cultural database and I've found an old, late 20th century film. It's about...

TORRES

Hey you're becoming more and more a holodeck addict. At first you brought ancient cars to the surfaces of strange planets, then you nearly began a rebellion with Seska, you wanted to write a new doctor program and in the end this Captain Future stuff...

PARIS

You know, everyone needs a hobby. However, this story is about a peasant who fights against a large, inhumane government, their soldiers and his dark and evil father. I've already asked Harry to play the main part.

TORRES

(surprised)

What ?? You are not the main actor ?

PARIS

No, I'll take the part of a pirate who falls in love with the peasant's sister who is a princess.

TORRES

I suppose you're going to ask me, if I'd like to be that princess.

PARIS

(jokingly)

I didn't know that one of your ancestors was a betazoid.

TORRES

(nerved)

I don't know, don't you have another programs?

PARIS

What about a recreation of a flangdorian disco?? I could make a long list of songs we can dance to. Perhaps a little bit of Tango, Lambada, or rather the old repertoire with some Rock 'n' Roll. Perhaps we could make the music ourselves. I can play a little bit the guitar and the Delaney sisters could play a drum duet...

TORRES

(convinced)

OK, OK, I've thought about it, I'll be this princess.

PARIS

That's what I wanted to hear.

She looks at him in a strange way.

PARIS

But you don't play a soft princess, you can be yourself. She is as full of life (powerful) as you.

TORRES

Good.

PARIS

I'm looking forward to see Chakotay who plays Harry's father. I believe he'll be the perfect bad guy. He's going to wear a black, dark dress...

Suddenly the Delta Flyer begins to shake around.

4 Paris and Torres immediately stand up and go to their stations in front of the tiny ship.

PARIS

It seems we're being attacked by alien ships.

TORRES

I thought you had installed a sensitive early warning system.

PARIS

I did, but it seems this guys have some kind of cloaking device, diversion matrix or any other goddamned system.

A console explodes in the cockpit. Torres falls from her chair and has a little flesh wound.

5 Paris looks worried at Torres.

TORRES

I'll be fine, it's just a little flesh wound. I'll survive it.

Another console explodes in the background. The ship shakes more and more. Torres stands up and gets to her chair again.

PARIS

Computer, open a channel to the attacking ship. This is the Federation star ship Delta Flyer. We are on a peaceful mission. Please stop your attack immediately.

They hear a strange voice over their speakers.

ALIEN VOICE (V.O.)

You have unauthorized entered trubarian space. For this aggressive act you have to face the consequences. End of transmission.

TORRES

Friendly.

Another console explodes.

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Shields down to 47 per cent.

PARIS

I don't believe it. (to B'Ellana) There you're sitting 2 months for hours in the shuttle bay to build this little piece of wonder and then it gets blown to pieces during a simple mission. Not with me. They wanted it the hard way, they get it the hard way.

He presses some buttons.

6 External Space - Delta Flyer

The Delta Flyer fires several phaser shots. The Delta Flyer is still at Warp speed.

7 Internal Delta Flyer

TORRES

They come closer and closer.

Another console explodes.

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Shields down to 11 per cent.

PARIS

Perhaps I should have installed more shield generators.

Another console explodes.

TORRES

Er... Tom, what about contacting Voyager ??

PARIS

I already did that, but those guys are jamming the transmission. I'll keep on trying.

(pauses)

At last I'm getting clear readings. We're being attacked by 9 ships. It seems we've just stepped into a little party. Now, take this, you, you ... something.

8 EXTERNAL SPACE - ALIEN SHIP

A phaser shot fired by the Delta Flyer destroys the alien ship. It bursts in a large explosion.

9 INTERNAL - DELTA FLYER

PARIS

One down, 8 to go. How long till we reach Voyager ??

TORRES

Still one hour.

PARIS

Damn.

Another console explodes.

10 EXTERNAL Space - DELTA FLYER

The Delta Flyer leaves Subspace, drops out of Warp.

11 INTERNAL - DELTA FLYER

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Warp engines are damaged and offline. Impulse engines are heavily damaged and offline.

PARIS

Uh, Oh, I have a bad feeling about this !!

TORRES

(astonished)

What the hell is that ???

12 INTERNAL - DELTA FLYER

DIFFERENT ANGLE (from behind their seats; to look out of the "window") (VISUAL)

We see that the ship is closing to a Black Hole.

PARIS

This seems to be a black hole. But that's impossible. Normally you have to fly around a black hole in subspace to avoid any damages. But the sensors didn't show any signs of this black hole before.

TORRES

But we used the same route on our way there. We should have noticed it.

PARIS

I don't know but our new friends seem to be afraid of this thing. They hold their position relative to the Black Hole's drawing force.

13 INTERNAL - DELTA FLYER

FORMER ANGLE

TORRES

That's wise.

PARIS

Well, we're directly in it.

TORRES

That's not wise. By the way, has the Federation ever examined or cartographed such a phenomenon ?

PARIS

I suppose yes. I believe, one ship flew through it once.

TORRES

If I might to ask the question, what was the result ?

PARIS

You don't wanna know...

TORRES

Uh... Er... It may be a very bad moment, but as it seems that we're about to come a little bit closer to Sto-Vo-Kor, I want to tell you something: I love you.

14

INTERNAL - DELTA FLYER (VISUAL)

ANGLE FROM BEHIND (just like Scene 11)

The Black Hole is getting closer and closer.

She grabs his hand. Tom's head turns his head and looks at her face.

PARIS

I know.

The black hole draws the ship faster and faster and when it reaches the perimeter the cockpit and the outside view becomes completely dark. We can only see the console's lights.

FADE TO BLACK

MAIN TITLE SEQUENCE

ACT I

FADE IN

15

INTERNAL - DELTA FLYER

Torres and Paris are lying unconsciously in the Delta Flyer. Lights of the consoles are blinking. In the shuttle there's dim light, smoke is coming out of the various consoles, there are also little sparks. After some seconds Torres and Paris wake up very slowly.

PARIS

(holds his head)

Oh, my head is roaring. How are you, B'Elanna ?

TORRES

Except this little gong inside my brain, I feel fine.

Paris stands up and takes a Tricorder.

PARIS

Let me see. Beside your little flesh wound on your head you have a sprained hand. Try to avoid any hard movements with your hand in the next few days.

TORRES

Well, it's not that much bad. But how are you ?

PARIS

According to those readings I'm fine. But my stomach hurts.

TORRES

You should have eaten something.

PARIS

I wanted to lose some pounds. Last week I've spent all of my replicator rations I spared during the last few weeks for a juicy pepperoni pizza with many olives and tomatoes and lots of other stuff every day and so I decided to become as thin as the week before last week.

The both of them stand up and get to their seats in the cockpit.

PARIS

Let's see where we are now after we have been on that ... roller coaster.

The both of them press some buttons.

TORRES

The sensors are either blown or we are more than 6000 light-years away from our last position.

PARIS

(adding)

That would extend our journey 6 more years, if this black hole isn't still there.

He presses some other buttons.

PARIS

Unfortunately it is gone. We are over 6 years away from Voyager.

TORRES

(worried, shocked)

What about the ship itself ??

PARIS

It doesn't look good. The shield systems are heavily damaged, the impulse and warp engines are offline and

(pauses)

thank god, the life support system is just slightly damaged.

TORRES

At least we can breathe.

PARIS

Yeah, or our new journey wouldn't last very long. The sensors are still working, at least our long range sensors.

(pauses)

I'm detecting signs of an inhabited class-M-planet in this system.

But there is one thing that wonders me is that there seems to be no stable end to this black hole.

TORRES

What do you mean ???

PARIS

(trapped, caught in the act)

Normally a black hole is used to be some kind of wormhole which is ... er ... a passage to ... ehm...

TORRES

I seems to me that there's someone who didn't pay attention at the academy.

PARIS

I'm a pilot, not a physicist. You don't know it, too, do you ??

TORRES

(excusing)

You know exactly that this topic came in the third academy year and I believe you should know that at that time I haven't been there. But I do have a more general knowledge about it. It isn't a very specific knowledge.

PARIS

I forgot, but at that time I rather occupied myself with my female classmates than with physical laws or figures. In such cases I cheat a little bit and ask (to the imaginary computer voice): Computer, please give me the definition of a black hole.

COMPUTER'S VOICE

According to the collected information of several probes and the results of several exploration missions a black hole is a large figure with a great drawing force and which is able to swallow light. A body next to a black hole perceives time different than a body outside the area of effect. A black hole is possibly some kind of wormhole to another time, dimension or location.

PARIS

Computer, stop. Please define the word 'possibly'.

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

All ships or probes that have examined this singularity entered the drawing area and are either destroyed by the force or reported missing. That's why the evasion of a black hole is the first chapter in the performance course of piloting a space ship.

TORRES

(surprised, looks at Paris)

First chapter ?? I thought you were quote 'the best man for this job' unquote as Voyager's pilot and you don't know what a black hole is ?

PARIS

(excusing)

OK, OK, I just kept in mind, that those things are dangerous and nothing more and I have to say that I had other, female study objects.

TORRES

So, then I believe I'm just another study object for you, am I not ?

PARIS

Honestly said, your my professorial council and my doctor work in one.

TORRES

Thank you.

PARIS

Thanks also to you, computer.

TORRES

You're welcome.

TORRES

You really installed a friendship subroutine ???

PARIS

Yes, I thought it would make a conversation more pleasant and human. By the way, did you feel a different, changed feeling of time ??

TORRES

No, did you ?

PARIS

Neither did I. Computer: Did our entry into the black hole have any effect on the ship's chronometers ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Sensor logs do not show any indication of deviation or anomalies in the ship's chronometers.

PARIS

Perhaps had an effect on our cell division.

Paris takes his tricorder and examines himself and Torres.

PARIS

There are no signs of a decreased mitosis effected by this black hole. Perhaps it wasn't a black hole. Perhaps the people on that planet... (pauses) Yes, of course, how stupid I am.

TORRES

I know that you are stupid, what's the point ??

Paris turns his head to Torres and stares angrily at her.

TORRES

I'm just kidding...

PARIS

Computer, is there a sun in this system ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Yes.

PARIS

Are the sensor logs still intact ? If yes, has there been a sun in the system we met the black hole ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

According to the sensor logs there was a sun in this specific system.

PARIS

What about planets ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Positive.

TORRES

(questioning)

Would you like to tell me what you're really up to ?

PARIS

I just remembered something I would refer to as the arising tale of the black holes. Computer, why didn't you tell me that before ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

You've interrupted the definition before it was completed.

PARIS

Well, it doesn't matter. If I remember correctly, a black hole is the result of an out-burned sun which destroys all planets in a system. Ergo if the planets do still exist and so does the sun, how do you explain this black hole then ? Computer ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Unknown.

PARIS

Possible explanation ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

This black hole is some kind of wormhole, like the bajoran.

TORRES

Could this wormhole be stable ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Unknown.

PARIS

That means, we have to have a more closer look at this thing. Unfortunately all engines are heavily damaged, that means, we have to repair them. But soon we could contact to this planet.

Paris presses some buttons.

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Because of heavily damages the com system is offline.

PARIS

What system isn't completely defective on this damned ship ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

The main computer, the life support system, the long range sensors, the initial dampers ...

PARIS

(interrupting, angry)

Computer, shut up! Well, it seems that my reparations list is quite longer than I expected. But I have to get out, out of the ship.

TORRES

Look out, I don't think I'll survive 36 years alone with this computer.

PARIS

I didn't intend to get out alone, at least your are the chief engineer of the Federation starship Voyager. Together we could shorten the work.

TORRES

But I don't like strolls in space in general. You remember our little glided excursion 2 years ago ?

PARIS

But this time the shuttle is still functional, at least partial and we're not being pursued.

TORRES

But this time there's no Voyager that could help us out of this miserable situation.

The both of them stare at each other. Just like the both of them would know, they are going to die. They put on their space suits and go to the air lock.

INTRNAL VOYAGER - A normal corridor

COMMANDER CHAKOTAY is walking through the corridors, heading towards the bridge. Suddenly ENSIGN HARRY KIM comes closer to Chakotay, running.

KIM

(cries)

Commander, Commander.

Chakotay stops, turns around and waits for Harry.

CHAKOTAY

Yes, Harry, what can I do for you ?

KIM

Have you been called to the bridge, too ?

CHAKOTAY

Yes.

KIM

Good, now that we're going to the bridge together, I wanted to ask you, if you'll come to the holodeck tomorrow evening.

CHAKOTAY

Honestly seid, I'm not quite fond of being the bad guy and wearing this curious monster-like costume. But because you're playing my son and I can do so many mysterious things, you can count on me.

KIM

Good.

The both now reach the turbolift and enter it. The doors close.

INTERNAL VOYAGER - BRIDGE

On the bridge we see CAPTAIN KATHRYN JANEWAY standing in front of her seat extremely worried. Lt. COMMANDER TUVOK is behind his usual station also quite worried even though he's a vulcan. At that time the turbolift doors open and Chakotay and Kim enter the bridge. Kim goes to his stations. Chakotay goes to Janeway.

JANEWAY

Are there really no signs of them ?

TUVOK

NO.

JANEWAY

What about warp signatures ?

TUVOK

I'm detecting little signs of warp signatures 3 light years distant from our current position.

CHAKOTAY

(ignorant, not knowing what's happening)

What's going on ? Why have we been called to the bridge ?

JANEWAY

The Delta Flyer has disappeared.

Chakotay and Kim are both stunned and shocked.

CHAKOTAY

(shocked)

What means disappeared ? Are they too late or ...

JANEWAY

(interrupting)

We heard from the Woorians that their long range sensors indicated signs of a battle between the Delta Flyer and suddenly appearing ships. After that all involved ships suddenly disappeared, including the Delta Flyer.

CHAKOTAY

(still shocked)

My god.

JANEWAY

Con, set a course to the last position of the Delta Flyer. We'll have to examine that region a little bit closer. (to the Intercom) Janeway to Seven of Nine.

SEVEN (V.O.)

(over intercom)

Go ahead.

JANEWAY

I want you and Harry to go to the astrometric laboratory and try to follow their flight route.

SEVEN (V.O.)

(over intercom)

As you wish.

JANEWAY

(to Kim)

Harry!

Kim leaves his station and goes back to the turbo lift. The turbo lift doors close and we see all crewmen on the bridge worried and very sad and depressed.

INTERNAL VOYAGER - ASTROMESTIC LABORATORY

SEVEN OF NINE stands in front of the consoles, yet, and presses some buttons. The doors open and Harry enters. He is very depressed and goes without saying a single word to another consoles and presses several buttons. But he gets more and more angry. He races from one console to another while Seven just watches and studies him. Suddenly Harry stands in front of Seven angrily.

KIM

(angry)

What's the matter, Seven ? Do you want to help me or not ? I can also do this work without your help.

Seven is wondered by his sudden change of mind and goes back to her console but she keeps monitoring Harry. But he recognizes that Seven watches him.

KIM

(more angry)

You had been given a direct order by the captain ! I don't need somebody who just stands around and does nothing.

SEVEN

You have a current behavior that doesn't fit in your normal pattern. You are irritable, nervous. You don't let anyone to yourself and overwork yourself.

KIM

(convinced)

You're right, Seven. I'm sorry that I've shouted at you.

SEVEN

Apology accepted, please reason your behavior.

KIM

You know, Tom Paris was ...(pauses)... is my best friend. He's probably the best friend I've ever had. In my youth I didn't have had many friends, I've always been teased by my classmates, because I was more intelligent then they were. You don't know what a hard time my youth was for me. That's why I withdrew internally. And I made the same experiences on the academy. I locked myself away from my environment until I met Libby.

SEVEN

That was your companion on earth, wasn't she ?

KIM

Yes. At that time I made more friends and then I got transferred to Voyager and I met Tom. He cared for me as if he was my bigger brother. He even helped me out of very bad situations and sometimes even saved my life. I owe him a lot. But on this ship life is very, very dangerous. Every dead crewman is a heavy beat against the family. I don't know if you noticed it but everyone on the ship felt bad when Kes left Voyager. That was at that time you just came aboard Voyager. Kes was somewhat like the soul of the ship and it's the same with Tom and B'Elanna. They are important persons onboard the ship, the community needs them and I need them, too, because they are my best friends. That's why I'll do everything to rescue them.

SEVEN

I understand. Would you do something similar for me, too ?

KIM

Definitely.

SEVEN

Even if I am a Borg ?

KIM

Yes, because you mean a lot to me, too.

SEVEN

You know, on the Borg cube and in the collective there has never been such aspects of camaraderie and friendship. At that time, my link to the collective was just severed, I thought those aspects of humanity were weakly and soft. But now, after I have been a independent human being for some time, I'm beginning to understand those things and I hope that some people would care for me, too.

KIM

There's at least one and around 130 others on that ship. Well, do you want to help me now finding Tom and B'Elanna ?

SEVEN

Yes.

KIM

OK, then let us begin. Recalibrate the sensor's matrix. Perhaps we can pull more out of the sensors. If we changed the solution and the scattering of the sensors we could...

Suddenly the ship shakes heavily and interrupts Kim. We see red alarm signals going on and out.

JANEWAY (V.O.)

(over intercom)

Ensign Kim and Seven of Nine immediately to the bridge. We are under attack.

Kim and Seven leave the Laboratory.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I.

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXTERNAL VIEW - VOYAGER

Voyager is pursued by several attacking ships. Voyager fires several phaser shots and only hit the ships' shields.

INTERNAL VIEW - BRIDGE

TUVOK

We're being attacked by 6 ships of unknown origin and classification.

JANEWAY

Hail them !

ALIEN VOICE (V.O.)

You have unauthorized entered trubarian space. For this aggressive act you have to face the consequences. End of transmission.

JANEWAY

Well, they don't want to negotiate.

(to Tuvok)

Tuvok, target the weapons system of the ship that seems to be their leading ship.

EXTERNAL VIEW - VOYAGER

We see several shots missed the target and then one shot manages to knock out the weapons system of the leading ship.

INTERNAL VIEW - BRIDGE

TUVOK

Their weapons system have been disabled. The other 5 are still in pursue and keep on firing at us.

JANEWAY

Try to knock out the weapons systems of every single ship!

TUVOK

Captain, the attacking ships have stopped pursuing us, they are in retreat.

JANEWAY

Why did they...

KIM

(interrupting)

Captain, you won't believe it, but there arises a black hole directly ahead of us.

(Viewscreen - suddenly the black hole arises)

TUVOK

We're getting into the drawing force of the black hole.

CHAKOTAY

That's odd. A black hole never appears from one moment to another. It must have been there before.

JANEWAY

Even this phenomenon is very odd, I don't want to get pulled into it. Con, go to Maximum Warp. We've have to get out of here.

EXTERNAL VIEW - VOYAGER

Voyager turns around and goes to Warp.

INTERNAL VIEW - Bridge

TUVOK

We have escaped the phenomenon.

CHAKOTAY

Could it be that the Delta Flyer could have happened the same thing.

TUVOK

The possibility exists.

KIM

But a black hole never appears so suddenly as if it were a wormhole. The development of a black hole is a process that lasts within several hours, days or weeks but within a fraction of a second.

TUVOK

Ensign Kim is right. Furthermore, sensors indicate that the planets and the sun in the system we met the phenomenon are still existing. I must also say that the phenomenon has suddenly disappeared.

JANEWAY

(surprised)

A black hole that suddenly appears and suddenly vanishes, I always thought it was impossible, but it seems that we just met again a phenomenon starfleet scientist declared impossible.

(to Seven)

Seven, did the Borg once found a similar phenomenon ?

SEVEN

No.

JANEWAY

That's odd. But what about our 'friends', were they pulled into this black hole ?

TUVOK

They have disappeared, too, but not in the black hole but with it at the same time. They held a position where they couldn't get pulled in. But they vanished at the same as the black hole vanished. I've also found a pattern in their attack. They tried to hit our propulsion systems.

CHAKOTAY

Then that was a trap.

JANEWAY

(summing up)

Those aliens suddenly appear, then try to knock out our engines, then leave, suddenly a large object with a great drawing force appears and suddenly this phenomenon and those aliens vanish as if they were sangdurian run mice.

CHAKOTAY

If they managed to disable our engines...

JANEWAY

(completes)

then we were pulled into this black hole could have said arrivederci as Master Leonardo would say. This attack and this object have definitely something in common. Harry, Seven, Tuvok go down to Astrometrics and try to find more information. Chakotay, open a channel to the Woorians, perhaps they know something about this thing.

CHAKOTAY

Channels open, you may speak.

INTERNAL VIEW - DELTA FLYER

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

No response to our hails.

PARIS

Has the message being received ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

Unknown.

TORRES

Perhaps the communication systems are still damaged.

PARIS

No, they are fully functional.

TORRES

Perhaps this is a retarded civilization.

PARIS

No, I'm receiving data that show they have definitely knowledge about space flight and other technologies, according to the expansion of their cities and their satellite network.

TORRES

How long does it take to reach this planet ?

PARIS

With full impulse 16 hours and 31 minutes. With maximum warp several seconds.

TORRES

What are we waiting for ?

PARIS

I don't know. Then this little steam boat makes a little journey.

TORRES

Could you please stop your little silly games ?

PARIS

Forgive me, I'm just a big child.

He presses some buttons.

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

This ship cannot go to warp speed.

PARIS

(angry)

WHAT ? There you've been 3 days outside to repair this ship and then it still doesn't function yet ? What's the cause of the failure of this goddamned warp system ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

The dilithium crystals are melt down.

PARIS

Wonderful. What shall we do without the crystals ?

Both look out of the "window" and wonder what they shall do ? But then they get an idea at the same time, turn their heads to look in the other one's face and then turn their heads to the front again, smiling.

EXTERNAL VIEW - DELTA FLYER

The Delta Flyer stands still.

INTERNAL VIEW - DELTA FLYER

The both of them sit on the floor around a large hole containing several computer systems and what seems to be the box for the dilithium crystals.

PARIS

Thank god, we went on this mission to get some dilithium crystals. Without those crystals this journey could have last a long time.

TORRES

Tom, what shall we do if we can't find something on that planet that could help us out of our misery and we can't fly back to Voyager ?

PARIS

I don't know. Perhaps go on searching.

TORRES

Let's be realistic. With a large ship like Voyager and a relatively experienced crew you can better survive a hostile territory than with a little underweaponed shuttle.

PARIS

What do you suggest ?

TORRES

To stop, to settle down, to build up a new home. I know this sounds odd, especially when you are half-klingson and it shocks to hear me say that.

PARIS

I think, you're right. With this tiny ship it's impossible to return to the Federation. If Tuvok were here, his calculation probability would be a number with 30 numbers to 1. Otherwise, we could set down, found a family and live like this Swiss family Robinson on a lonely island.

TORRES

And we could have children together.

PARIS

Yes, this constant screaming, the diaper changes, the laborious education, a wonderful idea. I haven't told you, yet, but the imagination to live alone and together with you has always fascinated me. I'm sure, you'd be a wonderful mother.

TORRES

And you a lousy father. I'm just kidding. I believe, you'd be indeed a good father.

PARIS

I hope, I will. I always wanted to give my own children a better education as my father did.

TORRES

What do you mean ?

PARIS

In my youth I've always been pushed. Everywhere there was Captain Paris here, Admiral Paris there. And then everyone demanded that I should take the same path as my father did. I didn't cope with this pressure because everyone compared me with a legend. And then I found an abbreviation.

TORRES

The Maquis and the prison ?

PARIS

Exactly. But I believe that I achieved more the last 5 years on this abbreviation that led directly towards the Delta Quadrant, than my father achieved in his whole life. It doesn't depend on how many stars you've earned during your starfleet service or how many doctor titles you've earned. You've to lead a life and also lived it, with many friends, a lot of fun and a beautiful woman like you.

TORRES

Since when have you become a philosopher ?

PARIS

Since I came onboard Voyager, since then I have really lived. And I hope my life won't end in the Delta Quadrant, though the imagination of a long life stranded here on an unknown planet with a beautiful woman like you has also its advantages.

He takes a dilithium crystal and puts it into the box.

PARIS
Is the warp engine now online ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE
Yes.

PARIS
I did it.

The both of them stand up and go to their stations.

PARIS
Now, let's test those new crystals.

EXTERNAL VIEW - DELTA FLYER
The ship goes to Warp

EXTERNAL VIEW - DELTA FLYER
The ship comes out of subspace and is now in front of the planet.
It's about to enter the planet's orbit.

INTERNAL VIEW - DELTA FLYER
PARIS
I try again to hail them again. That's odd, no response again,
perhaps we should land.

TORRES
I'm preparing the landing procedures.

EXTERNAL VIEW - DELTA FLYER
We see the Delta Flyer flying into the planet's atmosphere.

INTERNAL VIEW - DELTA FLYER (VISUAL)
ANGLE from behind (to see out of the Ship)
The ship gets a little shaken. First we see heavy clouds then we see
a very vast, large city. A city with many futuristic buildings that
doesn't end in any direction and goes beyond horizon. But there are
little 'isles' in this city mainly consist of trees, like 'forest
isles'.

PARIS
That looks like San Francisco, Paris, Berlin, Moscow and 100 more
capitals together and this result multiplied by 10. (to Torres,
regarding her question above) And they shouldn't be able to answer
our hails ?

Suddenly we hear some beeps.

PARIS
Speak of the devil, we're being hailed.

TORRES
It's about time.

PARIS
On screen.

Alien (on screen)
Dear visitors from distant origins. Welcome to our wonderful to our
fairy tale world where every dream becomes reality.

TORRES

The transmission has been interrupted. It was probably a recorded message.

PARIS

It looked like a lousy commercial for Risa to me. If this is really a fairy tale world then where is the sea and the beach ?

TORRES

(guessing, joking)

Perhaps too many of them drowned so they pulled it down ?

Paris looks oddly at her from the side.

PARIS

Where shall we find a suitable landing place in that technology hell ?

TORRES

Wait ... Look at this, there seems to be a little forest in the middle of this large city.

PARIS

Yes, and I recognize a little clearing over there.

EXTERNAL VIEW - FOREST (VISUAL)

We see the Delta Flyer landing in the middle of this forest.

EXTERNAL VIEW - FOREST

Paris and Torres are walking through the forest arm in arm. They have both a tricorder and a phaser.

PARIS

I don't know why, but this reminds me on my hikes with my father in the Black forest when he had holidays.

TORRES

When I was young, I rather wanted to climb up those trees and to live up there than stroll through them.

PARIS

This is so romantic.

TORRES

What ? 6000 light-years away from Voyager ? 36000 light-years away from home ? Alone on a strange planet where you can die 1000 different deaths ? (stops) Well, when you think about it, it is indeed romantic. For a change we can walk through a real forest and not through an artificial holo-forest.

PARIS

You're right. You know, in my youth I experienced a very weird story. Shall I tell you ?

TORRES

Though I've a bad feeling about it, I say yes.

PARIS

When I was around 13 years old, my father was gone with the Al-Batani, I made a tour with some friends and comrades in the summer. We camped in the Yellowstone and it was absolutely overwhelming. It just became dark, the campfire was torching and we held some marshmallows in it. We told ourselves some creepy ghost stories. Then

suddenly we heard a strange roar out of the forest. We thought it'd be Britney Woodpecker, a girl-friend of mine...

Suddenly Torres looks at him suspicious, he notices that.

PARIS

What ? She was only a classmate and I was just 13.

Torres turns her head forward again, still suspicious.

PARIS

Anyway, she was in the forest in order to ... well, you know. But it wasn't her. It was a bear. Suddenly he stormed towards our little camp and we ran away into the dark forest. I don't know why but somehow he was in love with me.

TORRES

And pursued you ?

PARIS

Indeed. He hunted me several hundred meters through the forest until there was no more way out. I was trapped. And in this situation I did the only right thing: I climbed up a tree.

TORRES

And then the bear went away ?

PARIS

No, he probably found me so attractive that he wanted to look after me for several hours. I sat there one hour, two and I believe I was up there around 5 hours and then I had this pressure...

TORRES

Just like Britney Woodpecker ?

PARIS

Yes, but perhaps even more worse. And then I did ...

TORRES

No, no, you didn't do it !

PARIS

Oh, yes, I did. But the now wet bear wasn't very fond of that. And then he tried to pull out that tree wildly. Suddenly I saw someone firing with a phaser who stunned the bear. Britney and the others managed to call starfleet and get some security officers in order to save me.

