

REVISIONS

10-22-15 blue
10-23-15 pink
01-01-16 yelo
01-22-16 gren
02-09-16 gold

Star Trek Continues

Episode 7
EMBRACING THE WINDS

teleplay by

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story by

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FINAL DRAFT: OCTOBER 13, 2015

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - SHUTTLECRAFT COLUMBUS 1

The shuttle at warp.

KIRK (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate sixty-two-ninety-five point three. Starfleet Command has ordered the Enterprise to report to the Aldebaran Sector. Meanwhile, Spock and I have been recalled to the starbase on Corinth Four for a classified briefing.

2 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT COLUMBUS COCKPIT 2

KIRK, SPOCK, MCKENNAH in passenger seats. SULU at the controls.

SULU

Planetfall in thirty minutes, captain.

KIRK

Thank you for using your leave to bring us here.

SPOCK

Sir, may I point out... as the communique only instructed you and myself to report to the starbase, I would have been perfectly capable of piloting the shuttle.

SULU

(chuckles a bit)

But then I'd miss the most extensive collection of historical firearms in the quadrant. Corinth Four's museum is a dream come true.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

I see.

(to McKennah)

Doctor... Do your interests also extend to 'historical firearms'?

MCKENNAH

(slyly)

Absolutely, Mister Spock. I've always had a passion for handheld weaponry.

(off their reactions)

We're near several Orion colonies. I'm using my off-time to perform some studies on the social shifts within the Syndicate... since the Zaminhon incident.

Kirk nods... a hint of sadness.

KIRK

I trust some progress is being made?

MCKENNAH

Perhaps.

(swallows)

Perhaps... too much progress.

(off their reactions)

There are a lot of angry people.

SULU

Angry enough to start another civil war there?

McKennah nods quietly.

SPOCK

Historically, oppression of any segment of a given population has had disastrous long-term results.

SULU

That doesn't mean the past can't be overcome.

(off their reactions)

My mother used to tell me stories.

Had a... great... great...

(thinks)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2) 2

SULU (cont'd)
 great-great-great-great
 grandfather. Grew up in an
 internment camp during Earth's
 second world war.
 (smiles with pride)
 If he could only see me now.

KIRK
 (smiles as well)
 This is the twenty-third century.
 Anything's possible.

3 EXT. SPACE - SHUTTLECRAFT COLUMBUS 3

The Columbus moves toward planet Corinth IV.

DISSOLVE TO:

4 EXT. PLANET CORINTH IV - DAY 4

Establishing SHOT of the starbase on the planet's surface.

5 INT. STARBASE OFFICE - DAY 5

Doors SLIDE OPEN as a YEOMAN -- female, 20s -- escorts Kirk and Spock into the room. Then LEAVES. *

COMMODORE GRAY sits behind a long desk... a VIEWSCREEN behind her with a list of ships displayed:

STARSHIP-CLASS VESSELS

<u>DECOMMISSIONED</u>	<u>LOST/DESTROYED</u>	<u>IN SERVICE</u>	<u>IN DEVELOPMENT</u>
CONSTITUTION	CONSTELLATION	ENTERPRISE	AHWAHNEE
FARRAGUT	DEFIANT	EXETER	EAGLE
	EXCALIBUR	HOOD	EMDEN
	INTREPID	KONGO	ENDEAVOUR
	LEXINGTON	POTEMKIN	ESSEX
	VALIANT	REPUBLIC	KOROLEV
		YORKTOWN	

Out a window to the side, the building complex stretches into the distance.

(CONTINUED)

GRAY

Gentlemen. Welcome to Corinth
Four.

They shake hands. She gestures to a cart nearby:

GRAY (cont'd)

May I offer you a drink?

Kirk steps to the small table. Picks up a bottle of blue liquid. Smiles subtly.

KIRK

That what I think it is? *

GRAY

Depends what you think it is. But
your odds are good.

(smiles)

One of the advantages of being
light-years from Federation
headquarters.

(beat)

You might need it... after what I've
got to say.

Kirk pours himself some of the ale.

KIRK

Spock?

(beat)

Eases the nerves...

SPOCK

Thank you, captain. That will not
be necessary.

In the course of the following dialog, all three will cross
to -- and sit at -- Gray's desk. *

KIRK

So, commodore... To what do we owe
the pleasure?

GRAY

(smiles slightly)

Captain.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GRAY (cont'd)

I know you and I have had our...
'differences.' Under the current
circumstances, I hope we can move
past that.

(off his nod)

The crew of the Hood has been lost.

They react subtly.

KIRK

'Lost'?

GRAY

Life-support systems failure. No
reason to suspect foul play. Just...
an unfortunate accident.

(sighs)

Very unfortunate.

SPOCK

Indeed.

GRAY

The ship is still intact. The
Enterprise has been sent to bring
her home.

Kirk frowns. He doesn't understand.

KIRK

With all due respect sir... why are
we here?

GRAY

You, Jim, are here as a
professional courtesy. I thought
you'd want to be present in person...
for what I'm about to tell you.

(beat)

The Hood will need a new crew. And
a new captain.

KIRK

(frowns)

The Lexington's gone. What about
Commodore Wesley?

(CONTINUED)

GRAY

He's put in for early retirement.

(beat)

I shouldn't have to point this out
to you.

(re: the viewscreen)

Our fleet has suffered extensive
losses over the past few years.

Kirk studies the screen... notices the Farragut's category.

KIRK

(reacts)

The Farragut's being
decommissioned?

GRAY

(nods)

We only have seven Constitution-
Class starships in service. And we
need experienced officers on those
bridges.

KIRK

Agreed.

Gray swallows. Studies them both.

