

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"First Contact"
#40274-189

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FINAL DRAFT

NOVEMBER 28, 1990

STAR TREK: "First Contact" - REV. 11/30/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"First Contact"

CAST

PICARD	CHANCELLOR DURKEN
RIKER	MINISTER MIRASTA YALE
TROI	MINISTER KROLA
DATA	DOCTOR NILREM
BEVERLY	DOCTOR TAVA
GEORDI	DOCTOR BEREL
WORF	NURSE LANEL
	MALE INTERCOM VOICE
Non-Speaking	
SUPERNUMERARIES	Non-Speaking Malcorians:
MALE NURSE	3 N.D. DOCTORS
	2 MEDICAL TECHS
	2 NURSES
	A SECURITY GUARD

STAR TREK: "First Contact" - 11/28/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"First Contact"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
TRANSPORTER ROOM
TEN FORWARD
MAIN ENGINEERING
CORRIDOR

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MALCOR (MATTE SHOT)
CAPITAL CITY

MALCOR

MEDICAL FACILITY (HOSPITAL)
CORRIDOR
RIKER'S ROOM
CHANCELLOR DURKEN'S OFFICE
MIRASTA'S SCIENCE LAB

STAR TREK: "First Contact" - 11/30/90 - PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"First Contact"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ADRULMINE	ah-DROOL-mine
BEREL	BER-rul
COSTAL	CAHS-tul
DURKEN	DURH-ken
ICHOR	EYE-kohr
KROLA	KROH-la
LANEL	lan-EL
MALCORIAN	mahl-KOHR-ee-an
MARTA	MAR-tah
MIRASTA	mear-AST-ah
NILREM	NILL-rehm
OCTARES	OKT-tairs
PENTADS	PEHN-tahds
QUADROLINE	KWAHD-row-leen
RIVAS JAKARA	REEV-ass ja-KAH-ruh
SIKLA	SICK-la
TAVA	TAH-vah
TELENCEPHALON	tell-en-SEHF-ah-lahn

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"First Contact"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. ALIEN MEDICAL FACILITY - CORRIDOR - DAY

CLOSE ON a wide sliding door opening... TWO MALCORIAN MEDICAL TECHNICIANS rush someone on a gurney through the doors and into a small room crowded with medical equipment for emergency trauma care. The level of technology in evidence is approximately mid 21st century Earth with just enough differences to tell us that this is an alien world. There are two treatment bed/tables, cabinets and trays with medical instruments, and a display for reading scans. The Malcorians are humanoid with a slight difference in facial features... their hands are shaped like mittens without fingers (and if this is a difficult makeup job, they can all wear gloves.)

There is a sense of urgency as the Technicians rush the gurney into the Emergency Room... two young Malcorian physicians, NILREM (male) and TAVA (female) quickly move equipment and get a table ready for the incoming patient. Throughout the following scene, we should NOT SEE the face of the man lying on the gurney, but he is in Malcorian civilian garb and has a large bandage on his head. We may notice he does wear gloves (mittens) on his hands. They have the gurney in position and the Technicians help to move the victim off the gurney and onto the table.

NILREM
Ready... lift!

They all lift and move the victim on the table. The Technicians now move away and EXIT.

1 CONTINUED:

The two doctors move with the smooth efficiency of hurried professionalism. They begin to attach the victim to alien emergency equipment...

NILREM

He took a severe blow... possible trauma to the telencephalon...

TAVA

(examining patient)

Start fifteen octares of quadroline. We'll need a complete del-scan series.

Nilrem takes stethoscope-type device and puts it on the patient's STOMACH. Nilrem listens... frowns...

NILREM

(incredulous)

I can't find his cardial organ...

Tava quickly grabs the patient's wrist...

TAVA

What do you mean? I'm reading a steady circulation...

Nilrem goes searching for the heart with his scope... moves it around... finally places it on his chest...

NILREM

There it is... up here...

TAVA

In his digestive tract?

NILREM

Have you ever seen anything like this... ?

They exchange a puzzled look and then Nilrem gets back to work as Tava gingerly uses his hands to probe the man's stomach...

TAVA

He's missing three costal struts on one side and four on the other...

NILREM

You think that's something... look at this...

1 CONTINUED: (2)

Moving to see Nilrem at the man's feet, having removed his shoes and socks, showing toes --

NILREM

He has digits on his terminus...

Reactions... they move to his hands and peel off his gloves... to reveal fingers on his hand... more reactions. They exchange a look. Look at him.

TAVA

(quietly)

What are you?

MOVE TO REVEAL RIKER lying unconscious on the table. His face has been altered so he looks like a Malcorian. On Riker...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 INT. RIKER'S ROOM - DAY

Close on Riker in a bed, head bandaged, monitors working... waking up... he gropes for his bearings a second, then reacts as he sees --

3 ANGLE - A GROUP OF SIX DOCTORS

including Nilrem and Tava are at the foot of his bed, watching him with extraordinary curiosity... Riker feels the pain in his head...

RIKER

What happened?

A senior physician (BEREL) has joined the group... an overworked man who doesn't need any more in his life right now, certainly not an alien in his hospital.

BEREL

You're in the crisis room at the Sikla Medical Facility. You've had a severe injury, but you're going to be all right.

Riker takes this in for a moment... nods again in understanding. His head hurts terribly.

RIKER

I was caught in the riot when the police moved in... that's the last thing I remember.

BEREL

Can you tell us your name?

Riker is careful... it's all starting to come back to him and he wants to make sure he doesn't say the wrong thing.

RIKER

Rivas. Rivas Jakara.

BEREL

Rivas Jakara. Where do you live?

