

White Walls

Screenplay by

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Story by Bala Ramadurai

INT. BRIDGE OF THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE

We see a starship with a giant disc and a blob on top. The disc is connected to a large tube. This large tube is connected to the two cylindrical objects which are the two engines of the starship, USS Enterprise, NCC 1701. The ship seems to be careening fast through space.

CAPTAIN JAMES KIRK (V.O)

Captain's log: Stardate 5971.4. We were on course to Starbase 9 for a much needed shore leave. However, we received a distress call from the fourth planet - Caperna IV of the Caperna star system. The United Federation of Planets had tried and failed in their efforts to make them part of the Federation. The USS Enterprise was proceeding towards the planet at maximum warp.

We see the bridge of the ship. The ship is on red alert - sirens blaring, red lights flashing and red-shirt security personnel on guard near the elevator doors. Capt. JAMES KIRK is sitting on the Captain's chair, with a grim expression on his face. SPOCK is hunching over his console and looking through a magnifying gadget to help him see the readouts up close. Also seen are Lieutenant HIKARI SULU, Lieutenant PAVEL CHEKOV, Lieutenant UHURA, Chief Engineer MONTGOMERY SCOTT and Science Officer and First Officer, SPOCK.

SPOCK

Long range scan of the planet. Class M planet, Nitrogen Oxygen atmosphere. Mass very similar to earth... Fascinating!

KIRK

What's it, Science Officer?

SPOCK

A billion or so inhabitants on the planet, but no sign of movement. Other planets of similar mass usually have well developed transportation systems and movement of life forms from one place to another.

KIRK

Are there humanoids?

SPOCK

Affirmative, Captain.

KIRK

Perhaps they use the energy beam transporter?

SPOCK

Negative, Captain. They are still stage four on the industrial scale. They have not yet reached a stage for such advanced transportation. No mechanization or movement of any sort on this planet. The technology that one would expect to find on a similar planet is missing.

KIRK

How about animals or other creatures?

SPOCK

Fauna seem to be moving, but outside of the city walls. Caperna IV has several well developed and densely populated cities.

KIRK

Any malfunction in the sensors?

Mister Spock pushes several calibration switches. Beeps and whirrs emanate from Mister Spock's computer console.

SPOCK

Negative. They are in proper working order, Captain.

KIRK

(looking at Helmsman Sulu)

How much time to reach orbit, Mister Sulu?

SULU

(glancing at the counter on his console)

10 minutes to establishing a standard orbit, Sir.

KIRK

(Looking behind to his left at his Chief Engineer)

Scotty, do we have maximum warp?

SCOTT

(Signing off his logbook and handing it to

(MORE)

SCOTT (CONT'D)

another red-shirt
gentleman, in a thick
Scottish accent)

She's running as fast as she can,
Captain. But I can get a wee bit more
than warp 8.

KIRK

(Rotating his chair to
look at his
communications officer)

Lieutenant Uhura, have you tried raising
the source of the call?

UHURA

(taking off her ear
piece)

Sir, I have the high command of the
planet.

KIRK

Put them on visual, Lieutenant.

The screen of the starship shows a blue green planet at a distance. At the captain's orders, the screen now shows a young woman wearing a white robe, white headgear and a stern face. There are two other women with similar attire, but without the headgear.

KIRK

This is Captain James Kirk of the USS
Enterprise, from the United Federation
of Planets. We received a distress call
from this location and ...

SLOTTA

This is Slotta, the High Command of
Caperna IV. This is a classified
research station and is out of bounds
for Federation starships. Refrain from
orbiting this planet or else I will have
to alert your High Command to get you
evicted.

KIRK

This is some reception! Ma'am, believe
me, we are not interested in your
planetary affairs. We are proceeding
towards your planet because of the
distress call. All Federation starships
have a duty to respond to distress calls
first, Federation or not. We dropped
everything to...

SLOTTA

(raising her voice)

You are not the first starship to use that pretext to steal our highly sensitive research knowledge. There is no such log of a distress call from this planet. I want you out of here in 5 earth minutes or I will destroy your ship.

KIRK

(clenching his fists)

Farewell, Ma'am. We are changing course now. Kirk out.

KIRK

(now directly looking at Lieutenant CHEKOV)

Mister Chekov, please plot a course for Star Base nine.

CHEKOV

(while looking straight ahead)

Course laid in, Sir. Ready to change course.

Captain's personal console whistles.

MCCOY

Sick Bay to Captain Kirk.

KIRK

(punching the intercom button with a closed fist)

What's it, Bones?

MCCOY

You better come down here. It's urgent!

KIRK

On my way. Kirk out.

KIRK

Standby, Mister Chekov. Mister Spock, you have the con.

Captain Kirk walks into the Sick Bay, where Dr. McCoy is busy gazing at his communication screen.

KIRK

What is it, Bones? Who is this? She looks like Slotta, the high command of Caperna IV.

MCCOY

No, Jim. She's not Slotta. This is a personal distress call I received from the planet. This is Joanna, my daughter.

USS Enterprise is orbiting a bluish-green planet.

KIRK (V.O)

Captain's log: Stardate 5971.5. We established a standard orbit around Caperna IV in spite of the threats from the planet. Dr. McCoy just informed me about his daughter and her delirious condition on the planet. Dr. McCoy was in a bad state himself as he was recovering from Altairian fever. We had to get out of this star system as soon as possible but my first priority - the distress call.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE SICK BAY

Kirk and Dr. McCoy crowd around McCoy's personal communication screen.

JOANNA

(from the screen)

Message for Dr. McCoy. This is Joanna, your daughter. All the Capernians are held prisoners here by Slotta under the cover of classified research. Several crew members from starships have also been taken prisoners here. Your starship is in trouble. Radiant... Aa... Trouble... Crew... Aah... Don't... Aaaaahhhh

KIRK

Radiant? The Radiant disappeared a few years ago. Bones, is that your daughter?

MCCOY

It would seem so. But she was supposed to be in the Orion system.

KIRK

When were you going to tell me about this daughter of yours?

MCCOY

Look! That was a long time ago. Can you leave it already?

The wall-mounted communication console whistles.

SPOCK
Bridge to Captain Kirk. Come in, Captain
Kirk.

KIRK
(Staring at Dr. McCoy)
This conversation is far from over,
Bones.

Kirk clenches his fist and pounds on the wall-mounted button
of the communication console.

KIRK
Kirk here. What is it, Mister Spock? Do
you have a son stashed away somewhere?

SPOCK
Sir?

KIRK
(smiling at McCoy)
Sorry, Mister Spock. Little Doctor-
Captain humor.

SPOCK
It's the High Command again, Sir. They
are demanding that we leave orbit
immediately.

KIRK
Is that an empty threat or do they have
real weapons?

SPOCK
Yes, captain. They do possess weapons.
Old-style thermonuclear war heads. And
they are priming the weapons right now.

KIRK
Shields up and evasive maneuvers if we
are fired upon. Under no circumstances
are we to retaliate, do I make myself
clear?

SPOCK
Understood, Captain.

KIRK
And Spock, get to the transporter room,
on the double. Kirk out.

Kirk and McCoy walk towards the Sick Bay door which opens
automatically.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE HALLWAY

Many engineers wearing full body suits and other crewmen are seen hurrying around the hallway. McCoy and Kirk walk down the hallway.

KIRK

(walking at a brisk
pace)

Bones, I don't understand. If your daughter was in the Orion system, thousands of light years from here, how is she here? Do you think that the message is a trap?

MCCOY

(with a sling medical
kit and moving his hands
in an animated fashion)

I don't know, Jim. If there are lives at stake, my first priority is to save them, daughter or not.

KIRK

I hope you are right, Doc. We will have to take our chances.

Kirk moves towards the door which is labeled "Transporter Room".

INT. USS ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTER

Kirk and McCoy enter to find Spock waiting for them. He hands out phasor weapons to them.

KIRK

(adjusting his setting
on the phasor)

Phasors on stun.

Spock and McCoy adjust the setting on their weapons. All three of them take their position on the pads of the matter-energy transporter. Transporter Chief KYLE and Lieutenant GALLOWAY stand in front of the transporter console.

KIRK

Did you know that McCoy is a father?

SPOCK

(Raising one of his
eyebrows)

That is a medical miracle.

KIRK
(smiling)
Energize.

Kyle slides three sliding controls up on the transporter console to transport Kirk, Spock and McCoy.

INT. CAPERNA IV ROOM I

Kirk, Spock and McCoy appear in a white room. They find a young woman dressed in a white robe. Walls surround them and are white in color. The room has no corners. It is a circular room of about 20 feet in diameter. A console is propped against the wall. It has a few knobs and switches. Spock begins his analysis of the white-walled room using his tricorder. A continuous pulsating high pitch noise emanates from his hand-held gadget. Spock scans all around the room for his analysis. Meanwhile, McCoy gives the young woman an injection shot in her arm. The injection device is a metallic object of about 6 inches with a colored solution capsule at one end. The injection could be made subcutaneously without a puncture in the skin.

MCCOY
She is Joanna, Jim. She's coming around.
Her mental faculties are sluggish as if
fighting against something.

Joanna shrieks in pain.

KIRK
Doc, take her back to the ship and do
the best you can. Keep me updated on
what you learn from her, if at all you
do. Spock and I will do some studying
around here.

Kirk pulls out a personal communicator device from his back holster. He flips the communicator open.

KIRK
Kirk to Enterprise.

SCOTT
Bridge. Scott here, Captain.

KIRK
Dr. McCoy and a patient to beam up,
Scotty. Have a medical team stand by.

McCoy and Joanna dematerialize from the planet to the Enterprise using the energy-beam transporter.

KIRK
Analysis, Spock?

SPOCK
Our long range scan was correct. These are humanoids and they are there all around us, millions of them. But nobody appears to be moving. They are all fixed to one position, in seated positions.

KIRK
Why?

SPOCK
Difficult to ascertain that. My tricorder also picked up a high energy source, something that our ship's sensors did not detect. The signal is strong in that direction, Captain.

As the captain moves in the direction that Spock pointed at, a door opened in the wall.

SPOCK
Captain, it would seem that we are being shown the way.

KIRK
(shurgging his shoulders
and pointing at the
door)
Invitation accepted.

INT. CAPERNA IV HIGH COMMAND CENTER

Slotta watches Captain Kirk and Spock on a viewing screen on one of the white walled halls in the High Command Center.

SLOTTA
Open the ports to the main hall. This will prove to be most interesting.

INT. CAPERNA IV ROOM I

Kirk and Spock move towards the door. Kirk, with a phasor in his right hand, moves cautiously. Spock continues scanning using his tricorder. They pass through to the next chamber.

INT. CAPERNA IV MAIN HALL

Kirk and Spock look down what seems like a balcony overlooking a large chamber with hundreds of short walls.

The entire chamber is circular and the walls form a giant maze. The floor that they are standing seems to continue all around the room with no path leading to the chambers below. Kirk pointed at four such balconies all around the hall.

Captain Kirk sees rows of people sitting on white chairs staring at white walls. They are all wearing white robes and small devices attached to their right shoulders. Spock continues scanning the people using his tricorder.

KIRK

This explains why we didn't detect any movement.

SPOCK

High cerebral activity. Both hemispheres of their brain are at maximum activity. They are dreaming and calculating at the same time at peak efficiencies.

KIRK

Dreaming what? Calculating what, Mister Spock?

SPOCK

Difficult to ascertain, Captain. Their brain wave patterns seem to be very rhythmic and predictable. Almost Vulcan like.

KIRK

(smiling)

You'll feel at home here, Mister Spock.

KIRK

This seems like their main chamber. Analysis, Spock.

SPOCK

Fascinating. These are similar to the labyrinths found in some gardens on earth and the Deneb colonies. Odd, that there is no solution to this puzzle.

KIRK

No solution? Why?

SPOCK

It is logical to assume that these people cannot leave even if they wanted to.

The pointed end of a sharp spear appears in front of Capt. Kirk. The bearer of the spear is a warrior dressed in white tights. Capt. Kirk fires a stun ray using his phasor. The

warrior faints and falls to the ground. Another warrior appears from behind and Spock fires a stun ray at that warrior, who falls to the ground unconscious as well. Many warriors show up, all of them with spears. One of the warrior knocks off the phasor from Capt. Kirk's hand and another knocks off the phasor from Spock's hand. Capt. Kirk pulls out one of the spears from a warrior's hands. The spear falls to the ground. Now, Kirk engages in hand to hand combat. Spock deals with one of them using a Vulcan nerve pinch on their shoulder. Kirk and Spock pick up a spear each and fight with the warriors.

Finally, Slotta and 10 women dressed in white robes surround Kirk and Spock. All of them except Slotta have devices on their shoulders which glowed green. They hold guns in their hands, earth 20th century relics, one could say. All of them point their guns at Kirk and Spock.

SLOTTA

Captain Kirk, I presume. Welcome to Caperna IV. You and Mister Spock are under arrest by the authority given to me as High Command of Caperna IV.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE SICK BAY

McCoy and Nurse Chapel examine Joanna's life sensor readings. The K3 indicator, indicating the level of pain, seems to decrease. At the same time, they find the indicator lamp on the device on Joanna's shoulder turning green.

JOANNA

Where am I? Father, is that really you?

MCCOY

Yes, it's me, Joanna. Are you in a position to speak?

JOANNA

Yes, Dad. May I call you Dad?

MCCOY

(smiling)

Yes.

JOANNA

(looking all around)

Where am I?

MCCOY

You are onboard the USS Enterprise. We are orbiting Caperna IV.

JOANNA

You must get out of here as soon as possible. They will get you, get each one of you. She knows you are here.

MCCOY

Try to relax. Nurse...

Nurse Chapel comes toward Joanna with a hypo injection.

JOANNA

(signaling Nurse Chapel
to stop)

No, Dad. I want to tell you about Caperna IV, the slave planet. I don't think I have much time left.

JOANNA

The Radiant. I was aboard the Radiant as a weapons specialist. We were charting this area, when the Captain received a distress call. When we attained orbit, nuclear missiles knocked out our weapons system and our shields were strained. Our Captain, Manjula Naomi Radha, beamed down never to return. All of us were forced to join...

JOANNA

The pain... Aaaaaaa...

Joanna passes out again. The device on her shoulder turns red. The K3 indicator increased to 90% of the maximum level.

MCCOY

The pain level seems to be going up every time she comes around. We'll keep her under sedation. We can't risk waking her up again as the next wave of pain may be fatal.

INT. CAPERNA IV HIGH COMMAND CENTER

Slotta, Captain Kirk, Spock and a few white robed women sit at a dinner table, decked up with white flowers, wine, and a grand feast.

SLOTTA

I apologize, Captain, for my earlier hostility. We, at Caperna IV, are hospitable by nature. But due to experiences of the past, we were forced to be circumspect about how we deal with strangers.

KIRK

I am glad to hear that. I haven't seen an ounce of your hospitality yet. I hold my position that we are here because of the distress call.

SLOTTA

Yes, Captain, you are quite correct, there was a scrambled message from our side. The source of that message seems to have disappeared. We will track down that source using our device, Tekron. You, no doubt, have noticed the harmless looking Tekron on our shoulders.

KIRK

Is that how you have made all your citizens slaves?

SLOTTA

Captain, you misunderstand the grand design here. This is a device which is meant to increase their efficiency of thinking and working. These people are primarily artists, peasants, desk clerks, operators... Very simple minds.

KIRK

You torture them if you they don't listen to you?

SLOTTA

Efficiency does come at a cost. We can, of course, switch channels and pain takes the place of efficiency and dreams. The mind can tolerate only a certain level of pain. That is not true for Vulcans though, right, Mister Spock?

SPOCK

Fascinating!

KIRK

Why have you imprisoned these people?

SLOTTA

(smiling)

These people are free to go whenever they want. They can go wherever they want. The device is the last resort. I am a visitor from another star system. When I arrived, these people were peaceful and content with their surroundings. All they knew was

(MORE)

SLOTTA (CONT'D)

agriculture and fishing. They were like sheep. And the sheep needed a goatherd. The only way I saw that development could happen here was through higher ambitions and technological progress. High intellectual growth.

SPOCK

Fascinating!

SLOTTA

Quite the contrary, Mister Spock. It was hard work and they wouldn't listen. They kept going back to their tree-hugging satisfied ways of life. They were proud of their agrarian ways. Then, I found a way. Women! I ingrained in the Capernian women, the fear of a progress-less society, the fear of stagnation and the fear of having very little for their future. At first they resisted, however, some of them joined the ranks and started convincing other women. Soon, the revolution kicked in and the women recruited men and supervised them. I gave them the Tekron device and the dream weaver.

SPOCK

Dream weaver? That is what registered as the energy source on my tricorder. How did you build the dream weaver?

SLOTTA

Captain Radha from the Radiant was mighty helpful. You remember, Captain Radha, don't you? Charming woman. She commanded the people here and built the dream weaver and improved the rudimentary Tekron to what it is today. Captain Kirk, it's a shame you didn't promote her up the ranks when she was serving aboard the Enterprise.

KIRK

We go by regulations, not by whims and fancies.

SPOCK

Captain, if I may? How do these people get these dreams and what are they calculating?

Kirk waved his hand and gestured Spock to continue.

SLOTTA

The machine interacts with the Tekron to generate intense dreams and problems to solve. Very compelling visions of the future and extremely tough problems to solve. These dreams made the men appear very powerful and their brains performed intense calculations. All these men are connected through the dream weaver. Since they were simple folks to begin with, their original ambitions were limited to large farms and more agrarian produce.

KIRK

Is that why you send fake distress calls to lure spaceships? So that you can get better dreams and ambitions from the crews?

SLOTTA

Quite correct, Captain. It was your Captain Radha who gave us this idea. Under a lot of pain from the Tekron, of course. From the starships, we got better equipment, highly ambitious and trained men and women. These trained men provided us ambitions far greater than any Capernian men thought was even possible, even to dream. But the local men were able to learn from the men from the Star Fleet Academy.

KIRK

Did they refuse to bow down to your ways?

SLOTTA

Oh yes, they did. There were men who refused or were willing to wait on the peripheries while the other men leapt ahead. There were times when the men wanted to return home. The women would motivate them even further for higher ambitions.

SLOTTA

(signalling to two of
her Lieutenants)

I would like you to take a tour of our facility. Ladies, please give the captain and his deputy white robes.

SPOCK

Why white robes? Why the white walls?

SLOTTA

White has always been considered a sign of purity, innocence and yet, has all the colors. They represent the intelligence and the creavity of individuals. The amalgamation of individuals forming the whole. We also found that white doesn't distract.

KIRK

(gets up and dons the white robe)

Do you plan to get rid of us, Slotta?

SLOTTA

(laughing)

Oh no. Why would I get rid of the finest and the most ambitious federation starship captain and his highly trained crew?

KIRK

(holding the table)

Crew? What about my crew? Leave the crew out of this, Slotta.

SLOTTA

I loved that lady's voice the first time, I heard it. Even her name is like music to my ears. What's her name?

KIRK

Uhura?

SLOTTA

Oh yes, Uhura. Uhura...

Uhura walks in dressed in a white robe with a Tekron on her shoulder and a gun in her right hand.

KIRK

Uhura, listen to me. Your place is on the enterprise. You are part of the finest crew in the fleet. Remember our mission on the enterprise.

UHURA

My ambitions drive me and I am a part of the fleet. My crew is on its way. Many more are joining me.

SLOTTA

Captain, it's no use. The best way is for you to join our fleet here. You can give this planet a chance and you will realize that this is the best for you and your crew.

Slotta deftly pinned the Tekron on the captain Kirk's right shoulder.

SLOTTA

Now, do you see the truth, Captain?

Kirk looked blank for a few seconds and then turned to look at Slotta, with a smile.

SLOTTA

LEAVE US.

Spock, Uhura and all the lady guards left the room. Slotta held the captain's hand and Kirk advanced toward Slotta.

KIRK

Now, I see your truth, Slotta, my love.

We see the USS Enterprise orbiting a planet.

KIRK (V.O)

Captain's log: Stardate 5971.8. Seeing Uhura in the white robe and the enslaving device, the Capernians called the Tekron, made me wonder how many more crewmen from the Enterprise had Slotta recruited. I had the Tekron pinned on my shoulder as well. Strangely, now I felt that the crew was perfectly safe.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE SICK BAY

Dr. McCoy leans over his communication console.

MCCOY

McCoy to Biopsy lab. Come in, Biopsy lab. Morrison, come in, please. McCoy to Captain, come in, please. McCoy to Kirk, come in, please.

MCCOY

McCoy to Scotty, come in, please. McCoy to Spock. McCoy to bridge. McCoy to anyone. Is anyone onboard?

We see a montage of the bridge, the hallway, recreation center and the engine room. No soul is seen.

MCCOY

Joanna was right. The entire crew is on the planet now. How can I get the crew back? I am a doctor, not a recruiter.

KIRK

Kirk to McCoy. Can you read me, Bones?

MCCOY

What a relief! Yes, Jim. It's so good to hear a human voice. Where is everybody?

KIRK

They are all on Caperna, Doc. You should come down too. I'll explain everything when you beam down here.

MCCOY

Where is Spock?

KIRK

He is here too. Bones, don't forget to bring your daughter to the planet. All your dreams come true here.

JOANNA

Noooooo... Don't ... let... them...

Her Tekron is still red.

MCCOY

My patient needs my help. I will contact you soon, Jim.

MCCOY

Try to relax, Joanna. I'll give her another shot of the sedative.

JOANNA

No, Dad. Don't... go... to... the planet... danger...

MCCOY

What danger awaits the Captain and the crew?

JOANNA

Slotta... Alien... no Tekron... captain and crew... aliens... not adapted to high strain of dreams and intense problems... die... die... Radiant crew all dead... Aaaaaaa...

Joanna passes out again with the K3 pain indicator at maximum.

MCCOY

I have no way of continuing on my own here. I am all alone, my daughter is dying. The only help is down there at the planet.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

The lift doors of the bridge open. McCoy steps out to enter the empty bridge of the enterprise. He starts looking at the flashing lights, the automatic beacons, the switches, the panels and the empty seats. His gaze falls on the captain's con.

MCCOY

Well, what do you know? Ironic as it sounds, I am the Captain of the Enterprise. Wonder, how many surgeons have become captains! In 2260, Doctor... Oh, that Spock has been corrupting me.

MCCOY

(looking sternly at the
Captain's chair)

No, I am a doctor, not a soldier.

Dr. McCoy reached over to the Captain's chair and switched on the log button.

MCCOY

Medical log: Dr. Leonard McCoy recording. With this log entry, I declare Captain Kirk and the entire crew unfit to run the ship and as the only senior officer remaining onboard the enterprise, I, Dr. Leonard H. McCoy, am assuming command of the Enterprise.

MCCOY

Captain McCoy to James Kirk. Come in, James Kirk.

KIRK

(smirking)

Captain who?

MCCOY

Captain McCoy, I have assumed command, since there are no souls onboard the Enterprise. You, James T. Kirk are unfit for command.

KIRK

Now, now. That is very cute that you call yourself a Captain. But I am still the Captain of the Enterprise.

MCCOY

No, I have declared in my medical report about the Captain and the crew that all of you have been in a state of delirium since coming into Caperna IV. I have also indicated that you can never break away from the influence of the Tekron device and hence you are unfit for command.

KIRK

Doc, why don't you come down here? I'll explain everything to you. Dreams, visions...

MCCOY

As the Chief Medical Officer and current Captain of the Enterprise, I order you to appear here for a medical examination.

KIRK

Very well... CAPTAIN. I'll fix a few things when I come onboard, one of them better not be your broken jaw. You do know how to operate the transporter, don't you?

MCCOY

Well, I don't.

KIRK

I'll take care of that from down here.

Kirk transports to the Enterprise using the energy-beam transporter. When Kirk materializes, he finds Dr. McCoy, with an injection device in his hand, ready to sedate the Captain. However, Kirk halts McCoy's move with a swift right chop on McCoy's forearm. The device drops from McCoy's hand. McCoy flings himself on Kirk, but Kirk ducks clear of McCoy. Kirk grabs hold of the injection device and holds it close to McCoy's neck.

KIRK

Doc, don't make me hurt you. Join me in my dreams to be the best crew in the universe.

MCCOY

Jim, we are already the best crew in the universe. Don't you understand that you've been tricked into believing that you are inadequate and unhappy with what you are.

KIRK

Doc, you don't have the faintest idea of what brilliant visions I have for my crew and the Capernians.

MCCOY

(dusting himself and getting up)

Let me remind you of what's happening here. You are in love with that woman. She is manipulating from down there. Admit it, all this vision stuff is a cover up.

KIRK

(shoving McCoy)

Doc, don't push our friendship beyond this. Don't drag Slotta into this. I am taking you with me, with or without your permission.

Kirk short arm jabs Dr. McCoy on his face and knocks him unconscious. He starts setting up the transporter for the doctor to be moved to the planet. A high pitch sound is heard and Kirk feels a sharp stunning force. He falls down with a loud thud. Joanna is standing there with a phasor.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTER ROOM

Joanna helps McCoy get up.

MCCOY

(Rubbing his nose)

Wow! My nose! Thanks, Joanna, for your help. Jim is quite a handful. Could have been worse if it had been Spock.

JOANNA

Thanks to you, Dad. We still have a big task ahead of us.

McCoy pulls out a hypersonic tweezer from his medical kit. He moves over to Captain Kirk and skillfully removes the Tekron using the hypersonic tweezers.

MCCOY

Piece of cake. Another shot to his arm and he'll be good as new.

McCoy injects the captain with a shot.

KIRK
(rubbing his temples)
Bones. Did a rhino run over me?

MCCOY
(stands upright and
saluting)
Welcome back, Captain. I relinquish my
command to you and it is a pleasure
doing so.

KIRK
(sitting on the ground)
Joanna, I presume. Nice to meet you! I
hope you are not as hard headed as your
Dad.

JOANNA
Captain, I am sorry I had to stun you.
Dad taught me how to use the phasor.

KIRK
I don't remember any of that. I must say
the resemblance between you and Slotta
is remarkable.

MCCOY
(helping Kirk get up)
Well, lover boy, leave Joanna out of
your web.

MCCOY
Jim, we still have the crew imprisoned
on the planet and surgically removing
the Tekron from everyone could take
ages.

KIRK
I wish I had my Science Officer's
services, but he's not available. I
remember Slotta telling me that she
utilised the services of women to first
convince everyone of the Tekron and
dream weaver. Why not weave the same
web?

MCCOY
Well, I am a doctor, not a salesman.
Joanna, what do you think?

KIRK
(gently slapping McCoy's
cheek)
Doc, that's a great idea! Joanna,
(MORE)

KIRK (CONT'D)
 contact the officers of the High
 Command.

Kirk, McCoy and Joanna move to the bridge using the ship's
 elevator mechanism.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE ELEVATOR

Joanna, McCoy and Kirk hold handles of the elevator.

KIRK
 Bridge

KIRK
 I could have you courtmartialled for
 attacking your Captain.

MCCOY
 Well, you started it. Besides I was the
 Captain.

KIRK
 (to Joanna)
 Your Dad is tough to argue with.

Elevator stops.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

The door of the bridge opens and the trio walk in. Kirk
 leads Joanna to Uhura's communication console. He pushes a
 few buttons on the console.

KIRK
 All yours, you know, what to do.

JOANNA
 (smiling and nodding)
 This is Joanna, Tekron Serial Number
 659234, Authorization Code kghasfg.

OPERATOR (V.O)
 You are cleared, Joanna. What is the
 state of your emergency?

JOANNA
 I've been abducted by two earth men on
 outpost 4 on Caperna, please rescue me.

OPERATOR (V.O)

We'll send an Emergency Response team immediately.

JOANNA

I have some classified information as well, can you please send the High Command Commissioner Slotta to come along?

OPERATOR (V.O)

I will pass on the information.

JOANNA

Ok. We'll rendezvous in 15 minutes at Caperna outpost 4. Joanna out.

KIRK

Clever girl! Now, tell us the coordinates of outpost 4.

While Joanna relays information of the coordinates, Kirk lowers the defensive screens for transport. The Enterprise starts a red alert automatically.

MCCOY

What is it, Jim?

KIRK

The defense shield is still down and the ship has detected an attack from the planet.

A loud noise is heard and the ship rocks, knocking Kirk, McCoy and Joanna to the floor.

MCCOY

(getting up while
holding a handle on the
console)

What was that?

Joanna is rubbing her shoulders. Kirk got up looking at the analysis screen to look for damage to the Enterprise.

KIRK

Looks like an old style nuclear device. No major damage, but has taken out the transporter for sure. Joanna, Slotta knows that you were the one who contacted them.

KIRK

They've fired another salvo. Thankfully, deflectors snapped back on. I wish I had one crew member to man the phasors.

JOANNA

Captain, if I can be of some assistance. I was in the Star Fleet Academy, but dropped out soon after.

KIRK

Atta girl! Let me show you how the phasors work. Doc, press these buttons when you see this panel light flashing, will you? And don't start with the 'I am a doctor' routine.

Kirk shows McCoy what to press on the navigator's console on his mark.

MCCOY

No, Sir. Standby Sulu here.

Joanna and Kirk leave the bridge. McCoy sees the panel lights on just like what Kirk told him about. He is ready to press the buttons that Kirk had asked him to press. At that instant though, he holds his head and looks like he is in severe pain. He starts wandering around the bridge like a madman. The Enterprise rocks violently at the second missile hit.

KIRK

McCoy, come in, McCoy.

MCCOY

Captain... Jim. McCoy... Here...

KIRK

Bones, what's wrong? We had a direct hit on the deflectors. They are weak now. Why didn't you evade like I'd asked you to?

MCCOY

Altairian fever remnants... Headache... Splitting...

McCoy pulls out his injection device, fills up and gives himself a shot to relieve the pain. McCoy finds that his right hand is almost limp. He lifts his right hand using his left hand and places it on the button he is supposed to press for evasive maneuvers.

KIRK

Doc, it will be some time before the phasors are ready to fire again. Try again for evasive maneuvers.

McCoy regains some sensation in his hands. The enterprise rocks violently another time and McCoy is thrown out of the helmsman's post. Slotta appears on the viewing screens of the ship and she is heard all over the ship.

SLOTTA

Slotta to Captain Kirk. I am ready to discuss your surrender. All I want is that three of you return to Caperna to get wired back in. Failing which, I will destroy the Enterprise. Your Science Officer tells that your ship is all but lost now. Your defenses are gone, your fire power gone and the ship is decaying in orbit. Looks to me like you can do with some shore leave at Caperna.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE MEETING ROOM

KIRK(V.O)

Captain's log: Stardate 5973.2: Slotta gave us a three hour ultimatum to surrender and take a shuttle to the surface of the planet. Phasor power down, maneuver power absent, emergency power almost depleted, my crew on another planet, we had no options remaining. Time was running out fast for us.

McCoy and Joanna are sitting in the meeting room while Kirk is walking around the room.

MCCOY

Jim, we've been over this many times, I see no options, but to surrender to the Capernians. Spock, not on our side, can be a formidable enemy. He's helped Slotta knock out all our communications. We are stranded.

KIRK

Joanna, do you have any ideas?

JOANNA

No, I agree with Dad, there is no use just lingering here. I tried to warn you, but you still came. This is exactly

(MORE)

JOANNA (CONT'D)

what happened to us on the Radiant. All reserves and crew were gone. Captain Radha helped her achieve this. I recommend that we transport back to the planet. Slotta is clever. We'll be under the influence of Tekron in a matter of hours.

KIRK

Tekron. I am sick and tired of this device. I am going to throw this thing away from my sight.

Kirk grabs one of the Tekrons that is lying on the desk of the meeting room and is ready to smash it on the floor.

KIRK

Wait a minute. Doc, give me your tricorder.

Kirk takes the tricorder from Dr. McCoy and scans the two Tekron devices--one from Joanna and one from Kirk.

KIRK

They are still working and seem to be connected to someone.

Kirk points at the devices.

KIRK

To whom? Is the question. You? Me? Joanna? Or is there anyone else onboard? We can use the tricorder to see if someone else is here.

The tricorder yields no results to prove his theory.

MCCOY

Does it have sufficient range to communicate with someone on the planet?

KIRK

Difficult to say that.

MCCOY

May be it is a bug, like the ones used in 20th century Earth?

KIRK

No. Joanna, back to you. What was the fate of the ship that you were on? Was it destroyed?

JOANNA

Yes, it was destroyed using the same weapons that we are facing today. All of us were forced to transport to the planet surface and the ship was destroyed. Captain, I suggest we drop all this and...

KIRK

Not so soon. What kind of a ship was it?

MCCOY

Jim, where are you going with this? Joanna is right. We don't have the time.

KIRK

Doc, I have a theory and I want to test it. I don't think their ship was destroyed, although they have been told that.

MCCOY

Told? You mean, that was a mind trick using the Tekron. Even if it is not destroyed, what good will it serve us now?

KIRK

For one, we could get the spares from the other ship. Let's at least begin the search. We can only do this from the bridge. C'mon! Quick! Let's go!

INT. CAPERNA HIGH COMMAND

Slotta has her hand on Spock's head. Spock looks poised and all set to hurt anyone he came across.

SLOTTA

Everything is going according to plan. They will transport down soon. Arrange for their welcome here, Spock. Then, you know what your mission will be aboard the ship. The other one.

Spock smiles.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

Kirk is leaning over Sulu's console.

KIRK

This is a big planet. If it were in our orbital path, Mr. Sulu would have detected the old ship. I have to search over areas where Sulu would not have searched.

A starship similar in appearance to the USS Enterprise makes an appearance over one of the poles of the planet. The letters USS Radiant is written on it. Seems like the same starship class as the USS Enterprise.

KIRK

Doc, Joanna, look, I found it.

Kirk turns around to tell Dr. McCoy and Joanna of his discovery. When he looks at the large viewing screen again, the starship that he had just seen in plain sight, is gone.

KIRK

The ship was right there and it disappeared right in front of my eyes.

McCoy looks at Kirk, probing, and diagnosing.

KIRK

Am I still under the influence of the Tekron or Slotta? Has my judgment diminished so much?

MCCOY

No, Jim. You are the same James Kirk. If you say you saw a ship, you definitely saw a ship. I will even go ahead and say that the Enterprise is probably blind now.

KIRK

Blind... Yes, blind. Why didn't I think of it before? Thanks, Bones. Then, the ship is still there, it has vanished or was made to vanish. We'll ask the computer.

Kirk moves to Spock's console along with McCoy.

KIRK

Computer, confirm hypothesis - are the ship's sensors blinded by someone or something?

COMPUTER

Negative. Sensors are fully operational and in top condition.

KIRK

Is the input to the sensors fed by alien devices?

COMPUTER

Affirmative.

Kirk and McCoy exchange looks.

KIRK

This is probably what happened to your ship, Joanna. The crew was made to believe that the ship was destroyed.

JOANNA

Well, what do we do now? Destroy these Tekron devices and free the ship?

KIRK

No, I want the Capernians to think that we bought into their threat. I want more of these devices. Now, that I know that the transporter works, let's sweep the area to find the ship personnel. Doc, I want the biological signatures from your records. The signatures of the following personnel - Scotty, Spock, Sulu and Chekov. Joanna, you and I have some work to do on Mister Spock's computer.

MCCOY

Jim, don't you want Uhura also?

KIRK

No, Doc, Slotta told me that women are under the most influence and she trusts them the most. Any change in that, and our plan can be detected.

MCCOY

Right-ho, Captain.

Kirk points at a few microtapes. Joanna hands them to Kirk. Kirk inserts one of the microtapes in a slot.

KIRK

Computer, record sensory output transmitted from the alien devices.

JOANNA

Captain, do you think this will work?

KIRK
Well, we'll have to see.

COMPUTER
(in a feminine voice)
Recorded.

Kirk removes the microtape and places in another slot.

KIRK
Computer, relay the recorded sensory
output to the Capernian stations
receiving this matching the power and
frequency. Repeat the broadcast over and
over.

COMPUTER
Affirmative.

KIRK
Now, to take care of these Tekrons. Give
me a foot, will you?

Kirk and Joanna stamp on the Tekrons to destroy them.

KIRK
Ship status - normal and now, we see the
Radiant. Joanna, we did it!

KIRK
McCoy, feed the biological signatures to
the computer. I'll lower the screens and
search for the crew.

As soon as the Enterprise lowers the screens, the Radiant
fires photon torpedoes and phasor shots at the Enterprise.
The Enterprise status changes to red alert status. The
sirens and red alert lights come alive inside the bridge.

MCCOY
Jim, what the devil is happening?

KIRK
The ghost ship, Radiant, just fired at
us.

KIRK
Who is running the Radiant now?

JOANNA
Captain Kirk and you too, Dr. McCoy.
Don't move or I'll send you both to
oblivion.

Joanna points a phasor at both of them.

JOANNA

Kirk, you are good, very good, I'll give you that. You can't destroy something that I have taken so long to build. The Radiant just took out your phasor power and warp drives. This time, your ship is going down for real.

MCCOY

Jim, the phasor setting. It is set to kill.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

Joanna/Slotta points her phasor at Kirk and McCoy.

KIRK

Slotta?

Kirk is shocked to know the true identity of Joanna.

SLOTTA

Kirk, you are so naïve, I knew your every move from the moment I came onboard the ship. I fed the computers with incorrect data. I recruited the women first. The women transported all the personnel from the ship. I just couldn't control the doctor, this was my only fault. He remained fixated that I was his daughter. I stayed back to make sure he wasn't doing anything that would hamper my plans. I am going to destroy this ship. I don't need this ship anymore.

KIRK

Why destroy the ship? From the Federation, we can help your civilization in any possible way and you won't have to imprison these people like this.

SLOTTA

This is not imprisonment, Captain. It is their duty to build the future. They are fulfilling this through me.

KIRK

Whose future? They are building your future.

SLOTTA

Don't interfere in this one, Kirk. You are violating your prime directive of non-interference. I learnt this from Captain Radha of the Radiant.

KIRK

No, I am stopping you, an alien from interfering and controlling for your personal gains.

SLOTTA

Enough of this nonsense, I'll have no more. I am taking McCoy as prisoner and beaming aboard the Radiant and I will destroy you along with the Enterprise. Your mind is too strong for the Dream Weaver, so I cannot plug you back in. McCoy! Move!

Slotta instructs McCoy to move to the elevator.

MCCOY

Joanna, listen to me. Your mother was a good woman, she must have raised you well. Jim is a friend and I can't see him destroyed with his ship like this.

SLOTTA

Shut up, I am Slotta. Don't try these emotions on me. I am taking him out. If you think about it, it's poetic justice. Kirk goes in cinders with his beloved ship.

KIRK

(looks at the door and
shouts)

Mister Spock! Here!

Slotta and McCoy look toward the elevator doors. Kirk uses the opportunity to knock the phasor out of Slotta's hand. McCoy grabs Slotta by her throat with his arms, while Kirk tries to reach for the phasor. Slotta moves her elbow fast and punches McCoy in his stomach. McCoy goes down writhing in pain. Slotta kicks the phasor out of Kirk's reach. Slotta punches Kirk on his face and he falls down. While Kirk is recovering, McCoy gets hold of the phasor with one hand.

KIRK

Good job, Doc! Now, Slotta, move slowly. March to the confinement room in the lower deck.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE CONFINEMENT ROOM

Slotta is locked in the confinement room with a force field protection, holding her in place.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE TRANSPORTER ROOM

Kirk and McCoy are in the transporter bringing back all the crew members from the Enterprise and the Radiant. The medical team quickly removes the Tekron from the crew members' shoulders.

INT. USS ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

KIRK

Scotty, are the warp drives fully operational?

SCOTT

Aiy, Captain.

KIRK

(looking all around him)

Now that all crew members are onboard, I want to meet Mister Spock. Where is he?

CHEKOV

(looking at the main viewing screen)

Captain, the federation ship, Radiant, is leaving orbit.

KIRK

Lieutenant, try to raise the Radiant.

CHEKOV

I've already tried. They wouldn't answer.

KIRK

Follow the Radiant. Scotty, what is the maximum warp speed of the vessel?

SCOTT

5, maybe 6, Captain. We'll able to catch them.

CHEKOV

Captain, one life form onboard.

KIRK
Warp 7, Sulu. Distance from the Radiant?

SULU
100,000 kms and closing

SULU
50,000 kms

KIRK
Scotty, two tractor beams ready. I
intend to tow her.

SCOTT
Two beams ready. We are still out of
tractor beam range.

SULU
20,000 kms and closing

CHEKOV
Captain, I just scanned the life form,
it matches a body signature of a Vulcan.

KIRK
Spock.

CHEKOV
(looking at his console)
Captain, the Radiant has increased speed
to warp 8.

KIRK
Scotty, I thought you said this ship had
a maximum warp speed of 5 or 6?

SCOTT
Beats me, Captain. Radiant was
originally designed to be a luxury
liner, that's all.

CHEKOV
Captain, the engines are overheating on
the Radiant.

KIRK
Warp 8.5, Scotty.

SCOTT
Sir, this might push the engines.

KIRK
8.5, Scotty. Distance, Mister Chekov?

SULU
10,000 kms now.

KIRK
Scotty, are we within tractor beam range?

SCOTT
Aiy, but we will end up damaging our engines.

KIRK
Put her on tow. I want to stop Mister Spock from doing whatever he has in his mind.

KIRK
Brace yourselves, the Radiant will be under tow. Scotty, NOW.

Scott presses a switch and the Enterprise feels the pull from the Radiant under tow. The personnel fall from their positions. Scotty holds the handles next to his station.

SCOTT
(shouting over the commotion)
Captain, the Radiant is under tow. The engines are overheating.

KIRK
Hold her steady.

SCOTT
Captain, engines are superheating. 500 degrees above.

CHEKOV
Sir, the engines of the Radiant are also superheating.

The bridge doors opens, Mister Spock walks in and uses his Vulcan nerve pinch on Scott. Scott drops to the floor. Before the captain and the bridge personnel could react, Spock manages to push a few buttons on Scott's panels.

KIRK
(trying to restrain Spock)
Sulu, signal the security.

Spock proves to be too strong for the Captain. The other bridge personnel join Kirk to restrain Spock. None of them are successful. The bridge elevator door opens and a security guards appears and fires a stun shot at Spock. That

puts Spock out of action.

KIRK
(panting and on the
floor)

Wow! He's a handful. Take him to Sick Bay and put him on restraints. Mister Chekov, status of the Radiant?

CHEKOV
Sir, the Radiant, Sir. It is gone.

KIRK
(moving toward Chekov's
seat)
How can it go away? We had it under tow and Spock was here.

CHEKOV
Sir. Mister Spock turned off the tractor beams. The Radiant used ion propulsion to travel at warp 11 to go past the... Sir...

KIRK
Yes, Mister Chekov. Where did the ship go?

CHEKOV
Sir... One eleven Mark 14. In the direction of the Romulus.

Kirk looks at McCoy and Spock.

KIRK
Bones, I thought you removed the Tekron from Mister Spock?

SPOCK
Captain, that's quite correct.

KIRK
Security!

SPOCK
(releasing himself from
the hands of the
security)
No, sir, that won't be necessary. I am in complete command of myself now.

KIRK
Mister Spock. Care to explain your actions?

SPOCK

You no doubt guessed, who was on the Radiant. Slotta. She is a Romulan. After the good doctor used his pitchforks and animal skins to remove the Tekron. I was still under the mind control of Slotta. She forced me to free herself from the confinement room. I then transported her to the Radiant. She also forced me to switch off the tractor beams. After her entry into the neutral zone across Federation territory, she was too busy navigating the ship that she had to let me go.

KIRK

I have a few questions. How did the Radiant move faster than her designed speed?

SPOCK

Slotta gave this problem to the Capernians, but they were too simple minded to solve the problem. So she gave the problem to the trapped crew of the Radiant. Then, she forced me to perform the final modifications.

KIRK

Mister Spock, we still have a plug to pull. Mister Chekov, arm the phasors. Short bursts only. Target the high energy source.

CHEKOV

Armed and ready, Captain.

KIRK

Fire phasor one.

Chekov fires the phasor on target and the energy source starts bellowing smoke and becomes red hot. The structure finally disappears from the building. Capernians start getting up from their seated positions. They move around on their own for the first time.

KIRK

Prepare a landing party of sociologists to bring them back to the moving, thriving culture that they were. Let's get the Capernians moving.

Uhura enters the bridge smiling at all the crew members. She points at her empty shoulder.

KIRK
Welcome back, Lieutenant.

Uhura smiles and takes her seat at the communication console.

KIRK
(turning to the doctor)
Doctor, don't mind my asking. Was Joanna your real daughter or was it all make believe like the rest of our Capernian experience?

MCCOY
As a matter of fact, I spoke to her after years. She is indeed at the Orion Medical Base, training to be a surgeon. Did you hear that, Jim? A surgeon like her old man.

KIRK
(smiling)
Bones, another question that intrigued me was why were you spared from the influence of the Tekron?

MCCOY
All I can say is that my duty consciousness as a father and as a doctor prevented me from moving out of the Enterprise.

SPOCK
The Tekron and Slotta must have found your waves of illogic too hot to handle.

Spock says with a stern face.

KIRK
Well, for the first time, illogic saved your life, Spock.

The entire crew has a good hearty laugh.

KIRK
(still smiling)
Mister Sulu, lay in a course for Star Base Nine. Ahead, Warp factor one.