

# Episode Four: Prolonging the War

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**Battlestar *Victorious*,**  
**Wolf Shipyards,**  
**Orbit of Libran, Helios Delta System**

Newly promoted Grand Admiral Jonas Ingram Stryker is standing in hangar bay four of the Battlestar *Victorious*, BST-1, as the celebration for the signing of the Articles of Unification is going on. Stryker is standing off by himself, so Commander Esau Kartal decides to walk over, and see if something is wrong.

"Admiral Stryker, is something wrong?" asks Kartal, stepping beside the man who has been placed in charge of the entire Colonial Navy.

"OH, Nothing...hmm, just thinking," answers Stryker.

"What about sir?"

"Nothing important," replies Stryker, lying.

"So Esau, what do you think of your new Battlestar?"

"I'm looking forward to seeing what it can do against the Cylon!"

"We won't be out matched anymore!"

"Hopefully!"

"Hopefully," replies Stryker, thinking about his wife Elizabeth who he married three months ago but has only seen a handful of times since then.

"Admiral, hmm...may I ask you a question?"

"Esau, call me Jonas. What's your question?"

"Actually, I have two. First, why call it a Battlestar? It clearly follows the design of the Triton Class Battleship."

"Well, historically "battleship" was how navies were judged...and I didn't want to have to deal with ancient disagreements or politics over what to name them. Whereas the Triton was more about her guns, and her air wings were secondary. A Battlestar, on the other hand, is a hybrid Battleship/Carrier. Also we needed something new...to boost morale. "Battlestar" sounded like a good name to me. Plus I have already renamed the first Battlestars."

"You did?" asks Kartal, a little surprised.

"Yes," answers Stryker, pulling out a folded piece of paper and handing it to Kartal: "The new Columbia Class Battlestars are named after battleships destroyed on the Day of Infamy."

The "Day of Infamy" is the name given to the day the Cylon revolt started.

Kartal opens the piece of paper and looks at the names:

Name: Hull Number (Construction By: Colony Represented)  
Columbia: BST-7 (Taurus Shipyards: Aerilon)  
Atlantia: BST-8 (Scorpion Shipyards: Virgon)  
Pacifica: BST-9 (Wolf Shipyards: Aquaria)  
Rycon: BST-10 (Lampeita Shipyards: Leonis)  
Acropolis: BST-11 (Wolf Shipyards: Libran)  
Cerberus: BST-12 (Lampeita Shipyards: Canceron)  
Pegasus: BST-13 (Scorpion Shipyards: Scorpia)  
Solaria: BST-14 (Taurus Shipyards: Sagittaron)  
Athena: BST-15 (Lampeita Shipyards: Picon)  
Galactica: BST-16 (Wolf Shipyards: Caprica)  
Prometheus: BST-17 (Taurus Shipyards: Tauron)  
Triton: BST-18 (Scorpion Shipyards: Gemenon)

"WOW! A lot has changed in a short amount of time!"

"That it has. Anyway, what is your second question?"

"Why did you put me in command? I mean, *Victorious* is a Picon or Virgon's ship named. Why not place a Commander from Picon or Virgon in command?"

"Because, the alliance is fragile...and any type of disagreement **WILL** cause it to fall apart. Right now, only together can the Colonies stand against the Cylons. I know you, Esau! You can work with anybody! I need you to work with the crews of the *Victorious* which will be largely from Virgon. Plus, a Picon or Virgon's Commander would only want to defend Picon or Virgon. I need a commanding officer who will defend any of the Twelve Colonies...and that's you!"

"I will do my best!"

"That all I ask."

"At least they are not Caprican," says Kartal, causing both men to chuckle.

"Oh, by the way, the Caprican referred to the Columbia Class as the Galactica Class."

"But why?"

"Caprica named its classes for the first ship to enter service, and for Caprica that will be the *Galactica*."

"Stupid Caprican!"

"Couldn't agree with you more!" answers Stryker, causing both men to chuckle again.

"Admiral...hmm...we can't win the war, can we?" asks Kartal.

"Nope! I already came to that conclusion. It's not a question of if we will win...it's a question of time. It's only a matter of time till our defeat. In six months the Cylon have already pushed us back into the Cyrannus System. The only way the war will end is in the complete and total extermination of Humanity!"

"No hope then!"

"There is always hope Commander, but the reality is that the Cylons are machines. They don't get tired. They don't need food or water. They don't get sick. They don't get Combat Stress Reaction or Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. However, most importantly they don't take 18 years to reach combat age."

"What are we going to do, Jonas?"

"I don't know yet..."

"What is it Jonas?"

"Another problem we are going to have..."

"What's that?"

"First, we are forced to fight battles instead of fighting a war, and second, we are largely going to be on the defensive in our own territories!"

"I'm so glad I asked!"

"I feel like Robert E. Lee."

"Who is that?"

"He was the General in command of the Confederate States of Aerilon's Armies...during the Aerilon Second Civil War."

"I don't know much about Aerilon's history."

"The Confederate States of Aerilon, or CSA, seceded from the People's Republic of Aerilon, or PRA, which at the time was fighting the Second Twelve Worlds Conflict."

"What happened?"

"For several reasons Lee was forced to fight battles and not the war...plus he largely fought a defensive war...and you can't win a purely defensive war!"

"He must have gone on the offensive at least once?"

"Twice, at Antietam and Gettysburg..."

"I have heard of those two battles...they are some of the bloodiest in the pre-modern era!"

"Correct. Gettysburg was an out-and-out defeat! Antietam was indecisive but the result was the same...a CSA retreat."

"Well, this war will be different! If...no, when we go on the offensive, we won't have the same result!"

"Only time will tell. History has a way of repeating itself but I can tell you this...**from where the sun now stands, I will fight on forever!**"

Kartal just looks at Jonas; this is not the same man he knew six months ago. Kartal goes quiet unsure of what to say next. The two men just stare out into space, looking at the incomplete hulls of the Battlestar *Acropolis*, *Galactica*, and *Pacifica*, as the party goes on behind them.