

REVISIONS
01-25-17 blue
03-15-17 pink

Star Trek Continues

Episode 9
WHAT SHIPS ARE FOR

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PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

PLACES & RACES:

HYALINUS	-	hie-uh-LEEN-us
HYALINI	-	hie-uh-LEEN-ee
ABICIUS	-	uh-BEE-shus
ABICIAN	-	uh-BEE-shun
BEXAROTENE-G	-	beks-AIR-oh-teen JEE

CHARACTERS:

GALISTI	-	gah-LISS-tee
THAIUS	-	THAY-us
SEKARA	-	seh-KARR-uh
TOMIAT	-	TOE-mee-aht

STAR TREK CONTINUES: EP. 9 'WHAT SHIPS ARE FOR'

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE 1

In flight.

KIRK V.O.

Captain's log, stardate sixty-eight-ninety-two point three. Admiral McGuinness has ordered us to respond to a distress call from Hyalinus -- an inhabited asteroid with a limited-warp-capable society.

2 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE 2

KIRK center. MCKENNAH and SPOCK at his side.

KIRK

Admiral, isn't the Yorktown near the Banneker Belt?

INTERCUT:

3 INT. STARFLEET MEDICAL - VIEWSCREEN INSERT 3

ADMIRAL MCGUINNESS -- male, 50s-60s -- on VIEWSCREEN.

[Note: McGuinness is wearing a uniform as seen in 'The Motion Picture.']

MCGUINNESS

(filtered, on screen)

She was scheduled to patrol near that system. But Command rerouted her to Aldebaran -- along with the Republic -- to investigate the loss of the Hood.

INTERCUT:

4 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

4

In b.g. MCCOY emerges from the LIFT. Frowns subtly as he sees Spock and McKennah together in his normal 'spot.'

He moves to Kirk's opposite side.

KIRK

They find anything?

MCGUINNESS V.O.

(filtered, on screen)

Never got the chance. Both ships suffered baffle-plate ruptures shortly after they arrived.

Kirk frowns and turns to McKennah.

MCKENNAH

(ominously)

Both ships...

McGuinness nods.

MCGUINNESS V.O.

(filtered, on screen)

Fortunately there were no fatalities. But they'll have to be rebuilt.

They react to the disturbing news. Two more ships down.

MCCOY

The crews'll need to be treated for radiation exposure.

MCGUINNESS V.O.

(filtered, on screen)

Funny. We've got a student here at Starfleet Medical who insists we try a new bexarotene-G treatment she heard about from an old mentor of hers.

MCCOY

Well... not that old.

(chuckles)

How is Miss Chapel's doctorate coming along?

(CONTINUED)

MCGUINNESS V.O.
 (filtered, on screen)
 She's one of our best and
 brightest. Be careful. She just
 might take your job one day.

McCoy nods, a big proud smile on his face.

MCCOY
 And I just might give it to her.

MCKENNAH
 (back to business)
 Admiral, did the Hyalini specify
 the nature of their crisis?

MCGUINNESS V.O.
 (filtered, on screen)
 Something of global proportions.
 Diplomacy is of utmost importance.
 But so is caution. They've refused
 outside contact for centuries. We
 know almost nothing about them.

KIRK
 (nods, smiles)
 You'd like us to speak softly, but
 keep a big stick handy.

McGuinness nods, smiling. CHEKOV seems puzzled by the 'big
 stick' reference.

MCGUINNESS V.O.
 (filtered, on screen)
 And Jim..
 (pointedly)
 You take good care of that ship and
 her outstanding crew. You hear?

C.U. on Kirk, the weight of the admiral's meaning clear.

KIRK
 With everything I've got.

McGuinness nods, then SIGNS OFF. Viewscreen goes dark.

A beat of silence. Then:

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

MCCOY

What the devil was he wearing?

KIRK

No idea. But you'll never get me
in one of those.

MCKENNAH

Oh, it's not so bad.

(jokingly)

Drab, boring color palette... It'd
complement Mister Spock quite well,
don't you think?

Kirk LAUGHS as McKennah gives Spock a good-natured nudge.
Kirk turns to Bones... who simply crosses his arms and lets out
a SIGH.

KIRK

What's wrong, doctor?

MCCOY

(re: McKennah)

She's in my spot.

Light reactions from the others. But McKennah is
embarrassed, and moves to leave:

MCKENNAH

Sorry!

KIRK

That's all right, counselor.
There's always room on the bridge
for one more...

(beat)

...to give Spock a hard time.

Spock raises an eyebrow. Bones smiles at that.

5 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

5

The Enterprise drops out of warp and enters orbit over
Hyalinus, a roughly spherical asteroid. Beyond Hyalinus
stretches a belt of asteroids, curving toward a distant sun.

6 INT. CORRIDOR - USS ENTERPRISE

6

Kirk, Spock, and McCoy on the move. All wearing phasers and communicators. Spock with a tricorder, McCoy with a medical tricorder.

MCCOY

Well whatever this is about, it's gotta be pretty serious for a hermit race to ask for outside help.

SPOCK

'Hermit race,' doctor?

MCCOY

That's right, Spock. 'Hermit race.' Don't tell me there's a term that computer brain of yours doesn't know.

SPOCK

I was merely surprised at your use of an abstruse and antiquated colloquialism. The more obvious and accurate word is clearly 'xenophobic.'

MCCOY

Tomato, tomahto, Spock!

SPOCK

I fail to see how pronouncing...

KIRK

Call it off, gentlemen. We've got work to do.

7 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

7

Transporter doors SWISH open. Kirk enters; Spock and McCoy close behind. SCOTT at the transporter console.

KIRK

Coordinates locked, Scotty?

As Scott speaks, all three take their places on the transporter pad.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT

Can ya believe they only use text transmissions? I'm still waitin' for an open transporter window.

KIRK

'Transporter window'?

SCOTT

Aye. In their orbital defense system. Without a window, matter-energy beams to the surface are automatically scrambled.

MCCOY

Scrambled?! As in 'turned to a pile of mush'?!'

Scotty nods, apologetically. Kirk is unsettled. Spock is stoic. McCoy is positively green.

SCOTT

Their global defense grid is downright impractical! It's a miracle they can see stars at night with all the weapon-barges they got flyin' about!

(beat)

Can ya imagine the maintenance, lads?

Scotty shudders.

MCCOY

Gee, I hope they're friendly.

SPOCK

They would be well-served to hope the same of you, doctor.

McCoy MUMBLES something under his breath.

SCOTT

There's the green light.

Kirk looks to Scott.

KIRK

Energize... please.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

Scott WORKS THE CONTROLS. TRANSPORTER BEAM begins to take Kirk, Spock, McCoy as we...

CUT TO:

8 EXT. HYALINUS SURFACE - DAY

8

Kirk, Spock, and McCoy MATERIALIZE in an outdoors desert garden setting.

Looking around, they are shocked to see that everything is in BLACK AND WHITE. Including THEM!

PUSH IN on Kirk, Spock, and McCoy's reactions as we...

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

9 EXT. HYALINUS SURFACE - DAY

9

SUPER episode titles as Kirk, Spock, McCoy look around incredulously.

SPOCK
Fascinating.

MCCOY
Are you seeing what I'm seeing?

SPOCK
Or more accurately, what we are not seeing.

Spock SCANS the area with his tricorder.

KIRK
Could something have happened to our eyes during transport?

McCoy SCANS Kirk's eyes with the medical tricorder.

MCCOY
Readings are normal, Jim. But I'm not ruling out that damn thing puttin' us back together wrong.

They notice two figures strolling toward them.

THAIUS (female, 60s-70s) and GALISTI (male, 60s-70s). They hold hands as they walk.

Stopping, Galisti raises his arms in a gesture of welcome.

GALISTI
Welcome, my friends, to Hyalinus. I am Galisti, leader of the Inner Council. This is Thaius, our newly-appointed Ambassador to the Federation.

Thaius tugs on Galisti's sleeve.

(CONTINUED)

THAIUS

You see! I told you they'd be
Hyanoid bipeds.

GALISTI

(chuckles, to Kirk et al)
I must confess, I was expecting a
tentacle or two.

Light LAUGHTER all around. Then Thaius steps up to Kirk.

THAIUS

You must be the commander of the
magnificent ship orbiting above.

KIRK

James Kirk, captain of the United
Starship Enterprise.

Thaius smiles, placing her hands on Kirk's upper arms -- a
Hyalini greeting. She steps aside, and Galisti repeats the
gesture.

KIRK (cont'd)

(re: McCoy)

Our ship's surgeon, Doctor Leonard
McCoy.

Thaius and Galisti repeat the greeting gesture.

MCCOY

A pleasure to meet you both.

KIRK

And my first officer... Commander
Spock.

Thaius steps over to Spock and reacts at the sight of his
ears.

THAIUS

You are different from the others.
(suddenly occurs to her)
Are you an Earth female?

Spock's eyebrow shoots up. Kirk stifles a smile. McCoy is
gleeful.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

Madam, my appearance differs from the others' because I am a Vulcan.

MCCOY

If that's what human women looked like, we'd be extinct!

THAIUS

(horrified)

Oh, please forgive my foolishness! I apologize if I have caused offense.

SPOCK

Madam. Since I do not believe the differences between gender render one inferior to the other, not only would it be illogical to find offense in your comment... but to do so would, itself, represent a grievous insult to you.

Thaius is delighted by Spock's overly-thorough response.

THAIUS

What an improbable contradiction. Kindness and gallantry revealed by pure, calculated reason. Remarkable.

(chuckles softly)

And I... too caught up in the excitement to look at anything but your ears. How often we look, but forget to see.

Thaius turns to Galisti.

THAIUS (cont'd)

Galisti, you might be wise to replace your Ambassador to the Federation immediately.

GALISTI

Don't be too hard on yourself, my dear. They are still here.

Thaius smiles and cups his cheek in tender appreciation.

(CONTINUED)

MCCOY

I hope I don't cause any offense by asking... but do all Hyalini politicians get along so well?

THAIUS

Sadly, no. Galisti and I have the advantage of being old friends.

GALISTI

Who one day realized they'd fallen in love.

(takes her hand, poetic)

What a fortunate man am I, to call my friend 'my wife.'

Their connection is deep, undeniable.

KIRK

Council leader... I must ask. Has your world always looked... like this?

GALISTI

(confused)

Like... what?

KIRK

Well...

THAIUS

It is as it has always been.

Kirk nods, not quite satisfied. But now Galisti adopts a more serious demeanor.

GALISTI

Gentleman. As the first outsiders ever to be invited to Hyalinus, your presence should signify a momentous occasion for my people. But, alas, it is a regrettable one...

Galisti's brows furrow, suddenly confounded by an unexpected swell of emotion. Thaius steps in.

(CONTINUED)

THAIUS

'Regrettable' because this is not when our isolation was to end. Nor how it was to end.

Galisti continues; a tone of lament lingers.

GALISTI

Hundreds of years ago, the people of Hyalinus united under a single purpose: to one day become worthy of joining the community of stars.

THAIUS

To us, this meant seeking out the best in ourselves and each other. Laying down arms against one another... erasing our borders... and refusing to define ourselves using distinctions like 'us' and 'them.'

GALISTI

It is our sublime Hope... the Hope of the Hyalini. But fate has intervened. And today, the hand of our people is not one held up proudly to the stars. It is merely a hand held out.

(beat)

The Inner Council is waiting.

Galisti nods for them to follow. He and Thaius turn and start to walk.

Kirk et al trade looks... not what they expected.

Spock studies his TRICORDER.

KIRK

(quietly re: tricorder)

Can you explain our vision, Spock?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (5)

9

SPOCK

In fact... I can.

Kirk, Spock, McCoy start to follow their hosts.

SPOCK (cont'd)

An unusual form of radiation emitted by their sun. Unlike any I've encountered. It impairs the function of cone cells in humanoid eyes.

MCCOY

Cone cells allow us to see color.

SPOCK

Correct, doctor.

MCCOY

Makes sense, Jim.

KIRK

Very good, Spock. Continue your scans.

Spock nods. As we...

DISSOLVE TO:

10 INT. HYALINUS COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

10

A curved table with five chairs. In front of the table is an empty area where people stand to address the Inner Council.

Two HYALINI GUARDS flank the door. Kirk, Spock, McCoy have entered, lead by Galisti and Thaius.

Thaius stops with Kirk et al, as Galisti steps to the center where three other council members stand:

TOMIAT -- male, 40s-60s -- slight, fidgety, with an intense gaze. A MALE COUNCIL MEMBER, military type. And a FEMALE COUNCIL MEMBER, attractive, authoritative.

Galisti and the others CONFER quietly.

(CONTINUED)

THAIUS

The Inner Council is the uppermost tier of the United Parliament. Its five members are chosen..

Thaius is interrupted by SEKARA -- 20s, brilliant, vibrant, beautiful -- who has sidled up to her.

SEKARA

(playfully)

They just got here, and already you're torturing them with civics?

Thaius laughs, and puts her arm around Sekara.

SEKARA (cont'd)

(to Kirk et al)

This woman is the meanest, toughest teacher there is. I have the scars to prove it.

As everyone LAUGHS, Kirk and Sekara's eyes meet.

THAIUS

Sekara began as my most obstinate student and ended as my finest. She now interns for the Inner Council.

SEKARA

She likes to credit her teaching as the root of all my achievements.

KIRK

(smiles winningly)

A great privilege for your first guests to meet such an intelligent and beautiful young woman.

McCoy rolls his eyes.

Suddenly: SCREAMS and GASPS!

TOMIAT (O.S.)

You had no right, Galisti!

They wheel to see Tomiat holding a pistol to his own temple!

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

Kirk, Spock, McCoy draw their phasers. Tomiat, oblivious to them, fixes his eyes on Galisti.

TOMIAT (cont'd)
You had no right to bring them
here! You have destroyed us all!

PUSH IN on Tomiat, his eyes wild, pistol pressed to his skull...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 INT. HYALINUS COUNCIL CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

11

As before. Kirk, Spock, McCoy with phasers drawn. Tomiat -- with his pistol at his own head -- moves slowly towards Galisti, who backs away.

TOMIAT

Do you hear me?! You have destroyed your entire race!

THAIUS

(calmly)

We will be destroyed only if we refuse to accept help.

COUNCILMEMBER 1

She may be right, Tomiat.

TOMIAT

Shame, Thaius! A true believer would rather die than see the Hope corrupted!

Suddenly, a hand grips Tomiat's shoulder from behind! He falls to the ground unconscious, weapon CLATTERING across the floor. Spock stands over him. His own phaser holstered.

Kirk and McCoy holster their phasers and exchange looks. What was that all about?

The two guards retrieve Tomiat's weapon. Other council members kneel over Tomiat; feel for a pulse.

COUNCILMEMBER 2

Will... will he live?

SPOCK

Tomiat has not been harmed, I assure you. He is merely unconscious and will awaken shortly.

Galisti nods stiffly. The others carry Tomiat out of the chamber, escorted by the guards.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

Sekara rushes to Galisti and Thaius. The three embrace.
Galisti pulls away.

GALISTI
(to Kirk et al)
I apologize. You should not have
been witness to that.
(gently to Sekara)
Show them?

Sekara holds out the underside of her arm, revealing a
darkened patch of blistered skin. McCoy moves in and SCANS
the area with his medical tricorder.

GALISTI (cont'd)
This is the first symptom. The
illness progresses rapidly. Sekara
will...

He trails off. The words too painful to say.

SEKARA
(spares him)
I will not live beyond the year.

KIRK
This is why you sent the distress
call?

GALISTI
(nods)
We are on a path to extinction.

THAIUS
From disease... and soon starvation.
Our crops have stopped growing.

MCCOY
(to Sekara re: her arm)
May I?

SEKARA
(nods)
It's not contagious.

McCoy gently feels the area around the darkened patch.

(CONTINUED)

SEKARA (cont'd)

That much we know. We don't know what it is -- only what it is not. It isn't the result of any known poison. It isn't a virus. It isn't bacteria, spore, or parasitic organism.

McCoy raises an eyebrow, impressed.

SEKARA (cont'd)

(off his reaction)

I've been researching the disease as part of my medical training. I'm going to be...

She catches herself, smiles sadly.

SEKARA (cont'd)

I was going to be a physician.

McCoy pauses. Kirk blinks several times, studying the floor.

A beat of silence. Then:

KIRK

(clears his throat softly)

Bones?

MCCOY

Well... it's definitely related to the radiation Spock detected. But I can't confirm a prognosis without running more tests. And the only way to do that is in sickbay.

THAIUS

'Sickbay'? On your vessel?

MCCOY

Is that a problem?

Kirk pulls Spock aside as McCoy and Galisti debate in b.g.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK
If Sekara returns to the ship
with us, she'll be shielded
from the radiation. Will she
see color?

GALISTI
Doctor, we'd... prefer... to keep
her here. We have medical
facilities where you can run...

SPOCK
Unknown, captain.

MCCOY
We don't have time for that.

KIRK
If she does, the result could
be... traumatic.

MCCOY (cont'd)
Besides -- if your medical
facilities were sufficient, you'd
already know what's killing your
people.

Galisti looks at Thaius. He has a point. Galisti nods.

He turns to Sekara, placing his hands on her upper arms.
Both lean in and touch foreheads. A heartfelt good-bye.

Thaius and Sekara similarly say goodbye, as:

GALISTI
(to Kirk et al)
Take good care of her. She is
precious to us.

KIRK
You have my word.
(beat)
With your permission, I'd like
Mister Spock to remain and continue
to gather information.

GALISTI
Of course. We shall keep the
transport window open until his
departure.

Spock nods. He moves off, SCANNING the room with his
tricorder.

Thaius and Galisti look to Sekara once more. They join hands
and walk away, the weight of the world on their shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (4)

11

KIRK
 (to Sekara)
 They love you very much.

SEKARA
 They are my -- 'family.'

KIRK
 Doctor McCoy...

McCoy nods and steps off to the side, OPENING his communicator.

KIRK (cont'd)
 Sekara, when you arrive on board our ship, your eyes may... work differently. It may frighten you. But I promise you'll be safe. Understand?

Sekara nods, apprehensive. Off Kirk's cue to McCoy...

12 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

12

Scotty WORKS THE CONTROLS as Sekara, Kirk, McCoy MATERIALIZE.

Sekara's hair is purple and her skin a pale yellow. She looks around curiously. Kirk and McCoy watch her.

After a beat, Sekara notices them staring at her.

KIRK
 Are you all right, Sekara?

She nods.

KIRK (cont'd)
 You don't see anything... strange?

She glances around the room.

SEKARA
 No. Everything looks...

Sekara's P.O.V.: Transporter room in black-and-white, but wait...! A strange patch on Scott's shirt ripples and starts to change, to grow, to become red.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

She freezes, staring at Scott's shirt, eyes wide.

SEKARA (cont'd)
Whaa... what is that?

SCOTT
I'm Chief Engineer Scott, lass!

She looks at Kirk, and recoils when she sees his green shirt.

SEKARA
Captain?!

KIRK
It's all right. It's called
'color,' Sekara.

Suddenly Sekara bursts into LAUGHTER. Scott raises his brows. The poor lass is raving mad.

She shakes her head. Her LAUGHTER becomes nervous, afraid.