GRAY

I know of only one candidate
qualified to assume command of the
Hood.

Kirk frowns. Unsaid: 'Who?'

She stands... and Spock instinctively follows.

*

GRAY (cont'd)

Congratulations, Captain Spock.

Kirk's eyes widen. Spock remains stoic... tries hard to
conceal his emotions.

PUSH IN on him as we...

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE 6
SUPER episode titles as the Enterprise moves through space at warp.

SCOTT (V.O.)
Ship's log, stardate six-two-nine-five-point-five. Lieutenant Commander Scott in command. The Enterprise has been sent to salvage the USS Hood near the edge of Federation territory in the Beta Quadrant.

7 INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 7
CHEKOV, UHURA, at their stations. PALMER at engineering. LT. BILL HADLEY -- gold -- at the helm. LT. SHARON FOLLETT -- blue, astrophysicist -- at science.

SCOTT steps to Uhura.

UHURA
No unusual transmissions, Mister Scott.
(beat)
The Hood was investigating a subspace anomaly when life-support failed.

SCOTT
Astrophysical analysis?

FOLLETT
It's possible they didn't compensate properly for the gravitational effects, sir. All hands...

She trails off. Scott shakes his head sadly.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

CHEKOV

And we wonder why man wasn't born
with wings.

SCOTT

(sighs)

It's a risk we all take when we
sign up for the service, laddy.
Those four-hundred souls knew that.

(beat)

Still. Doesn't make it any easier.

A moment, as the bridge crew ponders the loss.

Scott sits in the captain's chair.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Maintain course.

They nod.

HADLEY

Yes sir.

CHEKOV

(re: the chronometer)

Arrival at Aldebaran Three... in one
hour.

SCOTT

(to Uhura)

Inform Starfleet.

(keys intercom)

Scott to engineering. Ready
tractor beam. Let's tow the lass
back to port.

8 INT. STARBASE OFFICE - DAY

8

PLAY a glass of Romulan Ale being poured. REVEAL Spock doing
so.

Kirk raises his glass.

KIRK

Well. To the new captain of the
USS Hood.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Spock nods in return. Takes a sip.

In b.g., the yeoman hands Gray a PADD... says something unheard. Gray frowns as she reads it. The yeoman LEAVES.

KIRK (cont'd)

(to Spock)

Believe me... I don't look forward to losing my best officer. But I suppose I knew this day would come.

Now Gray turns to them.

GRAY

One moment, gentlemen.

(beat)

There may be a... 'complication.'

(off Kirk's reaction)

Another officer had applied for the position. Commander Garrett from Earth Spacedock.

KIRK

(eyes widen)

Garrett? Very experienced.

GRAY

Starfleet felt she wouldn't be the best...

(searches for the word)

...'suited' for command.

KIRK

(frowns)

I don't understand. With respect to Mister Spock... she has an exemplary service record.

*

*

There's an uncomfortable beat. Gray crosses to them now, dead serious.

GRAY

(re: the PADD)

Well... it would seem Commander Garrett agrees with you. She's filed an appeal with Starfleet Command.

(off his frown)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GRAY (cont'd)

She asserts that she's been
selectively overlooked. Because
she's a woman.

Spock raises an eyebrow. Shares a look with Kirk.

KIRK

Does she have any... basis for this
complaint?

A very long, uncomfortable silence.

Gray paces. After a time:

GRAY

The United Federation of Planets
was formed over a hundred years ago
by an unprecedented alliance.
Humans, Vulcans, Andorians...
(beat)
And Tellarites.

SPOCK

The Romulan threat was significant
at that time.

GRAY

(nods)
It was vital for Earth to ally
itself with other major powers in
the region. Military powers.
(off their reactions)
You've dealt with Tellarites,
captain.

KIRK

(smirks)
I've had the... 'unique pleasure'...
yes.

GRAY

Let me be frank. The men of Tellar
Prime are an adversarial people.
Their culture is based upon
insults... arguments... hostility.
(beat)
They make excellent politicians.

Kirk smiles at that one.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

My father and I have both navigated
the Tellarites' enmity firsthand.

GRAY

Then you understand.

(beat)

Without Tellar's resources... Earth
stood little chance against the
Romulan incursion.

Kirk studies her. Grasping at something.

KIRK

With all due respect to the history
lesson, sir...

GRAY

Tellarite society frowns upon
females serving as starship
captains. It always has.

Kirk nods thoughtfully.

KIRK

Certainly the Federation isn't
bound by the backwards social
policies of one member species.

GRAY

Not necessarily.

(sighs)

But since the controversial
admission of Coridan, the
Tellarites have been... 'suggesting'
they might pull their seat from the
council.

Kirk SNICKERS. Unsaid: 'So what?'

GRAY (cont'd)

It would be unwise to antagonize
them further.

Kirk swallows. Now he paces for a beat. Turns to her.

KIRK

Permission to speak freely.

(CONTINUED)

GRAY

Always.

KIRK

(beat)

Laura. From its beginnings,
Starfleet has had women captains.
You're a perfect example.

GRAY

I'm in command of a starbase. Not
a Constitution-class starship.

(beat)

I sympathize with your feelings on
the matter.

(long beat; personal)

Believe me. Of all people... I
sympathize.

From the side, Spock speaks up:

SPOCK

(to Gray)

Sir. Despite the present lack of
female starship captains, I do not
believe there is any formal
regulation against it...

GRAY

Not officially...

SPOCK

(interrupting)

...And while I am honored by the
offer... if Commander Garrett indeed
has more qualifications than I, it
would be unethical for her to be
passed over for promotion simply
because she is a woman.

KIRK

(nods)

Agreed. She's earned the ship,
commodore.

