

STAR TREK

"THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES"

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STAR TREK - "Trouble With Tribbles" - Rev. 8/21/67

N O T E :

Please Change Commander Lurry
to MR. LURRY, manager of the
Space Station.

THANK YOU

8/18/67

STAR TREK

"THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES"

CAST

KIRK
SPOCK
McCOY
SCOTTY
CHEKOV
UHURA
ENSIGN FREEMAN

*

KOLOTH, A KLINGON CAPTAIN
KORAX, A KLINGON AIDE

COMMANDER LURRY
NILZ BARIS
ARNE DARVIN
CYRANO JONES
TRADER
ADMIRAL KOMACK
HELMSMAN'S VOICE
TWO GUARDS - CREWMEN OF THE ENTERPRISE
A SECURITY GUARD

*

AND KLINGONS AND CREWMAN
AT LEAST FIVE OF EACH

SETS

INT. BRIDGE
INT. BRIEFING ROOM
INT. RECREATION ROOM
INT. SHIP'S CORRIDOR
INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM
INT. LAB

*

*

CORRIDOR OUTSIDE STORAGE COMPARTMENT - INCLUDING PANEL
COMMANDER LURRY'S OFFICE
INT. BAR/STORE ON SPACE STATION

A MINIATURE OF THE SPACE STATION ITSELF

8/21/67

STAR TREK

"THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 ENTERPRISE FLYBY (STOCK) 1

2 INT. BRIEFING ROOM 2

KIRK, SPOCK and CHEKOV are seated around the table. Chekov is on the hot seat... as a young ensign, he is here to learn, and the Captain and the First Officer are now examining him to find out just how much he has learned. A lecture with questions, and it is obvious that Chekov hates it.

3 CLOSER ANGLE 3*

as Spock consults tri-screen on table.

SPOCK

Deep space station K-7 is now in sensor range, Captain.

KIRK

Good. Mr. Chekov, this flight is supposed to give you both experience and knowledge. How close will we pass to the nearest Klingon outpost on our present course?

CHEKOV

One parsec; sir. Close enough to smell them.

SPOCK

That is not logical, Ensign. Odors cannot travel through the vacuum of space.

CHEKOV

I was making a little joke, sir.

SPOCK

It was extremely little, Ensign.

KIRK

Immediate past history of this quadrant, Mister Spock?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3*

SPOCK

Under dispute between the two parties since initial contact. The battle of Donatu Five took place near here 23 solar years ago... inconclusive.

KIRK

Analysis of the disputed area.

SPOCK

Undeveloped. Sherman's planet claimed by both sides, our Federation and the Klingon Empire. Of course, we have the better claim.

CHEKOV

The area was first mapped by the famous Russian astronomer Ivan Burkoff almost two hun...

KIRK

John Burke, Ensign.

CHEKOV

Burke, sir? I don't think so. I'm sure it was...

SPOCK

John Burke was the chief astronomer at the Royal Academy in old Britain at the time.

CHEKOV

Royal Academy? Oh. Oh, well!

KIRK

Is the rest of your history that faulty, Ensign? Key point of dispute.

CHEKOV

Under the terms of the Organian Peace Treaty, one side or the other must prove that they can develop the planet most efficiently.

KIRK

And unfortunately, the Klingons, though they are brutal and aggressive, are quite efficient.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3*

CHEKOV

I remember once when Peter the
Great had a problem like that.
He...

UHURA'S VOICE

(interrupting)

Captain!

(CONTINUED)



3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

There is an urgency in her voice which causes Kirk to hammer on the intercom.

KIRK

Kirk here.

4 INSERT - VIEWING SCREEN - UHURA

4

UHURA

Captain, I'm picking up a subspace
distress call -- priority channel!
It's from space station K-71

5 WIDER ANGLE - KIRK, SPOCK, CHEKOV

5*

CHEKOV

(to Spock)

Code one emergency? That's a
disaster call.

SPOCK

Quite.

A flicker of light indicates the change.

KIRK

Go to Warp Factor Six.

UHURU'S VOICE

Aye aye, captain.

Kirk snaps off the intercom, already half out of his chair and on his way to the door. Spock and Chekov follow immediately. As they go out:

UHURA'S VOICE

(amplified;
loud speaker)

All hands... this is a red alert.
Man your battle stations. Repeat
... this is a red alert. Man your
battle stations.

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

.6 OMITTED 6

7 SHOT OF SPACE STATION 7

It hangs against a backdrop of stars -- slowly growing in size as the Enterprise approaches.

