

S T A R T R E K

Screenplay By

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67,68,68A,82,82A,84,84A,91,92,103,105,106
107,108,108A,109,110,111,115,118,120,123
124,125,126,127,127A,128)

1-13 **OMIT** 1-13
 14 **OMIT** 14
 15 OVER BLACKNESS, we HEAR a BACH HARPSICHORD CONCERTO. And then a 15
 WOMAN -- breathing hard -- straining, harder and harder -- until
 finally we HEAR a NEWBORN BABY CRYING -- and we...

FADE IN:

EXT. VULCAN FAMILY HOME - DUSK

The image is spectacular, aglow in DUSK LIGHT: a beautiful BABY, just born, held in a WOMAN'S HANDS. It is being cleaned; warm water runs down its face and body.

TIGHT ON the MIDWIFE (female, 60's) who holds and cleans the baby as it CRIES. Another, younger, Midwife can be seen behind her, assisting with the pitchers of water. As she cleans the baby, she says to someone OFF-CAMERA:

MIDWIFE

He is strong.

The baby, now calm, gets SWADDLED. He is then gently held out to the new MOTHER:

AMANDA GRAYSON, late 20's. An original beauty. She lies on a divan, spent but eager to hold her first child. She tenderly takes the infant into her arms, tears in her eyes, mesmerized. She holds the wrapped baby tight and whispers sweetly:

AMANDA

... hello.

CLOSE ON the YOUNGER MIDWIFE, standing at the rear of the room. She raises an eyebrow as she quietly speaks:

YOUNGER MIDWIFE

The baby is healthy. Why does she cry?

MIDWIFE

(a beat; then)

She is human.

A distant, quiet BUZZ -- and the elder Midwife stands, looking into the distance. And this is when we see, for the first time, that the Midwife has POINTED EARS.

MIDWIFE (CONT'D)

Sarek arrives.

The Midwife moves away -- we PUSH IN on Amanda, who looks up for a moment, clearly disquieted.

15A **OMIT** 15A
 15B **EXT. VULCAN LANDSCAPE - DUSK [FORMER SC. 14]** 15B

A planet of massive, tortured ROCK FORMS, distant cities constructed atop and underneath them. A HOVER-SPEEDER in the mid-ground kicks up dust, backlit by the sun, as it traces the horizon. We PAN WITH IT, revealing a FAMILY HOME, built seamlessly into a rocky mountainside.

A SUPER READS: STARDATE 2230.06.

The speeder parks outside the home --

15C **EXT. VULCAN HOME - DUSK** 15C

SAREK (late 40's, a Vulcan) comes out to the balcony through the rear doors of the home. He moves to Amanda and kneels. He looks at the child -- his child -- and says:

SAREK

Well done.

She looks at him for a beat, then says, flatly -- with just enough rancor:

AMANDA

Thanks.

He regards her. Knows he's in TROUBLE --

SAREK

Your tone suggests disappointment. The Science Council required my presence for a session regarding--

AMANDA

Don't do that. You knew I wanted you here.

The Vulcan Midwives share a look. Sarek glances at them. Nods. The two women excuse themselves. Sarek reaches over, touches a small touchpad -- the HARPSICORD MUSIC STOPS. He says, clinically:

SAREK

As you are aware, the Vulcan male is traditionally not present at the moment of delivery.

AMANDA

Well traditionally, I'm not the one giving birth.

(then)

(MORE)

15C CONTINUED:

15C

AMANDA (CONT'D)

I moved here -- to another planet -- to be with you. I needed you to be with me today. Holding my hand and telling me I'm doing great, even when I'm just... breathing the best I can.

Sad that she has to tell him this at all, she just looks back at the baby -- finding comfort in his innocence. Sarek considers this. He moves closer to her. Whispers intimately:

SAREK

You are correct. I should have been here. I am sorry.

And with her free hand, she pulls Sarek closer -- and kisses him. And the two look at the baby.

SAREK (CONT'D)

I had a thought. That we might name the child after one of our respected early society-builders. His name was "Spock".

She looks at the baby, not immediately taken by the name.

SAREK (CONT'D)

Your silence does not suggest enormous enthusiasm.

AMANDA

No... Spock.
(smiles, touches his face)
... Spock.

She looks at Sarek: Spock it is.

SAREK

The child has your eyes.

She pulls back the baby's swaddling, revealing his ears. She gently rubs the top of his right ear -- AND IT UNFURLS, revealing a small, soft pointed VULCAN EAR.

AMANDA

... and your ears.

And off the image of this TINY BABY, half-human, half-Vulcan, we... FADE OUT. And over BLACKNESS, we BEGIN TO HEAR an ALARM SOUNDING -- GROWING -- and the SUPER "THREE YEARS LATER" APPEARS -- and finally the BLACKNESS IS SPLIT BY TURBO-LIFT DOORS OPENING and we REVEAL THAT WE'RE ON:

15D INT. U.S.S. KELVIN [FORMER SC. 15A]

15D

With URGENCY, we MOVE DOWN a corridor with CAPTAIN ROBAU and OFFICER PITTS:

CAPTAIN ROBAU
 -- our sensors haven't made sense of the anomaly?
 -- how far are we from the Klingon Neutral Zone?

OFFICER PITTS
 -- no sir, it looked like a lightning storm in the middle of space --
 -- 150,000 kilometers, but the vessel is not Klingon, Sir, its registry doesn't match any recorded profile --

SHWISH! The doors part and we enter THE BRIDGE OF THE SHIP -- a flurry of activity -- the MASSIVE SHIP they are approaching on the VIEWSCREEN. Robau moves to the center -- then he asks:

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Report.

-- turning to the ship's FIRST OFFICER: 32, all-American face, swiveling in a console chair to FACE US:

FIRST OFFICER

Sir, new contact bearing zero-three-four.

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Are they transmitting on any frequency?

FIRST OFFICER

Negative, Captain -- all communications appear to be shut down.

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Hail the ship. What's the closest match on registry?

FIRST OFFICER

Nothing even close, Sir.

Robau moves to Pitts:

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Any response?

OFFICER PITTS

No Sir -- hails met with silence.

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Maybe they're incapable -- any identifiable damage?

OFFICER PITTS

Negative, Sir -- but our readings seem confused--

15D CONTINUED:

15D

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Confused?

OFFICER PITTS

-- not only is the ship unregistered --
but even its construction materials seem
unrecognizable.

Robau sits in the captain's chair his eyes on the ship as they
approach -- and we SEE IT on the VIEWSCREEN -- THE NARADA --
ENORMOUS AND THREATENING. He doesn't even realize that he says:

CAPTAIN ROBAU

... oh my God...

(to himself, boggled)

A lightning storm... then this...

(to deck)

Signal all departments: first contact
protocols. Looks like we have someone
new on the block. All Stop.

16-17 OMIT

16-17

18-19 OMIT

18-19

19A OMIT

19A

19B OMIT

19B

19C EXT. DEEP SPACE - CONTINUOUS

19C

And in the endless vacuum of space, and in TOTAL SILENCE, the
Kelvin appears as a dot, coming to a stop in front of the
gigantic BLACK CLAW that is the Narada --

19D INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE

19D

Crew members are glued to their telemetry, working consoles:

FIRST OFFICER

Sir, should we initiate an invasive scan?

CAPTAIN ROBAU

That could be seen as an act of
provocation -- all readings passive--

Suddenly, a WARNING BEEP --

OFFICER PITTS

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Sir, I have a reading --
they've locked weapons on us!

-- Red alert! Arm weapons!

ALARMS BLARE -- LIGHTS GO RED as --

20 **EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS** 20

The Narada FIRES a TORPEDO -- IT HEADS FOR THE KELVIN -- then SEPARATES, fracturing into a multi-hit projectile --

21 **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - CONTINUOUS** 21

Officers SCRAMBLE, brace for impact --

FIRST OFFICER CAPTAIN ROBAU
Torpedo locked on us at 320
degrees, mark two -- incoming -- Evasive pattern Delta-5!
fast!

22 **EXT. U.S.S. KELVIN - CONTINUOUS** 22

A direct hit SMASHES several decks along the DISH of the ship --

23 **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 23

In the massive Engine Room, a HUGE BLAST -- MEN GO FLYING IN THE STEEL-SHATTERING EXPLOSION --

24 **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 24

Captain Robau helps a fallen CREW MEMBER up from the floor -- then, on his chair com.:

CAPTAIN ROBAU
Damage report!

INTERCUT with:

24A **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 24A

Moving with the Kelvin's CHIEF ENGINEER:

CHIEF ENGINEER
Our shields did nothing, Sir! Never seen
anything like it! Weapons off-line!
Main power at 38 percent!

As the crew regains their footing, the First Officer pulls himself to his console, true fear in his eyes as he places an inter-ship call -- it's RINGING -- his fear grows with every passing RING -- then, we INTERCUT WITH:

24B **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - MEDICAL BAY - CONTINUOUS [FORMER SC. 26B]** 24B

A WOMAN, 25, answers her communicator -- she lies on an exam table, afraid -- and pregnant. This is WINONA.

24B CONTINUED:

24B

WINONA

-- what was that-- what's happening?!

But the First Officer is just relieved that she's still alive:

FIRST OFFICER

-- you're okay-- thank God-- where are you?

WINONA

Medical bay-- I had a few close contractions-- I'm fine-- what was that?

FIRST OFFICER

Just sit tight-- stay there-- we'll be fine--

Or maybe not:

OFFICER PITTS

They're firing another, Captain!25 **EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS**

25

ANOTHER NARADA TORPEDO -- it SEPARATES, pieces HIT the Kelvin.

25A **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

25A

Chief Engineer RUNS past us -- CONSUMED BY A SUDDEN EXPLOSION!

25B **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS**

25B

A FEMALE CREW MEMBER running down the hall suddenly HOLDS ON as a HOLE IS RIPPED IN THE HALL -- and she's YANKED OUT OF THE CORRIDOR -- the CAMERA finally getting sucked out too!

26 **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

26

-- PANDEMONIUM --

26 CONTINUED:

26

HELMSMAN

-- life support failing on
decks seven through thirteen!
We have confirmed casualties,
Sir!

OFFICER PITTS

-- this is the U.S.S. Kelvin,
attempting to reach Starfleet
command on subspace! Repeat --
U.S.S. Kelvin, under attack by
unknown aggressor!

FIRST OFFICER

-- shields at eleven percent
and dropping! Ten percent --
we're at nine! Eight percent!
Seven! We're dropping here!
Six!

TACTICAL OFFICER

-- were our shields even up?
That was like nothing I've
ever seen -- this ship can not
take another hit like that!

CAPTAIN ROBAU

All remaining power to forward shields!
Prepare the shuttles f--

And he STOPS. They all do. A fucking FACE is now on their
VIEWSCREEN. A ROMULAN FACE -- the FIRST OFFICER of the Narada,
whom we'll come to know as AYEL:

AYEL

My commander requests the presence of
your captain in order to negotiate a
cease-fire. You will come aboard our
ship via shuttlecraft. Your refusal
would be unwise.

Screen goes DEAD. All eyes on Robau... and he feels them. A
tense, horrible moment. Finally, to the First Officer:

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Walk with me.

The First Officer follows Robau OFF THE BRIDGE AND INTO:

26A INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - CORRIDORS - CONTINUOUS

26A

As they walk, briskly:

CAPTAIN ROBAU

If I don't report within fifteen minutes,
execute general order 13.

FIRST OFFICER

Sir, we could issue a mayday call to--

CAPTAIN ROBAU

(frightened, but firm)
There is no help for us out here. If
we're going down, we're taking them with
us -- you save as many as you can.

26A CONTINUED:

26A

FIRST OFFICER
... aye, Captain.

Robau heads into a waiting TURBOLIFT, turns -- they lock eyes,
knowing what this means. Finally:

CAPTAIN ROBAU
You're Captain now. Mr. Kirk.

He's gone. And we realize this is GEORGE KIRK, Jim's father.

26B-COMIT

26B-C

26D **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

26D

All eyes on Kirk as he enters -- moves to the captain's chair. Sits. Not a small moment. Speaking his first words as Captain:

GEORGE KIRK
Lieutenant Pitts. Transfer Robau's vital signs to the main view screen.

OFFICER PITTS
Yessir.

In a moment, Robau's VITAL SIGNS appear on various monitors -- his HEART RATE, OXYGEN LEVELS, BLOOD PRESSURE, all of it. A LOW-PITCHED BEEP BEEP of his HEARTBEAT is now HEARD --

SCIENCE OFFICER
Vitals on line.

GEORGE KIRK
(slightly awkward)
-- thank you.

26DA **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

26DA

TILT DOWN as the TURBO-LIFT DESCENDS -- we PUSH IN as the doors open and Captain Robau gets out -- moves quickly -- hurries down a SHUTTLE BAY catwalk --

26DB **INT. SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS [FORMER SC. 26C]**

26DB

Robau enters a shuttle -- LIGHTS BLINK to life. He moves to the cockpit -- starts the vehicle up --

CAPTAIN ROBAU
Computer, initiate departure sequence.

A LOUD HISS and the craft SHUDDERS as it disembarks --

26DC **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

26DC

Sparks dripping from the ceiling, everyone is motionless -- eyes on the monitors -- and we're TIGHT ON GEORGE KIRK -- the BEEPS of Robau's heart might as well be representing his own. He realizes he's sweating -- wipes his forehead as:

OFFICER PITTS
The shuttle's pulling out of main bay, Sir.

GEORGE KIRK
I want to see him -- floodlights please.

26E **EXT. U.S.S. KELVIN - SPACE** 26E

Two MASSIVE FLOODLIGHTS on the Kelvin's dish GO HOT -- and turn, FLARING out the lens -- landing on the SHUTTLE as it leaves the KELVIN, heading toward the imposing Narada.

26EA **INT. SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS** 26EA

Backlit by the distant floodlights, Robau remains steely-eyed as he moves for the darkened ship -- nerves --

26F **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE** 26F

And Robau's HEARTBEAT QUICKENS -- the tension they all feel:

OFFICER PITTS
His heart rate's elevated--

HELMSMAN
He's scared.

GEORGE KIRK
He's brave. That's what he is.

26FA **INT. SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS** 26FA

Robau watches as he gets closer, the BEEPBEEPING HEARD over the SOUNDS of the shuttle -- but then --

26FB **EXT. NARADA - SPACE - CONTINUOUS** 26FB

ALL WE HEAR IS THE LOW-PITCHED BEEPBEEP as the small shuttle seems to get swallowed up by the massive forward-facing spires of the Narada -- the distant floodlights creating EERIE SHADOWS everywhere. A gigantic IRIS DOOR TURNS, SLOWLY OPENS -- and the shuttle enters the Narada's main HANGAR -- the door CLOSES --

26FC **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 26FC

And everyone is just motionless and silent. Only Robau's VITAL SIGNS can be HEARD, BEEPING away. George's eyes glued ahead --

26G **INT. SHUTTLE/NARADA HANGAR - CONTINUOUS** 26G

TIGHT ON ROBAU as he faces the shuttle door, considering his fate. Finally the SHUTTLE DOOR OPENS -- standing there are eight ROMULAN GUARDS, brandishing WEAPONS. He steps down. They grab him, hard -- he's SCANNED -- FRISKED -- PULLED ALONG -- and we REVEAL the absolutely MASSIVE HANGAR, the insane architecture of the interior of this dark, wet, dripping ship --

26H INT. NARADA BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

26H

Robau is led into the enormous, dark bridge. A dozen Romulans at controls. Robau does his level best to portray confidence as he is led up a walkway to AYEL. Behind him, sitting silhouetted and motionless, turned away and looking off, is his captain. A presence always felt in this scene. This is NERO.

Ayel touches a panel, then THROWS AN IMAGE into the air before Robau. A ROTATING HOLOGRAM OF A UNIQUE-LOOKING SPACECRAFT (we will refer to it as the JELLYFISH).

AYEL

Are you familiar with this craft?

Robau regards it. Then:

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Who is your commander?

(silence, then re: Nero)

Is it him?

AYEL

You will speak only to me.

CAPTAIN ROBAU

Then ask your commander what right he has to attack a Federation vessel.

AYEL

That was hardly an attack. My commander will easily destroy your ship. If you do not respond to the question.

Robau considers the hologram again. And what his answer might mean for the fate of his crew.

CAPTAIN ROBAU

I've never seen it. Or any ship like it.

AYEL

Are you familiar with -- or better, know the location of -- Ambassador Spock?

Ayel has thrown another HOLOGRAM -- A FLOATING, ROTATING IMAGE OF SPOCK, who appears to be 75 earth-years old. The baby, born just three years earlier. Robau is as confused as we are...

CAPTAIN ROBAU

I am unfamiliar with Ambassador Spock.

AYEL

A final question. What is the current stardate?

26H CONTINUED:

26H

CAPTAIN ROBAU
 (the fuck?)
 ... Stardate? ... it's 2233.04.
 (finally)
 ... hey, where are you from--?

Suddenly: TSCHING! Nero's activated his STAFF -- FOUR LARGE, HORRIFYING BLADES APPEAR AT THE TIP AND NERO SPRINGS TO LIFE, CHARGING ROBAU WITH A ROAR AND ROBAU'S EYES POP HOLY SHIT AND--

26HA INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE

26HA

BLEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE... Robau's vitals go dead. PUSH IN ON KIRK as a SCREAMING ALARM IS HEARD --

OFFICER PITTS
 They're launching again!

GEORGE KIRK
 Evasive! Evasive! Delta-Five maneuver! Fire full-spread!

26I OMIT

26I

26J EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

26J

The Kelvin BANKS as it FIRES WILDLY -- another TORPEDO BLASTING FROM THE NARADA -- it SEPARATES -- some miss, OTHERS HIT!

26K INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE

26K

Debris FLIES TROUGH THE CEILING, SLAMMING INTO A BRIDGE SUPPORT BEAM! Green COOLANT SPEWS from under the floor grating --

GEORGE KIRK
 I'm initiating General Order 13! Set self-destruct for maximum matter-antimatter yield! Two minute countdown!

OFFICER PITTS
 Yessir!

GEORGE KIRK
 I want auto-pilot targeted for their fuel cells!

TACTICAL OFFICER
 Sir, unable to locate the ship's power source!

GEORGE KIRK
 Then just target the damn thing dead center!

HELMSMAN
 We got bigger problems: the first hit destroyed auto-pilot!
 (MORE)

26K CONTINUED:

26K

HELMSMAN (CONT'D)

The only way we're gonna ram that ship is
to fly manual control!

TIGHT ON GEORGE as this lands. More honorable than terrified:

GEORGE KIRK

-- then I'll do it myself -- get to the
shuttles, now!

(no one moves until:)

THAT'S AN ORDER! GO!

Agony in the faces as they reluctantly hurry off -- Kirk takes
the Captain's chair, hits the COMLINK:

GEORGE KIRK (CONT'D)

All decks, this is the Captain speaking --
evacuate the ship immediately, get to
your designated shuttle crafts --

26L INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - MEDICAL BAY - CONTINUOUS

26L

MOVE FAST around Winona, in fucking labor now -- being
transferred onto a wheelchair by the Doctor and Nurse--

GEORGE KIRK (V.O.)

WINONA

-- repeat: evacuate ship and
get to designated shuttles
NOW!

-- that's George's voice --
what's happening?

NURSE

We're packing it up -- you'll deliver in
the shuttle!

-- and she's on the move, out the door as her COMMUNICATOR
SOUNDS -- she answers --

WINONA

-- George!

26M INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

26M

Alone now on the bridge, piloting this massive craft by himself -
- George talks to Winona from the Captain's chair --

GEORGE KIRK

I have medical shuttle 37 standing by,
get to it now -- can you do that?

WINONA

Yes -- where are you?

HOLD ON GEORGE for a moment as he hesitates -- his eyes glued to
the screens as he pilots --

26M CONTINUED:

26M

GEORGE KIRK

I'm on my way.

WINONA

Good-- and George, it's coming-- our
baby, it's coming now.

PUSH IN on him, his heart shattering -- having to out-maneuver
incoming torpedoes, piloting the ship to its doom -- still, he
forces optimism:

GEORGE KIRK

I'll see you in a minute, sweetheart.

He disconnects -- another ALARM -- he TURNS the ship, FIRES --

26MA **EXT. U.S.S. KELVIN - CONTINUOUS**

26MA

The Kelvin BANKS AGAIN -- its PHOTONS SLAMMING INTO THE ONCOMING
NARADA TORPEDOES, JUST AVOIDING IMPACT!

26N **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - SHUTTLE BAYS - CONTINUOUS**

26N

CREW MEMBERS scramble to their shuttles as the ship TREMBLES --
and we find WINONA among them, being PUSHED through the madness.

26P **INT. MED-EVAC SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS**

26P

The Med-Team ARRIVES with Winona in the wheelchair-- it's CHAOS -
- and for Winona, a huge contraction --

WINONA

-- Agh! That was-- that was a big one!

-- as they put her into the shuttle bed:

NURSE

Just keep breathing, Honey, you're gonna
be just fine--

WINONA

(through the pain)
-- the baby, too, right?

NURSE

-- the baby too.

26R **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

26R

As George Kirk pilots, he checks the monitors -- one reads the
COUNTDOWN TO SELF-DESTRUCT (180 SECONDS, 179 SECONDS, 178
SECONDS...) and another reads IMPACT PROXIMITY (36,054 METERS,
36,042, 36018...).

26R CONTINUED:

26R

Another screen that shows stats of DEPARTING SHUTTLES -- more leaving as we glance at the screen -- but SHUTTLE 34 REMAINS DOCKED --

The NARADA is GROWING in the viewscreen -- he hits the comlink:

GEORGE KIRK

Captain to shuttle 37 -- is my wife on board?

INTERCUT WITH:

26S OMIT

26S

26T INT. MED-EVAC SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS

26T

The PILOT is readying the controls --

SHUTTLE PILOT

Yessir, she is--

GEORGE KIRK

I need you to go now, d'you hear me?

SHUTTLE PILOT

We're waiting for you, Sir--

GEORGE KIRK

No-- go, take off, immediately.

SHUTTLE PILOT

... yessir!

Shuttle Pilot works the controls -- and Winona, in the back, feels the shuttle SHUDDER --

WINONA

Wait! We can't go, my husband isn't here yet! Please! STOP--!

-- but she's suddenly WINCING as another CONTRACTION hits --

NURSE

You'll need to push now-- are you ready?

26U EXT. U.S.S. KELVIN - SHUTTLE BAY - CONTINUOUS

26U

Clamps holding the shuttle SLAM BACK, the MED-SHUTTLE DROPS HARD, FUSION IMPULSE ENGINES IGNITE and the shuttle MOVES --

26V OMIT

26V

26W **INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

26W

George hits COMLINK -- a TONE -- then WINONA'S VOICE:

WINONA

The shuttle's leaving-- where are you?

As George EVADES ENEMY FIRE, heading for the massive alien ship:

GEORGE KIRK

My love? Listen carefully, okay?

INTERCUT WITH:

26X **INT. MED-EVAC SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS**

26X

Winona, holding her communicator --

WINONA

-- we're about to have this baby --

GEORGE KIRK

Sweetheart... I'm not going to be able to be there.

And she just stares -- realizing what's happening -- that he's been made Captain -- that there was an evacuation -- and somehow she just KNOWS. Tears come to her eyes --

WINONA

-- no-- no, no-- wait--

GEORGE KIRK

I want you to hear me.
Please.
-- There's no other way-- my love-- you know all I want-- all I want in the world is to be with you--

WINONA

Are you still on the ship? No--
- no, you need to be here--
-- George, I can't do this without you--
(crying now)
-- please -- don't d--!

-- but she's WINCING AGAIN --

DOCTOR

Okay-- you need to push.

-- and she does -- the shuttle BANKS and --

26Y **EXT. U.S.S. KELVIN - CORRIDORS**

26Y

-- and the shuttle LEAVES the Kelvin bay -- turning to join DOZENS of other shuttles, all heading off in escape --

26Z INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

26Z

As George PILOTS, DODGING INCOMING -- we INTERCUT WITH:

26ZA INT. MED-EVAC SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS

26ZA

Winona PUSHING -- giving birth to their baby -- and we're BACK AND FORTH between a husband and wife that will never see each other again, MUSIC SWELLING as the Kelvin TURNS HARD, avoiding TORPEDOES -- the shuttle BANKING as the Doctor and Nurse help Winona -- and we're ON GEORGE as he HEARS A BABY CRYING -- and TEARS COME TO HIS EYES -- as he says--

GEORGE KIRK

Hey! Hey, so what is it?

WINONA'S VOICE

-- it's a boy.

GEORGE KIRK

It's a boy? Yeah?

And now we see Winona, handed this beautiful little boy. And she cries, just looking at him --

GEORGE KIRK (CONT'D)

Tell me... tell me about him-- please--

WINONA

He's-- he's beautiful, he looks like you.

Heartsick, George laughs -- glances at the MONITORS -- SELF-DESTRUCT COUNTDOWN IS AT T-MINUS 20 SECONDS -- oh God...

WINONA (CONT'D)

George, you should be here --

GEORGE KIRK

I know-- so what should we call him, huh?

WINONA

We could name him after your father.

GEORGE KIRK

Tiberius? Are you kidding me? No, that's the worst-- we'll name him after your dad-- let's call him Jim.

WINONA

... Jim. Jim it is.

Through the VIEWSCREEN -- he's ABOUT TO HIT -- the ship ANGLES within the enormous Narada blades -- George scared now --

26ZA CONTINUED:

26ZA

GEORGE KIRK
Sweetheart? Sweetheart? I
love you. Can you hear me?
-- I love you. I love y--

WINONA

-- yes-- yes, I hear you...

-- his VOICE CUT OFF as --

27-37 **OMIT**

27-37

38 **EXT. NARADA - CONTINUOUS**

38

-- the Kelvin SLAMS INTO THE NARADA -- an EXPLOSION BEGINS and--

38A **INT. MED-EVAC SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS**

38A

George's voice goes STATIC -- confusion washes over her face --
suddenly LIT BY A BRIGHT GLOW -- she looks over, with wet
devastated eyes --

-- what she sees is the MASSIVE EXPLOSION -- quickly SUCKED AWAY
in the vacuum of space -- and she's CRYING -- holding her new
baby who just lost a father -- his life altered forever...

39 **OMIT**

39

40 **EXT. STARFIELD - ETERNAL NIGHT**

40

The shuttle SAILS AWAY with the others... HOLD ON THIS... for a
long beat. Then PAN OVER to see NERO'S SHIP TUMBLING SILENTLY
THROUGH SPACE -- DEBRIS still raining from the explosion --

41 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

41

MAYHEM: ALARMS and CREW work to stabilize the ship (OVERLAPPING
ROMULAN DIALOG TO BE WRITTEN) -- we arrive at Nero, who, with
small specks of HUMAN BLOOD on his face, just STARES at the
fucking HOLOGRAM OF SPOCK -- he's OBSESSED.

Ayel works a monitor, yelling out something (in Romulan) to one
of their men -- and as a result:

42 **EXT. NARADA - CONTINUOUS**

42

Gargantuan "BLADES" EXTEND from the ship like otherworldly SAILS
-- and the ship begins to STEADY -- but then ANOTHER SHIP
APPEARS -- DECLOAKING FROM NOTHINGNESS: a fucking KLINGON VESSEL
-- then ANOTHER -- AND ANOTHER --

43 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

43

And we're on Ayel as he witnesses, on his monitor, ships,
popping up ALL AROUND THEM -- which is when they HEAR a VOICE --
speaking KLINGON -- and we SUBTITLE:

43 CONTINUED:

43

KLINGON VOICE (P.A.)
 Trespassing vessel: you have entered the
 jurisdiction of the Klingon Empire.
 Power down and prepare to be boarded or
 you will be destroyed.

Eyes wide, Ayel turns to Nero, still staring at Spock's image:

AYEL
 (SUBTITLED, in Romulan)
 Commander Nero -- we're surrounded.

Finally Nero looks up.

AYEL (CONT'D)
 (SUBTITLED, in Romulan)
 Sir-- what are your orders?

And we PUSH IN ON NERO as our MUSIC BUILDS, then we CUT TO:

44 **OMIT** 44

45 **INT. VULCAN LEARNING CENTER - DAY** 45

CLOSE ON a young VULCAN BOY. 11 years old. SPOCK. He's
 standing in an abstract space -- IMAGES PROJECTED and HOVERING --
 questions -- that he's answering as they appear, then disappear:

<p>COMPUTER VOICE <i>What is the square root of 2,396,304?</i></p> <p>-- <i>Correct. What is the central assumption of Quantum Cosmology?</i></p> <p>-- <i>Correct. Identify the 20th century earth composers of the following musical progression:</i></p> <p>-- <i>Correct</i></p>	<p>SPOCK</p> <p>-- one-thousand-five-hundreded- forty-eight --</p> <p>-- everything that can happen <u>does</u> happen, in equal and parallel universes --</p> <p>-- Paul McCartney and John Lennon.</p>
--	--

And we find ANOTHER VULCAN CHILD -- then ANOTHER -- all in these
 odd spaces -- until we PULL BACK WIDE to reveal a large Vulcan
 LEARNING CENTER -- white "bowls", sunk into the dark ground,
 where PROFESSORS walk, hands behind their backs, surveying this
 mass "mental martial arts" test.

We're on ANOTHER VULCAN CHILD as she gets an answer wrong -- AND
 THE LIGHT OVER HER BOWL GOES OUT. Then ANOTHER CHILD -- who
 gets an answer wrong -- and HIS LIGHT GOES OUT. An EXTREMELY
 WIDE OVERHEAD SHOT reveals BOWL AFTER BOWL as the LIGHTS GO OUT.

45 CONTINUED:

45

Until only one bowl remains. Spock's. He finishes his last question. Gets it right. PUSH IN ON HIM as the COMPUTER SAYS:

COMPUTER VOICE

Your score is one-hundred percent.
Congratulations. Spock.

Off his face, we CUT TO MOMENTS LATER, as Spock collects his things. As he does, three young VULCAN BULLIES walk up behind him. Spock glances at them, then back to his things.

YOUNG SPOCK

I presume you've prepared new insults for today.

VULCAN BULLY #1

Your mother lies with many men.

Spock just NODS. Tries to ignore the fact that IT STINGS.

YOUNG SPOCK

I have no such information.

VULCAN BULLY #2

You are neither human, nor Vulcan -- and therefore, have no place in the universe.

YOUNG SPOCK

(swallowing that too)

This is your thirty-fifth attempt to elicit an emotional response from me. Logic dictates you would cease by now.

VULCAN BULLY #1

Look. He has human eyes. They look sad, don't they?

VULCAN BULLY #2

Perhaps an emotional response requires physical stimuli.

And Bully #2 PUSHES Spock -- who stumbles back, almost falling into one of the bowls. He looks up as:

VULCAN BULLY #2 (CONT'D)

He's a traitor, you know. Your father. For marrying her.

Spock stares -- we see him fighting the urge, but he's unable -- AND HE CHARGES THE BULLY AND TACKLES HIM INTO THE BOWL! They land inside -- Spock cries, flailing as he punches Bully #2! The other two stand atop the bowl, stunned -- shocked -- unsure what the hell to do -- and we CUT TO:

46 INT. LEARNING CENTER - CORRIDOR - LATER

46

TIGHT ON Spock, chastened, sitting glumly on a bench. A massive VULCAN CITY seen through the window behind him. His parents ARGUE at a distance down the hall:

AMANDA
 -- where I'm from, when someone hits you, you hit back--
 - how is that not logical?
 -- They pick on him -- they tease him -- every day.

-- I want him to embrace Vulcan, you know that... but he has to be himself-- which means, occasionally, being human.
 -- When Vulcans get disgusted with each other, they never just walk away, do they?
 -- Well humans do.

SAREK
 -- Spock had no reasonable expectation of being physically injured --
 -- Which is precisely when reason must guide his actions above all.

-- His "humanity" is very the source of his ostracism.

-- No.

And Amanda walks away, leaving Sarek standing there. He turns -- sees his son down the corridor. Approaches. And we're PUSHING IN on Spock, studying the fear in his eyes. His father stops in front of him, looming there, looking down stoically:

YOUNG SPOCK
 I did not mean to create conflict between you and mother.

After a beat, Sarek seems to soften a little. No anger in his face. Takes a seat beside his son...

SAREK
 In marriage... conflict is...

YOUNG SPOCK
 ... constant?

SAREK
 Natural.
 (a beat)
 Emotions run deep within our race. In many ways, more deeply than in humans. Long ago, they nearly destroyed us... that is why we followed the teachings of Surak. Now you must choose.

YOUNG SPOCK
 ... between you and mother?

46 CONTINUED:

46

SAREK

Never, my son. But you may choose the ethic of logic. Logic offers a serenity humans seldom experience. The control of feelings... so that they do not control you.

YOUNG SPOCK

They called you a traitor.

(then)

You suggest that I should be completely Vulcan... and yet you married a human... why?

Sarek is clearly conflicted by this. But he holds steady:

SAREK

As Ambassador to Earth, my duty is to observe and understand human behavior. Marrying your mother... was logical.

(Spock seems disquieted)

Spock. You are fully capable of choosing your own destiny. The question you are faced with... is which path you will take. This is something only you can decide.

47 EXT. IOWA FARMHOUSE - DAY

47

BAM -- a door opens: 14 year-old GEORGE KIRK, JR. angrily exits the house, carrying a duffel. His angrier, redneckier UNCLE FRANK following. 11 year-old JIM KIRK nervously pursues them:

UNCLE FRANK

Go ahead: go-- run away! You know I could give a damn!

YOUNG KIRK

-- wait-- no! Where are you going?

GEORGE JR.

Anywhere but here, far as I can get!

UNCLE FRANK

Which won't be far enough -- know what your problem is?!

(big luggie spit)

No one ever taught you respect! How to follow orders! Do as you're told!

(to Jim)

-- what the hell are you doing?

YOUNG KIRK

I-- I just don't want my brother to go.

47 CONTINUED:

47

UNCLE FRANK

Well I do-- and I asked you to wash the car! How many damn times do I need to repeat myself?! How many damn times? How many?

A glare to George and Frank walks off. Jim nervously follows his brother, pulling out a small, FLOATING DISC --

YOUNG KIRK

Please stay-- you can have my Flo-Yo!

George hits it away:

GEORGE JR.

This isn't about toys, it's Uncle Frank. I can't take him anymore -- Mom has no idea what he's like when she's not here-- d'you hear him talking like he's our dad?! And that's not even his car you're washing! That was Dad's car! You know why you're washing it? Because he's gonna sell it!

JIM

Don't leave -- okay? We can tell Mom when she gets back from Africa.

GEORGE JR.

She's gone for five more months, by then I'll be in a different system.

(sees fear in Kirk)

You're gonna be okay. You always are. Always doing everything right -- good grades and obeying every stupid order...

(then)

I can't be a Kirk in this house. Show me how to do that and I'll stay.

But Jim can offer nothing. George gives him a quick hug and walks off. Jim sadly watches his brother go.

47A EXT. IOWA FARMHOUSE - DAY

47A

Kirk washes a VINTAGE CORVETTE. Red, white top. Dumping the sponge in bucket, he's sadly cleaning, his mind spinning over his brother's departure. Devastated.

And he's wiping the soapy passenger window (SQEEEEEEAK!) with the sponge, when he STOPS -- seeing the KEYS in the ignition. PUSH IN ON HIS FACE as a devilish idea comes to his mind. PRE-LAP A LOUD SCREECH and we CUT TO:

48-49 OMIT

48-49

50 **EXT. IOWA FARMHOUSE - DAY - LATER**

50

THE CORVETTE BLASTS ONTO SCREEN, FISHTAILING ONTO THE ROAD, young Jim Kirk behind the wheel (NOTE: The SOUND of the engine is a metallic WHIR -- not a gas engine). TIGHT ON JIM'S FACE as he drives -- having never done this before, he's as nervous as he is determined --

50A **EXT. IOWA ROAD - DAY - LATER**

50A

The CORVETTE SPEEDS -- while inside the car, Jim turns on the updated, modified RADIO -- scans stations, momentarily losing control of the car -- but he's back on track as he finds a HARD ROCK SONG -- and HE'S STARTING TO FUCKING LOVE IT -- PILOTING SOMETHING THIS FAST FEELS GOOD.

He reaches for a CONVERTIBLE ROOF latch -- then the other -- but with the speed he's driving, THE ROOF RIPS RIGHT OFF THE FUCKING CAR -- Jim glances back, wide-eyed -- and the roof TUMBLES through the air, landing on the road -- and we PUSH AND ARC AROUND, as a POLICE OFFICER runs out from taking a roadside PISS -- he races back, jumps on his HOVERCRUISER and TAKES OFF -- SPEEDING AFTER HIM, SIREN BLARING!

BACK IN THE CORVETTE -- BLOOPBLOOP!!! -- Jim's eyes dart to the REARVIEW as the cruiser WEAVES behind him -- then PULLS UP BESIDE HIM -- the COP sees a CHILD driving and is AMAZED -- he calls through his PA:

COP

Son, you pull over that car!

But Jim just BLASTS the RADIO LOUDER:

JIM

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

51 **EXT. IOWA ROAD - CONTINUOUS**

51

George, bag over shoulder, thumb out. He turns at the SOUND of the SIREN -- sees what's approaching... that car... looks... familiar... and the THE CORVETTE SHOOTS PAST HIM, JIM AT THE WHEEL -- then the POLICE HOVERCRUISER! George runs into the middle of the road, mouth agape --

GEORGE JR.

-- no... way.

Back at the Corvette, Jim YANKS the steering wheel TOWARD THE COP -- who RISES to avoid the Corvette, which SCREECHES onto a perpendicular DIRT ROAD, kicking up wild dust as the Cop ARCS QUICKLY to follow --

51 CONTINUED:

51

Jim is now officially LOVING THIS -- and he DRIVES THROUGH a FENCE -- CRASH! The Cop RACES through it, in the Corvette's DUST -- and we PUSH IN on a SIGN that reads "DANGER - QUARRY AHEAD -- IOWA MINING CO." In fact --

52 **EXT. QUARRY - CONTINUOUS**

52

We see the MASSIVE QUARRY -- hundreds of feet deep -- and TILT UP to the Corvette and Cop speeding toward it --

53 **INT. CORVETTE - MOVING - CONTINUOUS**

53

KIRK, EYES INTENSE, ALMOST SUICIDAL -- this is where he's been headed all along -- and for a moment we think holy shit -- this is how James Kirk dies. He speeds toward the edge -- CLOSER -- CLOSER -- but at the last second, Kirk SLAMS the brake -- the car SKIDS -- PIVOTS -- and he LEAPS FROM THE CAR, WHICH SAILS SIDEWAYS OFF THE CLIFF EDGE -- FALLING... falling... the COP comes to QUICK a STOP in CLOUDS of DUST as the Corvette EXPLODES ON THE QUARRY FLOOR --

The angry Cop hops off his hovercruiser, hand on weapon, as Jim Kirk, out of breath, exhilarated, gets to his knees.

COP

What's your name, son?

And as he stands, we PUSH IN on him -- LOW and WIDE -- damn if that kid doesn't have a swagger. It's like the first time he's ever stood in his life.

JIM

My name's Kirk. James Tiberius Kirk.

And as our MUSIC BUILDS we CUT TO:

54 **EXT. RURA PENTHE- MINING QUARRY - NIGHT [FORMER OMIT]**

54

CONSTANT SHOCKS OF LIGHT as an ALIEN PRISONER -- intelligent, bi-pedal, but with FOUR TERRIFIED EYES -- is SLAMMED DOWN onto the wet pavement -- a CHOKE STICK SHOVED under his chin -- then: VOICES. Brutal, guttural KLINGON --

KLINGON GUARD (O.S.)

(SUBTITLED)

You say they are not yours...

WHIP PAN TO SEE the scary KLINGON GUARDS -- four of them -- standing above the Alien -- chilling MASKS hide their hideous faces -- and one holds a FLUORESCENT SET OF PAGES --

KLINGON GUARD (CONT'D)

... these Federation maps we found in your pockets.

54 CONTINUED:

54

And the ALIEN SPEAKS -- an UNKNOWN LANGUAGE -- all eyes wild:

ALIEN
(SUBTITLED)
I speak the truth. I do.

KLINGON GUARD
Then who are they for?

But the Alien just SHAKES HIS HEAD, afraid -- he will not talk.
So they GRAB HIM AND YANK HIM UPWARD --

KLINGON GUARD (CONT'D)
You would rather die then tell us?

PUSH IN TIGHT as the Alien finally WHISPERS, terrified:

ALIEN
... NERO!!!

And the Guards look at each other... seemingly with concern...

MOMENTS LATER EIGHT GUARDS WALK TOGETHER -- and we PAN WITH THEM to reveal the HORRIFYING EXPANSE THAT IS THE KLINGON PRISON YARD. We realize that the constant shocks of light was LIGHTNING, that apparently never stops here. A SUPER READS: "RURA PENTHE - KLINGON PRISON ASTEROID". And we see they're heading for a MUSCULAR FIGURE, using a SLEDGE HAMMER, SPLITTING ROCKS, lit brilliantly by the lightning strikes. BOOM UP to find that it's NERO. And he stops, SENSING the coming Guards. And he manages a small smile. And he QUICKLY TURNS to them -- THEY ALL STOP, SUDDENLY. Afraid of him. One of them tosses Nero a set of MANACLES. Nero picks them up. Puts them on. And offers his cuffed hands, willingly.

54A INT. RURA PENTHE - HOLDING BLOCK - NIGHT [FORMER SC. 64B] 54A

Guards drag Nero through the massive pyramidal structure...

54B INT. RURA PENTHE - INTERROGATION CELL - NIGHT [FORMER SC. 64C] 54B

Nero's ARMS AND LEGS get STRAPPED IN TIGHT. Go WIDE to reveal he's pinned to an interrogation table -- three GUARDS. A KLINGON INTERROGATOR approaches; looms over Nero, studying the Romulan's face with clinical detachment...

KLINGON INTERROGATOR
(SUBTITLED KLINGON)
I have come far to meet you. "The One Who Does Not Speak." Ten years is a long time to maintain silence.
(beat)
Perhaps you simply do not speak Klingon, just as I do not speak Romulan.
(MORE)

54B CONTINUED:

54B

KLINGON INTERROGATOR (CONT'D)
(ENGLISH now)
But I assume we both speak the language
of our common enemy.

(NOTE: FROM NOW ON, OUR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS WILL SPEAK ENGLISH, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.) He reveals a worn LEATHER JOURNAL. Opens it, flips through it almost casually... we see SKETCHES of the JELLYFISH SHIP, PAGES OF COMPLICATED MATH EQUATIONS...

KLINGON INTERROGATOR (CONT'D)
We found this book in your cell.
Cartography, mathematics-- what do these
mean? This date here -- eleven years
from now-- what happens then?
(holds up the
FLUORESCENT MAPS)
And why attempt to smuggle in maps of
Federation space?

Nero's face betrays nothing; no fear, no doubt. Cold as fucking ice. The Interrogator happens to stare at a page in the book: A DRAWING OF SPOCK. He closes the book.

KLINGON INTERROGATOR (CONT'D)
When you were captured we assumed you
were a spy, sent from Romulus to surveil
the Empire. But because the Romulans
deny your existence, I believe you are
much more than that.

Interrogator looks over to the Guards, nods. A Guard approaches with some kind of GLASS CONTAINER; we HEAR something wet FLIP-FLOPPING around inside, but we can't SEE what it is.

KLINGON INTERROGATOR (CONT'D)
Your ship remains in orbit above us now.
We've been asking for its secrets for too
long. That is why I am here. We want to
know how it works and I believe now,
finally... you will tell us.

A Guard uses TONGS to pull out the most DISGUSTING creature you've seen from the container: a SLUG with SUCKERS and spikes, covered in a grimy muck -- it FLIP FLOPS.

KLINGON INTERROGATOR (CONT'D)
Centaurian slugs. Their native planet is
in constant sunlight. As a result,
there's nothing they hate more... than
darkness.

A Guard GRABS NERO'S HEAD and FORCES IT BACK; the second PRIEST HIS MOUTH OPEN with his hands.

54B CONTINUED: (2)

54B

Another Guard SHOVES THE THING INTO NERO'S MOUTH -- Nero keeps his eyes open -- furiously determined not to be broken -- as they FORCE HIM TO SWALLOW IT -- he DOESN'T SCREAM as the wretched thing makes its way down his esophagus and into his stomach --

KLINGON INTERROGATOR (CONT'D)

They try to claw and bite their way out of any dark space they're in.

Nero stares at the ceiling in HORRIFYING INTERNAL PAIN -- but straining to block it out. PUSH DOWN on Nero's wide, crazed eyes -- TIGHTER as we SLOWLY DISSOLVE TO SEE WHAT HE'S SEEING -- WHAT'S KEEPING HIM FROM LOSING HIS MIND -- DREAMLIKE, ETHEREAL IMAGES OF A WOMAN -- HER BEAUTIFUL, SMILING FACE -- SHE'S ROMULAN -- LOOKING AT US, EYES FULL OF LOVE -- AND SHE TURNS AND WE SEE SHE'S PREGNANT -- AND AS OUR MUSIC BUILDS, WE CUT TO:

55-56 OMIT

55-56

57 INT. VULCAN SCIENCE ACADEMY - COUNCIL ANTE-CHAMBER - DAY

57

Quiet. A waiting area. AMANDA, Spock's mother, stands alone in a passageway. She looks off-camera to her son:

AMANDA

Spock, come here, let me see you.

SPOCK (O.S.)

(beat)

No.

AMANDA

Spock.

Reluctantly, Spock walks into frame. She begins adjusting his collar. This is our ADULT SPOCK. Gripped by anxiety but trying like hell to look impassive.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

There is no need to be so anxious.
You'll do fine.

SPOCK

I am hardly "anxious", mother.
(beat, then, anxiously)
And "fine" has variable definitions.
"Fine" is unacceptable.

She just smiles as she works his collar. He sees this and it annoys him. He tries to move her hands away, to stop with his collar -- his annoyance, her love for him, all sweet-- but he doesn't let go of her hands. A meaningful silence between them.

57 CONTINUED:

57

SPOCK (CONT'D)
May I ask a personal query?

AMANDA
... anything.

SPOCK
Should I choose to complete the Vulcan discipline of Kolinahr... and purge all emotion... I trust you will not feel it reflects judgement upon you.

She stares at him, moved. Touches his face.

AMANDA
As always... whoever you choose to be... you will have a proud mother.

HOLD on mother and son, worlds apart but forever bonded:

58 **INT. VULCAN SCIENCE ACADEMY - COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY**

58

An imposing yet BEAUTIFUL INDOOR ATRIUM. Spock stands before the VULCAN HIGH COUNCIL. Among faces on the dais: his FATHER, seated beside the SCIENCE MINISTER and other VULCAN LEADERS.

SCIENCE MINISTER
You have surpassed the expectations of your instructors. Your final record is flawless. With one exception. I see you have applied to Starfleet as well.

SPOCK
It was logical to cultivate multiple options.

SCIENCE MINISTER
Logical but unnecessary. You are hereby accepted to the Vulcan Science Academy. A distinction all the more significant given that you will be its first half-human pupil. It is truly remarkable, Spock. That you have achieved so much despite your disadvantage. Welcome to the Academy.

They all start to rise. But Spock is suddenly unsettled:

SPOCK
If you would clarify, Minister-- what "disadvantage" are you referring to?

SCIENCE MINISTER
... your human mother.

58 CONTINUED:

58

As the council disperses, we PUSH IN on Spock's face -- the same look he had when he took punches as a kid. He glances at his father to say something, but Sarek's the consummate diplomat. His eyes command: remain calm. Spock STRUGGLES... then makes the first spontaneous -- human -- decision of his life --

SPOCK

Council -- ministers. I must decline.

Everyone STOPS. A solid BEAT. Confused looks turn cold:

SCIENCE MINISTER

No Vulcan has ever declined admission to this academy.

SPOCK

Then as I am half-human, your record remains untarnished.

SAREK

Spock. You have made a commitment to honor the Vulcan way--

SPOCK

At the moment, Father, I can think of no greater way to honor our race than to attend Starfleet as its first Vulcan.

SCIENCE MINISTER

Why did you come before this council today? Was it to satisfy your emotional need to rebel?

SPOCK

I came with the intention of enrolling, as my father wished. However, your "insight" has convinced me otherwise. Therefore, the only emotion I wish to convey is gratitude. Thank you, Ministers, for your consideration.

(a contained "fuck you")

Live long and prosper.

He looks to his father, whose disappointment is evident -- still, God bless him, Spock walks out --

59 **EXT. "THE WARP TRAIL" BAR - IOWA - NIGHT**

59

-- PUSH DOWN A HALLWAY -- MUSIC HEARD -- what seems like a PARTY is going on through windows in the double-doors ahead -- and a WOMAN SWOOPS INTO VIEW in front of us -- we PUSH BEHIND HER in the short skirt and high boots as she ENTERS the place -- a local, busy BAR -- the woman makes her way to the BAR, and we see her GORGEOUS, DIGNIFIED FACE. THIS IS UHURA. She leans into the bartender warmly, her smile glorious:

UHURA

Hi. I'd like a Klalnian Fire Tea, two
Cardassian Sunrises and three Earth
beers, no slim-shots, anything on draft.

VOICE (O.S.)

That's a lot of drinks for one woman.
Wearing those boots.

JAMES KIRK'S FACE leans in: at 22, he's charming, witty,
dangerous, rebellious. He grins at her, flirty. Uhura gives
him a look, then back to the bartender:

UHURA

And a shot of Jack, straight up.

KIRK

(to the bartender)
Make it two -- her shot's on me.

UHURA

Her shot's on her. Thanks but no thanks.

KIRK

Don't you want my name before you
completely reject me?

UHURA

I'm good without it.

Damn, he likes her already.

KIRK

You are good without it. It's Jim. Jim
Kirk.

(long beat)

If you don't tell me your name, I'm gonna
have to make one up.

UHURA

(beat)

Uhura.

KIRK

Uhura? No way -- that's the name I was
gonna make up for you. Uhura what?

UHURA

Just Uhura.

KIRK

They don't have last names in your world?

59 CONTINUED: (2)

59

UHURA

Uhura is my last name.

KIRK

They don't have first names in your world? Wait, let me guess. Is it "Jim"?

That makes her smile. So he moves closer to her:

KIRK (CONT'D)

Okay, so you're a cadet. Studying. What's your focus?

UHURA

Xenolinguistics. Lemme guess: you don't know what that means.

KIRK

Let me guess: study of Alien languages: phonology, morphology, syntax-- it means you've got a talented tongue.

UHURA

And for a moment I thought you were just a dumb hick who only has sex with farm animals.

KIRK

Well. Not only.

UHURA

You think you're smart.

KIRK

Oh, baby, I'm the smartest.

Something sad in that. A BURLY STARFLEET CADET appears.

BURLY CADET

This guy bothering you?

UHURA

Beyond belief, but nothing I can't handle.

KIRK

You could handle me. That's an invitation.

The Burly Cadet spins Kirk around:

BURLY CADET

Hey. You mind your manners.

KIRK

At ease, Cup Cake, it was a joke. Like your hairline.

Uhura turns back. The other cadets, seeing trouble, approach.

UHURA

Hey -- Jim: enough.

BURLY CADET

What was that?

KIRK

You heard me, Moon Beam.

BURLY CADET

You know how to count farm boy? There's five of us... and one of you.

KIRK

Okay, so go get some more guys, come back and it'll be an even fight.

The cadet swings his fist but Kirk HEADBUTTS HIS HAND, BREAKING IT -- another Cadet PUNCHES KIRK, then THROWS HIM into a table, which Kirk FLIES OVER, landing hard -- another Cadet GRABS HIM, pulls him up -- Kirk SLAMS FIVE FAST PUNCHES that send the Cadet back -- when ANOTHER CADET PUNCHES HIM -- yet another HOLDS KIRK -- and that last punch is repeated THREE-- then FOUR times --

UHURA

Enough! STOP!

Another punch and Kirk FLIES TO THE FLOOR - he's out of it, but won't give up. The Cadets UNLEASH on him and really PUMMEL HIM - - and Kirk's spirited, but LOSING -- about to LOSE BAD -- when an EAR-SPLITTING WHISTLE makes everything STOP -- they turn -- standing in the doorway is a tall, rugged Starfleet officer -- CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER PIKE.

PIKE

Outside, all of you! NOW!

The cadets file out, in for it. Pike moves to a dazed, semi-conscious Kirk, now upside down on a table.

PIKE (CONT'D)

Y'alright, Son?

KIRK

You can... whistle really loud, y'know that?

-- and Kirk PASSES OUT.

60 OMIT

60

61 INT. "WARP TRAIL BAR" - NIGHT

61

HIGH WIDE OVERHEAD SHOT of the almost-closed bar. Only Kirk and Pike sit here at a table. Kirk's bloodied, tissue in his nose.

PIKE

I couldn't believe when the bartender told me who you are.

KIRK

... and who am I, Captain Pike?

PIKE

Your father's son.

(then, smiles)

For my dissertation, I was assigned the U.S.S. Kelvin. Something I admired about your dad... he didn't believe in no-win scenarios.

KIRK

He sure learned his lesson.

PIKE

Depends on how you define winning.

You're here, aren't you?

(off Kirk's look)

That instinct to leap without looking-- that was his nature, too. And in my opinion it's something Starfleet has lost. We're admirable, respectable. But overly-disciplined.

(beat)

Those cadets you took on, they'll make competent officers -- but you can bet your ass they'll run home to momma the minute they're looking down the barrel of a Klingon phaser cannon.

KIRK

-- why are you talking to me?

PIKE

I looked up your file while you were drooling on the floor. Your aptitude tests were off the charts-- what is it, d'you like being the only Genius Level repeat-offender in the midwest?

KIRK

Maybe I love it.

61 CONTINUED:

61

PIKE

So your daddy dies... you can settle for a less-than-ordinary life.

(beat)

Or do you feel like you're meant for something better? Something special?

And that just hangs there for a beat. Because Pike just hit a nerve. Kirk does his best not to show it -- still absent-mindedly fiddling with STARFLEET SHIP SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS.

KIRK

Come to think of it, I do want to feel special. You know what? I'm gonna go start a book club--

PIKE

Enlist in Starfleet.

KIRK

Enlist. You must be way down on your recruiting quota for the month--

PIKE

If you're half the man your father was, Jim, Starfleet could use you. You could be an officer in four years, have your own ship in eight.

He's getting under Kirk's skin -- but Kirk keeps up the 'tude, grabs his jacket, stands --

KIRK

We're even, right? I can go.

PIKE

Riverside shipyard. Shuttle for new recruits leaves tomorrow, 0800.

(Kirk turns, Pike grabs him)

Your father was Captain of a Starship. For twelve minutes. I dare you to do better.

Eyes lock... and it's now Pike who stands and walks off. And that's where it hangs. Off Kirk, brooding...

62 **EXT. IOWA PLAINS - SUNRISE**

62

CORN STALKS whipping by -- Kirk on his SPOKELESS MOTORCYCLE rocketing across the plains -- his soul's been stirred and he's fighting it -- he cranks it, ELECTRIC ENGINE SCREAMING --

63 **EXT. STARFLEET CONSTRUCTION YARD - SUNRISE**

63

Kirk pulls up to us, kills the bike. Camera starts to MOVE AROUND HIM -- he's dramatically BACKLIT and we COME AROUND for an INCREDIBLE REVEAL of a SHIPYARD -- at its center, the skeletal frame of a NEW SHIP under arclights. UNMISTAKABLY, THE U.S.S. ENTERPRISE. Unformed, raw, like its future captain. Our MUSIC SWELLS, we PUSH IN ON HIM, considering Pike's offer, his future, his fate.

64 **EXT. STARFLEET SHIPYARD - MORNING**

64

The shipyard is abuzz with activity -- cadets loading into a shuttle -- and Pike, staring off, waiting. The PILOT approaches:

SHUTTLE PILOT
Waiting for something, Cap?

PIKE
... No. Guess not.

He climbs in. The pilot rapidly flips through switches, running a pre-flight sequence. Pike straps in. Glances through the viewshield... SEES SOMETHING... and he smiles. From his POV: KIRK on his MOTORCYCLE, driving into the shipyard --

PIKE (CONT'D)
Hold her a second...

Kirk rides past a WATERFALL of cooling tanks -- stops the bike near the shuttle -- steps off, has nothing -- no bags -- just the clothes on his back.

SHIPYARD WORKER
Nice ride, man.

Kirk kicks the stand, tosses the guy the startcard --

KIRK
Live it up.

Kirk walks past the startled worker and approaches Pike.

KIRK (CONT'D)
Four years? I'm gonna do it in three.

Pike grins as Kirk passes him.

Inside the shuttle, Kirk moves down rows of new recruits, some of them ALIEN. Passes UHURA and the BARFIGHT CADETS, who PERK UP when they see him -- one has a BANDAGED HAND.

KIRK (CONT'D)

At ease, Gentlemen.

(then, to Uhura)

Never did get that first name.

UHURA

(can't help it: a grin)

And you never will.

He smiles as he takes a seat at the back of the shuttle. Straps in as it RISES...

MAN'S VOICE

Are you people deaf? I told you I don't need a doctor, damnit! I AM A DOCTOR!

Kirk turns to see a MAN being forced OUT of the BATHROOM by a FEMALE FLIGHT OFFICER -- at 34, he has a Southern lilt and looks like a prisoner waiting for the guillotine to fall:

FLIGHT OFFICER

-- you need to find a seat --

-- Sir, for your own safety, sit down, or I will MAKE you sit down... do you hear me? RIGHT NOW.

MAN

-- I had one, in the bathroom, Darlin', with no windows --
-- I suffer from Aviaphobia, case you don't understand big words, it means 'fear of dying in something that flies.'

They GLARE at each other, then the man drops into the seat beside Kirk. The ship TORQUES to one side and the man GRIPS his armrests, pale, sweating -- glances at Kirk:

MAN

I might throw up on you.

KIRK

I think these things're pretty safe--

MAN

Don't pander to me, kid: one tiny crack in the hull and our blood boils in thirteen seconds -- solar flare might crop up, cook us in our seats -- Hell, some of the damn passengers are blue. And wait'll you're sitting pretty with a case of Andorian shingles, see if you're still so relaxed when your eyeballs are bleeding-- space is disease and danger, wrapped in darkness and silence.

KIRK

I hate to break this to you, but Starfleet operates in space.

64 CONTINUED: (2)

64

MAN

Yeah, well my ex-wife took the whole damn planet in the divorce, I got nowhere to go but up. Leonard McCoy.

KIRK

Jim Kirk-- you really gonna throw up--?

MCCOY

Maybe--

As the TREK THEME SOARS, the shuttle ascends and we...

FADE OUT.

OVER BLACK: "THREE YEARS LATER".

FADE IN:

64A-~~EMIT~~

64A-E

64F INT. NERO'S CELL - NIGHT

64F

Nero lies on the floor of his cell, semi-conscious, looking like death. Behind him the DOOR OPENS. Two KLINGON GUARDS enter, backlit.

KLINGON GUARD #1

The day you've been waiting for is upon us, Silent One. And look. No sign of salvation. No sign of change. Just more pain.

And they both lift his limp body up -- as something miraculous happens -- NERO SNAPS TO LIFE AND SINGLE-HANDEDLY BEATS THE SHIT OUT OF THE GUARDS -- TAKING THEM BOTH DOWN IN TEN SECONDS -- in what seems like an instant, he's the only one standing here -- holding both of the Guards' rifles -- which he TWIRLS, badass.

64G INT. AYEL'S CELL - NIGHT

64G

PUSH IN ON THE DOOR as it opens -- Ayel, chained, looks up, intensely -- and sees that it's NERO who has arrived -- we PUSH IN TIGHT ON HIM as he SPEAKS FOR THE FIRST TIME:

NERO

The wait is over.

Off Ayel, we CUT TO:

64H EXT. STARFLEET ACADEMY GROUNDS - DAY [FORMER SC. 82]

64H

TILT DOWN from a GLIMMERING BUILDING TO REVEAL a sea of RED CADET UNIFORMS: HUNDREDS OF CADETS head across campus, McCoy and Kirk among them. A miraculous view of San Francisco beneath a blue sky, Golden Gate Bridge piercing the air. Kirk struts:

KIRK

So you'll do it for me, right?

MCCOY

I have no interest.

KIRK

I didn't ask if you have interest, I asked if you'd do it.

MCCOY

I'm about to ask you an obvious question: why bother?

KIRK

Because I've failed the test twice.

MCCOY

And you're determined to make it three. We've all failed it-- everyone has, and that's the point! No one goes back for seconds, let alone thirds -- it's not like you need to pass it to graduate.

KIRK

So Bones: why do they make us take it?

MCCOY

I told you to stop calling me that. You're very annoying.

KIRK

And you're the greatest -- thank you.

MCCOY

You'd better study for it this time.

KIRK

Oh, no-- Bones -- I gotta date.

64H CONTINUED:

64H

MCCOY

A date? Listen, as smart as you are,
which ain't much, if you don't prepare--

KIRK

You have no idea how prepared I'm gonna
be-- no idea.

And with a smile, Kirk heads off -- McCoy watches him go,
calling after him:

MCCOY

Seriously, stop calling me Bones!
(to himself, hating it)
"Bones".

65-78 OMIT

65-78

79 INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

79

In MOONLIGHT, a beautiful WOMAN lies on her back, in some kind
of bra, moaning in delight -- this is GAILA --

GAILA

-- oh Jim... Jim... Jim, I love you.

KIRK

(kissing her)
... Yeah. I sent you a message.

Gaila reaches over, turns on the light and we realize: SHE'S
GREEN. And not particularly happy:

GAILA

I say "I love you", and you say "I sent
you a message?"

KIRK

-- but you can only open it
tomorrow at three o'clock on
the dot --

-- Gaila, promise me you're
not going to open it 'till
three --

-- I'll erase it, I swear, if
you don't promise me you'll
wait --

GAILA

-- what are you talking about?
What is it? What does it say?

-- what is it? Tell me what
it says!

-- All right!! Three o'clock!
I prom--

They're INTERRUPTED by a DOOR OPENING -- GASP!

GAILA (CONT'D)

(sotto)

You can't get caught in this dorm-- hide!
Under the bed, quick!

Kirk falls, lands hard on the floor, SCRAMBLES under the bed as Gaila's roommate enters -- UHURA. Dropping her backpack:

GAILA (CONT'D)

Hey-- I thought you were going to be in
the long-range sensor lab all night.

UHURA

I was supposed to be, but it was crazy, I
picked up an emergency transmission from
a Klingon prison planet -- there was an
escape and a ship stolen from th--

(suddenly senses)

... you okay?

GAILA

Yeah, been running simulations all week,
just catching up on some rest. Tired.

(fake yawn)

That's all.

Uhura watches her. Her eyes narrow.

UHURA

Were you running simulations with the
mouth-breather hiding under the bed?

Gaila freezes, caught. Uhura looks down, Kirk PEERS OUT.

KIRK

Your hearing is scary-- you sure both
your parents are human?

UHURA

The hell are you doing with him in here?

GAILA

I can't help it! I love him!

JIM

Gaila loves me--

UHURA (CONT'D)

Get outta here -- it's my ass too if
administration catches you in this dorm.

KIRK

(getting dressed, to
Uhura)

You and I have a big day tomorrow --

79 CONTINUED: (2)

79

UHURA
 (pushing him out)
 You're gonna fail.

KIRK
 If I pass, will you tell me your first
 name?

UHURA
 No. Good night.

KIRK
 (quiet, tries to charm)
 I think the fact that you picked up a
 transmission of a Klingon prison escape
 is very interesting.

SHE CLOSSES THE DOOR ON HIM and we CUT TO:

80 **EXT. SPACE - NIGHT**

80

The Narada APPEARS through space --

81 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - DAY**

81

Dead silence on the bridge... all eyes on the VIEWSCREENS: empty
 starfield, roiling clouds of methane ice.

AYEL
 We have arrived at the coordinates you
 requested. Stardate confirmed. 2258.5.

Nero stands, looks out through his view screens.

NERO
 Standby.

Ayel studies his console, hope in his eyes. Quietly:

AYEL
 Captain... long range scans of Beta
 Quadrant complete. Romulus is there.
 She's there. We could go. Right now, go
 home...

NERO
 Not yet -- not like this. Not how we
 left. This is our chance... to serve our
 people. We owe it to them -- to do what
 no other Romulan could ever do.

81 CONTINUED:

81

Ayel hides his disappointment behind his eyes as suddenly -- A LIGHTNING STORM -- impossibly, from nowhere -- LOTS OF IT -- and through the lightning erupts THE JELLYFISH -- THE SHIP NERO HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR DECADES.

NERO (CONT'D)

Welcome back. Spock.

And we won't know where we are as MUSIC BUILDS and we CUT TO:

81A INT. U.S.S. TRAINER - BRIDGE - SPACE [FORMER SC. 65]

81A

Uhura TURNS TO US, at her comm station -- PUSH IN on her. She seems wildly BORED and almost RESENTFUL:

UHURA

-- we are receiving a distress signal from the U.S.S. Kobayashi Maru. The ship has lost power and is stranded. Starfleet Command has ordered us to rescue them.

WHIP TO THE COMMAND CHAIR, where KIRK captains the battered bridge. Confident -- cocky:

KIRK

"Starfleet Command has ordered us to rescue them... Captain."

She glares, turns away. Then McCoy, at a console, reports:

MCCOY

Klingon vessels have entered the Neutral Zone. And they are firing upon us.

KIRK

That's okay.

McCoy and Uhura -- and the others -- look at him, confused.

MCCOY

It's okay?

KIRK

Yeah, don't worry about it.

McCoy and Uhura share a look -- that's when we CUT TO:

81B INT. TESTING CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS [FORMER SC. 66]

81B

Looking at the bridge from above, we PULL BACK to reveal an observation room above the faux-ship. This is the test Kirk was referring to. CONSOLE TECHNICIANS monitor the proceedings. A TEST ADMINISTRATOR turns to another and asks:

81B CONTINUED:

81B

TEST ADMINISTRATOR #1
Did he say "don't worry about it"?

TEST ADMINISTRATOR #2
-- what's he doing?

And we CONTINUE TO PULL BACK TO REVEAL that, sitting among the technicians, is Gaila. Our resident GREEN GIRL. She checks her watch -- PUSH IN ON IT: 2:59 PM. On her MONITOR awaits a 23rd century e-mail -- a MESSAGE FROM KIRK --

81C INT. U.S.S. TRAINER - BRIDGE SIMULATOR - DAY [FORMER SC. 67] 81C

MCCOY
Three more Klingon Warbirds decloaking --
and targeting our ship -- I don't suppose
this is a problem either?

KIRK
Nah.

WEAPONS OFFICER
They're firing, Captain.

KIRK
Alert medical bay to prepare to receive
all crew members from the damaged ship.

UHURA
And how do you expect us to rescue them
when we're surrounded by Klingons?

KIRK
Alert medical.

Annoyed, she does as:

MCCOY
Our ship is being hit -- shields at sixty
percent.

KIRK
I understand.

MCCOY
Should we at least, I dunno, fire back?

KIRK
Mmmm... no.

MCCOY
Of course not.

81D **INT. TESTING CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS [FORMER SC. 70]** 81D

CLOSE ON GAILA'S WATCH as it changes to 3:00 -- and she opens Jim's message -- and all it reads is, "I'M SORRY." And just then something UPLOADS and EXECUTES and ALL THE SCREENS IN HERE AND ON THE BRIDGE DIE -- THE SYSTEM CRASHES -- everyone reacts --

TEST ADMINISTRATOR #1
-- the hell's happening?!

81E **INT. U.S.S. TRAINER - BRIDGE SIMULATOR - CONTINUOUS [FRMR. 71]** 81E

The crew doesn't know what's up -- except Kirk, who is remarkably pleased -- when the LIGHTS AND MONITORS COME BACK ON, things are not the same:

UHURA
(perplexed, works controls)
-- the Kobayashi Maru is still in distress... but... the Klingons have stopped firing.

KIRK
Arm photons. Prepare to fire on the Klingon warbirds.

MCCOY
Jim, their shields are up.

KIRK
Are they?

McCoy looks at his monitor. No they're not.

MCCOY
... no.

KIRK
Fire on all enemy ships -- one photon each should do -- let's not waste ammunition.

WEAPONS OFFICER
Target lock acquired on all warbirds -- firing!

They fire -- AND DESTROY ALL FIVE KLINGON SHIPS INSTANTLY. All mouths here are agape.

81E CONTINUED:

81E

KIRK

Begin rescue of the stranded crew. So. We've eliminated all enemy ships, no one on board was injured and the successful rescue of the Kobayashi Maru crew is underway.

For the first time, Kirk looks up to the testing room windows:

KIRK (CONT'D)

Anything else?

81F INT. TESTING CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS [FORMER SC. 72]

81F

And they're stunned up here, too -- Test Administrator #2 turns to someone OFF-CAMERA:

TEST ADMINISTRATOR #2

How the hell'd that kid beat your test?

REVEAL who he was talking to: SPOCK is here. And not happy.

SPOCK

... I do not know.

82 OMIT

82

83 INT. ACADEMY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

83

TIGHT ON a stern STARFLEET ACADEMY PRESIDENT:

ACADEMY PRESIDENT

James T. Kirk. Step forward.

It's a huge Starfleet chamber. Golden Gate Bridge visible through huge windows. 500 cadets, a nervous KIRK among them. He stands, moves to one of two PODIUMS.

ACADEMY PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

An incident has occurred today that concerns the entire student body. Academic immorality by one is an assault on us all. It will. Not. Stand. Cadet Kirk, evidence has been submitted to this council suggesting you violated the ethical code of conduct pursuant to regulation 17.43 of the Starfleet code. Is there anything you care to say before we begin?

KIRK

(uncomfortable beat)

Yessir. I believe I have the right to face my accuser directly.

President nods toward the assembly. SPOCK RISES. He and Kirk MEET EYES for the first time. It's clock-stopping.

ACADEMY PRESIDENT

Step forward please. This is Commander Spock, one of our most distinguished graduates. He's programmed the Kobayashi Maru test for the last four years.

Spock steps up to the OTHER PODIUM. President nods.

SPOCK

Cadet Kirk. It is obvious you somehow managed to install and activate a sub-routine in the programming code, thereby changing the conditions of the test.

We happen to find GAILA, in the crowd, fucking pissed.

KIRK

Your point being?

ACADEMY PRESIDENT

In academic vernacular, you cheated.

KIRK

Respectfully. Define "cheating".

SPOCK

To deceive by trickery.

KIRK

Now let me ask you something I think we all know the answer to: the test is rigged, isn't it? You programmed it to be unwinnable.

ACADEMY PRESIDENT

Mr. Kirk, I don't see how the intent of the exam is relevant to these proceedings.

KIRK

Because if I'm right, Sir, then the test itself is a cheat.

SPOCK

Your argument precludes the possibility of a no-win scenario --

KIRK

I don't believe in no-win scenarios --

83 CONTINUED: (2)

83

FIND PIKE amongst the officers in attendance. His eyes locked on Kirk. This is his boy. His recruit. And he's INVESTED.

SPOCK

Then not only have you violated the rules, you've failed to understand the principle lesson.

KIRK

Please, enlighten me.

SPOCK

You, of all people should know, Cadet Kirk -- A captain cannot cheat death.

ON KIRK. The first punch by Spock that landed. The cockiness slips away as he senses where this is going --

KIRK

"I of all people?"

SPOCK

Your father, Lieutenant George Kirk, had assumed command of his vessel before killed in action, did he not?

Shit. The DADDY card. Kirk, a mix of ANGER and EMBARRASSMENT --

KIRK

How long did it take you to look that up?

SPOCK

How long did it take you to program the virus that allowed you to cheat?

The President smirks; considers ending this now but doesn't, it's just too damn entertaining...

KIRK

Maybe you just don't like that I beat your test.

SPOCK

I am Vulcan. "Like" is not a verb in our vernacular. I've simply made the logical deduction that you're a liar.

KIRK

What an idiot I am for taking that personally --

SPOCK

Agreed. Furthermore, you have failed to divine the purpose of the test.

KIRK

Enlighten me again.

SPOCK

The purpose is to experience fear. Fear in the face of certain death. To accept that fear and maintain command of one's self and one's crew. This is a quality expected in every Starfleet captain.

Kirk absorbs that. Then --

KIRK

So you're telling me the point. Of the whole thing. Is to be afraid?

SPOCK

Fear is necessary, yes.

KIRK

Have you taken the test, Commander Spork?

SPOCK

Spock. As a Vulcan, I require no additional training to control my narcissism when making command decisions.

No he DIN'T! Kirk's hit guys for a lot less -- The crowd all but "OOOOOHs." But Kirk ain't fucking done yet.

KIRK

You keep reminding me that you're Vulcan. And I'm sure you're really proud of that, who wouldn't be-- but isn't it true you people don't experience fear at all?

ON SPOCK. He raises that eyebrow. And Kirk sees... no matter how subtly... that he has fucking made CONTACT. Smelling blood -

KIRK (CONT'D)

And if that's the case -- What's that say about your ability to make command decisions?

Well. Looks like Kirk just hit him in HIS fucking weak spot. And before this lovefest can continue --

83 CONTINUED: (4)

83

A REDSHIRT bursts into the HALL -- Kirk turns to look -- they all do -- now we're SPEEDING IN behind the REDSHIRT, who runs to the President, hands him a DATAPAD. President reads it. Everyone watches, on edge -- finally, quietly:

ACADEMY PRESIDENT

(to all)

We've received a distress call from Vulcan.

(Spock reacts concerned)

Cadet Kirk -- you are on academic probation pending the result of your hearing. Cadets, report to Shuttle Hangar One immediately -- this hearing is at recess until further notice -- dismissed.

Everyone's on their feet, MOVING QUICKLY, Kirk suddenly irrelevant. PIKE passes by him, all fucking business, but before he goes --

PIKE

Cheating isn't winning.

And as that settles on Kirk, McCoy now joins him. The two exiting with the rest of the cadets as Kirk eyes SPOCK --

KIRK

Who was that pointy-eared bastard?

MCCOY

I don't know, but I like him.

84 INT. STARFLEET ACADEMY - HANGAR - CONTINUOUS

84

DOLLY THROUGH HUNDREDS OF CADETS, racing to their shuttles -- BARRACKS LEADERS stand on platforms, calling out SHIP ASSIGNMENTS -- cadets HURRYING OFF as they're called --

MALE BARRACKS LEADER

Blake! U.S.S. Newton!
Counter! U.S.S. Odyssey!
Fugeman: Regula One! Gerace:
U.S.S. Farragut! McGrath!
U.S.S. Wolcott! McCoy!
U.S.S. Enterprise! Welcome to
Starfleet and Godspeed!

FEMALE BARRACKS OFFICER

Jaxa! The U.S.S. Endeavor!
T'nag! The U.S.S. Antares!
Pomoroy! The U.S.S. Oddysey!
Leifer! U.S.S. Newton!
Uhura! The U.S.S. Farragut!

As the last of the cadets head off, Kirk stands there without a home -- he moves to his exiting Barracks Leader --

KIRK

Excuse me, you didn't call my name.
Kirk, James T..

BARRACKS LEADER

(checks his tablet)

You're on academic probation. That means you're grounded until the Academy Board rules.

Kirk is POLEAXED as Leader heads off -- McCoy, needing to run:

MCCOY

... Jim, the Board'll rule in your favor. Most likely.

(Kirk is just rocked)

Look, Jim -- I gotta go --

KIRK

... yeah-- yeah, you go... I'm good.

Kirk forces a half-smile. Torn, McCoy hurries off. PULL AWAY from Kirk, alone as the mass of newly-minted cadets criss-crosses around him. At the hangar entrance, McCoy suddenly STOPS: a lightbulb. He quickly returns to Kirk, pulls him off:

MCCOY

Come with me --

KIRK

-- what're you doing --?

TRACK with them as they hurry through the throng of cadets -- and suddenly we're moving in the OTHER DIRECTION as a pissed-off Uhura serpentine through the group to SPOCK --

UHURA

Commander, a word?

Spock moves away from the officers, a private moment with her:

SPOCK

Yes, Lieutenant?

UHURA

Was I not one of your top students?

SPOCK

Indeed you were --

UHURA

Did I not receive a Gold rating for Exolinguistic skills, giving Starfleet first place over Kyoto and MIT at the Oxford Invitational?

A LOUD nearby SHUTTLE LEAVES BEHIND THEM -- it gets WINDY --

SPOCK

An exceptional achievement, to be su--

84 CONTINUED: (2)

84

UHURA

-- and did I not, on multiple occasions, demonstrate exceptional aural sensitivity and, I quote, "unparalleled ability to identify sonic anomalies" in subspace transmission tests?!

SPOCK

Consistently, yes--

UHURA

And while you were well aware that my unqualified desire was to serve on the U.S.S. Enterprise, I was assigned to the Farragut.

Spock reacts unusually; he seems almost embarrassed. Quiet.

SPOCK

It was an attempt to avoid the appearance of favoritism.

She gets closer, voice low, all pride and defiance:

UHURA

No. No. I am assigned to the Enterprise.

Their eyes hold. He checks his tablet, makes an change:

SPOCK

Oh. Yes, I believe you are.

85 INT. SHUTTLE HANGAR MEDICAL BAY - CONTINUOUS

85

McCoy and Kirk enter fast. McCoy goes through a cabinet, preps a med in a hypospray SYRINGE.

KIRK

What are you doing?

MCCOY

Doing you a favor. I couldn't just leave you there, looking all pitiful-- roll up your sleeve, I'm gonna give you a vaccine against viral infection from Melvaran mud fleas.

McCoy FIRES the Hypospray --

85 CONTINUED:

85

KIRK

Ow-- what for?
 -- I don't understand--
 -- yeah, I already have --
 (he tries to stand;
 WOOZY)
 -- what'd you do to me?
 (in pain)
 -- this is a favor?!

