

Subject: Arrington Returns (Part 1)
Author: Lt. Commander Jake Arrington
Stardate: 80924.2300
Scene: Masterson's' Estate
Time: 1 Week Following "The Aftermath"

Melanie, Jake and the kids were all sitting around the dining room table eating dinner. Jake was saying his good-byes to each one of them, letting everybody know that he'd return some other time in the near future, and before he finally finished, he relayed to everybody that they'd be welcome to visit him aboard the Independence any time.

Melanie: (After Jake finished) Well we're really going to miss you Jake. It's been fun. And I will contact Admiral Kelly and see what he has to say about us moving to the Independence. Could be fun.

The kids suddenly got excited.

Amy: Oh mommy! That would be wonderful!

Brian: Yeah!

Jake: (Smiling) Well, it will be lovely to have you all. There's plenty of room on the ship.

Jake's communicator beeped, and he put down his fork and tapped it.

[Arrington here!]

[Lieutenant, this is Captain Targus. Just wanted to inform you that we're in orbit and are awaiting your signal to be transported aboard to rendezvous with the Independence.]

[Thank you Captain. I'll be finished momentarily.]

[Targus out.]

Jake: (Standing up) Well, that's my cue to be leaving. It was a pleasure visiting you all, and I hope we can do this again sometime.

Melanie: Count on it.

They all stood up and gave Jake a hug, and Jake went to the living room and picked up his bag and tapped his communicator and requested to be transported aboard the Righteous-A. In a moment, his pattern dematerialized as everybody waved good-bye to him.

On The Righteous

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Jake's pattern appeared on the transporter pad of the USS Righteous-A. He looked around for a moment, dazed at the lovely sites of all the computer systems lining the walls of the transporter room. A moment later he was met by Targus's first officer Commander Shelly Marcus. She stepped forward and extended her hand.

Marcus: Mr. Arrington... I'm Commander Marcus.

Jake: (Shaking her hand) Lieutenant Commander Jake Arrington.

Marcus: The Captain is waiting for you in the Officer's Lounge. If you'll follow me.

Jake smiled and followed the commander out the doors of the transporter room and into a turbo lift.

Marcus: Deck 7!

With that, the turbo lift gave a slight jolt and began moving towards the requested destination. Jake stood there against the back wall of the turbo lift staring up at the ceiling of the lift awaiting it's destination. Commander Marcus broke the silence.

Marcus: The Captain tells me you're serving aboard the USS Independence.

Jake: That's correct.

Marcus: Must be an honor to serve aboard the Federation's Flagship.

Jake: A great honor.

The turbo lift reached Deck 7 and Jake and the Commander stepped out and walked down a few corridors until they stopped at a huge door which slid open at their presence. They walked in, and Jake looked around. The room was huge. It reminded him of 10-Forward back on the Independence. He saw Captain Targus sitting at a table in the center of the room. She looked up and waved him over to her. Jake and the Commander approached her and sat down.

Targus: Welcome back Jake. It's good to see you.

Jake: And you as well Captain.

Targus: I see you've met my First Officer.

Jake: Yes. We were just talking about what an honor it is to serve aboard the Independence.

Targus: (Smiling) Now Jake, you're not trying to take my First Officer away from me are you?

Jake: (Getting serious) Oh no Captain. I would never dream of doing that.

Targus: Relax Jake. It was a joke.

Jake: (Smiling) Sorry. The last few days have been so serious I guess I've forgotten the punchline of a joke these days.

Targus: Well don't worry. During the next few days as we journey to rendezvous with the Independence I'm sure we'll teach you how again.

Jake: During all this time, I haven't had a chance to keep tabs on the Independence. Where is she now?

Targus: Well, we've received word that she's on her way to DS23. We're going there now to drop you off, and then it's back to Earth. My crew deserves a vacation after what we've been through.

Jake: Indeed. I've had my vacation. I just want to get back to the Independence and take a long hot bath and relax. I'm exhausted.

Targus: You take baths?

Jake: Of course I do. Doesn't everybody?

Targus: I guess. I just never thought men take baths. I've always known them to take a quick shower and be done with it.

Jake: (Laughing) Where have you been? I enjoy a relaxing bath every night. It's very soothing.

Targus: I guess I haven't paid too much attention to anything else that goes on around me.

Marcus: (Standing up) If you'll excuse me Captain, I believe I am needed on the bridge.

Targus: (Looking up) What's the rush Commander? Sit down and chat with us for a while.

Marcus: I'm sorry Captain, no disrespect intended, but I have things to do. I'll see ya later.

Targus: Okay.

Jake: (As Marcus leaves) What's her problem?

Targus: Oh you'll have to forgive her. She's not the chatting type. She prefers to keep herself busy at all times. It's kinda sad actually. I'm sure she would have a great time if she allowed herself to.

Jake laughs.

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NRPG: Yet another one down and possibly several more to go. I'm sure you'll all notice that when I post, I write books, and like to make them rather lengthy ;) LOL! Where the hell is everybody anyway! Come on people! Let's get some posts out! And whoever first posted about the Doctor missing, has some heavy duty explaining to do! I want my girlfriend back! I swear I can't leave for 1 minute without all hell breaking loose in my absence. LOL!