3 CONTINUED:

RIKER

(well-rehearsed)

In the Marta community on the
southern continent...

3 CONTINUED: (2)

TAVA

You're a long way from home.

(beat)

Are there any members of your family we should notify...

RIKER

No... I have no family.

He lifts his hand as if to rub his head and then sees the primitive equipment he's attached to.

RIKER

I can't stay here... I have to get back...

BEREL

You're in no condition to leave yet...

Berel studies him with an experienced eye... doesn't believe Riker's telling the truth... still, using very good bedside manner, he manages a reluctant grin as he moves to a more intimate position, perhaps sitting on the corner of the bed...

BEREL

There are several... unusual things about your case, Mister Jakara... your cranial lobes, for example. They seem to be surgical implants...

RIKER

I did have some cosmetic surgery... to correct a genetic birth defect...

Picking up his hand... looking at the fingers...

BEREL

And these? Another birth defect?

3 CONTINUED: (3)

RIKER
(acknowledges, of
course)
Yes, isn't that something? My
father's were the same way...

NILREM
(sharp)
You want us to believe that all
your abnormalities are inherited
genetic traits?

Berel shoots him a look, and Nilrem backs off.

RIKER
I understand your confusion. My
personal physician is much more
familiar with these... genetic
irregularities... to be honest,
I'd feel better if I were back
home under her care...

BEREL
Why don't I talk to her about
that... what's her name?

RIKER
(beat)
Crusher... but actually, I'm not
sure you'll be able to reach her.

BEREL
Why not?

RIKER
She's taking... a sabbatical.

A long look by Berel. Then...

BEREL
Well, we'll do the best we can
for you.

Berel pats him on the wrist, rises. About to leave, a
'Columbo' afterthought...

3 CONTINUED: (4)

BEREL

Oh, there was one other thing...
(he pulls a phaser out
of his pocket)
We found this curious looking
device in your clothes... what
is it?

RIKER

Oh, it's just a toy I was taking
home... a present...

BEREL

I thought you didn't have any
family...

RIKER

For a neighbor's child.
(beat)
Did they find anything else, I
had one piece of jewelry... a
metal pin...

BEREL

No, I'm sorry. This was all we
found...

Berel glances at the others, they all leave. Riker immediately breaks his pretense, looks to the heavens with an 'oh shoot' look, tries to get up... but pain shoots through his head and he must retreat back to bed...

4 INT. MEDICAL FACILITY CORRIDOR

As the group comes out. Tava moves to Berel...

NILREM

(voice rising)
"Genetic irregularities"?... that
thing isn't even the same species
as we are...

4 CONTINUED:

BEREL

(looks hard at him)

Keep your voice down.

(beat)

The last thing we need is a panic
in here over some...

He sighs, cannot bring himself to say it... Nilrem
finishes it...

NILREM

It's all the space flights...
they've attracted creatures from
outer space...

BEREL

Now, that's exactly the kind of
thing I don't want to hear ... is
that understood?

TAVA

What are you going to do?

BEREL

(sighs)

With all the medical facilities
available, why did he have to end
up here?

NILREM

I think we ought to call Central
Security.

BEREL

I'm not calling anybody yet. Not
until we've done a lot more. A
lot more. I want his story
checked out...

(MORE)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

BEREL (Cont'd)

Run a complete search through the medical library... be absolutely certain there's never been anything like him...

NILREM

What if there're more of them? They could be everywhere...

BEREL

(calm down)

Somebody get Nilrem a calmative.

(beat)

We ought to see if we can find the physician Crusher. And give this thing...

(handing the phaser to Nilrem)

... to somebody in technical to check out.

On the move --

TAVA

What about him?

BEREL

Cordon off this wing... I want security on his door twenty-nine hours a day... and I want this kept quiet...

(frowns)

They've already questioned my judgement on the diagnostic center, criticized my resource allocations... all they need to hear now is that I'm treating alien creatures...

The last is said going away as they turn a corner, down a hallway...

5 EXT. CAPITAL CITY (MATTE SHOT) - DAY

A large, metropolitan city that could be from mid 21st century Earth, with a few alien touches. Moving in on an impressive government building...

6 INT. DURKEN'S OFFICE - DAY (OPTICAL)

DURKEN is the leader of his people and this is a fitting office for a man of his stature, oval shaped with windows that look outside. Durken himself is in his fifties, slight in stature, no Ronald Reagan here, there is a gentle, Woodrow Wilson quality, thoughtful, brilliant, committed. With him here is MIRASTA, a woman 30-35 years old, and the Minister for Internal Security, KROLA. He is older than Durken, with a keen intellect and piercing eyes. Two other non-speaking members of the cabinet are present.

Mirasta, the Minister of Science, is displaying a star chart with some rough animation on a wall monitor...

MIRASTA

At twelve-point-four after launch,
the warp field generator will be
activated...

DURKEN

That's when it would break the
light barrier?

MIRASTA

Yes, Chancellor. If we're
successful, the craft will leave
our star system in a matter of
minutes and will be on its way
toward the Garth system...

KROLA

(non-supportive)
And then what?

MIRASTA

(with a disarming smile)
And then, Krola, we'll see what's
there...

DURKEN

How long, Mirasta?

MIRASTA

We have the prototype design for
the warp engine... it would simply
be a matter of building the
actual production units. If I
get your approval today... ten
months, maybe less.

6 CONTINUED:

Krola shakes his head, but is extremely pleasant and politic throughout... this is an argument they've had many times before, there is even a smile on his face...

KROLA

Chancellor, I'll admit Mirasta's enthusiasm for her work is seductive, but perhaps we're moving too fast...

6 CONTINUED: (2)

DURKEN

(acknowledging, with
humor)

As fast as the speed of light,
Krola...

KROLA

Why am I always the only realist
in a room full of dreamers... ?

All laugh...

KROLA

Please, I must be serious...
there was another demonstration
today... some violence. Your
opponents will see this as another
example of your determination to
pull us further from our
traditional ways...

Durken stands, moves as he talks...

DURKEN

My opponents look back as I look
forward. I cannot believe that
my people would choose to retreat
after all we've done...

MIRASTA

I agree.

KROLA

The people were willing to accept
your social reforms because they
believe in you, Chancellor. But
there are many who say we have
gone far enough... all of these
new ideas... new technology...
and now space travel... it
confuses them, frightens them...

DURKEN

And I will not allow them to
remain in the dark ages... the
warp program will proceed as you
have outlined, Mirasta...

(beat, smiles to Krola)

And then we will slow down, Krola,
to let everyone catch their breath
including you...

Krola nods and as they all rise to leave...

7 INT. MIRASTA'S LAB - DAY (OPTICAL)

From this room, a person can personally supervise and control rocket launches, satellite operations, radio and optical telescope functions, receive telemetry, etc. If the head of NASA wanted to be completely "hands-on" in the next fifty years, this is the kind of place he/she would have. There should be computers, monitors, printers, observational equipment, models of spacecraft, etc.

Mirasta enters... sits down at one of the computer monitors and taps in a few commands.

Behind her, Picard and Troi MATERIALIZE. Mirasta turns in her chair toward the door reacting to the noise... Picard is dressed in his uniform, Deanna in conservative civilian garb. They are not posing as aliens.

PICARD
Excuse me, Mirasta Yale?

She glances at them curiously.

MIRASTA
Yes?

PICARD
My name is Jean-Luc Picard. This is my associate Deanna Troi. May we come in?

Mirasta is already on her feet... their appearance is clearly not of local origin.

MIRASTA
Who are you?

TROI
Please don't be alarmed by our appearance... we've come with some... important information.

MIRASTA
About what?

PICARD
About space. About the universe you are preparing to enter.

Off her look...

7 CONTINUED:

TROI

We are from a federation of planets, Mirasta... Captain Picard is from a planet called Earth more than two thousand light years from here. I am from another planet called Betazed.

MIRASTA

(beat)

Uh huh.

PICARD

We have been monitoring your progress toward warp drive capability. When a society reaches your level of technology and is clearly about to initiate warp travel, we believe it is time to make first contact. We prefer meeting like this rather than a random confrontation in deep space.

TROI

We've come to you first because you are a leader in the scientific community. And scientists can generally accept our arrival more easily than others.

PICARD

We almost always encounter fear and shock on this sort of mission. We hope you will be able to help facilitate our introduction.

A beat as Mirasta digests this, then...

MIRASTA

Is this a joke? Did Lupo and the others at the lab put you up to this?

PICARD

(grins)

I assure you this is no joke.

(holding up his hands)

You can see we are quite physically different than Malcorians.

(MORE)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD (Cont'd)
And with your permission, I am
prepared to prove what I am
saying.

MIRASTA
(tentative)
All right...

PICARD
(keys insignia)
Picard to Enterprise. Three to
beam up.

They DEMATERIALIZE.

8 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

As they MATERIALIZE... she reacts, astounded. Worf
and Beverly are there to greet them. SUPERNUMERARY
at transport.

WORF
Welcome aboard.

And this is standard procedure. Worf is there for
security precautions. Beverly is there in case the
newcomer faints... and as Mirasta looks around with
awe and wonder, somewhat shaky as Picard leads her off
the transporter pad....

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

9 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit.

10 INT. TEN FORWARD (OPTICAL)

Picard, Troi and Mirasta ENTER...

MIRASTA

It's beyond words... everything
I've ever dreamed about...

(beat)

When I was a child, my parents
would take me to the
planetarium... and we would sit
in the dark and it was as if I
was on a spaceship on my way to
another world... to meet people
from other planets...

TROI

Now that you're about to travel
beyond your own solar system, you
will meet a great many more people
from other planets, Mirasta...

PICARD

The Federation prefers to make
first contact like this... rather
than a random confrontation in
deep space.

MIRASTA

A part of me still expects the
lights to come up as the program
ends...

They sit at a table looking down at the planet...

MIRASTA

How did you know about me?

This becomes a little more touchy and Picard and Troi
are well experienced in breaking the ground...

PICARD

We try to learn as much as
possible about a planet before
first contact.

10 CONTINUED:

TROI

(gently smiles)

One of the things we do is monitor
broadcast signals... We listen
to your journalism, your music,
your humor... try to better
understand you as a people...

MIRASTA

I hate to think how you would
judge us based on our popular
music and entertainment.

PICARD

To be sure, we get an incomplete
picture from long distance...
that's why we also do on-surface
reconnaissance.

Mirasta does not react negatively to this and has yet
to grasp the hard realities of what lies ahead... she's
enchanted by the moment... her reaction is almost like
she's just been let in on a wonderful secret...

MIRASTA

You've had people on our planet?

TROI

For several years.

PICARD

(off her reaction)

We've found that the most
hazardous aspect of this kind
of mission is a lack of sufficient
information...

MIRASTA

You don't have to explain. I
understand.

(beat)

But not everyone on my planet
would. They'd think you were
trying to infiltrate our society.

PICARD

We do have a complication here,
Mirasta. One of our people is
missing. My first officer,
Commander William Riker.

(MORE)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD (Cont'd)

He was on the surface to coordinate the final details with our observation team when he disappeared. Our people have made inquiries... but we have not been able to locate him. If there's any way you can help...

MIRASTA

Of course. Where was Riker's last known location?

