

Star Trek Continues

Episode 6

COME NOT BETWEEN THE DRAGONS

teleplay by

Greg Dykstra

and

James Kerwin & Vic Mignogna

story by

Greg Dykstra

FILMED DRAFT

STAR TREK CONTINUES: EP. 6 'COME NOT BETWEEN THE DRAGONS'

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

The ship moves through open space. No planets, just stars.

INT. BRIDGE

It's mid-shift. SCOTT in the captain's chair, signing a PADD for an attractive girl in blue -- ENSIGN ELIZA TAYLOR, 30s -- who returns to work at science.

TAYLOR

Sir. Thank you.

CHEKOV at nav. SMITH at helm. PALMER at communications.

KIRK ENTERS from the turbolift.

KIRK

Scotty. Any news on the Lexington?

SCOTT

(shakes head)

Aye. Her crew's been rescued... but they had to scuttle the ship.

KIRK

(beat; to himself)

Eight. Eight starships left.

He just shakes his head.

SCOTT

Studying an accretion disc can be a dangerous business. Got caught in the plasma jet.

KIRK

(nods)

Least there were no casualties.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT
Aye there were! The Lexington.

KIRK
(to Palmer)
Notify all adjacent civilizations
to avoid that system.

PALMER
Aye, sir.

The turbolift OPENS again as SPOCK, UHURA, SULU emerge.

KIRK
All right middle shift... that'll be
all. You're officially relieved.

Scott, Taylor, Smith exit via the TURBOLIFT as Spock, Sulu,
Uhura take their places. [*Palmer shifts to engineering.*]

Kirk settles into his chair as CAMERA MOVES in... the loss of
the Lexington still on his face.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

The ship in flight.

INT. CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

The turbolift OPENS as Taylor, Smith emerge in mid-
conversation. [*Scott remains inside the lift as the doors
CLOSE.*]

TAYLOR
(aside)
Good evening, Mister Scott.

SMITH
(imitates Spock)
...So then he says, 'It is unlikely
that can be fixed with standard
procedure.'

They LAUGH. McKennah's waiting for Smith in the corridor.
They head toward the rec room... but Taylor, in front, starts
to veer off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR
Well... good night.

MCKENNAH
Hey!
(beat)
Oh, Eliza... where do you think
you're going? We're headed to the
rec room.
(beat)
Join us!

Taylor stops and looks back with a tired smile.

TAYLOR
My bed's calling me.

SMITH
My vodka martini's calling me.

MCKENNAH
(to Taylor)
That's a powerful call to resist.
We'll take a rain check?

TAYLOR
Yeah, sure! Have a good night.

MCKENNAH
Night...

With a wave, Taylor continues walking as the others move off.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

Kirk takes a data tape from an ops officer. Turns and heads
back to his chair.

CHEKOV
Steady as she goes, sir.

KIRK
(frowns a little)
Working double-shifts... are we now,
Mister Chekov?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SULU
(grins)
Sounds like somebody really wants
some stripes.

Chekov gives him a dirty look.

Suddenly, the ship ROCKS! RED ALERT snaps on!

KIRK
Report!

SULU
(perplexed)
Hull breach, captain! Forward deck
four.

KIRK
(disbelief)
Hull breach?

SPOCK
(re: scope)
A meteoroid, captain. Traveling at
near-light speed.

CHEKOV
That's impossible...

Spock raises an eyebrow at him.

KIRK
(to Uhura)
Secure the section. Notify damage
control teams. Report on any
casualties.

INT. CORRIDOR

Taylor STEPS OUT of her quarters in a nightgown, reacting to
RED ALERT.

Smith, supernumeraries run by.

TAYLOR
What happened...?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMITH
(running)
Meteoroid impact -- deck four!

PLAY Taylor's confusion as the others move off. She quickly
TURNS BACK into her quarters as she starts to undo her
nightgown.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

CHEKOV
(shakes head)
The navigational deflector should
have caught this, sir...

KIRK
(keys comm)
Mister DeSalle, some answers
please!

INTERCUT:

INT. ENGINEERING

Scott works a console.

SCOTT
(into comm)
Scott here. Glad I came down! My
engineers on deck four report a
breach over two meters wide.

A supernumerary hands him a card reader. Scotty studies it,
frowns.

SCOTT (cont'd)
(into comm)
But they can't find it!

KIRK (O.S.)
(filtered; over comm)
Find what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT
(into comm)
Whatever made the blasted hole!
There's nothing there!

INT. BRIDGE

SULU
(re: scope)
Captain, reading additional damage
on an internal bulkhead.

KIRK
Deck four?

SULU
Yes sir. Aft wall, section three...

UHURA
(re: her earpiece)
Captain... now deck five is reporting
a rupture... in the ceiling, sir.

Kirk quickly puts it together.

KIRK
Signal all decks: We've been
boarded!

UHURA
(into comm)
All decks! Intruder alert!
Repeat: we have an intruder on
board!

INT. TAYLOR'S QUARTERS

UHURA (O.S.)
(filtered; over comm)
Repeat: all decks! Intruder alert!
We have an intruder on board!

Lights low. Taylor taking off her nightgown, getting ready
to change into her uniform.

Suddenly, a HUGE CRASH from O.S.!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Taylor falls to the ground... looks in the direction of the sound.

We don't SEE what she's looking at... but whatever it is, it's making strange, deep vibratory SOUNDS.

She panics, scrambles back into a corner as we DOLLY IN to her terrified face...

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

SUPER TITLES as the ship hovers at standstill in open space, a hole torn in the front of the saucer.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate sixty-two-fifty-seven point four. Something -- or some one -- has pierced our primary hull and is making its way through the Enterprise.

INT. BRIDGE

As before.

SPOCK

(re: science scanner)

Captain. Whatever 'it' is has damaged a sufficient number of conduits to compromise our power grid.

SULU

Confirmed. Engines are offline.

INTERCOM WHISTLE.

TAYLOR (O.S.)

(filtered; whispers over comm)

Taylor to bridge...

(beat)

Bridge... please answer...

KIRK

(into comm)

Ensign? What is it?

TAYLOR (O.S.)

(filtered; whispers over comm)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR (O.S.) (cont'd)
Captain... the intruder's in my
cabin!

KIRK
(reacts; into comm)
On our way!

He and Spock move. Chekov stands... Kirk shakes his head 'no.'

CHEKOV
Sir, I believe I could assist...
(off Kirk's frown)
Yes sir.

He pouts and stays put as Kirk, Spock LEAVE.

INT. TAYLOR'S QUARTERS

As before. Taylor leans toward something in the shadows:

TAYLOR
(curious)
Hello?

Vibratory SOUNDS as the thing approaches her!

Taylor gets her hands on a stone sculpture from her desk... and
THROWS IT!

CATCH A BRIEF GLIMPSE of the sculpture hitting the creature.

It's a massive, rocky 'object,' covered in pits and spikes.
VAPOR rolls off it, as if it were ice-cold. Enormous arms
folded back; multiple eyes GLOWING. It reacts as if
frustrated... then runs back out a huge HOLE in the cabin wall.
Off her reaction...

INT. CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Kirk, Spock (with tricorder) run toward Taylor's room. DRAKE
and security guard LT. KUBARO DICKERSON are here with guns.

KIRK
(to Drake)
Cad, hold this position.
(to Dickerson)
Dickerson, en pointe.

INT. TAYLOR'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

The door WHOOSHES open as Kirk, Spock, Dickerson enter.

Silence. Taylor is here, sweating, terrified. She swallows. Kirk takes a beat as he takes in the scene. The massive hole punched through her bedroom wall.

TAYLOR
I'm sorry, sir...

KIRK
What was it? What did you see?

She regains her composure.

TAYLOR
It was enormous. It's like... stone.

She swallows. There's something to this... something deep.
Personal.

TAYLOR (cont'd)
I threw that at it...
(beat)
And... and it ran away.

Kirk looks to Spock as if to say: 'Anything?' He SCANS with his tricorder... simply shakes his head.

KIRK
Listen. You better get to sickbay.
Let Doctor McCoy give you a once-over.

TAYLOR
No, sir. Sir, I'm fine. Really,
I'm just... I'm just a bit scared.
(beat)
Please. Please find it.

Suddenly, the tricorder WHINES. Kirk looks to Spock:

SPOCK
Captain. In the corridor!

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Kirk, Spock, Dickerson DASH OUT the door. Kirk gestures to Drake to patrol to the left... as he, Spock, Dickerson move to the right.

KIRK

Spock?!

SPOCK

(puzzled by tricorder)

Readings have 'disappeared,' sir.

(beat)

Fascinating.

Suddenly, Kirk, Spock, Dickerson freeze in their tracks as a hulking blur darts out from an adjoining hall!

It moves O.S. and we HEAR a bulkhead SMASH!

Kirk frowns. Takes it in.

He rounds the corner and sees a massive BREACH in the wall. He nods to Dickerson, who takes up position near the hole.

Now Kirk kneels down... peers through the opening:

INT. REC ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kirk's P.O.V. Darkness. Nothing else unusual.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Kirk, Spock, Dickerson crawl through the hole.

INT. REC ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Kirk's angle of view changes, WE SEE the top of a massive meteor-like object on the other side of a table.

Kirk freezes. Dickerson aims his phaser. The creature is curled up... motionless. Kirk and Spock look at each other, confused.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRK
What are you?
(beat)
Can you understand me?

No response. Kirk KEYS the wall intercom at his side.

KIRK (cont'd)
Kirk to transporter room.

INTERCUT:

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

CHIEF WILSON -- African-American man, red coveralls -- at the controls.

WILSON
(keys comm)
Wilson here, sir.

KIRK
(filtered; over comm)
Chief. How are you with intra-ship beaming?

WILSON
(smiles; into comm)
I'm a bit of an expert.

KIRK
(filtered; over comm)
Good. The intruder is at my location. Lock on to it... and beam it out of here.

Wilson frowns as he WORKS his controls...

WILSON
(into comm)
Captain... there's no reading for me to lock onto.

INTERCUT:

INT. REC ROOM

Kirk frowns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPOCK
(re: tricorder)
The alien must be generating some
sort of sensor shroud.

Kirk slowly takes a couple of data tapes from the table.

DICKERSON
Sir?

KIRK
Playing a hunch.

Kirk tosses the tapes at the creature, hitting it. The
creature immediately bolts up and rushes toward the far wall.

KIRK (cont'd)
No!

Dickerson FIRES, hitting the creature square in the back.

It covers!

Its eyes turn from RED to BLUE.

Reactions from Kirk and his team.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

Hovering in space.

INT. REC ROOM

The creature sits in a corner, folded up, facing into the
wall.

Kirk, McCoy (with TRICORDER and SCANNER) study it as
Dickerson stands guard.

Taylor steps into the room THROUGH THE DOOR, now in uniform.

KIRK
Ensign. You're supposed to be off-
duty right now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR

Sorry, captain. I couldn't sleep.
Our visitor leaves a strong
impression.

KIRK

Yes it does.
(to McCoy)
Bones?

McCoy narrows his eyes at Kirk. Unsaid: 'Are you kidding?'

MCCOY

It's a rock.

KIRK

We think the creature can hide from
our scans. Sometimes.

MCCOY

(sighs)
I've been able to detect several
hearts, beating at different rates.
No lungs. Very high salt levels.
(re: his tricorder)
And that's it. There's just not
enough data.

Spock ENTERS.

SPOCK

I am perplexed by its biology as
well. The exoskeleton is quite
formidable. Complex living polymer
chains... interwoven with infrangible
metals and minerals. I am not able
to calculate how it propels itself
at such high velocities, although
obviously it does. Nor am I able
determine how it survives the
vacuum of space, but...

KIRK

But obviously it does.

SPOCK

(nods)
It could be a species of nomadic
extremophile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TAYLOR
Extremophile?

SPOCK
We have previously encountered
cosmozoa. Space-faring organisms
that need no atmosphere to survive.

KIRK
Gentlemen. We know it's here. The
question now is why.

Spock produces a universal translator microphone.

SPOCK
With Lieutenant Uhura's assistance,
I have attempted to tune the ship's
universal translators to compensate
for the creature's unusual
vocalizations.

Kirk nods. Looks at the mic for a minute, then offers it to
Taylor.

TAYLOR
Sir?

KIRK
You're the first human it
encountered.

A beat. She takes the mic.

She takes a deep breath.

TAYLOR
(into mic)
I'm sorry if I hurt you.
(beat)
What are you called?

Nothing.

TAYLOR (cont'd)
(into mic)
Do you have a name?

Still nothing. She starts to turn... when they HEAR the
creature RUMBLE out some MENACING-SOUNDING vocals:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

USDI
(filtered; over
translator)
Usdi. Here. Usdi.

They all react.

KIRK
Ask it why it broke into the ship.

She waits a beat to think; then:

TAYLOR
(into mic)
Usdi. Why'd you come here?

Without turning back:

USDI
(filtered; over
translator)
Me. To. Hurt.

They share a look. Kirk looks to Spock for answers... Spock has none.

Suddenly a SOUND. The ship SHUDDERS, albeit lightly.

KIRK
Now what?
(beat)
Spock, keep at it. Whatever it is...
it's trying to communicate with us.

SPOCK
Or... it's trying to threaten us.

Off their reactions, Kirk EXITS.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

Hovering in space. The breach slowly being repaired.

INT. BRIDGE

As before. [*Chekov now at science; Smith at nav.*]

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kirk ENTERS quickly from the turbolift.

KIRK
Mister Sulu?

SULU
Not another intruder, sir. More
like a controlled shockwave.
Directed at the Enterprise.

Before Kirk can sit, another pulse RATTLES the ship, a little stronger than the first.

KIRK
That was stronger than the last
one.

CHEKOV
(re: science scanner)
It's a two-component wave, sir.
One penetrates, one reflects back.

UHURA
(to self)
Echolocation.
(beat; louder)
It's a form of echolocation,
captain!

Reactions... she's right!

KIRK
Someone's searching for something.
(to Uhura)
Lieutenant. Can you calculate the
origin of the pulses?

UHURA
Aye, sir. I should be able to plot
the source.

She gets to WORK.

SULU
Captain, another shockwave
approaching.
(re: viewer)
This one's different.
Significantly stronger!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIRK
Maneuvering thrusters. Hard to
starboard.

SMITH
It's too fast, sir!

KIRK
More power to the forward shields!

INTERCUT:

VIEWSCREEN - EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

A massive red energy pulse approaches.

INTERCUT:

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The SHIP SHAKES VIOLENTLY as a RED PULSE passes through the
bridge... through the crew. Everybody WINCES in discomfort.

INT. REC ROOM

Taylor (still with the translator mic), Dickerson grimace
from some internal sting. But Spock contorts and folds,
SUFFERING much more pain.

Taylor moves toward him... but:

SPOCK
(seething)
You disobedient little...

TAYLOR
Mister Spock...?

Spock turns to Dickerson, thrusting his hand out.

SPOCK
Your weapon!

DICKERSON
Sir?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In one swift move, Spock KNOCKS Dickerson out. The man crumples to the floor. Spock grabs his phaser and aims at the creature:

SPOCK
I am in charge!
(beat)
You'll respect me!

Spock FIRES as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. REC ROOM

Spock SHOTS the creature with his phaser! The creature recoils, doubled over, arms protecting its head.

Taylor is terrified. She looks at Spock, still FIRING.

TAYLOR

Stop! Please stop! Please!

(beat)

No... you're hurting him..!

In a panic, she rushes Spock. He SWIPES her aside, sending her hard into the wall. She slides to the floor, semi-conscious.

Spock ponders his actions, looking down at Taylor. Tries to shake off his rage, but he can't.

SPOCK

(furious)

See what you made me do?!

The creature seizes the moment! With a horrible SOUND it barrels into Spock and BURSTS THROUGH THE WALL in one fluid move, leaving Spock in a heap on the floor.

INT. BRIDGE

Kirk is in his chair, hanging over the intercom. He is tense, fitful, clearly unbalanced. PUNCHES the comm button.

KIRK

Commander Spock, report.

(beat)

Spock! Answer me!

He looks around the bridge. Everyone's disturbed. And like him, all are quite aware something is seriously wrong.

He catches himself. Tries to regain his composure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRK (cont'd)
(tense, but softer)
Is anyone else... feeling... unusual?

CHEKOV
I feel... suspicion, sir. Almost...
paranoia.

KIRK
Yes. Yes...

SMITH
Fear.

UHURA
Resentment.

INTERCOM WHISTLE.

MCCOY (O.S.)
(filtered; over comm)
Sickbay to bridge.
(beat)
Captain, you better get down here.

Kirk frowns and moves to LEAVE.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

Floating in space, the saucer section mildly damaged.

INT. SICKBAY

Spock on a medical bed, with restraints.

McCoy WORKS on him.

Taylor stands by. Dickerson sits on the other bed, rattled
but okay.

McCoy INJECTS Spock with a hypo as the DOORS OPEN:

KIRK
What happened?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MCCOY

(re: Spock)

He's got broken ribs, a ruptured spleen...

(to himself)

At least I think it was his spleen.

KIRK

I have no time for levity, doctor...

MCCOY

(snaps right back)

Neither do I. Whatever those waves are doing to us, it's affecting Spock a dozen times more!

(off Kirk's reaction)

The mesiofrontal cortex suppresses emotions in Vulcans. But his is working so hard, I'm afraid it's gonna burn up!

SPOCK

(groggy)

Captain...?

Spock's awake. Kirk and McCoy move to his side cautiously.

SPOCK (cont'd)

Lock me up. I must be... isolated.

KIRK

Spock... McCoy is trying to figure out why...

SPOCK

(weakly)

No. I... am... very... dangerous...

(beat)

Far away... An agenda...

KIRK

Spock... the 'rage' that you're experiencing... we're all feeling it. The energy waves are somehow...

SPOCK

(interrupting)

But with me, it reaches deeper. A part I share with no one. More

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SPOCK (cont'd)
than my human half...
(trails off)
It is awakening the primitive,
savage side... of my Vulcan mind.
(beat)
It is a darkness I cannot control.

The WALL INTERCOM.

SULU (O.S.)
(filtered; over comm)
Bridge to Captain Kirk.

Kirk moves to the wall comm.

KIRK
(irritable; keys comm)
What?

INTERCUT:

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

SULU
(into comm)
Another energy wave approaching,
captain. Readings are off the
scale.

KIRK (O.S.)
(filtered; over comm)
Set forward shields to maximum.

RED ALERT.

SMITH
(re: chronometer)
Impact in six seconds!

INTERCUT:

INT. SICKBAY - CONTINUOUS

SPOCK
You must stop me. By any means
necessary.

Taylor grabs the door frame.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPOCK (cont'd)
I cannot control what I will do...

BAM!

Another RED PULSE SLAMS into the ship, the impact knocking McCoy to the floor.

Waves pass through sick bay. Everyone CONTORTS in pain.

Spock CRIES OUT.

SPOCK (cont'd)
(enraged)
Usdi dares to hide?!

He bursts up, SNAPPING the surgical restraints.

Kirk makes it to the wall INTERCOM as Spock STRUGGLES with Dickerson.

KIRK
(into intercom)
Security to sickbay...!
(beat)
Spock!

Spock grabs Kirk by the back of his neck and SMASHES him into the wall. Kirk drops as Spock CHARGES OUT.

Kirk stumbles OUT THE DOOR.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Spock is now some distance down the corridor, storming away.

Drake runs up behind Kirk.

DRAKE
Captain...!

Without hesitation, Kirk grabs Drake's phaser, whips around, and FIRES at Spock. Bulls-eye.

Spock DROPS, never having seen it coming. Kirk smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRK
(to Drake)
Put him in the brig.

Drake moves off to get Spock.

McCoy runs up behind them.

MCCOY
Jim... you can't lock him up..

KIRK
He asked for it. It's my ship! I
decide the punishment for
insubordination.

MCCOY
'Punishment'? Jim, he's not
himself!
(beat)
Neither are you.

Kirk grimaces. Shares a look with Drake. Furious that he's
been challenged. He takes a beat, and:

KIRK
(to Drake)
Put him in sickbay! Double the
restraints.

Drake obliges as Kirk gets in McCoy's face:

KIRK (cont'd)
(seethes)
And the next time... whether it's
Spock, or that pathetic creature,
or the ship's surgeon... I decide.
Is that clear?

MCCOY
(sneers at him)
Very clear. Sir.

Kirk storms away. Off McCoy, holding back his anger..

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

The ship at a standstill in space.

INT. BRIDGE

Sulu at helm; Chekov at science.

Palmer's back at communications. Uhura and Smith work on the panel underneath with a LASER TOOL.

Palmer flips a few SWITCHES. A minor SPARK. Uhura recoils.

UHURA

Ow!

Uhura glares at her.

UHURA (cont'd)

You can't analyze a triaxilated signal like that!

PALMER

I'm sorry...

Palmer reaches to correct her error... but Uhura grabs her wrist roughly.

UHURA

(furious)

If you aren't capable of following instructions, you don't belong in that uniform!

Uhura rubs her hand where the shock occurred.

SULU

Y'know... you should get that looked at.

UHURA

(snaps at him)

You think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Uhura shakes her head and moves to leave. Palmer sulks. Smith just shakes her head at her... gets back to work on the panel.

The doors SWISH open. Kirk barges onto the bridge as Uhura LEAVES. He glares at the crew suspiciously.

Everybody's tense.

KIRK

Where's that 'thing'?!
(snaps)

Well?!

SULU

Sir, we've located the source of the waves. It's a ship, about ten-thousand kilometers...

KIRK

A ship?!

Kirk grabs Sulu by the collar.

KIRK (cont'd)

(face to face)

Listen to me! The only thing that matters -- the only thing -- is to find that delinquent little brat!

Sulu GROWLS... and KNOCKS Kirk's arms away. Kirk fumes and takes a SWING... CONNECTS... Sulu's down!

But he jumps up quickly and charges Kirk! Chekov and Smith GRAB HIS ARMS and hold him back.

Kirk glares at him, face-to-face.

KIRK (cont'd)

Get him off my bridge. I don't wanna see his face.

(to Sulu)

You're confined to quarters!

Chekov drags Sulu into the LIFT.

KIRK (cont'd)

Ship-wide.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PALMER
(hesitant)
Sir...

KIRK
Ship-wide!

SMITH
Gladly.

Smith hits the BUTTON at communications.

KIRK
(into comm)
All hands, this is the captain. In
case any of you are confused about
your duties, let me spell it out
for you.

INT. CORRIDOR - INSERT

KIRK (O.S.)
(filtered; over comm)
There's an intruder aboard my ship.
And finding him is the singular
priority... above all else. He is
undisciplined... disobedient!

A crewman SHOVES another out of his way as he passes.

An officer steps off the ladder, rubbing his head. He
listens to Kirk, distressed.

INT. REC ROOM - INSERT

KIRK (O.S.)
(filtered; over comm)
All personnel are ordered to locate
and apprehend this intruder. He
thinks he's smarter than us. He's
defying us! He needs to be taught
a lesson.

A distraught crewman tosses his food down in disgust. He
suddenly KNOCKS his plate off the table and STORMS OUT.

INT. CORRIDOR

KIRK (O.S.)
(filtered; over comm)
Use all available force necessary.

McKennah -- with a bloodied lip -- makes her way along the hallway. KNOCKS LOUDLY -- doesn't buzz -- on Taylor's door.

No answer. She POUNDS AGAIN.

McKENNAH
(irritable)
It's McKennah!

The door WHOOSHES open.

INT. TAYLOR'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

McKennah steps in. Unsaid: 'What?!' Taylor is sitting solemnly. She swallows.

TAYLOR
I didn't know who else to call.

She points to the hole in her wall. It's Usdi!

TAYLOR (cont'd)
I think he knows these waves. He seems to be... He's more afraid each time one hits us.

Now Taylor notices McKennah's bloody lip.

TAYLOR (cont'd)
You okay? You look like you've been in a fight...

MCKENNAH
Oh. Yeah.
(beat; ashamed)
And I started it.

Another RED PULSE shakes the ship. McKennah's face changes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MCKENNAH (cont'd)
(angrily)
He must've done something to
deserve this!

TAYLOR
No no no... it's okay. It's okay.

She catches herself... gathers her composure.

MCKENNAH
Whatever these 'pulses' are... it's
making it impossible to think
clearly. It's getting harder to
manage the anger.

McKennaH paces... then realization!

MCKENNAH (cont'd)
But maybe anger management's the
wrong path...
(to Taylor)
We can't stop the emotion. Why
even try? We've gotta target the
action centers!

TAYLOR
How?

MCKENNAH
(an idea)
Alpha-wave inducers.
(explains)
They're used for psychological
trauma. McCoy has a supply.

TAYLOR
We can't just march in there and
take them.

MCKENNAH
(beat)
Leave McCoy to me.

INT. SICKBAY - MOMENTS LATER

McCoy working on Spock, in bed. Dickerson stands guard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NURSE PETERSON is bandaging Uhura's hand.

The DOOR OPENS. It's McKennah. The sound distracts McCoy -- clearly on edge -- and he almost drops his med scanner just as another RED WAVE ROCKS the ship. His face turns.

MCCOY

Dammit, doctor! What makes you think you can barge into my sickbay like you own the...

Before he can finish, she PUNCHES him square in the jaw. He DROPS like a sack of potatoes.

Peterson swallows, in shock.

MCKENNAH

Sarah. I need the mobile alpha-wave inducers. All of them.

Peterson's eyes widen and she gets to work. Dickerson and Uhura simply stare.

INT. CORRIDOR

The hallway ROCKS with another blast as Kirk, Smith, Chekov move down the corridor, now with belts and phasers. Kirk carries a type-3 rifle.

They pause at an intersection. Kirk hears SOMETHING in the Jefferies tube nearby...

It's Scotty, FIXING a conduit.

KIRK

Mister Scott!
(off his reaction)
What do you think you're doing? My orders were to search the ship for that creature!

Scotty steps down and looks Kirk in the eye. Takes a swig from a pocket flask.

SCOTT

(low)
Dunnah tell me how to do my job.
You want the engines fixed or no?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Scott turns away to get back to work; but:

KIRK
The engines are expendable!

Scotty's eyes widen.

SCOTT
'Zat so? Lemme show ya' what's
expendable!

Scott raises his fist as if to strike Kirk.

FLASH!

Scotty drops, stunned, to the floor. Chekov taking aim from behind him. Kirk glares at Scott in disgust.

KIRK
(mimics Scottish brogue)
You're goin' to tha brig.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

Establishing SHOT.

INT. TAYLOR'S QUARTERS

Usdi coiled up in the corner, eyes GLOWING BLUE. Taylor still holding the translator mic.

McKennah, Dickerson, Uhura are here now -- all wearing blinking armbands. A case of several more bands rests on the table.

MCKENNAH
I thought Nyota could be of help.
(re: Usdi)
Speaking with the alien.

McKennah fastens an armband onto Taylor as:

TAYLOR
'Usdi.' His name's 'Usdi.'
(beat)
I tried fine-tuning the translator,
but... he's not saying anything.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR (cont'd)

(beat)

I think he's running from that ship.

UHURA

So he came here seeking sanctuary...

(beat)

Maybe we can give it to him.

DICKERSON

(an idea)

Engineering.

(beat)

The waves... they dissipate as they go through the Enterprise. If we take the alien to...

(off their reactions)

'Usdi'... to the aft section, then the enemy vessel should have a harder time locating him.

MCKENNAH

But even if we get him there...

UHURA

We have to clear the engine room.

She takes the translator mic from Taylor:

UHURA (cont'd)

I'll have to make some adjustments. Tie into my linguistic matrix.

TAYLOR

(nods)

But how are we gonna get him all the way to engineering?

McKennah studies the armbands for a beat.

MCKENNAH

I guess I better make friends with the transporter chief.

INT. SICKBAY

Spock in a coma on bed. Nurse Peterson is affixing an armband to McCoy, who's still knocked-out on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, Kirk and Smith ENTER, guns drawn. They look around quickly for Usdi.

KIRK
(to Nurse)
Have you seen that creature?

Terrified, she says nothing.

Suddenly, RED ALERT! An ANNOUNCEMENT from THE INTERCOM:

SCOTT (V.O.)
(filtered)
Emergency! We have a warp core
coolant leak! All personnel
evacuate engineering deck.

Kirk's eyes narrow as he puts it together:

KIRK
(to Smith)
Mister Scott is in the brig!
(beat)
Meet me in the transporter room in
five minutes.

They RUN OFF.

CUT TO:

INT. TAYLOR'S QUARTERS

Dickerson speaks into the translator mic:

DICKERSON
(into mic)
Repeat: Coolant leak! All
engineering personnel evacuate
immediately!

Uhura TOGGLES the switches on the mic, and the audio MORPHS
into SCOTT'S VOICE:

SCOTT (V.O.)
(filtered; over speaker)
Repeat: Coolant leak! All
engineering personnel evacuate
immediately!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR
(smiles at Uhura)
I'm glad you're on our side.

Uhura DIALS a few buttons on Taylor's desk terminal...

INT. ENGINEERING

The INTERCOM PLAYS 'Scotty's' warning as a group of supernumerary engineers DASH OUT OF THE ROOM!

SCOTT (V.O.)
(filtered; over intercom)
Coolant leak! All engineering
personnel evacuate immediately!

Uhura, Taylor (carrying the translator), Dickerson, and Usdi MATERIALIZE.

UHURA
Dickerson. Seal the doors.

DICKERSON
Sir.

Dickerson nods... takes up position by the door and PRESSES a panel.

TAYLOR
(aside to Usdi)
Hey... it's okay.

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

McKenna and Wilson -- both wearing flashing armbands -- sort through the case of extra bands, readying them.

The DOOR. Smith enters, phaser aimed.

SMITH
Well. Look what we have here.
(beat)
Step away from the console, chief.

MCKENNAH
(to Wilson)
Belay that order.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMITH

I said 'Step away from the console.'

Wilson swallows, unsure what to do next.

WILSON

(to Smith)

Sir, I don't...

She casually FIRES, stunning him. He drops. Steps to McKennah, aiming.

MCKENNAH

(swallows)

Barbara. It's me.

(beat)

Put the phaser down.

SMITH

He is gonna get what he deserves.

MCKENNAH

Why?

(off her silence)

Why?

Smith hesitates for a moment, confused. Almost starts to lower the phaser.

MCKENNAH (cont'd)

(re: the armbands)

Let me give you one of these.

Okay? Trust me.

A beat... but:

KIRK (O.S.)

(filtered; over comm)

Kirk to Smith! I wanna know when the transporter room's secure.

McKennah uses the distraction to SLAP the phaser out of her hand!

Smith lunges; McKennah dodges. McKennah throws a punch... CONNECTS... but Smith counters and DROPS her with a chop to the neck!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIRK (O.S.) (cont'd)
(filtered; over comm)
Smith! Report! Is the transporter
room secure?!

SMITH
(keys comm)
It's secure now.

She wipes a trickle of blood from her lip.

INT. ENGINEERING

Dickerson stands guard on the upper deck as Taylor studies the creature, who looks alarmed. Taylor makes a calming gesture with her hands... and Usdi hunches down.

TAYLOR
It's okay. I'm here.
(beat)
I understand... 'Usdi.'
(beat)
I understand.

Uhura steps over.

UHURA
How is he?

TAYLOR
All right for now.
(beat)
So what's next?

Suddenly, they turn at the sound of the TRANSPORTER!

Kirk, Smith, and two SECURITY GUARDS MATERIALIZE on the engineering floor, all with phasers drawn!

KIRK
There!

TAYLOR
No... no! Captain...!

They take aim at Usdi... FIRE! An organ on his back GLOWS BRIGHT RED along with his eyes. A PULSE of red energy blasts out from the organ.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kirk, Smith, and the guards are KNOCKED to the floor instantly. Their phasers SCATTER across the ground. The guards are out cold.

Kirk and Smith stumble to their feet... but Dickerson JUMPS DOWN and TACKLES Kirk from above! They WRESTLE.

Smith and Uhura RUSH each other! A STRUGGLE!

Taylor cowers behind Usdi.

Smith scrambles for her dropped phaser... grabs it and takes aim...!

But before she can fire, Taylor has SNAPPED an armband onto her. Her face changes.

Kirk strangles Dickerson... CHOKING the life out of him...

But Uhura SNAPS a band onto Kirk!

UHURA

Captain!

A long beat. Kirk's eyes change. He realizes what he's done.

Before anyone can speak:

CHEKOV (O.S.)

(filtered; over comm)

Bridge to Captain Kirk.

(beat)

Bridge to Captain Kirk!

Kirk stumbles to the console on the side.

KIRK

(keys comm)

Go ahead, bridge.

CHEKOV (O.S.)

(filtered; over comm)

Sir, the enemy wessel is closing fast! But it's not a ship...

In b.g., Usdi subtly reacts. Taylor notices.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIRK
(into comm)
Pipe it down here.

The comm screen GLOWS TO LIFE:

EXT. SPACE - VIEWSCREEN - INSERT

A giant creature, bigger than a whale, but obviously the same species as Usdi, approaches the Enterprise!

INT. ENGINEERING - CONTINUOUS

Reactions from all. Kirk and Taylor share a look as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

The ship hovers, with the large alien squarely in front of it.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. The Enterprise is face-to-face with a being who has been flooding the ship with energy waves. And Usdi -- our stowaway -- would appear to be a member of its species.

INT. BRIDGE

The LIFT opens as Kirk, Uhura, Smith ENTER.

Chekov, Sulu at conn. Spock in the chair! All wearing armbands now.

Kirk's thrilled -- and surprised -- to see him.

KIRK

Spock?

SPOCK

(nods)

Captain.

Kirk takes the chair. Smith nav sub-systems; Uhura swaps out with Palmer (who takes engineering).

KIRK

What do we know about it?

Spock TAKES READINGS at science.

SPOCK

Definitely the same type of organism as our visitor. Obviously proportionally much larger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRK

Like an adult to a child..

Spock reacts.

INTERCUT:

EXT. SPACE - VIEWSCREEN - INSERT

The giant has an organ on his back like Usdi's. It STARTS TO GLOW BRIGHT RED along with his eyes.

Suddenly, it BLASTS out another RED WAVE, but now practically at point-blank range.

INTERCUT:

INT. BRIDGE

The Enterprise SHAKES with terrible force. People fall. Lights flicker as do computer screens.

SULU

Shields at eighty percent.

SPOCK

Based on what we've experienced, captain... it is reasonable to assume that the creature is quite angry, and wants Usdi returned.

Scotty ENTERS from the turbolift. Now with armband.

KIRK

Welcome back, Mister Scott. We need engines online.

SCOTT

(embarrassed)

Captain. My behavior earlier...

KIRK

I'll fire you later. Get to work.

Scott smiles and takes engineering.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRK (cont'd)
(to Uhura)
Lieutenant, open a channel. Patch
in the translator upgrades.

UHURA
Aye, sir.

KIRK
(into comm)
Alien entity... this is Captain James
T. Kirk of the United Starship
Enterprise. Discontinue your
attack on our ship immediately.

UHURA
No reply on any frequency, sir.
(re: viewscreen)
Captain!

A series of bursts: BAM!! BAM!!

SCOTT
Forward shields at fifty-percent.
Phasers are out.

SMOKE rises from nav sub-systems.

SMITH
(shakes head)
Navigation's offline!

Reactions, as they share grave looks.

SPOCK
We cannot run. The logical
decision is to release Usdi into
the creature's custody.

UHURA
Captain! We can't...

Kirk shares a look with his other officers. A beat.

An idea!

KIRK
The structure... the 'region' on its
back...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIRK (cont'd)

(beat)

Seems to be generating the waves.

SPOCK

A logical assumption, captain.

KIRK

(a decision)

Load photon torpedo tubes. Target
that region.

Sulu nods and WORKS his panel.

SULU

Torpedoes armed and ready.

KIRK

(beat)

Fire.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

The ship FIRES PHOTONS.

INT. ENGINEERING

Taylor and Usdi watch the display screen in fear.

Suddenly:

USDI

(filtered; over
translator)

Usdi. Protect.

TAYLOR

No! No... you're safe here.

USDI

(filtered; over
translator)

Me. Must. Protect.

TAYLOR

No. Please don't go out there!

(beat; lower)

Please. Please don't go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We PUSH to his face. Taylor knows what has to be done.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

All eyes are on the viewscreen.

SULU

Direct hit.

SPOCK

The alien's bio-signs are
fluctuating. We appear to have
injured it.

SMITH

Hostile is accelerating...

(reacts)

It's on an intercept course,
captain!

SCOTT

That beast is going to ram us!

KIRK

Reload torpedoes.

SPOCK

Captain... the parent life-form will
likely not survive another torpedo
impact.

[In b.g., the TURBOLIFT OPENS. It's Taylor.]

CHEKOV

Do we know it is his parent?

TAYLOR

(from behind)

It is.

(beat)

It's his father.

Kirk and Taylor share a look. Kirk gets it.

KIRK

Where's Usdi?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHEKOV
(ro: viewscreen)
Captain!

They turn to look:

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

Usdi floats into position between the Enterprise and the Father.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

SPOCK
Usdi has positioned himself
directly between the Enterprise...
and his father.

Reactions from all as they watch the viewscreen.

CHEKOV
The creature has... stopped.

INTERCUT:

EXT. SPACE - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

Usdi's Father stops in his tracks.

EXT. SPACE - USDI AND FATHER - CONTINUOUS

Usdi's back-organ pulses with BLUE LIGHT. Very slowly, the Father's eyes change from RED to YELLOW.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

KIRK
(low)
Go to yellow alert. Open a
channel.

Uhura takes a beat. Nods as she PRESSES a button. Kirk takes a long pause. And then:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRK (cont'd)
(into comm)
Unknown entity.
(beat)
Surely you must know... you nearly
died here today. We all did. You
filled me... you filled all of us...
with your anger. And for some
reason, that anger was directed at
your child. He was scared. He was
hiding.
(beat)
And yet... he still protected you.

A long beat. Nothing. Kirk turns to Uhura. She just
shrugs.

SULU
Captain. They're moving off.

UHURA
Where are they going?

KIRK
(shakes head)
He saved his father's life today.
(beat)
Only time will tell if that made a
difference.

Off their reactions...

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

Moving through space at impulse. The front section now
repaired.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM

Kirk sits deep on thought as the DOOR OPENS and Spock enters.

SPOCK
Captain. I believe I owe you a
profound apology.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRK

Well, there's a lot of that going around right now. I think everyone on this ship owes someone an apology. I forgive you. And... I'm sorry for shooting you.

SPOCK

I forgive you.

(beat)

But... it was the logical decision given the circumstances. I must also confess to being perhaps a bit -- frustrated -- with the inability to control my actions.

KIRK

Well that wasn't your fault, Spock. McCoy will be sending me the bill for the wall in sickbay, I'm sure.

Kirk paces.

SPOCK

He should be sending it to me.

(notices that Kirk is lost
in thought)

Something else, captain?

KIRK

Speaking of frustrating...

SPOCK

Sir?

KIRK

I've gotten so used to being able to persuade with words... getting others to see things in a new and different way, give a rousing speech... and it was frustrating not to be able to do the same thing with Usdi's father.

SPOCK

Did you genuinely expect you could convince him to change a deeply ingrained behavior simply with your words?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIRK

(smiles)

Well, now that you put it that way...
I don't know what I expected.

(beat)

But I didn't expect silence. I
wonder... what would it take to
change someone like that.

SPOCK

(after a pause)

In my conversations with Doctor
McKenna...

Kirk raises an eyebrow and smiles.

SPOCK (cont'd)

...we have discussed the many
differences between people. The
multitude of paths that everyone
walks through life... some easy, some
difficult. And a re-occurring
observation has been this: One is
much more able to lead another down
an unfamiliar path... when one has
already been down that path
oneself.

Kirk ponders -- the INTERCOM sounds.

CHEKOV (O.S.)

(filtered on comm)

Bridge to Mister Spock.

SPOCK

(keys comm)

Spock here.

CHEKOV (O.S.)

(filtered on comm)

Sir, I've been conducting scans and
I think found something.

SPOCK

(into comm)

Transfer it to this computer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHEKOV (O.S.)
(filtered on comm)
Aye sir, transferring now.

Spock FLIPS a few switches, then reacts.

SPOCK
Captain, you might like to see
this.

Kirk moves in behind Spock, looking at the computer... and
smiles.

INT. TAYLOR'S QUARTERS

McKennah, Smith, Taylor sit together in conversation.

SMITH
I just... wanted to tell you both.
(beat)
I'm sorry.

MCKENNAH
(smiles)
I just apologized to Doctor McCoy
myself.
(beat; serious now)
It's okay. It wasn't you.

TAYLOR
It's not hard for rage to take
control of good people.

MCKENNAH
How about that drink we promised
ourselves?

SMITH
Yes.

They stand to GO... but Kirk is at the door.

TAYLOR
I'll catch up with you girls.

McKennah, Smith LEAVE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRK

At ease, ensign.

(beat)

We've analyzed the aliens' ion trail. Seems they're in a comet cloud not far from here.

A long beat. She realizes now that he understands.

KIRK (cont'd)

(keys comm)

Spock... are you ready?

SPOCK (O.S.)

(filtered; over comm)

We're within range of the comet cloud now, captain.

KIRK

(into comm)

Very good. Lieutenant... open a channel. Patch in the ship's translators to this comm.

He turns to Taylor.

KIRK (cont'd)

I wasn't able to reach him. Perhaps you can.

Taylor takes a moment to consider it.

A long beat. She swallows. And:

TAYLOR

(emotionally; into comm)

I don't know what your name is. Mine's 'Eliza.'

(beat)

When your son came to us, I... I knew he chose me for a reason. But I didn't know why.

(beat)

Now I know. Your son loves you very, very much. Just like I love my father.

(beat)

I know in my heart that you're not a monster.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TAYLOR (cont'd)

(beat)

But every time you lash out in anger at your son, you become less the father he loves... and more the monster he fears.

(beat)

Please. Please find a way to heal yourself.

(beat)

Because my father never did.

Silence. And then:

FATHER (O.S.)

(filtered; over comm)

Heal...

TAYLOR

(into comm)

Heal. Love. Change. For Usdi.

FATHER (O.S.)

(filtered; over comm)

Change. For Usdi.

The COMM SHUTS OFF.

KIRK

Maybe... change begins when someone reaches you.

(off her reaction)

I'd say you reached him.

TAYLOR

I hope so.

(beat)

For Usdi.

EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

The ship soars away.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE