

SUPERIMPOSE: Stardate: 2290.180

Stanton, Amanda, Nalow Zanthr, and Venix sit at a table in the middle of the mess hall.

In front of them are trays of food.

AMANDA

Did you hear about the Cragen council coming aboard?

VENIX

(mouth full of food)
What in god's name is that?

STANTON

(to Amanda)
Assume Venix hasn't.

AMANDA

(eyes Venix is disgust)
They are boarding in a couple of hours so we can take them to Starbase two ninety-five, and I get to speak for them.

Amanda SMILES in excitement.

STANTON

I don't understand, why can they not speak for themselves?

NALOW ZANTHR

The Cragen are a species known for their music and art. But, even though their fine arts are unarguably beautiful, they are not.

AMANDA

(elaborates)
The sight of them is quite hideous.

VENIX

So? Thy'shaw's hideous.

AMANDA

(raises her eyebrows)
Point taken, but they are hideous in many ways than just one. The smell, the sound, the feel, and the sight of them are quite alarming.

(CONTINUED)

VENIX

I think you forgot taste there,
Amanda.

Stanton ROLLS her eyes.

AMANDA

Knowing what they look like will
taint your view of them as a
species, just as if you saw an
unattractive girl you would not
want to pursue a relationship with
her.

NALOW ZANTHR

(glancing bitterly at Stanton;
muttering)

I think at this point I'll take
whatever I can get.

VENIX

(to Amanda)

Then why are you so special?

AMANDA

I have been taught by Ambassador
Solik the teachings of Surak. The
sixteenth proverb states: Ma etek
natyan teretuhr lau etek shetau
weh-lo'uk do tum t'on. It
translates roughly to: We have
differences. May we, together,
become greater than the sum of both
of us.

VENIX

So, because you grew up with hippie
mumbo jumbo, you think you're
better than us?

STANTON

(sighs, exasperated)

Were you not even listening to her?

VENIX

(mumbles)

Unfortunately, I was.

NALOW ZANTHR

(smiles at Amanda)

I was listening to you, Ambassador.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA
(smiles)
Thank you, Nalow.

VENIX
(leans over to whisper at
Nalow)
You are too desperate for your own
good.

NALOW ZANTHR
As you are also, Lieutenant.

The GROUP goes back to eating as Gavino walks up and places
a gentle hand on Stanton's back.

Stanton looks over her shoulder to look at him.

GAVINO
I think our conversation has been
delayed enough, Lieutenant
Commander.

Amanda looks up at Gavino and RAISES her eyebrows.

Stanton GRITS her teeth and turns back around, ANNOYED.

STANTON
I would have to disagree.

GAVINO
Please, it'll only take a moment.

Stanton hesitates and Nalow Zanthr furrows his eyebrows,
looking away.

STANTON
Leo, I'm eating.

GAVINO
Lieutenant Commander, while I'm off
duty.

Gavino holds his hand up, gesturing her to follow him.

Stanton sighs and THROWS her napkin on the table, rising
from the table and following him.

They both walk over to the corner of the mess hall.

VENIX
It's about time those two talked.
I'm sick and tired of hearing
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VENIX (cont'd)
shrimp-o over there complain about
it.

Venix points over at Gavino.

TABLE'S POV - STANTON AND GAVINO

talking with soft faces.

VENIX
You weren't any competition, Nalow.

Nalow Zanthr frowns and plays with his food.

AMANDA
Wait, what are you talking about,
Venix?

VENIX
(smirks)
Oh, so now you're the confused one!

AMANDA
Venix.

VENIX
(sighs)
Her and Leo dated for awhile a long
time ago. They had to break up when
they were stationed on different
ships. How did Stanton not tell
you? Aren't you guys like-
(pauses to make a face of
disgust)
-BFF's now or something?

AMANDA
I am sure she would have told me if
it was relevant.

Venix shrugs and takes in another mouthful of food, the
drama apparently not killing his appetite.

Nalow Zanthr makes a frustrated noise and buries his face in
his hands.

AMANDA
(looking pitifully at Nalow)
Nalow-

VENIX

(waves his hand at Amanda
interrupting her)

Don't even bother. I've had this conversation a million times before with him. I'll ask him what's wrong, and then he'll tell me he can read Gavino's thoughts. Then I'll tell him to just block it out, and then he'll whine and say he wants to know what's going on.

Venix finishes his food and stands up CLUMSILY.

VENIX

(stretching)

Well, I'm outta here.

(points to Nalow Zanthr)

Buck up, buddy-boy.

Amanda opens her mouth to say something to Venix, but Venix interrupts her.

VENIX

(grins)

Keep it open, cause you'll be practically worshiping me later. I got in a good word with Captain Thy'shaw and he's letting me train you for the security position!

AMANDA

That is not how I remember the conversation when I boarded the ship.

VENIX

Eh, small details. Anyways, the more important thing is that you need to meet me on deck thirty-nine at zero six hundred hours tomorrow morning.

AMANDA

(smiles widely)

I'll be there! Thanks so much Venix-

VENIX

(winks)

I told you you'd worship me.

Venix grabs his tray and saunters away.

(CONTINUED)

Amanda has a disgruntled face expression.

AMANDA
What just occurred?

NALOW ZANTHR
(pulling his head out of his hands)
It appears Venix finds you attractive enough to give in and train you for a security position.

Amanda raises her eyebrows.

AMANDA
He thinks I am attractive?

NALOW ZANTHR
(shrugs)
But everyone thinks you're attractive.

AMANDA
Oh.
(beat)
Well, thank you, Nalow.

NALOW ZANTHR
For what, thinking you're attractive?

AMANDA
(smirks)
Sure.

THEME/TITLE CARD

COMMERCIAL BREAK/SCENE BREAK

CUT IN:

ANGLE ON - GAVINO AND STANTON

BEGIN OPENING CREDITS

GAVINO
(desperately)
Sirah, come on.

STANTON
I don't think it would be appropriate if we started dating again.

(CONTINUED)

GAVINO

You shouldn't worry about professionalism; you know I've never been a fan of PDA.

STANTON

I remember you being a fan of other women while we were dating, though.

GAVINO

Joanna and I were over years before we started dating, Sirah, and you know it. I've never cheated on you with anyone.

Stanton crosses her arms and shrugs.

GAVINO

I hadn't seen you in ten years, and we left with hardly a goodbye. And then when you found out we were gonna be serving together you still didn't even speak to me.

STANTON

Did you expect us maintain a long-distance relationship? And how was I supposed to know you weren't married now?

GAVINO

I was planning on proposing to you after you graduated, Sirah.

STANTON

(shocked)

Really?

GAVINO

(nods)

Really. I love you. You know that.

STANTON

After ten years?

GAVINO

I can't imagine myself with anyone else.

STANTON

(smirks)

Not even Joanna?

(CONTINUED)

GAVINO

Nope.

STANTON

So, when do you have to be back at work, Lieutenant Commander?

GAVINO

Not for another two hours or so?
(beat, then grinning)
Why?

STANTON

You'll see.

Stanton laughs and pulls a very willing Gavino after her.

END OPENING CREDITS

FROM BLACK:

2

INT. COUNSELOR HU'S OFFICE - DECK 12

2

Amanda enters a large room lined with WINDOWS and bookshelves.

Sitting at a desk is COUNSELOR BAO-ZHI HU (late 40's).

He stands and walks towards Amanda once she walks in, revealing he is wearing very casual clothes.

COUNSELOR HU

(smiling warmly)
Ambassador Amanda, here for your assessment I presume?

AMANDA

(bows)
Commander Hu, nice to finally meet you. I have heard many great things about your career.

Counselor Hu holds up the Ta'al in response to Amanda's bow.

COUNSELOR HU

Ah, that is always nice to hear, Miss Amanda. You may call me whatever you like, but I would prefer to be called Counselor Hu.

Amanda nods at Counselor Hu and he gestures to two CHAIRS sitting across from each other in front of the tall windows.

(CONTINUED)

Amanda and Counselor Hu walk over to them, and then sit down across from each other.

COUNSELOR HU

So, in this session I just want assess that you have a stable enough mind to handle the appearance of the Cragen.

AMANDA

(nervously)

I must admit, we do not have counselors on New Vulcan.

COUNSELOR HU

Nervousness is allowed, Amanda.

AMANDA

(coldly)

Nervousness is a human reaction and emotion. Vulcans do not get nervous, it is illogical.

COUNSELOR HU

But, aren't you three-fourths human?

AMANDA

(nods)

Affirmative, Counselor.

COUNSELOR HU

So, how can you say that nervousness is a human reaction and emotion, when you are clearly a human?

AMANDA

(points to her face)

I would not say I am clearly a human.

COUNSELOR HU

So, do you identify as a Vulcan or a human?

AMANDA

I have tried being a Vulcan, and I have tried being a human. I acted too human to be a Vulcan, and I looked too Vulcan to be a human.

(CONTINUED)

COUNSELOR HU

(nods)

And how did that make you feel?

AMANDA

Quite a stereotypical phrase,
Counselor.

COUNSELOR HU

Are you a stereotypical Vulcan?

AMANDA

I am more human than any Vulcan.

COUNSELOR HU

So, what do you want most out of
people who meet you?

AMANDA

I am proud of my Vulcan heritage,
but I am tired of being
stereotyped.

COUNSELOR HU

Yes, I am sure everyone can relate
to that.

(pauses and smiles)

And I think we are done here.

Counselor Hu stands, and Amanda follows, CONFUSED.

AMANDA

You hardly talked to me.

COUNSELOR HU

I asked all the right questions.

AMANDA

(smirks)

Or maybe I just rightly answered
all of your questions. You forget I
was taught by Ambassador Selek.

COUNSELOR HU

(nods)

I have not forgotten, but, you have
forgotten that you are mostly
human, and humans fall for tricks
all the time.

Counselor Hu walks back to his desk leaving Amanda in the
background thinking hardly.

He sits down at his desk and takes out his PADD.

(CONTINUED)

COUNSELOR HU
Oh, and Ambassador?

AMANDA
Yes?

COUNSELOR HU
If you don't embrace that you are
human, you will have failed to
comprehend Surak's teachings.
(pause)
And before you ask, yes I have read
them all.

Counselor Hu points to the door, indicating Amanda should
leave.

COUNSELOR HU
You are mentally stable enough to
handle the Cragen, but you have an
appointment with me every day until
they leave. Good day, Ambassador.

Amanda bows to Counselor Hu and walks out the door, it
SWOOSHING shut behind her.

FROM BLACK:

3 INT. U.S.S. PRIME - TRANSPORTER ROOM - DECK 6 3

ANGLE DOWN - TRANSPORTER ROOM

that is completely empty except for Amanda and a Vulcan male
in a engineering work-suit who are both standing behind the
controls in the transporter room.

VULCAN ENGINEER
I will transport the Cragen council
at your signal, Ambassador.

AMANDA
I am ready when you are,
Lieutenant.

The Vulcan engineer taps a few dials and pushes a lever
upward.

PAN TO - TRANSPORTER ALCOVE

In the transporter alcove three shapes start to shimmer and
spin.

Appearing each on a transporter disk is the Cragen COUNCIL.

(CONTINUED)

Their appearance is ghastly.

They are humanoids with dark brown, rough skin. Covering their skin are boils and warts; their fingernails are very long. The Cragen's hair is wadded into knots, and they wear rags. They have no noses, only slits, and they bare no eyebrows. The Cragen's eyes are completely black.

ANGLE ON - AMANDA

takes in a deep breath, and scrunches up her nose, indicating that they smell.

She closes her eyes for a moment and composes herself.

