



Deltan Trade

Story by Jim Caswell

Audioplay by Jim Caswell and Doug Zeitlin

Episode Summary

When the Iliad picks up five Deltans stranded in an escape pod, the crew faces challenges from both within and from out.

Cast List

Ensign Eli Goldman	Ken Hallaron
Evori	Jim Caswell
Counselor Tali	Cinnamon Leigh
Lieutenant Leigh Adamas	Marti Smyth
Patrick Michael Connerly	Matt Hallaron
Lieutenant J'hos T'minear	Ric Steele
Doctor Sevar	Erick Greeva

Introducing

Lieutenant J.G. Resheen D'Conn	April Sadowski
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and Featuring

USS Paladin Crewman	Christopher Anderton
Captain Gould	James C. Taylor
Vego	Paul Mitchell
Orion Slaver	Sam Smyth
Leca	Louise Francis

Stardates

Deep Space 5	57298.2	September, 2380
U.S.S. Iliad	42788.9	May, 2366

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: *Operations Central – Deep Space 5*

SOUND: Ops background noise

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

USS Paladin, you are cleared for docking at port number eight.

PALADIN CREWMAN

Thank you, DS5.

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

No problem, Lieutenant Commander.

PALADIN CREWMAN

Can you recommend something interesting for our down time?

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

Depends on what you're looking for, I suppose.

PALADIN CREWMAN

Mainly something to eat and maybe some holodeck time.

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

We have an extensive selection of quadrant cuisine on our promenade. As for holodecks, they are available by reserve on level fourteen, as long as the Research and Design department doesn't already have them in use.

PALADIN CREWMAN

Thanks, Ensign...

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

Goldman, sir. I hope you enjoy your visit.

PALADIN CREWMAN

Oh, we will. Paladin out.

SOUND: Communication disconnect. Door opens

EVORI

Goldman.

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

Yes Admiral.

EVORI

Has the Sutherland arrived yet?

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

They are the next ship in the queue, Admiral.

EVORI

Fantastic. When they check in, give my guest clearance to beam directly to ops. Understood?

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

Yes sir, Admiral.

EVORI

Thanks.

SOUND: Door closes. Communication chirp.

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

Go ahead, Sutherland. Welcome to Deep Space 5.

CAPTAIN GOULD

Thank you. A member of my crew has requested some leave time aboard the station.

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

We have it on the docket, Captain. Admiral Evori has offered the use of our transporter in Operations for easy access.

CAPTAIN GOULD

Sounds good to us, Ensign. We'll be back in three days to reclaim our counselor.

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

Very good, sir. Ready to receive whenever you are.

CAPTAIN GOULD

OK. Transporter room, go ahead.

SOUND: Transporter beam.

ENSIGN GOLDMAN

Confirmed, Captain. We have your.... <beat> Deltan?

TALI

Hello, Ensign. Care to pick your tongue up off the floor and take me to your leader?

SOUND: Cue Intro music and monologue.

ACT I

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: *Evori's Office – Deep Space 5*

SOUND: Door opening.

TALI

Permission to come aboard, Admiral?

EVORI

Tali! Great to see you. How are they treating you over there on the Sutherland?

TALI

Just fine, Evori. How are Patrick Michael and Leigh? I didn't see the Aurora in orbit or Leigh in Ops.

EVORI

They're fine. Leigh is supervising the repairs on the Lewis. They answered a distress call from a Breen ship and got their nacelles blown off for their effort. The Aurora is out trying to reestablish the peace.

TALI

Well, I'm sorry I missed him.

EVORI

Connerly may make it back before you leave, but you know....

TALI (with a smile)

Duty before pleasure, yes sir.

EVORI

Leigh will be off duty in a few hours, though, and asked me to relay her request that you join her for dinner at Michelangelo's.

TALI

What's that?

EVORI

It's a human-run restaurant here in the station. They specialize in pizza.

TALI

Ahh. Yeah. That's funny.

EVORI

Funny?

TALI

Running gag between Leigh and I.

EVORI

Anything you can share?

TALI

There is an old Earth saying: pizza is like sex. Even when it's bad, it's pretty good.

EVORI

Yes. I believe I heard that somewhere before.

TALI

Which part?

EVORI

Both.

SOUND: Both laugh.

TALI

Should I ask how your love life's been?

EVORI

No. You're not my counselor anymore, remember?

TALI

Doesn't stop a friend from caring.

EVORI

Let's just say that I'm sure you've been in a relationship more recently than I have.

TALI

That long, huh.