KIRK

Captain's log; Stardate 4523.3. Deep space station K-7 has issued a priority one call... more than an emergency, it signals near or total disaster. We can only assume the Klingons have attacked the station. We are going in armed for battle.

8 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE ON FORWARD SCREEN - SHOWING SPACE STATION 8

The space station rapidly grows in size as the Enterprise approaches.

9 ANOTHER ANGLE 9*

as everyone on the bridge stares forward tensely. Chekov is in navigator's position.

CHEKOV

Main phasers armed and ready.
 (looks up
 at Kirk)
 There's nothing... Just the station, sir.

Kirk reacts. He steps down and peers over Chekov's shoulder. Perhaps he reaches past him and snaps a couple of switches.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

KIRK

A priority one distress call...
and they're sitting there absolutely
peaceful...?

(turning to Uhura)

Lieutenant Uhura, break subspace
silence.

10 ANGLE ON UHURA

10

UHURA

Aye, aye, captain.

11 ANGLE

11*

Kirk gestures for her to put them on. He steps back
to his chair.

KIRK

Space station K-7, this is Captain
Kirk of the Enterprise. What is
your emergency?

LURRY'S VOICE

Captain Kirk, this is Commander
Lurry. I must apologize for the
distress call. I --

KIRK

Commander Lurry, you have issued
a priority one distress signal!
State the nature of your emergency!

LURRY

Uh, perhaps you had better beam
over, I -- uh -- I'll try to
explain...

KIRK

... You'll try to explain...? You'd
better be prepared to do more than
that. Kirk out.

He starts toward the door, issuing orders as he moves.

KIRK

(continuing)

Mr. Chekov, maintain battle readiness
... Uhura, have the transporter
room stand by... Mr. Spock, I'll
need your help...

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

Kirk waits for Spock to join him at the elevator. They step into it as we:

CUT TO:

12 TRANSITION SHOT - SPACE STATION

12

Enterprise hanging motionless nearby.

CUT TO:

13 INT. LURRY'S OFFICE ON THE SPACE STATION

13*

LURRY, BARIS and DARVIN; Kirk and Spock materialize. Kirk is furious as he begins talking to Lurry as soon as materialization is complete.

KIRK

Commander Lurry, if there is no emergency, why did you order a priority one distress call?!

BARIS

(stepping
into shot)

I ordered it, captain!

LURRY

Captain Kirk, this is Nilz Baris -- he's out from Earth to take charge of the Development Project for Sherman's Planet.

KIRK

And that gives you the authority to put a whole quadrant on a defense alert...?

DARVIN

(stiff and stuffy)

Mr. Baris is the Federation Under-Secretary in Charge of Agricultural Affairs in this quadrant!

Kirk reacts -- bureaucracy is still bureaucracy. He peers at Darwin, curiously.

BARIS

This is my assistant, Arne Darwin.

(a beat)

Now, captain, I want all available security guards. I want them posted around the storage compartments.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

KIRK
(angry, puzzled)
Storage compartments? What storage
compartments?

DARVIN
The storage compartments with the
quadro-triticales.

KIRK
The what? What is...
(stumbling over
the word*)
... quadro-triticales?

*Pronounced quadro-tritti-cay-lee.

Darvin sniffs audibly at Kirk's ignorance. He pulls a sample of the grain out of a container. He hands it to Baris who hands it to Kirk. Kirk glances at it only briefly, then hands it to a curious Spock. Spock examines it.

KIRK
(continuing)
Wheat. So what?

BARIS
Quadro-triticales is not wheat,
captain! I wouldn't expect you --
(glancing at Spock)
-- or your First Officer -- to know
about such things, but --

Spock, who has been quietly watching all this:

SPOCK
Quadro-triticales is a high-yield
grain, a four lobed hybrid of
wheat and rye... a perennial,
also, if I'm not mistaken... The
root grain, triticales, can trace its
ancestry all the way back to Twentieth
Century Canada, when --

Kirk making no effort to conceal his amusement:

KIRK
I think you've made your point,
Mr. Spock.

Spock pauses and looks at Kirk. He gives Kirk the familiar Spock stare. He was just getting to the interesting part.

(CONTINUED)

LURRY

(interrupting)

Captain, quadro-triticales is the only Earth grain that will grow on Sherman's Planet. We have several tons of it here on the station, and it's very important that that grain reach Sherman's Planet safely. Mr. Baris thinks that Klingon agents may try to sabotage it --

KIRK

(irked - to Baris)

You issued a priority one distress call because of a couple of tons of -- wheat?!

