



**Episode 1 “The Renegade”**

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Space, the final frontier. These are the continuing missions of the Starship Eagle, our goal is to advance Federation knowledge and explore the unknown regions of space. We are the Federation's first line in exploration and defense. The Year is 2290 and these are the adventures of the USS Eagle

## =^=Chapter One=^=

Lieutenant Alterra Mohammad was sitting in one of the back row seats in the shuttle pod, looking out a nearby window at the new USS Eagle. She thought to herself ~ now this is a beautiful ship ~. She turns to Lieutenant William O'Dell whose short blond hair, green eyes, and fair skin contrasts with her own longer black hair, brown eyes and light tan coloration. The other passenger is Captain Austin Carter who is also fair skinned but has short black hair and eyes just a shade lighter brown than Alterra's. "How fast can she go?" Asks Alterra.

"Maximum emergency warp is 9.2, but maximum safe speed is warp 7.8. She's the fastest ship in the fleet next to the Excelsior class" replied Lieutenant O'Dell.

"She's a fine ship" the Captain said. "I've spent the last month in Starfleet headquarters filling out reports on the final touches on the Eagle, and now I get to see her fly"

"I've never been on a ship that went past Warp 8.5; I can't wait to go to Warp 9. I wonder what that feels like" Mohammad says.

"Your going to love it, flying at Warp 9 is one of the best feelings on a starship, trust me, I was there when they tested the engines at Maximum warp." The Captain said as Alterra looks out the window again and watches the shuttle approach the USS Eagle.

O'Dell then tapped a button on the helm control panel in the shuttle "O'Dell to Eagle, we are approaching the Starboard saucer docking port."

Commander Sarah Torrell was a striking figure with golden brown skin with black hair she kept in an orderly braid. Her brown eyes rarely missed anything going on around her. She had the dual roles of Helm and First Officer on board the Eagle. She replied to O'Dell "Thank you Lt. O'Dell. I will meet you at the docking port. Torrell out." The shuttle continues on its way to the Eagle. Once there, the crew decided to take a quick tour of the ship itself. They start by the warp nacelles, and then move over to the saucer section. From there they go over the saucer section and eventually came to a port on the Starboard side of it. A few seconds after docking with the starship, the computer announcers that it is safe to leave the shuttle pod. The three of them step out of the pod and are greeted by Commander Torrell, whom had just arrived at the docking port from the bridge. "Welcome aboard. If you three will come with me, I'll take you to the bridge."

“Sounds good Commander” The Captain responded as he and the others from the shuttle follow Commander Torrell. “Commander, I will need to talk to you in my ready room, as I have been giving our first orders by Starfleet command.” The Commander nodded and they continued on their way to the Bridge; no one said anything else until they have reached there. O’Dell and Mohammad went straight to their stations and the Commander and the Captain went straight to the ready room. “Commander, as soon as the rest of the senior officers arrive; we are ordered to report to Starbase 13 and work with their people to search and locate a renegade Klingon vessel which has attacked the Star base”

"Understood sir. I wonder why the Klingon vessel attacked the star base. It seems odd somehow." replies Torrell.

"I wasn't given that information Commander" the Captain said. "All I know is the renegades attacked and left."

"I suppose we will have to find that out when we reach Star Base 13. Is there anything else I need to know about?"

"That’s all the information I can give you at the moment" He then stretches out his arm, "Good to meet you Commander" he says smiling.

The Commander takes his hand and shakes it "I am glad to finally meet you as well, sir."

The Captain smiles, "Well I won’t keep you from your duties any more, Dismissed."

"I'm very excited about being posted to the Eagle. I've never been on a starship before. I can't wait.” says Ensign Sabrina Allen, a cheerful young woman with wavy honey blond hair and blue eyes. She looks back out the shuttle's window as they speed towards the ship. She smiles at the other person in the shuttle "I know the first thing I'm going to do after I report to the Captain. I'm going to check out my quarters."

"It is an honour to be chosen to serve on a starship. I intend on taking up my post directly after reporting to the Captain." replies Ensign Nebrell. He had the dark black hair and brown eyes of most of his race. His complexion was light, with a slight greenish tinge.

Sabrina Allen looks at the Vulcan "Where's the fun in that? Come on, you have to do something. This is our first mission; we ought to head to the mess hall and celebrate."

Nebrell looks back at her "That would seem to be illogical for me to do. My position is ships navigator; I should be at my station."

"Ahhh, you Vulcans are no fun at all."

"I do not understand what 'having fun' has to do with our jobs."

"That doesn't mean we can't enjoy ourselves in the process. Humans join Starfleet for more reasons than just the jobs you know."

"I do not know why Humans join Starfleet. What other reasons are there besides the jobs?"

Allen huffs "That's the problem with you Vulcans; you need to loosen up a bit."

“Loosen up?” The Vulcan seems confused with this

"I mean live a little. Getting out of that 'logic only' mode and show a little emotion once in awhile. Emotions are what make life interesting." replies Ensign Allen.

"I have seen the actions of people who are excessively emotional; I prefer to conduct my life by logic."

"How did I know you were going to say something like that" she says grinning at the Vulcan

"It was the most logical response. Your race is capable of logical thinking."

"Lieutenant Commander Riley Berry reporting for duty sir. I'm the communications officer." Berry is a tall somewhat thin fellow with curly black hair and brown eyes, which he chose to keep looking straight ahead and not move while he's standing in the Captain's ready room. The Captain walks up to him and extends his hand out to Berry.

"Welcome aboard the Eagle Mr Berry" The Captain says smiling while shaking Berry's hand.

"Thank you, sir. May I ask a couple of questions?"

"Go ahead Commander" the Captain said then walked around his desk and sat down, and then pointed to a seat on the other side of the desk where the Commander is standing, "Have a seat."

Berry sits down in the seat indicated by the Captain. "My first question is when do I get my duty schedule? My second question is a little odd; how do I find the location of my quarters?"

"You can pick up your duty roster from Commander Torrell as soon as you're ready, she'll be on the Bridge. Your Quarters" the Captain says looking on a data pad "is located on deck 8 section 13."

"Thank you, sir. Looks like I'll have to keep a copy of the ship plans handy for 3 or 4 days. For some reason it takes me that long to get my bearings at a new post. The Berry Curse as my dad calls it."

The captain chuckles "I know how you feel Commander. It takes awhile to learn new areas."

Berry is relieved at the Captain's chuckle. He has gotten mixed responses from some of his other commanding officers at pervious posts with that line. He thinks that he is going to like serving under Captain Carter just fine.

"According to Starfleet records, you spent the last 18 years only working on Star bases."

"I also served at Starfleet Headquarters in San Francisco, sir." adds Berry.

The Captain looks at his padd, and notices that in the records "You're right, I'm sorry."

"Apologies accepted."

The Captain smiles "Well Commander, your going to find out that life on a starship is a lot different then a star base or HQ."

"I look forward to discovering the differences sir."

"The Captain laughs "That you will Commander" then pauses, while standing up "Well I'll let you get yourself situated, and I'll see you on the bridge later."

"Thank you sir," Berry stands up and leaves the ready room. He decides to see if he can navigate to his quarters.

Lieutenant Commander T'Mier was being transported along with 5 nurses to her new assignment as Chief Medical Officer on the USS Eagle. She possessed the typical Black hair and brown eyes of most of her race, but her skin was a dark brown, making the greenish tinge difficult to detect. Most of the other medical staff she would be serving with had either arrived already on board the ship or were arriving in other shuttles. The Vulcan Doctor turns to the shuttle's pilot "What is the estimated time of arrival?"

"We should arrive at the Eagle within 15 minutes Sir," replies the pilot. The shuttle continues to fly out of Earth's atmosphere. It heads toward Dry Dock where the USS Eagle is berthed until it launches." The pilot says then opens a channel "Shuttle Archer to Eagle, permission to dock in the main shuttle bay"

"Permission granted," replied Commander Torrell who is sitting at the helm station on the bridge.

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"Chief Tactical officers log stardate 9214.5, Lieutenant Commander John Maxwell reporting, I have just arrived on the USS Eagle and reported in to the Captain to take the job of Chief Tactical officer of this Vessel. I have looked over the schematics of this ship and it appears to me that it should be an interesting mission. I have never seen a ship like this before" Maxwell continues more about the ship in his log then goes on to business about Security. John Maxwell was tall. That combined with his muscular build and his tendency to rarely sit still gave people the impression of a man who seemed to be akin to one of the big cats. His brown hair kept in a buzz cut, brown eyes and goatee seemed appropriate for someone who was the Chief of Security on the Eagle. He was a man one could count on in any situation that came his way. "At the moment I only have half of my security force on board; the rest should be arriving within the hour. I have heard rumors that we have already received orders for our first mission, I guess I'll find out soon. Doctor T'Mier has just arrived and we are awaiting the arrival of the Ensigns Allen and Nebrell. I am looking forward to find out what the mission is" John thinks about this a little more then orders the computer to end the log. He then heads out of his quarters and down to his security office.

The Shuttle with Ensigns Allen and Nebrell has just arrived and docked into the main shuttle bay. Ensigns Allen and Nebrell leave the shuttle bay and decided to head straight to the bridge to check in with the captain first. As they arrive in the turbolift,

Ensign Nebrell orders the turbolift to take them to the bridge. The two remain quiet during the trip to the bridge and as they meet up with the captain, Nebrell speaks first "Ensign Nebrell reporting for duty, sir. When am I to start in my position as the Navigation officer?"

After Nebrell says that, Allen cuts in before the Captain can say anything "Ensign Sabrina Allen, Ship's Councilor, reporting for duty sir!"

"Welcome aboard the Eagle" said the Captain "I'm sorry to cut your introductions short, but I need to meet with you and the rest of the senior staff in the briefing room in ten minutes"

"Yes sir, we will be there" both Ensigns Allen and Nebrell reply at the same time.

"Captain Carter to all senior staff, report to the briefing room in ten minutes"

Ten minutes later the senior staff has all arrived in the briefing room. "First off, I would like to introduce each of you to the others since you are the senior staff on this vessel." The Captain starts his introductions of the people to his right: Commander Torrell, Lieutenant Commander Berry, Lieutenant O'Dell and Ensign Nebrell. He then does the same thing for the people on his left: Lieutenant Commander Maxwell, Lieutenant Commander T'Mier, Lieutenant Mohammad, and Ensign Allen. He then continues "All right, now that the introductions are over with, I won't waste anymore of your time." He gets up and stands near a monitor "Starfleet Intelligence has discovered a renegade Klingon Bird of Prey operating within Federation space. Starfleet has lost track of her because she is cloaked. However, we believe that she is still within Federation space. Our mission, ladies and gentlemen, is to find this Klingon vessel and determine its purpose here as well as finding out how much of a threat they pose to the Federation." He points to an image of the ship "It is called the I.K.S. K'Tor."

There is a quiet pause after the Captain's announcement. Maxwell is the first to speak up "Sir, according to what I've read about the Eagle, she has not been tested in combat. How can we be sure this ship will withstand a beating from the Klingons? I know in theory we should be able to take whatever the Klingons dish out, even destroy them. However, is it wise to send us on this type of mission before we are fully ready?"

The Captain looks at Maxwell "All of our previous simulations show that we are ready. Truthfully though, the only way we'll know her combat strength for certain is when we engage an enemy."

"Then you have nothing to worry about Sir, the Klingons won't know what hit them" Commander Torrell spoke up.

"Excellent," the Captain pauses then he walks over to the crew and strolls around them "You all here have the privilege to be the first group of officers to serve on one of the Federation's newest and finest starships to date. In a sense, what we do with the Eagle will determine the future of the Eagle class ships. I am confident that I couldn't have asked for a better crew to prove to Starfleet how good this ship truly is." The crew looks at each other and smiles, except the two Vulcan's who nod in agreement.

"We won't let you down sir" said the excited Ensign Allen

"Good, if there is nothing else, you're all dismissed."

After the meeting; each of the officers went their own way. O'Dell and Berry met up with each other in the Mess hall. After O'Dell had gathered his food, he went up to Berry. "Sir would you like to join me?"

"I'd be happy to. I hate eating alone," replies Berry. Both of them find an empty table. Berry sits down first then O'Dell takes a seat across the table from him.

"Sir, if you don't mind me asking, where was your last assignment?"

Berry pauses a bit before answering "I was at Starfleet Headquarters in San Francisco. Only downside to this transfer-I'm going to miss the view of the Bay Bridge. Well, also the weekly poker game I had with some friends." Berry chuckles.

"Poker you say? I've played a few games here and there, but I'm not really good at it." notes O'Dell sheepishly.

"I'm not a card sharp either. I play mostly for the friendship. My poker buddies and I used to play for widgets." replies Berry with a grin.

"Interesting, maybe we should play a few games sometime." Berry nodded. O'Dell continued before Berry got a chance to reply "So, what do you think of the Eagle so far?"

"She's a remarkable vessel. I'm not having as much trouble locating places here as I've had in other assignments. Might only take me two days to get the layout memorized. It usually takes longer for me to get everything sorted out." notes Berry.

"Well if you need any help, let me know, I helped built this beauty."

"Really? I'll keep that in mind. How did you get selected for the job to build the Eagle?"

"I started working on Star base 37. I've had my share of repairing star base and Starship systems. Starfleet must have liked my results. However, I haven't figured out why they picked me for this assignment. Don't get me wrong, I'm glad they did, but there were so many people that wanted this assignment and I'm lucky #1" O'Dell said smiling then took a sip of his coffee.

"The only thing I can think of for my selection is my experience. I've been handling communications ever since I've been in Starfleet; about 18 years of my life," replies Berry "Then again, it could just be pure luck."

"Well, whatever the reason is, from what I've seen, I think we have a good crew."

Berry nods "I think you're right. I'm looking forward to getting to know my fellow officers."

"Well, you're minus one now" O'Dell says smiling.

Berry laughs "That's true."

"Well sir, if your excuse me, I should go back to my quarters and unpack, If you'd like, join me in my quarters later and we'll see if we can get a game of poker going with the senior staff."

"You're on;" Berry grins at O'Dell "Just give me a shout when you're ready to play some Poker."

"Good, I'll see you then. Nice meeting you sir." O'Dell says and extends his hand. Berry takes O'Dell's hand and shakes it with a firm grip. O'Dell nods and heads out of the mess hall.

Ensign Allen was sitting at one of the tables in the Mess hall with Doctor Kavanagh, a woman of medium height and build with collar length brown hair and hazel eyes that seemed to have a hint of mischief in them. She was paying attention to every word she was saying. She grinned at Kavanagh "I still feel kind of silly, especially considering that I really don't know how to play poker. I just figured it would be a good way to get to know some of my fellow crew members better."

Kavanagh chuckled "It was similar thinking that got me into my first poker game. None of us had much clue what we were doing but we had a grand time anyways. I still have friends I keep in touch with from that first game."

"So who taught you to play?"

Kavanagh smiled "A dear friend I had made at Starfleet Academy. He was a year ahead of me, so he graduated before I did. I ended up meeting him at the game. The other players must have thought we were complete nuts the way we were laughing so hard. We hadn't learned the fine art of keeping our 'Poker faces' yet."

Allen laughs "So what happened to you and your friend after that?"

"We renewed our friendship. And somehow managed to squeeze in time to get married." Kavanagh grinned mischievously at Allen.

Lieutenant Mohammed walks in the mess hall and sees Ensign Allen and Doctor Kavanagh sitting at a table. She walks over and asks if she can join them. Sabrina said yes and she sits down. "Are you going to Lieutenant O'Dell's quarters tonight to play poker?" Mohammad asked addressing Ensign Allen.

"Yes, though I hope he's forgiving about having a rank armature." replies Allen.

"Don't worry. We were all there at one time," Kavanagh smiles reassuringly at her.

Allen grins "That's usually what I say to people." Both of them start laughing.

"The Doctors right, besides, if O'Dell didn't want you there, he would not have invited you" Mohammad said smiling.

"Good point." notes Allen, "At least I won't be in completely foreign territory thanks to Doctor Kavanagh."

"And you won't be the only Ensign, if we can convince Ensign Nebrell to join."

Allen smirks "Good Luck. I don't think he'd be interested. He's very dedicated to his philosophy."

"Maybe you could tell him it's a good exercise in mathematics. Also excellent for emotional control. That's what a poker face is after all." replies Kavanagh.

Alterra Mohammed laughs at Kavanagh's remark then decides to change the subject "So, I hear you're the ships Councilor." She said to Sabrina.

Sabrina nodded "Yes I am. Starfleet decided to create the position several years ago. I'm one of the first graduates for this position from Academy. I've always been interested in helping people. I thought this would be a good way to do that as well as put my psychology degree to good use."

"Well it's about time Starfleet did this, I think ships could use councilors"

Sabrina smiles "I'm glad to hear that. There were a few who grumbled about the idea."

