

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"We'll Always Have Paris"
#40271-124

Written by
Deborah Dean Davis
&
Hannah Louise Shearer

Directed by
Robert Becker

THE WRITING CREDITS MAY NOT BE FINAL AND SHOULD NOT BE USED
FOR PUBLICITY OR ADVERTISING PURPOSES WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING
WITH THE TELEVISION LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

Copyright 1988 Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights
Reserved. This script is not for publication or
reproduction. No one is authorized to dispose of same. If
lost or destroyed, please notify the Script Department.

FINAL DRAFT

FEBRUARY 22, 1988

STAR TREK: "... Paris" - 2/22/88 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"We'll Always Have Paris"

CAST

PICARD	EDOUARD
RIKER	FRANCINE
BEVERLY	GABRIELLE
DATA	LAURA MANHEIM
TROI	DR. PAUL MANHEIM
WORF	
GEORDI	
TRANSPORTER CHIEF	

Voice-over
COMPUTER VOICE

STAR TREK: "... Paris" - 2/22/88 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"We'll Always Have Paris"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
GYMNASIUM
MAIN BRIDGE
CORRIDORS
 BY HOLODECK
 BY DE-CONTAMINATION AREA
SICKBAY
SICKBAY OUTER OFFICE
TRANSPORTER ROOM
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
CONFERENCE ROOM
PICARD'S QUARTERS
DR. CRUSHER'S OFFICE

VANDOR

CORRIDOR
MANHEIM'S LABORATORY

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
PARIS CAFE (HOLODECK)
THE PLANET VANDOR

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"We'll Always Have Paris"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it streaks through the stars at warp speed.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41886.9.
We are en route to Sarona 8 for
much needed R and R. The entire
crew is looking forward to the
diversion. On a personal note,
I have allowed myself the luxury
of a head start.

2 INT. ENTERPRISE - GYMNASIUM

It is starkly and simply set up for competitive saber
fencing. PICARD and RIKER are dressed in traditional
white jumpsuits, gloves, shoes and masks. They stand
in the middle of three long lanes about six feet apart.
They snap their masks in place.

PICARD MOVES HIS

right leg forward, weight centered, hand on hip. His
saber is down.

HE TURNS THE SABER

so the cutting edge of the blade moves to the left,
then brings it to his head with a flourish.

PICARD

En garde.

PICARD STEPS FORWARD

as his blade comes up, pointed at the Riker's face.

THEIR BLADES CROSS

as Riker half-lunges forward, arm extended, to a chest
shot. Picard steps back and parries.

2 CONTINUED:

PICARD SNAPS AND BEATS

Riker's sword, knocking it to the side. He does a full lunge forward, with a downward slice.

RIKER HIGH BLOCKS

the move, and lunges forward with a flank cut to Picard's ribs. He continues with a fleche, then a head cut, continuing with fleche parries.

RIKER SCORES

with an inverted thrust to Picard's heart. Picard steps back and salutes. Riker answers in kind.

THEIR MASKS

come off, but not their rank.

RIKER

I took advantage...

PICARD

No, no. The advantage was yours, Number One. I'm out of practice... too much time on the bridge. En garde!

PICARD REPLACES HIS MASK

and they begin again.

PICARD FAKES RIKER

out with a cheek cut, turning his blade down, then, in a swashbuckling movement, he SLAMS the heel of his sword right on Riker's guard, comes in with a cheek cut, then rolls the sword and quickly lunges in with a head cut, pulls the sword back in and THRUSTS it to Riker's heart. Riker is surprised as

PICARD SCORES

and they step back and salute each other with their swords.

RIKER

Interesting move. What technique was that?

2 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

The technique of a desperate man.
Shall we...

He is interrupted by the GREAT SHUDDER AND ROLL of the ship as the Enterprise is hit by some MASSIVE FORCE. He and Riker are thrown around like dolls as LIGHTS FLICKER ON AND OFF. Finally, the ship stabilizes.

PICARD AND RIKER HURRY TO

the com panel.

COMPUTER VOICE

Yellow Alert.

PICARD

Picard to bridge. Report.

3 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

THE BRIDGE CREW MOVE TO THEIR STATIONS, returning to normal.

DATA

It is not an attack that we know of, Captain. Origin unknown. Sensors did not detect the force until immediately prior to impact. Shields did not have time to respond. Damages unknown.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

We're on our way, Mister Data.

WORF

Damage reports from all decks coming in, sir.

DATA

Injuries?

WORF

Minor.

DATA LOOKS AT HIS

instruments, puzzled.

3 CONTINUED:

DATA

I still am unable to determine
the cause of the energy force.
There is nothing within a
reasonable distance of this ship
powerful enough to cause an impact
of that magnitude.

THE TURBOLIFT OPENS

and Picard and Riker ENTER the bridge, still dressed
in their fencing clothes.

RIKER

Mister Data?

DATA

Damages and injuries are minimal.

PICARD

Where did it come from?

DATA

I am still checking, sir.

PICARD

Hazard a guess, Mister Data.

DATA

It appears to originate from the
Pegos Minor sector.

PICARD

That far?

DATA

Yes, sir.

PICARD TAKES

his Command Chair.

PICARD

Lieutenant La Forge, set
coordinates for that sector.
Shields at full power.

GEORDI

Aye, sir. Coordinates laid in.

3 CONTINUED: (2)

WORF

Sir, I am receiving a transmission from Pegos Minor. It's an S.O.S.

PICARD

Put it on audio, Lieutenant.

A SHAKEN VOICE ECHOES

through the bridge. The crew listens intently.

MANHEIM'S COM VOICE

I repeat, this is Doctor Paul Manheim. We are in need of help. Urgent. Any ship please respond. Coordinates are six-six-seven eight point nine by seven-zero-seven-five-four-two point two. Manheim out.

The transmission is on a loop and begins to REPEAT.

WORF

I can't get through, Captain.

PICARD

Turn it off. Lay in a course for those coordinates, La Forge. Warp eight.

GEORDI

Aye, sir. Plotted and laid in.

DATA

Estimated arrival four hours, seventeen minutes, thirty-five seconds.

RIKER

Isn't Manheim the one who was thrown out of the Institute for unauthorized experiments?

DATA

Quite the contrary, Commander. He left of his own volition. Professor Manheim is the most highly reputed scientist within the Federation. A brilliant visionary who...

3 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD STANDS UP

and moves to the turbolift.

PICARD

... Who disappeared over fifteen years ago. Along with his wife, Laura.

RIKER

Did you know him, Captain?

PICARD

No. He was teaching at the University when I was in Paris, but I never had the pleasure. Number One, you have the Conn. Inform me half an hour before we reach the coordinates.

RIKER

Aye, sir.

PICARD LEAVES

the bridge.

4 INT. CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE HOLODECK

Picard stands there a beat, hesitant to put in the program.

PICARD

Computer, this is Captain Picard.

COMPUTER VOICE

What is your pleasure, Captain?

PICARD

Paris. Twenty-two years ago. A warm spring day. April ninth. Eighteen hundred hours -- three o'clock.

5 INT. HOLODECK

Paris in the spring. The BIRDS ARE SINGING, BRILLIANT LIGHT reflects on the outdoor tables of the Cafe Des Artistes. Couples in love complete the ambience.

5 CONTINUED:

THE TABLEAU IS UNMOVING

until Picard WALKS UP TO a WAITER (EDOUARD).

WITH GREAT FLOURISH

the waiter puts himself at Picard's service.

EDOUARD

Monsieur, welcome to Cafe Des
Artistes. Is this your first time
in Paris?

PICARD

No, I've been here before.

Picard turns and sees the exact table where he used
to sit.

PICARD

(continuing)

That table.

EDOUARD

Mais oui, we are here to please
you.

He ushers Picard to the table on the balcony
overlooking the city.

MEMORIES FLOOD PICARD

as he looks out over the city he loves more than any
other city in the whole galaxy.

PICARD

I've been away far too long.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 INT. HOLODECK - PARIS - CONTINUOUS ACTION - DAY

Two lovely French girls, just barely nineteen, take the table next to Picard. They are very involved in their own conversation and take no notice of him.

PICARD APPRECIATES

the look and liveliness of the two of them. They too, evoke memories. Memories of youth and of love.

THE WAITER INTERRUPTS

his reverie with a menu.

EDOUARD

Some wine, some cheese, a perfect tarte tatin...

PICARD

I'm afraid I'm not hungry. I really came for the view.

EDOUARD

Perhaps what you hunger for is not on the menu?

PICARD

Perhaps not. It was many years ago, I had a rendezvous -- I was to meet someone, a young woman, here, at this very table.

EDOUARD

She did not come?

PICARD

I don't know, actually. I've always imagined that she did.

THE WAITER TAKES the menu back, with a knowing expression.

EDOUARD

You, however, did not. Trust Edouard. I will bring something special, just for you.

6 CONTINUED:

ONE OF THE GIRLS

FRANCINE, stands and throws some money on the table.

FRANCINE

I'm not staying if all you're
going to do is talk about him.

GABRIELLE

What is this for?

FRANCINE

My lunch. Feed it to the birds.

FRANCINE LEAVES

in a swish of silk and color.

GABRIELLE SIGHS AND STARES

out over the city, not unlike Picard.

GABRIELLE

He will come. He will.

PICARD HEARS THIS

and turns his chair so that he can see her more
clearly.

PICARD

Yes, I'm sure he will.

GABRIELLE LOOKS AT

Picard and smiles back at him -- thankful for the
compliment and for the assurance.

GABRIELLE

He's a military man, just like
you. We're going to get married
and he's going to stay here in
Paris and never leave me.

PICARD

He's stationed here?

GABRIELLE

Not yet, but that's the way I've
got it planned. Last night, well,
after last night, he just couldn't
leave. He couldn't.

6 CONTINUED: (2)

Her eyes fill with tears.

PICARD CANNOT BEAR

to see her cry. He wants to make it better somehow.

PICARD

If he's as young as you are, maybe
he doesn't know yet exactly what
he wants to do.

GABRIELLE

You're an important Starfleet
officer -- what would you advise
my lover to do -- go off and
explore the galaxy or stay here
and explore something which has
no boundaries -- love?

PICARD

I would tell him that he must be
the person he is meant to be...
and that you deserve nothing less
than that.

THE WAITER DELIVERS

a simple tray of various cheeses and meats to Picard.
He pours himself a glass of deep red wine.

EDOUARD

Bordeaux, a very passionate year.

PICARD

A glass for the young lady.

The waiter pours a glass of wine for Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE RISES AND MOVES

to Picard's table. There is more confidence in her
demeanor than before. She knows more about this man
and can deal on a more emotional level.

GABRIELLE

Do I remind you of the girl you
left behind?

PICARD

No. Yes, you do. It's hard to
say, it has been many years.

6 CONTINUED: (3)

GABRIELLE

Then you have forgotten her face.

PICARD STARES THROUGH GABRIELLE

as if he is directly connected to someone else.

PICARD

Not a single detail. I can see every inch of her to this day and being here -- I can feel the softness of her in the breeze, smell the fragrance of her in the flowers. I have not forgotten.

GABRIELLE

What was her name?

PICARD

Laura.

HE STARES OFF

into the City of Lights, letting the memory of Laura wash over him.

7 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - DAY

Picard, a little angrier than usual, APPROACHES Data.

PICARD

You've been at that console twice as long as you estimated.

DATA

My estimation was incorrect, Captain.

DATA SWIVELS IN HIS CHAIR

facing Picard.

DATA

(continuing)

And I think it would be best if what I am about to tell you were also incorrect.

PICARD

Nonsense. Out with it.

7 CONTINUED:

DATA

Someone, I would assume Professor
Manheim, opened up a window. A
window into another dimension.

Picard strains to garner more information out of what
little information Data is giving him.

PICARD

You don't know how?

Data shakes his head "no."

RIKER

You don't know what it is?

PICARD

What came through this window?

Data shakes his head "no" again.

PICARD

(continuing)

A window, that's all you know.

Data shakes his head "yes."

DATA

Sir, the answers to your questions
will be the most important
scientific answers of the
twenty-fourth century.

PICARD LOOKS TO THE VIEWSCREEN

answers, answers, they are all out there.

PICARD

Manheim.

GEORDI

Captain, we've reached the
coordinates specified. There's
nothing here.

WORF

I am receiving new coordinates.
It's a relay signal, the same
source as the first one.

7 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Set course for the new
coordinates.

GEORDI

Aye, sir.

RIKER

Why would someone make it this
difficult to find him if he truly
wants to be found?

WORF

A failsafe, I would imagine.

8 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

speeds towards the new coordinates at warp 8.

9 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Everyone is at their post.

GEORDI

Captain, my sensors are picking
up what appears to be a small
planet.

PICARD NODS

leaning forward in his chair, trying to get there
sooner.

PICARD

Mister La Forge, standard orbit.
Give me a visual.

GEORDI

Aye, sir.

WORF

Viewscreen on.

10 MAIN VIEWSCREEN - THE PLANET VANDOR (OPTICAL)

floats VIOLET in space. There is a GLIMMERING EFFECT
surrounding it.

11 THE CREW STARES

at it.

WORF

There's a forcefield of some kind
surrounding the planet, sir.

PICARD

Penetrable?

DATA

No, sir.

PICARD

Open hailing frequencies.

WORF

Hailing frequencies open, sir.

PICARD

This is the USS Enterprise
responding to your signal for
help.

A WOMAN'S VOICE comes through. She is bordering on
hysteria.

LAURA (V.O.)

Help. Please help me. I don't
know what to do. It's only the
two of us. He's shaking. Please.

PICARD'S FACE

melts a little, just hearing her voice.

THE CREW LOOKS

to him to give an order, he is just a small beat slower
than usual.

PICARD

Can you lock onto her coordinates?

GEORDI

No, sir. The forcefield is
preventing any kind of contact
other than audio.

PICARD

Mrs. Manheim, this is... the
captain of the Enterprise. Is
your husband conscious?

11 CONTINUED:

LAURA (V.O.)

No. You've got to help him.

PICARD

There's a force field surrounding
your planet.

LAURA (V.O.)

Yes. I know.

Picard gently guides a "civilian" through.

PICARD

Good. Then you must be very brave
and leave his side long enough
to shut down the system that is
preventing us from helping you.

THE PLANET VANDOR

slowly STOPS SHIMMERING AND BECOMES A CRYSTAL CLEAR
VIOLET GLOBE.

PICARD

(continuing)

Good.

(to crew)

Lock onto their coordinates and
beam them up.

PICARD SITS IN HIS CHAIR

like the weight of the world has just been placed on
his shoulders.

RIKER

I'd like extra decontamination
precautions, Captain.

Without even moving, Picard responds.

PICARD

Fine, Number One.

12 INT. - OUTSIDE THE DE-CONTAMINATION AREA

Picard and Riker wait outside, Picard nervously shifts
his weight from foot to foot.

12 CONTINUED:

RIKER

The professor seems to be going
in and out of consciousness.

PICARD

Well, the first time he's "in"
be sure you find out what the hell
he was up to down there.

The Captain paces like a new father.

RIKER

Is anything wrong, sir?

PICARD

No.

THE DOOR OPENS

and a medical team RUSHES OUT with the convulsing body
of Professor Manheim. Riker FOLLOWS THEM to Sickbay.

THE CAPTAIN

stands aside leaving them plenty of room.

PICARD LOOKS UP

and standing in the same doorway:

PICARD'S POV - LAURA

She looks unearthly, almost like an angel, an even more
beautiful woman than girl.

THE TWO OF THEM

stand staring at one another for a long beat.

LAURA STEADIES HERSELF

against the doorway, stunned.

LAURA

Jean-Luc?

PICARD

Laura.

13 INT. SICKBAY

BEVERLY hurriedly takes readings of the uncontrollably shaking body of Paul Manheim.

SHE FINALLY GIVES

him an injection.

MANHEIM SHIVERS

and falls into a deep sleep.

BEVERLY LOOKS UP

from her patient to the concerned face of Riker.

BEVERLY

It's not good.

RIKER

When will I be able to question him?

BEVERLY

I don't know.

PICARD AND LAURA ENTER SICKBAY

and Laura RUSHES TO her husband's side, frightened by his stillness.

LAURA

Is he dead?

BEVERLY

No. I've sedated him.

She puts her hand on Laura's shoulder.

BEVERLY

I'll do everything I can to save him.

RIKER

Doctor, we need to talk to this man as soon as we can.

LAURA STARTS TO CRY

and Picard puts his arm around her, very affectionately comforting her.

13 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY WATCHES THIS SHOW

of familiarity and is surprised by it.

BEVERLY

I'll let you know as soon as he
regains consciousness.

LAURA

Thank you. Thank you, all.

HER EYES HOLD

on Picard's and there is much more there than the
thanks of a woman in distress.

THE SHIP IS JOLTED

by a huge BLAST of God only knows what. COLORS flood
the room.

THEY ARE THROWN

around the cabin in a radical manner.

MANHEIM'S BODY

GLOWS VIOLET.

14 EXT. SPACE - VANDOR (OPTICAL)

TURNS FROM A BRIGHT VIOLET TO A HOT PINK AND BACK
again.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 INT. SICKBAY - CONTINUOUS ACTION

The crew picks themselves up from the deck.

PICARD STEADIES

Laura, then touches his insignia.

PICARD

Bridge, Picard. Status report.

WORF'S COM VOICE

Shields are holding, Captain.
Ten percent loss of power.
Minimal damage, all decks.

PICARD IMPATIENTLY

turns to Riker.

PICARD

We can't wait for this man to wake
up to find out what's going on
here. Clearly, whatever this
window is, it's still open.

RIKER

Agreed, Captain. I'll have Data
start immediately on a thorough
evaluation of all of Doctor
Manheim's theories.

Riker EXITS as

MANHEIM BEGINS TO GLOW

shades of VIOLET, the RETURNS to normal. His eyes open
white and he YELLS OUT:

MANHEIM

Head gone. Must fill up. It's
in the cross!

LAURA RUSHES TO HIS

side, REACTING in horror. When she touches him, it
looks as if he may become coherent, then he fades back
into convulsions.

15 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY GIVES HIM

another injection. He becomes quiet. Picard turns to Laura.

PICARD

When did this start?

LAURA

Right before he sent out the S.O.S. -- after he -- well, he'd been in the lab for at least three days.

PICARD AND BEVERLY

exchange looks. He turns to Laura, his attitude softer.

PICARD

Laura, I'm afraid I need to ask you a number of questions - and time is of the essence.

Beverly looks at the two of them.

BEVERLY

You can use my office.

Picard leads Laura to the outer room.

BEVERLY'S EYES FOLLOW

them through the door. She quickly turns back to her patient.

16 INT. SICKBAY - OUTER OFFICE

Laura and Picard stand and face each other for a long, intense moment.

LAURA SMILES BITTERSWEETLY

at Picard.

LAURA

This is not how I imagined it.

PICARD

Nor I.

16 CONTINUED:

LAURA

You've done well. Exactly as
you'd hoped.

PICARD STRUGGLES

with his duty -- and his emotions.

PICARD

Not exactly. Nothing works just
as you hope... Laura, I'm sorry
about your husband.

(beat)

I need some information from you.

LAURA SENSES THE

change in him. She moves back slightly.

LAURA

I don't know what I can tell you,
Jean-Luc. At best, I'm a
glorified laboratory assistant.
Paul's mental capabilities are
so far beyond yours and mine, he
couldn't discuss his work with
me.

PICARD

But you must know something of
the nature of his experiments.

LAURA SHRUGS

almost indifferent.

LAURA

He lectures me, he practices on
me, but he doesn't confide in me.
I stopped listening long ago.

PICARD

Why did he come here? Why Vandor?

LAURA

He said it was because it was far
enough away, no one would or could
steal his theories... or stop him
from trying to prove them.

16 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

What he was working on is
unquestionably quite dangerous
as well as out of control.

LAURA STARES AT

Picard as if she's just had a revelation.

LAURA

He's a little like you, Jean-Luc.
He loves, he needs the challenges
of the unknown... all I do know
is that he's been very close to
a major breakthrough. He's been
excited and agitated and working
around the clock for the past few
months.

PICARD LOOKS QUESTIONINGLY

at her.

PICARD

Why weren't you affected?

LAURA

Every time he began an experiment,
he insisted I stay in what he said
was a protected room. I guess
he was right.

PICARD BEGINS TO PACE

the room.

PICARD

Fifteen years here? By yourself?

LAURA

There was no place left for Paul
to go -- and I am his wife.

(beat)

Our destiny isn't always exactly
what we expect. Isn't that what
you just said?

TEARS FORM IN

Laura's eyes. She begins to feel overwhelmed.

16 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD STEPS BACK

from the emotion.

PICARD

I must send a team to the planet.

LAURA

You can't. It's protected.
Paul's made sure no one can get
in.

SHE LOOKS UP AT HIM

and lets the tears come.

PICARD PUTS HIS ARMS

around her gently. She collapses into him as if they'd
never been apart. He holds her sympathetically, as:

BEVERLY STRIDES INTO

the office. She stops dead in her tracks and Picard
lets go of Laura.

BEVERLY

Excuse me.

Laura wipes her tears away and becomes strong again.

LAURA

Is he worse?

BEVERLY

He's resting. I'd like to have
you undergo some tests as well.

BEVERLY GESTURES TO THE

Nurse.

BEVERLY

(continuing)

He'll start them.

LAURA

Thank you for your kindness,
Doctor.

16 CONTINUED: (4)

LAURA LOOKS BACK

at Picard a moment, clasps his hand, then follows the Nurse into Sickbay.

BEVERLY UNCOMFORTABLY

addresses Picard, all business.

PICARD

She's an old friend.

BEVERLY

I gathered that. It's her husband I'm more concerned with at the moment.

PICARD

What's his prognosis?

BEVERLY

So far, he's dying and there's nothing I can do about it. His entire genetic structure is altering -- constantly. I don't know how or why. I've never encountered anything like it before.

PICARD

How long does he have?

BEVERLY

Maybe a couple of days. It's not predictable. All I can do is attempt to maintain him until we find out what's causing the damage.

PICARD

Can I talk to him?

BEVERLY

You may never be able to talk to him. He may never be coherent again.

BEVERLY STARTS BACK

into Sickbay.

16 CONTINUED: (5)

PICARD

Doctor.

SHE TURNS BACK

and faces him.

PICARD

(continuing)

I haven't seen Mrs. Manheim since Paris.

BEVERLY

You needn't explain, Captain.

PICARD

It was a very long time ago.

BEVERLY

Yes. She's a lovely woman.

She LEAVES Picard, who's feeling very frustrated.

17 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Data is working furiously at the Aft Console when Picard ENTERS.

RIKER

Were you able to get any information, sir?

PICARD SHAKES HIS

head.

PICARD

Mrs. Manheim is in the dark about her husband's work. And he may never come out of the state he's in. What have you found out?

DATA

Sensors show there's an immense volume of energy being reflected from a small point on the planet's surface... near the main Laboratory.

PICARD

Reflecting what?

17 CONTINUED:

DATA

We do not know yet, sir. It appears to be moving from a thin beam into wider beams and back again in an unstructured manner.

PICARD PUSHES

him for something more.

PICARD

Is this "beam" responsible for the jolt we just felt?

DATA

Not directly, sir. It is possible the beam is responsible for opening the "window."

RIKER

But that's pure assumption. We still know virtually nothing about Manheim's work.

DATA

About this particular work, sir. Professor Manheim is renowned for his work in perfecting subspace communications, and thermodynamics, but those particular achievements seem to have no bearing on what he is trying to do on Vandor.

PICARD IS

impatient.

PICARD

To the point, Mister Data.

DATA

When he disappeared fifteen years ago, he had been working on theories of non-linear time. His colleagues apparently questioned his obsession -- and his methodology.

PICARD

How far did he get?

17 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

No one knows. He became angry about their doubts that he could enter other dimensions. He left the Institute. That is the last anyone heard of him until now.

RIKER

Can we deal with what's happening down there from the ship?

DATA

Unlikely. I would need to see the Doctor's notes. And even then, his mind is of such unparalleled brilliance, I am not sure I could decipher them.

PICARD REACTS

and turns to Riker.

PICARD

There is an elaborate defense system to protect his work.

WORF STANDS TO

his full height.

WORF

We can get through any system.

RIKER

It's worth a try.

PICARD

Agreed. Take a small away team. See what you can find down there.

RIKER GETS UP

and gestures to Worf and Data.

RIKER

Worf. Data.

THEY FOLLOW HIM

onto the turbolift.

PICARD LOOKS AFTER

them.

18 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Riker, Worf and Data step onto the pad. Riker nods to the Transporter Chief.

RIKER

Energize.

The chief adjusts the console and the three figures begin to BEAM DOWN.

19 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as THREE AMORPHOUS FIGURES OF FLICKERING LIGHT begin the BEAM DOWN to the planet.

THE THREE FLICKERING FIGURES

BOUNCE and JUMP and MELD INTO ONE>

THE SINGLE FLICKERING LIGHT

swirls forming a frenzied funnel.

OUT OF THE FUNNEL

crashes the face of a DRAGON.

QUICKLY SUPERIMPOSED

by FLASHING LIGHTS, COLORS AND SHADOWY FIGURES.

THE FUNNEL VIBRATES

with the SOUNDS from ANOTHER DIMENSION.

A GREAT WHITE LIGHT

shines through the swirling reflections of the away Team.

IN A FLASH

the spinning out of control away team breaks away, as if looking for a way home.

THEY TRAVEL FAST

directly toward the planet.

19 CONTINUED:

THEN SMASH INTO

an invisible wall and tiny, disjointed PARTICLES SHOWER
SPACE AND DRIFT OFF into... nothingness.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

20 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Picard RUSHES INTO the room, Troi CLOSE BEHIND him.

PICARD

I don't care if you have a signal
or not -- bring them back!

THE TRANSPORTER CHIEF

doesn't even look up from his panel. He furiously
works.

TROI SEEMS TO WILL

their very bodies back onto the Enterprise.

TROI

They will return. Please, they've
got to.

THE TRANSPORTER CHIEF

sees something on his console.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF

I have a reading, it's not much,
not complete...

PICARD

... Lock on, man. Beam them back!

THE TECHNICIAN PUNCHES

in the proper instructions and...

RIKER AND DATA

slowly SHIMMER BACK ONTO THE TRANSPORTER PAD, dazed.

PICARD AND TROI WAIT MOTIONLESS

until another SHIMMERING EFFECT OCCURS.