She opens her eyes and walks toward the PARTY.

The Vulcan engineer glances at the COUNCIL.

VULCAN ENGINEER

I will notify the Captain of their arrival, Ambassador Amanda.

The engineer turns and leaves through the transporter room's doors.

AMANDA

(smiling to the COUNCIL)

Bah rum ba biddy bak Kilomja?

SUPERIMPOSE: Which one of you is Kilomja?

The Cragen standing on the foremost transporter disk raises an arm covered in a gooey substance.

KILOMJA speaks in a rough, raspy voice.

KILOMJA

(shakes her head)

I am Kilomja, but there is no need for you to speak our language, Ambassador Amanda.

AMANDA

(nods)

I apologize if I offended you.

KILOMJA

No, I am flattered that you are fluent in Cragen.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA
(smiles)
Starfleet only sends the best.

KILOMJA
(sternly)
They still aren't trying to woo us
for our rocks, are they, Amanda?

AMANDA
(shrugs)
They do not really tell me anything
around here it seems.

Kilomja smiles widely, showing no teeth.

She steps off of the transporter platform, and the rest
COUNCIL follows her.

KILOMJA
As your people say, ignorance is
bliss.

AMANDA
Ah, but I am not all human,
Kilomja.

KILOMJA
Oh? But on the inside...

AMANDA
If you could see my outside, you
would see my Vulcan features.

KILOMJA
You were raised on Vulcan?

AMANDA
Affirmative.

KILOMJA
It does not show.

AMANDA
Shall I show you to your quarters?
We have the hallways cleared for
you, and your quarters are just a
few doors down.

KILOMJA
We are not tired, but we are aware
of our appearances, so we will stay
hidden on your ship.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

I apologize, the Vulcan starship
got held up on a classified
mission.

KILOMJA

But if the starship was not held
up, I would have never met you, and
I think you need our help.

AMANDA

Would presenting you all with a
gift from Cragen traditions be
appropriate?

CRAGEN #1

(nods)

We would like that, Ambassador.

CLOSEUP - AMANDA

gets down on both knees and pulls a scrap of white CLOTH
from inside her jacket sleeve.

AMANDA

(holds out the cloth with both
hands)

I present you with peace and
serenity.

CLOSEUP - KILOMJA

gets down on both knees like Amanda and takes the cloth from
her.

CLOSEUP - AMANDA AND KILOMJA

as they both bow their heads.

KILOMJA

May it run with your life forever.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

4 INT. AMANDA'S QUARTERS - DECK 5

4

Amanda walks into her quarters to find Stanton sitting at
her desk playing on her PADD.

Stanton looks up at the sound of the SWOOSHING doors.

(CONTINUED)

STANTON

It's about time you came back!

AMANDA

(awkwardly)

Why are you here?

STANTON

I was just gonna talk to you about how the Cragens went.

AMANDA

(shrugs)

It was adequate; they are in their quarters now to be undisturbed.

Amanda walks over to her bed and lies down onto it on her stomach.

STANTON

No conspiracy theories about them to tell me?

AMANDA

(baffled)

Why would there be?

There is a break in the conversation.

AMANDA

So, what occurred with you and Lieutenant Commander Gavino?

Stanton shrugs.

STANTON

Nothing eventful.

AMANDA

You are lying.

STANTON

(grins widely)

Yeah I am! We got back together!

Stanton gets up from her place at Amanda's desk and rushes over to sit on the bed.

AMANDA

(grinning)

Your poker face is exceptional.

(beat)

Now, tell me everything.

(CONTINUED)

STANTON

So, we're starting things over again.

AMANDA

Really?

STANTON

(nods her head ecstatically)
Yes! And then we went back to my quarters.

Stanton grins mischievously, and Amanda smiles.

AMANDA

I believe that Venix would be very happy everything turned out alright.

(beat, then sullenly)

Oh no, I just remembered about Nalow.

STANTON

Oh, I'm sure he already knows by now, ya know, with his Betazoid stuff.

AMANDA

But he really does care for you, Sirah.

STANTON

(scoffs)

He's had a crush on me for years. He'll get over it. He's a grown man.

AMANDA

(shushing Stanton)

Quiet, he will hear us.

STANTON

(rolling her eyes)

Gimme a break, it won't be long before he's moving onto someone else. Leo and I have a past, Nalow knows that.

Stanton shrugs.

AMANDA

He is delicate, though.

(CONTINUED)

STANTON

A starship is essentially delicate
also Amanda, but we still put it
through hell anyways.

AMANDA

(sighs)

You might be right, Stanton.

STANTON

I know I am.

(beat)

So, tell me about your training
session with Venix tomorrow.

AMANDA

(shocked)

Who told you?

STANTON

(looks at Amanda with a "duh"
look)

Venix did! Now spill!

AMANDA

What is there to say? He merely has
been asked by the Captain to train
me in Starfleet protocol-even
though I have insisted time and
time again I have memorized
everything.

STANTON

Well, good luck. Venix can be
tough.

AMANDA

I am sure I can take him.

STANTON

He knows the fighting techniques of
Klingons and Romulans.

AMANDA

I have every fighting style
memorized.

STANTON

Romulans are ruthless, Amanda.

AMANDA

(looks down at her lap)

I above anyone else should know
that.

(CONTINUED)

FADE OUT

FROM BLACK:

5

INT. VENIX'S OFFICE - DECK 39

5

SUPERIMPOSE: Stardate: 2290.181

Venix sits at his desk eating a SANDWICH when a BUZZER sounds in his office.

He leans over to a press a button on the side of his computer screen whilst chewing.

VENIX'S POV - THE DOOR

SWOOSHES open to reveal Amanda, wearing a black tank top and black officer uniform pants.

AMANDA

A sandwich for breakfast?

VENIX

(swallows his bite)

A bloody attitude for breakfast?

AMANDA

Touché.