"I'll keep that in mind" Mohammad said to Allen, then addresses Kavanagh.

"Tomorrow, when you finished your shift in Sickbay, would you like to assist me in the

science lab? We could use someone specialized in Microbiology and, if I'm not mistaken, Microbiology is one of your specialties."

Kavanagh is surprised "I thought somebody was lined up for that position. Did he bail on you?"

"Lieutenant Durant has been called away on another assignment. He is not due to arrive for 2 months" replied Alterra.

"In that case, I'll be there tomorrow to give you a hand. I'll even pitch in that area when I can until Durant arrives. I'm always happy to lend a hand." replies Kavanagh.

"Thanks. That will...."

All of a sudden the captain's voice goes on the comn system *"Yellow Alert, All senior staff report to the briefing Room at once" The yellow alert Klaxons start to go off and the yellow alert lights start to flash.*

Sabrina looks at Mohammed "Looks like things just got more interesting." She then gets up from the table "Doctor Kavanagh, I think the rest of the poker lesson will have to wait. Till later." Sabrina and Alterra then quickly leaves Mess hall to head over to the Briefing Room.

As the crew arrives in the briefing room the Captain starts it right away "I have been informed by Starfleet Command that someone has attacked and destroyed an Ernis ship that was heading for Earth."

"Ernis? I'm afraid I'm not familiar with that race, Sir." notes Torrell.

"Starfleet has been trying to open diplomatic relations with the Ernis for 6 months. The Ernis are an intelligent race that some say appear a humanoid eagle. They are also one of the bravest species and trust me, don't get on their bad side, they are very temperamental." the Captain pauses for a few seconds and continues. "We have just succeeded in opening relations with them; they were sending an ambassador. On route to Earth the ship was destroyed, most of the crew including the Ambassadors was killed. This attack took place in Federation space, so the Ernis are holding the Federation responsible for the attack. Starfleet believes otherwise."

"Oh joy. I've heard some rumors about that race. Some say they view most of the Federation as one step up from what they eat for lunch," Berry interjects with a shudder.

"Exactly Mr. Berry, so you can imagine how they feel about the ambassador being killed in our territory."

"Oh I can. Does Starfleet think our Klingon Bandit is involved?"

"That's correct, you took the words out of my mouth Commander" the Captain said referring to Berry. "Starfleet believes they are behind the attack, but we need to find their location, we have plotted a few courses that are a possible destination of the Klingon vessel. The difficult part is, finding them in time to prove to the Ernis that Starfleet is not behind the attack before hostilities breakout between the Ernis and the Federation."

"Sir, have we taken a good look at the places they have attacked?' queries Torrell "If there's a pattern, it might help us to find them."

"This is the only attack at the moment, but Starfleet is keeping an eye out for more attacks, The Eagle has been ordered to investigate and use any means to locate the Klingon ship."

"I want to take a better look at the data Starfleet gave us about that renegade. I want to try to correlate it to any mysterious attacks or sightings that have occurred within the last few months. We know he's here, we just need to find out where he's operating from. It would be hard for him to do so without having a base of some sort." The Captain presses a few buttons and the data the Commander was asking for appears on a monitor on the left wall in the briefing room. Torrell looks at the data "It appears that the incidents started about 7 months ago. That will help narrow down my search, but I think I may need some help to check out the other data." The Captain gets up and pushes a button on the screen bringing up another set of data.

Torrell sees data on some mysterious sightings over the past few months. One of the entries catches her eyes "Now that's interesting. Sir, there may have been more than just one attack."

Both the Captain and John Maxwell get up and look at the data "It appears they attacked a Vulcan ship" Maxwell said pointing to the data.

Ensign Nebrell speaks up "I do recall that incident. A member of my family served aboard that ship. She was one of the few survivors of the attack."

"Understood, Commander set course to the location of the Ernis Attack maximum warp." The Captain then addresses the rest of the senior staff "Dismissed."

Sabrina decides to go to the Bridge. She spies a chair not too far from where the Captain is sitting. She goes over and sits there; she'll only give it up if somebody tells her to. She's not sure what she can do at this point, but she'd rather be where she can find out how things are going first hand.

A concerned expression crosses Berry's face "Sir, I'm receiving a distress signal. It's not coming in very clear."

The Captain was expecting something like this to occur "Location?" he asked.

Berry taps a few buttons on his console to see if he can clarify the signal "I got it sir. It's from the USS Atlantis. She's near Alpha Centauri."

"Good work Commander" The Captain said to Berry, then turned his attention to Commander Torrell "Set course for the Atlantis at Maximum Warp".

"Yes sir," replies Torrell. She puts in the correct coordinates for their destination and the Captain gives the order to engage. The Eagle then speeds off towards the Atlantis.

Sabrina takes the entire situation in. She's starting to wonder if she did make the right decision to be on the bridge. She feels a little out of place, but she figures there's no sense in leaving now. She'll have to deal with things as they come.

"Captain, we're coming up to the Atlantis's last know location," notes Torrell with a tense note in her voice. She brings the Eagle out of warp, and then begins to scan for the vessel.

It doesn't take long for the Eagle to locate the Atlantis "Mr. Berry hail the Atlantis."

Berry opens a comn channel to the other ship "*This is the Starship Eagle to Atlantis. We are here to assist you, please respond.*"

They wait a few seconds and there is no response and they try hailing a few times "Lieutenant Mohammed scan for life signs."

Lieutenant Mohammed is about to begin her search when Berry interrupts "Wait, sir! We're being hailed," a smile of relief crosses his face "It's the Atlantis!"

"On Screen"

*The image of Captain Regina McGann appears on the screen "This is Captain Regina McGann of the USS Atlantis, thank you for answering our distress call Captain. The Klingon ship came out of no where and attacked, they boarded our ship and killed two of my crew and raided sickbay." Berry is stunned. He felt revulsion at the thought of a Klingon ship attacking inside Federation space. Sabrina Allen felt stunned to hear that as well. What kind of creature were they dealing with?*

*"All they took is medical supplies" Captain McGann responds by nodding her head "That's odd, I'm suprised they left your ship intact." the Captain looks around then continues "Do you require assistance."*

*"Our Warp and Impulse engines are offline, phaser banks offline, torpedo tubes destroyed and we have no shields, we just repaired our short distance communications, long distance communications is still down, the Klingons seem to have taken what they wanted. We could use some help reaching the nearest starbase"*

*"Understood Captain, we will contact the nearest starbase and have them send a Tug, We will provide cover until they arrive, then we will continue our search for the Klingon vessel"*

*"Thank you Captain, Atlantis out"*

Torrell is puzzled "That is really strange. They only took medical supplies, for what reason?"

Berry shrugged "There's the question of the day. If they are renegades from their own people, I would think they would have to turn towards piracy to get supplies. Though attacking a Federation ship is pretty gutsy."

"What I don't understand is, If your going to attack a starfleet ship, it's more tactically sound to destroy it, why leave it intact, they'd have to know the information would be transmitted to starfleet and we will be looking for them" Maxwell said.

"Exactly, unless they would be trying for some sort of intimidation," replied Torrell.

"You all bring up good points here, but that's what we have to find out is why they are doing this, now the first order of business is, how are we going to find them" The captain asked.

"That's been the frustrating thing. I haven't seen any patterns in the data from Starfleet. The attacks on the Vulcan science vessel and the Atlantis seem pretty exceptional. I can't believe that's the only ones they've attacked." Torrell shakes her head.

"Well, if I was going to attack ships-I'd attack smugglers. It's not like they're going to complain to the authorities," interjects Sabrina Allen. The others turn to look at her with surprise. Sabrina blushes a little "Well, it is something to consider."

"I'd like to hear more Councilor, what your saying makes perfect sense."

"I wonder if they're trying to make us look bad in the eyes of the Ernis. They are a warrior culture as well, though I don't think they take it to the extremes that the se

Klingons do. They don't seem too sure about us. With all the trouble with the sightings and now the attacks, we're not looking too strong. That could be the whole idea."

"I don't understand, if they attack other Federation ships, would that not prove the Erniss that we did not attack their ship?" Alterra asked.

"Hmm, point well taken." Sabrina feels now that maybe she should have just kept her mouth shut. Torrell notes her discomfort "I think I see what Sabrina is getting at. The Erniss are holding us responsible because they don't know who did attack them. How will they react when they find out about the other attacks? It doesn't put us in a good light."

"I think I understand now, sorry Sabrina" Alterra said.

"Apologies accepted," replies Sabrina with a smile. She now feels a little more comfortable. Maybe she may have a reason to be on the Bridge after all.

"What Ensign Allen said does make sense to me sir. It's actually a smart thing, make the Federation look weak and at the same time frame us for attacking the Erniss. This ship may not be easy to find, they are not your typical Klingons." Maxwell adds now agreeing with what Sabrina Allen said.

"I'm thinking that as well. Piracy isn't very honorable." notes Torrell "Something occurred to me, was anything taken from the Vulcan Science vessel that was attacked?"

"A handful of Vulcan phaser rifles, and that's about it, no one was killed in this attack" the captain said.

"This is starting to sound more and more like a half-hazard venture. They're probably renegades from their own people as well. What could motivate somebody to be that foolish?"

"Revenge?" replies Sabrina with a questioning tone.

"Revenge does seem reasonable for them. I do not believe the Klingon Empire would allow this, so they must be renegades from their own people as well, Maybe they want revenge against both the Federation and the Klingon Empire." Then Maxwell just thought of something "If they are renegades from their own people, it is possible they attacked a Klingon ship as well and they may be looking for the renegades." he says looking around the room to see if anyone agrees with him.

"That could be. I could see that becoming a 'matter of honor' for the Klingon Empire." says Torrell.

"How are we going to locate the Klingon ship? There is no pattern for us to predict the next attack, assuming there will be one" Maxwell mentioned.

Torrell shakes her head "There is no doubt in my mind that there will be another attack." Torrell pauses for a few seconds. "Maybe we ought to start thinking like the renegade."

Ensign Nebrell looks at Torrell "That is an illogical idea. I do not see how that could help us to find them."

"She's saying if we think like them, it might help us predict their next attack." The Captain said to Nebrell.

"That makes sense. If you can gain an insight into somebody's psychology, it can help you predict how they might act and react in certain situations. So far, we know we're dealing with a Klingon who seems to have a desire for vengeance and is willing to do whatever it takes to achieve that goal. Not much different than trying to anticipate an opponent's moves in chess." adds Sabrina.

"Check mate." Nebrell appears puzzled. Sabrina covers her mouth with her hand to hide her smile. The Captain continues "The objective of chess is to corner the king and get him in a check mate; it makes sense to think they are doing the same, but the question is who is the king. The Federation or the Klingon Empire?"

Nebrell nods at the Captain's statement "The renegade's illogical behavior will not make that answer easy to find."

"The trick is not to think logically, now." The Captain tries to remember who is good at chess, then remembers reading something about Rylie being a 3 time champion of playing tri-dimensional chess at starfleet academy "Mr. Berry what would your move be here?"

"As you said before, the idea is to checkmate the opponent's king. I usually try to capture my opponent's more powerful pieces, especially the Queen. That piece is the one that can really do a lot of damage in the game. You know, I think he's been working his way up. That's a way to play, start with the weaker pieces then capture the more powerful ones when the opponent isn't expecting it." answers Berry. The thought chills him.

"That makes sense, so the Vulcan vessel was the pawn and the starfleet ship was a rook, so who's their next target" The Captain asks.

"What would be the next up? What could be considered the queen in the Federation?"

"I think his next target will be either us or the Enterprise or Excelsior" Maxwell suggested.

Berry nods in agreement "That's what I think as well. The Eagle along with the Enterprise and the Excelsior are the finest ships in Starfleet, and the most desirable targets as well."

"Mr. Berry send a message to Kirk and Sulu, and let them know of what to possibly expect" the ordered.

Berry encodes a message warning about the Klingon renegade ship and sends it to both the Enterprise and the Excelsior. "Encrypted messages warning about the renegade have been sent to both ships, sir." reports Berry.

"Keep an eye on those channels Mr. Berry; I want to know exactly when it appears."

"Yes sir." Berry focuses on the channels; he knows the ante has been upped considerably.

=\=Chapter Two=\=

Location  
Ernis Homeworld Ernii  
Legislature building Zydak

"The Federation is clearly behind this attack on us. They invite us for a conference on Earth and once we send an ambassador the attack and destroy his ship" Avio Akizah's red and gold feathers fluff out in agitation and her unusual blue eyes glitter in anger. Her golden robes flow behind her as she quickens her pace, She is once again arguing with Ky Telser, a smaller male of striking orange color wearing the red robes of his position. Both have the humanoid eagle appearance of their kind.

Ky Telser blinks his brown eyes slowly then answers "The attack may have happened in their space, but there is not enough proof that they are directly responsible for what happened."

"I'm also hearing reports that they are also attacking other ships." The Avio goes on "Are you going to tell me, The Federation had nothing to do with it as well? That it JUST happened in their space?"

"I believe there is an agent behind the attacks, but I do not believe at this point that it is the Federation. Have you ever considered that there are others who do not want us to become allies with them? We could lend great strength to them. There are races that would not like that."

"So the Federation is incompetent."

"All the more reason for us to reach out to them. Their eyes aren't sharp enough." Telser chortles.

"The Federation was supposed to protect the ambassador. If the Federation had nothing to do with it, THEN WHERE WERE THEY?" The Avio hollered.

Telser shakes his head "Anger will not solve this situation. It might be wise for us to start looking into this situation as well. We need to investigate this, their eyes aren't strong enough, and ours should be."

"Fine, investigate it. I want results on my desk in 1 week, and I am not ruling out the Federations involvement until I get evidence to prove they are not behind this." As she was saying this an argis, which is one of the Avio's aids, walks up to Avio Akizah "Lady Avio, the Federation wishes to talk to you" he says.

Dr. Judith Kavanagh arrived in Sickbay. The personnel there seemed a bit tense, probably because of the attack on the Atlantis. She was sorry to hear about the two crew who were killed, but she knew it could have been worse. She said a quiet prayer for their families and friends as well as for her shipmates.

Kavanagh looks around and spots a Female Vulcan looking over some records "May as well introduce myself." She walks over to where T'Mier is. Before she can say anything T'Mier turns and looks at her "You are Dr. Kavanagh."

Kavanagh is a little suprised but regains her composure fast "That is correct. I'm here to start my rotation. Are there any patients to deal with currently?"

"There are no patients here at this time. There is something I need to clarify with you, however."

"I would be happy to do so, as soon as you tell me what you need clarified." Kavanagh had learned long ago that it was better to get straight to the point with Vulcans.

"In what capacity are you planning on helping Lt. Mohammed?"

Kavanagh wondered how T'Mier had found out about that. She didn't think Lt. Mohammed had time to let her know about her arrangement. "The gossip committee strikes again," she murmurs under her breath.

T'Mier looks a bit puzzled at Kavanagh "I do not understand what this 'gossip committee' has to do with this situation? I do not know who they are."

Kavanagh has to cough a bit to suppress a chuckle. Vulcans have good ears as well she suddenly realized "I won't ask where you heard about my deal with Mohammed. She doesn't have a Microbiology specialist in her Science personnel. The fellow whom was supposed to have that position has been delayed. She found out that I have a strong background in that area as well as my medical degree. She asked me to help cover that area till the other person arrives. I'll do that on an 'as needed' basis and when my schedule permits. I will make every effort to make sure that I won't allow that to conflict with my duties here."

"That is acceptable. I will leave you to monitor things here. If you need me, I will be in my office." T'Mier then turns and goes into her office. Kavanagh breathes a small sigh of relief.

"Well, that went over better than expected. What a way to make a first impression." Kavanagh chuckles to herself.

William O'Dell had arrived a few minutes ago and sat down eating his meal at a table in the far left corner of the room. When he looked up he noticed Ensign Allen was sitting 3 tables down from him, just staring at her food and poking it with a fork. She looked upset. O'Dell decides to see if he can find out what's wrong and walks over to her table, "Is this seat taken?" he asks pointing to a seat across the table from Allen.

Sabrina looks up at O'Dell "Feel free to join me. Though I can't promise that I'll be a sparkling dinner companion." She chuckles a bit.

O'Dell sits down and decides to cut to the chase "You look troubled, what's bothering you, Councilor?" O'Dell asks.

Sabrina has to laugh "Councilor heal thyself. Truth be know, I'm starting to wonder what the world I got myself into. For instance, what possessed me to go to the Bridge? No, I do know the answer to that one. I suppose I'm starting to wonder if I do belong on this ship is all."

"What do you mean by that? Of course you belong here. You have the right to be on the Bridge, just like the rest of the senior staff" William tells Sabrina.

"How can I contribute to the crew?" Sabrina asks.

"Well you can contribute by helping the crew through their emotional problems. Do you have any other specialties that you might want to put some time into?" O'Dell asks.

Sabrina thinks for a bit before answering "I have some talent at profiling. Using psychological methods to look at a person's actions and behaviors and gain insight to what they might be thinking; to find out things about them."

"Well that could be useful for dealings with some aliens out there"

"That's part of why I wanted to join Starfleet. I wanted to learn about other races, to see how they think and feel. That interests me more than how they appear." She smiles "and it will be a challenge to see how well I can read body language of someone not like me. I look forward to that challenge. I've always been one who wants to know what makes people tick, so I suppose I've gotten the perfect position for myself."

"Sounds like you will fit in perfect."

"With the recent excitement, is the poker game still on? Or has it been postponed?"

"I think I'll keep it on, it will be a good distraction from what's going on right now."

"That's true. Besides, it will give me a chance to sharpen my people reading skills." Sabrina grins mischeviously.

"Captain McGann, the transport tug Percheron has arrived, is there anything you need from us before we continue on our mission?" Captain Carter asked.

"If you have any medical supplies you can spare, we could use some. Enough to last us till we get to the starbase for repairs." replies Capt. McGann.

"Understood." Carter then signals Rylie to mute transmission, and then pushes a button the left armrest on his chair "Captain to Doctor T'Mier, have as much medical supplies you can spare ready to beam over to the Atlantis."

"Understood, Captain. I will start gathering them immediately. T'Mier out."

She walks out of her office and goes over to where Doctor Kavanagh is standing. "The Captain says that the Atlantis needs some medical supplies to cover their situation till they can resupply at the starbase. I require your assistance in finding what we can spare and preparing it for transport."

Kavanagh nods as she picks up a data pad to check their supplies "Absolutely. Let's get the ball rolling."

"I do not understand what a ball has to do with this task. A ball will not be necessary for what we need to do."

Kavanagh clears her throat a bit to keep from laughing "My apologies, it is a figure of speech, a metaphor if you will. It means that we should get to work immediately."

"It would have been more efficient for you to have said that in the first place. Let us proceed then." T'Mire starts to check the lists to see what they can spare for the Atlantis. Kavanagh smiles behind her back and starts to help her out.

As soon as the captain ended the transmission with T'Mier, he signaled Berry to un mute the transmission "Captain, our doctor will be sending the medical supplies shortly"

"Thank goodness for that. We certainly can use them. The way this mess has gone, I was about to suggest that a bottle of good brandy be sent over as well. I don't envy the task you have ahead. I'll say a few prayers for you and your crew. Good luck and Godspeed. Captain McGann out."

Torrell taps the coordinates into the system "Course is set Captain."

The Captain takes a quick glance around the Bridge, then back at the First officer "Engage."

Torrell taps a few buttons on the console and the Eagle enters into Maximum Warp, heading towards the place where the Ernis Ambassador's ship was destroyed.

Torrell studies her screen carefully "Captain, we are nearly at the coordinates where the Ernis ship was destroyed."

"Slow to impulse power, Commander" the Captain ordered.

Torrell taps the appropriate buttons on her console "Slowing to impulse." The ship's speed reduced to impulse.

The ship continues on impulse power to slowly arrive at the exact spot where the attack happened and just before they get there, in order for enough time for the ship to stop. The Captain addresses Torrell again "Full stop."

Torrell reacts quickly "Full stop initiated." The ship comes to a complete halt at the exact location the attack took place.

"Lieutenant Mohammad, begin scanning the debris" the Captain ordered.

"Aye sir" Mohammad responded

The Captain then addresses Torrell "Keep your hand on that button, if the Ernis arrive, we may have to get out of here in a hurry."

Torrell nods "If that happens, I'll do my best to get us out of here like the proverbial bat." She moves her hand and holds it above the button in question.

As the USS Eagle was scanning the debris field, a unidentified ship has snuck up on the Eagle, and as soon as Maxwell noticed it on sensors, he immediately put himself into alert status mode "Captain, we have an unidentified vessel approaching 600 kilometers off of our port bow" Maxwell reported.

"Yellow alert!" the Captain ordered. "Why did we not detect it until now?"

"I'm not sure sir; it may be interference from the debris."

On the Ernis ship Captain Akela was annoyed "Who do these creatures think they are? How dare they desecrate this area!"

The Gunner looked to his Captain "Shall I fire upon them?"

"Not yet, call up a firing signature and have it ready; but do not fire unless I give the order." Akela looked to her Comm "Open a channel to these nykair; let's see what they have to say for themselves."

The Comm taped a few buttons on her panel "Opening channel now Captain."

*The Captain waited till she saw the green light activate on the display in front of her Chair "This is Captain Akela Ar'Gisa of the Clawship Warsong. Identify and explain yourselves!"*

*Rylie Berry had opened the channel as per the Captain's orders and the Captain appeared on the Ernis holographic display "I am Captain Austin Carter of the*

*Federation Starship Eagle; we are here to investigate the destruction of the Ernish Ambassador's ship"*

Akela studies Carter; she isn't quite sure what to make of him. She makes eye contact with her Comm then raises her right arm and closes her hand. The Comm mutes the channel "What do you make of this person's announcement, my warriors?"

The Gunner spoke first "Why are they only sending a ship out now to investigate? Especially without telling us? That is not honorable."

The Comm looks at the Captain "We have acted no differently than they are. I do not believe it is wise to get into a battle without good reason, that is not honorable. Some of us are too eager to taste blood it seems," she glares at the Gunner. He starts to hiss at her, but the Captain's look shuts him up.

"Unmute the channel" the Comm deactivates the mute on the Channel "*Captain Carter, why have you come here to investigate what happened to our ship? I find it unusual that this is just happening now, after some time has passed.*"

*"A Federation ship has been attacked by a Klingon vessel, we had to alter course to assist them. We also believe the Klingon ship that attacked them also attacked your ambassador's ship. We are hoping to gather some clues as to where we can find this Klingon ship."* Carter answered.

Akela scowls "*This is the first I have heard of any Klingons being involved. They are nothing more than animals.*"

*"Starfleet had detected a Klingon renegade operating within Federation space, and now are unable to locate it, our mission is to locate the vessel and deal with it any way we have to, and then we should be able to find out why they attacked an ernish vessel and several others."*

*"Then our ambassador's ship was not the first?" Akela becomes concerned.*

*"That is correct, if we can compare notes, maybe we can work together to determine the reason for the attack."* Austin suggested.

Akela is suprised at Carter's offer. That was the last thing she expected from him. *Maybe these humans weren't as backwards as she thought. "Your suggestion is a worthy one. I would prefer to discuss it face to face; one can only gain so much from a hologram view."*

*"How about we meet in the conference room on the Eagle?" The Captain asked.*

*The Ernish crew is concerned for the safety of their Captain and the other crewmembers she will pick to accompany her. The Gunner activates his IST (Inner Ship Transmission/ like IM) on his console. The captain sees a light come on, meaning someone wanted to talk to her on the IST; she opens her channel.*

*Gunner: Are you sure you should go over to their ship? It could be a trap. We don't know much about these humans or their allies.*

*Captain: I share your concern, which is why you will be coming with me. Your tracker can man the weapon systems, he is very capable.*

*Gunner: But what about the ship? Is it named after person-that would not be good.*

*Captain: Only one way to find out, I'll ask.*

*Akela looks at Carter's image "A small question, what is the origin of your ship's name?"*

*"The Eagle is named after a bird on Earth" the captain replied, thinking this is a very unusual question.*

*"Really? What type of bird is it?"*

*"It would be classified as a Bird of prey." The Captain said, curious as to why they are talking about a bird. At the same time, he also thinks that talking about a bird is a good step to peace then shooting at each other.*

*Akela's eyes sparkle with interest and amusement "This might work out for both our benefits" she thinks to herself. "Captain Carter, how long will it take you to prepare for myself and three of my crew to arrive?"*

*"Give us a half hour." replies Carter.*

*"Excellent, I will make sure we are ready to go. I think this will be an interesting meeting. Akela signing off." She looks to her Comn; the Comn ends the transmission.*

*"Comm Iria, you will hold command in my place. Gunner Adyn and Chief Engineer Bkiro will be with me. Gunner, summon Healer Alysi and let her know I want her to join us." Adyn contacts the Healer. She arrives a few minutes later. They wait for the Eagle to transport them aboard the ship.*

On the way to the transporter Room, Maxwell is walking beside the Captain while Commander Torrell is behind them. Maxwell speaks up "Captain, I do not believe it is wise to go to the transporter room without further security. We are facing hostilities with the Ernis right now."

"I understand your concerns Commander, but we do not want to appear hostile to the Ernis." The captain then looks at the phaser that Maxwell is wearing "Besides, your armed. I think if anything happens, you should be able to take care of it."

"Understood sir" Maxwell replies.

"That's probably the best way to deal with the situation. The thought of getting one of those people mad at us is pretty unpleasant." interjects Torrell.

"Agreed, they are an aggressive race, but they also would rather avoid a war if possible. I don't believe they are coming here for a fight Mr. Maxwell." Maxwell nods as they are two doors away from the transporter room.

The three of them enter the transporter room. "So any suggestions before we beam our guests over, sir?" inquires Torrell.

"All I can say commander is be very careful as to what you say to them, the slightest wrong word could be a disaster. They are a very temperamental species". The captain told the XO.

Torrell nods "Ready when you are."

The Captain walks in and addresses the transporter chief "Beam them over" the transporter chief nods and hits the controls to bring over the Ernis personnel. As soon as the Ernis have fully materialized and walked off of the pad the captain steps up to introduce himself and his crew "Welcome aboard the Eagle, I'm Captain Austin Carter." He then points to Torrell "This is Commander Sarah Torrell, ships First Officer and this is Lieutenant Commander John Maxwell our Chief of Security" he said pointing towards Maxwell.

Akela nods at the two officers "Greetings, Captain Austin Carter. Since you already know my name, I will introduce you to my crew This is Primary Gunner Aydn

Tarkis (points to a grey and white Ernis wearing a blue uniform similar to hers) Chief Engineer Bkiro (a Brick red Ernis in a green uniform) and Healer Alysi K'tyg (a Sky blue and gold Ernis wearing a green uniform and carrying a gray case under her left arm) (the Captain is silver and gold colored)"

"If you'll follow me, I'll take you to our briefing room" the captain said motioning towards the door.

Akela nods and she follows the Captain. Adyn take his place by her side while the other two follow behind them.

The Ernis follows the three senior officers to the briefing room and enter in after them. Akela looks at the chairs and chuckles "I may have to stand during out meeting. I do not think the chairs will hold me."

"I apologize for the chairs; I can have some chairs that you may find comfortable brought it if you wish." The Captain informed the Ernis.

"That is a wise suggestion. It would be more comfortable for you if we can talk at a more equal eye level; most races get nervous having to look up at an Ernis."

"Understood" the captain said answering the Ernis, then turns to his XO "Commander."

"I'll get on it right away, Captain." Torrell gets up to leave the room "With your permission, sir?"

"Permission granted."

Torrell leaves the briefing room and heads towards Engineering. She figures if anybody could fabricate chairs for the Ernis, it would be one of the Engineering crew.

Torrell walks into Engineering. She looks around till she spots O'Dell. She walks over to him "Just the person I was looking for. I've an unusual situation on my hands and I need some advice on how to tackle it."

O'Dell was standing at an Engineering console and looked over at Torrell, "What can I do for you Commander?"

"I take it you've probably heard about our Ernis guests. It seems that we have a little problem. Our chairs in the briefing room weren't designed with beings like them in mind. So any ideas on how we can make sturdier seats for them?"

The Chief Engineer thinks about this for a few minutes, then motions for the Commander to follow him. He picks up a padd and creates a design that he thinks might do the trick, and then hands it to the Commander. "I think this might work."

Torrell studies the simple yet sturdy design. It has a back and a slightly curved seat. The base consists of two U shaped frames, one on each side with an X shaped crossbar between them to give extra support. "Looks good to me, how long will it take for your team to come up with four of these?"

"We should have them ready in about 2 hours Sir."

Torrell returns to the Briefing Room and enters. She walks up to Carter and leans over to whisper to him "O'Dell and his people are working on some new chairs for our guests, but it will probably be two hours before they're done. I told him to have the seats brought here after they were finished.'

"Thank you Commander" The captain then informs the Ernis of when the chairs should arrive.

Akela nods "It would be prudent for us to delay the meeting till the seating situation is settled then. Maybe we can take this downtime to get better acquainted with each other."

"That's fine with me" The captain replies.

"Then could we remove to a more 'relaxing' spot? It would seem foolish to stay here for that time."

"Would you like to join us in our recreational deck?" The captain asked.

"Yes, that sounds like an excellent suggestion, we would be delighted to do so." replies Akela.

As the Captain and the Ernis arrive in the recreational deck, the Captain takes them to a nearby table "This is an old 20th century earth game called Cleopatra's Gambit."

Torrell nods "It's a game for two players. Each player takes turns placing three pieces, one on each of three boards, to try to form special patterns in order to win the game. I like playing it for the reason that you have to use more strategy because you're playing on three boards simultaneously."

A gleam comes into Akela's eyes "This game sounds very similar to one of our peoples' games called Zal. That's the Ernis word for three. It is played very similar to your Cleopatra's Gambit."

The captain smiles "Would you like to try it?" he asks Akela.

Akela nods "I would be honored to test my skills at this game. I am considered a champion Zal player back home."

Akela and Carter sit down at a table with the three boards set between them. Carter gives a short overview of the rules to Akela. Akela grasps the differences between this game and Zal; she decided to let the Captain play. Carter starts the game and then it alternates between him and the Ernis Captain. They end up playing several games with the others in the room watching them. Both end up winning three games a piece.

Just as the Starfleet and Ernis Captains are about to start the 7th game, William O'Dell interrupts them over the intercom "O'Dell to Torrell."

Torrell walks over to the communicator panel on the wall and activates it "This is Torrell, what is it?"

"The chairs you asked for are finished", The Engineer told her.

"Thanks O'Dell. I'll let the Captain know. Torrell out." She deactivates the comm "Looks like we can get back to our meeting, Sir."

The Captain looks over at the Ernis Captain "It's your call Captain."

"It seems we will have to continue our tie-breaking game another time. We had best put our intellects together and find a way to put a stop to this renegade's acts of destruction."

Akela gets up from the table. Her crew members fall in beside her. "We are ready to head back to the meeting room when you are ready Captain Carter.

"If you will follow me, I'll take you to the briefing room" The Captain replied.

Akela and her crew follow the Captain to the Briefing room. They walk in and sit down in the newly fabricated chairs. The Gunner sits on Akela's left while the healer and the Chief Engineer sit on her right. "So where shall we begin?" inquires Akela

While The Ernis take their seats, the Captain gets up and turns on the monitor and shows the Ernis this "This is the data the Federation has gathered on its attacks that we know of so far."

Akela and the others study the data intensely. "It seems he wants to drive a wedge between us. Not too surprising. Did you know that someone in the Klingon Empire came to our homeworld and offered an alliance to go against the Federation?" noted Akela.

"That would not surprise me" replied the Captain. "What was your government's response to this?"

"Not a very pleasant one. I'll spare you the exact wording, suffice to say they weren't interested."

The Captain smiles "I'm glad to hear that." Then he goes back to business "We have sent word to some of the most likely ships that will be attacked by the Klingons, the Eagle is also among those"

"Yes, that makes some sense. A show of force to let your enemies know how strong you are." Akela becomes thoughtful.

"I'm hoping that the Eagle will be the first of its new targets." The Captain pauses and then walks back to his chair at the other end of the table opposite the Ernis "That way both of our ships will be able to take the Klingon by surprise and take them alive if possible to determine the purpose of these attacks."

Akela nods, "It is a good idea, however, how can we make sure that the renegade comes looking for you first and not the other ships?"

"My Chief Engineer suggested that we can make the Eagle appear to have been damaged by another ship, in this case, it would be best to look like it was damaged by your ship, and if your Engineer can do a similar thing, it would trick the Klingon's into thinking that both of our ships disabled each other. We could provide Engineers to assist your crew with this." The Captain continues. "The plan for this is, for both of our ships to engage in a simulated battle, we will have a few EPS and plasma conduits explode, where no one will get hurt, our Doctor can simulate plasma burns for some of the crew and Mr. O'Dell will also set off some controlled explosions on the ships hull, to appear to have been damaged during the battle with your ship." The Captain told the Ernis.

"I should be able to figure out a way to mimic battle damage on the Warsong as well," notes Bkiro.

Alysi comes into the conversation "Do you think we will have to do injury simulations on some of our crew as well?"

"I would suggest that, in case the Klingons find away to see in our ships. We don't want them to see the inside is peaceful compared to the outer hull of our ships." The Captain responded.

"I will leave the damage simulations to Bkiro and Alysi. Adyn, I expect you to cooperate with handling the battle simulations. This will have to be choreographed perfectly; there can be no mistakes. You all have my permission to work with the Eagle

Crew. Captain Carter, you and your crew will also be free to work with any of my people."

The Captain stood up "If there is nothing else, I suggest we should get to work."

Akela clacks her beak "Agreed. The sooner we can get this situation sorted out, the sooner we can set up to trap our renegade." The Ernis stands up and give a slight bow to the Eagle crew before leaving to go back to their ship to start preparations.

=\=Chapter Three=\=

After the Ernis left the briefing room, the Captain pushed a button on the table "All senior staff, report to the briefing room at once." Then ends transmission.

The remainder of the Senior Staff report to the Briefing Room. Each of them is wondering exactly why they've been summoned there. After the senior staff shows up the captain explains to them the plan that was agreed with to the Ernis and gave the orders to his senior staff "Any questions?" The Senior Staff understood the plan, so there weren't any questions about that. Though Sabrina did wonder to herself what she would be doing, she didn't completely understand what her role was exactly. She wasn't quite sure how to ask that question, at least not in front of the others. "Good, Dismissed."

The other senior staff leaves the room, only the Captain and Sabrina are still there. Sabrina looks at Carter "Captain, I do have a question, what am I supposed to do? I understand the plan, but I'm not sure how I fit in it, if at all."

"Your job is to be our liaison to the Ernis. We cannot risk ship to ship communications, so I'll pitch this idea to the Ernis. You will visit their ship every 15 minutes to get reports of their progress and inform them of ours." The Captain told Sabrina. "Do you think you can handle this?"

Sabrina nods "Absolutely. I won't let you down."

The Captain smiles. "I know you won't." he then walks up to her, "Is there anything else I can help you with?"

"Not that I can think of. If anything comes to mind, I'll be sure to ask, though."

"Good, then I won't keep you from your duties any longer:"

The doors of the turbolift open and Sabrina steps out onto the Bridge. She wonders with whom she needs to speak to first. Maxwell is sitting at his tactical station and looks over at the turbolift when he hears it open to see Sabrina step onto the bridge, then turns back to his work.

Berry also turns to see who was stepping onto the Bridge. He makes eye contact with her and motions to her. She walks over to his station. "So what can I do for you?" asks Berry "You seem to have something on your mind."

"The Captain thinks it could be risky for us to send transmissions to the Ernis, we cannot be sure who might be listening in on them. He decided to let me be a liaison between the Eagle and the Ernis ship. So I have to gather the information about our preparations and take them to the Warsong. I will also be taking back the data on their preparations back to the Eagle." replies Sabrina.

Berry nods as he listens to Sabrina's statement "That makes sense. I was worried about the communications factor myself. Radio silence is the best way to handle our situation."

Maxwell couldn't help but over hear what they was saying, "When does the Captain want you to take over the report?"

"I think he'd want me to head over to the Warsong with something ASAP." Replies Sabrina.

"Alright." Fortunately John Maxwell had a PADD with him and started to enter information in it and also informed her of what he has done. "I set the phasers to minim power for war games, we have weapons set up to show we are out of torpedoes and that the phasers are at a higher yield then they actually are. Micro charges are set and are being delivered to Lieutenant O'Dell in Engineering." After he finished telling her and writing the information onto the PADD, he handed it over to Sabrina Allen.

Sabrina takes the PADD from Maxwell "Thank you. This should be a good start. Are there any specific things you need to know from the Ernis crew? I'll see what answers I can get from them."

"Anything you can get would get great, but mainly, weapons setting and status would be good."

"I'll do my best to find out what I can on that." She then turns and heads back over to the turbolift. The doors open and she goes inside, heading to the Transporter Room. She enters the Transporter room and gives a nod to the crewmember on duty there. She then goes to the Comm panel on the wall and calls the *Captain* "*Ensign Allen to Captain Carter*"

*"Carter here, go ahead Ensign" came the reply of the Captain.*

*"I'm here in the Transporter room ready to beam over to the Warsong with the first report. Do I have permission to go sir?"*

*"I've contacted the Warsong and their Captain has agreed to allow only you, to board their ship to transfer info back and forth. Good luck Ensign."*

*"Thank you sir, Allen out."*

"I have already recieved the co-ordinates to the Warsong, ready whenever you are Ensign."

Sabrina arrives in the transporter Room onboard the Warsong. A striking orange and gold Ernis in russet robes walks onto the pad and extends her clawlike hand in order to help her down. Sabrina grasps the hand without showing any fear and is helped down. "I am Ensign Sabrina Allen of the USS Eagle."

The Ernis bows, "Greetings and blessings Ensign Allen. I am Aviza A'til, the croys of the Warsong. I am the ship's chaplain."

Sabrina smiles and bows back "I am honored to meet you. How should I address you properly?"

"Croys Aviza will suffice. I will escort you to the Bridge; Captain Akela is awaiting your report."

"I am ready to meet with her. Shall we go?"

The chaplain nods and starts out the door with Sabrina following.

Aviza leads Sabrina to a device similar to the turbolifts on the Eagle. The door opens and Aviza steps inside first, with Sabrina following. Aviza hits a button on the wall panel and they start to ascend to the Bridge. "The Captain decided to have me escort you to the Bridge not only because I know this ship almost as well as Bkiro, but also to keep certain people from trying to harass you. I'm sorry about that. Not all of our crew is keen on this."

Sabrina nods "I could probably say the same about people on my ship. Fear is hard to overcome, especially when dealing with those different from you."

"Thankfully, both you and I have overcome that fear. Fear can be good sometimes, but you must be its master and not its slave."

Sabrina chuckles " I couldn't have said it better myself."

The lift stops and the doors open. They cross a short space before coming to the bridge doors. "Shall we enter?" asks Aviza.

"I'm ready when you are."

Aviza places her hand on the doors. They open to reveal the Bridge of the Warsong. Aviza and Sabrina enter side by side.

Adyn, the gunner of the Warsong notices Allen and Aviza arrive on the bridge "Captain, the Federation Ensign has arrived."

Akela gets up out of her chair and walks over to where the two of them are standing. "Ensign Allen, welcome aboard the Warsong. You have something for me?"

Sabrina holds out the data pad she got from Maxwell "It contains some of the initial preparations for the weapons systems. It should help your gunnery crew to tailor their weapons systems for the simulated battle."

Akela takes the pad from Sabrina "I take it there will be more data from some of the other areas coming?"

"Yes" replies Sabrina "I figured it was important to get some data over here for you to start with, as well as getting data from the preparations on your end to take back."

Adyn had already prepared a padd once the captain told him about the Federation Ensign coming over, and he walks up to the Ensign "This is what we have worked out on our end, I think it should work with what the Eagle has set up." He then hands Sabrina the Padd.

None of the others had anything yet, so they let her know. Sabrina decided to take a few minutes to get her thoughts in order before heading back over to the Eagle.

The Captain was in the Transporter room waiting for Ensign Allen to return, and then heard her call the Eagle for one to beam back. The Captain watches Allen materialize on the transporter pad. After it finished he walked up to her and asked, "How did it go over there Ensign?"

"It went fairly well, though the Warsong's Captain decided to have here ship's chaplain escort me to and from the Bridge. A little insurance on her part. I have a Padd from the Senior Gunner."

"Very good Ensign. Go ahead and take a 10 minute break before heading back."

"Thank you Captain." answers Sabrina. She then heads out of the transporter Room to deliver the two Padds to O'Dell and Maxwell. She then takes her 10 minute break to get herself ready for her next trip.

After taking a ten-minute break, Sabrina returns to the Ernis ship. She then continues going back and forth between the ships till both sides are ready to commence the simulation. On her last trip, she returns to the Eagle bearing a scroll from the Warsong's chaplain. The Captain sees her carrying a scroll and approaches her, asking out of curiosity, "What do you have there, Ensign?"

"Something from Croys Aviza. It's a blessing scroll. It has a blessing for our ship written on it, one of their customs. It's their way of wishing us good luck," replies Sabrina with a smile.

"Understood Ensign, report to the briefing room, I'll have the senior staff meet us there."

"Yes, sir." Sabrina nods and heads directly to the Briefing Room. She enters the room and sits down at the table to wait for the others to get there.

Shortly after the captain summons the senior staff to report to the briefing room then goes there himself. The Senior Staff arrives shortly after he does. "Good, now that you are all here, I'm going to let Ensign Allen conduct the briefing. She will inform us of all the latest info she has gathered from the Warsong to prep us for the simulated combat." The captain heads over to his chair, takes a quick look around at his officers to see how they would react being told that an Ensign will be heading the briefing, the sits down and addresses Allen. "They're all yours Ensign.

Sabrina manages to hide her surprise at the Captain letting her head the briefing. She takes a deep breath then begins to inform them about the Ernis' preparations. "Are there any questions?" queries Sabrina after she is finished with her report. She looks at the others, waiting to see if any of them have something to ask. None of the senior staff moves as they have no questions to ask.

Sabrina looks at the Captain "Sir, I don't think there's much else to cover, unless you have something in mind."

"I've got nothing else Ensign, I'll contact the Warsong and inform them we are ready to proceed." The Captain then stands up. "Dismissed."

"I wonder where I should put the scroll Aviza gave me?" Sabrina asks, "I get the impression it's supposed to be hung up someplace important on the ship."

"I think the best spot for it, in this mission, would be to place it beside the ship's dedication plaque beside turbolift 1." The Captain replied.

"I'll go ahead and figure out a way to put it up there, with your permission sir." replies Sabrina.

"Permission granted Ensign."

"Thank you, sir." Sabrina takes the scroll and heads out of the Briefing Room to get the scroll hung up in the location the Captain suggested.

After hanging up the scroll near the turbolift, Sabrian goes over to the same seat she had sat in earlier and sits down, waiting for the simulation to get underway.

The Captain arrived on the Bridge a few minutes after Sabrina and went over to his chair then addressed Riley Berry. "Mr. Berry, hail the Warsong."

Berry taps a few buttons on his console "Hailing frequencies open, Sir."

*"This is Captain Austin Carter of the Starship Eagle." The Captain then waits for a visual response from the Warsong.*

*The image of Akela comes on the screen. She gives a subtle nod of her head, and then begins her role with an aggressive response "I hear you, Carter. What is your reason for hailing us?"*

*The Captain understood the nod and her response to that of being ready for the simulation and the Captain responds accordingly. "Your presence in Federation space is not authorized, return back to Ernii at once."*

*"We are here to investigate the destruction of our Ambassadors ship"*

*"The Federation will handle the investigation; you cannot enter Federation space without our permission." The Captain pauses for a few seconds. "Last I check, you didn't have permission, so I'll say again, leave this area at once." the Captain demanded with a firm voice.*

*"The Federation has yet to prove itself to us. You have failed to protect our ambassador, how can we trust you to do proper justice to an investigation into the matter! For all we know you're trying to cover something up!"*

*"Why would the Federation want to destroy one of your ships? Now I warn you, leave or we will remove you by force."*

*Akela's eyes narrow "Then let's see if you really are strong enough to remove us!" Akeal moves her arm in a certain gesture. Gunner Aydn notes the signal and activates the program for the simulation to begin. The Warsong fires the first shot.*

The Eagle rocks from weapons fire and the view screen is replaced by the view of the Warsong, and the Captain hollers towards Maxwell "Ready phasers and photon torpedoes, then target their ship"

"Target locked sir." Came the response of John Maxwell.

"RETURN FIRE!" the Captain demanded. As the ship was hit a few more times by phaser fire, the Captain turns his attention towards his first officer "Evasive action pattern Beta."

Torrell quickly enters the sequence into her station "Engaging evasive action pattern Beta, sir!"

Maxwell spoke up, "EPS conduits ruptured on deck 5, 7 and 9!" He said still reading his console "Sickbay reports we have 18 casualties, no fatalities." The ship continues to rock under the continuous phaser fire and a few explosions along the hull.

The battle continues with furious exchange of weapons fire. The Warsong receives some hits, Aklea then orders her Gunners to target the warp nacelles and weapon pylons with their primary forward guns. The Gunners line up the targets and score direct hits on the locations. The Eagle is now crippled. Akela transmits to the Eagle "Never threaten a predator, Carter. We know how to bring prey down; it is written in our blood." She then orders the transmission to be cut then tells the navigator to set a course out of the area. The Warsong turns away and leaves

After the Warsong leaves the area and before Maxwell can report on the simulated damage to the Captain, he notices a rippling effect on the view screen and sees a shape of a ship "Sir, Klingon Bird of Prey de-cloaking of the port bow!"

"Hail them." The Captain said referring to Riley Berry. Berry turns to the Captain "No response from the Klingons, sir."

The Klingon Ship then starts to fire its weapons at the Eagle.

"Raise shields, arm phasers and photon torpedoes." The Captain looks over to Berry, "Contact the Warsong, let them know what they probably already do, that the Klingons are here."

Berry hits the buttons "This is Lt. Commander Berry of the USS Eagle to the Warsong, we are under heavy enemy fire, we need your assistance immediately!"

"Mr. Maxwell Return fire." The captain then addresses his first officer, "Evasive action, pattern alpha", then moves onto Berry, "Keep hailing the Klingons on all hailing frequencies; maybe we can end this before it gets worse."

"No response sir!" replies Berry "I don't think they're in the mood to listen!"

The Captain sits there and thinks about this and then decides on his next course of action "Open a channel"

"Klingon Vessel, this is Captain Austin Carter of the Federation Starship Eagle, your presence here is an Act of war, stand down and prepare to be boarded or we will have no choice but to destroy your ship." the captain waives the kill signal in front of his neck to Berry and looks at Berry waiting for a response from the Klingon ship.

"No response, sir." Berry says with a tone of concern. All of his instincts are screaming that they're in real trouble.

A raptorial scream suddenly is heard over the Comm system. The Warsong swoops in, hitting the Klingon Bird of Prey with several powerful shots in rapid order. The Bird of Prey is shaken with each blast.

The Captains watches the view screen as he sees the Klingon ship and now the Warson involved in the fight. All 3 ships seem to be taken damage. "Target their warp Core."

"Target locked sir"

"Fire at will."

The fierce battle continues for another 5 minutes when Maxwell reports to the Captain. "Captain, the Klingon's shields are failing."

"Mr. Berry, open a channel to the Klingon vessel."

"Channel opened, sir."

All of a sudden they hear a voice over the intercom, and only says once sentence. "Today is a good day to die."

"Channel is closed sir," Berry can't help a bit of sadness in his answer.

*Akela has been listening in on the communications between the two ships. She orders her comm officer to hail the Eagle. The comm opens a channel "This is Akela to the Eagle, do you hear me?"*

*"Go ahead Captain" replied Carter.*

*"The Klingon has made it clear he won't surrender, he will fight us to the death. I suggest we make it as quick and painless as possible. Good Predators don't let their prey suffer."*

*"Agreed, have your tactical officer co-ordinate with my tactical officer."*

*Akela puts Adyn on the system " This is Senior Gunner Adyn, what do you need us to do?"*

*"Target the Klingons warp core, and it should put a quick end to this mess, Eagle out."* The Captain closes his eyes for a few seconds; he had hoped he would not have to ever give this order "Mr. Maxwell target their warp core." The Captain then pauses for a second to let Maxwell gain the lock then orders "Fire." Long streaks of weapons fire from the Eagle strike the Klingons hull causing a massive explosion and debris, and the Warsong joins in, after thirty seconds, the Eagle launches one final photon torpedo causing the destruction of the Klingon vessel.

The Warsong opened a channel to the Eagle. "My people have been avenged. Now they can go on to the Beyond." notes Akela.

"I hope this proves that the Federation was not behind the attack to your ambassador's ship." the Captain said after contact has been reestablished with the Warsong.

"It proves it to me, though I fear not all of my people will be so quick to agree. With them, the best it may do is it will grant you the benefit of a doubt in their minds."

"That will have to do." The Captain pauses, then stands up and walks closer to the view screen. "On behalf of the Federation and Starfleet, we apologize for what happened to the ambassador and we hope that we can have another chance of opening up peace talks between our two peoples."

"I will pray that such a chance will come again for both our peoples," answers Akela "May the Altin protect you." She then orders the transmission to end. The Warsong turns away and heads back towards Ernis space.

"So where do we go from here, Captain?" inquires Sabrina. She can't explain it, but she finally feels at home on the Bridge of the Eagle.

"We will need to report to Starbase 13 and give them our reports, and then all we can do is sit back and wait for our orders. Is there anyplace you would like to visit?" The Captain answers.

Sabrina has to smile at the Captain "I have a lot of answers to that question, sir."

"I would be interested in hearing your suggestions after we finished with Starbase 13." The Captain then looks over to Torrell. "Helm, set course for Starbase 13, Warp 5."

The Captain smiles while he looks at his crew. He is extremely proud at how his crew handled the first mission together, and then gets back to business "Engage."

## *THE END*

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