

**Star Trek: TOS (#59) – “The Disinherited”**  
**Pocket Books | May 1992**

---

---

Back Cover:

*Gamma Xaridian - a peaceful Federation research colony becomes the third Federation world to suffer a brutal attack at the hands of a mysterious alien fleet. With Lt. Uhura gone on an important mission of her own, Captain Kirk and the USS Enterprise are dispatched to investigate the attacks, only to find the planets completely devastated. When another nearby colony is attacked, the USS Enterprise is ready and encounters a fleet of quick, small and deadly ships. Though Kirk and his crew manage to turn the raiders away, the USS Enterprise is severely damaged allowing the aliens to escape. As Kirk and his crew prepare for their next encounter with the raiders, Mr. Spock makes a startling discovery about the purpose behind the alien attacks - a purpose that, if realized, could have deadly consequences for the Federation and the USS Enterprise...*

Summary:

Life aboard the USS Enterprise is about to become a little interesting. Lieutenant Uhura, due to her expert knowledge in the field of linguistics, has been temporarily re-assigned to the USS Lexington under the command of Commodore Robert Wesley. Her task: to aid in first-contact communications with the Rithra, the native alien race of Alpha Xaridian V. Her problem: Commodore Wesley has a reputation of wanting the best team working for him, and often uses his charm to woo other officers to work under his command, much to the detriment (and chagrin) of many other Fleet Captains. Uhura, although she very much enjoys her time aboard the Enterprise, is afraid she may become overwhelmed by Wesley's overtures and be wooed to stay board the Lexington. This feeling is very much on her mind as she prepares to leave the Enterprise. Captain Kirk, who is very much aware of Wesley's reputation, is adamant the re-assignment is only temporary. He wants her back. But the re-assignment isn't the only problem aboard ship – a very green Ensign Chekov has come aboard and isn't quite sure how to please his new Captain, whom he idolizes.

With the transfer of personnel complete, the USS Lexington makes its way to Rithra while the USS Enterprise is dispatched to the Xaridian systems – the site of Federation colonies suffering from unknown attacks from space raiders. Alpha Xaridian, a star-system consisting of five planets, harbors a unique array of history: Alpha Xaridian I is devoid of life, Alpha Xaridian II contains the Human colony previously attacked, Alpha Xaridian III is equally devoid of life, Alpha Xaridian IV was once the site of an atomic war that blasted away its atmosphere (therefore also devoid of life), and Alpha Xaridian V is inhabited by a people called the Parathu'ul. By the time the Enterprise responds, the colony on Alpha Xaridian II has been completely devastated by the unknown raiders, thus they begin their investigation there.

Captain Kirk, Spock, McCoy and a contingent of other officers (including Checkov) beam down to the colony on Alpha Xaridian II. There they run into a heated discussion between the colony's administrator, Jeff Gelb, and various survivors. Although hatred toward the Federation for failing to protect them is running high, Kirk knows the colonists are letting off steam and tells his officers to fan out and begin their investigation. Checkov enters a science building and begins poking around. He's not finding anything of significance on his tricorder – no irregular radiation or worthy readings of any kind. When he does come upon something of value – a set of data discs that may contain information about the colony's attackers – he is startled by a dead body and crushes the discs by mistake. Unfortunately the mishap is witnessed by Captain Kirk who is none too happy. The landing party beam-up and make way to the next colony at Beta Xaridian while Checkov wallows in self-pity.

The Enterprise finds similar results at the Human colony on Beta Xaridian IV, but before they can fully investigate a distress call from a ship giving aid to Gamma Xaridian IV is received – the Enterprise immediately warps in. Unfortunately it is too late – the ship in distress (the Viking) has been destroyed and the colony on Gamma Xaridian VIII has been pulverized. The Enterprise isn't able to speculate on the raids further as they catch the raiders in the act and attempt to neutralize them. Unfortunately for the Enterprise they succumb to an attack by the small, agile and powerful vessels. Matters aren't helped when Navigator Checkov questions Kirk's orders and methods on the Bridge during the fire-battle, which ultimately ends in the escape of the raiders, failure to capture any of them and damages the ship. He is naturally removed for his cock-up but his curiosity about the maneuverability of the ships allows him to contribute to Mr. Scott's analysis.

Although still no further along in determining who the raiders are, Mr. Spock finds something of great interest that could explain the purpose of the raids: it seems certain pieces of scientific equipment that were presumed destroyed on Alpha Xaridian II were in fact missing from the debris. Could the attacks then be a distraction to cover an operation to obtain specific Federation-issued scientific equipment? Analysis run by Checkov and later corroborated by Spock confirms this hypothesis as a possibility, which is rendered further plausible when Spock recalls and reviews the application of the Parath'aa, previous petitioners to join the Federation who were rejected for their social-political problems. Some of the very same items missing from the Federation colonies are exactly what the Parathu'ul wanted. Armed with this, the Enterprise pays a visit to Alpha Xaridian V – Parathu'ul.

Meanwhile, Commander Uhura is settling in on board the USS Lexington, a Mk-I heavy cruiser starship of the Constitution-class, registry NCC-1709. Rather than being given standard quarters, Commodore Wesley has arranged Uhura to have special VIP quarters, which are at least double the size of any Captain's quarters; the wooing has begun. She's introduced to the executive staff of the Lexington – Wynn Samuels, First Officer; Peder Coss, Chief Surgeon, and Jerome Baila, ship's communications officer – and then allowed to settle into routine aboard ship. Baila takes to Uhura immediately, although not in a friendly way. Baila thinks Uhura is to be his replacement as Wesley has been riding him lately. His problem, though, is personal and Uhura hopes to help turn him around.

The Lexington enters orbit around Rithra, a class-M world slightly bigger than Earth, and her mission begins. The planet is inhabited by a species referred to as Rithrim, a bi-pedal humanoid-like species with pinkish-orange skin, small black eyes and feathery crests upon their heads. Their love of light generally casts them in blinding illumination, requiring special visual aids to tone down the brightness. Although they do speak Federation standard, they accompany their speech with hand-movements, a form of sign-language, which is why Uhura was asked to take part in this mission. She learned basic human sign language in the summer of 2249, at the age of 10, from her deaf cousin Epala while visiting her in Koyo, Africa and found she had an affinity for languages ever since. Using her knowledge of xenolinguistics, Uhura helps translate for Wesley during their initial conversation with Endris, present-cycle governor of Rithra. At his polite, but urgent insistence, Wesley and crew beam down.

They materialized in the courtyard of the Governor's Council, a large, ancient looking courtyard constructed of a sandstone-like material. Within it was adorned with an abundance of frescoed walls, carved stone pillars and free-standing statuary that immediately caught Uhura's attention. While she and Wesley hear why their assistance is requested - they require help in fortifying a shield surrounding Girin Gatha, one of their procreation centers on the banks of a highly active volcano - Uhura's attention is shared with a trio of robed figures who appear to be chiseling away at one of the frescos, removing a figure. Although bizarre, Uhura sets it aside and focuses on the task at hand. The Rithra have employed shielding at Girin Gatha in the past; however, current increases in molten flow have increased the radioactivity levels ten-fold, which in turn place a strain on the facility's ability to properly spawn. Wesley will help and an Engineering crew is dispatched immediately. In turn, although non-conditional, Wesley makes the Federation's wishes about setting up an observation post on their planet known. The Rithrim's ruling council approves.

At first the relationship appears to be going well; however, when Uhura approaches Commodore Wesley about her observation regarding the removal of figures from their art (and both see similar instances of this removal at the Procreation Center), leading Wesley to approach the subject with Endris, the Federation is immediately rebuffed. Although told their line of questioning has in no way offended the Rithrim, the Lexington crew is told in no uncertain terms their help is no longer required: no more observation post and no further assistance required at the Procreation Center. Completely at a loss, Uhura and Wesley can't quite figure out why someone would turn their backs on free assistance, when the Lexington is contacted directly by one of the Procreators - a woman named Dab.

Dab tells Commodore Wesley that she wishes their help regardless of what the governors have stated, and she has the clout to refute them, so the Engineering team re-assembles. Uhura and Baila also beam back down in the hopes of continuing their investigation in the bizarre erasures of artwork. Although Baila isn't all that enthused, Uhura confronts him about his past - his parents were followers of Beccah Talulu, a powerful presence that preached against technology and space travel, and declared him dead to all because he enlisted in Starfleet and sought the stars. She tells him the reason Wesley is riding him

hard is because of his own actions; he and he alone is the cause to put his career in jeopardy. The words sting the proud man, but re-awaken his spirit.

*"Can't you see, my friend? It's not you who is dead-it's them. Put them past you now, amuntu. Be a man"* (Uhura to Baila)

In the Procreation Center, Uhura and Baila tour the facility alone. There they come across a number of rooms filled with babies of all castes: the Gatherers, the Builders, the Governors, and Procreators - all identified by the differing pitch of their cries. When they come upon a room with a strange pitch, they ask Dab about it, who politely redirects their inquiry back to the counsel of governors. Not to be denied, Baila theorizes that there is a connection between the mystery nursery and the missing statuery. And by using an earlier comparison of the Rithrim to that of a Terran insect-like structure, they hypothesize that the statuery depicts a fifth caste the planetary body is trying very hard to forget - a caste of warriors. Uhura then takes the postulate one further - could these long forgotten warriors be the mercenaries attacking nearby Federation outposts? Reluctantly, the Counsel of Governors admits to the fifth caste and surmises it is a distinct possibility the Warrior Caste is responsible for the attacks. Wesley contacts Captain Kirk immediately.

Unfortunately Captain Kirk is in the middle of a heated battle with the Raiders. The Enterprise's stop-over at Parathu'ul proved to be unhelpful ["You are being joking with me, yes?" (Planetary Leader Silva, to Kirk, after he accused them of hiring mercenaries to attack the Federation outposts)], but Kirk now has an idea what they're up to: they are building a weapon of mass destruction, which they'll use to subjugate neighboring star-systems. The Enterprise's hopes of putting a stop to it right then and there are dashed when a distress from Beta Xaridian IV colony is received. Having met them earlier in turn, Kirk rushes to their call. With the help of Checkov (who comes up with the idea of extending the navigational deflector shields around the colony), they fend off the raiders, but the Enterprise will not get off that easily. A second pass awaits - only this time Kirk is armed with knowledge of who the raiders are and how to defeat their technology.

With a high-pitch phaser blast, the raider's ships are rendered neutral, the warrior class is defeated and the ambitions of the Parath'aa are crushed. The Rithra are relieved that their Warriors were stopped, virtually unharmed, and that the Federation does not hold them accountable for their actions. The shielding upgrade to the Procreation Center is completed and the Federation observation post is allowed to go forward. Uhura is returned to the Enterprise without much fanfare, much to her approval. Baila, per his request, remains on Rithra as a cultural and communications attaché to the planet (finally having regained his confidence and sense of purpose). And Checkov is paid a visit by Captain Kirk, who imparts some of his wisdom to the young lad in the hopes of homing the skills of a navigator who has shown great promise. All was once again well in the Universe.