

STAR TREK: FINAL FRONTIER

PART FOUR

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Based on "Star Trek" created by Gene Roddenberry

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PART FOUR

EXT. SPACE

Enterprise drops out of warp, settling to impulse power. We PUSH IN, THROUGH the hull and into

INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Holden in command. Standing, nervous, peering at the viewscreen and its numerous displays.

JAX

These are the correct coordinates, sir. According to the captain's message, this is where they'll come out.

HOLDEN

(doubtful)

Out. Of an Omega Field. In a Galaxy Class starship.

(beat)

Are you reading anything? Any sign of this corridor?

JAX

Negative. Field one thirty-one reads normal.

The first officer shakes his head, sits down.

HOLDEN

I hope he knows what he's doing.

As he peers forward, worried, we SMASH TO:

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

The bridge is currently PITCH BLACK. LCARS panels blink here and there, casting an eerie glow. The ship is SHAKING violently and a cacophony of noise can be heard: ALERT SIRENS, VENTING GAS, RENDING METAL. Over this:

PERRY

(frantic)

We've lost manifolds one, four, six, and seven! Two and five are in the red! Trying to compensate!

AN EXPLOSION from behind tactical suddenly illuminates the bridge, sending up a backlit vision of Chase in the captain's chair. Perry mans the helm, Abin at ops, Donal at tactical. The shaking lessens, but is still prevalent.

DONAL
Auxiliaries are coming back.

Red light bathes the scene as a light POWER ON NOISE is heard. The emergency lighting shows us the chaotic scene. Another BEEP and the viewscreen comes to life, bathing Chase in an odd, pulsing blue light.

REVERSE ANGLE on the viewscreen. The sight is hypnotic. A pulsing, swirling energy corridor, continually shifting form. We PUSH IN and are then...

EXT. SPACE - CORRIDOR

...and SOUND LOWERS to match transition as the Venture, trembling, sails through. Ripples of light cast glimpses into the vastness of subspace beyond, and vibrant tendrils of energy snake around, some lashing out near our ship as its warp field passes by. Violent, dangerous, and beautiful. A pulse of energy RIPS OUT of the surroundings, striking the Venture's warp field with a flash and buffeting the ship.

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

We're back inside, SOUND UP again, a MASSIVE JOLT.

DONAL
Structural integrity failure on
deck fourteen, port side.

ON PERRY AND ABIN as they react to an ALARM. Looks grave. Abin's fingers dart across the display.

PERRY
We're losing cohesion!

REVERSE ANGLE, viewscreen in the background, our people in the fore. Our trajectory is no longer straight down the pipe. It dips slowly to port. ALERT KLAXONS erupt.

BACK TO CHASE, leaning forward, eyes intent, willing the ship to reach journey's end.

CHASE
(to ship and self)
Almost there...

Off the chaos we CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

Silence. A serene and soothing starscape. But only for a beat before we see a SUDDEN BURST of energy. The edge of Omega Field 131 is suddenly visible, energy ROILING.

Amidst the currents, what looks like a tear in the skin can be seen: the corridor's end. From within, a glow is closing fast, bolts of energy casting off it, dancing across the inner boundary of the field and then...

A CRACK, and the WARP DRIVE EFFECT is heard as the Venture seems to be literally spit forth from the mouth of the distortion, which disappears behind it. Venture is listing, spinning toward camera, and looking bad. Glowing fissures are seen across the hull. Lights blink and flicker. Thrusters FIRE, steadying the mighty ship as she fills the frame.

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

Calmer now, and no shaking. ALERT SIRENS have lessened. Panels still blink, and the bridge has looked better. Red lighting replaced by normal.

PERRY
Secure from warp speed, sir.

Chase keys the comm.

CHASE
Chase to Engineering.

PRESTON
(from comm)
Go ahead, sir.

CHASE
Give my regards to the chief engineer, Bill. Damn fine work.

INT. VENTURE - ENGINEERING

Preston is exhausted but smiling. In the background, several ORDRIN are putting out a plasma fire.

PRESTON
Thank you Captain. Warp core's just about had it, but nothing we can't fix with some time.

CHASE
(from comm)
Acknowledged. Bridge out.

Preston lets out his breath and steps from the panel to survey the area. He wipes his brow.

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

As before, though calmer. A collective breath.

CHASE

Well, let's never do that again.

Chase stands. Abin's panel BEEPS, catching his attention.

ABIN

Sensors have something.

CHASE

That'll be Enterprise.

More BEEPS. Abin works, his face betrays panic.

ABIN

Multiple contacts! All Verlicon!
(turns to Chase)
Captain, they've found us!

EXT. SPACE - USS VENTURE

Our crippled ship before us, we rapidly PULL OUT, the Venture shrinking as we reveal three Verlicon ships. Two are identical to the ship destroyed earlier, but the third is bigger and meaner, tribal markings on its side.

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

The same ships now on the viewscreen, with occasional static. Chase's relief is long gone.

CHASE

Red alert!

As Perry works, RED ALERT klaxons sound.

PERRY

Shields are non-responsive.

The viewscreen comes on with a BEEP to reveal KURU XUN. The Verlicon leader is massive and intimidating, all teeth and fury. His bridge is sparse. INSECTOID SHAPES can be seen in the background.

KURU XUN

(on viewscreen)

I am Ascendant Kuru Xun. We read tracking devices for eight hundred and fifty-three escaped prisoners aboard your vessel.

CHASE

Captain Chase. USS Venture. These people are under our protection. We seek passage...

KURU XUN
(on viewscreen)
Denied. Comply or perish.

CHASE
I represent the United Federation
of Planets. I'm afraid our cultures
have differing ideals on property.
We will protect these people and
their right to freedom. Any act of
aggression against this vessel will
be met with retribution.

INT. VERLICON FLAGSHIP - BRIDGE

Functional and sparse. VERLICON and their INSECTOIDS at
stations. Kuru Xun stands in the center of it all, speaking
to Chase's image on the screen. His grotesque features
contort into a vague smile.

KURU XUN
(mocking)
Federation. We are familiar with
this name, Captain Chase. You are
far from the border your people
cower behind; there will be no
retribution.

He cuts the transmission with a wave of his hand, Chase's
image replaced by that of the Venture hanging wounded in
space. Addresses his men.

KURU XUN (CONT'D)
Send a harvester pod. Leave our
property alive.
(beat)
Kill the rest.

EXT. SPACE - VERLICON FLAGSHIP

A launch port on the front of the ship glows with energy
before a massive gelatinous projectile THOOMS forth, headed
for the Venture.

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

Perry reacts.

PERRY
One projectile. Slow moving... it
reads as organic.

CHASE
Evasive maneuvers.

EXT. SPACE - USS VENTURE

The blob approaches from behind as the starship banks. As it gets closer, we see dozens of shapes in the pulsing goo. Venture dodges. The projectile passes it, seemingly missing.

ON BLOB as it changes course, darting in front of the ship, where it EXPLODES with a SPLAT. The goo dissipates to reveal DOZENS OF INSECTOID HARVESTERS. They writhe with life as they burst forth, heading toward the saucer, some clawing their way into the ravaged main bridge, disappearing inside.

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

PERRY

I read lifeforms. They're mobile.
They've attached themselves to the
saucer!

ABIN

(to Chase)
You can't let them take us!

CHASE

(to Donal)
Have your people evacuate the
Ordrin. Get them as far from the
outer hull as possible.

DONAL

Done.

With that, Donal exits to the turbolift.

INT. VENTURE - TEN FORWARD

Two RED SHIRTS are herding Ordrin out of the large room as red alert SIRENS SOUND. An ORDRIN LIEUTENANT is gathering charts near the window.

RED SHIRT #1

Move out!

The Ordrin Lieutenant looks up, turning his back to the window, where AN INSECTOID SHAPE appears, crawling over the outer hull. It brings one of its massive talons SMASHING down to the window, which spider-fractures with a CRACK!

The Ordrin spins, his eyes going wide. The Red Shirts push the others out the door. One turns, raises his gun.

RED SHIRT #1 (CONT'D)

Get down!

But he's too late. Two more rapid SMASHES and the Ten Forward window SHATTERS outward. The Ordrin is swiftly blown out into space as chairs and tables follow, ATMOSPHERE SWIRLING, venting around them. The first Red Shirt is lifted off the ground, but he spins, managing to grab the door frame. His rifle flies out of his hand as he turns to see...

Chaos at the breach, but the Harvester is still there. It fights the venting air, inching forward with heavy claws. Outside, other Harvesters can be seen.

ON RED SHIRT, his grip slipping. Suddenly, a hand grabs his. It's the second Red Shirt, bracing himself.

He reaches to his comrade and pulls him into the corridor, sealing the door behind them as we PAN to reveal the Harvesters clawing their way into the ship.

INT. VENTURE - ENGINEERING

Preston at a rear engineering console. A flashing schematic of the ship before him, many sections blinking red. Behind him, a Red Shirt TECH is evacuating the Ordrin from the room.

CHASE
(from comm)
Bridge to Engineering. We have
hostiles aboard.

PRESTON
We're doing what we can, sir.
Residual energy in the phaser banks
might give us a few shots.

CHASE
(from comm)
I'll need more than a few shots.

The schematic is perplexing.

PRESTON
Tactical control is down. The main
computer's not fully online...
something's been keeping it busy
since we left the Omega field.

Preston kneels before the controls and pulls an access panel away to reveal the inner workings.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
Might take some time, but I'll fix
it.

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

CHASE
I'll get you some help. Be careful.

PRESTON
(from comm)
Aye, sir.

EXT. SPACE - USS VENTURE

We follow three Harvesters, claws gripping the hull, as they scramble down to the Venture's neck, find a tear and begin rending at it.

INT. VENTURE - CORRIDOR

Donal is checking one of the welded door sections we saw earlier. FAINT SOUNDS can be heard around her, like termites in the walls.

CHASE
(from comm)
Lt. Donal, Mr. Preston could use some help in main engineering.

DONAL
(to comm)
Understood, sir. I'll go myself. Luckily the seals we put up should stop them from getting too far up here.

She turns, heading for the end of the hall. Suddenly, from behind her, TWO MASSIVE CLANKS are heard as the welded section buckles! Donal spins as the third strike rips through, flattening the door with a BANG and revealing a SNARLING HARVESTER behind. It jumps at her.

Donal dodges right, pulling her sidearm. As the creature passes her, she kicks it against the bulkhead, brings her weapon up, and FIRES. The Harvester HOWLS as it disintegrates. From the end of the corridor, SIX MORE Harvesters leap around the corner. Donal fires again, taking out one more, then turns and sprints away.

The lead Harvester surges, leaping fifteen feet forward, razor-sharp claw outstretched. It's going to be close...

Her BUG blinking, Donal ducks into a door frame just before... ZAP! A bolt of phaser fire impacts the Harvester, DISINTEGRATING it in mid-air!

THREE OF DONAL'S MEN have responded, firing from the cover of a juncture at the other end of the corridor.

They DISINTEGRATE the remaining Harvesters with quick, accurate shots. Donal emerges from cover. She strides past and her men fall in line behind her. All business. Two turn away down a corridor, the other stays with Donal as she steps into a turbolift. From somewhere above them, an ALIEN SHRIEK and a HORRIBLE CRASH echo through the shaft. Donal looks up.

DONAL (CONT'D)
Good thing we're going down.

The doors SWISH shut.

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

Perry works frantically; Abin is quite worried.

PERRY
Hull breaches on decks thirty-four and nineteen.
(re: an alarm)
Captain, I'm reading Verlicon life signs in turbolift shaft four!

Chase turns his head, looks at the turbolift doors at the rear of the battle bridge.

PERRY (CONT'D)
Climbing. Deck eighteen.

CHASE
Do we have people near shaft four on any of those decks?

PERRY
Negative, sir. We've sealed off decks nine through twenty.

Chase draws his phaser and begins programming it. He heads for the turbolift. Reaching the door, he enters an override command into the control panel and the door WHOOSHES open, revealing the empty shaft. He ducks his head in, peers downward. HIGH PITCHED SHRIEKS echo forth.

He pauses, then hits the last button on his phaser, which begins BEEPING. He holds it a moment, looking down the shaft at NINE HARVESTERS, far below, climbing. Counting in his head, he reaches into the shaft, holding the phaser in his outstretched hand.

PERRY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Deck fifteen!

CHASE
Let's hope my math is right.

INT. VENTURE - TURBOLIFT SHAFT

The phaser, BEEPING faster now, falls from Chase's hand. ON PHASER as it falls, tumbling through the shaft, BEEPING increasing. The Harvesters claw their way up, getting closer.

They SNARL as the phaser drops between them, falling past, the BEEPING becoming one SOLID, HIGH PITCHED TONE. They watch it go, then turn toward their goal.

BOOM!

The phaser overloads a deck below them, causing a massive energy explosion, which quickly engulfs the Harvesters.

INT. VENTURE - BATTLE BRIDGE

Chase ducks his head back in as the explosion ECHOES up.

CHASE
Why doesn't he just destroy us?

ABIN
If he wants us dead it'll be by his own hand, not his minions.

CHASE
Well at least we've got that going for us.

INT. VENTURE - ENGINEERING

Preston is on his back underneath a panel, working frantically, isolinear chips and components scattered about. He reacts to a BEEPING from one of the doors. He scrambles for his pistol, spins around...

It's Donal, striding into the room.

DONAL
Commander.

PRESTON
Some warning would've been nice.

DONAL
I've seen your pistol range scores, I wasn't at any risk.

Preston smiles slightly, frustrated. He resumes his work.

PRESTON
I'm having problems getting the core freed up. There's something big running.
(MORE)

PRESTON (CONT'D)

Some sort of embedded command. It started the moment we dropped out of warp.

A CLANK from the depths of Engineering takes Donal's attention. She peers up into the darkness.

DONAL

Try to hurry. I've got reinforcements en route, but we may have company before they get here.

More HARVESTER SOUNDS. They seem to be fading, but Donal's not convinced.

INT. VENTURE - BRIDGE

Chase stands beside Perry, leaning down and checking the console with him. Mid-conversation.

PERRY

We'd have to vent the whole deck, us included. I can't isolate the corridor with our internal sensors in their current state.

A deep CRASH can be heard from somewhere behind the door.

CHASE

Once tactical's up we can throw up some force fields... if we survive that long.

Perry's panel BEEPS as the viewscreen comes to life.

KURU XUN

(from viewscreen)

I give you one last chance, Captain. These beings are our property. Return them and I will spare your lives.

CHASE

(to Perry)

Cut him off.

Perry severs the link, the screen goes black.

CHASE (CONT'D)

The more upset he is the less clearly he'll think.

(beat)

Ensign, I need your sidearm.

Perry hands him his pistol. Chase changes the setting as he walks back to the door, still giving orders.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Make for the border. The moment we have warp drive, we're getting out of here.

Chase begins using his phaser to seal the door to the corridor, directing it down the seam.

EXT. SPACE - USS VENTURE

The crippled ship banks and heads off, looking bad.

INT. VERLICON FLAGSHIP - BRIDGE

As before. Kuru Xun stares at Venture on his screen. One of his men emerges from shadow.

VERLICON COMMANDER

We should destroy them.

Kuru Xun lashes out, shattering a nearby power node with a sweep of his mighty arm.

KURU XUN

NO! I will suck the meat from Abin's bones as he breathes his last breath. Send the rest.

VERLICON COMMANDER

My lord, I do not...

KURU XUN

ALL OF THEM!

EXT. SPACE - VERLICON FLEET

Venture is moving away, albeit slowly. The massive forward launcher on the Verlicon flagship glows to life.

THOOM! THOOM! THOOM! THOOM!

Four massive blobs issue forth! Hundreds of Verlicon shapes inside. They sail toward Venture, large and intimidating, growing in frame!

END PART FOUR