EVORI

The ravages of command, I'm afraid.

TALI

That line didn't work fifteen years ago, and it doesn't work now.

EVORI

Do you really want to start in on personal relationships already, Tali?

TALI

Point taken. <beat> So who's the fresh meat in ops?

EVORI

Ensign Eli Goldman. Came in when Knorre transferred aboard the Aurora.

TALI

Goldman? Really?

EVORI (laughing)

Yeah. You know me, a big fan of symmetry.

TALI

Yeah. I think I was his first.

EVORI

Really? That couldn't have taken long. You've only been here a couple of minutes.

TALI

Look who decided to come down off the command seat. No. I meant, I think I was the first Deltan he's ever seen.

EVORI

Was everything OK? Was he well behaved?

TALI

Oh yeah. A perfect gentleman after he quit drooling. I think I just caught him by surprise.

EVORI

Wouldn't be the first time a Deltan's beauty distracted someone from their duties.

TALI

Are you referring to that time we found the escape pod floating in space?

EVORI

Exactly right. We were on our way to Risa for shore leave, so the mood for extra-curricular activities was already heavy in the air.

TALI

That's a good way of putting it.

SOUND: flashback music.

SCENE 2 – VO:

EVORI

Captain's log, stardate 42788.9. Having rendezvoused with the USS Californian, we have successfully completed our half of the diplomatic escort. The Californian will finish taking the envoy to Sector 97, where they will attempt to open dialogs with the Breen Confederacy. While the Breen have proven themselves to be uncooperative in the attempt to open communications between our races, we hope that this outreach of trust will show them that we only want peace. Meanwhile, we get a much-deserved and well-earned break. We have set course for Risa and none too soon, as many of the crew are ready for rest, relaxation and.... relaxation. Much of the emotional tension aboard can be cut with a knife and I hope that this trip will be therapeutic for them.

CUT TO INT.: Bridge – USS Iliad

SOUND: Bridge background noise.

ADAMAS

So, D'conn, what are you planning to do with your time once we get to Risa?

D'CONN

I'm not positive, but I've hearrrrrd they have some beautiful mountain rrrrranges that may call to be climbed. You?

ADAMAS

I don't know, maybe curl up with a good padd along the beach and soak up some rays. Maybe do a little swimming.

D'CONN (shuddering)

You have fun with that.

ADAMAS

How about you, commander? Is there anything that you're looking forward to doing?

CONNERLY

Oh, I'm sure something will draw my attention.

ADAMAS

And you, J'hos?

T'MINEAR

I haven't quite made up my mind, though those mountains sound pretty good, if D'Conn wouldn't mind the company.

D'CONN

The morrr the merrrrrier, J'hos.

ADAMAS

Tali?

TALI

I'll probably stay aboard. With most everyone going down to the planet for shore leave, this place will probably become quite peaceful.

ADAMAS

Not wanting to make any new friends, Counselor?

TALI (laughing)

The friends I have are currently enough for my tastes, thank you Lieutenant, but if I decide to expand my horizons, I'll make sure to clear it with you first. How about you, Captain?

EVORI

I'm perfectly fine with my horizons, thanks for asking.

TALI

Do you have any plans for planetside?

EVORI

I may go down for a day or two, but not much more than that. I have a re-enactment of the 1918 World Series that I have been eager to watch on the holodeck, and I think it's going to be a beautiful week for some ballgames.

ADAMAS

You would rather go to a holodeck to sit in artificial sun than go and experience the real thing?

EVORI

It's not the sun that I'm going for. It's the love of the game.

ADAMAS

Well, if you change your mind and decide you'd like to experience some fun in the real sun, feel free to come find me. <beat>
I mean....

EVORI

I know what you mean, Leigh, and thanks.

SOUND: Console chirp.

CONNERLY

What is it, D'Conn?

D'CONN

Distrress beacon on subspace, Commanderrrr.

CONNERLY

Can you pick up its source on scanners?

D'CONN

Appearrrrs to be an escape pod, bearrrrring 2-4-3, marrrk 9.

CONNERLY

Is there any evidence of a ship?

T'MINEAR

No evidence of a debris field, Commander.

D'CONN

We arrrrre picking up faint trrrrraces of a warrrrp field, sirrrr, but it has destabilized enough to make its orrrrrigin unknown. I don't even think we could trrrrrack which way they went.

CONNERLY

It's enough to tell us that the ship wasn't destroyed and that it left the area a while ago.

EVORI

What about lifesigns?

D'CONN

I pick up five lifeforrrrrms, but an unknown enerrrrrgy flux in the arrrrrea is obscurrrring scans. It is what has disrrrrupted the warrrrp field as well.

EVORI

Adjust our course for intercept, Lieutenant Adamas, and take us out of warp when we are in range.

ADAMAS

Arrival in five minutes, Captain.

EVORI

Understood. Mr. T'Minear, when we are in range, lock on a tractor beam, bring it into shuttlebay two and have a security detail meet us down there. Commander, Counselor, you're with me.

SOUND: Doors opening.

EVORI

Let's go meet our guests.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO INT.: Shuttlebay Two – USS Iliad

SOUND: Tractor beam, followed by escape pod settling. Door opens.

EVORI

Spread out and keep the escape pod covered. I don't want any surprises.

TALI

Is there any way that hatch will open and we not be surprised by what's inside?

EVORI

Good point, but you get the idea. You getting anything from the pod?

TALI

A lot of confusion, and fear. They don't know where they are and they are afraid of what they are going to find when they open the hatch.

EVORI

Well, that's a good sign.

TALI

I beg your pardon?

EVORI

It's not an ambush, and we are on equal footing.

TALI

Ahhh.

EVORI

Robertson, provide the Commander some cover. Connerly, go up and give them a hand opening the hatch.

CONNERLY

Aye, sir.

SOUND: Footsteps on outer shell, followed by the hatch opening.

CONNERLY

Attention inside the escape pod. This is Commander Patrick Michael Connerly. You are currently aboard the Federation starship Iliad. We mean you know harm. Please, come out of the pod and let us help you. <beat> Can you hear me in there? <beat> Hello?

EVORI

What's wrong, Commander?

CONNERLY

I'm not sure, Captain. <inside the pod> Hello? <outside the pod>
Connerly to Sickbay.

SOUND: Communication chirp.

SEVAR

Sevar.

CONNERLY

I think you better get a team down to Shuttlebay Two, Doctor, and
bring five gurneys.

SEVAR

As you command, Commander.

SOUND: Communication disconnect.

EVORI

What's going on, Connerly?

CONNERLY

They're hurt, Captain. They are going to need help getting out of
here.

EVORI

Who are they?

CONNERLY

Deltans, Captain. They're Deltans.

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT II

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Hallway – USS Iliad

SOUND: Door opening.

EVORI

Commander. Good timing. Walk with me.

CONNERLY

Yes sir.

SOUND: Door closing.

EVORI

How are our visitors doing?

CONNERLY

Besides being subjugated to Doctor Sevar's tender mercies?

EVORI

Remember, you were the one who called him. That was what told me that the situation was serious.

CONNERLY

They'll be fine.

EVORI

I'm on my way to check in with them now.

CONNERLY

I figured.

EVORI

You seem to be distracted. What's the matter, Patrick Michael?

CONNERLY

I'm a bit worried about the crew.

EVORI

In what way?

CONNERLY

Word has spread fast through the ship, Captain. The crew knows that we have more Deltans aboard. It's like the testosterone and estrogen levels are tripled, and the sexual tension is driving people to distraction.

EVORI

And the fact that the Deltan pheromone levels sextupled probably doesn't help matters.

CONNERLY

Probably. The crew has gotten used to Tali being aboard, but the added tension.... It will be interesting.

EVORI

They'll need to adapt.

CONNERLY

I'm sure they'll be fine, though I won't be too surprised if weight room usage increases while they are aboard. <beat> How about you, sir.

EVORI

I'm fine. <beat> I'll adapt.

CONNERLY

You're feeling it too?

EVORI

I may be El-Aurian, Commander, but I'm still a man. My libido will still be going strong centuries after everyone on this crew....

<beat>

CONNERLY

Captain?

EVORI

Never mind. I learned to control my animalistic desires a long time ago, Commander. This situation won't change that.

CONNERLY

Yes sir.

EVORI

And that goes for you too, Connerly. I know that....

CONNERLY

I understand Captain. Remember, I'm the one who was in seminary and willing to take the vow of celibacy.

EVORI

Good enough. We'll get through this. No one ever died from....

CONNERLY

Hyper-stimulation?

EVORI

That too.

SCENE 2 – SOUND: Door opening.

EVORI

Doctor. Counselor. How are our guests?

SOUND: Door closing.

SEVAR

They all have severe blunt force trauma contusions and medium level lacerations. They have probably suffered from multiple beatings and whippings. They are also severely malnourished and dehydrated. I have treated the injuries and my staff is administering supplemental vitamins and liquids.

EVORI

Do we have any idea what happened to these people?

TALI

They haven't been giving a lot of details, Captain.

SEVAR

Medical evidence shows that they have been tortured.

CONNERLY

Before they got here.

SEVAR

Of course, Commander. While my method of treatment may not meet your specific expectations, I am a capable physician.

CONNERLY

I'm sorry, Doctor. I didn't mean to offend you.

SEVAR

Offense is an emotion, Commander, and therefore an impossibility for me.

CONNERLY

Ah yes, the infamous Vulcan lack of emotion.

EVORI

Let's get back on track, gentlemen.

SEVAR

Of course.

TALI

I'm sensing emotional pain, in spite of the physical healing, and the fear has not subsided, even though they consciously know that we will do them no harm.

EVORI

That's what you're sensing. What are they saying?

TALI

Not much of anything. They have been keeping to themselves.

CONNERLY

Well, Counselor, why don't you give them some counseling and get them to open up?

EVORI

It may not be that easy, Commander. Are you doing all right, Tali?

TALI

I'll be fine, Captain. The Commander is right. I need to put my own hesitations behind me for their good.

CONNERLY

I'm sorry, Tali. I didn't realize that there was a problem.

TALI

There's not, sir. Nothing that can't be taken care of.

EVORI

How about if, instead of the doctor giving them nutrition supplements, you take them down to the mess hall, get them some food, and see if they're willing to be talkative in a more public setting.

SEVAR

I wouldn't recommend that, Captain. Oral consumption of nutrients will not bring them back to proper levels as quickly as what I can provide.

EVORI

This is more for the treatment of their hearts and souls, Doctor, unless, of course, you would like to talk to them about their feelings.

SEVAR

No thank you, Captain, but I would still suggest giving them the supplements to help the process along.

EVORI

I'll submit to your expertise, Doctor.

SEVAR

As you should.

SOUND: Footsteps walking away.

CONNERLY

Getting them out of sickbay should do wonders for their disposition, if you ask me.

EVORI

Seriously though, Tali, if this is going to be too difficult for you....

TALI

No sir. I can handle it. After all, they are my own people. I'm best suited to dealing with them on a personal basis.

EVORI

OK, Counselor. If you're sure.

TALI

Yes sir.

SOUND: Footsteps walking away.

CONNERLY

Why do I feel that I'm missing out on something?

EVORI

You know the pressures we were discussing on the way here?

CONNERLY

Yes.

EVORI

She's feeling it too.

CONNERLY

They are a sexually advanced species. I figured that their first instinct would be to go back to her quarters and "work things out."

EVORI

Actually, that's the problem, at least for her.

CONNERLY

I'm confused.

EVORI

She's.... ambivalent.

CONNERLY

I didn't think that was her lifestyle, but there are women in there too.

EVORI

No, that's not what I meant. She's ambivalent. She doesn't care about sex anymore.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO INT.: *Mess Hall – USS Iliad*

SOUND: Door opening.

TALI

This is the mess hall. We can get you some food here and hopefully you will all start feeling better.

VEGO

Thank you.

SOUND: Door closing.

TALI

You said your name was Vego, right? And you are Pava, and Leca, and Seri, and Nash?

VEGO

Correct.

TALI

What would you all like to eat?

VEGO

Whatever you have will be fine.

TALI

What about the rest of you? <beat> Do you have any preferences? <beat> Why won't they talk to me, Vego?

VEGO

They have learned to not speak. It is safer to give no answer than the wrong one.

SOUND: Door opening.

TALI

What happened to the five of you, Vego? Who did this to you?

SOUND: Door closing.

TALI

Is there anything I can do to help?

VEGO

Take us home.

D'CONN

Ask and ye shall rrrrrreceive. The Captain told Adamas to set courrrrse forrrr Delta fourrrr as I was leaving the brrrridge. Whose yourrrr frrrriend?

TALI

Lieutenant Junior Grade Resheen D'Conn, let me introduce you to Vego, Pava, Leca, Seri, and Nash.

D'CONN

And you're Vego?

VEGO

Yes.

D'CONN

A pleasurrrre to meet you, and if you'rrrrre lucky, it could be a pleasurrrre forrrrr both of us.

TALI

D'Conn!

D'CONN

Sorry Counselor, but he's just so

TALI

I understand, D'Conn, but

VEGO

It's fine. I understand. Thank you, but no Lieutenant.

D'CONN

Too bad. Let me know if you change yourrrr mind.

TALI

I appreciate the animal instincts, D'Conn, but now is not the time.

D'CONN

Emphasis on animal, Counselor. <purrrrr>

SOUND: Door opens, then closes.

TALI

Are you OK, Vego? You look a bit shaken.

VEGO

I'll be fine.

TALI

To be honest, that shouldn't have shaken you up as much as it has. We are used to that type of reaction. Maybe no so direct, but still....

VEGO

It was not your friend.

TALI

Then what was it? I can sense the unease on all of you, the fear of everything around you.

VEGO

We are not afraid of you. We are afraid of them.

TALI

Who's them?

VEGO

Those that captured and enslaved us; tried to turn us into sex slaves.

TALI

Who would do such a thing?

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 4 – CUT TO INT.: Bridge – USS Iliad

SOUND: Bridge background noise.

CONNERLY

Adamas. How long until we reach Delta four?

ADAMAS

We will arrive in the Delta star system in roughly eighteen hours if we continue at warp seven point five.

CONNERLY

That should be enough. It will give Tali a chance to do a preliminary evaluation of their mental state before handing them over to the Deltan authority.

ADAMAS

Does anyone have any idea what happened to them?

CONNERLY

They weren't very talkative in sickbay, but Tali is with them now. Hopefully she'll learn something.

T'MINEAR

Whoever did this to them deserves to be fired out a torpedo tube.

CONNERLY

Don't let yourself get too wound up, Lieutenant.

T'MINEAR

But Commander....

CONNERLY

I agree, J'hos, that what those people went through was despicable, but we also can't let any feeling that may be building, whether real or induced, rule our judgment.

T'MINEAR

I hear you, Commander.

CONNERLY

Make sure you don't just hear, T'Minear. They escaped and they are alive. Let's be glad for that.

T'MINEAR

Yes sir.

SOUND: Computer ping.

T'MINEAR

Sensors indicate a ship on an intercept course, Commander.
Heading 1-6-9 mark 6. At current speeds, they should reach us in
three minutes.

CONNERLY

Hail them.

SOUND: Hailing chirp.

T'MINEAR

No answer, Commander.

CONNERLY

Take us to yellow alert. Captain to the bridge.

T'MINEAR

They have picked up speed, Commander. ETA two minutes.

SOUND: Door opening.

EVORI

Situation.

SOUND: Door closing.

CONNERLY

We have an alien vessel on an intercept course. They aren't
answering standard hails.

EVORI

Do we have an ID on their vessel yet?

SOUND: Door opening.

T'MINEAR

Coming in now, Captain. Computer identifies the ship as an Orion
marauder.

SOUND: Door closing.

EVORI

Orions? What the heck do they want?

CONNERLY

Looking for escapees?

EVORI

It would help explain a lot, wouldn't it? D'Conn, open communications again.

D'CONN

Yes sirrrrr.

EVORI

This is Captain Evori of the Federation starship Iliad. You are on an intercept course with our ship and, if you do not explain your current course of action, it will be considered hostile and will be answered accordingly. Do I make myself perfectly clear?

D'CONN

Incoming rrrrresponse, Captain.

EVORI

Put it on screen.

SOUND: Communication chirp.

ORION SLAVER

Iliad. You have property that belongs to me. You will hand it over immediately, or I will forcibly take your ship and its crew as my own to do with as I please.

EVORI

I truly hope you reconsider, Mr.....

ORION SLAVER

You may call me master.

T'MINEAR

Really knows how to push his luck, doesn't he.

EVORI

You wish to be stubborn, sir, then fine; you are a sole ship up against a Galaxy-class vessel. We are bigger than you, have better shields than you and have more armaments than you. I would suggest you stop trying to intimidate us and be cooperative before we are forced to take your threats seriously.

ORION SLAVER

I would highly suggest, Captain-for-the-moment, that you take my treats extremely seriously, because you are wrong.

EVORI

Really? In what way?

ORION SLAVER

I am not alone.

<beat>

D'CONN

Captain. Long rrrrange sensorrrs show additional ships heading forrrr us.

EVORI

How many ships, Lieutenant?

D'CONN

Twelve and counting, sirrrrr.

EVORI

Red alert.

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT III

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Bridge – USS Iliad

SOUND: Battle claxons.

ORION SLAVER

Let me make myself perfectly clear, Captain. You have ten minutes before my business partners arrive. You can both hand over my cargo and leave without confrontation, or we will forcibly take whatever we want when they arrive, which will include your ship and all of its crew.

EVORI

Cut communication.

SOUND: Communication disconnect, followed by door opening.

TALI

Captain, I think I know what happened.

SOUND: Door closing.

EVORI

The Deltans were kidnapped and made slaves by the Orion Syndicate until they escaped in a pod.

<beat>

TALI

Too little, too late?

EVORI

We just met their kidnapper, and he's none too happy that they got away. He's got more than a dozen of his friends on their way to join the party unless we hand them over to him.

TALI

We can't do that! These people have suffered great physical and psychological damage at his hands.

EVORI

If you thought, even for an instant, that I was going to turn them over, you don't know me well at all, Counselor. Give me the alternatives.

T'MINEAR

I have photon torpedoes and phaser banks locked and ready, Captain. I can do everything from disable his engines to blowing him out of the sky, depending on your preference, sir.

EVORI

My preference shouldn't be discussed right now, Mr. T'Minear, but thank you.

ADAMAS

That marauder shouldn't be able to keep up with us if we decide to make a run for it.

D'CONN

Therrrrre arrrrre five scout ships in the fleet apprrrrroaching, Captain. They will be able to match ourrrr speed.

CONNERLY

On the plus side, though, they are also less weapon-heavy.

EVORI

Take us to Warp 9.3 away from the approaching vessels. It should give us a few extra minutes at least. Mr. T'Minear, you have the bridge, but don't fire on them unless they fire first or I give you the word. Am I clear?

T'MINEAR

Yes sir.

EVORI

Connerly, Tali, you're with me. Let's go talk to our guests again. See if they saw anything over there that can help keep us out of a firefight.

SOUND: Door opens, then shuts. Battle claxons fade, replaced with turbolift movement.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO INT.: Turbolift – USS Iliad

TALI

I must warn you, Captain, that these people have suffered deep emotional and psychological trauma. They probably won't be of much help to you. Only Vego seems to have the fortitude right now to bear the burden and remain out of shock. The others just follow.

CONNERLY

Knowing what we know, how bad do you think it was for them?

TALI

If I had to hazard a guess, I would say definitely torture, both physical and emotional. All five of them show signs of having been raped as well as beaten.

CONNERLY

The Orions probably grabbed them because of your people's reputation, thinking that they would make good sex slaves.

TALI

It doesn't matter what kind of reputation someone has, Commander. It doesn't give license to rape!

CONNERLY

That wasn't my intent at all, Counselor. I'm sorry.

<beat>

TALI

No, I'm sorry, Commander. I know that's not what you were saying. It's just....

EVORI

This is tough on you, Tali. I appreciate it, and I'm sure that it's done wonders for them to have a friendly face aboard.

SOUND: Turbolift stops. Door opens, then closes.

CUT TO INT.: Hallway – USS Iliad

TALI

It's hard to be looked at like you're a piece of meat. Most people can't help it. Between my people's natural beauty and the pheromones we give off, it activates that part of the brain that controls lust and desire, even among our own people. It's why we're sexually advanced; we've had a lot of practice. But advanced doesn't mean loose.

CONNERLY

I guess, with all of mystery surrounding your people's customs, it has become something of a forbidden fruit. People are told they shouldn't have it, so they want it all the more.

TALI

And that blasted Celibacy Oath Starfleet enforced when we first joined only fueled the fire.

EVORI

That was dropped several decades ago, though.

TALI

It may not be required anymore, but people still remember it.

CONNERLY

With all of this surrounding your people, this Orion slaver figured they would be prime slaves.

TALI

Especially considering some of the base commonalities we have with the female members of his race.

EVORI

The pheromones?

TALI

The pheromones.

CONNERLY

They would probably go after the Selevians too, if it weren't for their "knack."

EVORI

Their pheromones definitely give them an advantage.

TALI

As opposed to ours, which just gives us attention.

SOUND: Door opens.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO INT.: Mess Hall – USS Iliad

EVORI

Thank you gentlemen. Barstow, Velox, please wait out in the hallway. The rest of you can return to your normal security duties.

SOUND: Footsteps move away. Door closes. DELTANS murmur among themselves.

TALI

When I saw we went to yellow alert, I thought leaving them in the mess hall under guard would be best.

EVORI

As good as anything, though we may want to assign them some quarters soon.

CONNERLY

I think they may be staying longer than we had initially anticipated.

TALI

And we thought they might be staying in sickbay.

EVORI

Well, it's my intent for them to stay as long as it takes to get them home again.

VEGO

Home?

EVORI

It's OK, Vego. The five of you can come out now.

VEGO

We are pursued by the master's ship?

EVORI

Yes, but it's OK. We'll protect you.

VEGO

We can't go back to the master's ship. We won't.

EVORI

I know. I know.

TALI

Don't worry, Vego. Captain Evori is going to do everything in his power to keep you from....

CONNERLY

That monster.

EVORI

I may need your help to do so, though. Is there anything you remember from being aboard that ship that can help us? We're currently being chased by him and.... is there any type of weakness we can use?

VEGO

I don't know.

TALI

I realize its tough, Vego, but anything you might remember, no matter how insignificant it may seem, might help us.

VEGO

He didn't let us near anything like weapons or shield systems. I know what you're looking for. I just don't know of anything that would help.

LECA (timid, almost a whisper)

The containment field is out of alignment.

TALI

I'm sorry, what? <beat> What did you say, Leca?

LECA (still timid)

The antimatter containment field is out of alignment.

EVORI

How do you know? <beat> Leca?

VEGO

At one point, late at night after we were all locked away, the master came for Leca. Took her back to the engine room.

CONNERLY

Did you see that there was a problem while...

LECA

Yes.

VEGO

She was a propulsion systems analyst before we were taken.

EVORI

You didn't say anything about it to him, did you?

LECA

No.

CONNERLY

Why not? If it fluctuates too much, it could cause the antimatter containment to fail...

TALI

... Destroying the ship.

LECA

I know.

VEGO

Death would have been preferable to life as a slave.

EVORI

I understand. Evori to bridge.

SOUND: Communication chirp.

T'MINEAR

Bridge here, Captain.

EVORI

What's our situation?

T'MINEAR

We are pulling away from a majority of the fleet, but the scout ships are pacing us. I don't think we will be able to outrun them, and wherever we go, they will lead the fleet to us.

EVORI

Is there any sign of the cavalry?

D'CONN

The nearrrest Starrfleet vessel is a day away at top speed, Captain.

EVORI

And by then, the scout ships will attempt to take out our engines so the others can pounce.

SOUND: Deltans whimper.

EVORI

Don't worry. We won't let it get that far. Connerly, help Tali get these people to quarters and make sure they're comfortable and safe. Mr. T'Minear, I'm on my way back to the bridge. I've got an idea.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 4 – CUT TO INT.: Bridge – USS Iliad

SOUND: Warning claxon. Door opening.

EVORI

Adamas. I want you to plot a drop point out of warp. I want it fast so that those scout ships fly right past us.

ADAMAS

Aye, sir.

T'MINEAR

That will work for a few seconds, but as soon as they realize what we've done, they will spin right around again.

EVORI

A few seconds is all we need. When we drop out, I want us to spin right around and head back for the fleet. I want us to head right for

their throat.

T'MINEAR (enthusiastic)

We're going to take the fight to them, sir!

EVORI

That we are, Mr. T'Minear.

T'MINEAR

If our light is to be extinguished today, may it go with a blaze of glory.

EVORI

I have no intention of being extinguished today.

ADAMAS

Ready Captain.

EVORI

All hands brace. Engage.

SOUND: Ship dropping out of warp, followed immediately by re-engaging of engines.

ADAMAS

Fleet is two minutes away and closing.

EVORI

Good. Raise the Orion marauder.

SOUND: Communication chirp.

D'CONN

Go ahead Captain.

EVORI

Hello again.

ORION SLAVER

Do you really think you have a chance, Captain, against all of us?

EVORI

Numbers mean nothing when a fool leads them.

ORION SLAVER

Oh, I am so looking forward to taking your ship, Captain. I am just debating whether I want to keep you alive long enough to see your people sold into slavery, or if I want to end your miserable existence as soon as I come aboard.

EVORI

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched. You make far too many assumptions for your own good. I called to issue you one final warning: leave us alone before you're destroyed.

ORION SLAVER *(laughing)*

You are very entertaining, Captain.

EVORI

No quarter given, no quarter received. You have been warned. Iliad out.

SOUND: Communication disconnect.

T'MINEAR

Why did you warn him, Captain?

EVORI

No matter how much of a monster he may be, I still don't take lives lightly. Ready torpedoes, Mr. T'Minear, and target his right nacelle.

T'MINEAR

If we hit his nacelle, it will just cripple his ship. It won't do anything about his cohorts.

EVORI

They have a misaligned containment field.

D'CONN

The plasma strrrream from the warrrrp engine rrrrruns thrrrrrough the nacelle. Interrrrrupt the strrrream and cascade failurrrre will cause the field to collapse.

T'MINEAR

In the grouping they are currently flying, the explosion from a warp breach will take out two thirds of them.

EVORI

Exactly.

ADAMAS

What will we do about the other third?

EVORI

With a little luck, they'll turn tail and run once their point man is gone. Otherwise, we will ask for their surrender or be forced to finish the job. Personally, I hope for the former.

T'MINEAR

Entering range, Captain.

<beat>

EVORI

Fire.

SOUND: Torpedoes launch, followed by a cascade of explosions. Flashback music.

EPILOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Admiral's Office – Deep Space 5

TALI

I sometimes forget just how tragic that event turned out to be.

EVORI

There were positive sides to the outcome. Vego and the others got the help they needed once they arrived at Delta Four, in no small part to the groundwork you laid down while they were aboard the Iliad.

TALI

After the marauder was destroyed, the surviving ships fled.

EVORI

Yeah. It wasn't as large of a bloodbath as it could have been.

TALI

I know you, Evori. You're still blaming yourself for those deaths.

EVORI

I've learned to live with it.

TALI

But that's just it, Admiral. You shouldn't have to live with it. You didn't do anything wrong. That Orion brought about his own death. His lust and greed left you no choice.

EVORI

I know that, Counselor, but you also need to remember the trait your race and mine share.

TALI

The empathic ability?

EVORI

Exactly. You see, along with the ability to pick up on other's feelings, I can also feel moments of great pain. When all of those people died, I felt it; I feel it every time.

TALI

Across the galaxy?

EVORI

No, just in those I'm close to, either by relationship or vicinity.

TALI

If that's the case, then why did you do it? Why submit yourself to that?

EVORI

Because it was better than the alternative. I couldn't have lived with returning them to slavery, or even worse, seeing the rest of you enslaved.

TALI

I, for one, appreciate that, but why?

EVORI

When I told them that I understood, I meant it.

TALI

You were once a slave?

EVORI

No, but when my people were attacked by the Borg

TALI

You felt it. Oh Evori, I'm so sorry.

EVORI

As I said, I've learned to live with it. I've learned to live with a lot of things. <beat> Do you still hear from Vego?

TALI

Yes. He and Seri are married and have two children. The shadow of their experience still looms over their lives, but they have learned to not let it rule them.

EVORI

As must we all. You know, it took me a year to work up the nerve to ask you about

TALI

I remember. No, I hadn't experienced anything like that. Mine is more of an internal situation. Having grown up around sex all of my life, I just eventually learned that well, unless it's something special with someone special, it just isn't the same. And if it's not worth doing right

EVORI (smiling)

It's not worth doing.

TALI

Exactly.

EVORI

But enough of the past for now.

TALI

Never thought I'd hear you utter that phrase.

EVORI

What do you say we go track down Leigh and get some dinner?

TALI

I say that sounds good. Have you ever had sardine and onion pizza?

EVORI

Can't say that I have. Are you telling me that you like it?

TALI

No, can't say you could pay me to eat such a concoction. But I thought it might be interesting to ask Leigh to order it, just to see the look on her face.

EVORI

Then we can throw her own quote back at her.

TALI

Exactly. Let's see if she truly believes that, even when it's bad, it's pretty good.

EVORI

Then, when we're done, should we all go ride bikes on the holodeck?

TALI

Ride bikes?

EVORI

Yeah. Once you learn how to ride, you never forget.

CUT: Ending music and credits.

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Ending Credits

You have been listening to Star Trek: Eras – Episode 6: Deltan Trade, starring (in order of appearance) Ken Hallaron as Ensign Eli Goldman, Jim Caswell as Evori, Cinnamon Leigh as Counselor Tali, Marti Smyth as Lieutenant Leigh Adamas, Matt Hallaron as Commander Patrick Michael Connerly, Ric Steele as Lieutenant J'hos T'minear and Erick Greeva as Doctor Sevar.

This presentation also debuted April Sadowski as Lieutenant J.G. Resheen D'Conn. Deltan Trade also featured Christopher Anderton as the Crewman of the USS Paladin, James C. Taylor as Captain Gould, Paul Mitchell as Vego, Sam Smyth as the Orion Slaver and Louise Francis as Leca.

Eras is a production of TimeWell Electronic Recording Productions, with Star Trek being the property of Paramount Studios; copyright 2011. Deltan Trade was written and mixed by Jim Caswell and edited by Ken Hallaron. Music was composed and produced by Matt Hallaron. Additional music was composed by Jerry Goldsmith and Gustav Holst. Cello solo by Dung Pham. This has been a TWERPs Online Presentation.