MCCOY
Just try to stay calm.

Sekara's eyes snap to McCoy. Her laugh CUTS OFF when she sees his blue shirt.

SEKARA
What is it?! Is it alive?

Sekara's P.O.V.:

Ridiculously saturated, the bright red, blue, and green of the shirts jump out at her. Color has bled into everything else, the tones muted compared to the blindingly vivid colors of the shirts.

Kirk moves toward her, his mouth is moving. But all she can hear is the RACING OF HER OWN HEART.

Kirk grabs her shoulders.

KIRK
Sekara, look at me!

She looks at him, terrified.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

KIRK (cont'd)

(gently)

Just keep your eyes on me. I know everything is strange and frightening. But you're completely safe. I promised -- didn't I?

Sekara's arms wrap around Kirk. She clings to him, a buoy in the storm.

13 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

13

Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Sulu, McKennah are seated around the table, mid-discussion.

MCKENNAH

So the cause of the illness and the monochromatic vision are one and the same?

MCCOY

(nods)

Took a millennium or so for the star's radiotoxins to reach levels high enough to induce acute radiation syndrome. I've started Sekara's treatment, but it's too soon to tell.

KIRK

And how is she otherwise?

MCCOY

She's a million questions a minute. 'Color' this? And 'color' that?

(chuckles)

I tell ya, I might have to sedate her just to get some peace and quiet.

This makes Kirk smile.

SPOCK

The illness will reoccur unless further exposure to the solar radiation can be prevented. The spectral signature of the Hyalini

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK (cont'd)

sun can be altered using a modified stellar probe.

SULU

After that, we'll need to decontaminate the asteroid. I recommend scanning their ecosystem, starting with the plants. Determine how deeply the radiation's permeated the food chain.

KIRK

Mister Sulu... you and Spock get down to the surface and take charge of those scans. Rumor has it you've got a knack for exotic botany.

SULU

Yes sir! You should meet Gertrude, my carnivorous weeper. She's a beaut!

Kirk nods dubiously.

MCCOY

I'll also need to repair the cellular damage that the radiotoxins have caused. If Sekara's treatment works, I can synthesize enough medicine for the entire population.

SPOCK

Captain, there is a... new development. On Hyalinus, I captured several images with my tricorder.

Spock PUSHES a button. The tri-screen monitor displays a BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTO of a group of Hyalini. *[Note: they are minor characters from the scene in Inner Council Chamber.]*

SPOCK (cont'd)

This is how the Hyalini people appear to each other. Unlike eyes, however, tricorders do not rely on cone cells.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

Spock REPLACES the black-and-white photo with the color version. Every Hyalini has coral-colored skin and black hair.

SPOCK (cont'd)

The native inhabitants of this world all share the same genotype for pigmentation. However...

Spock DISPLAYS the same photo in split screen. Now on the other side is a color photo of Sekara, with her yellow skin and purple hair.

MCKENNAH

Are you saying Sekara isn't from Hyalinus?

SPOCK

(nods)

She is an alien. Furthermore, a global bioscan indicates that twenty-seven-point-two percent of the population are as well.

MCCOY

Maybe it's just a rare genetic anomaly, Spock.

SPOCK

No, doctor. It's but one of numerous disparities. They share a common ancestor with the Hyalini; but these individuals are, unquestionably, a race not currently native to Hyalinus.

Kirk HITS the comm button.

KIRK

(into comm)

Kirk to bridge.

UHURA V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Uhura here.

INTERCUT:

14 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

14

UHURA at the comm station, SMITH at helm, Chekov at science.

KIRK V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

Lieutenant, search the belt for indications of another inhabited asteroid. Anything our sensors may have missed.

UHURA

(into comm)

We'll have to run a full sweep... including non-subspace carrier waves.

KIRK V.O.

(filtered; over comm)

How long?

UHURA

(into comm)

Could be days. Maybe more.

(beat)

Palmer's an expert at countering solar interference. I'll have her modify the sensors... create a targeted scan.

INTERCUT:

15 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

15

Kirk HITS comm panel, ending communication.

KIRK

(to others)

Thank you. Get on it.

They stand to LEAVE... but:

SPOCK

Captain. A word.

(off his nod)

Counselor?

McKennah turns back at the door. Kirk raises an eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

SPOCK (cont'd)

I have found Doctor McKennah's
insight to be... beneficial.

Kirk smiles a little, and nods. He, Spock, McKennah remain,
alone.

SPOCK (cont'd)

Sekara appears to... 'trust' the
captain. Do you believe it would
be wise to confront her? About her
origins?

MCKENNAH

(thinks for a beat)

Not yet. We don't know who she is...
or what she knows. And she may not
even know herself.

KIRK

(shakes head)

A civilization like the Hyalini --
bent on self-imposed moral
isolation -- would never allow
aliens to live on their world.

MCKENNAH

Unless they don't know there are
aliens on their world.

Off their reactions...

16 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

16

The Enterprise in orbit over Hyalinus.

KIRK V.O.

Captain's log, supplemental. After
two days of treatment, Doctor McCoy
reports that Sekara has responded
exceptionally well. But our search
for her people's origin continues.

17 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS - USS ENTERPRISE

17

Kirk at his desk, recording a captain's log.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK
 (into comm)
 Hoping for clues to the mystery,
 I've engaged Sekara in several
 conversations about her past...
 learning only that she was born on
 Hyalinus, and orphaned at an early
 age.

The door CHIMES. Kirk SWITCHES off his terminal and goes to the door. It OPENS, revealing Sekara on the other side with a NURSE escort. Her face brightens when she sees him. Kirk smiles.

SEKARA
 I wanted you to know where to find
 me in case you desired to talk
 again.

KIRK
 Yes... Doctor McCoy said he'd moved
 you to guest quarters. Better than
 keeping you trapped in sickbay.

SEKARA
 Better for him, I'm certain. I...
 had many questions.

Kirk CHUCKLES. There's an awkward beat.

KIRK
 Would you like to come in?

SEKARA
 Oh, no. I mean, yes! But no if
 you're busy. As for liking to,
 yes. But, of course, no if you
 don't also. If not, then yes I
 would very a lot...

She pauses, mortified. Kirk is charmed.

KIRK
 (smiles)
 Yes. Please come in.

Relieved, she STEPS IN.

(CONTINUED)

SEKARA

You must think I'm ridiculous.

KIRK

I like ridiculous. I like it 'very
a lot.'

She LAUGHS, blushing a little. The chemistry between them is palpable.

KIRK (cont'd)

How has color been treating you?

SEKARA

Color... is incredible! At first, I
couldn't make sense of it. But
now...

She looks around the room, awed.

SEKARA (cont'd)

They astound me. So many. I'm
learning their names.

(points)

That is called 'green.'

She looks at Kirk for confirmation. He nods.

SEKARA (cont'd)

And the door is called 'blue.'

He nods again. She's jubilant. She spies a red apple on the table and runs over to it. She holds it up.

SEKARA (cont'd)

(triumphantly)

And this is yellow!

Kirk stifles a smile and shakes his head. Sekara's face falls. She tries again.

SEKARA (cont'd)

'Blue'?

KIRK

(shakes head)

Red.

(CONTINUED)

SEKARA

Red.

She replaces the apple and walks back to Kirk.

KIRK

Once your sun is repaired, everyone on Hyalinus will see color. The initial shock could cause a great deal of chaos, Sekara. We will work with your people to prepare them.. so they won't be afraid.

SEKARA

I can help. I want to share my experiences with everyone.

(beat)

But there's still much I don't understand. Like..

(contemplates)

What is it for? What is the purpose of color?

Kirk takes a beat to consider her question.

KIRK

Color adds variety, vibrance... beauty. It arouses other senses and stirs emotion. Like poetry for the eyes.

They stand close, eyes locked. Sekara puts a hand on his shoulder. Kirk wraps her in his arms and draws her near.

They kiss. Softly. Then once more, passion creeping in. Kirk pulls back to gaze at her. His eyes land on some deep purple strands running through his fingers.

Reality bleeds in.

KIRK (cont'd)

(softly, almost to himself)

Purple...

Sekara meets his eyes, her face a question.

KIRK (cont'd)

The color of your hair.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (4)

17

The moment is broken by the COMM WHISTLE.

SMITH V.O.
 (filtered; over comm)
 Captain Kirk to the bridge.
 (beat)
 Captain Kirk to the bridge.

Kirk holds Sekara a moment longer.

KIRK
 I'll be back. You can stay if you
 like.

She nods, and he LEAVES. She studies a lock of her hair:

SEKARA
 (softly)
 Purple.

18 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

18

Smith at helm, Chekov at science. DRAKE now at tactical.
 Uhura and PALMER working together at the communications
 station.

The turbolift doors PART as Kirk enters.

UHURA
 We found them, sir!

PALMER
Radio signals. Coming from an
 asteroid in the inner belt.

KIRK
 Do we know anything about it?
 Population?

PALMER
 Not yet. I'm working on it...

DRAKE
 (interrupting)
 Captain, proximity alert.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

SMITH
 (re: helm viewer)
 Confirmed. Reading two small pods
 approaching Hyalinus at half-
 impulse.

Kirk heads to the chair as Palmer shifts to engineering.

KIRK
 On screen.

19 EXT. SPACE - VIEWSCREEN INSERT - CONTINUOUS

19

Two vessels, barely big enough to qualify as shuttles, move
 toward them. They are old and in poor condition.

20 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

20

SMITH
 Trajectory suggests they're from
 the other asteroid.

CHEKOV
 (re: science viewer)
 Scans indicate the wessels do not
 have any 'big sticks,' sir.

Pleased with himself, Chekov turns to Kirk. Distracted by
 the viewscreen, Kirk doesn't catch Chekov's quip.

KIRK
 What was that, lieutenant?

Seeing Kirk's serious expression, Chekov spins back to the
 science console, furiously back-peddling.

CHEKOV
 Uh... they are unarmed, captain.

Smith rolls her eyes at him.

KIRK
 Those barely look space-worthy.

SMITH
 Judging by their size... I estimate
 two -- maybe three -- occupants.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

CHEKOV
 (re: science viewer)
 Captain... I read...
 (eyes widen)
 ...six humanoid life-forms. In each!

21 EXT. SPACE - VIEWSCREEN INSERT - CONTINUOUS

21

The weary mini-shuttles as before.

22 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

22

KIRK
Six in each?! At half-impulse? My
 God. How long have they been...

A BEEP from tactical:

DRAKE
 Captain, Hyalinus's automated
 platforms have activated. They're
 charging weapons!

KIRK
 Red alert!

Ship goes to RED ALERT. Off the shocked reactions of the
 crew we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

23

As before. Ship at RED ALERT.

KIRK

Uhura! Hail the Hyalini.

SMITH

A weapons platform is targeting the shuttlepods, captain!

KIRK

(to Uhura)

Lieutenant?!

UHURA

No response from the council, sir.

KIRK

(swallows)

Charge phaser banks. Lock onto that platform.

CHEKOV

Captain...?

DRAKE

Platform firing!

24 EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

24

Two energy torpedoes BLAZE toward the tiny shuttles, narrowly missing them.

25 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

25

SMITH

Phasers locked.

KIRK

(reluctantly)

Fire.

26 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 26

The Enterprise FIRES at the orbital platform. Direct hit!
The platform is OBLITERATED.

27 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS 27

CHEKOV
(re: science viewer)
Defense platform destroyed.

SMITH
(re: helm viewer)
The vessels are turning around.
(beat)
They're retreating, sir.

KIRK
Cancel red alert.

Red alert STOPS. Kirk turns to Uhura, furious.

KIRK (cont'd)
Uhura, get me Hyalinus!

She WORKS her controls.

UHURA
They're hailing us, captain. They
demand an explanation for the
destruction of their platform.

KIRK
They demand an explanation?!
(he checks himself)
I'll meet with them in an hour. In
the meantime... get me information
about that other asteroid.

Kirk charges towards the turbolift.

KIRK (cont'd)
Mister Smith...

The doors OPEN. He storms in, and spins to face the bridge.

KIRK (cont'd)
...you have the bridge.

(CONTINUED)

- 27 CONTINUED: 27
 C.U. on lift doors CLOSING on a fuming Kirk.
- 28 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE 28
 In orbit. The remains of the weapons platform nearby.
- 29 INT. KIRK'S QUARTERS - USS ENTERPRISE 29
 Kirk, Sekara in heated conversation.

KIRK

Why did your people just try to
 destroy two unarmed shuttles?
 Carrying twelve passengers?!

Her face gives her away. She knows. She hesitates, then:

SEKARA

They are Abicians. For decades,
 they've been trying to sneak onto
 Hyalinus to escape the consequences
 of their own savagery. They lie
 and conceal their identities so
 they can benefit from the peace and
 prosperity we've worked to achieve.
 One they haven't earned for
 themselves.

KIRK

Is it a crime for people to want to
 live peacefully?
 (beat)
 Are they criminals, Sekara? Or are
 they refugees?