10 CONTINUED: (3)

TROI

The capital city. He was there under the name of Rivas Jakara, a tourist from the Marta community.

Mirasta acknowledges.

MIRASTA

We've got to find him before someone realizes what he really is... if this gets out prematurely, it will seriously complicate matters.

And now she begins to take stock of what is forthcoming.

MIRASTA

Introducing you to this world will not be an easy matter.

TROI

It never is.

MIRASTA

You must already know that my people are in a transitory stage... an old staid culture has been pulled into the future by Chancellor Durken... but it is not easy to discard deep-rooted beliefs. Our entire ideology is based on the assumption that the Malcorian is the supreme lifeform and that our world is the center of the universe. Your arrival will change our entire understanding of life...

(beat, frankly)

Some will not want it to change.

PICARD

What about Durken?

10 CONTINUED: (4)

MIRASTA

Durken will be open-minded. But cautious. I strongly suggest that you do not discuss your surveillance teams with him... not right away at least.

PICARD

But, with the disappearance of Commander Riker, wouldn't it be prudent...

MIRASTA

(interrupting)

Captain Picard, you must trust me on this. If you tell the Chancellor about Commander Riker, it would undermine everything you hope to accomplish here.

(Picard and Troi react)

Durken would assign Krola, the Minister of Security, to find him. Krola has his own political agenda. He will perceive you as the greatest threat my people have ever known. And he will not hesitate to use Riker to prove he is correct.

Off Picard's reaction...

11 INT. MEDICAL FACILITY CORRIDOR - DAY

Berel enters to see the hallway is full of doctors and nurses and medical personnel talking in hushed voices...

NILREM

(to a pretty nurse)

It doesn't make sense that he's the only one... think about it...

As Berel passes people we catch snatches of conversations... as they see him, they stop talking, get back to work... moving with him --

OVERLAPPING VOICES (VARIOUS O.C.)

From another planet, hundreds of them... invasion from space...

(MORE)

11 CONTINUED:

OVERLAPPING VOICES (Cont'd)

Somebody said he's not bad
looking... what if that's just
a disguise... meat-eaters... I've
heard he can see through walls...
thousands of them...

11 CONTINUED:

Berel's face grows more and more concerned as he walks... he comes to Tava...

BEREL

I thought I said this was to be kept a secret...

TAVA

(much prior
experience)
You know Nilrem...

BEREL

(nods, sighs)
Well, it's getting out of control...

(beat, concerned)
... I don't know what else he is, but he's still a patient in this medical facility and we have a responsibility for his care and recovery... remind them of that, will you?

TAVA

(acknowledges)
Berel, you're not going to be able to contain this much longer.

BEREL

(sighs)
I know.

TAVA

If people get scared enough, anything could happen...

He considers this seriously, sighs, turns and walks on...

12 INT. RIKER'S ROOM

As Berel enters... Riker is awake...

BEREL

Mister Jakara, we have been unable to confirm anything you told us. No physician named Crusher is on file... not on this planet...

(MORE)

12 CONTINUED:

BEREL (Cont'd)

Your address in Marta is an eating establishment... the cook has never heard of Rivas Jakara.

RIKER

There's obviously been some misunderstanding...

BEREL

There's a growing number of people on the other side of that door who believe you are not one of us.

RIKER

Not one of you... ?

BEREL

That you're from another planet.

Riker reacts, 'incredulous'...

BEREL

Are you, Mister Jakara?

RIKER

(laughs)

Do you realize what you're saying?

12 CONTINUED: (2)

BEREL

I know how it sounds. And I am not anxious to make a fool of myself.

(beat)

Mister Jakara, this new era of space flight, it does fire the imagination. People see unidentified vessels in the sky that turn out to be weather balloons.

RIKER

It is far more likely that I'm a weather balloon than an alien.

BEREL

(shrugs, suggesting another possibility)

Our medical journals have documented several cases of genetic mutation in recent history... some unusual physical disfigurations have occurred...

RIKER

I guess I'm another case for the medical journals then...

BEREL

Perhaps. But you, Mister Jakara, are hiding something. Unless you tell me the truth about yourself, this rumor will persist and grow and could even become dangerous. Most especially to you.

He EXITS... off Riker's growing concern...

13 INT. DURKEN'S OFFICE - CLOSE ON AN INTERCOM DEVICE

Pulling back to see Durken at his desk studying documents, stamping a few...

MALE COM VOICE

... the delegate from the Central Province at four-point-three... the conference with capitol journalists is at six-point-one... and Minister Yale of the Space Bureau would like to introduce you to someone...

DURKEN

(frowns)

Call her back and see if the Vice-Chancellor will do...

MALE COM VOICE

They're out here waiting to see you, sir...

DURKEN

All right. Send them in.

The door opens and Mirasta enters with Picard... he rises, puts on his best political smile...

13 CONTINUED:

DURKEN

Always time to meet your friends,
Mirasta.

MIRASTA

Chancellor, please sit down...
you may want to clear your
afternoon schedule for this.

As Durken sits and glances curiously at Picard...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

14 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

15 INT. CORRIDOR

Picard, Durken, Mirasta walking away from the transporter. Worf and Beverly trail and quickly go their separate ways...

PICARD

The security chief and a medical officer are always present during a first contact transport -- a matter of policy... we've learned to expect the unexpected...

MIRASTA

Your fortitude is impressive, Chancellor... my knees buckled the moment we... we... what do you call it... ?

PICARD

"Beamed up"...

MIRASTA

Yes, beamed up...

Durken is always thinking ahead, reserved, not showing his own hand, fishing for as much information as he can get...

DURKEN

It sounds as though you have done this quite often.

PICARD

Personally, I have been involved with four first contact missions.

DURKEN

And what happened to those other four planets?

Picard grins knowingly.

PICARD

They're still there, Chancellor.

16 INT. ENGINEERING

As they ENTER.

MIRASTA

This is their warp drive,
Chancellor. Do you believe it... ?
Our theories were correct...

Durken studies the impressive machinery, calmly nods...
without looking at Picard...

DURKEN

I can only imagine the sort of
armaments your vessel carries,
Captain Picard.

PICARD

This vessel also carries families
and children, Chancellor. It is
not a warship. The Federation
is dedicated to the peaceful
exploration of space.

Durken looks Picard in the eye now... measures him.
A beat. Walks on. Walking away --

DURKEN

And do you expect all the worlds
you contact to become members
of your federation?

PICARD

Not at all, Chancellor. Some
desire membership. Some do not.
And in some cases the
philosophical differences are so
great, it is not even a
consideration...

17 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

DATA is in the Command Chair. WORF and supernumeraries fill the other posts. The door opens, Picard, Durken, and Mirasta ENTER. Data stands in greeting.

PICARD
This is my bridge.

DATA
Captain.

PICARD
Mister Data. Allow me to
introduce Chancellor Avel Durken
and Space Administrator Mirasta
Yale.

DATA
How do you do?

Both Durken and Mirasta react to Data's appearance.
And can't help but glance at Worf as well.

PICARD
Data is my Second Officer.

MIRASTA
He is an android, Chancellor.
(off Durken's
puzzlement)
A constructed being.

DURKEN
A machine?

DATA
In a manner of speaking. The term
"artificial lifeform" is more
accurate.

Durken nods and takes a deep breath, clearly
overwhelmed.

17 CONTINUED:

Mirasta is staring at the forward screen, smiling.

MIRASTA
Chancellor.

He glances over and she indicates the screen.

18 INCLUDE THE SCREEN (OPTICAL)

And the planet below. Durken can't completely suppress his wonder.

DURKEN
Captain Picard. Is there
somewhere we might speak together?
Without distraction?

Picard nods.

MIRASTA
Chancellor, with your permission,
I will... beam back to the
surface.
(with a glance toward
Picard, re: Riker)
I have several matters to attend
to.

DURKEN
(nods)
Not a word to anyone about this,
Mirasta.

MIRASTA
Of course.

PICARD
Mister Data will escort you to
the transporter room.

Picard and Durken go into the Ready Room. As Data leads the way to the turbolift...

MIRASTA
Has there still been no
communication from Commander
Riker, Data?

18 CONTINUED:

DATA

No, Minister. He has not returned
to our designated transport
coordinates. We have continued
to scan the capitol city without
success.

They EXIT into the turbolift...

19 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM

Picard pours two glasses from his bottle of Chateau Picard...

PICARD

I've been saving this for a special occasion. My brother on Earth produces fruit known as grapes which he turns into wine. He's really quite good at it.

He raises the two glasses... offers one to Durken.

PICARD

We have a tradition, Chancellor, called a toast... a drink to salute one's friends and good fortune. I propose a toast to a new friendship.

They drink.

DURKEN

(surprised, recognizing the taste)

We have something very much like this here on Malcor Three.

PICARD

I am sure we will find much in common.

DURKEN

And much that is not in common.

PICARD

An opportunity to learn from one another.

Durken studies Picard, stands, thoughtful...

DURKEN

You speak the language of diplomacy very well, Captain Picard... it is a language I appreciate and understand... but I have learned to not always trust it...

PICARD

Trust requires time and experience...

19 CONTINUED:

DURKEN

My world's history has recorded
that conquerors often arrived
with the words, "we are your
friends."

PICARD

Chancellor, we are not here to
conquer.

DURKEN

What do you want?

PICARD

Today, all I wish to have is a
drink between friends.

(Durken smiles)

A beginning. How we proceed is
entirely up to you...

DURKEN

(reacts)

And if my wishes conflict with
yours... ?

PICARD

There will be no conflict.

DURKEN

(only a test)

And if I were to tell you to leave
and never return to my world...

PICARD

We would leave and never return.

(beat)

We are only here to help guide
you... into a new era. I assure
you we will not interfere with
the natural development of your
planet... that is, in fact, our
Prime Directive.

DURKEN

(beat)

I could infer from that directive
that you do not intend to share
all this extraordinary technology
with us...

19 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

That is not the whole meaning...
but it is part of it.

DURKEN

Is that your way of maintaining
superiority?

PICARD

To instantly transform a society
with technology would be harmful
and destructive...

DURKEN

(a slow nod)

You're right of course.

(beat)

I am overwhelmed, Captain Picard.
Quite overwhelmed.

(looks out the window)

I come home each night to a loving
wife and two beautiful
daughters... we eat the evening
meal together as a family, I feel
that's important... and they
always ask me if I've had a good
day.

PICARD

How shall you answer them tonight,
Chancellor?

Durken turns...

DURKEN

Well, I'll have to say... this
morning, I was the leader of the
universe as I knew it... this
afternoon, I am only a voice in
a chorus.

(beat, a nod)

But I think it was a good day.

He exchanges a solid look with Picard... and the first
brick of the new foundation is in place. On Picard's
pleased reaction...

20 INT. RIKER'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Riker is on his feet, battling the pain in his head and dizziness... he looks in the closet and finds the clothes he wore when he was brought in, starts to get dressed...

21 ANGLE - THE WINDOW

he examines it... it is sealed shut... as he begins to look for something he can use to break it, a nurse (LANEL) ENTERS the room. She stops short as she sees Riker at the window, but instead of crying out for help, she glances out toward the guard and allows the door to close with her inside. She is quite nervous.

LANEL

There are guards out there.
You'll never escape that way.

Riker reacts, curious about suddenly having an ally...

LANEL

(tentative)
I'm not afraid of you.

RIKER

Good. Because there's nothing
to be afraid of...

LANEL

We shouldn't fear the unknown.
We should embrace it.

RIKER

Can you help me get out of here?

LANEL

Are you really an alien? It's
all right to tell me.

RIKER

No, I'm not an alien...

LANEL

I don't believe you. You are an
alien.

RIKER

Listen, I really have to leave...

21 CONTINUED:

LANEL

I could divert the guard's attention. You might have a chance if you took the service exit down the hall to the left...

RIKER

To the left. All right. Let's do it.

LANEL

Why should I?

Riker takes a deep breath... moves closer to her... with dramatic flair...

RIKER

You know why. Because I don't belong here. Because I have to get back to my ship in space.

She looks into his eyes.

LANEL

I believe you.

RIKER

Now, will you help me?

LANEL

If you make love to me.

RIKER

What?

LANEL

I've always wanted to make love with an alien.

RIKER

Listen, Miss...

LANEL

Lanel...

21 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

I really have to get going... all
the... other aliens are expecting
me...

She moves closer and puts her arms around him...

LANEL

It's not so much to ask. And then
I'll help you escape.

RIKER

It's not that easy. There are...
differences... in the way my
people make love.

LANEL

I can't wait to learn.

RIKER

But...

LANEL

(firm)

It's your only way out of here...
my alien...

He doesn't move to get away.

DISSOLVE TO:

22 OMITTED

23 INT. CORRIDOR

A GUARD is stationed outside Riker's room. Lanel
rushes out, apparently upset...

LANEL

Something's happened to him...
I think he's dead... hurry, go
get help...

The guard rushes down the hallway to the right... after
a beat, she opens the door for Riker...

LANEL

Okay...

23 CONTINUED:

He moves out quickly, glances in both directions... He starts to move, she moves with him a few steps...

LANEL

Will I ever see you again... ?

RIKER

I'll call you next time I'm passing through your star system.

And he rushes quickly down the hallway as she watches him go with a sad, satisfied smile.

24 ANGLE

shooting past Riker... Nilrem and another physician turn the corner walking toward him... react as they see him...

NILREM

Hey!

Riker reacts, sees his escape is blocked... freezes, turns... Nilrem and the other man run toward him...

NILREM

Stop him! Somebody stop him!
He's escaping! The alien's
escaping!

Riker looks the other way and now A DOZEN OTHERS are arriving from other directions... people yell, somebody screams...

VOICES

(ad lib)

He's loose! Get him! Don't let
him get away! Kill him! Stop
him! Where's he going? He's
dangerous! Block the exits!
Knock him down! Kill him!

LANEL

(over the walla)

Leave him alone!

And people are grabbing things... chairs, and bottles and... and it's funny but not so funny... as this is turning into a mob scene... Riker takes his best shot at the doctor with Nilrem... downs him with a solid blow to the chin and that leads to more noise, yells, screams... he tries to get to the service exit... as Nilrem jumps on his back, Riker throws him off, but the others have arrived and overwhelm him, pummel him... and he could very likely be dead if it weren't for the arrival of Berel and Tava...

BEREL

Stop it! All of you! Stop it
now!

His booming voice of authority gets their attention slowly... and as they release Riker, he looks in worse shape than before... he falls slowly to the ground...

24 CONTINUED:

BEREL

Have you all lost your minds?

He kneels down and looks at Riker's wounds...

TAVA

They've aggravated the injury
to his telencephalin... he's
bleeding internally...

BEREL

(to orderlies)

Get him into a surgical cubicle...

(to a nurse)

And call Central Security. This
has gone too far.

As the mob dissipates, on Riker...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25 INT. MEDICAL FACILITY - NIGHT

Riker is in surgery... they're working on his forehead below his hair line... Berel in surgical clothes works carefully but quickly... but is confused by what he is encountering... Tava assists... two other medical assistants are present... with urgency --

BEREL
Recommendation?

TAVA
I don't know... it doesn't match anything...

BEREL
(interrupting)
Forget your training. What do you see?

TAVA
The ichor pooling under the cranial bone... it seems to be exerting abnormal pressure. Ordinarily, I'd say we have to drill to relieve it.

BEREL
Agreed.
(to nurse)
Suction...

She puts an instrument into the wound that we can hear suck out the blood...

BEREL
(to another nurse)
Three-point-six aspiration drill.

25 CONTINUED:

Berel sighs as the nurse hands him a drill, he studies Riker...

BEREL

I wonder what his own kind would do for him...

(beat)

I have to believe it'd be better than this...

As he starts the drill and moves toward Riker's head we pan away and we hear the drill meet bone... and the pan ends on a wall with a window.. and standing there looking through it, watching, is Krola. And as we push in on him, we can see in his hand is the phaser. As he glances at it...

26 EXT. CAPITOL CITY (MATTE SHOT) - DAY

27 INT. DURKEN'S OFFICE - DAY

The cabinet, including Mirasta and Krola, have just been told the facts of life by Durken. Durken is on his feet... the others are seated...

DURKEN

Their leader, Picard, has made it clear that how we proceed is entirely our own decision...

KROLA

You cannot possibly be suggesting surrender, Chancellor...

MIRASTA

They are not hostile...

KROLA

Mirasta, you are incredibly naive. Can you be so enraptured with the notion of space travellers that you are blind to the threat they represent... ?

27 CONTINUED:

DURKEN

I have seen their vessel, Krola...
if they chose to be hostile, I
don't think we would be standing
here now...

