

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The High Ground"
#40273-160

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FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "The High Ground" - 11/03/89 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The High Ground"

CAST

PICARD	KYRIL FINN
RIKER	ALEXANA DEVOS
DATA	POLICE OFFICER
BEVERLY	WAITER/KATIK
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	
WESLEY	Non-Speaking
	RUTIANS IN PLAZA
	RUTIAN POLICE
	ANSATA TERRORISTS
Non-Speaking	
SUPERNUMERARIES	

STAR TREK: "The High Ground" - 11/03/89 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The High Ground"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
MAIN BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
OBSERVATION LOUNGE
TRANSPORTER ROOM
MAIN ENGINEERING
SICKBAY
CORRIDOR

ALEXANA'S OFFICE

CAVERN

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
RUTIAN PLAZA
INDOOR/OUTDOOR CAFE

STAR TREK: "The High Ground" - 11/03/89 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The High Ground"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ANSATA	Ahn-SAH-tah
ALEXANA	Alex-AH-nah
DEVOS	DEH-vohs
KYRIL	KIH-rill
KATIK	KAH-tick
RUTIA	RUE-tee-ah

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The High Ground"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise in orbit around a planet.

PICARD (V.O.)
Captain's log, Stardate 43510.7.
The Enterprise has put in at Rutia
Four to deliver medical supplies
following an outbreak of violent
protests.

2 EXT. PLAZA - DAY - ESTABLISHING

Shops, a cafe, people strolling. A modern community.
Beverly, Data and Worf are walking through the plaza.

PICARD (V.O.)
Although non-aligned, the planet
has enjoyed a long trading
relationship with the Federation.

Beverly spots the cafe, and stops.

BEVERLY
We've still got a few minutes
before our next meeting...

Worf scans the plaza. Everything seem calm. They
ENTER, and seat themselves at a table.

A WAITER stands by the door staring intently into the
plaza. He does not acknowledge the presence of the
Starfleet officers. Beverly is becoming annoyed, she
lifts her hand, signalling for service.

BEVERLY
Excuse me --

2 CONTINUED:

Suddenly, a bomb EXPLODES destroying a shop...
wounding several passers-by... people react, scared,
running...

QUICK PAN TO:

3 INT. INDOOR/OUTDOOR CAFE

DATA, WORF, BEVERLY at a table... already reacting,
Beverly on her feet, moving to help... Worf concerned
for her safety...

WORF

Doctor...

She ignores him, moves into the plaza... From outside
they HEAR SCREAMS and CRIES, and the WAILING of an
alert. Worf and Data are moving after her... behind
them, at the door, the waiter watches with interest,
also moves outside...

4 EXT. PLAZA

A scene of chaos. Shattered glass lies glittering on
the pavement. Dust and debris from the explosion is
settling. A jet of some escaping gas pours from a
broken pipe. Three people are down, all of them
showing blood.

5 ANGLE - TWO POLICEMEN

ENTER. Beverly starts to move to the first victim, but
an officer draws a phaser, and blocks her way.

BEVERLY

Put that thing away. I'm a
doctor.

Beverly isn't waiting for permission. She shoulders
past him. Beverly drops down next to a casualty, pulls
out her tricorder and examines him...

BEVERLY

Just lie still... don't try to
move...

Turning to Worf and Data --

5 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Lieutenant, I need bandages...
Disinfectant... something with
alcohol in it ...

WORF

Doctor, it is not safe...

BEVERLY

That's an order, Mister Worf...

Worf hesitates only briefly, exchanging a glance with
Data, goes toward the restaurant... as she moves to
look at another victim...

BEVERLY

There's a lot of bleeding, but
it's not as bad as it looks.
Don't be afraid.

The policeman looks at Data...

POLICEMAN

The Klingon is right. These
Ansata... they're madmen... there
could be another bomb.

(to the others)

Clear this area. Everyone out
of the plaza.

DATA

Doctor, a return to the Enterprise
would be prudent.

She just looks at him, continues her work.

DATA

This planet does have
physicians...

BEVERLY

Who aren't here yet. I am.

Worf comes back out of the restaurant with some
ripped-up tablecloths, some liquor bottles... he's
helped by the waiter who crosses to Beverly... as she
takes the materials, immediately begins to utilize them
in emergency care... she barely glances up at the
waiter who is interested in what she's doing... a
throwaway line --

5 CONTINUED: (2)

BEVERLY

Thank you.

WAITER

Not at all, Doctor.

5 CONTINUED: (2)

He moves away... takes a beat at the entrance to the
cafe to look back again, thoughtfully, then enters...

6 ANOTHER ANGLE - DATA

DATA
Captain, there has been an
incident.

INTERCUT TO:

7 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and Riker at their usual stations.
Supernumeraries at Conn and Ops.

DATA
(continuing)
... A bomb has been detonated by
the Ansata terrorists.

PICARD
Your security status?

DATA
Vulnerable, sir.

PICARD
Transporter Room Three, lock onto
the away team, prepare to beam
them back...

ENGINEER'S VOICE
Yes, Captain.

DATA
Sir, I recommended such a course,
but there are several wounded
people and Doctor Crusher...

PICARD
(frowns, interrupting)
Yes, I understand. Picard to
Doctor Crusher...

8 ANGLE ON BEVERLY

keys her insignia... continues to work...

8 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Go ahead.

PICARD

I've been advised of your situation by Mister Data.

BEVERLY

I already know what you're going to say.

PICARD

(annoyed)

Doctor, will you at least allow me to...

BEVERLY

The longer we argue, the longer...

PICARD

You are endangering yourself and the away team...

BEVERLY

Captain, right now, I'm trying to pull a life back into a wounded body with brandy and sleight of hand. I'm not going anywhere... Data and Worf don't have to stay. Crusher out.

PICARD

Transporter Room, do you have lock on the away team?

ENGINEER'S VOICE

Aye, sir. Shall I transport them?

Picard looks in frustration to Riker.

RIKER

I wouldn't want to be in the Transporter Room to greet her.

PICARD

(a beat)

Picard to Data. Hold your position until the Rutian medics arrive.

8 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA
Aye, Captain.

END INTERCUT.

9 EXT. PLAZA

The WAILING of emergency vehicles is much closer. Beverly continues to treat the wounded. Worf is running tricorder scans of the buildings. Data moves to him...

WORF
The tricorder is not reading any other explosive devices in this vicinity...