TORRES

And what happened to Britney then?

PARIS

After that we had some problems together. Some classmates in school who thought themselves super-intelligent thought we'd be together just like you and me today. But it was just a normal camaraderie just like between Seven and me. But somehow she believed that wrong rumors and she didn't even wanted to speak with me or even sit in same room. She run away. It took me three years to regain her friendship again. As far as I know she studied design on the Federartion university of Yale later and became a high-ranking artist. Though she was very young she took part in the creation of those starfleet uniforms we're just wearing.

TORRES

Do you still think of her ?

PARIS

At that time yes, but now, I can only think of you.

TORRES

If we manage to get home, do you intend to visit her ?

PARIS

Are you jealous ?

TORRES

(hesitating)

No, no. I just wanna know.

PARIS

Actually, I have that in mind, to give her the advice to design new uniforms. Those ones slowly get on my nerves.

TORRES

According to the doctor, Starfleet has new uniforms.

PARIS

Yes, I know but then you must imagine that we're now the only ones who wear this uniform. I wonder how the new ones look like. Have I told you yet that the doctor, Neelix and I intend to design our own new uniform for the crew, a special Voyager uniform, but...

Suddenly a strange noise interrupts him. We see a strange, dirty, human man with clothes teared to pieces suddenly coming out of the bushes. We don't know his name, yet, but his name is Xoldran.

XOLDRAN

Hello, who are you ?

Now, he stands in front of Paris and Torres.

XOLDRAN

Where are you coming from ?

TORRES

We're both from a large society called the United Federation of Planets.

PARIS

(adding)

and quite away from it ?

XOLDRAN

Do they look for you, too ?

PARIS

Who or what do you mean ?

TORRES

Are you being pursued ?

XOLDRAN

They look for me for a very long time and haven't found me yet, but they are very close.

PARIS

Who is looking for you and who's close ?

XOLDRAN

Get away! Bring yourself in security ! Run away from here They are everywhere !

Xoldran is running towards them, puts them in the air and throws them several meters wide into the bushes. The both of them stand up then and want to go to him but then they hear the stamps of several boots. Paris and Torres get down, hiding themselves, and watch the following events. 5 masked, in black dressed persons surround Xoldran.

ONE OF THOSE DISGUISED PERSONS

After long search we found you, too. You made us great problems with your little rebellion. But now, you'll open up in the whole.

They sedate him and they take his unconscious body out of there, not knowing that they have been monitored. Torres and Paris look at each other, confused.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II.

ACT III

FADE IN:

EXTERNAL VIEW - VOYAGER

Voyager holds position. We hear Tuvok's voice.

TUVOK'S VOICE

For 4 days the Delta Flyer with the Lieutenants Tom Paris and B'Elanna Torres is missing. Since the attack two days ago, Ensign Kim, Seven of Nine and I are trying to find a reason for their sudden disappearance. But all signs are absolutely undecided. Gradually, it seems even to me that I am at a loss.

INTERNAL VIEW - MESS HALL

Seven, Kim and Tuvok are entering the Mess Hall. They go to a table and sit down. NEELIX is working in his kitchen. When he notices the three he goes to their table with a tray in his hands with some glasses filled with something liquid and some tiny snacks. He puts this tray on the table.

NEELIX

So, haven't you found any lifesigns yet ?

KIM

Not yet, Neelix.

NEELIX

And what about the attackers ?

SEVEN

We also don't have any information about them.

NEELIX

The Woorians, do they know something ?

TUVOK

Unfortunately the Woorians don't have any information concerning the whereabouts of our lost crewmen.

NEELIX

And the wormhole ?

KIM

Honestly said, we know as much as you. In the last two days we put our heads together but the only thing we know is, what this odd phenomenon not is.

NEELIX

And..., and what is it not ?

SEVEN

It is definitely no black hole, no wormhole, either artificial nor natural, no bend of space, no space-time-distortion or any other anomaly of similar nature.

KIM

Our last assumption was that this phenomenon was a phenomenon. We thought that it would reappear within a certain period of time. Our time limit ran down twenty minutes ago. Now, we don't know what it could it be else.

NEELIX

You said that it is neither a black hole nor an artificial or natural wormhole. Perhaps it could be an artificial black hole.

TUVOK

We indeed considered the possibility of an artificial black hole, but it in practice such a project would be nearly impossible.

NEELIX

Seven, haven't the Borg once met a race that had such a technology ?

SEVEN

No, unfortunately not.

TUVOK

However, it is not impossible, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote in his Sherlock Holmes novels that 'if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains however improbable, must be the truth'. However such a project must be connected with a high technological expenditure. It would explain the sudden appearance and disappearance of the attacking ships we met.

SEVEN

I've to apologize that I have to go to sickbay now for my routine medical checkup

She exists.

KIM

Well, I'll go to Astrometrics and try something different.
He exists.

NEELIX

Well, then it's only you and me, Mr. Vulcan.

TUVOK

To my apology, I have to write a report for Captain Janeway on our latest researches.

NEELIX

Before you go, I want to tell you something: During the last few days the moral of the crew sank very rapidly, very deep, perhaps in the

cellar, possibly to the core of a planet. Please promise me that you'll find them.

TUVOK

Mr. Neelix, in the last few years we mastered several crisis and now we have come so far that we'll master this crisis as well.

NEELIX

Now, you speak very inhumane.

Tuvok wants to say something but he's blocked by Neelix.

NEELIX

Yes, yes, I know that you're no human, but deep in your vulcan body beats a little human heart. You know, Tom and B'elanna are your friends and you treat them as if they were empty wraps.

TUVOK

I just want balance out the situation. Tom and B'Elanna are indeed my friends, but now we have to concentrate all of our reserves on this puzzle and shall follow our emotions afterwards.

NEELIX

Ehm.. Tuvok, could you promise me in spite of those bad chances that you'll find them ?

TUVOK

I cannot promise you anything.

He goes to the door, while Neelix watches him going out of the room, but before Tuvok reaches the door, he turns around.

TUVOK

But I'll try to find them with the best of my abilities.

NEELIX

That's what I wanted to hear, thank you.

Tuvok exists.

INTERNAL - SICKBAY

Seven of Nine enters sickbay. Suddenly THE DOCTOR comes out of his office.

SEVEN

I hope, I didn't interrupt you during an important activity.

THE DOCTOR

Not really, I'm just working on a table of all new diseases and illnesses we met in the Delta Quadrant so far. Momentarily I'm at M like macrovirus. Hopefully you're not coming because of an illness with an N like nanoprobe-emboli.

SEVEN

Unfortunately not. I'm here because of my weekly check-up.

THE DOCTOR

You're probably ill. That's the first time you decided to come for your check-up two days before you have to. Since when have you been so punctual.

SEVEN

Our efforts to find the lost crewmen run into sand. Because I'm now low on options, I try to compensate this unproductive time.

THE DOCTOR

So you went on, to find some ideas around the ship.

SEVEN

Honestly said, your right.

THE DOCTOR

And now, you try to find out if the good old uncle doctor has some good ideas.

SEVEN

Indeed.

The Doctor takes some instruments, like his tricorder and begins to scan and adjust her implants on her head and her hand.

THE DOCTOR

All deviations are within normal parameters. The amount of nanoprobes is within tolerable figures and I'm not detecting any new cables our little friends could have developed.

He puts his instruments away.

THE DOCTOR

But I've some possible alternative solutions: They could have found a new type of engines and are now back on earth.

SEVEN

This theory cannot be proved because firstly the Woorians do not have any such technology, they do not even have a warp drive. Secondly both Lieutenants would not test without informing Voyager and the confirmation of Captain Janeway.

THE DOCTOR

You forget, that the both of them are sometimes quite very hotheaded. But you're right, perhaps they are not able to do something like this. Perhaps they have found a little love nest.

SEVEN

You oversee something - all of your suppositions pass the fact that the ship has been attacked before it disappeared. Besides, how do you explain the phenomenon we encountered ?

THE DOCTOR

I just want to give you some possible antitheories. You know, I can't imagine a real explanation, just like you. How do you feel about the disappearance of them ?

SEVEN

I try to solve the problem with the best of my abilities to strengthen the moral of the crew and to bring back two crewmen, the chief engineer and the ship's pilot, who are vital for the function of the ship.

THE DOCTOR

What are you doing ? Even I as a walking lantern have more emotion as you. You hide your real feelings for them. What do you really feel about them ?

SEVEN

I don't know. I haven't experienced such a situation so far, that I lose close friends. I feel somewhat like I'm at a loss, an emotional emptiness...

THE DOCTOR

You mourn for them. Everyone of us onboard has experienced personal losses so far. The loss of a best friend, a commanding officer and people who mean a lot to someone. When you came onboard Voyager I had a very lovely and kind nurse who helped me here.

SEVEN

I've heard from her: Her name was Kes.

THE DOCTOR

I don't know if you witnessed it, but at that time she barely saved your life. Even I mourned a lot for her. Of Course I didn't fill 3 dozens of handkerchiefs, but I've also been very at a loss, I didn't know what to do. I tried to carry out new medical experiments and to research, but it was only a method to divert from my sorrow. Besides her replacement was a very, very lousy nurse. Even if I had several little hot disputes with Mr. Paris, it would have a similar effect on me, if it would be clear that he is dead. Of Course it's the same with B'Elanna. But I'm sure that the both of them are still living.

EXTERNAL VIEW - THE FOREST

Tom and B'Elanna stand in the middle of the forest, wondering what to do after they have witnessed the odd arrest of Xoldran.

PARIS

Shall we go on ?

