

STAR TREK

"CATSPAW"

by

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SECOND DRAFT

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FADE IN:

1 INT. BRIDGE, ENTERPRISE - CLOSE ANGLE ON COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL PANEL 1

Its lights BLINK IN STEADY RHYTHM, establishing an unchanging pattern.

CAMERA TO WIDER ANGLE, INCLUDING UHURA, KIRK and MR. SPOCK. Communications Officer Uhura is seated at controls, watching the light pattern intently. Kirk and Mr. Spock stand beside her, and we see tension in their concentrations.

UHURA
(to Kirk)
Still no response, sir.

KIRK
Keep it open.

Uhura nods, glances back at panel. Kirk frowns at Mr. Spock.

KIRK
(continuing)
I don't like this. Sulu should have contacted us two hours ago.

MR. SPOCK
He may have nothing to report.

KIRK
Meaning?

MR. SPOCK
Pyris VII is an M-type planet. Its atmosphere could sustain life -- but we don't know if there is any life down there.

KIRK
There must be something. You checked it out -- the last ship to come this way couldn't even land a party on the surface. Some force prevented their transporter from beaming them down.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

MR. SPOCK

(nods)

Some force. It may not be alive.

KIRK

All I know is that this time we managed to put three men down there.

(firmly)

And whatever they found -- I want them back.

Mr. Spock's eyes flicker as he nods toward the Communications Control Panel.

MR. SPOCK

Maybe you'll get your wish, Captain.

Kirk follows his gaze as CAMERA PANS to panel lights. The lights FLARE UP, BLINKING FASTER.

2 ANOTHER ANGLE ON KIRK, MR. SPOCK, UHURA

2

as Uhura, adjusting controls, glances at Kirk.

UHURA

Contact established, sir.

Kirk moves to a Speaker Grid Unit at panel. A light FLASHES ON above or beside it. Kirk speaks into Grid.

KIRK

U.S.S. Enterprise, Captain Kirk here. Come in, please.

Uhura adjusts another control and we hear a FAINT CRACKLING SOUND. The light FLASHES in another pattern. From the Speaker Grid we hear:

SULU'S VOICE

Helmsman Sulu reporting, sir. Stand by for immediate return.

3 REVERSE ANGLE - KIRK, MR. SPOCK, UHURA

3

KIRK

(speaking into Grid)

What's going on? Are you all right?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

SULU'S VOICE

(monotone)

Stand by for immediate return.
Repeat -- stand by for immediate
return --

Kirk frowns at Mr. Spock. Mr. Spock, sensing his decision, nods in agreement. Kirk speaks into the Grid.

KIRK

I read you. We're on our way to
the Transporter Room now.

Kirk turns, moving away quickly. Mr. Spock follows. The abrupt urgency of their movements tell us that this is a matter of great concern.

4 INT. TRANSPORTER AREA, ENTERPRISE

4

A WIDE ANGLE reveals Chief Engineer SCOTT and an ASSISTANT before the Main Control Panel, their busy fingers moving switches to produce a STEADY, THROB-BING HUM and a PULSATION OF LIGHTS. Standing a bit behind them, Mr. Spock and Kirk are watching impatiently. Now Kirk turns as DOC McCOY enters SHOT. Doc carries a Medical Tricorder.

DOC

What's the trouble, Captain?

KIRK

We're beaming up the landing party.
Sulu, Jackson and Saunders. I
wanted you here, Doc, just in case.

DOC

In case of what?

KIRK

We'll know in a moment.

Scott glances up at Kirk.

SCOTT

Ready, sir.

KIRK

Energize!

LIGHTS PULSE and the HUMMING RISES TO A ROAR.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

Now Scott, the Assistant, Kirk, Mr. Spock and Doc all glance towards side of room and CAMERA PANS to EMPTY TRANSPORTER CHAMBER. CAMERA HOLDS on chamber for REMATERIALIZATION EFFECT. SHIMMERING into view, then SOLIDIFYING, we see SULU. He stands stiffly, hands at his sides, his face fixed and expressionless, eyes wide and set in a glassy stare.

5 ANOTHER ANGLE - KIRK, MR. SPOCK, DOC, SULU

5

As LIGHTS DIM TO NORMAL and ROARING FADES, Sulu remains motionless. Kirk moves towards him.

KIRK

Sulu! What happened -- where are the others?

Sulu's mouth starts to move and for an instant we expect him to speak. But it's only a final grimace -- as Sulu pitches forward, toppling to the floor.

6 REVERSE ANGLE - SULU, KIRK, MR. SPOCK, DOC

6

Kirk moves to Sulu quickly, Mr. Spock right behind him. Kirk takes Sulu's shoulders, Mr. Spock takes his legs -- they lift Sulu, turning him over on his back and carrying him from the Chamber. Doc steps up, gesturing to Kirk.

DOC

Put him down. I don't want this man moved until I examine him.

This is Doc's department; Kirk and Mr. Spock obey. Lowering Sulu face upwards to the floor, they step back and watch as Doc kneels beside Sulu and gets to work with his Medical Tricorder. There is a tense silence until Doc glances up at Kirk. We see inquiry in Kirk's eyes. Doc shakes his head.

DOC

(continuing)

The man's dead.

Kirk and Mr. Spock exchange startled glances. Almost automatically they move forward to stare down at Sulu.

7 CLOSE HIGH ANGLE ON SULU'S FACE

7

It is set in its rigid stare. But now -- suddenly and shockingly -- the jaw drops and the mouth opens.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

There is no breath, no movement of the lips, but from the open throat comes a:

STRANGE VOICE

(deep, guttural tones)

Captain Kirk... can you... hear me? There is a ... curse... on your ship. Leave this place... or you will all... die!

8 CLOSE LOW ANGLE - KIRK, MR. SPOCK, DOC

8

They stare at one another in shocked reaction. Then they glance down again.

9 CLOSE HIGH ANGLE - SULU'S FACE

9

The face is immobile, the mouth still yawning open. But there is no evidence of life or movement. And now the LIGHT BEGINS TO DIM as we

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER