

STAR TREK: Excelsior: “Reunion”

An original audio play by Mike Murphy

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Cast in Order of Appearance:

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Admiral John Kratt

Captain Rachel Cortez

Dr. Melissa Sharp

Lt. Alex Rol

Lt. Commander/Commander Alcar Dovan

Chief Lorth [bit part]

Some anonymous *angry* Vulcan voices [heard twice – briefly]

Dr. Christine Foster

Leonardo Cortez

Tosak

Chorus [a gaggle of anonymous Vulcan voices, male and female]

Lt. Hennessy [bit part]

Lt. Yamora [bit part]

Admiral Parker [bit part]

Sulik

Child #1 [bit part]

Child #2 [bit part]

Son [bit part]

Crewman [bit part]

>>>OPENING TITLES<<<MUSIC FLASHBACK MUSIC UP AND UNDER

KRATT (IN SLIGHT ECHO) Captain Rachel Cortez, by order of Starfleet Command, you are hereby ordered to relinquish the *Excelsior* to your X.O. and take a leave of absence aboard Starbase 6.

MUSIC OUTSCENE FADE INMUSIC STAR TREK THEME (UNDER)FX THE EXCELSIOR WHOOSHES THROUGH SPACE

CORTEZ (VO) Captain's log. Stardate 12350.9. The *Excelsior* is returning home after a prolonged stay in the Delta Quadrant in search of hytopaline, a rare and unreplicable herb needed by Starfleet Medical. Fortunately, we encountered an uninhabited planetoid with a sizeable supply. As the *Excelsior* headed for the Gateway and Federation space, I consulted with my ship's doctor, Melissa Sharp.

MUSIC OUTLOG FADE OUTSCENE FADE INFX UNDER SICKBAY EQUIPMENT SOUNDS

CORTEZ Will the hytopaline be enough for Starfleet Medical?

SHARP This should hold them over for a long time. Just a moment, please.

1 **FX** **THE BEEPS OF A FEW BUTTONS BEING PRESSED,**
2 **FOLLOWED BY A LOW SHIMMERING SOUND**
3 **(WHICH REMAINS UNDER THROUGH SICKBAY**
4 **SCENE)**
5
6 SHARP There. Now the herb is in stasis. In this chamber, the conditions
7 of the planet we found it on have been re-created.
8
9 CORTEZ So the hytopaline will be fine until we transfer it to the
10 *Pasteur?*
11
12 SHARP It will. (CHUCKLES) I wouldn't be surprised if it even *grows* a
13 little before the rendezvous.
14
15 CORTEZ (CHUCKLES SLIGHTLY) The more, the merrier.
16
17 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Captain Cortez?
18
19 **FX** **COMM BADGE CHIRP**
20
21 CORTEZ Yes, Lieutenant?
22
23 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) We'll be
24 crossing back into the Alpha Quadrant in approximately five
25 minutes. You asked to be notified.
26
27 CORTEZ Thank you, Rol. I'll be right there.
28
29 **FX** **A COMM BADGE CHIRP**
30
31 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
32
33 **FX** **THE EXCELSIOR EXITS THE GATEWAY**
34
35 **FX UNDER** **BRIDGE SOUNDS**
36
37 ROL *Hello, Alpha Quadrant.*
38

1 CORTEZ No matter how many times I see it, the beauty of the Gateway
2 never disappoints me. (A PAUSE) Report on ship's systems,
3 Mr. Dovan. Is there any need to lay over at Union?
4

5 DOVAN All *Excelsior* systems are reporting normal, ma'am.
6

7 CORTEZ Glad to hear it. Mr. Rol, plot a course for –
8

9 **FX** **A FEW URGENT-SOUNDING BEEPS**

10

11 DOVAN Captain, I have a priority signal coming in from Starbase 6.
12

13 CORTEZ That's John Kratt's base. Put it up on the main viewer please.
14

15 **FX** **SOME BRIEF STATIC, THEN OUT**

16

17 KRATT (FILTERED) Captain, welcome back.
18

19 CORTEZ Thank you, Admiral. You're looking well. I haven't seen you
20 since your daughter Joan's wedding three years ago.
21

22 KRATT (FILTERED) That was almost *four* years ago, Rachel.
23

24 CORTEZ Really? It doesn't seem it. (A PAUSE) You'll be happy to hear
25 that we found a good supply of hytopaline. It's in stasis,
26 awaiting transfer to the *Pasteur*.
27

28 KRATT (FILTERED) Good news, but *not* what I'm calling about.
29

30 CORTEZ (CONFUSED) Is there some trouble?
31

32 KRATT (FILTERED) (A PAUSE) Well. . . I. . . Do you have me on
33 your bridge's main view screen?
34

35 CORTEZ I do. Is that a problem?
36

37 KRATT (FILTERED) No, no. (A PAUSE) I'm changing your orders.
38 You are to alter course immediately and head to Starbase 6.
39

40 CORTEZ But our rendezvous with the *Pasteur* –

1
2 KRATT (FILTERED) Will have to wait. I'll inform Captain O'Hanlon
3 that you'll be delayed. My base doctor, Christine Foster,
4 assures me that, in stasis, the hytopaline will be fine for more
5 than a week.
6
7 CORTEZ May I ask the reason for the change of plans, sir?
8
9 KRATT (FILTERED) You may *ask*.
10
11 CORTEZ Understood. (A PAUSE) Mr. Rol, what's our ETA at best speed
12 to Starbase 6?
13
14 **FX A FEW BUTTON BEEPS AND BOOPS**
15
16 ROL Seven hours and six minutes, Captain.
17
18 CORTEZ Then that's when we'll be there, Admiral.
19
20 KRATT (FILTERED) Very good. Sorry about the secrecy. All will be
21 made clear when you arrive.
22
23 CORTEZ I look forward to it.
24
25 KRATT (FILTERED) I want you and your X.O. to beam over to my
26 office when you get here.
27
28 CORTEZ Will do, sir.
29
30 KRATT (FILTERED) It will be lunchtime then. I'll program the
31 replicators for something *extra* special. Kratt out.
32
33 **FX BRIEF STATIC, THEN OUT**
34
35 CORTEZ Lay in a course and engage at best speed, Rol.
36
37 ROL Aye, aye, Captain.
38
39 **FX UNDER SOME BUTTON BEEPS AND BOOPS**
40

1 DOVAN Captain?
2
3 CORTEZ Yes?
4
5 DOVAN I don't understand why the Admiral would want *me* at your
6 meeting.
7
8 CORTEZ Don't try to see any logic in it, Alcar. R.H.I.P.
9
10 DOVAN R.H.I.P.?
11
12 CORTEZ Rank Has Its Privileges. We'll do what the man says. After all,
13 he's paying for lunch.
14
15 **FX ALL FX OUT**
16
17 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
18
19 **FX UNDER THE HUM OF THE TRANSPORTER ROOM**
20
21 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Bridge to
22 Captain.
23
24 **FX THE CHIRP OF A COMM BADGE**
25
26 CORTEZ Cortez here.
27
28 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) We are within
29 transporter range of Starbase 6. Admiral Kratt has relayed the
30 coordinates to his office.
31
32 CORTEZ Thank you. Cortez out.
33
34 **FX THE CHIRP OF A COMM BADGE**
35
36 CORTEZ Do you have the coordinates, Chief?
37
38 LORTH Yes, ma'am. They just came through.
39

1
2 DOVAN Sure, but I don't understand –
3
4 KRATT I've programmed the replicators to produce some *Bolian*
5 delicacies for lunch. I don't expect you to choke back what's
6 suitable for *my* palate.
7
8 DOVAN You're too kind.
9
10 KRATT We'll also have Vulcan dishes, Rachel – though I know you
11 don't go in for such cuisine very much. Surprisingly, the base's
12 replicators make very tasty plomeek soup.
13
14 CORTEZ Thank you. I haven't had that in *some* time. (A PAUSE)
15 Admiral, might I inquire why we were –
16
17 KRATT Please, *after* lunch. I've always found it easier to discuss
18 delicate matters on a full stomach.
19
20 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
21
22 **FX** **THE CLINK OF SILVERWARE ON PLATES**
23
24 KRATT That was *very* tasty, and it's so nice to have company.
25
26 CORTEZ Thank you for inviting us.
27
28 DOVAN Yes. Thank you.
29
30 KRATT You're both welcome. As a starbase commander, I'm usually
31 grabbing my meals at odd hours and, quite often, alone. (A
32 LONGISH PAUSE) And now to the business of why I had you
33 divert here. I'm sure you're anxious to know.
34
35 CORTEZ We are.
36
37 KRATT Captain, I asked Starfleet Command to be the one to tell you
38 this. I wanted you to hear it from a friend.
39
40 CORTEZ To hear *what*?

1
2 KRATT Well. . . I. . . I, uhm. . . (A LONGISH PAUSE) I can think of no
3 way to say this but to come out and say it.
4
5 CORTEZ Go on.
6
7 KRATT Captain Rachel Cortez, by order of Starfleet Command, you are
8 hereby ordered to relinquish the *Excelsior* to your X.O. and
9 take a leave of absence aboard Starbase 6.
10
11 CORTEZ (ASTONISHED) *What?*
12
13 KRATT Alcar?
14
15 DOVAN (CONFUSED) Yes, Admiral?
16
17 KRATT I'm promoting you to Commander and placing you in the center
18 seat. Computer?
19
20 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Ready.
21
22 KRATT Make a note on base records that today, at approximately
23 twelve hundred and fifty hours, Commander Alcar Dovan,
24 serial number. . . What is it, Commander?
25
26 DOVAN SE17985643A.
27
28 KRATT Note that Commander Alcar Dovan was put in command of the
29 starship *Excelsior*, replacing Captain Rachel Cortez.
30
31 CORTEZ But, sir. . .
32
33 KRATT Not now, Captain.
34
35 DOVAN How long will this last?
36
37 KRATT Until you are told otherwise. It's indefinite.
38
39 CORTEZ What's going on here, John?
40

1 KRATT You look confused, Alcar.
2
3 DOVAN I am. Why is the Captain being removed?
4
5 KRATT That need not concern you at the moment. (A PAUSE) You've
6 been in command before.
7
8 DOVAN Yes, but that was when the Captain was very ill.
9
10 CORTEZ And what will *I* be doing while my ship warps off without me?
11
12 KRATT You'll be remaining on Starbase 6 with me.
13
14 CORTEZ For how long?
15
16 KRATT (TERSELY) For however long I decide.
17
18 CORTEZ But, sir –
19
20 KRATT The matter is *closed*. Commander, you are to report back to the
21 *Excelsior* and leave immediately for your rendezvous.
22
23 DOVAN (A LONGISH PAUSE) (UNEASILY) Yes, Admiral.
24
25 KRATT Starfleet Medical is waiting for that hytopaline. I will inform
26 you when, and *if*, Captain Cortez will be returning to the center
27 seat.
28
29 DOVAN (UNEASILY) Permission to speak freely?
30
31 KRATT Always.
32
33 DOVAN The crew will want to know why the Captain –
34
35 CORTEZ (OBJECTING) *Commander!*
36
37 DOVAN Ma'am?
38
39 CORTEZ While I don't pretend for one minute to understand the
40 Admiral's order, you *will* do as he says.

