



**MDB
COMICS**

**Book
Four**

NOVA TREK

A Universe away from the one you knew.

**“Another Step
Toward War”**

by MDBruffy

**Based on Concepts
created by G. Roddenberry**

Space, the Final Frontier.

This is the voyage of
the Federal Starship
Enterprise.

Her mission:

To seek out new life
and new civilizations.

To defend and bring justice
to the farthest reaches of
the Federal Union of Planets.

And above all else:
To boldly go where
none have gone
before.

NOVA TREK

"Another Step
Toward War"

by MDBruffy

*Based on Concepts created by G. Roddenberry
and the writing staff of the original Star Trek
TV series.*

San Fransico- Sixteen years ago...



Computer, personal music library-
File three, track one.



To the town of Agua Fria,
Rode a stranger one fine day,
Hardly spoke to folks around him,
didn't have much to say.



No one dared to ask his business,
no one dared to make a slip,
for the stranger there among them,
had a big iron on his hip.

Ba-leep!

Kirk here.

Jan.

Uncle Frank.
What's up?

I just wanted to let you know
I've added your citation to your
record.

Well, thanks. But I
just did what felt right.

Exactly.

You followed your instincts.

Someone else might've turned the
Kobayashi Maru into a needless
shoot-out.



T'Pol's coming in tonight for an S.F.I. meeting tomorrow. Why don't you join us for dinner?

All right.

Good. I'll pick you up at Six. Fitzpatrick out.

Bling!

This place is busier than Grand Central Station.

Yes, Cadet- ?

Shev Tar'Laren, Lieutenant.

Commadore Fitzpatrick thought you might be able to help me out.

With what?

Earth history.

I'm a little weak on it and the Commadore said you're a wiz with it.





Twelve years ago...

"The results tell a pretty clear story, Admiral."

"Yes. The *Constitution* has a longer duration, more power and can handle a larger crew."

"But the *Dakota* and the *Venture* handled every task assigned to them as well."



"Give the go-ahead for the *Constitution* program to move forward- but commission the *Dakota* and the *Venture*, too. I can't see mothballing two perfectly good ships."

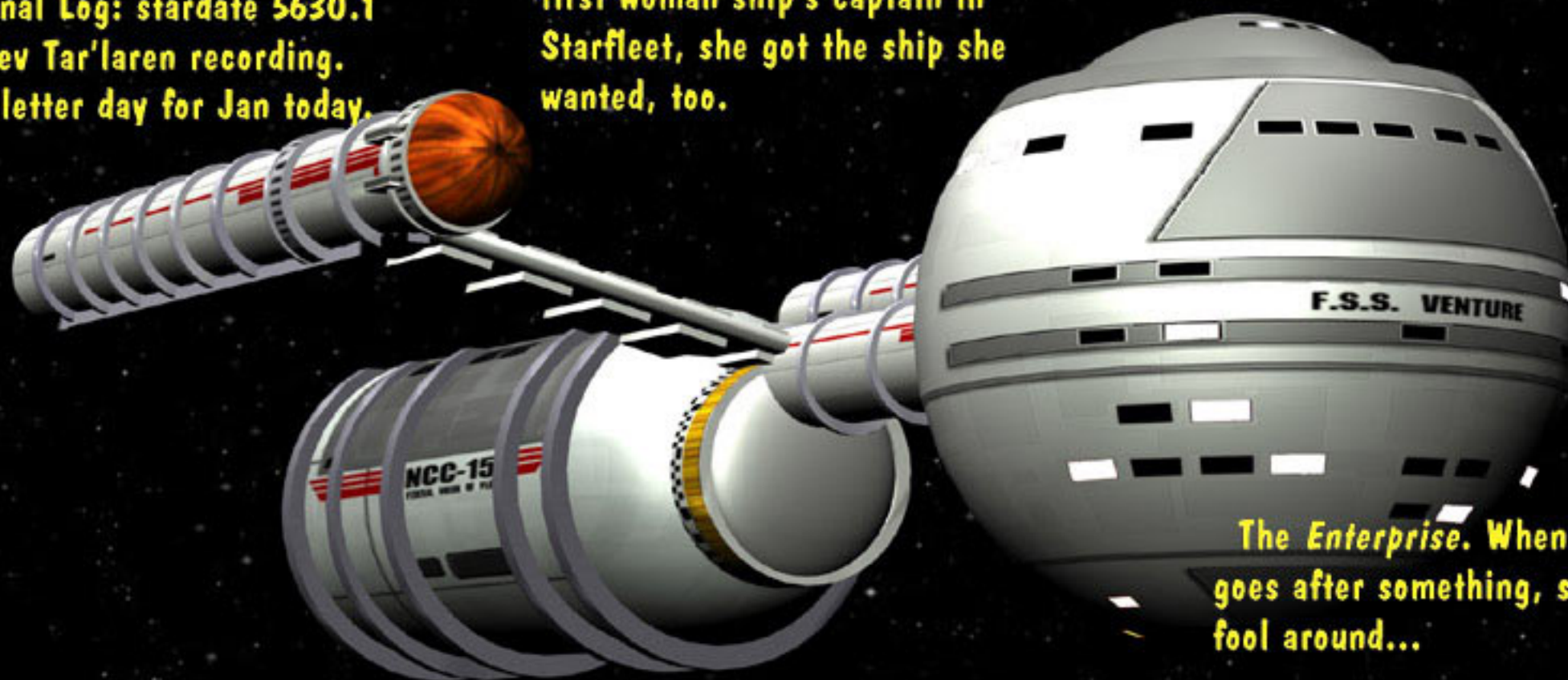
"But if the *Constitution*- class will be handling Deep-space exploration and defense, what will we use them for?"

"Start them out on border patrol. I'm sure in the years to come, we'll find something else. Twelve *Constitutions* can't be everywhere."

Three years ago...

Personal Log: stardate 5630.1
Lt. Shev Tar'laren recording.
Red- letter day for Jan today.

Not only has she become the
first woman ship's captain in
Starfleet, she got the ship she
wanted, too.



The Enterprise. When that girl
goes after something, she doesn't
fool around...



Shev?

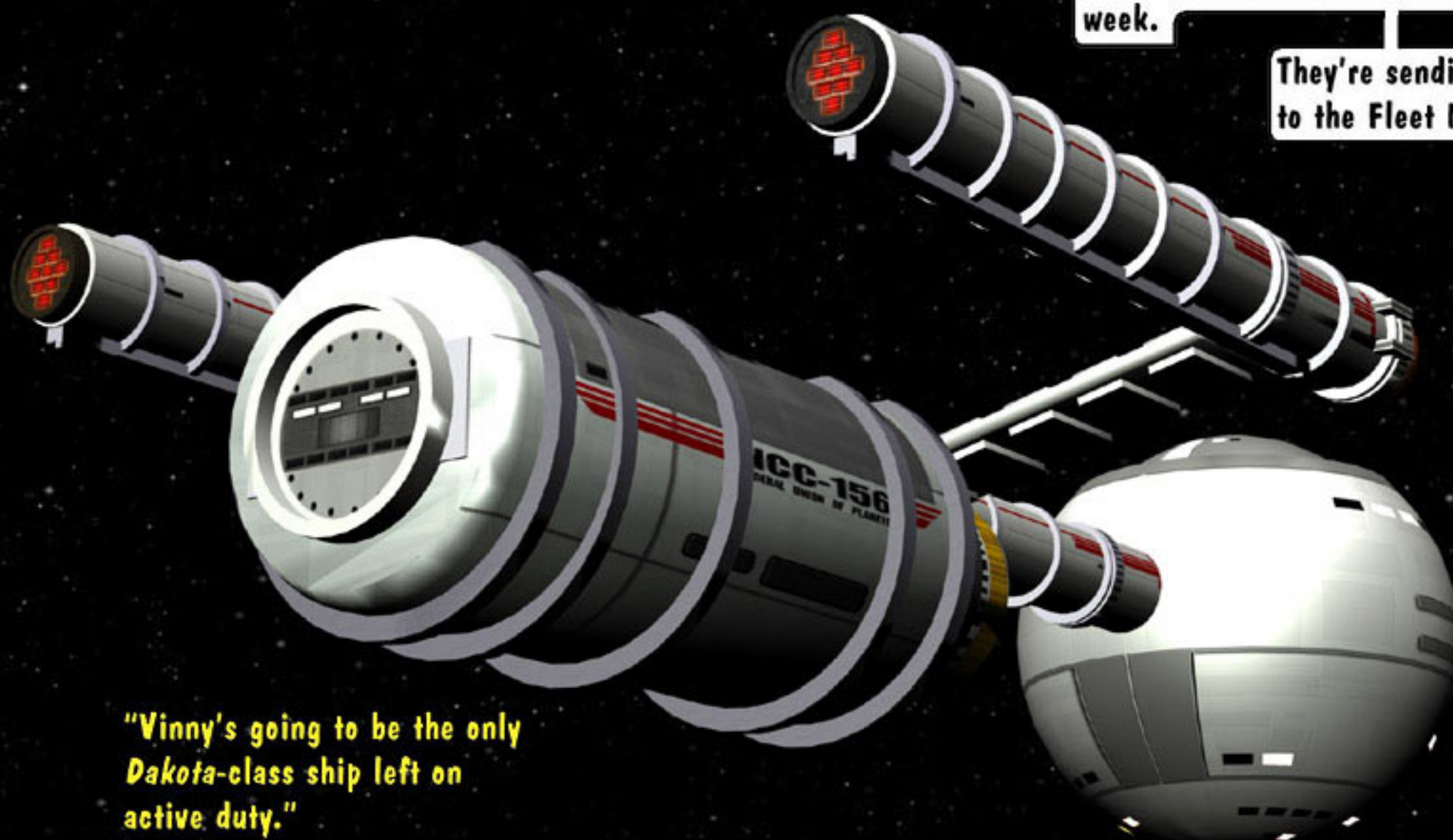
Have you heard
the news?

I've heard lots
of news today,
Larry. Could you
be a little more
specific?



It was in the morning dispatches.
Starfleet's retiring the *Dakota* next
week.

They're sending her
to the Fleet Museum.



"Vinny's going to be the only
Dakota-class ship left on
active duty."

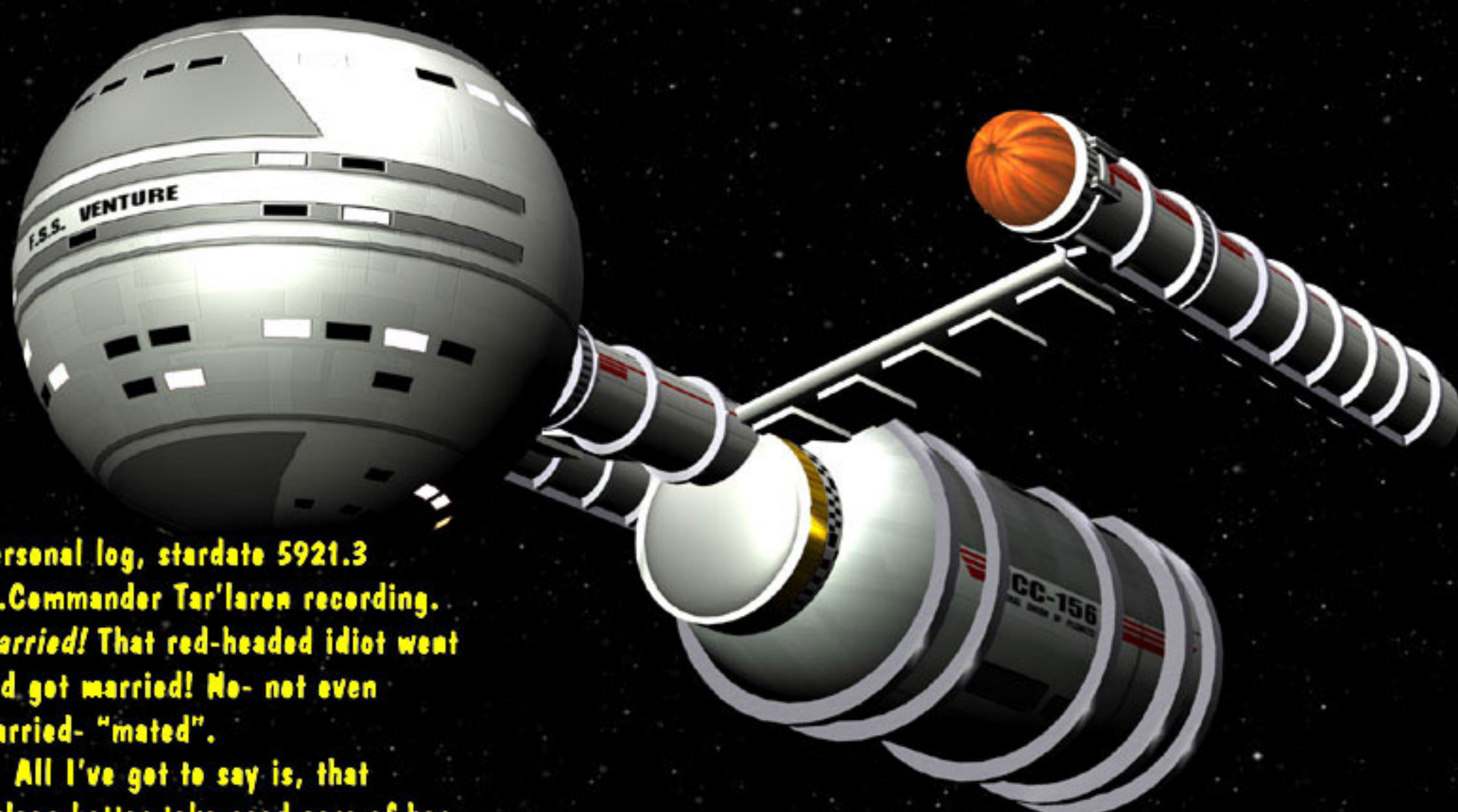
Eleven months ago...



Personal log, Stardate 5910.2
Captain Janet Kirk recording.
Just got back from shore leave
with Shev- excuse me- Lt.Commander
Tar'laren. Her promotion came
through just before we left the
Venture.

And she was afraid she's never
make lieutenant...

Ten months ago...

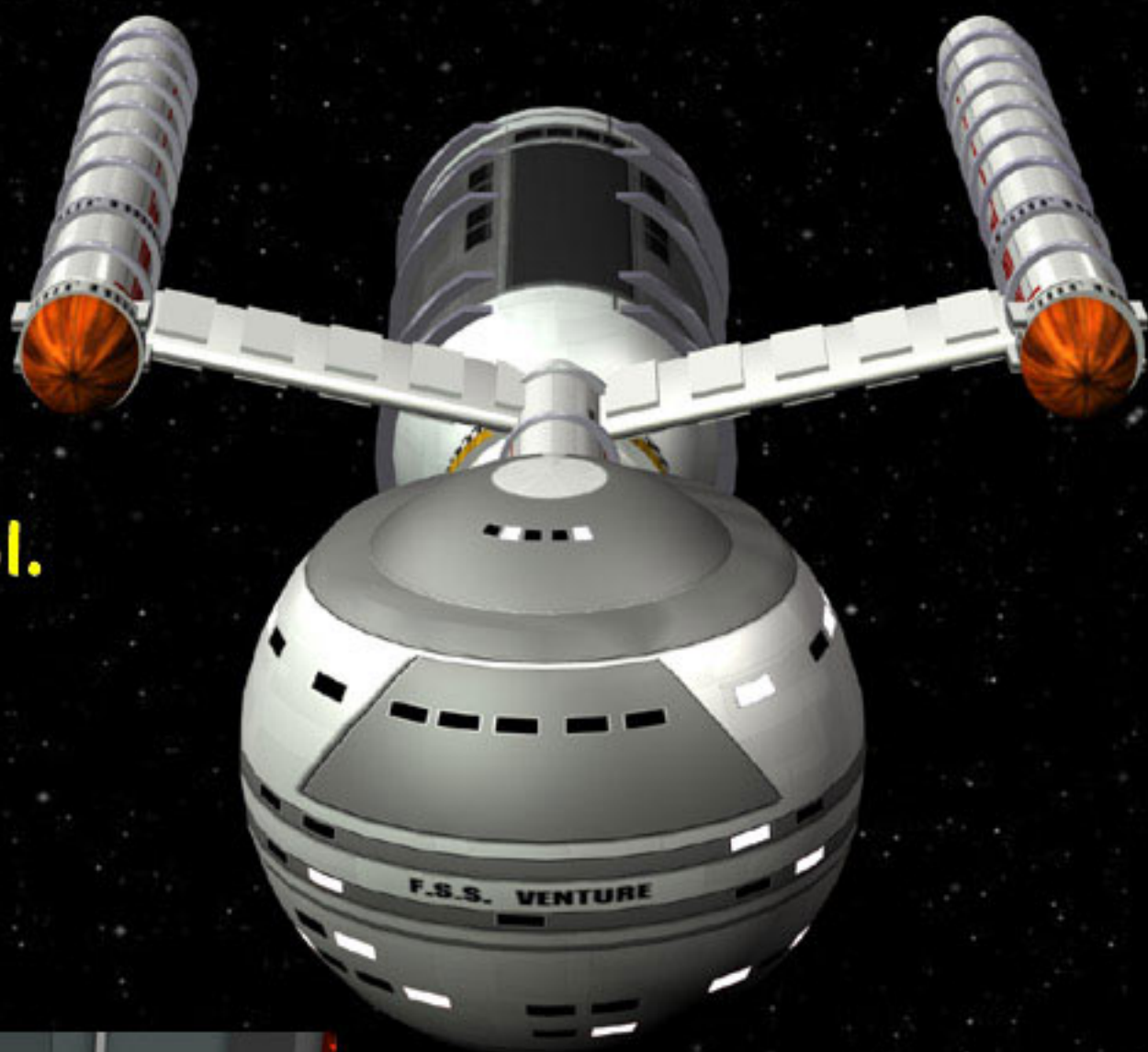


Personal log, stardate 5921.3
Lt.Commander Tar'laren recording.
Married! That red-headed idiot went
and got married! No- not even
married- "mated".

All I've got to say is, that
Vulcan better take good care of her...

**One month ago-
Along the Orion border...**

**Duty log; Stardate 5936.6.
Lt.Commander Tar'Laren
recording. Logging on for
my duty shift. Today's my
day to man Auxiliary Control.
Monitor Duty has to be the
most boring job there is...**



One hour later...

Duty log; Supplemental. All systems remain nominal. Tar'laren out.

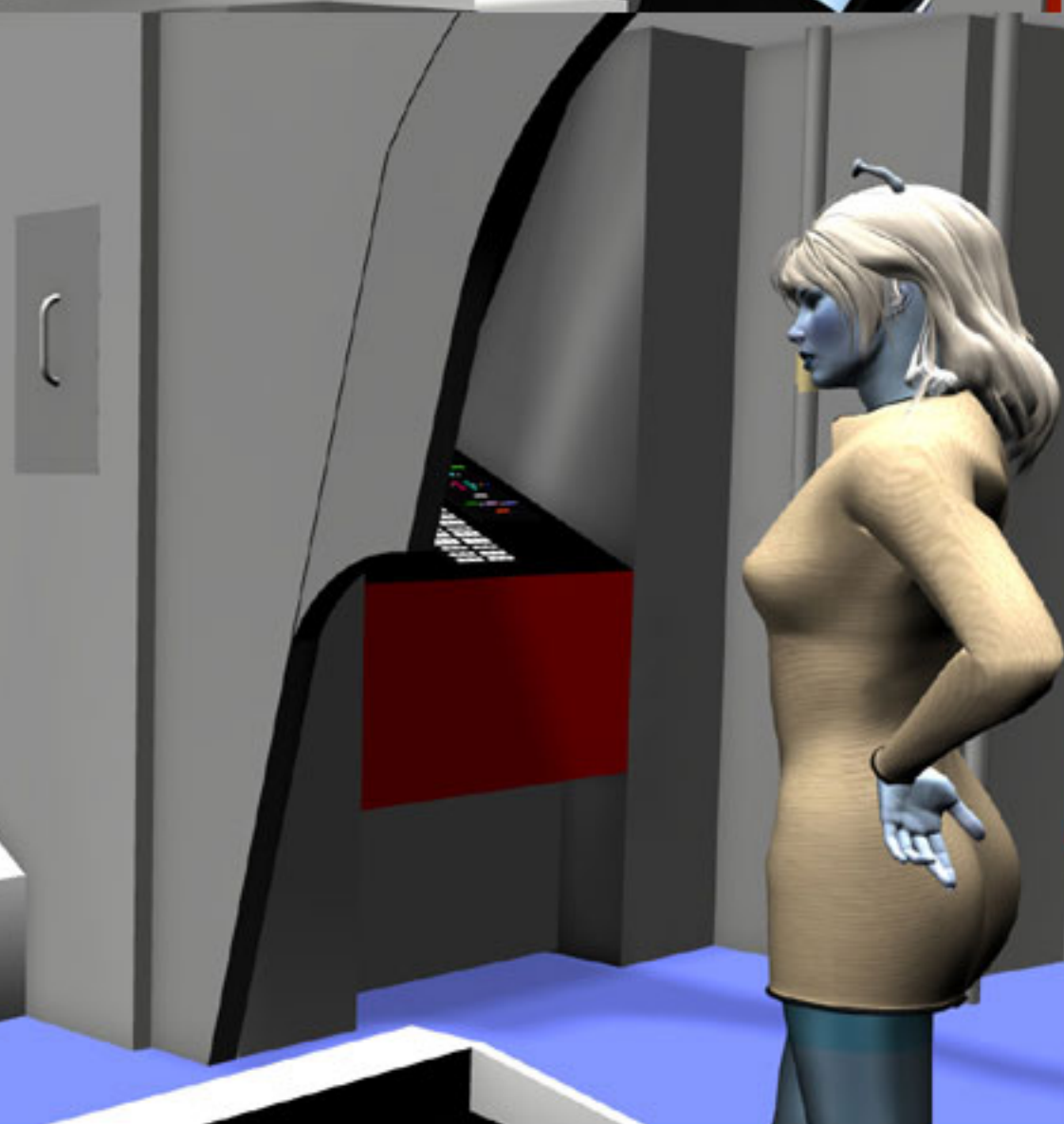


Three hours later...

All hands, Yellow Alert!

Now what do they want ?

CLICK!





This is the *FSS Venture to Orion Vessels*.
Identify yourselves and state your
reason for being in this area.

Orion vessels, remain on your side
of the border. If you insist on
crossing, you will be causing an
interplanetary incident.

Orion vessels, return to
your side of-

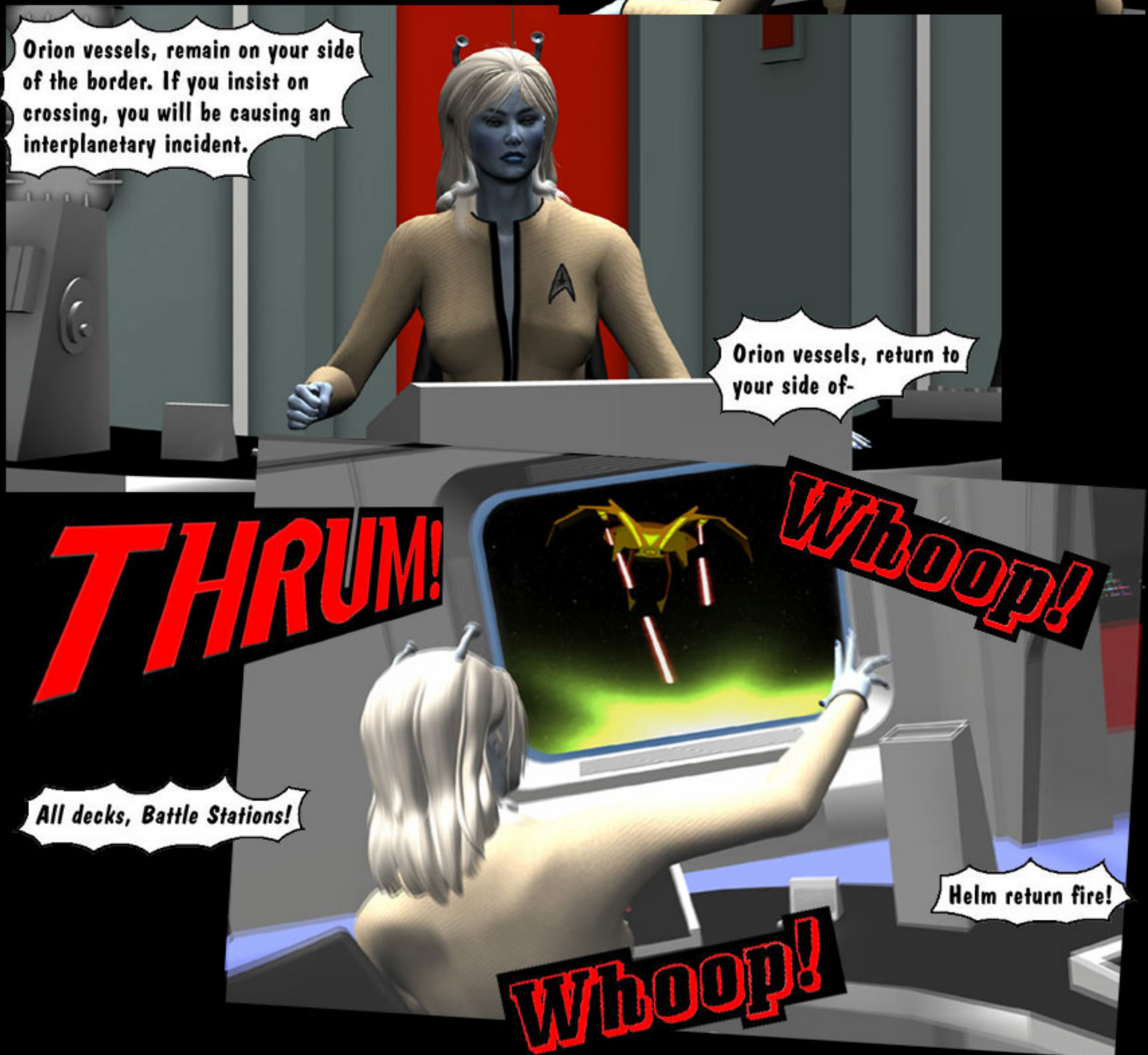
THRUM!

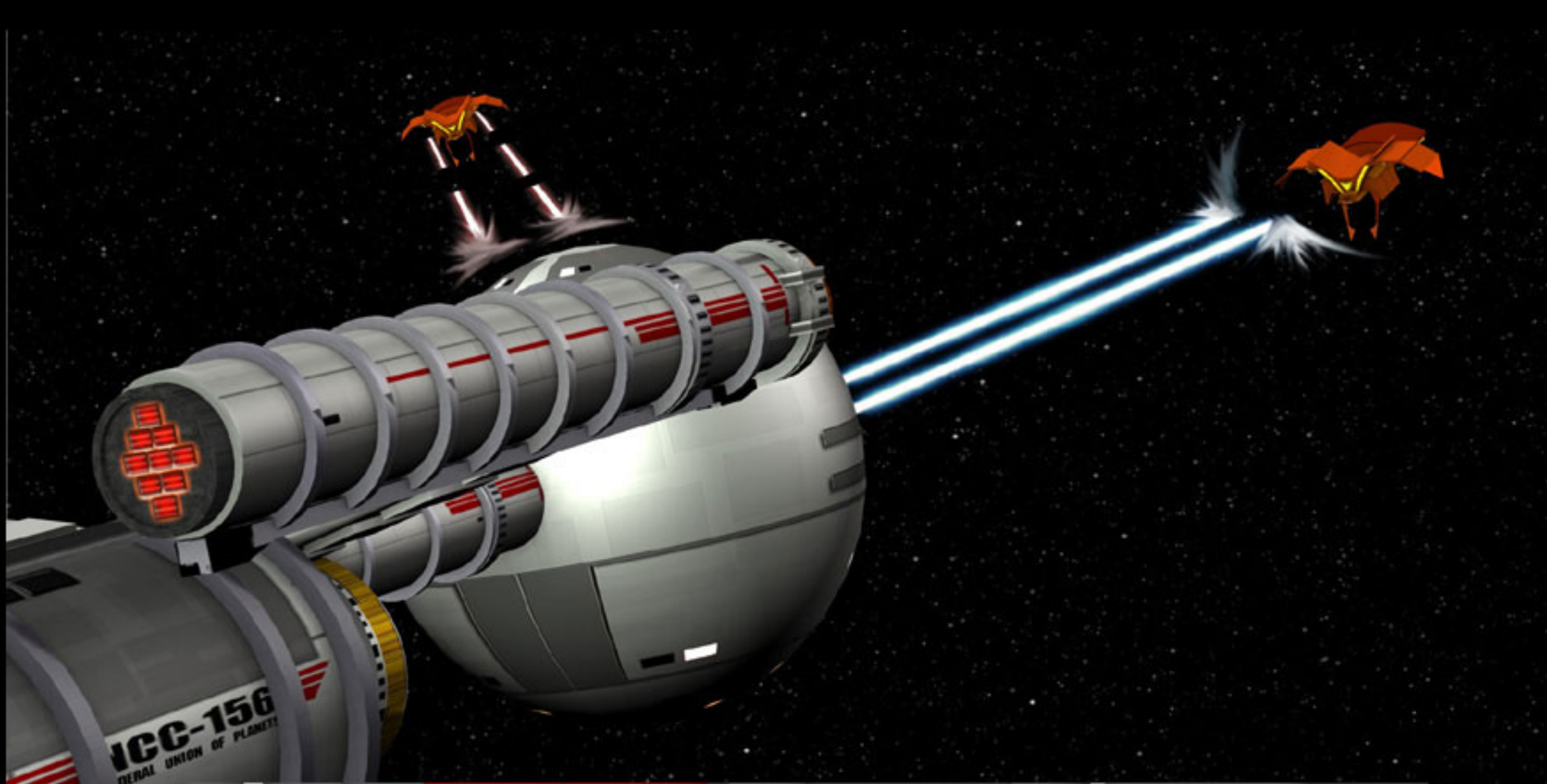
Whoop!

All decks, Battle Stations!

Helm return fire!

Whoop!



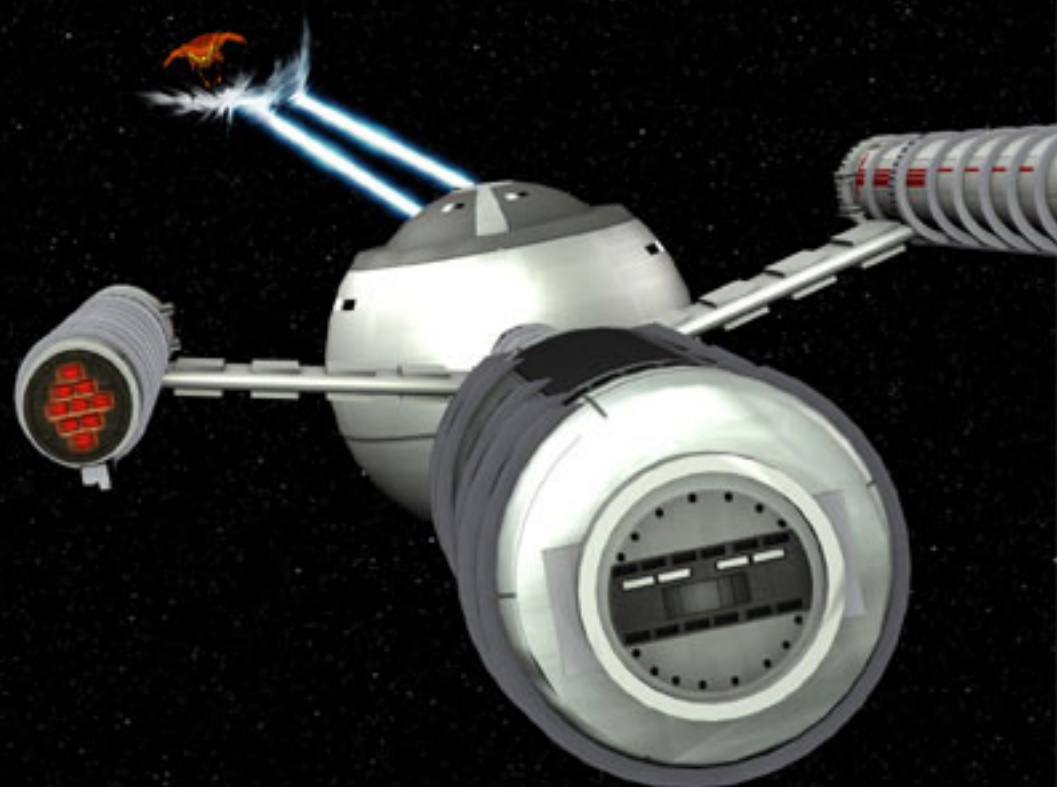


Two hours after the attack began...

Bring us about.
Course 198, mark 2-
Correction- mark 3!

Fire!

Course 185, mark 7-
Fire!

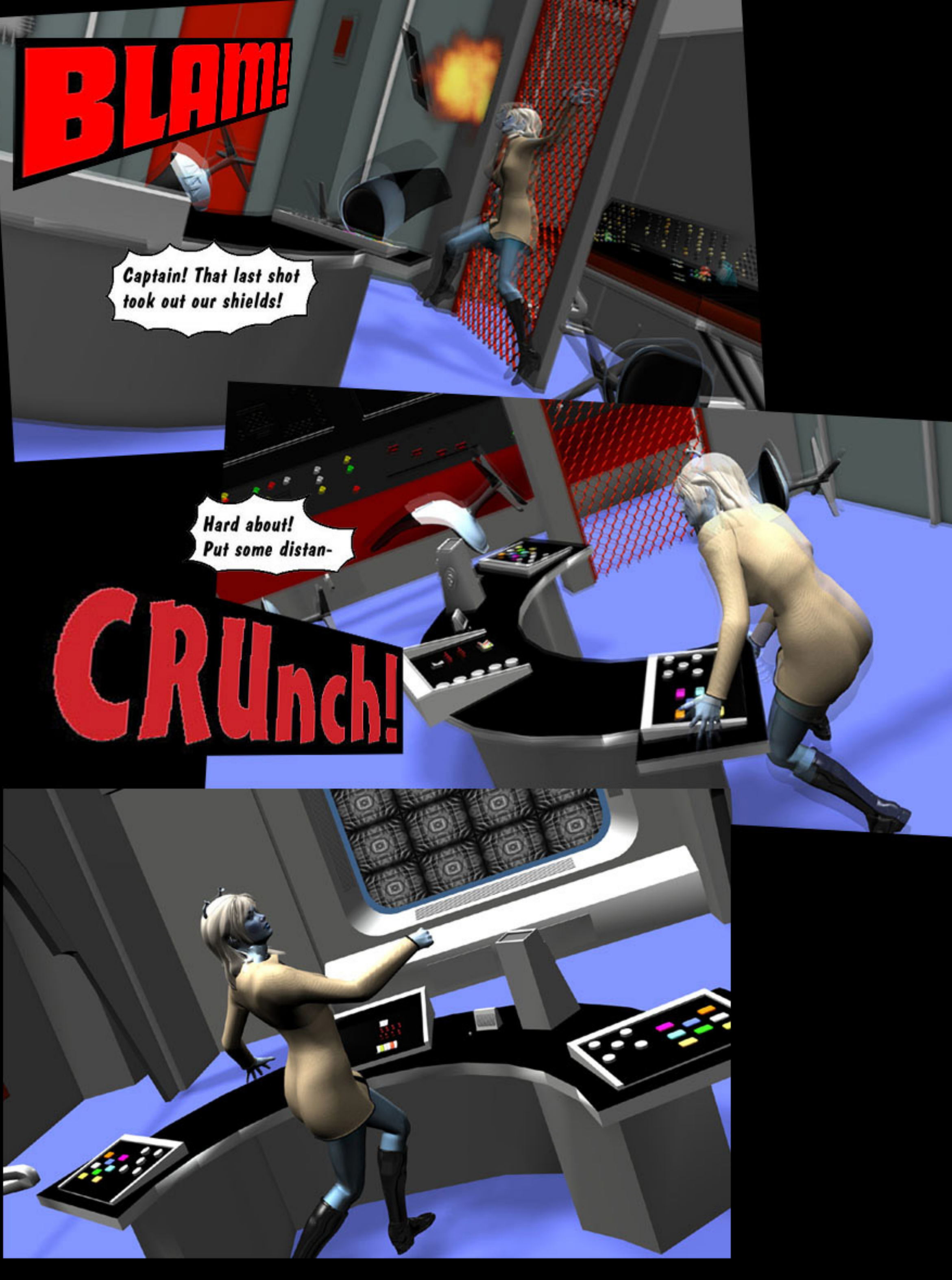


BLAM!

Captain! That last shot
took out our shields!

Hard about!
Put some distan-

CRUunch!



Auxiliary Control to
Bridge- Come in.

Bridge, this is the ACR
come in.

CLICK!

CLICK! CLATTER

Oh gods...

CLICK! CLATTER

Engineering to ACR- What
are you doing, Commander?

The Orions have destroyed the
bridge, Chief.

CLICK!

Everyone's dead up there.

CLICK!

I'm switching control of
ship's functions to ACR
and activating the
Emergency Distress Beacon.



Understood, Shev.
You're in command.

Wonderful.
Hang on.



Four hours after the attack began...

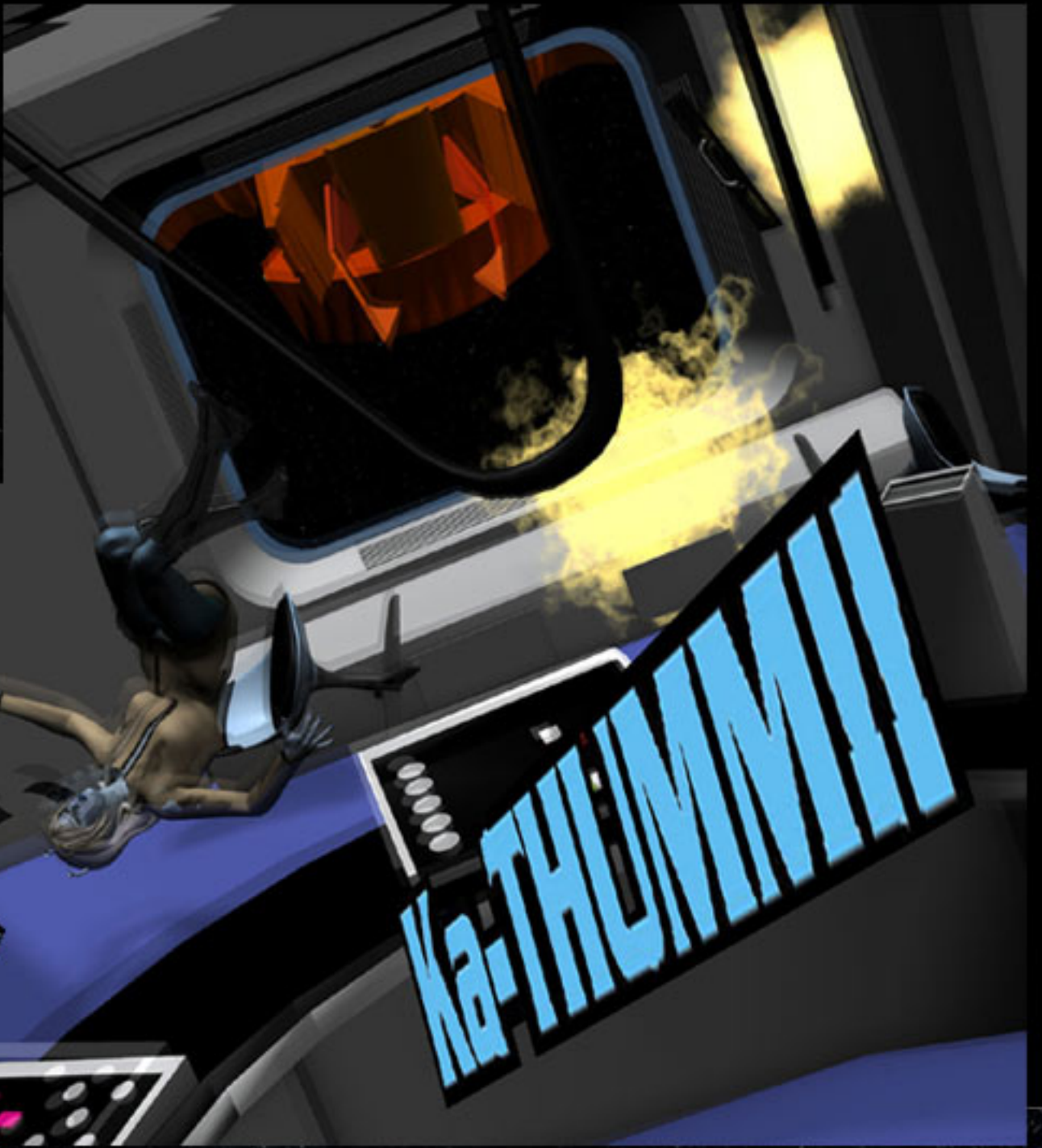
Engineering Section Two to
Main Engineering. Gravity's
down to .8 here. Can you
confirm?



Main Engineering to
Section Two. Confirmed.

This is Lt. Baxter. I'm on
Deck Twelve, Section Four.
The emergency bulkheads
in this section are jammed.





Engineering?

ACR to Engineering. Chief?

This is Lt. Commander
Tar'laren to anyone on board.
Please respond.

Larry?

Lt. Baxter ?
Please respond.

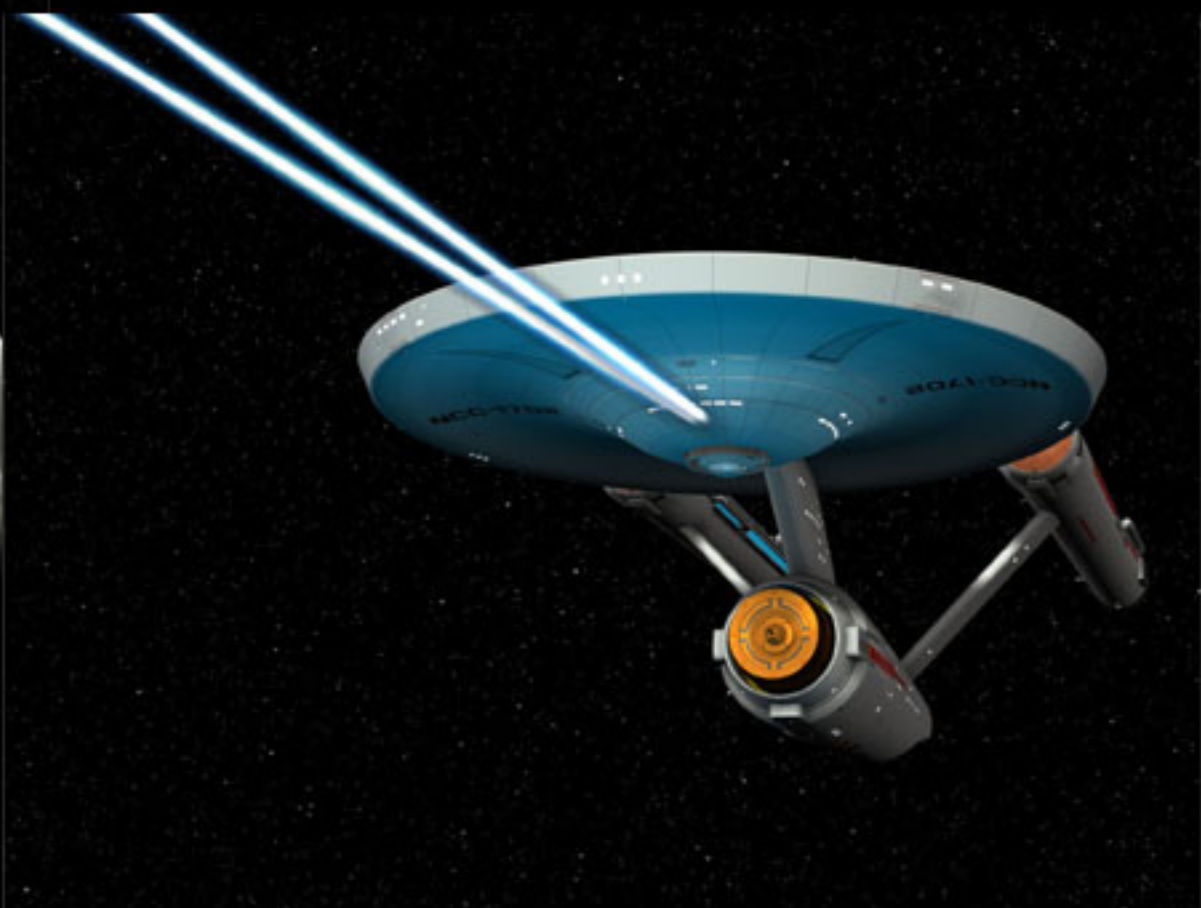




**"Farragut to Venture. Come in.
Venture, please respond."**

**"Venture to Farragut. Lt.Commander
Tar'laren here."**

**"Hang on, Commander. We'll be right
with you."**



**Farragut to Venture.
What's your status?**

**Lousy. I have one working
phaser, no shields, no warp
drive, no impulse drive, audio
communications only, no long-
range sensors-and only a handful
of short-range sensors.**

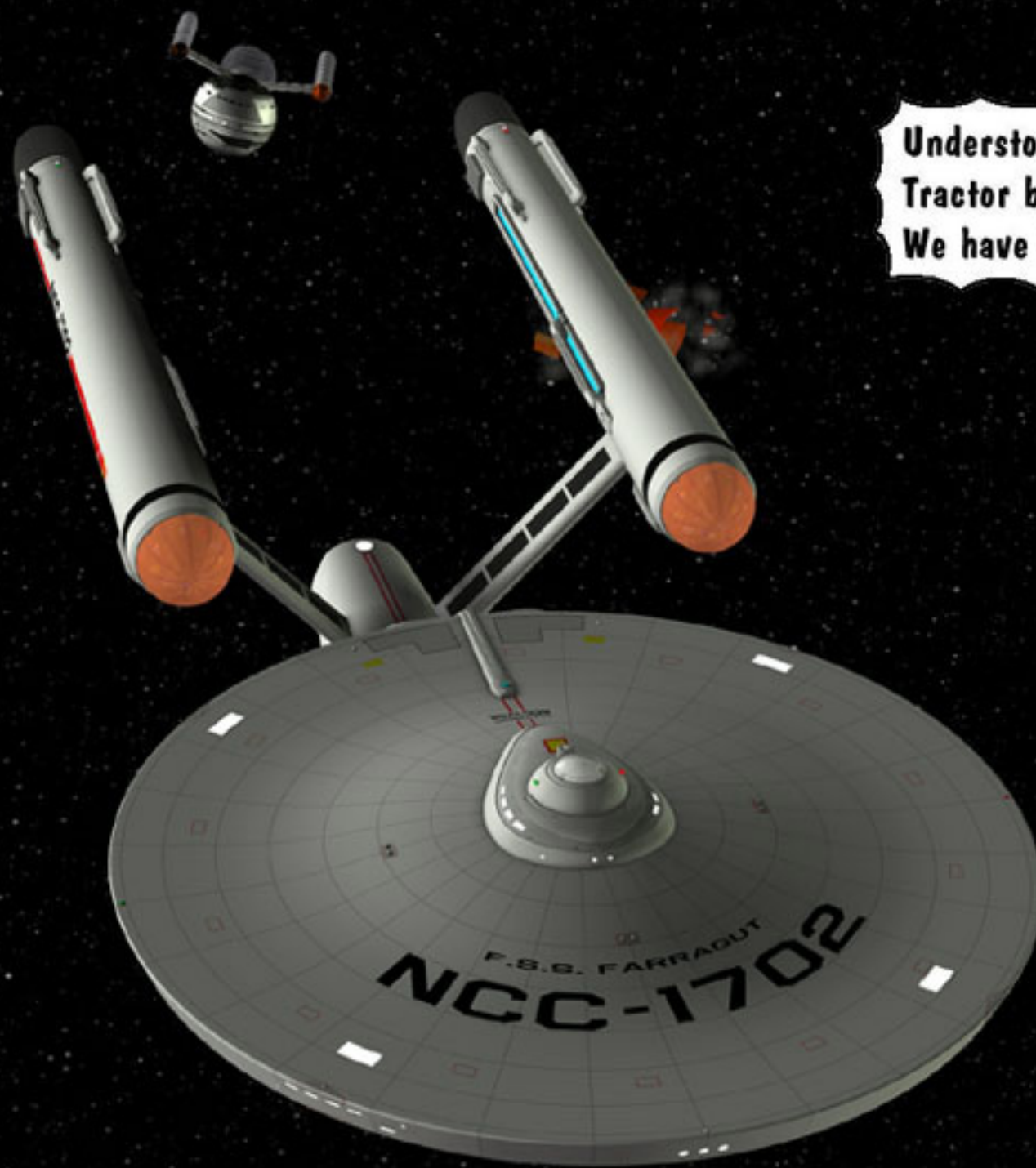
**I have life support here in the ACR.
But I have no internal sensors. I
think I'm the only one left alive
over here.**

**I'm afraid we do confirm that,
Commander. Stand by to beam
over. We're preparing to take the
Venture in tow.**

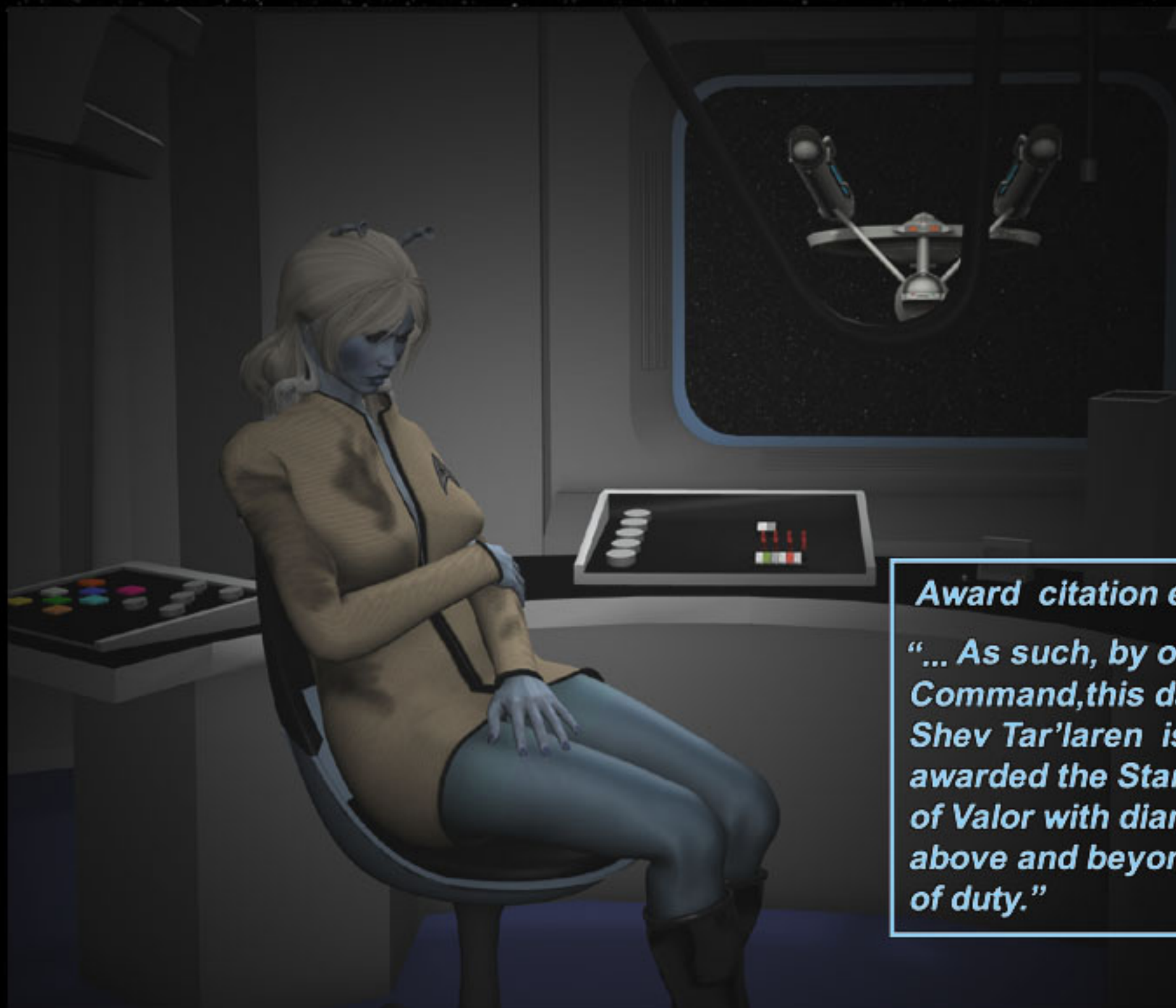
**Negative. You need someone
over here to monitor what's
left.**

**Are you sure? I can
beam someone over
to relieve you.**

**Not really- but I'm
staying anyway.**



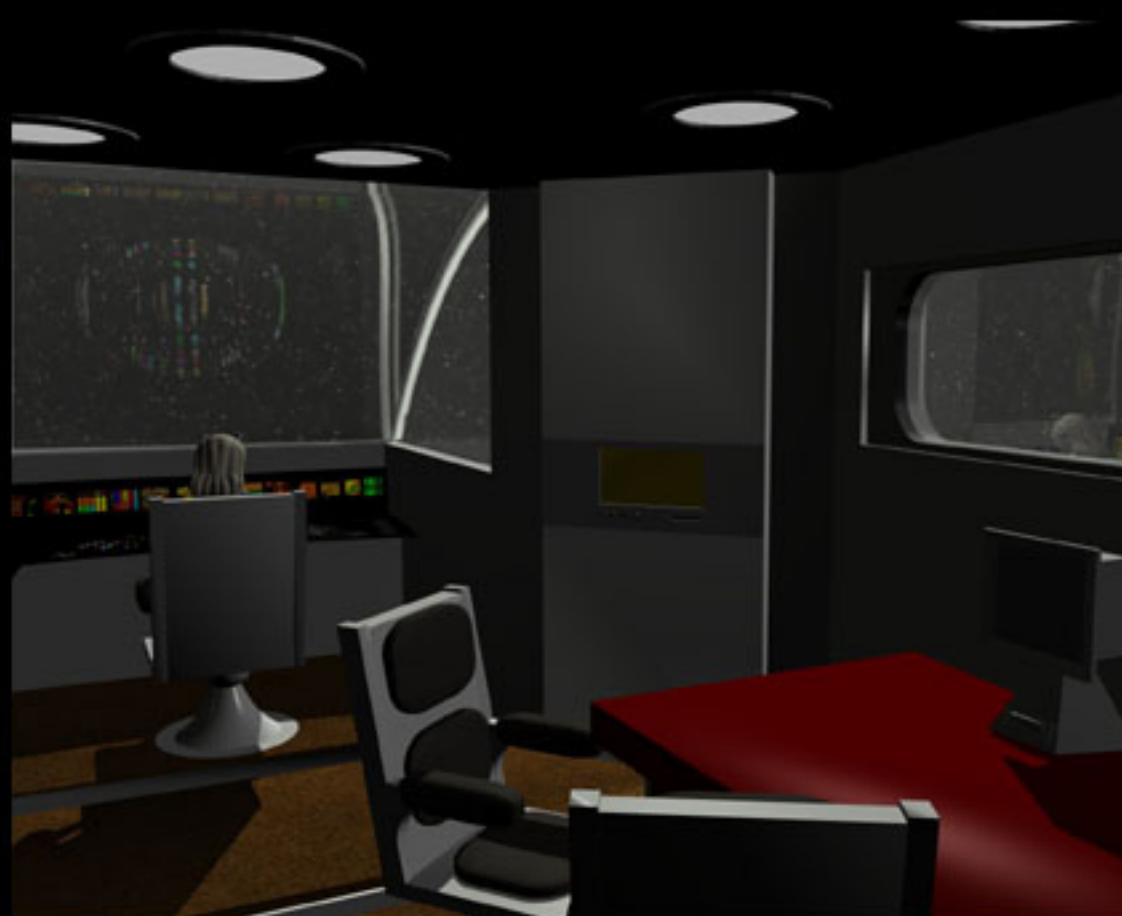
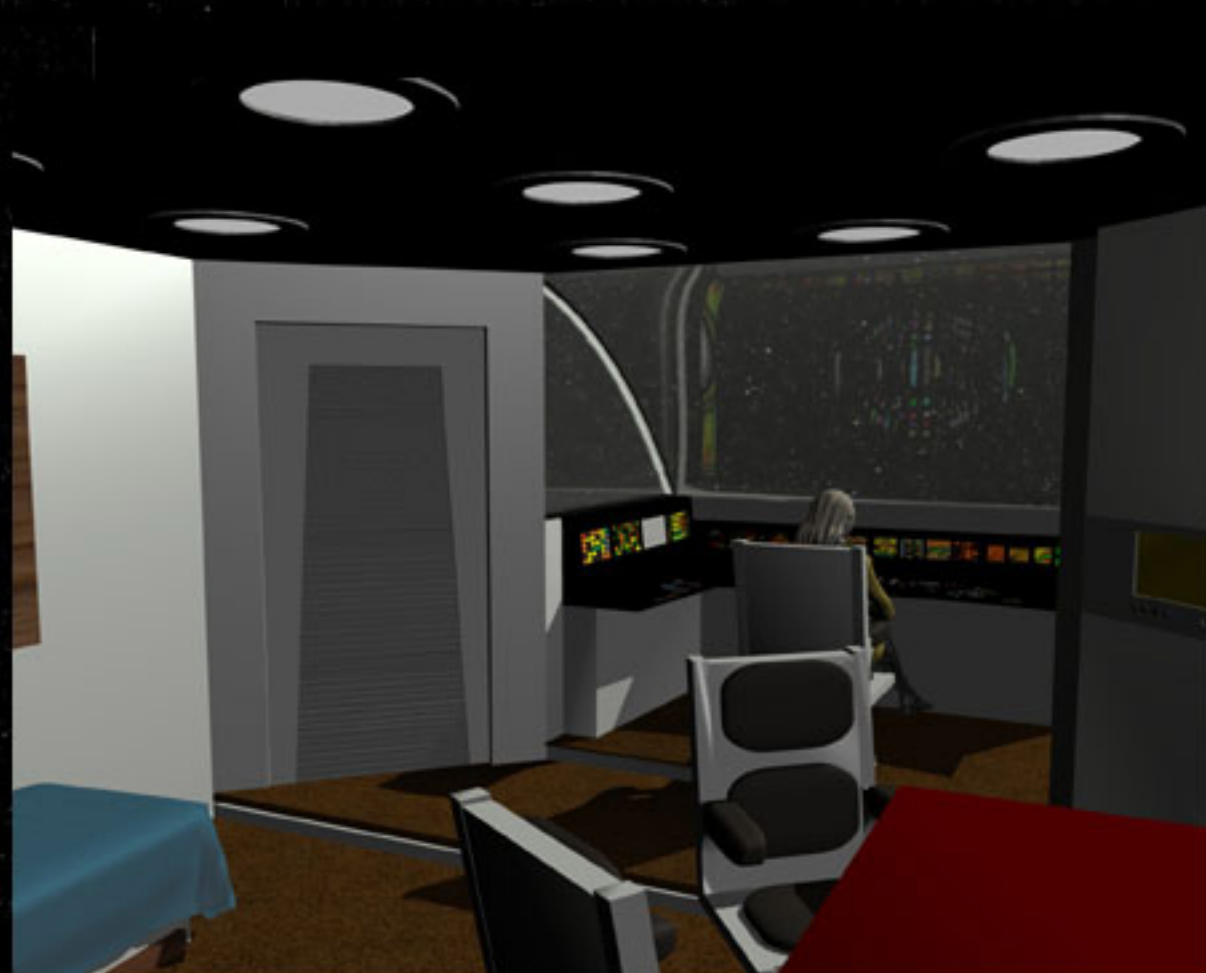
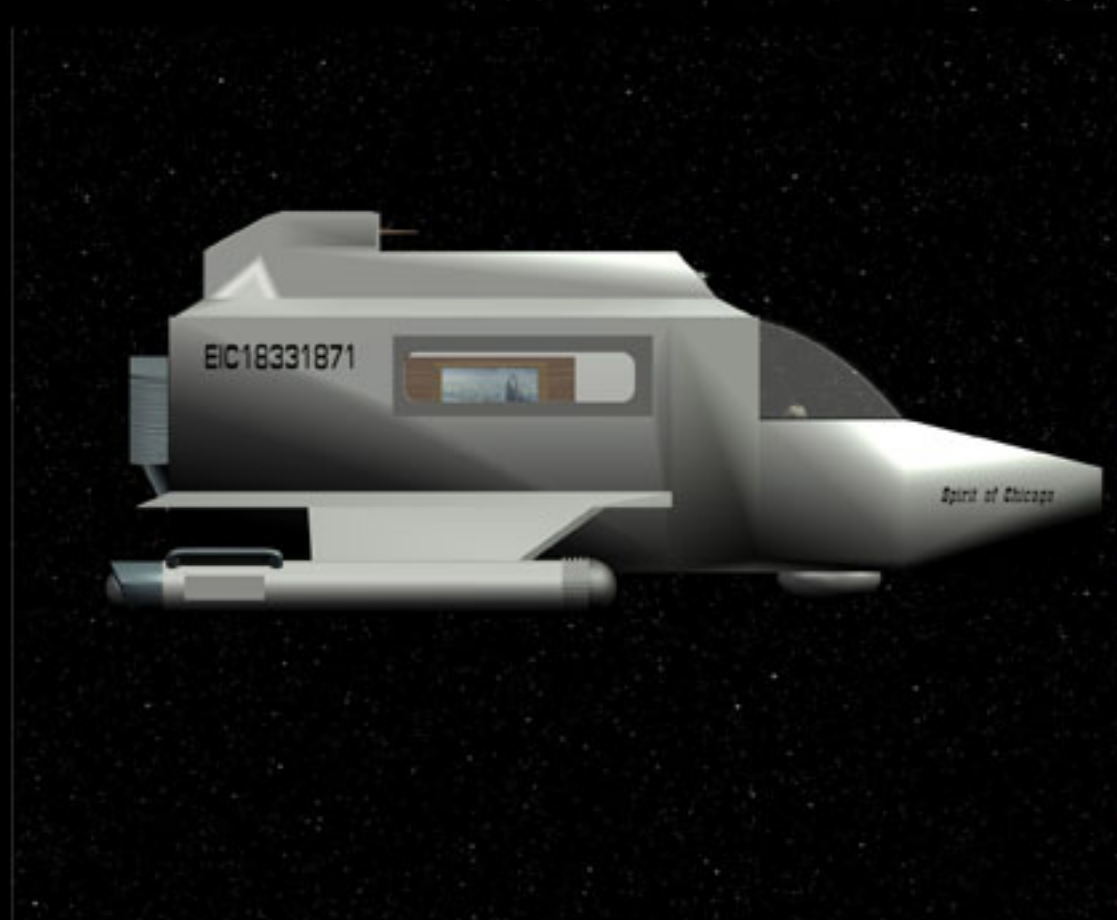
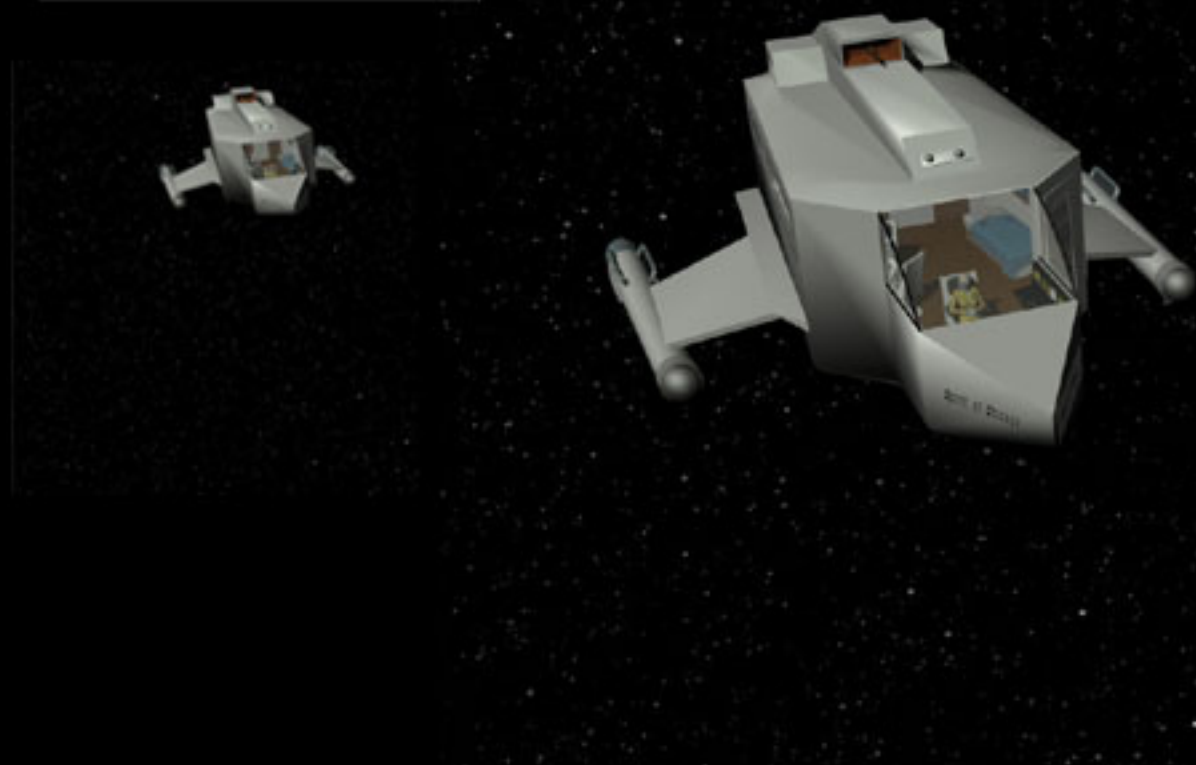
**Understood.
Tractor beam activated.
We have the *Venture*.**

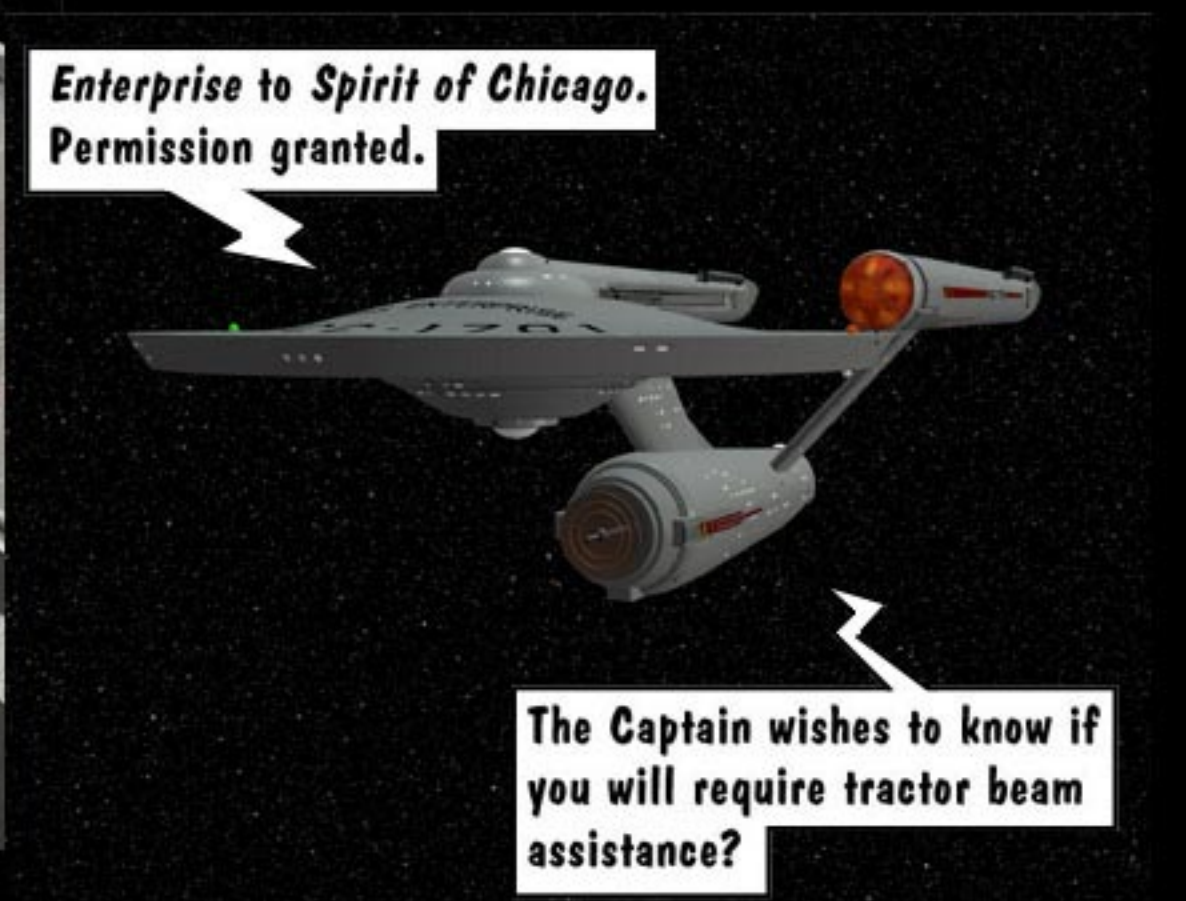


Award citation excerpt:

"... As such, by order of Starfleet Command, this date, Commander Shev Tar'laren is hereby awarded the Starfleet Medal of Valor with diamond for actions above and beyond the call of duty."

The Present-
Stardate :5936.9





She would.

Tell her to keep her tractor beam
for the rookies and duck her head.

Computer?

Yes, Captain?

Tap in and play
it now.

Yes, Ma'am.

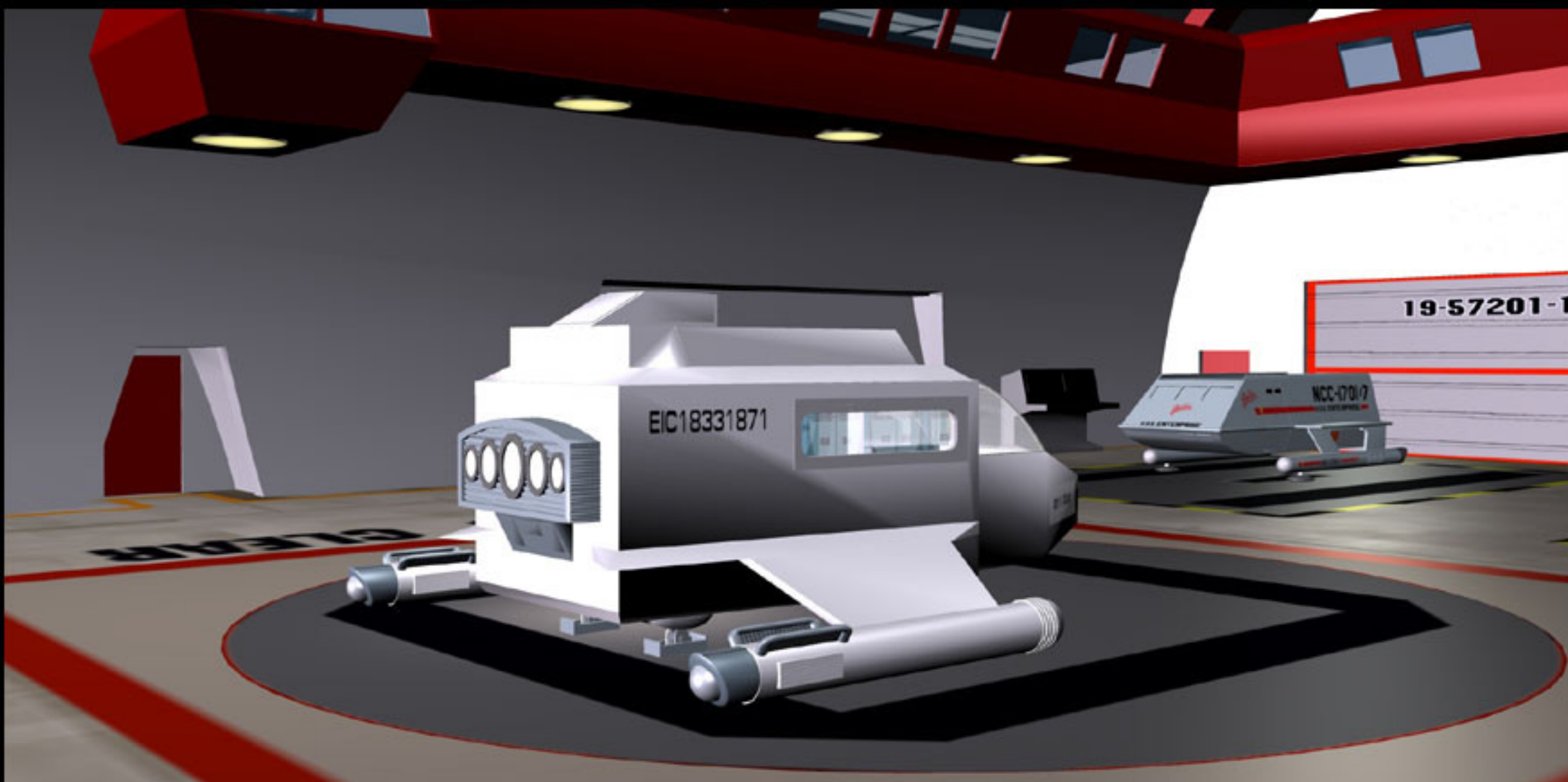
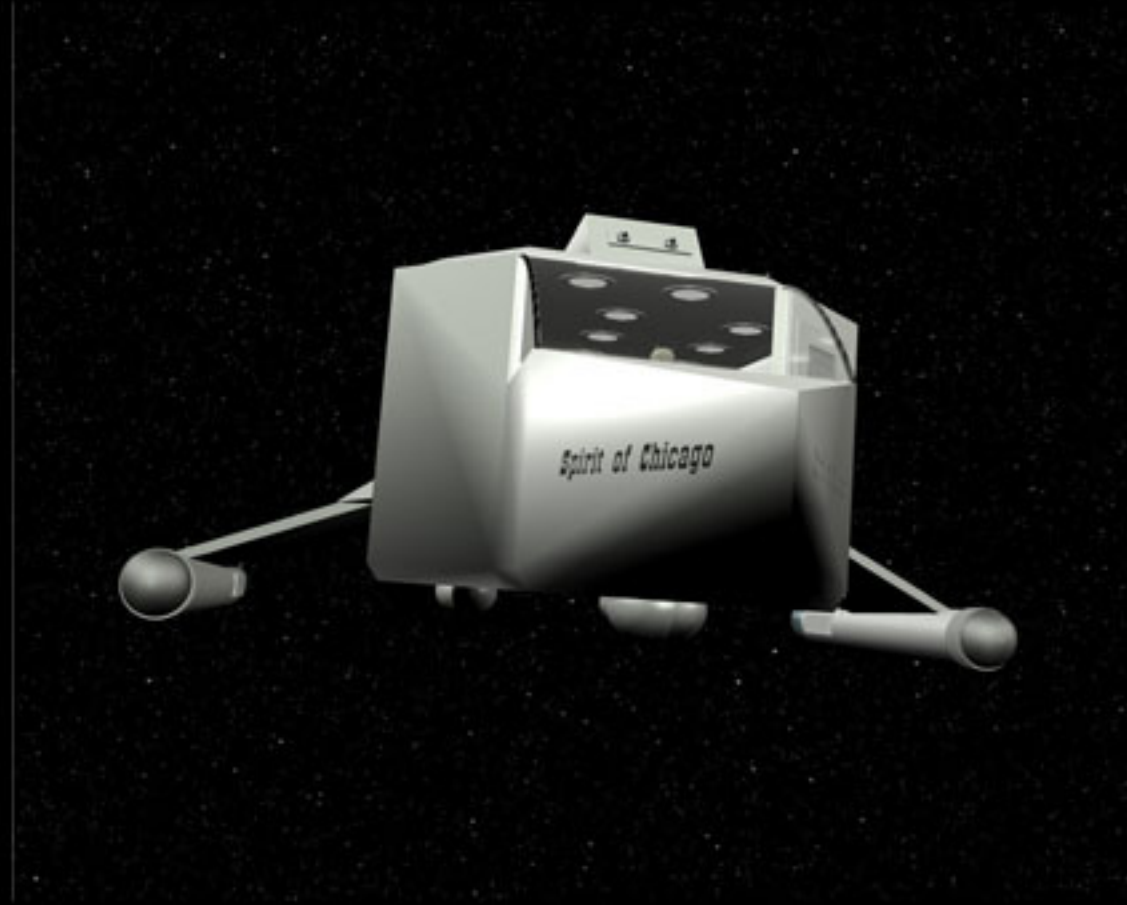
SHUTTLECRAFT
HANGER DECK

NO ADMITTANCE
AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL ONLY


It's the little old lady from Pasadena
(Go Granny, go Granny, go Granny go)

Has a pretty little garden with white gardenias
(Go Granny, go Granny, go Granny go)

But parked in a rickety old garage is a brand-new
shiny red super stock car...








He's among a handful of officers chosen to go through a new training for a combined security-weapons console Starfleet's planning for the next bridge module.

He'll be leaving when we reach Starbase 98 day after tomorrow.


Then I've got a few days to get settled before I report for duty?

Yes, you do.



Ah, Commander, if you'd sign this?

It's the standard paperwork attaching the *Spirit of Chicago* to the *Enterprise's* shuttle fleet.

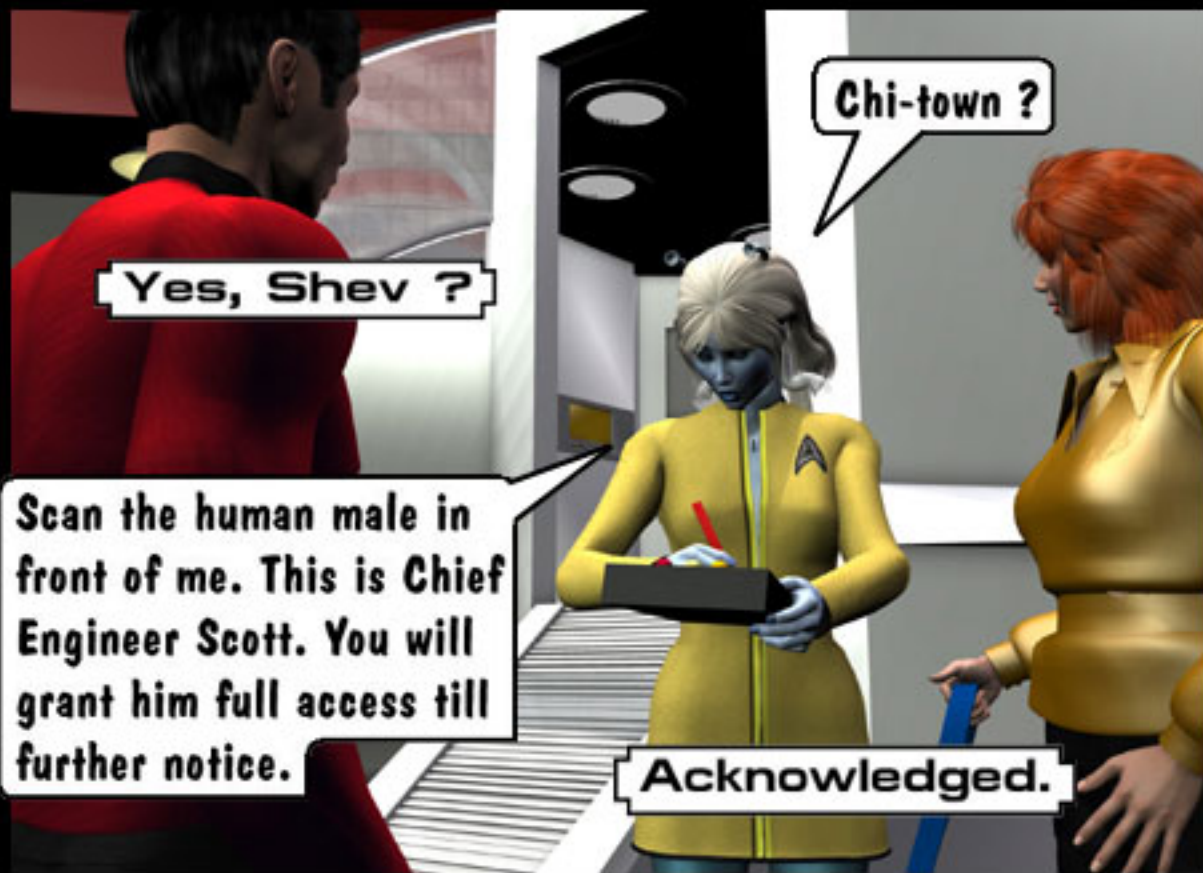


Of course. Now the rules haven't changed on this, have they?

No.

Officers can bring their personal ships with them as long as they agree that the ship becomes an auxiliary to the existing shuttle fleet.

If the officer's ship has to be used for Fleet business, then that officer will be assigned as the pilot.



Yes, Shev ?

Chi-town ?

Scan the human male in front of me. This is Chief Engineer Scott. You will grant him full access till further notice.

Acknowledged.



Thank, ya Lass.

We'll run a basic diagnostic, then take him below to the storage hanger.



Don't worry. Scotty's the best.

Whenever we arrive at an outpost or a starbase, every ship in the area calls him for help or advice.

I hope you're right.

Chi-town was the only ship they could salvage from the *Venture*. It took a week to get him back in shape.



SHUTTLECRAFT HANGER DECK

NO ADMIT
ALL
PET



You'll get used to it. When I first came on board I walked every deck. Now there are some I only get to once a month unless something comes up.

Never realised before how much bigger the *Constitution*-class is compared to the *Dakota*-class.



Computer?

Swoosh

Yes, Captain?

Deck Six.

Yes, Ma'am.



Swoosh

Welcome aboard, Commander Tar'laren.

Thank you...?



You have an A.I. on the '*Chicago*', so you'll get used to her.

So far, *Enterprise* is the only cruiser to have one. We've become the unofficial test bed.



After that mess with the M-5, I'm surprised Starfleet would risk it.

That was my reaction at first, too.




But, so far, this one seems to know how to behave herself.


Deck Six




All right, Mike.
Try unit Nine.




If you are attempting to
restore system 12-B, it
might be easier to route
the power through line
nine instead of adding to
the load on line seven.



If I want your advice,
Vulcan, I'll ask for it.



Pointed eared freak.



Mike, how's
that un-



Captain!

There's no room for *your* attitude on *my* ship.

We'll be arriving at Starbase 98 day after tomorrow.

I'll expect your *request* for immediate transfer to be on my office terminal within the hour.

Is that clear, Mister?

...yes, ma'am.

Jackass.

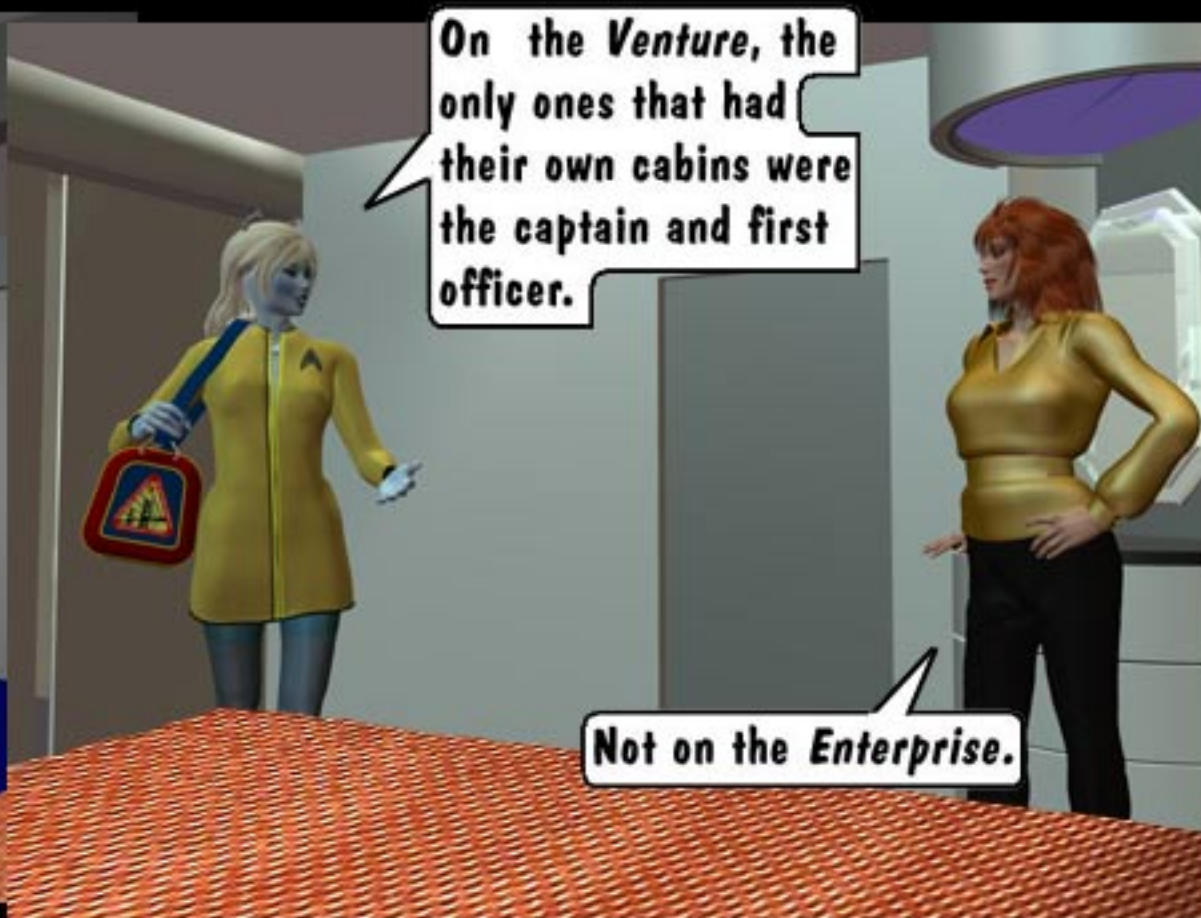
Well, I see that some things haven't changed with the rank.

You've known me long enough to know that the only thing I'm biased against is bigotry-
-I won't tolerate it.



Here you are- 'Home sweet Home'.

This is going to take some getting used to.



On the *Venture*, the only ones that had their own cabins were the captain and first officer.

Not on the *Enterprise*.



Here, everyone from full lieutenant up have their own cabin.

The Command Suite's just down the corridor.



"Command Suite"?



The captain's and first officer's cabins are right next door to each other.

When Spock and I married, we combined our cabin space- didn't need two sleeping areas.



"Command Suite" is the unofficial name for the result.

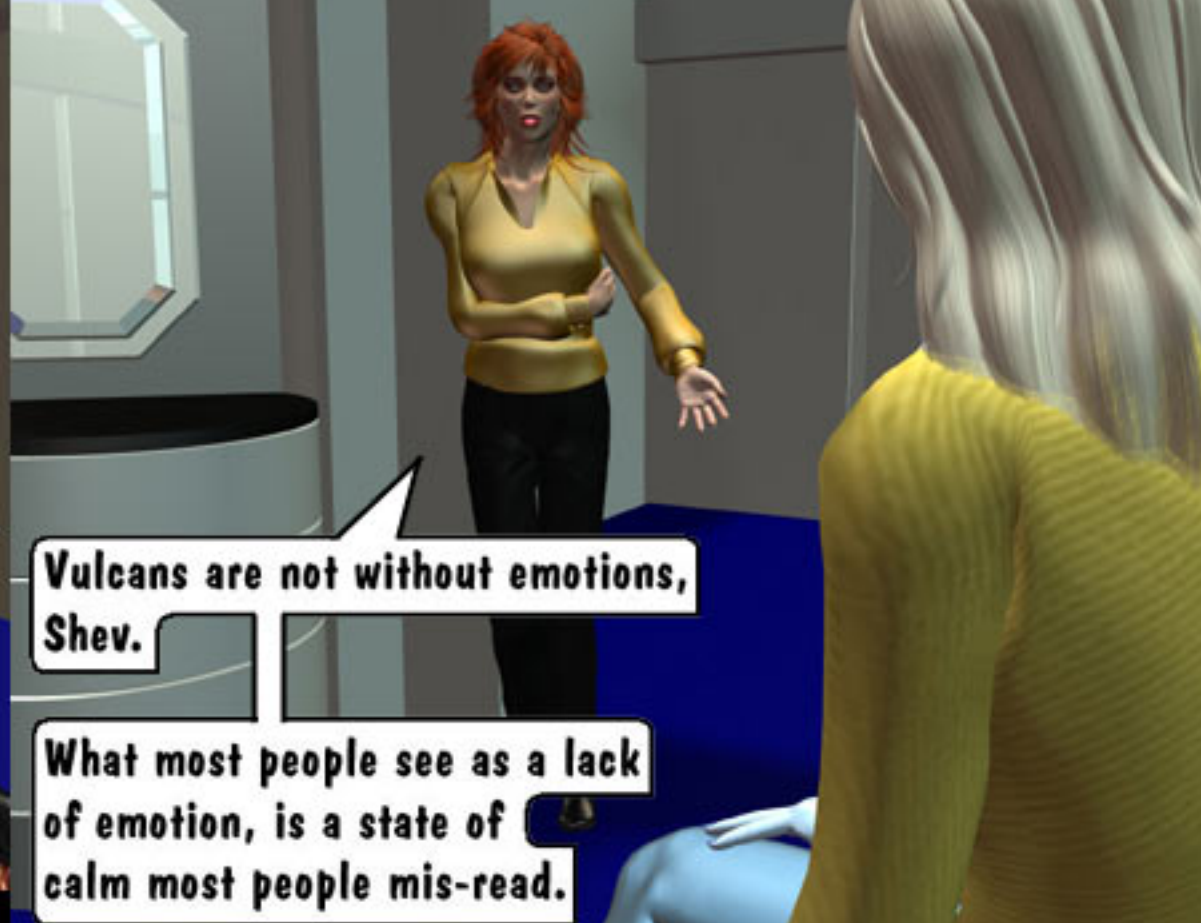
And how's that working out for you?

How do you mean?




Human, Vulcan. One emotional, one not.

You show your emotions pretty easily. How's that go over with him?




Vulcans are not without emotions, Shev.

What most people see as a lack of emotion, is a state of calm most people mis-read.



If I had thought Spock was an emotionless computer, I would never have fallen in love with him.


I feel complete with him—more so than any other man I've ever known.



Does that include Gary Mitchell?

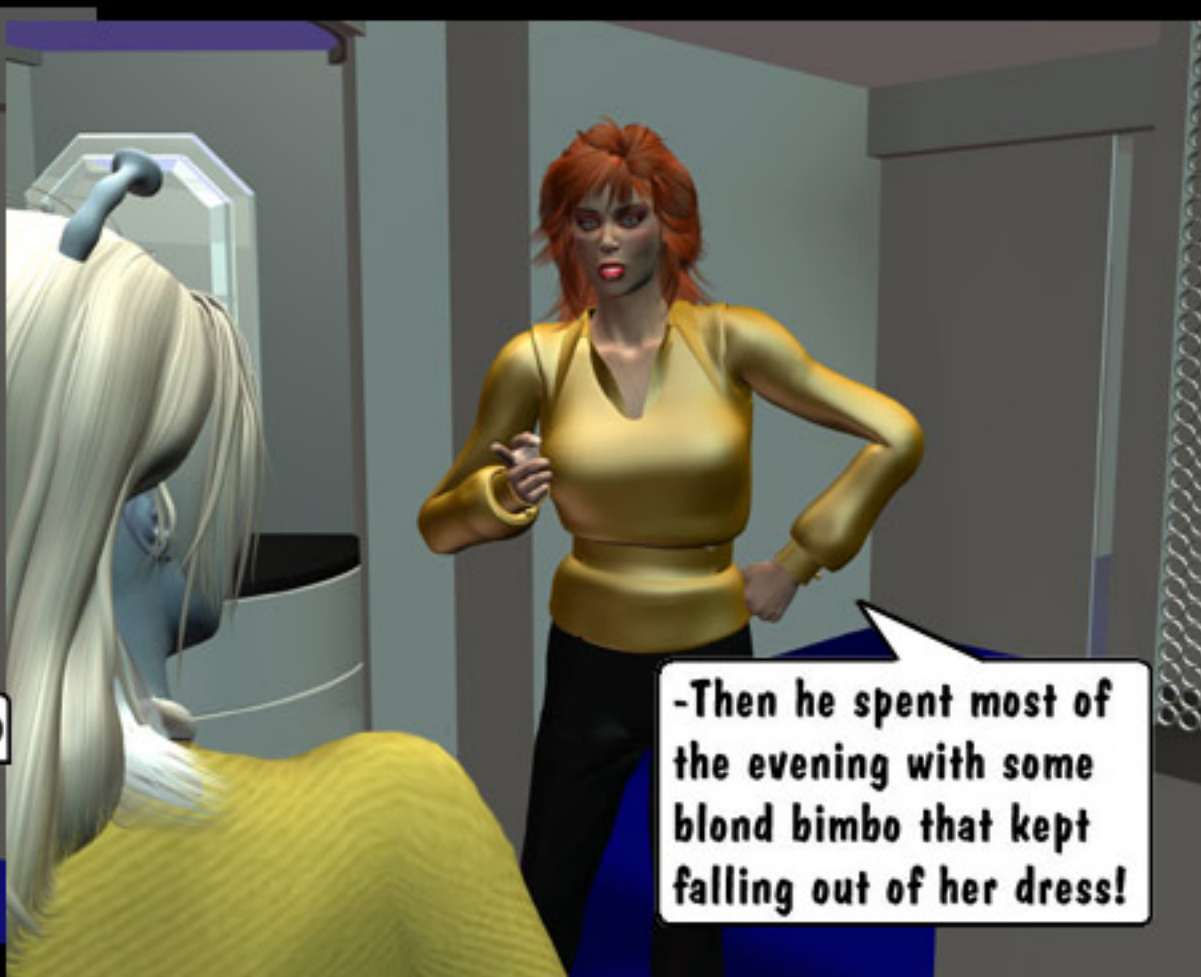


I was never in love with Gary Mitchell.



That's not the way he told it.

To hear him, you practically begged to go out with him.



Next Morning:
Stardate 5937.0



Ba-leep!

Captain? It's Tamera.



Let her in.

Swoosh

'Morning. Computer said
you wanted to see me?

Swoosh

Still asleep.

She sleeps almost as much
as a real cat.

What's up?

Yes. Where's Isis?





If we're going to get you back in the Academy, we have to start making arrangements for getting you back to Earth.



With everything that's happened lately, I'd almost forgotten about it.



You still want to go, don't you?



The time-traveling's just a side bit.

Of course.

Good. We'll arrive at Starbase 98 in the morning.



Uncle Frank's in command and Aunt T'Pel runs Starfleet Intelligence from there.

I'm going to call later and see if they can come on board when we arrive.



Jan, I don't know "Admiral Fitzpatrick" or "Aunt T'Pel".

Nonsense. Uncle Frank is the same man you knew sixteen years ago.

And you knew T'Pel back then.

Yes- but they weren't married back then.

No, but you knew it was coming.

Once we get to the Neutral Zone, I'll have enough to worry about without worrying about my kid sister.

Besides, anyway you look at it, Starbase 98 is as far as you go.

I understand.

Besides, you'll need sponsors-someone besides me.

Who better than two admirals?

That's true.

Ba-leep!

Captain? It's Commander Tar'laren.

That's right. You never had a chance to meet Shev.

Come.

Who?



Thought I'd see if you might have time...for...



Oh, the story behind *this* ought to be good.



Personal log; Stardate 5937.0. Janet Kirk recording. Shev's probably one of the few people we could trust with the truth of Tam's origins.

As quickly as we could, we filled her in. When we were done, she just shook her head...



I can see life around you won't be dull.



You two go on to the Officer's Mess and I'll join you in a little bit.

This won't take long.



Come.

Swoosh

The Computer said you wanted to see me, Captain?

Yes, Mr. Barker. Come in.



You've been Mr. Scott's assistant for what? Six months now?

Yes, Ma'am.

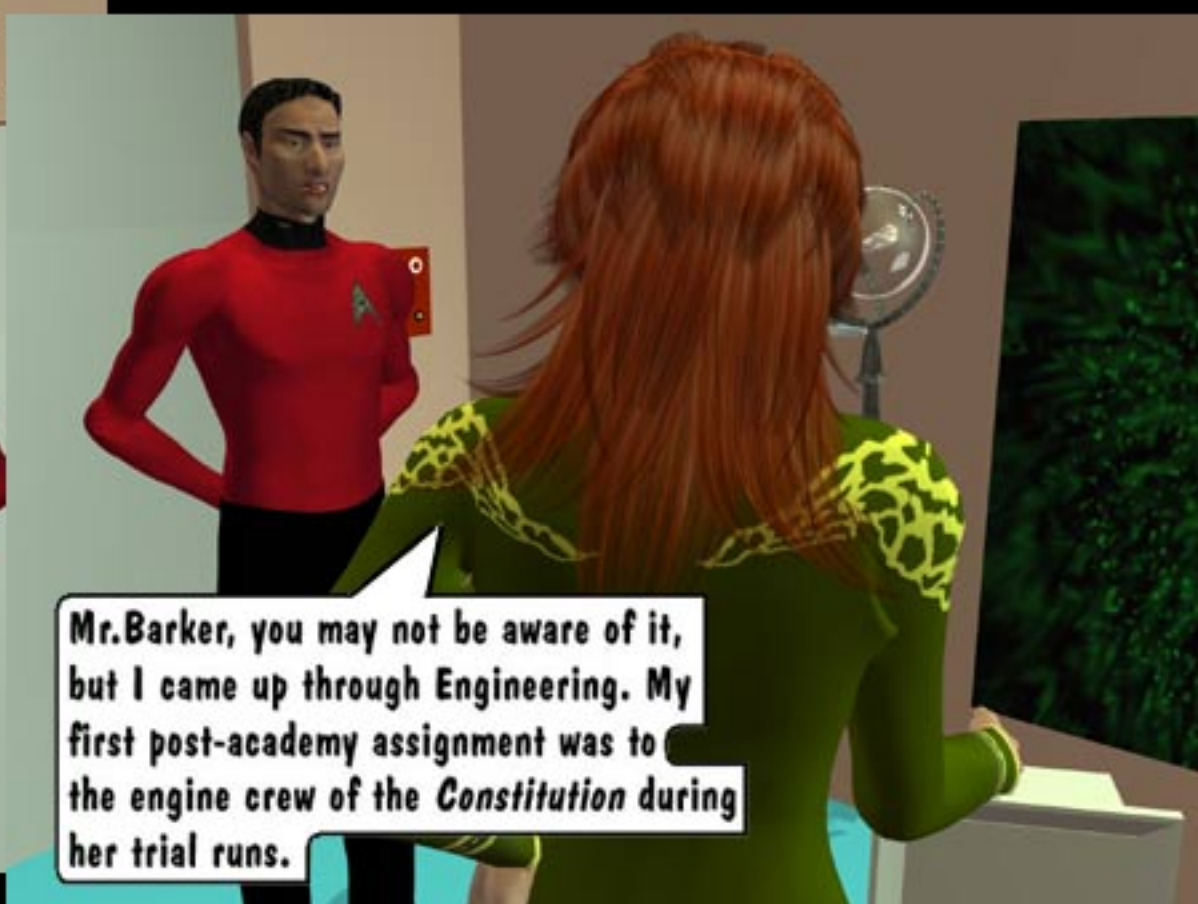
The weekly status report that was filed yesterday. Who wrote it?



I did.

Mr. Scott was busy re-calibrating the dilithium chamber at the time.

I see.



Mr. Barker, you may not be aware of it, but I came up through Engineering. My first post-academy assignment was to the engine crew of the *Constitution* during her trial runs.

I attempted to read your report last night and was unable to wade through it.



Ma'am?

A famous twentieth century Earth Leader once said "This report, by it's very length, defends itself against being read."*

Not only was your report excessively long, it was so weighed down by so much techno-babble, I couldn't get past the third page.



You will go back to your quarters and re-write that report so it can be read.

Is that clear?

Yes, Ma'am.

Dismissed.

*Winston Churchill

Officers' Mess

...Academy Christmas party.
But once he had her outside,
he tried to take advantage of her.

So what happened?

She kicked him
in the groin and
left him lying there
in the snow.

An admiral's son?!

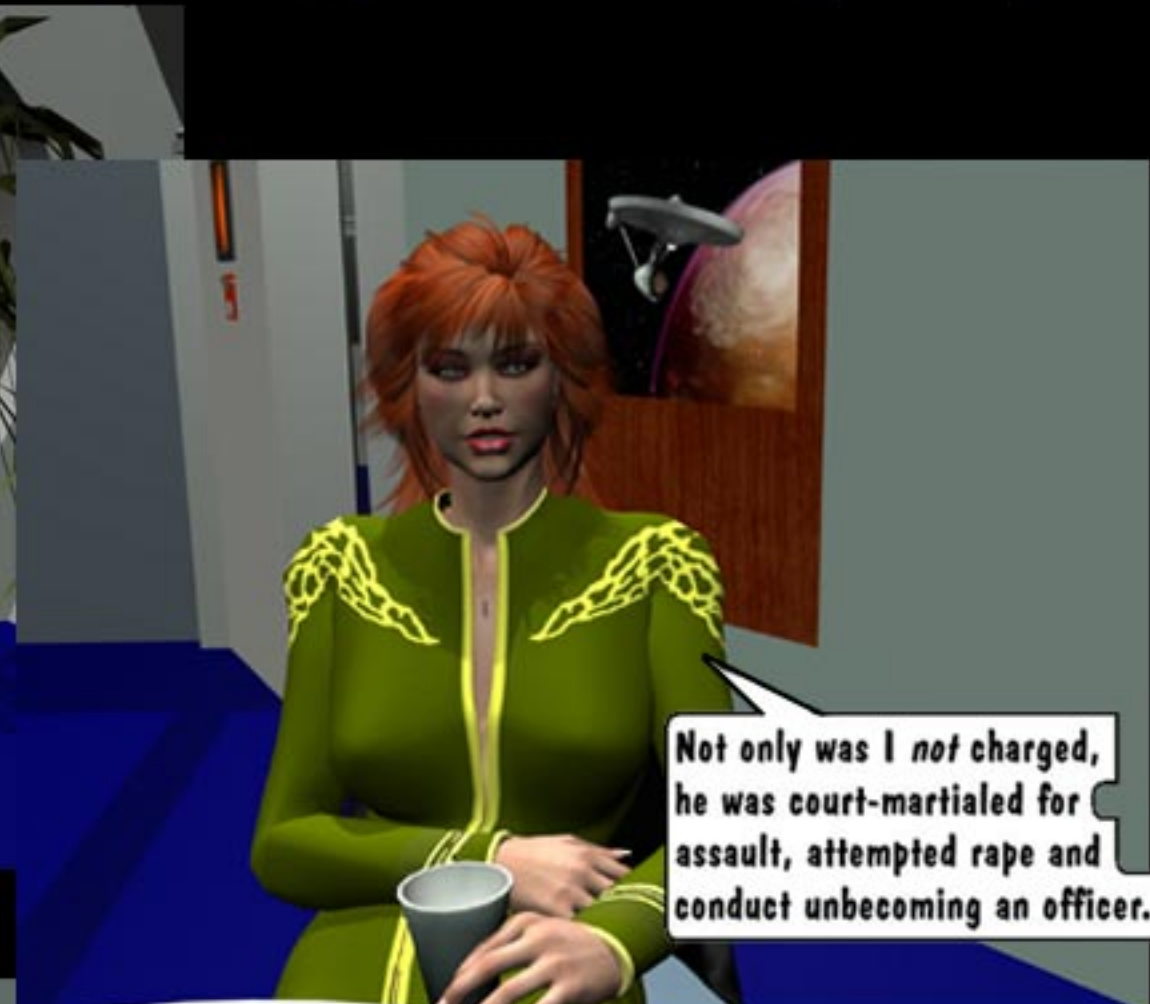
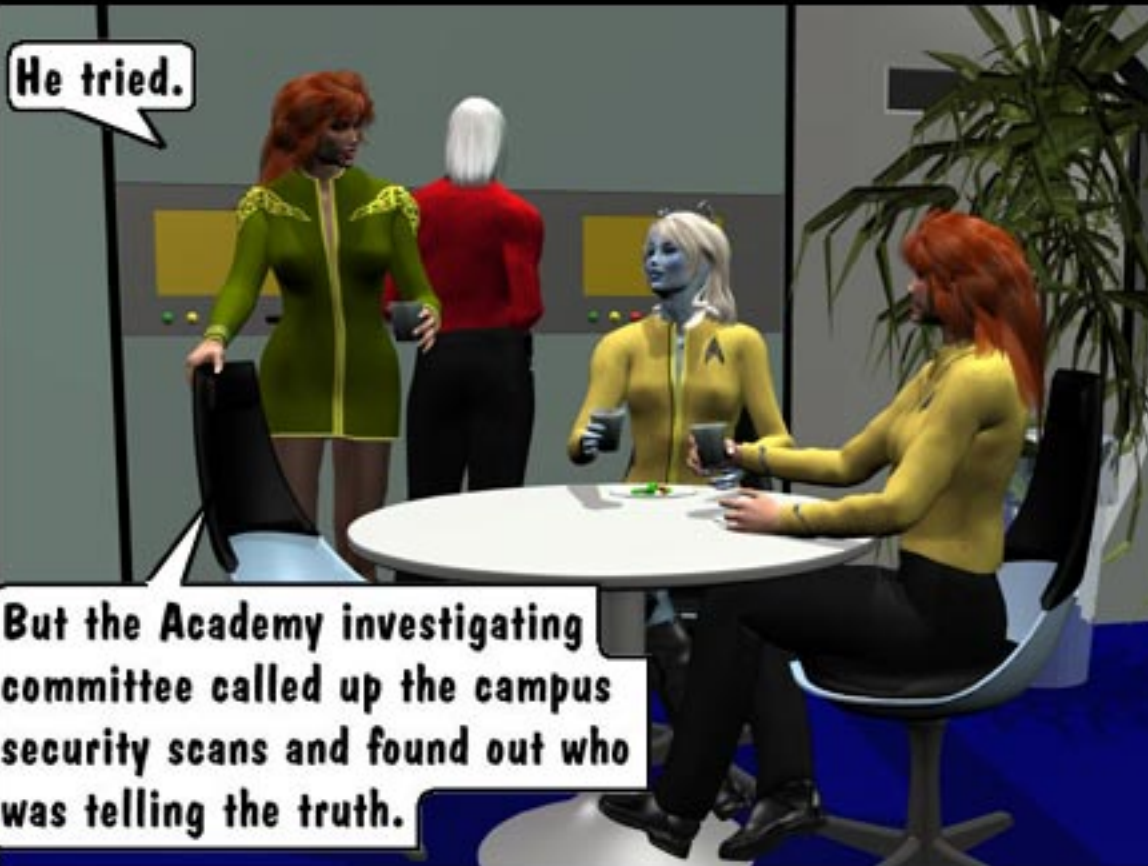
Swoosh

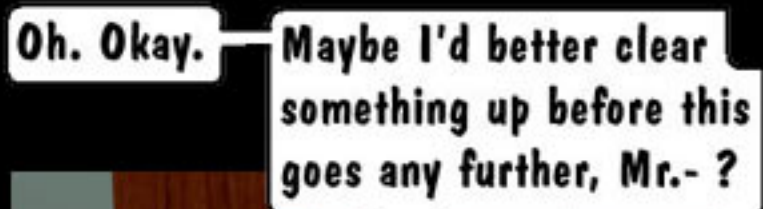
Captain.

Mr. Therran.

Doesn't matter
who's son he was.

Well, what
happened?









Uncle Frank.
I was going to call later.
What's up?

Thought I'd call
and see if Shev had
arrived yet.

Yes. She arrived yesterday
evening- in fact, we were
having breakfast when I
got word you were calling.

Good. I was afraid she
wouldn't show up.

I don't understand.
Why wouldn't she?

Do you know the details
of the attack on the *Venture*?

Only what was in the dispatches.

There was one detail that
Starfleet left out of those
dispatches.

What detail's that?

Jan...Shev was
the only survivor.

My god...

When the *Farragut* offered to transport her off, Shev refused-
-said someone had to stay and monitor what was left.



It was a three day trip to Starbase 15-
and she stayed on that flying coffin
with a dead crew the entire time.

The Andorian in her. After her parents
died in that damn boating accident,
the *Venture's* crew was all the family
she had left.



After her parents died, I started keeping
track of her- just like I keep track of you.

When I heard what happened,
I called in a few favors and made
sure her next assignment was the
Enterprise.



You need to remind her that friends
and family can be one and the same-
and not all of her family died on
the *Venture*.

Her counselors say she wouldn't talk about the attack.
she said that between the de-briefings and the counseling,
they were driving her crazy- they wouldn't let it die.

You think she'll committ
suicide? She seems fine.



You know as well as I do,
that what's churning on
the inside doesn't always
show up on the outside
till it's too late.



All right. I'll keep an eye on her.

Good. Now, why were you going to call?

A couple of things. First- can you and Aunt T'Pel beam over when we arrive?

I have something I need to talk to you about and it would be easier to do it in person.

A problem?


Not the kind you're thinking of.




All right. Anything else?

Is there anyway to recall my Chief Helmsman? He left on a month's leave after we left Vulcan. Since I'm losing Chekov, I'd like to have Sulu back if I can- especially since we're dealing with the Romulans.

I'm afraid he's not available.



To my knowledge you've never met Sulu- yet you talk like you know him personally.



All right, Uncle Frank, How long has Sulu worked for Aunt T'Pel?

You never would accept a simple answer and let it go.

Simple answers can get people killed.

How long has Sulu been part of Starfleet Intelligence?

Long enough- and you know that's all I can say.

Damn.

All right. I'll see that it's noted in Shev's record.


All right then. Let me move Shev to the helm and bring up one of my own for navigation.

Uncle Frank, tell Aunt T'pel I'm disappointed in her.


I should 've known about Sulu's outside activities so I could plan around them.

If Shev hadn't been available, I'd be in a hell of a mess right now with my two best con officers gone or leaving.

Understood. I'll note it for the record. But SFI can't tell everyone what they're doing or they wouldn't be able to do their job.



Not everyone- just
the operative's
immediate superior-
if circumstances
allow it.



Noted.
anything else?

Not till we arrive tomorrow.

All right. We'll see you
then. Fitzpatrick out.

Kirk out.




This is the Captain.



Commander Tar'Laren, please
report to the Command Suite.




Ba-leep!



Captain, it's
Commander Tar'laren.

Let her in.






You know it's been over five years since I was home last?


I've been thinking about it more and more lately.

Shev -



I was Chief Helmsman on the *Venture*- and where was I when I should have been on the bridge?


Stuck in Auxillary Control like some damn ensign!!



All I could do was listen to the comm channel.

Alerts, orders- to my station- and I couldn't do a damn thing.

That won't happen here. On the *Enterprise*, you'll have *one* job- the Helm.



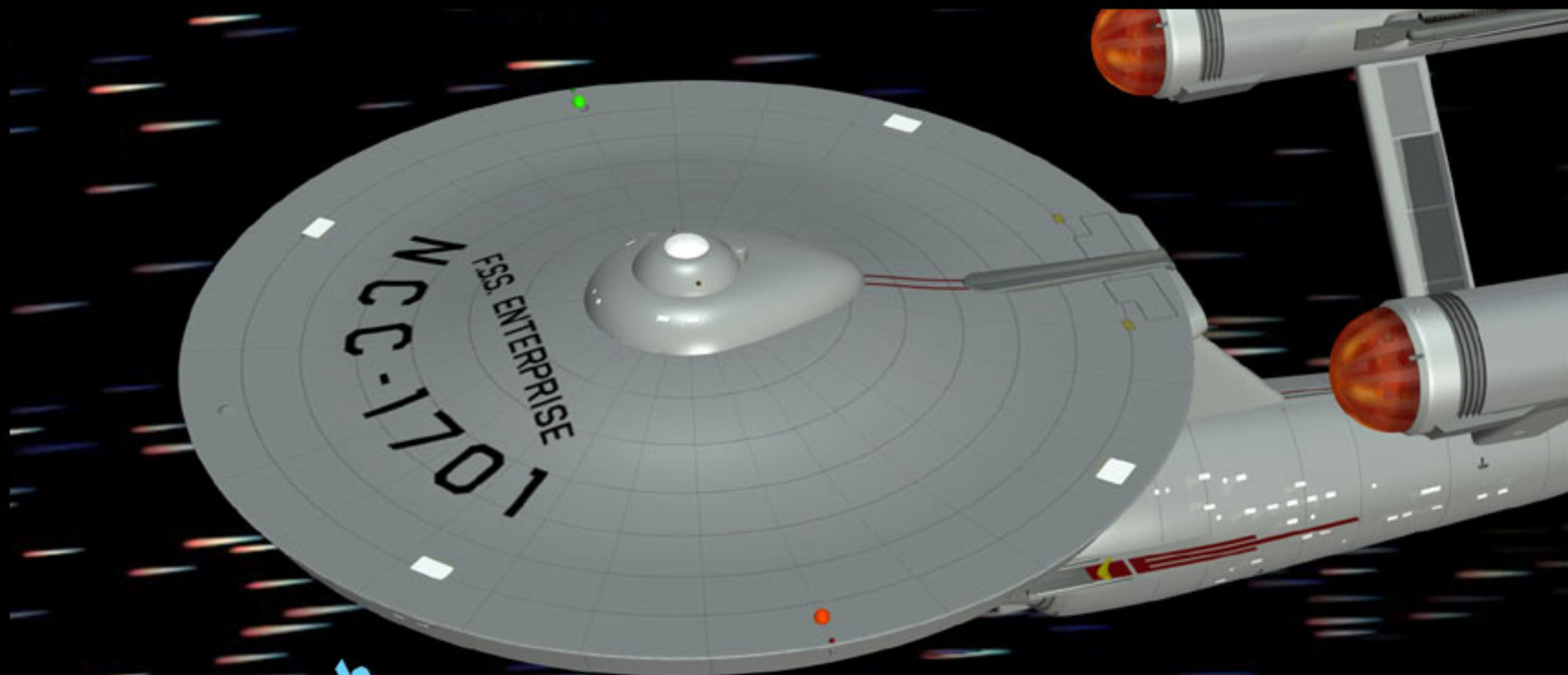
Can you promise that?

Can you promise I'll be on the bridge, at my post, doing what I can to keep my family crew alive?

Yes.

You're not alone, Shev. Between me and Uncle Frank, you never have been.





Swoosh



Tamera ?



Jan said I could come up and look around since nothing major was going on right now.

Very well.



More stream-lined than a Daedalus-class bridge.

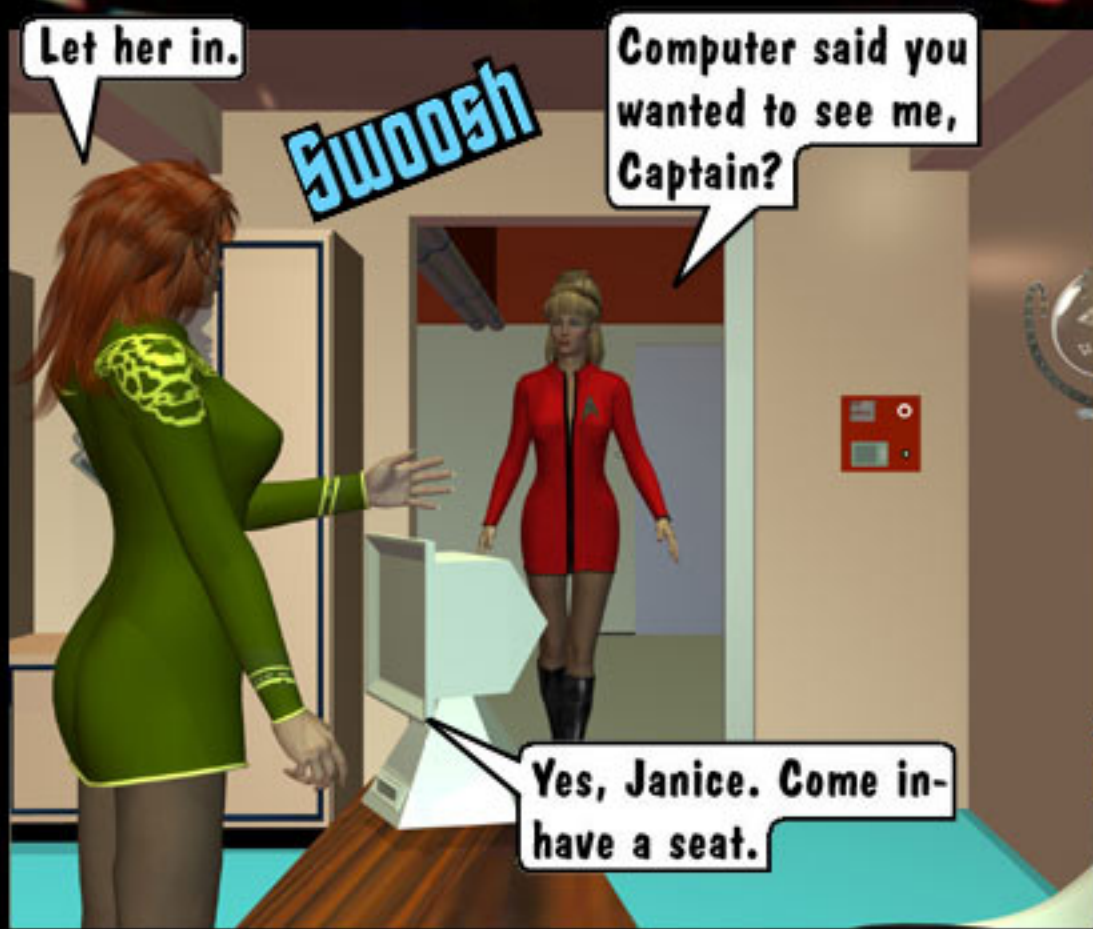
Yes- however, you will find the work stations are still in their familiar locations.





Ba-leep!

Captain? It's Lt. Rand.

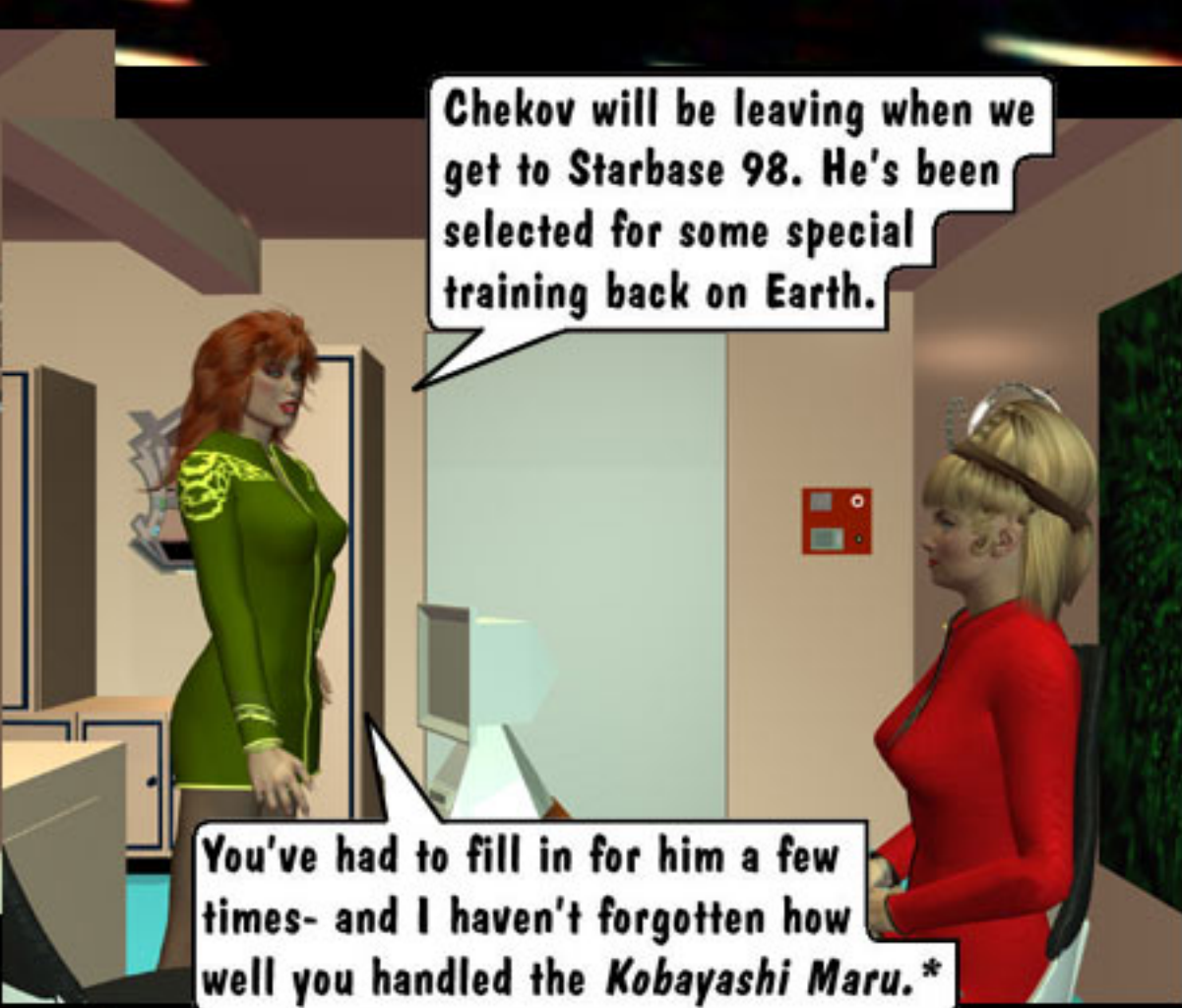


Let her in.

Swoosh

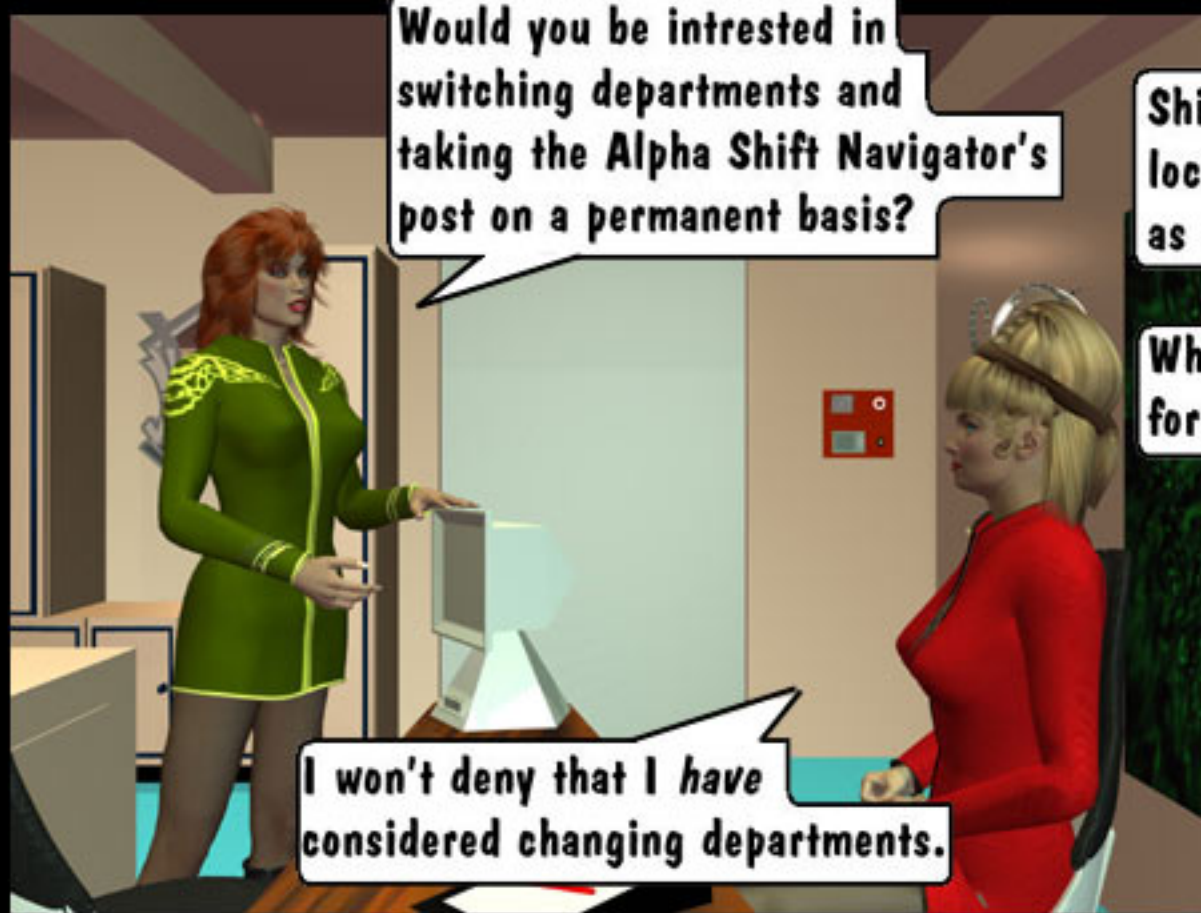
Computer said you wanted to see me, Captain?

Yes, Janice. Come in- have a seat.



Chekov will be leaving when we get to Starbase 98. He's been selected for some special training back on Earth.

You've had to fill in for him a few times- and I haven't forgotten how well you handled the *Kobayashi Maru*.*



Would you be intrested in switching departments and taking the Alpha Shift Navigator's post on a permanent basis?

I won't deny that I *have* considered changing departments.



Ship's Services is kind of locked up right now as far as advancement is concerned.

When would I have to report for duty?

*"Guardian's Child"





Swoosh

You have had an emotional morning to say the least.

Noticed that, did you?

We're not ready for the Neutral Zone- not with the shape we're in.

With Sulu and Chekov, we stood a good chance.

They'd grown into a good team- they could almost anticipate each other.

But Shev and Janice ?
Who knows ?

We're going to need it.

They are both competent officers- as Sulu and Chekov were in the begining.

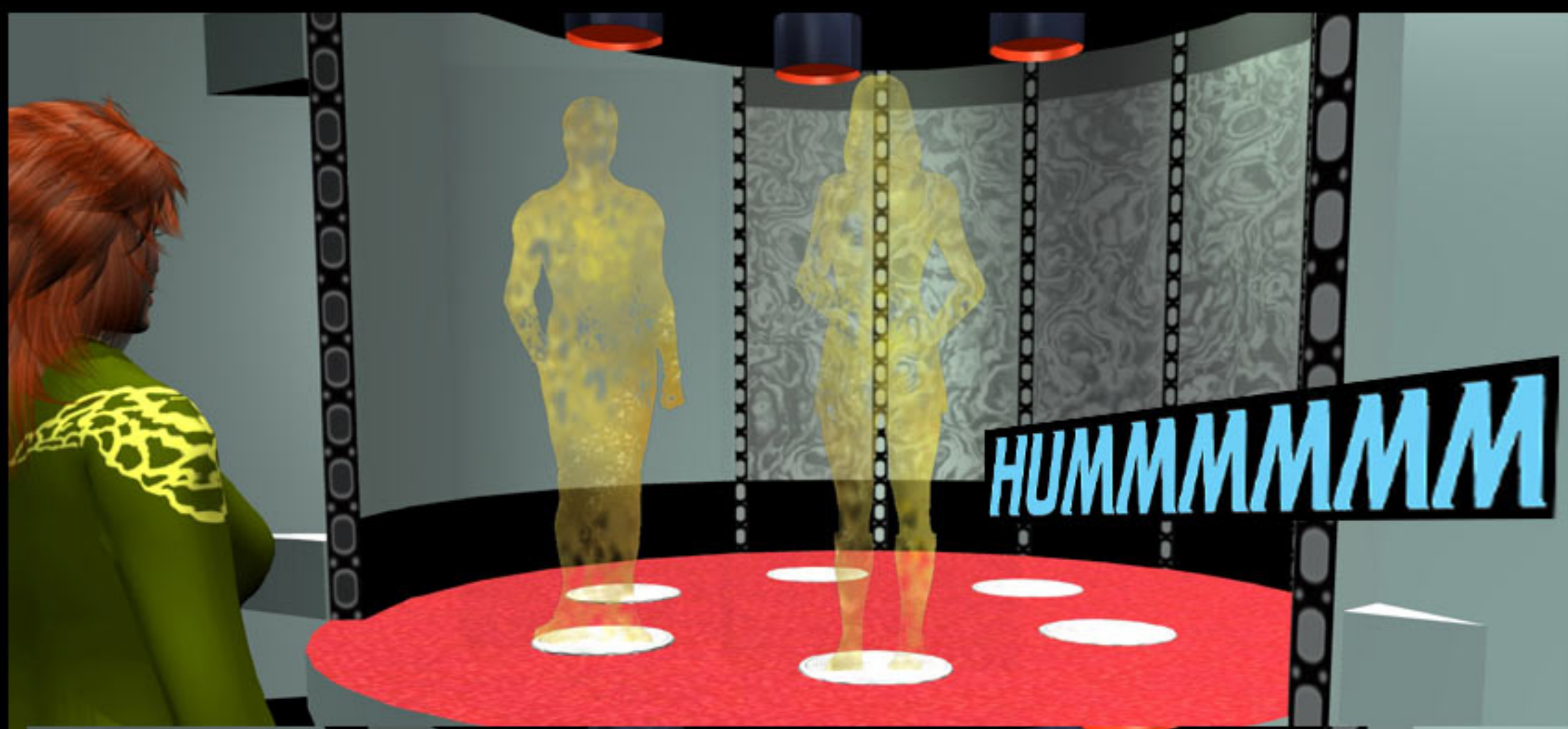
Plus there is still time between Starbase 98 and the Neutral Zone for practice drills.

Captain's log; Stardate 5938.02.
Note for the record, Lt. Pavel Chekov's
departure upon our arrival at
Starbase 98.



In the two years, he has served
under my command, I've watched
him grow into a seasoned officer
whom I'm certain will continue to
do well wherever he goes...





Admiral Franklin Fitzpatrick-
Uncle Frank- may I present
my First Officer- and husband-
Commander Spock?

Commander. It's a pleasure
to finally meet you.

Spock, of the House of T'Pau-

The honor is mine, sir.

-my aunt, Admiral T'Pel of
the House of T'Sage.

I hope I said that right.
It's been awhile.

It will do.

Spock, I am pleased
our houses are now one.

T'Pel, you honor us
with your presence.

Well, now that the formalities are
over, what's your problem, Jan?

She's waiting in her
quarters.

She?

Swoosh

Ba-leep!

Now who can
that be?

Come.

Swoosh

May I come in?

Yes.

Is something wrong?

No, ma'am.

I just wanted to...appologise
for yesterday.

Normally, when new personel come
onboard, I read over their file. I'd
heard about the *Venture*- there are
few in the Fleet that haven't- and
knowing you were Andorian, I didn't
read your file when I should have.

You expected the typical
andorian background.

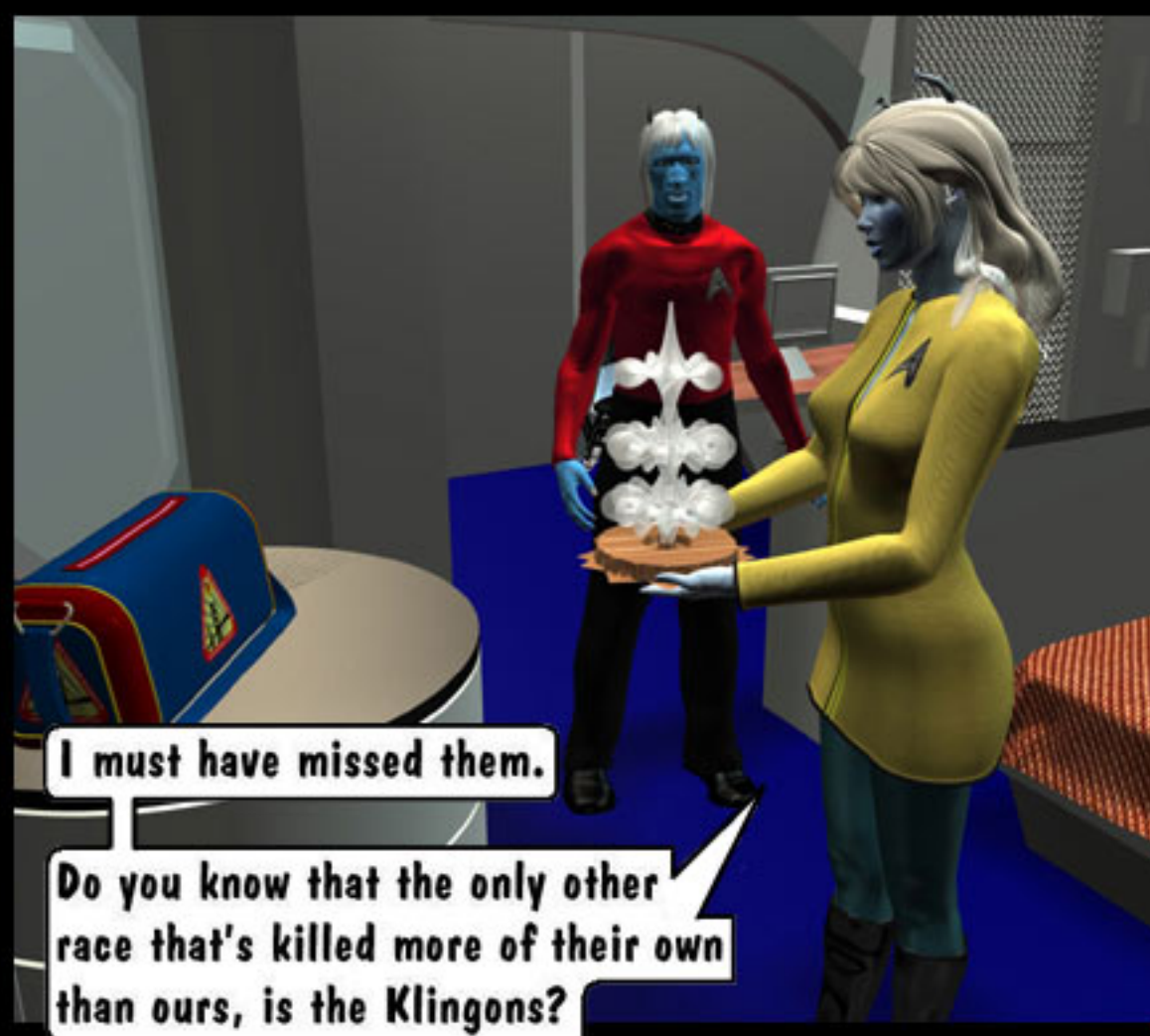
I understand. If our positions
had been reversed, I
probably would have ,too.

It's Andorian custom to
welcome someone with a
gift.

Thank you.

Humans call it a
"House warming present".

It's very nice.





Our people have the potential to be among the greatest artisans in the galaxy.



So why do we settle for a history of bloodshed?



Until the galaxy finally knows peace, I'm afraid we'll have to settle for both.

Commander.



Mr. Therran?

Yes?



When my parents died, I had my mother's paintings placed in storage.



But I brought scans of my favorites for cabin decorations.

When Alpha shift ends, could you show me where the fabrication facilities are?



It'll be my pleasure.



"Do you feel it's proper to refer to 'the crew' in your log, when I am your only crew member?"

"It's a...it's tradition to refer a ship's personel as her crew."



"Nobody said you can't have a crew of One."

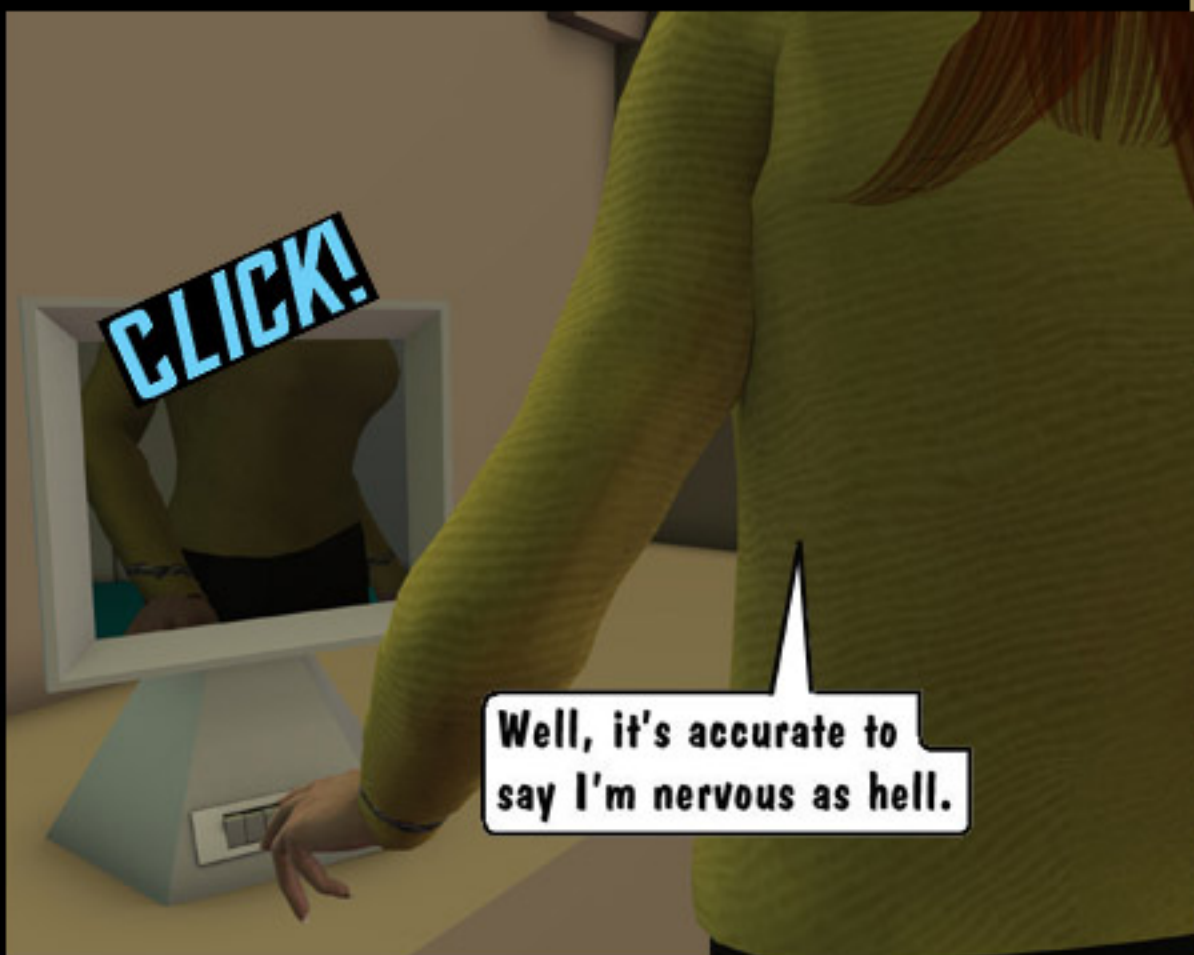


"Intresting. But it is inaccurate to say your Vulcan crew is happy and in good spirits."



RErowll!

So watch it later.



CLICK!

Well, it's accurate to say I'm nervous as hell.

Oh, Isis, I've known
Uncle Frank all my
life-

-but not this one.

I wish I knew how
he'll react.

Ba-leep!

Swoosh

What the Hell- ?

Come.

Remarkable.

How?

Both of you have a seat.

It's a long story.

Personal log; Additional.
Janet Kirk recording.
At my nod, Tam opened a
portal and we all watched
her story unfold-

-From Ben Finney's escape and hacking
of Starfleet records, to the altered
time line he created and the Guardian's
rescue of Tam.

Before I could stop her, Ben Finney's
fate was revealed as well... *

*"Guardian's Child"

The Talosians?!

Jan!

Uncle Frank, there was no
choice!

With Finney's computer skills,
no penal colony could hold him.
Eventually, he'd escape and
we'd be right back where we
started.

The only answer was to cage
both his body and his mind.

And you know as well as I do,
that if anyone else finds out
about this, you're as good as dead!



I don't understand.

What's so dangerous about
these Talosians?



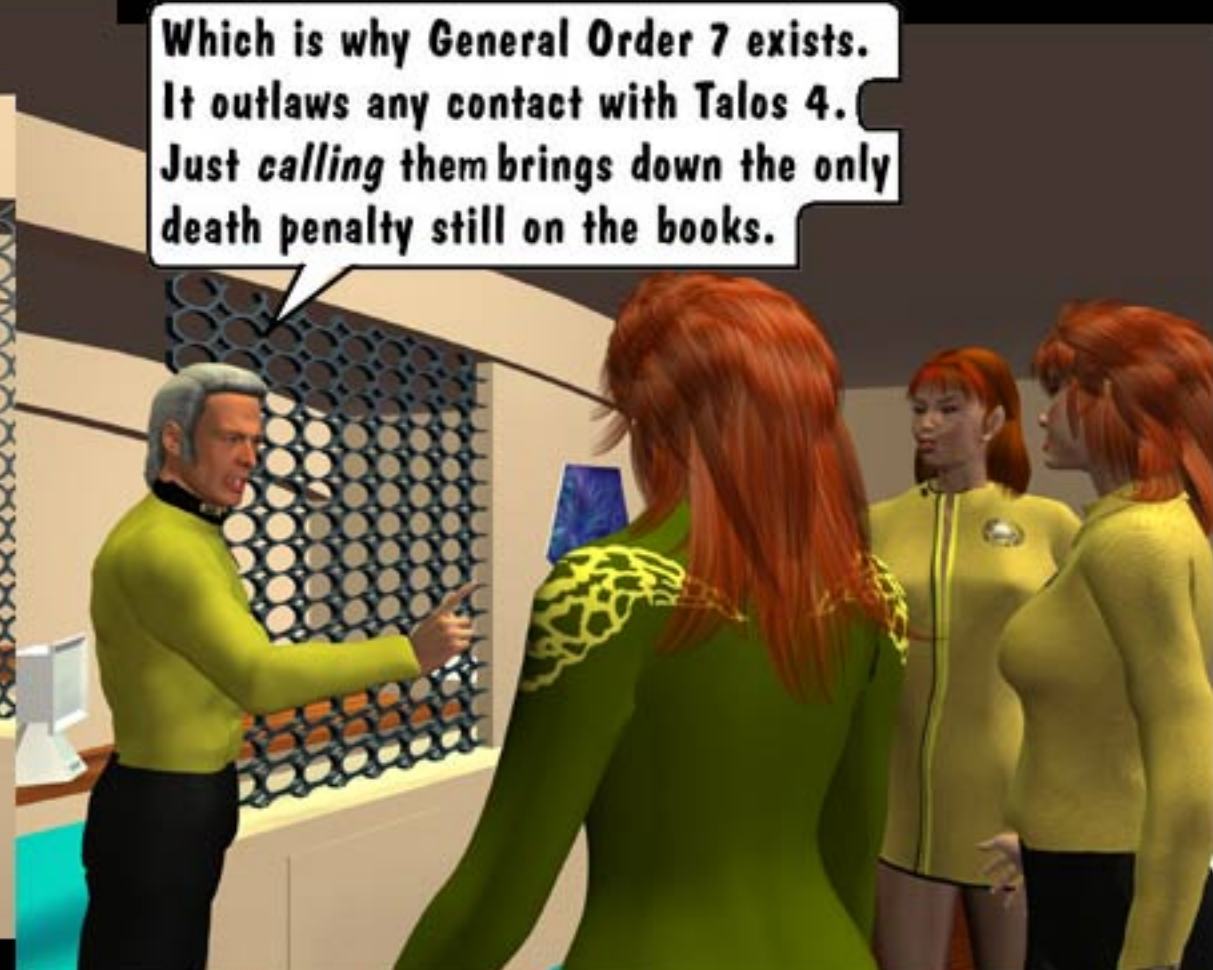
They are the strongest telepaths the
Union's ever encountered.

They can reach into your mind and
make your worst nightmare as real
as this cabin- and you won't escape
it until they let you.



Whoah.

Which is why General Order 7 exists.
It outlaws any contact with Talos 4.
Just *calling* them brings down the only
death penalty still on the books.



The Admiralty made an exception
when the Talosians invited Pike to
live with them.



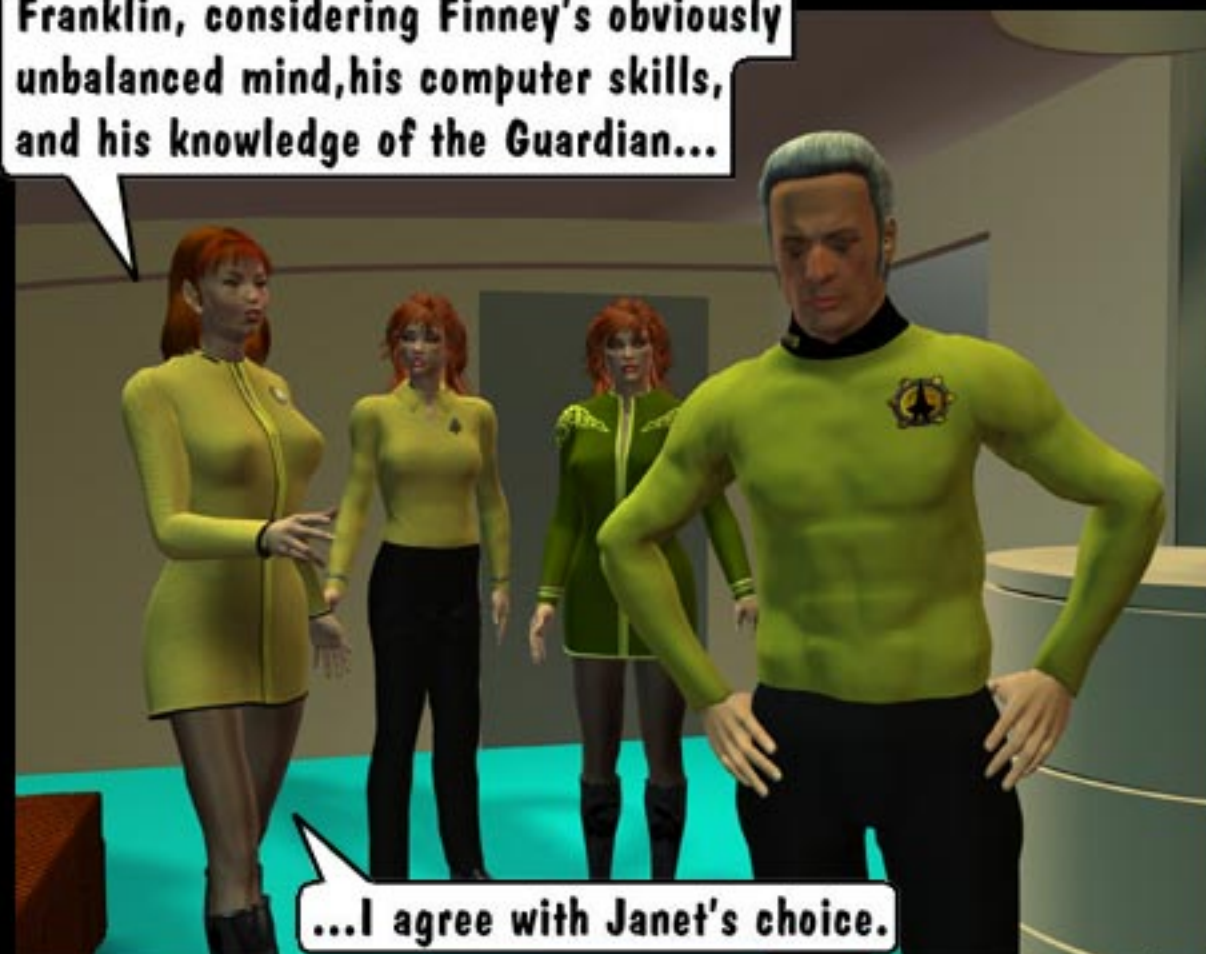
And the decision to pardon Spock
was closer than you suspect.

Who else was in on this?



Spock- and Dr. McCoy. He
had to sedate Finney so we
could get him in the shuttle.

Franklin, considering Finney's obviously unbalanced mind, his computer skills, and his knowledge of the Guardian...



...I agree with Janet's choice.

So do I, but that doesn't change the law any.



There have been changes at the Admiralty since Pike left.



We can't count on them making the same decision a second time.



You have any other surprises you want to tell us about?



Show them what happened in the Twentieth century.



What's been said in this cabin, stays in this cabin- Clear?

Clear.

Clear.

Agreed.





"Once more, Tam opened a portal and we watched the events of the past..."

"Assignment: Yesterday"

"Our arrival in 1978 in an attempt to prevent a murder. Our teaming up with Colonel Fellini and Gary Seven against Romulan agents and their time-traveling Bird-of-Prey... *"



How'd they get the formula for time-travel ?

One of their agents knew me and Gary Seven on sight.



So, I'm assuming a mole in the government- one with access to my mission reports-

-which included the Breakaway Time-travel formulas.

Damn.

What you're suggesting, will be difficult to prove.

Any investigation will have to be done quietly- or your 'mole' will burrow deeper into our society and we will lose them.

I will begin the investigation upon our return to the Starbase.

This encounter would also seem to confirm what our agents in the Empire have been hearing.

For some time now, there has been an increasing military build-up.

In fact, Military needs have been given priority over every other aspect of Romulan life.

There is every indication that they intend to re-ignite the Earth-Romulan War.

That's why you wanted the *Enterprise* patrolling the Neutral Zone.

Yes.


The information you've gathered about them- No shields, their plasma energy burst, their cloaking technology...

...tracking them by their propulsion residue and motion sensors...


All of that has been forwarded to every ship and station along the Neutral Zone- But only the *Enterprise* has any hands-on experience.

In the meantime...Tamera, your ability will be a great asset to Temporal Research-


NO!

A woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform is talking to another woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform.


I told you I wanted a career in Starfleet- A ship of my own someday.

A woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform is talking to another woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform.


That's *not* going to happen.

A woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform is talking to another woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform.

I don't want to spend the next four or five *centuries* locked away in a lab somewhere!

A woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform is talking to two other women with red hair in Starfleet uniforms.


Is it?

A close-up of a woman with red hair and blue eyes, looking serious.


...No.

A man with grey hair in a Starfleet uniform is talking to a woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform.


We can keep her ability off the record.

A man with grey hair in a Starfleet uniform is talking to a woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform.


It is a shame however, that such a resource will never be used to it's full potential.

A woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform is talking to two other people in Starfleet uniforms.


There are numerous historical mysteries that she alone now has the ability to solve.

A woman with red hair in a Starfleet uniform is talking to two other people in Starfleet uniforms.

Well, why can't I do both?




I think we can come back to that later.




I think a year of remedial class work followed by your Kobyashi Maru.




Then your senior year and you should be ready for your training flights.




In the meantime, if she's going to stay in Starfleet, she's got some catching up to do.



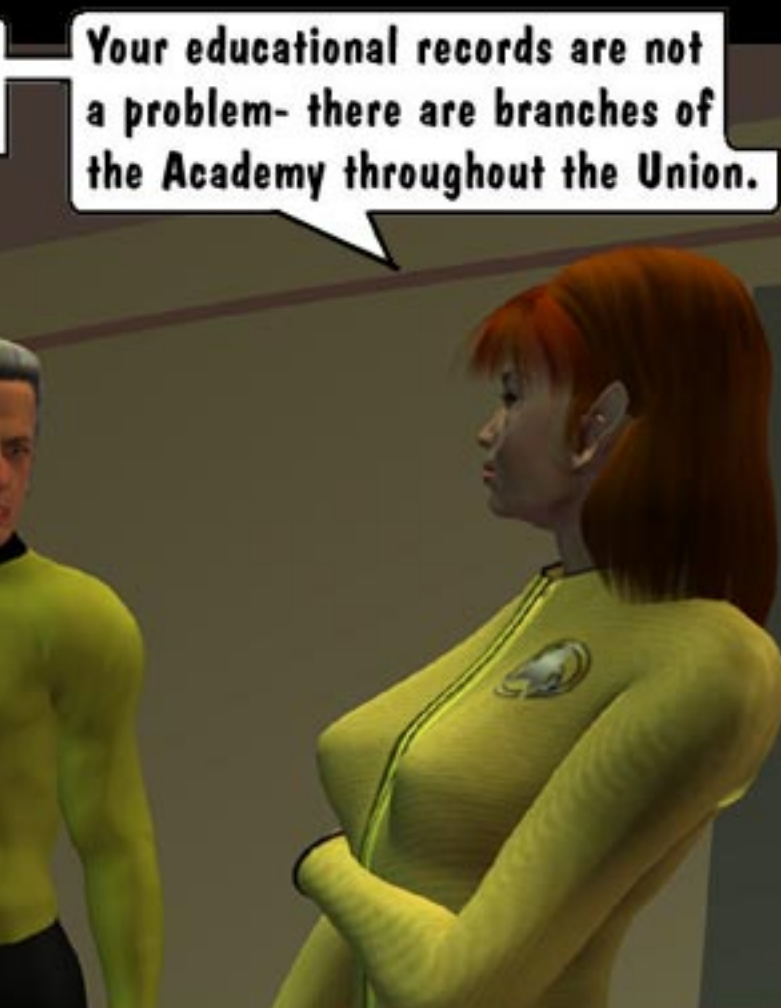
Sixteen years is a lot of time to be jumped over.




We will have to create the necessary records to justify your existence.




You will of course, have to be listed as Janet's younger sister- the family connection is undeniable.




Your educational records are not a problem- there are branches of the Academy throughout the Union.



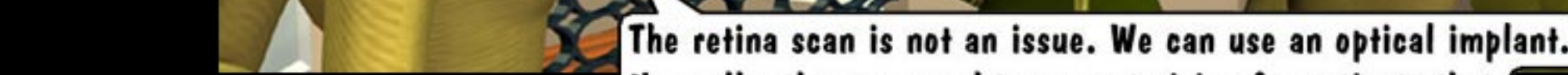
The only problem may be your security profile.



Since you are Janet Tamera Kirk, your retina scan and fingerprints are already in Starfleet's database.



I hadn't thought of that.



The retina scan is not an issue. We can use an optical implant. Normally, they are used to correct vision for patients that cannot tolerate the medications or surgeries.

In your case, we will set one at it's lowest setting. It won't affect your vision, but it will distort your retina just enough to fool the computer.

Red Alert!
Man your Battlestations!
Captain to the Bridge!

Whoop!

As for your fingerprints-

Whoop!

Whoop!

CLICK!

Kirk here.

Romulans.

Where's the *Lydia*?

I didn't see her when we entered orbit.

Starbase 98 has been attacked. One docking berth has been damaged by three plasma energy bursts.

The destroyer *Ares* was in the berth at the time and has suffered damage as well.

She's overdue coming back from patrol.

The *Tamerlane-A* left to look for her just before you arrived.

The only other vessel is the *Ptolemy*.

Contact her. Tell her to jettison her container and stand by.

I'm on my way.
Kirk out.

Swoosh

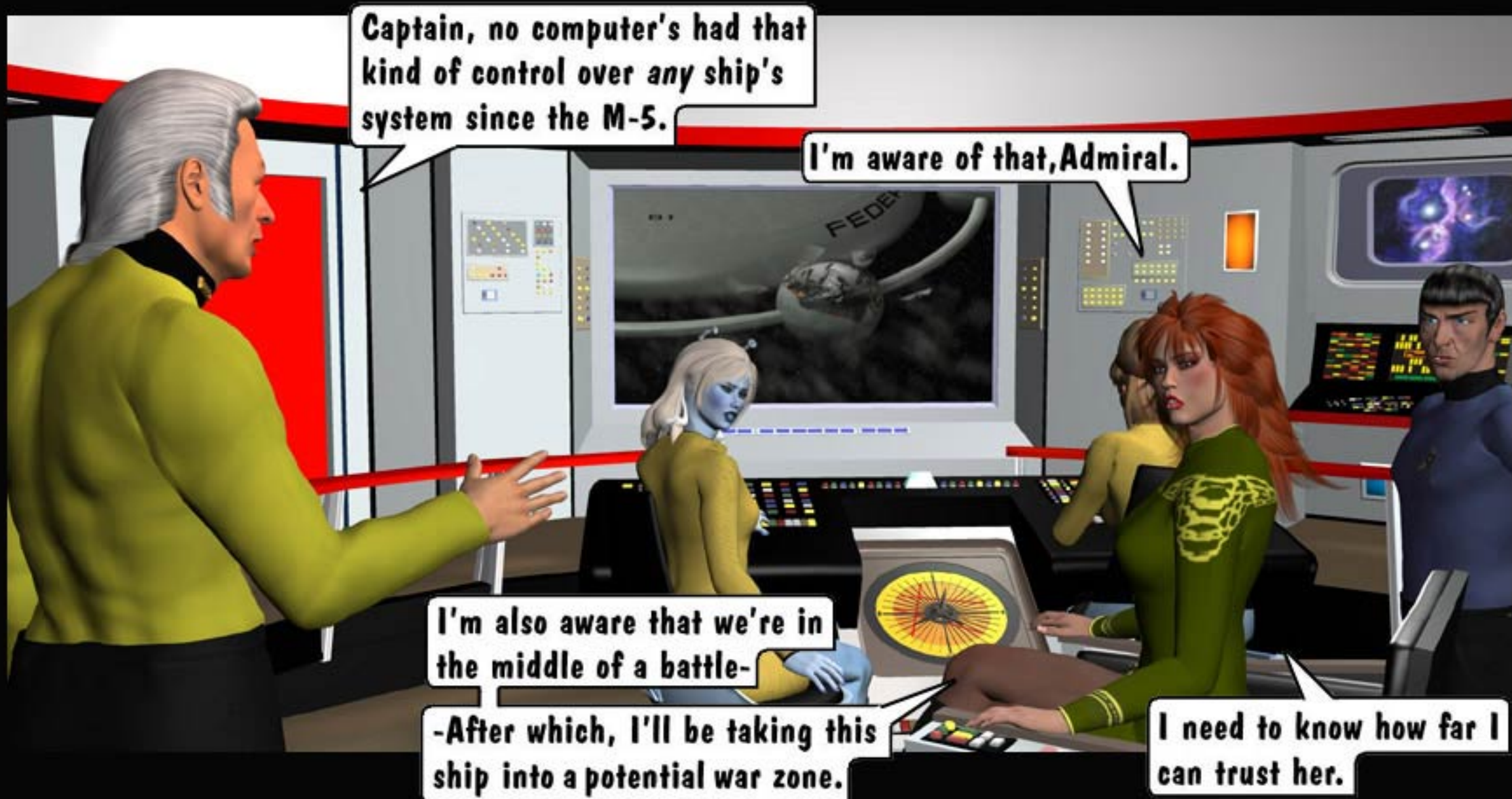




Are you serious?

Are you questioning my orders, Commander?

With all due respect, considering this ship's well-known, *infamous* history with computer control- yes.



Captain, no computer's had that kind of control over *any* ship's system since the M-5.

I'm aware of that, Admiral.

I'm also aware that we're in the middle of a battle-

-After which, I'll be taking this ship into a potential war zone.

I need to know how far I can trust her.



Now release those phasers, Commander-

-Or I'll find someone who will.

Yes, ma'am- Captain.

Port and starboard dorsal phasers are released- as ordered.

You will assume control of the port and starboard dorsal phasers.



Computer?

Yes, Captain?



As of now, you are authorized to fire on any plasma energy bursts you detect- *But only on plasma energy bursts.*

Yes, ma'am.

Port and starboard dorsal phasers are now under computer control.



Now scanning for Plasma energy bursts.



Yes, ma'am.

Put me through to the *Ptolemy*- then the starbase.

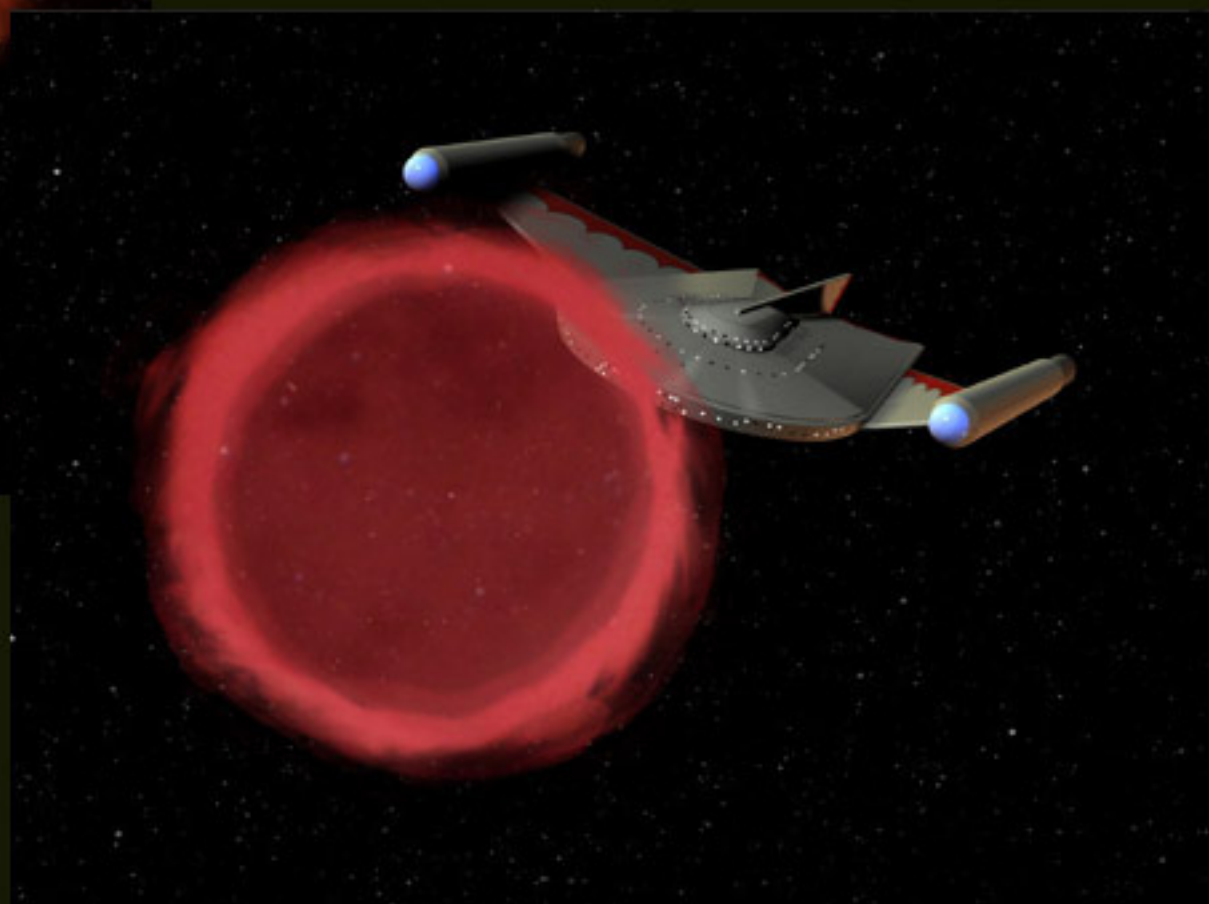
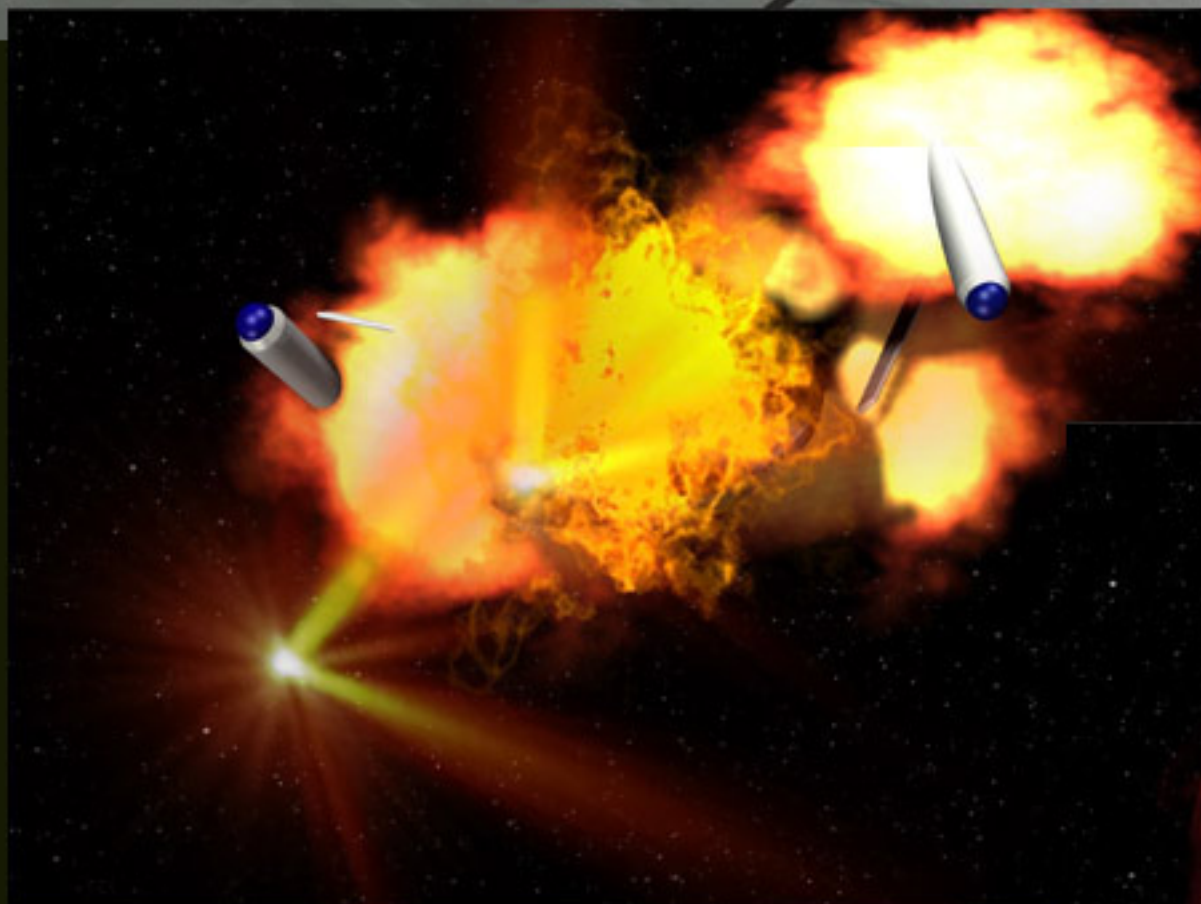
May I ask what your plan is, Captain?

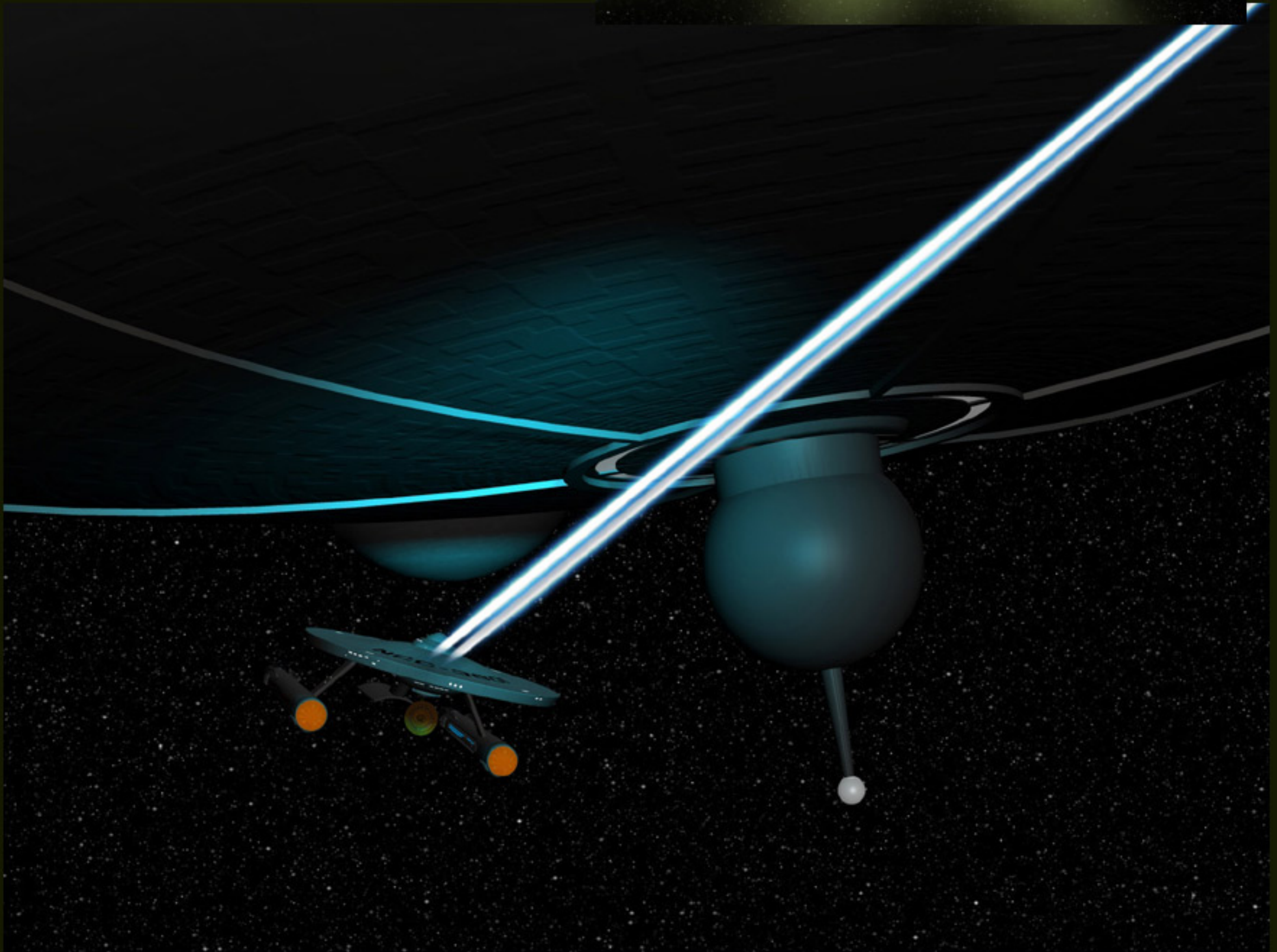
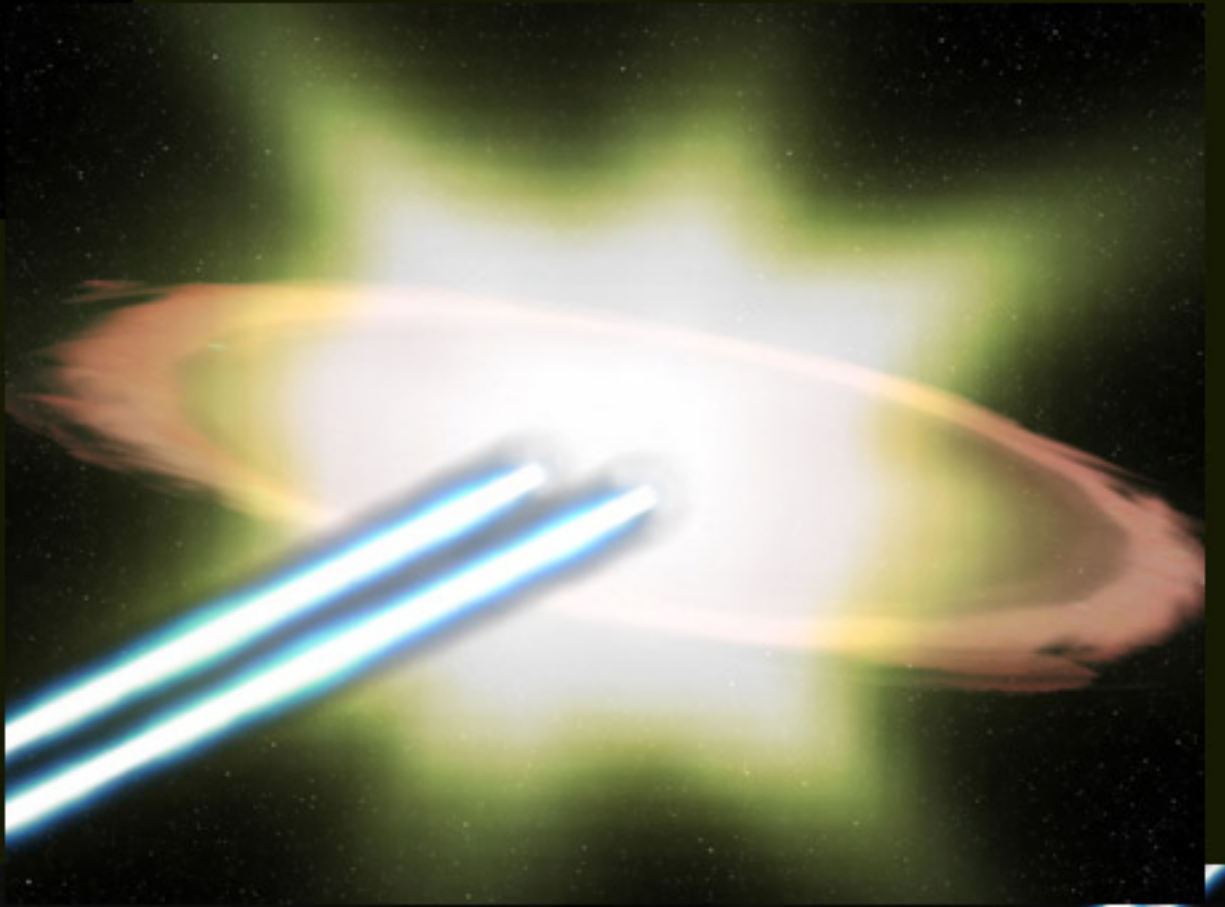


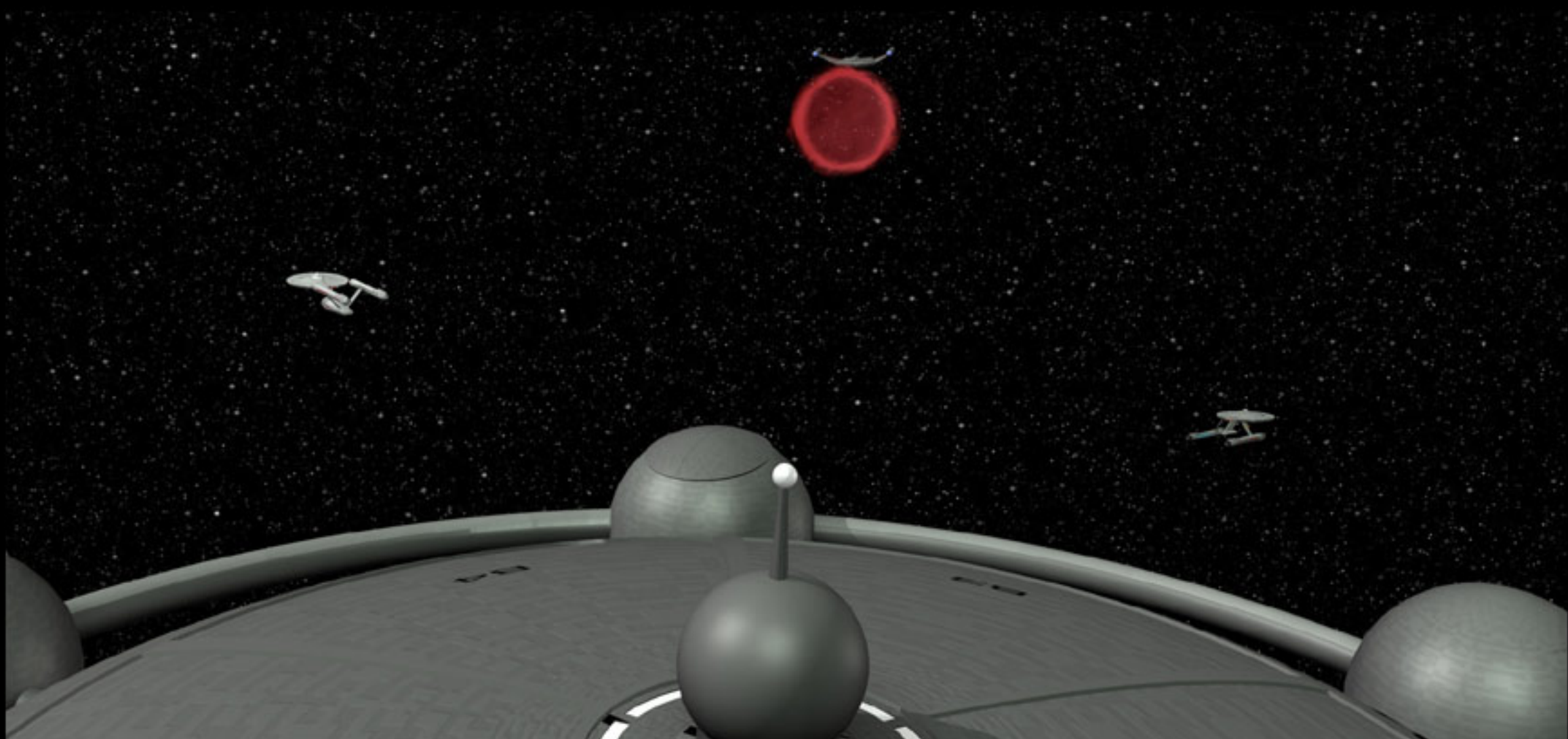
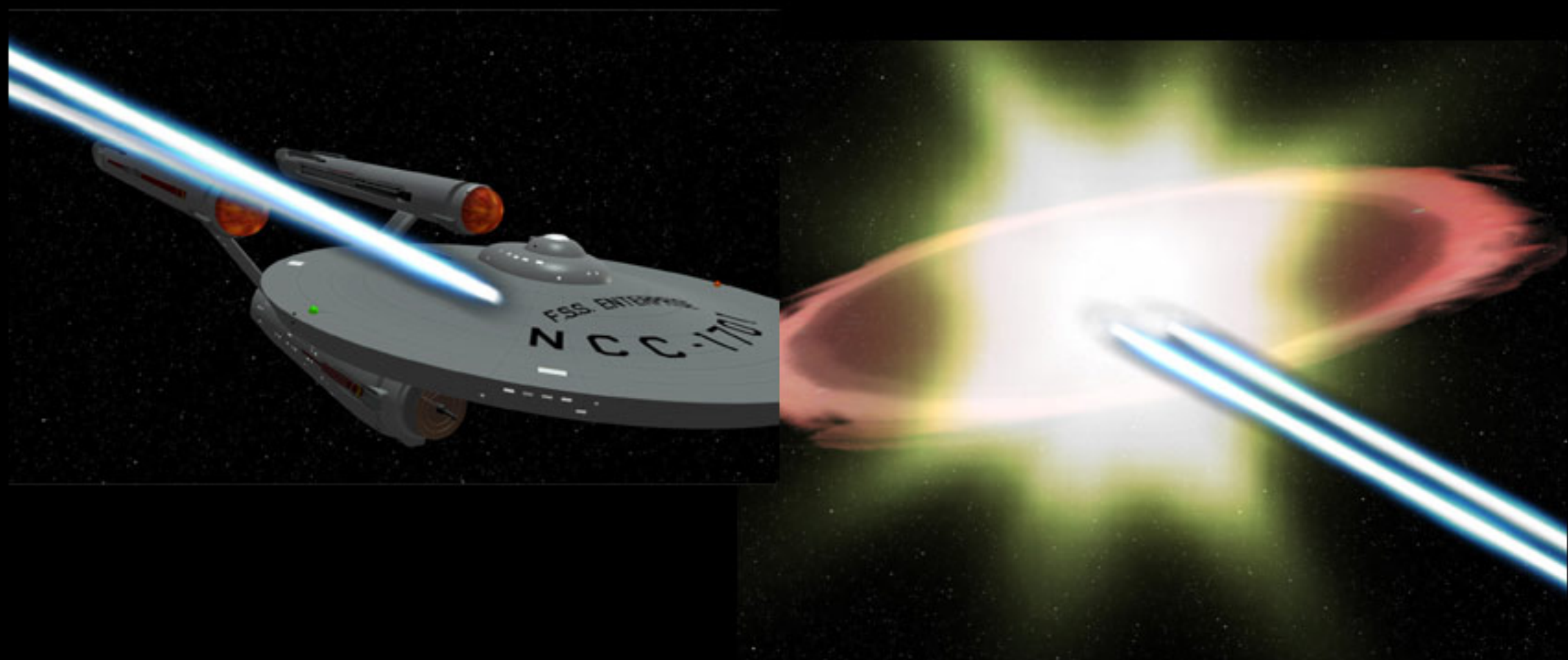
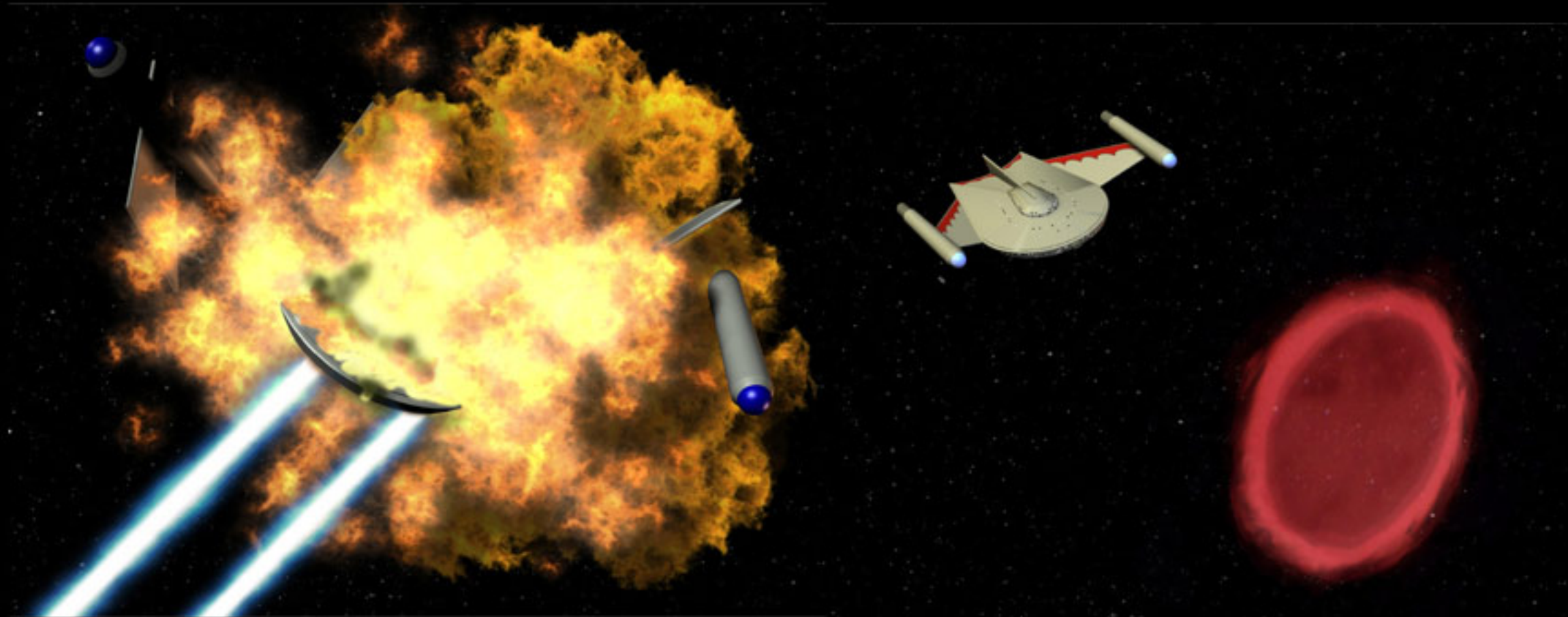
Something very old-fashioned, Mr. Spock.

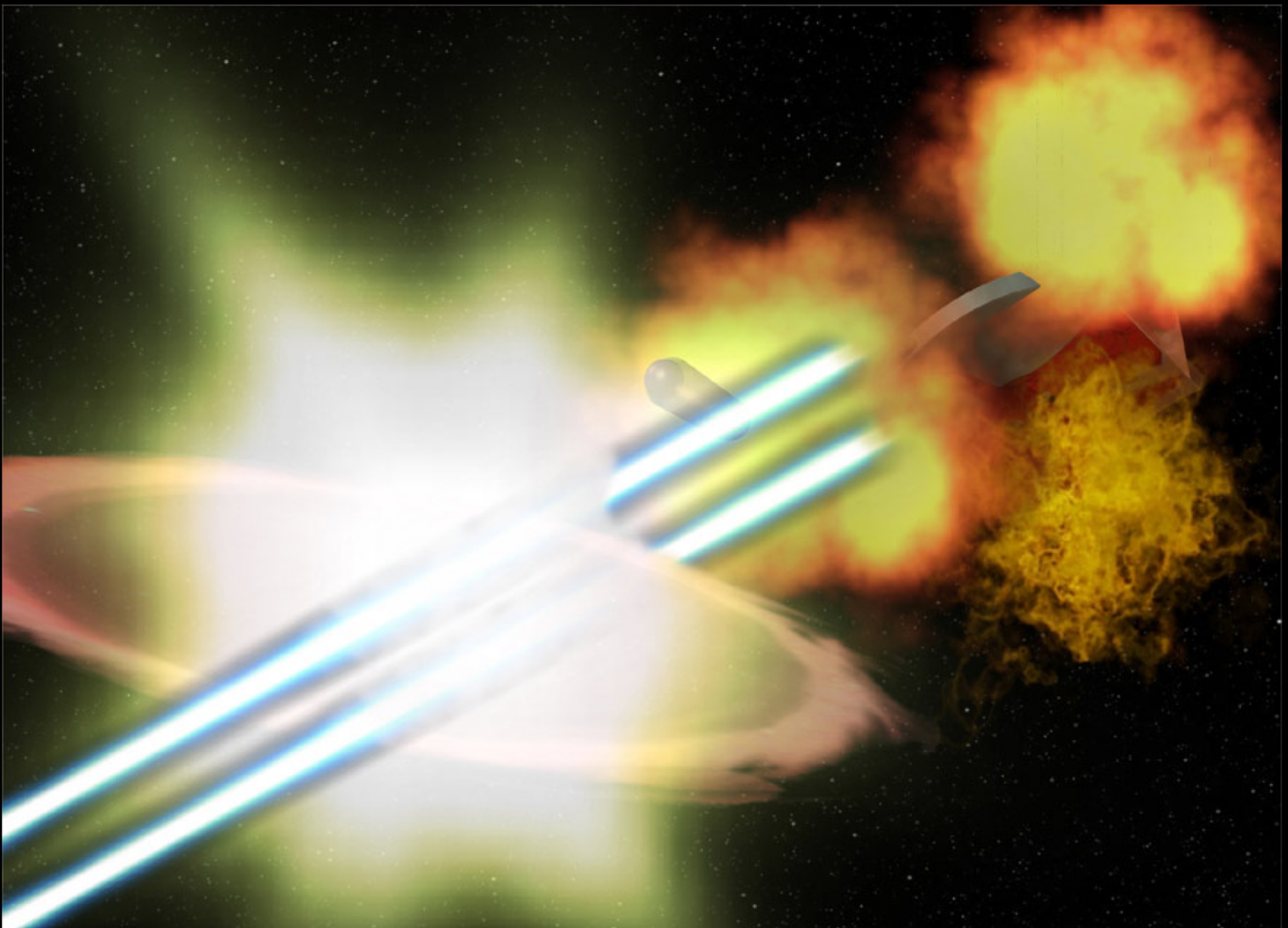
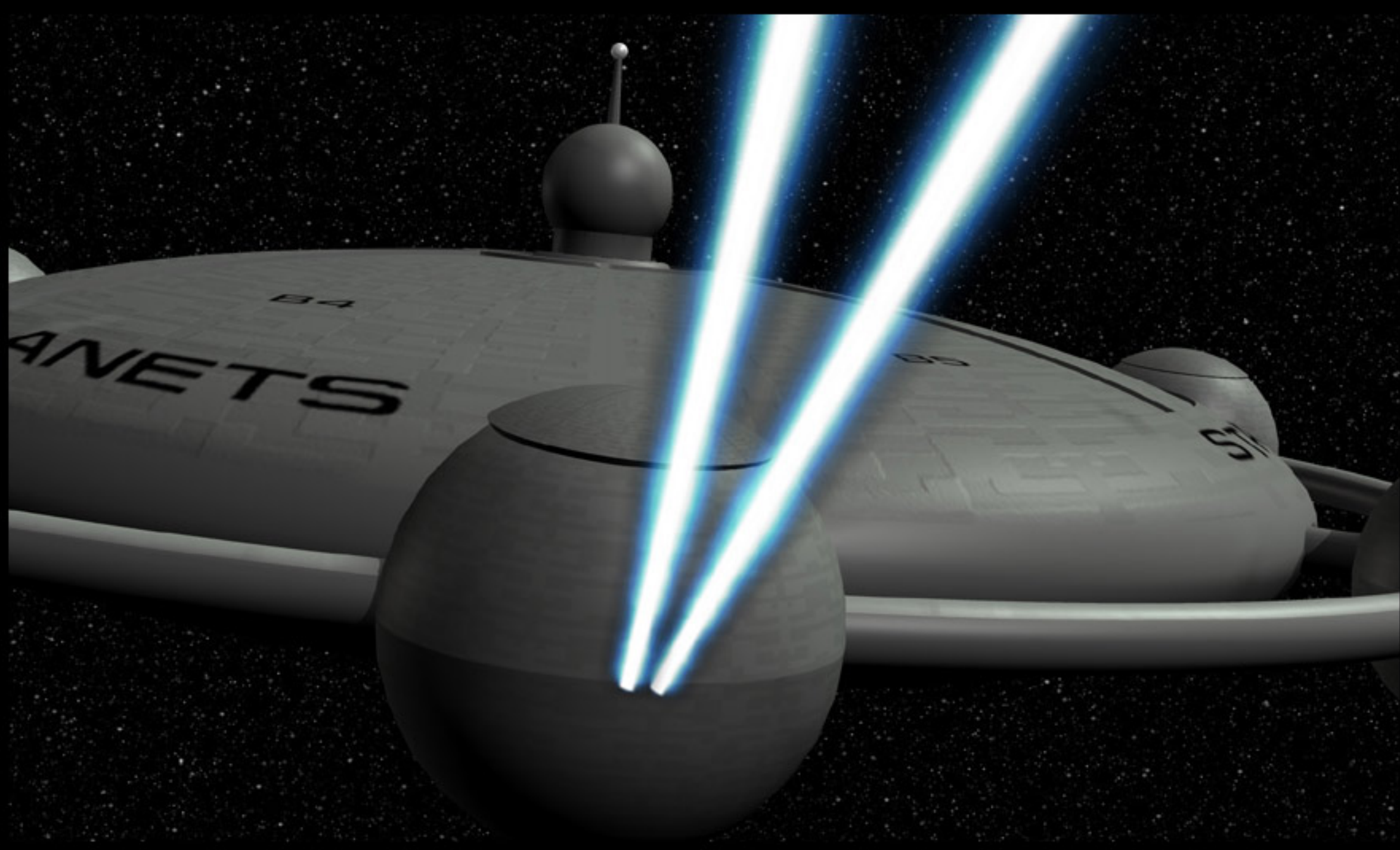
They used to call it a "One-Two punch".











Cancel Battlestations.

Stand down from
Red Alert. Dismiss
Beta and Gamma shifts.



Good job- both of you.

Computer?



Yes, Captain?

You will release control
of the port and starboard
dorsal phasers.

Yes, ma'am.
Phaser control has
been returned to
the Helm.

Controls are
responding.



Are you going to be all right?

I questioned your orders- on your bridge-

-in front of two admirals-

-on the morning of my first day.

I'm on a roll.

Well, don't worry about it-

-the day's just starting.

?!

No shields.

How the hell do they expect to win a war without shields?



The Planet Qo'nos-
Homeworld of the
Klingon Empire



Yes, old friend.

I have something to show you.

Our newest cruiser- K'tinga class.

Once she's finished, she'll be more powerful than anything else we have.

It looks to be an excellent upgrade, Gorkon.

Since we are not currently at war with anyone, who will it be used against?

But Kahless said, "There are only two reasons for building a better weapon: **Offense and Defence.**"

You always were one for going right to the heart of the matter.

I do intend to use her- and others like her.

Do you know this region?

But as to whom the enemy is, that is still a question.

The Que'Pak Region- The Humans call it the "Triad".

It is the only place in the quadrant where Klingon, Union and Romulan borders meet.



For several months now, our informants in the Romulan Empire, have been hearing about a massive military build-up.

And for the past two months, Romulan ships have been probing and testing our borders.



You think they mean to attack?

Yes- but attack who is the question.



Are they testing our borders, looking for a place where they can cross-

- Or are they tying down our forces so we cannot send them to the aid of someone else?

If they chose to attack us, we simply do not have the resources for a prolonged conflict- two, three years at most.




If that is true-

it is.

Kahless said, "A wise man is known by the allies he recruits and the enemies he chooses to fight."

Perhaps, it is time to speak with the Union.




Talks with the Union have been going on behind sealed doors for two months now.




Why in secret?


The usual story.



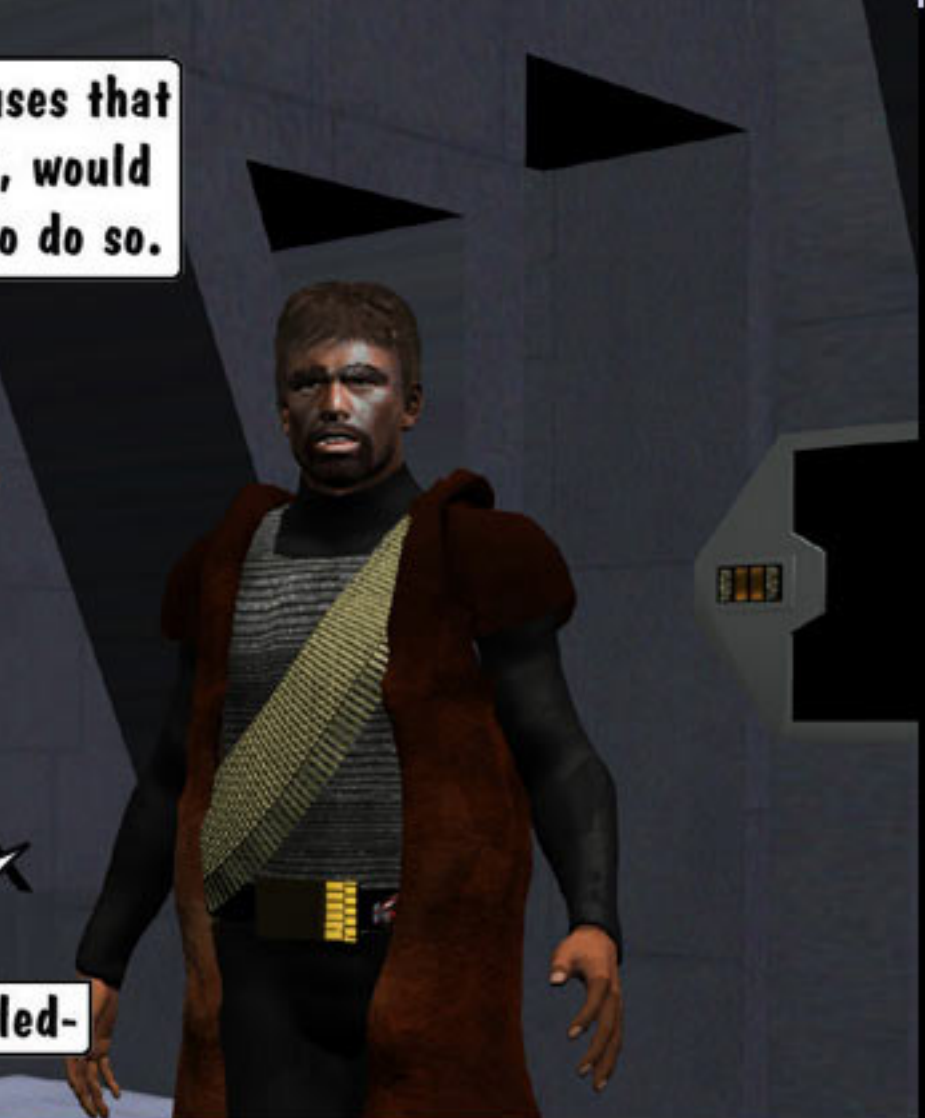
There are houses in the Empire that would see any offer of alliance as showing weakness to a potential enemy.



However, if the Romulans attack the Union, we can graciously offer assistance- or accept the Union's offer of alliance against a common enemy.



In either case, the houses that would have opposed us, would not have the grounds to do so.



And by the time the Romulan issue is settled-

Any alliance will be too far along to stop.

Kang, we both know the Union is more honorable than our predecessors led us to believe.

Such an alliance would go far toward preserving the Empire.



And what is to be my part in this?

You will be my eyes.

You will go to the Triad-watch and monitor as you patrol our side of the boarder.

If the situation changes, inform me- then use your best judgement and know you do so with my full support.



"...We've proven that we can live and work together despite our differences. Whenever your council or my congress speak of co-operation between our people let us remind them of that.."

"...With luck, we could both live to see a day when we won't need a Neutral Zone between our people."
-Janet Kirk
"Gains and Losses"



In orbit around
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Orders, Commander?

We are left with no choice, 'Tal.

The Imperial Senate has already set their plans in motion for the Empire's suicide.



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Orders, Commander?

We are left with no choice, 'Tal.

The Imperial Senate has already set their plans in motion for the Empire's suicide.



Blast the bulkheads!!

I no longer care what the bulkheads hear or do not hear!

I would speak, carefully, Commander.

The bulkheads have ears.

If I must defy the Senate in order to save the Empire, then that is what I will do.



Do you stand with me, 'Tal?



I obey your orders, Commander.

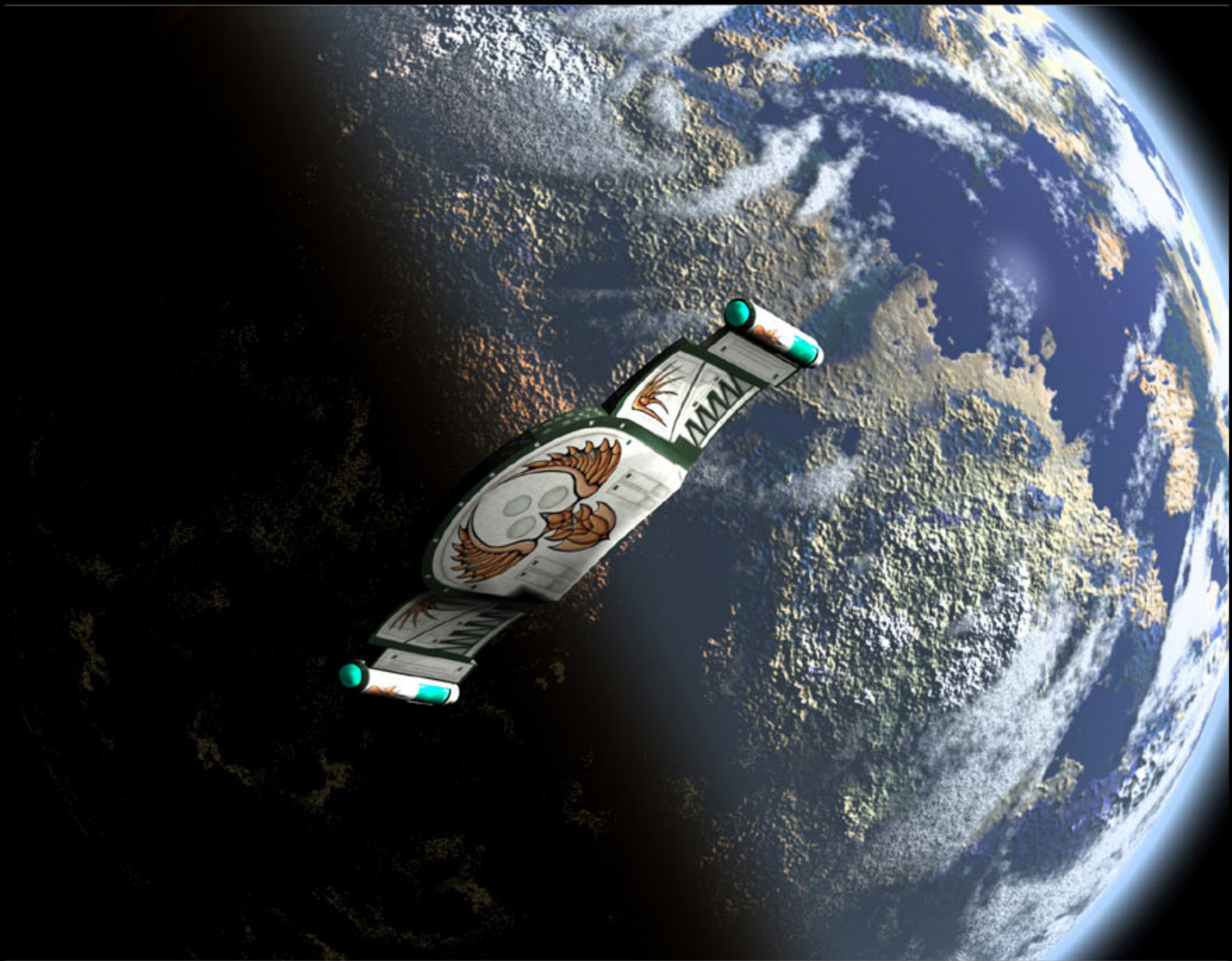


Then set course for Federal space-maximum speed.



As you order, Commander.





"Starbase to Enterprise:
We have a message for
Admiral Fitzpatrick."

"Fitzpatrick here."

"Sir, message from the *Tamerlane-A*.
They found the *Lydia* engaged in a
running battle with three Romulan
Birds-of-prey.

"All three Birds were destroyed, sir."

"What about the *Lydia*?"

"Only minor damage to her com system. Both ships
are returning to base. Arrival time- one hour."

"Excellent, Lieutenant.
Fitzpatrick out."

Well, this is it.

You take care. It's not the same
Earth it was sixteen years ago.

I know.

I'll do my best.

That's all anyone has a right to ask.

If you decide to go out
to the ranch, you shouldn't
have any trouble getting in.

I never got around to updating
the security codes.

Just remember, that, for the rest
of our lives, we're sisters.

Give me a chance and I'll
try to live up to that.

Yes, ma'am.

If you ever need help-
past, present, Earth- the
outer moons of Mongo- I
expect to hear from you-

-And if I can come,
I will.

And Jan?
Thanks-

-for everything.

You deserve a chance
to finish what you started.

Just promise me
you'll make the
most of it.

I will.

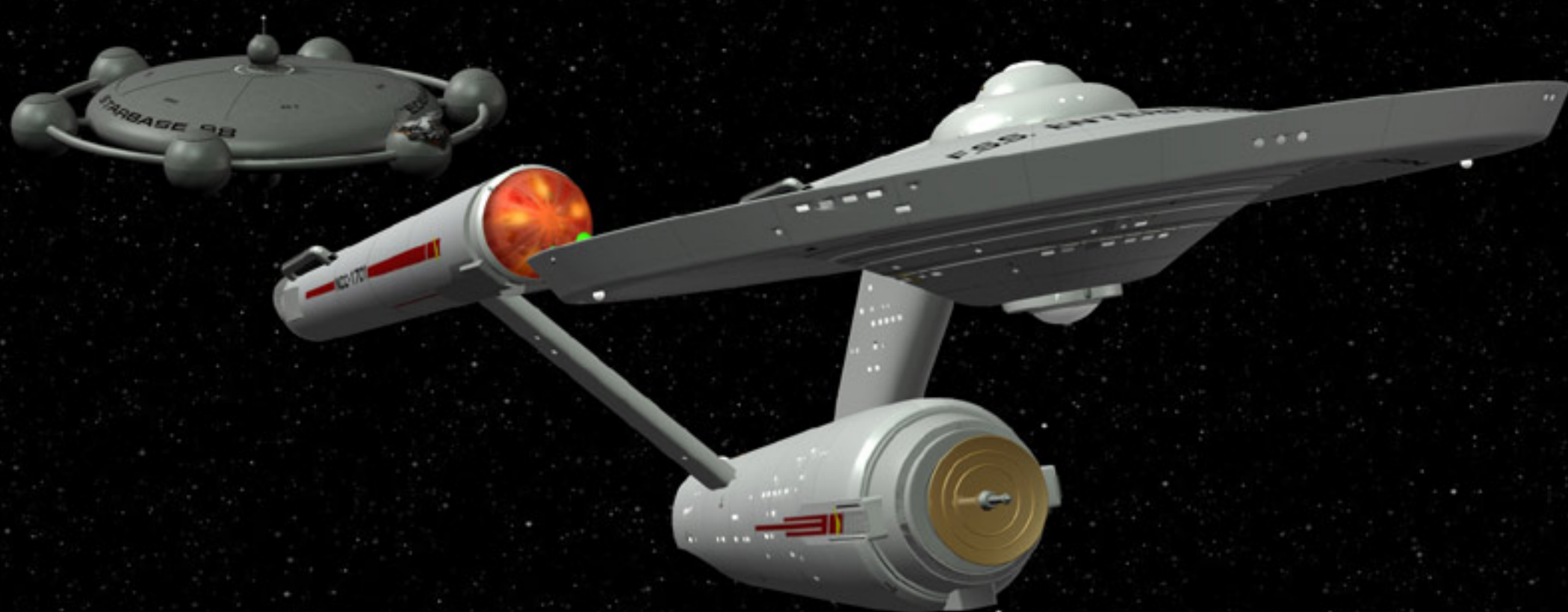


Energize.

HUMMMMMMM



"Captain's Log; Stardate 5938.03.
Departing Starbase 98 and setting
course for the Romulan Neutral Zone.
Transit time- thirteen hours."



"Another Step
Toward War"

by MDBruffy

Next time on Nova Trek

...The transporter room door slid open and Jan started in under a full head of steam- only to stop at the sight of the unconscious man on the deck. "It can't be," she swore.

Spock stepped up beside her and his voice was firm as he looked upon the stranger. "It is not- and you must keep that in mind."

His wife glanced at him, then she turned to Therran as the security chief stepped into the room. She pointed at the unconscious man as she spoke. "Take him to Sick Bay- put him in restraints. Tell McCoy I want him to run every test he knows.

"I want to know who the hell this really is!"

While both men were taking in the sight of a Starfleet uniform they had never seen before, Jan's attention was on the man's face- a face she knew all too well, for it was the face of her late brother. It was the face of
James Tiberius Kirk.

Next time on Nova Trek

**"A Tale of Two Captains:
Part 1 of 3"**

Coming in 2012

Captain Janet Kirk-

V3 Base from Daz Studio
Daria textures and morphs
from Illusion Designs
Full and feathered hair
by DAZ Studio

Spock-

M3 Base from DAZ Studio
Head morph by Fatuccini
textures are Universal Textures for M3
Hair model for Spock, by Mylochka

Tamera Kirk-

V3 base from DAZ Studio
Daria for V3 from Illusion Designs
High School years 3 for V3 morph by renapd
Hair- Full and Feathered by DAZ Studio
Cadet Uniform- Dallas shirt- Poserworld
Textures by MDBruffy
Pants- leather jeans for V3 with
material room texture

Tamera's duffelbag by Rduda

Shev

V3 from Daz Studio
Andorian texture and
head morph by Mylochka
Mokahair for Aiko 3

Lt. Janice Rand

V3
Head morph and hair
by Mylochka

Isis-

Cat-
Millenium Cat from DAZ Studios

Admiral Fitzpatrick

P6 James Hires
Bodysuit for James
Hair- Hr-001-r2
Bodysuit textures
by mdruffy

Admiral T'Pol

V3
April head and body morphs
and textures
modified textures and ear
morphs by mdruffy
Hair- Alice hair

Vulcan female crewperson

V3 with "Justpeachy" face
and body textures and morphs
Hair- Lovely 2 by Mylochka

Romulan Commander

V3
Ele head and body textures
and morphs from Illusion Designs
Head textures and ear
modifications by mdruffy
V3 Tunic with texture maps by
mdruffy. Poser material files
by Mylochka.
Scarf by mdruffy
Boots- Wasteland Warrior from
Poserworld.
Hair- Curly hair from Daz Studio

Ensign Loudmouth

Lt.Comm. Barker
M3 for both
Hair for Barker- Jeff Hair
Hair for Mouth- Billyhawk

Sub Commander Tal

M3
M3 tunic from Daz Studio
Pants- SFO pants from Poserworld
Boots- SFO boots from Poserworld
Original texture files by mdruffy
Poser material files by Mylochka

Commander Kang

P6 James Hires
Face texture by mdruffy
James bodysuit
MTShirt
Klingon sash by Little Dragon
Hair-Ben Hair
Wizard Robe for M3- converted
by mdruffy

Chancellor Gorkon

M3
Hair and beard by Mylochka
Face morph and texture
by mdruffy
M4 Valiant- converted
by mdruffy
CIS Operative for M3-
shoulder cape
M3 pants
SFO Boots from Poserworld
for M3
Gauntlets by Bluto
Valiant & Shoulder cape
textures by mdruffy
Necklace, walking fang
by mdruffy

Klingon councilors

M3
Head morphs by mdruffy
M3 Klingon armour pack
gauntlets by bluto
M3 boots- various
M3 bodysuit
Klingon sash by Little Dragon
Wizard Robe- outer layer
Hair- Verella and Diva
M3 sci-fi suit
michboots

Nova Trek Star Fleet Uniforms-

Female-
Long-sleeve zip dress from Renderosity
Textures by MDBruffy
Boots by BVH Studios
Male-
M3 Sci-fi suit from DAZ Studio
stocking shaders by bagginsbill

**Romulan Bird of Prey
by Jonathan Rich**

models by mdruffy

Cadet Kirk's San Fransisco apartment
Desk top monitor
computer control console
Orion Pirate ship
Academy symbol
Academy PADD
S.S. Spirit of Chicago
Delta shield plaque
White console stations
Tamera's cabin
Klingon viewscreen
The Planet Romulus
Plasma Energy Burst
Romulan Transporter Room
Romulan ship'd corridor
Command Suite
viewport wall by Jonathan Rich

**Constitution class ship by
EvillInnocence180
Federal Starship textures by
MDBruffy**

**FSS Venture ACR
Base model (Briefing room)
by Ptrope
Consoles and monitors by
Tony Oliveira
Door bulkhead by Mylochka
central console and
room detailing by mdruffy**

**Models by Tony Oliveira
Starfleet corridors
Shuttlecraft**

Models by Rduda
Starfleet duffle bag
Enterprise hanger deck
Klingon Great Hall

Models by Ptrope
Enterprise bridge
Shev's Cabin
Turbolift interior

Enterprise Officers' Mess
Base model (Briefing room)
by Ptrope
Replicator wall by Mylochka
Viewscreen by mdruffy
Furniture- Furniturepak B
from Renderosity
Mess hall flag- Catherine3678a

K'Tinga class cruiser
Original game mod by Ben Cantwell
conversion by mdruffy

Songs;

"Big Iron" by Marty Robbins

"Ballad of the Alamo"
by Dimitri Tiomken
Paul F. Webster

"It's the Little Old Lady from Pasadena"
by Rodger Christian
Don Altfeld

Eric den Biesen
FSS Faragut
FSS Ptolemy and container

Klingon Capital city by Bluto

FSS Antares by Richmerk

FSS Venture
base model from startrekaustralia.com
new textures by mdruffy

Concept shuttle by Foundation 3D

KIC Cho'Mar
Original modeler unknown
Current textures by mdruffy

Starbase 98, Romulan Commander's ship-
Battleclinic.com

Converted by mdruffy
Starbase textures by mdruffy

Painting aboard the 'Chicago':
"Port city" internet search

Starchart-
www.startrek-voyager.net



Star Trek: Aurora cast cameo
appears curtesy of writer and
creator Tim Vining.

Star Trek: Aurora can be found at:

www.startrekaurora.com