

# THE WRIGHT STUFF



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# THE WRIGHT STUFF

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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**

A true-color mosaic of Jupiter seen by *Cassini* on Dec 29, 2000. From NASA/JPL/Space Science Institute.

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# A View From the Catbird Seat

By J.R. Fisher

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Wow! Twenty-one years ago a group of us met at my house and became the *Shuttle Kitty*

*Hawk*, launched by Sue Hampton and the *U.S.S. Bonaventure*: December 17th, 1989. A lot has happened since then: 252 monthly reports and 126 of these newsletters. These stick in my mind because of their frequency.

What a year this has been! With all the help we have given Ms. Poole's children, we have made a huge difference in the lives of so many people. There are kids that will be warm, fit in better with their peers and have a chance of actually achieving the American Dream. That is something! Really, think about it.

How many of you have gone to bed hungry or worn summer clothes in the winter because that is all you had? Have you had to wear your father's boots because you outgrew your shoes and there was no money for new ones that would fit? Did you ever not do your schoolwork because you did not have the tools to be able to do the assignment? Can you imagine how not having these things would affect your self-esteem? How would you react if this was your situation in a foreign country where you

were made to feel "not welcome" and did not speak the language?

Thanks to your generosity, a few of these children will know something better this year. And not just them, but other members of their families have benefited from your giving as well. Clothes that did not fit the children in her classes were given to their family members who could wear them. The toiletries and other items that we use every day and take for granted, are special to them and you have made them a part of their daily routine as well. The school supplies you have provided are enabling them to learn and use their minds rather than step into the trap of gangs. They see a better life; a better way; a future.

I wish everyone could have been at our dinner this year. As always, the food and show were wonderful and the company was superb. I truly hope that we will all take the community service experience we have generated on our ship into all aspects of our lives and spread it to others. These are difficult times and they may get worse. We will all survive and flourish if we work together. You may not have all that you want, but if you share what you have, you will gain more than you give away. You may not personally ever know who you

have helped and they may never know it was you that helped them. But be assured that you are being thanked in the blessings and prayers of these kids and their families.

So this year, when you sit down with your family and give thanks for the many blessings that you enjoy, give a special thanks to the men and women of our armed forces, both here and abroad, for providing us with the freedom to have these opportunities. And I will say a special "thank you" to you and all the crew of the *Kitty Hawk* that have preceded you, for making a difference in the lives of so many people, especially ones you do not know; for setting an example to all around us; for gaining the respect of the communities that we serve and for working to bring the *Star Trek* dream alive. Thank you for making me proud to have been your captain for 21 years. You really do have the *Wright Stuff*. Please keep the dream alive.

*Esse Quam Videri  
(To Be Rather Than to Seem)*

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# Science Report

## By Elaine Pischke

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As we suffer through (or enjoy, depending on your proclivities) these icy cold days of early December, it might cross your mind to wonder how we can be worried about global warming when the country seems to be sinking into a deep freeze. According to the EPA, "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as evidenced by increases in: Global average air and ocean temperatures; Widespread melting of snow and ice; Rising global average sea level. Global surface temperatures have risen by 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit over the last 100 years. Eight of the 10 warmest years on record have occurred since 2001." So, what are the consequences? Besides higher energy usage and costs, flooding, increases in tropical diseases and insect populations, draughts, loss of habitat for many plants and animals leading to extinction, loss of valuable beach-front property as well as whole islands, there is also the possibility that changes in ocean currents due to glacial melting could lead to more massive changes in climate, including the possibility of another little ice age. According to scientists at NASA, "The thawing of sea ice covering the Arctic could disturb or even halt large currents in the Atlantic Ocean. Without the vast heat that these ocean currents deliver -- comparable to the power generation of a million nuclear power plants -- Europe's average temperature would likely drop 5 to 10°C (9 to 18°F), and parts of eastern North America would be chilled somewhat less. Such a dip in temperature would be similar to global average temperatures toward the end of the last ice age roughly 20,000 years ago." Brrrrrr!



What about the supposed 'disagreement' among scientists about the causes of climate change? "A survey study of several thousand leading scientists conducted by the University of Illinois found that **82%** believe that human activity has been a significant factor in changing mean global temperatures. Climatologists who are active in research showed the strongest consensus on the causes of global warming, with 97 percent agreeing humans play a role. Petroleum geologists and meteorologists were among the biggest doubters, with only 47 and 64 percent, respectively, believing in human involvement. Many listed in the minority report are meteorologists and petroleum geologists.

The survey study concluded that, "The more you know about the field of climate science, the more you're likely to believe in global warming and humankind's

contribution to it." The study also concluded that "the debate on the authenticity of global warming and the role played by human activity is largely nonexistent among those who understand the nuances and scientific basis of long-term climate processes."

So, at this time of year, what we really want to know is, will climate change make it more or less likely that we'll have a white Christmas here in the Southeast? According to an article in Time last winter, "hotter air can hold more moisture, so when a storm gathers it can unleash massive amounts of snow." (Colder air tends to be dryer.) This seems to be happening, particularly over the Great Lakes, Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions of the U.S. over the past couple of years.

Better buy some boots and a snow shovel. Happy Holidays!

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## Enlisted Aye, Aye

By Babs Freeman

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As I ponder what I have left to do for the 25<sup>th</sup> and grateful it ain't much, I remember a day I was on duty in the Navy while stationed on a ship based in Gaeta, Italy. One of the duties was to go to the ship's message center and pick up any messages. Now for you non-veteran types, military messages aren't little written notes on scraps of paper but are electronically sent official messages sometimes bearing a classification. The unclassified message that stands out in my mind came from ComNav... Something or other (insert long military command acronym)



and went something like this on X-mas:

“All hands be on the lookout for a flying vessel that we are tracking. We have a visual description that it appears to be a sleigh pulled by eight deer-like animals with a bearded man steering them in our direction. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.”

The message tickled my funny bone and has stayed in my memory. A few years ago, I

was advised of the NORAD Santa tracker that can be found on the internet starting X-mas eve and I have had fun with that. If the military and NORAD recognize Santa, I wonder what Vulcans, Klingons, Deltans, etc., would make of the whole phenomenon.

Anyway, to keep this short, Merry Christmas, Buon Natale, Joyeux Noel, Feliz Navidad, and “Mali Kali Kimala.” See ya next year!

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## From the Kitchen

By Lynn Stone

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In this Holy Time, the chefs, throughout all of Star Fleet feel it important to remember our troops in a very special way. There are two web sites we would like for you to see and enjoy. The first is a rousing performance by Kiss in Iraq on Earth. The second is a chance to e-mail a "Thank You" card to someone in service there. You can pick out a card and a message. It will be printed and sent to a soldier. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services. It's free and it only takes a minute. Enjoy the performance and feel free to thank those for their service. May the blessings of the Season shower each of us with joy and renew our faith and commitment to others.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=5MtdIO23MKM](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=5MtdIO23MKM)

<http://www.LetsSayThanks.com>

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# Cassini Celebrates 10 Years Since Jupiter Encounter

By NASA / JPL

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[This is the JPL press release which, in part, contained this month's cover photo, details for which follow.]

Ten years ago, on Dec. 30, 2000, NASA's *Cassini* spacecraft made its closest approach to Jupiter on its way to orbiting Saturn. The main purpose was to use the gravity of the largest planet in our solar system to slingshot *Cassini* towards Saturn, its ultimate destination. But the encounter with Jupiter, Saturn's gas-giant big brother, also gave the *Cassini* project a perfect lab for testing its instruments and evaluating its operations plans for its tour of the ringed planet, which began in 2004.

"The Jupiter flyby allowed the *Cassini* spacecraft to stretch its wings, rehearsing for its prime time show, orbiting Saturn," said Linda Spilker, *Cassini* project scientist based at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "Ten years later, findings from the Jupiter flyby still continue to shape our understanding of similar processes in the Saturn system."

*Cassini* spent about six months - from October 2000 to March 2001 - exploring the Jupiter system. The closest approach brought *Cassini* to within about 9.7 million kilometers (6 million miles) of Jupiter's cloud tops at 2:05 a.m. Pacific Time, or 10:05 a.m. UTC, on Dec. 30, 2000.

*Cassini* captured some 26,000 images of Jupiter and its moons over six months of continual viewing, creating the

most detailed global portrait of Jupiter yet.

While *Cassini's* images of Jupiter did not have higher resolution than the best from NASA's *Voyager* mission during its two 1979 flybys, *Cassini's* cameras had a wider color spectrum than those aboard *Voyager*, capturing wavelengths of radiation that could probe different heights in Jupiter's atmosphere. The images enabled scientists to watch convective lightning storms evolve over time and helped them understand the heights and composition of these storms and the many clouds, hazes and other types of storms that blanket Jupiter.

The *Cassini* images also revealed a never-before-seen large, dark oval around 60 degrees north latitude that rivaled Jupiter's Great Red Spot in size. Like the Great Red Spot, the large oval was a giant storm on Jupiter. But, unlike the Great Red Spot, which has been stable for hundreds of years, the large oval showed itself to be quite transient, growing, moving sideways, developing a bright inner core, rotating and thinning over six months. The oval was at high altitude and high latitude, so scientists think the oval may have been associated with Jupiter's powerful auroras.

The imaging team was also able to amass 70-day movies of storms forming, merging and moving near Jupiter's north pole. They showed how larger storms gained energy from swallowing smaller storms, the way big fish eat small fish. The movies also

showed how the ordered flow of the eastward and westward jet streams in low latitudes gives way to a more disordered flow at high latitudes.

Meanwhile, *Cassini's* composite infrared spectrometer was able to do the first thorough mapping of Jupiter's temperature and atmospheric composition. The temperature maps enabled winds to be determined above the cloud tops, so scientists no longer had to rely on tracking features to measure winds. The spectrometer data showed the unexpected presence of an intense equatorial eastward jet (roughly 140 meters per second, or 310 mph) high in the stratosphere, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) above the visible clouds. Data from this instrument also led to the highest-resolution map so far of acetylene on Jupiter and the first detection of organic methyl radical and diacetylene in the auroral hot spots near Jupiter's north and south poles. These molecules are important to understanding the chemical interactions between sunlight and molecules in Jupiter's stratosphere.

As *Cassini* approached Jupiter, its radio and plasma wave instrument also recorded naturally occurring chirps created by electrons coming from a cosmic sonic boom. The boom occurs when supersonic solar wind - charged particles that fly off the sun - is slowed and deflected around the magnetic bubble surrounding Jupiter.

Because *Cassini* arrived at Jupiter while NASA's *Galileo*

spacecraft was still orbiting the planet, scientists were also able to take advantage of near-simultaneous measurements from two different spacecraft. This coincidence enabled scientists to make giant strides in understanding the interaction of the solar wind with Jupiter. *Cassini* and *Galileo* provided the first two-point measurement of the boundary of Jupiter's magnetic bubble and showed that it was in the act of contracting as a region of higher solar wind pressure blew on it.

"The Jupiter flyby benefited us in two ways, one being the unique science data we collected and the other the knowledge we gained about how to effectively operate this complex machine," said Bob Mitchell, *Cassini* program manager based at JPL. "Today, 10 years later, our operations are still heavily influenced by that experience and it is serving us very well."

In celebrating the anniversary of *Cassini's* visit 10 years ago, scientists are also excited about the upcoming and proposed missions to the Jupiter system, including NASA's *Juno* spacecraft, to be launched next August, and the Europa Jupiter System Mission, which has been given a priority by NASA.

The *Cassini-Huygens* mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. JPL, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, Calif., manages the mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington, D.C. The *Cassini* orbiter and its two onboard cameras were designed, developed and assembled at JPL. The imaging team is based at the Space

Science Institute in Boulder, Colo. The composite infrared spectrometer team is based at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md., where the instrument was built. The radio and plasma wave science team is based at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, where the instrument was built.

### ***Cassini Jupiter Portrait***

This true color mosaic of Jupiter was constructed from images taken by the narrow angle camera onboard NASA's *Cassini* spacecraft on December 29, 2000, during its closest approach to the giant planet at a distance of approximately 10 million kilometers (6.2 million miles).

It is the most detailed global color portrait of Jupiter ever produced; the smallest visible features are approximately 60 kilometers (37 miles) across. The mosaic is composed of 27 images: nine images were required to cover the entire planet in a tic-tac-toe pattern, and each of those locations was imaged in red, green, and blue to provide true color. Although *Cassini's* camera can see more colors than humans can, Jupiter's colors in this new view look very close to the way the human eye would see them.

Everything visible on the planet is a cloud. The parallel reddish-brown and white bands, the white ovals, and the large Great Red Spot persist over many years despite the intense turbulence visible in the atmosphere. The most energetic features are the small, bright clouds to the left of the Great Red Spot and in similar locations in the northern half of the planet. These clouds grow and

disappear over a few days and generate lightning. Streaks form as clouds are sheared apart by Jupiter's intense jet streams that run parallel to the colored bands. The prominent dark band in the northern half of the planet is the location of Jupiter's fastest jet stream, with eastward winds of 480 kilometers (300 miles) per hour. Jupiter's diameter is eleven times that of Earth, so the smallest storms on this mosaic are comparable in size to the largest hurricanes on Earth.

Unlike Earth, where only water condenses to form clouds, Jupiter's clouds are made of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and water. The updrafts and down drafts bring different mixtures of these substances up from below, leading to clouds at different heights. The brown and orange colors may be due to trace chemicals dredged up from deeper levels of the atmosphere, or they may be byproducts of chemical reactions driven by ultraviolet light from the Sun. Bluish areas, such as the small features just north and south of the equator, are areas of reduced cloud cover, where one can see deeper.

For more information, see the *Cassini* Project home page, <http://www.nasa.gov/cassini> and the *Cassini* imaging team home page, <http://ciclops.org>. The imaging team is based at the Space Science Institute, Boulder, Colorado.

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# **VOYAGER - "New Beginning"**

**By Brad McDonald**

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## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

SPACE - VOYAGER AND ARK

The two ships remain motionless next to each other.

VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Janeway enters, tapping her comm badge

JANEWAY

Chakotay, I'm cutting your survey mission short. We've got a problem with the Ark. Be sure everyone gets back quickly.

EXT. NEW WORLD - ON CHAKOTAY

CHAKOTAY

What happened?

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Miller has just informed me that they plan to stay, regardless of our discovery and the prime directive.

CHAKOTAY

I'll begin immediately. It would be a real shame to disrupt this culture.

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Remind you of home?

CHAKOTAY

Just a bit. Chakotay out.

VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Tuvok and Janeway are standing together at Tuvok's console

JANEWAY

If they make a move, it'll be soon.

TUVOK

A preemptive strike?

JANEWAY

Exactly. Keep a close watch on them while we retrieve our people. As soon as they're back, raise the shields.

TUVOK

Shall I ready phasers and torpedoes?

JANEWAY

Not yet. I don't want to force their hand, I just don't want to make it easy for them.

She taps her comm badge.

JANEWAY

B'Elaana? Have you finished reviewing your repair records?

ENGINEERING - ON TORRES

TORRES

Two points. Their power transfer coils are primitive, an old Klingon design. Also, the main reaction chamber has a temporary fix. If they carry out extensive maneuvers, it won't hold. I told them about it, but I doubt they've had time to do anything about it.

JANEWAY'S VOICE

Are we talking about a warp core breach?

TORRES

The power transfer coils will go before then, but if the systems are over taxed too long... it'll go up like a supernova.

AS BEFORE - BRIDGE

JANEWAY

Understood engineer, Janeway out.

PARIS

Captain, all teams are aboard. Commander Chakotay is en route to the bridge with Harry.

TUVOK

Shields are up, we're ready for them. Captain, incoming message. It's Mordak.

Janeway nods in recognition.

JANEWAY

Either a coup or Miller's turn as their leader was over.

PARIS

I'd say a coup, old habits die hard.

JANEWAY

On screen, Tuvok.

NEW ANGLE - ON MAIN VIEWER

We see Mordak with Vara to one side. Chakotay and Kim enter.

MORDAK

Captain, you've raised your shields. Are you expecting trouble?



JANEWAY

Always expect the unexpected. I don't like surprises. Speaking of surprises, where's Miller?

MORDAK

He's no longer in command.

PARIS  
(to self)

Or alive I'll bet.

Mordak picks up on Paris' comment, but ignores it.

JANEWAY

What do you want?

MORDAK

Why your friendship and assistance, of course. We must continue the repairs and begin colonization.

JANEWAY

Surely you know that's not possible.

MORDAK

I thought since you had time to consider the consequences, you might decide otherwise.

JANEWAY

Not a chance.

MORDAK

Miller did tell you about the new type of torpedo, didn't he?

JANEWAY

He did. No sale.

MORDAK

Maybe I'll 'give' you one.

Janeway nods to Paris.

JANEWAY

You may try. Janeway out.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ARK

Ark launches a very large and bright torpedo at Voyager at point blank range. Voyager jumps into warp drive and the torpedo passes through Voyager's previous position.

INT. VOYAGER - BRIDGE

TUVOK

Just as you anticipated Captain.

JANEWAY

Red alert! Arm all weapons, Tuvok. Nice work, Tom.

CHAKOTAY

I'm going to skip the next away mission. I miss entirely too much when I'm away from the bridge.

JANEWAY

Tom, let them chase us. All we have to do is stay out of their way and make them expend energy.

PARIS

Sounds like fun.

Janeway gets up and stands next to Chakotay, speaking quietly to him.

JANEWAY

I've been doing some thinking since I've had a bit of rest. A few things are bothering me.

CHAKOTAY

Like their crew not operating as a friendly cooperative force?

JANEWAY

Yes. They would have put aside those differences to survive. And the feeling that Mordak was always in charge, not Miller.

CHAKOTAY

Miller was a human, meant to appeal to you. A lot easier to deal with.

JANEWAY

A good actor and a pretty smooth salesman too.

Tuvok is busy in the B.G.

TUVOK

Another torpedo! Port side, aft

PARIS

Already adjusting course.

JANEWAY

Tactical!

ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER

We see the relative positions of the two ships and a torpedo 'track'.

CHAKOTAY

Evasive! Come to two six five.

JANEWAY

Increase speed. Let's tax their engines as much as possible. Go to warp two.

BRIDGE - AS BEFORE

CHAKOTAY

You have a plan?

JANEWAY

B'Elaana said their ship couldn't handle much of a strain on the engines and their energy controls are only marginally efficient.

CHAKOTAY

Let's give them a real challenge and head towards the magnetar.

JANEWAY

I like it. Tom, give us a new heading. As close to the magnetar as possible. Harry, monitor the magnetar's pulsations and magnetic field fluctuations.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND MAGNETAR

JANEWAY

Harry? How close can we get?

KIM

Recommend altering course in thirty seconds.

JANEWAY

Make it longer. I want them to get a maximum exposure.

CHAKOTAY

Won't you be cutting it a bit close for us?

JANEWAY

I want their shields to collapse or their power outputs to overload. Then we can put them in tow. At that point, I'd like B'Elaana to take a closer look at their jump drive.

Chakotay nods in understanding

CHAKOTAY

And their torpedoes?

JANEWAY

We'll pick up one of the unexploded ones in space later.

TUVOK

I'm afraid not, Captain. They are fitted with a self-destruct device. It's set for the end of the run. If it fails to strike a target, it destroys itself.

Janeway is a bit disappointed.

JANEWAY

Tuvok? Is their ship showing signs of stress yet?

TUVOK

Affirmative. Shields weakening.

CHAKOTAY

Prepare the tractor beam. We may need to extend our shields as well, be ready.

TUVOK, PARIS & KIM

Aye, Sir.

KIM

Magnetar's fields are beginning to affect us. We need to alter course.

JANEWAY

Just a bit longer.

TUVOK

Their shields are down.

CHAKOTAY

Tractor beam now! Extend shields.

JANEWAY

Tom! Veer off! Maximum safe speed.

PARIS

It's going to be a rough ride.

The ship begins to shudder and lighting blinks.

KIM

Effects of the Magnetar. We should clear it soon.

The shudders become stronger and the lights fail temporarily.

JANEWAY

Chakotay, prepare a boarding party. Take B'Elaana, Seven, the Doctor. Tuvok, we need a security team too. Make it quick. Once you've gained access to the computers, download as much as possible and get back quick.

CHAKOTAY

Understood.

He nods to Tuvok and they exit. An N.D. CREW PERSON relieves Tuvok.

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER AND ARK

The Ark is under tow by Voyager, damage on the Ark is evident, but not severe.

ARK - ENGINEERING

The away team materializes among much damage and many injured. The Doctor begins to treat the injured while the others get to work.

TORRES

We've got a problem. The damage is worse than we thought. Better make it quick. The jump drive unit is in the next

compartment. Seven,  
you come with me.

CHAKOTAY

Take a security team  
with you. I'll begin the  
download.

DOCTOR

Many of these people  
are suffering from  
radiation exposure. We  
can't remain here much  
longer ourselves.

Torres and Chakotay look at  
each other and set off to work.

VOYAGER - BRIDGE

KIM

Captain. The magnetar's  
building up a rather  
strong magnetic pulse.

She jumps out of her seat and  
heads towards his console.

JANEWAY

How bad?

KIM

Very large. We won't  
survive it, unless we get  
far away, fast.

She moves back to Paris' post

JANEWAY

Tom, increase speed.  
Get us out of here.

PARIS

Aye Sir. Increasing to  
warp four.

Janeway sits back at her  
command chair and activates  
her own readout.

JANEWAY

We're starting to stress  
our own systems now.

(tapping comm badge)

Chakotay? How's it  
coming?

Chakotay's communication is  
full of static and barely audible.

CHAKOTAY'S VOICE

Slow going. Just a few  
moments of exposure to  
the Magnetar's effect did  
considerable damage.  
Their crew is in pretty  
bad shape too.

JANEWAY

I can barely read you.

KIM

It's that large wave.  
Beginning to expand,  
now. Captain, we're  
going to have problems  
with transporters.  
Suggest we get our team  
back, just in case.

JANEWAY

Did you hear that Commander?

ARK - ENGINEERING - ON  
CHAKOTAY

CHAKOTAY

Barely, but we're on the  
way. Chakotay out.

He heads towards the other  
compartment.

CHAKOTAY

Doctor, be prepared to  
leave. Get the casualties  
ready for transport.

Just as he's about to call for  
Torres, the ship is hit hard,  
knocking all Voyager people to  
the deck.

VOYAGER - BRIDGE

The bridge crew is recovering  
from the same impact Janeway  
recovers and turns to Kim.

JANEWAY

Was that the wave you  
were tracking?

KIM

No. That was just a little  
one. The big one is right  
behind it.

She gets a determined look and  
taps her comm badge

JANEWAY

Chakotay, report.

All we hear is static and she is  
worried. She retaps it.

JANEWAY

Transporter room.  
Emergency transport,  
now!

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER,  
ARK AND MAGNETAR WAVE

The magnetar's massive wave  
is bearing down on the two  
ships.

VOYAGER - BRIDGE

JANEWAY

Tom, can you manage  
any more speed?

PARIS

Not without damaging  
our systems

JANEWAY

Time to impact?

KIM

Fifteen seconds.  
Transporter room  
confirms away team  
aboard.

Janeway looks determined and  
then:

JANEWAY

Discontinue tow and  
retract shields. Maximum  
warp, now!

EXT. SPACE - VOYAGER,  
ARK AND MAGNETAR WAVE

The tractor beam and shields drop, letting the Ark fall behind. Voyager leaps ahead just as the wave smashes into the Ark, destroying it. Voyager escapes by seconds.

VOYAGER - BRIDGE

Everyone is relieved but still shaken by the close call.

JANEWAY

Everybody all right?

They all nod in agreement

KIM

Transport control reports away team received minor injuries only.

JANEWAY

I'm going to check on them, Tom, you have the Conn.

She gets up to exit.

SICKBAY

As Janeway enters, we see the away team in various stages of treatment, but no injuries are serious. Even the Doctor seems out of sorts.

JANEWAY

(to Doctor)

Having problems?

DOCTOR

(annoyed)

The magnetar's wave had a very... unsettling effect on my systems. I would not like to repeat the experience.

Janeway goes to Chakotay who is reviewing his data.

JANEWAY

What did you find out?

Chakotay is tired but happy, giving Janeway hope.

JANEWAY

(indicating data padd)

The jump drive?

CHAKOTAY

Not exactly, but better. It seems the Ark was a pirate ship. It was fleeing from recent theft when it was damaged. That's when we found them.

Janeway nods in realization.

JANEWAY

They stole the jump drive.

CHAKOTAY

And the torpedo. In trying to get away, they came to this space, by accident.

JANEWAY

And the Borg invasion was fabricated so we'd be compelled to help them and not want to return home, right?

Chakotay smiles weakly.

CHAKOTAY

That's about it. B'Elaana was just getting into the unit when we were knocked out. I'm glad you brought us back when you did.

Janeway has a sudden thought and looks around Sickbay.

JANEWAY

Any of the Ark crew make it?

CHAKOTAY

No. So we can only speculate about their motives. But I'd say all the talk of colonization was just that. They probably wanted to establish a base of operations and begin their pirate work again.

JANEWAY

Everything fits. No hull markings, and they cut their original communication to put together their story.

CHAKOTAY

And that's why they wanted to kill Seven, afraid she'd expose their story. Well, want to go back and finish studying the magnetar?

She smiles at the thought.

JANEWAY

No, but I'd like to join you in your study of that native culture.

He returns the smile.

CHAKOTAY

You've got a deal.

The two exit sickbay together.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

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## Upcoming Events

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Jan	9	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet (Note this is a Sunday.)
Feb	5	4 p.m. Ship Meeting, Triangle Factory Outlet
	11	Articles due for next <i>Wright Stuff</i>

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

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