

Rev. 2/19/91 (Blue)  
Rev. 2/27/91 (Pink)  
Rev. 3/09/91 (Yellow)  
Rev. 3/15/91 (Green)  
Rev. 4/01/91 (Buff)  
Rev. 4/05/91 (Salmon)  
Rev. 4/10/91 (Cherry)  
Rev. 4/12/91 (Tan)  
Rev. 4/16/91 (Blue)  
Rev. 4/17/91 (Pink)  
Rev. 4/24/91 (Yellow)  
Rev. 4/30/91 (Green)  
Rev. 5/07/91 (Buff)  
Rev. 5/23/91 (Salmon)  
Rev. 6/03/91 (Cherry)  
Rev. 6/07/91 (Blue)  
Rev. 6/12/91 (Pink)  
Rev. 6/14/91 (Yellow)  
Rev. 6/24/91 (Green)

**DENNY**

STAR TREK VI

screenplay by

Nicholas Meyer & Denny Martin Flinn

story by

Leonard Nimoy & Nicholas Meyer

FIFTH DRAFT

12/28/90

(Incl. Revisions:

1/10,21, 2/6/91)

1  
VFX

STARFIELD

1  
VFX

Credits OVER serene space when SUDDENLY...

an enormous EXPLOSION, sending debris FLYING at WARP velocities...

2  
VFX

OMITTED

2  
VFX

3

CU A TEACUP

3

WIDEN TO REVEAL

INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR

The polyglot CREW is busy.

Seated in the CAPTAIN'S CHAIR a familiar face: SULU.  
He has his own command and is drinking a CUP of tea.

The SCIENCE OFFICER stands next to him, conferring,  
handing him a datacount. Sulu muses over the contents.

SULU

According to this we've completed  
our exploration of the entire  
sector.

SCIENCE OFFICER

Fifty-four planets - and their  
gaseous atmospheric anomalies. Our  
sensing and analytic equipment  
worked really well.

SULU

'time we were heading home. Three  
years is...

The ship starts to TREMBLE.

4

ANGLE ON SULU'S TEA CUP

4

shaking in its saucer... Sulu and the CREW look at  
each other as the SHAKING increases. The TEACUP  
SMASHES.

SCIENCE OFFICER

I have an energy wave from 240  
degrees mark six port --

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

SULU

Visual!

4 ON THE SCREEN

VFX

an ENORMOUS GASEOUS WAVE, a subspace shock front.

SULU

(continuing)

My God. SHIELDS.

\* THE WHOLE SHIP GOES RED EMERGENCY LIGHT.

5 EXT. THE GALAXY

VFX

Meteors and asteroids SMASHING PAST. Burning chunks fly by at WARP speeds. EXCELSIOR reels.

6 INT. USS EXCELSIOR BRIDGE

The ship rolls, throwing everyone off balance.

SULU

What the Hell is going on?

The crew jumps up. Computers light up. Information flies across screens and monitors. The ship is BATTERED like a fighter's punching bag with shocks and jolts and tremors.

7 INT. CREW'S QUARTERS, GALLEY, CORRIDORS, ETC.

Sleeping members are thrown from their berths. The CLAXON alarm sounds pervasively...

CREW etc.

What the -- Look out -- stations -- etc.

8 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE

LOJUR

Captain, she's not answering her helm --

SULU

Starboard thrusters. Turn her into the wave!

9 INT. EXCELSIOR ENGINE ROOM

Chaos. Valves hiss PURPLE. Crew running, knocked about. RED EMERGENCY LIGHT.

ENGINEER

Engine room. What's going on up -

10

INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE

10

SULU

Quarter impulse power!

EXCELSIOR has been knocked about and everyone on the bridge is holding on or sliding around. She settles and one by one her CREW resume their stations.

SULU

Damage report.

RESUME NORMAL LIGHTING.

VOICE

Seem to be in one piece, Captain.  
We're checking all systems...

10

VFXA

THE SCREEN

10  
VFXA

shows Excelsior getting bumped about by the final fragments drifting past, bouncing off the shields.

SULU

(to Science Officer)

Don't tell me that was any meteor shower.

SCIENCE OFFICER

(over his console)

Negative. The subspace shock wave originated at bearing three-two-three, mark seven-five, the location of...

(turns to Sulu)

Praxis. A Klingon moon. Barren of indigenous life forms but -

SULU

Essential as a resource. Praxis is their key energy production facility.

(thinks)

Send to Klingon High Command: "This is Excelsior, a Federation Starship traveling through Beta Quadrant. We have monitored a large explosion in your sector. Do you require assistance?"

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Aye, sir.

SULU

Mr. Valtane, any more data?

(CONTINUED)

10

CONTINUED:

10

SCIENCE OFFICER

I have confirmed the location, sir,  
but...

SULU

What is it?

SCIENCE OFFICER

... I cannot confirm the existence  
of Praxis.

Sulu reacts, goes over to the science console and looks  
at the screen. Nothing there.

SULU

Magnify.

The Science Officer hits the buttons.

10

VFXB

ON THE SCREEN

10

VFXB

a barren moon with three-fourths of its mass blown away  
drifts lifelessly in a black void.

SULU

Praxis?

SCIENCE OFFICER

What's left of it

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Captain, I'm getting a message from  
Klingon High Command.

SULU

Onscreen.

11

ON SCREEN:

11

a snowy picture of a WILD-EYED KLINGON OFFICER.

OFFICER

This is an emergency! We have  
suffered -

He looks around, the GROUND is shaking under him; as  
Sulu watches, the pictures collapses, then comes on  
again, with a different face.

KERLA

This is Brigadier Kerla, speaking  
for the High Command.  
(CONT'D)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

KERLA (CONT'D)

There HAS been an incident on Praxis. However everything is under control. We have no need for assistance. Obey treaty stipulations and remain outside the Neutral Zone. Transmission ends now.

12 The screen goes black. Sulu looks incredulous.

12

SULU

An INCIDENT??

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Do we report this, sir?

SULU

Are you kidding?

(swivels to the  
communications officer)

Send to Starfleet Command...

13 EXT. SPACE

13

VFX

VFX

EXCELSIOR warps off into the galaxy.

14 OMITTED

14

THRU

THRU

22

22

22A CU STARFLEET SHIELD

22A

Kirk walks into shot

KIRK

What are we doing here?

WIDEN TO REVEAL

23 INT. STARFLEET BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

23

\* The room fills with BEMEDALED BRASS, Kirk's CREW among them. They can't help looking at each other, questioning. \*

BONES

\* Maybe they're throwing us a retirement party. \*

SCOTTY

\* That suits me. I just bought a boat. \*

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

UHURA

\* This better be good. I'm supposed  
to be chairing a seminar at the  
Academy... \*

CHEKOV

\* Captain, isn't this just for top  
brass? \*

BONES

\* And if we're all here, where's  
Sulu? \*

KIRK

Captain Sulu...on assignment...  
anyone seen Spock?

\* No answer. A door opens and a STARFLEET ADC, austere  
and impressive, enters and gavels the meeting to order. \*

ADC

This briefing is classified. There  
will be no recording devices.  
Ladies and Gentlemen, the C-in-C.

All rise as the STARFLEET COMMANDER IN CHIEF enters  
with a briefcase and pulls materials from it.

CinC

As you were. I'll make this as  
simple as possible. The Klingon  
empire has roughly fifty years of  
life left to it.

\* People look at one another in disbelief. \*

CinC

(continuing)

For full details, I am turning this  
briefing over to our Special  
Federation Envoy.

\* A SILHOUETTE at the back of the room: SPOCK. He walks  
to the podium. Kirk and company are astounded. \*

SPOCK

Good morning. Two months ago a  
Federation Starship monitored an  
explosion on the Klingon moon  
Praxis. We believe it was caused  
by overmining and insufficient  
safety precautions.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK (CONT'D)

The moon's decimation means an almost eighty percent loss of available energy and a deadly pollution of their ozone. They will have depleted their supply of oxygen in less than fifty earth years. Due to their enormous military budget the Klingon economy does not have the resources with which to combat this catastrophe. Last month - at the behest of the, uh, Vulcan Ambassador - I opened a dialogue with Gorkon, Chancellor of the Klingon High Council. He proposes to commence negotiations at once.

ADMIRAL DONALD

Negotiations for what?

SPOCK

The dismantling of our space stations and star bases along the Neutral Zone; an end to seventy years of unremitting hostility - which the Klingons can no longer afford.

Audible mutterings. PAN the crew. Is the war over?

SPOCK

(continuing)

If the Klingons sue for peace, we could accumulate savings in defense expenditures, leaving the Federation economy free to grapple with urgent social problems...

A MILITARY MAN

Bill, are we talking about mothballing the Starfleet?

CinC

I'm sure our exploration and science programs would not be affected, but the facts speak for themselves, Captain.

(CONTINUED)



ADMIRAL DONALD

I must protest. To offer the Klingons a safe haven within Federation space is suicide. Klingons would become the alien trash of the Galaxy. And if we dismantle the fleet, we'd be defenseless before an aggressive species with a foothold on our territory, led by an unprincipled tyrant. The opportunity HERE is to embargo trading, force them to run through their own resources faster, and bring them to their knees. Then we'll be in a far better position to dictate terms.

A vocal minority of the briefing supports this, but not all. Kirk simply stares at Spock.

CinC  
Starfleet is under civilian control, Admiral. The decision is a political not a military one - and it's been made.

KIRK  
Sir -

CinC  
Captain Kirk?

KIRK  
Sir, I'm no diplomat, but the Klingons have never been trustworthy. I'm forced to agree with Admiral Donald. This is -  
(he gropes for tact)  
- a terrible, a terrifying idea...

The Admiral whispers to the CinC.

CinC  
Your son was killed by a Klingon, wasn't he, Captain?

KIRK  
Yes, sir.

(CONTINUED)

23

CONTINUED:

23

CinC

I'm sorry. But Commander Spock has persuaded the Federation that this situation is too promising to ignore.

SPOCK

It is imperative that we act NOW to support the Gorkon initiative, lest more conservative elements persuade his empire that it would be better to attempt a military solution and die fighting.

CinC

Captain Kirk, you are to be our first olive branch.

Me?

SPOCK

We have volunteered to rendezvous with the Klingon ship that's bringing Chancellor Gorkon here, and escort him safely through Federation space.

Kirk is too startled to speak.

CinC

As it happens, Kirk, the Chancellor specifically requested you and your officers.

KIRK

Why, in God's name?

CinC

There are some Klingons who feel the same about a peace treaty as yourself and Admiral Donald. They'll think twice about attacking the Enterprise under your command.

SPOCK

I have personally vouched for you in this matter, Captain.

KIRK

You have personally -

(CONTINUED)

CinC

You will accord Chancellor Gorkon  
full diplomatic courtesy, Captain  
Kirk.

KIRK

(straining)

Surely a full Ambassador would be  
better equipped to -

CinC

If there's no further business I  
wish you and your crew Godspeed.  
Thank you all.

He charges out as ALL RISE. Everyone files out.

ADMIRAL DONALD

I don't know whether to  
congratulate you or not, Jim.

BONES

I wouldn't...

He moves off. Bones too. The room is empty...

except for Spock still at the podium and Kirk sitting  
alone in the auditorium. He is furious, betrayed.  
Spock knows it.

KIRK

WE volunteered?

SPOCK

There's an old Vulcan proverb: only  
Nixon could go to China.

KIRK

(incensed)

How could you vouch for me?  
That's ...

(words fail him)

...arrogant presumption -

SPOCK

I was asked by my father to open  
neg-

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

KIRK  
I know your father's the Vulcan  
ambassador for heaven's sake, but  
you know how I feel about this:  
they're animals.

SPOCK  
Jim, there is an historic  
opportunity here -

KIRK  
DON'T TRUST THEM. DON'T BELIEVE  
THEM -

SPOCK  
They're dying -

KIRK  
LET THEM DIE.

\* Spock looks at him in silent reproach. Kirk hears  
himself and doesn't like it. \*

\* KIRK  
(and what's more)  
Has it occurred to you that this  
crew is due for retirement in three  
months? WE'VE DONE OUR BIT FOR  
KING AND COUNTRY. \*

\* Spock is patient. They stare at each other  
ON Kirk's face. \*

KIRK  
(finally)  
You should have trusted me.

24 OMITTED (POS. ALTERNATE)  
&  
24VFX

24  
&  
24VFX

25

INT. THE BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

25

The elevator doors open. An attractive VULCAN  
LIEUTENANT leaps out of the command chair, whips to  
attention.

LT. SAAVIK  
Captain on the bridge.

The CREW stands to.

KIRK  
As you were. Lieutenant...?

LT. SAAVIK  
Saavik, sir. We were told you'd  
need a helmsman -  
(to Spock)  
...so I volunteered.

She salutes. He smiles, returns the salute.

SPOCK  
Lieutenant, I am pleased to see you  
again.  
(off Kirk's look)  
The Lieutenant is the first Vulcan  
to be graduated at the top of her  
class at the Academy.

KIRK  
Congratulations, Lieutenant. You  
must be very proud...

LT. SAAVIK  
I don't believe so, sir.

BONES  
She's a Vulcan all right.

KIRK  
(down to business)  
All right, let's get this over  
with... departure stations...  
(pushes the comm)  
Scotty?

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED:

25

They assume their familiar stations.

SCOTTY'S VOICE

Aye, sir.

KIRK

Standby. Get me the dock master,  
Uhura.

UHURA

Control tower, reading, Sir.

KIRK

Control, this is Enterprise  
requesting permission to depart.

VOICE OVER

This is control. Enterprise, you  
are granted permission to  
depart...30 seconds for port  
gates...

LT. SAAVIK

Clear all moorings...

KIRK

Awaiting port gates from this  
mark...

FILTERED VOICE

Mooring lines cleared...

LT. SAAVIK

Aft thrusters -

KIRK

(overlaps)

Thank you. Lieutenant, one quarter  
impulse power...

LT. SAAVIK

(she turns to face him)

Captain, may I remind you that  
regulations specify thrusters only  
while in space dock?

The CREW - old and young - watch this exchange keenly.  
Spock is poker faced.

(CONTINUED)

25

CONTINUED:

25

They assume their familiar stations.

SCOTTY'S VOICE

Aye, sir?

KIRK

Engine room?

SCOTTY'S VOICE

Right where you left it, sir.

KIRK

Standby. Get me the dock master,  
Uhura.

UHURA

Control tower, reading, Sir.

KIRK

Control, this is Enterprise  
requesting permission to depart.

VOICE OVER

This is control. Enterprise, you  
are granted permission to  
depart...30 seconds for port  
gates...

LT. SAAVIK

Clear all moorings...

KIRK

Awaiting port gates from this  
mark...

FILTERED VOICE

Mooring lines cleared...

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(overlaps)

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(she turns to face him)

Captain, may I remind you that  
regulations specify thrusters only  
while in space dock?

The CREW - old and young - watch this exchange keenly.  
Spock is poker faced.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

UHURA  
Here we go again...

BONES  
(next to Chekov)  
Uh, Jim...

KIRK  
You heard the order, Lieutenant.

Saavik swivels away, rolling her eyes so Kirk can't see  
and hits the panel -

The ship begins to rattle slightly, then

26  
VFX

EXT. SPACE DOCK

26  
VFX

the Enterprise SCREAMS out the dock and exits through  
the just-opening bay doors into outer space.

27  
THRU  
29

OMITTED

27  
THRU  
29

30

INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE - NIGHT

30

Kirk sits comfortably with a smile on his face.

KIRK  
(continuing)  
Lieutenant...

Saavik faces him.

KIRK  
(continuing)  
... I don't care if I'm senile. If  
I sit in this chair and give the  
word you jump.

Spock watches.

LT. SAAVIK  
Aye, sir.

KIRK  
Plot a course for Kronos,  
Lieutenant.

LT. SAAVIK  
(startled)  
Kronos, sir?

KIRK  
I'm still in the chair, Lieutenant.

(CONTINUED)



30 CONTINUED:

30

LT. SAAVIK

Aye, sir.

Other reactions. Kirk has taken command.

31 EXT. SPACE

31

VFX

VFX

Enterprise cruises purposefully through the void.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER

Captain's log. Stardate 8679.12.  
 They say you can't teach an old dog  
 new tricks - and maybe they're  
 right. It seems to me our mission  
 to escort the Chancellor to the  
 Klingon High Council to a peace  
 summit is problematic at best.

32 INT. KIRK'S CABIN

32

Kirk is unpacking his bags as he dictates, hanging up  
 his uniforms, his shaving tackle going next to the  
 sink, etc.

KIRK

(continuing)

I have never trusted Klingons and  
 never will. I have never been able  
 to forgive them for the murder of  
 my boy. Spock says this could be  
 an historic moment and I'd like to  
 believe him, but how on earth can  
 history get past people like me?

\* He sets up a photo of DAVID next to his berth. \*

A delicate COUGH.

Kirk realizes he's not alone. Swivels to face

LIEUTENANT SAAVIK standing in the bulkhead doorway.

LT. SAAVIK

\* Sorry - \*

KIRK

Come on, Saavik, you COULD knock -

LT. SAAVIK

\* We're almost at the rendezvous - I  
 thought you'd want to know... \*

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED:

32

KIRK

Right -

He gets up and puts on his jacket. She watches.

LT. SAAVIK

Permission to speak freely, sir?

He doesn't stop her.

LT. SAAVIK

(continuing)

I gather you are not enthusiastic about the assignment...I don't think many on board are. Sir.

