

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"When the Bough Breaks"  
#40271-118

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2ND. REV. FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "When the Bough... " - 12/11/87 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"When the Bough Breaks"

CAST

PICARD	ALDEANS
RIKER	RASHELLA
BEVERLY	RADUE
DATA	DUANA
TROI	ACCOLAN
TASHA	LEDA
WORF	MELIAN
GEORDI	
WESLEY	Non-Speaking
	GAREN
	COUPLE
HARRY	THREE ADULTS
DR. BERNARD	
TOYA	Voice-Over
ALEXANDRA	CUSTODIAN'S VOICE
KATIE	
Non-Speaking	
ROSE	
TARA	
MASON	
CREWMEMBERS	
PARENTS	
CLASSMATES	
Voice-Over	
COMPUTER VOICE	

STAR TREK: "When the Bough... " - 12/10/87 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"When the Bough Breaks"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

CORRIDORS

MAIN BRIDGE

CLASSROOM

FAMILY QUARTERS

KATIE'S BEDROOM (CORNER OF)

OBSERVATION LOUNGE

TURBOLIFT

BEVERLY'S OFFICE

TRANSPORTER ROOM

PLANET - ALDEA

FIRST UNIT CHAMBER

RASHELLA'S QUARTERS

FIRST UNIT CHAMBER FOYER

TELEPORT ARCH

COMPUTER (CUSTODIAN) ROOM

ARTISTS' UNIT

WESLEY'S ROOM

MELIAN'S MUSIC ROOM

KATIE'S QUARTERS

CORRIDORS

POWER ROOM

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

PLANET - ALDEA

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"When the Bough Breaks"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR

Riker ENTERS the corridor as he is PAGED.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Commander Riker, report to the  
bridge.

RIKER  
On the way.

2 INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR

as Riker HURRIES to the turbolift. HARRY, a smallish  
ten-year-old boy, runs down the corridor, head down,  
colliding with Riker.

RIKER  
What's your hurry, Harry?

Harry looks up at him, not believing what he's done.

HARRY  
Oops. Sorry, Commander. I was,  
um, just...

DR. BERNARD  
Harry!

Harry's father, HARRY BERNARD, SR., APPEARS and is  
furious with his son.

DR. BERNARD  
I'm sorry if he bothered you.

RIKER  
No bother, Doctor Bernard.

Riker limps slightly as he walks toward the turbolift.

HARRY  
I'm not going back. I hate that  
teacher. And I hate calculus.

2 CONTINUED:

DR. BERNARD

Everyone needs an understanding  
of basic calculus, whether they  
like it or not.

HARRY

Why?

Riker REACTS to Harry's question with a smile.

3 RIKER'S POV

From inside the turbolift, Riker watches Dr. Bernard  
take his son by the hand and lead him back down the  
corridor as the turbolift doors CLOSE.

4 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker LIMPS OFF the turbolift. PICARD is at the Aft  
Station. The other CREWMEMBERS are at their positions.  
BEVERLY is also at the Aft Station.

BEVERLY

You're limping.

RIKER

A small run-in with an aspiring  
sprinter.

PICARD

Ah, Number One.

RIKER

A problem, Captain?

PICARD

A curiosity. For the past several  
hours we have been tracking faint  
energy readings in an attempt to  
locate the source. It's been like  
following a trail of bread crumbs.

Riker steps over to the Aft Station.

PICARD

(continuing)

The path lead here and stopped  
-- which is what I knew would  
interest you.

4 CONTINUED:

RIKER  
(to Geordi)  
What's our position?

GEORDI  
The Epsilon Mynos system.

RIKER  
(with a look of  
surprise)  
Really? Thank you, Captain;  
you're right... I wouldn't miss  
this for anything.

TASHA  
What's so interesting about this  
system?

RIKER  
Aldea.

Tasha still doesn't get the point.

RIKER  
(continuing; to Tasha)  
Tasha -- I'm surprised. You mean  
you've never heard the stories  
about Aldea? A wonderous mythical  
world -- like Atlantis on ancient  
earth... or Neinman on Xerxes  
Seven... with an advanced culture,  
centuries old. Self-contained,  
peaceful, with incredible  
technical sophistication which  
provided for every citizen's daily  
needs, allowing them to devote  
themselves to culture and art,  
which was beautiful beyond compare  
and valued beyond price.

TASHA  
Where is it supposed to be?

RIKER  
Ahh -- that is the myth -- somehow --  
so the legend goes -- the Aldeans  
were able to cloak their planet  
in darkness and go unseen by  
marauders and other hostile  
passersby who might rob and  
plunder.

4 CONTINUED: (2)

Tasha LAUGHS.

TASHA

A wonderful fairy tale.

DATA

Scanners still show nothing, sir.

Troi is concentrating, puzzled.

TROI

Scanners may show nothing,  
Captain, but I am sensing  
something very strong.

(a beat)

Thousands of minds, sir.

5 VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE CREW

REACTING with interest and curiosity.

PICARD

Where?

TROI

Very close.

6 BACK TO SHOT

PICARD

All stop.

GEORDI

Answering all stop.

PICARD

Anything?

WORF

Captain, I am recording a  
distortion in quadrant one, mark  
nine-zero.

PICARD

On screen.

7 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

There is nothing specifically visible on the Main  
Viewer, except a SLIGHT BLURRING in the center.

8 REACTIONS

as the crew puzzles over the unusual effect.

PICARD

Shields and deflectors up.

TASHA

Aye, sir.

9 BACK TO SHOT (OPTICAL)

Suddenly, with a great, low-decibel NOISE like BLANKETED THUNDER, which draws everyone's attention, a huge planet begins to APPEAR on the viewer, clearing until it's visible. It is a LIGHT GREEN, peaceful and inviting, necklaced with a LIGHT FILM. Everyone stands amazed, in awe.

RIKER

(almost breathless)

Aldea, Captain... It has to be.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER



ACT ONE

FADE IN:

10 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as she maintains orbit around Aldea.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41509.1.  
Either by chance or intent, we've  
been led to the mythical planet  
of Aldea, which appeared out of  
nowhere, hidden behind a  
sophisticated shielding device.

11 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Everyone is at stations.

DATA

Captain, the sensors indicate that  
the shield is electromagnetic. A  
complicated light refracting  
mechanism.

PICARD

A cloaking device.

DATA

Yes, sir.

GEORDI

To hide an entire planet it's  
gotta be pretty sophisticated.

Picard, Riker and Troi watch the planet.

WORF

(from Aft Station)

We're being scanned, sir.

PICARD

Let's let them know our peaceful  
intent. Open hailing frequencies,  
Lieutenant Yar.

11 CONTINUED:

Before Tasha can comply, a WOMAN'S IMAGE MATERIALIZES on the viewscreen, startling everyone. RASHELLA, a melancholy beauty with almost translucent skin, is shrouded in DIM LIGHT. She emanates a quiet tensile strength, her body covered by the simplest utilitarian clothes.

RASHELLA

I'm Rashella. Welcome to Aldea.

PICARD

I am Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the USS Enterprise. We come in peace.

RASHELLA

We know.

PICARD

We've heard the stories about Aldea, but frankly never thought they could possibly be true.

RASHELLA

(laughing)

Our shield has confused outsiders for millennia, Captain.

PICARD

A very long time to have that kind of technology. Why are you revealing yourself now?

RASHELLA

We're eager to meet in person to discuss that, and other subjects of mutual interest.

PICARD

We're ready anytime.

RASHELLA

Excellent!

Instantly, THREE ALDEANS MATERIALIZE on the bridge. The crew is stunned. Rashella; GAREN, a large fierce-looking man; and behind them, RADUE, pale, older, stately-looking, with great authority and kindly eyes, and a squint at the brightness of the bridge. They carry baskets filled with fruits and flowers.

12 ANOTHER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

REACTIONS from the bridge personnel. All are taken  
aback.

RASHELLA  
(reacting to their  
astonishment)  
Our arrival seems to have startled  
you.

RADUE  
We mean no harm.

PICARD  
It was a little sudden

RADUE  
I'm Radue, First Appointee of Aldea.

PICARD  
Welcome aboard.

BEVERLY  
Captain, they haven't been through  
decontamination.

Picard waves her off.

PICARD  
It's all right.  
(to the Aldeans)  
Our medical doctor is concerned  
you didn't go through our regular  
transporting procedure.

RASHELLA  
You couldn't transport us. The  
only way through our shield is  
our way, Captain. Our cloaking  
device may be off, but our shield  
is operating. We've brought you  
small tokens of welcome.

She hands Picard a basket of flowers and bows her head  
to him slightly, then gestures to Garen, who offers his  
basket of fruit to Tasha.

RADUE  
And our personal invitation to  
a celebration on Aldea.

PICARD  
We'd be delighted. Number One,  
assemble your away team.

12 CONTINUED:

RADUE

We will prepare for your arrival,  
Commander Riker.

RIKER

How did you know...

RADUE

... your name? We've been  
monitoring your ship's  
communications. We must return  
now to Aldea. Our eyes are very  
sensitive to bright light.  
Rashella, Garen.

They use their arm devices and the three DISAPPEAR  
from the bridge. Picard looks at Troi and Riker.

PICARD

Amazing. Only to exist in  
mythology and suddenly they're  
here, right in front of us.  
Number One?

RIKER

Now you know who placed the  
bread crumbs. We're not here by  
accident.

PICARD

Counselor? What do you sense?

TROI

Only the obvious. They want  
something from us.

RADUE'S COM VOICE

Commander Riker, is your party  
ready?

The away team, not as normally constituted, DISAPPEARS  
off the bridge. It includes only Riker, Troi and  
Beverly, selected by the Aldeans. Picard looks around  
at who is missing.

PICARD

Interesting choices.

13 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER (OPTICAL)

The away team MATERIALIZES in a spartan, white-walled  
room with ancient hanging tapestries.

13 CONTINUED:

(From now on, throughout the script, every room on Aldea has a Teleporting Arch which allows the Aldeans to move from place to place on their planet simply by stepping in and identifying their destination.) Rashella, Radue and DUANA, an older woman who is very pale and slight, greet them.

RADUE

I hope Duana and I know how to greet you properly, Commander. "May your light shine through the ages."

Radue's hand begins to shake uncontrollably.

RADUE

(continuing)

My apologies. Age has no respect for the body.

Beverly and Troi exchange worried glances.

14 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

WESLEY has joined Picard on the bridge.

WESLEY

How do they cloak the planet?

DATA

The theory is simple. The shield bends light rays around the planet's contour -- similar to the Romulan cloaking device -- but the implementation is very difficult.

A BEAM OF ENERGY PENETRATES the bridge at that moment. It searches until it finds Wesley, then SURROUNDS him. He can't move away from it. He closes his eyes and relaxes into it.

PICARD

Wesley!

GEORDI

Sir, the energy beam is originating from Aldea.

PICARD

Shields up. La Forge, contact Commander Riker. Worf, check all other decks.

14 CONTINUED:

DATA

Shields inoperable, sir. All decks are being probed in a methodical pattern.

PICARD

All decks? Everything? The entire ship?

DATA

Aye, sir!

GEORDI

Captain, I can't get through to Commander Riker. We're being blocked.

The ENERGY BEAM STOPS as suddenly as it appeared. Wesley shakes his head, as if to brush it off.

PICARD

Are you all right, Wesley?

WESLEY

(nodding)

It was scary at first, but I really didn't feel anything.

WORF

Sir, similar incidents, all decks,  
(surprised)  
but only with the children.

15 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER (OPTICAL)

The hosts are getting down to business as they all sit around a table laden with food.

RADUE

Yes, Commander, we are an ancient power. But we've suffered for it. Our history is littered with the deaths of those people who craved more and more things. Nothing was ever enough. So, we've evolved a very simple way of living: for whatever is taken, something is given in return.

RIKER

It seems an equitable code.

15 CONTINUED:

RADUE

It's given us peace.  
Unfortunately, there are very few  
of us left to enjoy it.

TROI

Why?

RADUE

That is some of what we wish to  
discuss. We need help from the  
Federation to rebuild our  
heritage... we need a younger  
generation, strong and healthy,  
following in the Aldean  
traditions.

RIKER

I don't understand. How can the  
Federation help influence your  
children in your traditions?

RADUE

Because we have no children,  
Commander. Rashella was the last  
child born on this planet.

Rashella watches the away team for its reaction. They're  
shocked.

BEVERLY

And your medical community can  
do nothing?

RASHELLA

They've tried, Doctor Crusher.  
And failed.

BEVERLY

Perhaps we can help...

Troi senses something ominous and makes a signal to  
Riker who quickly and correctly interprets it.

RIKER

Radue, exactly why have we been  
invited to Aldea?

RADUE

We propose a trade. One which  
will solve our problem and give  
something back to the Federation.

15 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

And the nature of this trade?

RADUE

We need some of your children.  
In payment, we will give you the  
kind of knowledge which would take  
you centuries to acquire.

16 REACTIONS

from Riker, Beverly and Troi.

RIKER

That might be acceptable to some  
other races, but humans are  
unusually attached to their own  
offspring.

17 BACK TO SHOT

RIKER

We sympathize with your situation,  
Radue. But what you ask is not  
possible.

RADUE

And that's your final answer?

RIKER

It's my only answer. If we can  
be of help in some other way...

RADUE

I am sorry you are intransigent.

Radue nods at Rashella and touches his arm band. The  
three Enterprise officers are immediately GONE from the  
room.

18 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard is surprised when the away team abruptly APPEARS  
on the bridge. As Wesley turns in reaction, a BEAM  
ENGULFS him and he DISAPPEARS from the bridge.  
Beverly's anguished face is stunned as she reaches out  
to the empty place where he was standing.

BEVERLY

Wes!



19 INT. CLASSROOM (OPTICAL)

HARRY BERNARD DISAPPEARS in front of his classmates.  
One by one, TWO other CHILDREN DISAPPEAR: ROSE and  
TARA, eight-year olds.

20 INT. CORRIDOR (OPTICAL)

MASON, a nine-year old, walking with his parents,  
DISAPPEARS.

21 INT. FAMILY QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

ALEXANDRA, carrying a stick-em toy in one hand,  
DISAPPEARS in front of TOYA, her terrified mother.

22 INT. CORNER OF KATIE'S BEDROOM (OPTICAL)

where KATIE, a twelve-year-old, playing something that  
looks like a violin, VANISHES. The instrument she was  
holding FALLS to the floor.

23 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard sits. Beverly is next to him, like a statue,  
gripping the chair.

WORF

Saucer Section reports six more  
children are gone.

RIKER

It's the children. That's why  
we've been brought here. That's  
what they wanted.

PICARD

And that's what they have.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

24 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The crew is in turmoil.

PICARD

Status!

TASHA

Aldean shields still up. Hailing frequencies open. No response.

PICARD

Keep trying, Lieutenant. Counselor, gather the parents.

TROI

They'll need to talk to you as well, Captain.

Radue's image APPEARS on the Viewscreen.

RADUE

Captain, your children are with us.

Picard fighting his outrage.

PICARD

... Go on.

RADUE

My word of honor... no harm will ever come to them.

PICARD

Harm has already been done.

RADUE

Captain, let us begin discussions regarding appropriate compensation.

PICARD

(angrily)

Compensation! You steal our children -- from their classrooms -- their bedrooms -- and you talk about compensation. Return them... now!

24 CONTINUED:

RADUE

We will continue this discussion  
when you've calmed down.

The viewscreen GOES BLACK.

PICARD

I shouldn't have lost my temper.

He and Beverly exchange looks. Their faces are tight.

25 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER

Wesley stands in the middle of the room with most of the children huddled around him. He watches Harry wander around, looking at the tapestries on the wall, while Alexandra toddles aimlessly.

KATIE

Wesley, I'm frightened.

WESLEY

I know. We all are, but it's  
going to be all right. Everyone  
knows where we are. No one is  
going to hurt you. I promise.  
(then to the toddler)  
Alexandra, don't go too far!

KATIE

She's not afraid of anything.

Harry feels the texture of a magnificent wall-hanging.

WESLEY

(continuing)

Harry, don't touch that!

HARRY

I'm not gonna hurt it.

WESLEY

I know that. But maybe they  
don't.

All the children move closer together.

KATIE

Who?

Wesley runs after Alexandra. He holds onto her hand.

25 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

I don't know who.

HARRY

Why are we here?

WESLEY

I don't know that either.

The children suddenly realize there is someone watching them. Radue SWEEPS majestically INTO the room, Rashella and Duana FOLLOWING. He stares at the children. Wesley steps forward in front of the group and stares back at Radue.

RADUE

Greetings, Wesley Crusher.

WESLEY

How did you know my name?  
(realization)  
Oh, through that energy beam.

RADUE

Excellent analysis. The Custodian indicated you would be the leader.

WESLEY

The Custodian -- who is the Custodian?

RADUE

The Custodian is not a person.

RASHELLA

We have brought you to Aldea as our guests. We'll provide anything you need or want.

WESLEY

We want to go home.

RADUE

Wesley, all of you have been chosen because you are special.

25 CONTINUED: (2)

DUANA

Children, we are starting on a wonderful adventure.

RADUE

Exactly... Just ask for anything you want, and you shall have it.

Radue WHISKS OUT of the room, leaving the children more confused than they were before. Alexandra follows him to the door and waves.

ALEXANDRA

Bye-bye.

Rashella looks down at this creature and can't help but smile. She reaches out her hand and Alexandra smiles and takes it.

26 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard stands in front of a table where the children's tense, hostile parents sit with Troi. TOYA stands defiantly, like an Amazon facing the only enemy she can find.

TOYA

What happened to Alexandra and the other children, Captain? How are you getting them back?

Beverly gently rebukes Toya.

BEVERLY

Toya, sit down... You're reacting out of fear.  
(gently)

We all knew what the risks were when we signed on. And that's the choice we made. Captain Picard will do everything possible to bring our children back.

Picard acknowledges Beverly's support.

26 CONTINUED:

PICARD

The Aldeans are anxious to discuss "compensation." That will buy us time. I've asked Doctor Crusher to be involved in the negotiations as your representative.

The parents MURMUR. Picard looks around the table at his frightened personnel.

DR. BERNARD

Why were these specific children taken?

PICARD

We can't be sure. We do know the Aldeans can't have children of their own.

DR. BERNARD

Then they won't let them go easily.

PICARD

I won't insult you by pretending it will be easy. I can only say the Enterprise will not leave them behind. Be assured of that.

DR. BERNARD

Can we talk with our children? Give them some reassurance. Let them know that we are here, and that they will be safe.

PICARD

I will do my best to arrange it.

Toya and the others do their best to believe Picard.

DR. BERNARD

The last time I saw him I yelled at him.

They all understand his pain.

27 INT. ALDEA - RASHELLA'S QUARTERS

A spartan area, seemingly empty. Until Alexandra pops her head around a corner. Rashella JUMPS OUT of hiding.

27 CONTINUED:

RASHELLA

There you are!

Alexandra GIGGLES and pretends to run away, letting Rashella catch her.

RASHELLA

(continuing)

I have you now!

28 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard ENTERS the bridge from the lounge.

PICARD

Any response from Aldea,  
Lieutenant Yar?

TASHA

Not yet, sir.

RIKER

Captain, Data has found something interesting. The Aldean shield gives evidence of sporadic fluctuations, weakening its structure in isolated sections.

PICARD

You're saying there are holes in their defense system?

RIKER

In essence, yes. It is surprising after all these eons that the Aldeans' use of their technology is not perfect. One would assume they would be aware of the weakness and repair it.

PICARD

Can we beam down an away team through one of these so-called holes?

RIKER

It is a possibility. It would have to be perfectly timed -- and there are no guarantees.

28 CONTINUED:

DATA

We may be more successful in  
deciphering the code they use  
to transport through the magnetic  
shield.

PICARD

Can you do that?

DATA

Eventually, sir. I am working  
on it now but the number of  
permutations is almost endless.

PICARD

Keep trying.

(turning to Riker)

Number One, while he's doing that,  
you find a way of getting through  
one of those holes because one way  
or the other we have to get an away  
team on that planet, locate the  
power source of that shield and  
neutralize it.

RIKER

You're certain they'll negotiate?

PICARD

Oh, they'll negotiate, Number One.  
Or call it that. They took what  
they wanted, now they'll  
rationalize it by throwing us some  
sort of bone.

Data is puzzled by this.

DATA

A bone, sir? In exchange for the  
children?

Picard just looks at him.

DATA

(continuing)

Oh. A metaphor.

RIKER

And when we don't accept their  
offer?



28 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

The minute they believe we will accept no compensation for the children, they will end all discussion and disappear behind their shield... locking us out and the children in -- forever. That's why I have to keep them talking.

29 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER FOYER

Wesley, Katie and Harry are sitting in the hallway, waiting. Tara COMES OUT of the room with an ALDEAN COUPLE. The woman is holding Tara's hand. Tara looks back at the boys, pleadingly.

WESLEY

Excuse me, sir, where are you taking Tara?

They continue walking down the hall, leaving Wesley behind. Harry turns accusingly to Wesley.

HARRY

What's happening? I thought you said the captain was going to rescue us!

WESLEY

He will. It just might take him a little while.

Radue opens the door and gestures the boys to enter. They hesitate.

RADUE

Come in.

30 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER

THREE other ADULT ALDEANS are waiting inside. They are all extremely pale and thin.

RADUE

Don't be alarmed. The other children have been assigned to their units.

30 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

Units?

RADUE

A unit is a group where people of similar talents and interests live together.

WESLEY

Like a family.

RADUE

Yes, you could call it that.

WESLEY

We already have families.

Radue gently pulls Harry forward. Harry nervously shuffles his feet.

WESLEY

(continuing)

Does Captain Picard know what you are doing?

RADUE

We are keeping nothing from him.

Accolan and Leda can barely control their happiness as they close in on Harry.

LEDA

We have been waiting for you so long, Harry. We are artists, just like you.

HARRY

I'm not an artist.

ACCOLAN

You will be. And a great one.

LEDA

This way, Harry.

31 ANGLE ON TELEPORT ARCH (OPTICAL)

Accolan and Leda lead Harry into the Arch.

LEDA

Unit B -- three seven five.

And the three DISAPPEAR.

32 BACK TO SHOT

RADUE

Katie.

Katie steps forward to meet MELIAN, a middle-aged Aldean, very distinguished looking. Melian reaches out his arthritic, crippled hand to clasp Katie's.

MELIAN

I am honored.

KATIE

Thank you.

RADUE

Melian is the foremost musician on Aldea.

MELIAN

Music speaks its own language...  
I know we'll have much to learn  
from each other.

Katie looks at Wesley.

MELIAN

(continuing)

Don't worry, Katie. You'll be  
seeing Wesley soon.

He puts his arm around Katie and takes her OUT OF FRAME. Wesley stands alone, almost defiant. He stares at Radue, forcing him to speak first.

RADUE

We're the only ones left, Wesley.  
Does that tell you something?

WESLEY

Do you want me to guess?

DUANE

No. You'll be staying with Radue  
and me. As First Unit we require  
someone with innate leadership  
ability -- and a great mind. You  
have both. We need you, Wesley.

WESLEY

What about me? Don't I have a  
say in this?

32 CONTINUED:

RADUE

Wesley, sometimes things happen which we just must accept. You and the other children are now members of this society. That will not change. It's up to you to make the transition as easy as possible for the others. You are their leader. It's your duty. Help them accept it -- because nothing you, or those on the starship can do will change it. Because like you, we also have no choice.

DUANA

We'll do our best to see you're happy here. And I promise you one thing: the secrets of Aldea's power will one day be yours.

Before he can answer, Alexandra BURSTS INTO the room, chased by Rashella, who's a little breathless.

RADUE

Where have you been Rashella? Zena and Aran are waiting to take Alexandra.

RASHELLA

No.

Radue shows surprise at her rebellion.

RADUE

No? I told you...

RASHELLA

No, Radue. They can't have her.

Rashella picks Alexandra up and holds her tightly.

RASHELLA

(continuing)

I will never let her go.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

33 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

still in orbit around Aldea.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. We remain in orbit around Aldea. It's becoming all too evident that talk will not effect the return of our children. We must neutralize the Aldean shield. Until then we are helpless.

34 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The crew is at their regular posts.

TASHA

Sir, Radue is hailing us.

Radue APPEARS on the Main Viewer.

RADUE

Captain Picard.

PICARD

Doctor Crusher and I are ready, Radue.

RADUE

Are you ill, Captain?

PICARD

No. Doctor Crusher is a Staff Officer, Radue. Starfleet Regulation 6.57 requires at least two staff officers to be present during any treaty or contract negotiations.

RADUE

Very well.

Radue's image DISAPPEARS from the Viewscreen.

RIKER

Not much on pleasantries, is he?

34 CONTINUED:

DATA

I am not aware of Regulation 6.57,  
sir.

PICARD

Neither am I, Data.

DATA

Oh. I see.

PICARD

Doctor Crusher, report to the  
bridge... Now we'll see what they  
have in mind.

35 INT. ALDEA - COMPUTER (CUSTODIAN) ROOM (OPTICAL)

Duana and Wesley APPEAR in the Teleporting Arch, which has a DISTINCTIVE SOUND. The room is very simple. It doesn't look as advanced as the Enterprise's computer. Wesley looks around, unimpressed. He notices a massive door at the end of the room that looks as though it's never been opened.

DUANA

Over here, Wesley.

Wesley moves to a table in the center of the room.  
Duana speaks into a panel.

DUANA

(continuing)

Custodian, Wesley Crusher's voice  
will be entered into the  
authorized file -- for Third Level  
clearance.

CUSTODIAN VOICE

Proceed, Duana.

Wesley listens to the sounds and speed of the  
Custodian.

DUANA

Announce yourself to the  
Custodian.

WESLEY

Hello, Custodian. I'm Wesley  
Crusher.

35 CONTINUED:

CUSTODIAN VOICE

Hello, Wesley. Your voice will now activate Third Level clearance.

WESLEY

Thank you. What does that mean?

CUSTODIAN VOICE

You may ask any questions you wish.

WESLEY

Thank you. Duana, what does the Custodian do?

DUANA

It frees us from all burden. It takes care of all our needs. It regulates our lives.

WESLEY

Who built it?

DUANA

The Progenitors.

WESLEY

When?

