

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Ensigns of Command"  
#40273-149

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3RD REVISED FINAL DRAFT

JULY 13, 1989

STAR TREK: "The Ensigns of Command" - REV. 7/14/89 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Ensigns of Command"

CAST

PICARD	SHELIAK
RIKER	
DATA	ARD'RIAN
BEVERLY	GOSHEVEN
TROI	HARITATH
GEORDI	KENTOR
WORF	
WESLEY	Non-Speaking
O'BRIEN	ENGINEERS (2) OTHER LOCALS (26)

Non-Speaking	
A VULCAN VIOLINIST	YOUNG BOY (age 12)
A WOMAN VIOLIST	BOY'S MOTHER
N.D. CREWMEMBERS (12)	
SUPERNUMERARIES (CONN & OPS)	

STAR TREK: "The Ensigns of Command" - REV. 7/14/89 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Ensigns of Command"

SETS

INTERIORS	EXTERIORS
USS ENTERPRISE	USS ENTERPRISE
MAIN BRIDGE	
TEN FORWARD	TAU CYGNA FIVE
OBSERVATION LOUNGE	FRONTIER TOWN
TRANSPORTER ROOM	
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM	TOWN SQUARE
	AQUEDUCT
TAU CYGNA FIVE	PUMPING STATION
ARD'RIAN'S FRONT ROOM	DATA'S SHUTTLE
SHELIAK WARSHIP	SHELIAK WARSHIP

STAR TREK: "Ensigns of Command" - REV. 7/14/89 PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Ensigns of Command"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ARD'RIAN	ARD-ree-an
ARMENS	ARE-mens
ARTEMIS	ARE-tih-mus
GOSHEVEN	GO-sheh-ven
HARITATH	HAH-ree-tath
KENTOR	KEN-tor
SHELIA	Shell-LEE-ah
SHELIAK	SHELL-lee-awk
S'MARITH	Ss-sa-MAH-rith
TEREMI-BOSONS	Teh-REH-mee-BOH-suns

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Ensigns of Command"  
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Moving at impulse near some extraordinarily interesting astronomical object.

2 INT. TEN-FORWARD

Present are PICARD, BEVERLY, and TWELVE N.D. CREWMEMBERS. A VULCAN and ONE WOMAN are seated, holding their instruments -- a violin and a viola. O'BRIEN tunes his cello. DATA ENTERS carrying a violin. He checks at the door, startled to see the captain. Picard beckons, and Data crosses to him.

DATA

Captain, Doctor, I am honored by your presence, but may I suggest you attend the second concert.

BEVERLY

Why, Data?

DATA

Ensign Ortiz will perform the violin part. My rendition will be less enjoyable.

PICARD

Oh?

DATA

While I am quite proficient Technically, according to my fellow performers, I lack soul.

BEVERLY

Data, telling us why you're going to fail before you make the attempt is never wise.

DATA

But is not honesty always the preferred choice?

2 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
Excessive honesty can be  
disastrous... particularly in a  
commander.

DATA  
(very intrigued)  
Indeed?

PICARD  
Knowing your limitations is one  
thing. Advertising them to a crew  
can damage your ability to lead.

DATA  
Because you lose their respect?

BEVERLY  
No, because you may begin to  
believe in those limitations  
yourself.

Data considers this, then moves to take his place with  
the other performers.

2A ANGLE ON PICARD AND BEVERLY

O.s., the string quartet TUNES. There is the SOUND of  
the communicator hail.

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
Captain, we're receiving a message  
from the Sheliak Corporate.

Picard reacts with surprise, stands and EXITS. As he  
leaves, the quartet starts to PLAY.

CUT TO:

3 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard ENTERS. RIKER and WORF at their usual stations.  
Supernumeraries at CONN and OPS.

3 CONTINUED:

WORF

Origin point of the message confirmed. It is from the Shelia star system.

RIKER

The Sheliak have not attempted to communicate with the Federation for a hundred and eleven years.

PICARD

On screen.

4 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

What appears is the text of a treaty. English on one side, Sheliak on the other. Sheliak is not symbols as we know them, but rather a pattern of lights. A recorded message begins.

SHELIAK VOICE

Federation creatures, there are humans on the fifth planet of Tau Cygna. This planet was ceded to the corporate in section one hundred and thirty-three, paragraph seventy-seven of the Treaty of Armens. We will begin settlement of this world in four days. Remove the humans.

Riker is up, and heading for Science One.

PICARD

What the devil --

SHELIAK VOICE

Federation creatures, there are humans on the fifth planet --

PICARD

Cancel message.

Inquiring look to Riker.

RIKER

Tau Cygna Five is in the de Laure belt -- heavy concentrations of hyperonic radiation.

4 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Humans can't survive in such an environment. Exposure to hyperonic radiation is fatal.

RIKER

Then the Sheliak are asking us to chase ghosts.

PICARD

No, Number One. The Sheliak haven't broken a century of silence to send us after phantoms. An investigation is in order. Set course for Tau Cygna Five.

Off Picard's expression:

FADE OUT.

END OF THE TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

entering orbit around a planet.

6 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Data, Beverly and Worf. Supernumerary at CONN.

WORF

Human life form readings from the planet.

RIKER

So, the Sheliak weren't hallucinating.

PICARD

Numbers?

WORF

Impossible to get an accurate reading, Captain. The high radiation levels are disrupting our sensors.

DATA

Hyperonic radiation also interferes with ship's transporters; they are now inoperable.

WORF

So are the ship's phasers.

RIKER

How can humans survive down there?

BEVERLY

They must have found a way to adapt.

(thinks it over)

Milan's work in radiation sensitivity suggests it's possible. Perhaps with extensive virotherapy...

(grimly)

Until they found the answer, their mortality rate must have been staggering.

6 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Well, whoever they are and however  
they've survived, we've got to  
get them off the planet.

RIKER

By treaty, this world does belong  
to the Sheliak...

PICARD

... who are within their rights  
to demand the removal of these  
"trespassers."

RIKER

And if we don't remove them, the  
Sheliak will.

BEVERLY

How forcefully?

RIKER

To the Sheliak, humans are a lower  
life form. They'd have no  
compunctions about exterminating  
the intruders.

Beverly is taken aback. Riker's dead serious.

PICARD

Mister Data. As you are unaffected  
by hyperonic radiation, you will  
go to the planet via shuttlecraft  
and commence evacuation  
procedures.

DATA

Aye, sir.

Without a word wasted the android is out of his chair,  
and EXITS the bridge.

PICARD

Any speculation as to what he'll  
find, Number One?

RIKER

A lost survey ship would be my  
guess. A dozen or so survivors  
at most.

CUT TO:

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7 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - SHUTTLE LANDING SITE - DAY

Data is outside the shuttle, scanning with his tricorder.

