

STAR TREK: FINAL FRONTIER

"THE EMPTY EYE"

PART FOUR

Written by:
Doug Mirabello

Created by:
Doug Mirabello
Jose Munoz
Dave Rossi

Based on "Star Trek" created by Gene Roddenberry

EXT. ALIEN COMPLEX - DAY

Metal spires reach to the sky. Enterprise is visible in one of the disassembly bays.

EXT. ALIEN SPIRE - DAY

CLOSE ON a section of the complex. The base is ancient ruins, copper-like metal etched with odd symbols. Over top of that is a lattice of newer, shinier tech.

A GLOVED HAND enters frame. As it grabs onto the surface with a CLICK, a red light on the back of the palm turns green.

REVEAL CHASE climbing up the structure. HOLDEN is beside him. YARA, ROCHARD, and HAYES below. All except Yara are dressed in redshirt armor with magnetic gloves and boots, carrying coils of rope.

Holden pauses, disengages one hand, and removes the tricorder from his belt.

HOLDEN

(scanning)

80 meters to the top. Then it's a straight shot to our descent point.

(beat)

The drones don't seem to care we're here.

CHASE

Yet.

HOLDEN

Yet.

Holden stows his tricorder and begins climbing again. Everyone joins him but Chase, who looks down at Enterprise, below. The ship floats in space, pink sunlight across its mighty hull. Just within reach, yet so far away.

ON CHASE, staring down. Yara pauses beside him, considering.

CHASE

I refused to help your people, Yara. Yet you're risking your life for our cause. Why?

YARA

When I woke up in that field, I was determined to do everything I could to get my ship back. By the time I found it, it was a skeleton.

(MORE)

YARA (CONT'D)
(a beat, remembering)
In many ways life here has been
better. But I would give anything
to be an explorer again.

He looks down at the ship below, then back up at Chase.

YARA (CONT'D)
Come, it's not far now.

Yara begins climbing again. Chase takes one last look at the ship and resumes his pace, gloves CLICKING as he climbs.

INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

Camera tracks forward through an empty Enterprise corridor. Eerie. Quiet. Nobody's home.

INT. BRIDGE

The bridge is empty. The forward viewscreen shows pink sky. Displays are on, but only one shows activity.

ON DISPLAY, where a sine wave is seen, oscillating wildly. It's Zero's signal, on the receiving end. Next to it we see access to the fire suppression system. A red dot turns green.

INT. SICKBAY

Also empty. A HIGH-PITCHED WHINE echoes from the comm system. It MODULATES and is then replaced by a familiar voice.

DONAL (COMM)
Enterprise, this is Lieutenant
Donal. Does anyone read?

ZERO (COMM)
They will not be able to respond.
We can only broadcast.

INT. ENGINEERING

The conversation continues as our view switches to engineering. The warp core pulses, lonely, in the center.

DONAL (COMM)
You're doing great work here, Zero,
but how's that going to help us?

ZERO (COMM)
If anyone is onboard, we can direct
them to establish a response.

INT. HANGAR

Dragonflies are parked along the walls and suspended by crane
above the deck. Equipment is strewn about, but no people.

DONAL (COMM)
Okay. Well, do that then.

ZERO (COMM)
If anyone can hear this, please
make your way to the bridge. We are
monitoring visually and will give
you further instructions upon
arrival.

INT. BRIDGE

Still empty. The communications display shows the sine wave.

DONAL (COMM)
Now what?

ZERO (COMM)
Now we wait. And hope that the
captain is on his way.

On the forward viewscreen, the sun sinks lower in the sky as
time ticks away.

SMASH TO:

EXT. ALIEN COMPLEX - EVENING

Bright sunlight shines behind Chase and his team. They're
standing on a structure of metal overhangs above Enterprise,
which floats 100 meters below them. Hayes and Rochard are
rigging ropes.

HOLDEN
This'll land us as near access
hatch D7, which lets out near
transporter room four.

CHASE
We've got rope for three. Hayes,
you and Yara follow the rest of us
down. Keep an eye out for drones.
(MORE)

CHASE (CONT'D)
If those things decide to mount a
defense, we form up and push
through. Whatever you do, don't
stop moving. Understood?

The team nods their understanding.

CHASE (CONT'D)
Right. Let's move out.

EXT. ALIEN SKY - EVENING

The sky is divided by three lines of rope, silhouetted by the
sunlight behind. Chase, Holden, and Rochard descend quickly.
On their way down to...

EXT. ENTERPRISE - EVENING

The smooth hull of the saucer section stretches before us.
Chase, Holden, and Rochard drop down. Rochard has her rifle
out. Chase wields his pistol as Holden scans the area.

HOLDEN
Head toward the starboard side,
we've got 80 meters to...
(beat, uh oh)
Hang on, we've got incoming. One
contact.
(pointing)
There.

Holden points over to the ship's port side as he stows the
tricorder and raises his pistol. Chase looks up to Yara and
Hayes, who are now descending.

CHASE
Stay sharp up there, we've got
company!

ON PORT SIDE as a drone rises quickly over the hull. It zips
toward our team. Far, but closing fast.

ROCHARD
(rifle up)
I've got it.

Rochard breathes in, holds her breath, and FIRES. The beam
SLAMS into the drone, but an energy shield CRACKLES on
impact. The drone is knocked sideways and back for a moment,
but then resumes its course.

HOLDEN
It's got shields!

The team OPENS FIRE. Chase and Holden with pistols, Rochard peering down the scope of her rifle. A VOLLEY OF PHASER FIRE ZIIIIIRRRRRRS toward the drone.

ON DRONE. It takes evasive action, dodging several shots. A few others SLAM into it, knocking it briefly off course.

A BLAST goes wide from above where Hayes, mid-descent, aims with his pistol.

CHASE
(to Hayes, above)
We'll draw it off. Get down here
and head to the hatch.

Chase sprints left. The drone locks onto him.

HOLDEN
It's on you!

Holden runs toward his captain. The drone's close now, bearing down on Chase. Its tentacles reach forward, each tipped by a brightly glowing cutting beam.

Chase backs away, FIRING. The drone DODGES and prepares to strike.

HOLDEN (CONT'D)
Captain!

Yara drops from above, SLAMMING into the drone, which SMASHES into the hull below, still skidding toward Chase. Just before it hits, Holden tackles him to the side. The drone, Yara on top, skids by.

Yara's pissed. One hand grip the drone's dorsal side. Two others BASH at its hull. The fourth deflects the tentacles that try to knock him away.

The drone emits a METALLIC WHINE as Yara wrestles with it. Rochard raises her rifle, but Chase puts a hand up.

CHASE
No, you'll hit him.

Hayes fast-ropes down to join the group, who can only watch.

ON THE FIGHT as Yara WRENCHES one of the drone's tentacles off and flings it to the side. The drone is flailing now. Yara grips it with two hands.

He brings the other two over his head, grabbing the spear from his back and RAMMING it down into the drone. Sparks FLY as he wrenches it out and STABS again.

YARA

Stay...

And AGAIN.

YARA (CONT'D)

Down.

The drone's tentacles FLOP to the ground, twitching. It's not moving anymore. Yara slides off, spear in hand.

Holden's got his tricorder out.

HOLDEN

Two more en route. Any second now.

CHASE

Let's move.

The group sprints toward the center of the saucer. Behind them, TWO MORE DRONES rise up above the hull and pursue.

ON ACCESS HATCH as Chase arrives first.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Cover me. See if you can at least slow them down.

Chase hands Yara his pistol. He, Holden, Rochard, and Hayes take firing positions.

ROCHARD

Concentrate fire, maximum power.

ZIIIRRRRRRRR! All four fire at the lead drone, which is blasted back, BOUNCING along the hull. It's back up within seconds. They FIRE again.

ON CHASE as he slides open an access panel and inputs a code. A handle slides out. He yanks on it and the access hatch opens with a HISS.

CHASE

Everybody in!

Holden and Yara jump down through the hatch. Rochard and Hayes KEEP FIRING.

HAYES

You first, sir.

Chase jumps down through the hatch and into...

INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

...joining Holden and Yara. Hayes and Rochard jump down after him, Rochard SLAMMING the hatch shut after them.

ROCHARD

I don't know how long that'll...

Before she can finish, a foot-long cutting beam SLICES through the hatch above. A METALLIC WHINE is heard. The beam begins moving around the hatch, cutting it open.

HAYES

We've got charges. Should be able to take out at least one.

Rochard nods. She and Hayes remove the charges from their belts and CLICK them into place around the hatch.

ROCHARD

Right, let's move.

The group takes off down the corridor. Seconds after they're gone, the severed hatch CLANGS down to the floor below.

Just before rounding a corner, Rochard pauses, watching, her hand poised above a button on her wrist.

ROCHARD (CONT'D)

Come on...

ON HATCH as the first drone drops in, its single eye looking around for its prey.

ON ROCHARD as she hits the button.

ON HATCH as the corridor EXPLODES around the drone, tearing it into tiny flaming pieces. Before the smoke has even cleared, the SECOND DRONE drops in. It sees Rochard immediately and takes off after her.

INT. DRAGONFLY

Donal's still at the control panel, clicking from view to view of empty ship. Zero is behind her, still tinkering.

DONAL

It's been five minutes, let's do another announcement. Maybe...

She's interrupted by a BEEP. Her display is replaced by a ship schematic with a section at the top highlighted in red.

DONAL (CONT'D)
Whoa! We've got fire! Hang on.

She brings up a visual. It shows a ravaged corridor and the fiery ruins of the first drone. The second drops in.

DONAL (CONT'D)
I'll bet I know exactly who this ugly metal bastard is chasing.

Zero joins her as she clicks through the corridor views, first to the drone heading down the hall and then further down, around the corner. She sees Chase, Holden, Yara, Hayes, and Rochard sprinting to transporter room four.

DONAL (CONT'D)
Yes! Okay, let's say hello.

INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

Chase and his team sprint down the corridor, turning a corner. The drone is behind them. It's not visible, but they can hear it CLANKING and SCRAPING in pursuit.

HAYES
The tight space is slowing it, but not by much. We'll make a stand, you get to the controls.

DONAL (COMM)
Captain! This is Donal. Man are we glad to see you.

Everyone's shocked to hear Donal's voice. Chase isn't sure what it means, but it's an advantage he didn't have before.

CHASE
Lieutenant! Listen closely...

INT. DRAGONFLY

Zero and Donal stare at the display, where they see the group in front of the door to the transporter room. Chase is talking animatedly, but there's no sound.

DONAL
Yeah, that's not going to work.

INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

Holden, Hayes, Yara, and Rochard have taken up firing positions. Chase is finishing up his request.

CHASE

...once we get everyone on board.

He waits for a response. Nothing.

HOLDEN

What the hell?

DONAL (COMM)

We can't hear you, sir. It's a long story, but we're on the other side of the universe and all we've got access to is fire suppression.

Holden shoots Chase a confused look.

HOLDEN

Fire suppression?

At the end of the hallway, the DRONE NOISES grow louder. It appears suddenly, but shoots past the intersection. THE NOISES FADE.

ROCHARD

Stupid thing missed the turn.

DONAL (COMM)

We've got visual, but that's about it. Lucky you started that fire or I never would have even found you.

CHASE

(to Holden)

Commander, get in there and get the transporter up and running. It'll take a bit to get locks on everyone.

HOLDEN

Aye, sir.

He holsters his weapon and heads into the transporter room. The doors WHOOSH open and shut behind him.

DONAL (COMM)

Zero thinks he can get you back, but we're going to need help on your end.

(MORE)

DONAL (COMM) (CONT'D)
So if you want to head to the
bridge, we can at least set up two
way comms.

Hayes, Rochard, Yara, and Chase stare down the corridor.

HAYES
Maybe it's lost.

A METALLIC SHRIEK echoes, then again, LOUDER.

ROCHARD
That's a negative.

She, Hayes, and Yara get ready to fire. They stare down the
corridor, waiting for the drone to appear.

CHASE
(to himself)
Force fields. Fire suppression
means force fields.
(louder)
Force fields! Force fields!

He's shouting now, trying to get the message to Donal.

HAYES
Here it comes.

At the intersection, the drone WHIRS into the corridor. It
turns, peers directly at them, and floors it. Hayes and
Rochard OPEN FIRE with their rifles. Yara BLASTS with Chase's
phaser. The drone's slowed, but still up.

Chase is scanning the top of the corridor, looking for the
camera he knows Donal's watching from.

CHASE
Force fields!

INT. DRAGONFLY

Donal and Zero, still watching eagerly. On screen, Chase is
yelling inaudibly, shouting at the walls. The others are
visible, firing down the corridor.

DONAL
What the hell is he doing?

ZERO
I am unsure. The metal creature
seems to be approaching.

DONAL

I don't know what I can do about that.

Chase has found the camera. He's shouting directly into it. His lips form "force fields," but no sound. He begins making mime-like wall gestures with his hands.

DONAL (CONT'D)

I don't... wait... force fields?

She begins pushing some buttons.

ZERO

The suppression system utilizes force fields to isolate fires. If we were to...

DONAL

Way ahead of you.

INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

Hayes, Rochard, and Yara are FIRING MADLY. Chase is still shouting at the camera.

CHASE

Come on, Donal, FORCE FIELDS!

The drone is absorbing the hits and still coming. Thirty feet. Twenty. Yara stops firing, drops his pistol, and readies his spear for a hand-to-hand assault.

ROCHARD

(a hint of panic)

Captain, get inside! We'll hold it off as long as we can!

Chase looks away from the camera in time to see the drone lunge forward with a SHRIEK, its cutting-beam tentacles rushing toward his men...

ZZZT!

The drone IS SLICED IN HALF by a fire suppression force field, which FLICKERS to life in the middle of the corridor. The back half sinks to the ground. The front half slides to a stop in front of the group, its tentacles now dark.

The transporter room door SWOOSHES open, revealing Holden.

HOLDEN

I've got locks on everyone, just tell me where you want 'em.

CHASE

Hangar bay. Put a team together to check everyone out and get them to their posts. I'm heading to the bridge to get these things away from my ship.

INT. HANGAR BAY

Empty. But not for long. A GROUP OF TWELVE STARFLEET OFFICERS shimmers into shape in the far corner. Then ANOTHER. And ANOTHER. Enterprise's crew is returning home.

EXT. ALIEN COMPLEX - NIGHT

ALIEN DRONES are still arrayed around the ship when Enterprise's shields SNAP on, inflating like an energy balloon from the hull into a rough oval shape.

The drones are THROWN out from center, scattered into the air. The few who were outside of shield range try to get close, but just SMACK against the shields.

INT. BRIDGE

Chase in the chair, Holden beside him. Jax at ops. N.D. CREWMEN fill stations and Yara stands to the side.

HOLDEN

Crew at stations and accounted for. Structural integrity fields have patched up the holes and shields are keeping those things at bay.

CHASE

Let's get the hell off this rock.

EXT. ALIEN COMPLEX - NIGHT

DRONES beat themselves against the shields, but it does no good. Enterprise floats out of the pod and rises into the air. Her impulse engines glow as she accelerates.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

CLOSE ON a handshake between Chase and Yara. REVEAL they're in the transporter room. Jax and Holden are there, too.

CHASE

We would have never gotten our ship back without you. Thank you.

YARA

You will be able to return to your space?

HOLDEN

Zero's been working with one of his engineers. They're standing by to zap us back to our end.

CHASE

He's going to send a feedback pulse through the wormhole once we're back. It should burn out the entire transport system. No one else will fall into the trap.

YARA

Then you are our final visitors. It was an honor to fight alongside you, Captain Chase.

He begins moving to the platform.

CHASE

Yara, we'll have Starfleet's best minds looking at that sphere. If we ever find a way to reestablish contact and get you home, I'll deliver the news myself.

Yara reaches the transporter pad and turns.

YARA

I am confident my people will survive. I hope to see you again.

Chase nods to Jax, who hits a few buttons and BEAMS Yara away. Chase stares at the empty spot for a moment. Holden senses his apprehension, puts a hand on his shoulder.

HOLDEN

He's a hell of a fighter, Alex. They'll be fine.

Chase doesn't respond.

EXT. ALIEN HILLSIDE - NIGHT

Yara SHIMMERS into form on a rocky, crystal-strewn hillside. Above him, twin moons light the crimson sky. He stares up at the stars for a moment, gets his bearings, and then begins walking down the hillside.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BRIDGE

Chase stands in the center of the bridge. Jax is at ops, Holden at his station. On screen, we see Donal in the dragonfly. Zero's visible in the back.

CHASE

Great to see you again, Lieutenant.

DONAL

(on screen)

Aye, sir. I was getting sick of Starfleet rations.

Jax works her panel.

JAX

Our connection's strong, captain. Engine modifications are complete and the deflector's ready to initiate the jump.

CHASE

Then let's get back home before Starfleet falls apart without us.

JAX

Aye, sir.

She hits a few buttons and a LOW HUM vibrates the bridge.

INT. ENGINEERING

Zero's visible on a large engineering viewscreen, watching over a SMALL ARMY OF ENGINEERS as they operate the warp engines. There are panels open, wires everywhere - there's been a significant amount of jury-rigging.

ON WARP ENGINES as they pulse and HUM with new energy.

EXT. SPACE

Eight dragonflies float in space in a line. Through their front windows, we see REDSHIRTS (including CHEN) peering out.

ON CENTER SHIP, where Donal looks up from her controls. In the back of the ship, Zero is working.

DONAL

Come on... come on...

REVERSE ANGLE, the ships now small in the foreground. Below them, the surface of the sphere begins to glow visible. The surface fades in and out, CRACKLING with energy patterns that coalesce at a central point. Tendrils of energy rise from the surface in front of the dragonflies.

The energy pulsates and then BURSTS with a flash. The flash dies down and Enterprise is back, floating serenely in space like she never left.

ON DRAGONFLIES as the crew, visible through the cockpit glass, bursts into wild applause. Some pump their fists.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CREW QUARTERS

The same quarters Donal saw being torn apart. A REPAIR TEAM is busy fixing the wall, welding plates in place.

CHASE (V.O.)

Captain's Log, stardate 62480.6.
The ship has returned and our crew is reunited. Repair teams will be working for a while, but all systems are up and running.

EXT. SPACE

Enterprise floats in empty space. Her deflector dish glows to life. A green beam of energy shoots out. It hits the invisible hull of the sphere.

CHASE (V.O.)

Zero has rigged a feedback loop within the sphere, which he assures me will shut down not just this node, but all others.

The sphere shimmers visible, the green energy from the beam mixing with the sphere's own surface energy.

It swirls wildly, then PULSES brightly. With that, the sphere goes dark. No longer cloaked, the copper-colored behemoth now hangs lifeless in space.

EXT. DISPLACED CAMP - NIGHT

The alien camp at night. A CROWD of aliens has gathered at the edge. Yara is approaching, returning from his journey.

CHASE (V.O.)
Those we met on that distant world
remain there. I can only hope
they'll overcome their challenges.

The group greets their leader as he returns. Yara calls them around him. He reaches into his cloak and produces a bundle of cloth, which he unwraps.

It's Chase's phaser. Yara smiles.

EXT. SPACE

Enterprise cruises majestically away from the sphere. Her hull is pockmarked with repairs.

CHASE (V.O.)
I've alerted Starfleet to
quarantine the sphere and begin
investigations. Despite its inert
state, there's no doubt the
artifact holds many secrets.
Personally, I'd be happy to never
see it again.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BRIDGE

Chase in the center seat, Holden beside him. Jax at ops, with Zero at a rear station. N.D. CREW fill stations.

ZERO
We are cleared for low warp, sir.

JAX
U.S.S. Polaris is offering to
divert from the border and assist
with repairs.

CHASE
How far out is she?

JAX

If we turn back now we could
rendezvous in...
(working)
Forty-seven days.

CHASE

Forty-seven days we could spend
doing far more exciting things than
retracing our own footsteps.
(beat)
Tell Captain Wright we're fine on
our own.

HOLDEN

The border doesn't sound so bad
right now. No invisible spheres, no
robots trying to cut your face off.

Chase turns and peers at him.

CHASE

(to all)
Show of hands. Who would rather be
patrolling a border that doesn't
need patrolling?

No one raises their hand. Not even his first officer.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Right. Let's get back out there and
see what else we can find.
(beat)
Warp three. Take us out.

EXT. SPACE

Enterprise warps away with a FLASH, leaving the sphere
hanging dead in space.

THE END