VENIX

(claps his hands together)

So, should we start?

Venix gets up from his desk and Amanda scoffs.

AMANDA

I highly doubt you will teach me anything new.

Venix walks over to stand in front of Amanda. He crosses his arms.

She eyes his biceps from under his long-sleeve shirt.

VENIX

(smirks)

Fine. One on one. HTH. Show me what you got.

AMANDA

(grins)

Gladly.

CUT IN:

6 INT. SECURITY TRAINING - DECK 39

6

Amanda stands in front of a now shirtless Venix on a mat in the middle of a large room.

They are both in standard fighting stances.

Venix has his fists at his mouth, and Amanda stands with her legs spread and her arms behind her back.

VENIX

What kind of a stance is that?

AMANDA

(coldly)

One that is going to kick your ass.

VENIX

(grinning)

Ouch, feisty!

AMANDA

Let us just get this over with so I can prove to you I can be on security.

VENIX

Fine, but no Vulcan nerve pinches.

AMANDA

(shrugs)

Joke is on you because I do not need them.

Amanda and Venix stand completely still, waiting for the other to make a move.

Amanda makes the first move, lunging at Venix.

Venix raises his elbow to block her out of the way, but Amanda turns out of the way then kicks him in the back, knocking him to the floor.

AMANDA

(smiles)

And the first point goes to New Vulcan!

SCENE BREAK

CLOSEUP - VENIX

being thrown to the ground on his back and making an OOMPH sound.

(CONTINUED)

VENIX'S POV -

Amanda stands over him with her hands on her hips, her hair a mess, and PANTING heavily.

AMANDA

(smirks down at Venix)

It is like you are not even trying!

Venix SNARLS at her and extends his arm into the air. Amanda grabs hold of his arm with both of her hands and heaves Venix up off the floor. He rises all sweaty.

VENIX

(panting)

I'm going easy on you.

AMANDA

(scoffs)

That is highly illogical of you to even consider. Why would you go easy on me? The villains do not take it easy on the hero.

VENIX

(wiping his sweat from his face)

Since when are you the hero?

AMANDA

Since your race became the villain.

VENIX

You of all people should understand the side effects of a bad stereotype.

AMANDA

I was just stating a known fact.

VENIX

Look, if you beat me again, I'll consider letting you onto the security team.

AMANDA

(raises her eyebrows)

Consider?

VENIX

(groans)

Fine! I'll let the Captain decide.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA
 (shrugs)
 Fair enough, Lieutenant.

Venix nods and backs away from Amanda going straight into his fighting stance.

Amanda backs up also, laughing and shaking her head at him.

AMANDA
 (mutters)
 Your funeral.

Amanda goes into her signature fighting stance, and Venix breathes heavily out of nose, frustrated.

Venix makes the first move, making a pass at a roundhouse kick.

Amanda reaches out quickly and grabs his ankle and twists it, pushing him to the ground.

Venix hurriedly gets up and Amanda elbows him in the gut.

Venix pushes her to the ground, putting her into a headlock.

Amanda tries to struggle against his headlock, but fails. She balls her hand into a fist and hits him in the groin.

Venix OOFs and lets go of Amanda letting her out of the headlock.

Amanda is quick to punch him in the side of his face, sending him sprawling on the ground.

CLOSEUP - AMANDA'S KNUCKLES

bleeding.

PAN TO- VENIX

on the ground unconscious.

CUT IN:

7

INT. U.S.S. PRIME - SICKBAY WARD 1 - DECK 12

7

Amanda and Venix sit on an examination table in sickbay.

Amanda holds her right hand in her left, the right now bandaged.

Venix holds an icepack to the swollen mess of his temple and eye.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA AND VENIX'S POV - DR. LAWSON

as he stands in front of them with his arms crossed.

DR. LAWSON
Should I ask?

VENIX
(shakes his head)
Nope.

AMANDA
I have found long ago that Romulans
are predictable fighters and talk
big game. But, I have found out
today that they have very hard
skulls.

Amanda holds up her bandaged hand as proof.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

8 INT. CRAGEN COUNCIL'S QUARTERS - DECK 6 8

SUPERIMPOSE: Stardate: 2290.185

AMANDA sits on the floor in the Cragen COUNCIL's quarters.
The Cragen COUNCIL sits around her on the floor.

KILOMJA
Have you been seeing Counselor
Bao-Zhi Hu every day since we
arrived?

AMANDA
(nods)
Yes. He talks to me about my
experiences with you, and helps me
control my emotions.

CRAGEN #2
Have you been meditating
frequently?

AMANDA
Yes, more than normal. I am quite
steady now.

KILOMJA
Well, as you know we leave tomorrow
when we dock at Starbase two
ninety-five.

Amanda nods.

(CONTINUED)

KILOMJA

We must have a completely empty hallways when we depart.

AMANDA

Of course. The Captain has already arranged everything. You can sit back and relax.

CRAGEN #1

We appreciate all of your help, Ambassador Amanda.

AMANDA

(bows her head)

It is my pleasure. If you need food, entertainment, or anything, I am off duty all day to serve your needs.

KILOMJA

It's just like every other day we have been on here. All the same rules, Amanda.

AMANDA

(nods, blushing)

Yes, my apologies. Apparently I feel like I must remind you.

Amanda stands from the floor.

AMANDA

I will dismiss myself now.

The Cragen COUNCIL smiles at her from the floor.

Amanda smiles and walks over to the door that leads to the hallway.

The door opens with a SWOOSH and Jamila Lawson appears with a PADD when Amanda bumps into her.

Amanda tries to hide the Cragen COUNCIL from her sight.

AMANDA

(frantic)

Lieutenant! You can't be here!

REVERSE ANGLE - JAMILA LAWSON

(CONTINUED)

JAMILA LAWSON
(shakes her head)
The Captain sent me because I am
El'Aurian. My race does not believe
in outward impressions.

