

Star Trek: Eternal Night
S02E07 'Beachhead'

version 2.5

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Created by Gene Roddenberry

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1 EXT. SPACE. ALDERMAIN STRAIT

The Agamemnon hangs, slowly regaining her strength.

2 INT. AGAMEMNON - BRIDGE

RIXX, GREEN and N.D's at their stations. The somber mood continues, after the death of Ensign Russo. The tactical console BEEPS.

GREEN
Incoming message.
(a beat)
It's Admiral Nechayev...

RIXX
I'll take it in the ready room.

Rixx stands and walks to --

3 INT. AGAMEMNON - READY ROOM

The desktop monitor is rising as Rixx walks around the desk and sits down. NECHAYEV APPEARS on the screen.

RIXX
Admiral?

NECHAYEV
Commander Rixx? Where is Captain Mackenzie?

RIXX
A Romulan warbird hit us with two plasma torpedoes and crippled the ship. Captain Mackenzie has taken a squadron of fighters and the Roleystone to assist Admiral Telorus.

NECHAYEV
What do we know of the Romulan's plans?

RIXX
The captain believes he is not intending to defect, but rather expose a significant plot.

NECHAYEV
To what end?

RIXX
We don't know.

(CONTINUED)

NECHAYEV

I'm dispatching the Intrepid,
Tydirium and a Klingon cruiser to
assist.

(a beat)

It sounds like you might need
them.

RIXX

I assume the amplifier buoys were
launched successfully then?

NECHAYEV

Yes. Your long range
communications should be
operational again.

RIXX

Thank you, Admiral. Agamemnon
out.

4 EXT. SPACE. ALDERMAIN STRAIT

The Roleystone and the six fighters have made it to the
Dividices. The Decius is ATTACKING the Dividices, and
she's in bad shape.

5 INT. ROLEYSTONE - COCKPIT

STEVE works his console, putting the ship to RED
ALERT. Ryan taps the comm --

MACKENZIE

All fighters, begin strafing runs
against the nacelles.

6 EXT. SPACE. ALDERMAIN STRAIT

The fighters begin to fly past and around the Decius, as
they fire shots of phasers. The Roleystone joins in.

7 INT. IRW DIVIDICES - BRIDGE

VELAL, CENTURION and TELORUS at their stations. Ryan
appears on the viewscreen.

MACKENZIE

This makes twice I've saved you
now Telorus.

TELORUS

Captain, I don't think we're
going to make it out of this one.

(CONTINUED)

MACKENZIE

Remember our agreement?

TELORUS

(remembering)

Every time you save my life, I
owe you a bottle of Romulan Ale.

MACKENZIE

That's right... and I've finished
the last bottle you gave me.

The Roleystone is ROCKED... the viewscreen flickers for a
moment.

TELORUS

Captain, you need to investigate
Tigelis Four...

MACKENZIE

The joint outpost?

TELORUS

Yes, you call it Rillem... the
Romulan name is Tigelis. Look for
signs of...

8 EXT. SPACE. ALDERMAIN STRAIT

The Dividices EXPLODES, taking out two fighters and
crippling the Decius.

9 INT. ROLEYSTONE - COCKPIT

Mackenzie sees the explosion through the window, then
punches the console... more deaths. Suddenly, the Decius
turns on the remaining fighters and picks them off one by
one.

MACKENZIE

Steve, begin evasive pattern
sierra.

Steve begins to work the controls as the ship JOLTS, it's
not enough... the Decius lands several more good blows.

MACKENZIE

Agamemnon, this is the
Roleystone... mission failed.

(a beat)

Red squad has been lost, and we
are under attack...

10 INT. AGAMEMNON - BRIDGE

Rixx is back on the bridge. Mackenzie's distress call is on the viewscreen.

MACKENZIE
...Requesting immediate
assistance.

MCDONNELL'S COMM VOICE
Engineering to bridge, impulse
reactors are now back on-line.

RIXX
And not a moment too soon...
helm, intercept course.

HELM OFFICER
Aye, sir.

11 INT. ROLEYSTONE - COCKPIT

Smoke fills the cockpit. Sparks are flying from consoles.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning! Matter / Anti Matter
containment failure. Warp core
breach in thirty seconds.

HARVEY
There's nothing I can do,
Captain.

12 INT. AGAMEMNON - BRIDGE

Steve checks his readings...

HARVEY
The Roleystone's core is about
the breach, we've got twenty
seconds.

RIXX
Bridge to Transporter room one,
do you have them yet?

TRANSPORTER CHIEF
Negative Commander, we're still
out of range.

13 INT. ROLEYSTONE - COCKPIT

Ryan and Steve still working hard.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning! Matter / Anti Matter
containment failure. Warp core
breach in ten seconds.
(a beat)
Nine... Eight... Seven... Six...

14 INT. AGAMEMNON - BRIDGE

Sophie continues the count.

GREEN
Five...

RIXX
(tension rising)
Chief?

TRANSPORTER CHIEF
Not yet.

GREEN
Four... Three...

15 INT. ROLEYSTONE - COCKPIT

Ryan, now really concerned.

MACKENZIE
(to the comm)
Now would be a great time for a
beam out.

COMPUTER VOICE
Two... One.

16 EXT. SPACE. ALDERMAIN STRAIT

The Agamemnon grows larger as the Roleystone EXPLODES.

17 INT. AGAMEMNON - BRIDGE

Everyone sees the explosion on the viewscreen, baited
breath:

RIXX
Chief, did you get the Captain?

18 INT. AGAMEMNON - TRANSPORTER ROOM ONE

We start on the Transporter Chief, who's just pulled off a miracle... he sighs heavily and we SPIN AROUND TO REVEAL:

Ryan and Steve. A little battered, but otherwise ok.

MACKENZIE

He got us Commander.

19 INT. AGAMEMNON - BRIDGE

A collective sigh of relief from the crew.

MACKENZIE'S COMM VOICE

Commander, any sign of the Decius?

RIXX

Negative, sir. She seems to have cloaked and left, our tachyon grid can't find a trace.

MACKENZIE'S COMM VOICE

Very well. Set a course of Rillem Four... I'm going to my cabin.

RIXX

Aye, sir.

20 EXT. SPACE. ALDERMAIN STRAIT

The Agamemnon flies away from the wreckage.

21 INT. EVIE'S QUARTERS - FUTURE

BABY EVIE is eating dinner, while EVIE watches her. Baby Evie is really interested in her food while Evie continues to tell the story.

EVIE

So, with the Roleystone destroyed and while there were dozens of casualties on the Agamemnon it was up to the rest of us to put our emotions aside and focus on repairing the ship... the threat was far from over.

(a beat)

For Mum, Dad and I it was time to face up to the lingering questions...

22 INT. AGAMEMNON - CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

It's a few hours later, Ryan is relaxing on his couch when the DOOR CHIMES.

MACKENZIE

Come.

The doors WOOSH OPEN and ALICIA and EVIE ENTER as Ryan stands.

ALICIA

Mack?

MACKENZIE

Hey babe.

Ryan needs a hug, and he approaches Alicia with arms extended, but she backs away.

ALICIA

Woah, woah, since when are we hugging again?

(a cold beat)

We need to talk.

Ryan slumps back onto the couch.

EVIE

What happened between you two?

MACKENZIE

It's a long story.

ALICIA

(annoyed by that comment)

Why don't you tell her, and be sure to make me the villain again.

MACKENZIE

I never meant to hurt you.

ALICIA

Well you did. I only ever wanted to pursue my dreams.

Ryan doesn't say anything. He's somber.

MACKENZIE

We knew it was going to be tough.

EVIE

Mum... Dad. What happened?

A long pause... Ryan and Alicia wait for the other to start the story...

(CONTINUED)

MACKENZIE

We were both offered positions at the Rillem Four research station.

(a beat)

It was a new outpost, a joint venture between the Romulans and the Federation. Thought up by some paper pusher on Earth to keep the diplomatic lines open after the Dominion War.

ALICIA

But your father wasn't quite ready for planet-side duty.

MACKENZIE

Alicia took the transfer, I stayed on the Enterprise.

(a beat, looking at Alicia with regret)

And before we knew it... two months had gone by and we hadn't spoken to each other.

Ryan lets out a deep sigh, then takes Alicia's hands.

MACKENZIE

I'm sorry Alicia. I never wanted it to work out like this.

(a heavy beat)

I have no idea how others do it, different assignments... light years apart.

ALICIA

(coming around, warming to Ryan)

But it wasn't the distance Mack... you didn't want to stay with me.

MACKENZIE

No. Oh gosh, is that what you thought? Alicia, it wasn't you... it was me.

(a beat)

I felt that being a third class engineer was a backwards step... I wouldn't be where I am right now if I had've taken the transfer.

ALICIA

Ok, fine... I would never make you stunt your career for me.

(a beat)

But you never called once.

(CONTINUED)

MACKENZIE

I can't say anything more than
I'm sorry. And we're here now.

Alicia hugs Ryan as Evie watches on and smiles.

MACKENZIE

Now... Evie - why don't you tell
us your story?

23 EXT. SPACE. RILLEM SYSTEM

The Agamemnon arrives near Rillem Four.

24 INT. AGAMEMNON - BRIEFING ROOM

Rixx, Green, Harvey, Sarah and Alicia sit around the
table. Ryan is at the top of the table.

MACKENZIE

I know the last few hours have
been difficult... it's the first
time I've ever lost anybody under
my command.

(a beat)

But our mission requires our
immediate attention, so we need
to focus. The Rillem Four
outpost went silent six days ago
and Admiral Nechayev has
reassigned Commander Alicia
Cunningham to the Agamemnon as
our science officer and mission
specialist.

(a beat)

Our mission is to find out why
the colony went dark, and
investigate Admiral Telorus'
claims that something was going
on with the Chodak at this
location.

HARVEY

Do we have any intel on the
planet?

MACKENZIE

Yeah...

(tapping a control in front
of him brings up an
Okudagram on the wall
monitor)

Class L, native flora and
fauna... but no higher order
animal life. It was chosen by

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MACKENZIE (cont'd)
Federation and Romulan scientists
because of it's central location
inside the Neutral Zone.

GREEN
(to Alicia)
You were captured outside the
compound weren't you?

ALICIA
Yes.
(nodding to Ryan, who taps
another control)
I found walking along this river
bank helped to clear my head.

GREEN
That's inside the security net,
Captain... but I suggest we add
it to our search grid.

MACKENZIE
I agree.

WELLS
Could there have been a medical
emergency?

ALICIA
(shaking her head)
We weren't experimenting with
anything dangerous... but it is
possible, I guess.

MACKENZIE
Rixx, Alicia, Steve and Sarah...
I want you to beam down and find
out what happened.
(a beat, nods all round)
Dismissed.

25 EXT. RILLEM FOUR - OUTPOST ENTRANCE. DAY

The Away Team BEAM DOWN. Steve with his phaser drawn,
Alicia begins scanning the area with her tricorder. Rixx
and Sarah scope out the surroundings.

ALICIA
I'm not detecting any signs of
life.

RIXX
None at all?

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Aside from the odd plant and insect... there is no one else here.

RIXX

Let's proceed with caution.

The away team move towards the outpost's entrance. The massive doors don't respond, so Steve moves to the control. He presses a few buttons, nothing... he then peels off the outer casing and works the inside components until:

ANGLE ON:

The door opens and our away team MOVE TO --

26

INT. RILLEM FOUR - OUTPOST. CONTINUOUS

Bodies are strewn where they fell, all with phaser burns to their chest. Romulans, Humans, a Vulcan, Bolian... even a Ferengi.

ALICIA

(scanning)

I count eighty nine bodies in the outpost.

(a beat, doing the mental math)

That's half of them.

HARVEY

Where are the other half?

ALICIA

Now I know what to scan for... but I'm still not picking them up.

RIXX

(tapping his comm badge)

Away team to Agamemnon. Captain, we've got bodies down here. We're counting eighty nine, sir... Commander Cunningham says that's only half of the population.

MACKENZIE'S COMM VOICE

Proceed with caution, Commander. There's a mystery down there, and we need to solve it.

(CONTINUED)

RIXX

Aye, sir. Rixx out.

Sarah has moved to the Ferengi.

WELLS

Commander?

HARVEY

A Ferengi? What's he doing here?

Rixx recognises him as Daimon Bralt.

RIXX

Bralt?

HARVEY

(recognising him too)

Daimon Bralt?

ALICIA

Who is Daimon Bralt?

RIXX

We caught him running a damjot ring on d-s-six a couple of months ago.

(a beat)

But I thought the Ferengi had picked him up.

They continue to walk through the compound, eventually coming to a computer terminal. Steve activates it and reads the last sensor log.

HARVEY

According to this, an unidentified vessel came into orbit six days ago. It opened fire, then was destroyed by what looks like a mining freighter.

(a beat, recognising the ship)

That's a Chodak dreadnought... and that is a massive mining freighter - with a Borg power signature.

RIXX

What?! Upload the logs to your tricorder, we'll inspect them when we get back to the ship.

The team continue to take readings.

27 INT. AGAMEMNON - READY ROOM

Ryan sits at his desk, reading a PADD. The door CHIMES.

MACKENZIE

Enter.

COLONEL RUSSELL NICHOLSON, Human Male in his forties
ENTERS.

NICHOLSON

Ryan?

MACKENZIE

Ah, Colonel... thanks for
coming. Please take a seat.

Russell carries an air of confidence, he's not afraid of superior officers and commands respect from his men. He and Ryan are of the same rank. He takes a seat in front of the desk.

MACKENZIE

I'm sorry about red squadron.

NICHOLSON

(sombre, and slightly angry)
They were six of my best pilots.

MACKENZIE

They fought valiantly.

NICHOLSON

(bluntly)
On a suicide mission.

MACKENZIE

(seeing that bluntly is how
Nicholson wants to be talked
to)

Colonel Nicholson, you need to
understand one thing very
clearly.

(a beat)

I'm in command of this mission,
ship and all who serve aboard
her. That includes you and your
men.

Russell stiffens up in his chair, keenly aware he has
crossed the line.

NICHOLSON

Yes, Captain.

MACKENZIE

Very good, Colonel.
(a beat, calming down)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MACKENZIE (cont'd)

I know the odds were against us, but I had to do something - Admiral Telorus had information critical to unraveling this mystery we're confronted with.

NICHOLSON

Captain, I haven't been in the loop on our mission. Can you fill me in?

A beat, then:

MACKENZIE

Three months ago all this would've seemed a long way down the road...

(another beat)

After an aborted attempt to conduct investigations pertaining to Federation security with a Runabout and a four person team... I was abducted by Romulan agents on Earth following the explosion on the presidio. Discovering another alien race was pulling the Romulan Senate's strings, Admiral Nechayev and I agreed that more firepower was needed along the Neutral Zone... so she dispatched the Agamemnon with four squadrons and a battalion of marines.

NICHOLSON

Who are the aliens?

MACKENZIE

We know little about them, save for their name - the Chodak.

(a beat)

We picked up a Romulan scientist just before moving to the Agamemnon, she sought asylum... and said she was looking for something called the Third Sar'Kell Octavo.

(a beat)

Apparently that's the key to the Romulans breaking their affiliation with the Chodak.

NICHOLSON

Why have they threatened the Federation and breached the Neutral Zone?

(CONTINUED)

MACKENZIE

That's what we're here to find out. Telorus said that Rillem Four was the key.

NICHOLSON

(realising)

Before he was killed?

MACKENZIE

Yes, another Romulan warbird destroyed him, Red Squadron and the Roleystone.

The comm CHIRPS.

RIXX'S COMM VOICE

Away team to Captain.

MACKENZIE

(tapping his comm badge)

Go ahead Commander.

RIXX'S COMM VOICE

Sir, we've found something... you better get down here.

MACKENZIE

I'm on my way.

The pair stand to EXIT.

NICHOLSON

Thank you.

MACKENZIE

Colonel?

NICHOLSON

For overlooking my abruptness before.

MACKENZIE

No sense in us fighting each other Russell.

(a beat, smiling)

And you can call me Mack.

NICHOLSON

Thanks Mack.

Ryan smiles and the pair EXIT the ready room.

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EXT. RILLEM FOUR - CAVE ENTRANCE. CONTINUOUS

We HEAR A RIVER nearby, the gentle trickling of water defies the severity of the circumstances. The entrance to the cave is lower than the surrounding rock... a result of thousands of years of water erosion. Rixx, Alicia, Steve and Sarah are all here scanning various rocks and inspecting the cave.

Ryan MATERIALISES a hundred meters away, he scans the surroundings.

RIXX

Captain! Over here.

Ryan negotiates the embankment to reach the cave entrance.

MACKENZIE

What've you found Commander?

ALICIA

This.

She hands him a broken silicon ball... it's a Horta egg. Ryan doesn't recognise it.

MACKENZIE

(looking it over)

What is it?

WELLS

A Horta egg.

MACKENZIE

(surprised)

What!?

WELLS

According to these readings, the Horta youngling hatched about two weeks ago.

MACKENZIE

It can't be responsible for all the death in the outpost.

RIXX

I see you know your history Captain.

MACKENZIE

Yes, the Horta burn their victims... leaving nothing but a steaming pile of ash.

(CONTINUED)

RIXX

And they are also excellent diggers.

MACKENZIE

But I thought the Horta civilisation was over fifty light years from here.

RIXX

It is... and that's not all we found.

Rixx motions inside, and Ryan heads in. He immediately sees a tunnel, extending further than the eye can see.

HARVEY

Sir... take a look at this.

Steve hands Ryan a Romulan disruptor.

MACKENZIE

A Romulan disruptor? What's so surprising about that?

HARVEY

Ordinarily nothing. But there's no record of this tunnel on the outpost's computers.

MACKENZIE

(to Alicia)
Hey Alicia...

ALICIA

(entering the cave)
Yeah Mack?

MACKENZIE

Have you ever seen this before?

ALICIA

(shaking her head)
No... but I never used to come this far along the river.

MACKENZIE

So, we know the Romulans were here with god knows how many Horta... but what does it mean?

Rixx and Sarah enter the cave.

RIXX

The Horta are excellent at tunneling.

WELLS

I remember reading about that in History class... didn't Captain Kirk make peace with a mother Horta at a mining colony?

MACKENZIE

Very good Lieutenant, unfortunately over fifty lives were lost before they understood what the Horta was doing.

WELLS

(nodding)
Protecting it's young.

RIXX

So is that what we've got here? A Horta colony? We would never have known, because they don't show up on standard life sign scans.

Spotting another Romulan disruptor.

MACKENZIE

(thinking)
No... I don't believe so. Here's another disruptor...

HARVEY

(picking up a third)
And another, sir.

MACKENZIE

(realisation)
It was a forced labor camp.

ALICIA

That's a bit of a leap.

MACKENZIE

Think about it. Telorus told me that Rillem Four was the key. The Romulans were here, inside the Neutral Zone with Federation scientists watching their every move.

(a beat)

How do you dig a labyrinth of tunnels without being seen?

RIXX

(leaning towards believing this theory)
You use silicon based life forms, which we'd never scan for on a class L world.

(CONTINUED)

WELLS

(knowing her biology)
It must've been torture for
them. All this water.

MACKENZIE

Certainly not the place for a
Horta family vacation.
(tapping his comm badge)
Away team to Agamemnon.

N.D. OFFICER'S COMM VOICE

Go ahead, Captain.

MACKENZIE

Lieutenant, can you scan below my
current position?

N.D. OFFICER'S COMM VOICE

(after a moment)

Sorry sir... I'm getting nothing
from below you.

MACKENZIE

What do you mean? Sensors can't
penetrate the rock?

N.D. OFFICER'S COMM VOICE

No, sir... I mean there is
nothing below you.

HARVEY

(thinking)
A cloaking device.

MACKENZIE

Thank you Lieutenant.
(a beat, to the group)
Look for a control panel, or
something artificial.

The team feel their way along rocks and the cave
wall. After a few moments:

ALICIA

I've got something.

RIXX

(scanning with his
tricorder)
It's definitely a Romulan control
panel.

MACKENZIE

Can you disable it?

(CONTINUED)

RIXX
(as he works the control)
This... should... do... it.

The distinctive sound of the CLOAKING DEVICE DEACTIVATING leads to another tunnel opening up. This one is tall enough to walk through --

29 INT. RILLEM FOUR - TUNNEL. CONTINUOUS

Ryan, Alicia, Rixx, Steve and Sarah walk through to an airlock.

HARVEY
(phaser drawn)
No one's home.

MACKENZIE
Why guard something that's
cloaked?

Through the glass wall a huge Romulan outpost is seen. Hundreds of Romulans work consoles, and liase with each other.

ALICIA
(impressed)
It's massive!

RIXX
(off his tricorder)
I count two hundred and sixty
three Romulans.

MACKENIZE
What's it's purpose?

RIXX
A communications relay has also
decloaked on the surface.
(a beat, working the
tricorder)
I've accessed it's
transmissions...
(mild shock)
There's an unmanned ship up
there. Raptor-class.

MACKENZIE
Raptor? That's just a scout
ship.

N.D. OFFICER'S COMM VOICE
Agamemnon to away team.

(CONTINUED)

MACKENZIE
Go ahead Lieutenant.

N.D. OFFICER'S COMM VOICE
Sir, we are under attack from a
Romulan scout ship.

MACKENZIE
Take evasive action, and relay
sensor data to Commander Rixx's
tricorder.

N.D. OFFICER'S COMM VOICE
Aye, sir.

The tricorder BEEPS.

RIXX
Downloading...
(a beat)
That scout ship has a deflector
dish from a warbird.

HARVEY
That's massive!

Suddenly Romulans inside spot the Starfleet team, but they don't rush to apprehend them - instead they work harder. Ryan spots something in the shadows near the command station.

MACKENZIE
Chodak Prime!

ALICIA
Mack?

MACKENZIE
(pointing)
That shadow there... is a Chodak.

WELLS
Why aren't they attacking us?

HARVEY
(sarcastically)
Would you prefer they did?

WELLS
(flatly)
At least then we'd know what they
were doing.

N.D. OFFICER'S COMM VOICE
Captain, the scout ship is over
powering itself...

MACKENZIE

Rixx, can you tell what it's doing?

RIXX

It seems to be trying to open a subspace flexure.

MACKENZIE

Lieutenant, destroy that ship now!

RIXX

(shaking his head)
It's too late.

30 EXT. SPACE. RILLEM FOUR

The Agamemnon dwarfs the tiny scout ship, as it spins out of control into the subspace flexure and is destroyed. Moments later dozens of CHODAK DREADNOUGHTS APPEAR.

31 INT. RILLEM FOUR - TUNNEL. CONTINUOUS

Rixx has relayed what just happened via his tricorder.

RIXX

Ah, Captain... twenty eight Chodak dreadnoughts have just appeared in orbit through that subspace flexure.

MACKENZIE

(whacking his comm badge)
Agamemnon! Emergency transport... five to beam up.
(a beat)
Helm, as soon as we're aboard get us the hell out of here!

The away team DEMATERIALISE and we:

CUT TO:

32 EXT. SPACE. RILLEM FOUR

More and more Chodak ships are coming through the flexure. But none are attacking. A few moments later the Agamemnon breaks orbit and flees. And we:

FADE OUT.