

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Half a Life"

#40274-196

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FINAL DRAFT

FEBRUARY 22, 1991

STAR TREK: "Half a Life" - 2/22/91 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Half a Life"

CAST

PICARD	LWAXANA TROI
RIKER	MR. HOMN
DATA	TIMICIN
BEVERLY	DARA
TROI	B'TARDAT
GEORDI	
WORF	
O'BRIEN	

Non-Speaking
SUPERNUMERARIES

STAR TREK: "Half a Life" - 2/22/91 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Half a Life"

SETS

INTERIORS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
OBSERVATION LOUNGE
TRANSPORTER ROOM
CORRIDORS
NEAR TURBOLIFTS
LWAXANA'S QUARTERS
TIMICIN'S QUARTERS

KAELOON TWO

B'TARDAT'S OFFICE

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Half A Life"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship moves into a synchronous orbit around a planet... Kaelon Two.

TROI (V.O.)
Counselor Deanna Troi, personal
log, stardate 44805.3...

2 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TURBOLIFT

The turbolift doors open, and PICARD emerges rather tentatively. Before taking a step, he looks both right and left to ensure the coast is clear. Over This:

TROI (V.O.)
(Continuing)
... My mother is on board.

Picard's taken about two steps before LWAXANA TROI sweeps INTO FRAME from a doorway, with:

LWAXANA
(ebullient)
Jean-Luc, you delicious man, you
were just thinking of me, weren't
you?

PICARD
As a matter of fact, I...

LWAXANA
Well think no further, Dear
Heart... She's here!

She winds her arm through his; will move with him along the corridor, as:

PICARD
Yes, indeed.

LWAXANA
Serious; always so serious.

2 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Well at the moment, Lwaxana, I am rather busy.

LWAXANA

And you're always busy with something or other.

(sultry)

Never the right thing, though. My daughter says we're picking up someone interesting here?

PICARD

Yes. The leading scientist of Kaelon Two and...

LWAXANA

Kaelon Two? Never heard of it.

In desperation, Picard resorts to reason.

PICARD

This is a delicate situation, Lwaxana... our first real contact with a very reclusive people...

(trying to disengage)

And as it will be something of an official greeting...

LWAXANA

Ah, diplomacy; I adore diplomacy. Everyone dresses so well...

3 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM ONE

GEORDI waiting; O'BRIEN alongside his panel -- as Picard and the still-entwined Lwaxana ENTER.

PICARD

Energize, please, Mister O'Brien.

4 INCLUDING TIMICIN (OPTICAL)

as he MATERIALIZES. A big, in-shape, inordinately handsome man of sixty, he will stand stony-faced and motionless. An imposing, and at first almost menacing, figure, carrying a metallic clothing case. He is humorless, colorless, distant... even wary.

4 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Doctor Timicin? I am Jean-Luc
Picard, Captain of The Enterprise.
This is Lieutenant Commander La
Forge.

Not a flicker of response from the grim visaged
Timicin. He glances around with anxious curiosity
like a man who just stepped off the boat at Ellis
Island.

PICARD
(Continuing; beat)
We welcome you aboard, Sir.

5 CLOSE - TIMICIN

gathers himself slightly...

TIMICIN
I beg your pardon, Captain...
this is my first time aboard a
Federation starship...

Picard extends his hand and it takes Timicin a beat to
realize its significance...

TIMICIN
Oh yes, they told me... shaking
of hands... a greeting...

He shakes hands with Picard. Lwaxana CLEARS HER
THROAT pointedly.

5 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Ah, I beg your pardon. Doctor
Timicin, may I present Lwaxana
Troi, of Betazed; also a guest
on board, and...

Timicin awkwardly extends a hand... and she wraps her
arm around his arm moving ever so close to him, smiling
to the rather taken back fellow... Throughout:

LWAXANA

(overriding)

... And Daughter of The Fifth
House, Holder of the Sacred
Chalice of Rixx, Heir to the Holy
Rings of Betazed, and what are
you doing for dinner?

TIMICIN

Well, I...
(eyes others)
... I don't know, really.

PICARD

We have quite a bit of work
planned...

LWAXANA

The man's never been on a
starship before, Jean-Luc...
somebody certainly ought to make
him comfortable before you get
started.

She starts to lead him out...

PICARD

It, uh... would seem Mrs. Troi
is our acting ambassador of good
will today.

Exit line --

LWAXANA

(vamping him)

Just think of me as your
Entertainment Director.

5 CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI

That man is in a lot of trouble.

He and O'Brien exchange looks. The latter nods
ruefully, as we

6 OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Sweeping through space at warp speed.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's Log. Stardate 44805.7.
For generations, the people of
Kaelon Two have been working to
revitalize their dying sun. The
Federation has offered to assist
in testing what may be a solution
to this problem.

8 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

Picard, RIKER, Timicin, DATA, TROI, BEVERLY and Geordi,
who holds a PADD. Timicin is still remote, cool and
official though not unfriendly...

TIMICIN

(mid-conversation)

The basic theories for helium
fusion enhancement have been
discussed for over a century...
but there's been no method of
practical application until now...

DATA

The modifications that you have
made on the torpedo's guidance
systems are remarkable, doctor...

Timicin doesn't smile... he's a man who doesn't easily
accept a compliment... especially from a stranger...

TIMICIN

We'll see. They still have to
be proven in a practical test.

As he gestures toward it, we see for the first time, an
image of a red giant star displayed on the MONITOR.

TIMICIN

(continuing)

At least, now it is possible.
I never dared hope to find such
a perfect match with our own sun.

8 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(nods)

Our only regret is that it took us three years to find a suitable star after you first contacted us.

Timicin clears his throat... obviously struggling to say something personal here... it doesn't come easily...

TIMICIN

This means a great deal to us, to me... We are not used to dealing with other worlds... to asking for anything from others. But your offer to help... it has given us a possible means to our survival.

GEORDI

It's your work that's made this possible, Doctor...

BEVERLY

That's right, we're only the delivery service here...

TIMICIN

(humble)

It has taken forty years of my life to develop the programming which will control your photon torpedos... it has been my life... my only wish has been to find a way to revive our sun before I die... thank you for giving me this opportunity.

9 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF at his post, contending with a superficially inquisitive Lwaxana. Supernumeraries at other posts.

WORF

Mrs. Troi, I must protest your unauthorized presence on the Bridge.

LWAXANA

(touching panel)

What does this little one do, Mister Woof?

WORF

(quickly)

Please, Madame! That is a torpedo launch initiator. And it, uh... it is Worf, Madame; not Woof.

LWAXANA

Oh.

10 ANGLE INCLUDING RIKER, TROI & TIMICIN

as they ENTER the Bridge.

LWAXANA

(Continuing; to Troi)

Ah, there you are, dear; I've been waiting for you.

But Lwaxana walks right past her daughter to Timicin.

LWAXANA

(Continuing)

And so nice to see you again so soon.

TIMICIN

(awkward smile)

Mrs. Troi.

TROI

Yes, Mother, what did you want?

LWAXANA

(lost)

What?

TROI

You were waiting for me.

LWAXANA

Of course I was, dear.

(to Timicin)

You really must let me do something to relieve the tedium of all this work, work, work...

TIMICIN

As a matter of fact, we really haven't...

TROI

Mother.

LWAXANA

Yes, dear. You go play now; mother'll be fine.

TROI

Mother!

10 CONTINUED:

TIMICIN

I'm afraid I'm expected in
Engineering. I'm really terribly
sorry...

RIKER

Mrs. Troi? I'll have to ask you
to clear the Bridge now, please.

LWAXANA

I don't see why. There are lots
of other people here.

TROI

Mother? Please!

Lwaxana will sweep out, unintimidated and unabashed,
as:

LWAXANA

(to Timicin; brightly)

Don't you worry, we'll just have
to chat a bit later.

Lwaxana EXITS. Timicin, looks after her curiously...

TIMICIN

I'd never have thought her old
enough to be your mother. She's
so... vibrant.

11 CLOSE - TROI

Though Smiling politely in reply, she'll take a deep
breath and roll her eyes slightly as she turns away.

12 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Still at warp speed.

13 INT. ENGINEERING

It's clearly been a long session; the pool table is
littered with PADDs and styluses. As Timicin, Geordi,
and Data examine a schematic of a photon torpedo
displayed on a monitor...

13 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

(mid-discussion)

Is that why you reset the torpedo sustainer engines to run on less reactants?

TIMICIN

Exactly... once we were able to protect the triggering mechanism, the flight engine power levels could be minimized...

(moving to another console)

... now if we take a look at another simulation, you'll see that the temperature should stabilize at two-twenty...

14 INCLUDING LWAXANA & MR. HOMN

He is interrupted by the opening of the doors and the swooping ENTRANCE of Lwaxana -- who'll be followed by her valet, MR. HOMN. He is carrying a picnic basket loaded with (covered) picnic fare. Throughout:

LWAXANA

Enough is enough; rescue is at hand. Doctor Timicin, will you clear all that mess from the table, please?

GEORDI

That mess? Mrs. Troi...

LWAXANA

Now now now, you've been shut up in here for hours; perfectly ridiculous.

(to Timicin)

The table, please.

Timicin is a little overwhelmed by the energy of this woman... glances at Geordi... begins to tentatively clear the table... as she continues...

LWAXANA

(continuing)

If you boys don't eat something you're going to be sick and who's that going to help? I've made some irresistible Mantickian pate. Mister Homn will lay it out for us.

As Mister Homn acknowledges this with a bow, Lwaxana explains to a bemused Timicin...

LWAXANA

Mister Homn is my valet. He doesn't say much.

14 CONTINUED:

GEORDI
(mutters)
How can he?

DATA
It is true that the intellectual
efficiency of high order beings
does diminish proportionately when
the deprivation of rest or
nutritious fuel is...

GEORDI
(interrupts; gives up)
All right, all right; don't you
start.

TIMICIN
Mrs. Troi...

And his voice turns all heads to him... has he had
enough, is he fed up with her? Is this where he cuts
her off? A dramatic pause...

TIMICIN
You are a wise woman. I'm sure
we could use a respite.

LWAXANA
These two call me Mrs. Troi. You
call me Lwaxana. Mister Homn?
Spread it.

As Hohm spreads the tablecloth over the pool table,
Goerdi sighs and frowns... but for the first time since
we've met him, Timicin smiles.

14A INT. TURBOLIFT

As Lwaxana and Timicin ENTER...

LWAXANA
So, knowing that my daughter's
starship would be passing fairly
close to Betazed, I maneuvered
a ride, and here I am.
(to Com)
Deck Eight.

As the turbolift starts to move, Lwaxana reacts to...

14A CONTINUED:

TIMICIN

I also have a grown daughter.
She has a little boy of her own.

LWAXANA

Then you're married.

TIMICIN

My wife died quite some time ago.

Off her reaction...

15 INT. CORRIDOR

Lwaxana and Timicin EXIT the turbolift. As they walk down the corridor...

LWAXANA

One thing I don't understand...
if your people have known for
generations that their sun is
dying... why not simply evacuate
the planet?

TIMICIN

It is our home... it defines who
we are as a people. If Kaelon
ceases to exist... so do we...

LWAXANA

Then you definitely should fix
it.

They come to a stop outside the door to Lwaxana's
Quarters.

TIMICIN

With the Federation's help... I
hope we will.

LWAXANA

And the Federation is pleased to
offer whatever help it can. Which
means you will come in for a
nightcap?

TIMICIN

That's extremely kind of you,
but...

15 CONTINUED:

LWAXANA

My valet sleeps elsewhere.

He chuckles.

TIMICIN

You are delightful. You make me laugh. I mean, I don't mean your invitation makes me laugh... I mean I take it quite seriously but...

LWAXANA

Then say yes. And I'll make you laugh some more.

TIMICIN

(beat)

I... wish I could. But I have to say "no".

And there is clear regret in his eyes... but this is the right thing to do...

TIMICIN

Goodnight, Lwaxana.

She's disappointed, but undaunted. She throws him a last coy smile as she disappears into her quarters. He turns toward his own door -- has a second thought -- turns back and raises his hand preparatory to Ringing the Chime -- but catches himself. His face reflects that he is troubled beyond what he's allowed her to see. He finally turns again and goes through into his own quarters.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The great ship approaches a red giant star.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate 44807.5.
The Enterprise has arrived at the
Praxillus system, where we will
conduct Doctor Timicin's helium
ignition test.

17 OMITTED

18 INT. LWAXANA'S QUARTERS

Mister Homn presents item after item to her as Lwaxana
selects just the right gown and just the right
accessories to go with it. As Troi watches this from
the side...

TROI

Mother, how much...

18 CONTINUED:

LWAXANA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
(cutting her off)
Little one... why do you refuse
to use telepathy even when we are
alone?

Troi gestures toward Mister Homn.

TROI
We are not alone, Mother. Now
how much longer will this take?
You've been selecting for twenty
minutes.

LWAXANA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
I am a woman dressing for a man.
Something you might try now and
then, dear. I wonder if Timicin
likes green.

TROI
That's not very telepathic of you.

LWAXANA
(aloud)
I tried telepathy on him; he's
the wrong species. Right species
for everything else, though. And
you might try that once in a
while, too.

TROI
You know, you're not just
incorrigible; you're insatiable.

19 OMITTED

20 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and Riker in their Command Chairs; Data, Worf
and Supernumeraries at their posts.

WORF
Captain... I have completed long
range scans. No life forms are
present in the system.

20 CONTINUED:

RIKER
Spacecraft?

WORF
No others within sensor range...

Picard nods, then speaks to the com...

PICARD
Picard to Engineering...

21 INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi at his console, Timicin at another nearby, and SUPERNUMERARIES in attendance. They all react to...

PICARD'S COM VOICE
... the system is clear, Mister
La Forge.

Timicin and Geordi exchange nods and start working...

GEORDI
Final pre-launch diagnostic.
Level Five.

Timicin, at a console...

TIMICIN
All systems verified.

GEORDI
(to com)
We're ready when you are, Captain.

22 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

PICARD
Very well. Mister Worf?

WORF
Photon torpedoes... armed and
targeted.

PICARD
Fire in sequence.

23 EXT. ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In quick succession, ten photon torpedoes spew forth one by one.

24 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Worf responds to his board...

WORF

First volley released...

DATA

Tracking torpedoes... entry program confirmed.

WORF

Second volley released... third volley...

25 EXT. SPACE - ON STAR BETA PRAXILLUS (OPTICAL)

As the torpedoes start to strike, we begin seeing the onset of the SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS.

26

thru OMITTED

27

28 INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi works at his console... Timicin at his.

GEORDI

Torpedoes now entering the stellar core.

TIMICIN

Their shields are holding. Guidance systems normal.

GEORDI

Ignition sequence... six seconds... three seconds... Now.

29 EXT. PRAXILLUS (OPTICAL)

We see the massive PRIMARY EXPLOSION deep in the star's core... stirring its fiery red surface.

30 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

Geordi reads off data as...

GEORDI

Shock wave patterns within predicted range. Seventeen hundred percent rise in gamma radiation levels. Helium fusion rate increasing...

TIMICIN

(concern showing)

What about the heat and pressure levels?

GEORDI

Steady so far. Density at eleven hundred grams per cubic centimeter. Temperature approaching sixty million degrees Kelvin.

TIMICIN

We want it to stabilize at two hundred and twenty million.

31 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Data makes his own report...

DATA

Pressure wave harmonics dispersing. Temperature in target zone increasing... to eighty-one million degrees.

32 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

GEORDI

Still rising. Ninety million degrees Kelvin... And now one hundred ten million.

(to Timicin)

Looking good.

Timicin's emotions are peaking. Obviously, this means everything to him.

33 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Everyone reacts to...

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
One hundred thirty-seven...

DATA
(re his board)
Radiation and pressure levels
still stable.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
Temperature one hundred sixty
million degrees Kelvin...

34 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

Geordi and Timicin are starting to feel very good...
their confidence rising along with the temperature
level on Praxillus.

GEORDI
One seventy... one ninety...
Now two hundred million...

TIMICIN
(thrilled)
It's happening.

35 EXT. PRAXILLUS - (OPTICAL)

The star's turbulent surface is changing color...
transforming from a bright red into a brilliant yellow
as it shrinks in size by about thirty percent.

36 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

Everyone is tense, but hopeful.

36 CONTINUED:

GEORDI
Two-oh-seven, and rising.
(beat)
Two-nineteen...
(whoopee!)
And twenty! Two twenty!
(long beat)
And holding!

This is the triumph of Timicin's life... a dream come true. As he beams at Geordi...

GEORDI
Looks like congratulations may
be in order.

37 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

An amazed Picard and Riker turn to the viewer... and the image of the revitalized, gleaming yellow star.

PICARD
(hopeful)
Mister Data?

DATA
Turbulence patterns are within
predicted parameters.

38 INT. ENGINEERING

All smiles here. An air of hope and celebration.
When...

39 CLOSE - GEORDI (OPTICAL)

Still with one eye on the monitor, his face suddenly deadens, with:

GEORDI
(quietly)
Two-twenty-two...

40 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

There is suddenly dead, stunned silence on the Main Bridge as Data monitors his board...

DATA

Temperature is rising in the core again, Captain. Two hundred and thirty million degrees Kelvin...

41 INT. ENGINEERING

Timicin stands rooted; frozen in place. As...

GEORDI

(dull, flat)

... Now two-fifty-one. Still rising. Two hundred sixty million degrees.

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

DATA

Rate exceeding critical levels. Core density becoming unstable.

RIKER

Let's get the hell out of here.

Picard turns to the helm...

PICARD

Warp two, Ensign; now!

43 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND PRAXILLUS (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise takes off, moving OUT OF FRAME at warp speed. HOLD on Praxillus. Beat; then the star EXPLODES in a nova-like reaction.

44 INT. ENGINEERING - CLOSE ON TIMICIN'S REACTION

He is totally shattered; sinking into an all-consuming misery.

45 ANGLE INCLUDING GEORDI

Geordi doesn't know what to do or say.

GEORDI

I'm sorry.

Timicin acknowledges this with a nod; moves automaton-like toward the doorway -- then stops, for:

TIMICIN

(to com)

Captain Picard? Permit me...

46

thru OMITTED

47

48 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

as all listen sadly to:

TIMICIN'S COM VOICE

(Continuing)

... to express my appreciation to you and your crew. I am...

49 INT. ENGINEERING

TIMICIN

(Continuing)

... most grateful.

(quietly to Geordi)

Most grateful.

Timicin turns; EXITS. Geordi can only stand there.

50 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

There is nothing else to do or say. But...

PICARD

(to helm)

Ensign... set a course for Kaelon Two. Warp factor five.

51 INT. TEN FORWARD (OPTICAL) - START ON TIMICIN

seated staring ahead, out at the stars; at nothing, really. PULL BACK AND WIDEN to Discover Lwaxana, as she approaches. She Pauses briefly, noting his mood -- then moves to place a commiserating hand on his shoulder.

LWAXANA

Timicin, I'm so sorry.

He can only Nod, forcing a flicker of a polite smile which lasts about a second. Still watching him with close concern, Lwaxana sits, rather tentatively -- not knowing what to say next. Finally, she plays against the moment, albeit without the usual flippancy in voice or manner.

LWAXANA

(softly; at stars)

I had one of those named after me once; by a brilliant young astronomer from Rigel Four.

(trying to evoke his smile)

Of course, I sparkled a bit myself in those days.

(beat; seeking any response)

That's called fishing for a compliment. You're supposed to tell me that I still sparkle.

(beat; softly)

I'm sorry, I'm not helping, am I?

TIMICIN

You're very kind. I'm just not adequate company right now.

LWAXANA

That's all right, I can make enough conversation for both of us.

He's unresponsive despite himself -- and, sensitive to that, she now begins to rise, with:

LWAXANA

(Continuing)

I'll leave you alone.

51 CONTINUED:

TIMICIN

(suddenly)

No. Please stay... I wanted to
tell you how much I wish that...
That we had met... years ago.

LWAXANA

What difference do a few years
make?

She covers his hand with hers. Gives him a meaningful
look.

TIMICIN

Unfortunately, a great deal.

(beat)

The fact is, Lwaxana... I'm going
home now... to die.

52 REACTION - LWAXANA

Open-mouthed, but speechless. Aghast, as we --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

53 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit around Kaelon Two again...

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate 44812.6.
We are orbiting Kaelon Two, and
have established contact with
Science Minister B'tardat.

54 INT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

Picard, Riker, and Data are facing the viewer, on which
appears the image of the youngish Science Minister
B'TARDAT -- who is quiet-voiced and courteous, but
pronouncedly aloof.

PICARD

(mid-discussion)

The experiment did achieve a
stable core temperature for a
short time, Minister... that is
a significant step forward...

RIKER

We're studying the sensor logs
and torpedo telemetry to see if
there was any malfunction... if
we can discover the problem,
another test might be successful.

B'TARDAT

But wouldn't that require a
lengthy search to find a suitable
star for a second test?

PICARD

The Federation is willing to
assist in the search.

RIKER

In the meantime, all of our
facilities would be available to
Doctor Timicin while he analyzes
the experiment.

54 CONTINUED:

B'TARDAT

A most thoughtful and generous offer. But Timicin has obligations at home. And it will take some time to select his replacement.

PICARD

(after a beat)

We're more than willing to extend our visit, sir.

B'TARDAT

That will not be necessary. We'll contact you when we're ready.

(a beat)

We expect Timicin to return home as soon as possible. Again, gentlemen, thank you.

B'Tardat's image DISAPPEARS from the viewer. Before any one can comment, the door CHIMES.

PICARD

Come...

55 INCLUDING LWAXANA

as she marches into the room.

LWAXANA

Jean-Luc, are you aware that these people you're so graciously helping, are murderers?

PICARD

I beg your pardon?

55 CONTINUED:

LWAXANA

Well the next thing to it. When a person on this benighted little world reaches the age of sixty, which Timicin is about to do, they're expected to simply kill themselves. Did you know that?

Picard reacts to this, turns to Data for confirmation.

PICARD

Mister Data?

DATA

The people of Kaelon Two are isolationists. Almost to the point of being xenophobes. Regrettably, we know very little about their customs.

LWAXANA

Well, I know -- Timicin himself just told me. He's supposed to go down there to his loving friends; be wined, dined, honored for his achievements and then kill himself. It's a barbaric ritual. "The Resolution", it's called.

(a beat)

Obviously, you can't let him go, Jean-Luc.

PICARD

I'm afraid I have no choice.

LWAXANA

I don't think you've been listening to me. The man is supposed to kill himself! You don't just let that happen. You don't just turn your back. What's the matter with you!

PICARD

Lwaxana, I'm sorry, but I have no jurisdiction here; irrespective of any personal feelings. We simply cannot interfere --

55 CONTINUED: (2)

LWAXANA

But you have to. In a situation like this, you absolutely have to interfere.

(almost pleading)

Go down there and talk to those people, Jean-Luc. Do all the things you do so well... open their eyes, educate them...

PICARD

(gently, but firmly)

The Prime Directive forbids us to interfere with the social order of any planet.

Lwaxana's eyes flash with anger.

LWAXANA

It's your Prime Directive -- not mine!

Infuriated by her frustration and helplessness, Lwaxana wheels around; rushes OUT.

PICARD

Computer? Locate Counselor Troi.

56 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM ONE

An irate Lwaxana faces a reluctantly stalwart O'Brien.

LWAXANA

What d'you mean I "can't" go down there? Are you telling me I'm a prisoner on this ship?

57 INCLUDING TROI (OPTICAL)

as, anxiously, she ENTERS, with:

TROI

Mother? What's going on? What are you doing?

O'BRIEN

(to Troi)

I'm sorry, Counselor, but... I'm not sure what to do here.

57 CONTINUED:

LWAXANA

Well I'm sure.

(to Troi)

I am a Betazoid ambassador; the
Daughter of the Fifth House, and
those people are going to
answer to me!

(to O'Brien)

So you just energize this damned
thing and get me down there!

TROI

He can't, Mother. he has his
orders.

LWAXANA

His orders don't apply to me.

TROI

No, they apply to him.

LWAXANA

Don't try your professional
patronizing on me, young lady.
They expect Timicin to die, don't
you realize that? He expects to
die. Because he's sixty! What
is sixty; it's nothing!

Lwaxana is for the moment too choked by her Tears to
speak further. Troi looks over at O'Brien -- a Silent
Plea for a few moments of familial privacy.

O'BRIEN

(awkwardly)

I'll, uh... go check the pattern
buffers.

O'Brien takes a step toward the doors; has a thought;
turns --and locks off his instrument panel -- before
finally EXITING.

58 TROI & LWAXANA

Now slipping her arm around Lwaxana's shoulder, Troi will lead her (still most gently) toward the transporter pad -- on which they'll wind up sitting; closely. Throughout:

TROI (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
Come on, Mother, let's sit down.

LWAXANA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
(tearful; confused)
I'm sorry, little one. I don't know what's wrong with me. I'm sorry.

TROI (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
There's no need to be.

LWAXANA (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
But I'm crying. I don't cry.

TROI (TELEPATHIC V.O.)
You cried when father died.

LWAXANA
(aloud)
You remember that?

TROI
Of course I remember. We both cried.

LWAXANA
But this isn't the same... Is it?

TROI
What do you think, Mother?

Lwaxana thinks about it. Sighs.

58 CONTINUED:

LWAXANA

I don't know. I just can't accept that fate would allow me to meet him like this... and then take him away. He's not ill. He hasn't had a tragic accident. He's just going to die... for no good reason... except his society has decided he's too old... so they dispose of him. As though his life no longer has value or meaning.

Troi is silent for a beat, studies her mother... gives her space to say more as a good therapist knows to do... finally...

LWAXANA

You can't possibly understand at your age... but at mine... sometimes, you feel tired. And afraid.

TROI

(surprised)

You... afraid? I never could tell...

LWAXANA

You weren't supposed to. Life really does pass, Deanna. The fun of it; the joy; the... being attractive.

TROI

You're feeling very vulnerable; very...

(gentle smile)

... mortal, if I may say so. I know you so well, Mother. And believe me, you will never be one of those who dies before they die.

Now it's Lwaxana who puts her arm around Troi. After a quiet beat...

59
thru OMITTED
60

61 INT. TIMICIN'S QUARTERS

Timicin enters data on a PADD... not happy with what he sees. Then as the door CHIMES...

TIMICIN

Come in.

Lwaxana ENTERS, the antithesis of her usual flighty self. They study each other for a long moment. Then she manages a smile. He gestures toward the PADD.

TIMICIN

I've been studying the preliminary reports from the test. I don't understand where I went wrong... I thought I'd anticipated all of the variables; deep convection patterns, the proton reactions, neutrino count...

He shakes his head.

61 CONTINUED:

Without coyness or invitation, she moves behind him -- begins to knead his weary shoulder and neck muscles.

TIMICIN

I'll say it again. You're a kind woman.

LWAXANA

I'm a hateful woman. I hate what you're going to do, and I hate you for doing it.

He reaches up to place his hand on hers as she massages him; then draws her gently around to sit facing him on the edge of the chair.

62 CLOSER

as they face each other; intimately. The electricity between them heightens.

TIMICIN

It's the way of my world. I wish you could accept that.

Their faces move closer together. Almost touching now.

LWAXANA

I never will... Never...

62 CONTINUED:

And THEY KISS, as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

63 INT. TIMICIN'S QUARTERS

Dark. Lwaxana, dressed in a man's robe, sits in a chair near the bed, staring at Timicin as he sleeps. He stirs, realizes she's not beside him, looks over and sees her watching him. He sits up. He is wearing pajamas.

TIMICIN

How long have you been sitting there?

LWAXANA

I'm not sure. A minute. An hour.

TIMICIN

Lwaxana...

LWAXANA

Do you want anything... some tea... ?

TIMICIN

Lwaxana, I want to explain. I want very much for you to understand.

She studies him. There's no way in hell she'll ever understand.

TIMICIN

Until fifteen or twenty centuries ago, we had no "Resolution"; no such concern for our Elders. As people aged, their health failed; they became invalids. Those who could no longer be cared for by their families were put away in deathwatch facilities, where they simply waited in loneliness for the end to come; often for years.

(MORE)

63 CONTINUED:

TIMICIN (Cont'd)

They had meant something; and then they were forced to live past that; through a terrible time of meaning nothing; of knowing they could now only be the beneficiaries of younger people's patience. We are no longer that cruel, Lwaxana.

LWAXANA

(not buying it)

No, you're not cruel to them. You just kill them!

She gets up and moves away... Timicin sighs, gets out of bed, puts on a robe, follows her...

TIMICIN

The Resolution is a celebration of life... we can end our lives with dignity...

LWAXANA

"Celebration of life"... it all sounds very noble, very caring. What you're really saying is you got rid of the problem by getting rid of the people...

TIMICIN

I know it must sound that way...
(redefining it)
It is a time of transition... one generation handing the responsibilities of life to the next...

LWAXANA

What about the responsibility of taking care of the elderly?

TIMICIN

But that would create a dreadful burden for our children...

63 CONTINUED: (2)

LWAXANA

We raise them and care for them,
suffer for them and keep them from
harm their whole lives...
eventually, it's their turn to
take care of us.

TIMICIN

No parent should expect to be paid
back for the love they've given
their children.

LWAXANA

Why the hell not.

Timicin shakes his head, laughs to himself... this
woman is something.

64
thru OMITTED
66

67 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

She goes to a food dispenser...

LWAXANA

(to com)

Oskoids.

As it MATERIALIZES... the oskoids are a leafy finger
food.

TIMICIN

What's that?

LWAXANA

Oskoids. A Betazed delicacy.

TIMICIN

Looks interesting.

Instead of giving him some, she casually walks away
with it as...

LWAXANA

You should have tried it while
you were still alive. No reason
to bother now.

She sits, munches on an oskoid.

67 CONTINUED:

LWAXANA

Why sixty? Why not... sixty-two...
or fifty-eight...

TIMICIN

A reasonable age had to be set...

LWAXANA

... but it's not reasonable...
certainly not in your case.
Right now, you're as healthy and
vital a man as I've ever known.

TIMICIN

... And I want to say good-bye to
my family and colleagues while I'm
still that way... in complete
command of my faculties... knowing
they'll always remember me as a
strong, vigorous man.

LWAXANA

But it makes no sense. Some of
your people could still be active
at seventy or eighty... others
might get seriously ill at
fifty... how cruel of you to make
them wait so long to commit
suicide...

TIMICIN

Setting a standard age for the
resolution makes it uniform for
everybody. To ask each individual
family to decide when their elders
are to die... would be heartless.

LWAXANA

I agree. How about letting
everybody die when they die.

TIMICIN

(sighs)
Lwaxana...

LWAXANA

You have a grandson, you said?

TIMICIN

Almost seven.

67 CONTINUED: (2)

LWAXANA

Wouldn't it be better for him to know his grandfather? Not the vague memory of someone who once loved him, but a living person who does love him? You really don't believe that's better?

Timicin pauses for a beat... searches for a proper response, has a little trouble finding it, then shakes his head, presses on...

TIMICIN

Lwaxana, I attended the Resolution of my own parents when it was their time. It was beautiful. It's a custom I've known and accepted all my life.

Lwaxana considers this... forms a counter-argument.

LWAXANA

The women of Betazed used to wear huge wigs; with large holes in the middle for tiny caged animals. First it was a fashion; then it went on long enough to become a custom. A tradition. But it was uncomfortable for the woman and cruel to the animal. Then one day one very formidable woman finally said so; and refused to wear another of those wigs. And fairly soon the custom stopped. She had the courage to stand up and fight for change.

TIMICIN

She must have been a lot like you.

She stands and moves closer to hammer home her point.

67 CONTINUED: (3)

LWAXANA

Timicin, there is no one more qualified, more experienced, or more likely to save your planet than you. And they would have you kill yourself?

TIMICIN

Younger scientists will take my place. The work will continue.

LWAXANA

Your planet has what... thirty, forty years left? What if they can't find the answer without your help? What then? What chance will your grandson have of reaching the age of sixty?

TIMICIN

Enough; please. It is my time, Lwaxana. That is the way it is.

She moves closer to him, speaks intimately, softly but the force of her words strike home --

LWAXANA

If that's the way it is, why is anyone bothering to try to save your world at all? If its time has come, let it die. Where's the difference, Timicin? Where?

And he has no easy answer.

67A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

As before.

68 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

As Geordi and Data vainly study the monitors looking at test results, a thoughtful Timicin quietly observes... still considering what Lwaxana has told him.

68 CONTINUED:

DATA

... Until the pressure levels
destabilized, all the results were
exactly as you had predicted...

TIMICIN

The triggering programs... ?

GEORDI

Worked perfectly... that much
we're sure of...

TIMICIN

And we had always assumed that
was our greatest hurdle...

He shakes his head, takes a thoughtful beat...

GEORDI

(consoling)

Just getting this far is a big
step, Doctor... no one's ever
been able to do even this much
before...

But Timicin is not dwelling on the past... he's looking
forward, mind working furiously, alive with energy...
tapping on a console... seeing on the monitor --

TIMICIN

Convection boundary uncoupling.
The reaction caused gas turbulence
of a totally unexpected
magnitude... Why?

DATA

(possible explanation)

There was a evidence of a delayed
surface shock...

TIMICIN

(continues to work
furiously on the
panels)

No, I anticipated that I thought
I'd anticipated all the possible
variables... but stars... they're
like living entities in a way...
quite unpredictable. I wouldn't
be surprised if this were the
result of...

68 CONTINUED: (2)

His mind is racing ahead of his ability to get it out of his mouth... interrupting himself --

TIMICIN

Look here... forty-two seconds into the test, a rise in the level of hydrogen-alpha emissions... and here, another one... You see, I'm right...

He looks at Data and Geordi who exchange a look, don't get it yet...

TIMICIN

(don't you see?)

There had to be neutron migration within the star's inner core as the reaction grew.

DATA

(concerned)

Perhaps, but there is no known method of controlling neutron migration, Doctor.

Pushing in to him...

TIMICIN

Yes, yes, but it is theoretically possible. Using these test results, we could construct a new computer model of the energy dynamics of the star that can test a new detonation program. I'm certain it can be accomplished. Certain. It's just a matter of time.

(beat)

A matter of time.

69 INT. READY ROOM

Picard sits working, as the Door Chime SOUNDS.

PICARD

(calls o.s.)

Come.

70 INCLUDING TIMICIN

as he ENTERS. Timicin is a little shaky as though he's not completely sure what he's about to do is right.

PICARD

Timicin. Time for you to leave us, then.

TIMICIN

Captain Picard... I've come to... officially request asylum aboard The Enterprise.

And off Picard's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

71 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Still in orbit around Kaelon Two.

72 INT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

Picard and Timicin facing Science Minister B'Tardat, whose IMAGE appears on the Viewer.

B'TARDAT

Timicin, I cannot believe this.
Why asylum? Asylum from what?

TIMICIN

I turn sixty in four days,
Minister...

B'TARDAT

Yes, and your family and
colleagues are already gathering
for your resolution...

TIMICIN

I...

And he pauses, wanting to carefully present the next words which he knows will have an extraordinary impact... and there is uncertainty, guilt, searching for the strength.

TIMICIN

I believe it is time for us as
a people to re-examine the wisdom
of The Resolution.

B'tardat blinks, incredulous... after a silent beat...

B'TARDAT

Timicin, are they forcing you into
this? Are you being coerced?

TIMICIN

Influenced, perhaps; not coerced.

72 CONTINUED:

B'TARDAT

Captain Picard, your "influence" is an example of why we originally chose isolation and no doubt will again.

PICARD

Any influence, Minister, is by example only. Timicin's decision is of his own free will, I assure you.

B'TARDAT

I cannot believe that a man of Timicin's stature would "freely" reject his own culture.

The minister nods a signal to an off camera presence...

TIMICIN

B'Tardat, no one on Kaelon Two understands the project as I do. There are new theories that would take others a decade to test and confirm. With my guidance, we can be ready in half that time. I must finish my work...

B'TARDAT

Others started your work. Others will finish it. It's always been that way... it always will...

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Captain, scanners indicate two Kaelon warships rising on an intercept course.

PICARD

Acknowledged, Commander.
(to the monitor)
Minister, we are here in friendship, hoping to provide assistance...

B'TARDAT

You've helped quite enough, Captain. I suggest you return Timicin and depart.

(MORE)

72 CONTINUED: (2)

B'TARDAT (Cont'd)

If you attempt to leave orbit with
him on board, our ships have been
ordered to open fire.

TIMICIN

B'tardat, there's no purpose in...

72 CONTINUED: (3)

But the image on the screen goes off and returns to the starfield. Picard shuts it off, rises...

TIMICIN

It should not have come to this...
I handled it poorly...

PICARD

Doctor, you have acted in good
conscience... I don't know what
else you could have done...

TIMICIN

I could have... let well enough
alone... and returned home...

(beat)

What do you think, Picard? Have
I done the right thing?

Picard studies him a beat.

PICARD

I'm afraid you're the only one
who can answer that, Doctor.

TIMICIN

Lwaxana would have me lead a
revolt, but I am only a scientist.
I wish I had her strength... she
is a woman of extraordinary
conviction, isn't she?

PICARD

(beat, with history)
Isn't she.

They EXIT.

73
thru OMITTED
79

80 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS (OPTICAL)

The main viewer shows three warships from Kaelon Two approaching the Enterprise. Beverly is on the Bridge as Picard and Timicin come in from the Ready Room.

80 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Any communication, Number One?

RIKER

No, sir. We have an open channel.

WORF

The warships have taken a standard attack posture... staggered approach vectors... within weapons range.

PICARD

Shields up. Red Alert.

TIMICIN

Captain...

Picard sits in command.

PICARD

Doctor, I suggest you return to your quarters...

TIMICIN

No. I don't want there to be any bloodshed because of my decision...

And Timicin is in the way. Beverly sees she can help... she moves to him... quietly but firm --

BEVERLY

They'll be doing everything they can to avoid it... but we need to get out of their way now...

Overlapping in the background --

PICARD

(at work)

Mister Worf, ascertain their offensive potential...

WORF

Aye sir.

Answering Beverly --

80 CONTINUED: (2)

TIMICIN

Yes... yes I understand...

He starts to move toward the turbolift... glances back with concern... then EXITS with Beverly.

80A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

As the two ships move into attack posture.

81 INT. ENGINEERING

Timicin ENTERS to approach Geordi and Data.

TIMICIN

We must transmit the new analysis of the neutron migration immediately... if I can make them see the direction I've taken...

GEORDI

We've already tried...

DATA

They refuse to accept further reports from you, Doctor.

TIMICIN

But they have to accept them...

He sits at a console, tapping furiously...

TIMICIN

If I can re-establish computer interface with the science ministry...

GEORDI

They've disengaged the link-up, sir...

Timicin's not getting anywhere with the panels... there's no response...

TIMICIN

Why don't they answer!?

He slams his fist down in frustration.

81 CONTINUED:

TIMICIN

Even if I find the solution,
they would not accept it!

(beat)

Because I do not terminate my
life, they terminate my work.
Alive, I am a greater threat to
my world than a dying sun.

As he is filled with frustration and sadness, he looks
up to see --

81A ANGLE - LWAXANNA AT THE ENTRANCE

watching him.

82 INT. CORRIDOR

Walking...

LWAXANA

Jean-Luc will find a way to settle
this. He always does...

TIMICIN

No, my decision will only lead
to more distrust of other
worlds... nothing will change...

LWAXANA

Don't be foolish.

Stopping...

TIMICIN

I am not being foolish.

And there is an anger there... a why-have-you-pushed-me-into-this?
He immediately regrets it.

82 CONTINUED:

TIMICIN

Lwaxana, I want to live because I see in you how much there is to live for. You make me realize there is still some value to my life. I can still contribute. I can be an example to my people. But discovering these new desires in myself... and not being able to do anything with them... not being able to finish my work, not being able to reach my people...

LWAXANA

You have made a statement about the sanctity of life. It will be heard, Timicin.

TIMICIN

Who will hear it... from lightyears away. Where do I go now, Lwaxana? A man without a world. Who can never go home.

As she reacts with concern...

LWAXANA

Timicin...

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Bridge to Doctor Timicin...

83 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker and Picard in the command area.

RIKER

(continuing)

... you have a visitor coming aboard.

TIMICIN'S COM VOICE

(hopeful)

B'Tardat?

84 INT. CORRIDOR - LWAXANA AND TIMICIN

RIKER'S COM VOICE

No, doctor... it's your daughter.

And off their reactions...

85 INT. TIMICIN'S QUARTERS

Timicin's adult daughter, DARA, is waiting for them as
Timicin and Lwaxana ENTER.

85 CONTINUED:

DARA

Father...

TIMICIN

Dara.

They come together, yearning to reach out and hug one another... but held back by the barrier that's already grown up between them.

TIMICIN

You look... wonderful.

Dara shoots a look at Lwaxana.

TIMICIN

This is Lwaxana Troi. She's been a host and a friend.

LWAXANA

I've been looking forward to meeting you, Dara.

That gets a look.

TIMICIN

Whatever you have to say to me, you can say in front of her.

DARA

I see.

And that's said with -- so you're the one who did this to him.

DARA

Father, come home. This is wrong.

TIMICIN

Dara, there is so much for me still to do. If I could show you the work I have begun...

DARA

There's nothing for me to look at. It is irrelevant.

LWAXANA

Your father's work may save your world, my dear. I would hardly consider that irrelevant.

85 CONTINUED: (2)

DARA
(to Timicin, not
Lwaxana)
All that matters to me now is you.
Not your work. Your work's over.
It is your time to rest.

LWAXANA
Perhaps you will feel differently
as you get a little older... say
approaching sixty.

DARA
(sharp)
My father has taught me to cherish
The Resolution. I don't know how
you have poisoned him to reject
it but...

LWAXANA
It is an obscene ritual.

DARA
How dare you. How dare you
criticize my way of life, my
beliefs.

TIMICIN
Please.

A silent beat. Softer, sadder...

DARA
Where will you go?

TIMICIN
I don't know.

DARA
Where will you die?

A long beat.

DARA
I cannot bear the thought that
you will be laid to rest on some
other world...

85 CONTINUED: (3)

DARA

(a tear rolls down her
cheek)

... that you will not lie beside
my mother... and I will not be
able to lie beside you when my
resolution comes.

The emotional impact of this hits Timicin... his pain
is great...

DARA

I'm sorry, Father. I do not
understand how you can go on with
your life knowing each day you
live is an insult to everything
we believe in. I love you. But
I am ashamed.

She EXITS. Lwaxana searches for words of comfort...

TIMICIN

I... need to be alone now.

Lwaxana nods silently.

86 OMITTED

87 EXT. THE ENTERPRISE AND THE WARSHIPS (OPTICAL)

Suspended in orbit together. Still locked in a
stalemate.

88

thru OMITTED

90

91 INT. LWAXANA'S QUARTERS

Lwaxana and Deanna... Lwaxana is in a sad, pensive
mood...

LWAXANA

I am suddenly... suddenly not sure
of myself... and it is a feeling
I am not at all used to... I don't
think I like it very much, Little
One...

With much empathy, therapist as much as daughter...

91 CONTINUED:

TROI

Not sure of yourself?

LWAXANA

My life has been full. Now and then it's even overflowed a little, I'll admit. But I enjoy...living. Now I am asking myself -- is it possible that I've been wrong to encourage Timicin to choose life?

TROI

You were honest with him, mother... how could you be anything else?

LWAXANA

Maybe I want him to live... just to keep me company.

TROI

Of course you do. But you didn't do this for yourself, mother. You did it for him.

LWAXANA

Did I? Then look what I've done to him. He is like a man who has lost his faith. I never considered how deeply ingrained this resolution liturgy is.

TROI

Ritual provides a structure for a society... good rituals, bad rituals alike...

LWAXANA

Well, this is a bad one...

TROI

Your point of view.

LWAXANA

It should be the point of view of any reasonably intelligent middle-aged person.

(beat)

But apparently it is not.

91 CONTINUED: (2)

The door chimes. Troi goes to the door, opens it to reveal Timicin... he ENTERS...

TROI

I'll see you later, mother.

She EXITS. Timicin looks at Lwaxana a long beat, looking for a way to tell her... she does it for him...

91 CONTINUED: (3)

LWAXANA
You're going back.

He nods.

TIMICIN
Do you believe I love you?

She nods.

TIMICIN
I do you know. But if that
finally is my only reason to stay
alive...

LWAXANA
It's not enough.

TIMICIN
Almost. Not quite. I can't be
that selfish, Lwaxana.

LWAXANA
You'd never be happy.

TIMICIN
I'm sorry. I guess I'm not the
one to lead the revolt.

She embraces him, holds onto him.

92 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The other ships are gone.

93 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

O'Brien at the console. Picard escorts Timicin in...

TIMICIN
I apologize for all the turmoil
I created, Captain...

PICARD
I would deeply regret it, Doctor,
if you were returning only to ease
diplomatic tensions...

93 CONTINUED:

TIMICIN

No, it is more, much more.

PICARD

Then I wish you and your people well.

TIMICIN

When the time comes for another test, I will encourage them to seek out your assistance again.

Picard acknowledges. Lwaxana is notable by her absence.

PICARD

If there's any reason you'd like to wait a few minutes...

TIMICIN

No. We've... we've said our good-byes.

Picard acknowledges as Timicin climbs on board the pad. But then Lwaxana, ENTERS, carrying a small case...

TIMICIN

(reacts)

Lwaxana... ?

LWAXANA

It is the custom for your loved ones to join you at this... resolution, is it not?

TIMICIN

You don't have to do this.

LWAXANA

Yes. I do.

LWAXANA

Permission to disembark, Captain... I promise not to cause any problems down there.

Picard looks at her with new respect.

93 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
Permission granted.

She climbs aboard the pad, links arms with Timicin

LWAXANA
We're ready, Mister O'Brien.

And with her head held high... they DEMATERIALIZE and
on Picard's last reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END