

STAR TREK: FINAL FRONTIER

"THE EMPTY EYE"

PART ONE

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Based on "Star Trek" created by Gene Roddenberry

EXT. ALIEN SKYLINE - DAY

Orange sky above an alien city. Twisting spires and serpentine skyways. An open air stadium filled to capacity. CHEERS and CHANTS echo from below.

EXT. ALIEN ARENA - DAY

LIEUTENANT KAYLEN DONAL is chained to a wall below a CHANTING THRONG OF ALIEN SPECTATORS, all watching the center arena.

CAPTAIN ALEXANDER CHASE is thrown violently into frame, CRASHING into the wall beside Donal as a MIGHTY ROAR goes up from the crowd. Chase shakes his head clear.

CHASE

This isn't going as well as I'd planned.

DONAL

I think you're tiring him out.

CHASE

Still nothing?

DONAL

They're blocking everything from the ship.

(beat)

I'd go for the legs.

A CAMERA DRONE floats in for a close-up as Chase scrambles to his feet. He tries to bat it away, but it zips out of range.

CHASE

Thanks.

Chase collects himself and strides out of frame with another ROAR from the crowd.

WIDE TO ARENA

Screens float everywhere, displaying the views of the many cameras flying around. The stands are filled with A CRAZY MIX OF ALIENS, all fixated on the big fight.

REVEAL a massive scaled OPPONENT in an open-faced metal helm and crude armor. Twelve feet tall and angry, it's bleeding from a wound on one of three eyes.

Chase approaches as a drone zooms for a close-up, his face filling the screens around the arena.

The opponent ROARS. Chase circles to its blind side. He rolls under an errant swipe, rights himself, and kicks the creature in the side of the leg. It falters. The crowd GASPS.

Chase tries to jump backward, but too late. The creature lashes out with a backhand, throwing him to the ground.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Uh oh...

His hands scrabble at the dirt as he's dragged upward, but there is no purchase.

ON CROWD as they CHEER LOUDLY. A screen behind them shows the creature lift Chase up and dangle him over the ground. The monster SNORTS mockingly.

ON CHASE as he twists, tossing a handful of dirt into the creature's face. It convulses, dropping him. Drones flutter away as it lashes out blindly, kicking Chase back to

THE ARENA WALL

Where Donal still hangs. Chase skids to a stop before her.

DONAL

Nice move.

CHASE

I can take him.

DONAL

Stay down. We just need to buy a little time before...

Her BUG blinks. Her face changes.

DONAL (CONT'D)

I've got Enterprise. Transporters ready.

Chase stands up and brushes himself off, garnering another ROAR from the crowd. He wipes blood from his mouth.

CHASE

Gimme a minute.

DONAL

Aye, sir.

WIDE TO ARENA as Chase strides to center, where his opponent is regaining its senses. Chase sprints and leaps suddenly right. A nearby camera drone isn't quick enough to dodge. Chase grabs the drone out of the air and SMASHES it into the monster's midsection.

As the creature doubles over, Chase whips the drone back around and SLAMS it into the side of its helmeted head. A MIGHTY CLANG echoes through the air, followed by a THUD as the giant hits the dirt.

ON CROWD, silent for a moment. A screen behind them shows a wide shot of the triumphant Chase beside the downed creature. It tries to get up... shakes... collapses unconscious.

AND THE CROWD GOES WILD. Cheering, stomping, raising arms and tentacles and wings in triumph. Chase drops the drone to the ground. It rolls to rest beside his fallen foe.

CHASE

Okay, let's get out of here.

With that, the transporter envelops him in WHIRRING energy. He fades from the arena, as does Donal behind him.

INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

Mid-scene as Chase, HOLDEN, Donal, and DR. PROWSE stride from a turbolift. Prowse keeps trying to tend to Chase's wounds, but Chase isn't letting him.

CHASE

Three months on the frontier and we've got, what? Four gaseous anomalies, two comets...

Donal rubs her wrists.

DONAL

One seriously awful first contact.

DR. PROWSE

And two broken ribs. Hold still.

The group stops as Chase finally relents and lets Prowse patch his ribs with a glow from his medical tricorder.

HOLDEN

The anomalies were actually quite helpful. Zero's manufactured a coolant for the Dragonfly engines that may double their efficiency.

Prowse finishes his work.

DR. PROWSE

Try to avoid strenuous activity for a few hours.

CHASE

Thank you, doctor. I'll be in my quarters if anyone needs me.

Chase turns a corner, leaving the rest of the group to watch him go.

DONAL
Well at least he's in a better mood
today.

EXT. SPACE

Enterprise cruises through space.

CHASE (V.O.)
Captain's Log, stardate 62480.1 We
are the first Federation vessel to
visit this area of space for 30
years, but it seems to have gotten
along perfectly fine without us.

INT. ENGINEERING

Zero floats in front of a display panel, fixated by
something. He works quickly.

CHASE (V.O.)
I'm beginning to wonder if Admiral
Benson sent us out here just to
keep me busy.

INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

Chase at his desk, recording his log on a floating display.

CHASE
If my dad were here, he'd remind me
that every journey begins with a
single...

A CHIME interrupts his log.

ZERO (COMM)
Engineering to Captain Chase.

Chase hits a button to stop recording.

CHASE
Go ahead, Zero.

ZERO
Sir, I have something here I think
you should see.

INT. ENGINEERING

ON DISPLAY, which depicts a section of space with a partially
outlined object surrounded by numbers and readouts.

ZERO
Whatever it is, it's massive. And
invisible.

ON CHASE AND ZERO at the display. Chase peers intently.

CHASE
How did you find it?

ZERO
I have been experimenting with the
utilization of high-energy, range-
dispersal force field lenses to
focus light at extreme distances.
My observations indicated nearby
bodies reacting to an unknown
gravitational field.

Chase takes that in for a moment. He looks around
engineering, then over at Zero.

CHASE
This ship contains some of the most
advanced sensor technology in the
galaxy, and you used it to build a
telescope?

ZERO
Standard sensor packages are less
than optimal for simple visual
observation.

CHASE
You just wanted to look at the
stars.
(beat)
Well, let's go check it out. Start
figuring out how we're going to
make it... un-invisible.

EXT. SPACE

Enterprise drops out of warp with a FLASH.

INT. BRIDGE

Chase in the center seat. Holden beside him. JAX at ops. N.D.
CREWMEN at stations. The viewscreen shows a sparse starfield.

JAX
Reading increased gravitational
activity. There's a mass nearby,
but all other scanners show clear.

HOLDEN
Cloaking something of this size
would require enormous power.

Chase keys the comm system on the arm of his chair.

CHASE
Zero, are we ready?

ZERO (COMM)
Yes, sir.

Jax hits a few buttons.

EXT. SPACE

CLOSE ON an emitter array along the edge of the forward saucer, which glows green for a moment before a shimmering cone of light shoots forth.

WIDE as the beam flashes out from the ship like an ultra-bright flashlight. The beam hits the invisible object, allowing us to see whatever part it's shining on. Reveal smooth, copper-colored metal.

INT. BRIDGE

The viewscreen shows the section of the object. Everyone peers at it intently. Jax reads the ops display.

JAX
Metallic. Extremely dense. I can't
see inside it. Sensors don't
penetrate.

CHASE
Magnify.

Jax hits a button and the image zooms in to reveal the metallic face. Energy flits on its surface like oil on water.

JAX
This section is curved, sir. If the
object is spherical, curvature
indicates a diameter of 1,240
kilometers.

Chase keys the comm system.

CHASE
Zero, can you rig the dragonflies
with the same anion beams?

ZERO (COMM)
Area of effect will be far smaller,
but it's a simple modification.

