

*Starship: Excelsior*

**"The Committee Archives: A Year In Drabbles"**

(Season 5, Episode 8)

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 5L-01****LOCATION: VOLTAIRE - BRIDGE****NARRATOR: *August.*****UNDERWOOD: Captain on the bridge!****CAPTAIN KEL: As you were, Underwood. How's tricks?****UNDERWOOD: Excuse me?****CAPTAIN KEL: I've been studying British English. I'm guessing from your face it doesn't mean "what's your report"?****UNDERWOOD: I... almost hate to admit it, captain, but... I was born in Londres Nova. Mars.****CAPTAIN KEL: Oh.****UNDERWOOD: I can tell you what an *inyalowda pomang* is, though.****CAPTAIN KEL: No, no, I'm just going to have to replan your whole birthday party. (pause)  
Pretend you didn't hear that. That's an order. So, did you get any of your "strange hunches"  
during night shift?****UNDERWOOD: Captain, I'm certain it's just a coincidence that so many of the *Voltaire's*  
missions start during my night watch.**

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*Inyalowda pomang* is slang from *The Expanse* - means "Inner planet Martian"

CAPTAIN KEL: Uh-huh. Even more of a coincidence that they come right after you get calls from Starbase Nine-One-One.

UNDERWOOD: Captain, you sound like you don't entirely trust your first officer.

CAPTAIN KEL: If I didn't trust you, Underwood, I wouldn't take half these invitations to get in trouble. It's Admiral Parker I don't trust. You never answered my question.

UNDERWOOD: ...w-w-well, there is a pretty interesting subspace anomaly on long-range sensors. Could be Iconian.

CAPTAIN KEL: Uh-huh. Helm, lay in a course.

**SCENE 5L-02****LOCATION: UNDERWOOD'S QUARTERS****NARRATOR: *October.*****UNDERWOOD: Skipper, do you have any idea what that thing was?****COX: *Nope.*****UNDERWOOD: Does Parker realize how dangerous it was to send a starship into the wreckage of a Scion Megaship without even knowing who the ship's Mind was?****COX: *Nope.*****UNDERWOOD: (sigh) It never lets up, does it?****COX: *Nope.*****UNDERWOOD: A billion-year-old energy being tries to take over Captain Kel and that's just my working day now, is it?****COX: *Yep.*****UNDERWOOD: (sigh) You'd've figured it out, wouldn't you? You'd've known ten seconds after we went in that the Shipmind was lying.****COX: *Yep.*****UNDERWOOD: We can't afford to leave you in New Zealand, Skipper.**

COX: *Nope.*

UNDERWOOD: Do you even want us to? (pause) Did you ever?

COX: *I, uh... Hm.*

**SCENE 5L-03****LOCATION: VOLTAIRE TRANSPORTER ROOM****NARRATOR: *December.*****(Cox beams in.)****COX: Hey, Parker. Didn't expect the royal welcome.****PARKER: You delight in calling me that, don't you? What news of King le Fay?****COX: Which one? The one in the throne room on *Joyous Garde* or the one I just buried on Planet-of-the-Slime down there?****PARKER: The real one.****COX: Buried. Here.****PARKER: What's this?****COX: Picked it up at the gift shop on *Joyous Garde*. Merry Christmas, Parker.****PARKER: You're joking.****COX: Yeah, actually I replicated it yesterday. Wrapped it myself, though.****PARKER: I can't accept this.****COX: What?**

PARKER: It would be wholly inappropriate.

COX: You're just mad you forgot to get me one.

PARKER: I look forward to your report, Captain Cox.

(He walks away.)

COX: Okay now who's delighting?

**SCENE 5L-04****LOCATION: RUNABOUT**

**NARRATOR:** *February.*

**PARKER:** ...and I needn't remind you, Commanders, of the importance of this assignment.

**MASTERSON:** Certainly not, sir. The magnetic resonance is confirmed, and the moon will imprint with the false footprint by zero-eight-forty Union time.

**PARKER:** Commendable, Commander Masterson. Commander Underwood. Parker out.

(Parker's holo-image fades.)

**MASTERSON:** Okay, Joshy, what say we get this show on the road?

**UNDERWOOD:** How do you do that?

**MASTERSON:** Do what?

**UNDERWOOD:** The... the... thing! You're Alix Masterson and then he calls and suddenly you're a... a...

**MASTERSON:** Robot?

**UNDERWOOD:** If you like — not the word I was going to use. But I swear your hair actually pulls itself into a regulation bun when he calls.



**MASTERSON:** Athos is... I mean, he's a Starfleet Admiral, right? He's got the whole Sword of Damocles on him, and that's practically a side project compared to keeping Union running day-in day-out. He's earned an adjutant who isn't... I don't know...

**UNDERWOOD:** A distraction?

**MASTERSON:** Heh. You think I'm distracting, Commander?

**UNDERWOOD:** I... have been in the service long enough to know this is a good time for me to go and check the resonators.

(He walks away.)

**MASTERSON:** Hm.

**SCENE 5L-05****LOCATION: VOLTAIRE READY ROOM****NARRATOR:** *April.***MASTERSON:** Commander Alix Masterson, reporting as ordered, Captain Kel, sir!**CAPTAIN KEL:** And you're assigned to the *Voltaire* for the next five months because...**MASTERSON:** Admiral Parker asked me to make a detailed study of your ship's famous efficiency, sir!**CAPTAIN KEL:** Uh-huh. And what's your take on this, X.O.?**UNDERWOOD:** (a deep breath) Mostly I'm trying to figure out why I know so many people named "Alex" and none of them spell it the same.**CAPTAIN KEL:** Welcome aboard, Masterson. Parker knows I'm not falling for this, right?**UNDERWOOD:** Captain?**CAPTAIN KEL:** Well, if he's getting this sloppy, he must be close to giving me clearance. I'd love to know what you and Masterson and that Skipper Cox woman have been doing hopping on and off my ship all year. (Pause) Oh. I guess this means the rumor mill is wrong about you.**UNDERWOOD:** Rumor mill?**CAPTAIN KEL:** Word is you two've been spending so much time together 'cause you're having an affair.

MASTERSON: It's... just the Admiral's orders, sir.

UNDERWOOD: You'll let people know that, I hope?

CAPTAIN KEL: Nope, that sounds like classified information to me. In fact, you might have a duty to start an affair now just so nobody digs in and learns Starfleet's secrets!

UNDERWOOD: (sigh) You have every right to be angry, Captain. At Admiral Parker.

CAPTAIN KEL: Good luck to you both!

(She leaves.)

UNDERWOOD: If Parker doesn't fix this soon, I'm going to give her clearance myself.

MASTERSON: You know... she has a point.

UNDERWOOD: She might, at that.

**SCENE 3L-06****LOCATION: ALIEN PLANET****NARRATOR: *July.*****(Some kind of portal is open. Lighting strikes in the background.)****MASTERSON: NOOOOO!****COX: Close it! Allie, you have to close the portal!****(Pause.)****(Masterson presses something and the portal closes. Then she bursts into tears.)****MASTERSON: NOOOOO!!****(She starts weeping.)****COX: It's not okay, Masterson. It's never gonna be okay. But Veelah went in there so you wouldn't have to.****MASTERSON: She had no right!****COX: You know what she'd say.****MASTERSON: What?****COX: Neither did you.**

**MASTERSON:** How can you be okay with this, Sam? After everything we went through with Veelah in the past two weeks... how?

**COX:** You want the truth?

**MASTERSON:** I just want it to hurt less. How, Sam?

**COX:** Too damn much practice.  
Practice.

**(Masterson continues sobbing.)**

**SCENE 5L-07****LOCATION: VOLTAIRE BRIEFING ROOM****NARRATOR: *September.*****PARKER: He is... a challenge.****UNDERWOOD: He's a dsokdpach, Admiral. And you know it.****(Kel approaches.)****CAPTAIN KEL: Language, Josh!****UNDERWOOD: Sorry, sir.****CAPTAIN KEL: You're not talking about anyone I know?****UNDERWOOD: Just a certain captain the Admiral and I have dealt with.****CAPTAIN KEL: I can't order an Admiral to gossip, X.O., but I can order you.****UNDERWOOD: It's the *Excelsior*'s C.O., name of Al[car Dovan.]****CAPTAIN KEL: Alcar Dovan. (sigh) Yeah, he's a dsokdpach, alright. (pause) I should call him.****(She walks away.)****UNDERWOOD: You knew she knew, didn't you?**

PARKER: I read the files, Commander. He was the *Tokyo's* X.O. when she was at helm.

UNDERWOOD: Enough to give her a lifetime of st[ories.]

PARKER: Trauma, yes.

UNDERWOOD: You could have said something.

PARKER: More fun this way.

**SCENE 5L-08****LOCATION: VOLTAIRE TRANSPORTER ROOM****NARRATOR: *December.*****(Parker beams in.)****COX: Successful outing, Admiral?****PARKER: You could say that. The Vorta agreed to your entry into Dominion territory, on condition that you...****COX: What?****PARKER: The translator said that you have to be an escort, but I assume it meant you have to have an escort. With Masterson and Underwood already at the dig on Pnakos...****COX: I told you, I'm happy to go. Now, take this and Merry Christmas.****PARKER: What is it?****COX: I pulled your name in the Secret Santa.****PARKER: Skipper, I didn't put my name in the Secret Santa.****COX: I know. Funny how things work out, isn't it? And what's this?****PARKER: I pulled your name in the Secret Santa. Merry Christmas, Skipper.**



**COX: Heh. Merry Christmas, Admiral.**