

Progeny of Fate

SCENE 01

INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE

LORHROK

Executive Officer's Log, Stardate ??????: During the weeks since our last mission, the astrophysics department has petitioned for the opportunity to observe and study a red giant star, with an emerging planetary nebula, that our sensors detected in a nearby system. We have set course for the star system and will be arriving within the next hour, at which time I will reluctantly inform the captain that his rare period of leisure will have to be put on hold.

INT. HOLODECK, A SMALL NIGHTCLUB

(Within the small empty nightclub, a minimalist instrumental ensemble is playing a standard musical arrangement. After a short time of music, a singer joins the mix, in a most uncharacteristic fashion. The singer is Alcar Dovan.)

(This can really be any song. I just chose this one for the draft... Because...well it's funny)

DOVAN

Am I blue? Am I blue?

Ain't these tears in my eyes telling you

Am I Blue? You'd be too,

If you dreams and you schemes all fell through

Was a time, I was the only one

But now I'm the sad and lonely one

Was I...

(As the last verse begins, Dovan is interrupted by the chirp of a call over the com)

DOVAN

Awww... (Beat) Computer.....oh never mind. (Sigh) Go ahead.

(Music continues to play)

LORHROK

Captain, you wanted to be notified when we reached the star system?

DOVAN

Yes, Number One. Thank you. I'll be up in a few minutes.

(Close Channel) Alright, Boys... Take five.

(The band stops playing, movements, and murmurs are heard. Dovan begins to leave)

DOVAN

(While walking) Smoke 'em if ya got 'em. (Beat) Computer, end program and save.

(The holodeck powers down, the door opens and Dovan exits.)

SCENE 02

INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE

(The bridge doors open and Dovan Enters)

DOVAN

What's our distance from the phenomenon?

ROL

100,000 Kilometers, Sir.

DOVAN

(Wryly) Well, it certainly is a lovely ball of fluctuating gases. I hope the science departments are enjoying themselves. (Beat) Any radiation concerns, Yubari?

YUBARI

No Sir. Negligible impact on the shields.

LORHROK

(Genuinely enthused) Sir. The Nebula is... well... Fluctuating.

DOVAN

(Unimpressed) Ya think?

LORHROK

What I mean is, it looks to envelop that nearby planet, in rather short order.

NEEVA

Captain, I'm getting some kind of energy reading from that planet.

DOVAN

Can you specify?

NEEVA

Not really. It may just be some kind of reaction to colliding with the nebula.

YUBARI

I don't think so. Whatever it is, it's not staying on the planet.

NEEVA

Confirmed. Some form of energy is emanating from the planet, and drifting off into space.

ROL

Well, there's something you don't see every day.

DOVAN

(Playfully) Well, don't just sit there smiling, Number One. Take us in for a closer look.

LORHROK

Yes, Sir... Helm... (Tapping on console) Set course 214 mark 4. Let's see if we can get around in front of this

ROL

Aye.

(A series of bleeps, and the ship begins moving)

(A moment or 2 later)

YUBARI

Captain, the energy mass has altered course. It's making a B-line straight for us

DOVAN

Try to evade Mister Rol. See what we're dealing with
(Both Rol's & Neeva's lines are spoken simultaneously)

ROL

Aye

NEEVA

Too late. Shield impact in.....

(Momentary brownout, lights dim and flicker, shipwide energy levels fade momentarily,
and then restore themselves)

(Neeva slumps over on her console)

LORHROK

Neeva? (Rushes to her)

ROL

Captain, I think our shields have been breached

LORHROK

Neeva? Are you alright?

DOVAN

Yubari, shield status? (Beat) Yubari?

(He glances toward her station and notices she's out cold as well)

DOVAN

Dovan to Sharp. We have a medical emergency on the bridge. Officers down. (Silence)
Dr. Sharp?

NURSE HENNESSEY

(Over com) Captain, this is Nurse Hennesey. Dr. Sharp is unconscious, and so is every
other female in sickbay.

LORHROK

(Glancing at the OPS terminal)

Sir, medical emergencies reported throughout the ship (Beat)
(aghast) Hundreds.

Opening Credits

SCENE 03

INT. BRIDGE

DOVAN

C'mon people. Tell me something

ROL

Shields at full power. All systems read normal, but we have more medical emergency
alerts still coming in.

LORHROK

(Horrified) Look at their eyes

DOVAN

McAlaster, help Lohrhok carry Neeva. I've got Yubari

ROL

Do you need a hand, Sir?

DOVAN

(While lifting) No. You have the bridge, Rol. I'll be back as soon as I find out what the
hell is going on.

ROL

Aye, sir.

(They exit via turbolift)

ROL

Maketh, take over at ops. I'll command from here, and do me a favor? Find out who's in charge in engineering.

INT. TURBOLIFT

LORHROK

Pulse weak. Breathing... (listens) slow and diminished

DOVAN

Same here. I don't think they're just unconscious.

(Doors open on deck 11, to a crowded and chaotic corridor)

DOVAN

Everyone stick close behind me.

LORHROK

We'll cast a single shadow, Sir.

INT. CORRIDOR

DOVAN

(Talking over the mob) Coming through.... Come on people... Let's keep it together.... Look out! Crewman! Get her off the floor! Slow it down people..... You still behind me Alecz?

LORHROK

Yes, Sir.

DOVAN

Hey Major! Is that you?

THE MAJOR

Yes sir!

DOVAN

Who's that you've got there?

THE MAJOR

Chief engineer, Sir! Chief Lorth was behind me with Ensign Adow, but I lost him.

DOVAN

Look. Help me clear a path to sick bay.

THE MAJOR

(At the top of his lungs) Everybody MOOOVE!

INT. SICKBAY (Crowded, bustling)

MAIEK

Respirations per minute?

HENNESSEY

Eight, Doctor.

MAIEK

Pupillary response?

HENNESSEY

Inconclusive. Dark clouding about the entire cornea.

MAIEK

Same here.

(Door opens)

DOVAN

(Distantly, from across the crowded room) Doctor? (Pause) Dr Maiek? Is Doctor Maiek here yet?

MAIEK

Attach Neural Calipers.

HENNESSEY

Yes, Doctor.

DOVAN

Doctor Maiek! (Pause) Major, if you please.

THE MAJOR

(Dwarfing the room) CAPTAIN ON DECK! CLEAR A PATH!

(A drastic drop in ambient noise)

DOVAN

Doctor, can you *please* tell me what the hell is going on?

MAIEK

Nurse Hennessey, see to the commander and lieutenant. Captain, I just got here myself, but what I've determined so far is that Dr. Sharp and everyone we've examined is in a mild comatose state.

DOVAN

Life threatening?

MAIEK

Not that I can tell. No, but I need more time to study... and preferably, more space.

DOVAN

Alright. Everybody back up. (Pause) (Taps combadge) All hands. This is the captain. Everyone who is not already on deck 11, remain where you are. Stay calm, and keep the corridors clear. Medical staff will be dispatched to assist you. (To Maiek) So, there's nothing more you can tell me right now, Doctor?

MAIEK

I'm afraid not, Sir.

DOVAN

Lorhrok, You stay here. Monitor the situation, help out if you can. Keep me posted. I should get back to the bridge.

LORHROK

Aye, Captain.

(Dovan exits)

MAIEK

Loughlin, Katar. Grab some help and start attending to everyone in the corridor. Everyone else? Start finding places to rest everyone in here.. (Pause) Lieutenant, would you mind telling me what exactly was happening when everyone here lost consciousness?

LORHROK

I can't tell you much. We were studying the planetary nebula, and when it came in contact with one planet, an energy field of some kind emanated from it.

MAIEK

Nurse? Have you administered any Tricordrazine yet?

HENNESSEY

Yes, Doctor. No effect.

MAIEK

What kind of energy field, Lieutenant? Life signs of any kind within it?

LORHROK

We didn't have time to study it, Doctor. It darted straight for us, and breached our shields somehow.

MAIEK

And then this? Just like that?

LORHROK

Yes. Then this, like that.

MAIEK

No more Tricordrazine. We can't risk damaging the heart (To LORHROK) Well, it's pretty clear the two events are related. My only guess is that something or someone in that energy field did this.

LORHROK

Are they going to die?

MAIEK

It doesn't look that way, but right now, I'm more concerned about whether I can ever get any of them conscious again.

LORHROK

What's wrong with their eyes?

MAIEK

Clouding in the interstitial space between the cornea and the conjunctiva, that's related to something which has tapped into their central nervous system.

HENNESSEY

Results of the micro-cellular scan coming up on your display now, Doctor. You're not going to believe it.

MAIEK

Well, that can't be right. Rerun the... (Interrupted)

HENNESSEY

I've already checked it 3 times.

LORHROK

What? What is it?

MAIEK

(Pause) Doctor Sharp and Commander Neeva are both... Pregnant.

LORHROK

(Total disbelief) What? Pregnant? Neeva can't be pregnant.

HENNESSEY

Yubari too, Doctor.

MAIEK

(A little agitated) Cross reference with everyone on a biomonitor.

LORHROK

(Rather perturbed now) Can somebody *please* tell me what is going on in here?

HENNESSEY

Confirmed.

MAIEK

(Deliberately) Lieutenant... Now might be a good time for you to contact the captain.

LORHROK

And tell him what?

INT. BRIDGE

LORHROK

(Over com) Lorhrok to Dovan.

DOVAN

Geez Alecz, I just got back.

LORHROK

(Tense) I have something to... Report.

(Pause)

DOVAN

Well... are you waiting for a subspace channel to open?

LORHROK

Sir... every one of the affected crew members are... (Pause) pregnant.

DOVAN

You wanna run that by me again Number One?

LORHROK

Pregnant, Sir. Everyone the medical staff has examined has been impregnated.

ROL

Did I just hear what I think I heard?

DOVAN

Sounds that way.

ROL

Should I initiate an... intruder alert?

DOVAN

You're kidding, right?

ROL

Maybe?

INT. SICKBAY

HENNESSEY

(Surprised) I'm reading neural function, Doctor.

MAIEK

Same here. They're regaining consciousness.

LORHROK

Really?

MAIEK

Doctor Sharp? Can you here me? (Snaps fingers) Open your eyes. Can you see my finger?

SHARP

(Groggy) guuuuh... What's going on?

YUBARI

HEY! Get that light out of my eyes.

LORHROK

(Astonished) They're all waking up.

MAIEK

You've been unconscious for several minutes, Melissa... Comatose actually.

SHARP

Comatose?

MAIEK

And there's something else I need to tell you.

LORHROK

I need to contact the captain again. He's going to think I'm fooling with him.

DOVAN

(Over com) The channel is still open Lorhrok.

LORHROK

Everyone is returning to normal, Sir.

MAIEK

I'm obviously going to need to continue examining everyone, Captain.

DOVAN

I gathered that. When the senior staff is cleared, and you can get away, I want a staff briefing. In the meantime, Number One, get with the science department, and see what you can find out about that energy field that broke through our shields.

LORHROK

Aye, Sir.

DOVAN

Dovan out.

SCENE 04

MAIN SCIENCE FACILITY

(The scene begins with someone talking but muffled, inaudible, out of focus, so to speak, because they are speaking to LORHROK, and his mind is elsewhere. As they continue, it comes into focus.)

GILQUIST

Sir, we determined from the radiation present in the system that this energy field is not nucleonic by nature (Becomes more clear) Sir? Sir, are you alright? Shall I continue?

LORHROK

What?

GILQUIST

I was saying that we determined that the energy field wasn't nucleonic. (Interrupted)

LORHROK

(Snaps at him) I don't really care what it *isn't*, Lieutenant. I'd like to know what it IS!

GILQUIST

(Nervous) Y-Yes, Sir. If you'd... allow us to continue...

LORHROK

(Pause while he realizes what a jerk he just was)

I'm sorry, Rene. I didn't mean to pop off at you like that. Go on.

REENS

At the time of impact, the shields were penetrated by an ionizing dispersion field.

LORHROK

Like from a weapon?

GILQUIST

Negative, Sir.

REENS

It emanated from within the energy molecules themselves.

GILQUIST

Then again when it came into contact with the hull, and also when it passed throughout the ship, and came in contact with the crew.

LORHROK

(Distracted, & getting lost in the nonsense)

And that's what caused them to lose consciousness?

REENS

No Sir. We don't know why that happened yet, but we do know that it didn't come into contact with only the affected crew members. It came into contact with all of us.

LORHROK

And you haven't figured out whether it was something alive yet?

GILQUIST

No Sir. Not yet.

LORHROK

Look, I don't know what to tell you to do, but very shortly, I'm going to have to brief the captain, and he's going to want more answers than this. In the meantime, I have something else to take care of. I'll get back with you later.

(He exits)

SCENE 05

INT. SICKBAY

SHARP

(Tricorder scanning) We've completed our exam, and I want to start out by telling you that you are doing just fine... (A little trepidation) for someone who is just over 3 weeks pregnant.

YUBARI

(Outraged) 3 weeks?

SHARP

Yes. As with everyone else affected, your pregnancy is progressing at a rate about 10 times faster than normal, *but* it is otherwise perfectly normal.

YUBARI

(Agitated) Give it to me straight, Doctor. Is this *thing* going to come bursting out of my rib cage or what?

SHARP

Well of course not, Asuka. There's no signs of abnormalities of any kind.

YUBARI

This whole *thing* is abnormal

SHARP

Well, in one way, yes, but we've been examining everyone for hours now, and... (while quickly scanning again) all my readings indicate is that you're carrying what will become a normal... healthy... human... baby... girl.

YUBARI

(A little aghast) A what?

SHARP

A daughter, Asuka. A normal human daughter... maturing at a wildly increased speed, but shockingly ordinary none the less, and what you need to do now, is take it eeeeasy. Maintaining low stress levels is very important during pregnancy.

YUBARI

(Angered) I'm not stressed!

SHARP

(A little patronizing) Good.

YUBARI

And I'm not pregnant either. I'm infected.

HENNESSEY

(From across the room) Doctor Sharp? Could you come over here a minute.
There's something on Commander Neeva's scans you need to look at.

SHARP

On my way. Excuse me Asuka
(Makes her way over)

SHARP

(While walking) Drake, run an additional micro-cellular scan on Telomi. The Andorian rate of mitosis needs to be monitored more closely. (Pause, while she arrives) Ok Hennessey, What do we have? (Pause) (Tricorder bleeps & bleeps) Oh? Tell me Neeva, were you aware that you have Amenzaline Syndrome?

NEEVA

(Reluctant) Yes

SHARP

You didn't feel the need to add that to your Starfleet medical record?

NEEVA

It's never been officially diagnosed, but it skips a generation, and I just figured I'd have it, because it's how my grandmother died.

LORHROK

Whoa... What's Amenzaline Syndrome?

SHARP

You want me to tell him?

NEEVA

Yeah... ok

SHARP

It's a condition that occurs in about one in five Orion females, where the infant inadvertently absorbs dangerously elevated amounts of the stress hormone Amenzaline. It causes a statistically high rate of maternal fatalities during delivery, due to critically low levels.

LORHROK

So that's why you've been uncomfortable talking about children?

NEEVA

I may not be able to have them, Alecz.

SHARP

Well, you *might* be able to. It's just very risky, and potentially hazardous to do so, (being optimistic) but there's been several cases where surgical births were successful, with the addition of supplemental infusions.

NEEVA

But there's been many more cases where it didn't work, right? It's a risk I'm not ready to take, least of all for some alien influence trying to take over my body.

SHARP

And ordinarily, I'd respect and support that position, Neeva, but there's something you should be aware of. We still haven't determined whether it will be possible to prevent these pregnancies.

NEEVA

(a little agitated) What do you mean prevent it? Just get it out, Doctor.

SHARP

It's not that easy... Commander. Our readings so far indicate that the unique nature of these pregnancies are not only causing the accelerated maturation, but it's also bonded to you physiologically, such that a basic excision would very likely kill you.

LORHROK

What does that mean?

SHARP

It means, Alecz, that who or whatever has done this is designed such that, above all else, it will survive. In order to stop them all, we'd likely lose the vast majority of everyone affected, by tampering with them.

NEEVA

So, then I have no choice?

SHARP

We're still working on it Neeva, but in the meantime, you have a normal Orion embryo developing in you, and as long as it stays that way, and presents no dangers to you, then we're obliged to let it go forward under careful observation, so we don't jeopardize you.

SCENE 06

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

DOVAN

Everyone take a seat. I've asked Doctor Maiek to join us, because he will eventually need to assume the role of chief medical officer during this situation.

SHARP

That shouldn't be necessary right away, Captain. I'll continue to be capable until I've come to full term.

KESTRA

Is that what you're saying we'll all have to do?

DOVAN

Hold on a second. When exactly will that be, Doctor?

SHARP

In approximately 76 hours.

YUBARI

(Flabbergasted) 76 hours?

DOVAN

At which time, I assume the affected crew members will all be (Uncomfortable) producing....infants?

SHARP

Yes. The accelerated rate of maturation has been found to be consistent across all the varied species on board.

LORHROK

Could this be harmful or dangerous to them?

SHARP

Pregnancy? No.

MAIEK

All our studies have demonstrated nothing abnormal about the embryos. They're all exactly what we'd expect in any traditional development, just advancing faster.

YUBARI

Well, I don't know if I'm comfortable allowing... (Interrupted)

DOVAN

(Staving off the debate for a moment) Number One, distance to the nearest suitable medical facility?

LORHROK

8 weeks at maximum warp, Sir.

ROL

Is there any way to stop this from happening?

KESTRA

Good question.

SHARP

Our examinations have revealed that not only is there a heightened rate of development happening here, but there's an equally heightened physiological bond between the carriers and their embryos.

MAIEK

Three separate instances of attempting to extract just a sample from an embryo have resulted in severe side effects to the patient, respiratory episodes, cardiac events, neurological disruptions.

SHARP

We've considered the possibility of focused light sterilization, but we have no way of determining the effects such an action would have on the patients. We could be looking at an extreme loss of life, attempting something like that on as large a scale as this.

DOVAN

How extreme?

MAIEK

The maturation has advanced considerably in just the time we've been sitting here, Captain. The more mature the embryo, the riskier the process. Given the length of time to complete all the procedures? I'd project 70 to 80 percent fatalities.

YUBARI

(Under her breath a bit) You may wish you'd taken that loss.

DOVAN

You have something to add, Lieutenant?

YUBARI

I don't even know if I can support letting this go forward from a security standpoint, Captain. We still don't know who or what did this to us, let alone the consequences that are posed by allowing hundreds of hostile intruders aboard.

MAIEK

Hostile?

SHARP

They're partially formed infants, Yubari. There's no dangers they could possibly present.

ROL

You can guarantee that 100 percent?

SHARP

Well, of course I can't make any guarantees...

(People start talking over one another... *Briefly*, a slightly out of hand debate)

SHARP

We're still dealing with unknown variables, but I can project fairly confidently that a bunch of newborn babies built from our own genetics won't pose any threat.

YUBARI

Well, why are we wasting time? I urge that we move to condition yellow and do whatever we can to stop this infestation.

LORHROK

Aren't you listening to what they're saying? Intervention may pose an even greater danger.

YUBARI

I for one would rather take that risk than risk the whole crew and possibly the ship

MAIEK

It would be reckless to begin tampering with something we are not prepared to deal with yet.

SHARP

What we don't want to do here is overreact.

KESTRA

Even if we decide to let it go forward, we can still take security precautions, right?

ROL

Not if we don't know what to prepare for.

NEEVA

(Talking over everyone) Captain! I want to volunteer for a termination procedure.

(Silence in the room)

LORHROK

Wait... What?

SHARP

(Clears throat) Sir, Commander Neeva has... Extenuating circumstances, which make the prospect of birthing more risky and hazardous for her, but as I've explained to her, **not** impossible. We believe with additional preparations we can effectively negate the effect... (Interrupted)

NEEVA

But you don't know! You're just... (Interrupted)

DOVAN

What kind of extenuating circumstances?

MAIEK

A hereditary condition, Sir, occurring in about 20 percent of Orion females, that has a high rate of maternal fatalities, but that's not going to happen under my supervision.

(The talking over one another bickering begins again)

NEEVA

Well, I'm glad you can afford to be so confident with my life, but I'm not as optimistic in your skills. Orion women have been dying from this for centuries, and you think you can jump in and solve it magically?

MAIEK

Look, we're not centuries old Orion practitioners. We're Starfleet trained physicians.

YUBARI

We are getting away from the point here. None of this should be allowed. Captain. I urge you to consider stopping this whole thing while you still can.

KESTRA

Maybe some of us don't want to risk dying if we don't have to.

DOVAN

(Breaking it up, once and for all) PEOPLE! THAT IS ENOUGH! (long silence) Nobody is terminating anything. (Pause) I'm not risking the lives of half my crew, if there's a chance we don't need to, and I don't even think I could convince my medical staff to do it... Until I see some hard evidence that there's a threat present here, we're going to let this go forward. We can attend to any other concerns in due course. Doctor Sharp? What can you estimate would be sickbay's maximum capacity in this situation?

SHARP

I think we could handle maybe 60 or 70, if we refit and incorporate some of our adjacent medical areas.

DOVAN

You'll move forward with those preparations then. What about programming the holodecks as medical areas?

SHARP

Maybe another 120.

DOVAN

Lorhrok, that'll fall to you to figure out. Confer with medical staff in determining what will be needed...

LORHROK

But...

DOVAN

...In addition to making whatever special preparations will be needed for Neeva. Rol, J'Naya? That leaves us to sort out making the cargo bays suitable for everyone else. From this point on, until the end of this crisis, prioritization of replicator function is at the disposal of the medical department,

ROL

Sir, I don't even know if we have enough *time* to replicate everything we'll need.

DOVAN

I'm aware of that, Bev... (Daunted) Unless there's anything else, we should get to it... Dismissed.

SCENE 07

INT. NEEVA'S QUARTERS

NEEVA

(Holding back emotionally) Alec? I have a favor to ask.

LORHROK

Of course. Anything.

NEEVA

When this is all over, I was hoping you could look after Rigel for me.

LORHROK

(Apprehensively) Your... Lizard?

NEEVA

I wouldn't ask, because I know you think he's...

LORHROK

(Trying to joke, unsuccessfully) Slimy? and a little creepy?

NEEVA

Yeah, but you're the only one who knows how to sing the tree song as well as me.
(Taps on tank and coos a quick melody, similar to a dove coo)

LORHROK

(Reassuringly) Of course I'll take care of your pet, Neeva, but that's not going to be necessary.

NEEVA

Oh! And... when you contact my parents? Make sure you speak only to my father.
Do not, I repeat, do **not** speak to my mother first...That reminds me.

LORHROK

Neeva...

NEEVA

Come over here a minute. (presses closet button. Door slides open, and she ruffles through her wardrobe) This... is my burial dress. It's... (Interrupted)

LORHROK

I wish you wouldn't do this.

NEEVA

It's the only thing I can be put to rest in... And one more thing.

LORHROK

(A little to himself)

I hate this.

(Pause)

NEEVA

(Now she lets some emotion through) A toast.

LORHROK

What? You mean like a drink?

NEEVA

Yes. (Pops cork. Starts pouring)

LORHROK

What are we toasting?

NEEVA

To my life... I lived it the best way I knew how.

LORHROK

May it exceed my own by many years.

(Glasses clink. They drink)

LORHROK

(After a bit of an awkward pause) Alright. Let's get out of here for a while. Take a walk in the arboretum with me? I hear the Azaleas are in bloom.

NEEVA

Alright.

SCENE 08

INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

(Dovan is working on a PADD as the door chimes)

DOVAN

Come in.

(Door opens)

YUBARI

(Tense) Sir, I was wondering if I could have a word.

DOVAN

(Sets PADD down) Yeah, sure. Have a seat... (Pause) So. What's on your mind Yubari?

YUBARI

I'd have thought it would've been fairly obvious.

DOVAN

(Duh) Oh... Yeah, um (A bit uncomfortable) You wanna talk about that, with *me*?

YUBARI

I *want* to talk about why I'm being made to go through with it.

DOVAN

I thought we'd been over all of that.

YUBARI

(Holding back a rage through her teeth) Sir, if someone were trying to take over the ship. You'd risk our lives to stop them, wouldn't you? (Quickly, before he can answer) or the **crew**... If someone were trying to take *them*. I bet you'd activate the auto self-destruct, before you'd let that happen, or drive us head first on a collision course.

DOVAN

Only if I thought I couldn't get us out of it.

YUBARI

...Or an infestation.... Threatening to tear us apart from within...

DOVAN

C'mon, Yubari... These are not like Bluegills.

YUBARI

(Bitter) We don't know that.

DOVAN

There's a lot we don't know. More than half of every day I've ever worn this uniform has been a gamble (Pause) Something is happening to you,...against your will. I get it. If I thought., or any of the medical staff thought, for a single minute that this was going to pose a danger to you... To any of you, then yeah, I'd

tear a hole in space/time to stop it, but...

YUBARI

(The anger boils over) If this were a slimy arachnid sucking on my face, we wouldn't even be having this conversation! We'd stop at nothing to end it!

DOVAN

(Rise in volume) They're telling me you're fine! There's not a thing wrong with any of you!

YUBARI

(Losing her cool) A parasite is feeding on me!

DOVAN

(Suddenly calm) If I could stop them without endangering the lives of half my crew, I would! (Breath) and you *know* that.

YUBARI

(Back to controlled anger) Trying to play it safe wouldn't even matter to you if you were personally invested.

DOVAN

What is *that* supposed to mean?

YUBARI

(Bitter again) Well, it's not happening to *you*, is it?

(Silence)

DOVAN

(Insulted, hurt) Will there... be anything else, Lieutenant?

YUBARI

No. Sir.

DOVAN

You should get back to your station.

YUBARI

Aye, Captain.

SCENE 09

INT. THE SHIP'S ARBORETUM

(I've always thought the arboretum should actually feel like being in the wilderness. I mean, they've got ecologists & botanists & whatnot on board. It stands to reason they'd have an ecosystem in there, plants, insects, some birds, a vibrant atmosphere... Something that would feel more real than a holodeck simulation, otherwise, what's the point?)

LORHROK

I'm beginning to feel better... You?

NEEVA

Yes. I am.

LORHROK

See? That's all we need now and then, some natural air, a little greenery beneath our feet, some soothing colors to soak in..

NEEVA

Alecz, stop. Avoidance doesn't suit you.

LORHROK

I'm not avoiding anything. I just need a break from all the bleakness, and maybe you do too. Let's go sit by the pond.

NEEVA

It's more like a big bird bath.

(They chuckle a bit, and then walk in silence a second or two)

NEEVA

I just don't see the point in ignoring it. If they can't stop this without killing me, and they haven't dealt with my condition before, then I just don't see (Starts noticing something nearby) how I'm..... coming out of this.... Alecz? What's that, behind those bushes?

LORHROK

(Trying to make it out) It looks like... (Realizing) It looks like a person.

NEEVA

Hey there. Are you ok back there?

(They rustle through the bramble)

LORHROK

It's Ensign Jashara. She looks unconscious.

NEEVA

I don't think she's breathing, Alecz.

LORHROK

(Taps badge) Medical emergency in the Arboretum. Does she have a pulse?

NEEVA

I can't feel anything.

LORHROK

(Puzzled) It looks like she's been digging back here, but what for?

SCENE 10

INT. SICKBAY

SHARP

Talarian Tuka Root. We keep the Talarian Tuka Bushes in the arboretum because they're very beautiful, and fragrant, but their root systems contain a sap which is highly toxic and poisonous if consumed... fatal in minutes.

LORHROK

Why would Ensign Jashara purposely dig up and ingest poisonous sap?

DOVAN

(Dejected) She's a Bolian, Mr. Lorchrok.

LORHROK

So?

DOVAN

(Sadly, as if reciting some text) To bear a child into existence alone... (To Lorchrok) There's no greater slight to a Bolian woman (Pause) She died of shame, Alecz.

LORHROK

You mean she? oh no.

DOVAN

Doctor, I understand there's one other Bolian female aboard.

SHARP

(Recognizing) Yes. Kedra Valace. She's an Esthetician and manicurist in the ship's salon. (Worried) She did my nails the day before yesterday.

DOVAN

(Still sullen) And a wonderful job she did. Is she single as well?

SHARP

(Depressed) I believe so.

DOVAN

Number One, send someone from security to make sure she's alright. And alert Counselor Jarvin that he'll need to speak with her.

LORHROK

Aye, sir.

DOVAN

I should have seen this coming. I just didn't think... Stupid 10,000 year old superstitions. (bitter) I'll be in my ready room.

SCENE 11

INT. DELTA LOUNGE

(Ambient background of a social lounge)

LIO

Are you *sure* I can't get you something, Lieutenant?

YUBARI

Quite sure. Go away.

LIO

I make one mean Mutaran Mudslide (Sets glass on table) Non-synthehol varieties too.

YUBARI

I am pregnant, you dipstick.

LIO

(Doesn't know what that is) Dipstick? You don't dip them. They're swizzle sticks. You stir with it, and I think they add some flair to the room.

YUBARI

Take your party favor and get lost, before I swizzle your liver with it.

NEEVA

(Tentatively) So... You've been sitting alone over here since yesterday. Mind if I join.
you?

YUBARI

Oh... Hey, Neeva. Yeah, sure.

(Neeva sits with a certain amount of pregnancy related effort)

NEEVA

Uuhhh. That is not getting any easier (Pause) (To Lio) Nope. You can keep the mudslide, Handsome, but bring me another slice of that grub cake.

YUBARI

(Nauseated) Oh my god.

NEEVA

I know, right? Last week you couldn't get me within a kilometer of that dirt flavored larva sludge. Now? I can't get enough of it. Go figure.

YUBARI

It's ridiculous.

NEEVA

Not really, My mother craved it while she was carrying me... apparently.

YUBARI

I mean this whole thing is ridiculous.

NEEVA

oh

YUBARI

Captain doesn't get it. Doctors have tunnel vision. I can't think of anything more reckless than what's been going on around here.

NEEVA

I don't know about that. I went in for an amnioscan yesterday? Well, the UV intensity was higher than normal or something, and this kid kicked me so hard I wet myself, and I had a migraine for 6 hours afterward. I'm starting to think they're right.

YUBARI

You of all people?

NEEVA

Hey. It was a different stardate when I ordered that grub cake, Buddy (To Yubari)
You don't have to tell me. Some days you get the targ. Some days the targ gets you. I
guess that's why Klingons like them so much.

YUBARI

But if you have to go out, wouldn't you prefer it on your own terms?

LIO

(Set's down plate) Grub... Cake. (Pause) Please don't make me replicate anymore.

NEEVA

Sure I'd rather go out on my own terms, but look. I don't have much faith that these
docs can pull this baby out of me when it wants to come out. I have even less that
they can do it before it wants out. I just have to play the odds I guess. No sense in
stewing about it, and ruin what time I might have left, or so it was recently explained
to me (Takes a bite of grub cake) Mmmm still fresh.

YUBARI

Do you mind sliding that a couple seats father away. It's smells faintly of the waste
reclamation deck.

SCENE 12

INT. GYMNASIUM

(Soundtrack music plays underneath Sharp's medical log. It should be something
soothing and pleasant, because it'll blend into the scene)

SHARP

Chief Medical Officer's Log, Supplemental: It is day 3 in the ongoing event that
has been unofficially designated, among the lower ranks, as Operation:
Mommageddon. (a very slight amused snort or muffled laugh) Tomorrow will
bring with it an event unlike anything ever recorded in medical history.
Conditions have progressed far better than expected actually. I believe that a lot of
the hardship, dissent and distress, suffered by the affected crew members,
dissipated shortly after the unfortunate loss of Ensign Jashara. Whatever

objections, complaints or fears there were didn't seem to weigh nearly as heavy as our lives and futures did, and that change in tone has very much reshaped the effort by everyone to see this crisis resolved successfully.

In specific, Dr. Maiek's efforts to aid, troubleshoot, and in many cases oversee the preparation of the holodecks and cargo bays, for this pending task, have been exemplary. Let the record show, I intend to recommend him for commendation at the earliest opportunity. Final rearrangement of the duty roster is nearly complete.

By morning, there will be an official bulletin for redeployment of nearly all available personnel and civilian occupants aboard, to aid in the delivery procedures.

Personally... despite having spent the better part of the day with swollen feet, (Wincing a bit) the occasionally recurring back pain, and a general state of discomfort, I'm optimist, and simultaneously daunted, by the realization that the task of delivering over 700 infants is... Only the beginning of this dilemma.

End log.

(The soundtrack music changes depth and becomes the music being listened to in the gymnasium, during Sharp's Lamaze class... or whatever they'd call it)

SHARP

Now slide your legs out in front of you, extend your arms out to your sides, and slowly lean your torso back, into your partner's hands, as they gently lower you into the final supine resting position. Relax in this position for a few more minutes, while you continue your breathing exercises.

(Her combadge chirps)

SHARP

(Slight sigh) Sharp here.

MAIEK

(Over com) It's Maiek ma'am. I was hoping to go over the holodeck preparations with you, if you can spare a few minutes.

SHARP

Of course. We're just about done here. I'll come by in a few minutes. Sharp out. OK everyone. That's it for this class. We're going to do one more tonight at 17:30. Keep practicing your breathing until then.

(The sounds of people jostling and exiting) (Yubari approaches)

YUBARI

Melissa, do you have a minute to talk?

SHARP

Absolutely, Asuka. Walk with me back to my office? (They begin walking) How are you adjusting?

YUBARI

(unconvincingly) Fine, I guess..

SHARP

It's ok to be apprehensive about all this. No one was expecting for this to happen, and it's not going to be easy for any of us.

YUBARI

That's just it. You don't seem apprehensive at all. I get that it's the safest course of action to allow this to go forward, but I don't see why I should like it. This is the worst personal violation of my life, and I'm being made to go along with it, like it's healthy.

SHARP

(Empathetic) I *am* apprehensive, and I've had to deal with my own feelings about this, just like you, but in the end, the reason we're going forward is because it's not **un**healthy, at least physically... and in order for it to stay that way, it requires a certain amount of acceptance.

YUBARI

(Dismissive) Not good enough. How can you *accept* this in any sense? That it's the better option is little comfort.

SHARP

Well, to be perfectly honest? I admire it a little.

YUBARI

(Incredulous) What?

SHARP

Well... Look at the facts, Asuka. This isn't just one violation against *you*. It's every single one of us. That means it's nearly impossible that this is personal.... and consider what's happening. These are our offspring. This is a human inside me, a direct genetic descendant of mine. Whatever this outside influence was, that did this to us, it's decided, whether for want or necessity, to manifest either itself or someone as our children. It's there intention to have or be *our* offspring... that live as us, and experience life like we do.

Right now, this being I'm carrying is completely dependent on me. If we all poisoned ourselves right now, like Jashara did, they would die. They took that risk, going into this. That means they had to trust that we'd give them a chance. I have

a hard time seeing that as an attack. I have to believe that it's an offering, or a plea.

There would be far easier and more effective ways to attack us than to put a fragile life in each one of us. I choose to accept them as being the vulnerable entities that they have presented themselves as... And that makes it easier for me to go through this.

YUBARI

(A little overwhelmed) Wow. (speechless silence)

(Doors whooshes open)

YUBARI

Then again... This could all just be a Q messing with us for kicks.

SHARP

(Chuckling a bit as she speaks) Do you really think that's what's happening here?

YUBARI

(Feeling a bit silly for suggesting it) No.

SHARP

Look, I'm not saying you have to fall in love with this, Asuka. I just think you should go a little easier. In the long run, you'll be better off for it.

YUBARI

I'll... try.

SHARP

I'll see you at tonight's class?

YUBARI

Yeah.

SHARP

If you need to talk... or just vent, you know where to find me.

YUBARI

Thanks. See you later.

SCENE 13

INT. CMO OFFICE

(As the door closes, she's surprised when turning into the office, to find DoVan sitting in a chair at her desk)

SHARP

(Off guard) Alcar! I mean captain... Is there something I can do for you? I'm expecting Dr. Maiek.

DOVAN

I wanted to ask you something in private.

SHARP

Is something wrong?

DOVAN

It's... a little embarrassing.

SHARP

Well, I *am* a doctor.

DOVAN

No... Not like that... I mean (searching for the words) Well, I'm aware that with the limited personnel on hand to manage this situation, I'll be.... (Struggling) called upon... to assist someone during their..... Uhhh... (Clears throat)

SHARP

Labor and delivery?

DOVAN

Yeah... *That*. So, I thought that maybe... it would be best if I offered to assist..... well..... you.

SHARP

(Stunned, blunt, a little panicked) Me? Why me?

DOVAN

(Embarrassed, a bit dejected) Oh... Hey... If you don't think I should... I uhhh...

SHARP

Oh, no... no, I wasn't saying you couldn't... I mean shouldn't. I just didn't think you'd [want to] (interrupted)

DOVAN

(Trying to ward off the incredible awkwardness)
Wellllll, I just figured, you know, you're a doctor. (Realizing how pitiful an excuse this is, mid-sentence) and you're the most familiar with this kind of stuff of any.....body who I could (struggling again) uhhhhh-ssist... and so, you know, it might be a little easier for me.

SHARP

(Immediately put off & sardonic) Easier for *you*?

DOVAN

(Abruptly extracting foot from mouth) That's not what I meant.

SHARP

No?

DOVAN

No. I'm just saying that... (interrupted)

SHARP

(Slightly acerbic & dismissive) Because Doctor Denglar will be needing someone to...
"assist" *her* also.

DOVAN

No, really. That wasn't really the reason I asked.

SHARP

(Pensive) oh

DOVAN

No... As it happens, someone recently suggested that I'm not as personally invested in this situation as they are... well, because it's not happening to me, but you know... I don't really think that's true.

SHARP

(Dry) You don't say...

DOVAN

Yeah, see... because frankly, I'm actually *very* concerned about the uncertainty of all these impending... Uhh... upcoming (clears throat again)

SHARP

Births?

DOVAN

Right... and so, with all these uncertain... safety issues at hand. I kind of feel like... the person whose... uncertain safety I find most... concerning, if I'm lowering my shields here for a minute.... is... you.

SHARP

Beeecuz... I'm your chief medical officer. (Not a question)

DOVAN

(Confessing-ly)

No.

SHARP

Oh... (Desperately long pause) ok

DOVAN

Ok?

SHARP

(Trying to be dispassionate)Yes. That would be fine.

DOVAN

Oh. Good. I'll ummm... (Interrupted)

SHARP

You do understand that you'll need to attend my next exercise and training class?

DOVAN

Ah. I hadn't thought about... But yeah. Right. Sure.

SHARP

17:30. Tonight. The gymnasium?

DOVAN

Yes..... I'll rework my schedule.

SHARP

ok

(Long pause)

DOVAN

Thennnn... 'Til then... then (one last awkward pause for good measure) eh, I'll see myself out.

SHARP

Right. (He exits) (she gives a quick exhale of relief)

SCENE 14

INT. NEEVA'S QUARTERS

(Some type of a pleasant morning alarm goes off)

NEEVA

(Waking up) uuuhhh.... Computer... Time?

COMPUTER

The time is.... Zero-seven-forty-five.

(She gets out of bed and goes to the wash area & splashes some water on her face)

NEEVA

(While she's changing clothes)

Personal log entry, Commander Neeva, Stardate ???????.??, cross-file as an amendment of and addition to official Starfleet Officer's Final Writ. (Pause while computer blips) As of this date, and being of sound mind on the matter, I hereby place one Lieutenant Aleczander Lorhrok as the executor of my post-mortem affairs, in the event I am lost while serving aboard NCC-2000-C U.S.S. Excelsior, pursuant to, and in accordance with all Starfleet regulations regarding said conditions.

Finalize with date and time index, and add personal note...

(Pause again for another blip of acknowledgment)

(She's also done changing/getting ready & such)

NEEVA

Alecz, I know you didn't expect this, and I'm sorry I never consulted you about it beforehand, but honestly, it's not the kind of subject we've ever talked about with any ease, and I thought it might just be best to spare you the worry.

I know you most likely can't imagine why I'd ask this of you, and you probably don't

think you're up to it, but I know you will be..... because you're so much stronger than you think you are..... and you will be stronger than this too.

No one in my family would be half as capable as you to handle this for me, and I know I'm asking a much bigger favor of you than just looking after my Chorda Lizard, who by the way, you could just set free in the wilderness on Risa. I'm sure he'd be fine.

But I just wanted you to know (Pause) How important you've been to me. My time serving here has been the greatest time of my life, and you are the singular reason why. I can't possibly imagine anyone I'd rather have take care of me when that time has ended, (Pause) and knowing you're there when that time comes makes it pass a little easier. I hope you can someday find for yourself the warmth you brought into my world.
Goodbye.

(Door Chimes)

NEEVA

End Log. Come.

(Door opens)

LORHROK

It's time. Are you ready?

NEEVA

Yes.

SCENE 15

INT CARGO BAY

HENNESSEY

Captain, It's almost time. I could really use another set of hands on table 247. Ensign Adow is having twins.

DOVAN

So are 208 others, Hennessey.

HENNESSEY

It may become necessary to remove them surgically, Sir.

DOVAN

Urrh... Look, I just don't have any more available... (Realizing mid-sentence) Awww...
Well... Alright, what the hell. Computer? Activate Emergency Medical Hologram.

EMH

State the nature of the medical emergency.

DOVAN

(Bluntly) In the next couple hours over 700 births are gonna happen on board.

EMH

Oh My! You do realize I'm only a singular EMH, yes?

DOVAN

Yeah yeah, don't get your gigs in a twist. I've already reassigned pretty much every
available crew member to teams.

EMH

Oh... Well, that's fortunate. If you don't mind me asking, then what exactly do you need
me for?

DOVAN

(Slightly irritated) Whaddaya think genius? You're on table 247. Grab a catcher's mitt.
(Begins walking away)

DOVAN

(Voice fading into the distance) If anybody needs me, I'll be back in sickbay, dealing
with my own problems.

EMH

(To self) Well, there's no need to be rude.

SCENE 16

INT CORRIDOR

(A few quick moments of some busied corridor shuffling and chatter)

DOVAN

(Over ship wide com)

(Very relaxed, almost soothing) All hands. This is the captain. By now, all personnel should be arriving at their designated areas and coordinating with their specific section supervisors. It comes down to this. Where ever you are and whomever you're with, I don't believe any of the crew, no matter which side of the table they're on, could've asked for a better execution of any possible requirements, under these circumstances.

In the coming hours, and then perhaps the coming days, I'd ask you all to remember how we have prevailed here today, in doing what... no other Starfleet crew could have ever even imagined. I usually have a hard time figuring out something inspirational to say at pinnacle moments like this, where, *ironically*, we're more often losing lives than gaining them.

But here and now, I've rarely ever had a more simplistic notion bouncing around in my head, than these few words. Sometimes, the day isn't won with a mighty blow, but with a gentle wave of humility. So strap in folks. This is the day your mother warned you about.

(ROL approaches the Holodeck access panel)

ROL

Computer? Recognize Ensign Alex Bevoney Rol, section supervisor for holodeck 6.

COMPUTER

Acknowledged. You may enter when ready.

(Holodeck opens)

(Each holodeck ward has been outfitted with one assistant who's similar looking to but

not similar in function to the ship's EMH)

PSEUDO-EMH

(As he walks with ROL) Welcome Ensign Rol. Here is the ward's charter. All patients are present and accounted for. You will be working from pod one, wherein you will also be aiding in the delivery of Lieutenant... (Interrupted)

ROL

Oh NO.... No no no... Wait... This can't be right.

PSEUDO-EMH

I assure you there have been no errors. This is an accurate display of this ward's assignment roster. Do you wish to... (Interrupted as they pass)

YUBARI

Hey! Photon face! Do NOT pass me again! Just get me a glass of water. I dying here!

ROL

(Embarrassed) Hey Yubari.

YUBARI

Rol. What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be flying the ship or something?

ROL

Not today. I uhh... Actually, I'm assigned to be your aid.

YUBARI

GORNGLOBS! This day just keeps getting betterrrrrrrraaaaAAAH (She rises into an excruciating labor pain)

ROL

Whoa! Lords, that's... Is this it? Ok, here we go.

(Yubari howls again)

YUBARI

aaaaaAAAHHHH

SCENE 17
INT. SICKBAY

(Crossfade Yubari howling into Sharp doing so also)

SHARP

aaaaaaaaAAAHHHHH

DOVAN

Wait a minute, Melissa.

SHARP

(Pained) I can't wait a minute!

DOVAN

Something's wrong though.

SHARP

(Gritting through pushing)WHAAAAT?

DOVAN

This doesn't look like a head... well, unless it's a Ferengi

SHARP

(Still in pain, but past the contraction) It's his butt, Alcar. He's still in the breach position. Next will be one or both legs. Didn't you look at the monitor?

DOVAN

Well... *Yeah*, but I just thought it was upside down or something. Look, it's been decades since my Academy emergency birthing course. What do I do?

SHARP

(Big excruciating push)

DOVAN

Oh Geez! There's a leg

SHARP

(Exasperated) When the next leg is out, you'll have to move your fingers in to prevent the baby's umbilical cord from getting compressed and suffocating him.

DOVAN

(Squeamish) Urghh.... Now I remember the course.

SHARP

Then, you have to make sure the cord doesn't get wrapped around his neck. It could strangulate him, and cause brain damage

(Sharp wails from her biggest contraction)

DOVAN

(Panicked) Mother of Kobol! There's the other leg! We're in condition yellow here!

SHARP

(Exhausted, almost incoherent) You're doing great, Alcar.

DOVAN

I'm doing great? I haven't done anything yet!

(Sharp goes into deep rhythmic breathing)

DOVAN

That's right, you take a breather, while I get it together over here... (Pause) Hold on, I

think I got the cord. Come here, you gooey little garden hose... guh.. It's still pulsing...

SCENE 18

INT. CARGO BAY

NEEVA

(Groaning through an unpleasant labor pain, but in a weakened state)
MMMMmmmmmp

MAIEK

Her dilation is nearly complete, but it's been less responsive than it should be.

LORHROK

The infusions? Are they working?

MAIEK

The stability of her level is.... Less than satisfactory. I'm having to increase the dosage at regular intervals.

LORHROK

Neeva? How do you feel?

NEEVA

(Slurred) I'm dizzy, weak.

MAIEK

Alright, Neeva, you're fully dilated. You're at the bearing down stage. Do you feel the need to push?

NEEVA

(Mumbling) Huh? No.

LORHROK

Just focus on me. Look at me. I'm right here. That's it. There you are. You're going to be fine.

NEEVA

(Trying to speak clearly, but drifts off into mumbling) No... I'm sorry, Alecz. I can't...

MAIEK

I was worried this might happen. With her weakened state, I don't think she'll be able to deliver normally. I'm going to have to increase her Amenzaline level before attempting surgical intervention.

LORHROK

(Worried) Don't worry. We'll take care of it. Just stay with me. (Pause) Neeva? Her eyes are rolling back, Doctor.

MAIEK

She's losing consciousness. The beginning of this stage of delivery has triggered a response in the fetus. It's increased its rate of Amenzaline absorption. I can't begin surgery until I've stabilized her.

LORHROK

(Really scared) Just hang in there, Neeva. I'm right here.

SCENE 19

INT. HOLODECK MEDICAL FACILITY

(It's quieter here than in the cargo bay)

(The silence is broken by a blood curdling scream from Yubari)

YUBARI

AAAAAAHHHHHHH!

ROL

Eeesh! I'm never getting use to that

YUBARI

(Screaching) Get it OUT! You tenaciously, treble-toned, jubilant jerk!

ROL

Hey, that one struck a chord. I'll try not to take it personally, Lieutenant

Yubari

(Demonic) Painkillers. NOW!

ROL

Sorry. No can do, Yubari. Doctor's orders. We can't risk that the infant's physiology will misinterpret the... (Interrupted)

YUBARI

(Slowly erupting) GrrrrraaaAAAH!

ROL

Here, just squeeze my hand. I mean come on. You've been waterboarded by Cardassians.
This couldn't... OH! Hey! (Pain) Oooow! You're... Gonna.. Break... My Eee
EEEOW-Fingers!

YUBARI

(Screams & then spits words of fire) I will GNAW your FACE off!

ROL

(Gritting through it) I can always get new fingers

SCENE 20

INT. SICKBAY

THE MAJOR

(At the next table, with Kestra incidentally) Captain, Do you have another hydro-irrigator? I never found mine, and Commander J'Naya could use some more lubrication.

DOVAN

(Not really paying attention to him) In your table, bottom drawer, back pocket... (Pause)
(Shuffling & rumbling in the background, as he digs for it)

DOVAN

(Suddenly noticing) Major! Eyes on your patient! Something's happening over there!

J'NAYA

(Big noisy blasting pain)

AAAAAHHHHH

THE MAJOR

HOLY CROW! Wait a minute, I almost got it (Bubbling & whirring device comes on)
There. That ought to help.

(Sharp begins wailing again)

DOVAN

(Back to his own problems) WHOA! There's the other arm, Melissa! We're in the home stretch. Aww... forget I said that. Just keep pushing! Get his head out! You're almost there!

SHARP

(Big strenuous push)

DOVAN

THAT'S IT! He's out! I got him... I got him. Where's that sucker gizmo? (Ransacks through some tools) Got it. Clearing out his mouth. He looks good. He looks ok.

(Baby cries)

DOVAN

There we are. I think he's good. I'm going to cut the cord (Lasing device initiates)
There. it. is. He's loose. He looks alright. Not bad at all.... (Pause) I think I like him.
He's sort of *blue*. You sure he's a human?

SHARP

(Exhausted, breathing heavily) Yes. They sometimes look like that. It'll go away when he starts getting more oxygen

DOVAN

Eh... Too bad. It suited him.

SHARP

Can I hold him?

DOVAN

Right. Yes... Of course

SHARP

(Emotional) Awww, there you are. Hi there little guy. Guess who I am.

DOVAN

Have you thought of what you're going to call him?

SHARP

I thought I might name him after.... (Trails off) oh oh OHHHH! Take him. Take him.
TAKE HIM!

DOVAN

Oh Jehosephat. We still got that *other* thing to deal with

SCENE 21

INT. HOLODECK

ROL

Ok, I got her cleaned off. Oh... Hey... (Astonished) Look at that. She's got your eyes.

YUBARI

Wait... What?

ROL

Yeah, really. Take a look. Don't you want to hold her?

YUBARI

(Reluctant) Yeah... I guess

ROL

Awww

YUBARI

(whispering to baby) Don't think for one second that this means your name isn't going on the list of people who tried to kill me... (Pause) Well... As soon as I name you anyway.

ROL

She's beautiful, Asuka

YUBARI

(a bit humbled) yeah... (Suddenly snide) And you know, *you* can stop coddling your hand

now *Bev*. It's over. You did it. You got me though this... (Pause) and I won't forget it...
Jerk.

ROL

(Through a smirk) Any time Yubari

YUBARI

Don't count on it any time soon.

SCENE 22

INT. CARGOBAY

MAIEK

The fetus is absorbing the Amenzaline almost as fast as I can administer it, Neeva isn't getting enough, but I can't risk infusing at any greater volume... And if it absorbs too much it could go into arrest and die.

LORHROK

Would Neeva be ok if it died?

MAIEK

No. It's likely she'd suffer brain death due to her link with the fetus.

LORHROK

(Panicked) Well, what do we do?

MAIEK

Get over here on this side of the table (Shuffling) Now tilt her up on her side, toward us.
(He starts rummaging through a kit)

LORHROK

What are you doing?

MAIEK

Hold her up a little straighter. If I inject the fetus with a hormone inhibitor it may encourage it to stop absorbing so much from Neeva.

LORHROK

Inject it? Inject it with what? (pause) WHOA! What is THAT?

MAIEK

A needle, Mr. Lorhrok. Now hold her very still.

LORHROK

That's a needle? It's got to be 15 centimeters long!

MAIEK

Look. If you know a better way to inject something into someone who's inside someone else, I'd be very interested to hear it. Now tilt her just a bit more toward us... There! Stop. I can get right at his backside from here.

LORHROK

Oh gods I hope this works

(Pause, while the beeps of one of the monitors slows down)

MAIEK

I've neutralized the effects of absorption on the fetus. Its vitals are returning to normal.

LORHROK

And Neeva?

MAIEK

(Really bothered) No change. The fetus is still absorbing her Amenzaline at the same rate. It's just not suffering the effects.

LORHROK

(Really panicked) WHAT?

MAIEK

It's the condition, Lieutenant. The fetus doesn't know any better.

LORHROK

You can't do anything about this, can you? Neeva was right. She's going to die on this table. Cut it out of her! Right now!

MAIEK

I can't do that, Alecz. If I cut into her now, in her current condition, the shock to her system will kill her.

LORHROK

So we're just stuck in limbo? She can't push it out. You can't cut it out. The baby just keeps sucking the life out of her, until one of them dies and kills the other?

(Silence. No answer)

LORHROK

(Fed up) That's IT!

MAIEK

Where are you going?

LORHROK

(Taking charge) Lorth! Are you done over there?

LORTH

Just finishing up, Sir.

LORHROK

Meet me on *that* platform, right now!

LORTH

Yes, Sir!

MAIEK

(Fading into distance) What are you doing?

LORHROK

(Running) You just keep your patient alive Doctor. (to people in his way) Look out! Coming through! Step aside! That's an order! (Footsteps up the platform) Lorth, get that panel off, and start realigning the emitter array. I want as fine a variance on the matter stream as you can give me. I need to fine tune the targeting scanners.

(Frantic beeping of control panels)

LORTH

What do you need to minimized the matter stream variance for?

LORHROK

Because were not exactly going to be transporting the usual cargo, Lorth. Now just do it!
(More frantic beeping)

LORHROK

(To self) Stab *my* girlfriend with a needle, will you. It's the 24th century for pete sake. I'll show you how *we* solve problems.

MAIEK

(In the distance) If you're doing what I think you're doing, you need to..... (Becomes inaudible in the ambient noise of voices in the cargo bay)

LORHROK

What? (Pause without hearing anything back, then shouts at the top of his lungs) Will everyone please be quiet!

(The background noise drops, except some babies... of course)

MAIEK

(Now not in the distance) I said, if you're going to do what I think, then you'll need to transport the birth organ too!

LORHROK

(In the distance) YES! OK! FINE!

MAIEK

You don't understand. If you transport the birth organ, Neeva will begin hemorrhaging internally, at the attachment point.

LORHROK

(Distant) Then I guess you'll just have to open her up and STOP IT, DOCTOR!

MAIEK

(Suddenly on the job) Oh... Right... (Pause) Hennessey, find someone to relieve you. I need you over here.

HENNESSEY

But I still have one more of Adow's [Twins]... (Interrupted)

MAIEK

NOW!

HENNESSEY

Braxus! Take over for me here.

ADOW

HEY! Where the hell are you going?

HENNESSEY

I'm here, Doctor.

MAIEK

Get over here and handle the infusions. I need to ready the laser scalpel. We only get one shot at this. (Fumbling noises) Make sure she doesn't fall below 20 percent, and when the first officer is done with whatever miracle he's got up his sleeve, be sure she levels off properly.

HENNESSEY

Yes, Doctor.

LORHROK

(in the distance) Are you ready over there?

MAIEK

(in the distance) Yes!

LORHROK

(Not distant, quieter and a little exasperated) How about you Lorth?

LORTH

(Scared to death) I don't think anyone's ever tried this before.

LORHROK

(Determined) I - Don't - Care.

LORTH

I've got it as good as I can get it... (Gulp) Sir.

LORHROK

(Determined) Energizing

(The ever familiar transport sound lasts a fair amount longer than usual, given the delicacy of this transport, and then when it's complete it is followed by the sound of a rather unhappy baby crying)

LORHROK

It worked! Oh my gods it worked. Lorth! Get a laser scalpel from someone.

MAIEK

The fetus is gone. I'm incising. (Lasing sound)

HENNESSEY

Doctor, the hemorrhage is becoming profuse.

MAIEK

Not for long. Just monitor the Amenzaline levels, Nurse, and when you get a free hand ready some suction.

HENNESSEY

Yes, Doctor.

MAIEK

(Interspersed with lasing sounds) Theeereee, and... Theeereee... Give me that suction now.

HENNESSEY

Suction! (Sucking sound)

MAIEK

A little more... Ok, I can see it.... (Lasering) and... There! I'm done. The rupture is sealed.

(more suctioning sounds as Alecz approaches with the baby)

LORHROK

Dr. Maiek? How is she?

MAIEK

Enough suction. It's ready to close. (Lasing sounds again)

LORHROK

Doctor, *please!*

(The lasing sounds last a second or so more & then stop)

MAIEK

Alright, I'm going to try adding a mild stimulant.

(Hypospray noise)

HENNESSEY

Doctor, her Amenzaline levels are normalizing.

MAIEK

Lieutenant, I think she's going to be...

(The groggy sounds of Neeva regaining consciousness)

NEEVA

Uuuugh... Guuuhhhh.... Alecz? Whuuu... What happened?

LORHROK

(A little sly but also relieved) A textbook delivery.

MAIEK

That would depend on *whose* textbook you were using.

LORHROK

I just beamed over a visitor who was dying to meet you.

NEEVA

(As she takes baby) Awww hey you... Wait... You did what?

MAIEK

Doctor Lorhrok just successfully delivered his first baby.

LORHROK

Welcome aboard little traveler.

(A quick musical interlude suggestive of some time passing)

SCENE 23

INT. CAPAIN'S READY ROOM

(Lorhrok enters through whooshing doors as the scene begins)

DOVAN

Oh, Alecz. Good. Just give me the broken down version, will ya?

LORHROK

(Jokingly) Yes, sir. I'll do my best. (Listing out, probably off a PADD) As of 13:00 hours, all personnel are in stable recovery. Within the hour, medical staff is expected to issue outpatient releases to all patients except two, a Denublian, whose nursing must be closely monitored, and a Benzite, who must share respiratory apparatus with her young, for an additional day. The uhh... growth and development of the newborns, which is now estimated at between 12 and 18 months, only a few hours after delivery, is continuing to progress at the same advanced rate of about 10 times faster than normal.

DOVAN

Wait a minute.... (mumbles some mathematics to himself, and then sighs) That means they'll all be fully grown in less than a couple weeks.

LORHROK

Yes sir.

DOVAN

Oookaaay, continue.

LORHROK

Medical staff recommends all released patients be relieved of duty or placed on limited duty for at least one day, with the exception of Commander Neeva, who may require more recovery time.

DOVAN

One day? That's it?

LORHROK

As I understand it, it's a medical phenomenon related to the accelerated development. (Pause) They should all be back to normal in a couple days... Like nothing happened.

DOVAN

That's pretty hard to believe. Is there anything else?

LORHROK

Sir... Yes... I was hoping I could be placed on limited duty as well, so I can be available to help Neeva with her... (Interrupted)

DOVAN

Alecz... Take whatever time you need. It's clear we're all going to be pulling double duty as nurse maids and babysitters for a while.

LORHROK
About that, Sir...

DOVAN
Yeah?

LORHROK
The request has been made for all available staff to volunteer time in the auxiliary sickbay, which has been set up as a temporary daycare facility.

DOVAN
(Not getting it) Right...

LORHROK
Uhh... Including senior officers, Sir...

DOVAN
(A little moan of realization, then a resigned breath) OK... Yeah... Let it never be said I expect hardships of my crew that I don't expect of myself... In this case, diaper duty.

LORHROK
Yes, Sir. Thank you.

DOVAN
Have them pencil me in for 15:30.

LORHROK
Pencil, Sir?

DOVAN
You know, give or take however long it takes me to guzzle down a raktajino. (A long pause) Something else on your mind, Number One?

LORHROK
(Overwhelmed) What are we going to do, Sir? There's 713 more people here now. They can't all stay here indefinitely, can they?

DOVAN
No, I don't suppose so. I figure at some point, we'll have to take them back to Federation space, (pause) at which time... we may be looking at an avalanche of transfer requests. It's hard to say.

LORHROK
It's pretty hard to think about too.

DOVAN

Yeah well... We'll cross *that* gateway when we get to it. I'll check back in with you around shift change.

LORHROK

Yes, Sir.

(He exits)

SCENE 24

INT. SICKBAY

SHARP

They really have sprouted quite a bit since yesterday.

ADOW

You're telling me? The replicator can't even keep up with their wardrobe.

SHARP

Well, I know this advanced development seems frighteningly bizarre, but it really is progressing quite conventionally. You think what they're going through is odd? I was up half the night with Jordan, because over the span of about 3 or 4 hours, all of his baby teeth came out.

ADOW

(Disgusted) oh, yuck.

SHARP

(Hesitantly) I only mention it... because I noticed that a couple of Edward's teeth are loose.

ADOW

Aww hell. That's all I need.

JORDAN

Momma, this picture is wrong.

SHARP

What picture Jordan?

JORDAN

That one, on the screen. The pressure isn't right.

(She presses some buttons on the terminal)

SHARP

(A little stunned) He's right (Pause) The subcochlear intracranial pressure is off by
(Checking) point zero two four microns. Hmph.

ADOW

(A little stressed) What does *that* mean? He isn't going to go deaf in that ear is he?

SHARP

(Confidently dismissing) Oh no. No. Not at all. It's nothing... really. Just give him a couple of these ear drops before bed tonight. He'll be fine. (In all her motherliness) And remember Aiden, a hydrospanner is not a toy.

JORDAN

(Proudly) It's a coolant modulator, for use in plasma relays.

SHARP

(A little exhaustively) Right.

ADOW

Is there anything you can do about *that*? Mine keep doing it and honestly? It's getting pretty creepy.

SHARP

I know. They're like sponges. (To Aiden) So no more squirting your brother in his ear with it, ok Aiden? (To Adow) Let me know if you have any more problems with them, (Pause) Oh! and Ensign? If the tool box is gray? Maybe the toy box could be...purple?

(They exit)

JORDAN

Tincture of Delatin. Is that what you gave him?

SHARP

Actually, yeah. How'd you know that?

JORDAN

It was in your computer.

SHARP

You probably shouldn't be going through my patient records, Jordan.

JORDAN

But I need to know things.

SHARP

(Put off by how that came out) You need to know things? Why? Do you want to become a doctor?

JORDAN

A doctor? No. I'm going to be the teacher.

SHARP

(A little creeped out) Whose teacher?

JORDAN

(Innocently) Everyone's. That's why I need to know things.

J'NAYA

(Over Com)

J'Naya to Sharp.

SHARP

Go ahead.

J'NAYA

I'm on my way up to you now, with Maxion.

SHARP

Is something wrong?

J'NAYA

(Unsure) Weeeellll, I think I'm going to need your help explaining something to the captain.

SCENE 25

INT. CAPAIN'S READY ROOM

SHARP

Captain, This is Kestra J'Naya's son Maxion. Max this is our captain...(interrupted)

MAXION

Captain Alcar Dovan, service registry number ????????, formerly of the U.S.S. (at this point, he rattles off a short amount of Dovan's service record, until...)

KESTRA

Max...

MAXION

Sorry , Sir.

DOVAN

(Wary) Polite ... little bugger isn't he?

SHARP

I'm not sure if you've noticed, but the children have a vastly advanced learning capacity and memory retention... but that's not why we've come to you.

DOVAN

Yeah?

KESTRA

Maxion, tell the captain what you were telling me.

MAXION

We have to leave soon.

DOVAN

(A little creeped out) Is that right?

MAXION

Yes, Sir. We were never meant to live among you. We must find our own world, like we had before.

DOVAN

Before? So it was you that fled that world, when the planetary nebula collided with it?

MAXION

Yes. It would have destroyed us, and we would have perished in the emptiness of space. We owe you all so much for helping us, for letting us live on through you. You are part of us now. Your influence will shape our future.

KESTRA

But how? How did you do this?

MAXION

When we came to you, we passed through each of you. We took material from you. It was combined to make our bodies.

SHARP

They're the combined offspring of everyone on board. Genetic scans have shown that much.

MAXION

We meant you no harm, and we are sorry for using you this way. (Pause) and we hope you can forgive us for the loss of Mayna Jashara.

DOVAN

You know about that?

MAXION

Yes. We know everything you've done.

DOVAN

You... also lost someone because of that, didn't you?

MAXION

Yes. He was our poet. The loss of his words is a void we will never be able to fill.

DOVAN

I'm very sorry.

MAXION

You have nothing to be sorry for. You have saved the rest of us, given of yourselves, and accepted us despite our intrusion.

SHARP

And now they need us to find them a home.

DOVAN

So it would seem.

SCENE 26

INT. STELLAR CARTOGRAPHY

YUBARI

(Irritated) No no no no NO! Look at that equatorial axis. How the hell are they supposed to cultivate anything on that godforsaken rock?

LORHROK

Well, if they use atmospheric condensers, until they can begin constructing a weather net, and maybe terraform the southern... (Interrupted)

YUBARI

No! It's a wasteland. How could any of us sleep at night knowing we left them on some barren dirt heap like that?

LORHROK

Alright. I'll keep looking.

YUBARI

It's pointless. I don't even know why we're considering this at all. They should stay with us until we can get them back to Federation space.

J'NAYA

They won't do that Yubari. They want their own world... like they had before.

YUBARI

(Hurting and a little pained) It just doesn't make any sense.

(Pause)

SHARP

(Reassuringly) I know. (Pause) I'm going to miss them too, Asuka.

(A long silence to let that hang in the room a bit, while panels beep)

YUBARI

Well, then we're not going to rest until we find the best spot in this entire desolated expanse.

NEEVA

(Whispering to Lorhrok) I don't even know why she needs to be here at all. She's a security and weapons specialist.

LORHROK

(Also whispering) I know... Do *you* want to be the one to tell her?

YUBARI

(Loudly from a distance, to some random crew member)

It's a red star! A RED STAR! Are you deliberately *trying* to give them mutated children?

NEEVA

(Whispering) Ummmm... No thank you.

YUBARI

(In the distance)

What's your name? How did you even get a lieutenant's pip anyhow?

SCENE 27

EXT. SPACE (You know, one of those planetary orbit ones they do)

Captain's Log, supplemental: After a few... hiccups and a couple weeks, we have finally been successful in selecting an uninhabited, colonizable world for our 713 guests, in the distant XGB sector, a planet known as MV23, which is now being affectionately called

Progeny One... I was actually rather surprised at how easy it was to get official status approval, from the Federation Council, through communicating with Admiral Parker over channels. We've been in orbit for three days, while equipment and supplies have been generated, prepared, and transported down. During all my years in Starfleet, this is my first operation in colony settlement. There's something inspiring about witnessing a world being born. We have no way of estimating what will come of this place, and these people, who are both alien to us, and yet family.

Perhaps they will choose to live like us, and maybe someday even come to Federation space, or it's possible they will go on in their own way and become more than we could ever hope to understand, but whatever happens... one thing is for certain. (Pause) I have a pretty good idea where we're spending next Mother's Day.

SCENE 28

INT. YUBARI'S QUARTERS

(Yubari's daughter is probably about 16-17 now)

VASHRA

Is something bothering you, mom?

YUBARI

You know... it's been three weeks of you saying that to me.

VASHRA

Saying what?

YUBARI

The "M" word, and I'm still not use to it.

VASHRA

(Bemused) Now, why do I find that so hard to believe?

YUBARI

Because you're a hopeless optimist. Can't figure where you picked that up.

VASHRA

I've always been that way, since long before you and I came into each other's lives.

YUBARI

Oh... right. I need to keep reminding myself that you have... History.

VASHRA

Thousands of years of it (long awkward pause) Besides, it helps to be an optimist when you're one of the community's artists.

YUBARI

Now that you mention it. Wouldn't it be smart to maybe learn some skills? You're going to be starting from scratch on a new colony world. You could do with picking up some knowledge in engineering or... (Interrupted)

VASHRA

Weapons technology?

YUBARI

That's not what I meant. I just mean it couldn't hurt to be trained in something more... practical than... (Interrupted)

VASHRA

Music is practical. I can think of nothing more necessary for a community in a strange new place.

YUBARI

Yeah, I guess. (pause) Are you sure about all this?

VASHRA

Colonizing? Absolutely.

YUBARI

You're not just taking the word of this Maxion character as gospel, are you?

VASHRA

Of course not.

YUBARI

He comes off like a cult leader type. There's nothing stopping you... All of you from...(interrupted)

VASHRA

Spending my life with you?

YUBARI

(Evading) or back in the Federation... On Earth maybe. My aunt has a... (Interrupted)

VASHRA

This is something we all have to do. It's the way it has always been. (Lengthy silence)

VASHRA

I'm almost grown anyhow. I'll be ready to start my own family soon, and I sure would like my children to be able to meet you some day.

YUBARI
Well, maybe.

VASHRA
Watch out. I think I might have heard some optimism in there.

SCENE 29

EXT. PLANET SURFACE

(Adult) MAXION
The final 3 shipments need to be deposited 2 miles south/southeast, near the river. I'm relaying coordinates now. (Corresponding bleeps as he enters the coordinates)

LORTH
(Over com) Coordinates received. Initiating transport now.

J'NAYA
(A little sad) well, I guess that's it. You should have everything you need.

MAXION
Yes. We are more than prepared. This is better than we ever could have hoped for. It may not seem like it now, but we are standing in what will become our colony capitol. We've unanimously agreed that it will be named Excelsior City.

J'NAYA
Wow... Good name. Are you sure you don't need us to stay a while longer? We could add some manpower, help you get your settlement off the ground quicker.

MAXION
I think we can all agree that you've provided us with more than enough "manpower" already. It's time we discovered what that means for ourselves.

J'NAYA
I can't stand to think that this is goodbye.

MAXION
There's no reason it has to be. Sure, we have a colony to build, and families to start, but somehow I get the feeling that this "Traveling the stars" influence of yours is sure to surface among us eventually. Who knows... We may someday be warping around just like you.

J'NAYA

And there's always a chance we'll be back in the neighborhood someday.

MAXION

Right. You're always welcome to stop by and borrow a cup of dilithium.

(It's a bad joke and they know it, but they laugh together anyhow)

J'NAYA

Hey, do you think you could show me this river?

MAXION

(Pleased) Yeah, sure. Let's take a quick walk up that hill over there. You can see a 3 mile stretch of it from there.

(Elsewhere)

SHARP

(a little teary & choked up) You know... This is kind of weird, but I feel... proud right now, very proud of you.

(Adult) JORDAN

I can't think of any reason you shouldn't be. I'm pretty awesome.

SHARP

Very funny, Monkey Face. (Pause) I just mean it's only been 19 or 20 days. I feel pretty silly getting all choked up

JORDAN

Why, because it hasn't been 18 years? I don't think that matters at all. This is an experience that will continue to affect us for the rest of our lives... All of us.

SHARP

I'm sure it will.

(Pause of silence between them, while they reflect)

JORDAN

(Laughingly) Hey! Do you remember that night my teeth all fell out?

SHARP

(Laughing too) Remember it? I still have them in a cup on my bureau.
(They share a rather hearty laugh)

SHARP

(Laughing it out) I just thought maybe you'd want them for something.

JORDAN

(Still laughing) Nah... I think I'm all good with that.

SHARP

(Still joking a bit) You had such a beautiful smile too. (A pause & then a little more emotional) It reminded me of my father's..... Still does.

JORDAN

Well, a leader should definitely have an engaging smile.

SHARP

I bet someone will find it irresistible.

JORDAN

Count on it.

LORHROK

(Approaching) Hey Melissa... We should be heading back soon.

SHARP

I know, I know. Just a minute or two longer. Aren't you two still saying goodbyes to .Shaynar?

NEEVA

We did. He's already headed off to go survey some outcropping.

JORDAN

Oh geez. I'm on that committee. I better get going. I'll drop a communique as soon as I'm able.

SHARP

It may be a while before we're in range for me to see it and respond.

JORDAN

That's OK. I'll take a hug to hold me over until then.

SHARP

You've got a deal mister.
(They hug... However that goes down via audio drama)

(Elsewhere)

VASHRA

Sooo... I know you said you didn't want anything, but I've got something for you.

YUBARI

(Playing for effect, not really mad) Oh dammit. You kids today just never listen.

VASHRA

Clever one... mom. (Pause) it's not much really. It's just a recording I put together, after looking through some of the music tracks on your computer. I thought it would be something that you could have around that reminded you of us.

YUBARI

Us?

VASHRA

Yeah. I assembled a bunch of us to sing it all together. It's got a holographic interface. We did it in holodeck 4.

YUBARI

(A bit overwhelmed) You organized a choir on our holodeck? When did you manage all that?

VASHRA

About a week ago. I'm pretty good at what I do, mom. Once I get a studio together, I'll start sending more whenever you are in range to get them.

YUBARI

(After a little stunned silence) Uhhm... I uhh got you something too.

VASHRA

(Poking fun) Oh, I see how it is now. Trying to one up me ey?

YUBARI

No. I... only just thought of it, right before I beamed down. (Fumbles in pocket) It...It was my mother's... but I never had much use for it. I can't stand wearing jewelry.

VASHRA

Ohhhh my. It's gorgeous.

YUBARI

Apparently, it's been passed down through my family since the early 20th century.

VASHRA

What? It's an antique necklace? This is a family heirloom. I can't take this.

YUBARI

The hell you can't. You're exactly who should take it.

VASHRA

(Really touched, as she should be) Thank you.

YUBARI

Besides, it's going to look good with your eyes... but be careful of the clasp. It's a bit tricky.

VASHRA

(Wryly) I thought you said you never wore it.

YUBARI

Well... I may have... tried it on a time or two.
(Short thoughtful silence)

VASHRA

I should really get going. I promised to help on the water filtration system.

YUBARI

That sounds like fairly technical work.

VASHRA

Someone's been showing me a thing or two.

YUBARI

Is that so?

VASHRA

Hey, tell me. What do you think of Aiden?

YUBARI

He's one of Adow's twins right? The short one? I dunno. He seems kind of like a nitwit.

VASHRA

I don't know about that. He's our engineer (pause) I think he's kind of cute...

YUBARI

Oh my god...

VASHRA

What? He's really sweet.

YUBARI

Nothing. (Pause) It's just going to make for one hell of a family reunion.

VASHRA

Well... I'll look forward to that.

YUBARI

Yeah, me too. Now get moving, unless you plan on not getting thirsty ever.

VASHRA

Bye... mom.

SCENE 30

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

(Neeva, Lorhrok, Sharp, Yubari & J’Naya beam aboard)

LORHROK

I could go for a drink. Anybody want to get a drink with me?

(They all chime in almost simultaneously like they’d all been thinking the same thing, while they are stepping off the pad toward the door)

Neeva

Yes.

SHARP

Yup.

J’NAYA

Oh yeah.

YUBARI

You read my mind

(Door Whoosh)

SCENE 31

INT. DELTA LOUNGE

LORHROK

You’re awfully quiet. Is everything alright?

NEEVA

Yeah... I'm fine ... I've just been thinking... (Pause) You know, I've spent my whole life believing... *Accepting*... That the only way I could ever have a child is if I sacrificed my own life to do it, and deep down, part of me always wondered if maybe that sacrifice

might be worth it. I always suspected that maybe I'd decide one day that I'd done everything I wanted, *except* for that, and risk it regardless, but even then I'd still be scared to bring someone into the universe and then not be there for them.

LORHROK

And now that you know it doesn't have to be that way?

NEEVA

I don't know... I really don't know.. It changes things. It does... because... (Long pause & then she whispers sort of emotionally) It felt *really* good... and that was the part of it I never expected to have.

LORHROK

Well, it suited you (Pause) And no matter how you choose to live your life, if you ever decide you want to try again, I want you to know I'll be there for you (Punchline) After all, somebody's got to man the pattern buffers.

(They laugh)

SHARP

(Arriving with Kestra & Yubari) Alright, you two. That's enough private conspiring.

J'NAYA

Mind if we join you. We brought more drinks.

LORHROK

As long as this isn't an exclusive mother's event.

YUBARI

Well, I think we could be persuaded to make an exception for the obstetrician.

LORHROK

Well, in that case, bring on the drinks! (Pause) By the way, Yubari. I've been meaning to ask you. What is that contraption you've been clutching all night.

YUBARI

(Pause) (Trivializing) It's... It's just an audio player. Vashra gave it to me before we left.

J'NAYA

What's on it?

YUBARI

(Still a little moved) Well... about a week ago, while we were all banging our heads against the hull trying to find a colonizable world. She assembled them in the holodeck, and they all made a song for us.

NEEVA

You mean like singing?

SHARP

(Excited) Oo! Let's hear it. Maybe I can make out Jordan's voice.

J'NAYA

Are you kidding?

SHARP

What? It might be possible... if... I had... (Quietly embarrassed) cybernetic implants.

YUBARI

(with a bit of a lump in her throat, and maybe even getting a tiny bit choked up, maybe?) She said... that whenever we're in range, she'd send me more of them. So that we'd have something to remind us of them

LORHROK

Well, are you just going to sit there staring at it all night, or can we hear it?

(She presses the play button, and they all sit quietly, as the touchingly beautiful sound of a full choir begins singing in acapella chorus out of the player. The ambient background noise begins to fade out, as if the room takes notice and becomes hushed, and the music of these many souls grows into the soundtrack finale, where if this were the tv show, they'd usually have the ship drift quietly off into the starry realm, ala *The Inner Light*)

The End