

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Tin Man"  
#40273-168

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FINAL DRAFT

JANUARY 31, 1990

STAR TREK: "Tin Man" - 1/31/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Tin Man"

CAST

PICARD	TAM ELBRUN
RIKER	CAPTAIN JONATHAN DESOTO
DATA	ROMULAN COMMANDER
BEVERLY	
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	
WESLEY	
O'BRIEN	
COMPUTER VOICE	

Non-Speaking

SUPERNUMERARIES  
ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS

STAR TREK: "Tin Man" 1/31/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Tin Man"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE  
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM  
TRANSPORTER ROOM  
CORRIDOR  
TURBOLIFT  
OBSERVATION LOUNGE  
SICKBAY/CRUSHER'S OFFICE  
TAM'S GUEST QUARTERS  
DATA'S QUARTERS  
MAIN ENGINEERING  
TEN-FORWARD

TIN MAN ("GOMTUU")

PILOT'S CHAMBER  
CORRIDOR

USS HOOD

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

ROMULAN WARBLRD

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

USS HOOD

ROMULAN WARBLRDS

TIN MAN

STAR TREK: "Tin Man" - 1/31/90 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Tin Man"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

HAYASHI NEBULA	ha-YAH-she
TAM ELBRUN	TAM EL-brun
GHORUSDA	gor-OOSH-dah
BETA STROMGREN	STRUM-gren
CHANDRA FIVE	CHON-druh
GOMTUU	GOM-too

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Tin Man"  
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moving at warp.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43779.3.  
The Enterprise is preparing  
detailed atmospheric charts of the  
Hayashi system. Although tedious,  
this endeavor is the first step  
toward planet colonization.

2 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

PICARD and RIKER at Command. WORF and TROI are at  
their stations. DATA and WESLEY are at Ops and Conn.

Data reacts to something on the Ops panel.

DATA

Sensors report the USS Hood  
closing on an intercept course  
at high warp.

PICARD

That's odd... I wasn't notified  
of a rendezvous.

RIKER

They seem to be in an awful hurry.

WORF

Sir, we are being hailed on a  
secured channel by Captain DeSoto.

PICARD

On screen.

3  
thru OMITTED  
5

6 WIDE ANGLE FAVORING MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

TIGHT ANGLE ON DESOTO in the Hood's Ready Room.

DESOTO

Sorry to sneak up on you like  
that, Jean-Luc --

PICARD

Robert, why didn't you inform  
us --

DESOTO

-- Out here, you never know  
who's listening. Keeps you on  
your toes, anyway. Hey, Will,  
you getting soft on that luxury  
liner?

Riker grins. Picard is still puzzled.

PICARD

So, old friend. How are you?

DESOTO

Ah, you know, they send you  
Galaxy-Class boys out here to the  
far reaches. Me, I'm hauling my  
butt back and forth between  
starbases --

7 ANGLE ON PICARD

Smiling to Riker and Troi; DeSoto's put-on griping is an old song going back to when he and Picard served together as lieutenants.

PICARD

But not today.

8 CROSSCUTTING FROM BRIDGE TO MAIN VIEWER AS NECESSARY  
(OPTICAL)

DESOTO

Nope. Starfleet's got new orders for you. This is top priority. They need the fastest ship in the fleet -- and the best people. That's you.

PICARD

If time is so important, why didn't they transmit the orders by subspace?

DESOTO

They're worried about Romulan eavesdropping on this one. And we've got a passenger for you. Hard to send by subspace.

PICARD

What sort of passenger?

DESOTO

Mission specialist. He'll bring your orders aboard with him. Name's Tam Elbrun.

RIKER

(startled)

Elbrun? You mean Tam Elbrun as in the Ghorusda disaster?

8 CONTINUED:

DESOTO

The same.

(sighing)

What can I say? Your orders are  
to cooperate fully with him.

9 REACTION SHOT OF TROI

clearly distressed at the discussion of Elbrun.

DESOTO

(continuing)

Best of luck, folks. Hood out.

10 BACK TO SHOT

A view of space replaces DeSoto's image.

DATA

Sir, the Hood is slowing to  
impulse.

Picard rises, looks dubiously at the others. Most of  
whom clearly know the name Elbrun.

PICARD

Mister Data, come with me --

11 ANGLE ON TROI

who steps anxiously toward Picard.

TROI

Captain, let me come with you to  
greet Tam --

PICARD

You know him?

12 CLOSE ON TROI

TROI

I do... He was at the university  
on Betazed when I studied  
psychology there.

PICARD

Ah, I see. He was a colleague,  
then.

12 CONTINUED:

TROI

No, sir. He was a patient...

Off Picard's reaction.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

13 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND U.S.S. HOOD (OPTICAL)

running at impulse speed.

14 INT. CORRIDOR - TRACKING SHOT - PICARD, TROI AND DATA

ENTERING the Transporter Room.

TROI

Tam is a telepath of extraordinary talent, even for a Betazoid. He's a specialist in first contact with new life-forms, and... a rather unique person.

(a beat)

He's not what you might expect, Captain.

Troi and Picard EXIT into Transporter Room. Off Data's puzzled expression as he follows them.

15 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

O'Brien behind console, as Tam Elbrun MATERIALIZES on the transporter. He's a mid-thirties Betazoid, with wide, dark eyes. He appears nervous. Informally dressed, not at all officious.

15 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Welcome aboard the Enterprise.  
I'm --

TAM

Captain Picard. Here --

Tam reaches into his pocket and produces a data cassette. He flips it casually to Picard as he steps down. Picard catches it, annoyed. Tam's attitude is abrupt and rude.

TAM

(continuing)

You want to know all about your mission. Everything's on there. Orders and briefings. Destination and heading, all that.

16 ANGLE ON PICARD AND DATA

standing by transporter console. Picard is visibly annoyed. He hands the cassette to Data, who accepts it and steps toward Tam as if to ask a question.

TAM

(to Troi)

I sensed you were out here.  
How've you been?

17 ANGLE ON TROI

TROI

(embarrassed by Tam's tactlessness, she still can't help smiling)

Fine, but Tam, I...

TAM

Thought you were on  
Chandra Five.

TROI

... thought you were on  
Chandra Five.

They laugh -- this is a familiar routine to them both. Data now has come to stand behind Tam, unnoticed.

17 CONTINUED:

DATA

Sir --

Tam whirls on Data as if a rocket just went off behind him. NO ONE has EVER approached Tam Elbrun without his awareness. Until now.

TAM

Who -- what are you?

DATA

(puzzled)

My name is Data.

Tam locks gazes with Troi, READING the answers he wants from HER MIND. Then he looks back at Data, fascinated as a child with a new toy.

TAM

Incredible, an android. I can't read you at all. It's like you're not there.

Data frowns, puzzled. Tam notices the cassette in the android's hand.

TAM

Oh. You better hurry up to the bridge with that. Captain wants you to run the orders, scan the technical schematics, and be ready to brief him in ten minutes.

(to Picard)

Right?

Picard activates his communicator.

PICARD

Number One?

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Riker here.

PICARD

Meet Mister Data on the bridge. He has our orders and new heading.

RIKER

Aye, sir.

Picard nods to Data. Data EXITS.

17 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

(continuing)

And assemble the bridge staff for a mission briefing in -- fifteen minutes. Picard out.

(to Tam)

Mister Elbrun. Would you --

TAM

(flatly)

Like to see my quarters. No. I'd rather get this briefing over with. Then be left alone until I'm needed.

Tam EXITS. Troi looks apologetically at Picard, who is severe. They exit together after Tam.

18 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND U.S.S HOOD (OPTICAL)

as the Hood veers away to starboard, leaving the Enterprise. The Enterprise turns.

19 INT. CORRIDOR - TRACKING SHOT - RIKER AND GEORDI

are walking to turbolift.

GEORDI

I've heard something about Ghorusda. Weren't about forty people killed --

RIKER

Forty-seven, including the captain of the Adelphi -- and two friends from my class at the Academy.

GEORDI

Sorry. What happened?

Riker and Geordi step into turbolift. The doors close.

20 INT. TURBOLIFT - RIKER AND GEORDI

RIKER

It was a first contact situation.

20 CONTINUED:

RIKER

The Ghorusdans values are so complex, and so different, that the Federation sent along a specialist. To prevent misunderstanding.

GEORDI

That was Tam Elbrun? And what happened was his fault?

Riker considers a moment, before answering.

RIKER

Not directly. Board of inquiry blamed Captain Darson's carelessness about Ghorusdan cultural taboos.

(pause)

But if Elbrun's so good, why didn't he warn Darson? What was he there for, if he couldn't sense that much hostility?

21 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Data is at Science One. Worf at Tactical. Supernumeraries at all other stations. Data is loading the data chip. Geordi and Riker stand at Data's shoulder.

DATA

Commander, Geordi... do you ever feel as if I am not "there?" That is to say... not "here."

Reactions from others. Geordi clasps Data's shoulders as if testing his solidness.

GEORDI

You seem to be all here.

Data considers this, then turns his attention to the screen where the information is appearing.

21 CONTINUED:

DATA

Our destination is the Beta Stromgren system, following the path of the Vega Nine probe.

RIKER

That's twenty-three parsecs beyond our furthest manned explorations.

DATA

That is correct, Commander. Apparently the probe has discovered...

(a beat, reacting to something he sees on the screen)

...Astonishing.

22 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Present are Picard, Riker, Geordi, Troi, Data, Worf and Tam Elbrun. Tam is seated next to Data. NOTE: throughout this scene Tam should appear distracted by pain, as from a bad headache.

23 CLOSE ON SCREEN (OPTICAL)

of a RED SUPERGIANT STAR. Flashing around it in close orbit is a TINY, BRILLIANT WHITE light.

DATA

This is the star Beta Stromgren...

24 PULL BACK TO SHOW OUR PEOPLE AND TAM SEATED AROUND TABLE

DATA

(continuing)

Scientists have discovered that it is in the final stages of an alternating cycle of expansion and collapse, which will soon result in a supernova.

(beat)

However, the long-range unmanned probe which Starfleet sent to observe the process has discovered something much more --

TAM

(exasperated)

Oh, Data -- don't waste time.

Tam reaches past a startled Data and PUNCHES the projector CONTROLS. The screen FREEZES its motion. A FRAME APPEARS around the star's tiny companion, and the framed area is MAGNIFIED to REPLACE the star image.

25 CLOSE ON SCREEN (OPTICAL)

The new image is a SLENDER OBJECT which PULSES WITH LIGHT, of organic appearance. At the aft end of the object are two GLOWING ORANGE GRIDS -- clearly ENGINES. The whole surface of the thing is NETWORKED by faintly pulsing pale white ENERGY PATHS, suggesting something between lightning charges and a human circulatory system.

TAM

They call it "Tin Man". The Vega Probe found it orbiting Stromgren.

26 BACK TO SHOT (OPTICAL)

GEORDI

Looks like a ship of some kind.

TAM

Its energy source is unknown. The people who've studied the transmissions think it's a starship. And they're sure it's alive.

PICARD

(immediately fascinated)

Alive? How so?

GEORDI

A cybernetic organism -- like the Borg?

TAM

No, no, NO! Here --

Tam manipulates the projector controls again. Data looks on, bemused, as the image on the screen is replaced by rotating multi-plane artwork representing interior diagrams and schematics of Tin Man.

TAM

Starfleet believes it's an organic creature, born in space, living its life in the wastes between stars.

Tam RISES, WINCING slightly, and PACES the room, growing more excited as he speaks. Troi notices his discomfort.

TAM

(continuing)

No one knows where it came from, or why it's here now. And we're going to meet it. We're going to talk to it.

(softly, as if to himself)

I'm going to talk to it.

Riker regards Tam dubiously.

RIKER

Have attempts been made --

26 CONTINUED:

TAM

To communicate with it by  
subspace. Of course --  
linguacode, universal translation,  
all that. It won't work. Tin Man  
is too different. Direct  
mind-to-mind contact is our only  
hope.

TROI

The opportunity for discovery is  
extraordinary -- but I don't yet  
understand Starfleet's urgency  
--

Tam turns to Troi, a little blankly -- the telepath  
is lost in imagination.

PICARD

The Romulans --

TAM

Hell, I forgot -- the Romulans...

PICARD

They claim the sector of space  
in which Beta Stromgren is  
located.

WORF

The Romulans claim all that is  
within their field of vision.

DATA

And they routinely monitor the  
telemetry of our deep-space  
probes.

PICARD

So it's quite certain they'll  
be sending a ship of their own  
to investigate this Tin Man.

26 CONTINUED: (2)

TAM

No... Actually, they're sending  
two. Uh, Data --

Riker reacts -- concerned.

DATA

That is correct. Starbase one  
twenty-three detected two  
D'daridex class cruisers on an  
intercept course.

(to Picard)

The top speed of this class vessel  
is known to be less than our own,  
sir. We therefore have some  
advantage.

PICARD

So, it's a race?

(thoughtfully)

An alien intelligence -- a new  
life-form -- representing a  
technology far beyond that of  
either the Romulans or ourselves.  
The Romulans will take whatever  
measures -- military or otherwise  
-- are required to secure the  
creature for study.

GEORDI

Study as in dissect, I'd bet.

27 ANGLE ON PICARD

PICARD

Data, you're our resident honor student in exobiology. I'm assigning you to head up life sciences on this mission.

DATA

Yes, sir.

TAM

Excellent.

PICARD

Meeting adjourned, then.

Everyone but Picard, Tam, Data and Riker EXIT.

TAM

So, Data -- I guess you're the brains of this outfit, huh?

PICARD

Mister Elbrun -- one reason I want you to work closely with a member of my staff is to avoid any further... omissions. The possibility of an encounter with Romulans on this mission is hardly trivial. Yet you --

TAM

(interrupting)

All right, all right... I should have brought up the Romulans earlier, but I was distracted.

Riker looks annoyed. Tam reads his thoughts, and turns to glare at him.

TAM

(to Riker)

And no, Billy boy, I wasn't "distracted" on Ghorusda.

(MORE)

27 CONTINUED:

TAM (Cont'd)

If Darson had listened to me, no  
one would have died. And I  
don't care whether you believe  
that or not.

Tam EXITS angrily, leaving Riker, Picard and Data  
doubtful and concerned.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

29 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Traveling at warp speed.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43782.6.  
Travelling at top warp, we are  
still several days from rendezvous  
with the mysterious entity which  
Starfleet has christened Tin Man.

30 INT. SICKBAY - BEVERLY'S OFFICE - WIDE SHOT

Picard and Troi are present. BEVERLY is at her desk,  
consulting the computer terminal.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

My immediate concern is with Tam  
Elbrun. Starfleet considers his  
unique abilities crucial to our  
mission. Yet he seems to me...  
unstable.

BEVERLY

Well, according to his medical  
records and psych profile, he's  
very high on the ESP scale. A  
sort of prodigy.

PICARD

A prodigy? In what sense?

TROI

In most Betazoids their telepathic  
gifts develop at adolescence.

PICARD

They're not born reading minds?

30 CONTINUED:

TROI

No. Except... for some reason  
that no one understands,  
occasionally a Betazoid child is  
born different.

PICARD

How "different?"

TROI

Born with their telepathic  
abilities "switched on."  
Most Betazoids born like that  
never lead a normal life.

BEVERLY

(understanding now)

The noise of other people's  
thoughts and feelings must be...  
overwhelming. Incomprehensible...  
especially for a child.

TROI

And painful. Early diagnosis and  
special training helped Tam adjust  
-- but he has some problems.

PICARD

(to Troi)

You mentioned a hospitalization  
--

30 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

(nodding)

For stress. Repeatedly,  
throughout his life.

BEVERLY

I always wonder... what holds one  
person together through that kind  
of struggle, while another goes  
under?

PICARD

Yes, well, he's evidently done  
more than "hold together". He's  
the indispensable man -- the  
Federation's finest specialist  
in communication with unknown  
life-forms.

BEVERLY

It looks like the more unusual a  
life form is, the better he likes  
it. His personnel file shows that  
he's gravitated toward assignments  
that isolate him from other  
humanoids.

31 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Data at Command, Worf at Security, Wesley Crusher at Conn.  
Geordi is monitoring the bridge Engineering Aft  
Station. Supernumeraries at all other stations.

WESLEY

Commander Data, I'm picking up  
an unusual echo from my  
navigational sensors.

Worf looks up from his security board.

WORF

There is something there, sir,  
tracking us -- matching our speed  
and heading. Something which  
doesn't fully register on our  
instruments.

32 ANGLE ON DATA

as he consults the back-up Conn panel on his command chair.

DATA

Since there is no known natural phenomenon capable of travel at warp velocities, there are but two possibilities: either it is a sensor malfunction, or it is another ship, following us covertly.

WORF

It is not a sensor malfunction.

33 BACK TO SHOT

as Data RISES and WALKS toward the MAIN VIEWER, concerned.

DATA

Agreed.

WESLEY

A Romulan ship? With their cloaking device, we shouldn't pick them up at all.

GEORDI

Unless they're pulling so much power for something else that they can't fully cloak.

WESLEY

Like what?

GEORDI

(shrugging)

Ask the Romulans... if it is the Romulans.

DATA

Lieutenant, continue monitoring the precise position of the echo -- at any sudden change in its behavior, initiate Yellow Alert.

WORF

Aye, sir.

34 INT. TAM ELBRUN'S GUEST QUARTERS (OPTICAL) - TAM

is STANDING by the long WINDOW, face half-away from the camera, watching the STARS STREAK BY at warp. Lights in his cabin are low; he is lost in the depths until:

TAM

Come in.

He says this a moment BEFORE the DOOR CHIME SOUNDS and Deanna Troi ENTERS. Tam does NOT look to see who it is.

TAM

How're things in the land of the living?

Now he turns to look at her, smiling.

TROI

I thought you might be lonely.  
No one sees you, except Data.

TAM

Lonely? I can hear everything  
that everyone on this ship thinks.  
(a beat)  
No one besides you seems to be  
missing my charming --

TROI

(interrupting, annoyed)  
You want them to dislike you.  
Why?

Tam TURNS away.

TAM

(sarcastic)  
Because I'm not a nice guy?  
(a beat)  
Okay -- because they scare me.

35 ANGLE ON TAM

as he crosses and SLUMPS wearily into a chair.

TAM

(continuing)

Too many minds, Deanna. I can't shut them out -- never could learn. All their loves, their hates, their fears, their... needs. It's like a tide that never ebbs.

(pause)

I could drown.

Troi walks to Tam and places a sympathetic hand on his shoulder --

TROI

I remember.

TAM

(smiling in remembrance.)

You understood -- at least a little -- how I felt.

(indicates the ship)

I see you finally found a place to fit... people to care about...

TROI

And you're still looking.

TAM

(he stands and begins to pace)

Then there's Ghorusda. I've got enough doubts about my... reliability... without having to listen to Riker's, and Picard's --

TROI

What happened there?

TAM

I thought everyone knew --

TROI

No. What happened to you?

35 CONTINUED:

TAM

Maybe... I got too involved with the Ghorusdans, with their point of view. It happens to me. I wanted everyone to get along. I could have warned Darson more forcefully.

TROI

So after that, you ran away? The last I heard, you were the only Federation delegate assigned to Chandra Five.

35 CONTINUED: (2)

TAM

Beautiful creatures, the Chandrans. Their minds are glacial. They have a lovely three-day ritual for saying "hello." Peaceful, untroubled people...

TROI

Unlike humanoids?

TAM

Well, except for your friend Data. I like him. He's... restful.

Troi tries vainly to suppress a smile.

TROI

I believe your impression of Data is probably unique.

TAM

Yeah? Well, having to get to know someone, just once, has its appeal. I mean, talking to them, instead of getting it all at once up here --

(Tam taps his forehead)

-- whether I want it or not.

TROI

But you accepted this mission. You could have stayed on Chandra Five. You willingly came aboard a ship of over a thousand people --

TAM

How could I not? Think of it, Dee. This intelligence that swims naked through space like a fish in the sea. Totally alien, mysterious -- not like us at all. Ancient. And alone.

(quietly, as if to himself)

So lonely, for so long.

TROI

(concerned)

How can you know that? Tam?

35 CONTINUED: (3)

Tam LOOKS AWAY toward the cabin WINDOWS, where the stars stream by. Troi's eyes widen as she senses the TRUTH, from his silence and his mind.

TROI

You're in contact with it. With Tin Man. Aren't you?

TAM

No -- well... yes. A little. Not quite on a conscious level.

TROI

But we're still light-years away. That must be impossible -- even for you.

36 CLOSE ON TAM

TAM

(shrugging)  
Impossible for me. Maybe not impossible for Tin Man.

37 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

coming out of warp.

38 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

High activity - Wesley Crusher and Data at CONN and OPS, Worf at Security, Riker at Command. Supernumeraries monitor Science I and Science II as the crew prepares for its first contact with the Alien. Picard ENTERS from his Ready Room.

PICARD

Status, Number One?

Riker STANDS and yields command chair to Picard.

RIKER

We've reached the outer regions of the Beta Stromgren system, sir. On course for orbital intercept of Tin Man, e.t.a. eighteen minutes.

PICARD

Grand.

38 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Not altogether. Astrophysics reports that the star's rate of collapse is increasing -- it could go supernova within the next few days.

DATA

Captain, we are receiving relayed sensor data, from the Vega Probe -- including visuals.

PICARD

On screen, Mister Data.

39 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

where the curve of the SUPERGIANT STAR fills half of the screen. TIN MAN sweeps majestically into view, shimmering with the silver iridescence of an otherworldly fish. As it sails past the viewer POV, the fire of its engines can be seen. Tin Man is at least the size of the Enterprise. Picard RISES, gazing transfixed at the alien image on the Main Viewer.

PICARD

Magnify.

The image of Tin Man becomes larger.

PICARD

Remarkable. Computer -- locate Tam Elbrun.

COMPUTER VOICE

Tam Elbrun is in Turbolift One, en route to the Main Bridge.

PICARD

Of course.

40 ANGLE FAVORING AFT STATIONS

as Worf, in foreground, FROWNS over his security board. In background, Tam and Troi ENTER from aft turbolift.

WORF

Commander...

Riker WALKS UP ramp to stand by Worf.

40 CONTINUED:

RIKER  
Problem, Worf?

WORF  
Sir, I am reading a wave front  
of ionized particles preceding  
the object which is tracking us.

RIKER  
(nodding)  
Go to Yellow Alert.

PICARD  
On screen.

41  
thru OMITTED  
42

43 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)  
as a ROMULAN WARBLIND UNLOCKS.

43A INT. MAIN BRIDGE  
Off the shocked reactions of the crew.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

44 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND ROMULAN SHIP (OPTICAL)

The Romulan warbird comes up behind the Enterprise.

45 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

as before.

WORF

Romulan warbird, closing.

(pause)

They're arming main disruptors,  
Captain.

PICARD

Go to Red Alert -- shields at  
maximum.

KLAXONS SOUND and red alarm lights flash.

RIKER

Worf, arm photon torpedoes and  
stand by.

WORF

Aye, sir.

RIKER

(to Data)

I thought you said the Enterprise  
was faster than this Romulan --

DATA

In fact, we are, Commander.  
However --

Tam is INTENT upon the viewer.

PICARD

Evasive, Mister Worf. Data, open  
hailing frequencies --

TAM

I guarantee that they don't want  
to talk to you, Captain.

46  
thru OMITTED  
47

48 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

The crew is SHAKEN -- main LIGHTING FAILS as the  
TORPEDOES EXPLODE against the ship's shields.

48A EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND ROMULAN VESSEL (OPTIZCAL)

as the Romulan fires another spread of photon  
torpedoes at the Enterprise. It then flies over the  
Enterprise, away from us and towards the Tin Man,  
recloaking as it goes.

49  
thru OMITTED  
51

52 REVERSE WIDE ANGLE ON BRIDGE

WORF

The Romulan has passed us, sir,  
and recloaked.

PICARD

Damage report.

WORF

No casualties reported. Seventy  
percent loss to main shields, sir.

Tam approaches Picard again.

TAM

Captain, their attack on us was  
incidental.

PICARD

Incidental?

TAM

Yes. To delay us.

DATA

Captain, it would appear that the  
Romulan's intent is to contact  
Tin Man first, at any cost.

(MORE)

52 CONTINUED:

DATA (Cont'd)

(pause)

According to my sensor readings, the warbird exceeded maximum engine output by nearly thirty percent... They appear to have suffered irreparable damage to their warp coils.

Riker takes his chair.

RIKER

So -- they kept up with us by sacrificing their ability to return to Romulan space.

PICARD

A one-way trip.

Tam paces nervously between the Main Viewer and Picard.

TAM

There is one more trailing us, Captain -- a day or two behind. Data's right -- this one's job is to beat us to Tin Man at any cost.

Picard eyes Tam skeptically.

PICARD

You read all this, telepathically --

TAM

-- In the mind of the Romulan commander, during the attack.

Picard exchanges looks with Riker -- can Tam be that good? Evidently so.

PICARD

Very well, then. Mister Crusher all stop.

WESLEY

Aye, sir.

PICARD

Commander La Forge.

52 CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
La Forge here.

53 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Geordi is leaning over a console, locating a burnout.

PICARD'S COM VOICE  
Geordi -- how long to restore  
shields?

GEORDI  
Working on it. Computer,  
reconfigure structural integrity  
power to feed inner deflector  
grid.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Unable to comply. Requested  
reroute would compromise  
operational safety limits.

GEORDI  
To hell with the limits.  
Override. Authorization La Forge  
theta two-nine-nine-seven.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Rerouting structural integrity  
power supply.

GEORDI  
(yells to supernumerary  
in next room)  
Russell! Watch the lateral grid  
balance.  
(looks at panel)  
Nope, too much. We gotta do it  
manually.  
(keys insignia)  
La Forge to bridge.

PICARD'S COM VOICE  
Go ahead.

GEORDI  
Captain, I'm trying to feed the  
inner grid by stealing some power  
from the structural integrity  
field. You should have partial  
shielding in thirty minutes.

53 CONTINUED:

PICARD'S COM VOICE

You have ten.

54 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

PICARD

Picard out.

(to the group in  
general)

The Romulans wish the honor of  
the first contact, let them have  
it.

The others REACT in various STARTLED ways. Tam is  
almost in a panic.

TAM

You're out of your mind, Picard!  
What if the Romulans find a way  
to persuade Tin Man --

PICARD

I think the chances of that are  
remote. And, Mister Elbrun, if  
you'll be still you may learn --

TAM

What?

PICARD

That being first, at any cost,  
is not always the point.

(MORE)

54 CONTINUED:

PICARD (Cont'd)

(pause)

Data, while we await repairs, I want Life Sciences and Engineering to continue collecting information on the alien. Query the Vega Nine probe, and the long-range sensors.

DATA

Yes, sir.

55 INT. DATA'S QUARTERS - WIDE ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as Data and Tam ENTER together. Data SITS at his large computer workstation and ACTIVATES it. Tam WANDERS around the room CURIOUSLY.

TAM

You do a lot of your work here?

Data, in ANALYSIS mode, ABSORBS INFORMATION as it FLASHES on screen before him.

DATA

Yes. I have configured these instruments to display information with greater speed and efficiency than stations used by the others.

TAM

Nice. A little Spartan.

DATA

Spartan?

TAM

Lots of work space, not much room to live. I don't guess you sleep?

DATA

(still working)

I have tried it, from time to time. But you are correct. I do not require rest.

Tam walks over to an easel with a COVERED PAINTING on it, and lifts one corner of the cloth appraisingly.

55 CONTINUED:

TAM

But you paint.

Data has an uncomfortable sense of being EVALUATED.  
He changes the subject.

DATA

The creature's anatomy appears  
most peculiar.

TAM

In what way?

DATA

It is indeed laid out as a vessel,  
with what appear to be corridors  
and chambers. An internal  
environment suitable for carbon  
based life forms is being  
maintained. Yet there is no  
evidence of a crew aboard.

(thoughtful)

Tin Man is a living being yet it  
was bred or adapted itself to  
serve a purpose. I find that very  
interesting.

Tam LEANS across the work station, to regard Data  
intently.

TAM

Why? Must living beings have a  
purpose? Or do we exist for no  
reason but to exist?

DATA

I do not believe I am qualified  
to express an opinion.

TAM

Ah, Data -- you're uniquely  
qualified. You think a great deal  
about humanity -- and you're an  
honest researcher. You don't  
treat anything as trivial, or  
irrelevant. You want to try it  
all.

55 CONTINUED: (2)

Data shuts off his computer and RISES, INTRIGUED by Tam.

DATA

You said in the Transporter Room  
that you could not read my mind.

TAM

True enough. But I think I  
understand you pretty well.

(pause)

It worries you -- that I can't  
read your mind?

DATA

(quietly)

Perhaps there is nothing to read.  
Nothing other than mechanism and  
algorithmic response --

TAM

Perhaps you're just different.  
Not a sin, you know -- though you  
may have heard otherwise.

56 CLOSE ON DATA

considering Tam's words.

57  
thru OMITTED  
58

59 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard at Command. Troi, Riker, Wesley, Data, and Worf at their stations. Supernumeraries at Science Aft Stations. Tam Elbrun standing on ramp near Troi.

DATA

Captain, the Romulan ship is hailing the alien using their equivalent of linguacode.

RIKER

Response?

DATA

None so far, Commander.

TAM

Why should it answer? What can it have in common with them?

RIKER

But you're so sure it'll "talk" to you.

TAM

(smug)

Well, I --

WORF

(interrupting)

Captain, the Romulans are arming all disruptors.

60 ANGLE ON PICARD

PICARD

Yellow Alert. Prepare for evasive action at the first change in the Romulans' course.

61 ANGLE ON RIKER

RIKER

With our shields in their present  
condition, we can't risk --

62 ANGLE ON TAM

TAM

No!

EYES WIDE, he steps toward the Main Viewer, FRANTIC.

TAM

We're not the target. It's Tin  
Man --

PICARD

What do you mean? They intend  
to destroy it?

TAM

(acknowledges)

Those are their orders if they  
can't secure the alien.

63 ANGLE ON PICARD

PICARD

(to Wesley)

Increase speed to intercept the  
Romulans.

64 ANGLE ON WESLEY

as he consults his instruments, then looks to Picard  
with a shake of his head.

WESLEY

Their lead is too great.

65 CLOSE ON PICARD

PICARD

Worf, hail them. I cannot allow  
--

66 BACK TO WIDE ANGLE

TAM  
(interrupting, panicked)  
They won't listen to you!

Tam LOOKS from Picard to the Main Viewer, like a TRAPPED ANIMAL looking for a place to FLEE -- or to MAKE A STAND. With sudden resolution he steps past the forward stations and stands directly before the Main Viewer.

67 EXTREME CLOSE-UP ON TAM

EYES CLOSED; a look of pained CONCENTRATION on his face.

TAM  
(low)  
Danger... Gom-tuu... Do not allow!

68 OMITTED

69 EXT. SPACE - TIN MAN (OPTICAL)

The ENERGY traces on its surface FLARE BRILLIANT WHITE, the first sign of response from the creature since its discovery. A NARROW RING OF WHITE ENERGY, like a SHOCK WAVE, RADIATES away from its surface in ALL DIRECTIONS.

70 EXT. SPACE - ROMULAN WARBIRD (OPTICAL)

The white energy of the SHOCK WAVE weapon PASSES OVER THE ROMULAN, WHICH EXPLODES INSTANTLY INTO A MILLION SHARDS OF METAL AND DUST.

71 OMITTED

72 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

as our crew reacts.

73 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise and the oncoming wall of energy. The energy begins to WAVER, FADE, and only the ghost of it is left to PASS OVER THE BOW of the Enterprise.

74 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

as lights fail and the crewpeople are SHAKEN about. RED ALERT SOUNDS -- this is a MAJOR SYSTEMS FAILURE, brought about by Tin Man's DEFENSIVE use of its weapon.

PICARD

Worf! Damage report!

75 ANGLE ON WORF

WORF

Not yet available, Captain. We have partial failure of the main computer.

76 ANGLE ON PICARD

as he ADVANCES on Tam Elbrun, who still STANDS swaying with weakness by the Main Viewer. Picard is livid, and HE IS SCARED.

77 CLOSE ON PICARD AND TAM

Picard is INCHES from Tam's face.

PICARD

You did this. You woke your Tin Man.

78 EXTREME CLOSE-UP ON TAM'S FACE

His eyes open slowly, but he is a million miles away as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

79 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit around Beta Stromgren with Tin Man in the distance.

80 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING - WIDE ANGLE

Geordi SUPERVISING several Engineering technicians as RIKER LOOKS ON. A technician hands Geordi a PADD, which he READS with consternation.

GEORDI

We've got impulse power, but I've got to take the warp engines off line while we recalibrate the intermix regulators.

RIKER

How long?

GEORDI

For just the warp drive, or for everything?

RIKER

All of it.

GEORDI

We're looking at twenty hours work, double shifts.

RIKER

Geordi, we don't know that we have twenty hours. The star could explode at any time --

GEORDI

I know. Okay, first we need to get the main computer working right --

RIKER

No -- fix the shields first.

80 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Commander, whatever Tin Man hit us with, it fried circuits I thought were unfryable.

RIKER

It's not Tin Man I'm worried about. It's more Romulans showing up.

GEORDI

Right. First priority, get the shields up. Only, let's not have any more surprises till I'm done.

RIKER

(bitterly)

Don't ask me about surprises. Ask Tam Elbrun.

81 INT. SICK BAY - ANGLE ON TAM ELBRUN

sitting up on a biobed as Beverly Crusher scans him. Picard and Troi are present.

BEVERLY

Brain activity suggests that you're coming out of a sort of fugue, or seizure... blood pressure and glucose indicative of general systemic stress --

TAM

(lightly)

But I'm gonna live?

BEVERLY

(very dry)

No doubt about it.

Picard, unamused, ADVANCES on Tam.

PICARD

Good. I want to know exactly what you did. I want to know how closely you are in communication with the alien, and what you've learned about it. Now.

81 CONTINUED:

Tam steps off the biobed and faces Picard.

TAM

I... just warned it, that's all.  
I've been in contact with it...  
sensing impressions from it...

(pause)

It calls itself Gomtuu. It's old,  
Captain. It's roamed the universe  
for many thousands of years.

PICARD

Where did it come from? How  
many...

TAM

Far away, I think. Maybe beyond  
the galaxy. Once there were  
millions of them.

PICARD

Once?

TAM

It hasn't seen another of its kind  
for millennia. It's alone. It  
may be the last of its species.

Picard is reflective, saddened by the thought.

PICARD

Perhaps we can help it in some  
way. Can you ask it to return  
with us to Federation space? Or  
at least to remove itself from  
the vicinity of Beta Stromgren,  
before the star explodes?

TAM

Captain, Gomtuu knows that the  
star will go nova soon. That's  
why it came here. It wants to die.

BEVERLY

Why?

Tam begins very matter of fact, but becomes more and  
more distant as he relives what he read in Tin Man's  
mind.

81 CONTINUED: (2)

TAM

There was... an explosion, in  
space... radiation penetrated  
the outer layers. The crew...  
the crew died. Such loss... empty  
pain... Hollowness.

Troi LUNGES forward and grips Tam by both arms.

TROI

Stop this! Tam -- Tam, you're  
losing yourself in this -- this  
merging.

TAM

I -- I know.

(sits up. To Picard)

Tin Man hurts... and wants to die.

(a beat)

I can't do any more from here.  
If you want me to really reach  
Tin Man, I've got to be in  
physical contact. I've got to  
go aboard.

81 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

No. Absolutely out of the question.

TAM

You don't trust me.

82 CLOSE ON PICARD

PICARD

No. I don't believe that I do.

83 BACK TO SHOT

PICARD

(continuing)

Tam -- when you reached out to the alien, to warn it -- did you give any thought to this vessel? To the danger, however inadvertent, the creature might pose to our crew? Or did you simply react out of instinct?

84 ANGLE TO INCLUDE TROI

TROI

Captain --

TAM

Deanna -- he's right... I don't know what might happen -- but if you don't let me go, we fail in our mission.

85 BACK TO SHOT

as Tam WALKS uncertainly to door -- STOPS in the open doorway and TURNS BACK to Picard.

85 CONTINUED:

TAM

(continuing)

Besides, at this point, you need all the help you can get -- even Tin Man's.

Tam EXITS.

86 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING - ANGLE ON GEORDI

as he reseals the hatch on a wall display, and hands a tool to an assisting Engineering technician.

GEORDI

Russell -- reactivate the sensor assemblies.

87 ANGLE TO INCLUDE POOL TABLE (OPTICAL)

Geordi and Russell move to the pool table. Russell makes adjustments to a panel. Nothing happens.

GEORDI

Okay, let's do a program reload on the port array only.

Russell makes more adjustments.

GEORDI

(continuing)

Good. Computer, run level two diagnostic.

COMPUTER VOICE

Port sensor array remains offline.

GEORDI

Damn.

Geordi starts pulling isolinear chips from an unseen access panel on the underside of the pool table.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Riker to La Forge. How's it coming?

Geordi doesn't even look up from his work.

87 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Not great... I think all the control processors are shot. Maybe if I swap the chips from the secondary array, I can give you a minimum EM scan.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Do it.

Geordi motions to one of his assistants, who starts pulling chips from another unseen access panel, and hands them to Geordi, who picks three of them and inserts them carefully into the first unseen access panel.

GEORDI

Russell -- try restarting sensor element thirty-two only.

As the display comes alive to show a schematic of the Stromgren system. A MOVING BLIP representing an approaching ship appears near the outer edges of the system.

88 REVERSE ANGLE ON GEORDI

GEORDI

Well, the good news is that we have partial long range sensors.  
(he taps his  
communicator)  
La Forge to bridge.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Riker here.

89 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Riker at Command, other stations manned by Supernumeraries. Worf is assisting several engineering technicians, who have the circuitry access panels open and are replacing circuit boards.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

I'm picking up another echo on the long-range sensor display here. You getting that on your panel?

89 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Worf?

WORF

One moment, Commander.

One technician closes an access panel and nods to Worf, who goes to his Tactical Console and reactivates it, satisfied at last that it is now working properly.

WORF

Confirmed. Sir, the other Romulan ship... on an intercept course.

90 ANGLE ON RIKER

RIKER

(very discouraged)

Geordi, are we gonna have shields anytime soon?

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

I'm doing the best I can...  
But shields won't help if that star explodes.

91 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - WIDE ANGLE FAVORING PICARD

who is standing. Troi and Data are present.

PICARD

Data, you and Tam Elbrun seem to have developed an affinity. Troi, you've known him for years. How far can he be trusted?

TROI

Captain, the issue isn't one of trust in Tam's intentions, but in his judgment. I would trust him to do what he believes is right --

PICARD

Yes, of course. But his judgment...

91 CONTINUED:

TROI

... Is precarious. The stress of exposure to so many minds on the ship has been bad enough. Now he's strongly drawn to this creature. I'm afraid for him.

PICARD

Afraid of what?

TROI

I sense that the alien is somehow calling him. If we allow him to do as he insists -- to beam over -- I'm afraid that we'll lose him to it.

(pause)

That he will lose himself.

DATA

Captain, I agree that Tam's motives are trustworthy. I do not believe it is possible that he might act against us, or cause Tin Man to act against us out of malice.

92 OMITTED

93 ANGLE ON TROI

TROI

If Tam breaks down over there, we'll be no closer to accomplishing our mission, Captain. It would be a grave mistake.

94 BACK TO SHOT

PICARD

Thank you both.

97 CONTINUED:

WORF

Captain, the Romulan has  
uncloaked.

Picard and Data ENTER from the Ready Room and head  
for their seats.

94 CONTINUED:

Troi EXITS. Data stands waiting, as if to add something.

PICARD

Data?

DATA

I am puzzled, sir. We have come this far. But you may not allow Tam to fulfill his mission.

95 ANGLE ON PICARD

PICARD

Data -- Elbrun warned Tin Man, and the first thing it did was to destroy a space vessel.

DATA

I think I understand, sir.

(pause)

If you feel that the risk is too great to send Tam Elbrun, alone, then send me with him.

PICARD

Counselor Troi understands him better.

DATA

(acknowledging)

But I distress him less.

(a beat)

It is humanity he is fleeing. I can serve as an intermediary... a bridge back, and a reminder of his obligations... both to us and to Tin Man.

96 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as a Romulan warbird MATERIALIZES in foreground.

97 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Riker, Worf. Supernumeraries at all other stations. As they react to the warbird.

97 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
Status Number One?

RIKER  
Shields at forty percent, Captain.  
We can maneuver on impulse.

WORF  
Phasers available on manual, sir.  
computer target lock not  
functioning.

PICARD  
Well, let's hope they're in a mood  
to talk. Open hailing  
frequencies.

98 CROSSCUTTING FROM BRIDGE TO MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

where a Romulan warbird hovers close.

PICARD  
Romulan vessel -- this is Captain  
Jean-Luc Picard of the USS  
Enterprise.

On viewer, the warbird is replaced by TIGHT ANGLE: The  
Romulan commander in his Ready Room.

ROMULAN COMMANDER  
Enterprise -- your presence here  
is a violation of Romulan space.  
You will leave immediately.

PICARD  
We are not familiar with the terms  
of your claim on this sector,  
Commander. We are here engaged  
in scientific research. Do you  
wish to participate --

ROMULAN COMMANDER  
We have monitored the destruction  
of our sister ship by the star  
creature. We claim right of  
vengeance. We will destroy the  
alien.

(pause)  
If you interfere, we will destroy  
you as well.

99 REACTION SHOT OF PICARD

considering his limited options as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

100 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND THE ROMULAN SHIP  
(OPTICAL)

facing one another down.

PICARD (V. O.)

Captain's log, Supplemental.  
Light-years beyond the edges of  
explored space, and virtually  
disabled, our survival may now  
depend upon Tam Elbrun's  
telepathic rapport with an alien  
intelligence.

101 OMITTED

102 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Troi, Worf, and Wesley at their  
stations. Supernumerary at Ops. Picard is grim.

PICARD

Picard to Tam Elbrun.

A beat before Tam comes on com-link.

TAM'S COM VOICE

Captain?

PICARD

Report to Transporter Room Six  
immediately.

Troi RISES.

TROI

Captain, I don't --

Picard signals silence.

PICARD

(to Tam)

Commander Data will meet you  
there.

Picard nods to Data, who acknowledges, rises from his  
station and EXITS.

102 CONTINUED:

Picard approaches Troi.

PICARD

Counselor, we no longer have a  
choice.

Troi nods reluctant agreement, but turns away  
distressed.

103

thru OMITTED

105

106 EXT. SPACE - TIN MAN (OPTICAL)

orbiting Beta Stromgren. Enterprise and the Romulan  
in distance.

107 INT. TIN MAN CORRIDOR - WIDE ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as Data and Tam MATERIALIZE. The corridor is ROUNDED, organic-looking, with dim ENERGY-VEINS resembling Tin Man's exterior. The interior is very dark, shadows broken only by the lights behind the glistening walls.

107A ANGLE ON TAM

His eyes are closed. He shakes with tension, struggling against fear and the strange closeness of the alien which surrounds him.

He spins away from Data, his hands clutching at his head.

TAM

No... Too much. Too much.

Data moves to Tam.

DATA

(concerned)

Tam?

TAM

I can't.

Data reacts, keying his insignia.

DATA

Data to Enterprise. Come in Enterprise.

Tam, struggling against his pain, turns back to Data.

TAM

(to Data)

No... No, don't.

DATA

If it is harming you, we must return.

Again Data keys his insignia.

DATA

(continuing)

Enterprise, respond.

A beat. There is no response. But we see that Tam is slowly beginning to assimilate the flood of information from Tin Man.

107A CONTINUED:

DATA

(continuing)

I cannot contact the ship.

Tam relaxes, smiles peacefully. In this moment, two fantastically different life forms have made contact. Information has been exchanged and a bond is forming.

TAM

It's alright... Gontuu tried to communicate a lifetime of experiences to me in a few seconds.

(a beat)

It's alright now.

108 OMITTED

109 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - ANGLE ON O'BRIEN

who looks at his console, disturbed. He adjusts a readout. Unsatisfied, he activates his communicator.

O'BRIEN

O'Brien to bridge.

110 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON PICARD

PICARD

Go ahead, Chief.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

I lost the transporter lock on them. Some kind of force field went up.

111 WIDE ANGLE

WORF

Confirmed. The alien has thrown  
up a shield -- it's blocking all  
our sensors.

Picard is greatly concerned by this.

112 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

as the Romulan ship moves away from the Enterprise.  
Beyond it in the distance the red star, and Tin Man,  
are visible.

WORF

The Romulans' weapons systems are  
now at full power.

113 OMITTED

114 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Picard, Riker, Worf. Troi and Wesley at their stations.  
Supernumerary at Ops.

PICARD

Red Alert... Mister Worf... arm  
photon torpedos.

115 INT. TIN MAN CORRIDOR - ANGLE ON TAM

Data watches as Tam is now totally focussed on his  
communication with Tin Man.

He approaches a glowing light panel on the corridor  
wall. He places his palm on the panel and it GLOWS  
BRIGHTER. Tam LAUGHS softly as if Tin Man just told  
him something wonderful.

TAM

Yes...

As Tam removes his hand, the panel FADES to its  
original intensity.

Data, puzzled, approaches the panel, touches it. There  
is no response. Data scans the corridor.

116 ANGLE TO INCLUDE DATA

DATA

There is a large chamber twenty  
meters ahead.

TAM

Yeah, I know.

117 WIDE ANGLE

Tam smiles.

TAM

I know everything, now. Come on.

118 REVERSE ANGLE (OPTICAL)

As Data and Tam round a curve in the corridor, but they are brought up short by the ribbed and membraned wall. Tam stands for a moment. His eyes are blank, the stare wide-eyed. Suddenly the wall OPENS to admit the Betazoid and the android. Data looks in wonder at Tam who smiles.

119 OMITTED

120 INT. TIN MAN PILOT'S CHAMBER - (OPTICAL)

A small room narrowing at one end -- again, organic in appearance. The narrow end of the chamber the walls pulse and writhe. Darkness, shadows, and lights which brighten and ebb behind the flesh-like walls.

DATA

Intriguing.

TAM

This is the control center where Gontuu's crew guided their journeys. The ship and the crew existed symbiotically.

Tam continues to explore the softly pulsing room.

120 CONTINUED:

Tam moves down the room to the pulsing walls, and softly strokes it. The pulsing forms respond by straining toward him.

Data experimentally touches the ship's wall. It does not respond. A small frown from Data. Obviously the ship has no interest in him.

TAM (cont'd)

They needed one another. When Gontuu had no one left to care for, it no longer had a reason to exist.

DATA

(recalling their earlier talk)

And is that the purpose of existence? To care for someone?

TAM

It is for me.

(pause)

Deanna was right. I'll lose myself here.

AGAIN, Tam REACHES out, and strokes the ship. Suddenly Tin Man extrudes a portion of itself. It is clearly a chair being formed from the floor, and it is also clearly a signal to Tam. He rests a hand lightly on the back of the chair.

TAM

(lightly)

An invitation.

Data is troubled.

DATA

I must remind you that our objective is to bring Tin Man out of danger and report our findings to Starfleet.

Tam settles into the pilot's chair.

TAM

I'm not going back, Data. I'm staying here.

Off Data's puzzled expression.

121  
thru OMITTED  
122

123 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE FAVORING MAIN VIEWER  
(OPTICAL)

as the Romulan commander reappears on the viewer.  
Picard, Riker, Worf, Troi and Wesley at their stations.  
Supernumeraries at Conn and Ops.

ROMULAN COMMANDER  
Captain Picard, if you interfere  
with us, we will fire upon you  
as well --

124 CROSS-CUTTING BETWEEN PICARD AND VIEWER AS  
NECESSARY (OPTICAL)

PICARD  
Commander -- we are prepared to  
defend the life of the alien.  
(to Worf)  
Shields up.

124 CONTINUED:

WORF

(urgently)

Power levels aboard the alien are increasing, sir.

WESLEY

(stepping on Worf's line  
in his urgency)

Captain, the diameter of the star has decreased by one hundred thousand kilometers.

PICARD

(to Riker)

It's beginning.

125 EXT. SPACE - TIN MAN (OPTICAL)

Enterprise and Romulans in background -- as Tin Man's lights and engines BLAZE ON FULL.

126 INT. TIN MAN PILOT'S CHAMBER - (OPTICAL)

Tam settles into the chair, and the ship with an EFFECT similar to that which opened the doorway to the pilot's chamber, creates a viewport with a view of the stars for the Betazoid.

TAM

(turning to look at  
Data)

Explain to them... make them understand.

DATA

(forcefully)

But our mission...

TAM

... is to save Tin Man and I will... but he's going to save me as well. All my life I've waited for this. A chance to find peace. Finally all the the voices are silent. Only Tin Man speaks to me now.

(a beat)

Don't you see, Data? This is where I belong.

Off Data's expression.

127  
thru OMITTED  
131

132 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker checking his com panel.

RIKER

The star is gonna go any minute,  
sir.

PICARD

The Romulans know that as well  
as we do.

132 CONTINUED:

WORF

Power levels aboard Tin Man  
increasing beyond our sensor  
range.

133 OMITTED

134 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

Tin Man glowing brightly, as another energy pulse halos  
the ship, and rushes toward the Enterprise and the  
Romulan ship. It strikes, and both ships TUMBLE out  
of frame.

135 OMITTED

136 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Tumbling wildly.

137 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Worf, Troi and Wesley. SHAKES, the  
SOUND of warp engines WHINING under the stress.

138 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

coming finally to a stop in starlit, empty space.  
Alone.

139 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

as things return to normal and RED ALERT ENDS.

PICARD

Conn -- report.

139 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

Dead stop, Captain. Sir--  
(pause as he  
double-checks readings)  
We've been thrown clear of Beta  
Stromgren. Distance -- three  
point eight billion kilometers.

WORF

There is no sign of Tin Man or  
the Romulans, sir.  
(checks his panel)  
Captain -- on screen!

140 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

the EXPLOSION and flowering of Beta Stromgren as it  
goes SUPERNOVA.

141 ANGLE ON PICARD (OPTICAL)

standing midway between his seat and Conn, STUNNED.

PICARD

Data.

Behind Picard, Data MATERIALIZES. NOT the transporter  
effect -- Tin Man has returned him.

DATA

Sir?

Picard, startled, does a take on Data. The android is  
unperturbed.

PICARD

Data -- what happened, over there?

DATA

Difficult to explain, Captain.

142 CLOSE ON TROI

Looking at Data.

TROI

Tam?

142 CONTINUED:

DATA

I believe he has found what he  
was looking for, Counselor.

As Troi reacts --

143 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

through space at impulse.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. With  
all main systems at least  
temporarily restored, we are  
proceeding to Starbase one fifty-two  
for inspection and additional repairs.

144 OMITTED

145 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Data standing by the windows gazing out at the stars.  
His expression is thoughtful. Troi ENTERS.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

We have had no further encounter  
with the Romulans. As for the  
whereabouts of Tin Man, and Tam  
Elbrun -- we can only speculate.

TROI

You sent for me?

DATA

(turning to face her)

Tam's final request was for me  
to explain his decision to the  
crew. But I believe his hope was  
that you would understand.

Troi nods. A beat.

145 CONTINUED:

TROI  
What did happen, Data?

DATA  
I witnessed something remarkable.  
(considers a moment)  
Individually they were both so...

TROI  
Wounded? Incomplete?

DATA  
Yes. But no longer. Through  
their joining they have been  
healed. Grief was transmuted to  
joy. Loneliness to belonging.

Troi is hearing an echo of something new in Data's  
voice.

TROI  
Data, you do understand...

DATA  
Yes, Counselor, when Tin Man  
returned me to the Enterprise I  
realized that this was where I  
belong.

A long look. Troi steps to his side, and lightly lays  
a hand on his shoulder. They gaze out at the passing  
stars.

146 OMITTED

147 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

snapping off into warp.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END