



STAR TREK FOUNDATIONS

“Shadows of Paradise”

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – BRIEFING ROOM

Most of *Enterprise*'s senior UESPA officers sit around the table: COMMANDER TUCKER, DOCTOR PHLOX, and LIEUTENANT RAKEE GARLA. ENSIGN TRAVIS MAYWEATHER is with them at the table, making general small talk with them, while SUB-COMMANDER T'POL stands patiently next to the main computer monitor at the head of the table.

The door opens and CAPTAIN ARCHER enters the room. Tucker notices and stands, which causes the others follow suit.

TUCKER

(unenthusiastically)

Mornin' Cap'n, ready for another morning briefing?

ARCHER

(sitting down)

As ready as I'll ever be.

As Archer takes his seat, so do the others, except T'Pol who watches on from her location by the monitor.

TUCKER

I don't know about you, but sitting around the this table every day for the past few weeks, talking about the next dead rock or gas giant we're being sent to study next is starting to wear on me.

ARCHER

(smiling)

You could always wait until the department briefings before coming up here.

TUCKER

(with a gesture that encompasses the room)

What? And miss out on all this?

Tucker and Archer share a smile with each other for a BEAT.

ARCHER

If there are no real objections, I think we might as well get this over with.

(beat)

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ARCHER (CONT'D)

(indicating Mayweather)

Ensign Mayweather will be joining us from now on in these briefings. We're in an area that hasn't had any previous UESPA manned exploration, so I thought his experience as a Boomer might come in handy.

MAYWEATHER

I'm glad to help out, sir.

TUCKER

(wryly)

Give it a week, Ensign; you'll be as bored out of your mind as the rest of us.

MAYWEATHER

I doubt that'll happen, sir; I'm starting to feel at home, being back among the stars again.

TUCKER

I like it out here too, and don't get me wrong: I love my *Enterprise*, but being cooped up on this ship for over a month is starting to give me a healthy case of cabin fever. I could sure use a nice habitable planet to stretch my legs out on, maybe some friendly locals to chat with...

Lieutenant Garla begins to smile inexplicably.

T'POL

You may not find them “interesting”, Commander, but the uninhabited systems we've surveyed are an important step in humanity's exploration outside of its own system.

TUCKER

Sure, I can see that, but when we've already been to places like that Andorian outpost, it just sort of gets my expectations a little higher.

T'Pol raises an eyebrow at that.

T'POL

Yet your actions on that planet illustrate my point.

Tucker's demeanor immediately darkens as he gets ready to unleash a verbal lashing on the Vulcan Sub-Commander. Archer notes the sudden change in his friend and quickly looks up at T'Pol, controlling his own expression as well as he can.

ARCHER

(flatly)

What do you have for us this morning, Sub-Commander?

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T’Pol finally breaks eye contact with Tucker and taps a few buttons on a panel next to the monitor. A fairly unremarkable star system appears, with a typical assortment of rocky planets and gas giants. Its one stand-out feature is the lack of an asteroid belt.

T’POL

This is star system G-Two-Five-One-One-Three-Six-Zero-Zero. It was initially charted by the Vulcan Ministry of Science in 2035 by the *Sorbin* as it passed by this system, and again by a probe sent by the United Earth Space Probe agency in 2135.

T’Pol inputs some commands into the monitor’s interface, changing the display to an “overhead” view of the system.

T’POL (CONT’D)

The star itself is similar to Sol, although initial scans indicate that it is approximately four-point-five million years younger.

(beat)

As you can see, initial findings indicated that this system contains four gas giants and four rocky planetary bodies.

We change angles briefly to see the rest of the crew’s reaction; Tucker is obviously bored, Archer less obviously so, while Phlox and Mayweather only appear to be slightly interested. Garla maintains her enigmatic smile.

Changing angles back, we focus on the monitor and note a rather large gap between the orbits of the third and four planets in the system.

TUCKER

(unenthusiastically)

So, more dead rocks and gas giants then.

Garla starts to squirm a little, which draws everyone’s attention to her and her smile. The briefest flicker in T’Pol’s eyes shows that she notices too, but she carries on as if nothing has happened.

T’POL

Essentially, yes.

(beat)

I would, however, wish to point out that this system lacks an asteroid belt, which is unusual for a system such as this.

ARCHER

(distracted by Garla)

How so?

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T’POL

Typically the forces involved in forming planetary bodies result in left over debris and planetoids of similar density, which tend to orbit between the rocky planets and gas giants.

Garla tries to compose herself under the stares of her crewmates, but she can’t quite seem to sit still or get rid of that smile.

TUCKER

You find something funny here, Lieutenant?

GARLA

No sir, it’s not that, it’s just...

(beat)

Well, I’d wanted to save this as a surprise for later, but I don’t think I can wait any longer...

(beat)

Sorry, Sub-Commander.

T’Pol simply regards her with a raised eyebrow and stands off to the side as Garla stands up and joins her at the monitor.

GARLA

Since we’ve gotten with sensor range of this system, we’ve already been making a few of our own scans to update our information for this briefing. To our surprise, all the old maps seem to be missing a planet.

Off the confusion of the others, Garla inputs a command into the panel and the display changes again, this time showing us the grainy image of a planet, covered almost completely by green oceans with only a few slivers of land and plenty of white clouds in its atmosphere.

T’POL

A Minshara-class planet, previously undetected by Vulcan or Earth.

ARCHER

Minshara-class?

T’POL

Suitable for humanoid life.

TUCKER

Doesn’t look all that suitable to me; looks like mostly water.

T’POL

There are several small “continents” and other islands that appear to make it Minshara-class, but we would need to investigate further.

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ARCHER

(a little suspicious)

Why wasn't this planet ever detected before?

(beat)

Travis, have any Boomers been through this system?

MAYWEATHER

The closest shipping lane is a few light-years away sir, so I doubt it.

T'POL

Neither the *Sorbin*, nor the probe sent by Earth entered the system; all previous information was taken from peripheral scans. Apparently, the timing of both was such that this planet was likely located on the other side of the star when the scans were taken of this system.

Tucker shrugs and gives Archer an almost pleading look.

ARCHER

I guess it doesn't really matter now.

(beat)

Let's go in for a closer look.

(beat)

Set a course, Ensign Mayweather.

The helmsman grins and stands up.

MAYWEATHER

Aye Captain.

Mayweather exits the room as Archer gives Tucker a sidelong glance.

ARCHER

(critically)

And you thought it'd be boring.

Off Tucker and Archer's shared smile we....

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – BRIDGE

We focus on the viewscreen, the alien planet now front and center on it.

TUCKER (OS)

Now that is a beautiful sight.....

We change angles to see Commander Tucker leaning over the railing just behind and to the right of Captain Archer, sitting in the command chair. ZOOMING OUT slightly, we can see that the other regulars are at their usual stations.

We change angles again and focus on T’Pol as she looks up from her holo-viewer to look at the viewscreen.

T’POL

It is ... agreeable.

Archer and Trip share a somewhat stunned look before looking at T’Pol, who returns it with her usual aloofness.

T’POL (CONT’D)

More importantly, it does indeed appear to meet the requirements for classification as Minshara.

(indicating to sensor readouts)

Initial scans indicate a primarily oxygen-nitrogen atmosphere, with a surface covered eighty-nine-point-six-seven percent by saline water. The land mass has a diverse ecology, but ship-mounted sensors cannot provide more detail through the planet’s atmosphere, which has a high-humidity factor.

TRIP

(excited)

Sounds like a tropical paradise to me. Bet there’s some pretty nice beaches down there, Cap’n.

ARCHER

(smiling)

Is the planet inhabited, Sub-Commander?

T’POL

Not by any humanoid species that the sensors can detect. There are no signs of any settlement.

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ENSIGN SATO looks anxiously to the captain.

SATO

Please tell me that we aren't going to just survey this planet from orbit, Captain.

(beat)

We've been cooped up in this ship for over a month! The crew could really use some time down on the surface, sir.

Tucker smiles and gives Archer a “told ya so” look.

ARCHER

Sounds like a plan, Ensign; you're in charge of organizing shore leave for the rest of the crew.

SATO

(shocked)

Me!?

ARCHER

Absolutely.

(with a wink)

Besides, it was your idea.

T'POL

(interrupting)

Captain, I advise against sending down any landing parties at this time.

ARCHER

(confused)

Why not?

T'POL

There are certain protocols and procedures followed by Vulcan ships that I believe you should consider.

Archer immediately loses his enthusiasm and his face tightens.

ARCHER

This isn't a Vulcan ship, Sub-Commander.

T'POL

Nonetheless, there are certain dangers which present themselves: possible contagions, indigenous predatory life-forms, and number of unforeseen risks to the safety of a landing party.

(beat)

We simply don't know enough about the planet yet, Captain.

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Archer thinks about it for a BEAT.

ARCHER

(reluctantly)

I guess I can see your point; what would a Vulcan ship normally do under these circumstances?

T’POL

(confidently)

Several automated probes would be sent to the surface to take more detailed scans. If conditions are suitable to warrant a landing party, a geophysical survey would be conducted from orbit, and a list of logical landing sites would be compiled. Once selected, possible landing sites would be observed for a period of time deemed necessary by the ship’s commanding officer to ensure that there is no danger from unpredictable weather patterns, or other possible dangers to the crew.

ARCHER

And how long does that usually take?

T’POL

Typically, no less than seven days.

There are looks of disappointment all around, including from Archer himself.

ARCHER

That won’t do.

(beat)

I understand the need for some caution, but what you’re suggesting seems like overkill.

T’POL

(protesting)

Captain...

ARCHER

(interrupting)

See if you can find a suitable location on one of the larger land masses and ready a probe. We’ll observe the location for forty-eight hours before sending down any landing parties.

(beat)

Trip, tell shuttle maintenance to have all four pods ready for extended use by then.

The engineer stands up and gives the captain a smile.

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TUCKER

Aye Cap’n.

And with that he turns, gives T’Pol one last look, and enters the turbolift.

T’Pol turns back to her console and begins to conduct various scans. Several of the monitors display maps of the various land masses on the planet.

EXT. SPACE – ABOVE PLANET

We focus on the lower cargo bay hatch of *Enterprise* as it opens. A crane arm extends out through it, a probe on the end of it. Coming to a stop, it releases the probe and begins to retract back into the ship.

Released, the probe’s engine lights up and it moves toward the planet. We start to follow the probe before we

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET ATMOSPHERE

We follow the probe as it enters the planet’s atmosphere, its heat shields glowing red hot as the probe itself leaves a pinkish trail of plasma behind it, which slowly begins to dissipate as we PAN around the probe. We stop panning when we have both the probe and the ground in view, which is approaching at alarming speed. Suddenly, several panels around the “top” of the probe pop open and parachutes deploy.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – LANDING SITE

We watch from the surface as the probe falls, zooming in on it as it approaches the ground. When the probe gets close to the ground itself, several thrusters fire, slowing its decent even further, so it hits the ground relatively softly. Several panels open, deploying the probe’s sensors and transmitters.

FADE TRANSITION TO:

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – BRIEFING ROOM

More are present this time, including everyone from the first briefing, as well as MAJOR REED, Ensign Sato, ENSIGN CUTLER, and DOCTOR JEREMY LUCAS.

Archer stands next to the wall monitor, which displays a map of the landing site with several pictures of plant and animal life overlaid over the top of it. T’Pol stands on the opposite side of the monitor from him; all the others are seated and listening intently. We’re given the impression that this briefing has been going on for some time now.

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ARCHER

The scans from the probe don't reveal anything more than a wide variety of plant and animal life, and none of it appears to be threatening to humans.

PHLOX

Any sign of possible viral or bacterial vectors?

T'POL

Nothing detected so far, although I do not feel that there is enough data collected yet to rule out that possibility.

Archer gives her the briefest of sour looks.

ARCHER

Just keep an eye out that for us if you would, Doctor?

Phlox smiles, his normal charming self.

PHLOX

Oh, don't you worry, Captain. I will, and I'm as anxious as you are to get down to the surface to see what medical benefits might be gleaned from the wondrous variety of life down there.

TUCKER

Does this mean we should expect some additions to that little menagerie of yours in Sickbay?

PHLOX

You just never know...

Lucas gives Phlox a withering look, which the Denobulan either misses or ignores.

T'POL

After following proper medical quarantine procedures first, of course.

PHLOX

(good-natured)

Yes, yes, of course, Sub-Commander. After all, I would be remiss in my duties if I allowed any possible threat aboard. Safety comes first, mmm?

Phlox gives T'Pol one of his exaggerated smiles for emphasis, which she returns with a nod.

Archer looks from the exchange between his two resident aliens to Ensign Sato, who is fidgeting nervously with a PADD.

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ARCHER

(facetiously)
So how’s that shore leave list coming, Hoshi?

SATO

(exhausted)
Almost the entire crew wants to go down to the surface....

LUCAS

Well, you can count me out; I have some work I’d like to get done, and I think this is the perfect opportunity to do it.

ARCHER

I’m sure you’ll be able to get it all figured out, Ensign.

REED

Begging your pardon, Captain....
(beat, as Archer gives him his attention)
But I’d feel more comfortable if the members of the landing party carried sidearms, even if they’re the non-lethals I’ve seen you people carry around before.

ARCHER

I don’t think that will be necessary, Major. T’Pol has indicated that there aren’t any people down there, or any large predators. I’m sure your Security people will be enough, and they might even enjoy themselves while they’re at it.

T’Pol’s eyebrow quirks slightly at the mention of her name. Reed says nothing, simply nodding, but we can tell he isn’t happy about what Archer said.

ARCHER

(to Tucker)
So are those shuttlepods ready?

TUCKER

As ready as they’ll ever be, Cap’n..

ARCHER

Good. I’d like to set down no later than 1300 today.
(beat)
Sub-Commander, I’d like you to assemble a survey team to take down with us.

T’POL

As you wish, Captain.

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EXT. PLANET SURFACE – LANDING SITE

Shuttlepod 01 flies low over the landing site – a wide clearing – circling once before gently setting down. We focus on the starboard door as it opens, revealing Major Reed, dressed in full combat attire, and seeming to point his plasma rifle right at us as he quickly steps out of the shuttlepod. Moving a short distance away, he drops down on one knee, and keeping eyes forward he motions for the others to follow.

Changing angles to a vantage above the shuttle, we can see five more SFs exit the shuttlepod from both sides and take up perimeter around the shuttlepod, including SERGEANT MAJOR HAYES, all of them decked out in combat gear. They visually scan the area for a BEAT.

Changing angles again, we focus on the open starboard hatch as Sub-Commander T’Pol steps out, wielding her Vulcan scanner. She moves around, scanning the area from within the perimeter Reed’s people have established. As she does so, we note the compact air cylinder in a back-pack like carrying case, with a plastic air hose and face mask attached and clipped to one of the shoulder straps, as well as the Vulcan pistol she carries in a holster attached to her belt.

HAYES (COMM. VOICE)

Immediate area is clear, Major.

We focus on Reed as his eyes narrow, visually scanning the area even more. T’Pol walks up from behind him and takes a place next to him.

REED

Let’s move out a little bit further, and keep your eyes open.

T’POL

(critically)

Is this really necessary, Major? The ship’s sensors, the probe’s sensors, and my scanner all indicate that this planet is uninhabited.

Reed stands up and begins to move away from the shuttle, still visually scanning their surroundings.

REED

Do you always trust your sensors, Sub-Commander?

T’Pol inclines her head to the side slightly and perks an eyebrow at his valid point. Reed almost seems to sense this, even without looking at her.

REED (CONT’D)

This is unfamiliar territory, and I’d rather take unnecessary precautions than risk casualties.

(beat)

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REED (CONT'D)

(at T'Pol starting to follow him)

I think it'd be best if you remain with the shuttlepod, ma'am. You can call for the others to begin their decent; we should be done with our security sweep by the time they land.

T'Pol turns and goes back to the open shuttlepod hatch.

INT. SHUTTLEPOD 01

We see T'Pol holster her scanner and crawl back inside the shuttlepod. Panning, we can see Ensign Mayweather at the controls, looking over his shoulder as T'Pol takes a seat just behind him at one of the panels. She enters a few commands and activates the comm. panel.

T'POL

T'Pol to *Enterprise*.

BEAT

SATO (COMM. VOICE)

Go ahead, Sub-Commander.

T'POL

Major Reed believes that it would be appropriate to begin sending the rest of the shuttles down now.

SATO (COMM. VOICE)

I'm sure the Captain will be happy to hear that.

(beat)

Enterprise out.

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – HANGER DECK

The hanger deck is full of activity, with enlisted personnel giving the shuttlepods one last check over even as departing crew members load their gear and themselves into the three remaining shuttlepods. Archer, hefting a small back-pack, and Tucker, shouldering a knapsack, stand close to one of the walls, in the midst of a conversation.

ARCHER

We'll have to run the shuttlepods back and forth in shifts to make sure everyone gets their share of shore leave.

TUCKER

(joking)

The maintenance crews probably aren't going to enjoy this as much as the rest of us.

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ARCHER

(smiling)

I suppose I could always give them some extra time on the surface to help make up for it.

TUCKER

Some might take you up on it, but Chief al-Tagrib runs a pretty tight crew.

Archer is about to reply again when the comm. sounds.

SATO (COMM. VOICE)

Bridge to Captain Archer.

Archer walks the short distance to the comm. panel and activates it.

ARCHER

Archer here, go ahead.

SATO (COMM. VOICE)

Major Reed says that you can start sending the rest of the shuttlepods down now, sir.

Archer’s mood noticeably brightens.

ARCHER

Good.

(beat)

I hope you set plenty of time on the surface aside for yourself, Hoshi.

SATO

I’m going down with the next shift, Captain.

ARCHER

I’ll see you down there; Archer out.

And with that, Archer motions at Tucker toward the closest of the shuttlepods and the two of them start walking toward it.

EXT. SPACE – ABOVE PLANET

We focus on the aft end of *Enterprise* as it orbits the ocean world below. The exterior launch bay door opens, and Shuttlepod 02 flies out, only flying out a few hundred meters before banking gracefully and heading toward the planet below as we...

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END OF ACT ONE

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ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – LANDING SITE

We focus on a soccer ball, in the middle of a grassy field. Off in the distance, we can see two of the shuttlepods on the ground, but there doesn't appear to be any activity until... SMACK! A combat fatigued leg licks the ball for all it's worth, sending it out of the frame. Panning, we see the leg belongs to LIEUTENANT PICARD, smiling and laughing lightly as he watches activity off screen.

We change to a wider angle to see that a full on game of soccer is in progress. Most of the players are SFs, but there are a few UESPA people playing as well. All are dressed down to their undershirts and fatigue pants in the tropical sun. Nearby are a number of observers, enjoying the ongoing game from a distance.

Changing angles again we see Archer and Reed watching from the sidelines, both of them enjoying the site of their people at play. Unlike the others, both are still in full uniform, albeit with their sleeves rolled up, regulation style.

ARCHER

(turning to Reed)

I'm surprised you aren't joining in; you've certainly earned it.

REED

(still watching the game)

Football never really was my game, sir.

ARCHER

Oh? What's your sport of choice?

REED

Actually, I'm not much for sports for the most part, but I've been known to enjoy a game of Rugby on occasion, sir.

ARCHER

(smiling)

Well, maybe when they're done with this game you can start up a game.

REED

I don't think so, Captain; wouldn't be proper.

ARCHER

Why not?

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REED

I'm their Commandant, sir; it wouldn't be appropriate for me to fraternize with them that way.

(beat, before Archer can reply)

What kind of sport do you prefer, sir?

ARCHER

I'm a pretty big fan of water polo myself.

Reed chuckles to himself.

ARCHER

What?

REED

I've never really gotten the point of that sport, sir.

ARCHER

It's kind of like soccer, but in a pool.

REED

(joking)

Perhaps that's why I don't get it.

Archer gives the Major a smile.

ARCHER

Well, if you won't join in and you won't start up a game of your own, you should still try to enjoy yourself a little while we're here; there probably won't be many opportunities like this over the next few years.

(beat, thinking)

I'm going for a hike pretty quick. Would you care to join me?

REED

I suppose I probably should; you'll need someone to provide security.

ARCHER

I don't want you to think of this as an obligation, just an opportunity to enjoy this planet.

REED

With all due respect, Captain, I'll be enjoying myself far more once we've returned to the ship.

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ARCHER

(faux seriousness)

Have fun, Major; that’s an order.

(beat, smiling)

Better get your gear; I plan on going at least ten kilometers today.

REED

(forcing a smile)

Yes sir.

And with that, Reed turns and walks off screen, presumably toward one of the shuttlepods.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – FOREST (NEAR LANDING SITE)

Ensign Sato and SENIOR CHIEF MARCUS LAFAYETTE walk together through a part of the forest, both obviously enjoying themselves. LAFAYETTE has more of a purpose however, as he checks his scanner from time to time as they walk, smiling at some joke that’s just been told. Suddenly, Sato’s communicator beeps. She digs it out of her pocket and flips it open.

SATO

Ensign Sato here, go ahead.

MAYWEATHER (COMM. VOICE)

Hoshi, this is Travis. Could you come to my location? We’ve found something you should look at.

Confusion comes over Sato’s face. She exchanges looks with Lafayette.

SATO

Sure....

(beat)

Where are you at?

MAYWEATHER (COMM. VOICE)

I’m one klick northeast of the landing site.

SATO

Okay, we’re on our way. Sato out.

Sato puts her communicator away and she and Lafayette change direction as we

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EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DIFFERENT PART OF FOREST (NEAR LANDING SITE)

We follow Sato and Lafayette as they walk up on Mayweather and a female ENSIGN standing next to a few trees.

SATO

(sarcastically)

So what do I just have to look at?

MAYWEATHER

(excited)

We found a gelatinous life form.

(beat, of Sato’s skeptical reaction)

Captain thinks it might be intelligent; he wants you to try to communicate with it.

Sato and Lafayette reach Mayweather and the Ensign and look down. Sure enough, there’s a red, gelatinous glob of “something” on the ground at Mayweather’s feet. Lafayette recognizes it for what it is, and looks questioningly at Mayweather, but the helmsman gives him a discreet smile and nonverbally tells him to keep quiet. The young communications officer is too intent on the “life form” to notice the exchange.

Sato pulls out a portable scanner and another device, a translating computer. At first she tries to analyze it with her translator, but after a moment she gives that up and switches to her scanner. Her eyes suddenly widen, and she stares at the readings for a BEAT as Mayweather and the Ensign start to crack up. She glares up at Mayweather.

LAFAYETTE

Perfectly good waste of some jello.

MAYMEATHER

(still laughing)

I accidentally spilled it while we were eating...

(beat)

I just couldn’t pass that one up.

SATO

(angry)

I think someone’s eating alone from now on...

Sato quickly stands and puts her devices away, sending an angry glare at Mayweather every chance she can. Lafayette offers her a smile while Mayweather and the Ensign continue to laugh.

LAFAYETTE

I’m sure they didn’t mean anything by it, ma’am.

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Sato says nothing.

LAFAYETTE

So are you going to keep foraging with me, Ensign?

Sato nods and starts to lead him back in the direction they came from. Mayweather and the Ensign stop laughing and look shocked.

MAYWEATHER

You’re looking for food here?

LAFAYETTE

Of course, we shouldn’t pass up an opportunity like this, gentlemen. You never know what you’re going to find on a planet like this; I definitely plan on looking in the ocean for some fish later on.

(beat, off Mayweather’s disgusted look)

Remember, improvisation is the key.

MAYWEATHER

(sarcastically)

I think I’ll be sticking to meal packs from now on....

LAFAYETTE

Suit yourself, Ensign, but those food packs won’t last forever, and we won’t always have Boomer ships to resupply us.

Mayweather and the Ensign exchange concerned looks as we

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – SMALL CLEARING (NEAR LANDING SITE)

Sub-Commander T’Pol leads a group of UESPA personnel, including Ensign Cutler, Lieutenant Garla, and CREWMAN 2ND CLASS ETHAN NOVAKOVICH. There are a few more junior officers and a number of enlisted personnel, all wearing science patches on their uniforms. They carry an assortment of easily manageable tools and other devices with them. Phlox follows a little behind them, carrying only a medical scanner. Cutler and Phlox seem to be the only ones enjoying themselves, with T’Pol practically frowning, and the others obviously distracted by their surroundings.

NOVAKOVICH

(whispering to Cutler)

I can’t believe we’re out here doing this now. Everyone else is actually getting to enjoy their shore leave.

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CUTLER

(whispering back)

You mean you're not enjoying yourself?

(beat, smiling)

I love it out here.

T'POL

We should make a concerted effort to survey the area, Crewman. We are not here for recreation.

Novakovich and a number of other humans are startled by T'Pol's sudden announcement, evidently unaware of how excellent Vulcan hearing is. Phlox silently observes with interest.

NOVAKOVICH

(cynically, to Cutler)

How can you be enjoying this, Ensign?

CUTLER

What can I say? I love my work, and there are plenty of insects on this planet.

PHLOX

(interjecting)

Yes, I've already cataloged a few of the more interesting species, along with some plant and animal life that might prove to be medically beneficial.

NOVAKOVICH

At least you two are having fun.

After a BEAT, T'Pol, breathing heavily, brings the group to a stop. She unclips the mask from its place and places it over her face. Pressing a release valve she takes several deep breaths. Most of the team waits idly, but Phlox makes his way to T'Pol's side.

PHLOX

(quietly)

Are you still experiencing difficulty breathing?

T'Pol nods, still breathing from the mask, and clearly displeased about her dependence on it.

PHLOX

(trying to be encouraging)

It's to be expected. Coming from an arid planet to one with such high water content in the air tends to make the lungs feel a bit weaker.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

T’POL

(putting the mask away)

I never experienced this level of... discomfort when I resided in San Francisco.

(beat)

It is ... disconcerting

PHLOX

(smiling)

This isn't San Francisco, Sub-Commander.

(beat, off T’Pol’s flat look)

Don’t be afraid to use your oxygen supply, that’s why I gave it to you.

Phlox takes a moment to look around at the rest of the survey team. Most of them have wandered off to at least try to enjoy their surroundings.

PHLOX

(louder)

If it’s alright with you, Sub-Commander, I’d like to explore this area more closely.

T’POL

You should not go alone.

CUTLER

(excited)

I’ll go with him.

PHLOX

Ah! Good! I was hoping you’d volunteer, Ensign.

Phlox looks to T’Pol for her approval, which she gives with a nod. The Vulcan Sub-Commander watches as the two of them walk off on their own as we

FADE TRANSITION TO:

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – BEACH (NEAR LANDING SITE)

We move through a growth of alien trees, which though they resemble tropical palm trees in some ways, they are most definitely not of Earth. Passing through the yellow-greenish fauna, we come to purple beach on an emerald sea. We note the presence of several duffle bags, as well as a recognizable knap sack. Panning to face the water, we see Commander Tucker among half a dozen others enjoying a swim in the strange green water.

We change angles to see Captain Archer watching them from the beach. Zooming out, we can see that Major Reed, Ensign Mayweather, and two other crewmen are with him. Archer smiles broadly even as Reed looks uncomfortable in the face of the ocean.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

Changing angles back, we see that Tucker has spotted the group on the beach and is now wading in toward shore.

ARCHER

I thought I might find you here.

TUCKER

It’s been so long; I’ve almost forgotten how much I enjoy swimming.

ARCHER

(teasing)

You’re sure there’s no sharks or jellyfish in there, right?

TUCKER

(taking it in stride)

Nothing so highly evolved out here yet.

(beat, splashing the water for emphasis)

Come on in Cap’n, the water’s fine.

ARCHER

Actually I was planning on going for a hike. Thought I’d see if you wanted to go with.

Tucker thinks about it for a BEAT.

TUCKER

(reluctantly)

I think I’ll pass this time around.

(beat)

You sure you don’t wanna take a swim?

ARCHER

(nervously)

Maybe some other time.

TUCKER

(facetiously)

You always were a wuss when it came to the water.

ARCHER

I just don’t like the idea of swimming in water when I can’t see the bottom.

(beat)

But maybe one of the others here might take you up on that offer.

We focus on Mayweather as he eyes the strange green water from shore.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

TUCKER

How about it, Ensign?

MAYWEATHER

I grew up on a cargo ship! I never learned how to swim.

TUCKER

No time like the present.

MAYWEATHER

(reluctantly)

I don't know...

ARCHER

Want some advice, Ensign?

MAYWEATHER

Sure, Captain.

ARCHER

There'll be other hikes, but there won't be many other opportunities like Mister Tucker is offering you now.

TUCKER

That's good advice.

MAYWEATHER

Alright, you've talked me into it.

TUCKER

Hope you brought a pair of swim trunks.

MAYWEATHER

I did; it is an ocean planet after all. I just hadn't planned on doing more than some wading around though.

TUCKER

(nonchalantly)

Ah, don't worry Travis; I'll go way easier on you than my old man did with me.

This elicits a laugh from Archer. Mayweather looks between the two older men with confusion.

MAYWEATHER

What?

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

TUCKER

My old man has some buddies he likes to go out fishing with every summer. One summer, when I was about six, he decided to bring me with them to “make a man out of” me.

(beat, off Mayweather’s interest)

So there we are, kilometers off the Georgia coast, when he decided the time was right to teach me how to swim. Next thing I know, I’m over the side and in the water.

The younger man’s eyes go wide.

MAYWEATHER

He threw you out of the boat in the middle of the ocean?

TUCKER

(grinning)

Yup, and it definitely didn’t me long to learn how to swim.

MAYWEATHER

(skeptically)

You’ve got to be making that up.

TUCKER

I wouldn’t lie to you, Ensign.

(beat, deadpan)

Sets a bad example.

Archer and the others watch on with amusement, though Reed is markedly less enthusiastic about it.

MAYWEATHER

(still skeptical)

What father in his right mind would dump their own kid in the ocean!? What if you hadn’t been able to swim?

TUCKER

(hamming it up)

Oh, he was ready to dive in after me...

(beat)

Still, I never did quite forgive the old man for that surprise swimming lesson he sprung on me, so I’ve always promised I’d go easier on anyone I teach how to swim.

Mayweather looks back at Archer, his skepticism still firmly in place.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

MAYWEATHER

Is he telling the truth, sir?

ARCHER

(mock seriousness)

He better be; he told me the same story not long after I first met him.

(beat, off Travis’s dissolving disbelief)

You should stick around him while you can; Trip has plenty of other good stories.

Tucker grins.

TUCKER

Yeah, including this real interesting one about sharks-

ARCHER

(interrupting)

Except that one, he’s not allowed to tell you that one.

The engineer laughs at that.

TUCKER

I still can’t believe that you’ll only swim in pool water.

ARCHER

(defensively)

Hey, I’ll swim in other water, just as long as I can actually see through it.

Tucker playfully splashes some water at his friend, but falls far short due to Archer’s distance from the water.

TUCKER

Wuss.

Archer draws himself up.

ARCHER

That’s not how you should address your captain, Trip.

TUCKER

Aye, aye, Cap’n Wuss!

Archer smiles at Tucker one last time before turning to Reed.

ARCHER

I think it’s time we got on our way.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

Archer starts to lead his group away as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – JUST OUTSIDE BASE CAMP

We can see base camp in the distance as the light dims, the sun setting. Essentially it’s a smattering of tents set up near the edge of the clearing, save the three that are slightly segregated from the others, arranged neatly in a row according to military fashion. Another tent is set up at the corner of the base camp, more or less off by itself and isolated from the other tents. It makes a pretty pathetic looking “tent city”.

We can see some activity in and around the camp, and zooming in on one of the figures, we can see that it’s T’Pol, squatting down, working on a piece of scientific equipment by herself. Another figure, Cutler, joins the Vulcan Sub-Commander, squatting down next to her.

CUTLER

Good evening, Sub-Commander.

T’POL

(without looking up)

May I assist you in some way, Ensign?

CUTLER

Oh ... no, I just thought I’d ask you how your day was, what you have planned for tomorrow, things like that..

T’POL

(still working on device)

My day was ... eventful.

(beat, considering Cutler with a slightly raised eyebrow)

Are you attempting to engage me in “small talk”, Ensign?

CUTLER

(slightly embarrassed)

I ... guess you could say that, ma’am.

T’POL

(going back to work)

I have never understood the human need to engage in meaningless discussion about seemingly random topics.

Cutler fidgets nervously, unsure how to react to T’Pol’s statement.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

CUTLER

(nervously)

I guess I was wondering how you were doing...

(beat)

If I may say so, Sub-Commander, you don't really seem to be enjoying yourself ... the work ... very much. How can you not enjoy yourself in a place like this?

T'Pol stops working and looks squarely at Cutler.

T'POL

I am not here to “enjoy” myself, Ensign; I am here to perform my duties as the ship's senior science officer, a task made difficult by a distracted science staff.

CUTLER

(plaintively)

Why can't you do both? I'm enjoying myself as I work.

T'Pol stands and regards Cutler with the same half-cocked eyebrow as before.

T'POL

We will be departing to survey the volcanic activity of this island at 0730 tomorrow. Please inform the rest of the staff.

And with that, T'Pol turns and walks off, leaving a nervous and confused Cutler behind. Panning, we can see Crewman Novakovich standing in the background. He approaches Cutler, who's just now standing.

NOVAKOVICH

(wryly)

You'd have better luck befriending one of those bugs you've been studying...

CUTLER

(brightly)

No one ever said making friends would always be easy.

Cutler turns and starts to walk away.

NOVAKOVICH

Why bother? She's a Vulcan...

Cutler continues on as if she hadn't heard anything.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – LANDING SITE

Archer, Tucker, and Reed stand at the edge of the landing site, where all four of the shuttlepods are being loaded with passengers and equipment.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

TUCKER

(facetiously)

Looks like all the tenderfeet are about ready to leave for the night.

Archer smiles at the joke.

ARCHER

Not everyone appreciates the outdoors quite the way we do, Trip.

TUCKER

Speak for yourself; I hear you’re one of the ones going up to spend the night on the ship.

Archer gives Trip a wry look before taking on a more serious composure.

ARCHER

I’d love to spend the night here, Trip, but I have some paperwork I should really take this opportunity to catch up on.

Tucker takes on a more serious, thoughtful expression too.

TUCKER

I could probably stand to get some work done myself...

ARCHER

(interrupting)

Don’t even think about it, Trip; I want you well rested.

(beat, smiling)

Maybe this fresh air is just the thing you need to get over that insomnia of yours.

TUCKER

(half seriously)

The humidity does remind me of home a little...

(beat, smirking)

Mosquitoes are too small though.

ARCHER

(chuckling)

Close enough, I guess. Good, I hope you get some good sleep here tonight.

(beat)

Besides, I want you to enjoy yourself while you can, there’ll be plenty of work in a couple days. I want to modify one of the shuttlepods to operate better under water.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

We change angles slightly, and can see that T’Pol is making her way toward the three men, easily within hearing range of the conversation taking place. We PAN UP to see the dumbfounded look on Tucker’s face.

TUCKER

Why a shuttlepod? Why not just modify some probes so they can go a bit deeper?
(beat, drawling)
Besides, I didn’t think you’d ever want to go underwater after that last time.

Archer is about to say something smart back to Tucker, but by then T’Pol has reached them.

REED

(dryly)
Good evening, Sub-Commander.

The two UESPA officers turn to face the Vulcan.

T’POL

Good evening.

ARCHER

Are you joining us on the ship tonight, Sub-Commander?

T’POL

No. I merely wished to ask what time you were planning on arriving tomorrow morning, Captain.

ARCHER

I’m not really sure when I, personally, will be coming back down, but the first shift is due at 0700. Why?

T’POL

I intend to take my science staff on another survey mission tomorrow. I wanted to make sure those spending the night on the ship would be back by the time I am planning to leave.

Archer looks at her somewhat critically.

ARCHER

You might want to consider giving the science team the day off tomorrow.
(beat, off T’Pol’s minimal reaction)
By the time you’re finished conducting surveys, everyone else will be working and they won’t really get a chance to enjoy some R&R with the rest of their shipmates.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

T’Pol doesn’t respond, and Archer doesn’t have a chance to press her. The Ensign that was with Mayweather earlier approaches the group.

ENSIGN

Captain?
(beat, as Archer looks at her)
We’re ready to leave now, sir.

ARCHER

Very well.
(to Trip, with a half-smile)
See you tomorrow.

Archer and Reed start for the nearest shuttlepod, led by the Ensign.

TUCKER

You going too, Major? Never took you for a tenderfoot.

REED

Yes, well, I hope you don’t think less of me for wanting my soft bed, but during the course of my career, I’ve spent enough time “roughing it” to make me appreciate that soft bed as often as I can.

TUCKER

Suit yourself.

Tucker gives a stoic T’Pol a brief look before turning to walk back toward base camp.

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – SICKBAY

Dr. Lucas sits at the lab counter, humming to the classical music playing in the background as he works on one of the computers. In stark contrast to his usual mood, he actually seems to be quite happy, and is thoroughly enjoying himself, even as a nearby console beeps. Without even checking it, and without any fuss, Lucas gets up and exits through the door that leads to the decon. monitoring room.

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – DECONTAMINATION MONITORING ROOM

Lucas checks the computer console that’s next to the closed privacy shutter. It runs through a cycle, and after a BEAT, it displays green indicators. Satisfied, Lucas pushes a button that opens the privacy shutter. We can now see Archer, Reed, the Ensign, and a number of others waiting in the decon. room. Lucas activates the comm.

LUCAS

Everything checks out, Captain, no need to go through full decon.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

ARCHER (COMM. VOICE)

That’s good to hear.
(beat)
So how have you been holding out?

LUCAS

Quite well, actually. I’ve been getting a lot of work done on some pet projects of mine.

ARCHER (COMM. VOICE)

I see.
(beat)
I hope you find some time to enjoy yourself down on the planet though.

Lucas’s expression sours slightly.

LUCAS

If it’s all the same to you, Captain, I’d rather stay here.
(beat)
I’ll leave the planet to Doctor Phlox.

Not quite understanding, Archer nods nonetheless.

INT. T’POL’S TENT

It’s dark; the interior of the tent is only illuminated by a battery powered lantern that hangs from the ceiling of the tent. T’Pol, still dressed in uniform, sits on the edge of her neatly made cot, working on a PADD. We pan and zoom in on her face as she engrosses herself in her work. Suddenly, there’s a cry of pain. T’Pol looks up from her PADD in surprise.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – BASE CAMP

We’re overcome by the darkness. The only illumination is from the flashlights we can see among the tents, moving about rapidly. There’s some shouting in the background, but we can’t quite make it out.

Quickly changing angles, we see Mayweather lying on the ground, his body racked by pain. Tucker, Cutler, and LIEUTENANT COLE hover over him, illuminated by their flashlights. Cutler pulls out a medical scanner over the groaning helmsman.

COLE

What happened!?

TUCKER

Some scorpion-looking thing bit him!

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

Cutler’s expression falls as she scans him.

CUTLER

(off scanner)

His heartbeat is irregular and his blood pressure is through the roof. This is classic envenomation; whatever bit him has potent nerve agent for venom.

Cole turns to call over her shoulder.

COLE

Corporal Scott! Get over here, we need you!

A young man wearing fatigues without the jacket quickly makes his way to the scene. This is CORPORAL SCOTT.

COLE (CONT’D)

See if you can do something to help Ensign Cutler.

CUTLER

We can’t do anything for him, he’s going hyperthermal and his breathing is seizing up.

(beat)

We need to get him back to the ship now or he’s going to die!

TUCKER

(to Cole)

Get Chief Bradshaw; tell him to prep a shuttlepod for launch!

Cole nods and quickly runs off into the darkness.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – LANDING SITE

Cutler and Scott load the stretcher bearing Mayweather into Shuttlepod 03. The remainder of the landing party watches on, including T’Pol, who watches at a distance. Tucker starts forward, as if to join the shuttlepod crew but Ensign Cutler waves him off.

CUTLER

Anyone who doesn’t need to come along should stand clear!

Tucker starts to motion for the onlookers to disperse while Cutler crawls into the shuttlepod.

COLE

McKenzie!

A young blonde woman dressed in fatigues makes her way out of the small crowd. This is CORPORAL DENISE MCKENZIE.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

MCKENZIE

Ma’am!

COLE

I’m going with; you’re to stay here until relieved.

MCKENZIE

Understood, ma’am.

Cole climbs into the shuttlepod and closes the door behind her. McKenzie steps back and away from it as it powers up and lifts off. The crowd watches as the shuttle accelerates away from them, skyward.

Tucker turns and starts walking back toward camp, which happens to take him close to T’Pol.

TUCKER

(muttering to no one in particular)

I hope he comes out alright...

T’POL

Doctor Phlox is highly skilled; I have every confidence in his abilities.

Tucker stops and regards T’Pol, who looks completely unfazed by what’s happened.

TUCKER

(concerned)

I hope you’re right Sub-Commander, but I don’t know if he’ll be able to do anything without the thing that stung him to make an anti-venom.

A few other members of the landing party stop to watch and listen to the exchange, including Crewman Navakovich, DANIELS, and ENSIGN TYLER MASARO.

T’POL

What happened to it?

TUCKER

I tried to catch it, but it ended up getting back out of the tent.

(beat, slightly ashamed)

I was afraid it might bite me...

T’Pol raises an eyebrow to consider Tucker, which he takes to be a condescending look, but he’s in no mood to argue. He simply gives T’Pol a sour look and starts to walk away.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

TUCKER

(muttering)
Don't even start with me...

T'Pol is about to respond when she's interrupted.

MASARO

Aren't you even bothered at all by this?

T'POL

There is nothing that any of us can do; it is illogical to concern ourselves over circumstances beyond our control. We must trust in Doctor Phlox's abilities instead.

Masaro looks unsatisfied with that response, and the others actually look a little creeped out by the Vulcan's calm demeanor.

T'POL

I do, however, suggest that everyone check their tents for any more alien life forms before resuming sleep.

INT. SOMEONE'S TENT

Two unnamed crewmen frantically root through their tent, searching for any alien bugs that might be hiding just under the next layer they dislodge. Despite the seriousness of the situation, there's a mild element of humor to their expressions and demeanor.

INT. TUCKER'S TENT

Tucker tears the inside of his own tent apart, just as frantically as the others. The way he's acting, one might even think he has a phobia for bugs.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – BASE CAMP

Most of the tents are illuminated, both by their ceiling-mounted lanterns, and the flashlights of those inside frantically tearing their own belongings apart in a vain search for anything that might bite them. There are a few shouts and screams, but we can't understand any of it.

Panning slightly, we can see T'Pol watching on with mild bemusement. Raising an eyebrow, she turns, and we pan to follow, seeing now that she's at her own tent. Pulling out her Vulcan scanner, she runs it over her own tent before stepping inside.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

INT. T’POL’S TENT

T’Pol runs her scanner over the various objects in her tent, paying special attention to her neatly made cot. Finding nothing, she makes a slightly dismissive expression and puts her scanner back in its holster, then pulls the blankets on her cot back.

FADE TRANSITION TO:

INT. TUCKER’S TENT

It’s pitch black. Then, a FLASH! The interior of Tucker’s tent is brightly illuminated, as if a strobe has gone off inside. For just an instant, we can see the engineer sleeping restlessly in his cot. Another FLASH! And ANOTHER! The flashes become more frequent. Tucker tosses about, still clinging to sleep. Suddenly, there’s a rumbling in the background, building to a THUNDER! Finally roused out of his sleep, Tucker looks around in confusion, just as his tent is hit by a massive wind.

Tucker quickly gets up and digs through his discarded uniform. Finding his communicator, he pulls it out and flips it open.

TUCKER

Tucker to *Enterprise*! Can someone tell me what the hell is goin’ on outside!?

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – BRIDGE

There are only three people on the bridge; an unnamed CREWMAN at Communications, another unnamed CREWMAN (2) at the helm, and an Unnamed ENSIGN (2) in the command chair. A large storm front is displayed on the viewscreen.

ENSIGN 2

We were just about to call you, sir; a large storm front has suddenly developed to the west of you and is rapidly approaching your position.

(beat)

Recommend that you return to the ship as soon as possible.

TUCKER (COMM. VOICE)

How long do we have!?

The Ensign checks the monitor next to the command chair.

ENSIGN 2

About thirty minutes, but the sooner the better.

TUCKER (COMM. VOICE)

Understood, Tucker out!

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

The Ensign nods toward the Crewman at Communications.

ENSIGN 2

Wake the Captain.

The Crewman nods and activates the comm.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – LANDING SITE

The remainder of the landing party crams into the shuttlepod, leaving all of their gear behind. The storm is almost on them now, the wind blowing in strong gusts, lightning streaking across the sky, and thunder rumbling so loud that it’s nearly deafening. The mood is a controlled panic, save one Vulcan, as ten people cram into Shuttlepod 01. T’Pol is the last one in, and closes the hatch behind her.

We can see Tucker in the pilot’s seat through the bubble window as it starts to lift off.

EXT. PLANET ATMOSPHERE

The large island the crew had landed on fades out of view in the distance as the shuttlepod climbs away from it. The storm front gains on the ‘pod, looking like the ash cloud of an exploding volcano.

INT. SHUTTLEPOD 01

The shuttlepod is packed with people, most of them standing as there are no seats for them. As mentioned before, Tucker is in the pilot’s seat. T’Pol sits at the sensor board.

T’POL

(off board)

The atmospheric disturbance is gaining strength with unexpected speed.

(beat, to Tucker)

We must gain speed and altitude or we will soon be overtaken.

TUCKER

We’re going as fast as we can in atmosphere!

An alarm sounds from the science board.

T’POL

Brace for impact!

Moments later the shuttlepod is shaken as it is overtaken by the storm. Those standing try to brace themselves on the interior ribbing, but there really isn’t anywhere for them to fall anyway.

FOUNDATIONS: "Shadows of Paradise"

EXT. PLANET ATMOSPHERE

Lightning flashes around the shuttlepod as it continues to climb. Suddenly, a lightning bolt strikes the shuttlepod. Electricity arcs over the fuselage as the engines go dark. The shuttlepod begins to drop.

INT. SHUTTLEPOD 01

All the panels go dark as Tucker struggles with the non-responsive controls.

TUCKER

Everything's gone! Hold on to something, we're goin' down!

EXT. PLANET ATMOSPHERE

The shuttlepod drops like a brick, its stubby winglets only ensuring that the nose points downward.

INT. SHUTTLEPOD 01

Tucker punches at some of the controls at his panel.

TUCKER

(to T'Pol)

I need power! Now!

We can see the shimmering green water through the window in front of Tucker, and it's coming up at us fast.

T'Pol pulls the science panel open and pulls out some of the wiring. Unholstering her sidearm, she opens a small port on its side and pushes two of the wires inside. Immediately, some of the lights on science board flicker on and off.

Tucker keeps pressing at the same buttons on his panel when they suddenly light up.

TUCKER

That did it! Restarting APU!

T'Pol pulls the wires out of her Vulcan sidearm, reassembles it, and reholsters it. She starts to put the science board back together when Tucker makes an exasperated noise.

TUCKER

It's not enough, all I have is thrusters!

(beat)

I'll try and level us off, but we're still goin' down! Strap in if you can!

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

EXT. PLANET ATMOSPHERE

Shuttlepod 01’s forward thrusters fire, pushing the nose upward and leveling it out. Aft thrusters fire, pushing the shuttle toward a small island we can see in the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND

The storm rages, making the tall trees sway in its powerful wind, the rain coming down in torrents. Lightning flashes, and we see Shuttlepod 01 coming down right on top of us! The ‘pod smashes through into the trees snapping them off like splinters as it continues to descend, but slowing down in the process. The thrusters continue to fire downward.