WORF REAPPEARS

in the Transporter Room.

EVERYONE IS RELIEVED

they have made it back.

21 CONTINUED:

PICARD

A dragon?

WORF

Not exactly, sir, but a monster
that...

RIKER

(interrupts)

... It wasn't anything at all like
that. It was beautiful --
godlike.

DATA

It was completely logical in the
most disorganized way possible.
Colors, sounds, lights. Not light
you see, but light you feel.

PICARD

You each experienced something
different and it affect you in
dissimilar ways.

TROI

Sir, Worf is a warrior. He
probably confronted his dragon
and fought with it. Professor
Manheim also tried to analyze
whatever it is that comes through
this window. They were both
struck down.

RIKER

I experienced it.

DATA

I observed.

PICARD

However interesting this may be,
it is not, as far as I can tell,
bringing us any closer to closing
that damn window.

PICARD TURNS TO DATA

with a real flourish.

21 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Check and re-check all the sensor readings that were taken while you were "out there."

DATA

Yes, sir.

PICARD TURNS TO RIKER

who is still glowing a bit from his experience.

PICARD

Number One, are you clear-headed enough to do some research?

RIKER

Yes, sir.

PICARD

Good, then go over all the material that Mister Data collected on Manheim's various theories. Maybe you'll be able to see something that ties in. Something that explains the experience you just had.

RIKER

Yes, Captain.

Riker and Data LEAVE.

PICARD

Lieutenant Worf... go to your quarters and rest...

WORF

... I feel fine, Captain.

PICARD

That's an order. There will be plenty of "dragons" left when you awaken.

WORF

Yes, sir.

WORF MARCHES OUT

of the room, trying not to show how exhausted and shaken he still is.

21 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

This has nothing to do with their
subconscious fears and dreams?

TROI

I'm afraid not, sir. This is
real.

PICARD

That's what I was afraid you'd
say, Counselor.

CUT TO:

22 INT. SICKBAY

Laura sits patiently near her husband's bedside.

PAUL MANHEIM'S EYE CLICK OPEN

and they are crystal clear. There is a completely
normal air about him as he gazes around Sickbay.

MANHEIM

Where am I?

LAURA RUSHES TO HIS SIDE

and is truly happy to see her husband looking so well.

LAURA

Thank God. We're on the USS
Enterprise. They answered your
distress signal.

MANHEIM

I sent an S.O.S.?

LAURA

Yes. Oh, Paul, you're going to
be fine.

MANHEIM CHANGES

looking a little manic suddenly. He holds Laura's arm,
a little too tightly.

PAUL

I'm not fine, Laura. I'm not even
close to fine.

22 CONTINUED:

She is frightened by his intensity, but he holds her there and makes her listen to him.

MANHEIM

(continuing)

Always remember this one thing...

BEVERLY SEES WHAT'S HAPPENING

and touches her insignia.

BEVERLY

Professor Manheim is conscious.

She moves to check his vital signs, trying not to interrupt the moment between the husband and wife.

NO ONE COULD INTERRUPT

him, he is obsessed with what he's telling his wife.

MANHEIM

Remember... It was worth it. What happened, what will happen, all of it. It was all worth it.

His eyes are the eyes of a wild and tortured man.

LAURA PULLS AWAY

from him, frightened.

LAURA

The Board was right. We should have stayed at the Institute.

MANHEIM

Then you never would have seen your Picard.

LAURA

What are you talking about?

MANHEIM

Fate.

BEVERLY HEARS THIS

and tries hard to maintain her professional composure.

22 CONTINUED: (2)

LAURA

But, how could you know, I never told you about Jean-Luc?

MANHEIM

I know more things now than I could have learned in twenty lifetimes. And one of the things I know is that you, my darling, belong with him. It's your destiny.

LAURA TURNS AWAY

not wanting her husband to see that she feels what he's saying is true.

MANHEIM GRABS HER AGAIN

obsessed.

MANHEIM

Laura, don't you understand, none of that's important now. I've been on the other side!

BEVERLY IS AFRAID

he might collapse into another seizure.

BEVERLY

Doctor Manheim, please try to stay calm. There are many questions we need to ask you.

PICARD BURSTS INTO

Sickbay. Troi and Data FOLLOW him IN.

PICARD

Professor Manheim.

MANHEIM

Captain Picard.

The two men look at one another for a short beat... like two rams ready to lock horns.

PICARD

We need your help. The situation is not good.

22 CONTINUED: (3)

MANHEIM

And I need yours. My body seems to be in poor physical condition. I need you to go down to the planet and collect my notes, my calculations.

PICARD

We intend to. What exactly were you working on when this window to another dimension was opened?

MANHEIM IS SHOCKED

that they even know this much.

MANHEIM

How were you able to determine that?

PICARD

We are not totally without resources.

MANHEIM

I'll speak to the Science Officer.

PICARD ISN'T THREATENED

as Mister Data STEPS FORWARD and faces his hero.

DATA

Lieutenant Commander Data at your service, Professor.

MANHEIM'S

I have spent the last twenty years struggling with time/gravity theories.

Data is impressed.

DATA

I suspected it but I could not be sure.

MANHEIM

There is one security system after another on your way down to the planet.

22 CONTINUED: (4)

DATA

We had the privilege of running into one of them when we tried to beam down.

PICARD

What about time/gravity?

MANHEIM'S

It's all in my notes.

PICARD

I'd rather hear it from you personally, a condensed version.

MANHEIM

There is hardly a condensed version of the most complex theory of the twenty-fourth century, Captain Picard, but if you insist, I'll attempt one that even you will be able to understand.

PICARD WANTS TO KNOCK

this guy right out of Sickbay and back out in space, but he controls himself.

MANHEIM

A star four light years away went nova. I have been able to mathematically... "latch" onto the incredible gravity of this smooth back globe and direct that energy, that nearly immeasurable force, into space.

DATA IS TRANSFIXED

by the pure simplicity of it all -- even though he realizes this is like a grain of sand to the whole theory.

PICARD

So -- this energy, directed into space, then what?

MANHEIM

Then, abracadabra, Captain Picard, we all see God! A window to another dimension, isn't that how you put it? So pedestrian.

22 CONTINUED: (5)

PICARD

Fine. My scientific knowledge
isn't the issue here -- yours is.
You opened it. Are you brilliant
enough to close it?

MANHEIM LOOKS AT

Picard and starts to laugh.

THE LAUGH BECOMES HYSTERICAL

and Beverly quickly moves to Manheim's side to
administer a shot.

MANHEIM GRABS HER WRIST

until the hypospray falls out of her hand on the
floor.

DATA AND PICARD

try to aid Beverly, but they are forced back with an
unseen BLAST OF ENERGY emanating from him.

MANHEIM

Give me thirty cc's of trisinov.
I'll give you the correct
coordinates to beam safely to
Vandor and the electrical codes
you'll need to bypass security
systems to get into my lab.

THEY ALL STARE AT MANHEIM

he seems bigger than before, almost as if his upper
body has grown. His legs however seem shriveled and
weak.

23 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

The starscape glows with a VIOLET HUE through the
conference room windows.

TROI

I'm sorry Captain, my powers
appear to be quite useless in this
particular instance. Whatever
Professor Manheim is going through
is to feelings what white is to
color. I cannot distinguish one
feeling from another. They are
all there.

23 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Certainly hostility.

TROI
It would seem he has reason to
feel hostile to you, sir, his
wife...

PICARD
Yes, Counselor, let's stick to
the important issues. Lieutenant
Worf.

WORF
Yes, sir?

PICARD
I want every heading that Manheim
gave Mister Data checked out and then
rechecked. No one's beaming down
to Vandor until we can be
reasonably sure they'll make it
through.

WORF
Right away, sir.

WORF AND DATA LEAVE

the conference room.

PICARD TURNS TO RIKER

a little frayed around the edges.

PICARD
I'll be in my quarters, Number
One.

RIKER
Everything's under control,
Captain.

PICARD LOOKS AT RIKER

knowing that even Number One can't "control" what's
going on out there or in the battle between his head
and heart.

23 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD LEAVES

the conference room.

TROI TURNS TO RIKER

and with understanding.

TROI

He has had a great emotional shock. This, coupled with the strain of command, is wearing on him.

RIKER

Women!

TROI IS ANGRY

with Riker's response until she sees:

RIKER SMILES THAT

devilish smile of his... he's teasing her.

TROI GATHERS HER PAPERS

and prepares to leave the room.

TROI

I would think that someone who has so recently seen God would be a little more... well...

RIKER

... No one ever said that God didn't have a sense of humor.

SHE LEAVES AND HE FOLLOWS

close behind.

RIKER

Did you ever hear the one about...

24 INT. PICARD'S QUARTERS

The captain ENTERS and with one deep breath releases some of the postures of command. He moves to a shelving unit in his room and takes a tiny glass figurine off the shelf.

24 CONTINUED:

LAURA (O.S.)

You saved it. All these years.

PICARD TURNS TOWARD HER

He is surprised and yet;

PICARD

I wondered when you would come.

PICARD'S POV - LAURA

looking more ravishingly beautiful than any woman has a right to. She poses in a comfortable lounge chair.

PICARD SETS THE FIGURINE

down and kneels at Laura's side.

PICARD

You are so beautiful, my throat feels as if it will close and I will never be able to tell you how beautiful you truly are.

LAURA'S EYES SWIM IN TEARS

as she takes Jean-Luc's face in both her hands and bends towards him.

LAURA

My love, why didn't you come to meet me that last day in Paris?

PICARD CAN'T LOOK AT HER.

He leans his head in her lap.

PICARD

Fear. Fear of losing you. Fear of staying and losing myself.

LAURA TILTS HIS

chin up so that they are eye to eye.

LAURA

Not a day went by that I didn't look up into the sky and will you to know...

(MORE)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

LAURA (Cont'd)

(beat)

... to know that I loved you still.
I always did and Jean-Luc, I
always will.

PICARD TENDERLY KISSES HER

and she melts down out of the chair into him.

THEIR KISSES REKINDLE

the passion of two young people in Paris and then go
far beyond that, into the fuller passion of two adults.

PICARD

My love. I cannot live without
you.

LAURA

I'll never leave you again.

PICARD HOLDS LAURA

to him as he stands and walks to the bed.

THEIR EYES NEVER WAVER

boring holes into each other.

THEY SINK ONTO THE BED

and into each other's arms, sealing the bond they have
just made.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit around Vandor

26 INT. SICKBAY

Beverly is checking Paul's vital signs when he drifts into consciousness. He stares at her intently for a moment.

MANHEIM

Who are you?

BEVERLY

I'm Doctor Crusher and I'm trying...

MANHEIM

Imposter! Touch me and you touch whatever your head can't understand. I am real. You are illusion.

BEVERLY

Try to rest.

MANHEIM

I am rest. I am action. I am you. Imposter.

MANHEIM LAPSES BACK

into a fevered fitful sleep.

BEVERLY

I wish I could talk to you -- Professor Manheim. I bet you were really something.

TROI QUIETLY ENTERS

Sickbay. Beverly is surprised to see her and joins her at the door.

BEVERLY

Deanna?

TROI

I wanted to see how he was doing.

26 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

The same. Nothing I do seems to
make any difference.

BEVERLY SMILES

at Troi.

BEVERLY

That's not why you're here.

TROI SHAKES

her head "no."

TROI

I'm supposed to be the empath.

Beverly gestures her to follow her to the outer office.

27 INT. SICKBAY - DR. CRUSHER'S OFFICE

Beverly keeps working as Troi talks to her.

TROI

Are you all right?

BEVERLY

Why wouldn't I be? I've got one
of the medical wonders of the
galaxy dying in my Sickbay.

TROI

That isn't what I meant.

BEVERLY

I don't think I want to talk about
what I think you mean.

BEVERLY BUMPS INTO

a table and pushes it out of the way as she continues
to work.

TROI

You're not helping the situation
by pretending it doesn't exist.

BEVERLY WHIRLS AROUND

almost knocking a tube off the table.

27 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

I'm making it worse?

TROI

I didn't say that. I said you're not helping it. Or yourself. Or the captain.

BEVERLY

That's his problem.

BEVERLY MOVES THINGS

from place to place. Troi calmly looks at her, willing her to stand still.

BEVERLY

All right. I'm still not sure how I feel about him. Now it looks as if I'll never know... are you happy? I said it.

TROI

Talk to him.

BEVERLY

No. I can't compete with a ghost from his past. No one could.

TROI

She's not a ghost. She's here right now.

BEVERLY

She may be in the here and now, but it's the ghost he sees. No Deanna, he'll have to work it through without my... input.

SHE SLAMS A PIECE

of equipment back into its place.

BEVERLY

There. Now I feel better. thanks, Deanna.

TROI STARES KNOWINGLY AFTER

Beverly as she WALKS BACK into Sickbay.

28 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard impatiently taps his fingers on the command chair. Data pores over his console as Riker watches.

PICARD

How soon, Mister Data?

DATA

I am almost through comparing the calculations, Captain.

PICARD IS STARTLED

when Beverly's voice comes through.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

Bridge, this is Sickbay. Doctor Manheim is awake and asking to speak with you, Captain. Alone.

PICARD

On my way, Doctor.

HE JUMPS UP

from the Command Chair and HURRIES TOWARDS the turbolift.

RIKER AND DATA

return to their calculations. Data finishes and looks at Riker.

RIKER

Can we do it?

DATA

I believe so. But it must be soon. Sensors indicate a rapid deterioration of the atmosphere.

RIKER LOOKS AT

Data. He'd like a little more assurance.

DATA

I cannot be more sure than that, Commander. Not until I see what is in Professor Manheim's laboratory.

RIKER

Okay. Let's get ready. Worf.

29 INT. SICKBAY

Picard ENTERS, not having any idea what he'll find.
Beverly gestures to Manheim.

MANHEIM IS SITTING

up, conscious, but battling with an unseen enemy.

PICARD WALKS BRISKLY

to his bedside.

PICARD

You asked for me.

Manheim struggles to make sense.

MANHEIM

You belong with Laura. It's the way it's supposed to be. Give me your word you'll take care of her.

PICARD IS FURIOUS

at the arrogance of this man. And he's feeling a little guilty too.

PICARD

I did not come here to discuss her. I will not discuss her with you until your irresponsible actions are checked and until my away team is back on this ship safe and sound.

MANHEIM'S FEVERED EYES

bore into the captain.

MANHEIM

It is only Laura who concerns me.

PICARD

Then she is wrong. We are very different, you and I. For which I am grateful.

PICARD STRIDES TOWARDS

the door.

MANHEIM

Good. You will take care of her.

30 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Geordi is at the controls this time as the three away Team members STEP ONTO the pad. They carry very small, portable respirator packs on their chests.

GEORDI

I have the coordinates exactly in the corridor the Professor specified.

RIKER

We're ready.

GEORDI

Good luck.

Geordi operates the controls and the away team BEAMS DOWN.

31 INT. VANDOR - CORRIDOR (OPTICAL)

as the away team BEAMS IN. It is DARK and they immediately feel the difference in atmosphere.

RIKER

Respirators on.

They turn their packs on and move as quickly as they can, Worf in the lead, towards the laboratory door.

SUDDENLY ANOTHER STRONG

burst of ENERGY BLASTS THROUGH THE CORRIDOR, sending the away team flying and ROLLING to safety.

The corridor PULSATES WITH THE VIOLET COLORS of the other dimension.

32 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

WAVES OF COLOR RADIATE OFF THE ENTERPRISE.

33 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The bridge crew holds its own against the assault.

GEORDI

Shields barely holding, sir. Damage reports coming in.

PICARD

Contact the away team!

34 INT. SICKBAY

Laura is at the side of her husband, trying to hold him down, trying to will him to be well. With every assault, he too is assaulted.

35 INT. VANDOR - CORRIDOR (OPTICAL)

The onslaught over, the away team cautiously makes its way towards Manheim's laboratory.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Maintain an open frequency, Number One.

RIKER

Frequency open, sir.

NEXT TO THE LABORATORY

Data removes a panel next to the door, and begins to insert the code Manheim gave them. Worf watches the corridor carefully.

DATA FINISHES ENTERING

the code and the lab doors OPEN partially.

SUDDENLY WORF NOTICES

several openings along the edges of the wall.

WORF

Look out!

THE THREE DIVE

for cover as LASER FIRE COMMENCES.

THEY ROLL BACK AND FORTH

out of range of attack.

ALL THREE PULL

their phasers and RETURN FIRE to the source of the attacks.

QUIET SETTLES

in the corridor. The away team cautiously pick themselves up.

35 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Manheim forgot to mention that
one.

THEY LOOK AT EACH

other and allow themselves a slight REACTION.

THE THREE OF THEM SQUEEZE

through the narrow opening into the darkness of the
lab.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

36 INT. VANDOR - MANHEIM'S LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Data touches a wallplate and the LIGHTS GO ON. His eye is immediately attracted to an instrument panel -- a floating RED LIGHT, a small board of numbers, a narrow slot and a clock.

THE CLOCK COUNTS DOWN

the micro-seconds... starting from ten minutes.

WORF

What is it?

DATA

Hopefully, an easily deactivated alarm system.

RIKER

More surprises.

DATA IS ALREADY

examining the board. He sticks his hand in the slot and the seconds keep on disappearing.

RIKER

Captain, a problem with Manheim's security. Any chance he's awake?

37 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT AS NEEDED)

Picard and Troi REACT.

PICARD

No, Commander. Doctor Crusher is under orders to inform me if the professor regains consciousness.

(beat)

What's the problem?

DATA FINISHES TAKING

his readings and turns to Riker.

37 CONTINUED:

DATA

Professor Manheim's state of consciousness is of little use to us.

PICARD

Explain.

DATA

It appears, sir, he was more interested in making certain his notes were destroyed than in our safety. When we came into the lab we triggered an explosive device. In less than ten minutes the lab and whoever is in it will cease to exist.

PICARD

I'd like to wake him up myself.

DATA

Do not bother, sir. Manheim himself could not stop this. It is deactivated by a photogenetic code. Manheim's is altered.

RIKER

My suggestion is to continue the mission posthaste.

PICARD

You've got seven minutes. I don't care what you've found or what you're doing, clear?

RIKER

Yes, sir. Worf check the outer perimeter -- carefully. And Data...

DATA IS ALREADY

immersed in the computer. His face shows the magnitude of what he's learning and the respect he has for this knowledge.

THE COMPUTER SCREEN

speeds through Manheim's notes.

DATA

Truly incredible.

38 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Geordi reports to Picard.

GEORDI

Sir, the sensor findings from the last blast are in.

PICARD

And?

GEORDI

They're different from all previous waves.

PICARD

In magnitude, in energy mass, in composition?

GEORDI

In every way, sir. It would seem we are dealing with something that's not even remotely easy to classify. We might sit here for the next hundred years being blasted daily, and no two blasts would be the same.

TROI

Anything could happen. We're dealing with another dimension.

PICARD

Are you saying it could arbitrarily, or even with fine methodology, change direction and instead of blasting us, draw us in... suck us through the window?

GEORDI

That would certainly be a viable possibility, sir. One of trillions.

TROI

With so much to fear, there is truly nothing to do but remain calm.

39 INT. VANDOR - MANHEIM'S LABORATORY

The clock shows seven minutes and a few seconds.

39 CONTINUED:

DATA CALMLY WORKS

at the computer. Worf and Riker stand by... not so calmly.

DATA

It is the only chance we have.

RIKER

What is?

DATA

A reversal of the same effect
Doctor Manheim has programmed into
the computer.

WORF

How?

DATA

There is no time to reprogram.
You will need to physically change
microchips the same time I program
the correct instructions here.

RIKER

Captain, we have a plan.

PICARD

Proceed, and report at regular
intervals.

DATA IS UP AND OPENS

two steel doors electronically.

THEY ENTER A SILO-TYPE

structure. The walls are perfectly smooth.
Occasionally brooken by small grill work, shielding the
guts of the machinery.

DATA POINTS UP

to the top of the twenty foot structure.

THEIR POV - UP

to the very top.

39 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA (O.S.)

Someone must climb to the top.
The circuits we need to change
are in that panel.

RIKER AND WORF

look at one another... both of them are suffering from
the lack of oxygen and yet both of them want to go.

DATA

Whoever goes will be in more
danger than falling. A great heat
is generated in this chamber.
Enough to disintegrate any of us
in seconds.

RIKER

What about the doors, the ones
we came in? If they stay open,
would the system short out? Heat
of that magnitude requires a seal
of some sort, doesn't it?

DATA

We cannot do it electronically.
I need to use full power to
reverse the effect.

WORF

I will keep the doors from
closing.

THEY PREPARE TO EXECUTE

the plan.

THE CLOCK NOW READS

less than five minutes.

RIKER TAKES HIGH-TECH CLIMBING GEAR

out of his chest pack. He ENTERS the cylinder.

WORF READIES HIMSELF

between the steel doors, summoning all the Klingon
strength of the ages.

40 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Captain Picard waits on the Enterprise.

PICARD

Away team, report.

DATA

Sir, we are executing the plan.

RIKER CLIMBS

up the cylinder.

PICARD

You've got three minutes, no more.
Transporter Room, lock onto their
coordinates and be ready to beam
them up the instant of my command.

DATA WAITS AT THE COMPUTER

like a church organist ready to play for the coronation
of the pope.

WORF LOOKS UP

and signals to Data.

WORF

He's past the halfway mark.

RIKER HANGS BREATHLESS

on the wall of the cylinder.

RIKER

Captain, I need more time.

PICARD

You haven't got it.

RIKER PRESSES FORWARD QUICKLY

not looking back.

WORF

(to Data)

He's almost there.

WORF PRESSES HIS MASSIVE

arms against the doors and crouches in a weight lifter
crouch.

40 CONTINUED:

DATA TOUCHES A BUTTON

on the panel and the SOUND OF MACHINERY coming to life fills the lab.

WORF STRAINS WITH EVERY CELL

in his body to hold the doors open.

RIKER REACHES THE TOP

and barely has the breath to speak, but manages:

RIKER

Go, Data.

DATA BEGINS THE PROGRAM

and calmly touches his insignia and speaks to Riker.

DATA

Remember Commander -- it is the blue chip you switch with the yellow chip.

WORF STRAINS, SWEAT

pouring down his face.

DATA

(continuing)

Ready, five, four, three, two, one.

RIKER SWITCHES THE CHIPS

and clings to the wall like he's hugging his mother.

WORF EXHALES

with purpose as a BLAST of hot air WHOOSHES past him and through the lab.

OUTSIDE THE LAB

a BEAM OF LIGHT starts from high up in the sky and is drawn to the tip of the cylinder.

THERE IS A FLASH

OF LIGHT and..

PICARD

Beam them back.

41 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

As the away team MATERIALIZES on the pad. They are exuberant with the feeling of brotherhood.

RIKER

Did it work?

DATA

It is well patched... Closed in this sense would be an equation...

RIKER

Patched is good enough.

DATA TILTS HIS

head and shares his inner clock with them.

DATA

By my calculation, the laboratory just disintegrated.

42 INT. SICKBAY

Paul Manheim is sitting straight up in bed and he is a new man, completely different in demeanor and look than ever before.

BEVERLY

But this is amazing. All your readings are completely normal. There's even been a complete nerve regeneration.

PAUL MANHEIM GRASPS

Beverly's hand in a gentle and kindly gesture.

MANHEIM

Where is my wife? Is Laura all right?

PICARD AND LAURA ENTER

Sickbay at the same time.

LAURA

Paul?

MANHEIM

The effect has been reversed, darling. It's safe now.

42 CONTINUED:

She RUSHES TO HIM and is genuinely happy to see that he is going to be all right.

BEVERLY

There are no residual effects.

MANHEIM TURNS TO BEVERLY

and gentlemanly corrects her.

MANHEIM

No, Doctor, I am not the same man I was before.

He holds his wife to him.

MANHEIM

(continuing)

I still have the same vision, but, Captain Picard, I would like to request a science team to help me rebuild. I would like to start fresh, and do everything the right way this time.

PICARD

I'm sure the Federation will want to help you in any way they can, as long as you are willing to now be a part of the Federation.

MANHEIM NODS

and strokes Laura's hand.

PICARD

The science team will be arranged.

MANHEIM

All volunteers, I insist. No one on Vandor will be there unless they want to be there.

He looks at Laura and Laura looks from this great, great man, who has just become even greater to...

PICARD WATCHING HER

with an understanding look.

43 INT. HOLODECK

Jean-Luc Picard sits at the same table in the same cafe in Paris. He sips a glass of red wine.

LAURA WALKS INTO

the picture.

LAURA

I hope you don't mind. I convinced the technician you wouldn't.

PICARD TURNS TO HER

and stands, offering her a chair.

LAURA

Oh, no, I won't be staying.

PICARD

I know.

LAURA

I wanted to say good-bye here, not in the Transporter Room.

PICARD

You have more courage than I did.

LAURA

More courage than a young man in first love, yes. More courage than Jean-Luc Picard, Captain of the USS Enterprise -- I doubt there are many who could boast that.

HE STANDS AND HOLDS HER

in the warmest embrace... one that he will treasure through the decades, an embrace of the deepest kind of love.

PICARD

I eat, sleep and dream your softness -- could it be enough?

LAURA

We would have been the richest, most gloriously happy two people in all the worlds.

43 CONTINUED:

SHE TURNS TO GO

and doesn't look back.

PICARD WATCHES HER LEAVE

memorizing her step, everything about her.

PICARD

I cannot say good-bye to you.

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker, Troi, Data, Geordi and Worf are all on the bridge.

THE CAPTAIN ENTERS

and they all look at Picard as if they are slightly worried about him.

PICARD

Is anything wrong?

Everyone goes about their business.

RIKER

No, sir.

PICARD

Then set course for Sarona Eight.
As I remember we were on our way
for some much needed R and R.

GEORDI

Aye, sir. Course set and laid in.

PICARD

Warp five. Engage.

GEORDI MAKES THE

necessary computations.

RIKER

I've only been there once, but
there's this great bar -- I can't
remember the name of it, they
serve these blue concoctions...

44 CONTINUED:

TROI

... It's across the square from
the Zanza Men's Dance Palace.

They both look at her. Troi half-smiles.

PICARD LOOKS FORWARD

into his future without Laura, the future that begins
on Sarona 8. He turns to Riker.

PICARD

It's called the Blue Parrot Cafe
-- and you're buying.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END