



Episode 2 “Dark Gambit”

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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 federations first lines in exploration and defense, The Year is 2290 and these are the adventures of the USS Eagle

=\=Chapter One=\=

Sir I'm detecting Subspace distortions at coordinates 456 mark 4" Lieutenant Mohammad said as she is putting com command's into her console.

"On Screen" ordered the Captain. Alterra Mohammad pushes a few buttons and the distortion appears on the screen. The image that appeared on the screen was like nothing they had seen before. It was a blue rectangular box with some kind of writing on it right in the middle of space.

"Commander Maxwell, give me Tactical on that ship, or whatever it is out there" ordered the Captain. Before Commander Maxwell can get a fix on the mysterious craft, it disappears from their view. Unknown to them the craft reappears inside the shuttle bay, then camouflages into its surroundings. "What happened to it, is she cloaked?" asked the Captain, staring at the view screen where the object once was, but now has disappeared.

Inside the TARDIS, the Doctor and Mimic ponder their surroundings on the scanner. "So where are we now Doctor?" asked Mimic.

The Doctor pondered the scene on the scanner before answering "It seems the Varstrion's jumprig has put us on a starship of some kind. Hopefully it can compensate for the chameleon circuit as well. The TARDIS can be rather conspicuous otherwise."

Mimic chuckles "A 20c London Police Box is a bit conspicuous in most places. Have we arrived in the right place?"

"I think so the jumprig's systems seem to indicate that. Now how to contact the ships crew"

"Without getting tossed in the brig" added Mimic, "I would rather avoid that, if possible."

The Doctor nodded "So do I. The Varstrion were very worried about Black Star. It's been centuries since they've had one of their own go renegade. No wonder they're in a tizzy. Especially since he supposedly stole some vials Of Talkon Factor from the Nicarl Research Facility on Nixa II."

Mimic grimaced "After all that trouble we had back on Earth with that stuff...Not good. What is he up to?"

"I'm afraid that is part of what we have to find out. I wonder if this ship has a medical doctor, maybe a scientist. If we could get in touch with someone like that, it would be of great help to us."

“How about I send Skydancer out on a recon, she can stay cloaked. Maybe she could find out about the people on board, then come back and let us know. Then we can figure things from there.”

“A good idea, especially under the circumstances. We have no idea what we'll encounter out there.”

Mimic gives a special whistle. A metallic blue and gold falcon appears and lands on Mimic's outstretched arm "Greetings Mistress, Doctor. What can I do for you?"

“Skydancer, we need you to recon this starship we're on, find out what and whom we're dealing with, especially if there are any medical or scientific personnel onboard. They might be the most approachable. After you've done the survey, come back here and let us know what you've discovered" ordered Mimic.

“Compliance” replies Skydancer, she goes into her camouflage mode then teleports out of the TARDIS.

“She's underway. So what do while were waiting?” asked Mimic

“A game of chess?” The Doctor suggested

Mimic smiles mischievously ”You're on!”

John Maxwell works at his station trying to determine what happened to the alien object they have detected in the distortion. Then his control panel started to beep "Captain, I am reading unusual energy in the shuttle bay"

“Can you identify it" asked the Captain”

“Negative sir. Sensors show something there, but there is nothing there”

"Something doesn't seem right. Have a security team meet us in the main shuttle bay, and you're with me Commander" the Captain says to the tactical officer as he gets up from his chair and heads towards the turbolift with the Tactical officer following behind.

The Doctor was pondering his next move on the chessboard. As usual, Mimic was playing an unpredictable strategy. Mimic knew that the Doctor usually took his time so she decided to glance over at the scanner “Uh-oh, looks like we're about to get company.”

The Doctor looks at her quizzically “What do you mean by that?”

Mimic points at the scanner “If I'm not mistaken, security party has just entered this area. It seems we didn't slip in as undetected as we thought.”

The Doctor looks at the image of the team on the scanner “How did that.” He gets up and walks over to the TARDIS console. He bends down and removes a panel. “That can't be. The jumprig should have augmented the faulty Chameleon circuit and screened us completely from their sensors...Oops.”

Mimic stands up and walks over to where the Doctor is standing "What do you mean by oops? That is one word I don't like to hear."

“It seems I made a slight error in connecting the jumprig. They may have been able to detect our arrival on this ship, but they can't see the TARDIS. The cloaking is working just fine. So they suspect something is here, but they can't see us" the Doctor answered.

The Captain and the security team arrive in the shuttle bay, and Maxwell is carrying a tricorder. His tricorder is beeping "Sir, according to my tricorder, whatever it is, it is directly in front of us, but I don't see anything, It does not make sense."

"Spread out" the Captain orders the security personal "Be careful, if there is something here it can be cloaked" The Captain walks over to the wall with the assumption that there is a cloaked ship in his shuttle bay, but he does not know for sure. He taps a button on the wall "Carter to bridge, put the ship to Red alert" Red alert klaxons begin to blare. He ends the transmission and pushes the button again to open another transmission, this time to the unidentified ship in the shuttle bay "Unidentified object, This is Captain Austin Carter. Identify yourself" The captain waits a few seconds; there is no reply "I repeat, identify yourself."

Mimic listens to the message from the Captain, "Looks like our luck is holding. Once again we're in the middle of it. So what do we do now?"

The Doctor responded "Stay here, I'm going to go out and talk to them...I know that it's dangerous, but there's no sense in both of us taking a risk. As your friend Grako would say 'Always have a backup plan' I know that I can rely on you and Skydancer to rescue me if things go awry. You are not going to talk me out of this."

Mimic nods and bows her head. The Doctor opens the outer doors. He takes a deep breath and calmly walks outside the TARDIS. The doors shut behind him.

The Captain sees a door from an unidentified object open and a figure walks down the ramp. The captain and the other security officers turn to face the person. He appears to be a humanoid around 5'10" with brownish hair and blue eyes. He costume is somewhat Victorian in appearance: a white shirt with gray vest, pants and cravat underneath a dark green frock coat. All point their phasers at him. Then the captain puts his phaser in his holster, and addresses his crew "Hold your Fire" He slowly walks closer to the individual in front of the cloaked vessel.

"I'm Captain Austin Carter of the Federation Starship Eagle and this is Lieutenant Commander John Maxwell my security chief" he says pointing to Maxwell "What is your purpose on my ship?"

The Doctor looks at the security personnel with their weapons, then back to the Captain "Greetings Captain Carter, I'm the Doctor. Are those weapons really necessary?"

"There for security precautions. Around here we don't take to intruders very lightly" replied the Captain

"Good point, but I usually find that all weapons do is get people hurt. I'm not too fond of them, a necessary evil I suppose."

"We have no intentions of using those weapons, we will only use them if forced" the Captain looks past the Doctor towards the door on the cloaked ship "We also prefer that visitors announce their presence before they board our ship."

"My apologies Captain Carter. I fear I must chalk that up to some technical difficulties. I'm using some equipment I normally don't. The interfacing is still a bit odd. Nothing you need to worry about though."

"Who are you, where are you from?" asked Lieutenant Commander Maxwell.

“As I said before I'm the Doctor. It might be a bit tricky to explain where I'm from. I'm not sure you'd believe me”

"We deserve some answers" said the Captain trying to find out the info now that he is curious after Maxwell asked.

“All right. I'm from the planet Gallifrey in the constellation of Kasterborous.”

"I've never heard of it before" said Maxwell

"I hope you don't mind, we will have to check this info, in the meantime, I'm assuming you came here for a reason, do you mind letting us know what the reason is?" said the Captain

“Well, I know why I'm in this universe, but not sure why I'm on this ship” The Doctor said confused.

"You're saying you're from an another universe?" asked one of the security officers.

"Perhaps an Alternate Universe" added the Captain

“More like a parallel universe. Alternate means something different in my vocabulary” replied the Doctor.

"Why are you in this universe" asked the captain, not completely believing this story.

“To look for a renegade that escaped from my home dimension into this one. He's believed to be very dangerous”

“Are you human” asked the Captain.

“Actually, I'm a Time Lord. So I suppose the answer would have to be no.”

"And is this renegade a Time Lord as well?" asked Maxwell

“No,” replies the Doctor “He was a member of another time traveling race that calls itself the Varstrion. They are good friends of mine. They asked me to retrieve him.”

"What kind of danger does he pose to this universe?" asked the Captain.

“Considering how powerful people like my race and the Varstrion can be, a grave danger.”

"I have no idea how powerful you are, the Federation is pretty powerful as well, and we may be able to deal with this renegade of yours".

The Doctor looks at Carter “Are you capable of Time Travel?”

"We can, but we have strict rules about Time Travel" The Captain answered

“Can you do so as easily as you travel between worlds in this ship of yours?”

"Not quite that easy"

The Doctor nods “My people and the Varstrion can traverse Space-Time as easily as you move between the stars. He has the capacity to alter timelines on any number of worlds, and would do so if it suits his purposes. He is not a person to trifle with.”

"Do you know where we can find him?" asked Lieutenant Commander Maxwell

“Unfortunately I don't know that yet” replied the Doctor, “from what I've heard, he will ingratiate himself with some race that will welcome him. I'd look to a warrior species, especially one that prizes guile and cunning.”

Maxwell turns to the Captain "Captain if what the Doctor is telling us is true, the most likely race he would go to would be the Romulans.”

“ Since I'm not familiar with all the races that exist here, I'll have to take your word for that”

"How about for a sign of good faith, you de-cloak that ship of yours" the Captain suggested

"Well, I'll try. I'm not sure if the jumprig will do that." The doors open again and he goes inside. The doors close behind him. A couple of minutes later the strange blue box they saw earlier appears before them. The Doctor comes back outside, "Well, I think that should do the trick."

"Is there anyone else on your ship" asked Maxwell

"Why do you ask?" replied the Doctor.

"We like to know how many visitors we have on our ship" replied the Captain

"I will admit I'm a little concerned on how you seem to treat visitors. I realize the unexpected arrival is a bit awkward, but I have not done you any harm. I think you can show me some common courtesy."

"I agree, this is an unusual circumstance, if we are going to be working together, we are going to have to start trusting each other" the captain said as he turns to his guards and orders them to leave the shuttlebay and wait outside "How is this for a start" asked the Captain

"Much better. Now it's my turn." He turns back to the TARDIS and gives a wave. Once again the doors open and a young lady walks out cautiously. She is two inches shorter than the Doctor is. She has long blue-black hair, green eyes. She wears a light blue shirt with dark blue pants and vest. There is a black belt around her waist that has some pouches and a strange looking knife strapped into its sheath, "Captain, this is my companion Mimic. Mimic, this is Captain Austin Carter. He is the commander of this starship. I think you'd better whistle in your friend."

Mimic gives an odd whistling sequence and holds out her arm. Skydancer de-cloaks and lands on her arm. "This is my friend Skydancer. Dancer, this is Captain Carter"

"Greetings Captain Carter" Skydancer says to the Captain.

"Nice to meet you both. I'm sorry if we seemed to mistreat you when you arrived. You have to understand some of our uninvited guests are hostile species," The captain said.

"Apologies accepted, Captain. I've had my share of dealings with hostile races myself" replied the Doctor.

Mimic chuckles, "That's the understatement of the century."

"I also hope you understand that it is Starfleet protocol that we have guards posted by your ship at all times, and guards posted by all of you as your escorts, for both ours and your protection" replied the Captain.

"The ship I can understand, no sense in anybody getting a peek where they don't need to be. But why guards for us? Are we prisoners?" inquires Mimic.

"No, your not prisoners. Their duty is more or less, escorts. Their weapons will not be drawn" the Captain answered. "Would you like to join myself and my senior staff for dinner tonight."

The Doctor smiles in relief "My friends and I would be delighted to do so. Thank you for the kind invitation." He notes the look of concern in Mimic's eyes, "If you gentlemen will permit me a few minutes," He walks over to where Mimic and Skydancer are. They speak in low voices so that Carter and Maxwell cannot hear what they are

saying. Mimic finally nods to what the Doctor says. They both walk back over to where Carter and Maxwell are. "So where should we go from here, gentlemen?"

"If you'd follow the Security, they will escort you to the captains mess, I will contact Starfleet, let them know the situation, and if they approve of us helping you, we should be able to remove the guards as well" Carter told the three visitors.

The Captain contacts Starfleet in his ready room as to alert them of the situations and receive recommendations. Starfleet thinks that there is no choice, but to trust these visitors and help them catch this renegade. After this, the Captain contacts Security and orders them to no longer watch over the visitors. They will be granted limited access to the ship, but will leave two guards to guard their ship.

The Captain arrives in the captains mess to find the visitors sitting on one side of the table and some of his senior staff on the other and some on the same side as the guests, The Captain walks up to the guests "This is something that should have happened when we first met, so I would like to officially welcome you to the Starship Eagle." The Captain then extends his hand to the Doctor.

The Doctor takes the Captains hand and shakes it "Thank you Captain Carter. My companions and I appreciate your welcome. I take it that things went well with your superiors concerning us then.

After Carter shakes the Doctors hand, he then shakes the hands of the other visitors, then directs his attention back to the Doctor "Yes they did, things went well, I also explained to Starfleet about your renegade. We have decided to offer whatever help you may need to track them down and apprehend him."

The Doctor smiles at Carter "Let me thank you in advance. We are 'strangers in a strange land' and can use any assistance you're permitted to give us in finding Black Star. That is what this renegade calls himself."

"Also, I have thought this over carefully and decided, since you and your companions have not shown any signs of being a threat to my ship and crew, I am granting the three of you limited access to the ships systems. I am removing the guards all except the ones guarding your ship, but that's mostly for you benefit."

"I appreciate that gesture. For our information, what areas should we avoid? We want to do all we can to justify your faith in us," asks the Doctor.

"I suppose I would first need to know, what areas you would think you would need"

"Definitely the shuttle bay since that's where the TARDIS is. I would also think medical and scientific areas. Also places for rest, eating, and recreation. As for computer files, we'll concentrate mostly on scientific and cultural materials. Mostly to get a feel for where we are now. Also access to any general info that is not restricted. We will not pry into material that is for your people only. That won't be much use for us, I would think."

"All of what you mentioned are areas where you have access. The guards at the shuttlebay know you can enter and leave whenever you want. We have some quarters set aside for the three of you and the mess halls and recreation areas are open for you. Mainly the areas you can't go to are the Armory the computer core, and other places that

you may see a restricted sign. Other than that, you are free to go anywhere you want. Also at the end of the dinner, we can take a tour of the ship if you'd wish" added the captain.

"An excellent suggestion, we will take you up on that offer. It will give us a chance to familiarize ourselves with the Eagle and give us a better understanding of where we are welcome." replies the Doctor.

"I hope you don't find any of these restrictions harsh".

"Not really. When you're guest in somebody's home, you have to abide by their rules." Mimic finally spoke up.

"I'm glad you see things that way. Well with formalities out of the way, I'd like to introduce you to my senior staff" the Captain introduces the staff while he points to the officer he is introducing and they stand up and shake hands with the visitors.

Mimic and Skydancer take careful note of the officers. They are both mildly surprised that there are non-humans among the crew. In their universe, humans rarely get along with other species. The Varstrion seem to have that ability.

The Chef then brings out the meals and hands it to the Starfleet crew and the guests "With your permission, I would like to run some medical scans" Doctor T'Mier said.

The Doctor looks at T'Mier "For my curiosity, what prompts your request?"

"If any of you would require medical attention that you do not have on board your ship, it is logical to have that information in our databanks so we can better serve you" replied T'Mier

The Doctor nods his head in understanding "Yes, I understand now. I think that Mimic and I would have no problems submitting to an exam."

Mimic chuckles "Though I don't think a medical exam would be possible for Skydancer. She's not and organic being."

"If the need arises, I'm sure we can help him out" answered Lieutenant William O'Dell.

Mimic smiles "Actually, I think of Skydancer as a her."

Skydancer says "Technically I do not possess any gender. I do prefer using the female voice however. It has a more pleasing tone and people tend to respond to it better. I do not mind being though of as a female."

The Chief Engineer's face goes almost as red as his uniforms, "I...I...I'm sorry"

"Apologies unnecessary. You are not used to dealing with Vargu Units. The mistake is understandable."

"I would be interested in spending some time with you, learning about each other" O'Dell told Skydancer

"Lieutenant, we don't want to bother our guests to much" said the Captain.

Both Mimic and the Doctor chuckle "It's only natural that your crew shows their curiosity about us, Captain. We are people you have never encountered before. It is rare that I meet people who show such curiosity. Most races I have encountered tend to want to destroy that which is strange and different from themselves." noted the Doctor

The Captain address Skydancer "If you are wiling, then by all means spend as much time with O'Dell and anyone else from the crew, I encourage you and the crew to develop a friendship and a good working relationship with each other"

"Sounds good to us." Mimic said smiling

“ It would be a good idea for us to establish friendships.” Replied Skydancer
The Doctor added, “Especially since I fear we will be needing all the friends we can get for this situation”

"Well exploration is our mission" The first officer Commander Sarah Torrell finally said something "Our mission is to explore the unknown and meet new life forms and create friendships there if possible, and the three of you qualify as newly discovered life forms.”

Mimic smiles “That's a change. Usually the Doctor, Skydancer and I are the ones doing the discovering back home.”

"I see we already have something in common" replied Torrell

Mimic smiles at her. "That's the best way to begin any friendship, finding common ground," added the Doctor.

The room goes silent for a little while then the Captain notices that everyone is finished their dinners "Did you enjoy your dinners" the Captain asks the doctor and Mimic.

Mimic answers “Yes, the food was excellent.”

The Doctor adds “I second that; my compliments to the Chef”

"I'll be sure to pass on your compliments. I'm sure the Chef will be pleased to hear that" replied the captain, then he pauses a few seconds and looks around the room "If you would like, we could begin the tour of the Eagle, or would you rather us show you to your quarters"

The Doctor leans over to Mimic and they whisper to each other for a few minutes. Then the Doctor looks at the Captain "My friend thinks that we should go ahead with the tour of your ship. I agree with her suggestion”

"Alright, if you'll follow me, we will start the tour on Bridge" the Captain suggested.

The Doctor and Mimic follow behind the Captain with Skydancer hovering after them.

They arrive on the Bridge of the Eagle. Mimic mentally compares this bridge with others she has seen. "Very interesting. So what type of computers do you use? These don't look like HUD or CLR systems."

"You forgot HLR" added the Doctor.

Mimic chuckled "Oh, yes. Those too."

“Our ships computer runs on an opti-duotronic system, this system runs all of our critical systems, helm, weapons, science and the others” The Captain answered.

“What does your ship use for its Engines”

“Our warp engines require dylithium crystals, which in turn provide the power to run the computers” answered the Captain.”

“Your computer systems don't use CLR?” asked Mimic.

The Doctor sees some of the confusion in the Captains eyes "My friend has an interest in computer systems among other things. CLR stands for Crystal Light Relay, it's one of the more sophisticated systems used in our Universe. Very difficult to sabotage

After they took a tour in the bridge, they started in other areas on the ship and eventually stopped by Engineering where they greeting Lieutenant O'Dell.

Good evening "This is the Warp engine that powers this vessel, we have a maximum speed of Warp 9.2 which is about 495 000,000,000 miles per second, is there any questions you have, please let me know" O'Dell told them.

"Fascinating. How do you control the matter-antimatter reactions? I can sense the unique signature they produce." Asked the Doctor.

"The matter/antimatter are carefully controlled in this reactor over here" O'Dell said as he pointed over there "come over, ill show you" as they reach were O'Dell was heading, he explained on the matter-antimatter was controlled and how the dilithium crystals helped

"That's remarkable. You have achieved something that has yet to be discovered back home. Though we have found our own unique solutions to travel.

"What kind of Travel do you use" The Chief Engineer was now curious

The Doctor smiled "There are some principles in common with your warp drives, but our travel takes us through the Vortex of Space-Time. That's another dimension basically. The Varstrion have an entirely different solution all together. I would try to explain it to you, but it requires several large blackboards and about three weeks just for the opening principles."

"I wish we had that much time to spare" the Captain stepped in.

The Doctor looks at the Captain puzzled "Oh? Has something come up?"

"Nothing came up, but with the mission, I doubt we will have enough time to cover these types of lessons" replied the Captain

"You are correct. I have learned over the centuries that Time is rarely on my side, though I do my best to be on hers" Replied the Doctor

They finish up the tour in Engineering, and then they take a tour of other locations and finally last stop was sickbay. As soon as they entered sickbay they were greeted by Doctor T'Mier "Welcome to Sickbay" the Vulcan doctor said.

