

**Star Trek: TOS (#62) – “Death Count”**  
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Back Cover:

*The disappearance of Andorian scientific genius Muav Haslev fuels tension between the Orions and the Andorians - tensions that come dangerously close to full-scale war. Captain Kirk and the crew of the USS Enterprise are called to Starbase Sigma 1, located on the edge of Andorian-Orion space, to patrol the sector as a deterrent to hostilities.*

*On arrival, the crew encounters an inexplicable series of events, beginning with missing equipment and shipboard malfunctions. After a deadly transporter accident, Kirk suspects sabotage - suspicions that are confirmed by the mysterious murder of three Federation officials. Now, Kirk and crew must put together the fragmented pieces of the puzzle, before the Starship Enterprise faces destruction and the galaxy faces interplanetary war.*

Summary:

Chapter 1:

The USS Enterprise is docked at Space Station Sigma One and its crew is on its final day of shoreleave; the previous days interrupted by on-site efficiency auditors from Federation Auditor General. Checkov, Sulu and Uhura have decided to remain together, exploring the station at large. Checkov and Sulu are interrupted from a game simulation, which the crew of the USS Exeter bested the last time the ship was through. Although the duo have been at the simulation for hours, they are still no closer to re-breaking the record. Meanwhile, Kirk, McCoy and Scotty are visiting a Scottish restaurant on the station, whereby Scotty wishes McCoy try something called Bubble-and-Squeak. They are interrupted by a Mr. John Taylor from the audits office, who advises Kirk that he and his team will be accompanying Kirk on his next mission, to view the crew in action. When Kirk suggests he can't because they'll be on their way to the Canopis sector to perform three planetary explorations, the auditor informs him the mission has changed. Perturbed, Kirk excuses himself to speak with Commodore Peterson.

Chapter Two:

As Uhura rescues Checkov and Sulu with a snack, Orion guards rustle past, unceremoniously bumping into them. They're on the Andorian Station due to the Muav Haslev incident. The trio run into the Orion guards again at a plant-filled hobby shop on the station's shopping promenade. While Sulu shops for something to feed a new hobby, Checkov disarms one of the Orion guards who was ruffing up the shopkeeper. To show his gratitude, he gives Sulu a marble pond to use as a pool for the gold-speckled lizards that has enamored the Helmsmen. Although the shopkeeper is grateful, Station security is

not – they come to arrest Chekov. Kirk meanwhile converses with Commodore Peterson who acknowledges the change in orders; The Enterprise will now take the USS Kongo's mission, who has been sidelined with a damaged engine core (containment field breach). The Enterprise will straddle the border between the Andorians and Orions in the hopes of easing tensions between the two.

#### Chapter Three:

In the station's brig, Chekov is rescued by Lieutenant Lindsey Purviance from Commodore Peterson's office. She has the office released into her custody and takes him to the Enterprise. Sulu and Uhura follow. She reports to Kirk aboard the Enterprise and says she will be a liaison between Kirk/Enterprise and the Efficiency Auditors. Chekov faces a disappointed Kirk, but is sent on his way. He takes Sulu's lizards to his quarters (figuring someone should watch them) while leaving the "pond" in Sulu's.

#### Chapter Four:

The Enterprise prepares to leave Sigma One to sector 918-mark 3. Ahead of them is the Orion police cruiser Mecufi. Meanwhile, down in his department, Chekov meets with Auditor Aaron Kelly who bothers him regarding the efficiency of the scheduling, which no one has complained about. This only serves to make Chekov angry – and after seeing a note on the ship's dispatch regarding the Kongo (to which he had three friends die), Chekov throws the auditor out of Security. Meanwhile, on the Bridge, Taylor is talking to Kirk about being stonewalled out of virtually every department on the ship – Engineering, Science, and now Security – when the bridge erupts in alarms.

#### Chapter Five:

A radiation pulse has blasted the Enterprise, rendering her systems inoperable. Warp drive and various other systems are affected, but are cleared within a few minutes of havoc. Meanwhile, Chekov, down in Security, is reviewing more details regarding his lost friends from the Kongo when the intruder alert siren goes off. Chekov rushes off to the location – deck six, section thirty-nine – and finds an "intruder" there. He jumps him, breaking the person's nose, but it turns out to be Aaron Kelly, the auditor he threw out of Security. Seems the alarm was a test set off by the auditor and Chekov is not happy. Kelly is taken to Sickbay to tend to his broken nose; Mr. Taylor meets him there. Although the test shows Security is on top of things, when the Enterprise returns to Sigma One Chekov's department will be reorganized. He throws Aaron in the brig for violating Starfleet regulations by setting off the alarm.

#### Chapter Six:

It's later now and Sulu is returning to his quarters. When he arrives he finds that it has been broken into and ransacked. Sulu calls upon Uhura and Chekov, who comes from Security. At first Sulu asks if someone from the auditors could have done this; Chekov doesn't think so. Chekov programs a new door code for him – 7249 – and goes about his

way. By morning, McCoy speaks to Sulu during breakfast to get him to submit to a radiation scan. McCoy also talks to Kirk. Both agree to submit to the scan. McCoy mentions that Lt. Purviance also needs the scan, so they're going to stop on Deck 7 to get him. But when the turbocar arrives they find a river of blood leading out from the Transporter room. When the party arrived the entire room was covered in red.

#### Chapter Seven:

Checkov arrives to investigate; his day turning even more sour. There's three victims, two appear to be auditors (Ms. Gendron and Mr. Purviance) and one of Checkov's security personnel (Sweeny). At first everyone believes the auditors were trying to beam somewhere while the ship's screens were on, but when it is determined that the shields were not up, the possibility of murder comes up. Taylor begins riding Checkov even more, who sits there numbly. Meanwhile, later on, the Enterprise detects an universal distress signal from what appears to be a freighter adrift. Upon further inspection, the freighter turns out to be a retrofitted Orion T-Class destroyer, the Umyfymu. They radio for help when the Enterprise doesn't fall for the ruse and the Orion police cruiser Mecufi shows up to arrest them.

#### Chapter Eight:

The Orions have come for Chekov, who claims him to be a criminal. When Kirk finds the charge absurd, he figures they were there to slow their mission down, so he engages warp drive and leaves. Prowling the decks, Kirk and Taylor tussle about Checkov's treatment of his people, including the incarceration of one. Kirk confines Taylor to his quarters for interfering. Checkov deals with Sweeny's possessions and Sulu comes down to try and find out what is wrong with Checkov, since he's been so sour lately.

#### Chapter Nine:

A nightmare howl awakens Sulu out of his bed – the decompression warning. He begins to evacuate the deck when he remembers Mr. Taylor is down the hall and may not know what to do. When he gets to the auditors room he finds him dead; Chaiken (his aid) too. In Security, Checkov is roused and finds a note on his security board about a bomb on board ship. He takes off looking for it. He winds up at Sulu's side – the bomb is in Taylor's room. Checkov locates it but it's destruction is imminent. Checkov orders Sulu out of the room and he encapsulates the container with a containment foam. Just as Sulu gets out of the way an explosive wave rocks the ship.

#### Chapter Ten:

The crew hunts for Mr. Checkov, wondering if he survived the explosion. He did. He's located in a turbocar on the damaged deck. Just as soon as Sulu locates him, the ship's power is restored and the car is whisked away to Security.

#### Chapter Eleven:

When Checkov reaches Security he finds power has not quite been restored here, but someone other than him is here and it doesn't appear to be any of his staff – the saboteur? Checkov tries to get to a phaser to defend himself, does so, and ends up tusseling with the intruder. Using some special Starfleet goggles, he determines the intruder is not human based on the heat patterns he can see. He wounds the intruder, but he is able to get away. Checkov, wounded himself, gives chase. Meanwhile, Sulu attempts to get into his quarters and the door will not open to his code. He tries another and is immediately met with an intruder. Sulu gives chase and runs into Checkov.

#### Chapter Twelve:

Checkov and Sulu subdue the intruder from Sulu's quarters who turns out to be Muav Haslev, the Andorian scientist the Orions have been tracking down. How he got on board is a mystery for now (since he won't say) but he does say he got on at Sigma One but he did NOT trip the alarms. Meanwhile, Checkov is taken to sickbay to tend to the wounds he received from chasing the intruder in Security. After looking over the evidence, all believe that intruder is Orion and Kirk decides to use the Andorian scientist as bait to lure him out. But they may not have time for that – the Mecufi and Umyfymu will over-take the Enterprise's position soon, as the ship is stopped for hull repairs due to the bomb.

#### Chapter Thirteen:

With the Orions coming for the Andorian, Sulu, Uhura and Checkov (sufficiently tended to but still smarting), board the shuttlecraft Hawking to take Muav Haslev back to Sigma One and away from the Enterprise. While on board, Sulu and Uhura corner Checkov on his sour mood lately and get him to reveal what's been bothering him – his friend's needless death on the Kongo. Meanwhile the Enterprise searches for the Orion saboteur who they surmise is hiding out near a power source. And just when everything onboard the shuttle is going well, it drops out of warp and contact with the Enterprise is lost.

#### Chapter Fourteen:

The shuttlecraft crew assesses the damage: the engine core was destroyed by a bomb which has set the core on overload. Unfortunately the resulting explosion damaged most of the EVA suits – only three can be found – so not all can evacuate the shuttle. Therefore, Checkov orders Sulu and Uhura to take Muav and to get as far away as they can to survive the explosion; Checkov will stay. While they depart, Checkov attempts to [piece together a suit from the remaining parts, repairing as necessary, but it may be for naught: the Umyfymu is closing in on them.

#### Chapter Fifteen:

With the Umyfymu coming into view, another ship closes on their position quickly – it's the Enterprise, and she comes in with guns ablaze. It's all the Enterprise can do, however,

to shield its badly damaged breached hull sections. The three stranded in space are in the middle of a phaser fight, unable to do anything, but do find themselves beamed aboard an unknown ship. Meanwhile, Checkov continues to repair a suit to escape the shuttle. There's twenty-three minutes forty-three seconds until core breach.

#### Chapter Sixteen:

The ship Sulu, Uhura and Muav were transported aboard is the Andorian Reserve Fleet ship ATS Shras, who has been following the Orion Police Cruiser Mecufi since it left Sigma One (and the Enterprise's sensor ghost). The two Starfleet officers "commandeer" the vessel to aid the Enterprise in fighting off the two Orion ships (much to the chagrin of Pov Kanin, the ship's captain); they succeed. With the current battle at an end, the crew rush to save Checkov who is still onboard the shuttle. When the nature of the emergency is made known, however, the Andorian captain does not want to get near the shuttle. Kirk then forces Muav to use his secret technology to save Checkov. It is a trans-shield anode and Muav beams Checkov from the shuttlecraft, through the Enterprise's shields and into Sulu's cabin. Checkov materializes on Sulu's lily pond, but he's not alone there. He runs right into Lindsey Purviance – thought dead but now known to be the Orion saboteur.

#### Chapter Seventeen:

There is one drawback to the trans-shield anode: a radiation burst that cripples a starship by bouncing off the ship's shields and it has once again happened to the Enterprise. With the Enterprise down for the count – again – the Shras takes up the flag to distract the Umyfymu, which is coming back into range. Checkov fights with the Orion in Sulu's quarters, is pummeled even more, but manages to destroy the trans-shield anode rather than having it fall into Orion hands. And knowing that a bomb was aboard the shuttlecraft Hawking, Checkov surmises more bombs will be found on the remaining craft on the deck, and makes his way down there.

#### Chapter Eighteen:

Continuing space battle between the Enterprise/Shras and Umyfymu. Checkov tussles with the Orion once more in the shuttle bay.

#### Chapter Nineteen:

Checkov, now on board the shuttlecraft Brahe, finds its core will implode momentarily and tries to think of a way to get the shuttlecraft safely outside the ship. He decides to take shuttlecraft Clarke and push Brahe outside. He manages to push it out at the last moment, but not without damaging the shuttlebay in the attempt.

#### Chapter Twenty:

The Shras uses the Hawking's explosion to take out the Orions; barely making it themselves. The Enterprise and crew begin to pick up the pieces. Commander Shandaken

of the Orion police cruiser Mecufi is arrested by the Enterprise/Andorian crews and taken into custody. Checkov is sent off to sickbay. Muav is also arrested and must now come to terms that his technology isn't really going to be practical – especially if a ship is rendered neutral for a few minutes after the trans-shield anode's use.

#### Chapter Twenty-One:

With the Enterprise back at Sigma One, all is well. Checkov has recovered sufficiently; he and Sulu speak about the memorial service held on station for the USS Kongo. Checkov was able to meet the Chief Engineer who was able to give him some closure regarding his friend Robert; Checkov, still smarting about the loss, has come to terms that perhaps maybe he didn't die for nothing. The chief engineer had a family and Robert knew it was a one-way mission. Before Sulu and Checkov depart his quarters, he tells Sulu he's keeping the lizards, who are occupying the bathtub at present. On board Sigma One, the two meet up with Uhura and have dinner. They run into Aaron Kelly, the auditor, who tells Checkov that his department is 100% safe – no changes – which lightens the mood. To add insult to injury, Checkov is approached by station security and re-arrested for disturbing the peace and assault for disarming the Orion guard at the beginning of the story. Although Checkov could potentially be in the station's brig for quite some time, Kirk thinks he can manage to get him remanded to his custody within the hour – he'll take the station commander on a tour of the damaged shuttle bay (thereby showing just how “dangerous” Checkov can be), then threaten to leave the kid on the station when the Enterprise ships out in three weeks. Easy peasy.

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