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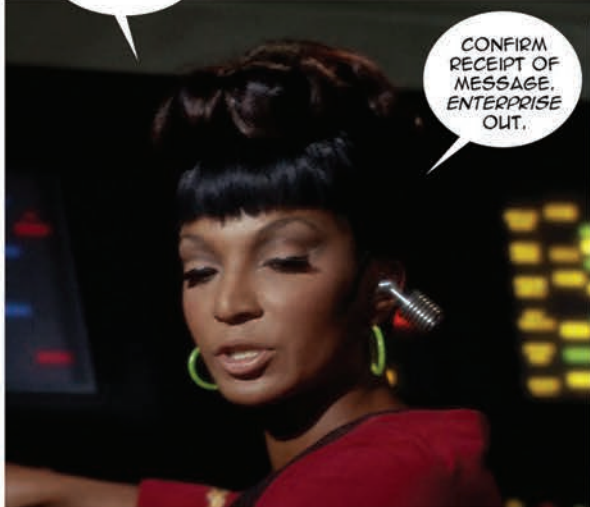
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THANK YOU, RELAY NINE.



CONFIRM RECEIPT OF MESSAGE. ENTERPRISE OUT.



MISTER SPOCK...

...I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU. CIVILIAN CHANNEL WITH A GRADE FOUR ENCRYPTION.



GRADE FOUR?

YOU ARE QUITE CERTAIN THE MESSAGE IS FOR ME, MISS UHURA?

I KNOW MY JOB, MISTER SPOCK.

IT'S FOR YOU.

AND IT GOT HERE THROUGH NO LESS THAN FOUR RELAY STATIONS.

WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO'S THAT FAR AWAY?



THANK YOU, MISS UHURA.

THAT WILL BE ALL.

CAPTAIN'S LOG,
STARDATE 5862.5

FIRST OFFICER SPOCK
HAS APPROACHED ME
WITH A MOST
UNUSUAL
REQUEST...

A LEAVE
OF ABSENCE,
MISTER
SPOCK?

THAT'S
VERY UNLIKE
YOU.

DO YOU
MIND IF
I ASK
WHY?

I WOULD
PREFER YOU
DID NOT,
SIR.

I ASSURE
YOU, IT IS A
MATTER OF NO
CONCERN TO
STARFLEET.

I EXPECT
TO BE BACK
AT MY POST
WITHIN TEN
DAYS.

I RESPECT
YOUR PRIVACY,
OF COURSE,
SPOCK.

THOUGH I
MUST SAY, AFTER
SEEING YOU
THROUGH PON
FARR...

...I WOULDN'T
HAVE THOUGHT
THERE WAS
ANYTHING YOU
WOULDN'T TRUST
US TO SHARE.

IT IS NOT A
CASE OF TRUST,
NOR LACK OF
TRUST, CAPTAIN,
I PROMISE
YOU.

BUT IT IS
SOMETHING TO
WHICH I MUST
ATTEND ON MY
OWN.

VERY WELL,
LEAVE OF ABSENCE
GRANTED.

HOW SOON
DO YOU WANT
TO LEAVE THE
SHIP?

WE ARE
SCHEDULED TO
PUT IN AT THE
ORION COLONY
IN TWO DAYS,
SIR.

THAT
SHOULD BE
SOON
ENOUGH.

I CAN
ARRANGE FOR
FURTHER
TRANSPORT
FROM
THERE.

Space, the Final Frontier. These are the voyages of the starship *Enterprise*.
Its five-year mission: to explore strange new worlds. To seek out new life, and new civilizations.
To boldly go where no man has gone before.

STAR TREK

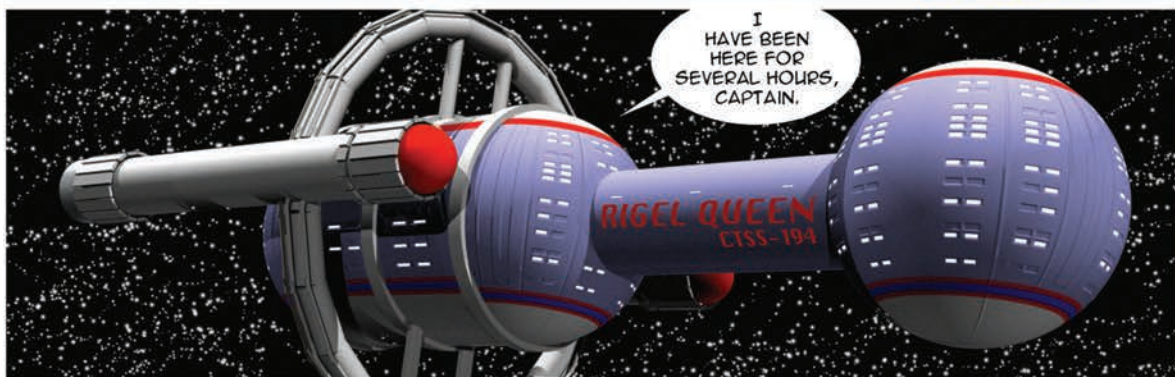
Created by **GENE RODDENBERRY**

"THE HOLLOW MAN"



Photomontage and Story by **JOHN BYRNE**

DEDICATED TO THE TALENTED PERFORMERS, CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS WHOSE WORK IS REPRESENTED HERE



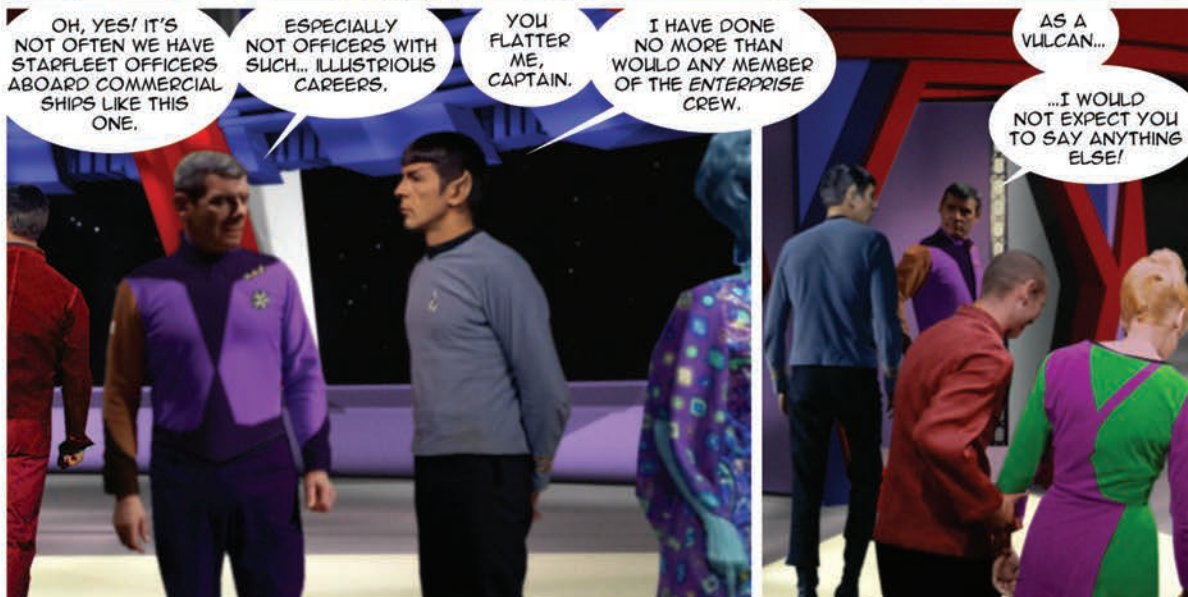


I GUESS I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU IN SUCH A POPULATED AREA!

HOWEVER, WE'LL BE DOCKING AT RIGEL IN HALF AN HOUR...

AN... HONOR?

...AND I WANTED TO SAY WHAT AN HONOR IT'S BEEN TO HAVE YOU ABOARD.



OH, YES! IT'S NOT OFTEN WE HAVE STARFLEET OFFICERS ABOARD COMMERCIAL SHIPS LIKE THIS ONE.

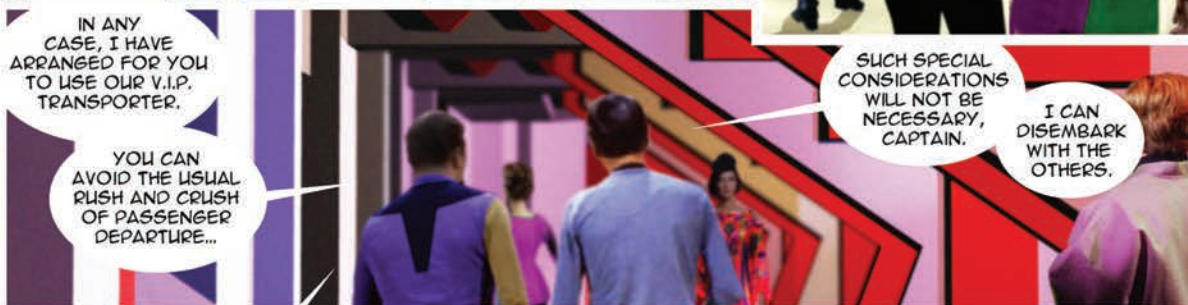
ESPECIALLY NOT OFFICERS WITH SUCH... ILLUSTRIOUS CAREERS.

YOU FLATTER ME, CAPTAIN.

I HAVE DONE NO MORE THAN WOULD ANY MEMBER OF THE ENTERPRISE CREW.

AS A VULCAN...

...I WOULD NOT EXPECT YOU TO SAY ANYTHING ELSE!



IN ANY CASE, I HAVE ARRANGED FOR YOU TO USE OUR V.I.P. TRANSPORTER.

YOU CAN AVOID THE USUAL RUSH AND CRUSH OF PASSENGER DEPARTURE...

SUCH SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY, CAPTAIN.

I CAN DISEMBARK WITH THE OTHERS.



AS YOU WISH!

"YOU'LL BE BEAMED DIRECTLY TO ONE OF THE VISITOR RECEPTION AREAS."

COMMANDER SPOCK...?



YES...?

A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, SIR.

I AM Q'AN VASS, REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF BLUE STAR LINE.

WE HAVE THE VEHICLE YOU REQUESTED ALL PREPPED AND READY.

IT'S BEEN PROVISIONED WITH FOOD AND AIR FOR ONE WEEK, AS YOU ASKED.

THANK YOU... THOUGH I CONFESS I WAS HOPING FOR SOMETHING A BIT LESS... GAUDY.

I HAVE NO WISH TO DRAW ATTENTION TO MYSELF ON THIS JOURNEY.



THIS IS OUR STANDARD LOW OCCUPANCY, LONG RANGE CRAFT, SIR.

THERE ARE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF THEM IN THIS PART OF FEDERATION SPACE.

I PROMISE YOU WILL NOT BE CONSPICUOUS IN ANY WAY.



I THANK YOU, MR. VASS.

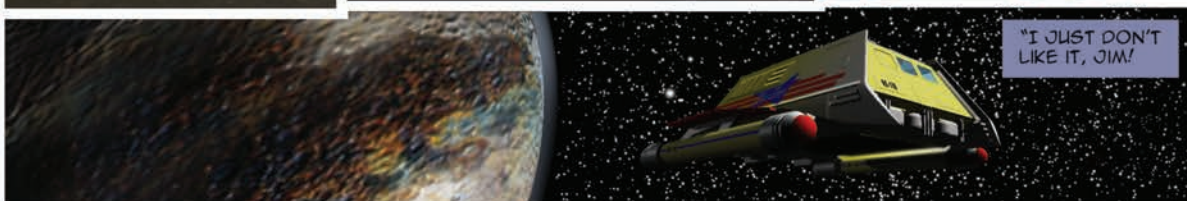
AND NOW I MUST BE ON MY WAY.

BLUE STAR RD-178 TO CONTROL.

REQUESTING PERMISSION TO LAUNCH.

CLEAR TO LAUNCH, RD-178.

YOUR VECTOR IS 372 MARK 4.



"I JUST DON'T LIKE IT, JIM!"