"Thank you," The Doctor then asks "What do you use to gain bioscans?"

"I will run the scans using this bio bed, witch will provide me with accurate information about your anatomy"

The Doctor looks at Mimic "Ladies first?"

Mimic ponders before answering "I prefer 'Age before beauty"

The Doctor chuckles "looks like I'm going first" He lays down on the bio bed.

"I do not understand what age or beauty has to do with who will be going first" the Vulcan said with an eyebrow raised.

Mimic thinks quietly to herself "*This one has no sense of humor, Oh wonderful*" The Doctor smiles "Nothing at all. A little joke between my friend and I"

"I never understood why emotional species believe they need to joke about medical scans, it is Illogical"

"What is the harm in joking about such things? Humor is very beneficial for health."

"Vulcan's do not believe in humor. Daily meditation benefits our health"

"I suppose that works for some races. It doesn't work for all however. Each person must find their own path."

"Understood, shall we proceed" asked Doctor T'Mier

"Yes, I'm ready"

"Please lay down" T'Mier asked.

The Doctor lies down on the bio bed.

The Vulcan doctor spends the next few minutes running the scans and looks over the data on the monitor when noticed some of the differences in the anatomy of the Doctor and decided to mention it "I understand you have two hearts and your body temperature is unusually 15 degree Celsius. Is this body temperature normal for your people?"

"Quite normal for one of my kind"

"Thank you sir, I think believe this information could come be useful" the Vulcan then looks over at Mimic, would you please lay down"

The Doctor gets off the biobed and Mimic lays down in his place

T'Mier spends another few minutes, and notices some other differences between the Doctor and Mimic and addresses Mimic "My scans read that you have a stronger bone and muscle structure as well as a slightly lower body temperature, this is normal for your species, is it not?"

"I'm a little above my species Baseline. Still within normal parameters though."

"Thank you, I will no longer take up any more of your time" she said and then went to the captain "Captain, you may now finish your tour"

The captain approaches the two guests "If you'll follow me, ill show you to your quarters."

Mimic and the Doctor follow the Captain out the door. As they left Sickbay the Captain leads the way to the nearest turbolift and then on route he addresses the Doctor and Mimic "I hope our emotionless Doctor didn't bother you to much".

Mimic added, "She's a doctor? Her bedside manner need a major overhaul"

"I never understood the idea of completely suppressing the emotions, living by pure logic. A race from my Universe, the Cybermen, made that choice, but it made them even more destructive. I think we will manage to adapt to her." The Doctor said.

"The Vulcans are one of the most peaceful people in this galaxy, it took them awhile to get there" the Captain said and paused for a second as they arrived at the turbolift. They all then went inside "Deck 8" he ordered the turbolift, then went back to talking to the guests "It takes awhile to get used to Vulcans, but Doctor T'Mier is one of the best doctors in the fleet".

"Her technical brilliance is evident." notes the Doctor.

"She may have a grand IQ, but to be so emotionless? That's usually the indication of a super predator where I come from. However, if the Doctor doesn't see her as a problem, I'll follow his lead" replied Mimic

"I'm glad to hear that, because any medical problems, you would be working a lot with our doctor, but trust me, you'll get used to eventually" the captain told Mimic.

"She's going to take a lot of getting used to. Whew."

The turbolift finally stops at deck 8 and they arrive at the guest quarters assigned to Mimic, the Doctor and Skydancer, "Here is the guest quarters. I hope you will be happy with your quarters and enjoy your stay," the captain says. He opens the door to the first quarters and walks in with the visitors and shows them around and shows them how to use certain equipment such as the communications.

Mimic and the Doctor easily memorize the instructions. "Thank you Captain. The tour was most illuminating. I think my friends and I will take some time to rest now. Our thanks for your hospitality" the Doctor said.

"Alright, if you need anything, anything at all, please let us know, you can contact me or another member of my crew through the comn system."

"Thank You"

"Goodnight then, I'll see you in the morning, we will meet in the briefing room to discuss how to deal with the Black Atar, 1100 hours, sound ok to you" the Captain asks

"That will be fine with us, Captain. We'll see you then"

=\=Chapter Two=\=

After the Captain leaves his visitors quarters he heads to the turbolift and orders it to take him to the bridge. Once on the bridge the Captain goes and sits down in the Captains chair for a moment, and then decided to call the Doctor "*Bridge to Sickbay*"

"This is Sickbay. What do you require Captain?" T'Mier Asked

"Would you join me in my ready room as soon as possible?" asked the Captain as he gets up and heads towards the ready room himself.

"Acknowledged. I will be there shortly. T'Mier out" she then leaves Sickbay and heads straight over to the Captain's ready room. She arrives shortly after he does. "I assume there is something you want to discuss with me sir."

"You assume correct Doctor" the Captain says then heads over to his tea pot "Would you like some Vulcan Tea?"

"That would be acceptable."

The Captain pours himself and T'Mier a cup of tea, and hands her one cup and puts the fixings down on the desk "I called you here to discuss our visitors."

T'Mier looks at the Captain "What exactly do you want to discuss about them?"

"I want you to go over everything in a verbal report from your medical scans on the Doctor and Mimic" ordered the Captain.

"Captain, Federation Medical practice prohibits me to speak about this, Doctor patient confidentiality"

"Alright doctor, I won't argue with you, but tell me this at least, is there anything in their scans that support their theory about being from another universe?"

"The Doctor's physiology does not match any know species type. Mimic also shows some unique traits. There is one thing that might support their story. Their skeletons show traces of unknown minerals. The computer could not identify them. They do not appear to exist anywhere in our known Universe."

"Now, I need to know, can we use this information against them, if they pose a threat"

T'Mier puts down her cup then looks up at Carter "I do not understand humans' irrational fears of the unknown. I cannot help you to create something that will hurt them. Not only is that against my oath as a doctor, it is also an illogical way to react to people whom are supposed to be guests."

"Don't worry Doctor, I have no intentions of using it. I want to know if the info can be used to immobilize them, if it ever became necessary. My job as the Captain of this vessel, is to make sure of its security and sometimes it means doing things that I wish I didn't have to do. Now Doctor, can you do that if that time comes?"

T'Mier waits a few seconds before responding "I could find a way to immobilize them safely without harming them if the circumstances warrant that. However, I believe your concerns are exaggerated. Vulcans do not worry. That would be illogical."

"That's all I wanted to know Doctor, you are dismissed" the Captain said

T'Mier stands up. She then walks out of the ready room and heads back to Sickbay.

After discussing their impressions of the ship and crew, Mimic and Skydancer went to their quarters. Mimic decided to get some sleep. She wanted a clear mind for tomorrow. She woke up a few hours later and did some stretching exercises. She was in the middle on her last routine when she heard the signal that indicated somebody wanted to come in. She stood up and faced the door before saying "Come in." The door opened and the Doctor walked in

"So did you actually get some sleep this time? I know your lot is kind of funny when it comes to that." Mimic said smiling.

The Doctor chuckled at his friend "For once I did sleep for a couple of hours. Ready to face the music?"

"Not really, "replied Mimic "But I'm not about to let you go and deal with them by yourself."

"That's the spirit. Shall we go find us some breakfast? We do have some time before we have to be in the briefing room."

"Good idea. I don't think they'll be serving doughnuts at that get together."

They both head off to the Mess Hall to get something to eat. Skydancer follows closely behind them.

When the guests arrive in the mess hall Ensign Sabrina Allen grabs herself some breakfast and heads over to the table that she sees the guests go to after they get some breakfast themselves "Hi, can I join you?"

The Doctor looked up at the Ensign "We would be delighted to have you join us, Ensign Allen." He motions for her to sit in an empty chair at their table.

"Thank you, I just thought, we should try to get to know each other, we have some time before we have to report to the briefing room for the meeting"

Mimic responds "Makes sense. So what does your position on this ship entail?"

"My main job is the ships councilor. I offer a shoulder to cry on and anyone in the crew can come and talk to me about anything they want. I can also go on away teams and help out with the missions. This is my first actual mission right now, and I'm glad you're the first people I've met out here. I used to be afraid, that the first species I meet would be hostile and trying to kill us." replies the Ensign

"Thankfully most alien encounters are of the peaceful variety. It's usually fear that makes them unpleasant, Ensign Allen." The Doctor said trying to reassure Ensign Allen, "I'm glad that we were able to make your first experience a pleasant one."

The Ensign chuckles "that sounds like something Doctor T'Mier would say, but she'd say it with no emotions" She then thinks about it some more "I know most are peacefully from reading the records at the academy. I just had the fear of my first being one of the few hostile ones"

The Ensign thinks about this a bit and decides she wants to change the subject, she has been curious about the new visitors and decided to ask them some questions about their universe. "Are there Humans and Vulcans in your universe?"

"There are humans in our universe. No Vulcans though. We don't have starships like this one. I also suspect that the history of Earth here is different from the history of the Earth back home. I don't see any indication that either Time Lords or Varstrion counterparts exist here." replies the Doctor.

"About a hundred years ago, we had a dealings with a species similar to that, but not as advanced, known as the Suliban, and we had a major conflict with a species called the Xindi due to time travel.

"Interesting. It seems that there are races that are unique to both our Universes." Mimic says.

"I just wanted to let you know, you are on board one of Starfleet's best ships and one of its strongest ships, we will find this Black Star and we will be able to help you with it"

"I'm glad to hear that. The Varstrion were extremely upset when he escaped. If they are that concerned-then I know that this fellow is a true threat" replied the Doctor.

"Starfleet must agree with your assessment as they want us to help you, because they must believe he is a threat to the federation, and we will do whatever it takes to help you apprehend them"

"Rogue time travelers are some of the most dangerous of criminals. Especially those that are good at sensing critical junctions. Those are events that are important, the type that can alter the destiny of entire species. Black Star is one such person. However, I will admit I don't quite understand why he picked this Universe."

Mimic added "well, you said it yourself, there aren't any Time Lords or Varstrion here. They would be the biggest threats to him, in his thinking. He probably feels there isn't anyone here who can stop him."

Commander Torrell walks in and goes and grabs a quick breakfast for herself as there is not much more time before the meeting in the briefing room. As she turns around to head towards a table she notices the visitors and Ensign Allen, she decides to ask if she can join them and walks up to the table "Mind if I join you?"

"Not at all Commander. Be our guest" the Doctor answered.

"So, what are we talking about over here"

"The Ensign was just telling us about two species called the Xindi and Suliban"

The Commander sits down and thinks about this and decided to show her a Pad that the captain wanted she to ask the visitors about before the meeting, she hands them the pad "Does this data represent the Black Star?"

"Hmm, this looks like the stats for a Farstriker class ship. Doctor, did the Varstrion mention if Star stole a ship of that class?" replies Mimic.

The Doctor though a few moments before answering "Yes, another reason they were concerned. Those ships have a great deal of firepower. Only their Ultima class ships are a more powerful."

"Yep, it's probably our psycho then."

"Starfleet has detected this ship, I do not know the precise location, but it is within the Romulan side of the boarder, we should find out at the briefing" the Commander replied.

"Do you have schematics of this ship, I know the Captain is going to want that info so we know how much of a treat its weapons pose to us?" the Ensign added.

The Doctor thinks this over " I don't, but Mimic might have something. However, that is top secret stuff, I'm not sure the Varstrion would approve of our showing that to you."

"I understand that, but we will eventually find out that information when we find this vessel, if you can, it would be helpfully to have this information ahead of time" answered the Commander.

"Well, they did officially sanction us as members, Doctor. So we do have the right to release that info if we see the situation warrants it. Maybe we can show them only what they really need to know, how much damage can the ships weapons do and how to hurt the ship. They don't need to know everything" replied Mimic.

"That and the ships speed, I'm sure that's probably all the info the Captain will need" replied the Ensign

The Commander just finished up her breakfast and checked the time and noticed they only have 5 minutes to be in the briefing room, "We better get heading to the briefing room" she said standing up.

The Doctor stands up "Very well. Mimic, go ahead and send Skydancer to retrieve whatever files you're going to need about the Farstriker class ship. I'll trust your judgment on what info you think they can be allowed to see. Tell Dancer to meet us in the ready room."

Mimic nods "You heard the fellow, Dancer. Go ahead and get my Sketchpad and the Vartech disks."

"Compliance Mistress." Skydancer responds. She teleports out of the room and reappears in the Shuttle bay. She then teleports into the TARDIS and gets the items Mimic requested and then heads to the Briefing room, where Mimic and the Doctor await her presence.

"Good Morning, I hope you slept well last night" The Captain said to the Guests, as the Guests, Ensign Allen and the first officer arrives.

The Doctor answers "I can only speak for Mimic and myself. We slept very well, thank you."

Skydancer enters the room through the open door instead of teleporting in. She sits on the back of Mimic's chair. Mimic sees the case she is holding in her talons and takes it from her "thank you Dancer." She takes out a device reminiscent of a Palm Pilot save it is larger in size and has some additional keys on it. She then takes a disk out and slides it into the device. She lays it on the table and hits one of the keys. The device is ready to go.

"Is that the Information on Black Star?" Commander Torrell asked.

"It's info on the ship that BlackStar is using. Commander Torrell showed me the data files on a mysterious craft Starfleet detected. I was able to ID it." Mimic then continues "I also have the bio file of BlackStar if you want to see that as well. I should warn you, all these files are in Lybertin. I have a feeling you can't read that language."

"Would you mind translating for us, we need to know what type of weapons she has, how fast she is and we need to know how big it is and its crew compliment" the Captain says

Mimic replies "I can translate the files." She taps on the files displayed on the touch screen and brings up the required files only. Then she hits another function key and the file set is now displayed as a 3-D projection directly over the device.

Mimic then puts her fingers on one of the displayed files as if she's tapping it. It opens up to a new display, "Weaponry includes full plasma arrays, Shockover devices, complete racks of Deathdealer and Hurricane warheads...ugh, I didn't realize this ship has two full contingents of Wreakers. They're nasty robotic units, not super bright, but hard to destroy and very capable of tearing apart most mech, which is piloted robots and the like, armor vehicles, even starships if enough of them are working together."

"Mr. Maxwell, with this information, how much of a threat does that ship pose against the Eagle" asked the Captain

"These Wreakers could pose a threat if we lose our shields, but by these readings, I'd say, we are an even match. I'll test it out and see if I can find a weakness in a simulation."

"Thank you Commander" said the Captain. The captain turns to face his visitors "Once we find them, do you intend to capture them, or destroy them?"

"The Varstrion have made it clear to us that we should make every effort to capture them unharmed. We were told to destroy them only as a last resort. That was to be left to our discretion." answered the Doctor.

"Agreed, we will take every opportunity to capture that vessel. If she fires on my vessel, we will return fire and destroy her if necessary, are we agreed on this?" asked the captain.

"I should also mention that Black Star has the capability of teleporting"

"The ship itself can teleport or the crew" the Captain asked.

"The ship itself is capable of teleportation"

"Then I suggest that be the first thing we take out, if forced into a fight," says John Maxwell.

The Doctor sighs," Let's hope it doesn't come to that"

"Lets hope we don't, but we have to be prepared for anything" the Captain then addresses his tactical officer "Get started on away to get past their defenses" then addresses the visitors again "Is there anything you'd like to add?"

"Do not underestimate this man, Captain. He is not your standard evil- doer; a Varstrion Renegade is one of the most dangerous opponents a person can face." warns the Doctor.

"Agreed, we will take every precaution possible. Anything else you would like to add and is there anything you need?"

"Not at this moment. If I think of anything, I'll let you know Captain" replies the Doctor.

"Good" the Captain then turns to his first officer "I've already fed the exact coordinates of BlackStar's location inside the Romulan side of the neutral zone, Set course at maximum warp" he then addresses the rest of the senior staff "You'll all dismissed" then the senior staff leaves the room as the Captain stands and watches them.

"Why isn't he hiding? Is he arrogant or is he up to something?" queries Mimic to the Doctor.

The Doctor frowns "Knowing him, I'd presume the latter suggestion"

The Captain over hears this "Why didn't you say something during the meeting? Is his ship equipped with a cloaking device, similar to yours, and what do you think he could be up to"

Mimic grimaces " Farstrikers have two different ways of cloaking. Since they involve elements of Time Travel, it makes them hard to detect unless you really know what to look for"

" I think I know why he's letting himself be seen" says the Doctor, "It's his version of throwing down the gauntlet. He's challenging us. Especially to see if we'll dare to cross into the Neutral Zone."

"Why would he do that?" the Captain thinks about this then comes up with the most likely answer "Unless he and the Romulans know you're on the Eagle"

" Not necessarily" Mimic responds, "He's a warrior. One of the first things he would do is to learn about the opponents he is facing, to get a sense of their abilities and change his tactics accordingly. He doesn't know everything about Starfleet, so he needs to test and find out what he's up against."

The Doctor adds "The Varstrion believe that the most important weapon a warrior has is intelligence. They firmly believe knowledge is power."

"Well, we have an advantage, he should not have much knowledge about this ship, and if all goes according as planned, we should catch him off guard"

The captain then hears the voice of his Tactical officer calling for him over the ships intercom "Maxwell to Captain Carter"

The Captain heads over to the nearest comn panel and presses the button "Go ahead Commander"

"Can I talk to you Captain? I have some concerns about the mission, which I need to talk to you about"

"Alright, I'll be right there, Carter Out" the captain then pushed the button on the communications wall panel, and ended the comn line then addressed the guests "Will you excuse me, duty calls."

"Of course" answered The Doctor "You have your responsibilities, just as we have ours."

"I'll call you when we catch up with Black Star" with that said the captain turns around and heads out of the briefing room and directly to the bridge.

Mimic adds" I hate to say it, but I think the Captain is in for a rude awakening. I don't think he has a good grasp of what kind of person he's dealing with."

"It's not from arrogance, Mimic. He's a professional with well trained people under his command. They aren't used to dealing with time travelers however. That's what worries me. Black Star is no fool. He won't be brought to heel so easily. We need to come up with some contingency plans, I fear we will be in great need of them" says the Doctor.

The Captain arrives on the bridge and goes over to his tactical officer "What is it Mr. Maxwell?"

"Captain, I'm concerned about one thing, When we discovered our guests, their ship was cloaked, If this Black Star is from a race similar to our guests, why is he not cloaked, and why is he dealing with the Romulans?"

"Well, I'm guessing they are dealing with the Romulans, because they may share the same goals. The Romulans would like nothing better then to see the destruction of the

Federation" He pauses then tells Maxwell what the visitors told him then moves on to something else "How is it going with finding a weakness in their shields"

"I'm sorry sir, there is no detectable weakness in their shields. We will just have to hope we have the elements of surprise on our side"

"Alright Commander, good work" the Captain then goes over to his command chair and sits down. 4 hours have passed; they have already crossed the Neutral Zone, and reached the location of the Black Star. He taps the comn panel on his Chair "*Captain to Mimic, I need the three of you on the bridge*"

Mimic says to the Doctor "Looks like its show time."

The Doctor nods "Then I suggest we don't keep the good Captain waiting. Don't be so surprised he mentioned your name, you're the one whom understands the Varstrion weaponry. I'm better with their time technology."

"Kind of funny to hear my name thought. Let's go then."

The three of them exit the mess hall and head to the nearest turbo lift. They arrive on the bridge a few minutes later. "Are we close to the Neutral Zone?" asked Mimic.

"We're actually passed the Neutral Zone, we are on the Romulan side of it. Technically we are in violation of the Romulan / Federation treaty, but Starfleet believes this mission is worth the risk of war"

Mimic takes a deep breath to calm herself. The stakes just went up. "How close are we to his ship?"

"We are within 60 thousand kilometers" Commander Torrell said.

The Captain turns to his visitors and tells them to stand by, then turns to Lieutenant Commander Riley Berry "Open hailing Frequency's"

"Hailing Frequencies open sir" replied Berry

"Black Star, this is Captain Austin Carter of the Federation Starship Eagle"

A reply comes in, but it is audio only. The masculine voice is calm, with an underlying hint of danger. "Ah Captain Carter. A little far from home aren't you? I don't think my friends will be happy to hear that they have an uninvited guest in their realm."

"We communicate visually" replied Captain Carter.

"I'd prefer not to"

"Alright, if you want to play it this way, what is your business here?" asked the Captain

"Captain Carter, I have permission from the Romulans to be here; you don't. So I don't see how you have any right to question my presence here." The voice paused " You could ask the Romulans, though I can't guarantee an answer from them. I'd wager they would want to know why you're violating your treaty with them."

The captain signals Riley to mute the comn system. Then he turns to his crew and the visitors "No one is this calm under pressure, he's hiding something"

"Captain, as far as he's concerned, you're not in a strong position." Mimic adds, "he figures that you can't afford to do anything because that would alert the Romulans to your presence here."

"Mr. Berry, reopen the channel" the Captain then waits a few seconds then starts talking "Starfleet has given me order to take you under custody, so I'm giving you one chance to surrender now"

An amused chuckle comes over the comn line "That's the funniest thing I've heard in awhile. Thank you for the joke, I needed the laugh. Now it's my turn Captain.

You had better return to your side of the Neutral Zone and forget about this foolishness. I have no real interest in harming you or your ship, but I will tolerate no interference from a lesser race”

"Just to show you, our intentions" the Captain turns to his Tactical officer "Give them a warning shot" then a bright reddish orange phaser beam streaks just past the Black Star.

“Captain, can your scanners detect cloaked ships?” the Doctor asked.

The Captain quickly has Riley Berry end the transmission and then he turns to the Doctor "Please, next time you want to say something, warn me ahead of time. As to your question, we cannot detect them directly, but we should be able to detect the croniton partials they release"

“My apologies, but then I suggest you start looking for those particles. We may be in grave danger.”

"Mr. Maxwell, start scanning" the Captain then turns to the Doctor, "What kind of danger do you think we are in?"

“I have the distinct impression we are not alone with Black Star. If there aren't any Romulan vessels in our sphere, they are probably close at hand and can get here in a hurry. Notice he hasn't responded to your warning shot? That means he views you as nothing more than a minor annoyance. Not a good sign.”

Mimic jumps in “forgive the silly question, but what's the ratio of kilometers to sen?”

“2:1. Divide the kilometers in half to get the sen conversion” the Doctor answered.

Mimic thinks for a few moments “We need to get out of here. We've been had”

The First officer sitting at helm turns around "What do you mean we've been had?"

“The scanner range on a Farstriker is a little better than 30 thousand sen, about 60 thousand kilometers, the distance we are from them currently. We've been here long enough for them to scan this ship top/bottom/ and sideways. We are in range for a Wrecker strike, especially if he sends a rally unit with them.”

Before anyone could respond, the Romulans arrive, "SIR, 3 ROMULAN WARBIRDS DELOCAKING STARBOARD" hollered Lieutenant Commander Maxwell

“WHAT???”

“Yeah I had a feeling some of his new friends were in the neighborhood,” says Mimic.

"Hail the lead ship" ordered The Captain

"Their not answering" replied Lieutenant Commander Berry

"Their Charging Weapons" Maxwell added in.

The Captain turns to Mimic "Mimic, if you have any suggestions, now would be a good time"

“How long can this ship withstand an attack” the Doctor asked

"In Theory, against 3 warbirds, if we're lucky, 30 minutes" the captain answered.

“I will require Mr. O'Dell's assistance”

"What is it you need Mr. O'Dell to do" the Captain asks as the ship rocked from its first phaser hit, as the Romulans begin to attack the Eagle. Before the Doctor can

respond the Captain jumps into giving orders. "Mr. Maxwell Arm photon torpedoes and ready phasers" the Captain waits a few seconds "Fire" Ordered the Captain.

"I'm going to need help to interlink the TARDIS and this ship. Then I can use the TARDIS to teleport us out of here to our side of the Neutral Zone. It will be the fastest way for us to escape. It will also allow us some temporal grace during the opening so the weapon fire will be ineffective against us."

Another few phaser and torpedo blasts hit the ship and the ship shakes violently. Sparks begin to fly on the bridge and a few panels explode, one sending Lieutenant Commander Riley Berry unconscious to the floor. "Sir, Shields are down 10%, our right forward torpedo launcher is offline, casualties coming in from all over the ship"

The Captain faces the visitors, then addresses their Doctor and points to Riley "Can you help him"

"I'll take a look at him", He moves over to Riley. Skydancer follows and lands near the unconscious comn officer. She begins to scan him then lets the Doctor know about his condition. The Doctor tells her to take him to Sickbay, which she does immediately. "He's going to be fine once he gets the proper attention. Now are you going to let O'Dell help me with the interface or do I have to do it alone?"

The Captain looks at the Doctor for a few seconds. He didn't like that type of question; it could be due to him being under a lot of stress from the battle. "Bridge to Engineering, Lieutenant O'Dell report to the Shuttlebay, you will be assisting The Doctor on his ship" The captain cuts off communications before O'Dell could respond, and then addresses the visiting Doctor "He's on his way to the shuttlebay"

Skydancer reappears on the bridge "Lieutenant Commander. Riley is in Doctor T'Mier's care."

"Good." responds the Doctor "Please transport me to the Shuttle bay."

"Compliance", she hovers near the Doctor then both of them vanish from the Bridge and reappear in the Shuttle bay right next to the TARDIS.

As they were talking, three ships continue to battle, one Romulan warbird was disabled, then more of the bridge stations started to explode as well as an explosion in front of the captains chair, knocking the chair down with the captain in it. The Captain gets up holding a huge gash on his forehead "Damage report"

John Maxwell reports "FORWARD PHASER BANKS OFFLINE, SHIELDS DOWN TO 50 %, WARP DRIVE AND IMPULSE IS OFFLINE" the Commander hollers and pauses for a moment pressing buttons, then addresses to no one in particular "We are sitting ducks"

=^=Chapter Three=^=

In the Shuttle Bay, O'Dell spots the Doctor coming out of the TARDIS with a small blue pyramidal Crystal with a long red cable attached to it, the other end disappearing into the TARDIS

"What is that blue crystal?" O'Dell asks.

The comm systems activates and they hear the Captain say something over the intercom "If your going to do something down there, we need it done soon" and then the comm was closed.

"Is there a way I can patch into the ship's systems from here?" the Doctor asks.

O'Dell scans the TARDIS and discovers that it can be linked to the ships computers, signals the Doctor that the link can be created, and gives him the info on what info he needs to input in their computers.

The Doctor places the Crystal on a computer panel. It attaches itself directly to it. Then the Doctor relays the instructions to the device; it starts to glow. He then races into his TARDIS and activates some switches. The column of the Time Rotor starts to move up and down. The remaining Romulan warbirds see that the Eagle completely disappears from their scanners. They loose all trace of her.

The Eagle reappears on the Federation side of the Neutral Zone. "O'Dell, ask the Bridge to check the ships location, please." asks the Doctor politely.

"O'Dell to Bridge, What is our location?"

The Captain checks with Commander Torrell and then taps the button on his chair "We are back in Federation Space"

The Doctor breathes a sigh of relief "That trick did come in handy. I'm glad Blaze mentioned that to me before we left." He pats the crystal "Thank you friend. You did well." The crystal glows and gives off a chiming sound.

"Thank you Captain, O'Dell out" O'Dell then extends his hand to the Gallifreyian Doctor.

The Doctor shakes O'Dell's hand "Thank you for your assistance. Now I'll just unhook my friend here", he points at the crystal, "Then I'd be happy to help you repair your ship, if you don't mind."

Before they could head to Engineering, they heard a general communication from the Captain ordering all senior staff including the 3 visitors to report to the briefing room.

A few minutes later after everyone arrives in Briefing Room, the captain starts off "Doctor T'Mier, what is the casualty rate?"

"16 Dead, 25 wounded 5 critically" T'Mier said as the Captain bows his head down, not believing how bad the first encounter with the Black Star went.

"Ok people, our first encounter with the Black Star didn't go to well. I don't plan on letting the second one go the same way. I need suggestions on how we can prevent it from happening again" said the Captain

The Doctor pondered for a minute before posing a question "I wonder if Star witnessed our Great Escape?"

"If he didn't he's blind. Why do you ask?" Mimic asked.

"Curiosity, my dear Mimic. He's going to wonder how they managed to pull that off."

“ He's going to figure out that they had help. So what does that.....Oh now that's clever, but how in chaos are we going to do that?”

"Mimic, is there any way we can get past his defenses, and maybe lure him into Federation space? The Romulans should not follow him here," asked Captain Carter

“Well, considering how we escaped, there's no doubt that we got his attention. He knows that only Varstrion personnel could pull that off. He'll want to know what's going on, so he'll come looking for us.”

"Hopefully we will have our systems repaired by then" the Captain turns to the Gallifreyian Doctor "Did your ship take any damage during the attack"

“None thankfully” replied the Doctor “TARDISes are nearly impossible to destroy, however. It takes some rather extraordinary circumstances to do that.”

"I'm glad to hear that" the captain then turns to Mimic “We need a way to use the element of surprise when he crosses over to Federation space”

Mimic nods "I'm sure the Doctor can come up with a scheme to cover that situation."

"What kind of weapons does your ship carry?" asked Maxwell

“The TARDIS does not carry weapons.”

"I put in a request with Starfleet to send a fleet of ships to assist us, in case we go back, or if the Black Star and the Romulans cross the border" the Captain said.

The Doctor shakes his head "It never ceases to amaze me how humans tend to solve problems by trying to blow things up."

"Blowing things up is the last resort" replied the Captain "We may not be looking for a fight, but we will not back down from a fight either."

“Extra ships will be handy if the Romulans decide they want to come over and play” Mimic said, “For the Farstriker, I’ve seen them in action. They are some of the most powerful ships in our Universe. A fight with one of those...the casualty rate will be horrid for your side. There's got to be an alternative to a firefight.”

“My friend makes a good point. Black Star is a brilliant strategist as well. A formidable combination to deal with” the Doctor added.

The Doctor looks at Mimic "Have you given any thought to how Star stole that Farstriker?"

Mimic thinks for a few seconds "You know, I have wondered about that. How could he gain control from the OBC?"

"Captain, we can be sure that the Romulans will cross the border, we still need another three hours to repair the warp engines, it will take an hour to repair the torpedo tubes and thirty minutes to repair the shields, if they don't cross over during that time, we will be ready for a fight sir" Lieutenant O'Dell told the Captain.

"Good work Lieutenant, I want to be ready for anything" the Captain then addresses everyone else "The battle fleet should arrive in 1 hour, they are sending 5 starships" the captain then turns to Mimic "Don't worry, a firefight is the last resort, but if you have any suggestions as to where we can hit the Black Star, it would be very useful information if we are forced into a fight." By this point, the captain had the bridge contact Starfleet and re-laid the message back to the Captain as to Starfleet's response.

“Actually, I think we may be able to save you from a firefight with the Farstriker all together” the Doctor said.

Mimic asks “Was the OBC offline for some reason on that ship?”

The Doctor smiles at Mimic "Now you're thinking in the right direction. They were doing extensive repairs to many of the systems, especially core memory and weaponry on the Ivara's Pride, which is the ship Star stole."

"Wait, that means that the EGO is still in hibernation mode. He's using the auxiliary systems. Oh, now that's classic." The Ivara's Pride computer system Energy Generated Organism (EGO).

"Captain, I may have found his weakness. We may be able to gain an ally on the Ivara's Pride, one Black Star won't even expect."

"How can we get an ally on the Ivara's Pride?" asked Commander Torrell

Mimic responds "We need to wake up the EGO on the Ivara's Pride. She can help us to get control of the ship away from Black Star"

"How close do we have to get to do this?" asked the Captain

"That's the fun part, we will have to get onboard the ship and go to its core memory to do that. Once we have the Onboard Computer uplinked into the systems again, she can take over from there. That's what EGO's are designed for."

"That's going to be difficult" replied the Captain

"How are we going to get close enough without being attacked by the Romulans? We will have to lower our shields in order to beam anyone over to his ship" Maxwell said

"That's where the TARDIS comes in. We can use the TARDIS to transport a team over to the Ivara's Pride. I won't be able to put her in the core memory, but I can get fairly close to it" the Doctor says.

"Does the Ivara's Pride use similar systems as your ship" asked Lieutenant O'Dell

"Not exactly, but I understand the principles of the Varstrion warships well enough to figure out where to pilot my TARDIS so we end up where we need to be."

"Alright I'm going to need you to train a team of 6 of my engineers, including Lieutenant O'Dell" replied Austin Carter

The Doctor smiles "Very well. Mimic and I would be happy to assist Lieutenant O'Dell with that."

"Now, with this ally, will this helps us in a fight, if he chooses to fight us?" asked John Maxwell

"Yes" Mimic replies "The EGO will listen to us and not Black Star, especially once I let her know what's happened to her. She'll kick his tail, metaphorically speaking."

"Great, now all we have to deal with is the Romulans" replied Lieutenant Commander Maxwell.

The Doctor adds "Having the Farstriker on your side will help. You see, the EGO is the heart and brains of the ship. She can control the whole ship by herself, if necessary. So that means she can operate weapon systems...."

"I'm also going to send 4 security guards with you over there, are you ok with that?" Austin asked

Mimic nods, "Considering the fact that we don't know who or what is helping Black Star, I think that is a prudent suggestion. We'll take you up on that offer."

"Good" The captain thinks about this for a bit, and decides he likes this idea. If they can take over the Ivara's Pride, then there should not be any problem between that ship and the other 5 ships and the Eagle. They should be able to deal with the Romulans. He address the crew and their guests "Well is there anything else anyone would like to add to this meeting?"

Neither the Doctor nor Mimic can think of anything else to say at the meeting.

None of the other Starfleet officers say can think of anything either, after a few seconds the Captain stood up and addressed them "You all know what needs to be done, Dismissed"

Mimic speaks to the Doctor "You know, I wonder why he stole those samples of Talkon Virus? That seems an odd thing to do."

"I know, that worries me. It doesn't seem to fit into the puzzle, at least not yet. I think we need to keep our wits about ourselves. Things could still get more interesting than they have been already," the Doctor says.

The captain hears this and walks over to the visitors "Why haven't you mentioned this Virus before? We need to know this type of information"

"We still aren't sure how that fits into all of this, Captain. It's not easy to tell what information is going to be important. We are dealing with an extremely clever and devious mind." replies the Doctor.

"Is there any other information that you have not given us, and I don't care if it's important information or not" the Captain shot back

Mimic is starting to lose her cool at the Captain's remarks "Listen, I realize that you have a lot of responsibility being the head honcho and all, but we're your allies, not your crew members. You can order them around, but not us!"

"And we can't properly assist you, if you do not give us all the information, does not matter how irrelevant it may seem, What exactly is this Talkon Virus" Austin Carter asked, getting close to losing his temper, but keeping it under control

The Doctor leans over and whispers something to Mimic. She gives him a concerned look, but he smiles back at her "I'm nearly 1,000 years old, my friend. I can watch out for myself. Take Skydancer with you. She can help you get the info sorted faster." Mimic nods and she and Skydancer leave the room to take care of the project the Doctor suggested to Mimic.

The Doctor now looks at Carter "The Talkon Virus was created by a race called the Nyjalki as a bio weapon. Unfortunately it worked too well. It will either kill its victims...or something even worse. It has mutagenic properties; in other words it can turn people and animals into nearly invincible monsters. The monsters are called Talkons. They can be manipulated either with ultrasonic frequencies or telepathic suggestions. They are nightmares that will kill any unaltered living thing that gets in their path"

"Oh my god, why would anyone create such a weapon?" The Captain then thinks about this and notices what it could mean "Did you know that BlackStar is in perfect position to strike several Federation colonies in this area, especially with the help of the Romulans?" asked the Captain.

The Doctor looks concerned "What kind of people live on those colonies, race wise?"

"Humans, Vulcans, and a few other races you have not met. We have no idea if it will harm them or not, but we must assume he will" replied Austin

"I can guarantee that humans will be affected. So will any races that are mammalian or avian in nature. Those are the ones that can be converted by the virus's matrix. The virus could prove fatal to other types of life. Only a handful of races are immune to the disease that I am aware of." notes the Doctor.

"Is there a cure for this?" asked Austin Carter.

The Doctor thinks for a bit "Yes, but I have to tailor it to the specific virus. I have to identify what form of Talkon it is. There are 3 variations and the place the viruses were stolen from didn't say which type. I will ask Mimic to add the Talkon biology files to the packets she's creating."

"I will order Doctor T'Mier to assist you, she knows more about human biology in this universe and she knows the others as well"

"An excellent idea. I will need her help with some of the other races, especially to see what their infection vulnerabilities are." replied the Doctor.

"Bridge to Captain Carter" Commander Torrell said over the comn system.

The captain goes to a nearby comn panel on a wall, "Carter here, what can I do for you Commander" asked the Captain

"Sir we are receiving a distress signal from a federation colony on Neleka. They say they are being attacked by an unknown object which appears to be dumping something into their atmosphere"

"Stand by Commander" the Captain says as he pushes the button on the wall to close the channel temporary and faces the visiting Doctor "Could this be the Black Star?"

The Doctor nods "The best way to deliver the virus would be with nanotechnology, I'm willing to wager those things being dumped into their atmosphere are carrier droids. At a certain point they'll release the nanotechs. Things will get very unpleasant from there."

"Great, and our fleet is still 30 minutes away. We will have to go after Black Star if we are ready or not" said the Captain realizing the situation is a lot worse now. He reopens the channel *"Commander set course for Neleka at best speed possible, Captain out"* the Captain then address the visiting Doctor "I need my engineering team given a crash course now, and I might be needing your services as a doctor to help Doctor T'Mier. We could be getting casualties"

The Doctor nodded "I'll let Mimic know that things have 'gone to chaos' as she likes to say. I think she can handle the crash course as long as O'Dell can make it clear what his team needs to know. I will have to help Doctor T'Mier. I can guarantee casualties from Black Star's actions. I've seen what this virus can do up close and personal. I'll go to Mimic first, then I'll go to Sickbay after that."

"Thank you Doctor, well I won't bother you any longer"

The Doctor nods again and heads quickly out the door. He walks towards the shuttle bay, but to his surprise sees Mimic coming towards him "Done with the packet so soon?"

Mimic nods "Dancer's input really sped up the process. You don't look happy, what happened?"

"While I was talking to the Captain, he received a comn from the bridge. A mysterious ship is attacking a colony. We're heading there now." replied the Doctor.

"You think its Black Star? I can't see him using the ships weaponry....Did he release the virus?"

"From what I overheard, it is a distinct possibility."

Mimic slumps back against the wall of the corridor "Oh no...All those people. How could he do that?"

"I can't answer that. But I'm afraid that you will have to add the bio info on the"

Mimic interrupts "One step ahead. I added everything to the packet, including the Varstrion files on the complete Talkon series of viruses."

She hands the packet pad to him "I made a copy for myself. Any more that these two needed, it will take time."

"I understand. Now, I need you to listen very carefully. I will have to help Dr. TMier with the casualties from this virus. I will have to rely on you to train O'Dell's crew and more importantly, to pilot the TARDIS for the mission. Dr. T'Mier has never dealt with anything like this before. I know that this is a great responsibility to put on your shoulders, but I have taught you how to handle the TARDIS. Besides, she rather likes you. I have faith in you, my friend; I know that I can depend on you to get this done right." He takes her hand and squeezes it gently to reassure her. He takes one of the packets from Mimic then heads to sickbay. "May the One be with us," Mimic prays quietly.

The Doctor arrives in Sickbay a few minutes later "I assume you've been informed about the attack on the Federation colony on Neleka? The Captain asked me to help you with any of the casualties," the Doctor told the Vulcan.

"The captain just informed me a moment ago, we should arrive there shortly" T'Mier said as she gets medical equipment ready "The Captain believes it may be the Black Star"

"I agree with the Captain. This is something he seems capable of. The Varstrion mentioned that he had a tendency to bend the rules to the breaking point. He's a firm believer in the idea that "the ends justify the means". So how can I help you?"

"Releasing a virus in a planets atmosphere is not logical"

"It's certainly immoral but it does have certain logic to it. He knows that somebody helped this ship escape the Romulans. He also knows this is a Federation ship. He wants to know if the people who helped the Eagle escape are on board still, so he has to find a way to bring the ship to him. What better way to do that then attack a Federation colony? It is logical to assume that a Federation colony would ask for help and that Federation ships would answer the call. It is a bit risky, but to his mind it is worth the gamble."

