

NOVA TREK

A Universe away from the one you knew

"A Tale of Two Captains"
Part 1 of 3



**MDB
COMICS
Book
Five**

*Based on concepts created by
Gene 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

"A Tale of Two Captains"
Part 1 of 3

By MDBruffy

Federal Union of Planets

Excerpt from Starfleet Regulations:
Chapter Ten: Captain's Discretion



Paragraph Six: Temporary Change of Command

...If the situation warrants a temporary change of Command, the captain may chose to turn said command over to any fellow officer with command training or experience.

First choice would be the First Officer. Choice would continue down through the chain of command until no officer with command training or experience is available.

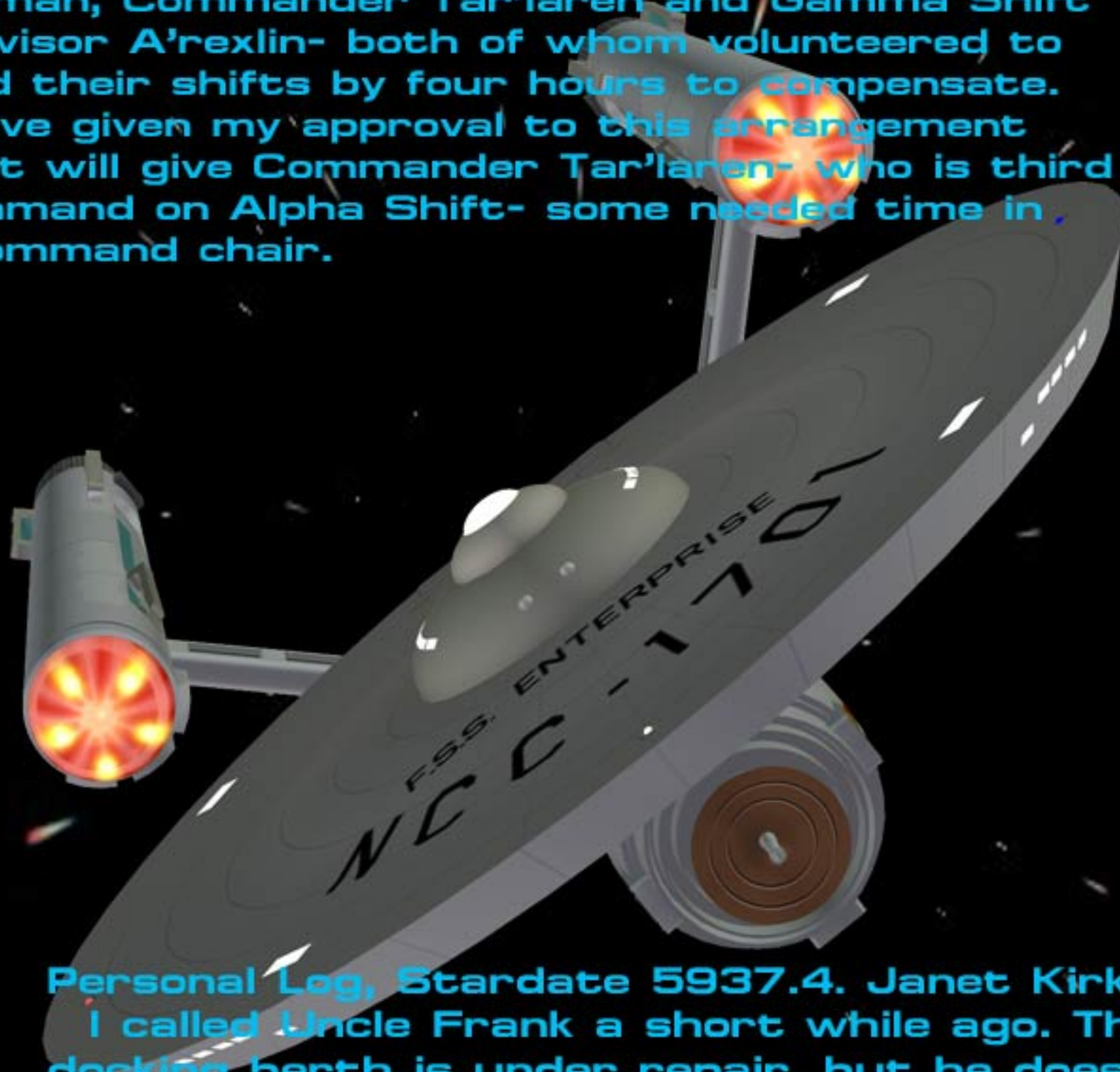
Second choice would be any visiting officer of command rank- captain or above- who happens to be on board for whatever reason. Said officer must be familiar with starship operations and have at least two years actual experience with starship command...

Captain's Log, Stardate 5937.4. Having been delayed by the unprovoked attack on Starbase 98, we are now approaching the Romulan Neutral Zone.

Note for the record, that Lt.Commander Sarah Mathews has been confined to Sick Bay with a case of Vibrellan Fever she picked up while on shore leave to Tillox Five. Dr.McCoy assures me the crew is in no danger and Mathews will be able to return to duty the first of next week.

In the meantime, her duties as Beta Shift Bridge Crew Supervisor are being handled by Alpha Shift Helmsman, Commander Tar'laren and Gamma Shift Supervisor A'rexlin- both of whom volunteered to extend their shifts by four hours to compensate.

I have given my approval to this arrangement since it will give Commander Tar'laren- who is third in command on Alpha Shift- some needed time in the command chair.

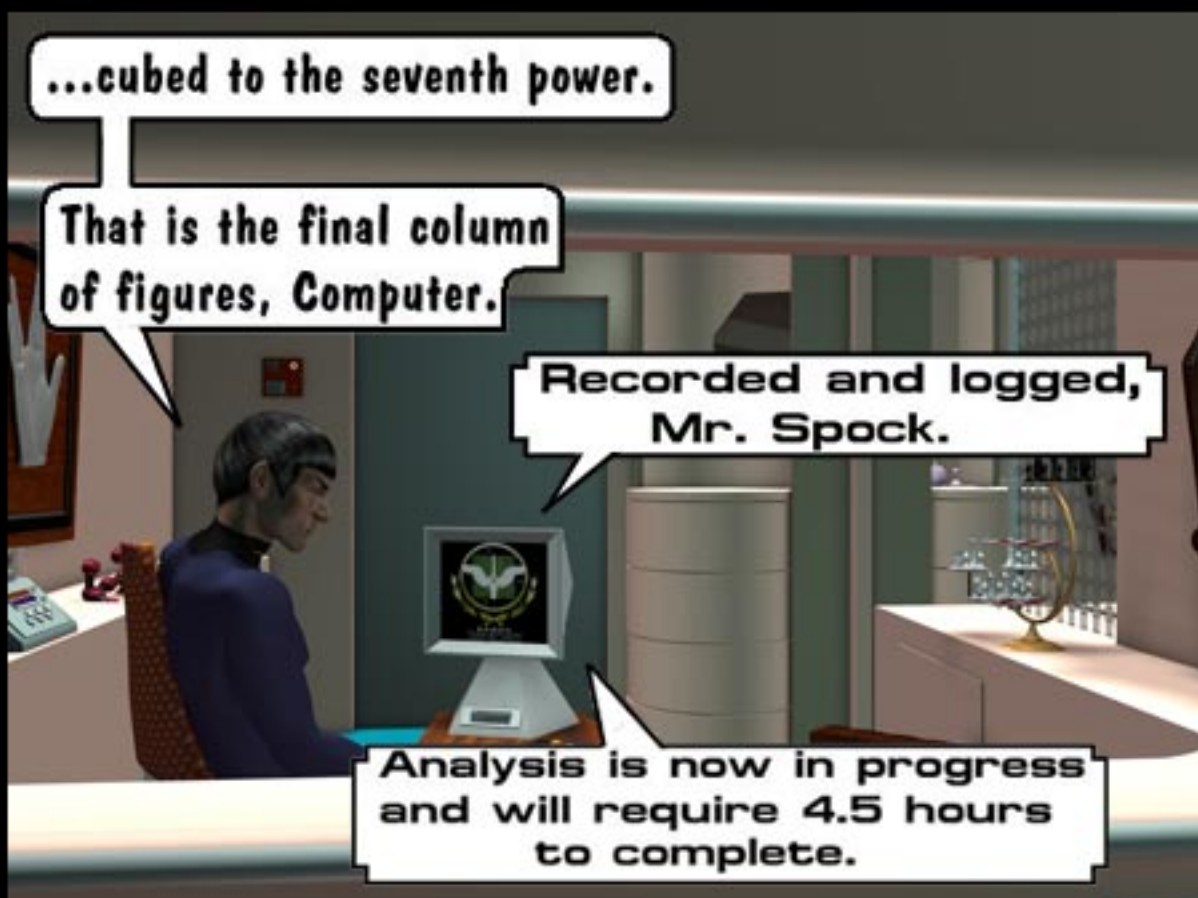


Personal Log, Stardate 5937.4. Janet Kirk recording.

I called Uncle Frank a short while ago. The damaged docking berth is under repair, but he doesn't expect to have it back in service till next month.

I also spoke to Tam while we were connected. Just a few hours after Uncle Frank sent her forms to the Academy- with both himself and Aunt T'Pel listed as sponsors- they got word that the Corps of Engineers is installing a new computer system throughout the complex. As such, the start of the new semester has been pushed back a month.

I hope once Tam gets back to Earth, she remembers to write once in awhile. I'm just starting to get used to the idea of having a kid sister in my life...





Well...

The Absent-minded Professor finally wanders home.

I've been doing some reading concerning Vulcan marriages, Mr. Spock.

One of the few things they have in common with Human marriages, is the fact that if the husband wants it to work, he has to remember to save some off-duty time for his wife.



Indeed?

Then I shall have to... revise my work schedule.





I don't beleive this.



Computer, who's calling?

Commander Tar'laren,
Captain- from the
Bridge.



Audio only.

Audio engaged.

This better be
good, Shev.



I'm sorry.

But long-range scans are
picking up a spatial
distortion ten thousand kielometers
to port.

Computer says it doesn't match
anything on record.



That's all we need on top
of the Romulans.

All right. Change course to
investigate. Maintain a five
hundred kilometer distance
till we know what we're
dealing with.

Call the rest of the Alpha Shift Bridge
Crew to stations. Send the Beta Shift
Crew to the ACR as they arrive.

I'm on my way.
Kirk out.



Captain's
Prerogative.

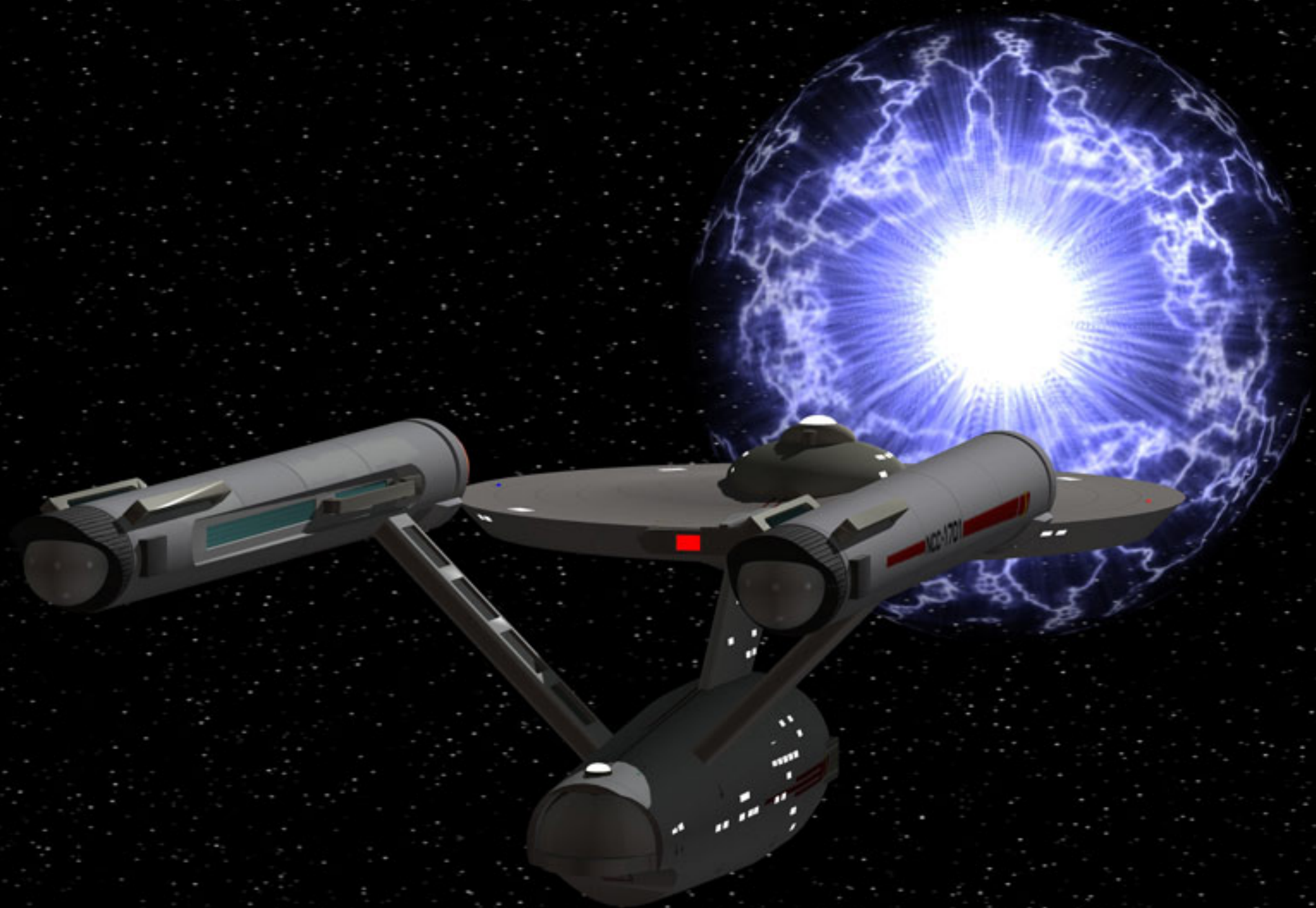


I'll collect the
rest later.



Indeed?


That should prove
intresting.



You have a lousy sense of timing.

Sorry.

What've you got?

A comic book panel depicting a scene from Star Trek: Voyager. The setting is the ship's bridge, with various crew members in uniform at their stations. The background features multiple viewscreens displaying space imagery and data. The characters are engaged in a conversation about a mysterious energy signature.

The distortion's three thousand kilometers across.

Any radiation or anything?

Depth's unknown. Our sensors can't find a bottom to it.

The only thing we're seeing is an energy signature- very strong, very regular- too regular to be natural.

In what way?

Everytime the energy levels peak, they do so at *exactly* the same decial point- no variation.

Confirmed.

The distortion is also *precisely* three thousand kilometers across- no variation.

Can we all say "Artificial"?

If that proves to be the case, the question becomes "Who created it and why?"

Computer? show us a star chart of this sector and our location.

Yes, Ma'am. Main Viewscreen.

The Triad. The only place in the quadrant where Union, Klingon and Romulan borders meet.

Spock, any other ships in the area?

Well, I don't think it's Kang's doing.

He's not the gimmick type. A bat'leth or a disruptor is more his style.

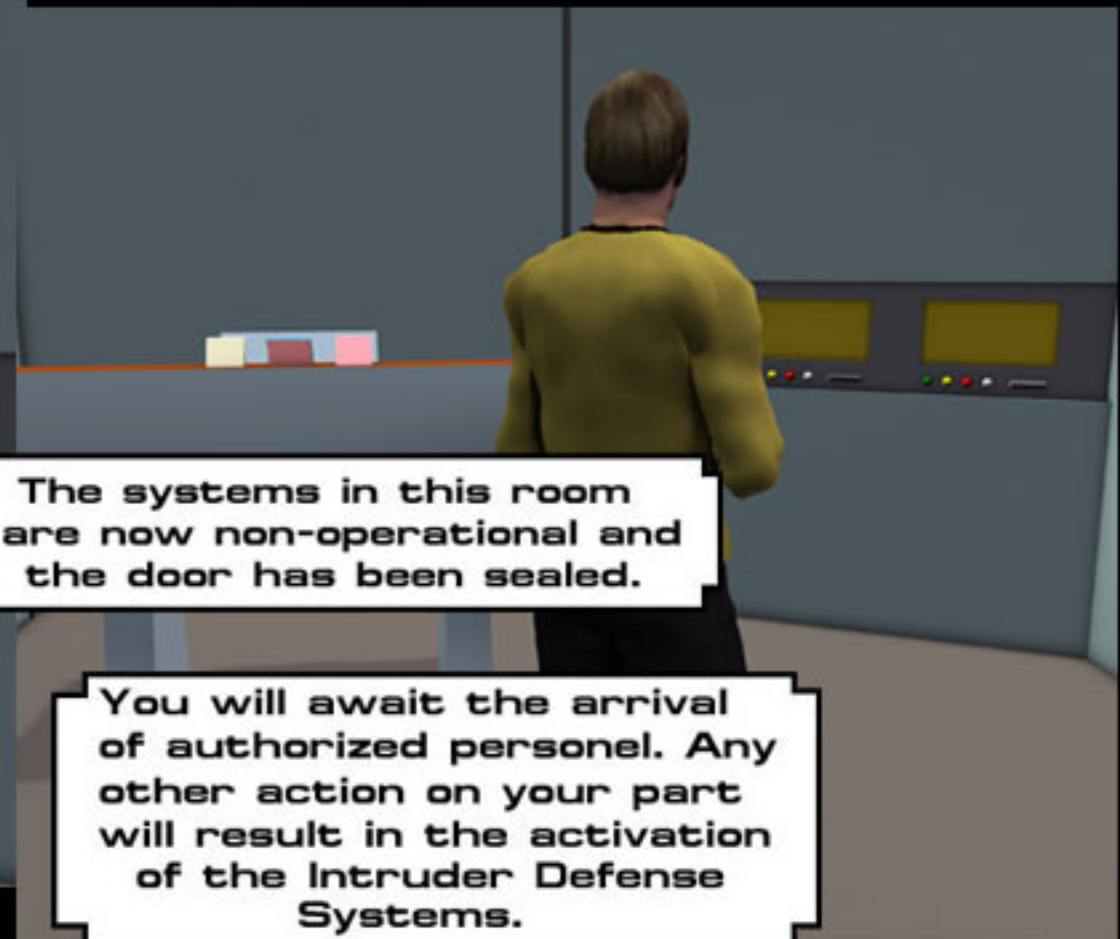
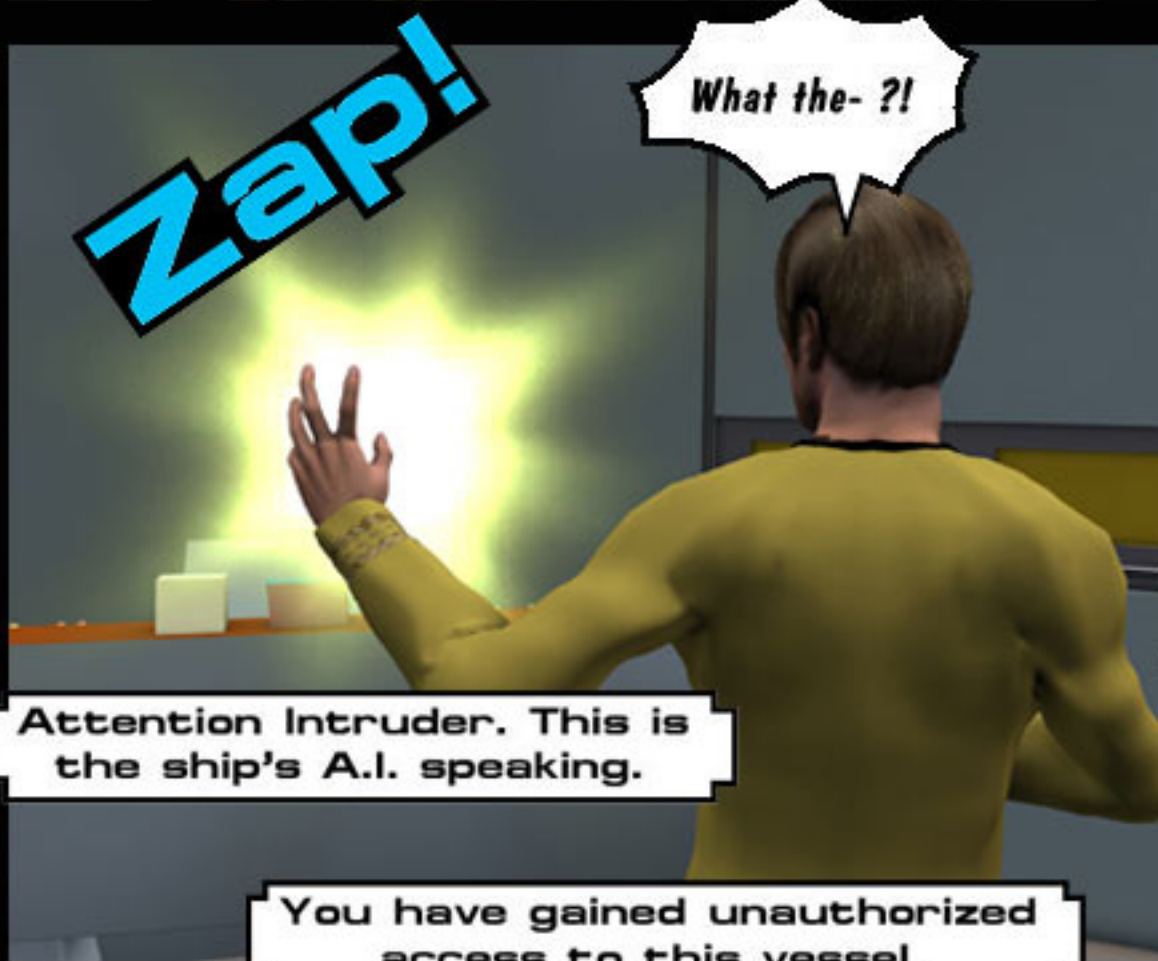
Long-range scans are picking up a Klingon D-7 cruiser on their side of the Klingon Neutral Zone.

Computer has identified it as the *Cho' Mar*, Commander Kang's ship.

Scans of the Imperial side of the Romulan Neutral Zone show no ships in range.

Swoosh

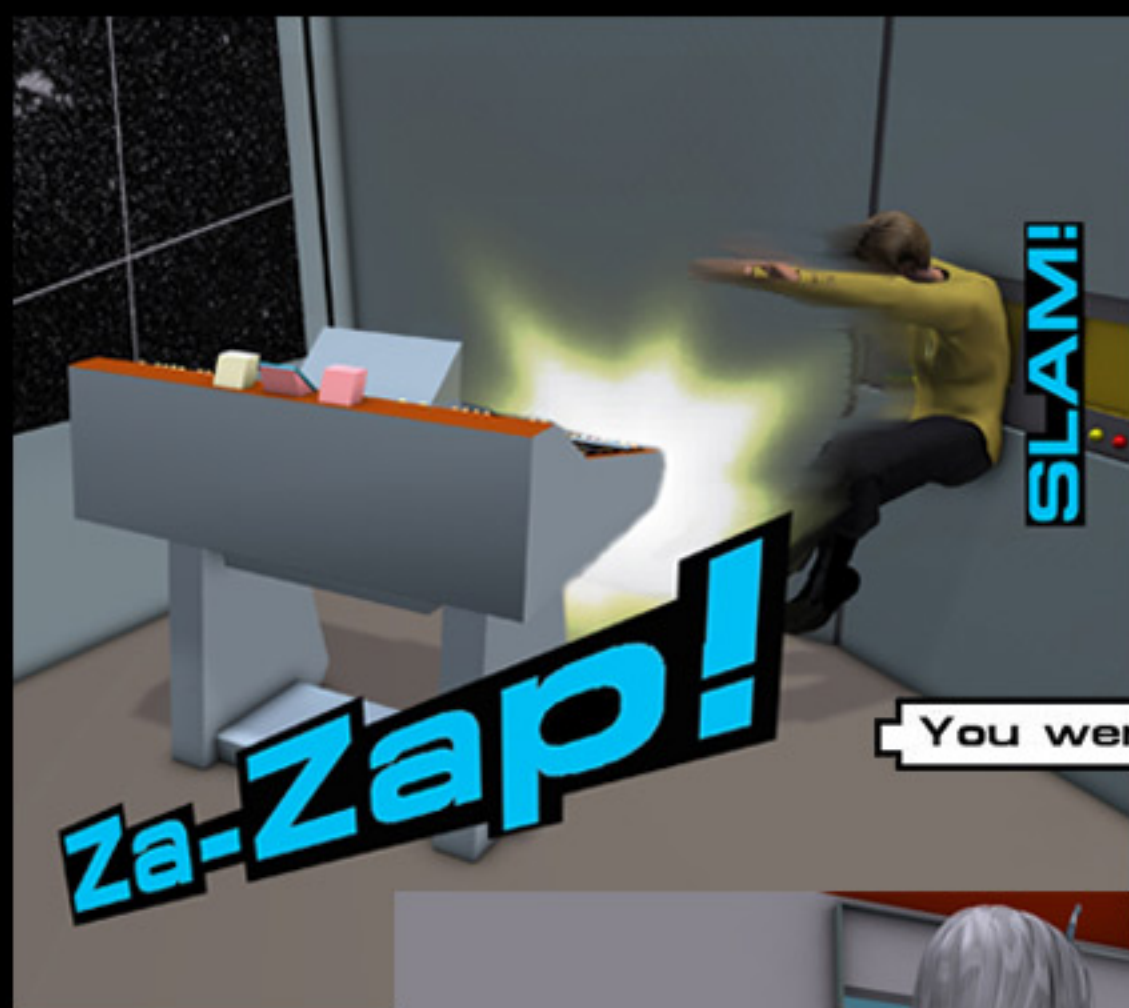




You have gained unauthorized access to this vessel.

You will await the arrival of authorized personnel. Any other action on your part will result in the activation of the Intruder Defense Systems.

Attention Intruder. This is the ship's A.I. speaking.



Swoosh

That *can't* be- !

It is not-

And you must keep
that in mind.

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 !



Swoosh





Doctor, are you suggesting that *this* Jim Kirk is from outside our reality?





**I need you to perform
a mind meld.**

**It's the fastest way I know
to find out what we're dealing
with.**







He is no threat.

Infact, he is as much the captain of the *Enterprise* as you are.

A parallel universe.



A galactic example of the Multiverse Theory of Evolution.

A Federation instead of a Union.



A Jim Kirk instead of a Janet Kirk.

And a Romulan / Klingon alliance where none exists here.

So the question becomes "How do I get home?"



We still haven't answered the question of how you got here.

Yesterday, I beamed down to a planet in System 10-J. The planet's leaders were eager to discuss joining the Federation.

We talked most of the night.

This morning, I intended to return to the ship and inform Starfleet that the planet was ready to begin the membership process.

I stepped on to their departure platform, called the ship, transport began- and I ended up in your transporter room instead of mine.

Spock?

Apparently, when the captain beamed down, the distortion did not then exist, or he would have arrived yesterday morning.

So all I have to do is beam back through this distortion?


We will have to check the transporter logs to confirm the co-ordinates. But in theory, that is all that should be needed.

TheewEEWweeeet!

Bridge to Captain Kirk.

Kirk here.

CLICK!



Shev, Captain.

Sensors are picking up a ship approaching the 'Zone from the Romulan side.

It's not the same class as the ones that attacked Starbase 98.



Go to Red Alert.


Sound Battle Stations.

I'm on my way.
Kirk out.



Spock.

McCoy!



Call Security. Have our *Guest* here confined to quarters.

Isn't that a little harsh?



No.

RED ALERT!

RED ALERT!

Whoop!

Whoop!

Captain's Log: Supplemental.
Why does my life have to be so complicated?

What should have been a quiet patrol has turned into a nightmare. An artificial space distortion, another Jim Kirk and now a new kind of Romulan ship crossing the Neutral Zone.

Why do I get the feeling the other shoe is about to drop?

Swoosh

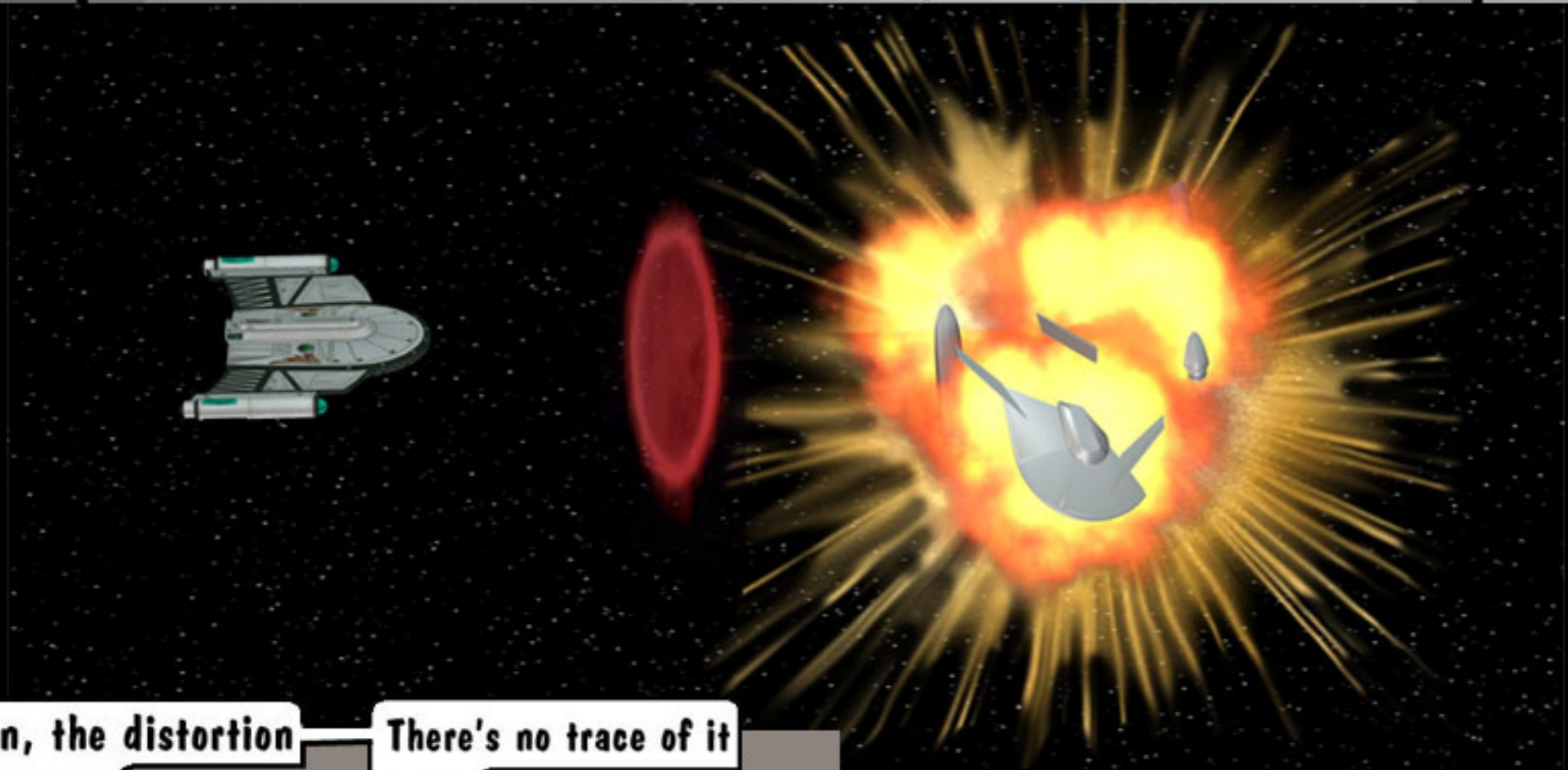
Report.

The new Romulan's heading for a point near the distortion.

Scan for their propulsion residue.

Got him. There's a second Romulan holding station one hundred kilometers from the distortion.

Captain! They're firing on each other!



Jan, the distortion is gone.

There's no trace of it now.



Which means we have no way to send our friend home.

The new Romulan's moving towards us- and their weapons are off-line.



Captain, they're hailing us.



The surprises keep on coming.



On screen.

You have been identified as the Federal Starship *Enterprise*.



Captain Janet Kirk last known to be in command.



Your spies do good work.

I'm Captain Kirk.



There are grave matters I must discuss with you, Captain.

What could be grave enough to justify crossing the 'Zone and firing on your sister ship?



Preventing...your word would be "Armageddon."



Very well...Commander? It'll take us a few minutes to compute your co-ordinates.



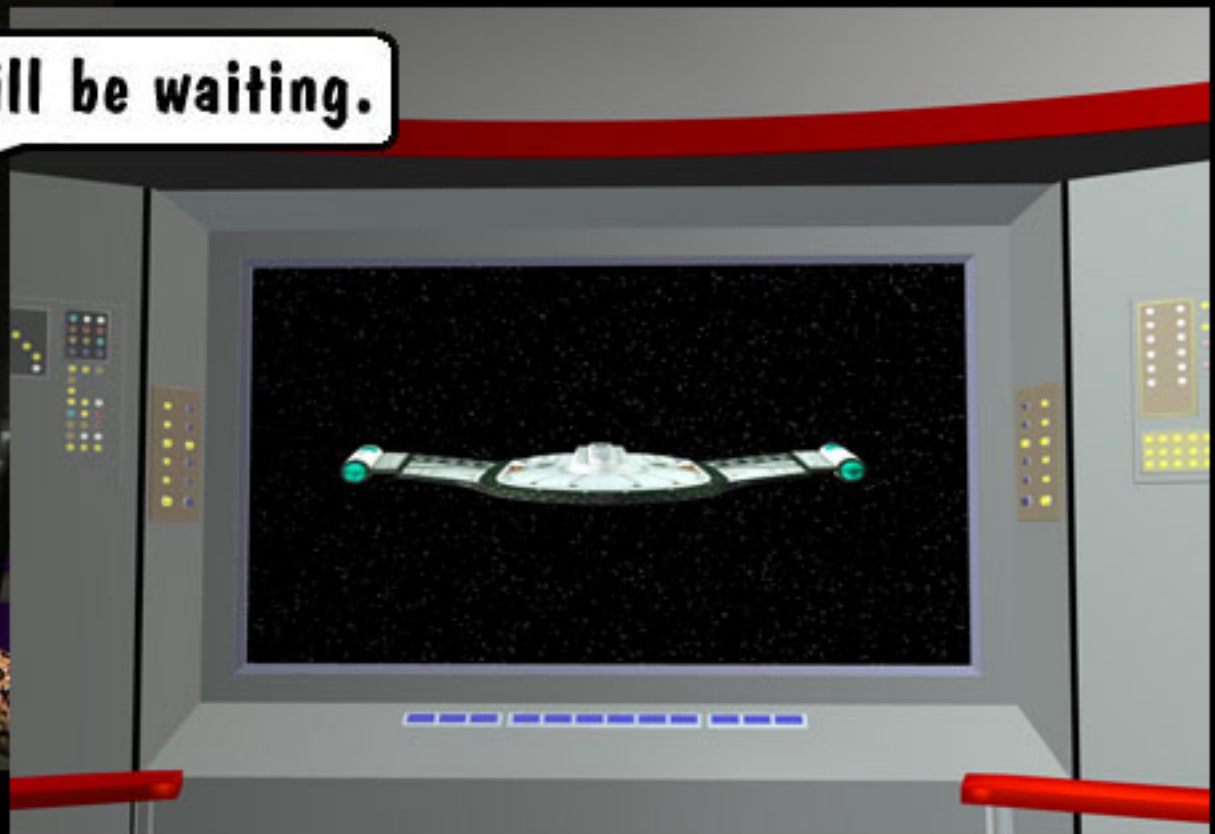
We'll beam you aboard in ten minutes- unarmed.

If you prefer, you may bring one aide with you.



An aide will not be needed.

I will be waiting.



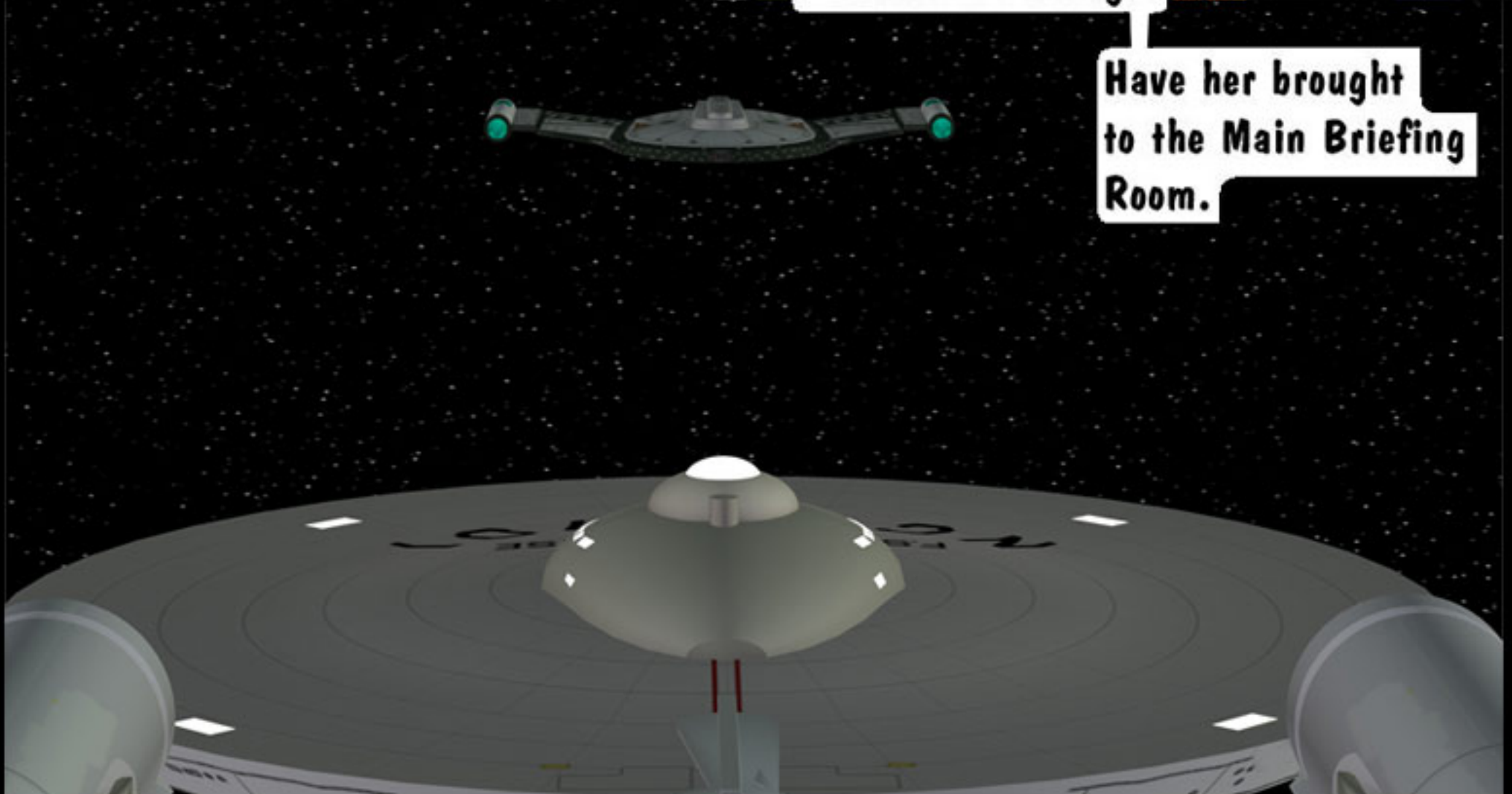
Captain, we had her co-ordinates the moment communications was established.

I know. But I want to talk to our *other* problem first.



You have the Bridge.

Have her brought to the Main Briefing Room.





There's something you need to know.

The distortion was caused by a Romulan ship.

A second ship showed up and destroyed the first one- which in turn shut down the distortion.





Then a band of renegade Andorians with Romulan backing began raiding the border colonies on both sides of the Klingon Neutral Zone.

We joined up with Commander Kang's crew to run them to ground.

By the time we cornered them on Cestus III, they'd wiped out the colony. Everyone- Jim, his wife, their unborn child- were all dead.


Book One: "Gains and Losses".

So don't expect me to welcome "Yon weary traveler".

It's too soon.

I understand.

My turn?



I never had a sister.
I had an older brother- George Samuel.

He and his wife died
two years ago, when
alien parasites from outside
our galaxy invaded their
star system.


Their son lives with
his mother's family on
Earth now.

TOS episode "Operation: Annihilation!"



As for the rest, the
way things have been
going, I'm willing to
bet your brother's
wife's name was
"Carol".

...Yes.



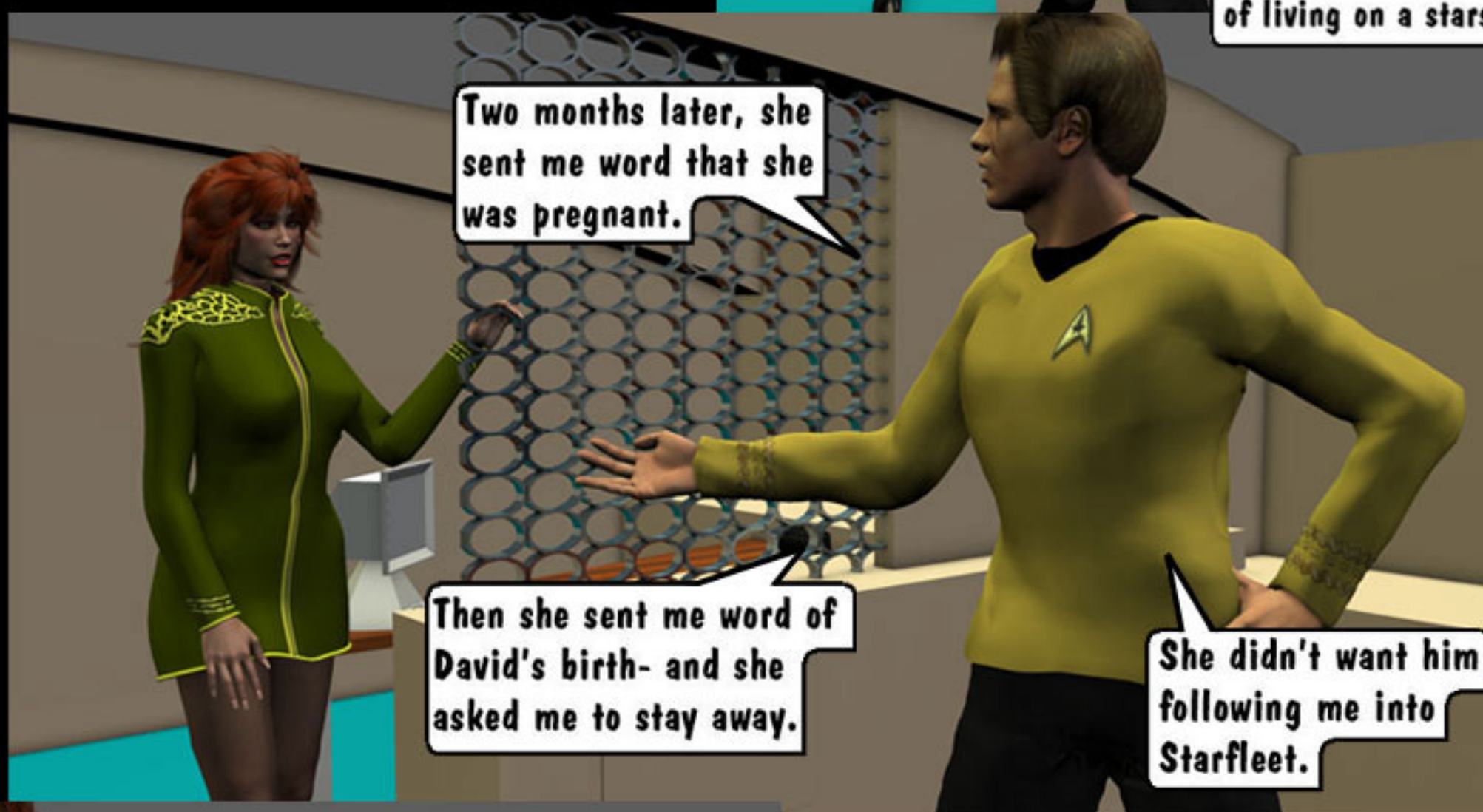
I met mine while I
was still at the Academy.

She worked in a
nearby lab.

We lived together till
I got orders for my
first ship.



She wouldn't come with
me- didn't like the idea
of living on a starship.



Two months later, she
sent me word that she
was pregnant.

Then she sent me word of
David's birth- and she
asked me to stay away.

She didn't want him
following me into
Starfleet.



I can't even send him
a birthday card.



Do you suppose, that somewhere among all the various dimensions and universes and timelines, there might be *one* where we get a happy ending?



I'm no threat to you, Janet-
-or your *Enterprise*.



Well, we have all the scans and sensor logs that were made.



Given time, I'm certain Spock and Scotty can re-create the device that was used.

But what do I do with you in the meantime?



I can't confine you to quarters till God-knows-when.

Other than your Command Staff, who has to know about me?



Just tell everyone I'm a visiting captain.







Very possible indeed.



Then this was a field test-



-with an eye toward later use.

It would fit with the reason I came to you.



And that reason is- ?



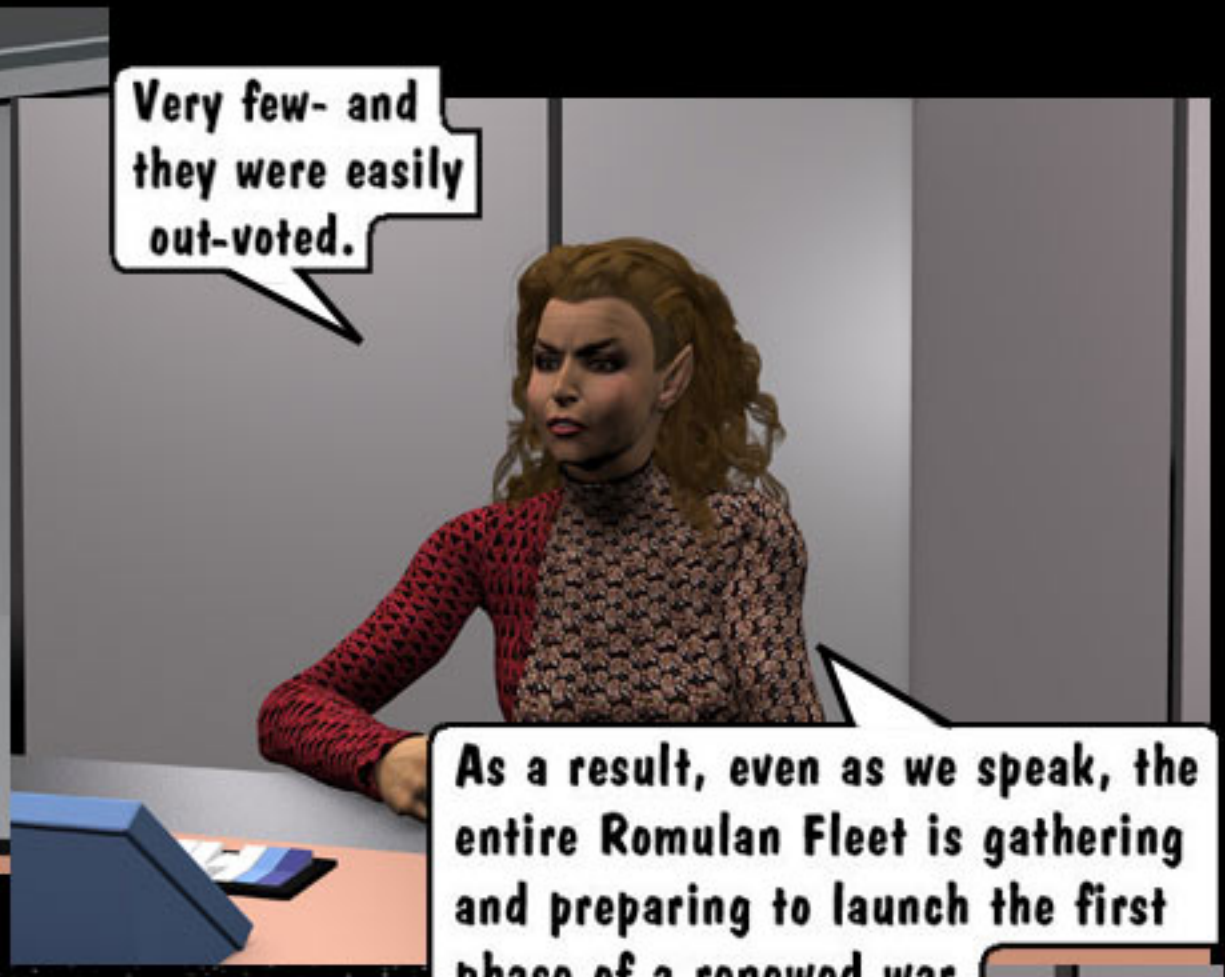
A hundred years is nothing for a Romulan. There are many old warriors on the Imperial Senate that still wish for revenge for losses incurred during the Romulan-Earth War.

They have been watching and waiting for what they believe to be the proper time to move against the Union once more.



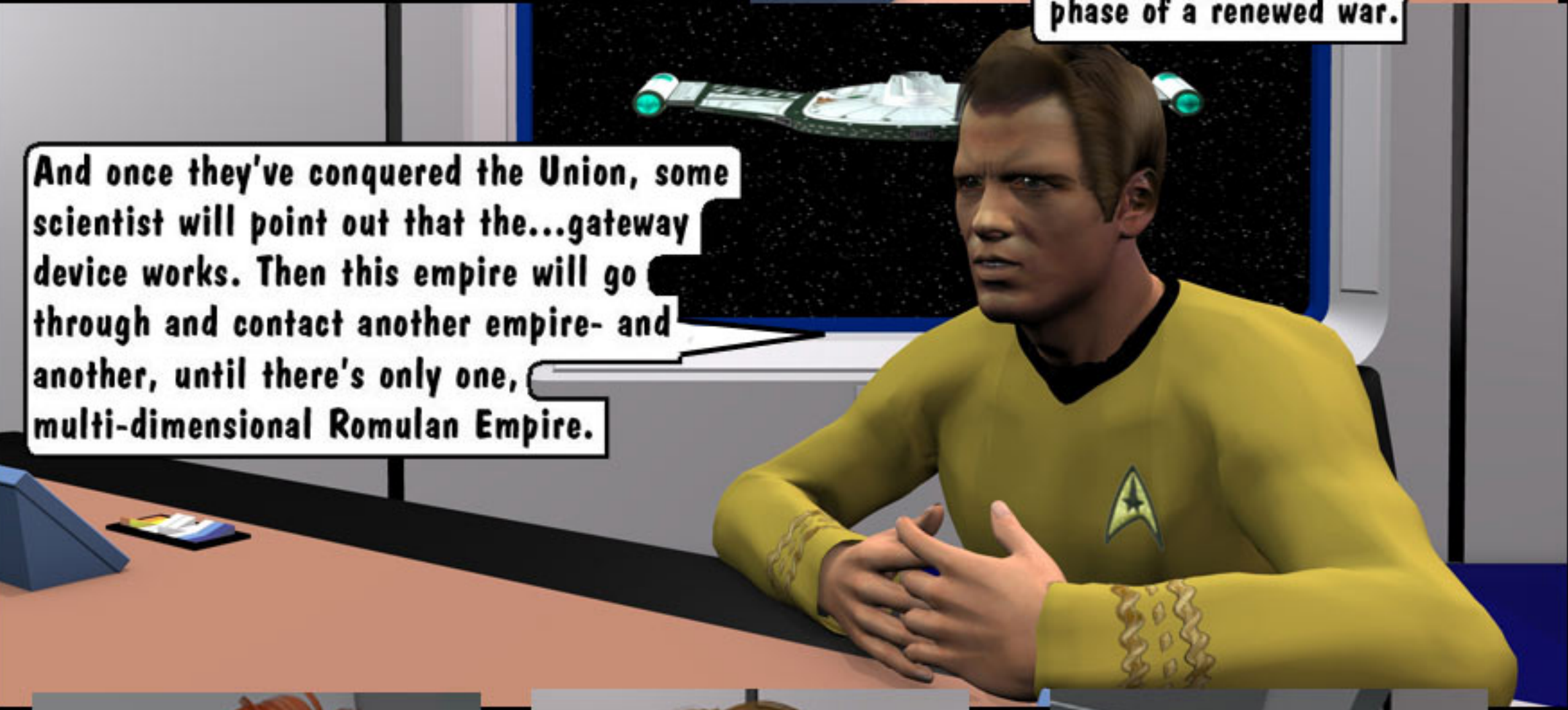


Didn't anyone in your-
what'd you call it? Senate?-
speak out against the idea?



Very few- and
they were easily
out-voted.

As a result, even as we speak, the
entire Romulan Fleet is gathering
and preparing to launch the first
phase of a renewed war.



And once they've conquered the Union, some
scientist will point out that the...gateway
device works. Then this empire will go
through and contact another empire- and
another, until there's only one,
multi-dimensional Romulan Empire.



They must be stopped.

I will not lie to you, Captain. I have read reports on you, your Union, Starfleet.

What they are attempting will only result in Chaos.

At best, any war would be a long drawn-out stalemate that would leave the Empire in ruins.

I have to admit the Union wouldn't be in too good a shape, either.

And you're forgetting the Klingons. After what happened on Colondor VI, They'd love a chance to take on the Empire.

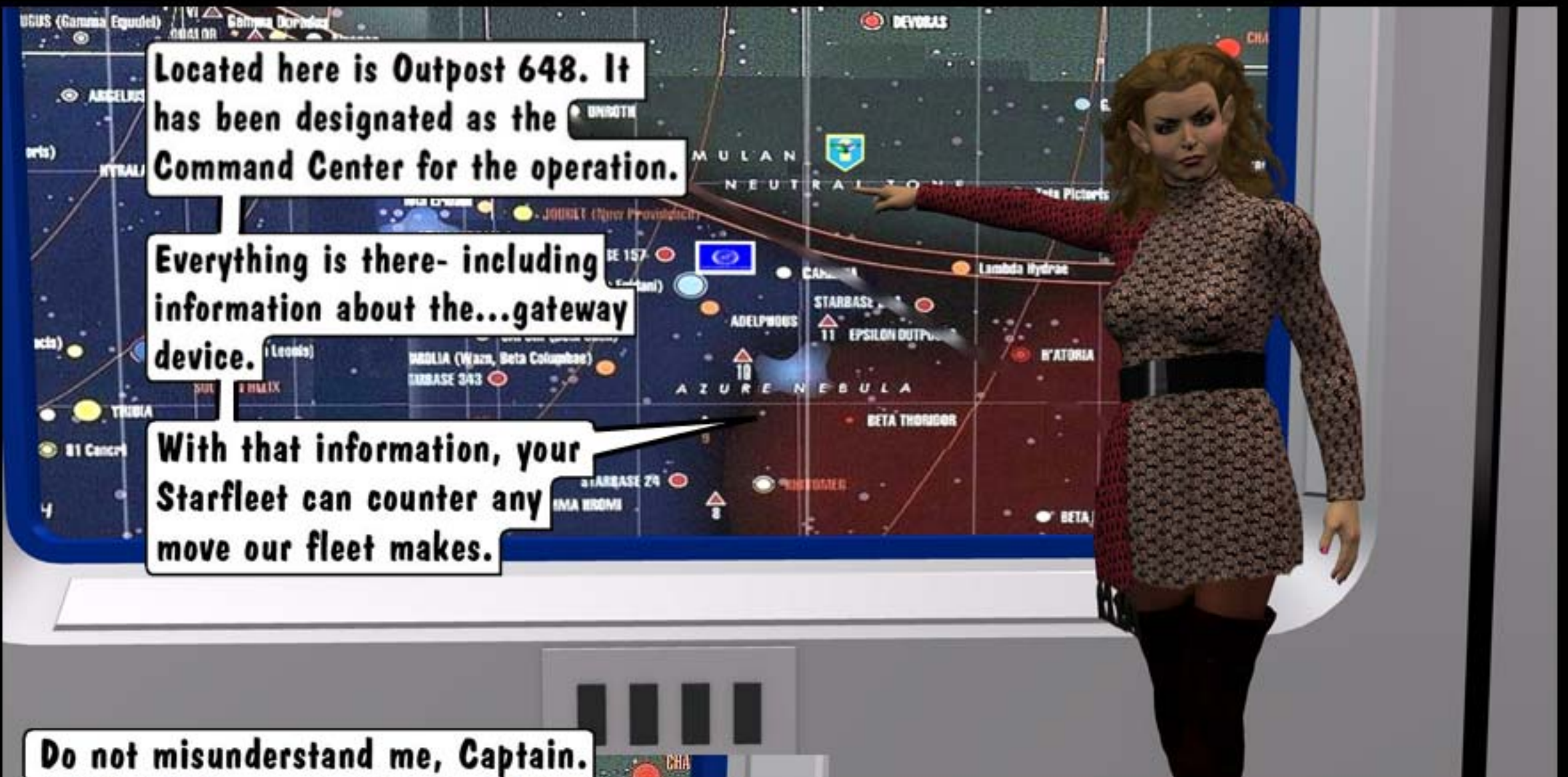
So...what do you have in mind?

Do you have a star chart of this region?

On the viewscreen, Captain, Commander.

Computer?





Located here is Outpost 648. It has been designated as the Command Center for the operation.

Everything is there- including information about the...gateway device.

With that information, your Starfleet can counter any move our fleet makes.

Do not misunderstand me, Captain.



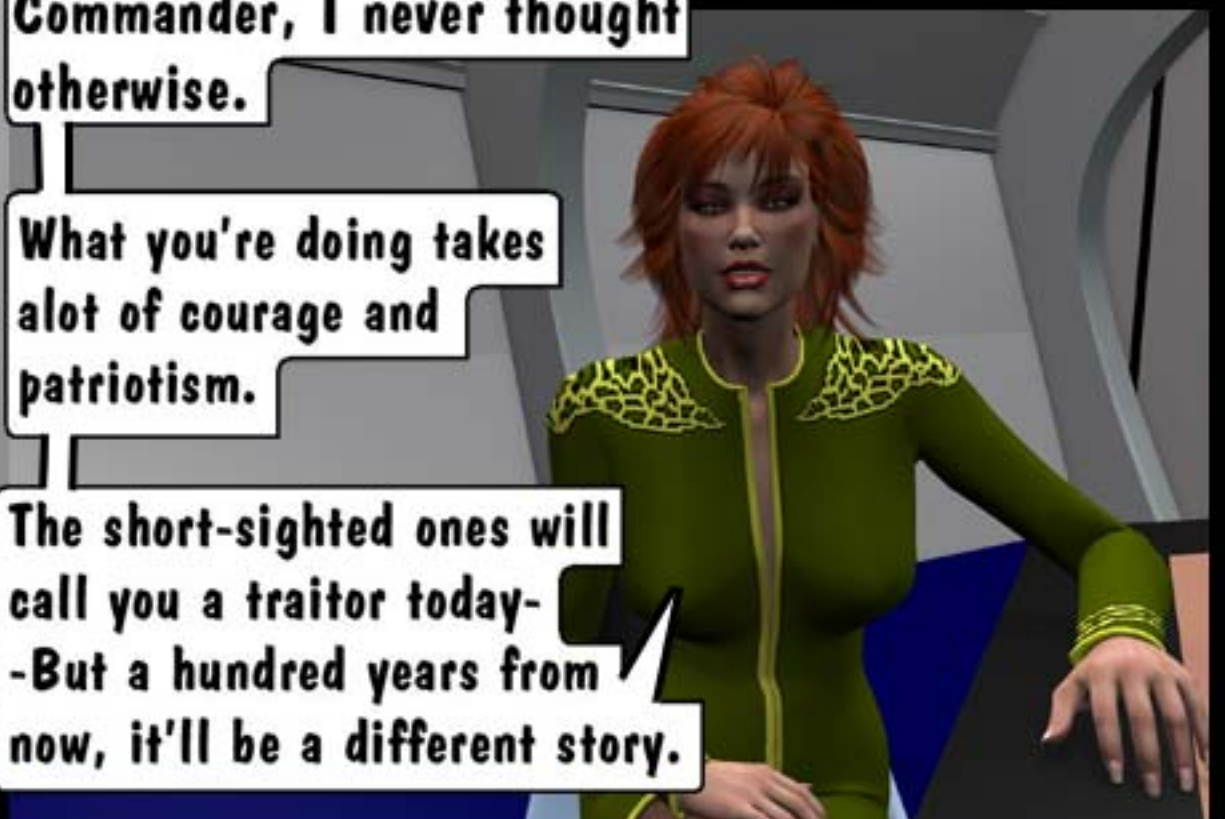
After this, I will be considered a traitor to my people.

What I do today, I do to preserve the Empire- Not because of any love I have for the Union.


Commander, I never thought otherwise.

What you're doing takes a lot of courage and patriotism.

The short-sighted ones will call you a traitor today- But a hundred years from now, it'll be a different story.



It sounds like a small team would be best. Two people- in quick and out fast.



I have a small scout aboard my ship. If you would do me the honor- ?



I need to discuss this with my command staff.

When's the invasion set to begin?



Four standard days- and it will take six hours to reach the outpost.

You'll have my answer in thirty minutes.



Mr. Therran, escort the Commander to guest quarters.



Yes, Ma'am. Commander?

If she wishes to contact her ship, she's free to do so- so long as you are there, out of range of the visual pickup.



You're going, aren't you?

I advise against it.



As my First Officer-

-or my husband?



I did not know the two had to be mutually exclusive.

I think in this case, they have to be.

I know why my husband doesn't want me to go.

But my First Officer better have a good reason.

This has been carefully planned and directed-
at you- the one person who is known for
taking action instead of debating an issue.

Remove you from the
front line and you
slow the Union's
response.

I admit that's a
valid view.

