

STAR TREK II

"THE CHILD"

Written by  
by  
Jaron Summers  
and  
Jon Povill

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STAR TREK II

"The Child"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ENTERPRISE 1

traveling through space.

2 INT. BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE 2

It is manned by a relief crew; XON, in the command chair, is the only familiar face. The atmosphere is relaxed, routine, almost bored.

Then something makes ENSIGN BERNSTEIN, at the helm, perk up a bit.

BERNSTEIN

Something on the forward viewer,  
Mister Xon. Looks like a nebula.

XON

Slow to warp factor one, Mister  
Bernstein. Sensor scan, Ensign  
Park.

ENSIGN PARK, an attractive and efficient junior science officer, pushes a sequence of buttons in front of her and consults the hooded viewer for the results of the scan.

ENSIGN PARK

Not a nebula, sir. I'm picking  
up several kinds of energy...  
Radiation readings I've never seen  
before.

XON

Put it on the viewer, Mister  
Bernstein.

Bernstein hits some buttons, then:

3 ANGLE - VIEWER 3

as a swirling gaseous mass appears there. It has pulsing points of light within it that move about like fish darting through water.

4 ANGLE - BERNSTEIN

4

BERNSTEIN  
We're heading right for it,  
Mister Xon.

5 ANGLE - XON

5

as he approaches Ensign Park at the science console.

ENSIGN PARK  
(looking into hooded  
viewer)

No visible danger, sir. Radiation  
and electromagnetic readings all  
within our tolerance limit.

She steps out of the way and Xon looks into the hooded viewer briefly.

XON

You're quite correct, Ensign.  
Force fields to manual. Point  
eight five deflection aspect.  
Take us through at warp one,  
Mister Bernstein. We'll survey  
and map it.

6 EXT. SPACE

6

as the Enterprise sails into the cloud of pulsing,  
swimming lights.

7 INT. BRIDGE

7

All is normal.

ENSIGN PARK  
Cartography computer on and  
recording.

8 EXT. SPACE

8

as the Enterprise makes its way through the cloud.  
Large pulses of white light glide past. Now one of  
them seems to change direction and follow along with  
the ship for awhile. Then a small section of the  
light ball breaks off it and begins traversing the  
outer skin of the ship. Abruptly, it disappears  
into the Enterprise.

9 INT. DECK SEVENTEEN - CREW'S QUARTERS 9

as the light entity enters the empty corridor and passes through a wall into:

10 INT. UHURA'S QUARTERS 10

The light entity makes its way directly to the sleeping UHURA. It quickly scans the length of her body then makes another pass pausing first at her abdomen and then at her head. Uhura continues to sleep but she stretches languorously as though the touch of the light being on her body is sensual and pleasant.

Then the light entity moves on, passes through another wall into:

11 INT. CHEKOV'S QUARTERS 11

Again, the light entity heads directly for the room's sleeping occupant and quickly scans over his body before making another, closer pass. CHEKOV also appears to enjoy the experience in his sleep as the entity surveys his abdomen. It does not explore his head but moves on again through another wall into:

12 INT. ILIA'S QUARTERS 12

The same procedure occurs, only this time the entity seems to linger for a long time over ILIA's head. She, too, clearly enjoys the experience. The entity pulls away for a moment and hovers in the air over her, growing brighter and more animated. Then it plunges inside her through her abdominal wall. Her body moves spasmodically, sexually; but she doesn't wake up. Her writhing continues until it reaches a peak during which her entire body seems to glow. Then the glow appears to gather itself at her head. Her body relaxes again, the glow becomes the light entity which now removes itself and goes through yet another wall into:

13 EXT. ENTERPRISE - STILL WITHIN THE CLOUD 13

as the light entity emerges from the hull of the ship and rejoins the large light ball that has paced the ship.

DISSOLVE FOR TIME PASSAGE TO:



14

INT. CORRIDOR - DECK FIVE

14

It is now more brightly lit and abuzz with activity. KIRK strides cheerfully through in a swimsuit, a towel around his neck, hair dripping wet as Chekov emerges from his quarters.

CHEKOV

(as a joke)

Nothing like a brisk swim in the ocean, eh, Captain?

After they pass Ilia's compartment, the CAMERA HOLDS on Ilia's door as she emerges somewhat dreamily in a flowing Deltan robe.

CAMERA TRUCKS WITH Ilia as she makes her way to the turbolift exchanging dreamy AD LIBBED greetings with those who pass her.

She enters the turbolift.

15

INT. CORRIDOR

15

as Ilia proceeds to sick bay and enters.

16

INT. SICK BAY

16

McCOY is there, just settling into the day's routine. He greets her warmly.

McCOY

Good morning, Lieutenant -- If you can call turning the lights up at 0800 hours morning...

17

ANGLE - ILIA

17

She is extremely puzzled, dazed.

ILIA

I don't understand it... I have not broken my vow, yet I can feel it inside me...

McCoy is worried now. He realizes something is wrong.

McCOY

(gently)

What, Lieutenant? What do you feel inside you?

(CONTINUED)

Confused, groping for an explanation, she touches her fingers to the sides of her head (somewhere above and behind the temples) and closes her eyes in meditation.

ILIA

(recalling)

Last night... A... a pure white  
light... I don't know how...  
Beautiful...

She hesitates, uncertain, confused.

McCOY

Ilia, please: try to make sense.

ILIA

I'm pregnant, Doctor.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

18 INT. SICK BAY - WIDE ANGLE

18

Ilia lays supine on a delivery table. We SEE only her upper torso which is covered by a satiny looking surgical green sheet.

McCoy (V.O.)

Medical log, stardate ( ).  
After a pregnancy of only three days, rather than the normal ten month Deltan gestation period, Lieutenant Ilia is about to give birth. The circumstances of her pregnancy have caused us all obvious deep concern as to the nature of the infant.

A concerned Doctor McCoy looks into her eyes -- he's obviously worried but trying not to show it.

Ilia is keenly aware of his concern; more aware of it, in fact, than of her own pain.

ILIA

There is nothing to worry about, Doctor.

She reaches out and lightly touches him. He takes her hand, holds it gently, then reaches for a medical sensor.

McCoy

I'm not worried. What makes you think I'm worried?

(he checks her body  
with his medical  
sensor)

All the readings are normal.

ILIA

I know when you're worried, Doctor. Relax. She will be out in a moment.

Ilia smiles. Just the smallest gasp of pain escapes her lips. She reaches out again to McCoy.

Again he takes her hand, holds it. It is difficult to determine who is comforting whom.

19 ANGLE - DOORWAY

19

as ENSIGN LING, an armed security officer, enters the room carrying a medical tricorder. He approaches the delivery table cautiously, a bit unsure of what to do.

20 ANGLE - McCOY

20

looking up at Ling.

McCOY

(annoyed)

We already know that the child Lieutenant Ilia is carrying is a female humanoid; she poses no apparent danger to the security of this vessel!

LING

(sheepish)

Captain's orders, sir.

McCoy reacts angrily:

McCOY

Get out of here!

Ling leaves as CHAPEL enters. She carries sponges, sterilized dressing for the labor. McCoy's eyes sweep across to her.

McCOY

(continuing)

Call the bridge...

Chapel depresses a nearby intercom button.

McCOY

(continuing)

Captain!

21 INTERCUT BRIDGE AS NEEDED

21

Kirk glances up from the conn. DECKER is to his right; other crew members are at their positions.

KIRK

What's the problem, Doctor?

McCOY (FILTER)

Can't we let this woman have her child in peace?

(CONTINUED)



21 CONTINUED:

21

KIRK

A security officer's presence is  
normal procedure...

(quickly)

... under these abnormal  
circumstances, Bones.

McCOY (FILTER)

Normal, or abnormal, Jim, I want  
nothing to endanger Ilia or her  
child. McCoy out.

And the viewer goes dark. Kirk considers it, glances  
around at the crew -- each person seems to be "busy  
with his work." But we know differently. So does  
the Captain.

22 FAVOR DECKER

22

who is peering somewhat accusingly at Kirk.

KIRK

I'm all for motherhood, Mr.  
Decker, but surely I don't have  
to remind you we don't know what  
impregnated Ilia. Or why.

DECKER

(calmly)

I doubt if a newly born creature  
could pose any genuine threat to  
us.

KIRK

Can you guarantee that, Mr. Decker?

Kirk waits for an answer. Decker really has none:

DECKER

(a beat)

No, sir. But for a child to be  
born with a phaser levelled at  
its head doesn't guarantee it,  
either.

23 INT. SICK BAY - ILIA

23

glancing around at McCoy.

ILIA

I think I'm ready now, Doctor.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

McCoy hurries back as another labor pain causes her to shudder slightly.

CHAPEL

Rapid dilation... Pulse and respiration good... It's coming now, Doctor.

Ilia concentrates and focuses all her energy into the business at hand.

ILIA

There is no pain. Only joy...  
Only ecstasy...

Chapel dabs at Ilia's head with a sponge, as McCoy prepares to assist the infant's birth.

24 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE ON THE MAIN VIEWER

24

as a baby girl appears on it. She is upside down and she is CRYING. Loud and deeply. We can tell McCoy holds the child by her feet but we SEE little of him. A marvelous child. (She has hair on her head.)

Kirk looks at the viewer and we sense in his expression something special: wonder, awe -- and concern.

25 INTERCUT AMONG THE OTHER BRIDGE CREW

25

Chekov. Uhura, Decker and Xon. They each watch a nearby viewer and as the baby continues to CRY we can see their awe.

26 INT. SICK BAY - MCCOY, ILIA AND THE CHILD

26

McCoy returns the child to Ilia. It's obvious that he too is moved by this special moment.

MCCOY

(a bit awkward)

Well, you were right: it was an easy delivery.

ILIA

Deltans always know. You needn't have worried so...

MCCOY

Don't patronize me, young woman. You know very well this was no ordinary delivery.

27 WIDE ANGLE - INCLUDE CHAPEL

27

as Chapel touches the child's tiny head.

CHAPEL

(to McCoy)

She never pretended it was,  
Doctor.

McCOY

(a beat; gently,  
to Ilia)

Have you thought about a name  
yet...?

ILIA

(nods)

Irska, after her father.

CHAPEL

... after its father...?!

ILIA

(correcting)

Her father, Doctor. Irska means  
'pure light' in Deltan.

Ilia positively glows with love for her child. She begins to stroke Irska with graceful Deltan hand movements, making a sound that is not unlike purring and humming combined.

28 INT. BRIDGE

28

All appears normal here except for the fact that Chekov has temporarily returned to his old position at the navigation station during Ilia's absence. Kirk sits, somewhat tensely, at the conn. Xon is at his science station. Uhura and SULU are at their posts. Decker, too, is there.

29 FAVOR UHURA AND KIRK

29

Kirk swivels around as Uhura addresses him.

UHURA

Captain, will Ilia be able to  
keep the baby if it's normal...?

KIRK

(clearly sympathetic  
and troubled by this)

I wouldn't call an immaculate  
conception followed by a three day  
pregnancy... 'normal.'

(CONTINUED)



29 CONTINUED:

29

UHURA

Then what's to become of the child?

30 INCLUDE XON

30

XON

Respectfully, Captain, I would ask you to bear in mind that regardless of what you decide, there is no stronger bond than that between a Deltan mother and her child. In ancient times, protecting their offspring, Deltan women had been known to slay, barehanded, gnutabeasts five times their size.

KIRK

I'm aware of the Deltan mother-child relationship, Mr. Xon.

Kirk is interrupted by an INTERCOM SIGNAL; he presses a button on his chair.

KIRK

(continuing)

Kirk here.

McCOY'S VOICE

(filtered)

Jim, I have the results of the preliminary tests on Ilia's baby...

(grim)

Could you come down here...?

KIRK

On my way...

(to Decker)

You have the conn, Mr. Decker.

Kirk gets up and moves to the turbolift.

31 INT. SICK BAY - FAVOR McCOY AND KIRK

31

Still laying on the recovery table, Ilia and her child rest. During the following scene we'll INTERCUT between Kirk and McCoy -- then to the mother and child. Ilia is doing what almost all mothers do with a newborn child. She is examining every little detail of the child to make sure the infant is perfect. Ilia counts the toes, inspects the tiny ears, bends the rubbery knees and so on.

(CONTINUED)



31 CONTINUED:

31

And all the time she hugs and kisses her tiny daughter and seems unaware of the two men talking (out of her earshot) in soft tones across the room. All of this is done with great love.

At the director's discretion we'll CUT to the gentle warmth between mother and child as the two men talk about that child's destiny. For these moments we'll use VOICE OVER but, of course, Ilia will not hear anything. In the background we'll be aware of MUSIC -- gentle, like the love of the mother for her child --

Occasionally the two men glance toward Ilia and Irska.

McCoy shows Kirk some of the results as he explains the following facts to the starship captain.

McCOY

The child checks out as human in almost every respect.

KIRK

No Deltan characteristics?

McCOY

No physiological ones. She's even got hair.

(then becoming  
absorbed in  
the medical  
ramifications)

The one truly incredible thing is how fast she's growing -- even faster now than in Ilia's womb. By human standards her rate of growth is a little more than a year per twenty-four hour period. I don't know how she's doing it. Her metabolism appears normal and she isn't eating nearly enough to sustain that...

KIRK

(interrupting)

What would happen if I had them separated. Now -- ?

McCOY

In my opinion, that would be a tragic mistake: Ilia would stop at nothing to get her back. Frankly, I'm amazed you'd even consider it.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

What I'm considering is the safety of the entire ship. All we know about the child is that it was placed in Ilia's body, without her consent, by an unknown alien life form. WHY?

McCOY

It may be unusual, but it's not altogether unique for a species to reproduce by depositing eggs in a host -- without consent.

KIRK

Exactly, and in nearly every case, the life forms reproducing in that manner are parasitical...

Kirk lets the implications of this sink in, but McCoy's mind is elsewhere.

McCOY

(a beat, tight lipped)

Let me set your mind at rest, Captain. There's something I haven't told you yet about Ilia's baby... I don't think she'll live out the week...

KIRK

(concerned,  
suspicious)

Why not?

McCOY

She was born with an abnormally high white blood cell count: it's been steadily increasing...

(to the question  
in Kirk's eyes)

-- leukemia -- and the routine cancer drugs seem to have no effect.

He is interrupted by the ship's intercom.

UHURA'S VOICE

Captain Kirk, please report to the bridge. We have an alien object 1500 meters off the starboard bow.

32 FOLLOW KIRK

32

as he goes to the intercom.

KIRK

Acknowledged. Go to yellow alert.

I'm on my way.

(to McCoy)

Does Ilia know?

McCOY

I haven't told her.

KIRK

Don't. Not yet.

The yellow alert ALARMS and lights go on as Kirk exits.

33 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE - VIEWER

33

with the alien object hovering there. It appears to be nothing more than a huge cylinder.

34 WIDER

34

as Kirk emerges from the turbolift, glances at the viewer a moment. Then:

KIRK

Any sign of hostility?

CHEKOV

No, sir.

KIRK

Sensor reading, Mr. Xon?

XON

(carefully)

Sensors indicate no known life forms, Captain.

KIRK

It sounds as though you're hedging your bet, Mr. Xon. Do you think there may be someone on board?

XON

Sir, the sensors indicate only a hollow tri-tritanium shell surrounding a field of dense radiation of the same type as that contained in the cloud we encountered four nights ago.

(CONTINUED)



KIRK

The same night Ilia's child was conceived.

XON

Exactly, sir. The shell duplicates the alloy of our hull perfectly, but there is no machinery of any kind on board -- yet it appears to have no difficulty whatever in paralleling our course.

KIRK

How can that be?

XON

By all laws of physics as we know them, Captain, it cannot be. Yet it is. I suspect our sensors may not be capable of detecting the controlling life form.

KIRK

Commander Uhura, open hailing frequencies.

UHURA

Hailing frequencies open, sir.

KIRK

(to communicator)

This is Captain James T. Kirk of the starship Enterprise. Please identify yourself and your intentions.

UHURA

(listening)

No response, sir.

as Decker addresses Kirk.

DECKER

(ominous)

There's a connection between that... object and Ilia's child, Captain.

(CONTINUED)



36 CONTINUED:

36

KIRK

That would be the most logical assumption, Mr. Decker.

DECKER

Yes, sir, but it doesn't tell us why that thing is out there or what it wants...

37 INT. SICK BAY

37

Ilia is sitting up in bed holding and stroking Irska lovingly. They stare deeply into each other's eyes. Ilia guides her daughter's hand to her forehead.

Moth-er.

ILIA

Moth-er.

IRSKA

Ilia now moves the child's hand to Irska's forehead.

I-r-ska.

ILIA

I-r-ska.

IRSKA

It is, at once, beautiful and most unsettling to watch, as we...

FADE OUT.

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END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

38 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND ALIEN CYLINDER

38

KIRK'S VOICE

Captain's log, stardate ( ).  
 A week has passed since the birth  
 of Ilia's child and the appearance  
 of the strange alien cylinder.  
 Despite an ever increasing white  
 blood cell count, Irska remains  
 healthy. Her stage of development  
 is now roughly that of a ten-year-  
 old child. We remain unable to  
 make contact with the alien cylinder  
 or to determine why, or indeed how,  
 it is following us.

39 INT. ILIA'S QUARTERS

39

Without the occasional familiar pieces of hardware,  
 (the viewer computer library console, the intercom,  
 the doors, etc.) it would be most difficult to deter-  
 mine that this room was on board the starship Enter-  
 prise. It delights the senses. It is filled with  
 exotic plants. Cushions on the floor. Walls cover-  
 ed in soft, textured material. Deep, richly satura-  
 ted colors. Smoke rising from an incense burner.

40 VARIOUS ANGLES - ILIA AND IRSKA

40

There is MUSIC PLAYING, something like modern jazz  
 but played on totally alien sounding instruments.  
 It must be something danceable though, as mother and  
 child are dancing; sensual and innocent, joyous.  
 Movements perhaps related to tai chi. They whirl  
 about, diaphanous flowing robes billowing; ending in  
 a crescendo of laughing and waving arms and finger-  
 tips that occasionally brush each other's body as  
 lightly as hair blowing in the wind.

The MUSIC STOPS and they fall onto floor cushions,  
 breathless. They recline, catching their breath,  
 until Ilia grows serious and turns to her daughter.

ILIA

Today I resume my duties. That  
 means we'll be apart for a time.

IRSKA

Can't I work with you?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

Ilia reaches out and caresses the child's face, hair.

ILIA

No. My work is my work. It is important that you spend some time alone now and become who you are to be.

Irska looks uncertain and somewhat frightened. Ilia soothes her now with both hands.

IRSKA

But what will I do?

ILIA

Learn. Do whatever you want to do. See if you can discover joyfulness alone. Once you have achieved that, you need never fear rejection.

Ilia embraces the child lovingly. Irska returns the warmth. They look at each other for a long moment. Are they communicating telepathically? Or is it love? We do not know.

41 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS

41

Ilia in uniform, enters. Kirk reading, looks at her, smiles:

ILIA

I would like permission to resume my duties, Captain.

Kirk isn't sure. He wasn't expecting this.

KIRK

What about your daughter?

ILIA

She's busy: Learning to have a good relationship.

KIRK

Who with?

ILIA

Herself, sir. The beginning of all good relationships.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



ILIA (CONT'D)

(then to Kirk's  
questioning glance)

One must spend time alone to get  
to know oneself before being  
ready to share who you are with  
others.

KIRK

(concerned)

Ilia, what are your plans for  
you and your daughter?

ILIA

Plans, Captain? I have none.  
She is growing fast and will not  
be with me long. I must love  
her, teach her what I can, and  
then let her go.

KIRK

Go where? To do what?  
Appearances to the contrary,  
she's not human, nor is she  
Deltan -- or any other life  
form we know of. Will she be  
able to adjust to that aloneness!

ILIA

Captain, she is my child. Even  
if we are physically separated,  
the bond between us is inseparable.  
You are more alone at any time  
than she is ever capable of feeling.  
Where she goes and what she does  
must be left up to her.

KIRK

What if she were to pose some  
danger to...

ILIA

(forcefully)

She does not -- could not pose  
danger to anyone.

Kirk sees no point in trying to pursue the subject,  
though he remains less than fully convinced of her  
statement.

KIRK

Have you any idea at all in what  
way your daughter might be connected  
with the cylinder out there?

(CONTINUED)



41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

ILIA

No, Captain. I'm sorry, but I do not.

KIRK

Very well, Lieutenant, thank you. You may return to your duties.

ILIA

Thank you, sir.

42 INT. BRIDGE -- WIDE ANGLE

42

Uhura has the conn. Xon and Sulu are at their posts. Chekov is filling in for Ilia as navigator. The turbolift doors open and Ilia emerges.

43 TIGHTER ON ILIA

43

as she moves to her position.

ILIA

You are relieved, Mr. Chekov. Thanks for taking over for me.

CHEKOV

It was my pleasure. And how is the beautiful Irska today?

ILIA

(pleasant)

She's just marvelous --

Ilia is interrupted by a soft, urgent BUZZ. Then, "intruder alert" ALARMS. Chekov moves swiftly to his weapon/defense station.

44 WIDE ANGLE

44

Xon is looking into his hooded viewer as the turbolift doors open and Kirk steps quickly out to survey the situation.

KIRK

Status report.

Uhura gets up and goes to her communications post. Kirk takes his place at the conn.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

KIRK

Status report.

Uhura gets up and goes to her communications post.  
Kirk takes his place at the conn.

XON

Something is being beamed aboard  
from the alien cylinder. It is...

(he turns to  
face Kirk)

... roughly one cubic centimeter  
of the dense radiation atmosphere  
contained in the cylinder.

He turns back to his console and begins making computations with the assistance of the computer.

45 REACTION SHOT - ILIA

45

She glances around, uncertain. Does she sense something?

46 ANGLE - CHEKOV

46

looking at his readouts.

47 INSERT - WHAT CHEKOV SEES

47

A structural diagram of the ship with a blinking, BLEEP synchronized light flashing somewhere in the center of the saucer section.

CAMERA PULLS BACK SLIGHTLY as Chekov's hands rapidly punch buttons and the three dimensional image rotates on various axes until the exact location of the flashing light is found. Code letters: 8--L SUPATMOS QLT -- 10 FLTR: appear in sequence on his viewer next to the image as it zeroes (ZOOMS) in on the light.

48 FULL SHOT OF THE BRIDGE

48

as Chekov translates this for us.

CHEKOV

It beamed to the number ten  
filter in our atmospheric  
purification system.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

Xon reacts to this information, quickly turns back to his calculations, and Kirk comes to a decision:

KIRK

Evasive maneuvers, Mr. Sulu.  
Ninety degrees hard to starboard.  
Warp factor six...!

SULU

(punching it in)  
Warp factor six, sir. Ninety  
degrees hard to starboard.

49 INT. ILIA'S CABIN - CLOSE ON IRSKA 49

She is frightened. She stops reading, looks up in  
puzzlement.

50 EXT. SPACE 50

as we SEE the Enterprise and the cylinder moving  
laterally across the screen. Abruptly, the Enter-  
prise veers directly TOWARD THE CAMERA POSITION and  
away from the cylinder. We can feel the ship speed-  
ing up as it swiftly sweeps OVER THE CAMERA POSITION.  
A moment later the cylinder follows.

51 INT. BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE 51

DECKER

It's still right with us, sir.

KIRK

Come about 180 degrees. Increase  
speed to warp 8.

52 EXT. SPACE 52

The Enterprise and the cylinder once again are side  
by side as they ENTER THE FRAME FROM ABOVE AND BEHIND  
THE CAMERA POSITION.

CAMERA ROTATES Laterally to CATCH the sweep of the  
two vessels as the Enterprise again pulls away from  
the cylinder and begins to negotiate a tight arc  
U-turn. It continues past us. Two beats later the  
cylinder follows.



53 INT. ENGINEERING

53

ALARMS SOUNDING, people hurriedly programming backup systems into operation, engaging manual overrides and the like.

54 INT. CORRIDOR

54

People rush by. Irska, frightened, hurries along. She seems dazed.

55 INT. ENGINEERING - WIDE ANGLE - SCOTTY IN F.G.

55

at the wall intercom. In b.g. we SEE a number of technicians laboring to cancel alert warning lights on Inertial Guidance and stability systems.

SCOTT

Captain, we cannot continue maneuvering at this speed, you're putting a critical strain on the inertial guidance and stability system!

KIRK'S VOICE

What can you give me in a straight speed?

SCOTT

Warp 9.2: If you don't lean on her too long.

56 INT. BRIDGE - KIRK

56

KIRK

All right, Scotty, let's see if she can outrun them.

(beat)

Mr. Sulu, Warp 9.2.

(to Decker)

Get down to engineering and see if you can give them a hand.

As Decker leaves:

57 EXT. SPACE - VARIOUS ANGLES

57

The Enterprise streaks away. The cylinder falls behind. Then it adjusts, gains on us, passes to linger on a course slightly ahead of us.



58 INT. BRIDGE - IRSKA

58

Entering. Everyone on the bridge studies instruments so no one pays attention to Irska as she goes to her mother.

SULU

It's still with us, Captain.  
Dead ahead... slowing.

The child stands by her mother. Ilia slips an arm around Irska, continues with her work, but manages to look at her daughter with warmth. Understanding. Ilia reaches out, strokes the child's hair -- it'll be okay.

59 ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK AND OTHERS

59

KIRK

(grim)

No point wasting power. All  
engines stop, Mr. Sulu --

Kirk now sees the child with her mother.

XON

We have an additional problem,  
Captain.

KIRK

(looking at Ilia)

Yes, I believe we do.

Decker and the rest of the crew glance at mother and child.

XON

A cubic centimeter of radiation  
was beamed into our filtration  
system. It has already poisoned  
the air... quite lethal. Unless  
we counteract it, within twelve  
hours, we'll all be dead.

The child moves closer to her mother. Sulu watches them.

60 INT. SICK BAY - VARIOUS ANGLES

60

McCoy works feverishly at his laboratory table. Chapel assists him, removing samples from a centrifuge and prepares them for McCoy to study under something like an advanced microscope. Through this we HEAR:

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

KIRK'S VOICE OVER  
Captain's log, stardate ( ).  
It has now been more than four  
hours the alien craft beamed a  
deadly portion of its atmosphere  
into our ship. Thus far, Dr.  
McCoy has made little progress  
toward finding a cure for its  
effects.

61 INT. RECREATION ROOM - VARIOUS ANGLES

61

The mood is somber indeed. Small groups of people  
talk in subdued VOICES. There are a couple of games  
of three dimensional chess going on as well as some  
other games that are played on computer boards. These  
seem to provide little solace to the players. Lights  
are lower than usual.

Most people in the room are showing, or starting to  
show, red splotches on any exposed skin areas.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER  
The crew is already displaying  
symptoms of radiation poisoning  
and though they continue to  
maintain the ship's routine,  
many of them have become  
despondant, hopeless...

CAMERA PANS the room restlessly pausing only for  
moments here and there in which we PICK UP snatches  
of conversation.

62 HOLDING CHIEF JANICE RAND

62

as she gingerly probes a red splotch on her cheek  
with a finger. She reacts somewhat painfully. She  
tells her concerned, male companion:

RAND  
It's getting worse.

She bites her lower lip.

63 HOLDING TWO WOMEN CHESS PLAYERS

63

FIRST WOMAN  
Your move.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

The SECOND WOMAN reaches for a knight, then glances past the first. Irska stands there. Just watches.

IRSKA  
May I play? I read the  
instruction book.

The Second Woman considers the child.

SECOND WOMAN  
No. We're not going to play any  
more games.

Irska, disappointed a moment, stands uncertainly, then smiles, turns and skips away. The two women grimly, sadly, watch her.

64 INT. ENGINEERING 64

It's deserted except for SCOTTY, who sits at the engineering library viewer reading technical manuals.

65 MED. CLOSE - SCOTT 65

reading. For once, these seem to be of relatively little solace to him.

66 WIDE ANGLE 66

as the door WHOOSHES and Irska comes through, looking fit and beautiful and seemingly unaware of what is happening.

67 FAVOR SCOTT 67

as she approaches him and puts an arm innocently around him. Apparently she accidentally touches a tender spot because Scotty winces in pain as she touches him. He attempts to hide this from the child.

IRSKA  
(concerned)  
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to  
hurt you...

SCOTT  
It's all right, lass. Why aren't  
you with your mother?

(CONTINUED)



67 CONTINUED:

67

IRSKA

She said she felt a need to meditate by herself for an hour.

She smiles beautifully at him and manages to lift his spirits a bit.

SCOTT

So you came to see old Scotty, eh?

Irska nods.

SCOTT

(continuing)

You know, you're the only wee lass I've ever known who could see the beauty in engineering schematics.

IRSKA

I see beauty in almost everything, Mr. Scott.

Scotty studies her reflectively, then smiles at her.

SCOTT

I nearly forgot... I have a present for you.

Irska beams as Scott gets up, somewhat painfully, and goes to a storage closet, opens it and withdraws a jeweled headband similar to the ones that Ilia wears. He brings it back and demonstrates for Irska how it works.

SCOTT

(continuing)

See, it's just like your mother's except I made it for you so that it could grow as fast as you do. If you press this lever in, it will adjust to whatever size you need.

Irska gives him a Deltan style hug and kiss.

IRSKA

Oh, Mr. Scott, it's beautiful. Thank you.

She is radiant as he puts it on her head.

NOTE: She will continue to wear the headband throughout the remainder of the story.



68 INT. BRIDGE

68

It is deserted except for Kirk, Xon and Decker. Xon's copper-based blood causes his splotches to be green rather than red. Kirk wearily crosses from the science station and gingerly settles himself into his chair. Once in it, it almost looks as if he'll never get up again. He rubs his eyes and forehead.

KIRK

All right, let's try a different approach... Obviously there is some intelligence in control of that thing...

He indicates the cylinder hovering in the viewer.

69 ANGLE - XON AND DECKER

69

as they glance at each other. Decker is puzzled. Xon shows no expression.

DECKER

I doubt it has any interest in our ship itself. The operation of that cylinder indicates it has no need of our technology.

KIRK

Then why is it trying to kill us? And why by slowly poisoning our atmosphere? It could finish us much faster if it wanted to.

Xon has a flash:

XON

Knowledge. It might be trying to learn how we react to its atmosphere. Or it might be trying to communicate with us.

The turbolift door opens, Ilia enters. She addresses Kirk:

ILIA

Captain, you wished to see me?

KIRK

Where is your daughter?

ILIA

With Mr. Scott, I think.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

(a beat)

Ilia, do you think it's possible that the change in our atmosphere was intended to trigger some change in Irska?

ILIA

(alarmed)

I don't know what you're talking about...!

XON

(gets it)

Captain, that may be it. Assuming the girl is, in fact, connected with the vessel. It might be wise to have Doctor McCoy re-examine her.

Ilia reacts with puzzlement. Concern.

ILIA

(to Kirk)

Re-examine her...?! She has nothing to do with what's happening to us! She is innocent!

KIRK

(firm)

I want the girl re-examined.

ILIA

But she may be frightened. She hasn't even started to learn about pain and fear.

KIRK

Bring her to Dr. McCoy, Lieutenant. Now.

70 INT. SICK BAY - ANGLE - MCCOY AND CHAPEL

70

Still working at the lab table. Chapel prepares a fresh serum sample and has it ready for McCoy to look at. McCoy removes the previous sample wearily.

Both McCoy and Chapel look wretched. There are red splotches on their faces and arms. They appear thoroughly bedraggled.

MCCOY

Which one is this?

(CONTINUED)

## CHAPEL

K-one-seven platelets with  
antispasm serum.

McCoy takes the sample and slides it into his viewing apparatus. Just then the communicator hailing SIGNAL is HEARD. McCOY AD LIBS, "Yes...?" into the speaker.

## KIRK'S VOICE

What progress, Bones?

McCoy glances grimly at Chapel, then speaks into the communicator:

## McCOY

None. The effects are similar to Beta Ray poisoning; I don't have to tell you what little success we've had curing that...

(grim)

Frankly, Jim, I don't have much hope.

BRIDGE - KIRK

replying, into the communicator:

## KIRK

I'm sending Irska to be re-examined. I want to know if she's being affected differently than the rest of us.

## McCOY'S VOICE

I'll let you know.

## KIRK

(dryly)

Yes, doctor, please do. Kirk out.

INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS

as Kirk enters, goes directly to his bed and lies down. His condition appears to have degenerated still further than in the previous scene. He looks tired, weak and frustrated. A soft CHIME is HEARD. Kirk pushes himself up into a sitting position.

(CONTINUED)



72 CONTINUED:

72

KIRK

Come.

The door opens and Kirk registers mild surprise as Ilia enters. She is not as badly splashed as Kirk, but is clearly considerably weakened. Kirk gestures her to sit down on the bed. She does.

73 FAVOR ILIA

73

She's hurting emotionally as well as physically.

ILIA

I brought my daughter to Dr. McCoy.

Kirk does not feel well but Ilia's manner indicates there's no way to avoid a confrontation. He strains for patience:

KIRK

Ilia, she's not going to be harmed.

ILIA

You're experimenting with her!

KIRK

We are trying to save our lives! Everyone's, including the girl.

ILIA

And suppose she is affected differently? What will you do then?

KIRK

We'll investigate further.

ILIA

(cold)

What sort of investigation, Captain?

(she looks in his eyes and 'sees'; horrified)

No! I will not have her confined in a force field...!

(suddenly canny; threatening)

And has it occurred to you that if there is a connection between my child and the cylinder outside -- if you harm her, the cylinder might launch a fresh attack?

(CONTINUED)



73

CONTINUED:

73

Kirk studies her a beat:

KIRK

Do you know the cylinder would  
be provoked?

ILIA

I know only that my daughter is  
good. As I would know if she  
were not. She poses no danger  
to the ship!

She is interrupted by the SOUND of the DOOR OPENING.  
They turn to the sound.

74

WIDE ANGLE - THE ROOM

74

McCoy and Irska are already entering. Irska carrying  
a box of spare syringes. McCoy senses the charged  
atmosphere.

McCOY

I thought you'd want your shot  
as soon as possible.

KIRK

Bones! You found a  
cure!

IRSKA

Doctor McCoy taught me  
all about life and  
death, Mother.

McCoy already has the air syringe at Kirk's arm. It  
HISSES into Kirk. We NOTICE now that McCoy's splotches  
are considerably faded in addition to his obviously  
improved energy level.

75

FOLLOW McCoy

75

as he goes now to Ilia. He unloads the empty cart-  
ridge from the syringe and hands it to Irska, who  
puts it in the box she carries before handing him  
a fresh one.

McCOY

Don't thank me, thank my young  
assistant here.

(he gives Ilia  
her shot)

She had the cure inside of her  
a week before we needed it.  
I manufactured the serum from all  
those strange space white corpuscles  
she's been growing.

(CONTINUED)

75

CONTINUED:

75

Ilia smiles. Kirk does not. Something bothers him. Ilia stops smiling as she senses this.

KIRK

Bones, had she been affected in any way at all?

McCOY

No.

Kirk, not quite sure what this means, glances at Ilia, and then suddenly we HEAR: ALARMS for red alert and Xon's VOICE OVER THE INTERCOM.

XON (V.O.)

Captain, our hull is being penetrated by an energy beam of unknown nature emanating from the alien vessel. Neither force field screens nor defensive shields offer any resistance.

Kirk casts Irska a swift glance. She meets his gaze levelly, innocently. How can she be responsible for this? Kirk remains in his quandry; he goes to the wall intercom and speaks into it.

KIRK

On my way.

76

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND THE CYLINDER

76

A blue glow surrounds the Enterprise like an aura. Another, brighter, stronger plane of blue energy (the shield) stands midway between the now-glowing cylinder and our ship. Cutting through both energy fields and into the hull of the Enterprise itself is a thin band of pure white light which funnels off from the flowing cylinder.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

77 INT. BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

77

ALARMS are still BLARING. Xon is alone as the turbo-lift doors open, and Sulu and Uhura emerge. They are in off-duty clothes. The turbolift doors close again as they move, as quickly as their not-yet-healed bodies will allow, to their posts.

The doors to the second bridge turbolift open. Kirk and Chekov emerge. Chekov is also in leisure clothes, making Kirk and Xon the only bridge personnel in uniform. They also waste no time moving to their positions.

KIRK

Damage report, Mr. Chekov.

(turns to Sulu)

Prepare for evasive maneuvers,  
Mr. Sulu.

(to Uhura)

Cancel the alarms, Commander, but  
maintain red alert.

In Ilia's absence, Decker jumps into the navigator's position in order to execute the evasive maneuvers. The ALARMS CEASE. Kirk studies the situation another moment, then:

KIRK

(continuing)

Arm phasers, Mr. Chekov, and  
lock them on target.

78 ANGLE TO INCLUDE SULU

78

Chekov begins programming this.

KIRK

Commence evasive maneuvers, Mr.  
Sulu. Sixty-five degrees to  
starboard. Go to warp three.

SULU

Sixty-five degrees starboard  
rudder. Accelerating to warp  
three.

79 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND CYLINDER

79

as the Enterprise veers away from the cylinder and passes OVER THE CAMERA POSITION. The cylinder first turns its white beam of light onto the Enterprise's trail before swiftly following.



80 EXT SPACE - ANOTHER ANGLE

80

as, once again, the cylinder catches up to the Enterprise and swings in front of it. This done, it abruptly turns off its attacking beam.

81 INT. BRIDGE - ANGLE - CHEKOV, DECKER IN B.G.

81

CHEKOV

Phasers armed and locked on target, sir.

DECKER

Captain, the alien has disengaged its energy beam.

Kirk looks at viewer, confirms that Decker is correct.

KIRK

Hold your fire, Mr. Chekov.

(turns to Xon)

Why did they stop? Did they know we were going to fire on them.

DECKER

I doubt that could stop them.

XON

Perhaps, Captain, it was not aware that it was damaging us, and our evasive maneuver convinced it otherwise.

82 ANGLE - DECKER - TURBOLIFT IN B.G.

82

DECKER

They knew, Mr. Xon. They were shooting through full power shields. They had to realize we didn't like what they were doing.

At this moment, Ilia and Irska emerge from the turbolift in the b.g. Kirk, and then everyone in the room, turns to look at them, and at the same moment the INTERCOM WHISTLES.

83 CLOSEUP - DISPLAY LIGHTS BY KIRK

83

He stares at them.



84 WIDER ANGLE

84

as Kirk moves to his chair and hits a button on its arm.

KIRK  
(to intercom)  
Scotty, why are the impulse  
engines overheating?

85 INT. ENGINEERING - SCOTT

85

at the wall intercom.

SCOTT  
None of our manual overrides  
will shut them down. Control  
servo units must be fused...

86 INT. BRIDGE

86

as Kirk looks to Chekov. Then Kirk's eyes lock on  
Ilia. Kirk is annoyed.

KIRK  
(still eyeing Ilia)  
Damage control viewer, Mr. Chekov.

Chekov punches buttons; then:

87 INSERT - DAMAGE CONTROL VIEWER

87

as Chekov quickly whirls the structural image of the  
Enterprise on its axis. The code: IMPLS ENG appears  
on the screen and the computer image quickly zooms  
through to the appropriate area of the ship, where a  
flashing light synchronizes with a BEEP SOUND. Addi-  
tional codes now appear: SRVS 18, 7, 5, FZ. CLG CL  
2 LK. "FZ"... "LK" flash on and off in red, ominously.

88 BACK TO SCENE

88

CHEKOV  
Impulse Servo units five, seven  
and eighteen are fused. Plus a  
leak in the number two cooling  
coil. That's where we were hit  
by the alien, sir.

Kirk glances again at Ilia and her child. Irska now  
peers over Chekov's shoulder at his control viewer.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

You get that, Scotty?

(to Ilia)

Please get your daughter off the bridge.

SCOTT (V.O.)

Daughter? What are you --

KIRK

Nothing, Scotty.

(to Ilia)

Did you understand me, Lieutenant?

ANGLE - ILIA AND IRSKA

Hurt, disappointed, Ilia gently takes Irska by her hand, starts to lead her away. The child has a mind of her own. She wants to see everything that's happening on Chekov's viewer.

IRSKA

(to Ilia)

Please let me watch for just another minute.

Ilia hesitantly relents. Chekov is uneasy. The child smiles at him.

SCOTT (V.O.)

No way to repair the leak without soaking up a massive dose of Beta rays.

KIRK

What about repairing the servos first?

SCOTT (V.O.)

Take a twenty man crew three hours. Coil's the best bet. One man could weld her in fifteen minutes.

CHEKOV

Captain, Beta radiation in the access tube is well over the tolerance limit. Even with a protective suit no one could remain conscious in there for more than a few minutes.

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

89

KIRK

(to Chekov)

How much time do we have?

Irska looks up from the viewer, gestures to it.

IRSKA

That says the impulse engines  
explode in eighty-nine minutes,  
Captain Kirk.

Kirk stares at the child.

CHEKOV

She's right, Captain.

KIRK

She might be right but, young  
lady, when I give a command on  
this ship I expect you to follow  
it.

(to Ilia)

And I expect you to make sure  
that she does.

Kirk takes the child and gently but firmly leads her  
from Chekov's viewer. Kirk holds the child's hand  
too tightly.

IRSKA

But can't I -- ouch.

KIRK

No -- off the bridge --

He moves her toward the turbolift.

KIRK

(continuing)

Tell Scotty to get to that leak  
fast!

90 INT. ENGINEERING

90

with Scotty at the wall intercom.

SCOTT

(he punches a  
different button)

Ferguson. Meet me at impulse  
engine access tube 74-J with a  
heat and Beta suit. On the  
double.



91 INT. BRIDGE

91

as Kirk now returns his attention to Ilia and Irska.

ILIA

(to Irska)

Go to your cabin.

She strokes the child's hair. Lots of love there.

ILIA

(continuing;

to Kirk)

Request permission to return to  
my station, sir.

KIRK

Request denied. Take your  
daughter below.

Sulu, Chekov and Uhura react to this. Kirk's manner  
seems unaccountably harsh to them.

ILIA

Sir, I apologize for --

KIRK

Lieutenant, get below!

Ilia is sad, then resigned, she and Irska turn and  
enter the turbolift. Except for Xon, the other offi-  
cers look at Kirk incredulously. Kirk addresses them,  
explaining:

KIRK

(continuing)

She knew I couldn't allow Irska  
to remain on the bridge.

UHURA

(coldly)

Yes, sir.

92 CLOSEUP - KIRK

92

His anguish is evident.

93 INT. CORRIDOR

93

as Ensign Ferguson helps Scotty into his protective  
suit at speed. A good deal of black smoke and steam  
pours out of the access tube.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

Once fully suited, Scott picks up the repair sheathing, the small laser torch he will use to weld it in place, and other unidentified tools. Then he climbs into the tube as quickly as he can. He's laden down with equipment. (The suit must also carry a supply of fresh air.)

94 INT. IMPULSE ACCESS TUBE (REDRESS OF JEFFERIES TUBE) 94

It is narrow and the going is difficult. The smoke and steam obscure his vision. He draws forth a spare hose from his air supply and adjusts a setting on the tank. He directs the thin stream of air which issues forth from it ahead of him. It blows a clearing through the smoke and steam as he continues.

95 INT. ILIA'S QUARTERS 95

as Ilia and Irska enter. They move across the room. Irska follows her plainly frustrated mother with curiosity. They sit on cushions. The door opens. It is Uhura. Irska and Ilia look at her.

UHURA

I had to come and tell you I'm  
sorry --

ILIA

Thank you.

UHURA

(kneels by the  
child)

Irska, I know you don't understand  
a lot about Captain Kirk but he's  
going through great strain.  
Sometimes when that happens to  
people they say things they don't  
mean.

IRSKA

Mother told me. We both love  
Captain Kirk. We love you too.

Uhura reaches, gathers the child into her arms --  
Irska responds with a hug.

UHURA

Oh, you're such a wonderful child.  
(to Ilia)  
She's such a delight --

96 CLOSE ON ILIA

96

She "sees" something that startles her.

97 FOLLOW ILIA

97

She races to her private desk viewer and turns it on. On the viewer we SEE an image of Scott. He makes his way through the access tube. Ilia watches, plainly concerned. Irska and Uhura approach now and watch, too.

IRSKA

What's he doing?

UHURA

He's trying to fix a leak in the impulse engine cooling system.

IRSKA

That's a funny suit he's wearing.

Ilia smiles; gently touches Irska's face.

ILIA

To protect him from the Beta rays. Without that suit he could die.

IRSKA

Doctor McCoy says that people die when their bodies cease to function. Does that mean I was dead before I was born?

Ilia holds her daughter's face in her hands and looks deeply into the girl's eyes.

ILIA

Deltans believe that before we are born and after we die, we exist as pure love. We try to reflect that state for as long as we are alive.

Uhura looks on in amazement and awe.

98 INT. BRIDGE

98

Xon at his hooded viewer. He looks up.

(CONTINUED)



98 CONTINUED:

98

XON

Captain, I have tied Doctor McCoy's medical profile of Irska into the ship's computer. I believe she is capable of withstanding the radiation from the impulse engine cooling core.

99 ANGLE - DECKER

99

looks at Xon incredulously.

KIRK

Are you suggesting we send Irska in there to fix the leak?

XON

I am merely presenting that alternative.

DECKER

But you only think she'd be safe.

XON

(agreeing)

There would be considerable risk. I merely maintain that she would most likely survive long enough to effect repairs.

DECKER

Ilia would never allow it.

XON

Then I suggest we not consult Ilia.

DECKER

That's a cold blooded approach if I ever heard one.

XON

(gently)

I believe the alien deliberately damaged us in an area that only Irska could enter; just as the cure Doctor McCoy discovered could only come from her blood. Captain, it's within your authority to order the child to help.

100 FAVOR KIRK

100

as he struggles to reach a decision.

KIRK  
(pushes a button)  
Scotty. Progress with those  
control servos yet?

SHARMA (V.O.)  
This is Ensign Sharma, sir. It  
appears the units will have to  
be cut out with a torch. That  
will take a while, sir.

The news comes as no surprise to Kirk.

KIRK  
Where's Mr. Scott?

SHARMA (V.O.)  
He's in the access tube, sir,  
attempting to weld the coolant  
leak.

This does surprise Kirk and angers him as well. He  
makes a hard decision, punches another of his chair  
buttons.

KIRK  
Lieutenant Ilia, this is the  
Captain. Please bring your  
daughter to the bridge at once.

101 INT. ACCESS TUBES

101

Scott welds in close quarters amid great clouds of  
smoke. His arms tire and he leans against the far  
wall and rests for a moment before continuing.

102 INT. BRIDGE

102

as Ilia and Irska enter.

IRSKA  
Hi, Captain Kirk.

KIRK  
Hello, Irska...

Kirk gestures the girl to him, clasps her hand:

(CONTINUED)

102 CONTINUED:

102

KIRK

(continuing)

Mr. Xon, perhaps it would be best if you explained the situation.

XON

The situation is quite simple: if the impulse engine cooling system is not immediately repaired, the ship will be destroyed. Irska is the only person on board who can withstand the Beta ray bombardment within the access tube long enough to affect the repairs.

103 FAVOR ILIA

103

looking at Kirk intensely. She tries to be calm.

ILIA

There is no other alternative?

XON

None.

104 ANGLE - IRSKA

104

IRSKA

I want to help.

ILIA

(gently)

I know. But, darling, sometimes --

IRSKA

Mr. Scott is my friend. I don't want him to die.

The INTERCOM WHISTLES. Kirk moves to it, activates it.

KIRK

Kirk here.

SHARMA (V.O.)

(alarmed)

Mr. Scott appears to be unconscious, sir!

Kirk looks questioningly at Ilia.



105 ANGLE - ILIA AND IRSKA

105

four hands clasped together between them. Ilia searches her daughter's eyes.

ILIA

The reason I love you -- or one reason I love you is that you have learned to love others.

IRSKA

I'll be all right, Mother. Really.

Ilia nods but she obviously does not believe things will be that simple.

106 FAVOR KIRK AND ILIA

106

as Ilia faces Kirk accusingly. Then Xon picks up an object (laser torch), addresses Irska:

XON

This is a laser torch. It is operated by depressing this...

IRSKA

Oh, I know how it works. Mr. Scott showed me. Look, you just press that button --

Kirk is already on his way toward the elevator. He wants to get this over.

KIRK

Let's go.

Xon continues explaining what she must do as they move to the door.

XON

The actual welding itself will be a relatively simple procedure. You will see steam escaping from the area you are to...

They exit.

107 INT. ACCESS TUBE

107

Irska and Xon, both suited up, make their way arduously along. Due to her smaller size, Irska has a somewhat easier time of it than Xon.

108 INT. CORRIDOR ENTRANCE TO ACCESS TUBE - KIRK, ILIA AND OTHERS IN B.G. 108

waiting, watching.

KIRK  
(to Ilia)  
There's no other choice.

ILIA  
(a beat)  
I know.

109 INT. ACCESS TUBE 109

as Xon and Irska reach Scott and the leak. Xon points out the damaged area to Irska. The patch is already in place, all that is necessary is for it to be carefully sealed.

XON  
Use the steam as your guide.  
When the patch is fully sealed,  
no steam will escape.

IRSKA  
I understand.

Xon pulls Scott's limp body out of the way and Irska begins working. Xon now secures Scotty to his back and begins the crawling return journey.

110 INTERCUT VARIOUS ANGLES 110

Xon proceeding with great effort down the tube with Scott on his back... and:

Irska working on the leak; the volume of escaping steam growing progressively smaller.

111 INT. CORRIDOR AT ENTRANCE TO ACCESS TUBE 111

Dr. McCoy has now joined the others anxiously.

112 WIDE ANGLE 112

as Xon emerges with Scott.

McCoy and two aides move in quickly. They hold Scott up and remove his protective suit so that McCoy can examine him. McCoy waves his medical scanner across Scott's limp body.

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED:

112

McCOY

He's alive.

(he gives Scott a  
shot, then to  
the aides)

Get him to sick bay.

113 FOLLOW McCOY

113

as he now proceeds to Xon. Resets his medical scanner  
and waves it next to the Vulcan.

XON

I was not in the radiation zone  
long enough to suffer any ill  
effects.

McCOY

I'll be the judge of that.

He administers a shot, smiles.

114 WIDER TO INCLUDE KIRK AND ILIA

114

waiting to talk to Xon.

KIRK

How was Irska doing when you left  
her?

XON

Admirably, Captain. I have  
little doubt that she will  
accomplish her task...

He notes Ilia's concerned look.

XON

(continuing)

... and suffer no radiation  
damage...

(to Kirk again)

But the recent pattern of events  
indicate that we can expect some  
new difficulty to follow swiftly  
upon the solution of this one.

McCOY

No life form in the entire galaxy  
can spoil good news faster than  
your average Vulcan.

(CONTINUED)



114 CONTINUED:

114

Xon ignores McCoy and continues, to Ilia.

XON

I'd like to attempt a mind meld with Irska. I may be able to discover things in her subconscious to explain her connection with the alien vessel.

Kirk looks at Ilia questioningly.

KIRK

Would you object?

ILIA

(sad)

Again, Captain, do we have any choice?

McCOY

(reacting)

What's wrong with you people?! You're all acting like we're dice in some game the gods are playing! 'Choice,' 'no choice!' We do what's necessary, and we do it fast!

ILIA

(in psi awareness)

She's coming...

115 WIDE ANGLE

115

as all move to the outlet of the access tube where, a moment later, Irska appears.

The steam is no longer coming out of it, only a trickle of black smoke.

Ilia helps her get the protective suit off, then holds her while McCoy checks her over. This takes place in the b.g. while Kirk speaks into a wall intercom in the f.g.

KIRK

Kirk to Engineering. Reactivate the impulse engine coolers now.

Kirk moves to join the others. McCoy is completing his scan.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED:

115

McCOY

It's incredible. She wasn't  
affected at all!

Kirk is glad at the news but preoccupied.

KIRK

(to Ilia)

The mind meld, Lieutenant...?

Irska replies for her mother:

IRSKA

Yes, I'll be happy to join minds  
with Mr. Xon. Wouldn't it be  
funny if we taught him how to  
cry, Mummy?

ILIA

Very funny, darling.

Kirk nods at Xon, who moves toward Irska; the girl is  
still being clutched by Ilia.

XON

(to Ilia; gently)

Let her go.

Ilia does so as Xon kneels to face the child directly.

116 CLOSE ON XON AND IRSKA

116

as Xon cautiously reaches out and touches her face at  
the appropriate spots to accomplish the link. His  
face first registers shock, then beatitude.

XON

(getting words from  
Irska's mind)

Love... life... death... compassion  
... fear... body... pain...  
cryontha... learn...

(then, as if from  
another source)

Understand cryontha... End peril.

117 INT. BRIDGE

117

SHOWING Uhura at her post.

UHURA

Bridge to Captain Kirk and Mr.  
Xon. The alien ship is enveloping  
us in an energy field!

118 ANGLE - CHEKOV

118

working his damage control console.

119 INSERT - DAMAGE CONTROL CONSOLE

119

This time, the entire superstructure of the Enterprise is blinking on and off rather than one small area. Code letters: HL-SPSTR MOL INTGY appear. And flashing -- 12 MINUTES TO CRITICAL.

120 ANGLE - CHEKOV - VIEWER IN B.G.

120

aghast. Behind him, on the viewer, we SEE the alien cylinder emitting a filmy magenta energy net that swirls as it envelops the Enterprise.

CHEKOV

It's breaking down the molecular integrity of our hull.

UHURA

(appalled)

The ship will turn to powder!  
How long?

CHEKOV

Twelve minutes.

He switches on the intercom viewer.

121 INT. CORRIDOR ENTRANCE TO ACCESS TUBE - CLOSEUP -  
KIRK

121

He studies Chekov on the viewer.

KIRK

You certain, Chekov?

CHEKOV (FILTER)

Positive, Captain. Twelve minutes.

122 TWO SHOT - KIRK AND IRSKA

122

The Captain kneels by the child.

KIRK

Do you remember when Mr. Xon said  
that the peril would end if we  
understood cryontha?

She nods.

(CONTINUED)



KIRK  
(continuing)  
Do you know what peril is?

She nods her head, affirmatively, again.

KIRK  
(continuing)  
And cryontha. You know what that  
is too, don't you?

And the child slowly shakes her head negatively.  
She's puzzled and perhaps frightened.

IRSKA  
I don't know. I really don't.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

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ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

123 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND CYLINDER 123

The Enterprise is caught in a field of magenta light emanating from the alien cylinder. It pulses and glows.

124 INT. BRIDGE 124

as Kirk, Xon, Ilia and Irska emerge from the turbolift and move to their respective positions. (Irska next to her mother).

Kirk takes the conn. Decker moves to his position.

125 FAVOR IRSKA 125

She glances around, smiles; Uhura looks warmly at her.

IRSKA

(to Uhura)

You were right, Uhura: Captain Kirk really doesn't mean to say nasty things.

Kirk gives Uhura "a glance."

126 ANGLE - XON 126

looks up from his console.

XON

Captain, the added strain of any maneuver might cause the ship to break up.

COMPUTER (O.S.)

Computer override. Emergency life support system activated. Imperative, repeat imperative. Hull breakdown anticipated within nine minutes. Repeat --

KIRK

Shut it off!

Uhura flips a button -- computer stops.

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED:

126

CHEKOV  
Phasers armed and locked on target,  
sir.

KIRK  
(a beat)  
Fire phasers, Mr. Chekov.

127 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND CYLINDER

127

as the blue phaser beam SHOOTs out of the Enterprise  
and strikes the cylinder.

128 INT. BRIDGE - CLOSE ON IRSKA

128

as she screams in pain.

129 WIDER

129

as Ilia screams at Kirk.

ILIA  
STOP IT! Please, Captain, stop  
it!

All eyes (except for Xon's) turn and focus on the  
Deltan and her daughter as Ilia now comforts the  
sobbing Irska.

130 FAVOR XON

130

He's engrossed in his hooded viewer. Now he looks up.

XON  
Captain, despite the pain to  
the child, the alien cylinder  
shows no damage whatever. Its  
energy field is still intact.

KIRK  
We must have done something to it  
for the child to be hurt.  
(then, with a brief,  
agonized look at  
Ilia and Irska)  
Fire again, Mr. Chekov.

131 FAVOR CHEKOV

131

as he hesitates for just a moment, then pushes the  
button.



132 VARIOUS ANGLES

132

as Irska screams again. Ilia runs for him, throws him aside with surprising ease and begins hitting buttons on his weapons console. It starts sparking and shorting out before Kirk and Xon can grab her and pull her away from it. She continues to struggle furiously against them. Xon must finally use his Vulcan nerve pinch to subdue her. Now Irska runs and falls on the slumped body of her mother.

KIRK

Mr. Chekov, have a security team take them --

(indicating Ilia and Irska)

-- to their quarters and confine them.

133 FAVOR CHEKOV

133

as he pushes a button on an undamaged portion of his console.

CHEKOV

Security team 'B' to the bridge.

He now begins picking through the damage to his console.

CHEKOV

(continuing)

Phaser and photon torpedo controls are both out, Captain.

KIRK

We can go to auxilliary.

XON

Sir, the second battery did no more damage than the first. We are only hurting the child. I suggest we direct our energies toward finding the meaning of 'cryontha.' Irska's subconscious indicated that the peril to the ship would end when she understood the meaning of that word.

KIRK

Check through the computer language banks for 'cryontha.'

134 WIDE ANGLE

134

as the security team emerges from the turbolift.  
Chekov points them to Ilia and Irska.

135 INT. CORRIDOR - APPROACHING ILIA'S QUARTERS

135

as the security team carries Ilia and escorts Irska  
to her room.

136 INT. ILIA'S CABIN

136

as the group enters, lays Ilia down on some cushions  
and withdraws.

137 INT. CORRIDOR

137

as two guards remain posted outside her door.

138 INT. ILIA'S QUARTERS

138

Irska kneels beside her unconscious mother. She takes  
Ilia's hand in hers and gently strokes it while watch-  
ing her face intently.

Ilia comes to and looks up at her daughter.

139 ILIA'S POV - IRSKA

139

The child seems radiant with love. Ilia's hands seem  
to intertwine with Irska's.

140 CLOSE - ILIA AND IRSKA

140

as the child lies down cradled in her mother's arms.  
Their hands continue to move soothingly -- as though  
they had minds of their own.

ILIA

No need to be frightened.  
You've only felt pain.

IRSKA

Why must anyone feel pain?

ILIA

Part of life. Sometimes it is  
how we understand.

(CONTINUED)

140 CONTINUED:

140

IRSKA

Can you make me understand...  
what cryontha is?

ILIA

It is inside your mind. You  
have to find it.

IRSKA

And if I don't, everyone will die?

ILIA

Don't use your mind to feel guilt.  
Direct your mind to discover what  
cryontha is --

141 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND CYLINDER 141

The Enterprise remains enmeshed in the magenta energy  
field emanating from the cylinder.

142 INT. BRIDGE 142

KIRK

Mr. Chekov, how much time?

CHEKOV

Seven minutes, forty-two seconds,  
sir.

Kirk punches a button on his chair.

KIRK

Metallurgy, Lieutenant Haber,  
status report.

HABER'S VOICE

Whatever the energy field is, sir,  
it's operating on a sub-atomic  
level. I don't see much hope  
of finding an effective catalyzing  
agent.

KIRK

(punching another  
button)

Physics lab, Lieutenant Takawa,  
report.

(CONTINUED)



TAKAWA'S VOICE

We've tried reverse gravity and a battery of magnetic field generators so far. No effect, sir.

XON

Captain, the closest thing to 'cryontha' that the computer banks contain is 'cryanth' which is a species of animal on Porgath Five.

KIRK

(desperate)

Have you tried mathematical languages?

XON

Yes, sir. With similar results. I have, however, also been reviewing the child's thoughts as I knew them when our minds were joined.

DECKER

The point, Mr. Xon. The point --

XON

I had the distinct impression that each of the calamities that befell the ship was designed to teach the child something about life and death and emotions I could not comprehend. There was a sensation of incompleteness, as though she was still evolving and these were necessary steps in the process.

KIRK

Cryontha, Mr. Xon, what is cryontha?

XON

Cryontha is the key to the next stage of her development. Perhaps if I tried another mind-meld I could learn more.

KIRK

Time, Mr. Chekov?

CHEKOV

Five minutes, thirty-six seconds.

(CONTINUED)

142 CONTINUED: (2)

142

KIRK  
Let's go, Mr. Xon.  
(to Uhura)  
We'll be in Lieutenant Ilia's  
quarters.  
(to Decker)  
You have the conn.

The two men move quickly to the turbolift and enter.

143 INT. CORRIDOR

143

as Kirk and Xon emerge from the elevator. They hurry  
down the corridor to Ilia's room.

144 ANOTHER ANGLE - OUTSIDE ILIA'S DOOR

144

as Kirk and Xon brush past the two Security Men, and  
enter the cabin.

145 INT. ILIA'S CABIN

145

as Kirk and Xon enter. Xon reacts quickly and extends  
a hand pulling Kirk up short.

Mother and child sit cross-legged on the floor oppo-  
site each other. They appear to be in some kind of  
trance-like state. Their arms extend outward, clasp-  
ing each other's hands, fingers intertwined, roughly  
at waist level.

146 ANGLE - KIRK AND XON

146

They keep their voices low.

XON  
They are 'sharing sight.' We  
shouldn't interrupt them.

KIRK  
What about the mind meld?

XON  
This may serve the same  
function.

(CONTINUED)

147     ANGLE - KIRK AND XON'S POV - ILIA IRSKA

147

XON

It is a deep meditation. Irska  
may find the...

Ilia's face looks suddenly stricken. She screams.

ILIA

NO!

And she breaks the posture to clasp Irska tightly to  
her. They are still both unaware of Kirk and Xon's  
presence. Irska attempts to push away from her mother.  
Ilia holds tighter.

IRSKA

Mother, let me experience what  
you did.

And she forces Ilia back into the "sight sharing"  
posture.

148     ANGLE - XON AND KIRK

148

KIRK

What did you feel, Ilia?

Too late. The mother and daughter are in a world of  
their own. They cannot hear Kirk. They are light  
miles away.

KIRK

(continuing)

Ilia!

Xon touches Kirk's arm.

XON

They cannot hear you ---

Kirk is terribly frustrated.

KIRK

Use telepathy. Get into their  
minds. Inject your theory into  
their line of thought.

Xon nods. He kneels beside Irska and reaches out to  
establish contact. It is a heavy jolt for him. He  
loses contact. He tries again. Winces. Controls it.  
Finally he settles in. For a moment all are entranced.



149 EXT. SPACE - THE CYLINDER

149

The radiation peeks for an instant.

150 INT. CABIN

150

Abruptly, Xon and Ilia are thrown violently off from Irska as though repelled by some incredible force. They are both knocked to the floor, unconscious, while Irska continues to sit in a trance state.

151 ANGLE AND FOLLOW KIRK

151

as he reacts, aghast, and runs to the wall intercom.

KIRK  
Doctor McCoy to Lieutenant  
Ilia's quarters. Emergency!

The two security guards enter the room at the sound of the commotion. Kirk steps back to check out Xon and Ilia himself, the guards accompany him. They remain tending to the unconscious forms of Ilia and Xon while Kirk runs to the bathroom for some water. When he re-enters the room carrying a cup, he stops short; looks around.

152 PAN ROOM - KIRK'S POV

152

Irska is gone.

KIRK  
(to guards)  
Where's the child?

The guards look up. Plainly they were too preoccupied with Xon and Ilia to notice Irska leave. Kirk drops the water and bolts for the door. It opens and he nearly crashes into McCoy, who rushes in.

KIRK  
(continuing)  
You see Irska?

McCOY  
No.

Kirk waves in the direction of Xon and Ilia.

KIRK  
Take care of them.

With that he runs out into the:



153 CORRIDOR

153

as Kirk pounds along the corridor, he pulls out his hand communicator.

KIRK

(into communicator)

This is the Captain. Alert all decks. Find Irska, and detain her!

He continues his frantic search.

154 VARIOUS ANGLES

154

as Kirk and others run through the corridors, check in doorways, storage rooms, etc.

Finally, a struggling VOICE comes out of the intercom system.

VOICE

Transporter room to Captain Kirk.  
Irska is here, sir.

Kirk races for the elevator.

155 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - WIDE ANGLE

155

Irska is struggling furiously trying to break free of the ENSIGN who holds her. Her headband falls off during the struggle.

The door opens and Kirk rushes in.

IRSKA

Cryontha means 'unnecessary shell!' 'Unnecessary shell.'

ENSIGN

(hanging on)

She was trying to beam over to the alien ship, sir.

KIRK

Hang on to her.

Kirk moves to the intercom. Presses buttons. Irska continues to struggle and AD LIB "Let me go... etc."

KIRK

(continuing)

Mr. Chekov. How much time?

(CONTINUED)

155 CONTINUED:

155

CHEKOV

Twenty-two seconds, sir.

Suddenly Xon appears in the doorway.

XON

Let her go!

The Ensign is confused. Xon rushes into the room and nerve pinches the man before anyone has time to react. Irska runs for the transporter platform while Xon leaps to the controls. A moment later she is gone.

XON

(continuing)

Forgive me, Captain. There was no time to explain.

156 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND CYLINDER

156

as the magenta energy field withdraws back to the cylinder. The cylinder then metamorphoses into a large, white light energy ball like the ones in the cloud that the ship passed through in the teaser. The light entity then moves off at speed.

157 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - ANGLE - KIRK AND XON

157

XON

'Cryontha' meant 'unnecessary shell,' Captain.

Kirk still fails to see the significance of this.

KIRK

Yes, I heard Irska say that...

CHEKOV'S VOICE

(over intercom)

The alien cylinder is gone, sir.  
The hull has returned to normal.

158 FOLLOW KIRK

158

to intercom.

KIRK

(puzzled)

Thank you, Mr. Chekov. Secure  
from red alert.

(CONTINUED)

158 CONTINUED:

158

XON

Thousands of centuries ago, Irska's race existed in human form. Just as humans pass through all evolutionary stages from single cell to human being within the mother's womb, it was necessary for Irska to experience all stages of her race's prior development.

KIRK

Are you suggesting that all this time Irska hadn't really been born?

159 ANGLE - DOORWAY

159

Ilia stands in it.

ILIA

That is correct, Captain. Until she had experienced all the joys and pains of living in a body and was ready to shed the 'unnecessary shell' it represented to her, she was still in an embryonic stage for her race. I was her first womb. The Enterprise was her second.

160 ANGLE - KIRK

160

showing his exhaustion and sympathy. He picks up Irska's fallen headband and hands it to Ilia.

KIRK

I wish, Lieutenant, that her life with you could have been longer, or that I could have made it a bit easier.

161 CLOSE ON ILIA

161

looking just as tired, but deeply fulfilled. She reflects deeply, longingly, as she slowly turns the headband over in her hands.

(CONTINUED)

161 CONTINUED:

161

ILIA

Thank you, Captain, I appreciate  
your sentiments, but I could  
hardly expect you to make  
improvements on a miracle.

Her smile is pure beauty as we...

FADE OUT.

THE END

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BARBARA'S PLACE  
(we satisfy)

SCRIPT SPECIALISTS

Typing and Duplicating

7925 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
(213) 654-5902