REVERSE ANGLE - AMANDA

Amanda sighs with relief and leans against the door frame,
the door to the room still open.

JAMILA LAWSON
(holds out the PADD)
He needs you to fill out this
paperwork.

Amanda takes the PADD.

AMANDA
Oh, well-

A man's screaming cuts off Amanda.

Amanda and Jamila Lawson both look to see a human cadet
standing in the hallway outside of the room, still in shock.

Amanda quickly jumps out of the doorframe dragging Jamila
with her so the door can SWOOSH back.

The Cadet stops screaming and looks at Jamila Lawson and
Amanda with wide eyes.

CADET
(murmurs)
What was that?

JAMILA LAWSON
(to Amanda)
I'll get Counselor Hu.

CADET
(exclaims)
What was that?!

Amanda and Jamila look at the Cadet in disbelief, and then
he quickly runs off.

Amanda DARTS down the hallway after the Cadet, dropping the
PADD to the ground.

CUT IN:

9

INT. U.S.S. PRIME - BRIDGE - DECK 1

9

Amanda walks onto the bridge from the turbolift holding the Cadet's neck in her hand.

Captain Thy'shaw turns around in his chair to see Amanda and the Cadet walking down the steps to the lower part of the bridge.

The Cadet is white with shock, and Amanda is IRRITATED.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
(smiles at the Cadet)
Oo! What do you have here?

Amanda and the Cadet stop beside the captain's chair, and she lets go of his neck ROUGHLY, causing him to JERK forward at the motion.

AMANDA
(raising her eyebrows)
No disrespect, Captain, but I would
not be smiling if I were you.

ANGLE ON - BENOVIO

at the helm. He SIGHS loudly and gets up to join the Captain, the Cadet, and Amanda.

BENOVIO
(to Amanda)
What happened?

Gavino and Nalow Zanthr turn around their chairs to watch the conversation.

AMANDA
This cadet here-
(gestures to the Cadet
standing next to her
speechless)
-accidentally saw the Cragen.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
How?

GAVINO
(shouts from the helm)
Who's fault is it?

AMANDA
(shrugs and and looks around
nervously)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA (cont'd)
We can blame a lot of people on
what occurred today.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
(sighs, distraught)
Well, send him to Counselor Hu.

AMANDA
I was going to Captain but-
(pausing to nudge the Cadet)
-he already spread the weed.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
(shocked)
He stole from the botany lab?!

NALOW ZANTHR
(murmurs)
Oh I hope not, that would be
dreadful.

BENOVIO
(loudly)
He did not steal from the botany
lab!

Captain Thy'shaw and Nalow Zanthr let out sighs of relief.

GAVINO
(annoyed)
Amanda means he told people what he
saw!

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
(scolds the Cadet)
Oh, that wasn't good of you at all.

AMANDA
Captain, half the ship thinks there
are-and I quote-swamp monsters
aboard.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
Can you mind-meld them or
something? We have to reassure them
there aren't any monsters aboard.
We could have chaos.

AMANDA
(awkwardly)
I am aware sir, but I do not-

Nalow Zanthr stands and walks over to Amanda's side.

(CONTINUED)

NALOW ZANTHR

I may be of service here, Captain.

CUT IN:

10

INT. U.S.S. PRIME - HALLWAY - DECK 6

10

Amanda, Nalow Zanthr, and Counselor Hu walk down the corridors of deck 6.

They are the only ones in the hallways.

COUNSELOR HU

So the Cadet started telling people on this deck?

AMANDA

(nods)

Affirmative, I barely caught him before he got onto the turbolift at the end of the hall.

COUNSELOR HU

Then where is everyone?

AMANDA

That is what I am wondering. This hallway was supposed to be closed off for the council, but somehow he got in.

COUNSELOR HU

(nods)

So why didn't more people get through?

(to Nalow Zanthr)

How many people know?

Nalow Zanthr stops walking and closes his eyes.

Amanda and Counselor Hu turn around to see him a couple feet back and walk back towards him. They stand beside Nalow and wait for him to listen to everyone on the ship in silence.

NALOW ZANTHR

(opening his eyes)

At the moment, around sixty-four various persons believe there are strange monsters on board. One Lieutenant is planning on a strike in the lower decks, and he is spreading his message rapidly to anyone who will listen.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA
(shakes her head)
The rumor mill at its work.

NALOW ZANTHR
(confused)
Huh?

AMANDA
(shakes her head)
Nevermind.
(to the Counselor)
What do you suggest doing?

COUNSELOR HU
Well, at this point I can't
counselor everyone who believes the
Cragen are monsters.
(pause)
Because the Cragen are leaving
tomorrow, I think we should just
leave it. They'll be off tomorrow,
and everyone will forget all about
it. Just let it diffuse itself.

AMANDA
And about this strike?

COUNSELOR HU
(sighs)
Have Lieutenant Venix take the
ringleader to the brig for now.

AMANDA
(salutes)
Aye, Commander.

COUNSELOR HU
Nalow and I will try and talk with
the Cragen and reassure them
nothing is wrong. Amanda, you need
to work with Venix and the security
team to bring down the strike.

AMANDA
You are able to talk with the
Cragen, Counselor?

COUNSELOR HU
I am no more incapable than you,
Ambassador.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

Oh and, Counselor? You said both myself and Venix. I am not on the security team.

COUNSELOR HU

Have you not heard? The Captain accepted you onto the team two days ago; I assumed you knew.

AMANDA

(smiles)

No, I did not, Counselor Hu, thank you for informing me.

Counselor Hu eyes Amanda suspiciously and motions for Nalow Zanthr to follow him. The two MEN and Amanda part ways.

CUT IN:

11 INT. U.S.S. PRIME - CREW LOUNGE 14 - DECK 21 11

Amanda and Venix stand in the doorway looking inside of the lounge.

AMANDA AND VENIX'S POV -

Inside is a group of OFFICERS sitting on couches and chairs all facing a standing engineering lieutenant and the Cadet.

