

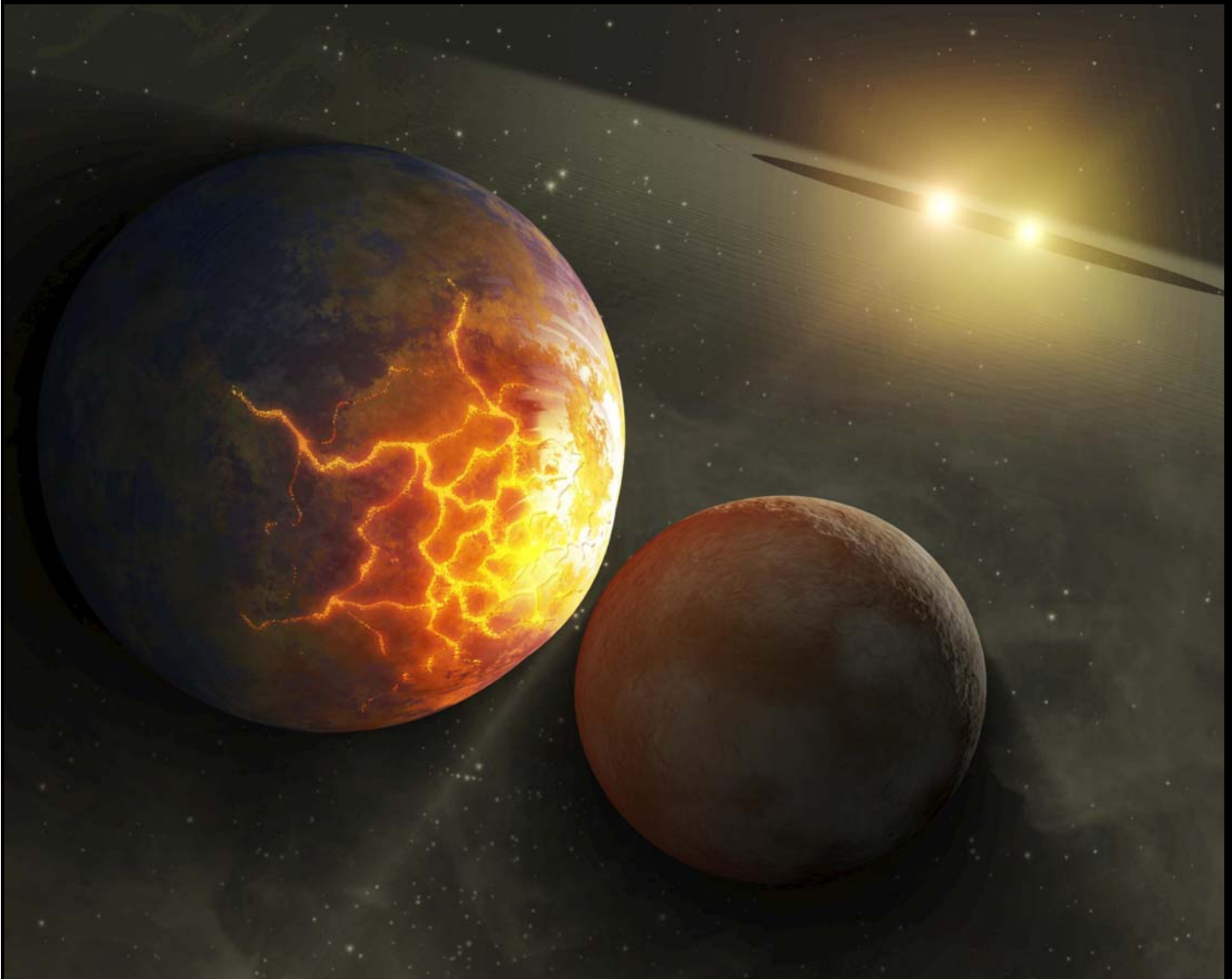
# THE WRIGHT STUFF



Vol XXI ♦ No 4

The Official Newsletter of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk ♦ NCC-1659

