



Star Trek Avalon

I Am Become Death
1.08

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

Two luminous globes of red light float alone in space. The globes erupt in balls of fire as they impact a large metal wall. We continue right and see "U.S.S. AVALON" on the hull. We then see a large window, looking inside the ship to the bride.

The camera moves towards the window until it moves through it into....

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

The bridge is frantic with activity. The lights are very low and blink out occasionally, a large tube has fallen from the ceiling and is hemorrhaging smoke of some sort. Sparks fly out from consoles. ZORIN sits in the captain's chair, he is not calm, yet not frantic, perhaps stern is the word.

ZORIN

Shera, give me some duck and cut moves.

SHERA

I can't get her to fly. Nothing is working,

ZORIN

Ship! Evade fire!

There is no response. The ship rocks again.

ZORIN

Ship!

(beat)

Ava!

(beat)

Piece of shit!

RIDEK

Computers are down. Ava with it.

ZORIN

Where did they come from?

RIDEK

Nowhere. I never saw them on the scans.

The pounding on the hull stops.

SHERA
They stopped firing.

RIDEK
Why'd they do that?

SIREN
To board.

ZORIN
Pirates.

Zorin grabs the gun from the holster on his hip.

ZORIN
I'm going out for a walk.

Siren grabs her gun also.

SIREN
I could use some fresh air myself.

ZORIN
Good, take Shera down to the engine
room. See if her cousin can't get
this ship back working.
(beat)
Ridek, stay here. Fix something.

RIDEK
Alone?

ZORIN
There's nothing on the bridge to
steal, you'll be fine.

RIDEK
What if they want slaves?

Zorin pauses and thinks.

ZORIN
You're too small to be a slave,
they'll just shoot you.

Zorin runs off the bridge.

SIREN
(to Shera)
Let's go.

SHERA
 (to Ridek)
 Sorry.

RIDEK
 Was he joking?

Siren and Shera head for the exit.

RIDEK
 Siren! Was he joking!?

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Siren and Shera walk down the corridor, weapons drawn and ready to fire. The camera slowly pushes in on Shera's face. We get closer and closer until we are closed in on her eye. The camera pulls away from the eye, but we do not see the Shera we are used to, we see the face of Shera at age 6. We pull out further to reveal....

INT. DINING ROOM - FLASHBACK

The elegant dinning room has one large table in the center. A family of Xindi sit around the table. Her mother, ELENA, her father, JIRAIR, her older brother EZNIK, and young Shera who is in a pink dress.

JIRAIR
 Elbows off the table, dear.

Shera slides her elbows off the table.

EZNIK
 I am just saying the last major contributions the Jushai made to society were the words "surrender" and "retreat".

JIRAIR
 Where did you hear that?

EZNIK
 Nowhere.

JIRAIR
 It's that school you're at, isn't it? I knew I shouldn't let you go there. They fill your mind with this jingoistic propaganda.

EZNIK
It's not propaganda if it's true.

JIRAIR
The Jushai have been nothing except
kind to...

ELENA
(raising her voice)
Can't we just have one nice and
quiet dinner? Just one?

Ezник violently stabs a vegetable on his plate with a fork
in what seems to be an act of protest.

JIRAIR
This roast is great, dear.

ELENA
(calmly)
Why thank you, it's a new recipe.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Same as before, Shera and Siren march down the hallway,
weapons drawn.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

We are outside of a door. The door opens, HATCH emerges. He looks out, peering down either side of the hallway. Zorin and an entourage of armed Avalon crew members round the corner. Hatch steps out of the room.

HATCH

Zorin!

The group all turn and point their weapons at Hatch.

HATCH

WHOA!

Zorin lowers his weapon.

ZORIN

Stay in your room, you might try to
be a hero and kill everyone.

The group starts to walk away.

HATCH

What's going on?

ZORIN

Pirates.

HATCH

Real ones?

Zorin stares at Hatch with disdain. He shakes his head and leaves with the rest of the group.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Hatch moves toward the door labeled "SICKBAY". He presses the button and the door opens to reveal ISAAC standing in front of the door with a shotgun. Hatch jumps behind the bulkhead and Isaac fires the weapon.

From Hatch's POV we see the large amount of damage the weapon does to the bulkhead outside the door. As Hatch stands outside the room, he yells into sickbay through the open door.

HATCH

It's Hatch!

Isaac lowers his weapon for a second, but brings it back up.

ISAAC

More reason to shoot.

HATCH

Let me in, asshole!

ISAAC

Fine, come in. Quick.

Hatch jumps around the wall through the doorway.

HATCH

Thanks...

As Hatch walks in, someone appears behind him. Isaac points his gun and fires. The blast strikes the man in the face, a blood splatter appears on the wall outside.

ISAAC

Fucking pirates.

HATCH

(shocked)

That was Dave!

ISAAC

Who?

HATCH

The engineer we picked up on our last stop!

ISAAC

Oh...

He cocks the shotgun.

ISAAC

(earnestly)

I almost feel bad.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Shera and Siren flank the doorway leading to engineering. Siren counts with her fingers and mouths out....1....2....3 They burst in through the door, weapons pointing frantically around. They see nothing.

SIREN

Hmm.

SHERA

Where is everyone?

Shera walks around a console, a hand grabs her leg. She jumps back and points her pistol. We see it is AZEL hiding under a console.

SHERA

Azel! Are you okay?

AZEL

They came out of nowhere...

SHERA

We should get him to sickbay.

Siren surveys the rampaged room. It seems empty on account of all the boxes and equipment that are missing. Pipes leading to the warp core are simply cut off. Where tanks once stood there is nothing.

SIREN

Did you just let them take everything?

AZEL

They just...

SHERA

Leave him be, he's in shock.

Siren stands Azel up, then slaps him across the face. He grabs his face and recoils back up.

SIREN

Where did they go?

AZEL

They left. They all left.

Azel's eyes begin to roll back into his head. Siren shakes him, then slaps him again.

AZEL

OW! STOP!

SIREN

Fix the ship. Can you do that?

Azel shakes his head and focuses.

AZEL

Yeah, yeah I can do it.

SIREN

Good. Shera, stay with him and help.

Siren runs out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

The bridge has a sense of normalcy to it. There is still some debris, but everyone is much more calm. Except Zorin, who is statuesque in his chair. Siren pries open the doors leading to the bridge. Zorin looks back to see her.

ZORIN

Walk over?

SIREN

Before it even started. I've never seen a grab and dash that fast.

ZORIN

They were latched on and gone before we knew they were outside!

Zorin pauses for a beat, he seems calm then slams his hand on his arm rest. Siren stands silent for a moment, then adds cautiously.

SIREN

The kids are working on the ship.

Zorin sits silently.

Hatch attempts to enter the bridge through the door Siren pried open, but he is a larger than her and cannot fit through the open she created. He attempts to squeeze through, then attempts to push the doors open more, both attempts are unsuccessful. He finally exhales heavily and squeezes through, falling to the ground as he enters the bridge.

HATCH

What's wrong with the doors?

SIREN

Computer is down.

HATCH

What the hell happened?

SIREN

Pir-

Zorin jumps up from his chair, marches over to Hatch, grabs him by the throat and slams him against the wall, lifting him a foot off the floor!

ZORIN

You happened! You came onto my ship and turned on that psychotic bitch of a computer who fucked us over. She fucked us over good and now I'm going to kill you because I can't kill her.

Hatch gasps, grabbing at Zorin's hands, which are several times the size of his. His face starts to turn blue.

SIREN

Zorin.

ZORIN

Shut up.

SIREN

You're going to kill him.

ZORIN

Damn right. He's no use to me alive.

SIREN

Think about what the computer will do if you kill him.

Zorin steams for a second, exhales loudly from his nostrils, stares at Hatch, who is still gasping. He releases his hands, letting Hatch fall to the ground. He goes back to his chair and sits.

Hatch gasps for air.

HATCH

Holy shit.

SIREN

Don't talk, I can't talk him out of it a second time.

Azel and Shera enter the bridge, this time the door opens automatically.

SIREN

How's she look?

AZEL
I've got the main computer back
online, but Ava is still
unresponsive. I don't know if
that's a mechanical error or what.

ZORIN
Do we have weapons?

AZEL
Only two warheads.

ZORIN
Two?

Zorin is still obviously angry, but he puts it aside.

ZORIN
Prepare for warp, we're finding them.

AZEL
We can't. That's why I came up here.
They stole out fuel cells, even the
ones attached in the engine room.
Cut right off the wall.

ZORIN
How much does that leave us?

AZEL
We only have what is left in the
pipes. Which should give us two
more hours out of the reactor.

HATCH
Could we shut down nonessential
systems?

AZEL
Like what?

HATCH
Y'know, like recreational stuff.

AZEL
We don't have recreational stuff,
and I doubt I could shut off your
right hand.

SIREN
How long will we have air after the
reactor shuts down?

AZEL
Ten hours. Maybe.

ZORIN
Could you give me warp?

AZEL
(thinking)
For a minute, I guess. But not much longer.

ZORIN
I'm not going to sit here and die.
I'm getting my fuel back. Shera,
take helm. Ridek, scan the area.

Ridek looks over his console.

RIDEK
I've got a ship.

ZORIN
Is it the pirates?

RIDEK
I don't think so, but I can't be
sure. I didn't get a scan of them
when they attacked.

ZORIN
Is it the pirates?

RIDEK
(nervous)
I don't know.

ZORIN
(calmly)
Look closer.

Ridek looks back and makes eye contact with Zorin. He turns back to the console and nods.

RIDEK
Yeah, I remember the silhouette.
It's them.

ZORIN
Good. Get ready to intercept. Get
the missiles ready.

HATCH

What do you mean it's them? Why would they attack us and stay in scanner range? They're not even at warp, wouldn't they warp away?

ZORIN

They're stupid pirates. Sometimes they're sloppy.

HATCH

Stupid? They're not even a light-year away. I could spit and hit that ship. It's not them!

SIREN

Shut up, Hatch.

HATCH

It's not them!

SIREN

Go help Isaac.

HATCH

We're going to attack innocent people!

Zorin sits calmly in his chair, he holds his composure as he turns his head to Hatch.

ZORIN

If you say another fucking word I will rip your head from your body and then throw your limp corpse into space just to watch your body turn inside out.

Hatch's mouth is agape with shock. He shakes his head in disgust and storms off the bridge.

ZORIN

Siren, we'll need a boarding party.

SHERA

I'd like to go.

Siren and Zorin turn to Shera suddenly, blank looks on their faces.

INT. BAR - FLASHBACK

Eznik sits with a group of comrades at a booth in the corner of the bar. They wear uniforms from their military academy, but they are unbuttoned and disheveled.

There are a multitude of empty alcohol glasses on the table.

EZNIK
What the hell is that?

Eznik points to a human man talking to a Xindi woman at the bar.

FRIEND 1
Jush bastard.

The man and woman at the bar laugh. She grabs her coat off a chair and stands. They head for the door.

FRIEND 2
They're leaving.

Eznik slides out of the booth, his friends follow, they also head for the door.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - FLASHBACK

It's like any alleyway we might see in any city, foreboding and damp, of course with a dead end. The man and woman walk down the alleyway laughing.

The group of Xindi emerge from the bar and follow them a little.

EZNIK
Hey! Hey you!

The man and woman turn around and notice the group.

MAN
Uh... hi.

The group of Xindi walk towards the man and woman, they are cornered in the alleyway.

EZNIK
What do you think you are doing?

MAN
What?

EZNIK
I said, what the fuck do you think you are doing?

MAN
Look, man, I don't want any trouble.

FRIEND 1
Maybe you should have thought about that before you left with her.

He points to the girl.

MAN

Are you his girlfriend or something?

The girl shakes her head no.

GIRL

I don't even know these people.

EZNIK

Shut up, you whore! What were you going to do? Fuck this animal? Have a mongrel child and spit on generations of purity?

GIRL

We were just heading home, if you could let us by.

The girl attempts to walk by, but is blocked by one of the friends.

FRIEND 2

You're not going anywhere

MAN

What did we do to you?

EZNIK

You breathe. You take my air. You make us fight in your wars for you. My people die for you and how do you repay me? You have sex with our women. You give us diseases because you sleep too close to your animals. You are a disease.

The man and woman cling to each other.

Eznik motions and two friend grab the girl, the other 3 grab the man. They both scream and reach out for each other. One of the friends BACKHANDS the girl. She yelps. The other three wail on the man, then grab him and present him to Eznik. Eznik walks over to the constrained human. He PUNCHES him several times in the stomach. Then another PUNCH in the face. The friends drop the man to the ground. Blood oozes from the man's eye.

Eznik slides his index finger through the blood trail. He examines it on his finger tip. He walks over to the girl and puts out his finger.

EZNIK
Taste it.

GIRL
No!

EZNIK
TASTE IT!

One of the friends grabs her face. Eznik does the same and jabs his finger in her mouth, then takes it out quickly.

EZNIK
Taste the poison.

A tear runs down her face.

EZNIK
Yeah, cry, you fucking traitor.

He walks back to the man, he notices a pipe on the ground and picks it up. It all seems rather convenient, as if the pipe had been previously placed there.

EZNIK
How much do you want to live?

The man spits out some blood.

MAN
I don't even know you.

EZNIK
I really hate having to repeat myself.

He holds the pipe above his head, then brings it down on the body of the man. He does it again, and again, and again.

The girl screams with each blow.

GIRL
Stop! Please stop!

Eznik throws the pipe down at the man and spits on him. He motions and the other friends let go of the girl. She collapses to the ground cry. The group of friends walk away.

Eznik shakes his hand out.

EZNIK
Damn, those Jushs have some thick skulls.

The group of friends laugh.

In the background the girl slides her way over to the lifeless body of the man, she can barely move over her crying and shaking.

INT. DINING ROOM - FLASHBACK

Jirair, Eznik and Shera sit around the table. Elena is walking around, serving out breakfast. Jirair is reading a newspaper.

JIRAIR

Did you hear about this? A Jushai kid and his date were beat up outside of a bar. Says the boy's in critical condition.

Elena covers Shera's ears.

ELENA

Not in front of Shera, honey.

JIRAIR

Well, she should know what these psychos are doing.

EZNIK

Maybe they deserved it.

Jirair lowers his paper and stares at his son.

JIRAIR

It says the boy was a volunteer at a children's hospital and the girl was training to be a veterinarian. I'm sure they deserved to be beaten half to death.

ELENA

Those poor kids.

JIRAIR

It's really sick what some will do to innocent people.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Same as before.

SIREN

Do you know what you are doing?

SHERA

Yes...

SIREN

You understand...

(beat)

You understand all this.

SHERA

Yes.

Siren turns to Zorin, who shrugs his shoulders calmly.

SIREN

Then let's go.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SICKBAY

Hatch is sitting on a medical bed next to a bed occupied by the dead body of Dave. Isaac is standing beside ADELE who is on a bed, he is scanning her.

HATCH

How is she?