TORRES

I don't know, those guys didn't look quite friendly. If they had seen us, they would have arrested us, too.

PARIS

It could have also been a beggar, who was a little bit mad and they tried to catch him with some paramedics.

TORRES

Yes, sure. But what do you think of those men who took him away, the way they looked and what they said about open up in the whole.

PARIS

You don't believe this could be a Borg-micro-colony ?

TORRES

No, but if say so. No, something is foul here. First the attack, then this pseudo-black hole, this futile hails and now this. Something very bad is happening here, I feel that.

PARIS

And you're really sure that one of your ancestors was a betazoid.

TORRES

Yes, definitely.

Paris sees a little hill.

PARIS

Hey, B'Elanna, look at this, I believe behind this hill we'll find some answers.

They run for the hill, climb it up and see at last the vast city which seems to have no ending.

PARIS

Now I'd like to know what kind of city that is.

TORRES

And I'd like to find some answers.

PARIS

Me too. Come on. To speak with a Ferengi proverb: 'Time is money'.

TORRES

Well, OK. But you know what I feel about this.

The both of them are now in the city.

TORRES

Wow, that's it's like being in a totally different world. At first you are in the deepest forest and then you are in the biggest city you've ever seen.

PARIS

And I haven't seen so modern futuristic buildings before. The both of them are standing in front of a very big building.

PARIS

Look at this, that looks like the building where we can easily find the big persons.

TORRES

That's possible. But the only thing I see are those stairs but no doors or other entries or exists.

PARIS

Perhaps we just oversee it. But the odd thing here is that we haven't seen any inhabitants yet. Perhaps there's a good match on TV.

TORRES

What ? What do you mean ?

PARIS

It's just an old 20th century proverb when the streets were empty. Let's have a closer look at this big tower.

He begins to run upstairs.

PARIS

The one who's up there first, wins.

TORRES

Stop, you're cheating.

She also begins to run upstairs.

PARIS

There's really no entry.

TORRES

Perhaps they're just so lazy that they beam themselves from house to house.

PARIS

The tricorder says nothing, too. But I'm getting odd readings from the walls of this building.

TORRES

Let me try something.

She stretches her hand towards the wall. Her hand glides through the wall.

TORRES

Tom, I think we've found our entry.

She takes her hand out of the wall.

TORRES

That's interesting. That reminds me on my biology lessons.

PARIS

I thought you were no biofreak.

TORRES

Yes, but our teacher once give us a funny explanation how cells are being provided with materials which pass the cell membrane. It's a long story, I'll tell you another time. However I'd like to know what's behind that wall.

She walks through the wall.

PARIS

Me too.

He also walks through the wall.

They enter a huge hall, and they see a large crowd of humanoids.

TORRES

There we have our inhabitants. That's possibly the main working time.

PARIS

Yes, you are presumably right. I'll ask one of this guys.

He tips on someone's shoulder.

PARIS

Excuse me, but could you please tell me where I can find the political leader of this planet or someone else who rules.

He looks at him strangely but keeps passing by.

PARIS

How rude. I'll try it with this one.

He points at another man and goes to him.

PARIS

Hello, where's they way to the boss ?

This man also walks away without saying a word or make any sign of interest.

TORRES

Let me try it the hard way.

She goes to another man and seizes him on his collar.

TORRES

If you refuse to tell me who's the boss here, I'll beat you.

The man wants to go on. Torres hits him in his face with a strong beat. He trembles a little bit, he puts himself upright and beats her in her face as a retaliation. Then he goes on as nothing has happened.

PARIS

Well, done. You've just proven the sentence actio equals reactio. But it didn't bring us a single step forward. You've said that this wall reminded you to a cell-membrane. Let's just say this house is of organic material and in that case it has some kind of lower intelligence or feeling.

TORRES

Your theory make sense.

PARIS

Let's see what's happening when this house is starting to grill.

He grabs his phaser and fires towards the walls. The wall morphs a little bit but it was enough to get the inhabitant's attention. Suddenly they turn themselves to Paris and Torres. They are now completely surrounded and a young beautiful woman, XONDRIA, in her mid-twenties emerges from the large group and goes toward the two starfleet officers.

XONDRIA

(soft, calm)

My name is Xondria. Welcome to our beautiful world Dromsila. We apologize for the lack of a reception, but as you see we were quite occupied and we didn't recognize your arrival.

PARIS

But we received a welcoming message....

XONDRIA

(interrupting)

That's an automatic signal that activates itself when we're getting visitors. But as I said we were occupied and we didn't recognize it. But I hope you'll feel quite well on this lovely planet. During your visit I'll try to be an appropriate guide to this planet.

The crowd dissolves. Xondria, Paris and Torres pass them and go through a large corridor.

XONDRIA

You've to know that we live for millennia now in absolutely harmony with nature and technology. We also have knowledge to receive absolute concentration.

PARIS

(to Torres)

I bet, this would be Tuvok's favorite world.

XONDRIA

Even 2000 years ago we were a nomadic society without any sign of civilization, but you see since then our culture blossomed out.

TORRES

How could you build such a large society in such a relatively short time ?

XONDRIA

Through massive researches. Every human on this planet helped to research.

TORRES

Does that mean, there were no workers or farmers ?

XONDRIA

In the beginning yes, but after short time we developed a technology that made us independent from cultivated food.

TORRES

Just like our replicators. Xondria, do you have knowledge from technologies that could transport us more than 6000 or 36000 light-years away from here ?

XONDRIA

Unfortunately not. We're quite content with the things we achieved.

TORRES

But you have nearly developed everything that can be developed. Don't you ask yourself what's outside your hemisphere ?

XONDRIA

No.

PARIS

(to Torres, quiet)
This is really odd.

XONDRIA

What did you say ?

PARIS

Nothing.

TORRES

But with your technological methods you'd be able to invent new space technologies that could you to other planets and us home.

Paris wants to stop her, but she remains quite confident.

TORRES

Tom, the Prime Directive wouldn't fit in here. This is a race that has a higher technology than the Federation, except the space technology.

XONDRIA

I'll discuss that with the eldest. If you excuse me.

She goes on. Tom looks at the neck of Xondria and sees a little spine. Immediately Paris gets shocked and grabs Torres' arm.

PARIS

(to Xondria, appeases)
B'Elanna and I'll make a sight-seeing tour through the city....

XONDRIA

Whatever you want.

She continues to go on.

PARIS

B'Elanna you were right, there something very bad going on here. I didn't like the story with this odd technology steps, sudden attention, this alleged mega-concentration and this curious dislike of gaining new technologies and knowledge from travelling through space. And when I saw her neck I started to frighten myself, we have to leave this planet immediately or Voyager could look for us for a long time without finding us. We have to leave here at once.

He grabs her arm and draws her with him. They enter the large room again but the people surround them again. But this time they are angrier than before. Several men try to hold the two. Torres manages to knock out two of the attackers before they can be stopped. Some men of this group tightens the hands of Torres and Paris. Now Xondria emerges from the group and stands in front of them.

XONDRIA

The both of you would be excellent bodies for our symbionts for our new expansion.

FADE TO BLACK
END OF ACT III

ACT IV

We see a very dark and very small cell, we can barely see Paris and Torres.

TORRES

Thank you, Tom, for bringing us into very, very deep and serious trouble. Why have you been so interested in investigating this planet?

PARIS

OK, It's good. I'm guilty. But I believe now that those guys are responsible that we're here now, 6000 light-years away from Voyager.

TORRES

Why ?

PARIS

At first this odd attack, this pseudo-black hole, that that communications blockade, the kidnapping of this man, the way they treated us as if we were some kind of experimental creatures when we were wondering what's going on here and when I saw this spine on Xondria's neck it all came clear to me.

TORRES

What do you mean?

PARIS

When I was on the Academy, I've heard some rumors about a strange force, that would conquer the Federation.

TORRES

Oh, I like horror stories in combination with conspiracy theories. What happened?

PARIS

I've just heard from a comrade whose father was on the Enterprise during this incident. According to my comrade an expedition team found strange creatures on a planet outside Federation territory. Those sticky creatures then took control over this team fast and reproduced themselves. Then they spread in all parts of the Federation and took over vital key positions on nearly all important outposts, stations and ships. Those who opposed them were just killed.

TORRES

That's unbelievable. Why did I miss such a cool fairy tale.

PARIS

This really happened.

TORRES

And how did the Federation win against those aliens. I mean, if we didn't strike them back they would still be in power?

PARIS

The Crew of the Enterprise found out several odd things, returned back to Earth and destroyed the head of this conspiracy. But the creepiest part of this story was the fact that those aliens were tiny little creatures that entered the body of a victim and then took over their minds. According to what I've heard those sticky creatures stick to the victim's spine and then they put a little gill out of the victim's neck. I've seen this little gill on her neck.

Suddenly they hear a strange noise from outside the cell. It is Xoldran, the man in the forest who got caught in the forest.

XOLDRAN

Hello, do you understand me ?

PARIS

Hey, B'Elanna, I think that's the man we encountered at the edge of the forest.

(loud)

Yes, we understand you quite well. Are you the man who through two strangers in the forest and got then captured ?

XOLDRAN

Yes, I am. My name is Xoldran.

PARIS

Then let me introduce you to my girlfriend B'Elanna Torres and me, Tom Paris. We are the ones you through away.

XOLDRAN

I'm sorry. I didn't intend to hurt you. I only wanted to save you, unfortunately it seems they kept you, too.

PARIS

Why did they hunt you?

XOLDRAN

I've been a fugitive for several years now. You'll have to know, a similar thing like you experienced it with your Federation happened to us, too. Unfortunately we were not able to win against this sticky creatures, as you put those symbiotic lifeforms.

PARIS

So this story about the rapid and sudden development from cavemen to super-scientists and this high-tech-society was a lie ?

XOLDRAN

No, but it's correct in a certain degree. 2000 years ago we indeed lived in caves, but one day we found those lifeforms in a strange cave. Through the symbiosis between our people and those creatures intensified our thirst for knowledge and within short time we invented thousands of new technologies.

PARIS

I suppose this whole story about the lacking interest in space flight was a lie, too.

XOLDRAN

Indeed, that was also a lie. Even after short time we had possibilities to large travels through space. Those creatures, as you call them, used those new technologies as a possibility to expand their influence in this region of the galaxy and beyond. During the following centuries they developed more and more methods that helped them to strengthen their control over the submitted races and reach great distances.

TORRES

How far does those technologies reach ?

Very far, several hundreds of thousands light-years. I myself was one of the planet's most vital scientists, and that's why I had been somewhat obsessed by those creatures.

TORRES

And then you somehow managed to get rid of it.

XOLDRAN

That's right. I was just working on a new way of travelling what can also be used as a weapon, some kind of jumpgate to other worlds.

Paris and Torres look angrily at each other.

XOLDRAN

I was occupied with my experiments and then, suddenly one of this experiments exploded. Thanks to this explosion or the shockwave the creature that controlled me vaporized. The same happened to my colleagues. I presume that the shockwave was on a wave-frequency that could only penetrate the symbiont, so I was unharmed. After that my colleagues and I fled and went to the underground. We lived in the forests to hide ourselves. We even wanted to start some kind of rebellion, but more and more were captured, until I was the only one who fled, until today. I don't want to know what they're planning now?

PARIS

And this jumpgate, what can it do, theoretically?

XOLDRAN

Because I haven't seen it in praxis, I can give you only little information about it.

Theoretically a fluctuation in subspace arises with an enormous drawing force.

TORRES

Could it look like a black hole ?

XOLDRAN

I don't know this expression of a black hole but we have an expression that describes it better: a lightsucker.

PARIS

I believe this is our, as we refer to it, black hole.

TORRES

I've a question, if I might to ask. How did your race travel through space 10 years ago ?

(to Paris)

They must have reached earth somehow before.

XOLDRAN

We used unmanned probes, at least there was no one who piloted them. It contained several parasites. It's engine reached velocities of around 100 trillion light-years per second.

TORRES

Those are velocities higher than Warp 9.999. Are there are battle cruisers that can reach that velocity ?

XOLDRAN

No, we don't believe in massive military expansion. The power expansion is also some kind of game for those creatures. They want to toy with their victims before the ruling power is absolutely in their hands.

TORRES

And this new way of travelling. How strong could be this new jumpgate?

XOLDRAN

Because I wasn't involved during the last steps of its development, I've to guess. I suppose it could reach a radius of half the galaxy, I believe around 200 or 300,000 light-years.

PARIS

My god, they could reach earth within seconds.

TORRES

If we manage to fight our way out of here, get to the Delta Flyer and manage to use this technology we could easily reach earth, too.

PARIS

But they could still easily start an invasion.

XOLDRAN

That's right, the leading creatures stopped their expansion policy for several years after the flop with the Federation. Perhaps this policy has just begun again.

PARIS

Then we have to get out of here, we have to save the Federation.

Suddenly the door opens and Xondria stands in the door.

XONDRIA

Yes, you have to, but first you have to get through me and my guards.

Three guards with weapons in their hands enter the cell and urge the prisoners to leave it. Paris, Torres and the guards now enter a corridor.

TORRES

What are you planning ? What do you wanna do with us ?

PARIS

I suppose we shall play the rat-catchers for them. Isn't it ? Because suddenly the Delta Flyer appears in front of Earth with B'Elanna and me onboard and several aliens in our stomachs as stowaways who then conquer the Federation.

XONDRIA

(quiet, self-confident)

You're right, that's exactly what we're planning.

TORRES

Why do you use US ?

XONDRIA

Our spies on Wooria informed us about some humans who landed on their planet.

PARIS

Does that mean that all Woorians under your control?

XONDRIA

No, the Worrian race is small, weak and insignificant. Even if we're planning to rule over the galaxy we've to choose what race could help us more. The Woorians are worthless for our plans. However as a security we have some spies there.

TORRES

Who informed you about us immediately.

XONDRIA

We were very fond and happy at once, because we had a new possibility to undermine Earth's security net again.

PARIS

Then this Trubarians are your special task force?

XONDRIA

That is correct. Although they live in system more then 6000 light-years away from here, we always have an open comlink to them. They attacked your ship, knocked out your engines and then we used our new toy, which has been completed just recently.

PARIS

This pseudo-black hole.

XONDRIA

Exactly. It combines the abilities of a spacefold and the drawing force of a lightsucker.

PARIS

The this was just a long-planned game so that we can fall in your hands and conquer the Federation for you ?

XONDRIA

Actually we wanted to drag your mothership here as well, but it was very strong and resisted.

TORRES

(Smiling)

You couldn't disable their engines. Well, this is MY engine and MY crew.

XONDRIA

We could wipe out your work at once.

PARIS

You would really destroy the Voyager?

XONDRIA

No, a ship with a complete crew is worthier if it's under our control. That's why we want...

TORRES

...us to conquer Voyager and then Earth ?

XONDRIA

You're quite right.

PARIS

I know we're in a very silly situation, but I say: without us!

XONDRIA

Your resistance is ridiculous. You've absolutely no chance to resist. Your little shuttle is in a secured area. Muzzles are aimed at your heads. You have no chance. Get them to the transfer chamber. We have two vital humanoids here. I hope they'll serve us well.

EXTERNAL VIEW - VOYAGER

We see the Voyager lying calmly in space. We hear Captain Janeway's Voice.

CAPTAIN JANEWAY'S VOICE (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate XXXXX.X

With great sorrow I've to make this entry. Seven days ago the Delta Flyer disappeared with their pilots Lt. Thomas Eugene Paris and Lt. B'Elanna Torres after a routine mission.

INTERNAL VIEW - READY ROOM

We see Captain Janeway continuing her log entry.

CAPTAIN JANEWAY

Within the last years I've had the pleasure to get to know two wonderful persons. Despite the fact we had our difficulties at the beginning, they became more and more important and vital angles of the crew's moral and friendship and the community onboard this ship. And more importantly, they became my personal friends.

INTERNAL VIEW - SERIES OF SHOTS

We see a very depressed crew being absolute quiet in the casino, Harry Kim mourning and crying for his friends in Astrometrics, a very sad looking Chakotay on his seat on the bridge, remembering his friends. During this various shots we still hear Captain Janeway's voice.

CAPTAIN JANEWAY'S VOICE (V.O.)

Even now the loss of our crewmen is noticeable. The moral of the crew is on its deepest line and I believe this line will drop even more. There will be an official funeral service at 1500 hours. Even though their sudden loss is combined with those odd attacks and requests more investigations, we have exhausted every possibilities we have and found nothing. That's why I've decided, despite all mourning and considerations, that we have to keep on flying home. Even if B'Elanna can't repair the warp engines with the most primitive methods any more and even if Tom can't pilot this ship through stormy nebulas and

asteroid fields any more, I'm quite sure, they'll accompany us deep in our hearts during the following journeys.

INTERNAL - The Astrometrics

Kim is working and is sitting in front of a console. His head is lying down in his arms. We can't see that he's crying, we can just hear him. Seven enters the laboratory.

SEVEN

Ensign Kim, why are still working at that late time.

Kim cocks his head. Now we and Seven can see his tears.

SEVEN

You're mourning for your lost friends.

KIM

Of Course I'm mourning. They were my best friend. I've thought a lot about them. I've often been together with them. We've been somewhat like an adjusted trio and now this group has been destroyed. You can't understand something like this.

SEVEN

I'm mourning, too. On my way.

KIM

So, how ?

SEVEN

I'm loading some remembering engrams in my memory that are dealing with experiences I had with them.

KIM

I understand, you remember common adventures. I do that, too, but every time I think about them, I get the feeling that I won't experience something like this again anymore. You know, in the past last years we've spent many beautiful moments together. At that time Tom was quite often love sick because he was in love with Neelix' girlfriend, and I could hardly push him out of my quarters. And when B'Elanna and I repaired this robot and he began to speak, I felt like a doctor who just helped to give birth to a child. Or there has been that story when Tom and I were captured in a prison and I saved his life. Oh, Seven, there are a lot of stories I could tell you. But momentarily I don't have time for this. In my sorrow I forgot my duty on the bridge.

SEVEN

You need rest, you are not in a good condition. You have been working now for the last 7 days nearly without stopping. Your body needs a regeneration. Captain Janeway would surely agree with me and also the Doctor.

KIM

(surprised)

Seven, you know, that have been the most sensitive words you've ever said.

SEVEN

(tries to explain)

You are a vital element of the senior staff. If you fell out of duty, the process onboard would be interrupted.

KIM

That's not the reason. But I'll follow your advice. I'll ask Captain Janeway if she could give me 2 or 3 days holidays.

SEVEN

You've earned this holidays.

KIM

You know, Seven, one time I'm able to look through you.

SEVEN

If you want to understand my character or person, you have to be assimilated.

KIM

From whom shall I being assimilated: by the Borg collective or by you ? I'll better go to the bridge to report off duty.

He exits. Seven smiles.

INTERNAL - READY ROOM

Janeway is reading something on her personal desktop computer. The door chimes...

JANEWAY

Come in

Kim enters.

JANEWAY

What can I do for you, Harry ?

KIM

I want to ask you for giving me some days free. I request permission to get holidays.

JANEWAY

They were your best friends. Your sorrow must be great.

KIM

It is, Ma'am.

JANEWAY

Mine, too. Even there have been times we quarreled ourselves, I saw them as my personal friends. I grant your request. You need rest, you've been working around the clock for the last few days. If you hadn't come to me, I would have sent you to the Doctor. I'm worrying about you. I need no officers who mourn for his best friends. Especially in this quadrant I can't have an unstable element on the bridge. (pauses) I have to admit that my words sound very hard, but I believe everyone on the ship would agree with me. Today in the afternoon there will be a farewell party for them. Do you think you have the strength to cope with it ?

KIM

Yes, I believe, I can do it.

JANEWAY

You know, I have just read some reports. Reports of missions they mastered.

KIM

Yes, a short while ago, I've told Seven some stories. They were great on their stations.

JANEWAY

They were the best.

KIM

Have you found a replacement for them yet ?

JANEWAY

Yes, I appoint Carey as chief-engineer, and I intend to appoint you as our new main pilot.

KIM

Ma'am. But my abilities are far away from Tom's. I'm not as good as him.

JANEWAY

No one on this ship is that.

KIM

I would be a better aid for you at the science station.

JANEWAY

This may be right, but sometime everyone has to step up in his career. You have largely surpassed my expectations in you during those past years, so that I can't find words for that. I believe this is a possibility reward you for that.

KIM

I thank you, though I believe there are pilots onboard who are quite better than me.

JANEWAY

That may be right, but you have to see it as a new task, a new adventure.

KIM

Captain, there is something that is lying on my mind. I want to ask if I could hold a speech for them.

JANEWAY

Sure, why not, they were your best ... (she pauses, looks to the window) What is that ?

They look out of the window and see a great armada of around 20 ships suddelny appearing. Suddenly the Red Alert signs go on.

Chakotay's VOICE (V.O.)

(over Intercom)

Captain Janeway to bridge. We are being attacked.

They leave the room.

BRIDGE - INTERNAL VIEW

Janeway and Kim are entering the bridge.

JANEWAY

Have our friends appeared again ?

TUVOK

Correct. 20 ships have suddenly appeared behind our ship.

JANEWAY

Harry, would you go to your station for the last time ?

KIM
OK.

JANEWAY
(to Tuvok)
Hail them.

TUVOK
No response.

JANEWAY
Looks like our friends don't feel like making compromises. Harry, are there any signs of any anomalies like black holes ?

KIM
Sensors don't show any signs of anomalies.

CHAKOTAY
Perhaps this time they try to disable our engines first.

JANEWAY
You're right. Janeway to Engineering, establish a force field around the warp core and divert as much energy to the shields around our engine systems as possible. Con, increase our speed to Warp 8.
(pauses) Did we shake them off ?

TUVOK
No, they even accelerated their speed to Warp 8.2. With this velocity they are in weapon's range in 10 seconds. 9...8...

JANEWAY
Con, increase the speed to Maximum Warp. (pauses, awaits response)
Tuvok ?

TUVOK
They are still faster than we are. That's why their time to intercept has decreased ...2...1

The bridge begins to shake.

TUVOK
They use a much more powerful energy beam than their last attack.

JANEWAY
We have to get rid of them. Open fire.

EXTERNAL VIEW - THE ATTACKING SHIP
The phaser beam gets absorbed by one of the ship's shields.

TUVOK
No effect.

The bridge gets more and more shaken.

TUVOK
Shields down to 20 per cent.

New shocks, the bridge gets more shaken, consoles explode.

TUVOK
All of our engine systems have been disabled. Captain ...

CHAKOTAY

(interrupting)

How much shall we bet that suddenly a black hole has appeared ahead of us ?

TUVOK

The Commander is right. There is indeed a huge black hole ahead of the ship. Impact in 5 ... 4...

JANEWAY

(to herself)

May God be with us.

TUVOK

3..2..1...

EXTERNAL VIEW - THE BLACK HOLE

The USS Voyager gets swallowed by the black hole.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

INTERNAL VIEW - THE CHAMBER

We see a normal lightened chamber without furnishings. Tom, B'Elanna and Xoldran are standing on the wall, tied up. They try to free themselves but without any success. There is some kind of energy field around them that hinders them to make greater movements. Suddenly Tom Paris stops his actions and tries and saddens.

PARIS

Ah, that's great. At first I have a great time alone with my girlfriend on a calm mission, then some creepy, slimy aliens use me to deceive my friends, comrades and perhaps even the whole Federation.

TORRES

It's no use crying over spilt milk.

XOLDRAN

She is right.

PARIS

And what ? Those are possibly my last thoughts I can express freely.

XOLDRAN

There you are right.

TORRES

Calm down. We have to find a way out of here. First (she asks Xoldran): I want to know at last what your name is.

XOLDRAN

Xoldran.

TORRES

OK. Second, Xoldran you showed us several days ago in the forest what powers you have.

XOLDRAN

I know what you mean, but I can't overcome this energy field.

TORRES

I wish I had a Tricorder so that I could deactivate this force field.

PARIS

You forgot a single fact. With this force field around your body and you can't move your fingers it's quite difficult to do something with your tricorder.

Xondria enters smilingly the room.

XONDRIA

Your efforts to free yourself are delicious. I wish I had a recording of this scenario.

PARIS

Lower the force fields and I'll show you what comedy is.

XONDRIA

Oh, that's marvelous. But unfortunately you'll give up your curious sense of humor after a tiny treatment.

TOM

(acting, mocking)

Oh, I'm so afraid. I want to petition for mercy. You know, we (he looks at Torres) we'll stand united against you and your slimy, little band.

XONDRIA

We'll see.

She leaves the room.

PARIS

If we were in another situation I would have said: "We showed it to her." (pauses). Some days ago you told me that you love me when we were pulled into this black large thing. I just told you that I know. Now this situation is much more worse than a few days ago and before I loose my free consciousness I want to tell you that I love you above all.

TORRES

If we were in another situation I would say: "That's very romantic". But I've to tell you that I also love you above all.

XOLDRAN

If we were in another situation I would suggest a little intimate party between the three of us.

Paris and Torres stare at him in a very angry and surprised way.

PARIS

We should better concentrate on our flight.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE BRIDGE

The crew is lying on the floor. They stand up quite slowly.

JANEWAY

Report!

KIM

We are 6000 light-years away from our last position. This would extend our journey 6 more years.

CHAKOTAY

Damn.

JANEWAY

Are there any signs of our "friends" or the anomaly ?

KIM

No, but I'm detecting rest-signs of an electrostatic differential with a starfleet signature. And they lead to a class-M-planet in this system.

JANEWAY

(happy)

Then Tom and B'Elanna have survived. What about our engines ?

CHAKOTAY

The warp engines may be offline, but we could have full impulse power within 30 minutes. It seems they just intended to penetrate our engines only for this particular moment.

JANEWAY

I believe, we'll find the answers on our questions on this planet and perhaps also Tom and B'Elanna. Hail the planet.

TUVOK

No response.

JANEWAY

It seems we have to force them to give us those answers.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE CHAMBER

Paris, Torres and Xoldran are still in this prison cell. We can hear steps from outside the room.

PARIS

I think we're about to meet our executioner.

Xondria enters the cell. She carries three little suitcases.

XONDRIA

I've been waiting for this moment for 10 years. At last we are strong enough to attack earth again. With our new technologies we can reach your Federation within few minutes and send you as well as your mothership back home. But Starfleet won't know that there are stowaways onboard your ship. At that very moment your mothership is far away from this planet. Our ships will damage your ship so that it will be easy for us to conquer it within short time and repair it again. We don't want to kill anybody. We don't want to see anyone of you dead. We just want your bodies and your cooperation. And now to you, Xoldran: How long have we been on your heels ? 2 years ? 3 years ? It is equal to me. Now we have you back in our hands. You don't know what great success this means to us. This day will stand as a great, triumphant day in the history books of the Fla'Ors. Soon you'll also call all of us: master.

She puts all three suitcases on the floor.

XONDRIA

Now, you'll an example how a Fla'Ors takes control over a humanoid before the same happens to you.

She opens one suitcase.

EXTERNAL VIEW - THE VOYAGER

The USS Voyager stands still in space and suddenly the ship begins to move and passes by the camera.

TUVOK

We'll reach the planet's orbit in two minutes. (waits) Captain, I'm detecting a new armada of 15 ships starting from the planet's surface.

JANEWAY

At least we know now where those ships are coming from. On our last visit we had no success to penetrate their shields. Find a weakness in their systems or the ship's structure.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE CELL

A little, creepy, pink alien creature emerges from the suitcase. It slowly climbs up Xoldran's leg.

XOLDRAN

(in agony, loud, cries)
No. Please don't.

The creature climbs upper part of the body.

XOLDRAN

(afraid)
No. No. Help. Nooooooooooooo.

The creature gets in his mouth and disappears in his throat. Xoldran defends himself in vain. His movements are getting slower and slower.

XONDRIA

Computer, remove the force field around Xoldran.

XOLDRAN

It's nice to see you again with humanoid eyes.

XONDRIA

Welcome back to the family. Now let's come to our two guests. You have just seen what happens on an introduction.

Xondria bends down.

XONDRIA

(with gloat)
It doesn't hurt ... at least not much.

She opens the suitcases. Slowly the creatures emerge from the suitcases.

INTERNAL VOYAGER

Heavy beatings rock the bridge.

JANEWAY

(cries)
Tuvok, respond the fire with everything we have.