None of the OFFICERS inside notice Amanda and Venix observing them.

AMANDA

(whispering)

I cannot believe you did not tell me the Captain enacted me into the security team.

VENIX

Why does it matter? You know now.

AMANDA

(raises her eyebrows)

Two days later, might I add.

VENIX

Look, I didn't tell you because I don't think you're ready.

AMANDA

(bitterly)

You have no say in the matter.

(CONTINUED)

VENIX
(scoffs)
I believe I have the final say,
don't you agree>

AMANDA
(crosses her arms)
I will prove to you I am ready.

VENIX
Fine, if you're ready, then go and
arrest that engineering lieutenant.

AMANDA
(huffs)
Maybe I-

Venix shushes her.

VENIX
(interrupting Amanda)
I can't bloody hear!

Amanda NARROWS her eyes at Venix.

ANGLE ON - ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT
The creatures have vicious eyes,
and tangled beast-like hair. Their
fingernails are long enough to slit
a man's throat. The beasts' skin is
as black as tar, and they have the
nose of the devil.

Amanda ROLLS her eyes.

AUDIENCE MEMBER
What do you suppose we do?

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT
(motions to the Cadet standing
next to him)
Ask him, he's the one that
discovered that the beasts have
been on board for weeks and no one
has told us!

AMANDA
(whispers)
They have only been on for four
days.

Venix shushes Amanda.

(CONTINUED)

CADET
(strongly)
I say we go on a strike! No one
works until these beasts are off
the ship!

The OFFICERS in the audience yell loudly in agreement.

Venix turns to Amanda.

VENIX
You wanna earn my approval? Arrest
both the Cadet and the Lieutenant.

AMANDA
(scoffs)
I do not desire your approval.
However, I do desire a position on
your security team.

Amanda undoes and shrugs off her science officer jacket
leaving a black undershirt underneath on top of her black
pants.

AMANDA
So, I will arrest both the men, all
by myself.

Amanda pulls Venix's PHASER from his pocket and walks away
towards the group of OFFICERS, THROWING her jacket at Venix.

VENIX
Amanda, come back here and give
that back!

Amanda ignores Venix and tucks the phaser into her pants and
pulls her shirt over it.

Venix huffs in frustration and throws his hands up.

Amanda is quick to blend in with the group of OFFICERS now
standing around the Lieutenant and Cadet.

She moves towards them both.

She walks up to the Lieutenant and wraps her arm around his
shoulders.

AMANDA
I have a question for you,
Lieutenant.

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT
Is it a question about the layout
of the strike?

AMANDA
(shrugs)
You could say that.

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT
So, what do you want to know?

AMANDA
(smiles)
I was just wondering how you are
gonna be able to have this labor
strike when you are locked up in
the brig?

Some of the OFFICERS in the group move to grab her.

Amanda quickly takes her arm away from the Lieutenant and
whips her phaser out of her pants.

She points the phaser at his head.

He turns around to look at Amanda shocked.

The OFFICERS stop in their tracks.

Amanda doesn't look away from the Lieutenant when she
speaks.

AMANDA
Let me introduce myself. My name is
Amanda Samara T'gai S'chn. I am a
security officer on this ship, and
you are violating Starfleet
Regulation 78B. Starfleet
Regulation 78B states that
Starfleet officers and employees
are not to partake in any rally,
strike, and/or protest that
interferes with the safety of
others. Organizers and participants
are subject to a court martial. By
participating in a strike you are
endangering three hundred crewman
and potential external factors by
refusing to man your post.

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT
Can you take the phaser off of me?

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

This phaser will remain until you
surrender yourself under an arrest.
I have a warrant for you and this
pansy cadet over here.

The Cadet blushes and nervously stares at the floor.

The OFFICERS listen to Amanda intently.

AMANDA

(to the Lieutenant and the
Cadet)

I recommend you let me take you
while you still have dignity.

The Lieutenant begins to sweat profusely.

He grabs Amanda's wrist holding the phaser unexpectedly, and
then twists Amanda's arm around.

AMANDA grunts in his grip and then knees the Lieutenant in
his gut.

He doubles over and Amanda straightens her shirt and reaches
over and gives him a Vulcan nerve pinch.

The Lieutenant falls to the floor.

Amanda looks over at the Cadet and then the OFFICERS.

AMANDA

(raising her eyebrows)

Anyone else?

COMMERCIAL BREAK

12 INT. U.S.S. PRIME - BRIDGE - DECK 1

12

Amanda and Venix walk off of the turbolift onto the upper
part of the bridge.

The doors to the turbolift SWOOSH shut behind them.

Amanda looks smug, as she now wears her security uniform.

On her hip is an issued phaser.

Venix looks quite annoyed with Amanda, and he runs his
tongue over his teeth to control himself for making a
remark.

Captain Thy'shaw turns around in his chair and notices
Amanda's attire.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW

(smiling)

It's nice to see your new uniform
Amanda! I was beginning to worry
that you had changed your mind
about doubling as a security
officer.

Amanda glances at Venix as they walk down the few steps onto
the lower part of the bridge.

AMANDA

(emotionless)

Oh, no Captain, I have not. I just
could not bring myself to mess up
my outfit, because I knew I had to
look nice for Venix.

Amanda and Venix turn and look at each other.

Venix narrows his eyes.

Captain Thy'shaw raises his eyebrows, but doesn't remark.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW

(clearing his throat)

So, are the Lieutenant and the
Cadet in the brig?

VENIX

Aye sir, they're on deck
thirty-nine in top security.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW

(claps his hands together)

Wonderful now-

The bridge is pitched into complete darkness interrupting
the Captain.

A dull red undertone lights the bridge.

A loud CHIRPING begins to sound and Thy'shaw jumps up from
his chair.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW

What's going on?

ANGLE ON - NALOW ZANTHR

leaning over his station and furiously tapping on his work
screens.

(CONTINUED)

NALOW ZANTHR

It seems the life support has been internally shut off on the bridge, Captain.

Captain Thy'shaw looks at Venix.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW

Get the life support belts.

Venix nods and walks over to open a hatch on the wall beside the turbolift.

He begins pulling out silver life support BELTS.

Captain Thy'shaw walks over and leans over Nalow's station.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW

How is this possible?

GAVINO

It is only out on the bridge, sir.

JAMILA LAWSON

All decks checked in, Captain.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW

(to Jamila)

Tell Lieutenant Commander Stanton to check the life support systems on deck ten.

JAMILA LAWSON

Aye, Captain.

Jamila Lawson presses on the earpiece in her ear and taps a few buttons on her station.

Venix walks over to Amanda and hands her a life support belt.

VENIX

Do you know how to put it on?

Amanda SCOFFS.

AMANDA

Do I?

Venix narrows his eyes at her and walks away to continue handing out the belts.

Amanda begins to fumble with putting on the belt.

(CONTINUED)

Venix turns around, noticing, and doubles back.

He sets the belts on the ground and takes the belt from Amanda's hands.

Amanda looks off to the side as Venix leans down and fastens the belt around her.

Instantly a yellow glow outlines her body.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
Commander Benovio, how is the
artificial gravity?

Venix hands the Captain a belt and he puts it on.

Captain Thy'shaw is now outlined in yellow.

BENOVIO
(checks his station and reads
off of the screen)
It is currently functioning
properly on all decks including the
bridge, Captain.

GAVINO
For now.

Nalow Zanthr now wears a belt, and so does Jamila Lawson.

Captain Thy'shaw walks over and sits back down in his command chair.

JAMILA LAWSON
Lieutenant Commander Stanton is in
the life support systems and wants
to communicate with the bridge.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
Put her on the view screen.

Now everyone on the bridge has a life support belt, and Venix is putting on his own.

Venix is soon outlined in a bright yellow light.

On the bridge's view screen Stanton appears in an orange work suit with pipes and screens in the background.

Stanton wipes her forehead with her arm.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
(to Stanton)
What's going on?

STANTON
We had a security breach, sir.

AMANDA
Did they get away?

STANTON
Aye, Ambassador. Someone in our engineering department only turned off the life-support on the bridge.

Nalow Zanthr gets up from his station and walks over to the middle of the bridge.

NALOW ZANTHR
Did they use their identity code?

STANTON
(sighs)
Yes, they did. That's how we know the perp was in the engineering department. However he distorted the last four characters of the code, making it impossible to determine who it is. We have the tech department working on it now.

CAPTAIN THY'SHAW
How long until the life support is fixed, Lieutenant Commander?

STANTON
(shrugs)
Forty minutes, give or take.

VENIX
Is there security video?

STANTON
It's been wiped clean.

BENOVIO
It was a team, then.

STANTON
(nods)
That is what we believe at the moment. These intruders are trying to overthrow the bridge.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA
(groans)
I know who they are.

VENIX
(turns to look at Amanda)
Seriously?! We just threw them in
the brig!

CUT IN:

13

INT. U.S.S. PRIME - DECK 39

13

Amanda and Venix walk into a room full of security and engineering OFFICERS.

Amanda and Venix have taken off their life support belts.

Amanda claps her hands slowly and LOUDLY.

All of the OFFICERS turn and look at her.

AMANDA
(loudly)
I told Venix you guys would not be
stupid enough to make your
headquarters the place where you
escaped from, but he would not
listen to me.

SECURITY OFFICER #1
The beasts are real, and they have
brainwashed you!

AMANDA
Is that how you guys really feel?
(pouts dramatically)
You guys are hurting my feelings!

VENIX
(yells)
I want all of my men back to work
now!

SECURITY OFFICER #2
We will not work under you,
Lieutenant, while you are still
under the influence of the beasts.
We came down here to take down the
beasts and you.

Venix crosses his arms and murmurs hotly under his breath.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

How do you feel about the beasts?

ENGINEERING OFFICER #1

We've already told you! We hate them! They are vile and awful!

AMANDA

How many people here have actually seen the beasts? With their own eyes?

The OFFICERS look to each other to see if anyone actually had.

No one raises their hands.

AMANDA

How do you even know if these so-called beasts exist?

Murmuring passes through the OFFICERS.

The Lieutenant wades through the crowd to meet Amanda and Venix.

Venix grabs the Lieutenant's arm.

VENIX

Where do you think you're going?

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT

(holds his hands up in
surrender)

Look, I just wanna talk!

Amanda frowns at the Lieutenant but turns to Venix.

AMANDA

Let him go.

Venix narrows his eyes at the Lieutenant but lets go of his arm.

The Lieutenant fixes his jacket.

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT

(nods to Venix)

Thank you.

(to Amanda)

Do you have proof the creatures don't exist and the Cadet was lying?

(CONTINUED)

The Cadet emerges from the crowd at the sound of his name.

CADET

(frantic, pointing at Amanda)
I am telling the truth, you were
there with me!

AMANDA

(emotionless)
I believe you, and I have proof
they do exist.

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT

So, the Cadet wasn't lying? You
were there?

VENIX

(shrugs)
Maybe we should just show you.

Amanda smirks and turns over her shoulder.

AMANDA

Kilomja!

The three members of the Cragen COUNCIL appear around the
corridor, and as soon as the OFFICERS lay their eyes on
them, havoc breaks out.

Angry outbursts come from the crew.

The Cadet points to Kilomja and laughs.

CADET

I'm not crazy! They are real!

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT

Close your eyes! The mind effects
are real, I can feel them working
on my brain right now!

All of the OFFICERS put their hands over their eyes while
still screaming and WAILING.

Amanda stifles a laugh.

Venix whips out his phaser and points it to the OFFICERS.

VENIX

(yells)
Attention, officers!

The OFFICERS ignore Venix and keep yelling.

(CONTINUED)

Amanda YANKS her phaser off of her belt holster and shoots the phaser at the Cadet.

The Cadet crumples to the floor in a heap.

The chaos stops and the OFFICERS, COUNCIL, and Venix turn and stare at Amanda.

AMANDA

It is on stun. He will be sufficient in a few hours.

No one moves or makes a sound.

All eyes are on Amanda.

AMANDA

(clears her throat)

Now that I have your attention...I should have really prepared a speech.

(pauses to put her phaser on her holster)

My people's first contact with Earth occurred on April 5th, 2063. Zefram Cochrane was the first Terran to see my people. What do you think he thought about it all? In his eyes, he was looking at the devil. And yet, he offered a handshake: a handshake that symbolized peace and welcoming. And yet you all stand before the Cragen-

(gestures to the COUNCIL standing behind her)

-and you reject them because they look different. Has our peoples not evolved into creatures that can look past the differences?

Amanda finishes and looks to Kilomja nervously. Kilomja nods and smiles at her.

ENGINEERING OFFICER #2

Do they, or do they not have mind capabilities?

KILOMJA

We have no mind-altering abilities.

(CONTINUED)

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT
(narrowing his eyes)
When do they leave?

VENIX
Tomorrow.

The OFFICERS look at each other in question then nod their heads in agreement.

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT
We will put up with them for that long if you promise not to court martial us.

AMANDA
(frustrated)
Did anyone hear a word I said?

CRAGEN #2
I thought your speech was beautiful, Ambassador Amanda.

AMANDA
(sighs, halfheartedly)
Thanks.

VENIX
(crosses his arms)
I won't court martial any of you, if you get back to work and make up all the hours that were lost.

ENGINEERING LIEUTENANT
(salutes)
Aye, Lieutenant.

The crowd of OFFICERS disperses back to their duties, while keeping a safe distance from the Cragen COUNCIL.

CLOSE UP - THE CADET

still laying crumpled on the ground, forgotten.

Venix looks smug as he walks over to Amanda.

Kilomja sighs.

KILOMJA
(smiling)
Thank you for sticking up for my race, you will be rewarded in your later lives.

(CONTINUED)

(bows)

We will retire to our rooms now.
See you in the morning, Ambassador.

Amanda smiles at the COUNCIL as they leave the room.

Venix smirks at Amanda.

VENIX

Nice speech, Ambassador.

AMANDA

Shut up, Venix. I feel humiliated.

VENIX

(points to the Cadet on the
ground)

Not as humiliated at that guy will
feel in the morning.

(pause; confused)

T'gai S'chn?

AMANDA

It is my father's family name. Most
other species cannot pronounce
Vulcan family names, so we do not
normally use them.

(beat)

Why did you really keep my
promotion from me? You knew I was
ready.

Venix furrows his eyebrows and looks down at the ground.

VENIX

(quietly)

I actually gives a rat's ass about
you.

AMANDA

(smiles softly)

Venix, I am willing to overlook
your vulgar language because I know
you were trying to say that I am
your friend, and you do not wish to
see me hurt.

Venix ROLLS his eyes and looks away.

Amanda walks up and puts her arms around Venix in a hug.

Venix's arms are still crossed, so the hug looks awkward on
his part.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

You are my friend too, Venix.

VENIX

(murmurs)

Oh joy, I cannot wait for even more adventures with you, filled with long speeches and scary aliens.

Amanda laughs and Venix breaks the hug, only to pull Amanda into a real one.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CUT IN:

14

INT. COUNSELOR HU'S OFFICE - DECK 12

14

Amanda and Counselor Hu sit across from each other in his office.

COUNSELOR HU

(smiling)

How do you think everything with the Cragens went?

AMANDA

(smirking)

There were some bumps along the road, but I think it all ended up alright.

COUNSELOR HU

The Cragen are a very understanding and accepting race.

AMANDA

(nods)

That they are.

COUNSELOR HU

Does it feel good to be accepted bias free for a change?

AMANDA

You do not have to be human to appreciate acceptance.

COUNSELOR HU

(beat)

I think having weekly sessions with me would be beneficial to you, Amanda.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

No offense to you, Commander, but I do not agree.

COUNSELOR HU

If you saw the change in you that I see from just the little bit of exposure to the Cragen, you would understand that you hardly knew yourself at all.

AMANDA

It is a Vulcan's job to explore one's self through meditation and thought.

COUNSELOR HU

Then why don't you?

AMANDA

(shifts uncomfortably)
Excuse me?

COUNSELOR HU

I know you don't meditate, Amanda.

AMANDA

That is a hefty accusation, Counselor.

COUNSELOR HU

But a true one. I am very surprised you can lie so well, Amanda. You have more human in you than either one of us thought.

AMANDA

(narrows her eyes)
What do you suggest I do, Counselor?

(beat)

I am unable to meditate because I cannot sense New Vulcan and call to her. I have no ties to the spiritual world at all. I hear nothing.

COUNSELOR HU

But why lie?

AMANDA

Because, people expect me to be Vulcan. The truth is, I do not wish to be Vulcan.

(CONTINUED)

COUNSELOR HU

Okay, so you want to be human?

AMANDA

(shakes her head)

No, of course not.

COUNSELOR HU

(softly)

Then what do you want to be?

AMANDA

Myself!

(beat)

I want to be Amanda. Not Spock, not Uhura, not Selek. I want to be me.

COUNSELOR HU

And how are you going to make that happen?

AMANDA

I was hoping you would tell me that, you seem to know me better than I know myself, after all.

COUNSELOR HU

I am not your guide, Amanda. I am only a microscope in your world. I help you see what you cannot, and process what you choose not to. I am no lighthouse.

(beat)

Find your light, and then you'll be able to find the others.

FADE OUT

END OF EPISODE 2