

REVISIONS:
10-25-16 blue
10-27-16 pink
12-22-16 yelo
03-15-17 gren

Star Trek Continues

Episode 11
TO BOLDLY GO
Part II

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STAR TREK CONTINUES: EP 11 'TO BOLDLY GO' PART II

TEASER

FADE IN:

FLASHBACK - EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & IRW HAWK'S TALON

The Enterprise and Hawk's Talon hang in space near the galactic barrier. Over the following, we see exciting FLASHBACKS from our previous episode that correspond to his words.

KIRK V.O.

Captain's log, stardate six-nine-ninety-five point one. Several days ago, the Enterprise was rerouted to Aldebaran Three -- where, at a top secret facility, Starfleet housed twenty-five humans with extraordinary ESP quotients.

(beat)

Leaving a renegade Vulcan and his wife Lana to distract us with illusions, the remaining espers seized the Federation vessel SS Halifax and set course for the energy barrier surrounding our galaxy.

(beat)

Commander Spock sought the help of Romulan Commander Charvanek -- an unauthorized act for which he has been duly reprimanded.

FLASHBACK - INT. CONTROL CENTRAL - IRW HAWK'S TALON

TAL

Commander! We have them! Here, in Romulan space...!

CHARVANEK

Tal. We will assist the Enterprise in its mission. Is that understood?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRK V.O.

The Romulans agreed to accompany
the Enterprise to the barrier in
order to intercept the Halifax.
But we arrived too late.

FLASHBACK - INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

CHEKOV

Sir... we're picking up a vessel at
the barrier.

KIRK

Full mag.

FLASHBACK - EXT. SPACE - GALACTIC BARRIER - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

A small vessel -- an Antares-type freighter -- APPEARS on
screen.

FLASHBACK - INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

PALMER

(re: engineering scope)
Identification confirmed.
SS Halifax.

KIRK

Ship-to-ship.

UHURA

Hailing frequencies open.

KIRK

This is Captain James Kirk of the
starship Enterprise. We're here to
render aid.

(beat)

I understand you have grievances...
and we offer our services as go-
between with Starfleet Command.
But it is crucial that you do not
enter the barrier.

(beat)

Uhura, anything?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

UHURA

No, sir.
(reacts)
There's no one aboard.

CHEKOV

Captain... detecting another ship
nearby. A starship...

SPOCK

(re: science viewer)
Scanning... It is the Kongo, sir.
We are receiving anomalous
readings.

KIRK

What sort of 'readings'?

SPOCK

(shakes head)
Difficult to decipher. But it
would appear there are only about
two-dozen life-forms on board.

UHURA

I've tied into the Kongo's bridge,
captain.

KIRK

On screen.

FLASHBACK - INT. BRIDGE - USS KONGO - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

The main viewer DISSOLVES to the interior of the Kongo's
bridge. We SEE SUPERNUMERARIES facing us: their eyes are
GLOWING SILVER.

KIRK V.O.

The Halifax already entered the
galactic energy barrier -- and, in
doing so, 'uplifted' the esper crew
with superhuman powers. Utilizing
their abilities, the espers somehow
seized control of our sister ship --
the USS Kongo.

FLASHBACK - INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Reactions!

Suddenly, the turbolift SWOOSHES open... and out come Lana and Sentek!

LANA

You're too late, captain.
Relinquish command... or the
Enterprise will suffer the same
fate as the Hood.

PLAY Kirk's reaction as we...

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - USS KONGO

1

SUPER episode titles as we PAN over the primary hull. The serial number, revealed a character at a time: NCC-17...

...and suddenly we're surprised to see the final two digits are reversed: 10! Above it is the name 'USS KONGO.' Behind the Kongo, the sky is bisected by the purple-pink ribbon of the energy barrier.

As our VIEW flips around, REVEAL the Enterprise and Hawk's Talon away from the Kongo, facing her.

2 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

2

As at the end of 'Part I': KIRK, SPOCK at science, UHURA at comm, PALMER at engineering, CHEKOV at nav, SMITH at helm. LANA and SENTEK near turbolift.

KIRK

Uhura! Every available security guard to the bridge!

KIRK (cont'd)

(to helm)
Shields up! Back us off!

UHURA

(keys comm)
Security alert! All personnel to deck one!

LANA

Not so fast, captain.
(over Kirk's head)
Helm, hold position.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

KIRK

This is my ship.

Lana stretches out her right arm, fingers extended, and BOLTS OF ENERGY slam Kirk to the floor. Smith runs to help him.

Spock moves toward Lana and she turns to him, slamming him backward with another energy bolt. She then turns to Chekov, who has stood up from his chair.

LANA

Do as I said. Hold position -- and drop shields.

Uhura grabs Lana's shoulder, swings her around, and decks her with a right cross! No effect! Sentek THROWS Uhura off!

Chekov rushes Lana...

DOORS OPEN -- DICKERSON and SECURITY GUARD dash in, just in time to see Lana FIRE A BOLT at Chekov, knocking him backwards.

Dickerson FIRES at Lana -- the phaser beam as NO EFFECT! With a sweep of her arm, Dickerson and the other Guard's phasers go flying!

SMITH

Stop!

Sentek SLAMS Dickerson and the Guard to the ground and rushes to the engineering station. He begins to WORK the controls.

Kirk and Spock, both recovering, rush Lana simultaneously.

Lana takes aim at Kirk and SENDS him backwards again. Spock gets close enough to try a neck pinch on Lana -- but it has no effect. Lana SMACKS him to the ground!

SMITH (cont'd)

Stop!

Smith's eyes SUDDENLY GLOW SILVER, and she FIRES BOLTS from her hand at Lana! Lana is thrown against the engineering console by the force of the blast.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

Kirk and Spock react to Smith's actions... Unsaid: 'What the hell?'

Sentek grabs onto Lana, and KEYS a panel:

SENTEK
(into comm)
Kongo, two to beam over!

The transporter WHINE grows, and Sentek and Lana dematerialize.

Kirk climbs back into his seat:

KIRK
Chekov! Get those shields back up!

CHEKOV
Aye captain!

Chekov rights himself and dashes back to the nav station. He RAISES SHIELDS and the ship goes to RED ALERT just as the ship ROCKS with a phaser blast!

SPOCK
Deflectors at eighty percent.

KIRK
Return fire.

Chekov WORKS his controls...

3 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & IRW HAWK'S TALON

3

The Enterprise FIRES PHASERS as the Romulan ship FIRES MISSILES at the Kongo.

4 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

4

[RED ALERT.]

CHEKOV
No effect, captain!

SPOCK
(re: science viewer)
The espers must be utilizing their
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

SPOCK (cont'd)
 psionic abilities to enhance the
 Kongo's shields.

KIRK
 Back us off.

CHEKOV
 Yes sir.
 (beat)
 The Kongo is holding position.

Reactions... relief from all.

The turbolift doors OPEN. Two other SECURITY GUARDS enter
 the bridge.

KIRK
 Go to yellow alert.
 (low)
 Mister Smith. Report to sickbay.

She turns to him, eyes silvered.

SMITH
 Captain, I...
 (off his look)
 Sir.

She walks slowly. Dickerson and Security Guard escort her
 into the LIFT.

5 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & IRW HAWK'S TALON

5

As before. Hovering quite a distance from the barrier and
 the Kongo.

6 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

6

Kirk, MCCOY, SCOTT at the table. Kirk drinks a cup of
 coffee. He's growing irritable.

MCCOY
 Any idea how they overpowered the
 Kongo's crew?

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

(shakes head)

Probably similar to what they did to the Hood. Their illusions are... formidable.

MCCOY

You knew Captain Azmi?

KIRK

(sadly)

He was my friend.

SCOTT

If the espers wanted to steal a starship, why not take the Republic -- or the Yorktown -- when they went to investigate?

MCCOY

Hell, they probably tried to. We're lucky those ships managed to escape the system first.

SCOTT

Barely. The poor lasses'll take a year to rebuild -- at least.

Kirk stands and paces.

KIRK

Regardless. They've got a starship now, gentlemen.

(beat)

What are they waiting for? Why not turn us against each other... trick us into shutting down our systems...?

(CONTINUED)

MCCOY

(frowns; beat)

Well... We know that uplifted espers need time to develop their powers. They just entered the barrier and took over the Kongo. They might not have enough energy to do the same to us.

(beat)

For now.

KIRK

Yes... for now. But it's only a matter of time.

(beat)

I don't like distrusting our own senses, gentlemen. We need to stay sharp... focused.

(CONTINUED)

MCCOY

I might be able to synthesize a formazine solution. Help keep us all on our toes.

SCOTT

Aye. We should keep our distance from 'em as well. They dunna have indefinite range.

KIRK

Yet they're holding position. Our weapons don't seem to affect them.

(beat)

Why not attack?

SCOTT

Their engines're offline. I'm guessin' the Kongo's crew managed to shut 'em down before they were...

(searches for the word)

...overrun. They'll have to restart 'em.

KIRK

How long?

SCOTT

That's just it, sir. It shouldna take this long. Perhaps they dunno exactly what they're doin'.

KIRK

(irritable)

Too many unknowns. Find me solutions.

(beat)

Dismissed.

Scott LEAVES... but McCoy holds back.

KIRK (cont'd)

Something else, doctor?

MCCOY

Jim, you look like hell. How long've you been awake?

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

Two days...
(re: coffee)
...and I need to keep going.

MCCOY

Normally I'd tell you you're wrong.
But you aren't... this time.

KIRK

Law of averages.
(beat)
Bones, do you know how many people
have died under my command?

MCCOY

Jim...

KIRK

Seventy-three. In five years.

MCCOY

But you've saved countless more.
Whole planets.

KIRK

I don't know why, but... I can't
stop thinking about it. About
them.

(beat)

Tomlinson. Tormolen. Jackson.
Mister Drake. I could name them
all.

(beat)

And now... a starship with two-dozen
espers, bent on revenge. How many
more people have to die?

MCCOY

We'll stop them.

KIRK

At what cost, doctor. At what
cost.

PUSH IN on Kirk, tired... and worried.

7 INT. SICKBAY - USS ENTERPRISE

7

Smith is in the far bed in medical coveralls. Her eyes are SILVERED OVER. Security Guard stands watch as the NURSE scans her.

McKENNAH ENTERS. Without turning to see her:

SMITH

Counselor. I'm glad you're here.
(off her silence)
Please don't look at me like that.
I didn't ask for this.
(beat)
I don't even know how...

McKennah studies her, greatly concerned.

MCKENNAH

Mister Spock has a theory.
(beat)
You were touching one of the espers
when this ship went through the
barrier five years ago.
(off her nod)
You didn't quite uplift then... but
contact with him left residual
effects you didn't know about.
Proximity to the barrier must've
triggered it.

SMITH

I can hear what you're thinking,
Elise. But you're wrong. I'm not
dangerous.
(sighs)
I feel this... power surging in me.
But I'm not Gary. I would never
hurt any of you.

MCKENNAH

I wish we could know that for sure.

8 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & IRW HAWK'S TALON

8

As before.

9 INT. SPOCK'S QUARTERS - USS ENTERPRISE

9

PLAY a series of IMAGES: specifications of Constitution-class starships on the VIEWER.

REVEAL Spock at his desk, studying. His door BUZZER sounds.

SPOCK

Come.

CHARVANEK ENTERS. He reacts.

CHARVANEK

Spock. We have unfinished business.

SPOCK

Commander. My answer then was as it must be now: I am a Starfleet officer.

CHARVANEK

Surrounded by those whose minds cannot reach out to others.

(beat)

Humans fear that which they foolishly call 'extrasensory.' They cannot bear the intimacy of shared thoughts.

She raises her hand, palm out.

CHARVANEK (cont'd)

The mixing of two minds... solute and solvent.

Spock rises and approaches her. He lifts his own hand and presses his palm against hers.

SPOCK

We did share something... significant.

CHARVANEK

I have thought of you often, Spock.

(CONTINUED)

They begin to caress each other's fingers.

CHARVANEK (cont'd)

When my ship departs, come with me.
You belong at my side.

SPOCK

Nothing has changed. I am still
first officer of the Enterprise.

CHARVANEK

Whose mission will soon be over.
Your job is complete. It is time
for new challenges.

(beat)

An opportunity to return my people
to the Time of Awakening... before
the Sundering. To the path begun
by Surak so many centuries ago.

SPOCK

(confused)

No. This is not correct...

CHARVANEK

But it is. Our union would be
symbolic, Spock: a step toward
reunification.

SPOCK

You are a Romulan. Proud. Yet you
are here as I want you to be -- not
as you are.

CHARVANEK

Why question? Just... feel.

Spock raises his hand, fingers spread as if to perform a mind
meld -- but he brings them to his own cheek.

SPOCK

This cannot be.

CHARVANEK

Spock...

SPOCK

This cannot be real.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

He winces... and Charvanek DISSOLVES into thin air, leaving Spock all alone! PUSH IN on him as we:

FADE OUT.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & IRW HAWK'S TALON 10
As before.

11 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 11
SULU at helm; Chekov at nav; Uhura at comm; Palmer at engineering. The COMM WHISTLES:

KIRK V.O.

Kirk to bridge. I need you to set a new heading: Zero-one-zero mark thirteen. And drop shields.

CHEKOV

(puzzled; into comm)

Captain? That course will bring us straight into the barrier! Without our shields...

KIRK V.O.

You have your orders. Kirk out.

Sulu and Chekov share a reluctant look as they begin to WORK their panels.

SULU

Uhura? Anything from the Kongo?

UHURA

Sorry, sir.

Kirk ENTERS from the lift.

KIRK

Mister Sulu?

SULU

The Kongo's holding position, captain.

Kirk sits as he quickly (and distractedly) signs a SUPERNUMERARY'S PADD. Clearly on edge; distraught.

(CONTINUED)

CHEKOV

Course laid in for the galactic barrier, sir. On your mark.

KIRK

(reacts)

The barrier? What're you talking about?

Before anyone can react, the turbolift doors OPEN and Spock steps onto the bridge.

SPOCK

Captain. I have been compromised -- and if I have, others may have been as well.

Kirk gives Spock a puzzled look. He moves to stand by Kirk.

SPOCK (cont'd)

Have you experienced anything... unusual?

KIRK

No.

(beat)

Yes. I find myself dwelling. Dwelling on...

He trails off as he looks away.

SPOCK

(low)

Sir. I believe the espers are attempting to influence our minds and render illusions. They are deliberately distracting us.

Kirk looks up for a beat. Realization.

KIRK

Sulu... check the Kongo's location again. Don't rely on their transponder; use our main sensor beam. Triangulate with the Romulans.

(CONTINUED)

- 11 CONTINUED: (2) 11
- SULU
Aye, captain. Scanning.
(beat)
Correction! There's no ship ahead
of us.
- PUSH IN on Kirk.
- KIRK
Bring us about! Now!
- 12 EXT. SPACE - USS KONGO 12
- The Kongo -- now behind the Enterprise -- FIRES phasers,
STRIKING our heroes' left warp nacelle!
- 13 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 13
- RED ALERT! The ship SHAKES!
- CHEKOV
They've opened fire, sir!
- KIRK
Charge phaser banks!
- Chekov frowns... swallows...
- CHEKOV
I... I don't remember how...
- KIRK
Sulu!
- Sulu nods and reaches over to hit the BUTTON.
- 14 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & IRW HAWK'S TALON 14
- The Enterprise FIRES its rear phaser as the Hawk's Talon
FIRES a plasma torpedo!
- The weapons IMPACT the Kongo!
- 15 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 15
- [RED ALERT.]

(CONTINUED)

SULU

(re: helm viewer)

We hit them! No damage... but they are moving off.

KIRK

'Moving off'?

SPOCK

Captain. If you recall, espers' energy can be expended. They may require a few moments to... 'recharge.'

KIRK

(nods)

Let's use that time wisely.

CHEKOV

Sir, I don't know what came over...

KIRK

Snap out of it, lieutenant. That's an order.

(keys comm)

Scotty, report.

SCOTT V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Their shot took out our port nacelle. I'll need thirty minutes to get it back online.

KIRK

We don't have thirty minutes. Perform a cold restart.

SCOTT V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Sir?! If anything goes wrong... we'll lose the whole ship!

UHURA

Captain! Commander Charvanek is hailing us.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

KIRK
Put her through.

INTERCUT:

16 INT. CONTROL CENTRAL - IRW HAWK'S TALON - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 16
Charvanek appears on the MAIN VIEWER.

CHARVANEK
(filtered; on screen)
Captain Kirk. We must withdraw.
Even our weapons cannot weaken
them.

INTERCUT:

17 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 17

[RED ALERT.] Kirk nods and swallows... but now a thought:

KIRK
(into comm)
Or perhaps... that's just what they
want us to think.

Charvanek raises an eyebrow. Kirk spins in his chair.

KIRK (cont'd)
Spock... double-check those readings.

Spock nods. Studies his viewer:

SPOCK
I am detecting fluctuations in
their shields. It would appear
their psionic abilities cannot
deflect multiple strikes
simultaneously.

KIRK
Then we'll hit them from both
sides.

CHARVANEK V.O.
(filtered; on screen)
Agreed.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK
 (shakes head)
 Captain. An attack from only two
 vectors would be insufficient to
 compromise their shield grid.

KIRK
 (thinks)
 If not two...

And now he stands.

KIRK (cont'd)
 ...then what about three?

Reactions from the others... Sulu, Chekov, Uhura, Palmer.
 What's he getting at?

Kirk shares a look with Spock. And, after a beat, Spock nods
 his approval.

KIRK (cont'd)
 (to Uhura)
 Lieutenant... ship-wide.

UHURA
 Yes sir.

She WORKS HER CONTROLS.

KIRK
 (into comm)
 All decks. This is the captain.
 We are about to undergo a risky
 procedure -- one which we've never
 before attempted. Chief engineer
 Scott will be performing a reset of
 our engines. As a precaution,
 Commander Spock will remain on the
 main bridge...
 (beat)
 While I assume command of the
secondary hull.

Reactions!

INTERCUT:

18 INT. CORRIDOR - USS ENTERPRISE 18

[RED ALERT.] CREWMEMBERS listen, in shock.

KIRK V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

We will then coordinate with the Hawk's Talon to perform a three-pronged attack on the Kongo.

19 INT. JEFFERIES TUBE - USS ENRTERPRISE 19

[RED ALERT.] A CREWMAN reacts to Kirk's announcement...

KIRK V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

All non-emergency personnel evacuate to the primary hull immediately.

INTERCUT:

20 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 20

[RED ALERT.]

KIRK

(into comm)

Prepare... to jettison the drive section.

As he SWITCHES OFF THE COMM, the bridge begins to BUSTLE with activity. Spock steps to him:

SPOCK

(aside)

Captain. Even if we are successful, it will be extremely difficult to reconnect the secondary hull.

KIRK

Difficult... but not impossible, Spock.

(beat)

Use impulse power to keep a safe distance. I'll be relying on thrusters only.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Spock nods. Kirk heads for the LIFT. At the door:

KIRK (cont'd)
Mister Sulu? Care to join me?

PLAY Sulu:

SULU
(huge grin)
I've always wanted to do this.

And he hurries out of his chair as the bridge crew begins to shift positions.

21 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & IRW HAWK'S TALON

21

As before. In the distance, the Kongo begins to MOVE.

22 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

22

[RED ALERT.] Spock now in the center seat. Uhura at comm; Palmer at engineering; Chekov now at science. New HELMSMAN and NAVIGATOR.

UHURA
(into comm)
All hands to battle stations. This is not a drill. I repeat: This is not a drill.

CHEKOV
(re: science scope)
Commander. The Kongo is powering up its impulse engines.

SPOCK
Understood.
(keys comm)
Spock to Captain Kirk. All systems ready.

23 INT. AUXILIARY CONTROL - USS ENTERPRISE

23

[RED ALERT.] Kirk, Sulu, and a SUPERNUMERARY OPS OFFICER at the console.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

KIRK
 (into comm)
 Main bridge, stand by.

SULU
 Closing EPS connections. Sealing
 turboshafts and Jefferies tubes.

KIRK
 Mister Sulu... I hope you remember
 your simulator sessions.

SULU
 (jokingly)
 What simulator sessions?

Kirk gives him a wry look, and he smiles. WORKS HIS
 CONTROLS.

24 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

24

The primary hull SEPARATES from the secondary hull!

The saucer climbs above the Kongo as the drive section dives
 below.

25 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

25

[RED ALERT.]

HELMSMAN
 (re: helm viewer)
 Commander, the Kongo is moving
 toward the stardrive section.

SPOCK
 Ready phasers. Load torpedo tubes.
 (beat)
 You may fire at will.

The Helmsman FIRES!

26 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

26

The Enterprise's saucer soars above the Kongo, phasers and
 photon torpedoes BLASTING from the saucer's underside.

(CONTINUED)

- 26 CONTINUED: 26
The Kongo RETURNS FIRE.
- 27 INT. AUXILIARY CONTROL - USS ENTERPRISE 27
[RED ALERT.]
- SULU
Captain. The saucer has engaged
the Kongo.
- KIRK
We need to buy Scotty some time.
- Sulu WORKS HIS BOARD.
- 28 EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS 28
The secondary hull FIRES PHASERS from its aft emitter.
The Hawk's Talon approaches, FIRING MISSILES at the Kongo.
- 29 INT. BRIDGE - USS KONGO 29
Lana in the chair. Sentek at helm. SUPERNUMERARY ESPERS at
other stations.
- SENTEK
All three ships are attacking,
Lana.
- LANA
Stay with them!
- SENTEK
(frowns)
Which one?!
- Off Lana's angry reaction...
- 30 INT. AUXILIARY CONTROL - USS ENTERPRISE 30
[RED ALERT.]
- SULU
It's working, sir. Their power
levels are dropping.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

KIRK

Keep at it. Maintain barrage.

Kirk watches the VIEWER:

31 EXT. SPACE - USS KONGO - AUXILIARY CONTROL VIEWSCREEN INSERT 31

The Kongo is repeatedly HIT by the ONSLAUGHT.

32 INT. BRIDGE - USS KONGO 32

SPARKS FLY as the bridge SHAKES.

Sentek swallows and turns to his wife.

SENTEK

Lana.

(beat)

Lana!

She glares at him -- but acquiesces.

LANA

(defeated)

Disengage.

Sentek OPERATES CONTROLS.

33 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 33

No longer at red alert.

NAVIGATOR

The Kongo is powering down weapons,
sir.

SPOCK

(nods)

Full stop.

(to Uhura)

Lieutenant Uhura... hail the drive
section.

Uhura frowns as she WORKS HER PANEL...

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

UHURA
 (confused)
 Mister Spock... I'm unable to reach
 the captain. They're... blocking our
 transmissions.

SPOCK
Compensate, lieutenant.

UHURA
 (shakes head)
 We're being hailed by the Kongo,
 sir.

Spock nods.

INTERCUT:

34 INT. BRIDGE - USS KONGO - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

34

The bridge of the Kongo appears on the main VIEWER. Lana,
 Sentek, and the others.

INTERCUT:

35 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

35

McKennah ENTERS the bridge. Steps down to him, watching the
 viewer.

SPOCK
 Lana. You will cease your
 disruption of our comm frequencies...

LANA V.O.
 (filtered; on screen)
 You're in no position to make
 demands, commander.

SPOCK
 Nor are you.

SENTEK V.O.
 (filtered; on screen)
 Scan our hangar deck. You will
 detect the Kongo's former
 crewmembers -- including Captain
 Azmi -- alive and well.

(CONTINUED)

Spock frowns. Gives Chekov a look.

CHEKOV

(re: science viewer)

Confirmed. Reading several life signs in their shuttlebay.

SENTEK V.O.

(filtered; on screen)

We are prepared to discuss terms... in person.

SPOCK

What do you propose?

LANA V.O.

(filtered; on screen)

Doctor McKennah was... 'kind' to me. I trust her.

(beat)

Beam her aboard our vessel.

McKennah's eyes widen.

SPOCK

I will not.

SENTEK V.O.

(filtered; on screen)

You will, commander. Or shall I decompress our hangar deck?

Reactions. Spock hesitates.

MCKENNAH

Spock. I'll go.

(beat)

We can't risk it. If they are still alive, we can't risk it.

SPOCK

(thinks)

Permit me to contact my captain. I will discuss...

SENTEK V.O.

(filtered; on screen)

No. You have one minute to decide, Spock. Kongo out.

(CONTINUED)

The VIEWSCREEN goes dark. Everyone looks to Spock for an answer. His frustration growing.

MCKENNAH

Please. We can save those people...
and I can talk to Lana. Negotiate.

(beat)

I'm trained in mediation. There
has to be a win-win scenario here.

SPOCK

(to Uhura)

Lieutenant. Attempt to hail
Captain Kirk...

UHURA

(frustrated)

I can't hail the captain, sir!

Spock looks at the floor. McKennah steps to him.

MCKENNAH

(quietly)

You're in command. Make a command
decision.

SPOCK

(low)

Doctor. We cannot be certain the
Kongo crewmembers are indeed alive.
This may be a deception. Logic
dictates...

MCKENNAH

Logic, Spock?! After all you and I
have talked about?

(beat)

What do your feelings say?

They share a long look.

And he gives Uhura a nod. She REOPENS THE CHANNEL.

SPOCK

(to screen)

Very well, Sentek. We will lower
our shields and transport our
officer to your vessel...

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

38 INT. BRIDGE - USS KONGO - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

38

SENTEK
(filtered; on screen)
Sorry, Spock.
(beat)
I lied.

INTERCUT:

39 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

39

SPOCK
(low)
Vulcans do not lie.

SENTEK V.O.
(filtered; on screen)
We both know that's not true. And
now we have a valuable prize in our
brig. A colleague for whom you
feel... affection, I sense.

SPOCK
You are mistaken.

LANA V.O.
(filtered; on screen)
I don't think so. Now stand down...
or she will die.
(off his silence)
Stand down.

Spock swallows, conflicted. And then:

SPOCK
Helm. Back us off.

The helm and nav officers react in surprise.

NAVIGATOR
Sir?

SPOCK
Back us off.

They nod and WORK THEIR CONTROLS.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

SENTEK V.O.
(filtered; on screen)
Live long and prosper, Spock.

40 EXT. SPACE - USS KONGO - VIEWSCREEN INSERT

40

The Kongo KICKS INTO WARP and leaves.

41 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

41

CHEKOV
The Kongo has gone to warp.
(beat)
I'm sorry, sir. We've lost her.

PUSH IN on Spock as we...

FADE OUT.

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

42 INT. CORRIDOR/BRIG - USS KONGO

42

McKenna lies on the hard cot in the Kongo's brig. Looking worse for the wear.

After a beat, a shadow falls over her. She turns to see Lana and an esper supernumerary guard at the doorway.

MCKENNAH

You don't have to do this.

Lana DROPS THE FORCEFIELD.

LANA

You should eat.

She steps into the cell. Slides a plate of food to McKenna.

McKenna glares at her. But she can't help being tempted by the food. She resigns herself to her hunger, and takes a bite. Swallows. Then looks back to her captor.

MCKENNAH

Lana. The Federation values all its citizens. There's a place for each and every one of you.

LANA

(shakes head)

Time and again, humanity has turned its back on self-improvement. We are your successors.

COMM WHISTLE.

SENTEK V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Bridge to Lana. We'll be crossing into the Celes sector in eight hours.

MCKENNAH

You know Starfleet will have to stop you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

MCKENNAH (cont'd)
Give up now. Come back into the Federation family. I'll do everything I can to help your people find the acceptance and dignity they deserve.

LANA
After what we've done? There's no turning back.

MCKENNAH
I refuse to believe that. You're human, Lana. There is more that binds us than divides us.

A beat. Lana narrows her eyes and circles her.

LANA
Do not 'counsel' me, doctor. I can sense your thoughts. All of you. I feel how frightened you are of me... of us.

McKennah swallows, afraid. A beat; and Lana steps out.

LANA (cont'd)
We will not assimilate into your 'Federation family.'

She ACTIVATES THE FORCE FIELD.

LANA (cont'd)
We will replace it.

She strides away. Off McKennah's reaction...

43 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & IRW HAWK'S TALON

43

Both ships at warp.

KIRK V.O.
Captain's log, supplemental.
Thanks to the tireless efforts of our engineering staff -- and assistance from the Romulans -- we have finally managed to re-attach the Enterprise's drive section, and are in pursuit of the Kongo.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: 43

KIRK V.O. (cont'd)

(beat)

In the meantime... I've invited
Commander Charvanek to a private
briefing with Fleet Admiral Nogura,
Starfleet's Commander-in-Chief.

44 OMITTED 44

45 INT. OFFICE - STARFLEET HQ - VIEWER INSERT 45

NOGURA in a gray 'The Motion Picture' uniform.

NOGURA
(filtered; on screen)

Our long-range sensors have picked
up the Kongo. She'll re-enter
Federation space in the Celes
Sector.

INTERCUT:

46 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 46

Kirk, Spock, Scott, Uhura, Charvanek sit around the
conference table, studying the tri-viewer.

KIRK
(thoughtfully)

They're en route to Earth...

NOGURA V.O.
(filtered; on screen)

As we feared. I don't need to
stress how... 'severe' this situation
is.

(beat)

We're scrambling the Exeter and
Potemkin. They'll intercept the
Kongo at the Regulus system.

SCOTT

With all due respect, admiral...
It'll take more than two starships
to stop those devils.

(CONTINUED)

NOGURA V.O.

(filtered; on screen)

Starfleet has requested assistance from the Klingon High Council. Our call went... unanswered.

CHARVANEK

And my people?

Nogura simply shakes his head.

CHARVANEK (cont'd)

(low)

Then they are short-sighted men. Who do not perceive the greater picture.

KIRK

Admiral. Our communications officer believes she's determined a method to circumvent the espers' subspace disruptions.

He nods to Uhura.

UHURA

Yes, sir. They have the ability to block intership transmissions -- but only at certain frequencies. If our ships restrict themselves to lower bands, the espers won't be able to block them.

NOGURA V.O.

(filtered; on screen)

Excellent work, lieutenant. I'll transmit your findings to the Exeter and Potemkin.

SPOCK

Admiral. It is critical that our vessels establish a sufficient interval between themselves and the Kongo. Their powers of deception are...

(beat)

...overwhelming.

(CONTINUED)

NOGURA V.O.

(filtered; on screen)

Indeed, commander. But desperate times call for desperate measures. And we cannot allow these espers to strike at the heart of Federation territory. We must stop them. At any price.

(beat)

Jim. One more thing. I know your officer is being held hostage on the Kongo.

(off Kirk's nod)

We'll do everything we can to rescue her. But I can't make any promises.

KIRK

I understand, admiral.

(beat)

Enterprise out.

Nogura nods, and the TRI-VIEWER FADES OUT. Silence for a beat. And then:

SPOCK

(to the others)

May I have a... moment with the captain.

Looks all around. Uhura, Charvanek, Scott rise... and EXIT. After a beat:

KIRK

The Exeter... The Potemkin...

(shakes head)

The last Constitution-class vessels we have in service.

SPOCK

Captain. I must... apologize for my recent choices. My judgment has been...

(beat)

...lacking.

KIRK

Given the circumstances? You made the only call you could.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

Jim. I made... an emotional
decision.

KIRK

Had I been in your place, Spock?
So would I.

Smith ENTERS... still in medical coveralls, escorted by McCoy.

KIRK (cont'd)

(reacts; frowns)
Doctor?

MCCOY

She wants to talk to you, Jim. I
think you need to listen.

A beat, and Kirk nods.

SMITH

Captain. I want to help.

KIRK

I don't think that's a good idea.

SMITH

Sir. This power inside me is
growing... so quickly.

KIRK

That's precisely why I don't think
it's a good idea.

SMITH

Five years ago you didn't even know
my name. But that day... at the
barrier... something was set in
motion. It changed me. And I
don't mean this.

(re: her eyes)

I watched you make impossible
choices to protect your crew. Such
strength... such compassion. Even
though it must've torn you up
inside. You showed me what it
means to serve.

(beat)

I got my commission so I could come

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (4)

46

SMITH (cont'd)

back to the Enterprise... and serve.The crew... and you. My captain.

(beat)

Don't you see? This is what I'm
meant to do. This is why I'm here.To help.

(beat)

Please. Let me.

Off Kirk, uncertain...

47 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE & IRW HAWK'S TALON

47

The ships at warp, as before.

48 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

48

Chair empty. Uhura at comm. Sulu and Chekov at helm and
nav. Palmer at engineering.

DOOR OPENS. Kirk, Spock, Charvanek enter.

KIRK

Report.

SULU

Captain, we're approaching the
Regulus system.

KIRK

Drop us out of warp.

A slight JOLT. Kirk frowns.

CHEKOV

Sir... We appear to be encountering
debris.

KIRK

'Debris'? Visual.

The VIEWSCREEN comes to life:

49 EXT. SPACE - USS EXETER & USS POTESKIN

49

Burning hulls... shells of the former starships!

50 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

50

CHARVANEK
 (under her breath)
 By the Elements...

KIRK
 The Exeter?

SULU
 (sadly)
 And the Potemkin.
 (re: helm viewer)
 Judging from these readings... they
 fired on each other, sir.

SPOCK
 The espers' powers of illusion
 would appear to have grown
significantly.

KIRK
 Dammit.

UHURA
 Mister Spock? The formazine
 injections that McCoy gave us...
 What if we could do something
 similar -- to the Enterprise?

Spock raises an eyebrow. She points to a monitor:

UHURA (cont'd)
 I've isolated the subspace and EM
 bands that're affected by their
 psionic fields.

SPOCK
 (realization)
 Indeed. A resonant pulse through
 our hull could lessen the espers'
 ability to deceive our crew. The
 effect would be extremely short-
 lived...

KIRK
 ...But it might buy us the time we
 need.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

KIRK (cont'd)
 (beat; to conn)
 Where's the Kongo?

CHEKOV
 Dead ahead, captain.

SULU
 Looks like she suffered some damage
 in the firefight. Her power's
 fluctuating.

Kirk shares a look with Spock. He nods. A decision.

KIRK
 Uhura. Do it.
 (spins to Sulu)
 Mister Sulu. Bring us within
 transporter range.

SULU
 Yes sir.

KIRK
 Spock. Scan the Kongo for Doctor
 McKennah's lifesigns. Any non-
 uplifted human. Start with the
 brig.
 (keys comm)
 Transporter room. You ready?

51 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

51

Scott at the console.

SCOTT
 (into comm)
 Aye, sir. Ready as we'll ever be.
 (looks up)
 You sure you can do this? Force
 your way through their shields?

REVEAL Smith on the pad, back in uniform. Phaser and
 communicator.

SMITH
 (smiles sadly)
 I'm not sure of anything.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

SCOTT
(nods)
All right lass.
(beat)
May the road rise to meet ya'.

She squeezes her eyes shut, concentrating. Scotty WORKS THE CONTROLS.

She begins to TRANSPORT -- and the EFFECT FLUCTUATES rapidly.

52 EXT. SPACE - USS KONGO

52

The Kongo FIRES PHASERS!

53 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

53

SULU
The Kongo is firing.

KIRK
Evasive maneuvers. But stay in range.

RED ALERT kicks on. The bridge ROCKS with a HIT.

SPOCK
(re: science viewer)
Captain. I have located the counselor's readings.

KIRK
Send coordinates to the transporter room.

CHEKOV
Sir... we won't be able to beam her aboard with the Kongo's shields up!

KIRK
We're on it, lieutenant.

54 INT. ENGINEERING - USS KONGO 54

The DOORS WHOOSH OPEN, and Smith strides into the room. A couple SUPERNUMERARY ESPERS react... but with a sweep of her hand, they're TOSSED ASIDE.

She hurries to a console and begins TYPING... but the espers stand and FIRE BOLTS AT HER FROM BEHIND!

55 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 55

[RED ALERT.]

CHEKOV
(re: helm viewer)
It's working, sir. She's weakening
their power grid!

56 INT. ENGINEERING - USS KONGO 56

Smith struggles to WORK the console as she's PELTED by ENERGY BOLTS, overwhelmed. In one final move, she stumbles back... and FIRES HER REMAINING ENERGY at the console!

It EXPLODES into a shower of SPARKS as she slumps to the floor.

57 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 57

[RED ALERT.]

CHEKOV
The Kongo's engines have been
destroyed, captain. Weapons and
deflector screens are inoperable.

KIRK
Drop our shields!
(keys comm)
Scotty! Get them out of there!

[RED ALERT stops.]

58 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE 58

[No red alert!] Scotty frantically WORKS THE CONTROLS.
Shakes his head.

SCOTT
(into comm)
Smith's gone, sir.
(beat)
I'm tryn'a get a lock on McKennah.
There's a lotta interference...

59 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 59

[No red alert!]

KIRK
(into comm)
Try harder!

SULU
(shocked)
Captain?
(off his reaction)
The Romulan ship is charging its
plasma weapon!

KIRK
What the hell...?!

60 EXT. SPACE - IRW HAWK'S TALON 60

The Romulan bird-of-prey FIRES a plasma torpedo! It STRIKES
the Kongo with a MASSIVE EXPLOSION!

61 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 61

[No red alert!]

SULU
Critical hit on the Kongo, sir!

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

KIRK
 What's he doing?!
 (beat)
 Uhura! Hail the Hawk's Talon!

INTERCUT:

62 INT. CONTROL CENTRAL - IRW HAWK'S TALON - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 62
 TAL APPEARS on screen. Grinning slyly.

INTERCUT:

63 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 63
[No red alert!]

CHARVANEK
 Tal! You fool!

TAL V.O.
 (filtered; on screen)
 For the Romulan Star Empire.

The channel CLOSES.

CHEKOV
 Captain! The Romulan wessel is
 firing again!
 (beat)
 At the Enterprise!

Morbid reactions from all, as we...

FADE OUT.

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

64 EXT. SPACE - IRW HAWK'S TALON 64

The Romulan ship FIRES ANOTHER PLASMA BOLT, STRIKING the Enterprise!

65 INT. CORRIDOR - USS ENTERPRISE 65

RED ALERT! Bulkheads CRUMBLE and BURN as crewmembers SCREAM and run for cover.

66 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 66

RED ALERT! SPARKS and FIRES.

SULU

Direct hit, sir! Point-blank range!

UHURA

Casualty reports coming in from all over the ship...

Kirk et al struggle to climb back into their seats. The helm console SPARKS... and Sulu is THROWN out of his chair!

KIRK

Uhura, take the helm!
(keys comm)
Emergency medical teams to the bridge!

She stumbles to the helm amidst the chaos. *[Palmer shifts to communications.]*

UHURA

(re: helm viewer)
Sir! The Hawk's Talon is arming its warheads!

KIRK

Back us off!

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

CHEKOV

Controls aren't responding,
captain. We're dead in the water!

SPOCK

We cannot survive another hit.

They all share looks. This is it.

Kirk swallows. The end.

But... Charvanek suddenly rushes to the helm. KEYS in a code!

CHARVANEK

Transmit this sequence to my ship's
computer.

(beat)

Do it!

Uhura looks to Kirk. He nods... no other choice. Uhura WORKS
THE CONSOLE...

67 INT. CONTROL CENTRAL - IRW HAWK'S TALON

67

Tal shares the bridge with the ROMULAN LIEUTENANT.

ROMULAN LIEUTENANT

Subcommander. Our weapon silos are
sealing! When we fire... we'll be
destroyed!

TAL

Disarm! Now!

Tal KEYS THE COMM:

TAL (cont'd)

(into comm)

What have you done?

INTERCUT:

68 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

68

[No longer at red alert!]

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

CHARVANEK
 (filtered; on screen)
 I've relieved you of command, Tal.
 For the last time.

INTERCUT:

69 INT. CONTROL CENTRAL - IRW HAWK'S TALON - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 69

Tal reacts, defeated. The screen BLINKS OFF.

70 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 70

[No longer at red alert!] Kirk and Charvanek share a look.
 A subtle nod of gratitude from Kirk.

From within the lift, Nurse and a MEDICAL SUPERNUMERARY force
 open the doors and rush to treat the wounded. Sulu groans,
 semi-conscious but alive.

PALMER
 The Kongo is hailing us, sir.

KIRK
 Put them on the viewer.

INTERCUT:

71 INT. BRIDGE - USS KONGO - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 71

The Kongo's bridge is dark; in shambles. Sentek slumps dead
 over the helm. Lana -- tattered and defeated -- stares into
 CAMERA.

INTERCUT:

72 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 72

KIRK
 We didn't want this, Lana. I hope
 you know that.

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

LANA V.O.
 (filtered; on screen)
 Well-fought, Kirk.
 (beat)
 For a moment, at least... We knew
 the freedom of infinity.

The VIEWSCREEN cuts out.

UHURA
 (re: helm viewer)
 Reading a massive buildup in her
 reactor...!

KIRK
 (keys comm furiously)
 Transporter! Get McKennah out of
there!

SCOTT V.O.
 (filtered; over comm)
 Another minute, captain...

KIRK
 (into comm)
Energize, Scotty! That's an order!

INTERCUT:

73 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

73

Scotty WORKS THE CONSOLE.

SCOTT
 (sighs)
 Aye, sir.

He reluctantly SLIDES THE LEVERS...

74 EXT. SPACE - USS KONGO

74

...and the Kongo EXPLODES spectacularly and catastrophically!

75 INT. CORRIDOR - USS ENTERPRISE 75

Kirk, Spock, McCoy on the move! They turn into:

76 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 76

...where Scotty is FRANTICALLY WORKING THE CONTROLS.

On the pad, McKennah is half-materialized: transparent, SPARKLING -- and clearly alive, blinking and moving slightly.

KIRK

Scotty?!

SCOTT

I told ya, sir... The targeting
scanners couldna get a clean lock
through all that radiation.

Spock will have none of it! He rushes to Scotty's side and
WORKS...

SPOCK

Amplifying signal.

SCOTT

It's no good, commander. I've done
everything that could be done...

Spock's expression grows intense. He WON'T GIVE UP.

MCCOY

(sadly)

Spock.

(beat)

Spock.

And -- in a moment of anger we've never seen before -- Spock
SLAMS his fist down on the console. Defeated.

Kirk takes a moment to study the pad. She's spectral,
nebulous, beautiful -- literally GLOWING.

KIRK

(to McKennah)

I'm so sorry. Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

I, too, am sorry..

(long beat)

Elise.

McKannah turns her eyes to Spock. Her mouth works, but there are no SOUNDS.

Spock steps up near the pad, close to her figure. He raises his hand, fingers spread, in the characteristic mind-meld position. He moves his hand close to her glowing, SPARKLING cheek. She repeats the words... but again, no sound.

SCOTT

(gently)

Her pattern's breakin' up. I can only hold her a few more seconds.

Kirk nods sadly. He raises his hand to her. She does the same.

Spock raises his right hand in the form of the Vulcan salute -- but he looks at it, then closes the gaps between his fingers and thumb... the same as she and Kirk have done. The human gesture for 'good-bye.'

McKannah smiles at him, closes her eyes -- and SPARKLES away, into eternity.

SLOW DOLLY to Kirk and Spock... into C.U. Spock, masking his pain.

Tight on the upper surface of the primary hull: the bridge dome, the name 'USS ENTERPRISE,' and the famed serial number NCC-1701. Blast marks and visible damage.

KIRK V.O.

Captain's log, stardate seventy-oh-two point three. The Enterprise has returned to sector zero-zero-one, and is now -- at long last -- home.

PULL BACK to REVEAL that the Enterprise is in orbit around Earth, surrounded by a skeletal dry-dock structure. The ship is badly damaged... but intact.

78 INT. ADMIRAL NOGURA'S OFFICE - STARFLEET HQ - DAY

78

Nogura behind his desk. Kirk on the opposite side. Through the window, a sprawling view of San Francisco.

NOGURA

Congratulations, Jim. Completion of your five-year mission... That's quite an achievement.

(smiles)

Not to mention saving the galaxy.

KIRK

(deep in thought)

But the price, admiral.

NOGURA

Believe me: the officials responsible for the unauthorized Pandora project will be dealt with.

KIRK

(shakes head)

All the ships we lost... all the crewmen I lost.

NOGURA

Indeed, captain. I'm particularly saddened by Doctor McKennah's sacrifice.

(beat)

Tell me. Based on your experiences with her over the past year... Was the experimental 'counselor' program a failure? Or a success?

Kirk is lost in thought. And finally, very low:

KIRK

A success.

NOGURA

(nods)

We'll rebuild the fleet, Jim. New vessels... new starship classes.

KIRK

And the Enterprise?

(CONTINUED)

Nogura points to a line of model ships... a history of warp vessels. At the end: a REFIT CONSTITUTION CLASS SHIP.

NOGURA

It'll take a while -- but she's
going to be repaired... and refit.
From the keel up. She's earned it.
(off his nod)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NOGURA (cont'd)

Each of your senior staff will receive rank promotions in the coming months, in honor of their extraordinary valor during this campaign.

KIRK

(nods)

Deservedly so.

NOGURA

And captain: the Federation Council has unanimously voted to reestablish this as the official insignia of Starfleet.

He hands Kirk a brass pin -- shaped like the Enterprise delta shield -- but with a circle around it.

Kirk can't help but smile. He turns the medal over in his hand.

KIRK

Scotty always said it reminded him of the port and starboard warp signature of the Cochrane deceleration. But to me... it's an arrow.

NOGURA

(nods)

Rising ever upward... and outward.

KIRK

Five years is a long time. Perhaps too long. I'm not the same as I once was.

NOGURA

You set high standards for yourself, Jim. Most men would be happy to be half the captain you are.

KIRK

But I'm not. 'Half' isn't good enough. I expect more of myself than I'm able to give any longer. And I can't be happy with that.

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED: (3)

78

NOGURA

Well... in that case... you may be more interested in what I'm about to offer than I expected.

79 EXT. STARFLEET HQ - DAY

79

The Golden Gate bridge in the foreground.

80 INT. AUDITORIUM SEATS - STARFLEET HQ - DAY

80

CAMERA TRACKS over the front row of the crowd: Spock, McCoy, Scott, Sulu, Uhura, Chekov. Immediately behind them are our recurring characters. And stretching behind them... hundreds of crewmen in uniform.

The surviving crew of the USS Enterprise.

INTERCUT:

80A INT. AUDITORIUM STAGE - STARFLEET HQ - DAY

80A

A MURMUR permeates the room as a figure steps onto stage. A figure in a 'Motion Picture' dress uniform... lower rear admiral rank... the new brass Starfleet pin on his chest.

We TILT up the figure as he reaches the podium, to REVEAL:

Admiral Kirk.

KIRK

I have good news and bad news. First, I've accepted promotion to 'admiral,' and Chief of Starfleet Operations.

The crowd -- except for the stoic Spock -- BURSTS INTO APPLAUSE.

After a moment, he raises a hand. SILENCING the crowd.

KIRK (cont'd)

That's the bad news.

(beat)

But the good news is that you will continue to reach deeper into space. You... will explore new

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIRK (cont'd)
 worlds. You... will have the
 privilege of venturing further into
 the final frontier. You'll honor
 the memory of our fallen comrades
 in the mission you continue to
 uphold.

(beat)

My brave colleagues... my friends.
 After all the adversities we've
 encountered in our travels... our
greatest adversary, it turns out...
 is ourselves. Our capacity for the
 best... and the worst. We still have
 much to learn -- about what's out
 there... and about what's in here.

(re: his heart)

Starfleet will rebuild and expand...
 and your adventure through the
 galaxy will continue.

(beat)

I envy you. May the wind be ever
 at your backs. Dismissed.

The crowd begins to exit, TALKING AMONGST themselves. Spock,
 McCoy cross to Kirk. McCoy gives his uniform a look.

KIRK (cont'd)
 Don't look so smug, doctor. These
 uniforms will be filtering down to
 the ships soon enough.

MCCOY

Not for me, Jim.

(beat)

I've seen enough. Enough death...
 enough loss. What I haven't seen
 is my daughter... in five years.

(off his reaction)

I'm done. I'm going home.

KIRK

Bones...

MCCOY

(smiles)

Don't worry. Sure we'll see each other again.

(beat)

Dinner? Tonight?

KIRK

(nods)

Nineteen-hundred hours.

MCCOY

I'll make a reservation at Drake's.

(off their reactions)

His family owns the best seafood place on the Wharf.

KIRK

(bittersweet)

I'm not surprised. Perfect.

MCCOY

Spock? Mean a lot to me if you joined us.

SPOCK

(lifts an eyebrow)

I would be...

MCCOY

'Happy' to?

SPOCK

(slightest of nods)

Nineteen-hundred.

McCoy smiles... turns... and leaves. Kirk turns to Spock:

KIRK

You never told me what Doctor McKennah said to you. Before we lost her.

SPOCK

(beat)

She said... 'Forgive yourself.'

(off his reaction)

I have experienced many emotions during my time under your command.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK (cont'd)

Some I have even come to savor.
But this emotion, this crushing
responsibility..

KIRK

..Wasn't your fault, Spock. You
used your best judgment.

SPOCK

(shakes head)

The counselor often encouraged me
to 'trust my feelings.' So I did.
I did what I felt I should do. I
violated protocol and contacted the
Romulans. I permitted her to beam
aboard the espers' vessel. I
ignored my logic and made decisions
which nearly led to the
Enterprise's destruction... and cost
the lives of two-dozen members of
our crew.

(beat)

Including her.

KIRK

She was right. You have to let it
go.

SPOCK

Admiral.

(beat)

Jim. I have requested -- and been
granted -- a leave of absence,
effective immediately. I'm
returning to Vulcan.

KIRK

Vulcan?

(off his nod)

What'll you do on Vulcan?

SPOCK

Whatever is necessary... to 'let it
go.'

Kirk smiles sadly. On some level, he gets it. He puts a
hand on Spock's shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

80A CONTINUED: (4)

80A

KIRK

There's one more thing I need to do. Then I'll see you at dinner.

81 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

81

The lift doors SPLIT OPEN, and Admiral James T. Kirk steps for the last time onto this bridge. The lights are dim, though the consoles are BLINKING.

KIRK V.O.

Captain's log. This will be my final entry. So end the voyages of the Starship Enterprise under my command.

He looks at the dedication plaque, lightly touching it, then walks around the upper stations, passing communications and the library computer.

KIRK V.O. (cont'd)

During its five-year mission, we explored strange new worlds. We found new life and new civilizations.

He steps down to the captain's chair, taking in his domain.

KIRK V.O. (cont'd)

And we boldly went...
(beat)
...where no man had gone before.

He ENTERS the turbolift and disappears for good.

82 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

82

The Enterprise in dry dock, ready for its refit. Behind it the Earth's night side... cities glowing like transporter sparkle. Beyond that... the sun, setting behind the mighty starship. The sun slips behind the home planet, leaving the Enterprise only illuminated by the dry dock's floodlights. And, at last, we:

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SERIES