DUANA

Before my time. Centuries ago.

WESLEY

... What's its power source?

DUANA

Wesley, why is that important? It does what we ask it. It always has. What difference does it make how it works?

WESLEY

If you don't know how it works, how can you repair it?

DUANA

(not understanding the concept)

Why would we want to repair it?

35 CONTINUED: (2)

WESLEY

From time to time, every computer  
-- I mean Custodian -- requires  
maintainance.

DUANA

(laughing)

Wesley, Radue is right. You ask  
questions I can't answer. Ask  
the Custodian instead.

Wesley leans towards the terminal.

WESLEY

Custodian, can you show me where  
Harry is?

CUSTODIAN VOICE

Yes.

WESLEY

Show me Harry.

A small screen ACTIVATES in the center of the console.  
Wesley watches:

36 INT. ALDEA - ARTISTS' UNIT

A workshop that's an artist's dream. Tools of every  
kind, small and large, ancient and modern. Leda is  
showing Harry the use of an unusual shaped  
wood-sculpting tool. Harry watches her work with awe.  
She hands him the tool, and he repeats what she did  
with only a little difficulty. Leda's pleasure shows  
in her face. She pats Harry on the shoulder as he  
continues working. He looks up at her happily.

HARRY

I never did this before. It's  
fun.

37 INT. ALDEA - CUSTODIAN ROOM (OPTICAL)

Harry and Leda are still ON THE SCREEN.

WESLEY

You are going to make Harry into  
a sculptor?



37 CONTINUED:

DUANA

He already is. He has just never been encouraged properly. The tool Leda is giving him will allow him to bring out his visions.

WESLEY

It will take years for him to learn to do that.

DUANA

Oh, no. It will happen quite quickly.

He looks at her, wonderingly.

WESLEY

Custodian, show me Alexandra.

Wesley watches.

38 INT. ALDEA - RASHELLA'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

Rashella is demonstrating to Alexandra how to use a Plexiglas-type multidimensional set of blocks designed to enhance her reasoning ability. Rashella is thrilled that Alexandra repeats what she's been shown -- and then some. She pushes some buttons and the SHAPES AND COLORS CHANGE. Alexandra GIGGLES and looks to Rashella for approval. Rashella gives her a tight hug, then nods to Garen to take over.

39 INT. ALDEA - CUSTODIAN ROOM (OPTICAL)

Alexandra is still ON THE SCREEN.

WESLEY

Custodian, show me Jason...

DUANA

Stop, Custodian.

The screen GOES BLANK as the Custodian obeys Duana.

DUANA

We must work now... there is much to learn.

Wesley points to the locked door.

39 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

What's in there?

Duana's eyes dart towards the fortress-like wall.

WESLEY

It's probably the power source.

DUANA

I don't know. It's forbidden.  
The Custodian allows no one in  
there. There's no one left who's  
authorized.

40 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Beverly and Picard are ready to be transported.

PICARD

Open hailing frequency, Lieutenant  
Yar.

TASHA

Open, sir.

Radue APPEARS on the Viewscreen.

RADUE

Ah, good. You're ready.

Beverly and Picard DISAPPEAR from the bridge.

41 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER (OPTICAL)

Picard and Beverly MATERIALIZE. Rashella and Radue  
are waiting.

PICARD

I want to see the children before  
we begin.

RADUE

No. We're here to negotiate for  
compensation, not to pander to  
emotions. This way.

They follow Radue to the same area where they had their  
celebration. Radue motions them to be seated.

41 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Radue, we do not condone your actions. You're attempting to salve your conscience by offering goods in exchange for our children.

RADUE

Why do you want them back so badly? You can always make more.

PICARD

We happen to like these particular children.

RADUE

Humans have great attachment to their offspring. But we're digressing. Returning the children is non-negotiable.

RASHELLA

I promise you they will have a beautiful life with us. And they'll be father and mother to a new breed born of an ancient culture.

BEVERLY

What makes you think they'll be able to have children? You can't.

RADUE

But they will. Our inability to bear children is a genetic dysfunction. It's not contagious.

PICARD

Radue, we do sympathize. But surely there is a solution which can be mutually satisfactory.

RADUE

For us, the problem is solved. We are offering you information on areas of the galaxy you don't even know exist. What more can we offer? What more would you want?

41 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard pretends to be impressed. He waits a moment before replying.

PICARD

A significant beginning, I think.  
But first I must ask again that  
Doctor Crusher be allowed to speak  
with her son before we continue.

RADUE

You are a very stubborn people.  
Ah, well, that can be a positive  
trait. You may see him.

42 INT. ALDEA - WESLEY'S ROOM

Duana is at the door as Beverly is BROUGHT IN to see Wesley.

WESLEY

Mom!

They hug.

WESLEY

(continuing)

I knew the captain would get us  
home.

Beverly braces herself to tell him.

BEVERLY

Not yet, Wes.

Wesley tries to accept this like a man.

WESLEY

Oh. I thought... never mind.

BEVERLY

Are you okay? And the others?

WESLEY

Okay, really okay. Everyone's  
been assigned their own units...  
you know, like families. We're  
being treated, well, almost like  
gods.

BEVERLY

Don't let it go to your head.

42 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

(lightly)

I won't.

Beverly covers her surreptitious tricorder reading of Wesley -- and of Duana -- with small talk.

BEVERLY

So, what have you been doing?

WESLEY

I'm learning a lot. They have a computer which they call the Custodian. It controls everything.

(lowers his voice)

The captain should know this. All their defense systems, the city's environment, everything. And it's all voice command. So simple. But the amazing thing is the Aldeans don't know how it works. They know how to talk to it, but they don't even know what its power source is, and they didn't do the original programming.

Wesley looks down at the floor.

WESLEY

(continuing; normal voice)

They said that later on, when I'm really an Aldean, I'll know all their secrets.

Beverly WHISPERS to him.

BEVERLY

That won't happen, Wes. I promise I won't let that happen.

Duana becomes nervous about all the whispering.

DUANA

You must leave, Doctor Crusher.

Duana escorts Beverly to the door. Beverly looks back at Wesley.

42 CONTINUED: (2)

BEVERLY  
Take care of yourself.

WESLEY  
I will, Mom.

43 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER (OPTICAL)

Picard looks at Beverly questioningly when she ENTERS.

BEVERLY  
Wes seems fine. He says the other  
children are too.

Rashella is insulted by their doubt.

RASHELLA  
Of course they're well.

RADUE  
Captain Picard, you have our  
offer. It is final. Rashella.

Rashella touches the instrument on her belt -- and  
Picard and Beverly DISAPPEAR.

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard and Beverly MATERIALIZE on the bridge. Radue  
immediately APPEARS on the viewscreen.

RADUE  
Captain, we want you to understand  
the nature of your choice. A  
small demonstration of our  
power...

45 EXT. ALDEA - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

is PUSHED OUT OF ORBIT by a great BURST OF VISIBLE  
ENERGY which envelopes the ship.

46 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The crewmembers SHUDDER slightly as the Enterprise  
comes to a quick stop.

46 CONTINUED:

PICARD

What was that?

DATA

I believe it was a repulsor beam,  
sir.

PICARD

Position report.

GEORDI

It's unbelievable, sir. According  
to my calculations, we're three  
days from Aldea -- at warp nine.

RIKER

They call that a "small"  
Demonstration?

PICARD

Geordi, take us back to Aldea  
orbit. Warp factor nine.

Radue again APPEARS on the viewscreen.

RADUE

Captain, if you don't accept our  
terms, the Enterprise will be  
pushed so far away, by the time  
you get back, your children will  
be grandparents.

Radue DISAPPEARS from the viewscreen. Picard, Riker  
and Troi REACT.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

47 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as she travels back towards Aldea at warp nine.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41509.45.  
We are twenty hours away from  
Aldea, and no closer to a  
solution. Their deliberate show  
of force pushed us out of orbit  
and could have disintegrated the  
ship. In the face of that power,  
a direct assault on Aldea would  
be disastrous.

48 EXT. SPACE - ALDEA (OPTICAL)

ESTABLISHING.

49 INT. ALDEA - MELIAN'S MUSIC ROOM

As spartan as the rest of the Aldean quarters. Katie holds an instrument awkwardly in her hands, while Melian uses his pain-ridden hands to show Katie how to use it. The instrument is small and circular, about a foot in diameter. There's a pad for the thumb, and for the fingers. It CHANGES COLORS for each different SOUND.

MELIAN

Now, hold it a little bit more  
firmly.

Katie moves her fingers around.

MELIAN

(continuing)

That's it. Perfect. Now...  
think. No, think's not right.  
Feel the notes inside your head.

Katie closes her eyes and the instrument SOUNDS A NOTE.  
Katie's so startled she drops it.

KATIE

I'm sorry! Did I break it?



49 CONTINUED:

MELIAN

No. It's all right. You can't  
break it.

KATIE

It did exactly what I thought...  
I mean, felt.

MELIAN

Yes. It's a direct expression  
of the music within. Now we just  
have to teach you to structure  
that feeling...

Katie takes the instrument back from Melian and looks  
at it in wonder. Then hands it back. She begins to  
play. A beautiful, melancholy TUNE. Melian listens -  
enchanted. She STOPS.

MELIAN

(continuing)

That was beautiful. Now play  
something happier.

KATIE

(sadly shaking her  
head)

That's not how I feel.

(pause)

I don't want to do this anymore.

Melian smiles sadly at her.

50 INT. ALDEA - ARTISTS' UNIT (OPTICAL) 50

Accolan is helping Harry with a wood carving. Harry  
pushes the sculpting tool along the block of wood and  
a portion of a dolphin is revealed.

ACCOLAN

You see, Harry, I told you you  
were going to be an artist.

HARRY

Are you sure? Did I really do  
this?

ACCOLAN

Oh, yes. Your talent has always  
been there. The sculpting tool  
is just helping you develop it.  
It's what you were meant to do.

50 CONTINUED:

HARRY

You mean I don't have to do  
calculus anymore?

ACCOLAN

You don't have to do anything you  
don't want to do. What's  
calculus?

HARRY

Nothing important. Can I do some  
more?

51 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

It COMES out of warp speed.

52 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it ENTERS orbit around Aldea.

PICARD

Captain's log, supplemental. It  
has been three days since the  
Aldeans pushed us away. We have  
had no contact with Radue since  
then.

53 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The crewmembers are in place.

PICARD

Lieutenant Yar, open hailing  
frequencies.

TASHA

Frequencies open, sir.

PICARD

Radue, this is Captain Picard.

Radue APPEARS on the Main Viewer.

RADUE

Welcome back, Captain. What have  
you decided?

PICARD

There is room for discussion,  
Radue.

53 CONTINUED:

RADUE

We will bring you down when we  
are ready.

Radue DISAPPEARS from the viewscreen.

PICARD

Data, find a way to defeat that  
shield.

DATA

That may be impossible, sir.

PICARD

Things are impossible, until  
they're not.

DATA

Yes, sir.

54 ANGLE ON TURBOLIFT

Beverly ENTERS from the turbolift.

BEVERLY

Captain, here's what I've learned.  
(a beat)  
Duana is dying. I have no reason  
to believe the rest of the Aldeans  
are any healthier.

PICARD

We're all dying, Doctor. Can you  
be more specific?

BEVERLY

They're suffering from some kind  
of chromosomal damage. It could  
be genetic, or environmental.

PICARD

Then that's why they can't  
conceive.

BEVERLY

Yes. It also explains their lack  
of appetite, their sensitivity  
to light, and their extreme  
pallor.

54 CONTINUED:

PICARD

An entire civilization that's  
terminally ill... is it  
reversible?

BEVERLY

I won't know until I've found the  
cause... and you don't need to  
tell me time is running out.

PICARD

Good work, Doctor.

55 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER

Radue and Duana are trying to coax Wesley to eat.

DUANA

I thought growing boys are always  
hungry.

WESLEY

You didn't eat anything.

RADUE

We need very little.

DUANA

I know you miss your family. But  
you will grow accustomed to us.  
I promise. I promise you'll be  
happy.

Wesley's clear eyes look at Duana with compassion.

WESLEY

You can keep me here, but you  
can't make me want to stay.  
You'll never be able to make me  
forget. And I'll never be an  
Aldean.

56 INT. ALDEA - ARTISTS' UNIT - NIGHT

Leda creams her hands with an ointment as Harry bends  
over a table, putting the finishing touches on his  
work.

ACCOLAN

Have the lesions gone?

56 CONTINUED:

LEDA

Yes. The medicine worked again.

ACCOLAN

Good. Come see what Harry's doing.

Harry's hands polish the last bit on his creation: a carved dolphin.

ACCOLAN

(continuing)

Beautiful!

Harry gives Accolan the finished piece. Accolan touches it, admiring the workmanship.

HARRY

(surprised)

It really turned out well.

ACCOLAN

It is so graceful and alive. What do you call it?

HARRY

It's a dolphin.

LEDA

Dolphin?

HARRY

You know, it swims in the ocean. Like a fish, only it's not a fish.

LEDA

Ah. A fish. We used to have them in our oceans. I've never seen one before.

HARRY

I used to live near the ocean. On Zadar IV. My dad's an oceanographer. He says... never mind. It doesn't matter.

Harry turns away, ambivalent.

57 INT. ALDEA - RASHELLA'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

She is holding Alexandra, COOING to her. The baby falls asleep in her arms.

58 INT. BEVERLY'S OFFICE

Beverly is feverishly working the computer, trying to make sense out of the disparate information. She shakes her head.

BEVERLY

No. That doesn't fit the pattern.  
Give me a list of the appropriate  
medical literature from the  
twenty-second century.

The computer shows her a list that's very long.

BEVERLY

(continuing)

There's not enough time!

She looks at it and rubs her eyes. Picard WALKS INTO the room and sees her. He APPROACHES her carefully and puts his hand on her shoulder. Beverly covers his hand with hers.

PICARD

Is there anything I can do?

BEVERLY

You just did, Jean-Luc. Now...  
I have to get back to work.

She turns back to her desk.

59 INT. ALDEA - RASHELLA'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Alexandra is CRYING.

ALEXANDRA

I want Mommy!

Rashella tries to hold and comfort her, but there's no solace.

60 INT. ALDEA - WESLEY'S ROOM - NIGHT (OPTICAL)

It's dark. Wesley slips out of his bed and opens the door. There's no one around. He steps into the ARCH.

WESLEY

(quietly)  
Custodian's room.

61 INT. ALDEA - CUSTODIAN ROOM - NIGHT (OPTICAL)

Wesley APPEARS in the Arch. The room is empty. Wesley sits at the console. He WHISPERS his instruction.

WESLEY  
(whispers)  
Custodian, this is Wesley Crusher.

CUSTODIAN VOICE  
(normal level)  
Proceed, Wesley.

Wesley jumps at the sound.

WESLEY  
Show me where all the Enterprise children are in relation to this room.

The Custodian FLASHES the children's locations on the screen. Wesley stares at it, memorizing the locations.

WESLEY  
(continuing)  
Thank you.

He moves away from the console, then has second thoughts.

WESLEY  
(continuing)  
Custodian, what's your instruction set?

Wesley is nervous, not sure he's authorized. The Custodian ANSWERS WITH a kind of nonelectronic MUSIC. Wesley doesn't understand, but goes on.

WESLEY  
(continuing)  
How can I command your attention?  
Do you have a non-maskable interrupt?

CUSTODIAN VOICE  
Yes.

WESLEY  
What is its address?

CUSTODIAN VOICE  
Zero, twelve, twenty-two,  
twenty-one, twenty-three,  
twenty-six.

61 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

That doesn't make any sense to me.

Wesley's puzzled, but pushes ahead anyway. He takes a deep breath before he asks the really important question.

WESLEY

(continuing)

Custodian, what's in the locked room next to this one?

CUSTODIAN VOICE

You are not authorized for that information.

WESLEY

Thank you. Good night.

CUSTODIAN VOICE

Good night, Wesley.

Wesley sits a moment, deep in thought.

62 INT. ALDEA - KATIE'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Katie's asleep. An arm reaches over her and shakes her slightly. Katie opens her eyes, startled. Wesley leans over her, finger to his mouth. He WHISPERS.

WESLEY

I need your help. I have an idea how we can get home.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR



ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

63 INT. ALDEA - WESLEY'S ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Wesley, Harry, Alexandria and Katie, are gathered in Wesley's room. Their VOICES LOW.

KATIE

Why will not talking or eating  
make them send us home?

Wesley patiently tries to explain again.

WESLEY

It's called "passive resistance."  
We don't do anything they want  
us to do and then they won't want  
us.

KATIE

Will they get mad at us?

WESLEY

They won't hurt us.

HARRY

But, Wes, I do kind of like them.

WESLEY

So do I, but I don't want to stay  
here forever. Do you?

Harry hesitates.

HARRY

(thoughtfully)

No, but I like working with the  
wood.

WESLEY

Harry, we all have to do this  
together or it won't work.

With some reluctance, Harry agrees.

HARRY

Okay. I'll do it.

63 CONTINUED:

Rashella RUSHES INTO the room.

RASHELLA

What are you all doing here  
together?

There's no answer.

RASHELLA

(continuing)

What is going on here?

Still no answers. She reaches for Alexandra, but  
Wesley picks up the child and shakes his head "no."

RASHELLA

(continuing)

Garen!

Garen RUSHES INTO the room.

RASHELLA

(continuing)

Take the children back to their  
units.

64 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

Beverly STEPS OFF the turbolift. She's exhausted.

BEVERLY

The Aldeans are suffering from  
a form of radiation poisoning.

PICARD

And that's what's made the Aldeans  
sterile?

BEVERLY

Yes.

PICARD

Is it reversible?

BEVERLY

Of course.

DATA

Captain, these permutations are  
going to take a very long time.

64 CONTINUED:

PICARD

How long?

DATA

Weeks.

RIKER

Captain, there is another option.  
We have identified a weakness in  
the shield.

GEORDI

But it's not constant.

WORF

It's a hole.

GEORDI

It's not a hole as much as it is  
a fluctuation.

RIKER

Still, there is a chance.  
Captain, if we can time it exactly  
-- I think we can beam a team  
through the hole and onto the  
planet.

PICARD

Then why can't we beam the  
children up through the hole?

RIKER

The timing would be more  
difficult, and the risk greater.

PICARD

What are you suggesting, Number  
One?

RIKER

Beam through the hole. Locate  
the source of the shield, and  
knock it out.

PICARD

I'll try to delay the Aldeans  
until you're ready.

65 INT. ALDEA - WESLEY'S ROOM

The children sit in silence. Leda COMES IN with a tray of food for them.

LEDA

Will you at least eat?

They do not answer. She sets the tray down and LEAVES the room. Alexandra wanders over to the food and looks at it. Wesley knows that she's hungry. He goes to Alexandra and kneels down.

WESLEY

I know you're hungry. We all are, but Alexandra, we are not going to eat anything. It's our way of telling them that we want to go home. Do you understand?

The little girl nods. Wesley puts his arm around her. Harry comes over, picks up the tray and puts it outside the door. Wesley acknowledges the act with a smile.

66 INT. - MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Radue APPEARS on the viewscreen.

RADUE

Captain Picard. You may come down now to conclude our discussion, or your ship may leave. It is your choice.

67 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

where Riker, Tasha and Data wait to beam down.

RIKER

We are ready, Captain.

68 INT MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

PICARD

Doctor Crusher and I are prepared to conclude these negotiations.

Beverly and Picard DEMATERIALIZE from the bridge.

WORF

Transporter room, now!

69 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

RIKER

Energize.

Riker, Tasha and Data FADE and DISAPPEAR as the transporter activates.

70 INT. ALDEA - CORRIDOR (OPTICAL)

Tasha, Riker and Data MATERIALIZE. There is no one else around. Riker looks around and motions for the Team to follow him.

71 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER

Beverly and Picard are confronted by Radue.

RADUE

Before we begin, Captain, you must speak with the children. It seems they are on some sort of "strike." I don't understand it. You must deal with this, Captain. I'm not very good with children.

Picard is amused for the first time in days.

PICARD

A strike? I'll see what I can do.

72 INT. ALDEA - WESLEY'S ROOM (OPTICAL)

Picard APPEARS in the Teleport Arch to find Wesley and the others silent and defiant. The children are overjoyed to see the captain.

WESLEY

Sir! We knew you'd come!

PICARD

It's not over yet, Wesley.

WESLEY

Captain, I think I figured out their computer controls -- I'm not sure, it's a different system than ours.

72 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
Good, Wesley. Now...

HARRY  
(interrupting)  
...Captain.

PICARD  
Yes, Harry.

HARRY  
If something happens and you have  
to leave us here -- tell my Dad...  
I'm sorry I made him angry... and  
I miss him.

PICARD  
I will tell him, Harry, and I will  
tell him how much I admire his  
son.

Alexandra waddles over to Picard and raises her arms to  
be picked up. Picard has no choice but to awkwardly  
lift her into his arms. She looks up at him with her  
big eyes.

73 OMITTED

74 INT. ALDEA - CUSTODIAN ROOM

As the three officers ENTER the room.

DATA  
This is it, Commander.

Data scans the room with his tricorder.

DATA  
(continuing)  
It is programmed to accept only  
authorized voice commands.

RIKER  
So we can't override.

DATA  
No. But I can intermix the input  
so nobody else can.

74 CONTINUED:

RIKER

We must find the power supply for  
the shield.

75 INT. ALDEA - FIRST UNIT CHAMBER (OPTICAL)

OPEN ON Beverly - then PAN TO Teleport Arch as Picard  
and the children STEP FORWARD. Beverly, Radue and  
Rashella have been joined by Accolan. Beverly looks  
lovingly at her son.

RADUE

What is this?

PICARD

They want to go home.

RADUE

No. They're staying.

PICARD

(his communicator)  
Number One.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

We are in position.

PICARD

Hold for orders.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Aye, sir.

BEVERLY

(with persuasion)

The radiation levels on Aldea have  
built up over a long period of  
time. It is similar to what was  
experienced on Earth in the  
twenty-first century, when the  
ozone layer deteriorated and the  
surface of the planet was flooded  
with ultraviolet radiation.

PICARD

The shield that protects your  
world in one way has weakened it  
in another. It's the radiation  
of your own sun which is  
destroying you.

75 CONTINUED:

RADUE

You are trying to confuse the issue.

BEVERLY

Please listen. You're all suffering from a kind of poisoning. Sterility is only the latest symptom. If the children remain, they will be affected as well.

RADUE

It is impossible. Our scientists would have known.

BEVERLY

How could they? Your scientists have forgotten how everything works.

RADUE

No. It's a lie. Send them back to their ship.

Rashella starts to touch her arm band, then hesitates.

RASHELLA

Wait. No. What if they're right? Instead of the children being our hope, what if we are just condemning them to our fate?

RADUE

They are just protecting their own interests.

RASHELLA

As are we. But hear them out. The captain and Doctor Crusher are saying our entire life is based on a misconception, and the very thing which has given us this wonderful world is the very thing which has caused this tragedy?



75 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

That is exactly it. The shield that protects you, has weakened and your computer has controlled your lives so completely you've lost the desire to even question it.

RADUE

Lies. The discussion is over.

Radue hits his arm band to send them back to the ship. Nothing happens. Picard touches his communicator.

PICARD

Commander Riker.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Yes, sir.

PICARD

I assume you have control of the computer.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

We've disabled the system temporarily and we've found the power source to the shield and we've neutralized it.

PICARD

Good.

(using com)

Enterprise, this is Picard. Beam the children up.

HARRY

Wait.

Harry goes to Accolan.

HARRY

(continuing)

Thank you.

ACCOLAN

Let me get the dolphin for you to take with you.

HARRY

No. You keep it. I'll make another.

75 CONTINUED: (3)

Harry joins the others.

PICARD

Beam them up.

Harry waves good-bye to Accolan as all the children,  
but Wesley, DEMATERIALIZE.

RADUE

You've destroyed us.

PICARD

We are not here to destroy you,  
Radue. We can help you.

76 OMITTED

77 INT. ALDEA - POWER ROOM (OPTICAL)

They ENTER cautiously. In the center is a shiny black  
box, not very large. It PULSATES with a GLOWING LIGHT.

RADUE

What is it?

PICARD

The legacy your Progenitors left  
you, Radue. The source of your  
power. And your problems.

DATA

It is reading incredible amounts  
of energy, sir. Even more since  
we have taken down the shield.

RASHELLA

What are we going to do with it?

RADUE

Learn all over again... all this  
time we've been destroying  
ourselves. So secure, so sure  
of our technological  
invulnerability. Now...

PICARD

Will you let us help?

Radue puts his hand out to Picard.

RADUE

Yes. Please.

78 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND ALDEA (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise uses a wide angle ENERGY BEAM to "sew up the hole" in the atmosphere. (To be researched and revised.)

79 INT. CORRIDOR

Harry and his father walk hand in hand to Harry's classroom. Harry stops in front of the door.

HARRY

Dad, I want to be an artist. And I don't want to take calculus anymore.

DR. BERNARD

You can be anything you want, Harry. Anything. But you still have to take calculus.

Harry thinks about it for a moment.

HARRY

Okay. Thanks, Dad.

They hug and Harry goes back to school.

80 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The Main Viewer SHOWS the ship finishing its job on the atmosphere.

DATA

It worked well, sir.

Beverly ENTERS from a turbolift.

PICARD

Are you finished?

BEVERLY

Yes. They're responding very well to the treatment, but for this to work, they can never use their shield or be cloaked again.

PICARD

The legend will die, but the people will live.

80 CONTINUED:

TROI

And we know they'll make good  
parents.

Alexandra WADDLES OFF the turbolift with Wesley. She's  
carrying a flower.

PICARD

Wesley!

WESLEY

Sorry, sir. She just wanted to  
give you a present for bringing  
her back to her mommy.

Picard bends down to accept the flower -- and a hug.  
Alexandra waves bye-bye to him and GOES BACK with  
Wesley. The entire bridge crew tries not to snicker.  
Picard gives them a fierce look to cover his  
discomfort.

PICARD

Mister La Forge, out of orbit.  
Warp five.

GEORDI

(coughing)

Yes, sir. Certainly, sir.

Picard turns around and the rest of the crew can see  
the stick-em toy on the back of his uniform.

80A EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

at sub-warp speed, it heads for its next adventure.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE  
THE END