SEKARA

They are invaders.

KIRK

Who 'attack' in tiny, unarmed
 ships? Those people were fleeing!

SEKARA

We are not heartless, captain.
 They have given us reason to fear
 them.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

I find that hard to believe.

SEKARA

How can you stand in judgment of me? Of my people? For something you know nothing about?

(beat)

My parents were executed by Abicians.

She turns away, trying to hide her rage, anguish, and tears.

Kirk is stunned into silence for several beats. Then:

KIRK

You're right. I'm sorry. Please. Tell me, Sekara. I want to understand... I need to understand.

She faces him, anger fading away. Only grief remains.

SEKARA

Their world is in turmoil. Territories perpetually at war. Technological innovation fueled only by competition to build better, more lethal weapons. They've squandered their natural resources, and polluted their world in the process.

KIRK

I see. And your...

SEKARA

My parents were part of a diplomatic envoy. Sent to offer help... show the Abicians a better way to live.

(beat)

Their ship returned to Hyalinus on auto-pilot. All eighteen on board... killed.

(beat)

I was ten years old.

Kirk takes this in. Then puts his hands on her shoulders and looks her in the eye.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

I can't imagine.

(beat)

The people who killed your parents were barbarians. But that doesn't mean they all are.

SEKARA

You assume they think like us. They do not. They do not respect our laws. They do not value knowledge or honesty... or question their conscience before turning to violence.

KIRK

Sekara... have you ever met an Abician?

SEKARA

No. We've managed to keep them off our world. Thankfully.

KIRK

You're wrong. There are many on Hyalinus.

SEKARA

Many? That's impossible.

KIRK

Hundreds of thousands. They look like Hyalini. Unless you see in color.

Kirk pivots Sekara, toward her reflection in a mirror. Kirk touches her hair.

KIRK (cont'd)

Your skin. Your hair. You are Abician. Your parents were Abicians.

She stares incomprehensibly, looking like she might scream.

KIRK (cont'd)

(re: her reflection)

Sekara, she is not a stranger! You are still you.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (3)

29

Sekara shakes her head, repulsed.

KIRK (cont'd)

If you don't trust what you see,
then trust what I see. The woman
in that mirror is brilliant. She's
curious, honest, and kind.
Beautiful inside and out. She is
you, Sekara. And you are the
opposite of what you believe -- of
what you've been told -- Abicians
are.

Sekara looks at him in the mirror. He's reached her. She
looks at her reflection, seeing herself for the first time.

30 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

30

As before. The remains of the orbital platform nearby.

31 EXT. HYALINUS SURFACE - DAY

31

Kirk MATERIALIZES. No phaser this time. His face intense.

SULU (O.S.)

Captain!

Sulu runs up, carrying tricorder and a large, exotic flower.
Spock hovers in b.g.

SULU (cont'd)

(excited, out of breath)

Hyalinus has some amazing plant
life, sir. Look!

Sulu holds the flower up to Kirk for a better look.

SULU (cont'd)

I've never seen a flower with
anthers like this!

(beat)

Well, you can't see this flower's
anthers. That's why it's so
unusual! Normally...

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

(interrupting)

Not now. There's been an incident, lieutenant. They'll fill you in on the ship.

(to Spock)

Both of you.

Sulu snaps to serious. Embarrassed, he drops the flower.

SULU

I apologize, captain. I should've beamed up after finishing my scans. I just wanted a specimen for my collection.

KIRK

(tone softens)

It's all right. What have you found?

SPOCK

According to Mister Sulu's readings, the Hyalini food chain has been affected at almost every level. But there is no permanent mutation.

SULU

Exactly. Once we're through here, future generations should grow back healthy and normal.

KIRK

Good work. Prepare a decontamination sweep.

SULU

Aye, sir.

Spock and Sulu turn to leave.

KIRK (O.S.)

Mister Sulu.

Sulu turns back and sees Kirk holding up the flower.

KIRK (cont'd)

Don't forget this.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

With a big smile, Sulu nods... retrieves the flower and leaves.

Kirk turns toward the Council Chamber. Off his now grim, resolute expression...

32 INT. HYALINUS COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

32

Kirk stands before the Inner Council, seated at the table. Galisti in the center, two council members on his right. Thaius on his left, plus Tomiat's empty chair.

We join them in the middle of a heated debate.

KIRK

If we modify your star, you'll see your world in a whole new way. And based on what we just witnessed, I'm not sure you're ready for it.

GALISTI

Must we justify our actions to you? Are we obliged to meet some arbitrary moral standard, set by Starfleet, in order to receive your help?

KIRK

No. But killing defenseless people seems to contradict the moral standards you've set for yourselves.

THAIUS

But we didn't kill them, captain. Perhaps we merely wished to give them an incentive to turn back.

KIRK

And if they hadn't?

GALISTI

Those twelve Abicians are only a fraction of the unrelenting horde who assault our world.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

'Assault'? They're willing to die just for the chance to live where they're safe and free! Why not help them instead of shooting at them?

GALISTI

Because they jeopardize my people's safety and freedom. Granting entrance to some is an invitation to all. They would overrun our world.

THAIUS

We have limited resources, captain. We are struggling to feed our own people.

KIRK

I understand your dilemma. And I'm not suggesting you open your borders to just anyone... especially if they're a legitimate threat. But your defense system is... excessive.

GALISTI

You are not qualified to make that judgment, captain. Abicians are vulgar, selfish, and violent. They are a scourge. We have gone to great lengths to keep them off our world.

KIRK

What if they were already here?

GALISTI

(scoffs)

But they're not!

KIRK

But what if they were. How would you know?

(CONTINUED)

GALISTI

There was a time, decades ago, when we suspected -- because of a dramatic rise in violent crime -- that the Abicians had come. But once we activated our defense grid, the crime rate receded.

(beat)

That's fact, captain. Not opinion.

KIRK

Which only proves that some Abicians are criminals. You cannot condemn the many for the crimes of the few.

GALISTI

I don't 'condemn.' Abicians should be free to live as they please -- on their own world. But if they come here I will do what is necessary to keep my people safe. Just as you would if it were your crew or family.

KIRK

Safety and compassion can't be mutually exclusive. Conscience requires balance. This is fundamental to the philosophy of the Federation.

A beat. Galisti studies Kirk. Then:

GALISTI

Captain. What is Starfleet's 'General Order Number One'?

KIRK

(thrown)

The non-interference directive. An ethical principle which prevents members of Starfleet from influencing the natural development of pre-warp civilizations.

