

STAR TREK 6: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY (Film Script)

By Leonard Nimoy et al

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--====Star Trek 6====--

1 Starfield

vfx

Credits over serene space when suddenly.....
an enormous explosion, sending debris flying at warp
velocities....

2 omitted

vfx

3 cu a teacup

widen to reveal

int. bridge, U.S.S. excelsior

the polyglot crew is busy

seated in the captain's chair, a familiar face: SULU

he has his own command, and is drinking a cup of tea.

the Science officer stands next to him, conferring,

handing him a datacount. Sulu muses over the contents.

SULU

according to this, we've completed
our exploration the the entire section.

Science officer

Fifty-four planets, and their
gaseous atmospheric anomalies. Our
sensing and analytic equipment
worked really well.

Sulu

Time we were heading home. Three Years
is.....

The ship starts to TREMBLE

4 Angle on Sulu's tea cup

Shaking in its saucer.....Sulu and the crew look at
each other as the Shaking increases. The teacup
smashes.

Science officer

I have an energy wave from 240
degrees, mark six port....

Sulu

Visual!

4 On the screen

4 Continued

vfx

an enormous gaseous wave, a subspace shock front.

Sulu

(continuing)

My God!!! SHIELDS!!

5 Ext. The Galaxy

vfx

Meteors and asteroids smashing past, burning chunks fly by at warp speeds. Excelsior reels.

6 Int. U.S.S. Excelsior bridge

The ship rolls, throwing everyone off balance.

Sulu

What the hell is going on?

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

7 Int. crew's quarters, galley, corridors, etc.

sleeping members are thrown from their berths. The claxon alarm sounds pervasively.....

Crew, etc.

What the --- Look out! ---

Stations --- etc.

8 Int. Excelsior Bridge

Lojur

Captain, she's not answering the Helm.....

Sulu

Starboard thrusters. Turn her into the wave!

9 Int. Excelsior engine room

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

Engineer

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

10 Int. Excelsior Bridge

10 Continued

Sulu

Quarter impulse power!

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

Sulu

Damage Report!

Voice (Filtered)

Seem to be in one piece, Captain.

We're checking all systems.....

10 The Main Viewscreen

vfxa

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

Sulu

(to Science officer)

Don't tell me that was any meteor shower.

Science officer

(over his console)

Negative. The subspace shock wave originated at bearing Three-two-three, Mark seven-five, the location of...

(turns to Sulu)

Praxis. A Klingon moon. Barren of indigenous life forms out...

Sulu

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

(thinks)

Send to Klingon high command:

"This is Excelsior, a Federation Starship traveling through Beta Quadrant. We have monitored a large explosion in your sector. DO YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE?"

Communications officer

Aye, Sir!

Sulu

Mr. Valtane, any more data?

10 Continued

Science officer

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

Sulu

What is it?

Science officer

...I cannot confirm the existence of Praxis.

Sulu reacts, goes over to the Science Console and looks at the screen. Nothing there.

Sulu

Magnify.

The Science officer hits the buttons

10 On the Viewscreen

vfxb

a barren moon with three-fourths of its mass blown away drifts lifelessly in a black void.

Sulu

Praxis?

Science officer

What's left of it.

Communications officer

Captain, I'm getting a message from
Klingon high command.

Sulu

Onscreen.

11 On Viewscreen:

a snowy picture of a wild-eyed Klingon officer.

Officer

This is an emergency! We have
suffered.....

he looks around, the ground is shaking under him, as
Sulu watches, the picture collapses, then comes on
again, with a different face.

Kerla

This is Brigadier Kerla, speaking
for the Klingon high command.

11 Continued:

Kerla (continuing)

There has been an incident on
Praxis, however everything is
under control. We have no need for
assistance. Obey treaty stipulations
and remain outside the Neutral Zone.
Transmission ends now!

12 The screen goes black. Sulu looks incredulous.

Sulu

An INCIDENT?!?

Communications officer

Do we report this, Sir?

Sulu

Are you kidding?

(swivels to the
communications officer)

Send to Starfleet Command....

13 Ext. Space

vfx

Excelsior warps off into the galaxy.

14 omitted

thru

22

22a CU Starfleet Insignia

Kirk walks into shot.

Kirk

What are we doing here?

Widen to reveal

23 Int. Starfleet briefing room - day
the room fills with bemedaled brass, Kirk's crew among them - the only starship complement in the room. They can't help looking at each other, questioning. They are in uniform.

Bones

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

22 Continued:

Uhura

My shore leave was just cancelled.

Scotty

Isn't this just for top brass?

Chekov

Where is Mr. Sulu?

Kirk

CAPTAIN Sulu is on assignment... anyone seen Spock?

A door opens and a Starfleet ADC, austere and Impressive enters and gavel the meeting to order.

ADC

This briefing is classified. There will be no recording devices.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commander in Chief.

All rise as the Starfleet Commander in Chief enters, with a briefcase and pulls materials from it.

Commander in Chief

As you were... I'll make this as simple as possible. The Klingon Empire has roughly 50 years of life left to it.

All look at each other in disbelief.

Commander in Chief

(Continuing)

For full details, I am turning the briefing over to our special Federation Envoy..

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

Spock

Good morning. Two months ago a Federation starship monitored an explosion on the Klingon moon Praxis. We believe it was caused by overmining and insufficient safety precautions. The moon's

decimation means an almost eighty percent loss of available energy and a deadly pollution of their ozone. They will have depleted their supply of

23 Continued

oxygen in less than half a century. Due to their enormous military budget, the Klingon economy does not have the resources with which to combat this catastrophe. Last month, at the behest of the, uh... Vulcan Ambassador, I opened a dialogue with Gorkon, Chancellor of the Klingon high council. He proposes to commence negotiations at once.

Admiral Donald

Negotiations for what?

Spock

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

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

Spock

(Continuing)

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

A Military Man

Bill, are we talking about mothballing the Starfleet?

Commander in Chief

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

Admiral Donald

I must protest. To offer the Klingons a safe haven within Federation space is suicide. And if we dismantle the fleet, we'd be defenseless before a Bellicose

people with a foothold on our territory, led by an unprincipled tyrant. The opportunity here is to embargo trading, force them to run

23 Continued:

through their own resources faster, and bring them to their knees. Then we'll be in a far better position to dictate terms.

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

Commander in Chief

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

Kirk

Sir.....

Commander in Chief

Captain Kirk?

Kirk

(Eyes Spock briefly)

Sir, I'm no diplomat, but the Klingons have never been trustworthy. I'm forced to agree with Admiral Donald. This is...

(He gropes for tact)

....a terrible, a terrifying idea!

the Admiral whispers to the Commander in Chief

Commander in Chief

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

Kirk

Yes, Sir.

Commander in Chief

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

Spock

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

23 Continued:

Commander in Chief
 Captian Kirk, you are to be our
 first olive branch.

Kirk
 Me?

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

Kirk is too startled to speak.

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

Kirk
 Why, in God's name?

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

Spock
 I have personally vouched for you
 in theis matter, Captain.

Kirk
 You have personally.....

Commander in Chief
 You will accord Chancellor Gorkon
 full diplomatic coutesy, Captain
 Kirk.

Kirk
 (Straining)
 Surely, a full Ambassador would be
 better equipped to....

Commander in Chief
 If there's no further business, I
 wish you and your crew Godspeed.
 Thank you all.

23 Continued

He charges out as all rise. Everyone files out.

Admiral Donald
 I don't know whether to

congratulate you or not, Jim.

He moves off before Kirk can reply. The room is empty except for Spock, still at the podium and Kirk sitting alone in the auditorium. He is curious, betrayed and Spock knows it.

Kirk

WE volunteered?

Spock

There's an old Vulcan proverb: only Nixon could have gone to China.

Kirk

(Incensed)

How could you vouch for me?

That's.....

(words fail him)

.....arrogant presumption.

Spock

I was asked by my father to open negotiations with the Klingon high council on behalf of the Federation. Under the circumstances, I was inclined to agree.

Kirk stands, and walks out of the room.

24 Omitted

25 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise

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

McCoy

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

Uhura

(Overlaps)

They're mothballing the fleet?

25 Continued

Chekov

(Overlaps)

Ve vill regret this....

Lt. Valeris

Captain on the bridge.

The crew stands to.

Kirk

As you were. Lieutenant...?

Lt. Valeris

We were told you would need a helmsman.....

(to Spock)

.....so I volunteered.

She salutes, Kirk smiles, returns the salute.

Spock

Lieutenant, I am please to see
you.

(to Kirk)

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

Kirk

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

Lt. Valeris

I don't believe so, Sir.

McCoy

She's a Vulcan all right

Kirk

(Down to business)

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

(pushes the intercomm)

Scotty?

The crew assume their familiar stations.

Scotty's voice (Filtered)

Aye, Sir?

Kirk

You find the engine room?

25 Continued:

Scotty's Voice

Right where I left it, Sir.

Kirk

Standby. Get me the dock master,
Uhura.

Uhura

Control tower, reading, Sir.

Kirk

Control, this is Enterprise,
requesting permission to depart.

Voice over (filtered)

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

Lt. Valeris

Clear all moorings.....

Kirk

Awaiting port gates from this
mark....

Voice over

Mooring lines cleared.....

Lt. Valeris

Aft thrusters.....

Kirk

(Overlaps)

Thank you, Lieutenant, one quarter
impulse power.....

Lt. Valeris

(She turns to face him)

Captain, may I remind you that
regulations specify thrusters only
while in space dock?

The crew, old and young, watch this exchange keenly.
Spock is poker faced.

McCoy

(next to Chekov)

Uh, Jim....

Kirk

You heard the order, Lieutenant.

25 Continued:

Lt. Valeris swivels away, rolling her eyes so Kirk can't
see, and hits the panel....

The ship begins to rattle slightly, then

26 Ext. Space dock

vfx

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

27 OMITTEED

THRU

29

30 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise - night

Kirk sits comfortably with a smile on his face

Kirk

(Continuing)

Lieutenant.....

Lieutenant Valeris faces him.

Kirk

(Continuing)

I don't care if I am senile. If
I sit in this chair and give the
word, you jump!

Spock watches.

Lt. Valeris

Aye, Sir.

Kirk

Plot a course for Kronos,

Lieutenant.

Lt. Valeris

Kronos, Sir?

Kirk

I'm still in the chair, Lieutenant!

Lt. Valeris

Aye, Sir.

Other reactions. Kirk has taken command.

31 Ext. Space

vfx

Enterprise cruises purposefully through the void.

Kirk's voice over

Captain's log, Stardate 8679.259.

They say you can't teach an old dog
new tricks, and maybe they're right.

It seems to me our mission to escort
the Chancellor of the Klingon High
Council to a peace summit is

Problematic at best.

32 Int. Kirks cabin

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

Kirk

(Continuing)

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

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

A delicate cough.

Kirk realizes he's not alone. Swivels to face:

Lieutenant Valeris standing in the bulkhead doorway.

Lt. Valeris

Sorry....

Kirk

Come on, Lieutenant, you could knock!

Lt. Valeris

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

Kirk

Right.

He stands up, and puts on his jacket. She watches.

Lt. Valeris

Permission to speak freely, Sir?

32 Continued:

He doesn't stop her

Lt. Valeris

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

Kirk

You piloted well out of spacedock, Lieutenant.

Lt. Valeris

(Almost Smiles)

I always wanted to try that.

Kirk

(Passing her)

Only don't try putting words in my mouth.

And leaves her with that!

33 Int. corridor outside Spocks quarters

Lt. Valeris approaches, this time she's smart enough to knock.

Spocks voice

Enter.

34 Int. Spocks quarters

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

Spock

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

Lt. Valeris

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

34 Continued

Spock

I am not certain such speculations

are included among your duties,
Lieutenant.

Voice (Filtered)

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

She's startled.

Spock

(Off her look)

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

He starts to get into uniform.

Spock

(Continuing)

You must have faith.

Lt. Valeris

Faith....?

Spock

That the universe will unfold as it
should.

35 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise

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

Voice

Captain on the bridge.

Chekov

Captain, shall we raise our
shields?

Spock looks at Kirk: "Trust me". Kirk scowls at him and
stares at the viewscreen. They all follow his gaze.

35 The main viewscreen

vfx

A Klingon battlecruiser. Huge.

Kirk

(Finally)

Never been this close!

35 Continued:

Spock

the Chancellor is undoubtedly
awaiting our signal.

Boy, is this hard for Kirk.....Finally:

Kirk

Uhura, hailing frequencies. Hard
starboard, bring us alongside....

Lt. Valeris

Hard starboard, Z plus five degrees.

- Uhura
Channel open, Captain.
- Kirk
This is the Starship Enterprise,
Captain James T. Kirk, Commanding.
- 36 Gorkon comes up on the main visual display.
Gorkon
This is Kronos one. I am
Chancellor Gorkon.
- Kirk
Chancellor. We've been ordered to
escort you through Federation space
to your meeting on Earth.
- Gorkon
Thank you, Captain.
- Kirk
(Does his best)
Uh....Would you and your party care
to dine this evening aboard the
Enterprise with my officers as guests
of the United Federation of Planets?
- 37 A few of the crew look around at Kirk.
Gorkon
We'd be delighted to accept your
gracious invitation.
- Kirk
(nuts)
We'll make arrangements to have you
beamed aboard at 1930 hours.
- 37 Continued:
Gorkon
I shall look forward to it.
He disappears. Kirk turns to Spock.
- Kirk
I hope you're happy.
- Lt. Valeris
Captain....
Kirk turns to face her.
- Lt. Valeris
(Continuing)
...there is a supply of Romulan ale
aboard, it might make the evening
pass more.....smoothly?
- Kirk smiles, relieved.
- Kirk
Officer thinking, Lieutenant.

38 At the communication console

Chekov leans over to Uhura.

Chekov

Guess who is coming to dinner?

39 Ext. Space

vfx

Both ships cruise parallel in space.

40 Int. Enterprise transporter room.

Scotty stands by the console. Kirk, Spock, and McCoy stand next to him. They are in dress uniform.

Scotty

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

Kirk

Energize....

40

vfx The beams reflect on the glass shield as half dozen

Klingons, including one woman, start materializing.

NB Separate beam-ins for Gorkon, Azetbur, Chang.

Gorkon descends first. He is tall, splendidly Barbaric.

40 Continuing

Kirk

Chancellor Gorkon.

The Klingons are lordly, formal, bow, taking in their surroundings. An electronic bosun's whistle pipes them aboard.

Kirk

(Continuing)

Chancellor, may I present Commander Spock, whom I believe you know, Doctor Leonard McCoy, Chief medical officer, Montgomery Scott, chief engineer...

Gorkon

(To Spock)

Commander, face to face at last.... you have my thanks.

Spock bows.

Gorkon

(Continuing)

Gentlemen, this is my daughter, Azetbur....my military adviser, Brigadier Kerla....and this is General Chang, My Chief of Staff.

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

Chang

I've always wanted to meet you,
Captain Kirk.

Kirk
(Smiles)

I'm not sure how to take that!

Kerla
Sincere admiration, Kirk.

Chang
(soft)

As one warrior to another....

Kirk
(ducks this)

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

40 Continuing

The party leaves. As they move past two crewmen....

1st Crewman

They all look alike.

2nd Crewman

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

They turn to find themselves facing an expressionless
Lieutenant Valeris.

Lt. Valeris
You men have work?

1st Crewman

Yes, Sir.

Lt. Valeris

Then snap to it.

41 Int. R deck corridor

Leaving the Enterprise Science Labs.

Gorkon

Your research laboratory is most
impressive.....

Kirk

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

Gorkon

This cannot be easy for you,
Captain.....

(off of Kirks look)

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

vessel.

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

Kirk

Would you care to go topside?

Chang

Very much.

41 Continuing

Chekov

(Pulling Kirk aside)

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

Kirk

(Clenched teeth)

Full diplomatic courtesy, Mr.

Chekov....

The party passes Uhura and a younger crewman.

Younger crewman

Would you want your daughter to
marry one?

42 OMITTED

42 Repeat 39 VFX

VFX

The two ships cruise parallel.

43 Int. officers mess, Enterprise

A window irises open revealing the stars gliding by.

A hand pours deep blue Romulan ale into Gorkon's
crystal goblet. Dinner well underway. Principals from
both parties are at the table. Stewards keep food and
drink in motion.

Gorkon

I give you a toast:

"The undiscovered country"

(off their looks)

The future.

All drink Romulan ale, echoing "the undiscovered
country". The Klingons eat with their fingers,
scorning utensils.

Spock

Hamlet, act three, scene one.

Gorkon

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

Chang turns to Kirk with a malicious twinkle.

43 Continued

Chang

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

Kirk

I beg your pardon?

Kerla

Captain Kirk, I thought Romulan ale was illegal.

It takes Kirk a moment to regain his composure.

Kirk

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

Silence.

McCoy

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

All drink. As Romulan ale flows throughout the scene, tongues get looser. Gorkon watches.

Scotty

Perhaps we are looking at something of that future here.

Azetbur

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

Spock

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

Uhura

How do both sides overcome engrained prejudice?

Chekov

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

43 Continued

McCoy

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

Chang

Captain Kirk, are you willing to give up Starfleet?

Kirk stares

Spock

(Looks at Kirk)

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

Kirk

(Glares)

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

Chang

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

Scotty

We have never tried to.....

Kerla

You hypocritically presume that your democratic system gives you a moral prerogative to force other cultures to conform to your politics.

McCoy

That's not true.....!

Kerla

No?

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

Uhura

General, are you fond of Shakespeare?

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

43 Continued

Chekov

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

Azetbur

(Spits)

"Human rights". Even the name is racist. The Federation is basically a "Homo Sapiens" only club.....

Spock reacts to this. Chang is amused.

Chang

Present company excepted, to be sure...

Uhura

Well, I suppose we're not perfect.

Scotty

(rising)

Don't let them put words in your mouth! I haven't served 30 years in the engine room of a Starship to be accused of gunboat diplomacy!

Kerla

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

Chekov

That's economics, not racism!

Uhura

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

McCoy

Don't be naive, Commander!

Uhura

Who are you calling "naive"?

Kirk stares sullenly down the table throughout this.

43 Continued:

Chekov

We're explorers, not diplomats!

McCoy

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

Scotty

We follow orders.....

Chekov

Since when has THAT been an excuse?

Diplomacy must resolve these.....

Scotty

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

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

Gorkon

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

Reactions from Kirk and his officers.

44 Int. Transporter room, Enterprise

Both parties are gathered, saying goodbyes.

Gorkon

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

Kirk

(wooden)

We must do this again soon.

Gorkon stares at him, smiles slightly.

Gorkon

You don't trust me.

Kirk can't look at him.

Gorkon

(Continuing)

I don't blame you. If there is to be a "Brave new world", we old people will have the hardest time living it it.

44 Continued

Gorkon

(Turns to Spock)

Commander Spock.

Spock

Chancellor. A pleasure to meet you, Ma'am

Azetbur

Captain, Commander.....

Kirk

General Chang, a pleasure.....

Chang

(Grins)

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

Kirk is ready to slug him, but turns his fist into a salute. The Klingons step on the transporter platform.

Chang speaks into his communicator, nods to Kirk.

Kirk

Energize.

44 They disappear. The Bosun's whistle.

vfx

Scotty

Thank God.

Chekov

Did you see the way they ate?

Terrible table manners.

Spock

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

Kirk

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

He starts out, others follow....

45 Int. Kirks quarters

He comes in slightly drunk and pushes the button on his
log. Lies on his bunk and speaks. The ships bells give

45 Continued

0100.

Kirk

Captains Log. Stardate 8679.15.
The Enterprise hosted Chancellor
Gorkon and company for dinner last
night. Our manners were not
exactly Emily Post. Note to the
galley: Romulan ale no longer to be
seved at diplomatic functions.

He leans back, sighs, thinking -

Kirk

(Continuing)

But it wasn't the ale. That was
just the excuse we needed to say
all the things there were really on
our minds.....

Spocks voice

(filtered)

Captain Kirk, you are wanted on the
bridge. Captain Kirk.....

Kirk reacts, tries to shake himself awake.

46 Int. Enterprise bridge

Kirk enters. Glances at the main visual display: the

46 battlecruiser still travels silently alongside.

vfx

Vulcan Lt. still has the conn. Spock is at his post.

Spock

Captain.

Kirk

(rubs his eyes)

What is it?

Spock

I am uncertain

Kirk
Spock, I'm really tired....
Spock
We are reading an enormous amount
of Neutron radiation.

46 Continued

Kirk
(tries to focus)
Where?
Spock
Curiously, it appears to emanate
from us.
Kirk
From Enterprise?
Spock remains silent. Kirk is disturbed, paces,
watching the displays.

Kirk
Lieutenant, you know anything about a
Neutron energy surge?

Lt. Valeris
Sir?

Kirk
Mr. Chekov, anything unusual?

Chekov
Just the size of my head....

Kirk
I know what you mean.....

46 A photon torpedo suddenly streaks from the bottom of
vfxb the screen and hits the hull of the Presidents
flagship!

Kirk
What the.....
Spock
We've fired on the Chancellor's
ship.

Chekov
Torpedo room.....

Kirk
Uhura, monitor!
Lt. Valeris

Direct hit!

Uhura
Confirmed, Captain!

46 Continued

46 A second photon torpedo shoots out from the bottom of
vfxc the display screen towards the Presidents ship!

Kirk
(frantic)

Who's doing that???

The Vulcan Lt. hits panel controls, trying to find out.

- 47 Int. Gorkons stateroom, Klingon flagship
Gorkon, several advisers, and soldiers were seated, but the impact has thrown them about. They speak subtitled Klingon.
The entire flagship is drenched in amber emergency light.

Adviser

We're hit...!

Another blast. They start floating helplessly in the air! Everything mobile rises, weapons float out of reach...

Soldier

Gravity generator!

- 48 Int. Transporter room, Flagship
close on
- 48 Two sets of heavy gravity boots, as the materialize. vfxa the legs inside them wear Starfleet uniforms, and carry phasers at their sides. They shoot the Klingon transporter officer. They stomp heavily through the alarms and chaos, firing at the helpless, floating crew...cries of the wounded. Weapons float out of their holsters just out of reach in the amber light.....
- 48 Klingon blood floats in the air.
vfxb
- 49 Int. Flagship corridor
Where Klingon crew are floating helplessly. The gravity boots shoot anything in their way, walk on walls, etc. as they hurry along to:
- 50 Int. Gorkons stateroom, Flagship
Where they blast a guard at the door, severing his arm and enter. The Klingons have weapons, but are floating
- 50 Continued
and unable to aim. They are quickly shot as the two hit men make their way toward Gorkon.
- 50 Blood now floats about as well as debris in the vfx crackling emergency lighting. A good deal of hissing steam.....
Chancellor Gorkon is shot. The hit men turn and exit quickly. Linger on a scene of weightless carnage and assassination.
- 51 Int. Flagship corridor - night
vfx

The hit men hurry back the way they came in their awkward magnetic boots. Bodies and blood floating around them.

52 Int. Transporter room, Flagship

52 The heavy boots step on the platform and de-materialize.
vfx (One foot treads on floating Klingon blood)

53 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise

53 A snowy picture on the visual display, then Chang comes
vfxa on (still in amber light)....

Chang

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

Uhura

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

Kirk

We haven't fired....

Spock

According to the data bank, we have....
...Twice!

Lt. Valeris

Captain, they're coming about!

53 Main viewscreen

vfxb

One battlecruiser flagship now heading for Enterprise.

Spock

They're preparing to fire.

53 Continued

Chekov

Shields up, Captain?

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

Lt. Valeris

Captain, our shields!

Kirk

Uhura, signal our surrender.

Uhura

Captain....!

Kirk

WE SURRENDER!

Uhura

Chekov

This is Enterprise, Captain, if they fire
we surrender. Repeat, at us with our shields
Enterprise surrenders! down.....!

Kirk

Torpedo bay! Did we fire those torpedoes?

54 Omitted

55 Int. Enterprise torpedo bay

Scotty

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

56 Int. Enterprise bridge

Angle on Spock

reacting. How can this be? He checks data banks again.

56 CU data banks: they confirm, two photon torpedoes fired.

vfx

Kirk

Stand down your weapons.

Scotty (V.O.)

Captain, if.....

57 Another angle

Kirk

STAND DOWN, Mr. Scott. All stop.

That's an order!

57 Continued

Scotty

Aye, Sir!

McCoy rushes in, carrying his stuff.

McCoy

What the hell's going on?

Kirk

I wish I knew. Uhura?

Uhura

It's pretty chaotic over there.

There's been some weapons fire and a lot of shouting....

Kirk

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

He heads for the turbolift. Spock blocks him.

Spock

I am responsible for involving you in this. I will go.

Kirk

(Bitter)

I'M going! You're going to be responsible for getting me out of this! Meanwhile we're not going to be the instigators of a full scale war on the eve of universal peace.

Spock

Perhaps you're right.

And Spock uncharacteristically pats him on the back

Spock

Good luck, Captain.

McCoy

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

Kirk

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

They hurry out.

58 Int. Gorkons stateroom, Flagship

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

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

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

59 Int. Flagship transporter room

vfx

Kirk and McCoy materialize. They are quickly surrounded by armed soldiers. Kirk puts his hands out to indicate they are not carrying weapons. They are searched as Kerla enters.

Kerla

Have you lost your mind?

Kirk

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

McCoy

We're here to help.....

Kerla

(hesitates, furious)

Follow me.

He leads them along the corridor

60 Int. flagship corridor

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

61 Int. Gorkons stateroom, Flagship

where dead and wounded are being separated.

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

McCoy

Chancellor Gorkon!

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

61 Continued

Kirk

My God, what happened here?

Chang

You feign ignorance?

Kirk

WHAT HAPPENED?

Chang

You crippled our gravitational field with a direct torpedo hit, and two Starfleet crewmen beamed aboard in magnetic boots and did this! We have witnesses!

Kirk has no response, is shocked.

McCoy

Jim!

McCoy is being held back from Gorkon by two Klingons.

Kirk

He's a DOCTOR!

Chang

How can I trust....

McCoy

Are you carrying a surgeon?

Chang

We were, until you fired your torpedoes!

McCoy

Then let me help!

Chang hesitates, then signals. McCoy is released.

McCoy

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

Klingons lift Gorkon onto his table, someone produces light. McCoy whips out his medical scanner. His hands are shaking.

McCoy

(To Kirk)

Hold him.

Kirk grabs Gorkons arms.

61 Continued

McCoy

(Continuing)

Sweet Jesus....! He's lost a lot of

whatever this stuff is....

Kirk

Can you.....?

McCoy

Jim, I don't even know his anatomy

McCoy furiously goes over Gorkon with his anabolic photoplaser. Shakes his head. Gorkon clutches Kirk.

McCoy

The wounds aren't closing....

Kerla

You're killing him!

Kirk grabs Chang before he can get to McCoy

Kirk

NO!

McCoy

Chancellor Gorkon, can you hear me?

Chancellor.....?

No response. McCoy rips open Gorkon's collar....

Azetbur

Father.....!

Kirk

Bones.....?

McCoy

He's gone into some kind of

arrest.....COME ON, DAMMIT!!

He tries a medical tricorder.

Frantically, he whumps Gorkon's chest, as Kirk, et al, look as Gorkon feebly opens his eyes, sees kirk....

Gorkon

Are you alright?

Gorkon freezes, McCoy looks at his scanner. It burns bright red. Gorkon is dead. Kirk is in shock, he can't believe it.

61 Continued

McCoy

(Stunned)

I've lost him.....

Azetbur sits holding Gorkon, dry-eyed. Kirk pulls at McCoy

Chang

(grim triumph)

Under article 184 of Interstellar

Law, I place you both under arrest.

You are charged with assassinating the Chancellor of the High Council.

Kirk

He just tried to save him!!!!

Chang
(Klingon)

Take them away.

They are handcuffed. Both are in shock.

62 Int. bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise

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

Uhura

They've been arrested.

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

Chekov

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

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

Spock
(finally)

I assume command of this ship as of
(he checks)

0130 hours. Uhura, send to Starfleet HQ. Explain precisely what has taken place, and request instructions.

Uhura

Yes, Sir.

62 Continued

Lt. Valeris

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

Spock

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

Scotty

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

Spock

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

Lt. Valeris

How did you....?

Spock

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

Scotty

NO WAY!

Spock

Mr. Scott, you forget yourself.

Please accompany me.

He starts out.

Chekov

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

Spock turns unhappily.

Spock

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

63 Int. Office of the Federation President - Day

63 Continued

The Federation President and the Klingon Ambassador.

With them is the Vulcan Ambassador, Sarek, Spock's father, and Nanclus, the Romulan Ambassador.

Klingon Ambassador

The Chancellor of the High Council is dead, the result of an unprovoked attack while he travelled to see YOU under a flag of truce on a mission of peace. Captain Kirk was legally arrested for the crime. May I remind you that he, and Doctor McCoy boarded Kronos One of their own free will. None of these facts are in dispute, Mr. President. And as a matter of these facts, the Klingon people have a right to justice. What I am asking now is, does the Federation plan to stand in the way of our justice? Or do you consider yourself and all Federation personnel above the law?

A mumbling is heard throughout the court at this line.

Klingon ambassador

I am waiting for your answer, Mr. President!

Long pause

President

This President is not above the law!

The Klingon Ambassador bows and takes his leave.

The President is left with the two Ambassadors

Sec'y voice

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

President

Send them in.

Three officers from Starfleet, including Admiral Donald, and the Commander in Chief, enter from a different door.

Admiral Donald

Mr. President.

63 Continued

President

Admiral Donald...Bill....

Admiral Donald

Mr. President, we cannot allow Federation citizens to be abducted!

President

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

A stand off. Donald nods to another officer.

Officer

We've prepared Operation Retrieve based on the rising danger of terrorism between the Klingon Empire and the Federation. Sir, we can go in and rescue the hostages and be out in 24 hours with an acceptable rate of loss in manpower and equipment. We have the technology to.....

President

Suppose you precipitate a full scale war?

Officer

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

Ambassador Nanclus

Mr. President, they are vulnerable.

There'll never be a better time....

Pause as the president considers.

President

I'd prefer not to be the President
to push the button if I can avoid
it, not for two hostages.

Admiral Donald

The longer we wait, the less
accessible the hostages will be,
Sir!

President

I'll bear that in mind, Admiral.

63 Continued

President

(continuing)

I think that's all.....Sir!

The president looks at Admiral Donald on this line

Commander in Chief

Those men have literally saved this
planet, and you know it!

President

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

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

President

Do you know I agree with everything
they said?

Ambassador Sarek

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

The President looks at him.

President

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

Ambassador Sarek

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

President

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

week.

He swallows some pills.

64 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise

Uhura's communications panel. Chekov stands over her shoulder. In Uhura's earpiece we can hear filtered screaming! She can hardly stand the volume.

64 Continued

Uhura

(understates)

We are to report back at once.

Chekov

We cannot abandon Captain Kirk and Doctor McCoy!

He looks at the rest of the crew. The Vulcan Lt. wanders over.

Lt. Valeris

Trouble?

Uhura

We've been ordered to....

Lt. Valeris

Four hundred years ago, on the Planet Earth, workers whose lives were threatened by automation, flung their wooden shoes, called Sabots, into the machines to stop them. Hence the word Sabo-tage.

Uhura

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

Chekov

Excellent. I mean too bad.

Lt. Valeris

I will inform Captain Spock.

65 Office of the Federation President - Day

The President is meeting with six civilian advisers.

Munitions Businessman

You have our total support, Mr. President. My factories can gear up to full weapons production in less than a week.

President

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

Munitions Businessman

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

Ambassador Sarek

If I may, Mr. President. the important thing is too keep the peace process alive. If the new Chancellor is so disposed, perhaps we can attach a rider, get some assurance that these men won't be executed. Then, in a year.....

Sec'y Voice

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

They all swing to look at the far wall, which
65 lights up as a visual display. After a snowy
vfx beginning, Azetbur appears.

66 Int. Azetbur's office

Azetbur

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

67 Int. office of the president

Reactions in the room.

President

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

Azetbur

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

67 Continued

President

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

Azetbur

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

President

As you wish, Madam Chancellor.
She clicks off. The President and his advisers are a
little speechless at her strength and brusqueness.
More pills.

68 Int. Azetbur's office - day
She's gotten off the compic. We are now in Klingon.

Kerla

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

He unfurls battle plans.....

First General

Attack, or be slaves in their world!

Second General

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

Azetbur (weary)

You don't seem to grasp our
situation, General. War is now
obsolete. As we are in danger of
becoming.

Kerla

Better to die on our feet, than living
on our knees...!

Azetbur

That wasn't what my father wanted!

Chang (bitter)

He was killed for what he wanted!

That sinks in. Azetbur hardens. Faces Chang.

68 Continued

Azetbur

Kirk must have a fair trial.

Chang

Of course.

Azetbur (Stony)

But I want a conviction. You will
represent the State, General Chang.

Chang

With pleasure, Madam Chancellor.

69 Int. Torpedo bay, U.S.S. Enterprise
Spock and Scotty hover over the torpedo console,
looking at numbers and lights. Spock thinks hard.

Eight bells sound. It is perfectly clear: according to the Inventory program, all torpedoes are still aboard!!!

Scotty

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

Spock (musing)

Yet the data banks insist we fired,
twice. one computer is lying.

Scotty

A computer canna lie, Sir.

Spock

Then we must check the torpedoes,
Visually!

Scotty

That could take hours!

Spock

Nevertheless.

Scotty

And if they're all in place?

Spock

Then someone forced a data bank
computer entry.

The Vulcan Lt. descends into the bay.

69 Continued

Lt. Valeris

They've named Gorkon's daughter
Chancellor, it was on the news.

Scotty

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

Spock

Her own father....?

Lt. Valeris

It is an old story, Sir.

Scotty

They don't place the same value on
life that we do, Mr. Spock. You know
that, take my word! She didn't shed
one bloody tear...!

Spock

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

Before Scotty can react.

Spock (Continuing)

Any reply from Starfleet to our
dispatch, Lieutenant?

Lt. Valeris

Not as yet, Sir.

Spock

(Looks at her keenly)

Curious.

Lt. Valeris

Commander Uhura has been
experiencing technical difficulties,
Sir.

Spock

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

Lt. Valeris

A lie?

69 Continued

Spock

An omission. After that.....

Scotty

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

Spock

I know precisely where he'll be!

Scotty and Lieutenant Valeris react.

Scotty

You do? Where?

70 Tight on Kirk's eyes. Jump back to reveal

vfx

The Klingon empire in all its barbaric splendor
A cavernous stadium arranged in circular tiers cut from
jagged stone. A place from a bygone age, of savage and
awesome beauty. Something between a circus and a
cathedral.....

.....turned for the occasion into a gigantic courtroom
with thousands of spectators, screaming: "Kirk! Kirk!
Kirk!"

Many in the audience hold spears with lighted heads.
Kirk and McCoy in the dock, stand in the bottom at the
very center of the circle, surrounded by a Klingon
audience in rising tiers, while hooded Klingon judges
sit invisible in a darkened dugout. (One judge is an
albino.)

Chang wears the prosecutor's mantle.

In the audience is President Azetbur and her advisers.

The trial is being broadcast and special cameras abound.

Near Kirk and McCoy sits their young, eager Klingon defense attorney. Kirk keeps his cool throughout, though McCoy tends to steam.

The rules are different. Attorneys are empowered to ask their witnesses a question at any time, and to mix this up with statements and charges.

The proceedings begin in subtitled Klingon. Kirk and McCoy wear headphones. When they speak, a translator

70 Continued

converts to Klingon.

As Chang gets going, we zoom into his mouth and he converts to english... the judges gavel is a grotesque nailed glove.

Chang

The State will show that Enterprise fired on Kronos One without provocation, the Chancellor and his advisers having been lulled into a false sense of security with an invitation to a state dinner aboard Captain Kirk's vessel at 1930 hours that same evening.

(Turns to Kirk

Do you deny all this?

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

Judge

The Prisoner will respond.

Kirk

I don't deny we invited them to dinner.

71 Angel on Chancellor Azetbur

Chang

Were you drunk at that dinner, Captain?

72 Int. President's UFP's office - Day

72 The President and his advisers, including Sarek, watch vfx the proceedings unhappily onscreen. Translator's voice over.

Kirk

What?

Chang

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

overwhelming potency?

Kirk

The drink was served.

The Commander in Chief and President wince.

72 Continued

Commander in Chief

This is a damned show trial.

73 Int. Klingon courtroom - Day

Chang

And you still maintain your ship did not fire on Kronos One? Would you have known if she had? Come now, Captain. the record clearly shows there were no other ships in the sector.

Kirk

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

Chang

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

Kirk

I checked the data banks, yes.

Chang

And what did they tell you?

Kirk (Reluctant)

That we fired two Photon Torpedoes.

But.....

The mob howls.

Chang

The witness is excused, for the time being.

Chang whirls off as the Judge gavel.

74 Int. Klingon Courtroom - Day

One of President Gorkons Guards is on the stand, he is missing an arm.

Guard

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

75 Widen to reveal we are watching aboard Enterprise.

Spock, et al, are receiving the transmission on their main visual display. They watch in silence.

Translator's voice.

Defense Attorney

Perhaps they merely wore Starfleet uniforms....

Chang

I move that remark be stricken as purely speculative....

Judge

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

Defense Attorney

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

Guard

They appeared to be wearing magnetic boots.

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

Spock

Gravity boots.....

76 Int. Klingon Courtroom - Day

Chang

They fired on you?

Guard

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

Chang

Towards the transporter room?

Guard

Yes, Sir.

Swish pan to CU Sulu

77 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Excelsior

77 Continued

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

78 Int. Klingon Courtroom - Day

Chang

Doctor McCoy, what is your current medical status?

McCoy

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

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

McCoy (continuing)

For 27 years I have been Ships
Surgeon and later Chief Medical
Officer aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise.
In three months, I'm due to stand down.

Chang

Stand.....?

McCoy

Retire.

Chang (soft)

Ah. I believe you also consumed
Romulan ale at the officers mess
on the night in question, Doctor?

Defense Attorney

Objection!

Judge

Sustained.

McCoy (angry)

We all did. But that doesn't
mean.....

Judge

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

Chang

Was Chancellor Gorkon alive when
you first examined him?

McCoy

Barely.

78 Continued

Chang

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

President Azetbur flinches at the memory.

McCoy

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

Chang

You say you are due for retirement.
May I ask: Do your hands shake?

Defense Attorney

Objection!

Judge

Overruled.

McCoy

I was nervous.

Chang

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

McCoy

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

Chang

The Chacellor herself will testify that the defendant's hands shook!

79 Int. UFP President's office.

79 The President, et al, watch unhappily
vfx

80 Int. Klingon Courtroom - Day

Chang

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

80 Continued

Kirk

That isn't true.....!

Chang

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

Defense Attorney

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

Judge

Sustained.

Chang

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

He signals. Kirk's voice stills the room.

Kirk's voice

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

An explosive babble fills the court. The Judge pounds his glove for order....quick reaction shots:

81 The Enterprise

82 The President's Office

83 The Excelsior - then back to the courtroom

84 Int. Courtroom - Day

Chang

Are those your words?

Kirk

Yes.

84 Continued

Chang

Spoken by you?

Kirk

Yes.

Chang

Louder, please. We cannot hear you.

Kirk (firmer)

Those words WERE spoken by me.

85 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Excelsior

85 Sulu is speaking confidentially to his communications vfx officer. On screen behind them, the trial continues.

Sulu

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

Communications officer

Is that wise, sir? I mean, given their situation-

(off Sulu's look)

Aye, Sir!

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

85A Courtroom

Defense Attorney

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

86 Int. Enterprise Bridge

86 The trial is on several monitor BG. Spock, next to vfx Uhura.

Uhura

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

Spock
(unhappy)

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

86 Continued

Chang (V.O.)

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

87 Int. Klingon Courtroom - Day

Chang (continuing)

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

Defense Attorney

Don't answer - objection!

Judge

Objection overruled. The Prisoner
will answer the question.

Kirk

I cannot deny it.

Chang

You were demoted.....

Kirk

Yes.

Chang

For insubordination.

Kirk

I have on occasion disobeyed
orders.

Chang

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

87 Continued

Defense Attorney (overlapping)

I Object!

Kirk (overlapping)

I was unaware of the assassination
until I boarded his ship!

Chang (overlapping)

You deny Enterprise fired on Kronos
One?

Kirk

Well, I....

Chang (overlapping)

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

Kirk

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

Chang

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

Kirk

I am.

Chang

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

McCoy

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

Judge

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

Kirk (heavily)

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

87 Continued

Chang

Your honors, the State rests.

An excited babble. Kirk and McCoy turn to their
attorney.

McCoy

Is it our turn, now?

Defense Attorney (grim)

According to Klingon law, both sides
present their cases at the same
time, we have had our turn!

On McCoys and Kirks reaction. The Judges nailed fist
crashes down with a flurry of sparks.

Judge

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

Sensation in court. A booming chant "Koom, Koom!!!" as
all the light spears are pointed at Kirk and McCoy.
Chang is stone-faced, again, the horrible gauntlet.

Judge

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

They face the Judges' box. Intercut this moment with

88 Int. Enterprise Bridge - Day

Spocks face - What has he done?

89 Int. Klingon Courtroom

Judge

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

Kirk and McCoy look at each other.

McCoy (simply)

We were framed.

Defense Attorney

(Rises passionately

I wish to note for the record that
the evidence against my clients is
entirely circumstantial. I beg the

89 Continued

court to consider this when framing
its sentence.

Judge (beat)

So noted. In the interests of
amity for the forthcoming peace
talks, the sentence of death is
commuted.

(the crowd roars)

It is the judgement of this court
that without possibility of
reprieve or parole, you be taken
from this place to the Dilithium
mines on the Penthe asteroid,

there to spend the rest of your
natural lives.

Off Kirks and McCoys reactions.

90 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise

Uhura (tearfull eyes)

Rura Penthe!

Chekov

Known throughout the galaxy as the
Aliens' graveyard.

Scotty

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

It takes Spock a moment to recover himself.

Spock

Let's see it again, Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Valeris pushes a button. As attention is
diverted, Spock mops his brow.

The crew watch in silence as the monitor replays the
hit. (Sc. 46 vfxb)

Chekov (hopeless)

It is Enterprise. We fired.

As the replay indicates this, Spock stares.....

Scotty (anger & confusion)

It's na possible!! All weapons

VISUALLY accounted for. Sir!

90 Continued

Lt. Valeris

Commander? It it not logical to
consider ALL possibilites?

(off their looks)

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

Spocks gaze stops her.

Lt. Valeris (continuing)

Well, it is a possibility!

After an impenetrable pause -

Spock

Again.

Another replay as they watch.

Spock

Hold.

They stare at the frozen image.

Spock (continuing)

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

Uhura

What exactly does that mean?

Spock

It means that if we cannot have
fired those torpedoes, then someone
else did!

Scotty

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

Spock

(grasping at straws)

There was and enormous neutron
energy surge.

Scotty (insisting)

Not from us!!

