

Subject: The Funeral (Part 2)
Author: Lt. Commander Jake Arrington
Stardate: 80825.2200
Time: After The Funeral (Part 1)
Scene: Shuttle Bay 2

The huge bay doors of Shuttle Bay 2 slowly slide open with a powerful whirring sound and Jake steps through. Following him are 3 nurses helping the 3 patients into the Runabout that he has to transfer to Starfleet Medical. Jake stands there for a moment and waits for the nurses to finish settling the patients in. When they came out of the Runabout, they walked pass him and left the shuttle bay. Jake flings his bag over his shoulder and walks up the ramp of the runabout and closes the rear compartment and sits down at the controls.

Jake: Computer, begin pre-launch sequence.

<Sequence underway.>

[This is the Runabout Omni, requesting permission to depart.]

Delgotta: Stand by Commander. We'll clear a path for you and cover you until you reach minimum safe distance.

A moment later, the voice of the Lt. Delgotta came back over the comm system telling him that he could leave. Jake presses a few buttons at the controls and the shuttle bay doors open. As soon as the forcefield deactivates, he hit the thrusters, and the Runabout slowly clears the shuttle bay.

Moments Later
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Personal Log, Stardate 80825:2230

I have taken my leave of the Independence and am in a Runabout enroute to Earth where I will attend the funeral of my closest comrad Ensign Masterson. I was able to stay clear of the battle between the Romulans and the Federation by modulating the shield grid to make my Runabout appear like a piece of debris floating dead in space. Then once I was clear of the fighting, I went into warp and masked my warp signature. It appears that nobody saw me, so I am for the moment in the clear as I start my 3 hour journey. The 3 crew members that I am transferring to Starfleet Medical are secured in the rear compartment.

Jake: Computer, end log.

<Acknowledged.>

Jake presses a few buttons on the controls then leans back in the chair and closes his eyes and begins to drift off into a light sleep.

Meanwhile, On Earth

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Mrs. Masterson was sitting at her desk in the den working on her computer. A small window popped up indicating to her that she had a recorded message from Jake. She stopped what she was doing and activated the recording.

Recording: Mrs. Masterson, I am enroute to your place as we speak. I have a small crew that has to be transferred to Starfleet Medical, but I shouldn't be delayed too long. I will be there shortly.

The recording ended, and Mrs. Masterson closed the small window and returned to her work, a list of things she had to do within the next few days to prepare herself and the kids for what lay ahead for them.

Meanwhile, Back On The Runabout

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<Red Alert>

Jake suddenly jerked up in his chair not only at the sound of the computer sounding the Red Alert claxons, but also at the rumbling and shaking of the Runabout. Something had hit it.

Jake: Computer, what happened?

<We have been hit by Weapons Fire.>

Jake: Who?? Where??

<A Romulan Warbird is decloaking off the starboard bow.>

Jake: On screen!

Jake watched the monitor as it suddenly shows an empty point in space, but in seconds was filled with the evil green color of a Romulan Warbird. "Where the hell did they come from!", he thought to himself. Had they been following him the whole time? Or were they waiting for him?

<The Warbird is hailing>

Jake: On screen.

An image of a Romulan Captain appeared on the monitor. Fear went through Jake's body all of a sudden, but he managed to stay calm as he watched the serious expressions on the face of the Romulan Captain.

Romulan: I am Captain Tikai of the Romulan Warbird Chukov. You will lower your shields and surrender your vessel or we will destroy you.

Jake: Captain! What is the meaning of this attack! I am on a peaceful mission to Earth!

Romulan: (Interrupting him) You will lower your shields and surrender your vessel! You have 30 seconds.

Jake: (Yelling) I will not surrender to you! I would rather die!

Romulan: So be it.

The image of the Romulan disappeared and Jake watched as the ship came about and charged it's weapons array. The Runabout shook with considerable damage as Jake tried everything he could to maneuver out of there and get some help. But to no avail. The Warbird was just too powerful and fast for him to maneuver away from every shot. He did manage to miss a few though.

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***NRPG:** Is this the end of Jake Arrington? Find out in the next installment. <-- LOL! I love keeping people on the edge of their seats.*