A long beat. Gray nods.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (5)

8

GRAY

I see. Well... I don't envy the person who has to explain that to the Tellarite ambassador.

Off Gray, torn...

9 EXT. PLANET CORINTH IV - NIGHT

9

Evening at the starbase.

10 INT. STARBASE QUARTERS - NIGHT

10

A relatively spacious bedroom -- nicer than the cramped quarters on the Enterprise. A computer terminal on a table nearby.

Spock unpacks his belongings as he settles into his room.

He removes a small Vulcan Meditation Lamp from his bag. Studies it for a moment... then places it on a shelf.

DOOR BUZZER.

SPOCK

Enter.

The DOOR OPENS as Kirk steps in.

KIRK

Settling in, I see.

He nods toward the oil lamp.

SPOCK

As it is unknown how long I shall reside here, logic dictates that I arrange my quarters to my... 'liking.'

KIRK

(smiles)

Makes sense.

A brief silence.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

Captain. After careful consideration, I have concluded that logic also dictates I may be the more suitable candidate for the position.

(beat)

I must consider the possibility that Starfleet was correct in its assessment.

Kirk frowns.

KIRK

This is about more than logic, Spock. It's about fairness.

(beat)

My God... after all we've overcome... We shouldn't even be having this conversation.

SPOCK

My position is not based upon Commander Garrett's gender.

KIRK

But maybe it should be.

(beat)

Despite our charter... our values... Starfleet's never given a female command of a Constitution-class starship. I'd like to tell myself it's just been the way the cards fell...

(beat)

But perhaps... there's a greater good that must be considered here.

SPOCK

If the goal is to nominate a woman for the post, Commodore Gray is the more appropriate choice.

KIRK

But Gray doesn't want the ship.

(off his silence)

Apparently, Garrett's on her way here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIRK (cont'd)

The commodore's asked me to interview her. Draw my own conclusions.

(beat)

I'll be honest with you. I can't imagine the Hood with a better captain than Garrett.

SPOCK

Perhaps.

(beat)

But perhaps you simply cannot imagine the Enterprise without me.

(off Kirk's reaction)

I appreciate your confidence. I, too, would find leaving the ship to be -- most difficult.

(beat)

But that should not weigh on your decision.

KIRK

(smiles sadly)

I'm only human, Spock. How could it not?

And he turns to leave.

SPOCK

Captain. I have taken the liberty of accessing Commander Garrett's fitness reports.

He picks up a memory tape from the computer terminal.

SPOCK (cont'd)

I recommend reading them prior to your meeting. You may find them informative.

Kirk nods and takes the tape. LEAVES.

PLAY Spock, deep in thought...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE 11
The ship approaches a derelict vessel. As we MOVE IN, we can make out the writing on the hull:

U.S.S. HOOD - NCC-1703

12 INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 12
As before.

HADLEY
Sir. We're within sensor range of the Hood.

SCOTT
All stop. That'll be close enough for now.

HADLEY
All stop.

FOLLETT
(re: science viewer)
No life signs.

Reactions from Uhura, etc. Scott SIGHS.

SCOTT
Keep an eye out for subspace eddies. We dunnah want the same thing to happen to us.

HADLEY
(re: helm viewer)
Commander... I'm seeing no unusual activity in this system.

Scott reacts to that, confused.

CHEKOV
Confirmed. There's nothing.

(CONTINUED)

UHURA

But the transmissions clearly said that...

SCOTT

(interrupting)

Aye... an anomaly of some sort.

(beat; to Follett)

Lieutenant... scan the Hood's EPS grid.

FOLLETT

Yes sir.

(re: viewer)

Definitely been compromised.

SCOTT

Is the damage consistent with the reports?

FOLLETT

(shakes head)

Difficult to tell.

HADLEY

Shall I rig for tractor beam?

Scott thinks for a beat. Paces.

SCOTT

Something doesna' feel right.

(beat)

We cannuh risk towing her to dry-dock without knowin' a wee bit more about what happened.

CHEKOV

Commander, if you give me some time... I should be able to restore life support on her engineering deck remotely.

(beat)

You could get a closer look.

Scott contemplates that.

SCOTT

Aye. Suppose we must.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

Chekov joins Follett at science and gets to WORK.

13 INT. STARBASE OFFICE - DAY

13

Kirk now sits behind Gray's desk. He studies a computer terminal carefully. Frowns.

The DOOR OPENS.

The yeoman escorts Commander DIANA GARRETT -- a striking woman, 40s -- into the office. Gold uniform; commander stripes; starbase insignia patch.

*

GARRETT

Diana Garrett reporting as ordered.

*

KIRK

At ease, commander.

(beat)

I trust your journey from Earth was without incident?

GARRETT

It was, captain. Thank you for asking.

Kirk stands and crosses to her. Shakes her hand.

KIRK

Good. Have a seat.

GARRETT

Sir.

They sit.

GARRETT (cont'd)

Before we begin, I... I want to stress that I understand my protest has -- 'irritated' certain flag officers.

KIRK

In my experience, flag officers are easily irritated.

They share a smile.

(CONTINUED)

GARRETT

Believe me, I know. I traveled here with Vice Admiral Stomm from ESD.

KIRK

Stomm?

(smiles)

Nothing like a Vulcan bureaucrat. And yet you survived without jumping out the hatch?

GARRETT

Barely.

They LAUGH. A light moment.

Now Kirk turns to the computer screen.

KIRK

So... commander. I've been looking over your service record. Quite an accomplished officer. Rose through the ranks quickly... self-made woman...

GARRETT

Thank you.

KIRK

You served on the Constitution before it was decommissioned, didn't you.

GARRETT

(fondly)

Yes. The original.

