

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Hollow Pursuits"

#40273-169

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FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "Hollow Pursuits" 2/15/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Hollow Pursuits"

CAST

PICARD BARCLAY
RIKER
DATA
BEVERLY
TROI
GEORDI
WORF
WESLEY

GUINAN
O'BRIEN
DUFFY
COMPUTER VOICE

Non-Speaking
 SUPERNUMERARIES
 ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS
 SECURITY GUARD
 COSTA

STAR TREK: "Hollow Pursuits" 2/9/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Hollow Pursuits"

SETS

INTERIORS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
MAIN ENGINEERING
CARGO BAY
TEN-FORWARD
TROI'S OFFICE
CORRIDOR
TURBOLIFT
TRANSPORTER
HOLODECK ENTRANCE

HOLODECK

MAIN BRIDGE
TEN-FORWARD
TROI'S OFFICE
GLADE
PICNIC SETTING
A HILL

STAR TREK: "Hollow Pursuits" - 2/14/90 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Hollow Pursuits"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

CORRELIUM	kor-REL-lee-um
INVIDIUM	in-VID-ee-um
JAKMANITE	JACK-man-nite
LUCROVEXITRIN	loo-kro-VEX-ah-tren
METALLURGY	MEH-tahl-urj-ee
MIKULAKS	MICK-ah-lacks
NAHMI	NAH-me
NUCLEO-SYNTHESIS	NEW-kleo SIN-thee-sis
SALTZGADUM	SALTS-gad-um
SELGNINAEM	selg-nen-NAY-um
ZHUKOV	ZOO-kov

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Hollow Pursuits"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. TEN FORWARD/HOLODECK (OPTICAL)

Lieutenant ENDICOTT REGINALD BARCLAY THE THIRD slouches at the bar. Scattered around the room are HOLO-TROI, who sits provocatively at a table in her off the shoulder dress; HOLO-RIKER seated at the end of the bar and mumbling into his drink, OTHERS. There should be the suggestion of something bogus about the scene, like a bad John Wayne movie, rife with cliches and over-acting. Holo-Guinan walks over to Barclay... with a bottle of whisky and a shot glass.

HOLO-GUINAN

I don't want any trouble,
Barlcay...

BARCLAY

Trouble? Why would there be
trouble?

HOLO-GUINAN

There's always trouble when you
come in here.

Barclay just grins. As he opens the bottle and pours a shot... HOLO-GEORDI ENTERS, comes up behind Barclay.

HOLO-GEORDI

You're on duty, Lieutenant.

BARCLAY

Is that a fact?

HOLO-GEORDI

It is, and you'll observe it.
Get back to your post.

BARCLAY

Look, pal. Do me a favor. Take
yourself and your holier-than-thou
attitude and get out of my life.

During the above, Holo-Riker looks up from his position at the bar, stands, moves over.

1 CONTINUED:

HOLO-RIKER

This is insubordination, Mister
Barclay.

BARCLAY

So punish me.

HOLO-RIKER

(keys insignia)
Security to Ten-Forward!

A SECURITY CREWMAN ENTERS and heads for Barclay. In
a blur of a movement, Barclay manages to flip him
neatly onto the floor. All stare at him, stunned.

1 CONTINUED:

The Holo-Guard groans, Barclay smirks, takes a gulp of synthehol and gestures with the glass at Holo-Riker.

BARCLAY
"Insubordination."

Holo-Riker seizes his arm and slops the drink; Barclay turns quickly, gets a half-Nelson on Holo-Riker and strains him painfully against the counter.

BARCLAY
Riker, you're nothing but a pretty mannequin dressed up in a fancy uniform. You're full of hot air, and if Picard has a problem with me, he can come and tell me himself...

Barclay gives him one last hard push before releasing him. Defeated, Holo-Riker slips wearily down and leans against the bar. Barclay moves threateningly at Holo-Geordi, who retreats, runs out of the room, scared to death. Barclay saunters over to the table where Holo-Troi is seated. He picks up her willing hand.

HOLO-TROI
I feel your confidence, your arrogant resolve. It excites me.

COM VOICE OF THE REAL GEORDI --

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
Lieutenant Barclay, report to Cargo Bay Five now.

BARCLAY
(to Troi)
This will have to wait, darling.
(to com)
Um... Be right there.
(to the room)
Freeze program. Exit.

All the human figures FREEZE. Barclay heads toward the o.s. Holodeck doors.

BARCLAY
Save program.

Ten Forward vanishes... he EXITS.

2 INT. CORRIDOR

Barclay steps into the corridor, a much altered man. The hero of the hour has been replaced with a shy individual with a perpetual frown born of stress and unhappiness between his brows. He is hustling because he's late. Troi comes briskly around a corner. She's headed straight for him. He steps aside for her. Troi nods in greeting, gives him a kindly but perfunctory smile and moves on. We barely notice Barclay sigh as he moves on.

3 INT. CARGO BAY (OPTICAL)

O'BRIEN is operating the transporter console... several canisters MATERIALIZE. A couple of ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS (named DUFFY and COSTA) move the canisters from the transporter pad to an antigrav unit. Geordi is studying an open panel on the unit which is out of service... Riker is listening to him gripe about Barclay.

GEORDI

I just don't know what to do with him. He's always late, never gives his best effort, always slides by... I can't deal with it anymore. How does a guy like him ever make it through the Academy...

RIKER

(agrees)

I think it's time we talked to the captain about Broccoli.

(off Geordi's look)

That's what Wesley calls him. Keep it to yourself.

GEORDI

It fits.

3A ANGLE

as they see Barclay ENTER... moving to him... a throw-away piece of business -- Duffy discovers a canister with a trace of GASEOUS NITROGEN leaking from it.

DUFFY

A broken seal, Commander.

3A CONTINUED:

GEORDI

You better destroy it. Those
samples will be tainted.

Duffy and the other supernumerary take the canister away. Barclay tries to slither past Riker and Geordi. What we notice most about him is that he is uncomfortable around other people to the point of agony... he rarely makes eye contact... when he speaks, he hesitates, desperately afraid of saying the wrong thing... which he occasionally does.

GEORDI

Is it a problem for you to report
to duty on time, Lieutenant?

3A CONTINUED: (2)

BARCLAY

Problem? Nossir. I'm... I'm very
sorry, sir... it's just... I had
a very important communique...
it required my immediate response
and...

GEORDI

(tired of excuses)
I don't want to hear it... we're
having intermittent problems with
the anti-grav unit, see what you
can do...

Barclay acknowledges and as he moves to the unit...

RIKER

Mister Barclay, I'm tired of
seeing your name on report.

(a beat)

I don't know what you got away
with on your last posting, but
this is the Enterprise. We set
a different standard here.
Understood?

And for a beat, Barclay looks at Riker and it is quite
a different moment than the Holodeck.

BARCLAY

Understood... sir.

Riker exchanges a glance with Geordi then EXITS as
Barclay meekly goes to work...

FADE OUT.

END OF THE TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit around a PLANET.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43807.4.
We are taking on a load of special
tissue samples donated by the
Mikulaks for shipment to Nahmi
Four. The samples could prove
vital to the containment of an
outbreak of Correllium Fever on
that world.

5 INT. CARGO BAY (OPTICAL)

Barclay closes up the anti-grav panels, looks up at
Geordi...

BARCLAY

(shrugs)

Everything looks... it looks
normal to me...

He turns it on and the antigrav unit comes to life...
rises a few feet off the floor. Duffy starts to move
the unit toward the other end of the cargo bay. Almost
immediately, the antigrav field fails and there is a
CRASH as the pallet falls.

O'BRIEN

Dammit..

Barclay reacts, Geordi turns, looks at him
impatiently...

BARCLAY

I... I don't understand...

Barclay looks guilty, tongue-tied... rushes back to
the anti-grav unit to check it out again.

5A ANGLE

GEORDI

(to com)

La Forge to Engineering... I'll
need more people in Cargo Bay
Five... anyone you can spare.
Out.

He moves to the anti-grav unit, begins to lift a
canister... Geordi looks at Barclay who is still
trying to solve the mystery in the anti-grav unit
panel...

GEORDI

We could use a hand, Mister
Barclay...

Barclay looks up awkwardly at Geordi... moves quickly
to help... and as he takes hold of the canister,
facing Geordi...

BARCLAY

I'll... I'll disassemble it later,
Commander... it shouldn't do
that... well, of course, it
shouldn't do that... I mean...
well, it shouldn't do that.

Two beats as they carry the canister in silence across
the room... Barclay avoids Geordi's glare.

6 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Picard behind his desk. Riker and Geordi. There is
a report on the computer screen on Picard's desk.
Picard indicates the screen.

6 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I'm not accustomed to seeing an unsatisfactory rating for one of my crew.

RIKER

I guess the issue is whether Mister Barclay is Enterprise material.

PICARD

(to Geordi)

I assume from your request for his transfer that you don't think he is, Commander...

Geordi takes a beat -- he's aware of the impact of this answer...

GEORDI

I hate to say it... I always thought I could work with anyone... but I just can't stand the guy. Broccoli makes me nervous... he makes everyone nervous...

PICARD

Broccoli?

RIKER

Young Mister Crusher started it. I'm afraid it's caught on.

PICARD

Let's get it uncaught, shall we?

They acknowledge.

PICARD

By all indications, Barclay has served honorably in Starfleet for many years. His rating aboard the Zhukov was satisfactory... I recall Captain Gleason speaking quite highly of him before his transfer...

RIKER

In retrospect, I wonder if Captain Gleason wasn't buttering our bread a little...

(MORE)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER (Cont'd)

He knew we were looking for a diagnostic engineer.

Picard glances at him. A beat. Frowns.

RIKER

I've reviewed Barclay's psychological profile. He's always had seclusive tendencies... it was noted at the Academy more than once...

PICARD

And yet he chose this way of life; he's made the same commitment to Starfleet that we all have...

(beat)

It's easy to transfer our problem to someone else. Too easy.

GEORDI

Captain, it's not like I haven't tried...

PICARD

Try harder.

The captain studies La Forge... there is an issue of command to be examined here...

PICARD

He's on your team. Manage him. Pull him in. Find ways to help him make a positive contribution. Get to know the man. Make him your best friend.

Geordi smiles with a bit of incredulity...

GEORDI

With all respect, sir... my best friend? I can barely tolerate being in the same room with the man...

PICARD

I suggest you put your personal discomfort with him aside, Commander. Dismissed.

6 CONTINUED: (3)

Geordi exchanges a depressed glance at Riker and they
EXIT...

6A INT. CARGO BAY

Geordi ENTERS... the room is deserted now except for
Barclay who is off to one side looking over the
disassembled antigrav unit. It's open, the guts
exposed as he traces circuits with a sensor. Geordi
frowns to himself as he looks over to Barclay, whose
back is to him.

GEORDI
(muttering, to himself)
My best friend.

He sighs, knows what he has to do, crosses to...

6B ANGLE - BARCLAY

wrapped up in his mystery... Geordi moves up behind
him, and as he pats him on the back...

GEORDI
Hey, Reg...

And Barclay nearly jumps out of his shoes at the
unexpected physical contact... Geordi reacts, covers...

GEORDI
Uh, how's it going?

BARCLAY
Oh, it's... I still haven't traced
the problem, Commander...

GEORDI
(smile, "warm")
That's okay. No rush. Take your
time.

Barclay notes this new tone of voice from Geordi...
glances at him suspiciously... a beat. Doesn't trust
the moment... rushes to fill the gap...

BARCLAY
I've... I've been planning to run
diagnostics on the graviton
inverter circuits...

6B CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Smart plan... well, I'd say we're
in good hands here...

BARCLAY

(still suspicious)
I'll get a preliminary report to
you...

GEORDI

...whenever.

BARCLAY

(beat)
Before the end of the day.

GEORDI

Fine. And say, Reg, how about
sitting in on the mission briefing
with my senior officers in the
morning...

BARCLAY

The briefing? Me?

GEORDI

I'd just like your input...

BARCLAY

On what? I mean, should I prepare
something...

GEORDI

No... no... just be there. Eight
hundred hours.

BARCLAY

I'll be on time, sir.

GEORDI

Good.

And he's about to pat Barclay on the back once more,
thinks better of it... as he turns to leave, an
exasperated expression fills his face... and Barclay
sighs, glad this is over.

6C EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

At warp.

7 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Geordi ENTERS with WESLEY...

GEORDI

Morning. Start your brains, and
let's do it.

They all gather around the pool table for the morning
briefing. After a beat, Barclay rushes in late, out of
breath... Geordi nods to him.

GEORDI

(points to injectors
on schematic)

Okay, this trip to Nahmi Four is
pretty routine. We'll have plenty
of time to realign the magnetic
capacitors in both the matter and
anti-matter injectors.

(light hearted groans)

Duffy, Costa, that'll be your
assignment.

DUFFY

We probably ought to do the flow
regulator maintenance at the same
time, Commander.

GEORDI

Good idea.

(moving on)

Ensign Crusher is putting in some
hours with us this week as part
of his training duties... he'll
be assigned to assist you, Mister
Myers. Be sure and teach him the
difference between impulse and
warp drive.

(chuckles all around)

Lieutenant Barclay is working on
the mystery of the anti-grav
failure we had yesterday... your
preliminary report had a couple
of interesting theories, Reg...

Geordi waits a beat for Barclay to pick it up and run
with it. He doesn't. After an awkward beat...

7 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Why don't you summarize your findings so far, Reg...

As Barclay begins to answer, we can see him growing more and more uncomfortable under the gaze of his fellow engineers.

BARCLAY

Yes.

(clears his throat)

It wasn't a maintenance problem... everything checked out. I... I'm going to check for... a surge in... the transfer coils.

WESLEY

(certain)

A coil surge wouldn't have resulted in a field dissipation.

Attention now focuses on Wesley. Barclay flushes slightly as Wesley inadvertently steals his thunder.

BARCLAY

I... I... I realize that...

GEORDI

(trying to rescue the situation)

But we shouldn't ignore the possibility, Wes...

WESLEY

You ought to take a look at the flow capacitor. That could have forced a chain collapse of the antigrav field.

Everyone looks at Barclay again.

BARCLAY

I... was going to.

And it looks like Barclay is just jumping on Wesley's idea... Geordi wants to bail out of this...

GEORDI

Good. Okay, then... let's go over the realignment procedure...

7 CONTINUED: (2)

As Geordi starts to go on with the rest of the meeting, we PUSH IN on Barclay's terribly uncomfortable expression...

8 INT. TROI'S OFFICE (HOLODECK)

It appears that Barclay is in therapy with Troi. She sits, listening intently... Barclay pacing the office in front of her. When he speaks, it is forceful, without hesitation.

BARCLAY

I just didn't know what to say.

HOLO-TROI

What do you wish you had said?

BARCLAY

I should have told him to mind his own damned business... I knew about the flow capacitor... I didn't need to hear about it from a seventeen year old kid.

HOLO-TROI

You're letting it get you much too upset.

BARCLAY

You think so?

Holo-Troi gives him a very sympathetic look, gets up and stands closer to him.

HOLO-TROI

Why are you so hard on yourself?

BARCLAY

You don't know... it's hard out there.

HOLO-TROI

I understand, but let go of it. You're here now.

BARCLAY

(beat)

You're right, of course.

8 CONTINUED:

HOLO-TROI
(a small smile)
Of course.

She reaches out for him as if to comfort him, but instead begins to caress his arms and shoulders while her stance and expression take on a smoldering sexuality.

HOLO-TROI
Let me help you relax.

BARCLAY
I'd like that.

HOLO-TROI
I knew you would.

And she leans into him, puts her arms around him and kisses him passionately...

8A NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

BARCLAY
Mmm, nice... but I'm in the mood
for someplace a little more...
unusual...
(beat)
Computer. Run Barclay Program
Fifteen.

We stay on Barclay, but lose Holo-Troi, as the surroundings change to --

9 EXT. GLADE (HOLODECK)

A glade with a few small hills, rock formations, some trees, grass, a pond. As different as can be from the world Barclay lives in... peaceful, green, remote... a warm breeze flutters through the trees... Barclay takes a deep, cleansing breath... turns to see ---

9A ANGLE - HOLO-TROI

dressed in flowing Grecian robes which reveal a good deal of her anatomy, atop a part of a crumbling wall or section of ruins, stunning... as the breeze lifts her hair, her robes... and she reaches out to Barclay...

9A CONTINUED:

HOLO-TROI

I am the Goddess of Empathy. Cast
off your inhibitions and embrace
love, truth, joy...

And he runs up the hill to her as they dissolve in each
others' arms... we boom to a dramatic rising shot
against the wondrous landscape and...

10 INT. TEN-FORWARD

Data, Wesley, Geordi, Duffy seated at a table. All
except Data are drinking various beverages.

WESLEY

But I thought that's the point
of the briefing... to discuss
different approaches...

GEORDI

I'm not saying you did anything
wrong, Wes... it's just that
Barclay's... well, my new
project.

DUFFY

(shakes his head)
Yeah, Broccoli's a real project
all right...

GEORDI

(frowns, hates the job)
I just gotta draw him out more...

WESLEY

And I shut him down.
(with pity)
Poor Broccoli.

DATA

Pardon me, but why is Lieutenant
Barclay being referred to
clandestinely as a vegetable?

WESLEY

It's a joke, Data... you know,
a nickname.

10 CONTINUED:

DATA

Nicknames generally denote
fondness, a diminutive shared
between friends. This does not
sound friendly.

He's got them there. Wesley and Duffy look a little
uncomfortable.

GEORDI

Data's absolutely right. The
nickname stops here and now.
Captain's orders.

Suddenly, the glass in Duffy's hand begins leaking
badly... the drink spilling on the table...

DUFFY

What the hell... ?

He stands and puts the glass down... and the others
react, and Geordi throws a napkin on the table to catch
the liquid...

WESLEY

What happened to your glass?

And push in as Data picks it up... the glass has been
mangled in the shape of Duffy's hand. On reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 EXT SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Moving at warp speed.

12 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Data and Geordi are examining the glass from Ten Forward with a tricorder and one of the consoles on the bulkhead. Barclay is in the b.g. working on some console.

DATA

Nucleo-synthesis. The structure of the glass has been altered at the atomic level.

GEORDI

A problem with the replicator?

DATA

Unlikely. A problem with the replicator would have affected the contents as well as the glass. But the liquid in the glass was a perfect replication of a dark ale of Earth origin which I believe is what Lieutenant Duffy ordered.

GEORDI

I can't detect any residual radiation or unusual chemical compounds that would have caused this.

DATA

The most probable explanation is that the glass came into contact with an unshielded power source.

GEORDI

(slightly dismayed)

That means a complete diagnostic check of the Enterprise power systems. All four thousand of them.

Beat as he turns toward Barclay...

12 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Have I got the man for this job...

(calling)

Hey, Reg...

Barclay looks up with a start... me again? Moving to him --

GEORDI

Busy?

BARCLAY

Well, I was just... no, not really... what?

GEORDI

(handing him the cup)

Got another mystery for you... somehow the molecular structure of this cup from Ten-Forward has been altered...

As Barclay studies it, to Data...

GEORDI

Mister Barclay is the Sherlock Holmes of the technical support crew...

Data knows Geordi's assignment, wishes to be supportive of Barclay.

DATA

A fascinating vocation, Mister Barclay. I am a student of Sherlock Holmes mysteries and I would enjoy discussing some of your cases at your leisure.

Barclay looks at them both curiously.

BARCLAY

My cases... ?

GEORDI

(to Barclay, indicating glass)

Uh, Reg, we're gonna have to run through the power systems, to see if there's some kind of leak that caused this.

12 CONTINUED: (2)

BARCLAY

I had to... I was going to do it
anyway...

GEORDI

You were?

BARCLAY

To... to try and explain the
anti-grav unit failure... I still
can't... nothing about it makes
sense.

DATA

Then it is possible these two very
disparate incidents could be
related.

Data and Geordi exchange a glance...

13 OMITTED

14 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

At the science station, starting close on the mangled
glass... pulling back to find Riker listening to Geordi
who has deliberately brought Barclay along. Data is
there too. WORF is at his station. Picard is ENTERING
from the Ready Room in the background.

GEORDI

I wouldn't bother you with
something this minor, Commander...
but it may be a symptom of a more
serious problem...

RIKER

You think we'll need to put in
to a starbase?

GEORDI

We'll have a better idea after
Mister Barclay runs a check of
the power systems...

DATA

It was Lieutenant Barclay who
first suggested the link between
the two incidents, sir.

14 CONTINUED:

BARCLAY

No, it wasn't. Not really.

Picard hears this... and wanting to throw his support behind Barclay, comes over, examines the glass...

PICARD

Will your investigation affect our available power during the mission, Lieutenant?

BARCLAY

No... nossir... we'll have to shut off some systems... they'll be down a few at a time... it shouldn't... I don't think so.

PICARD

Good. I look forward to your report, Mister Broccoli.

A brief, poisonous silence.

PICARD

Barclay.

Barclay's face turns red...

BARCLAY

If you'll excuse me.

He moves quickly to the turbolift, EXITS. A beat. Then Data offers...

DATA

Metathesis is one of the most common of pronunciation errors, sir... a reversal of vowel and consonant, "bark" to "broc"...

A sharp look from Picard shuts him up. Picard sits in command. Off Geordi's look...

14A INT. TEN FORWARD (OPTICAL)

Guinan looks across the bar at Geordi.

GUINAN

Yes, I know him... comes in here, stands at the bar, doesn't say much... always orders a warm milk.

14A CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Figures.

GUINAN

Warm milk helps you sleep, La Forge. You should try it. What's that got to do with Barclay?

GEORDI

(frowns)

I don't know. I'm just trying to figure the man out, that's all. You ever talk to him?

GUINAN

He's not much for talking.

GEORDI

Does he have any friends?

GUINAN

Not that I've seen.

GEORDI

(shakes his head)

What do you do with a guy like that?

GUINAN

I give him his warm milk and let him be.

GEORDI

Yeah, well, I'm not so lucky. I can't let him be. He's my problem.

GUINAN

(beat)

He's imaginative.

GEORDI

How do you know that?

GUINAN

I just do.

GEORDI

Well, then maybe he's in the wrong line of work.

14A CONTINUED: (2)

GUINAN

You engineering types don't appreciate imagination... ?

GEORDI

That's not it, Guinan... he just doesn't fit in here...

GUINAN

Terkim.

GEORDI

What?

GUINAN

Reminds me of Terkim. My mother's brother. A kind of family misfit. Everybody told me to stay away from him. Bad influence.

GEORDI

Did you?

GUINAN

Are you kidding? He was the only member of the family with a sense of humor. But no one ever stayed around him long enough to realize it... except me. My mother says I take after him. I probably do. Because the idea of "fitting in" repels me, too.

She looks challengingly at Geordi.

GEORDI

Maybe I didn't make myself clear... Barclay, he's always late... he's nervous... nobody wants to be around him...

GUINAN

If I had the feeling that nobody wanted to be around me, I'd probably be late and nervous too.

Geordi frowns.

GEORDI

Guinan, that's not the point...

14A CONTINUED: (3)

GUINAN
Are you sure?

GEORDI
(beat, exasperated)
I'll take another one of these.

GUINAN
Get it yourself.

And she walks away. He reacts.

GEORDI
(sighs, keys insignia)
Computer, where is Lieutenant
Barclay?

15
thru OMITTED
16

16A EXT. GLADE/HOLODECK

Close on the arch as it slides open to reveal Geordi who ENTERS and reacts as he sees the glade...

GEORDI
Reg... ?

But as we move with him to reveal the setting, there is no sign of Barclay... then as he moves in further he sees --

16B ANGLE -- A PICNIC SETTING

as exquisite as a Gainsborough canvas... a swing suspended from a tree branch on which the image of a woman is swinging in flowing petticoats, a silent garment draped on the grass and spread with delicacies... a boy dressed as "Blue Boy" eating messily with his hands... as Geordi moves closer, he reacts as we reveal the woman and child to be Holo-Beverly and Holo-Wesley...

GEORDI
Beverly?

Holo-Beverly looks up and smiles.

16B CONTINUED:

HOLO-BEVERLY
Good morning, Mi-lord.
(looks at Wesley)
Manners, my son. Manners. You
embarrass me before our guest.

Holo-Wesley ignores his mother, lifts a whole
blueberry pie with his hands and bites into, leaving
a blue stain around his mouth...

HOLO-BEVERLY
Master Barclay will spank you if
you don't behave.

HOLO-WESLEY
(sullen)
I don't care.

He takes another bite of pie. Geordi can't believe
his eyes...

GEORDI
(to himself)
Wesley... ?

And he suppresses a laugh...

HOLO-WESLEY
(to Geordi)
What do you want?

GEORDI
Ah, well, I guess I want... Master
Barclay.

HOLO-BEVERLY
The boys got into another little
scrap, I'm afraid. But boys will
be boys.

The sound of a sword fight turns Geordi's attention
to--

16C ANGLE - A HILL

Coming over the rise, backing toward him is Barclay (in
uniform) ... in classic swordsmanship stance, his sword
moving with lightning speed fighting off unseen
adversaries...

16C CONTINUED:

and then as he moves backwards and they follow, we see whom he's fighting -- Holo-Picard, Holo-Data and Holo-Geordi dressed as the three musketeers...

HOLO-GEORDI

You cannot withstand our assault forever, Barclay.

HOLO-DATA

Say you will yield and it ends here...

BARCLAY

(smiles, confident)

I will speak with my sword, sir...

A flourish of extraordinary moves and Barclay disarms both Holo-Data and Holo-Geordi... booting them both off the hill as...

16D THE REAL GEORDI

below reacts and...

16E THE FIGHT

between Holo-Picard Musketeer and Barclay continues up the rocks... Holo-Picard backing up now, fighting for his life, breathing heavily...

HOLO-PICARD

Where in God's name did you learn to fight like this, man?

BARCLAY

Self-taught, my good capitaine. Shall I give you a few lessons?

An acrobatic move and Holo-Picard's sword goes flying... and as Holo-Picard stands there, the tip of Barclay's sword at his chest, shivering in his boots, he sees the real Geordi below, watching...

HOLO-PICARD

Who is that? One of your allies?

BARCLAY

Jean-Luc. Not that old trick. I'm disappointed in you.

16E CONTINUED:

Geordi coughs from o.s... Barclay reacts... follows
Holo-Picard's look and goes pale as he sees --

16F ANGLE - THE REAL GEORDI

looking up at him.

17 INT. TEN FORWARD (OPTICAL)

Barclay and Geordi at a table.

BARCLAY

I'll... I'll make it easy for you,
Commander. I'll just request
reassignment...

GEORDI

Now, wait a minute...

BARCLAY

Look, we both know... the whole
ship knows... I can't cut it here.

GEORDI

Hey, Barclay... I've spent a few
hours in the Holodeck myself, you
know.

Barclay gives him a look... and this is the first real
compassion that Geordi has had for Barclay.

GEORDI

Far as I'm concerned... what you
do in the Holodeck is your own
business... as long as it doesn't
affect your work.

BARCLAY

(reacts)

You're... you're not going to tell
anyone about this?

Guinan arrives with a tray of warm milk for two. She
makes eye contact with Geordi.

GEORDI

(no)

I'm not sure everyone would
appreciate your... imagination...
like I do.

17 CONTINUED:

He glances at Guinan who leaves.

GEORDI

(curious)

It is kind of unusual...
recreating people you already
know...

The unspoken question is why?

BARCLAY

(sighs)

I was just kind of really...
well, it was just... I needed to
blow off some steam... because
one... one of the officers had
been on my back...

GEORDI

Let me guess...

BARCLAY

Okay, it was you. And I couldn't
tell you what I wanted to, to your
face... and it just sort of...
I guess it got out of control.

GEORDI

(warm, smiles)

I don't know... sounds like maybe
there's a side to this that's kind
of therapeutic... we ought to tell
Counselor Troi about it.

BARCLAY

It's... it's just more
comfortable... when I'm in there.

(looks down)

You don't know what a struggle
it is for me, Commander.

GEORDI

I'd like to help if I can.

BARCLAY

(shakes his head, you
can't)

Being afraid all the time that
I'll forget somebody's name. Or
not knowing what to do with my
hands...

(MORE)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

BARCLAY (Cont'd)

I mean, I'm the guy who writes down things to remember to say when there's a party. And when I get there, I'll wind up alone in a corner trying to look comfortable examining a potted plant.

(sighs)

Sometimes, I just don't want to get out of bed in the morning.

GEORDI

Sometimes, neither do I.

BARCLAY

No, but you're good. You were born to be in Starfleet. Me...

GEORDI

You're just shy, Barclay.

BARCLAY

(nods, painful)

"Just shy"... sounds like nothing serious, doesn't it... You can't know.

Geordi studies him, concerned.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

O'Brien to La Forge.

Keying his insignia --

GEORDI

Go ahead.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

I need you in Transporter Room Three, Commander.

GEORDI

On my way, Chief.

Geordi looks at Barclay once more...

GEORDI

I really do want you to talk to Counselor Troi, Reg.

17 CONTINUED: (3)

BARCLAY
(reacts)
Troi? No, no, I couldn't.

GEORDI
I mean it. As your friend and
as your commanding officer.

He EXITS... Barclay thinks about what this will be
like... and a dreaded shiver sweeps across his body.

18
thru OMITTED
20

20A INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM THREE (OPTICAL)

O'Brien is setting a transporter test object, a
cylinder three feet tall, six inches in diameter, on
a transporter pad...

O'BRIEN
I was synchronizing the phase
transition coils... I didn't do
anything I haven't done a hundred
times before...

Pull back to see Geordi watching. O'Brien moves to the
console...

O'BRIEN
The test object is made of pure
duranium.

Geordi touches it...

GEORDI
Seems normal enough...

O'BRIEN
Watch this...

As he powers up the transporter, the object
DEMATERIALIZES from one position, MATERIALIZES under
an adjacent transport pad, DEMATERIALIZES again,
MATERIALIZES on the next pad over only this time as
it does, it turns into a flash, burns brightly and
disappears. As Geordi reacts...

GEORDI
I'm glad I don't have anywhere
to go.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

at warp.

GEORDI (V.O.)

Chief engineer's log, Stardate
43808.2. A systems analysis of
Transporter Room Three has yielded
no suggestion of a cause for the
latest malfunction aboard the
Enterprise.

21A INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM THREE

Picard, Riker and Geordi are examining the residue of
the test object.

PICARD

Is this part of the same pattern?

GEORDI

We don't know, Captain. And we
don't know why only Transporter
Room Three is affected... None
of the other Transporter Rooms
are malfunctioning...

RIKER

Yet.

PICARD

(to Riker)

We have twenty-two hours before
we reach Nahmi Four. We'll need
the transporters operational by
then. I want a level one
diagnostic across the board.
(TECH)

RIKER

(acknowledges, to
Geordi)

Advise Mister Barclay to meet us
on the bridge immediately...

21A CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Ah, could we push that back, just
to fourteen hundred hours,
Commander... I've got him doing
something...

RIKER

(nods)
Fourteen hundred hours.
(as they exit)
Mister O'Brien, no maintenance
on the Transporters until further
notice.

O'BRIEN

Aye, sir.

21B
thru OMITTED
22

23 INT. TROI'S OFFICE

Troi is sitting, very much the way she was (and dressed
the same way she was) in Barclay's fantasy. Barclay,
on the other hand, is entirely a different man from
his dreams... dreadfully uncomfortable sitting on the
far end of the couch from her. Troi studies him
sympathetically...

TROI

I can tell this is difficult for
you.

Barclay is just able to nod.

TROI

Is there anything I can do to make
you more comfortable?

BARCLAY

(quick)
No!

She smiles her best therapeutic smile at him.

TROI

Have you ever been with a
counselor before?

23 CONTINUED:

BARCLAY
(swallowing)
Yes. No.

TROI
(smiles)
Which one?

BARCLAY
Yes. But she... it wasn't real...
really a counselor.

TROI
Most people find a counselor
intimidating at first. It's okay
if you feel that way toward me.

BARCLAY
Not... at all.

TROI
Good. Close your eyes... Lean
back.

BARCLAY
Why?

TROI
(standing)
I just want to help you relax.

BARCLAY
(reacts)
You do?

She walks by him... to a light panel... turns the
lights down...

TROI
Put your feet up... it's okay.
And close your eyes...

He puts his feet up... closes his eyes... tight...

BARCLAY
What are you going to do?

TROI
Just listen to the sound of my
voice...

(MORE)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI (Cont'd)

Take a slow deep breath through
your nose... and let it out
through your mouth just as
slowly... good... there, that's
better, isn't it...

BARCLAY

Oh, yes. Oh, yes, much better.
This has been... extremely
helpful...

(standing)

Well, thank-you for your time.

TROI

But...

Backing out...

BARCLAY

Really... very helpful... in
through the nose, out through the
mouth... I'll practice and let
you know... thank you again...

And he's out. Off Troi's puzzled reaction...

24

thru OMITTED

25

25A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

A short time later. Geordi is working at one of the
aft stations along with Data. Wes at Conn,
supernumerary at Ops. Troi ENTERS from turbolift and
goes over to Geordi.

TROI

I had a very strange visit from
one of your officers today.

GEORDI

Barclay. Yes, I can imagine. Were you
able to do anything for him?

TROI

To be honest, I'm not exactly sure
what happened...

25A CONTINUED:

RIKER
(entering from Picard's
Ready Room)
Where is Mister Barclay... it's
past fourteen hundred hours...

Geordi shakes his head, doesn't know.

GEORDI
(touches combadge)
Lieutenant Barclay to the bridge.
(beat of silence)
Lieutenant Barclay report.

There is another awkward silence as Geordi begins to suspect the worst. Riker's features harden.

RIKER
Computer. Locate Lieutenant
Barclay.

COMPUTER VOICE
Lieutenant Barclay is in Holodeck
Two.

Geordi face falls, glances at Troi... Riker is really peeved.

GEORDI
I'll get him...

RIKER
No, I'll handle this. I've had
it with him.

He charges toward the turbolift...

GEORDI
Counselor, you better come
along...

They follow...

26 INT. CORRIDOR

Geordi, Riker, and Troi turn a corner, head for the Holdeck.

26 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

I think you should know that
Barclay's been running some...
unique programs.

RIKER

I don't care what he's been
running. My patience just ran
out.

Riker operates the panel outside the Holodeck doors.
The doors slide aside.

27 EXT. GLADE (HOLODECK)

Continuous. Geordi, Riker, and Troi standing in
Glade.

27A POV RIKER - THE PICNIC SCENE

Holo-Picard, Holo-Data and Holo-Geordi as the three
musketeers sitting on the ground, eating...
Holo-Wesley as Blue Boy with another blueberry pie...
The Holo-characters look over at our real characters'
entrance.

27B RIKER, TROI AND GEORDI

react, Riker ready to blow...

27C OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

28 EXT. GLADE (HOLODECK)

Riker, Geordi, and Troi, as before, staring at the Holo-characters.

GEORDI

Like I said Commander, Barclay's been running some... unusual programs.

Riker's furious...

RIKER

This is a violation of protocol. Crewmembers should not be simulated in the Holodeck...

GEORDI

Ah, Commander... I don't think there's any regulation...

RIKER

Then there should be... computer, discontinue program and erase...

TROI

(interrupting)
Computer, belay that order!

RIKER

Counselor...

TROI

If Barclay is having a difficult time facing reality, to suddenly destroy his only means of escape would be brutal and could do considerable damage.

28A ANGLE - ON THE PICNIC (OPTICAL)

Holo-Picard musketeer glances at his cohorts.

HOLO-PICARD

They are quite disagreeable, aren't they... shall we have a go at them?

28A CONTINUED:

HOLO-DATA

Delighted.

HOLO-GEORDI

We shall thrash them.

They stand, draw their swords... move to the real people...

HOLO-PICARD

En garde.

RIKER

Stop it. Put that down.

HOLO-DATA

Your sword, sir...

RIKER

(impatient)

I don't have a sword.

HOLO-GEORDI

(puzzled)

How do expect to fight without your sword?

RIKER

I don't expect to fight.

Holo-Picard exchanges a glance with his fellows, grins.

HOLO-PICARD

Do I detect a streak of yellow along the good fellow's back?

The holograms laugh.

28B HOLO-WESLEY

laughs, eats his blueberry pie.

28C RESUME SCENE (OPTICAL)

HOLO-PICARD

Perhaps we can supply a more appropriate adversary for him.

(calling)

Number One...

28C CONTINUED:

HOLO-WESLEY
(calling)
Number One...

Holo-Riker as the fourth Musketeer rushes in...

HOLO-RIKER
Am I late? Did I miss the fight?

He's a foot shorter than his real counterpart... and
the difference is not lost on Troi.

HOLO-RIKER
En garde...
(looks closely at Riker,
reacts)
Sir... you have a familiar
bearing... is it possible we have
crossed swords somewhere before?

RIKER
(furious)
Where is he? Where is Barclay?

HOLO-RIKER
Ah, a personal grudge. I warn
you... you would be wise to put
your affairs in final order before
you meet him in combat. You
challenge the greatest sword in
all the...

RIKER
... in all the Holodeck.

Troi suppresses a laugh.

RIKER
(to Troi)
You think this is funny?

TROI
You are very tall. It could be
very threatening to some people.

RIKER
Barclay'll find out what it means
to be threatened. Computer,
discontinue image of Riker.

The hologram of Riker disappears. The other musketeers
react. To Riker --

28C CONTINUED: (2)

HOLO-PICARD

Sir, you have no sense of fair play.

GEORDI

Just tell us where to find Barclay.

The holograms shrug, they don't know... shake their heads at Riker's foolishness... move back to their picnic...

RIKER

(to Troi)

You're gonna make us search through this to find him?

TROI

It could provide us with valuable information about what's troubling him.

On the move...

TROI

There's nothing wrong with a healthy fantasy life, as long as it doesn't take over.

RIKER

You call this healthy?

TROI

You're taking it so seriously. This is not without its element of humor...

29 ANGLE - HIGH ATOP A HILL - THE GODDESS OF EMPATHY (OPTICAL)

as before, her robes flowing in the warm breeze, her arms out... very revealing...

HOLO-TROI

I am the Goddess of Empathy! Cast off your inhibitions and embrace love, truth, joy...

GEORDI

Oh my God...

Troi snaps a look at Geordi... who looks away...

29 CONTINUED:

HOLO-TROI

Discard your facades and reveal
your true being to me.

TROI

Computer, discontinue --

RIKER

(delighted)

Belay that order, computer!

(to Troi)

We want to get more insight into
what's troubling the poor man.
Remember?

(to Geordi)

Quite a healthy fantasy life,
wouldn't you agree?

Off Troi's burn...

30

thru OMITTED

33

34 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The ship is ROCKED and alarms start to go off on the
bridge. Picard ENTERS from his Ready Room... Worf is
at Tactical, Data at Ops, supernumberary at Conn.

PICARD

Report...

WORF

Sir, our velocity increased to
warp seven point two five.

DATA

Compensating, sir.

WORF

(reading console)

Confirmed. Velocity now warp
seven.

PICARD

Maintain that. What the hell
happened?

34 CONTINUED:

DATA

(still working)

The matter/anti-matter injectors
locked for a split second,
Captain. I am not certain why.
They seem to be working properly
now.

PICARD

(pressing insignia)

Picard to La Forge.

INTERCUT:

35 EXT. GLADE/HOLODECK (OPTICAL)

As before.

GEORDI

(to com)

Go ahead, Captain.

PICARD

Any explanation for the injector
problem?

GEORDI

I'm not in Engineering, sir. I'm
in Holodeck Two.

PICARD

Another malfunction?

GEORDI

Not exactly, sir. I'll return
to Engineering immediately.

PICARD

Yes, I would say you should,
Commander. Your Holodeck
activities can wait until later.
And Commander...

GEORDI

Yessir?

PICARD

It would be wise to consult
Lieutenant Barclay on this latest
incident.

35 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

I'd like to, very much, sir. La Forge out.

END INTERCUT:

GEORDI

(to the Goddess)

We need to find Barclay. Now.

She motions to the other side of the hill... as they climb...

HOLO-TROI

Cast aside your masks and let me slip into your minds...

TROI

Muzzle it.

The Goddess reacts, shocked. As they reach the top of the hill, they discover, on a little plateau...

36 NEW ANGLE

Under a tree sits Holo-Beverly in a very pastoral scene, skirts and petticoats billowing out. Troi, Geordi, and Riker approach. Holo-Beverly looks up at them coquettishly, and puts a finger to her lips. Barclay is asleep in her lap, snoring away.

HOLO-BEVERLY

Shhhhh!

37 INT. CORRIDOR

Riker, Geordi, Troi, and Barclay ENTER from the Holodeck. Riker's expression is furious. Troi looks sympathetic, but resigned, while Barclay looks incredibly embarrassed. He hangs his head slightly.

TROI

We have a lot to talk about.

Barclay nods silently, humiliated.

GEORDI

(to Riker)

Sir, Barclay and I better get to Engineering.

37 CONTINUED:

RIKER
(acknowledges)
Dismissed.

Riker and Troi go one direction... Barclay and Geordi
move off the opposite way...

37A INT. CORRIDOR - MOVING

BARCLAY
I just couldn't keep my eyes
open... I'd worked twelve hours
on the power systems and then the
transporter went down and...

GEORDI
Reg... you had a chance to get
some help from the real Counselor
Troi... but instead you went back
in there...

BARCLAY
I know... I didn't want to... I
just couldn't help myself...

GEORDI
You're gonna be able to write the
book on holodiction.
(they exchange a look)
Look, I know how easy it is to
get caught up in it. I... fell
in love in there once.

BARCLAY
Really?

GEORDI
(nods)
But I knew when it was time to
turn it off and say goodbye...
Wasn't easy. But I did it.

BARCLAY
You know... the people I create
in there have started to become
more real to me... than anyone
out here.
(beat)
Except maybe for you, Commander.

37A CONTINUED:

GEORDI

I need you out here, Reg... right
now, more than ever.

Barclay looks at Geordi, appreciates his continuing
faith.

38 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

At a console... looking at an Okudagram on the
monitor... showing read-outs, graphic representation
of the injectors (TECH?)... pulling back to see Barclay
working the console... trying several commands... his
expression concerned. Geordi watches over his
shoulder.

GEORDI

The injectors aren't responding
to the diagnostic commands.

BARCLAY

(acknowledges)

I... think we should drop out of
warp.

GEORDI

(hits combadge)

La Forge to bridge.

INTERCUT:

39

thru OMITTED

40

41 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before. Riker and Troi ENTER.

PICARD

Go ahead, Commander.

GEORDI

Recommend we go to impulse power
sir.

PICARD

Take us out of warp.

41 CONTINUED:

DATA

Controls are not responding,
Captain.

Barclay works controls.

BARCLAY

It's the injectors.

GEORDI

Override.

BARCLAY

It's not a computer problem. The
mechanism is physically jammed.
(shakes head)
I can't clear it.

DATA

Speed increasing, Captain. Warp
seven point six... seven point
six five... seven point seven...

GEORDI

We can't shut it down, Captain.
The anti-matter flow is
increasing. She's accelerating
out of control.

Off reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

42 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship is racing along.

42A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Data, Worf. Supernumerary at Con.

WORF

Approaching warp nine sir...

PICARD

Red Alert.

The ship goes to Red Alert.

RIKER

Data, estimated time to
structural failure.

DATA

(working panels)
At this rate of acceleration,
fifteen minutes, forty seconds,
Commander...

RIKER

Geordi, did you copy?

INTERCUT:

42B INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi, Wesley, Barclay, Duffy and the other senior
officers are around the pool table... it is a parallel
scene to the first act mission briefing.

GEORDI

Aye, Commander...

RIKER

Recommendations.

42B CONTINUED:

GEORDI

(under great pressure)

I'll let you know as soon as we
have some. La Forge out.

(MORE)

42B CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI (Cont'd)

(to his men)

Okay, this ship will start tearing itself apart in fifteen minutes... I want every idea on the table... I don't care how outrageous...

DUFFY

What about attempting a magnetic quench on the fusion pre-burners?

GEORDI

No, I tried that already... the magnetic fields won't reset.

WESLEY

Could the fuel inlet servos be caught in cycle?

GEORDI

(shakes his head)

If they were, the swirl dampers would be frozen too... and they aren't...

DUFFY

(looking to Barclay)

Nothing showed up in the diagnostic sweep... at all?

All eyes turn to Barclay and he blanches slightly under their scrutiny.

BARCLAY

The tests... uh, showed problems... I mean no problems with the flow... the flow of the...

Geordi doesn't want to step on Barclay, but this is a crisis and time is slipping away.

GEORDI

There's nothing wrong with the computer control protocols or the power transfer systems. As far as we can determine, the injectors are just physically jammed...

42B CONTINUED: (3)

DUFFY

(trying to add it up)
Injectors freeze... antigrav unit
goes down... transporter
malfunctions...

WESLEY

And a twisted glass...

GEORDI

What's the connection?

The ship shudders for the first time... the men
react...

43 OMITTED

43A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before. They're reacting to the first shudders too.

WORF

Exceeding warp nine point four.

PICARD

Begin evacuation of secondary
hull. Prepare for emergency
saucer separation.

WORF

(reading console)
Standing by to release docking
clamps.

RIKER

Re-route systems to primary hull
power sources.

DATA

Captain, the plasma flow to the
nacelles is uneven due to the
injector lock. An emergency
saucer separation could rupture
the warp field.

Another shudder. Reactions.

DATA

Twelve minutes to structural
failure.

44 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

faster and faster.

44A INT. ENGINEERING

As before... emphasizing Barclay thinking hard... gets an idea, shakes his head, suppresses it... the ship is vibrating and it continues to shake more noticeably.

44A CONTINUED:

GEORDI

None of the systems involved
interact directly with each
other... I don't see anything in
common...

A beat of silence... and then Barclay does the most
difficult thing he's ever done in his life -- he takes
a chance, he speaks up, well almost, he clears his
throat... it's enough to get everyone's attention...

BARCLAY

What if... what if...

(beat)

what if one of us is the
connection?

DUFFY

Us? How?

BARCLAY

I don't know. But we're looking
for... a, a systemic explanation
and there isn't one. We work with
all the systems that are affected
... what if we're transmitting
something ourselves... by touching
it, or something...

WESLEY

The computer sensors would've
picked up anything dangerous.

Everyone reacts "yes, of course" and Barclay begins to
retreat back into silence... but then he speaks up
again, actually disputes Wesley's analysis.

BARCLAY

But... if it were something...
something that we couldn't scan...

(to Duffy and Costa)

You might've passed it to the
injectors when you were realigning
the magnetic capacitors.

GEORDI

It was your glass, Duffy... and
both of you were in the cargo bay
when the anti-grav failed...

DUFFY

So was O'Brien.

44A CONTINUED: (2)

WESLEY

The transporter malfunction.
That's a connection too.

Alarm klaxons.

COMPUTER VOICE

Danger. Approaching safety
limits of engine containment
field.

GEORDI

Computer, list all physical
substances that wouldn't normally
be picked up by internal scans.

COMPUTER VOICE

There are fifteen thousand five
hundred twenty-five known
substances that cannot be
detected by standard scans.

GEORDI

(sarcastically)
Great. How many of those can
exist in an oxygen atmosphere?

COMPUTER VOICE

Five hundred thirty-two.

GEORDI

(irritated)
And could alter molecular
structure when it comes in
contact with...

(a beat)
... with glass.

COMPUTER VOICE

Five.

GEORDI

(touches pool table
button)
On screen at this station.

44B INSERT POOL TABLE MONITOR (OPTICAL)

The screen shows five names and a small graphic
representation of the molecular structure of each
chemical.

44C RETURN TO SCENE

Geordi, Wesley, Barclay and the others study the list on the various screens.

BARCLAY

Jakmanite has a half life of about fifteen seconds. There wouldn't be enough time to spread it around the ship.

Geordi touches the panel and the chemical name and graphic for Jakmanite disappear.

GEORDI

Right.

WESLEY

Selgninaem and Lucrovexitrin are extremely toxic.

GEORDI

(acknowledges, touches panel again)

We'd all be dead by now. That leaves Saltzgradum and Invidium. Neither of which has been used for decades.

WESLEY

Could either one be causing all these malfunctions?

DUFFY

Most of the affected systems weren't even invented when those substances were in use. Who knows what they could do to a transporter or a magnetic capacitor... ?

44C CONTINUED:

GEORDI

(beat)

Wasn't Invidium used in...
medical containment fields?

WESLEY

Not for over a century.

BARCLAY

But the Mikulaks might still be
using it.

DUFFY

(nods)

And one of those canisters was
broken.

Geordi and Barclay on the move...

GEORDI

(hits combadge)

La Forge to bridge. We have a
working theory, Captain...

INTERCUT:

45 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before. Riker and Picard react to this new
information.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

There's a chance we picked up some
Invidium from a broken canister
in the cargo bay... and have been
spreading it around the ship...

INTERCUT:

45AA INT. CORRIDOR

Geordi and Barclay moving quickly to the cargo bay.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Working theories are fine, Geordi.
But we need a working solution
in about five minutes...

GEORDI

Understood, Commander. We're on
our way to Cargo Bay Five for
confirmation.

45A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Faster still.

46 INT. CARGO BAY (OPTICAL)

Barclay and Geordi have one of the canisters sitting on the deck and are wearing protective gloves.

46 CONTINUED:

They pick up small tools and carefully open the canister. Nitrogen escapes. Geordi scans the contents with a tricorder.

GEORDI

Nothing from the tricorder...

Geordi uses a flashlight-like device that projects a light... aims it into the canister (we don't need to see inside)... Barclay reaches in with his glove and as he pulls his glove out, Geordi shines the light on it...

COMPUTER VOICE

Danger. Exceeding safety limits of engine containment field. At current acceleration, structural failure will occur in three minutes, thirty seconds.

... making adjustments in the flashlight three times as he tries different tests... a substance is revealed on the glove's fingers...

BARCLAY

There it is...

46 CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI

Duffy and O'Brien picked up the broken canister and became contaminated..

BARCLAY

If we can get it... the invidium... down to minus two hundred degrees Celsius, it'll become inert.

Geordi hits combadge.

GEORDI

La Forge to bridge. Invidium is confirmed.

INTERCUT:

46AA INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker and Picard listening to Geordi's report.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

(continuing)

Recommend we flood the injector pathway conduit with liquid nitrogen. That should neutralize it.

PICARD

The question is, will the injectors come back on-line?

GEORDI

The injectors have sustained considerable damage, sir. I can't guarantee we'll be able to regain control...

RIKER

We don't have much choice, do we?

GEORDI

Nossir.

PICARD

Make it so.

46A INT. ENGINEERING

Wesley and Duffy work the consoles.

DUFFY

(to Wesley)

Route primary coupling through
starboard transfer conduit.

WESLEY

Routing... ready for engine core
injection.

COMPUTER VOICE

At current acceleration,
structural failure will occur in
forty-five seconds.

46B
thru OMITTED
47

48 INT. ENGINEERING

The engine core is flooded with liquid nitrogen. The RACING LIGHTS in the core SLOW as GASEOUS NITROGEN leaks from a few spots on the engine core.

49 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

DATA
(working console)
Injector conduit temperature
minus one hundred degrees
Celsius.

PICARD
Transfer injector control to
manual.

DATA
Ready... temperature now minus
one hundred ninety degrees...
minus two hundred degrees, sir.

RIKER
Injector status?

DATA
Matter injector... is on-line.
Anti-matter injector... still
locked.

COMPUTER VOICE
At current acceleration,
structural failure will occur in
thirty seconds.

PICARD
Cycle power through ventral
relay.

DATA
(works console)
Anti-matter injector... on-line.
Reducing flow capacity.
Commencing warp engine shut-down.

50 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Dropping out of warp.

50AA INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

PICARD
Stand down from Red Alert.

Red alert ENDS.

RIKER
(to com)
Nice work, Geordi.

INTERCUT:

50A INT. CARGO DECK

GEORDI
Mister Barclay and I thank you,
sir.

RIKER'S COM VOICE
(beat)
Acknowledged.

GEORDI
The ship is seriously
contaminated with Invidium, sir.
Recommend we set course for
Starbase one-two-one for a
complete systems and
bio-decontamination.

END INTERCUT:

PICARD'S COM VOICE
Understood.

Geordi and Barclay exchange a look.

GEORDI
Glad you were with us out here
in the real world today, Mister
Barclay.

Barclay grins, shrugs and...

51
thru OMITTED
53

53A INT. MAIN BRIDGE/HOLODECK (OPTICAL)

Holo-Picard, Holo-Data, Holo-Worf, Holo-Wesley, Holo-Riker, Holo-Troi, Holo-Beverly all present and at their stations. Barclay ENTERS from turbolift. He walks to center of bridge and addresses everyone. He seems a little changed now. There is a little more confidence in his demeanor, a slight change in his bearing.

BARCLAY

It has been most difficult to reach this decision to leave you... but after thinking it over, discussing it at length with Counselor Troi... I think it is for the best... I just wanted to thank you all for your support...

HOLO-GEORDI

You'll always be welcome here, Barclay.

BARCLAY

I know. That's what makes it hard to go.

HOLO-PICARD

It was a pleasure to serve with you, Mister Barclay.

HOLO-TROI

Good luck, Reg.

BARCLAY

It's been fun.
(looks at them)
Computer, end program.

The bridge VANISHES and is replaced by the empty Holodeck.

BARCLAY

(cont'd)

Erase all programs filed under Reginald Barclay.

Barclay heads toward doors... pauses...

BARCLAY

Except... Program Nine...

53A CONTINUED:

He smiles to himself... and EXITS.

CUT TO:

54 OMITTED

55 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it moves on to its next destination.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END