

Mission: The Ring of Rephaim

Day: 1-3

Stardate: 2446.08.30-09.02

[illegible][illegible]

Day: 1

Stardate: 2446.08.31

(USS Illuminar – Deck 8 – Cargo Bay 1 – Marine – LT Charles Temerity – 0245)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 4, Holodeck 1 - CO, Captain Sekal - 0710)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge Pilot Ensign Pihi ‘Kestral’ Piripi – 0730)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge - CO, Captain Sekal– 0733)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 6 – Science Lab 5 – Dr. Teller – 1200)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 6 – Science Lab 5 – Dr. Gaillus Penn – 1202)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 6 – Science Lab 5 – Dr. Teller – 1205)

Day 2

Stardate: 2446.09.01

(USS Illuminar - Deck 3 - Captain's Quarters - CO, Captain Sekal - 0600)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0755)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - CO, Captain Sekal - 0756)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0757)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - COM Commander Quinna Solice - 0758)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge Pilot Ensign Pihi ‘Kestral’ Piripi – 0800

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge – Marine – LT Charles Temerity – 0805)

(USS Illuminar – Sickbay -- Deck 5 -- CMO Commander Quinna Solice -- 1800)

Day3

Stardate: 2446.09.02

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0800)

USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - CO, Captain Sekal - 0805)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge – Marine – 1LT Charles Temerity – 0810)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - Arboretum - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur and Ensign Celiste Winters - 0815)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 14 - Main Security - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0830)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 14 - Main Security - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0845)

(USS Illuminar – Deck DCO Ensign James Shaw - 0846)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 14 - Main Security - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0847)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - Main Engineering - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0855)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - Main Engineering - CEO - Lieutenant Jg Tegian Pex - 0857)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 11 – Main Engineering – DCO Ensign James Shaw – 0910)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 7 – Cargo Bay 1 – Marine – 1LT Charles Temerity – 0911)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 11 – Operations Storage Room – DCO Ensign James Shaw -0913)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - Corridor - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0915)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - Corridor - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0925)

(USS Magellan - Passenger Compartment - SecO, CPO Steven Hammons and PO1 Jared Boyles - 0928)

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 10 -- Shuttlebay -- USS Magellan -- Lead Reserve Officer Lt. Tavay -- 0929)

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 10 -- Shuttlebay -- USS Magellan --ACSO Botanist Ensign Celiste Winters -- 0932)

(USS Illuminar – Deck 10 – Shuttlebay – Marine – 1LT Charles Temerity – 0940)

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(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - CO, Captain Sekal - 1110)
(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge -CMO Commander Quinna Solice - 1115)
(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - CEO Office -CEO - Lieutenant Jg Tegian Pex - 1118)
(USS Illuminar - Deck 7 - CSRD Lab - CSRD - Lt. Bohb - 1119)
(USS Illuminar -- Shuttle Bay -- Commander Quinna Solice -- 1120)
(USS Illuminar - Shuttle Bay SPA LT Ariel Trei - 1121)
(USS Illuminar -- Shuttle Bay -- CEO - Lieutenant Jg Tegian Pex - 1125)
(USS Illuminar – Shuttlebay – Ops- Torek - 1126)
(USS Illuminar - Deck 10 - Main Shuttle Bay- CEO - Lieutenant Jg Tegian Pex - 1128)
USS Illuminar - Deck 10 - Main Shuttle Bay- SecO, Lieutenant Galk - 1135)
(USS Illuminar -- Deck 10 -- Shuttle Bay -- Inside USS IO -- CMO Commander Quinna Solice --
1140)
(USS Illuminar -- Deck 10 -- Shuttle Bay -- Inside USS IO -- CEO - Lieutenant Jg Tegian Pex --
1142)
(USS Io -- Passenger Compartment- SPA LT Ariel Trei - 1144)
(USS Io – Flight Deck – Pilot Ensign Pihi ‘Kestral’ Piripi – 1150)
(USS Io – Flight Deck –CMO Commander Quinna Solice – 1200)
(USS Io – Aft Section – CEO - Lieutenant Jg Tegian Pex – 1201)
(Rephaim - Aerishan Desert -- 1220)
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Day 1-2446.08.31
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(USS Illuminar -- Deck 8 – Cargo Bay 1 – Marine – LT Charles Temerity – 0245)
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It did allow all of his Marines to have an officer living compartment within the cargo bay. Because of additional duties that everyone was having to take on, this would allow each of them their own office to work out of. In an emergency, those compartments can be repurposed back into sleeping quarters. Temerity felt it was a good setup.

Shortly after the crew relocated from the Raptor back onto the Illuminar, Captain Sekal was more than gracious enough to answer Temerity's questions. Charles was never one to pass up trying to get better at something. As a retired Gunnery Sergeant, Charles knew he wouldn't be as good a freighter captain as a retired Captain of Starfleet. Some of the knowledge that Sekal

had passed on to him, Temerity knew that those were lessons he could incorporate into becoming a better detachment commander.

The party had been in high gear for hours now with so much traffic in and out of the bay that his Gunny had the doors locked open so folks could walk in and out without the door constantly opening and closing. Charles thought the maintenance crew would appreciate saving them some work.

Many on the ship didn't like having the Marines onboard, but on the last mission, some did agree that the risk of death for fleet personnel did decline when the Marines designated the Myrmidons went first and secured the area so that fleet security forces could focus on landing party protection. Temerity was okay with that. It was a job that T'Mur's gold shirts despised and Temerity's green shirts preferred.

Charles decided to walk through the Illuminar and see how others aboard ship were celebrating. In the recreation room he found a drama being shown with a very familiar storyline to it. It was about a group of treasonous Marines attempting to escape a planet they had just murdered several government officials on. He couldn't help but watch for several minutes before snickering to himself and saying aloud as he was walking out, "It actually happened the other way around." And the door closed behind him and off he went to continue his excursion.

(Reply: Any of you wish)

(Posted By: Charles Raschen)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar - Deck 4, Holodeck 1 - CO, Captain Sekal - 0710)

=^= Science is reporting an anomaly sir.^=

"Is the ship under threat?"

=^=Negative sir, it's on long range scans.=^=

Sekal stopped the morning workout and looked toward the sky of his homeworld where Eridani A and B were sitting high. The primary sun stood in the forefront with its twin partially visible within its corona. He stepped back into the shadow of an overhanging rock as one part of his powerful brain worked on the puzzle of the landscape before him but on a minimalist level, this would have to wait for a full effort before penetrating the deep forest that stretched out before him as the ship now required his full attention.

They had transferred back from the Raptor onto Illuminar one month and a half ago and left Tellar after little more than a day in orbit. Their destination? The beta quadrant. Their mission? Exploration. Much of this area was virgin territory for the Federation which had recently spent decades languishing from its initial duty of cataloging space and its many secrets. Illuminar had been busy in the last forty eight days, twenty hours and eighteen minutes in attempting to make up for lost time.

Starfleet had been busy in other areas as well, along with the Raptor, other ships were being assigned to monitor the Typhon Expanse for any further Xenolithe activity.

He shifted his weight. "Understood, have the report ready for when I arrive, I anticipate twenty minutes."

=^=Aye sir. ^=^=

"Computer display the arch and save my progress."

As soon as the portal appeared he hustled toward it. There would be time spent in the shower in his cabin before dressing and making his way to the bridge.

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - CO, Captain Sekal - 0728)

He stepped from the lift and scanned the control center of the ship. Raptor had been a notable departure from his initial command as befitting a warship, the single seat surrounded by working stations accentuated its purpose and the isolation of command.

Here on Illuminar however his highest ranking officers were clustered closely around which gave him immediate access to their input as well as skills.

The viewer showed space stretching into the distance along with its vibrant backdrop of stars.

"Report."

Stepping down to the command level he turned as Dr. Gralen began speaking.

"At forty three light years off our starboard bow Captain, course twenty eight degrees, Mark three. Readings show a gravitational anomaly within the system. The sun is type O, young and hot with five planetary bodies at the least."

"At the least doctor?" He was scrutinizing the betazoid scientist.

"Ah, let's say the ones I can get a reading on are in the outer half of the system, close to the star I'm getting a sensor shadow of some type."

"And the proliferation of dust and rubble as well as minor bodies within that region?"

"I can't find any sir. The stars habitable zone appears to be empty although I'm getting some strange readings as I noted. Based on the results I request that we divert course to get a closer look."

The vulcan turned to his left. "Ms. Piripi, change course to twenty eight degrees, mark three. Let's give our science department a closer look at the anomaly, shall we?"

(Reply: Piripi)

"Warp six Ensign and initiate."

(Reply: Piripi, any)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge Pilot Ensign Pihi ‘Kestral’ Piripi – 0730)

The past was behind her, and she had started to get into the routine of being at the helm of the USS Illuminar. Lieutenant GreyWolf had been helpful in helping her transition into the role, such that she was now manning the helm most mornings.

They were on a routine survey when she heard a commotion from the science station. Well, as much a commotion as scientists tended to get.

Shortly after that, the captain came on the bridge and she listened as the scientist spoke about some strange readings he was finding.

The captain spoke, “Ms. Piripi, change course to 28 degress, mark 3. Let’s give our science department a closer look at the anomaly, shall we?”

Pihi's fingers moved over the console. She activated her connection to the sensors to get a better look at the area. "Course laid in Captain," she spoke after a moment or two.

“Warp six Ensign and initiate.”

"Warp 6, Aye Sir." She said, making the necessary adjustments. "Initiating,"

She watched with her usual sense of wonder as the ship made the course correction and accelerated to almost 400 times the speed of light. She scanned her console and made sure everything was green.

"We are at warp 6," she said after a few minutes, "On heading 28 mark 3, all systems look green here Sir."

(reply Sekal, bridge)

(Posted by Pippa)

[illegible]

“We are at warp 6,” she said after a few minutes, “On heading 28 mark 3, all systems look green here Sir.”

"Very good Ensign."

He turned back to the science station. "Doctor Galen, we have a schedule to keep. I would like an estimate on how long you expect the diversion to take."

"It depends on what we find sir, as a scientist I'm sure you are aware that we could come up against any number of conditions that..." Holis stopped as the vulcan held up a hand and nodded.

"As I expected, thank you doctor." The CO turned and took the command chair.

The betazoid stood there for a moment feeling like an idiot. Of course the captain knew, but as commanding officer he was required to hear it and weigh it against his orders.

Holis sucked in a breath. "Thank you sir."

He finally shook himself out of his funk and took a drink as Teller's voice rang out. "Darla to Nemo."

Penn nearly spit his drink out at the comment.

Teller went on, "Auntie Em to Dorothy. Mushu to Mulan," he called excitedly. He watched as his friend started to stir. "Roget of Altair, McCoy of the Enterprise. Crusher of the Enterprise." Teller rolled off his lounge chair and stood up. He stretched out his arms then picked up his glass and drained it. In spite of his bad mood he smiled. Then he moved over to look at what Teller was looking at.

As he read he ran his finger along the inside of his glass and licked the remaining liquid from his finger. He stopped and smiled, finger still in his mouth.

As he pulled his finger from his lips he said, “Willie E. Coyote to Bugs Bunny. Wolfgang the Nazi to Lily Tomlinson.”

(reply Tellar)

(posted by Al Muir)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar – Deck 6 – Science Lab 5 – Dr. Teller – 1205)

“Willie E. Coyote to Bugs Bunny. Wolfgang the Nazi to Lily Tomlison.” Penn said.

Teller nodded. "Steve Austin, after the accident. Sheldon in Stockholm."

The Tamarian sipped his drink while pulling up some data. The ship's course came up on a screen along with some sensor data from the science department. "Peter Pan to Wendy," he said.

Realizing their drinks were empty, he went to mix up two more of the Martian Sunrise's. He held up the glasses, "Hawkeye and his kidneys."

(Reply Penn)

(Posted by Tim)

[illegible]

Day 2- 2446.09.01

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar - Deck 3 - Captain's Quarters - CO, Captain Sekal - 0600)

It was the singing over the ship's intercom that woke him followed by T'lah's petulant hiss at being rudely disturbed from her slumber. He lay quietly for a moment with his eyes closed before opening them as Luma joyously began the celebrations of the day with musical entertainment learned from the Illuminari.

Let it be known that he had rubber-stamped the celebrations of the day without administrating them which gave the crew, and Luma it seems, the ability to 'go crazy with it' as some emotional species might say. You might think this illogical however the festivities around the one year anniversary of the ship were for the crew and not its captain.

He lightly rubbed the back of T'lah's head followed by scratching under her chin as she purred contentedly, her white paws extended from under equally white breast fur. It was still early for arising as he had changed alpha shifts start time from 0800 to 1600 and bumped the other shifts back appropriately. Or had he kept this same time on the Raptor? Why couldn't he remember?

The mission aboard the Raptor and its return to Federation space followed by losing then recovering the shuttle had taken place in some particularly unstable sections of space. Add to his lack of memory much of his activities during that time. Were those unstable sectors responsible for his memory loss? A disturbing question which he would continue to consider.

He took a deep breath then rolled out from under the sheet and moved to the wardrobe prior to getting ready for the day as Luma started another selection.

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - CO, Captain Sekal - 0750)

T'Mur was in the center seat, having arrived early as he stepped from the lift.

"Captain on the bridge."

"At ease." It appeared as though today was going to be a formal affair in some ways. He stepped down to the command level. "Were you awakened by Luma as well Lieutenant Commander?"

(Reply: T'Mur)

He stopped and folded his arms across his chest which was atypical of him, a closed stance rather than open but the reason for it was that he found the air a bit chill this morning. Probably nothing, he merely needed to concentrate a little better on regulating his body temperature.

"She has been pleased about returning to this skin, certainly. I believe she may be using the opportunity to showcase that."

(Reply: T'Mur iyw)

He waited as the oncoming tour entered the bridge. On the viewscreen was a detailed and static model of the system in question which he studied as they took their positions.

"All stations report. Ensign Piripi, what time did the ship arrive on station outside the system?"

(Reply: Piripi)

"Roger that, continue to maintain position until the science department reaches a consensus."

"Commander Verin, I assume you have been informed of the days festivities and I would like a rundown of them if you please."

(Reply: Sienna, as much as you want)

An eyebrow arched as he nodded then turned to Quinna. "I try not to take up much of your time doctor, but I am going to need to speak with you at some point soon about a memory issue."

(Reply: Quinna, as much as you want)

He then turned his attention to the Ops console. "Mr. Korek, the long range sensor palettes have been showing a degradation of efficiency with extended use, please watch the power conversion rate to the science department equipment and log any inconsistencies."

(Reply: Korek)

Sekal turned to his right. "Doctor Gralen, what are you seeing?"

Holis had been mumbling to himself, he looked up with a start. "Something I never expected to see sir."

"Explain."

The betazoid

sucked in a deep breath as he straightened. "It isn't all that unusual to see a system with its planets all in large orbits but closer in you will normally find an extended debris field left over from the stellar compaction and ignition as you well know. In fact, this system has 3 outer planets, all gas giants and while there is no debris field there is this."

Holis tapped on his screen and a shot of the inner system came into view with a silvery ring encircling the star.

"A ring world. It orbits approximately one point eight million kilometers from Beta Ostri and arcs around it, essentially retracing the orbit of Venus within the Sol sector but in a complete circle rather than an oval."

Sekal had taken a step toward the screen. "Fascinating."

Holis was speaking again. "Dyson spheres are a popular option for a species which would like to set up such a construct but each, ring world and Dyson sphere has its own set of advantages and disadvantages. Dyson spheres completely encircle the sun, encasing it in a metal sphere but with that much surface space it has to be made as close to the sun as possible, is hotter and so needs a heavier cooling system not to mention a system that can effectively use or discard all of the emitted radiation."

He made a gesture toward the screen. "Ring worlds like this however can be created much farther from the star which simplifies the heat and radiation issue but systems can be set up quite effectively to use the star to power the structure. But even though it is a ring rather than an encircling orb the mass of material used to create it will be quite similar. Its main drawback compared to a Dyson sphere is that it is more of a gossamer strand without the full strength of an encircling structure and can be much more fragile."

(Reply: Any. Questions for Holis? Plenty of room)

"It would appear that a closer examination is in order."

"Thank you captain, that was going to be my request."

Sekal turned to Pihi. "Take the ship in helmsman, get us a close look."

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0755)

Luma's music had become difficult to ignore, as pleasant as it was. That might be because she was not only singing through the comm system, but also telepathically through her connection with all those she'd bonded with, including Sienna. And Sy, of course, was happy to share the songs with her mate.

The songs had not woken the Vulcan up. She had already been awake when Luma started. She was in the habit of waking early to exercise and train with the security people. Sienna had no such struggle. In fact, she did not wake until T'Mur had climbed on their bed, dripping with sweat.

Once she felt she had adequately disturbed her mate's sleep she showered and dressed and headed to the bridge. Piripi had started her shift early and was already at the helm. T'Mur went to the vacant command seat and pulled up the security reports from the previous night.

"Captain on the bridge."

With that announcement T'Mur stood up and stepped to the side of the center seat. "At ease," Sekal said. T'Mur headed to the tactical station and relieved the gamma shift Tactical Officer.

"Were you awakened by Luma as well Lieutenant Commander?" he asked.

[illegible]

"I also believe that she is celebrating something else. This is the birthday of the Illuminar, as she put it. However, it is not logical to celebrate a birthday for an inanimate object. The Illuminar was launched, not birthed."

"Ordinarily I would agree," he looked around before taking his place before the command chair.

"However we are speaking of a sentient life form that considers the extended systems and bulkheads, the photonic relays and plasma couplers to be a part of herself. Every system on the ship like one part of a living being. In that light then her point of reference is valid, illogical though it is to us who see the ship according to my vision, a technological framework with which to expedite the process by which we carry out the orders of command."

(Reply: T'Mur iyw)

His ears caught the pings and whirs, the ululating electronic modulations and the near subliminal vibrations running through the ship and caused by the powerful warp drive which was never dead and cold except under particular circumstances. It was a matter of fleet record that one vulcan had once had his brain used for a short time to maintain a liveable atmosphere for an alien civilization and in the process was unaware of the change.

"I believe that ambassador Spock would understand and agree at some level."

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

T'Mur listened to Sekal's explanation of Luma's desire to celebrate the Illuminar's "birthday" as the ship is an extension of herself. On an emotional level she understood that. However Luma's actual age has not been calculated and the Illuminar was just her latest husk, skin as she called it; although it seemed to be her favorite.

(reply Verin, if you want)

"And so, today is Luma/Illuminar's birthday, and worthy of celebration," she stated. She looked over at Sienna and nodded, "I believe that there will be a celebration this evening. Commander Verin has been... hiding some thoughts from me, but I got the general idea that she had something "fun" in store."

(posted by Al Muir)

Quinna sat on the Bridge of the Illuminar. She had been asked to join the team. She felt at ease since sickbay was ready for anything. Quinna had already made sure that it was laid out to her preference and that everyone was aware that it better stay. Most that worked did not complain as it made everything run smoothly.

Quinna thought the oddity as she was not asked to give a sickbay report. "Certainly, my schedule is open."

He then turned his attention to the Ops console. "Mr. Torek, the long-range sensor palettes have been showing a degradation of efficiency with extended use, please watch the power conversion rate to the science department equipment and log any inconsistencies."

(Reply: Torek)

Quinna was notorious for having her PADD with her and taking notes. This time was no different. As the rest of the crew was addressed, Quinna diligently took notes.

She listened to the information about the ring world and found it a bit curious herself. She had never thought of such a place and mentally could not picture so it helped to be able to see it with her own eyes.

(Reply Any)

(posted by Kris B)

[illegible]

Pihi had been on the helm since 0600. The target system was coming closer and close to the Illuminar. Actually the Illuminar was coming to it. She enjoyed the feed she was getting from the sensors, all manners of purples and blues with various silver and gold peaks and valleys.

She wondered what the current discovery might yield. Not being a scientist, she was interested in the abstract, but she had been interacting with more of the lower deck crew, her fellow Ensigns and slowly was winning them over. Maybe someday she'll have an actual friend or two. It was hard since so many people saw her and treated her differently.

She heard the call of the Captain on deck. Checking her boards, things were still looking good.

"All Stations report. Ensign Piripi, what time did the ship arrive on station outside the system?"

"Sir, we arrived on station about 20 minutes ago, awaiting your orders," she replied.

"Roger that, continue to maintain position until the science department reaches a consensus," the Captain said.

"Aye sir," she replied, touching the controls lightly.

She tuned out the conversation on the bridge while the officers decided what they should do.

Her ears perked up at the captain's voice, "Take the ship in helmsman, get us a closer look."

"Yes sir," she said.

She pulled up the scanners and looked at the system. She identified what looked like the easiest path in. “Course laid in, Sir. We will be on station in 18 minutes.”

(reply Sekal, bridge)

(Posted by Pippa)

USS Illuminar – Deck 1 – Bridge – Marine – LT Charles Temerity – 0805)

Charles had been plagued with nightmares throughout the night. He never imagined he would look forward to writing reports as a refuge from bad dreams. But he had finished all of his

reports for LCDR T'Mur, Captain Sekal, and General Bloom. Once finished, he returned to his sleeping-pod and just stared at his bed with some trepidation before deciding to go for a walk.

Someone was singing and celebrating a birthday, but Temerity wasn't sure of whose birthday it was. After a short while he was stepping onto a turbo-lift. He didn't even name off a destination, and before he realized where he was at, LT Temerity was stepping out of the lift and onto the bridge.

“And so, today is Luma/Illuminar’s birthday, and worthy of celebration,” he heard T’Mur state as she looked over at Sienna and nodded, “I believe that there will be a celebration this evening. Commander Verin has been... hiding some thoughts from me, but I got the general idea that she had something “fun” in store.”

Realization dawning on Charles about the uniqueness of the Illumiar and who Luma was. “That actually explains a lot.” He said quietly to no one in particular. Remembering where he was and the fact that he was not an actual bridge officer, he knew to ask to enter and so Charles announced “Lieutenant Temerity request permission to enter the bridge.” As dictated per centuries of naval tradition, even aboard tramp freighters like the one he had captained, the Errant.

(Reply: Sekal)

Once permission was granted, Temerity simply stepped to the side and out of the way until called upon. In as much as he missed being on the bridge of a ship, as a Marine, he had no business on the bridge unless summoned. On the Raptor, he did show himself to be knowledgeable and helpful on the bridge, and he enjoyed it.

(Reply: Sekal, Any if you like)

(Posted By: Charles Raschen)

[illegible]

Day 3-2446.09.02

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0800)

As they moved towards the sector of space that the anomaly was in T'Mur continued to scan for any traffic or flow of information, to which there was none. She found it odd that they were heading towards something that was most likely built by an advanced lifeform, but there was no evidence in any communication signals. Perhaps they communicated in a different manner. As she continued to run her scans, a red light appeared on her holodisplay.

She tapped the beacon on the display and looked at the read out. She raised an inquisitive eyebrow. "Fascinating," she said to herself. Then she looked over at the captain, who seemed engrossed in whatever he was working on. She downloaded an image and the data onto a PADD and moved over to his seat.

“Captain, something unusual is on a moons sized asteroid at 07 mark 38.4 mark 87.2,” she said, handing him the device. “It appears that there are a series of buildings that have been constructed on the asteroid. Could be a colony, however there are no life signs.”

(reply Sekal)

(reply Sekal)
(posted by Al Muir)

(Reply: T'Mur, any)
(Posted by Charles G)

This particular morning, Temerity was receiving training from the young officer at the Operations station. Fortunately when Captain Sekal entered the Bridge, nothing was said about the Marine

being there. Though Temerity also had the other Marines pick other departments and receive additional training as well. Two regularly go to sick bay to get trained as field medics, and another two go to the shuttle bay to get training for shuttle maintenance. He wanted the Myrmidons to be more than what they were.

Fortunately, Charles had the good sense to move out of the way when “Captain, something unusual is on a moons sized asteroid at 07 mark 38.4 mark 87.2,” The Marine just observed and listened as the regular bridge officers did their jobs.

T'Mur spoke up. "I would recommend that we send an away team to have a look. It may give us some clues as to what lays ahead."

"Agreed. Form an away team Lieutenant Commander. Helm move us to those coordinates. Prepare for an away detail." Charles heard the Captain say.

Temerity wondered if T'Mur would actually want any of the Marines to accompany her team or prefer to use only fleet personnel. Only one way to find out, "Commander, do you want any of the Marines to join your team?" he quietly asked T'Mur as she passed him on her way off the bridge.

(Reply: T'Mur, Any if you like)

(Posted By: Charles Raschen)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar - Deck 6 - Arboretum - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur and Ensign Celiste Winters - 0815)

T'Mur was aware that Celiste Winters spent most mornings in the arboretum, tending to Luma's precious roses. She was unsurprised when the young scientist had said that was where she was. The first thing the Vulcan noted as she stepped inside was the humidity level of the arboretum. It was almost comforting.

Then it was the smell. Like most Vulcans, she took medication to lessen the effect of smells on her on a daily basis. But she was not able to block out the assault on her olfactory senses of all of the different types of plants. It was not unpleasant, but it was a little overwhelming. T'Mur looked around the chamber until she was able to locate Winters, kneeling in front of a bed of flowers, as if she were in worship.

"Ensign Winters," she said, announcing her presence.

Celiste turned towards the vulcan. Her features were a gorgeous blend of terran, vulcan and betazed. She had her mother's unusual betazoid blue eyes, the fiery red hair and the vulcan sharpness to her features, and ears, of her half-vulcan father. The smile made it clear that she did not follow the vulcan traditions., "Good morning Commander. Would you like some roses for Commander S...ergh Verin?"

Celiste had partied with Sienna in the past and tried to take a step back. “Luma has been working on purple roses with me, and while they aren’t a bright purple, they are a gorgeous lilac.” She brushed her hands of the soil, then cleansed them on a towel that was in her scientific lab coat. Celiste’s bright blue eyes searched T’Mur’s face.

"You aren't here for roses for Commander Verin?" As her smile faded a bit. Celiste was young, and was a recent Starfleet graduate as well as the youngest child of Admiral Winters. It was gossiped on the ship that Admiral Winters had pulled several strings to get both of her children aboard the ship commanded by the son of her former first officer.

T'Mur raised an eyebrow and shook her head. "No, I'm not here for roses. However, I might need some later today. I have an away mission and I have need of a biological scientist. I have assigned you to the team."

She paused for a moment then continued. "I notice from your record that you have not been privileged to an away mission. I believe this is a mission that will benefit yourself, as well as my team."

Celiste smiled, "No, I was assigned to the Illuminar to care for the roses, and there are several people more senior to myself." Celiste took out a pair of pruning shears and a damp cloth, offering the cloth to T'Mur before she began to choose several almost perfect blooms and snipped the flowers, offering the chosen blooms to T'Mur. "My next questions are at what time, where we are gathering or briefing, and if any special equipment will be required?" She was as open and blunt as most Betazoids were in spite of her obviously vulcan features.

"We are meeting on the main Shuttlebay at 0930," T'Mur replied in a very Vulcan manner. "As for special equipment, I'm afraid you're more qualified to decide that than I. As for more senior officers, seniority is not a requirement to be on an away team. I look at abilities and insight, which I believe that you have."

"The mission is to an asteroid that appears to have been colonized," she informed the young girl. "There's no sign of life now and we want to know why there is no longer any life." Celiste cocked her head in a very feline gesture as she listened, "Yes, Commander. Will EVA suits be required? I have only done the required training, and have not been fit for a suit since joining the Illuminar." She finished assembling the bouquet, and then took out a bright pink ribbon, tying the flower stems together in the cloth. "The roses should make Commander Verin happier about you leaving the ship. And some chocolate." She advised gently, Celiste's mind thinking through the tasks that she needed. EVA suit, to gather the normal scientific tools. She wanted to include a core sampler as well.

TMur took the small bouquet and studied it carefully. A small, half smile appeared on her lips. Sienna would enjoy the flowers. And she would enjoy chocolates as well. But she doubted either would make her feel better about this mission. Many sessions with Temas Laredo had not been able to unravel that string.

"I appreciate the thought, Ensign," she told the young girl. She was only slightly taller than she was but knew from experience the trouble with fitting into a mis-sized EVA suit. "And yes, you will need to get an EVA suit fitted to your body. And you'd better hurry, I plan on leaving this ship by 1000 hours and I will need to debrief the team at 0930."

Celiste smiled radiantly, the sort of smile that T'Mur had seen Admiral Vanyssa Winters give, and went running out of the arboretum, turning left to head for a turbolift, and the operations commissary, where she could get a fitted EVA suit, and requisition the other tools that she would need. As she hurried, Celiste turned the direction her older brother was, and sent a brief burst of emotion towards Sky. Celiste was excited, happy and nervous as well as slightly worried. :: Don't worry, Sky, I'll be safe.:: Celiste sent as she hustled down the hallway to get her brand new EVA suit.

(posted by Al & Mel)

T'Mur strode to the main security area and immediately saw what she was expecting. Steve Hammonds and Boyles were sitting behind a desk, monitoring activity across the ship. At least, she was pretty certain that would be their explanation.

(reply Hammons and Boyles)

"I wanted to speak with you about an away mission," she began. "I am leading a party to an asteroid that has, apparently, at one time been inhabited. That's the extent of our knowledge. I want you two to accompany us."

“There is more,” she added. “We will also have a contingent of marines with us. I would like to build a bridge between our two departments. I am uncertain why there is a perceived conflict between us, but it is clearly there. Any comments or questions?”

"Report to the main hanger bay at 0930 hours," she ordered. "Dismissed."

(USS Illuminar - Deck 14 - Main Security - SecO, CPO Steven Hammons - 0832)

"After he finishes this life in Galaga." Boyles deadpanned then snickered as Hammons jerked his head up and gave him a jaundiced eye.

"The chief said she wanted to see us."

"Yes sir, what can we do for you?"

Someday, someone with some brains would build a starship that had more space to allow the crew reasonable access to all the parts, James thought to himself. Being in damage control meant you needed to be part contortionist.

Reaching up into the space between the interface and sensor pallet he began scanning the connections to identify the isolinear chips to figure out which one was damaged. As he moved the scanner along, he identified the chipset that was shorting out.

As he pulled out the chip, he received a shock. “Damn,” he said out loud as he snatched his hand back. “OK Vic’tok, I need a new chip to replace this one.”

The Denobulan took the chip and started scanning it.

Shaw's com badge chirped = ^=Ensign Shaw report to me at main engineering = ^=

~What now?~ he wondered

“Commander, I’m in the middle of a repair, can it wait?”

(reply T'Mur)

Shaw sighed before responding. "Very well Ma'am. I'll be there shortly."

He shimmied out of the space, “Sorry Vic’Tok, you’ll need to finish up. Double-check the panel in case this repair generates another problem or three. You know how temperamental these arrays can be.”

The Denobulan nodded, "Of course Mr. Shaw," he said. Making a note in the repair log.

Shaw stood up and dusted himself off. He signed out of the repair and headed towards the turbolift.

(USS Illuminar – Deck 11 – Main Engineering – DCO Ensign James Shaw – 905)

Shaw walked into the main engineering and looked around for the Commander. Catching sight of her, he headed to her location, “Ma’am, Ensign Shaw reporting as ordered.”

(Reply T'Mur)

(Posted by Tim)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar - Deck 14 - Main Security - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0847)

=^=Commander, I'm in the middle of a repair, can it wait? ^=^=

This ship had just come out of a refit, T'Mur did not understand how it could possibly need a repair at this moment in time. She did know that engineers had a tendency to “fix” things that really did not need to be fixed. Things just did not function the way they wanted them to. It seemed a bit paradoxical.

"I do have a need for your services, Ensign," she said. "Finish what you are doing and get here as soon as possible. There is a time element involved."

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - Main Engineering - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 0906)
McGuyver had run into Main Engineering and stopped, breathing a little heavily. He stepped over to Pex and T'Mur and nodded.

“We’re just waiting for...” T’Mur began when the door to main engineering opened again and Shaw came in.

T'Mur nodded at the pair, "Ensign Shaw, thank you for coming so quickly. Ensign McGuyver. I am putting together an away team and you both came highly recommended. We are going to an asteroid that has, what appears to be, a colony built on it. The colony is devoid of life. I need a pair of engineers who can help me put together a profile of whoever built the facility through their technology. Perhaps, between the two of you, you can get some of that technology."

(reply Shaw)

With that she left the men in engineering and headed to get her own gear together.

(posted by Al Muir)

She strode into main engineering and located Pex. The Trill always seemed to be fixing something. She wasn't sure if this was something that she should be worried about with the ship or with the man.

(reply Pex)

(reply Pex)

(posted by Al Muir)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 11 - Main Engineering - CEO - Lieutenant Jg Tegian Pex - 0857)

Tegian was doing routine maintenance with Cadet Adams in Main Engineering. There was always something to be checked. Little things left unchecked had a bad habit of becoming big problems at the most inconvenient times.

He was just sliding out from underneath a panel, when Lieutenant Commander T'Mur came striding into Main Engineering. He kept his surprise in check and gave her a smile.

"Good morning, Lieutenant Commander. To what do we owe the pleasure of your company?" Stepping up to the CEO she nodded, "Lt. Pex, I need an engineer proficient in fixing things that they have little experience with for an away mission. Who would you recommend?"

"I presume you don't want me, then, Commander. For someone who can handle just about any surprise, I would recommend Ensign McGuyver." He paused, trying to remember the duty roster and where he might be. His shift leads handled that and he usually looked them over and occasionally made suggestions.

"I need to speak with them now," she said.

Tegian nodded. "Certainly."

He hit his comm badge. "Ensign McGuyver. Please report to Main Engineering immediately. Grab your go bag if you're passing by your quarters."

(reply McGuyver)

(posted by Keith)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar – Deck 11 – Main Engineering – DCO Ensign James Shaw – 0910)

Shaw listened to Commander T'Mur "Ensign Shaw, thank you for coming so quickly. Ensign McGuyver. I am putting together an away team and you both came highly recommended. We are going to an asteroid that has, what appears to be, a colony built on it. The colony is devoid of life. I need a pair of engineers who can help me put together a profile of whoever built the facility through their technology. Perhaps, between the two of you, you can get some of that technology."

Angus McGuyver spoke up “I’ve been known to perform minor miracles, but this is more than minor. I’ll see what I can do for ya.”

Shaw didn't know McGuyver all that well. He was a true Engineer, while Shaw was in damage control, charged with fixing everything that was broken, other than the major power distribution systems on the ship.

"As you wish, Ma'am," Shaw said.

“Thank you, gentlemen. Get what you ever you need together and and EVA suit. To our knowledge there is no breathable atmosphere in the complex. I will meet you in the shuttle bay at 0930,” the Commander said.

Shaw watched as the commander left Engineering. “Well, guess time to get some gear together. See you in the shuttle bay.”

With that Shaw left engineering and headed to Operations storeroom and grabbed a case.

(posted by Tim)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar – Deck 7 – Cargo Bay 1 – Marine – 1LT Charles Temerity – 0911)

Sonja Reddington was an Amazon of a woman standing at just over 185cm and weighing in at almost 91kg at five percent body fat with bright fiery red hair and a Celtic complexion. While fitting, this is not the reason she had become known as “Red Sonja”. She could be calm and collected and moved with a ballerina’s grace and she could be one of the single most fearsome foes anyone could have to deal with. She wasn’t the best when it came to firearms, she could qualify, but she excelled in knife-fighting and had the record to back it up. In 15 years in the infantry, she had racked up almost 75 confirmed kills (60 of which were with bladed weapons). Temerity first met her several years earlier, she had served as one of the guards that escorted him to his courts-marshal before his “retirement”.

After officially being given command of the Myrmidons, Charles had decided to share the office with Sonja. That would have been the setup if he had been a platoon leader with her as the platoon sergeant. And because the detachment was smaller than a platoon, it only seemed logical that be how things should be arranged.

When Major General Eunice Bloom sent down word of how many personnel the unit was to be reduced to, Temerity held a company formation and asked for volunteers to stay. Only nine stepped forward, and he was grateful for every one of them as he sent word up that the 'Marine Detachment dubbed "Myrmidons" aboard the U.S.S. Illuminar will continue forth with only ten personnel as Lieutenant Temerity had only nine volunteers in addition to himself and didn't want anyone that didn't want to be there alongside him.'

As Temerity entered the office, she looked up at him, “Get your shit and the boys together. We’re going with T’Mur to checkout an abandoned colony or some such.”

(Poste by CR)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar – Deck 11 – Operations Storage Room – DCO Ensign James Shaw - 0913)

He started filling it with the necessary extra tools and supplies he might need. If they were off on a mission, he didn't want to have to wait if he needed a part or three. Two tricorders. Extra cables, extra chips.

His fingers ran down the case, going through his mental check list one more time. Hoping he didn't forget anything, he slung one case over his shoulder, and took the second case in his left hand. He looked around again, scanning the shelves one more time.

With a sigh, knowing he forgot something, hoping McGuyver would have him covered.

The door closed behind him as he made his way to deck 10 and the EV airlock.

(USS Illuminar – Deck 10 – Shuttlebay – 0929)

One case over his shoulder, the second in his left hand and an EVA suit draped over his arm, Shaw made his way into the shuttlebay. Looking around he noted the activity around one of the shuttles.

He made his way over there, and entered the shuttle, where he started stowing his gear and EVA suit. "Shaw here, reporting for duty," he called out.

(Reply any)

(Posted by Tim)

[illegible]

As T'Mur walked down the corridor she tapped her comm badge one more time. She needed somebody with an understanding of how systems operated together.

=^=T'Mur to Tavay, grab your gear for an away mission and pick up an EVA suit. Meet me in the shuttle bay as soon as possible. There will be a briefing in the shuttle. ^=^=

(reply Tavay)

(posted by AI)

(USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Reserve Bridge officer lounge -- Lead Reserve Officer Lt. Tavay 0916)

Tavay had just finished the schedule for the reserve. She sat back for a minute before she did a check of the ship's minor systems. She knew that she was technically not an operations officer or an engineer but she was a key lead on the refit and she took pride in her work.

