

THE
23RD
CENTURY
ODYSSEY
CONTINUES!

CHAPTER
I

The Wormhole Connection

"CAPTAIN'S LOG, STARDATE 6141.5: THOUGH KLINGON VIOLATIONS OF THE NEUTRAL ZONE ARE FAIRLY FREQUENT, THEY HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY NUMEROUS OF LATE.

"THE U.S.S. GALLANT HAS BEEN ORDERED TO PATROL THIS QUADRANT, PUTTING AN END TO ALL SUCH INCUSSIONS OF FEDERATION SPACE, AS DESIGNATED BY THE ORGANIAN PEACE TREATY.

"THE MISSION SEEMS TO BE A SIMPLE MATTER OF SHOWING THE FLAG; I EXPECT NO PROBLEMS. CAPTAIN BEARCLAW, REPORTING."

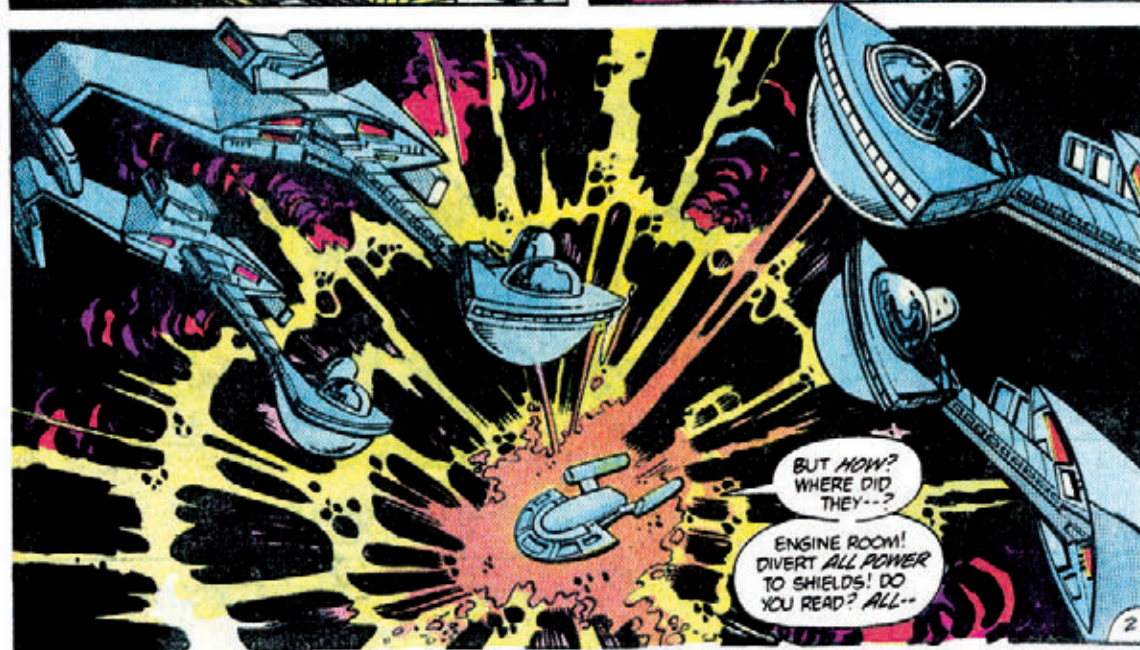
ANYTHING ON SENSORS, MR. BRYCE?

THOUGHT I DETECTED SOME SORT OF STRANGE ENERGY WAVE, CAPTAIN, BUT IT PASSED BY SO QUICKLY THAT--



WHAT IN--? SHIELDS UP! HELM, WHAT'S GOING ON?

WE'VE BEEN HIT BY FULL PHASERS, SIR-- KLINGONS!



BUT HOW? WHERE DID THEY--?

ENGINE ROOM! DIVERT ALL POWER TO SHIELDS! DO YOU READ? ALL--



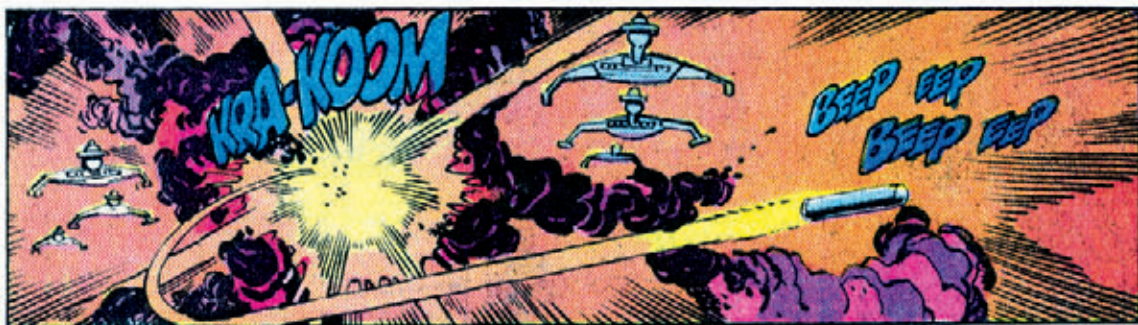
THE MAIN GENERATORS WERE TOTALLY WIPED OUT BY THE ATTACK, SIR! WE'RE-- SIR, WE'RE DEAD IN SPACE!

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, PREPARE LOG BUOY AND LAUNCH IMMEDIATELY!



BRUCE, WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE DID THOSE SHIPS COME FROM?

I DON'T KNOW, CAPTAIN! ONE MOMENT, THEY WEREN'T THERE, BUT THE NEXT--

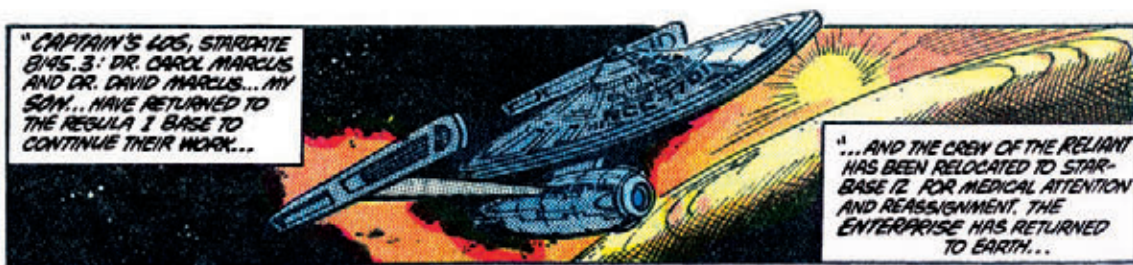


DID YOU SEE IT, CAPTAIN KOLOTH? WAS IT NOT GLORIOUS?

IT WAS AWEEED, ENSIGN-- AND IT SHALL BE THE FIRST OF MANY! HELMSMAN KONOM, PLOT A COURSE FOR HOME!

GOODS, THOSE POOR SOULS--!

AYE... AYE, SIR!



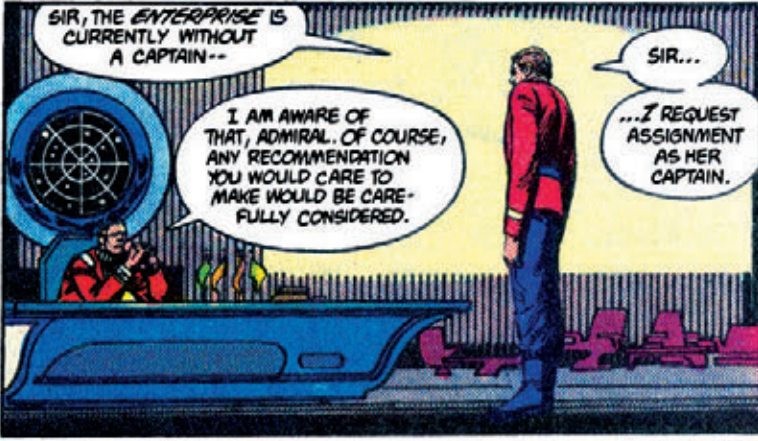
"CAPTAIN'S LOG, STARDATE 2145.3: DR. CAROL MARCUS AND DR. DAVID MARCUS... MY SON... HAVE RETURNED TO THE REGULA I BASE TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK..."

"...AND THE CREW OF THE RELIANT HAS BEEN RELOCATED TO STARBASE 12 FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION AND REASSIGNMENT. THE ENTERPRISE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH..."



"...WHERE I HAVE REQUESTED AN AUDIENCE WITH STARFLEET GRAND ADMIRAL STEPHEN TURNER, CONCERNING A MATTER OF THE GRAVEST PERSONAL IMPORTANCE."

YES, ADMIRAL KIRK?



SIR, THE ENTERPRISE IS CURRENTLY WITHOUT A CAPTAIN--

I AM AWARE OF THAT, ADMIRAL. OF COURSE, ANY RECOMMENDATION YOU WOULD CARE TO MAKE WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

SIR...
...I REQUEST ASSIGNMENT AS HER CAPTAIN.



YOU DO.

YES, SIR...THE ENTERPRISE IS THE FINEST SHIP IN THE FLEET, AND SHE DESERVES AN EXPERIENCED HAND AT HER HELM.



I SUBMIT THAT THERE IS NO MORE EXPERIENCED HAND THAN--

THAT'S ENOUGH, KIRK.

BUT, SIR, I...

THAT'S ENOUGH! I'LL HEAR NO MORE...



... BECAUSE I DON'T NEED TO, JIM. WE'VE TAKEN HER AWAY FROM YOU TWICE, AND YOU'VE GOTTEN HER BACK TWICE.

I THINK THAT'S LESSON ENOUGH EVEN FOR A GRAND ADMIRAL, DON'T YOU, CAPTAIN?

YES, SIR! I MEAN... THANK YOU, SIR!



CAPTAIN KIRK TO ENTERPRISE.

"CAPTAIN?" SIR, YOU GOT HER BACK?

WELL, MR. SULLU, LET'S JUST SAY...



... THAT I WAS ABLE TO MAKE OLD MAN TURNER SEE THINGS MY WAY! BEAM ME ABOARD AND INFORM THE CREW!

THEY ALREADY KNOW, SIR! I PATCHED YOU THROUGH THE SHIP!

YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE TO KEEP YOU OUT OF TROUBLE, JIM! REQUEST ASSIGNMENT AS MEDICAL OFFICER!



REQUEST ACCEPTED, DOCTOR!

THE ENGINE ROOM'S FULLY OPERATIONAL AGAIN, SIR. I'D LIKE T'TAG ALONG AND KEEP HER THAT WAY!



MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY, MR. SCOTT!

REPLACEMENT CREWMEN HAVE BEAMED ABOARD, SIR! THEY'RE VERY EXCITED... AND SO ARE SOME OF US "OLD-TIMERS"!



GLAD TO HEAR IT, UHURA!

ALL STATIONS REPORT SECURE, SIR.



THANK YOU, MR. SAAVIK! PREPARE TO LEAVE ORBIT AS SOON AS I'M ABOARD!

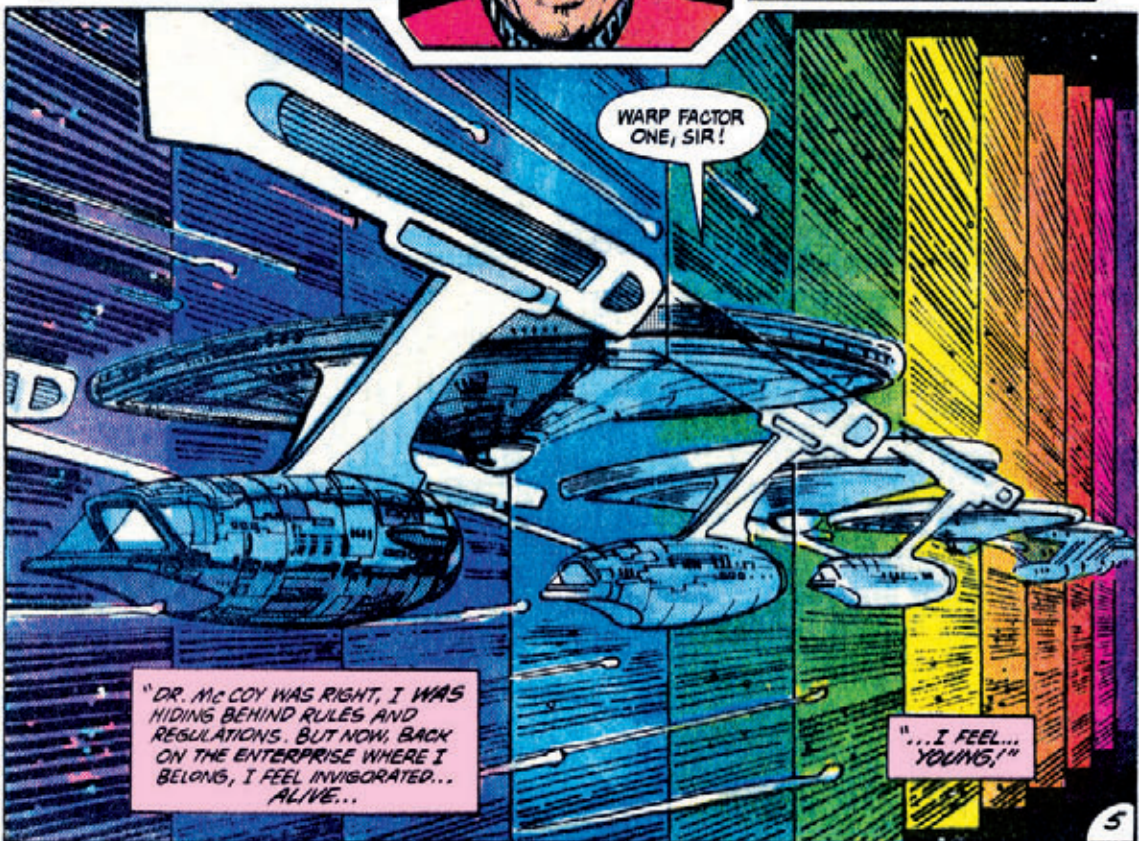
"CAPTAIN'S LOG, STARDATE 2145.6: WE HAVE RECEIVED OUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT, AND HAVE LEFT EARTH ORBIT, EN ROUTE TO SECTION 14 OF THE GAMMA HYDRA SYSTEM."



LEAVING THE SOLAR SYSTEM, SIR.

WARP FACTOR ONE, MR. SULLI!

WARP FACTOR ONE, SIR!



"DR. McCOY WAS RIGHT, I WAS HIDING BEHIND RULES AND REGULATIONS. BUT NOW, BACK ON THE ENTERPRISE WHERE I BELONG, I FEEL INVIGORATED... ALIVE..."

"...I FEEL... YOUNG!"

