

# STAR TREK<sup>®</sup>

VOLUME 7



**THE KHITOMER CONFLICT**

# *STAR TREK*<sup>®</sup>

VOLUME 7

**THE KHITOMER CONFLICT**



# STAR TREK®

VOLUME 7

## THE KHITOMER CONFLICT

Collection Cover by Erfan Fajar, Colors by Ifansyah Noor  
Collection Edits by Justin Eisinger and Alonzo Simon  
Collection Design by Chris Mowry

Star Trek created by Gene Roddenberry.  
Special thanks to Risa Kessler and John Van Citters of CBS Consumer Products for their invaluable assistance.

ISBN: 9781623025106

DIGITAL

**IDW**®  
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

IDW founded by Ted Adams, Alex Garner, Kris Oprisko, and Robbie Robbins

Ted Adams, CEO & Publisher  
Greg Goldstein, President & COO  
Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist  
Chris Ryall, Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief  
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Chief Financial Officer  
Alan Payne, VP of Sales  
Dirk Wood, VP of Marketing  
Lorelei Bunjes, VP of Digital Services  
Jeff Webber, VP of Digital Publishing & Business Development

Facebook: [facebook.com/idwpublishing](https://facebook.com/idwpublishing)  
Twitter: [@idwpublishing](https://twitter.com/idwpublishing)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/idwpublishing](https://youtube.com/idwpublishing)  
Instagram: [instagram.com/idwpublishing](https://instagram.com/idwpublishing)  
deviantART: [idwpublishing.deviantart.com](https://deviantart.com/idwpublishing)  
Pinterest: [pinterest.com/idwpublishing/idw-staff-faves](https://pinterest.com/idwpublishing/idw-staff-faves)



STAR TREK, VOLUME 7, MARCH 2014, FIRST PRINTING. ® & © 2014 CBS Studios Inc. STAR TREK and related marks and trademarks of CBS Studios Inc. © 2014 Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing authorized user. © 2014 Idea and Design Works, LLC. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 5080 Santa Fe Street, San Diego, CA 92109. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

Originally published as STAR TREK issues #25-28.

Written by

**MIKE JOHNSON**

Story Consultant

**ROBERTO ORCI**

Art by

**ERFAN FAJAR**

Colors by

**SAKTI YUWONO, IFANSYAH NOOR,  
and BENY MAULANA** of Stellar Labs

Letters by

**TOM B. LONG, CHRIS MOWRY, and GILBERTO LAZCANO**

Series Edits by

**SARAH GAYDOS**



Artwork by Erfan Fajar  
Colors by Sakti Yuwono





STARDATE 2261.147

## CHAPTER 1

THE PLANET *KHITOMER*.



A NEW KLINGON COLONY  
UNDER CONSTRUCTION.



ESTIMATED TIME  
TO COMPLETION:  
40 KHITOMER  
SOLAR CYCLES.  
27 IMPERIAL DAYS.







NUG 'OH  
DOCHVAM'E'?\*

\*WHAT IS THAT?



SHAKOOOM



BAL  
BINGDAQ  
HIV!!\*

\*WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!





HIV VO'  
BAV!

UMQU' GHOT  
VESDUJ NUQ?\*

*\*AN ATTACK FROM ORBIT!  
WHAT ABOUT OUR WARSHIPS?*



NUCH!!  
NADEV 'EJ  
GHOB RUR  
SUVWI!!\*

*\*COWARDS!! COME DOWN  
AND FIGHT LIKE WARRIORS!!*



BOOM





"ALL KLINGON WARSHIPS IN ORBIT HAVE BEEN NEUTRALIZED, COMMANDER L'NAR.

"THE DESTRUCTION ON THE SURFACE IS **TOTAL**. SHALL WE END THE ASSAULT?"

NO, DECIUS.

WE SHALL **EXPAND** THE RADIUS OF THE BOMBARDMENT BEYOND THE INHABITED AREA.

WHEN THE KLINGONS COME TO INVESTIGATE, I WANT THEM TO SEE THAT THE ROMULAN EMPIRE IS NOT JUST THEIR SUPERIOR IN **FIREPOWER**.

WE ARE THEIR SUPERIORS IN **WILLPOWER**.

IN **DETERMINATION**.

IN **FEROCITY**.

AS WE WILL PROVE AGAIN AND AGAIN IN THE **WAR BORN THIS DAY**.



CAPTAIN'S LOG,  
STARDATE 2261.147.

THE *ENTERPRISE* IS  
DOCKED AT DEEP  
SPACE STARBASE K-11  
AS WE MAKE FINAL  
PREPARATIONS FOR  
OUR JOURNEY INTO  
UNCHARTED SPACE.

WHEN WE LEAVE  
HERE WE'LL BE  
ON OUR OWN.

THIS IS ONE LAST CHANCE FOR  
THE CREW TO MAKE ANY CALLS  
BACK TO EARTH—OR WHICHEVER  
PLANET THEY CALL HOME—  
BEFORE WE'RE OUT OF REACH  
OF ANY SUBSPACE RELAYS.

AND ONE LAST CHANCE  
FOR THE *ENTERPRISE*  
TO PICK UP NEW CREW.

THIS IS  
DUMB.

IT'S  
NOT DUMB,  
SULU.

EET'S A  
LEETLE  
DUMB,  
KEPTIN.

COVER  
MY EYES?  
REALLY?

JUST TELL  
ME THE  
SURPRISE.

BETTER  
THAT YOU  
SEE IT.

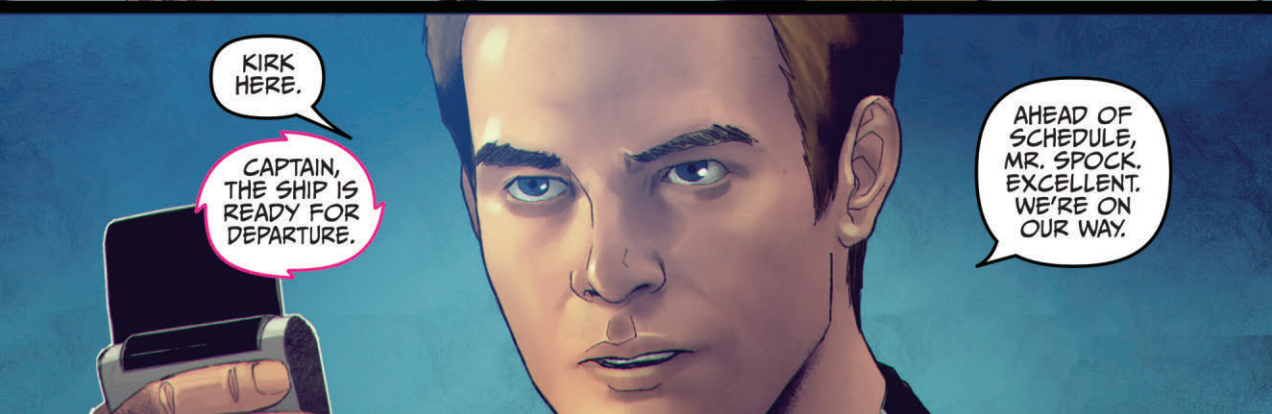
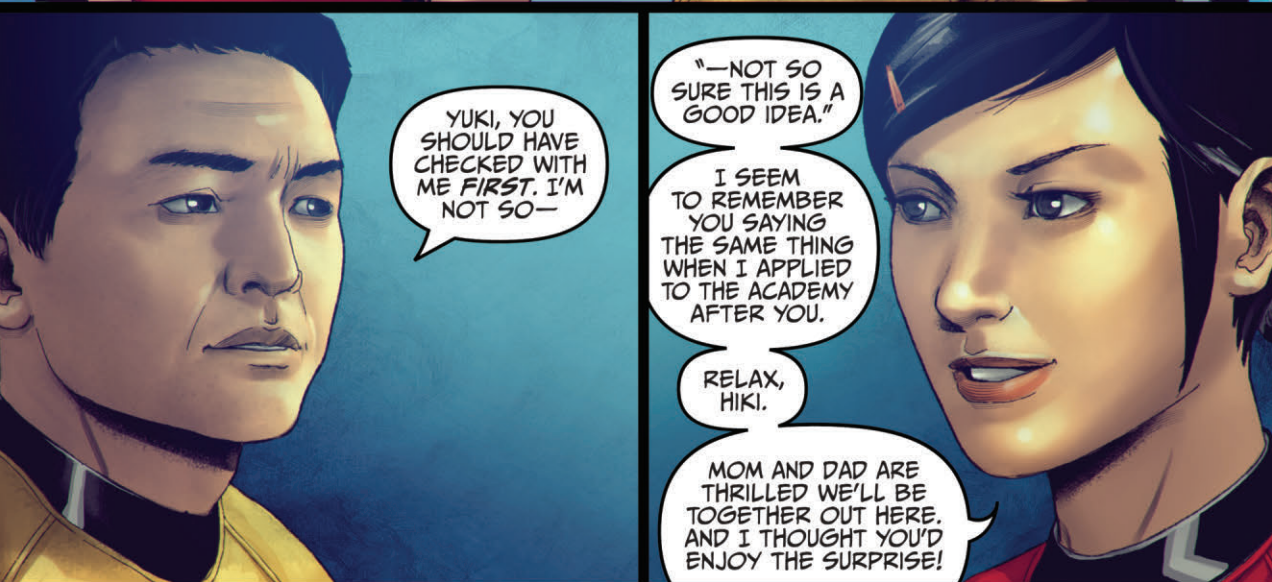
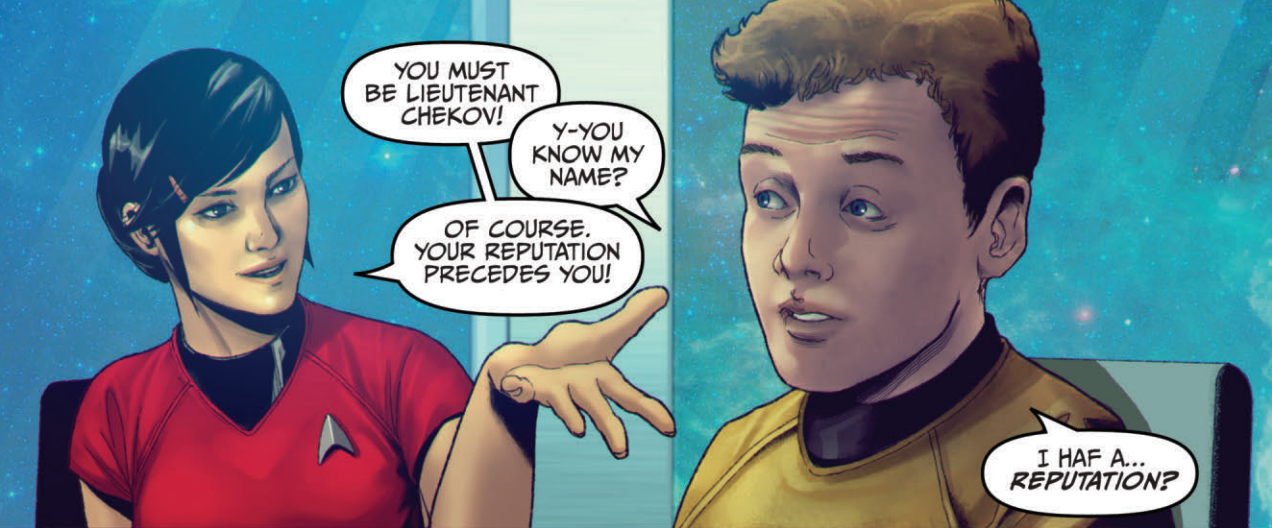
OKAY.  
ONE...

TWO...













I THINK  
CHEKOV'S IN  
LOVE. MAYBE  
THIS WASN'T  
SUCH A GOOD  
IDEA AFTER  
ALL.

CAPTAIN,  
PLEASE.  
LISTEN  
TO ME...



IT'S NOT A  
GOOD IDEA.

STARFLEET ALLOWS  
FAMILIES TO SERVE  
TOGETHER, YES.

BUT THEY  
DON'T EXACTLY  
ENCOURAGE IT,  
EITHER.

EVERY SECOND I SPEND  
ON OUR MISSION WORRYING ABOUT  
HOW MY SISTER'S DOING IS ONE LESS  
SECOND I'M SPENDING ON MY JOB.

LIEUTENANT, WE'VE  
GOT CREWMEMBERS  
THAT JUST SAID GOODBYE  
TO FAMILY THEY WON'T  
SEE FOR FIVE YEARS.



I THOUGHT YOU'D  
APPRECIATE THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE  
YOUR SISTER WITH  
YOU OUT THERE.

BOTTOM LINE  
IS, WE NEEDED  
ANOTHER PAIR  
OF HANDS IN  
ENGINEERING.

YUKI WASN'T JUST AVAILABLE,  
SHE'S THE *HIGHEST-RATED TECHNICIAN*  
IN THE FLEET. TOP OF HER CLASS AT THE  
ACADEMY. SHE *BELONGS* ON THE ENTERPRISE.



AND IF YOU  
REALLY BELIEVE  
YOU'LL BE  
COMPROMISED,  
YOU'VE GOT A  
VERY DIFFERENT  
OPINION OF  
YOUR ABILITIES  
THAN I DO.

TRUST  
ME ON THIS  
ONE.



MIGHT WANT TO  
KEEP AN EYE ON  
CHEKOV, THOUGH.

NOT  
FUNNY,  
SIR.



"CLEAR OF THE STATION, CAPTAIN.  
READY TO WARP ON YOUR COMMAND."

"THANK YOU, MR. SULU.  
MR. SCOTT, HOW IS  
OUR SHINY NEW WARP  
CORE FEELING TODAY?"



CHOMPING AT  
THE BIT, CAPTAIN!  
TIME TO LET  
HER OUT FOR A  
GALLOP!



GLAD TO  
HEAR IT.

SULU, ON  
MY MARK—



CAPTAIN,  
WAIT!

I'M PICKING  
UP SOMETHING  
STRANGE—

—IT'S IN  
KLINGON!







IT SOUNDS LIKE... A **DISTRESS CALL**, CAPTAIN!

A **DISTRESS CALL**? FROM **KLINGONS**?

NOT LITERALLY, NO. **KLINGONS** WOULD CONSIDER ASKING FOR HELP A SIGN OF WEAKNESS.

BUT THIS TRANSMISSION IS ASKING FOR **VENGEANCE**, WHICH IS AS CLOSE TO A **DISTRESS CALL** AS A **KLINGON** WILL MAKE.

SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE UNDER **ATTACK**, AT—

**KHITOMER!**

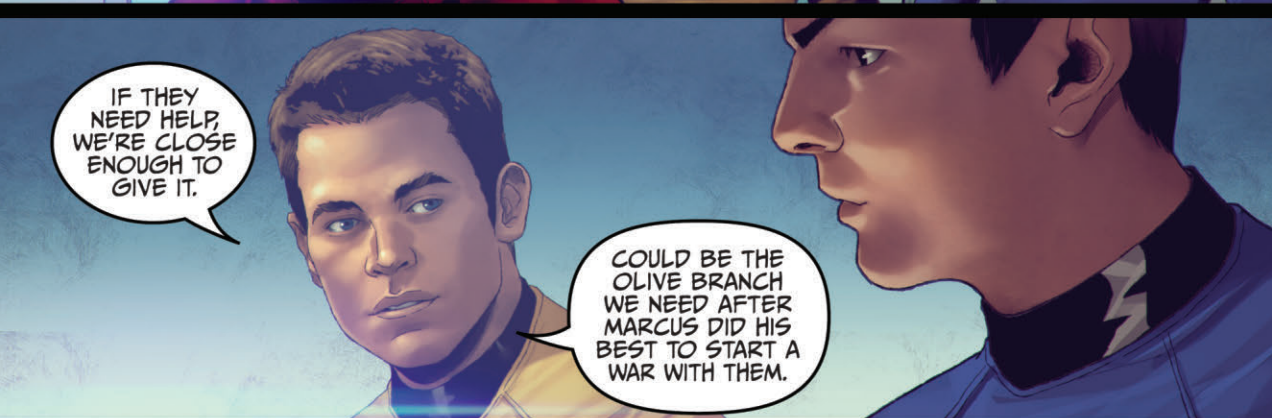


THE **SIGNAL** JUST CUT OUT...

**KHITOMER?**

AN **UNOCCUPIED CLASS-M PLANET** JUST OUTSIDE THE **EDGE OF KLINGON SPACE**, NOT FAR FROM OUR **PRESENT LOCATION**.

IT WOULD NOT BE **SURPRISING** TO LEARN THAT THE **KLINGONS** HAVE **TARGETED IT** FOR **COLONIZATION**.



IF THEY **NEED HELP**, WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH TO **GIVE IT**.

COULD BE THE **OLIVE BRANCH** WE **NEED** AFTER **MARCUS** DID HIS **BEST** TO **START A WAR** WITH THEM.



OR THEY COULD **VIEW OUR ARRIVAL** AS YET ANOTHER **PROVOCATION**.

OUR **MISSION** CALLS FOR US TO **JOURNEY FAR FROM THE BORDERS OF THE EMPIRE**, NOT **CLOSER TO THEM**.



**DEEP SPACE** WILL STILL BE **WAITING FOR US**. IT'S **WORTH TAKING A LOOK** AT **KHITOMER**.

**CHEKOV**, SET A **COURSE FOR THE COLONY**.

**AYE, KEPTIN!**





I HAVE TO  
THANK YOU,  
HUMAN.

THE WEAPONS  
YOU AND SECTION  
31 PROVIDED US  
PROVED MORE THAN  
ENOUGH AGAINST  
THE KLINGONS.



AS WE  
KNEW IT  
WOULD.

WE ACHIEVED  
OUR GOAL. THE  
KLINGONS WILL  
HAVE NO CHOICE BUT  
TO RETALIATE WITH  
THE BULK OF THEIR  
FLEET, AND WHEN  
THEY DO...

WE WILL  
CRUSH THEM  
TOGETHER.



REJOIN THE  
REST OF THE  
ROMULAN FLEET  
AT THE HECTORI  
SYSTEM. WE  
WILL DRAW THE  
KLINGONS  
THERE.

AND AFTER THE  
KLINGON EMPIRE  
FALLS?

HOW DO  
WE DIVIDE THE  
SPOILS?



