

REVISIONS:
07-06-16 blue
07-24-16 pink
08-10-16 yelo
08-12-16 gren

Star Trek Continues
Episode 8
STILL TREADS THE SHADOW

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STAR TREK CONTINUES: EP. 8 'STILL TREADS THE SHADOW'

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE 1

Moving at warp speed through space.

KIRK V.O.

Captain's log, stardate sixty-five-sixty-three point four. A nascent singularity has been reported near the uninhabited Cressida system. The Federation has assigned a gravitational wave engineer to the Enterprise for our investigation.

2 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 2

KIRK, SPOCK, SULU, UHURA, CHEKOV at stations. PALMER at engineering. MCCOY at Kirk's chair.

Kirk signs a SECURITY OFFICER's PADD as the lift doors OPEN, and AVI SAMARA -- late 30s, civilian clothes -- enters the bridge and crosses to Kirk. She's excited.

The rest of the crew are a bit more subdued.

SAMARA

Are we there?

KIRK

Not yet.

SAMARA

Are we close?

KIRK

(with a smile, reacts to her enthusiasm)

Chekov?

CHEKOV

Approaching Cressida Two.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

KIRK

Drop her out of warp.

SULU

Aye, sir. Switching to impulse.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

There's a tremendous LURCH, shaking up the bridge personnel. Samara would go tumbling... but McCoy catches her arm, stabilizes her.

MCCOY

What in blazes...?

PALMER

(re: engineering viewer)

I'm detecting a significant gravimetric field, sir. Stronger than we anticipated.

SAMARA

There're no guarantees with black holes.

SPOCK

(re: science viewer)

Sensors confirm a massive shift in this system. The event horizon has consumed planets three through eight.

SAMARA

(shocked)

In ten days?!

Surprised, she takes the engineering station and studies the viewer. [*Palmer shifts to engineering sub-systems.*]

SPOCK

It is possible that an interphasic rift has thinned the structure of spacetime in the region.

MCCOY

I'd say that's our cue to hightail it outta here.

SAMARA

No! Jim..

(off his look)

'Captain.' We're here to study the effects of singularities on spacetime.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (3)

2

MCCOY

With all due respect... We nearly
lost the captain to a 'dimensional
 kill-zone' like this last year.

COMM WHISTLE.

SCOTT V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Scott to bridge. Captain... that
 monster out there... it's gonna
 strain our engines somethin'
 fierce.

KIRK

(keys comm)

Understood. Just hold her
 together, Scotty.

(turns to Samara)

Samara... how long before you can
 finish your assessment?

SAMARA

Six hours. Minimum.

SPOCK

(re: science viewer)

Captain. An... unusual reading
 nearby.

KIRK

What kind of 'reading'?

SPOCK

(to Uhura)

Lieutenant... I am attempting to
 extrapolate the data into audible
 sound.

Uhura WORKS her controls. There's a THUMP, like a drum beat.
 Two seconds later, another answering THUMP, then a gap, and
 another THUMP... THUMP.

McCoy frowns, thoughtful.

UHURA

That's no engine.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (4)

2

MCCOY

Uhura... can you speed it up?

She COMPLIES. Suddenly, the SOUND becomes recognizable.

KIRK

That's a heartbeat.

UHURA

(re: her readouts)

Confirmed. One set of life signs...
at Cressida Two's moon!

A major JOLT!

PALMER

The moon's destabilizing, sir.

KIRK

Spock, can we get a transporter
lock on that lifeform?

Another JOLT.

3 EXT. SPACE

3

A sun; two planets with moons. Further, a sun-sized black
spot in the vast array of stars.

The nearest moon EXPLODES.

4 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

4

As before. The THUMPING is still strong. Reactions.

SPOCK

(re: his viewer)

Still detecting faint life signs.

CHEKOV

I think we can rule out the moon.

KIRK

On screen.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 4
As all eyes check the VIEWER:
INTERCUT:

5 EXT. SPACE - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 5
The jagged remains of the moon... and resting behind it,
looking very solid: a Federation ship!
INTERCUT:

6 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 6
KIRK
Sulu, magnify the primary hull.
Sulu complies, and we SEE on the viewscreen:
INTERCUT:

7 EXT. SPACE - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 7
The ship's registry number: NCC-1764
INTERCUT:

8 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 8
KIRK
The Defiant...?
SPOCK
Affirmative. But the ship's wave
signature is out of phase from when
we last encountered it.
(beat)
And... life support has been
reestablished.
MCCOY
Life support? There was no one
alive on board!
KIRK
There is now.
Off their reactions...

9 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

9

Spock WORKS the transporter controls as Kirk, McCoy, Scott take their places on the pads.

KIRK

Spock. This time... if anything happens while I'm gone..

SPOCK

I shall secure the safety of the Enterprise.

Samara ENTERS, visibly upset.

SAMARA

Captain. I must protest. I should be investigating that rift!

KIRK

Your 'protest' is noted.
(to Spock)
Energize.

MCCOY

If that ship fades away with me in it... I'm coming back to haunt the whole lot a' you.

Spock raises an eyebrow, then SLIDES the energizer lever forward. The away party BEAMS OUT.

10 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & USS DEFIANT

10

Establishing the status quo. The Enterprise in orbit around Cressida 2. Defiant on the other side of the remains of Cressida 2's moon. The black hole is way out there.

11 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT

11

Kirk ENTERS from the lift. He immediately looks around the now-immaculate -- but darkened -- bridge. FLIPS OPEN his communicator.

KIRK

(into comm)
Kirk to Enterprise. The bridge is
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 11

KIRK (cont'd)

empty.
(beat)
It was filled with dead crewmen
last time I was here.

12 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 12

Sulu, Uhura at stations. Chekov at science. SMITH now at nav.

SULU
(into comm)
Captain. Maybe we can examine the
ship's log. Figure out what
happened.

13 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT 13

Kirk grabs a cartridge from a station. INSERTS it into a slot.

KIRK
(into comm)
Transmitting logs.

COMM WHISTLE.

SCOTT V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
Scott to captain. Somebody's been
soupin' up the engines. She'll
make at least warp fifteen now.

KIRK
(into comm)
Warp fifteen?

Kirk's COMMUNICATOR BEEPS. He flips it OPEN.

KIRK (cont'd)
(into comm)
Kirk here.

MCCOY V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
You shoulda listened when I said we
should hightail it outta here.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

KIRK
(into comm)
Why?

MCCOY V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
Come see for yourself.

KIRK
(into comm)
On my way.

He heads for the LIFT.

14 INT. SICKBAY - USS DEFIANT

14

PLAY a bio-monitor, recording life-sign levels -- including the extremely slow HEARTBEAT.

REVEAL McCoy studying a cryo-tube on one of the beds. Kirk and Scott ENTER quickly.

KIRK
What is it, doctor?

McCoy indicates they should peer through the cryo-tube's faceplate.

They stare in disbelief at a 91-year-OLD KIRK, deep in cryo sleep!

[NOTE: Old Kirk has an earpiece.]

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

15 INT. SICKBAY - USS ENTERPRISE

15

Kirk, McCoy, Scott monitor Old Kirk -- still in the cryo-tube, but now on an Enterprise sickbay bed. Samara watches. DRAKE stands guard.

SUPER episode titles.

KIRK V.O.

Captain's log, supplemental. We've returned from the Defiant -- at least, some version of the Defiant -- with a cryonically-preserved man on board. A familiar man.

SAMARA

Jim! He's you.

KIRK

That's impossible.
(to McCoy)
A clone?

MCCOY

(shakes head)
I ran a full DNA scan. No genetic drift.
(beat)
He's you, all right. Just fifty-some years older.

SAMARA

How...?

SCOTT

(to Samara)
Lass. Let's leave this to the doctor to sort out.

Samara allows Scott to escort her OUT. Kirk moves to leave as well... but:

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

KIRK

Bones... how long to...?

MCCOY

De-ice him? Not sure. But I'll
let you know once I do.

Kirk nods. EXITS. Off McCoy...

16 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & USS DEFIANT

16

As before.

17 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

17

Kirk, Samara at the table. Spock and Scott near the door.

SAMARA

Captain. My research theorizes
that rogue singularities can pass
through realities. Move from
universe to universe.

KIRK

Spock, what do the logs show?

SPOCK

They are encrypted. But from those
we've managed to decipher, it
appears the Defiant discovered this
so-called 'black hole' as it phased
into our reality.

(beat)

The ship, however, is unable to
complete its transfer.

KIRK

So she's stuck. Half here, half
there.

(to Scott)

You said she can manage warp
fifteen?

SCOTT

Aye. According to the engineering
logs, her engines have been

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT (cont'd)
modified over a long period a'
time.

KIRK
But we just saw her a year ago...

SPOCK
'Time' is not an absolute, captain.
It is -- as Einstein surmised --
relative.

SAMARA
(nods)
In whatever 'space' the Defiant has
been, time obviously moves more
rapidly.

SCOTT
But if the man we found was the
only one alive on the ship -- then
who overhauled the engines?

The door WHOOSHES open. It's McCoy... and Old Kirk!
Accompanied by Drake.

Awed gazes and a cocked eyebrow as the newcomer enters.
Finds himself face-to-face with Scott and Spock.

DRAKE
He insisted on seeing everyone.

Old Kirk clasps Scotty by the arms.

OLD KIRK
Scotty.

SCOTT
Captain? It's really you?

OLD KIRK
Last time I looked in the mirror.
Whenever that was.

Old Kirk approaches Spock and grasps him as well.

OLD KIRK (cont'd)
Spock. All this time... I thought
you left me. I thought I'd never
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

OLD KIRK (cont'd)
see any of you -- or the Enterprise
-- again.

SPOCK
You were... mistaken. That would
never happen.

Spock looks to the side... revealing Kirk.

Old Kirk reacts... a flood of emotions. He realizes that --
for all this time -- he was wrong.

KIRK
I don't expect a hug.

Old Kirk nods; gestures to Drake:

OLD KIRK
Is this... really necessary?

KIRK
It is. For now.

SAMARA
(to Old Kirk)
Jim.

Old Kirk now spots her standing at the table. Breaks into a
broad grin.

OLD KIRK
Avi? Avi Samara?

KIRK
Ms. Samara arrived a few days ago.

OLD KIRK
I'd given up hope of seeing you...
any of you... a long time ago.
(in wonder; at Kirk)
And so... young.

SCOTT
But you're him. How?

OLD KIRK
No idea. I thought I was
abandoned.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT

(re: Kirk)

Nobody was abandoned... as you can see for yourself.

MCCOY

(to Old Kirk)

What's the last thing you remember before we... before you... thought we'd left you?

OLD KIRK

(shakes head)

You were beaming me to the Enterprise. For a moment, everything was... transparent.

(beat)

Then you were gone. And I was on the Defiant. I managed to re-activate life support just before my oxygen ran out.

SCOTT

That's poppycock!

SAMARA

(realization)

Unless... a divergence field.

SPOCK

(reacts)

Such a phenomenon is purely hypothetical.

SAMARA

It's the only plausible explanation, Mister Spock. Two Defiants. Two James Kirks.

(beat)

I don't know where 'our' Defiant went... but when it was in interphasic space, it must've been duplicated.

(beat)

And so was the captain.

KIRK

How long...?

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (4)

17

MCCOY

(frowns)

Based on his physiological age...
fifty-odd years.

OLD KIRK

Two-hundred-seventeen.

(off their reactions)

Perhaps two-hundred-eighteen. I
was put in cryo most of that time.

MCCOY

Put in cryo? How could you be
'put' into cryo?

The COMM WHISTLE interrupts him.

SULU V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Bridge to Captain Kirk!

KIRK

(keys comm)

Kirk here. Go ahead Sulu.

SULU V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Captain, a Klingon vessel has just
entered the system.

KIRK

(into comm)

Go to yellow alert.

(comm off; very concerned)

Spock. You and Scotty get to the
nuclear electronics lab... run a full
subspace scan of the Defiant. Find
me some answers.

(gestures to Samara)

Samara.

Kirk EXITS. Samara swallows as she shares a look with Old
Kirk -- and EXITS quickly as well.

18 OMITTED

18

19 OMITTED

19

20 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE, USS DEFIANT & KLINGON D7 20
A Klingon D7 approaches the two starships.

21 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 21
Sulu at helm; Smith at nav; Chekov at science; Uhura at comm.
Kirk, Samara ENTER and sit [*Samara takes engineering*].

SULU
It's a dee-seven battle cruiser,
captain. They're holding position
off our port bow.

