

STAR TREK: THE CANTABRIAN EXPEDITIONS

"ISOLATION"

(Episode 1.4)

Written By Scott Andrew Fack
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CAST

NOEL TURNER
LIZ SINGH
TONY RAMIREZ
DR. MARIE BOURGET
SCOTT FACK
ULITANIA JONAR
ETHAN ARDEN
DAKOTA CALDWELL
YH'AHNI
TAWANA KILLAN
HELENA BOURGET
JOSHUA FULLER

MARQUEZ
KLINGON ONE
ROMULAN ONE
ANNETTE WILLARD
ZAHARA HOGAN

COMPUTER VOICE
COLONY CONTROLLER

ALIEN SUPERNUMERARIES
STARFLEET SUPERNUMERARIES
CIVILIAN SUPERNUMERARIES

TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. SPACE

The STARSHIP CANTABRIAN orbits a lush, green planet rotating below

INT. MARIE'S QUARTERS - STARSHIP CANTABRIAN

DR. MARIE BOURGET sits in the living room section of her quarters, reading a book. THE DOOR CHIMES and Marie calls out without looking up.

MARIE
Come in.

We hear the DOOR HISS OPEN. Marie tosses the book on a coffee table and then stands.

MARIE
You.

We pan across the room to see HELENA BOURGET, Marie's daughter, standing in partial silhouette in the doorway.

HELENA
I thought, since we were on the same ship, that I should stop by and say hi.

MARIE
(sarcastically)
How thoughtful of you.

HELENA
Can I come in?

MARIE
If you must.

Helena considers this for a moment and then enters. The duo stand off for a few seconds before Helena stoops and picks up the book, turning the spine towards her. The door HISSES SHUT.

HELENA
Mm. Paradise by Toni Morrison.

She places the book back on the table.

HELENA
Never read it.

MARIE
Are you here to talk about the
literature you've never read
or is there something more
trivial you felt was important
enough to pester me about?

Helena holds her hands up as if surrendering.

HELENA
Okay. The point.

Helena sits down. Marie remains standing, her arms
folded, glaring at her daughter.

HELENA
The point is...
(softer)
The point is that I know you
are angry at me for what
transpired all those years ago
but...
(beat)
But I've changed and - I'm a
medical doctor, like you, now
- and...

Helena stands.

HELENA
And it wasn't my choice to try
and prove Lieutenant Caldwell
guilty. Both you and I know
that. There are larger forces
at play... on both sides.

Helena goes to leave.

HELENA
I just... I just want to make
things right between us.

The DOOR HISSES OPEN.

HELENA

I'll give you some time... and
space to think about it.

Marie goes to say something but thinks better of it.
Helena gives a weak smile and leaves. The DOOR HISSES
SHUT as we see tears forming in Marie's eyes.

ESTABLISHING SHOT - CALDEA IV - DUSK

A beautiful, lush planet with a small settlement nestled
between towering mountains, a lake shimmering in the
sunset at the colony's edge.

TURNER (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate
49658.3: The Cantabrian's
responded to a distress call
from the Caldea IV colony due
to an outbreak of Irakian
fever. Our medical team seem
to have the situation under
control.

EXT. GARDENS - CALDEA COLONY - DUSK

CAPTAIN NOEL TURNER and COUNSELOR SCOTT FACK stroll
through the gardens, talking and admiring the plants.
COLONY LEADER MARQUEZ is with them. We join them mid-
conversation.

TURNER

...And Doctor Bourget says the
vaccines should stop the
outbreak from reoccurring.

MARQUEZ

I can't thank you and your
crew enough. Thank God you
were within range to respond
so quickly. It could have
been a disaster.

SCOTT

You don't get many Starfleet
visits here, I'd take it.
Being so far from interstellar
lanes and all.

MARQUEZ

No, we don't. We rely on ourselves for most things, being on the edge of the Expanse. But it's made us stronger, as individuals and a group.

TURNER

I need to thank you, on not only my behalf but on behalf of my crew, for your hospitality. The meal tonight was wonderful. And those flowers... beautiful beyond description.

Turner spots a group of flowers and moves towards them. Scott follows.

MARQUEZ

It's the least we could do. You are always more than welcome on Caldea IV.

Turner cups one of the flowers in his hand; it is beautiful and luxurious. He looks over at Scott.

TURNER

Isn't it... Ow!

He pulls his hand away quickly, shaking it, then holding a few fingers and sucking on them. Scott goes to help him.

SCOTT

Are you okay? What happened?

TURNER

I just...
(looks at hand)
I feel... I mean...

Turner collapses, and Scott attempts to revive him. Scott taps his comm-badge.

SCOTT

Fack to Cantabrian. Medical emergency: two to beam directly to Sickbay.

Turner and Fack DEMATERIALISE.

INT. SICKBAY - STARSHIP CANTABRIAN

Organised chaos. Marie rushes to the emergency biobed, implements in her hand, whilst TWO NURSES are gathering equipment. Marie taps her comm-badge.

MARIE
Sickbay to Transporter Room:
Where's the captain?

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - STARSHIP CANTABRIAN

Klaxons sound, and JOSHUA FULLER's hands rush over the console. The PATTERN SHIMMERS IN AND OUT on the transporter pad, and a FORCEFIELD APPEARS. The DOOR HISSES OPEN, and LIEUTENANT COMMANDERS LIZ SINGH and ETHAN ARDEN rush in. Ethan joins Fuller at the console.

COMPUTER VOICE (FILTERED)
Warning: Isolation protocols
engaged. Level 10 forcefield
in place.

ETHAN
Biofilters indicate an unknown
pathogen in the captain's
system.

MARIE (FILTERED)
Isolation wards on-board are
still damaged.

COMPUTER VOICE (FILTERED)
Warning: Isolation protocols
failing. Secondary emergency
measures will be undertaken.

TONY (FILTERED)
Bridge to Transporter Room:
Caldean Colony Transporter
Control is monitoring the
conversation.

Ethan glances over at Liz.

ETHAN
We can't do anything.

LIZ
Beam him back to the colony.

COLONY CONTROLLER (FILTERED)
Caldea IV here: Isolation
protocols engaged.

The SHIMMERING PATTERNS DISAPPEAR. Ethan frowns.

LIZ
What's wrong?

ETHAN
Their patterns...

Ethan looks at Liz.

ETHAN
Captain Turner and Counselor
Fack didn't rematerialize on
the planet's surface...

We close up on Liz's shocked look...

END TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - STARSHIP CANTABRIAN (continued)

LIZ
If they're not on the surface,
and they're definitely not
aboard, where are they?

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION

Lights FLICKER and then GO ON. They illuminate a large room with metal crates stacked around its edges. A large window at the room's back shows a smaller room with a bulkhead behind it. Crates also dot the floor. Scott emerges from behind one lot of crates, somewhat disoriented.

SCOTT
Where is this?

He shuffles around, scanning his surroundings, then taps his comm.-badge.

SCOTT
Fack to Cantabrian.

No response.

SCOTT
Fack to Caldea IV.

No response.

SCOTT
Fack to Turner. Come in.

We hear an echo; Scott hears it too. He scrambles through some crates, shoving some over, to get to the large window. It's like a control booth or airlock of some sort.

SCOTT
Captain! Captain!

Turner doesn't stir.

Scott works frantically at a small computer station under the window. BEEPING SOUNDS.

COMPUTER VOICE (FILTERED)
All readings are within normal parameters. The patient is currently unconscious but not under immediate threat.

SCOTT
Computer: Can you revive him?

COMPUTER VOICE (FILTERED)
Negative.

He finds a door at the room's side and pushes the pad. It responds NEGATIVE. He pushes it again, and he gets the same response, this time with a BIOHAZARD SYMBOL illuminated RED.

COMPUTER VOICE (FILTERED)
Isolation protocols are in place and cannot be overridden at this time.

Defeated, Scott glances around the room for another option.

SCOTT
What is this place?

INT. BRIDGE - CANTABRIAN
The crew are at their typical stations. MARQUEZ is on the VIEWSCREEN, Liz stands over Tony's Ops station.

LIZ
The supply station in orbit.

MARQUEZ (FILTERED)
The colony founders set up our transporters to divert any biohazards to the isolation bay on the station in orbit.

LIZ
Caldea IV has had this problem before?

MARQUEZ (FILTERED)
Yes, we did. About 30 years ago, another Starfleet contingent visited us after an outbreak of CACS.

LIZ
CACCS?

MARIE
(chiming in)
Caldean Acute Cardiopulmonary
Syndrome. It affects the
heart, lungs, arteries and so
on. Eventually, the infected
person suffers from systems
failure and heart failure...
(beat)
Resulting in death.

TONY
Doesn't sound too enjoyable.

LIZ
(to Tony)
No.
(to Marquez)
Proceed.

MARQUEZ (FILTERED)
We think the initial officer
was infected when he came
across an infected corpse in
the forest outside the
colony's perimeter. He came
back a few days later, feeling
unwell.
(break)
Most colonists, as well as his
away team, were infected,
although they didn't know it
at the time. The ship tried
to beam their officer back,
but their biofilters wouldn't
accept it; neither would ours.
So his signal was diverted to
the isolation bay on the
station.

LIZ
So we're dealing with CACS
here then?

MARIE
If that was the case, Marquez
and the others would be
infected as well.

TONY
(to Marquez)
But you're not.

MARQUEZ (FILTERED)
No. And none of the others are
showing signs either.

TONY
(to Liz)
Where to from here, Commander?

LIZ
(to Marie)
Doctor, work on contingency
plans and gather your
supplies.
(to Tony)
Commander: Prepare an away
team for transport to the
station. Environmental suits
and all precautions taken.

TONY
Aye sir.

Tony gets up from his station, and walks towards the
turbolift, Marie in tow.

LIZ
(to Tawana)
Helm: Take us closer to the
station.

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION

We see things from Turner's point-of-view. His vision is
blurry, but things come into focus; it's a metal-grated
decking.

We're now looking at him as he pushes himself off the
deck.

TURNER
What... Where am I?

He's rubbing the back of his head. We see Scott working
at a computer console, glancing over at Turner
occasionally.

SCOTT
Just found out, thanks to this
wonderful machine.
(towards the console)
Well, it's kinda funky retro
in that 2280's kinda way.
(to Turner, concerned)
Retro is cool again, isn't it?

TURNER
Um, I don't know. My head
hurts.

SCOTT
(still focused on the console)
It's a supply station in orbit
of Caldea IV. I don't know why
we...
(to Turner)
Are you okay? You gave me a
bit of a scare on the surface.

TURNER
It's just a scratch...
(in discomfort)
I'm not feeling...
(noticing the glass)
What am I doing in here?

SCOTT
I'm trying to find that out.
Seems strange I was beamed
into the bay and you were
beamed into some sort of...
isolation.

Turner runs his hand over the glass, recoiling at the
feeling.

TURNER
Isolation?

Turner tries the door from his side. It beeps negative.

SCOTT
Tried that too. Got the same
response. Some sort of
biohazard symbol too.

TURNER
Biohazard? Am I infected with
something?

SCOTT
I could be the infected one.
We don't know yet...

We hear a crackling sound popping over the comm.-badges.
Turner looks at Scott, then taps his comm.-badge.

TURNER
Turner to Cantabrian. Come in.

We hear bits of a woman's voice. It's Liz.

LIZ (FILTERED)
... hear ... Cantabrian ... read ...

Turner squints.

TURNER
Repeat your last message,
Cantabrian. Your signal is all
garbled.

LIZ (FILTERED)
Is that better?

TURNER
Much. Go ahead.

INT. BRIDGE - CANTABRIAN

LIZ
Both our and the colony's
biofilters rejected your
transporter beams for some
reason. We're not quite sure
why yet, but we're working on
it.

Liz looks at TAWANA KILLAN, at the helm, who nods at her.

LIZ
We're approaching your co-
ordinates now. I'm sending
over an away team to assess
the situation. They should be
there within the hour.

TURNER (FILTERED)
Understood, Commander. Turner
out.

INT. CORRIDOR - CANTABRIAN

Marie Bourget storms around the corner, in an environment
suit with two med-kits and another medical case slung
over her shoulder. Helena Bourget is close behind.

MARIE
I told you, no. We have a
quite capable staff here,
thank you.

Helena grabs her mother's arm; Marie stops, a bit shocked
at her daughter's strength. Helena releases her arm,
uncomfortably aware of it.

HELENA
Mama, I...
(beat)
I want to help. I've seen
things you haven't. Diseases,
treatments...

MARIE
(pointed)
With your so-called
associates? The ones the
Federation barely trust?

HELENA
(ignoring the comment)
The point is, I have seen
things neither you nor your
medical staff have. I'm a
doctor, just like you. I can
help. You can trust me.

MARIE
(simmering angry)
Trust you? After what you've
done? Time and again?
(beat)
Helena... once this is over and
we get back to Starbase
Expanse 7...
(beat)
I want you off my ship.

Marie turns on her heels and storms off, leaving an astonished Helena in the corridor.

INT. FORWARD LOUNGE - CANTABRIAN

Various ALIEN SUPERNUMERARIES - refugees from the Lelari purge of "off-worlders" in last episode - mingle with CANTABRIAN CREW. The room falls silent when three KLINGONS confront a group of ROMULANS.

KLINGON ONE
They shouldn't serve your type
in here, Romulan.

ROMULAN ONE
(snooty)
It's not like I have a choice,
is it?
(to Klingons)
And the sooner we get away
from your rotting carcasses,
the better.

The Klingons and Romulans break into a fight. Chairs are flying, bystanders are trying to stop the fight, but to no avail.

ANNETTE WILLARD ducks behind the bar, glasses and food flying overhead, the sounds of barefisted fighting filling the room. She taps her comm.-badge.

ANNETTE
Forward lounge to security: we
need assistance down here!

We see Annette put a tray over her head to protect herself as she cowers in a corner and FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION

The away team - Tony, Ethan and ULITANIA JONAR, all in EVA suits - are working around the area. Marie, also in EVA, has pulled Scott aside.

MARIE

I've loaded the hypospray with the dose; you need to administer 20 cc's of this every four hours.

Scott squints at it.

SCOTT

And this will relieve pain?

MARIE

Yes.

(beat)

You're familiar with the others?

Scott scans the med-kit and nods.

SCOTT

Yes. I think I am.

MARIE

If you aren't sure, consult the PADD.

SCOTT

But if I need you...

(beat)

I mean your advice?

MARIE

Just give me a call.

They turn and look at Turner in isolation, Ulitania working at the station at the isolation room's window.

SCOTT

Will he be okay?

MARIE
I... I don't know.
(beat)
Once I get these samples back
to Cantabrian, we'll try
everything we can.

SCOTT
And me?

MARIE
Initial scans don't show
you've been exposed,
Counselor, but...

SCOTT
That's okay.
(nodding towards Turner)
I'll stay with him.
(to Marie)
He needs me now.

We join Turner and Ulitania's conversation, seeing Marie
and Scott continuing their conversation in the
background.

ULITANIA
(concentrating on console)
Shame I can't repay that debt
I owe you and break you out of
this place.

TURNER
You don't owe me anything,
Jonar.

ULITANIA
You know, ever since I met
you... Salin met you... I have
felt responsible for you,
Noel. Like a guardian angel.

TURNER
With spots.

ULITANIA
I've broken the biohazard
lock, so if the counselor
needs to administer first aid,
he can get in quickly.

TURNER
I think he's worried about me.
(to Ulitania)
He's adamant he wants to stay.

ULITANIA
We're all concerned about you.

TURNER
There's no need to be. I'll be
fine.

Ulitania gives Turner that look, the look to say she knows he's lying and they both know it.

Tony, Ethan, Marie and Scott join Ulitania.

ETHAN
We've upgraded what systems we
could to make them more
reliable and more suitable
for... in the long term.

MARIE
The medical teams will examine
the findings and start working
on a cure to this.
(determined)
We will find a cure.

TURNER
I'm confident you will.

TONY
We're having problems with
some of the civilians we...
acquired on Lelar Prime.

ULITANIA
Skirmishes have broken out
mainly in the civilian section
of the ship. Klingons versus
Romulans, those sorts of old
rivalries.

TURNER
You should proceed to the
starbase if need-be.
(looking at Scott)
We'll be fine here until you
return.

ETHAN
That's a three week trip.

ULITANIA
One way.

Turner raises his hand to the objections.

TURNER
The safety of the crew and
civilians aboard Cantabrian is
paramount over my health.
(to Tony)
Understood?

TONY
Understood, sir.
(beat)
But we'll stay unless the
fighting escalates.

Turner goes to object, but Marie steps in.

MARIE
Captain, since you are no
longer medically fit to run
the Cantabrian, I've placed
Commander Singh in temporary
command.

Turner glances over at Fack, who nods his head; he's
seconded the decision.

Turner composes himself.

TURNER
Understood. I'm sure Commander
Singh, with your advice, will
make the correct decision.

TONY
If you don't need us any
further, sir, we'd better
return to the Cantabrian.

Turner nods, and the quartet makes preparations to leave.
He returns his look to Scott...

INT. LAB - CANTABRIAN

Marie and several MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIANS are working in BIOHAZARD gear at a medical station.

MARIE (V.O.)
Chief Medical Officer's Log,
Stardate 49659.7: I've
isolated the virus responsible
for Captain Turner's illness,
and I'm afraid to say the news
is bad.

Liz and Helena stand outside the lab, in the common area,
looking onwards into the lab.

LIZ
And you've told him?

MARIE (FILTERED)
No. Not yet.

LIZ
When will you?

MARIE (FILTERED)
As soon as I finish this.

LIZ
Will you be able to cure him?

MARIE (FILTERED)
I'm going to try my hardest.

Helena enters the conversation.

HELENA
(to Liz)
I can help.

MARIE (FILTERED)
I don't think...

LIZ
(interrupting)
How?

HELENA

I'm a doctor. The first few years I spent in the Arkrand Society was dealing with... exotic infectious and life-threatening diseases.

MARIE (FILTERED)

"Dealing with?" How?

HELENA

Reverse-engineering them.
(explaining to Liz)
Trying to find cures for plagues spread to innocent planets by spacefarers.

LIZ

And this disease?

HELENA

A disease is a disease.
(to Marie)
I can help.

Marie keeps working as Liz and Helena look on. Feeling them looking at her, she sighs and nods yes.

LIZ

Well, then. Suit up, Doctor.
Welcome to the team.

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION

Scott leans up against the window, his arms folded, talking over his shoulder. Turner's perched on the bed in the isolation room.

SCOTT

You weren't very comfortable about being removed from command, were you?

TURNER

I was shocked, that's all.

SCOTT

It's Protocol 121, Section A. Marie felt you were compromised; I concurred.

TURNER
You?

Scott turns around to face Turner.

SCOTT
Yes. As counselor and a
medical officer as well, I
have that right. So I agreed.

Turner stands and starts to say something, but MARIE AND
LIZ BEAMING IN WEARING EV SUITS interrupts him. They
approach the isolation room.

LIZ
Captain, Counselor.

MARIE
Captain, I've made a
diagnosis.

TURNER
And?

Marie looks over at Liz and Scott. Turner follows her
line of sight.

TURNER
They can hear it. No secrets.

MARIE
The samples we took have
pointed to you being infected
by the thorn on the plant.
Sometimes diseases can lie
dormant on or in other plants
or species. In this case...

TURNER
I don't mean to be rude,
Doctor, but skip to the punch.

MARIE
You've been infected with a
variant of CACS.
(explaining)
Caldean Acute Cardiopulmonary
Syndrome.

TURNER
And?

MARIE
There's no known cure.
(beat)
I'm sorry, Captain, but you
have only a few weeks to live.

Close up on Turner's shocked face as we FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. CORRIDOR - CANTABRIAN

Chaos. Klingons throwing punches at Romulans. Cardassians thumping Bajorans. An alien melee with Starfleet Security Personnel in the middle who are frantically trying to stop the scuffle.

Ulitania and YH'AHNI arrive, armed with phaser rifles.

ULITANIA
That's enough.

Ulitania raises her phaser rifle at the still-fighting crowd. Some Starfleet personnel try to escape.

ULITANIA
I said, that's enough.

The Starfleet officers get out of the fight, joining Ulitania and Yh'ahni. The aliens still duke it out.

YH'AHNI
I suggest sealing off this section and administering anesthizine.

ULITANIA
Agreed.
(taps comm.-badge)
Jonar to Bridge.

TONY (FILTERED)
Ramirez here. Go ahead.

ULITANIA
Isolate sections 36 and 37 on deck 7.

TONY (FILTERED)
Understood.

A FORCEFIELD APPEARS. Ulitania puts her weapon down, but the aliens for the most part keep fighting.

TONY (FILTERED)
Containment complete.

ULITANIA
Pump anesthizine into that
section at 70 parts per
million.

TONY (FILTERED)
Proceeding.

We see GAS CLOUDS VENTING out of ventilation areas into
the contained area. Aliens start coughing and many start
dropping to the ground, unconscious.

ULITANIA
(to Yh'ahni)
That seems to have done the
trick.

YH'AHNI
Agreed. Quite effective.

The last alien drops into a pile of aliens on the floor.

ULITANIA
That's it, Commander.

TONY (FILTERED)
Purging the atmosphere.
(beat)
Completed. Lowering
forcefields.

The forcefields drop. Ulitania nods towards the aliens.

ULITANIA
Take them to the brig.

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION
Scott sits on a crate, arms folded, staring at Turner. He
sits on the bed in the isolation room, not looking back.

SCOTT
You need to talk about it.

TURNER
Is this the whole "stages of
grief" thing?

SCOTT
You mean the Kübler-Ross
model?

TURNER

Yeah. I never much believed in that.

SCOTT

Well, the stages do exist, whether you'd like to believe it or not.

(beat)

And they figure into events other than death. Changing jobs or ships, friends transferring, even relationships that have ended.

TURNER

Like bad break-ups?

SCOTT

Yeah.

(catching on to regret)

Did you have a bad break-up?

TURNER

Only the one this side of cryogenic sleep.

(beat)

We were together for 14 years. Daniel was the love of my life.

SCOTT

What happened? If you don't mind me asking.

TURNER

As time went by, we grew apart. He felt he'd sacrificed too much for my career; he was a civilian, had his own goals.

SCOTT

How long ago was this?

TURNER

He left about 6 years ago.

(beat)

I'm almost over it. Almost. It devastated me.

(beat)

You?

SCOTT
Me?
(laughing)
Where do I start...

Scott stands and starts pacing the room. He searches for the right words, almost starting, stopping, and starting again.

SCOTT
I was in my freshman year at the Academy and met this guy.
(beat)
Well, he kinda pegged me in the knee with a soccer ball. I was running late to class.
(beat)
Anyway, we had a very turbulent relationship. By the time he graduated and shipped off, I was still in the Academy. He promised to meet me in Switzerland in December but... never showed.
(beat)
I haven't heard from him from that day to this.

TURNER
That must've been hard.

SCOTT
It was. But I met Jason a few years later. Pain fades when new love blooms.
(beat)
Like your Daniel, Jason sacrificed a lot. He'd transfer ships with me, even if passing up promotions for us.

TURNER
And the hitch?

SCOTT

The hitch. He got an opportunity too good to pass up: Assistant Chief Engineer of the starship Rutherford.

(beat)

Didn't even discuss it with me. Just said one day, "I've been promoted and I'm leaving." And he did. And I never saw him again.

TURNER

What happened?

SCOTT

He and his crewmates all disappeared. When I was on the Prospect, we found the Rutherford listing in space, her crew gone, no trace of a struggle, no bodies, nothing.

TURNER

That's amazing.

SCOTT

Haunting is more the word.

(beat)

Anyway... we shouldn't be talking about me. We should be talking about you.

TURNER

I don't mind.

SCOTT

So you and Jonar have been friends for a while... how'd you meet her?

TURNER

It's a long story.

SCOTT

Well, I've got no where to go. Do you?

INT. BRIG - CANTABRIAN

The holding cells are crammed with aliens. Two SECURITY GUARDS stand by, with Ulitania standing nearby. Liz paces as she speaks, irritation sounding in her voice.

LIZ
(restrained)
While you are guests on this ship, I expect you to behave.

ROMULAN ONE
Those Klingon oafs...

LIZ
I don't want to hear it. This isn't about who started it. You will behave on this ship, and if you don't start, you'll be spending your entire journey in the brig. Understood?

The various aliens nod in agreement.

LIZ
If you behave, I might consider letting you out.

Liz storms out of the Brig, Ulitania close in tow.

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION

Turner and Scott are still talking. Scott's perched on the crate again, enthralled in Turner's story.

TURNER
...And she and I escaped the cell.

SCOTT
The Zmakians never found you?

TURNER
(laughing)
Oh they found us alright. At the other end of the Cantabrian's barrels.

SCOTT
Bet they weren't too thrilled about that.

TURNER
No, not really.

SCOTT
You've had some really
interesting experiences.

TURNER
Yes. I've lived a full and
satisfying life.

SCOTT
Don't say that.

TURNER
I wish I'd be around to see
how this Myhr'an thing pans
out.

SCOTT
As much as it pains me to say
it, Dr. Bourget's resourceful.
She'll find a cure.
(beat)
I promise.

INT. LAB - CANTABRIAN

Marie and Helena work at separate stations, both absorbed
in their work.

HELENA
I've found the difference in
the variants.

Marie disengages from her work and proceeds to Helena.
Helena punches up a diagram of two DNA strands on the
monitor.

HELENA
The genetic structure varies
here, and here.

MARIE
Interesting. Whereas the
original CACS didn't have
these markers...

HELENA
This strain does. And it gives
us its Achilles Heel.

Marie heads back to her work.

MARIE

Good work. Now that we've found that, we can look at finding a way to stop it.

Both start working again, and the room is silent for a while, until:

HELENA

This is good. The way it should be.

MARIE

What is?

HELENA

Us. Working together.

Marie doesn't say anything. Helena turns around, leaning back on her workbench.

HELENA

I know you're angry at me, for all I've done. But... being on Lelar Prime, prosecuting a case I knew to be wrong...
(beat)
It made me realize.

Marie turns; it's caught her attention.

MARIE

Realize what?

HELENA

I was wrong. Following the Arkrand Society was wrong. I'd lost sight of the path I wanted to be on.
(beat)
And you made me realize that.
(sincerely)
Thank you.

MARIE
(moved but trying to hide it)
You're welcome.
(beat)
We should get back to work
while we're on to something.

Helena smiles as she turns back to her work.

INT. READY ROOM - CANTABRIAN
Liz leans on the desk, glaring at the monitor. She's shocked.

LIZ
You want me to what?

We see ADMIRAL ZAHARA HOGAN on the monitor, looking composed and calm.

HOGAN (FILTERED)
Proceed to Starbase Expanse 7
and drop off the civilians.

LIZ
With all due respect, sir,
Captain Turner needs us. I
have Dr. Bourget and her team
working on a solution, but she
can't deliver it from three
weeks distance.

HOGAN (FILTERED)
I understand the predicament
you are in, Commander. And I
sympathize; Captain Turner is
a close friend of mine.
(beat)
But some of these civilians
pose a very serious threat to
the Cantabrian. And the needs
of the many...

LIZ
(beaten)
Yes, I understand.

HOGAN (FILTERED)
(sympathetically)
I don't envy the position you
are in, Liz. But I am sure
Noel understands. Good luck.

The screen goes blank. Liz sighs, sinking into the chair behind the desk, then taps her comm.-badge.

LIZ
Singh to Ramirez.

TONY (FILTERED)
Ramirez here. Go ahead.

LIZ
Commander, prepare the
Cantabrian to leave orbit.
(beat)
We're going to Starbase
Expanse 7.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION

Liz, Marie, Ethan, Tony, Dakota and Ulitania, all in EV suits, are saying their good-byes. Liz stands by Scott, the others are gathered around Turner's isolation room window.

LIZ

You're sure you want to stay?

SCOTT

Yes. I'm not much use on the Cantabrian at the moment, and if something happens where he needs me...

LIZ

I understand.

They stroll to join the others. Turner looks pale, sweaty and clammy.

ULITANIA

I don't want to say good-bye. Deep down, I have this feeling we'll see each other again.

TURNER

I hope so. But... I want to thank you. For being such a wonderful friend over all the years we've known each other.

ULITANIA

(with a bittersweet smile)
The pleasure's been all mine.

MARIE

(aware Ulitania's upset; to Turner)
My daughter Helena isolated some promising areas in the virus's DNA. No false promises but... we may be on to something.

TURNER
Keep up the good work, Doctor.
You might have to add the
counselor to your team. He's
pretty handy with a hypospray.

SCOTT
Handy with a hypospray. Hmph.

The others move off, and Liz steps forward.

LIZ
I wish we could stay...

TURNER
I understand.

LIZ
I... wanted to thank you. For
having faith in me. And
helping restore the faith I
have in my own abilities.
(beat)
In the short time we've known
each other, you've done so
much for me.
(sincerely)
Thank you.

Turner chokes up. All he can do for a few seconds is nod.

TURNER
I'm... sorry. I'm still
adjusting to all... this.
(beat)
I'm sure you'll make a fine
captain. Look after her.

LIZ
I will.

Liz moves away to the others. Scott steps back, moving
towards the isolation bay.

Liz taps her comm.-badge.

LIZ
Singh to the Cantabrian: six
to beam over.

Her eyes meet Turner's; all are upset. Turner nods at her.

LIZ
Energize.

They DEMATERLIZE, leaving an eerie silence.

Scott moves to a viewport, looking out. We can see the Cantabrian, in orbit of Caldea IV. It starts to move away, slowly at first, until she gains enough speed heading away from us; then she jumps to warp.

Scott walks slowly back towards the isolation bay.

SCOTT
They're gone.

TURNER
Leaves just you and me, eh?
(beat)
Feels like the end of a party,
doesn't it?

Scott sits down on the crate, slowly. He sighs.

SCOTT
Yes. Yes, it does.

TURNER
Haven't had one of those for a
while.

SCOTT
What about when they
relaunched the Cantabian?

TURNER
That doesn't count. I mean
like a birthday party or
engagement party... something
like that.

SCOTT
Oh. Me neither when I come to
think of it.

TURNER
Maybe we should.

Scott swings around. He's amused by the prospect.

SCOTT
You're right. It's just what
we need to lighten the mood.

Scott stands, moving to the replicator. He smiles back at Turner.

SCOTT
(joking)
This is for me. Get your own.

Turner laughs as he gets up to his replicator.

TURNER
One glass of champagne.

SCOTT
Agreed. One glass of
champagne.

A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE APPEARS in each of their replicators. They take them, then move to the window.

TURNER
Computer: Cole Porter.
Something upbeat.

"Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love" starts to play. Scott's impressed; Turner raises his glass. Scott follows.

TURNER
To life.

SCOTT
(smiling)
To life.

They ching the glasses against the window. Scott laughs. They drink.

SCOTT
Not as nice as the real thing.

TURNER
Hm. If I survive this ordeal,
we'll have to try a bottle
I've got in storage.

SCOTT
You have champagne on board?
Real champagne?

TURNER
Champagne, wine... Captain's
prerogative to have his own
wine cellar.

SCOTT
The Cantabrian's hidden
basement?

TURNER
Something like that.

SCOTT
Well, I look forward to...
sampling some.

A PADD on Scott's crate piques Turner's interest.

TURNER
What are you reading?

SCOTT
That? "One Hundred Years of
Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia
Marquez.

TURNER
I don't think I've ever read
that. Is it good?

SCOTT
Definitely. I've read it at
least a dozen times. Might not
be your taste though.

TURNER
Why not?

SCOTT
You're more into classics;
this is 20th century work.

TURNER
I'm open to change.

SCOTT
(joking)
No "thous" and "thees". You
sure you could handle it?

TURNER
I can but only try.

SCOTT
I brought some of my favorites
with me. Paradise, Beloved,
Love by Toni Morrison. Some
work by Marquez.
Slaughterhouse Five by
Vonnegut. I'll have to scroll
through and make you a reading
list.

TURNER
I don't get the time to read
much anymore. I wish I did.
After reading reports all day..
I'm tired of reading. Although
I do admit, I like to try and
get a chapter in before I go
to bed. Helps me unwind.
(beat)
You know, it's funny the way
life comes full circle. How
the little things come back to
you.
(seriously)
I wish I'd read more. Explored
strange new worlds in the
words forming images in my
mind.

We're talking about Turner's death. Regrets. Scott
latches onto this.

SCOTT
What else?

TURNER
Paint. Write. Raid the music
database and listen to a new
piece each day.

SCOTT
Sounds like a great idea.

TURNER
I'd never get through it all.
(beat)
The arts expand the mind, make
you more open to possibilities
science doesn't always
consider.

SCOTT
See things from a different
point-of-view.

TURNER
So much galaxy to explore. And
I'm never going to see it, am
I?

SCOTT
I... I don't know.

TURNER
I'm going to die in a small
room in a supply station
orbiting a planet in the
backwaters of the Federation.

The tears come. Turner sits down.

SCOTT
Let it all out.

INT. LAB - CANTABRIAN
Marie works at her station. Helena struggles, then turns
around, stretching slight.

MARIE
You okay?

HELENA
If I stare at that monitor for
five more minutes...

MARIE
Starting to go cross-eyed?

HELENA
Yeah. Something like that.

MARIE
You take a break.

HELENA
I'm on to something, and if...

MARIE
(interrupting)
Take a break. Being tired's
not going to help.