10 ANGLE - AN WOMAN IN AUTHORITY (ALEXANA)

arrives, accompanied by security guards... glances at Data and Worf as she passes... examines the scene...

11 ANGLE - THE WAITER

moves barely outside the door of the restaurant to watch...

12 THE SCENE (OPTICAL)

as an extraordinary arc of light appears... simultaneous with his arrival is a SOUND like lightning finding ground. A CRACK of almost concussive proportions. A MAN who seems to literally appear out of the light. He wears a shoulder device. And he looks to be in definite pain as he arrives. People begin running ... because it is nothing new... in quick cuts --

13 DATA AND WORF

react...

14 ALEXANA

is shielded by her guards...

15 BEVERLY

turns and finds the man inches away... she recoils, but the man catches her by the arm.

16 ANGLE - A GUARD (OPTICAL)

goes for his weapon, and the terrorist shoots from the hip killing the guard. The terrorist strengthens his hold on Beverly as...

17 DATA AND WORF

reach for their phasers... they don't have a clear shot through the crowd... and as they jockey forward for position...

18 BEVERLY AND THE TERRORIST (OPTICAL)

BEVERLY

You don't understand... I'm a doc...

And then they're gone... VANISHING into a new burst of light. On Data and Worf's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

19 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit.

20 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Riker listen to Data and Worf's report...

DATA

A transporter would leave
residual ionization in the air...
but the tricorder readings found
no trace after the incident...

RIKER

People don't just appear and
disappear... there has to be some
way to track her...

DATA

We have been unable to detect the
signal from her communicator.
It has either been deactivated or
she is being held in a shielded
location.

A long beat... Picard angry, deep in thought. Then,
softly --

PICARD

Why... her?

WORF

Sir, I believe she was the
intended target of the abduction.

RIKER

Why would they want a Federation
hostage? Their fight doesn't
involve us.

WORF

It does now.

On reactions...

21 INT. CAVERN

A perimeter of light holds the stygian darkness at bay. In some places movable screens augment the natural stone wall which have formed to create a sense of privacy.

Beverly is in a secluded area with rock walls on three sides. The alcove is furnished simply -- a cot, a small table, and a folding chair. Beverly is seated on the camp bed. Her hands and ankles have been bound, and she shifts uncomfortably. She is angry and afraid, and trying to hide it.

A MAN, KYRIL FINN enters. Beverly swallows hard, lifts her chin, and tries to stare him down, but she ends up looking only anxious.

Finn is an attractive man in his early thirties, but he has an air of shyness and awkwardness which seems out of place with his combat style clothing, and the phaser he wears. His hair's a little too long and wavy for serious bad-ass. In fact, with his hunch shouldered stance and one hand dug deep into his pocket he looks like a man trying to be overlooked. In his other hand, he has a plate of food.

FINN

Are you hungry? Do you want something to eat?

She just stares at him. Scared, doing bravado.

FINN

I doesn't matter to me. You want to be hungry? Be hungry.

He sits in front of her... picks at the food, eating with his hands...

FINN

What's your name?

No response.

FINN

You're a doctor on a Federation starship?

(beat)

I always wondered what it would be like to travel across the galaxy.

(MORE)

21 CONTINUED:

FINN (Cont'd)
(rueful, self-deprecating)
It's not something I've exactly
had time for.

Stonewalling him. He shrugs.

FINN
This isn't the best way to meet
new people, is it?

He stands.

FINN
If you want something, just ask
for me -- Kyril Finn.
(a beat)
They know me.

He EXITS and takes the plate of food with him. As
he exits, she looks down, angry, helpless...

22 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM - CLOSE ON WESLEY

who has just heard the news. Pulling back to reveal...

TROI
We have no reason to believe she's
been hurt in any way...

PICARD
In fact, it's more likely that
they will take good care of her...
if they want to use her as a
bargaining chip.

WESLEY
(beat)
A bargaining chip?

TROI
The innocent become the pawns in
a conflict like this, Wesley.

Picard thinks a beat, stands... begins to move around
the desk toward Wes.

22 CONTINUED:

PICARD

The Ansata separatists have been trying for generations to be freed from the rule of the Eastern Continent. If they can get the government to even acknowledge their demands, then kidnapping your mother will have served a purpose.

He leans on his desk.

PICARD

(continuing)

That may be what they are after. It may not. Frankly, I don't care. All I care about is getting her back, Wesley... In a few minutes, we're leaving to meet with the authorities...

WESLEY

(interrupting)

Request permission to be on the away team, sir.

PICARD

No. You have an important job to do here. If we are to find your mother, we must have a way to trace the movements of these terrorists. I want you on the team that will investigate this new technology of theirs.

WESLEY

I understand.

PICARD

Report to Mister Data. Dismissed.

He exits. Picard glances at Troi. They share a moment. She acknowledges his efforts.

TROI

He needs your strength right now.

PICARD

(beat)

History has shown us that strength may be useless in the face of terrorism, Counselor.

Off Troi's reaction...

23 INT. ALEXANA'S OFFICE - DAY

Alexana Devos, a striking woman in her late thirties, meets with Picard and Riker. (This is the same woman we saw in the teaser.) Tall and athletic, she is a natural born leader. But she is also a woman under great pressure, caught up in a struggle that she's no longer sure she can win. Trying to deal with a hundred problems at once has left her preoccupied and driven and almost burned out. She is sitting down at a desk littered with isolinear reader chips. On one wall are monitors that provide a running text of current police activity. She studies them intently.

PICARD

What exactly is Ansata policy in regard to hostages?

ALEXANA

I doubt they have one. They don't usually take hostages.

The implications of such a strategy is not lost on Picard or Riker. She turns to face them...

23 CONTINUED:

ALEXANA

These aren't people we're dealing
with here. They're animals...

(her anger rising)

Fanatics, who kill without remorse
or conscience... who think nothing
of murdering innocent people.

PICARD

They could just as easily have
shot her where she stood...

ALEXANA

(acknowledges)

Don't ask me to explain them.
I can't. The atrocities I've
seen...

A beat as Alexana forces herself to gain her composure.

ALEXANA

And now they have this new device
that makes them even more deadly.
How do I combat an enemy who fails
to register on any scanner until
they're literally standing in
front of you with a phaser pointed
at your head?

RIKER

What can you tell us about this
device?

Alexana removes an armband from a drawer, and tosses
it onto the desk.

ALEXANA

Not much, really.

Picard picks up the device, and inspects it, hands
it to Riker. Over this Alexana continues.

23 CONTINUED: (2)

ALEXANA (cont'd)

They first started using it two months ago. We've taken several of these off dead terrorists. Our people have looked at them... Nothing they can explain...

RIKER

You mind if we take this with us... give our people a chance to study it?

ALEXANA

Not at all. And I'll put you in touch with our research people, if you wish.

PICARD

I appreciate your help.

ALEXANA

(a wry smile)

Perhaps if we found ourselves in possession of some of that advanced Federation weaponry of yours it would shift the balance of power back to our favor.

PICARD

That we cannot do for you.

ALEXANA

(as she expected)

No, of course not.

Picard rises. The others follow suit.

PICARD

I would like to leave Commander Riker to assist in your search for Doctor Crusher.

As she walks them to the door:

ALEXANA

(it won't help)

If you like...

RIKER

You don't sound very optimistic.

23 CONTINUED: (3)

ALEXANA

I know my enemy, Commander...
They don't leave much room for
optimism.

Off Picard and Riker's worried expressions.

24 INT. CAVERN

As before, Finn enters with a plate of food. Same line
--

FINN

Are you hungry? Do you want
something to eat?

She's looking quite a bit more tired than before. But
she's still not willing to respond... at least not on
the first volley.

He studies her... puts down the plate, moves to her...
Beverly can't control the impulse. She shrinks back in
fear.

FINN

Relax, I'm just going to...

He indicates her bonds. He drops to one knee, and
releases her ankles. (And note: that despite his
rumped, good guy attitude there is a side of this that
could be considered torture, manipulation, setting up
dependency.)

FINN

Come on. Eat something. What's
the point of not eating? You're
the only one who suffers. Do I
look like it's bothering me?
Okay, it's bothering me.

He picks up the plate and holds it out in front of her.
She finally takes it... begins to pick up the meat with
her fingers, eats...

FINN

No forks. Sorry.

24 CONTINUED:

A beat as he watches her eat, pleased with this victory.

FINN

Did I mention my name is Finn?
And you're... ?

A beat.

BEVERLY

Why have you brought me here?

FINN

I need a doctor.

BEVERLY

There are doctors on Rutia.

FINN

I need someone better... I heard
you were here from the Federation
flagship and I knew you had to
be...

BEVERLY

How did you know that?

FINN

I heard.

(beat)

Now you'll help me. Just like
you help them...

BEVERLY

What are you talking about?

24 CONTINUED: (2)

FINN

(angry)

Your ship carries medical supplies for them... for the other side... why does the Federation ally itself with the Rutians...

BEVERLY

We didn't... all we did was to bring...

FINN

Medical supplies...

BEVERLY

People were hurt...

FINN

I know. I hurt them.

He grabs the food dish out of her hands. Stands.

FINN

You're finished eating. Get up.

When she looks up at him, hesitating with fear... he reaches down and pulls her up roughly...

FINN

Get up.

He indicates for her to precede him out of the alcove, and she begins to obey. They start out into the cave proper. Beverly suddenly pauses, and looks up at him. She is embarrassed by the non-sequitur, but can't control herself.

BEVERLY

I have... a son.

FINN

You'll be with him again, Doctor.
I see no reason to kill you.

The inference being if he did see a reason later, he might. As he waits for her to move by him, the perfect gentleman... she looks at him, finally moves forward and we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

25 INT. CAVERN

For the first time, we see full breadth of the rebel camp... as Finn and Beverly move by, a pair of children, one watches while the other cleans a weapon... people look over at Beverly, exchange looks with Finn who nods confidently -- he's got this under control.

He leads her to a section of the cave that has been set aside as an infirmary. A section of the cave has been set aside as an infirmary. Five patients rest on cots. A couple are bandaged, but don't seem to be in much distress. The other three are thrashing, delirious with pain. One of them is the man who kidnapped Beverly. He motions to her -- this is my problem... she looks at them with concern... gets down on her knees, runs a tricorder scan checks the readings... shakes her head...

BEVERLY

I need instruments from my ship
to diagnose something like this...

FINN

(straight)

You think if I allowed you to call
your ship, they would transport
your instruments... ?

BEVERLY

When I inform the captain how
serious the situation is, I'm sure
he'll agree. I've told you, Finn,
the Federation is not allied with
Rutians... we came on an errand
of mercy...

FINN

(straight)

And since the Federation does not
wish to take sides, he will send
you the medical supplies we need.

BEVERLY

Absolutely.

A beat before he grins... signals a TERRORIST BOY
about twelve who comes over, carrying a box...

25 CONTINUED:

FINN

I anticipated your needs.

The boy opens the box to reveal an impressive array of medical instruments. She reacts.

BEVERLY

These are Federation supplies...
we just delivered them to the
medical dispensary this morning...

FINN

(shrugs)

I heard.

Off her reaction, as she reaches in for an instrument...

26 INT. ALEXANA'S OFFICE - DAY

Alexana and Riker are studying files on the wall monitors. A seemingly never-ending inventory of names, addresses and police records.

RIKER

You're telling me all these people belong to the Ansata?

ALEXANA

Not really. We suspect the organization itself only consists of some two hundred members. There are over five thousand names on this list. Citizens we know to be sympathetic to their cause. They pass along weaponry and information. March in pro-Ansata demonstrations... participate in general strikes.. or the occasional riot.

Riker shakes his head in disbelief.

RIKER

How did all of this ever get started?

26 CONTINUED:

ALEXANA

We denied them independence.
That gave them a noble cause...
seventy years ago.

(bitterly)

And now it's just an excuse for
more violence.

RIKER

You hate them as much as they hate
you.

ALEXANA

Believe it or not I always
considered myself moderate.

RIKER

What changed your mind?

ALEXANA

(shrugging, take your
pick)

Being stationed here the last six
months. Watching the body count
grow. The three assassination
attempts on my life.

RIKER

I can see where that could affect
your point of view.

ALEXANA

But I guess the event that really
opened my eyes took place only
a few days after my arrival. A
terrorist bomb destroyed a
shuttlebus... sixty school
children. There were no
survivors.

A beat as Riker absorbs this information.

26 CONTINUED: (2)

ALEXANA

The Ansata claimed it was a mistake. That their intended target was a police transport. As if that made everything all right.

(a beat)

That day I vowed to put an end to terrorism in this city. And I will.

A grim smile from Riker. It's not a smile of approval. Rather it's one of respect. This is clearly not a woman to be taken lightly. As she turns back to study the computer screen...

CUT TO:

27 INT. CAVERN

Beverly is finishing her examinations, as the terrorist boy assists her.

BEVERLY

(to the boy)

Thank you. You're very helpful... you could learn to do this when you grow up...

(beat)

... if you grow up.

The boy just looks at her curiously.

27A ANGLE

Finn is chatting off to the side with some of his friends... sees that she's finished, breaks off and moves toward her... She moves away from the patients...

BEVERLY

They're dying.

He reacts... really quite stunned.

BEVERLY

I'm seeing a complicated set of conditions... their DNA is warped somehow; it's disrupting their entire cellular chemistry...

27A CONTINUED:

FINN

You can't do anything?

BEVERLY

I can make them more comfortable.
That's all. The damage is too
extensive.

27A CONTINUED: (2)

Finn's eyes grow dark... he looks sadly at his comrades, moves a step or two away from Beverly as he whispers something we don't hear, perhaps a prayer. Beverly studies him. He looks at her... begins to walk.

BEVERLY

If I could detect the condition earlier...

FINN

... you would be able to reverse the damage?

BEVERLY

Perhaps. I don't know.

(beat)

What happened to them...

FINN

It's the inverter.

They move to the equipment... the shoulder harnesses, generator, other tech equipment.

FINN

(irony)

It has given our cause a new life. But asks for our lives in return.

BEVERLY

What does it do?

FINN

We transport through a dimensional shift that the Rutian sensors can't trace.

BEVERLY

Dimensional shifting? You can't do that with humanoid tissue.

FINN

There are risks... the designers warned us... but it works.

She looks at him, finds this incredible. She uses her tricorder to examine him...

27A CONTINUED: (3)

BEVERLY

You're showing the same distorted readings. Not as severe as the others but --

FINN

(brushing it off)

Doesn't matter.

BEVERLY

It does if it kills you.

FINN

(simply)

Don't you know? A dead martyr's worth ten posturing leaders.

On her reaction...

28 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

At the pool table, Wesley and Data are examining one of the Ansata armbands... that they have opened...

DATA

A subspace field coil with an isolated power source... curious...

WESLEY

How could something this small manage to get them anywhere?

At the console, Geordi has seen something on a monitor, reacts...

GEORDI

Hey, guys... look at this...

Wesley takes the Ansata armband, as they move to Geordi.

GEORDI

The Rutian team picked up a faint nuclear vibration during the terrorist movements...

WESLEY

(mind thinking)

Nuclear vibration...

28 CONTINUED:

DATA

That could possibly indicate
subspace transition rebound during
transport...

WESLEY

(coming to him)

Wait a minute... computer, call
up files on... what was it
called...

(excited, to Data and
Geordi)

We spent an hour on it in my
astral physics course last year...
folded space transport...

GEORDI

(connecting)

Alternate dimensions...

DATA

Are you referring to the Elway
Theorem?

WESLEY

Yes... computer, files on the
Elway Theorem... what if they're
moving inter-dimensionally?

DATA

But the Elway Theorem proved to
be entirely inaccurate... all
research was abandoned by the mid-
twenty-third century...

Looking at the monitors as the files come up...

WESLEY

Data, look at it... the faint
nuclear vibration is consistent...
and Elway used an isolated field
coil just like this one.

GEORDI

It would be untraceable by any
standard sensing device.

DATA

But it was proven to be fatal.
To use this technology would be
an irrational act.

29 ANGLE - PICARD

ENTERS, having overheard the last two speeches...

PICARD

We may well be dealing with
irrational people, Data. Is there
a way to trace this... ?

GEORDI

(checking with his
colleagues)
With an adaptive subspace
echogram, maybe... ?

DATA

If anyone is willing to transport
in this manner, Captain, they
would suffer significant internal
damage which could be detected.

PICARD

(adding it up)
And it sounds as though they might
require the services of... a
doctor.

Reactions.

30 EXT. PLAZA - DAY

It's a round-up. Uniformed police officers have people
stopped.

The twenty-fourth century version of papers (a transparent
triangle shaped card which is read by a light pen) are
being checked.

Alexana and Riker, in the company of her security
guards watch the proceedings.

31
thru OMITTED
32

33 NEW ANGLE

As the waiter we saw in the teaser is taken into custody. He glares at Riker and Alexana as he's taken away.

34 BACK TO RIKER AND ALEXANA

RIKER
This is no way to live.

ALEXANA
For us or them?

RIKER
For both of you.

ALEXANA
I know it's not pretty, Riker.
But this is what terrorism has
done to this city.

RIKER
There must be a better way than
this to deal with it.

ALEXANA
I know my methods seem harsh but
believe me, they're gentle
compared to my predecessors.
Suspects would be brought into
police headquarters and...
mysteriously vanish. I put a stop
to that.

RIKER
And what happened to this
predecessor of yours?

ALEXANA
He was murdered.

34 CONTINUED:

As Riker reacts, a woman and her son -- a boy about Wesley's age -- are fettered with twenty-fourth century handcuffs are led away.

For some reason, this arrest affects Riker more than the others, and his tone is sharp.

RIKER

Are you going to tell me that boy's a threat?

ALEXANA

It's possible.

(a beat)

That shuttlebus I told you about... the bomb was set by a teenager.

Riker can only shake his head. He's getting fed up with the whole situation.

ALEXANA

And in a world where children blow up children... everyone's a threat.

And as they watch the round-up continue:

CUT TO:

35 INT. CAVERN

The infirmary. Beverly is trying to ease the three patients who are suffering from the dimensional effect. She is suffering with them and for them, because there's nothing she can do except make them comfortable. She administers a hypo to the young woman, then sits next to her on the bed, and clasps the girl's hand. The terrorist boy is eager to assist.

Finn is seated on a low rock wall which surrounds the infirmary. Beverly is unaware of him for she is intent on her patients. He is sketching, but periodically he looks up and studies Beverly.

36 ANGLE ON BEVERLY

As she becomes aware of the scrutiny. She looks up, annoyed, and notices Finn.

36 CONTINUED:

He is the source of all her troubles, and so frowns,
but then becomes puzzled at his actions.

Beverly stands, and circles around the cots and the
walls to come up behind him.

37 ANGLE ON - THE SKETCH PAD

It is a very fine sketch of Beverly's hands clasping
the girl's.

BEVERLY

You should be drawing, not
killing people.

FINN

I can do both.

And his attitude infuriates her.

BEVERLY

How can you have such a casual
attitude toward killing?