ISAAC

She's fine, but stay quiet. Don't wanna wake her.

HATCH

You just fired a shotgun not ten feet away from her and that didn't wake her up.

ISAAC

Yeah, but your voice has a whiny twinge to it that I'm sure will wake her up.

Isaac looks to Hatch who is not laughing.

ISAAC

Wow, moody.

HATCH

I'm a bit distracted by the fact Zorin is going to attack those people.

ISAAC

Life's a bitch.

HATCH

He thinks they're the pirates, but they're not. I mean, how dumb can he be? Seriously. He is going to kill people, the wrong people.

Isaac chuckles.

ISAAC

You really believe he thinks those people are the pirates?

HATCH
He kept saying it.

ISAAC
He knows they're not.

HATCH
Then why are we attacking them?

ISAAC
If we don't attack them, we die.

HATCH
But why does he keep saying they're
the pirates!?

ISAAC
Zorin is a survivalist, not a
psychopathic killer. He does what
he needs to do. For himself and the
crew. It makes everyone else sleep
better at night pretending that
these people are the pirates.

HATCH
But they aren't. They clearly
aren't. It's wrong. It's immoral!

ISAAC
Look around you, Hatch. Look at
this place. Look at him.

Isaac points to Dave the dead guy.

ISAAC
What about this place says morality?

HATCH
Well, where I come from we have a
code-

ISAAC
Where you come from is gone! I
don't think it ever existed. I
think you made it up. You made it
all up because you can't deal with
reality because reality fucking
sucks. It's kill or be killed and
every other stupid cliché. Deal
with it!

There is a long pause.

HATCH
(quietly)
Just because life is hard it
doesn't mean you stop living.

ISAAC
(yelling)
Oh, write me a book, Plato!

INT. AVALON - ARMORY

Shera stands in front of a large rack which holds a multitude of guns and ammunition. She slides her hand across the barrels of the various guns. Siren walks up from behind her and grabs a medium sized pistol from the rack. She holds it up to Shera.

SIREN
Here.

Shera takes the weapon, she weighs it with her hands, then points it at a wall.

SIREN
Does it feel alright?

SHERA
Yeah.

SIREN
The recoil might make your thumb a little sore. But I can't send you on that ship with anything smaller than that.

SHERA
Maybe you should give me something a little bigger.

SIREN
Believe me, that gun will get a lot heavier when you have to lift it up and point it at someone.

INT. DARK ROOM - FLASHBACK

A single table is illuminated in the otherwise darkroom. Various people in military uniforms and civilian clothing sit around the table, we understand these are people from both Jushai and Duranon. We notice Jirair is at the table in civilians clothes.

JIRAIR

This new communication system will allow Jushai and Duranon to transfer information faster than ever thought possible. This system will not only aid the military, but every person on both planets.

MILITARY GUY

Isn't it true, sir, that if control of this system fell into the wrong hands, couldn't all communication systems on Jushai and Duranon be cut off? And also, would not the perpetrators be able to locate every other military vessel and installation on each planet?

JIRAIR

Someone would have to take complete control of the entire system, which would entail not only attaining all of your security codes, but mine, and gaining access to the secure control center in the CommTel corporate office. And no one aside from the people sitting at this table even know my company has any involvement with this project.

(beat)

The system is near foolproof.

CIVILIAN

The ship builder always says the boat is unsinkable until it is on the bottom of the sea.

JIRAIR

(scoffs)

You are sitting on a stockpile of tens of thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands of nuclear devices, any of which could destroy all life on this planet, and you are worried about a communication system?

MILITARY GUY

A communication system that could cripple us militarily.

JIRAIR

If the system ever goes down, with all the effort it would take to do so, news of it going down would be the best thing you heard the whole day.

All the men uncomfortably chuckle and smile at the joke.

EXT. MILITARY ACADEMY - FLASHBACK

The Duranon Military Academy is a large gray stone building in the middle of seemingly no where, groups of cadets run in formation in front of the structure. Others mull about.

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION AREA - FLASHBACK

Eznik sits in a chair near a large wooden door. A golden plaque on the door reads:

COMMANDANT BERUIT

Eznik's foot begins to tap nervously. A buzzer on the receptionist's desk on the other side of the door rings.

RECEPTIONIST

You van go in now.

EZNIK

Thank you.

Eznik stands and opens the door. He enters...

INT. COMMANDANT'S OFFICE - FLASHBACK

The room is a shrine to war. Pictures, plaques, statues, fragments of weapons and bombs litter the space. A desk in the middle of the room dominates the area. One large mans sits behind the desk, another sits in one of the chairs in front of it, we recognize him as one of the military men from the dark room. The man behind the desk speaks.

BERUIT

Cadet Eznik. Please come in. Sit.

He motions to a chair next to the other man.

BERUIT

I'm Commandant Beruit.

EZNIK

Yes I knew that...

BERUIT
And this is General Avner, head of
Strategic Command.

Eznik salutes.

EZNIK
Sir.

AVNER
At ease, Cadet. Really, sit.

Eznik slowly sits in his chair.

EZNIK
Am I in trouble, sir?

BERUIT
No, no. In fact, we are very
pleased with your performance here
at the academy.

AVNER
I have read your record, it is very
impressive.

EZNIK
Thank you, sir.

AVNER
We are going to share some things
with you. Classified things. You
know what classified means, don't
you, son?

Eznik nods.

AVNER
Good.

BERUIT
You see, Eznik, Duranon resides in
a part of space with many other
races. Some are hostile to us, some
are friendly.
(darker, oddly)
Some which only act friendly...

EZNIK
The Jushai.

BERUIT

I hate to say it, but ues, the Jushai. We have learned that the Jushai have been supplying our enemies with weapons and supplies. So our government has authorized a preemptive strike against them.

Ezник is calm and accepts all the information.

AVNER

But as things stand, even with surprise on our side, casualties would be massive. So we have decided on a new plan of attack.

EZNIK

Something I can help with?

AVNER

Exactly.

EZNIK

What!? I'll do anything.

Avner smiles coolly.

AVNER

Does your father work at home?

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION AREA - FLASHBACK

The door opens, Ezник walks out, Avner and Beruit follow, he shakes the two men's hands then leaves.

AVNER

Think he will do it?

BERUIT

That boy was star struck. He's blow his father's head off if we asked him to.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Zorin sits silently in his command chair. Ridek is at helm, other crew members walk about or are at stations.

SIREN'S COMM VOICE

Zorin.

ZORIN

Go ahead.

SIREN'S COMM VOICE

We don't have any operating shuttles.

ZORIN

We're going to have to mount them,
then.

SIREN'S COMM VOICE

Afraid so.

ZORIN

Then we'll need Shera for this.

SIREN'S COMM VOICE

We're headed back up. Out.

Ridek turns to Zorin.

RIDEK

Mount them?

ZORIN

Land Avalon on the other vessel
then latch on and burn through the
hull.

RIDEK

We can do that?

ZORIN

We do it or we die.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Shera and Siren march down the corridor.

SIREN

We'll drop out of warp a few
hundred meters away from them, then
we'll land Avalon on top of their ship.

SHERA

I've never done anything like that
before.

SIREN
How good are you at flying ships?

SHERA
Pretty good, I guess.

SIREN
No, you are damned good. And I know
you can do this.

SHERA
So, what, I land the ship and then
we board?

SIREN
A good part of the crew will be
boarding that ship. We can just tag
along in the back.

SHERA
Okay.

SIREN
You sure you okay with this? You
could just stay on the bridge.

SHERA
No, I want to go.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. AVALON - SICKBAY

Hatch now sits next to a still unconscious Adele, Isaac walks around in the background.

ISAAC

I have to go get something from the cargo bay. Keep an eye on her.

HATCH

Okay.

ISAAC

Don't do...
(beat)
Anything.

Isaac exits.

HATCH

Asshole.

Hatch sits staring at Adele for a few silent moments. Adele then gasps sharply and awakes. Her eyes shoot open.

HATCH

Adele!

Her eyes focus on Hatch.

ADELE

Hatch?

HATCH

Yeah, it's me. You're awake now.

ADELE

I wasn't asleep.

HATCH

You weren't?

ADELE

No, I was outside of my body. It was an experience I doubt you would understand.

HATCH

I don't know, I had a dream I was flying once, it was pretty cool.

ADELE

It wasn't a dream. I had separated myself from my mortal shell and I was one with the universe. It was... blissful.

HATCH

So why'd you come back?

ADELE

I heard a... nasally whine and it disturbed my meditation.

HATCH

Oh... well. Now that you're back to your body, you need to help me.

ADELE

With what?

HATCH

Zorin and the rest are going to attack a ship that did nothing to us and steal all their supplies. They're going to kill innocent people.

ADELE

For no reason?

HATCH

Well, no, we're running out of supplies because some pirates stole ours.

ADELE

That does complicate the situation a bit.

HATCH

But still, it's wrong.

ADELE

Is it wrong for a lion to eat a gazelle?

HATCH

What?

ADELE

It's not wrong for animals to eat each other, is it?

HATCH

I don't know, that's just what animals do.

ADELE

We are animals ourselves.

HATCH

No, we are smarter than animals. We have morals, and opposable thumbs! Don't you have some religious hubbub about "thou shalt not kill" or something?

ADELE

The Prophet teaches survival. Survival is natural and the very reason we exist.

Hatch is silent for a moment.

HATCH

What the hell kind of enlightened philosophy is that?

ADELE

The true one.

HATCH

So you are okay with killing these people?

ADELE

Death is not a guarantee for these people. It is a raid for supplies. And for all you know these people could have rape and plunder as a pastime and thus our raid is a favor to the galaxy. You are analyzing the situation far beyond what anyone should. There are two simple sides to this: Us and them, in the truest sense.

HATCH

How can you of all people be so cold?

ADELE

It is the triumph of experience over hope.

Zorin's voice suddenly booms over the comm.

ZORIN'S COMM VOICE
This is Zorin to crew. We are
executing the raid.

ADELE
Sometimes all you can do is accept
fate.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Zorin is at his command chair, Ridek at his station, Siren
stands idly next to Zorin, Shera mans the helm.

ZORIN
Azel, are we ready for warp?

AZEL'S COMM VOICE
I'm ready down here, but you'll
only get a few good seconds before
everything shuts down.

ZORIN
(to Shera)
You hear him?

SHERA
Yeah, I got it.

ZORIN
Good.
(beat)
Do it.

Shera slowly begins to press a series of buttons on the
console in front of her.

EXT. SPACE

The Avalon sits motionless in the vast expanse, parts
seeming falling off her in the pirate's aftermath.

... At least until it streaks away into warp.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Same as before.

SHERA
We're at warp. Approaching the
target in four seconds.

EXT. SPACE

Stars race by the Avalon as she hurtles through space. The flight is more erratic than we are used to seeing. The ship shakes and twists slightly.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Same as before.

SHERA
Dropping out of warp... now.

EXT. SPACE

Avalon falls out of warp, her trajectory is awkward and is corrected quickly. A sort distance away we see a VESSEL. It is small and inconspicuous.

Avalon barrels towards it with landing gear extended, a bird of prey on the killing path.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

SHERA
Impact in 5... 4... 3...

EXT. SPACE

Avalon's mass moves closer and closer to the other vessel with no sign of slowing.

SHERA (V.O.)
2... 1...

Avalon SMASHES into the vessel, both ships TUMBLE violently until they COLLIDE with the camera.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - FLASHBACK

Elena is washing dishes in the sink as Jirair walks in.

JIRAIR
Did you touch anything in my jacket?

ELENA
No, why?

Jirair looks around the kitchen, he moves some papers on the table.

JIRAIR
I can't find my access card.

ELENA
Oh.

]Elena stops washing dishes and wipes her hands on her apron.

ELENA
Are you sure you didn't leave it at work?

JIRAIR
I know I had it last night when I came home. I know I did...

Jirair yells up the stairs.

JIRAIR
Shera! Eznik!

ELENA
Eznik went to school already.

JIRAIR
Shera!

Young Shera walks down the stairs,

SHERA
What, papa?

JIRAIR
Did you touch anything in my study?
Like a little plastic card?

SHERA
Nope.

JIRAIR
You're sure?

SHERA
Yep, but Ezzy was in your room this morning.

JIRAIR
Why?

SHERA
Printing something maybe.

Jirair walks over to the phone like object in the house and picks it up, he presses in a few commands and holds it up to his ear.

EZNIK

I don't think he would have taken it, honey. Can't you just get a new one?

JIRAIR

No, it's very important.
(beat)
Damn it, he's not answering.

EXT. STREET - FLASHBACK

Eznik walks down a empty street in his military academy uniform with a accomplished smile on his face. He takes a small computer like device out of his pocket, it makes a loud beeping noise. He looks at it for a second, then puts it back in his pocket.

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

A large group of Avalon crew members stand in front of a large airlock door. Siren and Shera are near the back of the group.

SIREN

How long does it take to burn through?

A CREW MEMBER looks at a panel near the airlock.

CREW MEMBER

Just a few more seconds...

A loud BANG deafens the room. The airlock opens and smoke fills the room. The crew members start to rush through the door, weapons fire starts.

SIREN

What did Zorin tell you?

SHERA

To find the fuel supplies and grab as much of it as we can.

SIREN

And after that?

SHERA

We get out.

Siren smiles and cocks her gun, an impressive rifle.

SIREN
 Good, let's go.

INT. ALIEN SHIP - CORRIDOR

It is hard to see anything through the smoke that fills the air. A blinking red light is the only source of light. The scene goes black periodically as the light turns off. Shera holds her gun up, ready to fire. Siren walks down the corridor slightly more casually.

SIREN
 Where would the engine room be?

SHERA
 Down there probably.

SIREN
 Probably?

SHERA
 I think it's what the schematic said.

SIREN
 Okay.

The pair continue down the corridor. Suddenly a man pops out from behind a corner. Siren shoots him in the face without hesitating. Shera yelps and jumps back.

Siren grabs Shera's arm and pulls her forward.

SHERA
 We have to keep moving.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - FLASHBACK

Jirair stands in front partition that separates him from the faculty of the school office. A tv like device blares in the teacher lounge next to the office.

JIRAIR
 Ma'am this is outrageous. I called to talk to my son four hours ago and you still have not found him!

RECEPTIONIST
 I am sorry, sir, but he is now at an off campus class.
 (beat)
 And unfortunately we are having trouble contacting the class at the moment.

JIRAIR
And off campus class?

RECEPTIONIST
Some sort of weapons training.

JIRAIR
Weapons training? I thought this
academy for military theory!

RECEPTIONIST
I do not know what to tell you, sir.

"Special Report" music plays on the tv in the background.
There is a reporter on the tv.

REPORTER
We are just now receiving reports
that there has been an attack on
the Jushai homeworld. No report as
to who yet... but...

He touches his ear piece.

REPORTER
I am being told we have someone on
the ground of Jushai, let's go to
him now.

Jirair's attention turns to the tv, he leaves the
receptionist behind and stands in front of the screen.

ON SCREEN: A handsome reporter stands in front of the camera,
behind him in the distance are large fires and balls of
light raining from the sky.

REPORTER 2
The Jushai government has not sent
out an official statement yet about
the attacks, but they say their
only reason for this is their
communication system has been shut
down. Luckily, we have a private
connect-

ON SCREEN: A loud whistling blocks out of the voice of the
reporter, he looks up at a diagonal and screams. The picture
goes static.

JIRAIR
No... no...

INT. ALIEN SHIP - CORRIDOR

Siren and Shera approach a large heavy door. Above it reads:

FUEL STORAGE

SIREN

Are you ready for this?

Shera lifts her gun to a ready position.

SHERA

Yes.

Siren's hand moves toward the console to open the door....

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. AVALON - SICKBAY

Hatch and Adele sit silently on a single bed. Hatch stares off at a bulkhead, Adele stares directly at Hatch.

INT. ALIEN SHIP - CORRIDOR

Shera stands ready in front of the door. Siren's hand moves closer to the panel...

INT. KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

Jirair sits at the kitchen table, he looks disheveled, and has a large glass and a half empty bottle in front of him. Young Shera walks up to the table and sits.

SHERA
What's wrong, dad?

JIRAIR
I can't even explain.

SHERA
Maybe I can help.

JIRAIR
No, honey. You can't.

SHERA
Ice cream usually helps me feel better when I'm sad.

Jirair smiles slightly.

JIRAIR
This is a problem I don't think even ice cream could fix.

SHERA
Are you mad at mommy?

JIRAIR
Not at all, honey.

SHERA
At me?

JIRAIR

No, silly. I'm mad at me. Why don't you go upstairs to your room, okay?

SHERA

Okay.

Shera leaves the table and heads up the stairs.

Not soon after, Elena rushes in through the door.

ELENA

Have you heard what happened? I heard it at the market. I rushed up, I had to watch.

She turns on the tv in the background.

ELENA

Oh my god those poor people.

JIRAIR

Turn it off.

ELENA

What?

JIRAIR

I said turn it off!

Elena clicks the screen off.

ELENA

What's wrong? What happened?

JIRAIR

Eznik did this.

ELENA

What?

JIRAIR

It's all hard to explain. My company helped build a Jushai-Duranon communication system. And Eznik stole my access card and he must have given it to his school people, and they must've given it to the military. It... it's all... it's all over.

ELENA

What? That doesn't make sense.

JIRAIR

I can't explain it all, but he did it. He had to know what he was doing.

ELENA

Eznik would never do anything like that.

JIRAIR

I don't think we know our son anymore, Elena. It's that school, it's his friends. It's the fucked up world!

Jirair smashes his fist on the dinner table just as Eznik and another MAN walks in through the door. Elena gasps and covers her mouth.

EZNIK

What are you doing home?

JIRAIR

Who is this?

EZNIK

This is Jack, my friend from school.

JIRAIR

I think maybe Jack should go home. We have to talk about a few things, son.

EZNIK

I'm just going to grab something and we're going to go.

JIRAIR

Grab something from my study?

EZNIK

Yeah, I just need a form I left in there.

JIRAIR

(fuming)

Maybe you need my access card?

EZNIK

What?

JIRAIR

I know what you did.

EZNIK
(smiling)
What did I do?

JIRAIR
Turn the news on.

Elena clicks the screen on. Jirair points towards the screen.

JIRAIR
You did that!

EZNIK
You're not making sense, Dad.

Jirair backhands Eznik, who falls to the ground!

JACK reaches into the back of his pants and pulls out a small gun and points it at Jirair.

JACK
Stay back!

Eznik slowly stands, wiping the faintest drop of blood from his lip.

EZNIK
I knew you would do this. I knew
you were too weak to understand
what I had to do.

ELENA
My god... you actually did it. You
helped them. I knew it, but didn't
really want to believe it...

EZNIK
Of course I helped them, mother! I
am saving our world!

JIRAIR
By destroying theirs!

EZNIK
I will destroy any planet that
threatens mine! I am a soldier!

JIRAIR
You're a sophomore!

Eznik chuckles almost evilly.

EZNIK

No, they enlisted me. They said my brave act made me a real military man.

JIRAIR

How did you get like this? We didn't raise you to help in a genocide.

EZNIK

I saw the truth. The Jushai are a disease and they need to be wiped out. If I had to do it one by one I would, you just made it easier for everyone.

Rage builds in Jirair's eyes until he lashes out, he slaps the gun out of Jack's hand then kicks the large man. Then he tackles his son and starts to wrestle with him.

Jack stands and attacks Jirair. Elena can do nothing but scream in the background. The wrestling continues. Jirair elbows Jack in the face, then punches his son. Eznik kicks his father off him, Jirair hits the wall behind him. Jack and Eznik both stand and grab Jirair, Eznik begins to choke his father.

ELENA

You're going to kill him!

Elena runs and tries to pull Eznik off Jirair, Jack grabs her and holds her back,

EZNIK

He's as bad as them! He deserves it.

Eznik chokes his father, until Jirair begins to gargle and his eyes roll back in his head...

A GUN SHOT stops the action. Everyone looks around to see where it came from. The camera pans to reveal YOUNG SHERA holding the large gun in her small hands. We follow the direction the barrel which points to a large bloody hole in Eznik's side.

ELENA

NO!

She pulls away from Jack, who looks around frantically then runs out of the house. Eznik grabs the wound, then looks over at his young sister. Elena runs to him and grabs him. He collapses slowly in her arms, then to the ground.

Jirair looks to Shera.

JIRAIR
Put the gun down.

Shera's hand is shaking, the gun with her. Her eyes are filled with tears.

SHERA
He was going to kill you.

JIRAIR
I know. Just set it down, please...

Shera lowers the gun to the floor.

Jirair sighs and runs to Elena who is cradling the dead body of Eznik. Her dress is drenched in his blood. Shera stands alone on the stairway behind the group.

ELENA
What did we do?

Jirair stares at his wife, then looks back at Shera on the stair case.

JIRAIR
I don't know.

Jirair reaches over and closes the open eyes of Eznik. Tears torrent out of his eyes now.

JIRAIR
God I don't know.

INT. ALIEN SHIP - CORRIDOR

Same as before.

Siren's hand touches the console and the door opens. Shera rushes into the room, her weapon extended. She meets eyes with a YOUNG MAN in the room, she points her gun at him and hesitates for a second. She then fires, hitting the man in the chest. She sees another MAN, she turns her gun to him and without hesitation fires, killing the man.

She turns her head to Siren. Siren makes eye contact, and nods.

SIREN
Start grabbing supplies. I'll call
in the heavy lifters.

Shera nods and moves towards the large canisters of fuel.

SIREN
Hey.

Shera stops and looks back at Siren.

SIREN
You did good.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Ridek and a few other crew members are the only ones on the bridge. The door from the corridor opens. Zorin, Siren and Shera run in.

RIDEK
So?

ZORIN
We got everything we needed. Shera, separate us.

SHERA
On it.

SIREN
Engine room says we'll have warp in thirty seconds.

ZORIN
As soon as it comes on line get us as far away as possible.

]The ship rocks violently.

EXT. SPACE

Avalon's landing gear release the ship, and they both float away from each other. The victim vessel floats dead in space much like Avalon did in the beginning of the episode.

INT. AVALON - SICKBAY

Hatch and Adele are the same as before. Isaac enters with a wounded person on his shoulder.

ISAAC
Hatch, get out of my sickbay. I need to work.

Isaac stops and looks at Adele.

ISAAC
You're awake.

ADELE
Yes.

ISAAC

Good.

ADELE

(re: wounded dude)

Don't you think you should attend to him?

ISAAC

Suppose I should/

Hatch gets up to leave.

ADELE

Hatch, violence is a cycle. The beginning leads to the end, and the end a new beginning.

HATCH

I liked the thing about the lion better.

Hatch exits.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Hatch steps onto the bridge and looks out to the stars flying by the viewscreen. Zorin is the only one of the bridge. Zorin looks back and notices Hatch.

ZORIN

What now?

HATCH

You did it? You go what you needed?

ZORIN

Yes, we did.

HATCH

Is the ship still out of sensors?

ZORIN

It fell out of range a few seconds ago.

HATCH

What kind of shape was it in?

ZORIN

What do you think?

Hatch nods solemnly.

ZORIN

I told them to leave some fuel. Not much, but probably enough. Maybe to get to a nearby outpost.

HATCH

You did?

ZORIN

I don't wish death on those people.

HATCH

You just think your life is more important than theirs.

ZORIN

You have a lot to learn.

HATCH

About you?

ZORIN

About the way things work.

HATCH

I'm going to go help Azel.

ZORIN

Good idea.

INT. AVALON - SHERA'S ROOM

Shera sits on her bed in her small dimly lit quarters. She pulls out a small photo from under her pillow. It is a picture of her family. She examines it for a second. Siren walks in the door.

SIREN

Hey, can I come in?

SHERA

Sure.

Shera wipes away a tear.

SIREN

You doing okay?

SHERA

It's not that, it's something else. A bad memory I have.

SIREN

Sorry to keep adding new ones.

SHERA
I can deal with it.

Siren sits down on the bed across from Shera.

SIREN
You know, I've been through some things in my life. Horrible things no one should ever have to go through. But I don't feel sorry for myself, they've helped me. But some things I just don't want to remember, so you know what I found?

SHERA
What?

SIREN
It's best to forget them. You already experienced them, they already made you stronger, they did their job. Now you forget them and you move on.

SHERA
It's hard to do though, to just forget them.

SIREN
What's harder, forgetting, or remembering?

SHERA
Remembering, I guess.

Siren smiles and puts her hand on Shera's shoulder. She stands from the bed.

SIREN
I have to go help sort out all the supplies, but I'll talk to you later, okay?

SHERA
Sure.

Siren leaves.

Shera examines the picture again. A tear drop falls onto it. Shera snuffles, wipes away the tear then rips the picture in two.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END