

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Reunion"
#40274-181

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FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "Reunion" - REV. 9/7/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Reunion"

CAST

PICARD	K'MPEC
RIKER	DURAS
DATA	GOWRON
BEVERLY	K'EHLEYN
TROI	ALEXANDER
GEORDI	KLINGON GUARD #1
WORF	KLINGON GUARD #2
TRANSPORTER TECHNICIAN	
SECURITY OFFICER	

Non-Speaking	Non-Speaking
SECURITY GUARDS	4 KLINGON RETAINERS
2 CHILDREN	
NURSE	
MEDICAL TECHNICIAN	
SUPERNUMERARIES	

STAR TREK: "Reunion" - 9/4/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Reunion"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
 MAIN BRIDGE
 CORRIDOR
 TURBOLIFT
 MAIN ENGINEERING
 SICKBAY
 TRANSPORTER ROOM
 K'EHLEYR'S QUARTERS
 WORF'S QUARTERS
 DURAS' QUARTERS
 DAY CARE CENTER
 READY ROOM
 OBSERVATION LOUNGE

K'MPEC'S SHIP
 K'MPEC'S QUARTERS

DURAS' SHIP
 DURAS' QUARTERS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

KLINGON SHIPS:
 1 ATTACK CRUISER
 2 BIRDS-OF-PREY

STAR TREK: "Reunion" - 9/4/90 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Reunion"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

QAB JIH NAGIL	Kwab gee nah-GEL
SONCHI	Son-CHEE
JA'CHUQ	Zha-JUK
MEV YAP	Mev-YAP
K'EHLEYR	KAY-lar
DURAS	DYURAS
K'MPEC	KIM-peck
GOWRON	GOW-ron
BAT'TELH	BAT-telth
JIH DOQ BATLH	Gee DOK ba-tel
VORN	Vorn
BURUK	BOO-ruk
JIH DOK	gee DOK
MAJ DOK	mazh DOK
HA'DIBAH	KHA-di-bakh
PAH DOQ CHA	pah-DOK-cha
TOMALAK	TOM-ah-lack
SHIVARRE	she-VAR
MOT'CHA	MOT-cha

STAR TREK: The Next Generation
"Reunion"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship moving at impulse power.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's Log: Stardate 44246.3
We are investigating radiation
anomalies reported in the Gamma
Arigulon system by the starship
LaSalle. Preliminary readings
are inconclusive.

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

PICARD, RIKER, DATA, WESLEY, and WORF at their
stations.

RIKER

Mister Data?

DATA

No change, Commander. I can
detect no abnormalities in the
star's radiant energy.

PICARD

Prepare two class one probes.

Data presses a few panels.

DATA

Probes ready, sir.

PICARD

Initiate launch sequence.

Data begins to work his console.

2 CONTINUED:

WORF

(reads console)

Captain... Klingon attack cruiser
decloaking, bearing zero-one-zero
mark three-two-seven.

PICARD

Belay that order, Mister Data.

RIKER

Did Starfleet mention any Klingon
ships in this sector?

Picard shakes his head.

PICARD

On screen.

3
thru OMITTED
4

5 ON VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The attack cruiser (bigger than a bird-of-prey)
DECLOAKS.

6 RETURN TO SCENE

WORF

We are being hailed.

RIKER

All stop, Mister Crusher.

WESLEY

Aye, sir. All stop.

PICARD

Open channel.

7 ON VIEWER (OPTICAL)

K'EHLEYR, the striking half-human, half-Klingon woman appears on the screen. She wears an attractive tunic and is standing in front of a Klingon bulkhead. She is here on important business and it shows on her face.

K'EHLEYR
Hello, Captain Picard.

8 ON WORF

He is pleasantly surprised at the sight of K'Ehleyr... but then he seems to remember something disturbing, and he pulls himself back into his customary Klingon stoic pose.

9 NEW ANGLE - INTERCUT AS NEEDED (OPTICAL)

PICARD
(surprised)
Ambassador K'Ehleyr... This is
an unexpected pleasure.

K'EHLEYR
It's good to see you again,
Captain.
(beat)
Lieutenant Worf.

It is said with a pleasant affection and a past relationship is obvious. Worf is uncomfortable, but manages a slight nod of acknowledgement.

PICARD
How may we be of assistance,
Ambassador?

K'EHLEYR
There is an urgent matter we must
discuss, Captain. Permission to
come aboard?

PICARD
Granted.

The viewer returns to a shot of the cruiser. Picard turns to Worf.

9 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Lieutenant, please receive our guest.

WORF

Captain... I must request permission to... send another officer.

Picard is a little surprised.

PICARD

May I ask your reason?

WORF

My... dishonor among Klingons... may offend Ambassador K'Ehleyr.

Picard frowns...

PICARD

(firm)

You are a member of this crew, Lieutenant... and I will not have you go into hiding whenever a Klingon ship uncloaks.

WORF

I withdraw the request, sir.

Picard nods and Worf EXITS.

CUT TO:

10 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

TRANSPORTER TECHNICIAN behind the console. Worf ENTERS.

TECHNICIAN

I just received coordinates, sir. Ready to transport two from the Klingon vessel.

WORF

Two?

TECHNICIAN

Yes, sir.

Worf isn't sure what to make of that.

10 CONTINUED:

WORF

Energize.

Worf tries to prepare himself. He is inwardly excited at the prospect of seeing this woman from his past, but holds himself tightly in check. The tech works the console.

11 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

K'Ehleyr and a Klingon boy (ALEXANDER) MATERIALIZE. (The boy should look about five human years old). K'Ehleyr smiles, glancing from the boy to Worf. On Worf's stunned reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

12
thru OMITTED
13

13A INT. DAY CARE CENTER

(As seen in "The Offspring") Worf is standing in the outer office watching K'Ehleyr and Alexander through the glass. K'Ehleyr is saying goodbye to Alexander in the classroom area. There are SEVERAL CHILDREN playing in the b.g. K'Ehleyr ENTERS the outer office.

K'EHLEYR

(a little concerned)

I hope he'll be all right.
Alexander hasn't had much contact
with other children.

Worf looks at her for a beat... glances back at Alexander... decides not to respond and moves toward the Corridor door. K'Ehleyr follows.

14 OMITTED

14A INT. TURBOLIFT - CONTINUOUS

As they ENTER.

WORF

Bridge.

The turbolift MOVES. Worf is staring straight ahead, avoiding K'Ehleyr's gaze. She studies him, waiting for some kind of response. After a long beat, she grins sardonically.

K'EHLEYR

Not even a bite on the cheek for
old time's sake?

Worf doesn't see the humor in this, as usual.

WORF

Perhaps you are not aware of my
dishonor. I have accepted...
discommendation.

14A CONTINUED:

K'EHLEYR

I've heard. So now what? I have
to perform some ridiculous ritual
to talk to you?

Worf turns on her, rage boils to the surface. This
is not a matter he takes lightly.

WORF

You may not respect our
traditions... I do!

Beat.

K'EHLEYR

(unabashed)

Sorry. I just thought you might
want to talk.

(beat)

A few minutes ago, you looked like
someone with a question to ask.

WORF

Must I ask the question?

K'EHLEYR

Yes. You must.

Worf looks at her... almost says something... then the
mask closes over his face once more. The doors OPEN.
Worf takes a step to leave, but K'Ehleyr stops him and
tries once more to reach him.

K'EHLEYR

(continuing)

What should I tell Alexander...
that he has no father?

Now it's been said aloud. A beat before Worf forces
himself to EXIT. K'Ehleyr is disappointed... but she
follows him.

CUT TO:

14B INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (FORMERLY SCENE 12)

Picard, Riker, Data, TROI, and Worf listening to
K'Ehleyr.

14B CONTINUED:

K'EHLEYR

The Klingon Empire is at a critical juncture. We may be facing civil war.

Reactions around the table.

RIKER

War over what?

K'EHLEYR

The usual excuses... tradition... duty...

(with glance at Worf)
honor...

DATA

The word "excuses" implies that there are ulterior motives for a conflict.

K'EHLEYR

I won't bore you with the intricacies of Klingon politics. Basically, two factions are trying to seize power.

PICARD

Do you believe there is a threat to the Federation in this... struggle?

K'EHLEYR

Klingon wars seldom remain confined to the Empire. Sooner or later they'll drag in the neighboring star systems, then the Tholians, the Ferengi... the Federation won't be able to stay out of it for long.

(beat)

This has been coming for some time. Only K'mpec, the head of the council, has been able to maintain the peace.

TROI

Now something has changed that.

14B CONTINUED: (2)

K'EHLEYR

Correct.

(beat)

K'mpec is dying.

Picard's frown deepens. He leans forward.

K'EHLEYR

He is aboard the cruiser. He has
come specifically to meet with
you, Captain. Alone.

On Picard's reaction...

CUT TO:

15 OMITTED

16 EXT. SPACE - KLINGON CRUISER (OPTICAL)

The ship hangs in space.

17 INT. K'MPEC'S QUARTERS

A large cabin intended to house visiting admirals or dignitaries. There are a few nasty-looking weapons in plain view along with decorative banners and emblems of the Empire, denoting its current occupant's rank as head of the High Council. There are several chairs and tables. A flagon of wine sits on one table. A single set of doors is visible. The doors OPEN and Picard is escorted in by a Klingon sentry.

18 NEW ANGLE

K'MPEC moves out of a dark corner and steps into the light. He looks older, more frail than when we saw him before. His cloak hangs on him like the shawl of an old man rather than the cape of a warrior, but there is still a vestige of steel left in his eyes.

K'MPEC

It's about time you arrived,
Picard. Didn't she tell you I
was dying?

He waves out the sentry. K'mpec is easily winded and he sits.

PICARD

I heard you were ill.

K'MPEC

(matter-of-fact)
I'm not ill, I'm dying. Sit.

Picard sits. K'mpec's bravado disappears.

K'MPEC

(continuing)
I need your help.

PICARD

If the Enterprise medical
facility...

18 CONTINUED:

K'MPEC

Too late. For months I've been
poisoned with small doses of
Veridium Six.

(indicating wine)

The wine. There is no cure.

K'mpec picks up the flagon and drinks a large gulp
of wine in a contemptuous gesture. He takes a ragged
breath... winded again. The poison is catching up
with him. Picard absorbs this... knows that K'mpec
doesn't want his sympathy.

PICARD

What do you want of me?

K'MPEC

After I die... you will act in
my name to arbitrate the struggle
for power.

Picard reacts. A beat. Picard, incredulously, studies
the old leader...

PICARD

I will?

K'MPEC

No one on the Council can be
trusted and... I have my reasons
for wanting an... outsider.

PICARD

K'mpec. You can't be serious.
A Federation officer has no
business...

K'MPEC

(interrupting)

Nonsense. You are an accomplished
mediator. This is no different
than any other dispute requiring
your services.

PICARD

On the contrary, I think it is
very different. And I must
respectfully decline.

K'mpec rises and regains a bit of the fire we've seen
before...

18 CONTINUED: (2)

K'MPEC

If you refuse the dying request
of the Klingon Supreme
Commander... it will be a
Federation insult to all Klingons!

Picard stares at him. Off-handed --

K'MPEC

Besides, I've already sent the
orders to the leaders of the two
opposing factions. They're on
their way.

PICARD

(angry)

You had no right to involve me
without my permission.

K'MPEC

If I'd asked, you would have said
no.

PICARD

This is not a case of simple
mediation... you are asking me
to choose the next leader of the
Klingon Empire.

K'MPEC

No. By tradition, the two
strongest challengers fight for
the right of succession. But as
mediator only you can designate
those challengers.

PICARD

But you've just said there are
only two challengers arriving.
What is the point?

K'MPEC

The point, my good Captain Picard,
is for you to discover which one
of them has killed me -- Gowron
or Duras.

Picard reacts to Duras' name.

K'MPEC

Yes -- Duras. I thought you'd
find that interesting.

18 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

(dry)

Interesting? Yes, I would say that, since he conspired to strip Worf of his good name and tried to have me killed...

K'MPEC

And I approved.

And shrugs, so what? Picard studies him.

K'MPEC

All for the good of the Empire. That should be my epitaph.

This takes a great deal out of him. K'mpec leans back in his chair, exhausted.

K'MPEC

Find the assassin. The Klingon who kills without showing his face has no honor. He must not lead the Empire. Such a man would be capable of anything. Even war with the Federation.

Picard is a little moved by the sight of this lion in winter. He takes a long beat to think it over... makes the decision.

PICARD

Very well. I accept.

There is a trace of relief in K'mpec's face... his final task completed.

K'MPEC

If there is war... it will not end quickly. Millions of warriors... hundreds of worlds... destruction on a galactic scale...

(beat)

Part of me regrets that I'll miss it.

As he drinks deeply from his wine, on Picard's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND KLINGON SHIP (OPTICAL)

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log: supplemental.
K'mpec, who ruled the Klingon
Empire longer than anyone in
history, is dead. We await the
arrival of Duras and Gowron...
rivals for the leadership of the
High Council.

20 OMITTED

20A INT. DAY CARE CENTER

There are SEVERAL CHILDREN playing, ages 5 to 10.
Alexander is being taught how to play a game using
large blocks and balls by three other kids. As he
tries his hand at the game... but instead of following
the rules, he just grabs all the blocks to the protest
of the other kids. They try to stop him... Alexander
bares his teeth, as if to challenge them all... just
as Worf's HAND suddenly moves into frame and restrains
him.

20B
thru OMITTED
22

23 NEW ANGLE

Revealing Worf standing over Alexander and the other
kids. Alexander looks up defiantly at Worf.

WORF

There is no honor in attacking
the weak.

23 CONTINUED:

ALEXANDER

I would have won!

WORF

You must earn victory...

As Worf leads him out...

24 INT. CORRIDOR

Worf and Alexander are heading for K'Ehleyr's quarters. Alexander is very curious... trying to probe. Worf is resistant, doesn't want to establish a connection with the boy, but it's difficult to distance himself.

ALEXANDER

Where are the other Klingons?

WORF

There are no others on board.

ALEXANDER

Why?

WORF

The Federation and the Klingon Empire were enemies for many years. No other Klingons have asked to serve in Starfleet.

ALEXANDER

Why?

Worf is really getting tired of this.

WORF

(firm)

A warrior does not ask so many questions.

24 CONTINUED:

ALEXANDER
(a little surprised)
I don't want to be a warrior.

Worf's eyes flash... this is not what he wants to hear from his own son!

25 INT. K'EHLEYR'S QUARTERS

K'Ehleyr is studying an Okudagram on a terminal. The door OPENS and Worf and Alexander ENTER. Alexander runs to his mother, gives her a quick hug. She looks at Worf with surprise.

K'EHLEYR
(to Alexander)
Hello! You're back early.

ALEXANDER
He made me leave.

K'Ehleyr gives Worf a questioning look.

K'EHLEYR
Why don't you go to your room and play.

Alexander EXITS to adjacent bedroom.

K'EHLEYR
(sarcastic)
Is he under arrest?

Worf doesn't want to play her game of verbal give-and-take.

WORF
(angry)
He knows nothing of our ways!

K'EHLEYR
Our ways? You mean Klingon ways, don't you?

WORF
He is Klingon!

K'EHLEYR
He is also my son... and I am half-human. He will find his own ways.
(MORE)

25 CONTINUED:

K'EHLEYSR (Cont'd)

Why the sudden concern? You won't
even acknowledge that he's yours.

He knows she's right... it deflates some of his anger,
but not all of it.

25 CONTINUED: (2)

WORF

Why did you not tell me?

K'EHLEYR

And what would you have done?

Worf looks away, knows where she's going with this.

K'EHLEYR

(continuing)

That's right... you would have insisted that we take the oath... just as tradition would demand.

WORF

You should not have kept this from me.

K'EHLEYR

(softer)

Well, now you know.

A beat of silence. K'Ehleyr moves to Worf... there is still a great deal of attraction and passion between them. Worf responds to her gentler tone, but this is very difficult for him.

WORF

I cannot... acknowledge my relationship to the boy.

K'Ehleyr turns away, bitterly disappointed.

WORF

(continuing)

It would only harm him.

K'EHLEYR

Because you were dishonored?

WORF

As my son, he would also bear my disgrace... as would his children.

K'Ehleyr is frustrated... she wants to understand, but Worf is still holding out on her.

K'EHLEYR

Why did you accept discommendation from the High Council?

25 CONTINUED: (3)

Worf looks away, as if watching the scene from the past being replayed all over again.

WORF

(quiet)

My father was accused of
collaborating with the Romulans
at Khitomer...

K'EHLEYR

I know. And I also know that
you challenged it...

WORF

Yes... at first. Ultimately...
I withdrew my challenge.

K'EHLEYR

But why, Worf? I can't believe
you'd just give up.

He forces himself to crush down the feelings of rage and betrayal that rise to the surface. K'Ehleyr knows that Worf still isn't telling her everything.

K'EHLEYR

(continuing)

What really happened?

Worf wants to answer... debates with himself for a second... but knows that he can't. He heads for the door... furious at the situation.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Lieutenant Worf, Ambassador
K'Ehleyr, report to the Bridge.

Worf stops, irritated.

WORF

(hits communicator)

On our way, Commander.

K'Ehleyr moves to him... they share a look that says there is still much to discuss...

CUT TO:

26 EXT. SPACE - KLINGON SHIPS (OPTICAL)

TWO KLINGON BIRDS-OF-PREY approach the Enterprise and the first Klingon ship.

27 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Data, Riker, and Wesley at their positions.
SUPERNUMERARY at Tactical.

WESLEY

Klingon vessels Vorn and Buruk
holding stations at thirteen
kilometers.

PICARD

Open a channel, Mister Data.

DATA

(works console)
Channel open. Vorn responding
to hail.

PICARD

On screen.

28 ON VIEWER (OPTICAL) (INTERCUT AS NEEDED)

DURAS appears, standing in front of a bulkhead. His
impatience is obvious.

DURAS

Let's get this over with, Picard.

PICARD

In good time, Duras.

DURAS

Even in death, K'mpec makes
foolish decisions. You should
not be involved in this, human.

PICARD

(coolly)
The Sonchi ceremony will take
place in one hour aboard K'mpec's
ship.

DURAS

(furious)
One hour! What is the delay?

PICARD

There is no delay. It is the time
I have chosen.

Worf and K'Ehleyr ENTER from turbolift.

28 CONTINUED:

DURAS

(frowns)

Exactly one hour, Picard. Do not
be late.

Duras sees Worf and reacts.

28 CONTINUED: (2)

DURAS
(continuing, re: Worf)
Keep that pahk away from the
ceremony, Picard. He has no place
on a Klingon ship.

PICARD
(will not be pushed)
Picard... out.

Picard motions for Data to end the transmission and
Duras' face is replaced by the view of the Klingon
ships. Picard stands.

PICARD
(to Data)
Contact Gowron's ship, tell him
to meet us aboard K'mpec's vessel.
Ambassador, I'll meet you in
Transporter Room Six in an hour.
We'll begin the ceremony a little
late.
(moves to Ready Room)
Mister Worf.

Worf follows.

CUT TO:

29 INT. READY ROOM

As they ENTER.

PICARD
Worf, I know the next couple of
days will be difficult for you...

WORF
You have made it clear that I am
to perform my regular duties,
sir.

PICARD
(beat)
I want you to know I am aware
of your... discomfort.

WORF
Thank you, sir.

29 CONTINUED:

They share a look between commander and officer that is very intimate. Picard is pleased. They sit.

PICARD

Ambassador K'ehleyr will be preparing me for my role in the rite of succession. But I have no doubt that I will be calling upon you for assistance as well, Lieutenant.

WORF

Permission to speak freely, sir?

PICARD

Granted.

WORF

Duras must not be allowed to lead the council.

PICARD

He has a legal claim, Worf. Your personal feelings toward him...

WORF

It is not personal, sir. His father betrayed my people to the Romulans. Duras is a traitor.

Picard takes a moment.

PICARD

Klingon tradition may blame the son for the father's sins. I cannot, Worf. Treason was his father's disgrace. Duras' crime was to put that blame on your father... I will not forget that. But you should not forget that you chose to accept the consequences of that lie.

WORF

(acknowledges)
To preserve the Empire.

PICARD

The issue now is whether or not he killed K'mpec.

29 CONTINUED: (2)

WORF

Sir?

PICARD

He was murdered... poisoned.

WORF

(shocked)

A Klingon would not use poison...
the murder would have no honor.

PICARD

K'mpec believed the assassin to
be either Duras or Gowron.

WORF

(reacts)

I know little of Gowron. Only
that he is an outsider who has
often challenged the council.
But Duras... I know him... his
heart is not Klingon.

On Picard...

CUT TO:

30 EXT. SPACE - KLINGON SHIP (OPTICAL)

K'mpec's ship.

31 INT. K'MPEC'S QUARTERS

K'mpec's body has been left sitting in his chair.
There should be no feeling of this being a "wake" in
the human sense of the word... K'mpec's corpse is
accorded no reverence. Picard and K'Ehleyr stand at
the head of the room. K'Ehleyr is holding a
painstick.

32 NEW ANGLE

as the doors OPEN. GOWRON and TWO KLINGON RETAINERS ENTER. One of the retainers carries a painstik. Gowron looks hostile, impatient... not a likely ally for Picard. They barely glance at the corpse and move to the left of K'mpec's still form.

33 ON PICARD AND K'EHLEYR

K'EHLEYR
(quiet)
That's Gowron.

Picard looks at K'mpec's dead body.

PICARD
(with distaste)
I hope this is brief.

K'EHLEYR
It will be just long enough to
prove that K'mpec is dead.

34 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as Duras and TWO MORE RETAINERS ENTER. One of Duras' men also carries a painstik. Duras wears a cloak showing him to be a member of the Council. Duras and Gowron snarl with hate at the sight of each other. Their retainers tense and it looks like they might fight it out right here... the moment passes and Duras moves to the opposite side of the room from Gowron.

Both parties look expectantly at Picard. K'Ehleyr hands the painstik to Picard. He moves forward and stands before K'mpec's corpse.

PICARD
Qab... jIH... nagil (Face me if
you dare!)

He places the end of the painstik on K'mpec's chest and there is an ELECTRIC BUZZ as the stick discharges.

34 CONTINUED:

Picard moves away from this distasteful duty and goes back to his position. Gowron immediately moves forward and takes his painstik.

GOWRON

Qab jIH nagil!

Gowron plunges the 'stik into K'mpec and relishes the moment as the stick BUZZES. He removes the 'stik, and Gowron goes back to his place. Duras now takes his turn.

DURAS

Qab jiH nagil!

Duras viciously jabs the body of K'mpec, holding the 'stik in for a long beat. He goes back to his place.

K'EHLEYR

Sonchi. (He is dead)

The ceremony has ended. Duras and Gowron move to Picard.

DURAS

(scowls, to Picard)

Now complete the Rite of Succession. It's obvious who the two challengers are.

PICARD

We will proceed according to the traditions and precedents set down in Klingon law.

GOWRON

What do you know of Klingon law, Human?

PICARD

We will reconvene on the Enterprise within---

DURAS

No! Finish it here, now!

34 CONTINUED: (2)

Gowron is about to say something when there is a sudden EXPLOSION from where Duras' men are standing. Everyone is knocked off his feet and it is not clear who is dead or injured. Linger on the smoke and rubble...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

35 INT. K'EHLEYR'S QUARTERS

K'ehleyr is standing near the window. Worf ENTERS. He is obviously concerned... moves to her. He almost comforts her... pulls himself back... tries to pretend he came here on official business.

WORF

I... have not received your report on the explosion.

K'Ehleyr looks at him... and slowly smiles. She can see through this charade.

K'EHLEYR

Two Klingons killed... a few minor injuries.

(beat, then soft)

Were you concerned about me?

WORF

As head of security... it is my duty to be concerned.

K'EHLEYR

Is that it? Just official concern for my well-being?

WORF

(difficult)

You know my... feelings.

K'EHLEYR

Maybe I've forgotten.

They share a look... and it's clear that neither one of them has forgotten any of the feelings they share.

WORF

You were right... I would have insisted that we take the oath. But not just because of tradition...

K'EHLEYR

I thought about telling you... wanted to tell you. I wasn't ready.

35 CONTINUED:

She steps closer to him and the sexual tension rises another degree.

K'EHLEYS

When I left, you said you'd never be complete without me. It took some time... but I came to realize... I need you too. You're part of me, Worf.

35 CONTINUED: (2)

They unconsciously move closer... pulled by feelings they can barely control. Worf breathes deeply of her scent... her eyes blaze with passion... Worf softly quotes the ancient Klingon words of devotion.

WORF

jIH dok (My blood)

K'EHLEYR

(hearing the call)

maj dok (Our blood)

They are inches away from each other... the attraction is almost overpowering. But Worf finally pulls away and breaks the moment.

WORF

I cannot allow you to... suffer my humiliation.

K'EHLEYR

There would be no suffering... I don't care what other Klingons think of you.

WORF

But what of the boy? He may want to live in the Empire someday. He would be an outcast... another traitor from a family of traitors.

K'EHLEYR

"Family of traitors?" I don't believe that for a minute.

But now Worf reaches out to her... makes a personal appeal and connection.

35 CONTINUED: (3)

WORF

(quiet)

Respect my wishes in this matter.

I cannot take the oath with you...

(very difficult)

And I cannot claim your son.

35 CONTINUED: (4)

K'Ehleyr looks in his eyes... sees the pain there and reluctantly acquiesces. A long beat.

K'EHLEYR

If you cannot be his father...
at least be his friend.

Worf considers this... and nods his agreement. They continue to look at each other with barely restrained feelings of mutual need...

CUT TO:

36 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

36A INT. READY ROOM

K'Ehleyr and Picard.

PICARD

(frustrated)

We haven't completed our analysis of the bomb debris... and Doctor Crusher is still studying the remains of the two men killed in the explosion.

(beat)

We need more time.

K'EHLEYR

Duras and Gowron will be here in a few minutes. I don't think you can delay this meeting again.

PICARD

Is there some way of stretching out the formalities once they arrive?

K'EHLEYR

In the modern Rite of Succession, only a brief proclamation that two challengers have been chosen is necessary.

PICARD

You said "modern Rite"... how was the ritual performed in the past?

K'Ehleyr thinks for a moment.

36A CONTINUED:

K'EHLEYR

The old forms dictated that the challengers perform the ja'chuq.

(beat as she recalls)

It's a long, involved ceremony where the challengers list the battles they've won, the prizes they've taken... the idea is to prove their worthiness to lead the Council.

PICARD

Can the old form still be used?

K'EHLEYR

(a small smile)

It's up to you... you can use any form you want.

Picard sees a plan and smiles to himself in satisfaction.

K'EHLEYR

Captain... What do you know about Worf's discommendation?

Picard's expression goes neutral.

K'EHLEYR

(continuing)

My interest is... personal. I understand that you were there... you stood by him before the Council. I'd like to know what happened.

Picard looks away... thinks for a beat... knows there can be only one answer. He turns back to K'Ehleyr.

PICARD

I'm sorry... but I cannot discuss it.

K'Ehleyr is disappointed... she waits a beat and then EXITS.

CUT TO:

37 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Duras and Gowron are moving restlessly in the room... like caged animals. TWO N.D. SECURITY GUARDS are posted in the center and they watch the two men closely. Picard and K'Ehleyr ENTER.

Picard moves to the head of the table, K'Ehleyr stands at his side.

DURAS

The Council must have a leader... now!

(re:Gowron)

Complete the rite so I can kill this ha'DIbah.

Gowron turns on Duras... the Security Guards move closer, ready to separate them if necessary.

GOWRON

(deadly)

You will die slowly, Duras.

DURAS

You've already proved you don't have the courage to face me... perhaps you should plant another bomb...

Gowron explodes. He HITS one security guard, knocking him out of the way. Duras prepares himself for attack as Gowron moves on him. The other security guard pulls his phaser and points it at Gowron.

PICARD

mev yap! (Stop!)

Duras and Gowron stop automatically... the first security guard gets up and pulls his phaser. A tense beat.

37 CONTINUED:

PICARD
(firm)
Sit down.

The two Klingons make no move to obey, but neither do they move toward each other.

PICARD
(continuing)
We will begin the ja'chuq.

That got their attention... they both react and turn to Picard.

GOWRON
What!

DURAS
(re: K'Ehleyr)
This woman is giving you bad advice, Picard. The ja'chuq is obsolete.

Picard is unfazed by this. He gestures to the two Security guards, and they put away their phasers.

PICARD
I choose to respect the ancient ritual. Each of you must prove your worthiness to lead the High Council.

GOWRON
That will take hours!

K'EHLEYR
Or days... depending on your cooperation.

37 CONTINUED: (2)

Neither of them is prepared to wait that long. A tense beat... and then they both sit. A look between K'Ehleyr and Picard: we've got them.

CUT TO:

38 INT. Worf's Quarters

Worf is trying to interest Alexander in some of the Klingon artifacts in his room. Alexander is bored and his attention wanders. Worf is holding a small Klingon statue.

Worf

Kathless... the Unforgettable...
he united the Homeworld in the
year...

Alexander walks over to another part of the room... looking for something more interesting. Worf puts down the statue and tries again. Alexander is examining a tricorder.

38 CONTINUED:

WORF

A tricorder...

(takes device)

It is operated by activating
the...

Alexander's interest is momentary, however, and he goes into the bedroom. Worf follows.

39 NEW ANGLE

revealing more of Worf's bedroom. Alexander is looking with keen interest at something on a bulkhead. MOVE TO REVEAL a mounted case with a weapon inside. It is semi-circular curved blade that branches to four points. It is about three feet wide. There is a terrible beauty about the blade. Worf sees that he can make a connection here.

WORF

It is a bat'telh.

Alexander continues to stare at the weapon. Worf carefully removes it from the case. The bat'telh is held by two handles on the mid-exterior of the blade. There is a sense of reverence and respect in his attitude toward the sword.

WORF

(continuing)

It belonged to my father... it
has been in our family for ten
generations.

Alexander is fascinated... he has an instinctual attraction to the weapon.

ALEXANDER

Let me hold it.

He hands it to Alexander. It's heavier than he expected. Alexander swings it in an awkward fashion. Worf steps in... acting like a patient teacher.

39 CONTINUED:

WORF

No.

(takes the weapon)

Do not think of it as a weapon...
make it part of your hand... your
arm... make it part of you.

Worf moves in an intricate dance of parry and thrust that combines both power and grace. The bat'telh can be used as either shield or sword. Worf hands it back to Alexander... the boy tries to emulate the movements. Worf starts to physically guide him through the motions. A small bond forms as they practice together...

CUT TO:

40 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

K'Ehleyr is sitting at the table, working on a padd.
Gowron ENTERS.

K'EHLEYR

(without looking up)

The next meeting is in three
hours.

GOWRON

I would speak with you alone,
Ambassador.

She looks up.

K'EHLEYR

(sardonic)

I'm honored.

Beat. Gowron's attitude is probing... trying to get
K'Ehleyr on his side.

GOWRON

Picard is prolonging the ja'chuq.
Why?

K'EHLEYR

He has sufficient reason to
proceed carefully.

GOWRON

He relies on you for his knowledge
of Klingon law...

40 CONTINUED:

K'EHLEYR

Yes.

GOWRON

Then he values your advice. You could quicken the pace.

K'EHLEYR

Possibly. Why should I?

He casually moves to the windows.

GOWRON

Your position is... unique. Have you never wondered about serving the Klingon Empire?

K'EHLEYR

I serve in my own way.

GOWRON

As a Federation Ambassador.
(beat)
A few rewards... but little glory.

K'EHLEYR

What do you want?

GOWRON

What do you want? Command of a ship... a seat on the Council? There are many opportunities for you in the Empire.

K'EHLEYR

Opportunities that will present themselves only if you come to power. You talk like a Ferengi.

Gowron's expression hardens.

GOWRON

K'mpec was also stubborn... he too refused to listen... now he's gone... you need not make the same mistake.

K'Ehleyr hears the threat in his voice, and isn't frightened by it. She stands.

40 CONTINUED: (2)

K'EHLEYR
(with steel)
K'mpec was old and weak... I am
not.

Gowron sees the rejection in her eyes. There is a long tense beat, and then Gowron EXITS. On K'Ehleyr's expression...

40A INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

GEORDI and Data at the pool table. They are working on one of the consoles. Riker ENTERS and goes over to them.

GEORDI
(to Riker)
We've completed our analysis of
the bomb debris.

DATA
The explosive was a triceron
derivative.

GEORDI
The entire device couldn't have
been more than three cubic
millimeters in size...

RIKER
Then it could have been hidden
anywhere in the room.

GEORDI
(acknowledges)
There's one other thing,
Commander... The bomb had a
molecular-decay detonator.

DATA
Only one race uses that device,
sir...

RIKER
(nods)
The Romulans.

On Riker...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Riker, Data, Worf, K'Ehleyr, and Geordi.

PICARD

How could Romulans have planted
a bomb aboard a Klingon attack
cruiser?

WORF

It would be impossible.

K'EHLEYR

Not if the Romulans had help...
from one of the Klingons.

Reactions from around the table...

GEORDI

(with disbelief)

Klingons and Romulans working
together? They've been blood
enemies for seventy-five years.

PICARD

Perhaps Duras or Gowron wishes
to improve that relationship.

RIKER

A new Klingon alliance with the
Romulans?

DATA

If true, it would represent a
fundamental shift of power in the
quadrant.

41 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Indeed.

(beat)

It would put the Federation in
a very uncomfortable position.

RIKER

(a beat)

Gowron or Duras?

K'EHLEYS

Gowron came to me alone... wanted
me to speed up the ja'chuq...
offered me a seat on the Council
if I'd help him.

PICARD

(reacts)

But does that suggest a Romulan
connection?

K'EHLEYS

(shrugs, perhaps)

He also implied that I would end
up like K'mpec if I didn't
cooperate.

Picard nods... takes this into account. After a
beat...

WORF

Captain... I disagree. It must
be Duras.

Worf and Picard exchange a look. K'Ehleyr notices.

K'EHLEYS

(to Worf)

Why?

41 CONTINUED: (2)

Worf remains silent.

PICARD

We have had prior dealings with
Duras that showed him to be...
untrustworthy.

She waits for him to continue... finally pushes for
more information.

K'EHLEYN

(with an edge)
Can you be more specific?

41 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

No.

K'Ehleyr isn't happy with that response, but keeps it to herself. Picard, thoughtful, turns and studies Worf a beat...

PICARD

Mister Worf, we now have a conspiracy on our hands that could be a direct threat to the security of the Federation.

WORF

Yes sir.

PICARD

As Chief Security Officer, you will accompany me to the next transition proceeding.

WORF

(reacts)

Captain, they will be incensed. My presence will be... disruptive.

PICARD

(nods, a beat)

Yes. It will.

K'Ehleyr studies the silent communication between the two men and is losing patience with being left on the outside.

CUT TO:

41A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Worf ENTERS from Observation Lounge... K'Ehleyr has been waiting for him. They EXIT to turbolift together.

42 INT. TURBOLIFT - CONTINUOUS

Worf and K'Ehleyr ENTER.

42 CONTINUED:

WORF
Deck Twenty-Three.

The turbolift MOVES. A beat of silence.

K'EHLEYSR
Halt.

The turbolift STOPS.

K'EHLEYSR
(continuing)
You suspect Duras. Why?

WORF
I cannot---

K'EHLEYSR
Don't tell me that again! I'm
trying to do my job while you
withhold vital information...

Her anger sparks Worf's temper and the tension in the
turbolift steadily rises.

WORF
I will not discuss this with you
or anyone else.

K'EHLEYSR
Captain Picard seems well-
informed.
(Worf stonewalls)
There's more at stake here than
your personal honor.

WORF
I am aware of what is at stake
here!

K'EHLEYSR
But you're still willing to hide
the truth!

WORF
I am hiding nothing!

42 CONTINUED: (2)

K'EHLEYR

(pushing hard)

You're hiding everything, just like you always do... behind that precious Klingon honor. Why? Because you don't have the courage to face life without clinging to some archaic ritual?

The accusation stabs Worf and he moves toward her in rage... she blocks him with a forearm. They glare at each other for a beat. K'Ehleyr steps back... they both realize they've gone too far.

K'EHLEYR

Exit.

The doors OPEN and K'Ehleyr EXITS. A beat on Worf's reaction...

CUT TO:

43 OMITTED

44 INT. K'EHLEYR'S QUARTERS

K'Ehleyr ENTERS, still upset over the scene with Worf. She takes a deep breath... settles herself and then sits down at the computer terminal.

K'EHLEYR

Computer, list stardates of the last Enterprise mission to the Klingon home planet.

COMPUTER VOICE

Stardates 43685 through 43689.

K'EHLEYR

How many ship's logs during that period?

COMPUTER VOICE

Forty-three officer's logs. Ten personal logs.

She takes a beat... hesitates, but asks anyway...

44 CONTINUED:

K'EHLEYR

Is there a personal log for
Lieutenant Worf?

COMPUTER VOICE

Affirmative. Access is
restricted.

K'EHLEYR

(a long beat, finally
deciding)

Eliminate all personal logs.
List the other forty-three in
chronological order... we'll
take them one at a time...

As the computer begins to list available logs...

45
thru OMITTED
46

46A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

47 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard sitting at the table with Duras. Gowron is
standing at the far end of the room, reciting part of
the ritual. The two security men continue to watch in
the b.g.

GOWRON

(with fervor)

jIH DoQ bath! (I claim the
honor!)

He looks to Picard, who nods and then Gowron sits down.

PICARD

Both your claims have been
properly made and recorded. We
are ready for the final phase of
the ja'chuq. There will be a
recess while I review your
petitions.

Gowron and Duras start to rise. But Picard motions
for them to stay.

47 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(beat)

I know that you're as concerned
as I am about the explosion
aboard K'mpec's ship. I assume
both of your investigations are
continuing...

47 CONTINUED: (2)

GOWRON

(dismissive)

The investigations are complete.
They revealed nothing of any
importance.

PICARD

That's very interesting... because
our analysis turned up some
startling results.

(keying insignia)

Will you join us?

47A NEW ANGLE

As Worf ENTERS. Duras and Gowron are on their feet
instantly.

GOWRON

(outraged)

He has no place here, Picard!

DURAS

I will not sit at the same table
with that!

Worf takes their reactions stoically.

PICARD

(final)

It is my prerogative to
investigate anything relevant to
the Rite of Succession.
Lieutenant Worf is my chief of
security. His presence is
required.

DURAS

We will not proceed...

PICARD

I will determine how we proceed.
If you wish to withdraw from the
ja'chuq... that is your option.

Duras continues to glare for a few seconds... sees no
way out... sits down. Gowron slowly follows suit.
Picard nods to Worf. He moves forward and starts to
press Gowron and Duras.

47A CONTINUED:

WORF

What did your investigations
reveal about the explosion?

DURAS

(mocking)

It was a bomb.

WORF

(to Gowron)

Was your analysis just as...
insightful?

GOWRON

It was a common explosive.

WORF

(impatient)

What type?

GOWRON

(tired of this)

Triceron.

WORF

What about the detonator?

DURAS

This is pointless! The findings
were inconclusive.

47A CONTINUED: (2)

WORF

Fortunately, our investigation
was more... thorough.

Worf leans on the table and stares at Duras.

WORF

(continuing)

The bomb used a molecular-decay
detonator.

Worf continues to stare at Duras, who can't hold his
gaze.

GOWRON

What!

PICARD

(nods)

A Romulan device.

The unspoken accusation hangs in the air for a moment.

DURAS

(stands)

I will return to my ship. I want
to confirm these... conclusions
myself.

GOWRON

As will I.

PICARD

Lieutenant, please be sure to send
a complete record of our findings
to both vessels... and to the High
Council.

(beat)

We are adjourned.

Duras and Gowron EXIT. Worf's eyes never leave Duras.

CUT TO:

48 OMITTED

49 INT. K'EHLEYR'S QUARTERS

K'Ehleyr reading information on the terminal, reacting to what she sees...

K'EHLEYR

...Khitomer...

(beat)

Computer, why was the Enterprise crew studying the transmission logs from the Khitomer outpost?

COMPUTER VOICE

Reference Chief Engineer's entry, stardate 43686.1. Certain transmission logs between the Khitomer outpost and the Romulan patrol ships were altered after the destruction of the colony.

K'EHLEYR

Altered. By whom?

COMPUTER VOICE

That information is not available.

She takes a thoughtful beat...

K'EHLEYR

Computer, interlock with the Klingon Imperial information net.

After a beat, the monitor changes to Klingon writing and symbols.

COMPUTER VOICE

Interlock established.

K'EHLEYR

Federation Ambassador K'Ehleyr requesting diplomatic access to High Council record. Security code pah doQ cha!

COMPUTER VOICE

Proceed.

K'EHLEYR

Computer, display summary of the most recent High Council inquiry regarding the Khitomer massacre.

49A INSERT (OPTICAL)

Klingon information scrolls briefly on the terminal screen and then stops. A large Klingon word ("Denied") appears in the middle of the screen and blinks on and off.

COMPUTER VOICE

Access denied. Restricted materials, du-ko-cha clearance only.

49B RETURN TO SCENE

As before.

K'EHLEYR

By whose order?

COMPUTER VOICE

Council member Duras.

She reacts. A long beat.

K'EHLEYR

Access biographical files.
Subject name: Councilor Duras.

CUT TO:

50 INT. DURAS' QUARTERS (ENTERPRISE)

One of Duras' lieutenants (GUARD #2) is leaning over the computer reading a message as Duras ENTERS. An Enterprise SECURITY OFFICER takes his position outside the door.

DURAS

Advise my counselors on the Vorn to convene... there is much to discuss...

(re: the computer)

What is that...

GUARD#2

Priority message to you from the home planet on a secure channel.

Duras watches the information on the screen. His expression hardens. He exchanges a disturbed glance with the guard.

50A OMITTED

50B INT. CORRIDOR

Guard#2 ENTERS from Duras' quarters... walks swiftly by the security officer and down the hall... the officer reacts...

SECURITY OFFICER

Excuse me, sir...

The Klingon takes no notice, moves away... the officer follows him quickly...

SECURITY OFFICER

Sir, you cannot leave your quarters without an escort...

Well down the corridor, the Klingon stops and turns to the approaching officer...

GUARD#2

I am not helpless. I don't need a Starfleet escort.

50C ANGLE - FAVORING THE OFFICER

Behind him, Duras slips out of his room and disappears down the opposite end of the corridor.

SECURITY OFFICER

I'm sorry, sir... Captain's orders. I'll be happy to call a security officer to accompany you...

GUARD#2

(growls)

It's an outrage. An insult. I will return to quarters.

And storms back to the same room. On the security officer's reaction...

51 INT. K'EHLEYR'S QUARTERS

K'Ehleyr is working at the terminal. The door CHIMES.

K'EHLEYR

Come.

51 CONTINUED:

Duras ENTERS. K'Ehleyr stands up.

DURAS

I have been informed of your attempt to access restricted Council records.

K'Ehleyr is not intimidated by his attitude.

K'EHLEYR

I've been investigating what happened at Khitomer.

Duras' eyes narrow.

K'EHLEYR

(continuing)

Not an easy task... considering that most of the records are sealed...

DURAS

Worf's father was a traitor.

K'EHLEYR

No, the evidence was altered to make it appear that way.

(beat)

I found it interesting to read that your father was also at Khitomer. And you are the one who sealed the records.

DURAS

You would dare to insult my father's name?

K'EHLEYR

Don't play the wounded Klingon for me, Duras... you don't do it very well.

(beat)

What happened in the council chambers... how did you get Worf to take the blame for you...

51 CONTINUED: (2)

DURAS

Do not pursue this matter
further...

K'EHLEYS

The son betrays his people to
the Romulans just as his father
did... Eh, Duras?

On Duras' reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

52 OMITTED

52A INT. BEVERLY'S OFFICE

Beverly escorts Riker into her office...

BEVERLY

One of the Klingons who died in the explosion was with Duras... the other with Gowron. I've been examining the bodies... trying to get a clue to where the bomb was hidden.

She turns on a PADD which shows an Okudagram of autopsy results... (or possibly photographs or MRI images -- we don't need to see clearly)...

BEVERLY

(continuing)

There's always a pattern to the lacerations and tissue damage. It would normally give us a clear indication of direction, distance, force of impact...

RIKER

'Normally'?

BEVERLY

In this case, the pattern was virtually impossible to identify... I couldn't understand it until I checked the dynascans...

She points to one picture...

BEVERLY

This wound is different from all the others... it was made from the inside out.

(MORE)

52A CONTINUED:

BEVERLY (Cont'd)

(he reacts)

The bomb was implanted in one of their forearms.

RIKER

It is considered an honorable way for a Klingon to die, Doctor... a suicide that also takes an enemy.

(beat)

Which one of them was it?

BEVERLY

Duras' man.

Off Riker's reaction...

53 INT. CORRIDOR

Worf and Alexander moving toward K'Ehleyr's Quarters.

WORF

When we have more time I will take you to the holodeck and demonstrate in more detail...

They have arrived at the door.

54 INT. K'EHLEYR'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Worf and Alexander ENTER the quarters... suddenly see K'Ehleyr lying on the floor. Worf quickly moves to her and can now see that she is lying in a small pool of blood.

54C CONTINUED:

WORF

Then look...

Slowly, the boy looks back at his mother.

WORF

And always remember.

54D NEW ANGLE

Beverly and a N.D. NURSE ENTER. They rush to K'Ehleyr.
Worf and Alexander share a look...

WORF

Stay with the doctor.

55 ON BEVERLY

She's checking K'Ehleyr... there's no hope. She looks
up...

BEVERLY

Worf, when did you... ?

56 NEW ANGLE

... but Worf is gone.

CUT TO:

57 INT. WORF'S QUARTERS

Worf moving quickly, determined... he removes his insignia and sash... then takes the bat'telh sword from the frame on the wall...

58 INT. K'EHLEYR'S QUARTERS

K'Ehleyr's body is being taken out on a gurney by the nurse seen earlier and another MEDICAL TECHNICIAN. Beverly is standing with Picard and Riker... their faces are grim.

BEVERLY

Multiple stab wounds to the chest and abdomen... too much trauma to the internal organs. There wasn't enough time to get her into stasis.

PICARD

Where's Worf?

BEVERLY

I don't know... he left just after I got here.

RIKER

(hits communicator)

Riker to Worf.

(beat)

Computer, locate Lieutenant Worf.

COMPUTER VOICE

Lieutenant Worf is not aboard the Enterprise.

58 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Where is he?

COMPUTER VOICE

Lieutenant Worf transported to
the Klingon ship Vorn at
seventeen-thirty hours.

A beat as this registers. He glares at Riker who
doesn't need to be told...

RIKER

On my way.

CUT TO:

59 EXT. SPACE - KLINGON BIRD-OF-PREY (OPTICAL)

The ship hangs in space.

60 INT. DURAS' QUARTERS (KLINGON SHIP)

Similar to K'mpec's Quarters seen earlier. The same
sense of a visiting dignitary aboard ship, but not as
high a rank as K'mpec. The atmosphere is darker, more
sinister. Duras, and TWO RETAINERS are huddled over
a computer terminal. The doors OPEN... Worf, carrying
the bat'telh, and a KLINGON GUARD ENTER. Duras looks
up, shocked to see Worf.

DURAS

(to Guard)

How could you let him in here?

A glance between Worf and the Guard.

GUARD

He has claimed the right of
vengeance.

The retainers step back from Duras and the Guard moves
to one side. Their attitude is respectful.

DURAS

You have no rights here, traitor!

60 CONTINUED:

Worf moves to the center of the room and speaks not to Duras, but to the other Klingons.

WORF

K'Ehleyr... was my mate.

Everyone looks at Duras... he's surprised. A long beat as it becomes clear that no one is going to stop Worf. A retainer brings Duras a long scythe-like weapon with a wicked blade. Duras holds it... he and Worf exchange a look of challenge.

CUT TO:

61 INT. CORRIDOR

Riker, Data, and TWO N.D. SECURITY GUARDS moving quickly along the corridor. Riker's expression is deadly serious.

DATA

And if Lieutenant Worf resists, sir?

RIKER

He's coming back with us one way or another. Set phasers to maximum stun.

They ENTER the Transporter Room.

CUT TO:

62 INT. DURAS' QUARTERS (KLINGON SHIP)

A tremendous CLANG of metal as Worf's sword deflects Duras' weapon. This isn't as brutish as normal Klingon fights... they skillfully manipulate their weapons with a sense of grace and balance... two samurai stalking and probing the defenses of each other. Worf is focused, intent... and there is a feral quality to his expression, as if the veneer of civilization has been stripped away and only the warrior is left.

63 ON WORF AND DURAS

The combat continues... flashes of metal, snarls of fury... the ferocity builds... their weapons become tightly locked together... Worf glares into Duras' face with hatred.

DURAS

I'm the only one, Worf... the only one who can prove your innocence. Kill me... and you will always be known as a traitor.

WORF

(without hesitation)

Then that is how it shall be.

They break the clinch... (NOTE: the following two scenes take place very quickly)

64 NEW ANGLE

as Riker, Data, and the Security Guards ENTER. They stop at the sight of Worf and Duras.

RIKER

Worf!

65 ON WORF AND DURAS

Worf and Duras pay no attention to Riker's arrival. (NOTE: and it should not in any way appear that Riker's appearance acts as a diversion that affects the outcome of the fight.) Worf kicks Duras' legs out from under him.

65A DURAS' FACE

reacts at the bat'telh is driven deep into his chest... he gasps, shudders, then is gone.

66 WIDE ANGLE

Worf stands over his fallen adversary... the bat'telh sticking out of Duras's chest.

66A RIKER AND DATA

react.

66B WORF

Eyes still filled with rage, stares at Duras.

67 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship hangs in space.

68 INT. READY ROOM

Worf standing before Picard.

PICARD

Lieutenant, you are a fine officer... your service aboard this ship has been exemplary...

(beat)

Until now.

WORF

Sir, I acted within the boundaries of Klingon law and tradition.

PICARD

The High Council seems to agree with you. They consider the matter to be closed.

(beat)

I do not.

Worf stands a little more stiffly... at attention.

PICARD

The Enterprise crew currently includes representatives from thirteen planets, Mister Worf. They each have their individual beliefs and values and I respect them all. But every member of the crew has chosen to serve Starfleet. If anyone cannot perform his duties because of the demands of his society, he must resign.

Picard lets that hang there for a beat.

PICARD

Do you wish to resign, Lieutenant?

68 CONTINUED:

 WORF
 (swallows hard)
Captain...

 PICARD
I would hope you would not throw
away a promising career.

 WORF
No sir.

68 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

(softer)

I understand your pain... we all
felt very close to K'Ehleyr.

(long beat)

A reprimand will be on your
record. Dismissed.

Worf turns to leave. Picard thinks for a beat then...

PICARD

Worf...

Worf stops. Picard's attitude is more intimate... more
personal.

PICARD

Isn't it time for the truth about
your father's innocence to be
told? After all, the reasons you
accepted this dishonor were to
protect the name of Duras, and
hold the Empire together. Now
that he's died in disgrace...
where is the honor in further
silence?

WORF

Each member of the Klingon high
council shared in that lie. They
will not be so willing to admit
their own dishonor.

(beat)

But the day will come when my
brother and I will... "convince"
them to speak the truth.

Worf EXITS. On Picard's reaction...

CUT TO:

69 INT. WORF'S QUARTERS

Worf is speaking to Alexander on the couch.

69 CONTINUED:

WORF

My parents... my human parents
will meet us at Starbase
Seventy-Three. They will care
for you.

ALEXANDER

Why can't I stay with you?

WORF

You deserve a home... a family.
My parents can provide that...
I cannot.

Alexander accepts this reluctantly... he looks away.
Worf knows what's running through this boy's mind.

WORF

(gently)

I miss her too.

Alexander looks directly into Worf's eyes. A long
probing stare from the boy before he asks...

ALEXANDER

Are you my father?

Worf struggles for a second... makes the decision.

WORF

Yes... I am your father.

The human part of Alexander needs something more from
his father. Alexander hesitates... reaches out... puts
his arms around Worf. After a beat, Worf returns the
embrace.

70 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship moving off into space.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END