

Episode 1.10

Home Sweet Holodeck

Engineering:

B'Elanna stepped out of the lift besides the warp core and headed towards one of the panels surrounding it. Immediately she spotted something out of place about it; a small envelope sitting on top of it. Her name was hand written onto its front. The hand writing was more than familiar to her.

With a smile she slid her finger through the envelope to open it. Inside was a small piece of paper. While she read through it, tears began to build up. The last line read, "B'Elanna, will you marry me?"

Also inside the envelope was a beautiful ring with a small diamond on it, it was the same colour as the warp core.

Little did B'Elanna know, the whole Engineering crew were watching her. She heard someone walk up behind her and place a hand on her shoulder. She turned to face him.

"Well, what's your answer?" Tom asked with a smile.

"Of course I will," B'Elanna answered. Tom took the ring out of the envelope and he gently placed it on B'Elanna's finger. The whole of Engineering cheered as the two hugged one another.

Captain's Log Stardate five, season five except it's not in this series, three made up numbers, point another made up number.

"Wow, try saying that ten times fast," an unknown male voice remarked.

Maybe you should try dying ten times fast unknown prick. Anyway... oh fine. 52 uh, 47 as you nit pickers love that, 4.7. Ah ha. The news of Tom and B'Elanna's engagement has spread quickly among the crew. We've decided to celebrate in the only Tom program that hasn't been hacked, which is a shame cos I could do with a good laugh. Hey you're lucky we're acknowledging this and not only having a wedding on some lame clone version of the crew. This is why everyone hates original Voyager. Suck it.

B'Elanna stared at the Captain who immediately downed a coffee from a see through glass cup with a look of bemusement.

"The only reason people hated the original series was because it wasn't about a space station and religious nuts making the captain a god," the engineer then said.

"No, it was cos our Captain is a psychotic fruit loop," Tom chuckled.

Kathryn didn't react to that, she was too busy shoving some random Ensign into the nearby pool. Lucky the safeties were on. She smiled sweetly at the newly engaged couple afterwards.

Harry looked on with a worried look on his face. Like almost everyone else there he held a champagne glass in a toast pose. His throat cleared. "As I was saying," he dared to say. "No one expected that the first wedding on Voyager would be for Tom and, well, anyone." He paused for laughs, the most he got was a cough from the far back. "But here we are anyway, and I couldn't be hap..."

"Crap, I didn't mention anything about the ship in that log. Italics voice, italics voice," Kathryn butted in. "Captain... no. *Captain's, there I got it. Captain's Log Supplemental.*"

Harry pouted angrily at the second interruption of his *great* speech. He raised his glass up a little anyway, "to Tom and B'Elanna."

Everyone else but Kathryn did the same thing and gave the couple a rousing applause. Chakotay gave Tom a pat on the back, "to Tom probably not surviving the honeymoon." This remark triggered a louder applause than the last, leaving the pilot pouting a little.

"There's a moon made of honey?" Kiara innocently asked.

Chakotay smirked at her, then he noticed that she was holding a champagne glass too so he quickly grabbed it out of her hands. "Who gave her this?"

Harry shrugged. "The narration did say everyone had a glass. Poor writing screws us all over."

"I know, I only clapped at the Tom honeymoon line," James commented.

Tom mockingly laughed his way. "At least I get lai..." He caught B'Elanna scowling at him. "Loved by a beautiful woman. We're still engaged right?" he whispered the last line to her.

Chakotay groaned into his spare hand, "it was almost everyone, sheesh. I suppose that does leave it open for abuse." His ear suddenly started stretching, he wasn't shocked by it though. "Oh, you're done with your Italics voice?"

Kathryn stopped pulling his ear to growl at him. As sudden as it started, she let go and smiled politely. Chakotay wasn't sure if that was better or not. "Yes, yes I am. Are you done with stealing our daughter's juice?"

Chakotay glanced down at his pouting daughter, then at the glass in his hand. Now that she had brought it to his attention he could see the difference between that glass and his own. Quickly he lowered the glass back to the little girl.

Harry edged away before anything could happen to him, towards the *happy* couple.

"But... I'm always the one who gets blamed. He started it," Tom was busy complaining.

B'Elanna luckily started giggling, the scowl was ancient history. "Oh like the time he started the sitting there, taking in your insults. That was rude."

"You're supposed to be on my side," Tom moaned. He leaned in close to whisper, "I know it is him who messes with my programs. First my Captain Proton jet pack caught fire, then the car with the mind of its own..."

Meanwhile two of the resort waitresses wearing hula skirts and bikini tops walked over to the group, each with forced grins on their faces. They raised their flower necklaces up, filled mostly with roses. "Is Mr Paris here, he's our one hundredth..."

Jessie shushed them both, then shoved them roughly to one side. "Later!" she whispered harshly.

James laughed before taking a sip of his drink.

"Did I tell you what he did to my old Warp Ten program?" Tom whispered to B'Elanna.

"Couldn't be worse than transforming you into a lizard, flyboy," B'Elanna teased.

The whole holodeck shook violently.

Before Kathryn could tap her commbadge, an unknown male voice rang over the comm. "*Bridge to Janeway.*"

"What is it?" Kathryn replied.

"*We have a guest, Captain. I think you should come quickly.*"

"We're on our way, computer end program," Chakotay said.

The scenery disappeared and was replaced with the hologrid. Everyone quickly hurried outside. As soon as the doors closed the program reactivated.

The Bridge:

Everyone emerged from the Turbolift and they immediately saw why they were summoned.

"Nice to see you all again, how about a nice big group hug?"

"Q, what the hell are you doing here?" Tom asked.

The all too familiar chirpy smile of Q spread across his face. "Don't be so rude, Tommy, I was just hoping to visit you lovely people. You know I prefer you far more than the Enterprise crew."

"Why don't you visit them now?" James suggested.

"Well Mr Blondy, the new as long as Voyager warpdrives Enterprise, freaks me out. I prefer Intrepid Voyager," Q replied.

Tom chuckled and his eyes sparkled at the image, "sweet." B'Elanna passed him a smile.

"How flattering, now go away," Chakotay said.

James meanwhile was pulling a face and mouthing the word *blondy* a couple of times. Jessie spotted that and hid a laugh behind her hand.

"As long as Voyager warpdrives Enterprise?" Harry said slowly.

"Trust me, you'll see it for yourselves in a few years," Q said. Unknown to him that sentence made Kathryn's blood start to boil.

"How many years exactly?" Craig asked. Unfortunately for him he was close enough to Kathryn to receive a slap across the head. He didn't even dare look at her after that, he scampered off to the other side of the Bridge.

"Don't get excited fake blond, I'm just playing," Q teased.

Kathryn rolled her eyes, "I really hope you're not here for a second kid."

"Hardly," Q scoffed briefly before smirking again. "One's enough."

"So what are you doing here, except for ruining our engagement party?" Tom grumbled.

Q glanced at B'Elanna on one side, then Harry on his other. "Nah, too easy." Naturally the two men turned bright red and most of the bridge laughed. "Let me guess; hot rods, overcompensating for something games, hot babes wandering around to also overcompensate..."

"Not that I don't enjoy Tom bashing, but the ship did tremble before we were called here. Was that you or is something else going on?" Chakotay questioned.

"Ah, need to know," Q smirked while looking towards Kathryn. "An inspection of your holodecks is in order. Be right back." With that he disappeared before anyone could argue.

"Overcompensate for what?" Tom asked angrily.

James shook his head, "don't worry about it. As long as you're getting la-oved by a woman, it's all good."

Jessie and Harry both snorted into laughter, Craig didn't get it in the first second but when he did he joined in.

Tom stared at them all in dismay, then he noticed B'Elanna smiling too. "Oh come on. James is the one making gay jokes at me, him. Really?"

"Nobody said gay. Only you're going there," James said.

Tom grumbled a few swear words under his breath as he headed for the helm.

Kathryn pulled a face between the two of them. "What the hell is la-oved? Do I want to know?" She shook her head. "Don't answer that. Q!"

A white flash of light appeared right beside her, Q appeared in its place once it faded away. "Miss me already?" he purred.

"No. Tell us why you came here," Kathryn growled.

Q's shoulders slumped, he sighed irritably. "You wound me Kathy, don't you trust me? I was going to eventually. I just wanted to make sure of it first."

"Then maybe you don't appear on the Bridge first," Jessie suggested.

"You're going to nit pick that of all things? This is gonna be good," Q sniggered. "Shall we get a room, Kath?"

"I'll get you a punch in a minute," Kathryn grumbled. "My crew should know too, I'd end up telling them anyway."

"Very well," Q groaned. He clicked his fingers. The senior staff members disappeared and then reappeared in the Conference Room, along with the others who were missing. "This isn't going to be easy to explain, but don't blame me if you can't keep up."

"Just get on with it Q," Chakotay said.

Q made his way around the table with his hands clasped behind his back. "A few centuries ago three Q's, inspired by our good friend Quinn." A knowing glance in Kathryn's direction made her roll her eyes. "Attempted to take over the Continuum in a bid to change our people's ways. They were destructive, relentless."

B'Elanna sat down in the nearest chair with a heavy sigh. A few others thought that was a good idea and did the same.

"The Continuum agreed that the best course of action was to exile them, limit their powers," Q continued.

"Why not all of their powers?" Harry questioned.

Q smiled bitterly, "that was a matter that divided us all. Several members thought their crimes were not severe enough. They had to re-learn what it meant to be a Q and they wouldn't be able to if they were completely mortal. Etcetera."

"Yet they did it to you," Kathryn reminded him.

"Water under the bridge," Q muttered through gritted teeth. He instantly perked up. "Nevertheless, one Q did not learn his lesson. At least not quickly. This is where you come in."

B'Elanna's lips curled slightly. "Yes, what does a renegade Q have to do with our Holodeck?"

Still in his power walk around the Conference Room, Q stopped to double back her way. He stopped directly behind her. "Someone's paying attention."

Chakotay couldn't help but roll his eyes. "We're all paying attention."

"Speak for yourself," Jessie said in a bored voice, muffled behind her hand.

Q just smiled. "Like me, this Q encountered Humans and developed an interest in them. However unlike me, he kept his first impression. He attempted to destroy them. The Humans fought back."

"What does this have to do with a Holodeck?" Tom asked.

"Mr one track mind strikes again," Kathryn grunted, shutting him up for the time being.

"With his limited powers and knowledge of the Humans, they were able to trick him. He believed he was causing nothing but misery for them, instead he was living in a fantasy. By the time he knew that, it was too late. With a little... encouragement," he said the last word with another smirk.

"I swear, I've heard this plot before," Tom mused aloud, with his knuckles pressed against his chin. He missed Kathryn walk over but didn't miss the sudden punch in the nose.

As if nothing happened, Q continued telling his story. "He and his fantasy were cast into subspace, undisturbed, until now."

Harry frowned with a curious sparkle in his eyes. "Are you suggesting that we've somehow *woken him up* on our Holodeck?"

Q appeared to be impressed, but it just made him look more patronising than usual. It showed in his voice too, "that's exactly what I'm saying. Voyager crossed his path, so to speak, and the two holographic worlds have collided."

"Oh, so this must be our Bride of Chaotica," Tom said. He only had time to widen his eyes a little before he was punched again.

"Holodeck Two, it shook a few seconds before the Bridge contacted us," Craig said.

Kathryn seemed disgusted at the whole thing. "That's the biggest load of twaddle I've heard since Seven thought that fanfics had their own dimension."

Seven raised her eyebrow in response. Her mouth opened to respond but Tom beat her to it, while still rubbing his sore nose. "We've already had a Holodeck episode." This time he attempted to duck but he wasn't fast enough, her fist caught his eye.

"Ok, so this Q's going to see us as the enemy. No doubt about that," B'Elanna said. "What do we do about it though?"

Jessie shrugged while resting her arm against the table. "Couldn't we just trap him again? A ship from the past could do it."

"I imagine he'll see that coming," James said.

Chakotay shook his head. "Wait. Can't the Continuum handle him? Can't you? Why else would you be here?"

"I was passing by," Q answered casually.

Kathryn narrowed her eyes in his direction, it partially wiped his lighter mood from his face. "Answer him."

Q let out a deep sigh. "Long story short the Continuum do not want to meddle with mortal affairs, their words. I on the other hand have grown rather fond of you, as you remember."

"Not fond enough to sort the threat out on your own?" James commented.

The smile he received in response felt a little malicious to him. "I suppose you'd know all about that, wouldn't you?"

Most of the room were confused at the odd remark, but it left James a little rattled. Jessie passed him a sympathetic look.

"I can do very little without generating any attention. The Continuum don't take kindly to excessive interference, which I learned the hard way not long ago," Q said. "What I can do would be a stall at best."

"Okay, let's sum this up so I don't get anything wrong. A Q with most of his powers taken away who was trapped in a Holodeck, is now trapped in ours. Since Humans were the ones responsible, he'll not be very pleased to see us. Your *bosses* can't or won't deal with him but will have a hissy fit if you do," Kathryn said impatiently.

"Yes dear," Q smiled at her.

Kathryn rolled her eyes. "This is the part of the story where you say *I have a plan*. I don't suppose you have a put a Holodeck in subspace button up your sleeve."

"I knew that part would throw you all off," Q laughed to himself. Of course that didn't help Kathryn's bad mood. "As Blondy put it, the same tricks will not work. You do have an advantage though."

"All the Q has to do is make a fourth wall comment and Janeway will sort him out," Harry smirked, immediately regretting it. He covered at the death glare he got.

"Ok, two advantages," Q said. "Q will not yet be aware that his situation has changed. What sealed him in subspace still surrounds him. Only a Q would be able to break that."

Jessie groaned, "so what's the problem then?"

"Well, I did say there was more than one exiled Q. Didn't I?" Q answered in a patronising tone.

"You've also talked for about ten hours. For all we know he's already escaped and killed us twenty times over," James commented.

"Well you did want an explanation," Q sighed. "Q's cell will be easy to spot if it hasn't been opened yet. It'll stand out more than Blondy Junior's hair." Craig pouted while his hand crept up to pat his lightly spiked hair. "If the program's started to merge, then that's a sign the lock's been broken."

Chakotay glanced at Kathryn briefly, "maybe we'll know what to do with this cell if we see what it is exactly."

"Fine, prepare an away team to go to the Holodeck," Kathryn groaned.

"This was probably why Killing Game was cancelled," Tom blurted out. Yes he got another punch. After he stumbled back he raised his hands in front of his face as a surrender pose. "I'll be quiet."

"Yes and I'll drink tea," Kathryn snapped at him.

Chakotay laughed before turning to Tuvok. "Tuvok you lead the team. Seve..."

"Allow me to pick the away team," Q butted in. Before anyone could argue he clicked his fingers and disappeared in a flash of light. He wasn't the only one.

Holodeck Two:

Standing a mere metre away from the table still carrying glasses of champagne, was a strange egg shaped rock. It looked out of place in the colourful resort setting. Two of the resident holograms couldn't help but stand around curiously.

The area lit up briefly, the holograms turned to stare at the source. All they saw were four figures as the light had already faded. Assuming that was normal they turned back to the odd looking rock.

"Why do I care about some stupid rock?" the only woman of the quartet complained.

One of the men held tightly onto a tall staff, which he then tapped on the ground in front of him. The remaining two men quickly groveled at his feet. "This is not some stupid rock."

"You're right. It looks like some deformed egg one of these idiots would pop out," the woman snarled, gesturing to the two on the floor.

The staff man glanced down at them and growled. "What are you doing you useless mortals?"

The two clambered back to their feet, shaking violently as if their lives were on the line. They didn't dare answer him in case they were wrong.

"Why don't we just boil or fry the thing and get going," the woman spat while stepping forward towards the rock.

One of the holograms stared at them, worried that these were not regular guests to the resort. "Aiden, stop your napping and look at this," he said to the other hologram.

"No need to wake him, in fact why don't you take a little nap yourself," the man said, he clicked his fingers and the two holograms disappeared. Naturally he cackled evilly afterwards.

"Oh masterfully done, master," one of the other men stuttered.

The staff man ignored him to carefully approach the rock. "After centuries of searching, you are finally within my grasp. Now, let's crack this *egg*." His hand caressed the stone.

"Why do we sound like bad Power Ranger villains?" the woman dared to ask.

"Power what?" the man said, obviously confused.

The rock began to crack at his fingertips. Quickly it spread across the entire thing, breaking it to pieces within seconds. The Holodeck seemed to shudder as the area where it originally stood contorted and blurred against the background. Finally a man's figure appeared stretching like he had just woken up from a nap.

"Ooph, I think I slept on that arm for at least a century. That's gonna take some waking up," he muttered while caressing his left arm. Then he noticed he had company staring at him. The arm fell by his side and a smile was immediately plastered on his face. "Q!"

"Q," the man cackled. "It's been too long."

"Has it? It seems only five centuries ago that you and I chased that asteroid into that planet's orbit. Oh how the locals screamed," the Newbie laughed.

The woman laughed as well, her eyelids fluttered. "Oh Q, you handsome devil. You haven't changed."

The Newbie Q clasped his hands across his own chest, puffing it out a little. "And you Q, you look like you haven't aged a day over a billion."

"Stop," the woman giggled.

"I don't suppose you know how long I was trapped in that infernal shell," the new Q said roughly.

"We have entered the fifth phase, so insignificant time," the first male Q said carefully. "I don't suppose you recall the name Voyager?"

The new Q's face turned an interesting shade of red. He threw his arms into the air and screamed loudly and overdramatically.

"That's a yes," the female Q commented.

The male Q smirked at them both, he waited until the new one stopped screaming the Holodeck down. "Once again they interfere. We were on the brink of civil war, freedom was in our grasp. Then they came," he said once it was quiet again.

"They will soon know their place. This is all Q's fault. He petted the Humans already giant ego and I have no doubt he encouraged their further interference," the new Q growled. "We will still have our freedom, Voyager will be wiped from history and our legacy will reign destruction throughout the cosmos." The trio laughed at the thought.

"See, he's not all talk," the female Q teased the male one.

"Sounds like he is," one of the minions dared to whisper. The Q's were too busy laughing to hear him. The other minion stared at him with petrified eyes.

"You call the Continuum chasing me through the Yomda galaxy *all talk*? What exactly have you done?" the male Q snapped.

Female Q rolled her eyes. "All of my work was erased. You have to actually do something for that to happen."

"Hmph," the male Q grunted. He turned to the new Q. "Excuse us. I'm sure you've got some plotting to do anyway." The two Q's and their minions disappeared in a flash of light.

The remaining Q sniffed the air, his eyes darkened. "What is that? It smells like, Humans."

Elsewhere in the Holodeck six figures were walking through a black and white cave filled with flashing lights. The six were the only ones still in colour. The cave itself looked like it was made entirely out of plastic.

"It's fantastic," Tom said.

"It's gag inducing," Jessie corrected him.

Tom lowered his chin so he could try to sniff himself. With a proud smile he looked back up. "I smell studly, though I'll forgive you as your tastes don't match the rest of woman kind."

"On behalf of women everywhere..." Jessie muttered before stamping on his foot. Tom was expecting a punch so his duck didn't protect him. He had to hop on one foot to at the very least follow the others as they kept on walking.

Harry stared ahead of him which seemed to be normal, then to his still monochrome left side. "I'm not the only one seeing this, right?"

"No. The Holodeck program in use seems to be broken," B'Elanna said.

Still hopping on his good foot, Tom detoured to get closer to the wall. His hand pressed against the wall. "This isn't a real cave. It's a set."

"A what?" Craig had to ask.

Harry's face lit up. "I thought this was familiar. Isn't this the corridor leading to the Fortress of Doom in Episode Fifteen?" Everyone that wasn't Tom started to snigger.

"It is," Tom answered, ignoring the others response.

James looked ahead while the others concentrated on the fake walls surrounding them. As he did the path distorted and quickly changed into an uphill path, thankfully in colour.

"So that means the Q's loose, right?" Jessie questioned warily.

Tom lowered his sore foot so he could stop wobbling. Then he noticed what James had. "Um, look up there." His finger pointed up the new path. At the top of it was the remains of the rock formation.

The team hurried up to the path to get a closer look. Once they got up there they noticed that the program at the top was the all too familiar resort program that they had used for the engagement party. Although whoever had been there before them had trashed it.

Footsteps behind them made them all turn around in a hurry. The holographic waiter they saw was just as startled as they were.

"What, why are you here? It's late," he stammered.

"Um, we're looking for an omnipotent being. You haven't seen one lounging around, have you?" Craig said. The others hoped he wasn't asking seriously.

"An omnipotent being?" the man laughed. "What does that look like? Wait, don't answer. Let me guess." His entire form disappeared in a flash of light, once it faded the Q took his place. "Tah dah!"

"Lame," Jessie groaned.

The Q ignored her, "allow me to introduce myself. I am the most despised, feared by all mortals, all powerful being in the universe. I am Q."

Harry nudged James with his elbow. He looked at him with a look of disgust. That didn't help so Harry just shoved a PADD into his hand, well tried to. James took one look at it and smacked it away with his hand.

"Hmm, what was that? Plans for more trickery. I expected more," Q sneered.

"No, James just missed the cue for his line," Harry said.

James rolled his eyes, "no, I think I hit it just fine."

"Hmm," Tom was more than curious. He knelt down to pick up the PADD and read from it. He smiled at it. "*Well pack your bags, because you're going straight back where you came from.*" His finger pointed towards the Q, the smile turned into a smirk. "Bitch."

The Q pretended to look threatened, he even did a gasp. "Oh, tall skinny boy with a big mouth. Whatever shall I do?" His demeanour went back to normal. "I see nothing has changed, has it?"

"Actually it has. That was James' line originally. That's the joke," Harry said seriously.

B'Elanna groaned into her hand to hide her face. The rest of the team who weren't Tom and Harry just closed their eyes and wished they were elsewhere.

"You don't wanna mess with us. You don't know what you're dealing with, Mr er..." Tom continued. He noticed the Q's large forehead, "Eraser Head."

"Really?" Q sniggered.

"Yeah, we're from Voyager. We always win," Harry said.

"Please tell me these two are still drunk on their one glass of champagne," Jessie whispered.

"No, I bet they think they're still in the Captain Proton part of the Holodeck," James whispered back.

"Oooh! Where's my autograph book, ha!" Q howled with laughter, just as the others expected him to. "So Voyager is still making a bunch of stupid kids do its dirty work, ey. Well, maybe you should meet my kids."

"No thanks, I'm traumatised enough," Jessie groaned. B'Elanna nodded in agreement.

Another flash of light engulfed the Q, this time though it was wider and brighter. Once it faded the Q was gone, in his place were about twenty purple looking aliens that unfortunately looked a bit slimy too.

"Eew," Jessie complained.

"We could have had a full blown rewrite, but no, you had to follow the original episode with that corny line," James grumbled towards both Harry and Tom.

The two were confused. "What, we don't get badass lines like that," Tom protested.

"Oh it was definitely bad, and you two are asses. You're right about that," James said.

Craig stared at the new arrivals nervously. He backed off a little as they stared menacingly at the group. "What do we do?"

James glanced back down the hill they had climbed. The black and white caves were badly blending into whatever program the hilly path belonged to, it looked almost flat. "There's plenty of room down there."

Tom smiled.

He leapt down to the bottom, luring the alien looking things down with him. Immediately he jumped into the air to deliver a swinging kick to two of their faces. Once he was back down on the ground he punched several of them, then pushed his palm out to knock back another one being followed by the rest. They all fell backwards like they were dominoes.

Everyone stared at the helmsman, each with their own bemused look. He stood frozen in a bad fighting pose; his arm outstretched, palm flat and his other arm sticking up towards the ceiling.

Of course the aliens were still where they were earlier, and nobody had really budged an inch after James' suggestion.

"No?"

"No," most of the team replied.

James however said, "yeah, go for it."

Tom knew by now not to take him seriously, he instead pretended to laugh without making any noise and immediately shifted to a serious face. "Like you'd do any better."

James frowned and was about to reply when B'Elanna stepped in between the two, shoving them slightly. "Let's just spread out, take on a few at a time. At the very least we'll thin the herd a little."

"We?" Jessie giggled while glancing briefly between Harry and Tom.

The team split up anyway, taking different routes back down the hill. Their opponents did the same to give chase. Craig was the only one who didn't budge, he didn't look so sure.

"Spread out, when does that ever go well?" he commented but hurried down anyway.

Jessie picked up a grey tree branch, obviously from the Captain Proton program. "Pun with wood, pun with... ah to hell with it," she muttered to herself before slamming it into one of her chasers face. She stumbled backwards to avoid getting purple liquid spray into her face.

Meanwhile Tom was standing proudly and firmly as his pursuers ran for him. He cracked his knuckles. "The being a push over thing is just a Fifth Voyager joke, Voyager me was a badass. I'll show them."

His fists then clenched, his arm flew back, his body did the same. He kept going until the ground got in the way. "Yep... I'm bad," he squeaked. The attackers just continued running, mostly over him, leaving him lying there.

Not far away James seemed to be standing on his own, with a bored look on his face. He didn't seem to notice one from Craig's group run towards him. The ones that ignored Tom had also taken an interest in him. He easily noticed them as they ran directly in his line of sight.

For some reason he didn't move. His eyes rolled like they were a mere annoyance. At the last second he took one small step to his left. The creatures slammed into each other face first, while the ones behind just crashed into their leader. There was nothing left of them but purple goo afterwards. Naturally James' reaction to that was pull a disgusted face and then walk away.

Harry ducked as a creature tried to hit him. An idea popped into his head as he was down. He pushed himself forward while still crouched to push it by the waist. All he got were a few extra metres space and a gooey uniform.

"Oh, it's not as easy as the holonovels," he said sadly. Another one ran for him, his attempt at a kick hit them in the ankle, tripping them over.

Craig tried to punch one as if it was the first punch he had ever thrown. His entire hand was purple afterwards. Instead he ran off with two of them right behind him. The caves were just ahead, Craig really didn't want to run into them without the others so he quickly turned to run to the side. One of the creatures was dumb enough to run face first into the fake rock face.

Another grabbed him as he ran to the side, pushing him into it as well.

A finger tapped the creature shoulder. The creature turned but a fist in the face caused it to fall to the ground. B'Elanna looked at her fist which was covered in purple goo. "Hmm, that's going to leave a mark," she said.

The remaining purple men stopped whatever they were doing, almost in sync with each other. They all seemed to be trembling with fear. The team could only stare in confusion as they ran off.

"What was..." Harry began to ask, but then the ground trembled beneath them.

Engineering:

Kathryn, Chakotay, Tuvok, the Doctor, Neelix and Seven stood waiting for Q to arrive.

"What's taking him so long? We have no idea what that Q is doing, maybe..." Neelix stuttered.

"Be patient, Mr Neelix. It is not logical to worry about events that haven't happened," Tuvok said.

"Neelix is right, he should have sorted the away team out by now," Chakotay said.

Right on cue, the original Q appeared. Kathryn stomped over to him. "What took you so long?" she growled.

"Bad news Kath, we were too late. Q will be heading for Engineering now," Q said seriously for a change.

"Computer, seal off Engineering with a level twelve force field," Seven said.

"Acknowledged."

"Who made you Queen of Voyager you rotten little sh..." Kathryn snapped.

"Why Engineering?" Neelix asked quickly.

"Stupid question Neelix. If he wants to destroy us, this is the perfect place to do it," the Doctor answered.

Kathryn rolled her eyes, "I'd pick Neelix as second in line over Miss Perfect. Our lives don't revolve around you, missy."

Seven seemed a little surprised. "Why do you insist on talking to me like that all the time? No one else does. I've done nothing..."

"Give it time," Kathryn spat back.

A man cleared their throat. It took a few seconds for everyone to realise it wasn't one of them. They turned their heads towards the entrance to Engineering. There the second Q stood, watching them with a smile on his face.

"Hmm, it's a little different here but I can still make it work," he sneered.

"Q, don't be a fool. You know the Continuum will not stand for this," the original Q warned him.

"Oh won't they? I'll be doing them a favour," Q2 cackled while slowly approaching the group. "You know as well as I do that everyone will be better off without these..." he eyed the crew with contempt. "Primitive primates. Honestly, I don't know why you still sniff around them."

Kathryn stepped forward to give him a close up of the death glare. The Q did his best to avoid looking directly at it. "Yet despite how primitive they were, a group of Humans managed to lock you up. Keep this crap up and not only will we do it again, I'll chuck Neelix and his Leola crop in with you."

Neelix gasped in horror, "how awful. Q's don't need to eat. What a waste."

Q2 laughed at her, making her glare even more deadly. "What has Q been telling you? I suppose you do have to dumb it down for them," he said in Q's direction.

"I suppose I would be the one to eat it," Neelix muttered to himself.

Q2 turned to point a finger in his direction. A lightning bolt flew out of it and struck the Talaxian in the chest, sending him flying back. The Doctor hurried over to his side.

"You haven't changed Q. You're still picking on little rodents," Q said.

Q2 smirked evilly, "oh yes, the Monsoon of Trombadia. They didn't see that plasma storm coming."

"As usual, your antics lack poetry," Q mocked him.

It was enough to anger the other Q. "Oh shut up! Ten minutes out of that blasted rock and I'm already having to listen to your unfunny remarks. These Humans locked me up and threw me aside like the trash that they are. I don't intend for that to go unpunished."

"This is illogical. Why punish Humans that have done nothing to you? It serves no purpose," Tuvok pointed out.

"Well I suppose you could say that, but in my eyes you're all just as guilty. You're all the same to me," Q2 said. "Funny how that works, hehe."

"You won't get away with this Q," Q snapped.

"Why not? Oh... I see," Q2 pretended to sound sad, his voice patronising. "The Continuum don't care, do they? You do anything to stop me and they'll drag you back by the ear. See, I told you they'd come around to my way of thinking."

Q shook his head, "Q, don't..."

"You all robbed me of my pride. I was the most powerful being in the universe, people saw me as a god," Q2 ranted while staring accusingly at everyone. "Now it's time for payback!" He raised his arms into the air, as soon as he did all of the consoles in Engineering exploded. Everyone who were not hit by any of them ducked for cover.

The only thing they could hear over the sound of the fires and explosions was the sound of the Q laughing like a mad man.

Holodeck Two:

The away team found themselves walking through the fake caves. Colour wasn't far ahead of them, the scenery looked far more open. Instead of plastic walls there were concrete beams dotted around. Tom's eyes lit up as he recognised one particular bit of scenery; a red ancient looking car sitting on its own.

"Let me guess," B'Elanna groaned before he could say anything.

Tom seemed to ignore her as his pace quickened. "It's been ages since I worked on old Bella."

"Bella?" Jessie said blankly.

Tom slipped an arm around B'Elanna's shoulders, "named after my favourite gal of course."

Harry laughed behind his hand. "Yeah, I wouldn't."

The group were now completely in the colour area, only a short walk away from the car. That was when a few of the team noticed the ground had lines painted all over it.

"Yeah, now I know why this place gave me the creeps," James said, glancing briefly between the car and Tom. "This is the program I used for the deleted love scene betw... well you know." Jessie and Craig sniggered as quietly as they could, but Tom's attention was already on them.

"What, love scene? What are..." he stuttered, then it came to him. "I knew it! You were the one that edited my mutiny program."

Harry groaned into his hand to hide his face, "what, did you think Kiara did it on her own?"

Tom didn't know what to say for once, he just stared at him and then James. He smiled back at him.

Harry's face was bright red, luckily his mind was on his side for once as a different thought distracted him. "Captain Proton, the resort program, the *Hot Rod* garage." Everyone turned to him. "All of the programs merging together are Tom's."

"Oh crap," Jessie groaned. "As soon as the scenery turns into a porn fest, I'm out of here."

"Coward," B'Elanna commented with a smile.

Something plastic in the distance cracked. The noise wasn't loud but it still echoed around the empty structure. A lot of the team jumped at the suddenness of it.

"I gotta bad feeling about this. Do you think those things are still on the Holodeck?" Craig said warily.

"We need some light," Jessie said.

"No chance of that, or porn fests," Tom muttered. He saw Harry pull a tricorder out of his pocket in the corner of his eye.

"How did you... never mind, anything?" B'Elanna questioned.

"I always carry one around," Harry answered the first half. His body turned all the way around on the spot, the tricorder made the same noises all the way round. "The tricorder can't make heads or tails out of this. There's energy signatures everywhere, probably the Holodeck malfunctions causing interference."

The others continued looking around while he scanned.

"I don't even know what those things even were. That doesn't help," Harry said. His tricorder pointed towards the same spot James was looking at. "Wait, something's moving." Everyone else looked as well.

A figure moved out from behind a pillar. Soon more were doing the same from different ones. They slowly started to surround the away team

"There's not many left. This shouldn't be a problem," B'Elanna said.

"I've got an idea. Maybe you should get..." James started to say.

Tom immediately butted in, "I got a better one. We're in a Holodeck. Why don't we use it."

James glared at him. "You don't even know what my plan was!"

"I'm sure it was a brilliant plan involving lots of snark-asm, you running and Jessie kicking, but we don't have time for that," Tom said.

"Wait, am I doing the kicking or being kicked?" Jessie mumbled.

James rolled his eyes, "fine. I don't want to get in the way of you getting knocked flat on your ass again."

"Less talk more, anything," Craig stuttered as the aliens were only a few feet away.

Tom grinned, "computer, Captain Proton outfit and rocket pack." The others stared at him blankly as his uniform changed into a monochrome outfit with a leather looking jacket. A bag appeared on his back. "Time to save the world."

"Oh god," B'Elanna groaned, already regretting her proposal acceptance.

Tom tugged on a little cord on his back. The huge backpack that was attached to it suddenly ignited on the bottom, lifting him up. He was just about to reach for the phaser like weapon in his pocket when he hit his head on the ceiling.

