

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Instincts"

Story © 1996 by:

Daniel McDeavitt
& Lucy Snyder

Written by:

Daniel McDeavitt

WGA Agent
Mr. Terry Porter
Agape Productions
P.O. BOX 147
Flat Rock, IN 47234
phone: 812.587.5654
fax: 812.587.0029

tdporter@seidata.com

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Instincts"

CAST

JANEWAY
WILDMAN
CHAKOTAY
WILDMAN'S BABY
DOCTOR TOX
KES
PARIS
KIM
TORRES
TUVOK
NEELIX

Non-Speaking

N.D. SUPERNUMERARIES

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Instincts"

SETS

INTERIORS

VOYAGER
(STOCK)
BRIDGE
TROPICAL LANDSCAPE
WILDMAN'S QUARTERS
MINDSCAPE
 SICKBAY/DOCTOR'S OFFICE
 BLANKSPACE
CONFERENCE ROOM
 MAZE
 TRANSPORTER ROOM
 SEASHORE
 MESS HALL
 KITCHEN
 HALLWAY
 JEFFRIES TUBE
 CARGO BAY ONE

EXTERIORS

VOYAGER

JANEWAY

HEDGE

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Instincts"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ARACHNIE	uh-RAK-nee
CAHOKIAN	ka-ho-KEE-an
CHEROKEE	CHAIR-uh-kee
CHOOGRIAN	choo-GREE-an
DOPAMINE	DOPE-uh-mean
HEMOTOXIN	hee-MO-tok-sin
KATARIAN	ka-TAR-ee-uhn
LICTRAZINE	LIKE-tra-zeen
NEUROENDOCRINE	ner-RO-end-o-krin
NEUROTOXIN	ner-RO-tok-sin
SEROTONIN	ser-UH-tone-in

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

"Instincts"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. LONG SHOT OF TROPICAL LANDSCAPE (OPTICAL) 1

Late afternoon SUN shines on teams of N.D. VOYAGER CREWMEMBERS moving about in a clearing. There are SHUTTLES and CARGO containers in the center of the clearing. Non-threatening animal sounds are heard in background.

2 EXT. NEW ANGLE. UP A TREE. 2

Ensign WILDMAN ENTERS as she CLIMBS up the tree. She is sweating and carrying a specimen sample container. She is wearing GLOVES to protect her hands. Securing herself on a limb, she takes a TRICORDER reading.

There are numerous, softball-sized, fruit-like pods growing on the branches around her. Satisfied with the readings, she attempts to dislodge one but her gloves impede her progress. She takes them OFF and begins removing the pods with her BARE HANDS. Her com-badge BEEPS.

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

Ensign Wildman. Report your team's status.

WILDMAN

(to com)

Finishing now, sir. We'll have our containers filled and ready for transport with this last trip.

A very slight shimmering appears up and behind her. She HEARS something moving nearby. Looking, she cannot see anything.

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

Acknowledged. We'll begin clearing out in shifts in thirty minutes. Chakotay out.

2 CONTINUED:

2

Wildman secures SIX of the pods in the container and begins to climb down.

3 EXT. CLEARING NEAR FOREST

3

TUVOK is overseeing the security team patrolling the perimeter of the clearing. KIM and NEELIX are directing the loading of the food samples into five large, free standing CARGO CONTAINERS and two SHUTTLES. The containers are being TRANSPORTED into the shuttles.

CHAKOTAY is supervising the operation.

CHAKOTAY

Mister Neelix. Mister Kim. How are we doing on this load?

NEELIX

Nearly finished, Commander.

CHAKOTAY

Good. We're coming up on sundown and I want to be clear of here by then. Tuvok has detected some of the larger animals approaching our outer perimeter. (beat) I'd rather not hang around to see if they are friendly.

TUVOK

(from a distance)

There is no reason to assume that they are inherently hostile.

Harry and Chakotay exchange an amused and somewhat surprised look. Chakotay smiles.

CHAKOTAY

I keep forgetting about your exceptional hearing, Mister Tuvok. One of these days, its going to get me into trouble.

TUVOK

(approaching)

If memory serves Commander...
it already has.

Chakotay seems to know where Tuvok is going and quickly changes the subject.

CHAKOTAY

We'd better hurry and finish securing this load. With the replicators down for a while, we'll need the extra supplies... and I, for one, am getting hungry.

Harry notes Chakotay's avoidance with a smile.

NEELIX

Don't you worry Mister Chakotay, I am already planning a feast for the crew with some of my special family recipes that I have been holding onto for just such an occasion.

CHAKOTAY

It will be nice to have fresh food. This planet is a real find...I wish we could stay longer.

TUVOK

The month long journey across the dark nebula has exacted a heavy toll on the crew's morale.

Chakotay is looking at the crew working and laughing in the sunlight, enjoying themselves despite the work. He smiles, basking in the sunlight. He turns to Tuvok.

CHAKOTAY

The captain believes this planet is too dangerous for shore leave, and with the long-range transporters down...not very practical.
(pause)
But the chance to stretch our legs seems to have done the crew a lot of good.

TUVOK

I must admit to finding the outdoors...refreshing...and the demeanor of the crew has noticeably improved.
(MORE)

TUVOK

(continuing)

This will aid in repairing the considerable damage to the ship by the nebula's gravimetical distortions.

CHAKOTAY

One problem at a time, Mister Tuvok.

Chakotay looks at Neelix and Harry.

CHAKOTAY

(continuing)

Carry on gentlemen. Tuvok, do a final check on the perimeter teams. We'll depart as soon as everyone is ready.

Tuvok moves OFF as Wildman's team APPROACHES. The team moves to load their bags in the cargo containers. Wildman goes directly to Neelix. She has one of the PODS in her BARE hands.

WILDMAN

Neelix, do you any idea what kind of fruit this is? I found them on a tree.

Neelix still has his gloves ON as he handles it. He looks it over, smiling broadly.

NEELIX

(excitedly)

Very similar to the Choogrian breadfruit. Wonderfully tasty in a soup. (beat) They're one of Kes's favorites. (pauses) This shell is much harder, though. Did you try opening one?

WILDMAN

Not yet. There are no seams apparent and the skin is pretty thick. (beat) My tricorder reads a number of high protein bases, but can't display a complete detail on the contents.
(MORE)

WILDMAN

(continuing)

Almost like parts of the fruit are invisible.

Harry is nearby and approaches.

KIM

Perhaps the tricorder is malfunctioning? The nebula's distortion field affected every system on Voyager.

Curious, Chakotay comes over.
Wildman is puzzled.

WILDMAN

It was working just fine earlier.

KIM

The circuits could have degraded over time...we're still discovering new problems with the ship's systems. (beat)
We seem to be rewriting whole texts on Starship repair procedures.

Neelix is still holding the fruit. Chakotay uses his tricorder. He shakes his head in confusion.

CHAKOTAY

I'm getting conflicting readings as well. Let's play it safe. (beat) Leave these behind...we have plenty to take care of our needs.

Wildman nods, placing the container ASIDE. Neelix begins to protest but is cut off by Harry who STIFFENS up and, drawing his phaser, POINTS it towards the jungle.

KIM

Commander!...I just saw something moving in the brush. (pause)
Something very big.

Chakotay turns away from Neelix and moves forward with Harry and Wildman TOWARDS the jungle's edge, tricorders and phasers in hand.

CHAKOTAY

There's nothing in the area registering any larger than us. What did you see?

Behind them, Neelix picks up the sample bag with the pods and deliberately HIDES the pods inside a larger container. He puts the empty bag aside.

KIM

I'm not sure. Very large...over ten feet...the outlining shadow wasn't humanoid.

Kim looks at his tricorder and SHAKES IT.

KIM

(continuing)

I'm feeling pretty vulnerable without reliable technology at my fingertips.

CHAKOTAY

Then you'll have to rely more on your senses, Ensign.

KIM

Well...my senses are telling me we might want to leave soon. (beat) This place is unsettling in the dark.

A new, deeper, animal screech sound is heard CLOSER than any before.

CHAKOTAY

(nodding)

Agreed. Let's get moving.

Chakotay taps his combadge.

CHAKOTAY

(to com)

Chakotay to Tuvok, report.

TUVOK(V.O.)

All teams report ready, Commander.

CHAKOTAY

(to com)

Let's move out then.

Neelix closes up the last container bin, and it is transported into the shuttle. Wildman takes her empty sample bag, nodding in thanks to Neelix and smiling.

The Away Team moves quickly and decisively into positions, preparing to depart.

4EXT. UP THE TREE4

In the background, the shuttles DEPART as the sun SETS. The wild noises of the jungles increase.

5EXT. NEW ANGLE5

CAMERA returns to the same branch where Wildman picked the pods. CLOSE ON one of the pods as it begins to CRACK open. An ominous trilling/chirping can be heard as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. VOYAGER AT WARP. (OPTICAL) STOCK

6

Establishing shot.

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes.)

JANEWAY is heard over opening shot.

JANEWAY (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Star Date 50944.7.

Voyager has completed a month-long journey through an immense nebula spanning an entire sector. The prolonged isolation has taken its toll on the crew...and adding insult to injury, we had to traverse a devastating gravitational storm as we left the sector. (beat) We are in the process of making repairs.

7 INT. BRIEFING ROOM.

7

JANEWAY, PARIS, TORRES, DOCTOR are sitting around the table as Tuvok, Kim, and Chakotay ENTER and take seats.

JANEWAY (V.O.)

(continuing)

Fortunately, the planet we just left not only allowed most of the crew to stretch their legs, but has solved one of our more immediate problems.

Janeway and Chakotay are noticeably fatigued.

CHAKOTAY

Cargo Bay One is filled to capacity with the stores we collected. Estimates on rationing give us four weeks of fresh food, perhaps less.
(beat)
(MORE)

7 CONTINUED:

7

CHAKOTAY

(continuing)

Ensign Kim has set the cargo bay up as a huge refrigeration unit.

KIM

The last of the containers are being secured. Neelix and I have even portioned out personal rations of fruit for the crew.

PARIS

(sarcastic)

Fruit baskets? How thoughtful.

KIM

(smiling)

Kes is taking seed samples to see if any of the plants can grow in Hydroponics. As soon as she is finished, we'll start the refrigeration program.

JANEWAY

Good work, Ensign.

(to Doctor)

Your report, Doctor.

DOCTOR

The bio-filters have cleared the stores of hazardous materials and I have examined the samples provided. Although I cannot comment on their culinary capacity...they are at least edible. (beat) The rest is up to Mister Neelix.

JANEWAY

Thank you, Doctor.

(pause)

Did Neelix say when his buffet would be ready?

PARIS

Within the hour. He went straight to the kitchen when his shuttle docked with an armload of "special" ingredients.

PARIS

(continuing)

He's been cooking since we left orbit.

JANEWAY

Good. I'm looking forward to it.

Janeway lowers her head and rubs her neck.
She SHAKES off the fatigue and raises her head.

JANEWAY

(to Torres)

Lieutenant, what is the status of the repairs?

TORRES

After getting the warp engines back online,
priority has been to repair the sensor arrays.
External sensors are at seventy-five percent
capacity and we should have them up to specs in
a few hours.

KIM

The internals are offline while we repair the
ruptured power couplings on Deck Ten. Estimate
repairs to be completed within two hours.

Torres sighs as if overwhelmed by the task set
before her.

TORRES

Beyond that...the next job is to re-align the
weapons systems, repair the long-range
transporters and replace all of the replicators.
(smirks wryly)
...plus make sure that the dilithium matrix
doesn't collapse in on itself.

CHAKOTAY

B'Elanna, you have done a commendable job.

JANEWAY

Indeed. We couldn't have made it this far without your skills.

Torres seems a little taken aback by the praise. She shuffles in her seat uncomfortably. Paris is smiling at her.

TORRES

I'm just applying what I've learned.

Janeway droops her head momentarily, SHAKING off the fatigue yet again.

TUVOK

Captain, if I may. I believe both you and the commander would benefit from some sleep.

JANEWAY

No... we need to finish repairing the ship. I'm fine.

TUVOK

On the contrary, you have been without sleep since our departure from the nebula, over forty-eight hours ago. Both you and the commander have pushed yourselves beyond normal human endurance due to necessity. (beat) However, necessity has passed. With all due respect, I must order you, and Commander Chakotay, to bed.

Paris and Torres share a smile at Tuvok's expense.

DOCTOR

I must concur with Mister Tuvok's opinion. Your insistent use of stimulants over the past few days has taxed your stamina. (beat) I would rather you not make it necessary for me to quote regulations concerning the Chief Medical Officer's powers in such matters.

CHAKOTAY

(smiling)
Captain, I smell mutiny brewing.

JANEWAY

I'm too worn out to put up a fight. Good work everyone.

She STANDS.

JANEWAY

(continuing)
Mister Tuvok, the bridge is yours. Dismissed.

Everyone gets up to leave. Janeway moves to Tuvok.

JANEWAY

(continuing to Tuvok)
Would it be all right if I ate first. I'd rather not collapse from exhaustion on an empty stomach.

TUVOK

That is not only acceptable, but encouraged.

All EXIT.

8 INT. CARGO BAY

8

Cargo containers are tightly stacked on top of each other leaving a narrow walkway. KES and Wildman are among the N.D. crewmembers sorting portions of the food stores into smaller containers. Wildman closes the last container. It dematerializes, and then rematerializes on top of the last stack as Chakotay and Harry ENTER.

Harry starts making adjustments to the CONTROLS on the wall panel.

Chakotay approaches Kes and Wildman who are trying to carry one too many containers of food.

KES

Hello Commander.

8 CONTINUED:

8

CHAKOTAY

May I offer assistance?

Both smile as Chakotay takes an even share of the load.

CHAKOTAY

(to Kes)

Are you finished taking your samples for Hydroponics?

KES

Yes, just a few moments ago.

Chakotay turns to Harry.

CHAKOTAY

It's all yours Mister Kim. Hurry though, the buffet won't last forever.

KIM

Don't worry. I go off shift in half an hour.
(nods to Wildman)
I'll be along soon.

Chakotay, Wildman, and Kes EXIT.

9 INT. HALLWAY (OMITTED)

9

10 MESS HALL: (CROWDED)

10

A central table is decorated and spread out in a feast of various soups, breads, pastries, fruit and vegetable combinations. N.D. crewmembers are in line going through. All are smiling and enjoying themselves. Neelix is BOUNCING around adding touches here, replenishing there.

Chakotay, Kes and Wildman ENTER. Inhaling the aroma, they smile at the scene. Neelix moves towards them.

NEELIX

Let me help you with those.

Neelix relieves them of their burdens, STACKING the containers in the kitchen. He makes a small point of letting no one enter.

10A KITCHEN

10A

Under the counter, a container hidden from view, holds the PODS that Neelix snuck off the planet. One MOVES slightly.

10B MESS HALL:

10B

Relieved of her burden, Wildman WIPES her hands together and lifts them to her face. SNIFFING them, she gives a curious look.

KES

What is it, Samantha?

WILDMAN

My hands smell sweet. I noticed it earlier. Must have been from the samples I handled on the planet.

NEELIX

Hurry and get in line, there is plenty to go around, but some of the juicier items are going fast.

Kes and Chakotay move to the line. Wildman waves off.

WILDMAN

Please save me some if you can. I'm not off duty yet.

NEELIX

Well, we can't have you missing the tasty bits.

Neelix moves to GRAB a sample off the buffet. The com BEEPS.

KIM (V.O.)

Kim to Commander Chakotay.

Chakotay is just about to reach for a plate. He grimaces.

CHAKOTAY

(to com)
Chakotay here.

10B CONTINUED:

10B

KIM (V.O.)

Sorry to bother you, Commander. We need you in Cargo Bay One.

Chakotay sighs, showing fatigue but SMILES at the ironic timing. He GRABS a piece of food off the buffet.

CHAKOTAY

(to com)
I'll be right there.

NEELIX

Don't worry, Commander. I'll get you a plate and deliver it to your quarters myself.

CHAKOTAY

Room service? Now I'm getting spoiled. (beat)
Thanks Neelix.

As Chakotay EXITS, Janeway ENTERS. They smile and nod as they pass each other.

11 EXT. VOYAGER AT WARP	11
12 INT. BRIDGE (OMITTED)	12
13 INT. MESS HALL	13

N.D. crewmembers are still milling about the buffet. Janeway is stands in line and talks to Wildman who is nibbling on a piece of fruit. Neelix is putting on the finishing touches for Chakotay's meal. Kes is in the kitchen.

NEELIX

There we go...a nice selection for the commander. If you will excuse me.

WILDMAN

Thanks for the taste, Neelix.

Neelix smiles and EXITS, platter in hand.

JANEWAY

(whimsical)
He's never brought me room service.

13 CONTINUED:

13

Wildman finishes her sample of food.

WILDMAN

I'll be back soon. Harry and I now have extra incentive to finish our repairs.

Torres ENTERS.

Wildman places her other BARE HAND on Janeway's sleeve and lowers her voice, tentatively.

WILDMAN

(continuing)

Captain...I wanted to thank you for the extra considerations you've given me on my shift schedule, so I can spend time with my baby.

Janeway picks up a plate and makes her way through the food line.

JANEWAY

You're welcome, Ensign. Although the commander probably has more to do with that than I. He handles the shift rotations.

Wildman smiles.

WILDMAN

Well...thank you all the same.

Wildman EXITS.

Kes comes out of the kitchen with a hot cup of tea and sits at a table. Janeway joins her with a full plate.