(CONTINUED)

GALISTI

Does it apply even if you know your interference would be 'beneficial'?

KIRK

Yes.

GALISTI

Have there been cases in which upholding this 'ethical' principle meant allowing the population of an entire planet to die? Even if you could have saved them?

KIRK

(pauses for a beat)

Yes. But...

GALISTI

So. An abstract idea is worth more than a world full of living, breathing people?

(beat)

And you stand here lecturing me about compassion? About balance?

(he stands, looming)

You kill defenseless people. You destroy innocent lives. You condemn the many for the crimes of none!

(beat)

Who do you think you are?!

Kirk's jaw clenches as Galisti's eyes bore a hole through him, waiting for an answer.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

33

The Enterprise in orbit around Hyalinus.

KIRK V.O.

Captain's log, supplemental. The stellar probe will be ready to launch shortly... and Spock and Sulu are preparing their decontamination sweep of Hyalinus. The Inner Council is overjoyed to hear of our success. Yet, I find myself unable to share in that joy.

34 INT. BRIEFING ROOM - USS ENTERPRISE

34

McKennah sits at the table. Kirk paces like a cat in a cage.

MCKENNAH

Captain, are you angry because you believe the Hyalini are wrong? Or because they may be right about the threat the Abicians pose?

Kirk stops pacing and turns to McKennah.

KIRK

The threat they pose? Doctor... when we launch that probe, the people on Hyalinus will see in full, revealing color. What'll happen to the Abicians once they can be identified?

MCKENNAH

Do you really believe they're capable of harming Abicians who've lived among them for years?

KIRK

They don't have to be. They can just round 'em up. Send 'em back. Wash their hands of what happens

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIRK (cont'd)

next.

(beat)

That's why I'm angry.

MCKENNAH

(beat)

Sir. You've dealt with similar situations in the past. But I wonder if this time it's more... personal.

(beat)

I don't think you're angry. I think you're afraid. You're afraid for Sekara. You care for her. Perhaps more deeply than you care to admit.

Kirk goes to launch a fiery retort, but stops. The realization sinks in. She's right.

KIRK

With all their piety, they have no problem turning their backs on desperate people with nowhere else to go. They take help, but refuse to give it. It begs the question whether they deserve our aid at all.

MCKENNAH

So... would it be justice to deny them aid? For us to turn our backs on people with nowhere else to go?

Her words land. A beat. Then an inspiration:

KIRK

Nowhere else to go... Thank you, doctor!

And he's gone, leaving McKennah alone and perplexed.

MCKENNAH

(half-hearted, confused)

Damn, I'm good.

35 INT. ENGINEERING - USS ENTERPRISE

35

A solar probe rests in the middle of the room. Scott uses a laser tool to SOLDER its casing.

The door SLIDES open, and Sekara enters with a smitten Chekov. Trying way too hard to impress.

She watches Scott USE THE TOOL.

CHEKOV

And this is where Mister Scott lives. Also known as 'engineering.'

Scott Smiles. SHUTS OFF the laser tool, and sets it aside.

SCOTT

I dunnuh spend all my time here. There's also the transporter room.

He smiles.

CHEKOV

Sekara asked me to show her around.

SEKARA

(re: probe)
Is that the device that will fix our star?

Sekara walks over to it.

SCOTT

(nods)
Aye. It's the only solar probe I've got, so we're leavin' nothing to chance.
(beat)
How'd you like to see the warp engines?

CHEKOV

(overly solicitous)
I'll show her, commander. You've got work to do.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

SCOTT
I've always got time for a lovely
lass, lieutenant.

Scott starts toward the core. Not to be bested, Chekov races to catch up, trying to look casual about it.

CHEKOV
Yes! The engines are this way...

But Sekara stays put, eyes fixated on the probe. A battle rages in her head. Her eyes find the laser tool Scott left nearby.

Chekov notices Sekara hasn't followed. He taps Scott...

...and they turn to see that Sekara has picked up the laser tool and aimed at the probe! Her thumb hovers above the activation button.

Scott stops cold.

SCOTT
Young lady. That's a very
dangerous tool.

Her eyes remain on the probe.

SEKARA
I know.

Chekov cautiously approaches. Scott hangs back and subtly CLICKS the comm panel.

INTERCUT:

36 INT. BRIDGE - USS ENTERPRISE

36

Kirk hears them talking over the COMM:

SEKARA V.O.
Stay back, or I'll fire.

He turns and rushes OUT!

INTERCUT:

37 INT. ENGINEERING - USS ENTERPRISE - CONTINUOUS

37

SCOTT

If somethin' happens to that probe,
it'll take a fair bit a' time to
get another.

SEKARA

Yes... it will.

SCOTT

Your people cannah afford to wait.

CHEKOV

Sekara. Why destroy something...
that will save your world?

SEKARA

Because of what will happen next.
People turning on each other,
afraid of what they don't
understand. They won't see friends
and neighbors. They'll see the
'brutes' and 'thieves' they've
heard about. They'll see Abicians.

(beat)

We need more time.

Kirk ENTERS. Stops when he sees the laser tool in her hand.

SEKARA (cont'd)

Help us find another way to fix our
sun. One which won't change how we
see... or who we are.

KIRK

There isn't another way.
Destroying the probe will only
delay the inevitable. And could
you really go back to a world
without color?

She starts to break down. Lowering the weapon, she turns to
Kirk. Eyes desperate, pleading. He gently takes the laser
tool and hands it to Scott.

SEKARA

I feel so... powerless. So terrified
of the people I will return to.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

SEKARA (cont'd)

Their eyes will change but their hearts may not.

Sekara's knees buckle. Kirk slows her descent until, on her knees, she bows her head and SOBS quietly.

KIRK

You're not powerless.

Kirk lifts her chin, looks her in the eye.

KIRK (cont'd)

You're the one person who has the power to change the hearts of your leaders. Galisti and Thaius love you.

(beat)

Sekara. You're living proof that Abicians aren't a race of savages. That they too have the same hopes and dreams of becoming more.

She's heard him; a calm settles over her. Kirk stands and offers his hand. Sekara reaches up and grasps it. She begins to rise.

38 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

38

Enterprise in orbit over Hyalinus.

39 INT. HYALINUS COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

39

Two guards flank the door as before.

Kirk, Spock, McCoy stand before the Inner Council, a stack of medical crates behind them.

Inner Council members seated as before... only this time Tomiat has returned. From his place at the center of the table, Galisti stands. Arms raised.

GALISTI

(grandly speechifying)

Friends. The Hyalini offer their heartfelt gratitude. Today is the beginning of a bright new future for all of my people. We...

(CONTINUED)

KIRK
 (casually)
Some.

GALISTI
 (confused)
 Pardon me, captain?

Kirk's tone remains casual, pleasant. Just offering some helpful clarification.

KIRK
 Today is the beginning of a bright new future... for some of your people. For others... it may be the beginning of the end.
 (beat)
 There are Abicians among you. Many of them.

REACTIONS from other council members. Galisti GRUNTS dismissively.

KIRK (cont'd)
 And if we repair your sun... you'll see for yourself.

GALISTI
 (hardens)
 You would have us doubt our resolve. I suppose the dear captain now holds our salvation hostage? Refuses to launch the stellar probe until he's had the final word. Is that your plan?

KIRK
 No. But it's a pretty good one. I think I'll borrow it.

Galisti's eyes narrow. He slowly sits. Arms crossed, defiant.

Kirk goes to speak, but stops. Suddenly taken in deep contemplation. Then he looks back at the council, his face open, sincere.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK (cont'd)

I wonder if you realize... The prosperity and peace -- the unity of your people -- is truly exceptional.

MCCOY

(nods in agreement)

You've accomplished -- in a few short centuries -- something that took our people millennia.

SPOCK

Indeed, council leader. Such is true for most worlds we have encountered.

The council reacts to the unexpected accolade. But Galisti is silent, cautious, suspicious.

KIRK

Your world was unified... transformed by the hope that one day you would become worthy of joining the community of the stars. The Hope of the Hyalini.

(a thoughtful beat)

How will your people know when they've achieved worthiness? What does it mean to be worthy?

Kirk pauses. A few beats of silence.

KIRK (cont'd)

That's the problem. There is no one answer. An undefined finish-line means you never have to finish. Your people will never have to leave the comfort and safety of what they know.

(beat)

There's an old saying: 'A ship in the harbor is safe. But that's not what ships are for.' The greatest fear of all is fear of the unknown. Will you let that fear define you? Will you choose to hide behind weapons and barriers? Vilify

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIRK (cont'd)

strangers... the very people that your 'Hope' demands you strive to embrace? Do you serve the 'Hope,' or have you twisted it to serve you?

(beat)

There comes a moment in the life of any world when its people must choose whom they wish to become. This is your moment.

The room is silent. Thaius, Tomiat, and the other council members appear contemplative. Eventually their eyes find Galisti, and wait.

GALISTI

Now will you launch the probe?

KIRK

We launched the probe twenty minutes ago.

Galisti's hard expression falters. Kirk looks over at Spock, who CHECKS his tricorder.

SPOCK

If it was successful, the effects should become apparent any moment now.

The council members stand in anticipation.

Thaius takes Galisti's hand. Their eyes connect. She cups the side of his face.

THAIUS

Our world is about to change forever. But my love for you will never change.

He envelops her in his arms and rests his chin on her shoulder, eyes closed. He whispers softly.

GALISTI

My dearest.

They hug tightly, each with their head resting on the other's shoulder. Locked in lovely symmetry as they wait for the world to change.

(CONTINUED)

There's a beat of utter stillness and quiet. Then, slowly, COLOR begins to seep into the room.

We hear GASPS and other REACTIONS from the Hyalini.

Galisti's eyes open when he hears the others. Chin still resting on Thaius's shoulder, he watches in wonder as patches of color bloom on the walls and furniture... growing and spreading until they envelope the other council members. So many colors... but their complexions are all the same.

GALISTI (cont'd)

Isn't it magnificent, my love?

Galisti steps back from Thaius, and freezes when he sees her. Confused, his eyes scan the room. All Hyalini, same pigmentation.

Except for Thaius.

THAIUS

Long have I wanted to tell you.
But I was terrified. The thought
of you forsaking me... was
unbearable.

Thaius reaches to cup Galisti's face as before. But this time he recoils, unwilling to allow her touch.

It starts to sink in. Galisti's face reveals the heartbreak and betrayal.

GALISTI

(quiet)

It was all a lie?

At his reaction, tears begin to stream down Thaius's face.

THAIUS

(pleads)

No... I'm the same person. My love
for you is no lie.

Overwhelmed, Thaius lowers herself to the floor, eyes turned up to Galisti.

Seeing her crumple, Galisti forgets his feeling of betrayal. Heartache washes over him.

(CONTINUED)

But:

GALISTI
(to Kirk)
This changes nothing.

KIRK
(shakes head)
Even with new vision, do you still
not see?

Galisti becomes aware of everyone looking at him. His pain, his weakness on display. A leader humiliated in front of his people. In front of Kirk. He takes a deep breath; and:

GALISTI
Captain. You will commence the
decontamination sweep of Hyalinus...
and proceed with your radiation
treatments.

KIRK
Yes... About that...

Kirk casually turns... throwing his crew a pointed look and a slight nod. Spock raises a brow.

KIRK (cont'd)
(back to Galisti)
I'm afraid we won't have the time.
The Enterprise has been called away
to urgent business on Daran Five.

Galisti is speechless.

Spock starts to SPEAK, but McCoy nudges him. Spock falls silent.

GALISTI
You would... let us die?

KIRK
As it happens, our scans show that
the Abicians have the
decontamination technology you
require.

GALISTI
Why would they help us?

(CONTINUED)

MCCOY

Because you have something they need.

(beat)

We fixed your sun... and they have the ability to sweep both worlds of its residual effects. But they still need medicine for their people. Just like you do.

(re: the medical crates)

I took the liberty of synthesizing double the amount. There's enough here to cure both Hyalinus and Abicius.

KIRK

Has it ever occurred to you that their civilization might be suffering the same fate as yours?

SPOCK

Given the Abicians' proximity to your sun, they experienced the radiation's ill effects generations before Hyalinus. Illness, food shortages... It is no wonder their world has fallen into chaos and war.

(beat)

They are what you would become.

Red-faced, Galisti's cool finally cracks. He POUNDS his fists on the table like an insolent child.

GALISTI

You cannot do this! I refuse...

(checks himself, then)

Please. Do not force us to beg for help... from them!

THAIUS (O.S.)

There is no 'them' any more, my dear.

Galisti turns to Thaius, revealing Sekara now by her side! Abician as well.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (7)

39

SEKARA

Only 'us.'

Galisti studies them both. Love in his eyes... and fear. His time to choose has come.

As Kirk, Spock, McCoy leave, Sekara and Kirk share a final glance. She smiles -- confident, proud, and unafraid.

40 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

40

The Enterprise leaves orbit and SAILS into space.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE