

STAR TREK

"Where No Man Has Gone Before"

Detailed Synopsis

It is star date 1312.4, a time when man has traveled millions of light years into space almost to the edge of our galaxy. Until now the tasks of the starship, "U. S. S. Enterprise," have been the enforcement of space law, contact with Earth's colonies and investigation of alien life. Now, under the command of Capt. James Kirk (William Shatner) the spacecraft has a new and infinitely more dangerous assignment -- to probe the black void beyond galaxy limits -- out where no space explorers have gone before.

"Enterprise" reflects hundreds of years of scientific research and progress in the building of space vehicles. By comparison, it is closer to a modern ocean liner than it is to today's cramped capsules. The ship is a self-sustained unit manned by dozens of crewmen. It is equipped with scientific gear not yet on the drawing boards in the middle 20th century. It is propelled by massive space-warp engines.

On star date 1312.5, "Enterprise's" sensor beams detect an object directly ahead. Capt. Kirk makes the following notation in his log, "The impossible has happened. Although we are the first vessel

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to come this far, we have sighted an object in space. Even more impossible, it is sending us a signal -- VAL 115, the call letters of a ship missing for over two centuries."

Lt. Lee Kelso (Paul Carr), who is manning the sensor units, advises the captain that the object is too small to be the mission vessel. It is only one yard in diameter. The ship's science officer, Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy), observes that it is not large enough even to be a life boat.

Determined to identify the object, Capt. Kirk orders it brought aboard the "Enterprise." It turns out to be a spaceship disaster recorder, a spherical device ejected from a spacecraft when disaster threatens or occurs. Its metallic surface is pitted and charred. The lettering "U. S. S. Valiant" is barely visible.

Mr. Spock learns from the recorder's memory banks that "Valiant" had encountered a magnetic space storm, was swept a half light year beyond the galaxy, thrown clear of the storm and had returned to the pinpoint in space where it met "Enterprise." Six crewmen died and another was severely injured but recovered. There was a notation of the captain urgently requesting information on extra sensory perception

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(ESP). Dr. Elizabeth Dehner, (Sally Kellerman) a psychiatrist aboard the "Enterprise" to study crew reaction under emergency conditions, explains that ESP is an ability some people have to sense future happenings.

The final notation from "Valiant's" recorder is the captain issuing an order to destroy the ship. No reason is given.

Capt. Kirk orders "Enterprise" to continue its explorations. He tells his crew that other ships will be heading out there later on and will have to know what they are facing.

Lt. Cmmdr. Gary Mitchell, (Gary Lockwood) the ship's senior helmsman, is now at the controls as the ship moves past the last stars into the unknown.

Shortly after "Enterprise" leaves the galaxy, a strange force field lying ahead is observed. The ship is closing in on it rapidly and in a matter of seconds hits the barrier. There is a blinding flash of light. "Enterprise" is tossed about violently. Many electrical circuits are shorted. Her main engines are knocked out, but Capt. Kirk manages to take the ship out of the 'storm' and back into the galaxy.

As a result of the ship's strange encounter, seven men are dead. Elizabeth Dehner has received a mild electrical shock but seems alright. Lt. Cmmdr. Mitchell has been severely jolted and is unconscious but

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alive. When he recovers, he and all aboard are dumbstruck; his eyes have turned a bright metallic silver!:-

Spock determines that the crew members who were affected by the strange force field showed a high degree of extra sensory perception. Mitchell, he says, had the highest degree of anyone on the ship. He also suggests that Mitchell may become dangerous to the rest of the crew. Elizabeth Dehner disputes this. Spock reminds her that "Valiant's" captain was frantically searching for ESP information just before his ship was destroyed.

During the next few days while repairs on the spacecraft continue, Mitchell develops unusual powers. First, he is able to read at fantastic speed. Later he is able to perceive events happening elsewhere on the ship and finally he is able to move inanimate objects by thought waves. Mr. Spock tells Capt. Kirk that at the rate Mitchell's powers are developing he soon will have as much in common with the rest of the crew as he would with a ship full of white mice. In a short time, the science officer says, Mitchell will be a menace to the welfare of the ship.

Asked for a recommendation, Spock offers two alternatives. There is, he says, an uninhabited planet, Delta Vega, a short distance away on which there is an automated chemical plant. . Our ships land

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there every 20 years to collect its product. The ship could be orbited about it while the crew makes final repairs for the trip back to earth. When they are ready to leave, Mitchell could be stranded there. The other alternative is to kill him.

Capt. Kirk is shocked at the science officer's suggestions until Spock points out to him that "Valiant's" skipper probably felt the same way and he waited too long to make his decision. Kirk orders "Enterprise" to set course for Delta Vega.

Mitchell's ESP abilities are still increasing rapidly and he is aware of the plan to either abandon him on Delta Vega or to kill him. His personality is also changing with his increased powers, and he now is convinced he is immortal.

In a fight with Kirk and Spock, Mitchell is knocked unconscious and transported to Delta Vega. Elizabeth, Kirk and Spock accompany him. Lt. Kelso goes along also. He will try to adapt the power packs of the automated chemical plant to the ship's engines for the trip back to earth.

Just as Kelso has the ship's engines repaired, he is murdered by Mitchell, ^{now} ~~not~~ mutated into a completely alien being. Kirk and Spock

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attempt to kill him but Mitchell merely raises his hand and strikes them down with a massive force field of static electricity. Mitchell flees, taking Elizabeth with him.

Kirk orders Spock back to the ship with a warning that if they have not heard from him in 12 hours the planet must be destroyed. Then he starts in search of Mitchell and Elizabeth.

Mitchell senses that Kirk is looking for them and sends Elizabeth to meet him. Kirk is shocked to find that she also is changing. Her eyes too are now a bright metallic silver. He implores her to help him stop Mitchell before it is too late. Her emotions are torn between the two men. When her senses tell her that Mitchell is approaching, she warns Kirk.

Mitchell and Elizabeth argue. A tremendous field of static electricity builds up between them. Mitchell is by far the stronger and Elizabeth is hurled to the ground by the effect of his field.

Mitchell, however, is sufficiently weakened to enable Kirk to battle with him on an equal basis. A terrific fight ensues from which Kirk emerges the victor and Mitchell is killed. But Elizabeth has been mortally wounded and she dies in Kirk's arms.

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