



“THE PITCAIRN INCIDENT”

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Chapter 1, Summary

As in any culture, there are many stories that become famous or iconic, held up as symbols of what is good about itself and its people – stories that showcase its citizens at their best. There are also many stories that are the opposite, infamous for how they show how far from the ideal they can be.

But there is another kind of story – the kind that the Federation is famous for: a combination of the first two kinds – cautionary tales of the base nature of its citizens, but with good eventually rising triumphant. This is one of these stories.



Starbase 188, “Pitcairn”

This story revolves around Starbase Pitcairn, one of the Federation’s newest Starbases, stationed above a nondescript planet of the Kobliad System – one of the systems that the Federation had identified as a “relocation zone” for displaced Federation societies.

The Skreeans, a fairly new member-species of the Federation had lost their home planet. In one of its benevolent moves, a move its detractors would say is patronizing and condescending, the Federation had ceded one of the uninhabited Kobliad Class M planets to these galactic orphans. This happened at a time when the Bajoran wormhole was yet to be mapped and discovered.

The discovery of this wormhole, and its eventual use for regular access to the Delta Quadrant, brought with it increased commercial traffic, and not just from the Federation but from other places as well. With the Kobliad System’s relatively close proximity to the Bajor System, the Skreeans, one of the poorest Federation societies, found itself being looked upon with envy by those who want permanent access to the Delta Quadrant. Looking upon this as a way to better their lot, the Skreeans started inviting all interested parties to negotiate for homestead rights or rights to put up embassies and consulates on their adopted planet, now christened Kentanna. One of the first races to come forward were the Cardassians.



File photo, Ambassador Reena of Kentanna (Skreean)

At the time, the newly-activated Starbase 188, Starbase Pitcairn, was just freshly towed in and put into geosynchronous orbit above Kobliad Five, an uninhabited Class K planet a few million kilometers from Kentanna. She had just finished a shakedown tour, and had just opened its doors to visitors. As expected, the newly installed Federation ambassador of Kentanna asked to make use of its facilities for her negotiations. But, a few weeks into her stay onboard, the ambassador was assassinated.

Rumors abounded - about who killed her, and the reason. The two most common theories said that it was related to a failed negotiation for land titles, or something to do with the political squabbling between the major political parties of the Skreean government. Federation authorities naturally started an investigation immediately. But though the investigation was just starting, the Kentanna government wasted no time to appoint a new ambassador. One of the suspects was Ambassador Arim Du'lam from Cardassia, an unapologetic, foppish flirt – for a Cardassian, that is.



File Photo, Ambassador Arim Du'lam of Cardassia

And it is here that the story begins.



File Photo, Admiral Verena Dela Porta

Starfleet Command had seen fit to install as the Pitcairn’s base commander Admiral Verena Dela Porta, a no-nonsense Starfleet human from Centaura. And, although she had misgivings about doing so, she had arranged for a reception ceremony for the new, incoming ambassador, an Ambassador Reena. She had wanted to have her executive officer join her but he had elected to meet the base’s new crew.

Commander Cha’Ael, Dela Porta’s x/o, had the distinction of being the only actively-serving Federation officer that was a Romulan. Several years before, Cha’Ael was deported from Romulus for unspecified political crimes. The former Centurion and captain of a Romulan warship applied for immigration and citizenship to Earth and to the shock of everyone, his application was granted.

Now he was with Starfleet, assigned as executive of Starfleet’s newest installation. Naturally, most of the crew didn’t trust him, and Cha’Ael had philosophically accepted the fact that he would never be completely trusted, and tried to hide his frustrations from day to day. On that fateful day, in very Romulan-esque tradition, he went to fetch the new crewman, Lt. Wildstar. He would also have liked to welcome one of the newly-assigned NCO’s, a Klingon Starfleet marine, Sergeant-Major Kathvaj, but he was arriving at almost the same time via personal runabout with his human wife – something Cha’Ael’s Romulan sensibilities found a little off, to say the least – cross-species marriages were unheard of on Romulus. Which also brought up some uncomfortable thoughts of Wildstar, who was a product of exactly the same kind of interspecies marriage



File Photo, Commander Cha’Ael



Graphic Reconstruction, Sergeant Major Kathvaj



File Photo, Lt. Derek Wildstar

All of them were at the reception for the incoming ambassador, all in formal dress uniform. But apparently the assassins weren't done. Cha'Ael had noticed one of the waiters had a blinking device on his tray, and, too late to prevent it, the waiter had triggered what turned out to be a bomb. In the inevitable depressurization, there were a handful of deaths, and it took the heroics of his new staff to save him from the same fate.

The following day, the admiral ordered a new investigation. Preliminary results showed that the suicide bomber, as well as the bomb itself, was Romulan, yet some of the bombing paraphernalia that they had discovered on the outside hull was Klingon in origin. Colonel Stavros, the base's security chief, clearly had his work cut out for him.

Naturally, everyone onboard the was in an uproar, dignitary after dignitary calling on the Admiral, expressing their ire at the lax securities and demanding assurances from the beleaguered starbase commander, including the Cardassian Ambassador who, against all regulations bought an active energy weapon onto the command deck.

Because of requests from the Skreean Ambassador, and orders from Starfleet Command, Dela Porta arranged another reception party, this time in the base's main cargo loading deck, but artfully dressed up as a reception area. She had ordered all guards tripled, but an eagle-eyed Lt. Wildstar noticed that there were three more security personnel than could be accounted for. Dela Porta and Cha'Ael arranged to have these fake guards discretely detained without any of the guests noticing. However, as soon as they did they lose power in the deck, plunging it, as well as many other parts of the base into complete darkness. And despite the heroic efforts of the command crew, the power outage continued, and started to spread to the rest of the base...



File Photo of Col. Stavros, Pitcairn Security Chief, early in his career

About Memory Alpha: Memory Alpha is a planetoid, located in Federation space, on which the Federation's largest library is located. The library is a central repository for the collected scientific, historical, and cultural information from each member planet of the Federation.