

REVISIONS:  
12/26/14 blue

Star Trek Continues

Episode 4  
THE WHITE IRIS

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. CHALCIDIAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY 1

C.U. on Captain KIRK. WHAM! He's HIT over the head with a blunt object. Hard.

DISSIDENT

Eretria will not be silent! Your  
Federation is not wanted here!

REVEAL a simply adorned governmental council antechamber. Curtains form one wall, on them the Chalcidian seal... images that reflect agriculture-family-philosophy. UNITY.

Nearby sits a small FEDERATION CONSOLE.

Kirk collapses like a sack of potatoes beside UHURA. SCOTT rushes to help.

COMMOTION.

An older man in a long robe and a stately stole -- the planet's elder, AMPHIDAMAS -- looks on. His ASSISTANT stands beside him. Two less-ornately dressed COUNCILMEN behind the landing party. One of them is the DISSIDENT attacker.

Scotty frantically flips open his COMMUNICATOR.

SCOTT

Enterprise! Emergency beam-out!  
Now!

Kirk, Uhura, and Scott DEMATERIALIZE along with the Federation console.

AMPHIDAMAS

No! Please, no!

His face falls.

2 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE 2

The U.S.S. Enterprise orbits a verdant, Earth-like planet.

Another planet is in the distance. Dark... gray... dotted with city lights visible from space.

3 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE SICKBAY

3

Kirk fades in and out of consciousness as he lies on a Sickbay bed.

MCCOY attends to him with a NURSE close by.

Scott and Uhura stand near as well.

SPOCK enters.

SPOCK

Report.

SCOTT

We were ambushed, commander.

UHURA

Mister Spock... the captain...

Kirk GROANS as Spock looks on. Shares a look with Bones.

MCCOY

He's got a severe concussion...  
massive swelling in the amygdala.

(beat)

Couldn't be in a worse place.

UHURA

What do you mean?

MCCOY

Responsible for the brain's  
emotional memories. And in this  
case... the hemorrhaging's terminal.

Spock tries to conceal his reaction. He steps to the edge of the bed and looks to Kirk's body monitor.

SPOCK

Unless I am mistaken, doctor...  
conventional treatments will prove  
ineffective for such an injury in  
that region of the brain.

MCCOY

(reacts)

The captain's brain, Spock! He's  
dying... and that's all you've got to  
say?!

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

SPOCK

On the contrary, I was about to suggest...

(beat)

...alkysine.

McCoy reacts.

MCCOY

You can't be serious. That's not even out of trials. We don't know proper dosage... side-effects... hell, we don't know if the damn treatment would even work here!

SPOCK

In recent Starfleet Medical studies alkysine has shown promise in otherwise fatal neurological injuries in forty-one-point-two percent of patients.

MCCOY

And in twenty percent of patients, it made the damage worse!

INTERCUT:

KIRK'S P.O.V.

BARREL LENS. As Spock and McCoy speak, their VOICES are muddy, echoey.

A brief glimpse of a blonde woman passing behind them. It's RAYNA!

4 INT. FLINT'S HOME - FLASHBACK MONTAGE

4

BLACK & WHITE FLASHES of Kirk's memory: Dancing with Rayna. Kissing Rayna.

Kirk over Rayna, lying dead on the floor.

5 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE KIRK'S QUARTERS - FLASHBACK

5

Spock over Kirk, touching his face.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

SPOCK  
Forget.

INTERCUT:

6 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE SICKBAY

6

KIRK'S P.O.V., as before. His gaze drifts over to Scott and Uhura. He hears McCoy and Spock ARGUING... manages to focus long enough to speak:

KIRK  
Rayna...

MCCOY  
Jim!

Kirk is feverish. GASPING for breath. He grabs Bones by his shirt.

KIRK  
Alkysine...

SPOCK  
Captain. Do you understand that...

NURSE  
(interrupting)  
Doctor! Brain activity is spiking again...

MCCOY  
Jim, this is an experimental drug!  
There's no telling...

KIRK  
Do it!  
(beat)  
Do it... Now.

McCoy looks at Spock gravely. Spock studies the captain, then McCoy. He nods.

Nurse hands McCoy a hypo. He ADMINISTERS the drug. Checks vitals and INJECTS another dose.

As the medicine enters Kirk's body, he fades again. He nearly falls back into the bed. But suddenly...

Kirk INHALES deeply... EXHALES... and is awake! Calm now.

(CONTINUED)

NURSE  
 (re: the monitor)  
 Readings are stabilizing.  
 Neurological activity returning to  
 baseline.

Spock lifts an eyebrow. McCoy smiles in spite of himself.

Uhura and Scotty are relieved. Their captain is back.

KIRK  
 (as if from a dream)  
 What the hell happened...?

SPOCK  
 You instructed the doctor to  
 administer an experimental drug to  
 reset your central nervous system.

KIRK  
 I did?

Spock and McCoy look at each other.

KIRK (cont'd)  
 I guess I did.

MCCOY  
 Well... it was the right call, Jim.  
 Vitals are holding up. That dose  
 saved your life.  
 (beat)  
 You're not gonna try to take over  
 my practice now, are ya?

\*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*

SPOCK  
 Captain. While I am pleased with  
 your recovery, there is a time-  
 sensitive mission at hand on the  
 planet's surface.

KIRK  
 Yes. Yes, there is.

He starts to get out of bed. Woozy. Spock assists.

MCCOY  
 Easy does it, Jim. Take it slow  
 for a while. I don't wanna see you  
 back here in an hour.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

KIRK  
I'll be fine, Bones.  
(beat)  
Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

The captain adjusts his tunic and prepares to return to duty. \*

He briefly glances around the sickbay.

Spock follows Kirk out of Sickbay as Scotty and Uhura approach McCoy and watch them leave.

SCOTT

Can anything stop that man?

MCCOY

Nothing I've seen yet.

\*

7 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE TURBOLIFT

7

Kirk and Spock step into the ship's turbolift.

SPOCK

Bridge.

\*

The lift starts MOVING.

KIRK

Spock. Holberg nine-one-seven-G.  
(off his reaction)  
Mister Flint...

Spock does not respond. Kirk studies him.

KIRK (cont'd)

The android girl -- Rayna.

SPOCK

(concerned)

You... remember her?

KIRK

(pointed)

I remember everything. Everything.

Spock shifts uncomfortably.

KIRK (cont'd)

Not my finest hour.

(CONTINUED)



7 CONTINUED:

7

He swallows as he relives the events... visibly mortified.

SPOCK

You were in great turmoil after those events, captain. I acted in a manner which I felt would... spare you pain. Perhaps, upon reflection, it was not my place to do so.

(beat)

She was, however, simply a machine.

KIRK

She was human. Whatever she started out as, she was human when we... when I pushed her too far.

The lift STOPS.

8 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

8

Kirk and Spock ENTER from the lift. PALMER at communications, SULU at the helm, CHEKOV at navigation, DRAKE at engineering, SMITH at environmental. Spock crosses to his station. Kirk goes to his chair, sits.

KIRK

Lieutenant. Open a channel to Chalcis.

Palmer WORKS her console.

PALMER

Channel open, sir.

INTERCUT:

9 INT. CHALCIDIAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS - VIEWSCREEN

9

Amphidamas APPEARS on screen.

AMPHIDAMAS

(filtered, on screen)

Captain Kirk! Thank the gods.

INTERCUT:

10 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

10

Kirk puts his best face forward.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

(grins)

My ship's physician does  
occasionally earn his pay.

AMPHIDAMAS

(filtered, on screen)

We are so relieved to hear it,  
captain. My deepest apologies for  
that... attack. Our sister world  
opposes our desire to join your  
Federation. Their agents will stop  
at nothing to prevent it.

Kirk sits forward in his chair.

KIRK

(confident)

Well minister... their attempt to  
derail our alliance has failed.

AMPHIDAMAS

(filtered, on screen)

I pray that you are correct.

(beat)

The Eretrians have promised swift  
action... and on a global scale.

(beat)

Your Federation's gift of the  
planetary defense grid will provide  
the protection Chalcis needs.

Kirk nods. But he's confused. Something's wrong... something  
he's forgotten.

After a beat of silence:

AMPHIDAMAS (cont'd)

(filtered, on screen)

So let us proceed, captain...

(beat)

We are ready to activate the  
console... With your permission --  
and your command code, of course.

All eyes on Kirk.

SPOCK

The password, captain.

Kirk swallows nervously.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

AMPHIDAMAS  
(filtered, on screen)  
Captain?

But Kirk isn't looking at the viewscreen any longer. He's looking at something else...

A girl wearing a CAGE-era blue Starfleet uniform stands before him! Farragut patch. This is NAKIA. She SHIMMERS in a ghostly, eerie manner.

Off C.U. of Nakia...

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

11 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE 11

SUPER TITLES as the Enterprise orbits Chalcis.

12 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 12

On the bridge, Nakia stares at Kirk. Says nothing.

Confused reactions from all.

SPOCK

Captain...

Kirk doesn't move. His eyes are fixed on Nakia's image.  
Then she DISAPPEARS.

SPOCK (cont'd)

(speaks up)

Minister... may we have a moment for  
a brief 'diagnostic' procedure?

INTERCUT:

13 INT. CHALCIDIAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS - VIEWSCREEN 13

Amphidamas nods hesitantly.

AMPHIDAMAS

(filtered, on screen)

Yes. Of course... As you wish.

INTERCUT:

14 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 14

SPOCK

Close frequency.

PALMER

Aye sir.

The screen goes DARK.

*[NOTE: In b.g., Scott ENTERS the bridge and assumes the  
engineering station. Drake stands and moves O.S.]*

Kirk rises. Walks over to Spock. A private conversation.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK  
(whispers)  
I... I can't remember the password.

Spock raises an eyebrow.

SPOCK  
(beat)  
I recommend hailing Starfleet  
Command. We can obtain the code  
directly from them.

KIRK  
(shakes head)  
The C-in-C authorized me to lock  
down the console with my own  
encrypted password... Initialize it  
if -- only if -- I decide the  
Chalcidians are ready to join the  
Federation.

SPOCK  
So... the passcode is known only to  
you?

But Kirk is looking right past him.

SPOCK (cont'd)  
Captain?

Over Spock's shoulder: Nakia!

Spock turns to see. Nothing.

KIRK  
(disoriented, whispers)  
Nakia...

Spock studies Kirk.

KIRK (cont'd)  
But she can't...

He closes his eyes. Swallows.

Nakia's gone again.

SPOCK  
Perhaps Doctor McCoy's treatment  
has had an... 'unintended' side  
effect.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK  
(gathers composure)  
Yes. Yes... that must be it.

He turns to the bridge crew:

KIRK (cont'd)  
Mister Spock, you have the conn.

Kirk heads for the lift. Turns to look over his shoulder for a moment... where Nakia was standing.

He LEAVES.

Spock shares a look with the others.

SPOCK  
Lieutenant Palmer. Please inform  
Starfleet Command that the  
Chalcidians' defense grid console  
may be...  
(beat)  
...'defective.' Request ETA for a  
replacement.

PALMER  
Right away, sir.

Spock crosses to Scott.

SPOCK  
Mister Scott. I believe the device  
has been taken to engineering.

SCOTT  
(frowns)  
Aye... but if the captain used a  
personal code...

Scott shakes his head.

SPOCK  
Mister Chekov... you have experience  
in cryptography, do you not?

CHEKOV  
Yes, sir! At the academy, I once  
decoded a Xindi...

SPOCK  
(interrupting)  
Please assist Mister Scott in  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (3)

14

SPOCK (cont'd)  
unlocking and reinitializing the  
planetary defense console.

CHEKOV

Sir.

Scott and Chekov stand and head to the LIFT as Uhura enters and trades off with Palmer. *[NOTE: Smith assumes the navigator post; Palmer engineering.]*

\*

Spock crosses to the side of the captain's chair. He thinks for a beat... then PRESSES the intercom button.

SPOCK  
(quietly)  
Spock to sickbay.

15 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

15

Captain Kirk steps out of the LIFT.

He walks briskly, perhaps back to his old self now... for the moment, at least.

KIRK'S P.O.V. as SUPERNUMERARIES pass him in the corridor.

But suddenly... a LITTLE GIRL!

The child wears a plain tan dress and long, straight black hair.

She glances at Kirk... then darts away down the hallway.

Kirk runs after the child... but just as suddenly as she appeared, she is gone.

Kirk stops short, looks both ways down the corridor.

KIRK'S P.O.V.: The length of the empty corridor. WHIP PAN to the other end. Nothing.

Kirk EXHALES. A beat... a decision. He returns to the LIFT.

16 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE TURBOLIFT

16

Kirk grabs a wall handle. Hesitates. And then...

KIRK  
Sickbay.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

The lift begins to MOVE.

Suddenly, Kirk startles. He turns around. Nakia's there!

His eyes widen. He reaches out and almost speaks...

...but the lift STOPS and the doors OPEN. Two supernumeraries enter, LAUGHING... and step right into the space where Nakia was moments before.

Kirk gathers his composure. Leaves the lift quickly.

17 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

17

In orbit.

18 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

18

As before. *[NOTE: Relief SCIENCE OFFICER at sci station.]*

SMITH

Commander. Energy signature from  
the surface of Eretria.

(beat)

It's an interplanetary ballistic  
missile, sir.

Spock sits up in his command chair, concerned. Sulu peers  
into his viewer.

SULU

Confirmed. I'm reading a high-  
yield atomic warhead leaving the  
planet's atmosphere.

An ALERT from the communications station.

UHURA

Mister Spock? We're being hailed  
by...

SPOCK

(interrupting)

...By the minister, I presume.

(beat)

On screen.

Uhura works her console.

INTERCUT:



19 INT. CHALCIDIAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS - VIEWSCREEN

19

Amphidamas APPEARS.

AMPHIDAMAS

(filtered, on screen)

It's happening! Our sister world  
has launched a weapon that will  
strike Chalcis within two hours!  
Where is Captain Kirk?!

INTERCUT:

20 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

20

SPOCK

This is First Officer Spock. We  
are monitoring the activity on  
Eretria, minister. I am aware...

AMPHIDAMAS

(filtered, on screen)

The Federation promised us a  
planetary defense grid! Where is  
your captain?

SPOCK

(conceals his irritation)

Captain Kirk is recovering from  
injuries he suffered from the  
attack. Please stand by for  
further instructions. Enterprise  
out.

Spock stands.

SMITH

Intercept course, commander?

SPOCK

Remain in orbit. But monitor the  
situation.

(beat)

Mister Sulu, you have the bridge.

Spock LEAVES.

Off everyone's reactions...

21 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE SICKBAY

21

Kirk lies on a bed as McCoy examines him.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK  
Is it the drug, Bones?  
(beat)  
The concussion...?

MCCOY  
Gimme a minute, will ya?

KIRK  
It must be. I remember the attack...  
and being here in sickbay... but I  
can't remember the password.

McCoy studies him for a beat.

MCCOY  
Is that all you want to tell me?

Kirk looks at him, perplexed. Then:

KIRK  
(frustrated)  
Spock told you.

MCCOY  
Of course he told me, Jim. He's  
worried about you.

Nurse hands a PADD to McCoy. She moves away as he studies it.

KIRK  
I'm not crazy, Bones...

MCCOY  
(smiles)  
Sure you are. That's why we like  
you.

But McCoy's smile falls.

MCCOY (cont'd)  
(re: the PADD)  
This can't be right.

KIRK  
What is it?

MCCOY  
(beat)  
That's... impossible...

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

What?

MCCOY

A portion of your heart tissue...  
it's... shutting down.

NAKIA

Jim...

Kirk looks. Nakia is lying on the bed next to him!

MCCOY

There it is again!

Now she sits up! Stares at Kirk.

DOLLY IN to Kirk's terrified stare at the bed next to him as  
we...

FADE OUT.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE 22

In orbit.

MCCOY (V.O.)

Chief Medical Officer's log,  
stardate sixty-one-eighty-two-point-  
three. I may have reached the  
limits of my expertise. The  
captain's heart is progressively  
weakening -- and I must admit... I  
have no 'medical' explanation.

23 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE ENGINEERING 23

Scott and Chekov work on the console. Spock ENTERS.

SPOCK

Progress report, Mister Scott.

SCOTT

There is no progress, Mister Spock.  
We cannuh initialize this beastie  
without the captain's passcode.  
I've done all I can do.

SPOCK

Ensign. Have you applied a brute-  
force algorithm to override the  
device's lockout?

Chekov steps to him.

CHEKOV

Sir, duotronic consoles are  
designed to deactivate in the event  
of multiple access attempts.  
Starfleet protocol.

(off Spock's stern look)

I can keep trying to circumvent the  
encryption, but it could take days.

SPOCK

(beat)

Please continue.

He turns to leave.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

SCOTT  
Mister Spock. How's the captain?

CHEKOV  
Will he be all right?

Spock hesitates.

SPOCK  
It is uncertain at this time.

SCOTT  
Is there anything we can do?

SPOCK  
You are presently 'doing' it,  
Mister Scott.  
(beat)  
The priority is the activation of  
this console... and the protection of  
the Chalcidian homeworld.

SCOTT  
Aye, sir.

He leaves. Off Scott and Chekov resuming their work..

24 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE SICKBAY

24

Kirk sits at the edge of the sickbay bed. Lost in thought.  
PLAY him in C.U. for a time.

MCCOY (O.S.)  
It keeps coming up as localized  
heart failure. But the myocardial  
tissue isn't dead... it's not even  
damaged. Certain muscle fibers are  
just... atrophying.

\*

KIRK  
(almost to himself)  
Nakia...  
(beat; not a question)  
You didn't see her... did you, Bones.

Now McCoy sits into FRAME. He frowns. Studies Kirk  
intently.

KIRK (cont'd)  
We served on the Farragut. We  
were... very close. But that was  
seven years ago.

(CONTINUED)

MCCOY

Tycho Four.

KIRK

Two-hundred crewmen died.

(beat)

She was one of them.

MCCOY

(not a question)

And you blamed yourself. I knew  
you were close to Captain  
Garravick... but I didn't know about...

KIRK

(interrupting)

Nakia. I never talked about her.  
Thought I could forget. Like I  
could forget.

MCCOY

(long silence)

Jim. I'm not sure your condition  
is medical. Whatever caused you to  
suddenly remember what Spock  
erased... it's unlocked something  
buried deep.

McCoy moves to the intercom. Kirk gives a questioning look.

MCCOY (cont'd)

I'm calling Doctor McKennah. Have  
her bring a psychotricorder.

KIRK

I don't need a shrink.

MCCOY

You don't know what you need!

KIRK

Apparently neither do you, doctor!

A beat as they catch a breath.

KIRK (cont'd)

Sorry, Bones. That was  
unnecessary.

McCoy studies him sadly.

(CONTINUED)

MCCOY

But not inaccurate. You're right, Jim. I don't know why this is happening. But I'll be damned if you're gonna tell me there's nothing wrong in that stubborn head of yours.

A WHOOSH at the door. Spock enters.

Kirk eases off the bed.

KIRK

Mister Spock. Doctor McCoy has cleared me to return to duty.

MCCOY

I have?

Spock raises an eyebrow.

KIRK

The good doctor suggested a visit with the ship's counselor... which the patient has respectfully declined.

SPOCK

Captain, in this instance I must concur with the doctor. Given the circumstances, a psychiatric evaluation is advisable.

KIRK

(bit paranoid)  
Ganging up on me now?  
(recovers)  
Duly noted, gentlemen.

Kirk smiles a little, and LEAVES. After a beat, Spock FOLLOWS. Off McCoy...

Kirk moves along the hallway. Spock catches up.

SPOCK

Captain.  
(off his silence)  
Captain...  
(beat)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

SPOCK (cont'd)  
Are you not concerned as to the...  
'reason' behind your affliction?

KIRK  
The 'affliction' must be a result  
of the alkysine.

Spock remains silent.

KIRK (cont'd)  
You have another theory, Mister  
Spock? Because I'd love to hear  
it.

SPOCK  
Perhaps not so much a theory, as...

Spock trails off as Kirk's eyes widen.

There, in the corridor, is EDITH KEELER! She starts to move  
toward Kirk.

EDITH  
Are you following me, sir?

Kirk slowly backs away...

\*

EDITH (cont'd)  
You see the same things I do. We  
speak the same language.

Kirk physically indicates chest pain. Spock moves to help...  
but Kirk shrugs him off.

KIRK  
I'm fine.

SPOCK  
Captain...

KIRK  
I'm fine.

He moves off as Spock watches, concerned.

26 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

26

As before.

(CONTINUED)



Uhura touches her earpiece.

UHURA  
Incoming message from Starfleet  
Command.

Sulu turns to her.

UHURA (cont'd)  
A replacement console... is four  
Earth days away.

\*

SULU  
(reacts)  
Inform the captain.  
(beat; thinks)  
And... Commander Spock as well.

SMITH  
Sir... the Eretrian warhead has  
increased velocity.

SULU  
Time till impact?

SMITH  
At current speed and trajectory...  
(beat)  
Fifty-nine minutes.

SULU  
Phasers on standby.

Smith WORKS her console... but it BUZZES.

SMITH  
We're having trouble getting a  
weapons lock.

Sulu frowns.

SULU  
Increase power to directional beam.

SMITH  
Already tried, sir. It's no use.  
(beat)  
We've lost sensor contact with the  
warhead.

\*

\*

SULU  
Destroyed?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

SMITH

(reacts)

No sir. It... it just vanished.

PLAY Sulu, alarmed. This just got real.

FADE OUT.

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

27 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE 27

In orbit.

SPOCK (V.O.)

First Officer's personal log. The Enterprise has lost track of the inbound missile, despite all attempts to locate it. And while Captain Kirk has stabilized after his recent cardiac episode... his condition remains a mystery.

28 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIEFING ROOM 28

Spock, McCoy, McKennah seated around the table, watching the TRI-VIEWER. On its screen, the SCENE plays out as if from a SECURITY CAMERA'S perspective:

INTERCUT:

29 INT. CHALCIDIAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY - VIEWSCREEN 29

Kirk, Uhura, Scott speak with Amphidamas and his council members.

KIRK

(filtered, on screen)

Minister. I wish I could tell you that twin planets are rarely at odds with one another. Unfortunately... that's often the case.

AMPHIDAMAS

(filtered, on screen)

Generations ago, we chose a simple, spiritual way of life. One in touch with the mysteries of nature. Eretria chose a more... materialistic philosophy. Rather than celebrate our differences, they've demonstrated hostility and disdain for our ways.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

(filtered, on screen)

The United Federation of Planets is  
 comprised of great diversity. We  
 applaud your values... and welcome  
 your world into that diversity.

(beat)

This defense grid will protect your  
 planet from Eretria's hostility.

Amphidamas performs a spiritual gesture. Kirk repeats it.  
 And then:

\*

\*

AMPHIDAMAS

(filtered, on screen)

Our deepest thanks, captain. On  
 behalf of the people of Chalcis, we  
 officially agree to...

WHAM! Kirk is STRUCK over the head by the dissident man.

DISSIDENT

(filtered, on screen)

Eretria will not be silent! Your  
 Federation is not wanted here!

COMMOTION.

SCOTT

(filtered, on screen)

Enterprise! Emergency beam-out!  
 Now!

The landing party BEAMS OUT.

The VIEWER SCREEN FADES OUT.

INTERCUT:

30 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIEFING ROOM

30

McKennah swallows. That was hard to watch.

SPOCK

Was the captain's cranial injury  
 severe enough to cause  
 hallucinations... and cardiomyopathy?

MCCOY

(shakes head)

The injury's been healed. Maybe...  
 the alkysine...?

(CONTINUED)

MCKENNAH

I can't speak to the physical issues. Nor can I help with the psychological ones... unless the captain permits me. And he doesn't seem to want...

Suddenly, the DOOR. Kirk enters. GREETINGS from all.

Kirk fights the paranoia again. He subtly grasps his left arm, in pain. Studies McKennah.

KIRK

Doctor McKennah. I'd like a word with my senior officers.

MCCOY

Spock and I felt that the ship's counselor could be helpful, Jim.

KIRK

Thank you, doctor. Commander.  
Your 'feelings' are noted.  
(to McKennah)  
You're dismissed.

Reactions from all. Nobody says anything.

After a beat, McKennah smiles. LEAVES. Kirk sits.

KIRK (cont'd)

Status report.

SPOCK

Eretria's warhead will strike Chalcis in less than an hour. For unknown reasons, a weapons lock is not possible. If the planetary defense grid is not online by that time...

KIRK

(interrupting)  
How are Scotty and Chekov coming with the console?

SPOCK

Mister Scott's efforts to decrypt your password have been unsuccessful.  
(hesitates)  
Perhaps Doctor McCoy could synthesize a truth serum...

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

But Kirk isn't listening. He stands now... takes a few steps forward.

He sees MIRAMANEE!

MIRAMANEE

I believe in you, my husband.

KIRK

(distracted)

How long before the missile reaches Chalcis...?

Spock and McCoy share a puzzled look.

SPOCK

As I just stated, captain... less than an hour.

MIRAMANEE

I will bear you many strong sons.

Kirk reacts to an even greater pain in his chest.

KIRK

(whispers)

Miramanee.

She DISAPPEARS.

Kirk tries to regain his composure and slowly backs toward the door.

MCCOY

Jim! You've got to do something about this... or we'll have to.

KIRK

Is that a threat, doctor?

MCCOY

As chief medical officer...

KIRK

(harshly)

We're wasting time. Return to your stations. I'll be on the bridge.

And he LEAVES.

31 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

31

Kirk EMERGES from the briefing room but stops short.

There, in the corridor, is the Little Girl again!

KIRK

Wait.

She turns and runs away.

KIRK (cont'd)

(beat)

Wait!

He pursues her around a corner...

The Little Girl is gone.

Kirk tries to shake it off.

Now he moves toward the lift... but Edith APPEARS:

EDITH

Whatever it is, let me help.

Kirk moves away in the opposite direction. Backs into a CREWMAN.

CREWMAN

Captain? Are you all right?

Kirk recovers.

KIRK

Just... on my way to the bridge.

He starts to walk away.

CREWMAN

(puzzled)

It's that way, sir.

KIRK

(plays it off)

Yes... of course it is.

He proceeds down the hall toward the lift. The Crewman watches.

32 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIEFING ROOM

32

Spock, McCoy as before. Spock completes some research on the computer. Nods to himself.

SPOCK

There is no medical evidence to indicate that these visions are a side-effect of alkysine injections, doctor.

MCCOY

So you believe the captain's 'seeing ghosts'?

SPOCK

I believe the captain believes he is seeing ghosts, regardless of whether he is willing to admit it.

MCCOY

But you don't think they're real. Do you?

(off his silence)

You've got to be joking.

SPOCK

(raises eyebrow)

On the contrary, doctor... Vulcan history often references the katra. The 'soul.'

MCCOY

And here I thought Vulcans were a people of science.

Spock stands.

SPOCK

To be a people of science is to acknowledge that science sometimes points to something... more. Vulcans are also a people of spirit. The two are not as contradictory as many assume.

He LEAVES. Off McCoy...

33 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

33

In orbit.



34 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

34

Kirk ENTERS from the lift and crosses to his chair.

UHURA  
Captain. Minister Amphidamas is  
urgently requesting...

KIRK  
Mister Sulu, I need a lock on that  
missile's position.

SULU  
(shakes head)  
Sir...

KIRK  
(interrupting)  
Estimate from its last known  
bearing. Fire blind if you have  
to.

Spock ENTERS.

SULU  
(knows it's futile)  
Aye. Coming about.

SMITH  
Compensating for variance...

Suddenly Spock raises an eyebrow.

SULU  
'Variance'?

SMITH  
There's a two-point-five drag  
coefficient each time I make a  
course correction. Nothing we  
can't handle.

SULU  
Drag?

Sulu and Smith share a look. Realization. He turns to Kirk:

SULU (cont'd)  
Sir... the warhead may be venting  
drive plasma. Clogging our impulse  
manifold. Could be what's  
scrambling the targeting sensors.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

KIRK

Spock?

SPOCK

A charged particle burst from the  
deflector dish would ignite the  
plasma.

Sulu WORKS his console.

SULU

We'll only get one shot at this...  
and we'll have to be quick. Ten-  
second window at most.

KIRK

Do it.

Sulu nods and PRESSES a button.

35 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

35

The Enterprise's deflector BEAM IGNITES the plasma. The  
missile now clearly visible.

36 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

36

SMITH

Target acquired.

They look to Kirk for the order.

But he's distracted. Nakia again! Kirk reacts to another  
pain in his chest. Looks away... then back.

She's still here.

NAKIA

The Farragut's a lucky ship...

\*

NAKIA (cont'd)

I met you here.

KIRK

(in sync with her)

I met you here.

\*

SULU

(frowns)

Target acquired, captain!

SMITH

(shakes head)

We're losing weapons lock...

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

Spock steps forward.

SPOCK  
Captain?

Now Edith APPEARS.

EDITH  
Let me help.

SPOCK  
(off Kirk's silence)  
Captain!

Spock steps up and makes the call:

SPOCK (cont'd)  
Fire phasers!

37 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

37

The Enterprise's phasers UNLOAD onto the missile. It's destroyed in a FLASH.

38 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

38

SULU  
Warhead destroyed.

SIGHS of relief.

Now everyone turns to look at Kirk. He is struggling not to look at the women.

Now Miramanee's HERE.

MIRAMANEE  
I have nothing to fear. You are here.

They all SPEAK to him. A CACOPHONY of voices.

Kirk struggles to keep his composure. But it's too much.

Suddenly:

KIRK  
(snaps at the women)  
I did the best I could. It's too late now...  
(MORE)

\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

KIRK (cont'd)

(beat)

What do you want from me?!

Stunned reactions from all. SILENCE.

Kirk looks around at the crew, aware that he just blew it.  
He looks back to where the women were. They're now gone.

KIRK (cont'd)

Commander Spock.

(beat)

I am... unfit for duty.

(hard to say)

I'm relieving myself of command.

The ship is yours.

He looks around the bridge... and LEAVES.

39 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

39

In orbit.

40 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE KIRK'S QUARTERS

40

Kirk lies in darkness, in an off-duty shirt. Alone for a  
time.

After a moment, the DOORBELL. AGAIN.

McCoy ENTERS. Sees Kirk on his bed. A sad state of affairs.

He sits by Kirk in silence for a time. Offers him a glass.  
Kirk doesn't look at him.

KIRK

Another dose of alkysine?

MCCOY

A dose of brandy. Drink up.

Kirk drains the glass.

The sound of a MEDICAL TRICORDER. REVEAL McCoy doing the  
honors. Kirk SNORTS, amused.

KIRK

You think you needed a diversion to  
do that?

(CONTINUED)

MCCOY

I don't know what to think. I've never seen you like this before, Jim.

McCoy studies the readings.

MCCOY (cont'd)

Your heart's operating at fifteen-percent efficiency. Only a fraction is still healthy, and it's doing the work for the rest. Another cardiac episode's inevitable... and next time, you may not survive it.

Kirk isn't listening. McCoy grabs him. Shakes him.

MCCOY (cont'd)

Snap out of it, Jim. It's your life we're talking about! You're not alone here.

KIRK

Really?

He looks at McCoy. Unsaid: 'Yes I am.'

KIRK (cont'd)

(beat; to himself)

Duty first, always duty first. It comes at a price...

(beat)

Bones... do you think I loved those women?

MCCOY

(jokes)

I think you've loved a lot of women.

Kirk gives him a nasty look. That wasn't funny. McCoy swallows, straightens.

MCCOY (cont'd)

Sorry, Jim.

KIRK

The answer is 'yes.'

(beat)

On another ship, an alien planet, in a another time. No matter where I find them, I always lose them.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

KIRK (cont'd)  
But I've never been able to let  
them go.

A long beat. McCoy's almost speechless.

MCCOY  
Jim, I... I didn't know. You've  
always...

KIRK  
Kept it buried. Hidden away.  
Command has no room for such...  
indulgence.

Suddenly a VOICE behind him:

NAKIA (O.S.)  
(suggestively)  
What did you want to ask me?

Kirk recoils. Clutches at his chest.

Spock ENTERS as Kirk begins to fall.

MCCOY  
Jim!

Spock catches Kirk as McCoy frantically rifles through his  
med kit.

Spock places his hand on Kirk's face... and looks up.

There he sees Nakia, Edith, and Miramanee standing before  
him!

Off Spock's reaction...

FADE OUT.

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE KIRK'S QUARTERS

41

As before. Kirk unconscious on the bed, McCoy tending to him. Spock with his hand on Kirk's face.

Spock studies the three women. They stand in the shadows across the room.

SPOCK

Why are you here?

(beat)

What do you want with the captain?

McCoy is baffled, not seeing what Spock is seeing. From McCoy's P.O.V., there's no one else there.

Spock slowly removes his hand as Kirk regains consciousness. He BREATHES DEEPLY. Studies Spock.

SPOCK (cont'd)

Jim... I saw them.

MCCOY

You spoke to them, Spock. Did they answer?

SPOCK

'There must be resolution. There must be peace.'

They look at each other.

SPOCK (cont'd)

They need closure, captain. Apparently a resolution only you can give them.

MCCOY

How? They're gone, Spock!

Spock has no answer.

Kirk takes a beat. A sudden decision:

KIRK

Get to the bridge. Have Scotty beam the console back to the planet.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

KIRK (cont'd)  
(beat)  
I'll be right there.

MCCOY  
I should order you to sickbay, Jim!  
You have somewhere more important  
to be?

DOLLY IN to Kirk, exhausted but determined. He has somewhere  
to go.

42 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

42

In orbit.

43 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE MCKENNAH'S QUARTERS

43

McKennah is in an off-duty gown, brushing her hair in the  
mirror.

The DOORBELL.

MCKENNAH  
Who is it?

The door OPENS. It's Kirk. He takes a beat... slightly  
embarrassed at seeing her this way.

He covers quickly.

KIRK  
I thought now might be a good time  
for that little chat.

They acknowledge the irony with a smile.

MCKENNAH  
I'm glad you came. Please sit  
down.

He paces... visibly wobbly on his feet. His heart's taking a  
toll on him.

KIRK  
I'm not even sure why I'm here.  
Spock... McCoy... They have some  
answers. But not all of them.

MCKENNAH  
I'll certainly help however I can.

(CONTINUED)



KIRK

I relieved myself of command.  
D'you know that? I never imagined  
that day would come.

MCKENNAH

(beat)  
I read your files.  
(off his reaction)  
In the event you might want to  
speak with me.

KIRK

(not a question)  
Thorough, aren't you.

MCKENNAH

(smiles)  
I get that a lot, too.  
(beat)  
You lost people who were dear to  
you. Your responsibilities  
required you to make sacrifices...

KIRK

Sacrifices? Doctor... they died  
because of me. I loved them... and I  
failed them. Spock says they want  
closure. Need closure.  
(beat)  
And I don't know how to give them  
that.

Kirk shrivels a bit. McKennah takes a long beat. Then a  
single step toward him.

MCKENNAH

Captain... with all due respect to  
Mister Spock...  
(beat)  
He's wrong.

Kirk's confused.

MCKENNAH (cont'd)

(gently)  
Humans bury feelings of hurt,  
heartbreak, loss... We shove them  
away... never come to terms with  
them. That burden can paralyze us.  
(beat)  
I think you carry a great deal of  
guilt. You never had the  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2)

43

MCKENNAH (cont'd)  
opportunity to tell them... the  
chance to explain why you had to do  
what you did.  
(beat)  
Don't you see? It's not they who  
need resolution. It's you.

Kirk reacts. That was a bombshell. And then:

KIRK  
But it's too late.

MCKENNAH  
(smiles sadly)  
It's never too late to make peace  
with those we love.

KIRK  
How? Where?

MCKENNAH  
Invite them to come to you.  
(thinks)  
Perhaps... in the place you left  
them.

In his eyes, we see a light now... a realization we haven't  
seen this entire story.

44 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE HOLOGRAPHIC REC ROOM

44

HIGH ANGLE. Darkness. Kirk's silhouette steps into FRAME.

KIRK  
Computer.

COMPUTER (V.O.)  
(filtered)  
Ready.

LIGHTS kick on, illuminating the scene. Kirk is standing in  
the middle of the holographic rec room.

KIRK  
Run simulation.

COMPUTER (V.O.)  
(filtered)  
Please define simulation  
parameters.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

KIRK  
Earth, nineteen-thirty, New York  
City street. Evening.

The Computer CLICKS and WHIRS.

COMPUTER (V.O.)  
(filtered)  
Working.  
(beat)  
Program complete. Running  
simulation.

MORPH TO:

45 EXT. EARTH CITY STREET - NIGHT

45

The street where Kirk last saw Edith Keeler.

EDITH (V.O.)  
You started to move toward me.  
Then McCoy did, too.

He turns around. Edith is there.

EDITH  
But you... held him back. You  
stopped him.

KIRK  
(nods)  
I denied my heart to let history  
unfold the way it was meant to.

Edith understands.

KIRK (cont'd)  
(beat)  
I would've loved to show you those  
stars. You were ahead of your time  
in so many ways.

EDITH  
We spoke the same language.

KIRK  
The very same. But my duty -- your  
destiny...

EDITH  
(interrupting)  
James. I understand.  
(long beat)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: 45

EDITH (cont'd)  
I know 'why.'  
(smiles)  
Be at peace.

46 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE 46

In orbit around Chalcis. Numerous TINY LIGHTS approach from nearby Eretria.

47 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 47

Spock in command.

SMITH  
Commander Spock. I'm reading...  
(reacts)  
twenty-three additional projectiles  
approaching at full impulse.

Relief Science Officer peers into his viewer.

SCIENCE OFFICER  
Scanning...  
(eyes widen)  
They're tricobalt warheads, sir.

SULU \*  
(to Smith) \*  
Rig for tractor beam. \*

DRAKE  
(into comm)  
Weapons control. Ready phaser  
banks. Load torpedo tubes.

SPOCK  
Belay that.  
(off his reaction)  
Utilizing energy weapons to  
detonate tricobalt devices would  
result in catastrophic subspace  
ruptures in this system.

Reactions from all. \*

SMITH  
(shakes head)  
We can only get a tractor lock on \*  
two... three at most.

They share a look. Out of options. Spock SIGHS.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

SPOCK  
(thinks for a beat)  
Lieutenant Uhura. Open a channel  
to the Chalcidian council.

48 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE HOLOGRAPHIC REC ROOM

48

Kirk alone. The Computer WHIRS.

COMPUTER (V.O.)  
(filtered)  
Loading program... Sickbay.  
Constitution-class starship U.S.S.  
Farragut. NCC one-six-four-seven.  
(beat)  
Running simulation.

MORPH TO:

49 INT. U.S.S. FARRAGUT SICKBAY

49

Sickbay is slightly 'older' now.

Nakia, pale and drained of blood, lies on a bed. She  
struggles for breath.

Kirk steps to her. She manages a smile.

NAKIA  
Don't think this means you're  
getting out of our date tonight.

He smiles and takes her hand.

KIRK  
Not a chance.  
(gets serious)  
Nakia. What happened to the crew...  
to you...

NAKIA  
It wasn't your fault, Jim. You  
know that... don't you?  
(beat)  
I knew the risks when I signed up  
for Starfleet. If I hadn't joined...  
I'd never have met you.

KIRK  
I wish... I hope you can forgive...

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

NAKIA  
(interrrrupting)  
No. There is nothing to forgive.

Now she clasps his hand in both of hers.

NAKIA (cont'd)  
No more guilt, Jim. No more.

50 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE ENGINEERING

50

Scott and Chekov at the controls.

SCOTT  
(keys intercom)  
Scott to bridge. We've beamed the  
console back to the planet,  
commander. Not sure what good it's  
gunnah do.

INTERCUT:

51 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

51

Spock in command, as before.

SPOCK  
(into comm)  
Acknowledged. Stand by for further  
instructions.

DRAKE  
Perimeter alert, sir. Warheads are  
closing.

SPOCK  
Time to impact?

SMITH  
Eight minutes, forty-four seconds.

UHURA  
Mister Spock, Minister Amphidamas  
on channel B.

Spock PRESSES a button.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

SPOCK

Our engineer has returned the  
defense grid console to you.  
Please ensure that...

INTERCUT:

52 INT. CHALCIDIAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS - VIEWSCREEN

52

AMPHIDAMAS

(filtered, on screen;  
interrupting)

And what are we to do, commander?  
Throw it at the approaching  
missiles? Without the activation  
password, it's of no value  
whatsoever!

(beat)

The Federation made promises!

INTERCUT:

53 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

53

SPOCK

And we are doing our best to keep  
them, minister.

54 INT. MIRAMANEE'S TENT - NIGHT

54

Miramanee lies on a bearskin rug. Kirk cradles her.

MIRAMANEE

Kirok. I dreamt you were gone.

KIRK

I almost wish... they hadn't come  
back. I was never happier.

(beat)

Why? Why did you put yourself in  
danger?

MIRAMANEE

My place is at your side. Always.

KIRK

You were a gift I could never repay  
in a thousand lifetimes.

MIRAMANEE

My husband... One does not 'repay' a  
gift. The Great Spirit calls us to  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

MIRAMANEE (cont'd)  
 forgiveness... of others... and  
 ourselves.  
 (beat)  
 Do not torture yourself, my  
 husband.

She raises up and kisses Kirk.

MIRAMANEE (cont'd)  
 Each kiss... is as the first.

Miramanee FADES AWAY.

MORPH TO:

55 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE HOLOGRAPHIC REC ROOM

55

Kirk finds himself alone in the holo-room.

But then... a beat. He senses something. Someone.

He turns.

There, in the room, stands Rayna. Kirk studies her.  
 Swallows. Opens his mouth to speak... but he can't.

And Rayna just smiles. Take a step forward. Nods. Unsaid:  
 'I understand. I forgive you.'

She DISAPPEARS.

SPOCK (V.O.)  
 (filtered, over speaker)  
 Spock to Captain Kirk.  
 (beat)  
 Spock to Captain Kirk.

KIRK  
 Kirk here.

INTERCUT:

56 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

56

SPOCK  
 Twenty-three tricobalt missiles are  
 en route... and will strike Chalcis  
 in six minutes.

INTERCUT:



57 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE HOLOGRAPHIC REC ROOM

57

KIRK  
(sighs)  
I still can't remember the  
password.

SPOCK (V.O.)  
(filtered, on comm)  
I recommend moving the Enterprise  
to a safe distance to avoid  
thermokinetic shockwaves.

Kirk frowns. He can't believe it's come to this.

Then... an idea.

KIRK  
Negative. Move the Enterprise into  
the path of the warheads. Divert  
all available power to the port-  
side shields.

SPOCK (V.O.)  
(filtered, on comm)  
Captain... while we can most likely  
withstand the detonations...

INTERCUT:

58 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

58

SPOCK  
...the spread of missiles will make  
it impossible to obstruct all of  
them.

KIRK (V.O.)  
(filtered, over comm)  
It's the best we can do. I'm on my  
way. Kirk out.

A beat. Sulu and Smith look to Spock for a decision... and  
then:

SPOCK  
Lay in an intercept course. Full  
power to port-side deflectors.

Smith DIALS the astrogator.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

SMITH

Aye sir. Heading six-oh-four mark  
four-seven.

SULU

Thrusters at full.

SPOCK

Inform the crew: Brace for impact.

Reactions from bridge officers as the ship goes to RED ALERT.

59 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

59

Kirk EXITS the rec room.

UHURA (V.O.)

(over speaker)

All hands: brace for impact. This  
is not a drill.

*[NOTE: The RED ALERT lights continue -- but NO red alert  
sound in the corridor.]*

TRACK with Kirk as he moves quickly through the halls... until  
suddenly he stops.

The Little Girl is there. As before, she runs around the  
corner.

Kirk follows after her... but this time, when he turns the  
corner, she's standing there!

LITTLE GIRL

I made this for you.

She opens her hand to reveal an Indian beaded craft... one like  
Miramanee wears. Realization crosses Kirk's face.

KIRK

What's your name?

LITTLE GIRL

You never gave me one.

Kirk takes a step closer and kneels. They are face to face.

KIRK

No... we didn't.

(beat)

You deserved so much more. A  
chance to live... to grow.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

KIRK (cont'd)

(beat)

You will always be with me. I  
promise you... I will carry you right  
here... every day of my life.

The Little Girl takes a step toward Kirk. Wraps her arms  
around his neck and leans into his ear.

LITTLE GIRL

(whispers)

Irises.

Kirk's face lights up as if a veil were lifted. He smiles  
and holds her even tighter.

And she FADES AWAY.

CUT TO:

60 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

60

In orbit around Chalcis. In the distance, we see numerous  
MISSILES approach the planet... and they simply IMPACT  
harmlessly on the planet's shield.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate sixty-one-  
eighty-two-point-nine. We have  
successfully activated the  
planetary defense shield, disabling  
the inbound missiles.

61 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

61

Spock in command. Sulu, Uhura, Smith, Palmer, Drake at  
stations as before. Kirk ENTERS from the lift with Scott and  
Chekov.

KIRK

Mister Spock. I relieve you.

SPOCK

I stand relieved.  
(to everyone)  
Captain on the bridge.

Reactions from all as Kirk takes his rightful seat.

KIRK

Open a channel to Chalcis,  
lieutenant.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

UHURA  
(smiles)  
Channel open, sir.

INTERCUT:

62 INT. CHALCIDIAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS - VIEWSCREEN

62

AMPHIDAMAS  
(filtered, on screen)  
Captain, you have our sincerest  
thanks. The Eretrians have seen  
the result of your defense grid.  
They've requested we open formal  
peace negotiations.

INTERCUT:

63 INT. U.S.S. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

63

KIRK  
Excellent news, minister.  
(beat)  
Welcome to the United Federation of  
Planets.

In b.g., McCoy (with a PADD) and McKennah ENTER from the  
turbolift. McKennah steps to the captain's chair as McCoy  
moves to Spock's station.

MCKENNAH  
Captain... I wanted to thank you.  
(off his reaction)  
For approving my request for a  
separate office.

KIRK  
(nods)  
If I ever had reservations about  
the need for a ship's counselor... I  
don't any more.

McKennah smiles. She moves off as Smith hands Kirk a PADD to  
sign.

McCoy comments quietly to Spock.

MCCOY  
'Irises.' What the blazes is  
'Irises'? We couldn't have guessed  
that in a hundred years.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

Which would qualify it as a worthy password, as the goal is that it not be easily 'guessed.'

MCCOY

Yeah yeah yeah. But where'd he get 'Irises'?

SPOCK

Finding myself mildly curious as well, I conducted a library search and discovered a painting by nineteenth-century Earth artist Vincent van Gogh.

He PRESSES a button. On the screen above his station, VAN GOGH'S PAINTING appears.

SPOCK (cont'd)

The title of the work: 'Irises.'

McCoy studies the IMAGE for a moment.

MCCOY

I wonder why he only painted one iris white.

SPOCK

It is said... because he was lonely.

They both look at Kirk, who is at peace finally. McCoy crosses to him.

KIRK

So. How's my ticker, Bones?

MCCOY

(re: PADD)

Ticking away.

KIRK

(beat)

People say those you love and lose take a piece of your heart. I guess it's true.

MCCOY

Was certainly true for you. But that last piece of your heart... the piece that refused to give up...

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (2)

63

MCCOY (cont'd)  
I think that belongs to another  
lady.

Kirk simply smiles... nods to himself as he looks ahead.

64 EXT. SPACE - U.S.S. ENTERPRISE

64

Close on the ship's steel-gray hull plating, her name in  
large black letters: U.S.S. ENTERPRISE.

The ship SOARS away into the stars.

FADE OUT.

THE END