

STAR TREK: FINAL FRONTIER

"THE EMPTY EYE"

PART THREE

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Based on "Star Trek" created by Gene Roddenberry

EXT. ALIEN SKY - NIGHT

The sky is deep crimson, lit by two large moons.

A WHISTLE. Then ANOTHER, answering. TWO WHISTLERS rise into frame, their waspy wings FLUTTERING. Another, more distant WHISTLE rings out. It catches their attention.

FOLLOW the creatures as they fly toward the noise.

CHASE (V.O.)

Captain's Log, supplemental. My crew and I are stranded on an unknown planet, teleported here by a device of unknown origin.

The creatures bob and weave, moving in and out of frame as they swoop lower. Below them, the hills give way to a majestic field of yellow flowers.

CHASE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Our ship is held by an AI intent on dismantling it. It's a remnant of an ancient and advanced civilization, and negotiation is not an option.

Our whistlers BUZZ low over flowers. Over a ridge, pillars of smoke rise in the moonlight. The creatures speed up.

CHASE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I have no doubt those we left behind, hanging above the invisible surface of the alien sphere, are doing all they can to find us.

(beat)

But we're running out of time.

The creatures soar over the ridge. Below them is a large and well-made camp, surrounded by rough walls and towers. A small city of shelters sits inside. There are people. HUNDREDS OF FOUR-ARMED ALIENS, along with MANY OTHER RACES. STARFLEET CREW as well. Many are gathered around large fires.

The whistlers CALL LOUDLY and swoop low, approaching. Those nearby react. Pointing, fleeing.

CHASE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

With no other options before us, I have decided we must retake Enterprise. It's our only hope of getting home.

One creature jets out of frame as the other dives low and lands with a THUMP near one of the fires. The crowd scatters. SIX FOUR-ARMED HUNTERS move in, brandishing spears.

The creature lashes out, knocking one off his feet. Two more approach, spears out, and the creature backs off. LIEUTENANT HAYES emerges behind them. He raises his rifle and FIRES.

It's hit square in the chest, stunned. The creature THUMPS to the ground. Suddenly, the second whistler is back, swooping low, sending Hayes diving for cover. It skims, speeding just twelve feet above the surface, looking for a target.

CHASE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Luckily, we are not alone. Others are stranded, a group over a thousand strong. Races from the far reaches of the galaxy who have banded together to survive.

Our view is directly behind the whistler as it heads for one of the fires. The ALIENS around it scatter. Except one.

It's YARA. He raises a nasty-looking barbed spear.

CHASE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Normally I'd welcome the chance at first contact.
(beat)
Right now, I just want my ship back.

The whistler speeds toward Yara. He waits until the last possible moment and then hurls his spear. It THUNKS into the attacker, the end jutting out of its back.

The creature lists to the side, CRASHING into the ground, narrowly missing Yara. It skips over the dirt, THUMP-THUMPING along in a cloud of dust.

ON WHISTLER CORPSE as it comes to a stop two feet away from JAX, out for a nice walk. She stares at the creature. Yara approaches. He RIPS his spear from the dead whistler.

JAX
Nice shot.

YARA
Thank you.

Jax watches him as he keeps walking, heading to an open shelter in the background. CHASE and HOLDEN are visible inside, talking.

EXT. SHELTER - NIGHT

An open-air shelter of worn wood and metal scraps. Chase and Holden stand at a table. A tricorder sits open, displaying a 3D holographic model of the robot processing center seen at the end of part two. Mid-conversation.

CHASE

So far it's just hull damage, but they're getting close to some critical systems.

Yara enters. Holden looks up.

HOLDEN

(to Yara)

Everything okay out there?

YARA

The attacks grow more frequent. The whistlers have been here only half as long as we have, but it seems they procreate much faster.

Yara joins the two men at the table. Chase is fixated on the task at hand, studying the model intently.

CHASE

These drones, what's their defense like?

YARA

We've snuck close enough to scavenge hull scraps without any problems. The ships are suspended in mid-air, there's no way to reach them. I do not think they see us as a threat.

HOLDEN

That may change once we're close enough to actually be one.

Chase zooms the hologram into Enterprise. A red section on the underside of the engineering hull shows the damage done by the drones. A few other areas are also highlighted.

CHASE

If we keep the team small, we may be able to get aboard undetected.

YARA

Small? You have over a hundred crewmembers.

HOLDEN

Matter transporters. If we can get a few people inside the ship, they can beam everyone else onboard in an instant.

Chase maneuvers the hologram to show Enterprise's position. It hovers about 100 meters above the ground with no moorings. Above the ship sits a lattice of mechanics.

CHASE

How many sets of redshirt armor do we have?

HOLDEN

Four. Rochard and her squad were running maneuvering drills when we were taken.

Chase zooms in on the metal lattice above Enterprise.

CHASE

Their anti-gravity gear consists of magnetic boots and gloves. We can get above her. Rappel down.

Holden considers.

HOLDEN

It won't be the easiest climb, but it's definitely doable.

CHASE

Great. You're with me. Tell Hayes and Rochard they're up too.

HOLDEN

Aye, sir.

CHASE

We still need to get in undetected, and the front approach is too open. Yara, you said you've been close enough to grab scrap. Where do we have access?

YARA

There's a cave system that lets out adjacent to the pod where your ship is held. Here.

(points to schematic)

I can lead you. It should take no more than half a day.

(MORE)

YARA (CONT'D)

(beat)

My people are excellent climbers.

Chase looks to Holden, who shrugs.

CHASE

(to Yara)

You're part of the team. We'll need all the rope you can spare.

YARA

Even if you reach orbit, how do you anticipate getting back to your own region of space?

CHASE

I'm not worried about that. We've got our best guy on it.

EXT. SPHERE

On the other side of the universe, ZERO stands on the surface of the sphere. The dragonfly is still parked nearby. Two others float overhead, illuminating the area.

The contraption Zero built has doubled in size. It looks precarious. Some pieces are connected only by wires, floating oddly around him. He finishes an adjustment.

ZERO

That should do it.

DONAL (COMM)

Nope.

Zero looks confused. It soon passes.

ZERO

Ah.

He makes another tweak. The machine glows and HUMS to life.

ZERO (CONT'D)

There we go.

DONAL (COMM)

The signal's stabilized. I have eyes.

INT. DRAGONFLY

Donal is at the control panel. She peers at the display, which now shows a view of various rooms onboard Enterprise.

DONAL
Great job, Zero.

She keys through a few rooms. They're all empty.

DONAL (CONT'D)
Odd. Nobody's home.

Zero enters the dragonfly through the open hatch (a forcefield flickers as he crosses the threshold). He looks over her shoulder.

ZERO
Interesting.

Donal pushes a few buttons.

DONAL
Do we have internal sensors?

ZERO
We do not.

DONAL
Comms? Can we ping their communicators.

ZERO
We can not.

Donal glares at him.

DONAL
What exactly do we have access to?

ZERO
We are linked with Enterprise via an oscillating neutrino beam traversing a semi-stable wormhole. Accessing anything but ultra-low level sectors across such a chaotic system would require...

DONAL
(Interrupting)
What do we have access to, Zero?

ZERO
Fire suppression.

Donal's not happy about that.

DONAL
Fire suppression?

ZERO
Anything more complex would require a significantly advanced beam or a two-way connection. Luckily, visual surveillance is a part of the fire suppression system.

She begins flipping from view to view, searching for a clue.

DONAL
Where are we on finding a way to yank the ship back through?

ZERO
It will require a crewmember on the other side. Preferably someone who has a high-level understanding of warp field dynamics and is well-versed in quantum harmonic theory.

DONAL
Right. Okay, well, see if you can get me access to something more useful. I'll keep looking for clues.

Zero moves to exit.

DONAL (CONT'D)
If a campfire gets out of control, I've got it covered.

EXT. DISPLACED CAMP - MORNING

ESTABLISHING shot of the camp at dawn. ALIENS flit about, gathering supplies. Chase and Yara stand near a large shelter. Chase is now dressed in redshirt armor. He's putting on his gloves. Mid-conversation.

CHASE
I can't do it, Yara.

YARA
With only a few of your energy weapons we could stop the whistler attacks. Our spears only get us so far.

CHASE

We cannot risk tainting the natural order of this region.

YARA

Natural order? This isn't evolution, Captain. We are a random assortment of curious creatures unlucky enough to have stumbled on one-way doors to nowhere.

CHASE

It's not an option. Look, Enterprise is too small to take all of you, but we could take some. The offer still stands.

YARA

I have talked to my people about your offer and we do not want to separate. Besides, you cannot get us to our homes, simply to another place where we are strangers. And from what you have said, your Starfleet may not welcome newcomers.

Chase wishes he could say otherwise.

CHASE

They would likely be... skeptical.

YARA

Then we will deal with the whistlers as we have dealt with all the obstacles this place has put before us. This is our home now.

Yara turns and leaves, passing Holden as the first officer approaches. Holden is also dressed in redshirt armor.

HOLDEN

(re: Yara)

He doesn't look happy.

CHASE

They don't want to come with us, but he wants weapons to keep those flying creatures in check.

HOLDEN

Captain, I don't think I have to mention...

CHASE
(interrupting)
No, Barric, you don't. I told him
it's impossible. I can only bend
the rules so far.

HOLDEN
I'll be sure to mention that in my
report.

CHASE
Very funny. What's our status?

HOLDEN
The team is ready. I've briefed Jax
on what should happen if we...

Chase waves his hand.

CHASE
We'll be back onboard the ship
before dusk.

HOLDEN
Aye, sir.

Chase locks his glove down with a BEEP and flexes his
fingers.

CHASE
Let's move out.

Holden and Chase walk off into the camp as MUSIC RISES.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DISPLACED CAMP - MORNING

A CROWD has gathered on the edge of the camp. Holden, Chase,
Hayes, and ROCHARD are heading out. They're dressed in
redshirt armor, carrying supplies and coils of rope. Yara
carries his spear. The group says goodbye to those who have
come to see them off.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The alien sun is lower in the sky, casting a pink glow over a
large field of yellow flowers, waist high.

Chase, Holden, Rochard, Hayes, and Yara walk through the field, leaving a path of disturbed flowers in their wake. They're spread out in formation, red uniforms against a field of unending gold.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAVE

Yara leads Chase and his team through the alien cave system. The group lights the way with powerful flashlights. The beams reveal large, multi-colored crystals lining the cave walls.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DRAGONFLY

MUSIC LOWERS as we come back to Donal in the dragonfly cockpit. In the back, Zero is tearing apart a control panel, scavenging parts. Donal is watching her viewscreen intently. She switches from view to view.

ON DONAL. Something catches her eye. She leans in.

DONAL
What the hell is that?

ZERO
Lieutenant?

He joins her in the cockpit.

ON SCREEN as Donal isolates a window in the corner. She enlarges it to fill the screen. It's a generic crew quarters, but most of the wall is missing. Through it we can see the pink sky of the alien planet.

A metallic tentacle slithers in from outside and a ROBOT DRONE is suddenly visible. A bright cutting beam emits from its tentacles, shearing a piece of the hull clean off. The thing slinks away, but is soon replaced by ANOTHER.

ON DONAL AND ZERO as they watch. Horrified.

DONAL
We need to get our ship home. Now.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Chase and his team emerge from the mouth of a cave. They squint at the sudden onslaught of light.

YARA
We have arrived.

As their eyes adjust, they take in the sight before them.

REVEAL a towering metal spire just 30 yards away. Part old ruins, part new technology, the copper and silver structure stretches miles into the sky above, joining with others to form the side of the massive complex.

CHASE
Then let's get started.

ON CHASE AND TEAM. Their heads tilt back, peering up, up, up. This is not going to be easy.

END PART THREE