1
2 DOVAN Of course. My apologies, Admiral.
3
4 KRATT None needed.
5
6 CORTEZ Go now. Render any and all assistance that Dr. Sharp needs in
7 the transfer of the hytopaline.
8
9 DOVAN I will.
10
11 **FX A COMM BADGE CHIRP**
12
13 DOVAN Dovan to *Excelsior*.
14
15 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Rol here.
16
17 DOVAN One to beam back.
18
19 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) (CONFUSED)
20 One?
21
22 DOVAN You heard me. The Captain will be staying behind.
23
24 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) (CONFUSED)
25 She will?
26
27 DOVAN Lay in a course for our rendezvous with the *Pasteur*. Engage as
28 soon as I'm back on board.
29
30 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) (CONFUSED)
31 Acknowledged.
32
33 **FX THE CHIRP OF A COMM BADGE**
34
35 DOVAN It has been an honor serving with you, Captain.
36
37 CORTEZ And you. Take good care of my ship. I'll expect everything to
38 be spit and polish when I return.
39
40 DOVAN It will be.

1
2 **FX THE CHIRP OF A COMM BADGE**

3
4 DOVAN Dovan to Lorth. Energize.

5
6 **FX THE TRANSPORTER EFFECT UP AND OUT**

7
8 KRATT You have a very loyal executive officer.

9
10 CORTEZ *I did.*

11
12 KRATT Is all your crew that good?

13
14 CORTEZ Yes.

15
16 KRATT You're to be congratulated. Few Starfleet captains can
17 command a starship – particularly one as large as the *Excelsior*
18 – and not have a few malcontents among the crew.

19
20 CORTEZ (ANNOYED) Are you done congratulating me on the crew you
21 just took away from me?

22
23 KRATT It had to be done.

24
25 CORTEZ *Why?*

26
27 KRATT I *volunteered* to tell you. I wanted you to hear it from a friend.

28
29 CORTEZ I'm so glad I didn't get the news from an *enemy*. (A PAUSE)
30 Why have you taken away my command, John? You know
31 better than anyone how hard I worked to get that center seat.

32
33 KRATT I was there the day that you took over.

34
35 CORTEZ Then *what* is it? You *owe* me an explanation.

36
37 KRATT And you'll have one – *now*. (UNEASILY) It's. . . it's because
38 you're a. . . a *Vulcan*.

39

1 CORTEZ (ASTONISHED) *What?* You relieved me of command
2 . . . because of my *race*?
3

4 KRATT Starfleet Command deemed it necessary. I was only following
5 their orders.
6

7 CORTEZ (ASTONISHED) I never knew you were prejudiced against
8 Vulcans.
9

10 KRATT Come now, Rachel. You know me better than that.
11

12 CORTEZ You just admitted that you relieved me of command because
13 I'm a Vulcan.
14

15 KRATT You don't understand.
16

17 CORTEZ Then *explain* it to me. Will *someone* explain this to me?
18

19 KRATT I'm sorry. I'm . . . I'm handling this poorly. This is something I
20 hoped to never have to do. (A PAUSE) I'm prejudiced against
21 no one. Vulcans have an honorable record of service to the
22 Federation: Spock, Sarek, T'Pol, Tuvok, Vorik, *and you*, to
23 name just a few.
24

25 CORTEZ (SLOWLY, WITH EMPHASIS) Then why am I not on my
26 bridge?
27

28 KRATT (SIGHS HEAVILY) Sit down, Rachel.
29

30 CORTEZ I'd prefer to stand.
31

32 KRATT *Sit down.* That's an order.
33

34 CORTEZ (WITH SOME SARCASM) Aye, aye, sir.
35

36 KRATT I want you to watch a video.
37

38 CORTEZ I want an explanation. I don't want to watch a video.
39

1 KRATT You'll want to watch *this* one. It will help explain why I had to
2 relieve you of command of the *Excelsior*. (A PAUSE)
3 Computer?
4

5 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Ready.
6

7 KRATT Play Kratt video A117.
8

9 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Requested video is security password protected.
10

11 KRATT Password Kratt 7A17 Epsilon.
12

13 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Acknowledged. Readying video.
14

15 KRATT Begin playback on my command, and mute volume.
16

17 CORTEZ Mute the volume?
18

19 KRATT Rachel, what you are about to see will be very disturbing. I've
20 seen it several times, and it still disturbs me. Are you ready?
21

22 CORTEZ I want to know why I lost my command.
23

24 KRATT (A PAUSE) Computer, begin playback.
25

26 **FX BRIEF STATIC, THEN OUT**
27

28 CORTEZ (A PAUSE) It's Vulcan. I've been away from it for years, but
29 it's *definitely* Vulcan.
30

31 KRATT Do you recognize the city? The street?
32

33 CORTEZ Yes. That street leads to the Vulcan Science Academy. The city
34 is called. . . (AN UNEASY, LONGISH PAUSE) Computer. . .
35 freeze playback.
36

37 **FX A BEEP AS THE VIDEO FREEZES**
38

39 CORTEZ (UNBELIEVINGLY) John. . . that green. . . *puddle* in the
40 street. . . Is that. . . *blood*?

1
2 KRATT We think so.
3
4 CORTEZ (VERY CONFUSED) How. . .
5
6 KRATT There's more to see.
7
8 CORTEZ (A PAUSE) Computer. . . resume.
9
10 **FX A BEEP AS THE VIDEO UNFREEZES**
11
12 CORTEZ (A LONGISH PAUSE) This. . . isn't. . . *possible*. (A PAUSE)
13 That man. . . he looks. . . *mad*. Stabbings, fistfights. . . on
14 *Vulcan*? What's going on?
15
16 KRATT I wish we knew.
17
18 CORTEZ Computer, freeze video!
19
20 **FX A BEEP AS THE VIDEO FREEZES**
21
22 KRATT What is it?
23
24 CORTEZ It *is* him.
25
26 KRATT Who?
27
28 CORTEZ That man in the center of the screen. . . He was a professor of
29 mine. His name is Tosak. He is *revered* on Vulcan as a great
30 and wise teacher – almost a modern-day Surak.
31
32 KRATT Yet there he is holding a bloody knife. There's even blood
33 smeared on his face.
34
35 CORTEZ (A PAUSE) I want to hear the sound.
36
37 KRATT Are you sure of that? It's not pretty.
38
39 CORTEZ I'm sure.
40

1 KRATT Computer, cancel muting and resume playback.
2
3 **FX A BEEP AS PLAYBACK CONTINUES**
4
5 **FX THE SOUNDS OF CARNAGE. WE HEAR SCREAMING,**
6 **YELLING, AND WAILING. WORDS LIKE “KILL” AND**
7 **“MURDER” CAN BE HEARD FAINTLY, ALONG WITH**
8 **MANIACAL LAUGHTER. THIS RAPIDLY ENDS**
9 **AFTER ABOUT FIFTEEN SECONDS**
10
11 CORTEZ (BLOWN AWAY BY WHAT SHE’S SEEN) Admiral, *what* is
12 happening on Vulcan?
13
14 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
15
16 KRATT Rachel, this is my base doctor, Christine Foster.
17
18 FOSTER Pleased to meet you, Captain.
19
20 CORTEZ (DISTURBED) And. . . and you.
21
22 FOSTER I take it you’ve seen the video?
23
24 CORTEZ Yes. What’s happening?
25
26 FOSTER I *wish* we knew.
27
28 CORTEZ How long has this been going on?
29
30 KRATT About a week.
31
32 CORTEZ How did it start?
33
34 KRATT Command heard subspace chatter from Vulcan’s neighboring
35 worlds that things weren’t right there.
36
37 FOSTER The very idea seemed ludicrous.
38
39 KRATT However, we *did* investigate. We sent a pair of surgically
40 altered operatives to Vulcan. One of them managed to get us

1 the piece of video you just saw. (A PAUSE) We haven't heard
2 from either of them since.
3
4 CORTEZ Has anyone been able to reach the Vulcan government
5 officials?
6
7 KRATT Rachel, we don't know if there is *anyone* in charge anymore.
8
9 CORTEZ This is *unbelievable*. Doctor, what could cause such a thing?
10
11 FOSTER We're not sure yet. We're working on a theory that it may be
12 some disease that particularly affects Vulcans.
13
14 KRATT And, Captain – it's *spreading*.
15
16 CORTEZ To other races?
17
18 FOSTER No – to other *Vulcans*. At first, the disease was solely among
19 Vulcans living on their home planet. Over the past couple of
20 days, we've seen it spread to off-world Vulcans.
21
22 KRATT Including some serving on Federation starships.
23
24 CORTEZ (WITH SUDDEN REALIZATION) So *that's* why you took me
25 off my bridge?
26
27 KRATT Yes. We couldn't take the risk of having you become infected
28 while in command of a ship as powerful as the *Excelsior*.
29
30 CORTEZ But I feel *fine*. Why am I not infected?
31
32 KRATT Perhaps because you were in the Delta Quadrant until recently.
33 We've had no reports of this disease occurring outside of the
34 Alpha Quadrant.
35
36 CORTEZ (UNEASILY) So it's possible that I *will* become infected?
37
38 FOSTER Not only possible. I'm afraid it's *likely*.
39

1 CORTEZ I'm only half Vulcan. Could my human side prove at all
2 beneficial in fighting this thing?
3

4 FOSTER It might. Your brain is a unique combination of human and
5 Vulcan DNA. There could be some human segments that may
6 help ward off the disease, but it would be temporary. We're
7 only now getting a chance to do any substantive study on an
8 infected off-world Vulcan.
9

10 KRATT Rachel. . . it's your brother.
11

12 CORTEZ *Leonardo!* Where is he?
13

14 FOSTER He's in the Dispensary.
15

16 CORTEZ How. . . how is he?
17

18 KRATT He's not well.
19

20 CORTEZ Could this disease – or *whatever* it is – kill him?
21

22 FOSTER I can't say.
23

24 CORTEZ I want to see him.
25

26 KRATT And you will. (A PAUSE) Rachel, he's *not* the big brother you
27 remember. He started showing signs of infection while onboard
28 the *Kensington*. He attacked one of his nurses and broke both
29 her arms before security was able to subdue him with phasers
30 set on heavy stun.
31

32 FOSTER Fortunately, the *Kensington* was nearby and brought him here.
33 He broke through every pair of restraints we have in the
34 Dispensary. I finally had to put a level-one force field around
35 his bed.
36

37 CORTEZ Was anyone hurt?
38

39 KRATT No. Security saw to that.
40

1 FOSTER Captain, what little research I've been able to perform has been
2 on your brother. We don't know yet where the disease is
3 coming from, but we know what it does.
4

5 CORTEZ What's happening to him?
6

7 KRATT The disease attacks the areas of the brain responsible for the
8 baser instincts – feelings like anger, lust, and violence. These
9 portions of the brain become so infected and enlarged that even
10 the normally placid Vulcans – who have always been able to
11 suppress their emotions with logic – find that logic taxed
12 beyond the ability of *anyone* to endure. The negative emotions
13 become so overpowering that they take control, leaving us with
14 what you saw on the video.
15

16 CORTEZ I can only *imagine* what's happening on my home world.
17

18 KRATT It's not just that. Some infected Vulcans are attempting to leave
19 the planet. One young Vulcan tried to ram the *Sagan* with a
20 transport. They got him with their tractor beam before he
21 caused any harm. Command thinks we may need to set up a
22 blockade.
23

24 CORTEZ (INCREDULOUSLY) This *can't* be happening.
25

26 KRATT You see now why I had to take you off the bridge.
27

28 CORTEZ Of course I do. (A PAUSE) I want to see Leonardo now.
29

30 FOSTER First, Captain, I was wondering if you might consider helping
31 me with something that may prove beneficial.
32

33 CORTEZ Certainly. What?
34

35 **FX** **A BEEP SOUNDS**
36

37 FOSTER The picture on the screen is a neural inhibitor. It's magnified
38 *many* times. The actual mechanism fits into this hypo spray.
39

40 CORTEZ You think this contraption may help?

1
2 FOSTER I do. When injected near the carotid artery, the inhibitor should
3 at least *delay* the progress of the disease.
4
5 KRATT Could it hurt her?
6
7 FOSTER No. The worst it will do is nothing.
8
9 CORTEZ I'm all yours, Doctor.
10
11 FOSTER Thank you.
12
13 **FX THE HISS OF THE HYPO SPRAY**
14
15 FOSTER The inhibitor will activate automatically when it reaches its
16 destination.
17
18 CORTEZ Could one of these do Leonardo any good?
19
20 FOSTER Since he's already infected, I'm afraid not.
21
22 CORTEZ Is there anything I should know before seeing him?
23
24 FOSTER As difficult as it may be, try to remain calm.
25
26 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
27
28 **MUSIC STAR TREK THEME (UNDER)**
29
30 **FX THE EXCELSIOR ZOOMS THROUGH SPACE**
31
32 DOVAN (VO) *Excelsior* log. Stardate 12360.1. Acting Captain Dovan
33 reporting for Captain Cortez. The transfer of the hytopaline to
34 Dr. Logan of the *Pasteur* has taken place. He estimates that he
35 will have the supply of the herb to Starfleet Medical in San
36 Francisco in approximately two days. I have brought the
37 *Excelsior* to a full stop and asked all crew members to
38 assemble on the recreation deck.
39
40 **FX OUT**

1
2 **MUSIC** **OUT**
3
4 **FX UNDER** **THE CHATTERING OF SOME CREW MEMBERS'**
5 **VOICES**
6
7 **FX** **A BOSUN'S WHISTLE SOUNDS**
8
9 **FX** **CHATTERING SLOWLY OUT**
10
11 DOVAN I'm sorry that the rendezvous kept me from addressing Captain
12 Cortez's situation with all of you. I never meant to keep it a
13 secret. Admiral Kratt, on behalf of Starfleet Command, has
14 relieved the Captain of the conn and put me in command. I
15 have no way of knowing why this was done or how long it will
16 last. The Admiral said that I will be notified of the Captain's
17 return when and if it happens.
18
19 I'll keep you informed of any developments. Until then, if you
20 have any questions for me, please submit them through Mr.
21 Rol. (A PAUSE) Thank you. You are all dismissed.
22
23 **FX** **A BOSUN'S WHISTLE SOUNDS**
24
25 ROL (LOUDLY) Crew dismissed!
26
27 **FX UNDER** **THE CHATTERING OF CREW MEMBERS' VOICES AS**
28 **EVERYONE WALKS AWAY (FADING TO NOTHING)**
29
30 ROL I'm sure you've heard about what's happening on Vulcan.
31
32 DOVAN I have.
33
34 ROL Do you think it's connected to the Captain's dismissal?
35
36 DOVAN It's possible, but we shouldn't make any assumptions.
37
38 ROL I was simply curious.
39

1 DOVAN You don't have a monopoly on curiosity, Lieutenant. (A
2 PAUSE) We're heading to The Wentek Cluster next, right?
3
4 ROL Yes. Stellar Cartography is going to be mapping every meter of
5 it. Why do you ask?
6
7 DOVAN Isn't the Cluster near Starbase 6?
8
9 ROL I don't know if I'd call it *near*, but it wouldn't be a long trip
10 between them at maximum warp.
11
12 DOVAN Be sure to keep a course for Starbase 6 in the helm's reserve
13 memory. I have a funny feeling that we may be seeing Captain
14 Cortez again before too long.
15
16 ROL A hunch?
17
18 DOVAN Not just a hunch, Mr. Rol. A *Bolian* hunch.
19
20 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
21
22 **FX UNDER THREE SETS OF FOOTSTEPS**
23
24 **FX THE DISPENSARY DOOR HISSES OPEN, THEN SHUT**
25
26 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**
27
28 FOSTER (A LONGISH PAUSE) Are you alright, Captain?
29
30 CORTEZ (UNEASILY) Yes, I'm. . . I'm fine. It's just that. . . I've never
31 seen Leonardo like this: unshaven and with his hair a mess.
32
33 FOSTER Let me speak with him first. (A PAUSE) Stay here.
34
35 **FX UNDER SHE WALKS TO LEONARDO'S BED**
36
37 **FX UNDER THE LOW HUM OF THE FORCE FIELD BECOMES**
38 **APPARENT AND REMAINS UNDER**
39
40 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**

1
2 FOSTER Dr. Cortez, you have a visitor.
3
4 LEONARDO (SARCASTICALLY) You again, *doc-tor*? I don't want any
5 visitors. How many times do I have to tell you that before it
6 gets through your *skull*?
7
8 FOSTER I'll think you'll enjoy talking with *this* visitor.
9
10 LEONARDO I don't care if it's Surak himself. I don't want *any* visitors.
11 Leave me alone or let me go!
12
13 **FX UNDER FOOTSTEPS AS CORTEZ WALKS OVER**
14
15 CORTEZ It's me, Leo.
16
17 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**
18
19 LEONARDO Well, little sister, you *are* more welcome than these medicine
20 men who have been poking and prodding me, but you can leave
21 now.
22
23 CORTEZ I came to see you.
24
25 LEONARDO (ANGRILY) I didn't *ask* you to see me.
26
27 CORTEZ I always try to visit you when you're sick.
28
29 LEONARDO *Sick*? I'm not *sick*! You're just like the others. (A PAUSE) I
30 am *not* sick. I've come to my senses. I have seen the reality
31 which is to be!
32
33 **FX UNDER THE CRACKLE OF THE FORCE FIELD**
34
35 CORTEZ *No, Leo.* Step back! You'll hurt yourself.
36
37 **FX CRACKLE OUT**
38
39 LEONARDO A true warrior knows no pain. A true warrior has no fear.
40

1 CORTEZ *Warrior? You're not a warrior.*

2

3 LEONARDO *Be still, foolish woman!*

4

5 CORTEZ *You are Dr. Leonardo Cortez, the chief medical officer of the
6 Kensington. You're a healer.*

7

8 LEONARDO *Healer! You lying –*

9

10 **FX UNDER THE CRACKLE OF THE FORCE FIELD**

11

12 FOSTER *Step back, Doctor, or I will be forced to sedate you.*

13

14 CORTEZ *Please, Leo.*

15

16 **FX CRACKLE OUT**

17

18 LEONARDO *(SHORT OF BREATH) You don't know what you're doing.
19 You defile the Empire by wearing that pacifist uniform! Soon
20 you will know the Empire's glory, along with the rest of our
21 puny race.*

22

23 CORTEZ *Empire? What are you talking about? You're part of the
24 Federation.*

25

26 LEONARDO *The Federation!*

27

28 CORTEZ *Look at the uniform you're wearing. It's just like mine.*

29

30 LEONARDO *It is foolish to try and confuse me. Your efforts will fail, and
31 you too will know the glorious existence that is soon to be
32 mine!*

33

34 **FX UNDER THE CRACKLE OF THE FORCE FIELD**

35

36 CORTEZ *Stop it, Leo. (A LONGISH PAUSE) Stop it!*

37

38 FOSTER *Do what she says.*

39

1 LEONARDO (IN GREAT PAIN FROM CONTACT WITH THE FORCE
2 FIELD) I do *not* take orders from Federation females!
3
4 FOSTER Computer, flood bed number one with anesthazine gas, dosage
5 six.
6
7 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Acknowledged.
8
9 **FX UNDER THE HISS OF THE GAS**
10
11 **FX CRACKLING GRADUALLY OUT**
12
13 **FX LEO FALLS TO THE FLOOR**
14
15 FOSTER Computer, keep gas content constant until further notice.
16
17 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Acknowledged.
18
19 **FX UNDER APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS**
20
21 KRATT Rachel, are you OK?
22
23 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**
24
25 CORTEZ (URGENTLY) I need to leave.
26
27 FOSTER Captain?
28
29 CORTEZ (URGENTLY) Get me out of here! Get. . . (SHE SWOONS)
30
31 FOSTER Catch her, John. She's fainting!
32
33 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
34
35 KRATT (SOTTO VOCE) Rachel. . . Rachel. . .
36
37 CORTEZ (WAKING GROGGILY) What. . . where. . . where am I?
38
39 KRATT You're in my office.
40

1 CORTEZ (CONFUSED) But I was in. . . the Dispensary.
 2
 3 FOSTER You fainted. We brought you here to rest.
 4
 5 CORTEZ Fainted? *Me?*
 6
 7 KRATT You've been through a lot. Can I get you something? Tea?
 8 Water?
 9
 10 CORTEZ Water, please.
 11
 12 KRATT Computer, water – cold.
 13
 14 **FX THE HUM OF THE REPLICATOR**
 15
 16 KRATT Here.
 17
 18 CORTEZ Thank you. (SHE DRINKS QUICKLY AND BEGINS TO
 19 COUGH)
 20
 21 FOSTER Slowly, Captain. *Slowly.*
 22
 23 CORTEZ (A LONGISH PAUSE) You have to help Leonardo, Doctor.
 24 You *have* to help everyone.
 25
 26 FOSTER We're *trying*. We're doing everything we can think of.
 27
 28 CORTEZ Is there something I can do? I'll do *anything* I can to help.
 29
 30 FOSTER I'll keep that in mind. (A PAUSE) If you're OK, I need to get
 31 back to my patient.
 32
 33 CORTEZ I'm fine.
 34
 35 FOSTER You know where I am if you need me.
 36
 37 **FX DEPARTING FOOTSTEPS**
 38
 39 **FX THE DOOR HISSES OPEN AND THEN SHUT**
 40

1 **FX** **FOOTSTEPS OUT**
2
3 CORTEZ It was like looking at a stranger, John. I don't know the person
4 behind that force field. (A PAUSE) What's become of my
5 brother?
6
7 KRATT Christine and the other doctors will find a cure.
8
9 CORTEZ Did you *hear* him? He sounded like a madman.
10
11 KRATT The disease is affecting his brain in *horrible* ways.
12
13 CORTEZ Did you notice that he twice mentioned "the Empire?"
14
15 KRATT I did.
16
17 CORTEZ What empire would he be talking about?
18
19 KRATT I wouldn't put much stock in what he said. Those were the
20 ravings of a *very* sick man.
21
22 CORTEZ Let's assume, just for the sake of argument, that he *knows* what
23 he's talking about.
24
25 KRATT That's a pretty *big* assumption.
26
27 CORTEZ Who has an empire nowadays?
28
29 KRATT Lots of races call themselves "empires" – the Haloovians, the
30 Fenar. . .
31
32 CORTEZ But who are the two *biggest* empires? (A PAUSE) The
33 Klingons and the Romulans.
34
35 KRATT You think *they* might be involved with this Vulcan disease?
36
37 CORTEZ I can't picture the Klingons getting something as involved as
38 this together. The *Romulans* though. . .
39
40 KRATT You're putting a lot of confidence in what Leonardo said.

1
2 CORTEZ Isn't it worth investigating? You know that the Romulans and
3 Vulcans share a common ancestry. Long ago, the whole race
4 was violent and warlike. Some of my ancestors decided that
5 they needed to turn away from violence, embrace logic, and
6 suppress their emotions. They became the Vulcans. Those who
7 decided to remain as they were became Romulans.
8
9 KRATT Romulus is awfully far from here, Rachel, and there's been no
10 sign of even a single Romulan warbird anywhere *near* Vulcan.
11
12 CORTEZ It was just a thought.
13
14 KRATT It may bear looking into. Why don't we both sleep on it?
15
16 CORTEZ (CHUCKLES) Sleep? At a time like this?
17
18 KRATT Yes, sleep. Neither one of us will do Leonardo or anyone
19 who's infected any good if we're not at our best – and that
20 means getting some sleep.
21
22 CORTEZ But Leo –
23
24 KRATT I've arranged quarters for you on B deck. Dr. Foster knows
25 how to reach you if there's *any* change in his condition.
26
27 CORTEZ (SIGHS) You're right.
28
29 KRATT That's why I've got the extra pips. Let's go.
30
31 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
32
33 **FX UNDER** **DREAMY, WAVY SOUNDS – LOUD AT FIRST, THEN**
34 **UNDER**
35
36 **FX UNDER** **A WIND BLOWS**
37
38 CORTEZ (ASTONISHED) I'm on *Vulcan*. How did I get here?
39
40 TOSAK Rachel Cortez.

1
2 CORTEZ (STARTLED AND CONFUSED) Tosak, my old teacher!
3
4 TOSAK Yes, but without the knife this time, as you saw me in the
5 video.
6
7 CORTEZ What's happening, teacher? How am I on Vulcan?
8
9 TOSAK You are not.
10
11 CORTEZ What?
12
13 TOSAK Look at yourself, my student. Would you be on Mount Selaya
14 in your pajamas? (A PAUSE) You are dreaming.
15
16 CORTEZ But you seem so *real*.
17
18 TOSAK I have placed myself into your dream. You are not dreaming
19 *me*.
20
21 CORTEZ What's happening on Vulcan?
22
23 TOSAK Do you mean. . . this?
24
25 **FX UNDER A LONGER REPLAY OF THE MANIC SOUNDS**
26 **EARLIER HEARD ON THE VIDEO**
27
28 CORTEZ Make it stop! *Please!*
29
30 **FX OUT QUICKLY**
31
32 TOSAK Your people need your help, Rachel.
33
34 CHORUS (ECHOING) Yes, help us. . . *Please* help. . . We do not want to
35 be this way. . . Only you can save us, Captain. . . We need you
36 to save us. . .
37
38 CORTEZ This *can't* be happening.
39
40 TOSAK Why do you deny your senses?

1
2 CORTEZ Because I've never had a telepathic experience in my life. My
3 Vulcan skills are dormant, at best.
4
5 CHORUS (ECHOING) They will rise. . . You will use them. . . You will
6 *need* them. . . We will be your eyes, your ears, your thoughts,
7 your strength. . .
8
9 CORTEZ The voices – who are they?
10
11 TOSAK They are the voices of the afflicted. The voices of the wounded.
12 The voices of those who are knowing the emotion of sadness
13 for the first time as they see their beloved planet transformed
14 into the bloody battleground that it was so many generations
15 ago. (A PAUSE) They, we, *all of us* need your help. We will
16 do our best to collectively see to it that your Vulcan abilities
17 grow strong so you can stop this madness.
18
19 CORTEZ But I don't know how to *use* those abilities. I've never had
20 them, and I don't know how to stop the bloodshed.
21
22 CHORUS (ECHOING) We will guide you. . . We will help you. . . We
23 will enable you to help us. . . But hurry. . . Hurry. . . Before it is
24 *too late*. . .
25
26 CORTEZ Too late? (SHE WINCES FROM A SUDDEN BURST OF
27 PAIN)
28
29 TOSAK That was the first burst of madness upon your mind. You must
30 hurry. If you fall, none of us will ever rise.
31
32 CORTEZ What do I need to do?
33
34 TOSAK Look into your mind – deep, *deep* into your mind.
35
36 CORTEZ I am.
37
38 TOSAK Do you see the placid house amid the destruction and despair?
39
40 CORTEZ (A PAUSE) *I do*. It's untouched, and shining like gold.

1
2 TOSAK That house is on the main street. It is unaffected by these
3 terrible events. You must come to Vulcan and find that house.
4
5 CORTEZ I can't get to Vulcan. I don't have a ship.
6
7 TOSAK You *must* come to Vulcan. Sulik *must* be stopped before our
8 race is but a memory. Soon, he will focus all of his destructive
9 energies on you. We will try to deflect that hostility, but we are
10 weak from his actions. (A PAUSE) If you stop him, you stop
11 the madness.
12
13 CORTEZ Sulik? Who is he?
14
15 TOSAK The person behind all this – a once-honorable man driven by
16 overpowering familial emotions to an illogical plan of genocide
17 and forced regression. Stop him.
18
19 CHORUS (ECHOING) Stop him. . . He *must* be stopped. . . If we are to
20 live. . .
21
22 **FX UNDER THE DREAMY, WAVY SOUNDS BUILD TO A**
23 **CRESCENDO AND THEN END ABRUPTLY**
24
25 CORTEZ (SCREAMS AS SHE AWAKENS)
26
27 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
28
29 CORTEZ (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Cortez to
30 Admiral Kratt.
31
32 **FX A COMM BADGE CHIRPS**
33
34 KRATT (GROGGILY) (YAWNING) Kratt here.
35
36 CORTEZ (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) I need to speak
37 with you.
38
39 KRATT (YAWNING) Now? It's 2:15 in the morning.
40

1 CORTEZ (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) I know. It's *very*
2 important.
3
4 KRATT (SIGHS HEAVILY) OK. It better be.
5
6 MUSIC BRIDGE
7
8 KRATT *You?* I don't believe it.
9
10 CORTEZ Why not?
11
12 KRATT Have you *ever* had a telepathic experience?
13
14 CORTEZ Well. . . no – not before tonight.
15
16 KRATT See?
17
18 CORTEZ I *am* half Vulcan. There's no good reason to think that I don't
19 have these powers *at all*. They're simply not as strong as they'd
20 be in a full Vulcan.
21
22 KRATT Why do you think this was anything more than a dream?
23
24 CORTEZ Tosak was *so* real I swear I could touch him. I could hear the
25 carnage in the city. I could feel the hot wind from atop Mt.
26 Selaya.
27
28 KRATT When people are particularly tired or stressed, they often have
29 weird dreams that seem *very* real.
30
31 CORTEZ It was more than that. Tosak told me that the affected Vulcans
32 are going to join together telepathically to help me have the
33 mind powers I need to solve this.
34
35 KRATT It sounds like the Vulcan equivalent of the Borg Collective.
36
37 CORTEZ (A PAUSE) John, I *have* to go to Vulcan.
38
39 KRATT (ADAMANTLY) Out of the question.
40

1 CORTEZ But I can only put an end to this from there.
2
3 KRATT (ADAMANTLY) *Absolutely* not! That's an order.
4
5 CORTEZ You must have a ship here that I could borrow. I don't need
6 anything big – just something that will get me there and back.
7
8 KRATT Rachel, it's *not* the matter of a ship. If I allow you to go to
9 Vulcan, I'll be putting you right in the heart of the illness.
10 You'll *definitely* get sick then – and in a hurry. We're lucky
11 you haven't already. I can't afford to lose one of my best and
12 brightest to this disease.
13
14 CORTEZ But it *has* to be me. I got the impression from Tosak that I'll
15 need these new Vulcan mental abilities to put an end to this.
16
17 KRATT *No*. I'm not going to chance losing you because of a dream.
18
19 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
20
21 CORTEZ (VO) Rachel Cortez personal log. I have come to the conclusion that
22 I must reluctantly disobey Admiral Kratt's order and go to
23 Vulcan to stop Sulik. But how? How can I get home?
24
25 **LOG** **FADE OUT**
26
27 **FX** **A BEEP AS A BUTTON IS PRESSED**
28
29 CORTEZ Computer, end personal log recording.
30
31 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Recording ended.
32
33 CORTEZ Locate the starship *Excelsior* and open an encrypted
34 communications channel.
35
36 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Acknowledged.
37
38 CORTEZ Also, permanently delete my personal logs recorded at this
39 base. Authorization: Cortez One Alpha Nine.
40

1 COMPUTER (FILTERED) All personal logs have been deleted. Attempting
 2 to locate and establish a communications link with the
 3 *Excelsior*.

4
 5 CORTEZ Signal me when ready.

6
 7 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Affirmative.

8
 9 **FX** **A BEEP AS A BUTTON IS PRESSED**

10
 11 CORTEZ I'm sorry, Admiral. You can't understand. (SHE WINCES
 12 FROM A SUDDEN BURST OF PAIN) (A PAUSE) I have to
 13 do this. . . while I still can.

14
 15 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**

16
 17 DOVAN (FILTERED) Good to hear your voice again, Captain.

18
 19 CORTEZ And you, Alcar.

20
 21 DOVAN (FILTERED) I had a feeling you'd be in touch.

22
 23 CORTEZ Really?

24
 25 DOVAN (FILTERED) Yes. I can't explain why.

26
 27 CORTEZ I think I can. (A PAUSE) I need your help.

28
 29 DOVAN (FILTERED) Name it.

30
 31 CORTEZ How far are you from Starbase 6?

32
 33 **FX UNDER** **BUTTON BEEPS AND BOOPS**

34
 35 DOVAN (FILTERED) We could be there at five hundred twenty-two
 36 hours – earlier if we goose the engines a bit.

37
 38 **FX** **OUT**

39
 40 CORTEZ I need a ride to Vulcan.

1
2 DOVAN (FILTERED) That may be tough. Starfleet is setting up a
3 blockade around the planet as we speak.
4
5 CORTEZ One crisis at a time. Can you come and get me?
6
7 DOVAN (FILTERED) Definitely. The Wentek Cluster can wait.
8
9 CORTEZ You need to know something. (A PAUSE) I'm going to Vulcan
10 in a direct violation of orders.
11
12 DOVAN (FILTERED) That's not something you'd do lightly. I support
13 you.
14
15 CORTEZ Thanks. I need you to be certain that every crew member
16 understands what's involved in our trip. I can't ask anyone else
17 to be a party to my disobedience. If *anyone* has a problem with
18 this, I want to be certain to note it in my log so that he or she is
19 not subject to possible disciplinary action for what I need to do.
20
21 DOVAN (FILTERED) Rol and I will see that everyone knows what's
22 going on.
23
24 CORTEZ Alcar, I need you to do some research for me. I need anything
25 you can find on a Vulcan named Sulik. S-u-l-i-k. Try every
26 source you can, including Memory Alpha.
27
28 DOVAN (FILTERED) Acknowledged. Are we going to Vulcan to see
29 this man?
30
31 CORTEZ Yes. I'm not quite sure how yet, but he's the lynchpin of this
32 whole thing.
33
34 DOVAN (FILTERED) I'll start a search right away. I'll be happy to
35 surrender the bridge to you.
36
37 CORTEZ *No.*
38
39 DOVAN (FILTERED) Captain?
40

1 CORTEZ I want you to have an additional security guard on the bridge to
 2 watch me. He should have a phaser at the ready, set to heavy
 3 stun. He has my direct order to shoot me if my behavior turns
 4 erratic.

5

6 DOVAN (FILTERED) (CONFUSED) But why?

7

8 CORTEZ I'm coming down with the Vulcan disease, Alcar. I'll need to
 9 see Dr. Sharp once I'm onboard. I have to get home and stop
 10 this before it stops me.

11

12 **MUSIC BRIDGE**

13

14 **FX UNDER A SECURITY ALARM SOUNDS**

15

16 HENNESSY (FILTERED) Security alert. Admiral Kratt to the command
 17 center.

18

19 **FX A COMM BADGE CHIRP**

20

21 KRATT Hennessy, what's the problem up there?

22

23 HENNESSY (FILTERED) A ship is approaching the base, sir.

24

25 KRATT Identity?

26

27 **FX BUTTON BEEPS AND BOOPS (FILTERED)**

28

29 HENNESSY (FILTERED) It's the *Excelsior*, sir. They're coming up on us
 30 fast.

31

32 KRATT They must have a problem. Open a –

33

34 **FX A WARNING SIGNAL SOUNDS (FILTERED)**

35

36 HENNESSY (FILTERED) There's an unauthorized transport in progress.

37

38 KRATT Who? I want a name!

39

40 **FX BUTTON BEEPS AND BOOPS (FILTERED)**

1
2 HENNESSY (FILTERED) It's Captain Cortez. The *Excelsior* is beaming her
3 aboard.
4
5 KRATT (URGENTLY) Stop it! Override!
6
7 HENNESSY (FILTERED) I'm trying, sir.
8
9 KRATT Damn it, Rachel. (A PAUSE) Computer, open a channel to the
10 *Excelsior*.
11
12 COMPUTER (FILTERED) Ready.
13
14 KRATT Rachel, I'm going to give you *one* chance. Come back to the
15 base. If you're trying to do what I think you are, I'll have you
16 busted to *Ensign* Cortez! (A LONGISH PAUSE) Rachel,
17 respond!
18
19 HENNESSY (FILTERED) Transport is complete, sir. We were unable to
20 stop it. The *Excelsior* is readying its warp engines. (A
21 LONGISH PAUSE) It's gone.
22
23 KRATT Hennessy, I need a ship.
24
25 HENNESSY (FILTERED) Admiral?
26
27 KRATT We have lots of ships docked here. I need one that can catch
28 the *Excelsior*.
29
30 HENNESSY (FILTERED) But the *Excelsior* is one of the fastest ships in the
31 Fleet.
32
33 KRATT (ANNOYED) Don't you think I know that? How about the
34 *McAuliffe*? She's a fast ship.
35
36 HENNESSY (FILTERED) She's in for a baryon sweep, sir.
37
38 KRATT That can wait! Inform Captain Nolan that I'm commandeering
39 his ship and crew. I'll need every joule of energy their warp
40 core can produce.

1
2 HENNESSY (FILTERED) Understood, sir. What will be the *McAuliffe*'s
3 destination?
4
5 KRATT Vulcan, Hennessy. (A PAUSE) The *McAuliffe* is going to
6 Vulcan.
7
8 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
9
10 **FX TRANSPORTER EFFECT BRIEFLY, THEN OUT**
11
12 DOVAN Welcome aboard, Captain.
13
14 CORTEZ It's good to be back.
15
16 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Commander?
17
18 **FX A COMM BADGE CHIRP**
19
20 DOVAN Yes, Mr. Rol?
21
22 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Admiral Kratt is
23 calling from Starbase 6.
24
25 CORTEZ I'll bet he's not too happy with me.
26
27 DOVAN Pipe it down here, please.
28
29 KRATT (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Rachel, I'm
30 going to give you *one* chance. Come back to the base. If you're
31 trying to do what I think you are, I'll have you busted to *Ensign*
32 Cortez! (A LONGISH PAUSE) Rachel, respond!
33
34 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Response, sir?
35
36 DOVAN None. You have your orders. Maximum warp to Vulcan.
37
38 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Acknowledged.
39 Rol out.
40

1 DOVAN Do you expect the Admiral to follow us?
2
3 CORTEZ If I know John Kratt, he's commandeering the fastest ship
4 available right now.
5
6 DOVAN (CONFUSED) Captain, what is that on your trouser leg?
7
8 CORTEZ (A PAUSE AS SHE LOOKS) Hmm. . . I'm not sure.
9
10 DOVAN It looks like. . . *sand*.
11
12 CORTEZ (AMAZED AND CONFUSED) The red sand of Vulcan. (A
13 PAUSE) Was I *really* there?
14
15 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
16
17 **FX UNDER** **SICKBAY EQUIPMENT SOUNDS**
18
19 SHARP Your brain definitely shows the beginning signs of the Vulcan
20 disease. The neural inhibitor appears to be slowing its progress.
21
22 CORTEZ Can you estimate how long I have before the disease wins?
23
24 SHARP I can't. My analysis *does* show that your previously dormant
25 Vulcan mental abilities have increased manyfold.
26
27 CORTEZ (WINCES FROM THE PAIN)
28
29 DOVAN Captain?
30
31 CORTEZ (THROUGH PAIN) I'm OK.
32
33 SHARP Was that attack stronger than previous ones?
34
35 CORTEZ A bit. (A PAUSE) Can you give me something for it?
36
37 SHARP I do have some drugs that should dull the pain, but I can't give
38 them to you for very long. Too much of them will play havoc
39 with your liver and your kidneys.
40

1 CORTEZ I want the maximum allowable dosage.
2
3 SHARP The shock to your system would be –
4
5 CORTEZ Doctor, Vulcan is still about two hours away. I need to make it
6 through the next few hours. If this disease gets the better of me,
7 this whole trip will have been for nothing. Cushion my system
8 however you can, but give me the drugs.
9
10 SHARP (SIGHS) Very well. It will take a little bit to prepare.
11
12 CORTEZ I'm not going anywhere.
13
14 **FX FADING FOOTSTEPS AS SHARP WALKS AWAY**
15
16 DOVAN I told everyone how we're disobeying orders with this trip,
17 Captain. Not a single crew member registered a complaint.
18
19 CORTEZ I've got the best crew a captain could ask for.
20
21 DOVAN Here's the information on Sulik.
22
23 CORTEZ Good work.
24
25 **FX UNDER PADD BEEPS AND BOOPS**
26
27 CORTEZ (A PAUSE) Hmm. He's half Vulcan and half *Romulan*.
28
29 DOVAN Yes, and he's *very* old – even for a Vulcan.
30
31 CORTEZ He certainly is. He's *201*. (A PAUSE) All these papers he's
32 written – they're all on the same topic. He seems obsessed with
33 the fact that Vulcans and Romulans share a common heritage.
34
35 DOVAN With his own ancestry, I guess that makes sense.
36
37 CORTEZ In this latest paper, which was published less than a year ago,
38 he's arguing for the reunification of the races.
39
40 DOVAN I can't imagine any Romulans I've met becoming logical.

1
2 CORTEZ (WITH SUDDEN REALIZATION) But, with current events,
3 we don't *have* to imagine Vulcans turning to violence.
4
5 DOVAN Are you suggesting that Sulik – *one* man – is responsible for all
6 this?
7
8 CORTEZ It makes sense. It says here that tests of his telepathic powers
9 have rated him incredibly high.
10
11 DOVAN All this bloodshed to prove an academic point?
12
13 **FX APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS**
14
15 SHARP Are you sure you want to do this, Captain?
16
17 CORTEZ Definitely.
18
19 SHARP I'll be noting my disapproval in my log.
20
21 CORTEZ Understood. Give me the shot.
22
23 **FX THE SOUND OF A HYPO SPRAY**
24
25 CORTEZ Thank you, Doctor. (A PAUSE) Alcar, what did you find out
26 about Sulik himself?
27
28 DOVAN Not too much. He's a widower with one son and one grandson.
29
30 CORTEZ Yes, I see that now. His grandson was born not long after
31 Sulik's last paper was published.
32
33 DOVAN Coincidence?
34
35 CORTEZ Perhaps. (A PAUSE) In my dream or vision or *whatever* it was,
36 Tosak mentioned Sulik's emotions about his family being at
37 the heart of his plan.
38
39 DOVAN You had a vision about your old teacher?
40

1 CORTEZ I'll have to tell you about it later. Admiral Kratt isn't giving us
2 much time to chat.
3
4 **FX ALL FX OUT**
5
6 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
7
8 **FX UNDER EXCELSIOR BRIDGE SOUNDS**
9
10 **FX THE TURBOLIFT DOORS HISS OPEN, THEN CLOSE**
11
12 **FX TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS WALKING DOWN TO**
13 **THE COMMAND CHAIR**
14
15 DOVAN Report, Mr. Rol.
16
17 ROL Estimating Vulcan in 32 minutes. Long-range scanners show
18 that we are being pursued.
19
20 CORTEZ It's Admiral Kratt. I'm sure of it. Can you make out what ship
21 he's in?
22
23 ROL It's barely in sensor range, Captain, but it seems to be the
24 *McAuliffe*.
25
26 CORTEZ He had to pick *that* one. She's pretty fast.
27
28 DOVAN How far behind us is the Admiral?
29
30 ROL Approximately 45 minutes.
31
32 CORTEZ (WINCES FROM THE PAIN)
33
34 DOVAN Are you alright?
35
36 CORTEZ Yes. With the good doctor's drugs, it wasn't as bad as before.
37
38 DOVAN Lieutenant, scan Vulcan. Is there a blockade?
39
40 **FX BUTTON BEEPS AND BOOPS**

1
2 ROL Scanners show seven Starfleet vessels in orbit.
3
4 CORTEZ *Great.* How are we going to get around that?
5
6 **FX ALL OUT**
7
8 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
9
10 **FX McAULIFFE BRIDGE SOUNDS UNDER**
11
12 KRATT Lt. Yamora, report.
13
14 YAMORA The *Excelsior* will arrive at Vulcan in approximately five
15 minutes. We are 45 minutes behind them.
16
17 KRATT (CONCERNED) *Forty-five minutes.* Can we get any more
18 speed?
19
20 YAMORA Chief Engineer Osborne informs me that we are already
21 pushing the engines' tolerance.
22
23 KRATT Well, push 'em some more!
24
25 YAMORA Yes, Admiral.
26
27 KRATT Get me Admiral Parker aboard the *Starfire*. He's in charge of
28 the Vulcan blockade. I need to talk with him.
29
30 **FX OUT**
31
32 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
33
34 **FX UNDER EXCELSIOR BRIDGE SOUNDS**
35
36 **FX URGENT-SOUNDING BEEPS**
37
38 ROL Message coming in. It's Admiral Parker of the *Starfire*. Should
39 I ignore it?
40

1 DOVAN Captain?
2
3 CORTEZ No, we'll have to deal with this eventually. Maybe *he'll* listen
4 to reason. Put him on the big screen.
5
6 **FX BRIEF STATIC, THEN OUT**
7
8 PARKER (FILTERED) Captain Cortez, you're causing quite a stir this
9 morning.
10
11 CORTEZ Admiral, if you'll allow me to explain.
12
13 PARKER (FILTERED) I thought you were relieved of command.
14
15 CORTEZ I was, sir.
16
17 PARKER (FILTERED) Then what are you –
18
19 **FX HIS WORDS STOP ABRUPTLY**
20
21 **FX SEVERAL SECONDS OF SILENCE**
22
23 **FX UNDER BUTTON BEEPS AND BOOPS**
24
25 DOVAN What happened?
26
27 ROL I'm running a diagnostic. The Admiral has stopped
28 transmitting.
29
30 CORTEZ And *moving*. Look at him. It's like he's frozen.
31
32 **FX BEEPS AND BOOPS OUT**
33
34 ROL Diagnostic shows the communications system is working
35 properly.
36
37 DOVAN Clear the screen. I want to see Vulcan. Full magnification.
38
39 **FX A BEEP AS A BUTTON IS PRESSED**
40

1 CORTEZ (ASTONISHED) *None* of the ships is moving! It's like they're
2 *parked* over Vulcan. They were in *orbit* before. (A PAUSE)
3 What happened?
4

5 **FX UNDER WAVY, DREAMY SOUNDS UP AND UNDER**
6

7 TOSAK (IN ECHO) *We* happened.
8

9 ROL (DEFENSIVELY) Who the –
10

11 CORTEZ Easy, Rol. He's a friend. (A PAUSE) Please explain, teacher.
12

13 TOSAK (IN ECHO) You have come too far to be stopped by this. All of
14 us who still can have banded together to stop those starships so
15 you can stop Sulik.
16

17 CHORUS (IN ECHO) Stop him. . . *Please*. . . We're getting weaker. . .
18 This must end soon. . .
19

20 CORTEZ It *will* end soon.
21

22 TOSAK (IN ECHO) Do not delay. With our diminishing strength, we
23 will not be able to keep the blockade ships stationary for long.
24

25 CORTEZ I understand.
26

27 TOSAK (IN ECHO) We do not have the energy to disable the ship that
28 is pursuing you. The Admiral does not understand. Beware
29 him.
30

31 CHORUS (IN ECHO) Beware. . . beware. . . beware. . .
32

33 TOSAK (IN ECHO AND FADING TO NOTHING) Live long and
34 prosper, Rachel Cortez.
35

36 **FX WAVY, DREAMY SOUNDS FADE OUT**
37

38 CORTEZ And you, Tosak. (A PAUSE) Mr. Rol, plot an orbital course
39 around Vulcan. Put us. . . wherever there's room.
40

1 ROL Yes, Captain.
2
3 **FX UNDER** **BUTTON BEEPS AND BOOPS**
4
5 CORTEZ I'd better hurry.
6
7 DOVAN You're not going down there alone?
8
9 CORTEZ I am.
10
11 DOVAN As your X.O., I can't allow you to do that.
12
13 CORTEZ Since I'm *not* in command here, you are *not* my X.O. I
14 appreciate the concern, but I'm going.
15
16 DOVAN You bring up a good point. Officially, *I'm* in charge here, and I
17 won't allow *anyone* to leave my ship without protection.
18
19 CORTEZ (SIGHS) You're not going to give up, are you?
20
21 DOVAN No.
22
23 CORTEZ Fine, fine, you can come. Just be careful.
24
25 **FX** **OUT**
26
27 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
28
29 **FX UNDER** **SOUNDS OF THE *McAULIFFE* BRIDGE**
30
31 KRATT (ANGRILY) Admiral Parker, come in. This is Kratt aboard the
32 *McAuliffe*. Athos, answer me! (A LONGISH PAUSE) Kratt to
33 *any* ship in the Vulcan blockade. Respond. (A LONGISH
34 PAUSE) Come in *Washington. Monitor*. Come in *Asimov*. (A
35 LONGISH PAUSE) (ANGRILY) Lieutenant, what's wrong
36 with communications?
37
38 YAMORA It's working fine, sir.
39
40 KRATT Then why is no one answering?

1
2 YAMORA I don't know.

3
4 KRATT Give me full magnification on the view screen.

5
6 **FX A BEEP AS A BUTTON IS PRESSED**

7
8 KRATT What in the devil? None of them is moving. (A PAUSE) Wait,
9 *one* ship is. It's the *Excelsior*. (A PAUSE) Lieutenant Yamora,
10 run a diagnostic on the communications system.

11
12 YAMORA Another one?

13
14 KRATT (ANGRILY) You heard me.

15
16 YAMORA Yes, Admiral.

17
18 **FX UNDER BUTTON BEEPS AND BOOPS**

19
20 KRATT There has to be a reason why it's stopped working. When we
21 get into orbit, I want you to scan Vulcan for two life signs: A
22 half-human, half-Vulcan woman and – most likely – a Bolian
23 male. They may or may not have on comm badges.

24
25 YAMORA Acknowledged.

26
27 KRATT (SOTTO VOCE) Rachel disobeying an order, ships frozen in
28 space, a conveniently malfunctioning comm system. . . what
29 the hell is going on?

30
31 **MUSIC BRIDGE**

32
33 **FX THE TRANSPORTER EFFECT UP, THEN OUT**

34
35 **FX UNDER THE DISTANT SOUNDS OF THE VULCAN CHAOS**

36
37 CORTEZ Welcome to Vulcan, Alcar.

38
39 DOVAN Phew! It sure is *hot*!

40

1 CORTEZ You get used to it.
 2
 3 DOVAN I don't plan on staying long enough to get *used* to it.
 4
 5 CORTEZ Sulik's house is about a ten-minute walk in that direction.
 6
 7 DOVAN Why did you have Mr. Lorth put us down here?
 8
 9 CORTEZ Because. . . (SHE WINCES FROM THE PAIN) (A PAUSE)
 10 Because I didn't want us to materialize in a bloodbath.
 11
 12 DOVAN Are you alright?
 13
 14 CORTEZ I'm fine. *That* was a strong one. Sulik must be hitting me with
 15 everything he's got left. (A PAUSE) We'd better get moving.
 16 The Admiral isn't far behind. Set your phaser to heavy stun.
 17 We'll be walking into trouble.

18
 19 **FX** **OUT**

20
 21 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**

22
 23 **FX UNDER** **THE SOUNDS OF THE VULCAN CHAOS ARE NOW**
 24 **FRONT AND CENTER**

25
 26 **FX UNDER** **TWO SETS OF CAREFUL FOOTSTEPS**

27
 28 CORTEZ There's the house over th—

29
 30 **FX** **FOOTSTEPS OUT**

31
 32 **FX** **SHE STARTS TO GAG AS ONE OF THE AFFECTED**
 33 **VULCANS GRABS HER BY THE THROAT**

34
 35 CORTEZ (STRUGGLING TO BREATHE) *Al-car. . .*

36
 37 **FX** **A PHASER IS FIRED AND HITS HER ATTACKER**

38
 39 **FX** **HIS STUNNED BODY FALLS TO THE GROUND**

40

1 CORTEZ (CATCHING HER BREATH; HER THROAT SCRATCHY)
 2 Thank you, Commander.
 3
 4 DOVAN Aren't you glad now that I came along?
 5
 6 CORTEZ (ASHAMEDLY) Yes.
 7
 8 DOVAN Hopefully, that will make any of the others think twice about
 9 attacking us.
 10
 11 CORTEZ I agree. (SHE CLEARS HER THROAT) Once was more than
 12 enough.
 13
 14 DOVAN Are you OK?
 15
 16 CORTEZ Fortunately, he wasn't armed, but he certainly was *strong*.
 17
 18 DOVAN Vulcans usually are.
 19
 20 **FX** **A COMM BADGE CHIRP**
 21
 22 CORTEZ *Excelsior*, from Cortez. Come in.
 23
 24 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Rol here.
 25
 26 CORTEZ How much time do we have before the *McAuliffe* knocks on
 27 our door?
 28
 29 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) Twenty-four
 30 minutes. Should I maintain communications silence?
 31
 32 CORTEZ Yes. If Admiral Kratt wants to yell at anyone, he can yell at me
 33 later. Cortez out.
 34
 35 **FX** **OUT**
 36
 37 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
 38
 39 **FX UNDER** **THE VULCAN CHAOS SOUNDS CONTINUE FRONT**
 40 **AND CENTER**

1
2 DOVAN His house is untouched by everything that's happening.
3
4 CORTEZ Look how it's set back from the others. No other house is like
5 that.
6
7 DOVAN Do we knock?
8
9 **FX THE DOOR TO THE HOUSE SLOWLY CREAKS OPEN**
10
11 **FX UNDER FOOTSTEPS AS THEY SLOWLY WALK IN**
12
13 **FX THEY CLOSE THE CREAKY DOOR BEHIND THEM**
14
15 **FX VULCAN CHAOS SOUNDS OUT**
16
17 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**
18
19 CORTEZ Scan for life signs.
20
21 **FX UNDER TRICORDER SOUNDS**
22
23 DOVAN (AFTER A PAUSE) Interesting.
24
25 CORTEZ What?
26
27 DOVAN Either this tricorder is malfunctioning or Sulik isn't home.
28
29 CORTEZ Why would he want to go out into *those* streets?
30
31 DOVAN Actually the tricorder is showing *no* life signs in this house –
32 not even ours.
33
34 CORTEZ A dampening field?
35
36 **FX TRICORDER SOUNDS OUT**
37
38 DOVAN I guess so.
39
40 **FX A COMM BADGE CHIRP**

1
2 DOVAN Dovan to *Excelsior*.
3
4 **FX LOUD STATIC**
5
6 **FX A COMM BADGE CHIRP**
7
8 DOVAN I'll bet our weapons don't work either.
9
10 **FX A FEW CLICKS OF A PHASER TRIGGER; NOTHING**
11 **HAPPENS**
12
13 CORTEZ And you would be right. (SIGHS) Do you care to guess how
14 he's doing this? Even though the information you found said
15 that he rated very highly in telepathic powers, could he
16 *possibly* be causing all this to happen with only his mind?
17
18 DOVAN I doubt it. He's also affecting *off-world* Vulcans. His mind
19 can't be *that* strong. There *must* be some machinery around
20 here that's helping him boost his telepathic powers.
21
22 CORTEZ Take a look around, but watch yourself. He could be
23 anywhere, and we're *unarmed*. Sulik will know these phasers
24 are dead.
25
26 **FX ABSOLUTE SILENCE BUT FOR FOOTSTEPS (FOR**
27 **ABOUT 10 SECONDS)**
28
29 CORTEZ (CALLING SUDDENLY) Help, Alcar!
30
31 **MUSIC STING**
32
33 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**
34
35 **FX DOVAN'S RUNNING FOOTSTEPS**
36
37 DOVAN *Captain!*
38
39 SULIK Stand back, Dovan. This weapon I have aimed at your
40 Captain's head *will* work in this house. I've seen to that.

1
2 DOVAN I'll cause no trouble.
3
4 SULIK Go back to your ship. . . *Now*. Your comm badge will function
5 outside of this house.
6
7 DOVAN I won't leave without Captain Cortez.
8
9 SULIK The Captain poses a grave threat to my plan. She will be
10 staying here with me for however long I choose to let her
11 remain alive.
12
13 **MUSIC BRIDGE**
14
15 ROL Rol to Dovan. Come in please.
16
17 **FX FILTERED STATIC BRIEFLY, THEN OUT**
18
19 ROL Captain Cortez, come in.
20
21 **FX FILTERED STATIC BRIEFLY, THEN OUT**
22
23 ROL Damn it. How could they be out of communications range? I
24 have to beam down there. Doctor –
25
26 **FX UNDER WAVY, DREAMY SOUNDS**
27
28 TOSAK (IN ECHO) *No!*
29
30 ROL You again?
31
32 TOSAK (IN ECHO) You are not to leave this ship.
33
34 ROL I don't take orders from you.
35
36 TOSAK (IN ECHO) Your friends are at a very delicate point in their
37 mission at this moment.
38
39 SHARP Are they safe?
40

1 TOSAK (IN ECHO) That is what the next few minutes will determine.
2
3 ROL What kind of an answer is that?
4
5 TOSAK (IN ECHO) An honest one. (A PAUSE) If you interfere now,
6 you will ruin the potential salvation of the Vulcan race, which
7 includes your Captain.
8
9 **FX** **OUT**
10
11 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
12
13 DOVAN I said I'm not leaving alone.
14
15 SULIK Then you will die here. I have no problem with killing both of
16 you to bring my plan to fruition.
17
18 CORTEZ You'd better go, Alcar.
19
20 SULIK Listen to your Captain, Bolian.
21
22 **FX** **BRIEF FOOTSTEPS**
23
24 CORTEZ (WINCES FROM THE PAIN)
25
26 **FX** **DOVAN LUNGES AT SULIK**
27
28 **FX** **A STRUGGLE BETWEEN DOVAN AND SULIK**
29 **BEGINS**
30
31 **FX** **WITH A PUNCH, DOVAN KNOCKS SULIK TO THE**
32 **FLOOR. WE HEAR SULIK DROP**
33
34 CORTEZ (CATCHING HER BREATH) *That* was pretty risky,
35 Commander.
36
37 DOVAN Not really. Sulik got confused when you had your attack. It
38 was an easy punch.
39

1 CORTEZ (CHUCKLES NERVOUSLY) I'm not complaining. Thank
2 you.
3
4 DOVAN Do we bring him with us to the *Excelsior*?
5
6 CORTEZ Not yet. Whatever's going on here, it's still causing bloodshed
7 out there. We need to find out how he's doing this and put a
8 stop to it.
9
10 DOVAN Even if Sulik *were* conscious, he wouldn't give us that
11 information. How do you expect to learn those facts?
12
13 CORTEZ With a Vulcan mind meld.
14
15 DOVAN *You*, Captain?
16
17 CORTEZ Is something wrong with that?
18
19 DOVAN You've never performed a mind meld before.
20
21 CORTEZ I've never ridden a unicycle before either. That doesn't mean I
22 can't.
23
24 DOVAN But –
25
26 CORTEZ You heard Dr. Sharp mention how my Vulcan abilities have
27 increased manyfold thanks to Tosak and the others.
28
29 DOVAN Yes, but a mind meld can be dangerous.
30
31 CORTEZ If you have a better idea how to get the information out of him
32 quickly, I'm listening.
33
34 DOVAN Well. . . no, I don't.
35
36 CORTEZ Then I suggest I try. (SHE WINCES FROM THE PAIN) (A
37 PAUSE) Besides, I have a personal stake in this.
38
39 DOVAN If you say so.
40

1 CORTEZ Step outside for a moment. You'd better bring Sulik's weapon
2 with you. Call Rol and see how much time we have left before
3 the Admiral stops by for some *plomeek* soup.
4

5 MUSIC BRIDGE

6
7 FX UNDER THE SOUNDS OF THE McAULIFFE BRIDGE

8
9 YAMORA Six minutes to Vulcan, sir.

10
11 KRATT Any communications from the blockade ships?

12
13 YAMORA Not a word.

14
15 KRATT Get ready to perform those sensor scans. Once you find Cortez
16 and Dovan, have the transporter room beam them both to the
17 brig.
18

19 FX OUT

20
21 MUSIC BRIDGE

22
23 MUSIC CREEPY MUSIC UNDER

24
25 CORTEZ My mind to your mind. . . My thoughts to your thoughts. . . Our
26 minds are merging. . . They are one. . .

27
28 SULIK (WEAKLY) They are one.

29
30 CORTEZ Why, Sulik? Why do this?

31
32 FX A WHOOSH SOUND FOR A QUICK FLASHBACK

33
34 CHILD #1 *A half-breed.* That's what you are, Sulik.

35
36 FX A WHOOSH SOUND FOR A QUICK FLASHBACK

37
38 CHILD #2 Good-for-nothing Vulcan! You're only half a man. You're not
39 worth the blood in your veins.
40

1 **FX** **A WHOOSH SOUND FOR A QUICK FLASHBACK**
2
3 SON Father, we're going to have a child.
4
5 **FX** **A WHOOSH SOUND FOR A QUICK FLASHBACK**
6
7 SON So he'll have both Vulcan and Romulan heritages. He will learn
8 to live with it, as we have.
9
10 **MUSIC** **CREEPY MUSIC OUT**
11
12 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
13
14 DOVAN Captain. . . are you alright?
15
16 CORTEZ (BREATHING A LITTLE HEAVILY) A bit. . . *drained*, but
17 fine.
18
19 DOVAN We have six minutes until the Admiral's arrival.
20
21 CORTEZ (SARCASTICALLY) Wonderful!
22
23 DOVAN Did you find out why he's doing this?
24
25 CORTEZ Yes, but we have to stop him first.
26
27 DOVAN But we don't know where his equipment is.
28
29 CORTEZ It's the *house*, Alcar. The *whole* house.
30
31 DOVAN This house is full of mind-controlling equipment?
32
33 CORTEZ Yes. It's all over – under the floor, in the walls, everywhere.
34
35 DOVAN Then how can we –
36
37 CORTEZ Do you think Mr. Rol could destroy this house with the
38 *Excelsior's* phasers?
39
40 DOVAN Probably. He's an excellent shot.

1
2 CORTEZ Then that's what we'll have to do. With six minutes left,
3 there's no time for a Plan B. Help me get Sulik out of here.
4

5 MUSIC BRIDGE

6
7 FX UNDER THE SOUNDS OF THE VULCAN CHAOS

8
9 ROL (FILTERED THROUGH A COMM BADGE) The two of you
10 are going to be awfully close, Captain, even with the phaser
11 banks on narrow beam.
12

13 CORTEZ Don't you worry about us. We've cleared the area, and we're
14 as far away as possible. Lieutenant, I want *nothing* left
15 standing. *Fire phasers!*
16

17 FX OUT

18
19 MUSIC BRIDGE

20
21 FX UNDER THE SOUNDS OF THE McAULIFFE BRIDGE

22
23 YAMORA (URGENTLY) Admiral, the *Excelsior* is firing its main
24 phasers down to the surface of Vulcan!
25

26 KRATT Has everyone on that ship gone mad! Are we within phaser
27 range of the *Excelsior*?
28

29 YAMORA In two minutes, sir.
30

31 KRATT Prepare phasers. As soon as we're within range, disable her
32 weapons.
33

34 FX OUT

35
36 MUSIC BRIDGE

37
38 FX UNDER MUTED SOUNDS OF THE VULCAN CHAOS

39

1 **FX OVER** **THE SOUND OF THE *EXCELSIOR*'S PHASERS**
2 **DESTROYING THE HOUSE (FOR SEVERAL**
3 **SECONDS), WITH THE ACCOMPANYING SOUNDS**
4 **OF THE HOUSE CRUMBLING TO RUBBLE**
5

6 **FX** **A COMM BADGE CHIRP**
7

8 CORTEZ (YELLING OVER THE NOISE) Cease fire!
9

10 **FX** **ALL OUT**
11

12 SULIK (WEEPING) No. *No!*
13

14 CORTEZ Good shooting, Lieutenant. (A PAUSE) Contact the
15 *McAulliffe*, and tell them that we will offer no resistance. Three
16 to beam up.
17

18 **FX** **OUT**
19

20 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
21

22 CORTEZ (VO) Personal log. Stardate 12345.8. Admiral Kratt has convened a
23 hearing aboard the *Excelsior* to consider all the facts
24 concerning my violation of his direct order and whether a court
25 martial is in order. A specially appointed board has already
26 prepared a report and presented it to the panel. Even though the
27 outcome of my unauthorized trip was successful, I find myself
28 wondering if I will ever sit in the captain's chair again.
29

30 **LOG** **FADE OUT**
31

32 **FX** **KRATT RINGS THE BELL ON HIS TABLE TO**
33 **SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF THE HEARING (LIKE**
34 **IN "SPACE SEED")**
35

36 KRATT To all of you gathered here and to all of you watching on
37 monitors throughout the *Excelsior*, welcome. A board
38 appointed by me has spent the last two days collecting all of
39 the facts in this case. I and the other members of this panel

1 have read their report with great care and interest. (A PAUSE)
2 Captain Cortez, will you please stand?
3
4 CORTEZ Aye, sir.
5
6 KRATT Do you deny that, in leaving Starbase 6 for your unauthorized
7 trip to Vulcan, you violated a direct order of mine?
8
9 CORTEZ I do not deny it.
10
11 KRATT I assume you are aware that violating the direct order of a
12 superior officer is a court martial offense.
13
14 CORTEZ I am.
15
16 KRATT Dr. Sharp?
17
18 SHARP Yes, Admiral?
19
20 KRATT In light of the recent happenings on Vulcan, you were asked to
21 perform a full medical examination on the Captain. What are
22 your findings?
23
24 SHARP Captain Cortez is as healthy as she ever has been. I have
25 removed the neural inhibitor. She is showing no further signs
26 of the pain she was feeling during this ordeal, and a brain scan
27 shows that her Vulcan mental abilities have returned to their
28 previously recessive state.
29
30 KRATT So, in your medical opinion, she is fit to again be the captain of
31 the *Excelsior*?
32
33 SHARP (HAPPILY) *Definitely*, sir.
34
35 KRATT Then this panel says, "So be it." (A PAUSE) Considering the
36 successful outcome of this mission and the fortunate healthy
37 return of our two missing operatives, effective immediately,
38 any charges being considered against Captain Cortez and any
39 members of her crew are dismissed. Rachel Cortez is hereby
40 reinstated as captain of the *Excelsior*.

1
2 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**

3
4 **FX UNDER** **THE SOUNDS OF THE *EXCELSIOR* BRIDGE**

5
6 CORTEZ You should have seen it, Doctor. As soon as Sulik's house was
7 destroyed, all the Vulcans in the street stopped what they were
8 doing and went back to their normal, logical lives. It was like
9 someone had flipped a switch.

10
11 SHARP I received word that all the affected Vulcans have returned to
12 normal, including your brother, by the way.

13
14 ROL Could Sulik try this again with just his own telepathic powers?

15
16 SHARP No. My examination shows that he has advanced Bendii
17 Syndrome, a rare disease among elderly Vulcans, that will
18 eventually take his life.

19
20 CORTEZ Bendii Syndrome makes elderly Vulcans lose emotional
21 control at times and project that loss of control onto others
22 telepathically.

23
24 ROL So he was using all that machinery in his house to rile up the
25 Vulcans as well as using his disease?

26
27 SHARP I don't think so. He seemed genuinely surprised when I told
28 him my diagnosis. I've done what I can to control his
29 symptoms until we get him to Starbase 6.

30
31 CORTEZ I suppose we'll never know how much of the telepathy he used
32 was from Bendii Syndrome and how much was from his own
33 mind and the amplifying machinery.

34
35 DOVAN Why did Sulik try to do this?

36
37 CORTEZ In my mind meld with him, I got flashes of why: Being a half
38 Romulan, half Vulcan, he was teased terribly by the other
39 children while growing up. Some pure Vulcan children, not yet
40 well versed in logic, looked down on him because of his

1 ancestry. His son went through the same taunting. It was only
2 when his *grandson* was born that Sulik came up with this plan.
3
4 **ROL** But why turn the Vulcans violent?
5
6 **CORTEZ** He had it in his mind, perhaps partially because of his illness,
7 that if he could reunite the races as Romulans – essentially
8 wiping out the Vulcan race – that his grandson would never
9 have to go through what he and his son went through. He must
10 have reasoned that it would be easier to turn the Vulcans to
11 violence than the Romulans to peace.
12
13 **SHARP** What will happen to him?
14
15 **CORTEZ** He'll have to stand trial before the Federation Council.
16
17 **DOVAN** Captain, on a different note, I'm glad you're back in command.
18
19 **ROL** Likewise.
20
21 **SHARP** Me too.
22
23 **CORTEZ** Thanks. (A PAUSE) So, Alcar, do I still call you
24 "Commander?"
25
26 **DOVAN** I guess so. I haven't heard that your return means my
27 demotion.
28
29 **CORTEZ** Then, *Commander*, you have the conn. I'll be in Security.
30
31 **FX** **OUT**
32
33 **MUSIC** **BRIDGE**
34
35 **FX** **THE DOOR TO SECURITY OPENS AND CLOSES**
36
37 **FX UNDER** **APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS**
38
39 **CREWMAN** Captain.
40

1 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**

2
3 CORTEZ At ease. I'm here to see Sulik.

4
5 CREWMAN Yes, ma'am.

6
7 CORTEZ Could you leave us for a few minutes?

8
9 CREWMAN Certainly.

10
11 **FX UNDER DEPARTING FOOTSTEPS**

12
13 **FX THE DOOR HISSES OPEN AND THEN SHUT**

14
15 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**

16
17 **FX UNDER FOOTSTEPS AS CORTEZ WALKS TO SULIK'S CELL**

18
19 **FX UNDER THE HUM OF THE FORCE FIELD**

20
21 SULIK Captain, so good of you to visit a prisoner.

22
23 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**

24
25 CORTEZ I wanted to tell you that we're taking you to Starbase 6. You
26 will have to face trial before the Federation Council.

27
28 SULIK I understand.

29
30 CORTEZ I know why you tried to do this. I learned about your plan
31 during our mind meld.

32
33 SULIK I never thought you capable of such a thing.

34
35 CORTEZ I had some help. (A PAUSE) While your intentions were
36 honorable, your logic was flawed.

37
38 SULIK I realize that now. Perhaps it is from being an old man. Perhaps
39 it is from the Bendii Syndrome. Perhaps both.

40

1 CORTEZ I'm not a full Vulcan either. I'm half human. As a child, I went
2 through the same thing that you and your son did.
3 Unfortunately, children are like that – even Vulcan children,
4 who should know better. I think that's one of the last
5 prejudices some people have: the fear of those who are
6 different.
7

8 SULIK You may be right. (A PAUSE) Might I ask to be left alone?
9 I'm feeling a rather odd sensation right now.
10

11 CORTEZ Do you need to see Dr. Sharp?
12

13 SULIK No. . . no, it's not that. It's actually from the emergence of an
14 emotion that I have never experienced before.
15

16 CORTEZ Which emotion would that be?
17

18 SULIK (A PAUSE) Shame.
19

20 **FX** **OUT**
21
22 **>>>CLOSING TITLES AND END CREDITS<<<**