

Subject: The Funeral (Part 1)
Author: Lt. Commander Jake Arrington
Stardate: 80823.1400
Scene: Jake's Quarters
Time: After Investigations (Part 4)

<Wake Up Call Initiated.>

Jake jerked up in the bed and looked around, his quarters, breathing heavily. As he was catching his breath, he started going through the events in his mind about what he had just been dreaming about. A very peculiar dream about himself and Ensign Masterson on the holodeck training for the Dominion mission, only in his dream, he was the one being killed by the blonde figure and not his friend. He had woken up right at the moment the sword was being pushed through him.

Jake stood up and walked to the mirror. He hadn't even bothered taking his clothes off the night before, when he laid down, planning on only going to sleep for an hour or two, but instead woke up at 08:00 the next morning, getting ready for his duty shift. And after pulling a fresh uniform out of the dresser and looking at it for a moment, he realized that the funeral was scheduled for this afternoon, and he had to get the Captain's permission to leave the ship for Earth to be there for the service. But what was he going to tell the Captain? They're in the middle of a battle for Christ sakes. He took a deep breath and removed his com badge from the dirty uniform and fastened it onto his clean one which he was now wearing and straightened his hair and left his quarters and strolled down to the turbo lift.

On his way to there, he was almost run over by a little girl who was happily chasing a little blue puppy down the corridors. She had come from around the corner, from one of the other turbo lifts at the opposite end of the hall. Jake jumped out of the way just as she had rounded the corner. He looked back and saw the little girl stop and say she was sorry for having almost run him over and then continued her chase again. Jake smiled to himself thinking, "What a cute kid" as he entered the turbo lift.

Jake: Bridge!

On The Bridge

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The turbo lift doors opened on the bridge and Jake stepped off and looked around. He saw the Captain coming out of his ready room. The Captain stopped next to him and they began to chat.

Jake: Good morning sir.

Captain: Good morning. What have you got?

Jake: I finished my sweep of the computer system, and have found no trace of the program. I have however set up an algorithm to alert the bridge the moment there's anything unusual going on.

Captain: I see. Okay, what can I do for you?

Jake: Sir... I know the ship is in a crisis at the moment, and I have no idea how I'm going to do this, but I would like to request permission to leave the ship.

Captain: For what purpose?

Jake: Ensign Masterson's funeral. His wife requested that I be there.

Captain: Where?

Jake: On Earth. In San Francisco as a matter of fact.

Captain: You do realize that we are currently in a war, don't you?

Jake: Yes Sir, I do. But you must understand my situation.

[Sickbay to Captain Morris]

Excuse me for a moment Lieutenant.

[Morris here] he said while he turned away from Lieutenant Arrington.

[Captain, we have a problem here, there are three patients that must be returned to Earth]

Captain: [Intriguing]

Dr Byron: [Excuse me sir?]

Captain: [Oh, nothing. Prepare them for travel and move them to shuttle bay two]

Dr Byron: [Understood, Byron out]

The Captain turns and walks back over to Arrington

Captain: It would seem that today is your lucky day Lieutenant, Doctor Byron needs to send three patients back to Starfleet Medical. So I can permission granted. I expect you back here as soon as possible.

Jake: Thank you sir.

Jake left the Captain standing there and went back into the turbo lift.

Captain: Lieutenant!

Jake: Sir?

Captain: The Runabout Omni will be ready for you in shuttle bay two, and give our best to the Masterson's.

Jake: I will sir.

And then the doors closed.

Jake's Quarters

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Jake was going around his quarters getting a few things to pack for his trip. He packed a couple of uniforms, and several sets of Civilian clothing, put them all in his duffel bag and zipped it up. He then walked out the door of his quarters and strolled a yards down the hall in the opposite direction of the turbo lift and stopped at Dr. Gray's quarters. He pushed the signal a couple of times and heard a groggy tired voice shout "Come in." He opened the doors and stepped inside. Zina was laying on the bed right across the room from him, propped on her elbows looking at him. As he approached her, she smiled and rubbed her eyes.

Dr. Gray: Hi...

Jake: (Sitting next to her on the bed) Hello dear.

Dr. Gray sat up and looked at the bag he had just set on the floor and then looked back up at him.

Dr. Gray: Going somewhere?

Jake: Yes. I came to say I'll be back in a few weeks.

Dr. Gray: (Suddenly getting a sad lonely look on her face) Where are you going?

Jake: To Ensign Masterson's funeral. His wife asked that I attend.

Dr. Gray: Well wait, I wanna come with you.

Jake: (Holding up his hand to stop her from getting out of bed) You're needed here baby. Besides, once I leave the ship, I'll be taking a Runabout It's too dangerous. We're in the middle of a war.

Dr. Gray: Can't you wait until the fighting stops?

Jake: I thought about that before, but decided that by the time this war ends, the funeral will be over, and I promised Mrs. Masterson I'd be there.

Dr. Gray: (Taking his hand and holding it tight) I'll miss you.

Jake: (Leaning down and kissing her passionately on the lips) I know. I'll miss you too. But I'm not leaving forever, it's just a few weeks.

Dr. Gray: It will feel like an eternity.

Jake: (Smiling) I know. But I'll be back. I promise.

Dr. Gray: (Smiling) Okay.

And then Jake stood up and opened the door to her quarters and as he stepped out, he whispered "I Love You" to Zina and left for the turbo lift. But this time, the doors opened a few feet before he even got to the turbo lift, and suddenly found himself holding a cute little blue blob of fur which had jumped out of the turbo lift and into his arms. He set his bag down and crouched on his knees and set the little puppy down on the ground.

Jake: Hey there little guy. I remember you.

He pet the puppy's head and the puppy seemed to like the attention. It just sat there and licked his hand as he rubbed it's head. And as he looked up, he saw the same little girl that had almost run him over before, peeking around the corner from inside the turbo lift, not even coming out. She appeared to be a little scared.

Jake: (Standing up) Hello.

The little girl stepped out from her hiding place and came into view. She walked toward him, not saying anything and crouched down and picked up the little puppy and held it close to her, and just looked up at him.

Jake: What's your name sweetheart?

"Mm.... Mariad" (Okay I don't know how to spell it, somebody help me out here. LOL!)

Jake: (Smiling) Well Mariad, if we're going to keep bumping into each other like this, it's only fair that we introduce ourselves. I'm Jake.

Mariad: (Smiling) H...Hi Jake.... Are you going on a trip or something?

Jake: (Holding up his bag) Yep. I'm going on a long journey, to a place far far away.

Mariad giggled at the way he said that. He was talking in a sort of mystic tone.

Jake: (Looking around) Where's your mommy sweetheart?

Mariad: She's on the bridge.

Jake: (Smiling) Lieutenant Breen?

Mariad: Yes, how did you know?

Jake: (Smiling) Well you look just like her... Okay, Mariad, why don't you run on home. I have to get going.

As Jake stepped into the turbo lift, the little girl smiled at him and set the puppy down and began chasing it. They stopped outside Caitlin Breen's quarters and waited for the doors to open and ran inside after she gave a happy wave to Jake. Then the doors closed.

Jake: Shuttle bay 2!

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NRPG: *A small part of this post has been modified by the Captain.*