

# **THREE TO BEAM UP**

A Play In Two Acts  
Written By  
Don Nguyen

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Don Nguyen  
21-37 33<sup>RD</sup> ST  
Astoria, NY 11105  
thenugespeaks@gmail.com  
(402)681-9786

## CHARACTERS

CAPTAIN JOHN WISHER	Mid 40s. The Captain of the USS Valkyries. Also the father of Sam and Jules.
SAM WISHER	Mid 20's. Wisher's son. Sam works as a Telemarketing Manager
JULIANNE WISHER (JULES)	She is 18 years of age and is Sam's sister.
LINDA WISHER	Mid 40s. Sam and Jules's Mother.
IPHIGENIA LUBOWSKI (IFFY)	Mid 20's. Iffy works with Sam at the telemarketing center
DR. JAMES VON HEIZENBERG	Mid 40's. Dr.Von Heizenberg, a recent emigrant from Germany, specializes in fanaticism reduction therapy.
LT. MULLEN	Chief Science Officer aboard the USS Valkyries
LT. REEDWELL	Chief Communications Office aboard the USS Valkyries
LT. REESE	First Officer aboard the USS Valkyries

## SETTING

The Bridge of the Starship Valkyries, Wisher's Ready Room, The Wisher Family Living Room, and Sam's Office.

## TIME

Present and Future day.

## SCENE BREAKDOWN

### **ACT 1**      **CHARACTERS**

PROLOGUE    WISHER, LT. REEDWELL, LT. MULLEN, LT. REESE  
                  JULES, SAM  
SCENE 1      WISHER, LT. REEDWELL, LT. MULLEN, LT. REESE  
                  JULES, SAM  
SCENE 2      SAM, IFFY  
SCENE 3      WISHER, JULES, REESE  
SCENE 4      SAM, DR. VON HEIZENBERG  
SCENE 5      WISHER, LINDA, LT. REEDWELL  
SCENE 6      WISHER, JULES, SAM  
SCENE 7      WISHER, REESE  
SCENE 8      SAM, IFFY  
SCENE 9      WISHER, LT. REEDWELL, LT. MULLEN, LT. REESE  
                  JULES, SAM, DR. VON HEIZENBERG

### **ACT 2**

SCENE 1      WISHER, LT. MULLEN, JULES, SAM, DR. VON HEIZENBERG  
SCENE 2      LT. REEDWELL, LT. MULLEN, LT. REESE  
SCENE 3      WISHER, SAM, DR. VON HEIZENBERG, JULES  
SCENE 4      WISHER, JULES, LT. REEDWELL, LT. REESE, LINDA  
SCENE 5      SAM, DR. VON HEIZENBERG, JULES, IFFY  
SCENE 6      WISHER, LINDA, SAM, JULES, DR. VON HEIZENBERG, IFFY  
SCENE 7      WISHER, SAM, LT. REESE, JULES

ACT I

PROLOGUE

(At rise, Captain Wisher is on the bridge of the Starship Valkyries. The stage is lit up like a sea of stars. Wisher appears downstage center seated in a "Captain's" chair and holding a logbook. Lieutenants Reedwell, Mullen, and Reese stand behind him.)

WISHER

"Captain's log stardate 8991.7. While investigating a distress signal in the Gamma quadrant, I along with the ship's crew have suddenly become caught in some kind of a temporal distortion. All we can do now is wait. For what? I do not know."

(Handing Lt. Reese the logbook)

Steady as she goes.

LT. REEDWELL

Interstellar signal detected Captain.

WISHER

Pinpoint location Mr. Reedwell.

LT. REEDWELL

Yes sir.

LT. MULLEN

Captain, the signal matches the distress call we've been following.

WISHER

(To Lt. Reese)

What do you make of it Reese?

LT. REESE

It does appear to be the distress call. Data contains sine waves and bit images.

WISHER

Decode and project on screen.

LT. REEDWELL

Decoding signal.

WISHER

"Captain's log supplemental. It appears we have picked up a distress call from the Gamma Quadrant, sector 3. Origin unknown at this point. We will continue to..."

(The entire crew stops and stares straight out)

LT. MULLEN

(Cautiously)

What is that? Captain, it looks like -

WISHER

Reedwell, zoom in on that sector and stabilize image.

(WISHER sees something that renders a face of fright on him. He slowly stands up)

LT. REEDWELL

Captain, I'm picking up some audio on a separate subspace frequency.

WISHER

Augment with audio.

(The crew hears static with a faint voice.)

WISHER

Can you clean up that frequency?

LT. REEDWELL

The frequency is set at optimum levels sir.

(A loud audio distortion is heard and the entire crew sways back and forth as if the bridge is shaking.)

WISHER

What's going on Lieutenant!

LT. REESE

Looks like we're in some kind of temporal distortion. An anomaly of some sorts.

WISHER

Raise shields and go to red alert!

(After a few moments, the shaking stops and everything becomes mysteriously calm)

This is interesting.

(The voices are heard again, this time, they are clearer than before. It seems to be a mix of different voices, echoing)

AUDIO

"Dad, where are you?" "Come home" "Dinner's ready"  
"John, where are you" "John, speak to me" "Daddy, come home"

(Jules enters and walks around the front of the bridge)

JULES

Dad, dinner's ready. Dad? Where are you?

(Sam enters with a suitcase)

Sam. When did you get in?

SAM

A few hours ago. Where is he?

JULES

I don't know.

(turning away)

I can't find him.

SAM

Well, let me put my things away, and then I'll help you look for him.

(SAM exits)

JULES

I'm glad you're back. Sam?

(JULES turns around to discover he has gone. She then exits.)

WISHER

(turning to his crew)

Did you see that?

LT. MULLEN

Sir, I didn't see anything.

WISHER

Reese, you saw it didn't you?

LT. REESE

Captain, I don't-

WISHER

Reedwell?

(Lieutenant REEDWELL shakes his head  
"no")

Well this is damn peculiar.

(Crossfade. WISHER is now alone in his  
ready room.)

"Captain's log supplemental. It appears the crew and I have entered a temporal distortion of some sorts just outside the Gamma quadrant. Lt. Reedwell, Reese, and Mullen are in the process of constructing a briefing for what has transpired. I am in my ready room awaiting further notice. Captain out."

(to himself)

Damn peculiar indeed.

(Lt. Reese enters)

LT. REESE

Captain.

WISHER

Yes Lieutenant.

LT. REESE

It seems we're in a nexus of some kind.

WISHER

Ah. The journey begins.

(Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 1

(Lights up on the bridge of the Valkyries where Captain Wisher and his crew are all gathered.)

WISHER

"Captain's log, stardate 8992.3. It appears we are caught in some kind of a nexus. According to Lt. Reese's report, all systems are functional and engineering is stable. We are in the midst of formulating a plan. Captain out."

(Addressing his crew)

As all of you are aware, we are caught in some kind of a temporal distortion which we believe to be a nexus-

LT. MULLEN

A nexus?

WISHER

Lieutenant Reese.

LT. REESE

Gentlemen. Historical data confirms that a nexus is a kind of nonlinear temporal continuum. The gateway to the nexus is an energy ribbon, much like the one we crossed earlier. It has also been reported that, inside the nexus, reality appears to reshape itself in fulfillment of a person's innermost wishes.

LT. REEDWELL

What do you mean "reality reshapes itself?"

LT. REESE

I mean that our reality changes to fulfill our wishes.

LT. MULLEN

Well I wish we were out of this damn thing.  
(They all look around, as if waiting  
for something to happen)

WISHER

Gentlemen. This phenomenon crosses our galaxy  
approximately every 39 years.

LT. MULLEN

Why is that sir?

WISHER

We still do not have enough data to know exactly why  
it occurs at that interval. The first known contact  
with the nexus was-

(Wisher stops for a moment. He hears a  
faint voice. It is a little girl  
singing "Baby Of Mine")

-the first known contact with the nexus was in-

(The singing gets louder. Lights  
crossfade to Jules sitting in a chair,  
she is singing the same song to  
herself, while looking through a photo  
album. Jules finishes singing and sits  
there in silence. After a moment, Sam  
enters)

SAM

Oh, I thought Dad might be up here. What are you  
doing?

