

Screenplay by

Nicholas Meyer & Denny Martin Flinn

Story by

Leonard Nimoy & Nicholas Meyer

Fifth

Draft

12/28/90

CONFIDENTIAL

DO NOT PHOTOCOPY UNDER ANY CONDITIONS

TO ALL RECIPIENTS OF THIS SCRIPT:

We are determined to protect the secrecy of our materials, and of our project.

1. Your script is numbered and is for your use alone.
2. In addition to your script number in each page, all scripts have been coded (by number) by a method known only to this office.

Reproduction of all or part of these materials will be traceable.

Needless to say, if you have this script, you are a colleague in our mutual endeavor. Please take care of your material and treat it with the confidentiality it deserves.

Thank you.

Distribution

2/15/91

R. Winter

Star Trek VI/Script

It has come to my attention that unauthorized copies of the STAR TREK VI script have been made and distributed.

Requests for copies of the script should only be made through my office (956-5797)

Each script has been assigned both a number and an internal code, which allows us to trace the script even if

the red number written on each page is somehow removed.

A wide distribution of the script weakens the impact that STAR TREK can have at the box office.

Please return your script to my office if it is not essential to
the making of this film. Please understand that this is
necessary to help us deliver a fresh movie to our dedicated audience.

Please help us maintain the secrecy of our project.
Thank you for your help and cooperation.

/rrb

.....

1 STARFIELD

1

VFX

VFX

Credits OVER serene space when SUDDENLY...

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

2 OMITTED

2

VFX

VFX

3 CU A TEACUP

3

WIDEN TO REVEAL

INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR

The polyglot CREW is busy.

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

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

SULU

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

SCIENCE OFFICER

Fifty-four planets - and their gaseous atmospheric anomalies. Our

sensing and analytic equipment
worked well.

SULU

Then it's time we were heading
home. Three years is...

The ship starts to TREMBLE.

4 ANGLE ON SULU'S TEA CUP

4

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

SCIENCE OFFICER

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

SULU

Visual!

4 ON THE SCREEN

4

VFX

VFX

an ENORMOUS GASEOUS WAVE, a subspace shock front.

SULU

(continuing)

My God. SHIELDS.

5 EXT. THE GALAXY

5

VFX

VFX

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

6 INT. USS EXCELSIOR BRIDGE

6

The ship rolls, throwing everyone off balance.

SULU

What the Hell is going on?

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

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

7

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

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

8 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE

8

LOJUR
Captain, she's not answering her
helm --

SULU
Starboard thrusters. Turn her into
the wave!

9 INT. EXCELSIOR ENGINE ROOM

9

Chaos. Valves hiss PURPLE. Crew running, knocked
about.

ENGINEER
Engine room. What's going on up --

10 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE

10

SULU
Quarter impulse power!

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

SULU
Damage report.

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

10 THE SCREEN

10

VFXA

VFXA

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

SULU
(to Science Officer)
Don't tell me that was any meteor
shower.

SCIENCE OFFICER
(over his console)

Negative. The subspace shockwave originated at bearing three-two-three, mark seven-five, the location is...

(turns to Sulu)

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

SULU

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

(thinks)

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

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Aye, sir.

SULU

Mr. Valtane, any more data?

SCIENCE OFFICER

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

SULU

What is it?

SCIENCE OFFICER

... I cannot confirm the existence of Praxis.

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

SULU

Praxis?

SCIENCE OFFICER

What's left of it.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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

SULU

Onscreen.

11 ON SCREEN:

11

a snowy picture of a WILD-EYED KLINGON OFFICER.

OFFICER

This is an emergency! We have
suffered -

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

KERLA

This is Brigadier Kerla, speaking
for the High Command.
There has been an incident on
Praxis. However everything is
under control. We have no need for
assistance. Obey treaty
stipulations and remain outside the
Neutral Zone. Transmission ends
now.

12 The screen goes black. Sulu looks incredulous.

12

SULU

An INCIDENT?

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Do we report this, sir?

SULU

Are you kidding?
(swivels to the
communications officer)
Send to Starfleet Command...

13 EXT. SPACE

13

VFX

VFX

Excelsior warps off into the galaxy.

14 OMITTED

14

THRU

THRU

22

22

22A CU STARFLEET SHIELD

22A

Kirk walks into shot.

KIRK
What are we doing here?

WIDEN TO REVEAL

23 INT. STARFLEET BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

23

The room fills with BEMEDED BRASS, Kirk's CREW among them - the only starship complement in the room. They can't help looking at each other, questioning. They are in uniforms.

BONES
Search me. Anybody know how come
we made the A list?

UHURA
My shore leave was just cancelled.
(reacting)
Isn't this just for top brass?

CHEKOV
Where is Mr. Sulu?

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

A door opens and STARFLEET ADMIRAL DONALD, austere and impressive, enters and gavels the meeting to order.

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

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

CinC
As you were. I'll make this as simple as I possibly can. The Klingon empire has roughly 50 years of life left to it.

They look at each other in disbelief.

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

He makes a sign and another door opens. Spock walks to the podium. Kirk and company are astounded.

SPOCK

Good morning.

VFX OMITTED

VFX

SPOCK

(continuing)

Two months ago a Federation Starship monitored an explosion on the Klingon moon Praxis. We believe it was caused by over mining and insufficient safety precautions. The moon's decimation means an almost eighty percent loss of available energy and a deadly pollution of their ozone. Due to their large military expenditures, the Klingon economy is in a very weakened condition. They do not have sufficient resources to manufacture air shelters in large enough quantities to sustain anything like their current population. Last month - at the behest of the, uh, Vulcan Ambassador - I opened a dialogue with Gorkon, Chancellor of the Klingon High Council. He proposes to commence negotiations at once.

ADMIRAL DONALD

Negotiations for what?

SPOCK

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

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

SPOCK

(continuing)

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

A MILITARY MAN

Bill, are we talking about mothballing the Starfleet?

CinC

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

ADMIRAL DONALD

I must protest. To offer the Klingons a safe haven within Federation space is suicide. Klingons would become the alien trash of the galaxy. And if we dismantle the fleet, we'd be defenseless before a bellicose people with a foothold on our territory. The opportunity which presents itself here is to embargo trading, force them to run through their own resources faster, and bring them to their knees. Then we'll be in a far better position to dictate terms.

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

CinC

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

KIRK

Sir -

CinC

Captain Kirk?

KIRK

(eyes Spock briefly)

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

CinC

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

KIRK

Yes, sir.

CinC

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

ignore.

SPOCK

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

CinC

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

KIRK

Me?

SPOCK

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

Kirk is too startled to speak.

CinC

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

KIRK

Why, in God's name?

CinC

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

SPOCK

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

KIRK

You have personally -

CinC

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

KIRK

(straining)

Surely a full Ambassador would be better equipped to -

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

He charges out as ALL RISE. Everyone files out.

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

He moves off before Kirk can reply. The room is
empty...

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

KIRK
WE volunteered?

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

KIRK
(incensed)
How could you vouch for me?
That's...
(words fail him)
... arrogant presumption -

SPOCK
I was asked by my father to open
neg-

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

SPOCK
Jim, there is an historic
opportunity here -

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

SPOCK
They're dying.

KIRK
LET THEM DIE.

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

KIRK

(and what's more)

Has it occurred to you that this crew is due for retirement in three months? WE'VE DONE OUR BIT FOR KING AND COUNTRY.

Spock is patient. They stare at each other.

ON Kirk's face.

KIRK

(finally)

You should have trusted me.

24 OMITTED (POSS. ALTERNATE)

24

&

&

24 VFX

24

VFX

25 INT. THE BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

25

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

BONES

Well, I've heard some whoppers in my time...

UHURA

(overlaps)

They're mothballing the fleet?

CHEKOV

(overlaps)

We will regret this...

LT. SAAVIK

Captain on the bridge.

The CREW stands to.

KIRK

As you were. Lieutenant...?

LT. SAAVIK

Saavik, sir. We were told you'd

need a helmsman -

(to Spock)

... so I volunteered.

She salutes. He smiles, returns the salute.

SPOCK

Lieutenant, I am pleased to see you.

(to Kirk)

The Lieutenant is the first Vulcan to be graduated at the top of her class as the Academy.

KIRK

Congratulations, Lieutenant. That must make you very proud...

LT. SAAVIK

I don't believe so, sir.

BONES

She's a Vulcan all right.

KIRK

(down to business)

All right, let's get this over with... departure stations...

(pushes the comm)

Scotty?

They assume their familiar stations.

SCOTTY'S VOICE

Aye, sir?

KIRK

You find the engine room?

SCOTTY'S VOICE

Right where I left it, sir.

KIRK

Standby. Get me the dock master, Uhura.

UHURA

Control tower, reading, Sir.

KIRK

Control, this is Enterprise requesting permission to depart.

VOICE OVER

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

LT. SAAVIK

Clear all moorings...

KIRK
Awaiting port gates from this
mark.

FILTERED VOICE
Mooring lines cleared...

LT. SAAVIK
Aft thrusters -

KIRK
(overlaps)
Thank you. Lieutenant, one quarter
impulse power...

LT. SAAVIK
(she turns to face him)
Captain, may I remind you that
regulations specify thrusters only
while in space dock?

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

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

KIRK
You heard the order, Lieutenant.

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

The ship begins to rattle slightly, then

26 EXT. SPACE DOCK

26

VFX

VFX

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

27 OMITTED

27

THRU

THRU

29

29

30 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE - NIGHT

30

Kirk sits comfortably with a smile on his face.

KIRK
(continuing)
Lieutenant...

Saavik faces him.

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

Spock watches.

LT. SAAVIK
Aye, sir.

KIRK
Plot a course for Kronos,
Lieutenant.

LT. SAAVIK
(startled)
Kronos, sir?

KIRK
I'm still in the chair, Lieutenant.

LT. SAAVIK
Aye, sir.

Other reactions. Kirk has taken command.

31 EXT. SPACE

VFX
VFX

Enterprise cruises purposefully through the void.

KIRK'S VOICE OVER
Captain's log. Stardate 8679.225.
They say you can't teach an old dog
new tricks - and maybe they're
right. It seems to me our mission
to escort the Chancellor of the
Klingon High Council to a peace
summit is problematic at best.

32 INT. KIRK'S CABIN

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

KIRK
(continuing)

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

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

A delicate COUGH.

Kirk realizes he's not alone. Swivels to face

LIEUTENANT SAAVIK standing in the bulkhead doorway.

LT. SAAVIK

Sorry -

KIRK

Come on, Saavik, you COULD knock -

LT. SAAVIK

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

KIRK

Right -

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

LT. SAAVIK

Permission to speak freely, sir?

He doesn't stop her.

LT. SAAVIK

(continuing)

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

KIRK

You piloted well out of spacedock,
Lieutenant -

LT. SAAVIK

(almost smiles)

I always wanted to try that.

KIRK

(passing her)

Only don't try putting words in my mouth.

And leaves her with that.

33 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE SPOCK'S QUARTERS

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

SPOCK'S VOICE

Enter.

34 INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS

34

In contrast with his Spartan personality, the room is a voluptuous incense-laden lair, filled with curtains and smoke. Spock lights a votive candle; surveys her. He is out of uniform.

SPOCK

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

LT. SAAVIK

(intense)

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

SPOCK

I am not certain such speculations are included among your duties, Lieutenant.

VOICE FILTERED

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

She's startled.

SPOCK

(off her look)

In time you may come to view so-called turning points with... skepticism.

He starts to get into uniform.

SPOCK

(continuing)

You must have faith.

LT. SAAVIK

Faith...?

SPOCK

That the universe will unfold as it
should.

35 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

35

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

VOICE

Captain on the bridge.

CHEKOV

Captain, shall we raise our
shields?

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

35 THE MAIN DISPLAY

35

VFX

VFX

A KLINGON battlecruiser. HUGE.

KIRK

(finally)

Never been this close.

SPOCK

The Chancellor is undoubtedly
awaiting our signal.

Boy is this hard for Kirk - finally:

KIRK

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

LT. SAAVIK

Right standard rudder, Z plus five
degrees...

UHURA

Channel open, Captain.

KIRK

This is the Starship Enterprise,
Captain James Kirk commanding.

36

GORKON comes up on the main visual display.

GORKON

This is KRONOS One. I am
Chancellor Gorkon.

KIRK

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

GORKON

Thank you, Captain.

KIRK

(does his best)

Uh, would you and your party care
to dine this evening aboard
Enterprise with my officers as
guests of the United Federation of
Planets?

37

A few of the crew look around at Kirk.

GORKON

We'd be delighted to accept your
gracious invitation.

KIRK

(nuts)

We'll make arrangements to have you
beamed aboard at 1930 hours.

GORKON

I shall look forward to it.

He disappears. Kirk turns to Spock.

KIRK

I hope you're happy.

LT. SAAVIK

Captain.

He turns.

LT. SAAVIK

(continuing)

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

Kirk smiles, relieved.

KIRK

Officer thinking, Lieutenant.

38 AT THE COMMUNICATION CONSOLE
38

Chekov leans over to Uhura.

CHEKOV
Guess who is coming to dinner.

39 EXT. SPACE
39
VFX
VFX

Both ships cruise parallel in space.

40 INT. ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTER ROOM
40

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

SCOTTY
Maybe if their particles just got a wee bit mixed...

KIRK
Energize...

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

KIRK
Chancellor Gorkon.

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

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

GORKON
(to Spock)
Commander, face to face at last.. you have my thanks..

Spock bows.

GORKON

(continuing)

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

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

CHANG

I've always wanted to meet you,
Captain.

KIRK

(smiles)

I'm not sure how to take that.

KERLA

Sincere admiration, Kirk -

CHANG

(soft)

As one warrior to another...

KIRK

(ducks this)

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

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

1st CREWMAN

They all look alike.

2ND CREWMAN

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

They turn to find themselves facing an expressionless
Lieutenant Saavik.

LT. SAAVIK

You men have work?

1st CREWMAN

Yes, sir.

LT. SAAVIK

Then snap to it.

41 INT. R DECK CORRIDOR

41

leaving the Enterprise Science Labs...

GORKON

Your research laboratory is most impressive...

KIRK

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

GORKON

This cannot be easy for you, Captain...

(off the look)

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

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

KIRK

Would you care to go topside?

CHANG

Very much.

CHEKOV

(pulling Kirk aside)

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

KIRK

(clenched teeth)

Full diplomatic courtesy, Mr. Chekov...

The party passes Uhura and a YOUNGER CREWMAN.

YOUNGER CREWMAN

Would you want your daughter to marry one?

42 OMITTED

42

42 REPEAT 39 VFX

42

VFX

THE TWO SHIPS CRUISE PARALLEL

43 INT. OFFICERS' MESS, ENTERPRISE

A WINDOW IRISES OPEN REVEALING the stars gliding by.

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

GORKON

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

All drink ROMULAN ALE, echoing "the undiscovered country." The KLINGONS eat with their fingers, scorning utensils.

SPOCK

HAMLET, act three, scene one.

GORKON

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

Chang turns to Kirk with a malicious twinkle.

CHANG

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

KIRK

I beg your pardon?

KERLA

Captain Kirk, I thought Romulan ale was illegal.

It takes Kirk a moment to regain his composure.

KIRK

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

Silence.

BONES

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

All drink. As Romulan ale flows throughout the scene,

tongues get looser. Gorkon WATCHES.

SCOTTY

Perhaps we are looking at something
of that future here.

AZETBUR

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

SPOCK

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

UHURA

How do both sides overcome
ingrained prejudice?

CHEKOV

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

BONES

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

CHANG

Captain Kirk, are you willing to
give up Starfleet?

Kirk stares.

SPOCK

(looks at Kirk)

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

KIRK

(glares)

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

CHANG

Come now, Captain, this dinner
is off the record: in space all
warriors are cold warriors.

SCOTTY

We have never tried to --

KERLA

You hypocritically presume that

your democratic system gives you
a moral prerogative to force other
cultures to conform to your
politics.

BONES
That's not true...!

KERLA
No?

Uhura turns to the Klingon next to her - all tact.

UHURA
General, are YOU fond of
Shakespeare?

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

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

AZETBUR
(spits)
"Human rights." Even the name is
racist. The Federation is
basically a "homo sapiens" only
club...

SPOCK reacts to this. Chang is amused.

CHANG
Present company excepted, to be
sure...

UHURA
Well, I suppose we're not perfect -

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

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

them for lower pay...

CHEKOV

That's economics, not racism -

UHURA

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

BONES

Don't be naive, Commander -!

UHURA

Who you calling naive -?

Kirk stares sullenly down the table throughout this.

CHEKOV

We're explorers not diplomats!

BONES

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

SCOTTY

We follow orders...

CHEKOV

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

SCOTTY

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

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

GORKON

(finally)

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

Reactions from Kirk and his officers.

44 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, ENTERPRISE

44

Both parties are gathered, saying goodbyes.

GORKON

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

KIRK

(wooden)
We must do this again soon.

Gorkon stares at him, smiles slightly.

GORKON
You don't trust me.

Kirk can't look at him.

GORKON
(continuing)
I don't blame you. If there IS to be a Brave New World, we old people will have the hardest time living in it. Commander Spock.

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

AZETBUR
Captain, Commander...

KIRK
General Chang, a pleasure...

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

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

KIRK
Energize.

44 They disappear. The Bosun's whistle.

44

VFX

VFX

SCOTTY
Thank God.

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

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

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

He starts out; others follow...

45 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS

45

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

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

He leans back, sighs, thinking -

KIRK
(continuing)
But is wasn't the ale. That was just the excuse we needed to say all the things that were really on our minds...

SPOCK'S VOICE
(filtered)
Captain Kirk, you are wanted on the bridge. Captain Kirk...

Kirk reacts, tries to shake himself awake.

46 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

46

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

46

VFXA

VFXA

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

SPOCK
Captain.

KIRK
(rubs his eyes)
What is it?

SPOCK

I am uncertain.

KIRK
Spock, I'm really tired...

SPOCK
We are reading an enormous amount
of neutron radiation.

KIRK
(tries to focus)
Where?

SPOCK
Curiously it appears to emanate
from us.

KIRK
From Enterprise?

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

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

LT. SAAVIK
Sir?

KIRK
Mr. Chekov, anything unusual?

CHEKOV
Just the size of my head -

KIRK
I know what you mean...

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

KIRK
What the -

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

CHEKOV
Torpedo room--?

KIRK
Uhura, monitor!

LT. SAAVIK
Direct hit -

UHURA
Confirmed, Captain!

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

KIRK
(frantic)
Who's doing that?

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

47 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, KLINGON FLAGSHIP
47

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

The entire FLAGSHIP is drenched in AMBER emergency
LIGHT.

ADVISOR
We're hit --!

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

SOLDIER
Gravity generator!

48 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, FLAGSHIP
48

CLOSE ON

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

48 KLINGON BLOOD FLOATS IN THE AIR
48 VFXB
VFXB

49 INT. FLAGSHIP CORRIDOR

49

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

50 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, FLAGSHIP

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

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

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

51 INT. FLAGSHIP CORRIDOR - NIGHT

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

52 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, FLAGSHIP

52 The HEAVY BOOTS step on the platform and de-materialize.
52 VFX
VFX

(One FOOT TREADS ON FLOATING KLINGON BLOOD)

53 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

53 53 A snowy picture on the visual display, then Chang comes
53 VFXA on (still in AMBER LIGHT) ...
VFXA

CHANG

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

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

KIRK
We HAVEN'T fired -

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

LT. SAAVIK
Captain, they're coming about!

53 ONSCREEN

53
VFXB
VFXB

the battlecruiser/flagship now heading for Enterprise.

SPOCK
They're preparing to fire.

CHEKOV
Shields up, Captain --?

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

LT. SAAVIK
Captain, our shields -- !

KIRK
Uhura, signal our surrender.

UHURA
Captain --

KIRK
WE SURRENDER.

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

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

KIRK
Torpedo bay! DID we fire those
torpedoes?

54 OMITTED

54

55 INT. ENTERPRISE TORPEDO BAY

55

Scotty at the console.

SCOTTY

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

56 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

56

ANGLE ON SPOCK

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

56 CU DATA BANKS: they reconfirm - two photon torpedoes

56

VFX fired.

VFX

KIRK

Stand down your weapons.

SCOTTY

Captain, if --

57 ANOTHER ANGLE

57

KIRK

Stand DOWN, Mr. Scott. All stop.
That's an order.

SCOTTY

Aye, sir.

Bones hurries in, carrying his stuff.

BONES

What the Hell's going on?

KIRK

I wish I knew. Uhura?

UHURA

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

KIRK

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

He heads for the transporter room. Spock blocks him.

SPOCK
(blocks Kirk)
I am responsible for involving you
in this. I will go.

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

SPOCK
Perhaps you're right.

And Spock uncharacteristically pats him on the back.

SPOCK
(continuing)
Good luck, Captain.

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

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

They hurry out.

58 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, FLAGSHIP

58

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

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

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

59 INT. FLAGSHIP TRANSPORTER ROOM

59

VFX

VFX

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

KERLA
Have you lost your mind?

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

BONES
We're here to help...

KERLA
(hesitates; furious)
Follow me.

He leads them along the

60 INT. FLAGSHIP CORRIDOR

60

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

61 INT. GORKON'S STATEROOM, FLAGSHIP

61

where dead and wounded are being separated.

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

BONES
Chancellor Gorkon!

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

KIRK
My God, what happened here?

CHANG
You feign ignorance?

KIRK
WHAT HAPPENED?

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

Kirk has no response, is shocked.

BONES

Jim!

Bones is being held back from Gorkon by two Klingons.

KIRK

He's a DOCTOR!

CHANG

How can I trust --

BONES

Are you carrying a surgeon?

CHANG

(enraged)

We were until your torpedoes!

BONES

Then let me help!

Chang hesitates; signals. Bones is released.

BONES

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

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

BONES

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

KIRK

Can you - ?

BONES

Jim, I don't even know his anatomy.

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

BONES

(continuing)

The wounds aren't closing...

KERLA

You're killing him!

Kirk grabs Chang before he can get to Bones.

KIRK

No!

BONES

Chancellor Gorkon, can you hear me?

Chancellor...?

No response.

AZETBUR

Father...!

KIRK

Bones...?

BONES

He's gone into some kind of
arrest... come on, dammit!

He tries a medical tricorder.

Frantically, he WHUMPS Gorkon's chest...

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

GORKON

Are you all right?

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

Azetbur sits holding Gorkon, dry-eyed.

Kirk has to pull the stunned Bones away.

CHANG

(grim triumph)

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

KIRK

He just tried to save him!

CHANG

(Klingon)

Take them away.

They are handcuffed. Both are in shock.

62 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

62

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

UHURA

They've been arrested.

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

CHEKOV

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

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

SPOCK

(finally)

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

UHURA

Yes, sir.

LT. SAAVIK

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

SPOCK

What do you suggest, Lieutenant?
Opening fire won't retrieve the Captain; and an armed engagement was precisely what he wished to avoid.

SCOTTY

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

SPOCK

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

LT. SAAVIK

How did you - ?

SPOCK

In the meantime we must endeavor to piece together what happened here tonight. According to our data banks, this ship fired those torpedoes.

SCOTTY

NO WAY!

SPOCK

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

He starts out -

CHEKOV

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

Spock turns unhappily.

SPOCK

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

63 INT. OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT - DAY

63

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

KLINGON AMBASSADOR

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

PRESIDENT

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

KLINGON AMBASSADOR

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

PRESIDENT

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

AMBASSADOR SAREK

(heavily)

Mr. President, I share a measure of personal responsibility in this

matter, but I am obliged to confirm my esteemed colleagues legal interpretation: Kirk and Dr. McCoy were properly arrested, and the Klingons are within their rights to try them.

PRESIDENT

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

AMBASSADORT NANCLUS

(wily)

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

PRESIDENT

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

AMBASSADOR NANCLUS

("reluctant")

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

KLINGON AMBASSADOR

I am waiting for your answer, Mr. President.

Long pause.

PRESIDENT

This President is not above the law.

The Klingon Ambassador bows and takes his leave.

The President is left with the two Ambassadors.

SEC'Y VOICE

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

PRESIDENT

Send them in.

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

ADMIRAL DONALD

Mr. President.

PRESIDENT

Admiral Donald...Bill...

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

PRESIDENT
At present I'm awaiting a full
report from Enterprise. Pending
that I am constrained to observe
Interstellar Law.

A stand off. Donald nods to another OFFICER.

OFFICER
I've prepared Operation Retrieve
based on the rising danger of
terrorism and hostility between the
Klingon empire and the Federation.
(hands the President a CD)
Put simply, we can go in and rescue
the Starfleet hostages and be out
in 24 hours with an acceptable rate
of loss in manpower and equipment.
We have the technology --

PRESIDENT
Suppose you precipitate a full
scale war?

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

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

Pause as the President considers.

PRESIDENT
I'd prefer not to be the President
to push the button if I can avoid
it.

ADMIRAL DONALD
The longer we wait, the less
accessible the hostages will be,
Mr. President.

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

CinC
Sir.

The President looks at him.

CinC
(continuing)

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

PRESIDENT

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

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

PRESIDENT

Do you know I agree with everything they said?

AMBASSADOR SAREK

I'm sorry, Mr. President. And I know my son must feel equally responsible. It was at my request that he persuaded Kirk to undertake this mission.

The President looks at him.

PRESIDENT

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

AMBASSADOR SAREK

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

PRESIDENT

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

He swallows some pills.

64 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

64

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

UHURA

(understates)

We're to report back at once.

CHEKOV

We cannot abandon Captain Kirk and Doctor McCoy.

He looks at the rest of the CREW. Lt. Saavik wanders over.

LT. SAAVIK
(quietly)
Trouble?

UHURA
(reluctant)
We've been ordered to -

LT. SAAVIK
In nineteenth century France,
workers who felt their livelihood
threatened by machines, flung their
wooden shoes - called SABOTS - into
the gears to stop them. Hence the
word SABOTAGE.

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

CHEKOV
Excellent. I mean too bad.

LT. SAAVIK
I will inform Captain Spock.

65 OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT - DAY

65

The President is meeting with SIX civilian ADVISERS.

MUNITIONS BUSINESSMAN
You have our total support, Mister
President. My factories are
standing by. We can gear up to
full weapons production in less
than a week.

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

MUNITIONS BUSINESSMAN
Of course. No one wants a war...

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

executed. Then, in a year -

SEC'Y VOICE

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

They all swing to look at the far wall, which

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

66 INT. AZETBUR'S OFFICE
66

AZETBUR

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

67 INT. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
67

Reactions in the room.

PRESIDENT

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

AZETBUR

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

PRESIDENT

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

AZETBUR

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

PRESIDENT
As you wish, Madam Chancellor.

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

68 INT. AZETBUR'S OFFICE - DAY

68

she's just gotten off the phone.

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

He unfurls battle plans...

FIRST GENERAL
Attack or be slaves in their world!

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

AZETBUR
(weary)
You don't seem to understand our
situation, General. War is...
obsolete. As we are in danger of
becoming.

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

AZETBUR
(quickly)
That wasn't what my father wanted -

CHANG
(bitter)
He was killed for what he wanted.

That sinks in. Azetbur hardens. Faces Chang.

AZETBUR
Kirk must have a fair trial.

CHANG
Of course.

AZETBUR
(stony)
But I want a conviction. You will
represent the State, General Chang.

CHANG
With the greatest pleasure, Madam
Chancellor.

69 INT. TORPEDO BAY, USS ENTERPRISE

69

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

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

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

SCOTTY
A computer canna lie, sir.

SPOCK
I think not.

SCOTTY
You can check the torpedoes
visually, if you like -

SPOCK
We'll have to check every one of
them, Mr. Scott.

SCOTTY
That could take hours!

SPOCK
Nevertheless.

SCOTTY
And if they're still in place?

SPOCK
Then someone forged a data bank
entry.

Lieutenant Saavik descends into the bay.

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

SCOTTY

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

SPOCK

Her own father...?

LT. SAAVIK

Such things have happened before,
sir.

SCOTTY

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

SPOCK

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

Before he can react.

SPOCK

(continuing)

Any reply from Starfleet to our
dispatch, Lieutenant.

LT. SAAVIK

Not as yet, sir.

SPOCK

Curious. You haven't been
assisting Commander Uhura with her
radio transmissions, have you, Lt?

LT. SAAVIK

Commander Uhura has been
experiencing technical difficulties
sir.

SPOCK

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

LT. SAAVIK

A lie?

SPOCK

An omission. After that -

SCOTTY

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

SPOCK

I know precisely where he'll be.

Scotty and Lieutenant Saavik react.

SCOTTY

You do? Where?

70 TIGHT ON KIRK'S EYES. JUMP BACK TO REVEAL
VFX
VFX

THE KLINGON EMPIRE IN ALL ITS BARBARIC SPLENDOR

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

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

Many in the AUDIENCE hold SPEARS with lighted HEADS.

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

CHANG wears the prosecutor's mantle.

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

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

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

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

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

CHANG

The State will show that Enterprise fired on KRONOS One without provocation, the Chancellor and his

advisers having been lulled into a false sense of security with an invitation to a state dinner aboard Captain Kirk's vessel at 1930 hours that same evening.

Do you deny all this?

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

JUDGE
The Prisoner will respond.

KIRK
I don't deny we invited them to dinner.

71 ANGLE ON CHANCELLOR AZETBUR

71

CHANG
Where you drunk at that dinner,
Captain?

72 INT. PRESIDENT UFP'S OFFICE - DAY

72

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

KIRK
What?

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

KIRK
The drink WAS served...

The CinC and President wince -

CinC
This is a damned show trial.

73 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

73

CHANG
And you still maintain your ship did not fire on Kronos One? Would you have known if she had? Come now, Captain. The record clearly

there were no other ships in the sector.

KIRK

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

CHANG

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

KIRK

I checked the data banks, yes.

CHANG

And what did they tell you?

KIRK

(reluctant)

That we fired two photon torpedoes.

But -

The mob howls.

CHANG

The witness is excused - for the time being.

Chang whirls off as the Judge gavels...

74 START ON TV: INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

74

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

GUARD

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

75 WIDEN TO REVEAL WE ARE WATCHING ABOARD ENTERPRISE

75

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

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Perhaps they merely wore Starfleet uniforms -

CHANG

I move that remark be stricken as

purely speculative...

JUDGE

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

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

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

GUARD

They appeared to be wearing magnetic boots.

Murmur. The Defense Attorney wishes he hadn't asked.

SPOCK

Gravity boots.

76 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

76

CHANG

They fired on you?

GUARD

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

CHANG

Towards the transporter room?

GUARD

That's right.

SWISH PAN TO CU SULU

77 INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR

77

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

78 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

78

CHANG

Doctor McCoy, what is your current medical status?

BONES

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

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

BONES
(continuing)

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

CHANG
Stand...?

BONES
Retire.

CHANG
(soft)
Ah. I believe you also consumed
Romulan ale at the officers' mess
on the night of question, Doctor?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Objection!

JUDGE
Sustained...

BONES
(angry)
We all did. But that doesn't
mean -

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

CHANG
Was Chancellor Gorkon alive when
you first examined him?

BONES
Barely.

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

President Azetbur flinches at the memory.

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

CHANG
You say you are due for retirement.

May I ask: do your hands shake?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Objection!

JUDGE

Overruled -

BONES

I was nervous -

CHANG

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

BONES

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

CHANG

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

79 INT. UFP PRESIDENTS OFFICE

79

79 The President et al watch unhappily.

79

VFX

VFX

80 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

80

CHANG

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

KIRK

That isn't true...!

CHANG

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

the job was complete.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

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

JUDGE

Sustained.

CHANG

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

He signals. Kirk's VOICE fills the room.

KIRK'S VOICE

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

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

81 THE ENTERPRISE,

81

82 THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,

82

83 THE EXCELSIOR - THEN BACK TO THE COURTROOM

83

84 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

84

CHANG

Are those your words?

KIRK

Yes.

CHANG

Spoken by you?

KIRK

Yes...

CHANG

Louder, please. We cannot hear
you.

KIRK

(firmer)

Those words WERE spoken by me.

85 INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR

85

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

SULU

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

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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

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

85A COURTRoom

85A

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

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

86 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

86

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

UHURA

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

SPOCK

(unhappy)

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

CHANG (V.O.)

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

INT. KLINGON COURTROOM - DAY

CHANG
(continuing)

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

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
Don't answer - objection -!

JUDGE
Objection overruled. The Prisoner will answer the question.

KIRK
I cannot deny it.

CHANG
You were demoted...

KIRK
Yes.

CHANG
For insubordination.

KIRK
I have on occasion disobeyed orders.

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

DEFENSE ATTORNEY
(overlapping)
I object -!

KIRK
(overlapping)
I was unaware of the assassination until I boarded his ship!

CHANG
(overlapping)
You deny Enterprise fired on KRONOS One?

KIRK

Well, I -

CHANG

(overlapping)

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

KIRK

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

CHANG

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

KIRK

I am.

CHANG

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

BONES

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

JUDGE

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

KIRK

(heavily)

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

CHANG

Your honors, the State rests.

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

BONES

Is it our turn, now?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(grim)

According to Klingon law both sides
present their cases at the same
time; we've HAD our turn.

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

JUDGE

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

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

JUDGE

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

They face the Judge's box. INTERCUT THIS MOMENT WITH

88 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE - DAY

88

SPOCK'S FACE - what has he done?

89 INT. KLINGON COURTROOM

89

JUDGE

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

Kirk and Bones look at each other.

BONES

(simply)

We were framed.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(rises passionately)

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

JUDGE

(beat)

So noted. In view of Colonel Worf's plea, the sentence of death is commuted. It is the judgment of this court that without possibility of reprieve or parole, you be taken from this place to the Dilithium Mines on the penal asteroid archipelago of Rura Penthe, there to spend the rest of your natural lives.

Off Kirk's and Bones' reactions

90 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

90

UHURA
(her eyes fill)
Rura Penthe!

CHEKOV
Known throughout the galaxy as the
Aliens' graveyard.

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

It takes Spock a moment to recover himself.

SPOCK
Let's see it again, Lieutenant.

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

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

CHEKOV
(hopeless)
It is Enterprise. We fired.

As the replay indicates this, Spock stares...

SCOTTY
(anger & confusion)
It's na possible!! All weapons
VISUALLY accounted for. Sir.

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

Spock's gaze stops her.

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
Well, it IS possible.

After an impenetrable pause -

SPOCK
Again.

Another replay as they watch. (OVERSHOULDER) (Sc46 VFXC)

SPOCK
(continuing)
Hold.

They stare at the frozen image.

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

UHURA
What exactly does that mean?

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

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

SPOCK
(grasping at straws)
There was an enormous neutron
energy surge.

SCOTTY
(insisting)
Not from us!

CHEKOV
(square one)
A neutron surge that big could only
be produced by another ship...

UHURA
KRONOS One?

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

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

SPOCK
Would they?

Long pause.

LT. SAAVIK
A Bird of Prey!

CKEKOV
Cloaked!?

Spock says nothing.

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

SPOCK
(thoughtful)
This one can.

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

SPOCK
I believe I am.

LT. SAAVIK
We must inform Starfleet Command -

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

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

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

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

LT. SAAVIK
Aye, sir -

CHEKOV

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

SPOCK

You're forgetting something.
(off their looks)
the data banks say WE fired. If we
did, the killers are here; if we
didn't, whoever altered the data
banks is here. Either way, what
we're searching for is here...

CHEKOV

What ARE we searching for, Mr.
Spock?

SPOCK

You tell them, Lieutenant.

It's elementary.

LT. SAAVIK

Two pairs of gravity boots.

Spock is well pleased with her.

91 EXT. RURA PENTHE PENAL COLONY - DAY

91

91 THREE SUNS glare down on a huge vista: an ICE FIELD

91

VFX - the coldest habitable place in the solar system.

VFX

A small moving DARK MASS as we push in, REVEALS

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

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

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

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

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

COMMANDANT

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

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

PRISONER

NO! NOOOOO!

COMMANDANT

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

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

COMMANDANT

(continuing)

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

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

91A LONG SHOT

91A

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

91B INT. RURA PENTHE

91B

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

PAN DOWN TO REVEAL

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

Everyone wears furs, LEG IRONS and is FREEZING.

On endless scaffolding above, the GUARDS.

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

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

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

ALIEN
Quog wok na pushnat.

KIRK
I'm afraid our universal translator was confiscated.

ALIEN
Ring notsa loskent!

KIRK
Sorry.

ALIEN
Rangnit ascrub, unto pram moreoscue shondik!!!

BONES
He's definitely on about something.

ALIEN
Quog wok na pushnat!!

The alien picks Kirk up.

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

The Alien is about to behead Kirk.

MARTIA (O.S.)
He wants your obedience to the Brotherhood of Aliens.

KIRK
He's got it.

MARTIA
And your coat.

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

MARTIA

Krandog aranty.

The Alien puts Kirk down.

MARTIA
(continuing)
Fendo pompsky.

The Alien nods and wanders off.

KIRK
Thanks...

BONES
What's the Brotherhood of Aliens?

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

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

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

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

KIRK
How did you know...?

MARTIA
(looks around)
There's a reward for your death.

BONES
(looks around too)
Figures.

KIRK
We've been set up all along.

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

KIRK
We didn't kill Gorkon.

MARTIA
(deadpan)
Of course not. Anyway, somebody up

there wants you out of the way.

BONES

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

MARTIA

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

BONES

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

MARTIA

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

KIRK

How much time's left of your
sentence?

MARTIA

(smiles grimly)

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

Kirk and Bones didn't know.

92 INT. GALLEY, USS ENTERPRISE

92

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

SPOCK

Any progress?

LT. SAAVIK

(head shake)

We've got a crew of three hundred turning their own quarters inside out, but the killers may be among them. Surely they've disposed of these boots by now. Wouldn't it have been logical to leave them on Gorkon's ship?

SPOCK

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

CHEKOV
(mimes with his finger)
Why not simply vaporize them?

LT. SAAVIK
Like this?

She whips out her PHASER and FIRES, incinerating a POT. ALARMS and CLAXONS HOWL! Chekov COVERS HIS EARS.

LT. SAAVIK
As you know, sir, no one can fire
an unauthorized phaser aboard a
starship.

She switches off the ALARM and has another thought:

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
Suppose when they returned they
threw the boots into the garbage?

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

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

UHURA
Did someone shoot off a phaser?
Mr. Spock.

He turns.

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

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

SCOTTY
There's nothing wrong with the
bloody -

Spock coughs hard.

SCOTTY
(continuing)
- could take weeks, sir.

SPOCK
Thank you, Mr. Scott. We were to return to spacedock, the killers would surely manage to dispose of their incriminating footwear.

LT. SAAVIK
A lie?

SPOCK
An error.

UHURA
(unhappily)
I'll tell them someone threw a gravity boot into it...

ANGLE ON SPOCK

reacting. He looks at Saavik...

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

She goes off, shaking her head...

UHURA
You understand that we have lost all contact with Captain Kirk...?

SPOCK
At present, he's surrounded by a magnetic shield. If my calculations are correct, he should be deep into his escape planning by this time.

93 INT. RURA PENTHE PENAL COLONY

93

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

Kirk and Bones are distinctly grubbier.

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

slips free.

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

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

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

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

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

MARTIA
They'll respect him now...

BONES
That's a comfort...

KIRK
I was lucky that thing had knees.

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

MARTIA
That's not his knee.
(off Kirk's look)
Not everybody keeps their genitals
in the same place, Captain.

KIRK
Anything else you want to tell
me?

Before she can answer.

KIRK
(continuing)
Bones, why don't you see what you
can do? Let them know we're not
holding a grudge.

BONES
Suppose HE'S holding a grudge?

Bones tentatively goes forward and examines the knee.

He is without any medical tools of any kind.

The Alien yells but let's him look. He manipulates the leg, then ties a kind of splint with an old rag...

Kirk looks at Martia. She shakes her head.

MARTIA

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

94 ANGLE ON KIRK

94

KIRK

There's gotta be a way out of this place...

She looks at him, moves off...

95 INT. SULU'S CABIN, USS EXCELSIOR

95

Sulu is asleep; awakened by a knock.

SULU

Come in...?

His COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER enters.

OFFICER

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

SULU

(groggy)

What?

OFFICER

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

SULU

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

OFFICER

(astonished)

Sir?

SULU

You having hearing problems,

mister?

OFFICER

No, sir.

The man salutes and leaves. Sulu stays awake.

96 INT. HUT ON RURA PENTHE - NIGHT

96

Kirk and Bones try to sleep on rude cots in a hut off the main courtyard: tattered, exhausted wrecks.

BONES

Three months till retirement. What a way to finish.

KIRK

(thinking)

We're not finished.

BONES

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

He makes a gesture across his own throat.

BONES

(continuing)

- Kobayashi Maru...

CLOSE ON KIRK

KIRK

Bones, are you afraid of the future?

BONES

That was the general idea I intended to convey.

KIRK

I didn't mean this future.

BONES

Are we playing multiple choice?

KIRK

Some people ARE afraid of the future; of what MIGHT happen;
(pause)
I was frightened, really frightened.

BONES

Specifically of...?

KIRK

No more neutral zone. I was USED
to hating Klingons... that's why I
failed in our assignment.

(guilty)

It never even occurred to me to
take Gorkon at his word. Spock was
right.

BONES

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

KIRK

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

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

BONES

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

Suddenly, Kirk puts a hand over Bones' mouth. They
pretend to sleep. Something crawls towards them in the
dark; they sweat... Kirk clenches his fists...

MARTIA

(whispers)

Kirk? It's me, Martia.

Kirk opens his eyes; Bones plays possum.

MARTIA

(continuing)

Listen. No one has ever escaped
from Rura Penthe.

KIRK

(ready)

Except us.

MARTIA

It IS possible.

He regards her warily.

MARTIA

(continuing)

I know how to get outside the
shield.

KIRK

Where do we come in?

MARTIA

Getting outside the shield is easy.
After that it's up to you to get us

off the surface before we freeze.
Can you?

KIRK

Possibly.

MARTIA

I can't make it alone. You're the likeliest candidate to come to this god-forsaken place in months.

KIRK

Candidate for what?

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

97 ANGLE ON BONES

97

rolls his eyes.

MARTIA

A partnership. Go to "C" Lift in the morning for mining duty. I'll meet you there.

She disappears into the shadows. Bones, who has been watching the whole thing, gets up on one elbow.

BONES

What is it with you, anyway?

KIRK

Still think we're finished?

BONES

More than ever.

98 EXT. RURA PENTHE ASTEROID - NIGHT

98

the wind howls in an otherwise barren landscape.

99 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM, USS ENTERPRISE

99

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

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

100

Spock studies the sample under a microscope.

SPOCK
Klingon blood.

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

SPOCK
This is the first evidence that
corroborates our theory.

CHEKOV
Now we go to Starfleet?

SPOCK
Now we expand our search to include
uniforms.

CHEKOV
ALL uniforms?

Spock looks at him.

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

CHEKOV
Mister Chekov.

Chekov turns.

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

101 101 MONTAGE; the Enterprise is strip-searched. LOCKERS,
THRU THRU WARDROOMS, LAUNDRY, SICKBAY, JEFFERIES TUBE, CUPBOARDS,
 105 OBSERVATION DECK, INSTRUMENTS PANELS, etc... you name
105 it... piles and piles of CLOTHING being sorted by the
 CREW; piles of BOOTS being examined as Lieutenant
 Saavik prowls the CORRIDORS and checks off locations on
 a LIGHTPLAN of the ship...
 106 INT. CREW QUARTERS
106

Suddenly an EXCLAMATION brings her running over.

A CREWMAN has opened a LOCKER and now holds up an

enormous gravity BOOT. As all watch, he puts the boot on the METAL LOCKER...

It sticks.

Saavik looks up at the locker and sees the name: DAX.

107 INT. CREW QUARTERS

107

LATER

Spock, Saavik, Uhura, Chekov, et al wait with impassive faces as CREWMAN DAX enters the area. He is an alien.

SPOCK

You are Crewman Dax?

DAX

Yes, sir. What's happened?

CHEKOV

(triumphant)

Perhaps you know the Romulan epic of Cinderella? If the shoe fits, wear it!

Dax looks confused.

108 CAMERA PANS DOWN HIS LEGS

108

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

Expressions of chagrin on everyone's face...

109 INT. RURA PENTHE PENAL COLONY - MORNING

109

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

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

110 INT. C LIFT (FORMERLY SHUTTLE TRUCK) - DESCENDING

110

Like the old Welsh mine caged elevators.

BONES

(looks for the girl)

I think we've been had.

MARTIA'S VOICE

No you weren't, Doctor.

They look around. No girl. Just a big BRUTE next to them. Plus other CONVICTS.

MARTIA'S VOICE

Get off at the first level and join
the gang going into the mine.

(explains)

They don't take girls.

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

110 VFX OR MODEL: THE LIFT LIGHTS DISAPPEAR INTO BLACKNESS

VFX

111 INT. MINE - DAY
111

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

BONES

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

KIRK

Don't remind me.

112 OMITTED
112

113 INSIDE THE MINE
113

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

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

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

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

114 LATER - INT. MINE
114

Kirk and Bones are filthy and sweaty. The Brute looks

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

114 Before their eyes, he re-materializes into a TEENAGED
VFX GIRL.

VFX
115 CU HER SKINNY LEGS

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

MARTIA'S VOICE
(whispers)
Follow me.

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

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

116 ON THE GUARDS

116
who finish their lunch and look around. Notice a suspicious space where 3 workers used to be. Wander over. Look further into the mine. Find the hole. They hurry back, shouting.

117 INT. MINE TUNNEL - ON THE TRIO

117
The hole has led to a new tunnel and the girl rematerializes into THE BRUTE as they crawl. Kirk and Bones, still chained, struggle to keep up.

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

118 EXT. THE MINE, RURA PENTHE - DAY

118

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

119 LATER - EXT. FROZEN RIVER - DAY

119

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

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

BONES

I can't...

Frantically, Kirk tries to keep Bones' circulation going.

MARTIA

We're at the edge of the shield.

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

KIRK
Come on. KEEP MOVING!

They stagger on.

119A INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS

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

119B HIS POV
119B

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

UHURA'S VOICE OVER
Mr. Spock, I've got them!

120 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

A blinking BLIP on Uhura's oscilloscope.

UHURA (O.S.)

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

SPOCK

SCOTTY

Aye, aye, sir.

Scotty heads for the lift.

CHEKOV

(from the helm)

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

SPOCK

(looks up)

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

120 OMITTED

120

VFX

VFX

120A INT. KLINGON LISTENING POST

120A

Grimly, under funded and undermanned. God knows what
forsaken place this is. Rocks are lit by SCOPES...

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

120B HIS POV

120B

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

SLEEPY KLINGON

(subtitled KLINGON)

What ship is that? Over...

An interminable pause. Now a SECOND KLINGON sits next
to the first. What's going on?

VOICE FILTERED

(subtitled KLINGON)

We art thy freighter... URSVA six
weeks out of Kronos... Over...

KLINGON

(subtitled KLINGON)

Whither are you bound? Over...

Another LONG pause. They squint at the delay.

121 121 OMITTED

VFX
VFX

122 122 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

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

UHURA
(subtitled KLINGON)
We art delivering food... things
and...supplies to Rura Penthe...
over...

Pause...

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

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

SPOCK
Was that so bad?

123 123 OMITTED

THRU
THRU

125 125

VFX
VFX

126 126 EXT. RURA PENTHE ICE DESERT - DUSK

126 126 THE THREE COLD SUNS are setting
VFX
VFX

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

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

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

KIRK

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

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

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

BONES
(faint)
That cunning little Vulcan...

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

BONES
If they're even looking for us...

KIRK
Spock's looking for us...

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

DISSOLVE TO:

127 LATER - EXT. ICE DESERT RIDGE - NIGHT

127

the ridge in darkness. They arrive, exhausted.

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

BONES
Would you mind explaining that
little trick you do?

MARTIA'S VOICE
I'm a chameleoid. That's why we're
such good smugglers.

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

MARTIA'S VOICE
Give a girl a chance, Captain.

The Brute smiles at him.

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

MARTIA
It takes a lot of effort.

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

MARTIA
(smiles at Kirk)
I thought I would assume a pleasing shape.
(beat)
We're outside the shield. Now it's your turn, Kirk.

KIRK
If you say so.

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

BONES
ARE YOU CRAZY?

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

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

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

The BRUTE gets up, rubbing his bleeding mouth -

MARTIA'S VOICE

A full pardon - which doesn't cover
this -

BONES

Uh oh -

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

KIRK

An accident wasn't good enough...

MARTIA'S VOICE

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

127 The fight is on. Problem is, Martia keeps changing
VFXC shapes... Kirk grabs him, holds him tight...

127 And he wriggles free as a child... tries to run off,
VFXD but Bones grabs it and they fall rolling to the
 SNOW...

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

MARTIA'S VOICE

Surprise!

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

KIRK

Your friends are late...

MARTIA'S VOICE

They'll be here...

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

KIRK

I can't believe I kissed you.

"KIRK"

Must have been your lifelong
ambition -

The fight goes on!

128 INT. OFFICER'S MESS, USS ENTERPRISE
128

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

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

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

Scotty commences removing the vent cover. Not easy.

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

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

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

129 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDORS

129

THRU

THRU

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

132 EXT. RURA PENTHE CAMPSITE - NIGHT

132

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

KIRK

Isn't it about time you became something else?

MARTIA'S VOICE

I like it here...

Gripping each other, they roll right into

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

Both Kirks spring apart.

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

KIRK
(thinks fast)
What took you so long?

MARTIA'S VOICE
Kill him! He's the one!!

KIRK
Not me, idiot - HIM!

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

COMMANDANT
(smiles)
No witnesses -

He aims at Kirk and Bones -

BONES
(conversational)
Damned clever if you ask me...

KIRK
(agrees)
Killed trying to escape - it's a
classic...

COMMANDANT
That's what he wanted...

KIRK
Who? Who wants us killed?

COMMANDANT
Why not tell you? His name is -

132 SUDDENLY KIRK AND BONES DEMATERIALIZE!
132 VFXB
VFXB

KIRK'S VOICE FADING
SONAVABITCH!!

As the Klingons rake the place they were with FIRE!

133 INT. ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTER ROOM
133 VFXA Kirk and Bones REMATERIALIZE to where Spock
VFXA and Chekov await them, with heavy weather BLANKETS

which they don gratefully. They look scarcely recognizable. Spock and Chekov are appalled.

KIRK'S RISING
(continuing)
Dammit! Dammit all to Hell--!
Jesus Christ, couldn't you wait two
seconds before GODDAMNSONOVABITCH!

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

SPOCK
Captain...

KIRK
He was just about to explain the
whole damn -

UHURA
Who-?

CKEKOV
You want to go back?

BONES
(hasty)
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

KIRK
Come on...

They start out at speed.

133A 133A INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE

CU BACK OF A KLINGON HEAD. Klingon is SPOKEN.

VOICE
Escaped?

He's talking to the Prison Commandant onscreen.

COMMANDANT
They were beamed aboard a
Federation starship! I could
trace -

THE KLINGON hits a button and the COMMANDANT disappears. The chair swivels REVEALING CHANG.

He faces the 2nd KLINGON GENERAL we met in Azetbur's

office. (Sc.68)

CHANG

Escaped.

SECOND KLINGON GENERAL

It does not matter. Kirk cannot
know the location.

CHANG

(softly)

Are you sure? Are you willing to
take that chance?

The General hesitates; decides.

SECOND KLINGON GENERAL

Helmsman, new course! Engage
cloaking device.

133B EXT. SPACE

133B

The Bird of Prey wheels about, DISAPPEARING...!

134 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

134

Kirk, Spock et al walk briskly.

SPOCK

The Klingons have a new weapon: a
Bird of Prey that can fire while
cloaked. She torpedoed Gorkon's
ship.

KIRK

So, that's it..

Scotty runs up, carrying the bloodstained uniforms.

SCOTTY

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

They round the corner and all STOP SHORT.

135 THEIR POV

135

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

SCOTTY

(continuing)

But - the uniforms - they belong to

these men!
(checks the names)
Burke and Samno!

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

CHEKOV
Get close enough to a man and you
can kill him on "Stun" without
setting off the alarm - of course
you can't get rid of the body...

KIRK
First rule of assassination: always
kill the assassins.

SCOTTY
Now we're back to square one.

Kirk looks at Spock meaningfully.

KIRK
Can I talk to you?

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

136 CU SPOCK

136

pulls back.

SPOCK
(white)
I knew it.

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

136B VARIOUS ANGLES

136B

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

136C INT. SICK BAY

136C

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

136D FIGURE'S POV

136D

TWO BODIES stretched out in darkness...

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

SPOCK
I couldn't believe it was you.

Saavik.

SPOCK
(continuing)
You have to shoot.

Saavik reacts.

SPOCK
(continuing)
If you are logical.

LT. SAAVIK
I don't want to.

SPOCK
I believe you. Please...

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

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

Saavik reacts. Bones moves out of the shadows, arms folded.

BONES
I believe the operation is over.

137 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

137

CU SPOCK

SPOCK
The charge is murder.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

Kirk, and Bones with Saavik under guard.

The CREW is STUNNED.

SPOCK
(continuing)

You must have cursed yourself, for
having programmed our data banks,
Lieutenant. Only they revealed
something wrong aboard Enterprise.

CHEKOV
She programmed the torpedo hits?

137A QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 46)
137A

we see Saavik programming while supposedly trying to figure out who's firing.

SPOCK'S VOICE OVER
But she was unable to erase them from Mr. Scott's inventory. The computers contradicted each other...

137B BACK TO SCENE
137B

SPOCK
(continuing)
You were clever about the boots, Lieutenant - too bad you were in such a hurry you planted them on a Megazoid...

137C QUICK FLASHBACK
137C

Saavik jamming the boots into Dax's locker...

137D BACK TO SCENE
137D

SPOCK
(continuing)
But it was when you tried to persuade me the Captain was guilty that I should have understood.

LT. SAAVIK
You can't prove any of this...

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

137E QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 32)
137E

Saavik waiting outside Kirk's cabin.

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

137F BACK TO SCENE
137F

Saavik, trapped, turns to Spock.

LT. SAAVIK
You knew?

He says nothing.

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
The whole time?

Still nothing.

LT. SAAVIK
(continuing)
I tried to tell you... you wouldn't
listen.

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

SPOCK
Perhaps neither of us was hearing
very well that night, Lieutenant.
There were things I tried to tell
you too - about having faith.

LT. SAAVIK
You've betrayed the Federation -
all of you.

BONES
What do you think YOU'VE been
doing?

LT. SAAVIK
Saving Starfleet. Klingons can't
be trusted, sir, you said so
yourself. They killed your son.
They conspired with us to
assassinate their own Chancellor.
You'd make peace with them?

KIRK
(quietly)
Who is "US?"

LT. SAAVIK
I won't allow Starfleet to be
dismantled over some Klingon

promises.

KIRK

Starfleet will be around long enough for me to convene a Court Martial on this ship, Lieutenant. Win, lose or draw it will be on your record.

Long pause.

LT. SAAVIK

Admiral Donald.

137G QICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 23)

137G

ADMIRAL DONALD

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

137H BACK TO SCENE

137H

CHEKOV

From Starfleet?

KIRK

Who else?

LT. SAAVIK

General Chang -

137J QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 43)

137J

CHANG

... In space all warriors are cold warriors...

137K BACK TO SCENE

137K

UHURA

Gorkon's own man??

KIRK

Who else?

LT. SAAVIK

The Romulan Ambassador - Naclus...

137L QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 63)

137L

NACLUS

Mr. President, they ARE vulnerable.

137M BACK TO SCENE
137M

Spock stares at her.

SCOTTY
This is incredible -

KIRK
WHO ELSE...?

LT. SAAVIK
Are you all so naive? Everyone who
stands to lose from Peace. Who
manufactures photon torpedoes?

137N QUICK FLASHBACK (TO SCENE 65)
137N

MUNITIONS BUSINESSMAN
No one wants a war.

137P BACK TO SCENE
137P

LT. SAAVIK
Who spends millions developing the
new Klingon cloaking device?
(furious)
The universe was a well-ordered
place!
(TO SPOCK:) We all knew our roles! Why change
them?

SCOTTY
Are you telling us Klingons and
Federation members are conspiring
TOGETHER...?

BONES
In a sick way I suppose it
represents progress...

SPOCK
(suddenly)
The peace conference.

KIRK
What peace conference?

SPOCK
Azetbur has agreed to meet the
Federation at a undisclosed
location to continue her father's

work... the conspirators obviously intend to try again...

They turn to Saavik; she stares back, composed.

UHURA

We can send a message to Starfleet Command -

LT. SAAVIK

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

CHEKOV

Where IS the conference?

KIRK

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

LT. SAAVIK

And no way you'll find out.

SCOTTY

Then we're dead.

SPOCK

(to Saavik)

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

KIRK

Why would they give them to us?

SPOCK

The Commander is an old friend of yours.

BONES

(can't resist)

What was it like - being dead?

Spock, lost in thought, doesn't answer.

SULU (O.S)

This is Captain Sulu, USS Excelsior.

KIRK

Sulu!

INTERCUT WITH

SULU
Standing by, Captain Kirk.

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

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

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

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

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

SULU
Surely not.

KIRK
I'm telling you. Hang on.
(to Saavik)
How many of those things are there? Come on, Lieutenant, you're charged with murder...

LT. SAAVIK
Just the prototype.

KIRK
You hear that?

SULU
I'm getting underway now. But you should know, I'm in alpha Quadrant. The chances of my reaching the conference in time are slim.

KIRK
When does this conference start?

SULU
According to my information, today.

KIRK
Thank you, Captain Sulu.

SULU
Don't mention it, Captain Kirk.

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

FIRST OFFICER
You realize you've just committed
treason, Captain.

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

139 EXT. SPACE
VFX
VFX

Excelsior explodes across the starfield.

140 EXT. SPACE
VFX
VFX

From a different direction, Enterprise ditto.

141 INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS
VFX

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

KIRK
Spock?

No answer. Kirk makes to hit the switch.

SPOCK
I'd prefer it dark.

Fair enough. Kirk enters.

KIRK
Are you dining on worms?

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

KIRK
The night is young. Anyway, it was
logical.

(he realizes he must
feel his way)
You know, you're a great one for
logic. I'm a great one for
(shrugs)
rushing in where angels fear to
tread. We're both extremists.
Reality is probably somewhere in
between us.

Spock says nothing. Kirk runs a finger over dust.

KIRK
(continuing)
I was blind. I couldn't see past
the death of my son. I couldn't
trust.

SPOCK
(sighs)
I too was blind. I knew about
HER - and I did nothing. I trusted
too much.

KIRK
You couldn't have known she was
listening the night I dictated that
entry into my log. You were proud
of her achievements as a Vulcan.

SPOCK
I was PREJUDUCED by those
achievements.

KIRK
(understands)
Gorkon had to die before I
understood how prejudiced I was...

Spock looks at him for the first time.

SPOCK
Can we two have grown so old and
inflexible that we have outlived

our usefulness?
(looks at Kirk)
Would that constitute a joke?

KIRK
Someone said the difference between
comic and cosmic is the letter "S."
You haven't outlived your
usefulness - to me. And you are
not responsible just because she is
also Vulcan -

SPOCK
I SHOULD have been -

KIRK
Not for the actions of another. No
one is responsible for any actions
but his own. Human beings -

SPOCK
But I am not human. I am only -

KIRK
Spock, you want to know something?

Spock looks at him. Kirk kneels next to him.

KIRK
(continuing)
Everyone's human. We're too old to
play games. We're only human.

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

142 EXT. CAMP KHITOMER, ROMULA - DAY

142

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

142A INT. CAMP KHITOMER - DAY

142A

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

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

143 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

143

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

CHEKOV

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

BONES

Now there's a poser.

Kirk and Spock exchange looks.

SPOCK

I do not think anxiety is called for.

(off their looks)

According to my calculations we have another five minutes and twenty-two seconds to figure something out.

144 EXT. SPACE

144

VFX

VFX

Enterprise THUNDERS by at warp NINE.

145 INT. CAMP KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY

145

More of the opening ceremonies.

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

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

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

UFP PRESIDENT

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

down to business. Madam Chancellor?

AZETBUR

Agreed.

APPLAUSE!

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

145A 145A EXT. ENTERPRISE

VFX

VFX

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

146 146 INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

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

VFXA OMITTED

VFXA

KIRK

Close enough to beam down?

SPOCK

Not yet... Section 4236...

146 146 Nothing on the scanner.

VFXB

VFXB

SPOCK

Section 4237...

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

146 146 OMITTED

VFXC

THRU

THRU

147 147 VFX
VFX

147

148

INT. CAMP KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY

The POD DOORS are closed and the delegations seated.

UFP PRESIDENT

We are gathered here today in high hopes, believing that differing civilizations of good will can work together to overcome intolerance. We believe that with understanding and patience it will be possible to resolve what separates us. Let us redefine progress to mean that just because we CAN do a thing it does not necessarily follow that we MUST do that thing.

APPLAUSE.

UFP PRESIDENT

(continuing)

We believe that the responsibility for destiny rests squarely on our own shoulders...

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

149

INT. BRIDGE, USS ENTERPRISE

KIRK

She's here - somewhere.

CHEKOV

But if she's cloaked...

KIRK

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

SPOCK

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

KIRK

Make ourselves a target?

Spock looks at him.

KIRK

(continuing)

Shields. Battle stations.

CHEKOV

(reads the display)

Shields up. Battle stations.

They are bathed in emergency RED LIGHT. Alarms SOUND.

KIRK

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

CHEKOV

Aye, sir; thrusters...

It feels like walking on eggs.

KIRK

Uhura?

UHURA

Nothing, Captain. If they're here,
they're rigger for silent running.

SPOCK

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

Dead silence, then a CRASH OF NOISE!

150 INT. CAMP KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY

150

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

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

151 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE, ENGINE ROOM, ETC.

151

as before. CLOSE UPS of various faces, sweating...

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

152 EXT. VIEWS OF ENTERPRISE WIDEN TO REVEAL

152

VFXA

VFXA

INT. CLOAKED BIRD OF PREY

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

They're bridge is bathed in GREEN light...

Chang stands next to the GUNNER.

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

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

VFXB

153 153 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

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

BONES
This is fun...

CHEKOV
Captain, shall we attempt to return
fire?

KIRK
At what, Mr. Chekov?

WHAM! Hit again. Everyone goes flying...

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

VFX

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

154 154 EXT. SPACE
VFX

VFX

The battered Enterprise reverses field, backing away from nothing.

155 155 INT. BIR OF PREY BRIDGE

VFX

VFX

155 watching the maneuver.

CHANG
(very soft)
What's she doing?

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

156 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

156

The empty starfield.

KIRK
What's she waiting for?

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

156 ON the main visual display, where everyone's attention
156 VFX is riveted. A flare from black space.
VFX

CHEKOV
Incoming.

157 OMITTED
157

158 INT. ENGINE ROOM
158

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

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

159 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE
159

CLOSE ON KIRK

reacting. Don't I know it.

KIRK
Sulu, where the Hell are you?

160 EXT. SPACE
160 VFX
VFX

EXCELSIOR warping as fast as she can...

161 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE, SHAAKINNNG
161

SULU

In range?

HELMAN

Not yet, Captain...

SULU

Come on, come on...!

HELMAN

She'll fly apart...!

SULU

Fly her apart, then!

162 INT. CAMP KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY
162

AZETBUR

... many people speculated about my father's motives. There were those who said he was an idealist, driven by visionary notions; others said he had no choice, that he was a pragmatic technocrat, making the best of a devastating situation. Great men are seldom good men. The truth is my father was both: a pragmatist and an idealist. If Praxis hadn't exploded, then quite possibly his idealism would not have found expression. Nor would mine. We are a proud race. We are here because we want to go on being proud...

(grim)

if we cannot make war,

(smiles)

we will make peace...

163 CLOSE UP
163

the SUITCASE ON THE MOVE through people listening...

164 INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE
164

164 All watching Enterprise. Chang signals and the
164 VFX Torpedo OFFICER FIRES off another one.
VFX

165 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

165

KIRK

Ahead full impulse!

166 EXT. SPACE

166

VFX

VFX

Enterprise buzzes off! The Torpedo MISSES...

167 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

167

Kirk smiles ruefully... score one for the home team.

168 INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE

168

reactions. Chang is startled, then smiles...

CHANG

After her...

(beat)

poor thing. Doesn't know which way
to go.

Shakes his head, amused...

169 EXT. SPACE

169

VFX

VFX

Enterprise, SCREAMING through the VOID... followed by
another SCREAMING SOUND in full pursuit...

170 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

170

UHURA

Captain, we can't see her, but she
gives off heat...

KIRK

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

BONES

Too bad we can't SMELL her.

CHEKOV

In space, no one can hear you
sweat.

KIRK

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

WHAM! Hit again... Everybody grabs onto something...

SPOCK

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

UHURA

Maybe we should write them a
letter?

SCOTTY'S VOICE

Better post date it.

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

SPOCK

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

UHURA

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

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

BONES

(starts out)

I'm going to perform surgery on a
torpedo - you never know...

SPOCK

(going with him)

You may need assistance, doctor...

BONES

(he's been waiting
all his life)

Fascinating...

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

KIRK

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

CHEKOV

Aye, sir; thrusters...

171 171 INT. KHITOMER CONFERENCE SITE - DAY

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

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

172 172 EXT. SPACE
172 VFX
VFX

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

173 173 INT. ENENTERPRISE CORRIDORS OUTSIDE THE LAB

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

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

SPOCK
Vulcans sleep lying down...

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

BONES
Spock, that was actually funny.

SPOCK
We DO sleep lying down.

WHAM - they almost fall over.

174 174 INT. ENGINEERING, ENTERPRISE

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

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

175 175 EXT. ENTERPRISE
175 VFX
VFX

scarred, trace lines of torpedo visible.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

175 175 INT. EXCELSIOR BRIDGE
Sulu, et al, watching.

SULU
Shields up. Tell them the Cavalry's here.

175A 175A A torpedo flashes out of nothing...
VFX

176 176 INT. BIRD OF PREY
176 176 Chang watches it go by. Sees Excelsior as well
VFX as Enterprise.
VFX

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

177 177 They see Excelsior's shields take the torpedo HIT.
VFX

KIRK
Hold us steady, Mr. Scott. Ready to fire... Bones...!
Reactions from the battered CREW...

178 178 OMITTED

179 179 CLOSE UP
a hand opening a CASE: inside, the disassembled parts of a rifle Phaser with telescopic mount. We don't know where we are exactly, but we can HEAR the CONFERENCE ECHOING -

180 180 INT. ENTERPRISE TORPEDO BAY
Bones and Spock DESCEND ON THE TORPEDO LIFT WITH A TORPEDO, frantically trying to drill a hole in its nose

to accommodate an ATMOSPHERE SENSOR as the whole bay TREMBLES with the hit...

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

BONES
Me and my big mouth...

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

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

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

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

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

181 INT. ENGINE ROOM (FORMERLY ENTERPRISE BRIDGE)

181

We can see the SHIELD lights dimming...

SCOTTY
(frantic)
Shields collapsing...!

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

182 EXT. SPACE
182 VFX
VFX

ENTERPRISE TAKES ANOTHER HIT....

183 INT. ENTERPRISE OFFICERS MESS (?)
183

NO SHIELDS this time! EXPLODES! WOW. AUTOTIGHT

BULKHEAD DOORS CLOSE, PROTECTING THE VESSEL FROM SPACE EXPOSURE. SMOKE, LIQUIDS SQUIRTING EVERYWHERE... Things tumbling off shelves, out of overheads...DOORS WHOOSHING CLOSED!

184 INT. BIRD OF PREY
184

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

VFX OMITTED

185 INT. CAMP KHITOMER - DAY
185

The HANDS assembling the special phaser...

186 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE
186

KIRK
Fire!

CLOSE UP

a hand pushes a button...

187 CLOSE UP
187

another hand on a phaser trigger...

188 EXT. SPACE
188

VFX

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

189 INT. BIRD OF PREY BRIDGE
189

189 As Chang watches in FASCINATION, the damn thing

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

VFX

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

190 EXT. SPACE
190

VFX

VFX

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

191 INT. BRIDGE, USS EXCELSIOR

191

SULU

Aim for the center of that explosion and FIRE!

192 EXT. SPACE

192

VFX

VFX

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

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

193 INT. CAMP KHITOMER - DAY

193

193 Kirk et al MATERIALIZE and starts running through

193

VFX masses of PEOPLE who are too startled to stop them ...

VFX

194 CU THE TRIGGER FINGER

194

tightening as...

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

KIRK

Mr. President!

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

Panic in the room, PEOPLE SCRAMBLING.

ADMIRAL DONALD

Arrest those men!

SPOCK

Arrest yourself.

He stands aside to reveal LT. SAAVIK in handcuffs.

BONES

We've got a full confession.

195 THE ASSASSIN'S NICHE

195

he turns to run, but SCOTTY whirls and fires!

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

The KLINGON FACE COMES MELTING OFF REVEALING

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

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

196 SULU

196

196 as he MATERIALIZES, phaser in hand -

196

VFX

VFX

SULU

Just a minute.

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

KERLA

And you.

197 PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS MOVE IN...

197

The UFP President stands up, stares with disbelief. So
does President Azetbur.

PRESIDENT AZETBUR

What's the meaning of this?

KIRK

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

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

KIRK

(continuing)

But we haven't run out of history
just yet.

(remembers)
Your father quoted Hamlet: he
called the future - "the
undiscovered country"...

SPOCK
I always assumed Hamlet meant
death.

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

He walks to Saavik.

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

When Saavik looks at Kirk there are tears in her eyes.

He turns to Azetbur.

AZETBUR
You've restored my father's faith.

KIRK
You've restored my son's.

198 EXT. SPACE

198

VFX

VFX

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

199 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

199

They're back.

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

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

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

feelings.

CHEKOV

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

KIRK

(looks at Spock)

The only way to find out if a man's
trustworthy...

SPOCK

... is to trust him.

A wintry smile.

SULU'S VOICE

Captain Kirk...?

KIRK

Kirk here.

199 SULU APPEARS ON THE SCREEN

199

VFX

VFX

KIRK

(continuing)

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

SULU

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

200 EXT. SPACE

200

VFX

VFX

Excelsior gets underway with a roar.

201 INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

201

all watch.

VFX OMITTED

VFX

BONES

By God, that's a big ship.

SCOTTY

Not so big as her Captain, I think.

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

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

KIRK
(sighs)
To be -

SPOCK
Or not to be -

BONES
That's the question -

CHEKOV
Course heading, Captain?

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

202 EXT. SPACE
202
VFXA
VFXA

The battered Enterprise makes way.

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

202 The signature William Shatner scrawls across
202
VFX the screen, still featuring the moving
VFX starfield. Then Leonard Nimoy, then DeForest

Kelley's, James Doohan's, George Takei's, Walter Koenig's, Nichelle Nichols'... one by one...

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

ROLL END CREDITS

THE END