7A NEW ANGLE

as HARITATH and KENTOR (two male humans) and TWO N.D. WORKERS cautiously approach the shuttle from the other side (the shuttle blocks their view of Data).

HARITATH  
(in wonder)  
A shuttlecraft!

KENTOR  
Where's it from?

HARITATH  
Look at the markings. I think  
it's from the Federation.

Data steps into their view from around the shuttle.

DATA  
Hello.

The four humans jump, startled.

HARITATH  
We saw your ship... You're the  
first visitor we've had in...

7A CONTINUED: (2)

KENTOR  
The first visitor we've ever had.

They take a closer look at Data.

HARITATH  
You're -- not human.

DATA  
That is correct. I am an android.  
I am Lieutenant Commander Data  
of the Federation Starship  
Enterprise.

HARITATH  
(excited)  
Our great-grandparents were  
citizens of the Federation.  
(realizing)  
But you don't want to waste time  
talking to us...

KENTOR  
You'll want to speak with  
Gosheven. We'll take you to him.

DATA  
Excellent.

HARITATH  
I'm sure the Federation will be  
very proud of us. Wait until you  
see all we've accomplished.

DATA  
And who, precisely, is "we?"

HARITATH  
You don't know? No, I guess you  
wouldn't, would you? We are the  
descendants of the original  
settlers -- from the colony ship  
Artemis.

CUT TO:

8 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and Worf in their usual places. Riker at  
Science One. Supernumeraries at Conn and Ops.

8 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Got it. The Artemis, launched one hundred forty-two years ago, destination Septimis Minor. When they failed to check in, Starfleet began an extensive search.

PICARD

What carried the Artemis so far off course?

9 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - SHUTTLE LANDING SITE - DAY

Haritath and Kentor wait patiently for Data to finish him communication.

DATA

My local informant does not know. In the early days survival on Tau Cygna Five was more important than history.

10 INTERCUTS

PICARD

Understood. How many are there?

DATA

Approximately fifteen thousand.

Reactions from the bridge crew. Now they really have got a problem.

RIKER

(to Picard)

We've only got three days. Without working transporters, we couldn't have them out in time.

PICARD

Shuttles?

Worf does some figuring on his console.

WORF

Loading all the Enterprise shuttlecraft to capacity -- evacuation would take four weeks, four days.

10 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Then we need more time. Mister Data, prepare the colonists for an evacuation.

DATA'S COM VOICE

Aye, sir.

Picard closes the com line.

PICARD

(continuing)

Mister Worf, get me the Sheliak.

WORF

Their home world is quite distant, Captain. This will take some time.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - MAIN STREET - DAY

The main pumping station of Tau Cygna V. In the distance are mountains. A thin white line descends from the mountains, and as it comes closer we realize it is an aqueduct. Along the line of the aqueduct are lush fields, a veritable Garden of Eden, which ends like a knife-cut and the desert returns. It culminates in a strange cubistic-shaped purifying station. In a pool, the water churns into a white froth.

GOSHEVEN, the leader, supervises TWO WORKERS testing the water in the pool.

Data, Haritath, and Kentor approach.

HARITATH

Gosheven, look what's come --

Gosheven sees Data, looks him up and down very carefully. Gosheven's as surprised as Haritath was, but keeps a lid on it -- Data may represent a threat, so Gosheven's attempting a poker face.

DATA

Lieutenant Commander Data of the Starship Enterprise.

11 CONTINUED:

KENTOR  
He's an android.

GOSHEVEN  
So he is.  
(a beat)  
Well, you're here -- what do you want?

DATA  
My mission is to prepare this colony for evacuation.

Reactions from the men. Gosheven is calm, almost amused:

GOSHEVEN  
Why?

DATA  
Because this planet belongs to the Sheliak.

GOSHEVEN  
And just who is this Sheliak?

DATA  
The term is plural. The Sheliak are an intelligent, non-humanoid life form, classification R-3 --

GOSHEVEN  
(interrupting)  
This colony's been here for a hundred and forty years -- and no one's ever seen a Sheliak.  
I'd say that makes Tau Cygna Five our planet. (ALTERNATE: ninety years)

DATA  
But the original destination of the Artemis was Septimis Minor.

GOSHEVEN  
The guidance systems on the Artemis failed -- and sent them off course. Far off course. Our ancestors were lucky to find any place to land.

11 CONTINUED: (2)

HARITATH

And when they did, the radiation started killing them.

GOSHEVEN

Hyperonic radiation took the lives of a third of the colonists before they learned they could adapt to it.

KENTOR

But the colony survived -- and prospered.

GOSHEVEN

(with pride)

Look around. We've brought water to the desert, built a community.

DATA

Your accomplishments are indeed remarkable. However, the Sheliak and the Federation have a treaty that clearly makes this planet Sheliak domain.

GOSHEVEN

Then change the treaty.

DATA

That may not be possible. The Sheliak wish to colonize this planet, and they are unwilling to share it with humans.

(MORE)

11 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA (cont'd)  
If you are still here when the  
Sheliak colony ship arrives,  
they will eradicate you.

Haritath and Kentor exchange a worried glance, but  
Gosheven is unfazed.

HARITATH  
They would kill us all?

DATA  
They have little regard for  
human life. Thus, our most  
sensible course is to prepare a  
contingency plan for the  
evacuation of your people.

GOSHEVEN  
We're not evacuating.

Data is taken aback.

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11 CONTINUED: (4)

DATA

Perhaps I have not made myself  
clear.

GOSHEVEN

Yes, you have. Now let me be  
equally clear. There's going  
to be no evacuation.

(a beat)

You've delivered your message --  
so go back to your ship. I have  
work to do.

Gosheven returns to his work on the pumping station.

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11A ON DATA

as he considers his next move. Then -- an object comes flying at Data.

With android speed and reflexes, Data catches the object and examines it. It is an iron bar.

ARD'RIAN (O.S.)  
Nice catch. Wonderful reflexes.

Data turns to see --

11B WIDER

ARD'RIAN, an attractive female, approaches.

ARD'RIAN  
Sorry to test you like that --  
but I was curious.

GOSHEVEN  
(amused)  
Found a new toy, have we, Ardy?

ARD'RIAN  
Toy? This is the most incredible android I've ever seen.

DATA  
Have you seen many?

ARD'RIAN  
Actually, no. You're the first.

GOSHEVEN  
(to Ard'rian)  
Only you would get this excited over a walking calculator.

ARD'RIAN  
(bridling)  
He's more interesting than anything else walking around here...

Gosheven CHUCKLES -- he's succeeded in getting under her skin.

GOSHEVEN  
Depends on what you find interesting.

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11B CONTINUED:

Ard'rian's had enough of Gosheven's male conceit. She moves away, motions for Data to follow. Data does.

ARD'RIAN  
(to Data)  
Cybernetic intelligence fascinates me. Are your neural pathways duotronic?

DATA  
No -- they are positronic.

ARD'RIAN  
I didn't know that was possible!  
What's your memory capacity? How many operations per second? I have a million questions...

DATA  
I am afraid I have no time to answer one million questions.  
I have a mission to accomplish.  
(MORE)

11B CONTINUED: (2)

DATA (cont'd)

I need to know more about your people, and Gosheven seems unwilling to talk to me further.

ARD'RIAN

(extending a hand)

I'm Ard'rian McKenzie. Perhaps I can help you.

As Data shakes her hand, we:

CUT TO:

12 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Riker and TROI are seated as GEORDI, O'Brien ENTER.

RIKER

Gentlemen, we're giving you an assignment, and the one thing we don't want to hear is that it is impossible.

Riker defers to Picard. Geordi and O'Brien cast wary glances at Picard. Now what the hell is he going to want?

PICARD

I need the transporters to function despite the hyperonic radiation.

GEORDI

Impossi -- Yes, sir.

Geordi and O'Brien EXIT. Riker, Troi and Picard study each other seriously.

RIKER

Even if we can get the Sheliak to talk to us, they're not likely to be accommodating.

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12 CONTINUED:

TROI

Captain, when the treaty was  
negotiated the Federation sent  
three hundred and seventy-two  
legal experts. What have we got?

PICARD

Thee... and me.

Off Troi's very dubious expression as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit around Tau Cygna V.

14 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard pacing, Troi seated as they wait for the call. Worf at his station. Supernumeraries at Conn and Ops.

WORF

No response.

PICARD

Try again. Boost signal strength.

Worf makes adjustments.

WORF

Sheliak Corporate. This is the Starship Enterprise. Respond please.

15 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN - (OPTICAL)

as it changes from a view of stars to -- someplace? a bridge? Wherever the SHELIAK are calling from it is a disturbing place for humans. Darkness, mirrored surfaces, and hidden in the shadows a creature who is decidedly unsettling for the crew. Its shape is constantly shifting like oozing sludge, and there is a hint of flickering eyes -- too many eyes.

SHELIAK

Conversation is neither required nor desired.

Picard schools his features into an expression of polite interest.

PICARD

Conversation is necessary if we are to find a solution to our mutual problem.

SHELIAK

Our involvement in Federation illegality is not indicated.

15 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Both parties are involved, sir.

SHELIAK

Remove the humans from the Tau Cygna system. Three Earth days remain.

Troi leans in, and whispers:

TROI

Their culture is extremely formal, almost ritualistic. An apology might smooth matters.

PICARD

I apologize for our inadvertent violation of the treaty.

SHELIAK

Acknowledged and accepted. Now remove the human creatures.

PICARD

Let us negotiate in good faith...

SHELIAK

Negotiate to what purpose? The treaty is signed.

PICARD

There is a thriving colony on the planet. Rather than uproot these people may I offer a compromise?

SHELIAK

Denied.

PICARD

Why?!

SHELIAK

The law is paramount. We are entitled.

PICARD

This is not a law. It is a treaty. It is designed to smooth relations between peoples. Not to act as a strait...

15 CONTINUED: (2)

But Picard's talking to a blank screen. The Sheliak have hung up on him.

PICARD  
... jacket.

Off Picard's annoyed expression.

CUT TO:

16 OMITTED

17 INT. ARD'RIAN'S FRONT ROOM - DAY

A comfortable room constructed of stone with a heavy beamed ceiling. The furniture is hand hewn, durable but comfortable. Contrasting with this are various computer parts and consoles, both assembled and in pieces, strewn about.

Ard'rian and Data ENTER.

ARD'RIAN  
... you really think we'll have  
to leave Tau Cygna Five?

DATA  
The possibility exists, and  
Gosheven appears unwilling to  
prepare for it. Why?

17 CONTINUED:

ARD'RIAN

Maybe because you're an android. I don't think Gosheven likes the idea of machines ordering him around.

DATA

I am not ordering him to do anything; I am merely trying to persuade him that his people should prepare to evacuate.

(thinks)

Do you believe my suggested course of action should be followed?

ARD'RIAN

Of course.

DATA

In spite of the fact that I am an android?

ARD'RIAN

Because of that fact. I don't have any silly prejudices against computers -- I like them.

SHe gestures around the room, a bit apologetically:

ARD'RIAN (cont'd)

Not that any computer we have is half as sophisticated as you...

Data looks at a particularly "primitive" computer:

DATA

No, I would say not.

17 CONTINUED: (2)

ARD'RIAN (cont'd)  
People can be selfish,  
irrational, stubborn, malicious  
-- you name it. But computers  
don't have those failings.

Data follows her logic:

DATA  
You conclude from this that I am  
impartial... hence you accept  
my recommendations.

She nods.

DATA (cont'd)  
Yet Gosheven does not.  
(thinks)  
Perhaps he might reconsider his  
position if someone other than  
myself were to present the  
arguments.

ARD'RIAN  
Well, I'm willing to talk to him,  
but I don't think he'll take me  
seriously.  
(with distaste)  
He finds me attractive -- but I'm  
not interested in him at all.  
So he belittles me to protect his  
ego --

18 OMITTED

19 NEW ANGLE

as Data's communicator TRILLS. He touches the  
insignia.

DATA  
Data, here.

PICARD'S COM VOICE  
The Sheliak won't bargain.

DATA  
Understood.

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19 CONTINUED:

PICARD'S COM VOICE  
I'm contacting Starfleet to  
arrange for transport. Get those  
people prepared for evacuation.  
We may have to move very quickly.

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19 CONTINUED:

DATA

Yes, sir.

Data cuts the communication, turns to Ard'rian.

DATA

We must speak with Gosheven  
immediately.

Ard'rian grabs a coat, and they EXIT.

CUT TO:

19A INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL) (FORMERLY SC. 16)

Geordi, O'Brien and WESLEY have the panels removed from the wall behind the transporter console. Geordi's tool box is nearby. Sophisticated tools litter the floor. Off to the left side of the transporter are six test objects. The trio is watching tensely as O'Brien touches the console. A test object MATERIALIZES looking like swiss cheese. Geordi picks it up. Riker ENTERS.

RIKER

Gentlemen, how are you coming?

(spots the object)

What the hell is that?

Geordi sets aside the mutilated object.

GEORDI

Our first attempt.

O'BRIEN

We recalibrated the transporter setting for the tightest possible beam.

WESLEY

But we've got plenty of things left to try.

Geordi is studying the test object again.

GEORDI

There's some really interesting residue . . . reminds me of --

(a beat)

There's that damn pulsar in the neighborhood.