JULES

Just looking at some things.

SAM

I heard singing.

JULES

That would be me. Mom used to sing to me all the time.

(Jules opens a small shoebox which contains some photos, letters, and coins)

SAM

What are you looking at?

JULES

Remember that vacation we all took to Oregon?

SAM

Vaguely.

JULES

(showing him a postcard)

Postcards from Seaside that we all mailed to ourselves.

SAM

Yes. Mom wrote "wish you were here" on all of them. I was thirteen, I think. You were ten. I remember you were really confused by the whole thing.

JULES

Well, I just couldn't understand how I could get a postcard from myself. Mom believed in keeping up on correspondence.

(pause)

That was the last vacation we all took as a family.

(Lights crossfade to the Bridge.)

LT. REEDWELL

Captain? Captain?

WISHER  
Yes?

LT. REEDWELL  
Is something the matter?

WISHER  
No. Where was I?

LT. MULLEN  
You were talking about the nexus.

WISHER  
Ah, yes. We've located a small planet inside the  
nexus. Prepare an away team. I want to see first  
hand what's down there.

LT. MULLEN  
Aye Captain.

(speaking into his communicator)

Mullen to the transporter room. Prepare an away team.

(Lights fade to blackout)

## SCENE 2

(SAM's office. Next day. SAM sits at a very small cramped desk. IFFY is sitting across from him eating his lunch.)

IFFY

You know, this world has turned into one big acronym factory. We've taken words and chopped them up into little bits and pieces. We speak in code. Incomprehensible manipulations of the alphabet. It started with the government and their need for secrecy. They developed words such as SAM, AFWIC, and DEFCON. And the computer industry has always been a major offender of acronym overkill. They've got USB, MMX, and AGP...which sounds like a sexually transmitted disease. And then there's our industry. Our telemarketers, I mean TSRs, who worry about their SPH while trying to keep up their CPH so they don't get written up on the DPR and that would affect the Accumulative reports which everyone calls Cume reports for short except I've noticed everyone spells cume, C-U-M. And that probably originated from upper management and trickled all the way down to us. Oh, and how could I forget the DNCL (Dinkle) list. Now let's look at this one. The Do Not Call List. All our customers have to say is "Don't call me anymore" and I write their name on a list and I give it to you and you give it to corporate and shazam! We stop calling them. People just don't want to talk to us anymore, Sam. If they ever did in the first place. You know, we are in an age where we should be expanding outwards, reaching out to people, but we've been conditioned to keep private lives. We used to keep up on our correspondence, writing letters on special stationary with beautiful hand crafted pens that now you can only order out of a Levenger catalog. We spend hours and hours on the internet, living out our life in the privacy of our own homes. We used to spend all of our time watching television, now we surf the web. For what? For information. That's the next biggest commodity, Sam. We have all this information at our fingertips but we don't know what to do with it. Of course if we can't read, then it's useless to us. Did you know forty percent of Americans say they have never read a book? And that one out of ten

IFFY (cont)

drivers you meet on the highway can't read a road sign? And regardless if they can read or not, you can't carry on a meaningful conversation with anyone nowadays. The art of conversation has been lost Sam. We don't check up on people anymore, we check in. We say hi and bye in the same breath. We communicate with answering machines, beepers, and keyboards. You think with all the typing we do, with all this e-mail zipping back and forth to each other, we'd all be better writers. But have you read e-mail lately? The grammar and spelling is so horrendous it would make any currently employed English teacher cringe with literary agony. There's even acronyms that you can use in e-mail so you don't have to type as much. Which brings me back to my original point of Acronyms. We as a society have molested the alphabet, twisted it and mangled it, cranking out new words that all mean the same thing. Acronyms are the major source of evil in this day and age. It makes us uncommunicative and socially inept. It's sad. Here's the DNCL list.

(Hands him the list)

SAM

It's called the Do Not Call List. D-N-C-L. Not dinkle.

(Flipping through it)

IFFY

But it's so fun to say. Say it with me Sam. Come on. Dinkle. Dinkle. Dinkle.

SAM

Iffy.

(Iffy hands Sam a salad)

What is this?

IFFY

National Health week. You need to watch what you eat. Otherwise you'll end up getting a heart attack like my dad.

SAM

Your dad was seventy when he had it.

IFFY

You can have a heart attack at anytime time in your life. And it usually happens right when you least expect it. So don't go Eliot Nessing your way through life.

SAM

Eliot what?

IFFY

When you act like you're untouchable. That's when you get touched.

SAM

I think you've been touched. Or maybe not touched enough.

IFFY

I'm a well balanced teeter totter.

SAM

Would it be too much to ask for some dressing?

IFFY

I don't like dressing with my salad.

(Seeing that Sam is not too thrilled  
with his salad)

You know, ever since you came back, you've been a real crab-apple, mister man.

SAM

I've been busy.

IFFY

Well so have I. I'm in busy-Iffy mode right now, but I made time to have lunch with you, didn't I?

SAM

(looking at the DNCL list)

Look at all these people who don't want to be called. I don't understand it.

IFFY

Well, it's pretty simple. We work for a telemarketing company. We bother people for a living.

SAM

This is really going to hurt our conversion rate.

IFFY

Well, all we've been calling are doctors and lawyers. They're not interested in miracle mops. Hell, I'm not even interested in a miracle mop.

SAM

I think it's a miracle that you even know what a mop is.

IFFY

Okay, here's where I tell you what my point is. Sell them something useful.

SAM

Like what?

IFFY

Malpractice insurance?

(Sam rolls his eyes.)

Since we're on the subject of doctors, when are you meeting with that doctor I found for you?

SAM

Dr. Von Heizenberg?

IFFY

That's it.

SAM

I don't know Iffy.

(Sam buries his head in his hands and sighs)

IFFY

Hey. What's wrong?

SAM

(talking into his hands)

I've been back in town for two weeks. I've got my old job back, my old office. God, even my old desk. And I thought it would be different. I thought I would be okay coming back. But nothing's changed. And all I want to do is leave again.

IFFY

Hey. What do I always tell you?

SAM

Look on the bright side?

IFFY

No.

SAM  
It's always darkest before dawn?

IFFY  
No.

SAM  
Stop, Drop, and Roll?

IFFY  
Sam, be serious.

SAM  
(laughs)  
I'm sorry. But you say a lot of things.

IFFY  
It's what my Grandmother used to say to me.

(gesturing spiritually with her hands)  
IFFY (cont)  
"Iphigenia...This too shall pass"

SAM  
What?

IFFY  
(repeating her hand gestures)  
"This too shall pass"

SAM  
(mocking her gestures)  
What is this? Am I deaf or something?

IFFY

Yes, you are. Sometimes you don't hear what people are trying to tell you. Give it time.

(glances at her watch)

Speaking of which, I've gotta go. Call this doctor. He may be the one you're looking for.

(Ify exits. Sam ponders for a moment, then pulls out a piece of paper, picks up the phone and dials. Lights fade to blackout.)

SCENE 3

(A living room. Lights up on Wisher with a tricorder in hand.)

WISHER

"Captain's log, stardate 8992.5. The away team has split up in order to cover more ground. I am standing in the middle of what appears to be a domestic communal area circa 1990.

(JULES enters quietly behind him holding a shoebox.)

"I remember seeing this type of "family room" on one of the holodecks."

JULES

There you are. I've been...

(WISHER screams and pulls out a phaser and aims it at Jules. This causes JULES to scream.)

Dad! What are you doing? Put that down!

(WISHER slowly backs away as JULES moves closer to him.)

Dad, please. It's me. It's Jules.

(Still aiming his phaser at her, WISHER takes his tricorder and takes a reading of her.)

What are you doing?

WISHER

You're human.

Only on a good day. JULES

Where am I? WISHER

You're home. JULES

Home where? WISHER

Home home. JULES

WISHER  
We have ways of making you talk. I suggest you  
volunteer some information.

(Sees the shoebox)

What's in the box?

Memories. JULES

(WISHER looks dumbfounded)

Information.

Oh really. WISHER

(WISHER scans the box with his  
tricorder.)

Put it down there.

(Pointing to a table. JULES sets the  
box down)

JULES

Dad, why are you doing this? Talk to me. Make me understand.

WISHER

Young lady, I am not your father. I am Captain John Phineas Wisher of the starship Valkyries.

JULES

(Keeping herself together)

Well, Dinner's ready, Captain. It's in the kitchen.

(JULES storms out. Wisher studies the shoebox carefully.)

WISHER

(Crossing to his ready room)

"Captain's log supplemental. I've made contact with what looks to be a human. A female. A strange creature. She goes by the name Jules and insists on calling me "Dad." I believe this nexus controls the environment I'm in right now. A familial setting. A family. (pause) This Jules has left a box of items which must be further analyzed.

(He stares at the shoebox, afraid to open it.)

LT. REESE

(Through the communicator)

"Bridge to Captain."

WISHER

Captain here.

LT. REESE

"Captain, while you were away, we were able to map out part of the nexus using an inverse tachyon beam.

LT. REESE (cont)

We found an area of the nexus that contains a sudden decrease in energy. It could be a way out."

WISHER

Proceed with caution Lieutenant. Captain out.

(looks at the shoebox)

Proceed with caution.

(Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 4

(Dr. Von Heizenberg's office. There is a desk and two chairs, and a fishbowl with one dead goldfish. Dr. Von Heizenberg and Sam are seated at the desk)

SAM

So here's the situation. According to every doctor I've consulted, my Father's been suffering from a definite but elusive case of-

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Wait.

(DR. VON HEIZENBERG holds his right hand up and the door behind Sam suddenly slams shut.)

SAM

How...how did you do that?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

There's a draft that comes in through the lobby window every few seconds. It's quite strong.

(DR. VON HEIZENBERG sprinkles some fish food into the bowl. SAM notices the fish is dead)

SAM

Um. Isn't that fish...

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

What?

SAM

Nothing. Listen Doctor Von Heizenberg. My father. He's-

I already know. DR. VON HEIZENBERG

You do? SAM

Of course. He needs help. DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Exactly. That's why I'm here. SAM

Have you prepared yourself? DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Prepared for what? SAM

The journey. DR. VON HEIZENBERG

What journey? SAM

You're here to help your father, no? DR. VON HEIZENBERG

No. I mean yes. Or do I mean no? You're confusing me. I'm here to help him. SAM

Good. Now, how are you going to do that? DR. VON HEIZENBERG

SAM

I was hoping you would tell me.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

No. That is something you must discover for yourself. The road to recovery is one long, tedious journey. Full of anguish and suffering. It will test your faith.

SAM

I think you've misunderstood. I'm not the one who needs help Doc.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Call me Jim.

SAM

Okay, Jim. Like I was saying, I'm here for my Father. He's the one that needs help.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

The success of this journey lies in how much support one gets from one's loved ones. How much pain they will share. How much pain are you willing to endure Sam?

SAM

I have a very low threshold for pain.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I'm not talking about physical pain Sam. I'm talking about the pain in here.

(Dr. Von Heizenberg puts his hand on Sam's heart)

SAM

Doc, you're touching my breast.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I'm touching your heart. That's the place that holds the most pain.

(Sam begins to laugh)

Does something amuse you?

SAM

I'm sorry doc. I always laugh when I find myself in absurd situations.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Absurdity in life can be a blessing.

SAM

How so?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I'm not sure.

SAM

(dumbfounded)

Listen doc, I've got to go. Thanks a lot. We'll be in touch.

(making his way to the door)

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Prepare yourself.

(SAM turns away)

SAM

(turning back)

Look, doc...

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Jim.

SAM

Jim. Honestly, I don't think I knew exactly what I was getting myself into-

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

One rarely does in situations like these.

SAM

What do you mean?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I'm not sure.

SAM

I don't think I'm ready for all this. Maybe it would be better if I consulted a regular therapist.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Let's say you had an abscessed tooth. A throbbing pain getting worse by the minute. One that keeps you awake at night, slowly drawing away every ounce of your will to live. Who would you rather see? A regular dentist or one who specializes in this sort of thing, one who understands the pain?

SAM

That's not the same thing.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

You'll be back.

(Sam exits, then quickly returns)

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

See, I told you.

SAM

That window out there isn't open. How could that door close without a draft?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Hmm. Interesting.

(DR. VON HEIZENBERG turns himself away from SAM. After a few moments, SAM exits. Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 5

(Lights up on WISHER in his ready room. He scans the shoebox one more time and then opens it.)

WISHER

What do we have here? Family photos. Two small children and a woman. She looks...familiar in a strange sort of way. Very beautiful.

(reading the back of one of the photos)

"Linda, Seaside."

(flipping through some more photos)

Ah. A postcard. An interesting means of communication in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

(He reads the postcard)

"Dear Linda, having a wonderful time at Seaside. The sun's always out and the air is always cool. The kids are having a great time. Hope the house is clean when we get back. My regards to you and the family. Wish you were here. Love, Linda."

(Looking out)

Why would she send a postcard to herself?

(WISHER pulls out some coins from the box)

This one looks strange.

(He holds up a penny. Lights up on Linda)

LINDA

(Talking straight out)

It's for you. I put it in one of those coin pressers. It flattens a penny and stamps a design on it. Do you

LINDA (cont)

like it? It's a sturgeon. They're prehistoric fish that have evolved over 250 million years. The eggs of the Beluga Sturgeon are considered a delicacy.

WISHER

Caviar.

LINDA

Yes. Food of the rich and famous. Well, rich at least. Hey, here's a crazy idea. Let's sell our house, pack up and move here. Isn't that crazy? Just pack up and leave? We'd have a great big ocean to swim in like the Sturgeons do. Wouldn't life be much easier if we were sturgeons? Except I wouldn't want anyone stealing my eggs. It would make me feel... eggless. Like losing one of my children. I don't ever want to lose our children. I wouldn't like it if they were considered a delicacy.

(Laughs to herself)

But they are delicate aren't they? This penny is to remind you of the wonderful time we've had up here at Seaside. Take it and you're mine forever. I love you.

(Lights fade down on LINDA)

WISHER

I love...

(long pause)

You. What was that? I've never seen her before in my life. But, I love...how is this possible?

(Linda's voice is heard)

LINDA

I'm waiting.

WISHER  
What?

LINDA  
Please find me.

WISHER  
Where are you?

LINDA  
I'll be waiting.

(Lights down on Linda)

WISHER  
Am I losing my mind?

(After a few moments, WISHER calms  
down)

LT. REEDWELL  
(through the communicator)  
Bridge to the Captain.

WISHER  
Wisher here.

LT. REEDWELL  
Captain. The distress signal we received before the  
nexus...it's coming from the place you were earlier.

WISHER  
Understood.

(Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 6

(Lights up on Jules in the family living room. She is sitting on a couch talking on the phone.)

JULES

"I know. I try to be understanding, but it's so hard. What? Stop it! He does not! You're just trying to cheer me up. You're lying. When did he say that? He actually said that? About me? Oh-my-god! Are you serious? What was he wearing? Oh-my-god. He is so beautiful! He's smart too. He's in my French and Chemistry class, and he never studies but he get's A's on everything. Oh yeah. I love his name. Shane. Oh, Shane. (laughs) Well of course give him my number. But don't tell him I told you to. Yeah. Yeah. Oh yeah."

(Wisher appears from behind the couch. Jules turns and sees him and let's out a scream, which causes Wisher to scream.)

Dad! What are you...

(into the phone)

Chelsea, I'll call you back.

(hangs up the phone)

Don't sneak up on me like that!

WISHER

I'm sorry. My coordinates must be off.

JULES

What?

WISHER

Never mind. I need your help.

JULES

What kind of help?

WISHER

I have to find someone.

JULES

Who?

(Wisher shows her a picture)

This is mom.

WISHER

That's a good start. Is she here?

JULES

She's not...are you okay?

WISHER

Of course I'm not okay. I'm in love! I took one look at your mother and I fell from the stars.

JULES

Did you happen to land on your head?

WISHER

It was a figure of speech.

(Sam enters)

SAM

Did someone scream in here?

(sees Wisher)

Oh. Dad. Where have you been?

WISHER  
Why does everyone keep calling me "Dad?"

JULES  
(to Sam)  
Look at this.

(handing him the picture)

SAM  
It's mom.

WISHER  
Ah! So you know her too!

SAM  
What's going on here?

JULES  
He wants to know where she is.

SAM  
What?

WISHER  
I need your help. Both of you.

SAM  
Why?

WISHER  
I need to find her.

SAM  
What are you talking about.

WISHER

I saw her today.

JULES

What do you mean you saw her?

WISHER

She was beautiful! She sent out a distress signal.  
She wants me to find her.

SAM

Dad.

WISHER

Please, help me.

JULES

Dad.

WISHER

You both must help me find her!

SAM

Mom is dead.

(long pause)

She's been dead for over four years.

JULES

Dad. I know it hurts.

WISHER

She's not dead.

JULES

You have to accept it.

WISHER

She's not dead! I saw her. She needs my help  
and...and...

JULES

And what?

WISHER

I need your help.

SAM

We'll get you help. I promise.

WISHER

Just tell me where she is!

SAM

We don't know where she is. She's gone. That's all.

WISHER

No. She's alive. She's alive and she's waiting for  
me.

(Wisher breaks down)

SAM

She's dead! Don't you understand that! We were all  
there when we heard the news. Don't you remember?!

(Sam throws the picture down)

JULES

Sam!

SAM

God! Why are you doing this to us? Why?

JULES

Sam! That's enough. Don't talk to him like that.

SAM

Jules, how can you take it? What is this? He brings back a picture of mom and runs around saying she's alive. That's crazy Jules.

JULES

I know it's crazy, but he believes it. He believes.

SAM

(To WISHER)

She's dead. Her car was pulled out of the waters. Don't you remember? Or don't you want to remember?

JULES

But they never found the body Sam.

SAM

Are you crazy too? Her car was found at the bottom of the Gorge! How much more proof do you need? God! Look at this. Is this what I came back for? My last semester at school, and I had to pack my bags and come home for this? To watch my father lose his mind right here in front of us?

Well. I'm here to help, and that's exactly what I'm going to do.

(Sam exits)

JULES

Sam.

(Jules looks at Wisher. A long uncomfortable pause. Jules picks up the picture and slowly hands it to

Wisher. (Wisher slowly looks up at Jules.)

WISHER

You have her eyes.

(Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 7

(Lights up on Wisher in his ready room)

WISHER

"Captain's personal log stardate 8993.7. As a starfleet officer, I have seen many things in my day. Wonderous worlds that grip the kernels of imagination. Because of that, my dreams are even more astonishing than ever before. Am I asleep right now? In a few moments will I wake up to realize all is well and normal? Perhaps. But for the time being, I remain in a world so outlandish, so ridiculous that a starfleet captain can fall in love with a woman he's never seen before? A woman who might not even be real? A world where I am a father to children I've never met before and whose mother is the one I wish to find. Ridiculous? Indeed. Impossible? Perhaps not. I never married, and I certainly don't have children of my own. The only family I've had is this crew. The only home I've had is this ship. These are my responsibilities. Now and forever.

(looks out her picture)

You're not real. But I wish you were.

(looks out a porthole)

Star-light, star-bright first star I see tonight...  
I wish I may, I wish I might...have the wish I wish  
tonight.

(pause)

I wish to...leave this nexus.

LT. REESE

(through communicator)

"Bridge to Captain."

WISHER

Captain here.

LT. REESE

"Captain, I believe we've found a way out."

WISHER

Report.

LT. REESE

"Our vulnerability scan has located a weak point in the nexus. We now have the coordinates and are ready to set a course."

WISHER

"I'm on my way. Captain out."

(looks out at the porthole)

That was fast.

(lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 8

(Sam's office. Sam and Iffy sitting at his desk)

SAM

I can't take it anymore Iffy. My father hands me a picture of my mother thinking we're going help him find her, when he knows she's dead. But he didn't know. I mean he should've known. That's why he's-

IFFY

That's why you think he's losing it?

SAM

Exactly.

IFFY

Well what did the doctor say?

SAM

What, Von Heizenberg? That doctor's crazier than my Dad. He's got this fish in his office that he feeds-

IFFY

What's so crazy about that?

SAM

The fish is dead! Who feeds a dead fish? I mean look at the situation I'm in Iffy.

IFFY

You've got a doctor who doesn't realize that his fish is dead and you've got a father who doesn't realize that his wife is dead. I think they're perfect for each other.

SAM

Do you ever feel like you're sitting alone in a room and all the walls are closing in on you?

IFFY

Like the trash compactor scene from Star Wars?

SAM

(pause)

Exactly.

IFFY

No, I like to think of life as constantly expanding outwards. The longer I live, the more space I've got.

SAM

What is that about women? Whether you're moving in or breaking up with someone. You always want more space. Nothing's ever big enough.

IFFY

You're right. Nothing is ever big enough, for me anyway. Why do you think walk-in closets are so crucial to us?

SAM

Iffy, I'm at the end of my rope.

IFFY

Then tie a knot and hang on.

SAM

I just don't know how. What do you think I should do?

IFFY

You should break up with Toby Williams.

SAM

Come again?

IFFY

The best thing I ever did was break up with Toby Williams. Remember, the summer after high school?

SAM

Yeah, that's when you stopped talking to everyone.

IFFY

I felt so alone and unhappy. Not because I missed him, but because I didn't miss him. I thought I was incapable of loving anyone and I felt so guilty about it. I was desperate for answers, anything that could explain why I was feeling that way. So I decided to look at some self-help books. I mean there's self help books for just about everything. So I went to the bookstore and I was so excited and frantic and I asked the saleslady, "Where's the self help section?" And she said to me..."If I told you, it would defeat the purpose."

SAM

So what are trying to tell me?

IFFY

If I told you, it would defeat the purpose.

SAM

(after a long pause)

So you want me to figure things out on my own.

IFFY

Thank ya Jesus!

SAM

It seems like that's all I've been doing these last few years. Sometimes I wish that someone else could figure things out for me.

IFFY

That's a luxury no one can afford except for Ted Turner and Microsoft employees.

SAM

Thank god I'm neither.

IFFY

Sam, you left to figure things out. Now you're back. There's a reason for that.

SAM

Yeah, I left. It seems to run in the family.

IFFY

What do you mean?

SAM

She left him. Before the accident. She called it quits on the whole family.

IFFY

Your mother?

SAM

Yeah. I overheard them one night. I was at the top of the stairs, listening. They never really fought, they just argued. I could only see my father. He was all decked out in uniform and he had a shoebox under his arms full of old pictures. He kept showing her the pictures, thinking that would keep her from leaving. He meant well.

(looks at Iffy)

All right. I'll see the doctor again.

(lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 9

(Split Scene: The Wisler family living room and the bridge of the Starship Valkyries. Lights up on Jules sitting on a sofa. She is reading a TV guide. A few moments later, Sam enters.)

SAM

(picking up trash)

Could you maybe help me clean up around here?

JULES

(looking at the TV Guide)

Hey, there's a Star Trek marathon on tonight. Remember the episode "The Tholian Web" where Kirk disappears and is presumed dead so Spock and McCoy are left to run the ship? Hmm. Kind of reminds me of us.

SAM

I don't watch Star Trek.

JULES

The first time I saw Star Trek, it was a rerun. I was sitting on dad's lap eating popcorn. As the opening credits rolled, I was amazed at how fast the ship flew by. That swishing sound it made.

(makes a swishing sound)

Those different worlds they went to, and Captain Kirk...he was such a doll. But as I got older, William Shatner's hair got thinner and his gut got bigger. He would always suck it in. Do you think that's why his delivery was so choppy? Because he couldn't breathe?

SAM

I always thought it was because he couldn't act.

JULES

I thought you didn't watch Star Trek?

SAM

I don't. But I've seen TJ Hooker.

JULES

Guess what Sam? Shane, the guy in my French and Chemistry class asked me out. He said he might come over sometime. Does it sound like he likes me?

SAM

Not now Jules.

JULES

I was just trying to fill you in on my life. In case you cared.

SAM

I do. And after this is all over, we'll sit down and we'll check in on each other okay?

JULES

After what's all over?

SAM

I've invited Dr. Von Heizenberg to come down to take a look at Dad.

JULES

Doctor who?

SAM

No, Dr. Von Heizenberg.

JULES

You invited him? Without telling me?

SAM

I'm telling you now.

JULES

Well I don't want Dad seeing anymore doctors. I'm tired of doctors.

SAM

Jules, I came back home to help. I said I would, and that's exactly what I'm going to do.

JULES

How many doctors is it going take to make you understand that's not what Dad needs.

SAM

Oh and I suppose you know what Dad needs?

JULES

Yes I do.

SAM

Enlighten me.

JULES

He needs mom.

SAM

(amused)

I don't believe this. Don't you see? That's exactly why I'm doing this Jules, because now Dad's got you believing that mom is alive. Is that what you honestly believe Jules? Is it?

JULES

Well there wasn't any proof.

SAM

God Jules. How dare you bring this up!

JULES

No, how dare you! How dare you give up on mom so easily. How dare you dismiss the fact that Dad is holding on to her. And how dare you give up on us. We're still a family.

SAM

I didn't give up on anything. I'm here aren't I?

JULES

But you left. Right in the thick of things, you left when I needed you. You left me, Sam.

(exits)

SAM

Jules.

(looks around, then calls out)

Dad? Where are you?

(pause)

Captain to the bridge?

(No answer. Sam exits. Lights crossfade to Wisher and his crew on the bridge of the Valkyries)

WISHER

Status, Lieutenant.

LT. REESE

Sir, we are a few minutes away from the prime target area. The energy field has weakened by 25 percent.

WISHER

Is that enough to get us out?

LT. MULLEN

Yes. The weakened point opens up wide enough for us to get through, but only for .57 seconds. The timing's got to be perfect.

LT. REEDWELL

All calculations are in place. Countdown will begin in 1.2 minutes.

WISHER

What happens if we miss this one? How soon will it open up again?

LT. MULLEN

There is not enough data to make a complete assessment. However, we have to consider the fact that it may never open up again. We've got to take this opportunity captain.

(Seeing that Wisher is hesitant)

Captain, you do want to leave don't you?

WISHER

Set engines at full impulse power.

LT. REESE

Engines at full impulse power. Course bearing 346 mark 13.

LT. REEDWELL

Initiating countdown. On five, four, three, two, one.  
Countdown begin.

(The computer's voice is heard counting  
down from T-minus 90 seconds)

WISHER

"Captain's log supplemental. The crew and I are  
advancing our way to the prime target area. All  
coordinates are set and engines are at full impulse  
power. We are ready to go home. Captain out."

LT. REEDWELL

We are at 1000 meters and closing in captain.

(Lights up on JULES)

JULES

(repeating)

Star-light, star-bright first star I see tonight..

WISHER

Did you hear something?

LT. REEDWELL

500 meters and closing. Engines ready for Warp speed  
at your command captain.

WISHER

Wait. Did you hear that? It sounded like that girl.

LT. REESE

Captain, we're getting close.

WISHER

No wait. I can hear her.

LT. MULLEN  
We're awaiting your command captain. Captain?

WISHER  
Where is she?

(WISHER steps down from the bridge,  
following Jule's voice)

LT. MULLEN  
Where is he going?

WISHER  
Star-light, star-bright first star I see tonight...

JULES  
Dad?

WISHER  
I wish I may, I wish I might...have the wish I wish  
tonight.

JULES  
Dad, are you okay?

(Sam enters)

SAM  
There you are. Come on Dad. I want you to meet  
someone.

JULES  
No. He's not going to talk to that doctor.

SAM

Jules, please.

(to Wisher)

Let's go Dad.

LT. REESE

We're good to go. Awaiting your command Captain.

JULES

Dad, are you okay?

WISHER

Where am I? Where's the bridge?

SAM

The bridge is over this way Dad. Follow me, I'll show you.

JULES

You are not taking him out there Sam!

SAM

Come on Dad.

LT. MULLEN

Captain, we must to go now!

WISHER

I can't see the bridge.

LT. MULLEN

Captain! We are awaiting your command!

WISHER

I can't see the bridge!

LT. MULLEN

Give the command captain!

WISHER

What command?

LT. MULLEN

Give the command captain!

WISHER

What's the command? I don't know it. I don't know my command!

SAM

Dad, we're waiting. Come on  
Dad. It'll be okay. Dad!

LT. MULLEN

We don't have time for this  
captain! Give us the command!

(Dr. Von Heizenberg enters)

SAM

The doctor's here.

WISHER

(crouching over)

NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(Blackout)

(End Act One)

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

(The final moments of the previous scene)

LT. MULLEN

Give the command captain!

WISHER

What's the command? I don't know it. I don't know my command!

SAM

Dad, we're waiting. Come on  
Dad. It'll be okay. Dad!

LT. MULLEN

We don't have time for this  
captain! Give us the command!

(Dr. Von Heizenberg enters)

SAM

The doctor's here.

WISHER

(crouching over)

NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(Lights down on the Bridge. Dr. Von Heizenberg crosses and places his hand on Wisher's shoulder.)

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Captain, the command is given.

WISHER

(slowly looking up)

Did I give it?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Yes you did.

(Dr. Von Heizenberg helps Wisher stand.)

WISHER

Do I know you?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I'm part of your crew.

WISHER

What's your name?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

My name is Dr. James Von Heizenberg. You can call me Jim.

WISHER

I don't remember seeing you on board this ship before.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I just transferred.

WISHER

That's not regulation uniform you're wearing, mister. And where's your insignia?

(Dr. Von Heizenberg is silent)

I know my crew.

(Wisher scans Dr. Von Heizenberg with his tricorder)

WISHER (cont)

Just as I thought. No signs of intelligent life. You don't belong here. You're here to take me back aren't you? You all are!

(Dr. Von Heizenberg immobilizes Wisher with a mere snap of his fingers.)

SAM

Jesus, what the hell are you doing doc?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I had to act fast. He was catching on.

JULES

He's not dangerous! You have absolutely no right-

(Dr. Von Heizenberg snaps his fingers in front of Jules and she quickly becomes still.)

SAM

Stop doing that!

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I'm sorry. I get carried away sometimes.

SAM

Are you really a doctor?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I am a licensed therapist, Sam. I spent ten years researching fanaticism reduction therapy in Munich where I successfully treated twenty-seven schizophrenic fanatics. You need not worry.

SAM

Look, I'm really trying. But-

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

But what?

SAM

But you just can't go around hypnotizing people without their permission!

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

(amused)

Oh Sam, your father is not hynoptized. Not yet.

SAM

What do you call this?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I have merely reordered the firing of their synaptic nerves in such a way that it renders them immobile. They can still see and hear us. They just can't move.

(Sam looks at Wisher.)

SAM

I don't know doc. I don't even know if we can help him. I mean, you saw him break down. He's not right. I mean, he's...well, he's a little...

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Kookoo for cocoa puffs?

SAM

Wasn't exactly what I was going to say, but...yes.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Sam, there are thousands, maybe millions of fanatics in this world. Maybe some go too far. For instance, there was a woman a few years ago who showed up for jury duty in a star trek uniform carrying a phaser and tricorder. There is man in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota

who founded the Interstellar Language school and he teaches people how to speak Klingon. My cousin goes to a dental care facility in Orlando where the whole staff wears regulation Starfleet uniforms. Some fanatics even believe in Starships and warp speed, wormholes, and intersellar beings. I know that sounds strange, but that doesn't make them kookoo. They just all believe in something, Sam.

SAM

It just all seems so...implausible to me.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Why is it that you can tell a man there are three billion stars in the universe and he'll take your word for it, yet if you put a sign on a bench that says wet paint, he'll touch it, just to make sure it's wet. Sam, without your faith, and the faith of your sister, we will never succeed.

SAM

Do you really think it's possible Doctor? That in the 23<sup>rd</sup> century, there will be Starships that travel at warp speed? That we'll make contact with new life forms? That we'll boldly go where no one has gone before?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

No one ever thought it possible to replace the horse and carriage. No one ever thought it possible to fly in the air like the birds. No one ever thought it possible to travel to the moon. But it was possible. Come Sam. We have little time and there is much work ahead of us. Help me move your father to the sofa.

(Sam and Dr. Von Heizenberg start to move Wisher)

Oh. What about your sister?

SAM

Nah.

(Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 2

(Lights up on the bridge of the Valkyries. Lieutenants Reedwell, Reese, and Mullen on deck.)

LT. MULLEN

This is just great. Our one chance at getting out of here and we lose our captain!

LT. REEDWELL

Don't get so excited. We'll just have to try it again.

LT. MULLEN

Try it again? When?

LT. REEDWELL

I don't know.

LT. MULLEN

I'm sorry, could you speak up a little bit? I didn't catch that.

LT. REEDWELL

I said I don't know.

LT. MULLEN

Exactly! You don't know. That's why I'm the science officer, not you.

LT. REESE

Calm down Mullen.

LT. MULLEN

Calm down? How can I calm down when I'm surrounded by a incompetents? You call yourselves officers?

LT. REESE

Reedwell was only trying to help. He didn't know-

LT. MULLEN

None of you know!

(pointing to each of them.)

Not you or you or...or even the Captain, wherever he is. I have no other choice but to-

LT. REESE

What are you saying Mullen?

LT. MULLEN

By order of starfleet regulation 93-3 I hereby call for the removal of the Captain from the command of the Starship Valkyries.

LT. REEDWELL

On what grounds?

LT. MULLEN

Desertion of his ship and crew, dereliction of duty, mental incapacity, and violation of the prime directive.

LT. REESE

Prime directive?

LT. MULLEN

No Federation officer shall interfere with the natural evolution of a civilization.

LT. REESE

I know what the prime directive is. What violation are you talking about?

LT. MULLEN

Interfering with the temporal laws of the universe.

LT. REEDWELL

This is a different situation.

LT. MULLEN

Even so, he's neglected his duties as Captain.

LT. REEDWELL

It's not his fault.

LT. MULLEN

Come on. You can't tell me he hasn't been acting a little strange lately?

LT. REEDWELL

He's been under a lot of pressure.

LT. MULLEN

He's our Captain. He's been trained to deal with pressure. Now he's left us. I'm only concerned about the safety of this ship.

(Reedwell thinks.)

LT. REESE

(To Reedwell)

Don't listen to him. He wants you on his side because he knows it takes at least three officers to relieve command of the ship. But that doesn't matter. Regardless of what you decide, he still has to convince me.

LT. MULLEN

I don't need any of you. I can talk to other crew members.

LT. REESE

Let me refresh your memory. It takes three senior officers to relieve the Captain of his duty. Two of those three should be the First Officer and the Chief Medical Officer. You're neither. I suggest we end this conversation right now or-

LT. MULLEN

Or what?

LT. REESE

Or I will bring you up on charges-

LT. MULLEN

What charges?

LT. REESE

Mutiny.

(long pause.)

You're dismissed Lieutenant.

(Mullen exits.)

Reedwell.

LT. REESE

Yes sir?

LT. REEDWELL

Find the captain.

LT. REEDWELL

Yes sir.

(Lights fade blackout)

SCENE 3

(Lights up on the living room. Dr. Von Heizenberg and Wisher are sitting on the couch. Sam is standing behind them. Jules is still standing there, motionless.)

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Mr. Wisher. Can you hear me? Blink if you can hear me.

(Wisher blinks)

Good. Do you know where you are?

(Wisher blinks)

Good. Now I'm going to hypnotize you.

SAM

Is this safe?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Sam, I am a trained professional.

(waving his hands in front of Wisher)

Now relax. Your eyelids are very very heavy. They are so heavy, soon, you will want to close your eyes

(Wisher slowly closes his eyes.)

Good. Tell me where you are right now.

WISHER

I am here.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Where is here? Describe this place.

WISHER

It is far away, farther than anything I've ever known.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Tell me more.

WISHER

I'm at the edge of space, where all laws of existence changes.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

And...

WISHER

I'm trapped inside a nexus.

SAM

A nexus?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Quiet. What is this place like?

WISHER

It is a place where the ultimate truths of the universe are revealed. Where the belief of our own existence may be confirmed...or destroyed.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Are you alone?

WISHER

No.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Who else is there?

WISHER

Familiar faces.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Do you know any of these people.

WISHER

Oh yes. There's Picard...there's Spock...and even Kirk. And...

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Who else?

WISHER

She's there too.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Who is she?

WISHER

Linda

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Your wife?

WISHER

I don't have a wife.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Tell me about Linda.

WISHER

Linda? Linda is my universe. Linda is everything I've ever...

(Silence)

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Mr. Wisher? Mr. Wisher?

(Wisher convulses, changing into Spock)

Are you okay Mr. Wisher?

WISHER

It appears you have mistaken me for someone else.

SAM

Who is he?

WISHER

Spock. Who are you?

SAM

I'm Sam. I'm your son.

WISHER

Your statement is incorrect. I have never spawned any offspring.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Sam, please.

(Lights up on the bridge of the  
Valkyries.)

LT. REEDWELL

I think I've found the Captain.

LT. REESE

Are you sure Lieutenant?

LT. REEDWELL

Pinpointing location now.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Mr. Wisher...I mean, Mr. Spock. Do you know who I am?

WISHER

I have never seen you before. It would be quite difficult for me to know who you are.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

My name is Doctor Von Heizenberg.

WISHER

Fascinating. What area of medicine is your primary focus, doctor?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Well, I don't really administer any kind of medicine.

WISHER

That seems illogical.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I deal with behavior and well being. I'm a psychologist.

WISHER

I don't understand. What is your method of treatment?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Listening and asking questions.

WISHER

Do you profess that you can heal people by listening to their thoughts?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

So to speak, yes.

(Silence)

Are you still there?

(WISHER puts his hand on the Doctor's  
face and attempts a mind-meld)

SAM

Dad! What the hell are you doing?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

It's okay Sam. He's not hurting me.

WISHER

Fascinating.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Let him play this through.

WISHER

Your name is James Von Heizenberg.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Please, call me Jim.

WISHER

You are...a very intelligent man, Jim. You had an  
extensive education.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

(playing along)

Yes. You're right.

WISHER

Many people look up to you.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Of course.

WISHER

You enjoy helping others.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Yes, of course.

WISHER

Your favorite candy are gummi bears.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

What? How do you know that?

WISHER

You have everything that you want. However...deep down you are not happy.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Of course I'm happy.

WISHER

I sense a deep sadness inside of you.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I think you're mistaken.

WISHER

Am I? Search your feelings doctor, you know it to be true.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

You're wrong. I'm very content with my life. I've got cable.

WISHER

Your heart is empty. You are in denial.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

What am I denying?

WISHER

Your fish.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

(Becoming frightened)

What about my fish? How do you know I have a fish?

WISHER

You are exposing your thoughts to me. Do you deny that you have a fish?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I do have a fish.

WISHER

His name is Sigmund.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

You can't possibly know that.

WISHER

You have denied the fact that Sigmund is dead.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

What are you saying? No....he's not dead. I feed him every day. He's fine. He's just a little tired, that's all.

Doc. SAM

No. DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Doc. SAM

DR. VON HEIZENBERG  
Sam, Sigmund is not dead. You saw him.

Jim. SAM

What? DR. VON HEIZENBERG

SAM  
(carefully)  
He's dead Jim.

No! No! DR. VON HEIZENBERG

WISHER  
Don't deny your true feelings doctor! They will be  
your undoing! Free yourself! Free yourself!!!

No! No! No! No!..... DR. VON HEIZENBERG

(breaking down)

SAM  
Doc, are you okay? Hey doc!

(Sam goes to consult the doctor as  
Wisher wanders off)

LT. REEDWELL  
I've found him!

LT. REESE  
Lock on to his coordinates and beam him up.

LT. REEDWELL  
Coordinates locked on. Beaming him up sir.

SAM  
(turning around)  
Dad?

(Realizing his Father has gone)

Shit.

(Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 4

(Lights up on Jules in the living room. She is still immobile. We hear her voice.)

JULES

"I can't move. I can't help my father. I feel useless. Well isn't this pleasant. There's no point in feeling sorry for myself. But if I don't, who will? I know I expect too much. I guess having a perfect family nowadays is a ludicrous idea. I've got to stop thinking that way. It's ridiculous. People will tell me I can't have my cake and eat it too.

(pause)

But what good is cake if you can't eat it?"

(Lights crossfade to Reese and Reedwell on the bridge of the Valkyries where. Wisher enters)

LT. REEDWELL

Captain on the bridge.

WISHER

(looks behind him, confused)

I do not see the Captain.

LT. REESE

Captain, are you alright?

WISHER

Who are you?

(Wisher convulses and changes into Picard)

LT. REEDWELL

Captain?

(Wisher nods)

LT. REESE

Captain, since our attempt at freeing ourselves from the nexus failed, our options are extremely limited.

WISHER

Make it so.

(Reese and Reedwell look at each other in confusion.)

LT. REESE

I'm sorry Captain, make what so?

WISHER

(To Reedwell)

Engage!

LT. REEDWELL

Engage what?

LT. REESE

Captain, we're parsing through all the historical data we have on the nexus in an attempt to-

WISHER

(to Reese)

Let's see what's out there number one!

(Getting no response)

Engage! Make it so!

(Convulses into KIRK)

LT. REESE

Captain?

WISHER

(Eyeing Lt. Reese)

Please...call me...Jim.

LT. REESE

But I thought your name was John?

WISHER

Lieutenant, is that regulation uniform you're wearing?

LT. REESE

Yes captain, it is.

WISHER

Oh. When did Starfleet stop issuing skirts?

LT. REEDWELL

Skirts? Captain, women haven't worn skirts on the bridge for over a century.

WISHER

Well that's a damn shame.

(to REESE)

"Let them curtsy with their left legs and not presume to touch a hair of my master's horse-tail till they kiss their hands."

(kisses Lt. Reese's hand)

Shakespeare.

(Lt. Reese looks at him in disgust)

WISHER  
(to Reedwell)  
Lieutenant, plot a course.

LT. REEDWELL  
Where to Captain?

WISHER  
Second star on the right, and straight on until  
morning.

LT. REEDWELL  
I'm sorry Captain, which star are you talking about?

LT. REESE  
Captain, perhaps we should have the doctor look you  
over.

WISHER  
No! No doctors! I'm fine.

(Wisher convulses. He is himself  
again.)

I'll be in my ready room getting...ready.

(Wisher starts to exit.)

LT. REEDWELL  
(to Reese)  
Are you going to tell him?

WISHER  
Tell me what?

LT. REESE  
Ummm. Well...

WISHER

Speak up Lieutenant.

LT. REESE

Captain, I had to dismiss Lt. Mullen from his post. He wanted to relieve...the Captain from his command.

WISHER

(pause)

I see. You have the comm Lieutenant.

LT. REESE

Yes Captain.

(Lights crossfade to Wisher's ready room)

WISHER

Mullen. Why Mullen? Why couldn't he stay loyal?

(Erupting)

WHY CAN'T ANYONE STAY LOYAL!!!

(Linda's voice is heard)

LINDA

Loyalty is like a burning candle John. There's always more of it in the beginning than there is in the end. You know that.

WISHER

Oh no, not you again. Why can't you leave me alone!

LINDA

Have you been loyal John?

WISHER

I don't want to talk about loyalty! It doesn't exist.  
It's an illusion!

LINDA

Have you been loyal to me John?

WISHER

I've been nothing but loyal. Don't you see that? I  
get stuck in this nexus and then you send me a signal  
from God knows where and I drop everything to find  
you. Of course I've failed. It's too late now. I've  
failed you and I've failed my crew. I just want to go  
home.

LINDA

But you are so close.

WISHER

Close to losing my command? Or close to losing my  
mind? You choose.

LINDA

Close to finding me.

WISHER

How am I going to find you? How!

LINDA

You'll find a way.

WISHER

Tell me how. Answer me!

(silence)

Are you there? I hate it when she does that!

(Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 5

(Lights up on Jules in the living room. She is remains immobile. Sam and Doctor Von Heizenberg enters)

SAM

Are you sure you're okay doc?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Yes Sam. I'm all right. I wasn't expecting that to happen. No one has ever mind melded with me before.

(Sam offers the doctor some goldfish crackers which upsets him even more. After Sam calms him down, he notices Jules.)

SAM

We should probably do something about her.

(Dr. Von Heizenberg snaps his fingers and Jules becomes mobile again)

JULES

Well it's about time! Do you know how long I've been standing here? Thanks a lot. I've probably got vericose veins.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

I'm sorry.

JULES

Yes, you are.

SAM

Jules.

JULES

What Sam? What do you want me to do? Just tell me. Because everything I do is not good enough. Everything I do is wrong or selfish or plain stupid.

SAM

Calm down Jules.

JULES

No Sam! I will not calm down. This isn't the time to be calm. I've just been immobilized for...for I don't know how long but a very long time. Do you know what it's like to just stand here and watch you and Dr. Van Helsing or whatever his name try to help dad and then lose him? He got away from both of you and I couldn't do anything. I couldn't move! I was helpless and I'm tired of being helpless Sam!

SAM

I'm sorry. I should have asked you first before bringing the doctor over.

JULES

I just want everything to be the same. Why can't we have our family back?

SAM

This is our family.

JULES

But I miss her.

SAM

I miss her too.

(Iffy calls from offstage)

IFFY

Hey Sam! Are you guys in here?

(Entering)

Sam, I've been looking all over for you! I've got something very interesting to show you.

(Iffy hands him some papers)

SAM

The Do Not Call list? You couldn't wait till tomorrow to show me this?

IFFY

Well read it stupid.

JULES

What is it?

IFFY

It's a list of people who've requested not to be called by us.

SAM

Iffy, what are you trying to show me here?

IFFY

Look on the last page. It was the last call I made tonight.

SAM

(Flipping to the last page)

This can't be right.

IFFY

That's the name she gave me.

SAM

No, I...this can't be...

JULES

What Sam?

SAM

Customer record 35693B. Linda Leighton. Do Not Call.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Who is that?

JULES

That's our mother. She's alive?

(Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 6

(Lights up on the Captain's ready room.  
Wisher is holding the shoebox full of  
photos under his arms)

WISHER

There have been a lot of strange things happening  
lately. I know it's the nexus, but I sometimes find  
myself not so sure of what's real. This nexus has...

(On to something)

This nexus. Nexus. This nexus...It fulfills my  
wishes. If I wish for it...then maybe I should see  
Linda.

(He closes his eyes)

Star-light, star-bright first star I see tonight...  
I wish I may, I wish I might...have the wish I wish  
tonight.

(He opens up his eyes. Nothing. He  
closes his eyes again.)

Star-light, star-bright first star I see tonight...  
I wish I may, I wish I might...have the wish I wish  
tonight.

(Opening his eyes. Nothing.)

What kind of nexus is this! You're supposed to  
fulfill my wishes!

(Wisher buries his heads in his hands.  
Lights cross fade and Linda appears.  
Wisher sees her.)

LINDA

Sorry I'm late.

WISHER

Linda. It's you! Talk to me.

LINDA

I can't. I just came to pick up my keys. Goodbye.

(Linda exits)

WISHER

No! Wait! Linda?

(Sees that he has failed.)

Damn!

(Lights fade to black. We hear Wisher  
in the dark)

Star-light, star-bright first star I see tonight...  
I wish I may, I wish I might...have the wish I wish  
tonight.

(Lights up. Same as before. Linda  
appears)

LINDA

Sorry I'm late.

WISHER

Don't be sorry. Let's talk.

LINDA

I can't. I just came to pick up my keys. Goodbye.

WISHER

No wait! Don't leave yet!

LINDA

I'm sorry.

(Linda exits once again)

WISHER

No don't leave! Linda!

WISHER (cont)

Shit!

(Lights fade to black. Once again, we hear Wisher in the dark)

Star-light, star-bright first star I see tonight...  
I wish I may, I wish I might...have the wish I wish  
tonight.

(Lights up. Same as before. Linda appears)

LINDA

Sorry I'm late.

WISHER

Don't be sorry. Let's talk.

LINDA

I can't. I just came to pick up my keys. Goodbye.

WISHER

No wait! Don't leave yet!

(this time he runs after her and stops her)

LINDA

Please, let's just get this over with. You can keep everything.

WISHER

Where are you going?

LINDA

Away. Far away.

WISHER

How far?

LINDA

I don't know.

WISHER

I think we should....

LINDA

There's nothing left to talk about.

(pause)

John, do you love me?

WISHER

Of course I love you. You know I love you.

LINDA

(pause)

Then let me go.

WISHER

Well, I don't love you that much.

LINDA

(laughs)

You're still so romantic.

WISHER

I am. That's exactly why you can't leave.

LINDA

Please John, I don't want to talk about it. I feel bad enough as it is.

WISHER

I feel bad too. What do you feel bad about?

LINDA

Loyalty.

WISHER

Oh God. Not that.

(to himself)

What did I do? What did I do?

(to Linda)

Loyalty. Is that it? The reason you're leaving me is because of loyalty?

LINDA

Yes.

WISHER

Oh God. Linda. I'm so sorry.

LINDA

I'm sorry too John. I'm sorry I couldn't stay loyal to you.

WISHER

(surprised)

What?

(Lights crossfade to Iffy, Jules, Sam and Dr. Von Heizenberg in the living room)

JULES

How can it really be her Sam?

SAM

Her address is 1735 Oceanview drive...Seaside, Oregon.

JULES

It could be coincidence. Maybe it's someone else.

IFFY

But that's an amazing coincidence.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

What do you think Sam?

SAM

I don't know what I think. Linda Leighton. That's our mother's maiden name. She lives in Seaside.

JULES

Mom always wanted to live there.

SAM

This is amazing! I mean, think about it.

JULES

Sam, I don't know.

SAM

What do you mean you don't know? Jules, you said it yourself. There was no proof. They never found the

body. It's a slim chance that she survived, but it's still a chance, right?

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

Sam, it may not be her. You might be setting yourself up for a big fall.

JULES

He's right Sam.

SAM

I can't believe it. Doc, you're the one who's been telling me to believe and have faith. To prepare myself for some amazing journey, remember? And what about you Jules? You accused me of giving up on mom. Now, when I've got some proof, and I'm finally willing to gamble, you both tell me I shouldn't do it? Isn't that what you're telling me?

JULES

Sam, you've always believed mom was dead.

SAM

Maybe I was waiting for proof. Now I've finally got it. I know it isn't much, but it's something.

DR. VON HEIZENBERG

It's very little proof Sam.

SAM

But it's enough! It's enough.

JULES

Sam, even if it is mom, maybe she doesn't want to see us. Maybe she doesn't want to come home.

SAM

But She's our mother! Of course she wants... to see us.

(Sam takes a long pause as lights come up on  
Wisher and Linda)

LINDA

I wasn't loyal to you. I've betrayed the trust of my  
husband and my family.

WISHER

You...

(long pause)

What do you mean you weren't loyal?

LINDA

John, we've been through this...you know that's why I'm  
leaving.

WISHER

When will you be back?

LINDA

I don't know. I just want to get in a car and forget  
for awhile.

WISHER

Okay. Okay. So, people make mistakes. I do it all  
the time, and you...you just made a mistake.

LINDA

That's taking the easy way out. I'm not going to deny  
my actions by telling myself it was a mistake. It  
wasn't a mistake. I made certain decisions. I'll own  
up to that.

WISHER

Fine. Than I made a mistake. Maybe I should have done something more.

LINDA

John, remember when we were at Seaside and we would watch the sun set every night?

WISHER

Yes. You would stare out at the horizon for a good hour after the sun had gone down.

LINDA

And you would tell me every night, "There's no sense in holding on to something that's not there anymore, or you might lose what you've got now."

WISHER

Yeah, well it was a stupid saying.

LINDA

John. There's nothing left to hold onto. Even if this never happened. We would be fooling ourselves.

WISHER

What about the children? How can you leave them?

LINDA

How can I face them? How can I look into their eyes knowing that I've betrayed them as well?

SAM

She betrayed us Jules.

JULES

What?

SAM

She left us behind.

WISHER

(to Linda)

You can't leave us behind.

LINDA

If have to. It may not be forever. But I need my space...

WISHER

Space? Space for what? Have I ever smothered you? Have I ever kept you from doing what you wanted to do?

LINDA

I'm not your pet John. You can't "keep" me from doing anything.

WISHER

That's not what I meant.

LINDA

But that's how you feel.

(pause)

You're not well, John.

WISHER

Of course I'm not well!!! Who ever said I was?!

LINDA

Please don't yell at me.

WISHER

I'm sorry. When are you coming back?

LINDA

When I'm ready.

(Wisher and Linda remain silent, each afraid to move or speak. After a long moment, Wisher picks up the shoebox and pulls out the flattened penny she once gave to him)

WISHER

(handing it to her)

Here. It's for you.

LINDA

What is it?

WISHER

It's a sturgeon.

(Linda smiles and reaches for it)

Take it and you're mine forever.

(Linda stares at the penny for a moment, then slowly turns to leave.)

But you sent me a distress signal!

LINDA

I've sent you a lot of distress signals. You never answered them.

WISHER

I answered this one!

LINDA

I didn't send this one. You did. Let me go. You have to return to your family before you lose them forever.

(Linda turns and exits as we hear her voice which slowly fades into Wisher's)

LINDA  
Let me go. You have to  
return to your family before  
you...  
...lose them forever  
...let me go...  
...let me go...  
...let me go...

WISHER  
...lose them forever.  
You have to return to your  
family before you lose them  
forever...  
...lose them forever...  
...lose them forever...

(Lights fade down on Wisher and Linda)

JULES  
Let her go, Sam.

SAM  
But...but I miss her. She didn't have to leave. She  
didn't...

JULES  
It doesn't matter anymore. What matters is that  
there's still a family here. You and me and dad.

(Wisher enters)

SAM  
(to himself)  
Dad.

WISHER  
I'm right here.

SAM  
Dad?

WISHER  
Son.

(Lights fade to blackout)

SCENE 7

(Lights up on Wisher in the living room. He is looking at a photograph)

WISHER

"I know I'm not well. I know I've disregarded certain duties as a...father. I'm old...and tired. Too tired to pretend that I'm young. When we're new in this world, we laugh and cry on the turn of a dime. There's nothing in between. There's no journey to be taken. As we get older, we still laugh and cry, but we also forget and remember. Numerous journeys abound. Few are taken. When she left me, I had forgotten I had a family. I must never forget again. I always wanted to be many things. Now, I just want to be father. So, this is my final entry into the Captain's log. Wisher out."

(Wisher puts the photograph down on a nearby table. He then removes his communicator pin from his uniform and places it on top of the photograph. Wisher slowly exits. After a few moments, Lieutenant Reese's voice is heard coming from the communicator pin.)

LT. REESE

"Bridge to the Captain. Bridge to the Captain. Are you there Captain? This is the Starship Valkyries." Captain, we're awaiting your Command. Captain?

(Sam enters. He is wearing a Captain's uniform. Sam crosses to the table and picks up the communicator pin. He puts it on his shirt and then taps it once.)

SAM

Captain to the Valkyries. I'm here.

LT. REESE

Captain, the crew is getting restless. We're ready to go home.

SAM

Understood. I think our mission here is complete Lieutenant Reese.

LT. REESE

Captain, with all due respect...

SAM

What's on your mind Lieutenant?

LT. REESE

You did violate a few Starfleet regulations.

SAM

What would you do if you were in my place Lieutenant? If your father lost his way through time and space? Wouldn't you go find him? No matter where? No matter when?

LT. REESE

Yes I guess I would.

SAM

I did violate Starfleet regulations. But I wasn't the first, and I certainly won't be the last. Standby Lieutenant.

LT. REESE

Aye Captain.

SAM

Captain's log Stardate 8997.6. John Phineas Wisher is now contained and ready to return with us to the 23<sup>rd</sup> century. My gratitude goes to my crew for taking part  
SAM (cont)

in this unusual charade. I realize I've put them under difficult circumstances. However, I had to do what I felt was necessary. At all costs. As Captain, I take full responsibility. Once we return to space dock, he will be given a final examination. After that, I won't see him for awhile. I'll miss him. He was the one who taught me the starfleet academy motto "Ex astris, scientia." From the stars, knowledge.

(Wisher and Jules enter behind Sam.  
Sam looks at them and then taps his  
communicator pin.)

"Transporter room. Three to beam up."

(Blackout)

(The End)