

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

REVISED

11/28/94 be
11/29/94 pk
11/30/94 yw
12/06/94 gn
12/07/94 gd
12/12/94 gt
12/13/94 bf
12/15/94 sn
12/15/94 cy
*12/15/94 tn

"Eye of the Needle"

#40841-107

Story
by
Hilary Bader and Bill Dial

Teleplay
by
Bill Dial and Jeri Taylor

Directed
by
Rick Kolbe

FINAL DRAFT

NOVEMBER 23, 1994

STAR TREK: VOYAGER - "Eye of the Needle" - 11/23/94 - CAST

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Eye of the Needle"

CAST

JANEWAY

BAXTER

CHAKOTAY

TELEK

KIM

PARIS

TORRES

TUVOK

ZIMMERMAN

KES

NEELIX

Non-Speaking

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Eye of the Needle"

SETS

INTERIORS

VOYAGER

BRIDGE
BRIEFING ROOM
CORRIDOR
ENGINEERING
HOLODECK
JANEWAY'S QUARTERS
NEELIX'S KITCHEN
READY ROOM
SICKBAY/ZIMMERMAN'S OFFICE
TRANSPORTER ROOM

EXTERIORS

VOYAGER

STAR TREK: "Eye of the Needle" - 12/07/94 - PRONUNCIATION
GUIDE

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Eye of the Needle"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ARETHIAN	ah-REE-thee-un
EIDETIC	eye-DET-ik
FOSSA	FAW-suh
OSTEOGENIC	ahs-tee-oh-JEN-ik
SACAJAWEA	sock-uh-juh-WAY-uh
TALVATH	TAL-vath
VERTERON	VER-ter-ahn
MALLEUS	MAL-ee-us *
INCUS	INK-us *
STAPES	STAY-peeZ *

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Eye of the Needle"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. HOLODECK/ENGLISH COUNTRY HOME - DRAWING ROOM 1 *

It is a dark and stormy night. Thunder crashes and a driving rain lashes the windows. The candlelight flickers from drafts in the room.

MRS. TEMPLETON'S VOICE

...the drawing room is in here...

The doors to the hallway swing open and MRS. TEMPLETON, a tall, austere woman in her 40's ENTERS, following by LUCIE/JANEWAY, wearing a hooded cloak that is wet from rain. They are followed by a young MAID. Mrs. Templeton turns and addresses the young woman, unsmiling. One feels she never smiles.

MRS. TEMPLETON

Take Mrs. Davenport's cape,
Bridget. And tell the master
she's here. *

Lucie/Janeway shrugs off the cloak, which the maid takes with a little curtsy. Mrs. Templeton casts an eye on her dress -- once a nice gown, now a bit threadbare. We get a sense of a faded grandeur, of a life that was once more opulent than it is now.

MRS. TEMPLETON

There's tea. *

LUCIE/JANEWAY

That would be lovely, thank you.

Mrs. Templeton turns to the set and begins pouring. She speaks in an unfriendly, dismissive tone.

MRS. TEMPLETON

Tea's usually served at five.
Dinner at eight-thirty. And the
master doesn't appreciate being
kept waiting.

LUCIE/JANEWAY

(wry)
I'll be sure to be prompt.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

Mrs. Templeton glances sharply at her, hearing an edge in the remark.

MRS. TEMPLETON

Let me make something clear, Mrs. Davenport. It's my job to make sure the household runs smoothly. I've been with Lord Burleigh for nearly twenty years because the household runs smoothly. He's come to trust me and I won't brook any behavior that might risk that trust. So you'll be expected to follow the rules I set down.

*

Lucie/Janeway eyes her, hears the challenge, and responds in kind. She leans toward Mrs. Templeton.

LUCIE/JANEWAY

Mrs. Templeton... I have no wish to do anything that might disrupt this household... but let me make something perfectly clear. I've been hired by Lord Burleigh, and it's his orders I will follow. Not yours.

*

The two women hold a look, Lucie/Janeway not flinching, Mrs. Templeton simmering.

MRS. TEMPLETON

You'd be wise not to make an enemy of me. I can make sure we have another governess by next week.

*

*

*

LUCIE/JANEWAY

I suggest we try to get along, Mrs. Templeton. Surely there's room here for both of us.

*

*

*

*

Mrs. Templeton holds the teacup poised, considers this suggestion. Without a sense of acquiescence:

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

MRS. TEMPLETON
One lump or two?

LUCIE/JANEWAY
Two, please. And milk.

Mrs. Templeton hands her the tea.

MRS. TEMPLETON
Lord Burleigh will be here
directly.

And she turns on her heel and EXITS. Lucie/Janeway has an involuntary shudder, as much from the chill of the woman as the chill of the room. As she sips her tea, she wanders the room, inspecting the tapestries and the rich furnishings. Drafts still make the candles gutter, and it's an unsettling feeling.

Suddenly there's a sound... tapping? at the window. Lucie/Janeway whirls, startled. Cautiously, she moves to the window, and has just realized that it's the brushing of branches against the window when it BURSTS open from the force of the wind. Rain drifts through, and she moves to shut the flapping window.

As she does... she sees reflected in the window a woman's face. She gasps, leans against the window, and turns to look behind her.

Nothing.

Then she realizes that the window pane has caught the reflection of a portrait on the wall. That was the face she saw. She moves toward it, drawn to it somehow, fascinated.

1A ANGLE - ON THE PORTRAIT

1A

It is of a young woman. Her features are somewhat indistinct, but we can see that she is attractive. There is a sadness, a solemnity to her eyes that is haunting. Lucie/Janeway stares at the portrait, mesmerized... reaches out a tentative hand toward the troubled face --

-- when suddenly a hand touches her shoulder. She yelps and turns. Standing behind her is LORD BURLEIGH. He is in his 40's, a handsome man who seems to bear the weight of the world on his shoulders. He is basically a good, decent person who bears a heavy secret; as a result he is somewhat remote.

(CONTINUED)

1A CONTINUED:

1A

LORD BURLEIGH

Forgive me... I've startled you...

LUCIE/JANEWAY

I'm sorry -- I didn't hear you
come in.

He pours himself a glass of sherry from a crystal
decanter.

LORD BURLEIGH

Mrs. Davenport, I'll come to the
point. I'm not an easy man to
live with. Since my wife died,
I'm told I'm even worse.

(beat)

She was a buffer for me...

There is a moment of vulnerability, of pain, in that
statement that touches Janeway's heart.

LUCIE/JANEWAY

I understand...

LORD BURLEIGH

The children are the ones who've
suffered... I've not been much of
a father to them... and God knows
I can't be a mother...

He paces the room, clearly uncomfortable with this
personal discussion.

LORD BURLEIGH

I'm not asking that you replace
their mother... but I think
they'll respond to a woman's
sensibilities... you might fill
a void in their lives...

LUCIE/JANEWAY

I'll certainly try, Your Grace.

(CONTINUED)

1A CONTINUED: (2)

1A

He sets down his sherry glass and turns to her. *

LORD BURLEIGH

Young Henry is sometimes a bit
stubborn... and little Beatrice
misses her mother terribly... I
hope they won't make things
difficult for you.

Now, he approaches her and stares intently into her
eyes. His tone changes, is intense and edged with
anger.

LORD BURLEIGH

One thing above all I must demand:
you are never... under any
circumstances... to go onto the
fourth floor.

(beat)

Is that clear?

She looks at him, curious, starts to reply, but
suddenly:

KIM'S VOICE

Excuse me, Captain...

(CONTINUED)

1A CONTINUED: (3)

1A

Janeway whirls, startled by the voice and half expecting to see another Holodeck character. She is mildly shocked to see HARRY KIM standing in the arch of the Holodeck door. Lord Burleigh is perplexed, too. *

LORD BURLEIGH *

Who's this?

Janeway moves toward Kim.

JANEWAY

Ensign Kim...?

KIM

I'm sorry, Captain... but I had to talk to you...

JANEWAY

Computer, end program and save at this point.

The drawing room disappears and is replaced by -- *

2 OMITTED

2

3 INT. HOLODECK

3

Janeway eyes him as she walks toward him.

JANEWAY

(lightly)

You take your chances when you interrupt the Captain's Holodeck program, Ensign.

KIM

I apologize, Ma'am.

Janeway is still dressed in her 19th century garb, which looks strangely out of place now.

JANEWAY

I'm playing a character in a holo-novel... a Gothic mystery that takes place in ancient England...

(a smile)

It's very relaxing. It takes my mind away from being a Captain...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

KIM

I wouldn't have bothered you if I
didn't think it was important. *

JANEWAY

I'm sure you wouldn't.

KIM

And I didn't want to risk telling
you this over the com line.

She looks at him quizzically.

KIM

You know we've been scanning for
spatial anomalies... that might
get us home faster...

JANEWAY

Right...

Kim looks at her, excitement welling within him, eyes
shining with hope.

KIM

And I think I've found something.
I think... I've found a wormhole.

Off her reaction --

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes.)

4 INT. BRIDGE

4

TUVOK, PARIS, and Kim at their stations; CHAKOTAY is with Kim. Janeway ENTERS from the Turbolift, now in uniform, and heads toward Ops.

JANEWAY

Let's see what you have, Mister Kim.

Kim gestures toward his console. Janeway sees an Okudagram which shows a blinking point of light in space, along with other data. Kim points.

KIM

There... it's registering only on sub-space bands. We don't even have it on long range sensors yet.

Janeway peers at the Okudagram.

JANEWAY

Verteron emanations... tunneling secondary particles... it certainly looks like a wormhole...

CHAKOTAY

But is it stable enough for us to enter... and if it is, where does it lead...?

TUVOK

There is, of course, a seventy-five percent chance a wormhole will not lead to the Alpha Quadrant.

JANEWAY

Very true. But you can also say there's a one in four chance it will. Those aren't bad odds.

(to Kim)

Any analysis yet, Ensign?

KIM

We're too far away. We'd have to be within a thousand kilometers to get a detailed analysis.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

KIM (Cont'd)

(beat)

But that would mean a significant course change.

JANEWAY

Well, Mister Kim, if there's even a possibility of finding a wormhole... I think we can afford a detour.

Kim's grin shows his relief. Janeway moves toward Conn.

JANEWAY

Lieutenant, input the coordinates and change course.

PARIS

Aye, Captain. And may I suggest... if this works, we petition the Federation Astronomical Committee to officially designate this... the Harry Kim Wormhole.

Janeway smiles, and you can almost feel the spirit lift on the Bridge as each crewmember contemplates the possibility of getting home.

5 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

5

as it banks and turns, heading in a different direction.

6 INT. SICKBAY

6

DOC ZIMMERMAN is examining an injured crewmember, LIEUTENANT BAXTER. KES watches; Zimmerman is using the occasion to continue training her as a medic. Doc's attention is focused on Baxter's elbow.

BAXTER

It started acting up a couple of days ago... I've been working out in the gym... maybe I overdid it.

ZIMMERMAN

Is it sore... here?

Zimmerman touches a point on the elbow; Baxter winces.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

BAXTER

Yes...

ZIMMERMAN

(to Kes)

Localized tenderness to the ulnar bone, no epidermal damage, moderate edema. What are the possible diagnoses?

KES

(carefully)

Epicondylitis... strained ligament... torn muscle... and hairline fracture.

Zimmerman eyes her with some surprise.

ZIMMERMAN

That's exactly right.

KES

I've studied all the material you gave me. I'm ready for more.

ZIMMERMAN

Good. There's a great deal more for you to learn.

(off tricorder)

The tricorder indicates this is a small stress fracture.

Zimmerman moves toward a cabinet. Baxter nods toward him, addresses Kes.

BAXTER

Can this guy do everything a real doctor does?

He speaks as though Zimmerman weren't even there. Kes is uncomfortable with the attitude, and doesn't respond.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

Zimmerman returns to the bed with the instrument.

ZIMMERMAN

Yes, he can.

He hands the device to Kes.

ZIMMERMAN

Activate it and direct the beam here...

(points)

...at the radius.

Kes does so... gently waves the device over Baxter's elbow...

ZIMMERMAN

That's it... not quite so fast...

BAXTER

(to Kes)

If I had to get treatment for something serious... if I had to have surgery, for instance... would he be performing it?

Zimmerman gives him an irritated look.

ZIMMERMAN

Yes. And quite expertly, too.

It's a disconcerting notion to Baxter.

BAXTER

I don't know. I'd have to think twice about that...

ZIMMERMAN

Fine. And if you were lucky you wouldn't die on the table while you were making up your mind...

Baxter has no comeback for that, and Zimmerman turns to Kes.

ZIMMERMAN

That should do it.

Kes switches off the device.

ZIMMERMAN

(to Baxter)

How does it feel?

Baxter stretches the arm, flexes it.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

BAXTER

Not bad...

He hops off the bed, smiles at Kes.

BAXTER

Thanks.

He leaves without acknowledging Zimmerman -- who, of course, doesn't notice. But Kes is troubled. She follows Zimmerman into his office.

7 INT. ZIMMERMAN'S OFFICE

7

Zimmerman sits and begins looking through PADDs on his desk.

KES

Doctor... did you notice... how rudely that officer treated you?

ZIMMERMAN

No more so than most.

KES

You mean... others act that way, too?

ZIMMERMAN

Let's just say I've become accustomed to being treated like a hypospray.

He hands her a PADD.

ZIMMERMAN

Now... here's some material on first aid for burns.

She doesn't take it.

KES

Doctor... I think I'd like to do more than study first aid. I'd be interested in knowing more about anatomy and physiology.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

He gives her a pleased look.

ZIMMERMAN

You're intellectually curious. I like that.

He selects several PADDs and gives them to her.

ZIMMERMAN

These deal with human anatomy and physiology... But they weren't written for the layman. They're quite technical.

But she smiles sweetly at him.

KES

I understand. I'll do my best. And... I really appreciate your help.

She EXITS, leaving Zimmerman reacting to the unaccustomed kindness.

8 INT. BRIDGE

8

Everyone at stations.

PARIS

Captain, we're approaching the coordinates of the wormhole.

JANEWAY

On screen.

9 ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

9

They see nothing but the starfield; there are baffled looks.

JANEWAY

Are we in visual range?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

KIM

Affirmative, Captain. And the anomaly is still registering on sub-space bands.

PARIS

(from his console)
Sensors also indicate it's there.

JANEWAY

Magnify.

The starfield magnifies, but there's still no sign of an anomaly. What's going on?

JANEWAY

Increase to highest magnification.

The field magnifies again... and now there's a barely perceptible blinking pinpoint.

CHAKOTAY

If that's a wormhole, it must be the smallest one on record...

JANEWAY

Mister Kim, are you able to analyze it?

KIM

Aye, Captain... it's virtually microscopic... the aperture is only about thirty centimeters in diameter...

A pall descends on the crew. Their hopes have been dashed.

PARIS

I guess that's a little too small to fly through.

TUVOK

However...

All eyes turn toward him.

TUVOK

...it might be large enough to act as a conduit for a message.

Kim brightens considerably at this.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

KIM

That's right. It could carry a compressed data transmission to Federation space in -- minutes.

JANEWAY

We still have to find out if it goes anywhere near the Alpha Quadrant. Can you trace its subspace bearing?

KIM

I can't get any directional readings at all. The aperture is too small.

TUVOK

I recommend we launch a micro-probe into the wormhole.

JANEWAY

Agreed. Go ahead, Lieutenant.

TUVOK

Aye, Captain.

10 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

10

as a tiny point of light emerges from the ship and streaks off into the darkness of space.

11 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

11

KIM

We're receiving telemetry...

Janeway glances at the Viewscreen. It is now relaying the probe's view from inside the wormhole.

The screen swirls with gaseous energy -- but a watered-down kind of energy. It lacks the dynamism and majesty of the DS9 wormhole... instead of brilliant, electric colors, it's a sickly yellow-brown... as though it's withered, slowed, and dying. (The POV conveys the sense that the probe is traveling through this atrophied pathway.) The Bridge crew registers various levels of puzzlement.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

PARIS

That doesn't look like any
wormhole I've ever studied...

KIM

(off console)

Microscopic gravitational
eddies... extremely constricted
spatial dimensions... the pathway
is barely wider than the probe
itself.

JANEWAY

I think what we're seeing... is a
wormhole in an advanced state of
decay. It must be ancient...
probably been collapsing for
centuries.

PARIS

Does that mean we can't send a
message through it?

KIM

(quickly, determined)

No. I can do it. Maybe it'll
take longer to get through, but
the wormhole's still stable enough
to carry a transmission.

CHAKOTAY

Any idea yet where that message
would end up, Ensign?

KIM

(working his console)

I'll try extrapolating the
verteron exit vector...

(beat, shakes his head)

I can't get it. There's a strange
phase variance in the radiation
stream. We'll have to wait until
the probe exits.

Janeway gives Kim a look. She knows he needs
desperately to believe that the wormhole will provide
a link, however fragile, to home.

JANEWAY

That shouldn't take long.

PARIS

Captain, I'm getting a distorted
energy reading...

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

TUVOK

The probe's telemetry has
changed...

She turns quickly and looks at the Viewscreen. There has been a substantial change in the view from inside the wormhole. Instead of traveling through the pathway, the probe is mired in a sluggish vortex, turning slowly, round and round. Kim is horrified.

KIM

It's stuck...

JANEWAY

Stuck?

KIM

It's mired in a gravitational eddy. And... because the wormhole's in a state of collapse... those eddies are incredibly dense...

He looks up at her, trying to conceal his disappointment.

KIM

That probe will never break free, Captain. We have no way of finding out where the wormhole ends.

Janeway regards him compassionately. She knows he will take this harder than others.

JANEWAY

Let's give it some time. Maybe it will work itself loose.

He knows that's not so, but appreciates the effort. He glances down at his monitor.

KIM

Maybe if I boosted the field thrust of the propulsion module...

Suddenly he reacts in response to something he sees at his controls. He stares at it as though he's in shock. Janeway moves to him.

JANEWAY

(concerned)

Ensign... what is it?

He looks up at her, stunned.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

KIM

Captain... our probe... was just
scanned. There's... there's
somebody on the other side of the
wormhole.

And off the astonished reactions of the others --

12 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

12

Janeway is with Kim, B'ELANNA, and Tuvok.

KIM

So far, sensors have detected four separate scans of the micro-probe -- each one on a progressively narrower band. Someone on the other end of the wormhole is definitely interested in that probe.

TUVOK

We cannot preclude the possibility that there is a microscopic entity within the wormhole -- curious about an intruder.

KIM

That's possible... but you'd think our probe would've detected something like that.

JANEWAY

What's the condition of the probe now?

TORRES

I've been monitoring it from Engineering. It's still embedded in a gravitational eddy. But within seventy-two hours it will be crushed.

KIM

But until then, it should continue to transmit telemetry.

JANEWAY

If we're reading scans from the other side... it's possible the probe is acting as a relay...

(to Kim)

If that's true, we should be able to use it to transmit a message to whoever's executing the scan...

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

KIM

(excited again)

Yes. I can modify our sub-space communications band to accept the probe as a booster.

JANEWAY

Let's try it, Mister Kim.

B'Elanna rises with him.

TORRES

I'll give you a hand.

Kim and B'Elanna EXIT eagerly, and Janeway exchanges a look with Tuvok.

TUVOK

I fear Mister Kim's exuberance may turn into an equally intense disappointment if his efforts prove in vain.

JANEWAY

You may be right... but I'd rather assume that he's going to be successful.

13 INT. NEELIX'S KITCHEN

13

Kes is preparing vegetables for NEELIX; he's busily chopping them with a massive knife. Neelix is engrossed in his conversation, but Kes is preoccupied.

NEELIX

My talk with the Captain went very well, if I do say so.

KES

Mmmmm...

NEELIX

I think she appreciated the fact that I was candid with her. She likes that in her officers, you know.

He takes another bunch of alien vegetables from Kes and attacks them with relish.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

KES

So she's going to do it?

NEELIX

Well... she didn't exactly commit herself... apparently there are regulations on top of regulations that spell out who can get a field commission and a uniform.

(beat)

Still, she promised to take it under consideration.

He whacks at the vegetables with a flourish.

NEELIX

She even likened me to the guide of one of the great explorers of her native planet, Earth. Someone named Sacajawea...

He eyes her, waiting for her reply. She is silent, focusing on the vegetables. He wants to impress upon her what a compliment this was.

NEELIX

Sacajawea was a profoundly important person in Earth's history. And the Captain was comparing this person... to me.

KES

Hmmmmm...

NEELIX

If she's speaking in those terms... I'd think it's only a matter of time before she rewarded my contributions by giving me a commission and a uniform.

She puts down the vegetables and looks him in the eye.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

KES

If you have the Captain's ear, can you talk to her about the doctor?

He stares at her, taken off-stride. What does this have to do with his plan?

NEELIX

The doctor?

KES

(determined)

Yes. I think the way the crew's treating him is wrong. Something has to be done about it.

NEELIX

(thoroughly confused)

But... he's just a Holodeck program...

KES

You see? You're doing it, too. Just dismissing him as though he doesn't matter.

Neelix begins backpedaling. Kes can always do that to him.

NEELIX

I'm doing no such thing. I'm sure he's a very fine... program.

KES

Then you'll talk to the Captain?

NEELIX

The Captain is an extremely busy person. I wouldn't presume to take up her time with --

KES

Then I will.

NEELIX

Sweeting, if everybody on the ship went running to the Captain with each little problem they want solved, the poor woman would never have time to sleep --

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

KES

I'm going to her. And that's that.

Neelix sighs. When Kes makes up her mind about something, there's no stopping her. Or even slowing her down.

14 INT. ENGINEERING

14

Kim and B'Elanna are working to modify the communications band.

KIM

Okay... I've boosted power to the communications bandwidth... now all we have to do is reconfigure the signal generator so it's compatible with the probe's long range sensors.

TORRES

I'm on it... just a few minutes more...

Kim watches her as she works. He's pretty eager about this whole possibility.

KIM

This has to work. It'll mean so much to people back home -- to know that we're alive, and headed for Federation space.

She shoots him a look.

TORRES

We haven't been gone that long. People won't give up on us so soon... they probably just think we're lost.

KIM

It's still going to be hard on my folks. I always called them once a week... even when I was on training missions.

(beat)

I've never been out of contact for this long.

She eyes him sympathetically. She knows how homesick he is.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

TORRES

Well, it is going to work,
Starfleet. So pretty soon they're
going to know you're all right.

He smiles gratefully.

KIM

How about you? Any family?

B'Elanna says the next lightly, but that's a practiced
cover. Her relationship with her family is at the core
of her war with herself.

TORRES

I haven't seen my father since I
was five. He and my mother
separated... he went back to
Earth... and that was the last I
saw of him.

TORRES

And your mom?

TORRES

I think she's on the Klingon
Homeworld.

Kim stares at her. This non-relationship is at a polar
opposite from his with his close-knit family.

KIM

You think?

TORRES

We didn't get along very well.
Okay, the signal generator should
be tuned to the probe's long range
sensors.

KIM

Isn't there... anyone... back home
who'd be worried about you?

TORRES

The Maquis are as close to family
as I've ever had. Most of my
friends are here on this ship.
So... no. There's no one back
home who's going to care one way
or another whether I'm alive.

Kim takes this in, but he can hardly imagine it.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2) 14

Kim taps his combadge.

KIM
Engineering to Bridge.

INTERCUT:

15 INT. BRIDGE 15

Janeway, Chakotay, Paris, Tuvok, N.D.s.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

JANEWAY

Janeway here.

KIM

We have a communications link with the micro-probe. We're going to try sending a preliminary test signal... a series of sub-harmonic pulses. They stand the best chance of transmission through the wormhole.

JANEWAY

Acknowledged. Proceed.

Both on the Bridge and in Engineering, all attention is focused on consoles as everyone waits to see if this attempt will work. We HEAR the pulses as they're transmitted.

CHAKOTAY

(off console)

I'm reading transmission of the test signal... the probe has received it and relayed it...

PARIS

How will we know if the signal reaches somebody?

JANEWAY

The only way... is if that somebody answers.

16 VARIOUS SHOTS

16

of the crew... staring fixedly at their consoles... Kim desperately willing this attempt to work... Janeway wanting her crew to achieve a victory... every one of them thinking of home, and how this effort might bring them just a touch closer... but there's only silence. Presently...

KIM

There's no response.

TORRES

It's too soon. Remember, we have no idea how long it takes to reach the other side.

More tension... more waiting... more silence.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

JANEWAY

Are you reading anything, Mister Tuvok?

TUVOK

No, Captain. There is nothing which would suggest a response.

Disappointed silence. Janeway and Chakotay exchange looks; he realizes she had her hopes up.

CHAKOTAY

Even if someone receives our signal... it might take them some time to figure out how to return it.

JANEWAY

You're right.
(to com)
Janeway to Kim -- continue transmitting.

KIM

Aye, Captain. How long should we keep it up?

JANEWAY

Until I tell you otherwise.
(to Chakotay)
You have the Bridge, Commander.

She starts for the Ready Room. As she nears Tuvok's station, he has a reaction to something he sees. Janeway moves nearer.

JANEWAY

Mister Tuvok...?

TUVOK

I'm getting something, Captain...

He works the console briefly.

PARIS

I'm getting it, too... a subspace signal relayed through the probe...

TUVOK

The signal is being transmitted at exactly the same frequency and amplitude as our signal.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

He looks up at Janeway, and something remotely akin to satisfaction shines in his eyes.

TUVOK

It's a response. Someone received our transmission... and sent one back.

(beat)

And their signal originated in the Alpha Quadrant.

A brief, stunning moment of victory, then --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

17 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 17
hanging in space.

JANEWAY'S (V.O.)
Captain's Log, Stardate 48579.4. *
Encouraged by his success in
transmitting a signal to the Alpha
Quadrant, Mister Kim is
investigating the possibility of
establishing a voice link with
whoever is at the other end of the
wormhole.

18 INT. READY ROOM 18
Janeway works at her console; the door CHIMES.

JANEWAY
Come in.

Kes ENTERS. Janeway looks up, smiles.

JANEWAY
Kes... this is a surprise.

KES
Am I interrupting?

The Captain rises, goes toward the replicator.

JANEWAY
Not at all. I was just going to
have a cup of soup. Would you
like anything?

KES
Spinach juice with a touch of
pear, please.

Janeway raises an eyebrow; Kes smiles.

KES
Tom Paris introduced me to it.
It's very nutritious.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

JANEWAY

I'm sure.

(to replicator)

One spinach juice with a touch of
pear... and one cup of vegetable
bouillon.

We HEAR the replicator deliver, and Janeway hands Kes
her drink, takes her soup. They walk toward the
sitting area.

JANEWAY

What can I do for you?

Janeway sits, but Kes remains standing, pacing a bit as
she speaks.

KES

If there were a member of the
crew... whose needs weren't being
met... would you want to know
about it?

Janeway regards her, puzzled.

JANEWAY

Of course.

Kes hesitates, and Janeway sets down her cup, leans
toward the young woman.

JANEWAY

Kes, do you and Neelix feel your
needs are being ignored?

Kes stares at her... then realizes it would be a
natural assumption. She smiles.

KES

Of course not. We're very happy
here. I'm referring to the
doctor.

Janeway eyes her evenly. This was not what she
expected.

JANEWAY

The... doctor..

KES

I don't understand why people
treat him the way they do.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

JANEWAY

(caught off guard)
How... do people treat him?

KES

As though he doesn't exist. They talk about him while he's standing right there... they ignore him... they insult him...

Janeway absorbs this, places it into a larger context.

JANEWAY

Well, as a matter of fact, I've been hearing the other side of the coin. Many of the crew have complained that the doctor is brusque... even rude. That he lacks any bedside manner. We've been talking about re-programming him.

KES

You can do that? It doesn't seem right...

JANEWAY

Kes, he's only a hologram.

KES

He's your medical officer. He's alive.

JANEWAY

No, he's not.

KES

He's self-aware... he's communicative... he has the ability to learn --

JANEWAY

Because he's programmed to do that.

KES

So because he's a hologram, he doesn't have to be treated with respect... or any consideration at all?

Janeway is silent, pondering this. She is being forced to take a fresh look at the idea of a hologram.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (3)

18

JANEWAY

Very well. I'll look into it.

KES

Thank you, Captain.

She EXITS, and Janeway sits for a moment with her soup, mulling the myriad complexities of being a starship captain.

19 INT. BRIDGE

19

Kim and B'Elanna have taken the Engineering station in order to make further modifications to the communication system. Tuvok, Chakotay, and Paris are at their stations.

KIM

Okay... we'll be ready to go on line in a couple of minutes.

TORRES

I'm still worried about the gravitational interference. I don't think the co-variant isolator will be effective with a vocal transmission.

KIM

Let's try inverting the narrow band filter...

As they bend to the task, Janeway ENTERS the Bridge.

JANEWAY

(to Kim)

Progress report, Ensign.

KIM

I think we're ready to give it a try. But we're pushing through some pretty heavy gravitational interference... I can't guarantee the clarity of the transmission.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

JANEWAY

Let's see what happens.

(beat)

This is Captain Kathryn Janeway of
the Federation Starship Voyager.

Do you read?

In reply there is a crackle of static... nothing more.
After a pause...

TORRES

Let me narrow the filter band pass
some more...

(works)

Try again, Captain.

JANEWAY

This is Kathryn Janeway of the
Federation ship Voyager. Is
anyone receiving this
communication?

Again, a crackle of static... they all exchange
looks... then, in the middle of the staticky garble,
they pick up one word...

TELEK'S (V.O.)

...vessel...

Electrified, they all react. Someone speaking to them --
from the Alpha Quadrant!

KIM

Narrow the band pass a little
more...

B'Elanna does, nods toward Janeway.

JANEWAY

This is Janeway. Can you repeat
your last transmission?

More static... which begins clearing gradually... we
begin to pick out more words...

TELEK'S (V.O.)

...of the cargo vessel...
Quadrant... your location...

JANEWAY

Cargo vessel, we're still working
on clearing up your transmission.
Please repeat one more time.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

TELEK'S (V.O.)
...am Captain of the cargo vessel
Talvath... location Alpha
Quadrant, sector one-three-eight-
five... what is your location?

JANEWAY
We're in the Delta Quadrant... but
since this quadrant has never been
charted, I can't specify our exact
location.

There is a crackle of static for a beat, then --

TELEK'S (V.O.)
Please confirm... you said Delta
Quadrant?

JANEWAY
Correct.

TELEK'S (V.O.)
In a Federation starship?

The skepticism in his voice is apparent; Janeway
scrambles to reassure him.

JANEWAY
Yes... we were on a mission... and
got pulled into this quadrant...

TELEK'S V.O.
Pulled in? How?

Janeway hesitates, realizing her story will sound
absurd, and not wanting to lose this man.

JANEWAY
It's a complicated story...
please, if you'd just try
deconstructing the phase shift of
our hailing frequency, you could
verify --

TELEK'S V.O.
You are undoubtedly still in the
Alpha Quadrant. What are your
coordinates?

JANEWAY
I assure you, I'm telling you the
truth --

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

JANEWAY (Cont'd)
We're in the Delta Quadrant...
seventy thousand light years from
you...

TELEK'S (V.O.)
This is preposterous. You are
obviously lying. I am terminating
communication.

JANEWAY
No, no, wait!

But there is only the crackle of static in reply.

JANEWAY
Kim, hail him again.

Kim works... waits... nothing.

KIM
No response, Captain.

Frustrated, she moves toward her chair. They're all
deflated by having lost this contact with someone from
Alpha Quadrant.

CHAKOTAY
Why would he have broken off
transmission?

TUVOK
Perhaps I can offer an
explanation.

All eyes toward Tuvok.

TUVOK
The com-link signature of his
transmission indicates that the
message originated from a Romulan
ship.

There are varied reactions to this news.

TUVOK
Further, there are no known
shipping lanes in the sector he
identified.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (4)

19

TUVOK (Cont'd)

Given the precise calibration of his signal, I would suggest that he is in fact on a science vessel.

PARIS

Why would he pretend to be a cargo captain?

CHAKOTAY

If he's engaged in some kind of secret research... he might want to conceal that fact.

TUVOK

Precisely. And when we claimed to be transmitting from the Delta Quadrant -- an impossibility so far as he knows -- he may have feared we were Federation spies.

TORRES

Just our luck... we raise one ship in the Alpha Quadrant and it has to be Romulan.

JANEWAY

That Romulan still has the ability to get a message to Starfleet.

(to Kim)

Mister Kim, hail the Talvath repeatedly. Call me the minute you re-establish contact.

(to Chakotay)

Commander, you have the Bridge.

CHAKOTAY

Aye, Captain.

Janeway EXITS.

20 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

20

hanging in space.

21 INT. SICKPAY (OPTICAL)

21

Janeway ENTERS.

JANEWAY

Computer, initiate emergency medical holographic program.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

Zimmerman APPEARS.

ZIMMERMAN

Please state the nature of the medical emergency.

JANEWAY

There's no emergency, Doctor.

Zimmerman immediately begins working with some specimens in petri dishes; he's irritated.

ZIMMERMAN

Well, that's good. I was right in the middle of preparing a culture to test Lieutenant Hargrove for Arethian flu when Ensign Kyoto deactivated me.

JANEWAY

I'm sure she didn't realize you were busy.

Zimmerman snorts and keeps working with the dishes.

ZIMMERMAN

What is it you wanted, Captain?

Janeway takes a moment to figure out how to proceed.

JANEWAY

Actually, I thought we might just -- talk for a moment.

Zimmerman gives her a quick, puzzled look.

ZIMMERMAN

About what?

JANEWAY

Doctor, you were originally programmed to serve in a limited fashion during an emergency. Now... you're being asked to do much more.

ZIMMERMAN

(vexed)

That's certainly true. I am providing full-time medical service for the entire ship's crew, functioning as both doctor and nurse. And now, as an instructor as well.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

JANEWAY

Right. You don't have the luxury of thinking of yourself as an emergency medical program anymore. You've become a full-fledged member of the crew.

ZIMMERMAN

I see. Are you suggesting that I be re-programmed?

JANEWAY

No... I'm asking if there's anything I can do to help you.

Baffling.

ZIMMERMAN

Help me?

JANEWAY

If there's anything you need, or want, I'd like to see that you get it.

ZIMMERMAN

What I'd like... is to be turned off when people leave. I spend hours here with absolutely nothing to do.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

JANEWAY

What if I gave you control over
your deactivation sequence?

He stops what he's doing, stares at her.

ZIMMERMAN

I beg your pardon?

JANEWAY

I'm sure we can make it possible
for you to turn yourself off -- or
to prevent being turned off.

Zimmerman is astonished. The idea of having that power
would never have occurred to him. It will be -- as
we'll come to see -- the first taste of blood.

ZIMMERMAN

I... I might like that.

She smiles at him.

JANEWAY

I'll have someone look into it.
(beat)
Is there anything else?

ZIMMERMAN

I'm not sure. I'll have to give
it some thought.

JANEWAY

You do that.

She EXITS. Zimmerman begins thinking..

22 OMITTED

22

23 INT. JANEWAY'S QUARTERS

23

The room is darkened; camera FINDS Janeway in bed, sound asleep. Hold on her for a beat, then --

KIM'S COM VOICE

Kim to Captain Janeway!

Her eyes snap open at the sound of the excited voice. She takes a second to orient herself.

JANEWAY

Janeway here...

KIM'S COM VOICE

Captain, we've got him back -- the Romulan!

She's out of bed in an instant.

JANEWAY

Good work. Put him through to my quarters.

There is a brief crackle of static, then it clears.

JANEWAY

This is Kathryn Janeway.

TELEK'S (V.O.)

This is the cargo vessel Talvath.

During the next, Janeway is pacing the room, desperately trying to keep this man talking to her, to win him over.

JANEWAY

Thank you for answering our hail, Captain.

(beat)

What is your name? How may I address you?

A pause.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

TELEK'S (V.O.)

I'd prefer not to give my name.

This isn't going to be easy. He's edgy and skittish, and Janeway knows she has to tread lightly.

JANEWAY

Very well. I understand that you must have been skeptical when I told you where we are... I hope you've been able to verify our position.

TELEK'S V.O.

My analysis of your hailing frequency seems to indicate that it originates in the Delta Quadrant... but I am not precluding the possibility that you've been able to create that illusion somehow.

JANEWAY

To what end?

TELEK'S V.O.

I'm not sure. But that doesn't negate the possibility.

JANEWAY

How can I assure you of my truthfulness?

TELEK'S V.O.

You say you're a Federation ship. Are you a Starfleet vessel?

JANEWAY

Yes, we are.

TELEK'S V.O.

And your mission in the Delta Quadrant?

JANEWAY

Our mission was originally in the Alpha Quadrant. We were pulled against our will to our present location... now we're trying to get home.

TELEK'S V.O.

Aren't you in fact Starfleet spies... on a surveillance mission?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

Janeway considers what to do. She understands why he's asking these questions; maybe she can disarm him by letting him know she's aware he is Romulan.

JANEWAY

Captain... I understand your concern. Naturally, the Romulan Empire doesn't want Starfleet spying on its science vessels.

She pauses to see if there's a response. There isn't.

JANEWAY

But since we're seventy thousand light years from Romulan space... and a subspace message to Starfleet would take years... I think you'd have to admit that we can't be much of a threat to you. You have nothing to fear from us.

TELEK'S V.O.

Soothing words, Captain. But -- they're only words.

JANEWAY

If we were spies... we wouldn't be asking what I'm going to ask you now.

There is silence. Janeway takes a breath, keeps going.

JANEWAY

We have no way of communicating with Starfleet... with our friends and families. We're hoping you might be able to relay a message for us.

She waits for a reply; there is none.

JANEWAY

Our crew is not large. Each of them could write a short personal message... you would be welcome to read them all before passing them on. I think you'd be convinced that they were nothing more than the heartfelt words of some very lonely people.

She hears the man take a breath. Does this mean she's gotten to him?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (3)

23

TELEK'S V.O.

Captain, it would ease my
apprehension if I could see that
you are who you say you are.

(beat)

I have a signal amplifier on
board. I've been working to
reconfigure the protocols to
penetrate the radiation stream of
the wormhole.

(beat)

I think it might be possible to
establish a visual link between
us.

JANEWAY

(surprised)

I have no objection... when that's
done... will you help us?

TELEK'S V.O.

I make no promises. Let us
proceed one step at a time. Have
your officers contact me in order
to attempt the visual link.

(beat)

Good night.

JANEWAY

Good night...

Transmission ends. Janeway sits and stares pensively
forward, turning the unexpected conversation over in
her mind.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

24 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

24

Janeway ENTERS from her Ready Room and crosses toward the Engineering station.

TUVOK

We're ready to try the visual link with the Romulan ship, Captain.

JANEWAY

Good work.

KIM

We didn't have any trouble configuring the protocols... but there's a slight phase variance in the radiation stream of the wormhole that gave us a few problems. Torres is going to balance it manually from Engineering.

PARIS

Okay, we've got the communications frequency locked in.

JANEWAY

On screen.

They all look at the Viewscreen, which crackles with staticky interference. We can see the Romulan scientist (TELEK) in the cockpit of a shuttle-sized craft, with intermittent breakup of the picture. Telek looks at her, unsmiling.

TELEK

I presume you are Captain Janeway...

Janeway regards him. He is a crucial element in their ability to send a message home, and she wants to play him just right. She approaches the screen, smiling.

JANEWAY

Yes. I want to thank you, Captain, for maintaining contact with us.

(beat)

It means a great deal to me, and to my crew.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Telek is busily darting his eyes around the Bridge.

TELEK

I'm not familiar with this class
of ship...

JANEWAY

It's new. But it isn't
classified.

(wry)

I'm a little surprised your
intelligence hasn't provided you
with information...

The Romulan gives her a quick look. At first he seems
irritated, then he seems to pick up on her wry tone.
His mouth twitches in what just might be considered the
beginning of a smile.

TELEK

I've been in space for over a
year, Captain, and not privy to
the latest intelligence. But I'm
sure our operatives have provided
the government with detailed
information on your new ship.

JANEWAY

No doubt.

(beat)

Captain... have you been able to
communicate with your
government... about sending our
messages?

TELEK

I have. And they have promised to
take the matter under advisement.

JANEWAY

I see. And... when do you think
they will have an answer?

The Romulan shrugs.

TELEK

It is impossible to predict the
time table of the Romulan Senate.
When they've made a decision...
I'll hear from them.

JANEWAY

We don't have the luxury of a
great deal of time.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

JANEWAY (Cont'd)

My officers are predicting that
the probe will become inoperable
in the next forty-eight hours.

He regards her evenly, not without sympathy.

TELEK

Captain... I am a low-ranking
scientist... a minor functionary.
It is not my place to tell the
Romulan Senate to speed up their
decision-making process.

Janeway reflects briefly, then tries another tack.

JANEWAY

You said you've been in space for
over a year. Do you... have any
family?

It's an unexpected question, and catches the man a bit
off stride.

TELEK

Yes...

JANEWAY

I assume they're not with you in
space...

TELEK

My wife... and my daughter... are
on Romulus.

Janeway smiles warmly, drawing him out.

JANEWAY

A daughter... how old is she?

Telek may be puzzled by this line of questioning, but
Janeway is on to something he finds irresistible.

TELEK

She is... seven months.

JANEWAY

(surprised)

Then... you've never seen her?

TELEK

To my sorrow, no.

(beat)

She will be two years old before
I get home.

(CONTINUED)

There is a silence, but it is charged with feeling.

JANEWAY

You must miss your family very much...

TELEK

I knew when I accepted this assignment that there would be a price to pay.

(beat)

Perhaps I didn't realize how high that price would be.

JANEWAY

Captain... every one of us on this ship has left behind friends... family... loved ones. We may not see them again for years... maybe never. So we can all understand how lonely you must be...

(beat)

Surely you can understand our feelings as well.

Telek looks down, unable to hold her eye for a moment.

JANEWAY

And... we would be deeply grateful for any efforts you might make to persuade your government to send our messages...

He lifts his eyes to hers once more.

TELEK

I cannot guarantee success... but I will try to persuade my superiors to make a decision quickly... and positively.

JANEWAY

Thank you.

Telek nods toward her, trying to regain Romulan stoicism once more.

TELEK

I will contact you again.

The transmission ends. Janeway turns to her First Officer.

JANEWAY

Commander, let's assume he's going to be successful. Tell the crew to prepare personal messages and to have them ready within the hour.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (4)

24

CHAKOTAY

With pleasure, Captain.

Suddenly B'Elanna comes barreling onto the Bridge. She is excited, out of breath, a little manic.

TORRES

Captain... I have to talk to you.

JANEWAY

Go ahead, Torres.

TORRES

No... I mean, in private.

Puzzled, Janeway gestures toward the Ready Room; B'Elanna hurries in, followed by Janeway, who wonders what in the world is going on now.

25 INT. READY ROOM

25

B'Elanna and Janeway ENTER; B'Elanna wheels and starts talking even before the door has closed. The words pour out.

TORRES

I think this will work, Captain -- but I didn't want to mention it in front of the crew. It wouldn't be right to get their hopes up in case it doesn't work -- although I think it will --

Janeway holds up a hand to her.

JANEWAY

Slow down, Torres, and tell me what you're talking about.

B'Elanna takes a breath.

TORRES

The phase amplitude of the visual link with the Romulan ship...

(beat)

It's within just a few megahertz of meeting transporter protocols.

Janeway stares at her, wondering if B'Elanna is going where she thinks she's going.

JANEWAY

Are you suggesting --

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

TORRES
(nodding vehemently)
We might be able to piggy-back a transporter beam onto the visual link. We could transport the entire crew back to the Alpha Quadrant.

Janeway absorbs this astonishing development, mind racing to consider it from every angle.

JANEWAY
You'd have to reconfigure the matter transmission rate --

TORRES
-- fairly substantially --

JANEWAY
-- and that would risk losing whatever we try to beam out --

TORRES
-- we'd have to run a series of tests first --

The two stare at each other, pumped by the amazing prospect of deliverance.

JANEWAY
See to it, Lieutenant.

TORRES
I'm going to need some help...

JANEWAY
You have my authorization to use any of the ship's personnel you need. This has top priority.
(beat)
And don't worry about secrecy. I doubt you'll be able to keep this quiet for very long.

B'Elanna EXITS on the run, leaving Janeway to reflect upon this unexpected gift. She turns to the picture of Mark and the dog... picks it up and looks at it. Maybe she'll have the chance to tell him, once more, how much she loves him.

26 INT. SICKBAY - ZIMMERMAN'S OFFICE

26

Kes, carrying a stack of PADDs, ENTERS to find Zimmerman at his desk. She puts the PADDs in front of him.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

KES

I've finished these and I'm ready
for more.

Zimmerman looks up, surprised.

ZIMMERMAN

You've finished those already?

KES

I enjoyed studying anatomy. It
would be interesting to see an
autopsy some time.

Zimmerman fixes her with a cold eye.

ZIMMERMAN

What are the bones of the middle
ear?

KES

(unblinking)
Malleus, incus, and stapes.

ZIMMERMAN

And the connective tissue between
the middle and the external
auditory canal?

KES

The tympanic membrane.

A small smile plays on Zimmerman's lips.

ZIMMERMAN

I suspect you have an eidetic
memory. An astonishing gift.
I'll do a full neural scan on you
at some point.

KES

I've been thinking... if we do
get back to Federation space, I'd
like to explore the possibility of
going to medical school.

ZIMMERMAN

If you continue to apply yourself
as you have... by the time we get
back, you may already have the
equivalent of a medical degree.

She looks at him, surprised.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

KES
Then... you haven't heard?

ZIMMERMAN
Heard what?

KES
That we might be getting back
soon...

Zimmerman gives a slight sigh of annoyance.

ZIMMERMAN
If there's one thing you can count
on, it's that I am the last to be
told about anything that happens
on this ship.

KES
Everyone's talking about it.
There may be a way to transport
all of us to the Alpha Quadrant.
Chief Torres and half of
Engineering are working on it
right now.

ZIMMERMAN
I see.

Zimmerman's expression doesn't change.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (3)

26

ZIMMERMAN

Well. I'll say goodbye now. I
won't be transporting with the
rest of you.

Kes had not considered this. She stares at him.

KES

But... can't we download your
program and take you with us?

ZIMMERMAN

My program is fully integrated
into the Sickbay systems. At
present I cannot be downloaded.

Kes is stunned by this unsettling revelation. She
doesn't know what to say. He turns away abruptly,
dismissively. She hesitates, wanting to say something,
but not knowing what. Then, impulsively, she goes to
him and kisses his cheek.

KES

Thank you for everything.

He is taken aback... touches the cheek, speechless...
she turns to go.

ZIMMERMAN

Wait...

She turns back. With difficulty --

ZIMMERMAN

I'd like... that is... could I ask
a favor of you?

KES

Anything.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (4)

26

ZIMMERMAN

If you do leave... before you go... would you -- check to make sure I've been deactivated?

Her heart constricts.

KES

I promise.

He nods to her and turns away. After a moment, she EXITS. Zimmerman sits again at his desk, pondering his possible fate.

27 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

27

Janeway is talking to Telek on the Viewscreen, mid-conversation.

JANEWAY

And our Chief Engineer has managed to bind a transporter beam to the visual link between us.

The Romulan scientist is clearly intrigued by the possibilities.

TELEK

Then -- you've matched your data transmission to the phase amplitude of our com signal?

JANEWAY

Exactly.

Telek glances at Janeway, smiles dryly.

TELEK

Apparently our intelligence operatives are not doing their job. You clearly have technology we're unaware of.

(beat)

This would be an incredible breakthrough in sub-space field mechanics.

CHAKOTAY

If it's successful. We'd like to try transmitting a test cylinder to you.

Telek hesitates... wary once more.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

TELEK

A test cylinder... of what sort?

Tuvok moves to the front.

TUVOK

It is a standard Starfleet mechanism with a varietal molecular matrix. It simulates most known organic and non-organic compounds. It is not classified technology.

TELEK

Ah. I'm aware of this mechanism. We use a similar device.

(beat)

I will allow the transport.

JANEWAY

(to com)

Bridge to Transporter Room One.

INTERCUT:

28 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

28

B'Elanna and Kim are at the controls; on the Transporter pad sits a metal cylinder.

TORRES

Torres here. We're all set, Captain. The lock is active and we're focused on the Romulan's Transporter coordinates.

JANEWAY

All right, then...

(big breath)

Let's give it a try.

CHAKOTAY

Energize.

In the Transporter Room, the beams surround the cylinder. There's a long beat -- and then the cylinder DEMATERIALIZES.

TORRES

The cylinder has dematerialized, Captain.

There's a long pause. Janeway and Chakotay exchange looks, as do B'Elanna and Kim. Then, on the Viewscreen --

29 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

29

-- they see the cylinder MATERIALIZE on the desk in front of Telek... it fritzes... and DISAPPEARS again.

JANEWAY

Can you get it back?

TORRES

The pattern buffer is having trouble accepting the matter stream.

KIM

I'll increase power to the phase transition coils...

Again, the cylinder APPEARS, fritzing in and out... but refuses to materialize completely.

TORRES

(to Kim)

Ramp the coils to thirty-seven megajoules...

KIM

Thirty-seven megajoules...

And this time, the cylinder MATERIALIZES... and holds. Telek reaches out and picks up the cylinder, turning it in his hand.

TELEK

Congratulations, Captain. You've done it.

(he looks up at her,
admiring)

Very impressive.

JANEWAY

We should run a series of these tests just to make sure... but we have to act quickly before the probe is crushed.

TELEK

I understand.

JANEWAY

Eventually, we'll have to try transporting a person. One of our crew will beam to your ship, if you'll allow it.

There is a hesitation.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

TELEK

I'm afraid I can't permit that, Captain. My government would never allow Starfleet personnel on this ship. I wouldn't want my logs to show that activity.

TUVOK

Then what would you suggest?

TELEK

I'll volunteer to transport to your ship... and back again.

JANEWAY

But Captain... if we can't transport to your ship... how are we to get back?

TELEK

If the procedure is successful, I will arrange for a troop ship to join me. It would easily accommodate your crew.

Janeway and Tuvok exchange a glance; he nods his acquiescence.

JANEWAY

Very well. We'll be in touch.

Transmission ends, and Janeway turns to the Bridge crew. She's feeling very good about this.

30 EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER (OPTICAL)

30

in space.

31 INT. CORRIDOR

31

Janeway, Chakotay, and Tuvok walk briskly.

CHAKOTAY

Kim and Torres have made more than twenty transports of the test cylinder. Even though she's still having trouble with that phase variance, every one of them has been successful.

JANEWAY

Let's hope it goes as well with the Romulan.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

TUVOK

Captain, I must insist I stay with him at all times so long as he's on board.

JANEWAY

Agreed.

32 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

32

Janeway, Chakotay and Tuvok ENTER to find Kim and B'Elanna already there, with an N.D. Transporter Chief.

TORRES

We're locked on to him. Whenever you're ready, Captain.

Janeway looks at the others... this is a big moment -- the one that will tell them whether or not they'll be able to get home.

JANEWAY

Well. Let's try it.
(beat)
Energize.

They stare at the platform. Nothing happens for a long moment... then the beams coalesce -- but they don't look normal; they're fritzzy.

