Episode 6 “Trust No One”

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=/\=**Prologue**=/\=

Three days ago…

Captain's log Stardate 9421.4: It has now been a week since we were rescued from being experimented on by the race known as the Loonas. I would like to note that if it wasn't for Ensign Sabrina Allen and Lieutenant Commander Berry, we would still be stuck in that Loonas prison. The crew seems to be recovering well from the ordeal. There is still two of my crew in sickbay, but the doctor says they should be back on their feet by tomorrow.

Location
Mess Hall - USS Eagle

"So what was it like, just the two of you running this ship?" Lieutenant O'Dell asked.
Riley Berry shakes his head and looks over at Ensign Allen.
"I hope that never happens again, it was almost like being on a ghost ship. I don't think either one of us had much experience running a starship before." replies Allen.
"You can say that again, the ship was almost destroyed." adds Berry "We were in Engineering trying to find someone when we got the warning that Engines were heading into a warp core breach. Neither one of us had any idea what we were doing."
"Well you'll be happy to know that when we got back I put the Engine through a test and it was working perfectly. Good job you two." O'Dell says as he hears the red alert siren.

=/\=Chapter one=/\=
Present day Stardate 9424.6

The Captain arrives to the Bridge from the turbolift as he hears the red alert siren again for the 3rd time in 3 days. "What the hell is going on?" the captain asks.
"There has been another murder, Maxwell is at the crime scene right now." The commander lowers her head to think of the best way to tell the captain the next bit of information.
"This is the third murder in three days Commander, it's got to stop", the captain then notices the reaction on the commander's face. "What is it Commander?"
"The victim. Its Ensign Alex Doyle sir." The captain stops in his tracks as he reaches his chair stunned by the news and almost falls into the chair. "I'm so sorry sir"
The captain without saying a word turns around and heads towards the turbolift and leaves the bridge. The bridge crew just watch as the Captain leaves the bridge and Sabrina Allen walks up to Commander Torrell. "I don't understand, who's Alex Doyle" Ensign Allen asks.

"He was the son of the Captain's best friend."
"Oh my, maybe I should go talk to the captain."
"It wouldn't hurt. He is like family to the Captain."

Location
Alex Doyle's quarters – USS Eagle

"How did he die doctor?" The captain asks as he walks into Crewman Doyle's quarters.
"He died the same way the other two victims died, his throat was cut." The captain walks in farther and he can see the body on the floor. He then slowly backs away and addresses the Chief Of Security.
"Use any resources you need, but I want him to be the LAST, understood?"
"Aye sir" Maxwell replied.
"I'll be on the bridge if I'm needed." The captain then turns around and leaves the crew quarters. With Maxwell and T'Mier watching.
Maxwell walks up to the doctor to try to get some information that could help with his investigation. "Doctor, are you able to determine what type of knife was used in the murder?"
"Unknown at this time" replied the doctor. "I may be able to determine the type of weapon that was used once I get the body to sickbay and complete a more complete examination"
"Keep me posted Doctor".

Two hours later
Location
Mess hall - USS Eagle

"These attacks don't make any sense. It's as if he's picking these people at random. How am I supposed to find out who it is when I don't even have a clear motive for these murders?" Maxwell says to Ensign Allen.
Sabrina Allen though for a few moments before replying "What we need to do is take a good look at these crimes and see what patterns emerge. We need to look at every detail no matter how small because any clue could be what gives us the key to understanding the mind of our killer and help predict his next move."
Maxwell nods "So far we don't have much to go on. All we know for certain is that the killer seems to pick his victims at random and that each of the murders occurred 20 hours apart."
"Right, so we can assume that in the next 18 hours our murder will try to strike again. The question now becomes whom will he strike next?"
"Exactly. I'm going to recommend to the captain that no one is to be anywhere alone. If any crew member is found to be alone that person should be escorted the Security for questioning."

Sabrina winces at Maxwell's idea "Is that really necessary? I mean it sounds a bit...extreme."
'Unfortunately it's the best idea I can think of to narrow down our list of suspects, Ensign."
Sabrina nods "Understood sir. I just wish there was another way."
“So do I Ensign, but right now we don't have much of a choice." Maxwell then contacts the captain and gives him his recommendation. The captain agrees to the idea, but also lets Maxwell know to try to keep these measures as temporary as possible. He doesn't want to put these kind of extreme measures on his crew for very long. Maxwell then addresses Sabrina again "Captain Carter seem to be taking all this pretty well."
Sabrina frowns "That's what worries me. He seems to be handling it too well. “He needs to know it's ok for him to mourn over Alex."
"Well, one things for certain. I will make sure we find out who did this and why, for the captain’s sake."

18 hours later
Location
Deck 6 corridors – USS Eagle

Two of the Eagle's crew are walking down the corridor when the lights suddenly go out, plunging both of them into darkness.
'"What happened to the lights?" one of the two ladies asked.
Her friend sighed, "I'm not sure. Let me try something: Computer-restore lighting in the corridor." The darkness remained.
The first crewmember was starting to become nervous "What do we do now."
"Let me see if I can raise Engineering,” replied her friend. She goes long feeling for a comm panel. "Don't worry. It could just be a fault with the lights, we're still able to breathe so Life support is still functional." Her fingers finally come across one. She taps the Buttons, but gets no activity. "I don't believe this! You'd think that. Oh bother."
The first crewmember is getting frightened now "The comm is out too?"
"Yes. This is ridiculous. We ought to head over to one of the turbolifts and take it to another level. We need to get in contact with someone. I think there is one about 5 feet from where we are now." She starts to move towards the lift by keeping contact with the wall. She reaches the door but stops when she hears a sound from behind her. A sharp blow to the side of her head drops her to the floor.
Her friend panics and starts to back away, trying to leave. She catches the glint of a shiny crescent coming around from behind her. She tried to scream, but a strong hand covers her mouth. She feels a brief flash of pain as something piercing into her neck, and then she slips into oblivion as the blade finishes its gruesome task. The killer quickly flees just before the lights turn on again, revealing a horrid sight.

A few minutes latter Lt. Mohammed comes walking down the same corridor. She gasps at the sight of the two downed crewmembers. She comes to the first one and kneels down to check for a pulse when she becomes aware of a pool of blood forming underneath the

woman's head. She is startles, but regains her composure and hurries over to check on the other crewmember. She puts her fingers to the woman's neck and detects a faint pulse. Mohammed then goes over to the comm and activates it "Mohammed to Sickbay-medical emergency on Deck 6 Section 3!"

Lieutenant Commander Maxwell, Captain Carter and Doctor T'Mier arrive at the same time to the crime scene on Deck 6. "Captain, its exactly 20 hours from the last murder, just as the other two." Maxwell pointed out.
'This crewmember was killed in the same manner as the other three victims, Captain, "notes Dr. T'Mier "There is no logical pattern to these murders."
The captain noted her confusion "Unfortunately Doctor, murders and murderers are seldom logical." The captain then looks at the other crewmen. "Doctor, what's her condition."
"She's unconscious, but otherwise unharmed captain. I need to take her to sickbay for a full examination."
As the captain was about to allow this, Maxwell noticed something in the hand of the unconscious crewmember. He moves over to get a better look; it was a knife with blood on it. Maxwell carefully takes the weapon out of her hand and stands up, holding the knife by its tip "Sorry Doctor, but you'll have to perform your exam in the Brig." He turns to the Captain "Sir, this appears to be the knife used in the murder. I'm placing Ensign Blair under arrest for suspicion of murder."
"Understood commander, I want to be there for her interrogation." The captain responded. Dr. T'Mier was about to protest when Carter raided his hand and cut her off "I'm sorry Doctor, but we have to do it this way. We have a responsibility for the safety of the entire crew to think about."
Several Security and Medical personnel show up. T'Mier orders the medical personnel to take the body back to Sickbay. Maxwell orders the Security to take the unconscious crewmember to the Brig. T'Mier follows after them to perform her exams of the crewmember there.

1 hour later
Location
Brig – USS Eagle

"What am I doing in here sir" Blair asked the captain.
"You were found unconscious beside Crewmen Hart with a knife with her blood on it in your hands." The captain said.
"Knife?' Ensign Blair said sounding surprised. "Is she ok sir?"
"She's dead"
"Oh my, we were walking down a corridor on deck 6 and the lights went out, and before I knew it, I felt someone hit me." She paused trying to think of the next best thing to say to the captain and Maxwell. "After he knocked me out, he must have turned around and killed Hart and placed the knife in my hand."
"Do you have anyone that can support your story Crewmen" Maxwell asked.

“No sir, we were the only two people in the hall, except for whoever did this to us. At least as far as I know, as we didn’t even know this person or THING was in there with us.”
“So you don’t know what this attacker looks like do you.”
“No sir, I didn’t see who it was that hit me.”
“Alright crewmen, you will be held in the brig until further notice, while we investigate the situation.”
Ensign Blair looks down "Aye, sir."
The Captain takes Maxwell aside so the prisoner cannot hear them. “I’m not sure if I completely trust her; but we can’t ignore the fact that she was unconscious when we found her. If she was the only person in the hall, who could have knocked her unconscious if she committed the murder?”
“I wish I knew Captain, I recommend that we continue our investigation, both with her and looking for other suspects, and I also recommend that we continue to have the crew in pairs, and all security officers and senior staff should be armed with a hand phaser sir.”
“Agreed, I wish it was not necessary.” The captain says as he turns around and leaves the Brig.

1 hour later
Location
Security Office – USS Eagle

Maxwell has spent the last hour looking over the pictures of the 4 dead crewmen on his desk, and looking over the evidence he has. He looks up and sees Ensign Sabrina Allen standing in front of him. "I'm sorry Ensign, I didn’t notice you standing there. Is there something I can help you with?"
"Why is Ensign Blair in the brig?" asks Sabrina with concern.
Maxwell responded. "She was found next to the body with a knife in her hand."
“I thought she was a victim as well. Wasn't she found unconscious?"
"That is correct Ensign; however, she is the only suspect we have at the moment."
Maxwell says as he offers a seat for the Ensign. "We will continue our investigation to determine if someone else is the killer."
Sabrina sits down in the chair "I hope you have considered the possibility that the knife in Blair's hand was a set-up?”
"We are considering that Ensign, as it would be a very likely reason why she was unconscious, but until we know for sure, we cannot release her."
Sabrina frowned “This situation is unbelievable. Besides the fact that our murder victims were personnel on this ship and they were all killed 20 hours apart; what else do they have in common?"
"That’s what I've been trying to figure out for the last 2 days and I can’t think of anything. Doyle was the son of the Captain’s best friend. However, there doesn’t seem to be any connections between the other two victims. The same with the latest victim."

"Well, I can tell you Blair and Hart were related. They're first cousins. More like sisters from what I've seen and heard. This just doesn't make sense. Serial Killers always have a pattern. I know that the 20 hour gap time is part of that pattern."
"We know that if Blair is innocent, then we will have another victim in 19 hours, but the question is who's next? It could be anyone."
"Wait a minute; do you have reports on the autopsies of the victims?" Maxwell punches in the request into the computer and motions Sabrina to come around to his side of the desk to review the records. Sabrina gets up and goes around to stand by him. She positions herself so she can look at the screen.
"The autopsy report show's each victim was killed the same way, but I don't see anything here that could help us."
"Actually, that's not true. From what I'm seeing, this killer is a professional. The kills seem to be fast and efficient. So this person has some sort of training."
"So that would most likely narrow it down to the security teams or the senior staff, they would have the most combat training."
"Yes and that definitely eliminates Blair. She probably has the same training I do, basic self defense."
"The part I want to know is, why was Blair left alive?"
"I think it's what I said before-a set up to try to throw us off the trail. The proverbial 'red herring'"
"He's trying to run us around in a circle, and leading us away from him." Maxwell says, as he seriously believes that they have the wrong person in the Brig.
"Exactly." Sabrina has a worried expression "So then there's also a possibility that he knows we're becoming aware of him."
"This could put you, me, and Blair on the top of his list."
"Let's go back to the fact about the training. Neither Blair or I have that kind of training."
"Which could tell me, he might want to finish the job and come after Blair?"
Sabrina's eyes go wide "Then we need to do all we can to protect her."
"We have two options; we either keep her in the Brig for her safety, or transfer her back to her quarters under guard."
Sabrina dwells on that for a bit "I hate do say this, but I think she'll be safer in the Brig. I believe we should also tell her about what we've figured out. She has the right to know."
"Maxwell gets up, "If you'll come with me, I'll inform her right now."
"Good idea. I need to see how's she's doing for myself." Maxwell and Allen leave the security office and heads over to the Brig across the hall and approach the cell with Blair in.
"Ensign Blair", Maxwell says to get Blair's attention.
The Ensign looks up at Maxwell. She has a wary expression on her face "Yes, sir?"
"We need to inform you of some information from the investigation."
"What have you discovered? Something that will convince you that I'm being truthful when I say that I didn't kill my cousin?"
"That is our belief Ensign. However, we also believe there is a good chance, whoever killed your cousin, might want to finish the job and come after you."
Ensign Blair lowers he head "Why is this happening? I promised to keep an eye on my cousin and I failed." She is almost on the verge of tears.

Sabrina looks at Maxwell "Can I go in there and talk to her? I mean so far she's been hurt, treated like a criminal, and is also grieving over the loss of a relative." Maxwell lowers the forcefield. Sabrina walks into the cell. "Is it ok if I sit here?" she asks Blair indicating a spot on the bunk next to her. Blair nods and Sabrina sits down. 'You said something about a promise?"

Blair looks up at them and begins to explain the promise she had given Ensign Hart's mother about keeping an eye on the girl and showing the ropes about being on a starship. Sabrina listens intently and even puts her arm around the Ensign's shoulders when she begins to cry. Sabrina doesn't stop her; she knows she needs this to help begin the healing process. She is also still concerned about Capt. Carter's behavior concerning Alex, but she has to push that to the back of her mind for now. Blair is the one who needs her at this moment.

Maxwell doesn't want to interrupt them, but he knows she has to know her options, so he steps into the cell. "Ensign, right now you have an important choice to make."

Blair looks up at him cautiously. Sabrina give him a slightly disapproving look then looks back at Blair "We want to make arrangements to keep you safe until this situation is resolved. Your choices will affect that effort."

Maxwell nods in agreement and continues. "We can either keep you here in the Brig under guard, or we can escort you back to your quarters and keep you under guard there."

Sabrina notices Blair's look "I realize these are hard, unpleasant choices. Both of us are concerned for your welfare. We need you to help us catch your cousin's killer; so I recommend you take into consideration the fact of where you would be safest. In making your decision."

Blair thinks for a few moments "I suppose it would be easier for everybody if I stayed here. Is there some way I could have some personal items brought here though?"

"I don't think that should be a problem. I could get them for you; if you could make me a list of want you want. I think a few items would be ok." Sabrina looks at Maxwell.

Maxwell nods to indicate he approves of this. "But don't go alone, I'll go with you." He told Sabrina.

"Under the circumstances, that's an offer I will defiantly take." replies Sabrina. She gives Ensign Blair a data pad "Please go ahead and put what you would like me to bring for you on this pad."

"I'll leave you two alone for awhile, I'll be outside if you need me." Maxwell tells them.

"Thanks." answers Sabrina before going back to the task at hand.

"Ensigns" Maxwell says as he nods to them and leaves the room, but takes up guard duty outside the door.

Sabrina carefully makes the list of items for Blair and continues to talk about the events with her for half an hour. She then decided to find Maxwell so she can retrieve the items for Ensign Blair.

Maxwell hears the door open and he turns to see Sabrina walk out. "Ensign, did you get everything you needed?"

"Yes I did. We need to be extremely careful who gets access to her. Any suggestions?"

"I'll limit access only to the guards on duty, myself, you and the Captain."

"Maxwell, don't take this the wrong way, but I think you should restrict it to just us and the guards alone." Sabrina feels a bit silly saying that, but she just can't help it.

John looked at Sabrina surprised to hear her suggest that the captain should not be allowed access to the brig. "Unless you have evidence against the captain, we cannot block off access from the Captain, but for security purposes, neither, you, the Captain, or myself can go in their without one of the security guards with us."
"Yes, I suppose that's all that can be done realistically at this point. You're thinking is probably the best way to go; it's just that it's so hard to know whom to trust. It's easier to deal with an enemy when you know whom it is."
"That is true Ensign, unfortunately, all we can do is do our best, and hope its good enough. Well we better get heading over to Blair's quarters and get her stuff." Maxwell suggested.
"Good point." Sabrina chuckles "Dr. Kavanagh told me this morning to "Have faith that this will get resolved." I do wish I had her beliefs right now."
Maxwell nods and presses a comm panel button located to the right of the brig. *"Maxwell to security team A, send two security officers to the brig, they will receive their orders when they arrive."* Within minutes the security officers arrive and Maxwell gives them their orders and who to allow in the brig. After he gives them the orders, Maxwell and Allen head down to Blair's quarters to receive her belongings.
As Allen starts to collect the things Blair requested, she notices a picture by the bed. It's a smiling image of Ensigns Blair and Hart-looking more like sisters than the cousins they were. Sabrina felt a few tears slide down her cheek "This isn't fair. This whole thing isn't fair at all," she whispers to herself. She takes a few moments to wipe the tears away and regain her composure before finishing up her task. She then rejoins Maxwell where he had been waiting for her.

Location
Sickbay -USS Eagle

The captain decides he want to see if he can find out any information from the doctor after the examinations of the body. The Captain leaves Commander Torrell in command of the bridge while he heads to sickbay. As the Captain arrives in sickbay he sees Doctor's T'Mier and Kavanagh hovering over one of the victims bodies. He approaches T'Mier. "Doctor, report."
"We have determined that each of the victims was killed using the knife that Lt. Maxwell had found in Ensign Blair's hand. Dr. Kavanagh has noted that whomever committed the murders is a trained person. The wounds are precise and accurate for maximum fatality. Also that the person in question is quite strong; it is her opinion that the murderer is male." answers Dr. T'Mier.
The Captain looks over at Kavanagh. "So your saying crewman Blair has been framed for this crime doctor?"
"Absolutely. All the evidence points to the same person committing these murders. Also, when Ensign Doyle was murdered, Ensign Blair and I were engaged in a game of tri-dimensional chess. So she has an alibi for that one. Besides, she doesn't have the kind of advanced training that our murderer does."

"Doctor, I would like you to head over to security and give a statement to Commander Maxwell, I'll have him meet you there." The Captain told Kavanagh.
"Yes, sir. I'll have one of the nurses accompany me, since we're not supposed to be walking alone." replies Dr. Kavanagh.
"Good" the Captain says as he watches Kavanagh get a nurse and leaves sickbay. The Captain walks over to a comm panel located to the left of the sickbay door and presses the button. *"Carter to Maxwell, report to your security officer, I have Doctor Kavanagh reporting to your officer to leave a statement with you, and when your finished, report to my ready room, I would like a full report of what you have so far."*
"Yes Sir" Maxwell replies.
"Maxwell Out" he says as he presses the button to end the communication channel. And turns back to Doctor T'Mier. "Do you have anything else to report Doctor?"
"Each victim lacks any signs of defensive wounds," answers Dr. T'Mier.
"So they were taken by surprised, possibly attacked from behind." The Captain suggested.
"Except for Ensign Doyle. He was attack from the front."
The Captain lowered his head for a second, then back up. "I suppose it could have been dark, as to attack Alex without him noticing anyone in the room with him."

Location
Corridor leading to the Security Office -USS Eagle

Dr. Kavanagh and Nurse Luna Alcott walk towards the Security Office. "So why do you have to see Lt. Maxwell?" asks Luna.
"I'm basically somebody's alibi."
"Alibi?"
"You aren't a mystery reader, are you?"
"No. I'm not into that kind of fiction. I prefer fantasy stories. So what is an alibi?"
Dr. Kavanagh thinks for a bit before answering "I can provide evidence about Ensign Blair's whereabouts during the time that Ensign Doyle was murdered. That is important because Dr. T'Mier and I have found evidence that the same person committed all the murders, and is most likely responsible for trying to pin the blame on her."
"So since she couldn't have killed the first victim, then it's most likely she didn't kill any of the others. Now I understand."
Dr. Kavanagh smiles "Grand. Now if we can only find out who's really responsible? Whoever this person is..."
Luna looks at her "What is it?"
"A very eerie thought popped into my mind. We figured this person is trained; I wonder if we're dealing with a trained assassin-a professional killer instead of a psychopath."
Luna looks nervous "There's a difference?"
"Yes, there is. Not by much but still there. Looks like I'll have more to discuss with Maxwell than I thought."

Location
Security Office -USS Eagle

Maxwell arrives in the security officer and takes his seat behind his desk, when a few minutes later, Doctor Kavanagh and Nurse Alcott walk in. “Doctor, you have something you want to tell me?" Maxwell asks Kavanagh.
"Yes. For one thing, Ensign Blair has a solid alibi for the first murder. At the time of that unfortunate occurrence, she was playing a game of tri-dimensional chess with me. She's a decent player I might add. She was with me until I got the summons to go to Sickbay to help Dr. T'Mier with the autopsy."
"We suspected at much, I appreciate you coming forward with this information Doctor."
"Well, one other thing that might interest you. I'm something of a mystery aficionado, everything from Sherlock Holmes to true crime. I think what we may be dealing with is an assassin."
"That would make sense, we believe him to be highly trained in the art of combat."
"Not only that, but he's very good at covering his tracks."
"Agreed."
"Grand. So anything else you need from me?"
Maxwell shakes his head. "No, that should be it Doctor, Thank you."
"You're welcome. You know, one other thing occurred to me...considering where the victims have been found who has the kind of access to allow them practically anywhere in the ship? Something else to ponder."
"So far, those area's pretty much anyone can access, but thanks for bringing that up."
"Always willing to lend a hand to my fellow crewmates. If there's anything else you need help with, just give me a shout." With that Dr. Kavanagh heads out of the office with Nurse Alcott following her close behind. They head back to Sickbay.

12 hours later
Location
Corridor outside the Brig - USS Eagle

Crewman Dante Haldan was bored. Keeping watch like this was probably the hardest thing he had to do. The inactivity was difficult to cope with. Especially since he couldn't afford to let his mind wander from his job. This defiantly wasn't what he had signed up for.
Crewman Williams could tell Haldan was bored, while they were just standing outside of the brig. That’s the problem with being in the security department; sometimes you will

get stuck with the most boring jobs that you can imagine. "Just be happy, you only have 2 more hours of this to go."
"Thank goodness for that. I think that's about how much more I can stand."
"Well, your going to have to get used to it, because jobs like this is part of what it is to be a security officer."
"I'll have to find a creative way to keep from getting bored then. I suppose it could be worse."
The lights in the corridor went out and this surprises the two security officers, and turn around to access the door, to the brig to check on Blair, but find the power to the door is off. Before Williams could open the manual override for the door, he hears a sound down the hall, like a mettle sound of something being taken off a wall. He quickly draws his phaser and whispers over to Haldan. "Did you hear that?"
Haldan draws his phaser as well 'I certainly did. So much for being bored."
Williams is on the right side of the door looking down the right while Haldan is on the left, but looking both directions, right now they cant see anything, as the lights have not come back on and neither have the backup. "Haldan, try to cover me while I try to use the override to bring the lights back on."
I'm on it." Haldan tries to keep his other senses open, hoping Williams can get the lights back on. He becomes aware of something or some one. Haldan takes a swing and connects but it's not enough. He is hit hard and drops to the floor unconscious.
Williams hears a thud on the ground and is worried as to what it may be. "Haldan, are you ok?" he asks. But there was no answer and he tries again, when he gets no response, he heads over to where Haldan should be a feels someone lying on the ground, and he bends over to try to figure out who it is. From what he can figure out, he believes it to be Haldan, and he finds his neck and checks his pulse, and saw that he's alive. As he hears a sound behind him and turns around, the he faintly sees an object rushing towards his face moments before he was hit. Moments later Williams died.
When Haldan finally comes around, the lights are back on. He feels blood trickling down the side of his head. He slowly gets up. The first thing he sees is Williams on the floor. Haldan walks over to check on his friend. There is no pulse and the body is already growing cold. He then realizes something else. He goes and checks on Blair. Thankfully she is alive. She is in a deep sleep. He manages to walk out again to look for the nearest comm panel-he knows he has to contact Maxwell immediately.
Haldan didn’t notice that Maxwell was at the end of the hall, when he went into the brig to check on Blair. Maxwell couldn’t tell, but he thought he might have seen something in the belt of Haldan that is not part of the Starfleet uniform and also not the issued phaser. As he approaches he notices the body on the floor and kneels next to Williams once he arrives there and checks his pulse and discovers that Williams is dead. He gets up and heads into the brig where he sees Blair fine in the brig, where Haldan is checking on her, but he notices a manual override control panel cover in the belt of Haldan. Maxwell puts his hand on his phaser and addresses Haldan. "Crewman, please remove your weapons and place them on the floor."
Haldan is completely surprised at Maxwell’s statement. He puts his phaser on the floor, then becomes aware of the panel cover 'How the blazes did that get there?" He is completely shocked.

As Maxwell sees Haldan put the panel cover on the floor, he notices the blood on it, which would most likely match that of Crewman Williams. "Please step inside the cell," Maxwell says pointing towards the nearest empty cell. "You will remain in there until further notice, and I will be questioning you shortly."
"Can you at least have somebody come and take a look at me? I got a real nasty crack to the head, and I'm nit feeling so well."
"Will do, now please step inside."
Haldan slowly steps inside the cell. He manages to reach the bunk before collapsing onto it. His head feels like a heard of elephants is trampling through it.
"Maxwell to Sickbay"
"Dr. Kavanagh here. What's wrong?"
"Medical Emergency. Report to the Brig, and have Doctor T'Mier join you."
"On My way. I'll be there ASAP. Over and out." Kavanagh shakes her head 'When it rains, it pours."

"You're reference to precipitation is not logical." Notes Dr. T'Mier as she walks over to Kavanagh.
"Granted. Murder isn't very logical either."
"Another one has occurred? How do you know that? Maxwell didn't mention anything like that in his message."
Kavanagh looks at her "Considering what's been happening the past few days, I think there is a high probability that's what the emergency is about." She grabs a medical kit and tricorder "I think the sooner we get there, the sooner we can find out if my assumption is correct."
"Precisely. Then let us waste no more time." Dr. T'Mier heads out the door with Dr. Kavanagh following closely behind.
T'Mier and Kavanagh arrive at the Brig. T'Mier sees Crewman Williams on the floor. She goes over to check for a pulse, though it is more of a formality than anything else. She turns and looks at Kavanagh "It appears you were correct. He is dead."
Kavanagh frowns "This is one of the few times that I regret being right." She looks at Maxwell "So what else happened besides his demise?"
After the Doctors check Williams, they walk into the brig to see if there was anything else, Maxwell called them for. "Doctor, I need you to take a look at Mr. Haldan, but whatever you do, must be done inside that cell." Maxwell said pointing towards the cell were he is holding Crewman Haldan.
"So can I go in or do you want to flip a coin?" notes Kavanagh.
"You're sense of humor during situations like this is most...odd." notes T'Mier dryly.
"You have the philosophy of Surak, I have gallows's humor. I think IDIC covers this somehow." She looks at Maxwell, "All right, show me to my patient." Maxwell deactivates the force field and keeps watch as the doctor goes to work on her patient. Kavanagh uses the tricorder to scan him first then assess him with her own eyes. She then starts to treat him, asking him some questions as she goes along. After a few minutes, she walks out of the cell.
As soon as she leaves the cell, Maxwell activates the cell and approaches Doctor T'Mier.
"I want a report as soon as possible on Crewman Williams.

"Understood. I will conduct the autopsy as soon as the body is brought to Sickbay." She turns to Kavanagh "What is Crewman Haldan's condition?"
"I'm surprised he's not dead. As is I'm not happy about his condition. He has a concussion that makes me concerned. Is it possible to have him moved to Sickbay? I don't like what I'm seeing with his trauma."
Dr. Kavanagh eyes start to narrow. Dr. T'Mier is aware that usually means Kavanagh is about to become angry. Which could only mean one thing "Dr. Kavanagh, please show me your tricorder readings for Crewman Haldan." Kavanagh ‘s expression goes neutral as she hands over the tricorder. T'Mier looks at the readings, then looks at Maxwell "I realize that you have a difficult situation on your hands, but I must agree with Dr. Kavanagh. His condition is not yet dangerous, but if he his not given the proper treatment in Sickbay it could become life threatening."
"Besides, what in the cosmos makes you think he killed Williams? He was knocked out for goodness sakes! Probably by the murderer himself." Kavanagh adds.
"I'm sorry Doctor, but until the investigation is over, we have to treat him as a possible suspect. However I will allow him to go to Sickbay, but Security will be there also."
"That will be acceptable as long as they do not interfere with the care of our patients." answers T'Mier.
At this point, three security guards arrive to the Brig and Maxwell addresses the first two. "You two stand guard outside" and then addresses the third one. "You will accompany us to sickbay." Maxwell heads over to the cell and deactivates the force field, and informs Haldan that he will be going to sickbay.
Haldan looks up at Maxwell, he seems a little dazed. "I think you and your brawny friend are going to have to help him along. He's not going to be too steady on his feet,” states Kavanagh. She is looking more concerned by the minute.

Location
Sickbay - USS Eagle

After they reach Sickbay, T'Mier gives instructions where she wants Haldan placed first. She then sends two of the medical staff to retrieve the body of Crewman Williams. She asks one of the nurses to check up on Haldan.
"You can stand over there. You will still have Haldan in your line of sight, but you will not be intrusive on my staff." speaks T'Mier to Maxwell as she points to a particular location near some monitors.
Maxwell nods to the security guard to show the guard that he wants him to follow the doctors’ orders. And they both head over to the spot where T'Mier pointed.
T'Mier then looks at Kavanagh "Dr. Kavanagh, please accompany me to my office. There are a few matters I need to discuss with you."
Kavanagh nods and then follows T'Mier into her office. She gestures for her to sit down, and then takes her place behind the rather Spartan desk. "You do not approve of Maxwell's handling of Crewman Haldan."

Kavanagh frowns "No, I don't. For pity's sakes, it’s not like he could have inflicted that kind of damage on himself. This whole ordeal is getting out of hand."
"Commander Maxwell is in a difficult position. The murderer is proving to be very elusive; Maxwell is doing the best he is able within the confines of his training. He has a procedure he must follow, just as we have."
"Well what's to stop this from becoming the proverbial witch hunt?"
"Individuals like us. You know that Maxwell is not that kind of person. He did allow us to take Haldan to Sickbay, after all."
Kavanagh nods "My apologies. I probably could have handled that with a little more control."
"Good doctors put the well being of their patients first and foremost. A trait I have seen in you. You showed that today in your own unique way. I have known people whom would not have had the courage to even think of going against somebody like Maxwell. I knew you would not have reacted the way you did without good reason, which is why I evaluated the situation and backed your recommendation. Please try to be more patient with Maxwell; he is only doing his job. I will now let you get back to yours."
"Thank you." Dr. Kavanagh heads to the door to walk out. As she does so, she hears T'Mier give one final comment "Also, be patient with yourself. You are only human after all." Kavanagh looks back, but the door is closed already. She blinks a few times, then decided to think about that later. She has a patient to take care of.

Maxwell nods towards Doctor Kavanagh when he saw her leave the officer and attend to her patient, just moments before he heard the door leading into sickbay open, and he noticed it was the captain. He had informed the captain of the incident on the way to sickbay.
Dr. T'Mier comes out of her office and sees Capt. Carter standing a few feet from the entry door "I take it you are here because of the latest death, sir?"
"Is there anything you can inform me of Doctor?” The Captain asks T'Mier.
"I am about to perform the autopsy on crewman Williams. Dr. Kavanagh is caring for crewman Haldan. His head injury is quite serious. However, since Cmdr. Maxwell allowed us to transfer him here to receive treatment, he stands an excellent chance of recovering to full health."
"Ok, I'm not quite up to speed on this, why would Haldan need permission from Maxwell to be treated in sickbay?" The captain asked, wondering if he wasn’t informed, or somehow missed it, as he has a lot running through his head at the moment.
Dr. T'Mier sums up what Maxwell had told her about finding the murder weapon in Crewman Haldan's belt. "Dr. Kavanagh was concerned about his condition. I agree with her that there is no way he could have inflicted that kind of injury on himself."
"Well I'll leave this decision in the Commander’s capable hands. Keep me updated." the captain says and leaves sickbay.
Dr. T'Mier walks over to where Dr. Kavanagh is "What is the progress on Crewman Haldan?"
"He's sleeping at the moment. I'd give it another twenty-four hours before I can say whether is out of danger though. I prefer to err on the side of caution." Dr. Kavanagh looks at T'Mier "I take it you were not completely satisfied with what the Captain said." she mentions in a hushed tone.

"He seemed somewhat...distracted with his answer. Though this situation is very stressful to the crew. I'd imagine it would be much more so for the Captain."
"You and I both know that Haldan was most likely attacked first and rendered unconscious then Williams was killed. It's just like with Blair-our murderer is trying to drive the levels of distrust up between the crewmembers now. He's playing on fear."
"A fascinating observation, Dr. Kavanagh. Let me look at something." She goes and checks the blood found on what was assumed to be the murder weapon. She looks at Maxwell and motions for him to join her as she returns to where Kavanagh is.
Maxwell walks up to the doctor. "What can I do for you Doctor?"
Kavanagh leans in slightly so she can hear T'Mier's statement "I tested the blood found on the panel. It comes from two people: Crewmen Haldan and Williams. The same person most likely attacked them both. So there is grave doubt that Haldan had anything to do with William's death. I agree with Kavanagh on one other matter; our murder is acting in a manner that suggests he is trying to cause the crew to distrust each other-to divided us."
"Understood Doctor, Mr. Haldan will not be moved to the brig, however, I will be posting guards here in sickbay, assuming he was attacked, whoever attacked him, might come back for him, as it seems they did for Blair."
"Understood. As long as they behave as yourself and your fellow Security officer have we will be able to work around them."
"If there is nothing else, ill be heading to my Office to conduct interviews with the crew." Maxwell says looking at T'Mier then to Kavanagh."
"There is nothing else at this time. I will inform you of the results from the autopsy on Crewman Williams once it is completed." notes T'Mier.
"I can't think of anything. If we need you, we'll contact you," adds Kavanagh.
Maxwell nods at the Doctors and leaves the sickbay.
"This may sound odd, but I'm not scared about what's going on. I'm just confused." Kavanagh says.
"I think you have figured out an important factor though. We have possibly discovered the murder's motive. That is an important detail in solving these murders. I will attend to the autopsy." T'Mier goes to perform the autopsy on Williams, seeing if there is anything else she can discover.

30 minutes later
Location
Security Office -USS Eagle

"Good your here Ensign, Right now we are going to question everyone on the ship that I believe has the necessary training to commit these crimes, I would appreciate if you would sit in on this." Maxwell said to Ensign Allen.
Sabrina nods "I would be happy to help you in any way I can."

Maxwell is already at his seat behind his desks, repaired for the interviews. "Can you inform crewman Shore he can come in now?"
Certainly." Sabrina goes to the door and waits for it to open. Once it does she makes eye contact with Crewman Shore. "You can come in now. We're ready for you.
"Mr. Shore, thanks for coming, I have a few questions to ask you." He said standing up while greeting the crewman. Then points to a chair on the opposite side of the table, where Sabrina takes a chair and takes it over to the same side as Maxwell. "Have a seat," he said to Shore.
Shore nods and sits down in the proffered seat. He is at ease, though there is an air of curiosity about him "What do you want to know, sir?"
"Crewman, for the record, where were you at the times of Tuesday June 9th at a 11 hundred hours, Wednesday 05 hundred hours, Thursday at 01hundred hours and 21 hundred hours?"
"Hmm, Tuesday at 11 hundred hours I was on duty. Wednesday at 5 hundred I had woken up and prepared to go on duty. It takes me an hour to sort myself out. Thursday 01 hundred I was sleeping in my quarters and then at 21 hundred I was engaged in a friendly little game of poker with 4 other crew members."
For the next 3 hours, Maxwell continued to question the crew, and so far came up with a few possibilities. Among the senior staff and the rest of the crew. The last person he was scheduled to question was the Captain. Even though he did not want to do this, because he does not believe the Captain could have done any of these crimes Maxwell then tuned to Ensign Allen. Please inform the Captain we are ready for him.
Allen nods. She goes to the door again as she has many times before. The doors open and She looks at the Captain "We're ready for you, sir. Please come inside."
"Thank you for coming Captain, I'm sorry Captain, but policy dictates that I have to ask you some questions." Maxwell says.
"That's not a problem Commander, Ask away." The Captain replied. Maxwell asks the Captain where he was at the times of each of the crimes.
The Captain thinks about it for a second to collect his thoughts and remember where he was at each of those times. “I was in my quarters during each attack, I was in Alex Doyle’s quarters about half an hour before the attack.”
“May I ask what you were doing in his quarters Sir?”
“I was there visiting for awhile, his parents are friends of mine.” The Captain Pauses for a second and continue. “I was to promote him next week, his parents would have been proud.”
Maxwell and Allen take this all in and they continue to ask about each incident. “Captain, do you have anyone that can collaborate your stories.”
“I’m afraid not, I was alone in my quarters each time.”
“Thank you Captain, I’ll let you know if I have any future questions.”
The Captain nod’s and leaves the security office.
The Captain’s answers concerned Sabrina; he had no good alibi for the murders. Once again the frightening possibility of the Captain being the murder crossed her mind. That didn't make sense; he just wasn't the type, was he?

Two Hours Later

Location
Mess Hall -USS Eagle

Ensign Mark Telford was stewing. One would think in this day and age that the perfect crime couldn't be committed anymore. Though that seemed to be the case on the Eagle. "Why can't they catch this guy?" he murmured to himself.
Crewman Lester overheard what Telford was saying and looked up at the ensign. "That's because no one knows what this guy looks like, it could be anyone." Lester pauses then glares at Telford. "For all I know, it could be you."
Telford gives Lester a dirty look "I could say the same thing about you. Come to think of it, you don't have a good excuse for a couple of those times."
"And neither do you, are we suppose to just take you at your word?"
"You're in Security. They say that the murder has some kind of specialized training. Which you have."
"Don't try to pin it on me, I'm keeping my eye on you Ensign."
"What!" Ensign Telford stands up 'that's outrageous!"
"You better watch your tone with me."
"Considering what you've just said to me, what do you expect?"
"I'm warning you ensign, sit down or you'll regret it."
Telford looks like he's about to take a crack at Lester when a voice rings out 'All right! That's enough! Both of you SIT DOWN NOW!" Telford looks over to see Commander Torrell glaring at both him and Lester. He sits down immediately. She walks over to where both of them are. 'What the blazes is going on here?"
"I don't care for Ensign Telford attitude Ma'am," complained Lester.
"Ma'am, he practically accused me of being a murderer," replied Telford.
"Unfortunately, We have a long list of suspects. There aren't too many who have been eliminated. That list includes you and myself, Crewman Lester. So I'd look in the mirror before pointing fingers at others if I were you."
Replied
Cmdr Torrell crossly.
Lester looks at Telford, then back at Torrell. "Yes Ma'am." he said, still not trusting the Ensign.
"No more of this nonsense from either of you, is that clear?"
"Understood."
"Very clear, Ma'am." adds Telford.
"Permission to be dismissed, I should get some rest before my next duty shift." he asked.
"Permission granted." She looks at Telford 'I think it would be wise for you to be dismissed as well, Ensign."
Telford gets up from the table to leave. A friend of his from engineering joins him and they leave together.
Commander Torrell goes back to her table where Nebrell is sitting. "It is not logical to accuse one another like that, I do not understand their hostility towards each other."
Torell shakes her head "it's because they don't know who is responsible for these murders. We really are having a hard time tracking down the culprit. Whoever he is, he's good at obscuring his tracks, metaphorically speaking. It's extremely frustrating."
"Fighting amongst ourselves is illogical, it will not help track the culprit."

"True. Murder isn't very logical either."
"No, It is not"
"So how does someone dedicated to logic deals with what is not logical?"
"On rare occasions, when logic does not apply to a situation, the logical thing to do would use an illogical method that you would not use otherwise."
Torrell smiles "Now that is probably one of the most sensible things I've heard all day."
"Thank you Commander"
A crewman walks up to a security officer having a drink. "Hey, Crewman, You should be out there looking for this guy, not relaxing here having a drink."
The security officer looks back at the crewman "You try looking for a killer with no sleep for over 24 hours. I'm not a machine, so lay off."
"With the progress you people have had, by the time you catch him, everyone on this ship will be dead"
"Oh, really brave aren't you. All you can do is complain about things. Is that all your good for tough guy?"
"That's it," The crewman said to the security officer while grabbing the front of his uniform, and hitting him across the face. The security officer reverts to his defense training and starts to defend himself against the other crewman's attack. Another security officer sees his friend in trouble and heads over to try and help him subdue the attacker. Other crewman sees the fight and some of them get involved on both sides.
Torrell becomes aware of the fight 'I don't believe this!" She gets up and heads to the comm panel "Torrell to Maxwell, there's a fight in the Mess Hall! I need you to get down here with your people and break it up ASAP!"
"On our way, Maxwell out" Maxwell says.
Sarah then has to duck a chair that comes flying in her direction. She decided to try to move to a slightly safer location and try to figure out what to do to get the situation under control, if possible. She then realizes that she has lost sigh of Ensign Nebrell 'Nebrell, where are you?" she calls above the shouting and cursing of the combatants.
Nebrell uses the Vulcan nerve pinch on a crewman who attacked him when Torrell called him. He got in the middle of the crowd after the fighting started and dodged his way out to see what Torrell wanted. "Commander, are you injured?" he asked when he sees a chair that appeared to have been thrown.
"Not yet, and I'm going to try my hardest to keep it that way. I'm afraid I'm going to have to let Maxwell knock some heads together; I'm a little out of my league this time. How are you fairing?"
"He looks over to his arm where there is a little green blood. "I have taking a minor injury, otherwise, I am as I believe your expression would be, fairing fine."
Sarah looks at the injury in question "It doesn't look too horrid. A war wound you can tell your future grandchildren about."
"Why would I tell my future grandchildren about it?" the Vulcan asks, puzzled. He does not see the logic in telling them.
"In another situation that would be funny." Sarah thinks to herself 'Now where the blazes is Maxwell?"
"I am not sure Commander, but we are not at war."
One of Berry's Rules comes to her mind "Never tell a joke to a Vulcan." "Sorry Ensign, it's one of the colorful expressions we humans like to use." Nebrell raises an eyebrow and

before he can respond, Maxwell and a team of 6 security officers arrive in the mess hall.
"Thank goodness for that" Sarah stands up again "All Right! Stop this fighting!"
Within moments the security officers were able to put an end to the fight and Maxwell walks up to Torrell. "With your permission ma'am I would like to address the crew." he said referring to the crew in the mess hall that was involved in the fight.
Torrell looks at Maxwell "Permission granted."
Maxwell now addresses the crewmembers. "As of this moment, when you are not on duty, you are confined to quarters until further notice." He then looks over to Torrell to acknowledge it.
Torrell nods "I agree. We can't afford to have this kind of insanity while we have a murderer still on the loose. Let's not make his activities any easier."
Maxwell nods back, and then addresses the crew again. "DISMISSED" he hollers and watches the crewmembers leave. The ones that were not involved in the fight are still in the mess hall, stunned from what they just witnessed. When Maxwell walks over to Nebrell and Torrell, he notices the blood on Nebrell's arm. "Ensign, report to Sickbay and have that arm looked at."
"Aye Sir" Nebrell says and leaves the mess hall to report to Sickbay.
Maxwell's attention is now on Torrell. "Are you alright Commander?"
"More angry than hurt. The only real damage is to my pride."
Maxwell nods. "Is there anything else I can help you with Commander?"
"Not that I can think of at the moment. Except an escort to the Bridge. I'm going to be on duty soon, and I do remember we're not supposed to be wandering the corridors by ourselves."
Sarah heads out the door, she pauses in the corridor outside to wait for Maxwell to join her. Maxwell joins her and they head towards a turbolift to go to the bridge.

Three Hours Later
Location
Security Office -USS Eagle

"I don't think you're being truly open to the idea that the Captain could be in some way responsible for the murders. Notes Sabrina.
"This is the Captain you're talking about, not to mention one of the victims was his best friend's son." Maxwell says.
"Think about it, Maxwell. He's got some of the greatest access to many aspects of this ship. He also has the right kind of training."
"That does not prove he is responsible for the crimes"
"It also does not absolve him from them either."
"Naturally the captain will remain a suspect. Before we can do anything with the captain, we need more then one Ensign's theories."
"At least I have some theories."
"If you can provide me with more proof, I'll consider questioning the Captain again. If you cannot, we will have to continue our investigation elsewhere."

Sabrina isn't quite sure how to react to his statement. To some degree, she feels as if he's not supportive of her thoughts because it's the Captain. Would he really be willing to go against the Captain should it come down to the fact that he is the murderer? Sabrina isn't so sure all the sudden.
The Door to Maxwell's office opens. Dr. Kavanagh comes striding in with a slightly bewildered O'Dell coming in close behind her. Kavanagh can sense some tension there between Maxwell and Sabrina. "I hope I'm not interrupting anything important."
Maxwell looks at Sabrina, and then looks towards the door where Kavanagh and O'Dell are standing. "Not at all Doctor. Is there anything I can help you with?"
"I came here to deliver the autopsy report from Dr. T'Mier. There was another fracas between a couple of the crew. She's taking care of the injuries on them.' She puts the data pad on his desk.
"Thank you Doctor."
Sabrina looks at O'Dell "What brings you here?"
"What can I say, she drafted me." He replies as he points to Kavanagh.
Maxwell goes and picks up the padd, takes a quick look at it, then tosses it back on his desk. Everyone can notice in the room when they hear Maxwell that he's not in the best of mood. "Is there anything else Doctor?"
Both Kavanagh and O'Dell become a little concerned. "Not at this time. We'll just be going on our way now," answers Kavanagh.
Sabrina gets up out of her seat "I think I'll walk with the two of you, if you wouldn't mind detouring towards my quarters. I think my assistance isn't needed at the moment." She says with a slightly strained tone.
"I have no objections, what do you say Dr. K?" Queries William. O'Dell was probably the only person in the whole crew who could get away with calling her that.
"Not a problem. The more the merrier." answers Kavanagh. Sabrina walks over to join them. Then all three of them leave the office.
Maxwell watches the three officers leave and is happy that they are leaving. That it gives him time to go over the autopsy report and go over everything he has so far.

Location
Corridor security office, leading towards turbolift - USS Eagle

The three of them walk down the corridor towards the lifts. They are walking at a slower pace than usual. Kavanagh finally breaks the silence "This situation is getting so crazy; it's almost enough to drive me to the drink."
O'Dell looks at her "Funny thing, Doc. I'm to scared to even do that."
"What's your story? You look like you're about ready to smack Maxwell upside the head." notes Kavanagh as she glances at Sabrina.
"It's complicated. Let's just say I have a rather interesting theory, but it's probably too hard for SOME people to even accept. I need to find a way to get something more

concrete to back my idea up, but I haven't the foggiest idea on how to do it." Sabrina frowns in frustration.
"Well, I'm off duty in a couple of hours. How about I drop by your quarters and give you a hand. I confess I'm a mystery fan, though I'm not too crazy about this particular story at the moment."
Sabrina nods "I'd appreciate that Dr. Kavanagh. That will be just fine."
They arrive at the lift. The doors open and they step in. Sabrina tells the lift where she wants to go. As the lift proceeds to the deck she specified she could here Kavanagh whisper a short prayer "God watch over us."
O'Dell ponders that for a few seconds, then surprisingly says "Amen."

14 hours later
Location
Sickbay - USS Eagle

The Captain and Tactical Officer rush into Sickbay and run over to by the doctor but staying out of her way. The Captain just says one word, and the doctor knows what he wants "Doctor."
T'Mier looks up at him "Lt. Parsons is severely injured. I am doing all I can, but the prognosis does not look good."
Parsons looks up at the Captain and tries to give a hint of a smile "I tried to tell the doctor that I'm ready to return to duty. She does not seem to want to listen." she said barely conscious and having a hard time saying anything.
"You do what the doctor orders." The Captain says putting his hand on her shoulder, trying to comfort her. He knows no matter what he does, nothing is going to make this easier for her.
She now gets more serious and wants to inform the captain of what she saw, but is having a hard time getting it out. "Ca..... Cap.... Captain, There is..... Is something you need to know....., I don't have a lot of time left to tell you."
"Don't talk like that Lieutenant, that's an order."
All Doctors T'Mier and Kavanagh and Commander Maxwell could do is stand there and listen, the humans couldn't help but feel sad for her. Parsons tries to smile again, she's grateful for the captain trying to comfort her, but she knows that she won't survive and she feels this information is very important. "Captain..... What attacked me was..... Wasn't human, it had..... Red..... red eyes, It was like ..... nothing I've ever..... Seen before. They were .....bright..... red....." at this point the captain hears a long beep and T'Mier gently moves the captain aside with paddles to try to save her.
After 10 minutes. T'Mier stops her efforts. She knows that this crewmember is well beyond her abilities to save. She calmly puts the paddles back, and then looks at the others "Lt. Parsons is dead." She looks at Kavanagh "Please make note of the time of death for the records." Kavanagh does as asked, trying to fight back the tears that were forming in her eyes.
Captain Carter stumbles back a step. His face shows expressions that he is close to tears and also very angry. He looks up at Doctor Kavanagh and in a low voice says. "I tried to convince her that she'd be ok."

Kavanagh composes herself before answering "You did nothing wrong, Captain. The best thing a person can do is give hope to someone. It's just that there are some circumstances that are beyond our control. We did all we could for her, now we must do our best to make sure she did not die in vain."
Maxwell steps forward as he believes this is important to mention. "Captain, she said her attacker had bright red eyes. It is my opinion that we may have an Intruder aboard." Maxwell says looking around at the two doctors for support.
"There is some logic to that statement." notes T'Mier "None of the crewmembers have that physiological characteristic."
"Well, that certainly suggests that there's something alien aboard." adds Kavanagh "The question becomes where the blazes is it hiding?"
"Commander." The Captain says address Maxwell. "Return to the Bridge and sound the intruder alert.
"Aye Captain" Maxwell says taking one last glance at Lieutenant Parsons then leaves Sickbay.

2 Hours later
Location
Mess hall - USS Eagle

O'Dell just looked at his food. He knew that he should eat something, but he couldn't find the will power to even take one bite. He finally just shoved the tray away from himself. Maxwell is sitting at the table with O'Dell and finds it hard to say something because he knows how O'Dell feels, as he lost a security officer as well. He eventually said something. "I'm sorry about Lieutenant Parsons."
O'Dell looks up "It's not right. She was a good person. Never hurt anybody."
"These things unfortunately usually happen to people who has never hurt anyone."
"She was my best transport tech, and a good poker player..." O'Dell's words trail off then "There are days the Universe doesn't make sense. This is one of them."
"She won't be easy to replace." Maxwell then remains silent for a few seconds and speaks up again. "What I can do is promise that I'll do everything in my power to catch who ever did this, so that he can never harm anyone again."
O'Dell looks right into Maxwell's eyes "I'm holding you to that promise."
"Maxwell nods at O'Dell and continues to eat his dinner."
O'Dell looks back at his tray. He pulls it back to himself and starts to slowly eat his dinner.

1 Hour later
Location
Captain's Ready Room

"Do you have anything to report Commander?" The Captain asked.
"I'm afraid not Captain, as you know we have questioned the crew. I have yet to even discover a prime suspect. There does not seem to be any clear motive."

“Understood, but I would like this resolved as quickly as possible. Too many people have died as it is, I don’t want anymore.”
“Yes sir, I’ll do what I can.”
“Good, Dismissed.”
The Captain watches as Maxwell leaves the ready room. He walks to a window in his ready room and looks out at the stars wondering what he is going to do next and how he is going to explain everything to the families.

1 Hours later
Location
Recreational Deck - USS Eagle

Sarah Torrell sat at a table in the Rec Room. She has a box in front of her, which has an unusual pattern on it. She seems to be contemplating it.
Mohammad sat down on the other side of the table and looked at what Torrell has. "What do you have there Commander?"
Sarah looks up at Mohammed "It's a gift from a cousin of mine. He gave it to me on the occasion of my graduation from Starfleet Academy. It's a Quirkat game."
"How do you play it?" Mohammad asked getting interested in the game.
Torrell takes the box and opens it up. She removes 24 stone pieces: 12 hematite and 12 translucent quartz. They are all around the size of a quarter and are flat on one side while convex on the other. She then turns the box over revealing the game board. It is a square pattern with 8 triangles in each quadrant. She begins setting the pieces on the board in there starting positions; leaving the center point open. "It's not that difficult to play. If you've ever played checkers, then you already have some idea how the game works."
"Any other important rules I should know about this game?"
"There's no king making in this game, though if you can capture an opponent’s piece, you have to. Otherwise your piece will be taken from the board."
"Shall we give it a shot?” Mohammad asked, moving close to the game board.
"Might as well. I could use a distraction from what's going on right now. This situation is difficult."
"I can imagine, just walking through the corridors and seeing how the crew reacts. No one trusts anyone right now. I heard about the fight in the mess hall."
Sarah shakes her head "I was ready to choke those characters myself."
"So, I take it you go first?" she said returning her attention to the game.
Sarah nods as she moves her first piece. Mohammad takes her first move diagonally to the left to capture Torrell's first piece. Sarah ends up capturing Mohammed's piece next. The play continues as they alternate turns.
The game continues for about 20 minutes when Sarah Torrell wins. "That was an interesting game Ma'am, thanks for letting my try it."
Sarah smiles; the first one she's had in several days "You're welcome. Anytime you want a rematch-just let me know."

3 Hours later
Location
Sickbay - USS Eagle

Kavanagh rubs the sides of her temples. She has been looking at the autopsy results on the victims for the past two hours trying to find some detail they could have missed. These murders have her frustrated.
T'Mier walks over to the computer station where Kavanagh is sitting "You need to get some rest. Becoming overtired will not help this situation. It is not logical for you to extend yourself beyond your limits."
Kavanagh looks back at T'Mier "You're right. This may sound strange-but I know that there's something being overlooked with all of this. Now we have a new wrinkle of the 'red-eyed monster" to contend with. How can something like that get past our scanners? It must have a great place to hide."
"That is an interesting point. Where would this entity be able to conceal itself?"
Kavanagh looks quizzically at T'Mier "Why did you use the term: entity?"
"It is an appropriate word for an unknown life form. You are aware that not all life is in the form of solid matter. There are records of non-corporal life forms." answers T'Mier.
"Hmm, a ghost in the machine. Now there's a scary thought."
"There are no such things as ghosts. There is no scientific evidence for their existence."
"Well, 'ghost in the machine' is an expression-a metaphor if you will. You know, I just thought of something. What if we really are dealing with a non-corporal life form? That could pose a problem for us to find it/him/whatever."
"Indeed. Such a being would be difficult to track."
"Especially if it could possess people. I'm pretty sure I've read something on those lines happening to members of another starship crew." Kavanagh shakes her head "It's funny that my religion taught that something like that could happen to people. It took us traveling to other worlds to be proven right."
"Start looking at Starfleet records for instances of encounters with such life forms. I will ask the Captain to come here so we can discuss the idea with him."
T'Mier goes over to the comm panel "Dr. T'Mier to Captain Carter."
The Captain was sitting in his command chair when the call came in. "Carter here, what can I do for you Doctor?" The Captain asks.
"Dr. Kavanagh and I have come up with a theory for what has been happening. We would like to discuss the matter with you in Sickbay."
"On my way Doctor, Carter out"
T'Mier goes back to Kavanagh "What have you found so far?"
"Whew, where do I begin? I'll try to narrow down the parameters some."
The Captain walks into Sickbay and sees the Doctors working at a computer terminal.
"You have something for me Doctors?" The Captain asks.
Dr. T'Mier turns to look at the Captain "It seems we have come up with a possible explanation for the person who committed the murders. Dr. Kavanagh and I believe that we are dealing with a non-corporeal being."

The Captain does not like the sound of this and pauses for a few seconds, then asks T'Mier, "So your saying it can be anything or anyone?"
"Anyone in this case."
"Yes, it seems these beings have a nasty habit of possessing people. The incident that happened on Argelius II is a good example." adds Kavanagh.
"Would the infected individual have any memories of what happened?" The Captain asks.
"From what I see here, no. Amnesia seems to be a side effect of the possession."
The Captain then looks at T'Mier. "So it could be anyone, even you or myself."
"Logic dictates that is a possibility."
Kavanagh looks at both of them "Now let's back it up for a bit. I think it's safe to say we're only dealing with one possessed individual here. So what we need to figure out is how to ID that person."
"Just the thought I needed, to think I could be killing members of my crew." The Captain says sarcastically.
Kavanagh says nothing. She remembers Sabrina had some thoughts about that. A new thing to discuss with her.
"Assuming we only have one onboard the ship, I'm going to make a ship wide announcement, that I want everyone in groups of three."
The cycling nature of the murders tend to point to only one being. I think that decision would be a logical course of action to take at this time." notes T'Mier.
The Captain nods, "I want you to work with Commander Maxwell and find away to detect this thing, before anyone else dies. You have less then fourteen hours doctor" the Captain said to T'Mier.
"Very well, sir. I will endeavor to find a method to detect the entity."
"Thank you Doctor. Is there anything else you need to show me?"
"Not at this time."
"Alright, if you need me, I'll be on the Bridge"
"Yes sir."
As the Captain leaves Sickbay, he stops by the door first to use the Communication panel. "Carter to Maxwell, report to Sickbay."
"On my way sir" Maxwell replied.

15 Hours later
Location
Security Office - USS Eagle

Maxwell arrives in the Security Office and notices Ensign Sabrina Allen was waiting for him. "I just came from Sickbay." he says as he walks around to his side of the desk and sits down "This time there was two victims killed. My guess is this thing is getting desperate."
Sabrina nods "He's not the only one. I'm thinking most of the crew is on the verge of mutiny. The stress levels are extremely high. There were a few more 'altercations' just within the last 10 hours."

"I haven’t had a good night sleep in days." Maxwell says rubbing his eyes. "We need to find a way to detect this thing. This has gone on far to long."
Sabrina nods "As Dr. Kavanagh would say, "You're preaching to the choir." I think the Sickbay personnel are the only ones who haven't lost their sanity."
"Let’s hope it stays that way." Maxwell responds. He stands up and walks to the other side of his desk. "Well, your welcome to join me while I go check on Ensign Blair."
"Yes, I'll come with you. I’d like to see how she's been holding up." Sabrina stands up and walks over to join him.
Maxwell and Allen walk into the brig and head over to the cell with Ensign Blair. "How are you holding up Ensign?" Maxwell asks.
Ensign Blair looks up at them "I'm starting to think I'm defiantly safer in here than out there. Dr. Kavanagh has looked in on me a few times. I don't know how she holds up-having to help with the autopsies and all."
"Hopefully we can have you out of here in no time Ensign." Maxwell says.
Blair nods 'Thankfully I'm not claustrophobic. It's really the boredom that gets to you."
Maxwell smiles, "I know exactly what you mean."
"I'll see what else I can do for you to help elevate the boredom." adds Sabrina.

3 Hours later
Location
Sickbay - USS Eagle

Maxwell reports to Sickbay because Doctor T’Mier summoned him to. "Doctor, you wanted to see me?" Maxwell asks.
"Dr. Kavanagh and I have an idea on how to track the entity, but we first have to figure out how it got onboard."
"Problem is, I have no idea how it got on board the ship."
"How the blazes does he expects us to find this thing? Odds are it's an energy being, so how do we isolate its signature from the other energy sources on the ship? That's our problem." notes Kavanagh dryly.
"The Captain knows that it’s going to be difficult, but we have to do something. We can't allow this to go on forever." Maxwell says to Doctor Kavanagh.
Kavanagh just about says something-but takes a deep breath first and calms a bit "All right, maybe this thing possessed somebody. From what I've gathered from the records non-corporeal beings do that quite a bit. So maybe we have to figure out how to detect that in a person. There has to be a way."
"We are going to need to check the both criminal and medical records of past incidences of crewman being possessed by aliens."
Kavanagh gestures to the computer console she is sitting at "Way ahead of you on that one. We've already downloaded those records. You can view them for yourself." She gets up out of the chair so Maxwell can sit at the station.
"The Enterprise investigate a ‘Jack The Ripper’ case where people were possessed, but records don’t show anything about how they could detect it."
"Like looking for the proverbial needle." comments Kavanagh

"There was also another incident where Captain Kirk himself allowed his body to be taken over, it came from some type of glowing sphere." Maxwell says as he walks to the nearest communication panel. "I haven't seen anything like that on this ship, but to be safe, I'll order Mohammad to run a scan for anything unusual that came onboard the this within the last week."
"Maxwell to Mohammad"
"Mohammad here." Lieutenant Alterra Mohammad responds. Mohammad is currently on the Bridge at her science station.
"Run a scan for anything unusual that may have been brought onboard the ship within the last week."
"Yes sir, it will take an hour to run the scan."
"Very well, Maxwell out." Maxwell presses the button again to end the conversation. "In the meantime we need to work on other alternatives to detecting this thing."
"Maybe this entity could cause some change in the brainwave patterns of whomever it was possessing?" queries Kavanagh.
"An interesting hypothesis. We can detect shifts in those patterns." replies T'Mier.
"Can this be done ship wide, or does it have to be done here?" Maxwell asks.
"I know we can do it here, but how could one apply it to a ship wide basis? I would think there has to be a way." notes Kavanagh.
"Actually, there is a way, though I will have to modify the parameters. I remember reading a record where they were able to detect then eliminate the heartbeat signatures of the personnel onboard a starship. The U.S.S. Enterprise to be exact." states T'Mier.
"Yes, now that you mention it, wasn't that something to do with trying to locate someone on the ship?" Maxwell asks.
"Precisely."
"So this will allow you to detect if someone has a second brain wave?" Maxwell asks.
"Yes, it should."
"Will it also detect if the individual in question has only one brain wave and that the alien has completely taken over?"
"The pattern will be different. Each race has a unique 'signature' if you will. The change should be obvious." notes T'Mier.
"How soon can you be ready?"
"I can start the programming now. It may take 2 to 3 hours" notes T'Mier.
"Do you need any assistance?"
"Yes, I will have to figure out a way to expand the scans ship wide. Security already deals with such scans, you're knowledge will be invaluable in solving this."
Maxwell then uses the comn panel and informs the captain what they have planned and will inform him again when it is ready. "Alright let's get to work"

Same Time as Sickbay.
Location
Captain's Ready Room - USS Eagle

"Ensign, I wanted to talk to you about Crew Moral." he said to Sabrina Allen after she walked into his office. He motioned her to sit in the chair across from him at his desk. "How is the crew handling the recent events?"
Sabrina sits down in the chair the Captain had motioned to. She pauses for a few seconds to gather her thoughts before speaking "In some ways the crew is handling things better than expected; but the tensions are running to very high levels. People are scared."
"Maybe when this is all over we can arrange shore leave for the crew."
"A long shore leave," answers Sabrina "They will definitely need it. Ensign Blair worries me; she said she is thinking about putting in for a transfer to another ship after this is over."
"That's probably a normal reaction. I'll let you try to deal with that, and if she still wants a transfer, I'll probably grant it."
"I hate to think of loosing her as well. She's a fine crewmember. I'll try to talk to her to see if she is completely dedicated to this course. If she is, I'm glad to hear you'll allow it. I do wonder how many more requests we'll get though."
"I don't want to lose anyone else either, but you cant blame anyone who would want to leave after what has happened here."
"No, I suppose not. I never imagined I would be dealing with a situation like this as the Ship's Councilor."
"Life in Starfleet doesn't always end up the way we have planned."
Sabrina gives a slight smile "I always figured there were a few things they had forgotten to teach us at Academy."
The Captain returns the smile, "If they taught us everything at the Academy, it would take a lifetime."
"More like two lifetimes."
"Maxwell to Carter"
"Carter here, go ahead commander."
"Sir we have the device ready to try, we have brought it up onto the Bridge. We need to have the crew in a few locations so it will be easier to stop the entity when we find it."
"Understood, Carter out." Carter stands up and looks at Allen. "Well Ensign, time to head out to the bridge."
Sabrina stands up "Let's hope this works."

Location
Bridge - USS Eagle

The captain orders the crew to the cargo bays and a few officers on the Bridge. Once everyone arrives to their assigned locations, the captain approaches the doctors and Maxwell. "How long will it be for it to take effect?"
"It will take 10 minutes before we start seeing any results." answers T'Mier.
"Very well, proceed"
Maxwell presses a few buttons on his console activate the scan. "Scans activate sir."
The Captain paces around the Bridge for the next 10 minutes then heads over to the tactical station. "Anything Commander?"

"No sir, we should have been able to detect something, but I’m getting nothing."
Kavanagh looks on in disbelief "Now that can't be right. The models we ran indicated it should have worked."
"It seems there is a factor we may have missed with the models" replies T'Mier "We will have to check the system out to see what is at fault."
"I'll try adjusting the frequency and run the scan again, shouldn’t take more then another 10 minutes." The Captain nods in approval. Maxwell adjusts the scan and tries it again. Kavanagh silently prays, “Please let it work this time, Lord."
The Captains eyes closed for a few seconds. When they opened again, the red glow wasn't completely evident. Sabrina senses something, a creeping fear that seemed to run up her spine. She looked over at the Captain; the alien glow in his eyes was unmistakable. "Maxwell!' She called out. The alien pulled out a phaser he had obtained and shot her in a few seconds. He then rages, the other mind was trying to fight back. The form dropped the weapon. He lashed out again on the psychic level-he likes this body and wasn't about to give it up so easily.
Maxwell quickly draws his phaser and levels it at the Captain, knowing it’s actually not the captain, but now the alien entity. "Stop right where you are." Maxwell made a quick glance at the other officers without turning away from the alien to long. "Who are you? What do you want?" Maxwell asks the alien, now lowering his weapon.

It was very unsettling to see the Captain stroke his chin in contemplation. He never did that "You humans are so strange. Always trying to find answers, everything has to be categorized and fitted into little cubbyholes. How pathetic."
"I am not interested in your views of us, I want to know who you are, what you want and why you are killing members of this crew?" Maxwell says getting angrier.
Torrell has been watching the interchange. Somehow, she has a nasty suspicion that the alien is up to something. She casts a quick glance to Sabrina; she can see her chest rise and fall. At least she was alive; the phaser must have been set on stun. She looks at the alien "Is there something wrong with curiosity?"
The Alien looks at her "Hmm, an intriguing question. Depends on the situation."
"I suspect that there is a reason why you only surface every 20 hours, you seem weak at the moment." Maxwell says.
"I have to give credit to your Captain. He's quite s stubborn fellow. I usually have full control by now. He's still fighting on the subconscious level."
"How long have you been in the Captain’s body?"
"Now let me think...that might be hard to answer. Your concept of time is different than mine. I've been here since that little fracus you had with the energy surge."
Maxwell is stunned for a second and remembers an incident 7 days ago.

7 days ago
Location
Bridge -USS Eagle

“How long until we are within weapons range?” The Captain asks.
“We will be within weapons range within 90 seconds sir.” replies Lieutenant Commander Maxwell.
The captain looks around the room then addresses Commander Torrell, “Can’t you get this thing to go any faster?”
“Negative Captain, we are already faster then we should. Any faster we risk tearing the ship apart.” At this moment Berry and Allen arrive on the Bridge. Berry goes to his station and Sabrina takes an empty chair.
“Captain, what’s going on?” Berry asks.
“We received a distress call from the science vessel Aquila, they are under attack by an unidentified ship.” The Captain answers then continues, “Let me know when we are within hailing range.”
Riley Berry nodded as he understands what is going on while paying attention to his station, “We are entering communication range right now sir.”
“Hail the alien ship.”
Berry presses a few buttons on his console and waits a few seconds before informing the Captain that there was no response. The captain orders him to try a few more times, but still no response. The captain then orders him to open a channel.
“Unidentified alien vessel, this is Captain Austin Carter of the Federation Starship Eagle, break off your attack and state your business here. This is your only warning, break off your attack or we will be forced to fire upon your ship.” The alien vessel continues its attack on the USS Aquila inflicting heavy damage on the science vessel. The alien vessel is a dark gray color with triangle shape with a Hammerhead shape front with phaser cannons firing from that location. A few moments later the Eagle enters firing range and the Captain orders Maxwell to fire. A brief Battle ensures and the alien vessel eventually retreats.
“Captain, just before the alien ship left, there was an energy surge on Deck 7, but sensors do not show anything could have come over.” Mohammad reports.
“Understood." The captain now addresses Maxwell. "Commander, stand down from red alert”

Present Day
Location
Bridge -USS Eagle

"You must have taken over the Captain as he went to his quarters." Maxwell says, and gets back into questioning the alien. "Why do you need the Captain's body or any body for that matter?"
"I suppose you could say it's what I was trained to do. I am an assassin. My role in the grand scheme of things is to cause dissention and distrust in any particular group. So I

have to infiltrate the group to do so. The best way is to take over a member of that group; preferably the leader."
"Who gave you the order to attack Starfleet?"
The alien started laughing, "There you go again thinking its just one grand conspiracy. I've been causing trouble for over 3000 years, well before your precious Starfleet was even dreamed of. The marauders whom attacked-they did so in hopes I'd jump ship. A deal with the darkness, you could say. You can't imagine how much havoc I caused them."
"You seem very proud of yourself don't you?" Maxwell said sarcastically. "This I promise you, the Eagle will be the last ship you will ever bother." he says as he steps closer with his weapon aimed at it.
"Ah, let's see if you can keep that promise. No one has ever been able to do so before."
Maxwell backs up a bit then slowly walks over to Torrell, but also keeping his phaser trained on the Captain. "Can you keep an eye on our friend here, while I talk to the good doctor?"
"Yes, I'll watch our uninvited guest like a hawk."
Maxwell motions the doctor to follow him and they go to the front of the bridge by the view screen. Maxwell talks in a low voice so the alien inside the captain cannot hear.
"Could you use a Vulcan mind meld to determine how to get it out of the captain and how to kill it?"
T'Mier ponders for a few seconds "This alien appears to be a very powerful Psionic. I am not sure that I would not be overwhelmed by it."
"If you think the risk is to great don't do it, but it might also be the captains only hope."
"Maybe deception could work. We cannot harm the creature physically, but we could possibly attack him mentally. Something Kavanagh mentioned."
"How could we do that?"
"She suggested and Exorcism. I believe we may be able to frighten the alien enough to force him to release his hold on the Captain.'
"How long would you need to prepare for this."
"I am not sure. I am not familiar with what she is describing. Though I am sure I can convince Kavanagh of the urgency of the situation."
"Do whatever it takes Doctor, we need to get it out, ASAP."
After they rejoin the rest of the bridge crew. "You know" starts the alien "You could just take me to some nice heavily populated planet and let me off there. Just to make it fair, it could be a place of your enemies. Do that and you can have your captain back? I'd never bother you again."
"That is not an option, however you can accompany us to Sickbay."
"Now why would I want to do that? I'm perfectly well. I don't think the Captain is in any trouble either."
Maxwell points his phaser once again at the alien/captain. "You will come with us."
"You are really going to shoot your Captain? Go ahead, I dare you."
Maxwell walks up to the captain and grabs his arm to attempt to take him by force without having to shoot the captain. Suddenly the Captain's eyes blaze a blood red and he lashes out at Maxwell. As Maxwell stumbles back and, is able to push the captain back, he is forced to fire on the captain. The blast hits the Captain Square in the chest. There is an odd look of surprise on the Captain's face, then he slumps to the ground.

"May I make a small suggestion,' begins Kavanagh "Let's get Sabrina and the Freak to Sickbay ASAP"
Torrell looks at Kavanagh "I agree." she then looks at Maxwell "Get them both down there quickly."
Maxwell nods and picks up the Captain. He heads towards the turbolift with Torrell, Kavanagh and T'Mier following him.

Location
Sickbay - USS Eagle

They all arrive at the Sickbay. "Maybe we should restrain the alien?" queries Kavanagh.
Maxwell nods and orders T'Mier to set up the restraints. T'Mier carefully adjusts the restraints on the Captain's body. A short time later Riley and Nebrell come in with Sabrina. Kavanagh takes charge of her care.
Once the captain is secure Nebrell approaches Kavanagh. "How would you like to proceed?"
"I suggest we get a hold of O'Dell and have him take care of getting the device set up. Once the machine is ready we can focus on the mind meld and send this 'uninvited guest' out of the Captain."
"Agreed."
T'Mier walks over to a comm panel *"T'Mier to O'Dell."*
"This is O'Dell. What can I do for you, Doctor?"
"Please report to Sickbay. We are in need of your assistance."
"Will do, Doctor. I'll be there as soon as I can. O'Dell out."
Within a few minutes, O'Dell arrives in sickbay and another security guard arrives a few seconds after. Maxwell and the Security Guard stand by the door to stay out of the way, but provide security in the event something goes wrong.
O'Dell looks at T'Mier "So what do you need from me?"
"Please step into my office. Under the circumstances, it would be wiser to discuss the task in question there."
O'Dell nods and follows T'Mier into her office. The door shuts behind them. She then proceeds to explain what she wants O'Dell to do.
O'Dell looks at T'Mier "All right, the machine part I can under stand, but an exorcism? You've got to be kidding."
T'Mier gazes steadily at O'Dell "The exorcism will be taken care of by Dr. Kavanagh. She means the ceremony to be a distraction to the entity. Nebrell will be assisting her via mind meld. Once the being is sufficiently distracted, I will attempt to mind meld with the Captain and help him drive the intruder out. The entity homes in on brainwaves."
"So the idea is to shake him up so badly he'll run to the machine thinking it's another person and be trapped in it."
"Precisely."

"Well, I'll have to admit that this sounds pretty crazy, but I'll do whatever it takes to get rid of this thing. I'll get my people on this immediately." O'Dell turns to head for the door, then pauses. He faces T'Mier once more "Say Doctor, how are you going to make sure out 'friend' goes for the machine?"
"The mind meld should appear as a double signature to the entity which should confuse him. Once everything is in place, I will have all unnecessary personnel evacuated from the Sickbay. Only Dr. Kavanagh, Ensign Nebrell, and myself will remain. There will still be an element of risk, but it should be minimal with the other people safely away."
O'Dell nods "You people are very brave. I don't think I could do what you're going to do."
"It is not a matter of courage so much as it is a matter of doing what must be done to help the Captain." replies T'Mier.
O'Dell nods. He then turns once again and exits the office. He heads out of Sickbay towards Engineering already trying to figure out how to construct the machine needed.

2 Hours later
Location
Sickbay - USS Eagle

"So is everything ready?" queries Kavanagh to T'Mier.
"We are the only ones in Sickbay besides the Captain and the entity. We can begin as soon as you are ready."
Kavanagh nods. She bows her head and says a quiet prayer for herself as well as her fellow crewmates. She asks for protection and success in their efforts. She then looks at Nebrell "I am ready to begin the mind meld."
Nebrell gently places his fingers on Kavanagh's face and starts to speak, "My Mind to your mind, your thoughts, to my thoughts." to attempt to achieve a telepathic connection.
Kavanagh feels a sensation in the back of her mind, a gentle feeling of warmth and connection. It is an odd sensation, this link she now has. She decided to focus on the task at hand, time for speculation later. She walks over to the bed where the Captain has been restrained. It is at that moment that his eyes open up, the reddish glow being very evident.
"Well, now this is different. That's the first time I've been stunned," notes the entity as the body starts to struggle against the restraints "and restrained. I don't like this, so you'd better let me go, before I do something really horrid."
Kavanagh places her right hand on the Captain's forehead and begins "Heavenly Father, you who created all things, I now lift up a prayer to you in the name of your son Jesus."
"Hey, you're religious? Interesting. I thought all you lot were atheists." notes the Alien with a touch of sarcasm in his voice.
Kavanagh continues with the prayer, ignoring the entity "I lift up Captain Carter and beseech you to drive out the entity that has taken residence within him." She brings out a blue vial and pours a few drops of a pale gold fluid on the center of his forehead "In the name of Jesus, I bind you, unholy one."
The alien is puzzled. He then becomes aware of something...a heaviness in the limbs and a distinct tingling sensation. He tries to move the body, but it will not respond. He tries to

lash out at Kavanagh telepathically, but he is encountering resistance. Somehow her pattern is changed, another mind is with her and something...he begins to panic. "What is this!"
Kavanagh continues to pray. The entity is growing more panicked, no one has ever done this to him before. He decides that he does not want to let go without a fight. Maybe he'll just have to do something nasty to the Captain somehow.
Kavanagh manages to looks up at T'Mier. T'Mier nods at the unspoken contact. She carefully places her hands on the Captain and begins her own mind meld with the Captain. She must try to get to him before the creature is aware of her presence. She was putting herself at risk either from attack or possession.
As soon as T'Mier established contact, both the captain and T'Mier get a mental image in the mind meld, "Where am I?" the Captain asked.
"Inside your subconscious mind. Your physical body is located in Sickbay."
"Inside my mind, how?"
"You can think of this as a place created by the mind meld. There is little time for explanations now. We must act quickly."
"Act quickly." The captain asks, still confused as to what's going on. Then he all of a sudden started to get images of what has happened in the last week. "I'm seeing images of... I Killed people." he gets confused even more. "But how, I Killed them, but I know I didn't kill them, how is this possible?"
"An alien entity has taken over your body. He is the one responsible for the murders. We are attempting to drive him out, but we need your help."
The Captain is starting to understand what T'Mier is telling him and knows he must do whatever he can to help. "What do you need me to do?"
"Follow my lead. You must take back control, force the creature to leave. I will act as your anchor, adding my strength to yours."
The Captain with the help of T'Mier attempts to mentally fight the creature, but the alien creature is putting up a tough fight.
"Captain, try visualizing a more physical manifestation. That might help" notes T'Mier.
The captain visualizes a energy type alien, he doesn't know what it really looks like so he uses the first image he thought of.
"That is the idea, Captain. Now think on how to push it away.'
The alien continues to fight, but is continuously loosing ground and will soon be forced to find another brainwave.
The Alien has never faced anything like this before. It is now starting to panic, it needs to find another host soon. Then it senses...yes! Another brainwave pattern, just right. It let's go of its hold in the Captain's body and makes the jump to the new source. As it bonds with the new patter it realizes something...a cold sensation. No pulse or the feeling of warm blood. It screams on the psychic level-it's been trapped in some sort of limbo and it does not know how to escape.
Nebell strengthens his mind meld with Kavanagh to make sure the alien cannot attempt to move towards her or himself.
T'Mier notes something "Captain, I cannot since the entity anymore."
"Neither can I, has it left into something or someone else?" The Captain asks.
T'Mier ends the contact with the Captain then looks at Kavanagh "Dr. Kavanagh, are you unharmed?"

Kavanagh smiles "I'm fine and so is Nebrell. Check the machine, there should be an indication if he's in there."
T'Mier walks over to the machine and studies the readouts "We have been successful. The entity is trapped within."
The Captain wakes up and looks around and finds T'Mier "Did it work Doctor?"
"Good" the Captain said. "Now if you don't mind, I think I can use some sleep."
Nebrell quietly ends the mind meld with Kavanagh. She looks at the Captain "I don't blame you. I think I'm going to get some sleep myself, if that's all right with you." She looks at T'Mier.
"Yes, you may go. I will be able to finish up with things here."
Kavanagh nodded, then looks at Nebrell "Thank you for your assistance."
"You are welcome Doctor." replied Nebrell
Kavanagh then heads out of Sickbay. T'Mier looks at Carter "I agree with you, you do need some sleep. I recommend you stay here in Sickbay and rest. Under the circumstances, that would be the best course of action."
"Understood Doctor" The Captain says as he closes his eyes while laying on a sickbay biobed.

10 Hours later
Location
Briefing Room - USS Eagle

"I hope you all took the opportunity to get some rest within the last 10 hours, I understand the last week has been very difficult."
"Last week is one we will probably never forget, though we'll wish we could." notes Torrell dryly.
The Captain nods and looks around and gets straight to business. "Now we must decide what to do with the entity."
"Considering that the entity is a being of energy, it may not be possible to destroy it." notes T'Mier.
"So what would you suggest Doctor?"
"Lieutenant O'Dell has set up a special power relay to the machine that currently holds the entity in case of power failures, especially any that effect large area's of the ship. We have to keep it confined till it can be transferred somewhere safer."
"Now I suppose this would be the next logical question, do we have the right to hold this entity?"
"Considering that is a murderer? I think it's safe to say 'Yes' to that question." states Torrell.
"According to Federation policy, a person is innocent until proven guilty in a Federation court. How is it possible to put this entity on trial?" The captain asked to no one in specific.
"I don't know about that,' states O'Dell " But in my opinion, I say we hand this thing over to Starfleet Command and let them worry about him."

Maxwell spoke up "I agree Captain, they have people there that are trained in all sorts of legal issues. They should be able to come up with something."
"Understood, I'll contact Starfleet and let them know. Now Doctor, what have we found out about the entity?"
"The entity's pattern of behavior is to possess a higher being and use that person to commit acts of terrorism. In our case, he possessed the Captain. However, the victim of the possession is still trying to regain control, which is why the alien was only able to act every twenty hours. It appears to feed off of emotional energy, so it must seek victims on which to feed. Each successful feeding allows it greater control over the host body. He would of had to kill 15 people in order to gain full control." notes T'Mier.
"Would it die if it did not receive the energy, and does it only feed the last moments of a persons life?" Maxwell asked.
"There is not enough data to provide a sufficient answer to that question."
"That almost answers our earlier question." Berry mentioned. "How can we keep this thing alive if we can't feed it?"
Mohammad nods while listening to all this, and was wondering something. "Do we know if it requires anything to survive?"
"Unknown at this time." replies T'Mier.
"Captain, perhaps I should take a few scans, and send whatever data I can find to the starbase when we arrive."
The Captain agrees and looks around to the doctor and the other senior officers. "Is there anything else to report?"
None of the others have anything else to report.
"Alright, Dismissed."
The others except Sabrina leave the room. She walks up to the Captain "Are you all right?"
"I'm fine Ensign."
Sabrina isn't so sure, but she knows that a person can't be forced to open up "If there's anything you want to talk about; don't hesitate to contact me."
"Thank you Ensign, I'll keep that in mind." The Captain said. He wasn't exactly telling her the trough when he said he was fine, but he was the captain, and he didn't want to look weak in front of the crew.

Captains Log

Captains Log, Stardate 9429.6 we dropped the alien entity off at a starbase and have taken on new crewmembers. Councilor Allen is working with the crew to help them deal with the last few days. It has been a very difficult week for the crew. Doctor Kavanagh received an invitation to Veris III. Kavanagh, Allen and O'Dell are scheduled to take a

shuttle to Veris III in a week. I have finished writing the letters to the families of the crewmen who have died.