90 Continued

Chekov (square one)

A neutron surge that big could only
be produced by another ship.....

Uhura

Kronos One?

Spock

Too far off. Very near us.

Perhaps....underneath us....!

Scotty

If another ship had been beneath us,
the Klingons would have seen her!

Spock

Would they?

Long pause.

Lt. Valeris

Bird of Prey!

Chekov

Cloaked!?

Spock says nothing.

Scotty

A Bird of Prey canna fire when
shes cloaked!

Spock

All things being equal, Mr. Scott,
I would agree. However, "things"
are not equal, this one can!

Scotty

Then you're talking about a
dreadful new engine of destruction,
Mr. Spock!

Spock

I believe I am.

Lt. Valeris

We must inform Starfleet Command....

Scotty (enraged)

Inform them of what? A new weapon
that isn't visible? Raving
lunatics - that's what they'll call

90 Continued

us! They'll say we're so desperate
to exonerate the Captain, we'll say
anything!

Spock

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

Uhura

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

Spock

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

Lt. Valeris

Sir.....

Chekov

I don't understand. If there was
a ship underneath us, surely the
assassins beamed aboard from that
wessel, not Enterprise.

Spock

You are forgetting something:

(off their looks)

the data banks say we fired. If we
did, the killers are here. If we
didn't, whoever altered the data
banks is on board. Either way, what
we are searching for is here....

Chekov

What are we searching for, Mr.

Spock?

Spock

You tell them, Lieutenant.

90A Close on Vulcan Lieutenant

Lt. Valeris (it's elementary)

Two pairs of gravity boots!

Spock is well pleased with her.

91 Ext. Rura Penthe Penal Colony - Day

91 Three suns glare down on a huge vista, an ice field,
vfx the coldest habitable place in the solar system.

A small moving dark mass as we push in, reveals
Fifteen prisoners in leg irons and five Klingon guards
with jackal-mastiffs moving slowly across the frigid
plain.

Kirk and McCoy, likewise shackled, are among them.

Guards and prisoners alike wear ragged furs.

They reach a lone totem and a guard holds up his hand
for a halt. He presses an instrument emitting a high-
pitched whine.

In response, a huge trap door buried in the snow,
yawns open. A Klingon guard emerges from steps below,
and places a box before the gaping door.

As Kirk and McCoy watch, the commandant of Rura Penthe
and his jackal mastiff emerge. He mounts the box.

Commandant

This is the gulag Rura Penthe.

Observe: there is no stockade, no
guard tower, no electrified
fence! They are not needed here!

Only a magnetic shield prevents
beaming. Your new home awaits....
underground!

He blows a mechanical whistle. In response, two guards
emerge from below with a screaming Klingon convict.

Prisoner

No! Nooooo!

Commandant

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

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

Commandant

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

badly, and you will die.

91 Continued

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

91A Long shot

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

91B Int. Rura Penthe

Start looking up at the closing trap door, outside we can see snow flurries as the panel shuts with a clang.

Pan down to reveal

A huge underground labyrinth with an enormous courtyard surrounded by prisoners huts open to the center.

Prisoners wander freely within. The scum of the universe

Everyone wears furs, leg irons, and is freezing.

An endless scaffolding above, the guards.

Many of the prisoners look like they could snap Kirk and McCoy in half, with one hand.

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

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

Alien

Auog wok na pushnat.

Kirk

I'm afraid our universal translator was confiscated.

Alien

Ring notsa loskent!

Kirk

Sorry.....

Alien

Rangnit ascru, unto pram moreoscue shondik!!!!

91B Continued

McCoy

He's definitely on about something!

Alien

Quog wok na pushnat!!!

The alien picks Kirk up.

Kirk

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

The alien is about to behead Kirk

Martia (O.S.)

He wants your obedience to the
Brotherhood of Aliens.

Kirk

He's got it!

Martia

And your coat.

Kirk

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

Martia

Krandog aranty.

The alien puts Kirk down.

Martia (continuing)

Fendo pompsky.

The alien nods and wanders off.

Kirk

Thanks.....

McCoy

What's the Brotherhood of Aliens?

Martia

Prisoners from outside the Klingon
Systems. They tend to band together.

I'm Martia.

She's a tall, and very good looking female, boots to
her thighs, exotic furs, tattered but clearly humanoid.

91b Continued

She's smoking something, offers them a hit.

Martia

This'll help keep you warm. You're
Kirk and McCoy.

Kirk takes the hit, offers McCoy....it does warm you!

Kirk

How did you know...?

Martia (shrugs)

We don't get many Presidential
assassins.

Kirk

We didn't kill Gorkon.

Martia (deadpan)

Of course not. (looks around)

There's a reward for your death!

McCoy (looks around also)

Figures.

Kirk

We've been set up all along.

Martia

Somebody up there wants you out of the way.

McCoy

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

Martia

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

McCoy

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

Martia

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

Kirk

How much time's left of your sentence?

91b Continued

Martia (smiles grimly)

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

Kirk and McCoy didn't know.

92 Int. Galley, U.S.S. Enterprise

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

Spock

Any progress?

Lt. Valeris

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

Spock

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

Chekov (mimes with his finger)

Why not simply vaporize them?

Lt. Valeris

Like this?

She whips out her phaser and fires, incinerating a pot.
Alarms and claxons howl! Chekov covers his ears.

Lt. Valeris

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

She switches off the alarm and has another thought:

Lt. Valeris

Suppose when they returned, they
threw the boots into the garbage?

92 Continued

Spock

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

Uhura comes into the galley, Stepping over pots and
pans. She is not happy.

Uhura

Did someone shoot off a phaser,
Mr. Spock?

He turns.

Uhura (continuing)

I've pulled out my - ah, wooden shoe
and Starfleet is screaming for us
to return to port!

Spock

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

Scotty

There's nothing wrong with the
bloody.....

Spock coughs hard.

Scotty

.....Could take weeks, Sir!

Spock

Thank you, Mr. Scott. Were we to
return to spacedock, the killers

would surely manage to dispose of
their incriminating footwear.

(turns to Uhura)

Please report our situation to
Starfleet.

Lt. Valeris

A lie?

Spock

An error.

92 Continued

Uhura

I'll tell them someone threw a
gravity boot into it!

Angle on Spock

Reacting. He looks at Lt. Valeris

Lt. Valeris

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

She goes off, shaking her head.

Uhura

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

Spock

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

93 Int. Rura Penthe penal colony.

Kirk gets hit in the face. It's already bloody. It's
a prison fight. Kirk and an alien are surrounded by
prisoners who are sneering and jeering.

Kirk and McCoy are distinctly grubbier.

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

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

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

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

But a paw reaches out and grabs him by the ankle. Kirk looks back and the alien is grinning, drags him in.

93 Continued

The alien stands, and grips Kirk, chest to back, in a giant bear hug. Surely, he will crush the life out of Kirk. He lifts Kirk right off of the ground. Kirk, almost gone, lifts his legs up high, and swings down hard, smashing the alien in the knee. That does it. The alien falls to the ground, screaming and holding his knee. Kirk staggers away, catching his breath.

Martia

They'll respect him now....

McCoy

That's a comfort!

Kirk

I was lucky that thing had knees.

They look back. The alien is still on the ground

Martia

That's not his knee!

(off Kirk's look)

Not everybody keeps their genitals in the same place, Captain!

Kirk

Anything you want to tell me?

Before she can answer.

Kirk (Continuing)

McCoy, why don't you see what you can do? Let them know we're not holding a grudge.

McCoy

Suppose HE'S holding a grudge?

McCoy tentatively goes forward, and examines the knee.

He is without any medical tools of any kind.

The alien yells, but lets him look. He manipulates the leg, then ties a kind of splint with an old rag....

94 Angle on Kirk

Kirk

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

Martia looks at him, moves off.

95 Int. Sulu's cabin, U.S.S. Excelsior.

Sulu is asleep, awakened by a knock.

Sulu

Come in....?

His communications officer enters.

Officer

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

Sulu (groggy)

What?

Officer

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

Sulu

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

Officer (astonished)

Sir?

Sulu

You have hearing problems, Mister?

Officer

No, Sir!

He salutes and leaves. Sulu stays awake.

Dissolve:

96 Int. Hut on Rura Penthe - Night

Kirk and McCoy try to sleep on rude cots in a hut off
the main courtyard, tattered, exhusted wrecks.

McCoy

Three months till retirement. What
a way to finish.

Kirk (thinking)

We're not finished.

McCoy

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

96 Continued

He makes a gesture across his own throat.

McCoy (continuing)

Kobyashi Maru!

Close on Kirk

Kirk

Bones....are you afraid of the
future?

McCoy

That was the general idea I
intended to convey.

Kirk

I didn't mean this future.

McCoy

Are we playing multiple choice?

Kirk

Some people ARE afraid of the future, of what MIGHT happen.

(pauses)

I was frightened, really frightened!

McCoy

I've looked death in the eye a thousand times and tried to be professional about it. Of course it wasn't usually MY death I was looking at.

(pause)

What frightened you, specifically?

Kirk

No more neutral zone. I was USED to hating Klingons...that's why I failed in our assignment. It never even occurred to me to take Gorkon at his word. Spock was right.

McCoy

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

Kirk (shakes his head)

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

96 Continued

McCoy

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

Kirk

Time's a problem. You heard the Judge: the peace conference is on again. Whoever killed Gorkon will sandbag the whole thing all over again unless we find a way out of here!

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

Martia (whispers)

Kirk? It's me, Martia

Kirk opens his eyes, McCoy plays possum.

Martia (continuing)

Listen, no one has ever escaped

from Rura Penthe.

Kirk (ready)

Except us!

Martia

It is possible.

He regards her warily

Martia (continuing)

I know how to get outside the shield.

Kirk

Where do we come in?

Martia

Getting outside the shield is easy.

After that it's up to you to get us off the surface before we freeze.

Can you?

Kirk

Possibly.

Martia

I can't make it alone. You're the likeliest candidate to come to this hellhole in months.

96 Continued

Kirk

Candidate for what?

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

97 Angle on McCoy

Rolls his eyes.

Martia

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

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

McCoy

What is it with you, anyway?

Kirk

Still think we're finished?

McCoy

More than ever!

98 Ext. Rura Penthe asteroid - night

The wind howls in an otherwise barren landscape.

99 Int. Transporter room, U.S.S. Enterprise

Chekov is examining the platform and environs carefully. He comes across spots of violet. He

scrapes samples into an evidence tube, and seals it,
then hurries out.

100 Int. Science lab, U.S.S. Enterprise

Spock studies the sample under a microscope.

Spock

Klingon blood!

Chekov

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

Spock

This is the first evidence that
corroborates our theory.

100 Continued

Chekov

Now we go to Starfleet?

Spock

Now we expand our search to include
uniforms!

Chekov

All uniforms?

Spock looks at him.

Chekov (starts out)

Aye, Sir...ALL uniforms!

Spock

Mister Chekov.

Chekov turns.

Spock

The longer we wait, the greater
danger in which we leave the
Captain and Doctor McCoy!

101 Montage: the Enterprise is strip-searched. Lockers,
thru wardrooms, laundry, sickbay, jeffries tube, cupboards,

105 observation deck, instrument panels, etc... you name
it...piles and piles of clothing being sorted by the
crew, piles of boots being examined as the Vulcan
Lt. prowls the corridors and checks off locations on
a lightplan of the ship....

106 Int. crew quarters

Suddenly, an exclamation brings her running over.

A crewman has opened a locker, and now holds up an
enormous gravity boot. As all watch, he puts the boot
on the metal locker.....it sticks!

The Vulcan Lt. looks up at the locker, and sees the
name: Dax! Poker-faced triumph.

107 Int. Crew quarters.....later

Spock, Uhura, Chekov, et al, wait with impassive

faces as crewman Dax enters the area. He is an alien.

Spock

You are crewman Dax?

107 Continued

Dax

Yes, Sir. What has happened?

Chekov (triumphant)

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

Dax looks confused.

108 Camera pans down to his legs

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

Expressions of shagrin on everyones face.....

109 Int. Rura Penthe Penal Colony - morning

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

They wait in front of, and then enter the "C" lift.

110 Int. "C" lift

Like the old style caged elevators.

McCoy (looks for the girl)

I think we've been had!

Martia's voice

No you weren't, Doctor

They look around. No girl. Just a big brute next to them. Puls other convicts.

Martia's voice

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

(explains)

They don't take girls!

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

110 VFX or model: the lift lights disappear into blackness.

111 Int. Mine - Day

The lift doors open

111 Continued

Kirk and McCoy climb out with the others. They follow the brute through the labyrinthine darkness.

McCoy

What kind of a creature is this?

Last night you two were spooning....

Kirk

Don't remind me!

112 Omitted

113 Inside the mine

Everyone is issued a drill and a light helmet. As beams ricochet about, they start digging dilithium crystals out of the rock and putting them into a flatbed shuttle. Kirk and McCoy, and the brute do likewise, under the watchful eye of fur-clad Klingon guards. An alien next to Kirk sneaks several of the crystals into his garment.

113 A guard blasts him with a phaser and he disappears.

VFX

McCoy openly takes his crystal and places it in the tray, making sure the guard sees him!

114 Later - Int. Mine

Kirk and McCoy are filthy and sweaty. The brute looks at them, turns around. The guards are eating with their backs turned. Kirk and McCoy look to the brute for guidance.

114 Before their eyes, he re-materializes into a ten year

VFX old girl.

115 CU her skinny legs.

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

Martia's voice (whispers)

Follow me....

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

The girl quickly scrambles through a small hole, turns and waves them on. They have to get down on their

115 Continued

stomachs and crawl through. Kirk goes first, turns, pulls McCoy. This takes time, especially if your legs have chains on them.....

116 On the guards

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

They hurry back, shouting.

117 Int. Mine tunnel - on the trio

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

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

118 Ext. the mine, Rura Penthe - Day

A high ice ledge. By scrambling down the ledge and

jumping, the brute leads them onto the frigid snowfield. The surface environment is killing.

119 Later - Ext. Frozen river - Day

The trio slip and slide on the ice across a frozen river. The ice begins to crack beneath their feet... The three climb the farther bank. They are barely alive. Shaking....

McCoy

I can't.....

Frantically, Kirk tries to keep McCoys circulation going.

Martia

We're at the edge of the shield

119 They follow her look: an ice desert.

VFX

Kirk

Come on, KEEP MOVING!

They stagger on.

120A Int. Klingon listening post

Grimy, underfunded and undermanned. God knows what forsaken place this is. Rocks and lit by scopes.

A sleepy Klingon dozes before his scanners. A bottle in front of him tells the story. Suddenly a blip. He forces himself into alert attention.

120B His POV

On the scope a beeping dot...he frowns, hits a switch.

Sleepy Klingon (Subtitled Klingon)

What ship is that? Over....

An interminable pause. Now a Second Klingon sit next to the first. What's going on?

Voice filtered (Subtitled Klingon)

We art thy freighter...Ursva. Six weeks out ofKronos....Over.....

Second Klingon (Subtitled Klingon)

Whither are you bound, over....

Another long pause. They squint at the delay.

121 Omitted

122 Int. Enterprise Bridge.

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

Uhura (Subtitled Klingon)

We art delivering food....things andsupplies to Rura Penthe.... over.....

Pause....

Klingon voice filtered (Subtitled)

Don't catch any bugs!

The voice laughs raucously. Spock gestures. Uhura returns the laugh....over and out. They look at each other.

Spock

Was that so bad?

123 thru

125 Omitted

126 Ext. Rura Penthe ice desert - Dusk

126 The three cold suns are setting.

VFX

The brute, Kirk and McCoy stumble and crawl across the ice. They, especially McCoy, are more dead than alive. As they pull themselves along, it becomes darker....

McCoy

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

Kirk

No way.

(off McCoy's look)

You see this?

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

Kirk (continuing)

It's the viridition patch Spock slapped on my back right before we went aboard Gorkon's ship.

McCoy (faint)

The cunning little Vulcan.....

Kirk

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

McCoy

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

Kirk

Spock's looking for us....

Martia's voice (points to a ridge)

We're almost there. Once we're outside, we'll make camp.

127 Later - Ext. ice desert ridge - night.

The ridge in darkness. They arrive. exhausted. The brute takes a stick out of its clothes, breaks it in half. It glows brightly like a neon flare. He tosses it in the middle of the area and it forms a kind of fire, throwing shadows all around. Otherwise it's dark. There is some heat.

McCoy

Would you mind explaining that
little trick you do?

127 Continued

Martia's voice

I'm a Chameloid. That's why we're
such good smugglers.

Kirk

I've heard of Chameloids, "shape-shifters",
I thought you were mythical.

Martia's voice

Give a girl a chance, Captain.

The brute smiles at him.

127 And before his eyes, becomes the enticing Martia again
VFX

Martia

It takes a lot of effort.

McCoy

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

Martia (smiles at Kirk)

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

Kirk

If you say so.

Wham! He slugs Martia on the jaw, she goes down, her
mouth running green blood.

McCoy

ARE YOU CRAZY?

Kirk

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

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

Kirk (continuing)

It's to let them know where we are.

Ask her what she's getting in return.

The brute gets up, rubbing his bleeding mouth, now the
blood is blue!

127 Continued

Martia's voice

A full pardon - which doesn't cover

this....

McCoy

uh oh!

Kirk and the brute circle each other, Kirk's chains clanking.....

Kirk

An accident wasn't good enough....

Martia's voice

Good enough for one. Two would look suspicious. Killed while attempting escape, now that's convincing for both!

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

127 And he wriggles free as a miniature person...tries VFXD to run off, but McCoy grabs it, and they fall rolling in the snow....

127 It comes up an exact copy of James T. Kirk!
VFXE

Martia's voice

Surprise!

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

Kirk

Your friends are late....

Martia's voice

They'll be here.....

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

Kirk

I can't believe I kissed you.

"Kirk"

Must have been your lifelong ambition!

The fight goes on!

128 Int. Officer's mess, U.S.S. Enterprise

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

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

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

Scotty commences to remove the vent cover. Not easy.

As he continues his efforts, he is unaware of the two crewmen we met the night of the banquet, watching.

They remain concealed, pull knives....one wants to go for scotty. The other holds him back.

Scotty removes the vent cover and pulls out what's been

blocking the air circulation: two violet-stained
Starfleet uniforms, with names on them....

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

129 Int. Enterprise corridors

THRU

131 The crewmen follow surreptitiously, camer tracking
after Scotty through the labyrinthine corridors...

132 Ext Rura Penthe campsite - Night

The two kirks are still slugging it out as McCoy starts
to come around.

Kirk

Isn't it about time you became
something else?

Martia's voice

I like it here....

Gripping each other, they roll right into
A large and terrifying muzzle. A jackal-mastiff on a
leash.

Both Kirks spring apart...

They are surrounded by a dozen fur garbed Klingon
guards with weapons. Several have leashed jackal-
mastiffs. And the commandant, who walks forward.

132 Continued

Kirk (thinks fast)

What took you so long?

Martia's voice

Kill him! He's the one!!

Kirk

Not me, idiot...HIM!

132 The Commandant appears briefly confused, then
VFXA zaps the fake Kirk, who dies horribly, as McCoy
watches. Kirk sighs.

Commandant (smiles)

No witnesses....

He aims at Kirk and McCoy.

McCoy (conversational)

Damned clever, if you ask me....

Kirk (agrees)

Killed trying to escape...it's a
classic...

Commandant

That's what he wanted....

Kirk

Who? Who wants us killed?

Commandant

Why not tell you? His name is.....

132 Suddenly Kirk and McCoy dematerialize!

VFXB

Kirk's voice fading

SONOVABITCH!!

As the Klingons rake the area with disruptor fire!

133 Int. Enterprise transporter room

133 Kirk and McCoy rematerialize to where Spock
VFXA and Chekov await them, with heavy weather blankets,
which they don gratefully. They look scarcely
recognizable. Spock and Chekov are appalled.

Kirk's rising (continuing)

Dammit! Dammit all to hell!!!

Jesus Christ, couldn't you wait two
seconds before.....

133 Continued

VFXB

Chekov produces a phaser and burns open their chains.
Spock is deeply moved to see Kirk again, though Kirk
is too busy swearing as his chains are cut off to
notice....

Spock

Captain?

Kirk

He was just about to explain the
whole damned.....

Uhura

Who?

Chekov

You want to go back...?

McCoy (hasty)

ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!

Kirk

Come on.....

They start out at warp speed.

133A Int. Bird of Prey bridge.

CU, back of a Klingon head. Klingon is spoken.

Voice

Escaped?

He's talking to the Prison Commandant onscreen.

Commandant

They were beamed aboard a
Federation Starship!! I could
trace....

The Klingon hits a button, and the Commandant
disappears. The chair swivels revealing Chang.

He faces the 2nd Klingon General we met in Azetbur's office (Sc. 68)

Chang

Escaped.

Second Klingon General

It does not matter. Kirk cannot know the location.

133A Continued

Chang (softly)

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

The General hesitates, decides.

Second Klingon General

Helmsman, new course! Engage cloaking device!

133B Ext. Space

VFX

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

134 Int. Enterprise corridor

Kirk, Spock, et al, walk briskly.

Spock

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

Kirk

So that's it!!!

Spock

Not entirely. I have reason to believe Gorkon's murderers are on this vessel.

Kirk

You don't know how right you are...has the peace conference begun?

Chekov

Who knows? They are keeping the location secret....

Kirk never breaks his stride.

Kirk

There's always something.....!

Scotty runs up, carrying the bloodstained uniforms.

Scotty

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

134 Continued

They round the corner and all stop short.

135 Their POV

The two crewmen who were stalking Scotty lie dead.

McCoy kneels, conducting a hasty examination.

Scotty (continuing)

But...the uniforms...they belong to these men!!

(checks the names)

Burke and Samno!

McCoy

Not any more. Phaser fire on "stun". At close range.

Chekov

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

Kirk

First rule of assassination: always kill the assassins.

Scotty

Now we are back to square one!

Kirk looks at Spock meaningfully.

Kirk

Can I talk to you?

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

136 CU Spock

pulls back

Spock (white)

I knew it!

136A CU PA speaker

PA voice over

Attention: Court recorder to sick bay. Yeomen Burke and Samno have been shot and wish to make statements. CODE BLUE URGENT!

136A continued

PA Voice over (continuing)

Deposition required at once for Yeomen Burke and Samno. Wounds are serious. Court recorder to sick bay on the double.

136B Various angles

Crew reacting all over the ship...to various PA's...

136C Int. Sick bay

All the lights are out. A figure enters, looks around.

136D Figure's POV

Two bodies stretched out in darkness....

The figure approaches the first body, looks down.

Suddenly the light goes on, revealing Spock

Spock

I couldn't believe it was you!

Lt. Valeris

Spock (continuing)

You have to shoot.

She reacts.

Spock (continuing)

If you are logical.

Lt. Valeris

I don't want to.

Spock

I believe You. Please.....

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

Kirk

I'd just as soon you didn't

Lt. Valeris reacts. McCoy moves out of the shadows, arms folded.

McCoy

The operation is over

137 Int. Enterprise Bridge

CU Kirk

Kirk

Let's not waste time, Lieutenant.

Name your co-conspirators and give us the location of the peace conference.

In exchange, I'll retain the murder charge, and drop the rest of the specifications. Commander Uhura, make a record of everything said by the prisoner.

Uhura

Aye, Sir.

Widen to reveal

Lt. Valeris under guard.

Lt. Valeris

You cannot prove anything

Kirk

Yes I can. At my trial, my personal log was introduced as evidence against me.

137A

Thru

137D Omitted

137E Quick flash back to scene 32

Lt. Valeris waiting outside Kirk's cabin.

Kirk's voice over

How long did you stand outside my quarters before you coughed, Lt.?

137F Back to scene

Lt. Valeris trapped, turns to Spock

Lt. Valeris

You knew?

Spock says nothing.

Lt. Valeris (continuing)

I tried to tell you....you wouldn't listen.

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

137F Continued

Spock

Neither of us was hearing very well that night, Lieutenant. There were things I tried to tell you, about faith.

Lt. Valeris

You have betrayed the Federation - all of you.

McCoy

What do you think YOU'VE been doing?

Lt. Valeris

Saving Starfleet. Klingons cannot be trusted, Sir, you said so yourself. They killed your son. You would make peace with them? Did you not wish Gorkon dead? "Let them die" you said. Did I misinterpret you?

Kirk cannot look at her.

Lt. Valeris (continuing)

And you were right, they conspired with us to assassinate their own Chancellor! How trustworthy can they be?

Kirk

Who is "us"?

Lt. Valeris

Everyone who stands to lose from peace. The universe was a well-ordered place. We all knew our roles. Why

change that?

Kirk

NAMES, Lieutenant....!

Uhura

I can send a message to Starfleet Command.

Lt. Valeris

Unlikely. Enterprise has disobeyed orders and harbors two escaped convicts. All your subspace transmissions will be jammed.

Kirk

Spock.

137F Continued

Spock approaches and puts a hand on Lt. Valeris' face the mind meld. She tries to avoid it. Spock concentrates

Spock (finally)

Admiral Donald.

137G Quick flashback to scene 23

Admiral Donald

....To offer the Klingons a safe haven within Federation space is suicide.

137H Back to scene

Chekov

From Starfleet??

Kirk

Who else...

Spock concentrates.

Spock

General Chang...

137J Quick flashback to scene 43

Chang

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

137K Back to scene

Uhura

Gorkon's own man??

Kirk

Who else?

Spock (concentrating)

The Romulan Ambassador...Nanclus.

137L Quick flashback to scene 63

Nanclus

Mr. President, they ARE vulnerable.

137M Back to scene

Scotty

This is incredible!

137M Continued

McCoy

Is she telling us that Klingons, and
Federation members are conspiring
TOGETHER....?

Kirk (to Spock)

Where is the conference?

Spock tries again. Shakes his head. Removes his hand.

Spock

She doesn't know.

Scotty

Then we're dead!

Spock (to Lt. Valeris)

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

Kirk

Why would they give them to us?

Spock

The Commander is an old friend of
yours!

McCoy (can't resist)

What was it like - being dead?

Spock, lost in thought, doesn't answer.

Sulu (O.S.)

This is Captain Sulu, U.S.S.
Excelsior.

Kirk

SULU!

138 Main Bridge, U.S.S. Excelsior

Sulu

Standing by, Captain Kirk.

Kirk

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

138 Continued

Sulu

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

Kirk (under his breath)

Bless you, Sulu
(aloud)

Where's the peace conference?
They're going to attempt another

assassination.

Sulu

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

Kirk

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

Sulu

Surely not!

Kirk

I'm telling you. Hang on.

(to Lt. Valeris)

How many of those things are there? Come on, Lieutenant, you want any more of your brain drained?

Lt. Valeris

Just one prototype

Kirk

You hear that?

Sulu

I'm getting underway now. But, I'm now in Alpha Quadrant. The chances of my reaching the conference in time are slim.

Kirk

When does this conference start?

Sulu

According to my information, today!

138 Continued

Kirk

Thank you, Captain Sulu

Sulu

Don't mention it, Captain Kirk.

Sulu hangs up. Finds himself facing his 1st officer

First officer

Sir...! You realize you've just committed treason?

Sulu puts his feet up on the console....

Sulu (serene)

To be candid, I always hoped that if the choice ever came down to betraying my country, or betraying

my friend, I'd have the guts to
betray my country. Warp nine,
Mister!

139 Ext. Space

vfx

Excelsior explodes across the starfield.

140 Ext. Space

VFX

From a different direction, Enterprise ditto.

141 Int. Spock's Quarters

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

Kirk

Spock?

No answer. Kirk makes to hit the switch.

Spock

I'd prefer it dark.

Fair enough. Kirk enters.

Kirk

Are you dining on worms?

Spock (finally)

You were right. It was arrogant
presumption that got us into this
situation. You might have died.

141 Continued

Kirk

The night is young. Anyway, it was
logical.

(he must feel his way)

You know, you're a great one for
logic. I'm a great one for....

(shrugs)

...rushing in where angels fear to
tread. We're both extremists.

Reality is probably somewhere in
between us.

Spock says nothing. Kirk runs a finger over dust.

Kirk (continuing)

I was blind. I couldn't see past
the death of my son. I couldn't
trust.

Spock (sighs)

I, too was blind. I knew about
HER - and I did nothing. I trusted
too much.

Kirk

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

Spock

I was prejudiced by those achievements.

Kirk (understands)

Gorkon had to die before I understood just how prejudiced I was.....

Spock looks at him for the first time.

Spock

Can we two have grown so old and inflexible that we have outlived our usefulness?

(looks at Kirk)

Would that constitute as a joke?

Kirk

Someone said the difference between comic and cosmic is the letter "S".

You haven't outlived your usefulness to me. And you are not responsible just because she is also Vulcan!

141 Continued

Spock

I should have been....

Kirk

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

Spock

But I am not human. I am only...

Kirk

Spock, you want to know something?

Spock looks at him. Kirk kneels next to him.

Kirk (continuing)

Everyone's human. We're too old to play games. We're only human.

He holds out his hand. After hesitating, Spock takes it, presses it to his forehead. Hard. Harder.

142 Ext. Camp Khitomer, Romula - Day

vfx

The idyllic site of the Peace Conference. Lush green.

A huge building on the horizon from within which we can hear music. Outside, masses of people and flags....

(Matte Painting)

142A Int. Camp Khitomer - Day

Inside huge #1 pod doors opening, revealing the council chamber.

Very loud music as we follow the Federation Delegation (green), lead my Admiral Donald, into the room. Reverse on #2 pod doors opening, as Sarek leads the Vulcan Delegation (yellow) in as they take their places....

143 Int. Bridge. U.S.S. Enterprise

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

Chekov

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

143 Continued

McCoy

Now there's a poser.

Kirk and Spock exchange looks.

Spock

I do not think anxiety is called for.
(off their looks)

According to my calculations, we have another five minutes and twenty-two seconds to resolve this dilemma.

144 Space

vfx

Enterprise thunders by at warp nine.

145 Int. Camp Khitomer conference site - Day

More of the opening ceremonies.

Camera pans to reveal pod #3 with the Klingon delegation (brown) lead by their ambassador and pod #4, Earth (green) delegation emerging and taking their places.....the Klingon and UFP Presidents, complete with advisers, retinues, entourages and attendants. Flags are everywhere....

Among them is Colonel Worf, Brigadier Kerla, Admiral Donald, the Munitions businessman, and a Klingon face we haven't seen before.....

The music thunders to a halt. The place looks like the UN security council + the Olympics. All color coded...

UFP President

Madam Chancellor, members of the diplomatic corps, honorer guests:
the United Federation of Planets

welcomes you to Camp Khitomer. Now that we are assembled, I move we conclude these ceremonies and get down to business. Madam Chancellor?

Azetbur

Agreed.

Applause!

During the above, we catch the expressions on the faces of the various conspirators - uneasy. Other faces....

...which one?

145A Ext. Enterprise

vfx

Screeches out of warp nine and cruises slowly. stalking.....

146 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise

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

Kirk

Close enough to beam down?

Spock

Not yet.....Section 4236.....

146 Nothing on the scanner.

vfxB

Spock

Section 4237.....

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

147 Omitted.

148 Int. Camp Khitomer conference site - day

The pod doors are closed, and the delegations seated.

UFP President

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

Applause.

UFP President (continuing)

We believe that the responsibility

for destiny rests squarely on our
own shoulders.....

There's that Klingon face again, looking around. He's
carrying some sort of suitcase.....

149 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise

Kirk

She's here....somewhere.

Chekov

But if she's cloaked....?

Kirk

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

Spock

Captain, perhaps we're going about
this the wrong way! Our job is to
get to the conference. Her job will
be to stop us.

Kirk

Make ourselves a target?

Spock looks at him.

Kirk (continuing)

Shields. Battle stations.

Chekov (reads the display)

Shields up. Battle stations.

They are bathed in emergency red light. Alarms sound.

Kirk

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

Chekov

Aye, sir; thrusters.....

It feels like walking on eggs.

Kirk

Uhura?

Uhura

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

Spock

If she fires, she has a perfectly
valid excuse.

149 Continued

Spock (continuing)

We're a renegade ship, coming
dangerously close to two heads of

state during a vital interstellar
conference.....

McCoy

Thanks for sharing that, Spock.

Dead silence, then a crash of noise!

150 Int. Camp Khitomer conference site - day

Applause for the President's speech! Now Chancellor

Azetbur rises to make her opening remarks.

The Klingon face makes eye contact with Admiral Donald
who nods discreetly. The suitcase starts moving....

151 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise, Engine room, Etc.

as before. Closeups on various faces, sweating...

Suddenly an explosion! The ship shudders, hit!

Claxons!

152 Ext. view of Enterprise, widen to reveal

vfxA

Int. cloaded Bird of Prey

Featuring the Enterprise onscreen. They are rigged
for silent runnig - no one is making a sound.

Their bridge is bathed in green light.....

Chang stands next to the gunner.

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

Another torpedo sails off, and explodes against the
shields of the Enterprise...

153 Int. Entprise bridge.

Kirk and his crew grab ahold of things, tight lipped...

McCoy

This is fun...

Chekov

Captain, shall we attempt to return fire?

153 Continued

Kirk

At what, Mr. Chekov?

Wham! Hit again. Everyone goes flying....

Instinctively, Kirk looks at the main display - sees
nothing.

Kirk

Scotty, reverse engines. All
astern one half impulse power.

Back off. Back off!

154 Ext. Space

VFX

The battered Enterprise reversed field, backing away
from nothing.

155 Int. Bird of Prey bridge

Chang (watching this maneuver)

What's she doing?

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

156 Int. Enterprise bridge

The empty starfield

Kirk

What's she waiting for?

Spock

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

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

Chekov

Incoming!

157 Omitted

158 Int. Engine room

The "Shield" lights flicker as the room recoils....

Scotty

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

159 Int. Enterprise Bridge

Close on Kirk

Reacting. Don't I know it.

Kirk

Sulu, where the hell are you?

160 Ext. Space

VFX

Excelsior warping as fast as she can.....

Int. Excelsior bridge, SHAAAACCKKINNNNG

Sulu

In range?

Helmsman

Not yet, Captain...

Sulu

Come on, come on....!

Helmsman

She'll fly apart....!

Sulu

Fly her apart, then!!!

162 Int. Camp Khitomer conference site - Day

Azetbur

....Many people speculated about my
father's motives. There were those
who said he was an idealist, driven
by "visionary" notions; others said

he had no choice, that he was a pragmatic technocrat, making the best of a devastating situation. Great men are seldom good men. the truth is, my father was both: a pragmatist and an idealist. If Praxis had not exploded, then quite possibly his idealism would not have found expression. Nor would mine. We are a proud race. We are here because we intend to go on being proud.... (grim)
if we cannot make war, (pause)
we will make peace....

163 CU the suitcase on the move through people listening...

164 Int. Bird of Prey, bridge.

VFX

All watching Enterprise. Chang signals and the torpedo officer fires off another one.

165 Int. Enterprise bridge

Kirk

Ahead full impulse!

166 Ext. space

VFX

Enterprise buzzes off! The torpedo misses....

167 Int. Enterprise Bridge

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

168 Int. Bird of Prey Bridge.

Reactions. Chang is startled, then smiles....

Chang

After her.... (beat)

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

Shakes his head, amused.....

169 Ext. Space

VFX

Enterprise, screaming through the void...followed by another screaming sound in full pursuit....

170 Int. Enterprise Bridge

Uhura

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

Kirk

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

McCoy

Too bad we can't smell her.

Kirk

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

Wham! Hit again! Everybody grabs onto something,
steam hisses down from the ceiling.....

170 Continued

Spock

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

Uhura

Maybe we should write them a
letter?

Scotty's voice

Better post date it!

Wham! Even harder this time....Spock thinks....

Spock

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

Uhura

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

The thing's gotta have a tailpipe.

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

McCoy (starts out)

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

Spock (going with him)

You may need assistance, Doctor....

McCoy (he's been waiting all his life)

Fascinating.....

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

Kirk

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

Chekov

Aye, Sir, thrusters.....

171 Int. Khitomer conference site - day

171 Continued

Applause for Azetbur's speech. Donald looks around.

Sees the face, nods discreetly...the UFP President
 applauds....he's vulnerable. The face moves off.
 Commander in Chief Starfleet rises to speak, blocking
 the President...

172 Ext. Space

VFX

Enterprise moving slowly, alone. Beat. Wham! hit
 again.

173 Int. Enterprise corridors, outside the lab

McCoy and Spock emerge with a bulky heat sensor and run
 down the trembling corridors....

McCoy

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

Spock

I see no profit in standing in bed,
 Doctor - Vulcans sleep lying
 down.....

For a moment McCoy buys it, then, on their backs...

McCoy

Spock, that was actually funny.

Spock

We DO sleep lying down.

Wham! They almost fall over.

174 Int. Engineering, Enterprise

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

Scotty

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

175 Ext. Enterprise

VFX

Scarred, trace lines of torpedo visible.

175A Int. Excelsior Bridge

Sulu, et al, watching.

175A Continued

Sulu

Shields up. Tell them that the
 cavalry's here!

175B A torpedo flashes out at nothing

VFX

176 Int. Bird of Prey

VFX

Chang watches it go by, sees Excelsior as well

Chang

So!

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

177 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Enterprise

VFX

They see Excelsior's shields take the torpedo hit.

Kirk

Hold us steady, Mr. Scott. Ready
to fire...Bones...!

Reactions from the battered crew...

178 Omitted

179 Closeup

a hand opening a case: inside the disassembled parts of
a rifle phaser with telescopic mount. We don't know
where we are exactly, but we can hear the conference
echoing....

180 Int. Enterprise torpedo bay

McCoy and Spock descend on the torpedo life with a
torpedo, frantically trying to drill a hole in its nose
to accommodate and atmosphere sensor as the whole bay
trembles with the hit....

Kirk's voice over

Bones, where's my torpedo??

McCoy

Me and my big mouth....

Spock

Calm yourself Doctor, the
operation is almost complete....

180 Continued

McCoy (one final twist)

Thank you, nurse! Jim, she's
ready! Lock and load!

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

McCoy

Pity they're retiring us just as I
was starting to understand you, Spock!

Spock (agreeing)

We were beginning to hit our stride
together, Doctor....

181 Int. Engine room

We can see the Shield lights dimming....

Scotty (frantic)

Shields collapsing.....!

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

182 Ext. Space

VFX

Enterprise takes another hit....

- 183 Int. Enterprise officers mess
 No shields this time! Explodes! WOW! Autotight bulkhead doors close, protecting the vessel from space exposure. Smoke, liquids squirting everywhere... Things tumbling off shelves, out of overheads...Doors whooshing closed!
- 184 Int. Bird of Prey
 Chang smiles; this is more like it...he can see the Enterprise is damaged.....
- 185 Int. Camp Khitomer - Day
 The hands assembling the special phaser....
- 186 Int. Enterprise Bridge
 Kirk
 Fire!
 Close up on a hand pushing a button!
- 187 Close up, another hand on a phaser button...
- 188 Ext. Space
 VFX
 Enterprise's torpedo tracks the heat; it goes in a strange trajectory, but then again we can't see what it's heading towards....
- 189 Int. Bird of Prey Bridge
 As Chang watches in fascination, the damn thing circles and heads right for them! He realizes....
 Chang
 ..."or not to be...!"
- 190 Ext. Space
 Enterprise fires a direct hit, and the Bird of Prey is illuminated in the firelight. She spins around, trying to regain her position, debris fragmenting.....
- 191 Int. Bridge, U.S.S. Excelsior
 Sulu
 Aim for the center of that explosion, and fire!
- 192 Ext. Space
 VFX
 Excelsior and Enterprise, having trapped the "Black hole" in a triangle between them, fire.
 The Bird of Prey suddenly blows apart. As she explodes, she decloaks.....
- 193 Int. Camp Khitomer - Day
 VFX
 Kirk, et al, materialize and starts running through masses of people who are too startled to stop them...
- 194 CU, the trigger finger...tightening as....
 ...Kirk fights his way to the center of the room!!

Kirk

Mr. President!

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

Panic in the room, people scrambling.

194 Continued

Admiral Donald

Arrest those men!

Spock

Arrest yourself!

He stands aside to reveal Vulcan Lt. in handcuffs.

McCoy

We've got a full confession.

195 The assassin's niche

He turns to run, but scotty whirls and fires!

As all gasp, the Assassin sways, falls off the balcony, clutching his face where the phaser hit, and screaming, the Klingon face comes melting off, revealing the Starfleet officer, who prepared operation "Retrieve".

Not a Klingon after all!!!

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

196 Sulu

VFX

As he materializes, phaser in hand.

Sulu

Just a minute!

The conspirators race in another direction, they are blocked by Kerla, and McCoy!

Kerla (slugs one)

And you!

197 Presidential guards move in....

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

Chancellor Azetbur

What's the meaning of this?

Kirk

It's about the future, Madam

Chancellor. Some people think the future means the end of history....

Kirk walks up to the Romulan Ambassador, now under guard!

197 Continued

Kirk (continuing)

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

Your father quoted Hamlet: He called the future "The undiscovered Country".

Spock

I always assumed Hamlet was speaking of death!

Kirk

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

We walks to Vulcan Lt.

Kirk (continuing)

There's an old expression: it takes one to know one.

When Vulcan Lt. looks at Kirk, there are tears in her eyes. Spock stands motionless next to her.

Kirk turns to face Azetbur.

Azetbur

You've restored my father's faith.

Kirk

You've restored my son's.

He hugs her hard. No one says a word....

198 Ext. Space

VFX

Enterprise, her hull blackened with torpedo scars, idles next to the much larger excelsior.

199 Int. Enterprise Bridge

They're back!

Uhura

They might as well arrest me, too!

I felt like the Lieutenant!

Spock (pointed)

But you didn't join a conspiracy.

199 Continued

McCoy (half for Spock)

They don't arrest people for having feelings!

Chekov

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

Kirk (looks at Spock)

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

Spock

...is to trust him!

A wintry smile.

Sulu's voice

Captain Kirk....?

Kirk

Kirk here.

199 Sulu appears on the viewscreen

VFX

Kirk (continuing)

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

Sulu

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

200 Ext. Space

VFX

Excelsior gets underway with a roar.

201 Int. Enterprise Bridge

All watch.

McCoy

By God, that's a big ship

Scotty

Not so big as her Captain, I think.

Kirk

Time we got underway ourselves,
gentlemen. (stretches)

Once again, we've saved civilization
as we know it.

201 Continued

McCoy

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

Kirk (sighs)

To be -

Spock

Or not to be -

McCoy

That's the question -

Chekov

Course heading, Captain?

Kirk (smiles)

Second star to the right, and
straight on till morning.....

202 Ext. Space

VFXA

The battered Enterprise makes way.

Kirk's voice over

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

202

VFX The signature William Shatner scrawls across the screen,
still featuring the moving starfield. then Leonard
Nimoy's, then DeForest Kelley's, James Doohan's, George
Takei's, Walter Koenig's, Nichelle Nichols'...one by one
The signatures grow smaller and smaller as the galaxy
races by, and they disappear into the distance.
Roll end credits
Finis!