Jul / Aug 2010





# THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 21 - Number 4

is a publication of the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*, the Raleigh, N.C., chapter of STARFLEET, an international *STAR TREK* fan organization. This publication is provided free of charge to all chapter members in good standing. Subscriptions for non-members are \$12.00 per year (six issues). Please address all correspondence to CATBIRD Publications, 5017 Glen Forest Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27612. This publication is a non-profit enterprise and is not meant to infringe upon any copyright or trademark held by Paramount Pictures, Gulf & Western, or any other holder of *STAR TREK* copyrights or trademarks. Unless otherwise noted, ENTIRE CONTENTS ARE COPYRIGHT © 2010 CATBIRD Publications, THE WRIGHT STUFF. Nothing in whole or in part may be used without the written permission of the publisher. *THE WRIGHT STUFF* assumes all material submitted for publication is gratis. The publisher and editors reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Publisher ..... J.R. Fisher  
Editors ..... Jane Fisher  
John Troan



## CONTENTS

A VIEW FROM THE CATBIRD SEAT .....	3
J.R. Fisher	
ENLISTED AYE EYE .....	4
Babs Freeman	
FROM THE KITCHEN .....	4
Lynn Stone	
PULVERIZED PLANET DUST MAY LIE AROUND DOUBLE STARS .....	5
NASA/JPL	
VOYAGER - <i>NEW BEGINNING</i> .....	6
Brad McDonald	
UPCOMING EVENTS .....	10



**TOOL BOX:** Pentium IV-3.0GHz; HP LaserJet 1200 & DeskJet 722C; Lotus WordPro; Adobe Acrobat.

**IMAGES - Title Banner**

Wright Flyer from NASA/Ames PAO photo archive; *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* (USN CV-63) from [navicp.navy.mil](http://navicp.navy.mil); *Constitution* class cruiser from [gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk](http://gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk).

**IMAGE - Featured Front Page**

Artist's conception of an imminent planetary collision around a binary star; farther inward is dust from an earlier collision. (See page 5 for more details.) From NASA/JPL-Caltech.

---

# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

---



Here we are in August and the summer is almost done; although it sure does not feel like it. Looks like this will go down as the hottest summer on record. I guess it is a good thing we have not tried to schedule any outdoor activities this year. We would probably all be in the hospital with heatstroke.

It saddens me to report that Spring Brooks lost her mother on the third of July following complications from surgery. Spring has spent a great deal of time in Charleston with her dad and two sisters following her mother's passing. Jane and I attended her services and passed on the condolences of the crew. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Meg tells us that Shore Leave was just as great as always. I wish I could have gone. Maybe we can make it an away trip next year assuming that the economy is better and that we all can afford it. Dragon Con is coming up but the few people I know that had reservations have cancelled

them. Another disappointment in my book. We really need to schedule that for the crew.

Closer to home, we just finished NasFic here in Raleigh, but that is not the typical convention for a Star Trek fan. In fact, I only saw one person in a ST uniform. Of course, I only saw a few dozen costumes at all and I did not go to their masquerade. Those that I did see were mostly "Steam Punk", but they were good. In many ways this was a disappointing con in that it was not well attended by either the authors or the fans. They had a lot of space and no one to fill it. The staff was great and I did see some of my favorite people and caught up with them and what they have been doing. I will fill you in on them at our next meeting in September.

We received a number of awards last month but unfortunately the STARFLEET database has incorrect information in it and the awards need to be updated. We are working to get the corrections made through the command staff.

So far this new school year, we have done exceptionally well in getting school supplies for Ms. Poole's class. This past weekend was the tax free weekend in NC and while only a few people have brought by their donations, we have quite a bounty of goodies for her kids. It is amazing what the children are expected to have for school today.

Anyway, we hope that all of you have had a great summer and that the fall will bring everyone good health and prosperity. What was it Spock used to say, "Live long and prosper"?

You have the *Wright Stuff* and you continue to impress me with your generosity and hard work, sometimes under difficult personal circumstances. We may not win regional or national awards but each of you know that you have made a difference in the lives of many others. For that I am thankful and I offer each of you a "well done".

*Esse Quam Videri*

---

## Enlisted Aye, Aye

By Babs Freeman

---

Let's see if I can throw in some puns today. July 31<sup>st</sup> was my 35<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion. Of course, I took a few days off as I drove to New Jersey where I also spent some time with the family.

The trek up started pleasantly enough. I loaded my Subaru six CD player, hit Glenwood Avenue to I-85, and then merged onto I-95. I zoomed past Richmond, VA, without any incident and then hit a traffic jam that turned out to be about 8 miles long. Now as my Subaru is a standard trainy, the old clutch leg did get a bit tired but I was mostly okay for the first couple of miles while jamming to the B-52s. I used my communication device and called my brother to see if he could give me an update on the mess. Eventually, I passed the accident and started moving again.

Then I made it around D.C. and into another slow drive but less long so no biggie. A bit later, I got to Delaware and lo & behold, my Check Engine Light came on. As usual, I cursed under my breath, pulled into a rest stop to make a tweak, gritted my teeth, proceeded to north Jersey and the next day to a local garage which identified the problem as he had a cool computer diagnostic tool. He reset the reading and all went well.



On Sunday, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, I drove back to NC and again in Delaware my Check Engine Light came on. This, of course, resulted in more swearing as I still had a long way to go. Sure enough, I get near DC and hit another lengthy jam. I was hoping that the HOV lanes would be open to southbound traffic but noooo, at 3pm on a Sunday afternoon, they were set for the north bounders. Just my luck.

I finally made it back to I-85, one of the most boring roads to drive, and into Raleigh. The next day, I take the Subaru to the dealer who diagnoses the problem and orders the needed part. But here's the rub, my car has two plug-like things on top of my gas tank. About a year and a half ago, my technician diagnosed one as cracked, ordered the part and then while dismantling my car found out he ordered the wrong one. So naturally, this time it was that one that broke.

So how shall I close this epitome? I will be considering flying up there from now on but how I wish I could simply use a transporter for travel. Please don't put a bot fly on the pod with me and forgive me if this sounds like a rant.

---

## From the Kitchen

By Lynn Stone

---

Admiral Jacki West and the entire crew of the medical ship, The *USS Compassion*, were recently able to save all three million inhabitants of the planet Carlton from the Zendi plague. Upon returning to her ship, the Admiral decided to take over chef's duties and prepared a favorite dish for the crew. This dish is a family favorite that was shared on Earth with all her children every Christmas Day. Her children, now also traveling among the stars aboard their ships, along with all Carltonians, continue the tradition.

### The Admiral's Strata

- 1 container of spinach souffle, thawed (can substitute thawed, chopped spinach)
- 6 eggs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 dash nutmeg
- 4 slices of bread, cubed

Beat eggs, milk, salt, mustard and nutmeg in a bowl. Spread bread cubes in the bottom of a 9 x 13 pan.

Layer with cheese and spinach "dollops" to taste. Pour egg mixture over and refrigerate overnight.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

(Can also use whole wheat bread and lowfat milk.)



---

# Pulverized Planet Dust May Lie Around Double Stars

## By NASA/JPL

---

[The image on the front of this issue accompanied this press release from NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, CA.]

Tight double-star systems might not be the best places for life to spring up, according to a new study using data from NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope. The infrared observatory spotted a surprisingly large amount of dust around three mature, close-orbiting star pairs. Where did the dust come from? Astronomers say it might be the aftermath of tremendous planetary collisions.

"This is real-life science fiction," said Jeremy Drake of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, Mass. "Our data tell us that planets in these systems might not be so lucky -- collisions could be common. It's theoretically possible that habitable planets could exist around these types of stars, so if there happened to be any life there, it could be doomed."

Drake is the principal investigator of the research, published in the Aug. 19 issue of the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

The particular class of binary, or double, stars in the study are about as snug as stars get. Named RS Canum Venaticorum, or RS CVns for short, they are separated by only about two million miles (3.2 million kilometers), or two percent of the distance between Earth and our sun. The stellar pairs orbit around each other every few days, with one face on each star perpetually locked and pointed toward the other.

The close-knit stars are similar to the sun in size and are probably about a billion to a few billion years old -- roughly the age of our sun when life first evolved on Earth. But these stars spin much faster, and, as a result, have powerful magnetic fields, and giant, dark spots. The magnetic activity drives strong stellar winds -- gale-force versions of the solar wind -- that slow the stars down, pulling the twirling duos closer over time. And

this is where the planetary chaos may begin.

As the stars cozy up to each other, their gravitational influences change, and this could cause disturbances to planetary bodies orbiting around both stars. Comets and any planets that may exist in the systems would start jostling about and banging into each other, sometimes in powerful collisions. This includes planets that could theoretically be circling in the double stars' habitable zone, a region where temperatures would allow liquid water to exist. Though no habitable planets have been discovered around any stars beyond our sun at this point in time, tight double-star systems are known to host planets; for example, one system not in the study, called HW Vir, has two gas-giant planets.

"These kinds of systems paint a picture of the late stages in the lives of planetary systems," said Marc Kuchner, a co-author from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. "And it's a future that's messy and violent."

Spitzer spotted the infrared glow of hot dusty disks, about the temperature of molten lava, around three such tight binary systems. One of the systems was originally flagged as having a suspicious excess of infrared light in 1983 by the Infrared Astronomical Satellite. In addition, researchers using Spitzer recently found a warm disk of debris around another star that turned out to be a tight binary system.

The astronomy team says that dust normally would have dissipated and blown away from the stars by this mature stage in their lives. They conclude that something -- most likely planetary collisions -- must therefore be kicking up the fresh dust. In addition, because dusty disks have now been found around four, older binary systems, the scientists know that the observations are not a fluke. Something chaotic is very likely going on.

If any life forms did exist in these star systems, and they could look up at the sky, they would have quite a view. Marco Matanga, first author of the paper, from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and now a visiting astronomer at the Palermo Astronomical Observatory in Sicily, said, "The skies there would have two huge suns, like the ones above the planet Tatooine in *Star Wars*."

Other authors include V.L. Kashyap of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics; and Massimo Marengo of Iowa State University, Ames.

The Spitzer observations were made before it ran out of its liquid coolant in May 2009, officially beginning its warm mission.

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., manages the Spitzer Space Telescope mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington. Science operations are conducted at the Spitzer Science Center at the California Institute of Technology, also in Pasadena. Caltech manages JPL for NASA. For more information about Spitzer, visit <http://spitzer.caltech.edu> and <http://www.nasa.gov/spitzer>.

The Infrared Astronomical Satellite, known commonly by its acronym, IRAS, was a joint project between NASA, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

---

# VOYAGER - "New Beginning"

By Brad McDonald

---

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ARK (OPTICAL)

The two ships remain motionless.

INT. VOYAGER - MAIN BRIEFING ROOM

Action is continuous from Act Two. Janeway is sympathetic to their predicament and is beginning to believe their story.

JANEWAY

I'm willing to give you another chance. If you assure the safety of my people, we will assist you with your repairs.

Miller brightens a bit

MILLER

Thank you, so much.

VARA

If I may suggest, perhaps the Borg Seven should not be part of the repair party.

MORDAK

I concur. Given the fact that most of our crew would like to see her dead--

JANEWAY

Say no more. I agree. Chakotay, see to it. I'd like to continue this conversation for the time being.

(to Miller)

Is that all right with you?

MILLER

If you will allow Vara to return. As our chief engineer, it would be helpful if she could be

there to assist your people.

CHAKOTAY

It sounds reasonable. Why don't I escort Vara to the transporter room before I organize the repair party. That way she can get a head start on preparations.

NEW ANGLE

Janeway nods her approval. Chakotay and Vara move to exit. Chakotay waves off the N. D. security team and he exits with Vara. Janeway studies the others, then to the security team:

JANEWAY

Dismissed. Report to Mister Tuvok.

The two exit.

JANEWAY

We move the trust level up a step. Don't disappoint me.

MILLER

Believe me, we won't. And if any of my people disappoint me, I'll make them wish they hadn't.

JANEWAY

You said earlier that only Earth citizens who were off world survived. Is that how you managed to escape?

MILLER

Exactly. I was a Lieutenant on a starship, the Enterprise. It was heavily damaged and we abandoned it and activated the self destruct.

Janeway is visibly disappointed by the news.

JANEWAY

A shame, Picard was a fine Captain. And you? What happened?

MILLER

I made it to a starbase in a shuttle.

GELNA

There, we met and with others we continued the fight. Our combined forces withdrew to make new stands. The scientific community worked continually to develop new weapons. In the last few months, we made significant progress.

MORDAK

The efforts paid off, we had two pieces of technology to use. One was a modification of the Borg wormhole generator, the other was a special torpedo. With them, we could appear anywhere, launch a torpedo and damage or destroy a Borg ship.