KROLA

Why should they use force when
we are ready to lay down in
fear...

DURKEN

(angry)

I do not lay down in fear... to
them or to you, Krola.

KROLA

(sincerely)

Chancellor, I mean no disrespect.
But I have repeatedly warned you
about your policies... taking us
so quickly where we had no
business going in the first
place... New philosophies, new
economics, new technologies.
There are many people who still
value our traditional way of
life... and I for one am willing
to die to defend it.

MIRASTA

Open your eyes, Krola. We are
part of a greater community now.
We cannot ignore it.

KROLA

You would ignore them... as they
infiltrate and spy on us...

Mirasta sits up in her chair at the sound of that...
does he know about Riker?

DURKEN

What are you saying, Krola?

27 CONTINUED: (3)

KROLA

We have captured one of their spies.

Reactions.

MIRASTA

Chancellor, he is Captain Picard's first officer, Commander Riker.

DURKEN

You knew about this?

MIRASTA

He has been missing for two days. I told Captain Picard not to discuss it because I was afraid this is exactly what would happen...

Durken is furious and disappointed with her, and expresses it with his eyes...

DURKEN

What else do you know, Mirasta? Everything.

MIRASTA

(beat)

They've been on our planet, observing us for several years...

KROLA

Years... Imagine what they have done... influenced our young, stirred up dissent...

MIRASTA

They were collecting information...

Durken holds up his hand to silence her. Softly controlled, to Krola --

DURKEN

Where is this Commander Riker now?

Krola doesn't immediately answer, stares at Mirasta and the message is clear... he doesn't trust her to know.

27 CONTINUED: (4)

Off the look, Durken turns to Mirasta and in his softest voice...

DURKEN

You will not discuss this with Picard or the other aliens. If you are not comfortable with that, Mirasta, you may leave now.

She swallows hard, remains. Durken turns back to Krola, nods go ahead...

27 CONTINUED: (5)

KROLA

He is at the Sikla Medical facility, recovering from surgery... he suffered head injuries in an attempt to escape. He will recover consciousness in a few hours.

Off Durken's reaction...

28 INT. RIKER'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Riker is attached to monitoring equipment, still unconscious... pull back to see Krola entering with Berel.

KROLA

Will he survive?

BEREL

I didn't think he would have survived the injuries. The real question is can he survive the treatment..

KROLA

I have to interrogate him before he dies.

BEREL

At least give him time to regain some strength. Come back tomorrow.

KROLA

It cannot wait until tomorrow.

28 CONTINUED:

Mirasta ENTERS, reacts as she sees him.

MIRASTA

Krola, we can get help from his
ship. With their medical
technology, he might recover.

KROLA

We're not giving him back. He
is the one advantage we have now.
(to Berel)
Use your drugs to revive him...

BEREL

(reluctant)

Those drugs increase cardial rate
and vascular pressure... that's
the last thing we want to do to
him right now...

MIRASTA

It will probably be enough to kill
him... you can't do it...

KROLA

Revive him.

28 CONTINUED: (2)

And Berel is not a forceful man but he is a decent one... he sort of scratches his cheek and clears his throat as he takes a beat.

BEREL

I'm just a physician, Minister.
I don't know much about affairs
of state. But he is a living,
intelligent being. I don't care
if the Chancellor himself calls
down here. I have sworn an oath
to do no harm. And I will not.

KROLA

Then I will find someone to
replace you.

Furious, he wheels and EXITS. Mirasta looks at Berel with great admiration.

BEREL

He won't have any trouble finding
someone, you know.

Mirasta nods, moves closer to Riker, studies him, her conscience struggling...

29 INT. DURKEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Finding Durken silhouetted against the tall window as he looks out, his hands folded behind his back, a thoughtful pose. He turns to the sound of the transporter effect...

30 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as Picard MATERIALIZES.

PICARD

(greeting)
Chancellor...

30 CONTINUED:

DURKEN
You are punctual, Captain.

PICARD
(toss away)
I know how busy you are.

DURKEN
Do you?

It is an odd response and Picard reacts curiously.
Durken sits and Picard follows.

DURKEN
I think you know a great deal more
about me than I know about you.

PICARD
In what respect?

DURKEN
I can't know what motivates you...
how you make decisions... what
value you place on life... you
speak of trust and peace and
working together to enter a new
era... at the same time you
conduct secret surveillance...
posing as Malcorians...

Picard finally understands...

PICARD
Commander Riker.

30 CONTINUED: (2)

DURKEN
Commander Riker.

PICARD
(beat)
Mirasta felt it would be a
mistake to discuss...

DURKEN
(interrupting)
Yes, she's tried to accept the
responsibility.

Picard takes a long, thoughtful beat... then nods.
Cut your losses and start to rebuild...

PICARD
You're right. It was my error,
not hers.

Picard rises.

30 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

Chancellor, no starship mission is more dangerous than first contact. We never know what we face when we open the door to a new world. How will we be greeted? What are the dangers? Centuries ago, a disastrous first contact with the Klingon Empire led to decades of war. It was decided then that we must do surveillance before making contact. It was a controversial decision. But I believe it prevents more problems than it creates.

Durken leans back, more comfortable with what Picard is saying, but still not satisfied...

DURKEN

I appreciate the logic of your position, Captain. But it would seem a full disclosure after contact would have been in order.

PICARD

(nods)

In time, there would have been full disclosure. I know I can only ask you to believe that. On some worlds, it is not even an issue. But here, everything our observers reported suggested the people of this world would almost certainly react negatively to our arrival. We could see our surveillance might even be interpreted as an act of aggression.

(beat)

I was hoping that we would find Commander Riker before you did... so the matter would not complicate our introduction. And it was a mistake.