KIRK

Must've been difficult. The attack on Nimbus Three... losing your captain like that.

Her polished façade momentarily breaks. Recovers.

GARRETT

I would prefer not to discuss the matter, sir.

Kirk frowns, genuinely confused.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

KIRK

I'm sorry?

GARRETT

I've said all there is to say about that incident. Turned over everything to Starfleet. Including my personal logs.

KIRK

I'm sure that's true. I was simply wanting to know...

*
*

Garrett stands.

*

GARRETT

Captain, my testimony is a matter of record.

(beat)

Now... with your permission, I'd like to retire to my quarters. I haven't slept in twenty-four Earth hours.

*
*
*
*
*

A long beat. Something's here... something unspoken. Kirk is puzzled. He recovers. Nods.

*

KIRK

Certainly, commander.

(beat)

Get some rest.

She LEAVES abruptly. PLAY Kirk, lost in thought.

14 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

14

The ship hovers near the Hood.

15 INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

15

As before. Chekov and Follett -- at science -- complete a SEQUENCE on the board.

*

CHEKOV

Mister Scott...

Scott crosses to him.

(CONTINUED)

CHEKOV (cont'd)

I've been able to restore emergency power to the Hood's engineering section. You'll have six -- maybe seven hours of oxygen at most.

SCOTT

Good work, ensign. That'll have to do.

He heads toward the turbolift.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Follett. We'll need to study the reactor for gravitational damage.

Follett stands to go with Scott.

CHEKOV

Sir... Request permission to join the boarding party!

SCOTT

(shakes head)

Not this time, lad.

(beat)

Uhura... prepare for a full scan of the Hood's logs. Suit up for salvage. Meet me in the transporter room in half an hour.

(to helm)

Mister Hadley, you have the conn.

UHURA

Sir.

HADLEY (O.S.)

Yes sir.

Scott and Follett LEAVE as Uhura makes some quick notations on a PADD.

Chekov reacts with discouragement. Passed over again.

CHEKOV

(under his breath)

'Mister Hadley, you have the conn.'

Uhura steps to him.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

UHURA

It's not personal, Pavel. You're a talented navigator. But you're not focused.

(off his look)

Command... science... engineering. A jack-of-all-trades is master of none.

(beat)

Find something you really love. Stick with it.

(smiles)

You never know until you try.

Chekov ponders that as Uhura LEAVES the bridge and Palmer takes her station.

16 EXT. PLANET CORINTH IV - NIGHT

16

The starbase at night.

17 INT. STARBASE QUARTERS - NIGHT

17

PLAY the Vulcan lamp, now lit.

REVEAL Spock sitting alone on his bed. Meditating in silence.

After a beat, the COMM WHISTLES. He opens his eyes... ever-so-slightly annoyed.

SPOCK

(keys comm)

Spock here.

INTERCUT:

18 VIEWSCREEN - INSERT

18

It's McKennah.

INTERCUT:

19 INT. STARBASE QUARTERS - NIGHT

19

Spock reacts. He wasn't expecting her.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

Doctor?

MCKENNAH

(filtered; on screen)

The captain filled me in on the situation. I thought I'd check in to see how you're doing.

(off his silence)

Is this a bad time?

SPOCK

I was in the midst of deep meditation.

MCKENNAH

(filtered; on screen)

A bad time, then.

(smiles)

I apologize for the interruption.

(beat)

We can talk later if you like.

Spock moves to switch off the viewer... but stops.

SPOCK

Counselor...

(off her reaction)

I would welcome your advice in this matter.

She smiles subtly at that. Says nothing. Waits for Spock to ask questions.

After a moment, he gets it.

SPOCK (cont'd)

It may not be prudent to provoke the Tellarites at this point in time.

MCKENNAH

(filtered; on screen)

We both know the Tellarites love to make threats, Mister Spock.

(beat)

Threats on which they almost never deliver. I don't think that's the issue.

(CONTINUED)

SPOCK

(nods)

What do you believe the issue is,
doctor?

McKenna considers carefully.

MCKENNAH

(filtered; on screen)

Acquiring my position on the Enterprise was not easy. There were many who felt there was no need for a ship's counselor. But having the requisite skills and experience, I never attributed their concern to me being a woman. Yet... I've seen enough of human nature to know that how we learn to evaluate others is a many-layered process. If bias is present, it is often deep and subconscious.

*

Spock considers this...

SPOCK

As one whose appearance has, on occasion, been perceived as the most significant element of my identity... I concur that humans -- indeed, all races -- are capable of such bias. Both intentionally... and unintentionally.

McKenna takes that in.

MCKENNAH

I don't know what my future holds... but if I ever have a daughter, I'd want her to know that any position is within her grasp if she works hard enough to achieve it.

SPOCK

Without question.

(beat)

But Commander Garrett has numerous issues in her record which necessitate further scrutiny.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

MCKENNAH

(filtered; on screen)

And tell me, Spock...

(beat)

Would her record be under the same
degree of scrutiny if she were a
man?

SPOCK

I believe it would, doctor.

(beat)

But... we can never be certain of
another's motives.

MCKENNAH

(filtered; on screen)

No. We can't.

(beat)

But we can certainly strive to be
clear about our own.

Off Spock's reaction...

20 INT. STARBASE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

20

Kirk on the move. Lost in thought.

Gray speaks with a CHALCIDIAN DIGNITARY in b.g. Notices
Kirk... rounds a corner to join him.

She's not happy.

GRAY

Captain.

They stop... speak quietly.

GRAY (cont'd)

I asked you to interview Commander
Garrett. Not antagonize her!

KIRK

(nods)

Well. That certainly wasn't my
intention.

(CONTINUED)

GRAY

Intention or not...

(beat)

She's filed a petition for an immediate decision regarding the Hood's captaincy.

KIRK

(reacts)

Is there some sort of hurry?

GRAY

Per Starfleet regulations... a three-person committee will hold a formal hearing to make the final determination.

(beat)

Admiral Stomm... myself...

Gray takes a beat. Looks at him sternly.

GRAY (cont'd)

And the next senior officer on this starbase.

(beat)

You, captain.

And she moves off.

Off Kirk's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 INT. STARBASE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

21

A conference table is laid out at the head of the room for three judges. Seated there -- in full dress uniforms -- are Kirk; Gray; and STOMM, an older Vulcan man in operations red, Vice Admiral rank.

To the side: a few chairs. At the front of the room is the 'trial computer' we've seen before, and the 'truth chair.'

A COURT CLERK -- female, enlisted, red, starbase patch -- sits near the computer terminal.

The DOOR OPENS as Spock, Garrett step into the room.

Commodore Gray RINGS the bell on the conference table three times.

GRAY

This hearing is now in session.

(beat)

I have appointed as members of this inquiry: Space Command representative Stomm... and USS Enterprise Captain James T. Kirk.

(beat)

Commanders Spock and Garrett. You have a right to ask for substitute officers if you feel that any of these named harbor any prejudice to your cases.

(beat)

Do you consent to the service of myself as president of this board?

SPOCK

I do, sir.

GARRETT

I do, sir.

GRAY

Very well.

(beat)

Mister Spock. If you please.

(CONTINUED)

The clerk ACTIVATES the trial computer as Spock sits in the chair and places his hand on the LIGHTED PANEL.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

(filtered)

Spock. Serial number S-one-seven-nine-dash-two-seven-six-S-P.
Service rank: commander. Position: first officer; science officer.
Current assignment: USS Enterprise.

STOMM

(interrupting)

Commander Spock's record is impeccable... of course. I move that we dispense with the formalities.

(beat)

If there are no objections.

SPOCK

No, sir.

GRAY

I object.

Reactions.

GRAY (cont'd)

I believe Mister Spock's qualifications are material to this decision.

(off Stomm's annoyed nod)

Proceed.

The clerk PRESSES the computer button again.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

(filtered)

Commendations: Vulcanian Scientific Legion of Honor. Awards of valor: twice decorated by Starfleet Command.

GRAY

(smiles)

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

STOMM

Commander Spock. How long have you served in Starfleet?

SPOCK

Nineteen years, five months, twenty...

STOMM

(interrupting)

...And for the majority of that time, you have functioned as science officer on board the Enterprise. Under both Captain Pike, and -- for the past four years -- under Captain Kirk.

SPOCK

I have.

STOMM

Commander. If you were to be transferred to the captaincy of the Hood... how would that make you... 'feel'?

Reactions. Spock frowns, but remains stoic.

STOMM (cont'd)

Yes. You are Vulcan.

(beat)

But you are also half-human. Are you not?

A long beat.

SPOCK

I am, admiral.

STOMM

Mister Spock. As a student, you were accepted to the Vulcan Science Academy. A tremendous honor.

SPOCK

Affirmative.

(CONTINUED)

STOMM

Yet you turned down admission.
 (off Spock's silence)
 Did your... 'human emotions' play a
 role in that decision?

A long pause. And then:

SPOCK

No sir. They did not.

The LIGHT PANEL FLASHES.

STOMM

The computer would appear to
 disagree with you, commander.

KIRK

(forcefully)
 I object to this line of
 questioning.

GRAY

Captain?

KIRK

Spock is not on trial here. His
 racial heritage should have no
 bearing on his qualification for
 this position. Any more than
 Commander Garrett's gender should.

STOMM

Captain Kirk. Would you deny that
 every individual's abilities...
 character... judgments... strengths...
 are -- in part -- shaped by his or
 her heritage? Beliefs?

(beat)

Gender?

(accusatory)

I know the idea of a female
 starship captain... 'unsettles' some
 people. Doesn't it.

Kirk's eyes narrow. He sees where this is going, and he
 doesn't like it.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

KIRK

I see.

(beat)

Let's... 'cut to the chase,' shall we?

(beat)

For the record: I am absolutely convinced it is time for a woman to captain a starship-class vessel. But with respect to Commander Garrett...

(beat; to Garrett)

I'm not convinced she is that woman.

Off their reactions...

22 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

22

Hovering in space near the derelict Hood.

23 INT. USS HOOD ENGINEERING

23

The engine room of the Hood is identical to the Enterprise's.

But power is low. The lights are dim.

And a few bodies litter the floor.

Amid the desolation, five figures MATERIALIZE: Scott, Uhura, Follett, DRAKE, and a SECURITY GUARD. Drake and the redshirt wear security belts; the other three wear work coveralls.

Uhura carries a tricorder. Follett, a laser beacon. Scott holds a trident scanner. Drake and the redshirt draw phasers and scan the area.

They COUGH in the stale air. Uhura waves a hand in front of her face. Grimaces at the dead bodies.

They move through the room, studying everything.

Uhura indicates a terminal nearby. SCANS it with her tricorder.

(CONTINUED)

UHURA

The board's damaged.

(beat)

I'll need to bypass it to access
the ship's logs.

Scott nods to her. Follett hands her the laser tool and she moves off to work.

SCOTT

(to Follett)

Check the intermix ratio at the
time the engines went offline.
I'll get this dilithium chamber
open. See how badly the crystals
have decayed.

Follett nods and moves to a nearby console, as Scott attempts to force the crystal chamber open. No luck.

Drake steps forward. Casually extends his right (bionic) arm.. and PRIES it open effortlessly.

He raises an eyebrow. Scott smiles, and proceeds to study the shattered crystal within.

24 EXT. PLANET CORINTH IV - DAY 24

Establishing SHOT of the starbase.

25 INT. STARBASE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 25

As before. Garrett now in the chair.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

(filtered)

Garrett, Diana Kaye. Serial number
S-C-four-five-nine-dash-oh-three-
three-M. Service rank: commander.
Position: first officer. Current
assignment: Earth Spacedock.
Commendations: Tucker Memorial
Medal of Honor. Risian Star of
Excellence. Aenar Award for
Meritorious Service to
Disadvantaged Cultures.

(MORE)

*

(CONTINUED)

COMPUTER (V.O.) (cont'd)
Awards of valor: four times
decorated by Starfleet Command.

STOMM
Commander Garrett, you boast an
impressive record for your service
to Starfleet.
(beat)
Very impressive.

GRAY
Indeed.
(beat)
But there are some questions which
this court would be remiss not to
address.

Garrett swallows. Remains stoic.

GRAY (cont'd)
Commander.
(beat)
You were on the ill-fated Nimbus
Three landing party, were you not?

A very long beat. And then:

GARRETT
(swallows)
The arthropods came out of nowhere,
sir.

GRAY
Yes. I read your statement to
Starfleet.
(darker)
I also read the official
investigation into the incident.

STOMM
(puzzled now)
Commodore?

Gray locks eyes with Garrett.

GRAY
It suggested 'human error.'

GARRETT

That investigation was conducted by a Tellarite officer, sir. I strongly... formally contested those findings...

GRAY

(interrupting)

I understand that you... 'contested' them...

GARRETT

...and no proof of wrongdoing was ever officially determined.

GRAY

(nods)

'Officially.' Yet you -- and two of your subordinates -- plead the Seventh Guarantee during those proceedings...

GARRETT

...Which by law may not be inferred as an admission of culpability.

A long moment of silence. Kirk and Stomm don't know quite what to say.

GRAY

There are numerous similar incidents in your file.

(beat; softer now)

Diana. I see two officers sitting in that chair. One with a long history of faithful service. And one who reacts with undue hostility whenever her judgment is questioned.

*
*
*
*
*
*

GARRETT

(swallows)

Perhaps 'hostility' is a legitimate reaction when one is subjected to unjust scrutiny and discrimination.

*
*
*
*
*

GRAY

(sighs)

I wish I could assure you that you haven't been held to a different standard throughout your career because you happen to be a woman. Perhaps you have. Perhaps I have. I honestly don't know.

(beat)

But part of the duty of a starship captain is to learn from mistakes. Face the repercussions of action... and inaction. To admit when he -- or she -- is in the wrong.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (4)

25

GARRETT

I'm well aware of the position's
job requirements, commodore.

(cold)

And as I have testified too many
times now: I was not in the wrong.

Off Kirk's reaction...

26 INT. USS HOOD ENGINEERING

26

Uhura's scanning a panel. WORKS the LASER TOOL in the
circuitry.

Now she checks her TRICORDER. Frowns.

UHURA

(calls)

Follett?

Follett moves to her side.

UHURA (cont'd)

These logs are consistent with a
subspace disruption. But here...

She shows her the tricorder. Follett frowns.

FOLLETT

The rift... it disappeared...

UHURA

What d'you make of it...?

FOLLETT

Never seen anything like that.

Suddenly, a POWER SURGE. RED ALERT. The warp core plasma
conduits begins to GLOW RED!

SCOTT

What in the name of...?

He runs to the central chamber.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

SCOTT (cont'd)
(to Drake)
Close the chamber!

*

INTERCUT:

27 INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

27

Chekov peers into the viewer at the science station:

CHEKOV
Sir, I'm reading a massive power
surge in the Hood's engines!

INTERCUT:

28 INT. USS HOOD ENGINEERING

28

SCOTT
(into communicator)
Enterprise! We've got a
containment failure! Get us out of
here!

INTERCUT:

29 INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

29

HADLEY
(into comm)
Bridge to transporter room!
Energize!

But Chekov shakes his head.

CHEKOV
Their deflector screens have
activated! It's impossible to get
a lock!
(beat)
We can't bring them back.

Reactions all around, as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

30 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE 30

Forboding MUSIC as the ship hovers near the Hood.

31 INT. USS HOOD ENGINEERING 31

As before. RED ALERT.

Chaos, mayhem as they frantically try to shut down the engines.

SCOTT
(into communicator)
Scott to Enterprise! The reactor's
at 'critical'...!

INTERCUT:

32 INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE 32

Chekov works the science CONTROLS... shakes his head.

CHEKOV
(into comm)
Sir... there's nothing I can do!
(beat)
Can you jettison the core?

INTERCUT:

33 INT. USS HOOD ENGINEERING 33

Drake WORKS a panel. No luck.

DRAKE
(shakes head)
Circuits are fused.

Uhura turns to Scotty:

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

UHURA
How much time?

He studies a readout. Shakes his head.

SCOTT
Minutes. Seconds.
(beat)
Impossible to tell.

And they share a long look.

SCOTT (cont'd)
I'm sorry.

Uhura swallows... and nods.

SCOTT (cont'd)
(sadly; into communicator)
Get as far away as possible.
Rendezvous with the captain at
Corinth Four.

*

INTERCUT:

34 INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

34

Reactions from the bridge crew. They can't believe it's come to this.

HADLEY
(into comm)
Commander?

SCOTT (O.S.)
(filtered; over comm)
That's an order, lieutenant.

HADLEY
Yes sir.

He swallows... and just as he's about to engage the engines...

CHEKOV
Wait!

All eyes go to Chekov.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

CHEKOV (cont'd)
 I have an idea.
 (beat)
 Permission to take 'weapons
 subsystems' station, sir.
 (off his reaction)
 Trust me!

A long beat... and:

HADLEY

Go.

Chekov sits at tactical. Starts to WORK HIS MAGIC.

SCOTT (O.S.)
 (filtered; over comm)
 Enterprise! Get out of here!

Hadley swallows, not knowing quite what to do...

SCOTT (O.S.) (cont'd)
 (filtered; over comm)
 Mister Hadley! That's a direct
 order!

Chekov WORKS away.

HADLEY
 (aside so as not to be
 heard by Scotty)
 Chekov...!

CHEKOV
 I might be able to transmit
 duotronic algorithm... overload
 signal gain! Force computer to
 drop shields!

INTERCUT:

35 INT. USS HOOD ENGINEERING

35

Scott and Uhura monitor the discussion over their
 communicators.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

SCOTT
 (into comm)
 Are ya daft, ensign? That'll short
 out your whole board!

INTERCUT:

36 INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

36

Chekov keeps working.

SCOTT (O.S.)
 (filtered; over comm)
 You'll kill yourself!

PALMER
 The Hood's warp core is critical!

CHEKOV
 (swallows; whispers in
 Russian)
 Glaza boyatsya... a ruki dyelayut!

Chekov presses a button... and his tactical board EXPLODES INTO SPARKS.

37 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

37

The Enterprise BLASTS AN INTENSE BURST FROM ITS DEFLECTOR DISH.

38 OMITTED

38

39 INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

39

Chekov GROANS on the floor as a couple supernumeraries run to his aid.

HADLEY
 (re: viewer)
 Their shields are down!
 (keys comm)
 Transporter room! Get them out of
 there!

40 INT. USS HOOD ENGINEERING 40
As the ship begins to BREAK APART, Scott et al DEMATERIALIZE.

41 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE 41
The Enterprise KICKS INTO WARP as the Hood EXPLODES IN A MASSIVE FIREBALL.

42 EXT. PLANET CORINTH IV - NIGHT 42
The starbase.

43 INT. STARBASE CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT 43
PLAY the bell being RUNG.
REVEAL Gray doing the honors.

GRAY

This hearing is now back in session.

(beat)

The board will entertain motions before delivering its verdict.

Spock and Garrett share a look... and remain silent.

GRAY (cont'd)

Very well.

CLERK

All rise!

Spock and Garrett stand.

Gray turns to Stomm.

GRAY

Admiral?

STOMM

I endorse Commander Garrett for promotion to the rank of 'captain.'

They share a look.

(CONTINUED)

Gray looks Spock in the eye.

GRAY

I endorse Commander Spock for
promotion to the rank of 'captain.'

Spock nods to her. Now she turns to Kirk.

GRAY (cont'd)

Captain Kirk?

Kirk nods. Sits up straight. Moves to speak...

INTERCOM WHISTLE.

OPS OFFICER (O.S.)

(filtered, over comm)

Ops to Commodore Gray.

She frowns. TOUCHES a button on the table.

GRAY

(into comm)

Gray here.

OPS OFFICER (O.S.)

(filtered, over comm)

Sir, incoming transmission from the
Enterprise. They were unable to
salvage the Hood, commodore. It's
been scuttled.

Garrett's eyes widen as her heart sinks. Kirk reacts:

KIRK

(into comm)

Kirk here. My people...?

OPS OFFICER (O.S.)

(filtered, over comm)

Reports still coming in, sir... but
no major injuries to your crew.

Kirk SIGHS, relieved.

GRAY

(into comm)

Understood. Gray out.

(MORE)

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GRAY (cont'd)

Ladies and gentlemen. I believe this new information renders these proceedings... 'unnecessary.'

*

STOMM

I'm afraid that appears to be the case. Commander Garrett and I shall return to Earth Spacedock.

He starts to stand, but:

*

GARRETT

If I may... there's an underlying issue that still remains, is there not?

PUSH IN on her:

GARRETT (cont'd)

For decades... I believe the service has overlooked capable officers for certain positions simply because we're women. No one will admit it. Hell, it's probably not even intentional. We can hide behind 'Tellarite diplomacy.' Rationalize it. Justify it. But it's still true.

A long pause. And then:

KIRK

Commander Garrett.

(beat)

Do you believe a person should be granted special consideration because of his or her gender? Religion? Race?

GARRETT

If that person's gender, religion, or race has historically been used to deny her consideration.

KIRK

That wasn't the question.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (3)

43

GARRETT

Perhaps not. But that's my answer.

(beat)

Starfleet has the opportunity to implement change. To change our values. Change our future. Countless female officers are more than qualified to command starships.

(beat)

This may not be my time. But it is theirs.

GRAY

I think we are all in agreement on that, commander.

Kirk and Stomm both nod as well.

Garrett acknowledges them tacitly; then LEAVES.

Stomm gives Spock the Vulcan salute.

STOMM

Spock.

(beat)

Peace. And long life.

Spock nods. Returns it.

SPOCK

Live long, and prosper.

Spock LEAVES as well.

*

Off Kirk's reaction... overwhelmed by the news...

44 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

44

At warp.

45 INT. USS ENTERPRISE SICKBAY

45

Chekov lies on a bed recovering. Uhura chats with MCCOY in b.g.

The DOOR OPENS. It's Scotty.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT
 (to McCoy)
 A moment, doctor?

MCCOY
 Take two, Scotty.

McCoy moves off. Scott's eyes narrow at Chekov.

SCOTT
 Mister... Of all the hare-brained,
 half-baked, lunatic ideas...

CHEKOV
 (smiles)
 It's good to see you, too, sir.

Scott just shakes his head. Chekov's face falls.

CHEKOV (cont'd)
 Yes sir.

SCOTT
 I've informed Admiral Stomm of your
 little 'stunt,' lieutenant. It's
 worthy of a court martial.

CHEKOV
 (sheepishly)
 Whatever disciplinary action you
 feel I deserve, I...
 (beat, confused)
 'Lieutenant'?

Scotty smiles and presents a container. Chekov takes it.
 Slowly pulls it open...

It's a junior lieutenant stripe.

Chekov's eyes widen. He can't believe it.

Scott stands up straight.

SCOTT
 Thank you... for saving our lives.
Lieutenant Chekov.

(CONTINUED)

CHEKOV

(stutters)

Sir... yes sir...!

SCOTT

I'll be filing a formal recommendation with the Starfleet Engineering Corps... to install a shield prefix code on all our ships.

CHEKOV

(grins into distance)

And it will be called... the 'Chekov code.'

SCOTT

(smirks)

Don't push your luck, lad.

He turns to go... then over his shoulder:

SCOTT (cont'd)

I cannuh lie... that was an inspired idea. Have ya considered a career in tactical? Might wanna talk to Mister Drake.

CHEKOV

Commander?

(off his reaction)

What happened over there? The anomaly... the warp core... the deflector screens...?

SCOTT

I dunno, lieutenant.

(beat; almost to self)

An' that's what worries me.

Scott LEAVES. Uhura turns to Chekov now:

UHURA

Whatever it was... thank you.

(re: stripe)

And congratulations.

She turns to go... but:

(CONTINUED)

UHURA (cont'd)
Before you overloaded the board,
you said something. The
translators didn't catch it.
(beat)
Sounded like... Russian.

Chekov smiles to himself.

CHEKOV
Old expression. 'Eyes might be
afraid... but hands do the job.'
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (4) 45
 CHEKOV (cont'd)
 Means 'You never know... until you
 try.'

She smiles. Kisses him on the cheek, and LEAVES.

Chekov grins from ear to ear. Winks at McCoy.

McCoy just rolls his eyes.

46 EXT. PLANET CORINTH IV - DAY 46
 The starbase.

47 INT. STARBASE OFFICE - DAY 47
 Kirk sits behind the desk, addressing the monitor:

KIRK
 (into comm)
 Ambassador. I acknowledge your
 culture's beliefs. But I must tell
 you...

INTERCUT:

48 INSERT - VIEWSCREEN 48
 A TELLARITE AMBASSADOR on screen.

TELLARITE AMBASSADOR
 (filtered; on screen)
 Oh, please. I'm well aware that my
 people's prejudices are hopelessly
 outdated by modern standards.

INTERCUT:

49 INT. STARBASE OFFICE - DAY 49
 KIRK
 (into comm)
 I appreciate that you recognize
 that, sir.

(CONTINUED)

TELLARITE AMBASSADOR

(filtered; on screen)

A large faction on Tellar Prime argues against our government's stance on this matter. And I, for one, am part of that faction.

(off Kirk's reaction)

I believe one of your greatest human writers once said... 'A lady's "verily" is as potent as a lord's.'

Kirk smiles.

KIRK

(into comm)

That he did, ambassador.

TELLARITE AMBASSADOR

(filtered; on screen)

The winds of change blow for us. I do not envy the decisions Starfleet now faces. But trust that you have my full support.

*

KIRK

(into comm)

Thank you, ambassador.

(beat)

Embrace the winds.

The ambassador nods in agreement as the MONITOR fades to black.

Kirk smiles.

DISSOLVE TO:

50 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE 50

Enters orbit around Corinth IV.

51 INT. STARBASE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 51

Garrett stands silently in the courtroom. Lost in thought.

After a beat, Kirk and Spock pass by outside the open door. Packed and ready to leave. Kirk notices Garrett. Takes a moment to step into the room.

(CONTINUED)

KIRK

Commander.

GARRETT

Sir.

(long beat)

I... know we didn't get off to the
greatest start.

(off his nod)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

GARRETT (cont'd)

Regardless. Thank you for your consideration. I hope our paths cross again.

KIRK

Indeed.

GARRETT

Who knows. One day... a 'Garrett' may captain an 'Enterprise.'

KIRK

(smiles)

This is the twenty-third century. Anything's possible.

Garrett smiles. They shake hands... and she leaves.

Spock takes a step forward:

SPOCK

Captain. I must confess... I find myself bordering on an emotional reaction. I believe you would call it... 'shame.'

KIRK

'Shame,' Spock?

SPOCK

Shame. That I find myself somewhat relieved by the destruction of the Hood.

Kirk nods knowingly.

SPOCK (cont'd)

I must inquire. Had the vessel not been lost... how would you have voted?

Kirks takes a moment to study the 'judge' platform at the front of the room.

KIRK

(smirks)

I'll admit. I considered voting against you... simply because I didn't wanna lose you.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (3)

51

SPOCK

Indeed. I briefly considered withdrawing my name for the very same reason.

KIRK

(nods)

And I briefly considered chaining you to your station so you can never leave.

Spock raises an eyebrow as Kirk FLIPS OPEN his communicator.

KIRK (cont'd)

(into comm)

Kirk to Enterprise.

SCOTT (V.O.)

(filtered; over comm)

Enterprise. Scott here, sir.

KIRK

(into comm)

Scotty, prepare to receive shuttlecraft. We'll be home for dinner.

(shares a look with Spock)

Both of us.

They move off down the corridor.

52 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE

52

The Enterprise breaks orbit from Corinth IV and sails into space.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE