

STAR TREK

"THE MAN TRAP"

Written by  
George Clayton Johnson

Prod. #6149-6  
Series created by:  
Gene Roddenberry  
Desilu Productions

FINAL DRAFT  
June 16, 1966

"THE MAN TRAP"

(NOTE TO DIRECTOR: Throughout the script we will see "Nancy" as various different people. Crater and McCoy see her the same because both knew the real Nancy. Others see what they want to see or what they expect to see. "Nancy's" ability to change her appearance is a form of protective camouflage. Just as the chameleon can change its color to blend with its surroundings, so can "Nancy" change her physical appearance. For clarity so that the audience will be able to follow the transformations as they take place, we suggest you find a highly identifiable pose, gesture or movement that will be characteristic of "Nancy"... possibly seeing her with folded hands -- hands clutched back to palm --- a sort of hand washing gesture that is highly individualistic without being stagey.)

RODDENBERRY.COM

STAR TREK

"THE MAN TRAP"

CAST:

CAPTAIN JAMES KIRK  
MISTER SPOCK  
YEOMAN JANICE RAND  
DOCTOR McCOY  
HELMSMAN SULU  
OFFICER SCOTT  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER UHURA  
NANCY CRATER  
PROFESSOR CRATER  
CREWMAN DARNELL  
CREWMAN GREEN  
CREWMAN STURGEON  
UHURA'S CREWMAN  
ARMED CREWMAN  
ARMED CREWMAN

SILENT BITS:

ORDERLY (DECEASED)  
SHIP'S PERSONNEL  
CREATURE (?)

RODDENBERRY.COM

STAR TREK  
"THE MAN TRAP"

SETS

INTERIOR:

TRANSPORTER ROOM  
CRATER'S LIVING QUARTERS  
SICKBAY  
CORRIDORS (VARIOUS)  
BRIDGE  
ELEVATOR  
BOTANY LAB  
McCOY'S QUARTERS (REDRESS CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS)  
BRIEFING ROOM

EXTERIOR:

CRATER'S CAMP  
DIGGINGS

RODDENBERRY.COM

PLANET

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET (STOCK)

Rotates in space...

EXT. CRATER'S CAMP - DAY - WIDE ANGLE

ESTABLISHING Planet M-113. The planet largely barren, some unusual low vegetation. The Crater campsite is a crumbling remains of what might once have been a weird sort of temple. There is considerable sign of archaeological digging around it. In the far distance, barely seen, are other crumbling remains of a civilization which must have existed here once. Also a shed, a heaping of tools, supplies and archaeological artifacts, statues, carvings, and so on, leading to a doorway in the temple, a room of which has obviously been converted to Crater's living quarters. (TRANSPORTER EFFECT) as CAPTAIN JAMES KIRK, DOCTOR MCCOY, and a Crewman DARNELL SHIMMER into existence. They look about them, reacting to the surface of this new planet. As they move toward the stone door opening to the living quarters:

KIRK

Shall we stop to pick some flowers,  
Doctor? When a man visits an old  
girlfriend, she usually expects  
something like that.

MCCOY

Is that how you get women to like  
you? By bribing them with flowers?  
Kirk, you surprise me.  
(looks around nervously)  
Doesn't seem to be anyone around.

KIRK

(amused)  
They'll be here. You rushed us  
down ten minutes early.

They enter the stone opening into the living quarters.

INT. CRATER'S LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

As Kirk, McCoy, and Darnell enter. Massive block walls, some strange designs in wall niches, but the room made over into reasonably comfortable quarters -- chairs, table, beds, rolls of tarps, digging equipment, etc. The Doctor begins laying out various items of medical equipment. Kirk takes the tricorder from McCoy, makes an entry:

KIRK  
 (into tricorder)  
 Captain's log, Star Date 1513  
 point one. Routine periodic  
 medical examination of Archaeologists,  
 Professor and Nancy Crater stationed  
 on Planet M-113. Doctor McCoy's  
 report follows.

Kirk sets the tricorder down convenient to McCoy, eyes the Doctor again.

CLOSE SHOT - MCCOY

nervous. He wipes a palm on his uniform and tries to appear unconcerned.

CLOSE SHOT - KIRK

very aware of her nervousness, becomes sincere.

KIRK  
 With her, Bones -- it was real?

TWO SHOT - MCCOY, KIRK

MCCOY  
 (hesitates; nods)  
 We walked out of each other's lives  
 ten years ago. She married Crater.  
 For all I know, she's forgotten  
 me completely.

Paces. Returns.

MCCOY  
 (angry at himself)  
 Of all the bonehead ideas. Why do  
 I let myself in for these things?

There is the SOUND of footsteps. McCoy turns sharply to face the doorway. This is the moment he has been sweating out.

CLOSE SHOT - MCCOY

very apprehensive. He reacts to:

HIS POV - THE DOORWAY - DAY

A figure appears in the doorway. For a moment the figure is a mystery, made so by the strong halo of light from the bright exterior. The figure moves forward and we see a strongly built young woman of almost thirty. Her hair is shoulder length, brown. Her face has that noble beauty one sees in few women.

McCOY'S VOICE  
(hesitant, warm)  
Nancy... you haven't aged a year.

She recognizes him, smiles with pleasure.

NANCY  
Leonard, let me look at you.  
She comes forward with outstretched hands.

McCOY  
(without looking  
away from her)  
This is the Captain of the  
Enterprise...

CLOSE SHOT - KIRK

watching the reunion -- a faint smile.

McCOY'S VOICE  
Jim Kirk.

KIRK  
Mrs. Crater... I've heard a great  
deal about you.

HIS POV - NANCY

Taking McCoy's hands, looking at him. However, there is something weird about this shot... The Nancy he sees is the same woman, but about forty, hair tinged with grey. Without the soft youthful beauty we saw, more of a strong handsome woman. (DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Here, as always when transforming her identity, always cut on highly identifiable action, gesture, or mid-speech.)

CLOSE SHOT - DARNELL

observing the girl. He is very surprised at what he sees.

McCOY'S VOICE  
And Crewman Darnell.

DARNELL  
Ma'm.

HIS POV - NANCY

A third girl altogether! Much more different than the other two, not the same woman at all. She is a provocative, brassy blonde! She turns from holding McCoy's hands to regard Darnell with a petulant stare.

CLOSE SHOT - DARNELL

His jaw swings open. He stares.

KIRK'S VOICE

Darnell? Something wrong?

DARNELL

(to Nancy)  
Ma'am, if I don't know better I'd  
think you were somebody I left  
behind on Wrigley's pleasure  
planet. Funny, you're exactly....

ANGLE - KIRK - McCOY - DARNELL

The SHOT is ANGLED so that Nancy is not in the SCENE.

McCOY

(harsh; overlapping)  
A little less mouth, Darnell!

KIRK

(irritated; to Darnell)  
Wrigley's planet!

DARNELL

Sorry, sir, I...  
(shakes head)  
I didn't mean... uh, I know it's  
not possible, of course...

Darnell stumbles, confused, sorry he started all this.

KIRK

(to Darnell)  
Why don't you wait outside till  
we're finished?

DARNELL

(grateful)  
Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

With alacrity he EXITS room. Kirk turns to find McCoy  
looking at him. He gets the message, moves, CAMERA PANNING  
TO MISS McCOY BUT INCLUDE KIRK'S NANCY.

KIRK

Maybe I'll just step outside...

NANCY

(smile; mock fright)  
And let Plum examine me alone?  
No thank you...



KIRK  
(pleased: toward  
o.s. McCoy)

Plum?

TWO SHOT - MCCOY - MCCOY'S NANCY

She smiles toward o.s. Kirk.

NANCY  
A nickname I gave Leonard  
once when...

MCCOY  
(interrupting fast)  
We'll wait for the Professor.  
I'll catch you both at once.

NANCY  
I'd better go get Bob. Once he...

ANGLE ON KIRK

as the dark-haired Kirk's Nancy moves past him, exiting,  
smiling, as:

NANCY  
... starts digging, he forgets  
time...

EXT. CRATER'S CAMP - INCLUDING DARNELL

Darnell's blonde "Nancy" comes out the door.

NANCY  
(back toward room)  
... everything. Back in a  
minute.

Now she turns, gives Darnell a sultry, provocative glance  
over one shoulder as she starts up a nearby canyon. She is  
mostly curves and she seems to wriggle a bit more than is  
necessary to enhance the view.

Darnell looks at her retreating figure.

CLOSE SHOT - HIS FACE

Can she mean what he thinks she means?

TWO SHOT

as he flips a mental coin, sees it come up "tails" and with a  
look around to see he is unobserved, he follows her up out of  
sight into the canyon. OUT OF THIS SHOT we bring the TITLES  
STAR TREK

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. PLANET - FULL SHOT - DAY

To ESTABLISH... then PROFESSOR CRATER moves into FRAME... to the door of the living quarters.

INT. CAMP LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

As a shadow falls over the doorway and PROFESSOR BOB CRATER ENTERS. He pauses in the doorway and looks at McCoy and Kirk as from a great height. He is a strange-featured man in work clothing, slightly older than McCoy. His eyes have a bitter intelligent glint. He has a voice like a busy signal. Nancy is nowhere in evidence.

KIRK

Professor Crater, I'm Captain  
Kirk and this is ship's surgeon...

CRATER

(heavy sarcasm...  
interrupting)

The intrepid doctor and the heroic  
Captain cross interstellar space  
to preserve our health. Your sense  
of duty is overwhelming.

(a scornful glance)

Now go back where you came from  
and tell whoever issues you your  
orders to leave me and my wife  
alone. We need an additional  
supply of salt tablets for the  
heat but aside from that we're  
doing nicely, thank you.

McCOY

(irritated by  
his manner)

I'm pleased to hear you're well.  
But I'm required to confirm that  
fact.

CRATER

(to Kirk)

Doubtless it would give your  
surgeon much pleasure to poke  
and prod us with his arcane  
machinery.

(as though talking  
to children --  
exaggerated patience)

Go away. We don't want you.

McCoy has been burning.

McCOY

(precise, acid)

What you want is unimportant right now. What you will get is your required annual physical. The book clearly says --

(disgusted)

Professor, you know what the book says.

KIRK

(enforcing McCoy)

Quote, "research personnel on alien planets must have their health certified by a starship's surgeon at one year intervals." Like it or not, Professor, as a starship commander I'm required...

McCoy picks up the tricorder, adjusts several knobs and meters.

CRATER

(acid)

... to show your gold braid to everybody - you love it, don't you?

KIRK

Carry on, Doctor McCoy.

McCOY

Hands out to your sides, Professor, and breathe deeply, please.

The professor is fuming but there is something else in his manner. Is it apprehension? He looks at McCoy.

CRATER

Did the Captain call you Doctor McCoy?

McCOY

He did.

CRATER

I've heard that name...

(he is going to say "before;" he suddenly places the good doctor)

McCoy. Nancy! She talked about a Doctor McCoy.

McCOY

She didn't mention I was here?

CRATER  
(surprised; trying  
to hide it)  
You've... seen Nancy?

KIRK  
She went to get you.

Crater turns to Kirk, eyeing him curiously.

CRATER  
You saw... that is, you were  
here with the good doctor?

KIRK  
(puzzled)  
Yes. Why?

CRATER  
(quickly)  
Just that I'm so pleased, you see,  
that she's seen an old friend, has  
a chance of some company. Quite  
one thing for me, I enjoy solitude  
... but for a woman... you understand  
of course.

McCoy nods, begins his examination of Crater, passing the scanning  
apparatus of the tricorder back and forth over Crater's body.  
Along the arms. Down the sides. Checking meters, taking  
readings. As:

McCOY  
Hasn't seemed to age her. Looks  
exactly as I knew her twelve years  
ago.  
(to Kirk)  
Amazing, like a girl of twenty-five...

CRATER  
(overlapping... to  
change the subject  
... indicating chairs)  
Sit, Captain. I'm afraid I've  
forgotten my manners.

Crater has tried to interrupt, but McCoy has seen a gently amused  
look on Kirk's face, finishes his thought as he continues the  
examination.

McCOY  
I'm not joking. She hasn't aged  
a day. Not a grey hair in her  
head...

KIRK  
She has a trace of grey, Bones.  
(to Crater)  
Forgive me...  
(to McCoy)  
... a handsome woman, yes, but  
scarcely twenty-five...

Crater, eyeing Kirk's continuing amusement, interrupts:

CRATER  
(to McCoy)  
You're seeing my wife through  
the... eyes of your past attachment,  
Doctor. I'm sure when Nancy lets...

CLOSE - CRATER

We can see him carefully choosing the right words.

CRATER  
(continuing; smiles)  
... Uh, when you see Nancy again,  
she'll be at a believable age.

BACK TO SHOT

McCoy stops, eyes Kirk, then Crater, wondering if they're putting him on. Then:

McCOY  
At any rate, she doesn't look a  
day over thirty.

CRATER  
(smiles)  
Genuine affection. I'm glad  
you still feel it for her...  
"Leonard", isn't it? She's a  
fine woman...

McCoy has picked up a tongue depressor from the table, interrupts:

McCOY  
Open your mouth.

Crater looks at him, confused.

CRATER  
I thought the machine was  
capable of...

McCoy cuts off the flow of words with the depressor.

McCOY  
The machine is capable of almost  
anything but I'll still put my  
trust in a healthy set of tonsils.

He peers suspiciously down Crater's throat. Abruptly the tableau is interrupted by a SHRILL, HORRIFIED FEMALE SCREAM.

A shocked silence. McCoy drops the tongue depressor, stares at Kirk.

As the second SCREAM rips the silence, they boil toward the door.

EXT. CRATER'S CAMP - DAY

Kirk and McCoy, outdistancing Crater, running toward CAMERA WHICH PANS THEM AROUND a point of rock to see Nancy with both fists in her mouth standing over the body of Darnell. Important she is Kirk's Nancy at all times now.

Almost instinctively, she comes into McCoy's protective arms as he arrives, panting. Kirk drops to his knees over the crewman.

EMPHASIZING MCCOY

Holding her, then suddenly puzzled by what he saw as she threw herself at him, he releases her, eyes her... trying to hide his surprise as he sees she actually looks her forty years. He eyes the grey streaks in the hair.

ANGLE ON CRATER

hurrying into SCENE, stopping as he sees McCoy and Nancy. A strange look... is it jealousy? Or is it something else?

EMPHASIZING KIRK

At the body of his dead crewman. He has turned him partially over, sees he is clutching something in his hand. It is a twisted scabrous looking piece of vegetation, some kind of root, perhaps. Part of it has been bitten away. Darnell's face is covered with strange ring-like blotches.

KIRK  
(snaps)

McCoy!

The tone snaps McCoy out of it; the Doctor joins Kirk at the body immediately, begins to examine crewman.

MCCOY  
Dead, Jim. Strange... red  
circular mottling on his face...  
not familiar with...

Kirk reacts, comes up slowly, turning to Nancy:

KIRK  
(tersely)  
What happened?

Crater has shot a quick now-look-what-you've-done glance at Nancy, now turns quickly to Kirk:

CRATER

Don't snap at my wife, Captain.  
You beam down a crewman who doesn't  
know better than to eat an untested  
plant on an alien world...

KIRK

(interrupting;  
to Nancy)

One of my men is dead, Mrs. Crater.  
I have to know what happened. How  
much did you see?

McCOY

(turns to Nancy,  
gently)

Are you all right? Just tell  
us what you know.

She tries to speak but the words don't come out.

NANCY

I... I was just...

McCOY

(gently)

Take your time.

Nancy swallows. Holds her head deliberately high, fighting for control.

NANCY

I couldn't find Bob... and I was  
coming back. I started... over  
to your crewman here... I wanted  
him to know I wasn't offended by  
what he said in there... you  
remember.

(with difficulty)

Then I saw he had something in  
his hand...

(looks with distaste  
at the root in Darnell's  
clenched hand)

...A borgia plant. I had no idea  
he intended... Before I could say  
anything he'd taken a bite from it.

(reliving it)

He fell... His face twisting...

She trails, flinches, shudders. Then she sees McCoy watching her with his expression again puzzled.

NANCY  
(continuing to McCoy)  
You're looking at me strangely.  
If you don't believe what I said...

McCOY  
(guiltily)  
No, no it's not that at all.  
Something else entirely.  
(turning to  
Kirk)  
I suppose we can complete these  
examinations later...

CRATER  
We don't require one at all. You  
can see that. Why not just take  
the body of your man there...

KIRK  
We're well aware of our next duties,  
Professor. We'll complete your  
examinations tomorrow.

Taking out Communicator, snaps it open:

KIRK  
(continuing; into  
Communicator)  
Kirk to Transporter Room.  
(then to the Craters)  
Meanwhile if there's anything we  
can do for you folks...

NANCY  
(quickly)  
Salt.  
(to Crater)  
You did ask for salt tablets?

CRATER  
(to Kirk)  
No hurry about that.  
(to Nancy)  
I'll take care of the provisioning,  
Nancy.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF'S VOICE  
(filtered)  
Transporter Room, Captain.

KIRK  
(into communicator)  
Lock onto us. Three beaming up...  
two of us... and a casualty.

As Kirk and McCoy draw together at the body, Crater and Nancy  
stepping back:

CUT TO:



EXT. ENTERPRISE

in orbit about the planet.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

Minimum crew on duty. SPOCK busy at his computer station, making calculations at his panel, checking the results at his hooded viewer. UHURA moves in toward him from her Communications Station. She has a depressed look on her face. She is toying with a cup of coffee.

CLOSER

As Uhura moves in, watches him. Spock, without turning, is aware of her presence.

SPOCK

Miss Uhura. Your last subspace log contained an error in the frequencies column.

UHURA

Mister Spock, sometimes I think if I hear that word "frequencies" again I'll cry.

Spock throws her a puzzled glance, goes on with his work.

UHURA

(continuing)

I'm lonely; I was trying to start a conversation.

SPOCK

It is illogical for a Communications Officer to resent the word "frequencies". Thus, I have no answer.

UHURA

(a sad smile at Spock's words)

No, you gave an answer. I'm an illogical woman who's beginning to feel too much a part of that communications console. Tell me I'm a very attractive young lady. Ask me if I was ever in love. Tell me how Vulcan looks in the lazy evening when the moon is full.

SPOCK

(precisely)

Vulcan has no moon.

UHURA  
 (a disgusted sigh)  
 I'm **not** surprised.

Spock reacts - perplexed. She peers into her cup as though her future was written there.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF'S VOICE  
 (filtered)  
 Transporter Room to Bridge.  
 Landing party returning.  
 (a beat)  
 They report one death.

At the words: One death, Uhura loses her self-pitying look. One of her friends has died. Which one? The Doctor? Oh, no! Kirk? She looks at Spock who hits a panel button, replies:

SPOCK  
 (apparently unperturbed)  
 Bridge acknowledging.

He goes back to his work.

UHURA  
 (flabbergasted)  
 I don't believe it!

SPOCK  
 (even)  
 Explain?

UHURA  
 You! Explain yourself. That means someone is dead. And you stand there. It could be Captain Kirk! He's the closest thing you could have to a friend.

SPOCK  
 (reasonable)  
 My demonstrating concern won't change what has happened. The Transporter Room is properly manned; they'll call if they need my assistance.

She looks at him with shocked amazement (and with your permission, Nichelle) with white-faced anger, turns and exits. Spock looks after, perplexed.

CUT TO:

INT. SICKBAY - KIRK, McCOY

The body of the crewman lies on the examination table.

McCoy concludes examining the body, crosses toward where Kirk is at a communications panel.

McCOY  
She called it a borgia plant.

KIRK  
(nods)  
Spock's checking it now.

A moment's wait, then:

SPOCK'S VOICE  
(filtered)  
Bridge to dispensary.

Kirk hits a mike button.

KIRK  
Go ahead.

SPOCK'S VOICE  
(filtered)  
Borgia plant... listed in library tapes as carbon group three vegetation; similar to the Earth nightshade family. Alkaloid poison, chemical structure common to most Class M planets. About the strange mottling on his facial skin surface ... there is no reference to this symptom.

McCoy eyes Kirk with a puzzled look.

McCOY  
Then this man wasn't poisoned.

KIRK  
(surprised)  
Stand by, Mister Spock.  
(snaps off mike;  
to McCoy)  
She said she saw him eat the plant.

McCOY  
(flat)  
She was mistaken. I know alkaloid poison and what to look for. There's not a trace of it in his body.

KIRK  
There were bits of it in his mouth.

McCOY

Don't tell me my business, Jim.  
He could not have swallowed any.  
My instruments would pick up any  
trace whatsoever!

(beat)

Now, I'll tell you something else.  
This man shouldn't be dead.  
According to every test, he should  
be able to get up and walk away  
from here.

Kirk looks across toward the covered body, thoughtfully. Finally:

McCOY

(continuing; shakes  
head)

I'll have my tests double checked.  
My eyes may be tricking me...

(beat; eyeing Kirk)

But Jim... I'll swear when I first  
looked at her she seemed just as  
I'd known her ten years ago.  
Granted, maybe at that moment I was  
seeing her through a romantic haze...

KIRK

(interrupts; snaps)

How your lost love affects your  
vision doesn't interest me, Doctor!  
I've lost a man. I want to know  
what killed him.

McCOY

(beat)

Yes sir.

Kirk turns, exits the examination room.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The U.S.S. Enterprise still in orbit around Planet M-113.

INT. BRIDGE - ESTABLISHING

Minimum crew still on duty. A couple of n.d. crewmen conversing over the engineering panel. Another n.d. crewman has collected tape reports from other stations, departs via the elevator. Kirk and Spock stand at Spock's computer station, the second in command busy at his controls and hooded screen. At the Communications Station, Uhura has picked up a message, turns and calls:

UHURA

Message, Captain.

CLOSER ANGLE

Kirk turning toward the Communications Officer.

UHURA

(continuing)

Starship base on Corinth IV requesting explanation of our delay here, sir. Space commander Dominquez says we have supplies...

KIRK

(interrupting)

You can tell Jose he'll get his chile peppers when we get there. Tell him they're prime Mexican reds; I handpicked them myself, but he won't die if he goes a few more days without them. Got it?

UHURA

I think so, sir.

Kirk turns back to Spock.

CLOSER, KIRK AND SPOCK

as Spock looks up from his hooded screen, shakes his head.

SPOCK

No mistake in our record tapes. Borgia plant... sole deadly property is alkaloid poison.

KIRK

And on Professor Crater and wife?

SPOCK

Check out perfectly. Both personal histories beyond reproach; both with excellent reputations as archaeologists. Arrived here nearly five years ago, visited by various vessels, fairly heavy shipments out of artifacts and reports. However a marked drop in shipments during the last year.

McCOY'S VOICE

(filtered;  
interrupting)

McCoy to Captain.

Spock hits a microphone button on his control panel for:

KIRK

Kirk here.

McCOY'S VOICE

(filtered)

We found something, Captain.  
I'd rather not put it on the speaker.

KIRK

Coming.

Kirk motions to Spock, begins exiting the bridge, followed by his second in command.

INT. SICKBAY - CLOSE ON BODY FUNCTION INDICATOR

We'll see later that the covered body of the crewman is on a table under this indicator. At the moment, all indices show "zero" reading except one, and it is hovering at the top of the scale. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Kirk and Spock eyeing it. Then McCoy turns off the panel, turns to them.

SPOCK

Fascinating.

McCOY

(nods)

So improbable we almost didn't check it.

Kirk eyes them, puzzled.

SPOCK

Sodium chloride. Not a trace of it.

McCOY

(to Kirk)

Salt. Biology one, remember? Man never really left the ocean. He still carries its salt in his body fluids... tears, blood, sweat. This man has no salt in his body at all!

KIRK REACTING

KIRK

Explain.

McCOY

I can't. Except that what we normally carry in our bodies is gone from his.

Kirk looks at Spock who nods.

SPOCK

He would die almost instantly.

KIRK

How? There wasn't a mark on his body.

McCOY

Except the small red rings on his skin...

KIRK

You called that skin mottling.

McCOY

I thought it was, sir. Another error on my part.

Kirk catches the coolness in McCoy's voice, eyes him a moment, then quietly:

KIRK

Are you in the mood for an apology, Bones?

McCOY

Forget it. I probably was mooning over her. Should have been thinking about my job.

KIRK

Perhaps you were.

A surprised look from McCoy; a puzzled glance from Spock.

KIRK

(continuing)

Both Crater and Nancy went out  
of their way to mention one item  
they needed.

McCOY

(comprehension)

Salt tablets?

(considers)

Explain the connection.

KIRK

I can't but we're beaming down with  
some questions. Mister Spock,  
outfit a landing party.

INT. CRATER'S LIVING QUARTERS - DAY

Present are Crater, McCoy, Kirk and two armed crewmen, armed  
with phaser pistols. Their names are GREEN and STURGEON.

KIRK

Your wife, Professor. I'll want  
to talk to her, too.

CRATER

Captain, if you think you can beam  
down here, bully us, interfere with  
my work...

KIRK

Where is Mrs. Crater? I won't ask  
again.

CRATER

Possibly at the other diggings.  
We don't keep military logs down  
here!

KIRK

Green... get her.

GREEN

Yes sir.

Green exits, snappily.

KIRK

(snaps on communicator)

Mister Spock.

SPOCK'S VOICE

Standing by.



KIRK

Sturgeon, transport a sample of that plant to Mister Spock. We'll check if it's actually the borgia or something we don't understand. Do you have that, Mister Spock?

SPOCK'S VOICE

Complete analysis.

Sturgeon exits briskly. Kirk snaps off the communicator.

CRATER

(arrogantly)

Captain, considering the inescapable fact that you are a trespasser on my planet...

KIRK

... Your complaint is noted.

(very courteous)

I apologize for any inconvenience. But something we don't understand killed one of our men. It could be a danger to you and Mrs. Crater too...

CRATER

We've been here almost five years. If there was something hostile here we'd know about it by now, wouldn't we?

KIRK

(to McCoy)

The autopsy.

MCCOY

(to Crater)

Our crewman died of salt depletion... a sudden total loss of it... medically impossible by any standards.

KIRK

(to Crater)

And, by coincidence, you and Mrs. Crater both requested a supply of salt tablets.

CRATER

And your esteemed physician can't explain our need for salt tablets?!

Crater gives Kirk a "how stupid can you be" look and turns to a heavy metal box which is set against a wall. He thumbs a combination on the lock that secures the lid.

KIRK

We're well aware of the need for salt on an arid planet like this, Professor. However...

Crater has taken out two pint-sized cannisters. One is empty. The other rattles with only a few tablets left.

CRATER

(interrupting)

Nancy and I started with twenty-five pounds. This is what's left. Now explain the "sinister" coincidence in that!

Kirk is stymied. He paces the length of the room. Pauses and comes back to Crater.

KIRK

I don't like mysteries. They give me a belly-ache and I've got a beauty right now.

(comes to a decision)

One of the missions of the Enterprise is to protect human life in places like this. For your own protection, I'll have to ask you and Mrs. Crater to stay aboard my ship until we find what killed our crewman.

Crater reacts, almost with panic.

CRATER

You can't do that!

KIRK

(soft and level)

I can, Professor Crater.

CRATER

But you must not! You'll interfere with my work...

KIRK

How?

Crater tries to formulate a reply - words do not come. Kirk waits; then takes out Communicator.

KIRK

(into Communicator)

Mr. Spock.

ANGLE EMPHASIZING CRATER

edging unseen toward the door.

SPOCK'S VOICE

(filtered)

Spock here.

KIRK

Arrange quarters for Professor and Mrs. Crater. Do you have the plant analysis?

SPOCK'S VOICE

(completing the sentence)

It is the borgia variety, Captain. Could not have caused Darnell's death.

Kirk flips off the communicator.

McCOY

Jim!

Kirk whirls. Stares. Crater is not in the room.

KIRK

He's fast on his feet for an archaeologist.

(moves for door)

Let's get him.

They head for the door.

EXT. THE DIGGINGS - ANGLE ON STURGEON

lying dead on the ground. The characteristic red circle mottling on his face. RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, CAMERA PANS UP TO REVEAL Professor Crater coming TOWARD CAMERA WHICH HOLDS CRATER RUNNING IN CLOSE, as he sees the dead crewman and pulls up short, looking down, an expression of horror on his face as he eyes the o.s. Sturgeon. He looks around, seeking.

CRATER

(calling)

Nancy!

Crater digs into his pocket, pulls out a handful of salt tablets, extending them one direction and then the other, calling:

CRATER

(continuing)

You, Nancy! I have salt. Smell it? Salt!!

Then hearing DISTANT RUNNING FOOTSTEPS behind him, Crater darts off in another direction, running.

#### PANNING CRATER

running, losing himself from his pursuers. Then, letting Crater exit, CAMERA CONTINUES PANNING THROUGH LOW SHRUBBERY, REVEALING NANCY IN MEDIUM LONG SHOT strangely hovering low over still another body.

#### NANCY AND GREEN

Green also dead, the same strange red mottling marks on his face. Nancy is bending down closer, closer... then RUNNING FOOTSTEPS approaching. She pulls back as we hear:

McCoy's voice  
(calling)  
Professor!

Kirk's voice  
Professor Crater!

Nancy stands, CAMERA FOLLOWING HER UP... she looks nervously beyond the foliage and rocks toward where the RUNNING FOOTSTEPS are obviously approaching in this direction. From closer we hear:

McCoy's voice  
Jim! Sturgeon, he's dead.

Kirk's voice  
We'd better locate crewman Green...  
fast!  
(calls)  
Green?! Green!

#### ANGLE ON GREEN

A quick identification of the face, then:

#### ANGLE ON NANCY

A look of decision on her face, then... DISSOLVE EFFECT, shocking as Nancy becomes the crewman Green we've just seen lying dead on the ground.

#### ANOTHER ANGLE

Leaving the form of the dead Green on the ground, the new Green (Nancy) moves toward where we can hear:

McCoy's voice  
Crater? He came this way.

Kirk's voice  
Couldn't have been. He didn't  
have time.

The new Green is moving through the bushes, in the direction of the conversation.

KIRK AND McCOY

moving away from the body of Sturgeon, then stopping as they see Green approaching them.

KIRK

Green! Did you see this?

CLOSE SHOT - GREEN

A glint of malevolence in his eyes, quickly hiding it as he interrupts:

GREEN

Yes sir, Sturgeon was dead when I found him. I was circling, trying to find whatever it was.

THREE SHOT

Kirk and McCoy are surprised, perplexed. The Doctor checking the body:

McCOY

Same rings on his face.  
(then rising...  
alarmed... to Green)  
Have you seen Nancy... Mrs. Crater!

GREEN

No sir. I checked all through the ruins.

McCOY

I'm worried about her, Jim. She's not at her quarters, not at the diggings here...  
(shakes his head)  
She could be in danger...  
(calling)

Nancy!

CLOSE SHOT - GREEN

watching, a strange look on his face, as we hear:

McCOY'S VOICE

(calling)  
Nancy! It's Leonard! Nancy?

THREE SHOT

as McCoy whirls back to Kirk.

KIRK  
We're beaming up to the ship.

McCOY  
(intent)  
We can't leave Nancy here!

KIRK  
(impatient, brisk)  
We can't cover a whole planet  
on foot.

McCOY  
(shakes his head)  
Jim....!

An imploring look on his face.

KIRK  
(sharply)  
You could learn something from  
Mister Spock, Doctor. Stop thinking  
with your glands. There's equipment  
on the Enterprise that can pinpoint  
a match lit anywhere on this planet.  
Or the heat from a body.

He has taken out his communicator. Green takes up position near him. With a chargrined look, McCoy steps to a position at Kirk's side.

TIGHT SHOT - GREEN

A glitter of sly, triumphant craft in the eyes. HOLD ON THIS AS:

KIRK'S VOICE  
(into communicator)  
Kirk to Transporter Room. Three  
persons; beam us up.

CUT TO:

EXT. ENTERPRISE

in orbit about the planet.

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - ANGLE ON KIRK

TRANSPORTER EFFECT, Kirk shimmering into being. Then CAMERA BACK TO REVEAL McCoy and Green with him. As the lights go down on the transport platform, they step briskly down. Kirk goes to where the Transporter Chief stands at the panel, hits a button.

KIRK  
Kirk to bridge.

SPOCK'S VOICE  
(filtered)  
Spock here.

KIRK  
Break out the surface search  
equipment. I want coordinates  
on two people.

SPOCK'S VOICE  
Yes sir.

KIRK  
(to Transporter Chief)  
There's a body down there. Sturgeon.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF  
(reacts; then nods)  
We'll bring him home, sir.

KIRK  
(to McCoy)  
Get some rest. You too, Green.

McCOY  
(reluctant)  
All right, Jim.

Green nods; they all exit.

INT. CORRIDOR - CLOSE ON YEOMAN RAND

coming down corridor carrying tray. On the tray is a covered  
dish, napkin, cutlery and a salt and pepper shaker... Kirk  
ENTERS.

JANICE  
Do you need me, sir?  
(nods, to indicate  
tray)  
For Sulu... he missed mess call.

KIRK  
(shakes head  
negative...  
interrupts)  
Carry on, Yeoman.

JANICE  
Yes, sir.

Janice begins exiting one way; Kirk and McCoy head off the other.  
CAMERA HOLDS on Green who stands there, watching Janice go...  
then hurriedly begins following her.

SHOT - JANICE

moving to an elevator, Green entering scene behind her. He hovers near, she notices but only after juggling the tray and salting a stalk of celery for herself.

JANICE

(nodding)

Green. What went on down there?

Green can't keep his eye from the salt shaker on the tray. He doesn't answer, instead begins moving in. Janice eyes him, suddenly nervous.

JANICE

Who do you think you are?

Green has reached for the tray, Janice has slapped his arm away. Green now eyes her, takes a step in toward her. But at this moment the elevator doors snap open, revealing a couple of n.d. crewmen inside. Janice gives Green an irritated look, steps into the elevator with the others. Green hesitates almost too long, barely leaps into the elevator before the doors close in front of us.

INT. BRIDGE - SPOCK - AT LIBRARY CONSOLE

LIGHT flickers on Spock's face from hooded screen as Kirk moves into SHOT with him.

SPOCK

Something odd, Captain. You said two people.

KIRK

(confirming)

Professor and Nancy Crater.

SPOCK

We get a reading on one person. Crater, probably, from the direction you gave. He's circling, as if searching for something.

Kirk frowns.

KIRK

Expand search radius.

SPOCK

Yes sir.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR - AT ELEVATOR

Doors snap open; Janice comes out, still followed by Green.



JANICE

Why don't you go chase an asteroid?!

ANOTHER ANGLE - ALONG CORRIDOR

Janice not frightened, more perplexed and annoyed, continues down the corridor. Green starts to catch up with her, pulls back as n.d. crewmen pass. We can feel his overpowering need for the salt, his need to get her alone for just one moment. Janice turns abruptly into a door marked "Life Sciences Department -- Botany Section."

INT. BOTANY LAB

The lab section of the space-botany garden. Even here, an exotic collection of plants -- some of them prize specimens collected by Sulu, ship's helmsman. In the center of the room -- obviously one of Sulu's prize pets -- is a large, undulating plant, swaying with sentient life and gives off a CHIMING, MELODIC HUM, like a harmonium. As Janice ENTERS, it senses her presence and leans toward her. She sets the tray on a table; almost unconsciously she strokes the plant as one might stroke a friendly German shepherd. It CROONS MUSICALLY and ducks its head as though welcoming her touch.

JANICE

Hello, Beauregard.  
(calling)  
Sulu, are you here?

SULU'S VOICE

(from an adjoining  
room)

In here, Janice. I'm feeding the weepers.

She gives the plant a final pat, ad libs a "good boy" as SULU enters, grinning.

SULU

May the great bird of the galaxy  
bless your planet.

This, as he sits at the food. In b.g. of room, Green has entered... he's hesitant, unsure of this place. (In his actions constantly we play his uncertainty aboard this strange vessel.)

CLOSE - PANNING GREEN

As he approaches the sentient plant in the middle of the room it abruptly stops humming. It senses his presence and gives a HORRIFIED SQUEEK. It draws back from him. The squeek becomes LOUDER as the plant tries to put as much distance between itself and Green as it can. The squeek becomes a siren wail, growing LOUDER. Startled, Green draws back. Janice and Sulu turn.

SULU

Hello, Green.

JANICE

He's not talking today.

(to Green)

You been nipping Saurian Brandy  
or something?

Upset by the plant SOUNDS, Green retreats to the main door and  
EXITS into the corridor, waits there, unsure. Sulu and Janice  
cross to the plant. The alarmed WAIL subsides.

SULU

(mystified)

Take it easy, Gertrude.

JANICE

Beauregard! A girl can tell.

(indicates toward  
corridor)There's the real spook. You  
think Green's going space happy?

Sulu shrugs... "forget it." The plant CHIMES and HUMS. While  
Janice chucks it under the "chin", Sulu moves to the door, hits  
a button -- the door slams shut.

INT. SHIP'S CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE BOTANY SECTION

as the door SLAMS shut. Then Green turns, seeing someone coming.  
CAMERA IN TO CLOSE SHOT, catching the craftiness and hunger  
coming over Green's face as he sees:

SHOT - UHURA

moving down the hallway.

GREEN

Green changing to negro crewman.

UHURA

continuing down the hall... stops... sees:

HER POV

At the closed Botany Section doorway is a tall, magnetically  
handsome man. He is dressed in ship's uniform. He is Negro.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT (STOCK)

To ESTABLISH, then:

INT. CORRIDOR - MED. SHOT

On Uhura and the Negro Crewman... as we left them... he nods to the Communications Officer. Her chin goes up. She considers moving on, changes her mind.

UHURA  
(challenging)  
Crewman, do I know you?

UHURA'S CREWMAN  
(courteous)  
In a way, Ma'am. You were just thinking of... someone like me.

Uhura's surprised expression gives her away. Annoyed, she starts to move on.

CLOSE SHOT - HIS FACE

A mirror reflecting what she wants to see -- what she wants to hear.

UHURA'S CREWMAN  
I'm guessing, of course. But you did look a little lonely.

TWO SHOT

Uhura, in the act of moving on, slows. Embarrassed to stop, but not wanting to leave either. The crewman moves in toward her.

UHURA  
I see... naturally, when I'm lonely I think of you.

UHURA'S CREWMAN  
(in Swahili)  
Nina Ku dhania Nwanamka.

Again Uhura is startled... we guess it's also near an image she's had that it's difficult to believe.

UHURA  
Swahili?

He has brought his hands up to her shoulders, is beginning to pull her close... the expression on his face changing to the malevolent gleam we've seen before. Uhura, almost hypnotized by the familiar look, familiar names, seems almost powerless.

KIRK'S VOICE

Lieutenant Uhura, report to the bridge.

Green moves toward her... closer.

KIRK'S VOICE

(continuing)

Lieutenant Uhura... to the bridge.

Suddenly, behind them, the Botany Lab doors SNAP open, Janice stepping out into the corridor... back to Sulu (o.s.).

JANICE

(to Sulu)

I better get this tray back.

SULU'S VOICE

I'll walk along.

KIRK'S VOICE

(filtered)

Communications Officer Uhura.  
Report to the bridge.

Uhura's Crewman reacts... backs off slowly... and she comes out of the spell, reacting to Kirk's voice. She gives her Crewman a perplexed, lonely, uncertain look... turns.

UHURA

(presses a button  
on wall communicator)

Lieutenant Uhura. On my way.

She moves down the corridor... joins Janice and Sulu who are now moving into b.g. (backs to CAMERA). He watches her go... is drawn after her a step... stops. Uhura, Janice and Sulu EXIT into an elevator... the doors close behind them... he turns (toward CAMERA)... holds... hungry... MOVES on down the corridor

UHURA'S CREWMAN

spots crewman (highly identifiable costume) alone... follows him...

INT. MCCOY'S QUARTERS (REDRESS CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS)

He is lying on his bunk fully clothed. It is obvious he can't sleep. He rises impatiently and hits a microphone button.

McCOY

McCoy to Bridge. Captain there?

KIRK'S VOICE

(filtered)

Nothing to report, Doctor. We haven't located Mrs. Crater.

(wryly)

Try one of those red pills you gave me last week. You'll sleep.

He crosses to his nightstand and takes out a small bottle, eyes them, then throws the bottle angrily down.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE - SPOCK AND KIRK

Spock is bent over his hooded screen. He is in the middle of a speech.

SPOCK

(matter of fact)

The simple fact is that unless there's something seriously wrong with the ship's equipment, Crater's the only person inside a hundred mile circle.

KIRK

All right. Triangulate on him. We'll let Professor Crater explain what happened to his wife.

INCLUDING UHURA

at her station. Kirk passes with Spock.

KIRK

Understand my instructions, Lieutenant? Keep a tight fix on us. If we let out a yell I want an armed party there before the echoes die.

UHURA

Yes, Captain.

INT. CORRIDOR - NEAR McCOY'S QUARTERS

Uhura's Crewman idling down the corridor. He eyes passing crewmen, but they are in pairs, or if alone someone else is always near. Then, suddenly:

McCOY'S VOICE

Nancy!

SHOT - McCOY AT HIS OPEN DOORWAY

staring incredulously, surprised.

WIDER ANGLE - TO INCLUDE NANCY

standing where Uhura's Crewman stood a moment before. McCoy moves out, grabs her hands.

McCOY  
I've been worrying about you.  
When did you beam up?

NANCY  
Leonard, I'm so happy to see  
you. The others...  
(hesitates,  
finding the  
words)  
I don't relate to them as much  
as with you. You have such  
strong memories of me...

McCOY  
(ignoring it)  
Why didn't Kirk let me know?

NANCY  
(moving closer)  
You really care, don't you,  
Leonard? It makes me feel...  
safe. I know what to say and  
do.

McCOY  
Nancy...

NANCY  
My husband...  
(smiles)  
I like your feelings better.  
Much. Stronger.  
(propels him  
toward the door)  
You're tired. I can feel it.  
Let's go in there.

INT. McCOY'S QUARTERS

Nancy the dominant one, leading him to his bed, pushing him  
back to sit there.

NANCY  
Rest.

McCOY

You're as bad as Jim Kirk...

(picks up  
tranquilizer  
bottle)

... he was after me to take  
these...

NANCY

I think you should.

She takes the bottle from his hand, moves off.

NANCY

(continuing)

I'll get you water.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR

Sulu and Janice rounding a corner. They suddenly stop. Shocked reactions. CAMERA ANGLES and we see the body of a man lying sprawled in the center of the corridor. He is dressed in the identifiable costume we saw in Scene 65.

ANGLE ON DEAD MAN'S FACE

showing the characteristic red circle marks.

SULU'S VOICE (OVER)

Mister Spock, Sulu. Trouble on  
Deck seven, Section two; we need  
a medical team.

CUT TO:

INT. McCOY'S QUARTERS - McCOY AND NANCY

McCoy is lying on his bunk; Nancy sitting beside him. A half empty water glass sits on the bedstand, beside the bottle of pills. He is on the edge of dozing. She leans in, strokes his face.

McCOY

I was so worried. Your husband  
acting strange... crewmen dying...

NANCY

You're so tired, darling.  
We'll talk later. Sleep.

She continues stroking his face. McCoy closes his eyes. His breath begins to come regularly, deeply. Then, DISTANT ALARM BELLS SOUND. McCoy's eyes flicker open, but it's obvious the drug is starting to take hold. Nancy continues stroking his face.

NANCY  
 (continuing)  
 It's nothing, darling. Nothing  
 I'll let worry you... Rest,  
 Plum darling...

McCoy's eyes close again and he resumes the measured deep breathing of sleep.

CLOSE SHOT - HER FACE

A strange, intense hunger as she watches him.

UHURA'S VOICE  
 Doctor McCoy to the bridge....

TIGHT TWO SHOT

as she reaches out to touch his face with her fingertips. Gently her fingers explore the moist flesh. She holds up the hands to look at them. McCoy MOANS in his sleep.

TIGHT - THE HANDS - HER POV

as the balls of her thumbs smooth the glistening fingertips. They are moist with Doc's perspiration.

ANGLE

as again, she reaches searching hands for his face. The DISTANT ALARM continues SOUNDING, as we:

UHURA'S VOICE  
 Doctor McCoy to the bridge.

She stops... thinks... crosses to the door... CAMERA PANS from Nancy to McCoy... then BACK to a second McCoy (Nancy)... EXITS.

EXT. ENTERPRISE

in orbit about the planet.

EXT. THE DIGGINGS - DAY

As Captain Kirk and Spock warily approach, weapons at the ready. They approach the stone well. They suddenly stop, reacting to:

CRATER'S VOICE  
 No closer, Captain.

Kirk and Spock exchange glances.

KIRK  
 (easily)  
 Professor Crater?



CRATER'S VOICE

Go back. We don't want you here.

KIRK

We...? Where's your wife,  
Professor? We're concerned  
about her.

CRATER'S VOICE

I'm armed. Go away!

Kirk and Spock ease a step closer to the shed.

KIRK

(reasonable)

Where is Mrs. Crater?

CRATER'S VOICE

She's no concern of yours.

His voice holds an edge of panic. Kirk reacts to this.

KIRK

Professor, we're worried about  
her safety! Aren't you?

There is no answer. Kirk indicates to Spock to head one  
direction, he carefully moves off another.

CRATER

Old style phaser in hand, holed up, alert.

ANGLE ON KIRK

moving carefully through the ruins. SOUND of communication  
BUZZ. Kirk pulls his communicator, SNAPS it open.

KIRK

(into communicator)

Kirk.

SULU'S VOICE

(filtered)

Casualty, Captain. Barnhart  
was found dead on Deck twelve.  
Same symptoms...

SPOCK'S VOICE

(filtered; interrupting)

Spock cutting in, Captain. Over  
here... past the ruins, to your  
left.

KIRK  
(into communicator)  
Sulu, stand by. Spock has  
something.

Kirk moving off to his left.

ANGLE ON SPOCK

phaser at ready. SOUND of someone approaching; Kirk enters  
SCENE. Spock indicates something o.s.

POV - PLACE OF GREEN'S DEATH

form of Green lying beyond the foliage.

PAN SHOT - KIRK AND SPOCK

moving to stand over Green's still form.

ANGLE - PAST GREEN'S FEET UP ONTO KIRK AND SPOCK

looking down at the o.s. face.

SPOCK  
Green.

KIRK  
(reacting)  
He beamed up to the ship with us.

SPOCK  
Something did, Captain.

Kirk's communicator is already out; he SNAPS it open.

KIRK  
(into communicator)  
Enterprise from Kirk.

SULU'S VOICE  
(filtered)  
Bridge, Sulu.

KIRK  
You have an intruder aboard...  
could be masquerading as Crewman  
Green.. We're not sure what this  
is all about. General Quarters,  
Security Condition three!

SULU'S VOICE  
(filtered)  
G.Q., Security three, sir!

EXT. SPACE

Enterprise still in orbit.

INT. CORRIDOR

General ALARM SOUNDING; crewmen hurrying purposefully past.

SULU'S VOICE

General Quarters three. Intruder  
alert. G.Q. three, intruder  
alert.

And almost this fast, the corridor has cleared, pairs of phaser-pistol armed guards taking up positions in the now-empty corridor, silent except for the continuing ALARM.

EXT. THE DIGGINGS

Kirk and Spock back inside the ruins, crouching low against a wall. Kirk has his communicator out.

UHURA'S VOICE

(filtered)  
Reporting G.Q. three, secure,  
Captain. Do you require  
assistance there?

Kirk considers it.

SPOCK

Crater knows the creature. If  
we can take him alive.

KIRK

(nods; into  
communicator)  
Negative, Lieutenant. But  
stay locked in on us. Kirk out.

Kirk gives Spock a signal and they begin to edge into the ruins again. Abruptly a phaser blip lances out, hits the top of a nearby wall, which EXPLODES, disintegrating into fire and debris. Kirk and Spock are knocked about by the discharge of energy.

TIGHT TWO SHOT - KIRK AND SPOCK

down, rolling into cover.

CRATER'S VOICE

We don't want you here. Neither  
of us. We're happy alone. I'll  
kill to stay alone. Hear me,  
Kirk? Or you'll have to kill me.!  
I don't care, either way.

Kirk and Spock exchange looks at the seeming finality of this message.

EXT. SPACE

The Enterprise still in orbit around Planet M-113.

INT. MCCOY'S QUARTERS - ANGLE ON MCCOY

asleep on the bed.

INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE AT SPOCK'S STATION

McCoy watches as Sulu stands over Uhura who is looking into the Science Officer's hooded screen. Sulu hits control buttons.

SULU

Engineering Deck now. Running through file photos of the crewmen there.

Uhura nods, light flickering from the hooded screen on her face.

UHURA

No... no... none of these...

CREWMAN'S VOICE

(filtered)

Security reporting. Crewman Green is not in his quarters. No one has seen him.

SULU

(hits mike switch)

Keep in mind if you find him, he's not Crewman Green. Captain reports Green is dead.

WIDE ANGLE - INCLUDING JANICE

Uhura continuing to look into the flickering hooded screen, is shaking her head.

SULU

And he, or it, or whatever, was probably your crewman, too, Lieutenant.

Uhura looks up, represses a shudder.

JANICE

(shudders too)

And he... it followed me... or rather the salt on my tray...

In b.g. we have seen elevator doors open, Dr. McCoy (Nancy) enters the bridge. He crosses in toward the group. The screen light on Uhura's hooded screen has gone dark; Sulu turns, hits another row of buttons. The screen lights up.

SULU

Supply and Maintenance Section.

The flickering light comes on again, Uhura looks into the screen.

UHURA

He must have been... "it."  
I would have remembered a  
crewman like him.

ANGLE ON "McCOY"

watching carefully.

GROUP SHOT

Uhura looking into the screen, still shaking head.

UHURA

And yet it seemed like I've seen  
him somewhere.. Not here on the  
Enterprise... more like someone  
I just imagined.

McCOY

The creature leading you a merry  
chase, Mister Sulu?

Sulu whirls, surprised at the mention of "creature".  
McCoy hesitates a split second at the look, then easily:

SULU

Creature?

McCOY

Or whatever it is that killed  
the crewmen.

(moves in)

Perhaps I can help. Fill me in.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE DIGGINGS - DAY - ANGLE ON CRATER

An old style phaser pistol in hand, creeping through the  
ruins. Understandably, he knows his way through here very  
well.

KIRK'S VOICE

Last chance, Professor.

Crater sees something, turns, whipping up his phaser.

## KIRK AND SPOCK

phaser in hand, ducking as the ancient wall above them DISINTEGRATES INTO EXPLOSION, a section of the wall tumbling down, narrowly missing them. Spock throws Kirk a worried look.

SPOCK

(quietly)

It'll take a landing party. Or,  
we can use our weapons.

KIRK

Set your phaser at full; I'll  
leave mine on "stun."

Spock gives Kirk another worried look, complies, adjusting his phaser. Kirk indicates directions for each to take, then:

SPOCK

His life is not worth risking  
yours.

KIRK

(shakes head)

He's trying to frighten us off,  
not kill us.

Kirk motions for Spock to go one direction, Kirk takes the other.

ANGLE ON CRATER

holed up, preplexed and annoyed. He's not certain where the two men are. Then he hears a SOUND, whirls in that direction.

ANGLE ON WALL

Spock appearing, aiming.

SPOCK

Crater!

ANGLE ON CRATER

whirling, raising his old style phaser.

ANGLE ON KIRK

aiming, firing (stunning blast).

ANGLE ON CRATER

His legs knocked out from under him. He lies half-conscious. Spock and Kirk run INTO SCENE, Spock kicking the old style phaser from Crater's reach.

## CLOSER - FEATURING CRATER

A sick look, helpless. Kirk and Spock move in; Spock scooping up the old style phaser. Crater is still half-stunned.

KIRK'S VOICE

Your wife, Professor. Where is she?

CRATER

(half-conscious)

She... was the last of her kind...

Kirk and Spock exchange puzzled looks.

KIRK

Nancy?

CRATER

Nancy...? Poor, dear Nancy.  
I loved her so...

Kirk kneels, lifts Crater partially to sitting position.

KIRK

Explain to us, Professor.

CRATER

... The last of its kind...

Kirk looks at him, baffled.

CRATER

(continuing)

Earth history. You know...  
about the passenger pigeon...  
the buffalo...

(groans)

I feel strange...

KIRK

Just stunned. It'll take a  
moment..

SPOCK

(to Crater)

Earth's buffalo. What about it?

CRATER

Millions of them... prairies  
black with them. One single  
herd that covered three states.  
When they moved... like thunder.  
Can you see it?

1

SPOCK

(waits; then)

And they're gone. Is that what  
you mean?

CRATER

(nods)

Like the creatures here. Their  
temples... lovely... There were  
millions once... And now only  
one left. Nancy understood.

SPOCK

(to Kirk)

Always in the past tense.

KIRK

(to Crater)

Where is Nancy? Where is she  
now?

CRATER

Dead. Buried up on the hill.  
It killed her.

KIRK

(quickly; insistent)

When?

CRATER

(confused)

A year... Was it two?

ANGLE EMPHASIZING KIRK

as he and Spock react. We can see both minds working  
furiously, trying to put the facts together. Crater,  
recovering faster now, is able to move himself to a sitting  
position. Kirk and Spock stand, eye each other.

SPOCK

Captain...

But Kirk already has his communicator out, snapping it open.

KIRK

(into communicator)

Kirk to Enterprise, come in.

CRATER

The creature is trying to survive.  
It has that right, hasn't it?

SULU'S VOICE

(filtered)

Bridge to captain. Sulu here.



KIRK

It's definite, Mister Sulu.  
The intruder can take any form.  
A crewman, you, myself, anyone.  
Do you understand?

SULU'S VOICE

(filtered)

Affirmative, Captain.

KIRK

Go to GQ. Four, Mister Sulu.

SULU'S VOICE

(filtered)

General Quarters Four, Captain.

Crater has made his way shakily to his feet, fully conscious now but weak. He supports himself on a pile of rock.

KIRK

(into communicator)

Kirk to Transporter section.  
Three to beam up.

CRATER

They needed salt to stay alive  
and there was no more salt.  
It's the last one... like the  
buffalo, Captain. There's no  
difference.

KIRK

(grim)

There's one. Your creature is  
killing my people.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE.

The U. S. S. Enterprise in orbit around the planet.

INT. CORRIDOR

empty except for First Crewman and his partner in foreground, both armed with phaser pistols. In far b.g., another pair of crewmen, similarly armed.

SULU'S VOICE

Deck seven, Section three. Report.

FIRST CREWMAN

Security three A nere; three B in sight.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

At the briefing table are Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Janice, Uhura, Crater and a crewman guard - phaser pistol armed and standing behind Crater.

UHURA

Negative, Captain. I've checked every face aboard the vessel. It wasn't a crewman I saw.

ANGLE EMPHASIZING KIRK

KIRK

Yeoman Rand?

JANICE'S VOICE

Yes, Captain.

CLOSE ANGLE ON KIRK

KIRK

How long was this "Green" with you, Yeoman?

CLOSE - JANICE

JANICE

As long as he... it... thought it could get to the tray, sir.

ANGLE ON MC COY (NANCY)

watching the others, carefully.

## JANICE'S VOICE

The salt on it, I suppose. He  
tried to reach for the tray once.  
I slapped his hand back, I think.

McCoy has brought his elbows up to tabletop, is caressing  
his own hands in a strange fashion. Then he becomes aware  
someone is looking at him, looks in that direction.

## ANGLE ON CRATER

carefully trying to suppress any show of reaction on his  
face as he eyes:

## SHOT - NANCY

in McCoy's position, hands still folded and caressing in  
that strange manner. During which we've heard:

## KIRK'S VOICE

Thank you, Yeoman.

## EMPHASIZING KIRK

as he nods to Spock.

## SPOCK

Supplies of salt have been set  
out on all decks and levels,  
Captain. So far, no one or  
nothing has approached them.

Kirk turns to o.s. McCoy.

## KIRK

Doctor?

## WIDER ANGLE - INCLUDING MCCOY

still caressing his hands... suddenly becomes aware of it,  
drops them as he turns to face the Captain.

## MCCOY

Captain?

## KIRK

(a bit irritated)

Medical Department report, Doctor.

## MCCOY

We could offer it salt from the  
stores. Without tricks. There's  
no reason for it to attack us.

## SPOCK

Your attitude is laudable,  
Doctor McCoy. But your reasoning  
is pathetic.

CRATER

The creature is not dangerous  
if fed.

McCoy

It's simply trying to survive,  
using its natural ability to take  
other forms.

CRATER

Like a chameleon uses his  
protective coloring. Undoubtedly  
a natural ability retained from  
its primitive state.

McCOY

(pressing)

Just as we retain our incisor  
teeth... they were once fangs...  
Certain of our muscles were for  
chase... It's using its ability  
just as we'd use our teeth and  
muscles if necessary to stay alive.  
And like us it's an intelligent  
creature... it can't just be  
hunted down..

(trails)

"McCoy" is aware he's on the edge of talking too much.

McCOY

(continuing;  
to Kirk)

My report, such as it is.

SPOCK

Interesting hypothesis, Doctor.

McCOY

The facts are available to you  
also, Mister Spock. You've seen  
the evidence of their  
civilization... one can draw  
certain conclusions.

SULU'S VOICE

(filtered)

Bridge to Briefing Room.

Spock SNAPS a control:

SPOCK

Briefing room.

CLOSE - BRIEFING ROOM SCREEN - (MATTE)

SULU'S VOICE

(filtered)

All the halls sealed off. All weapons accounted for, and locked away. The search party reports everyone present and accounted for on every level.

KIRK'S VOICE

Thank you, Lieutenant. Continue search.

BACK TO SCENE

Spock SNAPS off the control. Kirk turns toward Crater.

KIRK

Professor?

Crater eyes Kirk, says nothing.

KIRK

(continuing)

I'd like to be lenient with you, Professor. I'm sure losing your wife was a terrible blow...

CRATER

(snaps)

I've committed no crime.

KIRK

You failed to warn us of the danger when we beamed down...

CRATER

(interrupting)

I demanded, even begged, that you get off my planet.

KIRK

But now your creature's aboard my vessel, Professor.

CRATER

I didn't put it here.

KIRK

But it's here now, you can assist us in identifying it.

ANGLE ON CRATER

looking again toward o.s. Nancy (McCoy) as

KIRK'S VOICE

(continuing)

I'll forego charges up to this point, Crater. But it's on my vessel now...

ANGLE ON NANCY (McCOY)

The characteristic hand-wringing movement.

KIRK'S VOICE

(continuing)

... and I'll have it, Crater, or I'll have your skin. One or both.

ANGLE - KIRK AND SPOCK

Kirk waiting for Crater's reply.

CRATER'S VOICE

(starting slow)

I loved... Nancy very much. There were few women like my Nancy. She lives in my dreams, Captain. She walks and sings in my dreams...

KIRK

And it becomes Nancy for you.

CRATER

But... not as a trick. It doesn't trick me.

(remembering)

When it killed Nancy, I came close to destroying it. But it was the last of its kind...

KIRK

(interrupting)

You bleed too much, Crater. You're too pure and noble. Are you saving the last of its kind... or is it Crater's private 'heaven' here on this planet?

CRATER

Captain...

KIRK

(hard)

It can be wife, lover, best friend, idol, slave, wise man, fool.

(MORE)

KIRK (cont'd)

It isn't a bad life, having everyone  
in the universe at your beck and  
call -- and you win all the  
arguments.

CRATER

You don't understand...

KIRK

Have you learned to see the  
creature? In any form you wish?

CRATER

(hesitates)

Yes.

KIRK

Are you going to help us recognize  
it?

CRATER

I'm sorry... I can't.

ANGLE SPANNING KIRK AND MCCOY

McCoy looking up.

MCCOY

Serum, Captain? I resist using  
it, but in this case...

(shrugs)

We'll have the truth that way.  
He'll tell us what we have to  
know.

KIRK

(nods)

Take him, Doctor.

Spock stands... we see he is armed with phaser #2.

SPOCK

I'll accompany you, Doctor.

MCCOY

Of course.

They move to exit. At the doorway, Crater turns to Kirk:

CRATER

It's been Nancy so often for me...  
it's almost become her. She  
loves me just as Nancy did.

Crater is gone, followed by McCoy and Spock.

ANGLE ON ALARM LIGHT

BLINKING RED, ALARM SIGNALS SOUNDING

INT. SICKBAY

Kirk and Janice entering on the run. A Lab Technician, bending over Spock who lies in a dazed condition, a wound on his head... two guards in b.g.

