

STAR TREK: THE PROSPECT CHRONICLES

"THE BURNT CHILD"

Written By Scott Andrew Fack
www.ussprospect.com

CAST

JOHN GREENE
ANNE LANSING
DANIEL RADKE
VANESSA BIONDO
JENN DREVER
MIKE GREENE
HAHN JUN-SEOK "JIM"
JUSTIN O'DONOVAN
GEORGE STRATOS
STEVEN TEDESCO
EVONNE WILSON

KAMIL ABOUSHI
ART FINKELSTEIN
EMMANUEL NDIKUMANA
NANCY REDWING
WAYAN
MEDICS
WORSAAE CREW MEMBERS
STARFLEET SUPERNUMERARIES

JASON ATHELSTAN
KWAME ASAMOAH
MYRA ELBREY
ROSE HAMELIN
GARRETT
RICHARD WHITBY
CHICAGO CIVILIANS
FNN REPORTER
STARFLEET MEDICAL COUNSELORS
STARFLEET SECURITY OFFICERS

T' PRAIN
AMILA THON
ALIEN SHIP CREW MEMBERS

CH' ARUS
MARGOT DELORIT
PRINCETON SURVIVORS

BENJAMIN SISKO
JAKE SISKO
SARATOGA SURVIVORS

FADE IN

EXT. SPACE - MATANDA, IN ORBIT OF BARNARD'S STAR
We see the brown, aging PLANET MATANDA with the MIRANDA-
CLASS STARSHIP WORSAAE orbiting it, a faint RED DWARF
STAR in the distance.

ANNE (V.O.)
Captain's log, stardate
43992.1: The Starfleet Science
Archaeology Division have
assigned me command of the
Starship Worsaae to work on
the ruins on the planet
Matanda. We've made some
excellent progress on
uncovering ruins from an
outpost of an unknown species.

EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE - MATANDA
ANNE LANSING, ART FINKELSTEIN, NANCY REDWING and SEVERAL
SCIENCES SUPERNUMERARIES are working on some sort of dig.
Art approaches Anne with an artefact.

ART
This looks of interest.

Anne takes the artefact, looking at it.

ANNE
Looks... very advanced for this
region of space. I mean, check
out the detail. What do you
think, Art?

ART
It wasn't made on this planet,
that's for sure. There's
molocine in it.

ANNE
Molocine is a very highly
refined material, very hard to
produce. Maybe we should ask
Nancy her opinion on...

Anne's COMM-BADGE SOUNDS.

NDIKUMANA (O.S., filtered)
Worsaae to Lansing.

She taps her comm-badge.

ANNE
Lansing here. Go ahead,
ensign.

NDIKUMANA (O.S., filtered)
Sir, long range sensors
indicate a class 9 plasma
storm en route. We won't be
able to outrun it, but...

ANNE
Understood, Ndikumana. I'll
prepare teams down here. Once
we're ready, beam us up.
Lansing out.

Anne looks at the others.

ANNE
Gather up your equipment,
people. We need to move out.

EXT. SPACE
We see the PROSPECT at WARP.

GREENE (V.O.)
Captain's log, supplemental:
The Prospect is en route to
Earth for a slight layover and
crew rotation. Our new first
officer, Vanessa Brocoto, and
her replacement on ops, Evonne
Wilson, seem to be settling
into their new positions well.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT
JOHN GREENE in the captain's chair. VANESSA BIONDO at the
first officer's position, EVONNE WILSON at ops, JENN
DREVER at flight control, GEORGE STRATOS at tactical,
HAHN JUN-SEOK "JIM" at an aft station.

GEORGE
Sir, we're receiving a
priority one hail from
Starfleet Command, an... Admiral
JP Hanson.

Greene stands and approaches the viewscreen.

GREENE
On screen.

INSERT - VIEWSCREEN. ADMIRAL J.P. HANSON appears. He's distracted with the hustle and bustle behind him.

HANSON (filtered)
John. I wish this was a social call...

GREENE
Admiral...

HANSON (filtered)
The Borg are in Federation territory. The Enterprise is holding them at bay while every available ship is joining us at Wolf 359 for a stand.

INT. BRIDGE - WORSAAE
It's different from the Prospect bridge. Anne stands near the viewscreen, her arms folded. Others, including Art and Nancy, stand at various stations. Hanson's ON SCREEN (we flip between Anne and John's conversations with Hanson).

ANNE
We'd never make it in time.
And there's a class 9 plasma storm keeping us here.

HANSON (filtered)
Understood. The Archaeology Division ship Carnarvon is en route, but as soon as the storm clears, head to Wolf 359.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT

GREENE
We'll push the Prospect to her limits. We won't be there for the party at first...

HANSON (filtered)
Any ship we can get will help.

INT. BRIDGE - WORSAAE

ANNE

We'll get there as fast as we
safely can. Good luck,
Admiral.

Hanson nods, and the VIEWSCREEN switches to A RAGING
PLASMA STORM with the planet below.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT

Greene goes back to his chair and sits.

GREENE

Helm: Set a course for Wolf
359, maximum warp.

JENN

Aye, sir.

GREENE

Bridge to Engineering. Mike:
Give me as much power as you
can.

MIKE (O.S., filtered)

Understood.

GREENE

Engage.

EXT. CHICAGO - NIGHT

We see the city in all its glory. CLOSE UP STARFLEET
MEDICAL, a skyscraper in the city.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE, STARFLEET MEDICAL - CHICAGO

It's dark outside, but DANIEL RADKE mulls over some PADDs
at a desk with a DESK LAMP on it. He sighs, plants the
PADD down, and rubs his head. ROSE HAMELIN leans in from
RECEPTION next door.

ROSE

That's quite some sigh.

DANIEL

Yes. It amazes me how much
paperwork there is.
Bureaucracy gone mad.

ROSE
My mum's drowning under a mound of it at home, so don't think you're alone there.

DANIEL
How is your mom, any way?

ROSE
Good. I miss her and home sometimes.

DANIEL
I could imagine. London's a wonderfully vibrant city.

ROSE
Chicago is too, in a different way. It's fast becoming a home away from home.
(beat)
I'm heading off. See you tomorrow, yeah?

DANIEL
Sure thing. I think I might call it a night too. See you in the morning.

EXT. CHICAGO - NIGHT
CLOSE UP on an APARTMENT BUILDING near downtown. An old brick factory with large windows.

INT. DANIEL'S LOFT, CHICAGO - NIGHT
The loft is sparsely but tastefully decorated in modern furniture. JASON ATHELSTAN sits on a beige couch watching A MONITOR reporting on the news. Daniel enters, placing his bag down on a table before sinking down onto the couch next to Jason. We can hear FNN reporting in the background, but we hear Daniel and Jason predominantly.

DANIEL
What's going on?

JASON
The Borg.

DANIEL
The Borg?

JASON
Yep. Starfleet's assembling an armada to Wolf 359, hopefully to stop them.

DANIEL
Where are they headed? Do they know?

JASON
Earth, probably. There's a lot of ships en route though so they're saying the armada should stop them.

DANIEL
I hope so, or it'll be pandemonium here.

JASON
They're saying there're unconfirmed reports the Enterprise's captain's been abducted and altered into some sort of Borg spokesperson.

Daniel snuggles into Jason, who puts his arm around Daniel as they watch images unfold on the monitor.

DANIEL
God, think of that. How horrible it would be to do things against your will, especially people you care about...

Jason sits up, facing Daniel.

JASON
If anything happens... you know, with the Borg... I'll be there with you. Whenever there's trouble, I'll always be there for you, to watch your back...

A bittersweet smile creeps across Daniel's face...

EXT. SPACE
The Prospect passes in a rush at maximum warp.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT

Greene paces the bridge nervously. The others work diligently at their stations until a BEEPING OCCURS from George's station. Greene takes his seat.

GREENE
Report.

GEORGE
Incoming transmission from the fleet. They've engaged the Borg.

GREENE
On speakers.

We HEAR a MYRIAD of VOICES, all OVERLAPPING.

CARNARVON (O.S., filtered)
Starship Carnarvon now joining battle group 3.

SARATOGA (O.S., filtered)
Melbourne is down. Regrouping..

ENDEAVOUR (O.S., filtered)
Roosevelt, watch your... They're caught in some sort of...

REBELLIOUS (O.S., filtered)
Rebellious here, we see them Endeavour. En route to assist...

The chatter continues but ONE BY ONE they go dead. The crew are horrified. Finally, when silence reigns, Greene speaks softly.

GREENE
Anything?

EVONNE
Long range sensors aren't much use. There's some sort of interference.

VANESSA
(to Greene)
We should assume the worst.

GREENE
Engineering, give us
everything you have. We've got
to make it to Wolf 359.

MIKE (O.S., filtered)
Understood.

VANESSA
(to Greene)
Should we alter course to
Earth? Help make a last stand
there, if we need to?

GREENE
No. Let's continue on to Wolf
359. Maybe someone's been able
to slow them down...

EXT. CHICAGO - DAY
Starfleet Medical close up.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE, STARFLEET MEDICAL - CHICAGO
The lobby is empty, with the door into the office open.
RICHARD WHITBY is pacing, biting his nails. MYRA ELBREY,
Rose and A FEW OTHER COUNSELORS sit on couches, watching
the MONITOR for information. We can see Chicago out the
floor-to-ceiling windows in the one-and-a-half story tall
office.

FNN REPORTER (O.S., filtered)
We're not getting any word on
how the fleet faired at Wolf
359. We've lost contact... can
we get anything, Emmy?

Rose looks around.

ROSE
Where's Daniel?

WHITBY
God knows. Humankind is
sitting on tender hooks and
he's out gallivanting around
somewhere...

MYRA
I'm sure he's not
gallivanting...

EXT. STREET, CHICAGO - DAY

PEDESTRIANS are everywhere, although most of them are in large groups gathered around MONITORS placed throughout the pedestrian plaza.

Daniel notices them, but strolls along, biting into a bagel with one hand and carrying a bag with more food in the other.

DANIEL (V.O.)

Everyone's so tense. I can feel it, oozing from them. It's scary. I know it is. But I have this feeling.. a deep down gut feeling, everything is gonna be okay.

With that, AIR RAID SIRENS SOUND. Monitors SWITCH TO EMERGENCY EVACUATION protocols, showing SCROLLING DATA along the bottom of the screen with a LARGE RED SYMBOL READING "TAKE IMMEDIATE SHELTER". People start to SCREAM and RUN for cover.

Daniel drops his bag and RUNS.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE, STARFLEET MEDICAL - CHICAGO
Whitby's stopped pacing. All are as white as sheets. Rose stands.

MYRA

What do we do?

ROSE

(to Whitby)

Well?

WHITBY

Stand by for further orders.

Worry is on their faces. We hear a TURBOLIFT DOOR HISS OPEN, and, before they have time to react, Daniel is in the room, slightly out of breath. Everyone is standing by now.

DANIEL

Did you hear the sirens?

MYRA

It's on the monitors..

DANIEL
Well...?

WHITBY
Well, what?

DANIEL
What are we waiting for?

WHITBY
Further orders...

DANIEL
From who?

WHITBY
Those higher in authority than
us... that is how the chain of
command works.

DANIEL
They've got far too much to be
worried about. Plus, Starfleet
regulation 214 comes into
effect here.
(to Rose)
Rose, open the weapons
lockers. Issue phaser rifles
to every one. Myra, help her.

Rose and Myra leave in a hurry.

WHITBY
You can't...

DANIEL
I can't what?

WHITBY
I'm the senior officer here.

Rose and Myra reappear with several phaser rifles. (Some are slung over their shoulders by the straps.) They start handing them out.

DANIEL

Regulation 214. "When a wide-scale emergency is declared, the officer with the highest security clearance takes charge." That's me.

(beat)

Everyone remember how to use a phaser rifle?

WHITBY

You can't just...

DANIEL

I just have.

(to everyone)

Okay, here's the plan. People are on the streets panicking. We need to restore order and get all civilians safely to the emergency shelters. The Borg won't (hopefully) arrive for another few hours.

(beat)

We haven't seen a global emergency like this in... well, we haven't seen it in our lifetimes.

(beat)

Those're our orders until a higher-ranking officer comes along and countermands them. Understood?

Everyone nods except Whitby.

DANIEL

(to Whitby)

Lieutenant Commander?

Understood?

Whitby nods. They all go to leave.

MYRA

What happens if the Borg beam down?

DANIEL
Protect the civilians.
Remember to change your phaser
frequency between shots. And
if they adapt... use the rifles
as clubs, if you have to.

They pile into the turbolift, and the DOORS HISS SHUT.

EXT. SPACE
The tail end of the PLASMA STORM flows away, LIGHTNING
FLASHING, as the Worsaae stands in the planet's safety.

INT. BRIDGE - WORSAAE
Anne sitting in captain's chair, others at other
stations. NDIKUMANA, a Rwandan ensign at OPS, ABBOUSHI, a
Palestinian ensign at HELM.

NDIKUMANA
The storm has left the area.

ANNE
Helm: Set us on a course to
Wolf 359, maximum warp.

ABBOUSHI
Aye, sir.

A BEEPING comes from OPS.

ANNE
Ensign Ndikumana, report.

NDIKUMANA
Sensors indicate the starboard
nacelle's plasma coils are
fluctuating.

ANNE
The storm?

NDIKUMANA
Could be possible...

ANNE
We'll have make repairs en
route. Abboushi: Take us to a
safe speed. Bridge to
engineering.

WAYAN (O.S., filtered)
Engineering, Wayan here.

ANNE
Lieutenant, get a repair team
to the starboard nacelle.

WAYAN (O.S., filtered)
On our way. Engineering, out.

EXT. SPACE

The Worsaae breaks orbit slowly and JUMPS TO WARP...

EXT. SPACE

We see the Prospect DROP OUT OF WARP into the middle of a
SHIP GRAVEYARD.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT

Everyone stops working at their stations. Greene's
standing, Vanessa jumps to her feet and approaches him.
The others appear awestruck.

We switch to see their point of view. INSERT - Viewscreen
littered with ship parts, ships, shuttlecraft, et cetera.

Astonishment on the bridge crew's faces.

GREENE
Life signs?

EVONNE
None... no wait.

VANESSA
Wait?

EVONNE
Sensors are cloudy. There must
be some sort of interference
from the Borg...

Ops BEEPS. Vanessa moves closer to assist.

VANESSA
What's that?

EVONNE

Sir, we're picking up a ship of unknown origin. It appears to be transmitting some sort of... beam via subspace to the Borg cube.

GREENE

Could you be more specific?

EVONNE

A communications beam? I'm not sure. Their equipment is very advanced...

GREENE

(to George)
Hail them.

GEORGE

Frequencies open, sir.

GREENE

Unidentified vessel, this is Captain John Greene of the Federation Starship Prospect. Please state your business.

Greene looks at George. Nothing.

GREENE

Unidentified vessel, this is...

EVONNE

Sir, they're moving.

Greene and Vanessa storm to their seats.

GREENE

Helm: Pursuit course.
Commander Wilson: Can you knock their beam out of commission?

EVONNE

I think so...

GREENE

Work on it. Lieutenant Stratos: Red alert.

GEORGE
Aye sir.

The bridge goes into BATTLE LIGHTING.

VANESSA
(whispering, to John)
Do you think they have
something to do with the Borg?

GREENE
(back)
That's what we're going to
find out.
(normal voice)
Commander?

EVONNE
Charging the deflector dish
now. 90%. Full power.

GREENE
Fire.

EXT. SPACE

A quite ALIEN VESSEL runs, but the Prospect's DEFLECTOR DISH EMITS A PULSE, striking the vessel. An area on its hull GLOWS then POWERS DOWN. The alien vessel JUMPS TO WARP, the Prospect in CLOSE PURSUIT.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT
As before.

EVONNE
Beam deactivated.

JENN
Sir, we're being led away from
Wolf 359.

GREENE
Lieutenant: Aim all weapons on
disabling their warp drive. I
don't want them destroyed,
just knocked out of warp.

VANESSA
(to Greene)
And you don't think they'll
fire back?

GEORGE
Firing.

EXT. SPACE

TORPEDOES fly from the Prospect, striking the alien vessel. They return fire. The firefight is intense.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT

Some damage and smoke. A station explodes in a shower of sparks. Greene clutches his seat.

GREENE
Report.

EVONNE
Shields down to 57%.

VANESSA
Their weapons are advanced.
Not like anything I've seen
before.

GREENE
Lieutenant Stratos?

Another hit. The ship SHUDDERS.

GEORGE
A few more shots. I think I
have their shielding near
their nacelle housing almost
down.

EVONNE
Shields at 53%.
(Another hit)
48%.

GREENE
Take them out.

EXT. SPACE

More TORPEDOES FLY from the Prospect, impacting on the alien ship's shields. Another LOT STRIKE A NACELLE.

We see the ALIEN SHIP WARP back into normal space, the Prospect close behind, but the alien ship FIRES A FULL SPREAD at the Prospect, striking THEIR NACELLE.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT

A bit chaotic. People rushing around, trying to put out fires, et cetera.

GREENE
Report.

GEORGE
The hostile's been rendered
warp-incapable.

EVONNE
So have we.

VANESSA
Basically, we're both dead in
the water...

EXT. CHICAGO - NIGHT

Daniel and team patrol the quite, eerily calm streets,
Jason now with them. CAPTAIN KWAME ASAMOAH and two
STARFLEET SECURITY PERSONNEL appear.

DANIEL
Captain...

ASAMOAH
Captain Kwame Asamoah,
Starfleet Security Chicago
Division. At ease, Lieutenant.

DANIEL
Counselor Daniel Radke,
Starfleet Medical and Special
Ops.

ASAMOAH
I see. This section of
Chicago's in good hands.

DANIEL
Thank you, sir.

ASAMOAH
Starfleet has mobilized every
available officer to keep the
peace. News from Wolf 359
isn't good. We've lost all
contact with the armada, so we
believe them incapacitated...

Some GASP, and general chatter goes on.

ASAMOAH (continued)

The Borg are heading to Earth,
but Enterprise is trying to
stop them.

(beat)

It's up to you to keep the
peace on the streets. Should
the Borg arrive, use guerilla
tactics if you have to to
protect the civilians and city
at all costs. Understood?

Some nod, some say "Yes, sir".

ASAMOAH

Good. If there's any change, I
or one of my deputies will be
issuing new orders. Until
then, stand your ground.

EXT. SPACE

Both the Prospect and alien ship dead in the water.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT

The bridge damaged, Greene stands.

GEORGE

Their weapons are down.

GREENE

Good. Wilson, Stratos, Hahn,
you're with me.

Vanessa goes to stop him as the others make their way to
the turbolift.

VANESSA

Sir, might I remind you
Starfleet regulations...

GREENE

I'm fully aware of the
regulations, thank you, but
captain's prerogative applies
here. Something strange is
going on, and I want to get to
the bottom of it myself.

GREENE (continued)
At the first sign of trouble,
though, beam us out.
Understood?

Vanessa nods, reluctantly stepping aside. Greene joins
the others near the turbolift.

GREENE
You have the bridge, Commander
Biondo.

EXT. SPACE
Worsaae at warp.

INT. BRIDGE - WORSAAE
Everyone's on edge.

ANNE
Status.

ABBOUSHI
Still at warp 7, sir.

ANNE
Not good enough.
(beat)
Bridge to Wayan.

WAYAN (O.S., filtered)
Wayan, here. Go ahead.

ANNE
How long 'til you can give me
maximum warp?

WAYAN (O.S., filtered)
An hour minimum.

ANNE
We don't have an hour. Double
your team if you have to.
Bridge, out.

OPS beeps.

ANNE
Report.

NDIKUMANA
Starfleet reports the Borg
cube is en route to Earth. The
Battle at Wolf 359 was lost.

An uneasy silence fills the bridge, until:

ANNE
Helm: alter course to Earth.

ABBOUSHI
Aye, sir. At least this will
shave at least 36 hours off
our trip..

NANCY
And when we get there? This is
a science ship, not a battle
cruiser.

ANNE
We'll ram the cube if we have
to, Lieutenant Redwing..

EXT. CHICAGO - MORNING

The team looks tired, but some are still on alert. The
COMM.-BADGE signal is heard, and the message is broadcast
on both them and the general speaker system. During it,
we hear AIR RAID SIRENS SOUNDING IMMEDIATE ATTACK
IMMINENT.

ASAMOAH (O.S., filtered)
For your immediate attention.
This is Captain Kwami Asamoah
from Starfleet Security. The
Borg ship has broken through
the Mars Defensive Perimeter
and is en route to Earth. All
civilians are now advised to
take cover. I repeat..

Those left on the streets start screaming and running.
Daniel and team try to direct them to shelters while
others get their weapons ready. Jason approaches Daniel.

JASON
Looks like this is it.

DANIEL
If this is the end.. Well, I'm
glad I'm with you.

JASON
Me too.

DANIEL
If I'm... assimilated, I want
you to... stop it.

JASON
You mean...

Daniel nods. Jason understands him.

JASON
It won't come to that...

DANIEL
Jason...

JASON
If it does... count on me.

DANIEL
I love you.

JASON
And I you.

EXT. SPACE
Prospect and the alien ship. We focus on the alien ship.

INT. CORRIDOR - ALIEN SHIP
RED ALERT LIGHTS FLASH as our AWAY TEAM BEAMS IN. The six
(Greene, George, HAHN JUN-SEOK "JIM", Evonne, STEVEN
TEDESCO and GARRETT) take up defensive positions, some
opening tricorders.

The corridor appears very futuristic, a combination of
Federation, Vulcan, Bajoran, Cardassian, etc designs.
Some of the team marvel at this.

GREENE
How strange...

HAHN
It appears to be a fusion of
several Alpha and Beta
Quadrant civilizations'
technology..

EVONNE
And advanced technology at
that. My tricorder's picking
up materials I've never seen
before...

PHASER BEAMS strike near them, and the team scurries for
cover.

GREENE
Defend yourselves, but I don't
want any casualties. There's
been enough death today.

The teams EXCHANGE PHASER FIRE, but Greene gets a good
look at some of their adversaries. Some are hybrids of
Vulcans and Cardassians, Bolians and Bajorans, et cetera.
They are wearing uniforms of sorts but not familiar ones.
He realizes they're essentially fighting themselves.

GREENE
Cease fire.

GEORGE
Sir?

GREENE
I said, cease fire.

Greene steps out from behind whatever they are hiding
behind, his hands in the air. He motions with his head
for the others to do the same, George and Steve
hesitantly doing so.

GREENE
I'm Captain John Greene of the
Federation Starship Prospect.

The Vulcan-Cardassian hybrid T'PRAIN steps forward. She's
beautiful, elegant, focussed.

T'PRAIN
We're fully aware of who you
are, Captain. I'm T'Prain.

GREENE
We're not aware of who you
are, though. Are you the
commander of this vessel?

T' PRAIN

No. I am the science officer.

GREENE

What are you doing here? What were you communicating with the Borg cube?

T' PRAIN

I think, Captain, it would be best if we took you to our commanding officer. She could give you the appropriate answers, that I am not authorized to give you.

T'Prain motions for them to follow her. Greene nods towards the others, who holster their phasers and follow. Other hybrids take positions around the Prospect team as they leave.

EVONNE

(to George)

Authorized? Isn't that a very... peculiar answer?

INT. BRIDGE - ALIEN SHIP

More hybrids work at various stations, some trying to restore control. T'Prain, Greene, the others enter. A Trill-Betazoid hybrid turns from her station: She's CAPTAIN AMILA THON, an older, academic-appearing woman.

T' PRING

Sir, the...

(for lack of a better word)

Intruders.

Thon approaches, dusting off her hands.

THON

Ah, Captain Greene. I'm Amila Thon. I wish I could say pleasure to meet you, but, under the circumstances...

GREENE

I had no choice but to attack your ship. Dozens of Federation ships have been destroyed by the Borg, and this quadrant is facing...

THON

I fully understand the gravity of the situation. When you cut off our monitoring beam, you subjected six of my crew to assimilation on the Borg cube.

GREENE

We were unaware...

THON

You should keep your nose out of events you don't understand.

GREENE

I'm not a telepath, Captain Thon. An unidentified ship transmitting information to an invading and hostile second ship (which, I might add, just took out 40 friendly ships), and you think I should just invite you over for tea and crumpets?

THON

I understand...

GREENE

(turning the tables)
What the hell are you doing here? And who are you?

They stand staring at one another for a while, before Thon breaks the stare.

THON

(less bitter)
We are... 27th century historians, chronicling the Battle of Wolf 359. It was a... turning point in Federation history.

GREENE

Was?

THON

In our time, the Federation
is... different. Not like this
Federation.

GREENE

I see.

THON

I forgot how... simple the 24th
century Federation was. Is.

EVONNE

(aggravated)

Sir, this is not getting us
answers. She's leading us on a
merry path...

THON

(angry)

A merry path? You are like a
child, told to stay away from
the fire. Others, like a
worried parent, warned you of
the hazard, but you didn't
listen. And, now, the burnt
child emerges, crying for
mommy.

(beat)

No, far worse is on its way,
Commander.

(to Greene)

The history books do record a
John Greene, though. You and
your crew are one of the crews
who face the "far worse".

GREENE

Worse than the Borg?

THON

(looking at Hahn)

Just ask your friend. He'll
tell you a few monsters in the
night.

She leans forward, whispering in Greene's ear.

THON (continued)

He's not who he says he is.

Greene's astonished look becomes clear as Thon leans back.

GEORGE
What do you mean? How would
Commander Hahn know about
species we're not familiar
with?

EVONNE
Jim?

HAHN
I have no idea what she's
talking about.

Thon approaches a station, pushing a few buttons on the console. On the viewscreen: INSERT - The Enterprise-D fighting the Borg cube in Earth orbit. It slices the secondary hull. Suddenly, the cube stops firing.

The Prospect away team respond, astonished.

GREENE
Did you do that?

THON
Do what?

GREENE
Make the cube stop?

THON
No. That's the way things play
out. The way they continue to
play out.

GEORGE
The cube's just... hanging
there.

GREENE
We need to be there..

THON
No, you don't. The fight
against the Borg is not your
path.

GREENE

My path? What do you know of
my path?

THON

You already know. Give it a
few months, Captain. It will
become clear enough then.

(beat)

But some of the people under
your command at present...

Greene follows Thon's line-of-sight to Evonne.

THON (continued)

...Aren't a part of your path.
Others who have left, or who
you are yet to meet, are. You
know who they are.

(beat)

In the meantime, you do need
to help the few survivors at
Wolf 359. You're path leads
there, to rescue people just
as important as you who will
shape my and my crew's past.

(beat)

It was a pleasure to met you...

She CLICKS HER FINGERS and the PROSPECT AWAY TEAM
DISAPPEAR...

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT

...And REAPPEAR, startled and disoriented, on the bridge.
Vanessa and a few others approach quickly.

VANESSA

Sir?

GREENE

I'm okay.

EXT. SPACE

The Worsaae rushing towards Earth.

INT. BRIDGE - WORSAAE

Anne sits tight in the captain's chair.

ANNE

Status.

NDIKUMANA

We're in viewing range now.

Anne stands. Everyone is tense.

ANNE
On screen.

Viewscreen INSERT - We see the bright blue glow of Earth in the distance as a crescent facing downwards.

ANNE
Maximum magnification.

Viewscreen INSERT - Magnification shows Earth's curvature, the dark side facing us. A Borg cube's top becomes apparent, rising over the curvature.

ANNE
Sensors...?

ABBOUSHI
The cube is... sitting there.

NDIKUMANA
The Borg cube seems to be deactivated.

NANCY
Maybe they stopped them?

ART
Who? Do you think...?

ANNE
Enough speculation people.
Keep us on this course and speed, Abboushi.

ABBOUSHI
Aye, sir.

As he confirms, we see: INSERT - The Borg cube EXPLODE.

EXT. CHICAGO - DAY
Daniel and the others are patrolling very calm and pretty empty streets, with some civilians still out and about, when A BRIGHT EXPLOSION ILLUMINATES THE SKY. We hear GASPING and RAISED VOICES.

WHITBY
Did you see that?

ELBREY
Was that an explosion?

ROSE
Wow...

WHITBY
It had to be the Enterprise.
The Borg have succeeded...

DANIEL
Don't jump to conclusions,
Whitby.
(to all)
Everyone stay alert.

EXT. SPACE
The Prospect and alien ship in space.

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT
As before. George, Hahn, Evonne get to their stations.

GEORGE
Sir...

They look to the viewscreen. INSERT - The alien ship
GLIMMERING and DISAPPEARING. Suddenly, nothing but dark
space.

GREENE
Let them go.

MIKE (O.S., filtered)
Engineering to Bridge.

GREENE
Go ahead.

MIKE (O.S., filtered)
Our warp nacelle and some
vital systems are... repaired.

VANESSA
That quickly? How...?

MIKE (O.S., filtered)
Sensors indicate whatever
beamed the away team back also
replaced our damaged
equipment.

GREENE
Do we have warp power
available?

MIKE (O.S., filtered)
At your command, sir.

GREENE
Good. Bridge, out.
(beat)
Helm: Take us back to Wolf
359, maximum warp.

JENN
Aye, sir.

VANESSA
What happened over there?

GREENE
We'll discuss it later,
Commander. In private.

EXT. CHICAGO - LATE DAY

People have gathered on the streets, awaiting news, a
GENERAL MURMUR going on. Daniel and team try to keep the
peace. Finally, another BROADCAST:

ASAMOAH (O.S., filtered)
Attention people of Chicago.
Captain Asamoah here again.
Good news. The Enterprise-D
has stopped the Borg cube! The
general alert has been
cancelled..

Everyone cheers. Daniel gives Rose a big hug, Elbrey and
Whitby are hugging (Whitby crying), and Daniel turns to
face Jason. Jason scoops him up in his arms and plants a
kiss on his lips, Daniel trying not to laugh.

Daniel's comm-badge CHIRPS. He answers it.

ASAMOAH (O.S., filtered)
Asamoah to Radke.

DANIEL
Radke here. Go ahead.

ASAMOAH (O.S., filtered)
I want you and your team to
report immediately to
transporter control at
Starfleet Medical. We're
sending you and all available
teams to Wolf 359 for a
recovery mission...

Daniel looks at Jason as...

EXT. SPACE
The Worsaae orbits Earth.

INT. BRIDGE - WORSAAE
Chaos. MEDICAL and STARFLEET PERSONNEL swarm the bridge.
Anne tries to hear Starfleet over the comm-channel.

ASAMOAH (O.S., filtered)
Captain, the last teams are
coming aboard now.

ANNE
Understood, sir. We'll get
underway as soon as they are
aboard. Worsaae out.

The TURBOLIFT DOOR HISSES OPEN, with more people spilling
on to the bridge. Last out of the lift: Daniel.

A huge smile creeps over Anne's face, and she rushes to
hug him.

ANNE
Oh, Daniel. Good to see you.

DANIEL
You too. I wish it was under
better circumstances.

NDIKUMANA
Captain: The last team is
aboard.

Anne moves back to the command circle, Daniel by her
side.

ANNE
Abboushi: Lay in a course for
Wolf 359, maximum warp once
we're clear.

ABBOUSHI
Aye, sir.

ANNE
Let's rescue whatever
survivors we can.

EXT. SPACE
Prospect at high warp.

INT. READY ROOM - PROSPECT
Piles of PADDs strewn over Greene's desk, as if he'd been
interrupted prior to this episode. Greene and Vanessa
stand there (and remain so throughout the conversation).

VANESSA
So...? You went over there full
of intent and purpose, and
suddenly you were back. No
pursuit course, nothing. So
something interesting had to
go on over there..

GREENE
We encountered.. a ship from
the future. The 27th century,
in fact.

VANESSA
And you could confirm this?

GREENE
The tricorder readings, the
technology, the crew... all
confirmed it.

VANESSA
What were they doing snooping
around?

GREENE
Historians chronicling the
Battle of Wolf 359. And... And
their captain mentioned I was
vital to history but not
against the Borg.

VANESSA
Don't they have a directive

against revealing things like that?

GREENE

It would appear not. But, as she said, her Federation is a lot different than ours.

VANESSA

And...?

GREENE

She said some people here belong in the future fight against some race far worse than the Borg. I'm to lead that fight.

VANESSA

"Some" people?

GREENE

Yes, some. Others on the ship... and she indicated... someone we both know and trust as a part of this... aren't a part of that battle.

VANESSA

Interesting.

(beat)

Actually, there was something I've been meaning to...

EVONNE (O.S., filtered)
Bridge to Captain Greene.

GREENE

Greene here. Go ahead.

EVONNE (O.S., filtered)
Sir, we're approaching Wolf 359.

GREENE

I'm on my way. Greene, out.

(beat)

This discussion will have to wait until a later time, Commander.

Vanessa nods and falls in line behind Greene, heading out towards the bridge...

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT

As before. Evonne rises from the captain's chair and moves to Ops. Greene and Vanessa stand in the center circle.

GREENE

On screen.

Viewscreen INSERT - Hulks of ships floating in space, some close, some further out.

EVONNE

Sensors aren't showing any life signs and no activity on any ships, but...

VANESSA

But...?

EVONNE

That's strange. The... people we met on the alien ship must've upgraded sensor protocols with their... repairing our ship.

GREENE

And?

EVONNE

Switching to these new protocols...

(beat)

Got it. I'm picking up life signs... Escape pods from the Buran, Saratoga, Kyushu...

GREENE

Patch those coordinates through to Sickbay, Shuttlecraft Control, helm and security.

EVONNE

Aye, sir.

GREENE

(to Vanessa)

Commander: coordinate with those departments and dispatch away teams to assist the survivors.

VANESSA
Aye, sir.

Vanessa goes to work with Evonne, when OPS BEEPS.

EVONNE
Sir, three ships approaching.
The Worsaae, the Arlington and
the Barrington.

GEORGE
We're being hailed. It's the
Worsaae.

GREENE
On screen.

Viewscreen INSERT - Anne on her bridge, Daniel beside
her. We switch between Greene and Anne.

ANNE (filtered)
John, glad to see you. I wish
it were under better
circumstances.

GREENE
Ditto, Anne.

ANNE (filtered)
Our sensors aren't picking up
anything...

GREENE
Ours are with a little help
from some friends. We'll
transmit coordinates to you
and the other ships. You
should be able to assist with
the rescue effort that way.

ANNE (filtered)
Thanks, Captain.

GREENE
And guys?

Anne and Daniel look at the screen.

GREENE
Be careful.

DANIEL (filtered)
We will be. You too.

GREENE
We will. Prospect, out.

Viewscreen INSERT - Back to the debris field.

GREENE
(to Evonne)
Commander.

EVONNE
Transmitting sensor data.

EXT. SPACE
We see the Worsaae navigating between wrecks.

INT. BRIDGE - WORSAAE
Daniel works with Art and Nancy at science stations, Anne behind them.

ANNE
What do you have?

DANIEL
Looks like the Princeton has a few survivors on it.

ANNE
But...?

ART
We can't beam them out. Too much interference.

NANCY
Which means...

ANNE
We'll have to go in and extract them manually.

Daniel stands.

DANIEL
I'll go.

ANNE

No. There are too many people
for just one person to handle.

(beat)

Lieutenant Finkelstein: you
have the bridge. Daniel:
you're with me.

Anne and Daniel move to the turbolift, the former tapping
her comm-badge with a look of worry on her face.

ANNE

Lansing to Sickbay: We'll need
three medics to meet us in
transporter room 2. Prepare
for casualties.

(to Daniel)

We need an engineer. Have
Jason meet us in the
transporter room.

EXT. SPACE

The Worsaae stands near the STARSHIP PRINCETON, the
latter dead in the water and heavily damaged.

INT. CORRIDOR - PRINCETON

Anne, Daniel, Jason and three MEDICS SHIMMER into the
damaged corridor. The LIGHTS FLICKER, debris strewn
around. Several CREWMEMBERS sit injured in a group. The
away team approaches them. (The away team has pattern
enhancers, medical kits, engineering kits, et cetera.)

ANNE

I'm Commander Anne Lansing
from the Worsaae. Who's in
charge?

An Andorian male CH'ARUS approaches.

CH'ARUS

I am, sir. Lieutenant ch'Arus.

ANNE

Ch'Arus, how many survivors in
total?

CH'ARUS

We have seven of us here, but
there are more survivors in
the emergency environmental
support shelter.

DANIEL
But?

CH'ARUS
There's a ruptured EPS conduit
separating us from the others.

They look. PLASMA flares across the corridor.

JASON
(to Anne)
I've brought some power packs...

ANNE
(to ch'Arus)
Are you an engineer,
Lieutenant?

CH'ARUS
Yes.

ANNE
Help Lieutenant Athelstan to
use those power packs to
create a high-level forcefield
around the rupture. We should
be able to make our way to the
others.

The SHIP SHUDDERS and METAL GROANS.

ANNE
And hurry...

Ch'Arus and Jason proceed to area near the fire.

ANNE
(to Medic)
Status.

MEDIC
We'll be able to move them.

ANNE
Good. Get them ready.

Ch'Arus and Jason work. The ship SHUDDERS again, the
METAL GROANING more. Anne moves to the engineers.

ANNE

Jason?

JASON
Interfacing the power pack and
the emergency fire suppression
system.

CH'ARUS
We should be able to alter the
system to generate a
forcefield.

ANNE
Good.

Focus on Daniel trying to help a frightened a cadet,
MARGOT DELORIT. The ship SHUDDERS again, the GROANING of
METAL FATIGUE now permanent.

DANIEL
Hi. I'm Daniel.

MARGOT
I'm... I'm Margot.

DANIEL
Nice to meet you. How do you
feel?

MARGOT
I... I can't stop shaking.

DANIEL
It's okay. My tricorder's not
reading anything wrong with
you physically.
(beat)
What year are you at the
Academy?

Ship SHUDDERS.

DANIEL
Focus on me. What year?

MARGOT
Uh... Sorry, my mind's a bit
foggy. I'm in my second year.

DANIEL

Okay. So did you take Elkim's class last year?

MARGOT
Yeah.

DANIEL
Boy, was he a slave driver when I was there.

MARGOT
Yeah, still very much so. I got a B minus in his class.

DANIEL
Lucky you. I barely scraped by.

He sees Ch'Arus, Jason and Anne TESTING THE SHIELD.

DANIEL
Listen, I think they have a way out. Do you think you could stand?

She nods no. Daniel puts a hand out.

DANIEL
C'mon. I'll help you.

MARGOT
(panicked)
I'm... My friends. I'm waiting for my friends.

DANIEL
Are they here?

MARGOT
They were right behind us. We... Lieutenant ch'Arus closed the door as the hull was breached, but... They're resourceful. They're in a pocket back there somewhere. You need to rescue them, too.

DANIEL
(caringly)

Margot. The only survivors on this ship are along this corridor.

DANIEL (continued)
I'm sorry.

MARGOT
They're okay. They are. I'll wait here for them.

The SHIP SHUDDERS again, the sound of METAL TEARING now punctuating the GROANING.

ANNE
We need to move. Now.

JASON
I don't know how stable the field is...

ANNE
We don't have time.
(to the others)
Move out.

Medics help others over the FORCEFIELD, Anne motioning for them to hurry. There's MORE METAL TEARING and the SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION. Daniel's still with Margot.

ANNE
Daniel!

DANIEL
(to Margot)
We have to go.

ANNE
Daniel, leave her. We have to get out of here.

DANIEL
One second.
(to Margot)
Please.

Margot doesn't move, tears on her face. Another EXPLOSION.

ANNE
Lieutenant Commander, now!
That's an order!

Daniel grabs Margot, heaving her over his shoulder, and he dashes towards Anne. Anne runs towards the shelter, the others in the shelter, setting up the pattern enhancers.

Daniel, Margot and Anne clear the EPS rupture when ANOTHER EXPLOSION, then ANOTHER SOUNDS. The forcefield FAILS, and TEARING METAL BOOMS throughout the ship.

ART (O.S., filtered)
Worsaae to away team.

ANNE
We're kinda busy here.

ART (O.S., filtered)
A hull breach is forming in
your section, sir. I suggest
immediate evacuation.

ANNE
Working on it. Have
transporters on the ready.
We're almost there.

The three get into the emergency shelter..

INT. EMERGENCY SHELTER - PRINCETON
Dozens of SURVIVORS stand uneasy in the room. Worsaae medics, with ch'Arus and Jason's help, are setting up the pattern enhancers. Anne, Margot and Daniel get into the center..

JASON
Activating the pattern
enhancers.

The ship VIOLENTLY LURCHES. Everyone starts making GASPS, SCREAMS, CRYING..

ANNE
Worsaae, energize!

Groups of six SHIMMER in quick succession, and, they all are gone when we hear a HUGE METAL TEARING SOUND, and the pattern enhancers are SUCKED DOWN by air escaping..

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - WORSAAE

Anne, Margot, Daniel, ch'Arus, Jason and another MATERIALIZE. They rush off the pad. Margot, ch'Arus and the other LEAVE THE ROOM.

ANNE

Lansing to bridge. Did we get everyone?

ART (O.S., filtered)

Yes, sir.

ANNE

Good. I'm on my way. Lansing out.

(to Daniel)

Daniel...

DANIEL

She needed help. I wasn't going to leave her behind.

JASON

You could have got you all killed.

DANIEL

We couldn't just leave her there.

ANNE

I ordered you to leave her behind.

DANIEL

Don't you think there's been enough death lately?

Daniel's retort leaves them speechless...

EXT. SPACE

The Worsaae, Barrington and Arlington comb the debris field. We see OTHER STARFLEET and KLINGON SHIPS combing the field in the background.

ANNE (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate
supplemental: We've recovered
survivors from several
starships, the latest being
the Saratoga. With several
other Starfleet and Klingon
ships now helping, the rescue
effort is fully underway. A
glimmer of hope: the Prospect
found the Endeavour pretty
much in tact. Once the rescue
effort has finished, we will
return to Earth, while
Starfleet sends other ships to
focus on the recovery effort..

INT. SHUTTLEBAY - WORSAAE

There are a few escape pods in the bay. Jason and Daniel
meet BENJAMIN SISKO and his son JAKE, helping them.

JASON

(to Ben)

Commander... Good to see you
again. I wish it was under
better circumstances.

SISKO

Me too, Jason. Me too.

DANIEL

This way, Commander. I'll show
you to your quarters so you
can get some rest, and we'll
schedule a counseling session
for the morning..

EXT. SPACE

The Prospect.

INT. PROSPECT - OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Greene paces the room with Vanessa and Evonne in the
room.

GREENE

Starfleet lost a lot of people
in the Battle of Wolf 359, as
they're now calling it. A lot
of these ships were in the
area for crew transfers and
rotations.

GREENE (continued)
That included promotions for
some of their senior officers
to command positions aboard
other ships.

He stops pacing, looking at the two.

GREENE (continued)
With a shortage of command-
level staff, Starfleet is
promoting officers all
throughout the fleet. Both the
Arlington and the Barrington
are losing their first
officers to command other
ships.

(beat)

I won't beat around the bush
any longer. Both of you are to
be promoted to the rank of
full commander. Evonne: You'll
take over the first officer's
position aboard the
Barrington; Vanessa: the
Arlington.

A bittersweet smile creeps over Greene's face. He extends
his hand.

GREENE
I suppose this is
congratulations.

Both enthusiastically shake his hand.

GREENE
I can't say I won't be sad to
see you go, but I can
understand your excitement.

VANESSA
Sir, I think I speak for both
of us when I say it has been
an honor serving with you.

GREENE
And, with you.

EVONNE
If you don't mind, sir... we
have a lot of preparations to
make.

GREENE
Understood. Dismissed.

As the DOOR HISSES OPEN AND SHUT as they leave, Greene
stands and looks out the viewports. He suddenly realizes
he's not alone.

GREENE
Hello. I didn't think I'd see
you again.

He turns. It's Thon, or a representation thereof.

THON
I... owe you an explanation.

GREENE
For the sensors? The upgrades?

THON
History records... well, we were
supposed to cross paths, but
we initially didn't damage
your systems. The timeline
deviated and... we had to put
you back in the right
condition to help.

GREENE
The sensor upgrades weren't a
part of that, Captain.

THON
I know. But... In light of our
conversation, the search for
survivors was important. No
one was rescued that shouldn't
have been; it was only made a
bit quicker. But note the
sensor upgrades will delete
themselves from your systems
once you leave the system.

GREENE

Fair enough. You still have me thinking about the future, Thon.

THON

The promotions were the right thing to do, if that's what you mean.

GREENE

That's not entirely what I meant...

THON

Ask her back. And him. The ranks on your chessboard will nearly be set-up then.

GREENE

Who?

(thinking)

You mean Anne... and Daniel?

Thon only smiles.

THON

And then, there's only one more player to join the fight.

GREENE

And that person is...?

THON

You'll find out soon enough, Captain. She comes from hope.

GREENE

And the fight? How soon...?

THON

It won't be apparent now, but you've already started that battle.

GREENE

And it resumes...?

THON

Yes. Soon. Be ready.

GREENE
Why are you telling me all
this?

THON
Because I live in a Federation
touched by you not realizing
your full potential.
(beat)
But... I've said too much.

GREENE
Will we ever meet again?

THON
Perhaps, Captain. Perhaps.
(beat)
Good luck.

GREENE
And to you.

Thon nods and DISAPPEARS. Greene looks uneasy but
resolved to move on...

EXT. SPACE - MARS ORBIT
The Prospect is being repaired at UTOPIA PLANITIA.

GREENE (V.O.)
Captain's Log, Stardate
44411.9: We've been at Utopia
Planitia Fleet Yards for a few
months now, and repairs to the
Prospect are almost complete.
Starfleet's used the
opportunity to upgrade some of
our systems. Some old faces
are rejoining our team, as
some new faces come aboard as
well...

INT. BRIDGE - PROSPECT
The READY ROOM doors HISS open and Greene spills onto the
bridge. Anne and Daniel are at their old stations, George
at his, Jenn at hers, MIKE GREENE, JUSTIN O'DONOVAN and
Hahn at aft stations. Greene takes his seat between Anne
and Daniel.

GREENE
Commander, Counselor. Good to
see you aboard.

DANIEL
It's good to be back aboard,
sir.

GREENE
You settling in okay?

ANNE
Yes, of course. No place like
home.
(beat)
One thing I don't understand...

GREENE
What's that?

ANNE
Why me? Why wasn't I promoted
like the others to command a
ship?

GREENE
I convinced Command we needed
you here.

DANIEL
And...? Something tells me
that's not the entire story.

GREENE
Someone once told me I needed
those closest to me by my side
through those trying times
that are coming. And you two
are part of that team.

ANNE
John... I'm touched.

The TURBOLIFT DOORS HISS OPEN. A stunning woman, with jet black hair and piercing light eyes, elvish features and pale skin walks onto the bridge; she's KARI LILJEHORN, and all attention focuses on her. Greene stands, Anne and Daniel after him, as she approaches the command circle.

KARI
Lieutenant Commander Kari
Liljehorn, reporting for duty.

GREENE
Commander Lansing, Counselor
Radke: I'd like you to meet
our new second officer,
Commander Liljehorn. She's
recently transferred from the
Starship..
(Thon's words strike him)
Hope.

KARI
Nice to meet you, Counselor,
Captain. Anne: good to see you
again.

DANIEL
You two know each other?

ANNE
(to Kari)
It's good to see you too,
Kari.
(to Daniel, Greene)
We served together a few years
back.

KARI
I hope I serve Special Ops and
the Prospect well.

Greene gestures to the empty OPS position, and Kari
follows to take her place there. Anne and Daniel sit as
Greene stands in the command circle.

GREENE
You came highly recommended,
Commander, and I'm sure you'll
fit in just fine.

ANNE
Utopia Planitia control
signals we're okay for
departure.

GREENE
Right. Lieutenant DREVER, you
heard the woman. Take us out,
one quarter impulse.

JENN
One quarter impulse, aye.

GREENE

Let's see what's out there.

EXT. SPACE - MARS ORBIT

The Prospect clears the orbital facility and SOARS AWAY
at a high speed as we...

FADE TO BLACK