

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE 1

The jeweled beauty of billions of star systems, sparkling nebulae, hydrogen clouds swirling in awesome vastness. The silent, mind-bending infinity of space. And then, suddenly this serenity is shattered by:

2 A KLINGON HEAVY CRUISER 2

slicing across the scene with the CAMERA HOLDING on it just long enough to ESTABLISH the unique Klingon starship design. It streaks through the velvet blackness, beginning to diminish into a pinpoint of light. But immediately following it are two more Klingon ships racing after the first one, all three starting to close together into a loose formation.

3 THE KLINGON SHIPS 3

The first ship and then the other two into a graceful, soaring turn at the top of which they each FIRE PHASERS. In each case, the deadly, searing thin PHASER bursts are aimed at the same distant point FAR OUT OF OUR VISUAL RANGE.

4 ANOTHER ANGLE ON KLINGONS 4

The first ship passing, again FIRING PHASERS at the same unseen distant point. Then, second and third Klingons appear, start FIRING PHASERS. But this time, an unusual looking EFFECT comes into sight from the point where the Klingons have been aiming. Growing in size, coming toward the cruisers more and more rapidly, it becomes a sudden TURBULENT WHIPLASH OF ENERGY, its awesome force is unlike anything we've ever seen! It hits the third cruiser with frightening EFFECT, the Klingon vessel becoming an IMPLODING FIREBALL which quickly becomes a vessel skeleton and then nothingness.

5 THE REMAINING TWO HEAVY CRUISERS 5

The TURBULENT WHIPLASH strikes at these cruisers too, misses. The Klingon cruisers FIRE PHASERS again at the unseen adversary. The phaser fire has hardly left the Klingon batteries when we SEE the strange WHIPLASH OF ENERGY again -- this time it strikes the second Klingon cruiser which is destroyed in about the same way.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

Part of the same WHIPLASH has glanced off the destroyed cruiser, causing heavy damage to the last remaining Klingon cruiser. CAMERA CENTERS AND MOVES IN on this surviving Klingon vessel which is badly hurt, trying to evade destruction.

6 INT. KLINGON BRIDGE

6

Damage everywhere, SPARK-FLARING short circuits, EXPLOSIVE fire, Klingon bodies. The SCIENCE OFFICER is still alive in b.g., working at a console viewer. In f.g., the Klingon CAPTAIN, wounded, supporting himself by a command pedestal, is looking directly TOWARD (CAMERA) his own viewer, fighting for strength as he transmits:

KLINGON CAPTAIN
... severely damaged, returning
fire. I repeat... Commander
Barak of Imperial Cruiser Amar
... in battle with intruder
vessel of unknown origin...

An electrical ARC FLASH blinds the Captain for an instant; he shields his eyes and turns toward the Science Officer. DULL EXPLOSION SOUNDS are beginning to shake (OPTICAL) the vessel and he has to RAISE VOICE TO BE HEARD:

KLINGON CAPTAIN
(continuing)
Sensor report!

SCIENCE OFFICER
Its forcefield indicates
incredible size, mv Captain.
But our sensors cannot penetrate...

Interrupted by EXPLOSION SOUND, vessel shakes (CAMERA); the dying Klingon Captain is trying to hang on to complete his report. He turns toward a viewer (CAMERA), tries to be heard over the increasing NOISE. Weakly:

KLINGON CAPTAIN
Command, we only know... it is
unlike any... any vessel in our
experience... powerful beyond
belief...

Then, the entire picture FLARES WHITE.

7 EXT. SPACE -- THE KLINGON CRUISER 7

The Klingon vessel is still travelling at WARP SPEED as it dies, the IMPLODING FIREBALL shrinks and disappears, but our CAMERA POINT OF VIEW CONTINUES AT THE SAME SPEED, stars continuing to pass as we SEGUE INTO:

8 EXT. SPACE MONTAGE 8

CAMERA CONTINUING TO TRAVEL past a vast colorful nebula, then thru the star expanse of a vast hydrogen cloud, past more stars.

Then thru still a different nebula, more star fields. It's all brief but leaving the impression we're travelling a vast distance.

9 EXT. EARTH APPROACH 9

a point of light directly ahead, rapidly growing in size, taking shape, then becoming planet Earth. CAMERA CONTINUES hurtling toward Earth which grows within seconds from a tiny dot into the familiar blue, clouded globe which then fills the screen. CAMERA CONTINUES, PLUMMETING DOWN toward what we can recognize as the Western coastline of North America -- still travelling toward Earth so fast that the California coastline is already filling the screen, then becoming the San Francisco area coast, then our eye registers oceans and rocky beach.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. OCEAN UNDERWATER - SHALLOW ANGLE - DAY 10

PLUNGING EXPLOSIVELY into the water, JAMES KIRK knives past the air bubbles of a long dive, then he curves gracefully up through the clear blue water toward the surface again.

11 EXT. OCEAN SHORELINE SURFACE - DAY 11

Kirk coming to the surface, shaking the water from his eyes as he turns in time to see his companion ALEXANDRIA diving into the water from the same rocky coastal ledge which he has just used. Our coastline view is this rocky cliff only -- no buildings in view. Kirk and Alexandria are nude -- we limit it to "PG" since we're using nudity merely to illustrate 23rd century mature attitudes.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

As Alexandria comes to the surface, they grin at each other in the mood of children at play. But the moment is interrupted by a strange GARBLED SOUND which puzzles Kirk for an instant. But Alexandria recognizes it immediately, and chides:

ALEXANDRIA

You goat! I warned you not to wear it!

She has pointed toward his left forearm, then bends and kicks herself underwater. Understanding her gesture, Kirk lifts his left forearm out of the water and the GARBLED SOUND BECOMES THE CALL SIGNAL of the communicator clasped to his wrist.

KIRK

Damn!

(flips switch)

Kirk here...

Kirk's last word becomes bubbles as he is yanked underwater.

12 EXT. OCEAN UNDERWATER - DAY

12

Kirk grabbing at Alexandria who has pulled him underwater. Then an embrace as they drift up toward the surface. All through their SCENES TOGETHER, we'll sense that Kirk and Alexandria are (or are becoming) more than just casual lovers or friends.

13 EXT. OCEAN SHORELINE SURFACE - DAY

13

as Kirk and Alexandria break INTO VIEW, still embracing. This time, Kirk's left arm and communicator are above water and the repeating CALL SIGNAL comes through clearly. Alexandria fights to prevent him from answering but he finally breaks free and speaks into the communicator again:

KIRK

Sorry, Benyatta, I was attacked by an underwater creature.

COMMUNICATOR VOICE

Repeat, sir?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

KIRK

I said this call had better be important.

COMMUNICATOR VOICE

How would you rate a Priority One meeting, sir? Commanding Admiral's office, ten minutes.

KIRK

(into
communicator)

Priority One?

COMMUNICATOR VOICE

Affirmative, sir. About something that wiped out a squadron of Klingon cruisers.

KIRK

On my way. Kirk out.

They start swimming for the rocky shoreline.

14 SHORELINE ANGLE - LONG SHOT

14

Kirk quickly into athletic wrap-around, Alexandria into pullover; they begin trotting up a pathway toward top of the shoreline cliff.

15 EXT. CLIFF TOP AREA - WIDE ANGLE - DAY (MATTE)

15

The towering, silver-glass STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS is about a half mile away, topped by its unusual sub space communications antennas. Between here and there is countryside containing the woods and malls which will become our next SCENES. In the far distance, the distinctively pointed shape of the old TRANSAMERICA BUILDING. Everywhere else, the San Francisco urban sprawl is totally gone, replaced by lovely groves of large trees, green meadows, streams, lakes, and crystal clear air. (There still exists a small San Francisco "Living Museum" city but it is far enough away to be hidden by trees and will not appear in this story.) Here, as in much of the world, people live mostly in the climate-controlled, colorful and efficient "subterra cities." All industry and transport is now underground. Clearly Earth has become the home of a people who love and protect their living planet.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

Although it takes a moment to describe this 23rd century vista, it is actually only a BRIEF SCENE. Kirk and Alexandria have trotted INTO VIEW at cliff top, then:

CUT TO:

16 TWO SHOT - KIRK AND ALEXANDRIA

16

He hesitates at the top of the climb to adjust his wrap-around; Alexandria gives him a friendly, mocking LAUGH.

ALEXANDRIA
He's tired! Pool old space
veteran.

She breaks into a run down the path which we saw led in the general direction of Starfleet (OUT OF SHOT). He looks up sharply at the taunt, then breaks into a run following her.

17 WIDER ANGLE (SAME MATTE)

17

Alexandria headed in the direction of STARFLEET HEAD-QUARTERS. She's young, supple and fast -- Kirk will have to hurry to catch her. She is looking back over shoulder.

ALEXANDRIA
Ten minutes!
(still taunting)
You'll never make it.

18 TRAVELING SHOT - KIRK

18

as he pursues Alexandria. He calls ahead toward her:

KIRK
What's the bet, jackrabbit?

ALEXANDRIA'S VOICE
(taunting from
ahead)
Anything you can handle...

19 TRAVELING SHOT - ALEXANDRIA

19

as she calls over shoulder, putting a final insult on the end of the sentence.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

ALEXANDRIA
... desk officer!

20 EXT. WOODS AND MALLS MONTAGE - DAY

20

THE CHASE. ACTION SHOTS ONLY -- SUCH AS TRAVELING ANGLES, TRUCKING, FAST PANNING WIDE ANGLES, CLOSER ON HEADS AND LIMBS IN MOTION.

We avoid all static "Beautiful Future World" SHOTS. Instead, we SEE the 23rd century's life-fulfilling loveliness in b.g. glimpses, suggestions and impressions. We intrigue our audience, leave them wanting to see more.

Kirk and Alexandria race past a glimpse of a family picnicking -- almost collide with a pair of lovers strolling hand in hand -- then past a white-haired, distinguished older man strolling with a youth in his twenties, a son or treasured student. We SEE glimpses of many animals of the type once considered "wild" -- once a child riding atop a magnificent antlered deer past f.g.

We're impressed by the physical condition of both Kirk and Alexandria. Some of it is Starfleet training, but it also reflects the advanced holistic medicine and increased longevity of this century. Kirk is as fast as a youth in his twenties -- Alexandria is unusually agile -- and playfully dishonest as she maneuvers obstacles and even animals into Kirk's path. LAUGHTER, SHOUTS, and friendly SHRIEKS both from them and even from some people they pass. Kirk AD LIBS a shouted "Sorry!" when he almost crashes into an Artist who has attracted a delighted group of children as he uses a complex keyboard to "paint" with brilliant light on a large screen. In b.g. we SEE a glimpse of "forcefield" athletics (MAGIC MOUNTAIN BLUE AIRBAG OPTICAL). They run thru water mist as they pass a group of naked two- and three-year-old children delightedly playing a game whose boundaries are marked by some unusual sort of overhead sprinkler system.

21 EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS - DAY

21

as Alexandria races into Starfleet's paved pathways and more formal gardens. IN CLOSE TO CAMERA she stops, looks back, believing she's won.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

KIRK'S VOICE

You lose!

She SHRIEKS in surprise as his hand SLAPS her buttocks hard in the same instant he comes INTO SIGHT (DOUBLE) and does a hand-over into a tuck blackflip.

22 ANGLE ON KIRK

22

He comes out of his blackflip, stands breathing a bit hard but triumphantly as Alexandria races INTO SCENE, then suddenly stops. The direction of her gaze has Kirk suddenly realizing he has nearly run down a distinguished looking, white-haired Vice Admiral who is escorting an even more richly uniformed Alien. Kirk turns to Alexandria as he checks the face of his wrist communicator:

KIRK

We have three minutes, Lieutenant.
See that you're on time.

ALEXANDRIA

Yes, sir.

Kirk turns, AD LIBBING a "How are you, sir" to the Vice Admiral, then hurries on into the Starfleet entrance.

23 INT. STARFLEET HQ CORRIDOR - DAY

23

Kirk comes out of a small doorway, adjusting the uniform he has just quickly put on. We SEE Starfleet personnel of various ranks in various types of uniforms. Included in b.g. should be two more Aliens, one in Starfleet uniform and one in home planet costume.

SCOTT'S VOICE

Admiral!

COMMANDER MONTGOMERY SCOTT hurries INTO SCENE, joining Kirk as he heads down the building corridor. They exchange the smiles of old friends.

KIRK

Scotty! What brings you down?

SCOTT

Same meeting, sir. Emergency
of some kind?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

KIRK
(shrugs)
The Admiralty thrives on
emergencies. How's our 'lady'
doing?

24 FULL ON ELEVATOR (STAGE)

24

Kirk and Scott moving into an elevator practically
identical to starship turbolifts. Scott grins happily
at Kirk's last question:

SCOTT
She'll be out of dry-dock in
a month now.

25 INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

25

as they step inside, Kirk speaking toward the control
panel.

KIRK
Command level.

The elevator doors snap closed, the cab starts upward
as Scott continues; enthused.

SCOTT
'Re-fit, re-designed, and
re-markable.' That's how they're
describing the Enterprise, sir.

Kirk says nothing; a trace of sadness or wistfulness
now in his expression. Then elevator doors open. They
step out, move OUT OF SHOT.

26 EXT. TOP FLOOR CORRIDOR - INCLUDING VIEW WINDOW -
DAY (MATTE)

26

From this height we can SEE the tip of the peninsula
and the old Golden Gate Bridge. Kirk and Scott CROSS
to a large doorway carrying a STARFLEET COMMAND SYMBOL.
They KNOCK and go in OUT OF SCENE.

27 INT. NOGURA'S OFFICE

27

A very functional office appropriate for the Starfleet
Commanding Admiral.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

A gigantic star map occupies one entire wall -- it occasionally changes its image from one portion of the galaxy to another, blinking data denoting the locations of various vessels. Nogura's desk is at one side of the room, on the other a large holograph conference table.

NOGURA, handsome, greying 50's, is clearly tense and worried. He AD LIBS "Admiral, Commander. We'll commence immediately..." then gestures them to the conference table. As they CROSS to there, Alexandria ENTERS, takes a position at a small console to the side of the conference table. She nods, AD LIBS a "Gentlemen" to Kirk and Scott. We'll realize she's Nogura's adjutant and see that she and Kirk avoid any personal contact when on duty in here.

28 FULL ON TABLE - HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGES (OPTICAL)

28

Nogura has sat at the head of the table where he nods to Alexandria who flicks some buttons on her console. Instantly images of two other officers APPEAR IN LIFE SIZE HOLOGRAMS, each at one of the conference table positions, each officer's IMAGE life-size. Except for the slight transparency, it would be difficult to know the real people were not actually there. One is a handsome woman, ADMIRAL CARSON, the other CAPTAIN LEBUTU (a middle-aged black). Kirk, Scott and the others start to AD LIB GREETINGS but Nogura interrupts:

NOGURA

Please... we have important
decisions to make and very
little time.

(to Alexandria)

Adjutant...

Nogura nods to Alexandria who touches a control on her console panel, draws their attention to the office viewer where they SEE:

29 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWER

29

At first THE IMAGES ARE BROKEN, unclear; it's uncertain who fired first and at what. Nogura indicates the images:

NOGURA

This arrived just a few hours
ago... transmitted from one of
our monitor drones near the
Klingon border...

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

Then the Viewer Image clears and we SEE the Klingon Heavy Cruisers slicing across space in their loose formation.

SCOTT

Big ones. Koro Class.

On the viewer the TURBULENT WHIPLASH OF ENERGY comes from OUT OF FRAME, destroying one of the Klingon cruisers.

30 ANGLE ON KIRK AND THE OTHERS

30

reacting hard, almost disbelievingly. Scott AD LIBS a whispered "My God!"

31 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWER

31

on which we SEE the second Klingon cruiser hit by the incredible flash of energy, the lead cruiser caught by the edge of the whiplash, damaged and out of control.

LEBUTU

At this point our drone picked up this cruiser's command frequency...

On the viewer, the SCENE suddenly switches to the INTERIOR KLINGON BRIDGE SCENE where the Klingon Captain is looking directly TOWARD (CAMERA) his own viewer at the moment the electrical ARC FLASH has him shield his eyes and he then turns toward his Science Officer asking him for a sensor report, etc.

32 ANGLE ON THE VIEWER

32

as we CONTINUE ORIGINAL SCENE exactly with the Science Officer's reply that his sensors cannot penetrate the intruder's forcefield, then go back to the Klingon Captain attempting a final report to his command. As before, the image then goes blazing white, and then the screen goes blank. (And stays blank. No further star shots.)

33 ANGLE ON NOGURA AND THE OTHERS

33

It is taking them a moment to absorb what they've just seen. Then Nogura delivers an even greater shock to Kirk and Scott:

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

NOGURA

Whatever did that...

(grim beat)

... is headed here. Toward
Earth.

Kirk is still reacting to the graveness of this when
Carson turns to him:

CARSON

There's no doubt of it. Two
of our outpost bases have
detected something headed this
way -- both attempted sensor
scans and both were immediately
destroyed. No survivors.

NOGURA

The third confirmation came
from the University vessel
Ghandi. It just happened to
be in the object's path.

(nods grimly)

No survivors.

Again, pained reactions from Kirk and Scott. Appar-
ently, the other conferees already know all these facts.

NOGURA

(continuing)

Earth also lies exactly in its
path; arrival here, 8.6 days.
If we have to defend ourselves,
we must know more about what
we're facing.

34 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWER

34

Nogura punches console buttons, putting the appropriate
Star Map quadrant on the VIEWER. There is but a single
light indicating the presence of a UFP vessel, a lonely
ship in a vast sea. Beside the light a printout reads:
USS Aswan.

NOGURA

Our one vessel in position to
intercept -- is the Aswan.

KIRK

A light cruiser, Admiral...

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

NOGURA

I must gamble that her forcefield screens will hold up until she can transmit a linguacode peace message...

KIRK

The Ghandi would have been transmitting that, too. If it didn't save her...

NOGURA

(snaps; irritated)

I have no option, Kirk! However ... I do intend to back the Aswan up. There is one heavier vessel within interception range. (turning to Scott)
How soon can the Enterprise move out?

35 CLOSER - THE GROUP

35

Kirk and Scott glance at each other in surprise. Scott looks back at Nogura, appalled.

SCOTT

Sir, I couldn't get her out of her orbital cradle in less than two weeks...

NOGURA

(interrupting)

Commander, I don't need her tidy and polished!

CARSON

We must have the Enterprise, Commander. Her redesign makes her more powerful than all three Klingon cruisers combined.

SCOTT

But nothing's been tested! New equipment needs adjusting, balancing...

NOGURA

(interrupting)

Your comments are noted, Commander. However... Enterprise is to be operational and underway within twenty-four hours.

36 EMPHASIS ON SCOTT AND KIRK

36

There is no way for Scott to avoid the fact he's just been given a direct order. With no choice but to obey, he moves to stand:

SCOTT

I'd best be getting up there then.

NOGURA

One moment, please...
(including Kirk)
Without a shakedown cruise, we can hardly send out a crew who's never worked together...

CARSON

... which is why every available member of the old crew is being ordered aboard.

LEBUTU

And with Spock on Vulcan, I'll see they have almost his equal. Commander Ronak from my staff.

37 ANGLE ON ALEXANDRIA

37

as if sensing something. She exchanges a look with Kirk, troubled.

38 ANOTHER ANGLE (OPTICAL CHANGE)

38

Kirk looks up frowning to see that all the others are eyeing him strangely. Nogura notices this too, turns to the images of Carson and Lebutu.

NOGURA

I'll take it from here, Admiral, Captain. Thank you for attending.

Carson and Lebutu nod as Nogura motions to Alexandria who flips a control... then Carson and Lebutu IMAGES DISAPPEAR.

39 ANGLE EMPHASIZING KIRK

39

left alone in the conference with Nogura, Scott and Alexandria. Scott again makes as if to stand but Nogura waves him back into his seat. Kirk sees that the Commanding Admiral is eyeing him strangely.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

NOGURA

Captain Wah Chen is still at
Starbase Six, a week away. Who
is the next most qualified
officer?

KIRK

Bar-Lev.

NOGURA

He's never commanded a heavy
cruiser.

KIRK

He's the next qualified available.

NOGURA

Kirk! Who is the best qualified
available?

Kirk hesitates a long moment. His and Alexandria's
eyes briefly meet. Then Kirk turns to Nogura eye to
eye.

KIRK

I am.

NOGURA

(to Alexandria)

Prepare the orders.

(to Kirk)

You retain Admiral's seniority
but it's a Captain's command.

KIRK

Yes, sir.

40 ANGLE ON KIRK

40

throwing a look toward Alexandria.

41 ANGLE ON ALEXANDRIA

41

sensing his look, catching his eye, then going back
to her work.

42 ANGLE EMPHASIZING KIRK

42

Scott now standing, speaking to Kirk:

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

SCOTT

I don't know your feelings on this, sir... but you must know what mine are.

(to Nogura)

I must get up there now, sir...

Nogura nods; Scott starts leaving.

KIRK

Scotty... I'll make this announcement my own way.

Scott nods, AD LIBS "Aye, sir" and EXITS. Nogura turns to Kirk:

NOGURA

Jim... I haven't asked your feelings on this; I haven't the option of even considering them.

(eyes Kirk closely)

Are there any personal obligations we can help with?

KIRK

No, sir. There... was someone who I'd decided to discuss a marriage contract with, but... it will have to wait until I'm back.

(stands)

I should be getting aboard immediately.

43 INCLUDING ALEXANDRIA

43

Kirk turns toward Alexandria:

KIRK

Lieutenant, perhaps you'll help my office make any necessary explanations, apologies. My friends, persons close to me should be told that... that I really had no choice, no time for goodbyes.

ALEXANDRIA

(nods)

I'll see they understand, sir.

Kirk strides out of the room.

FADE THRU BLACK TO:

44 EXT. PLANET EARTH (OPTICAL)

44

several hundred miles BELOW US. At this time, we are ABOVE the North American continent, and under the thin cloud cover we can MAKE OUT the familiar, curving coast of the American West: the southern tip of Alaska all the way to Baja California. (Los Angeles is now an island.) ANGLE WIDENS SLIGHTLY TO INCLUDE:

45 LONG ANGLE ON ORBITING NAVAL YARDS OFFICES

45

Hexagonal pod cluster construction. The CAMERA STAYS with this impressive sight a long moment, the station rotating ever so slowly -- but perceptibly -- framed against the blue-black of sub space, and slightly beyond -- and below -- Earth. Then as it rotates, CAMERA ANGLE SWINGS UPWARD away from the Earth view, we SEE just a glimpse, a corner of the spidery network of the dry-dock... but nothing more of it or what is inside of it. Just enough to SEE that this HUGE intricate structure (whatever still LARGER thing it may contain) is about a half mile orbital journey from the hexagonal office structure.

46 CLOSER ANGLE - ON HEXAGONAL OFFICE CLUSTER

46

as the office cluster rotates, CAMERA CENTERING on it.

47 INT. HEXAGONAL TRAVEL POD - DAY

47

This fairly simple TRAVEL POD, moored at the moment to the rest of the cluster. Thru its hatchway we can SEE the next pod, a fully equipped, busy office -- electronic drafting equipment, PEOPLE (engineers, technicians -- some in uniform, some in civilian clothes) moving about. Thru the hatch into this next office pod there is a double position transporter chamber in which we SEE the familiar TRANSPORTER EFFECT.

48 KIRK

48

materializing in the transporter chamber. He's in starship uniform now, nods his thanks to the lovely young Female Technician who has operated the transporter controls. Scott ENTERS immediately; he and Kirk move to the travel pod.

49 ANGLE IN TRAVEL POD - KIRK AND SCOTT

49

as they step into the pod, Kirk goes to the observation port.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

Our VIEW is of Earth -- Kirk presses his face against the glass, cranes his neck to the side, looking up toward something out of our view.

SCOTT

Get my signal, sir? The Enterprise transporters are in operation now.

KIRK

I wanted a look at her this way. Mind taking me over?

SCOTT

(smiles)

I understand, sir.

(hesitates; puts out a hand)

I canna really express what's in my heart, sir. Goin' aboard her once again this way with you.

Kirk takes his hand... then it becomes a bear-hug, one man emotionally hugging the other.

KIRK

I wish I knew what was in my heart, old friend...

50 CLOSER ANGLE

50

as they release each other. Scotty, unashamedly, has tears in his eyes. Exchanging a look with Kirk, he nods:

SCOTTY

Aye.

It's all that can be said at the moment. Scott, privileged to love the mechanical realities of the Enterprise, has known similar feelings. He also knows it almost killed Kirk to turn his back on the Enterprise, put her out of his life -- and he can guess at all the mixed elation and pain Kirk feels in taking her back again even for a short time. (At the moment, whatever dangers they'll face out there isn't yet a part of the equation.)

It lasts only a moment; Scott is already turning to the simple flight controls of the pod.

51 ANOTHER ANGLE INSIDE POD

51

There are comfortable benches but Kirk remains at the observation window, takes hold of the rail-support there. He's here to see, not sit. Scott has touched the control that activates a SLIDING DOOR which CLANGS CLOSED, sealing the pod off from the rest of the complex. Scott manipulates other of the simple controls -- there is the SOUND OF JETS IGNITING and the pod JARS (CAMERA) just slightly as it MECHANICALLY UNHOOKS from the office complex, then it begins moving smoothly across orbital space.

52 EXT. THE POD

52

moving TOWARD CAMERA, away from the dry-docks office cluster, the pod's tiny jets propelling it toward the direction in which Kirk earlier had been looking. CAMERA HOLDS until travel pod DOMINATES FRAME and we SEE Scott joining Kirk at its observation port. Then the pod passes CAMERA, OUT OF SHOT.

53 REVERSE ANGLE ON POD

53

as it moves away from us, growing smaller and smaller. The orbital dry-dock and USS Enterprise are not yet revealed -- they lie off higher and to one side; Scott will use his maneuvering jets for that when it is time to swing in for the view Scotty wants to give to Kirk. Very tiny now, the pod begins to maneuver up and to one side. (Note: as the pod changes relative position, we must SEE everything outside change position together and along the same relative plane. Also, same when our CAMERA maneuvers for us.)

We are also moving toward one of the large MUSIC MOMENTS of our story.

54 THE USS ENTERPRISE

54

At first we were conscious only of the tiny pod, moving upward and laterally, CAMERA PANNING to stay with it. We keep the pod itself in LONG SHOT, very tiny, adding to the perspective we want. Then a corner orbital dry-dock is SEEN, then more of it, growing larger, larger -- then we begin to SEE and realize that inside the huge dry-dock there is something still greater and more imposing.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

THE USS ENTERPRISE BEGINS TO COME INTO VIEW, making the dry-dock seem only a fragile picture frame, inside which the awesome beauty of the starship can be appreciated.

Now, THE USS ENTERPRISE DOMINATES THE SCREEN... and our emotions.

55 EXT. POD - ANGLE ON OBSERVATION PORT

55

EMPHASIZING KIRK, peering at his ship -- the loveliest sight of his life. Indeed, she once was his life. Is she that again? Kirk's face reveals the turmoil, the torment -- and some of the ecstasy. Scott glances at him, but says nothing; there's nothing words can add.

56 EXT. ENTERPRISE - FULL VIEW - VARIOUS ANGLES

56

as the pod approaches it. We no longer need it in tiny perspective as the great starship now dwarfs everything in sight. However, the dry-dock filigree design still seems fragilely beautiful against the gracefully curved bulk of the Enterprise inside of it.

In these CLOSER SHOTS we can now SEE small automated welding devices moving along the dry-dock girders. A welding device stops, seals metal surfaces together with a brief, bright orange-white flare, then moves along again.

In other areas of the metal-lace structure, supplies and equipment are being moved for loading onto the ship.

And here and there CLOSER SHOTS MAY REVEAL TINY SPACE SUIT FIGURES OF ORBITAL TECHNICIANS working on the hull, the engine pods, the struts.

The pod moves closer to the starship, toward where we SEE an AIR LOCK the size of the pod.

57 CLOSER - ANGLE POD - AT AIR LOCK

57

The pod gently settling in next to it -- then magnetically locks close. Then the "WHOOOSH" of the airtight doors being secured, the "CLANG" of the security bolts.

58 INT. POD

58

as Scott and Kirk prepare to leave, Scott checking instruments, completing the attachment check. Over the pod INTERCOM:

LANDING OFFICER'S VOICE

(filtered)

Pod secured. Pressure equalized.

SCOTT

(turns to Kirk)

If I had my way... Captain,
there'd be sideboys, a band
playing...

KIRK

And waste one of the hours we
have left?

Scott touches the control opening the hatch which
immediately begins to slide open.

59 INT. ENTERPRISE CARGO DECK CORRIDOR

59

The entire cargo deck is apparently busy with activity as various supplies and equipment are being moved about for storage and installation. The crew uses small anti-gravs (anti-gravity devices) to effortlessly move the large or heavy containers. CAMERA CENTERS on ship interior side of the airlock as it opens fully -- Kirk and Scott emerging. They are met by a perspiring ENSIGN in utility uniform.

ENSIGN

(to Scott)

Sir, they need you in Engineering,
sir. Some damage relay problems.

(notices Kirk)

Yes, sir? Can I help you?

SCOTT

(to Kirk)

I'd better get up there, sir.

Kirk nods, and Scott hurries away. Kirk stands a moment, scrutinizing the activity. The Ensign has been waiting nervously.

ENSIGN

Pardon me, Captain. If you're
one of the inspection staff...

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

KIRK

(interrupting)

Ensign. How is all this going?

ENSIGN

Sir?

KIRK

You're in the midst of this;
you've formed opinions, haven't
you? Will she get out on
schedule?

CARGO CREWMAN'S VOICE

Make way, damn it! Shove aside!

Kirk and the Ensign push themselves against a bulkhead to let a container be wrestled past. Neither this Crewman nor his assistant take time to notice Kirk's uniform.

Ensign starts to correct the Crewman but Kirk motions him to let the matter alone.

KIRK

Can it be done in the next
twenty hours, Ensign?

ENSIGN

(considers it)

I hear some of the old crew's
on board now, sir. Sulu, Chekov,
Uhura...

(embarrassed)

Like 'storybook names' when I
was in the academy, sir. They'll
pull it off. I know I'll really
try.

KIRK

(pleased)

Then I won't detain you.

Ensign AD LIBS a "Thank you, sir" and hurries off.
Kirk moves on, eyeing everything.

60 ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK

60

as he moves through the deck, trying to keep out of
the way. A Technician nearly runs him down. Then two
REPAIR CREWMEN hurriedly carry complex-looking equip-
ment along, almost run him down from behind.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

REPAIR CREWMAN

Move it; move it, Mister...?

(recognizes Kirk)

Sorry, sir. It is you, isn't
it, Captain... Admiral? It's
been almost two years...

KIRK

(motions him to
keep voice down)

Hello, Portman.

(hand shake)

Any problems here I should know
about?

The Repair Crewman has noticed Kirk is wearing
Captain's stripes. Kirk touches a finger to lips; the
Repair Crewman guesses what Kirk means and his grin
broadens.

REPAIR CREWMAN

Sir, I'm not going to let there
be any problems. Starting right
now.

Kirk nods, AD LIBS a "Carry on" and the grinning
Crewman hurries off. Kirk moves to an elevator.

61 INT. ELEVATOR

61

as the doors snap open and Kirk enters. The doors
close; Kirk calls out his destination:

KIRK

Bridge...

The turbo-elevator begins going up. Kirk stands, grim,
a million thoughts whirling through his brain. Sud-
denly, the elevator comes to a jarring, SCREECHING halt.

62 ANGLE ON ELEVATOR DOORS

62

as they snap open and former Nurse CHAPEL backs into
the cab, guiding a packet of medical supplies being
pushed by a Medical Technician. She speaks over-
shoulder to Kirk without really seeing him.

CHAPEL

Sorry, I've got perishable
cultures here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

CHAPEL (CONT'D)
(turning to elevator
control)
Priority to Level Ten...

The Technician has backed away, remaining in the corridor as the elevator doors snap closed and the turbo-cab starts upward in response to Chapel's instructions.

CHAPEL
(continuing)
I really am sorry but if any of
this gets warm...

KIRK
Quite all right... Doctor. It
is Doctor Chapel now, isn't it?

She has turned, recognizing Kirk in near disbelief.

CHAPEL
Admiral!
(as they shake hands)
It's wonderful to see you.
Especially today. Are you
seeing us off?

KIRK
Uh... not exactly. You see...

It's interrupted by the elevator stopping and the door snapping open. Chapel is immediately busy with her load.

CHAPEL
That was a clumsy question. I
know how you must feel with
someone else taking her out.

KIRK
Well, actually...

CHAPEL
(interrupting)
I really do understand, sir.
(touching her sleeve
stripes)
At least, I'm supposed to
understand such things. On
short notice, I was the only
halfway qualified surgeon
available.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (2)

62

Chapel is being honest in this; she's awed at the sudden responsibilities she has inherited.

KIRK

Indeed, Doctor? That's exactly how they've picked the new captain.

At this moment, Chapel and her equipment have moved free and the elevator doors snap shut on her puzzled expression. Kirk smiles as the elevator continues upward.

63 INT. BRIDGE - ELEVATOR DOOR

63

as the turbo-lift door snaps open and Kirk steps out onto the bridge. CAMERA INTO MEDIUM CLOSE as he stops, looks around.

64 ANGLE PAST KIRK

64

CAMERA TRAVELING TO EMPHASIZE first UHURA who is working rapidly and expertly at the communications station sorting out and checking channels... "Hailing frequency four, check. Hailing frequency five... hailing frequency five, will someone give me a check?" At the helm, SULL has a service plate open, peering inside while he makes an adjustment... "Helm, give me a reading on four point zero zero six of full." We HEAR A VOICE responding and Sulu continues on with other readings. At the Weapons Control Station, CHEKOV is having an argument with a TECHNICIAN who keeps insisting the photon torpedoes read "ready" while Chekov argues that the computer is not relaying that information to his weapons scanner.

65 TRAVELLING WITH KIRK

65

Other n.d. Technicians at work, too. The bridge is a confusion of service panels open, spare parts lying about, some power circuits still leading across the deck.

Kirk moves beside his command position. Uhura (Lt. Commander stripes) looks up, freezes in surprise as she sees him. Then she recognizes a familiar expression on his face. She waits as:

KIRK

Viewer, please, Mister Sulu.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

SULU
(irritably)
What in hell's name...?

Sulu (Lt. Commander stripes) bites off his words, staring at Kirk, astonished. Then he wonders if he really heard the order he thinks he heard. Chekov (full lieutenant) has spun, too, astonished. The bridge begins to go silent as one after another turn to see why work and talk has stopped. Then, Kirk speaks in a normal tone:

KIRK
I asked for the main viewer,
Mister Sulu.

SULU
(puzzled)
Aye, sir.

66 ANGLE TO INCLUDE VIEWER (OPTICAL ANGLE)

66

as Sulu hits proper control. The VIEWER APPEARS. Kirk has turned to Uhura:

KIRK
All viewers, all decks, please,
Commander.

Uhura punches a communications Alert button on her console. We HEAR the ALERT SIGNAL SOUND THREE TIMES before she releases it. Then, she speaks into her console microphone. We HEAR her VOICE AMPLIFIED as:

UHURA
All decks, attention.

67 INT. VARIOUS ENTERPRISE LOCATIONS

67

Included here and later will be Corridors, Engineering, Sickbay, Transporter Room, Briefing, Recreation, etc. All of them look in about the same untidy and rushed condition as the places we've seen. In all of them, crew members are pausing, some in annoyance, to look up at viewers:

UHURA'S VOICE
(amplified)
This is the bridge. Now hear this. Now hear this.

68 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING VIEWER

68

On which we SEE (FROM deck viewer's POV) VARIOUS ANGLES of crew and technicians waiting. Kirk speaks to Uhura:

KIRK

'Captain to crew.'

UHURA

(disbelieving)

Sir?

But nevertheless, she touches a communications control and the VIEWER DECK IMAGES are replaced by the IMAGE OF KIRK.

KIRK

Stardate 7411.4, Starfleet Orders to James T. Kirk, posted to the temporary rank of captain...

Already interrupting are Uhura, Sulu, Chekov, making their delight LOUDLY known.

KIRK

(continuing; to
bridge crew)

At ease! Silence, all of you!
Commander!

The last "Commander!" to an almost dancing Lieutenant Commander Uhura, who looked dangerously near hugging him.

69 INT. VARIOUS ENTERPRISE LOCATIONS

69

The types of areas we saw before. On the viewer, Kirk has managed to silence his bridge crew and has turned back to the viewer to repeat and continue.

KIRK

Repeating... to James T. Kirk,
posted temporary captain, you
are appointed, charged and
required to command starship
U.S.S. Enterprise...

70 INT. ENGINEERING - SCOTT AND HIS CREW

70

We can HEAR LITTLE MORE of Kirk's words. Scott is as bad as the rest, ROARING his delight, SHOUTING the news around.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

KIRK'S VOICE

... and are so charged at your
peril to obey in letter and spirit
... Signed: Commanding Admiral,
Earthbase, Starfleet.

71 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE ON KIRK

71

facing viewer, completing his "reading in" requirements.
Even on the enclosed bridge we can HEAR approving
SHOUTS coming from every deck, division and section.
Kirk has to fight to keep his voice even and level.

KIRK

Attention, this is the Captain
speaking... attention...!
(toward helm)
Mister Sulu, sound red alert!

Sulu hits the RED ALERT button... the RED ALERT LIGHTS
begin flashing, the special ALERT KLAXON BEGINS SOUND-
ING ALMOST DEAFENINGLY:

72 VARIOUS ANGLES ON OTHER DECKS

72

as the RED ALERT LIGHTS and KLAXON SLOWLY SUBDUE the
NOISE. It takes awhile. Meanwhile, on the viewer
we SEE Captain Kirk waiting, insisting on silence
before he continues. Finally he gets it, begins in
some anger.

KIRK

Starships do not operate on the
basis of approval or applause.
Even...

(it's hard to say
this)

Even affection, you will find is
often a painful luxury. Those of
you who have lost comrades in
space... will know my meaning.

(more firmly)

I will overlook this incident
this single time... and I caution
you that the next time you see or
hear a red alert signal, your
life and this vessel will be in
peril.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

KIRK (CONT'D)
(hesitates; then)
We will leave orbit in exactly
nineteen point three-four hours
... all class A and B systems
will be fully operational.

73 INT. BRIDGE

73

Kirk turning toward Uhura.

KIRK
Bridge out.

Uhura, who has found her way back to her communications console, hits the control that fades Kirk's image from the viewer. Sulu also is at his position, hitting the control which REMOVES MAIN VIEWER.

74 ANGLE ON KIRK

74

as he moves from the side of his command chair, sits a bit wearily. A study in command loneliness. He knows the truth... the approval and applause lifted his heart. He also knows that he needs and feels affection toward everyone aboard. But he also knows that a captain has only one paramount obligation -- to his mission and his vessel. It was so five and ten centuries before when sailing ships were powered by the wind... it is still so in ships that sail in space.

Meanwhile, the CACAPHONY of BRIDGE SOUNDS has SLOWLY BEGUN AGAIN. Uhura is back checking her various channels and frequencies; Sulu is checking helm and navigator station against a computer room readout; Chekov is back to arguing with the below decks weapons section.

75 INT. ENGINEERING - PANNING SCOTT

75

as he moves through the busy engineering areas. Stepping onto one of the small "foot lifts," he travels to another engineering deck level, CAMERA CONTINUING TO PAN HIM as he stops, SHOUTS over all the NOISE:

SCOTT
Nineteen hours! Is there any
lad or lassie here who can't
make it?

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

A couple of his crew give him grins, a couple AD LIB "No Problems!" and "We'll make it." However, a CONSOLE TECHNICIAN is having some trouble at the complex on which he works, turns to Scott:

CONSOLE TECHNICIAN
Still getting a power surge here.
I've traced it to the transporter chamber.

SCOTT
(moving in)
Let's have a look.

They begin examining the complex console interior...
Scott begins to look concerned over what he's seeing there.

76 INT. BRIDGE - LIBRARY-COMPUTER SCREEN

76

on which we are SEEING a succession of complex diagrams and equations appear. (These are aspects of new designs within the Enterprise.)

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL it is Kirk at the Science Officer station, readying information which he is punching up on the viewer. The rest of the activity on the bridge is about the same as we last saw it.

VOICE
Sir! Reporting aboard.

77 WIDER ANGLE

77

REVEALING WILL DECKER, a handsome man in his early thirties, rugged hard features -- alert, cold eyes. He wears the insignia of a full commander.

KIRK
Welcome aboard, Decker...

We can SEE that Kirk was about to offer a handshake, but something in Decker's eyes and expression stops him.

DECKER
I had just been posted to command my first vessel, sir. Are you aware you pulled me away from that?

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

KIRK

(cooly)

Yes. I needed you here.

RAND'S INTERCOM VOICE

Transporter room to Captain.

KIRK

(hitting switch)

Kirk here.

RAND'S INTERCOM VOICE

Your science officer is about to
beam aboard, sir.

KIRK

On my way.

(turns off switch;
to Decker)You might look around, get
acquainted...

DECKER

(unsmiling)

I'm sure I'll find plenty to do,
sir.

Kirk crosses to the elevator, EXITS.

78 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

78

The Transporter Chief JANIC RAND, a slim, efficient
looking woman, is at the transporter console. Kirk
ENTERS, smiles:

KIRK

Hello, Rand. Good to have you
aboard, too.

RAND

(smiles back)

Just about to bring Commander
Ronak aboard, sir. Plus an
additional computer officer
volunteer.

Chief Rand turns back to her console.

79 INT. ENGINEERING - SCOTT AND TECHNICIAN

79

at the console where we last saw them worrying about
power surges from the transporter chamber.

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

This console has been partially disassembled, Scott is examining the circuitry with the expression of the man finding the heart of the problem. He looks up.

SCOTT

Take a look!
 (indicating)
 This isn't a zero temp circuit!
 (whirls to speak
 into intercom)
 Transporter room...

At which instant, a SHORT CIRCUIT FLARE and a SHOWER OF SPARKS erupt from the disassembled console at precisely the place where Scott had been pointing. He SHOUTS OFF CAMERA:

SCOTT

SHUT DOWN TRANSPORTER RELAYS...!

ENGINEERING VOICE

Can't do it now, sir! They're
 beaming!

80 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - INCLUDING TRANSPORTER CHAMBER 80

Something definitely wrong in the chamber where the beaming EFFECT is awry, a pair of human forms FLUTTERING IN AND OUT OF PARTIAL MATERIALIZATION. At her panel, Chief Rand works frantically at the control, calling toward the microphone:

RAND

Starfleet, pull them back!

STARFLEET VOICE

(overlapping)
 Enterprise, disengage, disengage...!

Kirk has quickly stepped in, ready to help. Then toward microphone:

KIRK

Our transporter is disengaged,
 Starfleet; pull them back on
 your override...

(reacts at
 transporter chamber
 sight)
 Oh, my God...!

81 ANGLE ON TRANSPORTER CHAMBER

81

The human forms FLUTTERING IN AND OUT OF PARTIAL-MATERIALIZATION seem to grow more and more misshapen with every look. One is a VULCAN, full commander; the other (if we can recognize her) is LT. ALEXANDRIA. They materialize just enough for us to HEAR a WAILING SCREAM OF PAIN.

82 KIRK, RAND AND CHAMBER

82

as Kirk and Rand, working at the controls together, free the transporter chamber of the images.

KIRK

(into microphone)

Starfleet, this is Enterprise.

Did you regenerate your patterns?

STARFLEET VOICE

(shaken)

We've... gotten them back,
Enterprise...

From the transceiver hookup with Starfleet we HEAR in background there a CRY OF SURPRISED HORROR, also a FEMALE VOICE BEGINNING TO SOB.

STARFLEET VOICE

(continuing)

What we've pulled back isn't very
pretty. Fortunately for them...
they didn't live.

83 CLOSER ON KIRK AND RAND

83

Kirk looks more shaken than at any time we can remember. It takes him a moment to firm up his voice, then he asks for confirmation of what he already fears:

KIRK

The officer beaming up with
Commander Ronak...?

RAND

(nods)

A Lieutenant Alexandria Keys,
sir. The Commanding Admiral's
adjutant. She'd volunteered,
talked him into it I suppose...

(CONTINUED)

83 CONTINUED:

83

KIRK
(voice croaks)
Thank you... Chief...

Kirk starts for the exit.

84 INT. CORRIDOR - TRAVELLING WITH KIRK

84

as he ENTERS SCENE, moves down the busy corridor, eyes open but unseeing who and what passes. He bumps into a TECHNICIAN who throws Kirk a questioning look.

TECHNICIAN
Watch it, Captain...

Kirk almost walks into a coil of power cable, the puzzled Technician reaching out to guide Kirk past it.

85 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE IN DRY-DOCK - FULL SHOT

85

the ship looming huge inside the delicate, filigreed dry-dock. We NOTE the welders are gone, and supply pods are floating away from the ship. The orbital space office is in the f.g. and now we SEE that the girders are slowly rising -- so they will be out of the way of the ship. (This might resemble a 20th century drawbridge in principle.) The little jets spurt from the supply pods as they move away from the ship, and the girders open more and more and we SEE that shortly the big ship will be free.

86 INT. BRIDGE

86

Kirk is at the Science Station, still shaken by what just happened. The others know of the incident, but not of Kirk's personal loss. He watches the cold-eyed, young COMMANDER DECKER punching in program procedures. All other bridge personnel are occupied with their tasks, too. The navigational station is still empty.

DECKER
I'm now Science Officer. Is that it, sir?

KIRK
(nods; subdued)
Unless Starfleet finds a last minute replacement.

(CONTINUED)

83 CONTINUED:

83

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(nods; subdued)
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(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

UHURA

Captain, do I respond to the
dockyard signal?

KIRK

What's that?

UHURA

(puzzled)

I reported we're clear to pull
out at your discretion, sir.

KIRK

Fine... I mean, no! We're still
waiting for a navigator.

DECKER

We have one... if you want to call
it that.

(turns to Kirk)

She's a Deltan.

Decker says it as if it is a dirty word. Kirk eyes
him and then speaks a bit friendlier:

KIRK

Will... get the chip off your
shoulder.

Decker's expression does not change in the slightest.

DECKER

Whatever you say, Captain. You're
aware of the problems Deltans have
caused other vessels?

KIRK

Are you aware their modular mental
processes make them extraordinary
navigators?

RAND'S VOICE

(interrupting)

Captain...

87 WIDER ANGLE - INCLUDING ELEVATOR

87

where LIEUTENANT ILIA is coming onto the bridge.

ILIA

Navigator reporting aboard, sir.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

She is a breathtakingly beautiful young woman wearing the uniform of a Lieutenant (JG), a stunning figure... but also totally hairless, entirely bald except for the delicate eyebrows and eyelashes. Her face is intelligent as well as lovely. Strangely, her smooth and slender bare head is not unattractive and, in fact, carries a feeling of sensual nudity. Indeed, the whole of Ilia exerts an intense sensuality. (We will learn that this sensuality is a racial characteristic and does not come from anything Ilia purposely does.)

KIRK

I'm Captain Kirk...
(indicates)

... Commander Decker, my Executive Officer.

Lieutenant Ilia AD LIBS a "Very pleased to meet you." to both but Decker eyes her unhappily.

DECKER

I haven't seen your record files yet, Lieutenant, but...

ILIA

(understands;
interrupts)

My celibacy oath is on record, sir.

Unhappy with Decker's attitude, Kirk gives her a smile and handshake.

KIRK

Welcome aboard, Lieutenant...

UHURA

(overlapping;
delighted)

Call from transporter room, Captain... Doctor McCoy is beaming aboard!

To this point, most of the bridge interest and attention is centered on Lieutenant Ilia... but now there is a ripple of genuine excitement and pleasure at the news from Uhura. Only Sulu, seated at his helm position, ignores Uhura's announcement. His eyes are riveted a bit apprehensively on Ilia as she proceeds to her navigator station.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

KIRK

(to Sulu)

Stand by on departure.

(to Uhura)

I'm on my way down.

(to Decker)

The transporter is completely
checked out now?

Decker merely nods, goes back to his work at the library computer. Kirk represses annoyance, hurries toward the elevator.

88 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE IN DRY DOCK - FULL SHOT

88

the huge ship ready to go, the necessary girders are completely pulled aside; all supply pods and other vehicles are gone.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER

Captain's Log, Stardate 7412.1.
The transporter accident had cost
us a fine science officer. No
one aboard is aware that I also
suffered a personal loss and
tragedy. The arrival of my old
friend Leonard McCoy will help
make that fact more endurable.

89 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - CHIEF RAND, KIRK AND CHAMBER

89

as we HEAR the GENERATING HUM of the BEAMING PROCESS
BEGINNING.

RAND

Commander Scott pinpointed
exactly what went wrong,
Captain. There'll be no
problem this time.

We SEE the familiar BEAMING EFFECT begin in one of the chambers. But instead of McCoy, another form materializes. He is young, long-haired, in his early twenties, wears a dusty, hand-loomed old robe which extends from neck to ankles. His feet are bare. We'll learn later that his name is XON. At the moment, his long hair hides most of his features.

XON

Permission... to come aboard?

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

89

KIRK

Who the hell are you? Where is
McCoy?

XON

In response to the first question,
sir, I'm a crew replacement whose...
(indicates robe)
... 'unusual' costume derives from
the fact I was beamed to Starfleet
directly from furlough in the
Eastern...

KIRK

(overlapping;
irritably)

Was there a ship's surgeon down
there?

XON

(very seriously)

There was an officer who instructed
me to beam up first, sir. I believe
his words were: 'Let's first see
how it scrambles your molecules.'

KIRK

(nods)

McCoy.

Now the GENERATING HUMMING AGAIN and then the familiar
BEAMING EFFECT.

90 ANOTHER ANGLE - MCCOY

90

as he fully materializes. He looks around as if in
pleased surprise that he is still in one piece. CAMERA
PANS McCoy from the transporter chamber to Kirk.

KIRK

What happened? For a man who
said he'd never return to
Starfleet...

MCCOY

(interrupting;
snapping)

What happened, my dear Captain,
is that our revered Commanding
Admiral invoked the emergency
conscription clause...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

90

McCOY (CONT'D)

... which was fraudulently slipped
past me when I foolishly volunteered
as a young doctor.

(eyes fall on Xon)

And as long as I am ship's surgeon...

(to Kirk)

... temporarily, believe me...

(to Xon)

... I am directing you, young man,
to destroy that unhealthy, smelly
garment and report for duty in
something approaching regulation
attire and appearance. Do you
understand?

XON

Yes, sir.

Xon EXITS; McCoy turns back to Kirk, eyeing him sourly.
Kirk offers his hand:

KIRK

Bones... I need you.

McCoy takes Kirk's hand, meaning to allow him just a
brief handshake. But Kirk refuses to let it go at that
and McCoy softens somewhat as the handclasp and the
look in Kirk's eye reaches him.

KIRK

(continuing)

Do you know anything about what
we're facing?

McCOY

(nods; shrugs)

Win or lose, I suppose I can
stand all this for a week or
so.

91 ANGLE TO INCLUDE TRANSPORTER CHIEF

91

as Kirk turns in that direction.

KIRK

If there's anyone else coming,
get them up fast. We're pulling
out.

Kirk and McCoy begin exiting.

92 INT. ENTERPRISE MONTAGE - DEPARTURE SCENES 92

Crew personnel hurrying to their assigned stations; one after another, emergency BULKHEADS CLANG CLOSED. These should be SHORT FAST CUTS orchestrating the rising tempo of activity which will now take us away from the dry-dock cradle.

93 INT. BRIDGE 93

All flight positions manned, Kirk in his command seat as we HEAR a KLAXON ALERT. Kirk turns to his microphone.

KIRK

(AMPLIFIED)

Bridge to all decks stand by for departure.

SULU

Helm ready, sir.

ILIA

Orbital departure on plot, sir.

UHURA

Naval yard command signaling clear, sir.

XON'S VOICE

Reporting for duty, sir.

This non sequitur in the chain of departure orders brings everything to a halt.

94 ANOTHER ANGLE - REVEALING XON 94

who has just arrived by elevator and is CROSSING IN. He wears the uniform of a Lieutenant Junior Grade of Ship's Science Department. Most surprising of all... and now being noticed by Kirk and the others... his long hair is now trimmed, revealing the characteristic facial structure and pointed ears of a Vulcan. Also, now he looks even younger (and we might detect he is not as entirely confident as his cool Vulcan manner seems to indicate.) He has moved to where Commander Decker sits at the Library-Computer console.

XON

Science Officer Xon, sir. Shall I take over?

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED:

94

Decker is so astonished he moves aside without having a chance to really think about it. Xon takes over the Science Officer Console position. Now he has second thoughts:

DECKER

You're what?

XON

(already busy at
controls)The replacement Science Officer,
sir.

Kirk is a bit astonished, too, at Xon's arrival. He forces his attention back to the helm.

KIRK

Ah... go to maneuvering jets,
Mister Sulu.

SULU

Maneuvering jets, sir.

95 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE

95

Again, DOMINATING THE SCREEN as it begins moving away from the dock. The girders are completely open now, we can SEE the maneuvering jets operate as the great starship begins edging out of its orbital cradle. Now the front of the saucer is clear, majestically moving ahead -- and now the main hull is clear -- and then the engine pods.

96 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE FOR MAIN VIEWER

96

with all hands at their stations concentrating on departure. The exception is Chekov who is still working on dismantled controls at his weapons station.

KIRK

Main viewer!

ILIA

Main viewer, sir.

97 ANOTHER ANGLE

97

as MAIN VIEWER APPEARS.

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED:

97

On it we can SEE a portion of the dry-dock ahead, orbital space and twinkling stars beyond.

SULU

Vessel reads clear of dry dock,
Captain...

KIRK

Hold station.

SULU

(working controls)
Maneuvering jets to station-
keeping, sir.

KIRK

(into intercom)
Engineering... stand by on main
engines.

98 INT. ENGINEERING SECTION

98

Here in Engineering Section we can FEEL the STARSHIP'S THROBBING, SLOWLY BUILDING UP to a LOW THUNDERING SOUND. A dim red glow from the central unit indicates anti-matter intermix is now underway.

SCOTT

Standing by and ready, sir.

The entire engineering section shudders slightly as the great engines draw more and more power; the red intermix glow increases. Scott places his palm against the wall behind him, feels the engine's pulse, smiles with pleasure.

SCOTT

(continuing)

Aye. I know you can't wait, you
marvelous darlings...!

99 INT. BRIDGE

99

Kirk hesitates just an instant, seems to hold his breath -- and so does everyone else. And then:

KIRK

All ahead. Mister Sulu. Warp
point five.

100 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE

100

as the maneuvering jets turn off and the engine pod discs begin glowing -- the Enterprise begins moving,
CAMERA TRACKING HER.

(CONTINUED)

100 CONTINUED: 100

She moves away, faster and faster, she is into velvet black space -- and in another instant is but a speck on the orbital horizon, blending in now with the myriad of sparkling stars.

101 INT. BRIDGE 101

All hands tense with the drama of the moment -- moving off into space.

SULU
Warp point five, sir.

KIRK
Departure angle on the viewer,
please.

102 PAST KIRK TO THE VIEWER 102

as, instantly on viewer we SEE the cloud-laced image of Earth (OPTICAL). A ball of blue and white, smaller and smaller before our eyes -- dwindling to a point of light. After another moment:

KIRK
Viewer ahead, standard.

And, instantly, on the viewer we SEE IMAGE SWITCH ahead to the familiar STAR TRAVEL EFFECT. Kirk flicks on the intercom:

KIRK
(continuing)
Engineering... she feels good.

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE
That she does, sir. She's a beauty.

KIRK
(a beat)
Stand by to go into Warp Drive.
(to Sulu)
Ahead, Warp One, Mister Sulu.

SULU
(exhilarated)
Accelerating to Warp One, sir.

Everyone waits tensely -- and then we HEAR the INCREASING SMOOTH THROB on the ACCELERATING ENGINES. There's a gentle SHUDDER as Sulu announces:

SULU
(continuing)
Warp point seven... point eight
... point nine...

103 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE 103

SHOWING ship steaking along -- and then the WARP DRIVE OPTICAL EFFECT.

104 INT. BRIDGE 104

as the same WARP DRIVE OPTICAL EFFECT appears, and then suddenly all is quiet, and normal.

SULU

Warp One, Captain.

Everyone suddenly relaxes. Kirk smiles -- the first we've seen since he came aboard.

105 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE 105

the WARP DRIVE OPTICAL EFFECT giving way to our normal TRAVEL BACKGROUND with the occasional nearby stars whipping past rapidly.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER

Stardate 7412.3. Now at Warp Three, Commander Scott reporting that new intermix balancing is required for any further acceleration. Crew efforts have been... herculean. Commendations are appended to this log report. However, despite every effort...

106 INT. BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE 106

Kirk is with Chekov at the still partially disassembled weapons control console. They are in discussion of some aspect of circuitry and we SEE Kirk signal to Uhura who makes some adjustment at her station, then Kirk and Chekov nod and wave a "thanks" as it produces some desired effect where they are working.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER

... I would rate our vessel's operation level at having reached only 40% of design capacity. Work continues.

107 THE HELM

107

where Sulu is making some minor adjustments -- he pulls back suddenly as Ilia leans in his direction to reach one of his controls. She smiles at Sulu; he ignores it, goes back to work. It's clear he's very apprehensive over this Deltan female next to him.

108 ANGLE AT LIBRARY-COMPUTER STATION

108

where Xon feeds programming into his computer. In b.g., elevator doors snap open and Decker ENTERS the bridge. Seeing Xon at work, he crosses over and watches for a moment. Then he frowns protestingly, indicates:

DECKER

Lieutenant, you're erasing those tapes....!

XON

Yes, sir.

As Xon continues, Decker blocks the young Vulcan's hand.

DECKER

It took me several hours to assemble those programs...

XON

(looks up at Decker
squarely and
unblinkingly)

Functioning as Science Officer, sir, requires my intimate familiarity with each program circuit in this system. To achieve this, sir, requires a complete programming of my own.

Decker is nonplussed at Xon's aplomb, struggles to control his temper.

DECKER

I hope you know what you're doing, Lieutenant.

XON

So do I, sir. I am completely familiar with the theory of this station and its functions, however, since this is my first operational assignment...

DECKER

(interrupting; aghast)

What?!

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

108

XON

(explaining patiently)

This is my first assignment since
Academy graduation, sir...

DECKER

(horrified)

You've never served on any vessel...?

XON

That was the meaning of my statement,
sir. However, since graduation four
months ago... I have prepared myself
for an assignment such as this by
fasting and meditation in a
monastery in the mid-Orient region
of your planet...

Decker turns, crosses rapidly to where Kirk works with
Chekov.

XON

(continuing)

... and although operated by humans
it had many Vulcan-like qualities...

109 ANGLE AT WEAPONS STATION

109

as Decker moves in, his expression indicating shock and
disbelief at what he's just heard.

DECKER

Captain, are you aware this is our
so-called 'Science Officer's' first
shipboard assignment?

Kirk looks up, takes in Decker's expression. Then Kirk
nods. Then he indicates a point of circuitry to Chekov:

KIRK

There's a cross-over built in the
circuitry here if...

DECKER

(interrupting)

You are aware of it, sir?

KIRK

(nods)

Last-minute emergencies make for
calculated risks, Mister Decker.
His file shows he has a unique
academic record; he's a Vulcan;
I'm accustomed to having their
logic...

110 ANGLE ON XON

110

at his console. In b.g., an exasperated Decker has raised his voice and Xon OVERHEARS:

DECKER

You're accustomed to Commander Spock, sir. That's far from a Spock over there!

111 KIRK AND DECKER - XON IN B.G.

111

Kirk looks up sharply, irritated. He checks to see if Xon has overheard but Xon appears to be absorbed in his work.

DECKER

Sorry, sir...

KIRK

Take the con, Mister Decker.

112 ANGLE ON UHURA

112

as Kirk walks toward the exit. She calls out:

UHURA

Captain, we have contact with the light cruiser Aswan. Viewer linkup within the hour.

KIRK

I'll be in my quarters ---

The words are not out of Kirk's mouth when all at once the ALARM SIREN SOUNDS -- and the computerized warning VOICE SPEAKS:

COMPUTER VOICE

(terse, flat)

Collision alert...! Collision alert...!

Kirk has whirled back to the command center, stands behind Decker, who sits in the chair.

KIRK

Main viewer...!

(to Xon)

Sensor reading...!

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED:

112

XON
Navigational deflectors and
scanners are inoperative, Captain.

KIRK
(disbelieving)
What?!

Meanwhile, the viewer, we SEE a HUGE ASTEROID: it is relatively small when we first SEE it, but it grows increasingly large. (NOTE: Until turned off by Sulu, the SIREN and the collision warning VOICE will continue: "Collision alert...! Collision alert...!")

113 ANGLE ON CHEKOV

113

as he quickly re-assembles some of his station consoles and punches some buttons on it.

CHEKOV
Attempting to activate phasers,
Captain...

114 ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORING DECKER AND KIRK

114

as Decker reacts, calls to Sulu:

DECKER
Hard to port...!

SULU
The helm is not responding...!

DECKER
Manual override...!

KIRK
Belay that order, Mister Sulu!
(to Chekov)
Lock on phasers; prepare to fire.

CHEKOV
Main phasers ready. Locked on
target.

On the screen the asteroid LOOMS LARGER AND LARGER,
directly in the ship's path.

KIRK
Fire...!

115 EXT. SPACE - ANGLE PAST ENTERPRISE ONTO APPROACHING ASTEROID 115

the oncoming asteroid is several miles in diameter, rushing closer.

116 INT. BRIDGE 116

with all peering at the monster asteroid that now seems to occupy the entire screen. Chekov is now punching other controls.

KIRK
Fire, Mister Chekov!

CHEKOV
No response, sir...! I'll have photon torpedoes armed in a minute, sir...

KIRK
Mister Chekov, we don't have a minute.

Chekov continues to work at great speed.

117 ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORING THE VIEWER 117

as all can do nothing but stare helplessly at the screen, the asteroid rushing at them which surely will now smash them into a pulp.

CHEKOV
Photon torpedoes away!

118 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND ASTEROID 118

The huge rock literally FILLS THE SCREEN, so close that it's jagged peaks and valleys are clearly VISIBLE. The photon torpedoes seem to float toward it, almost too slowly... then strike the asteroid, which disintegrates into a thousand fragments.

119 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER 119

the fragments hurtle in TOWARD US, but bounce away, shooting into space as the deflectors block their path. But the bridge quivers with the power of the impacts. As one final gigantic fragment strikes the deflectors, the ship shudders.

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED:

119

Then it is over. The screen is blank but for the passing STAR EFFECT.

KIRK
Damage report.

CHEKOV
No damage reported,
sir.

SULU
The helm is responding
now, sir.

CAMERA PANS ACROSS TO Xon.

KIRK
Full report, Mister
Xon.

XON
All systems now
operating, sir.

KIRK
Mister Xon, why weren't all
systems operating thirty
seconds ago?

XON
(unemotional)
I had temporarily disengaged
them from the main computer,
sir.

Kirk cannot believe what he is hearing; he strains to
keep his voice calm and level.

KIRK
I'd like an explanation, Mister
Xon.

DECKER
You disengaged navigational
deflectors and phaser controls?

XON
In order to synchronize them.

Decker throws Kirk a look... then angrily stalks away,
refusing to take any further part in this.

XON
(continuing;
to Kirk)
It was the fastest and most
efficient way of reprogramming,
sir. By odds of slightly over
eleven thousand to one, we
should not have encountered that
emergency.

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (2)

119

Kirk is so horrified he is speechless.

XON

(continuing)

I see now that I was in error to risk even those odds. I am certain it occurs to you that Mister Spock would not have made such an error.

KIRK

(eyes Xon, then)

You would not be wise to make that comparison, Lieutenant.

XON

Your human emotions make the comparison between myself and Mister Spock inevitable, Captain. I merely wanted to assure you that I understand and it does not trouble me.

KIRK

You're not troubled?! I am troubled, Mister Xon, very troubled.

(to Decker)

Mark Mister Xon formally reprimanded.

120 ANGLE ON XON

120

Despite his stoic Vulcan exterior, we can see that this hurts.

XON

Yes, sir. I have expected to make errors. I will strive to keep these errors few and diminishing to a near zero level.

121 WIDER ANGLE

121

as Kirk starts to leave the bridge.

DECKER

Are you leaving me the conn, sir?

(CONTINUED)

121 CONTINUED:

121

KIRK

(snaps)

I gave it to you earlier, Mister Decker.

DECKER

You took it back, sir, by overruling my order to Mister Sulu.

Kirk now gives Decker the same kind of look he's been giving Xon. Then he turns to the helm.

KIRK

Mister Sulu, you have the helm.
(to Decker)

And perhaps you'll join me in my cabin, Commander.

Kirk turns, crosses to the elevator with Decker following him. Then Kirk turns again toward Uhura.

KIRK

(continuing)

Have Doctor McCoy join us there, please.

UHURA

Aye, sir.

Kirk and Decker board the elevator and the doors snap closed.

122 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS

122

as McCoy and Chapel ENTER. Kirk is seated; Decker is standing, ill at ease. McCoy indicates Chapel to Kirk.

McCOY

Mind? I asked my colleague to come along.

CHAPEL

(smiles to Kirk)

'Colleague' is a relative term, sir. If sickbays still used bedpans, I'd still be emptying them.

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED:

122

KIRK

Still, you were ship's surgeon
for a while. Didn't the demotion
bother you?

CHAPEL

Titles don't heal patients,
Captain.

(exhibits her hands)

These do.

DECKER

(to Kirk, stiffly)

Would you like me to return
later, sir?

McCoy throws Decker a quick, curious look.

McCOY

What's eating you, Decker?

DECKER

(annoyed)

Nothing is 'eating me,' Doctor,
it's a private matter between
the Captain and myself.

McCOY

Oh? Too personal even for a
physician?

DECKER

It's a... a ship's command
problem, Doctor.

McCOY

Excellent! Command problems
are my specialty.

DECKER

(angrily, to Kirk)

Captain, I object to this casual,
mocking approach to a matter I
consider extremely important...
perhaps even critical to the
ship's safety.

KIRK

Which is precisely why I invited
medical here. Any dispute between
first and second in command is very
much their business.

123 ANGLE EMPHASIZING DECKER

123

as he wrestles with the decision, finally decides "why not." He faces Kirk squarely.

DECKER

A few minutes ago you very nearly steered us straight into an asteroid.

KIRK

Continue.

DECKER

The manual helm control I ordered would have put us well out of the asteroid's path.

KIRK

Agreed, if this were a light scout vessel.

DECKER

In my opinion, we would have made it, sir. While your counter-order to use phasers was very nearly fatal.

KIRK

Are you saying I should have anticipated the phasers being out?

DECKER

Yes, Captain. With another system out, it became possible the weapons system was out, too.

It is a good point, and Decker knows he's scored.

KIRK

You're quite right, Decker. I should have considered that.

DECKER

(stiff)

May I be excused, sir?

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED:

123

KIRK

In just a moment, Commander.

(turning to

McCoy)

Which is one reason I wanted you in on this. I've been almost two years out of that center seat. I'm almost certainly stale. Plus...

Kirk takes a moment to select his next words. Then:

KIRK

(continuing)

... plus, I had no idea how much I've missed being there. I never expected to sit there again.

McCoy waits puzzled.

CHAPEL

Yes, I understand.

(to McCoy)

I had never expected to practice as a physician again.

(to Kirk)

There are mind-bending emotions in suddenly returning to one's profession.

KIRK

(nodding)

And it can create errors.

Exactly.

(to Decker)

Therefore, you will continue to closely monitor my command performance and make regular reports to our chief medical officer.

DECKER

Sir! You can't be serious. If you're suggesting I carry reports about you to the Doctor...

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED: (2)

123

KIRK

I'm not suggesting it, Commander.
I am ordering it.

DECKER

(hesitates,
nonplussed, then)
Yes, sir. And Lieutenant Xon?

CHAPEL

(warmly)
Our Vulcan? He is sweet, isn't
he!

McCOY

(to Decker)
I'm afraid my colleague is not
without her blind spots.

DECKER

(ignoring McCoy;
to Kirk)
Well, sir? He could kill us
all.

KIRK

(smiles)
As you pointed out, so could I.

At that instant the intercom light flashes and its
AUDIO SIGNAL is HEARD.

UHURA'S VOICE

Bridge to Captain Kirk...

KIRK

(to intercom)
Kirk here.

UHURA'S VOICE

Sir, we have viewer contact
with the Aswan.

KIRK

On our way!

Kirk leaves, an unsmiling Decker follows. McCoy and
Chapel gaze after them, bemusedly.

124 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE ON THE VIEWER

124

with the image of COMMANDER SADAR, young, sternly rugged and very grim. Kirk and Decker arrive, Kirk getting a "transmission okay" nod from Uhura. He faces the viewer.

KIRK

Hello, Sadar. This is Kirk and the Enterprise...

SADAR

(nods)

Delighted you're near, 'Big E.' Per orders, we're making no sensor scans. Transmitting linguacode on all hailing frequencies. No response.

KIRK

We're closing on you fast, Commander. When you get a visual, do not, repeat do not close in on object.

SADAR

Affirmative; on visual contact we will hold relative position...

Now, a LIEUTENANT comes INTO SCENE with Sadar, very excited and upset as he interrupts:

LIEUTENANT

Sir! We have a visual.

(turns to hit

a control)

Switching it to main viewer...

Sadar's eyes are opening wide with incredulity as something comes on main viewer... the lieutenant looks that way (TOWARD CAMERA) too, his expression duplicates the Commander's astonishment, disbelief.

KIRK

Commander, what is it?

SADAR

My God...!!!

And suddenly Sadar's image on the viewing screen is bathed in an eerie green glow that quickly envelopes the entire screen and becomes white now -- whiter and whiter.

(CONTINUED)

124 CONTINUED:

124

There is NO SOUND, only the blazing whiteness of the viewer. And then, just an instant later, it is blank.

Kirk and the others peer incredulously at the now blank viewer. Then:

KIRK

Navigator -- adjust course
for intercept.

(to Sulu)

Increase to Warp Seven...

(to Uhura)

Communications, inform
Starfleet Command of the
Aswan's probable destruction,
and that we are proceeding
to IP at present warp
maximum.

ILIA

I have their position,
sir. Laying it in now.

SULU

(into intercom)

Engineering, stand by
to accelerate.

(then to Kirk)

Increasing to Warp
Seven, sir.

XON

Forward scanners now
picking up
indications of
wreckage, sir.

UHURA

Standing by on subspace
to Starfleet, sir.

(then)

Aye, sir. Dispatching
message.

125 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE

125

at Warp speed.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate 7313.3.
The U.S.S. Aswan is definitely
gone... our forward scans have
identified the wreckage. Vessel
performance increasing. I
estimated we are now...

126 INT. ENGINEERING - SCOTT

126

watching concerned as we SEE as well as HEAR SOUNDS of
INCREASED POWER. Then he turns to an engineering
panel, begins to close down some switches. During
which:

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED:

126

KIRK (V.O.)

... operating at seventy percent of design capacity. Commander Scott is closing down secondary systems to bring our forcefield...

127 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER

127

In response to Scott's action, bridge LIGHTS LOWER IN INTENSITY. On viewer, stars rushing past. Chekov is hurrying in to man his weapons defense console. Two other CREW MEMBERS are also ENTERING to man emergency secondary consoles. During which:

KIRK (V.O.)

... protection to full strength. The question now is... can our new defense systems withstand whatever destroyed the other vessels.

128 PANNING DECKER

128

as he continues making a circuit of the bridge consoles and readings, doing his job as "Exec" by making certain that the vessel and crew are functioning at maximum efficiency and in accord with the captain's orders. A feeling of tenseness pervades the entire bridge.

129 ANGLE ON KIRK - XON AND SCIENCE CONSOLE IN B.G.

129

Kirk in his command position, eyes on main viewer, contemplating his next decision. In b.g., Decker's circuit has brought him now to Xon. Decker reacts hard as he sees the position of Xon's hands.

DECKER

Lieutenant! Get your hands off those sensors!

XON

(coolly; without moving hands)

Merely standing by on them, Commander. It is only logical the Captain will request them soon.

Kirk has turned toward the two. Then, quietly, calmly:

(CONTINUED)

129 CONTINUED:

129

KIRK

Mister Decker gave you an order,
Lieutenant. Take your hands
off those controls.

Xon removes his hands. Meanwhile, Kirk moves his head to indicate Decker is to join him at the command position. Decker moves in beside Kirk. They speak quietly, privately:

KIRK

(continuing)

Everyone's nerves are on edge,
Will. Shouting doesn't help.

DECKER

Sorry, sir. But he's so completely
inexperienced he might do anything.

KIRK

(nods)

But in this case, he's right.

DECKER

Sensors will advertise our
presence, sir...

KIRK

(nods)

A fair trade if we can learn
what we're facing...

SULU

(overlapping)

Forcefields now at full power,
Captain.

KIRK

Forward deflector shields, Mister
Sulu.

SULU

Aye, sir. Forward deflectors
up full.

Kirk turns back to Xon.

KIRK

You can begin a sensor scan,
Mister Xon.

(CONTINUED)

129 CONTINUED:

129

Xon, showing no surprise at this, immediately begins working his controls. He gets a reading, checks it, works other controls. Then suddenly an UGLY WHINING SOUND and FLARE OF INSTRUMENT LIGHTS. Xon works rapidly, CUTS OFF THE FLARING, works other controls. Again, the WHINING SOUND and FLARE. Xon cuts off his controls as he turns to Kirk:

XON

All scans are being reflected back, sir. Its forcefield, incredibly strong. I would speculate that the object's design and power systems are totally alien to any science we understand.

ILIA'S VOICE

We have visual contact, Captain...!

130 ANGLE INCLUDING HELM AND VIEWER

130

as Kirk and the others whirl in that direction. Ilia is touching a control which sets CROSSHAIR SIGHT on the viewer, CENTERING CROSSHAIR DESIGN on a POINT OF LIGHT directly ahead which is slowly growing in size.

131 CLOSER ON KIRK

131

as he reaches to his control panel, pushes the guard from a large red control, depresses it. Instantly, RED ALERT and KLAXON.

AMPLIFIED VOICE

Battle Stations! Battle Stations!

The KLAXON SOUNDS a few more times, as:

132 WIDER ON COMMAND AREA

132

UHURA

All decks report battle stations, sir.

133 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWER

133

The point of light still growing in size. Sulu, watching it intently, makes an instrument check.

(CONTINUED)

133 CONTINUED:

133

SULU

That can't be a vessel! We
couldn't see it at this distance.

134 ANGLE ON KIRK AND DECKER - XON IN B.G.

134

as they eye the oncoming, growing point of light.

XON

An object can be seen over any
distance... if it is large enough.

DECKER

If that's a ship, it would have
to be a thousand times our size!

XON

Indeed, you may have made a close
estimate, Commander...

Interrupted by ALARM SIREN.

CHEKOV

(AMPLIFIED VOICE)

Defense alert; Defense alert!

DECKER

(pointing;
overlapping)

It's firing on us!

135 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWER

135

We SEE approaching the TURBULENT ENERGY BOLT which we
earlier saw destroy the Klingon heavy cruisers. Coming
from extreme distance, it seems at first to float slowly
toward the Enterprise... then comes more and more
rapidly as it approaches.

CHEKOV

Ready to return fire, Captain.

KIRK

Negative. Stand by.

Suddenly TURBULENT ENERGY BOLT is upon us, traveling
the last few million kilometers in the wink of an eye.

(CONTINUED)

135 CONTINUED:

135

As it strikes, the main viewer becomes a furious pattern of GREEN-WHITE FLARING ENERGY, so brilliant it illuminates the entire bridge like a million volt arc (OPTICAL -- perhaps ALTERNATING WHITE AND NEGATIVE FILM). Everyone is forced to shield their eyes. Accompanied by AN EXPLOSIVE SHRILLING SOUND.

Then, suddenly it is over. Kirk instantly hits his intercom button.

KIRK
(continuing)
Engineering, report!

136 INT. ENGINEERING - WIDE ANGLE

136

In b.g., engineering personnel work at a FLARING, SMOKING panel, others are adjusting and balancing controls.

SCOTT
Eighteen percent power drain,
Captain. I'd just as soon it
dinna hit us again.

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE
(overlapping)
Hang on, Scotty, it's coming
again...!

137 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE

137

From the still growing mass of light ahead, the same TURBULENT ENERGY BOLT is now whipping toward the Starship. From this perspective, we SEE it strike, SEE THE SHAPE of the Enterprise FORCEFIELD SCREEN AND DEFLECTOR SHIELDS as these defenses WITHSTAND AND HOLD OFF THE WRITHING GREEN-WHITE ENERGY. For a while, the ENERGY BOLT seems to hang there, WRITHING ABOUT THE STARSHIP, trying to pierce its defenses.

138 INT. BRIDGE - FULL SHOT

138

as the EFFECT ends. Then a surge of reports and questions. But no panic -- none of the questions or interruptions reflect anything but trained and disciplined crew personnel doing their job.

(CONTINUED)

138 CONTINUED:

138

DECKER
We're not going to defend
ourselves, sir?

CHEKOV
Captain?!

KIRK
Negative! Hold your fire.

SCOTT INTERCOM
VOICE
Engineering to bridge,
the forcefields are
draining our power.

SULU
Down to half power on
deflector shields, sir.

UHURA
We are getting some
injury reports,
Captain.

139 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE

139

as a third ENERGY BOLT ATTACK strikes the starship.

140 INT. ENGINEERING

140

The scene reflecting growing problems and concern.

141 INT. CORRIDOR

141

FIRE flaring from a room to the side, a couple of
INJURED CREW stumbling outside. One staggers to a
control and a HISS OF FIRE FIGHTING CO₂ fills the
room and the WHITE SMOKE eddies out into the
corridor.

142 INT. SICKBAY

142

where McCoy, Chapel and a couple of Medical Techni-
cians are hurriedly treating incoming injuries.

143 INT. BRIDGE - INCLUDING VIEWER

143

The ENERGY BOLT EFFECT, crew shielding eyes, reacting.

144 KIRK AND XON

144

The young Vulcan in the midst of an explanation to
Kirk. They have to SHOUT to make themselves
understood.

(CONTINUED)

144 CONTINUED:

144

XON
... and the alien has been
transmitting to us, Captain.
I have greatly slowed down our
transceiver tapes and listen!

Xon pushes a button but over the SOUNDS Kirk can hear nothing.

145 CLOSER - KIRK

145

CAMERA TAKING HIM to Xon's position. The button is pushed again, we can HEAR a SHRILL BEEP.

XON
(shouting)
It has been trying to communicate
with us... but on a frequency close
to one million megahertz...

During which, the ATTACK EFFECTS suddenly end. With the attack's EXPLOSIVE SHRILLING gone, the bridge fills with SOUNDS of INTERCOM VOICES, AD LIBS from Chekov, Sulu, all demanding Kirk's attention. Kirk hits a button at the Science Station, speaks into a microphone:

KIRK
(still calmly but
voice AMPLIFIED)
I WANT SILENCE ON THE BRIDGE, PLEASE.

All voices are immediately stilled. We can still HEAR INTERCOM CALLS coming in. Kirk releases the button, turning to Uhura in his normal voice volume:

KIRK
(continuing)
All intercoms, off.

UHURA
Intercoms off, sir.

Uhura hits a button; the INTERCOM VOICES are stilled; Kirk turns back to Xon who is already saying:

XON
Now, even playing the alien's
transmission slower... slower...

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED:

145

Meanwhile Xon punches more buttons and we HEAR the BEEP SLOWER, then SLOWER, then slow enough to MAKE OUT a HIGH PITCHED CODED SOUND. Meanwhile, with further attack expected any moment, Kirk and Xon continue to each other rapidly:

XON
(continuing)
It is a computerized message,
Captain, not totally unlike
some of our own linguacodes...

KIRK
(interrupting)
Then if we can transmit our
message at their frequency...

146 INCLUDING KIRK, XON AND UHURA

146

Xon already hastily overlapping Kirk:

XON
Already prepared, Captain.
(toward Uhura)
Stand by to transmit.

KIRK
(overlapping; to
Uhura)
Go! Transmit!

UHURA
(hitting controls)
Transmitting, sir.

147 WIDER ANGLE

147

Chekov indicating viewer, hastily:

CHEKOV
Excuse, Captain. Another attack
coming in...

DECKER
Engineering doubts we can take
another hit, sir...

KIRK
(interrupting)
Stand by!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

147 CONTINUED:

147

KIRK (CONT'D)
(to Uhura)
Is our message out?

UHURA
(nods)
It took only an instant, Captain.

148 INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER

148

as all turn in that direction where the ATTACK EFFECT
is approaching, seeming to accelerate as it gets
nearer.

SULU
Our deflectors are gone, sir,
we're down to forty percent
forcefield protection...

Sulu trails his words in surprise as we SEE the ATTACK
EFFECT FADING INTO NOTHINGNESS just at the instant it
was about to strike again. It's gone; disappeared;
nothing strikes the Enterprise.

149 CAMERA TRAVELLING BRIDGE

149

Relief registered by Ilia, Sulu, Uhura, Chekov, all of
them.

150 KIRK AND XON

150

XON
It is apparent that they
decoded and understood our
message, sir.

KIRK
(smiles)
You know, I could take a liking
to you, Mister Xon.

XON
(startled expression)
Sir?

To Xon's pure Vulcan logic, banter is as inexplicable
as any form of human humor.

KIRK
It means I approve your ingenuity,
Mister Xon.

151 ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDING VIEWER

151

on which the alien shape is still growing in size. (In terms of space distances, approaching objects grow rapidly in size only when they become relatively near.) Kirk has turned to the helm:

KIRK

Helm, maneuver to take up a course parallel with the alien...

SULU

(interrupting)

Sir, the helm is not responding...

ILIA

Captain...!

She is indicating the viewer which shows the alien image seeming to drift off the screen. Then we can SEE by the relative change in star movement that it is the Enterprise which is turning. The star motion indicates that the Enterprise is pulled backwards toward the alien.

SULU

They seem to have taken hold of us, sir, pulling us in tail first.

KIRK

Bring view scan around; keep their vessel in sight.

ILIA

Aye, sir.

152 ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDING VIEWER

152

Ilia manipulating a control as we SEE the viewer image rotate around to include the alien OBJECT again. Star travel on viewer indicates our starship is being pulled toward the object at a quartering ANGLE. (Important so that we can have a dramatic sideways look at the alien, especially effective when we get closer.) It is nearer now, getting large enough to make out some details of its design. It is a segmented, not unattractive shape, apparently an alien starship vessel of some nature -- yet despite its attractive symmetry, it has the feeling of being something sharklike, a space predator.

(CONTINUED)

152 CONTINUED:

152

DECKER
Stand by on phasers, sir?

CHEKOV
Maybe the design's
listed in our registry.

KIRK
What?

DECKER
Wouldn't it be wise to show
some teeth?

ILIA
You'd remember if it
was. I don't think
you're aware of the
real size of it.

KIRK
(indicates screen)
Do you want to get that mad
at us again, Mister Decker?
I don't.

SULU
(nods; indicates
screen)
Wait. We're still a
long way off.

The image is getting larger, slightly faster now.
Kirk turns to Xon:

KIRK
Confirm, Mister Xon. It has a
tractor beam on us?

153 ANGLE INCLUDING SCIENCE STATION

153

where Xon is already taking readings. He looks up.

XON
We are in the grip of some force,
sir. However, since this force
is not recognizable in terms of
our science...

KIRK
(interrupting;
demanding)
Is it a tractor beam?

XON
(nods; dead
serious)
As good a description as any,
Captain. Certainly, it acts
as a tractor beam. But more
accurately, it should be called
a 'tractor-like beam.'

KIRK
That affection I was feeling for
you, Mister Xon... you do put a
strain on it.

(CONTINUED)

153 CONTINUED:

153

XON
(startled again)

Sir?

DECKER
(watching viewer)
Sir, I recommend we do something.

KIRK
(irritated;
rapidly)
You have nothing to do, First officer? Nothing to inspect,
no damage repairs, no wounded...?

Decker's face drops as he realizes he is delinquent.
Midway through Kirk's comments he has interrupted,
started for the elevator.

DECKER
(overlapping; moving
toward elevator)
Sorry, sir.
(over shoulder,
indicates viewer)
I meant about that, sir.

KIRK
I'm waiting to see what happens,
Mister Decker. Which is a very
skilled form of doing.

154 EXT. SPACE - PAST ENTERPRISE TOWARD ALIEN OBJECT

154

Differences in relative speed continuing to result in
the Enterprise being pulled in at a quartering angle
as it continues tail-first toward the alien. We're
nearing the point now where speed-distance perspective
growing much more rapidly now in relative size.

KIRK (V.O.)
Captain's log, continuing.
Emergency repairs in progress.
No major damage; no fatalities
thanks to our medical staff.
But our survival so far...

155 INT. BRIDGE - MEDIUM ON KIRK

155

watching the O.S. Viewer.

(CONTINUED)

155 CONTINUED:

155

KIRK (V.O.)
... we owe principally to a
young Vulcan... compared to
Spock, hardly more than a
schoolboy.

156 ANGLE INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER

156

The alien shape IMAGE NOW FILLING THE SCREEN.

KIRK (V.O.)
Meanwhile, the alien is pulling
us in rapidly... perhaps to
crush us against its hull.

157 ANGLE ON KIRK

157

hitting intercom button:

KIRK
Engineering!

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE
Scott here.

KIRK
If we impact, I want our anti-matter
to go. At least we can try to blow
a hole in it.

SCOTT'S INTERCOM VOICE
(grimly)
Aye, sir.

158 ANOTHER ANGLE ON KIRK

158

as McCoy ENTERS Bridge, moves to Kirk's side, eyeing
the IMAGE too. Then:

KIRK
Let's hope it's just putting
us under its wing...

McCOY
Or into its mouth?

159 ANGLE ON SULU AND ILIA

159

watching the viewer. Then:

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED:

159

SULU

That could hold a crew of a
hundred thousand.

ILIA

Perhaps just a few of them... a
mile tall.

160 EXT. SPACE - PAST ENTERPRISE TOWARD ALIEN OBJECT

160

Much closer now, larger, growing in size even more
rapidly!

KIRK (V.O.)

How many times in our five year
mission had I logged the words...
fantastic... incredible...?
But this 'Thing' we face now...
seeing its true dimensions... the
only word in my mind now is...
impossible!

Kirk's last V.O. word KEYED to the object seeming to
explode in size. OPTICAL ANGLE HOLD ENTERPRISE SAME
SIZE WHILE ALIEN OBJECT SUDDENLY FILLS OUR SCREEN AND
EXPANDS BEYOND SCREEN LIMITS, ITS DETAILS GROW LARGER,
LARGER, LARGER.

161 INT. BRIDGE

161

QUICK CUT of Kirk, McCoy, beginning to show the strain
of this.

162 ANGLE ON VIEWER

162

QUICK CUT of approaching object.

163 EXT. SPACE - ANGLE ON ALIEN

163

This time, CAMERA ANGLE on object remains unchanged,
but the Enterprise dwindling in size as it is pulled
rapidly closer. Speeding AWAY FROM CAMERA, our star-
ship grows smaller, smaller, smaller... until it is
a tiny dot in size.

164 INT. BRIDGE - PAST HELM ONTO VIEWER

164

Both Sulu and Ilia throwing a nervous look back toward
O.S. Kirk as Viewer frame can now hold only a few seg-
ments of the gigantic intruder. And it's still coming
closer.

165 KIRK AND McCOY

165

watching, almost beyond words. Kirk throws a glance back over shoulder, sees Xon is still with his back to the viewer, rows of figures and formulae flashing onto his science viewer as he continues working on decoding the alien message.

KIRK

Mister Xon, you may find this interesting.

Xon takes a look over shoulder, then goes back to his work.

XON

(calmly)

Fascinating, Captain. I should have their message decoded soon.

McCOY

(astounded)

It's not possible! He's worse than Spock.

ILIA

Captain!

166 ANGLE INCLUDING HELM AND VIEWER

166

where we SEE our starship's approach is SLOWING. On the viewer, we can SEE that the Enterprise is being moved laterally toward the front of the object. Another rapid exchange:

ILIA

We're slowing down, sir.

KIRK

Helm?

SULU

Still not responding, sir.
(looking up at viewer)

It's pulling us toward its forward section...

167 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND ALIEN

167

Our starship, tiny in comparison, being moved laterally past one of the HUGE SEGMENTS, toward the front section of the huge alien vessel.

168 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE ON VIEWER

168

The bridge perspective of this movement, the viewer
IMAGE emphasizing the complex mechanical detail of the
alien ship.

169 WIDE ANGLE - INCLUDING KIRK, UHURA AND XON

169

Kirk turning to communications:

KIRK

You're transmitting at their
frequency now?

UHURA

Yes, sir. 'Peace, love, please
state your intentions...'

XON

(interrupting)

I believe I have their language
pattern, sir. Or, at least, the
way their computer transmits it
for them.

(displaying formula
on his viewer)

Basically, four interrelating
binary systems, using the digit
eight as a prime number...

KIRK

You've decoded their message to
us?

XON

(nods; puzzled)

Mainly interrogatives, sir. As
near as I can translate: 'Why
do you not submit? What is your
interest in me? Why do you not
respond?'

UHURA

But we have responded continually.

XON

(nods)

And I have no doubt but that
they understand our signals.
Yet they ignore them.

(to Kirk)

Forgive me, I see there must be
a constant missing in this equation.

Xon goes back to work at his library computer.

170 ANGLE PAST HELM ONTO MAIN VIEWER 170

as laterally moving IMAGE shows that we are now moving past the front segment of the alien shape, moving around toward the front of that huge vessel. As the head of the vessel comes INTO VIEW, many react to the frightening sight.

171 ANGLE INCLUDING UHURA 171

reacting hard at IMAGE, interrupting:

UHURA

If those are its jaws, sir...

KIRK

Vessels do not 'eat' vessels, Commander.

McCOY

(half under his breath)

Well... almost never...

172 THE MAIN VIEWER 172

The Enterprise has stopped its motion, suspended dead center in the enormous, gaping "maw" at the front of the alien vessel. Inside, we can SEE strange FLICKERING ENERGY FIELDS.

173 PANNING CHEKOV AND OTHERS 173

reacting at what they're seeing, almost disbelieving. PAN ENDS ON KIRK, also reacting despite himself.

174 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE IN MAW OF ALIEN VESSEL 174

The gigantic alien, the Enterprise so tiny in comparison that we can hardly make out its familiar shape.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 7413.9. Three hours have elapsed; we remain suspended motionless in the alien forcefield. It has not responded to our transmissions...

175 INT. ENTERPRISE - MONTAGE 175

Repair work going on in Engineering.

(CONTINUED)

175 CONTINUED:

175

Sickbay looking less hectic now as most patients are being released; some relaxation now going on in Corridors and Recreation Room.

KIRK (V.O.)

... but neither have they injured us. While keeping our forcefields up, I have released the crew from battle stations. The alien's heading... unchanged. Earth is three point one days away.

176 INT. BRIDGE - FULL SHOT

176

Lowered restful LIGHTING, only Uhura, Ilia and Xon on duty. A pair of extremely lovely young women, dressed in not-unrevealing casual attire, FIRST and SECOND YEOMAN ENTER from elevator. It's obvious why they're up there; they're throwing looks toward Xon (who is totally absorbed at his science console). CAMERA ANGLES TO KEEP XON IN B.G. as they wander over to Uhura, AD LIB "Hello" and get one back. Uhura turns to adjust something at her console, then turns back to find both young women looking toward Xon. Uhura smiles, knowing very well why they've come up.

UHURA

We have some young Vulcan aboard, don't you think?

One of the Yeomen gives a nervous young LAUGH, nodding. In b.g., Ilia has looked and smiles as she sees the young women's focus of interest, turns back to Uhura:

SECOND YEOMAN

Would you know when... when his next 'pon far' is due?

In b.g., Xon has gotten up to check a side panel instrument -- he overhears this, turns with a look of dignified astonishment.

XON

Yeoman... are you requesting data on my mating cycle?

SECOND YEOMAN

Uh... for a friend who is... studying Vulcans.

(CONTINUED)

176 CONTINUED:

176

FIRST YEOMAN

We use rec room three. If you
need someone to talk to between
cycles.

Xon considers this, completely serious, then nods:

XON

Thank you. Perhaps a game of
quantum chess sometime.

He turns back to his work.

177 INT. KIRK'S DRESSING AREA

177

as Kirk, fully clothed, steps into the sonic-shower,
closes the translucent door. Inside the cubicle, the
SONIC SOUND and EFFECT begins. Although the trans-
lucent quality of the door shows no detail, it does
allow enough general form and color for us to realize
that Kirk's garments are literally disintegrating off
his body to be washed down the drain (where they will
be separated into their basic elements for reconstitu-
tion into other items or clothing again. An example of
how the entire Enterprise is a fully recycling unit.)

178 INT. KIRK'S CABIN

178

After a moment the sonic shower SOUND is replaced by
the WHOOSHING SOUND of some kind of drying an/or
grooming system. A few moments later, Kirk ENTERS.
He's in neat uniform, looks refreshed. We HEAR a
BUZZ SIGNAL.

KIRK

Come!

The doors snap open; Decker ENTERS.

KIRK

(continuing)

Yes, Will?

DECKER

(hesitates; then)

I'm troubled about keeping only
skeleton crews on watch, sir.
Don't you regard our situation
as critical?

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

I do indeed.

DECKER

And if something happens without stations being fully manned...

KIRK

It's a simple choice of which risk to take. If we can't move, they'll have to. And I choose not to face their move with an exhausted crew.

(smiles)

Anything else?

DECKER

The Deltan woman... now with our male crew having free time on their hands.

KIRK

(nods)

I intend to have a talk with her.

DECKER

I suppose, most of all... I'm troubled about my own performance. I was angry over your pulling me from my first chance at command. But I'm beginning to think now that I wasn't really ready for it.

KIRK

(shrugs)

You would have made quite a few mistakes. But so did all of us.

DECKER

But not everyone has a father and grandfather like mine, sir. They've made Starfleet reputations like yours. I'm... well, expected to do as well.

(small smile)

I know that's being neurotic; you'll find references to it in my psycho-file...

KIRK

(smiles)

Your files don't read that differently from mine, Will.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

178 CONTINUED: (2)

178

KIRK (CONT'D)
(stands; moves to
door smiling)
The further you get out here, the
faster you grow up. I had to.

Kirk EXITS.

179 INT. BRIDGE

179

with, first, an ANGLE ON THE VIEWER: the ominous image
of the alien, their "captor," filling the entire
screen. A constant reminder of their peril.

Ilia is at her post -- and Xon. Ilia gazing silently,
grimly, at the viewer; and Xon totally engrossed in
work at his own station. The only manned station is
Communications, and it is not Uhura here, but
Transporter Chief Janice Rand, now spelling her.

Now the elevator doors open, and Kirk ENTERS. He walks
to the control center, calling to Rand:

KIRK
Any signals, Chief?

RAND
Nothing, sir.

Kirk CROSSES to the Science Station, stands watching
Xon a moment; the Vulcan entirely oblivious to Kirk,
who after a moment speaks gently:

KIRK
Mister Xon...

Xon pays him no attention, hasn't heard him.

KIRK
(continuing; a
little firmer)
Science Officer...

Now Xon turns in his absolutely unflappable way, looks
at Kirk.

XON
The identity and nature of the
alien presents a most challenging
and enjoyable enigma, sir...

(CONTINUED)

179 CONTINUED:

179

KIRK

(interrupting)

I asked you to get some rest,
did I not?

XON

I require very little rest, sir...

KIRK

I'm acquainted with Vulcan
metabolism, Mister Xon.

XON

Mister Spock was only half
Vulcan, sir...

KIRK

(overlapping)

You will follow orders, Mister
Xon!

Xon hesitates reluctantly, then he quickly secures his station, rises, AD LIBS a "Yes sir," CROSSES to elevator where he will EXIT. Kirk watches him go... and only then does he smile.

180 ANGLE ACROSS ILIA - INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER

180

as Kirk ENTERS TWO SHOT with her at helm. He takes a look at the frightening IMAGE on the viewer, then TURNS to her as she indicates the IMAGE.

ILIA

No change, sir. Nothing to
report.

181 ANGLE ON KIRK AND ILIA

181

Kirk hesitating, choosing his approach, then:

ILIA

You have some questions. You
hope they won't offend me.

(smiles)

I quite understand.

Ilia's smile is an unusual Deltan combination of dignity and warmth. (Similar to that which only a few human have -- those who have know the security of total love all throughout their formative years.)

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

I understand a few things myself,
Lieutenant.

(returns the smile)

As a young officer, I spent some
time on your home planet.

ILIA

(startled; then
pleased)

Then you know...?

KIRK

I know that Deltan females are not
wanton, hairless whores.

Ilia LAUGHS delightedly. It is the first time she has
looked completely relaxed since coming aboard.

ILIA

Yes, I've heard the words of
that old song. How we Deltans
must have shocked our first
Earth visitors!

KIRK

In Earth's nineteenth century,
our mariners had a similar
experience with an island called
Tahiti.

ILIA

Your... 'Tahiti's' used sex as
expression, as communication...?

KIRK

(smiles)

Not as completely as Deltans.

(then serious)

Your file shows you've served
aboard Earth vessels.

ILIA

(nods)

But I still can't say I... fully
understand humans. On my world,
existence is loving, pleasuring,
sharing, caring...

KIRK

Ilia... have you ever sexed with
a human?

(CONTINUED)

181 CONTINUED: (2)

181

ILIA

No, sir...

KIRK

Here's the difference... what is 'ordinary' to you can become an extraordinary experience for a human.

(smiles)

I discovered that on your planet.

(serious)

Nature has adapted Deltans to their culture, their customs. You have 'design abilities' and skills which we aren't equipped to handle. Humans may have much to learn, but a starship isn't the place to learn lessons like that.

ILIA

I will keep my oath, Captain...

KIRK

(nods)

I know. Which is why I want you to start being yourself, Lieutenant.

(touches her hand)

I want you to be free to touch, feel, embrace... you have as much right to express yourself naturally as we have.

During which, a WATCH LIEUTENANT has ENTERED, crosses to the helm:

WATCH LIEUTENANT

Ready to take the conn, sir.

KIRK

(nods; to Ilia)

Mister Sulu's in rec room one, still a bit nervous about you. Let him know you don't bite.

ILIA

(startled)

Sir?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

181 CONTINUED: (3)

181

ILIA (CONT'D)
(then understands)
Oh, yes, I've heard that
expression.

Ilia CROSSES to elevator where she'll EXIT.

182 ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWER

182

Kirk turning to take another look at the visible IMAGE
portion of the alien ship. The Watch Lieutenant is giving
a look in that direction too. Then, turning to
Kirk, nervously:

WATCH LIEUTENANT
It should be interesting when we
finally meet these aliens, sir.

KIRK
Interesting?
(nods)
Yes, I'll settle for that,
Lieutenant.

183 INT. RECREATION ROOM

183

fairly crowded, various CREWMEN relaxing, reading. In
one corner two young ENSIGNS sit before a screen on
which is projected a computerized game, each Ensign
touching buttons and controls that manipulate the
players. The CAMERA PANS about the room, now FINDS
Sulu -- slumped in a chair, simply finding a moment's
rest. His eyes are closed -- and suddenly a pair of
(female) HANDS reach around and begin caressing his
face. He smiles, touches the hands.

SULU
Don't stop.

ILIA'S VOICE
(teasing)
I won't. Did you know that
Deltans also read thoughts,
Mister Sulu?

184 WIDEN TO INCLUDE ILIA

184

As Sulu jumps nearly a foot off the chair, spinning in
the chair to face her.

(CONTINUED)

184 CONTINUED:

184

She's smiling provocatively down at him. A number of people are watching them amusedly.

ILIA

Just following the Captain's orders.

SULU

Orders to do what?

She sits beside him, takes a hand which he tries to pull away.

ILIA

To help you feel comfortable with me. With the fact we Deltans...

(caressing)

... touch when we talk. We work so closely together, we should become friends.

(caressing more)

Which is what my hands are saying, Sulu. Will you be my friend?

And indeed, her touch, the movements, do seem to help say those words.

SULU

Did... the Captain put any limit on this friendship?

ILIA

(thinks, then smiles)

Yes. He did make me promise not to bite.

SULU

(as a joke)

He's known as a thoughtful Captain.

(looks up sharply)

Speaking of thoughts...

ILIA

(shakes head)

Deltans don't read thoughts. We feel impressions from other minds

-- forms, shapes...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

184 CONTINUED: (2)

184

ILIA (CONT'D)

(closes eyes,
concentrating)

Such as...

(smiles; shakes
head)No, we won't, Sulu. I'll keep
my oath.

Sulu is surprised; she did guess right. Now, with eyes still closed, a strange look comes over her face, a trace of fear...

ILIA

(continuing)

No, this next image isn't coming
from you! I'm frightened, Sulu...!

Interrupted by a woman's SCREAM; they both whirl in that direction:

185 WHAT THEY SEE - THE ALIEN PROBES

185

A BRIGHT FLARE OF TURQUOISE LIGHT -- and then another and then a third. Materializing out of the light are objects we'll come to know as sensor-probes.

Some hover a few inches above the floor, others move in free flight. At the same time the probes appear, the RED ALERT LIGHTS flash; the INTRUDER ALERT SOUNDS; from the intercom comes the warning:

INTERCOM VOICE

Intruder alert...! Intruder
alert...!

The probes begin moving around the room, feeling, seeing, listening. Note: These sensor-probes show absolutely no interest in the crew members. It is as if the people aboard do not exist. The only interest of the probe devices is in the vessel, its design and functions.

186 INT. CORRIDOR

186

The INTRUDER ALERT SOUNDING while TURQUOISE LIGHT FLARES become more PROBES materializing in the corridor. At the corridor's far end, Chekov ENTERS, hurrying with two SECURITY MEN.

(CONTINUED)

186 CONTINUED:

186

They pull to a halt as they see the probes and one of the Security Men pulls his phaser, aiming it. Chekov blocks his hand:

FIRST SECURITY MAN

What are they...?

CHEKOV

So if you don't know, you destroy it?

(takes the man's
phaser)Signal Security not to attack
devices unless so ordered.

FIRST SECURITY MAN

Yes, sir.

He hurries off. In the meantime, the probe or probes in sight have been completely ignoring the humans, concentrating their attention on the vessel.

187 INT. ENGINEERING

187

standing there with his assistants, Scott is glaring at three of the hovering sensor-probes which are poking into corners of the Engine Room.

SCOTT

Like we're being investigated.
(indicates)Notice? It's taking a reading
there.

Indeed, the probe indicated is over in the front of an instrument panel, definitely moving from one instrument reading to the next. Then Scott sees another probe moving close to some of his engine controls. He looks in that direction:

SCOTT

You! Touch one of my controls
and you're a junkpile!

188 INT. BRIDGE

188

Xon EXITING the elevator fast, eyes the three probes moving about the Bridge. Other personnel have raced INTO SCENE too and take up bridge console positions.

189 PANNING XON

189

as he centers his attention on the nearest probe, moves in close and watches it intently. Like all Vulcans, Xon's curiosity has him showing intent pre-occupation with anything new or mysterious. Uhura ENTERS SCENE with him.

XON

Undoubtedly sensor probes from the alien.

(indicates)

Interesting. Note that they give absolutely no attention to us. Only the vessel.

Xon reaches out to take hold of the probe.

UHURA

Careful...!

Xon grasps the probe firmly, turns it away from its intended direction. When he releases it, the probe goes back to exactly what it was doing previously.

190 INT. SICKBAY

190

with Chapel and a NURSE, surgical attire, operating on a PATIENT. And there is a probe in here too. Although the probe is interested only in the sickbay instrumentation, the Nurse is watching it worriedly.

191 EMPHASIZING CHAPEL

191

Chapel's attention is riveted completely on the operation.

CHAPEL

Eyes here!

(extending hand)

Closing wound...

The Nurse slaps a medical instrument in Chapel's hand and it begins making a SOUND as Chapel uses it.

192 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE ON COMMUNICATIONS VIEWER

192

where we SEE the outline of the vessel which includes various tiny BLINKING LIGHTS disclosing positions of the intruder probes aboard the Enterprise.

(CONTINUED)

192 CONTINUED:

192

CAPTAIN'S VOICE
See that a security man...

193 WIDER ANGLE - KIRK AND DECKER

193

watching the screen as:

KIRK
... stays constantly with each
probe. Immediate report if
they tamper with anything.

DECKER
Aye, sir.

Decker exits and CAMERA PANS KIRK to where Xon has
one of the probes firmly in his grasp, part of its
covering plate removed. The young Vulcan is curiously
examining the interior mechanism.

XON
Most unusual circuitry,
Captain...

194 INSERT - PROBE INTERIOR

194

Complex, micro-miniature combination.

XON'S VOICE
... much of it metallic
hydrogen at near absolute
zero, insulated by a tiny
forcefield.

195 BACK TO SHOT

195

as Xon expertly slips the cover plate back onto the
device.

XON
Each type of probe appears
to have a different sensing
function.

(CONTINUED)

195 CONTINUED:

195

KIRK

(to Uhura)

Any problems reported yet?

UHURA

None so far, sir.

KIRK

Cancel Intruder Alert.

(to Xon)

I see no problem with our letting them examine our ship... if they keep it to that. At least our big 'friend' has taken notice we exist.

Uhura has TURNED OFF INTRUDER ALERT; bridge elevator door opens and Chekov ENTERS carrying a new and unusual kind of sensor in his hands.

CHEKOV

'Tasha' here may interest you, sir.

196 ANOTHER ANGLE

196

It's a three (or two) legged device, rather graceful, even attractive, with an almost pearl-like small "body" and tiny antennas from which small lights are flashing in agitation now. It is also emitting almost an "animal" SQUEALING SOUND (high-pitched BEEPING).

As Chekov sets it down, the probe quickly scurries away from him, almost runs into Xon, retreats again with more SQUEALING agitation.

CHEKOV

Frightened to death of us, sir. In fact, it's the only probe that's even noticed us.

KIRK

'Tasha?'

(CONTINUED)

196 CONTINUED:

196

CHEKOV

(grins; indicates
"Tasha's" body)

The pearl shape, it reminds me
of a brooch my Aunt Tasha used
to wear.

XON

I believe it is attempting to
communicate. Fascinating.

Xon has kneeled, attempted to attract the probe to him.
Very afraid of the Vulcan, it retreats toward Kirk who
kneels, very slowly extends a hand. And very slowly,
like a wild bird, the probe tests whether or not it can
trust him.

197 EMPHASIZING "TASHA" AND KIRK

197

as he wins its confidence.

KIRK

There, you see, "Tasha." That's
my finger. Now, two fingers...
see, they walk like you do...

UHURA

(interrupts)

Captain! First Officer reports
sensor-probes attempting to
infiltrate main computer terminal!

Kirk quickly puts "Tasha" back on the deck, steps to
hit intercom button:

KIRK

Bridge to Decker, stand by,
phasers ready.

(to Uhura)

Signal the alien to withdraw probes
immediately or we'll be forced to
destroy them.

198 INT. COMPUTER TERMINAL

198

A small room in which a low ELECTRONIC HUM pervades
everything. Inset in the wall panels and consoles are
many different types of computer hookup receptacles.
(We'll gather that this is the place from which the
starship's complex of computers and memory banks can
be operated and programmed.)

Decker and two Security Men are attempting to stop
probes from attaching antennae into any of those
hook-up receptacles.

199 CLOSER ANGLE (ANIMATION EFFECT)

199

as one of the Security Men starts to pull a computer away with his hands -- then is knocked from his feet by a FLARE OF STATIC from the probe. Decker and the other Security Man are aiming their phasers at probes; Decker lifts his left arm to speak into his communicator:

DECKER

Bridge, we can't keep them from the computer much longer.

200 INT. BRIDGE - EMPHASIZING KIRK, CHEKOV AND XON

200

as Uhura turns toward Kirk:

UHURA

No response from the alien vessel, sir.

XON

(to Kirk)

Our computer banks hold information on Earth defenses, the existence of the other Federation planets, colonies...
(split hesitation)

Recommend you destroy them.

201 INT. MAIN COMPUTER TERMINAL

201

Sensor-probes very near to hooking into the main terminal, Decker growing restive.

KIRK'S INTERCOM VOICE

Destroy them, Mister Decker!

Decker aims his phaser more carefully, FIRES. DISINTEGRATION EFFECT on the sensor which vanishes.

One of the Security Men HITS ANOTHER PROBE which also dematerializes with the same EFFECT. They are carefully aiming at other probes when one of them FLARES TURQUOISE and vanishes. Then another vanishes with the same EFFECT. Decker quickly raises his communicator:

DECKER

Decker to bridge; probes are now leaving of their own accord; repeat, probes now dematerializing on their own.

202 INT. BRIDGE

202

as Kirk and the others watch the probes on the Bridge as they also dematerialize with the same turquoise EFFECT. Uhura calls:

UHURA

Other decks reporting same,
Captain. They're leaving.

203 ANGLE ON XON

203

As he sees something in the direction of Kirk's feet.

204 XON'S POV - THE "TASHA" PROBE

204

coming into view near Kirk's feet, its antenna sensors blinking, moving to climb Kirk's leg.

205 ANGLE EMPHASIZING KIRK

205

Kirk is startled, despite himself. The sensor-probe "Tasha" begins climbing his trouser leg as he watches it curiously now.

XON

I believe it has remained behind
out of curiosity over what we are,
sir.

KIRK

Where's your 'Vulcan logic,'
Lieutenant? All the aliens
need to do is transmit a
message asking that question.

206 ANGLE EMPHASIZING XON

206

as he hesitates, then:

XON

I theorize that the alien is
not interested in communicating
with us.

(indicates "Tasha")

One single probe to investigate
us... dozens of them to analyze
our vessel. Clearly, our vessel
is considered more important
than us.

(CONTINUED)

206 CONTINUED:

206

KIRK
(eyeing Xon,
impressed)
Continue. Why is our vessel so
important?

XON
Because the Enterprise is
considered the life form here,
sir. The only life form here,
in fact.

207 ANGLE INCLUDING MAIN VIEWER

207

As Kirk reacts, looks quickly toward the IMAGE of the
alien holding them. Xon nods; continues:

XON
(indicates viewer)
That is not a 'vessel,' sir;
it is a life form itself. We
are in the grip of a living
thing.

208 EXT. SPACE - FULL ON ALIEN SHIP

208

We can SEE the tiny shape of the USS Enterprise still
held by the huge alien form.

KIRK (V.O.)
Stardate (). Our
science officer has theorized
that the gigantic thing holding
us is alive, a complex living
machine which...

209 ANGLE EMPHASIZING USS ENTERPRISE

209

The starship, where we previously saw it, near normal
size with the alien shape looming incredibly large
in b.g.

KIRK (V.O.)
... believes that the Enterprise
is a life form, too. It has
ignored our messages in the belief
that humans are merely our vessel's
servo-units.

210 INT. RECREATION ROOM - ANGLE INCLUDING CHEKOV AND SECURITY GUARD 210

Chekov is posting the Security Guard at the door as he now turns in response to the SOUND of the "Tasha" probe "BEEPING" frantically.

The probe is being held by the delicate tendrill of a Vega IV tactillia plant. Although not being injured at all by the delicate tendrills of the plant, the probe is terrified by this new "organic life horror" which has grabbed it. Doctor Chapel steps in quickly, gently unwinds the tendrill -- and the tactillia plant withdraws it. Some off-duty crew personnel have gathered to watch, amused.

CHEKOV
Relax, Tasha. It's just a friendly tactillia plant.

CHAPEL
Poor thing.
("strokes" Tasha)
There, there, it's just a friendly vegetable. It won't hurt you.

CHEKOV
(grins)
'Tasha' acted the same way when she first saw humans.

Now the sensor probe begins to move across the room. Chekov follows it carefully.

CREW MAN
I'd swear the thing understands us.

CHEKOV
That's why they want it kept busy here. Our Vulcan thinks it might.

211 INT. BRIEFING ROOM 211

Kirk is at the head of the table. Xon, at the computer position. Also present are McCoy, Scott and Ilia. Xon speaks into his console microphone.

XON
Main computer on.

(CONTINUED)

211 CONTINUED:

211

COMPUTER VOICE

Main computer working.

XON

(into microphone)

Computer, you will translate
Captain Kirk's messages into
the alien's binary complex...
and you will translate the
alien's replies into shipboard
colloquial. Nothing more!
Confirm programming.

COMPUTER VOICE

Programming understood...
confirmed.

212 ANGLE EMPHASIZING KIRK

212

As he turns to his microphone.

KIRK

This is... Enterprise. I am
the small object held in your
tractor beam. I have not
attacked you. I mean you no
harm. Why are you holding me
captive?

XON

Transmitting your message, sir.

Xon hits a transmitting button and we HEAR the SHORT
HIGH SQUEAK of the high speed transmission of Kirk's
message. Almost immediately we HEAR a SLIGHTLY DIF-
FERENT TONED INCOMING SQUEAK and Xon hits a receiving
button on his console panel.

COMPUTER VOICE

Translating: Small ones such
as you have attacked me
recently. Since their attack
was senseless, they were
clearly malfunctioning. I
must determine if you are
malfunctioning too and thus a
danger to other life.

It is quite a message. All eyes go to Kirk.

SCOTT

The Klingon ships may have attacked.
But our vessels didn't.

(CONTINUED)

212 CONTINUED:

McCOY

Well... when we slap at insects,
do we always get the ones that
bit us?

Kirk nods his acceptance of McCoy's common sense. He
turns back to his microphone.

KIRK

Computer, send the following:
I have not attacked you. I am
not malfunctioning.

Xon transmits the BEEP of a message. A reply is
received.

COMPUTER VOICE

Translating: You will identify
the many tiny units which inhabit
your form. Are you aware they
exist? Do they interfere with
your functioning?

XON

Stand by, Computer.

(to Kirk)

What are we? I believe this could
be a life or death question.

Kirk hesitates, then looks around the table.

KIRK

Comments?

McCOY

Clearly, it's had no experience
with organic life forms. Its
civilization must be completely
machine life.

SCOTT

Something like us had to build its
ancestors.

KIRK

(to Ilia)

Lieutenant? Anything?

Ilia has been sitting with her eyes closed, concen-
trating. She frowns, then:

ILIA

A larger shape...

(CONTINUED)

212 CONTINUED: (2)

212

ILIA (CONT'D)

... and tiny shapes inside it.
The Enterprise and ourselves?
The larger shape is trying to
open, to reveal itself... the
tiny things prevent this...

(trying; then

shakes head)

That's as much...

McCOY

(interrupting)

Wait. Is there a feeling of
an 'infection?'

ILIA

(startled)

Yes. Yes, could be it. As if
smaller things are mindless,
harmful; they cause... disorder.

McCOY

(to Kirk)

If true, we can't admit we
control the Enterprise. We
could appear to be infectious
parasites.

SCOTT

On the other hand, lying to
that 'thing' could also be
fatal... if its brain matches
its size.

We HEAR the COMMUNICATION BEEP.

COMPUTER VOICE

Translating: I am awaiting
your explanation of the tiny
mechanisms which inhabit your
form. Respond immediately.

XON

(to Kirk)

I recommend you answer promptly,
neither lying nor revealing the
truth about us.

(CONTINUED)

212 CONTINUED: (3)

212

McCOY

We haven't time for Vulcan riddles,
Mister Xon!

XON

What I suggest is very human,
Doctor. Your race is quite
adept at... equivocation.

With more time, Kirk would have enjoyed McCoy's expression of having just been insulted. But the young Vulcan is fully serious, perhaps even envious of the human ability he mentions. Kirk turns to his microphone:

KIRK

Send the following: The tiny
units which inhabit my form...
are necessary to my existence.

SCOTT

(smiles)

Very, very good, sir!

Xon hits the transmission button, we HEAR the BEEP of it being sent to the alien. They wait, but there is no answer or further questions.

KIRK

Let's see how it handles a
question.

(into microphone)

Computer, send the following:
Is your destination the third
planet of the solar system
directly ahead.

COMPUTER VOICE

Translating; affirmative.

KIRK

Send: What is your purpose at
this destination?

We HEAR the BEEP of this message being sent. Then suddenly the entire starship begins to SHUDDER.

All registering alarm as the vessel twists and shakes, not unlike shaken in an angry grasp. In the center of the briefing table we SEE the IMAGE of Sulu appear on the viewer as he speaks from his bridge position:

SULU

Captain, the tractor beam's
tightening on us, shaking us...

KIRK

Forcefields and deflectors up
full. Stand by.

During which Kirk has heard the BEEP of the alien's
reply. Xon hits the receiving button.

COMPUTER VOICE

Translating: The planet
described is the Holy Home
of the Creator.

Kirk and the others exchange almost disbelieving looks.
The Enterprise continues to shake.

KIRK

Computer, stand by.
(to the others)
What?

SCOTT

Captain, if that colossus says
Earth is 'heaven,' let's not
argue.

McCOY

I agree. Recommend we do not
discuss... 'religion' with that
thing.

KIRK

(considering; then)
We've got to know what it means.
It's obviously what this is all
about.

(to Computer)

Encode this...

(sees expression
on McCoy's face)

As respectfully as it can be
phrased, Computer, ask how it
knows... the 'Creator' lives
there.

(CONTINUED)

213 CONTINUED:

213

We HEAR the message sent. Instantly the entire Enterprise begins to SHAKE VIOLENTLY. ALARM BELLS go off. Kirk turns back to microphone, speaks quickly:

KIRK

(continuing)

Computer, send: We... correction
... I do not deny the existence
of God...

COMPUTER VOICE

Deception... deception...
deception.

The quivering and shaking of the vessel is reaching a new level of fury as Kirk turns quickly to the microphone.

KIRK

Send the following: My home is
the same third planet ahead.

At this, the violent shaking of the starship begins to fade away. Everything goes to normal -- but with one exception. Xon and Kirk are first aware of the rapid exchange of high-pitched BEEPS of the Computer in communication with the huge alien machine. Xon begins hitting switches, speaking into the microphone strongly but without emotion:

XON

Computer off! You are violating
program!

KIRK

(overlapping)

Our computer's transmitting
to the alien! Switch off!

(hits intercom

button)

Bridge! Main computer controls
off!

XON

(reading console
data)

It is now into the ship's memory
banks, running them, sir...

Sulu's IMAGE has come onto the viewer screen.

(CONTINUED)

213 CONTINUED: (2)

213

SULU

We're unable to shut down
computer. It has locked
itself into your station!

SCOTT

(overlapping)

My God, it'll learn Starfleet
strength, Earth defenses,
everything!

Meanwhile, Scott has raced in and along with Kirk is
beating at Xon's science console, trying to break into
the circuits there.

XON

Captain, forgive me.

The Vulcan Science Officer steps in, brushes Kirk and
Scott tumbling aside. Then using his full Vulcan
strength, he clasps his fists together high over his
head, brings them down in a shattering blow on the
console. It splits into pieces, cascading in flaring
sparks and white smoke. Xon reaches into it, yanking
out the main circuitry and pressing the main positive
and negative power lines together in a cascade of
flaring sparks and white smoke. We SEE him compress
his lips together, fighting pain at the white hot
electrical arc he produces. Then the room light
dims, the equipment turns off.

214 ANOTHER ANGLE

214

McCoy leaping in, pulling the now dead power lines
from Xon's hands as the young Vulcan's knees buckle.

McCOY

Scotty, help me!

As Scott assists, Kirk hears a SHRIEK behind him. He
whirls to see:

215 ANOTHER ANGLE - EMPHASIZING ILIA

215

ILIA

I will not! No, no, I will not!
Please, I cannot...

She SHRIEKS again as she disappears in the alien
transporter TURQUOISE LIGHT EFFECT.

(CONTINUED)

215 CONTINUED:

215

McCOY

The thing's beamed her over.
It's got to be told she'll die
without oxygen, warmth...

KIRK

We can't risk communicating with
it again, Bones.

McCOY

Ilia will die!

Chekov ENTERS on a run, interrupting:

CHEKOV

Sir, the 'Tasha' probe has
dematerialized...

KIRK

Stand by...

(to McCoy: nods)

I know she'll die, Bones. And
I can't help her.

216 EXT. SPACE - ALIEN AND ENTERPRISE

216

the starship appearing very tiny, till in the tractor-
grip of the huge alien thing.

KIRK (V.O.)

(tersely)

Captain's Log, Stardate 7415.2.
We have transmitted sub-space
to starfleet, describing
situation... warning them not
to respond. The alien might
home in on their signal, infiltrate
their computer banks, too. We're
helpless... with Earth orbit only
one point seven days away.

217 INT. SICKBAY

217

Kirk moving through the outer rooms toward:

218 THE HOSPITAL AREA

218

where several beds are occupied by injured CREWMEN --
and another bed, with Xon seated on the edge (in
sickbay dressing gown).

(CONTINUED)

218 CONTINUED:

218

The young Vulcan is studying the small bedside viewer, and a pile of computer chips beside him. Chapel is treating Xon's plastiskin-covered hands, moving a small, HUMMING device over the wounds. Xon seems entirely oblivious to this, totally engrossed in the viewer.

KIRK

How are you feeling, Lieutenant?

Xon looks up, first at Chapel, then to Kirk:

XON

Surprisingly well, sir. Doctor Chapel has a unique understanding of Vulcan physiology.

KIRK

(dryly)

Yes, we're aware of that.

Chapel looks suddenly embarrassed. Xon indicates his viewer.

XON

The memory banks reached by the alien contained studies of agriculture, zoology, human anatomy.

KIRK

Nothing of Earth defenses, federation planets? We're fortunate, then...

XON

(interrupting)

Perhaps not, Captain. It has learned enough to know that the same 'parasite mechanisms infecting the Enterprise... also infect Earth. How would you feel if 'the Holy Home of your Creator' was infected by parasites?

219 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS

219

SHOWING, first, the small personal viewer on which is flashing a set of calculations. PULL BACK SLIGHTLY TO FIND Kirk -- slumped over the desk, fallen asleep from exhaustion.

220 ACROSS KIRK TO THE WALL

220

where, reflected from another room, we HEAR A STATIC CRACKLE, and SEE a FLASH OF TURQUOISE LIGHT. It awakens Kirk, who peers sleepily at the viewer, assumes this is what awakened him, turns it off and rises and starts across the room toward his bed.

221 AT THE BED - ANGLE INCLUDING DRESSING AREA DOOR

221

as Kirk reaches the bed, and all at once hears the SONIC SHOWER come on in his dressing room area. Instantly alert, Kirk hurries to the door, SEES:

222 KIRK'S POV - A NUDE HUMAN FORM

222

VISIBLE through the translucent glass door.

223 INT. KIRK'S DRESSING AREA - PANNING KIRK

223

as he moves in, cautiously slides open the glass door. He finds himself looking at Ilia standing naked in the sonic mist.

224 MED. SHOT - KIRK

224

his first response -- the male instinct of looking her up and down.

225 MED. CLOSE ON ILIA

225

responding exactly the same as Kirk, looking him up and down.

226 MED. CLOSE TWO SHOT

226

KIRK

Ilia?

A hesitation, then the head of the woman jerkily moves one way, then the other... then smoothes into a definite headshake. (Kirk is about to learn that this is not Ilia at all but TASHA, the servo probe, now in an exact mechanical duplication of the navigator's Deltan body.)

(CONTINUED)

226 CONTINUED:

226

"ILIA"
Ta... ta... ta-sha...
(then slightly
better)
Ta-sha. Tasha.

Absolutely no human warmth in the eyes or expression.

227 ANOTHER ANGLE

227

as an incredulous Kirk reaches out and takes "Tasha's" arm, feels the duplication of life and warmth in it.

KIRK
(to himself)
You've taken over her body?
(indicates the
arm he holds)
This is living flesh. Are you
controlling her mind?

He gets the slightly jerky but improving headshake.

228 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS - ANGLE ON DOOR

228

as it snaps open and McCoy ENTERS. He carries his medical tricorder over shoulder. As he steps into the room and stops surprised, CAMERA ANGLE WIDENS TO INCLUDE Kirk seated across from what appears to be Ilia in dressing robe. McCoy starts to smile in relief, then sees the expression on Kirk's face. He also notices now that "Ilia" is sitting with unusually rigid posture. McCoy turns questioningly to Kirk, who indicates the medical tricorder McCoy carries.

KIRK
I asked for the tricorder so
you could scan her.

A puzzled McCoy moves in close to Ilia now, scrutinizing her closely, carefully. She doesn't even blink. The doctor pulls out the tricorder scanner and passes it expertly across and over "Ilia's" body. He looks up from the readings.

KIRK
(continuing)
Is it Ilia's body?

An astounded McCoy looks from Tasha to Kirk, shakes his head very definitively.

229 INT. SICKBAY - EXAMINING ROOM VIEWER

229

On the screen, a SLOW SCAN IMAGE OF COMPLEX MICRO-MINIATURE MECHANISMS, TUBES, AND CIRCUITRY.

230 ANGLE ON EXAMINING TABLE

230

where McCoy, Chapel and Kirk are standing over "Ilia's" prone form while the Doctors run a more complex scanner slowly over it.

McCOY

The skin is synthetic, but absolutely ingenious...

(indicating)

Look at this: micro-miniature heating elements, sensors, molecule-sized multiprocessor chips...

CHAPEL

Also fluid networks with osmotic micro-pumps...

(turns to McCoy)

All mechanical, but perfectly duplicating human body functions.

231 CLOSER ANGLE - INCLUDING KIRK AND "ILIA'S" HEAD

231

KIRK

Tasha, the one whose body is duplicated here... is she alive?

"ILIA"

(shakes head)

That... servo-unit... no longer... functions. How... ever... I will... soon be performing... the same... I will... learn rapidly.

KIRK

We are not 'servo-units'!

"ILIA"

You are... servo-units.

232 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS

232

Xon sits at Kirk's cabin viewer, inspecting the medical scans taken in McCoy's office.

(CONTINUED)

232 CONTINUED:

232

Kirk and McCoy watch "Ilia" now in a leisure attire, as she strides back and forth "exercising" and becoming better acquainted with her human form. Kirk calls to Xon:

KIRK

The intruder alert wasn't triggered. She must contain some built-in sensor dampener.

XON

Undoubtedly, Captain.

KIRK

(to "Ilia")

Why are you here? Your function?

"ILIA"

Information collecting function...
I am programmed to communicate with you...

KIRK

(indicating toward
dressing area)

Why did you materialize in that particular place?

XON

(joining them)

Most probably to attract your sensual interest, Captain. A memory scan of Lieutenant Ilia would have revealed some awareness of Captain Kirk.

(at Kirk's annoyed
look)

It is possible the real Ilia found her Captain attractive, sir.

KIRK

Even if true, how would the alien know that?

XON

Ilia had opened her mind to it, remember, sir? Trying to feel its thought images.

McCOY

The Vulcan's right. The alien could have assumed a duplicate Ilia would communicate best with you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

McCOY (CONT'D)

(eyeing Kirk)

Deltans do communicate very efficiently, I'm told.

KIRK

(giving McCoy an annoyed look)

There are a lot of 'ifs' in that theory...

"ILIA"

(to Kirk)

The statement... is correct.
I am programmed for a relationship with you.

Kirk starts to respond irritably, but Xon interrupts:

XON

Caution, Captain. Full cooperation with the unit may be vital. We are now less than one and one half days from Earth.

"ILIA"

Ve-jur finds these servo-units unusual. Ve-jur wishes them studied before destroying them.

XON

'Ve-jur'? Is that the name of the life form which holds us... which holds Enterprise?

"ILIA"

(nods)

Ve-jur is Ve-jur.

McCOY

Well, at least we can stop calling it 'it.'

(to "Ilia")

Now, let's get down to this 'destroying us' business.

XON

Recommend that we let the Captain secure all such information, Doctor.

(to Kirk)

But first, sir, it is important we confer. Alone.

(CONTINUED)

232 CONTINUED: (3)

232

KIRK

Leave us, Tasha.

(indicates)

Go to the other end of these
quarters.

"Ilia" doesn't move. Xon catches Kirk's eye, indicates the door to the cabin.

XON

There may be another way, sir...

233 INT. CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON KIRK'S DOOR

233

HOLDING a moment, then the doors snap open and Kirk, McCoy and Xon rapidly EXIT. The doors snap closed in "Ilia's" face as she tries to follow them.

KIRK

You were right. Her form doesn't
trigger those sensors...

XON

(to McCoy; rapidly)

But inside her body, every human
anatomical function is duplicated
exactly? You're certain, Doctor?

McCOY

I believe so, although without
more time to study it...

XON

(interrupting;
to Kirk)

Captain, the alien may have
duplicated her too perfectly.
We've established that... 'Ve-jur'
is unacquainted with organic life.
Therefore, unacquainted with
glandular and other processes
which trigger emotions, hungers,
physical needs... needs you may
be able to manipulate.

All of them HEAR a METAL RIPPING SOUND from the doorway, look in that direction to SEE:

234 ANGLE EMPHASIZING DOORWAY

234

as it BUCKLES, "Ilia's" hands RIPPING THE SLIDING DOORS APART, CRUMPLING THE METAL LIKE PAPER. Then, "Ilia" steps out into the corridor, speaks to Kirk:

"ILIA"

It is forbidden you relate with other servos outside my presence.

(indicating Xon and McCoy)

I am programmed to destroy them immediately if this occurs again.

Kirk exchanges a look with Xon.

KIRK

You recommend I 'manipulate' that, Mister Xon?

235 INT. BRIDGE - FULL SHOT

235

Back to low level LIGHT, skeleton crew. Decker is in the Captain's chair; also Xon, Uhura and Suly at their stations. CAMERA MOVES TO EMPHASIZE XON who is not nearly as absorbed in his work as usual. In fact, as near as his Vulcan calm can reflect it, he's uneasy, troubled. He turns toward Decker.

XON

Any signal from the Captain, sir?

SULU

(to Decker)

Now twenty-three point one hours to Earth orbit, sir.

UHURA

(to Decker)

Shouldn't we at least call the Captain's cabin, sir?

Decker's reply is interrupted by a bridge elevator door snapping open. All turn in that direction.

236 PAN SHOT

236

Kirk and "Ilia" (Tasha) ENTER, move to the command position. Decker gets to his feet AD LIBBING a "Sir." All eyes are on the "Ilia" duplicate whose movements and mannerisms have progressed enormously since we last saw her.

(CONTINUED)

She has a smile, a hand caresses Kirk's shoulder and arm as they walk. Kirk's expression is a bit grim.

"ILIA"

This, I believe, is Uhura, Sulu...
oh, and Mister Xon.

DECKER

Are you all right, Captain?

KIRK

(removing "Ilia's"
hand)

I'm fine, Mister Decker. And
as you all can see, Tasha has
become well acquainted with her
new form.

SULU

(nods)

It would be hard to tell her
from the real Ilia, sir.

"ILIA"

(pleasantly)

Ve-jur has no wish to destroy
you servos... immediately... not
if you begin functioning properly.

KIRK

Ve-jur has become aware that our
'mechanisms' include... primitive
reasoning ability and has agreed
to instruct us in the truth about
the Creator.

"ILIA"

If you respond properly, you'll
be allowed to travel ahead to the
holy planet and prepare other servos
there for Ve-jur's arrival.

Mixed reactions from the bridge crew who are handling
all this very carefully, not yet sure of the rules of
this game.

DECKER

(to Kirk)

Is she saying that our vessel is
going to be released, sir?

(CONTINUED)

236 CONTINUED: (2)

236

KIRK

(nods; turns
to Xon)

You'll report to the transporter
room with us, Mister Xon. The three
of us are going to... visit Ve-jur.

DECKER

(protesting)

Sir...!

KIRK

(firmly)

You have the conn, Mister Decker.

237 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

237

McCoy and Scott are there with Transporter Chief Rand,
waiting anxiously. Then Kirk, "Ilia" and Xon (carrying
tricorder) ENTER.

McCOY

Jim, are you certain it's safe?

KIRK

I have no idea, Bones. What
alternative would you suggest?

SCOTT

I'm volunteering to accompany you,
sir. Being as that thing is
mechanical and my having some
experience in that field...

"ILIA"

(smiles)

It won't be necessary, Commander
Scott...

Interrupted by Chief Rand at the transporter controls.
She has reacted to some readings there, now whirls
toward Kirk:

CHIEF RAND

Sir, there's a gravitational
field forming inside the alien...!
(reads further
(word))

And an oxygen atmosphere envelope!

(CONTINUED)

237 CONTINUED:

237

During which, "Ilia" has stepped to the transporter console, begins setting in coordinates. Kirk gives Chief Rand a warning look not to interfere. Xon has turned to Kirk, very seriously:

XON

I am grateful for this opportunity,
Captain.

(at Kirk's look;
explains)

It will be fascinating to examine
the interior of such a life form.

McCoy is giving Xon an astonished look as "Ilia" leads the way to the transporter chamber. Kirk and Xon follow.

"ILIA"

You have the coordinates, Chief
Rand.

238 ANOTHER ANGLE

238

as the three take their positions inside the chamber.
Both McCoy and Scott AD LIB a "Good luck, sir."

KIRK

Energize.

Chief Rand moves her controls -- the TRANSPORTER EFFECT
begins as they dematerialize.

239 EXT. SPACE - FULL ON VE-JUR

239

just a glance to remind us of its awesome dimensions.

240 INT. VE-JUR - LONG SHOT ON ARRIVAL (MATTE)

240

the TRANSPORTER EFFECT as Kirk, "Ilia" and Xon
materialize.

An INCREDIBLE VISTA, a magnificent interior whose
scale is breathtaking. They have been beamed to a
small level area high amidst the incredibly sophisti-
cated and complex alien's "circuitry." The spectacle
extends miles above them, miles below them and seem-
ingly into infinity in front and behind them.

(CONTINUED)

240 CONTINUED:

240

There are strange SOUNDS all around them. Running through all of this are plasma-carrying "tubes"; other shapes generate strange "energy fields." We SEE other mechanisms which might be circuitry or almost anything -- neither Earth nor Vulcan science has terms to describe what Kirk and Xon are seeing.

241 CLOSER ON THE THREESOME

241

Kirk and Xon still reacting in awe at cubic miles of alien wonders. The emotional impact is staggering! They are Lilliputians in a world whose size dwarfs that of a hundred Gullivers. "Ilia" watches them, giving them time to become accustomed to what they are seeing. Then, presently:

"ILIA"

Follow me, please.

She sets off, walking atop one of the huge transparent tubes which seem to carry FLASHING ENERGY PLASMA flowing from one end of Ve-Jur's interior to the other.

242 LONG ANGLE (THE MATTE)

242

The three tiny figures moving through the vastness, past still other strange devices, each with their own unique color, movement, and SOUNDS.

243 GELATIN-PLASMA CUBE

243

as "Ilia," Kirk and Xon ENTER. The two humans react as they SEE what is ecased within the cube -- a human figure in Starfleet uniform.

244 THEIR POV - INSIDE GELATINOUS-PLASMA CUBE

244

the real Ilia, eyes open, the body motionless inside the mass.

245 BACK TO SHOT

245

as Kirk and Xon move closer, Xon using his science Tricorder, scanning.

(CONTINUED)

245 CONTINUED:

245

"ILIA"

That servo-unit has ceased
functioning.

XON

Confirmed, Captain. I'm afraid
reads dead.

KIRK

(to "Ilia")

Are you certain? Can we take her
back with us?

"ILIA"

The form is being preserved for
further study.

(turning to Kirk:

matter-of-factly)

You have me; my mechanisms are
stronger and much more dependable.

(indicating a

direction)

You will now see evidence of the
Creator.

She starts off, Kirk and Xon following, but both
glancing back regretfully toward Ilia's encased,
still body.

246 TRAVELLING SHOT - MED. ON KIRK AND XON

246

as they follow the mechanical "Ilia," then both react
at the same instant as they SEE:

247 THEIR POV - VOYAGER FOUR

247

one of the 20th Century NASA Voyager space craft! It
shows some damage from a hard landing somewhere, it
also shows the paint-flakes and marred surface of
a long space journey. It is not just "setting"
inside Ve-jur; it seems to have become part of Ve-jur
somehow, a significant bit of this incredibly vast
interior.

248 CLOSER ON VOYAGER FOUR

248

as "Ilia" leads them to the side of it. Kirk and Xon
exchange looks of total astonishment.

(CONTINUED)

248 CONTINUED:

248

XON

An early 21st Century Earth craft,
I believe...

KIRK

Late 20th Century... a space probe
designated 'Voyager Four.'

Kirk sees and indicates a metallic plaque on the
Voyager craft. They move closer, examining it.

249 THE PLAQUE

249

Metallic-gold, an inscription partially obscured by
space-dust impacts, the only lettering left reads:
V... GER IV." Also a design establishing Earth's solar
system and its third planet point of origin, various
other information and writing. It also bears the
SYMBOL and initials NASA.

KIRK'S VOICE

Look! A 'V,' then some letters
destroyed... 'G-E-R.'

250 BACK TO SHOT

250

"Ilia" carefully watching their reactions. Xon is nod-
ding as he studies the plaque.

XON

Leaving it appear to read 'V-JER.'
(to "Ilia")
Ve-jur took its name from this?

"ILIA"

(nods)

Ve-jur and his kind did not use
what you call 'names' until...
(indicating Voyager)
... the Creator's messenger
enlightened them.

KIRK

(to Xon, excited)

This is part of the history they
teach at the Academy. This one,
particularly! Years after it
was launched, Voyager Four wandered
into a 'back hole,' sending back
signals that revolutionized early
space concepts.

(CONTINUED)

XON

(nodding)

I have studied those records. And since Voyager Four is now here, it can only have entered hyperspace and timelessness, emerging at the machine civilization's part of the galaxy.

"ILIA"

You see the Creator's Message?

She's referring to the plaque and Kirk nods.

KIRK

A description of its origin, Tasha, of its purpose...

"ILIA"

(interrupting)

It was our Holy Messenger from NASA.

She pronounces it Nas-sah.

KIRK

It was built by life forms like us, Tasha! Ones who lived before our time...

Instantly, out of nowhere, a GREENISH ENERGY BOLT strikes Kirk, knocking him from his feet, writhing in pain.

XON

(moving to help)

Captain...!

"ILIA"

(calmly)

Ve-jur forbids deception.

Kirk manages to motion Xon to silence, as he speaks to "Ilia":

KIRK

Deception was not intended...

"ILIA"

(indicating Voyager)

The truth is here. You stand before Na-sah's messenger to Ve-jur and his kind.

(CONTINUED)

250 CONTINUED: (2)

250

Kirk and Xon exchange looks, then:

KIRK

NASA? 'Na-sah' is the Creator?

"ILIA"

(nods)

Who sent this Holy Messenger to Ve-jur's companions in the time of despair, at the time of need, at the time in which the purpose of life was unknown...

XON

(indicating
Voyager;
guessing)

... and this 'Holy Messenger's' memory banks carried that purpose of life?

"ILIA"

Ve-jur was a weak and small form then... as tiny as Enterprise. The Holy Message told of the greater world beyond Ve-jur's own...

KIRK

It told of what we call space?

"ILIA"

(nods)

This Holy Messenger told of the Creator's plan, the purpose of existence... 'to explore, to learn, to discover all things discoverable.' Is that within servo comprehension?

KIRK

(nods)

It is within our comprehension, Tasha.

He and Xon exchange looks, then Kirk lifts his wrist communicator:

KIRK

(continuing; into
communicator)

Kirk to Enterprise... ready to beam back.

251 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND VE-JUR

251

Again, the perspective showing Enterprise a tiny thing held near the vastness of the huge alien.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's Log: Enterprise is being released from Ve-jur's grasp. We are...

The tiny form of the Enterprise beginning to pull away from the huge Ve-jur, accelerating into a flight path which will take it DIRECTLY PAST CAMERA.

KIRK (V.O.)

(continuing)

... accelerating to maximum velocity. With time for engine repairs, Scott's ingenuity and Enterprise's new design have us traveling at nearly Warp Nine. We will arrive in Earth orbit six hours before Ve-jur's arrival...

252 INT. BRIDGE

252

All stations manned, the main viewer showing their incredible velocity.

KIRK (V.O.)

... six hours only in which to prepare a whole planet for the arrival of a 'pilgrim,' a machine life form determined to find and worship NASA, a historical government agency which no longer exists.

253 CLOSER ANGLE - COMMAND POSITION

253

Kirk in his seat, the duplicate "Ilia" on one side with hand on Kirk's shoulder; Decker on the other side throwing questioning looks toward "Ilia." We'll notice that Decker now seems to have relaxed, become more sure of himself... grown into an efficient First Officer.

254 ANGLE ON UHURA

254

busy at her communications panel, throwing a cautious look toward Kirk and "Ilia."

255 BACK TO COMMAND POSITION

255

"Ilia" catching Uhura's look. To Kirk:

"ILIA"

Ve-jur will know of these messages
you send.

KIRK

We are doing as directed...
preparing the third planet for
Ve-jur's arrival.

(indicating
Decker)

I must explain further to him.
He replaces me if I cease to
function.

"ILIA"

(interrupting)

If you speak without deception.

KIRK

I will speak what I understand.
(to Decker)

A machine civilization, its
beginnings lost in history...
the original purpose of the
machines forgotten, too. I
would assume they were
regulating the climate, still
tilling fields, manufacturing,
packaging goods... incredible
automated machines capable, I
suppose, of maintaining and
repairing themselves, of going
on and on forever.

During this, McCoy has ENTERED SCENE, he and Xon moving
in to stand behind Decker and Kirk. Xon picks up the
story:

XON

But regulating, tilling,
manufacturing for what?
Whatever the society that
built these machines, it was
gone. The Captain and I
conjecture they may have
destroyed themselves, or
moved on to other worlds or
other levels of existence...

(CONTINUED)

255 CONTINUED:

255

McCOY

(interrupting)

That's our belief, too, Tasha.
We have no quarrel on that.

KIRK

(to Decker)

They were machines whose computer
intelligence was so high that
'consciousness' began to occur.
Just as it occurs in organic
life when a certain level is
reached...

XON

... and when the environment
requires it for survival. And
with their...

(cautious glance
at "Ilia")

... 'originators' gone, the
planet grew older, these machines
faced a harsher environment. It
required them to adapt, to create
programming of their own to meet
these changing conditions.

DECKER

I see. With 'consciousness'
the machines found they needed
a purpose for existing.

XON

(nods)

All life does. Without purpose
this living machine complex
began to decay and die.

KIRK

Voyager Four...

(to "Ilia")

... the Holy Messenger...

(to Decker)

... gave them that purpose, the
purpose of 'Na-sah.' The
instructions in Voyager Four's
memory banks.

McCOY

(nodding)

'Go ye into space, into all of
infinity, go ye chanting, and
measuring, and analyzing, learning!'

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

255 CONTINUED: (2)

255

McCOY (CONT'D)

(to "Ilia")

I believe the Creator said
something like that to us, Tasha.

"ILIA"

The Creator would not speak to
'servos.'

McCOY

(smiles)

You underestimate the Creator,
my dear.

DECKER

We could use some scripture on
what to do now, Doctor.

(to Kirk)

When Ve-jur reaches Earth, NASA...

(quick correction)

... 'Na-sah' had better be
there waiting.

KIRK

(nods)

At least, the truth had better
be there.

(toward Uhura)

Concrete, unassailable proof
of what the truth is!

UHURA

(nodding)

I've made that clear, sir.

256 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE

256

alone, travelling at Warp Nine.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's Log: We are beginning
to decelerate from Warp Nine;
planet Earth now on our scanners.
At the moment we reach maximum
transporter range, I will beam
ahead with the Ilia duplicate.
I must remember she is a part of
Ve-jur... everything she sees
or hears will be known to Ve-jur.

257 INT. BRIDGE - PAST HELM ONTO VIEWER

257

on which a tiny point of light begins to enlarge into the familiar blue shape of planet Earth. It is still small when Sulu turns, calls TOWARD CAMERA:

SULU

Approaching maximum transporter range.

258 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

258

Kirk and "Ilia" in position ready to be transported. Xon, Decker, Scott and McCoy standing near the console. Chief Rand AD LIBS a "Stand ready, please." Kirk calls to the others:

KIRK

Magnificent job, Scotty.

SCOTT

She's a magnificent Enterprise, sir.

KIRK

Bones, you'll beam directly to Starfleet after we've left. You're in command, Mister Decker; I'm depending on you and Mister Xon to do whatever becomes necessary...

CHIEF RAND

(interrupting)

Mark! Within transporter range... energizing!

The others AD LIB "Goodbye's" and "Good luck" as we HEAR the familiar TRANSPORTER HUM and SEE the EFFECT as Kirk and "Ilia" dematerialize.

259 EXT. EARTH PARKLAND - DAY

259

(Using a bit of the earlier STARFLEET BUILDING MATTE if possible.) A lovely area, clear sky, the vegetation, walkways, and general look as beautiful as possible. We need not be in an area of any considerable human activity. A few couples, a few children in b.g.

(CONTINUED)

259 CONTINUED:

259

Kirk and "Ilia" MATERIALIZE. It is unnoticed except for one SMALL BOY, about three or four years old, who watches, rather open-eyed in surprise. The child will keep his distance, watch them curiously. "Ilia" looks around in some surprise, demands:

"ILIA"

What is this place?

KIRK

The third planet. I'll take you to 'Na-sah' soon.

260 CLOSER ANGLE

260

"Ilia" looking everything over with considerable curiosity. She's fascinated by the vegetation, the grass underfoot, the child, everything.

KIRK

That's a 'child'... a young servo-unit...

"ILIA"

(nods)

As you explained. Its mechanism will grow to your dimensions?

KIRK

Yes, children grow.

(sits; indicates
for her to join
him)

The form which you duplicated, our navigator Ilia, comes from a...

(selecting the
words)

... a land where they are very fond of children. If possible, even fonder than we are.

"ILIA"

The smaller mechanisms supply some need?

KIRK

Yes.

(smiles)

A much more important 'need' than just replacing us.

(CONTINUED)

260 CONTINUED:

260

"ILIA"

A most inefficient process.
When your own mechanism expires,
all your programming will be
lost and...

(indicating child)

... and great effort must be spent
giving the same program to the
smaller mechanisms who follow you.
A form like Ve-jur never expires;
the programming is retained and
increased constantly...

KIRK

(nodding)

That does have its advantages.

(indicating child)

But Ve-Jur has never known that.
Don't you feel anything for the
child? Its form is similar to
the one you have now.

261 ANOTHER ANGLE

261

The child is wandering closer, still curious. Kirk
is also watching "Ilia" carefully and we have noticed
some change, more than just curiosity now over the
grass, the vegetation, the child. As if the sights
and SOUNDS and textures feel pleasant, comfortable.
She extends an arm, caresses Kirk's face.

"ILIA"

You call this 'enjoying.' It
is true my sensor feedback is
affecting my mechanism in
strange ways.

(embraces Kirk)

I direct you to envelope me,
draw my mechanism close to yours
as you did inside Enterprise...

The child GIGGLES DELIGHTEDLY. Kirk disengages from
"Ilia," beckons the small child closer, smiling.

The Boy moves in, sits beside them. Kirk ruffles the
Boy's hair... "Ilia" hesitates, then extends an arm
too, and touches the Boy's face.

"ILIA"

Strange... my sensors react
to this, too. But in a different
manner.

262 INT. NOGURA'S OFFICE - McCOY AND NOGURA

262

Admiral Carson and Captain Lebutu also present with other n.d. OFFICERS.

LEBUTU

Doctor, none of what you want should be necessary. Our records on Voyager Four show it carried very complete information on what humans are, our early space programs and plans...

McCOY

(astonished)

What?!

CARSON

In those days, it was hoped that extraterrestrial life existed and that a Voyager probe would be found by them. All the Voyagers carried records which would tell other intelligent life that we existed...

McCOY

(interrupting,
almost shouting
it)

You're saying that the answer is
already aboard Ve-jur?!

NOGURA

(nodding)

Our huge 'friend' out there obviously found only part of Voyager Four's record -- Earth's location, Voyager's programmed instructions...

LEBUTU

(overlapping, rapidly)

Otherwise, it would have known what humans are, and what NASA really is.

McCOY

They mentioned Voyager Four showed signs of damage...

LEBUTU

... which may have damaged some circuits. But the missing records should still be there!

(CONTINUED)

262 CONTINUED:

262

McCOY

We've got to get that information
to the Enterprise immediately.
And to Kirk! You're certain
there's been no sign of him?

CARSON

If he made it. He beamed a
considerable distance, Doctor.

263 EXT. OTHER PARKLAND - KIRK AND "ILIA"

263

walking, observing the people, the animals, a stream.
"Ilia" is more and more fascinated. She follows Kirk's
lead and gingerly pats a small deer. Then she's
delighted as Kirk proffers some leaves to the animal
and it eats. "Ilia" turns to touch and then smell a
flower.

Now and then, various PEOPLE pass and give curious
glances. But no one intrudes or interferes -- in this
century, humans have learned to accept and enjoy
diversity, even the sight of a strangely-acting Deltan
female with a Starship captain.

264 CLOSER ANGLE

264

"Ilia" LAUGHS... then stops surprised at the sound she
has just made. Kirk grins.

KIRK

It's all right, that's called
'laughter.'

"ILIA"

I am not malfunctioning?

Kirk reaches up, pulls her close to him.

KIRK

You are functioning as you
were designed to function,
Tasha. As the original Ilia
was designed to function.

"ILIA"

(pulling close;
voice trembling)

My sensors are taking control
of me, Kirk. They demand I
have sex from you.

(CONTINUED)

264 CONTINUED:

264

KIRK

First, we must talk about some
very important things. We
humans are not 'servos,' Tasha.
We're life forms as much as
Ve-jur is a life form...

"Ilia" whirls, flailing an arm against Kirk, her
enormous strength knocking him from his feet, throw-
ing him hard against a large rock.

265 EMPHASIZING KIRK

265

stunned, a trickle of blood beginning to run down his
forehead. He tries to get to his feet, his legs can't
handle it. "Ilia" ENTERS SHOT, a look of anger
fading... then she quickly kneels, pulls him to her.

"ILIA"

Kirk? Please, I have no wish
to damage you...

KIRK

(still shaken)

Are you and Ve-jur afraid of
truth? Do you understand what
I mean by truth?

"ILIA"

(nodding)

A correct analysis of sensory
input, accurately reported...

KIRK

(interrupting;
indicating his
head)

My computer, my brain, is filled
with years of sensory input
about Earth, about humans...

(indicating)

I am accurately reporting
about people, what we are,
what happened on this planet to
those who came before us, and
before that... it is not
'blasphemy' against any Creator
if I tell you what I know.

(CONTINUED)

265 CONTINUED:

265

"ILIA"

Kirk, let us make sex. In a few hours Ve-jur will arrive, I will return to my original form...

KIRK

(interrupting)

Is that your mission for Ve-jur? To use your sensors on me? Or to use them so that NASA, not 'Na-sah,' NASA is properly understood.

"ILIA"

Na-sah is for worship!

KIRK

Worship is understanding!

"ILIA"

Kirk... I feel... I need...

(frightened;
then says it)

I will defy Ve-jur for you!

Kirk hesitates, moved more than has ever happened to him. But he has no choice; he pulls the "Ilia" duplicate to her feet.

KIRK

I'm sorry. I must take you to a place we call 'Starfleet,' Tasha.

(pulling her along)

We haven't much time if Ve-jur is to avoid a foolish mistake!

"ILIA"

Take care! Ve-jur hears all that I hear.

(barely audible)

... and all that I have said...

During this CAMERA LETS THEM GO OUT OF SCENE.

266 EXT. ENTERPRISE - EARTH ORBIT

266

ESTABLISHING the starship in orbit. Then:

267 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER

267

on which we SEE an orbital shot of Earth. Then the viewer IMAGE beginning to swing from Earth out toward the stars of space as:

SULU

I have a visual on its approach.

The screen IMAGE has settled on a point of light which rapidly grows into the recognizable form of the colossal alien machine.

268 OPPOSITE ANGLE - COMMAND, SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS

268

as Decker, Xon and Sulu watch the approaching Ve-jur. Uhura looks up puzzled from communications:

UHURA

Unusual, sir. Starfleet seems to be transmitting an old-style carrier wave. Risking Ve-jur won't notice it?

Uhura has continued to listen to the signal she's getting. Now she hits a control on her panel, continues:

UHURA

(continuing)

Recording. They're transmitting a schematic on Voyager Four's design, its memory bank circuitry...

SULU

(interrupting;
to Decker)

Sir, going to a higher mag on Ve-jur's image.

(working controls)

It's ejecting some large objects into orbit...

269 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER

269

on which we SEE Ve-jur's IMAGE MAGNIFIED, then MAGNIFIED again to the point where we can SEE a large, ominous-looking, metallic object trailing Ve-jur... then a second, identical object appearing from the Ve-jur form. During which:

(CONTINUED)

269 CONTINUED:

269

DECKER'S VOICE

Science Officer, scan and identify. Our sensors should work on those objects, at least...

XON'S VOICE

Scanning, sir.

Meanwhile, main viewer IMAGE MAGNIFIES to the point where we get a good LOOK at the objects, round, half-way between a saucer and spheroid shape. Judging from what we saw of Ve-jur's size, they must be about a quarter mile in circumference.

SULU'S VOICE

I'd estimate those objects to be about the size of our own saucer section...

XON'S VOICE

(interrupting)

I have an analysis on them, sir.

270 EMPHASIZING XON AND DECKER

270

as Xon reads data from his science viewer.

XON

It is a neutron device, sir...

DECKER

A neutron bomb?

XON

It could be so described, sir...

CHEKOV'S VOICE

I make out four objects, Commander. Moving under their own power now...

271 ANGLE PAST HELM ONTO VIEWER

271

Sulu and Chekov making calculations at their consoles.

DECKER

Moving where? Give me a fast estimate!

(CONTINUED)

271 CONTINUED:

271

CHEKOV

One remaining here... the three others headed for a different orbital position over Earth...

(turns; aghast)

Sir, if those are neutron bombs, placing themselves in equidistant orbital positions...

SULU

(cutting in)

... their blast effect would overlap the entire planet.

CHEKOV

(reading console instruments)

They will reach that position in... roughly one hour, sir.

272 ANGLE EMPHASIZING DECKER AND XON

272

DECKER

Science Officer? Will four of those devices wipe out the planet?

XON

Neutron bomb explosions will wipe out all life on the planet, sir. In your earlier history, these were called 'clean bombs' which destroyed life but 'respected' property.

DECKER

I don't care what we called them... tell me the best way to destroy them!

XON

Impossible, Commander.
(indicates science console)

My sensors show a proximity fuse which will activate if we attempt phasers, photon torpedoes, forcefields...

273 ANGLE INCLUDING UHURA

273

as she whirls around, excitedly:

UHURA

Sir! The true story about NASA
is already aboard Ve-jur. It's
somewhere inside Voyager Four.

274 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ARCHIVES ROOM

274

McCoy, Admiral Carson, Captain Lebutu with n.d. Officers and Technicians who work to open a large, metal, airtight door. Kirk and "Ilia" in CAMERA F.G., with him looking at her and reacting to what he has just heard.

KIRK

Neutron devices?!

"ILIA"

(nods)

For the reason that they
are particularly effective
against your...

(almost

apologetically)

... form of mechanism.

KIRK

Tasha, listen! They've
shown you diagrams of Voyager,
your Holy Messenger. You've
seen proof there's information
there which Ve-jur hasn't
found...

"ILIA"

Ve-jur calls this deception,
Kirk. The Messenger cannot be
the work of servos.

(touches her
arm)

The cleansing devices will
now reach orbital position
in nineteen of your minute
measurements.

Meanwhile, the door is finally swung open and we SEE
and HEAR and RUSTLE of AIR filling the old archives
room. Lebutu calls, beckons:

LEBUTU

This way, sir.

(CONTINUED)

274 CONTINUED:

274

"ILIA"
(as they move
toward doorway)
If Na-sah is inside, it will
save you...

KIRK
NASA's identity is inside. If
Ve-jur will only believe what
you see.

As they move into the archives room:

275 EXT. ENTERPRISE AND VE-JUR - ORBITAL ANGLE 275

USS Enterprise moving toward the mammoth Ve-jur. One
of the ominous-looking NEUTRON BOMB DEVICES is floating
nearby, too.

276 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE ON VIEWER 276

SHOWING the IMAGE of Ve-jur growing larger. The NEUTRON
BOMB DEVICE sits in orbit between Enterprise and the
Alien.

277 OPPOSITE ANGLE - DECKER AND UHURA 277

We should SEE Xon's science console in b.g. (with Xon
gone from it). Uhura calls to Decker.

UHURA
Still no response from Ve-jur.

DECKER
Continue transmitting the schematics.
(turns)
Xon, please recalculate...

Decker turns toward Xon's position, cutting his words
as he sees the young Vulcan is gone.

SULU
He's in the transporter room, sir.

DECKER
For what purpose?

278 ANGLE TO INCLUDE CHEKOV AND SULU 278

SULU
I was giving him a hand with some
calculations, sir...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

278 CONTINUED:

278

SULU (CONT'D)
(indicating toward
viewer)

... Estimating the main computer
location in that thing. He
thought he could get a guide on
it from the last magnetic field
readings...

Decker has stepped to the command position, pressing
the intercom button:

DECKER
Bridge to Transporter. Is Mister
Xon there?

RAND'S INTERCOM VOICE
Aye, sir. But he's about to beam
out...

DECKER
(interrupting)
Belay energizing! He is not to
beam out. On my way!

Decker hurries for elevator.

279 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - DECKER, XON AND SCOTT
in the midst of a confrontation.

279

DECKER
You're what?!

XON
Admittedly, it's an untried
experiment, sir.
(indicating transporter
chamber)
But it is at least theoretically
possible to beam only the pattern
of one's brain -- its entire molecular
configuration at the moment of beaming...

SCOTT
My God, man, what happens to the body?

XON
Lost, of course. It would remain
simple energy.

SCOTT
Why not beam the entire person? The
brain pattern would still be a part
of it...

(CONTINUED)

279 CONTINUED:

279

XON

(indicates console)

Ve-jur is not providing an
oxygen-gravity envelope this
time. The body and brain would
quickly die over there...

DECKER

(interrupts Scott's
further protests)

But a brain pattern, Xon...?

XON

I believe it possible Ve-jur
will be curious enough to pick
up our beam, repattern the brain
information into its own computer
circuitry. At least for long
enough to examine it.

(pleading to Decker)

Sir, it's worth the risk. If we
can get my functioning intelligence,
the intelligence of an organic
life form, into the computer mind
of the alien...

SCOTT

You're talking suicide, Mister
Xon...

DECKER

Hold it a moment, Engineer...
(to Xon)

There's at least a chance it might
work?

XON

I would estimate the odds against
it would be only seventy-four point
six to one.

SCOTT

Over seventy to one against
succeeding?!

280 ANGLE EMPHASIZING DECKER

280

as he makes his decision. He turns to Scott:

(CONTINUED)

280 CONTINUED:

280

DECKER

You'll have command of the Enterprise, Mister Scott.

(to Xon)

Give Chief Rand an assist on the transporter console. You've got the program all laid in?

XON

Without wishing to appear selfish, Commander, it is my theory and I believe it my right to attempt the experiment...

DECKER

(interrupting)

When will you understand what an order is, Lieutenant? I should think, you've had time to acquire that elementary understanding!

(to Rand)

Stand by on the console, Chief.

Decker starts for the chamber, then turns back to Xon, his face softening. Then a small smile.

DECKER

(continuing)

I want you to know I think you're becoming a fine officer, Xon. The Enterprise is lucky to have you.

(interrupting

Xon's protest)

The idea is to help Ve-jur understand humans, not Vulcans. A human mind is the best choice for this.

281 ANGLE INCLUDING TRANSPORTER CHAMBER

281

as Decker turns and moves into one of the beaming positions. He looks up to Scott:

DECKER

It was an experience serving with people like you, Scott, McCoy... and Jim Kirk. Tell him that.

(toward Rand)

Energize!

(CONTINUED)

281 CONTINUED:

281

RAND
(distraught; to
Scott)
It's suicide like you said, sir.

SCOTT
Aye, lassie. But I'm only in
command after he leaves.

DECKER
Chief Rand! I've ordered you to
energize.

Xon moves in with Rand at the console, assisting. The
Transporter begins to HUM as they move the controls.

282 MED. CLOSE ON SCOTT

282

Very nearly a tear in the hardened veteran's eyes.

283 ANGLE ON TRANSPORTER CHAMBER

283

as we SEE the Transporter EFFECT begin -- the the
EFFECT SURGES WILDLY, the expression on Decker's de-
materializing features seem to go into agony... there's
a sound like a CRY OF PAIN.

284 ANGLE ON XON

284

looking up, his features emotionless but we sense the
young Vulcan requires effort to keep them that way.

285 ANGLE ON TRANSPORTER CHAMBER

285

catching the last of the STAR SPARKLE EFFECT, then
Decker is gone.

286 INT. ARCHIVES ROOM

286

Kirk with "Ilia" works with the others amidst stacks
of computer tapes, microfilms, ancient paper records.
In b.g., a couple of Technicians are setting up an old
style 16mm film motion picture projector.

287 EMPHASIZING KIRK WITH "ILIA"

287

He is exhibiting old paper documents and records to her,
one after another as quickly as possible.

(CONTINUED)

287 CONTINUED:

287

Kirk watches Tasha's face as she scans them.

CARSON

Enterprise has received the schematics, Kirk. No response from them...

LEBUTU

Nine minutes left...

KIRK

You see, it was a human agency.

(indicating a paper; desperately)

Tasha! Don't your sensors tell you we can't be tricking Ve-jur? These are documents, hundreds of years old...

"ILIA"

(shakes head)

I have no sensors for measuring the age of material objects, Kirk...

LEBUTU

Ready on the projector, sir.

288 ANOTHER ANGLE

288

as Kirk guides "Ilia" to where she can view the screen. The room lights DIM, as:

KIRK

(quickly)

But you can see and hear. This is an old style viewer device; you can see that its technology is very old. Please watch, listen...!

During which, the projector has started up and now the film PROJECTS ON THE SCREEN. It is a twentieth century NASA film, an old style government bureaucracy explanation of the space agency and its functions. We can SEE the color is faded, the film is much scratched as it flickers past on the screen. The FILM SOUND is scratchy, too, barely understandable.

289 EMPHASIZING "ILIA"

289

watching and listening.

290 ANGLE ON SCREEN 290

The old NASA film, continuing.

291 THE GROUP - EMPHASIZING KIRK WATCHING "ILIA" 291

On Kirk's and other faces, an expression pleading that she or Ve-jur accept the truth of this. For a few moments, "Ilia" seems interested.

292 ANOTHER ANGLE (EFFECTS) 292

"Ilia" watching a moment more, then suddenly she SLAMS her hand against the projector, splintering it to pieces and into a SHOWER OF SPARKS. With the projection light gone, the room has gone dark. She looks as if her arm movement had been involuntary, directed by Ve-jur. There is a sadness in her words as:

"ILIA"

Ve-jur... rejects this.

Someone has hit a switch and the room LIGHTS revealing the disappointment in Kirk's and the other faces.

LEBUTU

Five minutes, Jim. The neutron devices should be just about...

Interrupted by a SIGNAL from Kirk's communicator. He speaks into his communicator:

KIRK

Kirk here.

SCOTT'S VOICE

(filtered; urgent)

Can you beam aboard, Captain?

KIRK

Explain!

SCOTT'S VOICE

(filtered)

We're in contact with the Ve-jur thing, sir. We need you badly!

Kirk presses a control on his communicator.

KIRK

Two to beam up; have you got our position?

(CONTINUED)

292 CONTINUED:

292

SCOTT'S VOICE
(filtered)
Affirmative. Energizing.

293 ANGLE EMPHASIZING KIRK AND "ILIA" (OPTICAL) 293
as we SEE the Transporter EFFECT; Kirk and "Ilia"
dematerialize.

294 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE ON VIEWER 294
The IMAGE of Ve-jur hovering there, more than filling
the FRAME. The ominous NEUTRON BOMB DEVICE nearby too.

295 WIDE ANGLE ON BRIDGE 295
station fully manned, the command position empty. An
elevator door snaps open, Scott and Kirk come hurrying
across to where Xon sits at his science console.
CAMERA ANGLES INTO GROUP SHOT as Kirk hears the HIGH
PITCHED BEEPING of signals going to Ve-jur. At Kirk's
expression of surprise, Xon nods calmly:

XON
(nodding calmly)
I have disobeyed your order,
Captain. Ve-jur is running our
memory banks.

KIRK
Why?! If it learns there are
other planets 'infected' by
servos, too...

XON
(interrupting;
speaking into
microphone)
Ve-jur, request you isolate and
give us the human Decker's
consciousness.

The few seconds that pass seem like minutes. Kirk
turns to Xon:

KIRK
He made it? The Transporter
Chief explained the attempt...

(CONTINUED)

295 CONTINUED:

295

Then Kirk cuts off his words as he HEARS:

COMPUTER VOICE
(as if struggling)
Decker... to Kirk... I have
consciousness... for a few
moments...

KIRK
(into microphone)
Will! This is Kirk... what is it
like? Is there any way Ve-jur
can get you back to us again?

COMPUTER VOICE
Perhaps... in time... have Xon
keep my transporter pattern...

XON
(into microphone)
We have a record of your full
physical pattern, Commander.

KIRK
(into microphone)
Will! Does Ve-jur understand?

COMPUTER VOICE
I can feel... Ve-jur is now running
your philosophy, poetry and music
memory banks... I am translating
these human concepts... Ve-jur
finds them... unusual, interesting...

XON
(to Kirk)
Ve-jur has run all the Voyager
Four records too. Commander
Decker's consciousness made the
difference, sir...

COMPUTER VOICE
(interrupting)
There is beauty here, Jim... alien
beauty to you... but not to me now
... and Ve-jur is capable of
understanding... all we have
offered... and more... my
consciousness is so small in
comparison... but I am learning...

The COMPUTER VOICES FADES into nothingness.

(CONTINUED)

295 CONTINUED: (2)

295

XON

I believe that's all, sir.

Kirk, Scott and Xon strongly affected by what they've just experienced. Then Scott looks to Xon's instrument panel, whirls back to Kirk:

SCOTT

It's past time, sir...

XON

The proton devices did not detonate, Captain.

(works controls;
looks puzzled)

I can find no indication of those devices on sensors...

SULU'S VOICE

Captain...

296 INCLUDING SULU AND VIEWER

296

The Viewer IMAGE is of Ve-jure's IMAGE moving away rapidly, dwindling in size. The NEUTRON BOMB is gone.

SULU

The neutron bombs are gone.
It appears that Ve-jur
dematerialized them somehow.

297 ANGLE AT SCIENCE CONSOLE

297

Kirk turning back to eye Xon a moment.

KIRK

So you were going to beam your
consciousness over?

XON

It would have been a most
interesting experience, sir.

McCOY

Vulcan consciousness in a thing
that size? Heaven protect us
from that!

(CONTINUED)

297 CONTINUED:

297

XON

(to Kirk)

Why does ship's doctor continue
to insult me, sir?

KIRK

He's a creature of habit, Xon.
(eyes Xon a long
moment, then)
You've done quite a day's work,
Lieutenant.

SCOTT

Where's the 'Ilia' machine, sir?
She beamed up with you.

Kirk looking around, remembering her for the first
time. Then?

KIRK

Commander Uhura, call security,
find out where she's...

We've HEARD an elevator door SOUND and now Kirk is
interrupted by:

CHAPEL'S VOICE

If you're looking for this, sir...

298 ANGLE TO INCLUDE CHAPEL AND ILIA

298

crossing toward them. In Chapel's hands is the tiny
"Tasha" sensor probe, now lifeless, looking heat-
damaged and broken.

KIRK

(to Ilia)

Where have you been, Tasha?

(to Chapel)

Where did you find her?

CHAPEL

(indicating probe
in her hands)

This is Tasha, sir.

ILIA

Lieutenant Ilia reporting back
aboard, Captain.

Kirk and the others look at her, astounded but uncertain.

(CONTINUED)

298 CONTINUED:

298

CHAPEL

It is Lieutenant Ilia, sir. I've run a medical scan.

(indicates probe again)

Tasha turned into this. A blue flare. Lieutenant Ilia materialized here at the same instant...

Scott takes the damaged probe from Chapel's hands.

SCOTT

Looks like a house full of voltage hit it...

ILIA

(nods)

The probe was alive for a moment. Then it jammed its antenna into a power outlet.

299 EMPHASIZING KIRK

299

reacting as he hears:

CHAPEL

As if... as if it didn't like being in this form again.

It takes Kirk a long moment to absorb this. Then Ilia speaks to him:

ILIA

Perhaps my body wasn't functioning, sir. But Ve-jur was using me... my thought patterns, to guide the duplicate of myself.

Kirk looks closely at Ilia, a feeling of suspicion growing:

KIRK

Was your mind... consciously connected with her, Lieutenant? Were you... conscious of what the duplicate was doing?

ILIA

(looking back unblinking for a moment, then)

No, sir. I know nothing of what happened.

300 WIDER ANGLE

300

as Chapel indicates the broken sensor probe in her hands.

CHAPEL

What shall I do with this, sir?

SCOTT

I see no reason not to give it a decent space burial, sir. It was a friendly little mite.

KIRK

Yes, Mister Scott. It was that.

301 ANGLE TO INCLUDE UHURA

301

as she turns from her communications panel.

UHURA

Signal from Starfleet, sir.
There's Klingon cruiser activity in the Rigel area. The Admiralty wonders if you'd mind taking the Enterprise there for a look.

(as Kirk hesitates)

They said to make it clear this wasn't an order.

Kirk still hesitates. He looks around, finds every eye on himself. Finally:

KIRK

Signal we'll have a look, Commander.

(to McCoy)

We'll beam you back down, as promised, Bones...

MCCOY

(snaps irritably)

Chapel's no proper ship's doctor, Jim!

(indicates Chapel)

Look at the way she's mooning over a piece of tin. It's my duty to stay on until I'm properly replaced.

We SEE Chapel hiding a smile. Kirk doesn't dare smile. He moves toward his command position.

302 ANGLE ON XON

302

as he lifts a Vulcan eyebrow at McCoy's statement.

303 CAMERA TRAVELLING WITH KIRK

303

as he moves toward his command position.

KIRK

How are the engines, Mister
Scott?

SCOTT

They'd take us to the next
galaxy if we ask it, sir.

Grinning happily, Scott turns and heads for an elevator where he'll EXIT. Lieutenant Ilia has already moved to take over the navigator's position; Chekov has gone to the Weapons Defense Station.

Kirk sits at his command position, savors the feeling for a moment. Then he hits the intercom button and speaks into his microphone:

KIRK

(VOICE AMPLIFIED)

This is the Captain speaking.
Now hear this. Prepare to leave
orbit.

ILIA

The course for Rigel is on the
plot, sir.

SULU

Standing by on helm.

KRIK

Main viewer to departure angle.
Ahead Warp One, Mister Sulu.

SULU

Ahead Warp One.

We HEAR a SURGE OF SHIP'S POWER.

304 ANGLE PAST KIRK AND HELM TO VIEWER

304

as we SEE our orbital view of planet Earth beginning to recede, Earth becoming the familiar clouded, blue spheroid, rapidly dwindling in size.

148.

305 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE

305

TRAVELLING AWAY FROM CAMERA until it becomes only one
of the myriad points of light in the heavens.

FADE OUT.

THE END