

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
	ENGINEERS (2)
O'BRIEN	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

USS ENTERPRISE
 MAIN BRIDGE
 TEN FORWARD
 OBSERVATION LOUNGE
 TRANSPORTER ROOM
 CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

TAU CYGNA FIVE
 ARD'RIAN'S FRONT ROOM

SHELIAK WARSHIP

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

TAU CYGNA FIVE
 FRONTIER TOWN

 TOWN SQUARE
 AQUEDUCT
 PUMPING STATION
 DATA'S SHUTTLE

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'SMARITH	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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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...

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.

STAR TREK: "Ensigns of Command" - REV. 7/13/89 - ACT THREE 36.

32 ANGLE ON DATA

standing with Ard'rian.

DATA
(almost to himself)
Then here you die.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

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.

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'marith. 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.

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.

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, slump 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'rrian 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