Changing angles, we focus on the front of the shuttlepod as it smashes through the trees. The bubble windshield is taking quite a beating, and we can see that cracks are developing on it.

Changing angles again, we watch from behind as the ‘pod smashes through the last of the trees and plunges into the water, at least 100 meters offshore. It bobs there for a BEAT, then starts to sink as we....

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. UNDER WATER – JUST OFF DESERTED ISLAND

Shuttlepod 01 is already far beneath the surface. We watch from below as it sinks toward us, bubbles escaping from the damage it suffered in the crash.

Changing angles, we watch from above as the shuttlepod continues to sink. Suddenly, the hatches on either side of the ‘pod blow off and are pushed away by water rushing into the ‘pod’s interior. After a BEAT, the first of the crash survivors begin to swim out of the stricken shuttlepod.

Corporal MacKenzie makes her way out with the others, but in all the confusion, she ends up swimming down and away instead of up and away.

Tucker and T’Pol are the last ones out. The engineer has no problem making his way to the surface, but T’Pol, still wearing her portable oxygen tank, is having a hard time.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – OCEAN – JUST OFF DESERTED ISLAND

Most of the crash survivors are already bobbing on the surface of the churning sea, with the last few, including Tucker, breaking the surface and gasping for new air.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND – BEACH

The crash survivors swim up to shore and awkwardly make their way onto the beach. After a BEAT, everyone seems to be on shore. Tucker takes a look around, doing a silent head check. He notices that a certain pair of pointy ears is missing.

Looking out to sea, we can see two heads bobbing on the surface, their arms thrashing about as they struggle to keep their heads above the surface as they make their way toward shore. Tucker doesn’t hesitate. Running back out to the water, the engineer dives right into an incoming wave.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – OCEAN – JUST OFF DESERTED ISLAND

Tucker makes his way to the first person, only to have her sink beneath the waves. Taking a deep breath, Tucker dives straight down.

EXT. UNDER WATER – JUST OFF DESERTED ISLAND

Tucker is mildly surprised to see T’Pol struggling to make her way to the surface. Somewhat unnervingly, though her situation is dire, she is maintaining her normally stoic expression, though her eyes are somewhat wider than normal.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

Tucker reaches the drowning Vulcan and takes hold of her securely. He kicks his feet hard, propelling them toward the surface. From the contortions in his face, we can tell that he’s got his work cut out for him.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – OCEAN – JUST OFF DESERTED ISLAND

Tucker and T’Pol break the surface. T’Pol coughs up some water as Tucker guides them toward shore.

TUCKER

(between breaths)

It might be ... easier ... if you dump ... that air tank!

T’POL

I need it!

Tucker rolls his eyes as best he can.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND – BEACH

Tucker and T’Pol wash up on shore, both of them sputtering for air. T’Pol takes the opportunity to get some air from her portable tank. Tucker recovers as quickly as he can, getting ready to go back out.

TUCKER

(panting)

God! You’re a lot heavier than you look!

T’Pol gives him a slightly sour look, but the engineer is already back out in the water before she can even hope to reply.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – OCEAN – JUST OFF DESERTED ISLAND

With the second swimmer nowhere in sight, Tucker takes a big gulp of air and dives beneath the surface.

EXT. UNDER WATER – JUST OFF DESERTED ISLAND

Tucker looks about, the lightning flashes both aiding and hindering him in his search.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – OCEAN – JUST OFF DESERTED ISLAND

Tucker surfaces again for another gulp of air. He looks concerned. He dives again, and after another LONG BEAT, he surfaces, looking even more concerned. Taking another big gulp of air, he dives for a third time.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

EXT. UNDER WATER – JUST OFF DESERTED ISLAND

We watch Tucker as he desperately looks for the second swimmer. We change angles as his eyes narrow. From Tucker’s POV, we can faintly make out the shape of Corporal McKenzie, floating neutrally about three meters down. She’s very limp. Changing angles again, we watch as Tucker quickly swims to her and grabs her.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND – BEACH

Tucker washes up on shore with the limp form of McKenzie. Tucker flips her over as several crash survivors rush to the water’s edge to help him pull her further up the beach. We focus on the young woman’s face, and it’s very clear that she’s dead – pale complexion, blue lips framing a partially opened mouth, and vacant, open eyes with dilated pupils.

Tucker begins to perform CPR on the unfortunate SF, while the others watch on with concern, apprehension, or futility. Tucker is driven to the point of anger. He pumps so hard on McKenzie’s chest that some of the water manages to make its way out. He turns the dead woman to let the water drain out, then flops her on her back and starts CPR again.

T’Pol, now recovered, makes her way to McKenzie and squats down across from Tucker. She pulls out her hand-held scanner and runs it over her. After a BEAT, T’Pol looks from her scanner, to McKenzie’s face, to Tucker.

T’POL

There is nothing more you can do, Commander.

Tucker glares at her fiercely.

TUCKER

I’m not givin’ up that easy!
(beat, to other survivors)
Didn’t anyone grab a first aid kit!?

MASARO

I did, but there’s nothing in here that can help her, sir.
(beat, reluctantly)
The Sub-Commander is right.

Tucker looks angry at that response, but it isn’t long before he lets himself look at the dead woman’s face. His head drops, and his whole body seems to just go limp.

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – SICKBAY

Mayweather lies unconscious on the main biobed. Lucas is nearby at one of the room’s computer monitors, looking intently at sensor readouts of the helmsman. Phlox is across the room, working with several vials of medication.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

Changing angles, we see Ensign Cutler enter the room and make her way to Mayweather’s side. Lucas barely looks at her, but as Phlox sees her, he turns to give her his attention.

PHLOX

Ah... Ensign Cutler. Is there something I can do for you?

CUTLER

(nervously)

No ... Well yes.

(beat, off Phlox’s disarming look)

I just stopped by to see how Travis is doing.

PHLOX

He’s out of immediate danger, but the venom of the offending invertebrate was particularly potent, and quite unique I might add.

(beat, looking at Mayweather)

Unfortunately, none of the medications I have on board appears to be particularly effective in ridding his body entirely of the venom.

CUTLER

What about some of your ... “helpers”?

Phlox smiles at that.

PHLOX

Actually, I was just considering introducing a few Regularan bloodworms into his bloodstream to see if they could give his blood vessels and lymph nodes a good cleaning.

Cutler looks a little uncomfortable at that.

PHLOX

Not to worry, Ensign, they’re quite harmless, and they, hm, make their way out eventually.

Lucas looks at his Denobulan counterpart with concern.

LUCAS

I’m afraid it’s much more complicated than that, Doctor.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND – FOREST

The group of nine crash survivors makes its way through the fern-covered forest floor. The trees sway in the powerful, howling wind. We focus on the front of the group, and see that Tucker is

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

carrying the body of McKenzie, and that T’Pol is just behind him. Daniels and Masaro are a few paces back, and five crewmen take up the rear of the group.

Depending heavily on her portable air tank now, T’Pol stays close to Tucker, taking the oxygen mask away from her face only to speak.

T’POL

You should not burden yourself, Commander!

(beat, taking a breath)

We must find shelter quickly if we hope to survive the storm!

TUCKER

I’m not leaving her behind!

Tucker stops and gives T’Pol an especially venomous glare.

TUCKER (CONT’D)

It’s bad enough I wasted time to rescue you instead of her! I’m not going to let the storm take her body too!

Tucker resumes walking, but T’Pol almost seems riveted to the ground, taken completely off guard by Tucker’s declaration. Daniels passes by the wheezing Vulcan, and when their eyes meet, there is clearly disdain in the human’s expression.

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – SICKBAY

We focus on Archer as he looks at the main computer display mounted over the imaging chamber.

ARCHER

(concerned)

What is it, and how did he get it?

We change to a wider angle, and see that Phlox and Lucas stand to either side of the monitor, which displays a microscopic life-form, floating around in Mayweather’s bloodstream.

PHLOX

We don’t know, Captain, other than that it appears to be a microscopic life form, and that it appears to be focusing its attention on the Ensign’s brain and central nervous system.

Lucas presses a button along the side of the monitor, and it changes to a display of Mayweather’s brain and central nervous system, with several colored indicators indicating the infection.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

LUCAS

It’s also interfering with any anti-venom treatments we’ve been giving him. For the time being, it’s also the only thing keeping him alive.

PHLOX

Unfortunately we can’t tell how he was infected; was it part of the venom, or was it from some other vector we haven’t considered?

(beat)

We’ve scanned the other members of the landing party that accompanied Ensign Mayweather, and they do not appear to be infected, but I’m not willing to rule out some other environmental factor yet.

ARCHER

Why not? If the others weren’t infected, this could just be a result of whatever it was that bit him.

PHLOX

Because of its interference with the venom itself. The ensign should be dead now because I haven’t been able to effectively treat him. Instead he’s being kept in an almost suspended state.

LUCAS

Almost, as in his brain is still being made into mince-meat, not only by the venom, but by these microorganisms, just very slowly.

(beat, looking at Mayweather on the nearby biobed)

He’s damn lucky that he’s unconscious.

Everyone is silent for a BEAT as they watch Mayweather breathing shallowly, looking as if he’s in pain even though he’s unconscious.

PHLOX

I would like to go over the decontamination scans taken of all the returning members of the landing party though, Captain.

Archer looks momentarily concerned, like he thinks Phlox is saying that there might be something wrong with him, but Lucas suddenly takes on a very angry demeanor.

LUCAS

Are you suggesting I missed something!?

PHLOX

Not at all, I simply want to explore all possible avenues-

LUCAS

If there was something wrong, I would have seen it!

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

PHLOX

(growing impatient)

The infection was only found because we were specifically focusing on the central nervous system!

ARCHER

(snapping)

That’s enough!

Both Lucas and Phlox immediately stop and give Archer their attention.

ARCHER

(quiet but harsh)

You have a man dying here, and we have a shuttlepod full of people who might be dead or dying right now. Whatever differences you have, put them aside.

(beat, with one last glare)

If there’s anything else, I’ll be on the bridge.

Archer quickly turns and exits the room.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND – FOREST

Further back, Masaro watches T’Pol walk. We change to his POV, focusing completely on T’Pol, when suddenly, there’s a movement off to the right. We quickly turn to see what it was.

Changing angles, we see Masaro stop, and squint his eyes as he looks into the swaying trees. We change angles again, focusing on a denser part of the forest. Seemingly out of no where, three Vulcan figures are briefly visible as they move parallel to the crash survivors. His eyes wide, Masaro runs as best he can in Tucker’s direction.

Carefully avoiding T’Pol, Masaro catches up to Tucker.

MASARO

(anxious, trying to be quiet)

Commander, there’s someone following us.

Tucker stops.

TUCKER

What? Who?

MASARO

(looking anxiously at T’Pol)

Vulcans. Three of them, in the trees over there.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

Masaro nods toward the trees where he saw the Vulcans, and Tucker looks, oblivious to anyone, or anything else. The trees creek eerily as they sway in the wind, but otherwise, nothing can be seen now.

TUCKER

Did anyone else see them?
(beat, to the others)
Did anyone see anything in the trees!?

The rest of the group stops and looks about, confused. After a BEAT, T’Pol joins the two men.

T’POL

What is it!?

TUCKER

He says he saw some other Vulcans!
(beat, sarcastically)
Friends of yours!?

T’POL

The High Command does not even know this planet exists!

By now, the rest of the group has caught up.

MASARO

(growing bolder)
How do we know that!? You could have been lying!

T’Pol openly glares at Masaro. Tucker looks conflicted.

TUCKER

You said yourself that no one else saw anything!

MASARO

I know what I saw Commander!

T’POL

Then you are obviously delusional!
(beat, forcefully at Tucker)
We need to find shelter on higher ground!

Trip looks conflicted, but he continues forward, before anyone can say anything further.

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – BRIDGE

Archer sits in his command chair, facing Lieutenant Garla at the Science station.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

ARCHER

Anything?

Garla watches her monitors for a BEAT, then turns to meet Archer’s concerned gaze.

GARLA

(disappointed)

No sir.

ARCHER

(with a sigh)

Return it to the surface and activate its beacon.

(beat)

Then ... launch another probe. They have to be somewhere in that area.

EXT. SPACE – ABOVE PLANET

Just as we saw at the beginning of the episode, a crane drops down out of the open lower cargo bay door, and releases a probe. The probe flies toward the planet.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – OCEAN

The probe streaks out of the sky and enters the churning surface of the water, sending a huge spray of water skyward.

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – BRIDGE

Archer again watches Garla. Information begins to display on the various monitors of the Science station.

GARLA

(off monitors)

Receiving telemetry now....

Suddenly, the comm. activates.

PHLOX (COMM. VOICE)

(urgently)

Captain, I believe I’ve found the source of Ensign Mayweather’s infection.

Archer exchanges a surprised look with Garla as we

CUT TO:

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND – FOREST

T’Pol sits down on a rock to rest as the group of crash survivors nears a hill. She shivers, obviously having a hard time dealing with the conditions.

Masaro stops and watches T’Pol as she rocks gently. He starts to look away when he suddenly sees a Vulcan kneeling next to her. He squints against the rain and strains to listen, but he can’t get a clear look at the other Vulcan, or hear any of the conversation that appears to be going on. Not waiting any longer, he rushes toward T’Pol.

Daniels sees Masaro rushing off and slaps Tucker on the back to get his attention.

DANIELS

Commander!

Tucker turns, sees Masaro, sees T’Pol, puts McKenzie down as gently as he can manage, and pulls her holstered sidearm before he and Daniels run after Masaro.

Changing to Masaro’s POV, we can see the mystery Vulcan look up at him before quickly getting up and disappearing into the brush. T’Pol hears his approach and looks up at him.

T’Pol quickly stands and takes up a martial arts stance, ready for anything. Masaro stops short of her.

MASARO

So who was your friend!?

T’POL

To whom do you refer!?

MASARO

I saw you talking to another Vulcan!

By now, Tucker and Daniels have caught up with Masaro.

TUCKER

What’s going on here!?

MASARO

She was talking to one of them, sir! She’s conspiring with them!

T’POL

(forcefully)

There are no other Vulcans here!

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

An especially strong wind gust blows through the trees, making them creak loudly. SNAP! One of the tree trunks splinters, and the tree groans as it starts to fall.

TUCKER

Lookout!

Tucker, Daniels, and T’Pol all successfully jump out of the way. Masaro is not so fortunate; though he manages to escape being completely crushed by the trunk of the tree, he catches one of the limbs and it takes him down to the ground.

Tucker looks toward the stump of the tree, and is surprised to see a Vulcan slipping into the brush just behind it. He levels McKenzie’s plasma pistol and fires off several shots.

DANIELS

What is it!?

TUCKER

I saw one of ‘em! A damn Vulcan! He broke the tree!

Both turn to see T’Pol hunching over Masaro, looking for a way to dislodge him. Tucker obviously sees it differently.

TUCKER

Get away from him!

The crazed engineer fires a shot at T’Pol, hitting her air tank. T’Pol quickly spins around and starts to go for her own sidearm, but Tucker has the plasma pistol leveled at her chest.

TUCKER

You hold it right there or I’m gonna split you in two!

T’Pol freezes and looks at Tucker with what can only be surprise as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – SICKBAY

Lucas is looking after Mayweather as Archer enters the room. Phlox motions for him to join him at one of the other computer terminals next to the imaging scanner.

PHLOX

In reviewing the bio-scans taken of the returning members of the landing party, I've discovered that six other crewmembers have been infected by this microbe.
(beat, off Archer's concerned look)

Initially, I wasn't able to connect anything to determine a possible infection vector that they had in common. I was about to conduct some interviews when I thought to look over the telemetry from the probes you've been sending...

Phlox enters a command into the computer, and a diagram of the microbes appears on the monitor.

PHLOX (CONT'D)

They're in the water.

ARCHER

Will this help you to treat Ensign Mayweather and the others?

PHLOX

No, but it does mean that anyone who had contact with the water is probably infected.

ARCHER

(remembering)

Trip was giving Travis some swimming lessons yesterday afternoon...

PHLOX

I wouldn't be surprised to find that the others had joined the Commander yesterday too, but unfortunately, that isn't the only concern.

ARCHER

What do you mean?

PHLOX

If the remaining members of the landing party managed to survive a crash landing, then they've probably been exposed because of the storm.

(beat, off Archer's growing concern)

You need to find them quickly, Captain.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND – FOREST

T’Pol sits on the rock she had rested on again, Tucker still holding McKenzie’s plasma pistol on her.

T’POL

(venomously)

I was right about humans! You are an illogical, irrational, and violent people, completely ruled by your emotions!

TUCKER

(equally venomous)

You just sit there and shut the hell up! I’ve already heard more than I care to from you!

Tucker motions for Daniels to take T’Pol’s sidearm, which he cautiously does. T’Pol gives him an intimidating look that momentarily frightens the dining steward, but does nothing to keep him from pulling her weapon from its holster.

The rest of the group has gathered on the scene, with most of them immediately attempting to get Masaro free of the fallen tree. One of them does, however, approach Tucker, confused at the sight of him holding a weapon on their ship’s first officer.

CREWMAN (3)

Commander!? What’s going on!? What happened!?

TUCKER

I saw a damn Vulcan push this tree over on Tyler, right after he saw one of ‘em talking to her!

(beat, glowering at T’Pol)

She’s tryin’ to pretend like nothin’ is even goin’ on!

The crewman stares blankly, saying nothing for a BEAT, then, with a glazed expression, he simply turns to help the others in a vain effort to free Masaro by simply trying to pull on the trapped man’s arms.

TUCKER

(at T’Pol)

You better hope he survives; you’re already responsible for one death!

(off T’Pol’s confusion)

Yeah, that’s right, if it wasn’t for you keepin’ me from savin’ her, the Corporal would be alive right now!

T’POL

I did nothing! I was barely able to keep myself from drowning!

FOUNDATIONS: "Shadows of Paradise"

TUCKER

Oh really!? Why didn't you dump that air tank!? I thought you were a lot heavier than you should be!

(beat)

For that matter, why didn't you help me bring you into shore!

T'POL

I was given an external air supply because the air here is too humid for my lungs to process!

TUCKER

You seem fine right now!

T'Pol simply glares at Tucker.

MALE VOICE

(chiding)

What are you doing, Mister Tucker!?

Tucker's eyes go wide at the voice, and he turns to see VELIK, a Vulcan science teacher from his past.

TUCKER

(shocked)

What are you doin' here Mister Velik!?

VELIK

You did not answer my question, Mister Tucker! What are you doing!?

(beat, of Tucker's confusion)

Look at her!

Velik nods toward T'Pol. The Vulcan woman is shivering uncontrollably, and struggling for breath.

VELIK (CONT'D)

(critically)

What makes you think she could present any threat!? She can barely draw breath!

TUCKER

(growing angry again)

I'm doin' what I have to, to protect my crewmates! I saw one of 'em do that to Tyler!

VELIK

Did you!? How can you be certain!?

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

TUCKER

No offense, but your ears have a way of standing out!

Velik quirks an eyebrow slightly.

VELIK

I believe you are letting your preconceptions to cloud your judgment, Tucker-kan!

TUCKER

Why am I even listening to you!? You're one of 'em!

Tucker swings the phase pistol in Velik's direction, but the Vulcan has disappeared. Tucker's face shows his shock and confusion as we

CUT TO:

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – SICKBAY

Lucas places a slug-like animal on Mayweather's forehead. As we pull back, we can see that he has a small cage with more of these alien slugs, and that six other crewmen wait in the background.

Phlox activates the comm. panel as Lucas begins to place the slugs on the other humans' temples.

PHLOX

Sickbay to Captain Archer.

(beat)

We have found a treatment to combat the infected crewmembers. If you can find the rest of the landing party, I believe I can treat them.

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – BRIDGE

Archer stares at the viewscreen, an image of the sunken Shuttlepod 01 displayed on it.

ARCHER

Good. Keep me apprised of the situation down there. Archer out.

Archer deactivates the comm. on his armrest before looking to Garla.

ARCHER

Anything?

GARLA

No sir. The shuttlepod is empty.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

A wave of relief comes over the Captain.

ARCHER

(to Garla)

Return the probe to the surface; search the area.

GARLA

Captain, there is an island nearby; perhaps they were able to get ashore.

Archer nods, then looks at Ensign Sato, sitting at Communications.

ARCHER

See if you can create a comm. link between the ship and the probe. Try to contact the away team.

SATO

Aye sir.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND – FOREST

T’Pol watches Tucker wave the plasma pistol around at nothing.

ANOTHER MALE VOICE

(in Vulcan)

[You must defend yourself, daughter.]

T’Pol’s eyes widen in surprise, we pan to look with her, and see an older Vulcan man standing next to her, dressed in uniform. This is T’POL’S FATHER.

T’POL’S FATHER

[You must attack while he is still distracted.]

T’POL

(also in Vulcan)

[I am in no condition to attack anyone.]

T’POL’S FATHER

[You must try, or he will kill you. He has already attempted to do so.]

T’POL

[If I attempt to attack him and fail, he will kill me.]

(beat)

[The logical course of action is to avoid provoking him, and wait for rescue.]

T’Pol’s father shows a Sarek-like hint of emotion as he looks at his daughter.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

T’POL’S FATHER

[My logic is suspect, where you are concerned, daughter.]

(beat)

[I do not wish you to share my fate; I cannot bear the thought.]

T’Pol looks longingly at her father. She reaches for him.

T’POL

[Father...]

TUCKER

(training the plasma pistol on her)

Don’t speak that gibberish around me! I want to know every word you say!

Suddenly, both their communicators go off.

ARCHER (COMM. VOICE)

(static-y)

Enterprise to landing party.

Tucker and T’Pol simultaneously pull their communicators out and open them.

TUCKER

Tucker here, Cap’n!

ARCHER (COMM. VOICE)

Trip!? What’s going on?

TUCKER

Our little Vulcan here is not what she appears to be! I beginning to think our crash was no accident!

ARCHER (COMM. VOICE)

What?

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – BRIDGE

Archer stands close to Sato.

T’POL (COMM. VOICE)

(in Vulcan)

[He’s delusional! All of them are! He will kill me!]

Archer motions for Sato to mute their end.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

ARCHER

What did she say?

SATO

(worried)

She says that the landing party is delusional, and that Commander Tucker is going to kill her.

ARCHER

(grimly)

We need to get them back on board. We can't wait.

(beat, to Garla)

How much longer is that storm going to last?

EXT. PLANET SURFACE – DESERTED ISLAND – FOREST

T'Pol and Tucker continue to stare each other down.

ARCHER (COMM. VOICE)

Trip, I need you to trust me. Stand down.

TUCKER

You don't understand, Cap'n! There's no telling where they are!

(beat)

No way I'm takin' my eyes off her!

ARCHER (COMM. VOICE)

That's fine; you can keep an eye on her, but lower the weapon.

SATO (COMM. VOICE)

(in Vulcan)

[Sub-Commander, can you recover your weapon?]

T'POL

[I am uncertain.]

T'Pol watches Daniels, still caught up with the others, trying to free Masaro from the fallen tree.

TUCKER

What's goin' on!? What're you sayin'!?

ARCHER (COMM. VOICE)

Hoshi is passing along my orders to T'Pol.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

TUCKER

Why in Vulcan!?

SATO (COMM. VOICE)

[We won't be able to get to you for three more hours. You have to try; we'll distract him.]

TUCKER

Answer me dammit! Why are you talkin' to her in Vulcan!?

(with horror in his voice)

Are you in on this too?!

ARCHER (COMM. VOICE)

No time to explain! There are multiple life forms approaching from directly behind you!

Panicking, Tucker quickly turns around and waves the plasma pistol in the new direction. Instantly, he begins shooting wildly, as if at figures only he can see. The moment that he turns, T'Pol springs to her feet and rushes toward Daniels. Before the steward is even aware of her presence – he, like everyone else, is now trying to see what Tucker is shooting at – T'Pol applies the nerve pinch. As he collapses, she retrieves her sidearm and, with a quick glance at its setting, begins firing at the other humans who are only now becoming aware of her presence. She drops them all with well-placed shots, before quickly training her weapon on Tucker, who is now turning to face her. For a half-second, Tucker's face is wildly distorted into something almost demonic, and T'Pol squeezes the trigger on her weapon.

Tucker collapses.

T'Pol takes a moment to survey the fallen humans around her, heaving heavily with her exertion, gasping for air. She lets the disruptor fall out of her hand as she drops to her knees.

T'POL

(to herself, in Vulcan)

[Have I taken the correct action?]

We pan and see that her father is standing next to her again.

T'POL'S FATHER

[You did what you had to do, daughter.]

T'Pol looks up at her father, as if to answer, but she's laboring now for each breath. She collapses, shivering, into a fetal position. Her father appears oddly unconcerned.

Static crackles in the distance.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

SATO (COMM. VOICE)

[Sub-Commander!? What’s going on!?!]

T’Pol’s father looks down at his daughter.

T’POL’S FATHER

[You will be rescued soon. You know what you must do until then.]

T’Pol does her best to nod, then steeple her fingers in an almost prayer-like manner as she closes her eyes. We pull up and away as we

FADE TRANSITION TO:

INT. *ENTERPRISE* – SICKBAY

We focus on T’Pol’s serene face, replicating the camera motion of the last scene as closely as we can as she opens her eyes.

PHLOX (O.S.)

Welcome back, Sub-Commander.

Changing angles, we can see that T’Pol is now on the main biobed, and that Phlox is standing nearby.

PHLOX (CONT’D)

I must admit, I’ve been curious about the Vulcan healing trance, but this is the first time I’ve seen it in action first-hand.

T’Pol says nothing, instead looking at the crash survivors occupying the remaining beds. Phlox turns to look at the unconscious crewmen, seeming to sense her thoughts.

PHLOX

They’re all recovering from the infection, and hm, an acute case of being stunned by a Vulcan weapon.

Phlox smiles slightly, attempting to lighten the mood. T’Pol ignores it.

T’POL

Where are the others?

Phlox loses his smile.

PHLOX

The others are in the overflow ward. All of the remaining members of the landing party are recovering, except Corporal McKenzie.

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

T’Pol seems to lose some tension from her body.

T’POL

She drowned shortly after the crash.

Phlox nods solemnly.

PHLOX

Welcome back, Sub-Commander.

Phlox turns, and goes to the nearest bed, tending to its patient.

Changing angles, we see Commander Tucker enter Sickbay from the overflow ward. T’Pol watches his approach, but otherwise doesn’t react.

TUCKER

(awkwardly)

Listen ... I, uh, wanted to apologize for what I said and did down there...

T’POL

(interrupting)

You were under the influence of an alien agent, Commander, and thus-

TUCKER

(interrupting)

Still, I feel pretty bad about it.

(beat)

I’m not exactly one of your biggest fans, or of Vulcans in general...

(beat, as T’Pol looks at him quizzically)

Point is, I don’t know if I could have forgiven myself if I had actually...

T’POL

But you did not; that is all that is important.

(beat, softer)

We were all ... affected in different ways by what happened down there. We cannot allow lingering thoughts of the past overwhelm us, or we will be ruled by it all our lives.

Tucker looks at her for a BEAT, thinking.

TUCKER

“Challenge your preconceptions, or they will challenge you.”

T’Pol actually looks somewhat surprised to hear the Surak-ism coming from the human’s lips.

FOUNDATIONS: "Shadows of Paradise"

T'POL

Pardon?

TUCKER

When I was in tenth grade, a Vulcan scientist came to lecture once during my biology class about life on other planets.

T'Pol watches Tucker intently as he speaks.

TUCKER (CONT'D)

He scared the hell out of me; I'd never seen a Vulcan up close before, not in person.

(beat)

That was something he said to me, and I've always remembered it.

(beat)

Then, I saw him down there on that planet, and I think now, I finally appreciate what it really means.

Tucker's expression shifts again to one of embarrassment.

TUCKER

Anyway, I'm glad to know that you're okay.

Tucker stands idly, as if he's not sure if he wants to say anything else, wait for T'Pol to say something, or take his leave. There is a short BEAT before he decides to continue.

TUCKER

(awkwardly)

So... Guess I'm lucky Vulcan weapons have a stun setting...

T'POL

Indeed. You had grown increasingly illogical and violent. Something about ... "splitting me in two".

Tucker blushes slightly at the way T'Pol emphasized his own, delusional words from the planet, not only with her voice but also with a quirk of her eyebrow. With this we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

FOUNDATIONS: “Shadows of Paradise”

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