EXTERNAL VIEW - Battle

The Voyager fires several phaser shots and several torpedoes. But all of them are getting absorbed by the attacking ship's shields.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE BRIDGE

TUVOK

No success. Captain, I'm detecting a fluctuation in their Keldrion-Stabilizers.

JANEWAY

How could we take advantage of it ?

KIM

With a widespread Kedeon-impulse we could disable their systems.

JANEWAY

Make it so !

EXTERNAL VIEW - A large shockwave emerges from the heart of Voyager. Every ship that gets hit by this shockwave suddenly loses control.

TUVOK

The ships are disabled. I'm now also detecting lifesigns of a male humanoid and a female klingon and the lost Delta Flyer. I suspect those are our lost crewmen. It seems that because of our impulse all force fields on this planet have been fallen out.

JANEWAY

Can we beam them up ?

TUVOK

We can beam up the Delta Flyer. It should now be in our shuttle bay, but our crewmen are in a large building possibly a headquarter. But there are transport scramblers installed inside the HQ so that we neither beam in nor beam out.

JANEWAY

Try to find a way to disable those scramblers.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE CELL

The alien creatures are just few centimeters away from Tom's and B'Elanna's feet. Suddenly they realize that their force fields are no longer existing. They jump away from the wall.

PARIS

Take this, you conspirator.

He raises his foot and steps directly on one of the alien creatures, killing it. Torres does the same with the other one. Paris looks under his boot.

PARIS

Ugh, that's disgusting.

TORRES

You didn't count with that. Your plan to conquer the whole galaxy has one weakness: the Voyager.

PARIS

And now your getting into deep, deep trouble. We're quite angry.

Paris and Torres storm towards the both of them but they suddenly vanish. It seems they have another transporter technology that can cope with their transport scramblers.

PARIS

Well, when the water is getting too high for them, they get afraid and run away, what cowards.

TORRES
Come on, let's get away from here.

They run outside through the open door.

IN A CORRIDOR

PARIS
We have to find a way out of here. We have to get to the command and control center. I believe from there we can open the anomaly.

TORRES
So that we can leave this place with Voyager. But where is this control center ?

PARIS
Trust me, I'm a pilot. I'll find the way to the control center. I'll promise.

TORRES
(to herself)
Now he's getting a feeling of heroism.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE BRIDGE

CHAKOTAY
Have you found a way to disable those scramblers yet ?

TUVOK
Negative. But I presume that if we fire at the power control station we could possibly switch them off. But considering this plan I have to say that we could weaken the building's structure with a miscalculated shot.

JANEWAY
What could lead to the collapse of the building. Are there any other suggestions ?

KIM
We could send in a commando team that could bring out Tom and B'Elanna.

CHAKOTAY
That is too risky. The planetary defense system, if there is some, could shoot their shuttle down.

JANEWAY
If there are no other possibilities, I would decide we'd try Tuvok's suggestion. We cannot afford any further losses or casualties. It all depends on this single shot.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE CONTROL CENTER

TORRES
Well, this room looks pretty unmanned and unguarded for a control center.

PARIS
That means we have to find out quickly how we can contact Voyager.

Paris goes to a large console and presses some buttons, not knowing what one button can do.

TORRES

I don't believe that you know what you are doing, do you ?

PARIS
Actually not.

TORRES
What about pressing this button ?

She presses a large red button.

ALIEN COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)
You have just opened a translocalisation anomaly with the last entered coordinates.

TORRES
That's great. Now we just have to alter the coordinates to Earth again.

Xondria enters the room with a phaser and 2 new suitcases in her hands.

XONDRIA
If you wait a little bit, I would do it myself. But before I'll do that I have to deliver my freight first.

PARIS
Let us go.

XONDRIA
You are not in a position to dictate conditions.

PARIS
If you shoot us, there would be 2 less bodies for your little worms.

TORRES
And the Voyager would start without us.

Suddenly the building shakes around. The lights go on and off. Xondria loses her balance. She tumbles and fires at the computer. Suddenly Paris and Torres beam away. Xondria lies in the floor, angry and sad.

XONDRIA
(cries)
Nooooooooo.

ALIEN COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)
Main power generator is offline. Switching to auxiliary power.

The lights are now stable again. Xondria stands up and goes to the console. She presses some buttons and control mechanism.

XONDRIA
Computer ! Deactivate the gate immediately !

ALIEN COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)
This procedure cannot be executed. The control functions are heavily damaged.

XONDRIA
Initiate self-repair mechanism. Time until complete repair ?

COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

4 Minutes.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE BRIDGE

Paris and Torres enter the bridge. Everyone on the bridge are glad to see them again, especially Kim, but they keep on concentrating on the situation.

JANEWAY

It's nice to have the both of you again onboard.

KIM

Tom, B'Elanna. Thank God, you are alive.

JANEWAY

Unfortunately we don't have for a big welcoming party.

PARIS

On this planet we have the possibility to open a black hole directly to Earth.

JANEWAY

I'm sorry, Tom. But we can count every second with a new wave of attacking fighters. I also presume this thing won't be open very long.

Paris goes to his chair and mans his station.

JANEWAY

Plot a course directly towards the anomaly. I want to get away from this planet as far as possible. What's the state of the warp engines?

TUVOK

Still offline.

Paris

Sir, the Delta Flyer.

JANEWAY

Don't worry, Tom. It is in the shuttle bay. Full impulse power.

PARIS

Yes, Ma'am.

TUVOK

We reach the anomaly in 2 minutes 30 seconds.

TORRES

Captain, those people on this planet want to conquer the Federation and has tried it once several years ago. We have to blow up their control center, so that they can't carry out their plans in the next time.

JANEWAY

Is it possible, that we can fire one torpedo that detonates after we have flown through the anomaly ?

TUVOK

It is possible. But we have only ten seconds left until we are out of weapon's range.

JANEWAY

Then do it.

TUVOK

Torpedoes are programmed ...(pauses) loaded ...(pauses) and fired.

JANEWAY

What's our ETA at the anomaly ?

KIM

Two minutes.

JANEWAY

Let's hope the torpedo hits his target. This was our only chance.

INTERNAL VIEW - XONDRIA

XONDRIA

How long does it take until the completion of the repair ?

ALIEN COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

2 minutes 30 seconds. Alert ! Sensors indicate that there is a torpedo directly aimed at this facility.

XONDRIA

Estimated time to impact ?

ALIEN COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

2 Minutes 32 seconds.

Xondria realizes that she cannot wait until the systems are repaired. She is also shocked and stunned. She begins to run away.

INTERNAL VIEW - VARIOUS SHOTS

We see Xondria running through several corridors.

EXTERNAL VIEW - THE TORPEDO

We see the torpedo more and more closing to the planet's atmosphere.

EXTERNAL VIEW - THE VOYAGER

The Voyager comes closer to the black hole.

INTERNAL VIEW - TUVOK

Time to entry: 5 seconds ... We face massive forces coming from the anomaly. Set initial dampers and stabilizers to maximum ... 2 ... 1.

EXTERNAL VIEW - THE BLACK HOLE

The Voyager enters the black hole.

INTERNAL VIEW - XONDRIA

She is still running through the corridors to get out of the building.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE CONTROL CENTER

ALIEN COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

5...4...3...2...1...unit repaired ! Alert ! Torpedo strike in 3...2.

EXTERNAL VIEW - THE HQ

We see the last moments before the torpedo hits the building.

ALIEN COMPUTER'S VOICE (V.O.)

One...

The torpedo hits the building in the same moment the computer would have said: "zero". The whole building explodes, tumbles and collapses.

EXTERNAL VIEW - THE BLACK HOLE

We see that the black hole behind Voyager vanishes.

INTERNAL VIEW - THE BRIDGE

All bridge officers are lying on the floor. They slowly stand up.

TUVOK

We have successfully flown through the anomaly. The anomaly itself vanished several seconds ago.

JANEWAY

Damage report!

TUVOK

There are minimal cracks on our hull. Emergency force fields are holding.

JANEWAY

Ensign Kim, where are we ?

KIM

We are back again at the position we flew through the anomaly for the first time.

JANEWAY

I hope we won't see this anomaly again.

INTERNAL VIEW - PARIS' QUARTERS

Paris is lying on his couch and reads something. The door chimes

PARIS

Come in.

The door opens and we see Harry Kim. He enters the room.

PARIS

Oh Harry. It's nice to see you again.

KIM

How are you, Tom ?

PARIS

I feel good. But I have heard that you were quite worrying about me.

KIM

Yes, that's true. After all, you are my best friend.

PARIS

Thanks. You know, I've been thinking about the past few days. How often did we have the possibility to come home again ? Probably a dozen time.

KIM

What do you want to tell me ?

PARIS

All our efforts were fated to fail. You know, I've added all chances we had and I calculated that we have a possibility to get home every 2.398 months. And we messed all of them up.

KIM

I believe, Tuvok would be proud of you because of your calculation. You have said that all our efforts were fated to fail. Perhaps that is right and we have very much bad luck but if you consider for a

moment and change your point-of-view you see your words in a different way, from a different perspective. Look at all those communities, races and people we met on our journey and we have helped so far. We prevented or ended wars, we solved conflicts, we saved the Borg from extermination and changed the Hirogen's society. We have helped many people. Perhaps we are the greatest losers in the galaxy but we are perhaps some kind of angels for all those peoples in this area of the galaxy. Because of our fate or a great mysterious force we may have very much bad luck but thanks to our bad luck, we can help all those peoples and we can be somewhat like a present from heaven for them.

PARIS

If you see it from that perspective, you're absolutely right. But I've to ask you something: Since when have you become a philosopher ?

The both of them begin to laugh.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT V

CREDITS

THE END