

CLASSIFIED

CHARACTER PROFILE: CHRISTOPHER PIKE

Christopher Pike, like his successor James Kirk, was a young captain of recognized ability and intelligence. Star Fleet had a keen interest in this officer, and he was promoted rapidly, becoming captain of the Enterprise while still under forty—unusually young for such a high post.

Very serious and thoroughly methodical, Pike felt the strains of command. If anything happened to a member of his crew, he would blame it on a failing in himself, that he had not foreseen the possible contingencies of all actions. From time to time, his burden of responsibility would seem too great to bear. Luckily, in such times he had two men in whom he could confide: his ship's surgeon, Dr. Boyce, and the half-Vulcan science officer, Mr. Spock.

Pike generated extreme loyalty in all who served under him. They trusted and respected this generally quiet and intense man who always seemed on top of any situation. The men knew that Pike would risk all for their sakes, prompting them to respond with fierce devotion to the man they felt was the best captain in the fleet. His own internalized thoughts and fears of failure never affected his judgement, and his men would undoubtedly have been surprised to have learned he even possessed them—to them, he was all but superhuman.

His service aboard the Enterprise lasted more than seven years, during which time he garnered a record envied by all other starship captains. Star Fleet promoted him to Fleet Captain, replacing him on the Enterprise with the young James Kirk. Thank's to Pike's efficiency and skill, Kirk inherited a crew that was exceptional in all areas. None more so than Mr. Spock, who was the new first officer of the ship.

Though his star seemed on the rise and a bright future loomed for Pike, disaster struck. While inspecting a cadet ship, the craft's baffle plates ruptured, flooding the engineering deck with lethal delta radiation. Disregarding his personal safety, as ever, Pike dragged all of the surviving cadets out at a terrible price to himself. The rays permeated his body, attacking and degenerating all of his muscles. He was put under emergency medical care and transferred to the facility at Star Base 11.

At the Star Base, his life was saved at the cost of control over his body's muscles. His brain was unimpaired, but his body was a limp wreck. A special wheelchair that could respond to his thoughts was constructed, but the brilliant mind of Christopher Pike still felt entombed in this useless body.

His old officer, Spock, risked all to return Pike to the forbidden planet of Talos IV, where the illusion-projecting powers of the natives could help him. As far as he was concerned, they could make Pike's thoughts into reality for him and enable him to gain pleasure from his surroundings. Eventually, Pike would die there, but his remaining years would not be the frustrated, wasted ones that his doctors predicted. Thanks to the Talosians, he could live out his life with some measure of pleasure.