DARVIN

Quadro-triticales.

Kirk starts to look at Darwin, but he is not worth it.

BARIS

(coming in fast -
on top of Darwin's
line)

Of course, I --

Kirk has the patience of a saint -- unfortunately, Baris has exhausted it.

KIRK

Mr. Baris -- you summoned the Enterprise here without an emergency! Now, you'll take responsibility for it! Misuse of the priority one channel is a Federation offense!

BARIS

I did not misuse the priority one channel! I want that grain protected!

LURRY

Captain Kirk, couldn't you at least post a couple of guards?... We do get a large number of ships passing through...

SPOCK

It would be a logical precaution, captain. The Sherman's Planet affair is of extreme importance to the Federation...

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13*

Kirk looks at Spock as if to say "Blast your logic!"
However, Spock is usually correct, so...

KIRK
(chagrined; taking
out his communicator)
Kirk to Enterprise.

UHURA'S VOICE
Enterprise here.

KIRK
Secure from general quarters. Beam
over two and only two security
guards. Have them report to
Commander Lurry.
(a beat)
Also, authorize shore leave for
all off-duty personnel.

UHURA
Yes, captain.

KIRK
Kirk out.

He puts away the communicator. Baris is upset,
because Kirk has only authorized two.

BARIS
Kirk! Starfleet Command is
going to hear about this... A
mere two men!

Kirk looks at Baris for a long moment.

KIRK
(finally)
I have never questioned either
the orders, or the intelligence
of any representative of the
Federation...
(pause, looking
at Baris)
... until now.

Leaving a speechless Baris and Darwin, Kirk exits,
followed by Spock.

CUT TO:

13A
thru OMITTED
13C

13A
thru
13C

13D INT. BAR/STORE - ANGLE ON KIRK AND SPOCK

13D*

Like a Western general store, this is a combination of two or more functions. Primarily it is a bar with a few tables and a bar against one wall, but a few extra props behind the bar should suggest that TRADER also runs a general store type of establishment. Kirk and Spock are at the bar, just putting down empty glasses. Kirk is shaking his head as he puts down the glass, looks at the wheat he holds in his hand.

KIRK

... summoned a starship on a priority A-1 channel to guard some storage compartments.

(starts away)

Storage compartments of wheat!

SPOCK

Still, Captain, it is a logical precaution. The Klingons would not like to see us successfully develop Sherman's Planet.

He and Spock are crossing toward the door on his last line. Uhura and Chekov enter, followed separately by CYRANO JONES. Uhura and Chekov wait to meet the Captain, but Jones crosses past them to the bar beyond where he will engage the Trader.

KIRK

(to Uhura
and Chekov)

I see you didn't waste any time going off duty.

UHURA

How often do we get shore leave?

CHEKOV

She wanted to shop... and I wanted to help her.

KIRK

Mister Chekov.

(holds out wheat)

What do you make of this?

CHEKOV

(takes it eagerly)

Quadro-triticales! I've read about this, but I've never seen any of it till now!

(CONTINUED)

13D CONTINUED:

13D*

KIRK

Mister Spock, does everyone know
about this grain, but me?

CHEKOV

Not everyone, Captain. It's a
Russian invention.

Kirk gives up... shot down in flames by nationalism
again. As he and Spock start to exit, Uhura and Chekov
move toward the bar.

14
thru OMITTED
16

14*
thru
16*

17 ANGLE ON CYRANO

17*

Cyrano Jones is arguing with the Trader. He has a great
amount of merchandise on the counter. Obviously, he has
been trying to sell it to the Trader, and the Trader has
obviously been very stubborn.

TRADER

No! I don't want any. I told you
before, and I'm telling you again.

Chekov and Uhura approach and wait for the Trader's
attention.

TRADER

(continuing)

I don't want any Spican Flame Gems.
I already have enough Spican Flame
Gems to last me a lifetime.

Cyrano shrugs. He starts to open his carryall sack to
put them away.

CYRANO

(pityingly)

How sad for you, my friend...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17*

CYRANO (Cont'd)

(hopefully)

You won't find a finer stone
anywhere...

The Trader is frowning.

CYRANO

(continuing;

hastily)

Ah, but I have something better...

(picking a vial
off the counter)

Surely, you want some Antaran Glow
Water...

TRADER

(deadly monotone)

I use it to polish the flame gems.

