

1701**"Imperatives"**TEASER

FADE IN:

VFX - The Enterprise exits warp outside the heliosphere of a binary system. A course correction brings it towards a red dwarf, which sits in a dust cloud on the fringe.

INT. 1701 BRIDGE - SPACETIME

APRIL, SANAWAY, FLORIDA, and HART watch their entrance on the viewscreen of the damaged bridge. Conduit hangs from the ceiling. All are tired and disappointed.

FLORIDA  
Towards the planet. Aye.

SANAWAY  
Are we really going there?

On screen, inside the cloud, a small, reflective planet begins to dominate the picture.

APRIL  
At least we'll be able to stretch  
our legs in a second.

VFX - In planetary orbit, A SPACE STATION with drydock.

HART  
What's this all about?

FLORIDA  
Would you look at that...

In the drydock, 1701's sister-ship, the CONSTITUTION.

APRIL  
(unsettled)  
Run the sensors.

SANAWAY  
(flipping switches)  
Why is the other prototype here?

HART  
It's like a reflection.

SPARKS from exposed conduit. The crew is used to them.

VFX. - CONSTITUTION CLOSE UP

The identifying markers of the Constitution are being painted over by work crews with great expediency. Hart and Florida get more curious as they get closer.

FLORIDA

It looks like a ship swap.

APRIL

Take lots of pictures.

INT. TERMINAL - CONTINUOUS

COLT sits with a back-bag on her lap in a crowd of STARFLEET PERSONNEL watching the Enterprise's arrival. As it gets closer, Colt stands and examines the damage.

INT. 1701 BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Sanawey's station BEEPS.

SANAWEY

And here's the bad news, now.  
(turning back to April)  
Code 47.

FLORIDA

Make sure they know we're out of shuttles.

SPARKS. April keys a code into his chair console.

HART

And we need an emergency beam-out.

Sanawey hesitates.

APRIL

Put it through. You're all promoted.

Florida nods. Hart agrees. Sanawey opens the channel.

DISPATCH (V.O.)

(terse)

Crew of the Enterprise, Robert April, commanding, please keep standard approach for docking sequence. Make preparations for travelpod arrival. April is authorized to depart. Only. End transmission.

Hart sighs. Florida frowns. Sanawey is heart-broken.

APRIL  
 (to Sanawey)  
 You tell 'em we're all getting off.  
 And that they can assist in the  
 transport of the refugees.

Sanawey navigates the console. The console BEEPS again.

SANAWAY (V.O.)  
 Text only...:  
 (reading)  
 '1701, maintain radio silence'.

An OBNOXIOUS BEEP from Sanawey's console.

FLORIDA  
 They're jamming.

HART  
 Ooooh...They jammed you.

Florida shakes his head. April rolls up his sleeves.

APRIL  
 Jam them back.

Florida nods. Sanawey follows the order. SPARKS.

HART  
 What a lovely hello.

APRIL  
 (reluctantly)  
 Let's see what this mess is about.

April stands and exits via the forward turbolift.

INT. TRAVELPOD - A HALF-HOUR LATER

FROM WHITE:

April sits alone in the travelpod 'Empire Vista'. The travelpod is a bright white room, with white furnishings. It has a front window view of space, and a 12' wide circular aft airlock. It is docked to the space station.

APRIL  
 (covering his eyes)  
 Am I being tortured? Hello? I think  
 you're torturing me. Federation  
 conventions expressly prohibit--

A monitor displays black, then 'Edited for Content', then 'Content Redacted'. A sports score ticker starts at the bottom: 'North American Collegiate Basketball: Connecticut 77 - Arizona 72. North Carolina...--then, abruptly, THE NEWS, over DRAMATIC ACTION MUSIC.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Today, how much can we believe about the enemies of the Federation? With the Romulans of many years ago, to the Klingons today. We hear accounts of Klingon expansion. But are such stories true?

(beat)

With me today, two former Federation Intelligence officers tell us how lies invented about the two Empires have found their way into the press-

The program mutes. 2160hz TONE. CHUSSHHH. The airlock opens to a dozen MARINES, in padded uniforms and blue berets. Colt and Captain MORROW make their way forward.

MORROW

(big smile)

Who'd you pick up this time?!

April steps aside and the marines board the travelpod.

TRANSITION TO:

MAIN TITLES

MUSIC AND MONTAGE WITH VOICEOVER by MORROW

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER