

AXANAR

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TEASER

1 EXT. SPACE - A BLUE-WHITE PLANET (OPTICAL) 1
hangs against a backdrop of stars. This is Zeta Fornacis III -
a peaceful Federation Colony. Except...

2 EXT. PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE - ANGLE ON THE SURFACE (OPTICAL) 2
...there's no peace to be found here. The CAPITAL CITY LIES
IN FLAMES below. Great PLUMES OF SMOKE rise into the sky.

CLOSE ON A WING OF KLINGON BATTLE CRUISERS (OPTICAL)

as it pushes into the frame. Now all is clear: These are the
conquerors. The ships FIRE INTERMITTENTLY on the city below.

3 EXT. SURFACE - CAPITAL CITY STREETS - AFTERNOON (OPTICAL) 3
DISRUPTOR BEAMS sweep the WRECKED SKYLINE in the distance.

A wounded STARFLEET OFFICER runs through the rubble, pursued
by A PAIR OF KLINGON WARRIORS in full armor, blades ready.

The Human is cut off by a THIRD KLINGON and falls at his
feet. This is COMMANDER CHANG. He has paler skin than the
others and only slight forehead ridges.

KLINGON #1
(in subtitled Klingon)
Commander! This Starfleet officer
escaped our patrols.

KLINGON #2
(subtitled)
Officer? The Human prefers to flee
rather than fight!

CHANG
(subtitled)
The Humans are cowards, it seems.
The evidence kneels before us.

The warriors laugh in agreement.

The Human whimpers at their feet, wounded and desperate.

STARFLEET OFFICER
Please! You've won... you don't
need to kill me.

KLINGON #1
(subtitled)
Pathetic. Their whimpering sounds
disgust me.

The warrior raises his blade.

CHANG
(holds up his hand,
subtitled)
WAIT!

The warriors look at each other puzzled.

CHANG (CONT'D)
(in English, to the
officer)
Earther... there isn't much time.
Run past me!

STARFLEET OFFICER
I don't understand.

CHANG
Enough blood has been shed today.
Quickly...

STARFLEET OFFICER
But why? Why would you help me?

CHANG
Not all Klingons are the same. Can
you not see that I am different
from these brutes? Now go!

Realizing he has nothing to lose, and everything to gain, the proud Starfleet officer makes a break for it past Chang.

The soldiers howl in outrage. Chang flashes a smile at them, then whirls and DRIVES HIS BAT'LETH INTO THE HUMAN'S BACK.

The warriors watch, stunned, as Chang shoves the Human off the blade with his boot, then viciously stabs him again and again as he lies dead on the ground.

CHANG (CONT'D)
(in English, with disgust)
Humans... such a disappointment.

He reaches down and tears off a piece of the man's shirt.

KLINGON #2
(stunned, subtitled)
You speak their language!?

Chang uses the fabric to wipe the blood from his weapon.

CHANG
(in English)
Of course, you fools.
(switches to Klingon,
subtitled)
Soon we will conquer their
homeworld. There are advantages to
speaking their tongue.

He tosses the cloth away. The blaring summons of a KLINGON HORN echoes through the streets, drawing their attention.

CHANG (CONT'D)
(subtitled)
Come, brothers. The Undying One
awaits.

Chang leads the warriors in the direction of the sound.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. CAPITAL CITY - SQUARE - A SHORT TIME LATER (OPTICAL) 4

The battle has ended.

Sunlight filters through FIRE and SMOKE, casting blood-red light over a HORDE OF KLINGONS - a hundred strong. They're bloodied and battered, but filled with the lust of a battle won. They HOWL and laugh before a large MOUND OF DEBRIS.

An HONOR GUARD OF KLINGONS stands atop the mound. KHARN ENTERS, climbing the debris as if mounting a stage. Chang follows and takes his place at the head of the guard.

Atop a RUINED BUILDING behind Kharn, fluttering in the breeze, we see the tattered blue and white FLAG OF THE FEDERATION - a fitting backdrop.

Kharn drives his bat'leth into the debris and addresses his forces in a commanding voice, maximizing the moment's power.

(Note: Kharn will start speaking in subtitled Klingon. As the CAMERA TRACKS AROUND HIM, this will change to English. Unless noted, all Klingon dialogue from here on will be in English.)

KHARN
Brothers and sisters in blood! When
the First Fathers held in their
hands the fire of the first suns,
and gave life to the galaxies, what
did they pledge to us, their
children?

KLINGON HORDES
TO UNLEASH US AGAINST THE THIEVES
WHO WOULD STEAL THE FIRE FROM US!

KHARN
Today, our Fathers have tested us.
Upon the dawn we arrived on this
world of thieves, united in
purpose... united in blood. Now, as
the sun sets... WHERE DO WE STAND?!

KLINGON HORDES
UPON THE SOIL OF THE KLINGON
EMPIRE!!

Satisfied with this response, Kharn nods at Chang, who speaks into a communicator.

Moments later, one of the BATTLE CRUISERS prowling overhead FIRES A DISRUPTOR BEAM at the Federation flag. It BURNS AWAY IN SLOW MOTION, revealing...

A KLINGON FLAG FLYING PROUDLY BEHIND IT

The Klingons ROAR, their percussive CHANTS crashing over the scene like waves. MUSIC swells. As we PUSH on the flag...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

OPENING TITLES

ACT ONE

5 EXT. SPACE - EARTH - ESTABLISHING (OPTICAL) 5

Our view moves over STARBASE ONE, an assortment of STARSHIPS in orbit, and finally takes in the planet itself.

6 INT. STARFLEET OPERATIONS (EARTH) - WAR ROOM (OPTICAL) 6

The scene is one of barely controlled chaos.

STARFLEET OFFICERS with pads sweep the frame, attempting to manage the crisis. OFFICERS with earpieces sit at stations, communicating with distant starships. Everyone is talking at once. Urgent COM CHATTER can be heard over the din.

Above all this, a large WALL OF VIEWSCREENS displays real-time tactical maps and battle reports. On one of the screens, CAPTAIN AREV (a Vulcan, commanding USS T'Val - Ares class) can be seen reporting in, his Bridge in a state of disarray.

ANGLE ON THE MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

which shows a map of the Zeta Forcanis system. ADMIRAL RAMIREZ stands before it, in the eye of the storm.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Still no contact with the planet?

STARFLEET OFFICER #1

No, sir. They're being jammed. Long range probes show massive Klingon forces in orbit and on the surface.

As Ramirez digests this, the FEDERATION PRESIDENT ENTERS.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Mister President.

FEDERATION PRESIDENT

What's the latest, Admiral?

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

I'm afraid we've just lost Zeta Fornacis III.

FEDERATION PRESIDENT

Is there any hope for the colonists?

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

(grim)

It's not looking good.

Another OFFICER stands up from his station nearby.

STARFLEET OFFICER #2
Admiral! We have a transmission
from the Hercules.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ
On screen.

The image on the main viewscreen changes to show CAPTAIN TRAVIS on the Bridge of the USS Hercules (Ares class).

TRAVIS
This is Travis. We've engaged the
Klingons in the Xarantine system
but it's just a screening force.
They've already begun warping out.
(beat)
The D-7s were here.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ
Any idea how many, Captain?

TRAVIS
No way to tell. But you can see the
result for yourself.

On the viewscreen, Travis punches a control on his chair armrest. The image switches to show a field of STARSHIP WRECKAGE tumbling through space. Much of it's still burning.

TRAVIS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
They tore us up pretty badly.
Admiral.

Officers around the War Room are shocked at the sight.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ
Sam, when you've recovered the
survivors, I need you to relieve
our fleet near Kantare. They're
taking a helluva pounding.

The viewscreen switches back to Travis.

TRAVIS
Understood, sir. Helm, you heard
the man! Set course for--

The transmission CUTS. It's replaced with a live TACTICAL MAP of the battle near Kantare.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Open a channel to Captain Alexander
on the Ajax.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. SPACE - THE USS AJAX (ARES CLASS) (OPTICAL) 7

dives into frame, straight into a flight of KLINGON BATTLE CRUISERS. The flight breaks up as the Ajax unleashes a torrent of PHASER AND TORPEDO FIRE, badly damaging one ship.

In the BATTLE nearby, other FEDERATION SHIPS aren't so lucky. A KOROLEV CLASS ship is BREAKING APART, trailing WARP PLASMA.

8 INT. AJAX - BRIDGE 8

CAPTAIN SONYA ALEXANDER replies from the center seat as her BRIDGE CREW works frantically around her.

AJAX COM OFFICER

Incoming message. It's Ramirez from Starfleet.

ALEXANDER

Alexander here. Go ahead, Admiral.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ (V.O.)

Status, Captain?

ALEXANDER

Surrounded by dead Klingons, sir. Some of them just don't know it yet.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ (V.O.)

(ignores her bravado)

Is there any sign of the D-7s?

ALEXANDER

No, sir. But they're throwing just about everything else they have at us.

AJAX TACTICAL OFFICER

(to Alexander)

Captain, we're being targeted by multiple ships. Incoming fire!

ALEXANDER

Stand by one, Admiral.

(beat)

Evasive! All hands, brace for impact!

9 EXT. SPACE - A TRIO OF KLINGON WARSHIPS (OPTICAL) 9

charges into frame, firing their DISRUPTORS at the maneuvering Ajax simultaneously.

WAVES OF ENERGY crash hard over the starship's shields. In one or two places, it BREAKS THROUGH to hammer the hull.

10 INT. STARFLEET OPERATIONS - WAR ROOM - CONTINUOUS (OPTICAL)10

On the main viewscreen, we see the BRIDGE OF THE AJAX reeling from the impact. Red EMERGENCY LIGHTS kick in, screens FLICKER, a station behind Alexander EXPLODES.

AJAX TACTICAL OFFICER
Explosive decompression, Deck Five!

ALEXANDER
We're in a serious furball here,
Admiral!

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ
Hold the line just a little longer,
Sonya. The cavalry's on the way.

ALEXANDER
We'll do our best.
(beat)
Tactical, target the lead ship!
We're gonna burn that sonofa--

Once again, the transmission CUTS.

FEDERATION PRESIDENT
How much longer can we keep this
up, Admiral?

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ
We're holding our own for the
moment, Mister President. But if
the Klingons are able to deploy
those D-7s in serious numbers...

He doesn't finish. He doesn't need to.

FEDERATION PRESIDENT
(hands him a pad)
Perhaps this will help. It came in
to me a short time ago. I thought I
should deliver it personally.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ
(reads, is surprised)
How reliable is this?

FEDERATION PRESIDENT
It comes directly from Soval.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ
(to an officer)
Com... get me the Ares. Right away!

The officer tries to open a channel.

STARFLEET OFFICER #2
There's no response, sir. Either
she's out of range or--

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ
Thank you, Lieutenant. I don't
require speculation. Keep trying.

STARFLEET OFFICER #2
Yes, sir!

CLOSE ON RAMIREZ

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ
Where the hell are you, Garth?

CUT TO:

11 EXT. SPACE - THE USS ARES (OPTICAL) 11
is WARPING to its next battle. We see the ship's name in bold
lettering on the hull as it passes.

12 INT. ARES - GARTH'S QUARTERS 12
CAPTAIN KELVAR GARTH sits in his darkened quarters, his
somber face illuminated by the small viewscreen on his desk.

GARTH
I wanted you both to know that your
daughter was a fine officer, a
credit to this ship and to you as
her parents. Zoe's bravery and
selflessness will not be forgotten.
Please know that you have my
deepest condolences for your loss.

He ends the recording - his last of several for the day.

GARTH (CONT'D)
Computer, encrypt and transmit to
Starfleet Command.

COMPUTER

Subspace communications are
offline.

GARTH

When they're back up then. And I'd
like some music, please. Copland.

Garth leans back in his chair and winces at a pain as MUSIC
begins playing. Garth stands and removes his shirt. When he
turns to the nearby sink, we see a nasty BURN on his side.

The door CHIMES.

GARTH (CONT'D)

Come.

LIEUTENANT CORAX ENTERS. She's a beautiful Antosian woman,
wearing Command gold. She looks uncomfortable.

CORAX

You asked to see me?

GARTH

Do I really need to ask,
Lieutenant?

(smiles at her)

You took a lot of chances on the
landing party yesterday.

CORAX

You're the one who just spent six
days in Sickbay. Did the Doctor
clear you, by the way, or did you
just release yourself?

Garth gives her a "really?" look.

GARTH

The Doctor has his hands full. He
doesn't need me getting in the way
down there. And you didn't answer
my question.

CORAX

You didn't ask one.

(off his look)

I'm your Intelligence officer. As I
recall, taking chances is what you
hired me to do.

GARTH

Corax, you're special... not
invulnerable.

CORAX

My abilities aren't special to
someone from my planet.

He pulls on a fresh uniform shirt.

GARTH

But in Starfleet they're unique.
You need to be more careful.

CORAX

Sir, I endangered no one's life but
my own. I did what was necessary to
accomplish my mission.

GARTH

So it's back to "sir" now?

Garth moves closer to her. A spark of emotion jumps between
them. Corax puts a hand on his chest... leans into him...

The RED ALERT sounds. The voice of Garth's First Officer,
COMMANDER KENJI TANAKA, breaks in over the com.

TANAKA (V.O.)

(filtered)

Bridge to Captain.

GARTH

Garth here, go Ken.

TANAKA (V.O.)

(filtered)

Sensors are picking up a battle
nearby. Looks like a Klingon patrol
may have jumped a couple of our
ships. We're closing to intercept.

GARTH

I'll be right there.

Garth and Corax EXIT.

13

INT. ARES - BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

13

Tanaka sits in the Captain's chair. LIEUTENANT TARA WAGNER
mans Tactical. LIEUTENANT CROSS flies the ship from the
Pilot's station. LIEUTENANT CAINE is at Communications.

Garth and Corax ENTER via the turbolift.

GARTH

Status report.

TANAKA

(stands)

We've got two Klingon D-6s, coming in fast. We've raised shields and have weapons ready.

Garth sits in his chair. Corax mans the Operations station.

GARTH

What about our ships?

Tanaka shakes his head grimly.

WAGNER

The Klingons are firing, Captain!

14 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 14

is attacked by TWO D-6s, firing DISRUPTORS which CRACKLE off the Ares' shields. WRECKAGE can be seen in the distance.

15 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 15

A station EXPLODES on the left side of the Bridge.

TANAKA

Secondary inertial dampers offline.

Garth punches the com button on his chair.

GARTH

Alexei--

The gruff voice of the ship's Chief Engineer, COMMANDER ALEXEI YURIEVICH LEONOV, breaks in.

LEONOV (V.O.)

(filtered)

I'm on it, ten minutes.

Garth smiles. Leonov has nearly learned to read his mind.

GARTH

And I need--

LEONOV (V.O.)

(filtered)

Reserve power to phasers... done.

GARTH

Tactical - weapons free. Mister Cross, get us ten kilometers above the closest hostile. Icarus maneuver, on my mark.

CROSS

Zee plus ten klicks, aye.

16 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 16

pulls up steeply, leaving the less maneuverable Klingons struggling to follow. Ares fires AFT PHASERS, scoring hits on both ships - one's impulse drive FLICKERS OUT and it drifts off course. The other turns slowly to protect its port side.

17 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 17

TANAKA

Hostile one's impulse drive is offline. Hostile two's port shields are down to thirty-three percent.

GARTH

Target port nacelle, Tara.

WAGNER

Target... locked.

GARTH

Stand by tractor beam. Make it count, Ken.

TANAKA

(nods)

Tractor beam, aye.

CROSS

Captain, we're in position in three... two... one...

GARTH

Icarus - mark!

18 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 18

dives back down at the wounded D-6, firing volley after volley of PHOTON TORPEDOES at its port nacelle strut.

19 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 19

TANAKA

Hostile's port shields now at seventeen percent... eight percent...

(long beat)

They're down!

GARTH

Phasers - fire!

20 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 20

fires PHASERS at the D-6's now unshielded port nacelle. The beam SLICES through and CUTS the nacelle from the wing.

Ares continues its maneuver, diving straight down between the two pieces. As it passes, the starship's TRACTOR BEAM GRABS THE NACELLE AND DRAGS IT ALONG BEHIND.

Now Ares pulls up and climbs back toward the other D-6, still towing the nacelle, which has been leaking A SIZZLING STREAM OF DRIVE PLASMA the whole way.

21 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 21

GARTH

It's all you, Ken.

TANAKA

Steady, Mister Cross.

22 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 22

banks up and over the D-6's bow, WHIPPING the nacelle STRAIGHT INTO ITS BRIDGE.

The Ares soars away as the D-6 EXPLODES behind it.

23 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 23

The crew is impressed as hell by what Garth's just done.

GARTH

The other D-6?

CORAX

(scanning)

Dead in space, sir. Wait... look!

24 EXT. SPACE - ENERGY FROM THE EXPLOSION (OPTICAL) 24

CRACKLES BACK DOWN THE TRAIL OF PLASMA. It's like a fuse, leading all the way back to the first D-6, which drifts, crippled and bleeding. The sputtering energy REACHES IT.

For long moments, nothing happens. Then... BOOM.

25 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 25

LIGHT from the explosion illuminates the Bridge.

Cross, Wagner, and Caine are stunned. Garth of Izar's legend grows. Tanaka steps down and leans against the back of Garth's chair.

TANAKA

Well... there's something you don't see every day.

GARTH

Good work, everyone. Secure from Red Alert. Let's find safer waters before their reinforcements arrive. Mister Cross, resume course for--

There's a CHIME from Communications.

CAINE

Captain, I have a Priority One message from Starfleet. Looks like Admiral Ramirez has been trying to reach us while coms were down.

GARTH

On screen.

CAINE

Sir, the encryption's garbled. I think our transceiver is misaligned.

Garth punches his com button again.

GARTH

Mister Leonov? Our radio's on but we're only picking up show tunes.

LEONOV (V.O.)

(filtered)

I'm on it. Ten minutes.

A few of the Bridge crew chuckle at the familiar response.

GARTH

Patch it into the CIC as soon as you can, Lieutenant. Helm, make for Kestra. Warp eight.

(to the others)

Ken, Tara, Corax - you're with me.

Garth EXITS. The others follow, still looking impressed.

CUT TO:

26

EXT. SPACE - QO'NOS - ESTABLISHING (OPTICAL)

26

The green-gray world looms in the void. BATTLE CRUISERS can be seen in orbit.

27 EXT. SURFACE - THE CAPITAL CITY (QO'NOS) (OPTICAL) 27

bustles with activity, a domain of warriors.

28 INT. KLINGON WAR ROOM (QO'NOS) - DAY 28

Four KLINGON GENERALS stand over an illuminated table which shows the positions of ships and battles across deep space.

CHANG

As you can see, the D-7s are turning the tide of the war. Starfleet has no answer.

KLINGON GENERAL #1

It's true. Even their best Vulcan and Andorian captains are no match.

Kharn SWEEPS IN. His generals stand at attention.

KHARN

Brothers... I bring good news. Mizar is ours.

Chang smiles - a feral grin. The others growl their pleasure.

KLINGON GENERAL #2

What of the Tzenkethi?

KHARN

They will not interfere. The Tzenkethi harbor no love for the Federation. They've bid us good hunting.

CHANG

At last, we have the Humans on the run. Starfleet's forces are scattered across space.

KLINGON GENERAL #1

One more victory and we can strike at the heart of the Federation!

They turn and salute Kharn as one. He does not smile.

KLINGON GENERAL #2

Is the Undying One not pleased?

Kharn clenches a fist, as if to crush his enemies.

KHARN

I will be, when Earth bleeds.

CUT TO:

29 INT. ARES - CIC (OPTICAL)

29

Garth, Corax, Tanaka, and Wagner stand around a TACTICAL TABLE in the center of the room.

Admiral Ramirez briefs them over a VIEWSCREEN nearby.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

It's been a bloody day, Captain. The Klingons have taken Zeta Fornacis, Xarantine, and Mizar, but we've beaten them back at Beta Rigel and Kantare.

TANAKA

What about fleet losses, Admiral?

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

We've destroyed fourteen of their ships but lost twenty-two of ours.

GARTH

Better make that twenty-four, sir. We just found what's left of the Cortez and the Goddard.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Noted. If there's any good news, it's this: We've received word that a V'Shar deep cover agent operating in Klingon space may have obtained key technical specs for the D-7.

WAGNER

Vulcan Intelligence? How is that possible?

CORAX

They wouldn't be very effective if you knew how they operate.

They all chuckle.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

This information comes from Ambassador Soval. If he trusts it, that's good enough for me.

GARTH

For me as well. Am I correct in assuming that you want us to extract this agent, Admiral?

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Precisely... and retrieve his intel at all costs. I'm sending you the coordinates now.

Ramirez signals to one of his people off-screen. Moments later, Corax checks the table controls and nods at Garth.

CORAX

We have them.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Very well.
(pointed)
Beware the ides of March, Captain.

GARTH

Understood, sir.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Good luck. Ramirez out.

The transmission ENDS. Garth punches the intercom.

GARTH

Helm, change of course. Corax is sending you the coordinates. Get us there at best possible speed.

CROSS (V.O.)

(filtered)
Aye, sir.

WAGNER

Captain, I don't understand. I thought the Vulcans wanted to withdraw their support for the war. Why would Soval help us?

GARTH

Soval is a good man. He's done more for the Federation than most of us here will ever know.

TANAKA

Tara, coordinate with Commander Carter and his team. Let's assume we're walking into a hostile situation.

WAGNER

Aye, sir.

GARTH

Dismissed.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. SPACE - VULCAN - ESTABLISHING (OPTICAL) 30

We see the reddish hues of a familiar world. VULCAN STARSHIPS glide into view, guarding the planet.

31 EXT. VULCAN'S SURFACE (OPTICAL) 31

We fly past MT. SELEYA. The city of SHIKAHR lies below.

32 EXT. SHIKAHR - VULCAN HIGH COMMAND (OPTICAL) 32

AMBASSADOR SOVAL and MINISTER T'LERA are walking the grounds.

T'LERA

I sense your disappointment, Soval.
(off his glance)
Forgive me, if I cause offense.

SOVAL

There is no offense where none is taken, T'Lera. We have known each other far too long for that. I fear the Council is making a grave mistake.

T'LERA

The vote is cast. Ratification but a mere formality. Vulcan will secede from the Federation.

SOVAL

Minister, the Klingons began this war to shatter the Federation. Our exit will ensure that outcome.

T'LERA

Will not our exit end the war and thus bring peace with the Klingons?

SOVAL

Peace is not their goal. If Vulcan secedes, other member worlds will follow. Divided, we shall all fall to the Empire.

T'LERA

But what good is a Federation that does not listen to us? We warned the Humans that reckless expansion would provoke the Klingons.

(she stops to look at him)

Why do you favor them, Soval?

SOVAL

When our people were lost, it was the Humans who led us back to the teachings of Surak. They have united us, world upon world, in common purpose.

T'LERA

Your connection to them goes beyond logic.

SOVAL

Perhaps. The Humans are impulsive. They ride the tempest of their emotions, but they grow stronger for it. No other race has accomplished so much in so short a time. We can learn from them.

T'LERA

(regretfully)

You must inform Earth that the Council's decision will soon be final.

SOVAL

And you must help me change the Council's mind.

(beat)

We cannot abandon the Federation, T'Lera. We must build a better future together... for chaos builds only darkness.

They turn to face the horizon, where Mt. Seleya stands as a reminder of Vulcan's past... and of its future.

CUT TO:

33

DARKNESS

33

FIRE appears in SLOW MOTION. We hear distant SCREAMS, SIRENS, EXPLOSIONS... the sounds of battle. They build until we...

CUT TO:

34

INT. D-6 - KHARN'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

34

Close on Kharn's face. He's disturbed by this vision of fire.

He sits in a throne-like chair before a STREAK-filled WINDOW. On the table beside him are a goblet of bloodwine and a THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHESS SET. His knife is stuck in the table top.

Shaking off the vision, Kharn studies the chess boards carefully, planning his next move. It's late in the game.

Chang ENTERS.

CHANG

Undying One, the High Council demands an update. They wish to know why we've left Qo'noS in the middle of planning our final strikes.

KHARN

Know your enemy, Chang. Know him better than you know your own mind... your own heart. Only then can victory be assured.

(a pointed look)

Have I not said it many times?

CHANG

You have, my Lord. But is this not the time for sharpening blades?

KHARN

It is.

CHANG

Then forgive me, but one does that with steel. Not with children's toys.

KHARN

Tread carefully, Commander.

(beat)

Were you not aware that the finest minds in Starfleet use this... toy, as you call it... to teach battle strategy at their Academy?

CHANG

Impossible! How can this be true? How can you know of it?

KHARN

We have our spies, just as they
have theirs. No war is ever won
without them.

Kharn sees that he's unsettled Chang... just as he intended.

KHARN (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Patience, brother. The hardest
steel lies closer than you think.
First... we must retrieve that
which is ours.

Kharn makes his move. Bishop takes Queen. Checkmate.

Satisfied, he stands, grabs his knife and gestures at the
game with it.

KHARN (CONT'D)

You may take this away.

CHANG

You don't wish to study it further?

KHARN

Unnecessary. I mastered it long
ago. I brought this one for you.

Kharn tosses one of the pieces to Chang. It's a Pawn.

KHARN (CONT'D)

Come.

(pounds his fist on
Chang's shoulder)

Now the real game begins.

He EXITS. Chang looks at the piece in his hand, then drops it
on the board and EXITS as well. Off the chess board...

35

EXT. SPACE - KHARN'S D-6 (OPTICAL)

35

paces away at HIGH WARP.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

36 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES ENTERS ORBIT OVER A PLANET (OPTICAL) 36

This is Cirrus IV, in the Beta quadrant.

37 EXT. SURFACE - RESEARCH OUTPOST - DAY (OPTICAL) 37

We see a few small BUILDINGS - a Federation Research outpost. On its roof are sensor dishes and antennas. But all is quiet.

Wagner and FOUR BLACKSHIRTS (the "Redshirts" of this era, including COMMANDER CARTER and LIEUTENANTS DIAZ, RAHMAN, and FENG) MATERIALIZE outside the station in a defensive formation, phasers drawn.

The Blackshirts immediately scatter, hunting for targets.

38 INT. ARES - TRANSPORTER ROOM 38

Leonov mans the controls with veteran expertise. Garth and Corax are gearing up nearby. The intercom WHISTLES.

TANAKA (V.O.)
(filtered)
Bridge to Captain.

Garth moves to the wall com.

GARTH
Go, Ken.

39 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 39

TANAKA
Captain, we're getting residual energy readings. Probably a warp signature.

GARTH (V.O.)
(filtered)
Klingon, I'll bet.

TANAKA
Looks like. Nothing else on sensors, but it does appear they've been here.

40 INT. ARES - TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL) 40

GARTH
Then there's a good chance they're still here somewhere. Find them.

TANAKA (V.O.)
(filtered)
Affirmative. Good hunting.

GARTH
And you. Garth, out.

Garth moves to the Transporter console.

LEONOV
The advance team has secured the
area around the research outpost.

GARTH
Life signs?

LEONOV
The outpost is automated, but I
can't see beyond it. This planet
has the strongest ionospheric
distortion I've ever seen.

CORAX
That's what the outpost is here to
study, isn't it?

LEONOV
Aye. We've found a clear com
channel at least. But it's playing
havoc with our sensors.

Garth and Corax step onto the transporter platform. Corax
hands Garth an earpiece and he puts it on. She wears one too.

GARTH
(pulls his phaser)
Well then, let's be ready.

He nods to Leonov. Garth and Corax DEMATERIALIZE.

41

EXT. SURFACE - RESEARCH OUTPOST - DAY (OPTICAL)

41

Garth and Corax RE-MATERIALIZE near the building. Corax
starts scanning with her tricorder. Wagner approaches.

WAGNER
All clear out here, but we haven't
searched the buildings yet. Carter
is on overwatch. Rahman, Feng and
Diaz are scouting the perimeter.

GARTH

Look sharp, Tara. We're sensor
blind down here and I'm betting the
Klingons aren't far.

She nods and DEPARTS, signaling the Blackshirts as she goes.
Garth nods to Corax. They head for the outpost entrance.

42

INT. RESEARCH OUTPOST - MAIN ROOM

42

Inside it's a mess. It's obviously been ransacked and
searched. Corax moves to the desktop monitor.

CORAX

(checks the computer)
The databanks have been wiped.

GARTH

No surprise there.

He moves deeper into the room... and sees something.

GARTH (CONT'D)

Lieutenant!

She hurries over and kneels beside Garth. He's found a body
on the floor. We see that it's A VULCAN MAN.

CORAX

I assume this is the V'Shar agent
we were supposed to meet.

GARTH

(nods)
He's dead.

CORAX

Well... he's Vulcan. At least we
know he didn't talk.

GARTH

But that means they're still here.

CORAX

(she raises her tricorder)
Sir, I'm reading something else.
Life signs. It's-- look out!

Garth turns to see a KLINGON charging him, weapon raised.

He narrowly avoids the warrior's swing. Garth takes a few
blows, but closes the distance between them to deliver a
blistering combination of punches. When the Klingon staggers
back, Corax STUNS HIM with her phaser.

CORAX (CONT'D)
You were saying?

Garth pulls out his communicator.

43 INT. ARES - TRANSPORTER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

43

The com SOUNDS.

GARTH (V.O.)
(filtered)
Garth to Leonov.

LEONOV
Leonov here. Go ahead, Captain.

GARTH (V.O.)
(filtered)
Alexei, there's a Vulcan body and
an unconscious Klingon in this
room. Beam them both up and have
Security handle the Klingon.

LEONOV
Aye, sir. Energizing.

We hear the TRANSPORTER working. When it's done, Alexei steps
around the console, with his phaser drawn.

The Klingon GROANS (O.S.) and Alexei hastily stuns him again.

LEONOV (CONT'D)
(to com)
Security to Transporter Three!

44 INT. RESEARCH OUTPOST - MAIN ROOM

44

CORAX
Captain, the Klingons... we have an
opportunity here.

GARTH
(shakes his head)
Not that one Lieutenant.

CORAX
Kel, this is why I'm here.

GARTH
I know, I'm just saying... not that
one.

Corax smiles. They share a brief moment and then she EXITS.

When she's gone, Garth starts looking around, searching for clues in the mess. Finding nothing, he sits in a chair to consider his next move.

Then he sees something. Garth stands and reaches for ONE OF THE BOOKS on a shelf nearby. He turns it over - it's "The Collected Works of William Shakespeare".

Opening the book, he flips through its pages. Then he looks at the covers and runs his hands over them. Beneath the back cover, he finds and lifts a loose endpaper to reveal a DATA DISK. Garth smiles and puts the disk in his right pocket.

For a few moments, we see Garth working on the book. Then we hear DISRUPTOR FIRE from outside. Garth gets up, phaser at the ready, with the book under his arm. He goes to the door, looks out carefully, and touches his earpiece.

GARTH (CONT'D)
Carter, report.

45 EXT. LEDGE OVERLOOKING THE OUTPOST 45

The Blackshirt is staying low, but has his weapon aimed down. He touches his earpiece and answers quietly.

CARTER
Carter here, sir. Five Klingons, coming your way. And they have Lieutenant Feng.

GARTH (V.O.)
(filtered)
Hold position. Let's play this out. Stand by for my signal.

46 INT. RESEARCH OUTPOST - MAIN ROOM 46

Garth formulates a plan. He opens his communicator.

GARTH
Garth to Ares. We've found the Klingons.

47 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 47

TANAKA
(in the Captain's chair)
And we've found their ship, sir. One D-6 in a hide-and-seek orbit on the other side of the planet.

GARTH (V.O.)
(filtered)
Ken, I need you to disable it.
We're going to need some extra
leverage down here.

TANAKA
With pleasure, Captain. Ares out.
(to the com)
Red Alert! All hands to battle
stations. Let's go hunting.

The alert SOUNDS. Lights go red as the CREW kicks into gear.

48 EXT. LEDGE OVERLOOKING THE OUTPOST - ANGLE ON CARTER 48

still monitoring the scene, rifle aimed. A shadow catches his eye. He rolls to his right, just as a knife hits the ground where he was laying. Carter aims his rifle at the assailant and sees that the KLINGON has him covered with a disruptor.

KLINGON #4
Drop your weapon, Earther!

Carter reaches over and pulls the knife from the ground.

CARTER
(subtitled Klingon)
I'd rather kill you with your own
blade.

KLINGON #4
(subtitled Klingon)
You dare speak our language?!

The Klingon holsters his disruptor, draws a mek'leth and gives a feral grin. Carter sets his rifle aside, stands and raises the knife to face off.

49 EXT. RESEARCH OUTPOST (OPTICAL) 49

FIVE KLINGONS approach, including Kharn and Chang. Two of them drag a Blackshirt, Lieutenant Feng, and hold him securely as he struggles. Kharn stops with Chang at his side.

KHARN
Federation Captain, I have one of
your men!
(long beat)
Come out and face me.

Garth EXITS the building with the book still under his arm, his phaser raised.

GARTH

Your man inside is dead, I'm
afraid.

KHARN

(ignores this)
You have something that belongs to
the Klingon Empire, I believe.

GARTH

(holds up the book)
This? A fan of ancient Earth
literature are you?

Kharn extends his hand, indicating he wants the book.

There's a NOISE from around the corner of the building, like
equipment falling over. Kharn turns to Chang.

KHARN

There are others. Find them.

Chang signals to one of his men and the Klingon LEAVES to
investigate.

Garth tenses and can't help a quick glance up at the ridge.

KHARN (CONT'D)

Yes, Captain. Your man on the ridge
is engaged. The advantage is mine.

GARTH

(hesitant)
I suppose it is.

Garth throws the book on the ground in front of them. Chang
picks it up and examines it, flipping through its pages.

50 EXT. RESEARCH OUTPOST - AROUND THE CORNER - CONTINUOUS 50

The Klingon searches for Garth's men, his disruptor raised.

Suddenly, a SILENT BLAST OF ENERGY courses through his body.

He slumps back, dead... and is caught by Corax, who's holding
an alien WEAPON. She plucks the disruptor from the Klingon's
hand and quietly lowers his body to the ground. Then she
holds up his hand and compares its size with her own.

51 EXT. RESEARCH OUTPOST - RESUME ON GARTH AND KHARN 51

Chang finishes searching the book. Finding nothing, he hands
it to Kharn.

CHANG

Where is the disk, Earther? This is just a book.

GARTH

(mock offended)

It's not just a book. That's Shakespeare.

Kharn looks at the back of the book and notices that the cover is bent. He finds the spot where the data disk was.

KHARN

(looks up at Garth)

Do you take me for a fool, Captain?

(beat, serious)

The disk please.

Garth reluctantly pulls the disk from his left pocket and tosses it over to Kharn.

GARTH

And I'm Izarian, not Terran.

KHARN

(smiling)

So... you are Garth of Izar!

Garth acknowledges silently. Chang draws his knife.

CHANG

(pulls his knife)

My Lord, let me finish the Izarian!
He destroyed my brother's ship at
Cygnus III. A blood debt is owed.

Kharn holds up his hand as the Klingon sent to investigate the noise (and who Corax subdued - we'll call him K'Orax now) returns and shakes his head, indicating he found nothing.

Then Kharn's communicator BEEPS. He holds it up to his ear.

KHARN

What is it?

By his expression, he doesn't like what he hears.

Garth's communicator BEEPS too.

GARTH

Garth here.

TANAKA (V.O.)

(filtered)

The Klingon cruiser is disabled,
Captain. Her shields are down and
main power is out.

GARTH

And the Ares?

TANAKA (V.O.)

(filtered)

The paint might be chipped.

GARTH

Good work, Ken. Stand by.

Garth closes his communicator and looks at Kharn.

GARTH (CONT'D)

You may have us here, but we have
your ship. Shall we call this a
draw, Kharn? Or is it Undying One?

Kharn reconsiders his opponent carefully.

Then Garth sees something: K'Orax nods at him, almost
imperceptibly.

WHIP-PAN TO THE RIDGE

just as Klingon #4 is STRUCK BY HIS OWN THROWN KNIFE. He
falls dead, his eyes wide in amazement that he's been bested
by a Human. Even before his body hits the ground, Carter -
fearing the sound may have given him away - dives for his
phaser rifle and trains it on the Klingons below.

CARTER

(shouts to Garth)

Clear to fire!

GARTH

Take it!

PHASER FIRE LANCES DOWN, taking out the Klingons holding
Feng, Wagner, Rahman, and Diaz, who have been hiding out of
sight nearby, break cover and FIRE too, catching the Klingons
in a crossfire. As Chang, Kharn and the remaining Klingons
scramble for cover, Feng grabs one of the fallen Klingons'
disruptors and runs for safety.

GARTH (CONT'D)

(into his communicator)

Garth to Leonov. Beam us up!

LEONOV (V.O.)
(filtered)
Captain, I've got six bio-signs in
two groups, but I can't find Corax.

GARTH
You won't. Energize!

52 INT. ARES - TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

52

Garth, Wagner, Feng, Rahman, and Diaz MATERIALIZE on the
platform. Leonov checks his controls.

LEONOV
Transporter Four has Carter, sir.

The intercom WHISTLES.

TANAKA (V.O.)
(filtered)
Bridge to Captain.

GARTH
(hits the com)
Go.

TANAKA
Sir, long range sensors have picked
up another ship entering the
system. It's a D-7.

GARTH
Get us out of here, Ken!

TANAKA (V.O.)
(filtered)
Aye, sir.

WAGNER
Captain... where's Corax?

She's alarmed. The Blackshirts look at Garth in concern.

GARTH
On a mission. You are not to speak
of anything that's happened on the
planet. Understood?

The landing party acknowledges Garth in unison.

GARTH (CONT'D)
Rahman, Diaz... get Lieutenant Feng
to Sickbay, right away.

Garth and Wagner EXIT.

53 INT. KHARN'S D-6 - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

53

Kharn, Chang, and K'Orax ENTER. Battle damage is apparent. The KLINGON OFFICER sitting in the Captain's chair stands.

KLINGON OFFICER

My Lord, main power will be restored in twelve--

CHANG

You dare speak to the Undying One after your disgrace?!

KLINGON OFFICER

Sir, we did not see--

Chang pulls his disruptor and DISINTEGRATES the man on the spot. Irritated, Kharn grabs Chang's arm before he lowers it.

CHANG

He let the Izarian's ship best him. His life was forfeit!

KHARN

On this ship, lives are mine to give or take. Do not forget it.

Chang nods hastily. Kharn releases his arm. Recovering, Chang signals to K'Orax to take the dead man's position at Weapons.

KLINGON OFFICER #2

My Lord, Commander Morock signals. He is pursuing the Federation ship.

KHARN

I would speak with him.

Kharn sits. COMMANDER MOROCK appears on the VIEWSCREEN.

KHARN (CONT'D)

Morock... son of Kursk. Now is the time to prove yourself worthy of the honor you have been given. The fleeing ship belongs to Garth of Izar. Hunt it down and destroy it!

MOROCK

I will bring you its burning hull, my Lord.

The signal CUTS. Kharn slams his knife down on an ornate WOODEN PEDESTAL beside his chair and leans back, seething.

54 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 54

Garth and Wagner ENTER from the Turbolift.

GARTH
Status?

Tanaka moves from the Captain's chair to his station.

TANAKA
The D-6 is out of action for at least a few hours. The D-7 though will be on us in minutes.

Wagner is scanning at her Tactical station.

WAGNER
Captain, that D-7's warp signature has been spotted before. It's commander's name is Morock. Intelligence says he's the son of a senior Klingon High Council member.

GARTH
(looks over her shoulder)
Which means he's got something to prove.

TANAKA
Well, we aren't going to outrun that ship.

Garth moves towards Tanaka's station.

GARTH
No, we aren't. We need an advantage. What's nearby?

TANAKA
Scanning.

55 EXT. SPACE - THE D-7 (OPTICAL) 55

is pursuing at HIGH WARP.

56 INT. D-7 - BRIDGE 56

Morock sits in his chair, with an arrogant grin on his face. He's dripping with overconfidence.

MOROCK
Time to intercept?

D-7 OFFICER
Five minutes, Commander.

MOROCC
Arm all weapons!

57 INT. ARES - BRIDGE

57

Tanaka indicates a STAR CHART on a screen above his station.

TANAKA
Class J planet, mass... one-point-eight Jupiters. Extensive ring system - mostly water ice, but they're high in triridium.

This catches Garth's attention.

GARTH
That should muck with their sensor readings.

TANAKA
The planet's gravity works in our favor, too. At that tonnage she'll handle like a cruise ship.

GARTH
Let's hope so.

Garth moves back to his chair.

GARTH (CONT'D)
Mister Cross, Commander Tanaka is sending you coordinates. Adjust our heading.

Cross looks at his panel.

CROSS
Aye, sir. ETA... two minutes.

58 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES DROPS OUT OF WARP (OPTICAL)

58

and races past the camera toward a MASSIVE RINGED GAS GIANT.

59 INT. ARES - BRIDGE

59

Everyone is at their stations. Garth eyes the main viewer.

GARTH
Get us under those rings, Lieutenant. Keep them between us and that D-7.

60 EXT. SPACE - THE D-7 DROPS OUT OF WARP (OPTICAL) 60
and dives toward the gas giant, chasing the Ares.

61 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 61

GARTH

Tara, launch a sensor buoy
perpendicular to the rings. We'll
need its tactical data when the
rings blind us.

(thinks on his feet)

And... let's lay a spread of
torpedoes beneath the rings once
we're through. Proximity fuses.

WAGNER

You think they'll follow us?

Garth nods.

62 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES DIVES THROUGH THE RING LAYER (OPTICAL) 62
which is translucent, but only thirty meters thick. Once
through, Ares pulls up beneath the rings, DROPPING TORPEDOES.
The HOLE made by the Ares CLOSES behind it, filling with ice.

63 INT. ARES - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 63

TANAKA

The D-7's on us, sir.

GARTH

(to Cross)

Come about. Show them our bow.

(to Tanaka)

Tactical on screen.

The viewscreen changes to a TACTICAL DISPLAY showing the
Klingon ship, the rings and the Ares.

64 INT. D-7 - BRIDGE 64

D-7 OFFICER

They hide beneath the planet's
rings, Commander. I can't lock on.

MOROCC

Cowards. Fire all disruptors! Sweep
away the ice!

65 EXT. SPACE - THE D-7 (OPTICAL) 65

fires DISRUPTORS, sweeping the rings where the Ares went through. They hit one of the torpedoes which EXPLODES.

66 INT. D-7 - BRIDGE 66

D-7 OFFICER

They have set an ambush - torpedoes deployed beneath the rings.

MOROCC

Adjust course. Go around them!

67 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 67

TANAKA

Hostile's coming around the rings, port side.

GARTH

Mister Cross, full impulse. Tara fire as soon as she appears.

68 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 68

speeds beneath the rings as the D-7 appears. The Ares passes over it, firing its PHASERS at point blank range.

69 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 69

GARTH

Aft torpedoes, fire!

70 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 70

fires TWO TORPEDOES at the D-7 as she moves away. They IMPACT the Klingon ship, but do nothing.

71 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 71

TANAKA

Their shields are holding. No damage.

WAGNER

Point blank fire and no damage?!

GARTH

Use the rings for cover, Mister Cross.

(beat)

Tara, fire at will.

72 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 72

turns back and soars above the rings now, PHASERS firing. The Klingon ship pursues them, retaliating with DISRUPTORS.

73 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 73

ROCKS with the impact, forcing the crew to brace themselves.

TANAKA

Shields at eighty percent. Plasma leak on Deck Four.

GARTH

The Klingons?

TANAKA

(off scanner)

Their shields are still holding. I think we're boring them.

The Bridge ROCKS again. Garth knows he must do something different.

GARTH

Tell me about that gas giant, Ken.

TANAKA

It's hydrogen gas down to about four thousand clicks, then it turns liquid. That's your hard deck. Drop below that and we'd hit metallic hydrogen. That would be bad.

GARTH

Right. Mister Cross, take us in.

EXT. JOVIAN ATMOSPHERE - THE ARES (OPTICAL)

dives beneath the cloud layer and DISAPPEARS.

74 INT. D-7 - BRIDGE 74

D-7 OFFICER

Commander, they've entered the planet's atmosphere!

MOROCC

Then follow them!

75 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 75

The Bridge TREMBLES as the ship flies through the atmosphere.

WAGNER

The D-7 is pursuing, sir.

GARTH

(smiles)

Damn right, he is.

CROSS

Captain, helm is sluggish.

GARTH

Steady as she goes. Tara, phasers are no good in here, so stand by on torpedoes.

(to Tanaka)

Ken, find me the densest cloud bank you can, right above the hard deck.

TANAKA

(scanning)

Got it. Steer zero-six-three.

CROSS

Zero-six-three, aye.

76 EXT. JOVIAN ATMOSPHERE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 76

descends through ever-darkening clouds amid violent STORMS that flash with LIGHTNING. The D-7 is hot on its heels.

77 INT. D-7 - BRIDGE 77

The Klingon Bridge TREMBLES too. We hear the hull GROANING.

D-7 OFFICER

Hull pressure exceeding ten thousand atmospheres!

MOROCK

Increase speed - I want that ship!
Fire torpedoes!

78 EXT. JOVIAN ATMOSPHERE (OPTICAL) 78

The D-7's TORPEDO VOLLEY narrowly missed the Ares.

79 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 79

The SHAKING is getting worse now. Ares too is GROANING.

TANAKA

We're almost at the hard deck.
Target cloud is ten seconds away...

GARTH

Tara, when we enter that cloud, set torpedoes for proximity detonation and bolster the aft shields.

WAGNER

(works console)

Ready!

GARTH

Helm, pull up on my mark, full impulse.

80 EXT. JOVIAN ATMOSPHERE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 80

plunges straight into a dense BANK OF CLOUDS. When it's inside, a cluster of TORPEDOES tumbles away in its wake.

81 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 81

WAGNER

Torpedoes away!

GARTH

Now, Mister Cross!

82 EXT. JOVIAN ATMOSPHERE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 82

soars up out of the cloud just as the D-7 ENTERS. Suddenly, there are HUGE DETONATION FLASHES from within the cloud.

83 INT. D-7 - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 83

The Bridge crew is thrown from their stations.

D-7 OFFICER

Hull integrity failing... explosive decompression on all decks!

Close on Morock's face as his ship IMPLODES around him.

84 EXT. JOVIAN ATMOSPHERE - THE D-7 (OPTICAL) 84

is but a shadow as it sinks below the hard desk, CRUMPLING.

85 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 85

The SHAKING is violent now as the ship strains to escape.

WAGNER

Hull pressure approaching critical!

CROSS

We're losing speed, sir!

TANAKA

Structural failure on Deck Six...
now on Deck Five too!

Garth hits the intercom urgently.

GARTH

Alexei, I need everything you've
got.

LEONOV (V.O.)

(filtered)

I'm giving you power I don't have!

GARTH

We're almost there...

86 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL)

86

soars out of the planet's atmosphere. From a high angle, we see the Ares racing away. There's a BLINDING FLASH in the atmosphere below - the D-7's antimatter escaping. Then A VAST DARK HOLE OPENS in the clouds. The planet has a battle scar.

(Note: The image should be reminiscent of the visible impact scars left when Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 hit Jupiter in 1994.)

87 INT. ARES - BRIDGE

87

Things settle as the crew recovers. There's SMOKE in the air.

GARTH

(looks around concerned)

Is everybody okay?

WAGNER

(shaken)

I think so.

GARTH

Well done, people. Ken... let's get
a damage assessment started.

TANAKA

Aye, sir.

Garth leans back in his chair, relieved. Then he pulls something out of his right pocket. It's the data disk.

CUT TO:

88 EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT (OPTICAL)

88

Establishing... it's the earliest hours of morning.

89

INT. STARFLEET OPERATIONS - WAR ROOM (OPTICAL)

89

The dog watch is on. The room is dark, with coffee flowing, screen-lit faces, and tension in the air. Ramirez is showing the President a BATTLE PLAN on the viewscreen. The word Axanar appears on it.

FEDERATION PRESIDENT

You're sure about this, Admiral?

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

If our intelligence is correct, this is our best chance, Mister President. We have to end the war now, before it gets away from us.

FEDERATION PRESIDENT

The Vulcans will never support this plan. And if the D-7s are--

STARFLEET OFFICER #2

(interrupts)

Admiral, incoming transmission via subspace. It's the Ares!

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Punch it up.

An exhausted Garth appears on the VIEWSCREEN.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ (CONT'D)

Captain Garth. Do you have news?

GARTH

I do, Admiral. We've got the disk.

There's APPLAUSE around the room. Ramirez looks pleased.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Have you seen the data?

GARTH

Not yet, sir. We're transmitting it to you now for analysis.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

I trust the mission went smoothly?

GARTH

I'm afraid not. The agent was dead when we arrived.

(beat)

This was a trap, Admiral. Kharn himself was waiting for us.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Then we must have struck a nerve.

GARTH

There's more. The D-7 appeared. We managed to escape, but it took everything we had.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

You disabled it?

GARTH

We destroyed it.

A spontaneous CHEER of surprise erupts around the room.

GARTH (CONT'D)

But only with the help of a very large gas giant. The D-7 is a beast, sir. We're no match for it.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Maybe, but that's one less we have to deal with. Well done, Captain. I need you and your crew back here right away. We've got work to do.

GARTH

Very well, sir. We're on our way.

The transmission CUTS. More CHEERING erupts in the room.

Ramirez and the President shake hands. There's still hope.

CUT TO:

90 INT. KHARN'S D-6 - BRIDGE

90

Kharn paces the deck. K'Orax is at Weapons. Chang ENTERS.

KHARN

Report! Is our propulsion restored?

CHANG

Soon, my Lord. The graf units are charging now. But... the disk we recovered below is blank. Either it's been erased or--

KHARN

The Izarian switched it.

CHANG

If so, he will never read it. The data was quantum encrypted. Without the key, the D-7 plans will remain secret.

We see K'Orax listening closely as Kharn's anger builds.

KHARN

For now.
(sees Chang hesitating)
Was there something else, Chang?

CHANG

Yes. Our sensor drone has confirmed it... Morock's ship never emerged from the giant's atmosphere.

KHARN

(stunned)
The D-7 was lost?

CHANG

It appears so. We must inform the High Council.

KHARN

And the Izarian? What of the Ares?

CHANG

Garth's ship has escaped, my Lord.

CLOSE ON KHARN

There are no words in English or Klingon that can describe Kharn's fury at Garth of Izar... nor his hunger for revenge.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

91 EXT. SPACE - THE EARTH (OPTICAL) 91

rises over the Moon's surface, an image as stirring in the 22nd Century was it was in 1968. The ARES enters the frame, cruising past the Moon on its way home.

92 INT. ARES - GARTH'S QUARTERS 92

As the Captain works at his desk, the intercom WHISTLES.

TANAKA (V.O.)
(filtered)
Captain, there's something up here
you need to see.

GARTH
Ken, I appreciate Earthrise as much
as anyone in Starfleet, but...

TANAKA (V.O.)
(filtered)
No, sir. That's not what I'm
talking about. Just trust me.

Garth stands reluctantly.

93 INT. ARES - BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER (OPTICAL) 93

Something on the viewscreen has transfixed the Bridge crew.

Garth ENTERS, looking both irritated and amused.

GARTH
All right, what's got you all so--

ANGLE ON THE VIEWSCREEN

on which a nearly complete CONSTITUTION CLASS STARSHIP can be seen, glowing with flood light in its Space Dock cradle. We see the name on its hull: USS Enterprise.

Tanaka and Garth exchange a smile.

GARTH (CONT'D)
Lieutenant Caine, hail that ship.
Let's give our regards to Captain
April.

CAINE
Yes, sir. On screen.

The viewscreen image CHANGES to a familiar looking Bridge. CAPTAIN ROBERT APRIL steps into view and sits in his chair.

APRIL

Welcome home, Ares! I'm glad to see you're in one piece.

GARTH

Thanks, Bob. That's a fine looking ship you've got there.

APRIL

Yeah, she's coming along. Slow but steady.

A WOMAN in Science blue wraps her arm around April.

SARAH APRIL

Hello, Kel! It's good to see you.

GARTH

Sarah! Still keeping this guy in line?

SARAH APRIL

Hardly. I'm so busy installing all the new systems in Sickbay, I'm lucky if I can get him to buy me dinner once a week.

APRIL

I promise, I'll make it up to you.
(to Garth)
I'm beaming down for meetings at Headquarters at twenty-one hundred. Let's catch up at the 602 Club after. I bet you could use a drink.

GARTH

You'd win that bet. See you then.

The transmission CUTS, replaced with a view of Earth.

CROSS

Entering synchronous orbit.

CAINE

Sir, I have a message from Starfleet. Admiral Ramirez is waiting for you.

GARTH

Time to pay the piper. Proceed to docking, Mister Cross.

Garth and Tanaka head for the turbolift.

94

INT. ARES - CORRIDOR

94

Garth and Tanaka EXIT the turbolift. Leonov is waiting for them. He walks along beside Garth while Tanaka hangs back.

LEONOV

(hands Garth a pad)

Captain. I've submitted these parts requisitions, but I need your help to push them through. You blew out three phaser power cells yesterday. I need new ones, along with seals for the aft torpedo launchers.

GARTH

All right.

LEONOV

I also need two extra anti-matter containment pods, so the next time you decide to beam one aboard a Klingon ship, I'll have a spare.

Garth exchanges an amused glance with Tanaka.

GARTH

Anything else, Mister Leonov?

LEONOV

They've designed a new phase inducer for the Constitution class that's fifty percent more efficient than ours. I want one.

GARTH

Is it compatible with our warp matrix?

LEONOV

It will be when I'm done with it.

GARTH

What about the port shield generator coils?

LEONOV

Da. They must be replaced before they kill us all.

GARTH

We can't have that now, can we?
(hands back the pad)
You'll get it.

LEONOV

Not if I have to fight those idiots
in supply.

GARTH

Alexei, have I ever not gotten you
what you needed?

Leonov looks at him skeptically. Garth and Tanaka laugh as
all three of them ENTER the Transporter Room.

95

INT. ARES - TRANSPORTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS (OPTICAL)

95

They find Wagner inside. LIEUTENANT HYREE has just beamed in
and is stepping down from the platform.

WAGNER

Captain, this is Lieutenant Hyree,
our new Fleet Operations Officer.

GARTH

(shakes hands)
Welcome aboard, Lieutenant. You
come highly recommended.

HYREE

Thank you, Captain. I'm looking
forward to serving with you.

GARTH

Glad to hear it. It'll be crowded
up on the Bridge, so you'll have to
share a seat with Wagner here.

WAGNER

(at Hyree's expression)
He's joking, Lieutenant.

GARTH

(smiles)
Ken and Tara will help you get
settled in.

Wagner, Tanaka, and Hyree EXIT, as Garth steps onto the
platform. Standing next to the TRANSPORTER CHIEF, Leonov
notices something on the console.

LEONOV

Sir, these coordinates are outside.

GARTH

That's correct. Until I get back
it's your ship, Alexei. Energize.

Leonov nods to the Chief. Garth DEMATERIALIZES.

LEONOV

(to the Chief)

It's always my ship.

96 EXT. STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER - DAY (OPTICAL)96

We see the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay in the distance.

Garth RE-MATERIALIZES in the Japanese gardens of Starfleet Headquarters. Admiral Ramirez is waiting for him there.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Welcome back to Earth, Captain.

They shake hands and begin walking through the gardens.

GARTH

What's the situation, Admiral?

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Not as good as we hoped, I'm
afraid. The D-7 data's encrypted.
Starfleet Intelligence has asked
Doctor Daystrom and his team to
have a look, but their chances of
cracking it are low.

GARTH

That's not entirely surprising.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

No. The problem is, the D-7s are
forcing our hand. We're not sure
how many the Klingons have
deployed, but every day we delay
gives them time to launch more. And
the Constitution class isn't ready.

GARTH

Are we still--?

Ramirez stops and holds up his hand - he's spotted something.
Garth turns to see Soval and another VULCAN MAN approaching.

The Vulcans stop beside them.

SOVAL

Admiral... forgive me for interrupting.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Not at all. I believe you know Captain Garth.

SOVAL

Indeed. Thank you, Captain, for recovering the body of our agent.

GARTH

Of course, Ambassador. I wish we could have gotten to him sooner.

SOVAL

His death was unfortunate, but not your responsibility.

(gestures)

This is Ambassador Sarek. He will serve as my replacement.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Replacement?

SOVAL

I've been recalled. The High Council is reconsidering Vulcan's membership in the Federation. I do not anticipate a favorable result.

Garth and Ramirez are visibly shaken by the news.

SOVAL (CONT'D)

I've notified the President and the Security Council but, as the defense of the Federation rests in your hands, I wanted to inform you personally, Admiral.

GARTH

A founding member deserting the Federation in its hour of need? This is like the Romulan War all over again.

SAREK

Vulcan did not join this union to be party to unending hostilities. We are a peaceful people, Captain. The conflict between Earth and the Klingons predates the Federation.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

But not Earth's alliance with
Vulcan.

SAREK

The High Council believes this
conflict was never a Federation
matter.

SOVAL

Gentlemen, if you'll excuse us,
Sarek and I must begin the lengthy
process of extricating our forces
from Starfleet.

(the Vulcans salute)
Peace and long life.

Soval and Sarek DEPART.

GARTH

Well... I'd say our situation's
gotten a lot more complicated.

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

Maybe. But I think Soval just did
us a favor.

GARTH

What do you mean?

ADMIRAL RAMIREZ

It'll take at least two weeks for
Vulcan to withdraw all its ships
and crews from Starfleet
operations. That gives us a window.

(beat)
Congratulations, Fleet Captain.
Your battle plan for Axanar is now
our highest priority. We launch as
soon as you're ready.

Off Garth's reaction...

CUT TO:

97

EXT. SPACE - KHARN'S D-6 (OPTICAL)

97

approaches a massive SPACE STATION in orbit of Qo'noS,
bristling with weapons and docking areas for the repair and
construction of warships. The Klingons call it The Stormweyr.

Kharn's D-6 docks at the station beside A NEWLY BUILT D-7.

98

INT. KHARN'S D-6 - BRIDGE

98

Kharn sits in his chair with Chang standing nearby.

KLINGON HELMSMAN

Moorings are secure. We have arrived, sir.

KHARN

Finally. See to our repairs, Chang. I must summon the Generals to begin planning the battle to come.

He pulls his knife from the pedestal and stands to leave.

CHANG

My Lord, should I not accompany--

KHARN

You will follow my orders!

Kharn EXITS, with his CREW standing at attention. Chang remains behind, chastised. Fury burns in his eyes.

99

INT. THE STORMWEYR - AIRLOCK & DOCKING TUNNEL (OPTICAL)

99

Through the tunnel windows, we see Kharn's D-6, the D-7 beyond, and Qo'noS. An ancient Klingon waits near the airlock hatch, stooped and walking with a bone cane. This is MOR'O.

Kharn ENTERS from the hatch. He bows in respect.

KHARN

Honored One. I had hoped to speak with you.

MOR'O

You look troubled, Kharn. Tell me of your mission.

They walk together. Kharn is visibly displeased.

KHARN

My crew was beaten, the data was lost, and a D-7 was destroyed. All due to the actions of one clever Starfleet Captain. The Chancellor's wrath will be severe.

MOR'O

I'll remind him then that you advised against giving a D-7 to the untried son of a Council member.

(MORE)

MOR'O (CONT'D)

It was you who uncovered the Vulcan's spy in the Romulan delegation. No small matter.

KHARN

Yes, but now our trade talks have been suspended. With the Romulan's cloaking technology and our new ships, we could have ended the Federation.

MOR'O

Pity the warrior who slays all his foes. Better to earn an honest victory than make a devil's bargain for an easy one.

(looks at Kharn)

Something else troubles you.

KHARN

Yes. I've... seen a vision, Honored One. A vision of fire and death.

MOR'O

Yours? Or your enemies?

KHARN

Unclear.

MOR'O

A sharp knife is nothing without a sharp eye. Your vision is an omen, Kharn. Its meaning will become clear. Trust your instincts.

CUT TO:

100 INT. 602 CLUB (EARTH) - NIGHT

100

Garth ENTERS and heads for the bar. STARFLEET OFFICERS greet him enthusiastically, reaching out to shake his hand and pat him on the back as he goes. Despite this, Garth has a scowl on his face when he sits at the bar next to Captain April.

APRIL

There he is.

(raises his glass)

Hail, the conquering hero!

GARTH

Hero, my ass.

April pours of glass of something and sets it before Garth.

APRIL

Uh-oh. Better cool your manifolds with this. I had old Howe save us a bottle of the good stuff.

(beat)

What's eating you, Kel?

GARTH

Do you remember what it was like to explore? Chart new star systems, discover new races?

APRIL

Of course. You've done more of it than anyone. But that was before the war.

GARTH

Before the war, I had a hundred and thirty-seven lives to worry about. Now, I have ten thousand.

APRIL

(considers this)

You know, I had dinner with the old man and Professor Kenmore last night. They were impressed as hell by the way you handled that D-7.

GARTH

Handled it? We got our asses kicked. We're lucky to be here.

APRIL

Bullshit. You make your own luck. Your Axanar plan is brilliant, Kel, but no plan survives enemy contact. You'll have nearly a hundred ships under your command, but when the Klingons attack, you can't control it all. Some of your ships aren't coming home. That's just how it is.

There's a long silence as Garth considers this.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Look, we thought the D-7 was damn near invincible until your engagement. You recovered critical data, brought a good man's body home, and picked up a new source of intel. When you record your Captain's log, that goes down as a good day.

GARTH

Yeah, but the data's encrypted. And I wouldn't count on getting much out of that Klingon. All he did was grunt at us the whole way back to Earth.

APRIL

You might be surprised. Rashid at Starfleet Intelligence is letting Sonya and Trask have a run at him.

GARTH

You're kidding? Right now? That I've gotta see.

APRIL

Better bring the bottle.

April grabs their glasses, Garth the bottle. They EXIT.

CUT TO:

101 EXT. STARFLEET INTELLIGENCE - NIGHT (OPTICAL) 101

Establishing. Starfleet Headquarters is illuminated nearby.

102 INT. STARFLEET INTELLIGENCE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CELL 102

CAPTAIN TRASK (an Andorian) and an INTELLIGENCE OFFICER are conferring quietly in the corridor beside a sealed door leading to a prisoner interrogation room.

Garth and April APPROACH, drinks in hand.

APRIL

Captain Trask, how's our guest cooperating?

TRASK

Good to see you, Bob, Kel. If by cooperating you mean cursing a blue streak, then he's putting on a real show.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Our Intelligence teams have been working on him all day. We've managed to learn that name is Erok, he's a Lieutenant, and he was a Weapons officer on Kharn's ship.

GARTH

That's progress. Where's Sonya?

TRASK

She's in there with him now.

103

INT. STARFLEET INTELLIGENCE - CELL - CONTINUOUS

103

EROK sits in a chair with his hands CLAMPED to the table before him. Captain Sonya Alexander leans over him.

ALEXANDER

Hungry? They tell me you didn't care for the commissary's meatloaf.

EROK

It was *baktag!*

ALEXANDER

I can't argue with that. I'm afraid *gagh* is in short supply.

(changes tactics)

How'd you like to stand up, stretch a little... maybe beat the *baktag* out of a Starfleet Captain? If you think you're strong enough for it.

EROK

Which Starfleet Captain did you have in mind?

ALEXANDER

See anyone else standing here?

EROK

(laughs, sneers)

I am strong enough for you.

ALEXANDER

Then here's the deal. If I win, you tell me how many D-7s there are.

EROK

And if I win?

ALEXANDER

I'll be dead, the guards'll charge in here phasers blazing, and you go out in style with a good story to tell your buddies in Sto-Vo-Kor.

The Klingon smiles... a feral grin. And so does she.

104

INT. STARFLEET INTELLIGENCE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CELL

104

Trask, the Intelligence officer, Garth, and April are waiting. April sips his drink casually.

TRASK

Heard about that D-7 you took down.
That was nice work, pink skin.

GARTH

Thank you.

TRASK

Ramirez told me about Axanar. I'd
like to officially volunteer the
Kumari and my squadron.

GARTH

(looks pleased)
You were at the top of my list.

105 INT. STARFLEET INTELLIGENCE - CELL - A SERIES OF SHOTS 105

We see a quick-cut sequence like the pre-title fight from
"Casino Royale". Alexander and Erok are FIGHTING FURIOUSLY.

106 INT. STARFLEET INTELLIGENCE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CELL 106

TRASK

(to April)
What about the Enterprise?

April's mood darkens. He shakes his head.

GARTH

So there's no chance?

APRIL

Our nacelles are boilerplates -
mass simulators installed for the
impulse trials. The engineers are
still flow testing the real ones.

(scowls)
Biggest battle of the war, and
we're stuck on the sidelines.

GARTH

We'll sure miss you at the party.

107 INT. STARFLEET INTELLIGENCE - CELL - A SERIES OF SHOTS 107

The fight continues. Alexander is WINNING.

108 INT. STARFLEET INTELLIGENCE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE CELL 108

The door finally OPENS and we see the Klingon fall to the
floor inside. Alexander EXITS, stepping over him, her shirt
torn. She wipes a bit of blood from her lip with her sleeve.

ALEXANDER

He says they're building twelve ships. Nearly half a battle wing.

GARTH

We can't fight twelve D-7s! Are we sure he's telling the truth?

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

(checks a tablet)

His bio-readings suggest that he is. But the best lies are usually wrapped in a bit of truth.

APRIL

Let's break this down. We know the Klingons have three shipyards building the D-7 - Qo'noS, Ty'Gokor, and P'Rang.

TRASK

Our latest intel says nine D-7s are still in space dock. And one's been destroyed, thanks to Kel.

APRIL

So that leaves two.

(pats Garth's back)

See? We got something useful out of your Klingon after all.

Alexander grabs Garth's drink and downs it in one gulp.

ALEXANDER

I want in on Axanar, Fleet Captain, sir.

GARTH

I wouldn't have it any other way.

She smiles, hands him back the glass, and EXITS, leaving the others standing there looking amused.

CUT TO:

109	EXT. SPACE - KHARN'S D-6 (OPTICAL)	109
	still docked at The Stormweyr in orbit of Qo'noS.	
110	INT. KHARN'S D-6 - KHARN'S QUARTERS	110
	Chang studies the chess set in frustration. The door CHIMES.	

CHANG

Yes!

K'Orax ENTERS.

K'ORAX

Our repairs are complete, Commander. The Undying One has ordered his Flag transferred to the D-7 Kretar. He requests your presence on Qo'noS at once.

CHANG

Very well. I will beam down to the surface. See to the transfer, Lieutenant. Do not disappoint me.

K'Orax salutes. Chang tosses K'Orax a Pawn and EXITS.

Left alone in Kharn's quarters, K'Orax spots a computer terminal... and an opportunity. He works its controls.

ANGLE ON THE COMPUTER'S DISPLAY SCREEN (OPTICAL)

as an ORION appears and looks up at K'Orax in amusement.

GRUNTO

There you are, my friend. I was wondering which guise you'd assume next. I must say, you look hideous.

K'ORAX

Shut up and take the data I'm sending you.

GRUNTO

I have the file. Shall I deliver it to the usual recipient?

K'ORAX

Yes. If you betray me, Grunto, your death will be slow and painful.

GRUNTO

Fear not. You are my best customer!

The signal CUTS. Smiling, K'Orax pockets the Pawn and EXITS.

CUT TO:

111

EXT. SPACE - THE ARES DOCKED AT STARBASE ONE (OPTICAL) 111

Its running lights are flashing... its Bussard collectors are whirling brightly. The Ares is ready for departure.

112 INT. ARES - TURBOLIFT

112

LIEUTENANT WALKER is writing in an old fashioned notebook, with paper and pen, as the door OPENS. Garth ENTERS.

GARTH

Deck Three.

(looks at Walker)

Hand writing? You don't see a lot of that anymore.

WALKER

(doesn't look up)

It's a war journal. I figure someone needs to tell the story of the average Starfleet officer.

GARTH

Are you saying you're only average, Lieutenant?

Walker finally looks up and is shocked to see his captain.

WALKER

Sir! No, sir. I--

GARTH

(smiling)

At ease, son. Is this something you're looking to publish?

WALKER

Yes, sir, if Starfleet allows it. I think people would like to know what happens below decks. Not the battles and all, but the daily lives of the crew.

The com WHISTLES.

CAINE (V.O.)

(filtered)

Bridge to Captain.

GARTH

(thumbs the com panel)

Garth here.

CAINE (V.O.)

(filtered)

Sir, Commander Tanaka needs you in Transporter Room Three.

GARTH

On my way.
(to Walker)
Maybe you'll let me read it
sometime, Lieutenant.

WALKER

Y-yes, sir! That would be great!
Thank you, sir!

The turbolift stops on Deck Three and Garth EXITS.

The doors CLOSE again and Walker lets out an amazed breath.
When he returns to his notebook, he's smiling.

113 INT. ARES - TRANSPORTER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (OPTICAL) 113

Garth ENTERS. Tanaka and Leonov are standing next to the
Transporter console with Ambassador Soval.

GARTH

Ambassador? I'm surprised to see
you here. I didn't expect such a
distinguished send-off.

SOVAL

Retired Ambassador, Captain. I
remain a staunch advocate of the
Federation, though Vulcan politics
requires that my support take a
more... surreptitious form.

He hands Garth a data disk.

SOVAL (CONT'D)

This was sent by our mutual friend.
I believe you'll find it unlocks
the D-7 data you recovered earlier.

Garth exchanges a look with Tanaka and smiles.

GARTH

I can't thank you enough for this,
Soval.

SOVAL

(nods)

I trust you'll put the data to good
use. Now, I must take my leave. I
will return to Vulcan to make a
final appeal to the Council.

Soval steps onto the Transporter platform.

GARTH

Do you think they'll listen to you?

SOVAL

They are an imminently logical
body. They may yet be reasonable.

(he salutes)

Success, Captain.

GARTH

To us all.

Garth nods at Leonov. Soval DE-MATERIALIZES.

GARTH (CONT'D)

(hands Tanaka the disk)

Get to work on the D-7 analysis,
right away. I want you both on
this. Pull in whoever you need.
Find me a way to beat that ship.

TANAKA

You got it.

LEONOV

(confident)

Ships are like dilithium, Captain.
Every crystal has its flaw.

They all EXIT.

114

INT. ARES - BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER (OPTICAL)

114

Garth ENTERS. Save for Tanaka, his crew is at their stations.
Hyree is busy working on the Fleet Operations console.

GARTH

Are the new systems finished,
Lieutenant?

HYREE

Almost, Captain. When I'm done,
Ares will be able to coordinate the
entire fleet from this station.

GARTH

And you're confident it's battle
ready?

HYREE

I should hope so, sir. I helped
design it.

GARTH

We're in good hands then.
(sits in his chair)
Mister Cross, clear all moorings
and takes us out. Set your course
for Axanar... Warp Seven.

CROSS

Aye, sir.

GARTH

(somberly, to himself)
Let's go to war.

115 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 115

pulls away from Starbase One and leaves the Earth behind.
With a surge of energy, it JUMPS TO WARP SPEED.

DISSOLVE TO:

116 EXT. SPACE - THE PLANET AXANAR (OPTICAL) 116

We pan majestically over the planet to reveal...

THE FEDERATION FLEET

orbiting in formation. Nearly A HUNDRED STARSHIPS are
visible. We push in on the Ares, which is flying lead.

117 INT. ARES - CIC (OPTICAL) 117

Garth and Tanaka are standing around the center table with
FIVE OTHER CAPTAINS, including Travis, Alexander, Trask,
ROBAU, and NAARV (a Tellarite). They're studying a BATTLE
PLAN on the display, pointing to various details.

ROBAU

Well done, Kel. It's a bold plan.
Kharn will be in a tough spot, even
if he is expecting a trap.

NAARV

(snorts)
It's unlikely that he fears a trap
with those D-7s at his flank.

TRAVIS

Well, if I were Kharn, trap or not,
I'd try to bracket Axanar - attack
from two directions at once.

ALEXANDER

He can mobilize ships from Klingon space, but if he consolidates his forces first, most of them will be approaching from Mizar.

TRASK

Based on the latest intel, that would give him three Battle Wings. We'll outnumber them but only just.

ROBAU

At least we have the element of surprise in our favor.

NAARV

Yes, but those two D-7s have a sharp bite. Our margin for error will be whisker thin.

To the surprise of all, Captain Arev ENTERS the CIC.

AREV

Captain Garth, Ambassador Soval sends his regards. He suggested it might prove useful for my squadron to patrol near Axanar at this time.

TRAVIS

And how does the Vulcan High Command feel about that?

AREV

The High Command has ordered Vulcan ships to remain deep within Federation space. I believe Axanar meets that criteria.

GARTH

(smiles)

So it does. Thank you, Captain.

ALEXANDER

(whispers to Travis)

A Vulcan's gonna do what a Vulcan's gonna do.

The Captains laugh. Arev raises an eyebrow.

AREV

Indeed.

GARTH

All right, squadron commanders, you already know your assignments. As for the rest of you... you'll be hunting the D-7s.

(nods at Tanaka)

Commander?

Tanaka punches up the D-7 schematics on the wall VIEWSCREEN. There are gasps from the group.

ROBAU

Where on Earth did you get this information?

GARTH

It wasn't on Earth and it wasn't easy. Let's make it count.

TANAKA

The Klingons have designed three layers of protection into the D-7's shield emitters - one for solid matter, like torpedoes and micrometeorites, one for high-energy E-M weapons, like phasers, and one for low energy E-M. The low E-M emitters have a specific phase and resonance frequency. If we can isolate it, we can break through, hack their controls, and lower their shields remotely.

TRASK

The old Romulan trick?

TANAKA

Exactly. But finding the right frequency means rotating the modulation on our pulse phasers to see how their shields react.

GARTH

Sonya, Arev... that'll be down to the two of you.

ALEXANDER

(smiles)

Now you're talking.

AREV

And when we find the correct frequency?

GARTH

Transmit it to the fleet. Have your
Transporter Chiefs standing by.

(beat, to all)

Remember, we need to be flexible,
we need to think on our feet... and
we need to work together.

We pan over the Captains' faces as they exchange nods of
agreement, confident in Garth and proud to serve together.

TRAVIS

Together... winner takes all.

GARTH

Winner takes all. One way or the
other, this war ends at Axanar.

Close on the table. Off the word AXANAR on the map...

CUT TO:

118 DARKNESS

118

FIRE appears again in SLOW MOTION. Once more, we hear distant
SCREAMS, SIRENS, EXPLOSIONS. The fire grows and now we see it
enveloping the blade of a KNIFE. The sounds build until we...

CUT TO:

119 INT. KHARN'S ESTATE - PRIVATE SANCTUM (QO'NOS) (OPTICAL) 119

Kharn blinks... his eyes narrow. He's had another vision.
It's an omen, but is it good... or bad?

We see that he's standing before a GRAND WINDOW overlooking
the MOUNTAINS. Chang ENTERS and hands Kharn a tablet.

CHANG

My Lord, we have received a message
via subspace. Top priority.

Kharn studies the tablet a moment... then looks up.

120 INT. KLINGON WAR ROOM (QO'NOS) - A SHORT TIME LATER

120

The Klingon Generals are standing around the map table
discussing their battle plans. Kharn and Chang ENTER.

KHARN

Our spies have confirmed it.
Starfleet is building its new
Constitution class starships
here... at Axanar.

(MORE)

KHARN (CONT'D)
(points)
That is where we will strike.

CHANG
And once the Federation's only
match for the D-7 has been
destroyed--

KLINGON GENERAL #1
We will attack Earth itself!

MOR'O (O.S.)
It is an honorable plan, Kharn.

The Generals turn and see Mor'o ENTERING.

KLINGON GENERAL #2
Thought Admiral Mor'o!

As one, they bow to the ancient Klingon, except Chang.

CHANG
(disrespectfully)
The last Thought Admiral.

With a deft and nearly effortless move, Mor'o KNOCKS CHANG
OFF HIS FEET with his cane. The Generals LAUGH.

MOR'O
Only by learning from the past, can
we hope to win the future,
Commander. Do not be so quick to
cast aside proven experience.

KHARN
Your experience is always welcome
at this war table. Chang has much
to learn.
(beat)
Generals, return to your ships. We
depart for Axanar at once.

The Generals salute Kharn and Mor'o, then EXIT. Chang stands,
embarrassed, giving Mor'o plenty of room as he passes.

KHARN (CONT'D)
I trust you are pleased, Honored
One?

MOR'O
You have done well, Kharn. Has the
time to strike the Humans arrived?

KHARN

It has. I have seen it.
(to Chang)
Open a channel to the fleet.

Chang hurries forward and touches a control on the table.
Kharn turns to address a VIEWSCREEN nearby.

KHARN (CONT'D)

Brothers and sisters...

121 INT. D-7 - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS (OPTICAL) 121

The command crew watches Kharn's speech on the VIEWSCREEN.

KHARN

...long have we watched the scourge
of Humanity spreading through
space, daring to encroach upon our
birthright. At last, the time has
come to wipe them from the galaxy.
(beat)
Take your battle stations! WE STORM
THE GATES!

The Klingon crew begins a FRENZIED CHANT, pumping their fists
in the air. Over the COM, we hear other crews joining in.

Kharn favors them with a grin from the viewscreen.

Our view pulls back... THROUGH THE HULL... to see...

122 EXT. SPACE - THE D-7 (OPTICAL) 122

hanging in the void.

Our view pulls back even further... we see that the D-7 is
accompanied by nearly A HUNDRED OTHER WARSHIPS.

The Klingon fleet is ready to strike.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

123 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 123

holds position behind Axanar. Nearby are the Ajax, T'Val, Kumari, and Gral. Beyond them, FIFTY-NINE OTHER STARSHIPS hold formation in three squadron groups.

124 INT. ARES - GARTH'S QUARTERS - CLOSE ON THE DESK MONITOR 124

showing a TACTICAL MAP of the ships behind Axanar. ICONS mark them as 1ST and 2ND SQUADRONS, plus one for the VULCAN ships.

ANGLE ON GARTH

who sits at his desk, studying a pad. The door CHIMES.

GARTH

Come.

Tanaka ENTERS.

TANAKA

Captain, it's been seventeen hours.
You sure the Klingons are coming?

GARTH

They'll be here. The intel we leaked them is too good. Kharn can't afford not to bite.

(sees Tanaka's concern)

What's on your mind, Ken?

TANAKA

How worried are you about Corax?
She could be on any one of the Klingon ships.

GARTH

I've known her a long time. She's uniquely capable. It's the Klingons who should be worried.

TANAKA

Of course, sir.

(nods at the pad)

Are you going over the plan again?

GARTH

For the millionth time. I'm concerned about Sam and Rick. I've laid them both way out on the line on this one.

The ALERT sounds.

WAGNER (V.O.)
(filtered)
All hands, battle stations! Senior
officers to the Bridge.

Garth and Tanaka race to EXIT. On Garth's monitor, NEW ICONS
that mark UNKNOWN SHIPS are approaching the Axanar system.

125

INT. ARES - BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

125

Everyone is at their stations. Garth and Tanaka ENTER. Wagner
gives up the Captain's chair and moves to Tactical.

GARTH
What have we got, Tara?

WAGNER
Long range scans show eighty-one
ships incoming at high warp.

GARTH
Approach vector?

WAGNER
Bearing two-five-four relative.
They're coming from Mizar.

TANAKA
(pleased, at his station)
There's your three Battle Wings.

Garth sits in his chair.

GARTH
Fleet status, Mister Hyree?

HYREE
The Squadron commanders have all
checked in. All ships stand ready.

GARTH
Tactical?

WAGNER
Green across the board. All weapons
and defenses are ready, Captain.

GARTH
Good work, everyone. Here we go.
(beat, to himself)
You're up, Sam.

Garth glances at the LARGE TACTICAL DISPLAY on the right side of the Bridge. It shows Ares and its ships behind Axanar, and the approaching Klingons. In between, on the other side of Axanar, we see ICONS representing HERCULES and 4TH SQUADRON.

CUT TO:

126 EXT. SPACE - THE HERCULES (OPTICAL) 126

which orbits Axanar with the TWENTY-THREE starships of 4th Squadron. Behind them, we see THREE SPACE DOCKS, each holding what appears to be a half-built CONSTITUTION CLASS STARSHIP.

We push in on the Hercules.

127 INT. HERCULES - BRIDGE 127

Travis is in the big chair. LIEUTENANT JACKSON mans Coms.

TRAVIS

All right, people. We're all that stands between the Klingons and those space docks.

(beat)

Mister Jackson, relay to Squadron: Defensive pattern Delta. Let's make them think we're surprised.

JACKSON

Aye, sir.

On Travis' TACTICAL DISPLAY we see the KLINGONS closing in.

CUT TO:

128 EXT. SPACE - THE KLINGON FLEET (OPTICAL) 128

We see EIGHTY-ONE ships still at WARP, TWO of which are D-7s.

We push in on the lead D-7.

129 INT. IKS KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 129

Kharn's in his chair, gripping his blade, which is stuck in its pedestal beside him. Chang stands at a Fleet/Tactical station. K'Orax is at Systems. VOTH mans Weapons.

KHARN

Report!

CHANG

Sensors show a full Federation battle squadron in orbit - twenty-four vessels.

KHARN

They're guarding the Space Docks.

CHANG

Their ships are disorganized, my Lord. We've caught them off-guard.

KHARN

Perhaps. Let's make sure of it.
(beat, makes decision)
All ships, set torpedoes for long range and fire.

130 EXT. SPACE - THE KLINGON FLEET (OPTICAL) 130

fires A MASSIVE SALVO OF PHOTON TORPEDOES which STREAKS away ahead of the ships.

131 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 131

KHARN

Engage impulse drive... now.
(beat)
Battle Wings One and Three,
Bat'leth formation. Battle Wing
Two, hold position and scan for
flanking forces behind the planet
and its moon.

132 EXT. SPACE - THE KLINGON FLEET (OPTICAL) 132

DROPS OUT OF WARP and forms THREE BATTLE WINGS in a crescent shape. Two of them CHARGE FORWARD towards the Axanar.

133 INT. HERCULES - BRIDGE 133

LIEUTENANT GATES mans the Tactical station.

GATES

Sir, incoming torpedoes! They must have launched them at warp.

TRAVIS

Counter measures to computer control.

GATES

Aye, sir. Computer tracking two hundred forty-three incoming torpedoes. Interceptors away.

134 EXT. SPACE - 4TH SQUADRON (OPTICAL) 134

launches INTERCEPTORS. Most of the incoming torpedoes are DESTROYED. A DOZEN get through and lock onto the starships, which MANEUVER and drop COUNTERMEASURES. The torpedoes score a few HITS, then the starships regroup.

135 INT. HERCULES - BRIDGE 135

GATES

Eight ships hit. Minor damage. The Klingons are closing fast... two Battle Wings.

TRAVIS

Kharn's crafty, I'll give him that. All right, let's hit 'em back. Weapons free. Fire when they're in range.

GATES

Aye, sir.

136 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 136

HYREE

4th Squadron is holding, sir. The Klingons will be enter their phaser range in thirty seconds.

GARTH

Show me 3rd Squadron, Mister Hyree.

The Bridge TACTICAL DISPLAY pans over from 4TH SQUADRON to an ICON marking 3RD SQUADRON, hiding behind Axanar's moon.

GARTH (CONT'D)

Coms. Tight beam to Geronimo.

CAINE

Channel open. On speakers.

GARTH

Geronimo, Ares. Rick, the moment those ships hit 4th Squadron's phaser range, launch the decoys.

ROBAU (V.O.)

(filtered)

Affirmative, Ares. Ready to launch.

Off the 3RD SQUADRON and GERONIMO ICONS on the display...

CUT TO:

137 EXT. SPACE - 3RD SQUADRON (OPTICAL) 137

behind Axanar's MOON. TWENTY-FOUR SHIPS, all running dark.
We push in on the GERONIMO, which is flying lead.

138 INT. GERONIMO - BRIDGE 138

Robau's in the big chair. LIEUTENANT LOGAN mans Tactical.

LOGAN

Klingons entering 4th Squad's
phaser range in twelve seconds...

ROBAU

Launch decoys, Mister Logan. Send
them left.

LOGAN

Aye, sir. Decoys away.

139 EXT. SPACE - THE GERONIMO (OPTICAL) 139

and another ship, CRAZY HORSE, launch TWO DOZEN SMALL SENSOR
DECOYS. They race away to the left, around the small moon.

140 EXT. SPACE - BATTLE WINGS ONE & THREE (OPTICAL) 140

close in on Axanar, 4th Squadron and the Space Docks.

141 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 141

CHANG

The Federation ships have
regrouped. They're moving to
attack.

KHARN

(impressed)
Their technology has improved.
(beat, to Voth)
Lock disruptors on--

CHANG

My Lord, twenty-four ships have
appeared from behind Axanar's moon!

KHARN

Do nothing.
(on Chang's surprise)
They're decoys. I would do the
same. Their real ships will follow
soon. Watch for a second wave and--

The Bridge ROCKS. A panel BLOWS OUT nearby.

VOTH

Sir, the Federation squadron has opened fire.

142 EXT. SPACE - 4TH SQUADRON (OPTICAL) 142
fires PHASERS, scoring repeated HITS on the closing Klingons.

143 INT. HERCULES - BRIDGE 143

GATES

I think we've got their attention, sir.

TRAVIS

I'll bet. Continuous fire. Let's see how the Undying One likes a smack in the jaw.

GATES

They're returning fire.

The Bridge SHAKES. Travis smiles and laughs, in his element.

144 EXT. SPACE - THE GERONIMO (OPTICAL) 144
still holding position behind the moon with 3rd Squadron.

145 INT. GERONIMO - BRIDGE 145

LOGAN

4th Squadron has engaged, Captain.

ROBAU

That's our cue. Launch shuttles, Mister Logan. Send them right this time.

LOGAN

Aye, sir.

146 EXT. SPACE - THE GERONIMO (OPTICAL) 146
the Crazy Horse and several other ships launch SHUTTLES, each equipped with an ELECTRONIC WARFARE POD. The formation races away to the right around the moon.

147 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 147

The crew is busy in action. The Bridge ROCKS occasionally.

K'ORAX

Damage to forward capacitors. Power holding.

KHARN

Continuous fire. Make for the Space Docks.

CHANG

Sir, twenty-four more ships have just appeared from behind the moon.

KHARN

(smiling)

As expected. Open a channel to Battle Wing Two.

148 EXT. SPACE - BATTLE WING TWO (OPTICAL) 148

waits in position in the distance. Push in on the lead D-6.

149 INT. LEAD D-6 (BATTLE WING TWO) - BRIDGE 149

Klingon General #1 is in the command chair. The com SIGNALS.

KHARN (V.O.)

(filtered)

General, you may engage the new Federation squadron near Axanar's moon.

KLINGON GENERAL #1

At once, My Lord. We will destroy them for the Empire.

(to an officer nearby)

Signal to Battle Wing: Full attack!

150 EXT. SPACE - BATTLE WING TWO (OPTICAL) 150

SURGES FORWARD toward Axanar's moon.

CUT TO:

151 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 151

holding behind Axanar with Ajax, T'Val, Kumari, Gral, and the fifty-nine ships of 1st and 2nd Squadrons and the Vulcans.

152 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 152

Wagner looks up from Tactical.

WAGNER

The remaining Klingon Battle Wing
has engaged, Captain.

GARTH

(thumbs the com)
Captain Robau, it looks like second
time's the charm. Our friends have
taken the bait.

ROBAU (V.O.)

(amused, filtered)
Well, it's very good bait.

GARTH

Let them get close and then bite
them in the ass.

ROBAU (V.O.)

(filtered)
Roger that. Wish us luck.

153 INT. GERONIMO - BRIDGE 153

ROBAU

You heard the Fleet Captain. Full
power to systems. It's time to go.
(to his com)
Geronimo to 3rd Squad. Follow us
in. Weapons hold for my mark.

154 EXT. SPACE - GERONIMO & 3RD SQUADRON (OPTICAL) 154

POWER UP and begin ADVANCING around the moon's left side.

155 EXT. SPACE - BATTLE WING TWO (OPTICAL) 155

approaches the moon. The SHUTTLES look tiny by comparison.

156 INT. LEAD D-6 (BATTLE WING TWO) - BRIDGE 156

KLINGON GENERAL #1

(realizes)
Those aren't starships.

D-6 WEAPONS OFFICER

But General, sensors read a full
squadron of Federation ships.

KLINGON GENERAL #1

They are only shuttles. You've been
deceived!

D-6 WEAPONS OFFICER
(confused)
Now reading new targets behind us.
Twenty-four more starships!

KLINGON GENERAL #1
(angry)
Well, are they real or not?!

As if in response, the D-6's Bridge is HAMMERED.

157 INT. GERONIMO - BRIDGE 157

ROBAU
Weapons free! All ships, engage.

158 EXT. SPACE - THE GERONIMO & 3RD SQUADRON (OPTICAL) 158

CHARGE in, firing PHASERS and TORPEDOES. Two Klingons ships are DESTROYED. The rest of Battle Wing Two MANEUVERS and RETURNS FIRE but it's chaos as a massive DOGFIGHT ensues. The SHUTTLES enter the fray, releasing TORPEDOES of their own.

CUT TO:

159 INT. ARES - BRIDGE - CLOSE ON THE TACTICAL MONITOR 159

as the ICONS for 3RD SQUADRON and BATTLE WING TWO merge.

ANGLE ON GARTH

GARTH
(to com)
Ares to 1st and 2nd Squadrons. Are you ready to get in the fight, Captains?

160 INT. KUMARI - BRIDGE 160

TRASK
Kumari stands ready, Ares.

161 INT. GRAL - BRIDGE 161

NAARV
Gral is ready. Let's get our hooves in the mud.

162 INT. T'VAL - BRIDGE 162

AREV
Vulcan forces await your command, Ares.

163 INT. AJAX - BRIDGE 163

GARTH (V.O.)
(filtered)
What about you, Sonya?

ALEXANDER
I thought you'd never ask, Fleet
Captain.

164 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 164

GARTH
All right, Captains. Here we go.

165 EXT. SPACE - ARES AND 1ST & 2ND SQUADRONS (OPTICAL) 165

SPEED ahead over the glowing curve of Axanar's horizon, lit
by a SUNSET as they cross into darkness on the night side.

CUT TO:

166 EXT. SPACE - 4TH SQUAD & KLINGON WINGS ONE & THREE (OPTICAL) 166

are engaged in a WHIRLING DOGFIGHT of their own. WEAPONS FIRE
is constant. Ships on both sides are DAMAGED and DESTROYED.

The KRETAR CUTS A SWATH OF DESTRUCTION through the melee.

167 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 167

The Bridge SHAKES. Crewmen are in action.

CHANG
Battle Wing Two is taking heavy
losses. Wings One and Three are
holding.

KHARN
Range to Space Docks?

VOTH
Two thousand kellicams.

KHARN
Send to all ships: Target those
Space Docks and fire.

168 EXT. SPACE - THE KRETAR (OPTICAL) 168

and several more Klingons ships fire DISRUPTORS at the SPACE
DOCKS. But instead of exploding as would be expected, the
THREE CONSTITUTION CLASS STARSHIPS within simply FALL APART.

169 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE

169

CHANG

(stunned)

The targets-- they're breaking up.
How can this be?

KHARN

(seething)

They're not real, you fool. This
was a trap. Their new ships were
never being built at Axanar.

VOTH

My Lord... more Federation ships
are approaching from behind the
planet. At least sixty ships - two
full battle squadrons!

KHARN

Deceit upon deception. Perhaps the
Humans are worthy adversaries.

The Bridge SHAKES again.

K'ORAX

Torpedo hits - port shields.
They're holding.

KHARN

All Wings, engage those starships
and fire at will!

170 EXT. SPACE - ARES AND 1ST & 2ND SQUADRONS (OPTICAL)

170

emerge into SUNLIGHT from around the planet and ENGAGE THE
KLINGONS, making the current dogfight EVEN LARGER.

171 INT. ARES - BRIDGE

171

The Bridge SHAKES, causing the crew to steady themselves.

TANAKA

Damage to port impulse manifold.

WAGNER

Port shields at ninety percent.

GARTH

Mister Hyree, signal Ajax and
T'Val: Time to go hunting.

The Bridge SHAKES again.

HYREE

Transmitting... signal
acknowledged.

172 EXT. SPACE - THE AJAX AND T'VAL (OPTICAL) 172

race in formation through the battle.

173 INT. AJAX - BRIDGE 173

ALEXANDER

(to com)

Approaching the first D-7. Captain
Arev, are you with me?

174 INT. T'VAL - BRIDGE 174

AREV

(cool as ice)

We are "on your six", Ajax.
Engaging pulse phasers now.

He nods to his Tactical officer.

175 EXT. SPACE - THE AJAX AND T'VAL (OPTICAL) 175

begin firing PULSE PHASER SALVOS at the Kretar, peppering its
shields from both sides as they race past.

In the background, we see a D-6 BREAK APART and EXPLODE.

176 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 176

K'ORAX

Pulse phasers. Broad-spectrum
attack. No damage.

CHANG

My Lord, we have lost eleven ships!

KHARN

Order all Wings to concentrate fire
on the Ares class.

177 EXT. SPACE - THE KUMARI (OPTICAL) 177

is getting HAMMERED by a D-7 and smaller Klingons ships.

178 INT. KUMARI - BRIDGE 178

ANDORIAN TACTICAL OFFICER

We're taking heavy damage.
Starboard shields are down to
thirty percent.

TRASK

Roll to protect our starboard side.
Target the nearest D-5 and fire.

ANDORIAN COM OFFICER

Captain, incoming signal from Gral.

NAARV (V.O.)

(filtered)

Looks like you've picked up some
flies, Kumari! Help is on the way.

179 EXT. SPACE - THE KUMARI (OPTICAL) 179

FIRES at a D-5 nearby which EXPLODES. But it's taking severe
damage from the D-7 and the other Klingon ships.

Then the GRAL SWEEPS IN.

180 INT. GRAL - BRIDGE 180

NAARV

Target those damn sixes on Kumari's
starboard.

TELLERITE TACTICAL OFFICER

Targets locked.

NAARV

Fire all weapons.

181 EXT. SPACE - THE GRAL (OPTICAL) 181

FIRES at the two D-6s, DESTROYING one as the other EVADES.

But the D-7 hits GRAL with a heavy SALVO.

182 INT. GRAL - BRIDGE 182

The Bridge ROCKS violently. Stations BLOW, killing crewmen.

TELLERITE TACTICAL OFFICER

Our shields are down! Structural
damage to the Bridge... hull
breaches on Decks Two and Three!

NAARV

Evasive!

TELLERITE TACTICAL OFFICER

Sir, a second D-7 is closing -
they're opening fire!

NAARV
Brace yourselves!

183 EXT. SPACE - THE GRAL (OPTICAL) 183

is DESTROYED by TORPEDOES from the first D-7 and the Kretar.

184 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 184

LIGHT from the Gral's destruction flickers across the Bridge.

HYREE
Gral is gone, Captain! Robinson and Komarov are also down. We've lost seventeen ships!

GARTH
Send Triton and Athena to protect the Kumari's flank.
(to com)
Ajax, T'Val... we need that shield frequency.

ALEXANDER (V.O.)
(filtered)
We're doing out best, Kel...

185 INT. T'VAL - BRIDGE 185

ALEXANDER (V.O.)
(filtered)
...but we can't seem to lock on.

AREV
Patience is required, Fleet Captain. It takes time to isolate the correct resonance frequency.

GARTH (V.O.)
(filtered)
We don't have much of that left.

AREV
Understood.
(to Tactical officer)
Continuous fire, all pulse phasers.

186 EXT. SPACE - AJAX AND T'VAL (OPTICAL) 186

take another run at Kumari, PULSE PHASERS blazing.

187 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 187

The Bridge ROCKS from the hits.

VOTH

My Lord, the Federation ships are changing the frequency of their pulse phasers.

K'Orax looks up at Voth in alarm. The Bridge ROCKS again.

VOTH (CONT'D)

They seem to be--

An EXPLOSION blows out a station nearby. In the chaos that follows, K'Orax pulls a knife and KILLS VOTH SILENTLY, dropping him to the deck. No one else has noticed.

K'ORAX

Lieutenant Voth is down!

KHARN

Take his place.
(to Chang)
How bad is our damage?

CHANG

Significant, but our weapons and defenses are operational.

Chang's station gives a SIGNAL.

CHANG (CONT'D)

My Lord... more ships are entering the system... twenty-seven targets.
(looks up, surprised)
They are Klingon!

KHARN

(smiles)
Krom's Battle Wing arrives. Now we shall see how the Federation likes Klingon deception.

188 INT. ARES - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

188

WAGNER

Captain, new long range contacts - bearing one-two-two mark seven.

TANAKA

Damn. They're coming from Qo'noS.
(looks up from scanner)
It's got to be another Klingon Battle Wing. E-T-A, three minutes.

GARTH

Mister Caine, hail the Geronimo.

CAINE

On screen, sir.

Captain Robau appears on the MAIN VIEWSCREEN.

GARTH

Rick, there's another Klingon
Battle Wing coming your way.

ROBAU

We see them. When they get here,
they'll catch us in a helluva nasty
cross fire.

GARTH

I'm sending Allegiance and Perseus
to support you.

(nods to Hyree)

I need you to hold them off until
we've dealt with the main fleet.

ROBAU

Acknowledged. We'll do our best.

The signal CUTS. The viewscreen shows the BATTLE again.

TANAKA

(scanning, alarmed)

Sir, sensors are picking up another
D-7 among the new ships.

GARTH

A third D-7?

(to com, urgently)

Sonya, Arev... we need that shield
frequency now.

189

INT. AJAX - BRIDGE

189

ALEXANDER

(to com)

Arev, have you got anything yet?

AREV (V.O.)

(filtered)

Negative, Ajax. The frequency is
proving illusive.

ALEXANDER

(to com)

Ares, Ajax. Still no joy.

AJAX TACTICAL OFFICER
Captain, Hercules is taking heavy
damage from a D-7.

ALEXANDER
(to com)
Hercules, do you read me? Sam, come
in...

190 INT. HERCULES - BRIDGE 190

The Bridge is in CHAOS. There's heavy damage, FIRES, BODIES.

TRAVIS
Evasive! Target that D-7's Bridge -
fire everything!

GATES
Targeting sensors inoperative...
the helm isn't responding!

There's an ALARM.

TRAVIS
Incoming... hang on!

191 EXT. SPACE - THE HERCULES (OPTICAL) 191

is hit by DISRUPTORS from the D-7. One of its NACELLES BREAKS
AWAY. EXPLOSIONS rock the ship - it SPINS out of control.

192 INT. AJAX - BRIDGE 192

ALEXANDER
SAM!

AJAX TACTICAL OFFICER
(urgent)
Captain, the D-7s are targeting
Ares class ships only. They're
cutting us to pieces.

A look of pure rage sets in on Sonya's face.

ALEXANDER
(to com)
All hands, evacuate forward
sections. Emergency power to
structural integrity.
(cold, to helm)
Set a course for that D-7.

193 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 193

TANAKA

Captain, the Ajax is diving out of the battle. No, wait... she's heading back toward the D-7. They're on a collision course!

GARTH

(stunned, to com)
Sonya, what are you doing?

ALEXANDER (V.O.)

(filtered)
Thinking on my feet, Ares. We've got to stop these D-7s somehow.

194 INT. AJAX - BRIDGE 194

Sonya's Bridge crew is calm now. They know what's coming.

AJAX TACTICAL OFFICER

(nods gravely)
The forward saucer is clear... structural integrity's at maximum.

ALEXANDER

(steeling herself)
Full impulse. Fire all phasers.

195 EXT. SPACE - THE UNDERSIDE OF THE D-7 (OPTICAL) 195

spins into view, as if seen from a camera mounted on the Ajax's hull. The D-7 grows LARGER as Ajax's PHASERS hammer its neck, right behind the bulb of its bridge.

196 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 196

Everyone's looking at the viewscreen. Tanaka stands.

TANAKA

She's not really gonna... is she?

197 EXT. SPACE - THE AJAX (OPTICAL) 197

CHARGES UP from off-screen below and SLAMS RIGHT THROUGH THE D-7'S NECK, SEVERING ITS BRIDGE FROM THE REST OF THE SHIP. Ajax flies up and away, leaving EXPLOSIONS and DEBRIS behind.

198 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 198

CHANG

The DoqHegh is down!

Kharn stands, stunned by this new Federation tactic. He watches the D-7's WRECKAGE tumbling on the viewscreen.

199

INT. ARES - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

199

Garth and his crew are equally stunned.

TANAKA

I guess she is.

GARTH

(to com)

Ajax, are you all right?

ALEXANDER (V.O.)

(filtered, distorted)

We've got heavy damage here. Arev will have to finish the hunt without us.

(beat)

But that's one less D-7 to worry about.

GARTH

(to com)

Arev, did you copy that?

AREV (V.O.)

(filtered)

Affirmative, Ares. Tasking additional ships to assist us.

HYREE

Sir, the new Klingon ships have engaged. 3rd Squadron's being overwhelmed.

CAINE

Incoming from Geronimo, Captain.

GARTH

On screen.

Robau appears on the VIEWSCREEN. His Bridge is in chaos.

ROBAU

(urgent)

We can't hold the flank much longer, Ares.

GARTH

Rick... I don't have any more ships to send you.

An EXPLOSION rocks Robau's bridge. But he nods, calm.

ROBAU
Understood. We'll keep them
occupied as--

Another EXPLOSION behind Robau is enough to make him flinch.

ROBAU (CONT'D)
--long as we can. Good luck, Kel.

The signal CUTS.

GARTH
(to himself)
Good luck, my friend.

Garth knows he's just sacrificed Robau and 3rd Squadron.

200 INT. GERONIMO - BRIDGE 200

ROBAU
(grave)
Mister Logan, bring the destroyers
in close. Reserve power to shields.

201 EXT. SPACE - THE GERONIMO AND CRAZY HORSE (OPTICAL) 201

are engaged in a fierce FIRE FIGHT. Crazy Horse's hull is BURNING. Two Klingon ships, including the new D-7, turn towards the Crazy Horse, firing DISRUPTORS. The starship EXPLODES in a huge fireball.

202 INT. USS ARES - BRIDGE 202

HYREE
Crazy Horse is down!

Garth's crew looks worried.

WAGNER
Captain, long range contacts. More
new ships approaching at high warp.

GARTH
Klingon?

TANAKA
Checking approach vector... they're
from Earth!

CAINE
Sir, incoming message. It's--

APRIL (V.O.)
(filtered)
Ares, this is Enterprise. Is this a private fight or can anyone join?

GARTH
(stands, stunned)
Bob? I thought you said your warp drive wasn't finished yet.

APRIL (V.O.)
(filtered)
Who needs a warp drive when you can hitch a ride?

203 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 203

DROPS OUT OF WARP, being towed by THREE VULCAN STARSHIPS. They disengage their TRACTOR BEAMS and angle away as the Enterprise RACES through and on towards the battle.

204 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE 204

Captain April sits in his chair, his crew ready for action.

APRIL
We've been monitoring your transmissions, Kel. We'll take the heat off 3rd Squadron for you. Enterprise out.
(to helm)
Put the spurs to her, Mister Cohen. Weapons free.

205 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 205

enters the battle near Axanar's moon, WEAPONS BLAZING. She immediately takes on one of the D-6s attacking Geronimo and DESTROYS it, flying straight through the expanding DEBRIS.

206 INT. GERONIMO - BRIDGE 206

ROBAU
Thank you, Enterprise! Mister Logan, continuous fire... target the remaining ship.

LOGAN
Captain, incoming torpedoes from the D-7. We're dropping countermeasures...

207 EXT. SPACE - THE GERONIMO (OPTICAL) 207

drops COUNTERMEASURES as it banks away. The D-7's TORPEDOES go after them and strike the D-6 instead, DESTROYING IT.

In the distance, We see the KRETAR moving through the battle. The T'VAL and TWO OTHER VULCAN STARSHIPS sweep over it firing PULSE PHASERS again.

208 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 208

More SHAKING. On the Weapons station, K'Orax sees a DISPLAY showing the FREQUENCY of Kretar's THREE SHIELD LAYERS. Only the INNERMOST seems to REVERBERATE when the pulse phasers hit, but all up and down the spectrum.

KHARN
(to K'Orax)
Damage report?

K'ORAX
Their pulse phasers are still
having little effect.

K'Orax touches a control repeatedly. On the display, we see the innermost shield layer start to PING AT A SPECIFIC FREQUENCY - akin to plucking a note on a string.

KHARN
What of the new Federation ship?

CHANG
It's Constitution class. The D-6s
are ineffective against it.

An ALERT sounds from Chang's station.

CHANG (CONT'D)
My Lord, we've identified their
command ship. It's the Ares!

KHARN
The Izarian! Helm new course - make
for the Ares. Target and fire!

209 EXT. SPACE - THE KRETAR (OPTICAL) 209

MANEUVERS towards the Ares and FIRES DISRUPTORS.

More ships are being DESTROYED or DAMAGED all around. A few surviving shuttles move through the battle, firing TORPEDOES.

210 INT. KUMARI - BRIDGE 210

Trask and his crew are battered but holding their own.

ANDORIAN TACTICAL OFFICER
Captain, that D-7 is attacking the
Ares!

TRASK
(to com)
Kumari to all ships: Protect the
Ares.

211 INT. ARES - THE BRIDGE 211

SHAKES with repeated hits, but not seriously.

WAGNER
Damage, Deck Three forward. Shields
down to seventy percent.

GARTH
Focus fire on the D-7.

TANAKA
Sir, that ship - I think it's
Kharn.

Off Garth's reaction...

212 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 212

KHARN
Report! Why have we not yet
destroyed the Ares?

K'ORAX
Our systems have taken damage, sir.
Targeting sensors aren't working.

KHARN
Order the Tor'Var to attack them!

Unseen by Kharn and Chang, K'Orax continues to PING the
shield frequency repeatedly.

213 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 213

WAGNER
Sir, the other D-7 is approaching.
They're opening fire.

214 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 214

is under attack from BOTH D-7s. Federation ships COUNTER, but the Klingons remain focused on Ares. Kretar and Ares SLUG it out, trading heavy FIRE.

215 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 215

Kretar REELS. There's massive DAMAGE now. EXPLOSIONS.

CHANG

My Lord, we're losing power. We must withdraw!

KHARN

No! Cut off the enemy's head and the body will wither. Ares must be destroyed!

216 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 216

The Bridge ROCKS. A station EXPLODES, DEBRIS FALLS nearby.

TANAKA

Hull breach, Deck Seven. Structural failure on Decks Five and Six.

WAGNER

Forward shields at thirty percent!

GARTH

Mister Cross, get us out of here.

CROSS

The helm's not answering, sir!

Thinking fast, Garth gets an idea. He stands, approaches Cross' station and points at the Astrogator.

GARTH

Maneuvering thrusters then. Roll one-eighty and put us right here.

CROSS

(stunned)
Sir?

GARTH

Just do it!

217 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL) 217

ROLLS and moves directly under the Kretar. Ares uses its TRACTOR BEAM to hold itself in close formation with the D-7, just meters beneath it.

218 INT. ARES - BRIDGE 218

TANAKA

The tractor beam is holding.

WAGNER

They've stopped shooting at us.
It's working, sir!

GARTH

For the moment. At least it's
bought us some time.

But is it enough?

219 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) - BRIDGE 219

Fires are burning. Kharn is furious.

KHARN

Why are we not firing?

CHANG

The Ares is too close! Our sensors
can't lock on at this range.

The Bridge takes another HIT. K'Orax is PINGING the shield frequency desperately now.

220 EXT. SPACE - THE T'VAL (OPTICAL) 220

is firing PULSE PHASERS at the Kretar again.

221 INT. T'VAL - BRIDGE 221

VULCAN TACTICAL OFFICER

(scanning)

Captain, I have something. The
target's low E-M shield layer is
pulsating on its own.

AREV

Curious. Analysis?

VULCAN TACTICAL OFFICER

The oscillation is non-random.

(eyebrow raises)

It's a prime number sequence.

222 INT. ARES - BRIDGE

222

Things are desperate. There are casualties. The crew's holding on for dear life. Arev's VOICE breaks over the com.

AREV (V.O.)

(filtered)

Ares, T'Val. The lead D-7 appears to be sending us a signal of some kind using its low energy shields.

GARTH

A signal? On a specific frequency?

AREV (V.O.)

(filtered)

Yes. We are testing it now.

(beat)

We have penetrated the D-7's systems. Attempting to lower shields... their shields are down.

GARTH

Bless you, Corax.

(thumbs the com)

Alexei, now... energize!

(to Cross)

Helm, disengage. Get us clear!

223 INT. ARES - TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

223

Leonov is at the controls with the Transporter Chief.

LEONOV

(pushes the sliders)

With pleasure, Captain.

On the platform, a PHOTON TORPEDOES DEMATERIALIZES.

224 EXT. SPACE - THE ARES (OPTICAL)

224

SEPARATES from the Kretar and begins moving away slowly.

225 INT. KRETAR (KHARN'S D-7) (OPTICAL)

225

The damage is extensive. PANELS SHORT, FIRES BURN. Kharn stands in the center of it all, with fury in his eyes.

K'ORAX

My Lord, our shields are down!

KHARN

Raise them!

K'ORAX
Inoperative!

CHANG
Sir, the Tor'Var! It's--

On the VIEWSCREEN we see the other D-7 EXPLODE - a blast that originates from its Bridge.

Suddenly, we hear the TRANSPORTER EFFECT. Leonov's TORPEDOES MATERIALIZES on Kharn's Bridge, beside his chair.

Kharn sees this... and knows he's been beaten.

But then he sees something else... the pedestal beside his chair is ON FIRE. The FLAMES are licking up around his KNIFE, which has a stylized KLINGON SYMBOL on the grip. It's his vision come true.

KHARN
Perhaps today is a good day to die.

CHANG
We are being hailed. It's the Ares!

GARTH appears on the VIEWSCREEN, standing before his chair.

KHARN
Garth of Izar. You have my compliments. I take satisfaction in knowing that the Federation sent its best to face me.

GARTH
Kharn, haven't we all had enough?
We can end this war right now.

KHARN
Then end it. This is not another draw, Captain. You have me. Do what you must and let us die with honor.

GARTH
I have a better idea. Order your ships to stand down and I'll do the same.

CHANG
A Federation trick - he means to destroy us!

KHARN
Klingons do not surrender, Captain.

226 INT. ARES - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

226

Kharn's ON-SCREEN. Garth knows he must play this carefully.

GARTH

Not a surrender. And not a trick. A
cease fire... to give our
governments time to negotiate
peace.

KHARN

(stunned)

Why would you do this, Captain? You
can destroy my fleet. The Empire
would be wide open to your
Starfleet.

GARTH

And then what? The Federation
invades Qo'noS? Millions more
people die? We're not conquerors,
Kharn. And we have no desire to
burn the Empire to the ground.

227 INT. KHARN'S D-7 - BRIDGE

227

GARTH

The galaxy's a big place. There's
room enough for both our peoples.

Kharn considers this. He turns back to the burning knife...
feels the fire's heat on his face.

CHANG

No, my Lord! That is their weakness
talking!

KHARN

Silence, Chang.

CHANG

There can be no peace with the
Federation! Not now... not ever!

Chang approaches angrily and grabs Kharn's arm.

Kharn snaps. He BACKHANDS CHANG IN THE FACE, knocking him
back into his console. Chang slumps to the deck as Kharn
stands over him.

KHARN

It's over! There is no honor in
placing revenge before the fate of
the Empire!

Chang is shamed... too stunned to respond.

Kharn walks back to his chair and sits.

228

INT. ARES - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

228

KHARN

Captain, I must contact the High Council to discuss your offer. My ships will stand down.

GARTH

As will ours. You'll forgive me if we don't power down our weapons until we have your Council's word.

KHARN

Understandable.

GARTH

Garth, out.

The transmission ENDS.

Garth sits back in his chair, wearily. Relief is visible on everyone's faces. Tanaka walks over to stand beside him.

TANAKA

Well played, Captain.

GARTH

That's Fleet Captain to you, Mister.

Tanaka and Garth share an amused look.

CAINE

Sir, Ajax is signaling... they're taking on survivors from the Hercules. They report Captain Travis is critical, but he's alive. The doctors are working on him now.

Garth leans back in his chair and nods, relieved.

DISSOLVE TO:

229

EXT. SPACE - BOTH FLEETS OVER AXANAR (OPTICAL)

229

The Klingons begin to WITHDRAW from the Starfleet forces.

Push in on the Ares.

230

INT. ARES - CORRIDOR

230

Garth walks with Tanaka, surveying the DAMAGE. DEBRIS hangs from the ceiling and litters the deck.

They see two MEDICS checking the vitals of a fallen crewman - he's dead. Garth kneels beside them. We see that it's Walker. As the medics take the body away, Garth sees his JOURNAL lying on the deck nearby. He picks it up, reads a bit of it.

TANAKA

What's that?

GARTH

Something worth fighting for.

TANAKA

Sir?

GARTH

When we get back to Earth, see that this gets to Greystoke at the Starfleet News Service. He'll know what to do with it.

Garth hands Tanaka the book. They continue on.

A SERIES OF SHOTS

We see Garth and Tanaka talking with CREWMEN... with ENGINEERS repairing a SPARKING POWER CONDUIT... with the WALKING WOUNDED... with Blackshirts helping out as they can.

As we see all this, we hear an entry from Walker's journal.

WALKER (V.O.)

We've been at Axanar for the better part of a day now. Word is the Klingons will be here any time. Everyone's nervous, but that's to be expected. We all know how important this battle will be.

(beat)

I suppose all of us realize there's a chance we won't make it back. Most of us joined Starfleet to be explorers, but I guess sometimes you have to stand up and defend your homes, your families... the things you believe in. I think that's worth fighting for.

We end on Garth speaking with INJURED CREWMEN on stretchers in the hall outside Sickbay, helping to lift their spirits.

231 INT. ARES - GARTH'S QUARTERS - HOURS LATER

231

We hear classical MUSIC. We move over Garth's desk. There's a glass of something he poured but didn't drink sitting there.

Garth has been recording more messages to the families of his fallen crew members. Too many for one man... for one day.

His reserves of energy have finally given out.

WALKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

However this battle ends, there's one thing we all know for sure: If anyone can save us - if anyone can save the Federation - it's Captain Garth. That's why we fight for him. It's why we'd die for him.

Resting his head in his arms on the desk... Garth is ASLEEP.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

EPILOGUE

232 EXT. SPACE - THE PLANET AXANAR (OPTICAL) 232

The scene looks far more tranquil now.

233 EXT. AXANAR - SURFACE - OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE HALL (OPTICAL) 233

We see DELEGATES conferring - T'Lera, the President, Klingon COUNCILORS. KLINGON and STARFLEET OFFICERS mingle, including Robau, Alexander, Trask, Arev, and Travis, who walks with a cane. Federation and Klingon flags fly overhead.

Closer to us, Garth is looking at the sky. April APPROACHES.

APRIL

None of this would have happened without you, Kel. I'm proud of you.

GARTH

A lot of good people gave their lives up there. They're the ones who made this possible. Not me.

APRIL

That's it. You're teaching humility at the Academy next semester.
(they both laugh)
Here's what I know. When the moment came, you made the tough calls. That's what it means to sit in the big chair. Speaking of which...

GARTH

The Enterprise?

APRIL

(nods)
I've got a brand new starship to shakedown. It's about time we got back to exploring, don't you think?
(he smiles at Garth)
I'll see you out there, Captain.

GARTH

Count on it.

April EXITS. As Garth turns to leave as well, he sees that Kharn has been STANDING NEARBY, waiting for him.

KHARN

Garth of Izar.

GARTH

Kharn. The Federation appreciates your efforts to complete this peace treaty. I know it hasn't been easy.

KHARN

It will never be easy. But it is necessary.

They start walking together.

GARTH

So what will you do now? I don't imagine that brokering peace is a popular choice within the Empire.

KHARN

I've made enemies, to be sure. Chang, and those who share his militant idealism, have been overruled - not vanquished.

GARTH

I certainly hope we've done more than simply postpone this war for another generation to fight.

KHARN

We Klingons are a proud people, Captain. But some of us know that winning a battle, while losing an Empire, is no victory.

GARTH

And losing a battle, while preserving an Empire, is no defeat.
(smiles at Kharn's look)
Yeah, I've read your book.

KHARN

Perhaps if I had read yours, Axanar would have ended differently.

GARTH

That's why I never wrote one.

Kharn smiles. Truly, this Izarian is worthy of his respect. Then Kharn stops, forcing Garth to do the same.

KHARN

There is a custom, I believe, from Earth's age of sail.
(he pulls out his knife)
(MORE)

KHARN (CONT'D)

The master of a ship, having lost
in battle, would present his weapon
to the one who had bested him.

(hands it to Garth)

This was my weapon, Captain.

Garth takes the knife, honored. He'd like to return the
gesture, but has nothing to give. Then he remembers - there's
an ARES PATCH on the shoulder of his dress uniform.

Garth uses the knife to remove it and hands it to Kharn.

GARTH

This was mine.

Kharn looks at the patch and nods, pleased. Garth reaches out
a hand to him. Kharn gives him a forearm shake instead.

Born under different stars... they are brothers in arms.

ANGLE ON A HIGHER TERRACE BALCONY

Soval sees the shake and watches Kharn WALK AWAY from Garth
below. The camera moves to reveal Mor'o standing beside him.

SOVAL

I find it most agreeable knowing
we're not alone in working to build
a better future.

MOR'O

The future belongs to the young.
It's only right they should claim a
stake in it.

(turns to Soval)

I understand you've convinced
Vulcan to remain in the Federation.

SOVAL

(nods)

It was the reasonable thing to do.

MOR'O

Would that all High Councils were
so reasonable, my friend.

(beat)

Sometimes, politicians require...
persuasion. To do what's in the
best interests of their respective
empires, yes?

SOVAL

Indeed. Though I suspect your hand was merely more subtle than mine in that regard.

MOR'O

A Klingon more subtle than a Vulcan?

SOVAL

(arches an eyebrow)
It is most illogical.

Mor'o LAUGHS.

RESUME ON GARTH - CONTINUOUS

He looks at the knife, its blade still marked by the flames. He wonders how many lives it's taken - a reminder that the price of peace is always paid in blood.

Satisfied, Garth heads down the path toward the terrace...

...and is suddenly GRABBED AND DRAGGED OUT OF SIGHT.

ANGLE ON GARTH'S FACE

We see that a KLINGON has him pinned in a choke hold and is holding Kharn's knife at his neck.

K'ORAX

Captain Garth. Savior of Axanar!
Long have I waited for this day.
(growls)
I could gut you like a Targ!

For a second, we think he will. Instead, he spins Garth away.

Recovering, Garth takes a defensive stance. When he looks back at his assailant, however, he sees...

CORAX STANDING THERE INSTEAD

holding Kharn's knife at ease, her arms crossed. She shrugs.

CORAX

Or... you could just thank me.
We'll figure something out.

Garth laughs, relieved, and pulls out his communicator.

GARTH

Garth to Ares. Two to beam up.

LEONOV (V.O.)

Aye, sir.

Garth and Corax stand together, looking at one another with admiration and affection.

GARTH

That was nice work, Lieutenant.

Corax holds something up... it's the PAWN.

CORAX

I know.

(smiling)

That's why you hired me.

She tosses it to Garth. They DEMATERIALIZE.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END

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