19A CONTINUED:

WESLEY  
Teremi-thorons.

O'BRIEN  
This just got a lot harder.

WESLEY  
They're one of the most elusive  
sub-atomic particles known, and  
they really shred a transporter  
signal.

RIKER  
Thank you, Ensign, I passed  
physics.  
(to Geordi)  
Keep at it. We need those  
transporters.

Riker EXITS.

GEORDI  
We're going to have a lot of fun  
cracking this one.

CUT TO:

20  
thru OMITTED  
21

22 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - MAIN STREET - DAY

Gosheven, Data, and Ard'rian are standing near the pool  
of water. Gosheven cups some water in a hand.

GOSHEVEN  
See that? Do you have any idea  
what it is? What it means?

DATA  
It is water, a substance composed  
of two atoms of hydrogen --

GOSHEVEN  
It's not water. It's blood and  
sweat -- the result of a hundred  
and forty years of combined  
effort. (ALTERNATE: ninety  
years) This isn't a town.  
(MORE)

22 CONTINUED:

GOSHEVEN (Cont'd)  
It's a monument to every man,  
woman, and child who has lived  
and died on Tau Cygna Five.

ARD'RIAN  
Gosheven, you're talking nonsense.

GOSHEVEN  
Am I? My grandfather's buried  
on that mountain.  
(points to the distant  
line of hills)  
He died in a rock slide surveying  
the route for this aqueduct. This  
colony exists because of his  
sacrifice, and the sacrifices of  
thousands of others. No, we're  
not leaving.

DATA  
The Sheliak will not accept humans  
on their planet. And they will  
not hesitate to use force to  
remove you.

GOSHEVEN  
(calmly)  
And we will not hesitate to fight  
back.

DATA  
You cannot win.

GOSHEVEN  
You just don't understand, do you?  
We will not be bullied off our  
land... not by you, and not by  
the Sheliak.

Gosheven whirls and walks away. End of conversation.

22 CONTINUED: (2)

ARD'RIAN  
(re Gosheven; bitter)  
Stubborn and irrational. Now what  
do we do?

DATA  
Are his sentiments typical among  
the colonists?

ARD'RIAN  
I hope not. Are you thinking  
of bypassing Gosheven and taking  
your case directly to the people?

DATA  
(nods)  
I see no other course of action.  
If I can convince enough people  
of the necessity of leaving --

ARD'RIAN  
(a smile)  
Don't you mean "if we can  
convince?"

DATA  
You are offering assistance?

Ard'rian nods, extends her arm -- c'mon, let's get  
going. As they move off:

CUT TO:

22A EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) (FORMERLY SC. 20)

In orbit around Tau Cygna V.

22B INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM (FORMERLY SC. 21)

Picard is pacing rapidly about the office. Riker  
ENTERS.

RIKER  
Yes, sir?

22B CONTINUED:

PICARD

Three weeks. Starfleet is profuse  
in their apologies, but it will  
still be three weeks.

RIKER

Until?

PICARD

Until the arrival of a colony  
transport ship equipped with  
dedicated personnel shuttles.

RIKER

We can't wait three weeks.

PICARD

The Sheliak must agree to extend  
our deadline.

Picard sits in silence for a beat.

PICARD (cont'd)

If they plan to settle Tau Cygna  
Five two days from now...

RIKER

... one of their ships must already  
be en route.

PICARD

(decides)

We're going to intercept that  
ship.

RIKER

The Sheliak may interpret that  
as a hostile act.

PICARD

We have to take the risk.

Off Picard's determined expression as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

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ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Riker pacing slowly, looking out at the stars.

RIKER

The Enterprise is going to try  
to intercept the Sheliak colony  
ship. Your job ... well, you know  
your job.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - MAIN STREET - DAY

Data standing alone in an archway.

DATA

Commander, in human parlance, I do  
not believe I can "get the job  
done." My training has prepared  
me for starship command duties.  
As a cultural contact I am  
proving to be less than exemplary.

25 INTERCUTS

RIKER

What's the situation?

DATA

Their leader has rejected my  
counsel. He denies the logic of  
my arguments and talks of  
structures they have built.

RIKER

Then try something else.

DATA

I have. In the last three hours  
and eight minutes, I have spoken  
to fifty-six colonists. Ten  
refused to believe a threat  
exists. Twenty-two favored  
staying and fighting the Sheliak.

25 CONTINUED:

RIKER  
(more to himself)  
I don't have time for this.

DATA  
Sixteen preferred negotiation or  
some form of passive resistance.  
Only eight were willing to  
consider evacuation. And of those  
eight --

25 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER  
(cutting him)  
Data, I can't help you -- I don't know these people; I haven't talked to them. You have. Use that fancy positronic brain of yours -- and carry out your mission.

Ard'rian walks up to join the android, politely keeps a few paces away to let him complete his "phone call" with privacy.

DATA  
If I do not succeed, how violent is the Sheliak reaction likely to be?

RIKER  
The treaty is the only thing which kept them from eradicating the colony the moment they discovered it.

DATA  
Ah.

RIKER  
"Ah" is right. The lives of fifteen thousand people are riding on you. You'd better get innovative. Riker out.

Data gazes into space, thinking. Ard'rian steps up. Her mood is upbeat.

ARD'RIAN  
Data -- we're having an effect. So many people are asking questions about the Sheliak that Gosheven's called a public meeting.

25 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA

Is there any indication that  
Gosheven has changed his position?

ARD'RIAN

No. But a meeting will give you  
the chance to present your  
recommendations.

DATA

First, will Gosheven allow me to  
speak? Second, even if he does,  
what good will it do? So far,  
my attempts at persuasion have  
been ineffective.

Ard'rian looks at him with compassion for a beat --  
then suddenly gives Data a quick kiss on the lips.

DATA (cont'd)

Why did you do that?

ARD'RIAN

You appeared to need it.

DATA

Among humans, a kiss normally  
serves to seal a friendship or  
to indicate support, attraction,  
affection.

Ard'rian nods.

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25 CONTINUED: (4)

DATA (cont'd)

In this context, I would assume  
your intention was to express  
support.

ARD'RIAN

That was my primary motivation.

The implication being that there were secondary  
motivations. But if Data is aware of the implication,  
he makes no sign.

ARD'RIAN (cont'd)

You don't really understand human  
behavior, do you?

DATA

That is something of an  
understatement.

ARD'RIAN

(sighs)

Sometimes I don't either.  
androids are a lot more rational.

DATA

Thus far, that quality has not  
helped me accomplish my mission.

ARD'RIAN

A rational argument isn't always  
enough. Maybe to be more  
persuasive, you need to use a  
little reverse psychology.

DATA

(accessing)

Elicit a desired behavior by  
advocating its opposite?

(a beat)

That implies deception, does it  
not?

ARD'RIAN

A little. But if it helps us  
get our point across...

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25 CONTINUED: (5)

DATA  
(considers)  
Perhaps this is a situation in  
which excessive honesty is  
detrimental.

As they walk off:

CUT TO:

26 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Travelling at warp speed.

27 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

As before, except there are more high tech tools and equipment lying about. Geordi is lifting yet another trashed test object off the platform. He holds it mutely out to Wesley and O'Brien who stare dully at this latest failure. There are now four intact objects and three blasted ones. Picard ENTERS.

PICARD  
(you will get it done)  
How are we progressing, Mister  
La Forge?

GEORDI  
(it's impossible)  
About like you'd expect.

PICARD  
(get it done)  
Splendid.

Picard EXITS.

WESLEY  
(wearily)  
He wants the impossible.

27 CONTINUED:

GEORDI  
(with a grin)  
That's the short definition for  
"captain."

Geordi and O'Brien have already returned to work. Wes looks at them bemused, then shrugs and pitches in.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - MAIN STREET - DAY

A large horseshoe-shaped amphitheater with a place for the engineers and Gosheven. A number of citizens -- including Haritath and Kentor -- have turned out for the debate so the place is filled. In the b.g. is the aqueduct purifying plant.

GOSHEVEN  
You've all heard about the android Starfleet sent here, and you've been discussing why he's come.

Data and Ard'rian ENTER. Gosheven ignores them.

GOSHEVEN (cont'd)  
I called this meeting to replace misinformation with cold, hard fact.

The colonists are craning their necks to look at Data. Gosheven realizes Data's presence can't be ignored. He strides over to confront Data.

GOSHEVEN  
Leave. Immediately.

DATA  
I wish to speak.

GOSHEVEN  
No.

DATA  
(loud, for the crowd's benefit)  
You deny me the opportunity to address the assemblage?

28 CONTINUED:

GOSHEVEN

This meeting is not for outsiders.

DATA

Do you consider your position so weak that it cannot withstand debate?

HARITATH

Let him talk.

MURMURS of assent from the crowd. Gosheven gives a terse nod. In a sense Data's called him a coward and he has to stand up to this city slicker, this outsider.

Data steps front and center. In an effort to pull this off, he attempts to use human rhetorical devices (timing, dynamics, inflection, gestures, etc.) -- but, as there's no real passion behind them, they come off as studied and not quite sincere. A good performance, but still a performance.

DATA

You know of the Sheliak threat. Starfleet wishes to evacuate you for your own protection. Gosheven has decided otherwise. That is his right. And I will not waste time trying to reverse that decision.

Surprised reactions from the crowd. This is not what they expected to hear.

DATA (cont'd)

I admire your conviction in the face of certain defeat. Your effort will be valiant, though doomed. Still, when you die, you will die for land and honor.

29 ANGLE ON

The crowd. Data's starting to get a reaction. People are beginning to eye each other nervously. It's one thing to thumb your nose at a distant enemy, quite another to talk about dying.

30 ANGLE ON DATA

As he reaches down, and takes a YOUNG BOY (twelve or so) by the arm, and pulls the child up next to him.

DATA

Your children will understand that they are dying for a worthy cause.

Big crowd reaction here. Murmurs from various people. Mothers pull their children closer to them. Data steals a glance at Ard'rian -- "how am I doing?" Ard'rian nods encouragingly back -- "fine."

DATA

(continuing)

Long after the battle is over, their courage will be remembered and extolled.

Ard'rian jumps in to support him.

ARD'RIAN

Remembered by who?

DATA

(as if he hadn't considered that)

Ah, that is true. There will be no one left alive to remember.

31 ANGLE ON GOSHEVEN

as he begins to applaud slowly.

GOSHEVEN

A valiant try, android, but what a low opinion you must have of us.

The boy's MOTHER snatches her son back from Data, and pulls him down in her lap.

DATA

I was simply attempting to describe your inevitable destruction in a manner that would have an emotional effect.

31 CONTINUED:

HARITATH  
(standing)  
And he did it pretty damned well.

MURMURS of agreement from the crowd.

GOSHEVEN  
Are you ready to follow this  
machine, Haritath? Give up  
everything? Without a fight?  
He says we're going to lose, I  
think that's his own cowardice  
talking!

Kentor stands. He has a calm but commanding presence.

KENTOR  
And what if he's right, and you're  
wrong? Shouldn't we consider that  
possibility?

More crowd reaction. Sympathy is swinging away from  
Gosheven.

HARITATH  
We may be sacrificing ourselves  
for nothing --

GOSHEVEN  
Last winter we buried your little  
girl -- laid her to rest next to  
your mother, and you dare speak  
of sacrifice?

Gosheven whirls and nails Kentor with a look.

GOSHEVEN  
(continuing)  
And you, Kentor, we built you  
a new house after the fire wiped  
you out. Can you simply walk away  
from that?

KENTOR  
Better to walk away than to be  
annihilated.

31 CONTINUED: (2)

GOSHEVEN  
(addressing them all)  
This colony exists because  
generations gave their lives for  
it. Many people died before we  
found a way to adapt to the  
radiation. Many more died  
bringing water to the desert.  
My father --

ARD'RIAN  
(interrupting)  
-- is buried on that mountain.  
Well, who's going to be left to  
bury you?

A vote of confidence is about to take place, and  
Gosheven realizes he's about to lose it. He falls back  
on the innate authority of an elected leader.

GOSHEVEN  
Have you considered what this  
evacuation means? Everything we  
have, we abandon. Everything  
we've built turns into dust.  
Everything we've accomplished  
means nothing.  
(shakes head)  
Well, I say NO! You elected me  
to be your leader -- follow me  
now! I don't think our chances  
are as hopeless as he says. And  
I'm willing to stake our lives  
on it. Any objections?

He rakes the crowd with a look. Some mutterings, but  
nobody's quite ready to lead the revolution.

GOSHEVEN  
(continuing)  
Good, because here... we...  
stand.

A few people step up to pound Gosheven on the back, but  
most of the crowd remains huddled, glancing from Data  
to Gosheven and back again. Haritath and Kentor step  
away to talk in private.

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32 ANGLE ON DATA

standing with Ard'rian.

DATA  
(almost to himself)  
Then here you die.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

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ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Wesley, Geordi and O'Brien. There are now three intact test object and four trashed ones. These are three exhausted people. They've been working round the clock.

WESLEY

Maybe if we bypassed the autosequence  
and decompiled the  
pattern buffer... ?

GEORDI

(shrugs)

It's no crazier than anything  
else we've tried.

Wesley drops down by the panel, and begins to tinker while Geordi places the last test object on the platform. Suddenly the transporter console blows a fuse. Electricity races across the panel, and the console goes dark. O'Brien is not a happy man. Wesley slowly stands up. O'Brien struggles with himself, but can't master it.

O'BRIEN

Ensign Crusher.

WESLEY

Yes, sir.

O'BRIEN

If you ever touch my transporter  
again... I'll kill you.

WESLEY

Sorry, sir.

CUT TO:

33A EXT. PLANET SURFACE - MAIN STREET - DAY

Data watches the town meeting break up into small groups of people TALKING among themselves. Ard'rian approaches.

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33A CONTINUED:

Haritath and Kentor step up furtively.

HARITATH

Mister Data -- I want to tell you  
that... well, Gosheven doesn't  
speak for all of us.

Ard'rian looks at Data hopefully -- maybe the early  
returns aren't so bad after all.

HARITATH (cont'd)

I see no point in dying  
needlessly.

DATA

And you, Kentor?

KENTOR

I'm not sure. Gosheven has done  
well for us. But I'd like to hear  
more of what you have to say.

HARITATH

There are many others that feel  
the same way but are uneasy about  
confronting Gosheven.

ARD'RIAN

Get them together. We'll meet  
at my house.

Haritath and Kentor nod agreement then slip away.

33A CONTINUED: (2)

Ard'rian leads Data toward her house. They EXIT.

34

thru OMITTED

35

36 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Traveling at warp speed.

37 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

Picard has brought Troi in for consultation.

TROI

In our dealings with other  
non-humanoid races there has been  
some point of reference; not so  
with the Sheliak.

PICARD

We must have something in common.  
We communicate.

TROI

Barely. The Sheliak have learned  
several Federation languages, but  
theirs continues to elude us.

37 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
(have we tried?)  
Telepaths?

TROI  
Attempted and failed.

PICARD  
This is ludicrous!

TROI  
No, sir, the fact that any alien race communicates with another is quite remarkable.

She lifts Picard's tea cup from the desk.

TROI  
(continuing)  
We are stranded on a planet. No language in common, but I want to teach you mine.

Troi points to the cup.

TROI  
(continuing)  
S'smarith. What did I just say?

PICARD  
Cup? Glass?

TROI  
Are you sure? I might have meant liquid, clear, brown, hot. And we conceptualize the universe in relatively the same way.

PICARD  
Point taken.

TROI  
During your talks you must be extremely accurate. The treaty is 500,000 words. The length was to accommodate the Sheliak. They consider our language irrational, and demanded this level of complexity to avoid any future misunderstandings.

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37 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
Captain, we have the vessel  
carrying the Sheliak colonists  
on visual.

PICARD  
On my way.  
(to Troi)  
So it begins.

They EXIT onto:

38 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The tension on the bridge is palpable. Picard moves swiftly to the command station. Riker relinquishes command.

39 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

Where a Sheliak ship hangs ominously.

PICARD  
Open hailing frequencies. This  
is Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the  
Starship Enterprise.

We again have a vision of the mirrored, shadowed, shifting place. A hint of a watcher in the shadows.

SHELIAK  
Your purpose, Enterprise?

PICARD  
We desire face-to-face negotiation  
to settle the crisis on Tau Cygna  
Five.

Troi hands him a PADD.

PICARD  
(continuing)  
We are entitled to consultation  
under paragraph five hundred and  
sixty-three subparagraph nine.

A beat as the Sheliak look it up.

SHELIAK  
Granted.

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39 CONTINUED:

The screen again shows the Sheliak vessel.

RIKER  
Was that an invitation?

PICARD  
I'm going to take it as such.  
Number One, you have the bridge.

Troi and Picard EXIT. HOLD on Riker.

RIKER  
Helm, maintain relative position.  
Mister Worf, have Transporter Room  
Two stand by.

WORF  
Aye, sir.

CUT TO:

40 INT. ARD'RIAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Haritath, Kentor, and a group of other colonists are gathered around Data and Ard'rian.

KENTOR  
... and once the Federation resettles us, we'll be left alone?

DATA  
If you so desire.

HARITATH  
We do. We like doing things on our own.

DATA  
The Federation will offer as little or as much help as you dictate.

40 CONTINUED:

Nods all around; they are impressed. Data is the perfect no-pressure salesman; he simply presents the facts. Ard'rian looks expectantly to Kentor; Kentor's still uncertain.

ARD'RIAN  
Kentor -- are you with us?

Kentor makes up his mind:

KENTOR  
Yes.  
(a beat)  
The question is, how do we  
convince Gosheven?

40 CONTINUED: (2)

HARITATH

Why do we need to?

KENTOR

Because he's respected. Most  
people will do as he says.

ARD'RIAN

The people respect you, too.  
If you take a stand, they'll  
fall in line.

KENTOR

I don't know. Gosheven's got a  
lot of supporters...

GOSHEVEN (O.S.)

Don't forget that, Kentor.

Everyone turns to see --

40A OMITTED

40B NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Gosheven fills the doorway. He ENTERS and looks  
around the room.

GOSHEVEN

I'm disappointed. I thought we  
had settled this.

DATA

Apparently, that is not correct.

Gosheven steps up to Data.

GOSHEVEN

(to Data)

Still stirring up trouble?

40B CONTINUED:

ARD'RIAN  
Since when is talk trouble?

Gosheven ignores her -- looking only at Data.

GOSHEVEN  
It's over. Don't you get it?  
You had your say, and you lost.

DATA  
I appear to be reversing that  
defeat.

GOSHEVEN  
No, you're not -- you're just  
stubborn.  
(getting closer)  
Well, let me tell you something...

Gosheven touches Data with an electronic prod -- BLUE SPARKS dance over Data. Data's whole body stiffens -- then goes limp and falls.

GOSHEVEN  
(completes his thought)  
... so am I.

ARD'RIAN  
Damn you, Gosheven --

Ard'rian rushes to Data's aid.

HARITATH  
You killed him?

GOSHEVEN  
I've killed no one.  
(to Ard'rian)  
I've merely shut down a machine.

Ard'rian looks daggers at Gosheven, who turns his attention to the gathering.

GOSHEVEN (cont'd)  
That's it, everyone. Time to go home.

The momentum has changed. A few sheepish glances as one or two of the group head for the door.

40C ON ARD'RIAN

She's pulled out an electronic scanner from her piles of computer junk and is checking out the fallen Data.

40D WIDER

to include Gosheven.

GOSHEVEN  
(to Ard'rian)  
You'll see I'm right.

He EXITS. We hold on Ard'rian and Data.

CUT TO:

41 INT. SHELIAK SHIP (OPTICAL)

Picard and Troi MATERIALIZE. What surrounds them bears little resemblance to a ship. Darkness hangs like bats in the corners. What little light there is filters through swirling mist. As they look down the effect is as if they are walking on black ice, and tiny lights, like flickering eyes twinkle beneath the floor's surface.

SHELIAK  
Advance and speak.

Troi and Picard exchange glances for they can see no sign of the creature they are speaking with. They step forward, and are pinned in a bright light.

PICARD  
Director, we will comply with your request to remove the colony on Tau Cygna Five, but we need time.

SHELIAK  
The given time has elapsed. We carry the membership and we will proceed with their debarkation.

TROI  
The temporary presence of these humans should not interfere with your plans.

41 CONTINUED:

SHELIAK

Unacceptable. You must remove  
the creatures.

PICARD

I'm trying! But the needed ship  
won't be available for three  
weeks.

SHELIAK

Then you are in violation.

PICARD

I have admitted that! I'm only  
asking for a little tolerance.

SHELIAK

Section five hundred and one,  
paragraph seven hundred and  
sixteen, subparagraph five --  
unwanted lifeforms inhabiting H  
class worlds may be removed at  
the discretion of the Sheliak  
corporate.

PICARD

We will remove them. But you  
must grant us the time we require.

SHELIAK

You need time, Picard of the  
Enterprise, we will save you time.  
We will eradicate the human  
infestation.

PICARD

(outraged)

They are not vermin! They are  
citizens of the Federation and  
I will not permit this travesty!

41 CONTINUED: (2)

SHELIAK

Intelligent converse is  
impossible. You do not discuss,  
you gibber.

PICARD

Between intelligent species of  
good will --

Suddenly the Sheliak transporter kicks in, and slams Picard and Troi back to the Enterprise. They have been rudely thrown out on their ears.

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The startling EFFECT of the Sheliak transporter and Picard and Troi APPEAR. Riker, Worf, and the supernumeraries at Conn and Ops react.

Picard and Troi are both very disoriented, staggering slightly. Riker steadies them both.

RIKER

I take it the Sheliak just hung up on us. Again.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

42A INT. ARD'RIAN'S LIVING ROOM

Ard'rian worriedly inspects the unmoving Data with an electronic scanner. Data twitches, "reboots," comes back to life, and sits up. Ard'rian SIGHS, relieved.

ARD'RIAN

I was afraid your neural pathways were scrambled beyond repair.

DATA

I am equipped with diagnostic circuits and can correct many malfunctions.

Data moves his head, arms, and legs, testing his responses.

ARD'RIAN

I'm not surprised at Gosheven's behavior. But Kentor and the others... they said they were on our side.

(bitter)

I guess words don't mean very much.

Data mulls this over carefully.

DATA

Perhaps that has been part of our difficulty. Words are all we have been using.

(thinking)

Humans seem to take much stronger notice of actions.

Data makes a decision, gets to his feet.

DATA (cont'd)

I require a phaser.

ARD'RIAN

What's a phaser?

DATA

A type of weapon. Unfortunately it will not function in the presence of hyperonic radiation.

42A CONTINUED:

Data ponders this new problem for a beat, then shrugs it off:

DATA (cont'd)  
I will have to be innovative.

CUT TO:

42B INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - CYGNA FIVE - DAY

Data has opened up a phaser and is adapting it. His forearm is opened, revealing his arm's inner workings; Data is "cannibalizing" his arm for parts to modify the phaser. Ard'rian looks on in fascination.

DATA  
Hyperonic radiation randomizes phaser beams. But I believe I can improvise a servocircuit which will compensate by continuously recollimating the output.

ARD'RIAN  
You're using your own neural subprocessors to build a smarter phaser.

DATA  
Essentially correct.

Ard'rian's impressed. Data completes his work.

DATA (cont'd)  
Get word to Gosheven. Tell him I am coming to the pumping station. Tell him I am going to destroy the aqueduct.

Ard'rian is gaping like a carp over this, doesn't know what to say. Finally manages:

ARD'RIAN  
He'll try to stop you --

DATA  
I sincerely hope so.

Off Ard'rian's expression:

CUT TO:

43 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise hanging motionless in space with the Sheliak ship.

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

PICARD  
(to Worf)  
Go to Yellow Alert. Shields up.

WORF  
Aye, sir.

PICARD  
Mister Riker, put us nose to nose with the Sheliak ship. If she makes a move, match it.

RIKER  
Aye, sir.

PICARD  
Open a hailing frequency.

44 CONTINUED:

WORF  
They're not responding, sir.

PICARD  
(tight control)  
They don't have to answer. They just have to listen! Sheliak vessel, you will have to go through me to get at the colony on Tau Cygna Five!

45  
thru OMITTED  
46

47 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

WORF  
No response.

PICARD  
Close channel -- and get me that treaty! They've been beating us over the head with it for three days. Let's see if we can't find something in it that can be turned to our advantage.

RIKER  
We're going to try to beat them at their own game?

WORF  
The treaty is how long?

TROI  
Five hundred thousand words.

WORF  
(glumly)  
We are going to regret Data's absence.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - MAIN STREET - DAY (OPTICAL)

The square. FOUR MEN armed with rifles stand shoulder to shoulder in front of the plant and aqueduct. Standing defiant and unarmed, save for the probe at his belt, on an upper level is Gosheven.

48 CONTINUED:

Off to one side are a number of colonists (including Ard'rian, Haritath, and Kentor), nervously awaiting the outcome.

Then a PHASER STUN hits one of the armed men; he drops. As the others whirl to take aim --

48A NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

A PHASER BEAM sweeps across the line of armed men, STUNNING them instantly. No one even gets a shot off.

Gosheven, astonished, reaches for the probe at his belt. Data calmly stands up from his hiding place, aims his phaser. Gosheven freezes -- it's futile; obviously Data could stun him before he could get anywhere near Data.

48B WIDER (OPTICAL)

as Data steps out into the street, holds his phaser up for all to see.

DATA  
That was the "stun" setting.

Data switches the setting on the phaser --

DATA (cont'd)  
This is not.

Data turns, BLASTS the control panel on the aqueduct. A shower of SPARKS. EFFECT as the reaction races up the aqueduct. The water stops flowing. Gosheven is speechless. Data addresses the colonists:

DATA (cont'd)  
I could reduce this pumping station to a pile of debris...  
but I trust my point is clear.  
I am one android with a single weapon. There are hundreds of Sheliak on the way... and their weapons are far more powerful.

Data pauses. The colonists are dead silent.

48B CONTINUED:

DATA (cont'd)  
And the Sheliak may not even offer  
you a target. They can obliterate  
this colony from orbit. You will  
die never having seen the faces  
of your killers.

Data walks deliberately to one of the stunned  
defenders, picks up the rifle with his free hand, holds  
it out to the group of colonists.

DATA (cont'd)  
The choice is yours.

The colonists look at one another. Finally:

KENTOR  
There are other places -- other  
challenges. It's time to move  
on.

And Kentor EXITS. One by one, the colonists follow  
him. The mantle of leadership has passed.

48C NEW ANGLE

Gosheven, slumped shouldered, bends and scoops up a  
handful of dirt at the base of the silent pool. Data  
moves to join him.

GOSHEVEN  
I really was willing to stay and  
die for this.

DATA  
I know that, but it is just a  
thing, and things can be replaced.  
Lives cannot. Live, rebuild and  
be remembered.

A long beat. Then Gosheven wipes his hand on his  
pants, and walks back to join his people.

49 OMITTED

50 ANGLE ON DATA

watching Gosheven go. Data looks down at the phaser for several moments, then holsters it. He looks up to find Ard'rian gazing at him with an expression of pride and love.

51 OMITTED

52 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Troi is seated at Science One with Picard hanging over her shoulder. Riker and Worf are at Science Two. Pages of treaty crawl past on both screens.

WORF

This is hopeless. Fighting would be preferable.

A look from Riker.

PICARD

That's it.

He indicates a clause.

TROI

I don't follow you, sir.

PICARD

Worf, get me the Sheliak.

WORF

(just heard the  
reprieve)

Yes, sir!

Picard, Riker and Troi return to the command station. The strange Sheliak scene replaces a view of the ship.

PICARD

Pursuant to paragraph one thousand two hundred and ninety I formally request third party arbitration of our dispute.

A beat while they look it up.

SHELIAK

Agreed.

52 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
And further, pursuant to  
subsection D, three, I name the  
Grizzelas to arbitrate.

SHELIAK  
Grizzelas?

Riker glances, puzzled, at Troi.

RIKER  
(mouths)  
Grizzelas?

Troi quells him with a look.

PICARD  
Unfortunately they are currently  
in their hibernation cycle, but  
they'll awaken in six months, and  
then we'll get this matter  
settled. Now, do you want to  
wait... or give me my three weeks?

SHELIAK  
Absurd. We carry the membership!  
We can brook no delay!

PICARD  
Then I declare the treaty in  
abeyance!

SHELIAK  
Wait! Negotiation is --

Picard gestures to Worf -- cut the transmission. Worf obeys. A long beat.

RIKER  
(smiling)  
You enjoyed that.

PICARD  
You're damn right.

WORF  
Captain, they are hailing us.

Picard studies his nails. Takes a turn around the bridge. Settles himself back in the command chair.

52 CONTINUED: (2)

WORF  
(continuing)  
Sir?

PICARD  
(a beat)  
On screen.

The Sheliak reappear.

SHELIAK  
You may have your three weeks,  
Picard of the Enterprise.

PICARD  
(with careful  
enunciation)  
Thank you.

The screen returns to a view of the Sheliak ship pulling away. Instant release of tension. Suddenly the turbolift doors open, and Geordi ENTERS. He is looking frazzled. People's expressions reflect the thought that "dear God, he did it."

GEORDI  
Captain, we can do it! We can modify the transporters.

PICARD  
Excellent.

GEORDI  
It'll take fifteen years, and a research team of a hundred --

PICARD  
(dryly)  
Mister La Forge, I believe we will postpone.

GEORDI  
(with a grin)  
Yes, sir.

Geordi EXITS.

CUT TO:

53 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - SHUTTLE LANDING SITE - DAY

Data is inside the shuttle making preparations for departure.

DATA  
Commander Data to Enterprise.  
I am preparing to leave Tau Cygna  
Five and await rendezvous  
instructions.

WORF'S COM VOICE  
Acknowledged. Stand by.

Outside the shuttle, Ard'rian approaches. Data sees her, emerges from the shuttle to meet her.

ARD'RIAN  
Hi.

DATA  
Hello, Ard'rian.

ARD'RIAN  
The evacuation plan is going well.  
When the transport ship arrives,  
we'll be ready.  
(a beat)  
You succeeded.

DATA  
I would not have succeeded without your support and insight, and I appreciate your assistance.

ARD'RIAN  
Good. Then you won't forget me?

DATA  
I am incapable of forgetting.  
I will remember every detail of my visit with perfect clarity.

ARD'RIAN  
But nothing more?

DATA  
I do not understand.

53 CONTINUED:

Ard'rian bites the bullet:

ARD'RIAN

I guess what I really want to know  
is -- do you have any feelings  
for me?

DATA

I have no feelings of any kind.

Ard'rian is silent.

ARD'RIAN

No. Of course you don't.

Data studies her. She's downcast. Mimicking her behavior earlier, he gives her a quick kiss on the lips, startling her.

ARD'RIAN (cont'd)

What was that for?

DATA

You appeared to require it.

ARD'RIAN

You observed I was unhappy and did what you concluded would make me feel better. A purely rational deduction.

She's still downcast.

DATA

Have I disappointed you?

ARD'RIAN

No, I'm disappointed in myself -- for wanting something I know I can't have.

(a beat)

Data, in so many ways you're superior to humans. But you are still a machine... without emotion.

DATA

Yes.

53 CONTINUED: (2)

ARD'RIAN

It's so easy to believe otherwise.  
It's so easy to read things into  
your behavior... and perceive  
feelings where none exist.

(a beat)

Well, I am human and I do have  
feelings... silly though they may  
be at times. I like you, Data.  
You're my favorite android.

DATA

But I am the only android you have  
ever met.

ARD'RIAN

Rational to the last.

53 CONTINUED: (3)

And with a smile, Ard'rian EXITS. Data climbs into the shuttle, and the door closes.

CUT TO:

54 OMITTED

55 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Picard is listening to a recording of Data's string quartet concert in Ten Forward. DOOR CHIME.

PICARD

Come.

Data ENTERS.

PICARD (cont'd)

Welcome home, Mister Data. Well done.

DATA

Thank you, sir.

PICARD

The good doctor was kind enough to provide me with a recording of your concert. Your performance shows a good deal of feeling.

DATA

As I have lately had to remind others, I have no feelings.

PICARD

That's hard to believe; your playing is quite beautiful.

DATA

Strictly speaking, it is not "my" playing. It is a precise imitation of the techniques of Jascha Heifetz and Trenka Bron-Ken.

55 CONTINUED:

PICARD

And is there nothing of Data in  
what I'm hearing?

Data ponders this.

PICARD (cont'd)

You chose the violinists.  
Heifetz and Bron-Ken had  
radically different styles, but  
you combined them -- successfully.

DATA

I suppose I have learned to be  
innovative... when necessary, sir.

Picard nods. He's made his point.

PICARD

Mister Data... I look forward to  
your next concert.

On Data's thoughtful expression, we:

56 OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END