MCCOY

To give you symptoms.
 -- you're gonna start to lose
 vision in your left eye --
 -- don't stand up yet --
 -- you're gonna get a really
 bad headache. And flopsweat.
 -- yeah, you're welcome.

McCoy ushers Kirk out of the room --

86 **EXT. STARFLEET ACADEMY - HANGAR - CONTINUOUS**

86

McCoy ushers Kirk to a shuttle -- a SCANNING OFFICER stops them:

SCANNING OFFICER

"Kirk, James T." -- he's not cleared for
 duty aboard the Enterprise --

MCCOY

But I am, and Medical Code states the
 treatment and transport of a patient's to
 be determined at the discretion of his
 attending physician, which is me.
 (re: scanner)
 You can see he's suffering, he needs me
 as his doctor, so since I'm assigned to
 this ship, so's he, or would you like to
 explain to Captain Pike why the
 Enterprise warped into a crisis without
 one of its medical officers?

SCANNING OFFICER

... as you were.

MCCOY

As you were.

And with that, he pulls Kirk past the speechless officer --

86A **EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - DAY**

86A

A fleet of SHUTTLES depart Starfleet -- head out to space --

87 **INT. SHUTTLE - DAY**

87

Kirk, in agony, sweating, sits beside McCoy as they pass through
 the stratosphere. McCoy's peering out a window --

KIRK

I might throw up on you.

87 CONTINUED:

87

MCCOY

You should look at this.

And through his pain, Kirk does... and is amazed...

88 INT. STARBASE ONE - SPACE DOCK - CONTINUOUS

88

The shuttle approaches a massive DOCKING STATION where a dozen STARFLEET VESSELS ARE DOCKED. But the ship we're approaching is miraculous: "U.S.S. ENTERPRISE NCC-1701" IS REVEALED ON THE HULL OF THE FLAGSHIP. THE QUEEN OF THE FLEET IS FULLY CONSTRUCTED AND READY FOR HER MAIDEN VOYAGE. The shuttle glides to the underside of the Enterprise. A DOCKING BAY opens --

89 INT. ENTERPRISE SHUTTLE BAY WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

89

Officers move quickly on the ship -- Kirk and McCoy enter. Kirk WIPING HIS BROW, pretty much SOAKED.

KIRK

Bones. Thanks for getting me on board.
But I don't feel right. I feel like I'm
leaking.

MCCOY

Oh look, the pointy-eared bastard.

Kirk looks up -- SPOCK moves towards them, not seeing them -- Kirk yanks McCoy out of the way -- Spock passes and enters a TURBOLIFT -- Kirk looks back as the doors close.

Then we go INTO THE TURBOLIFT -- for just a moment -- as the doors open and we enter with Spock:

90 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

90

Spock walks through the glorious, gleaming new space, taking his position at the SCIENCE CONSOLE. PIKE at the command chair.

SPOCK

Captain, engineering reports "ready for launch".

PIKE

The maiden voyage of our newest flagship deserves more pomp and circumstance than we can afford today, but her christening will have to be our reward for a safe return--

(toggles intercom)

All decks, this is Captain Pike. Prepare for immediate departure. Helm, thrusters.

90 CONTINUED:

90

WHIP PAN to the helm: HIKARU SULU turns to Pike -- at 25, he's the Federation's best pilot. As he works the controls:

SULU
Moorings retracted, Captain. Dock
Control reports ready -- thrusters fired,
separating from space dock --

90A EXT. SPACE DOCK - SPACE [FORMER SC. 92]

90A

The Enterprise moves away from the dock -- smaller SATELLITE crafts floating around it. The other FIVE STARFLEET SHIPS already ahead -- moving into position.

91 INT. MEDICAL BAY - CONTINUOUS

91

MEDICAL STAFF preps. McCoy enters with Kirk, in amusing agony -- McCoy helps him onto a bed, prepares another hypospray.

KIRK
-- oh, this wasn't worth it --
I wish I didn't know you-- I'm
itching in my mouth, this is
horrible--

MCCOY
Here's a short-lasting
sedative -- those symptoms
won't last long, don't be an
infant.

And he SHOOTS KIRK with another hypospray --

92 OMIT

92

93 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

93

As Sulu works the controls --

SULU
The fleet's cleared space dock, Captain.
All ships ready for warp.

PIKE
Set course for Vulcan.

SULU
Course laid in.

PIKE
Maximum warp. Punch it.

And Sulu does and --

94 EXT. STARBASE ONE - CONTINUOUS

94

The six ships -- ONE, then TWO, then THREE, then FOUR, then FIVE SNAP INTO WARP. The Enterprise, however... just sits there.

95 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

95

Pike -- and the others -- look at Sulu, who is confused -- concerned -- searching the controls. Finally:

PIKE

Lieutenant, where's Helmsman McKenna?

SULU

Uh, he has lungworms, Sir? He'll be fine but couldn't report to his post-- I'm Hikaru Sulu --

PIKE

(fucking with him)

-- and you are a pilot, right?

SULU

Very much so, Sir-- I'm not sure what's... wrong here...

PIKE

Is the parking brake on?

SULU

(half-laughs)

-- no, I'll figure it out, just--

SPOCK

Have you disengaged the External Inertial Dampener?

Sulu does -- and realizes Spock is right. He makes it work.

SULU

Ready for warp, Sir.

PIKE

The external inertial dampener. That's... the parking brake.

SULU

(essentially)

... yessir.

PIKE

(laughs)

Let's punch it!

95A EXT. STARBASE ONE - SPACE DOCK - CONTINUOUS

95A

And now alone, the Enterprise SNAPS INTO WARP -- and is gone.

95B **INT./EXT. AMANDA AND SAREK'S HOME - VULCAN - DAY [FRMR SC. 99]** 95B

CLOSE ON a small Vulcan object. SHAKING, as if in a small earthquake. BOOM UP to find Amanda as she moves through her home, out to the balcony -- and in the distance, a mile away, is a massive COLUMN OF LIGHT -- like a ray from God, which creates NUKE-LIKE CONCENTRIC CLOUDS and massive DIRT AND DUST, slamming into the ground. Amanda's eyes go wide with terror --

95C **EXT. DRILLING MACHINE - DAY** 95C

Looking DOWN towards Vulcan at the gigantic DRILLING PLATFORM, the SOURCE of the PLASMA RAY -- and we TILT UP to see that the platform is HUNG ON A WIDE TETHER -- and we KEEP TILTING UNTIL WE SEE THE TETHER IS ATTACHED TO THE NARADA, in orbit above the planet --

95D **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 95D

Nero stares at holographic images of Vulcan -- as Ayel arrives behind him.

ROMULAN CREW MEMBER
Captain Nero, drilling has begun.

NERO
Prepare the Red Matter. Tell me when we reach core depth.

Ayel heads off --

95E **INT. NARADA - HANGAR - LATER [FORMERLY SC. 101]** 95E

Ayel enters the massive hangar -- where SPOCK'S JELLYFISH SHIP SITS. Ayel moves to, enters the Jellyfish --

95F **INT. JELLY FISH - LATER** 95F

Ayel moves into the CONTAINMENT HOLD -- a METALLIC ROOM containing a large, floating RED BALL -- some kind of energy source. Ayel observes TWO ROMULANS EXTRACTING some of this Red Matter, sucking it into a tube --

95G **INT. NARADA - HANGAR - LATER** 95G

Workers place the tube of Red Matter into a SPACE POD.

96 **INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE** 96

The journey's underway. The bridge crew monitors systems:

SULU
Engines at Maximum Warp, Captain.

96 CONTINUED:

96

PIKE

Russian whiz kid-- what's your name
again? Chanko? Cherpov?

An 18 YEAR-OLD FACE leans into frame. HEAVY RUSSIAN ACCENT:

CHEKOV

Ensign Chekov, Pavel H., Sir.

PIKE

Fine, Chekov, Pavel H.: begin shipwide
mission broadcast.

CHEKOV

Yessir, happy to.
(into console)
Ensign authorization code: Nine-Five-
Wictor Wictor-Two--

"AUTHORIZATION NOT RECOGNIZED, PLEASE TRY AGAIN." Chekov is a
genius, a graduate of the academy at seventeen -- he sighs:

CHEKOV (CONT'D)

Aigh, thees is the 23rd Century -- what
good is voice recognition that doesn't
recognize your woice?
(again)
Nine-Five-Victor-Victor-Two.

"ACCESS GRANTED: INTRA-SHIP COMMUNICATION ACTIVE."

CHEKOV ON SCREEN

Your attention, plees: At twenty-two
hundred hours, telemetry detected an
anomaly in the Neutral Zone. What
appeared to be a lightning storm in
space.

97 INT. THE ENTERPRISE - SERIES OF SHOTS - CONTINUOUS

97

CHEKOV'S FACE appears on monitors throughout the great ship,
including ENGINEERING: CRANE DOWN 12 stories of catwalks as
engineers tend to the DILITHIUM CRYSTAL CHAMBER that operates
the warp drive --

CHEKOV ON SCREEN

Soon after, Starfleet received a distress
signal from the Vulcan High Council that
their planet was experiencing seismic
activity. We then lost contact with
Vulcan entirely.

WEAPONS BAY: TRACKING DOWN rows of PHOTON TORPEDOES stacked for
war -- WEAPONS OFFICERS arming the cannons.

97 CONTINUED:

97

VARIOUS SHOTS of the Crew at work in DIFFERENT SHIP LOCALS.

CHEKOV ON SCREEN (CONT'D)

Our mission is to assess the condition of Vulcan and assist in evacuations, if necessary.

MEDICAL BAY: as the med staff sets up a triage area --

CHEKOV ON SCREEN (CONT'D)

We should be arriving at Vulcan within two minutes. Thank you for your time.

And as Chekov's message ends, Kirk suddenly SITS UP IN FRAME -- his mind SPINNING, through the pain and sedative -- he tries to get off the bed, to his feet, as McCoy hurries over --

MCCOY

Jim, I told you to stay d-- good God!

What McCoy has just seen -- what we and Kirk see now -- is that KIRK'S HANDS HAVE SWOLLEN TO ALMOST TWO TIMES THEIR NORMAL SIZE.

KIRK

-- what's this?!

MCCOY

-- I don't know-- a reaction to the vaccine -- damnit --

Kirk rushes to the video monitor where Chekov was seen -- using his huge hands, he REWINDS CHEKOV'S SPEECH -- replays this part as McCoy SCANS KIRK WITH A HANDHELD DIAGNOSER --

CHEKOV ON SCREEN

-- telemetry detected an anomaly in the Neutral Zone. What appeared to be a lightning storm in space.

He FREEZES it -- eyes wild -- looks to McCoy --

KIRK

-- Bones -- we have to stop the ship--

MCCOY

-- you're not allergic to Cardassian vole dander, are you?

KIRK

--- what? How the hell would I know? Is Uhura on board?

97 CONTINUED: (2)

97

MCCOY

You need an antidote, Jim, or you're
gonna die.

97A INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR

97A

MCCOY

Jim, I'm not kidding, you gotta keep your heart rate down.

KIRK

Computer, locate crew member Uhura --

MCCOY

I haven't seen a reaction this severe since Med school.

A MAP appears -- locates her --

COMPUTER VOICE

Lieutenant Uhura is at signals monitoring station twelve -- deck four.

KIRK

We're flying into a trap.

Kirk RUNS OUT -- McCoy hurrying after him with a bag of gear:

MCCOY

You're delusional, you know that.

98 INT. SIGNALS MONITORING STATION - CONT.

98

Kirk and McCoy enter -- Kirk stops, looks around --

MCCOY

Come here -- Jim -- don't move --

And McCoy INJECTS HIM WITH ANOTHER SHOT --

KIRK

-- ow! Stop it!

And Kirk runs into a ENORMOUS SPACE -- giant STEEL COLLECTOR TANKS surround a dozen workstations where CREW MEMBERS collect data -- Kirk races to Uhura --

KIRK (CONT'D)

The transmission from the Klingon prison planet -- what exactly did you hear?

UHURA

What are you doing here-- what happened to your hands?!

98 CONTINUED:

98

Kirk hides his hands behind his back -- as he talks it becomes MUFFLED AND SLURRED --

KIRK

Who was it who escaped? What was the ship that was stolen--?!

(to McCoy,
indiscernible)

-- what's happening to my mouth?

MCCOY

(working Hypospray)

-- you've got Numb Tongue --

KIRK

(impossible to make out)

Numb tongue?

MCCOY

That's not good-- I can fix that--

Kirk grabs a pen with his huge hands and writes -- shows her what he's written: "THE SHIP - WAS IT ROMULAN?" Uhura looks at him -- somehow scared -- as McCoy INJECTS HIM AGAIN:

KIRK

OW, DAMNIT!!! SONOFABITCH!

98A **EXT. VULCAN SURFACE - OUTSIDE SPOCK'S HOME - CONT. [FRMR 112]** 98A

EPIC WIDE SHOT: Amanda's a spec against the MASSIVE, EAR-SPLITTING PLASMA TWISTER. The image is almost religious. POP CLOSER to her face -- mesmerized, terrified -- suddenly: a HOVERSPEEDER RACES IN behind her, at the controls is SAREK:

SAREK

(SHOUTS against wind)

AMANDA! WE MUST GET TO THE SHELTER!

She turns to him in horror --

99-10 **DMIT**

99-101

102 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

102

Bridge doors WHOOSH OPEN as Kirk RUNS IN, followed by Uhura and a harried McCoy --

KIRK

Captain Pike-- Sir, we have to stop ship!

PIKE
 -- Mr. Kirk! How the hell did
 you get on board the
 Enterprise?!

MCCOY
 This man is under the
 influence of a severe reaction
 to a vaccine. He is
 delusional and I take full
 responsibility for --

KIRK (CONT'D)
 Vulcan isn't experiencing a natural
 disaster, it's being attacked -- by
 Romulans.

ON THE CREW as that lands. But most specifically, SPOCK.

PIKE
 Cadet Kirk, I think you've had enough
 attention for one day -- Dr. McCoy,
 return to medical, we'll have words
 later.

MCCOY
 Yessir.

Rebuked, McCoy exits as:

SPOCK
 As you know, Mr. Kirk is not
 cleared to be aboard this
 vessel. By Starfleet
 regulations, that makes him a
 stowaway...

KIRK
 Yeah, I get it, you're a
 great arguer, I'd love to do
 it again with you, too.

I can remove the cadet from
 the bridge, Sir --
 -- By recommending a full stop
 in trans-warp in the midst of
 a rescue mission?

-- Try it! This cadet is
 trying to save the bridge!

-- Based on what facts?

-- It's not a rescue mission--
listen to me! It's an attack!

ON KIRK. Enough. And cadet or not, the bridge is HIS.

KIRK
 Fact: the same anomaly -- a lighting
 storm in space -- that we saw today also
 occurred on the day of my birth, before a
Romulan ship attacked the U.S.S. Kelvin.

(to Pike)
 You know that, I read your dissertation.
 Which was good.

(MORE)

102 CONTINUED: (2)

102

KIRK (CONT'D)

Fact: This ship -- which had formidable and advanced weaponry -- was never seen or heard from again -- fact: the Kelvin attack took place on the edge of Klingon space and at 11-hundred hours last night there was an escape from a Klingon prison planet -- Rura Penthe -- fact: the escaped prisoners were Romulans, Sir, and it was reported that they stole a ship from the prison dock.

PIKE

And you know of this prison escape how?

Kirk just points to Uhura.

UHURA

Sir, I-- I intercepted and translated the message myself. Kirk's report is accurate.

KIRK

We're warping into a trap-- there are Romulans waiting for us, I promise you that.

All eyes on Pike. He looks to Spock, who could screw Kirk here... But--

SPOCK

The cadet's logic is sound.

(then)

And Lieutenant Uhura is unmatched in xenolinguistics, we would be wise to accept her conclusion.

PIKE

(to Comm Officer)

Scan Vulcan space, check if any transmissions are being made in Romulan.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Sir, I'm-- not sure I could distinguish the Romulan language from Vulcan.

PIKE

(to Uhura)

How about you -- you speak Romulan, Cadet...?

UHURA

Uhura, Sir. All three dialects.

102 CONTINUED: (3)

102

PIKE

Uhura, relieve the Lieutenant -- Mr. Hannity, hail the U.S.S. Truman.

Uhura sits at the console -- she PUTS ON THE EARPIECE. We've just watched the birth of an icon. She works the controls --

HANNITY

The other ships are out of warp and have arrived at Vulcan, Sir-- but we seem to have lost all contact--

UHURA

Captain, I pick up no Romulan transmissions -- or transmissions of any kind in the area. There seems to be something jamming all communication around Vulcan.

KIRK

It's because they're being attacked. Captain. Please.

PIKE

(long, tense beat)
Shields up. Ready all weapons.

LIGHTS GO RED. HOLD ON THE FACES of our people -- AFRAID, HEARTS POUNDING as they dread what they're about to see --

SULU

Arrival at Vulcan in five seconds!
Four... three... two--

SUDDENLY, AS THE ENTERPRISE DROPS OUT OF WARP, THE FLAMING HULL OF A STARFLEET SHIP COMES BARRELING RIGHT AT THE BRIDGE!

CAPTAIN PIKE
EMERGENCY EVASIVE!

SULU
ON IT, SIR!

Sulu DIPS the Enterprise FAST AND HARD and the spinning debris JUST SCARS the ship. The bridge shakes, but rights itself. THE CREW SEES THE NARADA FLOATING ABOVE THE PLANET -- THEIR EYES GO WIDE AT THE MONUMENTAL SHIP -- meanwhile, inside:

103-6 OMIT

103-6

107 INT. THE NARADA - CONTINUOUS

107

A PROXIMITY ALARM rings out --

ROMULAN FIRST OFFICER
Sir, another Federation ship!

107 CONTINUED:

107

NERO
Destroy it, too.

108 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

108

Spock snaps to Pike as images FLASH on his console --

SPOCK
Captain, they're locking torpedoes!

PIKE
Full reverse, come about Starboard ninety
degrees! Drop us down underneath them!
Prepare to fire all weapons!

109 **EXT. SPACE - ABOVE VULCAN - CONTINUOUS**

109

The Narada FIRES A TORPEDO and in a wild move, the Enterprise
DROPS AND TUMBLES -- the SEPARATING TORPEDO passes RIGHT BETWEEN
THE ENTERPRISE'S NACELLES -- ONE PIECE HITS our hero ship's
DEFLECTOR DISH -- another the MAIN DISH and --

110 **INT./EXT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING - CONTINUOUS**

110

A CREW MEMBER runs through the machine room catwalks as a HUGE
EXPLOSION sends him -- and large steel tanks -- TUMBLING INTO
SPACE --

We see the ship from a distance -- the scale of the destruction
relatively small --

111 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

111

SULU
Shields at thirty-two percent! Their
weapons are powerful, Sir, we can't take
another hit like that!

PIKE
Get me Starfleet Command!

(CONT'D)

SPOCK
Captain, the Romulan ship has lowered
some kind of high energy pulse device
into the Vulcan atmosphere-- its signal
appears to be blocking our communications
and transporter abilities!

111 CONTINUED:

111

PIKE

All power to forward shields -- prepare
to fire all weapons!

111A **INT. ENTERPRISE - WEAPONS BAY - CONTINUOUS** 111A

Photons LOADED fast by CREW MEMBERS and --

112 **OMIT** 112

113 **EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS** 113

The Enterprise SWOOPS AROUND, firing photons at the Narada which takes the hits in stride --

114 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 114

The bridge in action --

ROMULAN TACTICAL OFFICER
Fire torpedoes, take them out--!

And just before our heroes are blown into oblivion, Nero suddenly LURCHES FORWARD and stabs out a hand:

NERO
WAIT!!!

Nero's eyes are hard and bright as diamond drills:

NERO (CONT'D)
The hull -- magnify --

On screen, the Enterprise's hull is revealed "U.S.S. ENTERPRISE NCC-1701." Nero LIGHTS UP with recognition --

115 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 115

Pike on the comm:

PIKE
Divert auxiliary power from port nacelle to the shields--!

But Pike stops when he sees, on the viewscreen

UHURA
Captain, we're being hailed!

Pike looks over -- nods -- Uhura works controls and on viewscreen, Nero appears. Cool. Cordial. In English:

NERO
Hello.

PIKE
I am Captain Christopher Pike, to whom am I speaking?

NERO

I am called Nero.

CLOSE ON KIRK -- breathless -- suddenly staring at the man who murdered his father -- holy SHIT...

PIKE

You've declared war against the Federation. Withdraw, and I'll agree to arrange a conference with Romulan leadership at a neutral loca--

NERO

I do not speak for the Empire. We stand apart. As does your Vulcan crew member... isn't that right? Spock?

All eyes on Spock. Spock looks to Pike, who nods permission:

SPOCK

(to Nero)

Pardon me. But I don't believe you and I are acquainted.

NERO

... no, we're not. Not yet.

(then)

I would like you to see something. Spock.

(then)

Captain Pike-- your transporter capability is disabled. You will man a shuttle and come aboard the Narada for negotiations. That is all.

The transmission ENDS. The crew stares in grave anticipation --

KIRK

-- he'll kill you, you know that--
-- Captain, we gain nothing by diplomacy-- going over to that ship is a mistake.

SPOCK

Your survival is unlikely--
-- I, too, suggest you rethink this strategy.

PIKE

I understand that --

(loud, to the bridge)

I need officers who have been trained in advanced hand-to-hand combat!

Sulu's hand goes up --

SULU

I have training, Sir!

115 CONTINUED: (2)

115

PIKE

Then come with me -- Kirk, you too--
you're not supposed to be here anyway.

(to Chekov)

Radio the engine room, have Chief
Engineer Olsen meet us at Shuttle Bay
Five.

CHEKOV

Aye, Keptin.

PIKE

Let's go.

Bridge doors WHOOSH open -- they EXIT.

116 OMIT

116

117 INT. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDORS - CONTINUOUS

117

WE TRACK FAST with Pike, Kirk, Spock and Sulu as they HURRY
through the Enterprise toward the shuttle bay:

PIKE

Without transporters, we can't beam off
the ship, can't assist Vulcan, can't do
our job. I'm creating an opportunity:
Mr. Kirk, Mr. Sulu and Mr. Olson will
space-jump from the shuttle. You'll have
chutes -- you'll land on that machine
they've lowered into the atmosphere
that's scrambling our gear-- you'll get
inside, disable that thing then beam back
to the ship.

Kirk and Sulu share a HOLY FUCKING SHIT look --

KIRK

... okay.

PIKE

Mr. Spock, I'm leaving you in command of
the ship. Once we have transport
capability and communications back up,
you'll contact Starfleet and report what
the hell's happening here.

(MORE)

118A **INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONT. [FORMERLY SC. 116]** 118A

Bridge doors WHOOSH open -- all eyes on Spock as he enters -- their new captain. With cold certainty, he takes the command chair, hits the intercom:

SPOCK
Dr. Puri, report --

118B **INT. MEDICAL BAY - CONTINUOUS** 118B

CHAOS, UTTER AND COMPLETE. WOUNDED MEN AND WOMEN, it's bad, bloody -- a HAND hits an intercom: McCoy, badly shaken --

MCCOY
It's McCoy-- Dr. Puri was on Deck 6, he's dead.

SPOCK
(beat)
Then you have just inherited his responsibility as Chief Medical Officer.

MCCOY
Aye, Sir.

119 **INT. ENTERPRISE - SHUTTLE BAY - CONTINUOUS** 119

QUICK CUTS: Kirk, Sulu, and the ship's LEAD ENGINEER OLSON are suiting up for the drop, strapping on sleek AIRDROP ARMOR. WEB BELTS. CHUTE PACKS. HARNESES. HELMETS. COM-SETS.

119A **INT. SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS** 119A

They race into the shuttle and take seats facing each other across a narrow aisle -- Red Shirt Engineer GRINS like he's going on a ski trip:

RED SHIRT ENGINEER
I am pumped to kick some Romulan ass! No
joke. BRING IT ON!

Kirk nods at him -- subtext: "What a fucking sack." He looks to Sulu.

KIRK
So what kinda combat training d'you have?

SULU
(proudly)
Fencing.

KIRK
(unimpressed, beat)
... fencing.

In the COCKPIT, Pike works the controls -- MOTORS WHINE and the craft LURCHES --

119B **INT. ENTERPRISE SHUTTLE HANGAR - NIGHT** 119B

We see the shuttle LEAVE THE DOCK --

120 **EXT. IN ORBIT ABOVE VULCAN - CONTINUOUS** 120

The shuttle soars from the Enterprise bay, the planet Vulcan a red orb below... THRUSTERS FLARE as it descends and now we REVEAL AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT:

THE NARADA: FROM ITS BELLY, TENTACLE CABLES DESCEND TOWARD THE PLANET'S OUTER ATMOSPHERE, WHERE THE PLASMA DRILL SUB-STATION IS TETHERED: THE SOURCE OF THE DRILL BEAM SHOOTING INTO THE PLANET. The shuttle GLIDES to a hover, 60,000 FEET ABOVE THE DRILL --

121 INT. SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS

121

A KLAXON SOUNDS, signalling depressurization of the cargo lock -- the guys ready their equipment, snatching for handstraps, standing on the lip of THE AIRLOCK -- Kirk and Sulu meet eyes through their helmet faceplates, the point of no return -- PIKE'S VOICE over their headsets:

PIKE (V.O.)

Pre-jump on one: Three, two, one.

KIRK, SULU, AND RED SHIRT ARE SLAMMED HARD INTO THE ROOF OF THE CARGO HOLD AS GRAVITY DIES.

PIKE (CONT'D)

Good luck.

Pike hits another control -- as the shuttle BOMB BAY DOORS OPEN -- and KIRK, SULU, AND RED SHIRT ARE INSTANTLY PULLED OUT, INTO:

122 EXT. ABOVE VULCAN - CONTINUOUS

122

THE THREE MEN IN VIOLENT FREEFALL TOWARD THE PLANET -- IN WILD SPIN -- THE SENSE OF SPEED'S BEYOND EXHILARATING --

ROCKETING THROUGH THE VOID AT 150 MPH AS THEY BREAK THROUGH THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE -- SHAKING VIOLENTLY AT TERMINAL VELOCITY --

123 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

123

The falling trio TRACKED ON SCREEN, everyone watches, agape:

CHEKOV

Away team's entering the atmosphere --

SPOCK and UHURA meet eyes -- this is fucking insane -- and a MAN'S ENTHUSIASTIC YELLING takes us to:

124 EXT. VULCAN'S ATMOSPHERE -- CONTINUOUS

124

OLSON

WHOOOAAAHYYYEAAAAH!

ONE BY ONE THEY STABILIZE -- FALLING FACE DOWN -- STRAIGHT PAST THE CABLE TENTACLES TETHERING THE DRILL TO THE NARADA WHICH GIVE US A SENSE OF INCREDIBLE RELATIVE SPEED AND SCALE -- THESE MASSIVE CABLES AT DIZZYING SPEED --

THEY ANGLE THEIR HANDS AND FEET FOR CONTROL, GUIDING THEMSELVES TOWARD THE PLASMA DRILL -- SULU PULLS HIS CHUTE FIRST, THEN KIRK -- their chutes SNAP OPEN -- JERKING THEM HARD UPWARD AS THE RED SHIRT BLOWS PAST KIRK AND SULU --

KIRK
OLSON, PULL NOW, NOW!!!

HE DEPLOYS HIS CHUTE LAST -- 50 FT -- 40 -- 30 AND HIS CHUTE BILLOWS OUT, OPENED TOO LATE -- OLSEN'S FUCKING BODY SLAMS INTO THE EDGE OF THE CIRCULAR DRILL, BOUNCING OFF HARD STEEL AND RIGHT INTO ITS CENTER WHERE THE SWIRLING VORTEX SPINS -- HE'S INSTANTLY EVISCERATED IN THE PLASMA LIGHT!

Kirk approaches -- more terrified than ever -- he comes in hard, too -- SLAMS against the drill edge, bounces but quickly gets his footing -- hits a button on his chute and SLITS appear in the fabric, suddenly there's no more drag and THE CHUTE AUTO-RETRACTS into Kirk's pack -- A REUSABLE PARACHUTE.

BUT SULU ISN'T SO LUCKY: 20 yards from the drill surface his chute gets SNARED IN THE CABLES, JERKING him upside down -- the WIND is so intense Sulu is BLOWN SIDEWAYS -- his CHUTE LINES begin RUBBING on the sharp metal of the suspension rig! Kirk holds on to one of the chute's cables -- yells up:

KIRK (CONT'D)
I'M COMING FOR YOU!

As Kirk tries to climb up, Sulu's cables begin to SNAP! ONE BY ONE -- and Sulu tries to CLIMB BACK using his chute cables, toward the rig -- otherwise he's gonna fly off.

As Kirk makes his way up the rig, suddenly:

SULU
BEHIND YOU!!

Kirk SPINS just as a Romulan appears -- tackling Kirk to the drill platform! The two FIGHT PRECARIOUSLY ON THE EDGE OF THE SWIRLING PLASMA DRILL, WIND ROARING -- and suddenly there's ANOTHER ROMULAN from an OPEN HATCH! SULU SLIDES DOWN THE CABLE - - JUMPING and tackling the second guard and the shit is ON: our Starfleet heroes battling these Romulans to the death -- and Sulu KICKS OFF AN ANTENNA PIECE and uses it as a SABER -- fucking swashbuckling at 10,000 feet! It's a frenzied assault even the bigger Romulan isn't ready for, and Sulu manages to KICK him into the vortex, where he's VAPORIZED as --

KIRK draws his PHASER and point-blank SHOTS the Romulan, knocking him clear OFF the cylinder and into the sky, falling to his death, DISINTEGRATING as he falls --

Against pummeling wind, Kirk and Sulu move toward the HATCH -- OPEN IT -- as:

126 **INT. NARADA - HANGAR**

126

Pike's SHUTTLE DOOR OPENS. Pike steps out. Surrounded by a dozen of Nero's men. Ayel steps forward. Pike stands firm, knowing this is the end for him:

PIKE

I'm Captain Christopher Pi--

WHACK! He's cut off by a PUNCH to the face. Drops to his knees. Looks up at Ayel with blazing eyes, wipes a trickle of blood from his lip:

PIKE (CONT'D)

So much for diplomacy.

He's DRAGGED AWAY as --

127 **INT. PLASMA DRILL CYLINDER - CONTINUOUS**

127

Kirk and Sulu DROP IN through the outer hatch to find a control console, Sulu madly flips switches, no luck --

SULU

None of this is familiar-- the interface,
the controls--

KIRK

Step back--
-- yeahyeah, I do--

SULU

-- what, you have an idea?

Kirk FIRES his PHASER at the console, BLASTING IT --

128 **EXT. PLASMA DRILL - CONTINUOUS**

128

The immense column of light DISAPPEARS, leaving only a towering, swirling vortex of DIRT --

129 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

129

Uhura's console LIGHTS UP with activity:

UHURA

The jamming signal's gone --
communications are re-established --

CHEKOV

Transporter control re-engaged --

Spock looks up from his console, grave --

129 CONTINUED:

129

SPOCK

Chekov, run gravitational sensors -- I want to know what they're doing to the planet.

CHEKOV

Aye, Commander-- Keptin, sorry. Keptin.

130 INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

130

A Romulan Helmsman RUNS to Nero --

ROMULAN HELMSMAN

The drill's been sabotaged, Sir.

Nero, mind racing --

NERO

Launch the red matter. Now.

131 EXT. NARADA - SPACE

131

The POD we saw earlier is FIRED from the ship -- it WHIPS past.

132 EXT. PLASMA DRILL CYLINDER - CONTINUOUS

132

Kirk and Sulu pull themselves from the control cockpit back out onto the drill's outer hull, they start to hear a SOUND... A HIGH-PITCHED SHRIEK... GETTING LOUDER AS IT FALLS TOWARD THEM... THEY LOOK UP JUST IN TIME TO SEE: THE RED MATTER POD RIP RIGHT PAST THEM -- SNAP-TILT DOWN WITH IT AS IT PLUMMETS TOWARD VULCAN'S SURFACE, DISAPPEARING INTO THE DRILLED GAPING HOLE --

And for an instant... nothing. What looks like a puff of smoke billowing up from the planet's core... THEN A SHOCKWAVE BLASTS UPWARD, ALL THE WAY UP TO THE DRILL AT 10,000 FEET -- KIRK AND SULU FEEL IT -- LOSE THEIR BALANCE, FIGHT FOR PURCHASE AS:

KIRK

Kirk to Enterprise -- they just launched something toward the planet!

133 EXT. VULCAN SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

133

SCENES OF DESTRUCTION ACROSS THE PLANET AS IT STARTS TO COME APART: HUGE FISSURES FORM IN THE DESERT TERRAIN -- CRACKS SPREAD -- MOUNTAINS CRUMBLE -- PLATES SHIFTING, LAVA SPEWING SKYWARD -- THE HEAT AND CONCUSSIVE BLAST SHAKE THE CAMERA TO A BLUR --

134 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

134

WARNING ALARMS SCREAM:

CHEKOV

Keptin: gravitational sensors are off the scale -- if my calculations are correct, that pod they launched is creating a singularity... that will consume the planet.

SPOCK'S STOIC FACE. WE GET ONLY A HINT OF THE WILD EMOTIONS STIRRING INSIDE HIM -- Uhura watches Spock, heartsick for him:

SPOCK

They're creating a black hole... at the center of Vulcan?

CHEKOV

... yessir.

SPOCK

How long does the planet have?

CHEKOV

... minutes, Sir. I'd say minutes.

SPOCK

(beat, to Uhura)

Alert Vulcan Command Center to signal a planetwide evacuation-- all channels, all frequencies -- maintain standard orbit --

UHURA

What? Spock, wait --

She goes after him as he moves to the TURBOLIFT --

UHURA (CONT'D)

-- where are you going?

SPOCK

To evacuate the Vulcan High Council-- they're tasked with protecting our cultural history. My parents will be among them--

UHURA

-- you can't beam them out?

SPOCK

It's not possible -- they'll be in the Katrik Arc, I must get them myself--

TURBOLIFT DOORS CLOSE AS --

135 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 135

HOLOGRAMS of VULCAN UNDER DESTRUCTION -- Nero watching them, pleased. He turns to Ayel --

NERO
Retract the drill, let's move out!

135A **EXT. NARADA** 135A

The drill platform LURCHES -- begins RETRACTING --

136 **EXT. PLASMA DRILL CYLINDER - CONTINUOUS** 136

The platform BANKS -- Sulu FALLS BACK, OFF THE PLATFORM -- WITHOUT A CHUTE! Kirk, holding on, watching this wide-eyed -- and knowing what he must do, he RUNS AND JUMPS --

KIRK FALLS FAST, he's only gonna have one shot at this, presses his arms to his sides and ROCKETS downward, building speed, four hundred feet below is Sulu, FREEFALLING --

KIRK moves his feet and hands, angling toward him -- slashing downward at 160 mph, closing like a missile -- the gap between them narrows -- Sulu's 30 feet below him... 5000 feet to the planet surface. 40 ft -- 20 -- 10 -- WHAM! Kirk slams into Sulu in a mid-air tackle -- they TUMBLE TOGETHER -- Kirk's made the grab and locked his arms around Sulu in an iron grip, screams in his face:

KIRK
I GOTCHA! NOW PULL MY CHUTE!

Sulu DOES -- it opens -- but HOLY FUCK, the double weight RIPS IT -- IT SNAPS AWAY FROM THEM -- NOW THEY'RE BOTH FREE-FALLING WITH NO CHUTE, THE GROUND COMING AT THEM FAST!

KIRK (CONT'D)
ENTERPRISE, WE'RE FALLING WITHOUT A CHUTE!!! BEAM US UP!!! BEAM US UP!!!

136A **INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER BAY** 136A

The TRANSPORTER CHIEF works his controls, sweating -- trying to LOCK ON TO THEIR MOVING TARGET --

TRANSPORTER CHIEF
I'm trying! I can't lock on your signal!

137 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 137

SNAP AROUND as Chekov hears this -- watching his controls -- Uhura watching too --

137 CONTINUED:

137

TRANSPORTER CHIEF (V.O.)
 -- you're moving too fast!

CHEVOK
 -- no-- I can do that-- I CAN DO THAT!!!

Chekov suddenly BOLTS -- Uhura watches him race off -- a CREW MEMBER steps into frame:

CREW MEMBER
 The black hole's expanding, we won't reach minimum safe distance if we don't leave immediately!

137A INT. ENTERPRISE - VARIOUS AREAS

137A

Chekov SPRINTS through CORRIDORS -- ENGINE ROOM -- YELLING:

CHEKOV
MOVE! I CAN DO THAT! I CAN DO THAT!!!

And we take him to:

137B INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER BAY

137B

-- where he races to the controls, out of breath, yelling:

CHEKOV
I CAN LOCK ON! GIMME MANUAL CONTROL! QUICK!!!

-- and he begins working the controls --

137C EXT. SKIES ABOVE VULCAN PLANET SURFACE - DAY

137C

Kirk and Sulu SPEED-DROPPING -- TERRIFIED --

KIRK
ENTERPRISE, WHERE ARE YOU?!?!

137D INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER BAY

137D

Chekov's manipulating a joystick-like TARGETING DISPLAY -- trying to match the CROSSHAIRS on the DROPPING FIGURES --

CHEKOV
 -- holdonholdonholdonholdon!

138 EXT. SKIES ABOVE VULCAN PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

138

A massive SHEET OF LAVA, MILES HIGH, BURSTS INTO THE SKY -- Kirk and Sulu enter frame, BULLET-WHOOSH right past us, DROPPING --

138 CONTINUED:

138

KIRK
 (headset)
NOW NOW NOW!!! DO IT NOW!!!!!!

139 **INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER BAY [LOCATION CHANGE]**

139

TIGHT ON CHEKOV as he struggles to lock onto them -- BEEP!

CHEKOV
Compensating gravitational pull and--
GOTCHA!

He HITS A BUTTON and --

140 **EXT. VULCAN SURFACE - CONTINUOUS**

140

5 FEET BEFORE THEY HIT THE GROUND, KIRK AND SULU DEMATERIALIZE!

141 **INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER BAY - CONTINUOUS**

141

AND REMATERIALIZE, SLAMMING DOWN ON THE TRANSPORTER PADS, HARD AND PAINFUL, BUT SAFE! Transporter engineers GAPE in utter amazement and relief -- Chekov, sweating, laughs. Kirk and Sulu get their bearings, peeling themselves up, at stunned whispers:

SULU
 ... thanks.

KIRK
 ... yeah, not a problem.

And Kirk looks up as SPOCK hurries in --

SPOCK
 Step aside -- I'm going to the surface.

As the console ENGINEER works the display --

KIRK
 The surface of what? YOU'RE GOING DOWN
 THERE? Are you nuts?!

SPOCK
Energize --

And Spock DEMATERIALIZES --

142 **EXT. VULCAN - DAY**

142

PUSH IN as Spock MATERIALIZES -- the distant landscape around him COLLAPSING, IMPLODING, EXPLODING -- he sprints for the MOUNTAIN -- the entrance to the ARK -- a scared, small CREATURE runs past Spock as he heads up the mountain -- rocks falling --

143 **INT. KATRIC ARK CHAMBER - DAY**

143

Spock RACES through the tunnels as the world SHAKES around him -- he enters the massive ARK CHAMBER -- sees, atop the enormous stairs, FIVE VULCAN ELDERS, Sarek among them, hands placed on the sarcophagus-like ark. Mind melding with it. Amanda is here too, kneeling beside Sarek -- and she sees her son, who is now RUNNING toward them -- she stands:

AMANDA

Spock--!

Spock rushes up the stairs --

SPOCK

The planet's not safe, it has only seconds left -- we must evacuate now --

And as they run out, ENORMOUS ROCKS COLLAPSE AROUND THEM -- and they run through the tunnels, the STONE COLLAPSING AROUND THEM --

144 **EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY**

144

Spock and the group finally emerge from the tunnels to see -- THE PLANET IS COLLAPSING, COMING TOWARD THEM -- Spock whips open a tri-corder, TREMBLING LIKE CRAZY --

SPOCK

Spock to Enterprise: take us back now!

145 **INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS [SET CHANGE]** 145

Chekov works the controls:

CHEKOV

Locking volume, transport in 5-4-3--

146 **EXT. KATRIC ARK CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS**

146

HORROR AS THE WORLD LITERALLY STARTS TO FALL APART AROUND SPOCK, HIS PARENTS AND THE FIVE ELDERS -- MASSIVE SINKHOLES APPEARING, LIKE THE GRAND CANYON RACING FOR THEM -- AND WE SEE IN ALL THEIR FACES -- THE BELIEF THAT THEIR PLANET -- THAT THEY -- ARE GOING TO DIE -- and Spock, trying to hold it together -- even though their transport hasn't yet begun -- looks at Amanda -- their eyes lock -- THE COLLAPSING GROUND RACING TOWARD THEM -- and in a surreal, intimate moment, Amanda says to Spock, quietly:

AMANDA

It's okay. To be scared.

146 CONTINUED:

146

PUSH IN ON SPOCK, looking at her -- as the LIGHT DARTS start TRACING THEM -- and they begin to EVAPORATE AS THE GROUND DROPS FROM UNDER AMANDA -- AND SHE'S SUCKED DOWN -- AWAY -- as Spock REACHES FOR HER, CALLING OUT --

SPOCK

MOTHER!!!!

147 INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER BAY - CONTINUOUS

147

Chekov in a panic at the controls --

CHEKOV

NO!!! I'M LOSING HER!!!

-- as the Vulcans MATERIALIZE on the pad, Spock still REACHING for his mother -- but all he gets is the GHOSTLY IMAGE OF HER -- BEAUTIFUL, HOLDING, FROZEN IN SPACE -- AN IMAGE HE'LL BE HAUNTED BY FOREVER -- AS IT FADES AWAY, EVANESCING LIKE MIST -- ON SPOCK as it lands -- Sarek too... a mother... a wife... has been lost. And Kirk stands nearby, having observed all of this, without anything to do or say... there's no cheating death.

148 EXT. SPACE - ETERNAL NIGHT

148

And the Enterprise BLASTS AWAY -- in the distance, THE ENTIRE PLANET OF VULCAN SWALLOWS INTO ITSELF -- A TERRIFYING, UNIMAGINABLE IMPLOSION -- UNTIL NOTHING IS THERE BUT DARKNESS. And over this we HEAR:

SPOCK (V.O.)

Acting Captain's log. Stardate 2256.42:
I have assumed command of the Enterprise.

149-50 OMIT

149-50

151 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICK BAY - CONTINUOUS

151

SHOCK. The kind that crashes after the world's changed. In triage, the bay's filled with wounded Enterprise Officers. The Vulcan Elders and Sarek being examined as well. Kirk sits here, getting his hand bandaged from the fight. During this, he looks up, seeing one of the Elders being treated for a slight wound -- her GREEN BLOOD seen through the bandage...

SPOCK (V.O.)

We've heard no word from Captain Pike. I have therefore classified him a hostage of the war criminal known as Nero.

151A INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

151A

Spock sits in the captain's chair, reporting. He's glassy-eyed, staring at nothing as he speaks. Behind him, Uhura sits, watching, concerned.

SPOCK

Nero, who has destroyed my home planet.
And most of its six billion inhabitants.
I estimate no more than ten thousand
survived.

(beat)

While the essence of our culture has been
saved, in the elders who now reside upon
this ship... I am now a member of an
endangered species.

Spock considers this. Clicks off the log recorder. Spock moves off, into the turbolift -- Uhura follows him --

152 INT. TURBOLIFT - CONTINUOUS

152

Spock and Uhura. Silence hangs. She glances over, wanting to say so much, but not to invade what must be the worst moment of his life. He looks at her, with kind eyes. And Uhura does something odd -- she STOPS the lift. Spock looks over as she wordlessly reaches out and puts her arms around him. Just holding him. Kissing his face with utter tenderness and comfort, which he lets her do... and we realize, this is why the intimacy before -- this is their secret...

UHURA

I'm so sorry.

Spock looks off, taking comfort, bewildered and lost...

UHURA (CONT'D)

What can I do? Tell me what you need.

SPOCK

... I need...

He's on the verge of some emotional release... but self-consciousness returns and he clamps up, starting the lift again:

SPOCK (CONT'D)

I need for us all to continue performing
admirably.

He looks at her again -- gives her another kiss. The door opens and he exits. She watches him go -- and the door closes on her.

152A INT. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR

152A

Kirk comes down the hall, stretching his hand bandage -- when he stops. Standing at the other end of the corridor, operating a DATAPAD is a familiar-looking GREEN GIRL. Guilt overcomes him. After a beat he moves to her. Awkward.

KIRK

Hey.

(she turns to him)

Listen, about what happened at Starfleet. The test and everything-- I know it looks like I was... using you, or whatever. And I'm sorry. I really am. And... I just hope you'll forgive me.

She just stares at him for a long beat, as if she's just pissed. But Kirk's face changes... and then he says:

KIRK (CONT'D)

... you're not Gaila, are you?

NOT GAILA

(pissed)

No.

KIRK

(nods)

Sorry.

And he walks off. (NOTE: ALT. VERSION HAS GAILA SAYING, "I'M NOT GAILA.")

153 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

153

Uhura at her station, scanning for enemy signals -- all of our principals are here, in debate:

SPOCK

Lieutenant, have you confirmed that Nero is headed for Earth?

UHURA

Their trajectory suggests no other destination, Captain.

KIRK

Earth may be his next stop, but we have to assume every Federation planet's a target.

CHEKOV

Yes, agreed-- but why didn't they destroy us?

SULU

Why waste a weapon? We weren't a threat.

SPOCK

That's not it. He said he wanted me to see something. The destruction of my home planet.

MCCOY

And how the hell did they do that by the way? When did they jump so far ahead in the arms race?

SPOCK

The engineering comprehension necessary to artificially create a black hole may suggest the answer: such technology could theoretically be manipulated to create a tunnel through space time.

MCCOY

Damnit, man, I'm a doctor, not a physicist -- are you suggesting they're from the future?

KIRK

That is what he's suggesting and I don't buy it.

SPOCK

If you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains -- however improbable -- must be the truth.

MCCOY

How poetic.

KIRK

Then what would an angry future Romulan want with Captain Pike?

SULU

As Admiral he knows details of Starfleet's defenses.

KIRK

What we need to do is catch up to that ship. Disable it, take it over and get Pike back.

They're all looking at Kirk like he's nuts.

153 CONTINUED: (2)

153

MCCOY
(bitingly)
Fantastic, I'm in.

SPOCK
Captain Pike left us with standing orders
to rendezvous with the fleet on the other
side of the quadrant.
(MORE)

153 CONTINUED: (3)

153

SPOCK (CONT'D)

We're technologically outmatched in every way. A rescue attempt would be illogical.

KIRK

"Illogical"-- you're funny.

CHEKOV

Not to mention we couldn't do it anyway: Nero's ship would have to drop out of warp for us to overtake them --

KIRK

-- what about assigning Engineering crews to try and boost our warp yield?

SPOCK

Remaining power and crew are being used to repair radiation leaks on the lower decks and damage to the main deflector shield-- without which we cannot communicate with Starfleet.

KIRK

-- okay--okay, okayokayokay--
there's gotta be SOME WAY!

SPOCK

We must gather with the rest of Starfleet to balance the terms of our next engagement --

KIRK

There won't be a next engagement, Spock: by the time we've "gathered", it'll be too late -- how many planets are you willing to risk? You say he's from the future? Knows what's gonna happen? Then the logical thing is to be unpredictable.

SPOCK

You're assuming Nero knows how events are predicted to unfold. The contrary: Nero's very presence has altered the flow of history, beginning with the attack on the U.S.S. Kelvin, culminating in the events of today -- thereby creating a new chain of incidents that cannot be anticipated by either party.

MCCOY

Does anyone understand him?

UHURA

(stunned)

... an alternate reality.

SPOCK

Precisely. Whatever lives we might have lived, if the time continuum was disrupted... our destinies have changed.

(then:)

Mr. Sulu, plot a course for the Laurentian system, Warp Factor Three--

KIRK

-- wait-- don't do that --
Spock -- running back to the rest of the fleet for a confab is a massive waste of time--
 -- He also ordered us to go back and get him! Spock, you're Captain now--!
 -- Every second we waste, Nero's getting closer to his next target--!

-- I will not allow us to go backwards, away from the problem, instead of hunting Nero down!

SPOCK

-- These were the orders Captain Pike issued when he left ship--

-- I am aware of my responsibilities, Mr. Kirk!

-- that is correct -- and why I'm instructing you to accept that I alone am in command.

-- then I must remove you from this ship. If I confine you to the brig, you'll likely escape. Mr. Chekov: have transportation prepare a deployment capsule. Mr. Sulu, escort him out.

For a beat, nobody moves -- an impossible choice for all of them. Torn, Chekov and Sulu close in on Kirk --

SULU

I'm sorry.

KIRK

Yeah, don't worry ab --

-- but Kirk SWINGS, Sulu jerks, FASTER, spins, GRABS Kirk's wrist! Kirk ELBOWS him as Chekov reaches for his PHASER but Kirk SLAMS HIM, the phaser DROPS -- Kirk reaches for it but Spock's fingers CLAMP on Kirk's neck: THE VULCAN PINCH:

BLACK.

On PIKE'S FACE, strapped to a TABLE. Nero looks down upon him.

154 CONTINUED:

154

NERO

You are only the second human I have ever met, face to face. You must have so many questions for me.

(MORE)

154 CONTINUED: (2)

154

NERO (CONT'D)

(then)

I only have one for you. I need the subspace frequencies of Starfleet's border detection grids. Specifically those surrounding Earth.

Pike looks up at him -- quiet rage. Then --

PIKE

Christopher Pike -- Captain, U.S.S. Enterprise, registry NCC-1701.

NERO

Christopher.

(beat; hardcore)

Answer my question.

PIKE

No. You answer for the genocide you just committed on a peaceful planet--

NERO

I prevented genocide.

(beat, calms)

Where I come from, Christopher... this ship is just a mining vessel. I chose a life of honest labor to provide for myself... and the wife who was carrying my child.

(beat)

I sit here now... knowing you as enemies. Not just of today. But of tomorrow. I watched as your Federation did nothing. They let us burn to death... as our planet broke in half.

Curiosity behind Pike's eyes.

PIKE

Then Nero, you're confused. Romulus has not been destroyed. How can you blame the Federation for something that hasn't happened--?

NERO

It did happen. I remember it. I... felt it.

(then; pained)

When I lost her... I promised myself I would not speak another word until the day of my retribution. In twenty five years I forgot the sound of my own voice... but I didn't forget the pain. That feeling cannot be erased.

(MORE)

154 CONTINUED: (3)

154

NERO (CONT'D)

(turning to anger now)

A feeling that every surviving Vulcan now shares.

Pike just looks at him. Sees how fucking far GONE he is.

PIKE

If what you say is true... you can save Romulus. You have a second chance to --

NERO

-- yes, which is a gift I won't waste on mercy.

(beat)

My purpose, Christopher, is not simply to avoid the destruction of the home I love...

(beat)

... but to create a Romulus which exists, free of the Federation. Only then will she be saved.

And the "she" could refer to the planet... or to Nero's lost love. Either way, Pike knows a losing battle when he's fighting one. Ever so nobly, he quietly says --

PIKE

Then we have nothing more to discuss.

Nero reaches for something under the counter Pike lies upon. Retrieves A FAMILIAR GLASS CONTAINER -- inside -- DOZENS OF CENTAURIAN SLUGS, the very ones used on Nero.

NERO

It's not the fault of the human race that Starfleet chose Earth as its center. You're a more noble race than my fallen cousins. I'll take no pleasure in your extinction.

PIKE

How reassuring.

Nero opens the container, reaches for a pair of TONGS

NERO

The frequencies, please.

PIKE

Christopher Pike -- Captain, U.S.S. Enterprise, registry NCC-1701.

Nero sad-smiles. What he expected.

154 CONTINUED: (4)

154

NERO

As you wish.

A ROMULAN GUARD HOLDS PIKE'S MOUTH -- Nero uses the tongs -- and OFF PIKE'S EXPRESSION --

155 **INT. SHUTTLE CRAFT - CONTINUOUS**

155

Our POV is BLURRY. We come into FOCUS on a blinking instrument panel. KIRK is stirring awake, his shoulder kills. He sits up: inside a ONE-MAN POD CRAFT. He WIPES THE GLASS -- looks up -- like a TUNNEL OF SNOW, 30 feet long, to the sky. THE PODCRAFT'S EMBEDDED ON THE SURFACE OF A VAST, ICE PLANET. Kirk's been MAROONED. He closes his eyes, his face falls...

KIRK

Computer... where am I?

COMPUTER VOICE

Current location Delta Vega: Class "M" Planet, unsafe. You have been ordered to remain in your pod until retrieved by Starfleet authorities.

KIRK

Bite me, how's that.

The CANOPY RISES -- a blast of cold air hits Kirk -- with some agony, out he goes -- he CLIMBS UP THE TUBE OF SNOW -- and gets to the surface -- looks out. HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF FUCKING NOWHERE. Finally:

KIRK (CONT'D)

SONOFABITCH-BITCH-BITCH! THERE'S NOTHING HERE!!! YOU NECK-PINCHING MOTHERF--!!!

SMASH CUT TO:

156-7 **OMIT**

156-7

158 **EXT. DELTA VEGA - PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS**

158

TRACKING along a massive ICE SHEET... Kirk ENTERS FRAME walking along, cold, pissed... whips out a TRICORDER, speaks into it:

KIRK

Lieutenant's log, supplemental: I'm preparing a testimonial for my Starfleet court martial assuming there's still a Starfleet left.

From overhead, what we see -- what Kirk doesn't -- is something HUGE, SLITHERING UNDERWATER beneath the ice --

158 CONTINUED:

158

KIRK (CONT'D)

Acting Captain Spock -- whose only form of expression's apparently limited to his left damn eyebrow -- has marooned me on Delta Vega in what I believe to be a violation of security protocol 49.09, governing the treatment of prisoners aboard a st--

159 **EXT. DELTA VEGA - PLANET SURFACE - CONTINUOUS**

159

Kirk FREEZES at a nearby GROWL. He looks -- sees nothing -- then ANOTHER GROWL -- he turns -- some thirty feet away, an eleven foot-tall cross between a polar bear and a gorilla (it's a POLARILLA) steps out from behind a mass of ice. Sees Kirk. It's horrifying. Kirk takes a SLOW, SMALL STEP BACKWARD -- and the fucking thing CHARGES HIM -- KIRK RUNS, TERRIFIED -- and the POLARILLA PURSUES -- gaining -- it's gonna EAT HIM ALIVE WHEN SUDDENLY --

WHATEVER WAS BENEATH THE ICE EARLIER EXPLODES UP THROUGH IT -- IT'S NEARLY 30 FEET TALL, RED, HUNDREDS OF EYES -- IT SMACKS THE POLARILLA AWAY LIKE NOTHING AS KIRK FALLS TO THE ICE AND TURNS BACK -- HOLY SHIT! THIS THING IS SO MUCH WORSE! IT ROARS AS KIRK GETS TO HIS FEET AND RUNS, SCREAMING --

KIRK HAULS ASS AS THE THING COMES AFTER HIM -- THEN SUDDENLY HE FALLS -- DROPS -- and we see that Kirk is FALLING DOWN A MASSIVE SNOW MOUNTAIN! The huge red creature stops at the edge and ROARS LOUDLY -- until the ice shelf BREAKS AWAY! The creature starts to FALL AS WELL! Now Kirk is TUMBLING, the immense creature TUMBLING not far behind!

And Kirk LANDS ON THE ICE, HARD -- sees a distant CAVE. Looks up at the FLAILING CREATURE that is about to CRUSH HIM -- Kirk tries to run, but the ice is TOO SLIPPERY -- FINALLY he gets footing and runs off toward the cave -- as the red creature LANDS HARD -- its sharp SPEAR LIMBS STAB into the ice as it pursues Kirk --

160 **INT. CAVE - DAY**

160

Kirk races through the darkened cave -- the creature comes after him -- Kirk goes as fast as he can -- the creature reaches out and fucking GRABS HIM -- pulls him toward the disgusting, wet, TEETHY MOUTH -- Kirk tries to hold on to anything he can -- but he's fucking LUNCH -- and just as you're SCREAMING, there's LIGHT -- FIRE LIGHT -- and a FIGURE APPEARS, WAVING A TORCH --

And the red creature's eyes ALL GO WILD -- and it DROPS KIRK and BACKS OFF, AFRAID -- the figure CHASES IT until it's gone. Kirk, on the ground, is freaked out, out of breath, and can't take his eyes off this man... who says:

160 CONTINUED:

160

FIGURE

The Hen-Gra. Notoriously afraid of heat.

161 INT. CAVE - DAY

161

And the Figure turns... we may have recognized the voice. IT'S SPOCK. As in NIMOY. HERE. Lit in the darkness by the fire. We'll refer to him as SPOCK PRIME. He looks at Kirk -- moves closer to him -- finally seeing him. And is amazed...

KIRK

Hey... thank you...

SPOCK PRIME

... Jim?

KIRK

(stunned)

-- how d'you know my name?

SPOCK PRIME

How did you find me--? Does Starfleet know of my presence?

KIRK

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

Spock looks deep into the eyes of the freaked out young man, feeling the full effect of fate playing its hand, but realizing he doesn't recognize him...

SPOCK PRIME

I have been... and always shall be... your friend.

KIRK

-- no, I don't know you -- the only Vulcan I know isn't exactly a buddy.

Of all the things Spock predicted Kirk might say, it wasn't that. He's analyzing a thousand steps ahead, calculating:

SPOCK PRIME

You are James T. Kirk. Your father is George, as is your brother. Your mother's name is Winona -- you were born in 2233 --

KIRK

Stop. Please. I don't understand.

As Spock nods, we PRE-LAP:

161 CONTINUED:

161

SPOCK PRIME

... I am Spock. One hundred and thirty years senior to the Vulcan you know.

KIRK

(beat, beat, beat)

Bullshit.

161A INT. CAVE - NIGHT

161A

Firelight flickers -- shadows of Kirk and Spock Prime dance on the ice walls. Remarkable NIGHT STARS outside.

SPOCK PRIME

It's remarkably pleasing to see you again.

(re: Vulcan)

... especially after the events of today.

KIRK

Old friend. Sir, I don't have any idea how you know what you know. But I don't know you and if you are Spock we're not friends. You hate me. You marooned me here for mutiny...

SPOCK PRIME

Mutiny? You are not the Captain?

KIRK

You're the captain. Pike was taken hostage.

SPOCK PRIME

(realizing, grave)

... by Nero.

KIRK

What do you know about him?

SPOCK PRIME

(guilty, burdened)

... he is a remarkably...

(MORE)

161A CONTINUED:

161A

SPOCK PRIME (CONT'D)
troubled Romulan.
(then)
... Please. Allow me -- it will be
easier--

Spock Prime reaches for Kirk's face -- Kirk grabs his wrist --

KIRK
What're you doing--?

A skeptical beat, but Kirk finally releases his hand. Spock
gently places his fingers on Kirk's cheek and temple --

SPOCK PRIME
(whispering; a mantra)
Our minds... one and together...One
hundred and twenty-seven years from now
everything ends.

Spock's eyes SNAP SHUT, Kirk JOLTS as if by an electric charge --
and the SCREEN OVEREXPOSES TO WHITE as we CUT TO our MIND MELD
SEQUENCE:

162 **EXT. SPACE - NIGHT**

162

A SUPERNOVA. An EXPLODING STAR, like a LIGHT, EATING AWAY AT
ALL AROUND IT --

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)
A star in Beta Quadrant will go supernova
-- and like a cancer left untreated... it
will grow... and destroy everything.

162A **INT. VULCAN SCIENCE ACADEMY**

162A

Now we're seeing VULCAN SCIENCE ACADEMY -- where SIX VULCAN
SCIENTISTS study a HOLOGRAM of this event -- the star's ORIGIN,
its PATH OF DESTRUCTION -- and SPOCK PRIME is among them --

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)
I saw the beginning of it myself. Vulcan
Science Academy devised a plan to stop
it.

162B **EXT. VULCAN SHIPYARD - NIGHT**

162B

PUSH IN as the JELLYFISH SHIP is under construction --

162B CONTINUED:

162B

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)
 We built a ship containing a material
 capable of generating the only thing
 powerful enough to consume a supernova.
A black hole.

163 **INT. JELLYFISH - CONTAINMENT HOLD - NIGHT** 163

Now we're INSIDE the ship -- the CONTAINMENT HOLD -- being
 ASSEMBLED by Vulcan Scientists --

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)
 I agreed to pilot the ship. Knowing I
 would not return.

164 **Now we see Spock Prime, in a ritual ceremony of a Vulcan
 Kamikaze pilot. Tea, sipped inside the Ark --** 164

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)
 My sacrifice, in service of all races,
 seemed only logical.

Now Spock Prime sits in the Jellyfish COCKPIT --

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Unfortunately... before I could begin the
 mission... the supernova destroyed
 Romulus.

165 **OMIT** 165

166 **-- and suddenly we're OUT OF THE MIND MELD as KIRK GRABS SPOCK
 PRIME'S HAND AGAIN:** 166

KIRK
 Nero's planet was destroyed--

SPOCK PRIME
 Yes. He of course blamed us. Believed
 Vulcan allowed his planet to die. Which
 was hardly the case. Let me continue.

KIRK
 This annoys me, I don't like
 it-- do we have to do it like
 this--?

SPOCK PRIME
 -- I know, I know, I'm not
 surprised to hear you complain
 -- allow me to finish.

Spock Prime touches Kirk again and we go:

167 **EXT. SPACE**

167

-- the JELLYFISH SWOOPS PAST US -- and we PAN -- and see the MASSIVE SUPERNOVA in the infinite distance -- no sense of scale here -- but then -- THE NARADA APPEARS -- FIRES TORPEDOES at the Jellyfish.

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)

Nero came after me. Determined to thwart my mission. If Romulus was allowed to die, he said... all planets should share its fate.

167A **SPOCK PRIME IN THE COCKPIT, ROCKED AS TORPEDOES EXPLODE CLOSELY. TIGHT ON SPOCK PRIME AS HIS MIND RACES --**

167A

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)

I needed an exit. I knew if this mission failed... everyone, everywhere... would lose everything.

Spock Prime LEAVES the cockpit --

167B **INT. JELLYFISH - CONTAINMENT HOLD**

167B

Prime ENTERS AN AIRLOCK -- TUMBLES IN WEIGHTLESSNESS and enters THE CONTAINMENT ROOM. QUICK CUTS as he REMOVES RED MATTER FROM THE HOLD --

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)

I realized: a large black hole could destroy the supernova. A smaller one... could be my escape. Could send me back in time, allowing me to complete my mission. So I created a black hole...

Spock loads the CANNISTER with a small amount of RED MATTER into a JETTISON TUBE --

167C **EXT. JELLYFISH - SPACE - NIGHT**

167C

-- and he FIRES THE CANNISTER INTO SPACE --

167D **EXT. JELLYFISH - COCKPIT - NIGHT**

167D

Spock Prime back in the cockpit -- takes aim on his controls and FIRES AT THE CANNISTER --

167E **EXT. JELLYFISH/NARADA - SPACE - NIGHT**

167E

A BLACK HOLE IS CREATED -- Spock Prime PILOTS TOWARD THE HOLE --

167E CONTINUED:

167E

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)
 Nero must have understood what I was
 trying to do. Because he began racing
 for it.

The NARADA and the JELLYFISH aiming for the BLACK HOLE --

167F OMIT

167F

167G INT. JELLYFISH - COCKPIT - NIGHT

167G

Spock Prime watches as the NARADA GOES IN -- LIGHTNING STORM-
 STYLE DISAPPEARING FIRST -- then SPOCK PRIME'S FACE -- WHITE
 WITH LIGHTNING -- OVEREXPOSED --

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)
 Nero simply got to it first. How long I
 was travelling... I couldn't tell you.
 It was timeless. But when I arrived...

LIGHT on Spock Prime's face goes away -- he and the Jellyfish
 are back in SPACE --

168-9 OMIT

168-9

170 EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

170

-- but now, facing him, is the NARADA.

SPOCK PRIME (V.O.)
 Nero was waiting for me.

171-3 OMIT

171-3

174 INT. CAVE - DAY

174

KIRK INHALES, SHARPLY, having been there with Spock Prime. Back
 to the two men, in a cave:

Kirk stares at him... his mind spinning because now he
believes him. The result is overwhelmingly emotional.

SPOCK PRIME
 Forgive me... emotional transference is
 an effect of the mind meld.

KIRK
(sympathy, surprise)
... so you do feel...

SPOCK PRIME
"Cthia" is the stricture that binds our emotions... but few of us are that perfectly Vulcan.

Kirk gathers himself, wipes his eyes on his sleeve...

KIRK
Going back in time... you changed all our lives.

SPOCK PRIME
Yet remarkably, events within our timelines, characteristics, people... seem to overlap significantly. Tell me about the rest of the crew? Chekov-- Uhura --?

KIRK
Tactical and Communications --

SPOCK PRIME
-- Sulu --

KIRK
-- he's the helmsman, why?

SPOCK PRIME
Dr. McCoy would assert our meeting here is not a matter of coincidence... but rather, indication of a higher purpose.

KIRK
... he'd call it a damn miracle.

SPOCK PRIME
Yes he would. Perhaps the time stream's way of attempting to mend itself. In both our histories, the same crew found its way onto the same ship in a time of ultimate crisis -- therein lies our advantage.

(rises)
We must go-- there's a Starfleet outpost not far from here.

But Kirk stands -- stops him:

174 CONTINUED: (2)

174

KIRK

Where you came from... did I know my father?

SPOCK PRIME

... yes. You often spoke of him as your inspiration for joining starfleet.

This is amazing for Kirk -- he looks off, trying to imagine that life. Spock intuits what this means.

SPOCK PRIME (CONT'D)

You should know. He proudly lived to see you become captain of the Enterprise.

KIRK

... Captain?

SPOCK PRIME

A ship we must return you to as soon as possible.

174A EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

174A

The Enterprise STREAKS through frame in a warp blur --

174B INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

174B

Sulu at his controls:

SULU

Warp three. Course one-five-one mark three, the Laurentian System.

The turbolift opens -- McCoy enters, moves to Spock:

MCCOY

You wanted to see me?

SPOCK

(discreet tone)

Yes, Doctor. I'm aware that James Kirk is a friend of yours. Supporting me, as you did, must have been difficult.

MCCOY

... are you thanking me?

SPOCK

I'm simply acknowledging your difficulties.

We're not sure how McCoy is taking this...

174B CONTINUED:

174B

MCCOY

Permission to speak freely, Sir.

SPOCK

I welcome it.

MCCOY

Do you. Okay then: are you out of your Vulcan mind? Were you doing the logical thing? Maybe. The right one? Debatable. But one thing's for damn sure -- that kid doesn't know how to lose. Just isn't in his DNA. Back home we have a saying: "If you're gonna ride in the Kentucky Derby, don't leave your prize stallion in the stable."

SPOCK

... a curious metaphor, Doctor. As a stallion must first be broken before it can reach its potential.

MCCOY

My God, Man... you could at least act like it was a hard decision.

SPOCK

I intended to assist in the effort to re-establish communication with Starfleet. However, if crew morale would be better served by my roaming the halls weeping, I'll gladly defer to your medical expertise.

A strong look and Spock turns away as Sarek enters the bridge. Spock moves to meet him. Off McCoy, fuming --

174C **EXT. DELTA VEGA - PLANET SURFACE - DAY**

174C

A fucking BLIZZARD. Kirk and Spock Prime move through the maddening whiteout. Kirk yells through it:

KIRK

I AM SO PISSED OFF AT THE OTHER YOU RIGHT NOW!

And Spock POINTS -- an OUTPOST -- half a mile away.

175 **INT. STARFLEET OUTPOST - DAY**

175

Long tile corridor. The door at the end opens -- SNOW AND WIND as Kirk and Spock Prime enter. Door closes. Silence again.

KIRK

... hello?!

Echo. Nothing. They head down. After a beat, a SMALL, DARK, ODDLY ALIEN CREATURE STEPS OUT. Eyes them curiously. This is KEENSER.

KEENSER

... can I help you?

SPOCK PRIME

Are you the station chief?

Keenser looks them over. Then:

KEENSER

... no. This way.

And they follow Keenser into a MASSIVE WAREHOUSE, filled mostly with junked space parts. A large, tarped SHUTTLE in the background. In the middle of the huge, depressing space is a table. And a STARFLEET OFFICER who is ASLEEP, legs kicked up, leaning back in a chair, a hat covering his face. Keenser taps the Officer's boot.

STARFLEET OFFICER

Hm.

KEENSER

Visitors.

A beat -- and the Officer peers from under his hat. A cool, slow burn.

STARFLEET OFFICER

You realize how unacceptable this is.

KIRK

Excuse me?

SPOCK PRIME

(re: the Officer)

... Fascinating.

KIRK

What?

Officer stands, unhappy about something. Keenser watches nearby --

STARFLEET OFFICER

I'm sure it's no' your fault, and I know youse lads are just doing your jobs, but could you no' have come a wee bit sooner?!

(MORE)

175 CONTINUED: (2)

175

STARFLEET OFFICER (CONT'D)

Six months I've been living on nothing but Starfleet Protein Nibs and the promise of a real food delivery! Six months, boys! It's pretty clear what's going on here, isn't it? Punishment! Ongoing! For something that was clearly an accident!

SPOCK PRIME

You're Montgomery Scott.

KIRK

You know him?

SCOTTY

Yes, that's me -- Scotty-- you're in the right place-- are there any other hard-working and equally-starving Starfleet officers around?

KEENSER

Me.

SCOTTY

You eat nothing. A bean and you're done for a week, I need food. And now you're here -- so. Thank you. Where is it.

SPOCK PRIME

You are in fact the Mr. Scott who postulated the theory of trans-warp beaming.

SCOTTY

Yes! That's exactly what I'm talking about! How d'ya think I ended up here? I got into a debate with my instructor on the issue of Relativistic Physics as they pertain to subspace travel... He seemed to think that the range of transporting say, a roast turkey, was limited to a few hundred miles -- so I told my instructor I could not only beam a bird from one planet to an adjacent planet in the same system -- which is no big deal anyway -- but if I were so inclined I could actually do it with a lifeform! So I tested it on Admiral Archer's prize beagle. Which... was a mistake.

KIRK

I know that dog. What happened to it?

175 CONTINUED: (3)

175

SCOTTY

I'll tell ya when it reappears. Dunno.
Feel guilty.

SPOCK PRIME

What if I told you your trans-warp theory was correct? That it is indeed possible to beam onto a ship that is travelling at warp speed. And that you only required the correct field equation to recrystallize dilithium?

SCOTTY

I haven't been stationed here that long. If such an equation had been discovered, I'da heard.

SPOCK PRIME

The reason you haven't heard of it, Mr. Scott... is because you haven't discovered it yet.

Kirk reacts. Scotty reacts -- is almost spooked -- sobers up a bit... really regards Spock Prime. Skeptical. Amused.

SCOTTY

Y'from the future, are ya? Brilliant. D'they still have sandwiches where you're from? Piece and jam? Mince 'n tatties? Cockaleekie soup?

KIRK

What is he talking about?

KEENSER

Food.

SPOCK PRIME

Allow us access to your shuttle... and I will show you what a genius you actually are.

Off Scotty, who can't help but be intrigued --

176 **OMIT**

176

177 **EXT./INT. SCOTTY'S SHUTTLE - TRANSPORTER PAD - MOMENTS LATER**

177

Scotty PULLS A TARP over much of the out-of-service shuttle.

SCOTTY

She's a wee bit dodgy: shield emitters are totally banjaxed, along wi' a few other things.

177 CONTINUED:

177

Spock finishes speed-typing the FIELD EQUATIONS on the TRANSPORTER CONTROL PANEL -- amazingly fast.

SCOTTY (CONT'D)
... rapid. That's impressive.

Spock Prime steps aside:

SPOCK PRIME
Your equation for achieving trans-warp beaming.

Scotty looks at the equations -- we watch his expression run the gamut: from confused, to dumbfounded, to quiet awe and delight:

SCOTTY
Imagine that! Never occurred to me to think of space as the part that's moving.

SPOCK PRIME
Point of fact: it did occur to you.
(he works the console)
Extrapolating Enterprise's course --

SCOTTY
-- Enterprise? Had its maiden voyage already, has it? Well, you must've done something right to be assigned to that ship, Kiddo. She's a well endowed lady -- love to get my hands on her ample nacelles, if you'll pardon the engineering parlance.

SPOCK PRIME
Now's your chance, Mr. Scott.

SCOTTY
Look, even if I believed you -- where you're from, what I've done-- which I don't -- we're still talkin' bout slingshotting aboard while she's going faster than light. Without a proper receiving pad, that's like tryin'a hit a bullet with a smaller bullet, wearing a blindfold. On a horse.

SPOCK
I calculate no more than a four meter margin of error.

SCOTTY
That's all well and good unless you rematerialize four meters outside the ship.

177 CONTINUED: (2)

177

As Spock works the keyboard, an ENTERPRISE SCHEMATIC rotates:

SPOCK PRIME

Agreed: the aft engineering bay is your best option: a large space and no unpredictable airlocks --

KIRK

-- you're coming with us, right?

SPOCK PRIME

No, Jim. My destiny lies along a different path.

KIRK

Your destiny can wait -- he won't believe me, only you can explain w--

SPOCK PRIME

(simply, strong)
Under no circumstances can he be made aware of my existence. You must promise me this.

KIRK

You're telling me I can't tell you I'm following your own orders? Why not? What happens?

SPOCK PRIME

Trust me. Above all. Jim, this is the one rule you cannot break. To stop Nero, you alone must take command of your ship.

KIRK

How, over your dead body?

SPOCK PRIME

Preferably not. There is, however, Starfleet Regulation 619.

(off Kirk's confusion)

Yes. I forget what little regard you had for such things. 619 states that any commanding officer who is emotionally compromised by the mission at hand... must resign said command.

KIRK

So I need to emotionally compromise you?

SPOCK PRIME

Jim. I just lost my planet. I can tell you. I am emotionally compromised.

(then)

What you must do... is get me to show it.

PUSHING IN ON KIRK as this lands for him --

177 CONTINUED: (3)

177

KIRK

Hm.

SCOTTY

Aye, then. Live or die, Laddie, let's get this over with. The Enterprise has a decent cafeteria I'm guessing.

Scotty's on the pad. Kirk follows, looks at Spock:

KIRK

You know... coming back in time... changing history... that's cheating.

SPOCK PRIME

A trick I learned from an old friend.

Something strikes Kirk -- his eyes GLINT with revelation. Spock responds enigmatically: a silent acknowledgment of what Kirk must do to get the ship. He raises his hand in the legendary Vulcan salute:

SPOCK PRIME (CONT'D)

Live long, and prosper.

And Spock activates the transporter and they DEMATERIALIZE -- the light plays off his face as he watches them vanish --

178 **EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS**

178

The Enterprise SHOOTS THROUGH FRAME at warp --

179 **INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING BAY - CONTINUOUS**

179

Amid the ROAR of the ship's plasma drives, PARTICLES rematerialize... it's KIRK, eyes wide in suspense. He looks down at his legs, his chest, his arms to make sure he's still in one piece, glances over to share his relief with Scotty... BUT SCOTTY ISN'T THERE. A strange BANGING -- Kirk turns: the BANGING is coming from a large metal TANK -- then Scotty appears in a TRANSLUCENT PIPE -- FREAKING OUT -- BANGING ON THE CLEAR METAL -- Kirk's mind races -- he looks around for a way to save his new friend -- just then a STRONG CURRENT IS FELT inside the tube -- AND SCOTTY IS YANKED AWAY, DOWN THE TUBE!

KIRK

-- no-- shit!

And Kirk runs after him -- down the length of the ORANGE, TWISTING and TURNING tubes -- SCOTTY SEEN every time he enters a CLEAR TUBE AREA -- then DISAPPEARING again into the ORANGE tubes -- and Scotty gets sucked UPWARDS -- and Kirk turns and looks -- FOLLOWS THE LENGTH OF TUBE -- SEEING WHERE IT'S HEADING -- TO A GIANT WATER TURBINE -- essentially? A MASSIVE FUCKING BLENDER.

179 CONTINUED:

179

KIRK (CONT'D)

-- no--nonono--

And Kirk HAULS ASS to the control panel -- we see the huge machine -- overhead, the RELEASE VALVE under the pipe -- and Kirk works as fast as he can --

KIRK (CONT'D)

COMEONCOMEONCOMEON -- like the simulator:
manual control enabled, pressure seal:
enabled -- shutdown--

-- but the COMPUTER SAYS:

COMPUTER VOICE

Turbine Shutdown Not Allowed.

KIRK

DAMNIT!

180 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

180

A display on the forward console, an ALARM FLASHES --

CHEKOV

Keptin, we're detecting unauthorized
access to a water turbine control board!

Spock moves from Sarek to Chekov --

SPOCK

Bring up video.

Chekov brings up TWO DOZEN SECURITY VIDEO IMAGES ON ONE SCREEN. Spock points to one -- it ENLARGES -- and we see KIRK AND SCOTTY racing through the ship -- Spock's eyes narrow -- he moves to the Captain's chair -- hits comm:

SPOCK (CONT'D)

Security, this is the captain -- seal
engineering deck and bring me the
intruders in turbine station three -- set
phasers to stun.

181 INT. PIPE - CONTINUOUS

181

INSIDE THE TUBE, SCOTTY TUMBLES, YELLING UNDERWATER as --

181A INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING BAY - CONTINUOUS

181A

Kirk, AT THE PANEL, accesses the RELEASE VALVE CONTROL -- he watches Scotty disappear through a CLEAR SECTION -- Kirk times it -- waiting -- then he HITS THE BUTTON and Scotty DROPS THROUGH THE RELEASE VALVE AND SLAMS TO THE FLOOR -- hurt, wet, but BREATHING, deeply --

KIRK

You all right?

SCOTTY

(recovering, looking
around)

-- nice -- (cough) -- ship. Really.

KIRK

-- let's get to the bridge--

181B INT. ENTERPRISE - VARIOUS AREAS

181B

Kirk and wet Scotty race through the ship -- only to finally turn a corner and be faced with PHASERS, AIMED RIGHT AT THEM.

But suddenly PHASERS are at their heads. Two SECURITY GUARDS -- one, THE GUY HE GOT INTO THE FIGHT WITH AT THE BAR, YEARS AGO.

SECURITY OFFICER #1

Come with me. Moon Beam.

Off Kirk -- shit --

182-3 OMIT

182-3

184 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE [SET CHANGE]

184

WOOSH -- bridge doors open -- Kirk and Scotty are ushered in by the Security Guards. Spock moves to them, containing his anger and dismay. McCoy is here as well. Spock walks right up to Kirk... raises his eyebrow.

KIRK

Surprise.

SPOCK

(to Scotty)

Who are you?

KIRK

He's with me.

SPOCK

We're travelling at warp -- how did you manage to get aboard this ship?

Kirk stares at the young Spock -- a different experience now --

KIRK

You're the genius, you figure it out.

SPOCK

As Captain of this vessel I order you to answer the question.

KIRK

Well I'm not telling.

(then)

Captain.

HUH. That confounds Spock. And Kirk is off to the races --

KIRK (CONT'D)

Does that frustrate you? My lack of cooperation... does it make you angry?

Spock again focuses on Scotty --

SPOCK

You are not a member of this ship's crew. Under penalty of court martial, I order you to explain to me how you beamed ab --

KIRK

(to Scotty)

-- Don't answer him.

SPOCK

You will answer me.

ON SCOTTY. Weighing all this. Then --

SCOTTY

I'd rather not take sides.

Spock nods back to the SECURITY GUARDS, over this --

SPOCK

Escort them to the Brig.

But before the guards can do so --

KIRK

What is it about you, Spock? Your planet was just destroyed -- your mother murdered -- and you're not even upset?

SPOCK

Your presumption that these experiences interfere with my abilities to command this ship is inaccurate--

KIRK

HA! And yet you said fear was necessary for command. I mean -- did you see that bastard's ship? Did you see what he did?

SPOCK

(tense)

Yes, of course I--

KIRK

So are you afraid or aren't you?!?

SPOCK

(tenser)

I will not... allow you to lecture me about the merits of emotion.

Kirk gets close to Spock --

KIRK

Then why don't you stop me.

Sarek watches, tense. McCoy, too. Spock blinks --

SPOCK

Step away from me, Mr. Kirk.

KIRK

What is it like? Not to feel? Anger. Or heartbreak. Or the need to stop at nothing to avenge the death of the woman who gave birth to you?!

SPOCK

(volcanic)

-- back away --

KIRK

(closer still)

You must not feel anything! It must not even compute for you! You must not have loved her at all--!

-- WHAM! SPOCK HAS JUST HIT KIRK -- and Kirk goes to hit back, but Spock fucking DELIVERS A SERIES OF POWERFUL BLOWS -- Security stand back as the Captain attacks...

And Spock is now fucking CHOKING Kirk -- HE SLAMS KIRK AGAINST THE WALL -- SPOCK'S CHOKING THE LIFE OUT OF HIM --

SAREK

Spock!

And everything -- everything -- STOPS. Spock, red-faced, releases his grip. Kirk GULPS air and tumbles to the ground. Spock staggers back. Kirk's hardly able to speak, close to collapsing. But despite his brutalized face, his expression isn't about spite, or hatred... but compassion.

Spock sees the faces of the STUNNED CREW staring at him. But worst of all? Sarek. His father. Spock levels his chin. Quickly wipes his eyes. Trying to regain some semblance of dignity... looks to McCoy. Softly --

SPOCK

Doctor. I am no longer fit for duty. I hereby relinquish my command on the grounds that I have been... emotionally compromised. Please note the time and date in the ship's log.

JESUS. Spock just... QUIT. And after a beat, he leaves the room. Sarek follows a moment later.

The crew just stands there in stunned SILENCE. Finally --

SCOTTY

I like this ship. It's exciting.

McCoy turns to Kirk, exasperated --

MCCOY

Congratulations, Jim. Now we've got no Captain and no first officer to goddamn replace him.

ON KIRK. The moment is upon him.

KIRK

Yeah we do.

ON MCCOY. The CREW -- confused. Sulu just fucking POINTS at Kirk and they all realize HOLY SHIT -- Pike made KIRK the First Officer before he left!

MCCOY

WHAT?!

KIRK

Thanks for the support!

And Kirk moves to the captain's chair, passing Uhura:

184 CONTINUED: (4)

184

UHURA

I sure hope you know what you're doing.

KIRK

... so do I.

(studies chair, sits,
into mic)Attention crew of the Enterprise. This
is James Kirk...

185 INT. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR

185

TRACKING WITH SPOCK, hearing the announcement as he walks
stoically -- past CREW, hearing this --

KIRK (V.O.)

Mr. Spock has resigned commission and
advanced me to acting Captain. I know
you were all expecting to regroup with
the fleet, but I've ordered a pursuit
course of the enemy ship to Earth.

186 OMIT

186

187 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE [SET CHANGE]

187

On KIRK as he ends the announcement:

KIRK

I want all departments at battle stations
and ready in ten minutes. Either we're
going down, or they are. Kirk out.

Clicks off. PUSH IN ON KIRK, staring off --

UHURA

I want some answers.

He looks up. Uhura is there. Pissed off:

UHURA (CONT'D)

Right now. Where the hell'd you get trans-warp technology?

KIRK

-- yeah, you know that's complicated --

UHURA

Do I look simple to you?!

SULU

I'm a PhD in astrophysics, I think I can handle it -- how'd you get back?

CHEKOV

You want us to trust you but you von't tell us the truth?

KIRK

No. No, I won't-- hey, I'm the Captain now! I don't have to tell you anything! Now listen: we need to figure out a way to catch up and get to Nero's ship.

SULU

There's not a chance. They're gonna be in geosynchronous orbit around Earth in ten minutes. We'll never make it.

MCCOY

Even if we could, you can't go in guns blazing, not with their technology, that's suicide.

KIRK

Then we find a way to get on that ship and steal the black hole device away from them.

SCOTTY

Well you can forget transwarp. No way to predict the Narada's position from here.

KIRK

Uhura: anything from Captain Pike?

UHURA

No... I've been monitoring all channels.

SPOCK stand here, staring at the place where his mother should have, but didn't, arrive. Sarek enters. Sees his son. They're alone for the first time in ages. A beat:

SAREK

You must not punish yourself.

(beat)

Speak your mind, Spock.

SPOCK

That would be unwise.

SAREK

What is necessary is always wise.

Watch Spock's face. Struggling with what's pent-up inside...

SPOCK

I feel as conflicted as I once was. As a child. Have I made so little progress?

SAREK

(beat, softly)

You will always be a child of two worlds. I am grateful for that. And for you.

(painfully)

And not only because you are all I have left of her.

Spock looks at Sarek. This is as close to emotion as he'll get.

SPOCK

I feel anger. For the one who took her life. An anger I cannot stop.

SAREK

I believe she would say... do not try to.

(then)

You asked me once. Why I married your mother.

(beat, simply)

I married her because I loved her.

Their look HOLDS -- and for Spock, a revelation...

-- the strategy session continues in FULL SWING -- now Chekov, the youngest of the bunch, gets up the courage to chime in, incidently becoming the very first officer to say:

CHEKOV

Keptin Kirk? Excuse me, plees, could I...?

All eyes shift to the wonder-kid who awaits permission to speak:

KIRK

Yes, Chekov-- you don't need to ask permission to--

CHEKOV

Based on the Narada's course from Vulcan, I've projected that Nero will travel past Saturn. If we could drop out of warp behind one of Saturn's moons, say, Titan, the magnetic distortion from the planet's rings will make us invisible to Nero's sensors. We could follow him to Earth by staying in his blind spot.

KIRK

What blind spot?

CHEKOV

Its exhaust wake. If we adjust our shield frequencies, they shouldn't detect us.

MCCOY

Wait a minute-- anyone understand this kid? How old are you?

CHEKOV

I am seventeen, Sir, how old are you?

MCCOY

We're all old enough to shave here.

SPOCK (O.S.)

Doctor... Mr. Chekov is correct.

Everyone turns, surprised: SPOCK has entered the bay -- galvanized, full of purpose --

SPOCK (CONT'D)

I have reviewed his telemetry. If Mr. Sulu can maneuver us into position, I can beam aboard Nero's ship.

KIRK

I won't order you to do that, Mr. Spock.

SPOCK

Romulans and Vulcans share a common ancestry. Our cultural similarities will make it easier for me to access their ship's computer to locate the device.

(beat; a flicker of emotion)

(MORE)

189 CONTINUED: (2)

189

SPOCK (CONT'D)

Also, my mother was human. Which makes
Earth the only home I have left.

189 CONTINUED: (3)

189

The crew looks at this very courageous Vulcan with deep respect -
- but his focus is on Uhura, whose eyes smile back at him.

KIRK

Then I'm coming with you.

SPOCK

(beat, considering)

I would cite regulation, but I know you
will simply ignore it.

KIRK

See, we're getting to know each other.

And a MOMENT -- a burgeoning friendship --

190 **EXT. BARREN LANDSCAPE**

190

PANNING ACROSS AN ALIEN LANDSCAPE... and even though it's in
shadow, you start to recognize it as THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON.
OUR POV ascends now to see:

THE ENTERPRISE DROPS OUT OF WARP IN THE DEAD SILENCE OF SPACE...

And we move past it, along the orbit of the moon, cresting the
horizon to see EARTH -- AND NERO'S SHIP HOVERING ABOVE IT.

191 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - NIGHT**

191

CLOSE ON NERO -- his face illuminated on the DARKENED BRIDGE of
the Narada by SOFT BLUE LIGHT. Light radiated by EARTH. A
BEAUTIFUL HOLOGRAM before him. He doesn't notice behind him, as
those BLADES from his STAFF APPEAR BEHIND HIS NECK. Nero
tenses, only now sensing this unforeseen danger: AYEL HOLDS THE
WEAPON. Strong. Tough. But under it all... terrified.

AYEL

The men and I have discussed this. What
we are about to do.

(beat)

We have to turn the ship around. We can
save our home.

Nero turns slowly and deliberately -- Ayel tenses:

AYEL (CONT'D)

Stop.

Nero now faces Ayel, blades at his throat -- Ayel growing more
nervous as he faces his master. The surrounding crew stare on,
frozen in the moment, only slightly confirming their makeshift
mutiny with scared looks.

191 CONTINUED:

191

AYEL (CONT'D)

We can go back. That's what we want. We have taken our vengeance on Vulcan. No more. We want to go home now.

Nero considers this... nods gently.

NERO

There is no need, Ayel. To threaten me.
(beat)
I understand.

Ayel is massively relieved. Nero gently reaches out, holds the staff (still aimed at him). He deactivates it -- the blades instantly RETRACT.

NERO (CONT'D)

I understand. But you are wrong.

And just as Ayel realizes he's fucked, Nero somehow activates the staff in a way we have not seen -- AND THE BLADES APPEAR ON THE OTHER END -- THE END NOW FACING AYEL -- AND JUST AS AYEL'S EYES GO WIDE -- NERO THRUSTS THE BLADES INTO AYEL -- WHO FALLS TO THE FLOOR, DEAD! Nero's hard face turns to the rest of his crew.

NERO (CONT'D)

We will return to Romulus when the Federation lies in ruins and not a moment before. When those who watched our people burn at last understand our pain, our loss. I refuse to return as a slave! We will return as conquerors!

ON THE FACES OF THE MEN, SUBMITTING TO HIS WILL, our MUSIC BUILDING -- and then, his eyes on Earth like a fucking LION eyes a gazelle--

NERO (CONT'D)

Deploy the drill.

192 **EXT. THE NARADA**

192

THE DRILL BAY DOORS open as they LOWER THE PLASMA DRILL.

193 **INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE**

193

No sign of Kirk and Spock. Sulu's in the captain's chair. Chekov at helm.

SULU

Mr. Chekov, transfer manual control to the Captain's chair.

193 CONTINUED:

193

CHEKOV

Aye.

(works controls)

I've projected the parabolic course you must follow. If you deviate by so much as a meter, we will be detected.

SULU

Give me one quarter impulse burst for five seconds and I'll do the rest with thrusters. On my mark. Three... two... one... fire.

194 **EXT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - SPACE**

194

The impulse engines SURGE, shutting off as the ship slips out from behind the moon and into open space --

195 **INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

195

Sulu makes rapid-fire thruster combinations to stay on track -- a stealthy ballet of incredible dexterity. THE NARADA appears over the horizon in geosynchronous orbit, passing underneath the Enterprise as they arc in behind it.

SULU

All stop in three... two... one...

196 **EXT. THE NARADA/ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS**

196

The small Enterprise pulls into position behind the massive Narada's BLIND SPOT and comes to a gentle stop. Tension --

197 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - NIGHT**

197

SULU (INTO CHAIR COMM)

Transporter Room. We're in stable geosynchronous orbit behind the Narada.

CHEKOV

(scanning)

No sign they've detected us --

198 **INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

198

KIRK and SPOCK ready themselves for transport. STRAP ON UTILITY BELTS: COM-SETS, TRICORDERS, and of course, PHASERS --

SCOTTY

(on Communicator)

Well done, Mr. Sulu.

198 CONTINUED:

198

KIRK

Whatever happens Mr. Sulu, if you feel you have a tactical advantage fire on that ship. Even if we're still aboard. It's an order.

SULU

Yessir. Good luck.

Spock turns to Uhura, who hands him a small TRANSLATOR DEVICE:

UHURA

We'll be monitoring your frequency...

Uhura gives the translator to Spock -- AND HE KISSES UHURA.

SPOCK

Thank you, Nyota.

They part, revealing KIRK'S SHOCKED FACE. Uhura walks off, leaving the two men -- Kirk looking stunned at Spock.

KIRK

Her first name is...

SPOCK

I have no comment on the matter.

Kirk still stunned as Scotty moves to transporter control.

SCOTTY

If there's any common sense to their ship design, I'll be puttin' ya in a cargo bay, shouldn't be a soul in sight.

KIRK AND SPOCK STAND ON THE TRANSPORTER PAD, SIDE-BY-SIDE AND FACING THE SAME DIRECTION FOR THE FIRST TIME -- AN ICONIC IMAGE -
- The moment of truth.

KIRK

Energize.

Scotty hits the transport and Kirk and Spock DISAPPEAR --

199 **INT. NARADA - CARGO BAY - CONTINUOUS**

199

Kirk and Spock MATERIALIZE in the cargo bay... to find themselves suddenly smack-dab in the middle of SIX ROMULAN GUARDS working at cargo consoles!!

199 CONTINUED:

199

For a split second they're as shocked as Kirk and Spock, until they ATTACK -- Kirk immediately engages the closest Romulan, struggles -- but Spock's a machine: his palm snaps up CRACKING a nose -- SLAMS a head against the wall -- as battle-ready as the Romulans are, it's like trying to catch a GHOST, Kirk finally knocks his one opponent unconscious, and turns to see it's ALL OVER --

KIRK

(a touch insecure)

Mine had a gun.

SPOCK

I am trained in the Vulcan martial art of Suus Mahna.

Kirk and Spock move to a still conscious Romulan as he struggles to get up. Spock reaches for the fallen Romulan's temples.

SPOCK (CONT'D)

I am unable to meld with these Romulans -- there are subtle differences in their physiology I did not anticipate --

KIRK

-- punch him in the face --
make him talk! Suus Mahna his
 ass!

-- then pretend it's a threat -
 - I'm your captain, that's an
order!

SPOCK

-- Suss Mahna is only intended
 for self-defense, he's no
 longer a threat --

Spock PUNCHES the Romulan HARD -- and via Uhura's comlink translator, speaks in SUBTITLED ROMULAN:

SPOCK (SUBTITLE) (CONT'D)

What is your computer access code?

The guard SPITS green blood at Spock, who PUNCHES him again --

SPOCK (SUBTITLE) (CONT'D)

TELL! (PUNCH) ME! (PUNCH) THE! (PUNCH)
CODE!

200 INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

200

ROMULAN HELMSMAN

The plasma drill is repaired and fully
 deployed.

NERO

Good. Let's begin.

201 **EXT. SUSPENDED DRILL - ABOVE CALIFORNIA - CONTINUOUS** 201

THE ENERGY TORNADO FIRES FROM THE DRILL INTO THE EARTH!

202 **EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - DAY** 202

The plasma beam SLAMS INTO SAN FRANCISCO BAY -- massive
CONCUSSION CLOUDS FORM AROUND THE BEAM --

202A **EXT. STARFLEET ACADEMY/COMMAND - CONTINUOUS** 202A

Cadets RUN to see the horrific sight of the plasma beam --

203 **INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 203

As Uhura returns to the bridge, everyone's stations go DARK --
STATIC on screens --

CHEKOV

They've activated the drill --

UHURA

Communications and transporter
inoperative --

SULU

They're on their own now.

204 **INT. NARADA - CONTINUOUS** 204

A ROTATING SHIP SCHEMATIC -- Spock typing at a console,
searching -- accesses two inter-cam windows: on one, SPOCK
PRIME'S SHIP, THE JELLYFISH -- in a lower containment hold -- on
the other: PIKE, unclear if he's dead or alive.

SPOCK

What you refer to as the "Red Matter
Device" is in the main hangar -- and I've
located Captain Pike.

KIRK

Is he alive?

SPOCK

Unknown.

KIRK

Let's move.

They cover each other with phasers as they move down the hall --

205 **INT. NARADA - MAIN HANGAR** 205

Captain Pike's shuttle and the Jellyfish sit parked among the equipment. Kirk and Spock stealthily board the Jellyfish --

206 **INT. JELLYFISH - COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS** 206

Kirk hits a console, a familiar voice comes to life:

COMPUTER VOICE

Voice print and face recognition analysis enabled.

KIRK

Spock, you'll be piloting the ship alone.

SPOCK

Which may be problematic, as I am unfamiliar with this ship's design.

THE LASER GRID RESPONDS TO SPOCK'S VOICE, scans his features for ID -- THE HOLOGRAPHIC DISPLAY MATERIALIZES:

COMPUTER VOICE

Welcome back, Ambassador Spock.

KIRK

(awkwardly)

Wow. That's weird.

He looks to Kirk in surprise -- Spock's eyes fix with sudden understanding. Ambassador Spock... of course... suddenly all the pieces start coming together...

SPOCK

Computer: what is your manufacturing origin?

COMPUTER VOICE

Stardate 2397, commissioned by the Vulcan Science Academy.

Spock looks at Kirk, a touch upset:

SPOCK

It appears you've been keeping rather important information from me.

KIRK

Just trust me. Can ya do that?

Spock weigh his options. Trust. Finally:

206 CONTINUED:

206

KIRK (CONT'D)

I'll get Pike.

Kirk exits --

207 **INT. NARADA [SET CHANGE]**

207

Kirk moves through various areas of the ship --

208 **INT. JELLYFISH - COCKPIT**

208

Spock works the control -- fires up the craft --

209 **EXT. NARADA - HANGAR - WITH JELLYFISH INSIDE**

209

LIGHTS COME ON -- he starts it up -- the ship begins to RISE -- and with the enormous JELLYFISH now OPERATING -- FLOATING IN THE HANGAR, Spock turns the ship and FIRES AT THE MASSIVE IRIS DOOR, BLOWING IT OPEN! DEBRIS AND LOOSE OBJECTS GET SUCKED INTO SPACE as --

210 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE**

210

The ship SHUDDERS from within -- ALARMS --

ROMULAN HELMSMAN

Primary core rupture, warp engines off-line!

NERO

HOW?!!

ROMULAN TACTICAL OFFICER

Someone has detonated weapons in the main hangar!

CLOSE -- NERO -- EYES WILD, REALIZING THEY HAVE A SABOTEUR:

NERO

Restore power! Engage auxiliary systems!

211 **OMIT**

211

212 **EXT. NARADA - CONTINUOUS**

212

THE JELLYFISH FLIES OUT -- ANGLES TOWARD THE DRILL AND FIRES ANOTHER TORPEDO -- DIRECT HIT!

THE MASSIVE RIG SWINGS -- THE TETHERS SNAPS NAPS NAP -- THE DRILL TILTS AND ROCKETS LOOSE, PLUMMETING DOWN... DOWN... DOWN...

213 **... CRASHING INTO SAN FRANCISCO BAY**

213

214 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

214

As the bridge crew fights to regain control:

ROMULAN TACTICAL OFFICER
The drill's been severed!

ROMULAN COMMANDER
Ambassador Spock's ship has been stolen
as is heading out of the solar system!

NERO
-- WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?!

A beat -- the Romulan Commander looks up from his console:

ROMULAN COMMANDER
(darkly)
... Spock.

OFF Nero's fucking mega rage --

215 **EXT. SPACE - ABOVE EARTH**

215

The Narada turns -- accelerates in pursuit of the Jellyfish and
AWAY FROM EARTH -- and now we're back to the imagery of the
first few moments of the movie -- THE NARADA GAINING ON THE
JELLYFISH, SPOCK AT THE CONTROLS --

216 **INT. NARADA - CONTINUOUS**

216

NERO
(to comms officer)
Open a channel --

ROMULAN COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Channel Open --

NERO
Spock -- I should've killed you when I
had the chance.

217 **INT. NERO'S SHIP/ JELLYFISH - INTERCUTTING:**

217

SPOCK STARES WITH DEADLY FOCUS AT THE VIEWSCREEN:

SPOCK
Under authority granted me by the Europa
convention, I'm confiscating this
illegally obtained ship and order you to
surrender your vessel. No terms. No
deals.

And Nero? Just grins in perfect contentment...

217 CONTINUED:

217

NERO

You can't cheat me again, Spock. I know you better than you know yourself.

SPOCK

Last warning: unconditional surrender or you will be destroyed.

NERO

(to his Men)

Fire at will.

ROMULAN COMMANDER

Sir-- if you ignite the red matter, the--

NERO

I want Spock dead! Fire!

Nero hurries to the controls -- operates them himself and --

218 **EXT. NARADA - CONTINUOUS**

218

-- FIRE IT DOES -- TORPEDOES BLAST FROM THE HOLD and to the jellyfish, which performs evasive maneuvers -- the torpedoes EXPLODE as --

219 **INT. NARADA - AIRLOCK SHAFT - CONTINUOUS**

219

Kirk moves through shadow into an airlock shaft, starts climbing ladder rungs --

220 **EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS**

220

The JELLYFISH TILTS, earth receding far behind it -- Spock veers to avoid being blown apart -- Nero's ship gaining -- firing --

221 **INT. NARADA - CORRIDORS - CONTINUOUS**

221

Kirk moves through the space -- into the TORTURE ROOM, where he finds PIKE, CLOSE TO DEATH -- Kirk begins unfastening his binds. Pike sees him through his fog -- amazed --

PIKE

... Kirk?

KIRK

Came back, Sir. Just like you ordered.

Kirk helps LIFT HIM -- but what he DOESN'T SEE are the FOUR GUARDS entering with weapons --

- 221 CONTINUED: 221
- But PIKE, God bless him, does: summoning his last ounce of strength, he manages to UNHOLSTER KIRK'S PHASER AND BLASTS THE FOUR GUARDS OUT OF EXISTENCE! Safe, he SLUMPS, dropping the phaser --
- 222 **EXT. NARADA - SPACE - CONTINUOUS** 222
- The Narada FIRES again, TEARING a gash in the Jellyfish's side.
- 223 **INT. JELLYFISH - CONTINUOUS** 223
- An array EXPLODES --
- NERO ON COMMS
... you should've fled, Spock. Sight target, standby torpedoes... FIRE!
- COMPUTER VOICE
Warning: Shields off-line.
- On Spock -- bad as things are, they just got worse -- his mind SPINS until:
- SPOCK
Computer, prepare self destruct sequence.
- 224 **EXT. JELLYFISH - CONTINUOUS** 224
- And the Jellyfish TURNS -- a new course RIGHT FOR THE NARADA --
- 225 **INT. SPACE - NARADA AND JELLYFISH - CONTINUOUS** 225
- CLOSE ON SPOCK, bravely facing certain death -- on a collision course with the Narada -- looks like he's gonna sacrifice himself -- and we assume he'll pull away at the last second, of course he will, but he DOESN'T:
- 226 **EXT. NARADA AND JELLYFISH - CONTINUOUS** 226
- SMASH! THE JELLYFISH EXPLODES, SPOCK SEEMINGLY KILLED -- AND IN THE BLAST, THE RED MATTER IGNITES! A MASSIVE BLACK HOLE STARTS TO FORM, THE BIGGEST ONE YET! STARS DRIFT TOWARD ITS CENTER, PULLED INTO THE SPHERE BY THE GRAVITY WELL AS IT STARTS TO EXPAND --
- 227 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 227
- As the ship's ROCKED HARD, Nero sees the black hole BUILDING through the cockpit window:
- NERO
FULL REVERSE!!! NOW, NOW!!

228 **EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS** 228

EVERYTHING'S GETTING SUCKED INTO THE EVER-EXPANDING BLACK HOLE -- A MASSIVE PULSE OF ENERGY PUMMELS NERO'S SHIP, SHEARING THROUGH ITS HULL -- AS THE NARADA TRIES TO REVERSE OUT OF THE GRAVITY WELL, THE ENTERPRISE IS REVEALED BEHIND IT -- HAVING BEEN THERE THE WHOLE TIME --

229 **INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER BAY - CONTINUOUS** 229

IT'S A RUSH, CRAZY, TENSE AS HELL --Uhura, McCoy, a MED TEAM and ND OFFICERS race in as Scotty finishes receiving incoming signals:

KIRK, SPOCK... AND PIKE MATERIALIZE ON THE PAD:

KIRK
(to Transporter Chief)
Nice timing, Lieutenant --

SCOTTY
Never beamed two targets from two places onto the same pad before! That was pretty good!

Kirk transfers Pike to McCoy, who urgently SCANS Pike and barks to a MED-TECH:

MCCOY
-- we're gonna need gastric stimulators, let's prep him for surgery, now!

230 **INT. NARADA - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 230

Everyone's HURLED off their feet -- consoles fry -- FIRE --

ROMULAN COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Nero-- it's the Enterprise!

NERO
LOAD WEAPONS AND RAISE SHIELDS!!!

ROMULAN HELMSMAN
ENGINES USING ALL OUR POWER, SIR!

Nero's eyes come UNHINGED --

231 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS** 231

WHOOSH: KIRK and SPOCK race back onto the bridge --

CHEKOV
Keptin! The enemy ship is losing power-- its shields are down!

231 CONTINUED:

231

KIRK

Hail them -- now!

NERO appears on screen from the Narada bridge -- the Narada's on its last legs -- a beat before Nero TURNS, realizing Kirk's fucking GRINNING at him from the screen:

KIRK (CONT'D)

This is Captain James T. Kirk of the U.S.S. Enterprise -- your ship is compromised -- too close to the singularity to survive without assistance -- which we are willing to provide.

SPOCK

(sotto)

Captain -- what are you doing?

KIRK

(sotto)

We show them compassion-- it may be the only way to earn peace with Romulus. It's logic, Spock! I thought you'd like that.

SPOCK

No, not really, not this time.

NERO

I would rather suffer the death of Romulus a thousand times than accept assistance from you.

KIRK

You got it.

(turns)

Lock phasers! Fire everything we've got!232 **EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS**

232

THE ENTERPRISE ARCS AROUND, FIRING A FULL SALVO AT THE NARADA -- AND THE HITS CONNECT, A DOMINO-EFFECT OF EXPLOSIONS RIPPLING ACROSS THE ALREADY WEAKENED SHIP -- IT STARTS NOSE-DIVING, TOWARD THE BLACK HOLE --

233 **INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE**

233

KIRK

Kirk to Engineering: get us out of here, Scotty!

SCOTTY (V.O.; COMMS)

-- you bet yer ass, Captain --

234 **INT. NARADA - CONTINUOUS**

234

The walls are RIPPING AWAY, PYLONS pull free from their moorings, into the ever-expanding sphere -- NERO -- IN THE CHAOS, KNOWING HE'S REACHED THE END, CLOSES HIS EYES:

NERO
Forgive me... Romulus...

235 **EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS**

235

AND THE NARADA IMPLODES, BUCKLING IN ON ITSELF, DISAPPEARING IN PIECES INTO THE BLACK VORTEX --

Leaving only the Enterprise -- its nacelles FLARE as the ship tries to make the quantum leap -- BUT: the black hole's now a TITANIC WHIRLPOOL so insanely strong that the Enterprise is held in place by the gravity well even at warp! IT SHAKES INTO A BLUR, trying to cut loose but it CAN'T --

236 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

236

KIRK
WHY AREN'T WE AT WARP?!

CHEKOV
-- WE ARE --!

SCOTTY OVER SPEAKERS
CAPTAIN, WE'RE TRAPPED IN THE GRAVITY WELL! IT'S GOT US!

KIRK
GO TO MAXIMUM WARP! PUSH IT!!!

237 **INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING - INTERCUTTING:**

237

Scotty SHOUTS BACK into the com against the SCREAMING DRIVE:

SCOTTY
I'M GIVIN' HER ALL SHE'S GOT, CAPTAIN!

KIRK
ALL SHE'S GOT ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH! WHAT ELSE D'YOU GOT?!

SCOTTY
(last desperate thought)
IF WE EJECT THE CORE AND DETONATE, THE BLAST COULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO PUSH US AWAY BUT I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING!

KIRK
DO IT DO IT DO IT!

237 CONTINUED:

237

Scotty SLAMS the activation panel and we see the WARP CORE eject down a tube, like an INSTANT PNEUMATIC RELEASE --

238 **EXT. ENTERPRISE - ABOVE THE BLACK HOLE - CONTINUOUS**

238

THE WARP CORE TUBE LAUNCHES FROM THE ENTERPRISE, STREAKING RIGHT INTO THE MOUTH OF THE BLACK HOLE -- AN INSANE, SILENT EXPLOSION: THE BLACK HOLE LIGHTS UP FROM HORIZON TO HORIZON, THE BLAST WAVE WHITING OUT THE FRAME! THE ENTERPRISE IS CONSUMED WITHIN IT:

FOR A MINUTE, WE THINK IT'S GONE... UNTIL IT'S JETTISONED OUT INTO THE STARS, FLYING AWAY, LEAVING THE FIRESTORM BEHIND IT!

239 **INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

239

Everyone white-knuckles their seats as the blast DISSIPATES... and our crew sits, wide-eyed, trembling... finally, truly safe.

240 **EXT. STARFLEET ACADEMY - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY**

240

Back home.

241 **INT. STARFLEET ACADEMY - MEDICAL BAY/HANGAR - DAY**

241

Spock is seen in a medical office with Pike, who lies in bed, recovering -- McCoy monitors him - Spock exits -- walks through the corridor -- sees a VULCAN in silhouette, staring out at the Academy. Sarek. Spock moves to him -- says quietly:

SPOCK

Father...?

Sarek turns -- but IT ISN'T SAREK. IT'S SPOCK PRIME. Who says:

SPOCK PRIME

I am not... our father.

An incredible beat, our two Spocks in eye lock... both minds processing conversational possibilities at an incredible rate... surreal extensions of each other, separate but connected...

SPOCK

... Fascinating.

SPOCK PRIME

There are so few Vulcans left. We cannot afford to ignore each other.

Young Spock's eyes flicker in puzzlement...

SPOCK

Then why did you send Kirk aboard when you alone could've explained the truth?

SPOCK PRIME

(beat, simply)

Because you needed each other. Opposing yet complimentary opposites. It was that balance between us -- I should say you and Kirk -- that often made the impossible, possible.

SPOCK

... it was a test?

SPOCK PRIME

(no: his heart heavy)

I'm in no position to pass judgment... my actions have robbed you of much. I could not also deprive you the revelation of all you can accomplish together... of a friendship that will define you both in ways you cannot yet realize.

There is, to young Spock's surprise, vulnerability in that.

SPOCK

How did you persuade him to keep your secret?

SPOCK PRIME

I inferred universe-ending paradoxes would ensue should he break his promise.

SPOCK

You lied.

SPOCK PRIME

I implied.

SPOCK

A gamble...

SPOCK PRIME

An act of faith. One I hope you'll repeat in the future.

Young Spock considers an enduring friendship between him and Kirk... for the first time, understanding it. But --

SPOCK

The future's not what it used to be... in the face of extinction, it's only logical I resign my Starfleet commission and help rebuild our race.

241 CONTINUED: (2)

241

SPOCK PRIME

And yet, you are in a unique position...
you can be in two places at once.

(MORE)

241 CONTINUED: (3)

241

SPOCK PRIME (CONT'D)

(beat)

I urge you to remain in Starfleet: I've already located a suitable planet on which to establish a Vulcan colony, and assist in the foundation of a new science academy.

Young Spock takes that in, resolute...

SPOCK

My future cannot be determined by your past. We are one, but not the same.

SPOCK PRIME

Then I ask that you do yourself a favor. Put away logic. Do what feels right. The world you've inherited lives in the shadow of incalculable devastation... but there's no reason you must face it alone.

Spock Prime moves to the door, stops. Offers the VULCAN SALUTE:

SPOCK PRIME (CONT'D)

As my customary farewell would appear oddly self serving, I will simply say... good luck.

Their eyes hold. Spock turns, disappearing into the corridor. Young Spock stares at the empty doorway a beat, his mind a jumble of thoughts... and our MUSIC BUILDS...

242 INT. STARFLEET CORRIDOR - HANGAR - CONTINUOUS

242

As Spock Prime walks off down the corridor, he passes right by a man conferring with a nurse -- the man pauses, turns... it's SAREK. Suddenly overcome by a feeling that the stranger who's just passed him is... oddly familiar.

243 INT. STARFLEET ACADEMY - COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

243

MUSIC STILL BUILDING -- glass walls reveal THE ENTERPRISE at dock, UTILITY CRAFTS floating around it, repairing. Standing at attention in rows, THE ENTERPRISE CREW -- over four hundred of them wearing DRESS UNIFORMS -- TRACK DOWN the faces, all proud -- and we STOP ON YOUNG KIRK. Composed, focused, a man. The ACADEMY PRESIDENT stands at a podium:

ACADEMY PRESIDENT

This assembly calls Captain James Tiberius Kirk...

243 CONTINUED:

243

Kirk breaks from formation, pivots, marches down the hangar -- past UHURA... SULU... CHEKOV... SCOTTY. All Beaming. Notably absent, is Spock. Kirk ascends the stairs, snaps to attention:

ACADEMY PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Your inspirational valor and supreme dedication to your comrades are in keeping with the highest traditions of service and reflect utmost credit to yourself, your crew, and the Federation. For your... unique solution to the Kobayashi Maru, it's my honor to award you with a commendation for original thinking.

He opens a BOX -- glorious in repose, a MEDAL:

ACADEMY PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

By Starfleet Order 28455, you are hereby directed to report to Commanding Officer, USS Enterprise, for duty as his relief.

Kirk turns. Walks to... PIKE. In a wheelchair now, wearing an ADMIRAL'S UNIFORM. Overnight, his hair's turned totally grey -- but despite his trauma, his pride's overwhelming. They SALUTE:

KIRK

I relieve you, Sir.

PIKE

I am relieved. Congratulations, Captain.

Pike containing a smirk, pins the medal to Kirk's chest.

KIRK

Thank you, Sir.

Kirk turns to the crowd. Eyes shining. WILD APPLAUSE. As Kirk rejoins his crew for hugs and congratulations, we go to the BACK of the hangar... SPOCK PRIME. Watching. Moved beyond words. He turns and leaves them to it... and our MUSIC SWELLS as --

244 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

244

The turbolift WHOOSHES open and in walks Kirk -- to every fan's delight, wearing his iconic GOLD SHIRT. All around him, our crew -- young and fresh-faced but no longer children -- in charge of the greatest starship ever built:

SULU

Maneuvering thrusters and impulse engines
at your command, Sir.

CHEKOV

Weapons systems and shields on standby.

UHURA

Dock control reports ready. Yard Command
signalling clear.

KIRK

Scotty how are we?

SCOTTY (O.S. OVER COMM LINK)

Dilithium chamber at maximum efficiency,
Captain.

MCCOY

(wry grin)

Same ship, different day.

And Kirk pauses. His eyes go over to the empty science console with a sense of incompleteness. In fact, everyone on the bridge feels it. A bitter truth they'll have to accept.

KIRK

Mr. Sulu, prepare to engage thrus--

WHOOSH: the turbolift door opens. SPOCK!!! Wearing his BLUE UNIFORM. Our hearts soar --

SPOCK

Permission to come aboard, Captain.

KIRK

... Permission granted.

SPOCK

As you have yet to select a first officer, respectfully, I would like to submit my candidacy. Should you desire, I can provide character references.

Kirk nearly laughs. Spock's eyebrow goes up. Something passes between them... it carries acceptance, and trust...

KIRK

It would be my honor, Commander. Maneuvering thrusters, Mr. Sulu. Take us out.

SULU

Aye, Captain.

244 CONTINUED: (2)

244

As the ship maneuvers out of dry dock, Spock takes his place next to Kirk. Gold and blue, side by side.

245 **EXT. STARBASE ONE - DRYDOCK - CONTINUOUS**

245

And the ship crests the drydock portal, drifting into space... blessed one last time by the voice of our Vulcan hero:

SPOCK/NIMOY

Space... the final frontier. These are the continuing voyages of the Starship Enterprise. Her ongoing mission... to explore strange new worlds... to seek out new life forms, and new civilizations... To boldly go, where no one has gone... before...

The TREK THEME SOARS as the Enterprise warps off into a universe of infinite possibilities...

FADE OUT.

T H E B E G I N N I N G

ADDENDUM TO SCRIPT: ALTERNATE SCENES

ALTERNATE SCENE A

THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE TO BE ASSIGNED TO MAIN OR ADDITIONAL
BRIDGE CREW IF TIME AND CASTING PERMITS.

INT. KELVIN BRIDGE

CAPTAIN ROBAU

... oh my God...

(to himself, boggled)

A lightning storm... then this...

(to deck)

Signal all departments: first contact
protocols. Looks like we have someone
new on the block. All Stop.

KELVIN CREW MEMBER

All stations, FC-3 procedures
initiated..."

KELVIN CREW MEMBER COMMS

Broadcasting universal greeting on all
open frequencies.

FIRST OFFICER

Sir, should we initiate an active scan?

CAPTAIN ROBAU

That could be seen as an act of
provocation -- all readings passive--

Crew members are glued to their telemetry, working consoles:

KELVIN CREW MEMBER

EM sensors in passive sweep...

KELVIN CREW MEMBER (CONT'D)

Power signature detected -- level's
increasing.

Suddenly, a WARNING BEEP --

OFFICER PITTS

Sir, I have a reading --
they've locked weapons on us!

CAPTAIN ROBAU

-- Red alert! Arm weapons!

ALARMS BLARE -- LIGHTS GO RED as --

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

The Narada FIRES a TORPEDO -- IT HEADS FOR THE KELVIN -- then SEPARATES, fracturing into a multi-hit projectile --

INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - CONTINUOUS

Officers SCRAMBLE, brace for impact --

FIRST OFFICER
Torpedo locked on us at 320
degrees, mark two -- incoming fast!
CAPTAIN ROBAU
-- Evasive pattern Delta-5!

CREW MEMBER
Redirecting auxiliary power to forward
shields!"

CREW MEMBER (CONT'D)
Aft torpedo tubes are hot!

EXT. U.S.S. KELVIN - CONTINUOUS

A direct hit SMASHES several decks along the DISH of the ship --

INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Captain Robau helps a fallen CREW MEMBER up from the floor -- then, on his chair com:

CAPTAIN ROBAU
Damage report!

INTERCUT with:

INT. U.S.S. KELVIN - ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Moving with the Kelvin's CHIEF ENGINEER:

KELVIN CREW MEMBER
Diagnostic's back online -- rerouting to
auxiliary console.

KELVIN CREW MEMBER 2
Power grid junctions C-7 and E-3 are
out...

KELVIN CREW MEMBER
Dispatch repair teams to deck 4.

CONTINUED:

CHIEF ENGINEER

Our shields did nothing, Sir! Never seen
anything like it! Weapons off-line!
Main power at 38 percent!

CONTINUED: (2)

ALTERNATE SCENE B

SPOCK PRIME

Then I ask that you do yourself a favor... put away logic, and do what feels right. The world you've inherited lives in the shadow of incalculable devastation... but there's no reason you must face it alone.

And from around his neck, he removes the PENDANT that until now, we've only caught glimpses of. Places it on the table beside his younger self. The feeling in his eyes is profound...

SPOCK PRIME (CONT'D)

This was a gift to me. Representing... a dream. One we were unable to fulfill.
(softly)
The way you can now.

And moves to the door. Stops. Offers the VULCAN SALUTE:

SPOCK PRIME (CONT'D)

As my customary farewell would appear oddly self serving, I will simply say... good luck.

Their eyes hold. Spock turns, disappearing into the corridor. Young Spock stares at the empty doorway a beat, his mind a jumble of thoughts. Looks to the pendant... and realizes it's a HOLO-EMITTER. After considering a beat, he hits an activation button and a MOVING HOLOGRAPHIC MESSAGE materializes before him:

CAPTAIN JAMES T. KIRK. WILLIAM SHATNER. As always, brash, wry, confident -- and SINGING:

KIRK/ SHATNER

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you...

(stops, grins)

I know I know, it's illogical to celebrate something you had nothing to do with, but I haven't had the chance to congratulate you on your appointment to the ambassadorship so I thought I'd seize the occasion... Bravo, Spock -- they tell me your first mission may take you away for awhile, so I'll be the first to wish you luck... and to say...

(beat, emotional)

I miss you, old friend.

CONTINUED: (3)

... and we're PUSHING IN on Young Spock, taking in the image of Kirk's future self, the message, but above all -- the clear, unquestionable friendship these two men had...

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

As Spock Prime walks off down the corridor, he passes right by a man conferring with a nurse -- the man pauses, turns... it's SAREK. Suddenly overcome by a feeling that the stranger who's just passed him is... oddly familiar.

KIRK/SHATNER (V.O.)

I suppose I'd always imagined us...
outgrowing Starfleet together. Watching
life swing us into our Emeritus years...

INT. STARBASE ONE - HANGAR - ETERNAL NIGHT

MUSIC BUILDING -- glass walls reveal THE ENTERPRISE at dock, UTILITY CRAFTS floating around it, repairing. Standing at attention in rows, THE ENTERPRISE CREW -- over four hundred of them wearing DRESS UNIFORMS -- TRACK DOWN the faces, all proud:

KIRK/SHATNER (V.O.)

I look around at the new cadets now and can't help thinking... has it really been so long? Wasn't it only yesterday we stepped onto the Enterprise as boys? That I had to prove to the crew I deserved command... and their respect?

And we STOP ON YOUNG KIRK. Composed, focused, proud. A man. And to every fan's delight, finally wearing his YELLOW SHIRT. The FEDERATION COMMANDANT stands at a podium:

COMMANDANT

This assembly calls Captain James Tiberius Kirk...

Kirk breaks from formation, pivots, marches down the hangar -- past UHURA... SULU... CHEKOV... SCOTTY. All Beaming. Notably absent, is Spock. Kirk ascends the stairs, snaps to attention:

COMMANDANT (CONT'D)

Your inspirational valor and supreme dedication to your comrades are in keeping with the highest traditions of service and reflect utmost credit to yourself, your crew, and the Federation. By Starfleet Order 28455, you are hereby directed to report to Commanding Officer, USS Enterprise, for duty as his relief.

CONTINUED:

Kirk turns. Walks to... PIKE. In a wheelchair now, wearing an ADMIRAL'S UNIFORM. Overnight, his hair's turned totally grey -- but despite his trauma, his pride's overwhelming. They SALUTE each other:

KIRK
I relieve you, Sir.

PIKE
... I am relieved.

He opens a BOX in his lap -- glorious in repose, a MEDAL:

PIKE (CONT'D)
And as Fleet Admiral, for your... unique solution to the Kobayashi Maru, it's my honor to award you with a commendation for original thinking.

Pike containing a smirk, pins the medal to Kirk's chest...

PIKE (CONT'D)
(a touch choked)
Congratulations, Captain.

KIRK
Thank you, Sir.

Kirk turns to the crowd. Eyes shining. WILD APPLAUSE. OUR MUSIC SOARS. Bones leans in to Sulu, rolling his eyes:

BONES
... Same ship, different day.

As Kirk rejoins his crew for hugs and congratulations, we go to the BACK of the hangar... SPOCK PRIME. Watching. Moved beyond words. He turns and leaves them to it... as he goes...

KIRK/SHATNER (V.O.)
I know what you'd say -- 'It's their turn now, Jim...' And of course you're right... but it got me thinking:

INT. STARFLEET HOSPITAL - EARTH - DAY

Our montage comes full circle as we END on Kirk's transmission:

KIRK/SHATNER
Who's to say we can't go one more round?
By the last tally, only twenty five percent of the galaxy's been chartered... I'd call that negligent. Criminal even -- an invitation.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

KIRK/SHATNER (CONT'D)

You once said being a starship captain
was my first, best destiny... if that's
true, then yours is to be by my side. If
there's any true logic to the universe...
we'll end up on that bridge again
someday.

Stops, grins. Because this is the part he needs to say most...

KIRK

Admit it, Spock. For people like us, the
journey itself... is home.

Young Spock's face. Lost in feelings that flood through him.

CONTINUED: (2)

ALTERNATE SCENE C

SKILL DOMES: Questions to be spoken or represented graphically and answers to be dispersed to Vulcan children at directors discretion.

Q: What is the arc length of a curve from x equals a to x equals b ?

A: The integral, from a to b , of the square root of one plus the squared derivative of y with respect to x , dx .

Q: Calculate the dimensionality of a fractal whose initiator divides into three equal parts, each of which is replaced by four parts.

A: 1.26

Q: What is the dimensionality of a fractal whose initiator divides into r equal parts, each being replaced by N equal parts?

A: Dimensionality equals the logarithm of N divided by the logarithm of r .

Q: A cone is sliced by a plane that does not intersect the base, nor is the plane parallel to the base. What shape is formed by the intersection?

A: An ellipse.

Q: What is the formula for the volume of a sphere?

A: Four-thirds π times the radius cubed.

Q: What is the electrical charge of an up-type quark?

A: Positive two thirds.

Q: A discount function with exponential discounting for all periods, and an additional scalar discount for the present, is called what?

A: Quasi-hyperbolic.

CONTINUED: (3)

Q: An excessively impatient person, who discounts future values solely because they are not in the present, is called what?

A: A hyperbolic or quasi-hyperbolic discounter.

Q: In an infinitely repeated classic prisoners' dilemma, how many subgame perfect equilibria exist?

A: Infinitely many.

Q: How many equilibria exist in a classic Hawk-Dove strategic interaction game?

A: Two in pure strategies and one in mixed strategies. (The mixed strategy equilibria is unstable.)

Q: What are the two key features of a pure public good?

A; Non-excludability and non-rivalry in consumption.

Q: What is the only known intelligent life form to have achieved faster-than-light travel without political unification?

A: Humans. Assuming, of course, you regard humans as intelligent.

Q: What are the six recognized exceptions to the Prime Directive under Federation law?

A: LEAVE UNANSWERED

Q: What are the four key dimensions of Vulcan aesthetics?

A: Leave unanswered

Q: What term describes an action that is morally praiseworthy but not morally obligatory?

A: Supererogatory.

Q: When is an action said to be supererogatory?

A: When it is morally praiseworthy but not morally obligatory.

CONTINUED: (4)

ALTERNATE SCENE D

Miscellaneous dialogue to be dispersed by director to supporting crew or main cast at his/her discretion.

CADETS AT STARFLEET:

CADET

Heard that guy passed second-year exams
in his first term.

CADET (CONT'D)

Ruining the curve for everyone.

CADET (CONT'D)

I'd like to load her photon tubes.

CADET (CONT'D)

Can't believe I failed the navigational
comp.

CADET (CONT'D)

The Newton's not an antique, it's a
classic. Give me the Newton over the
Enterprise any day.

CADET (CONT'D)

Did you see the new assignment roster?

CADET (CONT'D)

I flunked the sub-atomic particles quiz.

CADET (CONT'D)

They better give me a red shirt for this.

CADET (CONT'D)

Do we have time to get married?

CADET (CONT'D)

(on one knee)

I know this is sudden, but... will you
marry me?

CADET (CONT'D)

I'm calling my Mom...

CADET (CONT'D)

Can't believe I'm on the Mayflower...

ROMULANS:

CONTINUED: (5)

ROMULAN OFFICER
Secure the transport deck.

ROMULAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Security team to the docking bay.
Report.

ROMULAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Bring the prisoner to the bridge.

ROMULAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Secure the prisoner and take him to the
brig.

ROMULAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Federation defenses are weak in this era.

ROMULAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Prepare shuttles for evacuation.

ROMULAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Communications -- monitor all Federation
channels.

ROMULAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Scramble signals on all Federation
channels.

ROMULAN ENSIGN
Anterior hull breach, deck level seven.

ROMULAN ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Security breach in the docking bay,
tracking now...

ROMULAN ENSIGN (CONT'D)
The Vulcans value logic but not honor.

ROMULAN ENSIGN (CONT'D)
No remaining signal - the vessel is gone.

ROMULAN OFFICER
Long live the Romulan Star Empire.

ROMULAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
We are being attacked.

ROMULAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Stinking Klingons.

ROMULAN ENSIGN
Captain we have a new contact.

CONTINUED: (6)

ROMULAN ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Firing solution ready.

ROMULAN ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Sir, tracking new contact.

ROMULAN ENGINEER
Sir, we have a hull breach in the aft section.

ROMULAN ENGINEER (CONT'D)
This is a mining vessel. We don't have the manoeuvrability to follow.

VULCANS:

VULCAN CIVILIAN
Where is planetary security?

VULCAN CIVILIAN (CONT'D)
The planet is coming apart!

VULCAN CIVILIAN (CONT'D)
Hope is beyond reason.

VULCAN CIVILIAN (CONT'D)
Stay together and keep moving.

VULCAN CIVILIAN (CONT'D)
Planetary evacuation is in progress.

VULCAN CIVILIAN (CONT'D)
This is highly improbable.

VULCAN CIVILIAN (CONT'D)
It seems we are under attack.

VULCAN CIVILIAN (CONT'D)
I await my fate with a clear consciences.

VULCAN PRIEST
An end is just a beginning.

STARFLEET BRIDGE:

ENSIGN
All com channels open.

ENSIGN (CONT'D)
We have clearance from Starfleet.

ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Proceeding as directed.

CONTINUED: (7)

ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Transporter deck is operational.

ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Shields at one-hundred percent and stable.

ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Engineering reports warp core is stable.

ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Warp propulsion system is at maximum efficiency.

OFFICER
Monitor all channels.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
Bring up schematics for the Defiant, Newton, Armstrong, and Mayflower.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
Set a course for Rigel 3 and transmit to the other ships.

ENSIGN
Warp drive is off line, we are on impulse only, repeat, impulse only.

ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Sir, we've been detected -- Romulan vessel is turning about.

OFFICER
Rerouting power to port shields.

ENSIGN
Hull breach on deck 38, atmospheric stabilization has been lost.

ENSIGN (CONT'D)
Life support is fluctuating.

MEDICAL BAY:

NURSE
Class four casualties here, class three in the next door.

DOCTOR
Dose him alpha waves and resume compressions.

CONTINUED: (8)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Cortical stimulation's failing --

NURSE
This should numb the pain.

NURSE (CONT'D)
Airways clear.