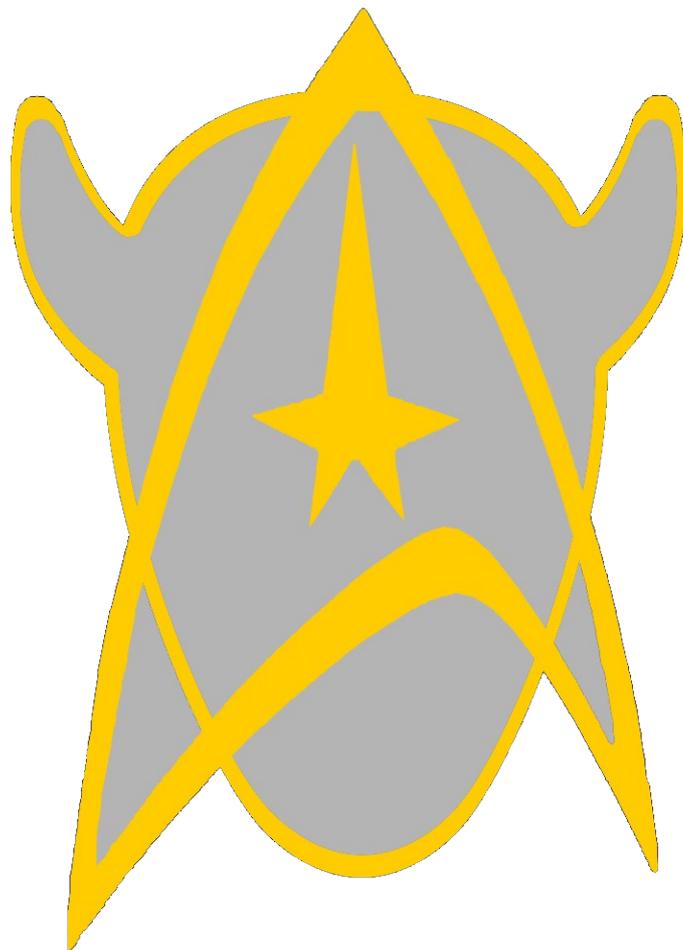


**STARFLEET COMMAND'S
SEVENTH FLEET**



**USS WHITE BUFFALO
MISSIONS DECLASSIFIED**

USS WHITE BUFFALO

NAR 33247

VAMPIRE FEAST

Kendrick MacIntyre sat back in his chair while working on the programming for his next Book to Holonovel conversion. Almost all of the books in the Starfleet Database had been converted into Holonovels by now, but Kendrick who was a Holodeck specialist had found many side projects like books that had been overlooked. Somehow a book by the name of Vampire Feast had never become a Holonovel. Some books in Kendrick's opinion never should be, but this one wasn't as bad as he'd thought. Kendrick was new to the USS White Buffalo since they had to find a replacement officer for Lieutenant Toven Karu Drey in Operations, and since he was the only available officer they had in the sector he was transferred over. Kendrick knew nothing about Lieutenant Drey except that he was what they called a jack-of-all-trades. He bounced around from one department to another when and where needed or when they just wanted him out of the way, and that he'd started out as a Civilian on the Shuttle White Buffalo, and had been able to reactivate his Starfleet Career. Kendrick came up the chain the hard way earning everything on the way, not just having it given to him. Kendrick's alarm went off indicating it was time for his duty shift. "Have I really been up all night?" he asked himself as he hurriedly got ready. Kendrick was built much like the officer he replaced, except for the hair which was blond, not black. He didn't get a warm welcome but he found he liked solitude over anything social. His enrollment into Starfleet wasn't voluntary but was forced upon him by having a father who was an Admiral.

Kendrick reached the bridge and quickly took his place at helm. The position felt strangely familiar even on a ship that was so different from the Nova class vessel he'd last served on. His last position had left him extremely upset with the command staff, and after he left that particular ship he waited unassigned until this new posting. "Lieutenant MacIntyre, please report." The Executive officer requested. Kendrick had just sat down, and was still pulling in all the information so he just gave what he currently had, "Sir, we are still on course no deviations, and sensors show nothing in our way." He reported. His system diagnostic hadn't yet completed so he had no idea how well his console was functioning. "And anything else?" The Executive officer asked. Kendrick wondered if he'd missed something. He knew that Lieutenant Commander Cadrial was a bit strict, and uptight, from what he'd seen of him so far so he quickly went over the sensors again to make sure there was no one following them, or nothing anomalous he'd not seen. But everything looked normal except for the diagnostic he was still running. "Sir, the diagnostic on my console is still running, I cannot report on something that I haven't been given time to finish." Everyone's eyes were now fixed on him as if he'd done something wrong but for the life of him he couldn't tell what. "Lieutenant, if you want to keep that rank you will show some more respect. I would like to know why we have disengaged warp." He returned without hesitation. Kendrick quickly ran through the sequence on his console to find out the information, but there was no explanation he could find, it seemed as though warp was cut from engineering. "Sir, I cannot report, Helm did not disengage warp, engineering did." Kendrick stated. "Lieutenant that was a report." He replied as he tapped his combadge. "Engineering report." He stated simply. "Sir engines have overloaded, I've given several warnings we have exceeded this vessel's safeties. We've stretched ourselves too thin so to speak." A disembodied voice came in over the speakers. "Warning warp core breach eminent. Evacuate engineering. Warning warp core breach eminent. Evacuate engineering. "Lieutenant Chandra report!" Cadrial bellowed. "I cannot believe I have to say this but we have to eject the core!" The chief engineer reported as she was yelling to her officers to clear engineering. "Do we have any choice?" The Cadrial asked. "No sir, ejecting the core now." The small core of the Aerie class vessel ejected out into space as the White Buffalo tried to get away as far as possible in the limited time they had. The core exploded and the shock wave hit the small starship causing them to spin, and come to a full stop. Finally the Captain came out of his ready room to check on what was going on as the bridge crew worked on picking themselves up off the ground. "Will someone please explain what you are doing to my ship?" He asked. "Sir, it appears we have overstressed the engines to the point of causing a warp core breach." Cadrial replied. "Ensign Belar, hail anyone you can and request assistance. Lieutenant MacIntyre, set a course for any Federation Starbase, outpost, colony, anything closest to our current position." Captain Dellborg Ganloso ordered. "Course set sir. Closest anything is a Starbase two days away at our best speed." Kendrick replied. The Captain sighed as he ordered, "Engage." Kendrick engaged the engines and noticed a drop in the ship's power reserves. Without a core to generate the ship's power the small vessel would run out of power long before they reached their destination. "Ensign Belar cut power to all systems but life support, and helm." Captain Ganloso ordered. "Aye sir." The young Ensign replied as she carried out the order.

Hours later Kendrick was sitting in his quarters reading his book, and working on characters on his PADD. The days events worried him and he found he couldn't focus. It wasn't easy to work on characters on a PADD either he discovered. He liked to have the computer project an image of them so he could see them, and make adjustments as he went. The book was already in the computer's database so he could easily have the computer extrapolate an appearance based out of the book, but the characters always needed to have almost everything adjusted due to lack of a proper description. When he awoke he noticed he was still sitting with his PADD in hand, and that he still had an hour till his shift started. He decided it was time to grab something to eat.

Aki stood in engineering looking over the void in which the core once stood. She was astonished at just how poorly designed the Section 31 core they had stolen really was. Somehow it was supposed to be the most advanced core created, but it failed on so many levels that Aki was understandably furious at being forced by the Captain to install it. The core was gone now but somehow she had to get the White Buffalo all the way back to Starfleet. She had already drained every last drop of power

from the phasers, most of the compatible portable devices and even the escape pods, but power was still in short supply, and the Captain was allowing the crew to still move about the ship taking up power as they went. She tapped her combadge, "Captain Ganloso." She stated. "Ganloso here, proceed." "Sir, it would help a lot if we could isolate the crew to a central area when not on duty, and only essential personnel on duty on either the bridge or in engineering until we get this sorted out." Aki stated. "Very good, power conservation, I'll announce it to the crew now. Ganloso out." And a moment later he did.

Almost a day and a half later their power was almost out and the crew was not in a good mood as they sat cramped together in the mess hall. The Bridge had been shut down, and all operational control was being run out of engineering, and almost all eyes kept staring at the missing core when Kendrick stood up and cried out, "I have an Idea!" All eyes were now on him. "Proceed." Captain Ganloso ordered. "Captain, if we fire out a modified probe we could have that probe get to the station and have them send help." Kendrick announced. "And how might we get the power for the probe?" Aki asked. "Simple we just take and use the power from the probes. I assume that they haven't been drained." Kendrick stated. "Wrong Lieutenant, all power was drained from the probes six hours ago." Aki replied. "How about from the Torpedoes?" Kendrick asked. No one answered for a moment. They may have needed the torpedoes at one point, but with only hours to go it seemed less important to protect the ship as they needed to get the ship home. "Lieutenant Chandra proceed with the plan, Lieutenant MacIntyre, what exactly do you mean by modified probe?"

One hour later the probe sped across space its own tiny warp core propelling itself to its destination. When it reached communications range of the station it began to hail. This is a playback of the video conversation: "Deep Space Nine Operations, How may we assist you today?" "This is representation of Captain Dellborg Ganloso, our holoprobe has been sent to request your assistance. Our warp core has suffered a breach and was ejected. As of the time of this message our power reserves are almost depleted. Please send assistance, our probe is transmitting our coordinates now." "Understood. Assistance is on its way.

Kendrick finished working on the Holonovel on his PADD, as he set it down. He pondered the weeks events, and waited till the engineering crew restored full power to the ship. The White Buffalo had to be towed to Deep Space Nine, and another ship, the USS Matrix brought another warp core to them. Kendrick looked over to Quark across the bar as he spoke with the stations security chief. The two made for two of the most interesting characters he'd seen in awhile but he shook it off as he finished his drink and left his payment, and tip. Kendrick followed the few other White Buffalo stragglers back to the ship, and waited while the hatch was closing behind them. A young looking Ferengi ran up to him and quickly handing him back his PADD. "You left this in my uncles bar." He stated, turned and wandered off.

Dellborg was clearly upset at the events of the last week, as yet again his ship was brought to the very brink of destruction. Many of the crew felt that the vessel was just too small for a crew whose missions were as risky as theirs, but it didn't help that the vessel was also not up to the level of the vessel they had left to join these high risk missions. Kendrick sent an invitation to the crew to try out his new holonovel as a way to try to relax, and enjoy themselves before their next mission. Dellborg politely declined, then found out later that so had the rest of the crew. The novel titled Vampires Feast, was not a favorite of anyone in particular, and certainly not one anyone would celebrate being turned into a holonovel. It made Dellborg question if he should have an evaluation performed on Kendrick MacIntyre, or if he should consider this as a part of the officers unusual personality. Dellborg pondered some of the other crew for a few minutes, such as his Executive Officer, and his engineering chief Aki Chandra. Aki was a free spirit who loved to swim, and yet get her hands dirty on some project in engineering. But his XO was a different story. An intimidating figure who stood taller than others in the ship, and often wore his strict personality like a cloak, but could be fun and sociable when he chose to open up. Cadrial was unlike other first officers that the Captain had seen before, but it seemed to work for him.

Dellborg stepped up to the panel just outside the holodeck, and keyed the the sequence for it to open. As it opened he observed Lieutenant MacIntyre eating at the table with several vampires. Dellborg recognized the scene as the final one before the vampire prince would then stand, and order the deaths of the other vampires at the table for betraying him. The scene would end with the several of the vampires passing on, as their blood had been tainted, but the others who survived, presumably those who would be played by the crew, would arise and kill the prince before then turning on each other. Dellborg watched the events unfold, and sure enough only one remained. He turned to the Captain and stated, "The scene of course would have been random, any one of the crew could have been the survivor, but no one would have known who, as it always changes." Kendrick said. "Not entirely a new idea, but isn't the changes against the intellectual property of the original creator?" Dellborg asked. "As the story was written by my great great grandfather, and my family still holds the rights to the story, then no I do not believe that this interferes with the intellectual property rights." Kendrick finished. "Very well," Dellborg started, as he looked around the room to note just how much character was now present in the story. How realistic the story now seemed compared to the, what would have been considered as B-Rated story it had been. It was very well constructed, and he could only wonder how well the rest of the story that he'd missed had been. Kendrick, as if sensing his thoughts stated, "You are free to run the novel again if you'd like. I'm going to retire for the night." "Pleasant dreams." Dellborg replied as he watched the officer leave the holodeck.

Aki stood in engineering looking over the new core that had replaced the others this vessel once had. This new core was the top of the line core that was available to them, and it seemed that Starfleet went to great amount of trouble getting it to them. Aki like the look of the new core, but as the diagnostic completed she hoped that the core would live up to their power needs. Aki went over the diagnostic, and noted that the core was indeed working at top efficiency. She was pleased that the

engineering team on the USS Matrix was able to instill it so quickly, and professionally, but she wasn't happy with the fact that they had kicked her own team out of engineering in order to get the job done. No complaint was officially filed, but Aki would remember the incident, and keep the information in mind the next time she ever had to deal with anyone from the Matrix's engineering team again.

Aki finished up her duties, and then started to make plans to visit the ships pool.

Several days later Kendrick received a letter stating that his Holonovel had been denied as an acceptable addition to the Starfleet database. Kendrick laughed at the notice, but wasn't surprised. Very few people had expressed interest in the original work, and no one seemed interested in even looking at an updated version of the work. Kendrick decided this was the last time he'd try to update any work that his own family was involved in creating. He was still unsure if he'd bother trying to write a work of his own.

