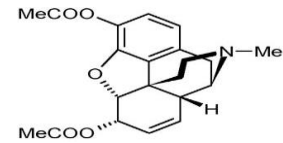


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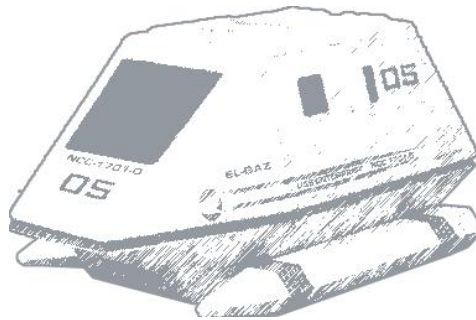
## CHANCE ENCOUNTER: A STAR TREK STORY

Screenplay by

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Story by Gary O'Brien and Paul Laight

(7<sup>TH</sup> DRAFT - 08-08-16)



FADE IN:

TITLE SEQUENCE - MONTAGE OF IDYLIC LAKESIDE IMAGES

**EXT. TORA LAKE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 1**

DR MARC GOODE<sup>1</sup> (late 60s), an elegant man adorned in smart clothing, lays down his satchel and looks out across the shimmering water. He takes in the ambience and breathes in the air. He seems at peace. He then looks down into his hand and an orange glow emits from an Alien Crystal Artefact.

**EXT. SPACE - FLASHBACK - SCENE 2**

The USS Melbourne, a scientific survey vessel, moves towards a huge, magical looking nebula. A tiny Shuttlepod emerges from its hangar deck and rushes past us at high speed!

**INT. SHUTTLE POD - SPACE - FLASHBACK - SCENE 3**

Dr Goode pilots the shuttle toward Oren II. An authoritative MALE VOICE is heard from the Pod's Communicator mid-orders.

LIEUTENANT CHASE (O.C.)  
(via Communicator)  
Dr Goode. . . respond please. Doctor?  
You have stolen a Starfleet vessel,  
return it immediately or we will  
be forced to-

Dr Goode switches off the Communicator; cutting off the Lieutenant mid-sentence. He then removes his Starfleet badge. The Alien Crystal Artefact glows on the Pod's second seat.

**EXT. GLADE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 4**

Flashes of a RED GOWN punctuate the green brush. Heavy breathing of a YOUNG WOMAN (face unseen) is heard as she runs.

**EXT. TORA LAKE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 5**

Dr Goode remains staring out at the still water. Suddenly he is disturbed by a sound from the brush behind him.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: for the benefit of clarity older Marc Goode is known as DR GOODE. Younger Marc Goode will be known simply as MARC.

Dr Goode turns and SEES her again; the first time like this for an age.

HOLD ON: Dr Goode's face as he witnesses the moment he has been waiting for. He knows who it is. His face softens and his eyes light up. It is decades since he has seen HER.

From his point-of-view WE SEE in the distance: a beautiful young woman called ROSE TENNANT (early 20s) moving toward him. For Dr Goode time almost stands still. But he cannot act too familiar so he turns back to the lake.

Rose is flustered and out of breath. Her hair has become straggled from running. She carries high-heel shoes in her hand. It is only when she stops that she sees Dr Goode there.

Rose catches her breath - flustered and upset. Dr Goode turns. They share a look. She's caught off guard momentarily.

DR GOODE

Hello. . .

ROSE

Hello.

DR GOODE

Are you okay?

Rose attempts to regain composure. Brushes twigs off her.

ROSE

(lying)

Fine. Just surprised anyone. . . I needed some air before we arrived at the party. I thought Marc and I were the only ones who knew about this place.

DR GOODE

I used to come here a long time ago.  
It's an absolute wonder.

ROSE

Stunning.

DR GOODE

It is that. And this Marc you speak of? Is he--?

ROSE

He's. . .-

DR GOODE

Sorry. Not my business.

An awkward silence. Dr Goode sees the heeled shoes.

DR GOODE

Striking shoes.

ROSE

Uh?

DR GOODE

Your shoes. Very striking. And rather painful looking.

ROSE

Oh yes. Boots are far more my thing.

DR GOODE

My wife felt the same.

ROSE

However, convention dictates women must still torture themselves to look good at parties.

DR GOODE

Some things never change.

ROSE

Although, I must say it's nice to aspire to elegance on occasion.

DR GOODE

"Elegance is forgetting what one is wearing."

ROSE

Who said that?

DR GOODE

An old Medusan saying I believe.

Rose laughs. This conjures a happy memory and he smiles.

**EXT. SPACE - SCENE 6**

Starfleet's U.S.S. MELBOURNE continues its survey of the Nebula on the edge of the Oren system.

CAPTAIN JANSSEN (V.O.)

Captain's Log. Stardate 45385.2. During our routine survey mission of the Oren Nebula, a civilian passenger awaiting transfer to Earth has stolen one of our shuttlecraft and headed towards the second planet. I have asked Lieutenant Chase to recover the vessel.

**INT. TURBOLIFT - U.S.S. MELBOURNE - SPACE - SCENE 7**

Lift HUMS as it moves through the decks. Confident LIEUTENANT CHASE (40s) reads from his Personal Access Display Device. CAPTAIN JANSSEN (50s) enters. He's serious but not harsh in demeanour.

CAPTAIN JANSSEN

Deck eight.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

(nods hello)

Captain.

CAPTAIN JANSSEN

Lieutenant. You will bring my shuttle back in one piece.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Absolutely, sir. Understood.

(Beat)

Sir, this happened on my watch, as Security Chief I...

CAPTAIN JANSSEN  
--Relax, Lieutenant. I have every  
confidence in you.

LIEUTENANT CHASE  
(refers to P.A.D.D)  
Sir. I'm perplexed that a civilian was able to  
override our security protocols so easily.

CAPTAIN JANSSEN  
I worked with Dr Goode, many years ago. A  
review of his record will reveal - aside  
from one incident as a cadet - a  
near-exemplary Starfleet record.

LIEUTENANT CHASE  
I will certainly check that, sir.

CAPTAIN JANSSEN  
Whatever his motive for such behaviour,  
it will have been well thought through.  
Don't underestimate him, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT CHASE  
I won't, Captain.

CAPTAIN JANSSEN  
Who will accompany you?

LIEUTENANT CHASE  
Ensign Carver, sir.

CAPTAIN JANSSEN  
(considering)  
Carver?

LIEUTENANT CHASE  
What she lacks in experience she more  
than makes up for in ability.

CAPTAIN JANSSEN  
Excellent. Proceed with your investigation  
as you see fit.

Lift stops. Captain Janssen leaves.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Aye, sir.

**EXT. TORA LAKE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 8**

Rose and Dr Goode continue their conversation.

ROSE

You say you used to come here a long time ago?

DR GOODE

Yes. With my wife.

ROSE

Is she here?

DR GOODE

She passed away, recently.

ROSE

I'm sorry.

DR GOODE

Don't be. She had a wonderful. . .  
We had a wonderful life together.  
Including time well spent here on Oren  
Two. In fact, I'm here to reminisce  
about our past together. And you?

ROSE

I'm here to celebrate. We've all just  
qualified from the Academy.

DR GOODE

Good for you.

ROSE

(hesitant)

Yes. Good for us.

Dr Goode notes her emotion. Rose grasps a locket on her neck.

DR GOODE

You don't seem so sure.

ROSE

I'm sorry. Look at me. Look at this.  
I'm a Geologist. I'm used to digging in  
the earth, on moons and in quarries. I'm  
not an elegant or a party person. I'm usually  
covered in dust head to toe. I'm not a  
romantic. I'm not a wife. He has to know.  
Marc must know this.

Rose yanks at the locket - it comes away from her neck. Rose  
has surprised herself at this sudden burst of emotion. A beat  
or two passes before Dr Goode breaks the tension.

DR GOODE

Is that why you were running?

ROSE

This is crazy. I'm not like this. I'm  
usually so. . . Marc's the emotional one.  
He calls me his rock. I guess that's  
why we're. . . Listen to me rambling.  
It was just too much really. He's  
professed his love and asked me to. . .  
Why am I telling you all this? I should  
leave you to reminisce. I have  
gate-crashed your grief for-

DR GOODE

What has he asked you?

Rose stares at the locket in her open palm.

ROSE

Something that even amidst the vastness  
of this planet makes me feel trapped.

There's a moment of contemplation.



ROSE

Marriage seems such an antiquated thing.  
I'm committed to my Doctorate. Surely  
I'm too young to settle down. He seems  
so certain though. Why limit our futures  
to a set path now?

DR GOODE

Starfleet has many opportunities for  
couples. In fact it supports secure  
romantic affiliations.

ROSE

Someone's read the manual!

Rose realises she's snapped and regrets it.

ROSE

I'm sorry, that was rude. I don't even  
know your name.

Dr Goode is tempted to console her but is wary of over-  
familiarity.

DR GOODE

It's okay. I should have introduced myself.  
Doctor. Doctor Morse.

ROSE

Doctor. I'm Rose.

She holds out her hand. He hesitates then takes it.

DR GOODE

Yes. Yes you are. Pleased to meet you.

**EXT. GLADE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 9**

Handsome MARC GOODE (20s) -- wearing a Starfleet bomber jacket  
-- pushes through the brush frantically searching for Rose.

**EXT. TORA LAKE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 10**

Rose and Dr Goode sit on the ground.

ROSE

His proposal just came out of the blue.

DR GOODE

You must tell him how you feel.

ROSE

But the rejection could ruin him.  
It's just I'm not ready to be tied down.  
I care deeply for him but - how do you  
know when--

DR GOODE

--The future is unknown. Only time can  
tell on decisions you make. You're young  
- you'll make mistakes. But what's  
important is you must go with your  
instinct and not be led by fear.

ROSE

My career must come first though. As  
you say I'm young - there will be other  
romances. At least Marc has given me  
some wonderful experiences. I'll tell  
him I can't marry him.

Dr Goode looks worried by this news. But he knows he cannot  
let Rose know who he really is.

**EXT. SPACE - SCENE 11**

A STARFLEET SHUTTLE emerges from the USS Melbourne's' hangar  
deck and glides across the vast starlit galaxy with Oren II in  
the far distance.

**INT. SHUTTLE POD - SPACE - PRESENT - SCENE 12**

Confident LIEUTENANT CHASE (early 40s) pilots the shuttle. His  
co-pilot is ENSIGN GRACE CARVER (late 20s). She appears  
sterner but is not without charm.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

That's it... We're matching his course exactly.

ENSIGN CARVER

Sir, isn't it suspicious that he did this at such a critical time in our survey? He knew we couldn't send the ship after him.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Perhaps.

ENSIGN CARVER

What punishment do you think Doctor Goode can expect?

LIEUTENANT CHASE

That will be for the Captain to decide. Our job is just to bring him and the Shuttle back.

ENSIGN CARVER

And if he offers resistance?

LIEUTENANT CHASE

The Doctor is a distinguished Starfleet Historian. A retired one. What resistance might you expect, Ensign?

ENSIGN CARVER

He knew that the Transporter's wouldn't function due to Nebula interference. He's now a fugitive who has used his Starfleet knowledge to gain a head-start on us.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

What punishment would you have him face then, Ensign?

ENSIGN CARVER

Once caught Doctor Goode would not want to serve the rest of his days on Tantalus Five.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Tantalus!? Remind me not to get on the wrong side of you! He lost someone he loved deeply. Have you ever cared for someone?

ENSIGN CARVER

Only my career. I have no time for romantic pursuits.

Lieutenant Chase looks at her in quizzical sympathy.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Then make time for loneliness too, Ensign.

**EXT. TORA LAKE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 13**

Rose looks at the locket in her hand.

ROSE

I've decided. Better to make a clean break.

DR GOODE

I realise I've just met you - but unless you explore all your options that could be a big mistake. One thing I know for sure is we shouldn't run away from love. Besides the universe has a way of ensuring people who are supposed to be together, end up together.

ROSE

Who taught you that?

DR GOODE

Experience. . . Do you love, Marc?

ROSE

Love? Does it really have a place in an advanced culture like ours?

DR GOODE

Without love we have no culture, Rose.

ROSE

(stands up)

Marc has his commission on the Cameroon. I have my plans.

DR GOODE

You could transfer at any time - and from anywhere within the Federation.

ROSE

The distance. The time. It wouldn't work. Of course I'd miss him at first. I'd miss his smile. The way he listens to me. I'd miss the way he gets excited about that silly sport - Pan Zan. . . The way he's always late for everything. Always in a rush. But always positive. Reliable. Happy. And the way he always places a flower when he makes me breakfast. The way he makes me feel safe.

Dr Goode has the suggestion of a tear in his eye.

ROSE (CONT.)

Last year there was an incident on Melnos Six. It was a small exploration party. Three of us. There was a powerful solar storm that decimated the surface. In the desert a rock fall trapped us. I broke my ankle. My teacher and I managed to free ourselves and we made it back to the colony to get help. My colleague Jane was killed.

Rose holds back her emotion.

ROSE (CONT.)

We just managed to get out a subspace message before our transmitter became useless against the storm. Many of the colonists lost everything they had. Dozens lost their lives. I knew no one. My family was on Earth. Too far away. We didn't even know if our communication had got through. The storm just would not cease. People were sick. Dying. I'd never been so scared in my life. I found out later only part of the message had been received. We were cut-off! Yet Marc - flying blind - against orders - risking his career - flew a shuttle through the solar storm. Solo. Just to save me! He risked his life because he loved me. His love saved lives. How can I leave him behind out of fear. . .? Oh, I've been so stupid.

Rose's speech has changed her mind without ANY prompting from Dr Goode. She has decided not to leave Marc.

ROSE  
You're right. I should speak with him.

DR GOODE  
He deserves that much at least.

MARC  
(shouting)  
ROSE! ROSE! THERE YOU ARE! Are you okay?

Rose turns and SEES: Marc in the distance moving toward her from the lush foliage.

**EXT. SPACE - PRESENT - SCENE 14**

The Shuttle looms ever closer to Oren II.

**INT. SHUTTLE POD - SPACE - PRESENT - SCENE 15**

Oren II is closer still from the Lieutenant and the Ensign's point-of-view.

ENSIGN CARVER  
Moving into standard orbit. . . I'm  
still puzzled why Dr Goode would  
come here to an abandoned colony?

LIEUTENANT CHASE  
Decommissioned, Ensign. Only two years  
ago. It was a thriving Dilithium mine. I  
grew up on a planet like this. Harvest and  
and go. It's always been that way.

INSERT: Panel screen displays Dr Goode's photo and list of  
historical assignments.

ENSIGN CARVER  
Interesting. His assignment log shows  
he studied here over forty years ago. But  
what's on Oren II to make him come back here now?

LIEUTENANT CHASE

It's our job to find out.

Suddenly various LIGHTS flash and ALERTS sound.

ENSIGN CARVER

What was that Commander?

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Uncertain. There's some interference coming from the planet. Prepare for landing. I'm taking us down.

**EXT. TORA LAKE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 16**

From afar Dr Goode watches Rose and Marc reconcile.

They hold hands, look into each other's eyes as Rose seemingly apologises. Marc seems to say "there's no need." Rose presents the locket. He places it back round her neck; kisses her head.

Rose acknowledges Dr Goode in the distance with a look. Dr Goode smiles and waves back. Rose and Marc walk off hand-in-hand into the green glade.

Dr Goode is overwhelmed by what has just occurred. Powerful emotions are stirring.

**EXT. GLADE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 17**

Rose and Marc walk together. Rose suddenly sees something on the floor. She breaks her link to Marc and bends down.

In the grass the glowing Alien Crystal Artefact sits.

ROSE

Marc.

MARC

What is it?

She picks up the stone and holds it in her palm.

MARC

It's beautiful. Something to remind us of this place and time.

ROSE

I'll take it for analysis.

MARC

Always the scientist. Come on let's get to the party.

**EXT. TORA LAKE - OREN II - DAY - SCENE 18**

Dr Goode - still emotional - looks in his bag at the SAME Alien Crystal Artefact. It has stopped glowing.

**EXT. CLEARING - OREN II - DAY - PRESENT - SCENE 19**

Ensign Carver and Lieutenant Chase have landed their pod alongside Dr Goodes'. They search the area for him. Ensign Carver holds a TRICORDER which scans for life and objects.

ENSIGN CARVER

How could he get out of sensor range on foot in only thirty minutes?

The Tricorder suddenly makes a WARNING sound.

ENSIGN CARVER

Lieutenant! There's high subspace distortion forming and a temporal variance.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

What is going on? Where is he?

Suddenly Dr Goode materialises through a vortex scramble. Ensign Carver draws her PHASER and points it at Dr Goode.

ENSIGN CARVER

Hold your position, Doctor. No sudden movement.

Dr Goode holds out his hands as if to say "cuff me!"

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Lower your weapon, Ensign. Dr Goode is not a threat to us.



Ensign Carver reluctantly lowers her weapon.

**EXT. CLEARING - OREN II - DAY - PRESENT - SCENE 20**

The three walk together back to the Pods.

                  ENSIGN CARVER  
Should the prisoner not at least be  
restrained, sir?

                  DR GOODE  
I can assure you Ensign I have no further  
need for evasion. Your pursuit is over.

                  LIEUTENANT CHASE  
Where were you, Doctor?

                  DR GOODE  
Here. Just here.

                  ENSIGN CARVER  
Why steal the Shuttle and bring it here?

                  DR GOODE  
I needed to come back.

The Ensign and Lieutenant look at each other, confused.

                  ENSIGN CARVER  
There will be a trial, Doctor.

                  LIEUTENANT CHASE  
An enquiry at least.

                  DR GOODE  
She's a feisty one, Lieutenant. Very  
determined.

                  LIEUTENANT CHASE  
Starfleet have high hopes for Ensign  
Carver.

ENSIGN CARVER

And the temporal variance? How do you explain that?

Dr Goode pulls from his bag the - now inert - Alien Crystal.

DR GOODE

This. It is not a creation of man, but of a higher power. But truthfully I do not know. My wife Rose found it here a long time ago and it's been with us ever since. Whatever it is it gave me one last chance to see her.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

It enabled you to travel through time?

DR GOODE

I'm a historian - not a scientist, Lieutenant. But whatever it did, I don't think it will ever do it again.

Dr Goode hands it to the Lieutenant. He examines it then passes it to the Ensign.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Log it, Ensign. We'll take it back to the ship for further study.

ENSIGN CARVER

Aye, sir.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Your actions are serious Doctor. I'm sorry for your recent loss but attempting temporal travel is in breach of numerous Federation laws.

DR GOODE

I know, Lieutenant, I know. But it was something I had to do. Maybe even my destiny. I will answer for what I've done.

Dr Goode walks back to the Starfleet Pod.

ENSIGN CARVER

I've seen them throw the book at people for less. Strange though that he's ended a distinguished career, seemingly based only on a belief that his actions here were pre-determined somehow.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Oh, I don't know, Ensign. It sounds to me that he what he did quite deliberately, and out of love.

ENSIGN CARVER

Love. Such a peculiar concept.

LIEUTENANT CHASE

Have you ever been to Vulcan, Ensign?

ENSIGN CARVER

No, why?

LIEUTENANT CHASE

You should. You'd fit right in there.

Chase walks toward the Shuttle Pod. Ensign Carver considers this then follows behind.

**INT. SHUTTLE POD - DAY - SCENE 21**

Dr Goode sits down in the Shuttle. He stares into the aged locket. In it we see faded photos of Marc and Rose as a young, smiling and happy couple. Dr Goode is tearful but content.

**EXT. SPACE - SCENE 22**

The two Shuttles move away from Oren II.

FADE OUT.