

Starship: Excelsior

"One Last Piece: Home and Dry"

(Season 4, Episode A)

by James Heaney

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Note: Lines in brackets were recorded but interrupted. The complete line is left here for fuller context:

SCENE 40A-1**LOCATION: EXCELSIOR SICKBAY**

SHARP: Okay, bring it up nice and slow. Nice and slow, Mike. (pause) That's it. Okay, increase I.V. rate to sixteen p.p.m. (pause) Sixteen, Mike. Aidela, can you get a damp washcloth and start wiping off all this salt? Thanks.

(Doors open. Dovan enters.)

DOVAN: Melissa... it's them?

SHARP: They're alive. I don't know where they came from, I don't know how they survived Gevinon. And you're not going to find out today, either. I've never seen dehydration this bad, and Neeva's pheromones were so thick I had to clear the men out of sickbay until we got her adrenal gland under control. It'll be a few hours before I'll be ready to bring them out of sedation.

DOVAN: I just need Lorhrok, and I just need a few minutes.

SHARP: Denied.

DOVAN: Overruled. There's a potentially dangerous first contact going on outside, and he may know something about it.

(Pause.)

SHARP: Unfortunately, I couldn't bring him around if I wanted to. Alecz is suffering from acute primary bilateral cephalalgia.

DOVAN: I see. (pause) Doctor Maiek, do you have anything for "acute primary bilateral cephalalgia"?

MAIEK: (from across the room.) You mean a headache, sir? We have aspirin.

DOVAN: It's not for me, it's for our first officer. And bring him around while you're at it.

MAIEK: (from across the room) Yes, sir!

DOVAN: Lying to your commanding officer, doctor? Could get you a court-martial.

SHARP: Then I'd better make sure you don't get out of yours.

DOVAN: See you, Melissa.

(He walks over to Lorhrok, where Maiek is just bringing him around.)

MAIEK: As I'm sure Melissa was just telling you, captain, we can only give you a few minutes with him.

(Lorhrok groans.)

DOVAN: She was very clear on that, yes. Feel free to knock him out whenever you need to.

LORHROK: Um... who?

DOVAN: Lieutenant Alec Lorhrok, I just had you declared K.I.A.. I hope you realize what a headache you've caused me by not being dead.

LORHROK: Captain Alcar Dovan. (pause) I knew there was something special about you, but I didn't expect you to run the afterlife.

DOVAN: They said the hours are great and the credits are better, but the qualifications involved being dead, so I turned them down. Welcome home, Number One.

LORHROK: What... what home? The *Excelsior*... she was destroyed. The *Anbar*... exploded and you...

DOVAN: Next time my ship's destroyed, I hope they notify me. Roughed up, yes. Mostly devastated? Accurate. Your quarters opened to vacuum... that too. But destroyed? Not with this crew onboard.

LORHROK: Captain... you stole the *Excelsior* from starbase. Why?

DOVAN: I'm going to tell the court-martial board it was to protect my crew and stop Isaac Brahms.

LORHROK: And that's it?

DOVAN: You know full well I really did it for two bottles of Saurian Brandy.

(Lorhrok sighs.)

DOVAN: You thought I was a bluegill.

LORHROK: Had to be sure. Nothing personal.

DOVAN: None taken. Good thinking, actually.

LORHROK: How...?

DOVAN: Later. You're incredibly dehydrated and Doctor Sharp is already on the warpath with me. I need to ask...

LORHROK: About Simon?

DOVAN: Is he...?

LORHROK: Later. Later, please.

DOVAN: Okay. That's fine. But you were tractor to us by a species of... subspace nodules, I think. How did you hitch a ride with them? What can you tell me about them? Underwood's on the bridge right now trying to make friends.

LORHROK: I have literally no idea what you're talking about. Did you actually say "subspace nodules," or am I still delusional from the dehydration?

DOVAN: You're not delusional, Alecz. Get yourself healthy. Follow Doctor Sharp's orders.

LORHROK: You'll get no argument from me. What about Neeva?

DOVAN: She's going to be fine. And remind me to show you the tape from your funeral sometime. I felt like Aunt Polly! Doctor Maiek?

MAIEK: Yes, sir. I'm going to sedate you again, Mister Lorhrok.

LORHROK: Thanks. I have an (A hypospray is used) absolutely... splitting... head... ache.

SHARP: Satisfied?

NARRATOR: *The first half is finished. Brand new adventures coming soon...*