JANEWAY

Kes, Neelix has outdone himself. The food looks...

Janeway tastes a piece of food.

JANEWAY

(continuing, mouth full)
...and tastes superb. The crew...

Kes smiles. Janeway catches the aroma of Kes's tea.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

That smells wonderful. Is it a new blend?

KES

(nodding)

An herbal mixture from the planet mixed with honey.

JANEWAY

Is there any left? I'd love to try it.

KES

Yes, let me...

Janeway gets up and heads to the kitchen waving her off.

JANEWAY

That's all right.

14 INT. KITCHEN.

14

Janeway moves about the kitchen smelling the pot of tea and, smiling to herself, begins preparing herself a cup.

CUT TO:

15 INT. KITCHEN. NEW ANGLE. UNDER THE COUNTER.

15

The PODS are moving as if something inside is stirring inside. They begin to CRACK open. On the top one, a piece of shell RAISES UP to reveal the inside...

CUT TO:

16 INT. KITCHEN. NEW ANGLE. POINT OF VIEW.

16

(SFX: Looking through the eyes of an alien.)
MOVING off of the pile of food, JUMPING to the floor. POINT OF VIEW is very near the floor, indicating a small body. A weird, quiet sound is heard, like SNIFFING and chirping.

16 CONTINUED:

16

P.O.V. moves out from under the counter and Janeway's legs come in view. The SNIFFING sound again, and then again EXCITEDLY as POINT OF VIEW moves QUICKLY towards Janeway and JUMPS UP to her arm/sleeve.

CUT TO:

17 INT. KITCHEN. CLOSE ON JANEWAY.

17

Janeway REACTS to something landing on her arm. Looking down, her eyes WIDEN in surprise.

CUT TO:

18 CLOSE ON JANEWAY'S ARM

18

A fist-sized ARACHNID-like creature is latched on to her sleeve where Wildman touched her. Its appearance is horrid, including multiple legs, large FANGS, and thin SPINES protruding from its back.

OFF SPIDER.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19 INT. KITCHEN. CLOSE ON JANEWAY'S ARM 19

OPEN ON SPIDER. (Previous shot)

20 INT. KITCHEN 20

Janeway reacts instinctively, SWATTING at the creature. The creature hangs on tightly, but the second swat sends it FLYING. Janeway cries out in pain. Her hand is bloodied from the spines on the creature's back.

The creature HITS the wall and lands on the floor unhurt, due to its exoskeleton. Four MORE creatures come from under the counter to join it, chittering and hissing. They MOVE towards her tentatively.

Janeway looks at her hand. It is SWOLLEN, black and blue from POISON. She cries out, falls against the wall, and slumps to the floor in AGONY.

21 INT. MESS HALL 21

Torres, Kes, and other N.D. crewmembers see, and HEAR, Janeway FALL.

TORRES

Captain!

Torres JUMPS up and runs to the Kitchen. Kes and others are close behind.

22 INT. KITCHEN 22

Janeway is PUSHING herself away from the advancing creatures and showing signs of extreme shock from the poison. Kes and Torres reach her. They FREEZE for a second in surprise. The creatures BACK AWAY defensively, continuing to make chittering/hissing noises.

22 CONTINUED: 22

TORRES

(to com)

Torres to Bridge!

Intruder alert! Deck Two, officer's mess.

RED ALERT sounds.

Torres moves forward GRABBING a pan off the counter and FLINGS it at the creatures. They scatter on the floor. Kes and a N.D. security crewman PULL Janeway out of the kitchen.

TORRES

(to security crewman)

PHASER!

The crewman tosses Torres his phaser. She turns and FIRES, missing the creatures, which are moving very FAST. Torres backs out of the kitchen, keeping the phaser in front of her and waving off the approaching crew.

TORRES

Get back!

CUT TO:

23 INT. MESS HALL

23

Torres ENTERS, backing up. Kes is kneeling, holding Janeway in her arms.

KES

(to com)

Transporter room! Medical Emergency. Lock onto my signal and transport two directly to Sickbay.

Kes and a barely conscious Janeway disappear in a transporter beam.

Other armed crewmembers have PHASERS drawn. Torres sees the creatures climbing up onto the counter. She FIRES again, missing.

All five SHIMMER and DISAPPEAR before the crew's eyes.

OFF Torres.

CUT TO:

24 INT. SICKBAY

24

Kes and Janeway materialize on the floor. The Doctor and a N.D. NURSE approach and lift Janeway onto the examination table.

Kes shows the wound to the Doctor. The captain's hand is bloodied, swollen and discolored.

KES

She was stung by a small alien life form.

The Doctor uses his TRICORDER to scan the injury. Kes MOVES to the medical supplies.

DOCTOR

Prepare ten cc's of anti-venom serum.

Kes hands him the hypospray, having anticipated that need. He injects it into Janeway as she GROANS. Terminal emergency signals sound from the tricorder.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

Her pulmonary and cardiovascular systems are collapsing. (beat) Thirty milligrams of lictrazine. Prepare the cardio simulators.

He activates the surgical ARC of the treatment bed. Kes MOVES to Janeway's head, ignoring the Doctor.

The Doctor stares at Kes in disbelief for an instant. The other nurse MOVES to assist, handing the Doctor the second hypospray.

CLOSE ON Janeway, then UP to Kes STARING down at her.

CUT TO:

25 INT. MESS HALL

25

Torres and the other ARMED crewmembers are SCANNING with tricorders, looking for the creatures. The com BEEPS.

TUVOK (V.O.)

Bridge to Torres, report.

25 CONTINUED:

25

TORRES

(to com)

There are five alien... "spiders" on board. One of them attacked the captain. She's in Sickbay. (beat) But they've disappeared.

TUVOK (V.O.)

Explain.

Torres is looking at her tricorder, not believing her eyes.

TORRES

They're gone. I can't find any trace of them. (pause) Wait...

Torres moves cautiously into the Kitchen. The other crewmembers cover her with their phasers.

25A KITCHEN.

25A

TORRES

(continuing)

I'm reading traces of alien DNA. Stand by.

Torres is led by her tricorder under the counter. She carefully PUSHES the containers out of the way, revealing the six PODS. Five are cracked open and are leaking a mucus membrane. One is still intact.

Neelix ENTERS. He moves towards the Kitchen.

NEELIX (flustered)

What's going on? What's happened here?...Where's Kes?

Neelix sees where Torres is looking and quickly approaches. Seeing the OPEN pods, he realizes that they were not what he thought...and that they have HATCHED.

NEELIX

Oh no...

OFF Neelix.

CUT TO:

26 INT. SICKBAY. CLOSE ON KES.

26

Kes is STARING intently at Janeway. She can hear the Doctor, but is not reacting to his words as he tries different treatments for poison. He is unable to stabilize the Janeway and she is close to death. Kes hears panic begin to enter the Doctor's voice as he activates a stasis field around Janeway.

As medicine fails again and again to stabilize Janeway, Kes suddenly REACHES out and puts both her hands on Janeway's forehead.

OFF Kes's FACE as she CLOSES her eyes.
CUT TO:

26A INT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE.(SUBCONSCIOUS/PSYCHIC
LANDSCAPE)

26A

Janeway is against a black background, looking confused. She slowly TURNS to face Kes. She RAISES her hand, reaching out to Kes. Suddenly, she is SUCKED down, soundlessly, INTO the black floor. Kes GRABS for her but misses. Janeway disappears down the hole.

OFF Kes.
CUT TO:

27 INT. SICKBAY

27

The Doctor notices Kes.

DOCTOR
Kes, what are you doing?

With eyes still CLOSED, she answers softly.
Her face shows the strain it is causing her to talk.

KES
I am attempting...to use my mental
abilities...to stabilize the
captain...(pause)...please continue...your
treatments, and monitor...my...progress.

Kes is breaking out in a SWEAT.
Before the Doctor can object, Kes goes INTO a
trance.

Chakotay ENTERS.

27 CONTINUED:

27

CHAKOTAY

Report Doctor.

DOCTOR

The poison is a deadly neurotoxin. It is attacking the captain's central nervous system causing disruption of her motor responses...including her cardiovascular functions.

The Doctor is moving to different controls as if monitoring something. Chakotay notices Kes.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

I have put her in a stasis field, but she will die the moment I release it...unless you have a sample of the alien's venom, so that I can make an antidote.

Chakotay moves to Kes's side, looking at her intently.

CLOSE ON KES.

CUT TO:

28 INT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE. BLANKSCAPE.

28

Kes sees the end of a GLOWING thread sliding into the hole where Janeway disappeared. Kes DIVES at it, grabbing hold of it. The glow of the thread increases as she holds it. The hole starts to seal up. Kes hesitates a second, then JUMPS down INTO the floor.

29 INT. SICKBAY

29

The Doctor is nodding while observing readings from a console.

DOCTOR

The captain's condition has stabilized, but her brain activity is drastically reduced and she is falling into a coma. Hopefully, Kes can...

Chakotay is looking intently at Kes.

29 CONTINUED:

29

CHAKOTAY

What is she doing?

Doctor turns to Chakotay.

DOCTOR

I don't know. (beat) But it seems to be working. A moment ago, the captain was dying, now she is stable...critical, but stable.

Both look at Kes.

30 INT. JEFFRIES TUBE, DECK TEN.

30

RED ALERT is still sounding.

TUVOK (V.O.)

This is a level-three security alert. Intruder alert. Security details to all decks...repeat... intruder alert.

Harry and Wildman are working on an open wall panel with tools spread out around them. They are very focused on their work. The com BEEPS in the tube.

TUVOK (V.O.)

Mister Kim, an estimate on your repair time.

KIM

(to com)

We're completing them now. You should have internal sensors online in a few minutes.

TUVOK

Speed is of the essence.

KIM

(to com)

Yes sir. Kim out.

WILDMAN

Sealing the plasma relay.

30 CONTINUED:

30

Wildman uses her tricorder to take a reading and NODS.

WILDMAN

(continuing)
Ready to reroute the flow.

Harry taps in a sequence on a wall console. The sound of POWER turning on fills the tube. Wildman takes another reading with her tricorder.

WILDMAN

No leakage... and the new conduit is holding steady within operational parameters.

Kim taps his combadge.

KIM

(to com)
Kim to Bridge. Repairs are complete.

TUVOK (V.O.)

Acknowledged.

KIM

(to Wildman)
Let's get out of here. I want to find out what's going on.

Wildman REPLACES the panel and Harry begins to gather the tools. A soft BANG and scuttle is heard behind them.

OFF Kim and Wildman looking at each other, then turning towards the sound...
CUT TO:

31 INT. BRIDGE

31

Tuvok, Paris and Chakotay are at their stations. Torres is at Harry's station. The console BEEPS and she begins to enter commands.

TORRES

Internal sensors back on line.
(pause) Scanning all decks for...

31 CONTINUED:

31

Torres stops and then enters the commands again.
Her face shows ALARM as the com BEEPS.

KIM (V.O.)
Emergency transport!

CUT TO:

32 INT. JEFFRIES TUBE, DECK 10

30

Wildman is behind Harry. Both are scrambling away
from CAMERA. They are SCARED and moving fast.

All five SPIDERS are closing in on them, chittering
and hissing. They are PHASING in and out of sight,
sometimes completely INVISIBLE.

KIM
(to com)
Get us out of here!

TORRES (V.O.)
(frantic)
You need to get out of the tube. We can't get
a lock on you.

Wildman and Harry QUICKLY scramble away, but the
spiders continue to CLOSE in. They reach the EXIT
of the tube and FALL out the floor ROLLING away from
the hatch.

Wildman and Harry are TRANSPORTED away just as the
spiders reach them.

OFF spiders, as they DISAPPEAR.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

33 EXT. SPACE. VOYAGER AT WARP. 33

34 INT. SICKBAY 34

RED ALERT CONTINUES.

Kes is still linked with Janeway.

There are N.D. security guards at the door.

The Doctor is finishes an exam of Harry and then
MOVES to Wildman.

DOCTOR

You both have some scrapes and minor
bruising...but other than a mild case of shock,
you're alright physically.

KIM

How is the captain?

The Doctor's LOOK speaks volumes about his doubts.

DOCTOR

I have tried every known treatment in the
Starfleet database. (beat) None of them have
proven effective.

(pause)

The poison itself has defied my initial
analysis. The results of the bio-molecular
scan should tell me more about what I am
dealing with.

The Doctor's voice is a bit on edge.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

I must admit to being at a loss as to what to
do...and even more in the dark on what Kes is
doing...or how she is doing it.

The com BEEPS.

34 CONTINUED:

34

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

All senior officers report to the Bridge.

KIM

Thanks, Doc.
(to Wildman)
Take care, Samantha.

Harry EXITS, escorted by one of the security guards.

DOCTOR

You'll be fine Ensign. My advice is to return
to your quarters, and relax.

Wildman looks a little shaken. She nods and EXITS,
escorted by the other guard.
The com BEEPS.

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

Doctor, could you join us on the bridge?

DOCTOR

(to com)
I'd rather not leave the captain
unattended...but my test results on the poison
are nearly complete.

The Doctor moves past Kes.

DOCTOR

(continuing)
I'll give you my report from here.

OFF Kes.

35 INT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE. BLANKSCAPE.

35

Kes is walking, following the GLOWING thread in
blackness. The thread passes through her hand as
she continues. A gray shape in front of her FORMS
into a TURBOLIFT door. It OPENS.

CUT TO:

36 INT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE. BRIDGE.

36

Kes enters onto the BRIDGE, empty of any crew. The regular ship sounds are absent and there is low, GOLDEN light. She follows the thread down to the CONN.

A low guttural growling is heard from in front of her.

KES

(startled)
Hello?...Who's there?

Her voice sounds HOLLOW. The echoes reverberate, and are answered by another GROWL, farther away this time.

The black view screen before her FADES into a scene of a HEDGE MAZE path. The thread leads INTO the screen and down the path.

Another growl is heard and the hedges SHAKE, as Kes moves forward and ENTERS the screen.

37 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

37

Chakotay, Paris, Torres, Harry and Tuvok are present.

The Doctor is reporting from the monitor.

DOCTOR

I have determined that the poison's molecular structure is out of phase with normal matter.

TORRES

An interphasic poison?
(dismayed)
If these spiders can generate interphasic fields naturally...
how are we going to detect them?

CHAKOTAY

How is this affecting the captain?

DOCTOR

The poison's polyphasic biomolecules are mimicking her neurotransmitters, such as serotonin and dopamine.
(MORE)

37 CONTINUED:

37

DOCTOR

(continuing)

As a result, they are binding to her neural cells and altering their molecular phase, thus disrupting normal activity.

PARIS

How is Kes helping the captain?

Kes is in the background. The Doctor looks back at her.

DOCTOR

She has linked her neural pathways to the captain's and is stimulating her neuroendocrine system.

(pause)

The captain's cells are producing more neurotransmitters than usual and this is blocking the poison's ability to bind to her neural receptors. (beat) At the moment, I am at a loss to report on a scientific level exactly how Kes is managing to do this.

TUVOK

Kes's control of her innate psycho-telekinetic abilities has been increasing exponentially. I believe she has the control to warrant her actions, though it is uncertain how much longer she can maintain the link.

DOCTOR

(nodding)

For now, the captain is out of danger, however her neural activity is unusually high on the subconscious level.

CHAKOTAY

What can you tell us about the creatures?

On the monitor, the Doctor is examining the unhatched POD.

DOCTOR

The exterior shell is similar to what is known as a "gall", a reproductive tactic used by certain species of Terran wasps.

PARIS

Those infested my favorite oak tree when I was growing up. (beat) The wasps won the argument.

DOCTOR

The host lays eggs in the bark of a tree and the chemicals on the shell cause the tree bark to swell into pod-like eggs that can resemble fruit. (beat)
I'll maintain an open channel while I begin dissecting the pod.

The Doctor turns to his work.
Chakotay turns his attention to Tuvok.

TUVOK

Security teams have been dispatched throughout the ship with short-range movement sensors, but report no further trace of the creatures.

CHAKOTAY

I want all off duty personnel to remain in their quarters with their force fields on to reduce the possibility of further casualties.

TUVOK

On your orders, Mister Neelix has been confined to quarters, under guard. He has requested numerous times to speak to you.

CHAKOTAY

He'll have to wait. Right now we need to find and deal with these creatures.

KIM

How are we going to "deal" with them.
Capture...or kill them?

TUVOK

Despite what they have done, I believe we
should avoid destroying them.

TORRES

They may not give us any choice. They're
extremely aggressive creatures that have just
hatched into a hostile environment.

PARIS

And since they hatched less than an hour ago,
you can bet they're hungry. (beat) I'd rather
not be their first meal.

KIM

Their natural cloaking ability is unlike anything
I've seen... but I'm running a cross check with
Federation xenobiologic files for anything similar.

CHAKOTAY

Alright, you and Torres work on any way to
detect them. (beat) Infrared sensors,
interphasic scanners...anything you can think
of. Coordinate your data with the Doctor.
(to Paris)

Mister Paris, how long will it take us to get
back to the planet at warp nine?

Paris calculates on a PADD.

PARIS

Three point one hours.

DOCTOR

(from monitor)
Commander.

(MORE)

DOCTOR

(continuing)

I have successfully opened the pod. The fetus is severely under-developed and I will need more time for a full speculative analysis.

(beat) I regret to inform you though, that the poison sacs have no venom. I am unable to create an antidote.

His tone becomes more serious.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

The captain's physical endurance has been depleted over the last few days from stimulants and exhaustion. Presently, her body doesn't have the reserve to heal itself properly.

(beat) The combination of the stasis field, and Kes's efforts, are just delaying the inevitable. Without an antidote, she will die.

Everyone reacts to the news with DREAD.

CHAKOTAY

Thank you, Doctor. We are setting a course back to the planet. Let's hope we can find more answers there.

(to everyone)

Dismissed.

Everyone EXITS.

38 INT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE. HEDGE MAZE.

38

Kes is walking calmly, following the thread. The path turns and opens to a surreal, softly lighted clearing with a SPINNING WHEEL in the center. The thread winds up to the wheel, which is rotating on its own.

The wheel is GLOWING with a golden light and has many other threads coming in and out of it, continuously going in different directions.

38 CONTINUED:

38

There are four exits to the clearing and each has its own stream of threads going in and out along its path.

Kes stops SHORT. Sitting off the side of the entrance, is a JAGUAR. It notices Kes with disinterest.

There are four large Victorian WINDOWS seemingly floating in air, set where walls should be. Each shows a different season "outside." Beside the one that is dark and raining is Janeway, LOOKING out at the rain. She is dressed in VICTORIAN outfit from her holo-adventures.

KES

Captain?

Janeway seems not to hear. Kes ENTERS the clearing. As she does, her appearance CHANGES. She is now dressed in similar Victorian fashion. Janeway TURNS, noticing her for the first time.

JANEWAY

Hello my dear. Won't you join me for tea?

Janeway gestures and a table APPEARS beside the spinning wheel in the center of the clearing. The table is set with fine china, with ample servings of tea and crumpets. There is a centerpiece of red roses.

Janeway moves to the table and pours them both a cup, humming to herself. Kes SITS.

KES

Captain. Where are we?

JANEWAY

(absently)

I'm not sure. I seem to be waiting for something...or someone.

KES

Are you waiting for me? I was calling out to you.

JANEWAY

Were you? I'm sorry...I didn't hear.

Janeway pauses, looking away from Kes, talking to herself.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

No...I was moving along the path in quite a hurry. Then I came upon this lovely clearing...I suddenly knew...I felt... that I had to wait...and then you were here.

The GROWLING sounds behind the hedges, nearer than before. Kes looks to the Jaguar, but it is napping peacefully.

KES

(anxiously to Janeway)

Do you know what that is?

Janeway gives her a confused look.

JANEWAY

What?

KES

That growling.

JANEWAY

I don't hear anything.

Kes looks around nervously. A lower growling is heard right behind the hedges off to the right. Kes STANDS and moves tentatively towards it.

KES

It's getting nearer. (beat)

You don't hear it at all?

Janeway ignores her, gazing at the spinning wheel, as if noticing it for the first time. It is SLOWING. Suddenly feeling dizzy, Janeway puts her hand to her forehead.

JANEWAY

Oh, my...

The Jaguar raises its head and looks at Janeway. It gets up, moving to and NUDGING Janeway.

The growling sounds again, but is much further away.

Janeway seems to shake off the dizziness and moves to the wheel. She takes up the SPINNING and her demeanor improves. The Jaguar moves off towards the path opposite from Kes.

Kes is looking around for answers. She touches the threads as they move off in different directions. They move through her fingers, leaving a glow on her.

Kes looks towards the Jaguar and is surprised to see Chakotay. She turns to the Janeway with an excited gasp, but Janeway does not see.

Kes glances back. Chakotay is gone.

KES

Where do the other paths lead?

Janeway seems not look at her.

JANEWAY

Please eat the crumpets dear or they'll just go to waste, otherwise.

Kes moves to the path where Chakotay was. She stops.

Down the path, the end of one thread is held by a little girl. Kes takes a tentative STEP towards her.

Kes cries out as her own foot begins to DISAPPEAR. She withdraws it quickly.

TOX

(off camera)

I don't advise wandering off just now.

Kes TURNS around. A thin, pale human female dressed in a BLACK VICTORIAN dress is having tea where Kes was sitting. She is casually tapping the roses one at a time with her forefinger.

Each one DIES as she touches it.

TOX

(continuing)

Things are just beginning to get interesting.

OFF Kes.

CUT TO:

N.D. security are standing guard in the halls. Chakotay is walking with Tuvok and two guards down the hall.

TUVOK

The first sweep of the ship has shown no evidence of the creatures' movements. However, we have located traces of their DNA near Cargo Bay Two.

CHAKOTAY

They may have been drawn to the higher temperature in Hydroponics. Post standing security details on both cargo bays.

TUVOK

They are already in place. We are ready to begin the second sweep.

Chakotay nods. They stop at an intersection.

CHAKOTAY

Carry on. I'll be in Sickbay.

They move off in different directions.

CUT TO:

Wildman has fallen asleep with a book in her lap. She STARTS awake and looks around, startled for a moment. Her baby's crib is in the shot. She gets up, putting the book down on the table beside her PHASER. She checks on her baby and smiles, seeing she is asleep. Sighing, she moves to her washroom basin.

She hears, while washing her face, the chittering sound. In her mirror, she sees one of the spiders appear behind her. Keeping her cool, she takes her brush, then SPINS, THROWING it at the spider and DIVING for her PHASER.

The other four APPEAR. They are surrounding her, PHASING in and out of the visual spectrum.

40 CONTINUED:

40

WILDMAN

(to com)

Security Alert! Deck Ten...

She FIRES, scattering the spiders. The phaser blast actually passes THROUGH them. She moves toward the crib, grabbing it defensively. Her baby WAKES. The spiders keep trying to approach her as she fires.

41 INT. VOYAGER HALLWAY. DECK TEN, NEAR TURBOLIFT.

41

Wildman's voice is broadcast over the speakers. Chakotay hears it.

WILDMAN (V.O.)

(continuing)

...crew quarters. Emergency!

Chakotay TURNS, running down the hall and DRAWING his phaser. Wildman's phaser firing can be heard over the com.

WILDMAN (V.O.)

HURRY!

Chakotay reaches her door. The door opens, but he is BLOCKED by a FORCE FIELD.

42 INT. WILDMAN'S QUARTERS

42

The creatures are scrambling away. They PHASE THROUGH the walls AND the force field.

CHAKOTAY

Computer, command override!

Deactivate force field!

The force field turns OFF and Chakotay ENTERS. All the spiders DISAPPEAR. Tuvok and two N.D. security guards ARRIVE behind Chakotay.

Wildman is standing holding her crying baby. She is frantically pointing her phaser around looking for the creatures, very SHAKEN. Chakotay stares at her.

OFF Wildman.

43 EXT. VOYAGER AT WARP

43

44 INT. SICKBAY

44

Wildman, holding her baby, and Chakotay ENTER with an armed escort. Wildman goes to the other TREATMENT ROOM and the guards flank the doorway.

Chakotay joins Tuvok and the Doctor. The Doctor is examining the dead fetus.

DOCTOR

The physiognomy is a strange mixture of obvious insect characteristics...but some distinctly mammalian ones as well.

TUVOK

Have you been able to determine how they generate their natural "cloaking" ability?

DOCTOR

This specimen is too underdeveloped to even begin to guess on the process... but such creatures are not without precedent. The wild predators of El Adrel Four...

CHAKOTAY

(interrupting)

Any further progress on how the poison is affecting the captain? Is there any more you can do?

The Doctor indicates an area on the dead fetus.

DOCTOR

The location of the spines on the creature's back suggest that the poison is protection against predators.

(MORE)

44 CONTINUED:

44

DOCTOR

(continuing)

Forensic evidence of the captain's wound indicate that she inflicted it herself when striking the creature. Given these observations, I am beginning to suspect these... "spiders"... are not inherently hostile.

TUVOK

(nodding)

The evidence has been overwhelming, but circumstantial. (beat) What is your analysis on Ensign Wildman's unique relationship to the creatures?

DOCTOR

Pheromones.

CHAKOTAY

Pardon me?

DOCTOR

I would have thought it was obvious. She picked the pods with her bare hands... her pheromone signature is on the shell. My analysis of the fetus indicates the beginnings of an advanced olfactory system.

TUVOK

Most newborns do imprint on some sort of stimulus. This is consistent with the creatures' pattern of behavior.

CHAKOTAY

Can her pheromones be shielded? (beat)... or duplicated?

DOCTOR

Both. All I need is a sample from the Ensign.

Chakotay is thoughtful.

CHAKOTAY

I have an idea.

He grins at the Doctor.

45 INT. WILDMAN'S QUARTERS IN SICKBAY.

45

Wildman is sitting in a chair. The crib is off to the side. Some of her belongings, including some FRUIT RATIONS, are here. She is finishing FEEDING her baby.

Chakotay approaches, passing the two guards. He knocks softly, slightly embarrassed. She looks up smiling and reaches for a PADD to deactivate the force field.

Chakotay ENTERS.

CHAKOTAY

Ensign...

(hesitatingly)

Samantha. How are you holding up?

Wildman gestures for him to sit down.

WILDMAN

(smiling)

The interphasic forcefield B'Elanna set up around this room is helping to calm my nerves. She even enabled it to dim, so I can have some privacy.

(looking at her baby)

The Doctor has given me a sedative so I can sleep after I've put her to bed.

Chakotay rubs his eyes. He is noticeably fatigued.

CHAKOTAY

That might be a good idea.

(beat) I'm envious. Right now I have enough stimulant in me to keep an elephant awake for days.

Wildman holds her baby close.

WILDMAN

Any ideas on how we're going to get rid of them?

45 CONTINUED:

45

CHAKOTAY

I have a plan that we would like to try...with your help.

WILDMAN

I'm not sure I'm up to another confrontation...

Wildman looks up and is slightly embarrassed. Standing, she puts her baby down in the crib.

WILDMAN

(continuing)

I know it goes against my training...but I have always been afraid of spiders. (pause)
As a scientist, I have studied them, dissected them...but I've never gotten used to being around them.

Chakotay smiles.

CHAKOTAY

Well, it's not against Starfleet regulations to be afraid of spiders.

Wildman gives Chakotay a steady look.

WILDMAN

The captain is going to die...(beat)...isn't she?

CHAKOTAY

(nodding)

Unless we can get a sample of the poison for an antidote soon.
(beat) Yes.

Wildman sighs in despair.

WILDMAN

...and Kes is...?

CHAKOTAY

We don't know exactly how she is doing it...but for the moment she is the only thing keeping the captain alive.

WILDMAN

She's very...important to you.
The captain, I mean.

Chakotay gives Wildman a thoughtful look.

CHAKOTAY

She's become a powerful teacher to me. As well
a dear, close friend. (beat) To me she's the
equivalent of the warrior chief...a greatly
respected leader.

WILDMAN

Your people were in the Demilitarized Zone,
near Cardassia. Did you ever get to Earth?

Chakotay nods and they both smile. Personal
admiration between them is apparent, but the
beginnings of a mutual attraction is causing the
conversation to become tedious. Both are becoming
uncomfortable.

WILDMAN

(continuing)
I grew up in Illinois, near the Cahokian
mounds. (sighs)
I spent whole days there.

CHAKOTAY

My brief visit focused on the Mayan people in
the Central American jungles.
(changing subject)
My father visited the Cahokian lands. He told
me a story...a legend of the Cherokee
people...of how fire was found. Have you heard
it?

Wildman shakes her head.

CHAKOTAY

On an island in the Tennessee River, fire
burned in the hollow of a tree struck by
lightning.
(MORE)

CHAKOTAY

(continuing)

The animals gathered and planned to secure the fire, but all the attempts by larger animals failed.

(pauses)

Then, the spider volunteered. She swam over to the island, and weaving a web basket, placed a small ember inside. She put the basket on her back and swam back to shore.

(pauses)

Her back has been marked by the burns ever since in various, brilliant colors.

Wildman is staring at Chakotay intently.

Smiling, he gets up, obviously still uncomfortable.

CHAKOTAY

You need to relax, and the stimulants are making me a little jumpy. (beat)

I'll check on you after you've slept.

WILDMAN

Thank you for looking in on me.

Chakotay smiles.

CHAKOTAY

I'll send the Doctor in and he can explain what we need.

WILDMAN

(softly)

Alright.

Chakotay hesitates for a moment as if to say more... then EXITS.

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

46 EXT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE. HEDGE MAZE CLEARING. 46

Janeway is sitting at the spinning wheel, not taking interest in either Tox or Kes. The sky is beginning to darken.

Kes watches as Tox kills the last of the ROSES. Standing, Tox places both of her hands on the table and it DISSOLVES.

KES

Who are you?

Tox wipes her hands. DUST flies off.

TOX

I am...what you are stopping. Very rude of you.

KES

What do you mean?

TOX

You and I are here...defined within the confines of Kathryn's subconscious...for similar reasons. To do a job.

She POINTS a finger at Kes.

TOX

(continuing)
And you have been keeping me from my objective.
(beat) But since you have no idea what I'm talking about...I can continue. (beat)
How wonderful.

Tox walks towards Janeway with a spring in her step.

TOX

Kathryn, dear. Its time for your afternoon walk. Aren't you getting tired of all...this... work?

46 CONTINUED:

46

Tox deliberately avoids getting near the spinning wheel. Janeway looks up with a smile.

JANEWAY

Actually, yes. And a walk sounds quite wonderful.

Janeway gets off the spinning wheel.

KES

Captain, wait...

Tox turns and WAVES her hand at Kes, causing severe PAIN that DROPS Kes in her tracks. Tox moves to walk with Janeway, but does not touch her.

TOX

(smiling)

Splendid, I know just the place for a nice...long...nap.

The growling sound is heard off in the distance and Tox looks BACK, slightly nervous. The WIND starts to pick up. Tox and Janeway move towards the path opposite the way Kes entered.

Kes recovers slowly. She looks around as the lights DIM, the WIND increases and the GROWLING gets louder. Seeing that the wheel is slowing, she gets up and goes to it. Taking Janeway's place, she begins spinning.

As soon as she does, the turmoil subsides. Looking down the path, she sees that Janeway and Tox are going around a corner, out of sight.

KES

Captain!...Captain, come back...

CUT TO:

N.D. crewmembers are busily moving about. Torres and Harry are working on numerous consoles. The com BEEPS.

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

Chakotay to Engineering.

Harry and Torres look at each other. Harry nods, confirming that he is done.

TORRES

We're ready on this end, Commander. Just give the word.

CUT TO:

48 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE WILDMAN'S QUARTERS.

48

Chakotay, Wildman and Paris are walking down the hall.

CHAKOTAY

(to com)

Stand by. Chakotay out.

Chakotay turns to Wildman as they stop in front of her quarters.

CHAKOTAY

(continuing)

Both teams will stay in constant contact. Leave your com signal open.

Wildman nods.

CHAKOTAY

(continuing)

Alert us if you even suspect that they are near. We'll be close by.

WILDMAN

Understood.

She turns and ENTERS the room. Chakotay and Paris move off together and ENTER a room across the hall.

CUT TO:

49 INT. EMPTY CREW QUARTERS

49

Chakotay and Paris ENTER.

CHAKOTAY

(to com)

Chakotay to Tuvok. We're in place.

TUVOK (V.O.)

Acknowledged.

PARIS

Do you really think this will work?

CHAKOTAY

I hope so. I don't know what alternatives are left to us.

(beat) For all our technologies we're helpless...shows us how much we depend on them. I don't know about you, but I'm feeling like a hunted animal.

(pause)

Samantha is scared half to death.

Something in Chakotay's voice prompts Paris.

PARIS

Chakotay, if I didn't know better, I would suspect you have more than a professional interest in our imperiled Ensign.

Chakotay almost retorts. Then thinks the better of it. As if coming to a decision, he nods.

CHAKOTAY

I'm not sure what to do about it. Given the ship's situation...and her being married...

(pause)

As her commanding officer, I'm obligated to be objective, and as a friend...supportive.

(beat) I'm feeling guilty for emotions I'm not even sure I'm really having. (pause) They may be rooted in some...protective instinct.

PARIS

Either way, you might want to find out what she thinks...and feels. (beat) Let's face it Chakotay, we've been stuck out in the Delta Quadrant for three years. Yes...we all hope to get home in our lifetimes...but the odds are that we won't.

CHAKOTAY

I know. I've thought about it. Probably more than I should. And I've been wondering...and imagining...about possibilities that only a few years ago seemed unattainable.

PARIS

If you think that Samantha might feel similarly and you're sure of your feelings...I'd advise you to talk to her...or you'll never know.
(smiling)
Having similar experiences of late, I sympathize.

Chakotay smiles knowingly.

CHAKOTAY

Thanks.

Paris moves to get comfortable.

PARIS

So...how long do we wait?

OFF Chakotay's smirk.

50 EXT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE. HEDGE MAZE.

50

Tox and Janeway are out of sight. Kes is spinning the wheel FRANTICALLY. The growling suddenly becomes roar. Kes looks to the horizon, the way she came. A fire is ENGULFING the horizon, coming her way.

50 CONTINUED:

50

She averts her eyes from the horizon and FOCUSES on the wheel. Slowly, the wheel increases speed as she stops her physical efforts.

KES

(softly)

Focus on the goal...not the task.

The wheel begins to spin completely on its own and INCREASES speed. Not taking her eyes off the wheel, she steps off it. The wheel spins faster, the light in the sky increases and the wind slows.

Kes starts after Janeway and Tox. She TURNS as a large thrashing NOISE sounds from behind her.

51 NEW ANGLE. POINT OF VIEW.

51

POINT OF VIEW is at a distance looking down the path at Kes. (SFX: fiery halo around edges of CAMERA.)

Suddenly P.O.V. approaches Kes QUICKLY. She turns and runs away. POINT OF VIEW stops in the clearing and looks around, focusing on the spinning wheel.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE. SEASHORE.

52

Kes comes running out the of hedge maze onto the SEASCAPE seen Janeway's past visions. Kes stops, looking around quickly. She sees Janeway walking towards the sea, with Tox leading her on. She runs towards them.

KES

Captain!...Captain! Stop!

Janeway does not hear her cries, Tox looks back, smiling snidely. Janeway's feet reach the surf.

Realizing she is too far away, Kes stops and STARES at Janeway. Focusing, she REACHES out with her MIND.

KES

(soft, but firmly)

STOP!

52 CONTINUED:

52

Janeway HALTS. Tox looks at her, then back at Kes.

TOX

NO!

Kes is now running towards them.
Tox APPEARS in front of her.

TOX

(angry)
Let her go!

Tox begins to GLOW with a blue NIMBUS of power and moves menacingly towards Kes.
CUT TO:

53 WILDMAN'S QUARTERS

53

Wildman is sitting alone, reading a book, looking bored.
Suddenly she SLAMS the book closed, putting it on the table. She speaks in an agitated tone.

WILDMAN

(to com)
Commander Chakotay. How much longer are we going to continue this charade?

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

Seems like our trap is not going to work after all.

Wildman harumphs and stands. Her image FADES, replaced by the DOCTOR. The clothing he is wearing does not fit him. He shuffles uncomfortably.

DOCTOR

I never thought it would.

OFF Doctor as he EXITS.
CUT TO:

54 OUTSIDE WILDMAN'S QUARTERS IN SICK BAY.

54

The guards are positioned outside the treatment room. The LIGHTS and SHIELD are DIMMED for privacy.

CUT TO:

55 INSIDE WILDMAN'S QUARTERS IN SICK BAY.

55

The room is very dimly lit. The baby is asleep.
Wildman is sleeping on the bed. She is in sleeping
garb and WEARING her combadge.

On the ceiling of the room, the five spiders APPEAR,
clustered together. They never left Wildman's side.
They are half phased and seem agitated.

As they MOVE we...

FADE OUT:

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

56 INT. SICKBAY

56

The Doctor, Chakotay, and Tuvok ENTER. The Doctor moves to the dissection tray. The N.D. Nurse is monitoring Janeway and Kes.

DOCTOR

(to Chakotay)

Your plan was not without merit. Using the ensign's uniform with her pheromone signature was an ideal choice to bait your inter-phasic mouse trap.

The Doctor reviews some readings on a console. He nods.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

However, further speculative analysis of the fetus has indicated the probability of advanced neural capacity. (beat)
They may actually have the capacity to be sentient.

TUVOK

(agrees)

Their reactions towards conflict have not followed patterns consistent with established animal behavior.

CHAKOTAY

Could they have the capacity to pass on experiences, and memory from mother to offspring?

DOCTOR

It is certainly possible. They are obviously much more resourceful than we've been giving them credit for.

The Doctor nods and moves to Kes and Janeway. Chakotay turns to Tuvok.

56 CONTINUED:

56

CHAKOTAY

Any progress on the search?

TUVOK

None as yet. The second sweep is almost complete.

CHAKOTAY

Keep me informed. I'm going to look in on Wildman. Then I'll join the team on Deck Three.

Tuvok nods and EXITS.

Chakotay moves towards the doorway, nodding to the two guards. He works the CONSOLE and the SHIELD lightens to reveal inside.

The entire glass wall and doorway are COVERED with an opaque WEBBING. The interior view is obstructed. Chakotay is STUNNED.

Both guards and Chakotay react, drawing PHASERS.

CHAKOTAY

(taps his combadge)

Samantha! Come in...Samantha!

The guards lower the forcefield and begin POUNDING on the webs. They are very SOLID.

CUT TO:

57 INT. WILDMAN'S QUARTERS IN SICKBAY

57

Wildman stirs as if coming out of a deep sleep and she wakes VERY groggy. She hears the muffled pounding and yelling. Turning, she sees that the webbing covers the ENTIRE room.

She STARTS awake, reaching for her combadge. It is GONE. Looking for her PHASER, she sees it beside her covered with the same WEBS. She HEARS a sucking sound. She turns slowly, seeing the outline of the fruit rations on the table.

WILDMAN

Lights.

57 CONTINUED:

57

As the lights rise in intensity, she sees that the fruit has been drained of all liquid. One of the spiders is beside the bowl, using its fangs to SUCK out the juices of the last piece of fruit.

OFF Wildman.

58 EXT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE. SEA SHORE.

58

Tox moves in on Kes.

TOX

I said...Let her go!

KES

No. I won't. Stand aside.

Kes steps closer. Tox waves her hand in attack again. Kes reacts as if struck.

TOX

Keep back...I am here for her...not you.

Kes shakes off the blow and RECOVERS. More determined, she moves in.

KES

You can't have her.

Tox BLOCKS her way and GRABS Kes by the shoulders, grinning maniacally.

Kes GASPS and falls to her knees. A gray aura of death begins to spread over her. Kes SCREAMS, looking up at Tox. Slowly, she fights to gather her WILL against Tox's attack. The grayness begins to flow off of her.

Tox stares in DISBELIEF as Kes STANDS.

TOX

Stop...what are you doing? You can't...

KES

You have...no power over me... other...than that I have given you...myself.

58 CONTINUED:

58

Kes closes her eyes, RAISES her hands slowly, then suddenly GRABS Tox. Tox REACTS in pain. Fire IGNITES from Kes's hands, as she OPENS her eyes.

KES

This is not your place...it is not mine.
Kathryn makes the rules here...this is her
mind...her spirit.

Kes stares relentlessly at Tox as she struggles to break free of Kes's grip. A bright fire SPREADS over Tox.

TOX

You cannot stop me...I will take her...I am
everywhere in her. She is mine.

Kes stares relentlessly and stands firm.

KES

Not yet.

The fire ENGULFS Tox AND Kes. Tox MELTS into the sand SCREAMING, while Kes watches undaunted. She STARES at the sand as the last of Tox melts away.

Suddenly the GROWLING is heard from behind Kes. She turns to look behind her. The BURNING horizon is moving closer, very fast. Kes RUNS towards Janeway.

59 INT. WILDMAN'S QUARTERS IN SICKBAY

59

Wildman slowly get off the bed and moves toward the WALL CONSOLE. The spider on the table looks at her and CHIRPS. The com BEEPS as she reactivates it.

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

...Samantha! Can you hear me?

Her voice is steady, but fearful.

WILDMAN

I'm here Chakotay. (beat)
I seem to have some visitors.

59 CONTINUED:

59

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

We can't get a lock on either of you...the web's molecular structure is blocking the transporter signal.

At the mention of her baby, she turns away from the spider on the table towards her crib.

WILDMAN

I'm alright. They're not making any threatening movements. (beat) If they wanted to harm me, I'd be dead already.

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

Kim's working on modulating the transporter signal. Hold on...we're going to cut through with our phasers...

Wildman slowly moves to the crib. To her horror, the other four spiders are CURLED up near her baby.

Wildman makes a soft, whimpering sound of dread and fear.

WILDMAN

Chakotay...don't...don't do anything to aggravate them. Please...

Looking closer, Wildman sees that both the spiders and the baby are SLEEPING peacefully.

WILDMAN

They are all in here.
But...I think it would be... advisable...not to excite them.

She reaches in SLOWLY for her baby, and takes her GENTLY out. The biggest spider in the crib has her combadge. Stirring, the spider looks AT her making a calm, chittering noise. The others begin to wake.

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

Hold on. Help is on the way.

The Doctor MATERIALIZES off to the side.

DOCTOR

Ensign...don't make any sudden moves.

Wildman has her baby and is backing off. The spiders begin moving out of the crib towards her.

WILDMAN

No promises. (beat) They've ...imprinted on me...haven't they?

DOCTOR

Yes... I'm afraid they have.

The spiders are ignoring the Doctor. He Looks at the fruit bowl and then to the medical counter.

DOCTOR

Lieutenant Tuvok has reported that his security teams have found small parts of the food stores similarly drained.

He picks up a small sample dish and medical tool. He moves to Wildman's side.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

They seem to be vegetarians.

Nodding, the Doctor moves towards the spiders, who are moving towards Wildman tentatively, ignoring him.

DOCTOR

I seem to be non-existent to their...extraordinary senses.

The Doctor bends down to one of the spiders.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

We have reached the planet.
The commander is preparing a shuttle...to return the spiders to the surface.

The Doctor slowly and cautiously scrapes one of the spines of the biggest spider with his tool, gathering a sample of the venom.

DOCTOR

There. (pause) Now all I have to do is get it out of here.

Wildman looks at the Doctor. She realizes that her ordeal is not over. She puts her baby down in the crib.

The spiders move to accommodate her, dotting at her feet.

WILDMAN

Take care of my baby.

DOCTOR

Of course.

Wildman moves to the center of the room and SITS on the floor.

The spiders approach her.

CUT TO:

60 INT. SICKBAY

60

Tuvok ENTERS and joins his security team at the webbed entrance. The com BEEPS.

KIM (V.O.)

Kim to Sickbay. We've modulated the transporter signal and have penetrated the spiders' webbing. I have a clear lock on all of them.

TUVOK

(to com)

Stand by.

(to com)

Commander, are you prepared?

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

I'm on board the shuttle.

TUVOK

(to com)

Ensign Wildman, prepare for transport.

CUT TO:

61 INT. WILDMAN'S QUARTERS IN SICKBAY

61

The Doctor watches in admiration as Wildman resists her instinctual fear and allows the spiders to move ONTO her. She closes her eyes...breathes in, then out.

WILDMAN

Energize.

She dematerializes with the spiders.
CUT TO:

62 INT. SHUTTLE

62

Chakotay is at the helm making adjustments on the consoles. A containment forcefield ACTIVATES between him and the rear of the shuttle.

Wildman BEAMS in...with the spiders ON HER.

CHAKOTAY

Hold on Samantha. We're on our way.

Wildman nods, smiling faintly. The spiders are trilling softly and are barely moving.

Chakotay launches.
CUT TO:

63 EXT. JANEWAY MINDSCAPE. SEASHORE.

63

The horizon is almost completely engulfed by the flame. Kes reaches Janeway and MOVES in front of her. Both their feet are being lapped by the waves. Kes SHAKES her.

KES

Captain!...Look at me.

Janeway does not react. Kes SLAPS her.

KES

KATHRYN!

Janeway SNAPS out of it. She looks around smiling at Kes and the scenery. Her speech is dreamy and broken.

63 CONTINUED:

63

JANEWAY

Oh...I remember this place. What a wonderful choice for a rest...

I think I would like a swim.

Janeway starts to take a step forward. Kes stops her.

KES

Kathryn. No.

The horizon suddenly goes black, leaving only a single ball of FIRE that approaches them both.

KES

You must turn back.

JANEWAY

But there's nothing there...

Janeway glances back. The fire gathers into a BALL and approaches. It is the source of the GROWLING. The fire forms into a DRAGON. Seeing this, Janeway averts her eyes in fear.

JANEWAY

N...no...I wanted...

The fiery Dragon CHANGES into Janeway in her captain's uniform. Janeway looks at it in wonder.

JANEWAY

I know her.

KES

Yes...go to her.

JANEWAY

...where has she been?

KES

She was being kept from you. She is your life...(pause)

...she is your will to live.

Janeway approaches and the fiery Janeway spreads her arms in welcome. They embrace and the fire engulfs them both.

KES closes her eyes, smiling as the fire spreads over her.

CUT TO:

64 INT. SICKBAY

64

Tuvok and the security officers cut through the webbing with their phasers, releasing the Doctor.

Moving to Janeway, he QUICKLY and DECISIVELY analyses the venom. With precise motion, he DEVELOPS the antidote, moves to Janeway, and INJECTS her.

Kes GASPS as if gulping for air and her eyes SNAP open. Her hands move away from Janeway's head. Looking around in a daze, she FAINTS. Tuvok moves to catch her.

The Doctor monitors Janeway's condition.

DOCTOR

The captain's vital signs are stabilizing.
(beat) The antidote is taking affect.

The Doctor moves to examine Kes.

65 EXT: TROPICAL FOREST. DAYTIME. 65

The shuttle has landed and the rear hatch is opening.
Wildman emerges with the spiders on her. Chakotay remains in the shuttle.

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

Move towards the tree where you took the samples.

WILDMAN

(to com)
Alright...then what?

CHAKOTAY (V.O.)

Call it a hunch...hopefully they'll recognize this as home.

Wildman moves slowly to the tree and Chakotay EXITS the shuttle. Keeping his distance, he follows her.

As she gets closer to the forest's edge, the same trilling and chittering is heard and gets NEARER. Something large moves within the brush ahead of her. Suddenly, a deeper, LARGER trilling sound is heard. As if responding, the spiders JUMP off Wildman and skitter happily away, towards the jungle.

65 CONTINUED:

65

Wildman backs up as Chakotay joins her, putting an arm around her to support her.

The spiders suddenly start CLIMBING up a seemingly invisible tree. The area suddenly shimmers and materializes into the LEG of a HUGE MOTHER SPIDER.

WILDMAN

Oh my...

CHAKOTAY

Back away slowly.

They both back up to the shuttle, not taking their eyes off the spider. Many other young can be seen on the mother's back. The other five soon join them. The trilling sounds happy.

The EYES of the mother seem to follow Wildman and Chakotay for a moment...then she SHIMMERS, disappearing. Leaving a wake of movement, she turns and walks away into the jungle.

OFF Wildman and Chakotay.

66 EXT. VOYAGER STOCK (AT WARP)

66

67 INT. JANEWAY'S QUARTERS

67

The Doctor is finishing his exam of a bedridden Janeway. She is sitting up. She looks tired and gaunt, but aware. There is a PADD beside her. Kes is sitting beside her, holding her hand.

The Doctor packs up his MEDKIT.

DOCTOR

You vital signs are back to normal. Considering what your body has undergone, you are very lucky to be alive.

JANEWAY

Thank you, Doctor.

Chakotay ENTERS and is carrying a tray of food. The Doctor looks at Chakotay with slight irritation.

67 CONTINUED:

67

DOCTOR

The commander has insisted on briefing you.
(beat) I'll look in on you in eight hours.

Doctor EXITS.

CHAKOTAY

Kes, would you excuse us? (pause) I won't take
too long, Captain.

Kes and Janeway look at each other in mutual
understanding,

KES

I'll drop by after you've rested, Kathryn.

Kes EXITS.

CHAKOTAY

(indicating the tray)

For later.

(beat)

From what little Kes has been able to tell us,
it seems that you both had an experience
equivalent to the shaman's journey...a vision
quest.

JANEWAY

I don't remember much,...Kes and I are going to
work together to reconstruct the experience.

(pause)

But...I felt you there, in my mind...and I
believe I was revisited by the animal guide
that you introduced me to last year...It's
grown up quite a bit.

Janeway notices his unease.

JANEWAY

Chakotay...talk to me.

CHAKOTAY

...I don't know where to begin.
(pause) It is good to see you up and
about...(beat)
I thought I was going to lose you.

Janeway smiles wanly, putting his personal conversation aside for the moment, she turns to business.

JANEWAY

I'm just glad to be here.
(holding up the PADD)
I've only been able to scan part of your report. It seems that I missed a great deal.
(pause) What's the status of repairs?

CHAKOTAY

Warp power is fully operational. Repair crews are back on schedule and we're on course for home.

Chakotay moves to the WINDOW, looking out at the STARSCAPE.

CHAKOTAY

(continuing)
I'm amending my report. I want to award Ensign Wildman a commendation for bravery.
(pauses, then sighs)
And Neelix...he broke our rules...again.
(beat)
But...I have been reminded by Tuvok that neither Neelix, or Kes, have had the full benefit of Starfleet Academy training. With Tuvok's help, and your approval, I want to develop a full schedule for both of them...to eventually achieve academy graduate status.

JANEWAY

Good. Do they both agree?

CHAKOTAY

(nodding)

Neelix is being punished enough with the guilt of nearly killing you. Kes is very eager to begin.

JANEWAY

They pasted from being passengers to crew a long time ago.

See to it.

(lifting the PADD)

Good work Commander.

Chakotay nods and turns to leave.
He stops and turns back.

CHAKOTAY

Permission to speak...candidly, Captain.

JANEWAY

At ease, Chakotay...what is it?

CHAKOTAY

I don't know where this is leading...but I wanted you to know that I am considering pursuing a...non-professional relationship with...Samantha.

Janeway says nothing, but her look betrays mixed feelings.

CHAKOTAY

I thought you should know.

JANEWAY

(obviously tired)

Thank you for telling me. We can talk more later. Good night.

Chakotay EXITS.

Janeway closes her eyes for a moment lost in thought. She gathers her strength and GETS UP. She moves slowly to her DRESSER. Opening it, she removes her own MEDICINE BUNDLE.

She sits down facing the STARS and OPENS the bundle, ritualistically placing the contents out on the floor.

Closing her eyes, she begins humming, and then starts to chant.

JANEWAY

Grandmother Spiderwoman, Arachnie...Grandmother Spiderwoman, Arachnie.

Join us together, teach us to be free...Join us together, teach us to be free...

As she chants we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END