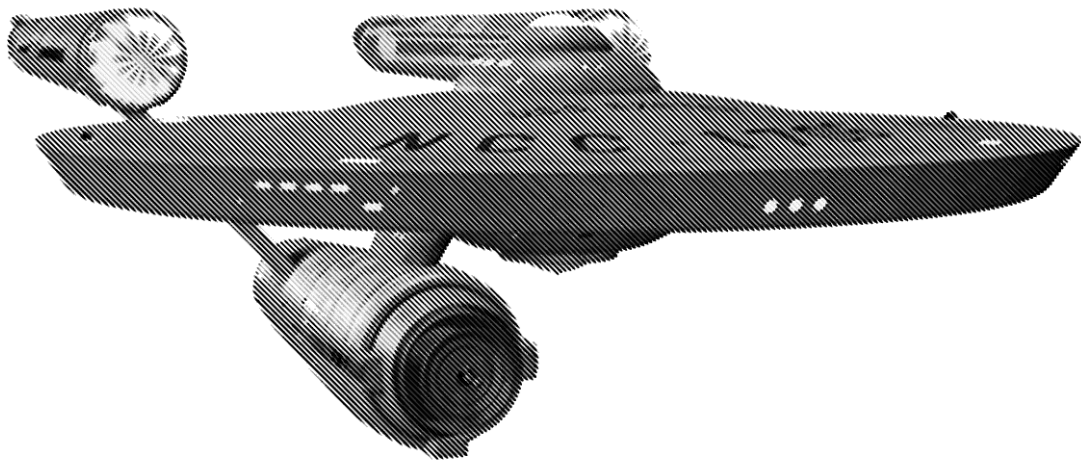


STARSHIP EXETER



“The Tressaurian Intersection”

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"The Tressaurian Intersection"

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REVISED DRAFT

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STARSHIP EXETER

"The Tressaurian Intersection"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE EXETER (OPTICAL) 1

Moving toward camera. Track on the BRIDGE DOME and move in on the BRIDGE.

2 INT. EXETER - MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE 2

HARRIS at Command, B'FUSELEK at Communications, RICHARDS at Science, CUTTY at Defense. Supernumeraries at other stations. They are alert, efficient - and tense.

MOVE IN on turbolift as GARROVICK ENTERS.

HARRIS
 Captain on the bridge!
 (to Garrovick)
 We'll make orbit around Corinth Four in
 five minutes, sir.

Garrovick acknowledges curtly and turns to B'Fuselek.

3 ON GARROVICK AND B'FUSELEK 3

GARROVICK
 Any contact with the U.S.S. Kongo or the
 Starbase on Corinth?

B'FUSELEK
 Nothing, sir. Even the base's automated
 communications beacons have gone silent.

4 BACK TO SHOT 4

As Garrovick crosses to his chair. A slight TREMOR shakes the bridge; he steadies himself, looks questioningly at Harris.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

HARRIS

Another disturbance in Corinth's
gravitational field.

GARROVICK

What's causing --

HARRIS

(interrupting)

Still unknown, sir. Richards?

Richards approaches, handing Garrovick a clipboard.

RICHARDS

We only know that the disruptions intensify
as we approach the inner planets of the
system. We're trying to chart them and
steer clear, but --

GARROVICK

(interrupting)

Ensign --?

RICHARDS

(smartly, at attention)

Vandi Richards, sir.

HARRIS

She came aboard at the Ophiuchus colony.

(beat)

I've assigned her as your new personal
assistant.

Garrovick does a take, displeased. He's about to
protest -

CUTTY

Debris field ahead - parts of a spacecraft
hull.

Garrovick is across the bridge in an instant, leaning
over Cutty's shoulder and reading his station sensors.

GARROVICK

Not the Kongo?

CUTTY

Negative. Not Starfleet alloys. Could be
Hydran...or Tressaurian.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

He shoots a significant look at Garrovick, who scowls at the name "Tressaurian".

CUTTY

Whoever they were, they lost the battle.
There's hope, Quince.

Garrovick relaxes a fraction at his friend's tone. He folds his arms, looks away thoughtfully, then back at Cutty.

GARROVICK

What do you make of this? It's been three days since Kongo reported that they were investigating unidentified alien vessels near Starbase 16. Since then - dead silence.

CUTTY

I served on Kongo even longer than you did. Captain Kosnett's the last man who'd fall for an ambush, and he wouldn't take on an enemy force that Kongo couldn't handle - not when he knew that we were on the way.

GARROVICK

Unless he had no choice.

HELMSMAN

I have a visual on the planet.

6 ANGLE - MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

6

The planet Corinth Four grows in the center of the image: an INFERNO of storms and volcanic activity. Our people are SHOCKED. Harris goes quickly to her Science station, as another TREMOR rocks the ship.

GARROVICK

That...can't be Corinth Four.

7 ANGLE ON HARRIS

7

Peering into her station's viewer.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

HARRIS

It is, sir.

(frustrated)

This is crazy. This planet is geologically stable - there's been no record of quakes or volcanic activity since it was first discovered. What we're seeing now is --

GARROVICK

-- A nightmare. Life signs?

HARRIS

Indeterminate.

GARROVICK

Indeterm - there are two thousand people assigned to Starbase 16, Commander!

HARRIS

Yes sir. We can't depend on these surface readings. The planet's magnetic field's in violent flux. There may be survivors.

GARROVICK

Can we send people down into that?

HARRIS

I'm not reading any tremors or outgassing in the immediate vicinity of the base. But it's a risk.

GARROVICK

(grim)

Assemble a landing party and meet me in transporter room four. Cutty, you have the Conn.

Garrovick EXITS.

8 EXT. CORINTH FOUR - DAY (OPTICAL AND MATTE SHOT)

8

The sky is red and black with the ash and smoke of distant volcanoes, above a barren desert landscape.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

In the middle distance, the lifeless ruins of a Federation starbase - distorted as if a giant hand has twisted the towers out of shape. Garrovick, Harris, Richards and two N.D. SECURITY MATERIALIZE before it.

PULL BACK slightly to reveal an UNIDENTIFIABLE RUIN in F.G. Richards and the Security look around, aghast, at the destroyed colony and landscape. Taking it all in. They look up at the F.G. ruin in shock.

RICHARDS

My God!

9 EXT. CORINTH FOUR - WIDE - DAY (MATTE SHOT)

9

REVERSE ANGLE from behind the landing party. PULL BACK to reveal the scorched and mangled remains of the CRASHED SAUCER of the U.S.S. Kongo.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

20 INT. KONGO ENGINEERING CONTROL ROOM (OPTICAL)

20

Garrovick, Cutty, B'Fuselek, Fu, SHELLEY and one N.D. SECURITY MATERIALIZE.

The walls are blackened and smoke hangs in the air; several still bodies slumped over consoles and railings. NOTE that this set is extended by miniatures or matte showing Main Engineering beyond.

Shelley moves to a console, assessing the condition of the Kongo's systems. B'Fuselek begins attaching leads to the electronics behind a half-ajar wall panel. He's having trouble shaking off the effects of the transport, and as he works to download Kongo's data we see him struggling.

Fu scans the area with his medical tricorder.

FU

(terse)

All dead, Captain. Reading no life signs.

GARROVICK

(to security)

Go with the doctor, and do a manual sweep of the other decks. There may still be survivors up above.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

FU

Hmpf. You young people live in hope.

FU EXITS with Security.

CUTTY

You have to love his bedside manner.

Garrovick shoots Cutty a disapproving look - nothing's funny today.

SHELLEY

Captain, there's no way this ship can move on its own power. And we sure can't tow it back to port.

CUTTY

We can't leave it out here - not while hostile aliens may be in the area.

GARROVICK

(reluctant)

Rig the warp pods so that we can detonate the wreck from aboard Exeter.

SHELLEY

Aye, sir.

He EXITS out of frame. Cutty is scanning with his tricorder.

CUTTY

Captain, I'm reading a power source up above. Not Starfleet tech.

He gestures toward the ceiling. At a nod from Garrovick, they both EXIT up through 'tween decks ladder in the ceiling.

21 INT. KONGO CORRIDOR (REDRESS)

21

Again, scorched walls - here, the unmistakable long narrow scars of WEAPONS FIRE. Emergency lights flashing. Garrovick and Cutty ENTER from below to find several bodies fallen along the corridor.

(NOTE: the crew was fighting to protect something behind a door near the end of the corridor).

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 21

Cutty nearly stumbles over two that have fallen together in a death-struggle.

CUTTY

Quince!

22 ANGLE ON GARROVICK AND CUTTY 22

As they crouch to examine the upturned corpse at their feet. A huge, armored ALIEN: a crested lizard.

CUTTY

Now we know. Tressaurians.

Garrovick untangles the second body from the Tressaurian and turns it face-up: KOSNETT. His dead hand still grips the phaser with which he took down the lizard even as it snapped his neck.

GARROVICK
(bitter)

Captain Kosnett.

They're both at a loss, hit hard by this. Then:

CUTTY

Damn it! Just...damn it.

GARROVICK

(quiet; maintaining control)

In our years aboard Kongo...how many times did you think we were done for?

CUTTY

I dunno...too many. Those locust-things on Pollux...remember?

He shudders. They share a look; Garrovick nods.

GARROVICK

He always got us home.

That's Kosnett's epitath.

23 CLOSE ON GARROVICK

23

GARROVICK

He won't have died in vain. The
Tressaurians will pay.

And that may be Garrovick's.

Just beyond the bodies is a doorway frozen part-way open. An eerie, pulsing blue-white glow emanates from within. Garrovick and Cutty exchange looks and move toward it. Garrovick forces it open far enough to enter.

24 INT. KONGO ENGINEERING LAB (REDRESS EXETER SECURITY)

24

Cutty follows Garrovick inside. On lab bench F.G. is an ALIEN DEVICE: not quite the height of a man, all angles and facets. Domes of patterned light STROBE on its upper surface. Cutty reads his tricorder screen.

CUTTY

I don't believe it. There's the source of
our "gravitational disruptions", Captain.

GARROVICK

What is it? Who could have built -

As he speaks, Cutty has been edging closer to the Device. Concentrating on his tricorder, he steps TOO CLOSE. Right in the middle of Garrovick's question, ENERGY ARCS out from the Device, frying Cutty's tricorder and KNOCKING HIM ACROSS THE ROOM. Simultaneously, the Device emits a high-pitched WHINE.

25 INT. KONGO ENGINEERING CONTROL ROOM - ON B'FUSELEK

25

Monitoring the data download. As we hear the WHINE of the Device, he's suddenly overcome by pain. He drops his tricorder and FALLS to his knees.

B'Fuselek

Ahh-ieee!

Fu ENTERS and runs to B'Fuselek, who thrashes until Fu gives him a shot. Fu flips his communicator open.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

FU

Fu to Garrovick.

GARROVICK

(comm voice)

Garrovick here.

FU

Captain, the Andorian's having some kind of seizure.

26 INT. KONGO ENGINEERING LAB 26

Garrovick is crouched over Cutty, who's cradling his burned hand and looking pretty sheepish.

FU'S COM VOICE

I need to get him back to Exeter.

GARROVICK

Understood. Beam back immediately. We'll follow. I've got another patient for you here.

27 EXT. SPACE - THE EXETER (OPTICAL) 27

Keeping station.