

Starship: Excelsior
"The Greatest Day of Every Year"
(Season 4, Episode B)
by James Heaney

Transcribed by Peter Stine

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

LOCATION: BRIDGE

NEEVA: Then why not just always prank the aliens?

ROL: No, no, the whole problem with aliens is that they don't know what day it is!

NEEVA: That makes them easy targets, doesn't it?

ROL: Yes, but what's the joy in April Fool's Day? What makes April Fool's Day the greatest day of every year?

NEEVA: Is that a real question? Because I never even heard of this holy day until twenty-six seconds ago. Twenty-seven. Twenty-eight. Yep, my growing experience with April Fool's isn't giving me the answers. Thirty-three.

ROL: It was actually a rhetorical question, but you were on a roll and I didn't want to interrupt.

NEEVA: Thank you.

ROL: The joy in April Fool's Day is in slipping past their defenses. They know it's April Fool's Day. They're on the lookout for pranks and lies. And still you manage to fool them. It's like that feeling when you're in a hand-to-hand fight, and you manage to sink your knife into just the right spot and it slips past the armor into his flesh.

(Pause.)

NEEVA: I was going to say that was really, really creepy, but I actually know exactly what you're talking about. So April Fool's day is about acts of psychological violence against your enemies?

ROL: No, it's about acts of psychological violence against your friends.

NEEVA: Because you want them to stop being your friend?

ROL: No: so they know how much you care about them.

NEEVA: Humans are weird.

ROL: Hey, Bolians love April Fool's Day, too.

NEEVA: Ever met a Bolian? Bolians are weird.

ROL: Just the one, actually.

NEEVA: Case in point. Anyway, I'm in.

ROL: You're in?

NEEVA: Yeah, sounds like fun. What's that thing you like to say? Wheels within wheels within wheels.

ROL: Well... just wheels, actually. Really just one wheel. It's not that sophisticated a prank. I'll fake a sensor reading, you go along with it, he falls for it, cue laugh track. It's not much, but I don't want to do too much damage on his first April Fool's Day.

NEEVA: Oh. I was hoping to get involved in one of your grand Bevoney Rol conspiracies.

ROL: I'm afraid that's all there is to it. I've been buttering up Alecz for days with little April Fool's Day stories. He's just aware enough now to be wary. But an inexperienced kid like

him... he doesn't realize the depth of planning that can go into a good April Fool. One wheel, this time, is all we need.

NEEVA: If you say so. His shift started six minutes ago, so he'll walk onto the bridge in about three... two... one...

(Doors open.)

ROL: You are dating that boy.

NEEVA: What if I told you that was an April Fool? Commander on Deck!

LORHROK: Commander Neeva, I relieve you of watch command.

NEEVA: I stand relieved. Hi, Alecz.

ROL: I'm glad you're here, Alecz. We could use your help with something. A strange reading on long-range sensors. It's been fading in and out of range for the past two hours. We were thinking about alerting the captain.

LORHROK: Let's take a look. Put it up on main viewer. Extreme magnification.

ROL: Aye, sir.

LORHROK: It seems... familiar.

NEEVA: Yes, sir, I thought so, too, but the computer isn't matching it to any known profile.

LORHROK: Can we increase power to sensors?

ROL: Already at maximum.

LORHROK: Then can we get closer?

ROL: I was hoping you'd say that.

NEEVA: We didn't have authority to change course on our own.

LORHROK: Well, make it so.

ROL: "Make it so"?

NEEVA: Who says that?

ROL: Snobs. I believe snobs say that.

NEEVA: Old, balding aristocrats.

ROL: Toffs, if you will.

LORHROK: I think you've made your point. Take us closer.

ROL: Happily, sir.

(Rol presses some controls.)

LORHROK: Anything?

ROL: I am getting a clearer scan now. Neeva, can you analyze?

NEEVA: Sir, take a look at this.

LORHROK: Electromagnetic shielding, internal volume over twenty cubic kilometers, geometric shape... cube. (pause) Maker. It's the Borg. Red alert! Shields up! Captain to the Bridge! Rol, evasive maneuvers! (pause) Rol, evasive maneuvers!

ROL: (chuckles)

NEEVA: (chuckling a little) This is the part where we tell him, right?

LORHROK: Tell me what?

(Suddenly, a Borg transporter beam!)

NEEVA: What the...?

LORHROK: Intruder alert! Neeva! Don't just stand there! A Borg drone just beamed onto the bridge!

NEEVA: I don't... how...?

LORHROK: Oh, spast! It's got me! Neeva!

ROL: It's injecting him with nanoprobes! He's being assimilated!

LORHROK: Ahhghhghgh! Neeva... help me!

NEEVA: Alec... I'm so sorry.

ROL: (chuckle) Alright, Alecz, nice job. The classic reverse-prank backfire. Worked like a...

NEEVA: Alecz, if you're being assimilated, this is the only way. It's the most mercy I know how to give.

(She pulls out a phaser, charges...)

ROL: Wait, where did you get a phaser?!

(...and fires!)

LORHROK: Agggghh!

(Lorhrok falls heavily to the ground.)

ROL: Oh my God. Alecz! His chest is... smoking! Neeva! It was a joke! I set it up like we were pranking him, but we were actually pranking you! The Borg was just a hologram! And now...! I'm sorry! I'm so sorry! Alecz, can you hear me? Alecz!

NEEVA: I'll get a medkit.

LORHROK: Bev. Bev Rol...

ROL: You're gonna be okay, Alecz. I've learned my lesson. Pranks gone wrong. Oh, no. No no no no no.

LORHROK: Bev... April Fool.

ROL: April... Oh, no.

NEEVA: (breaks out in cackling laughter) Oh, man! Oh, MAN!

ROL: You told her about the prank.

LORHROK: Bev, we're dating. Of course I told her.

NEEVA: And then I suggested, why not turn it all around on the original prankster?

ROL: And you just went along with this?

LORHROK: She made me dinner.

ROL: That's all it takes?

LORHROK: No, but I'm not telling you the rest. Bottom line, she convinced me.

NEEVA: (still laughing) And, boy, you were right, Rol. Knife into flesh. I never realized psychological violence could be so fun!

ROL: (chuckles) Wheels within wheels within wheels?

NEEVA: It was everything I ever dreamed of.

ROL: Well, I know when I'm beaten. Alecz, I'm glad you're not dead.

LORHROK: You look a little shaken, Bev.

ROL: I've never been beaten so thoroughly before by two total novices. I must be losing my edge.

NEEVA: Or gaining friends.

ROL: Good point.

LORHROK: Still, why don't you go take an hour off? Have a drink in the Delta Lounge. We'll cover for you up here.

ROL: I... think I'll do just that, sir. Thank you. I'll see you both in an hour.

(He exits into the turbolift.)

ROL: ...when I shall wreak terrible vengeance. You wanted wheels within wheels within wheels, Neeva? (pause.) That was just the first wheel.