UHURA
Sir... the Klingons are instructing
us to leave the sector. They claim
salvage rights over the Defiant.

KIRK
Any records of a Klingon claim to
the Cressida system?

CHEKOV
None, sir.

KIRK
(to Uhura)
Hail them, lieutenant. We need to...

Suddenly, a huge FLASH from the viewscreen:

21A EXT. SPACE - KLINGON D7 - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 21A
An EXPLOSION as the Klingon ship spins out of control...

21B INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 21B
KIRK
What the hell...?

SULU
(re: helm viewer)
I dunno, sir... but that phaser blast
went right through their shields!

(CONTINUED)

21B CONTINUED:

21B

SMITH

Their power grid is offline.
They've lost attitude control!

CHEKOV

They're being drawn into the black
hole...!

KIRK

Can we get a tractor beam on them?

SULU

We're too far, captain.

21C EXT. SPACE - KLINGON D7

21C

The ship is SUCKED into the black hole -- and IMPLODES!

21D INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

21D

Reactions.

Suddenly, McCoy and Old Kirk ENTER. *[They remain near the
lift.]*

KIRK

Where'd that phaser fire come from?

SMITH

Not from us, sir... that's for sure!

SULU

Well if we didn't fire...

He looks to Kirk, who's studying the VIEWSCREEN:

21E EXT. SPACE - USS DEFIANT - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

21E

The Defiant hovers ominously near the rift.

21F INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

21F

SULU

But... there's no one on board..

(CONTINUED)

21F CONTINUED:

21F

OLD KIRK
 (an order, no nonsense)
 Uhura. Open a channel to that
 ship.

Uhura reacts to the voice -- as do the others. She turns,
 incredulous, toward Old Kirk.

UHURA
 Captain...?

Old Kirk smiles a little. Touches her face.

OLD KIRK
 It's good to see you. All of you.
 (beat)
 Now patch me through to the
 Defiant.

Kirk nods. Uhura OPENS A CHANNEL.

OLD KIRK (cont'd)
 (into comm)
 Tiberius. Can you hear me?
 (silence)
 It's Jim.

INTERCUT:

22 TIBERIUS GRAPHIC - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

22

The VIEWER depicts a swirling oscilloscope field. A VOICE
 comes over the comm -- a voice we will come to know as
 TIBERIUS. Kirk's voice.

TIBERIUS V.O.
 (filtered; over comm)
 Jim... what are you doing?

INTERCUT:

23 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

23

OLD KIRK
 (into comm)
 Ti... we were wrong.

(CONTINUED)

TIBERIUS V.O.
 (filtered; over comm)
 'Wrong'?

OLD KIRK
 (into comm)
 They didn't leave me. They didn't
 leave me.

TIBERIUS V.O.
 (filtered; over comm)
 Don't trust them, Jim. Please.

KIRK
 (reacts to his own voice)
 Another Kirk? I don't know whether
 to be complimented... or insulted.

TIBERIUS V.O.
 (filtered; over comm)
 I am the protector of James Kirk.

KIRK
 (into comm)
 I am James Kirk.
 (off his silence)
 There was an 'anomaly.' Your
 entire ship -- including your
 version of 'me' -- is a copy. We
 didn't know he existed until now.

OLD KIRK
 (into comm)
 He's telling the truth, Ti.

KIRK
 (aside to Samara)
 'Tiberius'?

SAMARA
 (aside to Kirk)
 Given the extended time frame
 involved... it's possible the
 Defiant's computer developed
 rudimentary multitronic circuits.

KIRK
 (aside to Samara)
 Artificial intelligence?

(CONTINUED)

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
I saved your life. I took care of
you.

OLD KIRK
(into comm; nods)
You kept me sane.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
Yes. We have been closest friends.
Don't leave your friend... for them.

KIRK
(into comm)
Tiberius. If Jim is your 'friend'...
why did we find him unconscious?
In a cryo chamber?

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
We wandered for over two centuries.
He would've died if I hadn't
preserved him until I could get him
home.

OLD KIRK
(into comm)
I am home. Thanks to you.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
Jim. Don't leave me.

OLD KIRK
(into comm)
Ti. Please...

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
Don't you leave me.

SMITH
Captain! The Defiant's weapons are
charging!

KIRK
Red alert!

(CONTINUED)

RED ALERT kicks on as the ship ROCKS under a torpedo blast!

SULU

Torpedo detonation -- five-hundred meters off our starboard bow.

KIRK

Well if he's trying to get our attention... mission accomplished. Charge phaser banks.

Sulu WORKS his controls.

SULU

Phasers ready.

KIRK

Fire.

OLD KIRK

No! You can't give him power!

KIRK

'Power'? Why?

He starts to move down toward the helm, but:

OLD KIRK

It feeds the dark... dark...!

His face distorts with agony. He doubles, clutching his head, SCREAMING. McCoy catches him.

MCCOY

Let's get you back to sickbay!

He takes Old Kirk by the arm and leads him out via the LIFT.

UHURA

Captain...

KIRK

I'll explain later. If I can.
(beat)
Sulu. Take us out of here.

SAMARA

Wait!
(off his reaction)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (4)

23

SAMARA (cont'd)
The black hole's event horizon...
It's expanded.

SULU
(re: viewer)
Confirmed. The Defiant's torpedo
compromised our position.
(beat; realization)
If we move...

KIRK
(reacts)
...We'll be drawn in.

PUSH IN to Kirk...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

24 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

24

As before. [*Kirk, Sulu, Uhura, Smith at stations. Samara at engineering; Chekov at science.*] Still at RED ALERT.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
You're trapped, Enterprise.

Kirk frowns. Turns to Chekov at the science station.

KIRK
Lieutenant. Can the Defiant leave
this system?

CHEKOV
(shakes head)
That would require further
expansion of the rift, sir.

KIRK
(into comm)
Hear that, Tiberius?
(beat)
You can't fire on us without
harming your captain. And I can't
fire on you without risking my
ship.
(beat)
Why not call a truce? Share
resources... knowledge? Perhaps all
of us leave safely.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
I'm not interested in your 'safety'
after what you did to my friend.

KIRK
(into comm)
Your 'friend' is in pain. Why?

(CONTINUED)

TIBERIUS V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

I did what I needed to... to save him. When I found him, he was as young as you. Now... he's a shadow of his former self.

KIRK

(into comm)

Take care. A shadow can be larger than the man who casts it.

(to Uhura)

Close channel.

She COMPLIES. The LIFT opens as Spock steps in.

KIRK (cont'd)

Spock?

SPOCK

Ms. Samara's hypothesis was correct. The Defiant is a precise duplicate of the vessel we previously encountered. As is the 'other' James Kirk.

(off his reaction)

He is -- for all intents and purposes -- real.

An ALERT at the conn.

SMITH

Sir, we can't stay here too much longer. We're being bombarded by Hawking radiation.

Kirk PUNCHES his comm button.

KIRK

(into comm)

Kirk to Scott. Can we allocate more power to the shield grid?

SCOTT V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Aye. But I found somethin' I think you should see.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

KIRK
 (into comm)
 Meet me in sickbay.
 (frowns)
 Mister Sulu, you have the conn.

SAMARA
 Captain...

KIRK
 I need you on the bridge --
 studying that rift.
 (beat)
 Avi. If there's anyone who can get
 us outta here on a wing and a
 prayer... it's you.

She nods. Kirk gestures to Spock, and they LEAVE via the lift.

25 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & USS DEFIANT

25

Hovering in space. The 'black hole' now significantly larger.

26 INT. SICKBAY - USS ENTERPRISE

26

[No longer at red alert.] PLAY a tiny item in Scott's hand. PULL BACK TO REVEAL McCoy studying it with him. Scotty can't help but admire it. *[NOTE: This is the 'earpiece' we saw on Old Kirk when he was in cryo.]*

SCOTT
 It's a bonnie piece o' tech,
 awright. Neural interface. Self-
 charging power cell.

MCCOY
 You think it's the answer?

Kirk and Spock ENTER and cross to them.

KIRK
 Answer to what?
 (beat)
 Where's our patient?

(CONTINUED)

MCCOY

Our 'patient' is with Doctor McKennah. There's nothing physically wrong with him. He's just old.

SCOTT

(re: the device)

Aye. And this wee devil. Found it in the Defiant's cryo-tube.

Scotty PRESSES A BUTTON, and Tiberius' VOICE speaks soothingly:

TIBERIUS V.O.

(filtered)

It is forbidden to remember. Know you are safe. The dark will send us home. It is forbidden to remember. Know you are safe. The dark will fulfill your directive. It is...

He HITS THE BUTTON again, and the device goes SILENT.

SPOCK

Fascinating. A subliminal transceiver.

(off Kirk's questioning look)

A 'brain-washing' device.

SCOTT

(nods)

Prob'ly triggered a pain response whenever the captain -- uh, the other captain -- tried to remember somethin'. Somethin' he'd been told to forget.

KIRK

But he's away from it now.

MCCOY

He's been conditioned, Jim. The effects are lasting.

(beat)

I could synthesize a theragen

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

MCCOY (cont'd)
 derivative to help him overcome it..
 but I'll need to know more about
 that device.

Kirk nods to Scott. He takes the transceiver and EXITS...
 leaving Kirk, Spock, McCoy to themselves:

KIRK
 (contemplates)
 Almost sounds like 'Tiberius' is
 trying to protect the old man.

MCCOY
 (chagrined)
 Jim, are you listening to yourself?
 'Old man.' My 'patient.' Our
 'guest.'
 (beat)
 What happened to 'captain'? Or
 'Jim'?

KIRK
 (sighs)
 How would you feel, Bones? Seeing
 another, older you? Standing in
 front of you? Seeing the years...
 the pain, loss, loneliness... in your
 own eyes?

Bones reacts silently. Then... the COMM WHISTLE.

SULU V.O.
 (filtered; over comm)
 Bridge to Captain Kirk. Sir, we've
 managed to decrypt some of the
 Defiant's visual logs.

KIRK
 (keys comm)
 I'll be right there.

Kirk, Spock LEAVE. Off Bones...

27 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

27

Kirk -- wearing the spacesuit from 'The Tholian Web' but with
 helmet in hand -- looks into CAMERA.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

KIRK

Ship's log. Stardate... unknown.

(beat)

I don't think the Enterprise is coming back. I'm marooned here. There's food and power on this ship for an entire crew. Should last me... indefinitely.

(beat)

The Defiant personnel -- all dead -- deserve proper burials. I'll need to carry each of them to the transporter room.. Beam them into space.

The IMAGE FLICKERS and DISTORTS.

INTERCUT:

28 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

28

Kirk, Spock, Sulu, Uhura, Chekov, Smith, Samara stare at the viewscreen in disbelief and horror at the reminder of the Defiant's loss.

UHURA

Good Lord.

INTERCUT:

29 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

29

A very slightly older Kirk paces behind the captain's chair. Now in a gold Defiant uniform.

KIRK

Ship's log. Stardate...

(trails off, not caring,
then bitter)

The Enterprise is gone. My friends... left me here.

(beat)

I'm 'reprogramming' the ship's computer. Giving it a new 'prime directive': To get me home.

(beat)

He's... developing a personality. He's my only friend. I tell him stories, we play chess... He's

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

KIRK (cont'd)
imprinting on me.
 (beat, smiles a little)
 As if one Jim Kirk wasn't enough.

A FLICKER again...

30 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

30

A fifty-something Kirk sits in the captain's chair.
 Exhausted and drained.

KIRK
 (simmers)
 Sixteen years. Twenty-seven
 parsecs. Nothing!

Kirk HURLS a PADD against the wall!

TIBERIUS V.O.
 (filtered)
 Jim. It's all right. We'll break
 through. We'll get you home.
 (beat)
 It's just a matter of time.

KIRK
 (smiles)
 McCoy would tell you to...
 (the smile fades into
 bitterness)
 Time. I have nothing left but
 time.

He stares at the screen -- a desolate, depressed man who sees
 no way out.

The log goes BLACK.

31 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

31

Silence. Kirk swallows sadly as he watches.

32 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & USS DEFIANT

32

As before. The black hole even larger.

33 INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - USS ENTERPRISE

33

PLAY the wall safe being opened. REVEAL Old Kirk removing a small stack of memory tapes. McKennah watches him.

He turns the tapes over in his hand. Smiles ironically as he thinks to himself.

MCKENNAH

What is it?

OLD KIRK

Just... remembering something.

(beat)

A poem I treasured when I was young.

(recites)

'Is this the hill? Is this the kirk? And I with sobs did pray...'

OLD KIRK (cont'd)

(recites)

'O let me be awake, my God!
Or let me sleep away.'

MCKENNAH

(recites)

'O let me be awake, my God!
Or let me sleep away.'

MCKENNAH (cont'd)

The Ancient Mariner.

OLD KIRK

Adrift. In a wasteland.

MCKENNAH

Yet you survived.

OLD KIRK

If you call this...

(re: his age)

'surviving.'

(beat)

Four months. Did you know...? Took me four months to carry them. Every crewman. Every crewman on that ship...

He trails off sadly... too difficult to continue. He sits wearily at the desk.

McKennah touches his sleeve.

(CONTINUED)

MCKENNAH

Remember... After his ordeal, the old mariner was given a second chance. To remind others not to lose faith. Or hope.

The bedroom door OPENS in b.g. It's Kirk. He steps in, but remains in the bedroom.

KIRK

Counselor.

She shares a look with Kirk. Steps over to him as Old Kirk inserts a tape and KEYS the table viewer.

ANGLE

On McKennah and Kirk... a low aside:

KIRK (cont'd)

How is he?

MCKENNAH

As we could only imagine. All those years. Alone. Your only friend a computerized re-imagining.. of yourself.

KIRK

One man. Two minds.

MCKENNAH

And one part of the mind was tampering with the other.

(off his reaction)

He's struggling with what seems like betrayal. In the past from his ship and crew... and the present from his only friend for the last sixty years.

KIRK

What can I do... to help him help us?

MCKENNAH

Show him somehow that all those lost years...

(beat; thinks)

...were not lost in vain. What would

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

MCKENNAH (cont'd)
you need to hear most if you were
 him? Because, sir... you are.
 (to Old Kirk)
 If you need anything just call.

Old Kirk is engrossed in the screen, and she EXITS. Kirk
 steps toward his older self, at the desk.

PLAY the MONITOR. A series of SHOTS:

A 'field of dreams' corn field.

Two BROTHERS holding a handmade rocket and grinning proudly.

And finally... a TEENAGE AVI SAMARA -- in Amelia Earhart flying
 gear -- next to a crop duster.

Old Kirk STOPS IT there. His eyes tearing.

KIRK
 Reminiscing?

OLD KIRK
 (thinks)
Reconnecting.
 (beat)
 When memories are all you have,
 they either fade away completely...
 or take on too much significance.

KIRK
 (recalls)
 Well. Nobody could ever accuse Avi
 Samara of being 'insignificant'
 when we were fifteen.

OLD KIRK
 Fifteen... almost sixteen.

KIRK
 (nods and smiles)
 She rebuilt that biplane in time
 for our birthday. 'The Grim
 Reaper.'

OLD KIRK
 (shares smile)
 And nearly plowed a cornfield with
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

OLD KIRK (cont'd)
our skulls when the seat belt
broke.

KIRK
I'd ask her 'How far are we
going?!' And she'd say...

*
*
*

KIRK (cont'd)
'All the way.'

OLD KIRK
'All the way.'

*

He SWITCHES the monitor off. Stares into the distance.

OLD KIRK (cont'd)
You don't realize how rich your
life is. Until all the comfort...
the structure... the family and
friends... are ripped away.
(off Kirk's silence)
Like... being thrown into a prison.
And you'll never see your shipmates
again.

(beat)
Time drags by... and you finally
understand. You're never going to
find someone to love... or hate.
Someone to have your back... to help
you keep your sanity. To find a
way home.

(beat)
You know your crew wouldn't leave
you. Not on purpose. But decades
go by. And they never come back.
And you realize... you can't even
replace them. You can't integrate
into a new society. There is no
society. No planets. No suns. No
galaxies. Nothing but endless
light-years... of void.

(beat)
And your only friend... is a voice.

KIRK
Tiberius.

(CONTINUED)

OLD KIRK
(not really a question)
When does a machine become
conscious?

KIRK
I don't know.

OLD KIRK
When there's no one else to say it
can't. I never said he couldn't...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (5)

33

OLD KIRK (cont'd)

so he did.

(beat)

And now he's as self-aware as he is
invincible.

KIRK

If he's self-aware, he can be
reached.

(beat)

How?

Old Kirk shakes his head. He doesn't know.

OLD KIRK

Once... he caught me reprogramming
the chess simulator so I could beat
him. Teach him what it's like to
lose.

(beat)

He didn't like that much.

KIRK

He's hiding something. Something
you'd never agree to. So horrific,
you couldn't face it.

OLD KIRK

(nods; softly)

The dark.

KIRK

Try to remember. What is... the
'dark'?

OLD KIRK

(like pulling teeth)

The... the...

Suddenly Old Kirk doubles, clutching his head, SCREAMING!
Kirk grasps him, prevents him from falling... and realizes he's
comforting himself!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

34 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & USS DEFIANT 34

As before.

KIRK V.O.

Captain's log, stardate sixty-five-sixty-four point two. The Enterprise -- and a duplicate Defiant -- are trapped on the edge of interphasic space. Meanwhile, Doctor McCoy is helping the elder Jim Kirk overcome his memory block.

35 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 35

Sulu at helm; Uhura at communications; Chekov at science; Smith at nav; Samara at engineering.

An ALERT flashes on the conn.

SULU

(keys comm)

Bridge to Captain Kirk. Sir... the Defiant's engines are beginning to generate a warp field. Power level...

(re: helm viewer)

...twelve.

KIRK V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Has she moved?

Chekov studies his science viewer.

CHEKOV

(into comm)

No sir. But the rift... I think it's starting to emit some type of... dark matter!

36 INT. SICKBAY - USS ENTERPRISE

36

Kirk speaks into the comm.

KIRK
(into comm)
Dark matter?

In b.g., Spock, McCoy, Drake hover over Old Kirk on a biobed. Weak and recovering.

OLD KIRK
(weakly)
Dark... dark...

KIRK
(into comm)
Keep me posted. Kirk out.

He turns his attention to Old Kirk, mumbling incoherently on the bed:

OLD KIRK
(mumbles)
Years -- years -- nothing but
black. Computer suggests new
engine design. Power... to open a
rift home.
(beat)
Year fifty-one. Computer --
sentient. Caring.
(beat)
Controlling...

MCCOY
He needs a sedative, Jim.

But Kirk holds up a hand to stop him.

OLD KIRK
(mumbles)
Event horizon. Shared realities.
Two black holes. Must not merge.
Trap it. Trap it!

MCCOY
His blood pressure's through the
roof!

(CONTINUED)

Kirk nods. McCoy INJECTS Old Kirk with a hypospray. He calms down.

Reactions from all. Spock turns to Kirk, concerned.

SPOCK

The other side of the portal,
captain.

KIRK

(nods)
Sounds like there's another black
hole. A binary system?

OLD KIRK

(weakly)
Thousands of times larger...
(beat)
Tiberius... determined to blast
through the rift...

SPOCK

Disturbing space to such an extreme
would likely manifest the
additional singularity.

KIRK

(realization)
They could merge. Destroy the
entire sector.

OLD KIRK

I pleaded with him. Tried to shut
him down. I tried...

He drifts off, half asleep.

DRAKE

The Defiant's computer must've
drained the oxygen enough to
incapacitate him. Then...

KIRK

Beamed him into the cryo-tube.
With a subliminal lullaby.

Scott ENTERS, holding the subliminal transceiver and a memory
tape:

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT

Sir... I analyzed the device. I reckon it was obstructing more than we thought.

He hands Kirk the memory tape.

SCOTT (cont'd)

I think he discovered part of the computer's 'kill code' algorithm.

KIRK

Are you saying we can shut down Tiberius?

SCOTT

Not from here. We can give the laddie a right wallop. But...

SPOCK

(interrupting)

...But we cannot control the Defiant without someone on the Defiant.

Spock takes the device from Scotty. Studies it.

KIRK

(shakes head)

Spock. I can't send him back.

SPOCK

I understand.

KIRK

(beat)

So... for now... a wallop'll have to do. Thank you.

He nods to Scotty, who EXITS.

KIRK (cont'd)

(to Spock)

Figure out the rest of that 'kill code.' I'll be on the bridge.

Spock nods. Steps away to the equipment shelf to SCAN the device with a tricorder.

Kirk moves to leave... but:

(CONTINUED)

OLD KIRK
 (weakly)
 Jim. How is it with you... and Avi?

KIRK
 She's an incredible engineer.

OLD KIRK
 That's not what I meant.

KIRK
 You remember. We each chose our
 paths. Nothing's changed.

OLD KIRK
 With enough time... some things do.

Kirk nods a little to himself. He LEAVES.

OLD KIRK (cont'd)
 Bones. Somebody has to stop
 Tiberius.

MCCOY
 (shakes head)
 And you think it's gotta be you?

OLD KIRK
 No more lectures, doctor. I'm too
 old.

MCCOY
 Good thing you're still stronger
 than an ox... and more stubborn than
 a mule. That subliminal
 conditioning coulda given you one
 whale of a stroke.

OLD KIRK
 I've been called a lot of animals
 in my day. But not all at the same
 time.

McCoy smiles a little as Old Kirk starts to drift off again.
 He then steps over to Spock, who's SCANNING the device.

(CONTINUED)

MCCOY

(aside)

Spock. Tell me you've got a plan to defeat that 'evil twin.'

SPOCK

(as he works)

Not an appropriate description, doctor. A computer lacks the capacity for 'evil.' It knows only logic.

MCCOY

Lemme tell you something, you green...

(cuts himself off)

A computer 'lacks' the capacity for a lotta things! For two-hundred years, Jim thought we abandoned him in that... void. He was angry at us! Hell... he probably hated us. But after all that time... he was able to forgive. Because he's human.

(beat)

Tiberius doesn't get that, Spock. At the end of the day... it's just a machine. An intelligent machine... with no mercy, and no understanding! If that's not evil... I don't know what is.

SPOCK

(beat)

If you will excuse me, doctor. I must complete my analysis of the... 'evil twin.'

He LEAVES. Off Bones...

37 EXT. SPACE - USS DEFIANT

37

The Defiant SHUDDERS into motion.

38 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

38

[Sulu at helm; Uhura at communications; Chekov at science; Smith at nav; Samara at engineering.]

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

RED ALERT! Kirk EMERGES from the lift. *[NOTE: Kirk is carrying the memory tape.]*

KIRK

Status?!

CHEKOV

(re: science viewer)

Captain. The Defiant has escaped the portal.

KIRK

On screen.

39 EXT. SPACE - USS DEFIANT - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

39

The ship in flight toward us.

40 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

40

Kirk hands the memory tape to Uhura. Gives her a little nod.

UHURA

Sir?

KIRK

(low)

On my order, lieutenant.

(off her nod)

Ship-to-ship.

UHURA

Aye, captain.

She OPENS A CHANNEL as Kirk takes his seat.

KIRK

(into comm)

Tiberius! If those black holes merge, you can kiss every sun, planet, and creature in this sector good-bye.

SMITH

We're experiencing undertow from both singularities.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

Sulu. We need to ride the face of that gravitational wave... just under the crest.

SULU

(smiles)

I'm a San Franciscan, sir. I was born on a surfboard.

KIRK

(grins slightly)

Just don't hit the planet.

SULU

I'll give it my best ride.

41 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

41

A bumpy ride! It shoots past Cressida 2.

42 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

42

KIRK

Full stop.

Suddenly, Tiberius BOOMS over the speaker:

TIBERIUS V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Where are you, Kirk? Send my friend back. Save his life.

The LIFT OPENS. Old Kirk steps out and stands at the lift.

OLD KIRK

(aloud into comm)

Tiberius! Close the portal. Please. I'll come back.

KIRK

(into comm)

You want him? Put your money where your ship is.

(beat)

How about a game of chess?

(CONTINUED)

Reactions from all. Silence from Tiberius. And, after a beat:

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
The stakes?

KIRK
(into comm)
You win, and you get him back. And you can do as you will with us.
(beat)
If you lose... you tow us to safety. Then we figure out how to close the rift. Together.
(off his silence)
What's it going to be? Game? Or no game?

A long beat.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
Agreed.

Kirk nods to Uhura. She subtly INSERTS the memory card and FLIPS A SWITCH.

TIBERIUS V.O. (cont'd)
(filtered; over comm)
Bishop to rook's level two.
(beat)
Your move.

He CLEARS HIS THROAT, and:

KIRK
(into comm)
Queen to king's level one.

A long, uncomfortable silence.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
That will result in checkmate of your king... within seven moves.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK
(into comm)
We'll see.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
Knight to king's level one.

KIRK
(into comm)
Queen to queen's level three.

Another uncomfortable silence.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
That... makes no sense.

KIRK
(into comm)
It's perfectly obvious to me.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
What... have you done...?

KIRK
(into comm)
Your queen has lost her head.

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
You... cheated.

KIRK
(into comm)
You cheated! When you brainwashed
your 'friend'!

TIBERIUS V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
I... will... not...

The VOICE fizzles out.

OLD KIRK
Please tell me he's not... dead.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (3)

42

KIRK
 (shakes head)
 No. Just a bad headache.

SAMARA
 A trojan horse virus?
 (off Kirk's nod)
 You never intended to send him
 back.

KIRK
 How long before the Defiant's auto-
 diagnostics reboot the computer?

SAMARA
 Usually about an hour.

KIRK
 (to himself)
 An hour.
 (beat)
 Uhura -- senior officers to the
 briefing room.
 (to Samara)
 You too, Samara.

Kirk and Samara head toward the LIFT.

But Kirk turns to Old Kirk, who hesitates at the door.

KIRK (cont'd)
All senior officers. Captain.

Old Kirk nods. There's finally a meeting of the minds. They
 board the TURBOLIFT.

43 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

43

As before.

44 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

44

[No longer at red alert.] McCoy, Scott, Samara, Old Kirk at
 the table.

Kirk paces.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT

I dunna how long our engines can maintain this position before we're either pulled into interphasic space... or that bloody black hole.

KIRK

The Defiant has power to burn. Am I correct?

SCOTT

(nods)

Far as I can tell. She recrystallizes dilithium at four times our highest rate.

SAMARA

You're thinking the Defiant might be able to close the rift. Block it so we wouldn't be stuck in the backwash.

OLD KIRK

Tiberius will never do that.

Spock ENTERS.

SPOCK

Currently, 'Tiberius' is unable to do anything.

(beat)

I have successfully determined his memory-purge subroutine, captain. Utilizing it, one could delete the A.I... and manually pilot the Defiant back into the portal.

OLD KIRK

(nods)

I know that ship... and Tiberius. I'm the logical one to go.

MCCOY

You're in no shape for something like that.

OLD KIRK

I can manage.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

KIRK

No doubt. But you'll be busy...
captaining the Enterprise.

(beat)

I'm going.

Off everyone's stunned reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

45 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

45

There's an UPROAR around the room.

MCCOY

(to Kirk)

Are you mad? Whoever goes through that rift is a dead man!

OLD KIRK

I don't want command of the Enterprise. She's not my ship any more.

KIRK

She's always been your ship! You know her like the lines in your face. The grey in your hair. You love her the same as I do... maybe more now.

OLD KIRK

You didn't cause this to happen.

KIRK

It was my decision to leave the Defiant last. You've spent a lifetime paying for that.

(beat)

Between the Tholians and that portal... I was lucky.

(looks at Old Kirk)

But you weren't.

(an order)

No more discussion. I'm going.

SCOTT

Captain. You'll need an expert to handle the engines while you helm the ship. I'd be honored.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

They're going to need you here,
Scotty.

SAMARA

I studied the data Mister Scott
recovered. I can do it.

SCOTT

But if you dunnah...

SAMARA

(interrupting)

No 'but's. I've been building
engines since I was twelve.

KIRK

You sure?
(off her nod)
Samara... you're with me.

SAMARA

Thank you, captain.

KIRK

Transporter room in twenty minutes.
(beat)
Dismissed.

And HE HURRIES OUT before anyone can stop him. Samara
follows.

MCCOY

Spock! Go talk some sense into
him.

SPOCK

To what end, doctor? We both know
he will not change his mind.

He LEAVES. McCoy and Old Kirk share a look...

Kirk writes at his desk. DOOR BUZZER.

KIRK

Come in.

(CONTINUED)

The DOOR OPENS. It's Samara.

SAMARA

Captain.

KIRK

Under the circumstances... I think we can forego titles, Avi.

SAMARA

I... just wanted you to know... I'm glad to share one last ride with you.

(garners courage)

I didn't realize what it would cost back then... when we chose separate careers. When you went to Starfleet Academy... and I didn't.

KIRK

(smiles sadly)

We grew up. Made commitments. You to engineering. Me to this ship.

SAMARA

Yes. And this ship to you.

(beat)

Let James handle the Defiant. The other James.

KIRK

(shakes head)

He's called that ship 'home' longer than I've been alive.

(beat)

Commitments can change.

SAMARA

Maybe for some... but not for Jim Kirk.

She gives his hand a squeeze.

Old Kirk, McCoy, Spock wait at the transporter. Kirk, Samara ENTER.

KIRK

Samara and I will tow the
Enterprise to a safe distance.
Then we'll enter the rift and seal
it.

(beat)

After that..

He trails off. Everyone is silent for a moment, realizing
this is it.

Now Old Kirk steps forward.

OLD KIRK

Captain. Don't do this.

KIRK

Just take care of the Enterprise...
Captain.

SAMARA

And take care of yourself. For old
time's sake.

Samara kisses Old Kirk on the cheek. She steps up on the
transporter pad.

Kirk extends a hand. McCoy grips it hard.

MCCOY

Jim. I can't get you to change
your mind, can I?

KIRK

(shakes head)

Not this time, Bones.

Spock produces a data tape.

SPOCK

The 'kill-code' protocol. Once
inserted, key in your override
sequence.

Spock moves to hand Kirk the cartridge.. Kirk smiles..

Only to have McCoy INJECT him with a hypospray from behind!
Kirk crumbles, unconscious, into McCoy's arms.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

Samara reacts, shocked!

SAMARA

What're you doing?!

OLD KIRK

Giving the Enterprise the best chance she has: Her real captain at the conn.

MCCOY

This'll only last a minute or two.

SPOCK

Time is of the essence, gentlemen.

Spock hands Old Kirk the data tape -- and Old Kirk looks to Samara. *

OLD KIRK

You with me?

SAMARA

(resolved)

All the way.

48 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & USS DEFIANT

48

As before.

49 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT

49

Old Kirk and Samara MATERIALIZE. He takes a place at the helm. Samara sits at engineering.

OLD KIRK

Power up the engines. I'll lay in a course for the portal.

SAMARA

(re: engineering viewer)

My God... dark matter...

They turn to:

50 EXT. SPACE - INSERT DEFIANT VIEWSCREEN

50

A dark 'substance' rolls from the interphasic rift and begins to swirl around the black hole.

