

**Star Trek: TOS (#44) – “Vulcan’s Glory”**  
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Back Cover:

*D.C. Fontana, write of such classic episodes as "Journey to Babel" and "This Side of Paradise", here brings us the never-before-told story of a very young Mr. Spock, on his first mission aboard the USS Enterprise. You'll also meet Captain Christopher Pike and his enigmatic first officer, "Number One" (previously seen only in the original STAR TREK pilot "The Cage"), as well as the ship's brand-new engineering officer, Montgomery Scott. VULCAN'S GLORY is the tale of Spock's struggle to reconcile his many obligations – those forced on him by his Vulcan heritage, and those chosen by him upon his enlistment in Starfleet – to balance the wishes of others against the desires of his own heart.*

Summary:

At Ka'a Beach on Kauai, Hawaii, Lieutenant Spock walks barefoot and reminisces about the events surrounding his kahs-wan ritual. He has recently been promoted and assigned to the USS Enterprise, but has received two weeks leave prior to his new assignment, during which he has been ordered to relax by his previous commanding officer, Captain Daniels of the USS Artemis. While doing so, Spock receives a message from his father, Sarek, ordering him to return to planet Vulcan. The reason: Sarek wishes a family counsel in which to tell Spock that he must not only get his affairs of estate in order, but also insists that he make arrangements concerning his bonding to T'Pring.

While Spock feels his affairs of estate are well kept, he reluctantly goes to see T'Pring to speak of their pending marriage. The visit goes as well as could be expected – T'Pring forces Spock to chose a wedding date (to which Spock defers to the time of his next Pon Farr – see TOS Episode “Amok Time”). Waiting in the wings as Spock leaves, however, is Stonn, T'Pring's consort.

*"Some officers have had a difficult time dealing with the fact that she is a genetically perfect being. On her planet, Ilyria, excellence is the only criterion that is accepted. She is technically designated as being the best of her breed for the year she was born."*

*"I see. She therefore would receive the appellation 'Number One' even if she were not the executive officer."*

*"You have it." (Pike and Spock)*

With his business completed on Vulcan, Spock returns to Earth to report to his next post – the USS Enterprise. There the young Spock becomes quickly torn between his arranged marriage with the cold, calculating and heartless T'Pring, and the beautiful widowed T'Pris, who he just meets, but longs to start a relationship with. And like Spock, Scotty has also joined the crew of the Enterprise; he immediately finds himself making (and hiding) engine room hooch.

Meanwhile, Pike and the Enterprise are en route to Beta Circinus III (or Areta, referred to as by the natives), a primitive world where the Captain had previously ventured to assess the culture (they began to rebuild after a nuclear holocaust destroyed the first Aretan civilization). On Areta, Pike hopes to see some sort of unification between the three distinct groups of inhabitants, which he began to foster the last time he was there.

On the way, the Enterprise receives new news regarding the possible whereabouts of the He-Shii, a prominent Vulcan vessel that disappeared in space centuries ago. While a number of ships have disappeared over the years, what makes the He-Shii more prominent is that it was a vessel for one of the most revered and sacred Vulcan relics, the Glory. The Glory is a giant, flawless emerald twenty-two thousand eight-hundred ninety point for carats, a deep green in color, uncut, flawless and said to be bigger than "both a man's hands put together".

The new final trajectory of the He-shii may have taken it to a newly discovered planet, GS391, therefore, the Enterprise is directed to go there. Upon arrival, Spock and an away team of all Vulcans beam down to confirm. The He-Shii has been found, but even more important, it is determined that a contingent of escape craft were ejected from the ship before it crashed; its closest destination would have to be Areta; therefore, the Enterprise resumes its original mission. Upon arrival at Areta, Spock and his team beam down after discovering wreckage matching compositional analysis of the He-Shii and make a startling discovery. Seven members of the crew ultimately survived, crash-landing on Areta centuries ago, but furthermore, the Glory has been recovered. They quickly bring it aboard the Enterprise.

Captain Chris Pike, therefore, begins his mission on Areta and beams down to a secluded area of the planet disguised as Indallah Krees, a wandering hillsman. There he finds the planet's inhabitants are still divided in a triple caste system: the city dwellers (in Sendai and Andasia, the two remaining from the nuclear wars), the nomadic hillsman tribes, and those called mutants who dwell in the mountains. Pike, as Krees, makes contact with a tribe lead by Shinsei Ingarin Farnah, one with whom he met previously. But the Shinsei is in a right state: his daughter has disappeared into the night, taking two of his best meercans (a sort of camel-like beast) into the desert lands. Little does Farnah know, however, that his daughter (Selene) has gone to meet Bardan, the young son of Sendai's leader (one Melkor Aliat) and the two plan to runaway to forge their own destiny.

Meanwhile, onboard ship, Number One finds herself confronted with a murder on board, one which could've only been done by a Vulcan - a snap of the neck using the lan-dovna technique. While Captain Pike left strict orders that the Glory should not be released from the ship-board safes, historian and ship's geologist Lieutenant Commander George Meadows plotted to have a crack at examining the gem. Unable to convince Pike or T'Pol that he should be allowed to examine and record the find for all of the Federation, he forges Pike's signature on an order advising the security chief to release the Glory to him. He does so but hours later Meadows turns up dead and the Glory gone.

With Spock and T'Pris virtually unseperable since they met, the two begin investigating the death with Number One in tow. They begin by methodically interviewing all seventeen Vulcan's on board. Once they're cleared, however, the investigation runs into a brick wall.

On the planet below, Pike becomes embroiled in a rescue mission to save the daughter of a nomadic tribe who has run off with the son of a trading town both of whom, it has been determined, have been captured by mutants, horrifically mutated survivors of the holocaust. Spock beams down to render assistance.

But when Pike and Spock reach the place where the kids are being kept, it's becomes apparent quickly that they were not abducted to be captives, but to act as ambassadors between the mutants and the more civilized clans. The mutants feel they have much to give to the rest of the civilization but fear no one will listen to them. Selene and Bardan listened and agree to act upon their behalf, much to the chagrin of both of their fathers. With the first steps toward a unification on Areta, the situation onboard the Enterprise further deteriorates; there has been another murder - T'Pris.

Spock, now enraged, takes up the charge personally. Number One advises that T'Pris had been investigating a new line of thought reagarding the murder of Meadows and disappearance of the Glory when attacked. Just like with Meadows though, the computer T'Pris was working on had been wiped clean. But Spock's A-5 computer knowledge allowed him to reconstruct certain files on T'Pris' computer, which lead him to the murderer: Security Officer Reed - the same one tasked with guarding the Glory in the first place. It turns out the line of questioning T'Pris was investigation was whether or not anyone else on board the Enterprise had Vulcan ancestry; it turns out, Reed does. When confronted, Reed bolts for the Transporter room, beaming himself down to the surface of Areta. It doesn't take long for Mr. Spock to apprehend him. And the Glory is recovered in the most peculiar, but logical, of places: the safe from which it went missing.

With the Glory safely returned Spock with the Enterprise returns to Vulcan to pay his respects to T'Pris' family, but his world is forever shattered. He not only loses the love of his life, but part of himself as well. Spock becomes less aloof and harder, colder and more silent than ever before.

*"T'Pris, I vow I will never forget. I gave myself to you freely. We chose each other. There will never be another like you in my heart..." (Spock)*

With respects paid, the Enteprise continues its journey - this time to Starbase 12 to transport an ambassadorial party from Delta Indus II back to their home planet...