

# Star Trek The Return to Melmac

One of the last of his race, the aged Gordon Shumway dares to take over the Enterprise in order to attempt a sling shot maneuver to time travel back to the late twentieth century to prevent the catastrophe that destroyed his home planet . . .

But first, a light snack . . .



A work of fan fiction by Samuel Stokes

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## Star Trek: The Return to Melmac

### EPISODE 3

By Samuel Stokes

"Captain's log, stardate 1333.4. Ambassador Shumway has been confined to the brig after his failed attempt to commandeer the Enterprise. He will remain there until we can reach the nearest Starbase, where Shumway will be turned over to Starfleet authorities to be court martialed. I also have the grim duty of sending my condolences to the family of Security Officer Stevens who was killed by an energy surge when he removed the control device that Shumway implanted in a computer terminal."

Captain Kirk entered sick bay, to see Security Officer Stevens lying motionless on the medical bed, still wearing his red uniform shirt, which now had three burn marks on it.

"Bones," said Kirk, "Aren't you going to put Stevens' body into stasis until we reach the starbase?"

"Jim?" asked Dr. McCoy, puzzled.

"I said . . ." began Kirk.

"I heard the question, Jim," said McCoy, "It's just that Stevens is not dead. He's just unconscious."

"Oh," said Kirk, taken aback, "Are you sure?"

"Jim, I'm a doctor!" said McCoy, "I know dead when I see it."

"Oh," said Kirk, "I guess I just assumed, I mean, I've gotten accustomed to, well, I mean . . . never mind."

At that moment, Stevens regained consciousness.

"Doc, what happened?" asked Stevens.

"You saved the ship," said McCoy.

"We thought we'd lost you," said Kirk, "How are you feeling?"

"I'm feeling much better now," said Stevens.

"Well, just lay back and we'll run some tests," said McCoy.

"Yes sir," said Stevens.

"Sulu to Captain Kirk," came a voice over the intercom, "We have reached the Hobus system and await your instructions."

The Enterprise crew had spent the past several hours running battle simulations in order to attempt a restoration of the timeline by time travelling to future to prevent Nero's time incursion which led to the destruction of Vulcan, New Melmac and countless other worlds."

Using sensor data from the various encounters with Nero's ship, Spock had devised a plan to use a precisely modulated phaser attack to target a weak spot in the weapon targeting relay. This particular juncture point ran the risk of overheating if it were too heavily shielded, which would effectively trap the heat inside, so it was only lightly shielded for this reason. Spock referred to this juncture as the "Achilles' Heal," however, even though a precise hit could render the weapons system useless, it would be an incredibly difficult shot to make. But now that the Enterprise had the advantage of speed with the integration of the Melmacian star drive, it would have the benefit of surprise and of being able to escape a failed attempt before being destroyed.

This entire plan depended significantly on the Enterprise's ability to slingshot to a precise point in the future before Nero's ship was transported back in time, where it would emerge and attack the U.S.S. Kelvin. If they succeeded, then the Kelvin would be saved and the timeline restored. No one was more keenly aware of this than Captain Kirk. His father was second in command on the Kelvin. After Nero's incursion, Kirk's father, George, stayed on the Kelvin after the escape shuttles abandoned ship. George Kirk set a collision course into Nero's ship, temporarily disabling it, so that the shuttles could escape. Among the passengers on those shuttles was Kirk's mother, who went into labor during the battle, and bore a son, James Tiberius Kirk, who would later become Captain of the U.S.S. Enterprise.

A few minutes later on the bridge, the Captain made final checks before beginning their mission.

"Have you completed calculations for time warp, Mr. Spock?"

"Yes, Captain," replied Spock, "Although it is difficult to be certain what effect the Melmacian star drive will have on our final velocity."

"You don't sound entirely certain, Mr. Spock," said Kirk, slightly bewildered.

"I'm not, Captain," said Mr. Spock, "But I will be monitoring the navigational sensors during the process and I will make the necessary adjustments as needed."

"Well," said Kirk, reassuringly, "I know of no one else who I trust more than you to make those adjustments."

Spock did not know how to take compliments very well, but after years of living among humans was able to manage a half-smile.

"Sulu," said Kirk, "Begin your approach towards Hobus, warp factor 1."

"Aye, sir," said Sulu.

"Spock" said Kirk, "I leave the rest to you."

"Understood, Captain," said Spock.

Spock kept a close eye on the readout on the navigational array and instructed Sulu on precise speed and approach factors as he gauged how the Melmacian star drive was affecting his time warp

calculations. The ship went faster and faster towards the star Hobus, whose gravity assist would be used to slingshot the Enterprise through time to a point just before the destruction of Romulus, where they could disable Nero's weapon systems before it travelled back in time.

As the ship neared closer and closer to the star, it shuddered violently. At the final moment before the Enterprise would have been pulled into the star's gravity, Spock shouted, "Maximum warp, Mr. Sulu! Now!"

The ship forcibly pulled against the incredible strength of the star's gravitational pull and began to vault forward, bending time and space as it went. Spock knew something was wrong when the navigational readings fluctuated wildly.

"Report, Mr. Sulu!" shouted Spock over the din.

"We're losing speed!" Mr. Sulu, "I've lost helm control!"

Just then Scotty's voice shouted over the intercom, "Scotty to bridge! The Melmacian star drive is malfunctioning. I don't think she'll take much more!"

"Scotty!" said Captain Kirk, "Can you stabilize it for a moment longer?"

"I don't know, Captain," said Scotty, "If we go like this much longer, she'll blow!"

"Hang on, Mr. Scott!" said Kirk, "If you don't, then we're going directly into the star."

"Scotty!" said Spock, "I need you to detonate a small anti-matter explosion in the Melmacian star drive chamber, to give us enough breaking speed to escape the star!"

"Are you mad, man?" shouted Scott, "That could trigger a warp core breach!"

"That may be!" said Spock, "But if you don't we'll all be dead anyway! I'm transmitting the exact specifications to the engineering computer terminal!"

"Aye, Commander," said Scott.

Spock transmitted the specifications to Scotty, who immediately got to work on it.

"Are you ready, Mr. Scott?" shouted Spock a few moments later.

"Aye, Commander," said Scott, "And may God help us!"

"Detonate now, Mr. Scott!" shouted Spock.

There was an enormous explosion, knocking most of the crew off of their feet or onto the floor from their chairs.

Sulu got up off the floor and rushed back to the con. He wondered again why his station didn't have safety belts for these occasions, but he only thought of this when he was in this sort of situation, and promptly forgot to ask when the situation returned to normal.

"Sulu, report!" shouted Captain Kirk.

"That did it!" said Sulu, "We've achieved breaking velocity!"

This good news was short-lived, however. A moment later, Scotty came on the intercom again, "Warp core breach! I repeat – warp core breach! Evacuate engineering section and prepare to eject the core!"

As the Enterprise abruptly dropped out of warp, the bridge crew was eagerly monitoring the engineering evacuation.

"Engineering is evacuated!" shouted Mr. Scott, "Ejecting the core!"

The entire ship jolted as the warp core was forcibly ejected into space.

"Full impulse, Mr. Sulu!" said Captain Kirk, "Put as much distance between us and the warp core as possible."

"Aye, Captain," replied Sulu.

But it was too late to do much good. Moments later the warp core exploded in a blinding flash. The resulting shockwave shoved the Enterprise aimlessly through space.

"Damage report," said Captain Kirk.

"Damage reports coming in from all decks," said Lt. Uhura, "Medical teams are being dispatched throughout the ship."

"Shields are down to 10%" said Spock, "Impulse engines are offline. Weapons are offline. Life support is fluctuating."

"Maintain necessary shields and transfer all remaining power to life support," said Captain Kirk.

"Aye, Captain," said Spock.

"I'm going to visit Shumway, and find out what happened with his star drive," said Captain Kirk, "You have the bridge, Mr. Spock."

"Aye, sir," said Spock.

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"I've got a ship stranded in Romulan territory," said Kirk, "I don't know where we are and I don't know when we are. Now, I want some answers! What happened to that star drive?"

"Beats me," said Shumway, "Harry Mudd recertified it for 150 million light-years last time I had it serviced."

"Harry Mudd!," shouted Kirk in frustration.

"Look," said Shumway, "I know you're upset by all of this, but I can't do you any good in here. Let me out and I'll see what I can do to help."

"You must be joking," said Kirk, "Just a few hours ago you forcibly took control of the Enterprise and now you expect to be released?"

"I know we didn't exactly start off on the right foot," said Shumway, "But we're in this together now. The only way we're going to get out of this is if we stick together. Now, I may have a few more goodies in my spaceship that might help us through this. Remember, Melmacians were exploring the galaxy long before Galileo sailed around the world."

"Galileo never sailed around the world," said Kirk.

"Are we splitting hairs here?" asked Shumway, "The truth is – you need me. And I need you, too. My star drive is destroyed so I can't go back to Melmac – it's too far away even at maximum warp. But if Spock's plan works, he'll have his planet Vulcan back and I'll be able to save the colony of New Melmac. Let me help!"

Kirk paused to think about this. The Enterprise was in fact a sitting duck at this point. They may be able to get their impulse engines and weapons back up in a few hours, but even at full impulse speed it would take the Enterprise over a decade to get back to Federation space. But right now, they were deep in Romulan territory and even if they attempted to return to Federation space, they were sure to be spotted eventually and destroyed by the Romulan Empire, or worse, imprisoned.

"Very well, then," said Captain Kirk, "Kirk to engineering. I'm assigning Lt. Kyle to assist Shumway in retrieving Melmacian technology from his vessel. Mr. Scott, you will be supervising the integration of this technology into the Enterprise's systems."

"Aye, Captain," said Scotty, "But at the moment we don't have much of a system left down here to integrate anything."

"Understood, Mr. Scott," said Kirk, "I'm sure you can get it up and running in due time."

"Aye, sir," said Scotty in a very uncertain tone.

"O'Herlihy," said Kirk to the security guard in the brig. I want two security officers assigned to Shumway at all times.

"Yes, sir," said Officer O'Herlihy.

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A few minutes later in the shuttle bay, Lt. Kyle stood by and observed as Shumway was on hands and knees, looking through a storage area on his spaceship, tossing item after item over his shoulder, making a small mountain behind him as he went. He found something that looked like a small screwdriver and said, "Ah-ha, here it is."

"What is that, sir?" asked Lt. Kyle.

"Oh," said Shumway, "Just a little pain relief tool. I use it for lower back pain. In fact, my back aches a little bit from leaning over so much, and I could really use a snack. Can you look back in there and grab me a slimeball?"

"A slimeball, sir?" asked Kyle.

"Yeah," said Shumway, "It's my favorite snack food. It's in a white paper bag somewhere."

Kyle leaned down and looked for the bag, "I can't seem to find it, sir."

"Oh, it's in there somewhere," said Shumway, "Just keep looking."

Shumway calibrated the screw driver shaped device, which turned out to be a Melmacian phaser pistol and stunned Lt. Kyle with it. Kyle fell flat on the ground. The two security guards rushed towards Shumway but he was ready for them and had them stunned on the floor before they could draw their phasers.

"Alright," said Shumway, "Now time to get some real work done."

There wasn't time for Shumway to get much done, however, because at that moment Spock's voice came over the intercom, "Red alert. Three Romulan vessels have decloaked off the starboard bow."

TO BE CONTINUED...