JANEWAY

What's the problem?

TORRES

It's the phase variance in the radiation stream... I'm balancing it manually...

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

The figure APPEARS once more, fritzes, DISAPPEARS... and then, finally, takes shape and the beams recede. Telek stands on the platform, a wondrous expression on his face. Janeway smiles.

JANEWAY

Welcome to the Delta Quadrant,
Captain.

And on their mutual sense of victory --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

33

Nearly continuous. Telek steps off the platform; Janeway performs introductions.

JANEWAY

My First Officer, Commander Chakotay... Lieutenant Tuvok, head of security... Chief Engineer Torres... and Operations Officer Kim.

Telek nods to all of them; there's a brief reaction when he sees the half-Klingon B'Elanna. Tuvok immediately begins scanning him with his tricorder.

TELEK

My congratulations on your remarkable accomplishment. This is an astonishing breakthrough.

TORRES

For a while there I didn't think you were going to make it. There was a strange phase variance in the radiation stream... it almost kept us from pulling you through.

JANEWAY

Mister Tuvok, you may begin evacuation procedures.

But Tuvok is still scanning the Romulan, and seems to have found something disturbing.

TUVOK

I suggest we delay that for the moment, Captain. I'm afraid I've found the reason for the unusual phase variance...

All eyes turn to Tuvok, who keeps scanning.

JANEWAY

What is it?

TUVOK

(to Telek)
Captain... what year is it?

Telek stares at him, no idea why he's asking. Neither does anyone else.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

TELEK

What year?

TUVOK

If you please.

TELEK

By your calendar, the year is
Twenty-three fifty-two.

Now our people react, exchange puzzled glances.

CHAKOTAY

But... this is Twenty-three
seventy-one.

TUVOK

Exactly. Our Romulan visitor is
a person out of time... he's
showing clear evidence of temporal
displacement.

He looks around at the group, who are hanging on his
every word.

TUVOK

I would surmise that the wormhole
is a rift not just in space... but
in time. The unusual phase
variance we detected was actually
an indication of a temporal shift.

He eyes the Romulan.

TUVOK

We have transported him from
twenty years in the past -- to our
present.

And off their amazed reactions...

CUT TO:

34 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

34

A somber group includes the people from the Transporter
Room and now Paris, as well.

TCRRES

I've gone over and over the
transporter logs... there's no
question that if we try to
transport ourselves through that
wormhole...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

TORRES (Cont'd)
we'll end up twenty years in the
past.

KIM
Then let's do it. It's better
than spending the next seventy
years trying to get back...

PARIS
How can we do that? We'd be going
back to a time when you were only
two years old.

Kim is clearly frustrated by this turn of events.

JANEWAY
I know you're disappointed, Harry.
We all are. It seemed we were so
close...

She breaks off, takes a breath.

JANEWAY
But clearly we can't go back. It
would pollute the time line to
such an extent the consequences
would be unimaginable.
(to Telek)
I'm afraid we'll have to send you
back alone. And ask that you not
reveal anything that has happened
here.

TELEK
I assure you, Captain, I would not
do anything that would contaminate
the future and possibly harm the
Romulan Empire.

He and Janeway lock eyes for a brief moment.

TELEK
But... in twenty years I could
alert Starfleet not to launch the
mission which sent you here.

CHAKOTAY
I'm afraid that's not possible,
either. We've already had a huge
impact on this quadrant -- people
and events here would be
drastically affected.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

JANEWAY

I'm afraid we're left with our original request... in twenty years, would you relay our personal messages to Starfleet?

TELEK

Of course. At the proper time, I will transmit them.

(beat)

If you should find a way back within my lifetime, I'd be an old man... but I'd welcome a message from you. I'm Telek R'Mor... of the Romulan Astrophysical Academy.

JANEWAY

I promise you'll hear from us. Because we will get back.

But after those brave words, there's nothing more to say.

35 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

35

Janeway and Tuvok with Telek; B'Elanna and Kim are at the console. Tuvok hands him a computer chip.

TUVOK

These are our messages.

TELEK

I wish you luck in your journey.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

JANEWAY

And I thank you for your help.

Telek nods, then climbs on the platform.

JANEWAY

(to B'Elanna)

Energize.

Telek fritzes a couple of times, but then DEMATERIALIZES. B'Elanna works at her controls.

TORRES

His signal's in the pattern buffer... transferring to the emitter array...

KIM

The phase variance is out of sync again...

TORRES

Compensating...

Janeway and Tuvok look on, hoping this last transport will be successful. A brief beat as Kim and B'Elanna work together, and then they look relieved.

TORRES

Transport complete, Captain. He made it.

Janeway nods.

JANEWAY

I'll tell the crew. They can have the satisfaction of knowing that their messages have reached their families.

She turns to leave, but Tuvok stops her.

TUVOK

Captain... I didn't want to mention this until our guest had left.

It's an ominous statement; they all stare at Tuvok to see what's coming.

TUVOK

I checked the computer's database for a Romulan scientist named Telek R'Mor.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

Tuvok's expression is inscrutable, but Janeway senses something from him.

JANEWAY

And?

TUVOK

I'm sorry to report that Doctor R'Mor died in Twenty-three sixty-seven.

JANEWAY

That... was four years ago.

TUVOK

That is correct. Before he would have sent our messages.

Is everything to be taken from them? Janeway deflates momentarily, and Harry Kim looks stricken. B'Elanna puts a comforting hand on his shoulder.

TORRES

Maybe he left a will, telling someone else to transmit the messages... or he could have given our computer chip to the Romulan government...

TUVOK

It is possible. Unfortunately, there is no way to know.

A brief silence. Janeway rallies herself, summons strength.

JANEWAY

Then let's move on.

(beat)

We have a long way to go.

And they EXIT the Transporter Room, each trying to be stoic in the face of this huge disappointment.

36 INT. SICKBAY

36

Kes with Zimmerman and Lieutenant Baxter. They're scanning his knee. Baxter addresses Kes.

BAXTER

I tried a new hamstring exercise... maybe I overdid it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

BAXTER (Cont'd)

But my workouts are about all that stand between me and a severe case of cabin fever...

ZIMMERMAN

Lieutenant, I am the Chief Medical Officer of this ship. If you have something to say to me, please direct the statement to me.

Baxter looks at Zimmerman... then at Kes... then back at Zimmerman.

BAXTER

Well... you see... I need to work out --

ZIMMERMAN

I'm not telling you not to work out... I'm suggesting you use a modicum of common sense when you do it.

He waves an instrument over Baxter's knee.

ZIMMERMAN

If I see you in here again for an exercise-related injury, I'll have to discuss the matter with your superior officer.

BAXTER

Yes, sir.

ZIMMERMAN

You're fine now, you may leave.

Baxter jumps up and heads for the EXIT.

BAXTER

Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

And he goes. Kes smiles at Zimmerman.

KES

I don't think he'll make the mistake of ignoring you again.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

ZIMMERMAN

Captain Janeway has made me realize that I must function as more than an emergency medical replacement. I must think of myself as a member of the crew.

KES

You're absolutely right.

He gives her a look... he likes the sound of that.

ZIMMERMAN

I've prepared a list of things I'd like to see added to Sickbay. Perhaps you could present it to the Captain.

KES

I'd be happy to.

ZIMMERMAN

But there's one more request... something of a... a personal nature...

She looks questioningly at him. He is uncomfortable, clearly struggling with the new feelings of individuation and assertion.

ZIMMERMAN

I would like... a name.

And on her pleased reaction --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END