By this time Chekov and Uhura are watching interestedly.
Cyrano sweeps most of his other stuff back into his
sack.

CYRANO

(sighing)

You are a most difficult man to
reach...

Picking up something off the counter... it is a
green-gold ball of fluff, a tribble.

CYRANO

(continuing)

Surely, you want...

TRADER

(although he
is interested)

... not at that price.

UHURA

(catching sight
of the tribble)

Oooh, what is it?... is it alive...?

(taking the tribble)

May I hold him? Oooh, he's adorable!

(to Cyrano)

What is it?

CYRANO

What is it? Why, little darlin',
it's a tribble...

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

UHURA
 (softly)
 ... a tribble?...

CYRANO
 (continuing over)
 It's only the sweetest little
 creature known to man -- exceptin'
 of course, yourself...

UHURA
 (laughing; she is
 not taken in by
 the flattery)
 Oh!... Oh! It's purring!

18 VERY CLOSE ANGLE ON TRIBBLE

18

The tribble in the lieutenant's hands purrs and throbs.
 It is a ball of green-gold fluff about the size of a
 large bean bag. Its purr is soft and high pitched
 like a dove's cooing.

19 ANGLE

19

CYRANO
 Ah, little lady, he's just sayin'
 that he likes you.

UHURA
 He's adorable. Are you selling
 them?

TRADER
 That's what we're trying to decide
 right now.
 (he glares at
 Cyrano)

CYRANO
 (to Trader)
 My friend... ten credits a piece
 is a very reasonable price... You
 can see for yourself how much the
 lovely little lady here appreciates
 fine things...

TRADER
 (an offer)
 A credit a piece.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19*

Chekov, asking Cyrano, as he takes the tribble from Uhura; he has put his grain on the counter: some spills out.

CHEKOV

He won't bite, will he?

Cyrano, making a great show out of ignoring the Store-keeper:

CYRANO

Sir! There is a law against transporting harmful animals from one planet to another, or weren't you aware of that...? Besides, tribbles have no teeth.

TRADER

(trying to attract
Cyrano's attention)

All right. I'll double my offer.
Two credits.

Cyrano, taking the tribble from Chekov and plopping it on the counter in front of the Trader:

CYRANO

Twice nothing is still nothing...

The Trader looks down at the tribble... he looks at Cyrano.

TRADER

(eyeing the tribble)

Is he clean?

CYRANO

(eyeing the Trader)

He's as clean as you are.

(a second look)

I daresay a good deal cleaner...

While they have been talking, the tribble has been inching along on the counter, toward the grain. It now reaches it.

UHURA

If you don't want him, I'll take him. I think he's cute.

Cyrano and the Trader both notice this. Trader is annoyed. Cyrano beams.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19*

TRADER
(to Cyrano)
All right. Four.

CYRANO
Is that an offer or a joke?

And meanwhile, the tribble begins munching on Chekov's grain.

TRADER
That's my offer.

CYRANO
(starting to leave)
Well, I can see that you're not interested...

He reaches for the tribble -- the Trader stops him.

TRADER
All right... five...

Cyrano, returning quickly now that the Trader is talking money:

CYRANO
My friend -- I'll tell you what I'll do for you. I can see that you're an honest man... I'll lower my price to eight and a half.

TRADER
You're talking yourself out of a deal. Six. Not a cent more.

CYRANO
Seven and a half.
(no response)
Seven.
(still no response)
All right, you robber. Six.

19A INSERT - TRIBBLE

19A

happily munching on the grain; i.e., the grain is disappearing under it as the tribble throbs and croons contentedly.

19B BACK TO SHOT

19B

TRADER
When can I have them?

(CONTINUED)

19B CONTINUED:

19B

CYRANO

Right away.

He starts pulling tribbles out of his sack.

UHURA

(to Trader)

How much are you selling them for?

TRADER

(already counting
his profits)

Well, let me see now... six credits
... figure a reasonable markup for
a reasonable profit... ten per cent
markup... ten credits...

20 INSERT CYRANO

20

CYRANO

(under his breath)

Thief!

21 ANGLE

21*

TRADER

In fact, I'll sell you this one --

CHEKOV

Hey! He's eating my grain!

Quickly Chekov moves to rescue what is left of the grain;
fortunately tribbles are slow eaters.

TRADER

(picking up the
tribble)

That will be ten credits --

Cyrano, taking the tribble from the Trader, indig-
nantly:

CYRANO

Sir!!! That happens to be my
sample. And it is mine to do
with as I please... and I please
to give it to the pretty little
lady, here...

UHURA

Oh, I couldn't --

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

CYRANO

I insist.

TRADER

That's right. Ruin the market.

CYRANO

Hah! Once the pretty little lady here starts to show this little precious around, you won't be able to keep up with 'em.

He gallantly hands the tribble to Uhura as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

22 KIRK AND SPOCK IN BRIEFING ROOM - MED. ANGLE

22

Perhaps each has a cup of coffee, when a wall panel or desk panel BLEEPS.

KIRK

Kirk here.

UHURA'S VOICE

Message from Starfleet, captain. Priority channel. Admiral Komack speaking.

KIRK

Transfer it in here, lieutenant.

A pause... then the screen on the table lights.

22A INSERT - VIEW SCREEN

22A

ADMIRAL KOMACK appears, seated at his desk.

KOMACK

Captain Kirk.

KIRK'S VOICE

Here, sir.

KOMACK

Captain, it is not necessary to remind you of the importance to the Federation of Sherman's Planet. The key to our winning of this planet is the grain, quadro-triticales. The shipment of it must be protected.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22A CONTINUED:

22A

KOMACK (Cont'd)
Effective immediately you will
render any aid and assistance
which Under Secretary Baris may
require. The safety of the grain
-- and the project -- is your
responsibility. Starfleet out.

22B BACK TO TWO SHOT

22B*

KIRK
(beat)
Now that's just lovely.

SPOCK
But not entirely unexpected.

The panel BLEEPS again.

UHURA'S VOICE
Captain Kirk! Captain Kirk!

KIRK
Kirk here. What's the matter,
Lieutenant?

UHURA'S VOICE
Sensors are picking up a Klingon
battle cruiser -- rapidly closing
on the station!

23 TIGHT SHOT ON KIRK

23

as he reacts.

KIRK
Contact Commander Lurry. We're
on our way.

24 ANGLE

24

as he and Spock race for the door, not even waiting
for Uhura's acknowledgement.

24A INT. CORRIDOR

24A

Kirk and Spock exit into corridor, run for an
elevator.

CUT TO:

25 OMITTED

25*

26 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

26*

as Kirk enters the bridge, followed by Spock.

KIRK

(to Chekov)

What's that Klingon ship doing now?

CHEKOV

Nothing, Captain. He's just sitting there... a hundred kilometers off K-7.

UHURA

I have Commander Lurry.

KIRK

Put him on visual, Lieutenant.

Kirk steps to his chair.

KIRK

Commander Lurry, there is a Klingon war ship hanging one hundred kilometers off your station...

26A INSERT - VIEWSCREEN

26A*

Past Chekov. Lurry is in his office.

LURRY

I do not think that the Klingon are planning to attack us.

26B ANGLE ON KIRK

26B*

KIRK

Why not?

26C INSERT - VIEWSCREEN

26C

WIDENING ANGLE to reveal the Klingon Commander KOLOTH and his aide KORAX also in the office.

LURRY

Because at this moment, the Captain of the Klingon ship is sitting here in my office.

(CONTINUED)

26C CONTINUED:

26C*

Kirk reacts, covering his shock.

KIRK
We're beaming over.

He and Spock start to leave the bridge as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

27 OMITTED 27*

27A EXT. SPACE - SHOT OF SPACE STATION 27A*

KIRK

Captain's log, Star date 4524.2.
A Klingon warship is hovering only
a hundred kilometers of deep space
station K-7, while its Captain
waits in the station commander's
office. Their intentions are
unknown...

28 INT. SPACE STATION - LURRY'S OFFICE - CLOSE SHOT 28*
ON KOLOTH

Koloth is the Klingon commander and like the last
Klingon commander that we saw, he is an evil-looking
S.O.B.

KOLOTH

My dear Captain Kirk, let me assure
you that my intentions are peaceful.

CAMER PULLS BACK to a FULL SHOT, revealing Kirk, Spock,
Lurry, and -- if we can afford them -- two KLINGON AIDES.
Kirk and Spock are on one side of the room. The Klingons
are on the other. Lurry is caught in the middle.

KOLOTH

(continuing)

As I have already told Commander
Lurry, the purpose of my presence
here is to invoke shore leave rights.

Kirk and Spock exchange glances.

KIRK

Shore leave?

KOLOTH

Captain -- Klingons are not as
luxury-minded as Earthers. We do
not equip our ships with non-essentials
... We have been in space for five
months and what we choose as recreation
is our own business.

(pause)

Under the terms of the Organian Peace
Treaty, you cannot refuse us.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28*

KIRK

The decision is not mine to make...
Commander Lurry is in charge of
the station.

LURRY

(aside to Kirk)

Kirk, I don't want them here -- but
I have no authority to refuse...

KIRK

I have some authority to act --
and I'm going to use it.

(to Koloth)

All right -- you can give your men
shore leave -- but no more than
twelve at a time... and I promise
you this, Koloth -- for every one
of your men on this station, I'll
have at least one security guard
... there won't be any trouble...

KOLOTH

Captain Kirk, no formal declaration
of hostility has been made between
our two respective governments. So,
of course, the nature of our
relationship will be a peaceful one...

KIRK

Let us both take steps to make sure
that it stays that way...

The Klingon bows stiffly, politely. He turns on his
heel and exits. Korax follows. Kirk, Lurry and Spock
exchange a worried glance.

DISSOLVE TO:

29 ENTERPRISE - HANGING MOTIONLESS IN SPACE

29

CUT TO:

30 INT. RECREATION ROOM OF SHIP

30

Kirk and Spock enter. There are a few crewmen in the room. SCOTTY is at one table, reading. The other people in the room are in a knot around the other table. Kirk moves over to Scotty. Spock moves towards the knot of people.

31 CLOSER ANGLE - KIRK AND SCOTTY

31

Kirk moves up and peers at the title of the tape that Scotty is reading. It is a page reflected on a screen.

KIRK

Another technical journal?

SCOTT

Aye, why shouldn't I?

KIRK

Mr. Scott, don't you ever relax?

SCOTT

(puzzled)

But I am relaxing...

Kirk nods -- of course you are -- he moves over toward the group of people.

32 ANGLE

32

McCOY and Uhura are in the f.g. of a knot of people. On the table is one larger tribble and at least ten smaller ones. They are playing with them. It is the quality of their playing that will make the tribbles seem alive.

McCOY

(to Uhura)

How long have you had that thing, lieutenant?

UHURA

Only since yesterday. This morning, I found that he -- I mean she... had had babies.

McCOY

I'd say you got a bargain...

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32*

He picks up one of the tribbles and examines it curiously. Spock does likewise.

McCOY
(continuing)
... hmmm...

SPOCK
Fascinating.

Kirk moves up to the group.

KIRK
Lieutenant Uhura, are you running a nursery?

UHURA
I hadn't intended to... but the tribble had other plans

Spock absent-mindedly begins stroking his tribble. This is a bit of business which should be underplayed.

KIRK
You got this at the space station?

Uhura nods.

SPOCK
A most curious creature, captain. Its trilling seems to have a tranquilizing effect on the human nervous system.

Kirk raises an eyebrow at Spock, who is absently stroking the tribble.

SPOCK
(continuing)
Fortunately, I am of course, immune to its effect.

Kirk grins at him, turns to leave. Spock comes out of it, realizing he is petting the tribble almost hypnotically, puts it down. He follows Kirk out during:

McCOY
(to Uhura)
Lieutenant, do you mind if I take one of these things down to the lab to find out what makes it tick?

UHURA
It's all right with me, but if you're planning to dissect it, I don't want to hear about it. (CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32*

McCOY

Lieutenant, I won't hurt a hair
on his head. Wherever that is.

McCoy exits with a medium sized tribble.

ENSIGN FREEMAN

Say, Lieutenant, if you're giving
them away, could I have one too?

UHURA

Sure, why not? They seem to be
old enough.

The crewman takes one eagerly -- others also help
themselves.

CUT TO:

32A INT. CORRIDOR - KIRK AND SPOCK

32A*

Kirk and Spock round a bend, pause as:

CHEKOV'S VOICE

(filtered)

Bridge to Captain Kirk.

KIRK

(goes to button)

Kirk here.

CHEKOV'S VOICE

Mr. Baris is waiting on Channel E
to speak to you, sir.

KIRK

Pipe it down here, Mister Chekov.

CHEKOV'S VOICE

Aye sir. Mr. Baris is coming on.

KIRK

Kirk here. What is it, Baris?

INTERCUT Baris in Lurry's office and Kirk in corridor.

BARIS

Kirk! This station is swarming
with Klingons!

KIRK

I was not aware that twelve Klingons
were a 'swarm,' Mr. Baris.

(CONTINUED)