"A QUESTION  
FOR ANOTHER TIME,  
COMMANDER L'NAR.

"BUT REST  
ASSURED, ONE  
THAT WILL BE  
ANSWERED TO  
THE BENEFIT OF  
**BOTH** OUR  
SPECIES."





"MY GOD."



SOMETHING  
MANAGED TO  
TAKE OUT  
THREE KLINGON  
WARSHIPS...

...AND WIPE  
THE COLONY  
OFF THE  
SURFACE.

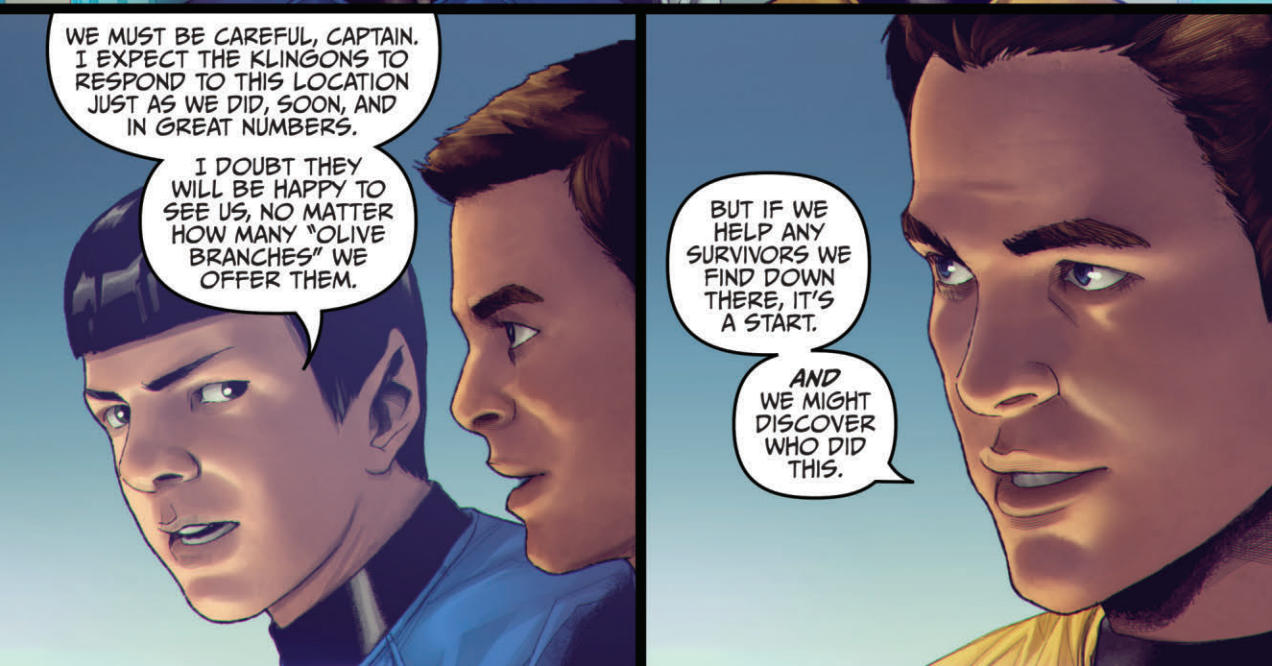


IT IS CURIOUS  
THAT THERE IS  
NO SIGN OF  
WHATSOEVER WAS  
RESPONSIBLE.

THEY DID  
NOT SEEK TO  
CAPTURE THE  
COLONY, OR  
THE KLINGON  
SHIPS.

I WANT TO  
TAKE A CLOSER  
LOOK.

PLANETSIDE.



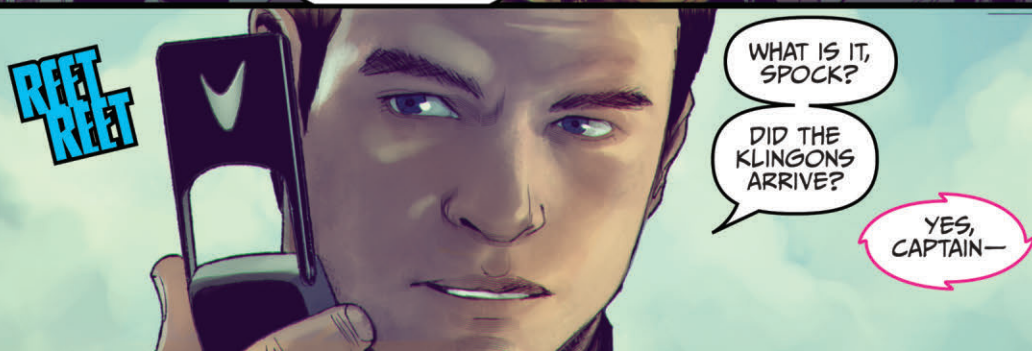
WE MUST BE CAREFUL, CAPTAIN.  
I EXPECT THE KLINGONS TO  
RESPOND TO THIS LOCATION  
JUST AS WE DID, SOON, AND  
IN GREAT NUMBERS.

I DOUBT THEY  
WILL BE HAPPY TO  
SEE US, NO MATTER  
HOW MANY "OLIVE  
BRANCHES" WE  
OFFER THEM.

BUT IF WE  
HELP ANY  
SURVIVORS WE  
FIND DOWN  
THERE, IT'S  
A START.

AND  
WE MIGHT  
DISCOVER  
WHO DID  
THIS.









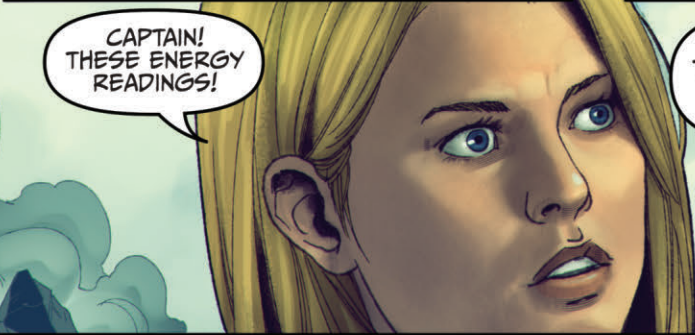
"—BUT IN SHIPS OF  
A MOST CURIOUS  
APPEARANCE."



I ADVISE  
YOU AND THE  
OTHERS TO BEAM  
BACK TO THE SHIP  
IMMEDIATELY.



AGREED.  
LOCK ONTO  
US AND—



CAPTAIN!  
THESE ENERGY  
READINGS!



THE WEAPONS  
THAT WERE USED  
HERE ARE THE  
SAME AS—

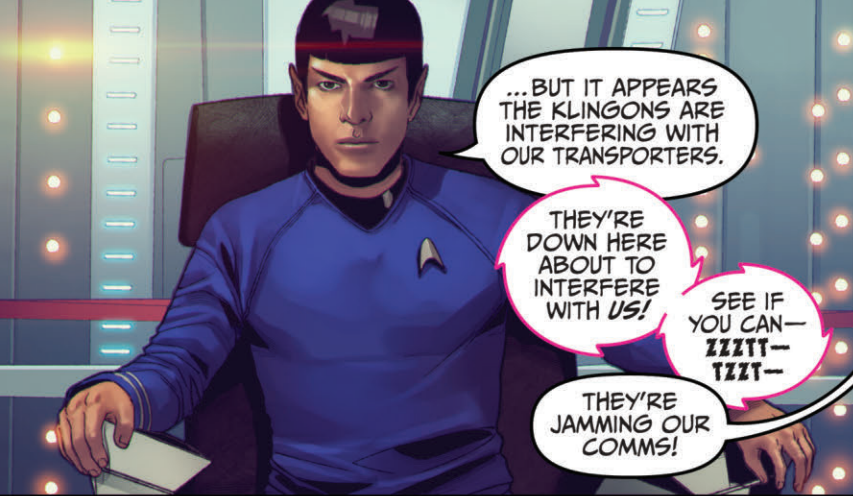


RRRHHMMMM









...BUT IT APPEARS  
THE KLINGONS ARE  
INTERFERING WITH  
OUR TRANSPORTERS.

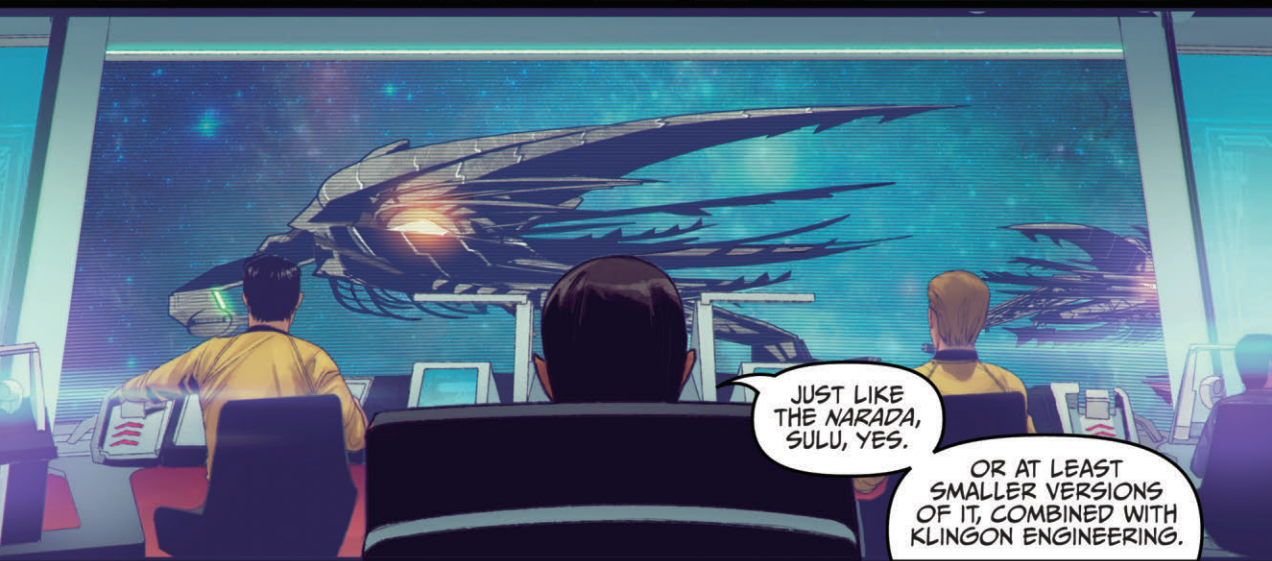
THEY'RE  
DOWN HERE  
ABOUT TO  
INTERFERE  
WITH *US*!

SEE IF  
YOU CAN—  
ZZZZT—  
ZZZZT—

THEY'RE  
JAMMING OUR  
COMMS!



COMMANDER,  
THEIR SHIPS LOOK  
JUST LIKE—



JUST LIKE  
THE NARADA,  
SULU, YES.

OR AT LEAST  
SMALLER VERSIONS  
OF IT, COMBINED WITH  
KLINGON ENGINEERING.

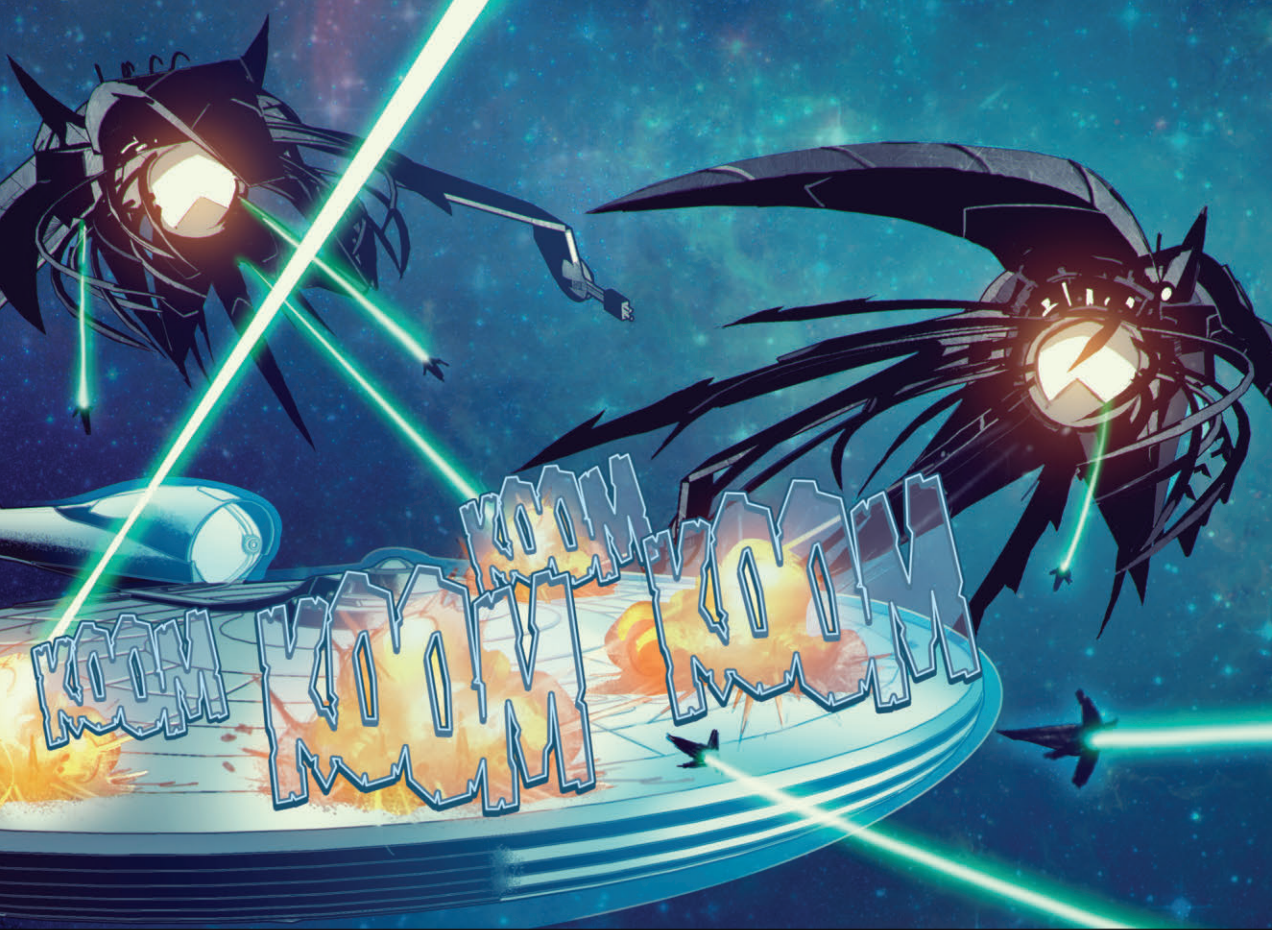


IT APPEARS THAT  
THE KLINGONS  
WERE NOT IDLE  
DURING THE YEARS  
THEY HAD NERO AND  
HIS SHIP IN THEIR  
CUSTODY.

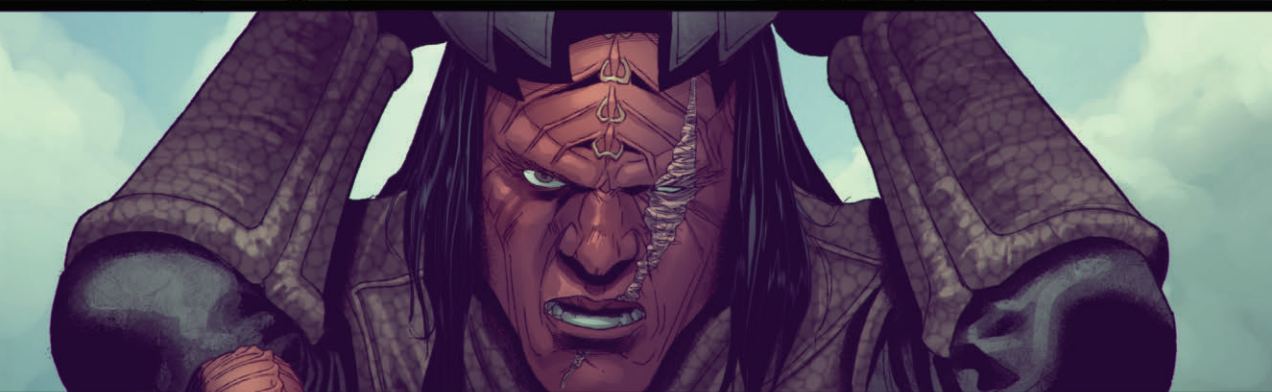
MAINTAIN  
SHIELDS AT  
MAXIMUM,  
MR. SULU—









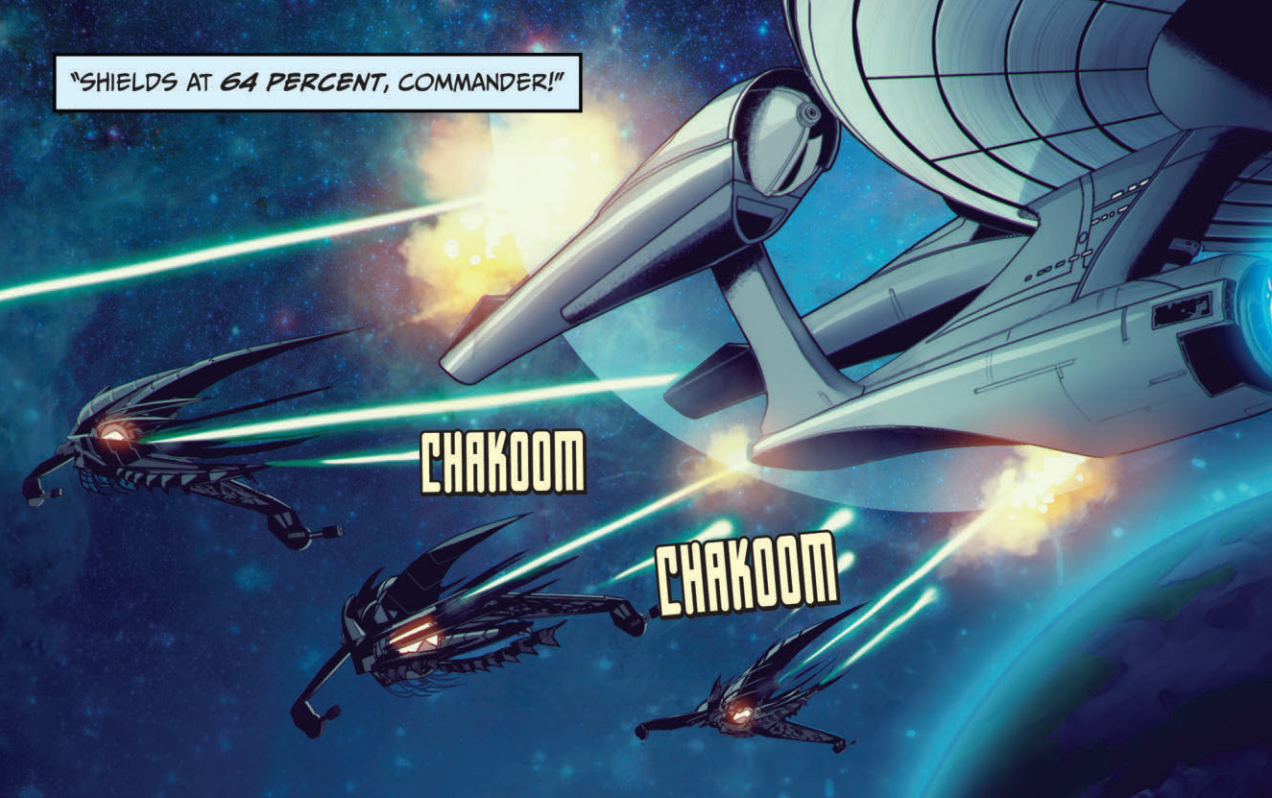








"SHIELDS AT 64 PERCENT, COMMANDER!"



CHAKOOM

CHAKOOM

I CAN KEEP TRYING TO EVADE THEIR FIRE, BUT THE SHIELDS WON'T HOLD FOREVER!

WE HAVE TO FIGHT BACK!

FIRING BACK, EVEN IN SELF-DEFENSE, WOULD BE CONSIDERED A DECLARATION OF WAR.

UNLESS WE CAN RECOVER CAPTAIN KIRK AND THE AWAY TEAM BEFORE OUR SHIELDS FAIL, WE MUST FALL BACK AND REPORT TO STARFLEET COMMAND.

COMMANDER, WE'RE BEING HAILED BY ONE OF THE KLINGON SHIPS!





ONSCREEN.

FEDERATION  
VESSEL! I AM  
COMMANDER  
KOR!

YOU HAVE MY  
THANKS, AND THE  
THANKS OF THE  
ENTIRE KLINGON  
EMPIRE ON THIS  
FINE DAY!

THANK YOU  
FOR THE GREAT  
WAR TO COME!



WE MEAN NEITHER YOU  
NOR THE EMPIRE ANY  
HARM, COMMANDER.


I ASSURE  
YOU THAT OUR  
PRESENCE HERE  
IS PEACEFUL  
IN NATURE.

WE SOUGHT TO HELP  
ANY SURVIVORS WE COULD  
FIND. OUR LANDING PARTY IS  
CURRENTLY ON THE SURFACE  
ATTEMPTING TO DO SO.



AH YES.  
YOUR "LANDING  
PARTY."

YOU NEEDN'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT THEM  
ANYMORE.



EVEN IF I  
BELIEVED THAT THE  
FEDERATION WOULD  
COME TO THE AID OF THE  
EMPIRE, THE IDENTITY OF  
YOUR LANDING PARTY'S  
LEADER IS ALL THE  
PROOF WE NEED OF  
YOUR DECEPTION.



DOES THIS  
LOOK LIKE A  
SYMBOL OF  
PEACE?

NO. THIS  
A SYMBOL  
OF WAR.



AND BOTH  
SIDES NOW HAVE  
THEIR FIRST  
CASUALTIES!









Artwork by Erfan Fajar  
Colors by Ifansyah Noor



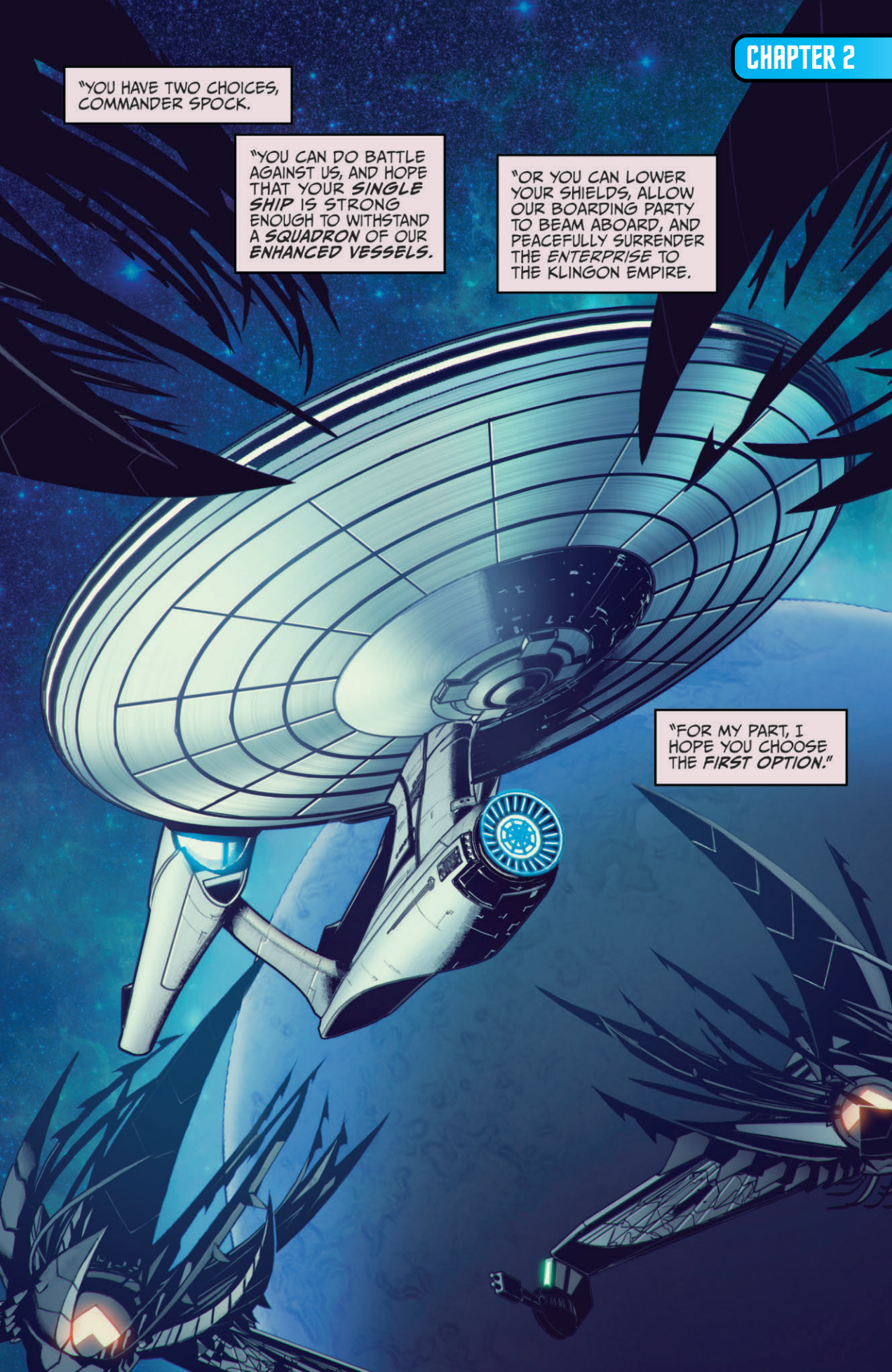


"YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES,  
COMMANDER SPOCK.

"YOU CAN DO BATTLE  
AGAINST US, AND HOPE  
THAT YOUR *SINGLE  
SHIP* IS STRONG  
ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND  
A *SQUADRON* OF OUR  
*ENHANCED VESSELS*.

"OR YOU CAN LOWER  
YOUR SHIELDS, ALLOW  
OUR BOARDING PARTY  
TO BEAM ABOARD, AND  
PEACEFULLY SURRENDER  
THE *ENTERPRISE* TO  
THE KLINGON EMPIRE.

"FOR MY PART, I  
HOPE YOU CHOOSE  
THE *FIRST OPTION*."







AND WHAT OF CAPTAIN KIRK AND THE REST OF OUR LANDING PARTY?

THEY LIVE. FOR NOW.

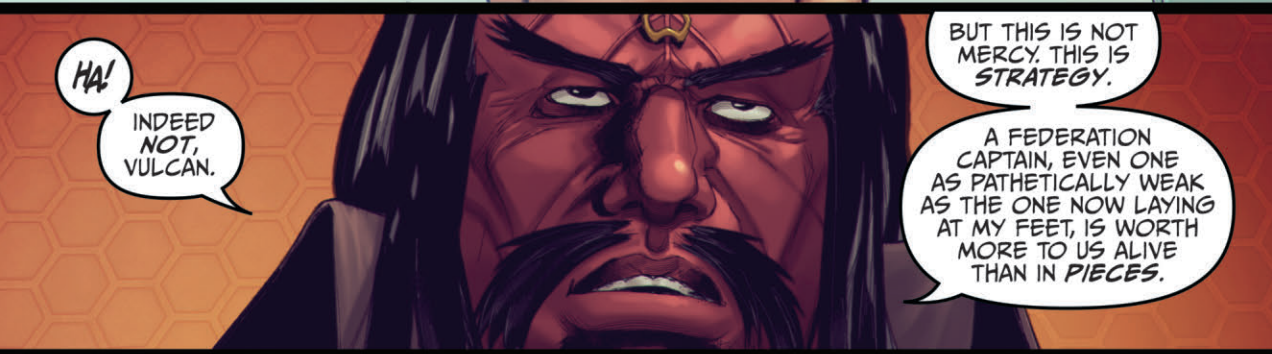
BUT YOU WOULD DO WELL TO CONSIDER THEIR PREDICAMENT WHEN MAKING YOUR CHOICE.

YOU ARE FORTUNATE I HAVE NOT ALREADY EXECUTED THEM AS PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR ATTACK ON OUR COLONY.



FORTUNATE AND *SURPRISED*, COMMANDER KOR.

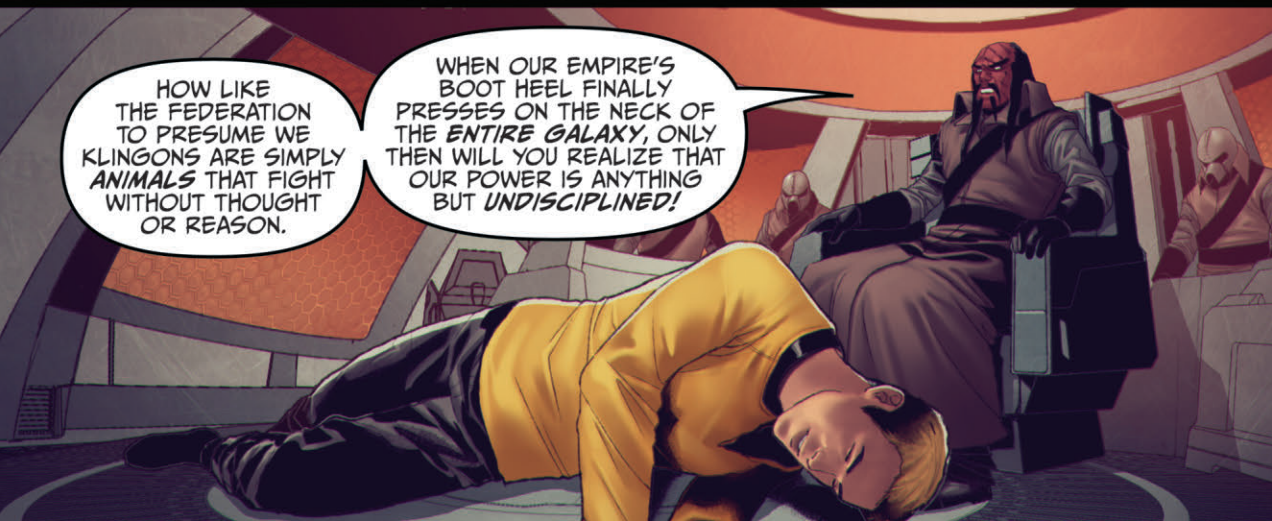
MERCY, EVEN IF ONLY TEMPORARY, IS NOT A TRAIT COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH *KLINGONS*.



HA!  
INDEED *NOT*, VULCAN.

BUT THIS IS NOT MERCY. THIS IS *STRATEGY*.

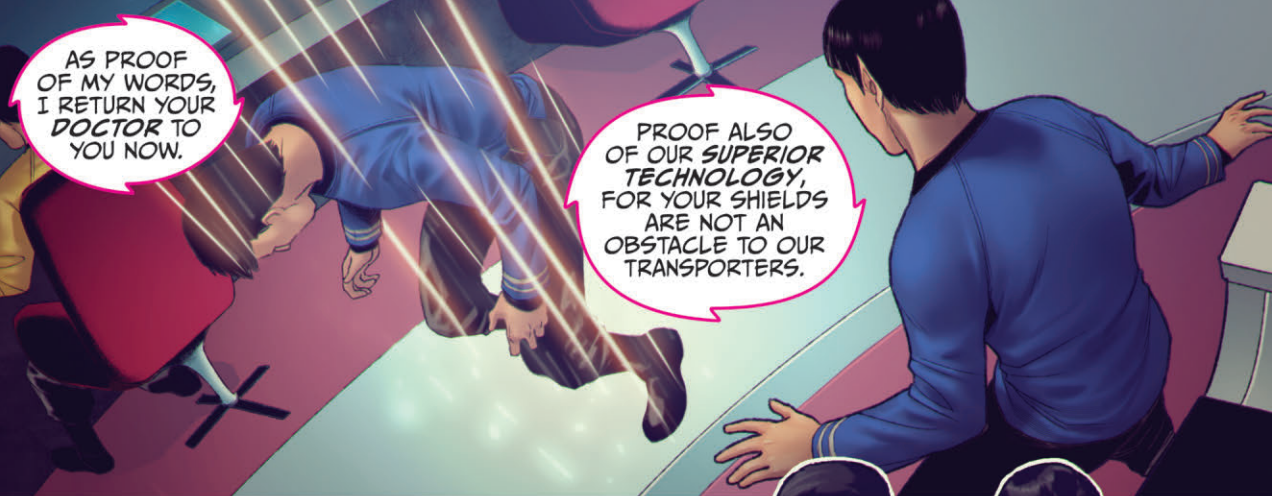
A FEDERATION CAPTAIN, EVEN ONE AS PATHETICALLY WEAK AS THE ONE NOW LAYING AT MY FEET, IS WORTH MORE TO US ALIVE THAN IN *PIECES*.



HOW LIKE THE FEDERATION TO PRESUME WE KLINGONS ARE SIMPLY *ANIMALS* THAT FIGHT WITHOUT THOUGHT OR REASON.

WHEN OUR EMPIRE'S BOOT HEEL FINALLY PASSES ON THE NECK OF THE *ENTIRE GALAXY*, ONLY THEN WILL YOU REALIZE THAT OUR POWER IS ANYTHING BUT *UNDISCIPLINED*!





AS PROOF  
OF MY WORDS,  
I RETURN YOUR  
**DOCTOR** TO  
YOU NOW.

PROOF ALSO  
OF OUR **SUPERIOR**  
**TECHNOLOGY**,  
FOR YOUR SHIELDS  
ARE NOT AN  
OBSTACLE TO OUR  
TRANSPORTERS.



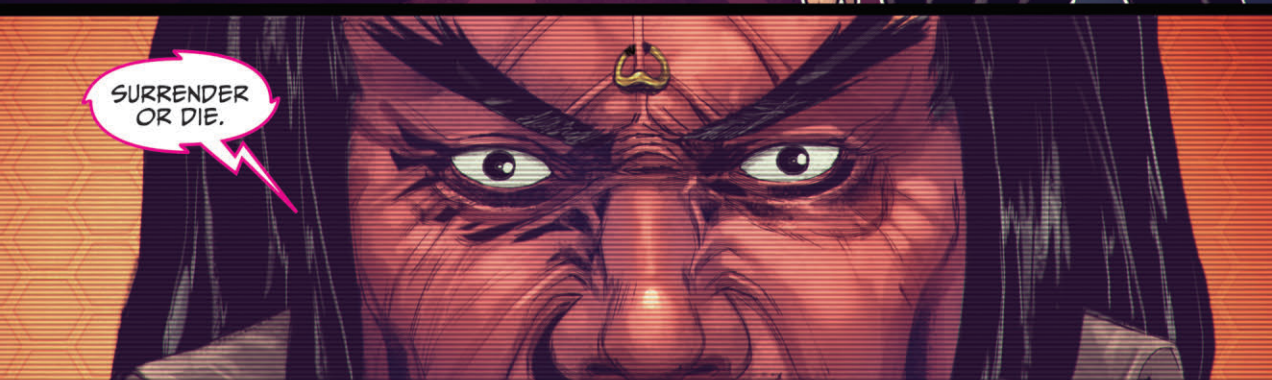
DOCTOR  
MCCOY!

I'M FINE,  
SPOCK...

BUT THAT'S  
MORE THAN I  
CAN SAY FOR JIM.  
THEY BEAT HIM  
**SENSELESS**.

PROBABLY  
WORKING ON THE  
OTHERS NOW.

YOU HAVE  
YOUR CHOICE,  
VULCAN.

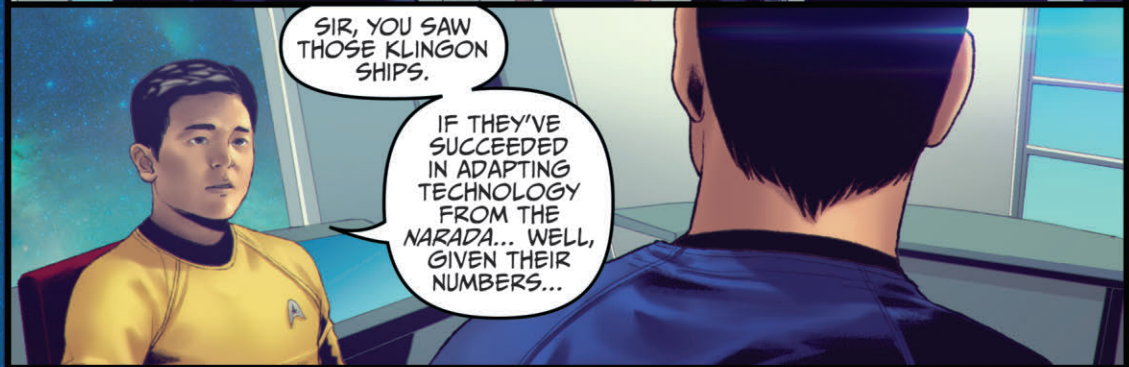
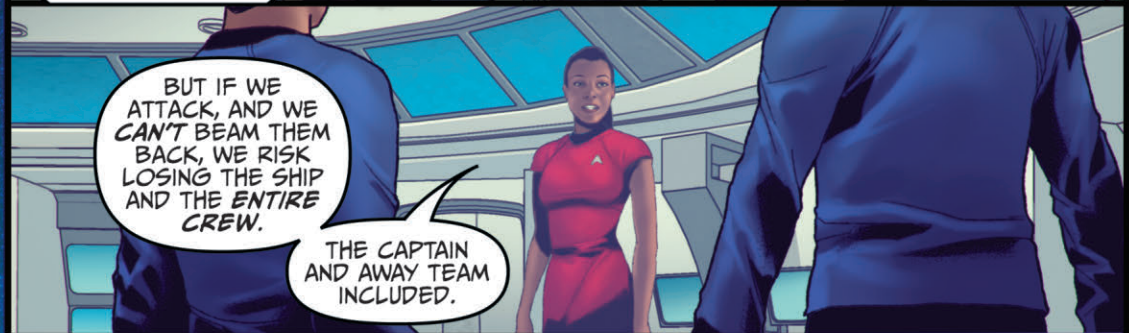


SURRENDER  
OR DIE.

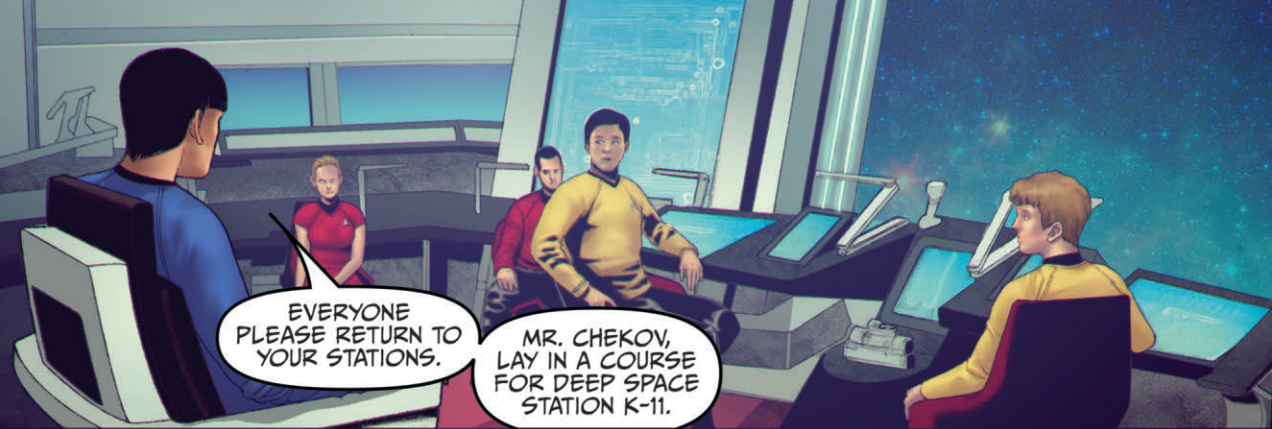


COMMANDER,  
THEY'VE CUT OFF  
COMMUNICATION!









EVERYONE  
PLEASE RETURN TO  
YOUR STATIONS.

MR. CHEKOV,  
LAY IN A COURSE  
FOR DEEP SPACE  
STATION K-11.



MR. SULU,  
ENGAGE WARP  
DRIVE ON MY  
MARK. FACTOR  
NINE.



WHAT?!

USE THAT  
VULCAN *GENIUS*  
OF YOURS AND  
THINK FOR A  
SECOND!

AS SOON AS  
WE DISAPPEAR  
THEY'LL KILL OUR  
PEOPLE OUT OF  
*SPITE!*

THIS IS  
OUR *ONLY*  
CHANCE TO  
SAVE THEM!



I TAKE THE KLINGON  
COMMANDER AT HIS  
WORD. THE PRISONERS  
ARE MORE VALUABLE  
TO HIM ALIVE.

YOUR PRESENCE  
HERE ON THE BRIDGE  
IS AN INDICATION THAT  
THE KLINGONS ARE NOT  
COMPLETELY WITHOUT  
MERCY.

WE MAY  
FIND A MORE  
ADVANTAGEOUS  
OPPORTUNITY  
TO ATTEMPT A  
RESCUE AT A  
LATER TIME.

FOR NOW  
DOCTOR, PLEASE  
RETURN TO YOUR  
STATION IN SICKBAY.



DAMMIT!

NEVER TRUST  
A KLINGON!

OR A  
VULCAN,  
FOR THAT  
MATTER!





"MR SULU...

"ENGAGE."



COWARDS.

EXACTLY  
WHAT I  
EXPECTED.

EXACTLY  
WHAT I  
WANTED.



WAKE UP,  
CAPTAIN.

WAKE UP!

YOUR FRIENDS  
HAVE *DESERTED*  
YOU, CAPTAIN.

THE VULCAN YOU  
LEFT IN CHARGE  
RAN OFF BACK TO  
THE SAFETY OF  
FEDERATION SPACE,  
LEAVING YOU AND  
YOUR PEOPLE  
ALONE HERE...

...ALONE TO BE  
*PUNISHED* FOR  
YOUR DESTRUCTION  
OF OUR COLONY  
ON KHITOMER.

...IIII...

...I...

WHAT'S THAT,  
CAPTAIN?

ARE YOU  
GOING TO TELL  
ME AGAIN THAT  
THE FEDERATION  
IS INNOCENT?

THAT YOU  
DIDN'T JUST  
DECLARE  
WAR ON THE  
EMPIRE?





...I...

...I  
TRUST THAT  
VULCAN...



SMACK

BAH!

STOP  
IT!



WHAT HONOR IS THERE  
IN TORTURING A  
PRISONER WHO CAN'T  
FIGHT BACK?

HONOR?

WHERE WAS YOUR  
HONOR WHEN YOU WIPED  
MY PEOPLE FROM THE  
FACE OF KHITOMER WHILE  
YOU SAT IN THE COMFORT  
OF YOUR SHIP HIGH ABOVE?



DO NOT  
SPEAK TO ME  
OF HONOR,  
FEMALE...



TOOH

PAH!



HEH!

AT LEAST  
YOU SHOW  
MORE SPIRIT  
THAN YOUR  
CAPTAIN!

AND ON ANY  
OTHER DAY I  
WOULD HAVE  
YOUR HEAD  
FOR IT.

BUT NOT  
BEFORE ALL  
OF YOU WITNESS  
YOUR PLANET'S  
DEMISE.



THE BORDER OF KLINGON  
AND ROMULAN SPACE.



"ANY SIGN OF OUR  
HUMAN ALLIES?"

NOT YET,  
COMMANDER  
L'NAR.

LET US  
HOPE THEY  
ARRIVE  
SOON... IF  
AT ALL.

COME,  
DECIUS.

THEY HAVE  
AS MUCH AT  
STAKE IN THIS  
GROWING  
CONFLICT AS  
WE DO.

THEY ARE USING  
US JUST AS WE ARE  
USING THEM. TOGETHER  
WE WILL WIPE OUT THE  
KLINGON EMPIRE, AND  
THEN WE WILL SHARE  
THE SPOILS.

COMMANDER,  
WE ARE BEING  
HAILED!

ONSCREEN!

SECTION 31  
CERTAINLY  
LIKES TO SNEAK  
UP ON PEOPLE,  
DOESN'T IT?

HOW DID YOU  
MANAGE TO  
ARRIVE WITHOUT  
OUR SENSORS  
DETECTING  
YOUR SHIPS?

WHAT YOU CALL  
"SNEAKING," WE  
CALL *DISCRETION*,  
COMMANDER.





AS FOR  
HOW WE MOVE  
UNDETECTED...

... THAT IS THANKS  
TO TECHNOLOGY WE  
HAVE YET TO SHARE  
WITH OUR ALLIES.

AN OVERSIGHT  
I'M SURE YOU INTEND TO  
CORRECT SOON, YES?

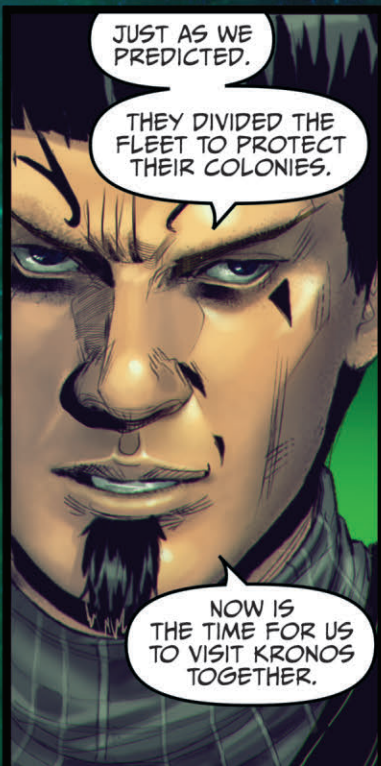
PERHAPS.

IT IS INTERESTING,  
"ALLY," THAT YOU  
SECTION 31 AGENTS  
ALWAYS KEEP YOUR  
FACES IN SHADOW.



TO IDENTIFY  
OURSELVES  
BEYOND THE NAME  
OF SECTION 31 IS AN  
UNNECESSARY RISK,  
COMMANDER.

WHAT IS THE  
LATEST ON THE  
KLINGON FLEET?



JUST AS WE  
PREDICTED.

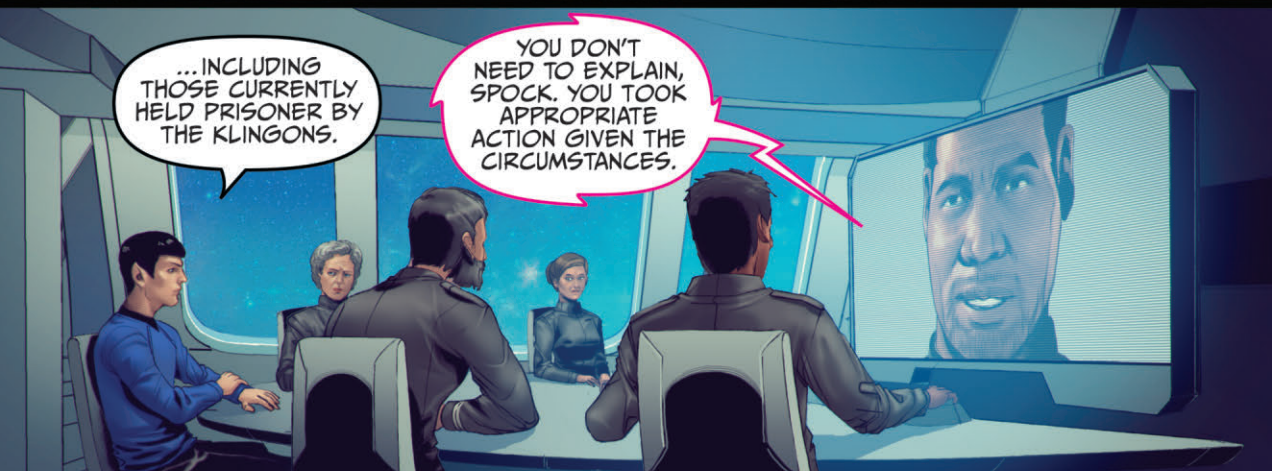
THEY DIVIDED THE  
FLEET TO PROTECT  
THEIR COLONIES.

NOW IS  
THE TIME FOR US  
TO VISIT KRONOS  
TOGETHER.





"I BELIEVE RETURNING HERE WAS THE MOST LOGICAL OPTION, AND THE ONE THAT BEST ASSURED THE SAFETY OF THE CREW..."




...INCLUDING THOSE CURRENTLY HELD PRISONER BY THE KLINGONS.

YOU DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN, SPOCK. YOU TOOK APPROPRIATE ACTION GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.



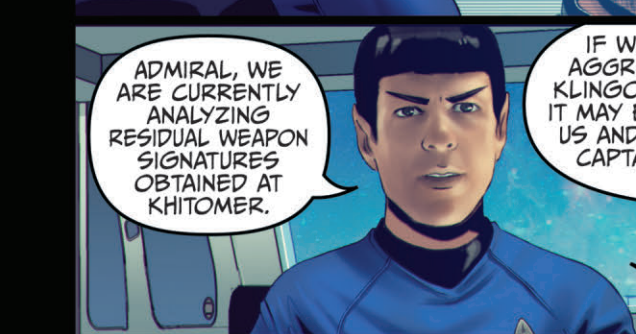
I'VE CONVENED A SPECIAL SUMMIT HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO FOR ALL FEDERATION MEMBER SYSTEMS.



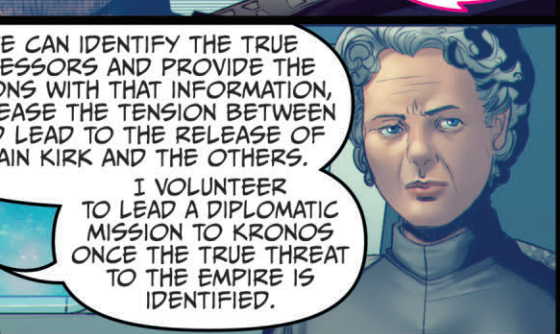
IF THE KLINGONS HAVE DECLARED WAR ON US, WE NEED TO BE PREPARED.



AND TRULY UNITED.



ADMIRAL, WE ARE CURRENTLY ANALYZING RESIDUAL WEAPON SIGNATURES OBTAINED AT KHITOMER.



IF WE CAN IDENTIFY THE TRUE AGGRESSORS AND PROVIDE THE KLINGONS WITH THAT INFORMATION, IT MAY EASE THE TENSION BETWEEN US AND LEAD TO THE RELEASE OF CAPTAIN KIRK AND THE OTHERS.

I VOLUNTEER TO LEAD A DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO KRONOS ONCE THE TRUE THREAT TO THE EMPIRE IS IDENTIFIED.



I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ALLOW THAT, COMMANDER SPOCK. YOUR RETURN TO KLINGON SPACE WOULD ONLY PROVOKE THEM FURTHER.



THE ENTERPRISE IS TO REMAIN AT STATION K-11 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.





WELL,  
THAT WAS  
A SHORT  
TRIP.



NO SOONER  
DO GET I ABOARD  
THE ENTERPRISE  
THAN WE'RE RIGHT  
BACK HERE WHERE  
WE STARTED.

ANY  
WORD  
ON OUR  
ORDERS  
NOW?

NO.

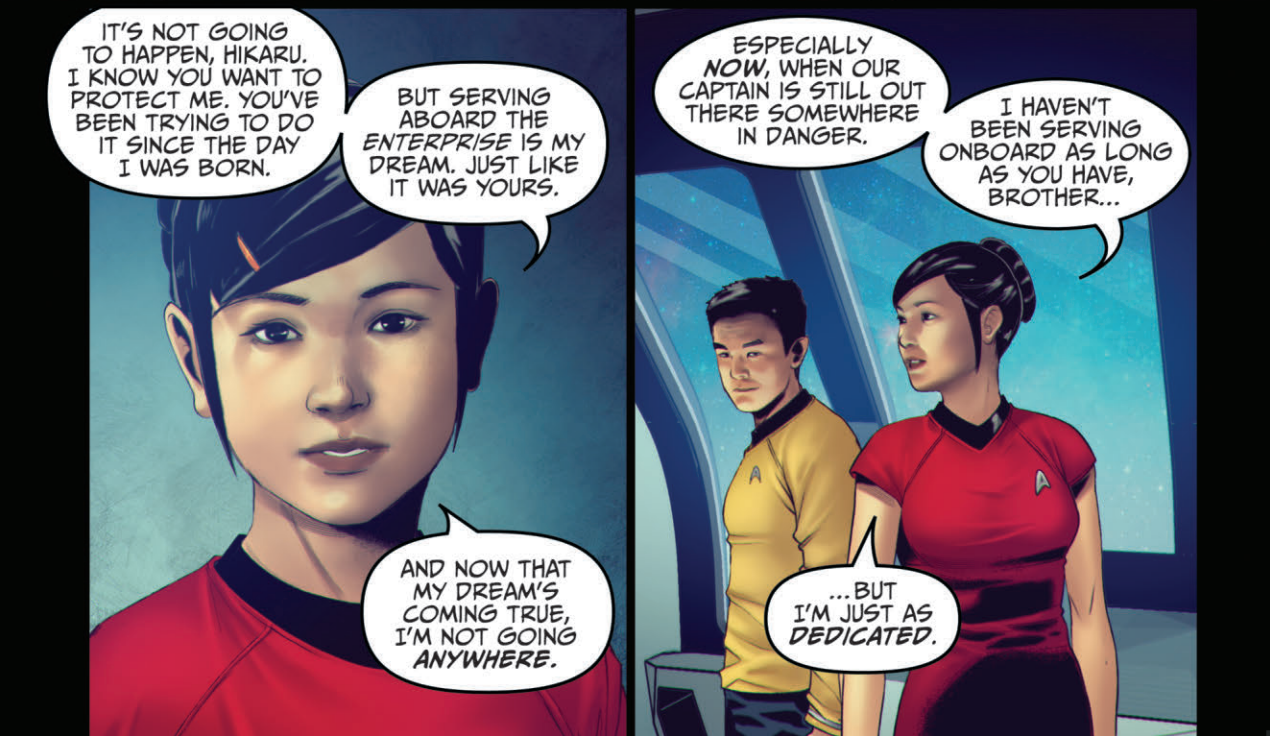
LISTEN,  
YUKI...



WE NEED TO  
TALK ABOUT YOUR  
TRANSFER. NOW THAT  
WE'RE BACK AT THE  
STARBASE YOU HAVE  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
CHANGE YOUR—

"—MY  
MIND?"

MY POOR,  
TINY, DELUDED-  
LITTLE-SISTER  
MIND?



IT'S NOT GOING  
TO HAPPEN, HIKARU.  
I KNOW YOU WANT TO  
PROTECT ME. YOU'VE  
BEEN TRYING TO DO  
IT SINCE THE DAY  
I WAS BORN.

BUT SERVING  
ABOARD THE  
ENTERPRISE IS MY  
DREAM. JUST LIKE  
IT WAS YOURS.

ESPECIALLY  
NOW, WHEN OUR  
CAPTAIN IS STILL OUT  
THERE SOMEWHERE  
IN DANGER.

I HAVEN'T  
BEEN SERVING  
ONBOARD AS LONG  
AS YOU HAVE,  
BROTHER...

AND NOW THAT  
MY DREAM'S  
COMING TRUE,  
I'M NOT GOING  
ANYWHERE.

... BUT  
I'M JUST AS  
DEDICATED.





TELL ME  
AGAIN ABOUT  
THE MAN YOU  
CALL KHAN.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I  
TOLD YOU BEFORE.  
THE TRUTH.

KHAN WAS A  
ROGUE AGENT,  
AN AUGMENTED  
HUMAN THAT MY  
CREW AND I WERE  
SENT TO CAPTURE  
ON KRONOS.

WE NEVER  
INTENDED TO  
HARM ANY OF YOUR  
PEOPLE, MUCH  
LESS PROVOKE  
A WAR.

THE TRUTH IS WE  
AVOIDED A WAR FROM  
STARTING AT THE HANDS  
OF A CORRUPT STARFLEET  
ADMIRAL, THE SAME MAN  
WHO WOKE KHAN  
FROM SUSPENDED  
ANIMATION.



HA  
HAHA  
HA

I COMMEND  
YOU, CAPTAIN!  
YOU ARE CERTAINLY  
AN ENTHUSIASTIC  
TALE-TELLER!



A ROGUE  
AGENT?

WE HAVE  
RECORDINGS OF  
THIS MAN CALLING  
YOU "CAPTAIN" AFTER  
HE SLAUGHTERED  
OUR TROOPS!

I WANT TO  
KNOW WHERE  
THIS "KHAN" IS.  
HIS ABILITY IN  
COMBAT IS MOST  
UN-HUMAN.







YOUR RECORDINGS SHOULD ALSO SHOW KHAN SURRENDERING TO ME WHEN WE MET!

DOES THAT SOUND LIKE HE WAS ACTING ON MY ORDERS?

I SAW IT FOR WHAT IT WAS. PART OF A FEDERATION PLOT TO OBSCURE YOUR TRUE MOTIVES.



AND NOW I AM SURE THIS "KHAN" IS SOMEWHERE WORKING TO UNDERMINE THE EMPIRE EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

IF YOU WISH TO KEEP YOUR TONGUE, YOU WILL TELL ME WHERE HE IS.



I DON'T KNOW.

ALL I DO KNOW IS THAT HE WAS SENTENCED TO INDEFINITE DETENTION AND DELIVERED TO A TOP-SECRET CONTAINMENT FACILITY.

LISTEN, COMMANDER, MAYBE IT WAS THE ROMULANS WHO—



**ENOUGH!**

THE ROMULANS DO NOT POSSESS THE FIREPOWER TO WIPE AN ENTIRE COLONY COMPLETELY FROM THE SURFACE OF A PLANET!

I DO NOT WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THEM!

YOU HAD BEST COME UP WITH BETTER LIES, CAPTAIN—

**BAM**



"—FOR MY INTEREST IN YOUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE IS RAPIDLY DIMINISHING."





COME IN.



NYOTA. I AM AFRAID I AM BUSY WITH—

I'M NOT HERE TO CUDDLE, SPOCK.

I'M HERE BECAUSE WE'RE WASTING PRECIOUS TIME.



NO ONE KNOWS BETTER THAN ME WHAT THE KLINGONS ARE CAPABLE OF.

YOU SAW IT YOURSELF BACK ON KRONOS.

NOW WE'RE PUTTING OUR FAITH IN KLINGON "PATIENCE"— THEIR WORD FOR WHICH SHARES THE SAME ETYMOLOGY AS "WEAKNESS," BY THE WAY— AND HOPING THAT IT MEANS OUR PEOPLE ARE STILL ALIVE.



I SHARE YOUR CONCERN, LIEUTENANT, BUT OUR ORDERS STAND.

IN THE MEANTIME, I WELCOME ALL SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW BEST TO ENSURE OUR COLLEAGUES' SAFE RETURN.

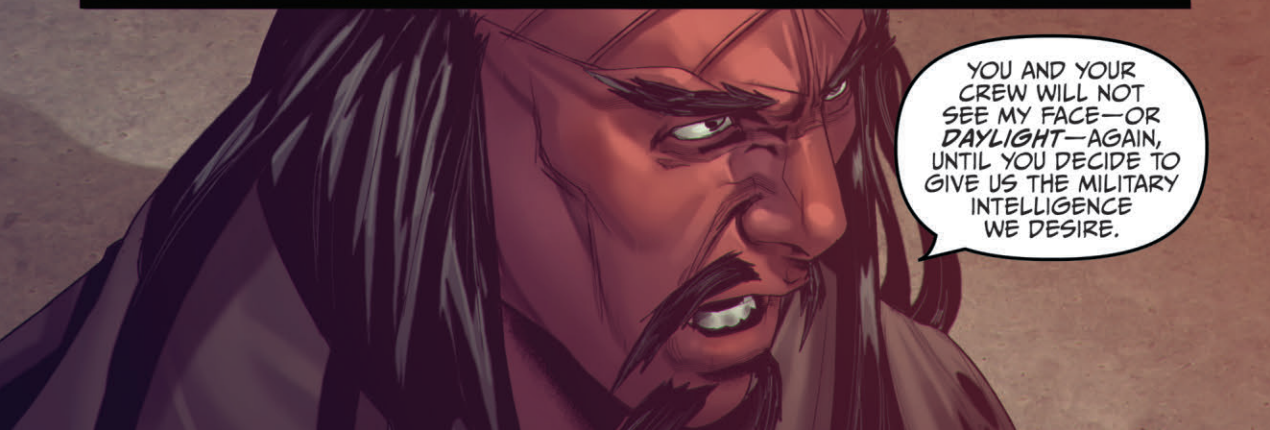
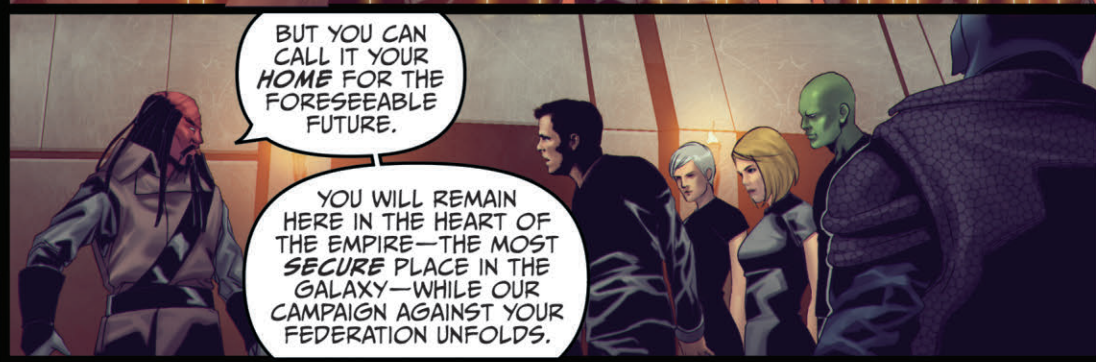
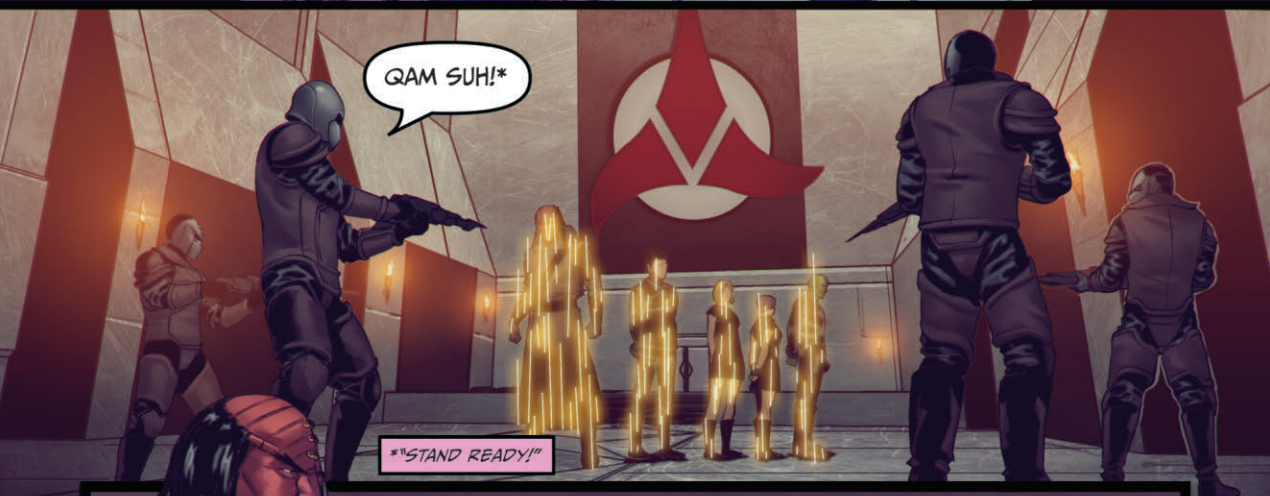
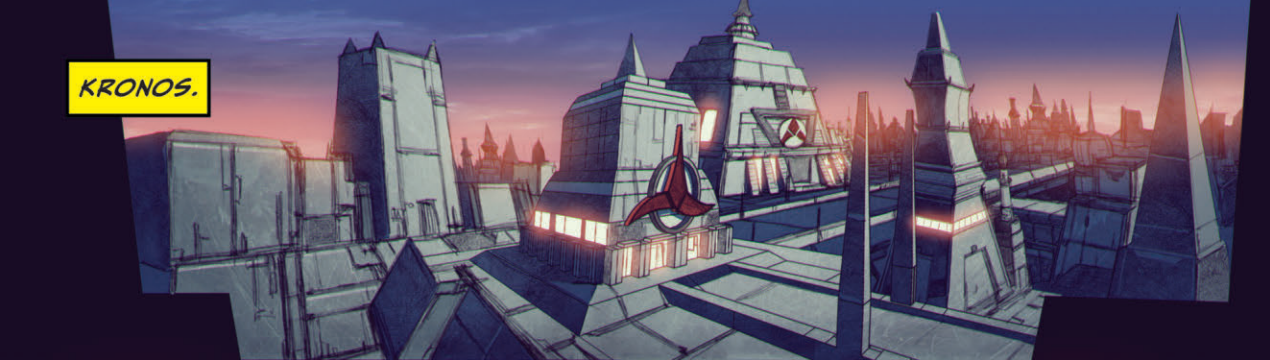


MY SUGGESTION?

DO WHAT YOUR CAPTAIN WOULD DO.



KRONOS.







CHAH NGE!\*

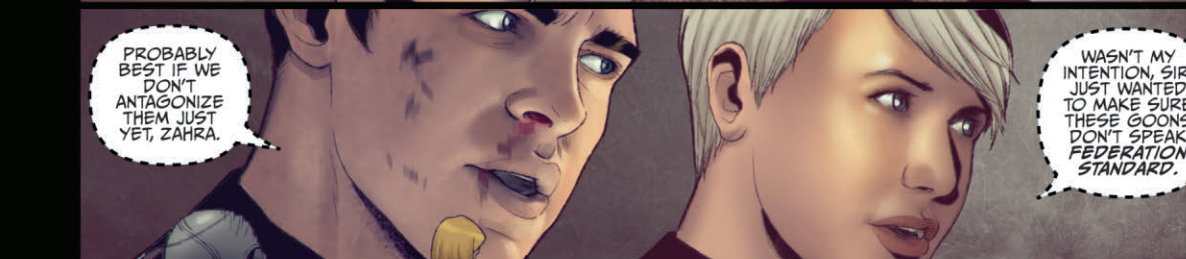
\*"TAKE THEM AWAY!"



TAM!!\*

HEY UGLY!  
YOUR MOTHER  
MATES WITH  
UNCLEAN  
FERENGI!

\*"SILENCE!!!"



PROBABLY  
BEST IF WE  
DON'T  
ANTAGONIZE  
THEM JUST  
YET, ZAHRA.

WASN'T MY  
INTENTION, SIR.  
JUST WANTED  
TO MAKE SURE  
THESE GOONS  
DON'T SPEAK  
FEDERATION  
STANDARD.



IF THEY DID,  
MY FRIEND HERE  
WOULD HAVE SHOT  
ME ON THE SPOT  
FOR MY INSULT.

WHICH MEANS  
I CAN TELL  
YOU FREELY...

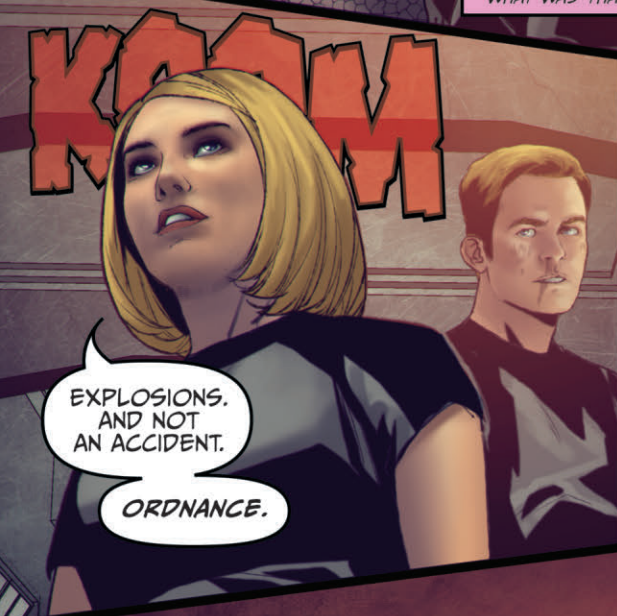


...THAT I'VE  
UNLOCKED MY  
SHACKLES. KAI'S  
TOO. JUST SAY  
THE WORD AND  
WE'LL GO.

HOW DID  
YOU DO  
THAT?!

THERE ARE SOME  
THINGS THEY DON'T  
TEACH YOU AT THE  
ACADEMY, SIR.










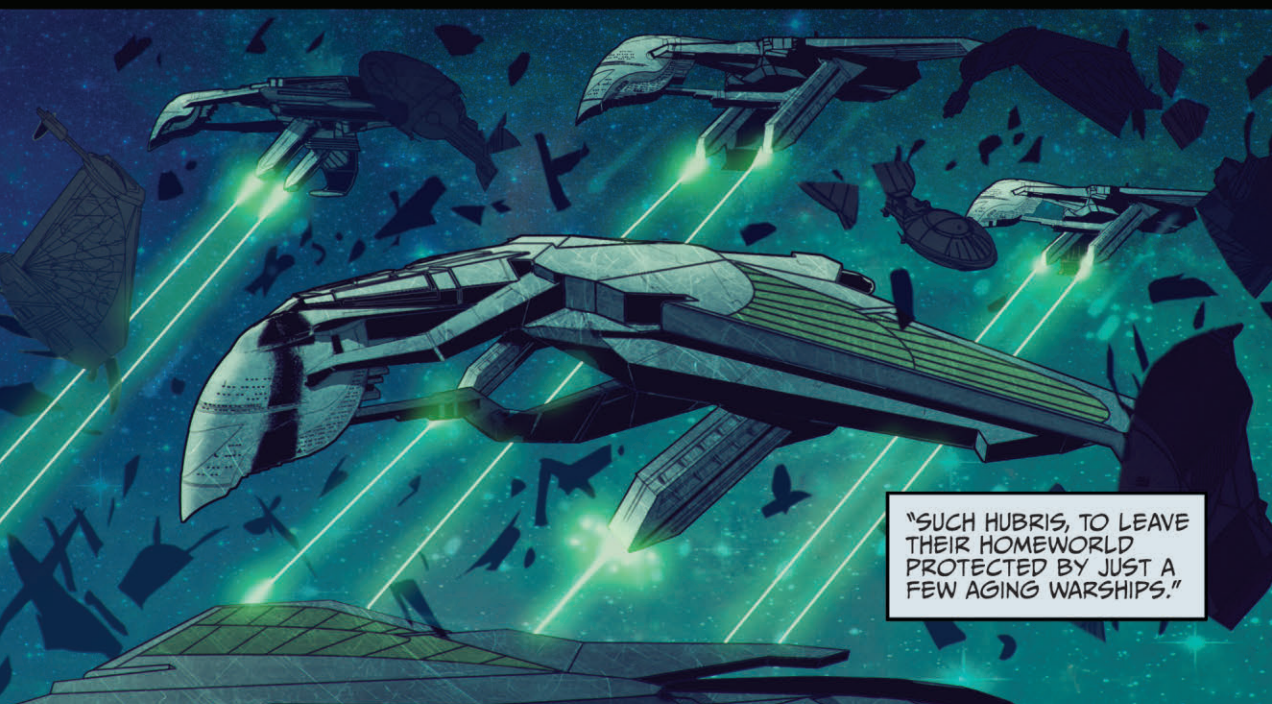





"THE BOMBARDMENT  
OF ALL MAIN CITIES IS  
UNDERWAY, COMMANDER!"



EXCELLENT,  
DECIUS. IT'S TIME  
TO SHOW THIS  
MISBEGOTTEN RACE  
THE POWER OF A  
TRUE EMPIRE!



"SUCH HUBRIS, TO LEAVE  
THEIR HOMELAND  
PROTECTED BY JUST A  
FEW AGING WARSHIPS."



LET US HOPE  
OUR ALLIES  
HAVE SIMILAR  
SUCCESS WITH  
THEIR *GROUND*  
ASSAULT.





I  
KNEW  
IT!

THE  
FEDERATION  
ATTACKS US!



NO. NOT THE  
FEDERATION.

BEST  
GUESS?

WHOEVER HIT  
KHITOMER HAS  
COME TO FINISH  
OFF YOUR  
HOMEWORLD.



I  
KNEW  
IT!

HUMANS!!

NO.

NOT  
HUMANS.





SECTION 31.







Artwork by Garrie Gastonny  
Colors by Sakti Yuwono & Ifansyah Noor





ACTING CAPTAIN'S LOG,  
STARDATE 2261.149.

## CHAPTER 3

THE *ENTERPRISE* HAS DEPARTED DEEP SPACE STATION K-11 AND IS NOW MONITORING THE BORDER OF KLINGON SPACE CLOSEST TO OUR POSITION.

CAPTAIN KIRK AND FOUR CREWMEMBERS REMAIN CAPTIVES OF THE KLINGON EMPIRE.

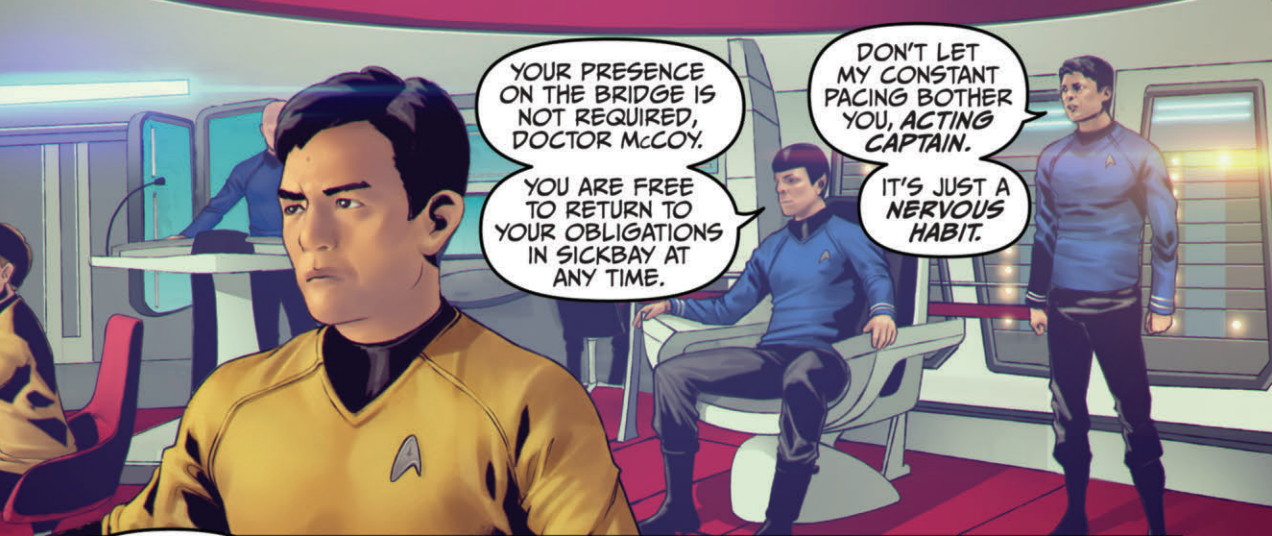
STARFLEET COMMAND HAS FORBIDDEN ANY ATTEMPT TO RESCUE THEM, AWARE THAT SUCH ACTION COULD LEAD TO THE OUTBREAK OF FULL-SCALE WAR.

VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC SOLUTIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY STARFLEET, IN THE HOPES THAT THEIR RELEASE CAN BE ACHIEVED PEACEFULLY.

I AM INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT SUCH A RESULT IS UNLIKELY.







YOUR PRESENCE ON THE BRIDGE IS NOT REQUIRED, DOCTOR MCCOY.

DON'T LET MY CONSTANT PACING BOTHER YOU, ACTING CAPTAIN.

YOU ARE FREE TO RETURN TO YOUR OBLIGATIONS IN SICKBAY AT ANY TIME.

IT'S JUST A NERVOUS HABIT.



AND SINCE YOU'VE LONG STOPPED LISTENING TO ANY OF THE SOUND LOGIC I'VE BEEN SPOUTING FOR THE LAST HOUR, I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT MY SAID PACING WILL EVENTUALLY CONVINCE YOU TO DO THE RIGHT THING!

WE HAVE TO GET OUR PEOPLE BACK!



DOCTOR, PLEASE DO NOT INTERPRET MY REFUSAL TO DO SO AS AN INABILITY TO APPRECIATE, OR TO SHARE, YOUR DESIRE TO SEE OUR COLLEAGUES' SAFE RETURN.

BUT OUR ORDERS ARE WHAT THEY ARE.

ORDERS?



I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT ORDERS, I'M TALKING ABOUT KLINGONS ROASTING OUR FRIENDS FOR DINNER!

YOU AND UHURA SAW WHAT THEY'RE LIKE UP CLOSE ON KRONOS!\* TELL ME I'M WRONG!

WHAT'S THE WORST THAT WOULD HAPPEN TO US IF WE DISOBEYED ORDERS? WE GET COURT-MARTIALED? DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED?

MAYBE I'M JUST OLD-FASHIONED...

\*AS SEEN IN STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS!



"...BUT I THINK  
OUR FRIENDS  
ARE WORTH IT."

CAROL—

CHKOOM

—LOOK  
OUT!

CAPTAIN, IF  
SECTION 31 IS  
LEADING THE  
ATTACK ON  
KRONOS—

I KNOW,  
CAROL—



SHRKOW

SHRKOW

—I'M NOT  
SURE WHOSE  
SIDE WE'RE ON,  
EITHER!

BUT WE'RE NOT  
STICKING AROUND TO  
FIGURE IT OUT. ALL OF  
YOU, FOLLOW ME.

WE HAVE TO  
FIND A SHIP—ANY  
SHIP—AND GET  
BACK TO THE  
ENTERPRISE!

WHOA—!

TELL ME,  
KIRK. WHY  
SHOULD I LET  
YOUR RESCUERS  
TAKE YOU  
ALIVE?

KOOM





THESE AREN'T  
MY PEOPLE,  
KOR! YOU HAVE  
TO BELIEVE  
ME!  
THEY'LL  
KILL ALL  
OF US!



IN THAT  
CASE...  
...YOU  
FIRST.








FASCINATING.

I WOULD CERTAINLY SAY SO, COMMANDER!

THE ENERGY SIGNATURES WE FOUND ON KHITOMER ARE ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE WEAPONS THE VENGEANCE USED TO ATTACK US!



BEFORE THEY WERE KEPTURED BY THE KLEENGONS, CAROL WAS ABLE TO TRANSMETEE ENOUGH OF HER READINGS FOR US TO MATCH THEM!



THE LOGICAL ASSUMPTION IS THAT SECTION 31 IS STILL ACTIVE, AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON KHITOMER.



IS THAT SO HARD TO BELIEVE?



STARFLEET HAS BEEN TRYING TO ELIMINATE ALL TRACES OF SECTION 31 IN THE WAKE OF ADMIRAL MARCUS' BETRAYAL.

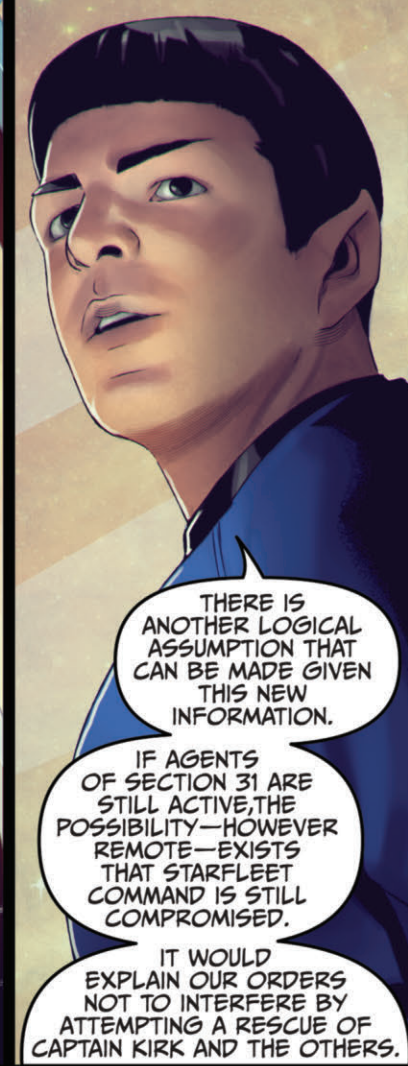
BUT WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT THEM? IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE MARCUS HAD OTHER PLANS ALREADY SET IN MOTION. AND I'M SURE HE HAD CONTINGENCIES IN PLACE IF ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO HIM.





IT WOULD EXPLAIN  
WHY THE KLINGONS WERE  
THE TARGET.

MARCUS' GOAL WAS TO  
PROVOKE THEM INTO A WAR  
WITH THE FEDERATION IN THE  
HOPES OF CRIPPLING  
THEIR EMPIRE.



THERE IS  
ANOTHER LOGICAL  
ASSUMPTION THAT  
CAN BE MADE GIVEN  
THIS NEW  
INFORMATION.

IF AGENTS  
OF SECTION 31 ARE  
STILL ACTIVE, THE  
POSSIBILITY—HOWEVER  
REMOTE—EXISTS  
THAT STARFLEET  
COMMAND IS STILL  
COMPROMISED.

IT WOULD  
EXPLAIN OUR ORDERS  
NOT TO INTERFERE BY  
ATTEMPTING A RESCUE OF  
CAPTAIN KIRK AND THE OTHERS.



OOH, I  
QUITE LIKE  
THIS TRAIN OF  
THOUGHT!

REALLY, THE  
ONLY THINGS WE  
CAN TRUST ARE  
THE PEOPLE ON  
THIS SHIP!



EVERY  
SECOND WE  
SPEND DEBATING  
THINGS IS ANOTHER  
SECOND OUR  
CAPTAIN AND  
CREW ARE IN  
DANGER.

WHAT DO  
WE DO,  
COMMANDER?



MR.  
CHEKOV...

...SET A  
COURSE FOR  
KRONOS.



SECTION  
31.

AND HERE  
I HOPED  
YOUR CAUSE  
DIED WITH  
MARCUS.

DON'T  
BE NAIVE,  
CAPTAIN.

THE  
ADMIRAL HAD  
CONTINGENCIES  
IN PLACE IN THE  
EVENT OF HIS  
DEMISE.

WE'RE HERE TO  
STOP THE THREAT OF  
KLINGON AGGRESSION  
BEFORE IT REACHES  
THE SOL SYSTEM.

STOP IT  
*PERMANENTLY.*

"*PERMANENTLY*"?  
WHAT IS THAT  
SUPPOSED TO  
MEAN?

THE DETAILS  
OF OUR MISSION  
ARE CLASSIFIED.  
LUCKY FOR YOU  
WE ARRIVED  
WHEN WE DID.

RAPTOR  
ONE, THIS IS  
SPEAR 31.

FOUR TO  
BEAM UP.

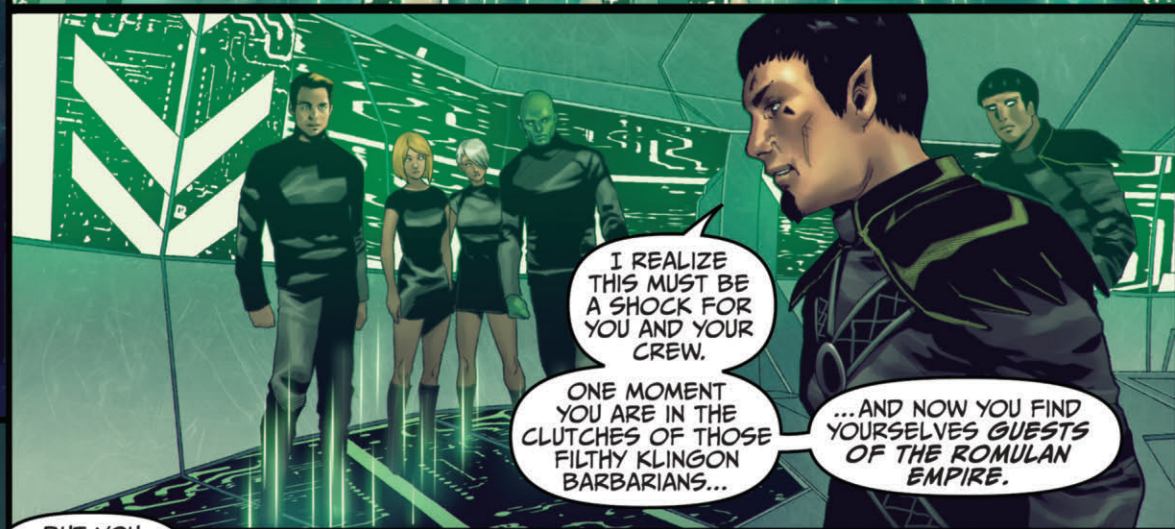
WHAT THE  
HELL—

THIS IS  
FOR YOUR  
OWN SAFETY,  
CAPTAIN.  
TRUST ME.





WELCOME,  
CAPTAIN KIRK!



I REALIZE  
THIS MUST BE  
A SHOCK FOR  
YOU AND YOUR  
CREW.

ONE MOMENT  
YOU ARE IN THE  
CLUTCHES OF THOSE  
FILTHY KLINGON  
BARBARIANS...

...AND NOW YOU FIND  
YOURSELVES *GUESTS*  
OF THE ROMULAN  
EMPIRE.



BUT YOU  
MUST BELIEVE  
ME, CAPTAIN.

WE MEAN  
YOU NO  
HARM.



I'M HERE TO  
ENSURE COMMANDER  
L'NAR KEEPS HIS  
WORD.

AND YOU  
ARE?

MY  
NAME'S NOT  
IMPORTANT.





WHAT **DOES** MATTER IS THAT I'M AS **LOYAL** TO THE FEDERATION AND STARFLEET AS YOU ARE, KIRK.

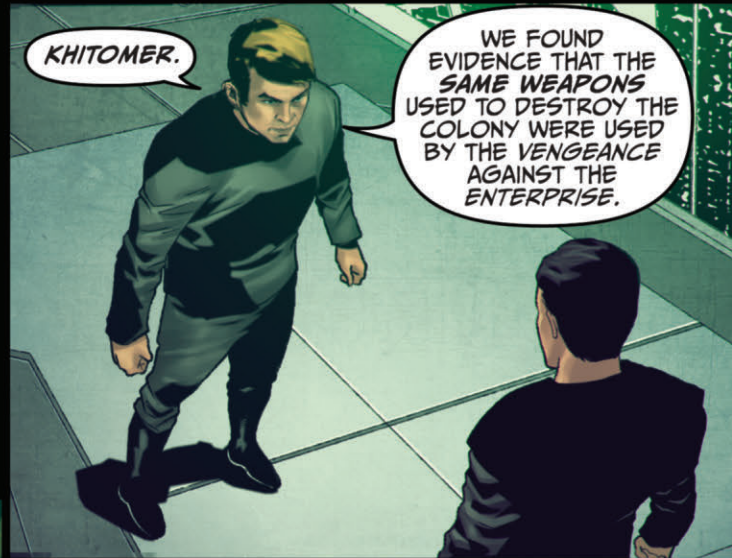
I'M WELL AWARE OF SECTION 31'S STATUS WITHIN STARFLEET NOW. BUT OUR MISSION REMAINS THE SAME.

**PROTECT EARTH AT ALL COSTS.**



BY TEAMING UP WITH THE ROMULANS TO START A **GALACTIC WAR?**

PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES ASIDE, HOW CAN YOU BE CERTAIN WE ARE ALIGNED WITH THE ROMULANS?



**KHITOMER.**

WE FOUND EVIDENCE THAT THE **SAME WEAPONS** USED TO DESTROY THE COLONY WERE USED BY THE VENGEANCE AGAINST THE ENTERPRISE.



MY GUESS? YOU TRADED YOUR ADVANCED TECH FOR THEIR HELP IN WIPING OUT THE KLINGONS.

BUT I'M GOING TO STOP YOU **BOTH.**



AND THERE IT IS. THE **FAMOUS KIRK BRAVADO.**

I WAS THERE, YOU KNOW, BACK WHEN YOU WERE CALLED UP IN FRONT OF THE ACADEMY BRASS FOR CHEATING ON THE KOBAYASHI MARU TEST. I WAS IN THE CROWD LISTENING AS YOU CLAIMED YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN "NO-WIN SCENARIOS."

AND YET HERE YOU ARE, IN **ONE NOW.**





ALL  
STATIONS  
REPORT!  
WHAT HIT  
US?!

OUR  
SCANNERS  
DIDN'T DETECT  
THEM, SIR! BUT  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE—



"THE REST OF THE  
KLINGON FLEET!"



"ARRIVING AT KRONOS MOMENTARILY, COMMANDER."



THANK YOU, MR. SULU. ESTABLISH SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT OVER THE CAPITOL.



COMMANDER, WE'RE BEING HAILED BY STARFLEET COMMAND! PRIORITY ONE!

DO WE ACCEPT?



NEGATIVE, LIEUTENANT. MAINTAIN COMM SILENCE FOR NOW.



DROPPING OUT OF WARP IN THREE...

TWO...



"...ONE!"







COMMANDER,  
SENSORS DETECT  
THE ARRIVAL OF A  
FEDERATION  
SHIP!

IT'S THE  
ENTERPRISE!



HOW  
INTERESTING.

IT SEEMS THAT  
WHOMEVER YOU LEFT IN  
COMMAND OF YOUR SHIP  
IS AS BRASH IN HIS  
DECISION-MAKING AS  
YOU ARE, CAPTAIN  
KIRK.



SHOULD WE  
TARGET THEM,  
COMMANDER?

NO.

HAIL  
THEM.



COMMANDER,  
ONE OF THE  
ROMULAN SHIPS  
IS HAILING US!



ONSCREEN.

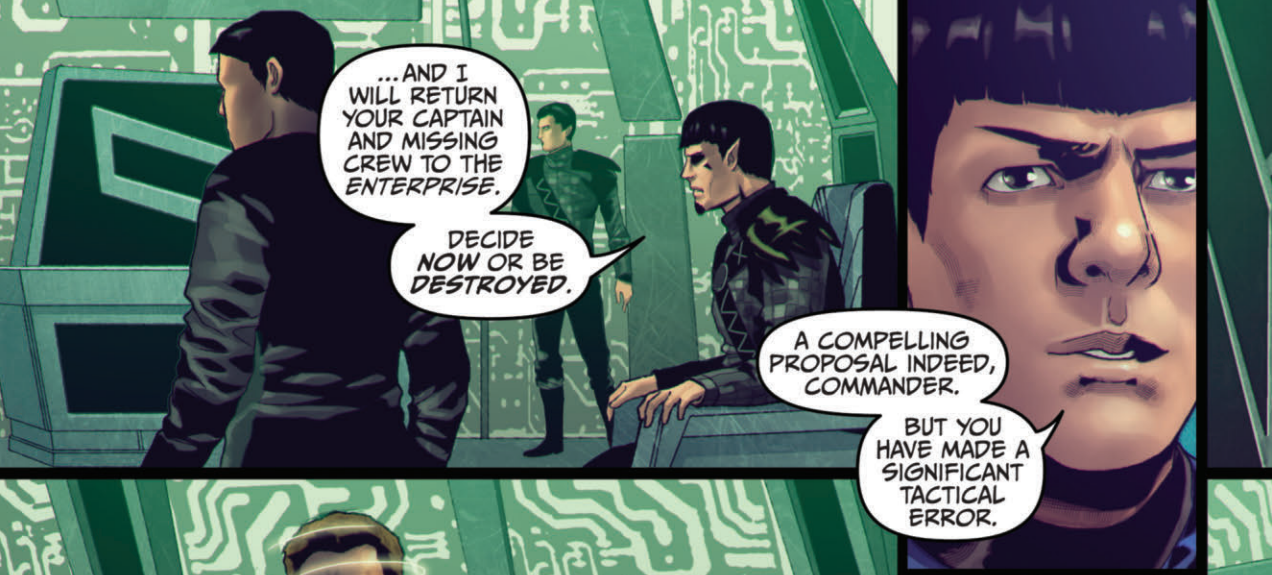
GREETINGS,  
COMMANDER!



TIME IS OF  
THE ESSENCE,  
SO I WILL MAKE  
MY OFFER A  
SIMPLE ONE.

ASSIST US IN  
DISPATCHING WITH  
THE REMAINDER  
OF THE KLINGON  
FLEET...



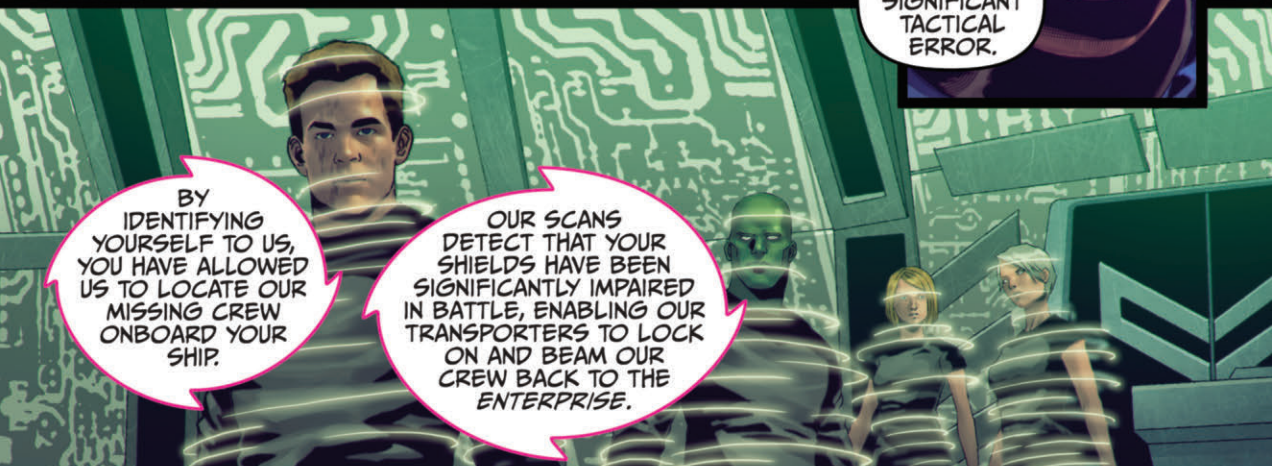


...AND I  
WILL RETURN  
YOUR CAPTAIN  
AND MISSING  
CREW TO THE  
ENTERPRISE.

DECIDE  
NOW OR BE  
DESTROYED.

A COMPELLING  
PROPOSAL INDEED,  
COMMANDER.

BUT YOU  
HAVE MADE A  
SIGNIFICANT  
TACTICAL  
ERROR.



BY  
IDENTIFYING  
YOURSELF TO US,  
YOU HAVE ALLOWED  
US TO LOCATE OUR  
MISSING CREW  
ONBOARD YOUR  
SHIP.

OUR SCANS  
DETECT THAT YOUR  
SHIELDS HAVE BEEN  
SIGNIFICANTLY IMPAIRED  
IN BATTLE, ENABLING OUR  
TRANSPORTERS TO LOCK  
ON AND BEAM OUR  
CREW BACK TO THE  
ENTERPRISE.



THE ENTERPRISE HAS NO  
STAKE IN THIS CONFLICT. WE  
CAME HERE ONLY TO RESCUE  
OUR MISSING COLLEAGUES.  
WE WILL NOW RETURN TO  
FEDERATION SPACE.

ENTERPRISE  
OUT.



THANK  
YOU,  
SPOCK.

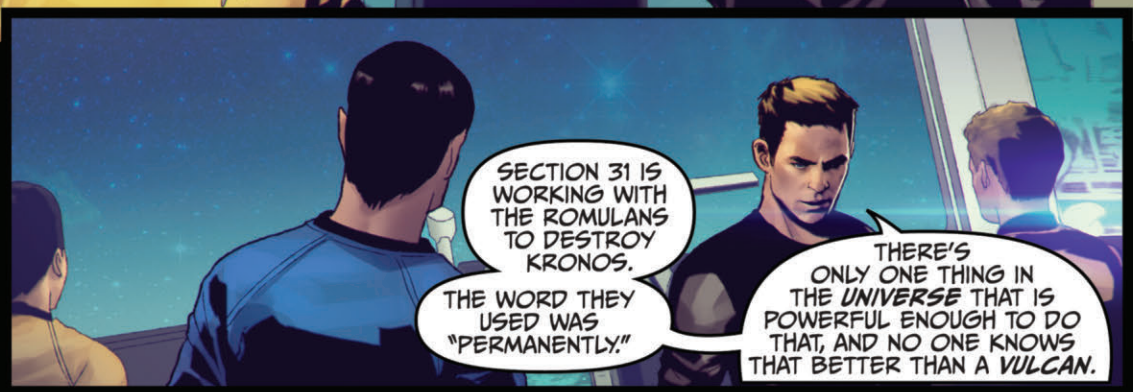
BUT WE'RE  
NOT GOING  
ANYWHERE.





MR. CHEKOV,  
PLOT COORDINATES  
TO BEAM US DOWN  
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE IMPERIAL  
PALACE.

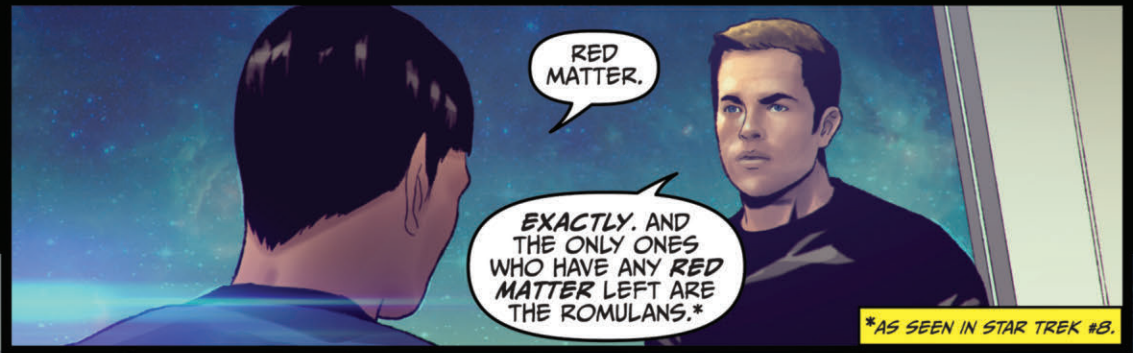
I AM AFRAID I  
DO NOT FOLLOW,  
CAPTAIN. WHY DO  
YOU WISH TO  
RETURN TO  
KRONOS?



SECTION 31 IS  
WORKING WITH  
THE ROMULANS  
TO DESTROY  
KRONOS.

THE WORD THEY  
USED WAS  
"PERMANENTLY,"

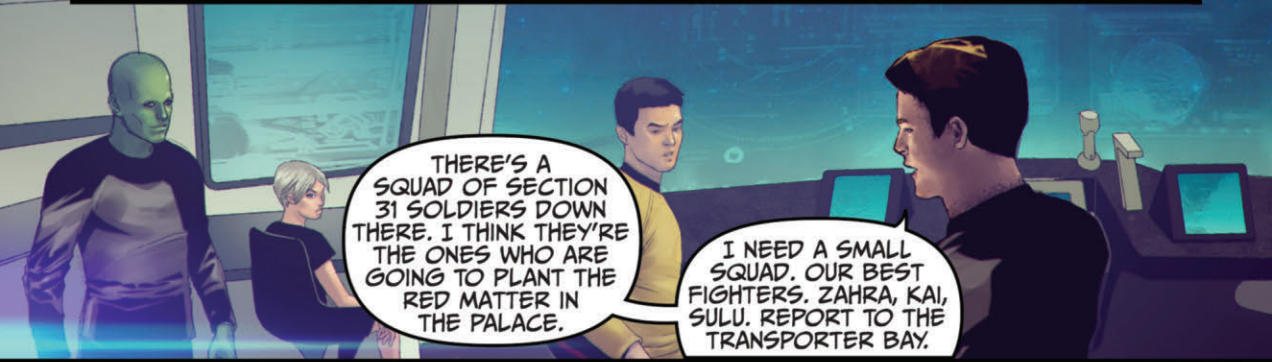
THERE'S  
ONLY ONE THING IN  
THE *UNIVERSE* THAT IS  
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO  
THAT, AND NO ONE KNOWS  
THAT BETTER THAN A *VULCAN*.



RED  
MATTER.

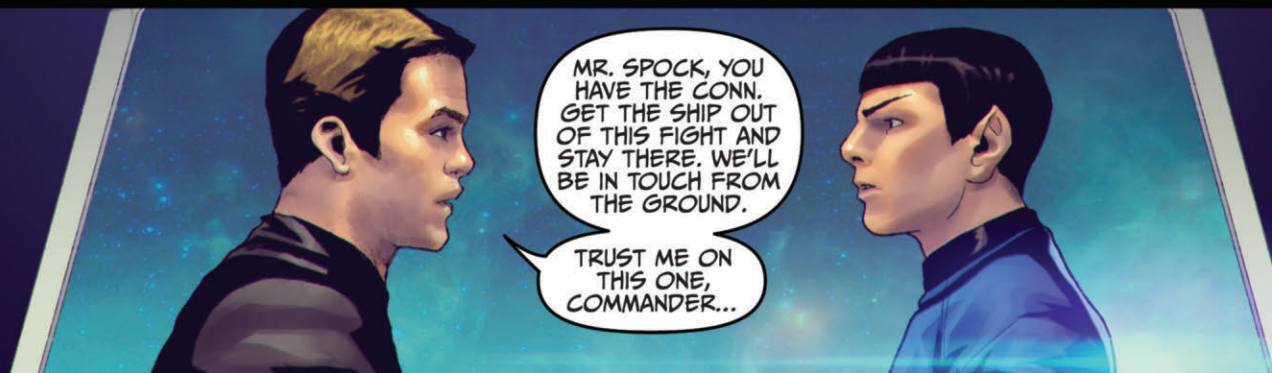
*EXACTLY.* AND  
THE ONLY ONES  
WHO HAVE ANY *RED  
MATTER* LEFT ARE  
THE ROMULANS.\*

*\*AS SEEN IN STAR TREK #8.*



THERE'S A  
SQUAD OF SECTION  
31 SOLDIERS DOWN  
THERE. I THINK THEY'RE  
THE ONES WHO ARE  
GOING TO PLANT THE  
RED MATTER IN  
THE PALACE.

I NEED A SMALL  
SQUAD. OUR BEST  
FIGHTERS. ZAHRA, KAI,  
SULU. REPORT TO THE  
TRANSPORTER BAY.



MR. SPOCK, YOU  
HAVE THE CONN.  
GET THE SHIP OUT  
OF THIS FIGHT AND  
STAY THERE. WE'LL  
BE IN TOUCH FROM  
THE GROUND.

TRUST ME ON  
THIS ONE,  
COMMANDER...



"...WE'RE THE ONLY HOPE  
THE KLINGONS HAVE LEFT."



WEAPONS  
AT MAX  
STUN.



WE DON'T  
HAVE TIME TO  
NEGOTIATE  
WITH THESE  
PEOPLE. DON'T  
WAIT FOR MY  
COMMAND.

YOU SEE  
ONE, YOU  
SHOOT.











I GAVE YOU  
A CHANCE TO  
LEAVE, KIRK.  
YOUR ONLY  
CHANCE.



CHKOW



NNHH—

RRAAH—!



SHKOW



HHKK—!













—DETECTED?

I'M  
SORRY,  
CAPTAIN.



BUT I CAN'T  
ALLOW THIS  
TO GO ANY  
FURTHER.

NO...



—YUKI!

I'M  
SORRY,  
HIKARU.

BUT YOU'RE  
NOT THE ONLY  
MEMBER OF OUR  
FAMILY THAT  
SECTION 31 TRIED  
TO RECRUIT. YOU  
TURNED DOWN  
THEIR OFFER.

I DIDN'T.







Artwork by Erfan Fajar  
Colors by Ifansyah Noor





VULCAN.

FOUR YEARS AGO.

## CHAPTER 4

"I, FOR ONE, AM NOT SURPRISED THAT YOUR BROTHER HAS BEEN SELECTED TO SERVE ABOARD THE *ENTERPRISE*."

HIS SCORES ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST EVER RECORDED BY THE ACADEMY, YUKI.

I KNOW YOU HAVE TO MAINTAIN YOUR COOL VULCAN DEMEANOR, T'PAN...

BUT I KNOW DEEP DOWN YOU'RE AS EXCITED AS I AM! AND I KNOW YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A LITTLE CRUSH ON HIKARU...

A "CRUSH"? I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS EARTH EXPRESSION.

OH, PLEASE. YOU'VE BEEN AT THE ACADEMY LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW **EXACTLY** WHAT I MEAN. SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHEN ARE YOU GETTING BACK HERE?



THE  
SEMESTER  
STARTS NEXT  
WEEK!

I DEPART FROM  
VULCAN TOMORROW. I  
AM PLEASED THAT WE WILL  
SHARE ACCOMMODATIONS  
AGAIN THIS YEAR,  
YUKI.

LIKewise,  
ROOMIE!

TTTTZZTT  
ZZTTT

T'PAN, CAN  
YOU HEAR  
ME?

MUST BE  
SOME SUBSPACE  
STATIC...

TTZZ - UKI?  
SOMETHING IS  
WRO - ZZTZ

YOU'RE  
BREAKING  
UP!

ZZTT

T'PAN...? IF  
YOU CAN STILL  
HEAR ME...

"...I'LL SEE YOU SOON!"



KRONOS. THE KLINGON HOMEWORLD.

NOW.

BUT IT WASN'T  
SUBSPACE STATIC. IT  
WAS A ROMULAN  
TERRORIST DRILLING INTO  
THE CORE OF VULCAN  
FROM ORBIT.

I NEVER SAW  
MY BEST FRIEND  
AGAIN.

I'M SORRY,  
HIKARU. I WISH  
THERE WAS  
ANOTHER WAY.

BUT IF I-IF **SECTION 31**-DOESN'T  
CRIPPLE THE KLINGON EMPIRE TODAY,  
THE EARTH WILL SUFFER THE SAME  
FATE AS VULCAN. WE WILL **NEVER**  
LET THAT HAPPEN.

EVEN IF IT MEANS I HAVE TO  
POINT A PHASER AT MY  
OWN BROTHER.

SO WHY  
HAVEN'T YOU  
FIRED IT?

THEY TRIED TO RECRUIT ME  
**FIRST, YUKI.\*** I GUESS YOU  
KNOW THAT BY NOW.

SOMETHING  
SMELLED WRONG  
ABOUT IT FROM  
THE START, SO I  
CHOSE THE  
**ENTERPRISE**  
INSTEAD.

I SHOULD'VE  
KNOWN THEY'D  
KEEP GOING  
AFTER THE BEST  
CADETS THEY  
COULD FIND.

I SHOULD HAVE  
KNOWN THEY'D  
GO AFTER  
**YOU.**

AND I COULD  
HAVE TOLD THEM  
THEY WERE WASTING  
TIME TRYING TO  
RECRUIT YOU.

YOU WERE  
MEANT TO FLY  
**STARSHIPS,**  
HIKARU. NOT  
**FIGHT WARS.**

\*AS SEEN IN STAR  
TREK ISSUE #9.





I HOLD IN MY HAND THE  
LAST REMAINING PIECE  
OF RED MATTER IN  
THE GALAXY.

SHALL WE PUT  
IT TO GOOD  
USE?



WE'VE  
PREPPED THE  
DETONATOR.

WE'RE GOING TO  
PLACE IT IN THE HIGH  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
AND OPERATE IT  
REMOTELY.

THE DESTRUCTION  
WON'T BE AS TOTAL AS WITH  
VULCAN, GIVEN THAT WE ARE  
DETONATING ON THE SURFACE...  
BUT IT WILL BE **SUFFICIENT**.

LEAD US THERE.  
THE LESS TIME I  
HAVE TO SPEND ON  
THE SURFACE OF THIS  
GODFORSAKEN  
WORLD, THE  
BETTER.



YUKI, DON'T  
DO THIS!

ATTACKING ANOTHER  
WORLD ISN'T THE  
ANSWER!

I'M SORRY,  
HIKARU. YOU'LL NEVER  
UNDERSTAND... BUT I  
HOPE ONE DAY YOU  
CAN **FORGIVE** ME.



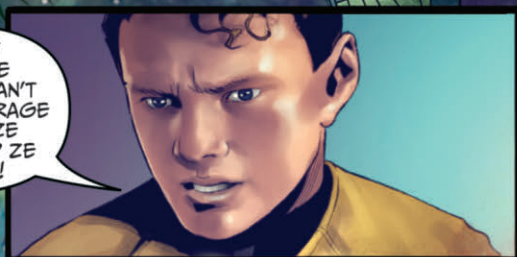


ABOVE KRONOS.



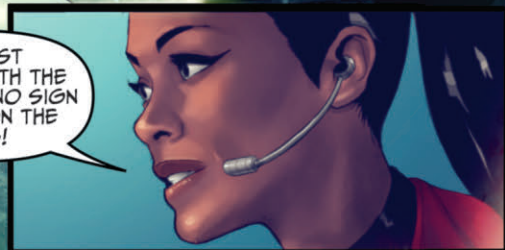
STATUS, MR. CHEKOV.

SHEELDS AT SEVENTY-NINE PERCENT! WE CAN'T SURVIVE THE BARRAGE FROM BOTH THE ROMULANS AND THE KLEENGONS!



IF YOU'RE LISTENING, MR. SPOCK, WHATEVER IT IS THEY'RE FIRING AT US IS SIGNIFICANTLY NASTIER THAN YOUR EVERYDAY PHOTON TORPEDO!

I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE AWAY TEAM! NO SIGN OF THEM ON THE SCANS!







CAPTAIN KIRK'S ORDERS REMAIN IN PLACE.

WE WILL ATTEMPT TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH HIM AND THE OTHERS *AFTER* WE HAVE DISENGAGED FROM THE CURRENT CONFLICT.



MR. SCOTT, EXPLAIN YOUR ANALYSIS, PLEASE.

HOW DOES HE SOUND SO BLOODY CALM AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

WELL, SIR, THE ENERGY SIGNATURES OF THEIR WEAPONS MATCH THOSE FROM BOTH THE *VENGEANCE* AND THE *NARADA*! TWO SHIPS I HOPED VERY MUCH NOT TO MEET AGAIN, SIR!



WHICH MAKES DISENGAGEMENT AN EVEN MORE LOGICAL TACTIC.

ANALYZE HOW WE MAY BEST DEFEND OURSELVES FROM THEIR WEAPONS, MR. SCOTT...



"...AS WE ATTEMPT TO GIVE YOU ENOUGH TIME TO DO SO."



"COMMANDER L'NAR! THE ENTERPRISE IS ESCAPING!"





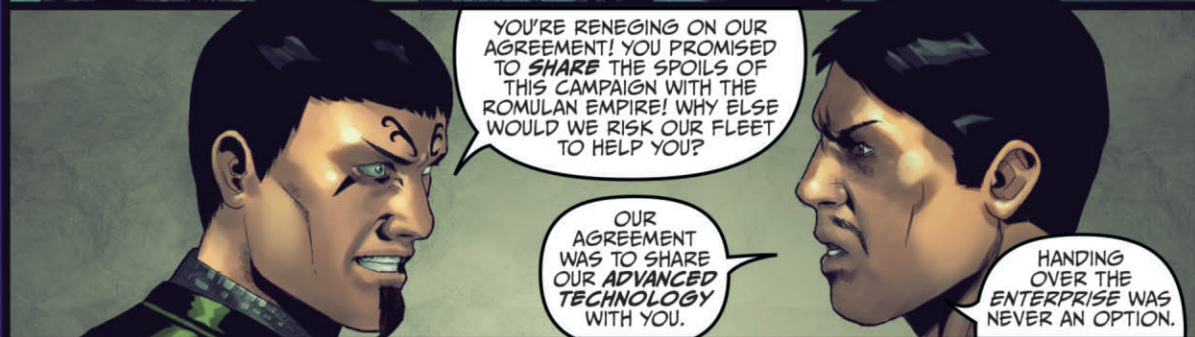
AND WE WILL  
**LET THEM,**  
LIEUTENANT.

WE ARE ALMOST  
FINISHED WIPING  
OUT THESE LAST  
PITIFUL REMNANTS OF  
THE KLINGON  
ARMADA!

THERE WILL  
BE PLENTY OF TIME  
TO HUNT DOWN THE  
FEDERATION  
FLAGSHIP LATER.



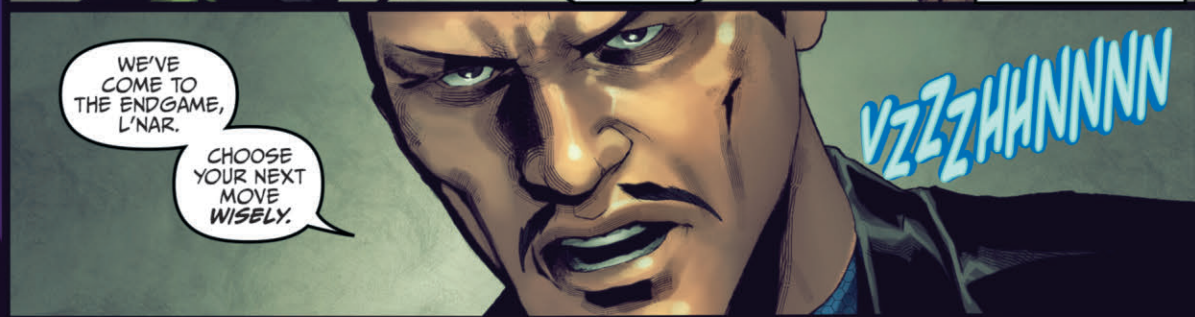
I'M AFRAID I  
CAN'T ALLOW  
THAT, L'NAR. THE  
*ENTERPRISE* AND  
ITS CREW BELONG  
TO SECTION 31.



YOU'RE RENEGING ON OUR  
AGREEMENT! YOU PROMISED  
TO *SHARE* THE SPOILS OF  
THIS CAMPAIGN WITH THE  
ROMULAN EMPIRE! WHY ELSE  
WOULD WE RISK OUR FLEET  
TO HELP YOU?

OUR  
AGREEMENT  
WAS TO SHARE  
OUR *ADVANCED*  
TECHNOLOGY  
WITH YOU.

HANDING  
OVER THE  
*ENTERPRISE* WAS  
NEVER AN OPTION.



WE'VE  
COME TO  
THE ENDGAME,  
L'NAR.

CHOOSE  
YOUR NEXT  
MOVE  
*WISELY.*

THE SURFACE OF KRONOS.

"THOUGH YOU HAVE  
CAPTURED THE *FIRST CITY*...

"PENETRATED THE VERY  
*HEART OF THE EMPIRE*..."





...YOU  
WILL NEVER  
WIN.

WE  
ALREADY HAVE,  
CHANCELLOR!



AT THE VERY  
LEAST, TAKE PRIDE IN  
THE FACT THAT THE  
LAST PARTICLE OF RED  
MATTER WILL BE USED  
TO ATTACK *KRONOS*. A  
LESS WORTHY FOE  
WOULD DESERVE NO  
SUCH HONOR.



LET'S GET THIS  
OVER WITH. IT'S  
ONLY A MATTER OF  
TIME BEFORE KLINGON  
REINFORCEMENTS  
ARRIVE FROM  
BEYOND THE CITY.

AGREED.

AGENTS—



SECURE THE  
ROMULANS.

—WHAT?!





THE ROMULAN WAS RIGHT. I HOLD THE FATE OF KRONOS IN MY HANDS.

GIVE THIS "CHILD" A REASON NOT TO USE IT.

YUK!! WHY--?

WHY? THINK, BROTHER. WHY ENTERTAIN THE ROMULANS ANY LONGER THAN WE HAVE TO?

IMPRESSIVE FORTITUDE FOR A HUMAN CHILD.

NOT A CHILD. A DEDICATED SERVANT OF THE FEDERATION.

LIEUTENANT SULU...

I CAN GIVE YOU TWO.







COMMANDER!

ZE  
ROMULANS!

"ZE'RE BACK!"

COMMANDER,  
THEY'RE HAILING  
US! STILL NO WORD  
FROM OUR AWAY  
TEAM ON THE  
SURFACE!

ONSCREEN.





LET ME GUESS, SPOCK. STILL NO WORD FROM YOUR CAPTAIN AND HIS TEAM ON KRONOS?

I CAN ASSURE YOU THEY ARE IN GOOD HEALTH...

...SAFELY UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MY SOLDIERS!

A PITY YOU ARE INCAPABLE OF SHOWING SURPRISE, COMMANDER. BUT I KNOW THAT UNDER THAT STOIC FAÇADE, YOUR HOPE IS CRUMBLING.

SURRENDER YOUR SHIP PEACEFULLY AND I WILL SPARE YOUR CREW, OR RESIST US AND BE DESTROYED. JUST LIKE THE PITIFUL KLINGON FLEET.

YOUR CHOICE COULD NOT BE MORE LOGICAL.

AND IF I CHOOSE NEITHER, AND INSTEAD DEPART FOR FEDERATION SPACE?

THEN YOU CONDEMN YOUR CAPTAIN TO DEATH. I AWAIT YOUR DECISION. MAKE IT *QUICKLY*.

COMMANDER! PICKING UP SOMETHING STRANGE FROM ZE STARBOARD SENSORS!

ROMULAN...?

NO SIR—!






"THIS IS SOMETHING NEW!"



SIR, IT  
APPEARS TO BE  
A **FEDERATION**  
SHIP... BUT IT WAS  
**CLOAKED!**

...**SECTION**  
**31.**





FORGIVE ME  
FOR IGNORING THE  
CUSTOMARY HAILS,  
COMMANDER SPOCK,  
BUT TIME IS OF  
THE ESSENCE.

YOUR NAME  
REMAINS AS  
MUCH A MYSTERY  
AS YOUR SHIP.



MY NAME IS  
UNIMPORTANT. ALL  
THAT MATTERS IS  
THE *MISSION*.

ALLOW ME TO  
INVITE ONE LAST  
PARTICIPANT TO OUR  
DISCUSSION.



HELLO AGAIN,  
COMMANDER  
L'NAR. I BELIEVE  
YOU KNOW MR.  
SPOCK.

WHAT IS THIS?  
WHERE DID YOUR  
SHIP COME  
FROM?!



OUR  
ALLIANCE DID  
NOT REQUIRE  
THAT WE DIVULGE  
ALL OF OUR  
SECRETS TO  
YOU, L'NAR.

AND NOW THAT  
OUR ALLIANCE IS  
OVER, THERE IS  
EVEN LESS OF AN  
INCENTIVE FOR  
ME TO DO SO.



WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN...  
'OVER'?





I'M LISTENING.

SECTION 31 WANTS TO ELIMINATE THE KLINGON THREAT, RIGHT? AND YOU THINK DESTROYING THEIR CAPITAL CITY IS GOING TO DO THAT?

ALL THAT'S GOING TO DO IS MAKE THEM **ANGRIER**. AS LONG AS **ONE KLINGON** IS ALIVE ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY, YOU'VE **FAILED**.

AM I WRONG, CHANCELLOR?

WISE WORDS, HUMAN.

JUST REMEMBER THAT NOT ALL HUMANS SEEK THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR PEOPLE.

SO WE SHOULD JUST **WALK AWAY**? JUST GIVE UP AND WAIT FOR THEM TO ATTACK?

NO.

IF YOU USE THE RED MATTER NOW, YOU LOSE THE **THREAT** OF IT FOREVER. AND THAT THREAT IS A MORE POWERFUL WEAPON—AGAINST **ANY ENEMY**—THAN ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN IMAGINE.





GIVE ME A REASON NOT TO BLOW YOU BOTH FROM THE STARS RIGHT NOW!



YOU WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO DO SO, L'NAR. I MUST SAY, I EXPECTED BETTER FROM THE VAUNTED ROMULAN EMPIRE.



WHAT—?



AH, JUST IN TIME.

WZZZZHHNN

YOU'LL WANT TO SEE THIS, CAPTAIN KIRK.

WHEN WE PROVIDED THE ROMULANS WITH OUR TECHNOLOGY, WE INSTALLED A SLEEPER PROGRAM THAT COULD ONLY BE ACTIVATED ON OUR END.

A PROGRAM THAT WILL NOW BE ACTIVATED ON EVERY ROMULAN SHIP.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!



I'M TALKING ABOUT ENDING ALL THREATS TO EARTH, L'NAR...



...NO MATTER WHERE THEY COME FROM.

NO.





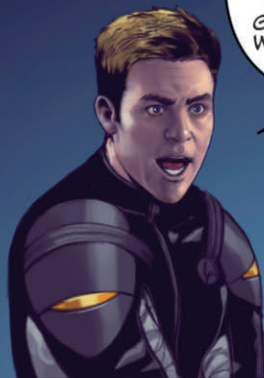








YOU **MANIAC!** YOU'VE JUST GUARANTEED THE ROMULANS WILL **RETALIATE!** HOW DOES THAT MAKE EARTH **SAFER?**



YOU'VE ALREADY ANSWERED YOUR OWN QUESTION, CAPTAIN.



I MONITORED YOUR CONVERSATION ON THE GROUND. AND YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT.

THE ONGOING THREAT OF ERADICATION IS MUCH MORE USEFUL TO US THAN A SINGLE INSTANCE OF IT.

AS FOR MAKING THE EARTH SAFER, BOTH THE ROMULAN AND KLINGON FLEETS ARE NOW IN PIECES. THE RED MATTER HAS BEEN RESCUED FROM THE ROMULANS' HANDS. AND THE KLINGONS ARE NOW JUST AS LIKELY TO RETALIATE AGAINST ROMULUS AS AGAINST US.

THE CHESSBOARD HAS CHANGED TO **OUR ADVANTAGE**, CAPTAIN. WHETHER YOU WANT TO ADMIT IT OR NOT.

SO WHAT NOW? YOU KILL US, DESTROY THE **ENTERPRISE**, AND FADE BACK INTO THE SHADOWS?







HARDLY. AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL, YOU ARE FREE TO GO.

ADMIRAL MARCUS WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IN YOUR MERCY.

ALEX MARCUS WAS A MADMAN WHO SET OUR WORK BACK YEARS. HE BETRAYED EVERYTHING SECTION 31 STANDS FOR.

AS HARD AS IT IS FOR YOU TO HEAR, KIRK... WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE.



JUST PUT ME BACK ON MY SHIP.

CAPTAIN, WAIT...

YOU SAID THERE WERE TWO REASONS I SHOULDN'T USE THE DETONATOR. ONE WAS TO SAVE IT AS A THREAT...

WHAT WAS THE OTHER ONE?

BECAUSE I KNOW YOUR BROTHER. AND I KNOW THAT DEEP DOWN, YOU SHARE THE SAME IDEALS, THE SAME COURAGE...

THE SAME HEART HE DOES.

IF YOU USED THAT DETONATOR—IF YOU *EVER DO*—YOU WOULD NEVER FORGIVE YOURSELF, NO MATTER WHAT NOBLE END YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE SERVING.



HIKARU... I...

GOODBYE, YUKI.











"WHAT DO I TELL OUR PARENTS?"



"HEY MOM, DAD, JUST SO YOU KNOW, YUKI'S RUN OFF WITH A TOP-SECRET BLACK-OPS SPLINTER GROUP DEDICATED TO PICKING A FIGHT WITH EVERY ENEMY THEY CAN FIND."

"OH, AND THEY HAVE THE MEANS TO BLOW UP A CITY."



TELL THEM WHAT THEY NEED TO HEAR. YOUR SISTER'S ALIVE AND ON A NEW ASSIGNMENT.

SO I LIE?

NO NEED TO BE SO *VULCAN* ABOUT IT. WHEN IT COMES TO THIS, YOU HAVE TO DEAL IN SHADES OF GRAY.



WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR, I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR SHADES OF GRAY. I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR INTERSTELLAR POLITICS, OR SECRET FACTIONS, OR HOMICIDAL SUPERMEN FROM THE PAST.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, YUKI WAS RIGHT. I WAS MEANT TO FLY STARSHIPS, NOT FIGHT WARS.

YOU AND ME BOTH, LIEUTENANT...

YOU AND ME *BOTH*.



CAPTAIN'S LOG,  
STARDATE 2261.168

WE HAVE DEBRIEFED STARFLEET ON  
THE EVENTS THAT UNFOLDED IN THE  
WAKE OF THE KHITOMER ATTACK.

IN LIGHT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES,  
COMMANDER SPOCK HAS BEEN ABSOLVED OF ANY  
CHARGES OF INSUBORDINATION AFTER HE RETURNED  
TO KRONOS IN VIOLATION OF ORDERS.

NOW WE WAIT,  
AND WE WONDER.

WE WAIT FOR THE RIPPLES OF  
THIS LATEST CONFLICT TO PLAY  
OUT ACROSS THE GALAXY. AND WE  
WONDER IF PEACE BETWEEN ALL  
CIVILIZATIONS IS EVER POSSIBLE.

IN SUCH A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY—OF  
**FEAR**—IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN  
EVER THAT THE *ENTERPRISE* RETURNS  
TO HER ORIGINAL MISSION.

TO SEEK OUT. TO EXPLORE.  
TO FIND NEW POSSIBILITIES.

WE GO WITH A SPIRIT THAT  
IS THE **OPPOSITE** OF FEAR.

WE GO WITH **HOPE**.

AND WHEN WE GO...

...WE WILL GO **BOLDLY**.

**END!**























# *STAR TREK*®

VOLUME 7

**THE KHITOMER CONFLICT**



AFTER THE EVENTS OF *STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS*, THE *U.S.S. ENTERPRISE* EMBARKS ON A NEW FIVE-YEAR MISSION OF EXPLORATION. MEANWHILE, REMNANTS OF STARFLEET'S BLACK-OPS DIVISION, SECTION 31, HAVE BEEN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A WAR BETWEEN THE ROMULAN AND KLINGON EMPIRES, HOPING THAT THE CONFLICT WILL TIP THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE FEDERATION'S FAVOR, WITH THE *ENTERPRISE* CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE.