KIRK

You piloted well out of spacedock, Lieutenant -

LT. SAAVIK

(almost smiles)

I always wanted to try that.

KIRK

(passing her)

One, don't try putting words in my mouth.

And leaves her with that.

33

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE SPOCK'S QUARTERS

33

Saavik approaches; this time she's smart enough to KNOCK.

SPOCK'S VOICE

Enter.

34

INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS

34

Functional but not cold. Spock collects antiques from his travels: a Klingon vase; a Romulan sculpture; rare volumes from Talos; a reproduction of an earthling oil painting, but a good one. Fanciful. Whimsical. Spock lights a votive candle as he speaks.

SPOCK

You have done well, Saavik. As your sponsor at the Academy I have followed your career with... satisfaction. And as a Vulcan. You have surpassed my expectations.

(CONTINUED)

34

CONTINUED:

34

\*

He turns to discover her perusing the painting. She realizes.

\*

LT. SAAVIK

I do not understand the purpose of this representation.

SPOCK

The picture IS the purpose.

She doesn't get it.

SPOCK

(continuing)

You wished to see me?

She takes a breath. Sits.

LT. SAAVIK

(intense)

Sir, I speak to you as a kindred intellect. Do you not recognize that a turning point has been reached in the affairs of the Federation?

SPOCK

History is filled with turning points.

(off her look)

You must have faith.

LT. SAAVIK

Faith.?

SPOCK

That the universe will unfold as it should.

LT. SAAVIK

Is that logical? Surely, we must -

VOICE FILTERED

Klingon battlecruiser off the port bow. All hands on deck. Repeat...

She's startled. Spock begins to get into uniform.

(CONTINUED)

34

CONTINUED:

34

SPOCK

Logic is the beginning of wisdom,  
Lieutenant, not the end. This will  
be my last voyage aboard this ship  
as a member of her crew. A Vulcan  
of your demonstrated ability should  
have no difficulty rising to the  
occasion. As you are doubtless  
aware, Nature abhors a vacuum.

(explains)

I intend you to replace me.

\* 34A

ANGLE ON SAAVIK

34A \*

LT. SAAVIK

I could only succeed you, sir.  
Never replace you.

35

INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

35

The cruise is proceeding evenly as Kirk arrives out of  
one turbo-lift. Spock and Lieutenant Saavik emerge  
from another.

VOICE

Captain on the bridge.

CHEKOV

Captain, shall we raise our  
shields?

Spock looks at Kirk: trust me. Kirk scowls at him and  
stares at the screen. They all follow his gaze.

35  
VFX

THE MAIN DISPLAY

35  
VFX

A KLINGON battlecruiser. HUGE.

KIRK

(finally)

Never been this close.

SPOCK

The Chancellor is undoubtedly  
awaiting our signal.

Boy is this hard for Kirk - finally:

KIRK

Uhura, hailing frequencies. Right  
standard rudder, bring us  
alongside.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

LT. SAAVIK  
Right standard rudder, Z plus five  
degrees....

UHURA  
Channel open, Captain.

KIRK  
This is the Starship Enterprise,  
Captain James Kirk commanding.

36 GORKON comes up on the main visual display.

36

GORKON  
This is KRONOS One. I am  
Chancellor Gorkon.

\* KIRK  
Chancellor. We've been ordered to  
escort you through Federation space  
to your meeting on Earth. \*

GORKON  
Thank you, Captain.

\* KIRK  
(does his best)  
Uh, would you and your party care  
to dine this evening aboard  
Enterprise with my officers as  
guests of the United Federation of  
Planets? \*

37 A few of the crew look around at Kirk.

37

\* GORKON  
We'd be delighted to accept your  
gracious invitation. \*

\* KIRK  
(nuts)  
We'll make arrangements to have you  
beamed aboard at 1930 hours. \*

GORKON  
I shall look forward to it.

\* He disappears. Kirk turns to Spock. \*

\* KIRK  
I hope you're happy. \*

LT. SAAVIK  
Captain.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

\* He turns.

LT. SAAVIK  
(continuing)

\* - there is a supply of Romulan ale  
aboard - it might make the evening  
pass more... smoothly?

Kirk smiles, relieved.

KIRK

\* Officer thinking, Lieutenant.

38 AT THE COMMUNICATION CONSOLE

38

Chekov leans over to Uhura.

CHEKOV

Guess who is coming to dinner.

39 EXT. SPACE  
VFX39  
VFX

Both ships cruise parallel in space.

40 INT. ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTER ROOM

40

Scotty stands by the console. Kirk, Spock and Bones  
stand next to him. They are spiffed up.

SCOTTY

Maybe if their particles just got a  
wee bit fixed....

KIRK

\* Energize..

40 The beams reflect on the glass shield as half dozen  
VFX Klingons, including one WOMAN start materializing.  
(NB Separate BEAM-INS for Gorkon, Azetbur, Chang).  
Gorkon descends first. He is tall, splendidly  
barbaric.

40  
VFX

KIRK

\* Chancellor Gorkon.

The Klingons are lordly, formal; bow, taking in their  
surroundings. An ELECTRONIC BOSUN'S WHISTLE pipes  
them.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

(continuing)

Chancellor, may I present Commander Spock, whom I believe you know, Dr. Leonard McCoy, chief medical officer, Montgomery Scott, chief engineer...

GORKON

(to Spock)

Commander, face to face at last...you have my thanks.

Spock bows.

GORKON

(continuing)

Gentlemen, this is my daughter, Azetbur...my military adviser, Brigadier Kerla...and this is General Chang, my chief of staff.

Chang wears a PATCH over one eye. He advances on Kirk with a grim smile, lone eyeball to eyeball.

CHANG

I've always wanted to meet you, Captain...

KIRK

(smiles)

I'm not sure how to take that.

KERLA

Sincere admiration, Kirk -

CHANG

(soft)

As one warrior to another...

KIRK

(ducks this)

Uh, right this way, gentlemen. I thought you might enjoy a brief tour...

The party leaves. As they move past TWO CREWMEN...

1st CREWMAN

They all look alike.

(CONTINUED)

40

CONTINUED:

40

2ND CREWMAN

What about that smell? You know  
only the top of the line models can  
even talk.

They turn to find themselves facing an expressionless  
Lieutenant Saavik.

LT. SAAVIK

You men have work?

1st CREWMAN

Yes, sir.

LT. SAAVIK

Then snap to it.

\* 41

INT. R DECK CORRIDOR

41 \*

leaving the Enterprise Science Labs...

GORKON

Your research laboratory is most  
impressive...

KIRK

Starfleet's been charting and  
cataloging planetary atmospheres.  
All vessels are equipped with  
chemical-analytic sensors...

GORKON

This cannot be easy for you,  
Captain...

(off the look)

I would feel awkward if I had to  
give you a tour of OUR vessel...

The man's courtesy makes Kirk feel guilty...

KIRK

Would you care to go topside?

CHANG

Very much.

CHEKOV

(pulling Kirk aside)

Captain, you're not going to show  
them the bridge??

(CONTINUED)



41

CONTINUED:

41

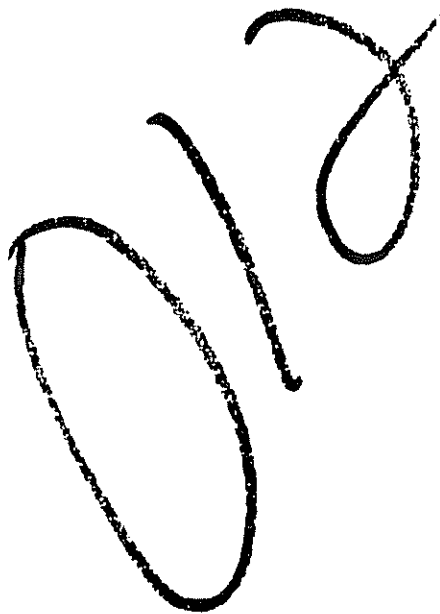
KIRK  
(clenched teeth)  
Full diplomatic courtesy, Mr.  
Chekov...

The party passes Uhura and a YOUNGER CREWMAN.

YOUNGER CREWMAN  
Would you want to drink from the  
same glass?

\*

\*



42 OMITTED 42  
 42 REPEAT 39 VFX 42  
 VFX THE TWO SHIPS CRUISE PARALLEL. VFX  
 43 INT. OFFICERS' MESS, ENTERPRISE 43

A WINDOW IRISES OPEN REVEALING the stars gliding by.

A HAND POURS DEEP BLUE ROMULAN ALE into Gorkon's crystal goblet. Dinner well underway. Principals from both parties are at table. STEWARDS keep food and drink in motion.

GORKON  
 I give you a toast: the  
 undiscovered country -  
 (off their looks)  
 the future.

\* All echo "the undiscovered country" and drink. The \*  
 KLINGONS eat with their fingers, scorning utensils.

SPOCK  
 HAMNET, act three, scene one.

GORKON  
 You have never experienced  
 Shakespeare until you have read him  
 in the original Klingon.

Chang turns to Kirk with a malicious twinkle.

CHANG  
 "To be or not to be, that is the  
 question" which preoccupies our  
 people, Captain Kirk. We need  
 BREATHING room...

KIRK  
 Earth, Germany, 1938.

CHANG  
 I beg your pardon?

KERLA  
 (hastily)  
 Captain Kirk, I thought Romulan ale  
 was illegal.

It takes Kirk a moment to regain his composure.

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

KIRK  
One of the advantages of being a  
thousand light years from  
Federation headquarters.

Silence.

(CONTINUED)

0/2

BONES

To you, Chancellor Gorkon: one of the architects of our future.

All drink. As Romulan ale flows throughout the scene, tongues get looser. Gorkon WATCHES.

SCOTTY

Perhaps we are looking at something of that future here.

AZETBUR

Commander Spock, mindful of all your work behind the scenes, and despite the cordiality at this mess, I do not sense an acceptance of our people throughout your ship.

SPOCK

They're naturally wary, ma'am. We've been at war a long time.

UHURA

Both sides must overcome ingrained prejudice - but how?

CHEKOV

Perhaps with a few small steps at a time. Like this one.

BONES

And perhaps with a large step or two. Like a peace treaty.

CHANG

Captain Kirk, are you willing to give up Starfleet?

Kirk stares

SPOCK

I believe the Captain feels that Starfleet's mission has always been one of peace -

All eyes go from Kirk to Spock - and back.

KIRK

(glares)

Far be it from me to dispute my first officer. Starfleet has always -

(CONTINUED)

CHANG

Come now, Captain, no need to mince words; this dinner is off the record: in space all warriors are cold warriors.

SCOTTY

We have NEVER tried to --

KERLA

You hypocritically presume that your democratic system gives you a moral prerogative to force other cultures to conform to your politics.

BONES

That's not true..!

KERLA

No?

Uhura faces the Klingon across from her - all tact.

UHURA

General, are YOU fond of Shakespeare?

He looks at her, his hands and mouth full of food. Ugh. Chekov pursues -

CHEKOV

We do NOT impose democracy on others. We do believe that every planet has a sovereign claim to inalienable human rights.

AZETBUR

(laughs)

"In-ALIEN...?" If you could hear yourselves. "HUMAN" rights? Even the name is racist. The Federation is a "homo sapiens" only club...

CHANG catches Spock's reaction to this.

CHANG

Present company excepted, to be sure...

(CONTINUED)

UHURA

Well, I suppose we're not perfect-

SCOTTY

(rising)

Don't let them put words in your mouth - ! I haven't served 30 years in the engine room of a starship to be accused of gunboat diplomacy!

KERLA

(in his cups)

In any case, we know where this is leading: the annihilation of our culture. Klingons will replace those on the lowest rung of the Federation employment ladder, taking menial jobs and performing them for lower pay...

CHEKOV

That's economics, not racism -

UHURA

But you have to admit it adds up to the same thing.

BONES

Don't be naive, Commander -!

UHURA

Kindly do not patronize me, Doctor.

Kirk stared sullenly down the table throughout this.

CHEKOV

We're explorers not diplomats!

BONES

Come on: Starfleet's killed an awful lot of natural phenomena in the name of "exploration"...

SCOTTY

We follow orders...

CHEKOV

Since when has THAT been an excuse? Diplomacy must resolve these-

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

SCOTTY

Right - leave it to the politicians  
to muck it up and leave us  
defenseless..!

A COUGH interrupts the fight. All eyes on Gorkon.  
The Klingons conceal their amusement.

GORKON

(finally)

Well. I see we have a long way to  
go.

Reactions from Kirk and his officers.

44

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, ENTERPRISE

44

Both parties are gathered, saying goodbyes.

GORKON

Thank you, Captain Kirk. The  
evening has been most... edifying.

KIRK

(wooden)

We must do this again soon.

Gorkon stares at him, smiles slightly.

GORKON

You don't trust me.

Kirk can't look at him.

GORKON

(continuing)

I don't blame you. You see me as  
what - a cliché? If there IS to be  
a Brave New World, we old people  
will have the hardest time living  
in it. Captain Spock.

SPOCK

Chancellor. A pleasure to meet  
you, Ma'am.

AZETBUR

Captain...

KIRK

General Chang, a pleasure...

(CONTINUED)

44

CONTINUED:

44

CHANG

(grins)

"Parting is such sweet sorrow,  
shall we say goodnight till it be  
morrow?"

\* Kirk is ready to slug him but turns his fist into a  
SALUTE. The Klingons step on the transporter platform.  
Chang speaks into his communicator, nods to Kirk. \*

KIRK

Energize.

44  
VFX

They disappear. The Bosun's whistle.

44  
VFX

SCOTTY

Thank God.

CHEKOV

Did you see the way they ate?  
Terrible table manners.

SPOCK

I don't believe our own conduct  
will distinguish us in the annals  
of diplomacy...

KIRK

I'm going to sleep this off. Let  
me know if there's some other way  
we can screw up tonight.

He starts out; others follow...

45

INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS

45

He comes in slightly drunk and pushes the button on his  
log. Lies on his bunk and speaks. The SHIP'S BELLS  
give 0100.

KIRK

Captain's log. Stardate 8679.15.  
The Enterprise hosted Chancellor  
Gorkon and company for dinner last  
night. Our manners were not  
exactly Emily Post. Note to the  
galley: Romulan ale no longer to be  
served at diplomatic functions.

He leans back, sighs, thinking -

(CONTINUED)



45 CONTINUED:

45

KIRK

(continuing)

But it wasn't the ale. That was just the excuse we needed to say all the things that were really on our minds...

SPOCK'S VOICE

(filtered)

Captain Kirk, will you please join me on the bridge? Captain Kirk...

Kirk reacts, tries to shake himself awake.

46 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

46

Kirk enters. Glances at the main visual display: the battlecruiser still travels silently alongside.

46  
VFXA46  
VFXA

Saavik still has the conn. Spock is at his post.

SPOCK

Captain.

KIRK

(rubs his eyes)

What is it?

SPOCK

I am uncertain.

KIRK

Spock, I'm really tired...

SPOCK

We are reading an enormous amount of neutron radiation.

KIRK

(tries to focus)

Where?

SPOCK

Curiously it appears to emanate from us.

KIRK

From Enterprise?

Spock remains silent. Kirk is disturbed, paces, watching the displays.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

\*

KIRK  
Saavik, you know anything about a  
neutron energy surge?

\*

LT. SAAVIK  
Sir?

KIRK  
Mr. Chekov, anything unusual?

CHEKOV  
Just the size of my head -

KIRK  
I know what you mean...

46 A photon TORPEDO suddenly streaks from the bottom of  
VFXB the screen and hits the hull of the President's  
flagship!

46  
VFXB

KIRK  
What the -  
SPOCK  
We've fired on the Chancellor's  
ship -

CHEKOV  
Torpedo room--?

KIRK  
Uhura, monitor!

LT. SAAVIK  
Direct hit -

UHURA  
Confirmed, Captain!

46 A second photon shoots out from the bottom of the  
VFXC display screen toward the President's ship.

46  
VFXC

KIRK  
(frantic)  
Who's doing that?

Saavik hits panel controls, trying to find out...

47 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, KLINGON FLAGSHIP

47

Gorkon, several advisers and soldiers were seated but the impact has thrown them about. They speak SUBTITLED KLINGON.

The entire FLAGSHIP is drenched in AMBER emergency LIGHT.

ADVISER

We're hit --!

Another blast. They start floating helplessly in the air! Everything mobile RISES...WEAPONS FLOAT OUT OF REACH...

SOLDIER

Gravity generator!

48 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, FLAGSHIP

48

CLOSE ON

48 TWO SETS OF HEAVY GRAVITY BOOTS as they materialize. 48  
VFXA The legs inside them wear STARFLEET UNIFORMS and VFXA  
\* carry PHASERS at their sides. They SHOOT the Klingon \*  
Transporter OFFICER. They STOMP HEAVILY through the  
ALARMS and chaos, firing at the helpless, floating  
CREW...CRIES of wounded...WEAPONS FLOAT out of their  
holsters just out of reach in the AMBER LIGHT...

48 KLINGON BLOOD FLOATS IN THE AIR 48  
VFXB VFXB

49 INT. FLAGSHIP CORRIDOR 49

where Klingon crew are FLOATING helplessly. The  
GRAVITY BOOTS shoot anything in their way, WALK ON  
WALLS, etc as they hurry along to

50 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, FLAGSHIP 50

where they BLAST a GUARD at the door, SEVERING HIS ARM  
and enter. The KLINGONS have weapons but are floating  
and unable to aim. They are quickly shot as the two  
HIT MEN make their way toward Gorkon.

50 BLOOD NOW FLOATS about as well as debris in the 50  
VFX crackling emergency lighting. A good deal of HISSING VFX  
STEAM...

Chancellor Gorkon is shot. The Hit Men turn and exit  
quickly. Linger on a scene of WEIGHTLESS carnage and  
assassination.

51 INT. FLAGSHIP CORRIDOR - NIGHT 51  
 The Hit Men hurry back the way they came in their  
 51 awkward magnetic boots. Bodies and blood floating 51  
 VFX around them. VFX

52 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, FLAGSHIP 52  
 52 The HEAVY BOOTS step on the platform and de-materialize. 52  
 \* VFX (One FOOT TREADS ON FLOATING KLINGON BLOOD) VFX \*

53 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE 53  
 53 A snowy picture on the visual display, then Chang comes 53  
 \* VFXA on (still in AMBER LIGHT)... VFXA \*

CHANG  
 (He's screaming in Klingon,  
 reverting to his native  
 language under stress.)

UHURA  
 He says we've fired on them in a  
 blatant act of war.

KIRK  
 We HAVEN'T fired -

SPOCK  
 According to the data bank, we HAVE  
 - twice...

LT. SAAVIK  
 Captain, they're coming about!

53 ONSCREEN 53  
 VFXB the battlecruiser/flagship now heading for Enterprise. VFXB

SPOCK  
 They're preparing to fire.

CHEKOV  
 Shields up, Captain --?

Kirk hasn't moved. He's staring at the display,  
 thinking.

LT. SAAVIK  
 Captain, our shields -- !

KIRK  
 Uhura, signal our surrender.

UHURA  
 Captain --

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

KIRK  
WE SURRENDER.

UHURA  
This is Enterprise.  
We surrender. Repeat.  
Enterprise surrenders --

CHEKOV  
Captain, if they fire  
at us with our shields  
down --

KIRK  
Torpedo bay! DID we fire those  
torpedoes?

54 OMITTED

54

55 INT. ENTERPRISE TORPEDO BAY

55

Scotty at the console.

SCOTTY  
Negative, Captain. According to  
Inventory we're still fully loaded.

56 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

56

ANGLE ON SPOCK  
reacting. How can this be? He checks DATA BANKS  
again.

56 CU DATA BANKS: they reconfirm - two photon torpedoes  
VFX fired.

56  
VFX

KIRK  
Stand down your weapons.

SCOTTY (V.S.)  
Captain, if --

57 ANOTHER ANGLE

57

KIRK  
Stand DOWN, Mr. Scott. All Stop.  
Do you hear me, Mister?

SCOTTY  
Aye, sir.

Bones hurries in, carrying his stuff.

BONES  
What the Hell's going on?

KIRK  
I wish I knew. Uhura?

(CONTINUED)

57

CONTINUED:

57

UHURA

It's pretty chaotic over there.  
There's been some weapons fire and  
a lot of shouting...

KIRK

I'm going aboard. Spock, you have  
the conn.

He heads for the transporter room. Spock blocks him.

SPOCK

(blocks Kirk)

I am responsible for involving you  
in this. I will go.

KIRK

(bitter)

I'M going. You're going to be  
responsible for getting me out of  
this. Meantime we're not going to  
be the instigators of a full-scale  
war on the eve of universal peace.

And Spock uncharacteristically pats him on the back.

SPOCK

Perhaps you're right.

BONES

I'm going too. They may need a  
doctor.

KIRK

Uhura, tell them we're coming. And  
tell them we're unarmed.

They hurry out.

58

INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, FLAGSHIP

58

Chang and his ASSISTANTS are trying to sort things out  
without gravity. Chang shouts efficient orders in  
Klingon as he finds and tries to help Gorkon...

Chang keeps himself upright by grabbing a handhold, but  
the stricken are still floating...

A few more orders from Chang, then the lights flicker,  
then all the bodies and BLOOD slam to the ground as the  
gravitational source is restored. Lighting is "NORMAL."

59  
VFX

INT. FLAGSHIP TRANSPORTER ROOM

59  
VFX

Kirk and Bones materialize. They are quickly surrounded by ARMED SOLDIERS. Kirk puts his hands out to indicate they are not carrying weapons. They are searched as Kerla enters.

KERLA

Have you lost your mind?

KIRK

I give you my word I don't understand what has happened.

BONES

We're here to help...

KERLA

(hesitates; furious)

Follow me.

He leads them along the

60

INT. FLAGSHIP CORRIDOR

60

same path - a scene of destruction - which the hit men took, right into

61

INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, FLAGSHIP

61

where dead and wounded are being separated.

Kerla hurries over to Gorkon, as he on the rug, blood running everywhere. Azetbur is holding him, now bloody herself (she wasn't in the room during the assassination).

BONES

Chancellor Gorkon

He goes to him immediately. She rises from next to Gorkon.

KIRK

My God, what happened here?

CHANG

You feign ignorance?

\*

\*

\*

\*

KIRK

WHAT HAPPENED?

(CONTINUED)

61

CONTINUED:

61

CHANG

You crippled our gravitational field with a direct torpedo hit, and two Starfleet crewmen beamed aboard in magnetic boots and did this! WE HAVE WITNESSES!

Kirk has no response, is shocked.

BONES

Jim!

Bones is being held back from Gorkon by two Klingons.

KIRK

He's a DOCTOR!

CHANG

How can I trust --

BONES

Are you carrying a surgeon?

CHANG

(enraged)

We WEEE!

BONES

Then let me help!

Chang hesitates; signals. Bones is released.

BONES

I need some light. Can we get him onto the table...?

KLINGONS lift Gorkon onto his table; someone produces LIGHT. Bones whips out his medical scanner. His hands are SHAKING. A space-age REMBRANDT painting.

BONES

(to Kirk)

Hold him.

Kirk grabs Gorkon's arms.

BONES

(continuing)

Sweet Jesus...! He's lost a lot of whatever this stuff is...

KIRK

Can you - ?

(CONTINUED)



61

CONTINUED:

61

BONES

Jim, I don't even know his anatomy.

Bones furiously goes over Gorkon with his anabolic  
photoplaser. Shakes his head. Gorkon clutches Kirk.

\*

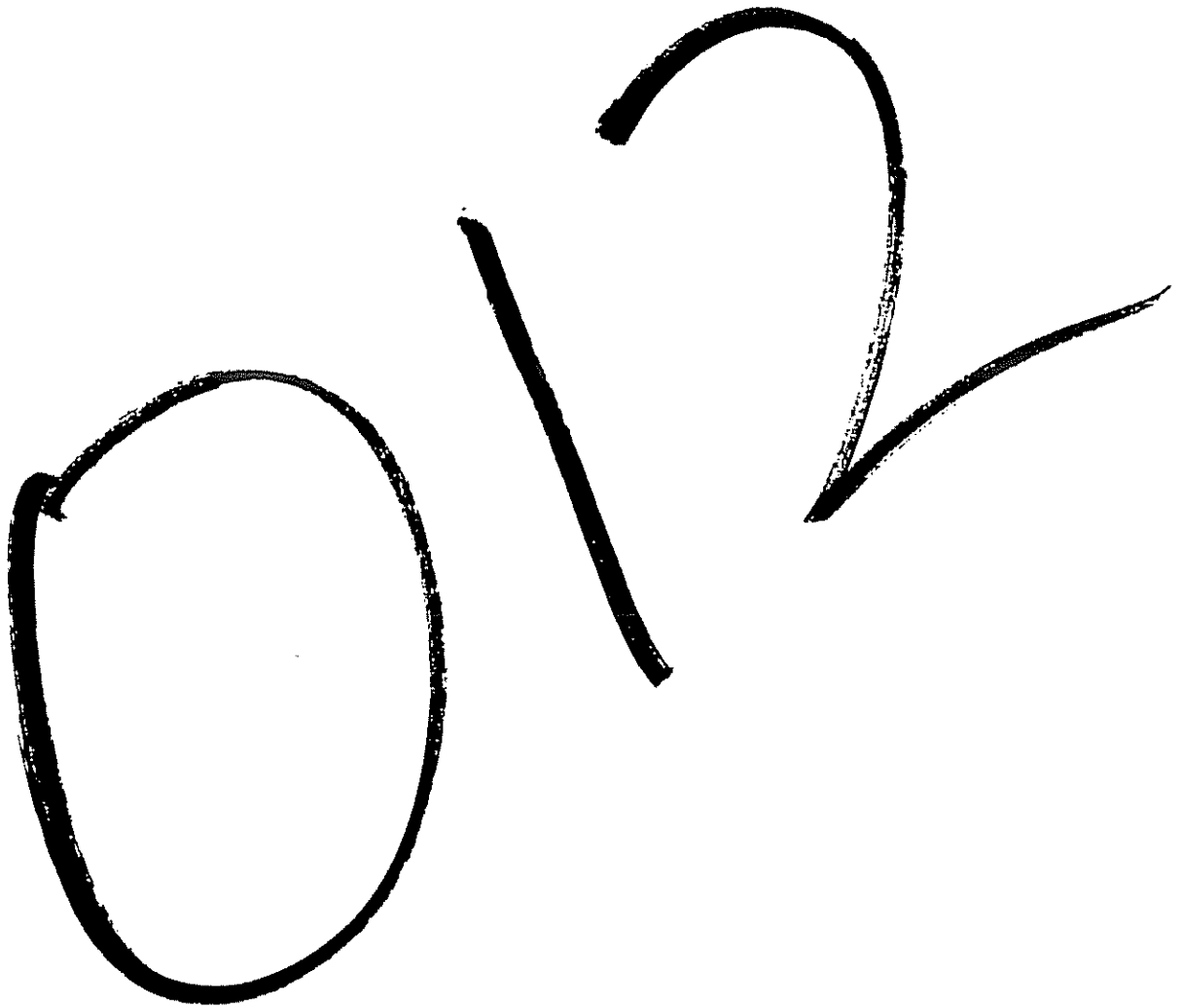
\*

BONES

(continuing)

The wounds aren't closing...

(CONTINUED)



61

CONTINUED:

61

KERLA  
You're killing him!

Kirk grabs Chang before he can get to Bones.

KIRK  
No!

BONES  
Chancellor Gorkon, can you hear me?  
Chancellor...?

No response. Bones rips open Gorkon's collar...

AZETBUR  
Father...!

KIRK  
Bones...?

BONES  
(sweating)  
He's gone into some kind of  
arrest...come on, dammit!

He tries a medical tricorder.

Frantically, he THUMPS Gorkon's chest...

as Kirk et al, look, Gorkon feebly opens his eyes, sees  
Kirk...

GORKON  
Are you all right?

HE FREEZES; Bones looks at the scanner. It turns  
bright red. Gorkon is dead. Kirk is in shock: he was  
for real.

BONES  
(stunned)  
I lost him...

Azetbur sits holding Gorkon, dry-eyed. Kirk pulls at  
Bones.

CHANG  
(grim triumph)  
Under article 184 of Interstellar  
Law, I place you both under arrest.  
You are charged with assassinating  
the Chancellor of the High Council.

KIRK  
He just tried to save him!

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

CHANG  
(Klingon)  
Take them away.

They are handcuffed. Both are in shock.

62 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

62

Uhura is listening carefully. Scotty has joined Spock and the others on the bridge.

UHURA  
They've been arrested.

All eyes go to Spock. We can guess how he feels.

CHEKOV  
Mr. Spock, we've got to do something!

The others crowd in, waiting for orders. Depending on him.

SPOCK  
(finally)  
I assume command of this ship as of  
(he checks)  
0130 hours. Uhura, send to  
Starfleet HQ. Explain precisely  
what has taken place, and request  
instructions.

UHURA  
Yes, sir.

LT. SAAVIK  
But we can't allow them to be taken  
back to Kronos as prisoners!

SPOCK  
What do you suggest, Lieutenant?  
Opening fire to retrieve the  
Captain and an armed engagement  
was precisely what he wished to  
avoid.

SCOTTY  
At least we must keep track of  
where they are taken, sir. I -

(CONTINUED)

62

CONTINUED:

62

SPOCK

I've already addressed that question, Mr. Scott. We'll be able to follow the Captain's movements.

LT. SAAVIK

How did you achieve - ?

SPOCK

Time is precious, Lieutenant. We must endeavor to piece together what happened here tonight. According to our data banks, this ship fired those torpedoes.

SCOTTY

NO WAY!

SPOCK

Mr. Scott, you forget yourself. Please accompany me.

He starts out -

CHEKOV

And if we can't piece together what happened? What then? Sir.

Spock turns unhappily.

SPOCK

Then, Mr. Chekov, it resides in the purview of the diplomats.

63

INT. OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT - DAY

63

The FEDERATION PRESIDENT and the KLINGON AMBASSADOR. With them is the VULCAN AMBASSADOR, SAREK - Spock's father - and NANCLUS, the ROMULAN AMBASSADOR.

KLINGON AMBASSADOR

The Chancellor of the High Council is dead - the result of an unprovoked attack while he travelled to see YOU under a flag of truce on a mission of peace. Captain Kirk was legally arrested for the crime. May I remind you that he and Doctor McCoy boarded KRONOS ONE of their own free will. None of these facts are in dispute, Mr. President.

(CONTINUED)

PRESIDENT

I will demand a full investigation.  
You can be assured we will  
cooperate with all our power to get  
to the bottom of the matter. In  
the meantime--

KLINGON AMBASSADOR

In the meantime we expect the  
Federation to abide by the articles  
of Interstellar Law you claim to  
cherish. Kirk and Doctor McCoy  
WILL stand trial for the  
assassination of Chancellor Gorkon.

PRESIDENT

Out of the question. Ambassador  
Sarek, there must be some way to  
extradite these men -

AMBASSADOR SAREK

(heavily)

Mr. President, I share a measure of  
personal responsibility in this  
matter but I am obliged to confirm  
my esteemed colleague's legal  
interpretation: Kirk and Dr. McCoy  
were properly arrested and the  
Klingons are within their rights to  
try them.

PRESIDENT

And what is the position of the  
Romulan government, Ambassador  
Nanclus?

AMBASSADOR NANCLUS

(wily)

In the absence of specific  
instructions from my government, I  
must concur with my colleagues.

PRESIDENT

But surely you cannot believe that  
James Kirk assassinated the  
Chancellor of the High Council.

AMBASSADOR NANCLUS

("reluctant")

Mr. President, I don't know what to  
believe.

(CONTINUED)

KLINGON AMBASSADOR

I am waiting for your answer, Mr. President.

Long pause.

PRESIDENT

This President is not above the law.

The Klingon Ambassador bows and takes his leave.  
The President is left with the two Ambassadors.

SEC'Y VOICE

Mr. President, Starfleet Command is here from San Francisco.

PRESIDENT

Send them in.

Three OFFICERS from Starfleet - including Admiral Cartwright and the CinC - enter from a DIFFERENT DOOR.

ADMIRAL CARTWRIGHT

Mr. President.

PRESIDENT

Admiral Cartwright...Bill...

ADMIRAL CARTWRIGHT

Mr. President we cannot allow Federation citizens to be abducted.

PRESIDENT

Pending a full report I am constrained to observe Interstellar Law.

A stand off. Cartwright nods to another OFFICER.

OFFICER

We've prepared Operation Retrieve based on the rising danger of terrorism between the Klingon empire and the Federation. Sir, we can go in and rescue the hostages and be out in 24 hours with an acceptable rate of loss in manpower and equipment. We have the technology to --

(CONTINUED)

PRESIDENT

Suppose you precipitate a full  
scale war?

OFFICER

Then, quite frankly, Mr. President,  
we can clean their chronometers.

AMBASSADOR NANCLUS

Mr. President, they ARE vulnerable.  
There'll never be a better time...

Pause as the president considers.

ADMIRAL CARTWRIGHT

The longer we wait, the less  
accessible those hostages will be,  
sir.

PRESIDENT

(finally)

I'll bear that in mind, Admiral. I  
think that's all.

CinC

Sir.

The President looks at him.

CinC

(continuing)

Those men have literally saved this  
planet - and you know it.

PRESIDENT

I do know it. And now I'm afraid  
they're going to save it again. By  
standing trial.

They're dismissed. The President puts his head in his  
hands... finally looks up at Sarek.

\*

(CONTINUED)

\*

63 CONTINUED:

63

PRESIDENT

I want the crew of Enterprise in my office tomorrow morning.

AMBASSADOR SAREK

They're still in space, Mr. President - adjacent to the Neutral Zone.

PRESIDENT

Then tell your son to get the hell back here before the end of the week.

A BUTLER brings water for his pills.

64 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

64

Uhura's communications panel. Chekov stands over her shoulder. In Uhura's EARPIECE we can HEAR filtered SCREAMING! She can hardly stand the volume.

UHURA

(understates)

We're to report back at once.

CHEKOV

We cannot abandon Captain Kirk and Doctor McCoy.

He looks at the rest of the CREW. Saavik wanders by.

UHURA

Of course not -

(CONTINUED)



64 CONTINUED:

64

LT. SAAVIK

Four hundred years ago, on the planet earth, workers whose lives were threatened by automation flung their wooden shoes - called SABOTS - into the machines to stop them. Hence the word sabo-TAGE.

UHURA

(like a machine)

We are experiencing a technical malfunction. All backup systems inoperative.

CHEKOV

Excellent. I mean too bad. Who will tell Captain Spock?

UHURA

(deadpan)

A fellow Vulcan?

Saavik heads off. They stare.

65

OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT - DAY

65

The President is meeting with SIX civilian ADVISERS.

MUNITIONS BUSINESSMAN

You have our total support, Mister President. My factories can gear up to full weapons production in less than a week.

PRESIDENT

Thank you, Henry. Right now we're pursuing diplomatic channels...

MUNITIONS BUSINESSMAN

Of course. No one wants a war...

AMBASSADOR SAREK

If I may, Mr. President. The important thing is to keep the peace process alive. If the new Chancellor is so disposed, perhaps we can attach a rider, get some assurance that these men won't be executed. Then, in a year -

(CONTINUED)

64

CONTINUED:

64

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Of course. No one wants a war...

AMBASSADOR SAREK

If I may, Mr. President. The important thing is to keep the peace process alive. If the new Chancellor is so disposed, perhaps we can attach a rider, get some assurance that these men won't be executed. Then, in a year -

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

## SEC'Y VOICE

Mr. President, you have the new  
Chancellor of the High Council  
calling.

They all swing to look at the far wall, which

65 lights up as a visual display. After a snowy  
VFX beginning, Azetbur appears.

65  
VFX

66 INT. AZETBUR'S OFFICE

66

## AZETBUR

Mr. President, I've been named  
Chancellor of the High Council in  
my father's place.

67 INT. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

67

Reactions in the room.

## PRESIDENT

Madam Chancellor, you have my  
sincerest condolences on your  
recent loss. I want to assure you  
that this shameful deed--

## AZETBUR

Mr. President, let us come to the  
point: you want the conference to  
go forward and so did my father. I  
will attend in one week - after  
I've had the opportunity to master  
the details of his position - on  
one condition: we will not  
extradite the prisoners and you  
will not attempt to rescue them in  
a military operation. We would  
consider any such attempt an act of  
war.

## PRESIDENT

We look forward to meeting with you  
next week, Madam Chancellor. I hope  
you will be our guest here on --

## AZETBUR

After recent events you will  
understand I prefer a neutral site.  
And in the interests of security,  
let us keep the location secret.

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

67

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT

As you wish, Madam Chancellor.

She clicks off. The President and his advisers are a little speechless at her strength and brusqueness. More pills.

68

INT. AZETBUR'S OFFICE - DAY

She's gotten off the phone. WE ARE NOW IN KLINGON.

KERLA

Attack them now, Madam Chancellor - while we still can...!

He unfurls battle plans..

FIRST GENERAL

Attack - or be slaves in their world!

SECOND GENERAL

We can take whole by force what they propose to divide...!

AZETBUR

(weary)

You don't seem to grasp our situation, General. War is... obsolete. As we are in danger of becoming.

KERLA

Better to die on our feet than live on our knees...

AZETBUR

That wasn't what my father wanted -

CHANG

(bitter)

He was killed for what he wanted.

That sinks in. Azetbur hardens. Faces Chang.

AZETBUR

Kirk must have a fair trial.

CHANG

(grim)

Klingon law will take its course -

(CONTINUED)

AZETBUR

(stony)

No. Kirk must be tried according  
to Interstellar Law.

1ST GENERAL & 2ND GENERAL

But - Madam Chancel-!

AZETBUR

You will represent the state,  
General Chang.

CHANG

The Federation will pay dearly -

AZETBUR

Not the Federation.

(off his look)

The Peace process must go forward.  
Kirk. Kirk must pay for my  
father's death.

(CONTINUED)

012

68 CONTINUED:

68

CHANG  
With pleasure, Madam Chancellor.

69 INT. TORPEDO BAY, USS ENTERPRISE

69

Spock and Scotty hover over the torpedo console, looking at numbers and lights. Spock thinks hard. EIGHT BELLS SOUND. It is perfectly clear: according to the "INVENTORY" program ALL TORPEDOES ARE STILL ABOARD.

SCOTTY  
It's as I said, Mr. Spock:  
Inventory still registers every  
torpedo.

SPOCK  
(musing)  
Yet the data banks insist we fired.  
(beat)  
One computer is lying.

SCOTTY  
A computer canna lie, sir.

SPOCK  
Precisely, Mr. Scott. Therefore we  
must check the torpedoes visually.

SCOTTY  
That could take hours!

SPOCK  
Nevertheless.

SCOTTY  
And if they're all in place?

SPOCK  
Then someone forged a data bank  
entry.

Lieutenant Saavik descends into the bay.

LT. SAAVIK  
They've named Gorkon's daughter  
Chancellor - it was on the news.

(CONTINUED)

69

CONTINUED:

69

SCOTTY

I'll bet that Klingon bitch killed  
her father...

SPOCK

Her own father...?

(CONTINUED)

12

69

CONTINUED:

69

LT. SAAVIK

It is an old story, sir.

SCOTTY

They don't place the same value on  
life that we do, Spock - you know  
that...take my word: she didn't  
shed one bloody tear...

SPOCK

That's hardly conclusive, Mr.  
Scott, as Klingons have no tear  
ducts.

Before he can react.

SPOCK

(continuing)

Any reply from Starfleet to our  
dispatch, Lieutenant?

LT. SAAVIK

Yes, sir.

She lets the words hang there.

SPOCK

(look at her keenly)

And...?

LT. SAAVIK

Commander Uhura has been  
experiencing technical difficulties  
sir.

SPOCK

Curious.

(beat)

Very well. For twenty-four hours  
we'll agree that this conversation  
did not take place.

LT. SAAVIK

A lie?

SPOCK

An omission. After that -

SCOTTY

Twenty-four hours from now we won't  
have a clue where the Captain is.

SPOCK

I know precisely where he'll be.

Scotty and Lieutenant Saavik react.



SCOTTY

You do? Where?

70  
VFX

TIGHT ON KIRK'S EYES. JUMP BACK TO REVEAL  
THE KLINGON EMPIRE IN ALL ITS BARBARIC SPLENDOR

70  
VFX

A cavernous stadium arranged in circular tiers cut from jagged stone. A place from a bygone age, of savage and awesome beauty. Something between a CIRCUS and a CATHEDRAL.

...turned for the occasion into a gigantic COURTROOM with thousands of spectators...SCREAMING: "KIRK! KIRK! KIRK!"

Many in the AUDIENCE hold SPEARS with lighted HEADS.

Kirk and Bones in the dock, stand in the bottom at the very center of the circle, surrounded by a Klingon AUDIENCE in rising tiers, while HOODED KLINGON JUDGES sit invisible in a darkened dugout. (One Judge is an ALBINO.)

CHANG wears the prosecutor's mantle.

In the audience is President Azetbur and her ADVISERS. The trial is being BROADCAST and special CAMERAS abound.

Near Kirk and Bones sits their young, eager Klingon DEFENSE ATTORNEY. Kirk keeps his cool throughout, though Bones tends to steam.

The rules are different. Attorneys are empowered to ask anyone present a question at any time. And to mix this up with statements and charges.

The proceedings BEGIN in subtitled KLINGON. Kirk and Bones wear HEADPHONES. When they speak a TRANSLATOR converts to Klingon...

As Chang gets going, we ZOOM into his MOUTH and he converts to ENGLISH...the JUDGES' GAVEL IS A GROTESQUE MAILED GLOVE.

CHANG

The State will show that Enterprise fired on KRONOS One without provocation, the Chancellor and his advisers having been lulled into a false sense of security with an invitation to a state dinner aboard Captain Kirk's vessel at 1930 hours that same evening.

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED:

70

CHANG

Do you deny all this?

The mob howls "Kirk!" as the Judge gavels.

JUDGE

The Prisoner will respond.

KIRK

I don't deny we invited them to dinner.

\* 71

ANGLE ON CHANCELLOR AZETBUR

71 \*

CHANG

Were you drunk at that dinner, Captain?

72

INT. PRESIDENT UFP'S OFFICE - DAY

72

72

VFX

The President and his ADVISERS, including Sarek, watch the proceedings unhappily onscreen. TRANSLATOR'S VOICE OVER.

72  
VFX

KIRK

What?

CHANG

Isn't it a fact that you served Romulan ale, a beverage illegal in the Federation because of its overwhelming potency?

KIRK

The drink WAS served...

The CinC and President wince -

CinC

This is a damned show trial.

73

INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

73

CHANG

And you still maintain your ship did not fire on KRONOS One? Would you have known if she had? Come now, Captain. The record clearly there were no other ships in the sector.

\*

KIRK

There... were no other ships in the sector.

(CONTINUED)

CHANG

Did you have occasion to refer to  
your ship's data banks during that  
night?

KIRK

I checked the data banks, yes.

CHANG

And what did they tell you?

KIRK

(reluctant)

That we fired two photon torpedoes.  
But -

The mob howls.

CHANG

The witness is excused for the  
time being.

Chang whirls off as the Judge levels...

START ON TV: INTERVIEW KLINEN COURTROOM - DAY

One of PRESIDENT GORKON'S GUARDS is on the stand. He  
is MISSING an ARM.

GUARD

After the first hit, we lost our  
gravitational field; I found myself  
weightless and unable to function.  
Then 2 Starfleet crewmen came  
walking toward us-

WIDEN TO REVEAL WE ARE WATCHING ABOARD ENTERPRISE

Spock et al are receiving the transmission on their  
main visual display. They watch in silence.  
TRANSLATOR'S VOICE.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Perhaps they merely wore Starfleet  
uniforms -

CHANG

I move that remark be stricken as  
purely speculative...

(CONTINUED)

75

CONTINUED:

75

JUDGE

So ordered. Colonel Worf, we are interested in facts, not theories.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

If the gravitational field was not functioning, how could these men have been walking?

GUARD

They appeared to be wearing magnetic boots.

Murmur. The Defense Attorney wishes he had asked.

SPOCK

Gravity boots...

76

INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

76

CHANG

They fired on you?

GUARD

With Starfleet issue phasers. They dashed into the Chancellor's stateroom; we could hear more phaser fire; then they went back the way they'd come.

CHANG

Towards the transporter room?

GUARD

Yes, sir.

SWISH PAN TO CU SULU

77

INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR

77

Sulu and his crew are watching the trial on their visual display as well.

78

INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

78

CHANG

Doctor McCoy, what is your current medical status?

(CONTINUED)

BONES

Aside from a touch of arthritis,  
I'd say pretty good.

Sulu has to smile. Chang is not amused; waits.

BONES

(continuing)

For 27 years I have been Ship's  
Surgeon and later Chief Medical  
Officer aboard the USS Enterprise.  
In three months I'm due to stand  
down.

CHANG

Stand...?

BONES

Retire.

CHANG

(Soft)

Ah. I believe you also consumed  
Romulan ale at the officers' mess  
on the night in question, doctor?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Objection -

JUDGE

Sustained...

BONES

(angry)

We all did. But that doesn't  
mean -

JUDGE

General Chang, come to the point or  
abandon this line of inquiry.

CHANG

Was Chancellor Gorkon alive when  
you first examined him?

(CONTINUED)

BONES

Barely.

CHANG

Have you saved patients as "barely" alive as he was?

President Azetbur flinches at the memory.

BONES

I didn't have the knowledge of Klingon anatomy I needed.

CHANG

You say you are due for retirement. May I ask: do your hands shake?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Objection!

JUDGE

Overruled -

BONES

I was nervous -

CHANG

You were incompetent - whether deliberately or as a result of age combined with drink this court will determine.

BONES

I tried to save him! I was desperate to save him! He was the last best hope in the universe for real peace.

CHANG

The Chancellor herself will testify that the defendant's hands shook.

\*

\*

79 INT. UFP PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

79

79 The President et al watch unhappily.

79

VFX

VFX

CHANG

And now we come to the architect of this tragic affair, Captain James Tiberius Kirk. I put it to you, Captain, that you were seeking revenge for the death of your son.

KIRK

That isn't true..!

CHANG

That, either as an instrument of Federation policy or acting on your own drunken initiative, you and your fellow conspirators crippled KRONOS One and cold-bloodedly assassinated the Chancellor of the High Council. Then you and Doctor McCoy went aboard to make certain the job was complete.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Objection. Captain Kirk has not been identified as the assassin.

JUDGE

Sustained.

CHANG

I offer into the record the following excerpt from Captain Kirk's personal log.

He signals. Kirk's VOICE fills the room.

KIRK'S VOICE

I have never trusted Klingons and never will. I have never been able to forgive them for the murder of my boy...

An explosive babble fills the court. The Judge POUNDS HIS GLOVE for order...QUICK REACTION SHOTS:

81 THE ENTERPRISE,

81

82 THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,

82

83 THE EXCELSIOR - THEN BACK TO THE COURTROOM

83

84 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

84

CHANG

Are those your words?

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED:

KIRK

Yes.

CHANG

Spoken by you?

KIRK

Yes...

CHANG

Louder, please. We cannot hear you.

KIRK

(firmer)  
Those words were spoken by me.

85 INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR 85

85 Sulu is speaking confidentially to his communications 85  
VFX officer. Onscreen behind them the trial continues. VFX

SULU

Send to commander Enterprise: "We stand ready to assist you. Captain Sulu. USS Excelsior. Attach our co-ordinates."

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Is that wise, sir? I mean, given their situation (off Sulu's look)

Aye, sir

He leaves. Sulu looks up at the screen, unhappily.

85A COURTROOM

85A

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Objection, your honors. My clients' political views are not on trial here.

86 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

86

86 The trial is on SEVERAL MONITORS BG. Spock, next to 86  
VFX Uhura. VFX

UHURA

Sulu's giving us his position and telling us he's standing by...

(CONTINUED)



86

CONTINUED:

86

SPOCK

(unhappy)

He's placing himself in a most awkward situation...

CHANG (V.O.)

On the contrary, Captain Kirk's views and motives are at the heart of this matter. This officer's record shows the accused to be an insubordinate, unprincipled career opportunist with a history of violating the chain of command when it suited him.

87

INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

87

CHANG

(continuing)

Indeed the record will show that "Captain" Kirk was once "Admiral" Kirk and that Admiral Kirk was broken for taking matters into his own hands in defiance of regulations and the law. Do you deny you were demoted on these charges, Captain? DO NOT WAIT FOR THE TRANSLATION ANSWER ME NOW!

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Don't answer - objection -!

JUDGE

Objection overruled. The Prisoner will answer the question.

KIRK

I cannot deny it.

You were demoted...

KIRK

Yes.

CHANG

for insubordination.

KIRK

I have on occasion disobeyed orders.

(CONTINUED)

\*

CHANG

And were you obeying or disobeying  
orders the night you arranged the  
assassination of Chancellor Gorkon?

\*

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(overlapping)

I object -!

KIRK

(overlapping)

I was unaware of the assassination  
until I boarded his ship!

CHANG

(overlapping)

You deny Enterprise fired on KRONOS  
One?

KIRK

Well, I -

CHANG

(overlapping)

You deny that your men beamed  
aboard KRONOS One and shot the  
Chancellor?

KIRK

I cannot confirm or deny actions  
which I did not witness.

CHANG

Captain Kirk, are you aware that  
under Federation law the Captain  
of a Starship is considered  
responsible for the actions of his  
men?

KIRK

I am.

CHANG

So if it should prove members of  
your crew did in fact carry out  
such an assassination - ?

BONES

Jam! They're setting us up! Your  
honors, I protest-!

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

JUDGE

The defendant will be silent!  
Captain Kirk, you will answer the  
question.

KIRK

(heavily)

As captain I am responsible for the  
conduct of the crew under my  
command.

CHANG

Your honors, the State rests.

An excited BABBLE. Kirk and Bones turn to their  
attorney.

BONES

Is it our turn, now?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(grim)  
According to Klingon law both sides  
present their cases at the same  
time. We've HAD our turn.

On Bones' and Kirk's reaction, the Judge's mailed fist  
crashes down with a flurry of sparks.

JUDGE

It is the judgment of this court  
that the defendants are guilty as  
charged.

Sensation in court. A BOOMING CHANT "KOOM! KOOM!" as  
all the LIGHT SPEARS are pointed at Kirk and Bones.  
Chang is stone-faced. AGAIN THE HORRIBLE GAUNTLET.

JUDGE

Captain James T. Kirk, Doctor  
Leonard M. ...

They face the Judges' box. INTERCUT THIS MOMENT WITH

88 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE - DAY

88

SPOCK'S FACE - What has he done?

89 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM

89

JUDGE

Have either of you anything to say  
before this court passes sentence?

(CONTINUED)

89

CONTINUED:

89

Kirk and Bones look at each other.

BONES

(simply)

We were framed.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(rises passionately)

I wish to note for the record that the evidence against my clients is entirely circumstantial. I beg the court to consider this when pronouncing its sentence.

JUDGE

(beat)

So noted. In the interests of amity for the forthcoming peace talks, the sentence of death is commuted.

(ROAR topped by)

It is the judgement of this court that without possibility of reprieve or parole, you be taken from this place to the Dilithium Mines on the penal asteroid archipelago of Rura Penthe, there to spend the rest of your natural life.

Off Kirk's and Bones' reactions

90

INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

90

UHURA

(her eyes fill)

Rura Penthe!

CHEKOV

Known throughout the galaxy as the Aliens' graveyard.

SCOTTY

Better to kill them now and get it over with...

It takes Spock a moment to recover himself.

SPOCK

Let's see the torpedo hit again, Lieutenant.

Saavik instructs the panel. As attention is diverted, Spock mops his brow.

(CONTINUED)

90

CONTINUED:

90

The CREW watch in silence as the MONITOR REPLAYS THE  
HIT. (Sc.46 VFXB)

(CONTINUED)

12

90

CONTINUED:

90

CHEKOV

(hopeless)

It is Enterprise. We fired.

As the replay indicates this, Spock stares...

SCOTTY

(anger & confusion)

It's na possible!! All weapons  
VISUALLY accounted for. Sir.

LT. SAAVIK

Commander? Is it not logical to  
consider ALL possibilities?

(off their looks)

This is most difficult to say, but  
has it occurred to...to any of  
us...that the Captain is... that  
is, we know his feelings about  
Klingons, what they did to his...

Spock's gaze stops her.

LT. SAAVIK

(continuing)

Well, it IS a possibility.

After an impenetrable pause -

SPOCK

Again.

Another replay as they watch. (OVERSHOULDER) (Sc.46 VFXC)

SPOCK

(continuing)

Hold.

They stare at the frozen image.

SPOCK

(continuing)

An ancestor of mine maintained that  
if you eliminate the impossible  
whatever remains - however  
improbable - must be the truth.

UHURA

What exactly does that mean?

SPOCK

It means that if we cannot have  
fired those torpedoes then someone  
else did.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTTY

They dinna fire on themselves. And  
there were no other ships present.

SPOCK

(grasping at straws)

There was an enormous neutron  
energy surge.

SCOTTY

(insisting)

Not from us!

CHEKOV

(square one)

A neutron surge that big could only  
be produced by another ship...

UHURA

KRONOS One?

SPOCK

Too far off. Very near us.  
Perhaps... underneath us...

SCOTTY

If another ship had been beneath  
the Klingons would've seen her

SPOCK

Would they?

Long pause.

LT. SAAVIK

A Bird of Prey?

SPOCK

A Bird of Prey.

CHEKOV

Cloaked!?

Spock says nothing.

SCOTTY

A Bird of Prey canna fire when  
she's cloaked!

SPOCK

All things being equal, Mr. Scott,  
I would agree. However, all things  
are not equal: this one can.

(CONTINUED)

90

CONTINUED:

90

SCOTTY  
Then you're talking about a  
dreadful new engine of destruction,  
Mr. Spock.

(CONTINUED)

12



90

CONTINUED:

90

\*

SPOCK

I believe I am.

\*

LT. SAAVIK

\*

We must inform Starfleet Command -

\*

SCOTTY

(enraged)

Inform them of what?? A new weapon that isn't visible? Raving lunatics - that's what they'll call us! They'll say we're so desperate to exonerate the Captain we'll say anything -

SPOCK

And they'd be right. We have no evidence - just a theory that happens to fit the facts...

TREKRA

Even assuming you're correct, Mr. Spock, why would they fire on their own President?

SPOCK

(decision)

I want this ship searched from bow to stern. Lieutenant Saavik, you are in charge. Start with the transporter room and work your way outwards...

LT. SAAVIK

Aye, sir -

CHEKOV

I do not understand. If there was a ship underneath us, surely the assassins beamed aboard from that vessel, not Enterprise.

SPOCK

You're forgetting something:

(off their looks)

the data banks say WE fired. If we did, the killers are here; if we didn't, whoever altered the data banks is here. Either way, what we're searching for is here...

CHEKOV

What ARE we searching for, Mr. Spock?

(CONTINUED)

90

CONTINUED:

90

SPOCK  
You tell them, Lieutenant.

\*

\*

12

90A CLOSE ON LIEUTENANT SAAVIK  
It's elementary.

90A

LT. SAAVIK  
Two pairs of gravity boots.

Spock is well pleased with her.

91 EXT. RURA PENTHE PENAL COLONY - DAY 91  
91 THREE SUNS glare down on a huge vista: an ICE FIELD 91  
VFX - the coldest habitable place in the solar system. VFX

A small moving DARK MASS as we push in, REVEALS

FIFTEEN PRISONERS in leg irons and FIVE KLINGON GUARDS with JACKAL-MASTIFFS moving slowly across the frigid plain.

Kirk and Bones, likewise shackled, are among them. GUARDS and PRISONERS alike wear ragged furs.

They reach a lone TOTEM and a GUARD holds up his hand for a halt. He presses an instrument emitting a high-pitched WHINE.

In response, A HUGE TRAP DOOR, buried in the snow, yawns open. A KLINGON GUARD emerges from steps below and places a BOX before the gaping DOOR.

As Kirk and Bones watch, the COMMANDANT of RURA PENTHE and his JACKAL MASTIFF emerge. He mounts the box.

COMMANDANT

This is the gulag Rura Penthe.  
Observe: there is no stockade, no guard tower, no electrified frontier. They are not needed. Only a magnetic shield prevents beaming. Your new home is underground.

He blows a mechanical WHISTLE: in response, TWO GUARDS emerge from below with a SCREAMING KLINGON CONVICT.

PRISONER

NO! NOOOO!

COMMANDANT

Punishment means EXILE from prison to the surface - on the surface nothing can survive.

The GUARDS dump the screaming CONVICT on the ice - without furs. The weather immobilizes him at once - his cries become fainter.

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED:

91

COMMANDANT

(continuing)

\*

Below no one can escape. Work well  
and you will be treated well. Work  
badly and you will die.

\*

He leaves; the box is removed by a guard and proceeds  
him through the huge door and down the steps.

91A LONG SHOT

91A

as the prisoners are herded after him and the door  
shuts, leaving the frozen vista as it was; snow  
flurries obscure the trap door almost instantly. Only  
the frozen corpse of the CONVICT is left - until it too  
is covered.

91B INT. RURA PENTHE

91B

START LOOKING UP AT THE CLOSING TRAP DOOR - outside we  
can see SNOW flurries as the panel shuts with a CLANG.

PAN DOWN TO REVEAL

A huge underground labyrinth with an enormous courtyard  
surrounded by prisoner huts open to the center.  
PRISONERS wander freely within. The scum of the  
universe.

Everyone wears furs, LEG IRONS and is FREEZING.

On endless scaffolding above the GUARDS.

Many of the PRISONERS look like they could snap Kirk  
and Bones in two with one hand.

Kirk and Bones step gingerly around the outside wall,  
watching the yard. A shadow falls across them.

Their POV: It's a behemoth ALIEN. He speaks in a  
guttural, incomprehensible language.

ALIEN

Qog wok na pushnat.

KIRK

I'm afraid our universal translator  
was confiscated.

ALIEN

Ring notsa loskent!

(CONTINUED)

91B CONTINUED:

91B

KIRK

Sorry...

ALIEN

Rangnit ascru, unto pram moreoscue  
shondik!!!

BONES

He's definitely on about something.

ALIEN

Quog wok na pushnat!!

The alien picks Kirk up.

KIRK

If this is your spot, we'll move  
on...

The alien is about to behead Kirk.

MARTIA (O.S.)

He wants your obedience to the  
Brotherhood of Aliens.

KIRK

He's got it.

MARTIA

And your coat.

KIRK

Fraid not. It wouldn't fit him,  
anyway.

MARTIA

Krandog arant.

The Alien puts Kirk down.

MARTIA

(continuing)

Fendo pompsky.

The Alien nods and wanders off.

KIRK

Thanks...

BONES

What's the Brotherhood of Aliens?

(CONTINUED)

91B CONTINUED:

91B

MARTIA  
Prisoners from outside the Klingon  
system. They tend to band together.  
I'm Martia.

She's a tall and very good looking female, boots to her  
thighs, exotic furs, tattered but clearly humanoid.  
She's smoking something; offers them a hit.

MARTIA  
(continuing)  
This'll help keep you warm. You're  
Kirk and McCoy.

Kirk takes the hit; offers Bones...it does warm you.

KIRK  
How did you know..?

MARTIA  
(shrugs)  
We don't get many presidential  
assassins.

KIRK  
We didn't kill Gorkon.

MARTIA  
(deadpan)  
Of course not.  
(looks around)  
There's a reward for your death.

BONES  
(looks around too)  
Figures.

KIRK  
We've been set up all along.

MARTIA  
Somebody up there wants you out of  
the way.

BONES  
I don't believe we can get more out  
of the way than this.

MARTIA  
They'll make it look like an  
accident...

BONES  
What are you in for, if you don't  
mind my asking?

(CONTINUED)

91B CONTINUED:

91B

MARTIA

I don't mind. Smuggling. Guilty.  
I come from Arc. Smuggling is an  
ancient and respected trade there.

KIRK

How much time's left of your  
sentence?

MARTIA

(smiles grimly)

Don't you know? Everyone on Rura  
Penthe is here for life.

Kirk and Bones didn't know.

92

INT. GALLEY, USS ENTERPRISE

92

Under Lieutenant Saavik's watchful eye, CREWMEN are  
taking the kitchen apart. All sorts of dishes and  
cutlery litter the place. Spock and Chekov enter.

SPOCK

Any progress?

LT. SAAVIK

None. We've got a crew of three  
hundred turning their own quarters  
inside out, but the killers may be  
among them. Surely they've  
disposed of these boots by now.  
Wouldn't it have been logical to  
leave them on Gorkon's ship?

SPOCK

Even logic is beyond the  
physics. Gravity hadn't been  
restored by the time they escaped.  
Without their boots they would not  
have stayed on the Klingon  
transporter pads.

CHEKOV

(mimes with his finger)

Why not simply vaporize them?

LT. SAAVIK

Like this?

She grabs a PHASER from its wall mount and FIRES,  
incinerating a POT.

ALARMS and CLAXONS HOWL! Chekov COVERS HIS EARS.

(CONTINUED)

LT. SAAVIK

As you know, Commander Chekov, no one can fire an unauthorized phaser aboard a starship.

She switches off the ALARM and has another thought:

LT. SAAVIK

(continuing)

Suppose when they returned they threw the boots into the refuse?

SPOCK

I'm having the refuse searched. If my surmise is correct those boots will cling to the killers' necks like Tiberian bats. They couldn't make their escape without them; nor can they simply throw them out a window for all to see; no - they're here. Somewhere.

Uhura comes into the galley, stepping over pots and pans. She's not happy.

UHURA

Did someone shoot off a phaser?  
Mr. Spock.

He turns.

UHURA

(continuing)

I've pulled out my - uh wooden shoe and Starfleet is screaming for us to return to port.

Scotty enters.

SPOCK

Mr. Scott, any progress on repairing our warp drive?

SCOTTY

There's nothing wrong with the bloody -

(CONTINUED)



92

CONTINUED:

92

\*

SPOCK

\*

Mr. Scott, if we return to spacedock, the assassins will manage to dispose of their incriminating footwear and we will never see the Captain or Dr. McCoy alive again.

\*

SCOTTY

\*

- could take weeks, sir.


\*

SPOCK

\*

Thank you, Mr. Scott. Commander Uhura, inform Starfleet our warp drive is inoperative.

(CONTINUED)

A large, handwritten number '12' in black ink, positioned at the bottom of the page. The '1' is a simple vertical stroke, and the '2' is a cursive-style loop.

92

CONTINUED:

92

LT. SAAVIK

A lie?

SPOCK

An error.

UHURA

(unhappily)

I'll tell them someone threw a  
gravity boot into it...

ANGLE ON SPOCK

reacting. He looks at Saavik...

LT. SAAVIK

Right, a gravity boot in the warp  
drive...

She goes off, shaking her head...

UHURA

You understand that we have lost  
all contact with the Captain and  
Dr. McCoy?

SPOCK

At present they are surrounded  
by a magnetic shield. If my  
calculations are correct, the  
Captain should be deep into his  
escape planning by this time.

93

INT. RURA PENTHE PENAL COLONY

93

Kirk gets hit in the face. It's already BLOODY. It's  
a prison fight. Kirk and ALIEN are surrounded by  
PRISONERS & GUARDS cheering and jeering.

Kirk and Bones are distinctly ~~unhappy~~.

Kirk scrambles to his feet and circles. The Alien  
swings a large paw but Kirk ducks, comes in with an  
uppercut. He connects, but does little damage. They  
circle some more. The Alien dives legs first and  
scissors Kirk, who goes down roughly. Wrestling, Kirk  
slips free.

Bones and Martia watch...the leg irons make it  
complicated -they can also wrap around someone's  
neck...

The Alien moves in closely, hits Kirk again. Kirk  
fights back with a kick to the chest, which doubles  
over the Alien.

(CONTINUED)

93

CONTINUED:

93

Then Kirk slams the ALIEN on the neck and he goes down.  
Kirk starts to walk away.

But a paw reaches out and grabs him by the ankle. Kirk looks back and the Alien is grinning, drags him in. Stands and grips Kirk chest to back in a giant bear hug. Surely he will crush the life out of Kirk.

He lifts Kirk right off the ground. Kirk, almost gone, lifts his legs up high and swings down hard, smashing the Alien in the knee. That does it. The Alien falls to the ground, screaming and holding his knee.

Kirk staggers away catching his breath.

BONES

You okay?

MARTIA

They'll respect you now...

KIRK

That's a comfort...I was lucky that  
things had knees.

They look back. The Alien is still on the ground.

MARTIA

That's not his knee.

(off Kirk's look)

Not everybody keeps their genitals  
in the same place, Captain.

KIRK

Anything you want to tell me?

Before she can answer.

KIRK

(continuing)

Bones, why don't you see what you  
can do? Let him know we're not  
holding a grudge.

BONES

Suppose HE'S holding a grudge?

Bones tentatively goes forward and examines the knee.  
He is without any medical tools of any kind.

Kirk looks at Martia. She shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

MARTIA

When whoever it is makes their  
move, you won't be here to ask if  
he's the one.

(pause)

You want to get out of here?

KIRK

There's gotta be a way...

She looks at him, moves off...

The Alien yells but lets Bones manipulate the leg...

BONES

(looks down)

Hot damn, Jim, she's right...!

94 OMITTED

94

95 INT. SULU'S CABIN, USS EXCELSIOR

95

Sulu is asleep; awakened by a knock.

SULU

Come in.

His COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER enters.

OFFICER

Sorry to wake you, sir, but  
Starfleet urgently requests any  
data we may have on the whereabouts  
of Enterprise.

SULU

(groggy)

What?

OFFICER

Apparently they're refusing to  
acknowledge signal to return to  
spacedock, Sir.

SULU

Signal Starfleet that... we have no  
idea location Enterprise.

OFFICER

(astonished)

Sir?

(CONTINUED)

95

CONTINUED:

95

SULU

You have hearing problems, mister?

OFFICER

No, sir.

(CONTINUED)

0/2

95 CONTINUED:

95

He salutes and leaves. Sulu stays awake. DISSOLVE:

96 INT. HUT ON RURA PENTHE - NIGHT

96

Kirk and Bones sleep on rude bunk beds in a shaft off the main courtyard: tattered, exhausted wrecks.

BONES

Three months till retirement. What a way to finish.

KIRK

(thinking)

We're not finished.

BONES

Speak for yourself. One day...one night...

He makes a gesture across his own throat.

BONES

(continuing)

- Kobyashi Maru...

CLOSE ON KIRK

KIRK

Bones...are you afraid of the future?

Bones tries to find a comfortable position.

BONES

That was the general idea I intended to convey.

KIRK

I didn't mean this future.

BONES

Are we playing multiple choice?

An ALIEN CLAW flops over the side from the bunk above.

KIRK

Some people ARE afraid of the future; of what MIGHT happen;

(pause)

I was frightened, really frightened.

Another ALIEN CLAW flops down...

(CONTINUED)

96

CONTINUED:

96

BONES

I've looked death in the eye a thousand times and tried to be professional about it. Of course it wasn't usually MY death I was looking at.

(pause)

What frightened you specifically?

\*

ANOTHER ALIEN CLAW over the side...

\*

(CONTINUED)

12

96

CONTINUED:

96

KIRK

(shrugs)

No more neutral zone. I was USED  
to hating Klingons...that's why I  
failed in our assignment. It never  
even occurred to me to take Gorkon  
at his word. Spock was right.

\*

Another CLAW...

\*

BONES

Well, don't be too hard on yourself  
- we all felt exactly the same -

KIRK

(shakes his head;  
can't put his finger)

Uh uh. Somebody felt much worse.  
And I'm starting to understand why.

BONES

Well, if you've got any bright  
ideas, now's the time to-

KIRK

Time's the problem. You heard the  
judge: the peace conference is on  
again. Whoever killed Gorkon will  
sandbag the whole thing all over...  
unless we find a way out of here.

\*

Bones puts a finger on his lips. A BOULDER rolls  
downhill and stops. They pretend to sleep. Something  
crawls towards them in the dark; they sweat. Kirk  
clenches his fists...

\*

MARTIA

(whispers)

Kirk? It's me, Martia.

Kirk opens his eyes; Bones plays possum.

MARTIA

(continuing)

Listen. No one has ever escaped  
from Rura Penthe.

KIRK

(ready)

Except us.

MARTIA

It IS possible.

(CONTINUED)



96 CONTINUED:

96

KIRK

(shrugs)

No more neutral zone. I was USED  
to hating Klingons... that's why I  
failed in our assignment. It never  
even occurred to me to take Gorkon  
at his word. Spock was right.

Another claw...

BONES

Well, don't be too hard on yourself  
- we all felt exactly the same...

KIRK

(shakes his head; can't put his finger)  
Uh uh. Somebody felt much worse.  
And I'm starting to understand why.

BONES

Well, if you've got any bright  
ideas, now's the time to --

KIRK

Time's the problem. You and I  
don't count - we're just a couple  
of pawns in someone else's chess  
game. But you heard the judge: the  
peace conference is on again.  
Whoever killed Gorkon will sandbag  
the thing all over... unless we  
find a way out of here.

Bones puts a finger on his lips. A BOULDER rolls downhill  
and stops. They pretend to sleep. Something crawls towards  
them in the dark; they sweat...Kirk clenches his fists...

MARTIA

(whispers)

Kirk. It's me, Martia.

Kirk opens his eyes. Bones plays possum.

MARTIA

(continuing)

Listen. No one has ever escaped  
from Rura Penthe.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED:

97

KIRK  
Except us.

MARTIA  
It IS possible.

He regards her warily.

MARTIA  
(continuing)  
I know how to get outside the  
shield.

KIRK  
Where do we come in?

MARTIA  
Getting outside the shield is easy.  
After that it's up to you to get us  
off the surface before we freeze.  
Can you?

KIRK  
Possibly.

MARTIA  
I can't make it alone. You're the  
likeliest candidate to come to this  
hellhole in months.

KIRK  
Candidate for what?

Their whispering has brought them very close. Martia is  
vamping him. She pulls off her fur hood... kisses him. He  
doesn't resist.

97 ANGLE ON BONES

97

rolls his eyes

MARTIA  
Go to lift seven in the morning for  
mining duty. I'll see you there.

She disappears into the shadows.

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED: 97

\* KIRK \*

I think I've been alien-ated...

Bones gets up on one elbow.

BONES

What is it with you, anyway?

KIRK

Still think we're finished?

BONES

More than ever.

98 EXT. RURA PENTHE ASTEROID - NIGHT 98

the wind howls in an otherwise barren landscape.

99 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, USS ENTERPRISE 99

Chekov examines the platform and environs carefully. He comes across spots of VIOLET. He scrapes samples into an evidence tube, seals it; hurries out.

\* 100 INT. SCIENCE LAB, USS ENTERPRISE (FORMERLY SPOCK'S QTR) 100 \*

Spock studies the sample under a microscope.

SPOCK  
Klingon blood.

CHEKOV  
They must have walked through it  
when it was floating and tracked it  
back here.

SPOCK  
This is the first evidence that  
corroborates our theory.

CHEKOV  
Now we go to Starfleet?

SPOCK  
Now we expand our search to include  
uniforms.

CHEKOV  
ALL uniforms?

\* Spock looks at him. \*

CHEKOV  
(starts out)  
Aye, sir...ALL uniforms...

\* SPOCK  
Mister Chekov \*

\* Chekov turns. \*

SPOCK  
(continuing)  
The longer we take, the greater  
danger in which we leave the  
Captain and Doctor McCoy.

101 MONTAGE: the Enterprise is strip-searched. LOCKERS, 101  
THRU WARDROOMS, LAUNDRY, SICKBAY, JEFFRIES TUBE, CUPBOARDS, THRU  
105 OBSERVATION DECK, INSTRUMENTS PANELS, etc..you name 105  
it...piles and piles of CLOTHING being sorted by the  
CREW; piles of BOOTS being examined as Lieutenant  
Saavik prowls the CORRIDORS and checks off locations on  
a LIGHTPLAN of the ship...

106 INT. CREW QUARTERS 106

Suddenly an EXCLAMATION brings her running over.

(CONTINUED)

106 CONTINUED:

106

A CREWMAN has opened a LOCKER and now holds up an enormous gravity BOOT. As all watch, he puts the boot on THE METAL LOCKER...

It sticks.

Saavik looks up at the locker and sees the name: DAX.  
Poker-faced triumph.

\*

\*

107 INT. CREW QUARTERS

107

LATER

Spock, Saavik, Uhura, Chekov, et al wait with impassive

(CONTINUED)

12

107 CONTINUED:

107

faces as CREWMAN DAX enters the area. He is an alien.

SPOCK  
You are Crewman Dax?

DAX  
Yes, sir. What's happened?

CHEKOV  
(triumphant)  
Perhaps you know Romulan epic of  
Cinderella? If shoe fits, wear it!

Dax looks confused.

108 CAMERA PANS DOWN HIS LEGS

108

no way those webbed feet could make it into those  
boots.

Expressions of chagrin on everyone's face...

109 INT. RURA PENTHE PENAL COLONY - MORNING

109

Kirk and Bones, their legs still shackled, walk across  
the huge courtyard and line up behind a dozen brutes,  
everyone flapping arms to keep warm...

They wait in front of and then enter the C Lift.

\* 110 INT. LIFT 7 (FORMER SHUTTLE TRUCK) - DESCENDING

110 \*

Like the old Welsh mine caged elevators.

BONES  
(looks for the girl)  
think we've been had.

MARTIA'S VOICE  
No you weren't, doctor.

They look around for the girl. Just a big BRUTE next to  
them. Plus other CONVICTS.

MARTIA'S VOICE  
Get off at the first level and join  
the gang going into the mine.  
(explains)  
They don't take girls.

It's him! With her voice, Kirk is thunderstruck. He  
stares at the Brute.

110 VFX OR MODEL: THE LIFT LIGHTS DISAPPEAR INTO BLACKNESS 110  
VFX

111 INT. MINE - DAY 111

THE LIFT DOORS OPEN

Kirk and Bones climb out with the others. They follow the Brute through the labyrinthine darkness.

BONES

What kind of a creature is this?  
Last night you two were spooning -

KIRK

Don't remind me.

112 OMITTED 112

113 INSIDE THE MINE 113

Everyone is issued a DRILL and a LIGHT HELMET. As BEAMS ricochet about, they start digging DILITHIUM crystals out of the rock and putting them on a flatbed shuttle. Kirk and Bones and the Brute do likewise, all under the watchful eye of fur-clad KLINGON GUARDS.

An ALIEN next to Kirk sneaks several of the crystals into his garment.

113 A GUARD blasts him with a PHASER and he disappears. 113  
VFX

Bones openly takes his crystal and places it on the truck, making sure the guard sees him.

114 LATER - INT. MINE 114

Kirk and Bones are filthy and sweaty. The Brute looks at them, looks around. The guards are eating with their backs turned. Kirk and Bones look to the Brute for guidance.

\* 114 Before their eyes, he re-materializes into a TEN YEAR 114 \*  
VFX OLD GIRL. VFX

115 CU HER SKINNY LEGS 115

as Kirk and Bones watch, she slips out of her leg irons. Too bad they can't do likewise...

MARTIA'S VOICE

(whispers)

Follow me.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED:

115

She puts her DRILL down and walks silently into the depths of the mine. They follow, looking back to make sure the Guards aren't watching.

The girl quickly scrambles through a small hole, turns and waves them on. They have to get down on their stomachs and crawl through. Kirk goes first, turns, pulls Bones. This takes time, especially if your legs have chains on them...

116 ON THE GUARDS

116

who finish their lunch and look around. Notice a suspicious space where 3 workers used to be. Wander over. Look further into the mine. Find the hole. They hurry back, shouting.

117 INT. MINE TUNNEL - ON THE TRIO

117

The hole has led to a new tunnel and the girl rematerializes into THE BRUTE as they crawl. Kirk and Bones, still chained, struggle to keep up.

They make their way to a large, abandoned opening and come out on

118 EXT. THE MINE, RARA PENTHE DAY

118

a high ice ledge. By scrambling down the ledge and jumping, the BRUTE leads them onto the frigid snowfield. The surface environment is killing.

119 LATER - EXT. FROZEN RIVER - DAY

119

The three slip and slide on the ice across a frozen river. The ICE BEGINS TO CRACK beneath their feet...

Eventually the three climb the farther bank. They are barely alive. Shaking.

BONES

I can't...

Frantically, Kirk tries to keep Bones' circulation going.

MARTIA

We're at the edge of the shield.

119 They follow her look: AN ICE DESERT.  
VFX119  
VFX

KIRK

Come on. KEEP MOVING!

\* They stagger on.

\*



119A INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS

119A

Spock, out of uniform, reclines in his berth, eyes open; thinking. His expression changes.

119B HIS POV

119B

The votive candle burning in its shrine. Spock's eyes narrow. What is the candle trying to tell him...?

Now his gaze lights on the Chagall. Spock stares. It's on the tip of his mind.

UHURA'S VOICE OVER

Mr. Spock, I've got them!

120 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

120

A blinking BLIP on Uhura's oscilloscope.

\*

PULL BACK. Uhura is monitoring their position. Spock, Scotty and Chekov stand over her shoulder. Spock heads for his console and starts peering at electronic charts...

\*

SPOCK

They're outside the beaming shield.  
Mr. Scott, start your engines.

SCOTTY

Aye, aye, sir.

Scotty heads for the lift.

\*

SPOCK

Mr. Chekov, set a course for Rura Penthe...

\*

CHEKOV

(from the helm)

Mr. Spock, Rura Penthe's deep in Klingon territory. If we're discovered...

SPOCK

(looks up)

Quite right, Mr. Chekov. What is now required is a feat of linguistic legerdemain - and a degree of intrepidity. Before the Captain and Doctor McCoy freeze to death.

120  
VFX

OMITTED

120  
VFX

120A INT. KLINGON LISTENING POST

120A

Grimy, underfunded and undermanned. God knows what forsaken place this is. Rocks and lit by SCOPES...

A SLEEPY KLINGON dozes before his scanners. A bottle in front of him tells the story. SUDDENLY A BLIP. HE forces himself into alert attention.

120B HIS POV

120B

On the scope a BEEPING DOT...he frowns, hits a switch.

SLEEPY KLINGON  
(subtitled KLINGON)  
What ship is that? Over...

An interminable pause. No, a SECOND KLINGON sits next to the first. What's going on?

VOICE FILTERED  
(subtitled KLINGON)  
We am thy freighter...URVA six  
weeks out of...Kronos...Over...

KLINGON  
(subtitled KLINGON)  
Whither are you bound? Over...

Another LONG pause. They squint at the delay.

121 OMITTED  
VFX

121  
VFX

122 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

122

Uhura and company are FRANTICALLY paging through old Klingon glossaries, manuals and dictionaries.

UHURA  
(subtitled KLINGON)  
We is condemning food...things  
and...supplies to Rura Penthe...  
over...

Pause...

KLINGON VOICE FILTERED  
(subtitled KLINGON)  
Don't catch any bugs!

The VOICE LAUGHS RAUCOUSLY. Spock gestures. Uhura returns the laugh...over and out. They look at each other.

SPOCK  
Was that so bad?

\* 123 OMITTED  
THRU  
\* 125VFX

123 \*  
THRU  
125VFX \*

126 EXT. RURA PENTHE ICE DESERT - DUSK

126

126 THE THREE COLD SUNS are setting.  
VFX

126  
VFX

The Brute, Kirk and Bones stumble and crawl across the ice. They - especially Bones - are more dead than alive.

As they pull themselves along, it becomes darker...

BONES  
Jim, leave me - I'm finished...

KIRK  
No way.  
(off Bones' look)  
You see this?

\* He displays a STAIN on the back of his ragged coat. \*

KIRK  
(continuing)  
It's the viridium patch Spock  
slapped on my back right before we  
went aboard Gorkon's ship.

BONES  
(faint)  
That cunning little Vulcan...

KIRK  
Once we're beyond the shield they  
should be able to pick it up two  
sectors away.

(CONTINUED)

\* 126 CONTINUED:

126 \*

BONES

If they're even looking for us...

KIRK

Spock's looking for us...

MARTIA'S VOICE

(the Brute points to a ridge)  
 We're almost there. Once we're  
 outside, we'll make camp...

DISSOLVE TO:

127 LATER - EXT. ICE DESERT RIDGE - NIGHT

127

the ridge in darkness. They arrive, exhausted.

The Brute takes a stick out of its clothes, breaks it  
 in half. It glows brightly like a neon FLARE. He tosses  
 it in the middle of the area and it forms a kind of  
 fire, throwing shadows all around. Otherwise it's dark.  
 There is some HEAT.

BONES

Would you mind explaining that  
 little trick you do?

MARTIA'S VOICE

I'm chameloid. That's why we're  
 such good smugglers.

KIRK

I've heard of chameloids -  
 "Shapeshifters" - I thought you  
 were mythical.

MARTIA'S VOICE

Give a girl a name, captain.

The Brute smiles at him.

127 And before his eyes becomes the enticing Martia again. 127  
 VFXA VFXA

MARTIA

It takes a lot of effort.

BONES

I don't wonder. Stop me if I'm  
 wrong but do we really have any way  
 of knowing if this is the real you?

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED:

127

KIRK

If you say so.

WHAM! He slugs Martia on the jaw; she goes down, her mouth running GREEN blood.

BONES

ARE YOU CRAZY?

KIRK

She didn't need our help getting anywhere...where did she get these convenient clothes? And don't tell me that flare is standard prison issue...

127  
VFXB

Martia sits, rubbing her mouth...and CHANGING...

127  
VFXB

KIRK

(continuing)

It's to let them know where we are. Ask her what she's getting in return...

The BRUTE gets up, rubbing his bleeding mouth - NOW THE BLOOD IS BLUE...!

MARTIA'S VOICE

A full pardon - which doesn't cover this -

BONES

Uh oh -

Kirk and the Brute circle each other, Kirk's chains CLANKING...

KIRK

An accident wasn't good enough...

MARTIA'S VOICE

Good enough for one - two would look suspicious...killed while attempting escape...now that's convincing for both.

\* 127  
VFXC

The fight is on. Problem is, Martia keeps changing shapes...Kirk grabs the BRUTE, hugging hard. One of them (Kirk, Brute, Bones?) WIPES FRAME and when we CONTINUE,

127 \*  
VFXC

(CONTINUED)

\* 127  
VFXC

CONTINUED:

127 \*  
VFXC

KIRK is waltzing with WIDE JAWS, which SPITS something disgusting at him before PULLING HIM DOWN BEHIND A SNOWBANK...

Bones takes a look behind the bank...

BONES

Yuck...

He steps back as Kirk rises, this time encircled by something like the TENTACLED ALIEN from John Hurt's chest.

It pulls him down behind the snowbank again. When he rises a second time, the TENTACLED ALIEN has become a MINIATURE FEMALE.

\* 127  
VFXD

Kirk has been so energetically PUSHING AWAY her predecessor that she is readily able to escape his clutches and tries to run past Bones, who grabs her by the ankle and they fall rolling to the ground...

127 \*  
VFXD

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED:

127

127 it comes up an exact copy of JAMES T. KIRK!  
VFXE

127  
VFXE

MARTIA'S VOICE

Surprise!

He smashes Bones and leaps to face his double...

KIRK

Your friends are late...

MARTIA'S VOICE

They'll be here...

More fighting between Kirk and "Kirk" - they clinch.

KIRK

I can't believe I kissed you.

"KIRK"  
Must have been your lifelong  
ambition.

The fight goes on!

128 INT. OFFICERS' MESS, USS ENTERPRISE

128

Deserted. Scotty, exhausted, is quietly having a cup  
of coffee and checking off places searched on a table  
map.

He runs a finger around his collar. It's warm in  
here...

Perplexed, he puts his hand over the vent. Nothing  
coming out. Something blocking it?

Scotty commences removing the vent cover. Not easy.

As he continues his efforts, he is unaware of the TWO  
CREWMEN we met the night of the banquet, watching.  
They remain concealed, pull knives...one wants to go  
for Scotty. The other holds him back.

Scotty removes the vent cover and pulls out what's been  
blocking the air circulation: two violet-stained  
Starfleet uniforms, with names on them...

Excited by his discovery, Scotty looks around, replaces  
the vent cover and hurries out with the uniforms.

\*

\*

129 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDORS

129

THRU

THRU

131

The Crewmen follow surreptitiously, CAMERA tracking  
after Scotty through the labyrinthine corridors..

131

132 EXT. RURA PENTHE CAMPSITE - NIGHT

132

The TWO KIRKS are still slugging it out as Bones starts to come round.

KIRK

Isn't it about time you became something else?

MARTIA'S VOICE

I like it here...

Gripping each other, they roll right into

A LARGE AND TERRIFYING MUZZLE. A JACKAL-MASTIFF on a leash.

Both Kirks spring apart...

They are surrounded by a dozen FUR-GARBED KLINGON GUARDS with weapons. SEVERAL have leashed jackal-mastiffs. And the COMMANDANT, who walks forward.

KIRK

(thinks fast)

What took you so long?

MARTIA'S VOICE

Kill him! He's the one!

KIRK

Not me, idiot - HIM!

132 The Commandant appears briefly confused, then  
VFXA ZAPS the FALSE Kirk, who dies horribly, as Bones watches. Kirk sighs.

132  
VFXA

COMMANDANT

(smiles)

No witnesses -

He aims at Kirk and Bones -

BONES

(conversational)

Damned clever if you ask me...

KIRK

(agrees)

Killed trying to escape - it's a classic...

COMMANDANT

That's what he wanted...

(CONTINUED)



132 CONTINUED:

132

KIRK

Who? Who wants us killed?

COMMANDANT

Why not tell you? His name is -

132 SUDDENLY KIRK AND BONES DEMATERIALIZE!

132

VFXB

VFXB

KIRK'S VOICE FADING

SONOVABITCH!!

As the Klingons rake the place they were with FIRE!

133 INT. ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTER ROOM

133

133 Kirk and Bones REMATERIALIZE to where Spock  
 VFXA and Chekov await them, with heavy weather BLANKETS,  
 which they don gratefully. They look scarcely  
 recognizable. Spock and Chekov are appalled.

133

VFXA

KIRK'S RISING

(continuing)

Dammit! Dammit all to Hell--!  
 Jesus Christ! Couldn't you wait two  
 seconds before GODDAMN SONOVABITCH!

133 Chekov produces a LASER and burns thru their chains.  
 VFXB Spock is deeply moved to see Kirk again - though Kirk  
 is too busy swearing as his chains are cut off to  
 notice...

133

VFXB

SPOCK

Captain--?

KIRK

He was just about to explain the  
 whole damn -

Who -?  
 SHURA

CHEKOV

You want to go back -?

BONES

(hasty)

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

KIRK

Come on...

They start out at speed.

\*

\*

134 CONTINUED:

134

SPOCK

Not entirely. I have reason to believe Gorkon's murderers are aboard this vessel.

KIRK

They're the key to the whole conspiracy...Has the peace conference begun?

CHEKOV

Who knows? They are keeping the location secret...

Kirk never breaks his stride.

KIRK

There's always something...

(CONTINUED)

0/2

134 CONTINUED:

134

Scotty runs up, carrying the bloodstained uniforms.

SCOTTY

Captain - ! Mr. Spock, I've found  
the missing uniforms with Klingon  
blood on them! They belong to -

They round the corner and all STOP SHORT.

135 Their POV

135

the TWO CREWMEN who were stalking Scotty lie dead.  
Bones kneels, conducting a hasty examination.

SCOTTY

(continuing)

But - the uniforms - they belong to  
these men!

(checks the names)

Burke and Samno!

BONES

Not any more. Phaser on "Stun" -  
at close range.

KIRK

First rule of assassination: always  
kill the assassins.

SCOTTY

Now we're back to square one.

Kirk looks at Spock meaningfully.

KIRK

Can I talk to you?

As they watch, Kirk and Spock move down the corridor  
and confer in an undertone.

136 CU SPOCK

136

pulls back, deathly white.

136A CU PA SPEAKER

136A

PA VOICE OVER  
Attention: Court Recorder to sick bay. Yeomen Burke and Samno have been shot and wish to make statements. CODE BLUE URGENT; deposition required at once for Yeomen Burke and Samno. Wounds are serious. Court Recorder to sick bay on the double.

136B VARIOUS ANGLES

136B

CREW reacting ALL OVER THE SHIP...to various PA's...

136C INT. SICK BAY

136C

All the lights are OUT. A FIGURE ENTERS, looks around.

136D FIGURE'S POV

136D

TWO BODIES stretched out in darkness...

THE FIGURE approaches the first body; looks down.  
SUDDENLY the light goes ON REVEALING SPOCK.

\*

SPOCK  
You have to shoot.

\*

\*

Saavik.

\*

SPOCK  
(continuing)  
If you are logical.

LT. SAAVIK  
I don't want to.

\*

SPOCK  
I believe you. But what you want is irrelevant; what you have chosen is at hand.

\*

She produces a phaser. The other body sits up: Kirk.

KIRK  
I'd just as soon you didn't.

\*

Saavik reacts. Bones emerges from the shadows, arms folded.

\*

(CONTINUED)

136D CONTINUED:

136D

BONES  
The operation is over.

137 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

137

CU KIRK

KIRK  
Anyone else aboard this ship?  
(off her look)  
Let's not waste time, Lieutenant.  
Name your co-conspirators and give  
us the location of the peace  
conference. In exchange, I'll  
retain the murder charge and drop  
the rest of the specifications.  
Commander Uhura, make a record of  
everything said by the prisoner.

UHURA  
Aye, sir.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

Saavik under guard.

LT. SAAVIK  
You cannot prove anything...

KIRK  
Yes I can. At my trial my personal  
log was introduced as evidence  
against me.

137A  
THRU  
137D

OMITTED

137A  
THRU  
137D

137E QUICK FLASH BACK (TO SCENE 32)

137E

Saavik waiting outside Kirk's cabin.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER  
How long did you stand outside my  
quarters before I noticed  
Lieutenant?

137F BACK TO SCENE

137F

Saavik, trapped, turns to Spock.

LT. SAAVIK  
You knew?

(CONTINUED)

137F CONTINUED:

He says nothing.

LT. SAAVIK

(continuing)

I tried to tell you... you wouldn't listen.

Spock is in as much pain as we will ever see.

SPOCK

Neither of us was hearing very well that night, Lieutenant. There were things I tried to tell YOU - about faith.

LT. SAAVIK

You have betrayed the Federation - all of you.

BONES

What do you think YOU'VE been doing?

LT. SAAVIK

Saving Starfleet. Klingons can't be trusted, sir, you said so yourself. They killed your son. You'd make peace with THEM? Did you not wish Gorkon dead? "Let them die," you said. Did I misinterpret you?

He can't look at her.

LT. SAAVIK

(continuing)

And you were right: they conspired with us to assassinate their own Chancellor: how trustworthy can they be?

KIRK

Who is "US"?

LT. SAAVIK

Everyone who stands to lose from peace. The universe was a well-ordered place. We all knew our roles. Why change them?

KIRK

NAMES, Lieutenant...

UHURA

We can send a message to Starfleet Command -

(CONTINUED)

137F CONTINUED:

137F

LT. SAAVIK  
Unlikely. Enterprise has disobeyed  
orders and harbors two escaped  
convicts. All your ship-to-shore  
transmissions will be jammed.

KIRK

Spock.

Spock approaches and puts a hand on Saavik's face: the  
mind meld. She tries to avoid it. Spock concentrates...

SPOCK  
(finally)  
Admiral Donald.

137G QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 23)

137G

ADMIRAL DONALD  
...to offer the Klingons a safe  
haven within Federation space is  
suicide.

137H BACK TO SCENE

137H

CHEKOV  
From Starfleet??

KIRK  
Who else.

Spock concentrates.

SPOCK  
General Chang -

137J QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 4)

137J

CHANG  
...in space all warriors are cold  
warriors...

137K BACK TO SCENE

137K

UHURA  
Gorkon's own man??

KIRK  
Who else?

SPOCK  
(concentrates)  
The Romulan Ambassador - Nanclus...

137L QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 63)

137L

NANCLUS  
Mr. President, they ARE vulnerable.

\* 137M BACK TO SCENE

137M \*

SCOTTY  
This is incredible -

BONES  
Is she telling us Klingons and  
Federation members are conspiring  
TOGETHER..?

KIRK  
(to Spock)  
Where IS the conference?

Spock tries again. Shakes his head. Removes his hand.

SPOCK  
She doesn't know.

SCOTTY  
Then we're dead.

(CONTINUED)



137P CONTINUED:

137P

\* SPOCK \*

(suddenly)

The peace conference.

\* KIRK \*

What peace conference?

\* SPOCK \*

Azetbur has agreed to meet the Federation at an undisclosed location to continue her father's work...the conspirators obviously intend to try again...

\* They turn to Saavik; she stares back, composed. \*

UHURA

We can send a message to Starfleet Command -

\* LT. SAAVIK \*

I do not think so. Enterprise has disobeyed orders and harbors two escape convicts. Admiral Donald will make certain all your ship-to-shore transmissions are jammed.

\* CHEKOV \*

Where is the conference?

\* KIRK \*

She's only a cog in the wheel - no way she knows that.

\* LT. SAAVIK \*

And no way you'll find out.

\* SCOTTY \*

Then we're dead.

(CONTINUED)

\* 137M CONTINUED:

137M \*

SPOCK  
(to Saavik)  
I've been dead before. Uhura,  
raise Excelsior. She ought to  
have the co-ordinates.

KIRK  
Why would they give them to us?

SPOCK  
The Commander is an old friend of  
yours.

BONES  
(can't resist)  
What was it like - being dead?  
Spock, lost in thought, doesn't answer.

SULU (S.S.)  
This is Captain Sulu, USS  
Excelsior.

KIRK  
Sulu!

INTERCUT WITH

OMITTED

137N \*  
AND  
137P

138

138 INT. MAIN BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR

SULU  
Standing by, Captain Kirk.

KIRK  
You understand that by even talking  
to us you're violating regulations,  
Captain.

SULU  
I'm sorry, Captain - your message  
is breaking up.

KIRK  
(under his breath)  
Bless you, Sulu  
(aloud)  
Where's the peace conference?  
They're going to attempt another  
assassination.

(CONTINUED)

SULU

The Conference is at Camp Khitomer,  
near the Romulan border. I'm  
sending the exact coordinates on a  
coded frequency.

KIRK

I'm afraid we may need more than  
that. There's a Bird of Prey on  
the lookout for us. And she can  
fire while she's cloaked.

SULU

Surely not.

KIRK

I'm telling you. Hang on.

(to Saavik)

How many of those things are there?  
Come on, Lieutenant, you want any  
more of your brain drained?

LT. SAAVIK

Just the prototype.

KIRK

You hear that?

SULU

I'm getting underway now. But I'm  
now in Alpha Quadrant. The chances  
of my reaching the conference in  
time are slim.

KIRK

When does this conference start?

SULU

According to my information, today.

KIRK

Thank you, Captain Sulu.

SULU

Don't mention it, Captain Kirk.

He hangs up. Finds himself facing his 1st OFFICER.

FIRST OFFICER

Sir - ! You realize you've just  
committed treason.

(CONTINUED)

138 CONTINUED:

138

Sulu puts his feet up on the console...

SULU

(serene)

To be candid, I always hoped that if the choice ever came down to betraying my country or betraying my friend, I'd have the guts to betray my country. Warp nine, mister.

139 EXT. SPACE

139

VFX

VFX

Excelsior explodes across the starfield.

140 EXT. SPACE

140

VFX

VFX

From a different direction, Enterprise ditto.

141 INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS

141

The lights are dim as Kirk knocks. He has shaved, showered and put on a fresh uniform.

KIRK

Spock?

No answer. Kirk makes to hit the switch.

SPOCK

I'd prefer it dark.

Fair enough. Kirk enters

KIRK

Are you dining on ashes?

SPOCK

(finally)

You were right: it was arrogant presumption that got us into this situation. You might have died.

KIRK

The night is young. Anyway, you said it yourself: it was logical. Peace is worth a few personal risks.

(he must feel his way)  
You know, you're a great one for logic. I'm a great one for...

(shrugs)  
rushing in where angels fear to tread. We're both extremists. Reality is probably somewhere in between us.

(CONTINUED)

141 CONTINUED:

141

Spock says nothing. Kirk runs a finger over dust.

KIRK

(continuing)

I couldn't see past the death of my son. Who will I be if I have no enemy?

(shrugs)

I couldn't trust.

SPOCK

I trusted too much. I was prejudiced by her achievements as a Vulcan...

KIRK

(understands)

Gorkon had to die before I understood how prejudiced I was...

Spock looks at him for the first time.

SPOCK

Can we two have grown so old and inflexible that we have outlived our usefulness?

(looks at Kirk)

Would that constitute a joke?

KIRK

Someone said the difference between comic and cosmic is the letter "S." Spock, don't crucify yourself. It wasn't your fault.

SPOCK

I WAS responsible.

KIRK

Not for any actions but your own.

SPOCK

That's not what you said at your trial -

KIRK

As Captain. That's different. Human beings -

(CONTINUED)

141 CONTINUED:

141

SPOCK

But I am not human. I am only -

KIRK

Spock you want to know something?

Spock looks at him. Kirk kneels next to him.

KIRK

(continuing)

Everyone's human.

SPOCK

You insult me.

KIRK

(gently insisting)

Only human.

SPOCK

Racist.

KIRK

Vulcan. Come on. I need you.

He holds out his hand; after hesitating, Spock takes it, presses it to his forehead. Hard. HARDER.

142 EXT. CAMP KHITOMER, ROMULA - DAY

142

The idyllic site of the Peace Conference. Lush GREEN. A HUGE BUILDING on the horizon from within which we can HEAR MUSIC. Outside, MASSES OF PEOPLE and FLAGS... (MATTE PAINTING).

142A INT. CAMP KHITOMER -

142A

INSIDE HUGE #1 POD DOORS OPENING, REVEALING THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

(CONTINUED)

142A

142A CONTINUED:

VERY LOUD MUSIC as we follow the FEDERATION DELEGATION (GREEN), lead by DONALD, into the ROOM...REVERSE ON #2 POD DOORS OPENING, AS SAREK LEADS THE VULCAN DELEGATION (YELLOW?) in as they take their places...

143 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

143

Everyone at their stations. Kirk in the Captain's chair.

CHEKOV

Captain, when we get to Camp Khitomer, how will we defend ourselves? I mean, if this new Bird of Prey can fire while she is invisible..?

BONES

Now there's a poser.

Kirk and Spock exchange looks.

SPOCK

I do not think anxiety is called for.

(Off their looks)

According to my calculations we have another five minutes and twenty two seconds to resolve this dilemma.

144 EXT. SPACE

144

VFX

VFX

Enterprise THUNDERS by at warp NINE.

145

INT. CAMP KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY

145

More of the opening ceremonies.

CAMERA PANS TO REVEAL POD #3 with the KLINGON DELEGATION (BROWN?), lead by their AMBASSADOR and POD #4 EARTH (GREEN) DELEGATION emerging and taking their places...the Klingon and UFP PRESIDENTS, complete with ADVISERS, RETINUES, ENTOURAGES and ATTENDANTS. FLAGS everywhere...

Among them COLONEL WOLF, BRIGADIER KERLA, ADMIRAL DONALD, the MUNITIONS BUSINESSMAN and a KLINGON FACE we haven't seen before...

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED:

145

The MUSIC THUNDERS to a halt. The place looks like the UN Security Council + the Olympics. All COLOR CODED...

UFP PRESIDENT

Madam Chancellor, members of the diplomatic corps, honored guests: the United Federation of Planets welcomes you to Camp Khitomer. Now that we are assembled, I move we conclude these ceremonies and get down to business. Madam Chancellor?

LETBOR

Agreed.

APPLAUSE!

During the above, we catch the expressions on the faces of the VARIOUS CONSPIRATORS - uneasy. Other FACES...which one?

\* 145A  
VFX

EXT. ENTERPRISE

SCREECHES out of WARP HOLE and cruises slowly. Stalking...

145A \*  
VFX

146 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

146

ON the main visual display, a starfield. Kirk studies it, walks over to where Spock views his SONAR. Kirk looks over his shoulder. Spock is studying it intently.

VFXA OMITTED

VFXA

\*

KIRK

\*

Close enough to beam down?

\*

SPOCK

\*

Not yet...Section 4236...

146 Nothing on the scanner.  
VFXB

146  
VFXB

SPOCK

Section 4237...

Nothing. There's a lot of tension on the bridge.

146VFXC OMITTED  
THRU

146VFXC \*  
THRU  
147VFX

\* 147VFX



148 INT. CAMP KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY

148

The POD DOORS are closed and the delegations seated.

UFP PRESIDENT

We are gathered here today in high hopes, believing that differing civilizations of good will can work together to overcome intolerance.

(CONT'D)

(CONTINUED)

12

148 CONTINUED:

148

UFP PRESIDENT (CONT'D)  
We believe that with understanding  
and patience it will be possible to  
resolve what separates us. Let us  
redefine progress to mean that just  
because we CAN do a thing it does  
not necessarily follow that we MUST  
do that thing.

APPLAUSE.

UFP PRESIDENT  
(continuing)  
We believe that the responsibility  
for destiny rests squarely on our  
own shoulders...

There's that KLINGON FACE again, looking around. He's  
carrying some sort of SUITCASE...

149 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

149

KIRK  
She's here - somewhere.

CHEKOV  
But if she's cloaked...

KIRK  
Then all we've got is a neutron  
radiating surge - and by the time  
we're close enough to record it,  
we're ashes...

SPOCK  
Captain, perhaps we're going about  
this the wrong way; our job is to  
get to the conference; HER job will  
be to stop us.

KIRK  
Make ourselves a target?

Spock looks at him.

KIRK  
(continuing)  
Shields. Battle stations.

CHEKOV  
(reads the display)  
Shields up. Battle Stations.

(CONTINUED)

149 CONTINUED:

149

They are bathed in emergency RED LIGHT. Alarms SOUND.

KIRK

Mr. Chekov, take us forward,  
thrusters only, one half impulse  
power...

CHEKOV

Aye, sir; thrusters...

It feels like walking on eggs.

KIRK

Uhura?

UHURA

Nothing, captain. If they're here,  
they're rigged for silent running.

SPOCK

If she fires she has a perfectly  
valid excuse. We're a renegade  
ship coming dangerously close to  
two heads of state during a vital  
interstellar conference.

BONES

Thanks for sharing that Spock.

Dead silence, then a CRASH OF NOISE!

150 INT. CAMP KHITOMEN CONFERENCE SITE - DAY 150

APPLAUSE for the President's speech! The Chancellor  
Azetbur rises to make her opening remarks.

The KLINGON FACE makes eye contact with ADMIRAL DONALD,  
who nods discreetly. The CASE starts moving...

151 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE, ENGINE ROOM, ETC. 151

as before. CLOSEUPS various faces, sweating...

SUDDENLY AN EXPLOSION! The SHIP shudders, hit!  
CLAXONS!

152 EXT. VIEW OF ENTERPRISE WIDEN TO REVEAL 152  
VFXA INT. CLOAKED BIRD OF PREY VFXA

featuring the ENTERPRISE onscreen. They are rigged  
for silent running - no one is making a sound.

Their bridge is bathed in GREEN light...

Chang stands next to the GUNNER.

(CONTINUED)

152 CONTINUED:

152  
VFXA

He points towards ENTERPRISE, nudges the man, who nods,  
hits controls...

152 Another torpedo sails off and explodes against the  
VFXB shields of the ENTERPRISE...

152  
VFXB

153 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

153

Kirk and his crew grab hold of things, tight-lipped...

BONES

This is fun...

CHEKOV

Captain, shall we attempt to return  
fire?

KIRK

At what, Mr. Chekov?

WHAM! Hit again. Everyone goes flying...

153 Instinctively Kirk looks at the main display - sees  
VFX nothing.

153  
VFX

KIRK

Scotty, reverse engines. All  
astern half impulse power.  
Back off. Back off!

154 EXT. SPACE  
VFX

154  
VFX

The battered Enterprise reverses field, backing away  
from nothing.

155 INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE

155

155 watching this maneuver.  
VFX

155  
VFX

CHANG

(very soft)

What's she doing?

The HELMSMAN shrugs. Chang nudges him to follow...

156 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

156

The empty starfield.

KIRK

What's she waiting for?

(CONTINUED)

156 CONTINUED:

156

SPOCK

Probably trying to figure out why  
we're reversing, wondering if we  
detect her.

CHANG'S VOICE

(filtered)

I see you, Kirk.

All REACT.

KIRK

Chang...

CHANG'S VOICE

(filtered)

Be honest, Captain - warrior to  
warrior: don't you prefer it this  
way? As it was MEANT to be? No  
peace in OUR time. "Once more into  
the breach, dear friends."

SPOCK

(looks to Uhura, who nods)

Keep him talking -

KIRK

(hits the comm)

Our time is over, Chang. We  
stand still for the likes of  
either of us. Chang...?

CHANG'S VOICE

(filtered)

"There's a divinity that shapes our  
ends, Kirk, rough hew them how we  
may..."

Kirk looks at Uhura, who shakes her head in frustration.

KIRK

Rough hew them how we MAY, for  
Christ sake...I thought you knew  
this stuff...

UHURA

They're moving around too much...

\* 156  
VFX

ON the main visual display, where attention is  
riveted - a flare from black space.

156 \*  
VFX

CHEKOV

Incoming.

157 OMITTED

157

158 INT. ENGINE ROOM 158

The "SHIELD" LIGHTS flicker as the room RECOILS...

SCOTTY  
She canna take much more of this,  
Captain...

159 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 159

CLOSE ON KIRK

reacting. Don't I know it.

KIRK  
Sulu, where the Hell are you?

160 EXT. SPACE 160  
VFX VFX

EXCELSIOR warping as fast as she can...

161 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE, SHAAAAKINNG 161

SULU  
In range?

HELMSMAN  
Not yet, Captain...

SULU  
Come on, come on....

HELMSMAN  
She'll fly apart...!

SULU  
Fly her apart, then!

161A INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE 161A

CHANG  
(watching)  
"And this above all, Kirk: to thine  
own self be true..."

He nudges the HELMSMAN to FIRE again...

169  
VFX

EXT. SPACE

169  
VFX

\* Enterprise, SCREAMING through the void...by another SCREAMING SOUND in full pursuit... \*

170

INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

170

\* All sweating by now... \*

CHANG'S VOICE

(filtered)

\* Oh by the way, Kirk, "How long will a man lie in space ere he rot?" \*

\* Uhura shakes her head in frustration... \*

SPOCK

Keep him talking...

UHURA

They're moving too much to get a fix on.

CHANG'S VOICE

(filtered)

"Our revels now are ended," Kirk...

UHURA

What about heat...?

KIRK

Not from any real distance. She won't show up on ANY type of scan.

BONES

Too bad we can't SMELL her.

CHEKOV

In space, no one can hear you sweat.

CHANG'S VOICE

(filtered)

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or to take up arms against a sea of troubles..."

KIRK

It's a pity Starships were never equipped with bloodhounds...

\* WHAM! Hit again... Everybody grabs onto something as STEAM explodes from the ceiling and wiring tumbles out... \*

(CONTINUED)

170

CONTINUED:

170

SPOCK

I don't think Starfleet could have  
envisioned our current predicament.

UHURA

Maybe we should write them a  
letter?

SCOTTY'S VOICE

Better post date it.

WHAM!... even harder this time...Spock thinks...

CHANG'S VOICE

(filtered)

"Hath not a Klingon hands, organs,  
affections, passions? Tickle us do  
we not laugh; prick us do we not  
bleed - and wrong us, shall we not  
revenge?"

SPOCK

Under impulse power she expends  
fuel like any other ship. We call  
it "Plasma" - I do not know its  
Klingon name, but by any  
designation it is merely ionized  
gas.

UHURA

Well, what about all that equipment  
we're carrying to catalogue gaseous  
anomalies?

(beat)

The thing's gotta have a tailpipe.

They look at each other like she's crazy. Then -

(CONTINUED)



170 CONTINUED:

170

\* BONES  
Spock, let's you and me perform surgery on a torpedo - you never know... \*

\* SPOCK  
I should be honored to assist you, doctor... \*

BONES  
(he's been waiting  
all his life)  
Fascinating...

\* They race out as the ship is HIT again. MORE STEAM!!! \*

\* KIRK  
Mr. Chekov, slow down. Take us forward, thrusters only... \*

CHEKOV  
Aye, sir; thrusters...

\* 171 INT. KHITOMER CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 171 \*

APPLAUSE for Azetbur's speech! Cartwright looks around. Sees THE FACE... nods discreetly... The UFP PRESIDENT applauds. He's vulnerable... the FACE moves off...

172 EXT. SPACE 172  
VFX VFX

Enterprise moving slowly, alone. Beat. WHAM! Hit again.

173 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDORS OUTSIDE THE LAB 173

\* Bones and Spock emerge with the bulky ATMOSPHERE SENSOR and run down the trembling corridor... \*

BONES  
Bet you wish you'd stood in bed...

SPOCK  
I see no profit in standing in bed,  
doctor - Vulcans sleep lying  
down...

For a moment Bones buys it - then, on their backs -

(CONTINUED)

170 CONTINUED:

170

BONES  
(starts out)  
I'm going to perform surgery on a  
torpedo - you never know...

SPOCK  
(going with him)  
You may need assistance, doctor...

BONES  
(he's been waiting  
all his life)  
Fascinating...

They race out as the ship is HIT again...

KIRK  
Mr. Chekov, slow down. Take us  
forward, thrusters only, one  
quarter impulse power..

CHEKOV  
Aye, sir; thrusters...

171 INT. KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY 171

APPLAUSE for Azelbur's speech! Donald looks around.  
Sees THE FACE... nods discreetly... The UFP President  
applauds... he's vulnerable... the face moves OFF...

Cinc Starfleet rises to speak, blocking the  
President...

172 EXT. SPACE 172  
VFX VFX

Enterprise moving slowly, alone. Boom. WHAM! Hit  
again.

173 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDORS OUTSIDE THE LAB 173

Bones and Spock emerge with a bulky HEAT SENSOR and run  
down the trembling corridors...

BONES  
Bet you wish you'd stood in bed...

SPOCK  
I see no profit in standing in bed,  
doctor - Vulcans sleep lying  
down...

For a moment Bones buys it - then, on their backs -

(CONTINUED)

173 CONTINUED:

173

BONES

Spock, that was actually funny.

SPOCK

We DO sleep lying down.

WHAM - they almost fall over.

\*

CHANG'S VOICE

(filtered)

"I am constant as the Northern  
star..."

\*

\*

BONES

I'd give real money if he'd shut  
up.

\*

174 INT. ENGINEERING, ENTERPRISE

174

Scotty and his men have obviously felt the impact as  
well. Some "SHIELD" lights are blinking off

SCOTTY

Captain, she's packing quite a  
wallop. Shields weakening.

175 EXT. ENTERPRISE

175

VFX

VFX

scarred, trace lines of torpedo visible.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

175 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE

175

Sulu, et al, watching.

SHEN

Shields up. Tell them the  
Cavalry's here.

175A A torpedo flashes out at nothing...

175A

VFX

VFX

176 INT. BIRD OF PREY

176

176 Chang watches it go by. Sees Excelsior as well  
VFX as enterprise.

176  
VFX

CHANG

So. "The game's afoot..."

\*

\*

He points to Excelsior, nudges the gunner, who fires.

177	INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE	177
177	They see Excelsior's shields take the torpedo HIT.	177
VFX		VFX

\*

CHANG'S VOICE  
(filtered)  
"Cry Havoc! and let slip the dogs  
of war..."

\*

KIRK  
Hold us steady, Mr. Scott. Ready  
to fire...Bones...!

Reactions from the battered CREW...

178	OMITTED	178
-----	---------	-----

12

179 CLOSEUP

179

a hand opening a CASE: inside the disassembled parts of a rifle PHASER with telescopic mount. We don't know where we are exactly, but we can HEAR the CONFERENCE ECHOING - (corresponds with BOARDED MATERIAL #178).

180 INT. ENTERPRISE TORPEDO BAY

180

Bones and Spock DESCEND ON THE TORPEDO LIFT WITH A TORPEDO, frantically trying to drill a hole in its nose to accommodate an ATMOSPHERE SENSOR as the whole bay TREMBLES with the hit...

KIRK'S VOICE OVER  
Bones, where's my torpedo??

BONES  
Me and my big mouth...

SPOCK  
Calm yourself, doctor; the operation is almost complete...

BONES  
One final twist.  
Thank you, nurse. Jim, she's ready! Lock and load!

They jump off the lift and out of the way as the torpedo starts forward.

BONES  
(continuing)  
Pity they're retiring us just as I was starting to understand you, Spock...

SPOCK  
(agreeing)  
We WERE beginning to hit our stride together, doctor...

181 INT. ENGINE ROOM (FORMERLY ENTERPRISE BRIDGE)

181

We can see the SHIELD lights dimming...

SCOTTY  
(frantic)  
Shields collapsing...!

181 Even as he speaks, the Bird Of Prey, fires at  
VFX Enterprise. The photon trajectory is clear...

181  
VFX

182 EXT. SPACE  
VFX

182  
VFX

ENTERPRISE TAKES ANOTHER HIT...

183 INT. ENTERPRISE OFFICERS MESS (?) 183

NO SHIELDS this time! EXPLODES! WOW. AUTOTIGHT  
BULKHEAD DOORS CLOSE, PROTECTING THE VESSEL FROM SPACE  
EXPOSURE. SMOKE, LIQUIDS SQUIRTING EVERYWHERE...  
Things tumbling off shelves, out of overheads...DOORS  
WHOOSHING CLOSED!

184 INT. BIRD OF PREY 184

Chang smiles; this is more like it...he can see the  
Enterprise is damaged...

VFX OMITTED VFX

185 INT. CAMP KHITOMER - DAY 185

The HANDS assembling the special phaser...

186 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 186

KIRK

Fire!

CLOSE UP

a hand pushes a button...

187 CLOSE UP 187

another hand on a phaser trigger...

188 EXT. SPACE 188

VFX VFX

Enterprise's torpedo tracks the HEAT; it goes in a  
strange trajectory but then again we can't see what  
it's heading towards...

189 INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE 189

189 As Chang watches in FASCINATION, the damn thing 189

VFX circles and heads right for them! He realizes... VFX

CHANG

..."or NOT to be..."

190 EXT. SPACE 190

VFX VFX

Enterprise fires a direct hit, and the Bird of Prey is  
illuminated in the firelight. She spins around, trying  
to regain her position, DEBRIS fragmenting...

191 INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR 191

SULU

Aim for the center of that  
explosion and FIRE!

192  
VFX

EXT. SPACE

192  
VFX

Excelsior and Enterprise, having trapped the "black hole" in a triangle between them, fire.

The Bird of Prey suddenly blows apart. As she explodes she DECLOAKS...

193

INT. CAMP KHITOMER - DAY

193

193  
VFX

Kirk et al MATERIALIZE and starts running through masses of PEOPLE who are too startled to stop them...

193  
VFX

194

CU THE TRIGGER FINGER

194

tightening as...

...KIRK fights his way to the center of the room!

KIRK  
Mr. President!

He flings his body on the President, pushing him out of the way, just as the phaser FIRES...

Panic in the room. PEOPLE SCAMBLING -

ADMIRAL DONALD  
Arrest those men!

SPOCK  
Arrest yourself.

He stands aside, reveal Lt. SAAVIK in handcuffs.

BONES  
We've got a full confession.

195

THE ASSASSIN'S NICK

195

he turns to run, but SECURITY whirls and fires!

As all GASP, the ASSASSIN sways, falls off the balcony, clutching his face where the PHASER HIT, and SCREAMING...

The KLINGON FACE COMES MELTING OFF REVEALING

the STARFLEET OFFICER who prepared OPERATION "RETRIEVE". Not a Klingon, after all.

The other conspirators race for the EXIT, only to be blocked by

196 SULU 196  
196 as he MATERIALIZES, phaser in hand - 196  
VFX 196  
VFX

SULU  
Just a minute.

The conspirators race in another direction: they are  
blocked by KERLA...and Bones -

KERLA  
(slugs one)  
And you.

197 PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS MOVE IN... 197  
The UFP President stands up, stares with disbelief. So  
does Chancellor Azetbur.

CHANCELLOR AZETBUR  
What's the meaning of this?

KIRK  
It's about the future, Madam  
Chancellor. Some people think the  
future means the end of history.

Kirk walks up to the ROMULAN AMBASSADOR, now under  
guard -

KIRK  
(continuing)  
But we haven't run out of history  
just yet.  
(remembers)  
Your father quoted Hamlet, he  
called the future - "the  
undiscovered country".

SPOCK  
I always assumed Hamlet was  
speaking of death.

KIRK  
Gorkon thought the undiscovered  
country might mean something else -  
another kind of life. People can  
be very frightened of change. I  
know I was.

He walks to Saavik.

KIRK  
(continuing)  
There's an old expression: it takes  
one to know one.

(CONTINUED)



197

CONTINUED:

197

When Saavik looks at Kirk there are tears in her eyes.  
Spock stands motionless next to her.

(CONTINUED)

012

197 CONTINUED:

197

He turns to face Azetbur.

AZETBUR  
You've restored my father's faith.

KIRK  
You've restored my son's.

PRESIDENT  
Captain--my life is the least of  
what you have saved here today.

KIRK  
I didn't do it alone.

... then slowly: APPLAUSE.... As people stand  
CHEERING and the NOISE GROWS DEAFENING, Kirk waves the  
rest of his team forward to take their bow in the glare  
of history: Spock, Sulu, Chekov, Scotty, Uhura,  
Bones...

198 EXT. SPACE  
VFX

198  
VFX

Enterprise, her hull blackened with torpedo scars,  
idles next to the MUCH LARGER EXETER.

199 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE  
They're back.

199

UHURA  
They might as well arrest me, too;  
I felt like Lieutenant Saavik.

SPOCK  
(pointed)  
But you didn't join a conspiracy.

BONES  
(half for Spock)  
They don't arrest people for having  
feelings.

CHEKOV  
If they did we'd all have to turn  
ourselves in. How CAN we rely on  
them?

KIRK  
(looks at Spock)  
The only way to find out if a man's  
trustworthy...

(CONTINUED)

199

CONTINUED:

199

SPOCK  
...is to trust him.

A wintry smile.

SULU'S VOICE  
Captain Kirk..?

KIRK  
Kirk here.

0/2

199 SULU APPEARS ON THE SCREEN.  
VFX

199  
VFX

KIRK  
(continuing)  
As much to the crew of Enterprise,  
I owe you my thanks, Captain Sulu.

SULU  
Nice to see you in action one more  
time, Captain Kirk. Take care.

200 EXT. SPACE  
VFX

200  
VFX

Excelsior gets underway with a roar.

201 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE  
all watch.

201

VFX OMITTED

VFX

BONES  
By God that's a big ship.

SCOTTY  
Not so big as her Captain, I think.

KIRK  
Time we got underway ourselves,  
gentlemen.  
(sighs)  
Once again we've saved civilization  
as we know it.

BONES  
And the good news is they're not  
going to prosecute.

CHEKOV  
So - this is goodbye...?

UHURA  
(winks)  
We've been dead before.

KIRK  
(sighs)  
To be -

SPOCK  
Or not to be -

BONES  
That's the question -

(CONTINUED)

201 CONTINUED:

201

CHEKOV  
Course heading, Captain?

KIRK  
(smiles)  
Second star to the right - and  
straight on till morning...

012

202  
VFXA

EXT. SPACE

202  
VFXA

The battered Enterprise makes way.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER  
Captain's log, U.S.S. Enterprise,  
Stardate 8769.24. This is the  
final cruise of the Starship  
Enterprise under my command. This  
ship and her history will shortly  
become the care of a new  
generation. To them and their  
posterity will we commit our  
future. They will continue the  
voyages we have begun and journey  
to ALL the undiscovered countries,  
boldly going where no man... where  
no ONE has gone before.

\*

\*

202  
VFX

The signature William Shatner scrawls across  
the screen, still featuring the moving  
starfield. Then Leonard Nimoy's, then DeForest  
Kelley's, James Doohan's, George Takei's, Walter  
Koenig's, Nichelle Nichols' ...one by one...

202  
VFX

The signatures grow smaller and smaller as the galaxy  
races by, and they disappear into the distance.

ROLL END CREDITS

FINIS