

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Survivors"
(f.k.a. "The Veiled Planet")
#40273-151

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REVISED FINAL DRAFT

JULY 31, 1989

STAR TREK: "The Survivors" - 7/31/89 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Survivors"

CAST

PICARD	KEVIN UXBRIDGE
RIKER	RISHON UXBRIDGE
DATA	
BEVERLY	
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	
WESLEY	

Non-Speaking
SUPERNUMERARIES
MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

STAR TREK: "The Survivors" - 7/31/89 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Survivors"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

SICKBAY

TRANSPORTER ROOM

TROI'S QUARTERS

CORRIDOR

TURBOLIFT

OBSERVATION LOUNGE

UXBRIDGE HOUSE

LIVING ROOM

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

WARSHIP

PHOBOS IX

UXBRIDGE HOUSE

STAR TREK: "The Survivors" - 8/3/89 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Survivors"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

RANA FOUR
HUSNOCK

RAW-nuh
huss-KNOCK

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Survivors"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise is entering a star system at impulse speed.

PICARD (V.O.)
Captain's log, Stardate 43042.3.
We are cautiously entering the
Delta Rana star system three
days after receiving a distress
call from the Federation colony
on its ninth planet.

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF, DATA and WESLEY are at their stations. PICARD and RIKER have their eyes on the Main Viewer. BEVERLY and TROI are present as advisors. The entire ship is on alert, ready for anything.

PICARD (V.O.)
The garbled transmission reported
the colony under attack from an
unidentified spacecraft. Our
mission is one of rescue and --
if necessary -- confrontation with
a hostile force.

RIKER
Shields up, maximum strength.

WORF
Shields up.
(studying)
Sensors do not indicate the
presence of any armed space
vehicles operating in the Rana
system.

PICARD
They could be cloaked or otherwise
shielded.

(MORE)

2 CONTINUED:

PICARD (Cont'd)

Mister Crusher, bring us in well
clear of the planet's three moons.

WESLEY

Aye, sir.

DATA

Commander, I am not receiving
Rana Four's call sign.

RIKER

Open a frequency to Colony
Operations.

Data does as told. The results are negative.

DATA

There is no response. Rana Four
is emissions quiet.

Troi is also having trouble with her specialty.

TROI

Captain, there are eleven thousand
inhabitants in the colony. At
this range I should be feeling
something.... I'm not.

PICARD

Mister Data, put the planet
on the Main Viewer.

3 ANGLE - MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The planet of Rana IV slowly grows into being on the
Main Viewer.

PICARD

Magnify.

The screen magnifies. It is immediately obvious that
the planet has sustained catastrophic damage. The
crew of the Enterprise is mortified.

BEVERLY

My God...

RIKER

Helm, put us in a high equatorial
orbit. Scan for survivors.

3 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Survivors? Down there?

DATA

Sensors are scanning ninety degrees of longitude as we orbit. I am detecting no artificial structures, no vegetation, no bodies of water...

WORF

Lifeform readings are negative.

TROI

Could the colonists have escaped?

DATA

That is unlikely. Rana Four possessed no interstellar spacecraft.

RIKER

Who could cause devastation on such a scale?

Suddenly Wesley is calling out in great excitement --

WESLEY

Hold it -- hold it! I'm getting something at thirty-seven degrees north, sixty-two degrees east -- a structure!

PICARD

(hopeful)

Life?

WORF

Two lifeforms. Possibly human.

PICARD

Put the area on the Main Viewer and magnify.

4 ANGLE - MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The Main Viewer shows an incredible sight: an extreme aerial SHOT of a six square acre plot of unscathed land; an incongruous patch of green surrounded by a sea of devastation. The crew of the Enterprise is stunned.

DATA

The structure is located at the center of the vegetation.

RIKER

(disbelieving)

An entire planet obliterated... except for a few acres of trees and grass... and one building?

BEVERLY

It's some kind of illusion...

DATA

Negative. It is as you see it.

Picard takes a beat to think about this. But he can't explain it.

PICARD

Number One, I think you had better see who's home...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND RANA (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise orbits Rana IV.

6 INT. CORRIDOR

Picard with Troi and Beverly walk toward the Transporter Room. He is consulting with them on the two occupants of the structure on Rana IV.

BEVERLY

If they're the only survivors
of a global holocaust, they can't
be in very good shape.

PICARD

(to Troi)
Counselor... ?

They pause at the entrance to the Transporter Room.
Troi is vague and uncomfortable with her reading.

TROI

What I sense of them is human...

PICARD

And something else... ?

TROI

(hesitates)

It's difficult to explain... I
feel these two people are
somehow... different.

(apologetic)

I'm sorry. I cannot be any
clearer than that.

Riker EXITS the Transporter Room and joins them. Says
to Picard, indicating the room --

RIKER

We're ready.

7 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Data, Worf and GEORDI are in position on the pad.
Riker and Beverly join them. Picard and Troi observe.

PICARD

Good luck, Number One.

RIKER

Energize...

The away team DEMATERIALIZES.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. RANA IV - ESTABLISHING SHOT - HOUSE - DAY
(OPTICAL)

The house, a typical twenty-fourth century colonial structure,
stands alone on its plot of trees and grass surrounded
on all sides by scorched earth. There is no sign of
life, inside or out.

9 ANGLE ON FRONT OF HOUSE (OPTICAL)

As the away team MATERIALIZES in the protection of a
grove of trees near the house's front door. Riker
wants an instant survey.

RIKER

What can you tell me?

GEORDI

The house is a typical settlement
structure with adaptations. Its
thermal properties all seem to
conform to known materials.

DATA

If there are indicators as to why
this particular area has remained
intact, I cannot detect them.

RIKER

Worf, the interior of the house.

Worf is already scanning it with his tricorder. (NOTE:
The interior of the house is dark.)

9 CONTINUED:

WORF

One individual is located at the south end of the house, the other toward the north. There is a weapon -- a low-yield phaser, nonfunctional -- in proximity to the front-room individual.

Riker considers all of this.

RIKER

I guess a frontal assault is unwarranted. Stay here. I'm going to try an old-fashioned knock on the door.

10 NEW ANGLE - RIKER

Riker leaves the cover of the trees and moves toward the house. Suddenly Geordi sees something --

GEORDI

Commander, there's a --

Too late. Riker steps into a concealed snare that hauls him up into a tree by one foot. The others leave cover to help him. The noise and confusion is considerable.

11 ANGLE - FRONT DOOR OF HOUSE

An elderly man, KEVIN UXBRIDGE, comes cautiously out of the house, holding the phaser.

KEVIN

Who's there? Who are you people?

The away team stops in its effort to get Riker down and faces the threat. Riker, still hanging, has the presence to respond.

RIKER

Commander William Riker, USS Enterprise, and crewmembers. May I get down and approach you, sir?

Data and Geordi go back to helping Riker.

KEVIN

You leave him right where he is.

11 CONTINUED:

WORF

(to Riker)

Commander, shall I incapacitate him?

RIKER

No.

(to Kevin)

We're a rescue party. We picked up your colony's distress call and came as fast as we could.

Just then an elderly woman, RISHON UXBRIDGE, appears at the front door. While Kevin is a naturally suspicious person, she is naturally trustful. She is thrilled to see the rescuers. She gently scolds Kevin.

RISHON

Kevin, what are you doing? Can't you see they're here to help us? Can't you see they're human?

KEVIN

(to Rishon)

Stay in the house, Rishon. It could be some kind of trick.

12 ANGLE - AWAY TEAM

As Rishon ignores Kevin and approaches the away team. There are tears of joy in her eyes. Riker slips down out of the tree.

RISHON

We'd just about given up hope. We thought maybe the whole Federation had been attacked.

BEVERLY

Do you know of any other survivors?

Rishon looks at her with desperate eyes.

RISHON

It's been days since we've seen or heard anybody else...

(off Beverly's look)

Please, no -- don't tell me we're the only ones...

12 CONTINUED:

Kevin tries to comfort Rishon. He says to Riker in a shaky tone of voice --

KEVIN

They came in a spaceship so big
you could see it up in orbit.
They took our world apart piece
by piece.

RIKER

Who?

KEVIN

We don't know. We never saw
their faces.

RIKER

You don't know where they came
from -- where they are now?

KEVIN

(shakes head)

I guess they've gone away.

Beverly takes out her medical tricorder and scans the couple. They react. Beverly is apologetic.

BEVERLY

I'm sorry. I'm only performing
a physical. Could I have your
names please -- for the record.

RISHON

I'm Rishon Uxbridge... and this
is my husband Kevin.

Data joins them with --

DATA

Botanists. Originally from the
aquatic city New Martim Vaz in
the Atlantic Ocean on Earth.
Residents of the Rana Four
colony for five years.

(to Rishon; a smile)

You, ma'am, are eighty-two years
of age and a composer of
Tao-classical music.

(MORE)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA (Cont'd)
(to Kevin)
You, sir, are eighty-five years
of age and a specialist in
symbiotic plantlife. You have
been married fifty-three years.

The couple stare at Data in amazement. So does the
rest of the away team. He explains --

DATA
(continuing)
I memorized the colony register
on the way to Rana in the event
such information was needed.

13 ANGLE - RIKER

Riker moves away from the others to study the house
up close. Kevin leaves Rishon to follow him.

KEVIN
Is something wrong?

RIKER
Your house -- with your permission
I'd like to look inside.

KEVIN
Why? What could interest you
in there?

RIKER
Mister Uxbridge, as far as we've
been able to determine, you and
your wife -- and this house --
are all that survived the attack.
It was either a bizarre
coincidence or by design. I
don't favor the coincidence
theory.

KEVIN
(confused)
Are you saying we were left alive
intentionally?

RIKER
(hesitant)
Yes.

13 CONTINUED:

KEVIN

I don't understand. You don't think Rishon and I did something to merit our survival, do you? I mean, betrayed the others... ?

RIKER

I'm not accusing you of anything, Mister Uxbridge. The attacking force spared you for some reason. We're only trying to find out why.
(indicates house)
May I look inside... ?

KEVIN

(numb; bewildered)
I said you could.

14 INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

As Riker ENTERS. The interior is as normal as a twenty-fourth century colonial interior can be. There are elements of Rishon, elements of Kevin. Nothing to indicate that they are bad people. The rest of the away team follows Riker in. They spread out.

15 ANGLE - RISHON AND KEVIN

Rishon and Kevin ENTER the house. Rishon is determined to make her rescuers welcome. She heads for the kitchen with --

RISHON

I'll make a cup of tea for everyone. We have wonderful tea on Rana. It grows wild nearly everywhere...

She suddenly realizes Rana IV and its tea are gone forever; she can't finish. She hurries away to the kitchen. Kevin watches her go. Worf approaches him and makes an honest attempt to cheer him up.

WORF

Sir, may I say that your attempt to hold our away team at bay with a nonfunctioning weapon was an act of unmitigated gall.

Kevin looks at the phaser that he's still holding.

15 CONTINUED:

KEVIN
Didn't fool you, huh?

WORF
(rare smile)
I admire gall.

Geordi joins them. He too is interested in Kevin.

GEORDI
Excuse me. Out front -- that
was about the best job of
concealing a snare that I've ever
seen. Could you tell me what it
was for?

KEVIN
Got a local critter that's
developed a taste for what's in
the garden.
(sad realization)
Guess I should've dismantled it.
Guess I don't have to worry about
him anymore.

He happens to look across the room and see --

16 ANGLE - DATA

Data has wandered to a small table where an ornate
MUSIC BOX sits. He studies the music box. Just then
Rishon emerges from the kitchen and moves toward a
cupboard where her tea service is stored. She sees
Data looking at the music box.

RISHON
Go ahead. Pick it up. It's a
music box. It's been in my
family for generations.

17 TIGHT ON MUSIC BOX

Data carefully lifts the box. (NOTE: any convenient
waltz music will do for the music.) A few bars and we:

SMASH CUT TO:

18 INT. ENTERPRISE - TROI'S QUARTERS - CLOSE ON TROI

Troi is going about her normal daily routine inside her quarters. Suddenly she comes alert as if hearing something. We realize she is hearing the music from the music box in her head (although she doesn't know this)! And it stays, playing over and over...

19 BACK TO LIVING ROOM - RIKER AND BEVERLY

Riker and Beverly are consulting with each other near the front door. Riker is at a loss to explain the riddle of the house and Kevin and Rishon.

RIKER

I've been in every room. There's nothing unusual about this house except that it's here. What about them?

BEVERLY

They're in reasonably good health. Both show signs of mental stress. Understandable considering what they've been through.

RIKER

(mystified)

But somehow they're different.

Riker looks o.s. in the direction of Rishon (with Data).

RIKER

(continuing)

Let's get back to the ship. We'll take them with us.

20 ANGLE - RISHON AND DATA

As the music in the music box runs down. Data smiles. Just then, Riker interrupts them.

RIKER

(continuing)

Excuse, Mrs. Uxbridge. We have to return to the ship now.

RISHON

Commander, I haven't finished fixing your tea --

20 CONTINUED:

RIKER

I'm sorry, but we're finished here. We can give you and Kevin time to pack. You can bring as much as you want.

Rishon gives him a look of astonishment. Kevin appears at her side and give Riker the same look.

RISHON

What do you mean pack?

KEVIN

You're not thinking of taking us with you, are you?

RIKER

(surprised)

Surely you don't want to remain here. How will you take care of yourselves?

RISHON

(to Kevin; frightened)

Kevin, I can't leave my home! Don't let them do this to us.

KEVIN

No one's going to make us leave.

RIKER

You'll be protected on the ship. You could still be in danger on Rana.

KEVIN

Commander, we appreciate your concern but we're not going anywhere. We'll manage. We always have.

Riker thinks for a beat. These two people are beyond his understanding. And he's concerned about them.

RIKER

All right. I can't make you come with us. Are you familiar with one of these... ?

Riker hands Rishon his communicator. She nods.

20 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

(continuing)

We'll remain in this system for
the next several days at least.
If you should reconsider, please
contact us.

RISHON

We'll be fine, Commander. We have
each other...

We HOLD a moment on Riker's troubled expression before
we --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

21 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND RANA IV (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise keeps orbit around the shattered planet.

22 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - FAVORING PICARD

Picard is in the middle of debriefing Riker, Beverly, Geordi and Data. Troi is there as a consultant -- but she seems distant, lost in thought, troubled (because the song is still playing in her mind). All are seated at the table except Picard who paces with controlled energy.

PICARD

Are they collaborators? Did they in fact provide their colony's assailants with something that abetted the total destruction of Rana Four in order to protect their own lives?

Beverly is skeptical.

BEVERLY

What could two botanists in their eighties possess that could possibly aid whoever attacked this planet?

PICARD

We have no idea what the enemy needed, Doctor. Love, fear, hope -- a cup of tea. It is a strange universe we live in.

GEORDI

Maybe they're being held hostage in some fashion.

BEVERLY

Nothing in the tricorder readings indicated emotional stress.

PICARD

(looks to Troi)
Counselor... ?

22 CONTINUED:

All eyes turn to Troi. But she hasn't heard Picard.
She is lost in her own thoughts. Picard has to repeat
--

PICARD
(continuing)
Counselor Troi... ?

TROI
(coming awake)
I'm sorry... I can't sense them
well enough...

Picard gives her a quizzical look. Suddenly from Geordi
--

GEORDI
Specimens...
(off their looks)
Maybe they've been preserved as
specimens... pets... trophies...
exhibits in a zoo...

PICARD
(thinks)
No. The assailants would have
picked someone younger for that,
someone who would have given them
a proper show for their money.

22 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard looks at Riker --

PICARD

(continuing)

Number One, you say the couple
is incapable of sustaining
themselves?

RIKER

There's a fusion reactor in the
house, probably good for another
five years of power. But their
watertable is tainted and they
have no way of feeding themselves
other than a small garden.

PICARD

They won't come to the ship?

RIKER

They were adamant.

Picard considers all that he's heard for a beat.

PICARD

We'll do all that we can to help
them... but in the meantime I want
them kept under surveillance.

Suddenly Troi, looking pale and drawn, stands up to
leave.

PICARD

(continuing)

Counselor, is something wrong?

TROI

I'm sorry... I don't feel well.
I would like to go to my
quarters...

PICARD

By all means.

BEVERLY

Is there anything I can do?

Troi shakes her head and leaves the room without
another word. Picard watches her go, concerned. The
others too.

CUT TO:

23 INT. CORRIDOR - ON PICARD

Picard walks alone, moving toward a turbolift. He is intercepted by Worf.

WORF

Captain, a search of the Ranian system has determined that the hostile force that attacked this planet is no longer present.

PICARD

I remember a Starfleet admiral saying the same thing about some renegade Andorians in the Triangulum system once. The truth was they'd dismantled their ship and hidden it.

WORF

(chest out)

Those Andorians did not have to contend with someone of my thoroughness. I will stake my reputation.

Picard believes him. The turbolift arrives and Picard steps in.

CUT TO:

24 INT. TROI'S QUARTERS - TROI

Troi is on her bed, fully clothed, trying to sleep. She looks strained, tired. From her actions we know the song is still playing in her head. She tosses and turns. Sleep is impossible. She sits on the bed and rubs her face. She stands and paces. She puts her hands over her ears as if the song could be stopped that way. Nothing works. She talks to herself.

TROI

Don't listen... think of something else...

Nothing works. She sits in a chair and pulls at her hair. She stands again.

TROI

(continuing)

Stop... please stop!

24 CONTINUED:

Suddenly there is a soft knock (chimes?) at her door.
She jumps at the sound. Collects herself --

TROI
(continuing)
Yes --

25 INCLUDE PICARD

Picard ENTERS the room. He sees Troi's condition and
knows something must be wrong.

PICARD
I was concerned. I came to see
if I could be of any help.

TROI
I'm fine. There's nothing wrong.
I'm tired, that's all.

Picard doesn't believe her. He goes up to her for a
closer look. She shies away.

PICARD
I don't have your gift for reading
emotions, Counselor, but I can
tell when someone is in pain and
hiding it.

Troi starts to lie to him again, then decides to tell
the truth.

TROI
It's silly... I... I hear music.
Music that won't stop. In my
mind.

PICARD
(thinks he understands)
Perhaps it's a symptom of
fatigue. We've all been inflicted
one time or another with the song
that wouldn't quit.

TROI
No... it's deeper than that. The
song never stops for an instant.
It plays in perfect clarity from
beginning to end over and over
again.

(MORE)

25 CONTINUED:

TROI (Cont'd)

I don't even know what song it
is -- I've never heard it before!

25 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

When did this start?

TROI

A few hours ago. While the away team was on the surface. I was trying to... I was thinking of Rishon and Kevin...

PICARD

Rishon and Kevin... And?

TROI

(shakes head)

I can't explain. They're elusive. They're... I'm sorry...

Picard doesn't want to push her.

PICARD

Get some rest. Take the necessary sleep inducements if you have to.

Troi gives him a weak nod. She'll try... but she isn't hopeful. And suddenly Red Alert is sounding through the ship.

CUT TO:

26 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker is manning the bridge along with Data, Worf, Wesley and various SUPERNUMERARIES.

RIKER

Data, give us a visual.
Magnification factor fifty.

27 INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

We see the gleaming hull of an immense and deadly-looking spaceship approaching Rana IV. We don't need to be told it's the ship that attacked the planet only weeks ago.

28 INCLUDE PICARD (OPTICAL)

Picard ENTERS the bridge and takes one look at the approaching warship.

28 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Where did that come from?

RIKER

Apparently it was riding a
Lagrange point behind Rana
Four's furthest moon.

DATA

Our vehicle classification index
can put no identity to it. Its
design is completely foreign.

RIKER

But it's our boy -- roughly five
times our mass and carrying enough
armament to pulverize a planet.

PICARD

Lieutenant Worf... ?

WORF

(deeply ashamed)

I... cannot explain this, Captain.

RIKER

It's moving toward the planet.

PICARD

Open a hailing frequency, Data.
Ask them to identify themselves
and to match orbit with us.

Data goes through the routine.

DATA

They have received the message,
Captain, but are choosing to ignore
it.

PICARD

Worf, maximum shields, ready all
weapon systems.

WORF

Aye, sir.

29 OMITTED

30 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

On the Main Viewer, the warship is seen making a course change to bring it to bear on the Enterprise.

RIKER

It's assuming an attack posture.
Don't be surprised if --

Riker doesn't have the chance to finish "if it fires on us" because that's exactly what the warship does, unleashing a wave of matter/anti-matter that strikes the outer shields and shakes the Enterprise -- but without causing any damage.

WORF

The vessel is firing jacketed streams of positrons and antiprotons, equivalent firepower of forty megawatts. Shields are holding.

The warship fires again. The Enterprise rocks again.

WORF

(continuing)
Again forty megawatts. No damage.

RIKER

(confident)
If that's as good as they can do, this'll be over in five minutes.

PICARD

Worf, fire phasers... Just a warning shot. Data, repeat the order to stand to.

31 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND WARSHIP (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise fires across the warship's nose. It responds by moving into a higher orbit and heading quickly away from the Enterprise and Rana IV.

32 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The bridge crew is pleased to see the enemy turning tail and running.

DATA

The vessel has assumed a course out of the Rana system and is rapidly increasing velocity.

PICARD

Helm, initiate pursuit.

WESLEY

(happily)
Aye, sir.

33 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND WARSHIP (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise follows the warship away from Rana IV, their velocities increasing.

34 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

All eyes are on the Main Viewer and the unknown warship.

WESLEY

The vessel has reached warp two and continues on a steady acceleration curve. We aren't getting any closer, Commander.

RIKER

Give us a superior curve, Mister Crusher.

WESLEY

Warp three... warp four... The warship is simultaneously matching our curve point per point. Warp four point five... warp five... warp five point five...

RIKER

(glancing up)
Riker to La Forge. Give us everything you can to close the gap, Geordi.

34 CONTINUED:

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Yes, sir. I'll get you to
Nine point three seven in fifteen
seconds.

35 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND WARSHIP (OPTICAL)

The pursuit continues at a faster and faster pace...
still the Enterprise does not seem to be gaining.

36 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

It's obvious to everyone that the Enterprise isn't
gaining.

WESLEY

Warp eight point five... warp
eight point seven five... warp
nine... the warship continues to
match our acceleration curve
perfectly.

PICARD

I get the impression we're being
toyed with, Number One.

The idea of an endless chase doesn't appeal to Picard
in the slightest.

PICARD

(continuing)

This ship will not chase a pony
on a merry-go-round. Number One,
take us back to Rana Four.

36 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Back?

PICARD

We have unfinished business
there. I need to have a talk with
those two people.

Picard EXITS the bridge leaving Riker to guess exactly
what he means. Riker says to Wesley --

RIKER

Reduce speed. Bring us around
on a return course.

(under his breath)

This one's getting away...

37 OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

38 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND RANA IV (OPTICALL)

The Enterprise is once again in orbit around Rana IV.

39 OMITTED

40 EXT. RANA IV - FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY (OPTICAL)

Picard, Worf and a MATTER REPLICATOR MATERIALIZE in front of the Uxbridge house. Rishon and Kevin are both doing yard work. Both are naturally surprised at Picard's appearance. Kevin looks genuinely upset. Picard takes the initiative --

PICARD

Good afternoon. I apologize if
I startled you. I'm Jean-Luc
Picard, captain of the Enterprise.
(indicates replicator)
I've brought you something you
badly need if you're going to stay
on Rana -- a matter replicator.
It has limited capabilities, but...

Kevin and Rishon glance at the replicator without much interest. Kevin interrupts --

KEVIN

Thank you. But we have no use
for such a thing.

PICARD

It will provide you with food
and clothing -- clean water.
Lieutenant Worf can instruct you
in its operation.

KEVIN

(to Worf; less polite)
We don't need it.

RISHON

Kevin, you know we do.
(to Picard)
Thank you, Captain.
(MORE)

40 CONTINUED:

RISHON (Cont'd)

Kevin and I were about to have our afternoon tea. You and Mister Worf must stay and have some with us.

PICARD

We'd like that very much.

KEVIN

Rishon, they only want to spy on us like this morning.

RISHON

Kevin, I've never turned away a visitor to this house and I'm not starting today.

(to Picard and Worf)

Please come in, both of you. And excuse the mess...

HOLD ON Kevin's glare as Picard and Worf follow Rishon to the house.

CUT TO:

41 INT. ENTERPRISE - TROI'S QUARTERS

Troi is nearly hysterical. Two of Beverly's MEDICAL ASSISTANTS try to help.

TROI

Stop -- make it stop! Please, I'll do anything -- make it stop!

Beverly ENTERS the room and is shocked and distressed at Troi's appearance. Beverly goes to her, tries to calm her.

BEVERLY

Deanna, please. I'm here to help.

TROI

It's getting louder! So loud... I can't stand it -- make it stop!

41 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Move her to the bed.

Troi settles down enough to allow the assistants to put her down on the bed. Beverly takes out her medical hypo and attempts to administer a sedative. Troi shakes her head at the sight of the hypo.

BEVERLY

This will relax you.

Beverly injects her. Troi never relaxes for a second.

TROI

I hear it! It's still there!
It's so loud --

BEVERLY

(to assistants)
Move her to Sickbay.

Troi reacts with fright at this idea.

TROI

No! I want to stay in my
quarters.

BEVERLY

I can get you to sleep there.

TROI

I don't want to sleep! The music
will only follow me!

BEVERLY

I can induce delta sleep... Tune
out even your deepest dreams.

TROI

But it's not a dream! You've got
to understand that! It's not a
dream -- it's real!

CUT TO:

42 INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Picard and Worf are having tea with the Uxbridges. Kevin is silent, moody, wishing they were gone. Rishon is radiant, full of energy and love of life. Worf looks uncomfortable, out of place.

42 CONTINUED:

Picard is relaxed, taking it all in. Rishon is in the middle of a story.

RISHON

Kevin and I first saw each other on a ship at sea. He was a starving student in a threadbare suit and mismatched shoes. I was traveling with my parents who didn't like the way he was hanging around. I asked him to marry me two hours after we met and he knew I was serious. I don't think he's ever recovered from that day.

Rishon and Kevin exchange an intimate smile. Rishon looks at Worf who is cautiously sampling his tea.

RISHON

Mister Worf, what do you think?

WORF

(trying hard)
Good tea. Nice house.

PICARD

(to Rishon)
Why did you leave Earth and move to a brand new world when you did?

RISHON

You mean at our age? We thought it would make us fall in love all over again.
(looks at Kevin)
It worked.

Picard takes a sip of tea. It's time to get at the heart of the matter.

PICARD

It must've been terrible... when the colony was fighting for its life.

Kevin looks away. Rishon is in complete agreement with Picard.

42 CONTINUED: (2)

RISHON

Yes, it was. Fire lit the sky...
the ground never stopped
shaking... there was thunder,
unbelievable thunder...

PICARD

But you survived...

RISHON

We don't know why we did and the
others didn't. I've tried to put
some purpose to it, but I can't.

Kevin decides it's time to push Picard a little.

KEVIN

I was wondering, Captain, when
you and your ship would be
leaving...

PICARD

I don't have an answer for that.
A few hours ago we had an
encounter with a warship...
Possibly the one which attacked
you. We forced it to leave the
system but were unable to affect
it otherwise. It could return.

Rishon reacts with fear. She turns to Kevin --

RISHON

Kevin -- you said it'd gone away.

KEVIN

I guess I was wrong. Don't worry.
It didn't hurt us before, it won't
hurt us now.

PICARD

(fully alert)

Do you know that for a fact,
Kevin?

KEVIN

No. But I don't enjoy seeing my
wife frightened. As we've told
you time and time again, Captain,
we don't know why we were spared.

42 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

But there had to have been a reason. In some way you and Rishon were "different" from the other colonists. Your geographical location, your philosophical beliefs, the color of your eyes -- somehow you stood apart from them.

Now it's Rishon's turn to look away. Kevin, with some difficulty, tries to explain.

KEVIN

There was a difference... I am a man of special conscience. While the others were doing what they could, I chose not to fight.

Picard nods. He may not agree with Kevin's views but he accepts them as they are.

PICARD

That is your protected right.

KEVIN

But I assure you the attacking ship had no way of realizing this. I expected to die like all the others.

Picard reacts to Kevin's unconscious choice of words. Kevin, uncomfortable with what he has just said, stands up.

KEVIN

(continuing)

There's no reason for you and your ship to remain, Captain. We can manage without you.

Kevin leaves the room. Rishon is distraught.

RISHON

Kevin grieved for the others but he did nothing. He's a very gentle man. Please understand that.

From Picard's expression he doesn't understand.

42 CONTINUED: (4)

PICARD

What about you, Rishon? Did you
feel the same way?

RISHON

(difficult)

I wanted to fight... but I stayed
with my husband. Thank you again
for the replicator, Captain. I
had better clean up now...

Picard gets the message. He and Worf stand to leave.

PICARD

Before we go I ask you one more
time to come to the ship. For
your own safety.

RISHON

I'm frightened, Captain. But I
can't leave Rana. Even if it
means my life.

CUT TO:

43 INT. ENTERPRISE - TROI'S QUARTERS

(NOTE: Troi's quarters have been adapted for medical
treatment.) Troi is on her bed, sleeping; but it is
not a peaceful sleep. From the way her lips move and
from her tortured expression we know the song is still
playing in her mind.

Beverly is watching, deeply distressed and mystified.
She says to one of her medical assistants --

BEVERLY

I don't understand it. I've
inhibited almost all the activity
of the neocortex and she
continues to behave as if she's
hearing the music...

(a beat)

We're going to have to shield
her from all outside stimuli by
inducing coma...

The assistant goes through the procedure. Beverly
watches Troi as she slips into coma. There is still
a slight indication of continuing anguish on Troi's
face. Beverly is at a loss as to what to do next.

43 CONTINUED:

Suddenly Red Alert is blasting through the ship --

CUT TO:

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker is on the bridge along with Wesley, Data and various supernumeraries.

DATA

I have positive identification, Commander. It is the vessel that attacked us earlier. It is reentering the system at high velocity and is approaching Rana Four.

RIKER

Give us a tight visual, Data.

45 ANGLE - MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The unknown warship appears in all its horrible glory.

RIKER

(continuing)

Is it my imagination or does it look a lot meaner this time?

(a beat)

Shields up. Weapons ready.

Just then Picard and Worf come onto the bridge. They see the picture on the Main Viewer and take their positions.

RIKER

(to Picard)

Our friend is back.

PICARD

I am not surprised. Lieutenant Worf, open a hailing frequency. Warn the vessel to stay clear of the planet.

WORF

Aye, sir. But they are already within firing range.

46 INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

As the warship lets fly with an awesome barrage of electro-magnetic and particle death. The Enterprise rocks. The bridge lights flicker. It's a heavy hit --

WORF

(continuing)

Shields down! Captain, they hit us with four hundred gigawatts of particle energy!

PICARD

Damage?

WORF

Superficial -- but I am having trouble reassembling the shields!

The warship fires again. The Enterprise rocks again.

WORF

(continuing)

Shields down! There is thermal damage to the hull!

DATA

The warship is in possession of enormous energy reserves. It is capable of striking us with far more powerful bursts.

WESLEY

They're maneuvering to come between the Enterprise and Rana Four.

PICARD

Number One, we have been exemplary in our patience.

RIKER

(with pleasure)

Lieutenant Worf, fire phasers on full with a simultaneous spread of torpedoes.

47 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND WARSHIP (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise lets fly. The warship is hit -- but it might as well have been with a feather pillow.

48 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

DATA

The vessel appears undamaged.
Its defenses are apparently able
to absorb incoming matter and
energy.

RIKER

Commence rapid fire with all
weapons on full!

The Enterprise lets loose with everything it's got in a sustained barrage. The warship is unaffected. It fires back with one awesome burst. The Enterprise is knocked head over heels (so to speak). The entire bridge crew is knocked down. There is damage to the bridge -- and injuries to one of the supernumeraries.

WORF

Shields are down! There is
internal damage -- weapon systems
control has been lost!

RIKER

Riker to Sickbay. Medical
assistance to the bridge!

PICARD

Mister Crusher, move the
Enterprise out of range of the
attacking vessel!

49
thru OMITTED
50

51 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise limps for deep space as fast as it is able. The warship hangs back, now in complete possession of Rana IV.

52 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Worf is bitter -- but understanding -- about fleeing the battle.

WORF

The vessel has terminated its
pursuit. It is assuming an orbit
around Rana Four.

52 CONTINUED:

RIKER
(suddenly remembering)
Rishon and Kevin...

PICARD
We can't help them... But it's
my guess they're in no danger.

Medical assistance arrives for the injured on the
bridge.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

53 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise moves away from the Rana system at impulse speed.

54 OMITTED

55 INT. CORRIDOR - PICARD AND BEVERLY

Picard and Beverly move quickly for Troi's quarters.

PICARD
Number of casualties?

BEVERLY
Sixty-six.

PICARD
Fatalities?

BEVERLY
None. We've been able to treat everyone.

55A INT. TROI'S QUARTERS - FAVORING TROI

Picard and Beverly ENTER. Move to where Troi is sleeping. She is still in induced coma, but showing subtle signs that indicate the music is still in her head. Picard is concerned.

PICARD
Can you help her?

BEVERLY
I've done everything I can. I don't understand the nature of this music she says she's hearing, or where it's coming from.

55A CONTINUED:

PICARD
Could it be telepathic?

BEVERLY
(a shrug)
Yes. But I'm no expert at
determining that.

PICARD
(controlled anger)
They're blocking her sensitivity
... keeping her from "seeing"
the truth.

BEVERLY
Who?

PICARD
Rishon and Kevin.

BEVERLY
What?

PICARD
They wanted us to leave Rana...
and that's exactly what we're
doing.

A beat as Picard comes to a difficult but necessary
decision.

PICARD
(continuing)
Picard to bridge.

RIKER'S COM VOICE
Yes, Captain.

PICARD
Number One, I want you to maintain
the present course for another
hour, then turn the Enterprise
around and take it back to Rana
Four.

Beverly gives Picard a shocked look. Riker is puzzled
too.

RIKER'S COM VOICE
Sir? We still won't have our
shields restored by then.

55A CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

We're going back, Commander --
and this time nothing is going
to lure us away.

CUT TO:

56 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

A couple of hours have passed. The ship cautiously
limps back into orbit around Rana IV.

57 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker, Worf, Wesley and Data are at their stations with
various supernumeraries. Picard is pacing in front
of his chair.

WORF

Sensors indicate no spacecraft
in the vicinity of Rana Four.
(remembering his
previous failure)
But Captain --

PICARD

Forget your previous error,
Lieutenant. There was no way
you could have prevented it.

Worf is mystified as to why.

DATA

Captain, the Uxbridge house is
coming into transporter range.

PICARD

Lieutenant Worf. If you will
accompany me to the Transporter
Room...

Picard starts to leave the bridge. Riker stops him
with --

RIKER

I think you should reconsider
this, Captain. The warship has
come after us twice, it could come
back.

57 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I disagree, Commander. I don't think it knows we're here. I think it believes it's run us off for good. That, however, will change once I'm back on board.

RIKER

(doesn't follow)

Sir?

PICARD

It's protecting Rishon and Kevin. It responds to their wishes -- directly or indirectly, I'm not sure. That's what I'm going to put to the test.

Picard and Worf EXIT the bridge leaving Riker (figuratively) scratching his head.

CUT TO:

58 EXT. RANA IV - ESTABLISHING SHOT - HOUSE - DAY
(OPTICAL)

The house looks as it always has.

59 INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - KEVIN AND RISHON

Kevin and Rishon are waltzing to music from the music box. They seem very happy; not a care in the world. They are lost in each others gaze. Suddenly the front door opens and Picard, followed by Worf, walks in unannounced. The couple stop dancing. The music box runs down and dies...

PICARD

Celebrating?

Kevin is aghast. For the first time we see him show a measure of fear.

KEVIN

What are you doing here? What do you want?

Picard ENTERS the room and faces Kevin. What he is about to say and do has an ulterior purpose.

59 CONTINUED:

PICARD

This is the second time you've shown surprise at my appearance, Kevin. The first time was understandable, but why now? -- unless you expected never to see me again.

KEVIN

Why do you keep interfering with our lives, Captain?

PICARD

It isn't my intention to interfere, Kevin... only to help you and Rishon.

KEVIN

Then please leave us alone.

PICARD

I promise you that once I leave this house I will never set foot in it again. The Enterprise, however, will remain in orbit over this planet.

Both Kevin and Rishon find this piece of news shocking.

RISHON

Why?

PICARD

To protect you.

KEVIN

That isn't necessary, Captain. I thought you understood.

PICARD

But it is necessary, Kevin. Your lives are in great danger. The warship has returned.

RISHON

(frightened)

Kevin --

KEVIN

He's lying, Rishon.

59 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

(in Kevin's face)

We fought a pitched battle with it and lost. Many of my crew have been injured -- including a woman who's mind is slowly being destroyed by a telepathic aberration.

RISHON

(horrified)

No! Oh please no!

KEVIN

This is a form of intimidation. I have my rights --

PICARD

You, Kevin? What about Rishon? Is she in favor of being left at the mercy of a homicidal spaceship?

Rishon avoids Picard's look... supports her husband.

RISHON

(a mumble)

I think you'd better go, Captain...

PICARD

Come to the Enterprise, Rishon. Let me take you where you'll be safe.

RISHON

No. I can't leave Kevin...

KEVIN

And I'm staying. She's safe here with me in this house.

PICARD

(at Kevin)

Then explain to me why you're safe, Kevin. Why is this house a sanctuary from a destructive force that otherwise has no conscience? Does it have to do with you -- with your refusal to fight?

59 CONTINUED: (3)

A look of guilt covers Kevin's face. He turns away from the others. Picard speaks to the back of his head.

PICARD

(continuing)

Tell me this, Kevin. If Rishon were in danger, would you kill to save her life?

KEVIN

(vehement)

No! Not for her, not for anyone!
I will not kill!

RISHON

(angry at Picard)

Stop hurting him! Leave our house!

A beat as Picard considers them both. Rishon is comforting Kevin, protecting him. Picard repeats his reason for coming --

PICARD

It is my sworn duty to protect you. The Enterprise will remain in orbit around Rana Four as long as the two of you are alive.

He turns to leave. Worf follows him out of the house.

CUT TO:

60 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND RANA IV (OPTICAL))

A time lapse. The Enterprise orbits without interference.

61 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker and Data are there as well as the supernumeraries. Picard and Worf ENTER. Picard takes his chair. He is calm; a man of infinite patience.

PICARD

Number One -- an update, please.

61 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Little change, Captain. The shields are still inoperable. We have partial control of our weapons. I've doubled the repair crews.

Suddenly from Data --

DATA

Commander. The warship is approaching from high orbit. It is very close -- three hundred thousand kilometers distance.

RIKER

How is that possible? Is something wrong with the sensors?

PICARD

That's of no concern, Number One. It's here. And precisely on schedule.

DATA

The vessel has altered its course to a direct intercept with the Enterprise.

RIKER

Worf, arm phasers and photon torpedos, prepare to fire.

PICARD

Belay those orders, Mister Worf.

Riker and the rest of the bridge crew look at Picard with surprise.

61 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA
(concerned)
The vessel is now within twenty
thousand kilometers of the
Enterprise and closing.

PICARD
Let it come, Commander. Activate
the Main Viewer.

62 INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The warship is approaching rapidly. Picard seems
unbothered. He watches it come.

WORF
Evasive action, sir?

PICARD
The Enterprise will stand its
ground, Lieutenant.

WORF
Weapons, sir?

PICARD
When I give the order. Not
before.

The warship comes closer. It's at point-blank range.

63 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND WARSHIP (OPTICAL)

Astonishingly, the warship cruises right past the
Enterprise and continues on toward Rana IV.

64 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The bridge crew, Picard excluded, are astonished.

DATA
The vessel is entering a low
orbit around Rana Four.
(a beat)
Captain, it appears it is
preparing to fire at the planet.

PICARD
Understood.

64 CONTINUED:

DATA

My calculations indicate that its target may be the house of Rishon and Kevin Uxbridge.

PICARD

There will be no interference from us, Mister Data.

They watch as the warship lets loose a single, compressed burst of energy that streaks down to the surface of Rana IV and erupts in a geyser of flame that becomes a dull, glowing crater. The bridge crew, Picard excluded, are mortified.

WORF

The house has been obliterated!

PICARD

Scan for survivors, Lieutenant.

Worf does as instructed.

WORF

There are no survivors.

PICARD

Ready a photon torpedo. Fire at the vessel when ready.

WORF

Aye, sir.

65 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND WARSHIP (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise fires the torpedo at the warship. It strikes home. The warship goes up in a spectacular explosion!

66 BACK TO MAIN BRIDGE

The bridge crew looks to Picard to explain all this. But he doesn't.

PICARD

Commander Riker. What reason does the Enterprise have to remain at Rana?

66 CONTINUED:

RIKER

(trying to figure it)

The unknown vessel has been destroyed. The Uxbridges have been destroyed. There is no reason for the Enterprise to remain.

PICARD

Good. Helm, move us to a higher orbit so that we may keep the surface of the planet under surveillance.

WESLEY

Aye, sir. But, Captain, what do we watch for?

PICARD

Anything. If I'm needed I will be in my Ready Room. That is all for now.

Picard exits the bridge to his Ready Room. The bridge crew watches him go, trying to figure out what the hell's just happened.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

67 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise continues its high orbit over Rana IV.

68 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - ON PICARD

Picard sits at his desk, lost in thought. His doorbell chimes.

PICARD

Come.

Riker ENTERS the room.

RIKER

Captain, may I speak with you?

PICARD

(a smile)

The pleasure is mine, Number One.

RIKER

We've been observing the planet very carefully for three hours. We've seen nothing. I have the feeling you're waiting for something to happen.

Picard nods. He realizes it's time to tell Riker all that he suspects.

68 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I have acted on an assumption,
Commander. I am not sure what
the result will be -- or even that
my assumption is correct.

(beat)

We found two people alive in a
house on a devastated planet.
But there was only one survivor
of the war on Rana Four

HOLD ON Riker's perplexed expression as we...

CUT TO:

69 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Data is in charge. Geordi has joined the bridge crew.
The supernumeraries are at their stations. The
shattered face of Rana IV rolls by on the Main Viewer.

WORF

Why is it we maintain watch on
a planet that is now totally dead?

Geordi checks his instruments just in time to catch
something totally beyond belief. It's a moment before
he can respond.

GEORDI

Bridge to Captain Picard. You
had better come see this.

70 ANGLE - PICARD AND RIKER (OPTICAL)

As they EXIT the Ready Room in a hurry. Geordi is
excited --

70 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

(continuing)

Captain, Commander, it's back --
the house! And the trees and the
grass! It happened right in
front of us.

On the Main Viewer, the tiny green patch of vegetation
is again visible on the planet surface.

PICARD

(a smile)

Worf, do you see survivors?

WORF

I detect two life-forms inside the
house. It appears Kevin and
Rishon were not destroyed. But
how... ?

Picard looks to Riker. Riker's look of acknowledgement
indicates that Picard has told him all he suspects.

PICARD

Helm, bring us into transporter
range. I want them beamed aboard
-- directly to the bridge.

DATA

Captain, will they not protest?

PICARD

Let them.

71 ANGLE - KEVIN AND RISHON (OPTICAL)

As Rishon and Kevin MATERIALIZE on the bridge. The
couple is surprised to say the least -- and worried.
Picard addresses them with strained politeness.

PICARD

(continuing)

My apologies if I interrupted a
waltz...

Kevin hangs back timidly. It is Rishon who is the
aggressive one now.

71 CONTINUED:

RISHON

Why have you brought us here
against our will?

PICARD

To end the suffering of one of
my crewmembers.

RISHON

I don't understand --

PICARD

Kevin does. He's the cause.

Kevin avoids Rishon's look, says nothing, implying some
sort of guilt. Picard centers on Kevin.

PICARD

(continuing)

At first I couldn't figure out
why your house had survived the
holocaust while all the others
hadn't. And then it occurred
to me that it had been destroyed.
The dwelling where you served me
tea and danced your waltzes was
a reproduction, something real
to the touch but capable of being
created and destroyed and
recreated at whim.

Rishon sees that Kevin is crumbling. Her desire to
protect him is strong. She doesn't believe anything
Picard has said and lashes back at him verbally --

RISHON

Now you're joking with us,
Captain. Can't you see it's
hurting my husband?

KEVIN

(suddenly;
fatalistically)

Rishon... hear what he has to say.

PICARD

(to Kevin)

More than anything, you wanted
the Enterprise away from Rana.
Why?

(MORE)

71 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD (Cont'd)

Because the house, the plot of land, your very own existence, were riddles you were helpless to explain. The warship -- another recreation -- twice tried to chase us away but failed. When I came to the house a second time I provided you with the only condition that would make the Enterprise leave -- your deaths -- and you did your best to satisfy me.

Rishon looks at Kevin, quizzically. He avoids her; looks deeply at Picard.

KEVIN

I am deeply sorry about the woman. I will help her. But I must know what you intend to do with me afterwards...

PICARD

Take you to the nearest starbase where you will be held accountable for the attack on this ship... and perhaps the deaths of eleven thousand people.

RISHON

No! He hasn't killed anyone!

KEVIN

The destruction of the planet happened just as I told you.

PICARD

But you haven't told us the whole story, Kevin -- how it ended... the part about Rishon.

Kevin reacts as if in pain. Rishon's concern for him is outweighed by her sudden need for answers.

RISON

What is he saying... ?

Kevin can't answer her. He turns away. Picard goes to Rishon. Touches her.

71 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

I can touch you, Rishon. Hear your voice. Smell your perfume. In every respect you are a real person with your own mind and your own beliefs... but you do not exist. You died with the others, defending the colony. He has recreated you just as he has recreated the house.

There is a look of disbelief on Rishon's face... even as she vanishes from sight. The bridge crew is stunned. Kevin just stands there, expressionless, frozen in time. Picard turns to him.

PICARD

(continuing)

You're the only living thing that really exists on Rana Four, Kevin. And though you look human, you're not.

72 ANGLE - LIGHT (OPTICAL)

Suddenly the bridge is filled with a brilliant, burning LIGHT coming from no particular source. The light grows to such intensity that all those present must turn away and cover their eyes. There is confusion, shouting. And then the light is gone as suddenly as it came... and so is Kevin.

GEORDI

He's in the turbolift!

Worf takes action to stop the turbolift. Picard stops him.

PICARD

Let him go.

WORF

Captain -- he is dangerous!

PICARD

So dangerous, Lieutenant, he could have destroyed us at any instant he wished. Track him. Alert the crew to keep out of his way. I want him to know we mean him no harm...

72 CONTINUED:

RIKER

(to Picard)

Will he try to get back to the planet?

PICARD

Not if he's the creature of conscience I think he is. He has someone to help first...

CUT TO:

73 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND RANA IV (OPTICAL)

Indicating a passage of time.

74 OMITTED

75 INT. TROI'S QUARTERS - ON BEVERLY

Beverly ENTERS from the corridor. She stops dead at the sight of --

ANGLE - KEVIN AND TROI

Kevin is standing over the now peaceful form of Troi. He seems very sad, tired, guilty. He sees Beverly.

KEVIN

I have taken the music from her mind. She's alright now. She's sleeping.

Beverly rushes to Troi. Sees that she is all right. She stands away from Kevin, uncertain.

KEVIN

(continuing; deeply sorry)

She was beginning to sense who I really was. I've been living as a human for over fifty years but I couldn't hide from her.

(beat)

She has suffered because of my pride and selfishness. It will not happen again.

76 CONTINUED:

PICARD (O.S.)

What happened on Rana Four,
Kevin? The truth this time --
all of it.

Kevin and Beverly turn to see Picard ENTERING the room. He's come alone. Kevin has no will to fight or flee. It's time to face the music.

KEVIN

Very well. For what it's worth.

(beat)

I am a Douwd... an immortal being of disguises and false surroundings. I have lived in this galaxy for many thousands of years although until today no one has known my true identity. Once while traveling in human form I chanced to fall in love with an Earth woman. I put aside my powers and became her husband. Our life was happy and rich. Eventually we came to this planet to live our final years. Now she is dead. She never knew what I really was...

Kevin falls silent. Picard pushes him on --

PICARD

Your colony was attacked by a warship...

KEVIN

Belonging to the Husnock, a species of hideous intelligence that knew only aggression and destruction. I could have destroyed them with a mere thought, but this I did not do.

BEVERLY

(appalled)

You had the power to stop them and you didn't?

KEVIN

I refused to for the same reason
I refused to stop the Enterprise.
I will not kill!

76 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

So you let the colonists fight
a hopeless battle.

KEVIN

I tried to fool the Husnock as
I tried to fool you, but it only
made them angrier and more cruel.

PICARD

And then what you feared most
happened. Rishon went to fight
with the others -- and she died
with them.

KEVIN

How I wish I could have died with
her...

Kevin has hit bottom. Whatever is weighing on his
conscience is gnawing at him full force. Picard senses
as much as sees the sudden, horrible truth.

PICARD

But you couldn't. You did the
unthinkable instead. You took
revenge.

KEVIN

(breaking down)

Yes! I saw her broken body. I
went insane! My hatred exploded
and in an instant of grief I
destroyed the Husnock!

A beat. Beverly struggles to understand Kevin.

BEVERLY

Why did you try to hide this from
us? Was it out of guilt for not
helping Rishon and the others when
they were alive?

KEVIN

No. You don't understand the
scope of my crime. I didn't kill
just one Husnock, or a hundred,
or a thousand -- I killed them
all. All! The mothers, the
babies, all the Husnock
everywhere!

(MORE)

76 CONTINUED: (3)

KEVIN (Cont'd)

Are eleven thousand people worth fifty billion? Is the love of a woman worth the destruction of an entire species... ? This is the sin I tried so hard to keep you from learning. This is why I wanted to chase you from Rana.

A beat. Picard and Beverly understand at last. They are sympathetic... and appalled.

PICARD

We are not qualified to be your judges. We have no law to fit your crime. You're free to return to the planet... and to make Rishon live again.

76A ANGLE - LIGHT (OPTICAL)

Kevin and Picard exchange a long look. Kevin nods to Picard. The room suddenly fills with the blinding LIGHT (similar to what happened on the bridge). When it is gone, so is Kevin.

CUT TO:

77 OMITTED

78 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Our bridge regulars are present including Geordi, Troi (looking well) and Beverly. They all want a last look at the planet. Its scarred and ruined face is on the Main Viewer.

78 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Helm... break orbit. Full
impulse.

Rana IV immediately begins to shrink as the
Enterprise pulls away. Picard can't take his eyes off
it.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43043.5.
We are departing the Rana
system for Starbase
one three three. We leave behind
a being of extraordinary power...
and conscience. I am not certain
if he should be praised or
condemned. Only that he should
be left alone...

FADE OUT.

END ACT FIVE

THE END