"Your logic behind this is that he is setting up a trap for the Eagle" asked Doctor T'Mier.

The Doctor thought for a few moments "Not exactly, he's trying to figure out who the people are on this ship that helped it elude the Romulans. My trick got his attention. He wants to know whom he's dealing with, I'm not sure that he sees the Eagle as an important problem anymore. I'd still be careful though. He's using this as a way to sound us out."

"Then the logical course of action is to wait for the fleet before we go to Neleka"

"Unfortunately, the colony could be wiped out by then. I don't know which of the variants of the Talkon Virus he used. Types one and two have a 24 hr cycle, but type three take only 6 hours to complete its cycle.

"Until we arrive at the colony, I have been instructed by the captain to give you a basic course on how to use Starfleet medical technology" Dr T'Mier said.

"A very excellent idea. I also have data on the Talkon Virus that the Varstrion have collected over the years." He sets the data packet down and activates the hologram display. The Doctor then selects the file containing the virus info and opens it "This is everything they have on the Talkon Viruses. Very nasty things."

"I never understood why emotionally controlled races need to build weapons of mass destruction" replied the Vulcan Doctor.

The Doctor chuckles "Emotional races aren't the only ones who do that. The Cybermen back in my Universe are creatures of pure logic, but they are a destructive force. Logic must be tempered with morals."

The Vulcan doesn't bother continuing the discussion, and goes on the showing the visiting Doctor the instruments in sickbay.

The Doctor picks up on the concepts easily; the principles behind the instruments are similar to ones he has dealt with in the past. He commits T'Mier's instructions to memory.

Mimic came to realize that engineers were still vulnerable to mistakes. Considering that they had never dealt with anything like the Varstrion's technology before, they were doing quite well. She did chuckle at O'Dell; he showed some inclination to being a perfectionist. His reactions to the sim results were something to behold. She had never heard anybody argue so much with an OBC system before.

"What do you mean by that, I did everything I was showed and your telling me this will not give us control of the weapons?" O'Dell yelled at the OBC system "You're just trying to get on my nerves aren't you? Fine, we will try it and again, and again, until we get it perfect!"

Mimic decided to try to regain her composure before speaking "Chief O'Dell, I think it would be advisable to take a break for a few minutes. It would give you and the others some time to calm down and clear your minds. Frustrations can be detrimental to quick thinking and intuition."

William O'Dell decided there was no point in correcting Mimic on his rank, which was not important at this time. With her suggestion, the engineering crew started standing around talking to each other while O'Dell went to Mimic "How we doing so far?"

Mimic looks at the results that the OBC was giving her from the sims they had done so far "Pretty good. I know what the sticky point is. Looks like I'll have to take a hand on approach with this. You're not used to dealing with near sentient computers or semi-organic technology"

"The tricky part seems to be getting control of the Weapons. When we arrive at the colony we won't have the other ships. If we encounter Black Star and Romulans again, two ships is better then one" replied O'Dell.

Mimic takes a serious look at the files "Oh grand, I know what the problem is. I didn't realize there's a gene lock on this system."

"Is there any way we can get past this gene lock?"

Mimic nodded "I hope you were thinking of allowing me in on this party, because I'll have to go with you. I'm the only one who has the equivalent genetic factors to

unlock the weapon systems. Besides, I don't have enough time to give you a crash course in dealing with HLR hybrid computers, that's what the EGO is."

Since the Engineer was informed of Mimic's course before Mimic went to the shuttlebay, O'Dell replied to Mimic "Don't worry, I already informed that Captain that I want you on my team, as long as you are ok that I'm the commander of the team"

"If you're open to the occasional polite suggestion, I can handle that." replied Mimic.

Lieutenant O'Dell offered his hand "Then we have a deal" he said smiling.

Mimic smiles back at him and shakes his hand, signifying that she agrees with him.

"Well, shall we get back to work?"

Mimic nods "All right from the top, Py! I'm going to be joining the party, so behave yourself." They hear a crystalline chime "You silly thing" Mimic replies

"Is this thing going to be arguing with me during the entire mission" O'Dell asks just after he gathered the other engineers.

Mimic chuckles "Don't worry, all Py is going to do is help me to steer the TARDIS to the Ivara's Pride. The only 'computers' you'll have to deal with are the EGO and Skydancer."

"Sir, we are entering visual range" Commander Torrell said

"On Screen" ordered the Captain. A second later the image of the planet appears on the screen and the ship that attacked it was no longer there "Where did the ship go?"

"Unknown sir, I don't have any readings" replied Torrell

"Mr. Berry, are we within hailing range?" The Captain asked

"Yes sir" Riley Berry replied

"Hail the colony" the captain waited a few seconds until Riley told him the channel was open "This is Captain Austin Carter of the Starship Eagle. We received your distress call, how can we help you?"

"Captain, this is Commander Turner. There was an unknown ship that attacked us. They seemed to have dropped something in the atmosphere, our scientists believe that some type of biological weapon was used. We don't know who did it and we don't know why"

"Alright, send us your data, and we will help you with the research. We will also keep a close eye out for that ship"

"Thank you Captain, we are transmitting the data now"

"Very good Commander, Captain Carter out" Lieutenant Commander Berry closes the transmission.

"Captain Carter to Doctor T'Mier, we are transmitting data on the virus the colony was attacked with"

"Thank you Captain, T'Mier out"

"These are medical files?" asked the Doctor

"They appear to be" replied Doctor T'Mier "I have not seen this type of report before, do you recognize this" she said showing the alien Doctor a different page, as he might recognize this.

The Doctor takes a look at the virus pattern, and then he takes a look at the listing of symptoms from the infected. His expression becomes very grave " I was afraid of this. It would have to be that one."

Doctor T'Mier raised an eyebrow "Is there a cure for this one?"

The Doctor look at her, the concern is evident in his expression "That egomaniac infected the colony with TV3, there is no known cure."

"It is logical for the Black Star might have one" the Vulcan said

The Doctor looks at her "Unfortunately, that is not the case. He doesn't need one, he is immune to the viruses."

"We are going to need to study someone with the disease, how is this disease spread?"

The Doctor looks at the Varstrion files "TV3 is spread from contact from any body fluids from an infected person. It can also be gained from a bite from a Talkon form. Thankfully it isn't airborne transmission."

The Vulcan Doctor thinks about this for a bit "It should be safe to beam someone from the planet and quarantine that person in sickbay for study".

"We'll have to find somebody who's just come down with the infection. This disease will either kill the victim or turn them into a Talkon form."

Sickbay to Bridge, we have confirmed that the Black Star did release a virus, and as of yet, there is no cure for it" said the Vulcan.

"What do you suggest we do doctor?" Austin Carter asked.

"I suggest we bring someone up from the surface and confine them to quarters to prevent spreading the disease on the ship, the other doctor does not believe the virus is airborne."

"Permission granted Doctor, Carter out"

"Also, we must warn the medical personnel on the surface to use strict quarantine on any infected people. Especially if they show a spike in the white blood cell count. That's a sign that the metamorphosis is about to begin. You don't want a Talkon running loose" the Doctor said.

The Chief Medical Officer puts that information into the computer and sends a transmission down to the planet to quarantine infected people until a cure is found.

"We'll have to be prepared for surprises. The files give parameters on certain types that were infected. We'll have to see what more we get from the surface. Once an infection of this nature starts, it is very difficult to contain. The part that concerns me the most is the ones that transform. They become ultimate predators with highly carnivorous tendencies. Any living thing is in danger from them, even other Talkons if they are badly injured."

"The logical course of action would be to confine an infected individual from each race to separate guest quarters" The Vulcan Doctor said

"A valid suggestion. I know how the disease works in humans, but I'm not sure how it will act in some of the other races. At this point I can only extrapolate from the data in the Varstrion files," replied the Doctor.

The doctor goes ahead and contacts the bridge again and informs the captain of this information and their suggestions

=\=Chapter Four=\=

Black Star sat in the command chair on the bridge of the Ivara's Pride. He was monitoring the signal traffic from the colony world. The main city seemed to be in some control of things, but the outlying settlements were starting to report in stories of monsters destroying everything in their path. He grinned at the thought, Talkons were such effective weapons. The Eagle was out there, the name of the ship that had crossed the Neutral Zone and managed to miraculously escape his Romulan allies. He knew that there had to be Varstrion involved with that, there was no other explanation. How had they managed to hide that from him? He had underestimated his people. "Ah, once again my people show their resourcefulness. I can't imagine whom they sent for me." he thought to himself. He looked over to the Romulan that was standing near the forward screen, which was currently displaying four different quadrants of information. "You are very quiet, is there something wrong?" he asked the Romulan.

"We are risking a lot attacking a Federation colony, the Romulan Star Empire is not ready for a full fledged war yet. We are moving much too quickly" replied the Romulan

"The Federation isn't going to know what to do with this, not even my people do. The Federation won't stand a chance"

The Romulan smiles as he is beginning to love this, This is a true test of a Romulan, still staring at the view screen he says to the Black Star "You must have Romulan blood in your veins" he chuckles then turns to face Black Star, "I will order my ships to destroy the Eagle".

"We are warriors, you and I. We understand these things. A pity that I will not learn whom the Varstrion sent, but I am not foolish enough to pass up the most efficient solution. I will have to sing a death song for my fallen comrades on the Eagle."

"Commander T'Rell" came the voice from the flag Warbird "we are detecting five Federation starships entering the system"

Commander T'Rell address Black Star before returning his Sub-Commanders signal "Shall we destroy the Federation fleet or should we wait?"

BlackStar pondered his situation before answering "This is the time to show prudence. We can afford to wait before taking any actions. They have the problem on the surface to cope with. Talkons are very hard to deal with, as they are starting to find out. Energy weapons are useless on them." he smiles "It seems that this has become even more interesting than I could have hoped for."

"HELP ME, someone please heeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeelp" a young woman screams as she runs away from an alien form she cannot identify, a life form has changed into a Talkon which is a unrecognizable creature that prays on others. The woman runs behind a corner and finds 3 Starfleet security guards armed with phaser rifles "Please help me" she says as she rushes to them "Something's after me" She points to the creature chasing after her. The Starfleet officers raise their weapons and open fire on the creature, but they have no effect. One security guard suggests to the other ones to reset their phases to kill and try again. The three security guards try shooting the creature again with the kill

setting. The Creature is momentarily shaken by the blast from the phasers. It gives a hard shake of its head before bellowing out a call of pure fury. It evaluates the new targets, the female is no longer important, these three creatures now hold its interest. It's looking for something in them, studying their eyes, looking for the right sign...

The creature starts to move forward towards the Starfleet personnel, .The Starfleet security rush backwards, they continue firing at the creature hoping it will slow it down enough for them to escape. Then all of a sudden the creature lunges at an ensign and attacks him knocking him to the ground. The other Starfleet officers try to knock the creature off of him by hitting it with the butt of their rifles.

The Talkon rears up some and swings its left arm out knocking one of the officers into the wall. It then swings its arm up and smashes it down on the ensign's chest, crushing his ribcage. It then stands up to face the remaining officer standing, looking straight into his eyes.

The remaining officer decides that there is nothing more he can do for his friends, as they were already dead. He turns to run away, but he trips over the ensign. He tries to crawl back to his feet, when he was attacked again by the creature. He decides, as a last ditch effort to get out of this situation alive, to try to stab the creature with his standard Starfleet issue knife.

The knife plunges into the creature's right hand. The creature stops in his attack. He lifts his hand and inspects the knife sticking in it. He seems completely puzzled by it, as if it didn't understand how it got there. He pulls the knife out; the wound starts to close immediately. He then looks at the officer; he tosses the knife so it sticks into the ground near the officer's leg. Then he turns and stalks off in search of easier prey.

The officer breathes a sigh of relief. He soon realizes that he's the only survivor and that he'd better go back to headquarters as soon as possible to let them know what happened and how he got out alive.

"I just received a report from the Captain. The situation on the planet is getting worse, 150 people have died within the last 10 minutes" Doctor T'Mier told to the Doctor from the other universe

The Doctor looked up from the computer readouts "I was afraid of this. It's becoming another Kyt Prime. Ask the bridge to summon Mimic to Sickbay, I'm afraid I'm going to need to talk to her about what's happening down there for a bit."

"No need to call the bridge" T'Mier said. She walked to the wall panel and pushed the intercom button "T'Mier to Mimic, report to sickbay right away" then the Vulcan closed the channel.

The Doctor speculated on how Mimic would react to T'Mier's abrupt summons. He figured he'd know in a few minutes.

Mimic entered the Sickbay "So what's the emergency?"

"I will give you the same information I have just given your Doctor. I have received a report from the Captain" T'Mier continues going on about the situation on the planet.

Mimic looks at the Doctor "TV3? How did that lab get access to that virus? There's no cure for it."

"I think that question on how the research facility received the virus is not important to the situation. No wonder BlackStar took those samples; the damage these Talkons are causing is unbelievable."

"What would the Security teams be using to combat the Talkons?" asks Mimic.

"The security have tried phasers, but they are not effective. One surviving security officer reported that he repelled his attack by striking the creature with a knife" replied the Vulcan

"Yes. Here's the funny thing about Talkons; the only effective weapons against them are weapons like Tauzer guns and weapons designed for stabbing. Energy weapons have no effect. So Doctor, you're going to ask me for a strategy for dealing with the monster problem I take it."

Doctor nods "Especially since you've had more combat experience with them than I have."

"Hmm. I wonder if the Security officer would be able to let me know what kind of alternate weaponry they use besides phasers. I'd like to see what their armory would have. I know what is useful against the Talkons."

"Starfleet weapons consists of Phased Energy type weapons. Over one hundred fifty years ago, Starfleet abandoned projectile weapons in favor of a phase pistol then later to the standard phased energy weapons. Starfleet officers are equipped with a Starfleet issue knife" The Vulcan goes on to explain as much as she can about Starfleet weapons, she does not know everything, as she is a doctor and not a soldier.

"That's interesting. The Varstrion don't rely solely on energy weapons for obvious reasons. Since I don't have a lot of time or resources for certain ideas..."

The Doctor interrupts his companion "You did consider the possibilities of non-lethal weaponry in dealing with these things I hope."

Mimic taps the center of her forehead "That's it. Control. Isn't there a reference to some race controlling the Talkons through ultrasonics?"

Doctor hands her the info "The Vigas did that at the 1st and 2nd battles of Tryla. The frequencies are listed."

"Dr. T'Mier, does this ship possess some device that can generate ultrasonic waves with these frequencies " She shows her the wave patterns.

"I am uncertain about this" said the Vulcan to Mimic, "Computer, does the Eagle have the capability of generating ultrasonic waves with the following frequencies?" She then inputs the wave frequencies into the computer.

"Negative, the Eagle does not carry equipment to create an ultrasonic wave" replied the computer.

Mimic shakes her head "Well, looks like I'd better not mess up the effort to get the Ivara's Pride back. We'll have to use the sonic weaponry she carries."

"Mess up?" the Vulcan asked raising an eyebrow

"She realizes that she has to be careful and not make any mistakes in the retrieval of the Ivara's Pride." answers the Doctor. He then looks at Mimic "Do you think you can come up with a way to generate the ultrasonic using the Ivara's systems?"

"Not a problem, especially since I'll have several engineers with me. I'm pretty sure we have enough collective intelligence to come up with something clever." She smiles at him with a sneaky grin.

"That's good to know. Oh by the way, would you let Dr. T'Mier take a couple of blood samples from you? I want to check something." queried the Doctor.

"Sure. As long as it's not more than half a pint."

"I don't require that much of a sacrifice from you, my friend."

Mimic rolls up the sleeves of her shirt to bare her arms. "All right Dr. T'Mier, take your pick. I have pretty decent veins in both of them."

Doctor T'Mier goes to a nearby counter and picks up a hypospray and arrives back where Mimic is and presses the hypospray against her arm set to gather a blood sample
"Thank You"

"You're welcome. So is there anything else anybody need of me before I head back to the Shuttle bay to see how O'Dell and company are doing?" inquires Mimic

"Not that I can think of" replies the Doctor "Is there anything you require Dr. T'Mier?"

"Negative" Dr T'Mier said

"Ensign, enter this series of commands at that console over there, this should allow us access to the ships propulsion" O'Dell said as he pushes a few commands in the console he is working on, he is trying to work the power grid.

A few seconds later he realizes the power came on "It worked" the ensign excitedly said, "we have propulsion"

Mimic walks into the Shuttlebay "So did I miss anything exciting while I was gone?"

"We were able to tap into the ships power grid and we got control of propulsion" William said smiling as he gets up to greet Mimic

"Good to hear that. I need some good news. I just found out that all Chaos is breaking loose in the colony. Must be a lot of healthy people there for the virus to convert," said Mimic glumly.

The engineers start to look concerned; they have not heard any news about what's happening on the planet surface. Then O'Dell spoke up "What's happening down there? I heard rumors, but I have not gotten any reports yet"

"It seems that we're dealing with a worst case scenario. Black Star released Talkon Virus type 3 into the colony. It has a faster mutation rate, so instead of it taking 24 hours for victims to be changed into Talkon forms, it only takes 6 hours. This virus also tends to show a higher rate of outright mortality besides what damage the Talkons do." Mimic frowns "Just wait till I get my hands on Black Star, he's going to be in a world of hurt if I can help it."

This is a lot of information for O'Dell to take; he stumbles back a few steps as he has few friends who are stationed on this planet. . He responds to Mimic, showing a hint of anger in his voice "Not if I get my hands on him first"

Mimic looks at O'Dell "You can have first crack at him, but leave some for me."

"Sounds like a deal"

"All right. How are your people doing? How soon will you be ready to take a crack at the Ivara?" asks Mimic.

"We should be ready in 30 min, at that point we shouldn't face any problems taking over his ship" O'Dell said with a proud smile on his face. He is very proud of his engineers; he considers them the best Starfleet has to offer.

"Grand. I have some pre trip prepping to do; that will give me the time I need. What about the 4 Security people, what's the status on them?"

"The Captain is sending Maxwell and 3 of his security personnel; they are ready to go when we are"

"I wonder if they need a crack at any simulations?" inquired Mimic "I suppose I should ask Maxwell. Where's the comn and how do I use it to reach Maxwell?"

"What kind of simulations do you have in mind?"

Mimic ponders for a few moments before answering "I'm not too sure. I suppose it's more a matter of what Maxwell thinks he and his people will need to know about the ship."

O'Dell then takes her to a nearby wall and touches the button on a comn panel "you can use this to contact Maxwell"

"Lt. Cmdr Maxwell, this is Mimic."

Maxwell is sitting at his tactical station on the bridge when he heard the incoming transmission from Mimic and pushed a button on his tactical panel "This is Maxwell, what do can do you Mimic?"

"I was wondering if you think that you and your people are going to need to run any sort of simulation training before going on the capture mission; if there's anything you need to know?"

"We could use a little battle simulation, if we can somehow simulate the inside of the Ivara's Pride"

"That can be arranged. Assemble your people and meet me in the Shuttlebay. I'll ask for your parameters when you arrive."

"Sounds good, I'll be there shortly, Maxwell Out"

Mimic looks at O'Dell "Do you think I should warn him about Py's sims?"

"I would recommend that, but you can do that when he arrives" replied O'Dell

"You mean you don't want him to have all the fun that you did?" stated Mimic mischievously.

"On second thought, maybe you shouldn't warn him" O'Dell said laughing.

Mimic laughs at O'Dell's response to her question. She wonders what challenges Py will throw at Maxwell and his team. She figured that it would be interesting to find out.

"Well shall we get back to the sim; see if we can get it done in time before Maxwell shows up"

Mimic nods "Yes that would be advisable. Py's going to have to change the parameters for Maxwell."

O'Dell, Mimic and the engineering team spend the next 30 minutes completing their training; they believe they can figure it out already. Around the same time Maxwell and 3 other security officers show up armed with phasers, set at a low setting so they can use it for simulations.

Mimic sees Maxwell and the 3 Security officers walk into the Shuttlebay. She whispers conspiratorially to O'Dell "Ah, the next set of victims for Py has arrived".

O'Dell whispers back "I wish I could stay and watch this, but I have to get back to Engineering, there is work to be done" he smiles and nods to Mimic, then heads towards the door. As he passes by Maxwell he nods to him "Commander" and he continues on his way, as Maxwell walks up to Mimic.