SPOCK

It wasn't McCoy... it was the creature... he grabbed me... Crater took my phaser...

(getting up:  
shakily)

I wondered about McCoy... a doubt had crossed my mind...

We hear a sharp intake of Janice's breath, and:

JANICE

Captain!

She is looking into the ward.

ANGLE AT WARD

Kirk passing Janice, hurrying into the room, CAMERA PANNING HIM TO REVEAL CRATER, on the floor. Kirk kneels quickly beside him. Spock enters, shakily. Kirk looks up.

KIRK

Dead.

(stands; to Spock,  
puzzled)

But it had you, too.

SPOCK

Fortunately, my ancestors spawned in quite another ocean than yours, Captain. My blood salts are quite different.

INT. MCCOY'S QUARTERS

McCoy standing inside the closed doorway, looking across the room. He registers fear, concern.

ON THE BED

McCoy asleep.

BACK TO DOORWAY

The McCoy there eyeing the o.s. form on the bed, then crosses quickly toward it OUT OF FRAME.



## ON THE BED

McCoy still sleeping. A form passes CAMERA, goes to the bed. It's Nancy... she seats herself there, shakes the sleeping doctor...

NANCY

(pleading)

Leonard... it's me. Nancy.

Wake up. Please wake up.

(despair)

Help me.

She is really frightened. It is not a pose. She may be an alien creature but she is in terror of her life and the human form she wears conveys this terror very well. We must feel pity for her. She is a woman in trouble. Bad trouble. She shakes him awake. He groggily blinks his eyes. He recognizes Nancy -- sits up quickly.

McCOY

(concern)

Nancy. How long have I been sleeping?

She looks at him pleadingly.

NANCY

Help me, Leonard.

McCOY

(realization)

What's wrong? You're frightened...

NANCY

Please help me. They want to kill me! Don't let them kill me!

McCOY

Who??? Easy, nobody's going to hurt you.

The door opens. Kirk eases in. He has a phaser in his hand. The door closes behind him.

KIRK

(evenly)

Step away from her, Bones.

McCOY

What's going on here, Jim?

Kirk moves further into the room.

KIRK

It isn't Nancy, Bones.

McCOY

Are you insane?

KIRK

It killed four crewmen. And now  
Crater.

McCOY

It?!

KIRK

(indicates Nancy)

The creature. Just as she killed  
Green, remember? She needs salt  
to live.

He takes his hand out from behind him. In it is the salt  
shaker. He eyes her levelly as he shakes several grains  
onto his palm and licks them off.

CLOSE SHOT - NANCY

Her nostrils twitch, sniffing the life-giving salt.

BACK TO SCENE

KIRK

My guess is it needs more.

He shakes more salt onto his palm and moves closer. Nancy  
pulls slowly free of McCoy's arms. He looks at her curiously.

McCOY

This is crazy talk, Jim. You're  
frightening her.

KIRK

Not fright, hunger.

(harsh)

Look at her!

He extends the hand with salt on it. Nancy tries to hold  
herself under control. She takes a hesitant step away  
from McCoy. Halts, looks at him imploringly.

NANCY

Leonard. Send him away! If  
you love me make him go!

Kirk moves closer. Now only about three feet separate them.  
She cannot take her eyes from the salt. She is unaware that  
McCoy is looking at her, bewildered. Now Kirk extends his  
hand.

As though hypnotized, she takes a faltering step forward.

NANCY  
(continuing, a  
lost cry)

Leonard!

And then, unable to resist her own fierce hunger she leans forward and licks the salt from Kirk's hand. He steps quickly back holding the salt shaker away from her.

KIRK  
Change, Nancy. If you want it,  
change. Show yourself!

However, he has gone too far. Tempted her too much. She makes a strange, snake-like, hypnotic gesture. Kirk, in the act of bringing up the gun, freezes. He stands like a blank-eyed statue as she steps forward and places her hands on his shoulders.

CLOSE SHOT - McCOY

Looks puzzledly at the tableau. He reacts to:

ANGLE AT DOOR - SPOCK

The door slides open to reveal Spock standing on the threshold. He takes one glance at what is happening in the room. Without hesitation he dives forward and wrests the gun from Kirk's nerveless hand. He swings the gun up to cover Nancy -- the creature. From his actions we can see that Spock is immune to the beast's powers. Being an unemotional creature himself the beast cannot take advantage of his emotional weaknesses.

TIGHT SHOT - McCOY

Reacting to Spock's strange reaction. All he can see is Kirk suddenly freezing and Spock apparently trying to kill Nancy whom he has known many years and whom he cares for very much. He moves.

TWO SHOT - SPOCK - McCOY

as McCoy launches himself at Spock, grabs his wrist and twists the gun from his hand. He sends Spock reeling backward.

McCOY  
What are you doing? What's  
wrong with you, Spock?

SPOCK  
Move! It's killing the Captain!

McCOY  
(mystified)  
Nancy killing...

HIS POV - NANCY, KIRK

Nancy stands close to Kirk with her hands on his shoulders. Kirk makes no outcry. Aside from the dazed expression he seems without pain or discomfort. Spock throws himself past McCoy and between Kirk and Nancy. He pries her hands loose from his shoulders and shoves her backward a step. Now Spock is between Kirk and the girl. Spock's voice is harsh.

SPOCK

Quickly doctor... Shoot!

McCOY

No... you'll have to prove...

The girl puts out her hands and moves toward Spock.

SPOCK

Hurry!

The girl reaches out for Spock. Incredibly, he draws back his arm and belts her as hard as he can with the full weight of his body. Aside from rocking her slightly off balance the terrible blow has no effect.

McCOY

Stop it! Spock!

Spock hits her again. No apparent result. She smiles and reaches for him.

CLOSE ON McCOY

mouth open. He is too bewildered by what is going on to do anything but gape.

ANGLE ON SPOCK

as he hits the girl again. His face is contorted with exertion... and again... and again... and again...!

SPOCK

If this was Nancy could she take this?

He belts her again. These are solid whip-like back-hand blows and they look powerful enough to drive a normal person across the room. Nancy shrugs them off... is driven back but only slightly... suddenly moves in at Spock, sends him reeling with terrible force.

SPOCK

Could she do this... It's not Nancy, is it, Doctor?

ANGLE ON McCOY

And now he begins to believe. His expression of bewilderment begins to vanish. And now he squints his eyes. What is happening?

McCOY

No!

HIS POV

as the form of Nancy undergoes a change. The IMAGE ripples and she becomes the creature. She SHIMMERS and becomes: the creature. She turns to Kirk, suction-cup tentacles quest for his face. They touch him. He screams in agony.

KIRK

aaaaaaaaghhhh!

ANGLE ON McCOY

He levels the gun. With a look of sick despair he fires. Fire crackles in an electric arc from the gun.

ANGLE - CREATURE - KIRK - NANCY - SPOCK

Kirk staggers as the spell over him vanishes. He is dazed and groggy. She straightens, impaled by the lance of electric energy:

and becomes: Nancy. Her eyes are pain-filled...

NANCY

(imploringly)

Leonard. No. Leonard! Please...!

ANGLE FEATURING McCOY - NANCY

He falters. Stares. She takes a tottering step toward him holding out her hands toward him.

Another step.

And now he brings up the gun -- his eyes dead in a gray face.

McCOY

Lord, forgive me!

He fires. The lance of energy hits her. She falls.

CLOSE SHOT - NANCY

Lying on the deck. And as we watch she becomes the dead CREATURE.

CLOSE SHOT - McCOY

lets the gun RATTLE to the floor.

CLOSE SHOT - KIRK

Getting painfully to his feet.

CLOSE SHOT - SPOCK

ANGLE

As they stand looking down at the dead creature. Kirk puts his hand on McCoy's shoulder.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BRIDGE

All officers are at their consoles. The walls and screens pulse with light. The ship HUMS. Captain Kirk sits in his position behind the Navigator and Sulu at their double console. Mr. Spock stands at his station behind and to the right of Kirk. Communications Officer Uhura cranks up the gain with a play of fingers on her console. All hands look forward at the main viewing screen.

INSERT - MAIN VIEWING SCREEN

On it, Planet M-113 slowly rotates on its axis.

ANGLE FEATURING KIRK - MCCOY IN B.G.

SULU

Ready to leave orbit, Captain.

Kirk seems lost in thought. He doesn't hear.

SPOCK

Captain?

Kirk hears, gives him a glance.

SPOCK

(continuing;  
hesitates)

Is something wrong, sir?

CLOSE ON KIRK

A pensive expression.

KIRK

(simply)

I was thinking about the buffalo,  
Mister Spock.

(to Sulu)

Warp one, Mister Sulu.

SULU  
Warp one, sir. Leaving orbit.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

The eternal night of deep space shot with the lights of a million stars as the Enterprise breaks out of orbit and angles off.

And we:

DO A SLOW FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT FOUR

RODDENBERRY.COM