

STAR

TREK

"THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. SPACE ENTERPRISE

It is in orbit around a planet.

KIRK'S VOICE (over)
Captain's log. Star Date 5501.2. We
are orbiting the planet Lactra VII

EXT. SPACE SHIP FULL SHOT

This is a smaller scientific-exploratory spaceship. It is also in orbit,
and the Enterprise is closing in.

KIRK'S VOICE (over)
Our mission is to discover the whereabouts
or fate of a six member science crew. Voice
contact having yielded nothing, a landing
party beamed aboard to see if the deserted
ship's log and computers could give us
any information.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. ENTERPRISE BRIEFING ROOM FULL SHOT

Kirk, Spock and McCoy are seated at the table. The three-sided viewer
on the table shows Markel as he dictated his log.

MARKEL
It is now thirty-two minutes since our last
contact with the three members of our crew
on the planet surface. As the senior officer
aboard, I, Lieutenant Commander Markel, have
made the following decision: The three remaining
crew members, myself included, will beam down
to affect a rescue. If, for any reason, we do
not return, be it known that....

Kirk punches a switch on the table top, and the voice and picture fade.

KIRK
It was against all orders!

MCCOY
The need was apparently desperate.

KIRK
The Captain of a ship....no matter his
rank, must follow the book.

MCCOY
It's still a risk.

KIRK
That's why we're here, Bones.
(rises)
Gentlemen, we'll travel light. Phasers,
Tricorder, and communicators and medical kit.

The others rise and begin to exit the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM FULL SHOT

Kirk, McCoy and Spock are in position to be transported. Scotty is at the controls.

SCOTTY
Sir, Mr. Arex has located a variety of life forms on the planet. No large groups or city clusters yet.

KIRK
You have the coordinates from the other ship, Scotty. Put us down in the same place....

SCOTTY
Begging your pardon, sir, but if I beam you down in the same place, you could end up in the same kind of trouble.

KIRK
Then we'll beam back up.

SPOCK
Logical, Captain.

KIRK
Energize, Mr. Scott.

Scotty moves the controls, and the three men begin to shimmer and disappear.

CUT TO

EXT. LACTRA VII LAKE MED SHOT DAY

Kirk, Spock and McCoy materialize on the shore line of a lake of steaming hot springs.

KIRK
Everyone alright?

MCCOY
Ten yards the other way and we'd be boiled alive.

SPOCK
(using tricorder)
Unusual that such a lake would exist under
these planetary conditions.

KIRK
(looking at O.S. lake)
Uh...Spock...

WIDER ANGLE

Arising from the sea and coming toward them...an aquatic dinosaur. Spock
trains the tricorder on it with great scientific interest.

SPOCK
Most remarkable.

KIRK
It may be able to navigate on land.

MCCOY
I know it can!

KIRK
Phasers on stun!

All three men drop to their knees and aim their phasers at the on-rushing
beast. It reaches the shore, they fire. It falters a bit. Then the
beast backs up into the sea and disappears under the waves.

KIRK
Let's get out of here!

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. LACTRA VII ROCK AND DESERT AREA DAY

The three men stop, look out at the desert.

MCCOY
Not a very welcome sight, is it?

KIRK
I'll see if I can pick up anything on
my communicator.

He flips it open

KIRK
This is Captain Kirk of the U.S.S.
Enterprise, calling the crew of the Ariel.
Come in please. Come in.

He flicks the communicator to receive and begins to get a beep.

MCCOY
They're answering;!!

The beep continues for a couple of seconds and then abruptly stops.

MCCOY

Did you get a fix on that, Jim?

KIRK

Yes....

(points o.s.)

That way.

MCCOY

Strange you didn't get a voice reply.

SPOCK

There could be many reasons why we did not.

They are walking across the desert.

MCCOY

Never mind counting them.

They move up a sand dune and then slide down the other side. They reach the bottom....they are suddenly confronted by a spear of flame that bursts across their path.

EXT. DESERT BOTTOM OF SAND DUNE FULL SHOT DAY

They have awakened a giant iguana that spits fire. It begins to stalk them. They edge back until they are right against the sand dune.

KIRK

Phasers on stun!

They fire their phasers and the beast opens its jaws and "swallows" the beams with no ill-affect.

CLOSE SHOT THE MEN

SPOCK

It seems to gather strength from our phasers. In my opinion...

KIRK

Concentrate on the underside of the neck!

WIDER ANGLE

They concentrate their phasers on the neck, but it doesn't seem to bother the creature. They scatter, then the beast rises on its hind legs, claws at its neck...and sprawls out stunned.

SPOCK

Captain?

KIRK

Right here. You alright?

SPOCK
I am undamaged. Where is Dr. McCoy?

MCCOY
(muffled)
I'm utrekl...

Kirk and Spock look around puzzled.

MCCOY
(muffled)
hermmmmmf....

KIRK
It came from back there.

They travel along the length of the beast's body, come to the tail, and find only McCoy's legs are showing.

KIRK
We'll get you out, Bones!

They struggle but can't lift the tail.

SPOCK
It would appear a more logical solution is in order, Captain. We don't lift the tail off...we dig the Doctor out.

They both get to their knees and begin to dig and as they do...McCoy manages to wiggle out from under the beast.

MCCOY
Thanks. The air was running out under there.

KIRK
Were you hurt?

MCCOY
No. Just surprised. It isn't every day a dinosaur falls on you. This is a pretty strange place....

KIRK
Agreed. How much desert do we have to cross, Mr. Spock?

SPOCK
(works the tricorder)
One point one kilometers, sir.

KIRK
We'd better pick up our pace. There's no place for cover if we meet any other creatures. The bearing on the signal we heard is that way.

ANOTHER ANGLE

They begin to move across the desert.

SPOCK
Captain, the beast...did it seem familiar to you?

KIRK
I've seen something very like it on Canopis III, but that's light years from here. Still....this desert area is the same as on Canopis...

SPOCK
You propose the same environment necessarily prompts the same evolution?

MCCOY
My shoes are full of sand.

SPOCK
Doctor, your lack of scientific interest is amazing.

MCCOY
I'll be happy to discuss that with you, Mr. Spock, next time you drop in to my medical lab.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST FULL SHOT DAY

There is an abundance of greenery and trees. The fruit is exotically shaped and colored. A stream runs through scene.

CLOSER ANGLE

Kirk, Spock and McCoy come to the stream bank and stop.

MCCOY
This seems a lot more friendly than the desert.

SPOCK
Captain, doesn't it strike you strange that two such different ecologies could co-exist so closely?

KIRK
I've seen stranger things, Mr. Spock.

SPOCK
Merely an observation, Captain.

Kirk flips open his communicator.

KIRK
Kirk to Enterprise.

SPOCK

Nonetheless, it is too pure.

KIRK

In other words, it's too good to be true.

SPOCK

Correct, Captain. And a rain forest this close to a desert is also illogical. It is my theory that what we have seen since we landed was manufactured, not naturally evolved.

MCCOY

Terra forming isn't new. It implies intelligent life forms.

KIRK

Yes, but terra forming usually follows a pattern. This seems like random choice.

SPOCK

Unless, of course, the random choice is the pattern.

MCCOY

Spock, do you ever say anything straight out?

SPOCK

I thought I did, Doctor.

KIRK

Gentlemen, please. We have work to do.

CLOSER ANGLE

Kirk leads the way along a meandering path. Suddenly there is a roar and they come face to face with a pack of six feet high, saber-tooth wild dogs. Their fangs are tremendous, they have razor sharp talons, and they have four legs and antennas.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Kirk and McCoy and Spock begin to move backward, and the dogs begin to creep toward them.

KIRK

There's a cave in that hill.

They move toward it.

KIRK

You two run for it, I'll hold them off.

SPOCK

I suggest, Captain, that three phasers...

SCOTT'S VOICE
Enterprise. Scott here.

KIRK
Any new information, Scotty?

SCOTT
There is a large concentration of life forms 98.5 kilometers northeast of you. Apparently a city, or a central gathering place. Nothing else yet.

KIRK
Northeast. That's the direction the signal came from.

SCOTT
We could transport you directly there, sir.

KIRK
No. The signal was too brief to establish distance. They may be somewhat in between. Keep scanning, Scotty. We'll continue on in the same direction. Kirk out.

Kirk puts away the communicator and turns toward the others.

MCCOY
I don't like it, Jim. Why only one short signal and no more?

KIRK
I don't know. But at least they're alive.

SPOCK
Apparently alive. We cannot be sure.

KIRK
I choose to believe they are.

ANGLE AT STREAM

McCoy bends to drink some water and Spock stops him.

SPOCK
Allow me to test the water first, Doctor.

MCCOY
Go ahead, but it looks clear enough.

SPOCK
(works tricorder)
Captain, the water is too pure.

MCCOY
(tries some)
It tastes just fine.

KIRK
Get moving!

Spock and McCoy head for the cave and Kirk is busy with his phaser fighting off the pack of dogs which are starting to surround him.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Kirk is being hemmed in when Spock and McCoy come racing toward him.

KIRK
I thought I told you two to hide in the cave!

SPOCK
There was a small problem.

MCCOY
A large problem!

As McCoy and Spock fire phasers to keep the dogs at bay, Kirk turns around.

KIRK'S POV

We see a two-headed python come crawling toward them out of the cave.

BACK TO SCENE

KIRK
Spock! McCoy...regroup to the left on my order!

The dogs are closing in, and the snake is coming up behind them.

KIRK
When I yell, cut phasers and dive for cover.

SPOCK
Yes, sir!

The dogs are coming closer and so is the python.

KIRK
Now!

They cut their phasers and dive into the underbrush. The wild dogs see the approaching python and the battle begins. Three of the dogs make for the neck and are shaken off.

CLOSE SHOT THREESOME

They are watching the action.

KIRK
(quietly)
Slowly...edge around the back of the pack and down the path.

ANOTHER ANGLE

We see Kirk and Spock and McCoy, crouched and making steps toward the back of the pack.

ANOTHER ANGLE THE PATH

Kirk, McCoy and Spock get to the path and begin moving rapidly away from the fighting behind them.

SPOCK

The desperation of the science ship's first landing party is now obvious.

MCCOY

I can't see how anyone could survive here.

KIRK

We're still alive, aren't we?

MCCOY

That's true.

SPOCK

However, not exactly safe.

He points up and we see three flying dragons moving toward them. They have armored scales, tremendous wings, long talons, and wide, gaping jaws.

KIRK

Phasers on Heavy stun.

The three men kneel down and begin to fire at the diving dragons. The phasers seem to act as a directional beam and the dragons are flying right down and right on course.

MCCOY

They're useless!

KIRK

No. They're like the dragons on Maravel. The stun charge should get them...

The dragons get closer and closer and then suddenly, as though they had hit a glass wall, they flutter, straighten themselves out and fly off. Kirk, McCoy and Spock watch them.

MCCOY

That's strange.

SPOCK

By observation alone, it appears they hit an invisible force field.

KIRK

If that's true, Spock, then....

Suddenly, each of them is lifted off his feet by the multi-forked tail of a slug and they are in a vise-like grip. Their communicators are deftly plucked away.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The slugs are easily twenty feet long, built low to the ground, and seem a combination of snake and slug. Their tail-end is used in much the same way man uses his hand. The three men are lifted high and then brought toward the mouths of the three creatures as we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT HILLTOP FULL SHOT DAY

Kirk, McCoy and Spock are all being held firmly in the fingerlike tails of the Lactrans as the aliens move briskly along.

CLOSER ANGLE THE MEN

KIRK

Spock, would you say this is an intelligent life form?

SPOCK

I'd rather not hazard a guess, Captain.

KIRK

Can you get to your tricorder?

SPOCK

I believe so.

Spock manages to free an arm and get his tricorder. As he brings it to him, another finger-like part of the tail lightly takes the tricorder from him.

KIRK

I think I've got my answer.

MCCOY

We've been traveling for hours. Where are they taking us?

KIRK

Toward the northwest, toward the city Scotty reported.

SPOCK

Captain, there it is.

THEIR POV

In the distance, and covering what seems like entire landscape, is a city of low buildings.

BACK TO THE MEN

KIRK

That must be five square kilometers.

SPOCK

If these are the builders, it is an admirable feat.

MCCOY

I'm glad you admire their talent, Mr. Spock, but I still have the feeling I'm about to become someone's lunch.

SPOCK

For a creature of this size, Doctor, you are hardly more than an appetizer.

MCCOY

Now, that's comforting thought.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Suddenly, the side of the hill, which is covered with greenery, slides back a bit, and then slides up, and we see a gigantic, silver, bullet-like train. It is low slung and seems to be riding on a cushion of air.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The three slugs, with their prey, slide into the car. The side of the hill comes down and the hill resumes its shape as a natural part of the environment.

INT. TRAIN FULL SHOT DAY

It is well lit, but there are no windows.

KIRK

We must be going to that city. If we can communicate with the leaders....

MCCOY

They don't seem very interested in communicating with us...if they can communicate at all. Perhaps not in a way we understand. I keep receiving impressions.....

Suddenly, the side of the car opens, and the three Lactrans inch out, still carrying the three men.

INT. LABORATORY FULL SHOT DAY

This is a large room with compartments....all have gigantic machines which emit multi-colored rays. The Slugs enter the room and Kirk, McCoy and Spock are placed in one of the large compartments. The Slugs leave.

KIRK

Any ideas, Doctor?

MCCOY

I've got one and I definitely don't like it. I'd guess they're doing exactly what we would do.

KIRK

Which is?

MCCOY

I've got one and I definitely don't like it. I'd guess they're doing exactly what we would do.

KIRK

Which is?

MCCOY

Well, if we came upon an alien creature we'd never seen before, the first thing we'd do is make sure it was free of harmful bacteria. Then we'd see if it was intelligent.

SPOCK

Congratulations, Doctor. A most logical assumption.

MCCOY

I told you you should drop by my medical lab sometime.

KIRK

A more important question, Gentlemen, is whether or not there is a way out of here.

Kirk starts to walk toward the center of the large room when he suddenly bounces off nothing. He gets to his feet and feels the (apparently solid) air.

KIRK

A force field. It seems harmless enough.

MCCOY

So do the bars of a jail, unless you're on the inside.

KIRK

And we are definitely on the inside.

MCCOY

(yells)

Hey, somebody! Anybody!

SPOCK

A wasteful use of energy, Doctor. I believe they can hear us without your shouting.

KIRK

You said you were picking up impressions. are the aliens telepathic?

SPOCK

I have come to the conclusion they are, Captain. But the speed at which the thoughts flow is too great for me to comprehend, except for the most fleeting image.

KIRK

Surely we can communicate with them some way.

SPOCK

They appear to be as advanced beyond Earth civilization as you are from a colony of ants.

MCCOY

Then what were all those other creatures where we beamed down?

SPOCK

You will recall we recognized at least two species from vastly different planets. The environment did not appear natural to this planet. A technology this advanced could easily travel to other star systems, to collect specimens.

MCCOY

You mean it's some kind of a zoo?

SPOCK

Exactly.

KIRK

They took our phasers, communicators and other equipment so they must have some idea we're intelligent.

SPOCK

Not necessarily, Captain. They could have taken them for the same reason you would take a sharp object away from a child.

MCCOY

Or maybe they want to see how our "toys" work.

SPOCK

(nods)

That, too, is a possibility.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The three slugs return. The hum of the ray machine goes off, and one of the slugs reaches in and grabs McCoy.

MCCOY

Wait a minute...you...you...

(beat)

Hey!

The slug has turned McCoy upside down and then slowly revolves him.

KIRK

We've got to communicate with them!

MCCOY

Tell it I'm getting dizzy!

Before they can even start to concent ate, the other two grab Kirk and Spock; and the three Lactrans begin to slither across the gigantic room toward the far end.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A part of the wall slides up; and all three Lactrans, with their captives, slide out.

EXT CITY FULL SHOT DAY

The Lactrans, complete with our three, move on to a sliding sidewalk. The buildings on either side are immense, but squat, built for the convenience of the slug-like creatures.

CLOSER ANGLE

The moving sidewalk keeps them going at a moderate rate of speed. The moving sidewalk curves around a corner. Then it straightens out and our three are looking from side to side.

THEIR POV

One section is for flying creatures of all types, gay colors, incredible wings, long beaks. There are tress and nests. Another section is devoted to open plains and unicorns.

MCCOY (OS)

Well, so much for mythology.

SPOCK (OS)

I find them strangely attractive.

KIRK (OS)

Look ahead!

BACK TO SCENE

All three men turn their attention straight ahead. At the end of the walk we see three futuristically designed houses, a swimming pool and handball court, garden and picnic table. But no people.

BACK TO SCENE

The Lactrans stop on the moving sidewalk. Kirk, McCoy and Spock are put down and gently nudged forward.

KIRK

Better do what they want for now, anyway.

The three of them walk forward a few feet and then stop. Kirk turns around and walks back toward them cautiously. He bumps into the force field.

KIRK

They activated another force field.

MCCOY (feeling the ground)

This is real grass.

SPOCK

Yes, Doctor. This area has been carefully prepared for human types. The aliens are safe now.

MCCOY

How's that?

SPOCK

They are safe because we are now exhibits in a zoo.

MCCOY

A zoo! I'm no animal!

KIRK

On this planet, Bones, they seem to be the people and we are the animals.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Two people, a man and a girl, come running out of one of the houses. They are Lt. Commander Markel and Randi Bryce.

MARKEL

Hello'. I'm Lieutenant Commander Tom Markel...this is our biologist, Lt. Randi Bryce.

KIRK

James Kirk, Captain of the Enterprise, First Officer Spock...our physician, Dr. McCoy.

MARKEL

We've been expecting you!

KIRK

You've what?

RANDI

We heard your communicator signal.

MCCOY

Then why didn't you warn us?!

RANDI

We couldn't warn you. They're constantly picking up our equipment and fooling with it.

SPOCK

Where do they keep the equipment? I could use my tricorder.

MARKEL

No use, sir. They're on as exhibit table.
Beyond the force field.

KIRK

There were six of you on the mission.

MARKEL

We didn't beam down in time to save the
original three.

RANDI

Lt. Randolph is in the house. She's
runing a high fever, but we can't seem to
do anything about it.

MCCOY

I'll check her out. Maybe I can help.

Randi leads McCoy into one of the houses.

KIRK

(to Markel)

What have you learned about the Aliens?

MARKEL

Not much, sir. This is a zoo, so tremendous
as to be almost unbelievable.

KIRK

Have you tried to escape?

MARKEL

A dozen different ways. Tunnels...a weak ness
in the force field...nothing worked.

SPOCK

Have you tried to commjnicate?

MARKEL

Yes, sir. But all we've been able to
arouse in them is a sort of quivering motion.

KIRK

We seem to have company.

They all turn.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Two Lactrans afe watching them. Markel, Kirk and Spock move closer.

MARKEL

Thry built this for us. We've concluded
they're telepathic. I guess they read our
minds and came as close as they could to make
it like home.

KIRK

Spock...try and make contact.

SPOCK

Yes, sir.

Spock begins to concentrate. The Lactrans look at him idly, then go back to looking at each other as though they were in some kind of a telepathic communication. Spock relaxes, turns to Kirk.

SPOCK

I can't seem to get through, sir.
They appear too involved with each other.

KIRK

Try writing something.

Spock breaks a twig off a branch and writes a complicated formula on the ground. He looks up.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Lactrans are waving their tentacles and quivering.

KIRK

You seem to be getting a response.

SPOCK

(uncomfortable)

My impression is that they are...laughing at me.

KIRK

But mathematics has been an almost
universal language for centuries.

SPOCK

Sir, they are so far ahead of us mathematically,
it's as though I were trying to make words
out of children's building blocks, and failing.

KIRK

Try some other formula...chemical.

SPOCK

Yes, sir.

Spock continues to write a formula as Kirk watches the Lactrans. The quivering increases.

KIRK

No use, Spock.

SPOCK

(gets up)

At least we know they are capable of humor.

MARKEL

So far, Mr. Spock, we haven't found anything funny in this.

SPOCK

Animals in a zoo rarely do.

KIRK

Let's find the others. I feel a need for human companionship.

They turn their backs on the Lactrans and walk to the house.

INT. HOUSE FULL SHOT DAY

Spock, Kirk and Markel arrive to find Lt. Nancy Randolph lying on a couch, attended by Randi and McCoy

RANDI

Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock...Nancy Randolph, our navigator.

They exchange greetings and handshakes.

KIRK

How is she?

MCCOY

Without my instruments, it's difficult to make an exact diagnoses. Rough guess is a malarial type infection caused by an insect bite. I can't do anything without my medikit.

KIRK

The Lactrans outside, what do they do?

MARKEL

They appear to be guards, sir. Making sure we don't harm each other.

MCCOY

Very thoughtful of them.

KIRK

Do they feed us or do we shift for ourselves?

MARKEL

They bring supplies once a week.

KIRK

Always to the same place?

RANDI

Always...near the display case.

KIRK

What display case?

RANDI

Behind this house, outside the force field.
All our "toys"
(beat)
phasers, communicators, medical supplies.

MCCOY

Then my equipment should be there.

KIRK

Maybe we can get them to give them back
to us.

SPOCK

Captain, they are highly intelligent.
I'm sure they are quite aware of the
purpose of each piece of equipment now.

MCCOY

The medical kit wouldn't be harmful. It
would help her, one of their "specimens".

SPOCK

Then think about it that way, Doctor.

McCoy thinks a moment. Spock is eyeing one of the Lacgrans through a
window. One of the aliens moves off.

KIRK

Let's see what happens.

All except the sick girl exit the house.

EXT. COMPIUND BEHIND HOUSES DAY

A Lactran is just withdrawing its tentacle. On the ground is a heap of
the exotic fruit. Our group comes around the corner and stops.

MARKEL

Food. But it's not feeding time.

KIRK

They must have sensed a need and
interpreted it as food.

SPOCK

I suggest we all concentrate on the
medical kit.

They all begin to concentrate. The Lactran waves its tentacles over
the table, picks up a phaser, puts it down...and then picks up the medical
kit and puts it through the force field and on the grass. As the others
walk to the kit, Kirk walks to the force field and tests it.

MCCOY

It's all here. They haven't damaged it.

KIRK

Unfortunately, the same can be said
about the force field.

Kirk looks past the force field.

KIRK'S POV

There is a table with the phasers, communicators, tricorder and other
equipment the scientists brought with them.

BACK TO SCENE

KIRK

So near and yet so far.

MCCOY

I have to see to my patient.

They all begin walking toward the front of the house as we

CUT TO

INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE FULL SHOT DAY

Lt. M'RESS is at the communications station. Scotty is standing next
to her.

SCOTTY

Are you raising anything?

LT. M'RESS

Nothing, sir.

SCOTTY

Keep at it. They're down there somewhere!

CUT TO

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE FULL SHOT DAY

The two Lactran guards are back in position. Kirk, Markel and Spock
are a short distance from them.

KIRK

What's your evaluation of the situation,
Markel?

MARKEL

They treat us quite well, sir. They
seem to want us alive and well. And
they don't want to let us go.

SPOCK

A natural reaction for the curators
of a zoo.

MARKEL

We've worked out our own calendar according to the artificial sun and moon they've given us.

KIRK

And?

MARKEL

One out of nine earth days...we draw quite a crowd.

SPOCK

Probably a recreation or rest period.

MARKEL

Sir, do you think there is any chance of getting out?

KIRK

(nods)

As long as we're alive, there's a chance.

(to Spock)

Tonight I'll try and find a weak link in the force field....

SPOCK

I'd say there are no weak links, sir.

KIRK

Not very encouraging, Mr. Spock.

SPOCK

I am not one for fanciful dreams, sir, as you well know.

MARKEL

I never met a Vulcan who was.

SPOCK

I hope that was meant to connote the value of being a Vulcan.

KIRK

It was. Now...to an escape plan.

SPOCK

Begging your pardon, sir. I think we should face the situation realistically. We are specimen animals in a zoo. And they have taken every precaution to prevent our escape. To them we are caged for life.

As the impact of Spock's words sink in:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. HOUSE FULL SHOT DAY

Kirk, McCoy, Randi, Spock and Markel come out of the house. They look around.

SPOCK

(dryly)

We seem to be drawing quite a crowd.

THEIR POV

The entire compound seems to be surrounded by Lactrans of various sizes.

MCCOY

Well, I'll be danged if I'm going to do tricks for them!

KIRK

I suggest we make ourselves comfortable.

They sit in the chairs.

RANDI

They've given us a pool and an exercise area. They feed us and they think that's all we need.

MCCOY

So they think all we want to do is eat, sleep and play.

SPOCK

Exactly what we expect from the animals we have in our zoos.

MCCOY

I am not an animal!

SPOCK

Scientifically speaking....

KIRK

Gentlemen, since they are learning about us...why don't we learn something about them?

MARKEL

How? We can't get through to them.

KIRK

They communicate telepathically.

RANDI

Between themselves. Mr. Spock, aren't Vulcans telepathic?

SPOCK

To a degree, with our own species and with some others...but the Lactran intelligence is eons beyond mine.

KIRK

How much have you learned?

SPOCK

About as much as a mother learns from a six-month-old infant.

MCCOY

What's their impression of us?

SPOCK

We seem to frighten the smaller ones. Some...the females I believe, find us quite ugly.

MCCOY

What about the Enterprise, Jim? Scotty could get worried. He could beam down a fighting force.

KIRK

My orders were not attempt a rescue under any condition.

SPOCK

A wise move, Captain. From what I can gather, even the Enterprise is no match for their force field.

MCCOY

How about coming up with another move, then?

SPOCK

(to Kirk)

If I may suggest, sir?

KIRK

Go ahead.

SPOCK

It is obvious they can pick up specific thought transmissions from us if they care to go to the trouble.

KIRK

Yes, we proved it by getting the medical kit. Go on, Spock.

SPOCK

I suggest that one of our number appear to be ill. The rest of us will put strong thoughts in our minds that a sommunicator is needed for recovery.

KIRK

Let's try it, and let's be close to the communicator when we do.

The entire group goes around to the back of the house near the communicators.

EXT. REAR OF HOUSE FULL SHOT DAY

Only one small Lactran is behind the force field, and he is picking up and putting down all the exhibits. Our entire group walks over to the section near him, but he ignores them. Two large Lactrans are in the background.

KIRK

I'll pretend I'm sick. All of you concentrate.

MARKEL

It's a little one. Could be a child.

SPOCK

Concentrate on Captain Kirk's condition.
Clear your minds of all other thoughts.

KIRK

Once I get my hands on a communicator,
I can have Scotty beam us all aboard the
Enterprise. Ready? Now!

Kirk begins to reel, he grabs for his head, bends over, falls to his knees. The others are spread about him and concentrate.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The small Lactran turns his attention to the group. He moves a bit closer and then waves his tentacle over the exhibit table. He picks up the medical kit and moves through the force field with it, lays it next to Kirk.

SPOCK

The communicator...concentrate on the
communicator!

The Lactran looks around, and nobody seems to be interested in the medical kit. He nudges it closer to Kirk and then takes his tentacle and moves to a communicator, picks it up, and brings it through the force field.

CLOSER ON GROUP

The child Lactran moves to Kirk and offers him the communicator. Kirk raises a hand and takes it. He flips it open.

KIRK

Enterprise! This is Captain Kirk!!
Beam us aboard!

The Lactran, realizing he has been tricked, grabs the communicator from Kirk and holds it tight.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The two large Lactrans move to the force field. The child turns to them and as he does, he shimmers and disappears in the transporter effect.

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM FULL SHOT

Scotty is at the transporter, working the controls. A form begins to take shape.

SCOTTY

Captain, we thought for sure you were
....what in the cosmos....?

The child Lactran, some eight feet long, materializes. He looks around and spots Scotty. He shoots out a tentacle, but Scotty ducks behind the board, then the child begins to probe, and Scotty makes a dive for the doorway, gets through it. It slides shut.

INT. CORRIDOR FULL SHOT

Scotty hits a wall intercom.

SCOTTY

Security to the Transporter Room!
On the double!

ANGLE AT DOOR.

It starts to buckle. The three security guards run in, phasers ready.

SCOTTY

I beamed up...something! The Captain
sent a message and...watch it!

The door buckles further, then slams across the corridor. The small Lactran comes sidling out.

SCOTTY

Phasers on stun!

Guards fire phasers, and the beams hit the Lactran, but it shakes off the effect and merely stares at them. Scotty suddenly grabs his head in pain. The others continue with the phasers. The Lactran reaches for and grabs Scotty, then heads the other way. The guards run after him.

— CUT TO

EXT. REAR OF COMPOUND FULL SHOT DAY

The two adult Lactrans are facing Kirk and the others.

SPOCK

I am receiving an impression they are
worried about their child, Captain.

KIRK

I'm worried about the Enterprise.

SPOCK

They seem to think you made the child disappear. They did not know we were a deadly species capable of injuring one of them.

MCCOY

Well, let's not stand here! Let's do something!

KIRK

The best thing we can do is....

Kirk is suddenly thrown on to his back and begins writhing in pain.

MCCOY

What is it?

KIRK (in pain)

They're in my head, what happened to...the baby? What...happened...?

SPOCK

Captain...fight it! Fight it as hard as you can!

(to McCoy)

They think too fast...in too complex a manner....

Kirk is rolling and then gets to his knees and concentrates to keep his balance.

SPOCK

(quietly)

If he gives up for even one moment, he may go mad.

INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE FULL SHOT

All the people are in their places. Suddenly, the door to the room opens, and the slug, holding Scotty, comes edging in. The others all hold their positions.

SCOTTY

Everyone clear out!

LT. M'RESS

What's going on?

SCOTTY

I think it's harmless, but I'm not sure! ...

The crew people begin to edge behind the Lactran.

LT. M'RESS

What do you want us to do?

SCOTTY

Get out of here. Report to Stevens... set up security guard teams on the transporter.

LT. M'RESS

What are you going to do?

SCOTTY (sighs)

Whatever it wants me to.

The others exit. The Lactran puts Scott down tenderly in the command chair, and stares at him.

SCOTTY

Now, supposing you and I talk this over.

(beat)

You can talk, can't you?

(beat)

You can't talk. Well...what can you do?

The Lactran takes its tentacles and quickly begins to examine all the controls. It hits a switch on the library computer and runs it at a terrific pace.

SCOTTY

Listen, be careful! This is a control room of a hey!

It picks up Scotty and puts him in another position.

SCOTTY

Just keep your grubby little...whatever they are off the....oh, no!

The Lactran begins to push buttons, levers, and with amazing speed, activates the controls.

SCOTTY

Listen, you'll send us off into space if you....

Scotty stares bug-eyed at the viewing screen, which has been activated.

HIS POV VIEW SCREEN

Lactra VII is rapidly disappearing.

EXT. SPACE FULL SHOT ENTERPRISE

The Enterprise is rapidly soaring away from Lactra VII at a tremendous rate of speed.

CUT TO

EXT. COMPOUND MED SHOT DAY

The two creatures suddenly turn to each other, and Kirk, almost exhausted, takes a deep breath, sits up.

MCCOY

Jim, are you all right?

KIRK

Yes...I think so....I'm...so tired.

Spock has been staring at the Lactrans.

SPOCK'S POV

Three more Lactrans come up to them.

BACK TO SCENE

SPOCK

(turns to Kirk)

Captain, they have concluded they cannot break through your mind on a one-to-one basis.

MCCOY

Good. Maybe they won't try it again.

SPOCK

Quite the contrary. They are now gathering the mental strength of all five of them to break through.

KIRK

I can't hold out against that many!

SPOCK

Everybody...concentrate on Captain Kirk! Form a thought screen!

KIRK

No! No....Let me alone! Please.... They're destroying me! Tearing my mind to.....to.....

All five Lactrans are concentrating on him. Kirk is spread-eagled and putting up a fight, but obviously is losing. He goes limp as a rag doll. He is rolled over on his face and we can see his body shudder.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A shimmering transporter effect and the child Lactran, holding Scotty, comes into sight. Suddenly, all the force of the Lactrans is turned off. The child puts Scotty down, and two of the Lactrans reach in and roughly pull the little one away.

ANOTHER ANGLE OUR GROUP

They are gathered around Kirk. He tries to get up...falls back...and McCoy bends down to help him.

KIRK

I'm....all right....I feel as though my mind's been srung through a....Scotty!
' What are you doing here?

SCOTTY

My young friend brought me.

SPOCK

You made contact?

SCOTTY

It made contact with me.

KIRK

What did you learn?

SCOTTY

It's only six years old...but it has an I.Q. in the thousands! It picked my brain...all the knowledge in the Enterprise computers...and sent us flying off out of orbit.

KIRK

Then how did you get here?

SCOTTY

I convinced it I wasn't a pet, and that it should bring the ship back into orbit. Then I got it into the transporter to return here.

SPOCK

(holds his head)

They are trying to contact us directly! I can make out something, it's difficult... ..they think so fast but...the child has learned and told its parents, all about the Federation and the races it encompasses.

MCCOY

That fast?

KIRK

What else do they know about us?

SPOCK

We are considered simplistic, but in the process of evolving into a higher order.

MCCOY

Even Vulcans?

SPOCK

(slightly annoyed)

Yes. Even Vulcans.

SCOTTY

The little one didn't tell...or think that to me.

KIRK

(smiles)

Backward child...but growing.

SPOCK

Exactly, sir. It seems...they were where we are...some tens of thousands of centuries ago.

(beat)

Their centuries, not ours.

KIRK

Do we get out of here?

SPOCK

It appears so. They do not feel we belong in their zoo.

He walks to the display table and the others follow him. There is now no force field. The Lactrans watch them as they take their communicators and phasers and other equipment.

KIRK

Everyone ready to transport?

They all nod.

SCOTTY

(to the child)

So long, lad. Nice meeting you.

Scotty reels a bit.

SCOTT (continued)

He shakes hands like a man.

KIRK

(into communicator)

Kirk to Enterprise. Prepare to beam aboard two parties...al human.

There is a shimmering effect as they start to disappear.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. ENTERPRISE BRIDGE FULL SHOT DAY

Kirk and Spock are in their positions. McCoy, Randi, Nancy Randolph, and Markel are also there. They look at the view screen.

VIEW SCREEN

Lactra VII is rapidly disappearing.

BACK TO SCENE

MARKEL

Captain, we are a scientific contact team, and we learned practically nothing.

KIRK

Off hand I'd say we learned to keep our hands off.

MARKEL

But there was so much more....

SPOCK

There will be other opportunities,
Mr. Markel.

MARKEL

There will?

SPOCK

I have just received their final
telepathic message.

KIRK

Which is?

SPOCK

We'll be welcome back...in twenty
or thirty centuries.

KIRK

Our time or theirs?

SPOCK

Theirs...and it will take me some time
to figure out how long that is!

KIRK

Either way, Mr. Spock, it will hardly
be our problem.

The crew goes about its duties as Kirk leans back in his Captain's
chair and we

cut to

EXT. ENTERPRISE FULL SHOT

As it leaves Lactra's orbit we

FADE OUT

THE END