Mimic looks at Maxwell "Hello Commander. What do you want me to put into the sim parameters for you?"

"We will need as much as you can add the interior of the ship, any obstacles we may face, including the crew, and their strength and weaponry" replied John Maxwell.

Mimic thinks on that "All right. The ship part will be easy. The crew part will be a bit more challenging. Odds are he has help, but not from any of his fellow Varstrion. There must be a skeleton crew which will probably be 70 at the low end. I wouldn't expect more than 100; skeleton crews on Farstrikers are rarely more than 10% of the total compliment."

The Chief of Security thought about this after he gained this info "Ok, we are going to need more security officers to bring with us, I will contact a security team and have them meet us here on the double"

"That's fine. I'll do phantoms of the enemies. That's kind of a generic opponent for simulations with an unknown foe. They won't exactly look like a particular race, but hopefully they'll help us figure out what our potential problems will be."

Maxwell went over to the conn system and contacted security. He orders them to send a team of 11 security personnel to go to the shuttlebay armed with phasers to be prepared for drills. They waited a few minutes for them to arrive. The extra Security people come in and stand by their chief security officer, ready for action.

Mimic uses her sketchpad to talk to Py. Soon the high corridors of the Pride appear in the shuttlebay "Commander, I'm going to take you through a walkup; there's something I think you need to see."

"Sounds good" Maxwell turns around to face his security team and orders them to follow him and Mimic

She walks them up to a doorway. It opens up into a large cavernous bay of some sort. There are two higher levels of walkways along the walls and some catwalks overhead. There are a few storage bins, but there is a large expanse of open area with no shelter "This is what worries me. I can only land the TARDIS near this area. I won't be able to get closer to the Core Zone where the EGO is. We will have to go through this area, which is the Jump Bay. This is where the Varstrion usually keep their Time Vehicles. Black Star stole the ship before they put them onboard. I think you can see why this area worries me. We have to go through here to get to there" She points out a door at the opposite end of the bay.

"Once we land, we will spread out in a standard defense pattern once the area is cleared to our satisfaction, we will then call you and the engineers out, but until that is clear, you are to stay in your ship, Understood?"

Mimic isn't too happy with the idea of having to stay behind. She did have martial arts training and was a skilled warrior. She almost felt like arguing, but then she thought of what the Doctor would think about that. She knew he would tell her to listen to the Commander on this. "I understand."

"Good" the commander takes another quick look around in the cavernous bay and turns back to Mimic, "alright, we can start the simulation as soon as you're ready"

"Ok, head back to the outer corridor. The simulation will begin in earnest as soon as I'm out of the field." Mimic turns and goes back out the door. Maxwell and the Security team follow. The sim resets. "Good luck, Commander. This is where it gets interesting." Mimic then leaves the sim area. Only Maxwell and the security people are left.

As soon as the security team arrived in cavernous bay they became under heavy fire resulting in one officer being shot in the leg, knocking him to the ground while two others drag him away. The other 12 officers return fire, then begins a heavy battle with soldiers from both sides try desperately to find cover. As Maxwell was running and firing his phasers at the enemy, he hollers over to an ensign on the other side of the room "Watch out ensign! They are trying to flank us, you have a man to your right" A phaser blast narrowly misses him, he then shoots 2 of his enemy. After 5 minutes, 2 security officers received minor simulated injuries, but no simulated fatalities. The security force does one quick search around the bay, then they call for Mimic to come out, but to stay between them so she will be surrounded by Starfleet security.

Mimic enters the simulation. She moves with great care till she's in a position where she's protected by the security people. "All right, so what's the next move?"

The security team reaches the end of the bay relatively easily, with a few minor attacks with no casualties on Starfleet, then they escort Mimic through the door, after they made sure it was clear.

Mimic nods in satisfaction "The engineer team has been through this part, so they're ready for this area. Any questions or concerns Commander?"

"How many ways can the Black Star send troops in here?"

Mimic thinks for a few moments "For better or worse, that doorway we came in is it. The Core Zone has some unusual protection from teleporting attacks."

"Great, that should make our job easier, I'll station a couple of guards outside the door, and the rest in here. We will be able to handle any problems coming our way" he thinks about this, it was a successful first simulation. He has a few suggestions for the next one "How about we give my people a ten minute break while you and I talk about upgrading the simulation for a tougher simulation?"

Mimic smiles "Sounds like a plan to me. I think Py can be persuaded to make things a little more interesting."

Maxwell informed his people that they could take a break. He watched his people leave the sim, then he turns to address Mimic "I noticed earlier you were a little hesitant about me ordering you to stay in your ship."

Mimic blushed "I'm not used to being on the sidelines. It may not be obvious, but among the skills I possess I am a highly trained warrior. However, I thought of what the Doctor would have instructed me to do in this case; I decided to take that order with dignity."

"I'm glad, that order is for your safety, we need you and engineers to make it no matter the cost"

Mimic takes a deep breath, and then nods in agreement with Maxwell.

Maxwell nods and heads down the ramp, after they have their break, they run some more simulations. All the tests went well and Starfleet security has been able to defend the engineering team to take over the ship easily with minimum casualties, although one simulation Maxwell had a simulated combat death.

Mimic looked at her pad for the results of the simulations. Things had gone better than she had hoped. They would be ready for anything; but the unexpected factor still remained. No helping that, in any given situation there was always the element of risk. What humans liked to call Murphy's Law.

"Maxwell, your people receive top marks. The sims show that you're ready for the mission. Now one more critical point remains. We have to track down the Ivara's Pride. Otherwise I'll be traveling blind. You can't do that in a time vehicle of any sort" she commented.

Maxwell takes this into consideration but decides to mention something else first "As much as your sims are useful, it still bloody hurts when you get shot" he said as he rubbed the spot on his chest where the simulated phaser blast had hit him.

Mimic frowns at that "Py was probably simulating Shockover weapons. That's possibly for the crew to be armed with. There is one other weapon option they could use on the ship. The ship is designed to withstand HEP, High Energy Plasma. Now that's something to be concerned with, it doesn't have any stun settings; it just basically blows a hole in your chest cavity."

"Well the trick is, not to get shot in the real situation."

"Don't forget about the catwalks. Unfortunately they present great risk of more firefights, we only are set to fight our way to the computer core"

"That's no problem, we considered the possibility of soldiers up their when we did the simulation and acted accordingly" he said after his security officers had finally left the shuttlebay for some R&R, so they are rested and can be called at any minute back to duty.

Mimic smiles at him "Actually, I may have a way to tip the odds in your favor. Do you know anything about Falconry?"

"Falconry?" Maxwell says in a curious tone.

"Falconry was a kind of hunting that has been practiced on many worlds including your own. The idea is that you convince a bird of prey, such as a falcon, that it's best bet is to use it's natural instincts to catch things for you. When you hunt with a trained falcon, you can either have it hunt directly from your hand or teach it to 'wait on'. That means you let the falcon fly up into the sky and circle while someone or something scares up some birds for it to dive down and catch. I have taught a variation of that concept to my droid friend Skydancer. "

"Very interesting, however, would she be willing to do something like this? It would be very risky, wouldn't take much for a Romulan disrupter to destroy her, since she is not familiar with the Romulans"

Mimic looks at him skeptically "Is the disruptor an energy weapon?"

"A powerful energy weapon, I've seen Romulan disrupters take down things like your friend Skydancer".

"Granted, it will be up to her to take the risk, but I very much doubt the Romulans have encountered anything like Skydancer. She is not a robot. Vargu Units are designed to withstand energy weaponry. She could get hit by a lightning bolt and it wouldn't hurt her."

"It's still a risk. If she joins the team, I don't want her going anywhere without a guard with her."

Mimic gets the distinct impression that there is a communication failure between her and Maxwell. Part of it probably has to do with the fact that Maxwell hasn't worked with droids before, especially Vargu Units like Skydancer. "How am I supposed to let this guy know that Skydancer is less likely to go down than one of them. It's not like she's made of crystal. She's meant to be a protector, to watch people's backs. This guy needs to be clued in," Mimic thinks to herself.

"I know that expression on your face, you may be right, Skydancer may not need help. Alright, it's up to Skydancer, but I would suggest that she not go to far from the main group"

Mimic smiles sheepishly "I have got to improve my poker face. I'll let Skydancer know to stick close to your team."

"Commander Maxwell, I appreciate your concern, but I am more than able to take care of myself," spoke a voice to Maxwell's right side. He turned just in time to see Skydancer appear.

"I don't doubt that, but it is more tacitly sound that you remain with my team, so we can back you up and vice versa" replied Maxwell.

Mimic holds out her left arm. Skydancer glides over and lands there. Mimic then pulls the droid close to her and whispers something to her. The droid appears to nod. "Do not worry, Commander. I think the idea my Mistress had in mind was for me to do just that. I will take the precaution of being cloaked, so I will not be detected until it is too late for the enemy to do anything."

"That's good, if there's nothing else you need, I have to get back to the bridge"

"Not that I can think of, except to figure out a way to find the Ivara's Pride." replied Mimic "I suppose that will take some thinking on my part."

"We will be running some scans on the bridge, so will the other ships" he says, then nods to both Mimic and Skydancer and leaves the shuttlebay.

Mimic smirks "I think I get along better with O'Dell than Maxwell. He didn't seem to happy with my suggestion."

"He is not used to dealing with droids, Mistress. Be patient with him, he is trying to do his job, just as you and I are. Besides, you did manage to become friends with Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart, you did not get along with him when you both first met." states Skydancer.

Mimic chuckles at the memory of her first encounter with the Brigadier. "Yes, thanks for reminding me. So what should we do now? I think everything is ready to role; I can't think of much else till they find the Pride."

"Maybe we should find some R&R like the Security people did?" offers Skydancer.

Mimic smiles at her droid friend "Now that's the best idea I've heard all day. Py go ahead and shut down; secure the TARDIS." The OBC terminates the simulation and shuts the TARDIS doors. Then Mimic and Skydancer leave the Shuttlebay to find somewhere to relax for awhile.

On board the USS T'hy'la

"Status report" Captain Imel asked The Tactical officer Lieutenant Alex Donovan as she walked around the bridge and back to her command chair.

"The fleet has arrived at the Eagle's position, they are preparing to beam someone up from the colony. There is no sign of the vessel they are looking for, nor the Romulans. If they are here, they must be cloaked" replied Lieutenant Donovan.

Ensign Sherri Corbin turns around to face her Captain, "Sir, I don't understand, why would somebody attack this colony? They don't pose a threat to anyone."

"I'm not sure Ensign," the Captain says. She turns to her communications officer Ensign Doug Lorant "Contact the Eagle" Ensign Lorant informs the Captain that the line is open *"T'yh'la to Eagle, we are in position, I have ordered the fleet in a standard defense pattern"* the captain pauses for a few seconds *"Have you been able to detect this vessel your after?"*

"Captain Carter here, we believe the Ivara's Pride is cloaked and we are unable to detect it. She may also be accompanied by a few Romulan warbirds, we encountered three of them earlier, we took heavy casualties."

"Understood, Captain Imel out" and Ensign Lorant closes the comn channel.

=^=Chapter Five=^=

"This is interesting. Have you seen the casualty reports from the colony yet? Those Federation ships don't even know we are here, you people must have Romulan blood in you" T'Rell said standing by Black Stars' side.

BlackStar chuckled "The Talkon Virus is a useful weapon when used properly. Variant 3 is the most efficient type. If my people had known that the Nicaril Research Facility had been working with this one, they would have forbidden the scientists from dealing with it. The scientists didn't tell the Varstrion the truth; so they couldn't really give the full details to them. They knew that there would be nasty repercussions. It will make it harder for the trackers to sort the problem out. I think I finally understand why my Armiger master compared life to a chess game; if one is careful in moving the pieces, one can gain the checkmate. That is what I'm hoping to do here."

The Romulan walks around to the front of his ally, and address him "With this virus, we can destroy the Federation once and for all. Can this virus be replicated to be launched from Warbirds?"

Star nods "I can adapt the carrier and nanotech vectors to suit the Warbirds. Once the Virus gets a hold of a population, you see what havoc it can produce. Although I don't think it works on non-carbon based life-forms."

"That shouldn't be a problem, all I will need to do is launch the virus in the heart of the Federation" T'Rell pauses and then smiles "Earth."

Star ponders "I don't understand how they could allow humans to be their leaders. They are such a primitive species. They're an even bigger nuisance in my Universe. They've spread beyond their own galaxy to infect others with their barbarism. I cannot understand why my people refuse to interfere and put those upstart animals in their place. Maybe I can correct that mistake here."

"I couldn't agree with your more that the humans are a nuisance, up until now we have not been able to go after the federation like this. Just think of, A Romulan Flag on Earth."

"And what about your traitors kin, the Vulcans?" queried Star.

"They will have to be destroyed with the Federation. They are part of it, and they will share the same fate" the Romulan says. He goes to where he had placed a bottle of Romulan ale and two glasses "Would you like to try some Romulan ale?"

"I think that will have to wait till we can toast our victory. My people believe it is bad luck to drink spirits before such a moment." replied Star with great courtesy. He knew better than to indulge in something that could affect his thinking. He needed his memory to be sharp as a Talon blade.

T'Rell drinks the small amount he had already poured for himself then puts the glasses and the bottle back "My warbirds are in position, its time we attack."

Star calls up the scanner views and puts them in a holographic display in front of him. He studies the formation of the fleet carefully.

"So how will we approach this fleet? The usual tactic is to break the formation and isolate ships. I know in the past that I have attacked this type of formation from the rear, but I don't know how good the shields are on these vessels." noted Star.

"I intend to have my ships form around them in a semi-circle, in effect, attacking them from 3 sides"

Star looks over at T'Rell "I think I'll let you make the first move for the middle game. I'm better at reacting to things as they develop."

T'Rell nods at Black Star, then orders Black Star's communication officer to hail the Romulan fleet "This is Commander T'Rell, decloak and engage the enemy."

"Sir, 4 Romulan Warbirds de-cloaking all around us" reported Maxwell. "Sir, they are charging weapons" A split second later Maxwell reported "They are firing"

"Mr. Berry, contact the fleet, tell them to engage the warbirds" as Berry contacts the fleet the Captain begins to think about this "The Pride has to be here somewhere" he says aloud.

As the ships rock from phaser fire the Captain touches the communications button on his chair "Captain Carter to Mimic."

"Mimic here, who the blazes is shooting at us now?"

"Our Romulan friends are back, we believe that the Pride is with them, possibly under cloak. I need you and the Doctor to report to the bridge"

Mimic thinks to herself "If he wants the Doctor, why didn't he call him as well?" She looks at Dancer "Get the Doctor. Tell him to meet me at the Bridge. I'm going there now." She breaks into a run to the nearest lift while Skydancer goes in search for the Doctor.

Skydancer appears inside the Sickbay "Doctor, forgive me for interrupting, but you are needed on the Bridge now."

The Doctor nods "It seems I'm being summoned Dr. T'Mier. I will return as soon as I can." He and Skydancer then head off to the lift and goes to the Bridge. Mimic is already waiting for them.

"I realize that somebody must be shooting at us again. The Romulans per chance?" inquired the Doctor.

The starships continue their battle, The Eagle and the T'hy'la are targeting the flag Romulan ships, while the other 4 federation ships are firing at the other 3 warbirds and still scanning the area for the Ivara's Pride. From the damage in the first 5 minutes with the Romulans, the Eagles Shields are down to eighty-five percent and the USS Hood's sensors are offline. All 6 Starfleet ships and 4 Romulan ships are taking heavy damage.

"All right, now that we're here, how can we help?" asked Mimic. She didn't think Carter had summoned them just to watch the battle.

"We need a way to find the Pride. I don't believe the Romulans would attack without the Pride, she must be here somewhere, most likely under cloak."

Mimic looks to the Doctor "She could be using a chrono cloak at the moment, especially since she hasn't engaged in combat yet. We should be able to track that."

The Doctor nods "Exactly. Where is the station for the scanners Captain. I think I know how to find the Pride"

The Captain pointed to his right and informed the Doctor that he can enter his information in the Tactical station where Maxwell is stationed.

The Doctor walks over to Maxwell's station and takes a small trapezoid shaped crystal out of his pocket. He places it on Maxwell's station. It starts to glow "All right Commander, you should be able to spot the Pride now"

The image of a blurry Ivara's pride shows up on the view screen "Captain, shall I target the Pride?" Maxwell asks.

"By all means, target the Pride and fire at will."

"Mr. Maxwell, can we safely lower our shield long enough, to let the TARDIS out of the shuttle bay?" the captain asked as he didn't like the idea of this being the only option

"Sir, I estimate that it should take no more then twelve seconds for the TARDIS to launch and for us to raise our shields, but I must remind you sir, a lot can happen in twelve seconds" came the reply of the tactical officer.

"You won't have to put your ship at risk. Mimic, go ahead and use Jump run 3 for the launch instead of the standard dematerialization sequence. Once its cycle through, go for the Vortex jump" instructed the Doctor to his friend.

"Not a problem. I'll head down to the bay immediately. Have the team meet me there." Mimic and Dancer leave the bridge and head for the Shuttle bay to get the TARDIS ready for launch.

"Mr. Maxwell, your previous order still stand" the captain told him. Maxwell then gets up and runs to catch up with Mimic before she can enter the turbolift, so they can both go to the *shuttle bay* "*CommanderMaxwell to Engineering, Mr. O'Dell, I want you and your team to report to the shuttle bay on the double*"

"Affirmative, we're on our way, O'Dell out"

Mimic looks at Maxwell "Shall we get this party started?"

Mimic, Skydancer, and Maxwell enter the turbolift. Maxwell orders it to take them to the Shuttle bay. The doors open and Mimic dashes out followed by Skydancer. They both head into the TARDIS. Mimic starts to punch in numbers and prepare the TARDIS for departure. Maxwell heads out of the lift and awaits his Security people and O'Dell and his team's arrival in Shuttle bay.

Shortly after that the security team arrives armed with phaser rifles and hand phasers. A few moments later O'Dell and his engineering team arrive with engineering equipment to help take over the Ivara's Pride. They stand by the TARDIS while O'Dell and Maxwell talk "This is how its going to work" Maxwell says as he goes on to explain step by step on how the escort is going to be handled.

"Understood, lets get going" came the reply of O'Dell.

Mimic has kept the Outside scanners on. She sees that both teams have arrived. She pulls a lever on the console; the outer doors open up to allow them to come in. She is waiting to see how they will react. Usually people have a hard time accepting the fact that the interior of the TARDIS is much bigger than the exterior. As the engineering staff and security team arrives in the TARDIS they all have a confused look on their faces except for Maxwell. O'Dell spoke up first "This is not possible, there is no way a ship can be bigger on the inside then it is on the outside."

"I've read about these. If I remember correctly, Lieutenant Reed and his friend Commander...Commander...Tucker, I believe that what his name was, from an old twenty-second century ship called Enterprise discovered a ship from the future that was actually bigger on the inside then it was on the outside."

"How do you know this?"

"I like to study old military personal, mostly the old MACO's and Lieutenant Reed who was the first armory officer on a exploration ship."

Mimic snickered at the reactions of O'Dell and his engineers. The reference to the ship found by the Enterprise ship was an interesting reference. She would have to ask Maxwell about it later. "The Time Lords discovered the principles of inter-dimensional construction. The TARDIS's exterior is in a different dimension from the TARDIS's interior. The Doorway is the link between the two. If you want to explanations for that, you'll have to ask the Doctor." She then shut the doors "Things are ready to go, and may the One watch over us and aid us in our efforts." Mimic then threw the switch, the central column started to move up and down as the TARDIS disappeared into the Vortex.

As the TARDIS disappears from the view screen and all scanners, the Captain turns to face the Doctor "Can we track to TARDIS to keep an eye on her progress?"

The Doctor spoke "The device I placed on the tactical station will allow you to track any Time vehicle, including the TARDIS"

A few moments later the TARDIS reappears on the view screen, the Captain thought to himself, maybe it just takes a few moments for the scanners to adjust "Thank you Doctor" he says, as the ships continue to fire at each other.

Maxwell looks out the view screen, as they fly. It is quite different then a Starfleet ship, not that he would rather have it this way, but it was a welcome change "I've always wondered what it would be like to see a ship latterly bigger on the inside than the out, and it not being just a phrase."

Mimic smiles "It's something I've gotten used to. It's more fun to see visitors' reactions. The Doctor finds it a nuisance, I find it funny myself." She hits a few more buttons "All right Py, Old Thing. Don't misbehave; this is where it will get interesting. Get ready people, we should be arriving in a few minutes."

As the TARDIS gets close to the Ivara's Pride the security force gets ready for action as they all prepare for a landing as they don't know what to expect "Time to arrival" Maxwell asked.

"I can't give you a good ETA, but when the column stops moving, we'll be there" replies Mimic. Sure enough, a couple of minutes later, the Column in the center of the TARDIS console stops. "We're here, be ready."

Maxwell addresses Mimic and the engineers, "Remember, do not leave the TARDIS till we clear the area."

Mimic nods "Understood. Ok Dancer. Time for you to wait on." The falcon droid nods and then seems to vanish "She's in her cloaked mode, Maxwell. If you can't see her, neither can anybody else. She will follow closely to your team."

Maxwell nods then faces the door "Please lower the ramp" he says as his other security officers take strategic positions around the hatch.

Mimic opens the outer doors, Maxwell and his team move out carefully, with Skydancer hovering near Maxwell's position. As soon as they are all out, Mimic shuts the outer doors.

As they arrive out of the TARDIS onto the Pride, to their surprise, there was no one there, but Maxwell didn't feel comfortable with this, he is expecting some kind of

trap, but he had a mission to carry out. The Security force fans out in a standard defense formation, looking everywhere and not seeing anyone. After a few seconds of searching, a green disrupter blast hits a officer in the shoulder knocking him down to the hard floor, Once that happened the Starfleet officers started to scatter and phaser and disrupter fire being to fire rapidly, there was one Romulan that no security officer was able to get at. Maxwell whispered to Skydancer "Are you able to take that Romulan out?" he said pointing in the general direction where the Romulan is located.

Skydancer spots the intruder; she soars over to a position above him undetected then a blue shock hits the Romulan, knocking him unconscious.

After the Romulan was taking out, Skydancer went back to where Maxwell was. Maxwell saw the opportunity to advance on the enemy. As he was running across the deck he was taking on more enemy fire, but this time he did not recognize the weapon. It was not the Romulans, he thought it have something to do with Black Stars people. The firefight continues to go on for another few minutes, until the last enemy was either stunned or forced to retreat. Maxwell and the security team take a quick pass over to make sure the area is clear and contacts the TARDIS to inform them that they can come out.

Mimic gets the message from Maxwell "Ok, we've been given the clear signal." she says to O'Dell and his crew. She then opens the outer doors once again. She goes out first, and then motions for the others to follow. She looks at the furry humanoid forms of stunned foes "Good grief, Royka! We will defiantly have to be on our toes people."

As the engineering staff and Mimic reach the security team, they start heading to the door, where they are ambushed.

Mimic flattens up against the wall hoping to make herself a smaller target "Dancer! Seek and Take!" she yells.

Before Skydancer can react a disrupter blast has been fired on Mimic's location, but in an act to save her life an Ensign security officer tried to push Mimic out of the way, but unintentionally got in the way of the blast himself. The Ensign took the full blast in the chest, throwing him against the wall then to the ground. He lies there, barely moving and barely breathing. He looks up at Mimic as he's dying.

Skydancer notes the location of the shooter. She suddenly appears in front of him, scaring him badly. Before he can react, she locks her talons into him and hits him with a powerful electric jolt. She releases the fatal grip as his body slumps to the deck. She then swoops down and lands by her mistress. Mimic has knelt down by the Ensign's body. Tears form in her eyes as she lays a hand on him and whispers a prayer for him. "We must go on Mistress. Many more lives are at stake."

Mimic takes a few deep breaths to compose herself. "Ok. We'll get moving again," she says while standing up. Her voice has a twinge of sorrow in it.

Mimic gets up per Skydancer's suggestions and looks over to the other security officers who at the same time are taking out the rest of the enemy who ambushed them. The team arrives at the first shuttle bay door, while the engineers override the lock, Maxwell walks over to Mimic. He notices she is upset about witnessing the Ensign's death "It wasn't your fault you know" he said trying to comfort her.

"After all the deaths I've seen, I'll never get used to that. That's a good thing in a way I suppose, if your heart gets hardened, you loose everything."

"I know how you feel, it never gets easy to order young men and women in these situations where they can die" Maxwell pauses for a few seconds then continues "We will have a lot of time to mourn once the mission is over, but until then we must remain focused on the task" he says as he figures she already knows this, but he felt it was best to say it anyways, maybe not just for her, but for him as well.

Mimic takes a deep breath "Let's get moving again. The Jump Bay is through the door up ahead" She points out the door to Maxwell. As the lock is overridden Maxwell readies his rifle. They step through the door and they start the long walk to the jump bay and from there they will go to the computer core.

As they enter the jump bay itself, Mimic starts to feel something, a peculiar tingling sensation.

There are no signs of any of the Royka. "This place is too quiet for my liking. Something is up," she spoke quietly to Maxwell.

Maxwell puts the rifle over his shoulders and starts to scan the area. He says to Mimic "I'm detecting some faint energy readings. I can't pinpoint its position, but its close" He motions his people to be ready, he's prepared to drop the tri-corder and swing the rifle around in case something happens.

Mimic caught what Maxwell was saying. She carefully moves forward a few more steps, the feeling hit her full force. She sees one of the Security people getting closer "Hold it! Don't go any farther!" she yells at him.

The security officer stops in his tracks and is looking confused as he was told not to go any further. He thought it was best to listen to Mimic, as she knows these ships better than anyone in Starfleet.

Mimic came up to where the officer is standing. She closes her eyes and spreads her hands out; a frown crosses her features. They were only 4 meters from the door to the Core Zone. They may as well have been a light year away "That dirty nasty snake. I can't believe this!"

Maxwell puts his tri-corder away and brings the rifle back to prepare for battle if anything should happen. He turns to face Mimic "What do you see?"

Mimic ponders then she remembers something. She fishes out an apple from one of the pouches on her belt "Red Delicious I was saving. Oh well. Anybody got a decent pitching arm?"

The chief of Security addresses Mimic "I think I should be able to handle this." He walks up to Mimic and extends his hand to take the apple.

Mimic hands him the apple "Ok, just pitch it like you're trying to hit the door."

Maxwell takes the apple and pitches it at the door and watches to see if it splats on the door. The apple moves right to where the door would be when it suddenly stops in mid air, as if its suspended. Then it begins to decay till nothing of it is left. Maxwell looks at the spot where the apple was, mouth open and eyes wide open "What the... Where did it go?"

"That's what I thought," Mimic spoke with a hint of anger "Star set up a temporal booby trap. It's a kind of time field. The flow of time is accelerated in that area; if you were to stumble in there, you age to death in minutes. Its right in front of the door we need to get into the Core Zone. No wonder there weren't any guards here."

The security guard that almost walked into it was sweating when he heard that information. He slowly walked backwards a few steps. Maxwell asks Mimic "How do we shut it down?"

Mimic frowns "We have to find the origin point. It's either top down or bottom up." She pulls out her data pad and punches in a few things "What? What the blazes do they mean by phased energy?"

Maxwell takes his tri-corder out again and scans the field himself "It looks to be working on a similar principle to a phaser."

"Really?" She take another look at her pad "Ah ha! That may be what I need. Is there any way a phaser can be set to fire automatically?"

"Yes they can" he said smiling as he believes he knows what she is about to say.

A mischievous grin spreads on Mimic's face "All right, this is going to take a bit of timing. If you can set up a phaser to do just that and toss it into the trap area, the energy pulse produced should make the field visible enough for Skydancer to shot the origin point and destroy it. Once that is done the field will dissipate, then we can get into the doorway." The Security Chief takes out his hand phaser and sets it to fire automatically in 5 seconds, which gave him time to aim at the door and throw it just in time to start firing. The field becomes a visible dome form crackling with bright colors. Skydancer sees the origin point at the top and aims a pinpoint plasma blast at it. The shot connects and a series of sparks marks the end of the trap. The colors fade and the dome vanishes completely. Mimic cautiously walks up to the area and searches it again. "Well done Maxwell, Skydancer. Ok, let's get the door opened and get inside."

Maxwell smiles as he motions his security officers to head to the door and provide cover as the Engineers work on the lock to get the door open. This time it was fast, it only took the Engineers forty seconds to open it.

As the door opens, the room lights up revealing an incredible blue and green crystalline structure with what appear to be gold and platinum colored filaments running through them. There are also computer stations running around the room. Mimic walks up to a console that appears to be one large crystal cube with gem like keys. She carefully places her right hand on the cube. The whole console begins to glow. She then starts to hit the keys rapidly. "O'Dell, see the console with the red keys? Head over there and punches in the sequence you learned in the simulations. That will give you access to the weaponry systems. The other engineers can go to the other consoles, they have to take the auxiliary systems offline for this to completely work."

Star became aware of something on the monitor screen, they were registering a shutdown. "What is this?" he murmured to himself. "How could this be unless..."

Right beside the Romulan commander a striking female figure with golden hair and wearing the gold and platinum armor of the Varstrion elite appeared "What the blazes is this copper blooded freak doing on my bridge? Where are we? Star, you've got a lot of nerve doing this to me of all beings! You are going to pay big time mister!"

"WHO ARE YOU" Commander T'Rell demanded.

The avatar looked sternly at the Romulan "I could ask you the same question, pal. What in chaos do you think you're doing Star, letting on unauthorized aliens? This is intolerable!"

"The Romulan Star Empire has a treaty with Star" T'Rell then addressed Blackstar without taking his eyes off of the avatar, but at the moment he does not know she is an avatar, "Who is this Female?"

"Don't tell me, these characters don't deal with VI's very much. So where are we? I have a suspicion it's not our home dimension. Star, you have a lot of explaining to do" noted the avatar dryly.

"Commander, this is Vari. She is the EGO of the Ivara's Pride. I would speak to her with greater respect. She is quite capable of hurting you badly." Star wasn't sure if he should be laughing or cursing.

The Romulan smiles and continues "I've heard of your kind before, you're a hologram"

Vari chuckles "Oh, I'm much more than just a pretty face, Romulan. Holograms can't do this." The screen suddenly registers that the cloak has been deactivated. The Ivara's Pride is now visible.

So far this is nothing T'Rell has not seen before, giving a hologram control over systems, any holograms can do this. He informs her of this, then went to Blackstar "What is the status of the battle?"

Star looks at the screen gravely "Two of the Romulan Warbirds have been destroyed. One other is damaged heavily, but is still fighting. One of the Starfleet vessels is also destroyed. One other is badly crippled and two are loosing shields, they are nearing half strength."

"The other two warbirds should get job done, but just in case, I need access to your conn system to order reinforcements" He is still staring at the screen, now it showing the battle. He talks to Vari "What do you think hologram?"

"You're out of luck, pal. Maybe its time I make myself clear" Two odd shaped golden cylinders that were located on either side of the entryway start to change. There now stands two very frightening looking creatures reminiscent of griffins which are mythical creature part eagle and part lion. They look the avatar "All right, GET THESE IDIOTS OFF MY BRIDGE!" The two metallic nightmares advance swiftly towards Star and the Romulan commander. Star decides its time to leave and vanishes, leaving the Commander to deal with the creatures. As the creatures approaches him, T'Rell draws out his disrupter and begins firing rapidly hitting both creatures multiple times. The energy blasts do nothing to the creatures. They change their positions and tackle him to the ground. One creature then pins him while the other crunches his disruptor, destroying it. They then both stand up, keeping a good grip on their struggling captive. The avatar moves over to where they are standing with the Romulan "That's what you get for underestimating me. Get this trash off of my bridge. Put him in Isolation, that will keep him secure" The Creatures nod and carry the Romulan off of the Bridge to the room specified by Vari. She watches them leave then stares into the view screen.

"I think we did it, according to these readings, the Romulan has been taken in custody and Black Star is on the run, location is unknown at the moment" O'Dell tells Mimic.

"That's about the size of it" Vari's avatar appears beside one of the engineers, giving him a bit of a scare. "Lady Falcon, good to see you again. Where's your friend the Doctor?"

Mimic snickers at the engineer's reaction "He's on board The USS Eagle at the moment. Did you round up the Royka?"

"The Kelton have them under control."

"Please open a channel to the lead Romulan ship" Maxwell asked, "and patch this transmission to the Starfleet ships so they can hear in on the transmission"

"Excellent! Time to harass those freaks" Vari opens up the proper channels as requested by Maxwell.

"Romulan Warbird, this is Lieutenant Commander John Maxwell of the Federation Starship Eagle. We have taken over the Ivara's Pride and I'm giving you your only warning, break off your attack or we will destroy you ships. I repeat, break off your attack or be destroyed" he motions Vari to close the channel and waits a few seconds to see if there is a reply.

The two Warbirds suddenly re-cloak. "Don't worry people. My sensors indicate that they're making a run for it. I'd say let them go home to cry about it." noted Vari dryly. After the battle has ended it left the USS Hercules destroyed, the USS Hornet and USS Peregrine are heavily damaged. The Hornet is capable of Warp speed, but only up to Warp 4. The USS Peregrine shields are down, one Warp nacelle has been blown off and warp and impulse drives are off line. The USS T'hy'la took minor damage and will be towing the Peregrine back to the nearest Starbase while the USS Archer will be staying behind to help out with the efforts to cure the colony.

The Doctor was relieved that the battle was over. He felt sorrow at the losses, but he was relieved that his friends were safe. He smiled to himself; his faith in Mimic's abilities was justified. His thoughts then turned towards the colony. He would have to find out what was happening there. He hoped that things hadn't gotten worse than they had been already. He needed to find a cure, but what was the key? The captain looks around the room to see how his people handled the battle. They were all busy at work, tending to their stations, while the doctor went around checking people for injuries. The captain touched a button on the chair and contacted Sickbay "*Captain to Sickbay, report*"

"5 dead, 15 injured, 6 critically, mostly from plasma burns from eps conduit explosions" replied Doctor T'Mier.

"Anything else Doctor?"

"I am heading down to the quest quarters. I am having the victims from the planet beamed to separate quarters for study. Could you send the doctor down?" she said referring the Doctor from the other universe.

"Will do, Captain out" the captain then looks over to the Doctor and asks how his bridge crew is.

The Doctor had taken the time to check on the other people on the Bridge. "Minor cuts, scrapes, and bruises here thankfully. We were fortunate to escape any serious injuries. I suppose I'd better join Doctor T'Mier."

The Captain nods at the Doctor to let him know he can leave the bridge, and then addresses first officer and asks for a Damage Report "Sir we lost 400 officers and crew

on the USS Hercules, Shields down to 25%, Warp Engines are damaged, we can only go to Warp 4, hull breaches on deck 5, 7 and 8, emergency force fields are holding, EPS conduits blown out on decks 1-6, gravity is offline on deck 4, estimated time of repair, 3 days.” Commander Torrell said.

=^=Chapter Six=^=

The two doctors arrive outside of the quarters and wait for confirmation from the transporter room. The Vulcan hands the Doctor a hand phaser.

The Doctor looks in complete surprise at the weapon "Is this really necessary?"

"Orders from the Captain that we must be armed for security reasons"

The Doctor thinks about questioning that order, but changes his mind. He reluctantly takes the weapon and prays to whatever higher powers watch out for his kind that he won't have to use it.

After a few seconds the Transporter chief contacted Doctor D'Mier and informed her that the Transport is complete. After they were informed the other doctor that they have beamed up a Human, Vulcan, Denobulan, Andorian, Deltan, <alien 6> into separate quarters.

"Which one do you think we should see first?" inquired the Doctor.

"The Humans consist of the biggest part of the population; the logical start would be with the Human."

The Doctor nodded "What is our patient's name and history?"

"According to record, his name is Henry Richards, age 36, construction worker, lived on Neleka his entire life."

"Has he had any recent illness?"

"Not according to his medical files."

"Then we may have to be careful. He sounds like a good candidate for undergoing metamorphosis. I have a suggestion; you may want to restrict any type of proteins out of our patients' diets. The Virus increases its victim's cravings for them, a start to the transformation process. That won't stop the process, but it will slow it down quite a bit" noted the Doctor.

Before Doctor T'Mier could respond, as the Doctor prepares to enter Henry Richards quarters, they see a group of 14 security officer round the nearest corner in the corridor. They take up standard procedure by stationing two security personal on each quarters and the other two draw their weapons and prepare to enter the quarters with the Doctors.

The Doctor wished his friend Mimic was with him. He knew that the Security people were certainly professionals, but he missed his friend's company. "No helping that now," he thought quietly to himself "Ready?"

T'Mier nods at the Doctor and at the two security guards and enter the room. When they get in there they find that the human is just beginning the transformation. At this point he is facing uncontrollable violent impulses and lunges toward the Vulcan, but stopped in his tracks when he sees a phaser pointed at him from a security Guard. T'Mier steps up "I am Doctor T'Mier, we are here to help you." The human can't stand still; he is pacing back and forth and every so often makes a few threatening moves towards the doctors. After a few moments, Doctor T'Mier scans the human and hands the tri-corder over to the other Doctor.

The Doctor studies the readings. He starts to look concerned. All the signs indicate that the man is undergoing transformation. "He's in the early stages of the transformation. We have to be careful now; he'll look to gain any source of protein,

including blood. His blood won't trigger the change, but somebody else's will. We may be able to slow the rate by giving him carbohydrates." whispered the Doctor to T'Mier.

The Doctor was carefully studying the results from the patients. All of them had similar enough DNA for the virus to work with. The results for the Vulcan patient were unusual in that the changes were more mental than physical; he had become quite psychotic. He wondered how much that would disturb T'Mier, if at all. He wasn't quite sure how to think about her people's philosophy. It was similar to some of his people's teachings, but much stricter. There had to be something he was missing. "Doctor T'Mier, have we received any medical reports from the colony at all?"

The Vulcan looks at her computer display and reports to the other Doctor "We should be receiving the data soon."

The Doctor becomes aware of a beeping sound "Dr. T'Mier, what is that beeping for?"

T'Mier looks at the computer console and informs the other doctor that this indicates a transmission is coming from the planet "We are receiving medical reports from the colony."

"Excellent. Hopefully I can find a pattern in the information" replies the Doctor "Where is the info being displayed?"

Doctor T'Mier punches in a few commands and the info they needed appears on the main medical monitor.

The Doctor studies the information being displayed. As he looks at the information he starts to notice something "Well, well, well...now that is something I've never seen before."

T'Mier takes a closer look at the screen and believes she may have found out what he is looking at "This does not appear on the data you gave us" she said pointing at the new information.

"I know. This is because the Talkon Virus has never been used on civilian targets per se, at least no where children were. The data shows that children, anyone that is still undergoing puberty, resist the virus. Also individuals whom are pregnant show the same thing. That may be the clue to a cure, but what do they have in common? And how does that compare to shape shifters? Shape shifters do not get Talkon Virus. They have some sort of immunity to it."

"I will inform the doctors to send me up all the records for the pregnant and the children; there is a logical reason for their immunity."

"Good idea. I think maybe I should compare the info to Mimic's blood sample. She is immune to the Talkon Virus." noted the Doctor.

Doctor T'Mier brings up the records of Mimic, as she asked Mimic and her Doctor friend to submit to routine scans "This is the scan I took of Mimic shortly after you arrived on the Eagle"

"Yes, that will do." replies the Doctor "now what does she have in common with our immune friends?"

"According to these readings, what they have in common is active growing hormones. We will need further study."

"That's it! Shape shifters have special hormones involved in their metamorphosis. They are very similar to growth hormones. Most adults don't have any of those hormones in their system unless they are pregnant. I wonder if there is some

way that we can combine the idea of these hormones with the immunity antibody from Mimic's blood sample? I think some combination of the two may give us the key to the cure for this horrible disease."

"I should be able to set up computer simulations, and if it is successful, we need Mimic to return to the ship as soon as possible."

"An excellent idea. Go ahead with the simulations. What can I help you with at this point?" replied the Doctor.

Maxwell and O'Dell have been keeping track of the progress on the planet surface and it has not been going well, "I hope the Doctors are having some progress with the cure, we are going to need it as soon as possible, as these readings show." Mentioned Maxwell

"My friend is very intelligent. He has a way of finding out the solution to difficult situations. I'm sure he and Dr. T'Mier will find the answer." Mimic was glad she suggested they go to the ship's bridge. She felt more comfortable here. She sat in the captain's chair and studied the main display screen "Thankfully this planet has a lot of animal species on it. They will be easier for the Talkons to catch...." her voice trails off. She feels shaken at that line of thought.

"Let's hope they can, because if they can't, Black Star is going to regret it when I get my hands on him." Maxwell says behind clenched teeth.

"When that occasion comes, I will be happy to assist you" replies Mimic. She has no love for the Varstrion fugitive either.

"Sounds good", Maxwell replies smiling.

"I'm surprised the Captain hasn't hailed us. I wonder why?" Mimic mentioned.

"They could be busy over there, but I better check in" Maxwell presses a few buttons "Maxwell to Eagle" he waits a few seconds and nothing happens, he looks at Mimic, then to O'Dell "Maxwell to Eagle, do you read me"

O'Dell presses a few commands, "Ship's communications are offline, they appear to have been sabotaged. There is a dampening field preventing us from using our communicators. I'll run a scan to determine where the dampening field is being generated from."

"Vari, status!" calls Mimic.

"Pride's systems are all functional, it's on the other end!" replied Vari "Something you don't want to hear, some of the Wreckers are missing."

"Blackstar" Maxwell said aloud as he suspects he is the one who took the Wreckers, "What do these Wreckers do."

"They can do lot's of different kinds of damage to ships. They usually hook on someplace and then they can introduce computer viruses, Shockover attacks, or even tear a ship apart, they can cut through most metals" replied Vari.

Mimic walks over to the conn systems. She removes an access panel "It's not deliberate sabotage. I'm afraid one of the engineers made a mistake when the aux systems were being removed. Murphy's Law strikes again."

"How long will it take to repair that system" asked Maxwell.

"An hour tops. Conn is on the line systems, not core. That's why Vari didn't see that, she'll worry about Core systems first. That's the critical stuff." Replied Mimic

"We need communications ASAP, if Black Star has some Wreckers, we need to find away to contact the Eagle"

"All right, Vari, can you jump the TARDIS to the Bridge? We can use her comm system to contact the Eagle."

"Yes, I can do that. Just give me a few moments"

A soft blue glow appears behind the Captain's chair. The TARDIS is now on the bridge of the Pride. "Ok Maxwell, come inside and I'll get you set up" Mimic goes to the TARDIS and opens the door. She then motions for Maxwell to follow her in. Maxwell follows her inside, a bit confused to see the TARDIS on the bridge of the Pride. Mimic walks over to the console and starts pushing various buttons. She's grumbling something under her breath but Maxwell can't make out what she's saying. She flips a couple of switches. "All right, just depress this key here when you want to talk, and then release it when you're done talking" She points out a purple key on the console to Maxwell.

Maxwell presses the button to contact the Eagle *"Maxwell to Eagle."*

"Eagle here" replied the Captain.

Sir we have taken over the Pride and the Romulan is in custody, but Black Star got away, he has taken a few Wreckers. They are very dangerous weapons, watch out for them Captain."

"Any Casualties?"

"We lost one man, 2 others were injured in combat, sir."

"Understood, Captain out."

"Now the question remains, what we are going to do with the Talkons?" wonders Mimic.

"I'm not sure, Starfleet security should be able to handle it. We will have to wait till the doctors find a cure for it, or anyone who goes there could become infected themselves."

"Understandable, but phasers don't work on them."

"What weapons can we use against them?"

"The Doctor probably won't care for this suggesting, but I had a chance to check the Pride's Armory racks. There is a full compliment of tauzer weaponry and ammo. That is designed to deal with creatures like Talkons; it's armor-piercing weaponry. There is also sonic weaponry available. It can be modified to work on the ultrasonic levels that can control these creatures."

"The tauzer weapons will be a last resort, I don't think the Captain will authorize killing them unless there is no other option" Maxwell says

Mimic nods "The ultrasonic have non-lethal levels. I'm sure the Security teams will be able to use them without harm to themselves. Let's go back onto the Bridge and I'll double check the Armory racks." After they both walk back onto the Bridge Mimic checks the Armory racks. She then motions for Maxwell to follow her. They take a lift down to the correct level and head down a corridor till they stop in front of two large doors that are a distinctive blood red color. Mimic touches the scanner area by the doors and they open. As both of them walk in, Maxwell is amazed at the range of weaponry on the racks. Not only are there various types of energy rifles and guns, but also the tauzer weapons and many unusual weapons for hand to hand combat. There are also racks of body armor that have a medieval appearance. Mimic walks to a particular rack with some boxy devices and odd disks. "I think these are what we're looking for."

"How do we operate these and how many can you spare?" Maxwell asked.

Mimic begins to show Maxwell how the pieces fit together and explain how the devices are used.

Just after mimic show Maxwell how to use the weapons, the lights start to flicker and goes off, a few of the other systems start to go out "What is going on" then he takes out his communicator "Maxwell to O'Dell, what just happened."

"Sir, systems all over the ship are going offline, I'm not sure exactly what is going on...wait" as the computer displays start to fade out and replaced by a Romulan symbol "The Romulans have sent a computer virus" O'Dell explained exactly what is happening, the primary computer systems are offline. If they don't get them back online with in 2 hours, they will be out of oxygen.

Maxwell's face turns to one of concern then looks over to Mimic "The Romulan, where is he being held?"

Mimic starts to call the Romulans every insulting name she can think of "He's in Isolation. With most of the systems down, he can make a break for it. Isolation is exactly two decks above our current location. There's a ladder system for repairs; you can use that to access the deck. Vari, are you still functional?"

"I'm going to hurt that pointy eared freak as soon as I can find him. I'm keeping it out of the Core frame"

Mimic groans "Wonderful! Good luck Maxwell. I have to go help Vari get this bug out of her systems."

Maxwell takes out his communicator as he runs out over to the ladder and climbs it as fast as he can to Deck 3 which is two decks above his current location "all security personal, report to Deck 3 immediately, we have a Romulan on the loose."

Maxwell tears off running down a corridor on deck 3 and goes to the isolation cell, where the Romulan was being kept, but now is empty. A few seconds later the security team shows up "fan out people, I want a deck by deck search done on this ship, he will be trying to escape, The team then breaks down into 2 person teams and goes looking for the Romulan. After ten minutes of searching Maxwell spots the Romulan at an end of a corridor on deck 4. "YOU!" he yells at the Romulan "Don't move!" He points his phaser at him; the Romulan is facing the other direction

"Starfleet, I don't have time for this!" T'Rell says as he pushes a few buttons on a Pad he has in his hand. A console explodes beside Maxwell, knocking him down and damaging his phaser. The Romulan then take off again. Maxwell gets to his feet, takes a few seconds to steady himself. He then runs after the Romulan and tackles him to the ground. They begin to struggle as the Romulan reaches for a dagger. They spend the next two minutes struggling over the dagger then Maxwell manages to turn it around and thrust the dagger into the Romulans chest. The Romulan takes his last breath to say in a soft voice "You'll regret this human" and his body drops on top of Maxwell. After that Maxwell pushes the Romulan off of him, gets to his feet, and stands over the body of T'Rell as the Security team arrives.

"Maxwell to O'Dell, status on ships power."

"We are still working on getting the virus out of the main computer. The Romulans jammed it in there pretty good, it will take us awhile to get it out."

"Alright, I'm on my way back, Maxwell out"

Mimic manages to summon Skydancer to her. Skydancer transports Mimic to the Core Zone. She returns to the console she worked on before and retrieves a VR rig to hook into the console. She dons the rig and begins the gerwalk, a special Varstrion term for their version of Virtual Reality, with Vari's help. Mimic has no track of time as she's in the virtual environment. She has to hunt out the virus and eliminate it while simultaneously helping Vari realign the files so the system will work. The virus is tough, but Mimic's seen worse. Now she knows why they only allow females to do the gerwalk. Multitasking is a necessity with this type of repair. The virus is wiped out of the system; Vari brings the ship back online completely. Mimic takes the rig off and slumps in the chair exhaustedly. This takes a lot out of her.

"Mimic to O'Dell, how are things in your area? Are the systems back online?"

"Their coming online now, Good work Mimic, report back to the bridge."

Mimic chuckles "Alright. Chaos, for doing a VR walk, I feel like I've run a Marathon." Skydancer transports Mimic to the Bridge. Mimic resumes the Captain's chair. Skydancer perches on one of the other station chairs.

Maxwell nods to Mimic as she arrives on the bridge. He sits down attending to a few cuts on his face, arm and chest caused by the explosion.

Mimic looks over and notices Maxwell's injuries "What in chaos happened to you?"

"The Romulan caused an overload in a nearby console" he says rubbing his wounds.

"Oh chaos! What happened to him?"

"He's dead" Maxwell replies dryly.

Mimic is caught off guard by Maxwell's statement "Maybe that is for the better."

"He gave me no choice," he said as he sat down at a tactical station. He would rather be there than in the command chair, "Now we all we have to worry about is locating Black Star."

"Too many bloody things at once" Mimic murmured under her breath. She wondered how the Doctor managed to cope with these kinds of situations. Then again, he'd been doing this kind of thing for nearly 6 centuries.

"I checked the racks, a powered armor is missing. No doubt who took it. It has a unique signature, so there will be a way to rig your ships' sensors to track it. Catching him will be the hard part. Powered armor is a mech in miniature, so he's extremely dangerous when he's in it."

=\=Chapter Seven=\=

"How are the simulations coming?" inquired the Doctor. He had found a way to provide the colonists a vaccine for the virus, but so far no cure.

"I believe we should be able to find a cure within the hour, the simulations are providing the next logical course of action. I have identified exactly what part of the nervous system it is affecting. I am able to prevent others from being infected, but as of yet, nothing to help those who are already infected."

The Doctor nods "I think I may know a way to deal with that. They haven't been infected for too long, not even 48hrs. I faced a similar situation several months ago in my own Universe. As long as they haven't been infected for a week, the technique I know about should work. It's a kind of gene therapy."

"I agree" T'Mier says as she inputs some data in the computer terminal in sickbay, "I'm imputing some of genetic modifications that I believe will reverse the virus. It will not work right away, it will take an hour, but I believe it will remove all traces of the virus from their systems" The Vulcan pauses for a few seconds then finishes inputting the data. She looks up at the Doctor "We will need to test this on the human patient. If it works it should be a simple modification to the procedure to work on the other races"

"An excellent idea." he looks at the info she imputed into the computer "This is similar to what I've used. There will be one side effect for sure; they will have some amnesia concerning their illness. That's probably for the better. They won't remember what they had become or what they did while they were transformed."

An hour later after the data has been imputed and simulation is complete the Doctors reads the information.

The Doctor walks over and looks at the simulation results 'Eureka! We've got it! I may have to put in a call to Mimic. It looks like we will require a small donation of her blood for this to work, a pint at the most."

After a successful test and the captain has been informed of the discovery, the two Doctors head down to the guest quarters with 2 guards to administer the drug. When they arrive the Doctors stand in front of the doors and T'Mier addresses a security guard "Open the door" she demands, the security officer opens the door and the two Doctors and two security personal enter the quarters.

The human is still pacing, but the steady diet of carbohydrates has slowed the transformation process. When he sees them enter, he walks over to them: he is curious to know why they are there. He allowed Doctor T'Mier to administer the medicine. It takes effect rapidly. The human looks at them with surprise "What's happening? I can't seem to remember...Um, can I have some water? I'm feeling thirsty."

The Doctor smiles "Actually fruit juice would probably be better. Success, Doctor TMier. That's how he should be responding to the cure."

"A cure, what cure, a cure for what?" A confused Henry Richards said.

"You were infected by a virus, all information will be given to you and the others shortly. Please wait here till I return" T'Mier scans the human once more before she

leaves to confirm the virus has begun to disintegrate. T'Mier turns to the Doctor "We will return here in one hour, we should get to the other patients."

"An excellent suggestion."

The Doctor then realizes something "Now that we know this will work for certain, I'd best summon Mimic back to the Eagle. She'll come here sooner if I ask her to."

"You can contact Mimic from the bridge, I'll inform the Captain your on your way" replied T'Mier

The Captain is going over damage control systems when he sees the turbolift doors open "Doctor, what can I do for you?" he asks.

"I need to get in touch with Mimic on the Pride. T'Mier and I have found effective ways for us to combat the virus, but we will need Mimic's help." replied the Doctor.

The captain turns to Riley Berry, "Mr. Berry, please open a channel to the Pride for the good Doctor", Berry opens the channel and nods to the Doctor and the Captain.

"Doctor to Pride, is anyone receiving me?"

O'Dell smiles to himself as he hears the communication from the Eagle. He now knows he has it fixed, he taps the communication button on his panel *"This is Lieutenant O'Dell"*

"Ah, good to hear your voice again Lt. O'Dell. Is my friend Mimic available? I need to talk to her." O'Dell motions Mimic to go ahead and talk to the Doctor.

"Hello Doctor, this is Mimic. So what's new with you?"

Mimic would almost swear she could detect the smile in his voice "We've found the cure for the disease and a vaccine as well. We will need your help with this."

Mimic chuckled" Ah, you need me for a blood donation I take it? I will ask for a gourmet meal in recompense for my small sacrifice."

"I promise you will get a meal fit for royalty. Should I ask them to send one of their shuttles over to fetch you?"

Mimic turns to O'Dell "Would that be the best way to go? Or do you have a better idea?"

"I went over the ships specifications and the docking ports on the Pride are incompatible with the Eagle's. Someone will have to come over and get you" answered O'Dell.

"Looks like somebody is going to have to give me a lift back" notes Mimic.

"Understandable. I'll see what can be done" replies the Doctor. He looks at Carter "I think that you have shuttles capable of docking in the Main Bay. That would work best."

"Commander Torrell, head to the shuttle bay and go pick up Mimic and bring her back to the ship" the Captain ordered. The First Officer nodded and left the bridge through the turbolift.

"Thank you Captain" the Doctor smiles at Carter. The Captain nodded at the Doctor and then looked back at the view screen, while the rest of the crew worked on finishing up the repair of the ship.

The Doctor decided to return to Sickbay. He arrives a few minutes later. "The Captain is sending a shuttle to pick up Mimic."

"What is the ETA on her arrival?" Doctor T'Mier asked.

"Approximately 30 minutes. I wonder how soon she will want to collect on the gourmet dinner?" replies the Doctor.

The Vulcan raised an eyebrow "Gourmet dinner?" she said not understanding "What does a gourmet dinner have to do with a cure?"

The Doctor chuckles "Inside joke. Mimic hates needles. Humor does have its value for medical situations. Though I doubt your philosophers would agree."

"It is not logical to be afraid of needles, they cause no harm. Also we do not use needles in Starfleet."

The Doctor nods "Needles don't hurt most people, but Mimic's nervous system is more sensitive. Needles hurt her more than they would others. I will remind her that Starfleet has advanced beyond the use of needles."

The shuttle carrying Mimic and Skydancer lands in the Eagle's shuttle bay. Mimic waits for the door to open before leaving the shuttle. She thanks Torrell for the safe journey then both her and Skydancer head for Sickbay.

As the two arrive in Sickbay, Doctor T'Mier walks over to the door. When it opens she does not waste any time with unneeded conversation "Ms Mimic, can you please sit down on this bio bed." she said pointing to the nearest bed.

"Hello to you too, " replies Mimic. She sits on the biobed as asked. Skydancer hovers near a chair by the Doctor.

T'Mier responded in her usual Vulcan tone "Thank you, I will be taking a small dose of blood that should allow us to create the cure for the all races in the colony. The cure for the humans has already been found and tested using the blood sample taken from you earlier. That should create enough for the rest of the humans."

"That's fine." Mimic thinks to herself "How the blazes did they allow this one to be a doctor? She' has no bedside manner whatsoever. Ugh!"

"Thank You" the Vulcan says as she finishes gathering the blood she needs and heads over to the computer console. She inputs the info as to how much she needs to cure the entire colony, but according to the data a few drops of blood will be enough to cure ten thousand Vulcans and roughly the same amount of the other species.

Mimic feels like she wants to scream. She can't stand people who act so emotionless; it sets off her alarm bells. Usually people like that want to do her harm, but she refrains from any emotional displays. She won't appear weak in front of T'Mier. She decided to employ some deep breathing techniques to calm down then figure out a way to make as graceful an exit as possible.

"So what is the death toll from the colony?" inquires the Doctor. He knows how bad things can get with Talkons on the loose.

Doctor T'Mier brings up the latest casualty reports from the surface and reports her finding to the other Doctor in a calm voice. "According to the latest casualty reports, three thousand are dead and another twelve thousand injured, four thousand critically"

The Doctor is starting to notice Mimic's reactions to T'Mier's brisk behavior. "Mimic, why don't you go on to the Mess, I'll join you later for that meal. You look like you could use a little snack to boost your system." Mimic nods and gets up. She leaves sickbay with Skydancer following her.

The Doctor then turns his attention to the casualty report "Fifteen thousand casualties. At least the number of the dead isn't as high as I've seen it in some cases."

T'Mier nods and after making sure that Mimic has left she decided she wanted to ask the other Doctor something "I do not understand Mimic's reaction to me" she said puzzled, "Have I said anything to offend her?"

"Mimic doesn't deal well with individuals who are...extremely controlled with their emotions. Logical beings where she comes from usually want to destroy those who are illogical. She's had the misfortune to run into such beings in the past, they have left scars on her psyche. Your brisk manner rubbed her the wrong way so to speak." replied the Doctor.

"Please assure Mimic that Vulcans are a peaceful race. We do not wish you, or her any harm."

"I will remind her of that. It is ironic that the order of logic led to your race becoming peaceful in this Universe where it has lead other races to become warlike in ours. Interesting."

"Vulcans were at one time a barbaric race, but the pursuit of logic saved my race from destroying itself."

The Doctor chuckles "That is unique. Though that philosophy does not work for everyone. Each must find their own path."

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP BEEEEP, the computer panel beeps and T'Mier checks the computer and finds that the tests have been completed and finds the exact amount of the blood she will need and they will end up needing all the blood she received from mimic, and also shows the other Doctor this. While the other Doctor is looking at this information, T'Mier opens a channel to the bridge. "*Captain, we have the cure ready to transport to the surface, we will need to get it to a local hospital as soon as possible.*"

"Alright, I will have Mr. Maxwell return to the ship and escort you to the planet, Captain Carter out"

"Shall I go with you?" inquires the Doctor.

"Your assistance may be required, thank you" replied Doctor T'Mier.

"Very well." The Doctor then goes to the conn and opens a channel "This is the Doctor to Mimic. Could you please return to Sickbay, I need to discuss something very important with you? Over and Out."

"I will be in my office if you need me."

The Doctor nods. T'Mier walks into her office leaving the Doctor alone. A few minutes later Mimic and Skydancer both come in. "So what's the summons for? Something go wrong?"

"Actually the opposite. We have the cure ready for the colonists. I will be going with Dr. T'Mier to help her. I have a task for you though. Can you operate a Varstrion Beserker powered armor exosuit? I think that's what they designate their powered armor."

Mimic looks a bit worried "Yes I can, what sort of chaos are you expecting?"

"Besides Talkons? BlackStar is on that planet somewhere. I don't believe we should let him have all the advantages. I need you to help balance things out. Especially if you can come up with something to interfere with his armor's systems."

Mimic gets a mischievous smile on her face "Oh don't worry, I'll cook up something really special for him. And make sure Maxwell and O'Dell will get a good crack at him, I think I owe them that much. This guy has been a headache for the Federation people."

Doctor nods "I'll let you worry about that then. Make whatever arrangements you need to gain the items you'll need."

"And maybe a few prayers?"

"I don't think that will hurt our cause at all. By the way, please be a little more tolerant of Dr. T'Mier's behavior. She means no ill will to you or anybody." replies the Doctor.

"All right. I'll try my best for your sake."

"That's all I can ask for. Now get ready and take care." Mimic smiles and heads off to figure a way to retrieve what she needs. Skydancer remains behind.

The Captain has already given the order for Maxwell to return to the ship. Vari is now in control of the Pride and decides to take Maxwell back herself instead of having to send a shuttle over. This way it will save time; the more time that can be saved could mean another person would survive this virus.

"Vari is going to send Maxwell to the planet with the sonic equipment and a couple of her keltos (Special metamorphic droids used by Varstrion on their starships to assist the EGO in handling things. They are the brawn to the EGO's brain) to help him in one of the Starbird vehicles (Varstrion version of a shuttle). She has also gained permission to send another one to this ship. She's bringing over some things my mistress needs." notes Skydancer.

The Doctor looks at her with surprise "How did you.... Vari can talk to you? Extraordinary."

"The modifications done to my structure allows for me to interact with Varstrion technology on the same level as one of their Garudyn Units can."

"Wonders never cease." notes the Doctor.

Doctor T'Mier comes out of her office with two loads of medical equipment and hands one to the other Doctor "It is time."

=\=Chapter Eight=\=

"Captain to Mimic, the Starbird shuttle has arrived in the shuttle bay" he then closes the signal.

Mimic is somewhat surprised to hear that. She had thought about contacting Vari to get the necessary equipment, but who did that for her? She decided to head to the bay and find out for herself.

As Mimic entered the shuttle bay she was greeted by both Doctors "Are you ready?" T'Mier asked.

"As ready as I'm going to be. Let's go!"

Vari decided to modify her kelton body to resemble her avatar form back on the Pride. She appeared to be a golden colored humanoid female. The other keltons had also taken humanoid forms. She observes her surroundings as the other keltons unloaded the sonic weapons from the Starbird "This planet is very beautiful. Reminds me of Lybertas" she says to Maxwell

"It won't be beautify to my eyes until this virus is gone" Maxwell says as he raises the ultrasonic weapon. The rest of the security force gathers around him.

"We need to start neutralizing as many Talkons as possible and distribute these sonic devices to security officers we find. Also, keep an eye out for the Doctors from the Eagle to arrive."

"Makes sense. I brought 10 Keltons with me, so I'll keep two and wait for the Doctors here. If they're using the other Starbird, it will bring them to land near our current position. The rest I'll send with you and your Security people; if that's all right with you."

"Alright" Maxwell says and signals his security officers to get moving in a search pattern. Shortly after they start searching Maxwell is attacked by a Talkon and loses his Sonic device. After a fierce struggle, Maxwell was able to pull out his knife and stab the creature in the arm. The creature tries to get up and leave to hunt for easier prey, but before it could get far, Maxwell got back up and used the Sonic device to stun the creature. For the next 10 minutes, 3 security officers have been injured, one of them has been infected by the disease as he was bitten by a Talkon before another security officer was able to use his sonic device. Within that 10 minutes, they have found 5 security from the colony and armed them with the sonic devices. As Maxwell handed it out to them he noticed a second Starbird heading down to the landing site. Maxwell ordered his officers to continue while he went back to provide security at the landing site.

Vari notes the landing of the second Starbird "All right, that's what I was hoping for." The two keltons with her go over to the ship to help with the passengers and any cargo. She notices Maxwell coming over to the landing sight "What happened to you?"

Vari is referring to the 2 nasty cuts on Maxwell's face (one going across his forehead and one on his left cheek) and one on the right arm "I was attacked by a Talkon, I was able to use a knife to repel it, and stun him with the sonic device" he tries to smile, hiding the pain "These things work good."

"The Varstrion have learned to use a diversity of weapons. Something your Starfleet should consider. Here comes the others."

The two Doctors are the first to arrive followed by Mimic wearing a distinctive blue and gold body armor and Skydancer. "Good grief Maxwell, it seems you have already engaged the enemy" notes the Doctor.

"You could say that" Maxwell says as he rubs the cut on his forehead, leaving blood on his hand, and goes on to tell the Doctor what happened.

"Chaos, with all you've been through Maxwell, I hope Starfleet is going to give you and your people hazard pay for this one." quips Mimic

"Looks like I'd best armor up and start hunting for the viprax." She said comparing Black Star to a nasty alien species from their universe that resembles a Bipedal sentient cobra. The Berzerker armor walks over to Mimic's position. Maxwell is a bit surprised to see the hulking robotic armor move on its own. It's blue and gold colors match Mimic's body armor. The back portion opens up and Mimic climbs inside. Then it closes up again, completely encasing her.

The Doctor notes Maxwell's expression "Impressive I'll admit. Not something you want to be on the wrong side of, especially in the hands of a capable pilot such as Mimic"

"Well Mimic, are you ready to get going?" Maxwell says as he raises the sonic device getting ready to go, also and also takes out his hand phaser incase the run into Black Star.

"Definitely ready, we both have unfinished business with Black Star"

The powered armor nods its head. Both Maxwell and Mimic take off in search of more Talkons and Black Star.

Both Doctors start off towards the hospital with the 4 Security officers as well as Vari and three of her keltons providing them protection. To their surprise they made it all the way to the door without incident, but as a security officer opened the door a Talkon leaped out of the door lunging at the first security guard.

One of the keltons reacts by transforming into its armored form and attacks the Talkon. It wrestles the Talkon down then hits it with a sonic attack. The Talkon is rendered unconscious. Vari looks at the security officer "Are you all right?"

The Security officer gets back up on his feet and picks up his sonic weapon, "Yes I'm fine, thank you" he said, then lead the way inside the hospital. They were able to get to the main desk without a problem and they found the chief medical officer at the main desk.

"Doctor Ray I am Doctor T'Mier from the Starship Eagle"

"I'm glad you could make it Doctor" Ray says and looks to the other Doctor "and your name is?"

"Doctor will suffice." he smiles at Doctor Ray.

Ray nods at the Doctors, "If, you'll follow me, I'll take you to where the medical research is being done. he says as he starts walking towards the medical research facility which is down the hall with 10 room and the last room on the right.

As Maxwell and Mimic are walking around searching for Talkons, Starfleet and Black Star, Maxwell decides to ask a few questions. He knows this isn't exactly the best

time, but it is something to do to pass the time while the search "So, what is your universe like anyway? I haven't had much of a chance to ask you about that"

Mimic chuckles "Skydancer is following us and is above our position. I'll send her to scout ahead." Mimic makes contact with her friend and relays the instructions before continuing with Maxwell "Now to answer your question. We don't have the same races as your Universe-except for humans. There are a few that are similar to races found here thought. We have several races that developed Time Travel. Not too many that use warp drive. That's not unique to your universe, but it's not common back home." She paused for a few seconds to take a quick look around her surroundings. "Humans have expanded beyond the Milky Way galaxy in our universe. So there are a lot of conflicts and treaties with various races. What else would you like to know?"

"Well even though I'm security, exploration is why I joined Starfleet," he says also while looking around. He knows how to have a conversation without being distracted from his mission "A chance to learn about new life forms, no matter where from, this or another universe."

"It seems we have something in common. I chose to join the Doctor on his travels for the same reasons you joined Starfleet. Though considering the Doctor's tendency to meet up with rather unpleasant individuals, I end up watching his back quite a bit. It hasn't all been monsters and madmen thankfully. The Eye of Orion was one of the places we visited. It's so peaceful there. I've never been to anyplace like that before." Before Maxwell can respond to this they started to receive weapons fire from a building. Skydancer must have missed the person inside it or that person just arrived. During the repeating fire, one beam struck Maxwell's shoulder throwing him to the ground. He quickly regains his composure and hides behind cover as he orders Mimic to do the same.

Mimic can hear Skydancer's warning a split second before the weapons fire begins. She sees Maxwell take a hit, but is relieved to see that he is not seriously hurt. She catches his order for her to take cover, but this time she knows she cannot obey him. "Sorry Maxwell, this time I have to take up the firefight." She shifts to a kneeling position and angles an energy blast towards the direction where the weapon fire came from. A few seconds later a black and silver powered armor similar to the one Mimic is piloting leaps at her position. Mimic teleports out of the way and reappears right behind the armor. He turns to face her, but Mimic grips the powered armor and then an intense electrical field surrounds it. The powered armor then vanishes completely, leaving the surprised figure of Black Star exposed. He is still encased in a dark grey body armor.

Immediately after Black Star lost his main armor he was able to push Mimic back enough for him to get far enough away and get behind some cover. Maxwell witnesses this and decided it was time for him to react. He figures that Black Star right now will not feel threatened by him so it will give him a perfect opportunity to sneak up on him. He turns to face Mimic as he is now only holding the phaser "Lay down some cover fire, I'll sneak around to his left then I'll take him out from there."

Mimic switches to plasma blasters "You'll have to use the highest setting on your phaser to take him down. His body armor is strong enough to withstand anything less. That way you can knock him out!" She then starts to lay down the cover fire. Skydancer joins her mistress and follows her lead.

As Mimic and Skydancer are firing at Black Star, Maxwell keeps himself low so Black Star cannot see him, as there are obstacles in their area and a building near by. He

runs to the building then walks slowly beside the building. He eventually comes near where Black Star is and kneels down beside a near by vehicle that the colony use. He sets his phaser to the highest settings and stands up to get a good shot at Black Star. Just as he was about to raise his phaser, Black Star notices him and tries to swing around to shoot Maxwell. Fortunately Maxwell had a faster reaction and was able to get his phaser up in time and fired the weapon blast at full strength. The blast hits Black Star in the chest pushing him back into a metal crate. He slid down the crate unconscious "Hold your fire!" Maxwell yells as he stands where Mimic and Skydancer can see him.

Mimic and Skydancer stop shooting simultaneously. Skydancer lands on the powered armor's left shoulder. Mimic then advances the armor to where Maxwell is standing. "Good shot! He'll be out of it for awhile," she notes.

At the hospital T'Mier and the Doctor from the other universe have giving all the information that they can to the Colony Doctors "Thank you Doctors" Ray says, "I think we can handle it from here. I'm sure the Eagle will need you back to help with the casualties from the battle."

"The Eagle and the Archer will be sending a medical team down in a few hours. I will return to the Eagle to assist the team to get ready. We have put in a request for Starfleet to send a medical team as well" replied T'Mier. She addresses her colleague from the other universe "It's time for us to return to the ship"

"You're right. My job here is done. I wonder if Mimic and Maxwell had any luck finding Black Star. If anybody can do that, it will be those two. They are a great deal alike." The Doctors gather up their equipment and head back to the Starbird. They see Maxwell, the security team, and Mimic. They can't quite make out who else is there until they get closer. "It has been awhile since we last crossed paths, Black Star. It is unfortunate that we have to meet under these circumstances." the Doctor shakes his head sadly.

Black Star chuckles. He lifts his arms to show the restraints that have been placed on him "I must agree with you, Doctor. My brethren did me great honor to send you and your charming friend to face me. I take it that I will be returning home with you?"

"I would think so, thought I'm not sure what Starfleet might feel about that. I know the Varstrion want to make sure you face their tribunal for your crimes."

Maxwell says while holding onto Black Star "As far as I'm concerned, I don't care where he gets tried, as long as he is tried for his crimes." He smiles as he thinks a bit "Inform the Varstrions to add Mass murder on a Federation colony to their list of charges". He then orders Black Star to get in the Starbird.

"Don't worry; I'll personally list his sins to the Varstrion," notes Mimic. She glares at Black Star as he's marched into the Starbird by the Keltons.

As much as Maxwell would like to stay and chat, he knows its time to head back to the Eagle "Alright, let's get back to the ship" he says as everyone starts to board the shuttle. After everyone is on board the shuttle takes off and heads for the Eagle.

After the landing party arrives back to the Eagle with a now conscious Black Star, the Captain greets them in the shuttle bay "Welcome back." He notices Black Star and motions 2 security guards over "Please take Black Star to the brig." He then addresses

Mimic and her Doctor "We will be having a memorial service in an hour, I hope you attend."

"We would be honored to attend. It is fitting that we remember those who gave their lives" notes the Doctor with a touch of sorrow in his voice.

"It is customary for the Varstrion to pay respects to their fallen comrades and to pray for their family and friends left behind," adds Mimic.

The captain nods in appreciation then address them and the security team, "Good work everyone, Mr. Maxwell, I suggest you go to sickbay and get those wounds taken care of." He then pauses as Maxwell nods in agreement "If you'll excuse me, I have some preparations to make" he says and then turns around and walks out of the shuttle bay.

"I will see you two at the service" Maxwell says and smiles and then also leaves the shuttle bay.

Mimic sighs "This didn't turn out the way I expected."

The Doctor nods "Frankly, I was preparing for much worse. I'm glad that I was wrong."

"I suppose we'd better take some time to clean up. We're supposed to act respectable, you know."

An hour passes by reasonably quite with the exception of the Captain questioned Black Star and receiving no useful information. The Senior Staff including the Doctor, Mimic and Skydancer arrive in an empty cargo bay for the service before the visitors have to leave back to their universe. They felt this was the least they could do to honor the memory of those who had died to capture one of their renegades. "Today we are here to remember our fallen comrades." The captain goes on to name all 22 officers who has died in this mission, 16 have died in the first battle and 5 died in the second with one officer died protecting Mimic on the Pride.

Mimic starts to quietly cry. The Doctor puts his arm around her shoulders to comfort her. She then starts to whisper the familiar prayers he's heard her say before, on other worlds. Peace for the Dead. Comfort and hope for the living.

After the service was finished and everyone had left, the Captain caught up with Mimic and the Doctor in the corridors. "I wished it had have gone a different way." He stops for a few seconds to gather himself and then continues "What will be done with Black Star when you returns to your universe?"

"He will be put on trial for his crimes in both Universes. The Varstrion code has provisions for that." notes the Doctor "Though I don't know if he will be given the death penalty. That is only given in the gravest of cases."

Mimic smirks "I hope not, death would be too good for a freak like him."

"I agree he would be getting off to easy" The Captain says, "Well, when do you plan on taking him back?"

"Probably as soon as possible. It would be unfair to burden you any longer with his presence," notes the Doctor.

"Yes, he's right. Too bad we didn't have longer to socialize. It's for the best we get him back where he belongs ASAP." adds Mimic.

"I agree. I too wish we had more time to learn about each other, but I suppose it's just as well. He needs to be dealt with ASAP" the Captain responds.

"Doctor, do you think we could spare some time to say our farewells?" asks Mimic.

The Doctor nods "I think that is feasible. He's not going anywhere for awhile."

"Well I'll let you two get ready. I'd better get to the bridge, my senior staff and I will meet you in the shuttle bay, in, how's 45 minutes?" asked the Captain.

"That seems appropriate. Thank you, Captain Carter, for everything." The Doctor and Mimic head off to prepare for their leave taking.

After the 45 minutes have passed, The Doctor, Mimic and Skydancer arrive in the shuttle bay. The Captain and the Senior Staff are waiting for them. The Captain and Maxwell are holding two hand made and painted models of the USS Eagle, two of three that he built just after the Eagle was built. They walk up to the visitors with the Captain giving the model he was holding to the Doctor while Maxwell hands one to Mimic "A little reminder of the Eagle and its crew."

Mimic smiles "Thank you, I will treasure this always."

"As will I," the Doctor echoing his friend's words.

"It's not customary for my kind to say farewell. We only do that at funerals. So instead I will speak a traveler's blessing 'In the darkest night may you always find a star to guide your way and may the One watch over and bless you all, my friends.'" speaks Mimic.

"Thank you" The Captain says.

"Is there anything, anything at all you need for your return journey?" Maxwell asks, he appears to have been healed and in much better shape.

"Is our 'associate' secure in the Starbird?" inquires Mimic.

"Yes he is" replied Maxwell "I secured him in there myself"

"Mr. O'Dell wants to say something to Skydancer here" the captain steps in.

O'Dell walks up to Skydancer with a data pad that he knows he will have to hand over to Mimic to hold for Skydancer. He wanted her to know what it was "I wish was had more time for you and I to learn more about each other, it would have been interesting to learn more about you" he says. He then holds up the pad to show Skydancer "I don't know if you're interested in this kind of thing, but I put together a non-classified version of a schematic of the Eagle, with the Captains permission of course. I thought you might be interested"

Skydancer nods "I am interested in your gift. I will be happy to accept it."

Mimic holds out her hand so O'Dell can give the pad to her "Who can say what destiny will bring? Maybe we will cross paths again, though I hope under happier circumstances."

"Yes that would be less painful" Maxwell says laughing.

Skydancer heads inside the Starbird. Mimic and the Doctor look at the crew "It is time for us to leave then. Safe journeys." They both then head for the Starbird to board it for their trip back to the Pride. Carter and his staff salute them. Mimic returns the salute and both of them enter the ship.

"We will be ready for launch in a few minutes. Vari and the keltons retrieved the sonic equipment and have returned to the Pride ahead of us. She says she will make sure Star is placed where he belongs."

"Thank you Dancer." Mimic and the Doctor strap themselves into the pilot and co-pilot seats. Skydancer chooses to lock down on the metal armrest of one of the

passenger seats. She keeps a wary eye on Star. The launch sequence commences automatically. Vari decided to bring them back to the Pride herself.

"Don't worry lady, gentleman, and droid. I'm going to give you a smooth ride back." She then remotely controls the ship's functions. Once Carter and his crew are safely away, she launches the Starbird and takes it back to the Pride

The Starbird lands on the Pride without any troubles. Once the ship is landed, the keltons come on board and escort Black Star to the Isolation area, where he will be held for their journey home. The Doctor, Mimic and Skydancer head up to the bridge of the Pride. Vari's VI form is there to greet them.

"Thanks for the smooth trip. You're a wonder Vari" notes Mimic with genuine affection.

"It was nothing. Now that we have almost everything secure in its proper place, including all of our uninvited guests, time to head home."

Mimic sits in the captain's chair and moves a special touch screen in place. "Ready when you are Doctor."

The Doctor then gives the coordinate information they'll need to complete the transfer equations. "On your mark, Doctor." notes Vari

The Doctor pauses for a few moments then says "Mark now!"

The ships systems begin to light up. They can see as the scene changes on the main viewing screen to the aurora patters that indicate their transfer from one universe to another.

After what seems to be an eternity, the Pride appears over a beautiful blue and green world. "Where are we?" inquires Mimic.

"Phyrni III if I'm not mistaken," replies the Doctor "Vari will layover here for a few hours then complete the jump to Lybertas."

Mimic nods "Grand. I'll go take a look at our 'friend'. He worries me more than the Royka mercenaries."

"Are you sure? I have him on my scanners. He's not going anywhere, Mimic," notes Vari.

"I'd be happier if I can see for myself." Mimic gets up and heads off to go to Isolation. The Doctor decides to check up on his TARDIS. Once he's done that, he settles himself into the captain's chair. Skydancer peaches on one of the other console chairs. "Mimic to Doctor, you'd better get down here immediately!"

The Doctor is startled to hear Mimic's voice on the comn "What's wrong Mimic?"

"No time, just you and Dancer get down here now!"

The Doctor knows better than to ignore Mimic when it comes to something like that. He and Skydancer immediately head to isolation. Vari joins them as they arrive. They enter Isolation to find no trace of Black Star. "That can't be right! How could he have done this?" Vari is surprised.

"I can't believe it, the viprax is gone!" Mimic starts to mutter dire threats against Star.

The Doctor looks around the room where Star was held. He then notices a small red box. He walks over to it and examines it more closely, and then he begins to frown. "This box is an interface designed to transmit specialized images to fool Vari's scanners." As he touches the box it begins to glow. They back away from it. An image of Star appears.

"My deepest apologies for this inconvenience, but I couldn't allow you to take me home. I have unfinished business with your Starfleet friends. You may have helped them win the battle, but the war has just begun. I intend to win that war, for I have unleashed the Darkness against them."

Mimic is so angry she can hardly speak "That monster! How? And what are we going to tell the Varstrion?"

"The truth, Mimic. It seems he is still in the other Universe. We must warn the Varstrion and get their help." The Doctor puts a hand on his friend's shoulder "I know you're angry about this. So am I. However, I remember what a good friend told me once when I was near despair 'When things are darkest, that is when I hold out for hope.'"

Mimic looks at her friend and smiles, those were words she had told him once before. "You're right. We've beat this fool once, we can do it again. He doesn't know whom he's dealing with does he?' She gives him a mischievous smile.

The Doctor returns her smile "Somehow, I think he's in for a rude awakening."

THE END

On The Next Story

One night as Lieutenant Commander Riley Berry and Ensign Sabrina Allen were sleeping, the rest of the crew were abducted, shortly after they wake up, they discovered they are the only two people on the ship, and no immediate location of the crew. The communications officer and Councilor must work together to locate and rescue the Entire crew before the kidnappers are ready to perform their deadly experiments. Download "Just The Two of Us" July 1st 2004, only at www.iftcommand.com and www.ussgrandeur.org

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