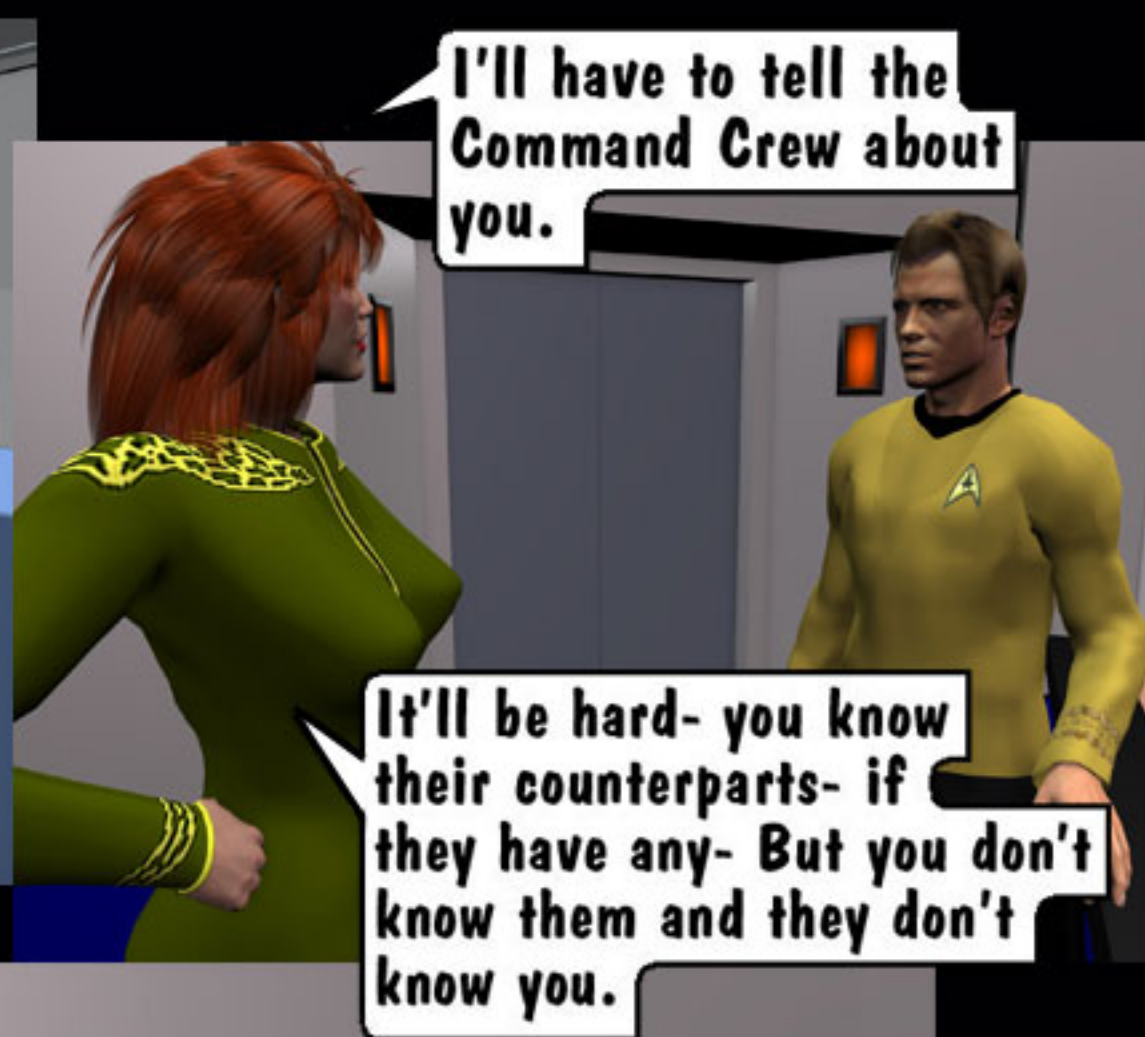
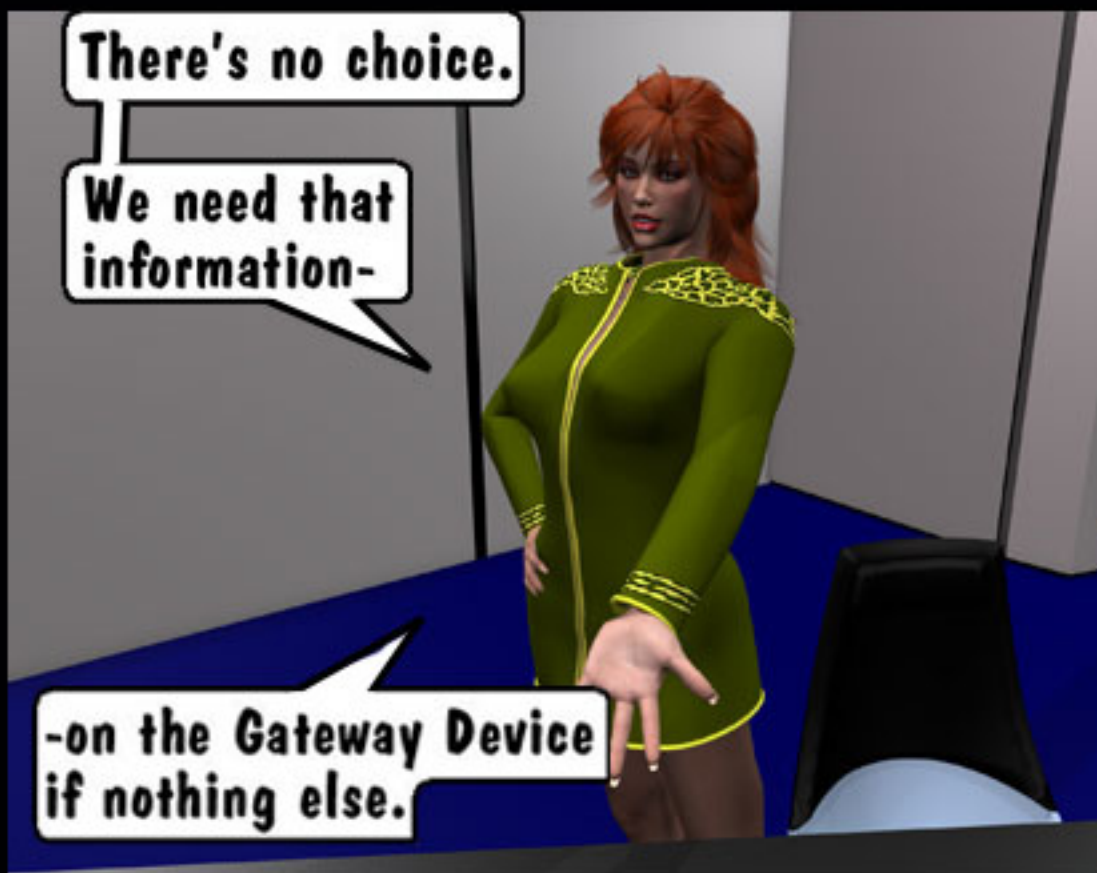
But I knew this Commander's counterpart
back home- and this lady seems to be
exactly like her.

She came to you because she's
studied you.

She knows you don't want a war
any more than she does and you'll
do anything to prevent one- even
team up with her.

So you're saying I
can trust her?

Yes.



Captain's Log: Supplemental.
Preparations continue to move
forward for carrying out the
Commander's plan.



Physical details have been seen
to. I now sport a pair of Vulcan-
Romulan ears and eyebrows- as
well as equipment modifications
thanks to Mr. Scott.



We'll be leaving in twenty
minutes. I just hope I've
made the right choice.

Computer?

Yes, Captain?

I want you to give James whatever
help he'll need. Clear?

Yes, Ma'am. How long
will you be gone?

Shouldn't be more than a
day and a half at most.

That'll be cutting things close.
It'll take six hours for a message
to reach Starbase 98 from this
location.

I know.

I want you to get with
M'ress. Organize and send
out everything we have so
far.

That way Uncle Frank'll be
watching for a follow-up
message when we do call.

Yes, Ma'am.

Ba-leep!

It's Commander
Tar'laren.

Let her in.



Thought you had the Bridge?

I did till Spock brought that other Kirk up there and told us what was going on.

I decided it was a good time to take my break.

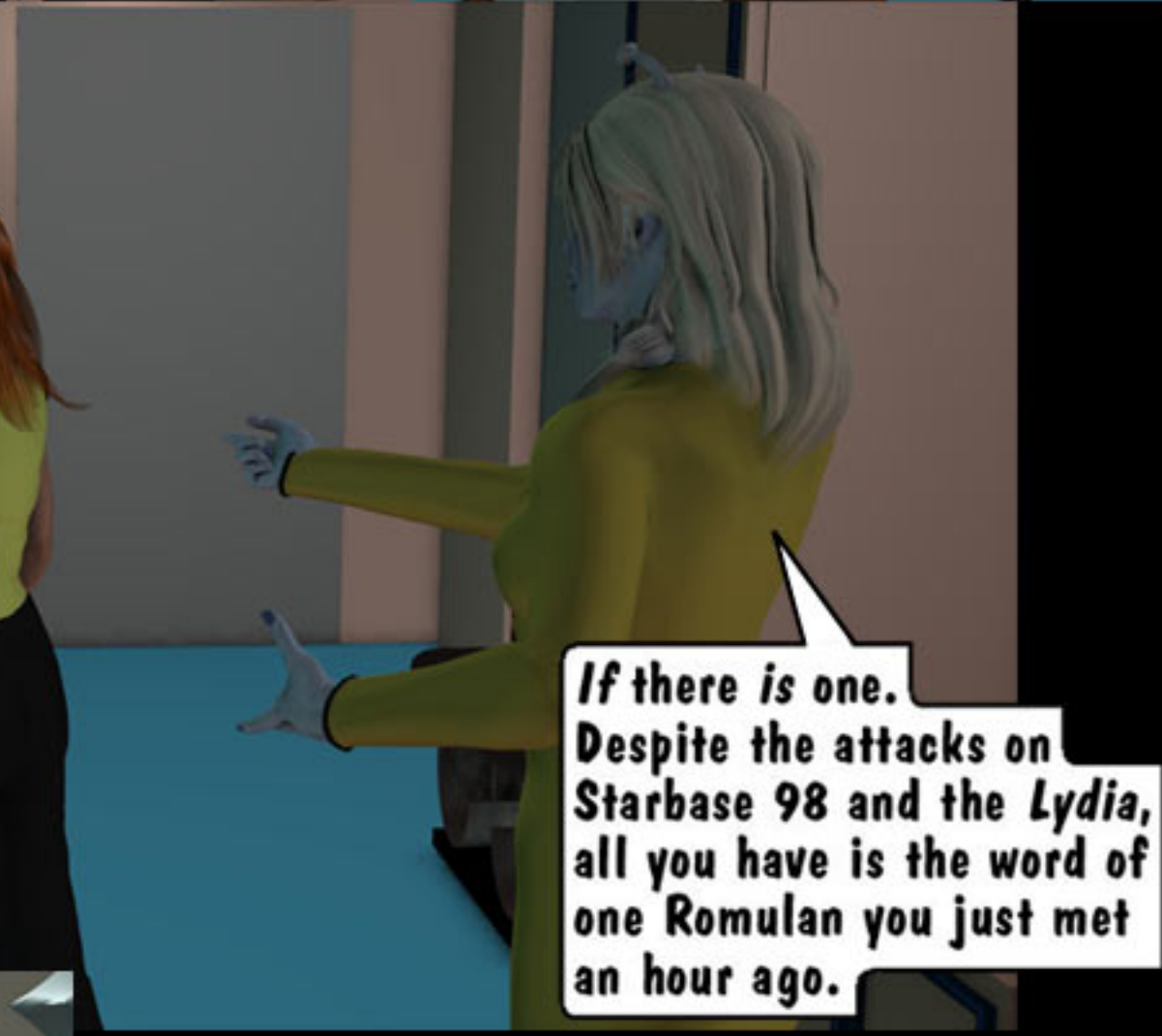
Swoosh



Have you lost your mind !?



We need the information if we're going to stop the invasion.



If there is one. Despite the attacks on Starbase 98 and the Lydia, all you have is the word of one Romulan you just met an hour ago.




I heard that other Kirk talking to Spock.

Jan, think about it. If she's on the level, if there really is an invasion brewing, why didn't she bring the information out with her?



He was asking about Sulu and Chekov- and some lieutenant named "Uhura".

She was M'ress' predecessor.




He doesn't know our universe.
There are too many changes to
blindly trust what he says-

-especially, when you're talking
about an enemy alien.




Have you asked yourself-
really asked- if you're believing
him because what he says is
the truth-

Or because he's
Jim Kirk?



There's more to it than what
the Commander and James have said.

Aunt T'Pel told me she's
been getting intelligence
reports for months now about
a Romulan military build-up.




And getting the captain of the
only ship in the area out of
commission could be one more
step in their plans.



Spock said the same thing.

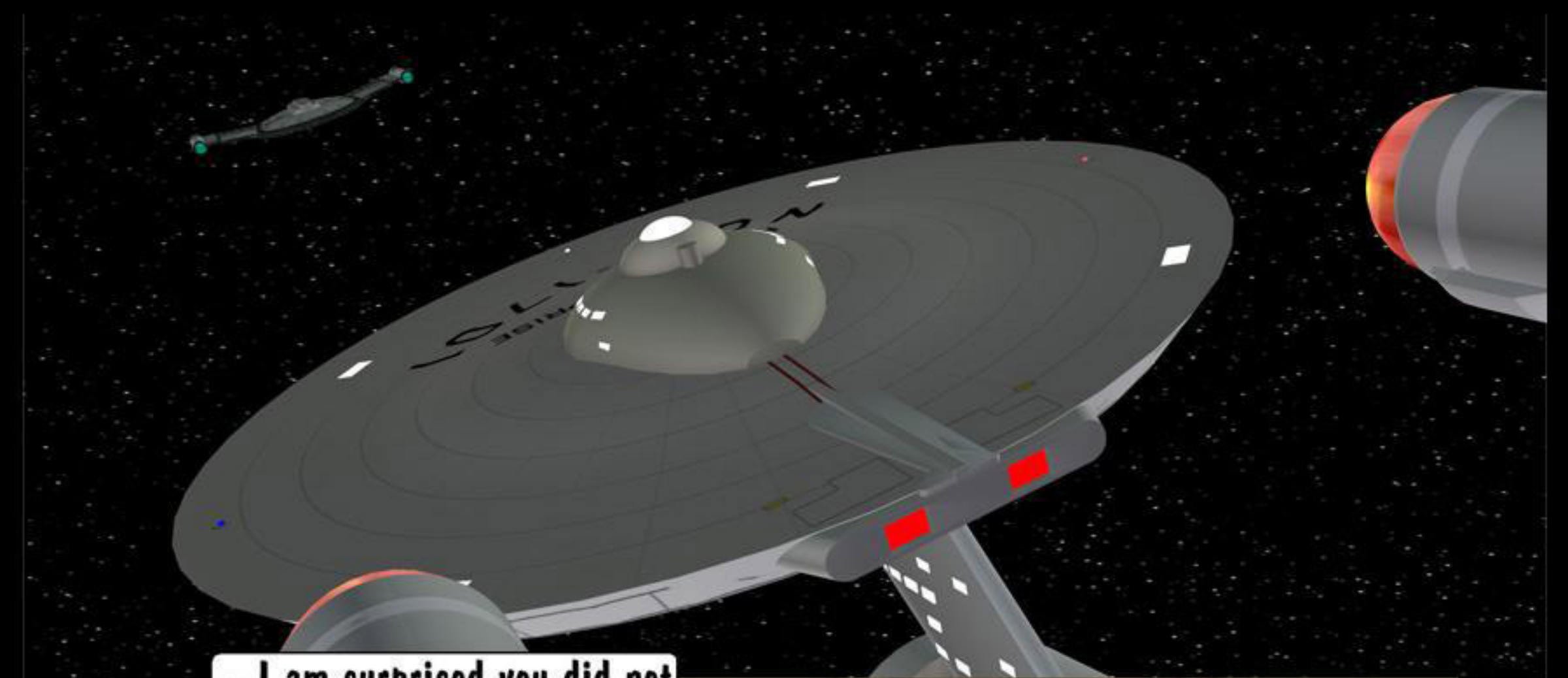
And he's right.

So what are you
going to do?



We have questions
that need answers.

So let's see about
getting some.



...I am surprised you did not ask this at the briefing, Captain.



Very well.

Let's just say I've had a lot on my mind lately.

The reason is a simple one. The moment I found out the invasion had been set in motion, I went straight back to my ship and headed straight for the Neutral Zone to warn you.

I knew you would send some kind of report to Starfleet- something that would- what is the phrase? "Set the gears in motion"?

While your fleet prepared, we would go back for the specific information. After that, however things turned out, the Union would not be caught unawares.



Commander, I want to believe you. But doubts have been raised.



I need confirmation I can count on.

The Vulcan mind meld.



I will do my best to avoid your private thoughts, Commander.

I will only seek to confirm what you have already told us.




Very well.



My thoughts to your thoughts...





A comic book page featuring three panels of a Star Trek: Enterprise bridge scene. The panels show characters in Starfleet uniforms interacting in a futuristic control room with various consoles and screens. The top panel shows a woman in a yellow uniform at a console, with a man in a blue uniform and another in a yellow uniform standing nearby. The middle panel shows a man in a yellow uniform speaking to a woman in a red uniform. The bottom panel shows a man in a yellow uniform speaking to a woman in a yellow uniform.

Captain on the Bridge.

Swoosh

As you were.

And you were- ?

Lt. M'ress, sir.

Swoosh

Lieutenant, back in my universe, Romulan ships had bad com systems. They leaked signals of all kinds.

Why don't you see what you can pick up?

Yes, sir.

Captain, there's a small scout leaving the Romulan ship.

That'll be your Captain and the Commander. Track them as long as you can.

Yes, sir.



Mr. Spock, If you'll forgive an observation, you appear...ill at ease.



I'm sure Janet will be as careful...

It is not concern for my wife's safety, Captain-

-Although, I cannot deny that such concern does exist.




Then what's wrong?

I cannot help thinking that we still do not know the entire situation.



You're probably right- and I doubt the Commander knows it all either.

Meaning?




Meaning, in organizations like the Romulan Empire, there are always people assigned to spy on others and report what they see and hear.

I doubt that everyone aboard the Commander's ship agreed with her plans.



An interesting analysis.

You expect a mutiny then?



As soon as she's out of range.



Captain, the Romulan ship is transmitting a message.

They're warning the outpost about the Captain and the Commander.

Could you tell who was sending it?



A Sub-Commander 'Tal?



Her Second-in Command.



Helm, bring shields and weapons to stand-by status.

If you see anything resembling a plasma energy burst, don't hesitate to fire.

Yes, sir.



Mr...Therran, was it? Assemble a security team in the Main Transporter Room. As soon as we can get their shields down, we'll beam over with the sole purpose of retrieving their cloaking device.

Sir, Romulan ships don't *have* shields.



She is correct. The Romulans of our universe have never displayed that technology.



Go.

Thank you, Commander.

Also, Captain, If you are planning to join the security detail, I must point out that *our* captain left you in command of the ship.

Such circumstances deny you the option of such an action.

Having mind-melded with you earlier, I am well aware of what the cloaking device looks like.

You know what it looks like in *his* universe, Mr. Spock.

How do you know it'll look the same in ours?

I do not. But as of now, we have no other references to go by.

Go-

-and be careful.

Computer?

Yes, sir?

I assume you've been listening?

It's one of my functions, sir.

It's all right.

Get with Mr. Scott and fill him in.

Tell him the cloak has to be hooked into the deflector system to be operational-

-and we'll need it hooked up as soon as he gets his hands on it.

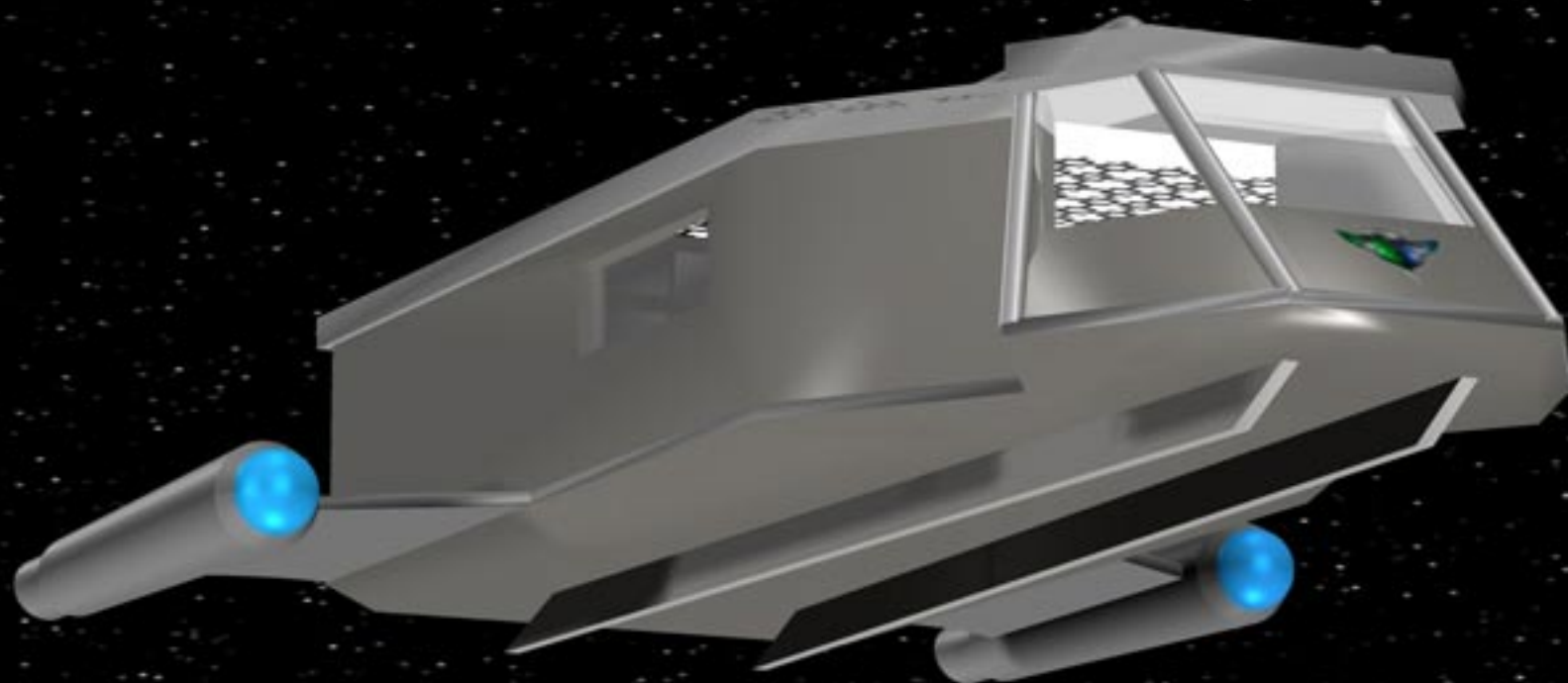
Yes, sir.

With Spock leading the security detail, that makes me Acting First Officer. Don't you think I should know what you're planning?

Your Captain and the Commander are going to need help- and we're the only ship that can provide it.

Therefore, we're going to "borrow" Sub-Commander 'Tal's cloaking device.

But if we cross the Neutral Zone now, it'll set off every sensor alarm the Romulans have.






The closest equivalent would probably be "Lieutenant". But you will be posing as my aide.

Will I have to do much talking?
Needless to say, I don't speak Romulan.






No. Aides are seen- not heard.



These are the plans for the outpost.


The fools locked away the information on the invasion, and left information on it's Command Post where anyone can find it.



Once we dock, the nearest computer terminal is located here.

That's a lot of distance to cover.


Blame the designers. There are no computer terminals in the Hanger Core.



And we're still four hours away.

You are the first Starfleet officer to travel this deeply into the Empire.

What do we do till then?

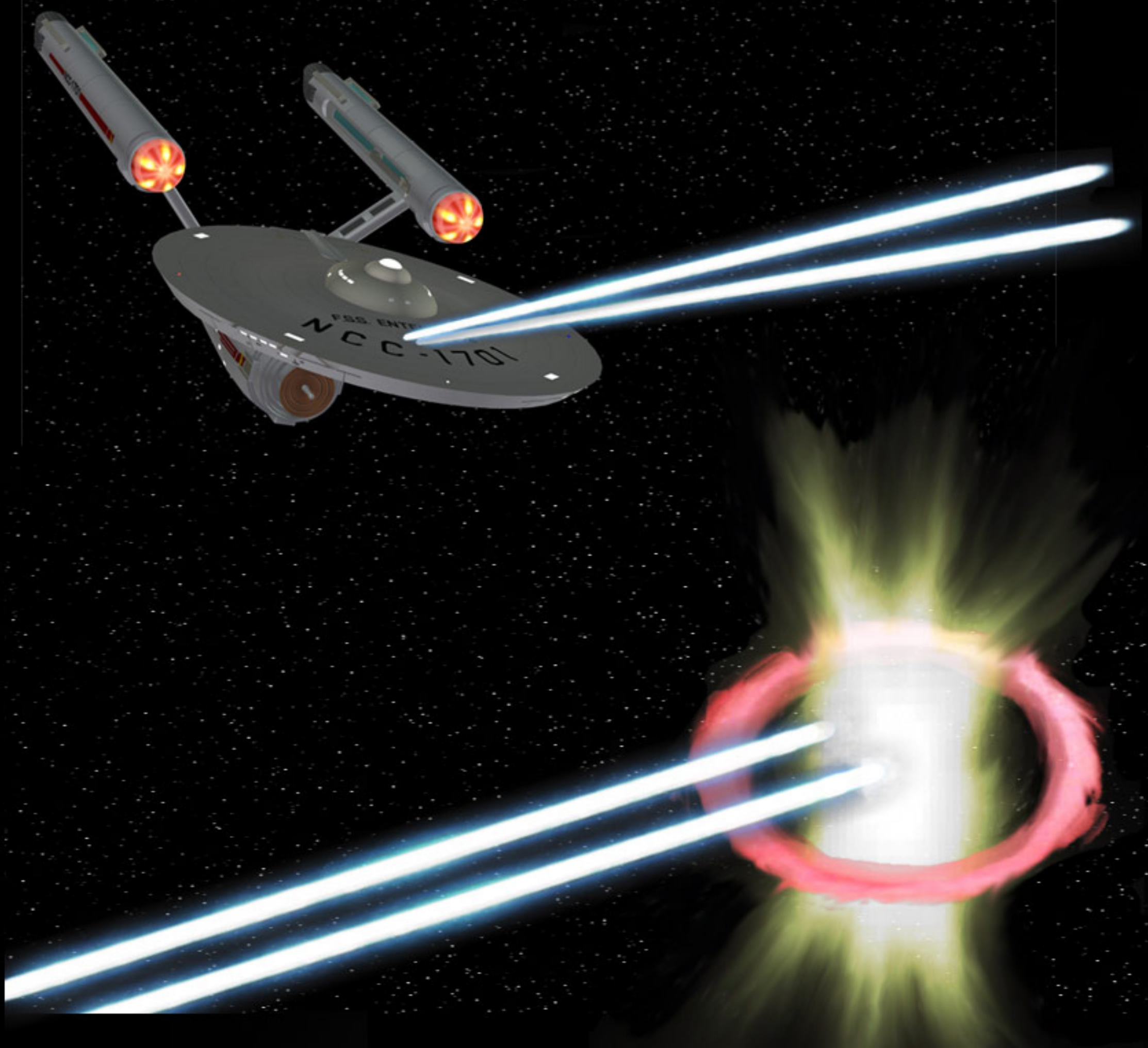


Sit back and enjoy it while you can.

Personal Log; Stardate Unknown.
James Kirk recording.

Sub-Commander 'Tal attacked
without warning before we could
transport Spock's team onboard.

It's a fight I didn't want-
But it's also a fight, I don't
intend to lose...





Damn it!

I can't get a shot at him for-

There's another way.

You know the ship, Commander. If it'll work, use it.



Computer?

Yes, Commander?

The same routine we used at Starbase 98.

Understood.

Port and Starboard dorsal phasers are now under computer control.



**Scanning plasma energy bursts-
Firing.**

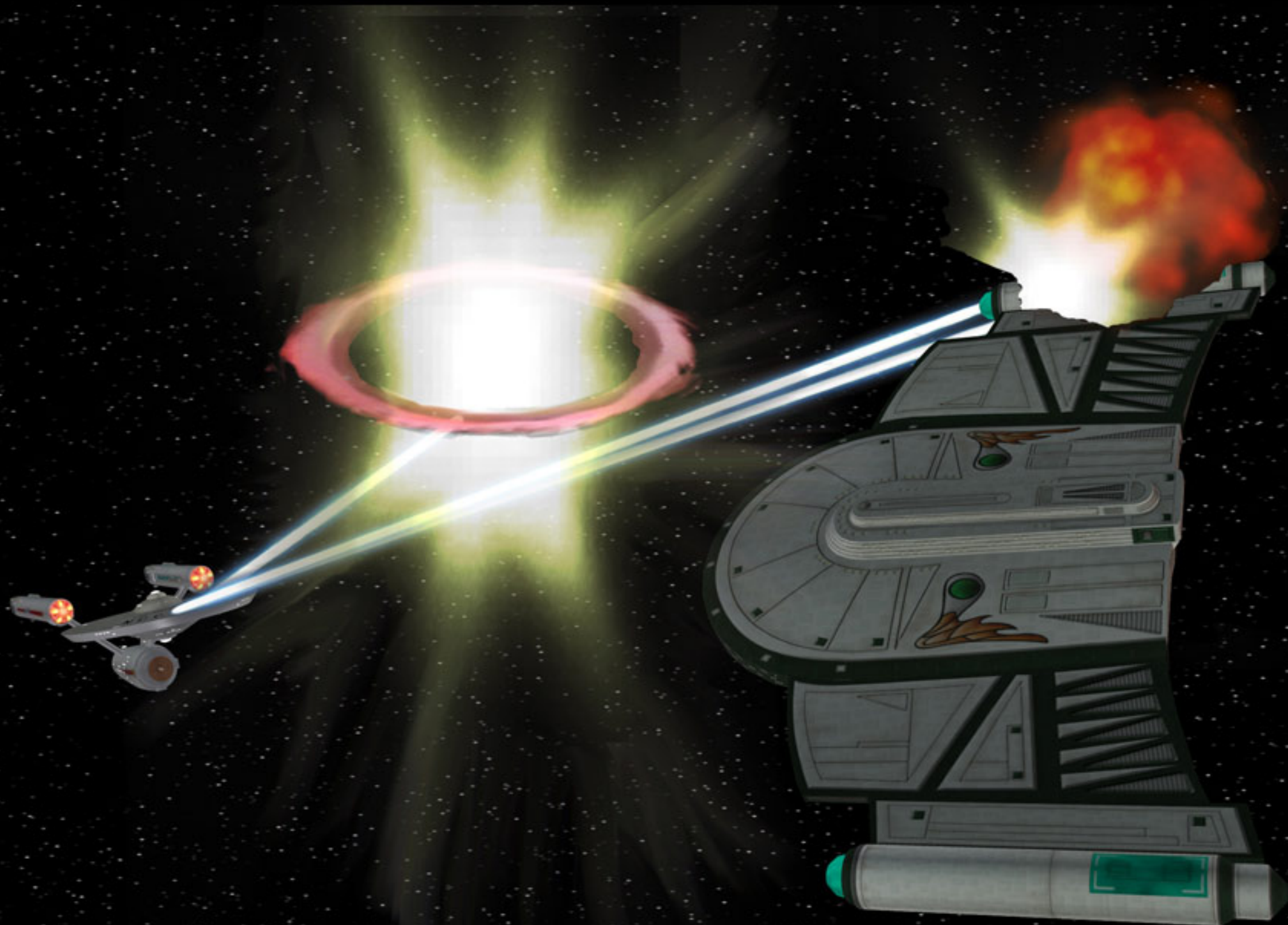


Now for our Romulan friend.

Go for their nacelles, Commander.

Knocking out their power will make it harder for them to use internal sensors to track Spock and his team.

Aye, sir.









Spock to Enterprise.

We have found the device.
Disconnecting it now.





HUMMMMM





HUMMMMMMM

Get this...
to Mr. Scott...



Yes, sir.

Mr. Spock?



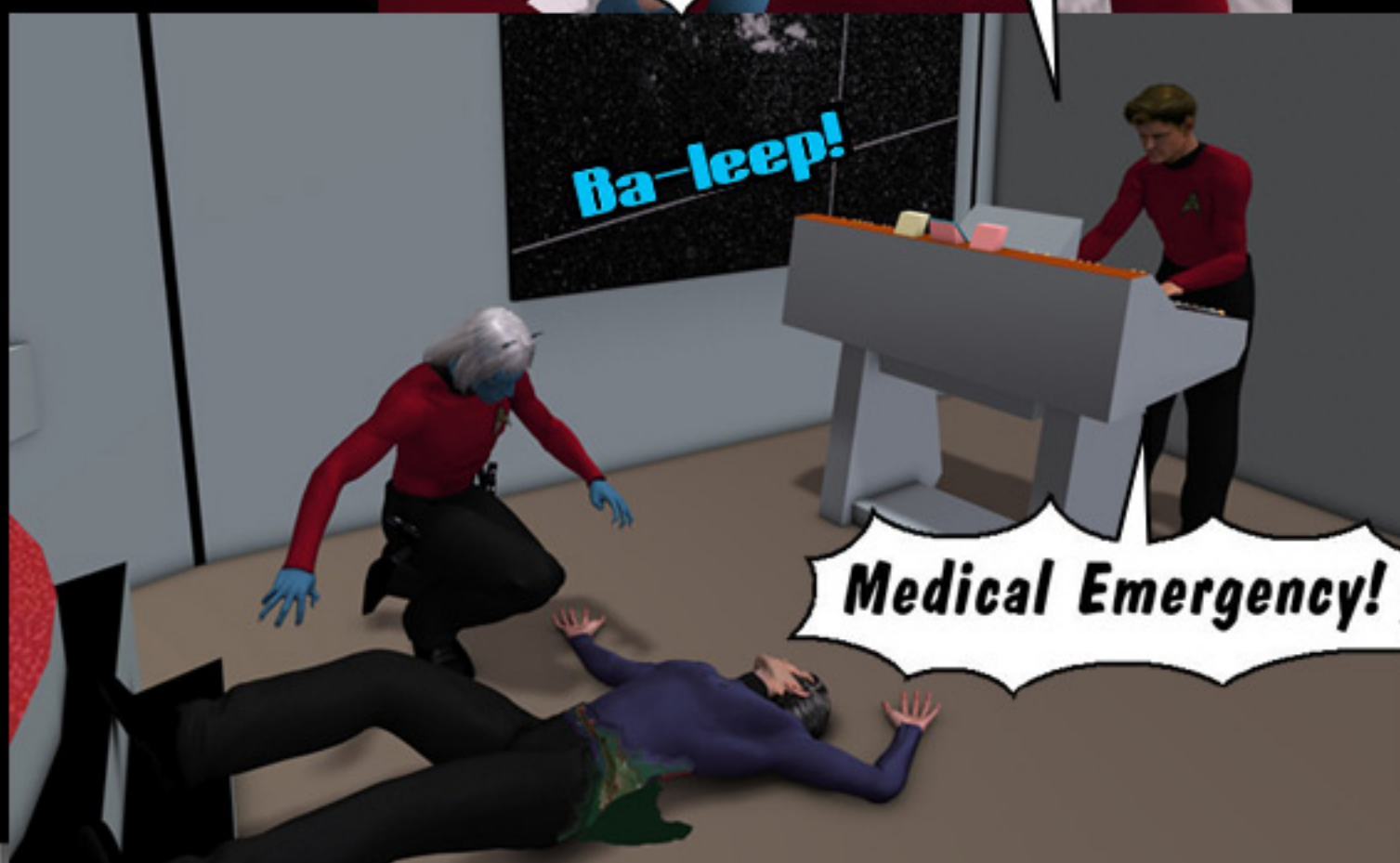
Mr. Spock!



Mr. Spock!



Main Transporter Room to Sick Bay!



Ba-leep!

Medical Emergency!

By the gods...



I think he's dead.

TO BE CONTINUED

Next Time on NOVA TREK:

...Jan looked around as she and the Romulan Commander left the Security Office. "They'll be expecting us to make for the Hanger Core- same for any transporter room. We need someplace to hold up for awhile."

The Commander's eyebrow rose in confusion. "'Hold up'?"

"Hide," Jan explained. "A store room or a cargo area?"

The Commander swiped a loose hair back behind a pointed ear and then nodded back up the corridor. "There's a supply room back by the intersection we came through."

They both glanced around as they moved and Jan spoke. "If we can keep them looking for us, it may actually work in our favor. They can't launch an invasion while we're running around loose."

"Which is why we've given Priority to re-capturing you."

Jan and the Commander exchanged glances. Then they slowly turned to see the outpost commander and a full security detail- with disruptors drawn and aimed...

Next time on NOVA TREK:

"A Tale of Two Captains: Part 2 of 3"

Coming in 2012

Correction:

In Books 1-4, the base model used for the FSS *Enterprise* and the *Constitution* was credited to EvilInnocence 180.

This is not correct.

The correct artist should have been listed as Evilgenius 180.

I apologise for the mix-up.

Captain Janet Kirk

V3 base from Daz Studio

Daria texture and morphs
from Illusion Designs

Hair is Full and Feathered
from Daz Studio.

Spock

M3 base from Daz Studio

Head morph by Fatuccini

Textures are Universal textures
for M3, modified by mdbruffy

Hair is Spockhair by Mylochka

Shev

V3 base

Andorian textures and head
morph by Mylochka

Hair is Mokohair for Aiko 3

Janice Rand

V3 base

Head morph and hair
by Mylochka.

Lt.Comm. Therran

P6 James base

Skin color by mdbruffy

Hair is Nycho hair

Antane by Redfern

Ship's Corridor

by Tony Oliveira

Lt. M'ress

V3 basic base combined
with base morphed by

Jenelson Anika for V3

Bushy Tail 2

Big Fluffy Hair

Body textures by mdbruffy

Dr. McCoy

M3 base

Head morph by mdbruffy

Uniform- bodysuit for M3

Pants- Poserworld

Romulan Commander's

egg chair- Poser Content

Romulan Commander

V3 base

Ele textures and morphs from
Illusion Designs

Romulan Commander's Tunic-

V3 Tunic with textures by
mdbruffy and Mylochka

Boots are Wasteland Warrior
from Poserworld

Hair is Curly hair from Daz Studio

James T. Kirk

P6 James base

Head morph and texture
by mdbruffy

Hair is m4Kirk by Mylochka

Uniform-
Space Officer's pants from
Poserworld

M3 Tunic by Tony Oliverira

Federal and Romulan symbols
from Star Trek Minutiae

TV Screen caps from
TrekCore.

S.A.S.O.V. screen by
Jonathan Rich

Spatial distortion by
mostdigitalcreations

Models by mdruffy:

Guest quarters

Romulan corridor

Cloaking device chamber

Romulan transporter room

cloaking device

Plasma energy burst

Phaser and disruptor effects by
Jepes Movie Props4

Nova Trek Star Fleet Uniforms:

Female-

Long sleeve zip dress from
Renderosity.

Texture for Jan's uniform
by mdruffy

With Jonathan Rich:

Romulan Commander's

Scoutship

nacelles by J.Rich

Command Suite

-viewport wall by J.Rich

Sick Bay

McCoy's desk and wall plaques

by J.Rich

(For a Commision by Jonathan Rich,
you can e-mail him at:
Kavalino02@aol.com)

Male-

M3 sci-fi suit from Daz Studio

Romulan Helmet by
Jaguar3

Romulan Commander's Warbird-

Trekmods FASA Romulan V-6

Gallant Wing

Textures by Thomas the cat

Modeler: Dolphoenix

Converted to obj format by mdruffy

Current Enterprise model

by Jeffery Crouch

Textures by Jeffery crouch
and mdruffy

Software programs used:

Poser 9

Photoshop Elements 9

Picasa 3

3D Extreme Text

Windows Paint

Milkshape 3D

Google Sketch-up 7