

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"The Habitual"

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"The Habital"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY

A barren world. Only remnants of a previous civilization remain. Broken pillars, structures destroyed. Mostly rubble. The sky is a dark reddish color. All is peaceful, until...

Four people MATERIALIZE. They are JANEWAY, PARIS, SEVEN, and TORRES.

JANEWAY

Report!

PARIS

I'm reading no trace of a dilithium signature anywhere.

JANEWAY

How is that possible? Our sensors were picking up strong dilithium residues emanating from this planet.

PARIS

I can't explain it, Captain. I'm getting nothing.

Janeway turns to Torres and Seven, who also SCAN.

SEVEN

Nothing here, Captain.

Torres only shakes her head.

JANEWAY

We're in trouble people if we don't find any dilithium and soon. With most of our crystals burnt out, we'll be dead in the water within a week.

TORRES

Maybe there's some kind of surface interference that's preventing us from picking up any trace of the...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, a strong wind comes bursting through the area and an electrical storm breaks in.

They have to SHOUT over the storm in order to hear one another.

JANEWAY
(taps combadge)
Janeway to Voyager. What's happening?

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

CHAKOTAY in command. He responds.

CHAKOTAY
We're reading minor interference in the planet's spacial continuum.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

CHAKOTAY'S COM VOICE
(static)
Doesn't look like anything to be alarmed over.

JANEWAY
You wouldn't say that if you were down here, Commander.

PARIS
Captain... look!

The few of the standing ruins now begin to appear as if they were newly built... but look transparent. A full society can be seen around the crew. But it all appears as a ghostly image. The images continue to appear and disappear at a random rate.

JANEWAY
What's happening?

Seven SCANS.

SEVEN
The storm is creating a minor rip in the space-time continuum.

JANEWAY
I keep hearing this word minor. How minor?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Paris walks up to one of the ghostly images and waves his hand in front of it. No response.

PARIS

We can see them but they can't see us.

JANEWAY

(sarcastic)

Thank you Mister Paris for that scientific evaluation.

SEVEN

I'm reading a strong dilithium signature. It appears to be coming from all around us.

The storm suddenly dies out. The images fade away.

SEVEN

(continuing; puzzled)

The readings are gone now.

PARIS

(also scanning)

The storm must have been creating a false indication. I'm not picking up any traces of dilithium either.

TORRES

Captain, let me go back to the ship and do another full sensor scan of the planet's surface. The storm can possibly be acting as a kind of divining rod. I may be able to adjust the sensors to trace the dilithium to its source.

JANEWAY

It's worth a try. The rest of us will remain down here and see what more we can discover about this...

(beat)

... window.

Torres steps off to the side of Janeway and taps her combadge.

TORRES

Torres to Voyager. One to beam up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Just as the transport commences, the storm kicks in wildly, nearly blowing everyone to the ground. There is a power fluctuation in the transport beam. Janeway spots this.

JANEWAY
(taps combadge; shouts)
Abort transport.

OFFICER'S COM VOICE
(static)
I can't, Captain. Something's got
her.

But before Janeway can get another word out... Torres is gone.

JANEWAY
Voyager... do you have her?

OFFICER'S COM VOICE
(static)
No, Captain. I've lost her
pattern.

PARIS
She has to be somewhere.

Just then, the transparent society appears around them again. The answer to their question is then revealed. Torres appears like a ghost, along with the rest of the civilization.

The townspeople stare at her. Janeway stands just inches from her, but Torres cannot see her. We then...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The structure of the town is a strange sight. It is a mixture of a very old, rather primitive culture and that of a newly discovered technical culture. The clothing of this culture is also diverse. Some of the townspeople wear old rags while others wear clean, newly made garments.

As for the people themselves, they look like a mixture of alien and humanoid, with some striking facial similarities to the Klingon race. They are known as the Echnolics.

Torres stands among a small group of local townspeople. They are in shock over her sudden appearance. All activity has ceased. A TOWNSWOMAN drops her basket of goods and bows to the ground. The rest of the townspeople do the same. The woman then cries out.

WOMAN
(shouts)
It's resurrection... resurrection.

She WHISPERS AD LIBS to herself, as if praying. The others do the same.

Torres turns and inspects her surroundings. She knows something is very wrong. Presses her combadge.

TORRES
Torres to Voyager.
(no response)
Torres to Janeway.

Still no response. She pulls out her tricorder and SCANS the area. She then turns to one of the males bowing before her.

TORRES (CONT'D)
(continuing; points)
You. Where am I?

The male townspeople gets frightened. He runs off SCREAMING. Others keep to the ground, head down. Torres rolls her eyes.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Janeway and her away team look for answers. The storm has disappeared.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JANEWAY
What just happened here?

PARIS
(scanning)
I don't know, Captain.

JANEWAY
(taps combadge)
Janeway to Torres. Come in
B'Elanna.

SEVEN
(scanning)
I'm reading no trace of the electro-
magnetic storm. The dilithium
signatures seemed to have also
disappeared.

JANEWAY
(taps combadge)
Janeway to Voyager.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Chakotay in the command chair. TUVOK at his side. KIM and various N.D.'s at work in the b.g.

CHAKOTAY
What's going on down there,
Captain?

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
That minor storm of yours Commander
has somehow interfered with our
transporter beam. We've lost
B'Elanna.

The bridge gets quiet. A concerned look on all.

TUVOK
Captain... Tuvok here. I am going
to proceed down to the transporter
room. I may be able to discover
whether her pattern has
materialized elsewhere on the
planet surface.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
That won't be necessary Mister
Tuvok. I think I know where she
went.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

JANEWAY

But it's best if I return to the ship and explain. Send a shuttle craft down to retrieve me. I don't want to chance another mishap with the transporter again.

CHAKOTAY'S COM VOICE

Understood.

Janeway turns to Paris and Seven.

JANEWAY

I'd like you two to remain on the surface and see what more you can find out. I want to know where this window leads too. If we're going to get B'Elanna back, we're not going to have much time.

SEVEN

Aye, Captain.

Janeway looks away, troubled.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Torres begins exploring this small town. She uses her tricorder to SCAN the structures in the village. A small gathering of people follow directly behind her. They're WHISPERING to one another. She's uncomfortable. Tries to ignore them. Doesn't want to get involved.

The first woman that spoke the words "resurrection" slowly comes up to her.

WOMAN

Are you her? Are you the one?

TORRES

The one? I'm afraid I don't understand.

The crowd WHISPERS amongst themselves.

WOMAN

You're testing us. To see if we remember. To see if we have remained faithful to the ways of your teachings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TORRES

I'm sorry but I think you have me confused with someone else.

A man then stops in front of Torres. He's around his mid-thirties, rather handsome, and stands just slightly taller than her. He's among the group that wears new garments. His name is GAVIN. There is a soothingly peaceful manner to the way he speaks.

GAVIN

I didn't believe my ears, but...
you have truly returned to us.

TORRES

Exactly who do you think that I am?

GAVIN

(smiles)

Is this a test?

TORRES

Why does everyone think that I'm testing them?

GAVIN

I am sorry if I seemed skeptical. But sometimes it's hard to keep the faith after such a long period of time. With each new generation... it just becomes so difficult.

Torres begins to grow impatient. She leans in close to him.

TORRES

Who do you think I am?

GAVIN

The Habital.

Torres gestures her confusion. He notices and continues.

GAVIN

Seven hundred years ago you appeared and united our warring race in peace. You taught us that every living creature has a right to exist and that no harm should ever come upon another living soul.

(beat)

You shaped our existence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TORRES
I did all that?

GAVIN
(smiles)
And now you have returned to lead
our people into a new era.

TORRES
(beat; quickly)
I have to go now.
(pats him on the shoulder)
Keep the faith.

She starts to walk off. The crowd begins to WHISPER amongst themselves again.

GAVIN
Habital... wait! Did I say
something to offend you?

Torres stops and turns back toward Gavin.

TORRES
Listen. There's been some sort of
mistake. I'm not who you think I
am.

She quickly backs away.

GAVIN
But Habital?

TORRES
I'm sorry but I can't interfere.

She leaves the group and continues off in a new direction, tricorder out, still SCANNING.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Paris and Seven explore the ruins of the long lost society that once lived among this world. Paris picks up a strange artifact and examines it. Lost in thought.

SEVEN
You're worried about Lieutenant
Torres.

Paris looks Seven in the eyes. Wants to say something but doesn't. He then looks away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEVEN (CONT'D)
The Lieutenant is very resourceful.
She can take care of herself, as I
have witnessed in many previous
situations. I'm sure she is fine.

PARIS
We don't even know where she went.
The past, the future... an
alternate dimension. What if we
can't get her back?

SEVEN
We have no reason to believe that
we can not.

PARIS
I won't leave this planet without
her, Seven. If this is where we
have to settle, then this barren
rock is our new home.

Paris puts the artifact down and continues SCANNING with the tricorder. He tries to keep his mind off the possible consequences of their situation. Seven looks on after him, concerned.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - OUTER REGION

Torres' tricorder readings lead her to a pile of strange looking rocks. She bends over and picks one of these rocks up. A moment later, she smiles.

A NOISE in the distance. She draws her phaser.

TORRES
Who's there?

Gavin comes out from around the corner. She lowers her phaser.

GAVIN
I'm sorry to disturb you Habital.
It's just that there are so many
questions. Word is beginning to
spread. The people need answers.

TORRES
I think there is something that we
need to get straight. First of
all, I am not your...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCREAMS come from nearby. This startles Torres and Gavin. Torres hesitates for a moment and then runs off.

GAVIN
Habital... wait!

He follows.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Paris and Seven continue to search the area. Then the storm returns, stronger than before.

They both are almost blown to the ground. They SHOUT over the storms intensity.

PARIS
Try and hold onto something.

They both grab onto a crumbled part of a structure.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - A MOMENT LATER

The town area is deserted except for two men on what look to be horseback. They are part of a race known as the Vagiors. They look similar to the Echnolics but a little more primitive in the facial features. And are much more aggressive.

One of the Vagiors has grabbed onto a young Echnolic woman. No one seems to be helping her. Until Torres arrives. She pulls out her phaser.

TORRES
Let her go!

The Vagiors look up. They are startled by her appearance. And her attitude. She looks and acts different than the Echnolics.

Gavin arrives on the scene.

GAVIN
No Habital. Let them be in peace.

Torres turns to Gavin, surprised by his attitude.

GAVIN (CONT'D)
They will leave soon.

TORRES
They're hurting her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GAVIN
(hesitant; unsettled)
It is their way.

TORRES
But it's not my way to let them.

GAVIN
(confused)
But it is your way.

The Vagiors begin to get rowdy. They are more violent with the woman now. She SCREAMS again. Torres points her phaser at the Vagior.

TORRES
I said let her go.

The storm then kicks in. It's not as strong as it is with Paris and Seven, but close.

VAGIOR #1
Get her.

The Vagior lets the woman go. She runs to safety. Both Vagiors ride over to Torres, charging their horses straight at her. They have some kind of strange looking swords raised in the air. They're aiming to strike her down.

Torres fires her phaser. One of the Vagiors takes a direct strike and then hits the ground. The other Vagior backs off momentarily. Gavin is shocked by this display.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Paris and Seven continue to hold onto the structure. Then the society appears before them again. They are near the direct spot where Torres is standing. They can see what is happening. Paris presses his combadge.

PARIS
Paris to Torres. Can you hear me
B'Elanna?

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Paris's signal is very weak but she can hear him.

TORRES
Tom! Where are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PARIS'S COM VOICE
(static)
I'm looking right at you.

TORRES
I don't see you.

Suddenly, a very weak outline can be seen of both Paris and Seven. Gavin is very startled. For a moment, so is Torres. Just long enough for the second Vagior to charge her with her guard down.

As Torres raises her phaser for a second shot, the Vagior charges down on her and with one clean slice... cuts her right hand off. She grabs her arm and falls to the ground.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Paris and Seven see's everything that has happened. In an outburst of anger, Paris YELLS, points his phaser at the Vagior, and fires. Seven does the same. No effect. The phaser blasts passes right through the Vagior. The Vagior turns and looks directly at both Seven and Paris. Then the storm dies down and the images fade.

Seven and Paris are left with the last image of B'Elanna, downed and possibly dead.

PARIS
(whispers)
B'Elanna.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER

in orbit around the planet.

JANEWAY (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate xxxxx.x.
Voyager's theta-matrix compositing
system has been repaired, but I'm
afraid that it has been brought
back on-line too late. We cannot
regenerate the burnt out dilithium.
And the remaining crystals have
been damaged past the point of
recrystallization.

INT. BRIDGE

Chakotay and Tuvok are leaning over one of the ship's sensory systems.

JANEWAY (V.O.)

Our hopes of discovering a new
source of dilithium on the planet,
Dorivican Rhystis, has been
unsuccessful.

Janeway exits her ready room and walks up to the both of them.

CHAKOTAY

That nebula that we passed through
created some sort of plasmic energy
distortion. It drained our ship's
dilithium straight from the
chamber.

TUVOK

I would recommend that we avoid
such nebula's in the future.

JANEWAY

You have a gift for the obvious,
Mister Tuvok.

(very serious)

I'm afraid that I just received
some distressing news.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHAKOTAY

How much more distressing can our situation become?

Janeway takes a seat. They know that it must be very serious if she is going to tell them sitting down.

JANEWAY

It seems that Lieutenant Torres has been seriously injured during the last storm interval.

CHAKOTAY

Injured? How?

JANEWAY

It appeared that she somehow got into a struggle with some of the locals. Tom and Seven think that she might be dead.

Silence. This strikes them as devastating news. But something must be said...

JANEWAY (CONT'D)

I don't think that we can wait much longer. We have to move on soon.

Kim then steps into the conversation.

KIM

Captain... if I may. We owe it to B'Elanna to wait at least a little while longer. I don't think that we should jump to any conclusions yet.

CHAKOTAY

I have to agree with Harry. I'm not ready to abandon her yet.

JANEWAY

Neither am I, Commander. But time is running short. We'll remain for one more storm interval and try and retrieve her. But that's as long as we can wait.

Chakotay hesitates over the Captain's decision, but realizes that she is right. The good of the ship must come first.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHAKOTAY
(beat)
Agreed.

JANEWAY
Tuvok... find out what more you can discover about this spacial anomaly. I want to know everything about it, beginning with how we can retrieve Lieutenant Torres.

TUVOK
It would be helpful to go to the planets surface to acquire more accurate readings.

JANEWAY
(nods)
Take the Doctor with you.
(beat)
Just in case.

Tuvok nods. Starts to leave.

KIM
Captain, I'd also like to join the away team.

JANEWAY
Harry, I need you here. I can't spare all my officers.
(to Tuvok)
As a matter of fact, send Tom back with the shuttle. I want him ready at the helm when the time comes.
We're cutting this too close.

TUVOK
Understood.

Tuvok proceeds to the turbo lift and EXITS the bridge.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - HOSPITAL - A LITTLE LATER

The place is not very crowded. Seems rather empty for being a hospital. Again, the decor is a mixture of old and new. A primitive setting, but yet, the showings of technological advancements.

Torres is laying in a hospital bed, sleeping. Her body is covered in a hospital sheet. Gavin sits beside her. He appears very calm. Waits patiently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, Torres awakens. She starts to get up.

TORRES
(confused)
Where am I?

GAVIN
Please, it's better if you just lay
still. You have been injured.

Torres begins to recall the fight with the Vagiors. Looks down at the hospital sheet, covering her body. Remembers her hand. She wants to look under the sheet.

GAVIN (CONT'D)
Go ahead... look.

She pulls both of her hands out. The right one is bandaged up. But it appears to still be there. She looks up in amazement. She then begins to unbandage it.

GAVIN (CONT'D)
It's best if you just give it a
little more time to heal.

But Torres ignores his advice. She unravels the top layer. Her hand can be seen, but seems to still be healing, at an incredible rate.

Gavin reaches over and winds the bandage back around her hand.

GAVIN
It needs a little more time.

TORRES
(amazed)
But how can you do this? This society hardly seems advanced enough for this kind of...

GAVIN
Our healing abilities have become far more advance since your last visit. Even without the consent of the counsel of elders, we have been able to make huge leaps.

TORRES
(looks at hand)
But how did you...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GAVIN

Your original hand was too seriously injured to save. But we were able to regenerate the right hand and integrate the new tissue back among your body's systems.

Torres tries and take in everything that Gavin is telling her.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

It should be fully healed within a matter of hours.

TORRES

I've got to get up.

She sits up in the bed, but has a hard time doing so.

GAVIN

You need rest.

Torres knows that he is right, but realizes that she is running out of time. She scouts the room out. Tries to get a fix on these people, but very little makes sense.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

I've brought you something. To show you we still remember.

He then pulls out an ancient book (like a bible) that he has brought with him. It looks very old. He flips to a particular page and then points to a picture.

It is an artists rendering of a woman who looks very similar to Torres, standing on a hillside, looking down among her people. Even the outfit that she is wearing is vaguely similar. The ancient text next to it is written in an alien handwriting.

Torres takes hold of the book and looks deeply into the picture. She stares hard at it for a moment.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

(continuing; deep breath)

We were violent, aggressive... a very angry people. Self-destructive. We began to make huge technological advances. This technology far outweighed our ability to handle it. We almost destroyed ourselves. Until...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

A beat. She looks up. Knows that he means "until the Habital arrived."

GAVIN

(continuing; smiles)

The Habital... you... united our people. Showed us the destructive path that we were headed down and helped to bring peace and harmony to our people.... the Echnolics. You taught us to embrace life... to never harm another living creature. Your number one rule.

Torres lays the book down and looks Gavin straight in the eyes.

TORRES

And what became of the Habital?

GAVIN

(puzzled)

Why, you left us when your work was completed to help others in need.

TORRES

Why do you still live in primitive settlements, when you have the ability to do this?

She holds up her injured hand.

GAVIN

You taught us to do away with our technology until we were found capable of sufficiently handling it. Only over the course of the past hundred years have some of us believed to be ready to begin our advancements again. Others still fight it, believing to remain faithful to the old ways.

Gavin leans in closer to Torres. Much more serious. Grabs her good hand. She seems a bit uncomfortable with this, but knows he means no harm.

GAVIN

Our internal struggle is becoming more difficult to handle. Our people will soon begin to break up.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

GAVIN (CONT'D)
Which is why I know you chose now
to return. To help reunite our
people once again.

By this point, others have moved into the hospital, in order to get a look at the Habital. Torres notices, doesn't like it.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - A LITTLE LATER

Tuvok and the Doctor have just arrived on the planet. They watch as Paris departs with the shuttlecraft.

DOCTOR
I've never heard Mister Paris use
so many colorful metaphors before.

Tuvok agrees, but lets it go. The Doctor examines his surroundings.

DOCTOR
(continuing; sarcastic)
This looks like a pleasant place to live.

SEVEN
It's dreary. I can't imagine any life form wanting to settle here.

DOCTOR
Sarcasm, Seven. You should try it some time. Helps add a bit of flavoring to your personality.

SEVEN
I've already been infected with too much...
(beat)
...flavoring.

DOCTOR
That's a matter of opinion.

Tuvok walks up to Seven.

TUVOK
What more have you been able to determine?

SEVEN
That energy storm is creating a dampening field around this location.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEVEN (CONT'D)
Since the intensity of the storms have increased, I've been having a more difficult time achieving a clear reading.

TUVOK
Have you been able to ascertain the destination of the window?

SEVEN
No... not as of yet. But there's something else that has been puzzling me.

Seven picks up one of the artifacts.

SEVEN
This part of the region shows almost no signs of technological advancement, but the rest of the planet indicates that the inhabitants were advanced enough to possess warp technology.

TUVOK
Interesting.

DOCTOR
It would almost seem as if this part of the region served as a shrine. Untouched over the course of time.

SEVEN
But a shrine to what?

EXT. TOWN SQUARE

Torres is laying alone in the hospital bed. Everything appears to be very quiet, then... a LOUD COMMOTION from the outside. Torres sits up quickly.

Suddenly a small crowd of people rush into the hospital. They are carrying several young Echnolic boys... maybe no older than their late teens.

Torres gets out of bed to see what is happening. Several people help lay the boys down onto different examining tables. Torres moves over to one of the boys. He seems severely wounded. One of the doctors, PERUSH, rushes over.

PERUSH
What happened here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAN #1
Some of our young one's resisted
the Vagiors.

PERUSH
That's crazy. Why would they do
this?

WOMAN #1
(points to Torres)
Because the Habitual wished it.

TORRES
What?

The crowd turns to Torres. She doesn't know what to expect. The doctor begins to work on the boy.

MAN #2
She has shown us the way. We must
resist these creatures at all cost.

MAN #1
No longer will we as a people allow
ourselves to be forced around.

The crowd gets into this new revelation.

WOMAN #1
She has shown us that no sacrifice
is too much of a sacrifice.

The woman holds up her right hand, indication the one that Torres had injured.

The boy on the table, near death, reaches out for Torres. She looks at his hand. Not sure if she should grab it, then decides too. The boy smiles.

BOY
Thank you Habitual. You have shown
us the new way.

The boy's body then goes limp. He's dead.

PERUSH
(to Torres)
I'm sorry. His wounds were too
extensive. There wasn't enough
time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Perush moves on to the other injured patients. The implications of Torres' actions are beginning to set in. They've come to think of her as their god, and are following by her example.

Others now begin to crowd into the hospital. They come up to Torres and reach out to her in order to finally be able to touch the god they so long followed. She's so overwhelmed by the damage that she believes to have caused to notice.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER

in orbit.

INT. BRIDGE

Paris enters the bridge. Kim looks over, concerned.

KIM

Hey, are you all right?

PARIS

I've been better.

He walks over and takes the helm. He's unhappy about having to return to the ship. Janeway, in the captain's chair, knows this, but chooses not to acknowledge it. She continues talking to Tuvok on the planet surface. NEELIX ENTERS the bridge.

TUVOK'S COM VOICE

(static)

We have estimated the next storm interval to occur in approximately twenty three hours. By then, we should have gathered enough data to adequately adjust our sensors to compensate for the different variables involved in retrieving Lieutenant Torres.

JANEWAY

Understood. But immediately after that interval, I need you return to the ship.

TUVOK'S COM VOICE

(static)

Aye, Captain. Tuvok out.

Paris has heard the entire conversation and seems a bit uncomfortable with it. Neelix also seems a bit on edge.

JANEWAY

Mr. Paris... if we transfer all available power to the warp drive, how long before we reach Macellas Three?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PARIS

We should be able to make it in about three days. That's if the remaining dilithium doesn't burn out first.

Janeway sits back in her chair. Looks a little beaten. Neelix finally decides to speak up.

NEELIX

Captain, if I may?

JANEWAY

Yes, Neelix.

NEELIX

We're not going to leave Lieutenant Torres stranded on the planet, are we? I mean if we can't...

JANEWAY

Neelix... Macella's Three is our last chance to find a dilithium source. If once we arrive, we find that the well is dry, then we are going to have to settle there. And from my understanding, it's a much more friendly environment than this place.

NEELIX

But if we do find dilithium, then we will come back, won't we?

Janeway seems even more uncomfortable now than before. Looks over to Paris.

JANEWAY

According to Tuvok, by the time we return, the storms will have already dissipated.

NEELIX

Then that's it? We just leave her?

JANEWAY

Try and remain optimistic Neelix. I thought that optimism was one of your strong points.

NEELIX

Yes, Captain, I'll try.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Neelix turns and leaves. Paris remains silent. He has something to say, but for the time being, he's keeping it to himself.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - OUTER REGION - LATE

Torres has left the hospital and has managed to lose her followers. She has returned back to the stack of rocks that she had previously been studying. She has brought a backpack with her that she has found in the town.

Torres picks up one of the strange rocks and SCANS it with her tricorder.

She then begins to stack the backpack with the rocks.

FOOTSTEPS from behind. She turns around quickly and finds Gavin coming up behind her.

GAVIN

You have a fascination with those rocks. Why is that?

TORRES

Let's just say that they're important to me.

She finishes filling the backpack. She then straps it onto her back and starts to move away. Gavin grabs her arm.

GAVIN

Where are you going?

TORRES

I already told you. I can't get involved.

Gavin releases her arm. Takes a step back.

GAVIN

But you are involved. You started this thing in motion. You just can't walk away now.

TORRES

I don't know what you're talking about. I didn't do anything.

GAVIN

You began this conflict with the Vagiors. I pleaded with you not too, but you didn't listen.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GAVIN (CONT'D)
Now our people believe that that is
your wish... to fight. To even
kill if necessary. Seven hundred
years of peaceful ways are now
over.

TORRES
I didn't mean for this to happen.
I was only trying to help.

GAVIN
If you didn't want to get involved,
then you should have never done so.
But now it is too late.

She knows he is right.

GAVIN
Some of our people have gone off in
search of the Vagiors.

TORRES
They're fighting back. Maybe
they're tired of being oppressed.

GAVIN
As you know, we are not a fighting
race. We do not have the fighting
skills that the Vagiors possess.
(beat)
Those people will die.

TORRES
I'm sorry, but what can I do?

GAVIN
Help our people again. Teach us
how to defend ourselves. The same
way that you taught us how to be at
peace so long ago.

Torres shakes her head, unsure. She knows she's in deep now.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE

Torres walks down the middle of the square. It is bustling
with activity. Injured are being carried to the hospital.
Some people see Torres and kneel to the ground, to worship
her.

She goes over to the hospital, where most of the activity is
happening.

INT. HOSPITAL

There are lots of injured laying on tables. The doctors do what they can, but are greatly undermanned. They are not used to this many injured at one time.

Torres walks up to Perush.

TORRES
Is there anything I can do to help?

He turns to her sharply.

PERUSH
Yes... save their lives.

TORRES
How?

PERUSH
You are the Habital. You should know how.

Torres looks around at the injured in the room. Not a pretty sight.

The injured man on the table that Perush is helping suddenly goes into convulsions. Before he can do anything further, the man dies. Perush looks very troubled. He's not used to this, but yet in the last couple of days, he's had a lot of it. He turns to Torres...

PERUSH
If you can stop this, then do so.

He moves onto his next patient. Torres is very troubled.

INT. ECHNOLIC DWELLING - TORRES' ROOM - MUCH LATER

Torres is in a small room that was supplied to her by Gavin. She is lying down, but not sleeping. Only thinking. A BELL RINGS OUT. She is not sure what it is at first, then realizes.

TORRES
Come in.

The door opens and Gavin enters. He walks in and sits across from her. Takes a deep breath.

GAVIN
Who are you... really?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Torres is a little startled by his question. She looks down, thinks, and then looks back up at Gavin. What comes next was a tough decision for her.

TORRES

My name is B'Elanna Torres. I am a traveller from an advanced civilization.

Gavin looks a bit puzzled, but continues.

GAVIN

I am Gavin Versalles. I am head Procomtor of this territory.

They smile at one another. They are both finally on the same level and are really only meeting for the first time.

GAVIN

When the Habitual first appeared, her presence was felt by all. She knew why she had come. She took immediate charge. There were no tests. There were no questions. You on the other hand...

TORRES

... have no idea what I'm doing.

She now confirms Gavin's suspicions that she is not the Habitual. From the way he looks at her, she can tell that he was hoping to be wrong.

TORRES

The Vagiors... tell me about them.

GAVIN

It's been six years since they've come to this region from their part of this world. When they discovered our people, they forced some of them into labor, took our food, abused our females, invaded our land. But our ways would not allow us to harm them. In time, we had hoped we could make peace with them.

From Gavin's tone, he knows that peace will never come. Torres only shakes her head. Knows something must be done.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GAVIN

For seven hundred years we have been able to keep the peace with other cultures... until the Vagiors. I guess we were afraid that by fighting them, we would become like them again. They are a barbaric race. I pray for my people.

Gavin, lost in thought. Torres, also, considers the situation, and now decides to take charge.

TORRES

You had mentioned something to me about a counsel of elders. Who are they?

GAVIN

They are the highest level of Procomtors among all Echnolic territories. The top decision makers.

TORRES

Bring me to them. I think that it's time that I help fix this mess.

EXT/INT. TOWN SQUARE - PROCOMTOR HEADQUARTERS - LATE

A group of five elders sit on one side of a long table. Torres and Gavin enter. No one else is present. Torres has the backpack strapped on. She looks as if she is ready to depart. The head elder, VERTALOK, speaks.

VERTALOK

I am Vertalok, head elder. And you, I guess, are what people are calling the Habital.

TORRES

I am not your Habital. My name is...

VERTALOK

Yes, young lady... Gavin already explained to me your situation.

TORRES

It must be difficult for you then to comprehend my presence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VERTALOK

No, we do understand.

GAVIN

B'Elanna, we may look primitive by your standards, but have had seven hundred years to develop such knowledge and explore those dreams.

Gavin turns to the counsel of elders.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Only such religious beliefs have prevented us from pursuing these advancements.

VERTALOK

Our people had to be ready before we moved on. To prevent the same tragedy that had occurred hundreds of years before.

GAVIN

We are ready.

VERTALOK

Were! Now this person arrives and throws our people back into turmoil once again.

(to Torres)

I do not blame you for our current dilemma. You could not have known.

TORRES

Your people are defending themselves from an aggressive species. What you don't understand is that you can hold on to your beliefs, and at the same time, learn to defend yourselves. Your people only need guidance.

Gavin moves in closer to Torres.

VERTALOK

Then we ask you to stay and help provide that guidance. You may not be the Habitat, but you can still be a positive influence among our people.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GAVIN
Stay and help us.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

A strong wind begins to blow. Then lightning and a CRACK of thunder.

TUVOK
(taps combadge)
Tuvok to Voyager.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
(static)
Janeway here.

TUVOK
I believe that we should prepare to retrieve the Lieutenant.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
(static)
We're ready on this end.

Seven SCANS the area.

SEVEN
I'm not reading anything yet.

TUVOK
Give it time. If everything remains consistent, the window will open.

INT. PROCOMTOR HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

All as before. The storm can be HEARD on the outside. Torres notices.

TORRES
If I could do anything to help fix this, I would. But I have a responsibility to my people. I have to get back. I'm sorry.

GAVIN
(very serious)
Please B'Elanna. Stay.

She looks toward the door. The storm is almost at it's peak. She then turns back to Vertalok.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TORRES

You have a knowledge that the Vagiors don't possess. They're a much more primitive race. In time, you can develop defensive weapons, ones that needn't kill anyone. Believe me, I know. My advice to you is to develop these abilities.

Vertalok nods. Torres turns to Gavin and grabs his hands.

TORRES (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She raises her right hand.

TORRES (CONT'D)

Thank you for this.

She turns toward the door and rushes out.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Most of the people have taken shelter from the storm. A few stay in order to get a look at Torres.

She moves to the middle of the square.

TORRES

(taps combadge)

Torres to Voyager.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Tuvok, Seven, and the Doctor stand at about the same place that Torres is standing. They prepare for the beam out.

Then, a garbled message.

TORRES'S COM VOICE

(static)

Torres to Voyager. Come in
Voyager.

Suddenly, the Echnolic civilization comes into view. Torres is standing only a few feet from the landing party.

SEVEN

Look!

They spot Torres, and she can see them as well. They look relieved that she is still alive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TUVOK
Voyager, do you have a lock on her
com signal?

OFFICER'S COM VOICE
(static)
Yes, but a very weak one.

TUVOK
Energize!

They watch as her pattern begins to DEMATERIALIZE.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The people kneel in wonder as they watch her molecules
DEMATERIALIZE. They are also shocked to see the rest of the
landing party, in transparent form.

But just as it seems that the beam out might succeed, her
form begins to MATERIALIZE again.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Tuvok notices the problem.

TUVOK
Voyager, what's happening?

OFFICER'S COM VOICE
(static)
Something's interrupting the
transporter signal sir. I can't
get a clean lock.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Janeway monitors the situation.

JANEWAY
Mr. Paris, transfer all available
power to the transporter room.

PARIS
Aye, Captain.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

The signal still isn't increasing in strength. They are
losing her lock.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TUVOK
Transporter room... you are going
to have to increase power.

OFFICER'S COM VOICE
(static)
That's all I have sir.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The signal dies out. Her pattern REMATERIALIZES in the town square. They have failed.

The storm now begins to die down again.

Torres takes the backpack off and holds it up for them to see. As she begins to speak...

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

The landing party tries and make out what she is saying but the message is too garbled. Mostly static.

DOCTOR
She's trying to tell us something.

TUVOK
(taps combadge)
Lieutenant, please repeat your last
message.

But before she can get another word out, the storm dies out, along with her image.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. BRIDGE

All are shocked by the failure to retrieve Torres. But a decision must now be made by Janeway.

JANEWAY
Tuvok... can anything else be done?

TUVOK'S COM VOICE
(static)
Not at this time, Captain.

A moment of silent thought, then...

JANEWAY
I'm sending a shuttle down to
retrieve you. Return to the ship
with the others.

TUVOK'S COM VOICE
(static)
But Captain... I believe if we...

JANEWAY
That's an order, Mr. Tuvok.

TUVOK'S COM VOICE
(static)
Yes, Captain. Tuvok out.

Neelix steps up.

NEELIX
Captain... we just can't leave her
here. She's alive.

JANEWAY
I've made my decision, Neelix.

She turns to Paris.

JANEWAY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry Tom.
(beat)
Set course for Macellas Three.
When the away team returns, proceed
to maximum warp.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Paris is hesitant to comply with her orders. Janeway and Chakotay notice this.

CHAKOTAY
Is there something wrong,
Lieutenant?

Paris stands.

PARIS
(very serious)
Permission to speak privately,
Captain?

Janeway is hesitant about talking to Paris. Knows what he is going to say.

JANEWAY
(beat)
Granted.

INT. READY ROOM

Janeway and Paris ENTER

JANEWAY
I know what's on your mind. This isn't easy for me either.

PARIS
We can't just abandon B'Elanna.

JANEWAY
Believe me Tom... if there was any other way...

PARIS
There has to be another way. We can't just leave her here.

JANEWAY
I wish there was.

Paris turns from her. Doesn't know what to say... but she does. She moves in closer to him. Puts her hand on his shoulder.

JANEWAY
Tom... there's more to commanding a starship than taking your own personal feelings into account.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JANEWAY (CONT'D)
 If it were up to me, Katherine Janeway, I would stay. I would say forget the consequences. B'Elanna's my friend. I would do anything to assure her safety. But it's not up to me. It's up to the Captain of this ship. And she knows it's wrong to stay here. She has to think of the whole and not just the individual. There are just too many lives to consider.

He knows that deep down she is right. He turns back to her.

PARIS
 (desperate)
 And what if our remaining dilithium should give out before we reach Macellas Three?

JANEWAY
 Our odds at survival are better than remaining here.
 (beat)
 I know that it's easier to protest a decision when that decision's consequences aren't on your head. Well they are on mine. Try and put yourself in my place, in the Captain's chair. Think this thing through, as Tuvok would say, logically and not emotionally. Maybe then, you'll understand a little better.
 (beat)
 Food for thought, Mister Paris.

And he begins to consider what she has just said.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Torres is seated off to a corner of a building where she can be alone. She's looks very lost. She holds the backpack in her hands. Gavin walks up to her. Sits beside her.

GAVIN
 What happened?
 TORRES
 I won't be going anywhere.

GAVIN
 Is that so bad?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TORRES

You don't understand. They needed this.

She holds the backpack up.

GAVIN

It just a bag of rocks.

TORRES

No.

She removes one of the dilithium rocks.

TORRES

It's what we call dilithium. It's a very rare mineral. It helps to regulate the matter - antimatter power flow in our ship. Without it, we're helpless.

Gavin takes the rock from her hand.

GAVIN

This helps to regulate power.

Interesting.

(beat)

Will they not try and get you back again?

TORRES

I don't know. If they received my message about the dilithium... then maybe. If not... then they'll move on. They'll have no choice.

Gavin takes Torres' hand.

GAVIN

You are welcome among our people B'Elanna. If you must stay, then there will always be a place for you here.

She looks into his eyes. Begins to see him in a new light.

TORRES

Thank you.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

The away team has returned to the ship. Tuvok and Seven enter the bridge. Janeway and Chakotay rise.

TUVOK

Captain, I am sorry that we were unable to complete our mission.

JANEWAY

You did all that you could.

CHAKOTAY

(hesitant)

Should we proceed on to Macellas Three, Captain?

Janeway turns to Paris.

JANEWAY

Lieutenant?

A beat. He stands and looks at Janeway.

PARIS

(difficult)

I've already laid in course, maximum warp.

Janeway nods. Seven seems a bit surprised at Paris's response. He had seemed so adamant earlier about not leaving.

Seven then interrupts...

SEVEN

Captain... wait. What about the Lieutenant's message?

JANEWAY

What message?

TUVOK

Lieutenant Torres did seem quite determined to get a message across to us.

CHAKOTAY

Any idea what it was?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TUVOK

Given enough time, we may be able to decipher it.

JANEWAY

How much time?

TUVOK

Several hours.

Janeway becomes very cautious about this decision. She doesn't know if it would be worth the time. Then decides.

JANEWAY

Three hours. No more.

TUVOK

Aye, Captain.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE

Torres walks through the town square with Gavin. They remain silent. Torres observes the townspeople at work. They turn and stare at her as she passes them. She motions for them to go about their business, the way that a leader would motion her people.

GAVIN

Your people. They looked different than you.

TORRES

They are human. I am only half human. The other half is Klingon.

GAVIN

These humans are peaceful?

TORRES

Yes.

GAVIN

They don't kill?

TORRES

They protect themselves when necessary. But they have accomplished peaceful relations with hundreds of races.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GAVIN

And their technology doesn't
corrupt them?

TORRES

At a time it did. But they grew
beyond that.

GAVIN

Interesting. And what about these
Klingons?

Torres LAUGHS.

TORRES

Now they are a different story.

GAVIN

Tell me.

TORRES

Some think of them as a hostile,
savage, primitive race.
Temperamental, brutal, ruthless...
believe me... I can go on. But
others look at them as being loyal,
efficient, proud, and honorable.
They are anything but boring.

GAVIN

They sound fascinating.

TORRES

You could say that. But I think I
prefer to stick with my human side.

GAVIN

It sounds like you should respect
both heritages.

TORRES

I don't know.

GAVIN

You seem a little lost.

Torres stops and turns to Gavin.

TORRES

I guess I am sometimes.

She turns from Gavin and looks up to the sky.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GAVIN
What are you thinking?

She turns back to him.

TORRES
Gather some of your best people together. I'll do what I can to help prepare them when it comes time to face the Vagiors.

GAVIN
Anything you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

TORRES
I can't do anything to help further your technology. But I will show you some hand to hand defensive techniques. That's the best I can offer.

GAVIN
I hope that it will be enough.

Gavin leaves her and heads back to Procomtor Headquarters. She watches him as he goes.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Janeway, Chakotay, Paris, Kim, Tuvok, and Seven on the bridge. Seven presses some panels on a console. STATIC, then...

TORRES (V.O.)
(static)
Torres to Voyager...

SEVEN
This next part is what you may find interesting.

She presses more panels.

TORRES (V.O.)
Wait... don't... dilithium... must retrieve...

The remainder is only STATIC.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TUVOK

That was all of the message that we could decipher. The interference was quite excessive.

KIM

She must have found some dilithium.

PARIS

It would make sense. We did only picked up traces of it when the storm appeared.

TUVOK

Which would also explain why we could not have retrieved her. The transporter has to be calibrated to a certain frequency when transporting dilithium. Otherwise, it would prevent a clean lock and prevent transport.

Janeway sits back down in the captain's chair and brews the situation over for a moment.

PARIS

I think that the odds have just gone up.

JANEWAY

Agreed. Tuvok, how long before the next storm interval?

TUVOK

Approximately five days, twelve hours, and sixteen minutes.

JANEWAY

We'll be cutting this close people so let's make sure we get this right the next time around.

PARIS

(smiles)

Yes, ma'am.

The bridge crew seems relieved by her decision. They all move off into their separate directions.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. ECHNOLIC TRAINING HALL - NEXT DAY

A group of young and older Echnolics sit in a circle. Torres enters the room with Gavin. She is holding what appears to be a bat'leth. Gavin moves off to the side as she enters the circle.

TORRES

For the next several days, I am going to teach you different defensive techniques. You will take what I teach you and bring this knowledge to the other Echnolic territories.

She holds up the bat'leth.

TORRES (CONT'D)

This is called a bat'leth. It's a good offensive and defensive weapon.

She starts to whirl the bat'leth around.

TORRES

In time, you will become one with the bat'leth. But it will take a lot of practice.

She then drops it. Bends to pick it up.

TORRES

As you can see, even the teacher needs more practice.

The room LAUGHS. Her and Gavin LAUGH along with them. She then continues to demonstrate her defensive tactics.

The following is a MONTAGE of scenes that take place over the course of the next several days.

A) Torres demonstrates hand to hand combat with several of the students.

B) She then demonstrates bat'leth fighting with the students.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

C) She lets the students practice amongst themselves... bat'luth, and hand to hand. Gavin involved as well.

D) She discusses further fighting and defensive techniques with the students.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAYS LATER - NIGHT

A camp fire is roaring in the middle of the town square. Her students sit around it. Her and Gavin sit next to one another... closely.

STUDENT #1

Teacher... do your people believe
in a Habital?

TORRES

(beat)

Ah... the Klingons or the humans?

STUDENT #1

The Klingons.

TORRES

Well... I believe that the closest representation of a Habital would be a Klingon named Kahless. But he was never looked upon as a deity... just more like a messiah.

STUDENT #2

What did Kahless do?

TORRES

He united the Klingon homeworld. He became the greatest figure in Klingon mythology and would come to be known as Kahless the Unforgettable.

STUDENT #1

What happened to him?

TORRES

Well... legend states that after he united the Klingon people, he told them that it was time for him to leave...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TORRES (CONT'D)
 to go to a place called Sto-Vo-Kor,
 a sort of afterlife, and prepare it
 for the true warriors who would
 join him there one day. He had
 then pointed to a star in the sky
 and told his people that they
 should look for him there, for that
 is where he would return. He had
 then vanished into the wilderness,
 and was never seen again.

Students AD LIB amongst themselves. Then a couple of them speak up.

STUDENT #3
 That sounds a lot like the story of
 the Habital.

STUDENT #2
 Teacher, you seem to be a lot like
 Kahless.

Torres smiles. Never realized this, but her actions are very similar to Kahless. She brews this over.

GAVIN
 Why don't you tell us more about
 the Klingon people.

She now snaps out of it.

TORRES
 What would you like to know?

GAVIN
 Customs, traditions...

TORRES
 I'm probably not the best person to ask. I'm not a very good Klingon.

GAVIN
 I don't know of any other Klingons around here to ask.

TORRES
 I guess not.
 (beat; in Klingon)
 PujWI' HIvlu'chugh quvbe'lu'.

GAVIN
 What does that mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TORRES

It is the Klingon way of saying that there is no honor in attacking the weak. Remember this, because in every race there is always a feeling of...

Torres continues talking about the ways of the Klingon race, and her students cling onto every word. It's obvious that she is taking pride in the part of her heritage that she has denied for so long.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - MUCH LATER

The training session has ended for the day and a Gavin walks Torres to her settlement. There has definitely been a change between the both of them. A kind of chemistry. They stop outside her door.

GAVIN

You have done more than you know for my people. It wouldn't be so bad if you had to stay.

TORRES

I've grown comfortable here.

Gavin grabs her hand passionately. She is a little uncomfortable.

TORRES

(continuing; smiles)
I think I enjoyed it when you thought of me as a Habital.

GAVIN

It's not a Habital that I stand before now. Only a very beautiful woman.

They stare into one another's eyes. It's a very passionate moment. They lean in and are about to kiss, when Torres pulls back.

GAVIN

Is there something wrong?

Torres backs up from him.

TORRES

It's just that... there's someone else. I... we... can't do this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GAVIN
(smile uncomfortably)
I understand. Well then, I guess
that I'll see you tomorrow morning.

He starts to leave.

TORRES
Gavin...

He stops and turns around. She wants to say more, but knows
she better not.

TORRES
Goodnight.

Gavin moves off.

INT. ECHNOLIC DWELLING - TORRES' ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Torres is awake and dressed. She throws on the dilithium
backpack. Three KNOCKS at her door. It is Gavin.

GAVIN
Where are you going?

TORRES
It's almost time. According to my
calculations, the next storm
interval is about to occur.

GAVIN
B'Elanna, I'd really like you to
stay.

TORRES
You know that I can't.

GAVIN
I'm sorry. I'm being selfish.

She moves in closer to him, but tries to keep her distance.

TORRES
No, you're not. But I have a duty
to my ship that out weighs my own
personnel needs. I just hope they
haven't left yet.

GAVIN
For your sake, I hope not either.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - A LITTLE LATER

Torres stands at about the middle of the square. She is ready. Many of the townspeople have come out to see her leave. To witness this miracle. Gavin comes and stands beside her. They remain speechless.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Tuvok, Paris, Seven, and the Doctor have returned to the planets surface. They await the storm.

TUVOK
(taps combadge)
Tuvok to Voyager.

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
(static)
Janeway here.

TUVOK
Are you ready for transport?

JANEWAY'S COM VOICE
(static)
Ship's power is beginning to run seriously low. For safety sake, we're going to have to transport her to your site.

TUVOK
Understood. Stand by.

The Doctor is over by a pile of rubble. He notices something.

DOCTOR
(to Paris)
I wonder what this is? I didn't notice it before.

PARIS
What do you have, Doc?

DOCTOR
There's something under here.

PARIS
Just looks like a pile of rocks to me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEVEN

No, he's right. It appears to be
some sort of statue.

PARIS

Well, let's have a look.

They start to unpile the rocks when the storm begins to kick in.

TUVOK

Let's get ready.

Paris and Seven move over by Tuvok. The Doctor continues to haul out the rocks.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Gavin stands close to Torres. The townspeople look on. The storm then begins to kick in. Gavin turns to Torres. Just as he is about to say something...

Five Vagiors on horseback appear! The Vagiors dismount and begin to attack the townspeople. Gavin runs over to try and help.

TORRES

Gavin!

She follows him.

The students emerge, each with a bat'leth. They begin to fight off the Vagiors successfully. Gavin runs over and throws a Vagior off an older lady.

The storm grows much stronger now. The other side where the away team stands is beginning to become transparent again.

Torres knows her time is short. She pulls out her phaser and fires at one of the Vagiors. He falls. The townspeople now begin to see the transparent crew members. They fall to their knees, to worship. The remaining Vagiors are also startled.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

The away team can now see Torres.

TUVOK

Voyager... prepare for transport on
my mark.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

One of the Vagiors takes Gavin by surprise. Knocks him to the ground. The Vagior raises his knife.

TORRES

NO!

She aims her phaser at the Vagior.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

The away team see's what is happening but is unsure what to make of it. The images now begin to fade in and out. It's their last chance.

TUVOK

Energize!

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Torres DEMATERIALIZES before everyone. The Vagior who is about to stab Gavin stops and notices this.

TORRES

(taps combadge)

No! Abort transport.

Too late.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Torres REMATERIALIZES before Tuvok. She takes the backpack off and quickly hands it over to him. The images of the others side have disappeared. Just as Tom is about to run up to her...

TORRES

Here... now send me back.

TUVOK

(confused)

I'm afraid that I do not understand.

TORRES

Just do it.

TUVOK

Lieutenant, I believe that...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TORRES

I don't have time to discuss this
Tuvok. Just send me back.

But before Torres can get another word out, the image of the Echnolic society reappears again. Torres is standing just feet away from Gavin, who is safe. He can also see her. In the b.g., the Vagior can be seen. He is laying dead on the ground.

They both raise their hands up. As they go to touch, their hands pass through one another's. They look upon each other for the last time and then... the images fade away.

The storm has died out.

PARIS

(to Torres)

A friend of yours?

Torres turns to him and gives him a big hug.

PARIS

It's good to have you back.

SEVEN

Your presence has been missed.

TORRES

Thank you, Seven.

TUVOK

We had better leave for the Voyager
right away. Time is of the
essence.

DOCTOR

(shouts)

Over here! Come quickly!

They all run over to the Doctor. He has uncovered the upper half of the statue. It is of Torres. It is not of the Habitual because the statue shows her wearing her Starfleet uniform, with communicator pin, and holding a bat'luth.

All are in shock at what they see.

PARIS

Well I guess that answers the
question as to where you went.

Torres stares hard at the statue. Can't believe her eyes.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER

in orbit.

JANEWAY (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate xxxxx.x.
We have been able to synthesize the raw dilithium into working crystals. The ship again is at full power and we have a significant amount of dilithium as back-up in case a problem should occur again. In the meantime, I am distressed in hearing about Lieutenant Torres' dismissal of the prime directive in regards to the Echnolic culture.

INT. READY ROOM

Janeway is seated behind her desk. Torres sits on the other side. Not a happy conversation.

JANEWAY

B'Elanna... how could you? You know better than...

TORRES

The prime directive was broken the moment that I appeared to these people. I did what I had to in order to fix the damage that was done.

JANEWAY

You helped turn a peaceful people into an aggressive culture.

TORRES

I was only trying to help teach them to protect themselves. It was my fault that they were in that mess and I felt that it was my responsibility to get them out.

Janeway leans forward... thinks...

TORRES

I couldn't just sit back and watch these people get hurt. Prime directive or no prime directive. It was wrong.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JANEWAY

It's the hardest thing that we have to do sometimes... painful... even agonizing... but eventually a greater good is served. You may save a few lives, but in the long run, you may destroy millions.

TORRES

I helped to save.

JANEWAY

Do you want to know why there is no life on that planet? It's because the previous occupants had destroyed it through war. They used up their planet's resources and then abandoned it and moved on to other worlds.

Torres is horrified to hear this from Janeway.

TORRES

You think that I might have had something to do with this?

JANEWAY

It's a distinct possibility. It does appear that the Echnolic culture did eventually rule this world.

Torres gets up and looks out the window.

JANEWAY (CONT'D)

You should have just let them be B'Elanna. You should have just let them be.

She continues to stare out the window, lost in thought. Wonders if she will ever again encounter this race.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER

The ship moves off at impulse.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END