51 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT - CONTINUOUS

51

SAMARA

It's breaking down the interphasic barrier!

OLD KIRK

Rig for tractor beam. Let's pull the Enterprise free.

SAMARA

Aye, captain.

She WORKS her panel. Suddenly:

TIBERIUS V.O.

(filtered)

No.

OLD KIRK

Tiberius! There's no other way.

(beat)

I know you can think... Can you not also feel? The people who created your programming. The programming from which you were born.

(beat)

The ideas... the ideals stored in your mind! Grace. Mercy. Forgiveness. They mean nothing if we destroy those who share them.

TIBERIUS V.O.

(filtered)

They left you. Abandoned you to wander the emptiness of space alone... with no hope. But I saved you. We gave each other hope.

SAMARA

James, we're out of time!

(CONTINUED)

TIBERIUS V.O.

(filtered)

The void... the void is a purgatory of nonexistence. I don't want to put you back in cryo, Jim. Don't force me...

LIGHTS FLICKER, and there is the SOUND of air being evacuated. An ALERT sounds.

SAMARA

Life support is shutting down!

OLD KIRK

(swallows sadly)

I'm sorry, my friend. I'm sorry.

Old Kirk crosses to a console and JAMS the data tape into a slot. He begins FLIPPING a series of switches.

TIBERIUS V.O.

(filtered)

Stop. Please stop, Jim.

OLD KIRK

Sleep.

TIBERIUS V.O.

(filtered)

Please. Don't... Jim..

LIGHTS come back on slowly. Grief on Old Kirk's face.

KIRK V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Enterprise to Defiant.

(beat)

Enterprise to Defiant!

Old Kirk sits back at the helm and HITS a switch.

OLD KIRK

(into comm)

Kirk here.

INTERCUT:

52 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 52

The image of Kirk APPEARS on the viewscreen. [*Spock at science; Sulu at helm; Uhura at comm; Chekov at nav. Scott at engineering now. Palmer and Smith at sub-systems stations.*]

KIRK

(filtered; over comm)

I know how hard that was for you.
You had no choice.

(beat)

As for my senior officers, on the
other hand...

INTERCUT:

53 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT 53

OLD KIRK

They were acting under my orders,
captain.

(beat)

It's a little late for a court-
martial.

BOOM! The ship ROCKS. Old Kirk snaps out of his grief:

SAMARA

Gravitational wake is increasing.

OLD KIRK

Activate tractor beam.

(into comm)

Enterprise... prepare to be towed.

54 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & USS DEFIANT 54

The Defiant STRAINS to pull the Enterprise out of the gravity well.

55 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 55

RED ALERT. The crew brace themselves...

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

KIRK

All power to the engines. Get us
out of here!

SCOTT

Hold onto your bustle! We're
makin' a run for it.

SULU

Full impulse.

56 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT

56

Old Kirk grips the helm.

Suddenly... quiet!

OLD KIRK

Is the Enterprise clear?

SAMARA

(re: engineering viewer)

Yes. She's free.

They share a long look. Old Kirk smiles.

OLD KIRK

All right then.

(beat)

Once more unto the breach, dear
Avi.

She nods. Smiles a little.

He turns his attention to the helm. Begins SETTING a course.

57 EXT. SPACE - USS DEFIANT

57

The Defiant heads for the now-sparkling interphasic portal.

It SLAMS through, creating chaos around the edges of the
rift! The Defiant begins to GLOW GREEN.

58 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

58

SULU
Captain, they're entering the rift.

KIRK
Scotty -- transporter!

SCOTT
With this interference? Not a
prayer's chance!

*

59 INT. BRIDGE - USS DEFIANT

59

Old Kirk KEYS IN A SEQUENCE to the computer. Samara reacts.

SAMARA
What... what're you doing?

OLD KIRK
I can't risk this happening again.
There's only one way to seal the
rift... permanently.

Old Kirk crosses to Samara. Takes her by the shoulders.

OLD KIRK (cont'd)
(smiles sadly)
This is a one-way trip, Avi.
Always has been.

SAMARA
No. Let's leave. Together.

OLD KIRK
(shakes head)
We killed the autopilot. I have to
stay... and finish this.
(beat)
You don't.
(keys comm)
Kirk to Enterprise. Scan for a
pattern-enhancing beacon.

SAMARA
A what?

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

OLD KIRK
One last gift... from Tiberius.

*
*

He hugs her... and slaps a beacon onto her shoulder!

*

SAMARA
Jim. No...

OLD KIRK
I never forgot you. And I never
will.

He kisses her cheek gently... as Samara BEAMS OUT, leaving Old Kirk alone.

60 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

60

A trickle of GLITTER begins to form near the lift... and is dangerously close to disappearing when it finally SOLIDIFIES.

It's Samara.

Kirk is at her side in a second.

OLD KIRK V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
Enterprise, do you have her?

KIRK
(into comm)
She's safe.

OLD KIRK V.O.
(filtered; over comm)
Take care, Avi. See you on the
other side.

She looks at...

61 EXT. SPACE - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 61

The Defiant -- now just a shadow of itself -- WINKS OUT along with any trace of the rift. Now there are stars where once there was darkness.

62 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 62

Samara BREAKS DOWN. Kirk holds her.

SAMARA
He's all alone!

KIRK
Not any more, Avi. Not any more.

63 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE 63

At warp in open space.

64 INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - USS ENTERPRISE 64

Kirk studies his monitor.

DOOR BUZZER.

KIRK
Come.

Samara ENTERS.

SAMARA
You wanted to see me, captain.
(off his look)
'Jim.'

Now he smiles.

SAMARA (cont'd)
Thank you for helping me get my new position.

KIRK
Quantum engineering on the S.S. Mariner. Should be right up your flight path.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

KIRK (cont'd)
(re: the monitor)
Speaking of mariners... I found a log
entry from the 'other' Jim.

She smiles. Nods her 'permission.'

KIRK (cont'd)
(reads the screen)
'I pass, like night, from land to
land. I have strange power of
speech... I know the man that must
hear me. To him my tale I teach.'

SAMARA
He taught me.

KIRK
He taught us.

SAMARA
He did, didn't he.

KIRK
(nods slowly)
Perhaps me most of all.

She LEAVES. Kirk sits alone, in silence.

65 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

65

The ship moves off into the stars, as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE