

STAR TREK VOYAGER®

EPISODE #222

“SURVIVAL INSTINCT”

Visitors from the past present Seven with an opportunity to right a wrong.

With Voyager docked at a Marconian outpost, the ship welcomes visitors in a cultural exchange of hospitality. One such visitor approaches Seven and presents her with synaptic relays from her original Borg unimatrix, which he says he acquired from a trader. Shocked, Seven takes them to study more closely. Unbeknownst to her, this visitor and other drones onboard are setting a trap.

In a Borg flashback, Seven and the other three drones now onboard Voyager have crashed their vessel onto a deserted planet. Back in the present, the three visitors wait until Seven enters her regeneration alcove and then reroute Voyager's internal sensors. Alerted to the security breach, Tuvok breaks in just as an interlink module is used on Seven to access her memory files. She regains consciousness, thwarting the drones' efforts, and Tuvok restrains them.

On the deserted planet, the drones begin having memories of their lives before becoming part of the Collective. Seven fights the urge to give in, instructing them to never again access their memory files. In the present, the Doctor examines the three drones and finds they are connected by a neural link, which they are desperate to break. Because the left lobes of their brains have been made into organic interlinks, they cannot become true individuals, even though they have broken free of the Collective. Seven agrees to access her memory files, believing she may hold the key to knowing how the ex-drones became connected.

After determining that they all share the same gap in their memory, Seven agrees to become neurally linked with the triad. Although she may not be able to get out, she has a familial connection to this group and knows she must help them. Once linked, they recall being on the planet before the Borg ship arrived to re-assimilate them. When the other three resisted the idea of rejoining the Collective, Seven injected them with nanoprobes that created new neural links. Back in the present, they break their link with Seven and turn on her for her actions.

In sickbay, the Doctor finds that by breaking their link with Seven, the drones have gone into neural shock. The nanoprobes with which Seven injected them impaired their higher brain functions. Now, if the Doctor severs their neural link, they will live only a month on their own. If they are sent back to the Collective, they can survive. Seven wrestles with the consequences of her actions from eight years ago, brought about by her fear of being an individual, which she had only experienced as a scared little girl. Realizing the drones deserve to live as individuals, if only for a short time, she convinces the Doctor to break their link.



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CAST

CAPTAIN KATHRYN JANEWAY
CHAKOTAY
B'ELANNA TORRES
TOM PARIS
NEELIX
THE DOCTOR
TUVOK
SEVEN OF NINE
HARRY KIM

KATE MULGREW
ROBERT BELTRAN
ROXANN DAWSON
ROBERT DUNCAN MCNEILL
ETHAN PHILLIPS
ROBERT PICARDO
TIM RUSS
JERI RYAN
GARRETT WANG

GUEST STARRING

VAUGHN ARMSTRONG
BERTILA DAMAS
TIM KELLEHER

Written by:

RONALD D. MOORE

Directed by:

TERRY WINDELL

HIGHLIGHT LISTING

STAR TREK: VOYAGER: "Survival Instinct"—Visitors from the past present Seven with an opportunity to right a wrong.

ADVERTISING HEADLINE

BORG FAMILY REUNION
Their history cannot be rewritten,
but will it be relived?

