

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE

(A STAR TREK VOYAGER SCRIPT)

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STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Resistance is Futile"

TEASER

1 EXT. TENGORAN FOREST OF MEDITATION 1

Soft purple glow from trees; wind-chime sound of alien insects' mating song. Gorgeous, tranquil. JANEWAY sits on a rock, holding a cup of coffee. She sips. She looks down at the cup.

2 CLOSE-UP VIEW. COFFEE CUP. 2

The coffee is vibrating. CLANG OF BATLITHS.

3 EXT. FOREST 3

Janeway looks up. An enormous FLOCK OF BIRDS, woken from slumber, burst into RAINBOW-HUED FLIGHT, retreating before the growing disturbance.

SEVEN OF NINE, locked in battle with TORRES, breaks into the clearing. Torres is furious, attacking; Seven, cool, fends off her blows. Seven and Torres lock batliths. After a moment, in which each tries to out-muscle the other, the stronger Seven tosses Torres back, through the air. Torres remains on the ground, winded.

SEVEN

Resistance is futile.

TORRES

I HATE that expression.

SEVEN

Lieutenant Torres could stand an improvement to her sense of humor, don't you think, Captain?

Janeway picks up Torres' batlith.

JANEWAY

Seven's right, B'elanna.
It's not good to lose your temper --

Janeway approaches Seven, batlith raised.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

-- to allow the opponent to goad
you into irrational behavior...

Janeway takes a swing at Seven; Seven deflects the blow.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

When your opponent has superior strength --

Seven comes at Janeway, who seems to offer no resistance.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

-- sometimes giving way --

Janeway sidesteps Seven's advance, and knocks her down
smartly from behind.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

-- is the way to win.

Janeway looks at the two women, still on the ground.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

I brought you to Tengor's Forest of
Meditation, thinking it might bring
some peace to your relationship.
I see I was wrong.

Torres stands.

TORRES

She insulted me, Captain.

Seven stands.

SEVEN

I stated a fact. I simply said that
Species one-three-nine is among the
least evolved of those the Borg
assimilated.

TORRES

In a Ferengi's eye!

JANEWAY

Species one-three-nine is Klingon,
I presume?

Torres nods.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Seven -- despite all your progress,
you remain, at times, woefully
insensitive. And B'elanna -- your
temper could use some -- tempering.

The women are stone-faced.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

You two have much in common. You
share a keen interest in engineering.
You share ongoing struggles integrating
your human and non-human sides.
There's no reason --

Suddenly, there is a violent LURCH as if the ship has
just hit a giant 'bump' in space.

4 EXT. VOYAGER (OPTICAL) 4

Voyager drops out of warp.

5 EXT. CAMPSITE 5

The three women are thrown to the ground.

6 INT. BRIDGE 6

CHAKOTAY in the Captain's seat. Kim, Tuvok, Paris
at their stations. PARIS DEMATERIALIZES.

7 EXT. CAMPSITE 7

Janeway standing, presses her comm badge.

JANEWAY

Chakotay. What's going on?

CHAKOTAY (O.S.)

We've lost Tom Paris!

JANEWAY

What do you mean, lost him?

CHAKOTAY (O.S.)

Someone, or something, has
transported him off the ship.

JANEWAY

Computer! End program!

8 INT. HOLOGRID (OPTICAL) 8

Janeway, Seven, and Torres exit the holosuite at a run.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

9 EXT. RED BLINKING LIGHT IN SPACE (OPTICAL) 9

JANEWAY (O.S.)

What hit us?

10 INT. BRIDGE. 10

Janeway, Chakotay, Kim and Tuvok. Several N.D.s.

CHAKOTAY

We hit it, Captain. A force field.
The impact knocked us out of warp.

Focus on empty helmsman's chair.

JANEWAY

And Tom? Do we know where he is?

TUVOK

I traced the transport
signature back to its origin --

11 EXT. LARGE GREEN PLANET (OPTICAL) 11

TUVOK (O.S.)

Class 'M.' Oxygen-nitrogen atmosphere.
About ten degrees warmer than Earth.

12 EXT. RED BLINKING LIGHT IN SPACE (OPTICAL) 12

JANEWAY (O.S.)

What is that thing?

CHAKOTAY (O.S.)

A beacon of some sort.

TUVOK (O.S.)

There's something written on it.

JANEWAY (O.S.)

Enlarge image.

13 EXT. WORDS '^^!^-50%' VISIBLE, BLINKING (OPTICAL) 13

14 INT. BRIDGE 14

JANEWAY

Mister Kim -- see if you can decode
those symbols.

Janeway taps her comm badge.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

JANEWAY (cont'd)
Lieutenant Torres, damage report.

TORRES (O.S.)
No damage to warp core or impulse.

JANEWAY
Good. Ensign Culhane, take the conn.

An N.D. takes the helm.

JANEWAY (cont'd)
Set course for --

15 EXT. GREEN PLANET (OPTICAL)

15

A tiny light shows up against the background of the planet, growing, until it becomes a small spaceship.

TUVOK (O.S.)
It appears they have found us.

16 INT. BRIDGE

16

CHAKOTAY
We're being hailed, Captain.

JANEWAY
On screen.

17 INT. BRIDGE OF ALIEN VESSEL

17

The two aliens visible are tiny, cherubic-looking creatures, no larger than a human child. Visible on their bridge are icons, an altar.

FENZO
Captain of the ship, and crew,
welcome to the Fizaran sector.

FEBREE
Our quiet little corner of the galaxy.

FENZO
Welcome! May we be allowed to board
your magnificent vessel?

JANEWAY (O.S.)
Please identify yourself.

FENZO
Captain of the ship, may we board?

17 CONTINUED: 17

JANEWAY (O.S.)
Please identify yourself.

FENZO
Is anyone speaking?

18 INT. BRIDGE 18

The monitor showing the alien bridge is in the background.

FENZO
We see you, but we do not hear.

TUVOK
Captain, perhaps their protocol is
half-duplex. Perhaps if we --

FENZO
Ah! That is better! The fellow
with the magnificent ears -- you
we hear. May we board?

JANEWAY
Please identify yourselves.

19 INT. BRIDGE OF ALIEN VESSEL 19

There is a pause. The aliens appear puzzled.

FEBREE
Fellow with those magnificent ears
-- can you hear us?

TUVOK (O.S.)
We hear you. Our Captain is asking
you to identify yourselves.

FENZO
Of course, of course! I am Fenzo,
primary negotiator for 'B' subsector.

He gestures toward the other alien.

FENZO
This is my second, Febree.

FEBREE
Welcome to Fizar!
May we board your vessel?

JANEWAY (O.S.)
One of our crew members has been
abducted. Before you board our
ship, we need to --

19 CONTINUED: 19

Janeway pauses. The aliens are cupping their ears, clearly again unable to hear anything.

20 INT. BRIDGE 20

JANEWAY

What seems to be the problem?

TUVOK

Unknown, Captain.

JANEWAY

Let's talk to them face to face.

TUVOK

Our Captain says you may board.

The Fizar materialize at the center of the bridge. The N.D.s unobtrusively keep phasers trained upon them. The Fizar pull their garments around them; they are cold.

JANEWAY

Welcome to Voyager.

They waddle toward Tuvok and address him.

FENZO

Magnificent one --

FEBREE

Such ears --

Febree reaches out to touch the ears.

FENZO

Febree! (then, to Tuvok)
Please, introduce us to your Captain.

TUVOK

This is Captain Janeway.

FENZO

A female, risen to the rank of Captain?

FEBREE

You mock us.

JANEWAY

I assure you, I am the Captain.

Fenzo turns away from Janeway, addresses Tuvok.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

FENZO

Please explain to your 'captain' that we do not hold conversation with women.

FEBREE

Women are an inferior species.

FENZO

So it is written.

With her eyes, Janeway tells Chakotay to take over.

CHAKOTAY

I am second in command.
My name is Chakotay.

FENZO

Cha-ko-tay. What a magnificent name. It is an honor, indeed, to be aboard your magnificent ship --

CHAKOTAY

Voyager.

Febree holds up the icon he wears about his neck.

FEBREE

Froosh, bless this ship Voyager and its crew, and grant them an enriching journey.

Both aliens kiss their icons.

BOTH

Hail the Prophet!

JANEWAY

Ask them if they know what happened to Lieutenant Paris.

CHAKOTAY

We lost a crew member --

FENZO

Ah, yes. The reckless driver of your vehicle --

Fenzo motions to Febree, who pulls out a PADD.

21 PARIS, MUG SHOTS, FRONT AND SIDE (OPTICAL) 21

FEBREE (O.S.)
The pilot of your ship.

FENZO (O.S.)
In custody.

22 EXT. RED BLINKING LIGHT IN SPACE (OPTICAL) 22

FEBREE (O.S.)
A clearly posted speed limit.

KIM (O.S.)
Captain, I've got that translation.

The symbols on the beacon become 'SLOW TO HALF-IMPULSE'

23 INT. BRIDGE 23

FENZO
It is quite all right to go careening through the empty stretches of the universe at warp speeds, but when you come to a inhabited system such as ours, you must slow down, to avoid collision with impulse-driven vehicles. It is for your benefit, as well as ours.

KIM
Our sensor array automatically compensates --

Janeway holds up her hand, stopping him.

JANEWAY
If we have offended you, we apologize.

The aliens look around, indicating they cannot hear. Janeway, annoyed, nevertheless signals to Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY
If we have offended you, we apologize.

FEBREE
Very gracious --

FENZO
But an apology will not suffice.

JANEWAY
What must --

She stops herself.

23 CONTINUED:

23

CHAKOTAY

What must we do to make this right?

Febree takes out a large PADD, and keys data into it as the Fizar speak.

FENZO

An offense has been committed -- a punishment must be exacted.

FEBREE

Was the pilot under the influence of some illegal substance?

FENZO

Has your starship been properly registered with the authorities?

FEBREE

These are the details to be sifted.

FENZO

Before the size of the -- penalty -- can be established.

Febree slaps the PADD into Chakotay's hand.

FENZO (cont'd)

All according to the Holy Rules.

Janeway signals to Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY

Our crewmember must be released.

FENZO

I am sorry. Incarceration is mandatory until resolution of the case.

Janeway moves toward the aliens.

JANEWAY

I am responsible for the actions of my crew. If you want to hold someone in custody --

FENZO

Cha-ko-tay, please instruct the female that her emotional outbursts do not impress us. We are returning to Fizar Prime. When you are ready to begin negotiations, please contact us at the Minister's Office, subsector 'B'.

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

The aliens bow, touch their wrists, and begin to dematerialize. As they disappear, Febree waves 'goodbye.'

FEBREE

Once again, welcome to our quiet corner of --

And they are gone. Pause. Janeway is thinking.

JANEWAY

Show alien vessel.

24 EXT. ALIEN VESSEL, MOVING AWAY (OPTICAL)

24

25 INT. BRIDGE

25

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Chakotay, with me.

Janeway walks toward her ready room. Chakotay follows.

26 INT. READY ROOM

26

JANEWAY

Let's play it their way initially, for the sake of First Contact. Try to negotiate a settlement; first, have an away team confirm Tom is all right.

CHAKOTAY

Yes, Captain.

JANEWAY

I want a backup plan. We'll take Tom by force, if we have to.

Chakotay nods.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Assign Tuvok to head the away team; they seem to like his ears. I need you here, running negotiations, given the Fizaran attitude toward --

Janeway points toward herself.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

'the inferior species.'

Janeway and Chakotay share a bemused smile.

CHAKOTAY

I'll keep you fully informed.

Chakotay exits.

27 INT. BRIDGE

27

Chakotay, Tuvok, Kim, N.D.s.

CHAKOTAY

On screen.

Fenzo's office on Fizar Prime appears on the viewscreen.
Fenzo, behind his desk.

CHAKOTAY (cont'd)

Negotiator Fenzo -- we are anxious
to settle our dispute with you.

28 INT. AN OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY, FIZAR PRIME

28

FENZO

Anxious is good!

CHAKOTAY (O.S.)

We are deeply concerned about the
well-being of our pilot, whom you
have in custody.

FENZO

Your pilot is comfortable, I assure you.
Still, you may beam two individuals into
his holding cell, and see for yourself.
Febree will provide coordinates.

CHAKOTAY (O.S.)

Thank you.

FENZO

And now -- to the negotiation. On Fizar,
all must be negotiated. That is the law.

Fenzo holds up a schedule.

FENZO (cont'd)

A room becomes available on the ninth
day of the fourteenth month of the
harvest season. We are scheduled for
room two thousand, three hundred and eleven.

CHAKOTAY (O.S.)

Can't we conclude this sooner?

FENZO

It is a matter of space. We are
very crowded, here at the Ministry.
So many negotiations! We are
constructing an additional wing,
four thousand additional negotiating
chambers, but contract talks with the

builders have broken down, and so --

28 CONTINUED:

28

CHAKOTAY (O.S.)

What if we were to offer a room on
our ship, as a negotiation chamber?

Fenzo literally rubs his hands together with satisfaction.

FENZO

A room on your magnificent ship?
How convenient. Negotiations
could begin --

Fenzo checks a calendar.

FENZO (cont'd)

At once!

CHAKOTAY (O.S.)

How many of you will there be?

FENZO

Just Febree and myself. And
a Listener, of course.

CHAKOTAY (O.S.)

I'll beam you over as soon as
you're ready. Voyager out.

29 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM 1

29

Chakotay. N.D. manning the controls. The aliens
materialize on the transporter platforms. Fenzo,
Febree, burdened with luggage, and a third Fizaran,
wearing a tall hat.

FEBREE

Captain, wonderful to see you!

CHAKOTAY

I am not --

Fenzo points to the third alien.

FENZO

This is Listener Flenz. It would be
better not to prejudice him against you
by revealing how you revere your females.

Chakotay takes this in. He addresses Flenz.

CHAKOTAY

Welcome to Voyager.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

FENZO

The Listener does not speak unless one
of the rules of negotiation is violated.

As the four exit:

CHAKOTAY

If you'll describe your needs, I'll set up
our briefing room for the negotiations.

FENZO

Excellent.

FEBREE

Captain Chakotay, would it be possible,
before we begin, to receive a brief tour
of your magnificent ship?

CHAKOTAY

Certainly.

FENZO

And then -- let the negotiations begin!

They are gone. A beat. Then, Janeway, Tuvok, Kim and
Seven enter. Tuvok and Kim are dressed for an away mission.
Seven makes some last minute adjustments to Kim's tricorder.

JANEWAY

Mister Kim -- I want a full report
on the conditions of the -- prison.
Good luck, gentlemen.

Torres enters, heavily armed, as if prepared to take on
a small army.

TORRES

Captain -- permission to join the
away team.

JANEWAY

Permission denied.
B'elanna -- surely you heard --

TORRES

That these aliens treat women like
second class citizens? That they
ignored you in front of the crew?
Yes, I heard.

SEVEN

Are you planning to take on the

whole planet single-handedly?
29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

TORRES

What kind of a crack is that?

SEVEN

Just an observation --

TORRES

I'm worried about Tom -- but you wouldn't understand that. I keep forgetting. You look like a woman, but actually you're an automaton, with ice-water in your veins.

JANEWAY

That's enough!
We have a crewmember at risk!
Lieutenant Torres -- I'm sorry.
Given the Fizaran prejudices,
I don't think a woman on the away mission would work in our favor.

Kim walks over to Torres.

KIM

B'elanna -- I'll let Tom know you wanted to help.

Kim joins Tuvok on the transporter pads.

JANEWAY

Energize.

The N.D. works the controls, and the two men dematerialize, leaving Torres, Janeway, and Seven sharing a charged silence.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

30 INT. SEVEN'S QUARTERS 30

Seven is in her regeneration chamber. She sits upright; her eyes open. She scratches at her neck and arms, then steps out of her chamber and exits.

31 INT. CORRIDOR 31

Seven passes through a deserted corridor.

32 INT. ENGINEERING 32

Seven enters engineering. Torres is there, working.

TORRES

What are you doing here?

SEVEN

I could not sleep.

TORRES

I thought you don't sleep.

SEVEN

Technically, no. But regeneration and sleep share certain characteristics. I was trying to -- relate.

TORRES

Don't relate on my account.

Torres goes back to work, realizes Seven is watching her.

TORRES (cont'd)

Is there something you want?

SEVEN

Is everything all right with the ship?

TORRES

Why shouldn't it be?

SEVEN

I do not know. But -- I have a feeling --

Seven scratches her arms and neck again.

TORRES

It looks like you have fleas.
Why don't you go see the Doctor?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

SEVEN

The sensation is dissipating.
I am sorry to have bothered you.

Seven exits.

33 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

33

Chakotay and the aliens. Chakotay sits at one end of the table, Fenzo and Febree at the other, 'Listener' Flenz, in the middle. There is a bell next to Flenz. Material props the tiny Fizar in their chairs. The Fizar are just taking the last bites of a meal. The room is sweltering. Chakotay mops his brow.

FENZO

The meal was delicious, Captain, thank you.

FEBREE

'Never begin a negotiation on an empty stomach.'

All three Fizar touch the icons they wear around their necks.

FEBREE and FENZO

Praise Froosh.

CHAKOTAY

Those icons you wear around your necks...
I noticed some on the bridge of your ship.
There remind me of the kuchina dolls from
my own Mayan culture. Could I learn more?

FENZO (delighted)

You wish to learn of Froosh?

FEBREE

Froosh is the source of all wisdom.
He is the giver of the Rules.

FENZO

We wear this symbol of his presence,
as a reminder of the importance
of the Prophet in our daily lives.

He holds the icon out to Chakotay. It's a symbol of money.

FENZO (cont'd)

With His guidance,
I am sure we will reach a speedy
and harmonious accommodation.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

FEBREE

Speaking of accommodation, thank you,
Chakotay, for warming the room to
a temperature that we find comfortable.

FENZO

And now -- let the negotiations begin!
Listener Flenz. Captain Chakotay.
Visual, please.

34 EXT. RED BLINKING LIGHT IN SPACE (OPTICAL)

34

FENZO (O.S.)

Our clearly posted speed limit, 'B' subsector.

35 EXT. VOYAGER, PASSING THE LIGHT AT WARP (OPTICAL)

35

FENZO (O.S.)

The starship Voyager, speeding past our
signal at warp three.

36 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

36

Fenzo slides a PADD across the table toward Flenz.

FENZO (cont'd)

It is all documented here, extracted
from the Voyager log, with the full
cooperation of Captain Chakotay. Febree?

FEBREE

Since our posted speed limit was half-
impulse, and your ship was traveling at
warp three, the fine levied against you
is exponential to the difference between
the two speeds. We seek a ten-percent
surcharge as the Voyager was not licensed
for travel in our sector.

Febree pauses.

CHAKOTAY

We didn't know --

Listener Flenz hits the bell. It tinkles.

FLENZ

Foul!

FEBREE

Please, Captain. It is not your turn.

CHAKOTAY

How will I know --

36 CONTINUED:

36

Listener Flenz hits the bell again.

FLENZ

Foul!

FENZO

The Holy Rules.

CHAKOTAY

I was not informed --

And again.

FLENZ

Foul!

FENZO

Three fouls. That's a forty
credit penalty.

Fenzo marks it down on a PADD.

FENZO (cont'd)

Febree -- pray continue.

FEBREE

With reference to the fine to be
levied, we make reference to the
incident with the Baylorian
freighter on date 532.417 ...

Chakotay, sweating and frustrated.

37 EXT. SIMULATION OF SPACE (OPTICAL)

37

In the simulation, space appears as a highway, with
lane markers, and beacons as traffic signs.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Remember: we in the Fizaran sector
expect YOU to observe good space
etiquette. Slower moving vehicles
to the right --

As the simulation continues, a large freighter appears,
travelling in the right 'lane' at half-impulse.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Passsing on the left --

A sleek star ship appears, behind the freighter. The
star ship 'signals', passes the freighter on the left,

and warps out.

37 CONTINUED:

37

NARRATOR (cont'd)
With good space etiquette, we
can all be --
"RESPONSIBLE PILOTS IN FIZARAN SPACE."
Thanks for listening!

38 INT. FIZARAN JAIL CELL

38

The simulation ends. Lights come up on Paris, lying
on his back on a well-padded four-poster bed. Kim
and Tuvok, standing.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
Our next educational video,
"INTERSTELLAR ACCIDENTS AND YOU"
will commence in fifteen Fizeks.

Tuvok and Kim walk around the 'cell,' which is really
more like a hotel room, complete with couch, table and
chairs, separate bathroom and kitchen facilities.

PARIS
I haven't exactly been suffering.

TUVOK
That is evident.

PARIS
The only torture I've experienced is
having to watch these videos.

Paris jumps up, and walks toward the kitchenette.

PARIS
Would either of you care for a piece
of Fizaran berry pie?

He takes a piece for himself, hands a plate to Kim.
Tuvok refuses.

KIM (tasting the pie)
It's good!

PARIS
I think the prison chef could give
Neelix a few pointers.

KIM
You know, I sort of envy you. This
cell is more comfortable than our
quarters on Voyager.

TUVOK

Mister Kim, that is an exaggeration.

38 CONTINUED:

38

PARIS

He's joking, Tuvok. Still, I've never been in a prison like this before. When the guard comes in, it's to ask if I need fresh towels instead of checking for a break-out.

TUVOK.

Indeed. Lieutenant Paris, do you have any insights that might help in defending your case?

PARIS

Actually, I do. Back on twentieth century earth, there were little towns along the highways, with posted speed limits so low no ship -- I mean, no car could possibly slow down in time. A police car would hide by the side of the road, swoop down and slap the driver with a heavy fine.

KIM

A speed trap!

PARIS

Good for you, Harry! Looks like our Delta Flyer sessions have paid off.

TUVOK

You think these aliens set an impossible speed limit as a means of generating revenue?

PARIS

It fits.

TUVOK

I will convey your comment to Commander Chakotay. Perhaps it will provide him with a bargaining chip.

Tom pulls Kim aside.

TOM

How's B'elanna doing?

KIM

Tom, you should have seen her. She came into the transporter room, armed to the teeth, all ready to rescue you. It was cute.

(CONTINUED)

TOM (laughing)

Cute is not a word I tend to
associate with B'elanna. Sexy,
definitely. But not cute.

KIM

Anyway -- the Captain wouldn't let
her transport down, what with the
Fizaran's prejudice toward females --

PARIS

Tell me about it! The guard told me
Fizaran women aren't even allowed to
leave their homes. And the kicker:
they don't even get to wear --

TUVOK

Mister Kim. It is time we go. Lieutenant
Paris, I will convey to Captain Janeway
that you are not -- suffering.

Paris falls back into his soft bed.

PARIS

Not too badly, anyway.

Paris jumps up, goes back to the kitchenette.

PARIS (cont'd)

Harry, how about another piece of pie for
the road?

Tuvok taps his comm badge.

TUVOK

It will have to wait for another time.
Energize.

Tuvok and Kim dematerialize. Paris cuts himself another
piece of pie. The lights in the room slowly dim.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

INTERSTELLAR ACCIDENTS -- AND YOU!

39 EXT. TWO SPACE SHIPS (OPTICAL)

39

Two ships are travelling at sub-warp speeds, one directly
in front of the other. The lead ship stops short; the
other plows into it.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

With ample space between vehicles,
such an accident could have been avoided.

PARIS (with a nod of recognition)

Tailgating!

40 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - LATE IN THE DAY

40

Fenzo, Febree, Flenz, Chakotay. There are PADDs strewn all over, and empty plates from another meal. Febree is doing calculations. Chakotay is hot and bothered.

CHAKOTAY

If you could just come up with a figure --

The bell.

FLENZ

Foul!

FEBREE

It will not be to your benefit if I rush my calculations --

FENZO

Febree is a magnificent manipulator. He does not need a computer.

FEBREE

I am done! Here is what you owe.

He jumps from his chair, and waddles over to Chakotay. Chakotay looks at the PADD. Cut from Chakotay's shocked reaction to --

41 INT. JANEWAY'S READY ROOM.

41

Janeway examining the PADD as Chakotay looks on. Tuvok looks over Janeway's shoulder.

JANEWAY

That's quite a sum they're asking for.

TUVOK

Mister Paris suggests the possibility that the aliens ambushed us for purpose of financial gain -- a 'speed trap.'

CHAKOTAY

I'll bring that up at our next session.

JANEWAY

Tuvok, what are our odds of making an end run around the aliens and rescuing Tom?

TUVOK

Not good. The force field which holds Mister Paris a prisoner is highly sophisticated. In fact, much of the Fizaran technology bears a signature far beyond their chronological point of

development. It is very puzzling.

41 CONTINUED:

41

Janeway nods to Tuvok.

JANEWAY

Thank you, Tuvok.

Tuvok exits.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Are negotiations over for today?

CHAKOTAY

Yes. I've assigned the little fellows to quarters in the nursery.

JANEWAY

Can I offer you a drink? You look like you could use one.

CHAKOTAY

A cup of tea would be nice.

Janeway hands Chakotay a cup of tea.

CHAKOTAY (cont'd)

The Fizar are tough negotiators.

JANEWAY

For a spiritual people, they're quite mercenary.

CHAKOTAY

They gave me a closer look at the icon they wear around their neck -- the symbol of their Prophet.

Chakotay shows Janeway an image of the icon.

JANEWAY (laughing)

I think they have the another kind of profit on their minds.

42 INT. OFFICER'S MESS

42

Neelix is cleaning up for the night. Febree comes into the mess hall.

FEBREE

Are you the chef Neelix?

NEELIX

Why, yes, I am!

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

FEBREE

You are a magnificent cook! The rhumboid stew that you prepared for our negotiation meal this evening was most delicious. I would love to have the recipe. I am a bit of a cook myself.

NEELIX

Thank you, Mr --

FEBREE

Febree, second to Fenzo, primary negotiator for 'B' subsector.

The two shake hands.

FEBREE (cont'd)

I was wondering --

NEELIX

Yes?

FEBREE

Might you have any -- Latin plums?

NEELIX

Latin plums?

FEBREE

Yes. They are a holy dish, one that our culture reveres. Alas, we that listen at the ears of the Prophet have never seen one, for they originate in the Alpha Quadrant. Since you come from there, I thought --

NEELIX

I'm sorry. Actually, I'm Talaxian, native to this Quadrant. I'm not familiar with Latin plums. Perhaps, in Voyager's database -- I would be happy to do a little research --

FEBREE

Those rarest of plums, pressed, and cold -- how wonderful it would be to see one, to touch its gleaming surface...

Febree turns to go.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

NEELIX

Would you like a midnight snack?
I have a little stew left.
I could heat it up for you.

FEBREE

Why, yes. All right. Thank you.

As Neelix puts the stew on, Febree sneaks something out of his pocket and injects it into the wall of the ship. Then he strolls among the food items still on display.

FEBREE (cont'd)

You are a clever man.

NEELIX

Thank you. (pause)
Clever in what way?

FEBREE

'Never reveal your hand.'

Febree touches his icon.

FEBREE (cont'd)

Praise Froosh!

NEELIX

Bless you.

Febree is puzzled.

NEELIX (cont'd)

I thought you sneezed.

FEBREE

Froosh -- the source of all wisdom.

Neelix hands Febree a bowl of stew. Both sit at a table.

FEBREE

The fruit -- that cake -- none of your items have their prices on them. Froosh teaches that keeping the prices concealed, as you do, allows one to charge whatever the market will bear.

NEELIX

I don't charge for the food.

FEBREE

You are joking --

42 CONTINUED: (3)

42

NEELIX

Why would I charge for the food?

FEBREE

So many reasons. For one -- your labor, the love that you put into each and every dish that you prepare -- is that not worth something?

NEELIX

Yes, I suppose it is. But --

FEBREE

Imagine a meat dish, one that demands hours of preparation, a complex marinade, tenderizing, basting. Compare that to a quick milk pudding you make in minutes. How to convey the difference between these dishes to your eating public?

NELIX

I don't know --

FEBREE

By how much you charge for them!
'The higher the price,
the greater the value.'

Febree touches his icon.

FEBREE (cont'd)

Praise Froosh.

NEELIX (bemused)

Praise Froosh.

43 INT. SEVEN'S QUARTERS

43

Seven is in her regeneration chamber. She sits upright, scratching herself furiously.

SEVEN

Computer, commence a ship-wide diagnostic.

44 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

44

Chakotay, Fenzo, Febree and Flenz. All are seated, the Fizar propped up as before. This is the end of another long bargaining session. There are dishes about, strewn PADDs. Chakotay is sweating and harried.

44 CONTINUED:

44

CHAKOTAY

And so --

Flenz hits his bell.

FLENZ

Foul!

CHAKOTAY

I would like to --

The bell.

FLENZ

Foul!

Chakotay, angry, is about to protest. Flenz warns Chakotay, holding up two fingers -- one more foul, and another penalty must be paid.

CHAKOTAY (giving up)

All right. We agree to the full amount.

Fenzo, Febree, happy, clap each other on the back. Febree hands the PADD to Fenzo, who examines it, and nods. He, in turn, hands the PADD to Chakotay.

FENZO

Do not feel bad. Fizarans go to school for fifteen Fizeasons to become Master Negotiators.

Chakotay is looking at the figure on the PADD.

CHAKOTAY

This is more than it was yesterday!

Chakotay hands the PADD back to Febree.

FEBREE

Yes, of course it is: an extra day's room and board for the prisoner Paris.

Febree refers to the PADD.

FEBREE (cont'd)

In addition to his linen fees, and his normal food allocation, the prisoner has apparently consumed yet another Fizaran berry pie.

Chakotay shakes his head in consternation.

45 INT. READY ROOM

45

Janeway, Chakotay. Janeway holds the PADD.

JANEWAY

Charging the prisoner for room and board. Reminds me of dictators who charge the next of kin for the firing squad's bullets.

CHAKOTAY

Apparently I'm not very good at Fizaran negotiation.

JANEWAY

It's not a skill I'd be proud of mastering.

CHAKOTAY

Nevertheless, I've let you down.

Janeway hands the PADD back to Chakotay.

JANEWAY

Let's just pay the two dollars.

Chakotay throws Janeway a quizzical glance.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

It's an expression. Let's pay the fine, get Tom back, and put this business behind us.

CHAKOTAY

Yes, Captain.

46 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM 1

46

Kim manning the controls. A large pile of goods dematerializes; Paris materializes in its place.

47 INT. BRIDGE

47

Chakotay, Tuvok. Fenzo and Febree. Several N.D.s. Kim and Paris enter.

PARIS

Lieutenant Paris, reporting for duty, sir.

CHAKOTAY

Mister, take your station.

Paris replaces the N.D. at the helm.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

PARIS

It's good to be back, sir.

Chakotay turns to the two Fizar.

CHAKOTAY

We'll be leaving your system now.

FEBREE

So soon? Are you sure you
wouldn't like to stay a bit,
enjoy a holiday on the lovely
Bezilbed shores?

FENZO

We have a special tourist rate
that you could take advantage of.
You strike me as a man who knows
a bargain.

CHAKOTAY

No, thank you.

FENZO

Well, it's your decision.
As soon as the inspection is
done, you can be on your way.

CHAKOTAY

Inspection?

FENZO

Of course. Any ship that
enters our sector of space must
be inspected for infestations.
Once you've passed your inspection
and been issued your sticker, you
will be permitted --

Janeway enters from the ready room.

JANEWAY

Lieutenant Kim, lock onto our two
guests and beam them back to their ship.

KIM

With pleasure, sir.

The two aliens dematerialize. Janeway heads to the
Captain's chair. Chakotay yields to her. In the
background, Seven and Torres arrive on the bridge.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Mister Paris, take us out of here --
warp six.

SEVEN

You must not!

Everyone turns to Seven.

SEVEN (cont'd)

The composition of the engine support
structure is seriously flawed. I would
not advise going to warp.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

48 INT. BRIDGE

48

Immediately follows the end of Act Two. As before.

SEVEN

The support structure of the bulkheads is filled with tiny air pockets and thread-line fractures. The ship's metalurgic integrity has been compromised.

JANEWAY

We'll reconvene in the briefing room in one hour. Lieutenant Torres, I want complete data.

49 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

49

Tuvok, Seven, Paris, Chakotay seated at the table. Janeway standing. Torres at the far end of the table, next to a display panel. Kim comes in. He goes to sit in a chair. There is something on it -- the material the Fizar had been propped up with. Kim removes it.

KIM

Sorry, Captain.

He sits.

50 DIAGRAM OF THE SHIP, NINE AREAS HIGHLIGHTED (OPTICAL) 50

TORRES (O.S.)

There are nine hot spots I located, including the bridge, the mess hall, this room, and the nursery on deck five. At all nine locations, the bulkheads are experiencing massive, rapid decomposition.

51 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

51

JANEWAY

How much time do we have?

TORRES

The decomposition is spreading at a rate of approximately ten centimeters per hour. At that pace, hull integrity will be compromised in less than seventy-two hours.

JANEWAY

Any idea what's causing it?

51 CONTINUED:

51

TORRES

After ruling out the obvious, oxidation, metal stress, any naturally occurring phenomenon, I ran a full spectral analysis on the damaged metal. It turned up nothing.

JANEWAY

When did the phenomena begin?

TORRES

Judging from a baseline --

SEVEN

The decomposition has been occurring for a minimum of forty-eight hours.

TORRES

You don't know that.

SEVEN

Two days ago, I came to you, Lieutenant Torres, and asked you if everything was all right. Do you recall?

TORRES

I recall you scratching yourself.

SEVEN

I sensed a problem with the ship. That is why I came to you.

TORRES

Are you accusing me of something?

JANEWAY

Lieutenant! Seven is not attacking you.

Janeway turns to Seven.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Are you?

SEVEN

If Lieutenant Torres had taken my concern seriously --

Janeway is furious.

JANEWAY

This ship is all we've got out here. We're all we've got. We can't afford the luxury of infighting.

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

Janeway stares at Torres and Seven, who are stone-faced.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Seven -- continue.

SEVEN

Commencing two nights ago, my regeneration cycles became interrupted by intense discomfort, as if microorganisms were crawling across my flesh, consuming it. There was nothing wrong with me physically; the feeling dissipated minutes after I left my chamber.

TUVOK

Seven's regeneration chamber is wired into the ship's mechanical systems. It is possible that Seven's neocortex has become sensitized to the functioning of those systems.

JANEWAY

Have we run a scan on the ship for foreign organisms?

TORRES

Yes. It was negative. Besides, a biological factor would transform the metal as it consumed it, leaving a chemical trace. The spectral analysis revealed no chemical agent.

SEVEN

What about nanites?

TORRES

Nanites would chew through the metal, without dissolving it. The metal's composition would be unchanged. Yes.

TUVOK

That would be consistent with the spectral analysis, and with Seven's 'intuition.'

JANEWAY

We've got a theory. Let's see if we can prove it. Dismissed.

The meeting breaks up. Chakotay remains behind.

CHAKOTAY

Captain --

(CONTINUED)

JANEWAY

Let me guess. You have a theory about the origin of our potential 'bugs.'

CHAKOTAY

I'm thinking of what the Fizar said, right before you beamed them off the bridge.

JANEWAY

"Any ship that enters our sector of space must be inspected for infestations." Now it seems we have an infestation.

CHAKOTAY

Quite a coincidence.

JANEWAY

The 'hot spots' B'elanna mentioned -- the bridge, the nursery --

CHAKOTAY

-- this briefing room --

JANEWAY

the mess hall -- were the aliens ever in the mess hall?

CHAKOTAY

I don't know --

JANEWAY

Find out. Talk to Neelix.

CHAKOTAY

Yes, Captain.

He leaves. Janeway starts to sit, and discovers the junk Kim had moved earlier. She moves it with annoyance, sits and begins some work.

52 INT. ASTROMETRICS LAB

52

Torres, Tuvok, Kim, Chakotay, Janeway. Torres holds something too small to be seen by the naked eye, under a magnifying lens.

53 MECHANICAL BUG (OPTICAL)

53

TORRES (O.S.)

You were right, Captain. The bugs are nanites. The reason the sensors had trouble discovering them is that they assume the quality of whatever inanimate material surrounds them at the first sign of sensory input. They 'play dead.'

54 INT. ASTROMETRICS LAB

54

KIM

Like a cockroach that senses a shadow above it.

TORRES

Something like that.

JANEWAY

How many are there?

TORRES

Millions, Captain. They consume metal as voraciously as caterpillars consume leaves, incorporating the metal into their structure, growing and then splitting off into multiple new machines at an exponential rate.

JANEWAY

Any idea how we became 'infested?'

TORRES

Each hot spot is a locus for a separate colony of the bugs.

JANEWAY

As if a handful of the nanites were deliberately released into the ship's bulkheads on nine separate occasions?

Torres nods. Chakotay and Janeway exchange a look.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Any idea on how to shut these things down?

KIM

Based on B'elanna's comments, if we were to continuously bathe the affected areas in low-level sensor beams, it might cause the bugs to 'play dead,' inhibiting their behavior.

JANEWAY

Do it.

Kim moves off. Janeway turns to Torres.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

I want a complete log accounting of the movements of our Fizaran 'guests,' during their time aboard.

Torres nods.

55 SEVEN'S QUARTER'S : DARKNESS

55

Sound of metal being chewed by millions of tiny bugs.
Sound gets louder and louder, intense, frightening.

Seven wakes from her regeneration chamber, screaming,
tearing at her arms and legs -- from her POV, only half
awake, she actually sees the bugs. They entirely cover her.

A moment later, the bugs are gone. Seven is breathing very hard.

56 INT. BRIDGE

56

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

TUVOK

You wanted to see me, Captain?

JANEWAY

Yes. Is Harry's plan working?

TUVOK

Not entirely. The bugs apparently
adjust to Mister Kim's sensor signal
after a set period; they realize that
the signal is not a threat to them.
Mister Kim has begun modulating the
sensor beam. By changing the frequency,
he is able to inhibit their activity,
but only for a short while.

JANEWAY

Like the Borg, they adapt.

TUVOK

The window during which the bugs
remain dormant grows smaller and
smaller with each modulation.

Signal on Janeway's comm badge. She touches it.

JANEWAY

B'elanna, any good news?

TORRES (O.S.)

I'm afraid not. The ship's life support
systems will be reached by one of the
colonies in less than two hours. In
addition, the bugs are starting to destroy
materials for which we have not yet discovered
an equivalent in the Delta Quadrant.

JANEWAY

Have you found the proof I was looking for?

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

TORRES (O.S.)

Yes, Captain. The scan of our visual logs came up with the evidence. It's damning.

JANEWAY

Get me a hook-up to the Fizaran Ministry.

Fenzo's office on Fizar Prime becomes visible on the viewscreen. Fenzo behind his desk. Febree doing calculations at a table alongside. Fenzo looks up. Janeway, Chakotay, Tuvok and the bridge still visible.

FENZO

Voyager! Captain Chakotay!
What a pleasant surprise!

JANEWAY

We know what you've done.

Fenzo cups his ear, as before.

FENZO

Voyager, come in, please!

JANEWAY

You'll hear me, mister!

FENZO

Febree, it is the so-called 'captain' of the Voyager.

FEBREE

Yes, I suppose it is.

FENZO

It is so difficult to understand her, her words are so distorted with female emotion.

JANEWAY

Play visual log, stardate 52039.1

57 INT. OFFICER'S MESS -- REPLAY OF SCENE 41

57

Febree removes a needle from his pocket, injects something into the wall of the ship, as Neelix, in the background, prepares his stew.

FENZO (O.S.)

Febree -- look! The female captain is showing us a movie.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

FEBREE (O.S.)

They have found an actor who resembles me to play one of the parts.

FENZO (O.S.)

I don't think the actor does you justice. I think you are more handsome, Febree.

FEBREE (O.S.)

Thank you, Fenzo.

JANEWAY (O.S.)

Computer, freeze visual log.

58 INT. BRIDGE

58

As before. Fenzo and Febree still visible on the monitor.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

This is not a simulation. Our computer logs will confirm that --

FENZO

Oh, the female is talking again. Can you understand her?

FEBREE

No, Fenzo, I cannot.

JANEWAY

End communication.

The monitor goes dark.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Will this visual record hold up in a Fizaran court of law?

CHAKOTAY

I doubt it, Captain. From the little I've learned of the Holy Rules, even blatant sabotage is consider legal if it is based on an attempt to make a profit.

JANEWAY

What about forcing the Fizar to repair the damage they've caused? What kind of muscle are we capable of exerting?

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

CHAKOTAY

With the ship's infrastructure too unstable for warp speed, we're not in shape to even fire a photon torpedo, let alone withstand a series of blasts if the Fizar retaliate. Even with our shields, one unlucky shot could cause the ship to collapse like a house of cards.

Janeway seems to be out of ideas. She visibly deflates.

TUVOK

Captain -- if the Fizar's intention is to profit from our distress, then it is likely they intend to charge us to eliminate the infestation they themselves created.

JANEWAY

I agree. Go on.

TUVOK

I can try tapping into their central database. The information on how to accomplish the extermination must be online.

JANEWAY

Good thinking, Tuvok. See what you can do.

Tuvok leaves. Janeway paces restlessly around the bridge.

CHAKOTAY

Captain, you've been on your feet over forty-eight hours --

JANEWAY (losing it)

And with each passing minute, it seems more and more likely we'll have to give in to Fizaran extortion. For a second time. I don't want that to happen!

CHAKOTAY

None of us do, Captain.

Janeway notices something on one of the comm panels.

JANEWAY

Chakotay, look at this.

Janeway points to a hairline crack on the panel. As she and Chakotay watch, it grows larger. Janeway touches it. A piece of metal breaks off, and crumbles like stale bread.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

59 EXT. TENGOR FOREST OF MEDITATION

59

Soft purple glow from trees; wind-chime sound of alien insects' mating song. Gorgeous, tranquil. An enormous rainbow colored bird flies overhead. JANEWAY sits on a rock, holding a cup of coffee. She sips.

Tuvok enters.

TUVOK

Chakotay told me I could find you here.

JANEWAY

Yes -- I find that a few minutes in the Tengor Forest can be as rejuvenating as several hours sleep.

There is a power surge; the whole scene flickers. For a moment, the scene changes to a black and white scene from the Captain Proton holo-program. A moment later, the scene returns to the tranquil Tengor Forest.

JANEWAY

I thought Tom promised to delete that Captain Proton program.

TUVOK

The mess hall colony of bugs has done damage to the holodeck infrastructure.

JANEWAY

I've noticed.

TUVOK

Captain, my attempt to break into the Fizaran proprietary database and discover a method for exterminating the bugs has not succeeded. I was only able to download a few files before I was locked out. Once again, the technological sophistication of the Fizar caught me unaware. I am convinced that at some point a more advanced race must have accelerated the natural arc of their development.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

JANEWAY

Another dead end. You know, Tuvok, I was sitting here, and a thought came to me, something someone said, not long ago, on this spot: When your opponent has superior strength, sometimes giving way is the way to win." We've been pushing so hard against these Fizarans, trying to fight their every move. Maybe it's time to acknowledge they're a superior force. Maybe it's time to do things their way.

Janeway stands.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Computer, end program.

60 INT. HOLOGRID (OPTICAL)

60

Tuvok and Janeway. Janeway, re-energized, leaves the holosuite. Tuvok follows.

61 INT. CORRIDOR

61

Janeway, Tuvok following.

62 INT. TURBOLIFT

62

Janeway enters the turbolift, Tuvok still following.

JANEWAY

Deck Two. Tuvok -- I assume you have access to the Fizaran public databases.

TUVOK

Yes, Captain.

JANEWAY

Good. I want a full set of the Holy Rules downloaded to the ship's computer.

TUVOK

Yes, Captain.

The turbolift stops. Janeway gets out, heading down a corridor toward --

63 INT. MESS HALL

63

Janeway steps into the mess hall. Neelix greets her.

NEELIX

Captain, what can I get for you?

63 CONTINUED:

63

JANEWAY

Actually, I've come to ask you some questions about our friends the Fizar. I understand that one of them visited you in the mess hall.

NEELIX

Yes, Captain. That was Mister Febree. He had some interesting ideas about prices.

JANEWAY

I'm sure he did. Chakotay said that you discussed something about a type of fruit that the Fizar valued?

NEELIX

Yes. Pressed Latin plums, I believe it was. The ship's store contains dried Fuji apples from Earth's Japan, even dried Lillet fruits from Cardassia. But no Latin plums. In fact, I wasn't even able to find them in the online database.

JANEWAY

That's a shame. I certainly would like to make our friends the Fizar happy. Are you sure you didn't find some of those plums lying around the storeroom?

NEELIX

Absolutely. I know my inventory, and --

JANEWAY

I seem to recall you having a small store of pressed Latin plums left over from the birthday party you gave for crewman Jakaar.

NEELIX

I think you're mistaken, Captain. I don't have any --

Neelix finally gets it.

NEELIX (cont'd)

Oh. Latin plums. Of course.

JANEWAY

Very rare. Very expensive. Latin plums.

Janeway winks at him, and is on the move again. She taps her comm badge.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (2)

63

JANEWAY (cont'd)
Chakotay, meet me in sickbay.

Janeway exits.

NEELIX
Latin plums. I suppose I could take some
Bengassian figfruits, and mix them with
a little Benjoli oil to give them color...

64 INT. SICK BAY

64

Janeway, Chakotay. The Doctor materializes.

DOCTOR
Please state the nature
of the medical emergency.

JANEWAY
Actually, Doctor, our emergency
is of a different sort.

DOCTOR
How can I help?

JANEWAY
What do you think of your talents
as -- a negotiator?

DOCTOR
Such a job would require great delicacy
and diplomacy. That sounds right up
my alley. I am told I have a very
good bedside manner.

Janeway and Chakotay exchange a glance.

JANEWAY
This would require someone hard-nosed,
someone tenacious, someone determined
to win at any cost, no matter how long or
difficult the negotiation process might be,
someone willing to split hairs endlessly
until he's worn the opponent down.

DOCTOR
That doesn't sound like me at all.

JANEWAY
Actually, Doctor, I have the feeling you'd
be very good at it.

CHAKOTAY

We're counting on you.
64 CONTINUED: 64

DOCTOR
How long do I have to prepare?

CHAKOTAY
Oh, perhaps an hour or so.

DOCTOR
I can't possibly --

JANEWAY
Tuvok is locating the Holy Rules
online in the Fizaran database.
He'll download it into our computer
so you'll have instant access to it.

DOCTOR
Fizaran?

JANEWAY
Those will be your -- opponents:
The Fizar Fenzo, primary negotiator
for 'B' subsector, and Febree, his second.

Janeway and Chakotay turn to go. Janeway pauses.

JANEWAY
Doctor?

DOCTOR
Yes?

JANEWAY
Wear something intimidating.

65 INT. READY ROOM 65

Janeway, Seven and Torres.

JANEWAY
I do not expect you to like each other.
Apparently, that's too much to ask.
I require you to stand side by side,
in silence if necessary, and create
an illusion of solidarity.
Is that understood?

Seven and Torres, still stonefaced, barely nod.

BOTH
Yes, Captain.

66 INT. BRIDGE

66

Chakotay. Tuvok, Kim, Paris at their stations.

CHAKOTAY

Thank you for responding to our hail.

Fenzo's office appears on the monitor.
Fenzo and Febree. As before.

FENZO (cooly)

What do you want?

CHAKOTAY

We wish only to be at peace with you.

FEBREE

"Know your enemies -- but do
business with them anyway."

FENZO

I notice it is not your 'captain'
that is addressing us.

CHAKOTAY

Our Captain has been chastised for
her emotional outburst.

FEBREE

Why, that is refreshing news, Chakotay!

FENZO

Congratulations are in order!

FEBREE

How can we be of service?

CHAKOTAY

We understand that an inspection
certificate is required before we
can complete our travels through
your space.

FENZO

Spoken like a rational male. Yes.
That is correct. It is for the
protection of all concerned. If
your ship is not fit to travel
along the highway of space, it is
vital that this be dealt with
in an effective manner --
to safeguard the community.

CHAKOTAY

How may we obtain our
inspection certificate?

66 CONTINUED:

66

FENZO

It is a simple matter. An inspector inspects your ship, then issues the certificate.

FEBREE

The inspection and certificate are free of charge!

CHAKOTAY

That is most generous of you.

FEBREE

It is a public service. When would you wish the inspection to commence?

CHAKOTAY

At once -- if that is possible.

Fenzo checks a list.

FENZO

Inspector Five has just finished grading a two million ton Chavonian tour ship. Febree, instruct Inspector Five to beam aboard Voyager.

CHAKOTAY

Thank you. We have one more request. Our Captain wishes to say a few words to you -- if you will permit her. She wishes to apologize.

FENZO

This is a most unusual request.

CHAKOTAY

If you prefer, I will speak for her --

FENZO

No. We will hear the female speak for herself, to judge if her penitence is genuine.

Janeway, Seven and Torres enter the bridge.

FENZO

Three females!

CHAKOTAY

The other two are to witness the Captain's apology.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED: (2)

66

JANEWAY

I apologize for my emotional outburst.

FENZO

And --

JANEWAY

And for falsely accusing you and your second, Febree.

FENZO

We have only the best of intentions.

JANEWAY

I realize that now. Negotiator Fenzo --

FENZO

Yes?

JANEWAY

We wish to learn the Fizaran way.

SEVEN

We wish to learn our place.

TORRES

We have realized that --

ALL THREE

Resistance is futile.

FENZO

The females' attitude is encouraging.

JANEWAY

We would like to spend time among your women, to learn the way of humility.

Janeway, Torres, and Seven hold their eyes downcast.

ALL THREE

Please grant us this request.

FEBREE

These females seem sincere in their desire.

FENZO

We should help them in this worthy endeavor. Beam the three females directly to my den.

FEBREE

You will meet Fenzo's wives. They are prime examples of Fizaran women.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED: (3)

66

JANEWAY

We are honored.

Janeway, Seven, and Torres, in the process of bowing,
dematerialize.

FEBREE

'Resistance is futile.'

FENZO

Mmmm. I like that!

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

67 INT. BRIDGE

67

Chakotay, Tuvok, Kim, Paris. FIVE, a Fizaran dressed in work clothes, pops his head out of a manifold.

FIVE

I've just completed your inspection, gentlemen. I'm afraid the news isn't good.

PARIS (mock surprise)

What a shock!

Chakotay gives Paris a warning look.

FIVE

Yes. I'm afraid I won't be able to grant you your free inspection certificate, at least not yet. I've found a rather serious infestation. Not at all uncommon in this part of the galaxy.

CHAKOTAY

What do you recommend that we do?

FIVE

Well, it's entirely up to you. The infestation is quite advanced; you'll need to act fast. Perhaps you have an exterminator you regularly use?

TUVOK

Actually, we have never had a problem like this before.

FIVE

Well, it happens that I myself am a Class 2 exterminator, specializing in just the sort of bugs that are infecting your ship.

PARIS

What a lucky coincidence!

Chakotay warns Paris again.

CHAKOTAY

We're agreed, then. Oh -- how much will this cost us?

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

FIVE

Oh, don't worry about that! You can always negotiate a price while I do my work.

CHAKOTAY

Of course.

Five unpacks some exterminating equipment that he just 'happens' to have with him.

FIVE

Negotiator Fenzo tells me that you've the makings of a good bargainer. A few more sessions, and you'll be running rings around all of us.

Five, equipment in hand, pops back down the chute.

CHAKOTAY

Let the negotiations begin!

68 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

68

Chakotay is putting finishing touches on the set-up for the Fizar. He does something to the material that propped up Fenzo's and Febree's seats, but leaves Flenz's seat alone.

CHAKOTAY

Computer, increase room temperature ten -- no, fifteen degrees Celsius.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

Acknowledged.

Flenz, Fenzo and Febree enter.

FEBREE

Chakotay! It is a pleasure to see you!

Febree greets Chakotay warmly.

CHAKOTAY

Negotiator Fenzo, Febree -- welcome. Listener Flenz.

Flenz smiles.

FENZO

I requested this assignment, Chakotay. Negotiating with you is always a pleasure.

Neelix enters, bearing steaming trays of food. He sets it

down before the Fizar.

68 CONTINUED:

68

NEELIX

Never begin a negotiation on an empty stomach!

Febree and Fenzo touch their icons.

FEBREE and FENZO

Praise Froosh!

FEBREE

Neelix! How nice to see you again!

Neelix accepts Febree's embrace.

NEELIX

Gentlemen. I hope you find everything to your liking.

Neelix pulls Febree aside.

NEELIX (cont'd)

That 'item' that you asked me about earlier -- I've located it.

FEBREE

You have? Really?

NEELIX

Oh, yes. Meet me in the mess hall at the stroke of twelve.

FENZO

Febree, come join us!
This meat pie is delicious. Tell me Neelix, exactly what do you call this?

NEELIX

I call it 'your just desserts.'

Neelix exits.

FEBREE

Chakotay -- as always, we are most impressed with your hospitality.

CHAKOTAY

Are you ready to begin the negotiation?

FENZO

Whenever you are.

Chakotay taps his comm badge.

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED: (2)

68

CHAKOTAY

Chief negotiator, you are needed.

FEBREE

All right. We begin with the cost of the extermination. Normally, we charge for each bug that is eliminated --

The Doctor enters. He is dressed in a sharp three-piece suit. He carries a briefcase.

CHAKOTAY

Ah, the Negotiator has arrived. Welcome, Negotiator!

FENZO

I don't understand --

CHAKOTAY

This is our negotiator.

FENZO

You are the negotiator.

CHAKOTAY

Certainly not. I was just filling in. This is the chief negotiator for Voyager, Mister --

DOCTOR

Bargain. Hard Bargain.

Chakotay gives the Doctor a look. He shrugs his shoulders.

CHAKOTAY

So. I'll leave you to it.

Chakotay exits. For a moment, Fenzo and Febree hesitate, a bit taken aback.

FEBREE

All right. To begin with, the cost for the extermination. The normal procedure is to charge a fee for every bug that is eliminated.

DOCTOR

To do that, every bug must be --

Flenz rings the bell.

FLENZ

Foul!

68 CONTINUED: (3)

68

DOCTOR

By the rules of the Prophet, I
claim the right to defend what
is mine.

Flenz motions that the Doctor may speak.

DOCTOR (cont'd)

If you wish to charge per bug,
then every bug you eliminate
must be identified and catalogued
to size and type.

FEBREE

Perhaps --

The bell.

FLENZ

Foul!

FENZO

Febree, you know it is against the
rules to interrupt the defense against
the offense until the defender has
yielded the floor.

FEBREE

Yes, I know that. It is only --

DOCTOR

Do you charge more for a six-legged or
an eight-legged bug? Do you charge
more for a active bug or for one that
is in statis? Do you charge by the
age of the bug or only by the size...

Febree and Fenzo throw their hands up in frustration as
the Doctor continues.

69 INT. FENZO'S HOME

69

Janeway, Torres, Seven, and Fenzo's three wives.
A plate of food is being passed among them.
We only see the characters from the neck up.

JANEWAY

This is delicious.

WIFE #1

Thank you. But enough about us.
Your friends call you the Captain.
Can you tell us why that is?

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

69

TORRES

She is the captain of our ship.

WIFE #2

You are really the captain of a ship?

WIFE #3

It must be a very tiny ship.

SEVEN

Voyager is eleven hundred and thirty feet long. It weighs one and a half million tons. Captain Janeway commands a crew of one hundred and forty three.

The wives react with awe and amazement.
Wife #2 reaches out with curiosity toward Seven's implants.

WIFE #2

I do not wish to be rude --

TORRES

Seven was kidnapped as a young girl, and assimilated by a race called the Borg.

WIFE #2

Kidnapped as a small child? That must have been awful for her.

Torres, to her surprise, finds herself emphathizing.
She glances at Seven.

TORRES

Yes. I suppose it was.

WIFE #1

And you -- what is your position on the Voyager?

SEVEN

Lieutenant Torres was part of a band of freedom fighters --

The wives murmur 'fighters!'

SEVEN (cont'd)

Since she joined Voyager, the Lieutenant has risen to the rank of Chief Engineer --

Seven chooses her next words carefully.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: (2)

69

SEVEN (cont'd)

-- an appointment that she confirms
on a daily basis with her intelligence
and ability in the sciences.

The women are duly impressed. Torres is surprised by the
sincere sound to Seven's compliment. She responds in kind:

TORRES

Since leaving the Borg and joining our crew,
Seven of Nine has proven her loyalty -- and
bravery -- on numerous occasions.

It is now Seven's turn to be surprised.

JANEWAY

When the crew went into statis to escape the
effects of a gas nebula, Seven piloted the ship
-- on her own -- for three months.

WIFE #3

Really?

SEVEN

Really.

The Fizaran women are confounded.

WIFE #1

According to the Holy Rules,
handed down by the Prophet Froosh --

WIFE #2

Women are inferior creatures,
incapable of business pursuits --

WIFE #3

-- not to be trusted in positions
of responsibility and authority.

Janeway indicates to Torres and Seven not to respond.
The wives look to the three splendid women of Voyager,
then back at themselves.

WIFE #2

Is it possible --

WIFE #1

Could the Rules be wrong?

70 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

70

Fenzo, Febree, Flenz and the Doctor. The Fizar are noticeably sweating, particularly Fenzo and Febree, who are several inches lower than they were in the previous scene, thanks to their slowly deflating cushions.

DOCTOR

And so, I want you to confirm that this check-list Neelix has supplied, of the foods that you have consumed while on Voyager, is correct. We would not want to charge you for something you have not eaten!

FENZO

Again -- I protest. It is only through a conversation your chef had with my second --

Flenz hits the bell.

FLENZ

Foul!

FENZO

-- that he came up with the idea --

Flenz hits the bell again.

FLENZ

Foul!

FENZO

-- of charging!

Flenz hits the bell a third time.

FLENZ

Foul!

DOCTOR

Three fouls --

The Doctor punches keys on the PADD, humming as he does so.

DOCTOR (cont'd)

Debit -- Fenzo. Forty credits.

Fenzo puts his head in his hands. When he looks up, The Doctor hands the PADD to him.

DOCTOR

Your protest has been noted.

70 CONTINUED:

70

Now the Doctor holds out a PADD to Febree.

DOCTOR

Here is the itinerary of your stay.
Included are the cost of accommodations,
the charge for the tour of the ship
Commander Chakotay gave you on your
arrival --

Febree takes the PADD. He is damp and miserable.

FEBREE

I think perhaps it is a bit too hot
in here. Is it possible --

DOCTOR

I find the temperature quite
comfortable. Shall we continue?

Febree and Fenzo nod, unhappily.

71 INT. OFFICER'S MESS

71

Neelix. Febree enters, visibly deflated.

NEELIX

Mister Febree! How nice to see you!
Isn't it just a magnificent evening?

Febree nods, halfheartedly.

NEELIX (cont'd)

How're your negotiations going?

FEBREE

They continue. I slipped away for
our rendezvous. You really have them?

NEELIX

Yes, indeed.

Neelix leads Febree into a walk-in refrigerator.

FEBREE

It is so cold in here!

NEELIX

Of course. You yourself mentioned
that the rarest of these plums, the
most valued substance in the universe,
are cold and pressed.

Neelix opens a case, revealing four flat prunes.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

NEELIX (cont'd)
Cold, pressed, Latin plums.

Neelix starts to put the prunes away.

FEBREE
I thought you might give them to me --

NEELIX
You yourself taught me that things are
only of value when bought and sold.

FEBREE
How much?

NEELIX
Four Bezalian crystals.

FEBREE
Four? That is too much!

NEELIX
"The greater the value,
The higher the price."
Cold, pressed Latin plums...

He holds the prunes under Febree's nose.

FEBREE
I'll take them!

Crystals and prunes exchange hands.

FEBREE (cont'd)
Praise Froosh!

NEELIX
Praise Froosh.

72 INT. BRIEFING ROOM

72

Fenzo, Flenz and the Doctor. Fenzo, wilting, at this
point has sunk so low that his head is barely visible.

DOCTOR
And so, when you subtract the
amount we owe you for the
extermination, your final bill
comes to --

Fenzo receives the PADD the Doctor hands him. He is a
bit dazed. Flenz glances over Fenzo's shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

FLENZ

Looks like he out-profited you!

Fenzo's communicator beeps.

FENZO

Yes. Fenzo here.

He listens. He becomes upset.

FENZO (cont'd)

My wives! My wives have put
clothes on, and are walking
in the street! What has
your Captain done to them?

Janeway, Torres and Seven materialize.

FENZO

What have you done to my wives?

JANEWAY

Do I have permission to speak?
After all, I am only a female.

FENZO

You told them to rebel!

JANEWAY

We did not. They asked us
who we were, and what we
had accomplished.

Seven and Torres exchange a glance.

SEVEN

We simply told them the truth.

FENZO

I am ruined!

Fenzo taps his communicator.

FENZO (cont'd)

Febree! Come!
We are going home!

Fenzo turns to Janeway with a hurt look.

FENZO (cont'd)

We were only trying to help you.
It is as the Prophet says --
"No good deed goes unpunished."

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED: (2)

72

Five enters.

FIVE

The extermination is complete.
The damage that the bugs did
has been reversed. The metal
has been restored to its full
integrity.

JANEWAY

Have you given us our inspection
sticker?

Five looks to Fenzo.

FENZO

Give it to them.

Five leaves.

JANEWAY

How much do we owe you?

Fenzo looks to the Doctor.

FENZO

Nothing. It's free of charge.

JANEWAY

How generous.

Febree enters, holding his tiny box of fruit.

FEBREE

Fenzo, wait until you see what
I have!

FENZO

Later!
Captain Janeway --

For the first time, he acknowledges her with respect --
the adversary who has beaten him.

FENZO (cont'd)

Goodbye.

The three Fizar begin to dematerialize.
As they disappear, Febree once again waves.

FEBREE

Thank you for coming! Do come again --

And they are gone.

73 EXT. VOYAGER, INSPECTION STICKER VISIBLE (OPTICAL) 73

Voyager is on its way at last.

74 INT. BRIDGE 74

Chakotay, Kim, Paris, N.D.s

CHAKOTAY

Onscreen.

75 EXT. ARCH FLOATING IN SPACE (OPTICAL) 75

76 INT. BRIDGE 76

PARIS

What do you think, Harry?

KIM

Looks like a - toll-booth. Do you think they're going to charge us?

77 EXT. ARCH FLOATING IN SPACE (OPTICAL) 77

An icon, an open hand with a finger pointing, 'PASS'

78 INT. BRIDGE 78

PARIS

Nope. They're waving us through.

CHAKOTAY

It seems our reputation has preceded us.

79 EXT. VOYAGER, INSPECTION STICKER VISIBLE (OPTICAL) 79

Voyager passes through the arch.

PARIS (O.S.)

That's it. We're out of Fizaran space!

General O.S. sound of cheers from the crew.

80 INT. OFFICER'S MESS 80

N.D.s sitting at tables, eating and talking. Neelix is busy putting price tags on various food items. Janeway enters.

JANEWAY

Neelix -- what are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED:

80

NEELIX

Mister Febree was not all bad, you know. He gave me an idea. I'm not going to charge for the food items, of course, but I thought, by showing what I thought each was worth, I could instill in the crew a sense of --

JANEWAY

Neelix -- take the signs down.

Neelix takes down the nearest sign.

JANEWAY

You charged the Fizar for the plums what we agreed?

NEELIX

Exactly what we paid to ransom Lieutenant Paris.

JANEWAY

This whole misadventure... nothing good came of it. Everything simply came out even.

Torres and Seven enter, talking together.

TORRES

Childhood memories are difficult to deal with sometimes. I know that when my father and mother separated ...

Pull back to Janeway.

JANEWAY

No, I'm wrong. Something good came out of this, after all.

Neelix moves off, taking down the signs.

Tuvok has entered behind Janeway. He holds a PADD.

JANEWAY

Tuvok, I'm beginning to feel a bit guilty. I did not exactly honor the spirit of the Prime Directive in my dealings with the Fizaran women.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED: (2)

80

TUVOK

Captain -- I would not be concerned.
You cannot contaminate the Fizar more
than has already been done.

JANEWAY

What do you mean?

TUVOK

In searching the Fizar public database,
I came up with some rather interesting
historical information. It seems that the
formative Fizar culture was visited, some
two hundred years past, by a being from
the alpha quadrant, arriving, perhaps
as we did, or perhaps through a worm hole.
A trader by profession, he was the first
alien the Fizar had ever seen. Small in
stature, he loomed large in their eyes,
marvelously different, with technology
that amazed them.

JANEWAY

So they made him their God -- their Prophet.

TUVOK

Exactly. And it was not merely his technology
he shared, or rather, sold to them. He also
shared -- his philosophy.

Tuvok looks at Janeway, seeing if she has gotten the
'joke' yet. She hasn't.

TUVOK (cont'd)

He taught them that women were inferior.

Tuvok looks at Janeway again. She still doesn't get it.

TUVOK (cont'd)

He taught them that profit mattered above
all things.

Janeway gets it.

JANEWAY

He spoke in hushed tones of
'cold pressed latin-plum.'

She pronounces it 'LATINplum.'

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED: (3)

80

TUVOK

Or something like that.
And he taught them the Holy Rules --

JANEWAY

-- of Acquisition?

Tuvok nods.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Oh, Tuvok!

Tuvok reveals what is on the PADD --
it is a picture of a long-in-the-tooth Ferengi.

TUVOK

Behold -- Froosh the Prophet.

Janeway begins to laugh, softly at first.

JANEWAY

No wonder they liked your ears, Tuvok!

Janeway is laughing so hard now tears are streaming down
her face.

JANEWAY (cont'd)

Oh, those poor Fizar!

81 EXT. VOYAGER, INSPECTION STICKER VISIBLE (OPTICAL)

81

As Voyager goes into warp, the inspection sticker peels
off and flies away.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END