=^=T'Mur to Tavay, grab your gear for an away mission and pick up an EVA suit. Meet me in the shuttle bay as soon as possible. There will be a briefing in the shuttle. ^=^=

"Aye, Ma'am." Tavay acknowledged. She reached under her desk for her gear and headed out for her mission.

(posted by Al Muir)

[illegible]

T'Mur entered the shuttle bay. She had stowed her quarters and put the small bouquet of roses on hers and Sienna's bed. She opted to not add the box of chocolates. They'd argued over the mission and T'Mur felt that would be too much like an apology. She refused to apologize for doing her duty. In the end they "made up." The deciding factor was their love for each other.

She had gotten into her EVA suit, carried her bag over her shoulder and the helmet in her left hand, into the shuttle bay. She saw Corday doing his final external checks of a type 11 shuttle. He stepped back and entered his notes in a PADD, looking satisfied. The name stenciled on the hull was the USS Magellan

She moved over to him and said, "Lt. Corday."

Kisha was a different story, both her and Fredericks had arrived along with Admiral Winters who had sailed off in the Raptor. While Hammons knew Fredericks well he had never seen Kisha

before and wasn't aware of her species. Silky, corn colored fur, ears that were rounded off rather than pointed, lilac colored eyes, gray lips with slightly darker, pug nose. Whiskers that he had heard were vestigial adorned the area outside the area of her nose and above her lips. And was he hearing her purr in satisfaction as she slid past?

Everyone was wearing their EVA suits of course. He slid into the seat behind T'Mur, she would be his charge for the trip.

"Anything I need to know beforehand chief?"

(Reply: T'mur, any)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 10 -- Shuttlebay -- USS Magellan -- Lead Reserve Officer Lt. Tavay -- 0929)

Tavay made her way to the shuttle with all that was requested in a reasonable amount of time. She boarded the USS Magellan where the rest of the team was waiting.

"Morning, All." Tavay say to the group and no one person on particular.

(reply T'Mur, MacGuyver, Shaw, Winters, Hammond, Boyles, Temerity)

(Posted by Kris B)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar -- Deck 10 -- Shuttlebay -- USS Magellan --ACSO Botanist Ensign Celiste Winters -- 0932)

Celiste was aware that she was late, and that was not acceptable, but there had been problems finding her an EVA suit that would fit, and they had to fabricate her one, then help her into it, the suit collapsing to sculpt to her form. She had a bag full of scientific tools, including a mechanical core sampler that would answer a lot of the questions she had. Her long red hair was braided back, her EVA suit helm off as she stowed the bag of her tools.

"Ensign Winters reporting in, Ma'am. I apologize for my tardiness, there were complications in finding a correct EVA suit and one had to be fabricated." She finished securing her bag and sat down in one of the few spare seats. She didn't know all of these officers, all of them senior to her in experience except one, a green skinned cadet who was wearing engineering tabs. Rhyssa Williams. Rhyssa was fidgeting with a fancy metallic ornament, making minute adjustments to it as they waited.

Celiste smiled as one of the security personnel, who was a cat-being, helped secure Celiste to the seat, in case of turbulence...or weapons fire. Or more mundane mechanical issues. Celiste took a deep breath and felt her stomach butterflies settle some. It would be all right.

(reply T'Mur, any)

(posted by Mel)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar – Deck 10 – Shuttlebay – Marine – 1LT Charles Temerity – 0940)

(Reply: T'Mur, Any if you like)
(Posted By: Charles Raschen)

(Reply none)
(posted by Al Muir)

(Reply any)
(posted by Kris B)

The atmosphere is not breathable and contains high levels of nitrogen and carbon dioxide, low levels of oxygen. It also has mineral particles suspended in it. The surface temperature is five

(reply any)

“Aye, ma’am,” Carday called back. “Magellan to Flight, we are ready. Request permission to launch.”

"That'll be a change," Corday said to himself, and hit the launch sequence. The shuttle lifted off the deck plating gently and moved out into space.

(reply any)

(posted by Al Muir)

[illegible]

(USS Magellan - Passenger Deck - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur and SecO, CPO Steven Hammons, Dr. Honeycutt - 0948)

She stood up and moved to where the doctor was sitting and knelt beside her.

“How are you feeling about this mission, Doctor Honeycutt?”

“There are many feelings, Excited, Anxious, scared, worried. Honestly my feeling are all over the place, however this is what I have been training for.” BJ replied not sure if the Commander really wanted to know or if she was making small talk to acknowledge that she was there. T'Mur nodded, acknowledging the doctor's feelings. “Indeed it is. Just remember that. I wanted to talk with you to ensure your comfort level. This is your first away mission. For your own safety stay close to our security team.”

She looked over at Hammons and motioned him over. The man tended to be a little too jocular at times but she remembered her first days in the ship and how he mentored her. Perhaps he even helped her acclimate to his sense of humor.

“Mr. Hammons may seem a little... unfocused, but he is an excellent Security Officer. He will keep you safe.”

"Unfocused? I disagree," Hammons crossed his arms but there was a twinkle in his eye. "... I choose not to be a sour, grim individual just because I'm charged with your safety. Besides, how would you feel if I cried doom and gloom in every situation? Now, if things go to violence I'm as ready and capable as any so you have no reason to worry." He turned his head to listen as the Lieutenant Commander continued.

“Your job will be to not only tend to our medical needs but see if you can find any physical markers that might help us identify whoever built this complex.”

"Just keep in mind chief that there is no telling what automated functions may still be active, if any. I suggest me and the rest of the team go in first to try and isolate any surprises, hopefully without triggering them." Hammons wasn't grim upon speaking that but he was sober.

“Got it. I am no archaeologist. But I am sure I can read about it on the way there.” BJ decided she needed to talk to Dr. Solice. This was not part of the job description.

"That is why we have the marines, Mr. Hammons," T'Mur said. "They will go first and create a perimeter. However, we will do the more delicate sweeps inside that perimeter." She turned and looked at Honeycutt, "As for reading about archeology, if you have such an aptitude, I have no idea what you could use as a comparison yet."

BJ looked at Hammons, “Don’t worry about me. I promise to stick close. Not about to have this be my last away mission.”

"A good attitude." Steven grinned. "First timers who try to be heroes generally end up dead. Stay with us and keep your eyes open like you said and everything will be fine."

(Reply None)

(Posted by Kris B, Al M and Charles G.)

[illegible]

(USS Magellan - Passenger Deck - 2O/CSec/Tac - Lt. Commander T'Mur - 1015)

“Lt. Commander,” Corday called from the flight deck, “weare on approach to the landing zone. Touch down in two minutes. I found a nice little spot that seems centrally located to the buildings.”

T'Mur nodded and stood up, "Thank you, Lt. Corday. Alright everyone, get ready." She looked at the marine CO. "Lt. Temerity, you are first off. Create a perimeter and defend it. Nothing gets in."

(reply Temerity)

"Mr. Hammons, you and your team are in charge of the internal security," she said. "You are next off. Make sure that nobody... steps on something they shouldn't."

(reply Hammons, and security)

She then turned to the engineers. “Ensign. MacGuyver, Ensign. Shaw, I want to get into one of those buildings. Let’s see if we can’t gain access. Once a door opens, though, I want security to go in first; whether it’s myself or one of them.” She pointed to the security team.

“Undoubtedly they may need a bit of repair.”

(reply MacGuyver, Shaw)

(reply BJ)

“Let’s move.”

(reply all)

[illegible]

(posted by Charles Gatling)

[illegible]

“Yes, Ma’am” BJ replied, she was certain to be prepared. She wondered if being told what her job was something common, or assumed that since this was her first away mission that she did

not know what to do. Then BJ realized that she was tinkering too much and she needed to get back to the task at hand.

BJ suited up and was ready to go with the rest of the team.

(reply any)

(posted by Kris B)

[illegible]

(Asteroid Base Kefi - Exterior - SecO, CPO Steven Hammons- 1025)

Steven was the first out behind the marines, his sidearm in his right hand. Scans hadn't shown any life here but sentient civilizations were well known to leave nasty surprises behind since the death of such a civilization often ended in conflict. Or disease, or the destruction of their planet. War, however, was most often king.

How long had this place been empty? Who knew? There was no way to determine that yet, it could have been abandoned a month before. Or millenia. If millenia then mechanisms were unlikely to still be functional but there had been cases.

At any rate, the marines would run into resistance first and Steven and his crew were here to back them up.

"No resistance so far chief." He spoke into his comm.

They had reached a building of pale grey, it was at that point that the external lights triggered on which washed out the lamps from their helmets. Hammons tuned his off. The exterior wall of this structure was not featureless, there were carvings and glyphs that meant something to someone.

"We have internal power activated."

(Reply: T'Mur)

"Any power surges?" Steven asked over his shoulder.

"None. Power is steady, nothing menacing so far." Kisha remarked.

The gravity on this asteroid was light as was to be expected, you had to step carefully to avoid launching yourself.

"Hammons, I'm reading a gravity field inside the buildings, it just came up."

"Power draw is increasing."

"Everyone step back until we know what this thing is going to do, it's waking up."

The starfield overhead was black and full of twinkling stars.

(Reply: All)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

[illegible]

USS Illuminar - Deck 1 - Bridge - CO, Captain Sekal - 1110)

The ship's senior officer complement had been split on away missions with Lieutenant Commander T'Mur in the outer system leading a group that was investigating the probable remains of a base, possibly placed there by builders of the construct that now hung in space before them. Fortunately they had one of the shuttles they could use if necessary to rendezvous with the ship.

It didn't hang actually since the ring itself was propelled around the hot star, spinning in a perfect circle at one hundred forty five kilometers per second. The spin gave the structure gravity and fought the pull of Beta Ciris which would have collapsed the ring world back into its gravity well.

Hanging a few hundred kilometers from that structure, well ... it was massive compared to the ship, several thousand kilometers in circumference, two thousand in diameter, it appeared more than the gossamer thread Dr.Gralen had referred to it as but compared to the mass of the blue/white star and the gulf of space between them it paled in comparison.

Illuminar had circled around it trying to scan its interior.

"Dr. Gralen?"

"I'm working on it sir. The exterior is heavily shielded, I'm guessing to block solar radiation which is quite heavy here, our own shields are going to weaken over prolonged exposure."

"I am aware of that doctor."

"I know, I know, merely a scientists penchant for exhaustive information."

"I am aware of that as well. What of the interior?"

"Not much that I can get a reading on. Allow me to summarize it please, there is no sign of any aggressive posture on the part of the construct although it has weapon emplacements mounted on its periphery which have remained powered down since our approach."

"Quite correct." The vulcan acknowledged.

"As for the interior, I'm able to say that the interior temperature appears to be stable and well within norms for our species, energy for its systems is stable as well meaning their should be ample life support and lighting ... if it's currently functional, and lastly..."

"Yes?" The vulcan watched the betazoid closely.

"I would theorize the existence of this structure is the reason that the inner system is devoid of planets or debris."

"Continue doctor."

"Think of all of the MASS!" Holis' face beamed. "They, whoever they are must have broken up the inner planets, they might have mined whole asteroid fields to build it! Hot, rocky interior planets are almost unusable, turn them into material for the construct. Moons, asteroids, all raw materials for it."

[illegible]

=^= “Trei, Pex, Galk, and Bohb, Grab your go bags and meet me in the shuttle bay in 10 minutes.” ^=

He looked around his office. One of his go bags was in here, he had another one in his quarters. But, his new weapons weren't here. He'd been working on them yesterday and had left them behind. He had been trying to increase the voltage of the stun his telescoping epee's could deliver when he hit a target. Right now, it was equivalent to a light stun. He wasn't sure one hit was sufficient for an angry Klingon.

As the replicator hummed, he spotted Ensign Waffles, his new Alpha Shift Lead since the passing of Ensign zh'Firre. "Ensign Waffles, I've been assigned to one of the away missions. Send a team to check out the shuttle immediately. In the meantime, you, Zowie and T'lan handle things. If you can't handle something amongst you, contact the Captain. Lieutenant Bohb is also on the away mission"

(posted by Keith)

Bobb was wearing a set of goggles that enhanced his view of the field that he was working on, with its tiny microprocessors. His hands held extensions for the tools, since his large fingers could not fit into the work area that he needed. One of the probes slipped and a spark singed the fur on the back of his left hand. He dropped the probe and growled an obscenity at that device.

Bohb took a deep breath and pulled the goggles off his face. He dropped them on the work table with a mixture of frustration and relief.

He had no idea why he was being summoned to the shuttle bay. But that statement “grab your go bags” meant that there was an away mission in his future. He sighed wondering what they

want an old Magillan on a mission for, but then he shrugged and found his work bag. He searched through his shelves and packed some essential tools and his tricorder. He slung the pack over his shoulder and headed out the door.

(USS Illuminar - Deck 7 - Main Shuttle Bay- CSRD Lab - CSRD - Lt. Bohb - 1126)

Bohb stepped into the shuttle bay and saw the small crowd of people. He saw Tegian and smiled a big smile as he walked over.

"The gang's all here," he bellowed. "What's going on?"

(reply Solice)

He moved next to Pex and struck him in the chest with the back of his right hand, gently, “Tegian, my friend. Together again. Should be an adventure.”

(reply Pex, Solice, any)

(posted by Al Muir)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar -- Shuttle Bay -- Commander Quinna Solice -- 1120)

Within a couple of minutes. She arrived in the shuttle bay and made her way to the USS IO. USS Io was a Type 9 Shuttle Craft named after one of Jupiter's Moons. She chose the shuttle since there was a rather large team of 7 including her.

Quinna went to the shuttle and used her command code to open the shuttle. She stowed her bag in a compartment and then went back out of the shuttle for the others to arrive.

(Reply Piripi, Pex, Torek, Trei, Galk, Bohb)

(Posted by Kris B)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar - Shuttle Bay SPA LT Ariel Trei - 1121)

She heard the call to the shuttle bay for an away mission. She stopped in her quarters for her go bag which contained a change of clothes along with underwear, bra, a stuffed lion plushie she liked and some tactical items that may be needed. You never know what to expect on an away mission. She boarded the shuttle lo and placed her go bag in the compartment. She took a seat and prepared herself for the mission. There was no need to ask Quinna the objectives of the mission. They will be briefed on the way.

(Reply Any)

(Posted by Edward)

[illegible]

(USS Illuminar -- Shuttle Bay -- CEO - Lieutenant Jg Tegian Pex - 1125)

Tegian walked into the Shuttle Bay to see four engineers inspecting the outside of the shuttle. He headed inside to store his bag and found another two inside. It would appear that Ensign Waffles had rerouted all available engineering staff to this role. Nothing like trying to impress the boss.

He peeked into the flight deck and smiled. Noting that no one else was around he whispered to Pihl, "Morning, beautiful. Guess I lucked out and got the best pilot in the galaxy." He refrained from any public affection, though, seeing that others were in the shuttle with him.

He ducked back into the aft cabin with the two engineers and chatted with them. Once they were done, he sat down at one of the stations they vacated and ran through the results of their systems check. The shuttle was in perfect working order, maintenance having been done yesterday in anticipation of it being needed as they neared the ringworld.

Tegian nodded to Lieutenant Trei and Galk.

"Commander Solice, Engineering has done a full systems check on the shuttle. We're good to leave whenever you're ready."

(Reply Solice, any)

(Posted by Keith)

[illegible]

Torek had been surprised to hear the 3rd officer call his name. He was a bit surprised that she would want someone from operations on her mission. He hoped it was more than an extra body in case things went south.

He entered the turbolift and after they let the commander off, he went to his quarters. He was not sure what she meant by go bag, as he could not imagine them being down there to need additional clothing or such.

He took his toolkit off the shelf and added a tricorder. Taking one of mek'leth off the wall, he placed it in a sheath. Sometimes a knife came in handy. Opening the kit, he scanned to make sure he had a good assortment of things, just in case. He paused before adding three ration bars. You never know when the hunger would strike. He added a treat his mother introduced him to, a 'snickers' bar. Chocolate and nuts, a good and quick source of energy.

Slinging the kit over his shoulder, he headed to the turbolift again, humming an old tune as he went.

Entering the shuttle bay, he noticed the activity around a shuttlecraft. He checked the logs and confirmed that was the ship they were taking so headed there.

He entered the shuttle, the last to arrive, and took a seat. "Hello Ma'am," the half-Klingon said to Quinna. "I am ready."

(Reply any)

(Posted by Tim)

[illegible]

Tegian was just powering down the station and standing up when he felt the slap on his chest. He smiled at Bohb. "Hi Bohb. Any idea what the adventure is?"
(Reply Bohb)

(Reply Torek, any)
(posted by Keith)

(Reply: Quinna, any)
(Posted by Charles Gatling)

(Reply Piripi, Pex, Torek, Galk Bohb and Trei)

"Mr. Pex, We are not sure what effect this planet would have on our systems. I need you to keep us operating at peak performance."

(Reply Pex)

“Mr. Bohb, I wanted you to be here because you are the best scientist for the job.” Quinna did not want to add that was also the best on that was a Starfleet officer.

(Reply Bohb)

“Ms. Trei, I would like you with us in case we encounter intelligent life. You can help advise me during an encounter.”

(Reply Trei)

"Mr. Galk, I feel safer now you are with us."

(Reply Galk)

"Mr. Torek I want you because you are very knowledgeable, as an Operations Officer, you have to know a little of everything. I like that."

(Reply Torek)

“Everyone, have a seat and sit tight.” Quinna looked around. Realizing that she had three Klingons with her, she wondered if she knew any Klingon ‘Sea’ Chanties.

(Reply Piripi, Pex, Torek, Galk Bohb and Trei)

(Posted by Kris B)

[illegible]

Commander Solice addressed her away party and Tegian was a bit surprised why he was here, but he let nothing show on his face. And, as he thought about it, after their last shuttle trip, he could understand why the Commander wanted the shuttle to stay in working order. It's why Engineering had gone over both shuttles completely the previous day and again this morning. And why both shuttles had extra supplies beyond what was the standard. Extra power cells beyond what the phasers needed and a coupling to make it easier to transfer that power to the shuttle so that one didn't have to build it from spare parts.

"Of course, Commander. We have spares of everything. Extra EVA suits with extra oxygen. Also, extra rations and water. Every storage compartment is just about bursting with supplies," offered Tegian with a smile. "And, yes Mister Galk, we have four EVA suits big enough for Klingons."

(Reply any)

(Posted by Keith)

[illegible]

She took her seat and heard the briefing. She understood her assignment but was ready to fight along with Galik if the time came to do so. She did know a few sea shanties but they tended to be dark in nature. She pulled up a song by an Irish Teran band that sounded light and fun. She began to sing it.

"High, Higher than the sun. You shoot me from a gun. I need you to elevate me here. At the corner of your lips. As the orbit of your hips. Eclipse, you elevate my soul. I've got no self control. Been living like a mole. Now going down, excavation. I and I in the sky. You make me feel like I can fly. So high. Elevation Wooooooooooooooooo Wooooooooooooooooo."

(Reply Any)

(Posted by Edward)

[illegible]

(USS Io – Flight Deck – Pilot Ensign Pihi ‘Kestral’ Piripi – 1150)

Pihi had finished her preflight checklist and was giving her proposed path another review with the most recent data from the Illuminar sensors when she heard the doctor call out.

“Ms. Piripi, have you completed your checklist?”

"Affirmative, Commander. All systems are go," she replied.

"OK, when you get the all clear, then you are go for launch."

"Yea, Ma'am," she replied.

After a brief back and forth with the flight control, the shuttle was given permission to launch.

"Hold on back there," she called as she started the shuttle moving forward.

Her fingers danced over the controls as the shuttle entered space. She started to smile as the shuttle was free of the Illuminar. She continued forward, to clear the ship before she ran a series of tests on the rcs. Once those were done, she started the course to the designated spot.

“Commander, Lieutenant Pex,” she called out after about 10 minutes. “Can you come here please?”

(reply Pex, Solice)

On the viewscreen was an image of the strange object which dominated the screen. “Ma’am, there is where we are supposed to explore,” she said, pointing to a large structure on the left side of the screen.

“The only clear place to land is that spot there,” she said, indicating a spot about 30 meters from the main target. “However, I am seeing an odd energy signature from the possible landing spot, I figured you and Mr. Pex might want to get some more information before we try to land. It might be a short trip if that field is dangerous.”

(reply Pex, Solice)

[illegible][illegible]

Tegian was seated at his engineering station, monitoring the shuttle and their destination. He trusted Kestral's flying ability completely, but he had no idea what they were going to find when they attempted to land, so he was doing his best to make sure there weren't any surprises.

He heard Ensign Piripi call him from the Flight Deck and he got up immediately and entered the Flight Deck, careful not to jar her.

The problem explained, Tegian frowned. "Hmm, I hadn't picked up anything on my scans just before you called. But, then, I was scanning in all directions, not the specific direction." He moved closer to the Commander, to make room for Lieutenant Bohb as Quinna called for him.

When Bohb arrived, the Commander explained the situation and then said, "Let's get some atmospheric readings and make some suggestions before landing. That energy signature could be almost anything. Hopefully, it is not harmful."

Tegian nodded.

“There will be no mission unless it is safe.” Quinna insisted.

"I will go back to my station and redirect the sensors to scan that area. We could also use the Illuminar's sensors as well, if we need more power," suggested Tegan.

He squeezed by Bohb and moved back to his station and scanned the landing site trying to get a read on the energy signature.

(Reply Solice, Piripi, Bohb)

(Reply Any)

(Posted by Keith)

[illegible]

(Rephaim - Aerishan Desert -- 1220)

The sand sifted between its claws as it hunted, in the last three days it had gone through the place of sluggish water and wet heat, traversed the high places topped with snowy glaciers and now here. Game had been scarce and it hungered. The smell of water reached the nostrils of the hunter and its pace accelerated. It followed the scent to a rock outcrop from which a still pool of green lingered in its shadow. The hunter blew a blast from its nostrils which roiled the slimy liquid as it gulped.

The sky was orange overhead under the cobalt sky which created a very alien landscape of purples and reds in the arid land. Having drunk, the hunter lifted its spade shaped head, its short, wickedly clawed arms hanging nearly to the desert floor.

An ululating howl shattered the air followed by others, these other hunters had been downwind and had not been sensed. This one was unfamiliar with them but it was an apex predator and on the hunt, it would not give way to such as them.

The jinglo gave a rumbling challenge as it stood to its full height of fifteen feet, the call was guttural and deep. Its scaled skin would ward off the teeth and claws of all but a few of its enemies but surely food was coming to it. Determined to kill or perhaps protect their territory, the furred rektor were coming to battle.

Their calls were growing closer until it started. It was like a hum of vibrating stones which rose in pitch. Soon the hunters had been stopped from their ancient challenge and cast about them in fear as the ground beneath them shuddered.

Then split nearby...

The rektor howled in terror and sped away, leaving the jinglo behind, its long legs moving it as quickly as it could travel, its long tail whipped behind it in agitation.

It didn't see the shuttlecraft rise above the sandy dunes in the distance but it would eventually smell what the device carried.

The succulent scent of prey.

(Reply: None)

(Posted by Charles Gatling)

[illegible][illegible]

End Compile