CHASE

Do it. Let's try to figure out what
the hell this thing is.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE

FOLLOW three dragonflies as they launch from the shuttlebay to join others already surveying the surface of the object. They're all arrayed around a central ship.

INT. DRAGONFLY

Donal at the helm, redshirt LIEUTENANT CHEN beside her. Behind them, Zero works at a science station. On a display in front of her we see a grid showing the survey pattern, with the other ships surrounding this one.

EXT. SPACE

The tiny ships cruise over the object, green anion beams revealing the sections they hit. As they pass, we see the surface react, shimmering with light. The sections fade back to invisible once the beam passes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BRIDGE

Later, Chase in his chair. Holden and Jax at stations. Chase passes a PADD off to a FEMALE CREWMAN, who departs. On the viewscreen is the survey so far, ribbons of scanned sections stretching out from the center. Zero is also on screen.

CHASE

It's listening to us?

ZERO

(on screen)

It appears to be sensitive to nearby vibrations, captain. I suppose the analogy is accurate.

HOLDEN

A space station of some kind?

JAX

If it were a station you'd think there'd be some kind of door...

Chase stares at the schematic for a beat, in thought.

CHASE

Raise shields. Modulate frequency
in one second intervals.

(beat)

Maybe there's a doorbell.

JAX

Aye, sir.

EXT. SPACE

Enterprise hovers in front of the object, her anion beam still illuminating a large section. The ship's shields glow to life and PULSE as they modulate frequency. The surface below reacts to each change with different patterns.

INT. BRIDGE

The image on screen shows frequency modulation along with the surface patterns. Zero in a corner window.

ZERO

(on screen)

That's got its attention.

INT. DRAGONFLY

ON ZERO at the dragonfly's rear station. He's looking at a sensor display. Captain Chase is on another screen.

ZERO

Surface temperature increasing.

EXT. SPACE

Beneath the dragonfly formation, the visible areas of the surface pulse with energy. It twists and swirls, no longer reacting to the dragonflies but to something bigger.

INT. DRAGONFLY

ON ZERO checking his readout. Concerned.

ZERO

Captain, I recommend backing off
until we can fully analyze this
data.

CHASE

(on screen)

My thoughts exactly.

(to Jax, off screen)

Lieutenant, pull us back to...

The screen pixelates, then cuts out. Chase's words are lost.

ZERO
Captain? Captain?
(to Donal)
We've lost contact.

ON DONAL, who shakes her head. She banks the ship away from the sphere. Her BUG blinks repeatedly.

DONAL
Yeah, I've lost them too. Hang on.

EXT. SPACE

Donal's dragonfly veers away. The others follow, turning back the way they came.

INT. DRAGONFLY

Zero is now in the copilot's seat. Chen stands behind them.

ZERO
I read Enterprise, but just her mass. Nothing internal. I don't understand...

Chen peers forward, points.

CHEN
There!

EXT. SPACE

The dragonflies speed toward Enterprise, growing larger in the distance. The visible surface of the sphere below the ship glows with concentric circles of alien energy.

INT. DRAGONFLY

Donal and Zero work quickly.

DONAL
Can you get a transport beam through?

ZERO
I have no internal readings.

DONAL
Can you target a beam to where the bridge *should* be?

ZERO
I could override security
protocols, but it's extremely
dangerous...

DONAL
Do it.

A BEEP from the console catches his attention.

ZERO
Wait.

Everyone looks up.

ON ENTERPRISE, hanging above the glowing surface of the
sphere, seen through the Dragonfly cockpit. The sphere
PULSES. Enterprise flickers invisible for a moment. Again.

ON DONAL. There's nothing she hates more than not being where
she's needed.

DONAL
Oh, no.

EXT. SPACE

Dragonflies in the distance. Enterprise hangs motionless over
the sphere, which glows brighter with every passing moment.

One more PULSE of energy from below, and Enterprise vanishes
for good. The sphere's surface snaps out of sight as well,
leaving our dragonflies hovering in empty space.

Silence.

END PART ONE