

STAR TREK  
APOCALYPSE

by  
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FADE IN

In the exterior of space, twinkling stars sparkle in the background. The title graphic fades in over on the stars then quickly fades out.

A close view of the U.S.S. Voyager now fills the space as it speeds by with two Borg cubes and one sphere close behind.

The chase envelops the whole area. Voyager looks just as glorious as ever as it tries to make some breathing room between them and the three Borg ships.

The torpedo and phaser fire from the Borg ships light up the darkness of space as they impact on the Voyager ship. Voyager retaliates with a vengeance but produces little damage to the Borg ships.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

The room is dark as the lights are dimmed for 'red alert'. Sparks fly all around the bridge as the ship is hit by torpedo and phaser fire. CHAKOTAY stands in the middle of the ship; four pips sit prominently on his collar indicating his new rank of Captain. A new crewmember is stationed at tactical while TUVOK is sitting at the left hand of the Captain, as calm and composed just as a Vulcan should, now obviously the new first officer.

Lieutenant Commander KYLE MELE holds his balance at the tactical station as the interior of the ship is rocked by weapons fire from outside.

MELE

Shields at seventy percent and falling fast! I can't fire the transphasic torpedoes without the ablative armor activated!

CHAKOTAY

HARRY, is there anyway to activate the armor without lowering our shields?!

Another pip, indicating lieutenant, sits prominently on Harry Kim's collar.

KIM

Negative!

Beeping is heard from Harry's console.

KIM

We better get it up soon, they're attempting to match our shield frequency for transport. Compensating.

CHAKOTAY

(To Tuvok)

I say we chance it, lower our shields and activate the armor. We'll get singed, but it's better than being pecked to death

TUVOK

That would be highly inadvisable. Their rate of fire and accuracy is too great, such an attempt would undoubtedly guarantee our destruction.

CHAKOTAY

I hope you have a better idea.

TUVOK

Then I regret to disappoint you Captain.

Frustrated, Chakotay move towards TOM PARIS.

CHAKOTAY

Tom, any suggestions?

PARIS

Another ship to draw their fire?

Chakotay doesn't even answer him as the ship continues to rock from the Borg weapon fire.

PARIS

I didn't say it was a good suggestion.

CHAKOTAY

This is not the time to indulge us in your wit Lieutenant.

MELE

Shields down to fifty percent! I hate to rush you but we need that ablative armor up now.

The next hit ignites a beautiful spark show in a dark corner of the bridge.

TUVOK

Captain, perhaps your plan should be reevaluated.

CHAKOTAY

Is that logical?

TUVOK

No, but then again, neither are the Borg. In situations like this it may be prudent to find the logic in the illogical.

CHAKOTAY

What does that mean?

TUVOK

It means, that with correct timing and precise maneuvering, there is a high probability of pulling off the improbable. (inputs something on the console between the two chairs)  
Lieutenant Paris, I am sending you coordinates that should allow us to evade the Borg ships long enough to activate the ablative armor. Lieutenant Mele, prepare to lower the shields and to activate the armor on my mark.

Tom takes a deep breath looking at the instructions.

PARIS

You might want to hold on to something for this one.

SPACE -- VOYAGER

Voyager breaks from the chase performing twists and turns only thought to be done by stunt fighter pilots, all the while avoiding the Borg's weapons fire.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE - FOLLOWING

TUVOK  
(Quickly to MELE)  
Now Lieutenant!

SPACE - FOLLOWING

As Voyager speeds around the Borg ships the shields lower and the 'ablative armor' erects around the ship forming a metal glove encasing the ship.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE - FOLLOWING

MELE  
Ablative armor activated, transphasic  
torpedoes online!

CHAKOTAY  
Fire!

SPACE -- VOYAGER - FOLLOWING

The Borg ships immediately stop firing and initiate their scanners trying to try and assimilate the armor. They prove too slow and a hatch opens on the back of Voyager and two 'transphasic torpedoes' are launched for each ship.

As the torpedoes make contact the Borg ships are instantly destroyed unable to retaliate.

Voyager flies around a cloud of fire as the explosion incinerates most of the Borg debris. Only trace amounts of any of the ships are left behind now space garbage.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE - FOLLOWING

Chakotay sits back in his chair, takes a deep sigh of relief.

CHAKOTAY

Stand down red alert. Good work people, you make even the Enterprise look like amateurs.

TUVOK

Lieutenant Kim, damage report.

KIM

Minor hull damage, a few power relays are blown, and long range sensors are down.

CHAKOTAY

Harry, have B'ELANNA make the sensors priority, we can't chance being blind right now. (To Tuvok) They're getting more aggressive.

TUVOK

Agreed, this is the sixth attack this week, and it seems they're adding more ships to their runs.

CHAKOTAY

You think it's only a matter of time before they penetrate the armor?

TUVOK

The Borg are famous for being able to adapt to virtually anything. It is most certainly only a matter of time.

SPACE -- BORG UNIMATRIX

Deep in the heart of the Delta Quadrant, the final phase of construction on a Borg Unimatrix progresses, undoubtedly a replacement for the one destroyed in the last episode of the series. What looks to be a large wall fills the space next to the complex. It looks like the outer hull of a Borg ship but its size is too immense to see completely.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

Inside are shown for the first time the Borg King's chambers, a bridge like facility. It's located directly between the top and the exact center, which is where the engineering section would be.

The room is quite large, much bigger than the Queens chambers shown before. Behind is the only entrance to the room. On either side are walls covered in monitoring panels that can turn on and off. When off they look like a normal wall. In front is a large wall displaying in the middle what looks to be a panel with a half cylindrical shape to it.

Hanging from deep within the ceiling on either side of the cylindrical object are the Queens, two to be exact. The two advisors or first officers as it were. Directly below each of them is an area where their bodies can be assembled.

For now there is no activity from anyone. The ship hums and lights blink but no living activity.

BORG COLLECTIVE'S VOICE

Cube eight four five, destroyed. Cube nine six three, destroyed. Sphere two, two seven, destroyed. Adaptation to Voyager's ablative armor failed.

From the innards of the ceiling of the ship, two Borg Queen heads are lowered.

QUEEN 1

More ships! Four cubes this time.

QUEEN 2

This little chase is getting tedious. Next time just destroy Voyager

QUEEN 1

No! We need their technology. Voyager's weapons will ensure there is fear in the eyes of every species that tries to oppose us, and the armor will make us invincible.

QUEEN 2

It's redundant, we already are invincible.

A disembodied voice joins the conversation.

KING'S VOICE

Evidently not.

QUEEN 2

With Voyager out of the way Earth will be defenseless. The disruption in the Alpha quadrant will make assimilation effortless. Once Earth is conquered, our perfection will be easily spread throughout the galaxy.

KING'S VOICE

But not easily enough. With Voyager's advanced technology armadas of ships will be defenseless against us. The probability of adapting to Species 8472 increases. And who knows what lies outside of our own galaxy. What a shame to be caught unprepared the way we were with Species 8472.

QUEEN 2

We will adapt like we always do. The armor and torpedoes are unnecessary! The technology adapted from--

KING'S VOICE

Queen zero, zero two primary conjunct of collective, you have malfunctioned and will be dismantled.

QUEEN 2

No!

Two Borg drones enter the room as the Queen's head is lowered against her will. The Queen's flesh is ripped off the metallic endoskeleton, the endoskeleton itself gets completely dismantled with wires and circuits taken for reuse. The other Queen looks on with indifference as her comrade is destroyed.

KING'S VOICE

Prepare a replacement.

QUEEN 1

Construction is underway.



KING'S VOICE

It's time I took care of this myself.  
The pursuit of their technology is trifling as it will be mine soon enough...  
Janeway has been a thorn in my side for too long, and now she insults me by leaving me her pet to contend with. This game has gone on too long, I have had enough of Janeway.

QUEEN 1

Are we suspending our plans of adapting their technology?

KING'S VOICE

No. In the end we shall have the armor and torpedo technology. However, I shall also avenge everything that human insect has cost me!

SPACE

Construction continues on the unimatrix. The wall positioned off to the side now moves away.

The wall flies away from the unimatrix and a monstrous transwarp portal opens up and the wall is sucked in. This supposed ship is still too big to see, but it's evident it's unlike anything seen before.

STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS -- BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Admiral KATHRYN JANEWAY looks bored as she sits in a drawn out meeting with a group of high-ranking StarFleet officials. The classified meeting is about a restoration project for the Federation. Not that she doesn't want to see the Federation restored, but it's obvious she'd rather be... on a bridge.

ADMIRAL 1

...As Commodore Stern mentioned earlier, the Vulcans are on the fence about restoring the Federation. The Vulcan ambassador has suggested the High Command have started talks with the Romulan Senate to begin a 'reunification' process. I know what  
(more)

ADMIRAL 1 (CONT'D)

you all are thinking, but this looks like to be the real deal this time. Should they begin a reunification of their people, it's doubtful we'll ever see the Vulcans in the Federation again as we all know how the Romulans feel about us right now. There's still time to try and persuade the Vulcans over, but unfortunately it's looking to be a long shot at this point... Well, if there's no further business, you're all dismissed... I remind you this meeting is classified.

People make their way out of the room. The Admiral catches up to Janeway.

ADMIRAL 1

Kathryn!... I noticed you weren't as enthused as everyone else seemed to be.

JANEWAY

Well no offense Admiral but talk is cheap, I'd rather be out there doing something about it.

ADMIRAL 1

The first step to any kind of peace is talk.

JANEWAY

It still seems like a bunch of hot air. While we're in here talking our people are dying on the front lines. People think the war is over, tell that to the Breen, the Romulans, the Cardassians, they don't think it's over.

ADMIRAL 1

Neither do the Borg.

JANEWAY

Don't get me started on the Borg.

ADMIRAL 1

You hear about their last confrontation? Ten people injured, one dead.

JANEWAY

That ablative armor is the only thing keeping them alive right now. The Borg won't destroy them until they have the technology. I have to admit Admiral, restoring the Federation is the last thing on my mind right now.

ADMIRAL 1

Chakotay's a more than capable Captain, he did learn from the best after all. If anyone can keep that ship in one piece it's him.

Janeway contemplates the situation.

ADMIRAL 1

You'd still rather be out there with them wouldn't you?

JANEWAY

More than anything.

VOYAGER -- SICKBAY

The familiar sickbay, certainly a sight for sore eyes. THE DOCTOR tidies up the room, doing so singing an unknown opera to pass the time.

SEVEN OF NINE walks in with a padd in her hand. She has radically changed since the TV show. Still showing her facial implants and the one on her hand, but now an Ensign wearing a blue StarFleet uniform. Her hair is now worn down showing a more relaxed look. And she now goes by her human name ANNIKA HANSEN.

Annika stands in front of the door, eyebrow raised, hoping he'll notice her without having to go through the uncomfortable task of interrupting him.

HANSEN

...Doctor.

The Doctor turns around pleasantly surprised.

THE DOCTOR

Ah Annika, what brings you to your friendly neighborhood physician today?

HANSEN

A letter from StarFleet Medical.

THE DOCTOR

Are they going to publish my article?!

HANSEN

Yes.

THE DOCTOR

Excellent! I was worried they'd be turned off by my findings of toxic anticholinergics secreted from the duodenum in most mammal species on Tallega Prime.

HANSEN

Obviously they were both intrigued and enlightened. I'm curious though, why the apprehension? You've already had seventeen previous medical articles published in addition to three holo-novels. The fear of rejection should be gone by now.

THE DOCTOR

It's not the same as just writing a report. These are my peers that I'm standing up to. Every time I submit an article it asks the question, am I as good as the best minds in my field, or am I just a laughable fraud.

HANSEN

If your work is so prestigious why don't you have a name to identify yourself?

THE DOCTOR

I do.

HANSEN

(Reading from padd)

"Voyager's Doctor" is not a name, it's a title.

THE DOCTOR

So, plenty of people identify themselves with a title.

HANSEN

Anyone can hold your title, but a name makes you unique as an individual.

THE DOCTOR

It's not as easy for me to just choose a name. Yours was given to you by your parents at birth. I was just, activated, never expected to even need a name let alone one to identify myself among my peers.

HANSEN

Perhaps you could look to your own parents for guidance.

THE DOCTOR

I'm surprised I have to remind you that I never even had parents.

HANSEN

Not in the normal sense of the word, but you do have someone who created your programming. Perhaps he could help you find a name for yourself.

Annika starts to leave the room as The Doctor meditates over her words.

HANSEN

And Doctor, congratulations on the article.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

A new Queen lowers from the innards of the Borg ship.

KING'S VOICE

Queen zero, zero two primary conjunct  
of collective, do not disobey me as  
your predecessor had.

QUEEN 2

I will do as instructed.

KING'S VOICE

Good you... Wait, there's something...  
Disengage transwarp at coordinates  
three eight by four one nine.

QUEEN 1

Sensors are only picking up an  
asteroid field in that sector... few life  
signs, species two one eight only.

KING'S VOICE

Exactly.

The Queen smiles as she understands the Kings plan.

SPACE -- ASTEROID FIELD

Set in the middle of a low-density asteroid field, one  
asteroid is focused among all others.

A transwarp portal opens. The ship warps instantly into  
normal space, as if it had been there all along.

ASTEROID -- INTERNAL HOME

NEELIX is in a kitchen putting the finishing touches on  
dinner as DREXA and her son BRAX enter the room. Obviously  
time as passed and Brax is now in his late teens. He walks in  
hot, sweaty and dirty.

NEELIX

Talk about impeccable timing, I just put  
the finishing touches on dinner.

Brax walks over and hugs Neelix.

BRAX

Smells great... Is that my favorite?

NEELIX

(Gasping from the stench of Brax)  
Sure is, leola root stew. (Recovering)  
After a hard days work, there's nothing  
better than a hearty meal to relax you.

Brax sips from the ladle. Drexia grabs the ladle from him and playfully pushes him aside.

DREXIA

Brax, go take a bath first before you suffocate poor Neelix.

BRAX

Sure mom.

Brax walks to the next room. Drexia kisses Neelix on the cheek then sips from the ladle herself.

DREXIA

Mmm, no one makes a leola root stew better than you Neelix.

NEELIX

Perhaps later you can tell me just how good it is.

The lives of the people on the asteroid is disrupted by a narrow green beam sweeping across the asteroid, even penetrating its walls.

DREXIA

Neelix, what was that?!

NEELIX

I-I don't know.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

QUEEN 1

Parameter shield frequency adapted,  
begin populace assimilation.

ASTEROID -- INTERNAL HOME

NEELIX

Just to be safe we better--

Neelix is cut short by a scream coming from the bathroom.

DREXA

Brax!

Drexia runs into the bathroom. She screams in horror at the sight. Neelix grabs a compression rifle and runs towards Drexia but is cut short by a Borg in the process of assimilating both Drexia and Brax.

Neelix fires at the Borg and disables it only to find another Borg has transported behind him. Neelix fires the rifle at the new Borg but has already adapted to the weapon. Neelix attempts to combat the Borg but his attempts prove futile as the Borg overpowers him, in the end assimilating Neelix.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS - LATER

KING'S VOICE

Bring me species two one eight of  
Voyager.

Neelix walks into the chambers fully assimilated.

KING'S VOICE

This drone will serve me personally.  
One of eight primary adjunct of  
pyramid zero one.

Neelix goes about his Borg duties as the new personal drone to the King.

KING'S VOICE

Continue on course to the Alpha  
Quadrant.

SPACE -- ASTEROID FIELD

The Borg ship plows through the asteroid field in the process destroying the former home of Neelix and all his Talaxian friends. A sinister laugh softly echoes in the background as the ship enters transwarp and continues on its journey.

VOYAGER -- BRIEFING ROOM



All of Voyager's senior staff are in a meeting. Everyone is there, Chakotay, Tuvok, Mele, Paris, B'ELANNA TORRES, Kim, The Doctor and Hansen.

During the briefing, everyone seems to be a little on edge from all the recent attacks.

TORRES

All ship repairs are finished. The sensors took a little longer than expected, but they're up and running too.

CHAKOTAY

Good work B'Elanna. From now on, the moment a Borg signature shows up on sensors, we need to get the ablative armor up. That last attack was just too close.

TORRES

I just wish the power consumption wasn't so high, otherwise it could be activated indefinitely.

TUVOK

Corrupting the timeline does have its advantages and disadvantages as seen in our current predicament.

CHAKOTAY

We'll just have to keep on our toes. Finally, there's something I wanted to talk with everyone about. How do we stop these attacks?

PARIS

We know what they want, we know there's no way in hell they're going to get it.

TUVOK

I doubt there is a sufficient way to truly stop these Borg attacks. The Borg are ruthless, vigilant predators that will stop at nothing to reach their goal. Any attempts at stopping them will most likely prove; futile.

DOCTOR

Well we need to do something, the entire crew is on edge. Some people aren't sleeping, others loss of appetite, moral is at its lowest since the war.

MELE

The biggest advantage they have on us right now is the element of surprise. If we can take that away from them, we could activate the armor faster, and destroy their ships faster.

CHAKOTAY

Alright, let's look at this, why can't we detect them till they're right on top of us?

HANSEN

...We can't detect the transwarp conduit.

TORRES

You're right! But that doesn't make sense, we've been able to detect them before.

HANSEN

Obviously the Borg have adapted.

KIM

This is a very new addition to their stealth technologies though. Now that I think about it, we've been able to detect them up until recent.

PARIS

Which explains why their attacks have increased in the last few months.

KIM

Exactly.

TORRES

But every new technology has a flaw... even the Borg's.

CHAKOTAY

This is a good start. Harry, Kyle, you two work together to find that weak point in the Borgs transwarp system, find that conduit. B'Elanna, Annika, I want you two to find a way to increase the weapons power output and the timing on the armor activation. The sooner we get that up the less time we have to spend dodging torpedoes. Dismissed.

The senior staff exits. Tom catches up with B'Elanna before she leaves. Soon they're alone in the briefing room.

PARIS

Sounded like you're in for an all nighter, what'd you say we have a relaxing dinner on the holodeck first?

TORRES

That's just what I need, you set it up, I'm going to check on Miral first.

PARIS

She should have been in bed an hour ago, something wrong?

TORRES

No, but I checked in earlier and Naomi said she was having a hard time getting to sleep. I just want to make sure she's all right.

PARIS

I'm sure she's fine, and I'm sure she's fast asleep by now.

TORRES

You're right, I just hate having to be away from her all the time, I can't help thinking we should be raising our daughter on a planet instead of a starship.

PARIS

She's been here for ten years and you're having doubts now?!

TORRES

No not now everyday. I wasn't when we first got home, in fact the first few years were fine. But now, we're not even five years out of the worst war this galaxy has ever seen. We've been consistently attacked by Borg for the past two years. You tell me this is an acceptable place to raise a child.

PARIS

I understand your fears, I really do. I've had the exact same doubts myself. And yes, they've been getting stronger during the recent months. But think about it B'Elanna, what are we going to do if we leave the ship? You'll go stir crazy if you don't have a warp core to play with, and I'll keep you and Miral in worry for the rest of my life with my test piloting job I'll be taking.

TORRES

(Quickly)

It'll be a cold day in Sto'vo'kor before you take a test piloting job.

PARIS

Exactly. Look, I want the best for Miral but we need to think about ourselves also. How can we give her our all if we're bored to death with our lives?

TORRES

I've thought about that too, I just keep trying to tell myself just having her in our lives would be enough.

PARIS

It's not, we both know that.

TORRES

No, you're right it's not... I feel so guilty saying that.

PARIS

Come on now, it doesn't make us bad or selfish parents, we need to think of ourselves once in a while. And just ask Naomi if she thinks this is a bad place to grow up. She's been through the worst of this ship and she turned out fine, even surviving a few hostile takeovers... So, holodeck, five minutes?

TORRES

Ten, I'm still going to check on Miral and you can't talk me out of it.

PARIS

Wouldn't dream of it.

SPACE -- STARBASE 214

A starbase spinning in empty space right in the middle of the Alpha Quadrant.

STARBASE 214 -- OPS

Inside everyone going about their business, servicing ships, maintaining the station, and going about their everyday lives.

LIEUTENANT 1

Sir, I'm reading a large singularity opening up, uh, just outside the station.

CAPTAIN 1

Was that an expert analyzation by the computer lieutenant?

SPACE -- STARBASE 214

Through the singularity comes the Borg King's ship. The ship comes within meters of the station. Its size engulfs the space station.

STARBASE 214 -- OPS

LIEUTENANT 1

Sir, it's a Borg ship!

CAPTAIN 1  
(QUICKLY)  
Red alert!

The station scrambles to their posts. The Borg ship overrides their comm systems

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)  
I am the Borg, your station will not be damaged as long as you comply with my orders.

Everyone on the station looks confused especially the Captain.

CAPTAIN 1  
We don't make deals with terroristic aliens.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)  
Oh come now Captain. I know you'll do anything to keep safe the lives of all those thousands of people. All I want is one thing and I'll be on my way.

The Captain thinks for a moment, deciding whether or not to actually comply with a Borg Demand.

CAPTAIN 1  
Tell me what you want and I'll consider it.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)  
YOU do not make the demands, I do. You are nothing more than a mosquito to me Captain, an annoyance that I can easily swat. So I suggest you comply with my demands if you wish to survive... Time is precious Captain, take too much and you will die.

CAPTAIN 1  
What do you want!

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)  
Bring me... Admiral Janeway.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

Mele and Kim eagerly walk on the bridge with good news.

KIM

Captain! Take a look at this. (hands Chakotay a padd) We think the Borg might be masking their transwarp conduit with some sort of radiation.

MELE

Our best guess would be thoron since it would be relatively easy to produce and would be blind to sensors if not calibrated correctly.

KIM

Unfortunately until the Borg actually point a conduit in our direction, all this is just theoretical.

CHAKOTAY

This is still one step closer in beating the Borg at their own game. Good job, both of you.

Mele and Kim look at each other with an overwhelming sense of pride.

An ensign working temp at ops receives a distress call.

ENSIGN 1

Captain, we're receiving a distress call from Starbase two one four, they're specifically calling for us.

CHAKOTAY

Us why, we're not anywhere near that sector.

ENSIGN 1

I'm not sure Captain, but it sounds urgent.

CHAKOTAY

Put it on screen.

The image of Captain 1 appears on Voyager's viewscreen. He looks desperate, confused, scared. Mele and Kim take their posts.

CHAKOTAY

Starbase two one four this is Captain Chakotay of the U.S.S. Voyager, how may we be of assistance.

CAPTAIN 1 (ON SCREEN)

Captain... We have a rather large Borg vessel right outside the station asking for Admiral Janeway.

CHAKOTAY

What?!

CAPTAIN 1 (ON SCREEN)

He says he will destroy the station if Janeway doesn't come to see him.

CHAKOTAY

He?! I don't know if you're familiar with the Borg, Captain, but there is no he.

Captain 1 tries to hold his composure as professionally as possible.

CAPTAIN 1 (ON SCREEN)

I didn't question his sexual orientation Captain, I'm just trying to keep the thousands of people I have on my station alive.

Beat.

CHAKOTAY

Alright, we'll inform StarFleet Command--

CAPTAIN 1 (ON SCREEN)

No! We don't have time to comfortably discuss the pros and cons of the situation in a StarFleet briefing room! If Janeway isn't here within twenty-four hours, everyone on this station will be dead!!



The message is sinking in for Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY

Alright, we'll get Admiral Janeway. Stay calm Captain, I promise you, we will not let those people die.

CAPTAIN 1 (ON SCREEN)

(feeling some relief)  
Thank you, please be prompt.

CHAKOTAY

Chakotay out.

Captain 1 disappears from the viewscreen replaced by a starry background.

CHAKOTAY

(To Paris) Lieutenant, set a course for Earth. (To Comm) This is the Captain, senior staff to the bridge. (Quietly to Tuvok) I know you saw it too, something's not right.

TUVOK

The Captain mentioned 'he' as if to mean an individual Borg obviously not the Queen. Puzzling, in all our encounters with the Borg, never have they sent an individual drone to make their demands.

CHAKOTAY

And even the Queen herself has never been this direct. It almost seemed like he meant another single minded entity there.

TUVOK

Precisely.

CHAKOTAY

Another Locutus perhaps?

TUVOK

Possible. However, it is more logical to conclude that if it was not the Queen the Captain spoke to, it was something much grander in the Borg hierarchy.

CHAKOTAY

Either we're being fooled, or we're dealing with something far worse than we could have ever imagined.

STARFLEET ACADEMY -- CLASSROOM - DAY

A college like classroom stylized in the normal StarFleet appearance. Janeway stands at the front of classroom looking over a padd preparing for a lecture. She's greeted by ICHEB who is now a full ensign.

ICHEB

Admiral Janeway, I wanted to thank you for agreeing to come to my and Professor Miller's class today.

JANEWAY

Your class, first ensign and now genetic engineering teacher?

ICHEB

Well, technically I'm just his assistant. However I have substituted times when he was unable to be here, and I usually assist in preparing lesson plans for the class each semester. I feel this class to be just as much mine.

JANEWAY

That's very impressive. I suppose with so much on your plate you won't be taking a ship assignment anytime soon? I know a few prestigious ships who would kill to have you, Enterprise, Voyager.

ICHEB

I would enjoy being back on Voyager, however I currently have an assignment in stellar mechanics here at the academy. We recently recreated the same type of sensors from Voyager's astrometrics lab using Borg technology and are now trying to map both the Delta and Gamma quadrants. I appreciate the offer but for now my skills will be more useful here... for now.

JANEWAY

I'm very proud of you Icheb, you have grown above and beyond what any of us could have dreamt for you. And I know if Annika was standing here she would say the exact same thing.

ICHEB

Thank you Admiral that means a lot.

Just then another Admiral walks sternly through the door. He has a look of concern and worry on his face. He whispers something in Janeways ear that turns her pride for Icheb into despair.

ICHEB

Is everything alright Admiral?

JANEWAY

I'm very sorry Icheb I'm going to have to reschedule the lecture. A situation has come up that needs my attention.

ICHEB

I understand Admiral I look forward to your next visit.

STARFLEET ACADEMY -- CORRIDOR - DAY

Janeway leaves the classroom smiling with Icheb but just as she exits the room her smile fades.

GRAMS

I apologize for taking you away so abruptly.

JANEWAY

Make it up to me later.

GRAMS

Chakotay should be here in a few minutes. All we know right now is starbase two one four immediately contacted Voyager after the Borg vessel contacted the station.

JANEWAY

Have they even attempted to contact headquarters?

GRAMS

No, communications is trying to reach them now but so far no answer.

Janeway stops abruptly at that comment.

GRAMS

We're not thinking the worst yet. Right now we think it's more of a hostage situation.

JANEWAY

And they specifically asked for me--

GRAMS

Or they'll destroy the station yes.

JANEWAY

Something's not right, the Borg don't just take a hostage and make demands. No, there's something very wrong about this whole situation.

GRAMS

Complying with their demands isn't our first choice, but there are thousands of people on that station, most of them families.

JANEWAY

I'm not looking to get out of this.

GRAMS

I knew you wouldn't, Kathryn.

Admiral Grams receives a comm.

OFFICER (ON COMM)

Ops to Admiral Grams, Voyager is in orbit and awaiting Admiral Janeways signal for transport.

GRAMS

(To comm) Acknowledged.

They continue briskly through the corridor.

JANEWAY

And I was afraid becoming an Admiral was going to be boring.

SAPCE -- VOYAGER - EARTH

Voyager is orbiting Earth as Chakotay begins:

CHAKOTAY'S VOICE

Captains log stardate 60153.2. Voyager has arrived at Earth to rendezvous with Admiral Janeway whom sadly I haven't seen since the Galactic War. We're to escort her to starbase 214 which is being held hostage by the Borg. We've flown through their space, battled across the Delta Quadrant, and even taken in a few of their drones. This time though, I think I'm actually scared.

VOYAGER -- TRANSPORTER ROOM

The voice over continues with Chakotay walking through the halls and ends when Chakotay enters the transporter room just as Janeway materializes on the pad.

Janeway smiles seeing Chakotays face for the first time since the war.

JANEWAY

Chakotay...

Janeway walks off the transporter pad to hug Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY

It's great to see you again Admiral.

JANEWAY

Don't Admiral me, it's Kathryn.

CHAKOTAY

Kathryn, it's been a while.

JANEWAY

Too long.

VOYAGER -- CORRIDOR

Janeway and Chakotay walk down the corridor towards a turbolift.

CHAKOTAY

I wish our reunion were under better circumstances.

JANEWAY

You and I both. Have you talked with the crew about the situation?

CHAKOTAY

No, I wanted to wait till you arrived before I gave them a full briefing.

JANEWAY

What's your assertion of this hostage takeover?

Chakotay hesitates telling Janeway what he really thinks.

CHAKOTAY

Bad.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

Chakotay and Janeway exit the turbolift. Harry can't help but produce a huge smile seeing Janeway for the first time in a couple of years.

KIM

Admiral on the bridge!

Upon hearing Harry's loud statement, the entire bridge crew stands at attention. Tom stands up from helm turning around with a large smile of his own. Janeway is overwhelmed with emotion.

She looks around the bridge taking everything in. It's only been a couple of years since she last saw everyone in the galactic war, but it feels like forever since she stood on that bridge.

Getting back to business. Janeway recomposes herself in the usual military stance.

JANEWAY

Back to your posts, we have a starbase to save.

Everyone returns to work at their station.

Janeway walks down the ramp and spots Tuvok still standing at attention in front of the Captains chair. She takes a couple of seconds to look him over, big smile still on her face. She hugs Tuvok and of course he is reluctant to hug her back.

JANEWAY

Tuvok, my good friend, it's wonderful to see you again.

TUVOK

Likewise Admiral.

Janeway just smiles at his lack of emotion.

Tuvok moves aside making way for the Captains chair. Chakotay motions Janeway to the chair.

JANEWAY

No I couldn't.

CHAKOTAY

Please.

With little hesitation she sits down in the chair, taking a moment to get a feel for it again.

Tuvok motions Chakotay to sit in the First Officers chair.

TUVOK  
Captain, if you please.

CHAKOTAY  
(nods)  
Thank you Tuvok.

Janeway and Chakotay look at each other, a familiar and heartwarming sight indeed.

CHAKOTAY  
Tom, set a course for starbase two  
one four, warp eight.

PARIS  
Aye Captain.

SPACE -- VOYAGER - EARTH

Voyager breaks orbit speeding off into warp.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

On the bridge, Chakotay is briefing Janeway of all they know about the Borg threat as they inch closer to the starbase.

JANEWAY  
Do we have a tactical assessment?

CHAKOTAY  
No, We were rather far from the starbase when we got the message. Unfortunately we have no scans to ascertain exactly what we're dealing with, and communications with the starbase are jammed.

JANEWAY  
I hope my instinct is wrong about this one. I've never been this anxious in meeting the Borg before.



TUVOK

I do not wish to pose further anxiety Admiral, however, your instincts do speak the same as mine right now. Our encounters with the Borg over the years have in fact desensitized us to their true danger. Yet, this is not a normal Borg encounter. Extra caution needs to be taken in this unique situation.

JANEWAY

I couldn't agree with you more Tuvok. There is one thing that I can't figure out though.

CHAKOTAY

One thing?

JANEWAY

Why are they calling me out all the way here? Why not just come directly to Earth?

TUVOK

They want you to know who's in control.

Janeway doesn't like that answer.

PARIS

We're coming up on starbase two one four.

CHAKOTAY

Disengage warp. Mele, go to red alert and activate the ablative armor.

Inside the red alert activates.

SAPCE -- VOYAGER - STARBASE 214

Voyager drops out of warp, as she does the ablative armor wraps around the ship.

Panning around to behind Voyager, the Borg vessel is now in complete view.

The ship is unique to any Borg vessel seen yet. A four sided pyramid design, the size is immense, no smaller than Earth's moon.

The ship just sits there, dwarfing both Voyager and the starbase, quite intimidating to say the least.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

Janeway slowly rises out of her chair. Everyone's jaw is dropped, except Tuvok's of course, he has an eyebrow raised. The entire bridge crew is awe struck by this elaborate ship.

CHAKOTAY

Harry, scans now.

Harry stands there looking in awe at the Borg ship oblivious to Chakotay's command.

CHAKOTAY

Lieutenant Kim!

KIM

(shakes it off)

Sorry Captain, running scans now.

Harry has little time to run any scans as the Borg King hijacks Voyager's comm system. The King speaks in a calm, monotone voice, quite soothing actually.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

No need to scan Harry, I'd be happy to tell all of you about my incredible ship.

Everyone stops what they're doing in confusion. No one's really sure what to do at this point.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Oh, don't be frightened. I know we've had our differences, but that's no need to remain silent.

JANEWAY

W-who are you?

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

I know you very well Admiral, though you don't know me quite as well... I am the Borg.

JANEWAY

You are... I thought the queen was--

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

The drone you have dealt with on many occasion is merely a representative of myself. Listen Admiral, I'd much rather talk with you in person. Please come aboard my ship and we'll speak in a civilized manner.

JANEWAY

Why don't you just transport us over like... You're transporters can't break through the armor.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

It is rather embarrassing Admiral. Please, lower your armor and beam yourselves aboard, you may even use your own transporters if you wish.

JANEWAY

I will not foolishly open myself so you can assimilate this ship.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Please Admiral, I give you my word no one will be assimilated.

JANEWAY

Right, you really do think we're that stupid don't you?

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Admiral, may I remind you that while it may take some time I can still destroy your ship, and I can still destroy the starbase. So I'll ask you again, beam over to my ship. You can bring you entire crew with you and no one will be assimilated.

Janeway thinks for a moment and realizes she can't risk the lives on Voyager or the starbase

JANEWAY

Fine, I'll speak with you.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Excellent, I'll be anticipating your arrival... Kathryn.

Janeway takes offense at the King using her first name. Comm ends.

CHAKOTAY

Annika, who is that?

HANSEN

I don't know. The voice is familiar, but I don't remember it from the collective.

TUVOK

Odd, one would think someone this prominent would leave a memorable impression.

Annika seems confused as to why she can't remember him.

CHAKOTAY

We'll figure it all out later. (to Janeway) Right now, we should get...

JANEWAY

Wait, whose we?

CHAKOTAY

You, myself--

JANEWAY

No you're not. I'm doing this alone, there's no sense in anyone else getting assimilated.

CHAKOTAY

I'm sorry Admiral, order or no order, you're not going alone.

Janeway feels 'ganged up' on.

JANEWAY

I hope I'm not going to lose all the battles on this trip.

Chakotay and Janeway walk towards the turbolift.

CHAKOTAY

Mele, you're with us, Tuvok, you have the bridge.

Chakotay and Janeway don't get far when Annika stops them.

HANSEN

I will accompany you as well.

JANEWAY

No, absolutely not. I refuse to put one more person in jeopardy.

HANSEN

As Commander Tuvok stated earlier, this is a unique situation, you can not be too cautious. My knowledge of the Borg far surpasses your own, Admiral.

Janeway hesitates in saying yes.

HANSEN

Please.

JANEWAY

..Alright, let's go.

Janeway, Chakotay, Mele and Annika all pile into the turbolift.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

The away team materializes in the Borgs chambers, phasers clutched in hand and tricorders out. They take a moment to look around and take in the sight. The first thing they notice are the two Queens hanging from the ship. The Queens come over to say.. hi.

QUEEN 1

Janeway, welcome to our ship.

QUEEN 2

It's been long, too long. We should catch up.

JANEWAY

Go to hell.

Everyone is spooked by a disembodied voice.

KING'S VOICE

Kathryn, I thought you had better manners than that.

Everyone looks around trying to find out what's talking.

KING'S VOICE

I know how much your species need to put a face with the voice, allow me to oblige you Kathryn.

A virtual projection of an alien yet humanoid head appears just meters away from the cylindrical bulge in the wall.

Janeway is stunned and confused by everything that's going on right now.

KING'S HEAD

What you are seeing Kathryn, is a virtual projection of what my species looked like before I assimilated them.

JANEWAY

You assimilated?

KING'S HEAD

Yes Kathryn. I am the first Borg ever to be created. In actuality, I created myself.

For the first time, Janeway is speechless.

The head starts moving around the room, looking Janeway square in the eye doing so.

KING'S HEAD

You see Kathryn, my species was a very sophisticated society. We were creative, prosperous, quite intelligent, far surpassing any species we've encountered to date. I took that to an even higher level, with my creation of the nano probe. I was able to completely rid our world of disease, age, infirmity... death. See for yourself. I am now near completion of immaculate perfection.

The cylindrical slot on the wall opens up to reveal a humanoid brain floating in a bio-neural liquid. Wires are injected throughout including one connected at the tip of the brain stem.

KING'S HEAD

This, true beauty, is what is being denied to the sad, pitiful people. It's the closed minded people like you who spread the poisonous propaganda that commits the innumerable people of the universe to a life riddled with pain and suffering. Trapped in an imperfect body and mind, waiting for that imperfect body to wither into advanced age eventually allowing death to end your miserable suffering... Out of every race in the entire galaxy, your species disgusts me the most.

Janevay looks at him with daggers.

JANEWAY

You are insane. How dare you talk about pain and suffering. You assimilate people against their will. You dismember their bodies and implant cybernetic devices all in the name of perfection. You remove their individuality and replace it with YOUR will. You destroy entire civilizations to bring people into your collective and leave behind nothing but fear and destruction. You are a true murderer!

KING'S HEAD

Now listen Kathryn--

JANEWAY

Stop calling me Kathryn!!!

KING'S HEAD

You do not understand anything about us. You can never understand without experiencing assimilation.

JANEWAY

Oh, I understand, I have been assimilated, remember?! And it hurt!

KING'S HEAD

Some assimilation, I couldn't even hear your voice.

HANSEN

But you could hear mine. You stole eighteen years of my life. My parents, my childhood, all of it ripped away from me. My mind, my body, my individuality assimilated into the collective. Believe me, and know that I speak for every other drone in your collective and every individual in the galaxy when I say we would rather die of age disease than be assimilated by the Borg!

KING'S HEAD

Strong words... Seven of Nine.  
(To Janeway) What did you do to her Kathryn? Her mind seems to be poisoned by more of your verbal vomit.

HANSEN

Admiral Janeway has done nothing except free me from mindless servitude.

Annika looks to get ready to attack but Janeway holds her back.



KING'S HEAD

I'm sorry you feel that way Seven of Nine. However, I have a friend of yours that may disagree with you. Bring in One of Eight.

Neelix walks in the chambers and into some good light so everyone can take a look at him.

JANEWAY

(Gasp)

Neelix...

KING'S HEAD

I want you to know Kathryn, he's in good hands. He's the first of eight of my personal drone assistants.

Janeway walks up close to Neelix. She takes a good look at him hovering her hand, wanting to touch him but afraid.

JANEWAY

Neelix... I'm so sorry.

KING'S HEAD

You should be happy for him, he's in a far better place than you are right now.

Janeway ignores him.

CHAKOTAY

Enough games! You've asked us here for a reason, what is it?

The King's head comes in close to Chakotay.

KING'S HEAD

I've been chasing after you for four years, and every time you've evaded me and destroyed my ships in the process. You really irritate me, I just wanted you to know that.

The head moves off.

KING'S HEAD

I've asked you here because I wanted to say to your face that I'm going to kill you, all of you. I'm going to destroy your ship, assimilate Earth and then the galaxy.

JANEWAY

You're laughable. Voyager's transphasic torpedoes would destroy your ship in seconds.

KING'S HEAD

Eight thousand, two hundred forty-six point twelve seconds to be exact. I on the other hand can destroy your ship in seven hundred twenty seconds.

JANEWAY

Then why don't you just destroy us now? Assimilate us and everyone on Voyager right now.

Mele

(scared)

Admiral...

Janeway cuts him off.

KING'S HEAD

Simple answer is, I want you to suffer. I want you to feel terrorized, I want you to not be able to go anywhere without having to look over your shoulder waiting for me. I don't want your tainted flesh in my collective. I want to chase you and eat at you until your very spirit to live has been broken, and then and only then will I destroy your ship, your crew and you, and exile your existence to the void of death.

Janeways control of her fear is starting to slip.

CHAKOTAY

I don't understand, the Borg, you, have never been this ruthless before. You're making this personal, why?

KING'S HEAD

Because JANEWAY made this personal!

JANEWAY

How, what did I do to you besides save people from assimilation?

KING'S HEAD

Don't you remember, how could you forget? You destroyed Unimatrix zero one! You allowed yourself to be assimilated and once your mind was connected to the hive, you released a virus that disrupted the Queens link to the hive, bringing chaos to order. I had no choice but to destroy the entire Unimatrix to keep it from spreading to the rest of the collective. I was forced to destroy a Queen... the first Queen... my wife.

JANEWAY

Your wife?

KING'S HEAD

That's right Kathryn. Before the Borg I had a family. When I gave them perfection, I needed someone to help me insert order in the collective and naturally I chose my wife. She had been by my side ever since, until you. (To Chakotay) Yes I am making this personal because your dear Admiral here made it personal a long time ago.

JANEWAY

I-I... I don't know what to say.

KING'S HEAD

There's nothing to say Kathryn. Just know that next time we meet, you will die... I gave you my word you would leave unharmed and I shall keep it.

CHAKOTAY

The starbase.

KING'S HEAD

The starbase will remain in tact as well. I suggest you leave immediately Kathryn. I'm allowing you a one hour window before I send my drones after you.

JANEWAY

That's it? You're just letting us go?

KING'S HEAD

Call it, good sportsmanship.

MELE

Mele to Voyager, lower armor and beam back away team.

KING'S HEAD

And Kathryn, good luck.

Just as the armor is lowered the King himself beams Janeway, Chakotay and Mele back to Voyager. Annika remains on the pyramid.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

They take a second to get their bearings back.

KIM

Admiral, Captian!

PARIS

What happened over there?

CHAKOTAY

No time, we have to leave now!

KIM

Wait, Annika didn't come back!

Janeway looks around hoping they are wrong.

JANEWAY

Harry, lock onto her signal, beam her back!

KIM

I can't, they erected a force field, I can't penetrate it.

CHAKOTAY

We'll just have to come back for her later. Tom, set a course out of the system, maximum warp.

JANEWAY

Belay that, I refuse to leave Annika in the hands of that psychotic; brain!

CHAKOTAY

With all due respect Admiral, I'm in command of this ship. We'll come back for her when we're better prepared, but right now we need to get as much distance between them and us as possible.

JANEWAY

I appreciate that Chakotay, But I refuse to leave one member of this crew behind, especially on that ship. Tom, set attack pattern Delta. Mele, arm transphasic torpedoes. Harry, inform the starbase we're going to attack. We need all the help we can get.

TUVOK

Admiral, the starbase does not have our armor nor any mobility what-so-ever. They will most certainly be destroyed in the attack.

JANEWAY

They won't be destroyed Tuvok. It only takes a couple of hits to destroy a cube, it shouldn't take much more to destroy this monstrosity.

CHAKOTAY

This is suicide, you're going to get everyone killed.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Time is ticking Kathryn. I'd expect you to be two lightyears from here by now.

JANEWAY

You have one of my crew, I want her back.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Correct phrase, although I believe I should be the one saying that. Seven of Nine was mine long before you stole her, I'm just taking back my possession.

Annika appears on the viewscreen.

HANSEN (ON SCREEN)

Admiral, you must leave now!

The viewscreen quickly turns back to outside view.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

See Kathryn, she wants to stay with me.

JANEWAY

No, you said my entire crew would leave unharmed.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

She was never part of your crew to begin with.

JANEWAY

And she was never part of yours.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)  
Do I have to fire a warning shot  
Kathryn?

Chakotay is getting more frustrated by the minute.

CHAKOTAY  
Kathryn, end this!

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)  
You should listen to him Kathryn  
because in three seconds I'll destroy  
the starbase.

JANEWAY  
You promised the starbase would remain  
safe.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)  
One...

JANEWAY  
You're bluffing. I'm not backing down  
from you.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)  
Two...

JANEWAY  
The Borg doesn't make ultimatums.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)  
Three.

Everyone waits in silence for the outcome. Janeway is a  
little pleased with herself for calling his bluff.

Within moments a burst of phaser and torpedo fire erupt from  
the Borg ship directed at the starbase, which they all see on  
the viewscreen. Easily the starbase is destroyed in a  
glorious explosion. Voyager braces for the shockwave.

PARIS  
Oh my God.

Long beat.

KING'S VOICE

That one was for fun Kathryn, leave or  
you'll be next.

Feeling so many emotions right now, Janeway walks to the  
ready room head lowered.

TUVOK

Mister Paris, set a course out of the  
system, maximum warp.

PARIS

Aye sir.

SPACE -- VOYAGER

Voyager speeds off into warp away from the starbase debris  
and the Borg ship.

VOYAGER -- READY ROOM

Janeway stands in the familiar ready room looking out the  
window as stars streak by.

Chakotay enters.

CHAKOTAY

What was that?!... Admiral!...  
Kathryn!

JANEWAY

I don't know what to do here Chakotay.  
(Turns to face Chakotay)  
He bragged about destroying that  
station, for fun.

CHAKOTAY

We've dealt with violent, maniacal  
species before.

JANEWAY

But not like this. The Hirogen kill for  
sport, the Klingons kill for honor, the  
Orions kill for money, and the Borg... The  
Borg don't kill, they assimilate. They  
would never pass up assimilating an  
entire station like that. The Borg  
don't do what we just watched.



CHAKOTAY

I think we've just seen they do.

JANEWAY

No, that was not the Borg. He may have control over them, but his actions are completely uncharacteristic of the Borg. If this was the Queen I'd know how to fight her, but how do you fight the devil himself?

VOYAGER -- MESS HALL

Working in the Mess Hall is Crewman CHELL, a Bolian, busy behind the counter cooking for the ships crew.

Mele walks into the mess hall studying a padd. He walks up to the counter to place an order.

MELE

Hey Chell, you don't have any warm bavarian tea back there do you?

CHELL

You know I always keep a pot on hand for you.

MELE

Thanks, I could really use it right now.

CHELL

I bet, I heard about Annika being kidnapped on that huge Borg ship.

MELE

Wow, word really does travel fast here.

CHELL

Small ship.

Mele and Chell move to sit down at a table.

MELE

Well, Commander Tuvok wants me to form a rescue plan. He seems to think Admiral Janeway will want to head back for them  
(more)

MELE (CONT'D)

as soon as possible. I don't know, I think he's exaggerating a little. I don't see the Admiral risking the lives of an entire ship no matter how much personal attachment she has.

CHELL

Don't bet on it. She's the kind of person that leaves no one behind.

MELE

Really?!

CHELL

Oh yes. No matter what the risks or how far she has to travel, she will make sure no one is left behind. And you know what, every one of us would do the exact same thing for her.

MELE

Guess I never realized how strong a bond everyone formed during those seven years. Then I guess this Neelix guy is no exception, I mean Tuvok said...

CHELL

Neelix was on that ship, was he assimilated?!

MELE

Yeah, why, who is he?

CHELL

(saddened)

Neelix was one of my closest friends. He was the cook, moral officer and ship ambassador.

MELE

A lot of jobs for someone who wasn't even part of StarFleet.

CHELL

We picked him up when we first entered the delta quadrant, him and his girlfriend Kes. Both of them fit in just fine without StarFleet... It's funny, when we first met him, all he wanted was water.

MELE

Water?

CHELL

It was very scarce in the surrounding sectors. He helped get us through our first few months out there. It was sad when he left, but he made a new family with his own people... Well, I'll let you concentrate on your work. Do let me know if there's anything I can do to help in bringing either of them back.

MELE

I will Chell, thanks.

SPACE -- BORG SHIP

The Borg pyramid floats in empty space with small bits of debris from the destroyed starbase floating around.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

Annika paces around the chambers studying it, looking inquisitive but instead trying to find any information that can betray the Borg.

KING'S VOICE

What are you looking for? Information to sabotage me perhaps?

HANSEN

I'm curious as to why you need to assimilate Voyagers new technology when you already did so once before.

KING'S VOICE

Is that all you want to know?

HANSEN

For the moment.

KING'S VOICE

Very Well. The virus that was implanted in my Queen only allowed a minute amount of the knowledge to spread. As a result we were only able to partially bypass the armor but we never assimilated it. Anything else you'd like to know?

HANSEN

I am puzzled as to why I don't remember you.

KING'S VOICE

Quite simple really, I never wanted you to remember me.

HANSEN

You chose to keep yourself hidden?

KING'S VOICE

Until the appropriate time. After all, the mastermind never reveals himself till the end.

HANSEN

How did you remove the knowledge of yourself from my memory?

QUEEN 1

Seven of Nine, enough questions! You will know all soon after you have rejoined your own kind.

HANSEN

My own kind are on the ship you're trying to destroy.

QUEEN 2

I understand how you may feel; scared, after being around humans for so long. Once you're assimilated back into the collective, it will be as if you never left.

HANSEN

I will end my own life before I allow you to assimilate me again.

The King's Head appears.

KING'S HEAD

You never give up do you. This self-righteous gimmick is getting old. Stop looking a gift horse in the mouth and accept on good graces.

HANSEN

You're delusional.

KING'S HEAD

And you're naïve.

HANSEN

Why, because I want to live my life?

KING'S HEAD

Because what you want is selfish. What I want is for the good of the galaxy, to be united.

HANSEN

By forcing assimilation with brute force attacks?

KING'S HEAD

If they won't come willingly.

HANSEN

Why do you have to play God? You should let the galaxy find its own way to peace, it's not your place to interfere.

KING'S HEAD

They've had too many millennia to figure it out on their own, one more won't make a difference.

HANSEN

And all this is accomplished with the death of Admiral Janeway?

KING'S HEAD

No, this starts with the death of Janeway. With her out of the way my plans will finally remain undisturbed.

HANSEN

How does someone who claims to be above all others allow a mere human to outwit his every turn?

KING'S HEAD

I made the mistake in trusting those lesser than myself. Janeway may be able to out-perform my drones but she will bow to my power.

HANSEN

Strong words from a giant trying to swat a fly. But tell me, you say you can destroy Admiral Janeway any second you choose and yet you play games with her, why do you hesitate?

KING'S HEAD

I've already said why. I want her to feel like a helpless child looking up to see the shadowy invader towering over her with her life in his hands. And I can't wait to watch her tremble in fear.

HANSEN

You don't want peace you want revenge.

KING'S HEAD

Peace will come, after Janeway has paid her debt.

HANSEN

And Voyager's technology, you need that as well.

KING'S HEAD

You're putting far too much effort into learning my plans. You want to know what I have in store for your Admiral, fine here it is. I shall chase Janeway  
(more)

KING'S HEAD (CONT'D)

across the quadrant picking at her as she acknowledges my superiority. Once I grow bored of our game I will destroy Janeway and all those associated with her, but not before I force her to watch as I assimilate the transphasic torpedo and ablative armor technologies from Voyager. After which I will finally realize my dream of bringing true peace to the galaxy and the universe itself.

HANSEN

(Dumbfounded)

You tell me your end game without hesitation?

KING'S HEAD

What will it do except hopefully shut you up? I have nothing to fear by giving up information that can cause me no harm.

HANSEN

You're so sure of that?

KING'S HEAD

Quite sure actually. Even if by some miracle you do manage to get off my ship, letting Janeway know my complete intentions can only further her anxiety. Besides, anything she does will only be out-matched by my own power.

HANSEN

You're surprisingly arrogant.

KING'S HEAD

Call it what you will Seven of Nine, I only speak the truth.

The virtual head disappears into nothingness.

KING'S VOICE

Now if you'll excuse me, your Admiral is sure to be on her way soon to try and rescue you. The more casualties I can produce in the first round, the sooner she is to break down. You're more welcome to watch.

HANSEN

Leave the crew alone! Your vendetta is with Janeway and still you make the people of Voyager suffer. Even you know that's wrong.

KING'S VOICE

Maybe so, but it amuses me.

VOYAGER -- BRIEFING ROOM

The senior staff are in the briefing room talking over the rescue plan developed by Mele. Everyone is sitting at the table except for Mele who's at the display panel on the near wall. Attention is on him.

MELE

As per Commander Tuvoks' instructions, there will be two teams. Both teams will transport in this area. (Points to screen) The Delta Flyer will be used to deliver both teams so Voyager will need to be used as both a diversion and cover. Team B's mission is simple, destroy the central power matrix. They'll make their way to the engineering section placing photon charges in critical areas, then make their way back to the transport site where they'll hold point and wait for team A who shouldn't be far behind. Team A will coordinate the rescue mission. They'll reach the bridge through this junction taking out power distribution nodes here and here. This should be enough to deactivate the force field around the room.



TUVOK

Should?

MELE

Simulations show it to be successful, however there could be auxiliary power nodes that our scans don't show.

CHAKOTAY

That would be a rather large tactical error commander. I hope you have a plan B.

MELE

Wouldn't be much of a tactical officer if I didn't. If auxiliary nodes are activated then we blow the door. Set photon charges that overload the force field.

PARIS

That seems rather simple.

MELE

Simple but loud, which is why I'd like to avoid that route if all possible. Once they've secured Ensign Hansen and Neelix, they'll tag them with an emergency transport device. They're programmed to transport directly to sickbay.

THE DOCTOR

I have medical teams standing by and secured sickbay for Neelix. Once he's aboard I can sedate him and start dissimulation immediately.

MELE

After they've energized, team A will head back to the transport site where the Delta Flyer will need to pick up both away teams.

KIM

Wait a minute. If you're going to use emergency transport devices for Annika and Neelix, why can't the away teams use them also?

TORRES

Right now they're still considered experimental. No ship is outfitted with more than four and are to be used in extreme cases only. Plus they only have enough power for one person.

MELE

Weapons will be on a rotating frequency which will keep them from adapting too quickly. This should be a quick in and out mission. Hopefully we'll be able to cripple their ship bad enough that a direct assault will destroy them.

JANEWAY

Commander Mele, I understand you'll still be manning tactical?

MELE

Yes ma'am.

JANEWAY

Commander, it's my understanding that the security chief should be leading all tactical away missions.

MELE

With all due respect Admiral, I'm not choosing to stay on the ship to avoid participating in a dangerous mission. Voyager is going to need to provide sufficient cover for the Delta Flyer, for both pick up and delivery. In order to distract the Borg's attention away from the shuttle I assumed you would want your BEST tactical officer at the station.

JANEWAY

Voyagers main goal is to absorb the weapons fire for the Delta Flyer. I don't mean to embarrass you commander, but in order for this mission to succeed, YOU will need to be on that ship leading your team.

MELE

...Understood Admiral. I'll command team A and oversee the rescue of Ensign Hansen and Neelix personally.

Chakotay looks as if he's about to say something but Janeway supersedes him.

JANEWAY

Very well commander. Tuvok, you'll assume tactical as you've had the most experience of anyone here.

TUVOK

Yes Admiral.

Janeway stands up, about to make one of her persuasive, pep speeches.

JANEWAY

Understand this isn't going to be easy. But two members of this family have been taken by the Devil, and we have to drag them back from the depths of hell. I would never put you in this situation if this was for anyone else. We've been through too much to allow this monster to break up our family. We must make our reply here, and bring back those that we love.

You can see in their faces, everyone's ready to fight a monster.

TUVOK

All hands to battle stations.

The staff makes their way out of the briefing room except for Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY

Kathryn!

Chakotay waits for the room to clear.

CHAKOTAY

Trying to take back my ship?

JANEWAY

(Realizes she overstepped her bounds)

I'm sorry Chakotay. I got caught up in the moment, the Borg are trying to kill us, and Annika's missing... It felt like old times.

CHAKOTAY

No harm done, but if you wanted Voyager back you could have just asked.

JANEWAY

Don't tempt me.

Chakotay and Janeway leave the briefing room.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

CHAKOTAY

Tom, set course for the Borg... pyramid, maximum warp.

PARIS

Aye Captain.

SPACE -- VOYAGER

Voyager warps into space.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

Annika studies Neelix but he just ignores her.

QUEEN 2

I can hear his thoughts, he missed you most of all. I know he'll be overjoyed when you rejoin our family soon, even if you won't be playing Kadis-Kot.

Annika looks at her with daggers.

KING'S VOICE

Janeway will be here momentarily.  
Make sure the redundant power nodes  
remain operational.

BORG SHIP -- JUNCTION POINT

Power nodes underneath a walkway just outside the King's  
chambers activate. Are these what Team A will be destroying?

SPACE -- VOYAGER

Voyager drops out of warp.

VOYAGER -- DELTA FLYER

Standing in the aft room of the Delta Flyer are what look  
like 24<sup>th</sup> century commandos. Mele is in the cockpit standing  
behind the pilot.

MELE

Delta Flyer to Voyager, flight prep  
complete. Requesting permission to  
depart.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

Chakotay gives Harry a nod.

KIM

Permission granted. Be careful guys.

MELE'S VOICE (ON COMM)

If we go down, we're taking them with us.

VOYAGER -- SHUTTLE BAY

The shuttle lifts off and flies out the back of the ship.

SPACE -- VOYAGER

The Delta Flyer positions itself directly behind Voyager.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

JANEWAY

Tom, how far are we from the pyramid?

PARIS

No more than a parsec.

JANEWAY

(To Chakotay)

No turning back now.

CHAKOTAY

(To Janeway)

Let's do this.

SPACE -- VOYAGER

Voyager and the Delta Flyer both warp into space.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

KING'S VOICE

They're here.

The King activates a viewing panel for Annika.

KING'S VOICE

Watch as I make Janeway kneel before  
me.

Annika looks on with both worry and disgust.

SPACE -- VOYAGER/BORG SHIP

Voyager and the Delta Flyer drop out of warp. Immediately the  
ablative armor wraps around the ship.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

The lights are dimmed as red alert is activated.

CHAKOTAY

Tom flight pattern omega. Tuvok, fire at  
will, make every shot count. Keep their  
eyes off the flyer.

SPACE -- VOYAGER/BORG SHIP

Voyager races to the sitting Borg pyramid. She erupts in brilliant weapons fire. We can see explosions on random areas of the ship but the effect causes little damage. The pyramid however has yet to fire a shot.

DELTA FLYER -- COCKPIT

MELE

Stay behind Voyager. Keep them between us and the Borg.

PILOT

I'm trying sir, but lieutenant Paris' flight patterns are quite erratic.

SPACE -- VOYAGER/BORG SHIP

The Flyer struggles to keep up with Voyager.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

KIM

Why aren't they firing, what are they waiting for?

TUVOK

Perhaps they're waiting for a key moment.

JANEWAY

We can't wait around to find out if this is a trap or not. Harry, send in the away team. Tom now.

SPACE -- VOYAGER/BORG SHIP

With the Borg ship not attacking, Voyager ceases fire. She moves in close to the pyramid and rotates ninety degrees on her axis forming a barrier wall between the pyramid and the flyer. The flyer moves in close to Voyager leaving only meters between them.

DELTA FLYER -- COCKPIT

PILOT

I have a lock on the site, ready to transport.

MELE

We're counting on you to get us back  
Lieutenant.

PILOT

I'll be right here with the getaway  
car sir.

MELE

Energize!

All of the away team dematerializes off the Delta Flyer.

BORG SHIP -- TRANSPORT SITE

The away team materializes onto the Borg ship.

MELE

Mele to Voyager, we're aboard the Borg  
vessel.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

CHAKOTAY

(To comm)

Understood. (To bridge) Alright, let's  
start that diversion.

SPACE -- VOYAGER/BORG SHIP

The flyer moves off to a safe distance. Voyager begins a  
diversion of random fire and erratic flying.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

A large viewscreen shows outside the ship.

KING'S VOICE

How cute. Janeway is trying to divert  
my attention away from the intruders in  
my ship. Won't she be in for a surprise.

The screens view changes to the inside of the ship showing  
the away team splitting off to their designated areas.



KING'S VOICE

Well, well. They are going to try and  
destroy the central power matrix. I  
didn't think Janeway would be that bold.

Annika stands there watching the King plan his trap,  
desperately trying to think of a way to warn them.

BORG SHIP -- AWAY TEAMS

Both away teams trek across the huge Borg vessel. Team B  
enters the engineering room housing the central power matrix.

TEAM B LEADER

(To Mele on comm)

Commander, we've reached the power  
matrix, setting charges now.

Team B leader directs the individual people to their  
designated targets.

MELE

(To Team B Leader on Comm)

Copy that Lieutenant.

Team A stealthy reaches the two power nodes which are located  
under the walkway that leads to the King's chambers. Mele has  
his team plant charges on both nodes and they make their way  
above the walkway to reach the chambers.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

Annika grows more agitated, watching the viewscreen and the  
entranceway waiting for the away team to blow their way in.

BORG SHIP -- OUTSIDE CHAMBERS

Team A takes position on either side of the doorway leading  
inside the chambers which is blocked by the force field.

Mele hands the team member next to him an ETD. The man has a  
tricorder out where he sees the positions of Neelix and  
Annika.

MELE

(Looking at tricorder)

I'll take this one on the far side, you  
take the one closest to the door. Do not  
hesitate. Just tag and get out.

The man nods confirming Meles command.

BORG SHIP -- CENTRAL POWER MATRIX - FOLLOWING

Team B leader hurries his team out of the engineering room  
and back to the transport site.

TEAM B LEADER

(To Mele on comm)

Commander, charges are set, we're  
heading back to the transport site.

BORG SHIP -- OUTSIDE CHAMBERS - FOLLOWING

MELE

(To Team B Leader on Comm)

Copy that, we'll be there in a minute.

Mele directs two other team members to take point in front of  
the doorway. He nods at everyone to confirm their readiness  
then looks to the man he gave the ETD to. He gives him an  
'okay' nod and the ETD man presses a button on his tricorder.

Below the walkway, the two power nodes are destroyed in a  
small but dazzling explosion. Above the walkway, the force  
field flickers and then deactivates.

MELE

GO! GO! GO!

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS - FOLLOWING

Annika is startled by the explosion. The two men taking point  
run into the room shooting down four Borg drones careful not  
to shoot Neelix. At the same time as the shooters, Mele and  
the ETD man run into the room. Everything happens so fast  
that it takes Annika a second to realize what's happening.  
The ETD man tags Annika first.

The tag and transport are instantaneous, however she doesn't hesitate in trying to warn Mele as she's being transported to Voyager.

HANSEN  
(Dematerializing)  
Commander it's a trap!

Mele quickly stops looking at Annika as the transport finishes. Knowing there's no time to fully take in what she said, Mele runs to the far end of the room and tags Neelix who's rather oblivious to the situation.

VOYAGER -- SICKBAY - FOLLOWING

Medical teams are attending Annika and The Doctor is sedating Neelix.

THE DOCTOR  
Sickbay to the bridge, Annika and Neelix  
are aboard.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE - FOLLOWING

CHAKOTAY  
Alright, let's do this again. Harry,  
have the flyer move into position. Tom  
now.

SPACE -- VOYAGER/BORG SHIP - FOLLOWING

Voyager and the Flyer take the positions they were in earlier ready to beam back the away teams.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS - FOLLOWING

MELE  
Hostages rescued let's go!

The two men who were taking point and are also closest to the door are stopped when they try to exit as the force field reactivates.

Everyone can hear a soft, sinister chuckle.

KING'S VOICE  
...Welcome to the collective.

BORG SHIP -- TRANSPORT SITE - FOLLOWING

MELE (ON COMM)  
Lieutenant, blow the matrix!

TEAM B LEADER  
Sir, you're not at the transport site yet.

MELE (ON COMM)  
Do it now!

Team Leader B presses the button on his tricorder to set off the charges... nothing happens. B Leader frantically presses but still nothing happens.

Borg drones slowly creep in on Team B's position but they're all too preoccupied trying to detonate the charges.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS - FOLLOWING

TEAM B LEADER (ON COMM)  
Something's wrong, they're not detonating!

MELE  
(To B Leader on comm)  
What!!!

TEAM B LEADER (ON COMM)  
The charges won't--

B Leader is interrupted with gasping and choking noises from his end.

MELE  
(To B Leader on comm)  
Lieutenant!... LIEUTENANT!

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE - FOLLOWING

JANEWAY  
Harry, what's taking so long?

KIM

I don't know. Team B was at the transport site and now they're gone. Team A hasn't arrived yet.

JANEWAY

Bridge to sickbay

VOYAGER -- SICKBAY - FOLLOWING

THE DOCTOR

Sickbay here.

JANEWAY (ON COMM)

Doctor, is Annika well enough to talk?

HANSEN

(Quickly)

Admiral, it's a trap! You need to get them out now!

DELTA FLYER -- COCKPIT - FOLLOWING

JANEWAY (ON COMM)

Voyager to Delta Flyer, beam the away team back now!

PILOT

I can't get a lock.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE - FOLLOWING

JANEWAY

Harry, can you get a lock on them?

KIM

I can't find team B anywhere. Team A is... blocked by a force field.

Janeway is now realizing what's happening.

JANEWAY

Tuvok, lock weapons on their power matrix. Transphasic torpedoes at full spread.

Before Tuvok can do anything the Borg King hijacks Voyagers viewscreen. Mele standing with the rest of Team A in the background being restrained by drones.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Go ahead, attempt to destroy my ship.  
I'll still have eight new drones for my collective.

JANEWAY

You set us up.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

And I'm quite proud of how I did it too.

Janeway is speechless.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Now for your punishment Kathryn... First let's swat this delta fly.

SPACE -- VOYAGER/BORG SHIP

With haste the Borg ship erupts in weapons fire completely missing Voyager and targets the Delta Flyer. The Flyer tries to crawl away but is quickly destroyed by the sheer amount firepower directed its way.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE - FOLLOWING

The small shockwave of the exploding Flyer gently rocks the ship.

KIM

(Starring at his console)  
Delta Flyer destroyed.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

And now Kathryn, you will watch as I assimilate your tactical officer.

As the drone lifts his arm to Mele's neck Janeway turns away unable to watch.

Mele's skin turns pale and he gasps from the pain.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

I can already hear his thoughts. He's frightened, they all are. I can hear him begging you to rescue him.

Janeway is visibly furious. She fights back tears.

No one is watching the screen now, not even Tuvok.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Wait, what's this? Well now, I have greatly underestimated you humans haven't I?

Janeway is still not watching but curious as to what he's referring to. Mele is still standing there as his individuality is slowly taken away.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

You actually do understand the ablative armor and transphasic torpedo technologies...

Janeway quickly turns around to the viewscreen in shock and fear.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Had I known this I would have assimilated Seven of Nine by now... Okay, Kathryn, I can be the bigger person here and be humble enough to admit I was wrong. I apologize for underestimating you.

Janeway looks on at the freshly assimilated Mele.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Are you not going to accept my apology?... Very well Kathryn, let the chase continue.

The viewscreen switches back to outside view. To prove he really does have the armor and weapon technologies, the King fires one torpedo shot at Voyager while the armor is deployed. Alarms go off and the ship is rocked violently.

TUVOK

Direct hit to our port side saucer. Hull breaches on decks four, five and six. Emergency force fields are holding.

CHAKOTAY

Tom, get us out of here, maximum warp.

PARIS

Aye Captain.

JANEWAY

(Somberly)

Chakotay, may I use your ready room?

CHAKOTAY

Of course.

Janeway walks slowly to the ready room.

VOYAGER -- READY ROOM - FOLLOWING

As the doors close behind her, Janeway does her best to regain her composure, but as hard as she tries she can't hold back the tears falling along her face.

VOYAGER -- SICKBAY - LATER

The Doctor has finished dissimulating Neelix but is keeping him sedated. Annika is at his bedside watching over her old friend. The Doctor is working at the data console in the middle of sickbay.

Chakotay walks in with a look of concern and determination on his face.

CHAKOTAY

(Looking up at Neelix)

How is he?

THE DOCTOR

(To Chakotay directing his attention to the screen)

I was able to remove ninety-eight percent of the Borg implants from his body. The remaining two percent are  
(more)



THE DOCTOR (CONT'D)

internal implants such as the hepatic processor which if removed would be fatal. I was also forced to leave his cortical array and node until his higher brain functions can take back over. Physically, he should return to normal immediately; mentally however will take some time.

Chakotay walks over to Annika standing at Neelix's bedside.

CHAKOTAY

How are you holding up?

HANSEN

I am undamaged.

CHAKOTAY

That's not what I asked.

HANSEN

(Takes a second to collect herself)  
I thought I was done with this. I thought they were finished trying to take me back. Finished terrorizing my... family. It's not fair.

CHAKOTAY

It's not fair to any of us.

Unannounced and unheard, Janeway briskly walks into sickbay.

HANSEN

How is Admiral Janeway?

JANEWAY

Mad. (To Annika) Are you alright?

HANSEN

I'll be fine Admiral.

JANEWAY

What happened over there? Did he mention anything we can use for leverage?

HANSEN

He talked very openly Admiral. However, his goals are simple, he wants all of us to suffer. If they did assimilate our technology, then they will soon adapt it to their ships. If that happens, they truly will be unstoppable.

JANEWAY

I will not let them happen. I will ram this ship into that pyramid and self-destruct if I have to. They will be stopped, at any cost. (Looks at Neelix then The Doctor) Is it safe to wake him?

THE DOCTOR

I kept him sedated to allow his body to heal without going into shock, but it should be alright to wake him now.

The Doctor uses a hypo-spray on Neelix and is instantly awoken. Neelix seems groggy and confused.

NEELIX

Wha-what's going on? Am I dreaming?

JANEWAY

Neelix, it's alright. You're back on Voyager.

NEELIX

Voyager, how'd I get back there?

JANEWAY

It's a long story and I promise to explain everything later. Neelix, what's the last thing you remember?

NEELIX

(Collecting his thoughts)

I-I remember I was in the kitchen finishing dinner for Drexla and Brax... The Borg! ...Captain!

JANEWAY

(Quickly)

It's alright, you're away from the Borg now.

Neelix sits up seeing his body covered in bandages.

NEELIX

Brax! Drexia! Where are they?!

JANEWAY

Stay calm Neelix, I don't know where they are...

NEELIX

You left them there! You left them on that ship with those Borg!

As Neelix speaks he lunges at Janeway, but is held back by Annika.

CHAKOTAY

Neelix that's enough! This isn't our fault and you know that.

NEELIX

The hell it isn't! If you hadn't antagonized the Borg as much as you did they would have never taken me as bait for your petty games! They would have never destroyed my home... or my family.

JANEWAY

If we had known they were on that ship with you, we would have done everything we could to rescue them too.

NEELIX

Empty promises that are too little too late. I want off this ship! It brings nothing but pain to everything it touches.

CHAKOTAY

Be careful Neelix, you're crossing a line.

NEELIX

No! I don't want to hear it this time.  
You get me off this ship immediately.

Janeway moves in close to Neelix looking him square in the eye.

JANEWAY

I lost two away teams to that thing trying to rescue you. You are not the only one who has lost someone to the Borg. And billions upon billions more will be lost if we do not find a way to stop them.

Beat.

NEELIX

I'm sorry Captain you're right, you're not the ones I should be blaming for this.

JANEWAY

It's Admiral now.

NEELIX

...Admiral.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

The away teams are in the King's chambers performing the duties of the fallen drones from earlier. The two Queens are watching over them.

QUEEN 1

We have successfully adapted the transphasic torpedoes. The ablative armor will take longer, however, due to its quantum matrix design.

KING'S VOICE

Excellent. By now Janeway should be falling to her knees in desperation.

QUEEN 2

Careful not to underestimate her again.  
She will undoubtedly do everything in  
her power to take revenge.

KING'S VOICE

She can attempt all she desires. In  
the end, resistance is futile.

VOYAGER -- READY ROOM

Janeway, Chakotay and Tuvok are in the Captains Ready Room  
brainstorming on how to defeat the Borg.

JANEWAY

Think! They have to have a weakness.

CHAKOTAY

You wouldn't think so since everything  
we throw at them is neutralized.

TUVOK

In addition, they will adapt our armor  
technology soon if they haven't already.

JANEWAY

We know the Borg better than anyone,  
what are we missing?

CHAKOTAY

A subspace electromagnetic pulse... A  
polarized tachyon rift... Modified  
nano-probe infused quantum torpedoes...

TUVOK

(Revelation)

Perhaps it's not what we're missing but  
who.

JANEWAY

What are you thinking Tuvok?

TUVOK

Species 8472.

JANEWAY

Yes!

CHAKOTAY

Will they help us though? They thought we were allied with the Borg and last we saw them, they were using simulations of StarFleet to prepare for an invasion.

TUVOK

One would assume that since Earth has yet to be invaded their plans have been canceled. Hopefully, the allies we made more than ten years ago have remained in good standing with their people.

CHAKOTAY

But we don't know what kind of reception we'll get if we enter their space uninvited again.

JANEWAY

Doesn't matter. They may be our only chance at stopping the Borg for good. Tuvok, you're going to have to be a translator for us. Because of your telepathic ability, you're the only one who can communicate with them... We should have let them destroy the Borg when we had the chance.

All three exit to the bridge.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE - FOLLOWING

JANEWAY

Tom, use the navigational deflector to open up a quantum singularity.

PARIS

Where we going?

JANEWAY

Fluidic space.

KIM

(Quickly)

No, Admiral, they'll destroy us quicker than the Borg will.

JANEWAY

I know you haven't had the best experience with them Harry, but they may be our only hope to destroy the Borg.

Beat.

KIM

If you say so Admiral, I trust you.

JANEWAY

Alright, contact StarFleet, let them know what's happening. Tell them to send as many ships as they possibly can to this sector. We're gonna need all the help we can get.

TUVOK

Shall I prepare the nano-probe weapons just in case.

CHAKOTAY

We gave them the technology last we met, it may not be as effective. (To Janeway) You make the call.

JANEWAY

Do it.

PARIS

Nav deflector ready Admiral, just give the word.

JANEWAY

Harry?

KIM

Message sent Admiral.

JANEWAY

Alright Tom, send us in.

SPACE -- VOYAGER

The deflector dish sends out a beam into empty space which opens up a large portal. Carefully, Voyager flies through disappearing from normal space.

FLUIDIC SPACE -- VOYAGER - FOLLOWING

Voyager is taken to an area where the blackness of space is filled with an organic fluid, golden brown in color splashed with green. No stars, no planets, just fluid, as if you were in the middle of the deepest part of the ocean.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

JANEWAY

Report!

KIM

They definitely know we're here.

CHAKOTAY

How many?

KIM

Half a... no make that a full doz... I'm reading a full armada of ships coming this way.

JANEWAY

Everyone stay calm. Remember, we're here to talk.

FLUIDIC SPACE -- VOYAGER

Voyager sits patiently waiting for the alien 8472 ships to surround her from all sides.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

JANEWAY

Tuvok, anything?

TUVOK

Not yet Admiral.

PARIS

They're coming in from all sides. I can't even move up or down.



KIM

I'm reading a power build up on the lead ship. I'm not sure but I think it's their weapons system.

CHAKOTAY

Adjust the norgica harmonics to compensate for their organic shielding.

KIM

...It's not working. Their ships are just too alien.

JANEWAY

Alright we need to make a dialog fast. Harry, open a channel to the lead vessel.

KIM

...Channel open

JANEWAY (TO COMM)

This is Admiral Kathryn Janeway of the U.S.S. Voyager. We mean you no harm. We request your assistance in...

While Janeway speaks Tuvok hears a screaming high-pitched squeal in his head.

TUVOK

Admiral... "Leave our space immediately, you humans." Minus the expletives.

JANEWAY (TO COMM)

Please, the Borg are on the verge of assimilating our galaxy with a ship the size of a small moon. We need your help to destroy them once and for all.

TUVOK

"The Borg were decimated until you gave them technology that can defeat us. The Borg are your problem, they no longer concern us."

JANEWAY (TO COMM)

They will, in time. The Borg assimilated technology from us, technology from the future. Once adapted to their ships they will become invincible. After the Borg have assimilated every species in our space they will come into yours and you will either be assimilated or destroyed.

Beat. Janeway looks to Tuvok... he hears nothing.

CHAKOTAY (TO COMM)

We would have never come here if it wasn't absolutely necessary. Our first contact wasn't ideal, I know that, but we were never your enemy. I know you believe that or you would have invaded our world by now. All we ask is that you help us in destroying a common enemy. The longer we wait the stronger they become.

Tuvok hears the squealing again.

TUVOK

They will deliberate our request and return with an answer.

JANEWAY

Did they say how long it would take?

TUVOK

I was not given a timeframe.

JANEWAY

God help us if they say no.

VOYAGER -- MESS HALL

Neelix is alone in the mess hall fiercely cooking away. He works as if he never left. Annika walks in from one side perplexed.

NEELIX

Seven, er... Annika! I'll have to get used to calling you by your human name now. Care for some Pleeka Rind Casserole? Of course I had to substitute a few items for it. Wouldn't you know it, there was still a supply of pleeka rinds tucked away in cargo bay two. Guess someone still has a taste for some of that Delta Quadrant cuisine huh?

HANSEN

I came to see how you were. The Doctor suggested it might be good for you to be around a 'friendly' face.

NEELIX

Well wasn't that thoughtful of him, and you. I guess with my family being assimilated by the Borg I'll have to replace that familiarity with something right? After all, since everyone's so eager to destroy that ship without even an attempt to rescue I'll never see any of them again.

In frustrated emotions Neelix throws a hot pot of cooking food across the room.

He breaks down in hysterics. Annika tries to comfort Neelix despite her lack of consolation skills.

NEELIX

(Pushes Annika away)

No, get away from me! You're just like the rest of them. How can you just let them die on there?

HANSEN

We don't have a choice.

NEELIX

Of course you do. The choice was made to go back for you and for me. Why can't we go back for two more?

HANSEN

...Janeway lost eight people rescuing the two of us. It's unfair to ask her to make that sacrifice again.

NEELIX

My entire planet was lost to a brutal fascist government. My parents and sister died from a sadistic weapon that eradicated the majority of the population. And now Brax, Drexia and quite possibly the last remnants of my people have been assimilated by the Borg. Don't talk to me about unfair sacrifices.

HANSEN

I understand your hatred for the Borg, but no one on this ship is to blame.

NEELIX

Aren't they? How many times did Janeway go out of her way to antagonize the Borg? She and the Queen were practically on a first name basis. Everyone blindly followed her orders without even a consideration to how their actions would affect the other races that have to live with the Borg on their front door.

HANSEN

You followed as well. Every time we freed another person, every time we 'antagonized' them to stop their sadistic brutality you were right there willing to help in anyway possible.

NEELIX

If I hadn't been so selfish I would have thought about the consequences of toying with such a powerful enemy.

HANSEN

Was it selfish to have helped four children learn to become individuals again? Do you think they don't appreciate your willingness to help  
(more)

HANSEN (CONT'D)

them in their transition from Borg?  
Do you think I don't appreciate your  
help in becoming human again after  
eighteen years in the collective?  
Despite our actions in the Delta  
Quadrant, the Borg have never deviated  
from their objective of galactic  
domination.

NEELIX

I know I keep pointing the blame in  
the wrong direction. It's just so much  
easier than to be angry at something  
I'm powerless against... I'm really never  
going to see them again am I?

HANSEN

I can't say for certain.

NEELIX

What do I do now? I've lost another  
family.

HANSEN

You still have one family left.

Neelix grabs Annika and cries on her shoulder. Annika, unsure  
of what to do, puts her arms around Neelix patting him on the  
back.

VOYAGER -- ENGINEERING

Main engineering is buzzing with activity. B'Elanna is on the  
second level working at the station overlooking the warp  
core.

Chakotay walks off the lift over to B'Elanna.

CHAKOTAY

How are the modifications coming?

TORRES

They came and gone. I've squeezed all  
the power I can out of the weapons  
systems, and as for the shielding... I  
(more)

TORRES (CONT'D)

know how it works but I can't make it work any better than it already does. Even if Annika had been here I don't think we could have done anything different.

CHAKOTAY

I suppose it's a moot point now anyway. Since they've assimilated Mele's knowledge of the shielding, their weapons cut through us as if we had nothing there at all. I don't get how the Borg can tap into this technology just from someone's mind and StarFleet isn't even able to replicate it.

TORRES

The Borg have knowledge and technologies that StarFleet can only hope to dream about one day.

CHAKOTAY

I hate it but you're right... at least we tried.

Chakotay starts to walk off.

TORRES

(Quickly)

Are we sure we're going about this the right way?

CHAKOTAY

What do you mean?

TORRES

I've been going over this in my head all day. Are we really so arrogant to think we can fight against a ship the size of a moon?

CHAKOTAY

I don't think it's arrogance so much as it is necessity. If we don't make our stand now then when? Come on B'Elanna, this kind of situation was our mission in the Maquis.

TORRES

The Maquis did nothing like this.

CHAKOTAY

Didn't they? A handful of people up against the most powerful governments in the galaxy. Not only did we have to watch out for the Cardassians and the Dominion but the Federation too.

TORRES

And so this time it's a handful of StarFleet ships against a gargantuan Borg pyramid.

CHAKOTAY

Exactly. Except this time we're a lot more powerful, and hopefully we'll be bringing some powerful allies with us.

TORRES

I don't know Chakotay, I guess I'm just not so optimistic about this one.

CHAKOTAY

Well you should be, for everyone in this room right now, you should be.

FLUIDIC SPACE -- VOYAGER

Voyager sits with a fleet of alien ships looming over her.

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Admiral's log stardate 60155.4. It's been five hours since our initial contact with species 8472 and no reply. It's been just as long since we contacted StarFleet for help. I wonder, have they engaged the Borg yet? If so, what will we find when we return?

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

The log continues as we see Janeway sitting in the captains' chair... looming stare into space. Chakotay walks in from the turbolift.

An alarm is heard from Harry's console.

KIM

Admiral, we're being hailed.

JANEWAY

Hailed? By them?

KIM

Yes ma'am, it's the lead ship.

JANEWAY

On screen.

The viewscreen changes to an inside view of the 8472 ship. Appearing on screen is a woman, Valerie Archer, Chakotay's love interest from the episode "In The Flesh".

Chakotay looks on the viewscreen in surprise.

CHAKOTAY

Valerie?!

VALERIE (ON SCREEN)

It's good to see you again Chakotay.

CHAKOTAY

Likewise, just wished we had time to catch up.

VALERIE (ON SCREEN)

We'll set up a date later, but now we must hurry. I'm appearing to you in a human form because the council thought you might find it easier to communicate.

JANEWAY

It is thank you. What did they decide?



VALERIE (ON SCREEN)

They've agreed to help you. A threat of this magnitude is too great to Ignore.

JANEWAY

I can't tell you how relieved I am to hear you say that.

VALERIE (ON SCREEN)

Admiral, I need to make one thing clear. In order to make this alliance work the council is relying on you to keep our people protected.

JANEWAY

I assure you no StarFleet ship will harm one of yours.

VALERIE (ON SCREEN)

More than that Admiral, If what you've told us is correct about this Borg ship the only weapon that will be able to destroy it is our multi-semantic voltaic. A weapon compounding the energy of nine of our vessels producing a beam powerful enough to destroy a planet in seconds. The problem will be getting our ships into formation. The Borg will be gunning for us the moment we arrive. We're putting it into your hands to make sure we're able to fire that weapon.

JANEWAY

I can't promise non-of your ships will be destroyed, but I'm determined to see that weapon fired.

VALERIE (ON SCREEN)

Very well admiral. We give you the lead.

The connection closes and the view switches back to space.

Janeway and Chakotay stand face to face.

JANEWAY

This is it we're about to destroy the Borg.

CHAKOTAY

Excuse me while I pray to a few hundred alien deities first.

JANEWAY

Tom, open the singularity, set coordinates to our last location.

CHAKOTAY

Red alert, all hands to battle stations.

FLUIDIC SPACE -- VOYAGER

The alien ships back away to allow voyager enough room to open the singularity.

SPACE

Back at Voyager's last location of normal space a magnificent battle has already begun. The pyramid sits in empty space while dozens of Federation ships swarm around it firing volleys of phasers and torpedoes.

The massive ship has obviously sustained little to no damage. The pyramid fights back, destroying some and toying with others.

Just ahead of the battle, the singularity opens into normal space. Just as soon as it fully opens, Voyager flies through with haste.

BORG SHIP -- CHAMBERS

Viewscreens are lit up along the wall of the King's chambers and the Queens watch as Voyager flies through the singularity.

KING'S VOICE

The enemy of my enemy is my friend... Very cleaver Kathryn, very cleaver.

SPACE

A beam is fired from the pyramid to the singularity closing it instantly.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

JANEWAY

What was that?

PARIS

They closed the singularity.

CHAKOTAY

They can reopen it though.

TUVOK

They can but we didn't give them the coordinates to our sector. For all they know we could be anywhere in the galaxy.

JANEWAY

We don't need this now!

CHAKOTAY

We need to open it back up for them. Tom, swing around and reopen--

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

I am the Borg, you will be assimilated. Lower your shields and surrender your ship. Your biological and technological distinctiveness will be added to my own. Your culture will adapt to service me. Resistance is futile... Kathryn.

The inside of the ship is rocked by intense weapons fire.

TUVOK

Hull breaches on decks nine and ten.

CHAKOTAY

Tom, evasive maneuvers!

SPACE

Voyager flies through the Borg's fire with fighter pilot precision.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

CHAKOTAY

Activate the array, try to open the singularity again.

PARIS  
I'll do my best.

SPACE

They get some distance between them and the Pyramid. The center of the deflector dish brightens as it activates. Voyager takes a straight shot ready to open the singularity. As the deflector dish is about ready to fire a spread of Borg torpedoes bean into the back of Voyager knocking it a drift.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

Sparks fly, consoles are blown and people are thrown. Tom, who got thrown from his seat, crawls back to helm desperate to get the ship back on its axis.

SPACE

The ship rights itself and flies back to the fight.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

Everyone retakes their station and takes a second to recover.

TUVOK  
Aft shields are down to thirty percent.  
Casualty reports are coming in... three  
deaths.

JANEWAY  
They're not gonna make this one easy.

Harry gets an alarm at his station.

KIM  
We're being hailed by the Siro, it's the  
Fleet Admirals ship.

JANEWAY  
On screen.

The viewscreen changes to Admiral 1 whom we saw earlier. He looks tired and frustrated. Behind him the bridge looks heavily beaten but still functional.

ADMIRAL 1 (ON SCREEN)  
It's about time you showed up!

Both ships are rocked as the Admirals talk.

JANEWAY  
Sorry we're late Admiral.

ADMIRAL 1 (ON SCREEN)  
I hope you brought a few armadas with you because we are losing this thing quickly!

JANEWAY  
I did, I brought all the help we need, but the Borg closed the door on them.

ADMIRAL 1 (ON SCREEN)  
Then open it!

CHAKOTAY  
It's not that simple. The Borg are gunning for us.

ADMIRAL 1 (ON SCREEN)  
Yeah I know I saw what just happened.

JANEWAY  
If we could get an escort, something that would buy us just a few seconds.

ADMIRAL 1 (ON SCREEN)  
Alright look, even with an escort it's just going to be more of the same. Transmit the coordinates and whatever it is that needs to be done to my science officer and I'll open it. You provide a distraction.

CHAKOTAY  
They're already more occupied with us hopefully they won't notice.

KIM  
I sent the transmission. Their science officer shouldn't have any problem opening the singularity.

JANEWAY

Good... Alright Admiral, we'll keep them busy for you.

The viewscreen switches to normal view.

CHAKOTAY

Lieutenant, head for the pyramid, and remember don't give them a clear shot of our aft.

PARIS

Be nice to give them a kick in the aft.

CHAKOTAY

Not now Tom... Tuvok, fire when ready.

SPACE

Voyager flies closer to the pyramid and the Fleet Admirals ship flies further. Voyager erupts in a volley of weapons fire directed toward the Borg pyramid.

SIRO -- BRIDGE

ADMIRAL 1

Commander, activate the deflector array.

The science officer taps his console and sparks fly throughout the bridge.

SCIENCE OFFICER

Main power conduits have overloaded and are fused.

ADMIRAL 1

Reroute through the auxiliary relays.

SCIENCE OFFICER

The overload knocked out too many conduits, we don't have enough power to activate the dish.

ADMIRAL 1 (TO COMM)

Engineering, we need more power to the deflector array.

CHIEF ENGINEER (ON COMM)  
She's already giving all she's got.

ADMIRAL 1 (TO COMM)  
Then deactivate every non-essential  
system. Close down idle stations.  
Turn off life support in empty rooms  
if you have to!

CHIEF ENGINEER (ON COMM)  
..Alright Admiral, that's everything I  
can do.

The Fleet Admiral looks over to the science officer looking  
for confirmation.

SCIENCE OFFICER  
It's still not enough.

ADMIRAL 1  
Tactical, deactivate shields and reroute  
power to the deflector array.

SECURITY OFFICER  
Sir that'll be suicide!

ADMIRAL 1  
That's an order Lieutenant! We'll all  
be dead anyway if we don't get this  
damned thing open!

SECURITY OFFICER  
Shields down, power rerouted to the  
deflector array.

SCIENCE OFFICER  
That's it I got it!

SPACE

The Admirals ship limps further away. The deflector dish  
glows bright as it activates.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

Sparks fly and small fires ignite as the Borg batters  
Voyager.

TUVOK

Shields down to twenty-five percent. Hull breaches of decks eleven and twelve. Emergency force fields are in place and holding.

KIM

The Siro is activating its deflector array.

CHAKOTAY

Hold steady till they open the singularity.

The King's voice is projected through the comm.

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

Uh-uh-uh... No cheating Kathryn.

PARIS

They know!

JANEWAY

Protect the Siro!

SPACE

A Spread of Borg torpedoes fire toward the Siro.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

JANEWAY

Tom block their fire!

CHAKOTAY

Tuvok destroy those torpedoes!

SPACE

Voyager fires phasers at the torpedoes but misses the target when one hits the underbelly of the ship.

SIRO -- BRIDGE

SECURITY OFFICER

Torpedoes on an intercept course! We must raise shields!



ADMIRAL 1  
No! Helm hold course, science get  
that door open!

SPACE

Quickly the torpedoes catch up to the Siro.

SIRO -- BRIDGE

SECURITY OFFICER  
Brace for impact!

SCIENCE OFFICER  
There, it's opening!

SPACE

Too late! The remaining spread of torpedoes explode into the  
back of the ship and the Siro is destroyed.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

Everyone on the bridge is now downhearted. Even Tuvok looks  
despaired.

Janeway leans forward with her head in her hands.

KIM  
I hate to add fuel to the fire Captain  
but I think those sensor modifications  
worked.

CHAKOTAY  
What do you mean?

KIM  
I'm reading a Borg transwarp conduit  
entering the system.

PARIS  
No! This is asinine!

CHAKOTAY  
Listen! We need to keep focused. We make  
a wrong move and they win.

JANEWAY

Chakotay's right. We need to keep our attention out there, or this will be over a lot faster, and no one will like the outcome.

Everyone takes a minute to compose themselves.

JANEWAY

Harry, open a channel to the fleet.

KIM

Channel open.

JANEWAY

This is Admiral Janeway, as some of you may already know, the Fleet Admirals ship Siro was just destroyed. We'll have time to mourn and honor everyone who has given their life later. Right now we must avenge their deaths and see to it no one today has died in vain. As of right now I'm taking command of the fleet. In a moment, a transwarp conduit will open pushing out a small army of Borg. I urge every one of you to remain at your posts and see this out to the end or we will be mourning a lot more than a few fallen comrade.

Janeway signals Harry to cut the comm.

KIM

All ships are acknowledging.

JANEWAY

Alright, it's obvious we're not going to open that singularity any time soon. Tom, I want you to use evasion pattern Archer--

KIM

Admiral the transwarp conduit is opening.

JANEWAY

On screen.

The view changes showing a large green tubing exiting out of empty space.

SPACE

Coming out of the conduit are half-a-dozen Borg cubes all cluttered together.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

KIM

Admiral, I'm reading a large energy signature entering the system but I can't make out what it is.

Janeway closes her eyes, chants to herself under her breath.

SPACE

Coming in from deep space an 8472 ship speeds to the six cubes floating in space. A large perpetual energy beam resembling an electric bolt surges from the ship onto the nearest cube and cascades to the remaining cubes destroying them within seconds.

The 8472 ship flies past the battle but that doesn't stop the King from taking notice. The pyramid erupts in a barrage of weapons fire all directed toward the 8472 ship.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

CHAKOTAY

Tom move it! Shield that ship!

SPACE

Voyagers efforts prove unnecessary as the alien ship is too fast. The Borg can't get a lock. The 8472 ship skillfully evades all the weapons fire.

It again fires a beam this time into empty space opening its own quantum singularity. The 8472 ship rushes through disappearing from space. The King wastes no time and fires a beam closing it.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

PARIS

They're coming back right?

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

No Janeway! You will not win this battle  
or any other battle! I am supreme!  
Resistance is futile!

Janeway sits staring at the gigantic pyramid on screen, an  
evil smirk on her face.

JANEWAY (TO COMM)

(Calmly almost smug)  
Now, you die.

SPACE

Once again a quantum singularity opens up, this time much  
larger.

Wave upon wave of 8472 ships flood out of fluidic space  
joining the now turned battle.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

JANEWAY

Harry, fleet wide comm.

KIM

On.

JANEWAY

This is Janeway. The alien ships are  
allies, protect them at all cost!

SPACE

The battle is epic now. Both StarFleet and 8472 ships work in  
unison. They swarm around the pyramid like gnats.

Immediately, a grouping of nine 8472 ships pull in formation  
in attempt to fire off their big weapon only to have one or  
two ships destroyed and the formation disbanded. More try.  
Another and another, and all receive the same fate.

Too much time has been taken. A sheet of ablative armor is  
erected on one side of the pyramid.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

TUVOK

It seems the Borg have finally adapted the ablative armor. It is impenetrable to our weapons.

JANEWAY

No, No! Not when we're so close!

KING'S VOICE (ON COMM)

(Laughing)

Does my power know no bounds Kathryn? Tell me; tell me I'm invincible! I want to hear the words uttered from your own moist, organic lips.

JANEWAY

Harry cut it!

The comm is cut in the middle of the King's continued laughter.

KIM

We're being hailed by an 8472.

JANEWAY

On Screen.

The viewscreen changes to Valerie Archer.

VALERIE (ON SCREEN)

This isn't working we're losing too many ships. And what is that metal shielding they just activated?

JANEWAY

That's the future technology they assimilated. We must destroy that ship before it's fully encased.

VALERIE (ON SCREEN)

That's easier said than done. They're destroying every attempt at our firing our weapon.

TUVOK

Admiral if I may, I believe I have an idea on how to protect out allies while they charge their weapon.

JANEWAY

I'm willing to listen to anything right Tuvok.

TUVOK

First it will involve pulling all ships out of battle to regroup.

JANEWAY

Alright you heard him. Harry, instruct the fleet to pull out.

VALERIE (ON COMM)

We'll do the same.

SPACE

The fight is abruptly halted and all ships fly away from the pyramid.

PYRAMID -- CHAMBERS

QUEEN 2

What's going on? Where are they going?

KING'S VOICE

I do believe they've given up! Ha! At last, they finally accept defeat.

QUEEN 1

We should pursue.

KING'S VOICE

No. Let them marinate this for a while. Then we'll make our stand at Earth.

SPACE

Back at the regrouping area, Voyager and the remaining StarFleet ships move into a tight wall formation.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

TUVOK

Remember everyone must have the same shield frequency. Lieutenants Kim and Paris, you will ensure the fleet remains in formation and a constant speed. We will need every last ship for this to work.

KIM

All ships reporting in, shield frequencies match.

PARIS

Helm officers reporting in. All ships at standby.

TUVOK

At your discretion Admiral.

JANEWAY

All hands raise shields.

SPACE

Tightly packed, the ships sit only a couple hundred meters apart. The shields activate encasing the entire fleet in a large bubble.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

JANEWAY

The 8472, are they ready?

KIM

They're at standby.

JANEWAY

Then let's move out.

SPACE

The fleet of ships move at impulse back toward the pyramid.

PYRAMID -- CHAMBERS

QUEEN 2

They're coming back.

QUEEN 1

I told you we should have pursued them.

QUEEN 2

Are they going to ram us?

KING'S VOICE

Isn't it amazing the desperate spirit organic life has, to cling onto something so feeble? I do find it fascinating.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

JANEWAY

Helm increase speed.

PYRAMID -- CHAMBERS

QUEEN 1

They're moving faster now.

KING'S VOICE

Of course, they want to make as big an impact as possible. What is that saying the Klingons have? Today is a good day to die... Fire.

SPACE

Once again the pyramid erupts in weapons fire. The formed ships are pummeled by the direct attack.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

The ship is rocked violently! Sparks ignite from consoles and panels.

JANEWAY

Helm, steady as she goes! Tuvok status.

TUVOK

Four ships... no six ships have been destroyed, shield collapse in ten seconds.



JANEWAY

8472's?

KIM

Charged in five seconds... four... three...  
two... one!

JANEWAY

Break formation!

SPACE

The wall of ships break away revealing a charged group of 8472 ships ready to fire their weapon.

Just barely missing an allied ship, the aliens fire an intense beam of energy into the pyramid immediately dealing a great deal of damage.

The pyramid still has power to fire weapons and is able to destroy enough ships in the group to stop the weapon. Just behind it though is another group of alien ships and as the disbanded group moves away it fires its own beam into the heart of the Borg pyramid.

More alien ships come in from behind the second and like it already formed and charged. They swarm the pyramid producing immense damage.

PYRAMID -- CHAMBERS

The inside is falling to rubble. The Queens scream in agony as their link to the Hive is severed.

KING'S VOICE

No they can't win! They will not! I am  
too powerful! I am supreme!... I am a god!

SPACE

Veins of energy glow as the alien weapons surge the ship.

In a glorious spectacle, the all powerful Borg pyramid, the personal transport of the original Borg, the creator, the King himself is destroyed.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE

The bridge crew stares at the viewscreen watching debris drift out to the distant parts of the galaxy. They're relieved, awestruck. Even Tuvok looks amazed this day has finally come.

Both turbolifts open exiting B'Elanna, The Doctor, Annika and Neelix.

Tom runs up and holds B'Elanna.

TORRES

We did it? They're gone?

KIM

Space trash now.

NEELIX

All of them?

Janevay quickly turns around in her seat to see Neelix.

JANEWAY

Neelix, I'm--

NEELIX

No Admiral... Trust me, they're happier now.

Everyone stands on the bridge staring at the viewscreen registering what just happened.

VOYAGER -- SICKBAY - LATER

The Doctor sits in his office, has an open comm on his personal desktop console. It's DR. LEWIS ZIMMERMAN, the programmer of the EMH.

ZIMMERMAN (ON COMM)

A name?! Why do you need a name? Is StarFleet pressuring you?

THE DOCTOR

StarFleet? No... no this is something I've seriously thought about since I first expanded my program.

ZIMMERMAN

Well it has been an Earth custom for fathers to name a son after them. How does Dr. Lewis Zimmerman Jr. sound?

THE DOCTOR

Sounds like an egotistical way for fathers to immortalize themselves through their offspring.

ZIMMERMAN

You could have just said no.

THE DOCTOR

Sorry, No. I just want something that'll make myself unique among my peers. We're all called Doctor, but I need something that says who I am.

ZIMMERMAN

Now who's being egotistical? ...Look, you don't need a name to individualize yourself. You're the first hologram to be granted freedoms and rights like any other human. How much more unique do you need to be? People know who you are. Believe me, I never stop hearing about it.

THE DOCTOR

I also don't want to spend the rest of my days known only as "The Doctor".

ZIMMERMAN

Well considering you have a lot more days than the rest of us do, I think you'll have plenty of time to figure it out.

EARTH -- STARFLEET HQ SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

Chakotay and Valerie Archer leisurely stroll down a path in the courtyard. 8472's stand in the background admiring this new alien world. The humans admire the aliens.

CHAKOTAY

Valerie I can't thank you enough for your assistance. I hate to think all this was almost assimilated.

VALERIE

Your planet is rather beautiful.

CHAKOTAY

You know last we met, you never told me your real name.

VALERIE

Why don't you just stick with Valerie.

CHAKOTAY

Shy?

VALERIE

Not at all. I'm just trying to save you the embarrassment of butchering my name.

CHAKOTAY

You so confident I'll screw it up that bad?

VALERIE

You have a trachea, you can't possibly pronounce my name.

CHAKOTAY

...Good point.

Just a small distance away Janeway is speaking with Admiral Grams.

GRAMS

I just finished reading your report and Kathryn, that was something else.

JANEWAY

I'm just glad it's over.

GRAMS

I believe it. Oh, I thought you'd like to know preparations have already been completed for a memorial celebration honoring everyone that died in battle, human and 8472 alike.

Admiral Grams gestures to Valerie as she and Chakotay walk over.

VALERIE

Thank you Admiral. This has been a battle none of us will soon forget.

CHAKOTAY

(To Janeway)

And some of us will never forget.

Beat.

GRAMS

Well related subject, Kathryn, I hope this doesn't sound too morbid, but there is an open Fleet Admiral position that needs to be filled immediately.

JANEWAY

I don't know, this is a little too sudden for something like that.

GRAMS

You get to choose your own ship.

JANEWAY

Chakotay's standing right here.

CHAKOTAY

Actually it was my idea to begin with.

JANEWAY

I can't do that to you Chakotay, Voyager's your ship now.

CHAKOTAY

You belong in that chair more than I do, you proved that... You never should have left it in the first place.

JANEWAY

Well it almost seems rude for me not to now.

GRAMS

So you accept?

JANEWAY

Admiral Grams, I accept.

GRAMS

Wonderful, I'll set it up immediately.

Admiral Grams walks off.

JANEWAY

Valerie, I was hoping Boothby would be here, I'd love to see him again.

VALERIE

Boothby? ...Oh yes. Sorry to say the elder you knew as Boothby died a few years after our last encounter.

Janeway is grieved at the response.

VALERIE

You'd be proud to know though, he was, in large, the reason why the council took your request so seriously.

CHAKOTAY

I'm sure it would have please him to see humans and your species working so close with each other.

JANEWAY

What is the name of your species anyway?

CHAKOTAY

We've been over pronunciation already.

JANEWAY

Well we may not be able to speak in their native tongue, (to Valerie) but we can't keep calling you Species 8472.

VALERIE

I don't know it has its own little charm.

CHAKOTAY

There has to be some way to pronounce it with a trachea.

VALERIE

If I have to translate it in a human language I think it would have to be... Xylé'ganiac.

JANEWAY

Is that with a Z or an X?

VALERIE

Use an X, it'll look more exotic when spelled.

VOYAGER -- BRIDGE - LATER

The bridge is bustling with activity. All the main bridge crew are there including Annika and B'Elanna who are working at their respective bridge station. Chakotay is talking with a crewman while Janeway sits in the captains' reading a padd and drinking coffee.

Neelix walks in with a coffeepot and a couple of mugs.

NEELIX

Coffee anyone? Fresh pot just brewed. ...How 'bout you Mr. Vulcan? Care for a fresh cup of coffee to stimulate the senses?

TUVOK

My senses are sufficiently stimulated.

NEELIX

Mr. Kim?

KIM

Maybe later Neelix after I get these bugs out of the sensor grid.

Neelix starts to feel redundant.

Janeway holds up her mug.

JANEWAY

Over here Neelix, top me off.

NEELIX

I knew someone up here would be needing a quick pick-me-up.

CHAKOTAY

I could use of those too Neelix.

NEELIX

Certainly.

CHAKOTAY

...I'm glad you decided to stay aboard.

NEELIX

...Where else would I go?

JANEWAY

(After taking a sip)

This is excellent coffee Neelix, where'd you get it?

NEELIX

Isn't it tasty? I found it in a region of your planet called Vietnam. The locals use an ancient technique where they pick the undigested beans out of the fecal matter of a local rodent species. The result gives it a unique, almost natural nutty flavor that I haven't found anywhere else.

Long uncomfortable beat.

CHAKOTAY

Thanks for the coffee Neelix.

The Doctor exits the turbolift.

THE DOCTOR

I have sickbay fully stocked, filled with eager ensigns and ready for patients.



JANEWAY

I'll do my best not to give you any too soon.

HANSEN

Have you chosen a name yet?

THE DOCTOR

Thank you for asking I have not.

PARIS

Oh just call yourself Joe and be done with it.

TORRES

Joe? Can you come up with something a little less uninspired?

PARIS

I'll have you know Joe was my grandfathers name.

TORRES

And I'm sure his mother said the same thing to his father when he named him. ..Glad you didn't name our daughter.

NEELIX

You know what, I think Doctor suits you just fine.

THE DOCTOR

Thank you Neelix, I agree. I was made to realized I have my entire life ahead of me to discover my perfect name, what's the rush?

KIM

Just be sure to come up with something before we all die off.

TUVOK

Dry dock has completed repairs and supply, we are clear to depart.

PARIS

So where we off to now Admiral?

JANEWAY

I think we should do something we haven't done on this ship yet.

CHAKOTAY

And that would be?

JANEWAY

...Let's explore the Alpha Quadrant.

The tongue-in-cheek comment sports a smile from everyone as they ready for their next voyage.

JANEWAY

Lieutenant Paris, take us out.

PARIS

Yes ma'am.

SPACE

Voyager, sitting in dry dock, slowly creeps its way out. The familiar ship clears the dock. It makes some distance when the two nacelles bend upward and Voyager warps into space.

FADE OUT

THE END