It did seem to work but not in the way he planned, as the aliens just stared at him in amusement, allowing the others to escape from being surrounded. Once they were the ones surrounding the aliens, Tom's backpack gave out and dropped him to the floor.

"See, it worked," he squeaked.

The aliens noticed he was alone and swung around to confront the others.

Craig thought about attacking the one in front but only for a second, he ran off instead. B'Elanna meanwhile slammed one of her attackers, head first, into a pillar. Like the previous encounters he turned into a puddle of goo afterwards. "This is just too weird."

"Use the Holodeck, use the Holo..." Harry muttered as he tried to run circles around the two chasing him. Then he caught sight of the car Tom was eyeing earlier. He ran over to it as fast as he could.

Tom still lay on the floor nursing his sore head, groaning in pain.

Two of the aliens ran after Jessie while her back was turned. Nearby James had seen them, but he was too far away. All he had time to do was yell her name and barely step forward. She turned just in time to get pushed into one of the pillars. Content that they had done enough, they ran off leaving her to crumble onto the floor.

The two aliens chasing Harry were quickly blinded by two lights coming from the red car. Lucky for them Harry was still trying to figure out how to work the damn thing. The gearbox was baffling him.

"What's these numbers for, is it like the speed or something like warp one, two." He tried to push it forward but the car groaned at him. While he was doing that his feet started tapping the pedals. "Come on, one will do, come on..." he stuttered just when the car lurched forward. The poor aliens didn't stand a chance. The car was no longer red.

James ran over to where Jessie was lying. Her back was still against the pillar as she had just slid down from the impact point. He knelt down beside and very carefully put an arm over her shoulder, he hesitated once before finally doing it.

"I'm okay, it's already going away," she said through ragged breath. That told him she was lying to make him feel better.

There was no time to argue as another alien approached them. James turned slightly on the spot. With his spare arm he shoved it roughly. "Oh get lost," was all he said as the creature stumbled over what looked like the edge of the structure and disappeared out of sight. Craig was close enough to see the thing land on a road. He cringed as a lorry ran right over the purple blob he could see.

Tom finally tried to sit up. "Guys, Holodeck. No one listens."

B'Elanna heard him and gave him a brief glance. "Hmm, the safeties. They mustn't be on or..." Lights blinded her, but what really surprised her was the sound of a car horn rapidly going off. Quickly she dived out of the way, just in time to avoid being hit by the now purple car with a wide eyed Harry at the helm.

"How do you stop this thing!?" he screamed.

"Tap the other peda..." Tom tried to tell him, but B'Elanna shushed him loudly.

"Turn the wheel thing to the left!" she shouted.

Tom chuckled through the pain, "women drivers."

Harry didn't know which pedal he meant, he had attacked all of them during his panic. He decided to listen to B'Elanna and spin the wheel. The car abruptly turned on his command at high speed, it flung him into the still partially open door he climbed through. He tumbled out of it, just in time for the car to slam into one of the concrete pillars.

The entire structure trembled at the impact, the noise it made was a brief assault on everyone's ears, especially Harry's.

B'Elanna sighed in relief before scowling at Tom for his earlier comment. He didn't notice right away, when he did he laughed nervously.

"What's that..." Craig stammered as he looked at the remains of the car and the pillar. The pillar flashed into the Hologrid for a second, then turned into a palm tree for another. Each time it would change back into the broken pillar.

"Out, now!" B'Elanna ordered, gesturing to the road leading down to the ground level. Everyone ran through the occasional tremor. What was left of the purple monsters attempted to follow.

The away team kept running until they were clear of the stone car park, as the tremors dragged parts of it to the ground.

The ground shook, the holographic images around them flickered on and off, showing the hologrid in its place. It stopped as suddenly as it started, however it didn't go back to normal. Various areas looked like a corrupted merge of various programs.

"What was that?" Harry asked.

B'Elanna stared at one of the larger corrupted patches. "There's nothing we can do here, we should go to Engineering."

"That may not be as easy as you think. Computer end program," Harry said. The computer beeped harshly to tell him it couldn't do that. "Computer arch."

To everyone's surprise the Holodeck exit appeared after a few glitchy tries. The doors opened as if nothing was wrong. The group hurried out anyway.

Deck Eleven:

The turbolift doors opened to a corridor of black. A red light would ominously flash every second, barely lighting up the way. B'Elanna stepped out first, or rather she pushed her way out first. Everyone else had to negotiate their way out of the cramped lift.

"Not another black out," Tom complained once he was out of the lift. He was the last one to be, right after Craig.

B'Elanna shook her head. "Emergency power is holding." She hurried further ahead.

"This means the Q is definitely out of the Holodeck," Harry commented.

"That was obvious from the moment he disappeared," James said.

Tom stared at him with an angry look on his face, not that anyone could make that out until the red light flashed. "Then why didn't you say that then?"

"I did try, twice," James said. "Look, plenty of room to escape over there. Hey I got an idea, why don't some of us get out of the Holodeck."

"You, you didn't say anything like that," Tom muttered.

By this time Jessie, Craig and Harry had quickly abandoned them to catch up with B'Elanna. She had just reached the door to Engineering and was struggling to get it open.

"No, I didn't get a chance to finish. You were far more interested in playing Captain Moron," James said, rolling his eyes.

"No no, you fell for it too or you would have left on your own. You're just trying to make yourself look smart. News flash, you just sound like a know it all and everyone else looks stupid. That includes best make out friend Jessie," Tom ranted.

B'Elanna tore off the panel next to the door to expose the wiring. All it needed was a little tampering and the door opened. As soon as it did something inside exploded, sending sparks across their field of sight.

The team reluctantly walked inside with B'Elanna leading the way. Consoles were either blackened out or were on fire, debris lay scattered everywhere, wires were hanging from the ceiling. Every detail made B'Elanna's face tighten further in fury. Sensing it the others slowed down a bit so they were further away from her.

Harry dared to take a good look around as he slowly walked. He was relieved to see no injuries or worse on the ground. Then a thought occurred to him. That was more than a little strange.

"Captain," B'Elanna almost hissed. She hurried over to the base of the core. The rest of the team quickly noticed there were people in Engineering after all, they had all huddled next to the dark and motionless warp core.

Tuvok lay on the floor with burn marks across his skin, green still oozed out of a large one on his cheek. The Doctor and Kathryn were trying to treat him but they obviously weren't having much luck.

The group didn't notice Seven and Chakotay trying to help an equally injured Neelix out of sight.

"We're losing him. There's nothing I can do here," the Doctor said.

"Obviously transporters are out, but can't we carry him to Sickbay?" Jessie stuttered.

Kathryn closed her eyes and shook her head sadly. "There's no time. We'd never make it."

"Might as well try," Craig said as he stepped forward.

"I'll help," James said, briefly surprising the others who still thought he was arguing with Tom outside. He walked forward with Craig to crouch down next to the Security chief.

The Doctor didn't look too happy about it, his hand gestured at them to stop. "If you move him it'll exacerbate his condition."

"He'll die either way so why the hell not?" B'Elanna snapped.

Seven approached everyone, as usual her hands crossed behind her back. "I have a solution."

"Of course you do," Kathryn said in a fake cheerful voice.

"What is it?" Jessie asked.

"Astrometric sensors detected an m-class planet two lightyears away. The Borg know it as Phados One," Seven answered.

"We're out of its range in our current state," Chakotay pointed out grimly.

Harry glanced behind him as Tom decided to join everyone, he appeared a lot more sluggish than before, as well as dazed. He rested himself against the nearest console to the others. "Voyager no, but a shuttle might," Harry said.

"I would recommend against that," Seven interrupted.

"Life support will not last long, we don't have much time," B'Elanna said while she worked at a station.

Kathryn's head snapped to attention towards Seven. "Wait. Why wouldn't you recommend that? The shuttle curse is just a joke, try not to be so literal."

"I wouldn't be so sure," Craig commented.

"The Borg learned of a planet that appeared to be abandoned. Numerous species that the Borg assimilated had a tale or myth about it, each one different and yet shared the same commonality. Power. A cube was sent to investigate," Seven explained.

"Are you suggesting the Borg are very slow at mining?" Jessie said with a slight smile.

Seven's eyebrow shot up. "No. The cube was obliterated within minutes of entering its orbit. The only information we got was that it was destroyed by a weapon that distorted subspace in the cube's path. We were unable to duplicate or shield against it, even after sending more vessels."

"Hardly abandoned then, is it?" Kathryn scoffed while her body twitched from coffee withdrawals.

"So, no shuttle. No warp capability. No transporters," Chakotay attempted to sum up.

"I might be able to reroute power from life support on decks twelve to fifteen, those decks are deserted," Seven said.

"Then we'll be able to get transporters online," Chakotay said.

"That'll help Tuvok at least," Craig said hopefully.

Kathryn sighed impatiently. "Good, but mentioning Fatass One just wasted five minutes of his time, so..." Her eyes were wide, her hand gestured towards a console close to Seven. She took the hint and got straight to work.

"I wouldn't bother," Q's voice said from out of nowhere. He appeared in a flash moments later. Only the Doctor noticed that Tuvok and Neelix disappeared at the same time. "Q will pull the rug just as you're about to walk on it, then he'll likely smother you in it. It's his style."

Chakotay rolled his eyes as he turned towards him. "I thought he was free now. Why continue to waste his time with us?"

"Did you think that trashing your Engineering and frying your fry cook was his revenge? No, he'll just be getting started," Q teased. The Doctor meanwhile muttered under his breath as he retreated out of Engineering.

"Since he's loose what do you expect us to do about it? This is your domain," Jessie snapped.

"The technology to trap him again is nearby. A technology far beyond your understanding. Many have failed to steal it before," Q said ominously.

Seven's eyebrows raised again. "Phados One's power is a type of technology?"

"But you will not fail," Q continued like she hadn't said anything.

"Why do you think that?" B'Elanna asked.

"I have an old Q friend on that planet, she's the protector of the planet. Just mention me to her and she might help you," Q said.

"That doesn't solve the getting there problem," Harry said.

Kathryn rolled her eyes, "or the getting blown to pieces by the inhabitants problem."

"I can give your transporters a little boost, that'll not draw too much attention. When you have the power, you'll be able to download it to Voyager once you return, via your commbadge," Q said.

"How is that possible?" Jessie asked.

"Because I've just made it so," Q smiled.

"But if you can do that, why can't you give us the technology?" James asked.

"Well blondy, since that other Q is on your holodeck, my powers are limited. I can't explain it or I'd risk breaking your tiny brains," Q replied.

Kathryn shook her head. "I'll need to monitor things here. Seven will need to be around just in case we're in need of a deus ex machina. Tuvok and Neelix need to be taken to Sickbay. Maybe Chakotay can take B'Elanna's place in the away team as we'll need to begin repairs..."

"If that Q's just going to destroy everything again, my being here isn't necessary. I'm probably the best one to work out that technology Q is talking about," B'Elanna said.

Seven stared blankly at Kathryn. "What is a deus ex machina?"

"You know. A plot device created solely to solve ridiculously unsolvable problems with little effort. Only ours has giant boobs," Jessie commented.

Kathryn smiled a little too proudly. "Yes, get your nanoprobes ready. We may need to throw a handful at some point."

"That's not..." Harry began to point out.

Seven was not impressed. "Why am I getting the flack for this? The Q fits the definition, not I."

Q glanced down at his chest with a bemused expression. "Why, thank you for noticing."

"So, we have Harry and B'Elanna to figure out this advanced technology. Two Security crewmembers. Perhaps Chakotay can replace Tom to lead the team. And Jessie," Kathryn said, briefly giving Q a skunk eye.

Chakotay cleared his throat, "I can't believe that out of the two of us, I'm the one bringing this up. This *power* obviously belongs to someone. We can't just go in and steal it."

"The planet has been abandoned for an unknown amount of time. The Borg concluded that every weapon was automated," Seven said.

"So, booby trapped then?" Tom said tiredly.

James shrugged. "Seems like. Maybe we should take Seven after all." Jessie and B'Elanna both laughed, while Kathryn's proud face grew stronger. Seven was far from amused.

"No, no. We don't want to trigger any traps. We'll leave her behind," Chakotay said, before finally laughing as well.

"Why does everyone always make jokes like that about me?" Seven asked.

"Maybe if you wore clothes instead of painting yourself, you'd get more respect," Jessie replied honestly.

Seven was just confused though. "I don't understand. I am wearing clothes."

Jessie scoffed while her eyebrow raised, "you look like you belong in Tom's Captain Pornton. The outfit screams *look at me*."

"Proton," Harry corrected her.

Tom sighed, mostly out of impatience. "Let's go, shall we?"

"Are you ready?" Seven asked, just as impatiently. The original away team all nodded eventually.

"Remember everyone. We may not have any power but we're still the Power Rangers," Tom said, finally brightening up a little.

"What?" B'Elanna asked. Everyone else said the same thing with just a look directed at him.

"I don't know why I said that," Tom said, his face turning bright red. "Okay how about this instead; Voyager lies adrift yet again, at the mercy of a powerful evil. Lieutenant Paris steps up to the plate, he rushes to the rescue. For he is the protector of Voyager, scourge of intergalactic evil."

The console that Tom's hand was resting on caught fire. "OW!" he yelled as his hand jumped off the hot console.

"I'm surprised that he's not been put out of his misery. I would," James commented.

"What?" Craig was taken aback, his eyes were slightly wider than usual.

James shrugged nonchalantly, "what?"

"Can't say I'm not tempted, or take the credit for it either," Kathryn said.

"Don't worry, he'll probably get it in the second part," Jessie said. She and James laughed between themselves.

"What was that?" Harry asked. The pair smiled innocently.

"Are you okay?" B'Elanna asked.

"Yeah, I got my hand away in time. Still really hurt though!" Tom moaned. "Wonder why stuff like this keeps happening."

"You'd better be going, energise," Kathryn said in a tone that screamed *quit whining*.

"Remember we don't have much time," Seven said. She pressed a couple of controls and the six beamed away.

"I can't believe it. How could he let them get away!?" the female Q screeched. "The idiot spent far too long in that ugly rock."

"Oh give it a rest," her partner snarled back.

The pair continued bickering while sitting on ridiculously oversized thrones, which were standing in the middle of a monochrome and very plastic looking environment. Their two minions and them were the only objects in colour. They now had a hollow tin can looking robot hanging around to aid them, although at the moment it was waving its arms around.

Their original minions were unfortunately tasked with massaging the woman's feet, which for some reason had overgrown toenails decorated as if they were fingernails.

"It's the work of Q, I know it. He's always been the Humans lapdog," the woman continued.

The male Q rolled his eyes just before sipping at his grey drink. "Whoever it is sent the skinned apes to Phados. They'll not last long, not with them there."

"Hmph!" the woman grunted. "You lack imagination. They're there for a reason. I don't like it."

"You don't like anything," the other Q's voice said before appearing in front of them. The first male Q laughed maliciously while the woman snarled.

"You're nothing but a fool with an oversized head and pin sized brain. The Humans have escaped and are getting help. I thought you were a master of disaster. How right I was," the woman snapped.

The second Q rolled his eyes and snapped his fingers. The female Q's mouth vanished from her face. In her surprise she accidentally kicked one of her minions with her oversized toenails.

"Finally!" the first male Q groaned.

"I know what I'm doing. Their ship is damaged, little power. Dangle a planet with a great power myth in front of them and bam, like a shot they'll run on over," the second Q cackled. "I have no doubt Q gave them a helping hand. You'd think he'd know better by now."

The other Q let out a tired groan. "You have no idea. His latest scheme gave the entire continuum a good laugh." The other Q smirked maliciously. "What's so special about this Phados that has you so confident? The Humans are probably dead already, boring. Know something I don't?"

The female Q waved her arms around, her grunts and attempts at words muffled. The two continued to ignore her.

"Naturally," Q2 answered proudly.

"They tricked you into this juvenile fantasy room, locked you in a cell, and your response is to trash their engine room. We evicted you as we thought you'd enjoy inflicting terror into their lives as payback. Not just for you, but for the Q's who fought in the rebellion that Voyager destroyed. If we thought you'd just watch as they send a suicidal landing party, we wouldn't have bothered," the first Q said. The Q woman nodded.

Q2's eyes flashed with rage. "Your feebleness sickens me. Perhaps you need time away to cool off." A white light engulfed the two male Q's, once it died down the pair had swapped places. Q2 laughed as he leaned back comfortably in the throne.

"You dare not anger me. Your powers are far more limited than mine, and..." Q1 growled.

Q2's hand waved lightly. Another flash cut him off as he disappeared again, he wasn't the only one. The woman had gone too. A small rock appeared in the hand Q2 waved, his fingers curled around it. "What do you think?" he said towards the two minions.

The two of them glanced at each other, clearly just as confused as the other. Then they heard their masters voices squeaking from the rock. They dared to smile at their predicament.

"Don't pretend that you helped me escape for me. You know I'm the brains of this trio, and you knew I'd want revenge on the Humans as well," Q2 whispered to the rock. "I won't let you out until you apologise. My feelings are hurt."

"Voyager had to pass by that exact spot. Don't flatter yourself!" the woman Q's squeaky voice yelled at him.

"Hmm," Q2 pretended to think about it, then he chucked the rock up into the air as if it was a ball. The two Q's squealed the whole time. "I trust that you two don't want to join them."

The two minions shook their heads quickly. "No, no sir. I never liked them anyway," one answered.

Q2 smiled darkly, "good."

"So what should we do about the Voyager away team, oh evil one?" the other minion asked.

"Ah yes," Q2 chuckled. "I wouldn't worry about that. They'll not get anywhere. We should send them something to keep them from figuring that out too soon. Hope is so much fun to crush."

The away team dematerialised on a rocky surface. It was a coastal region and the wind was strong. It was very much like Earth.

"Cool, look at this place," Craig said in awe.

"Guys, look at this!" Jessie yelled from a few metres away. Everyone ran over to her. She was hovering over a huge humanoid skeleton.

"What is it?" Harry asked.

"I think the question is, who was it?" Tom asked.

"Definitely not the welcoming committee that's for sure," Harry commented.

B'Elanna gave him a disapproving scowl. "We have a job to do. Let's not hang around."

Barely ten minutes later the group were following the shoreline, carefully stepping across the rocks.

Jessie stopped and stared out into the ocean. James, who was behind her stopped as well. "Are you okay?" he asked.

"I was just thinking about Voyager. You know, and all the things we've all been through together," Jessie muttered.

"Really?" James asked with a bemused look on his face.

Jessie smirked and then laughed. "No. I'm thinking that I should have stopped by our quarters and changed into something I don't care about being ruined."

"You have something like that?" James said.

Jessie thought about it and shook her head. "No, without a replicator I'd have to steal something of yours."

James didn't take her seriously, he just laughed with her. "Good luck finding anything on my floor."

"Yeah, that's a point," Jessie smiled briefly. Her face changed quickly, her eyes looked full of thought. "I did briefly wonder why Q chose all of us for the original mission. Also why the other Q blamed us for something we didn't do."

James looked out into the sea, a cold shiver ran through him. He turned back to find her doing the same again.

Meanwhile just ahead Tom tapped B'Elanna on the shoulder to get her attention. She stopped so he could stand beside her. "Hey, do you want to have a random romantic moment in front of the waves?" He gestured behind him, B'Elanna briefly spotted James and Jessie talking. She rolled her eyes. "I've seen this movie. She's like *ohno things are bad, I'm so sad*. Then he's like *don't worry, I'm macho and tough, we'll fix this you poor frail woman*. She swoons, he leans..."

"Oh god. Why did I say yes?" B'Elanna interrupted him with a groan.

"Hey don't blame me, blame old movies," Tom laughed.

"What happens next? Does the joker get bumped off for making silly comments?" B'Elanna asked impatiently.

Tom wasn't put off by her tone, "no, the smooch usually gets interrupted when something bad happens."

"Did you add the psychotic women with the rose lei things to the resort program?" James asked.

Jessie tried to look innocent, luckily with only one side of her face visible to him she hid it reasonably well. "No. That was left over from the recluse woman who tried to kidnap Tuvok."

"Uh huh," James ended up laughing again. "So what was the *Tom you're the one hundredth guest* thing about?"

"Soooo, everything we've been through huh. It just gets more and more crazy," Jessie quickly stammered.

James shook his head, he straightened up and put a serious look on his face. "We'll find this power and we'll lock that Q back in his dungeon. No need to worry."

Jessie turned so she was facing him directly, then she smirked at him. "What was that? You sounded like a cheesy hero trying to comfort the hysterical damsel."

"Hey you wanted the change of subject, I was just going along with it," James smirked.

Jessie's eyes narrowed mockingly. She gave him a light shove in the shoulder. "It doesn't suit you. It's creepy."

The pair laughed just as the wind picked up, to them both it sounded louder than before. Unlike before it originated from their left, blowing towards the ocean. They quickly turned around, just in time to see a flock of very large, almost Human sized birds flying straight for them. They ducked quickly.

The commotion got everyone's attention. More of the bird creatures appeared as if from nowhere, from all directions. James and Jessie turned towards the water as another creature dove for them. James jumped off the rocks, pulling Jessie with him.

"Told you," Tom quipped. B'Elanna's resulting look made him more worried about her than the birds.

The flock of birds continued their diving assaults. Each time they would climb back into the air and try again. Craig had seemingly forgotten that he had jumped down from the rocks, as he almost ran into them. He quickly threw himself down to the ground, so his pursuers would slam into it instead.

Jessie meanwhile pushed one of the birds that tried to claw at her away. While she did that a one flew up behind her, quickly grabbing her arms with its hand like feet. She tried to get out of its grasp but the creature had already pulled her too high up from the ground.

"Gee, and I thought I was the unlucky one in this ep..." Tom commented just as a bird flew right by and swiped its feet into his head. The impact flung him to the ground and hard as well.

James looked up helplessly as the bird carried Jessie away. He desperately looked around for anything high enough to reach, there was nothing even close. "Jess, hold on!" was all he could yell as he ran after them.

"I think the bird's doing all the holding," Harry stuttered. His hand kept falling to where he'd normally keep a phaser, he'd berate himself afterwards for not bringing one.

B'Elanna batted one of the birds away with her fist, the pain she received put her off doing that again any time soon.

"Put me down, you overgrown turkey drummer..." Jessie screeched.

As if it listened to her it let go, and she fell towards the sandy beach. Whoever was closer ran over to try and break her fall. They failed to notice the birds suddenly change direction, each of them heading for the same spot further up the coast. They all flew over Tom and B'Elanna on route, Tom instinctively ducked even though they were a few metres above them.

By the time they looked over, their target was obscured by the overwhelming amount of attacking birds. Some of them were knocked to one side, a few started to fly away quickly in a panic. Only then they saw a woman fighting the creatures with a couple of large sticks.

She began to swing them around in each hand, a whistling noise emanated from it. The remaining creatures screamed in pain and they flew away.

James crouched a little so Jessie could stand on her own, his hand still remained at her back. Her face was bright red, mostly out of embarrassment. Craig stood nearby with a worried look on his face.

"Turkey drummer?" he said in a lighter tone than he was feeling. That didn't help ease Jessie's red cheeks.

"Yeah well, you try quipping something smart when you're flying into orbit," she said.

Craig noticed what was happening further down the beach, he pointed his finger before rushing over.

Tom, Harry and B'Elanna meanwhile gathered around the woman.

"That was amazing, thanks," Tom said and he held his hand out. She smacked his burned hand with her stick.

"If you want to thank me, go back to where ever it is you came from," the woman said angrily.

"We can't go back," B'Elanna said.

"We were told there was a great power here, is it true?" Harry asked.

"Yes, the ground is littered with the bones who have tried for it and failed," the woman said.

"We're different, we won't fail," Tom said. The alien smacked him in the back of the legs, the blow made him lose his balance. He fell over backwards.

"Leave, Phados One before it's too late," the woman said.

"Look, we don't want any trouble, that Q guy told us..." Craig said once he joined them.

"Q! Did you say Q?" the woman stuttered.

"Are you the friend Q was talking about?" B'Elanna questioned.

The woman seemed far more relaxed than before. "Yes. I was sent here two centuries ago to guard this world. My name is now Darcia."

"Two... centuries," Harry stuttered. "Wait, now?"

"Yes, I was known as Q before I was brought here," she answered.

Tom rubbed his forehead with his good hand as he climbed to his feet. "You're all called Q. I'm gonna assume that you have a hell of a time signing birthday cards."

Darcia was more confused than annoyed at his comment. "Only mortal beings require a name. If that is what is confusing you then it is no longer relevant. Now, what were you saying about Q?"

"See, that's what I mean. We could be talking about a completely different Q for all you know," Tom stuttered.

B'Elanna passed him a sympathetic smile. "Our ship was attacked by an exiled Q, a one with a grudge against us. We were told by Q that the power here could help us imprison him again."

Darcia gasped in fury, "Q is free!"

By this time James and Jessie had joined the rest of the group. They both looked confused. "There's three exiled Q's, how does she know which is which?" James whispered to her. She shrugged.

"See," Tom mimed to B'Elanna.

"Q is a monster. If we don't hurry your ship is doomed. Follow me," Darcia said.

Holodeck Two:

Q2 had moved his monochrome throne into the remains of the car park, which had lost some of its supports during the crash and the tremors. The floors that were no longer supported had collapsed onto the next level, causing further chaos. The Q seemed to revel in it, choosing the biggest pile of rubble to place his seat on.

The two minions and the fake looking robot stood before him as they all watched a bunch of random holograms digging through the rubble.

"So, what's the plan master?" a minion asked.

"Surrender!" the robot shouted suddenly. The first minion slammed his hand against it. It made a strange mechanical whirring sound before wandering off shakily.

"He's digging up his holographic giant robots of mass destruction, that he built while in captivity. Obviously," the second minion snapped.

Q2 laughed at them both while climbing to his feet. "The only thing I managed to build in that tight space was a thirst for evil." The two minions shared a look of regret, which they quickly shook off before looking back. "I am trying to decide what manner of fresh vengeance I can inflict on these interfering fools, with the limits the Continuum inflicted on me."

"But sir, the holograms. What purpose does their digging serve?" minion one asked.

Q2 cackled deviously. "Oh no purpose really. I just like to watch them sweat and complain." His eyes lit up, "speaking of which." His body whirled around, his hand side swiped the air. As he did so a giant screen appeared in front of him.

"Giant robots? How old are you, twelve?" the first minion whispered harshly.

"Well excuse me for misunderstanding the *dig out the old robot* remark," the second minion spat. The first gestured at the tin can looking robot swinging its even faker arms around.

The screen activated to show the away team walking up hill through a patch of trees, being lead by Darcia. Q2 stared at her with intense anger.

"Darcia! That deceptive, traitorous shrew!" he hissed so abruptly the minions jumped out of their skin. Once they looked over to see what the fuss was about Q2 looked like nothing like that had happened. He was smiling while watching the away team on the beach instead. "Q is free!" he screeched mockingly, which made him burst into fits of laughter.

"Sir?" one minion dared to question.

Q2 gestured his index finger to the right. The events on the screen quickened as if they were being fast forwarded. "So over the top. It's a wonder they're falling for it, the fools."

He gestured his finger again once the screen was back to showing the team walking up hill. It went back to normal speed. He sneered at them just as poor Tom was attacked by a flailing tree branch. It was enough to knock him out of the line and stumble to the floor, allowing Craig and James behind him a chance to get by. Q2 naturally thought this was very amusing.

"So, when are we going to be told what this Q trapping power is?" Jessie questioned in between laboured breaths.

Tom couldn't help but laugh before he said what he was thinking. "I imagine he's very fond of Phados cheese. All we'll need after that is a cardboard box and a piece of string."

The team members in front of him each stopped to look over their shoulders at him, with a very similar look of disdain on their faces. Tom also stopped as well to avoid bumping into them. He rolled his eyes back at them.

"All will become clear soon enough," Darcia said as if Tom's comment hadn't happened.

"Am I the only one hoping this hill leads to somewhere we can push Tom off of?" James asked.

Tom turned on his heel to stare down at him with his best angry face. It just made the pair that were behind him laugh at it. He ignored it for now. "You're not the only one that can make comments. At least mine are funny and brighten the mood. You... You're just..." He eyed Craig. "Help me out."

"Dark," Craig shrugged.

James partly rolled his eyes, they remained rolled to his right. "I can live with that." He pushed by Tom to get in front of him. Tom stumbled a bit but managed to keep on his feet.

"He's just mad that the bird thing interrupted his make out chance with Jess," Tom whispered quietly to Craig.

"Yet strangely, I'm starting to understand why," Craig said, continuing from his previous answer. He hurried by Tom as well, leaving the helmsman a little flummoxed.

Darcia meanwhile lead the girls and Harry to the top of the hill. Harry and Jessie both breathed a sigh of relief, which they quickly had to breathe back in as the hill had winded them. B'Elanna took the chance to look around while they gasped for breath.

She noticed that after only a few steps they'd be walking back down the hill. The base's width wasn't much bigger either. Then she quickly realised the base of the hill was unnaturally rounded, almost man made in shape. Stone carvings dotted around the edge of it, each one an identical height, almost three metres tall. A smaller one sat in the dead centre.

The centre one appeared to be Darcia's target. She stopped at it just as James and Craig arrived at the top as well. Tom huffily arrived seconds later.

"What is this place?" B'Elanna asked.

"The sacred grounds of the Y'Jeti," Darcia answered.

Now that the entire team was at the top she walked over to the other side. Most of the team worried they had walked up for nothing, but she stopped at the edge. Her arm pointed towards a rock face many miles ahead and below them.

"Beyond that ridge lies the Monolith. That is your target," she explained. "Many dangers litter your path. Trials you must pass to be worthy of their power."

"I hope that doesn't apply to all of us," Craig said in a hushed voice. Tom assumed that was aimed at him and scowled at him for it.

"Trials no one has yet passed," Darcia said.

Jessie briefly glanced towards the rock face ahead, then at the Q. "How are we supposed to then?"

"You were chosen by Q. I have faith in his wisdom," Darcia said. She seemed to be the only one, the rest of the team shared the same disbelieving look.

"Perhaps you can tell us what these trials are, give us a hint. We still don't even know what we're looking for," Harry said.

Tom nodded in agreement, "yes, can you help us?"

"I can do better than that." Darcia swung around to smile at each of them. "That is why Q sent you to me after all."

"I... I don't get it," Craig stuttered.

"That's an understatement," Tom sniggered.

B'Elanna rolled her eyes, "I think at this point I'd be just happy if you Q's cut the vague crap out." The rest of the team nodded to show they agreed. "What is better than that?"

"The trials cannot be passed without first calling on the ancient spirits of the Y'Jeti. That's why we are here," Darcia said. "Most visitors make that mistake."

"You're not serious?" B'Elanna muttered.

Darcia seemed unfazed. "This power you seek is beyond Humanoid understanding. It is as dangerous as it is powerful, and comes at great risk. The trials exist as a security system. The spirits I speak of... think of them as guards or judges to whom you must convince."

"You had to ask," Craig whispered.

"I assume that spirits is just a term used to scare off potential looters then," Harry said.

Darcia smiled in a way that unnerved him. "Disaster strikes at those who know too much."

"So you have an excuse to keep up the not telling us anything concrete. Good for you," B'Elanna said.

"I see Q has chosen well. Let us begin," Darcia said. Before B'Elanna could complain again, Darcia wandered towards the central stone. "Come, form a line facing the Monolith."

Tom held out his arm just in case anyone did step forward to do just that. "Can you at least tell us what this calling on the spirits does?"

"You will not be harmed," Darcia only answered.

James shook his head. "Answer him, or we're leaving."

Darcia turned around to face the team yet again. Her expression was blank, unreadable. "In order to reach the Monolith you must pass the trials. In order to undergo the trials without being slaughtered on the spot, like you almost were at the beach, you need a spirit on your side. All I will do is call them and all they will do here is show they have picked you."

"Soo... what happens if they don't?" Craig dared to ask.

"As I said. You will be killed before you can attempt to take the trials," Darcia replied. She smiled a little too warmly, "but you will be picked. The challenge isn't being assigned a spirit, the challenge lies in the trials."

"What does this spirit assigning entail?" Harry asked.

"Nothing, just form a line," Darcia answered politely.

Jessie scoffed to herself as she looked across at the rest of the team. "So we do nothing and nothing happens. The trials kill people who don't come here first and do nothing. I'm not buying it."

"That is why I usually warn people away from this world. The trials are cruel and unfair, they have to be considering what's at stake," Darcia said.

"Comforting," Tom muttered.

Darcia gestured in front of her. The team looked at one another.

"What do you think?" Tom asked them.

"With Voyager damaged we're trapped here. If she's right and we refuse, we'll not last long. If she's lying and we refuse, we'll still be trapped," Harry whispered.

B'Elanna groaned into her hand, "you're right. We don't have much choice." The others nodded reluctantly.

"Okay then," Tom said, his arm drew an invisible line in front of them. Nothing happened. B'Elanna did the same thing and the rest of the team spread out to form a line. Tom wasn't impressed. "Oh come on!"

Darcia smiled as the team finally stood in a line in front of her. With the two sticks she carried, she pointed at the pair on both ends of the line, then drew her own line to the centre. The sticks came together, forming into one, which she then pointed at the central rock.

"Buried within each of us, there is an animal waiting to be released from its cage. Close your eyes and look deep inside," Darcia said softly.

"Oh god," both James and Jessie groaned at once, they each smirked at each other afterwards.

B'Elanna meanwhile had a flashback to the day Chakotay introduced her to her spirit guide. She tried her best not to smirk as well.

Darcia waited patiently despite the expressions on the team's faces. When they finally closed their eyes she summoned a pile of glittering dust in her right hand. One little exhale pushed it out into the air, towards them. It rose further into the air while the sunlight bounced from it, creating a haze of many colours. A fire rose out of nowhere just by Darcia's feet as the dust started to settle.

Each member of the team felt a circular cold object appear in their hands. They opened their eyes to see what it was. It appeared to be a large coin with an imprint of an animal forged into it. The design was different on every one.

Darcia approached the team, starting with B'Elanna on the right side. "You are fierce, unstoppable. The dragon."

Tom was next. He was still trying to figure out what his picture was. It looked like a cross between a plant and four legged animal. "Your aura presents a fragility, but you have a strength of the heart."

"Please don't say I'm a flower," Tom whispered quietly as possible. The others still heard and sniggered quietly.

"Craig," Darcia continued. "Bright and yet gentle. The bird."

Harry was next and he didn't look that happy with what he had got. Darcia looked at him expectantly. His head barely lifted to answer her silent question. "I'm a frog."

Tom tried not to laugh, but a snort caught in his throat before he could stop it. B'Elanna gave him a well deserved elbow in the arm.

"Yes, like a one you kiss to get a handsome prince," Darcia said sweetly. Harry smiled at her.

"Or in this case you just get a Harry," Jessie said in disgust. James bit his lip to stop himself from laughing as well.

Darcia ignored the comment and walked over to James. "Appearances can be deceiving. Powerful and caring." Tom did laugh this time and loudly too, so no one heard what animal she was comparing him with.

"Can I change mine?" Jessie asked as Darcia got to her.

"Small, but fiercely protective and hot tempered," Darcia said.

James briefly glanced at them, "can I have that one?"

Jessie smirked back, "you really don't want it."

"Why?" James asked.

"The cat," Darcia continued once they were done.

"Oh," James could only say, his eyes widening briefly.

"What's wrong with a cat? It's better than a bird," Craig complained.

"Or a plant," Tom sighed.

Darcia looked at them all, slightly bemused by their reactions. "Yours is not a plant, Mr Paris. It is an animal closely tuned to the soil, it camouflages well into the grasslands to hunt its prey."

"What does it do when it catches its prey, make stupid jokes at it until it gets eaten?" James questioned.

Tom pulled a face at him. "Ha, ha!" he said slowly enough to know he was being mocked.

"Any reason why your *spirit* animal tried to kidnap me earlier?" Jessie meanwhile teased towards Craig.

He blushed furiously, "maybe it liked you."

B'Elanna couldn't help but laugh, "oh, I get it. He's the bird because he chases *birds*. Good one."

"Hey! Surely the prince analogy would mean that I'm the ugly frog that needs changing into a handsome prince?" Harry suddenly snapped.

"Just be thankful someone would want to kiss you if that were true," Tom teased.

"I assume the fire breathing dragon would have been reserved for Janeway if she came," James commented.

B'Elanna had to smile, "and what exactly was yours? I missed it over the sound of Tom peeing in his soil."

Tom turned to her with a look of betrayal on his face. "Ha, ha, ha!" he shouted even more slowly than before.

"I take it back. The soil animal is probably too stupid to make jokes. Just sits there making the same annoying noise so it gets eaten. Like a lemming. It suits you," James said.

Darcia kept glancing at everyone as they spoke up, in the end she gave up and just shook her head. "Um, with the approval of the Y'Jetti spirits there is nothing stopping you from obtaining the great power."

"I assume yours is an animal that would make you nervous of Jessie. So, a mouse?" Tom sniggered. "Craig and Jessie will have to fight for dinner today."

James slowly clapped, "wow Tom. Don't strain your brain too much coming up with these zingers."

B'Elanna rolled her eyes. "Yes and fire breathing dragon kills all of you, so maybe we should get going. Voyager is depending on us getting this power to repair the ship and capture Q."

"Wait, it does both? Q wasn't too clear on that," Craig said. He noticed Darcia walking back the way the team came before. "Wait, aren't you coming with us? If we gag Tom, it won't be as loud, promise."

"He started it," Tom huffed James' way.

Darcia turned on her heel at the cusp of the hill. "I wish I could. However I am tied to this area alone, I cannot leave it. If I did my power and immortality would diminish." As she expected the team looked confused. "The creatures of the games will be your guide. May they watch over you."

Before any of them could ask them about the second to last sentence, she disappeared in a white flash of light.

B'Elanna let out a sigh. "Let's get this over with."

Holodeck Two:

"No it's not! Mwahahahaha," Q2 cackled.

The man standing in front of him narrowed his eyes. "Bwahahahahahaha!" he didn't laugh, he yelled forcefully, making his grey face even greyer.

"Mwahahahahahaha!" Q2 laughed in his face. The two minions face palmed as the black and white villain did his evil laugh at the same time. Each villain got louder to try and drown out the other.

Meanwhile on the screen nearby the away team were walking through the dense forest. Tom tried to get through some trees, only to get caught on a large branch filled with flowers. It pulled him back by the neck, his arms batted at it to get it away. B'Elanna and Harry were the first to rush to his aid.

"Enough of this frivolity!" the black and white villain snapped.

"Ha," Q2 finished after he complained, just to annoy him.

"You may have fooled the rest of these imbeciles..." the villain said in an over the top voice. He pointed at the now hundreds of holograms mainly doing menial jobs in the background. "Into working for you. But I am the great Doctor Chaotica! Ruler of the..."

"Of the tall blond ones puberty fantasies, yes I know," Q2 brushed him off. Of course Chaotica was confused, and he didn't take that lightly. His black eyes flared. "I'm sure Mr Paris will enjoy the latest episode I have cooked up. But you!" he swung around with dramatic flare. "I have a job far more fitting for a *man* of your programming."

"Who is Mr Paris?" Chaotica snarled.

Q2 growled, "only an overgrown kid who likes to play with toys." In his anger he smacked a nearby monochrome object that looked like a telescope. Chaotica's eyes widened and he ducked as it span

around on its stand, making powering up noises as it did. "Him and his little boyfriend created the hole I was trapped in, filled it with really pointless and offensive things..."

Right on cue the telescope looking thing finally stopped making a noise. Only then it fired a white beam straight ahead of it. A few of the holograms ducked. One however was walking over.

"Oh boss, have ya seen Kate? I miss ha terribly," he said in a badly stereotypical Irish accent. Thankfully the white beam disintegrated him.

"Imagine an infinite amount of time, trapped in a room filled with that!" Q2 snapped as he pointed at the tiny pile of ash on the floor. Then he pointed at the robot. "And this. Don't even get me started on that!" The last thing he pointed at churned the villain and the two minions' stomachs.

"Oh Seven, I love you all of a sudden even though the only scenes we have together showed mutual disdain. Lets lick fingers and make out," hopefully not the real Chakotay purred.

Thankfully Seven wasn't wearing her catsuits but a normal outfit, she didn't even have any technology on her face. Though her new outfit wasn't much better, one slight movement and she'd fall out of her dress.

"Hang on. As the seasons have progressed I've become more mechanical. I cannot love you just yet, even though I fancied Axum, until someone installs Love and Retcons Version 12.2, which may overload my circuits and kill me. Let me get into character so it appears like I do. Only I must have some sort of feelings or there wouldn't be this conundrum."

"Okay!" Chakotay said happily.

Seven clicked her head to the side. As soon as she did she smiled seductively at the commander, "come here shmoochkums."

Chaotica grabbed the telescope looking ray gun and turned it in their direction. Most of the room cheered and clapped.

"Get back to work!" Q2 screamed. The holograms stopped quickly to get back to what they were doing.

"I don't get it. These programs aren't apart of this library," minion one asked.

Q2 swung around to glare at them. "No, these are the ones that have haunted me in my captivity. Paris' fantasies must have been on at the time of my escape. This frivolous black and white one is in both, so I don't know which is more annoying."

"Really?" minion two said as he looked at a cow wearing a bow on its head.

Q2 scowled as he turned to face the screen again. "Kim and Paris will soon see the fruit of their own work turn against them. The engineer woman, I shall just be content with her having to repair Voyager for all eternity."

"Hmph. That is Proton and Kincaid. If you are attempting revenge, at least get that right," Chaotica said.

Q2 wasn't listening, he was too engrossed in watching the away team enter a clearing. When they spread out slightly Tom immediately bumped into a giant lizard, which for some reason had a giant red bun on its head. He stared blankly at it until it winked at him. Then it returned to a nearby pool of brown water.

"Hmm," Q2 stared curiously at it.

Phados One

A dinosaur graveyard:

Tom continued walking like nothing had ever happened, he even had a smile on his face.

"What the hell?" Jessie stuttered while she looked around.

"It looks like some sort of dinosaur graveyard," Tom said after a appreciative whistle. Everyone stopped to stare at him blankly. "On Phados," he said quietly.

"You forgot to say One," Harry said with a smile.

"I don't get it," Craig whispered to the person closest, and that was B'Elanna.

"That's okay, fourth wall jokes are never funny anyway," she said.

The team carefully walked around the large fossils lying about, which seemed to stop at the other side of the clearing.

"Welcome to Jurassic Park," Harry quipped while smirking in James' direction.

James groaned in disgust, "is that supposed to be funny or are you trying to make Tom look better by comparison?"

"What? I thought it would be something you would say," Harry smirked back.

"Only if I had a few, or was fifteen, and or a completely different person," James said warily.

"Oh I dunno, you come off that way all the time. Maybe you need to lighten up a little," Harry teased.

Tom stood in front of a skull bigger than he was. His foot barely nudged a smaller bone, moving it slightly towards the rest. What he didn't realise was that a large and very long tail bone just behind him was lifting up on its own. By the time it was pointing to the sky, a few more bones lying with it also raised, generating a loud enough rattle to get Tom's attention.

He dared to look behind him. The sight before him gave him the urge to back away and fast. He told himself slow was better. By this time the rest of the away team could see it too. It was no longer just a floating piece of bone. The entire skeleton it belonged to was standing up right, as if it were still alive.

"What kind of trial is this?" Jessie stuttered.

Craig stepped slowly backwards while the skeleton remained focused on Tom. He hoped if he did this a few more times he could retreat back into the safety of the woods. His foot decided it would be more interesting though to land on a tree branch. The tiny snap was the only noise besides the team's light breathing. It got the skeleton's attention, its head snapped over.

Harry joined Craig in the panic as it stomped over towards them. It would reach Harry first and it showed no sign of slowing down. He knew enough not to make any sudden movements. However its next step would crush him. He chose to dive out of its path.

He had no choice, Craig ran the rest of the way to the forest. The density of it didn't put the walking fossil off the chase. He didn't know this as he didn't dare look behind him.

The rest of the team looked desperately around for anything that could help him. B'Elanna was the first to spot something. She reached down for a smaller bone that thankfully wasn't moving on its own.

Now that its back was to her, B'Elanna hurried over to it, to Tom and the others dismay. Its head turned as it heard her coming. A tail swipe knocked her harshly to the ground.

"B'Elanna!" Tom cried out.

It seemed to have worked. The dinosaur's attention was diverted away from Craig. He quickly took cover behind a tree. It looked around for its next target.

"Stay perfectly still. These things only see things that move," Harry whispered.

"That's Earth dinosaurs, surely," Jessie whispered too. Proving her right the dinosaur picked her. It stomped over. "Oh come on, this isn't funny anymore!" she screeched as she ran off.

Tom lunged forward, but to his surprise and Harry's as well it was James that stopped him by grabbing his arm. "Wha..."

"I've got a better idea, get over there," he said, pointing towards B'Elanna.

"This is so out of character," Craig squeaked from behind his tree.

Tom nodded, he agreed. "That thing will either trample you or eat you... well chew you up. There's no way..."

"No time," James said while he picked up a large rock. Tom winced as before he could talk him out of it, it flew towards the overgrown fossil. He decided to walk slowly towards where James told him. Just in time as the rock slammed into its back, the resulting rattle was louder than the last.

"James, what the hell are you doing!" Jessie screamed angrily.

The dinosaur looked around at its attacker. It decided to pursue him instead. He ran as fast as he could into the woods.

"That's his better idea?" Harry stammered just as the dinosaur's bones slammed into the first tree in its way.

Tom watched it go, his brow furrowed. "Did you hear that crack when the rock hit it?"

"No," the rest of the boys muttered.

Jessie ran over to join the others, her cheeks were red and her eyes were wide. All she could see of what was happening was the trail of destruction the dinosaur had left. Tom walked over to the broken tree and knelt down. The others frowned while he straightened back up, with something in hand.

"It's still just a pile of bones," he said, gesturing to the object in his hand.

Harry and Craig shared a look of horror as Tom ran after the skeleton after saying that. They weren't as shocked when Jessie followed him without questioning it. B'Elanna stumbled over to them as she disappeared into the wilderness.

The two doing the chasing heard a deafening roar just ahead. Not that they could miss the sight of a walking skeleton of a dinosaur standing not far ahead, even in the dense wood.

Tom quickly maneuvered himself backwards behind a tree, his head peered around it to see what was happening. Jessie stood behind another one with a worried and angry look on her face.

They just managed to make out that James' escape had been momentarily blocked by a thick tree trunk. The dinosaur had caught up to him before he could run around it. Tom noted that its leg had lost a few of its bones during its rampage through the trees, it didn't look as steady as before. He gave Jessie a nod, which she frowned at as she didn't notice that or have any idea what he was thinking.

Tom tip toed over to the beast while it was distracted. It lunged forward to take a bite out of its current prey, who managed just in time to jump up and grab a sturdy tree branch above its head. It growled at him as he got further up the tree everytime it tried again.

All it took was a light push at its last remaining leg bone, and the fossil toppled over to one side. Tom quickly darted backwards to avoid being hit by falling bones. James had to smirk as the dino fell back into pieces while it hit the ground, and he had a much better view of it up the tree.

"How did... how did you know that would happen?" Jessie stammered upwards.

James shrugged, "I didn't." The look on her face put him off climbing back down to the ground.

Tom smiled proudly. "No, that was all me. The rock he threw chipped its spine." He showed her the object he picked up earlier. "See."

"Hmm. Good job Tom," Jessie said. For once her deadly glare eased off to look at Tom, instead of the other way around.

"Yup, Captain Proton to the resc..." Tom grinned.

Jessie pulled a face, "don't ruin it."

James seemed to have taken advantage of the glare she gave him not being directed at him at the moment, to get back down from the tree. His landing nearby startled Tom enough as he wasn't expecting it that quickly.

Jessie closed the gap between her and James to give him a tight but very brief hug. As sudden as it happened she shoved him back again to re-arm her furious stare. Tom thought he knew better than to make a comment about the hug now, so he backed away and kept his mouth shut.

"What the hell did you think you were doing then? *I didn't know*. You could've been killed!" she screamed at him.

James looked more nervous about her reaction than the threat they had just been against. "I'm sorry. There wasn't much time to think of a plan, one of us had to do something."

Tom felt a bit uneasy. He knew what he would have done if it was B'Elanna or Harry. In fact he remembered he did almost charge in when Jessie became its target. He had to say something. "You would have done the same if the roles were reversed. You went running after him and Barney after all."

Jessie shot a glare at him instinctively, though she knew he was right. Her face immediately softened. "You're right. It's okay. I'd be dead if you didn't..." She turned her head back towards James. "You know why I get mad." He timidly nodded. "I... don't..."

The rest of the team arrived on the scene carefully. As soon as they saw the pile of bones they all relaxed a little.

"Tom, are you okay?" B'Elanna asked. Tom winced, he noticed a similar look of danger in her eyes.

"Fine, you?" he asked, hoping that pointing out her own impulsive act would put her off yelling at him for his. She only nodded. He feared he wasn't going to get away with it that easily.

"Maybe we should keep moving before more of these things wake up," Craig suggested.

"Yeah, I'm all for it," Jessie said.

She and Craig walked back the way they came, quickly followed by Harry. B'Elanna stared at Tom as she turned back around to do the same. James and Tom glanced at one another.

"What a pair we make," Tom said, smirking slightly.

James laughed, "yeah, and thanks." He walked by him to follow the others. He briefly glanced backwards, "don't worry, I'll return the favour."

Tom shuddered, "oh believe me. I wouldn't wish B'Elanna's wrath on any man. It's fine."

"She went running right at the thing, so she can't..." James said.

"And that's how you earn a black eye," Tom chuckled while turning on his heel to follow.

The star had begun to descend behind the distant hills. The very little light they had was dwindling away to almost nothing. An eery silence had befallen the woods as the wilderness turned in for the night, or at least the away team hoped. Harry's tricorder was soon the only source of light. It wasn't much, but in the dense woods it served them just as well as a flashlight.

The silence didn't last very long. An argument broke out as soon as the star disappeared. The ones not taking part sat down on the ground to wait it out.

"Voyager needs us. We can't just wait around for dawn. On this planet that could be anything from a few hours to a few months," B'Elanna said.

"I agree, kind of," Harry said meekly. The lack of light helped him avoid being glared at knowingly. "There's plenty of kindling. We could make a few torches. If not, it's probably not a good idea to wander the woods."

James sighed and rolled his eyes. "If we do that we'd likely get some attention we don't want."

Harry scoffed. B'Elanna beat him to a response, "we were told we'd face dangerous trials on route. What difference does it make? Besides, we still don't know how long night is..."

"The difference is being dead and not," James butted in, angering her further. "Are you seriously telling me you'd rather face them when you can't even see? I thought you were smarter than..."

"Oh god, abandon camp," Tom stuttered. He edged closer towards the quieter members.

"Excuse me!" B'Elanna snapped. "Harry suggested getting us some light. I'm not suggesting going in blind."

"You were before," James commented.

B'Elanna tightened both of her fists. She tried to bury the temptation to use them. "I thought we could discuss the how's before we left. If you're too much of a coward to walk in the dark, stay here."

"We don't know what we're up against. We don't even know what we're doing or what we're looking for. We were already in the dark before the sun went down, why make it harder on ourselves?" James said.

Jessie glanced over at him, her eyes then looked to the floor. She sighed, "I agree."

"Of course you do," B'Elanna said quickly.

Harry winced slightly, he braced himself for the worse. "I do as well. I thought suggesting the torches may help us meet in the middle."

"Tom?" B'Elanna said, her head darted in Tom's direction.

Even though he couldn't see her face, he still flinched. "You're both right." B'Elanna groaned and rolled her eyes. "We need to hurry as we don't know what the Q plans to do, and when. But we're also in a dangerous and unknown situation, and walking into it with our sight compromised would make it harder."

"Maybe we should know," Craig mumbled quietly. Everyone's attention went to him. He just didn't notice yet.

"Should know what?" B'Elanna asked, startling him.

"Um... well, ever since this started we haven't really had time to er..." Craig stammered as he struggled to find the words. "We were beamed into the Holodeck without a plan to stop Q's escape. He did, and we weren't given an idea what to do there. Then he trashes Engineering. We're told about this power or technology that can trap him again. Before we have time to question it, here we are undergoing weird animal speeches and walking dinosaurs..."

Most of the team smirked at the stupidity of it all, now that it was vocalised. Tom was the first one to laugh at it. "The kid's got a point."

"Yeah, it feels like we're being strung along Q's wild ride. We don't know for sure what's going to happen," Jessie said.

"I'm not a kid," Craig muttered under his breath.

"I agree that this is all a bit, insane, but how does talking about it help us now?" Harry questioned.

"Maybe if we hadn't have charged in without much questions..." Tom said.

"We did question though. The Q, all of them in fact, have been really avoidy on the whole situation," James said. He frowned, "even our bad guy. It's more than a bit odd."

"It does feel like one big game. I'm sure Q's very pleased at how much we've played along," B'Elanna muttered.

Tom crouched down to clasp Craig's shoulder, at least he hoped it was his. "Good thing you came along, Craigy."

Craig shook his arm to coax Tom's hand away. "Why? Like you, I didn't have any choice."

What he said brought a question to Jessie's lips, "why us?" The others looked towards the source of her voice. "Janeway was going to send her own team, twice, but Q either overruled or circumstances forced us in."

"I've got a better one," Harry said. "What is this power apparently only we can acquire, that can overpower a Q?"

The away team fell silent for a few minutes as they each thought about it. Tom covered his face with his hand, he felt his cheeks burn up as something occurred to him. "If we had just sat down for five minutes exactly like this and discussed it, we wouldn't be here. Q wanted us here and he certainly didn't want us thinking about the why." He knew everyone agreed with him as they remained silent. Normally there would be a comment or argument immediately following his words, or interrupting them. "Five minutes, and we're leaving."

"We are?" James said.

Tom knew that was coming, he cleared his throat so his voice would sound a bit more confident. "We're not going to figure it out sitting here. If we get to the finish line we may have a shot at understanding what's going on."

Jessie squirmed a little on the spot, her arms wrapped around herself tightly. "What about the darkness obscuring things? We're going there anyway, why not just wait?"

"If this is just another one of Q's infamous pranks, it won't matter. If it isn't, we'll get back to Voyager quicker," Tom said.

Harry didn't look so sure. "Or we'll die quicker."

"So, you're happy that we finally talked about what was going on and in doing so assumed something fishy was going on. Then you immediately decide the best thing to do is play along anyway?" James said in disbelief.

Tom nodded, "yeah. We won't know what Q is really after until we get there. The sooner the better."

B'Elanna smiled, "exactly."

James sighed as he looked over towards Jessie. He couldn't see but she was smirking a little. "Have we swapped?"

"No, Tom was always an impulsive idiot looking for trouble," she answered.

Tom scowled, "yeah, thanks."

"Hmm, interesting," James said like he didn't mean it.

"If we just get a few branches and rocks, we'll be able to make something to light the way," Harry said.

James shrugged, he seemed to like the idea, even though it was already mentioned earlier. "I'm all for burning down the forest. Why not?"

Tom laughed nervously while Craig's eyes widened. Jessie just giggled behind her hand quietly. "Nope, no change there," she said.

"Huh?" Craig stuttered as he looked at her.

"Oh, so you're not going to chicken out like Tom normally would?" B'Elanna said with a smile, earning a glare from Tom.

"Hey, I eat chickens for breakfast," he blurted out defensively, immediately regretting it. Everyone laughed at him. "Lunch and dinner rather. Damn it. It sounded more badass in my head."

James looked confused, "you actually think what you're going to say?"

Tom huffed, "you're one to talk."

Holodeck Two:

The holograms all seemed to be finished with slaving, they were standing in a lined formation. Q2 paced before the front row, inspecting them with his devious eyes.

"The preparations are complete, you all should know what your mission is!" he shouted at them. "The modifications are complete. Your weapons are ready. It is time for sweet revenge."

"But sir," one minion stammered.

Q2 brushed him off with a hand wave. "While most of you lay waste to this floating waste of metal, the rest of you will wait for the urchins to return from their mission. They will think they have the upper hand over you." He cackled maliciously while glancing briefly at his big screen nearby showing the away team talking at their camp. "I'll leave it up to you how long you want to maintain that illusion. The longer the better."

"I still don't understand how a bunch of holograms can attack the ship," the first minion whispered to his companion.

"Hush! He'll hear you," he snapped back. "He's a Q, he'll know a way."

Q2 swung his head around, his eyes sharpened. The pair knew he had heard them anyway. "Voyager will regret using this play house to imprison me. It is only fitting that I use it to destroy them," his speech continued despite that. "Go!"

The crowd dispersed into a few groups. Some remained behind to wait for the awayteam's return. Q2 approached them while clasping his hands.

"According to the data logs, Paris and Kim were to play the Spider Queen episode next. Need I say more?" he sneered. A few of the holograms snickered with him.

"The trash team will satisfy my revenge on the engineer. Do whatever you want with her," he said to different holograms. His attention went to others. "The kid and the girl seemed to be very fond of mutiny stories, best not disappoint them." The remaining members of the group stared expectantly. He just smiled into space. "As for our last member, leave that meddler to me."

The holograms now with nothing to do glanced at each other, but didn't dare say anything in case it upset their leader.

"Oh don't worry, there will be plenty to do when Janeway and her little brat are left. I found a nice little coffee factory program during my stay," Q2 cackled.

With his entire army satisfied he swung around to walk over to his giant screen. The team were getting ready to leave camp. James, Craig and B'Elanna were busy gathering sticks and rocks from nearby and leaving them in front of Jessie, who was the only one still sitting around. Tom crouched down next to her. While Jessie gathered the rocks into a pile, he started putting sticks together. Harry approached. Tom assumed he was walking over to hand him better sticks to light the fire, so he held out his hand.

Instead Harry pounced on him and pinned him to the ground. Jessie pulled a disgusted face and budged a few metres to the right, as Tom's cries for help were muffled by Harry's attempts to kiss him.

"It's a fake," Q hissed.

The two minions weren't surprised. "Wasn't that the whole point sir?" Q2 whirled around with a ferocious look on his face, they both whimpered at the sight of it.

"They should be in the other hologram room, but they're not. This!" Q2 snapped while pointing at poor Tom being assaulted while no one helped him. "Is another one of the glitches plaguing this program. He tricked me."

"Paris did?" minion two stuttered.

Q2 snorted in disgust. His hand waved in front of the screen, it blew itself to pieces a second later. "No, this is Q's work. He isn't being monitored by the Continuum, he's doing what he wants as usual. The Humans will truly be on Phados, he'll have sent them on his own power."

"But you redirected their transporter to Holodeck One. The window showed them there," minion one said.

One hand gesture and the remaining holograms walked forward to grab him. As he was dragged away Q2 sighed as if nothing happened. "I have no use for a parrot."

The second minion trembled. He tried to stop it. "So what we were seeing wasn't the away team, but holograms of them?"

"Oh it was really them," Q2 answered to his confusion. "A projection of them on Phados on this very Holodeck, right under my nose. If it wasn't for the modifications to Paris's games I wouldn't have known the difference."

"So they'll be close to getting the power," the minion said quietly.

This angered the Q again. The minion backed away, fearing for his life. Fortunately his rage quickly turned into a sinister laugh, which unnerved him more. "What are you playing at Q? You must know what will happen to the Humans when they know of their existence."

"Your excellence?" the minion questioned carefully.

Q2 swung around to face him. "Change of plans. We'll play Q's little game. Win or lose, the Humans are doomed."

Phados:

They stood on the edge of it, raised high enough to see everything. On their arrival stone pillars had lit themselves one at a time. It had frozen the group on the spot. The rock face they had seen from afar was just ahead, on the far side of an open area filled with eroded statues. The stone paved land was uneven; cracked and sloped. One hill leading up to the rock face appeared to be cracked, it looked ready to give way to the slightest of weight.

Both Craig and B'Elanna quietly noted that no matter what way they walked to this place, they'd have to carefully walk down a steep hill into a hard to escape hole in the ground.

"They either tried to hide this place, or it's intended as a trap," B'Elanna vocalised her thoughts.

"I'm thinking latter," James said.

Harry took the time to look around at each and every statue, then finally at the rock face. The statues seemed to be figures of people, likely powerful and or worshiped by whoever lived on the planet in the past. All of them though were far too different to each other they couldn't be of the same race, he thought. The rock face itself was covered in alien text he had no hope in ever reading.

"So we're here, I wonder how we're supposed to know what to do," Tom said. He cringed immediately and he aimed his next words at the sky, "that wasn't a hint by the way."

"Well it's no good standing here. We should stick together and head down," Craig suggested.

B'Elanna nodded, "yes slowly and carefully."

James' shoulders fell, he let out a sigh loud enough for the others to hear. "I don't think we have a choice now." Everyone looked at him. His hand gestured backwards slowly, it grazed a purple forcefield.

Tom tried not to show the worry he was feeling on his face. He put on a determined expression. "This is what we came for, it's okay." He slowly started to walk down the steep hill before him. The others did the same. The incline made it difficult for them all to keep a slow steady pace. Craig and Harry both nearly tripped over their own feet a few times in an attempt to slow themselves down.

They each managed to reach the bottom safely. The scale of the hole was a lot more intimidating now they were inside it. B'Elanna was the first to see the forcefield that James had discovered was a lot clearer where they were. At every edge, even the sky there were ripples. It reminded her of a calm tide.

Harry stared at the nearest to him statue. It felt to him like it was staring right at him. That was when he noticed the figure was armed with vicious looking teeth, frozen thankfully in the stone. A sense of dread overwhelmed him so he took a step back. To his horror he swore he saw the eyes follow him.

"It knows we're here. I doubt we'll have to wait for long," B'Elanna said.

While she was talking Harry pointed his tricorder at the statue. It bleeped madly as soon as he did, the hairs on the back of his neck soon stood up. No one really had time to look over at him, the ground started shaking.

"What is it?" B'Elanna shouted over the resulting noise.

"It... it's impossible!" Harry stuttered. Nobody could hear him over the sound of the tremors. They just saw his mouth open slightly.

One at a time the statues started to blink and move discreetly while the ground shook. James turned around just in time to catch one swipe its arm at him. He leapt backwards out of its reach.

"Guys!" he yelled to get the others attention.

The ones closest to him, Tom and Craig, just managed to hear him over the rumbling and they swung around. The statue he had backed away from's foot lifted up from the ground, it groaned and cracked until it was free. Five other statues, including Harry's started to do the same thing.

"Walking fossils, man sized birds, and now moving statues. Just great," B'Elanna muttered.

With all six of the statues no longer rooted to the ground, the trembling stopped. They slowly closed in on the team.

"What now?" Jessie asked quietly.

"Panic?" James replied, the others hoped not seriously.

"I'm already there," Craig stuttered.

B'Elanna's head darted around, "they're slow. Spread out before they block us in!" The rest of the team ran for the gaps in between the statues before she finished talking. Despite that she smiled and did the same. "I guess that was obvious."

However now that they were running, the statues were suddenly a lot more agile. They each gave chase.

Harry chose to give himself the high ground and headed for one of the sloped areas. There was another statue at the top, which thankfully hadn't come to life. At least not yet.

Jessie had a similar idea. She headed for the biggest statue near the cliff face, then started to climb up it. Just as she was about her height high, the pursuing statue grabbed her leg and tried to tug her back down.

"Oh come on. This is getting very old!" she complained as she tried to kick it off. Despite it being made of stone, or at least it was before, it felt like she was kicking something made of flesh and bone.

"Okay, okay..." Tom stuttered on route to the cliff face. "Maybe if we figure out what this says, then..." Once he reached it he noticed how fast his very alive looking pursuer was now, his mind quickly changed. "Nope!" he ran off alongside the face.

He hadn't thought about where he was running to, he just wanted to get away. However that didn't work out well when Craig ended up at the sloped path that looked like it would fall away with the slightest touch.

Footsteps approached loud and fast. A thought occurred to him. It was dangerous but so was staying where he was. He climbed onto the tiny wall along the left side of the cracked path. There was no time to be careful, he attempted to run across it to a safe part.

The safe part of the path didn't come, it was even more damaged the further he went. The wall he ran on was getting higher with the path. The ground to his left was getting too far away for his liking. His balance was shaky with the fear. He kept going, hoping that the statue wouldn't be able to follow him exactly. He didn't dare look back to check.

The only way left for B'Elanna to go was the hill leading to the forcefield. At the last second she turned to the right, hoping that would disorient her pursuer for a second or so. She had a speed advantage over it, and now she had a mostly clear path ahead of her. The only thing ahead now was one of the flame pillars. Plenty of time to think of a strategy, she hoped.

Just in case, her head turned to look over her shoulder behind her. If she hadn't seen it with her own eyes, she would never have guessed these things were inanimate statues five minutes ago. It had gained colour, it was moving fluidally, it breathed in and out. Whatever it was, it was alive... now.

It also carried a sharp sword in its hand. Her eyes rolled, "great. Of course it has a sword."

Harry was meanwhile regretting retreating to the hill they had walked down. He was rushing along it, not up or down, yet it was still difficult to keep his balance. The ex-statue was gaining on him. Nearby there was a raised bit of land, mostly incased in stone, flat. It was perfect. Just as the statue was about to grab him he leapt onto it. He heard it snort in response.

He couldn't run far, he knew he'd have to jump. What he didn't know until he got there was that if he jumped, he'd jump right into a pool of water. He wouldn't hesitate usually, but this particular pool had steam rising from it and even had bubbles popping in it.

There was no safe way to his left or right to escape, he couldn't go back. The statue beast was sharing the platform with him. He wondered if he could jump to one side anyway, at the last second. It would hurt but it may not kill him, unlike the jump into the water.

It wasn't running for him now. It either knew what he was thinking or it wanted to prolong the terror he was feeling.

"Hang on Harry!" Tom's voice yelled from above.

Harry looked around to see where it had come from. All he could see were a few trees, thick with leaves and flowers blowing in a gentle breeze. A movement in front of him brought him back to his predicament. The creature was almost on him. He backed away as far as he could without falling. His heel hit the edge of the platform.

The creature lunged for him. His nerves betrayed him. Instead of leaping to either his right or left side, he instead ducked and leapt forward just under its swinging arm. He rolled on impact, the stone scraped the skin on his hands, arms and legs. It was better than either of the alternatives.

A rustle in the branches. Harry didn't have time to look up. A blur flew above him. He looked around. To his shock it landed on the creature's back.

"Tom!"

"Ever play leap frog?" Tom said in an amused tone despite where he was.

"Not like that no..." Harry stuttered. Despite his better judgement, he scrambled forward on his knees to help his friend.

The creature agreed. It grabbed Tom's arms and flipped him over its head. Harry rolled around just in time to see Tom grab onto the edge of the platform. The heavy legs of the statue lifted up just over one of his hands. All Tom could do was hold on and hope that it would miss.

Harry didn't have time to think about it. He pushed himself back up to his feet as quickly as he could. "Hey!" he shouted to get its attention. It did just that, it looked around.

Now was the time. He charged forward to push it as hard as he could. As it was still only on one foot, it wobbled for a few seconds before falling backwards into the pool.

"Time for your bath," Harry quipped with a smile.

Tom smiled proudly at him as he helped him back onto the platform. "Thanks Harry. I thought I was finished." His words overlapped the creature's screech as it struggled in the boiling water.

"Leap frog?" Harry teased.

Tom smirked back, "yeah, yours was better."

Not far away, Craig was still running on the tiny wall. He had slowed down somewhat to keep his balance. He briefly glanced to the left, instantly he was overwhelmed by vertigo. He crouched down to hold onto the wall, his eyes shut tightly for just a moment.

When they opened again, he dared to look behind him to see if the creature was following. To his relief he couldn't see it at all. He quickly worried about where it was now. Then he noticed the hole in the sloped path a lot further down than he was. He sighed. It wasn't over yet, he had to go back the way he came.

He was barely more than a metre on his return journey when the path beside him crumbled to bits. The wall he was on trembled as well. It wasn't safe to run or climb on. All he could do was hold on tightly and wait for it to stop.

As B'Elanna ran she tried to think of a way to disarm her opponent. Luckily it wasn't as fast as her. However she was running out of room to run straight and she knew it would expect her to make a sudden turn once she got to the pillar.

So far on her run she had seen Tom's stunt near Harry but not the resolution to it, Craig scaling the wall and Jessie half way up the large statue with a creature struggling to follow. One of the team was missing. She shook her head, she couldn't worry about anyone else right now. If she kept running straight she'd slam into solid stone.

Her running was cut short. She couldn't believe it. The pillar just ahead of her cracked at its base. Instead of worrying about her running into it, she was now worrying about it crashing into her. It loomed towards her. She had no choice. She had to run to the right even if her pursuer did expect it.

So she was clear of it when it hit the ground, B'Elanna leapt forward onto the hard ground. The pillar then slammed into it as well. B'Elanna quickly covered her eyes as the dust from the impact clouded over her. She couldn't lie there for long. With her eyes still closed she hurried onto her feet despite the burning pain in her knees as well as her hands.

There was a crackling sound not far behind her. The scent of smoke lingered on the dust. The pillar had flames on the top of it, she remembered. Hopefully the creature was in its path as it fell. Just as she was thinking that she slammed into a figure in front of her, hidden in the cloud. It didn't let her fall to the ground, it grabbed her first.

"How!" she croaked as it grabbed her throat. No time to think about that. She wasn't going to go down without a fight. As hard as she could, she swung both of her feet into the figure. The sound of a crack and then a grunt told her she did some damage, she swung again until it was forced to let her go. It did just that, it threw her back towards the fallen pillar, right back into the thick of the dust.

For a moment it was quiet, her eye sight blurred. The pain she had felt in her hands and knees were gone, numb even. Through the blur she could just make out the orange and red of the flames nearby. It then all flooded back. The pain, it came back with a vengeance and it wasn't just in her hands and knees. It lingered in her throat. The smoke, she was breathing it in. It was making her feel sick as it choked her lungs.

The fire was all she could think about as something beside her moved. Feet scraped against the rubble right beside her. On her other side was the fire. Her hand reached out for an object next to it. It burned her hand but her brain screamed at her hand to keep a hold of it or suffer worse. Quickly she swung whatever it was at the feet beside her. It screamed as the flames engulfed its feet, and then spread up its body.

It was now or never. Tough, she told the pain in her body. B'Elanna dragged herself up and ran as fast as she could. Once she was clear of the dust and the smoke, she felt a sense of relief. However her body wasn't relieved. The adrenaline must have worn off, she collapsed to her knees and she tried with all her might not to throw up her own lungs.

More footsteps approached. Anger filled her. "Enough of this," she thought aloud through her damaged throat. She tried to stand up to confront it, push it away from her. Then she felt an arm around her back. A familiar face appeared near to hers.

"B'Elanna, I'm sorry, are you all right?" it was James' voice. It didn't calm her down. She remembered how her fight went down and there was no way there was only one creature involved in it.

"We can't... stay..." she only managed to warn him.

James glanced over towards the flames. The one she attacked was lying still on the ground, burning in it. "We need to find you somewhere covered. Can you stand?"

"Of course," B'Elanna said. She knew it would be difficult but there was no way she'd admit it. Her knees wobbled as she tried. The arm around her back steadied her, while another gave her more strength to get to her feet. "There's another one."

James shook his head. "No. Some of the pillar crushed him as it fell." B'Elanna thought that wasn't possible, she would have seen it. Though the dust obscured a lot. For now she couldn't see any attackers. Reluctantly she let him walk her away from the scene.

"Oh god... anyone, help!" Craig's scream got everyone's attention.

Harry and Tom swung around to see where it came from. All they could see in that direction was the sloped broken path. Other than small rocks falling from it, they couldn't see anything.

Jessie had a better view on the statue she had managed to get high up on. Craig had clung on to the wall until it finally gave way. He disappeared when it did. She looked down to see the creature still struggling to reach her. Looking down made her very dizzy so she looked back ahead of her instead, then around at the scene to find anyone.

"Craig, he's fallen over there!" she yelled and pointed when she did. Tom and Harry hurried over to help him.

The statue shook violently. Jessie didn't want to see why, she had an awful idea anyway. She couldn't climb down now, it would see her. Quickly she looked around to see if there was a similar sized anything nearby she could try and jump to. The closest thing was an uneven mossy path, sloping upwards to some ruins. It was still too low down to jump to safely.

It shook again and it only made her mad. "Oh for, get a bloody hobby!" she screamed down at it. It reacted with a brief eyebrow raise.

Tom and Harry arrived at the spot where Craig had been climbing. Tom gave Harry a nod before climbing up a nearby tree. Harry thought he understood what he meant by the nod, and so he rushed over to the beginning of the sloped path so he'd be ready. He was shocked at the state of it. Most of it had since collapsed in on itself, the dust from the stone being crushed was blocking most of his view.

"By the way. How did you deal with yours?" Harry asked to distract himself from the worry over Craig.

Tom winced slightly as his hand went to grab the next branch. "I didn't. I outran him."

That wasn't what Harry wanted to hear. At least the dust started to settle a bit. He thought he saw a figure lying on the top of the rubble, blurred within the haze. "Craig?" he asked meekly.

Tom frowned at the branch he was holding. It was softer, definitely not sturdy. Then he realised what it was. He smiled.

The statue rocked harder than before. Jessie hoped she had imagined it lurching a little to one side. The hope was killed when it suddenly jolted down a little and a loud crunch emanated below her. At least she was closer to the nearby hill.

It shook again. Jessie didn't want to wait any longer. She shakily stood up, while keeping her eyes directly ahead and not below. She jumped forward before the statue rocked again. Even though it was covered in a little grass and weeds, it wasn't a soft landing for her.

Before she could recover she started to slide down the steep hill. Quickly she grabbed a nearby bit of stone to stop it. The creature had noticed she had done this and was already running for her.

The only thing she could use as a weapon besides her fists or legs was the nearby ruins at the top of the hill. She hurried up, thinking at least she'd be at more of an advantage higher up, but not as high as her last plan. One large piece of rubble looked like it would be easily rolled from the top of the hill, so Jessie hurried behind it and started to push. It wasn't as easy as she thought, it was also bigger than it first looked. It barely budged a centimetre.

"Come on," she pleaded with it. She was too engrossed with this to notice someone jumping down from the other ruins behind her. She only noticed when the rock suddenly became light and so it began to roll forward. Her head looked to the right, where the person now stood.

"Good thing they're not that clever, huh?" James smiled at her.

With both of them pushing the stone piece rolled down the hill, slamming right into the creature, crushing it.

Tom scouted the area to see how everyone else was doing. He spotted B'Elanna resting in between one statue and a wall. He only just made her out. From the ground she'd be well hidden.

He still worried though as the statue that chased him was wandering around, probably looking for him. His hand tightened around the so called branch in his hand. The texture of it made him look twice at it. As he thought before it definitely wasn't a branch. It was a very long vine. The creature was getting closer to where B'Elanna was.

They were quite far down, but close enough for the vine to reach. He hoped. At least it would distract it from her. He pulled it back as far as he could manage while sitting in the tree. Then he let go. It flew down so fast it whistled. The creature looked up just in time for it to swing across into its neck.

"Talk about a splitting headache," Tom smirked as its head and body were no longer together.

"Okay, that's three down at least," Harry sighed. The sight ahead of him had cleared up greatly. The figure he had seen was what he thought it was, so quickly he climbed up the rubble to reach him.

From where he was he could see another body lying near the fallen fire pillar, like James had said, crushed by some of its rubble. "Mine makes five!" Tom shouted while climbing down the tree.

On route to Craig, Harry noticed something buried in the rubble. He smiled, relief washed over him. "Six."

Craig looked at him, with a dazed look on his face. "That's it then?" he said. Harry helped him up to his feet.

B'Elanna meanwhile staggered over to the rock face. James, Jessie and Tom arrived there first. Tom hurried over to her once she did, she shook her head and smiled. "I'm fine."

"I can see that," he said.

Craig and Harry joined them, Craig did so with a limp. "Okay, that's it right?" Harry said.

"Should be," James said.

Everyone heard something heavy scrape across the ground behind them. They looked around to see the rock Jessie and James had pushed. It had moved, the creature was no longer underneath it.

"Damn," Jessie muttered in annoyance. What didn't help with that was James breaking off from the others to check it out. "Uh uh... no no..." she stuttered before rushing after him.

He just walked by the statue that she had climbed on, when his head snapped to his left. Everyone looking saw a rock fly out from behind it into his head, knocking him flying to the ground.

"Son of a..." Jessie just growled, she didn't let that put her off.

The creature staggered out looking worse for wear. It snarled at its fallen prey, so it missed a very angry Jessie running for him.

"What's she doing!" Tom stammered, his eyes wide.

Jessie answered him seconds later. The creature didn't see her coming until it was too late. She threw her whole body weight at it. They both fell to the ground. It was still shocked it didn't do anything as she punched it over and over.

"There's a joke about a woman scorned, and er... cats... but wow," Tom stuttered. Harry nodded.

James groaned, his hand flew to the new cut on his head. He looked over his shoulder to see Jessie grab the creature's head and slam it into the nearby statue. Tom and Harry both cringed at the same time at the bang it made.

She hit it one more time despite it not moving after the headbutt. The only reason she stopped was the sight of James getting back up in the corner of her eye. "God," she spat while climbing to her feet. "I had to get the spiteful little tosser, didn't I?"

James stopped next to her. Both Tom and Harry thought he must be mad to go near her after that. "You're okay?" she asked him through angry ragged breaths.

"Yeah, nice job," James replied with a smile.

Jessie smiled back, "well, it's nice that I'm no longer the damsel in distress. That crap was pissing me off."

James' smile grew, he was about to say something back to that when the ground shook again.

"Not again," Tom stuttered.

Harry saw movement from the cliff face. The text seemed to be glowing. "Maybe this is it." He thought about scanning it but his tricorder was gone long before the pool fight.

As everyone turned to look at it or in James and Jessie's case, walked closer to rejoin the others, the wall seemed to open up. Not that anyone could see what was behind it but black.

"*Agility*," a voice boomed out from the opening. Before he could say anything Harry felt the coin in his pocket get warm. He quickly pulled it out to catch the shape in it glowing.

"*Wit*." It was Craig's turn this time.

"*Strength*." By this time everyone had their coins back out into their hands.

"*Courage*." B'Elanna's coin glowed, the heat from it reminded her of her already burnt hand.

"*Stealth*." Tom smiled as his did the same.

"*Fury*." Jessie didn't look happy with hers, she was about to complain until she realised that she'd prove its point if she did.

"*With these six powers combined, a greater one is forged...*"

"Oh if this is gonna be a we had the power all along nonsense, I'm going to rip Q's teeth out one at a time," B'Elanna grumbled.

The booming voice continued over the top of her, "...*may the spirits guide you in all your challenges.*"

"That's it?" Tom stammered.

Harry briefly glanced at B'Elanna who looked as mad as Jessie was earlier. He quickly had a better look at his coin. "Q said once we had the power we could transfer it to Voyager with our commbadges." He gestured his coin towards Tom and Craig beside him. "Look, the coins are a similar size."

B'Elanna calmed down at the reminder. She quickly looked at her own coin, which she noticed had a slight indentation along its outer shell. Carefully she pried the coin apart into two pieces, revealing circuitry inside it. "Give me a minute," she said quickly.

The group waited while she delicately tweaked with the coin, all the while removing her commbadge from her chest. Her face warmed up as she simply pressed the commbadge into the coin's mechanism.

"Can't be that simple..." Craig stuttered in shock.

B'Elanna tapped the commbadge. It beeped like it normally would. "Here, all of them should do the same." The first one she snatched away was James' as he was the closest. Harry, Tom and Jessie quickly copied what she was doing with their own. Craig warily pried his apart, the inside of it put him off doing anymore. Once James' was done with, she snatched his to finish the job.

"So, how is this supposed to get to a power deprived Voyager. I know Q said he tweaked it but..." James questioned.

B'Elanna shrugged despite her confident expression. "One way to find out." Another tap, "Voyager. Six to beam up."

They waited for a few seconds. With every one they all worried that nothing had worked. Ten seconds later the transporter beam rescued them from the imposing hole in the ground.

Voyager:

Things didn't look that much better than when the away team left it. Only the dim lights were still on, the red alert one continuously flashed on and off.

"Warning. Hull breach on Deck Seven. Emergency forcefields offline," the computer warned.

Crewmembers ran down the corridor with panicked looks on their faces. Two of them ran by Q2 wandering casually along the halls. He made a point to pat one of the panels flashing red.

"How do you like my new friends, Voyager?" he purred maliciously into it. "Maybe you'll learn to keep your mortal nose out from now on... at least until you die in an hour. Mwahahaha!"

The sound of a cow mooing, as well as wheels clumsily rolling across the carpet approached. More crewmembers ran from it just behind the Q2. He swung around to watch as the cow from before stomped after them, pulling a small carriage behind it filled with old fashioned dressed people armed with pitch forks. Some even carried torches.

"Welcome to Fair Haven, heathens!" one screamed.

The two crewmembers ran faster to try and get away. More similarly dressed holograms appeared from around the corner, to join in the chase. They roared after them shouting in their bad stereotypical accents.

Q2 couldn't help but belly laugh at all of this. "Ah, a fitting end to a fantasy obsessed species. Perhaps I should see how things are going in their escape areas. Hehe."

Meanwhile six figures rematerialised inside the shuttle bay, right beside what looked like a shuttle being repaired.

They all looked around. Their spirits were dashed by the red light flashes, computer warnings and the darkened room.

Harry hurried over to one of the stations, his goal seemed to be underneath it. Eventually he hurried back armed with a tricorder.

"So, it wasn't a power after all... or the transfer didn't work?" Jessie questioned.

Harry looked confused as he scanned the commbadge in his hand, his face contorted with worry. "Strange. All that I can see is data." B'Elanna's head darted towards him. "Holographic data."

"There's a hologram in there? What good is that?" Craig stuttered.

"No need to get your pants in a twist," Tom said calmly. "Q said our commbadge link should transfer power to Voyager." B'Elanna stared blankly at him, while the others made some kind of gesture to the state Voyager was in. "You don't know. Maybe someone in Engineering is fixing things as we speak."

The ship trembled beneath the feet, waking up the audible part of the red alert.

"Janeway to all Security. Phaser fire has been rendered useless against the intruders. Regroup on Decks Eight and One."

"What?" Craig stuttered. James was confused as well.

Harry quickly scanned Tom's commbadge as well. "Yours too. The only thing transferred, that's left over at least, is a hologram."

"Well he did say the power would trap the Q," James said. "He was trapped in a Holodeck, so maybe we do have to do that again."

"Surely he'd have to actually be in it for that to..." Craig stuttered.

They didn't notice the doors to the shuttle bay were open until company ran through them. The new arrival looked on the away team with fury. "Jessie, you beautiful piece of sh..."

Jessie rolled her eyes. "Oh god, it never ends."

The shouter ran over to attack. Jessie responded with a swift kick in the kneecap. That was more than enough to make her stumble to the floor with a whimper.

Tom briefly glanced down at her and then up again. "Seska? She has more lives than a cat."

"And just as annoying," James commented.

Jessie pulled a disgusted face, "that's not really Seska. That's her hologram I fiddled with for the mutiny program. How could you miss the complimented insults filled with jealousy?"

B'Elanna had to laugh. "Yes, the mutiny program was filled with them. I just assumed that James was speaking through his work."

"Um, I don't even know where to start with that," James stuttered.

"Wait we're in the shuttle bay. If she's a hologram, how is she here?" Harry asked.

The rest of the team didn't know the answer. They looked at one another briefly as confusion flickered over their faces. Jessie gave the Seska hologram a little kick while no one was looking.

B'Elanna's shoulders fell, her eyes rolled in disgust. The others heard her mutter quietly and unintelligibly. Tom was about to ask her to repeat when she spoke up. "Of course. Why didn't I figure it out sooner? I'm such an idiot."

"Come again?" Craig dared to ask.

"Really?" B'Elanna was a little surprised that the entire team appeared to not be on the same train of thought as her. "Q sent us on a mission to make sure this Q stayed trapped in his own holodeck. We failed before we had even arrived, so he sends us to some god forsaken hell hole to collect some holograms in order to trap him again?"

"Not following," Tom admitted, shaking his head.

"Remember the console that set itself on fire?" B'Elanna reminded him. "The jet pack, the car..."

"Two of those happened on the Holodeck," Jessie said like it was obvious.

B'Elanna wasn't done though, "you sure took your time coming into Engineering after your spat with James."

Tom seemed embarrassed at the thought. "I was just... still laughing from his hissy fit after I called him out. No need to see a conspiracy in everything." Something red flew into his face, it splattered on contact, leaving a gooey trail dripping down onto his uniform.

Before anyone could really react to it, good or bad, they were distracted by roaring laughter from the other side of the bay. Everyone looked over to the source. They couldn't see anything though, and yet the laughter was still going on.

"Okay, I think I know where you're going with this," Tom said awkwardly while he wiped his chin. The laughter turned into hooting and claps. Once he was done he stared towards James and Jessie, who he caught briefly sharing a smirky look.

Craig however was still a little lost. "So, is whatever this is good or bad for us?"

"I'm thinking bad," Q2 cackled from the doorway. As the team glanced over to him the ground shook several times, a booming sound approached. The Q gestured his arms outward. The wall around the shuttle bay doors crumbled outwards, sending metal debris flying forward.

The hole left behind even stretched to the next deck above them, the ceiling near the door started to cave in. Sparks flew from all over. That was the least of the group's worries as standing in the new hole was a gigantic eight legged robot. Q2 gave one of its leg a stroke.

"I dug this one up just for you. Centuries it took to build. She's a beauty, no," he taunted.

Tom dared to look up at it, regretting it immediately. "No is right."

Harry thought that Tom's reaction was merely the fact that it looked like a giant spider. He looked all the way up as well. His eyes widened. He expected a spider like head, but instead it was something far more disturbing. The head was Human shaped. It had a very familiar face planted on it.

"Such insolence. Don't you know to bow in front of the Queen of the Spider people," Q2 laughed.

By this time the whole team had caught a glimpse of the human looking part of the spider robot. B'Elanna was the only one who found it amusing, the rest found it terrifying. "I figured she'd be more of a Queen of the Coffee people."

Tom and Harry whimpered as they looked at one another. "Did you model Queen Arachnia off Captain Janeway?" Harry accused him.

"No, I'd never..." Tom stuttered.

"Of course you will. You're nothing but predictable," Q2 hissed.

"So let me get this straight. You spent your confinement building a robot on your holodeck, and yet it can still wander outside and trash the ship?" B'Elanna said in disbelief.

Q2 appeared to be insulted by her accusational tone. "Not only that..."

"But Seska the raving Cardassian too. How could I forget?" B'Elanna taunted him.

"What I have far out matches your soft little pets," Q2 giggled darkly. Jessie mouthed the last word he spoke. Q2 seemed to spot that, making him far more amused. "Didn't Q explain anything? That's too bad. It'll make this ending a little anti climactic."

His hand gestured towards the robot. It only needed to take one step forward to close the gap between it and the team. Two legs raised up again, they aimed a horizontal swipe towards them.

Unknown to the team, the coins they had glowed briefly. Differently shaped shadows appeared in front of each of them just as they had jumped back to avoid the swipe. Three of the shadows blocked the legs in their place with a shield generating around them, while the other three charged different attacks.

Q2 growled in frustration as the spider's legs were both destroyed by a mixture of fire, electricity and an eery black beam.

"How dare you hurt my beautiful creation. Now I'm beginning to get very angry!" Q2 screeched.

Despite still being very surprised at what happened, Tom still managed to smirk. "A certain Futurama quote seems oddly appropriate here."

Harry smirked back at him, "this story is bad and you should feel bad?"

Tom shrugged, his bottom lip stuck out. "Not what I had in mind. Good enough though."

Q2 didn't react to them. He clicked his fingers on both hands. A flash behind the away team made some of them look over their shoulders. A mixture of people, and the fake robot from Captain Proton, gathered around to block any further retreats backwards. Jessie looked on in disgust as one of them wore an old fashioned dress, making her look really out of place. The butcher knife in her hand didn't help matters.

"Um... Satan's robot?" Tom stammered at the robot.

"I don't want to know what that is," B'Elanna muttered as her eyes focused on a woman wearing skimpy armour.

Harry laughed nervously, his cheeks flushed red. "No, me neither. It wasn't in an episode so it's probably an unknown crewmember's." Everyone stared at him, they obviously didn't believe him.

"Enough talk. It is time for you to suffer as I have," Q2 snapped. Another hand gesture and the new arrivals began to approach the team.

"So these shadow things are the holograms... I assume," Jessie whispered quickly.

Harry nodded lightly so their opponents couldn't see it. "Mine looked like a frog, so it seems so. I thought about something to block the attack and well... it did it."

"I thought about destroying the hideous thing, so the fire attack makes sense," B'Elanna whispered too. She smirked slightly. "Let's use them to get out of here."

"Out of where..." Craig asked while he glanced between the hole leading to the corridor, and the only other exit; the shuttle bay doors.

B'Elanna didn't answer. Her shadow appeared to breathe fire at the holograms in front of her.

The woman with the butcher knife lunged for Harry. His shadow reappeared to fire a beam at her. He wasn't impressed when the beam was merely water. It was strong enough to push her and some holograms behind her away. The fact that it just left them soaking wet irritated him.

Craig's soared close to the ceiling. It flapped its huge wings towards the group lead by the luau women in the skimpy outfits. They screamed as the wind lifted up the very little material they had before being blown away. "That was an accident. Mine just happened to be them." James sniggered to himself, Tom was far less discreet and snorted into laughter. "Shut up!"

The holograms in Jessie's way were unfortunate to get a bolt of lightning slam down in the centre of them. They were down and frazzled in a matter of seconds.

Tom thought he'd take care of the robot and Q2. Somebody had to. The thought alone brought his shadow out of hiding. He expected something cool like B'Elanna or Jessie's attack, but all it did was jump on the spot.

"Surrender!" Satan's robot yelled out over the resulting awkward silence. Even the other holograms that weren't fried or electrocuted stopped what they were doing to stare at Tom.

To add insult to injury, James' shadow appeared to stare down his group into a panicked frenzy. The air around them looked fuzzy, distorted. B'Elanna was close enough to them to see a faint black shadow envelop them.

Tom was about to comment when the ground trembled a lot more than before, over and over. The spider robot didn't like that one bit, its six legs wobbled slightly. Q2 looked mad as his balance was off too. Tom then realised his shadow had jumped the same amount of times as the amount of shakes.

"Now!" B'Elanna shouted. The team watched her run over towards the shuttle bay doors. The team reluctantly followed her lead. Once they realised she was heading for the shuttle nearest to them and not the door itself, they picked up speed.

They weren't the only one that realised her true intention. Q2 gestured his hand in that direction. The remaining holograms and the robot followed. Seska was one of them. She aimed a phaser at the shuttle itself. It struck the view port, blowing a hole through it.

The away team stopped in their tracks. They all knew that shuttle couldn't be used until that was fixed. Tom's eyes darted around, they settled on the shuttle that they appeared next to originally. That was when he noticed it didn't look the same as the others. It was bigger, sleeker, yet eerily familiar. He glanced back at Harry, he gave him a nod.

Harry's shadow leapt up, its arms raised as well. The holograms chasing them were forced to stop as a wave appeared out of nowhere and headed right for them. Instead they ran away from it. The only one that didn't was both of the robots.

Q2 didn't look too happy when the wave had crashed by him, soaking the entire bay and him as well. The team being gone didn't help his mood either.

He looked around for them until the strange shuttle lifted up from the ground. With a brief glance at the spider robot he disappeared in a flash.

The inside of the shuttle looked drastically different to all of their others. The front room seemed thinner, but longer. The helm was at the front, surrounded by strange looking controls like levers and flashy bulky buttons. Tom didn't even flinch as he took his seat. Two stations were at either side of the middle. The room widened out near the back, housing a replicator and various other consoles.

"What is this?" Jessie asked.

Tom grinned, "this my friends is the Delta Flyer."

"You mean the shuttle you still haven't started?" B'Elanna said, with little surprise in her voice.

"It's on my to do list," Tom smirked.

"I hate to interrupt but... our spider companion has um, had a facelift," James said from one of the stations. The screen on it showed the spider heading for them. Jessie and B'Elanna both had a peek at it, each of them cringing in disgust as the head had changed from Kathryn's to the Q's. Not only that but it was cackling away like it wasn't mechanical anymore.

"Haha, like flies in my web!" it cackled robotically.

B'Elanna was about to jump into the other seat, but Harry had already taken it. "The shuttle bay doors won't open."

"Somehow I'm not surprised," B'Elanna muttered. "Whoever has weapons, just fire a few torpedoes at them. A shuttle of Tom's bound to have them."

James pulled a face, "it doesn't have torpedoes." B'Elanna would have smirked at her future husband at the helm if the situation wasn't dire. "It has photonic missiles."

"Photonic, how appropriate. It would be a crime not to fire them," B'Elanna commented.

James shrugged without a care. His finger pressed down on the fire command.

Tom scoffed just as the doors in front of them were disintegrated. "Miss-eye-ills. You Brits always have to add an extra oomph to everything."

Jessie was more amused than offended. "Well someone has to."

The shuttle sped ahead through the damaged doors and into the black of space. There was no time to relax as the spider robot managed to grow strange wings and follow them.

"You kidding me?" Jessie groaned.

Harry's console beeped, he quickly tended to it.

"For the members of the team who are still a bit, well lost, how is a robot built on the holodeck following us out into space?" Craig questioned. "I was questioning emitters being in the shuttle bay, but this... it's a stretch."

"Are we forgetting the shuttle that's not yet built that we're currently riding in?" James commented.

Jessie groaned into her hand, "I have a headache."

Tom worked the controls merrily despite everything. "Well it's always a good idea to test your ideas before building them."

"What are... oh I don't care anymore," Craig complained as he plopped himself down at the back of the room. Then he noticed that there was another room in the shuttle, just below them. "How? Why? Oh whatever."

"I'm detecting a... subspace energy signature ahead. It's moving right for us," Harry said. B'Elanna leaned over his station to take a look.

The shuttle shook violently. Tom jumped out of his skin. "What's that?"

They heard Q2's laughter over their commline. A leg of the spider slammed onto the window at the front.

"It's got a hold of us," James reported.

B'Elanna briefly looked up, "can we still move ahead?"

Tom's hand rested over one of the levers. "Lets find out."

Harry glanced up at her with his eyes wide. "Wait a minute!" Tom did just that, B'Elanna looked a little annoyed. "Ahead, as in towards the energy wall?"

Tom squinted at the viewscreen, Jessie stared as well. They couldn't see anything out of the ordinary.

"Yes, exactly," B'Elanna said.

"We'll be destroyed," Harry stuttered.

B'Elanna shook her head. "No we won't. That's the way out."

"The way out of what?" Jessie asked, she was feeling just as frustrated and confused as Craig was.

"Subspace. You're not suggesting..." James said. B'Elanna answered him with a nod. "He's still trapped."

"And soon we won't be either," B'Elanna said.

Tom tried to figure out what they were talking about, his head started to ache and his eyes began to water. "I'll just fly, shall I?"

Harry meanwhile seemed to understand, he smiled. "Q was only let out of his holodeck prison. All he did was enter a new one."

"Ten seconds to impact," Tom winced.

Outside the spider robot had wrapped its body around the shuttle, it did nothing to slow it down. The Q head looked ahead of him. His smirk faded quickly from its face. "No! Voyager!" he screamed overdramatically.

The shuttle was enveloped by a white light. Then it vanished, leaving the away team still in the same position in space. Space soon fizzled away as well. Their surroundings was quickly replaced by the familiar sight of the hologrid.

All but one of the group sighed in relief, Tom just sighed in disappointment. B'Elanna gave him a scowl.

"I must build it," he explained in a sad voice.

"Janeway to Holodeck Two. Sensors tell us the program has ended..."

"Yes, it has," B'Elanna answered.

"And the Q?"

Harry smiled at the others, "I imagine trapped, again."

Craig still sat with his arms folded, he shook his head. "I still don't get it."

"How's Engineering?" B'Elanna asked just in case.

"Fine. Why do you ask?"

"So, everything that happened since that meeting wasn't real?" Jessie said in disbelief.

Another flash of light appeared in the room. The usual Q was left behind in its wake. "I wouldn't say everything."

James groaned, his eyes rolled. "You mean Phados One?"

Q did an insincere couple of claps. "Of course. Q had to believe there was a genuine threat while Voyager travelled out of range of his territory. I knew it was working when he tried to derail your transport."

Craig shook his head. "I give up."

"Why didn't you just tell us that in the beginning?" Tom asked through his thumping headache.

Q smirked at him, "that wouldn't be as fun, now would it?" B'Elanna growled. He stared defiantly back at her. "Q had to believe he was free. I couldn't risk you blurting it out, could I?"

Harry sighed, "we were just a distraction. We risked our lives for nothing."

"Not at all," Q said in a soft tone as he looked around at them. "You made more of an impact than you think. I doubt this will happen again," he said before vanishing in another flash of light.

"What, how?" B'Elanna asked the spot he was standing in.

Jessie gestured her head towards the exit. She headed for it. James took that as a hint meant for him. He followed.

"You knew. You figured it out before us," Tom said with pride.

B'Elanna had to laugh. "Come on. Holograms running loose around the ship. Pretty big hint."

"The evil Q had to think these shadow monsters could be used against him. But they didn't matter in the end," Craig said to himself. "I wonder what's so special about them besides what we saw."

Tom and Harry glanced at one another, and then towards B'Elanna. She handled the coin in her hand and stared at it in interest. "I think it warrants some study," she said, her eyes glistened.

"Ahem," a different and unknown voice cleared his throat. The rest of the team turned their heads towards the source, which was the last remaining minion. "Asylum?"

The team didn't even know who he was, or how he was there. They all shared similar frowns. Tom shrugged casually in his direction, "sure, I gu..."

Another flash filled the room. Q was back already and standing next to the minion. He whimpered and flinched in response. "I forgot something," Q said. The poor minion's eyes shut tightly, as if that would prepare him for the worst. Q just picked up the rock that Q2 had sealed his friends in, which had been lying on the ground the entire time. He smirked as he disappeared in another flash.

"As if we didn't have enough mysteries," Harry sighed.

Just outside James and Jessie stood in silence, she looked a little awkward which was making him a little worried.

"You know James, you saved me a few times on that planet," she mumbled finally. "I should have thanked you instead of always getting mad."

"It's okay, I understand," James said.

Jessie nodded grimly, her head dipped down to stare at the floor. "No it's not. I always do it."

"We're friends, we care about each other. If you stopped getting mad at me, then I'd be worried," James said, allowing himself to smile slightly.

Jessie reached out to put her hand across his face, then kissed his cheek. Unknown to her Tom had chosen that moment to step outside.

"Oooh!" was his obvious response. The pair turned to face him, both were red in the face. James was embarrassed but Jessie's response was to get mad, very mad.

"Tom!" she screamed.

"Uhoh, gotta go," Tom stuttered. The pair were too close for him to run around. Instead he ran back into the Holodeck. He was yelling something about sealing the door. Jessie ran to the door anyway but she couldn't get through it.

"Damn you Tom! I'll kill you when you get out of there! You'll wish you had never been born!" Jessie yelled while banging on the door.

She heard B'Elanna, Craig & Harry muttering in unison, "so?" Tom obviously had told the three about what he saw.

"He's a dead man," Jessie muttered, her cheeks were burning red with rage.

"Er, Jess, why did you do that?" James asked, he was still red as well.

"He saw us!" she yelled a little too loudly.

"That's not what I meant," James said.

They both heard Tom laughing behind the door. James went over to the wall panel. Jessie noticed him somehow getting access to the transporter controls.

"What the h..." Tom's muffled voice said.

"All right, Tom's gone to get some party food," Harry's voice said.

"I hope you are just joking," B'Elanna's groaned.

"Um, didn't Tom lock us in here?" Craig stuttered. James and Jessie heard frantic tapping on the Holodeck wall computer.

"Help!" Harry's voice shouted.

"In a minute!" James yelled back.

"No, how about now," Jessie said meekly.

"They can wait a few seconds surely..." James said.

"I haven't peed in two days," Craig's voice stammered. There was a further awkward silence. "I get shy with people around."

"Oh for the love of..." B'Elanna's groaned.

"Oh fine," Jessie stammered. "I don't know why I did it. It just seemed right. Now are we going to get those guys out?"

James stared at her with a blank face, his eyes told a different story. For some reason she didn't understand there was guilt swimming around in them. At least she understood the hurt it was mixed

with. He didn't say another word. Without looking his fingers tapped in two commands on the Holodeck door controls. He walked away before the doors opened.

Jessie closed her eyes tightly. Craig dashed by her and disappeared down the corridor.

THE END