FINN

(without humor)

I take my killing very seriously,
Doctor.

She shakes her head, unable to understand this man.

FINN

(shrugs her off)

You are an idealist...

BEVERLY

I live in an ideal culture...
there is no need for your kind
of violence... we've proven that.

He looks at her, grunts.

37 CONTINUED:

FINN

Your origins on Earth are from the American continent, are they not?

BEVERLY

North America.

FINN

I have read your history books. This is a war for independence. I am no different than your own George Washington...

BEVERLY

Washington was a military general. He was not a terrorist.

FINN

Doctor, the difference between a general and terrorist is only the difference between winners and losers. You win, you're called a general. You lose...

BEVERLY

You are killing innocent people... Can't you see the immorality of what you're doing... or have you killed so often, you've become blind to it?

Finn looks at her, shakes his head at her naivete.

FINN

How much innocent blood has been spilled for the cause of freedom in the history of your Federation, Doctor? How many good and noble societies have bombed civilians in war? Wiped out whole cities. And now that you enjoy the comfort that has come from their battles, their killing... you frown on my immorality... ? Doctor, I am willing to die for my freedom. And, in the finest tradition of your own great civilization, I'm willing to kill for it too.

And as he leaves her to think about that...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

38 INT. ALEXANA'S OFFICE

Riker and Alexana have just finished interviewing one of the detainees from the round-up. He stares sullenly at them as Alexana dismisses him with:

ALEXANA
(curtly)
All right you can go.

She nods to one of her security guards who stands inside the doorway. The security guard waits for the detainee to get out of his chair and then escorts him out of the office. This has been going on a long time.

Riker paces around, tense and frustrated.

ALEXANA
If you want, I could become more persuasive.

Riker refuses to even consider it.

RIKER
No.

Alexana nods, accepting, if not totally agreeing with his decision.

The security guard enters with the waiter who is nervous but defiant. Seats him. Alexana consults her wall screen computer.

ALEXANA
You're Katik Shaw, the waiter from the Lumar Cafe.
(he nods)
You witnessed both the explosion and the kidnapping.

38 CONTINUED:

KATIK

I saw nothing.

Riker's impatience is growing.

ALEXANA

We are aware of your ties with
the Ansata... For all we know
you planted the bomb yourself...
Where have they taken her?

KATIK

I don't know what you're talking
about.

RIKER

I've had enough of this.

Before Alexana can respond, Riker places himself
between her and the prisoner.

RIKER

(to Katik)

I want you to take a message back
to your people. Tell them the
Federation is willing to negotiate
for the release of Doctor Crusher.

ALEXANA

Riker... !

Riker cuts her off.

RIKER

She's a Starfleet officer. That
makes her my responsibility.

Alexana's silence is a tacit agreement.

RIKER

(to Katik)

Your side has demands, we're
willing to listen to them. We
want her back. It's as simple
as that.

38 CONTINUED: (2)

Katik studies Riker trying to deceive whether there's any truth behind the officer's words. After a beat, Riker moves away.

RIKER
(continuing; to Alexana)
I don't think it's necessary to
detain this gentleman any longer.

Katik looks over at Alexana, figures there's no way she'll let him go so easily. Alexana glances at Riker who is also waiting for her response. Finally she breaks the silence.

ALEXANA
(to Katik)
Get out.

Katik tries to hide his amazement. He hurries out of the room before she can change her mind.

ALEXANA
I should have him followed, but
we'll try it your way.

RIKER
Is that what you want?

She sits down at her desk. Suddenly she seems very weary.

ALEXANA
What I want is to go home. Back
to my own country. To leave
behind the roundups, the
interrogations, the bodies lying
in the street. To be able to walk
without bodyguards, and not have
to jump at every unexpected noise.
That's what I want Riker.

She leans back in her chair, angry.

39 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard is standing by Data who is working at Science One. Supernumeraries at Conn, Ops and Tactical.

DATA

The dimensional jump creates a subspace pressure modulation, Captain. By setting up a magnetosphere faint echogram that can monitor each of their movements, we may be able to collect enough data to trace their power source.

PICARD

Can you estimate the number of jumps it will take?

DATA

Dimensional shifting is such an unstable procedure that I cannot say.

Picard acknowledges... as he starts to move away, Data continues, stops him.

DATA

Captain, I am finding it difficult to understand many aspects of Ansata conduct. Much of their behavioral norm would be defined by my program as unnecessary and unacceptable.

PICARD

And by my... "program" as well, Data.

DATA

But, if that is so, Captain, why are their methods often successful?

(MORE)

39 CONTINUED:

DATA (Cont'd)

(off Picard's reaction)

I have been reviewing the history of armed rebellion and it appears that terrorism is an effective way to promote political change.

PICARD

I have never subscribed to the theory that political power flows from the barrel of a gun, Data...

DATA

In most instances, you would be correct. But there are numerous examples where it was successful... the independence of the Mexican State from Spain, the Irish Unification of 2024, the Kenzie Rebellion...

PICARD

Yes, I'm aware of them...

DATA

Then, would it be accurate to say that terrorism is acceptable when the options for peaceful settlement have been foreclosed?

PICARD

Data, we cannot condone violence.

DATA

Even in response to violence?

Picard looks at him.

PICARD

These are questions that mankind has been struggling with since creation. I am afraid your confusion, Data... is only human.

On Data's reaction...

40 INT. CAVERN

Finn is sketching again... studying Beverly as she works among the patients...

40 CONTINUED:

The FLASH (O.S.)... Finn turns to see the waiter coming toward him as the terrorist boy comes over and takes his shoulder harness from him...

WAITER
Everyone is being rounded up.

He glances at Beverly who looks back curiously...

FINN
Because of her?

WAITER
(acknowledges)
The Federation wants to negotiate her release...

FINN
... while they arrange for the Rutian police to fill up the detention cells...

WAITER
(nods in agreement)
A Starfleet officer is working with the director. He wants a meeting with you.

FINN
I'm sure he does.

He shakes his head... looks at Beverly... looks at the sketch in his hand...

41 THE SKETCH

is of Beverly...

42 FINN

acknowledges away the waiter, moves toward her...

FINN
Your Federation colleagues have engineered mass arrests to pressure me into releasing you.

BEVERLY
I'm sure you've misunderstood...

42 CONTINUED:

FINN

They are working with the police.
He's seen it with his own eyes.

BEVERLY

All they want is to get me back
safely.

FINN

I'm not going to release you.

And he looks at her and perhaps there is a sexual
tension here.

FINN

I need you here.

BEVERLY

To find a way to reverse the
effects of the dimensional
shift... ? I can do that right
now. Stop using it.

(beat, vulnerable)

Finn, I have a life, a son who
needs me.

FINN

He is on the ship?

She nods. Finn looks uncomfortably down... and then
back again with guilty eyes...

FINN

I am sorry he is on the ship.

She realizes what he's thinking --

BEVERLY

No...

FINN

(no choice)

They have joined forces with the
Rutians against us...

BEVERLY

We are not your enemy...

FINN

They are more valuable to me than
an enemy.

(MORE)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

FINN (Cont'd)

For seventy years we've been shouting, and no one's heard us. Destroy the Federation flagship... someone will listen.

He starts away. Beverly rushes after him...

BEVERLY

Please...

FINN

They are the ones who interfered. They brought medical supplies. They organized mass arrests. They are killing your son, not me.

BEVERLY

Please, don't do this, Finn. I'll do anything you ask.

He studies her a moment, contemplating all the things he could ask of her.

FINN

I had a son, too. He was thirteen when he died in detention.

And he moves away. On her reaction...

43 INT. CORRIDOR - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Two crewpersons walking down the corridor. The SOUND of the inter-dimensional transporter, and an armed Ansata terrorist APPEARS. She opens fire, and one crewperson goes down... she turns and runs...

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and Troi at Command. Wesley at Science One. Worf at Tactical. Data at Ops. Supernumerary at Conn.

WORF

Intruder alert deck twelve...

Almost simultaneously...

WESLEY

I've got a subspace reflection. It's a dimensional shift...

44 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Red Alert. Sound general
quarters.

The red alert begins to SOUND.

45 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

Geordi is in his little side office. Red Alert is sounding. Geordi leaps to his feet, and starts moving toward Engineering proper. A couple of techs in coveralls pause in their work on the main warp drive, and also react to the red alert.

The SOUND, and a terrorist APPEARS on the upper catwalk, and another APPEARS on the lower level by the techs.

GEORDI

Security to Engineering.

The terrorist on the lower level fires, and kills a tech. The terrorist then spins around and fires at Geordi who dives for cover. The other techs run out...

46 EXT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF

Intruders in Engineering...

DATA

Casualties reported on deck
twelve. Sickbay is responding.

PICARD

Seal off all decks... lock on
transporters to intruder signals.

ENGINEER'S COM VOICE

Intruder signals unstable,
Captain, I cannot lock on...

DATA

They are moving inter-dimensionally...
neither the
transporters nor forcefields will
be able to contain them, sir.

47 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

The man on the upper level tosses down a satchel charge. The second terrorist slaps it on the side of the warp chamber. It clings like a limpet, and the band on the edge LIGHTS. It is PULSING and emitting a BEEP in a climbing cadenza. The gunmen VANISH, and Geordi charges back into Engineering.

48 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
Explosive charge on the main warp chamber...

PICARD
Transporter room three, lock on the explosive device and energize.

ENGINEER'S COM VOICE
It's scrambling the sensors, Captain... I can't pinpoint it.

PICARD
Begin emergency evacuation... prepare for saucer separation... Mister La Forge, can you remove the charge from the engine core...

49 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

GEORDI
Stand by... I'm trying...

He grabs the charge on the engine core, and yanks. It doesn't budge.

GEORDI
They've got it locked on somehow... hold on...

Frenziedly he snatches a tool from a console, and surgically removes the charge with the laser. It drops into his hand. He moves quickly across the room to get it away from the engine core... on the move --

49 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Got it. Transporter Room, stand
by to lock on my signal and
transport two kilometers off the
starboard nacelle.

50 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

TROI

(reacts)

His signal... ?

Picard motions for her to be calm, Geordi knows what
he's doing...

51 INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi yanks off his communicator. He slaps it onto
the device as he pushes it out of Engineering... and
ducks back for cover... The sound of the bomb has
become an almost frenzied SCREAM.

GEORDI

Transporter Room, now...

52 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

The bomb MATERIALIZES and EXPLODES.

53 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before. The tension is palpable. Picard is on his
feet.

PICARD

Commander La Forge. Report.

54 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Geordi leans against the wall, and touches a companel.

GEORDI

Transport complete...

54 CONTINUED:

He moves to his fallen colleague..

GEORDI
I have a man down.

55 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

WESLEY
More subspace reflections...

Picard, his concentration broken by Wesley sudden exclamation, looks back.

PICARD
Can you calibrate their destination?

WESLEY
No, sir, the readings are --

The SOUND, the LIGHT and Finn and another terrorist APPEAR. They spray a few shots around the bridge... one hits Data's console which explodes in his face, he tries to see, attempting to keep the ship operational... other consoles explode... Troi and Wesley and other supernumeraries dive for cover...

TROI
(during action)
Transporter Room. Code one evacuation: Picard.
(no acknowledgment)
Transporter Room...

As Worf goes for his phaser and stuns the second terrorist... who groans and hits his shoulder pad as he goes down and VANISHES... at the same time, Finn wounds Worf... and turns to see

56 ANGLE - PICARD (OPTICAL)

moving at him... the captain gets in a good hard lick before Finn grabs him in a bearhug... a major struggle ensues as Data leaves his post, charging...

Finn keys the dimensional device. Finn and Picard VANISH as Data's hands close on nothing.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

57 INT. CAVERN

Picard is led by two terrorists into the alcove... as Beverly looks up and their eyes meet...

58 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker stands at command, and bleakly surveys the bridge. Alexana and Troi are at his side. Geordi is at Engineering, and Wesley and Data look on from Science One. Supernumeraries at Conn and Ops.

TROI

Lieutenant Worf is recovering in Sickbay. The wound was not severe.

RIKER

Dead and injured?

TROI

Three dead, four wounded.

GEORDI

Another millisecond, and there would have been a big dust cloud orbiting Rutia instead of the Enterprise.

Riker surveys the damage... feels the responsibility.

58 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Why. I just asked if they would talk...

ALEXANA

You have your answer, Riker.

She gives him a sympathetic look -- we've all got to learn the hard way. The anger, the determination grows in his eyes.

WESLEY

Sir, the next time the Ansata use the dimensional jump we should be able to get a fix on their power source.

Riker nods, impatient to move into action.

59 INT. CAVERN

Picard is seated on the camp bed. His hands have been cuffed behind his back. Beverly is tending his battered face. Picard is stunned... impossible to believe all this... reliving the nightmare for her...

PICARD

Worf went down... I don't know if he's alive or dead... there were other casualties...

BEVERLY

Was... Wes... on the bridge...

He looks at her, sorry he hadn't thought to anticipate a mother's fears...

PICARD

Yes...

Her look asks if he's all right... he has no way to answer her...

PICARD

He took cover... I didn't see any more than that...

(beat)

Are you all right?

59 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

(nods)

They needed a doctor.

PICARD

Side effects of their transport?

BEVERLY

Yes...

She looks at him... how did you know?

PICARD

We're getting closer to tracing their movements... actually, it was Wesley who put us onto this dimensional jumping of theirs...

Their eyes meet...

PICARD

He's been extraordinary throughout this. He'll make a fine officer, Beverly.

BEVERLY

He's had good role models...

An intimate beat.

BEVERLY

I'm sorry.

(off his look)

If I'd just returned to the ship...

PICARD

(shakes his head)

I could have had you beamed up.

BEVERLY

(reacts)

You wouldn't dare.

PICARD

(reacts back)

I would and I should have.

And this plays extremely casually, low key -- quick repartee, out of left field for this time and place...

59 CONTINUED: (2)

BEVERLY

Without my permission...

PICARD

If you won't follow orders...

BEVERLY

If you give reasonable orders,
I'll obey reasonable orders...

PICARD

Doctor, I will be the judge of
reason when it comes to my
orders...

He stops. They look at each other with affection.
It's not comfortable for Picard... he begins to look
around at his surroundings.

BEVERLY

There aren't any exits to the
surface.

PICARD

Then the only way out is by
transporter or the dimensional
jump.

BEVERLY

A mode of travel I'd encourage
you to avoid. It's killing them.

PICARD

They're mad.

She doesn't answer right away.

BEVERLY

I don't know any more. The
difference between a madman and
a committed man willing to die
for a cause... it's begun to blur
over the last couple days...

59 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

(concerned)

Beverly, I don't have to warn you about the psychological impact of being a hostage...

BEVERLY

I know. I understand that. But their leader, Finn, he's not what you'd expect...

PICARD

No, he's certainly not what I'd expect. Without cause or reason, his little band of outlaws has attacked my ship...

BEVERLY

But he did have reasons... the medical supplies, the arrests... Jean-Luc, if we really examine our role in this...

PICARD

Beverly, you are arguing for a man who may have murdered your son.

And she has to swallow hard and feel where she is and she cannot quite touch the ground and it scares the hell out of her.

FINN'S VOICE

I didn't kill your son...
Beverly.

60 ANGLE

to see Finn has entered... hands shoved into his pockets.

FINN

We were not able to destroy the ship. We had to settle for him...

(to Picard)

She wouldn't even tell me her name. How many days? I call her "Doctor." Are you hungry? Do you want something to eat?

60 CONTINUED:

PICARD

You've made a grave
miscalculation...

FINN

Oh?

PICARD

You've assaulted a Federation
starship, killed and wounded
members of her crew, kidnapped
two officers... do you not expect
a response?

FINN

On the contrary, I'm counting on
it.

PICARD

You want Federation involvement?

FINN

Captain, there's a lot to admire
in the Federation, but there's
a hint of moral cowardice in your
dealings with non-aligned planets.
You do business with a government
that's crushing us. And then you
say you aren't involved. But of
course you are. You just don't
want to get dirty.

PICARD

You accuse us of cowardice while you
plant bombs in shadows...

FINN

I've been fighting the only war
I can against an intractable
enemy. Now, I'm fighting a big
war against a much more powerful
adversary. Can't you see how that
helps me?

BEVERLY

I'm afraid I don't.

PICARD

He has added a chair to the
negotiating table.

60 CONTINUED: (2)

FINN

You added the chair, Captain.
I am simply forcing you to sit
in it. The Federation will
quickly tire of our little war...
they will want you back... they
will want to get as far away from
Rutia as they can. And I will
not make it easy. Eventually,
the Federation will force the
government to make concessions.
And then a few more. And then a
few more.

(sardonic)

Until we can finally reach an
honorable agreement that saves face
for all sides.

(beat)

Except we win.

And Picard studies him... and realizes his scenario is
very sound. And this is said leader to leader --

60 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

You understand I will not
cooperate in any way...

FINN

You have already cooperated,
Captain... just by coming here.

61 INT. CORRIDOR (OPTICAL)

Troi is on her way to her quarters when suddenly there is a SOUND, LIGHT, and Finn appears (O.S.). As Troi reacts, Finn lifts a hand, recovering a beat from the pain.

FINN

I'm not here to hurt you. Just hear what I have to say.

Troi nods, forcing herself to remain calm. After a beat, Red Alert SOUNDS... they know he's there...

FINN

Your people are safe. How long they stay that way depends on you. We demand an embargo and trade sanctions levied against Rutia. The Federation will blockade the planet... allow no ships in or out. This will continue until the government of Rutia consents to talks mediated by a Federation counsel. You have twelve hours to make your decision.

As two security men round the bend, Finn VANISHES.

62 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Wesley and Data check their readings at Science One. Then Wesley turns to Riker and Alexana who are at Command.

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

63 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

64 OMITTED

65 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Wesley, Data, Riker and Alexana are gathered about Science One.

WESLEY

We've pinpointed the Ansata base some three hundred kilometers from the city, on the southern tip of the continent.

DATA

Sensors indicate it is located thirty meters below ground, implying a cave or cavern-like dwelling.

RIKER

Any passages leading to the surface?

DATA

Our readings show no evidence of any, Commander.

RIKER

Then whatever light they have must be artificially generated.

ALEXANA

If we can shut it down, you could use the confusion to find your people.

65 CONTINUED:

Worf ENTERS from the aft turbolift. He looks drawn but determined as he approaches Riker.

WORF

Request permission to join the
rescue party, sir.

(a beat)

I owe it to the captain.

Riker knows how much this means to Worf. The Klingon's intensity is almost palpable.

RIKER

Permission granted.

Worf's condition has just improved a hundred percent. Riker looks over at Alexana. It's time. Alexana nods. She's ready.

RIKER

Mister Data... You have the
bridge.

Riker and Alexana head toward the turbolift.

WESLEY

Commander Riker?

Riker turns.

WESLEY

(continuing; summing
it up for all)

Good luck.

Riker is all too aware of the boy's concerns.

RIKER

We'll bring them home, Wes.