JANEWAY

Then why-- ?

MILLER

(interrupting)

Why weren't we successful? A case of too little too late. We were barely hanging on. The last pocket of resistance consisted of several ships from various governments. In the end, we had to cannibalize parts from what was available. That's

why our ship is such a mix of technologies.

GELNA

Our repairs are made quickly, but not always up to specs. But... usually it works.

JANEWAY

So you got here, but had a problem as soon as you arrived.

MORDAK

Actually, we've been here for some time. You're just the first to answer our call.

JANEWAY

Considering how little life there is in this sector, and that you happened to arrive near a magnetar, it's a wonder you were found at all.

MILLER

Captain. We need each other. I need your help with our engines and other systems. We can help you with the Borg. We need each other to start a new life in this space.

Janeway contemplates what she's heard.

CUT TO:

INT. ARK - ENGINEERING

The rescue party is busy at several locations. Present are Torres, Paris, Kim, and three N. D. TECNICIANS. All around are N. D. Ark Crew Members and Vara.

TORRES

This place is a mess. No wonder they have problems. It's going to take days just to sort it all out.

KIM

Where do we start?

Torres looks around for a moment, overwhelmed.

TORRES

Tom, take one of our people and start on the main reaction chamber. Harry, you start on the engines, do a series of diagnostics. I'm going to give the main control panels a going over.

VARA

What should I do?

Torres is annoyed by the Ark personnel, still angry about the earlier attack and the poor condition of the engineering section.

TORRES

Stay out of the way. Watch and learn. If you really want to help, start by cleaning the place up.

Vara is offended and becomes resentful of Torres.

VARA

We have had little time for such luxuries. In the last three months, there hasn't been time to even bury the dead. What makes you so good?

TORRES

Since we've entered this quadrant, we haven't had any support from anyone. Yet we have managed to keep a starship in prime shape. Start by putting your house in order. Then we can sort this mess out and get on to more important matters. Or would you rather we leave and let you do it yourself?

VARA

Very well. For now, I'll follow your directions. But if I don't see progress soon...

Vara leaves the thought unfinished to the implied threat Torres doesn't take very well.

TORRES

What? You're going to call for someone else?

Torres storms off to work, leaving a fuming Vara.

VOYAGER - CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Janeway is sitting on the couch with Chakotay, both are relaxed and chatting informally.

CHAKOTAY

So, what did I miss?

JANEWAY

Not a lot. Miller explained why none of his people wear uniforms or traditional clothing. Seems it's their way of putting the past behind them, permanently. It's the first step in staring from scratch.

CHAKOTAY

Anything else?

She indicates a data padd.

JANEWAY

It's a run down on their crew. Two hundred and fifty two people. Various cultures, but no Vulcans, Ferengi or Klingons. And there are only four former Starfleet people. Two are administrative types, a first year cadet and, of course Miller, from the Enterprise.

CHAKOTAY

Any other humans?

JANEWAY

A few specialists and scientists.

Chakotay picks up the data padd and scans it briefly.

CHAKOTAY

If we can believe this, it would appear that I am the last of my people.

He scans a bit further, then puts the data padd back.

CHAKOTAY

(continuing)

Any thoughts on what we do next?

JANEWAY

This is a difficult situation. I don't want to believe them, but their stories are strangely compelling and believable. But I do have a few questions.

CHAKOTAY

Like why Seven never 'felt' the Borg invasion? And how did they get here with damaged engines?

JANEWAY

Correct. I'd also like to know why they are so hostile towards Seven.

Chakotay is about to speak when she continues.

JANEWAY

(continuing)

I know what you're going to say. After what they've been through, it's understandable. But not when we've explained that she's no longer a threat and that she may be the best qualified to assist them with their repairs.

CHAKOTAY

Maybe it's simple paranoia.

JANEWAY

What did B'Elanna find out about their weapons?

CHAKOTAY

Nothing worth mentioning. All the weapons were typical, consistent with our level of technology and methods of manufacturing. Very similar to what Tuvok found with his scans on their ship.

JANEWAY

Quite a ship. Mixed technologies and systems. I would have bet it would never work.

CHAKOTAY

Same way with the crew. All those hostile races working together.

JANEWAY

But not smoothly. Temporary leaders and two of the senior staff violating Miller's orders regarding weapons.

The two remain quiet for a moment, then:

CHAKOTAY

Suppose they are right, where does that leave us?

JANEWAY

I'm not sure. Something still makes we want to return home, no matter what they say.

CHAKOTAY

Want to see for yourself?

JANEWAY

Something like that. It's just difficult to believe. Let's try some other avenues of investigation.

Since Seven isn't busy, have her review Borg tactics and history. Perhaps she and Tuvok can

simulate the Alpha Quadrant scenario. Is it possible to over run an entire quadrant it in under four years?

CHAKOTAY

I'd like a close look at their data base. Maybe the repair party can tap their main computers and review recent history.

JANEWAY

Good thinking. Once their engines are repaired, they'll want to move on. At that point, we'll have to decide to either continue on or find a nice local world and settle down.

Chakotay looks uncomfortable and Janeway picks up on it.

JANEWAY

Something else?

CHAKOTAY

I don't mean to sound prejudicial but would we want them as our neighbors?

JANEWAY

You don't like them?

CHAKOTAY

Not exactly. I'm just not comfortable with them.

JANEWAY

You have a problem with who they are or what they represent?

CHAKOTAY

A little of both. The cooperative spirit seems... superficial. I think if you look hard enough, the old hates are still there, just pushed aside for convenience sake. Now that their main crisis is over, they may surface again.

Chakotay rises.



CHAKOTAY

I'll contact Harry and get him started on looking for computer records to confirm their story.

Janeway rises also, but slowly.

JANEWAY

I'll take care of briefing Seven and Tuvok. Get an update on the repair time while you're at it. I'd like to know how long we have before we need a decision.

Chakotay moves to exit.

CHAKOTAY

I'm on it. I'll keep you posted

He exits, leaving Janeway deep in thought and tired.

SPACE - ARK AND VOYAGER

The ships are motionless in space, Voyager is visible in the B. G.

ARK - ENGINEERING

There a number of Ark N. D. Crew Members working to clear the decks under Vara's supervision. Kim is working by himself when his comm badge sounds and he taps it.

KIM

Kim here.

CHAKOTAY'S VOICE

How's it going, Harry?

KIM

Slow. We found problems in every system. B'Elaana has us in teams working different areas. I'd say we have another several hours of work, minimum. But maybe you should check with her.

VOYAGER - BRIDGE - ON CHAKOTAY

CHAKOTAY

Don't worry, I will. Harry, are you alone?

KIM'S VOICE

Yes Sir.

CHAKOTAY

I have a special assignment for you. See if you can gain access to their main computers and retrieve as much as you can about recent history and the Borg invasion. And Harry, don't get caught. Understood?

ENGINEERING - ON KIM

KIM

Understood Sir.

Kim looks around to be sure no one has overheard or is watching him. Then he collects his tools and heads off towards a Jeffries Tube and goes inside.

JEFFRIES TUBE - ON KIM

Kim maneuvers to a position where he finds an engineering data port. He activates the terminal and begins scanning the data, recording it all with his tricorder. He is just about to finish when Vara suddenly appears and grabs him.

VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Janeway is at the conn, reviewing a data padd when the comm board sounds.

TUVOK

Incoming communication from the Ark, it's Mister Miller. He insists on speaking to you, now.

Janeway tenses just a bit and nods her approval.

ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER

Miller is angry and very animated.

MILLER

Captain. Your idea of trust and cooperation is very unique. You require my people to conform to your standard of ethics, but you don't require it of your own people.

JANEWAY

I'm not sure I follow.

MILLER

Don't play innocent with me. We caught your man tampering with our computers.

He nods and from O. C., Vara drags a reluctant and embarrassed Kim into view.

MILLER

(continuing)

You have jeopardized our relation. As of now, all deals are off and your people are now in the brig. Until I resolve this, consider yourself and the Voyager warned. Any attempts to retake your people will be met with harshly.

The screen goes blank. Janeway is deeply concerned for Harry and the rest of her people.

Off her reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

---

## Upcoming Events

---

Sep	4	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet
Oct	2	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet
	9	Articles for next <i>Wright Stuff</i> due

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS**

---

***THE WRIGHT STUFF***  
**U.S.S. KITTY HAWK**  
**5017 Glen Forest Dr.**  
**RALEIGH NC 27612**