Helena ponders this.

HELENA
Okay. You win. I'll take a
break.

We see Marie's face clearly; she's exhausted.

HELENA
But you need to take one too.

Marie tries to interject, but Helena grabs her hand and
puts her tools down.

HELENA
Follow your own advice. Or
should I call Dr. Pela down
here to relieve you?

Marie nods, and they both head out the door.

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION
Scott perches on a cargo crate, looking over files on his
PADD. Turner's asleep in the isolation booth.

SCOTT (V.O.)
Counselor's log, Stardate
49673.5: It's been 9 days
since the Cantabrian has left
and the captain's condition is
gradually deteriorating. The
medical regime is slowing this
deterioration but his mental
health is suffering as well.

Turner stirs; he's looking pale, jaundiced, tired. Scott
plants the PADD on the crate and smiles.

SCOTT
Good morning.

TURNER
How long have I been out?

SCOTT
You slept all the way through
last night.

TURNER
I feel so tired.

SCOTT
Side effect of the drugs.

TURNER
I've had enough of this.

SCOTT
Enough of the drugs?

TURNER
This.

He points at the hypospray and vials, his hands shaking.
Screaming, his arms clear the table.

TURNER
Why me? Why not someone else?

SCOTT
Calm down. This isn't...

TURNER
The Wthaure. The Myhr'an. The
Lelari. Fighting, fighting,
fighting.
(to himself)
Samantha's dead. Senegal,
Leslie, hundreds of others. My
friends, my colleagues dead,
some under my command.
(to Scott)
I wanted a break. Caldea IV
was a nice little break before
getting right back into it.
The eye of the hurricane. The
lull before the storm.
(at his hands shaking)
And then this. This!
(to the ceiling)
Why? Why? Isn't there some
other person you can pick on?

Scott waits for this to blow over.

TURNER

Always a fight. Always a struggle.

(beat)

I'm tired of it.

Turner sits back down, tired, sobbing slightly.

SCOTT

(quietly, sternly)

We fight for the protection of our freedoms and our rights, those core values the Federation's founders held so dear and laid down for us all those years ago.

(beat)

The Myhr'an don't appear to care about those, unleashing their wrath on anyone, innocent or not, who gets in their way. Their armies have no moral compass, no guilt, no ethical boundaries to stop them.

(beat)

And people like you have the power and the strength to stand up to their tyranny. People like me, like the crew of the Cantabrian, look up to you for that strength.

(beat)

When we see you strong, see you fight, we know it's for the common good. We know the struggle is the right struggle.

(beat)

You're angry. That's natural. That's part of the human condition and the way we deal with grief.

(beat)

So if you're angry, be angry. But use that anger to try and defeat this disease. Okay?

Turner nods, his jaw clenched tight.

INT. LAB - CANTABRIAN

Liz approaches, with Marie and Helena suited up in the lab, working. They concentrate on their work as she speaks.

LIZ (V.O.)

Acting captain's log, Stardate 49676.1: With over a thousand civilians on board, and our captain's health slowly deteriorating light years away, we are torn.

MARIE (FILTERED)

We've found the reason for the mutation: the Irakian Flu vaccine.

LIZ

Is that good?

HELENA (FILTERED)

We believe so. Exploiting the weakness will most likely lead to a breakthrough.

LIZ

Do it.

MARIE (FILTERED)

Already ahead of you.

LIZ

How long until a cure?

HELENA (FILTERED)

As soon as we know, we'll let you know... if we can find a cure.

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION

Turner's working something out on a PADD. Scott reads something on his, peering over to check on Turner.

SCOTT (V.O.)

Counselor's log, Stardate
49685.6: The Cantabrian's
signal of a breakthrough has
restored the captain's faith.
His health still
deteriorating, he's determined
to keep up working instead of
resting.

SCOTT

Have you taken your last dose?

TURNER

(distracted)

What? Oh, yes, at 1400.

Scott's more interested in talking with Turner to assess his mood. The PADD's discarded and he stands close to the glass.

SCOTT

What are you working on?

TURNER

Some study. Egyptology,
actually.

SCOTT

A hobby?

TURNER

Of sorts. There's so much we
still don't know about Ancient
Egypt or the pyramids.

SCOTT

Like?

TURNER

For example, Ronserd argues
alien technology could have
been involved. The pyramids
have very precise measurements
and were strongly influenced
by measurement of the stars.

SCOTT
Sounds a bit far-fetched to
me.

TURNER
Lillington-Hughes believes
these measurements were only
due to the Ancient Egyptians'
strong attention to detail.
Others believe that... Is this
boring you?

SCOTT
No, not at all. Go ahead.

TURNER
(more excited)
Others believe their society
was more advanced than we give
them credit for. That a
catastrophic event took place
and knocked society's progress
back.

SCOTT
And what do you believe?

TURNER
I don't know. That's why I'm
investigating.
(beat)
One day I'll get there. Have a
look, see what I can uncover.

SCOTT
Make your own mind up.

TURNER
Exactly.
(beat)
It's been a dream of mine for...

He suddenly goes quiet, looks up, his face contorted with
pain, and collapses.

SCOTT
Noel?

Scott bangs on the glass. No response. He dashes around,
hands shaking as he frantically presses some buttons.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning: Contamination danger.
Opening these doors will
breach isolation.

SCOTT
Understood.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning: Containment danger.
Opening these doors...

SCOTT
Just open the damned door!

The door slides open, Scott pushing through even though the door's not completely open.

He's at Turner's side: one hand searching blindly for the tricorder on the shelf, another hand resting on Turner. He flips the tricorder open.

SCOTT
I'm here. Noel. Can you hear me?

No response.

SCOTT
Noel. Noel!

Still no response. He plants the tricorder on the deck, snatching a hypospray and some vials from the shelf. Shaking, he slaps the first vial into the hypospray, pressing it against Turner's neck. It HISSES.

No response.

He yanks the vial out, tossing it to the floor, clutching at another vial and slaps it in. Administering it, it HISSES.

No response.

The TRICORDER WARNING SOUNDS. The drug's aren't working.

SCOTT
(to himself)
Okay. Let's double the dose.

Another vial KLANKS on the deck. Another vial in, he presses the hypospray against Turner; it HISSES.

The TRICORDER WARNING STILL SOUNDS, then a FLATLINE SOUND ENSUES.

SCOTT
Oh no you don't. Not on my watch.

Another vial in the hypospray. He administers it.

SCOTT
20 milligrams of lectrazine should do it.

The FLATLINE SOUND stops but the TRICORDER WARNING STILL SOUNDS.

SCOTT
C'mon... where are you?

EXT. SPACE
The Cantabrian rushes by at high warp.

INT. BRIDGE - CANTABRIAN
Liz paces the bridge. Others at their station, looking worried.

LIZ
Time?

TAWANA
Two hours, five minutes at our present speed.

LIZ
Bridge to engineering.

ETHAN (FILTERED)
Engineering here.

LIZ
Reroute all available power to engines. Give her all she's got.

ETHAN (FILTERED)
Understood. Engineering out.

LIZ
(to Tawana)
Maximum warp, Ensign.

TAWANA
We're at warp 9.9 now, sir.

LIZ
Increase speed to maximum.
That's an order.

Tawana glances at Tony. He nods.

TAWANA
Increasing to warp 9.91.
9.915. 9.92...

The ship starts to shake and Liz takes the command chair.

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION
Scott's sitting on the bed next to Turner, who's
unconscious.

SCOTT (V.O.)
Counselor's log, Stardate
49687.2: I've kept the
captain's condition as stable
as I can over the last two
days. He keeps weaving in and
out of trouble... and we're
almost out of medical
supplies. Hopefully, the
Cantabrian arrives soon...

The TRICORDER WARNING SOUND SOUNDS until it stops and...

Turner sits up, gasping. Startled, Scott jumps off the
bed, nearly falling to the floor.

SCOTT
You're back. I didn't think...

Turner's eyes roll back as he collapses back to the bed.
The TRICORDER WARNING SOUNDS again and a FLATLINE SOUNDS
too.

Scott, in shock, drops to his knees on the bed and starts
performing CPR.

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

INT. CARGO BAY - STATION

Scott's still performing CPR. Sweat beads on his forehead. The FLATLINE SOUND continues.

SCOTT
C'mon. C'mon!

He breathes into Turner, then goes to start again when:
TWO PEOPLE IN EV SUITS MATERIALIZE; it's Marie and Helena.

SCOTT
Thank God.

Scott stands, moving out the way. Helena and Marie squat, opening their med-kits.

SCOTT
Can you save him?

MARIE
I think so.

They work on him, Scott standing aside.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - CANTABRIAN

Scott's putting some PADDs away and tidying up his office. The door HISSES open, and Turner walks in. He's wearing civvies.

SCOTT
Ah, Captain...

TURNER
Noel.

SCOTT
(remembering)
Noel. How are you feeling?

TURNER
A bit beat-up.
(joking)
You need to go easy on the CPR
with your super-strength.

SCOTT
I was trying to save your
life. And I don't have super-
strength... just enhanced
strength.

TURNER
(laughing)
Well you got off light. I've
been told to take it easy for
a few days.

Turner sits down on one of the couches.

SCOTT
After being cooped up so long,
I highly doubt you'd stay
still.
(beat)
And I got off light because my
M'Tar enhancements filter out
many types of diseases...
including this one.

TURNER
Lucky you.

There's an awkward silence. Scott keeps working.

TURNER
I owe you a thank you.

SCOTT
For what?

TURNER
For staying with me. Helping
me.

SCOTT
You would've done the same.

Turner stands up, making his way to the door. He thinks
of something, stops, and turns around.

TURNER
And I owe you a bottle of real
champagne. From the Captain's
cellar.

SCOTT
I'd like that.

TURNER
Tonight? Say, 1800 hours, for
dinner. My quarters?

SCOTT
Great. Sounds like a date.

TURNER
Does, doesn't it?
(smiling)
See you then.

Turner swings around and leaves. Scott pauses.. and
smiles.

INT. SICKBAY - CANTABRIAN
Marie and Helena clean up, when Turner walks in.

MARIE
Captain. Back so soon?

TURNER
I wanted to say thank you. For
working so hard and not giving
up on me.

HELENA
It's in our blood. Once we see
a challenge, we're not happy
until we beat it.

MARIE
I couldn't have put it better.

TURNER
Thank you both. Again.

MARIE
Our pleasure.

Turner goes to leave but swings around again.

TURNER
Out of curiosity... who came up
with the cure?

Marie glances at Helena, who raises her hand timidly.

TURNER
Helena.

MARIE
I was as surprised as you are.

TURNER
I... have to admit, I didn't
trust you or your allegiances.
But now... this little episode
has raised you in my opinion.
Cast out pretty much all
doubts in my mind.
(beat)
Thank you. For saving me. I
owe you.

Helena nods and smiles lightly. Turner smiles back and leaves. Marie goes back to cleaning up.

MARIE
(over her shoulder)
You have a strong ally there.
(back at her work)
I was thinking about maybe
having dinner... Maybe chicken
roladen or...

Marie keeps talking but her voice fades from the forefront. Helena focuses on the same area, her smile fading: a realisation? Did she save Turner for her own gain? Distracted, she jolts back to the present, and, visibly distressed, starts back to cleaning up when we:

FADE TO BLACK

END