They enter the turbolift.

CUT TO:

65A INT. CAVERN

Finn walks over as Beverly treats the wounded...
he's carrying his sketch pad.

FINN
You're glad to see your captain...

BEVERLY
Yes.

Beat. He looks at her... almost a jealous look.

FINN
I may have to kill him.

She just freezes...

FINN
I just wanted to warn you.

BEVERLY
Finn, he can help you... he is
very influential...

FINN
He will not help us...

BEVERLY
If you could convince him that
your cause is...

FINN
You could convince him perhaps.
Not I.

At her weakest...

BEVERLY
I've talked to him. I'll...
try...

65A CONTINUED:

FINN

(shrugs)

If our places were reversed, I
would expect to die...

And that statement is an error of judgement by Finn.
Right here Beverly begins to regain some of her
power... because she knows exactly what the
circumstance would be like if the places were
reversed...

BEVERLY

(a beat)

Your places would never be
reversed. He wouldn't forcibly
abduct you... or play games with
your life. He would treat you with
respect...

FINN

I have treated you with
respect...

BEVERLY

You've scared the hell out of me,
Finn.

(he reacts)

You've controlled me through
fear... just like you've tried
to control this whole continent.

FINN

You haven't tasted real fear yet,
Doctor...

BEVERLY

Is that the best you can do? Is
fear the only weapon you have...

FINN

(beat, thinks)

No, but it's a good one.

A beat. He's pleased with his response.

BEVERLY

You know what scares me the most,
Finn? It scares me to think that
you might win this fight and gain
real power.

That hurts him. She begins to leave.

65A CONTINUED: (2)

FINN

Doctor... I don't want you to fear
me.

Without words to express his feelings, he gives her his
pad... and walks away... she opens it to see her face
sketched on a number of pages... on her reaction...

66 INT. CAVERN

A secluded area, somewhat shielded from the main camp.
Riker, Worf and Alexana... and three policemen...
begin to move quickly forward...

66A ANGLE - TWO TERRORISTS

standing by the entrance to the main cavern... Worf
and one of the policemen move quickly up behind them...
slap tiny hyposprays against their necks. There is
a quiet HISS, and the rebels slump. Worf and the
policeman quickly pull the unconscious rebels into
cover.

While this is occurring Riker crawls forward using all
available cover, to get a look at the camp proper.

67 ANOTHER ANGLE

The camp. People going about their business.

68 ANOTHER ANGLE

As Riker scrambles back to his companions. Using hand
signals he indicates where he believes the generator
is located. Alexana nods, and draws her phaser. Leads
her men into the darkness.

Riker and Worf move back... they see --

68A HIS POV - BEVERLY

moving into the alcove...

69 INT. THE ALCOVE

Beverly returns...

PICARD

How dangerous would another ride
through the inverter be to us?

BEVERLY

I'm not sure. But I don't want
you to start thinking...

PICARD

It is our obligation to think of
escape...

BEVERLY

He's prepared to kill you.

PICARD

A fine reason to escape...

(beat)

Do you think you've gained his
confidence?

She reacts, shows Picard the sketchbook... he reacts
as he sees it.

PICARD

Indeed, you have... and a bit
more... this might prove to be
an advantage, Doctor...

BEVERLY

(interrupting)

Jean-Luc, there are some things...
I want to say... just in case we
don't get out of this...

And he looks at her and we can only speculate on what
she might say... because suddenly the lights go. For
an instant they are in total blackness then emergency
back-up comes on. The cave is now heavily shadowed,
and eerie in the red lit gloom.

PICARD

Have they found us... ?

69A ANGLE ON - FINN (FORMERLY SCENE 71)

He is looking about wildly. He seems to make a
decision, and he starts running for the alcove.

70 ANOTHER ANGLE - RIKER AND Worf

Moving swiftly through the darkness. They are seen by a pair of terrorists and must overpower them on their way to the rescue... quietly, quickly... they take them down...

70A WEAPONS CACHE

Several terrorists run to get access to their phaser rifles... but as they do, Rutian police move out and cover them...

71 OMITTED

72 ANGLE ON - ALEXANA

She spots Finn. She moves after him...

73 ANGLE ON - THE ALCOVE

Finn ENTERS. Finn raises a phaser at Picard.

BEVERLY

Finn...

73A ANGLE - ALEXANA (OPTICAL)

At the mouth of the alcove... FIRES her phaser and Finn goes down... Riker and Worf arrive, move to Picard... the terrorists are all covered... Worf frees the captain from his cuffs...

73B BEVERLY

moves to Finn's body, checks his vital signs.

BEVERLY

He's dead.

73C INT. CAVERN - OUTSIDE THE ALCOVE

As they come out. Riker exchanges a look with Alexana. And he is not harsh in this because he has shared her frustration, but still --

RIKER

You didn't have to kill him.

ALEXANA

As a prisoner he would have been a focus for violence as his followers tried to free him. Now, he's a martyr, but the death toll may be lower -- at least in the short term.

(beat)

An imperfect solution for an imperfect world.

WORF

Captain...

They turn to see...

73D OMITTED

73E THE TWELVE YEAR OLD TERRORIST BOY

standing there, holding a phaser rifle pointed at Alexana... hate burning in his eyes. A long beat.

73F ANGLE - BEVERLY

turns to the boy, she implores him with her eyes to give her the gun...

BEVERLY

No more killing.

He finally, slowly gives up the gun... and Rutians rush him and take him away.

ALEXANA

Already another one to take his place... it never ends.

RIKER

(not so sure)

He could have killed you. He didn't. Maybe the end begins with one boy putting down a gun.

Off her look.

74
thru OMITTED
76

77 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

C.U. on Wesley at Conn. Anxiously waiting.

78 NEW ANGLE

to include Data at Command. Troi and Geordi nearby. Supernumeraries at all other posts.

The turbolift doors open and in come Picard and Beverly, followed by Riker and Worf.

Wesley and Beverly share a long, loving smile across the room. He hurries over. A tight hug.

BEVERLY

I hear I owe my rescue to you.

78 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

I was just part of the team.
(a real kid)
It's good to have you back.
(smiling at Picard)
Both of you. Sir.

Picard glances around the bridge... it's good to be back.

PICARD

(a beat)
Take us out of orbit, Mister
Crusher.

Then noticing mother and son are not quite ready to let go of one another.

PICARD

(continuing)
At your convenience.

On our reunited crew...

78A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

As it leaves orbit, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END