30 CONTINUED: (4)

A more open expression appears on Durken's face... he almost smiles.

DURKEN

A mistake I might have made in
your place.

(beat)

I rather like it actually.

PICARD

Like it?

DURKEN

That you make mistakes like any
man.

PICARD

Oh, I've made some fine ones in
my time.

There is another connection between the two men that
goes a long way toward healing this rift.

PICARD

Will you release my officer?

And Durken never changes expression and his eyes never
leave Picard's...

DURKEN

We'll talk again later, Captain.

That's the best Picard can do for now. He
acknowledges.

PICARD

(to insignia)

Enterprise, one to beam up.

He DEMATERIALIZES. Durken stares a beat at the empty
space and thinks.

31 INT. RIKER'S ROOM - NIGHT

On Berel who is on a telephone like device.

BEREL

Yes I understand.

31 CONTINUED:

He hangs up. Turns to Nilrem who is standing with
Mirasta and Krola. In an even voice --

BEREL

I've been relieved of my duties...
as I'm sure you already know.
You are acting director of the
facility, Nilrem.

Nilrem avoids Berel's look. Berel EXITS.

KROLA

Revive him.

After a beat, Mirasta EXITS, frustrated and alarmed...
and as Nilrem prepares a syringe... push in on Riker
and...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

32 EXT. CAPITOL CITY - DAY (MATTE SHOT)

33 INT. RIKER'S ROOM - DAY

Close on Riker's bandaged face as he regains consciousness... he is in bad shape... the pain in his head is suffocating and yet the drugs in his system won't let him rest... there is a drugged intensity in his eyes... on the monitors, graphs measuring his life signs make beeping sounds which move more quickly as the drugs take hold. He cannot raise his head. As we pull back, he sees Krola and Nilrem.

KROLA
(to Nilrem)
Leave us.

Nilrem EXITS. Krola moves closer to Riker. He is deceptively calm, sympathetic.

KROLA
I am Minister Krola from Internal Security. You are Riker, an alien...

Riker's eyes narrow.

KROLA
Yes, we know.

Riker struggles to speak...

RIKER
Please. Bring my people here.

The beep on the monitor skips a beat. Riker blinks with the shock of his internal agony.

KROLA
In time. In time. But first,
I need to ask you some
questions...

34 INT. DURKEN'S OFFICE - DAY

As Mirasta ENTERS...

34 CONTINUED:

MIRASTA

Thank you for seeing me.

Durken looks at her, still disappointed.

DURKEN

If I did not depend so much on
your expertise in space matters,
I would have asked for your
resignation.

MIRASTA

I felt I was acting in the best
interests of our people,
Chancellor.

DURKEN

(sharp)

When you are selected to occupy
this office, then you'll have the
privilege of deciding the best
interests of our people.

(softens, personal)

Picard, I can excuse. But you,
Mirasta, you should have trusted
me.

Her eyes drop, she nods, understands.

MIRASTA

(beat)

Chancellor -- we must release
Riker to Picard... Any hope for
a relationship with these people
depends on it...

Durken knows what's she's after, shakes his head.

DURKEN

I cannot afford to be the idealist
you are, Mirasta.

MIRASTA

Riker...

34 CONTINUED: (2)

DURKEN

(interrupting)

I am prepared to release Riker
after we've interrogated him...

MIRASTA

Are you prepared for him to die,
Chancellor?

(off Durken's look)

His injuries are extremely
serious. A mob at the medical
facility almost killed him. Krola
has ordered drugs to be used to
revive him for questioning, drugs
that are dangerous in his
condition. Without medical aid
from his ship, I believe Riker
will not survive the day. You
must tell Picard where he is.

Off Durken's look...

35 INT. RIKER'S ROOM - DAY

The interrogation continues. Riker is exhausted.

KROLA

You have lied since the moment
of your capture... and I believe
you are lying now, Commander.

RIKER

We... are here on a mission of
peace...

KROLA

Such noble creatures.

He pulls out the phaser.

35 CONTINUED:

KROLA

Why do peaceful people develop
such lethal weapons?

Riker looks at the phaser...

KROLA

(continuing)

Or do you still insist it is a
toy?

36 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Krola aims it at a lamp in the corner and destroys it.

KROLA

Yes, my experts were able to make
it function. An interesting toy
to be sure.

RIKER

It is... for defense...

The beeper on the medical monitor flutters... Riker's
eyelids come halfway down... Krola glances at the
machines...

KROLA

Perhaps, like many conquerors,
you believe your goals to be
benevolent. I cannot. For
however you would describe your
intentions, you still represent
the end to my way of life. I
cannot permit that to occur.

Riker reacts, puzzled. Explaining --

36 CONTINUED:

KROLA

Eventually, Durken would choose to welcome your people with arms open and eyes closed. I must force him down another path.

He puts the phaser in Riker's limp hand... aims it at himself...

KROLA

When they find us, I will be dead, killed by your weapon. The lines will be drawn. A peaceful accord will no longer be an option.

Struggling for one word...

RIKER

No...

KROLA

(quietly)

For my people.

A calm smile comes to his lips... and he presses Riker's finger on the phaser, fires at himself. He goes down.

36A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit.

36B INT. READY ROOM

Picard studying something on his computer.

WORF'S COM VOICE

Captain, Chancellor Durken has requested your immediate presence on the surface. It's in regard to Commander Riker.

Picard is already on his way out the door...

PICARD

Acknowledged, Lieutenant.

... and he's out.

36C INT. RIKER'S ROOM

Riker struggles to reach out toward the phone device...
but the sound of the VITAL SIGN MONITOR STUTTERS...
and he collapses... as we PAN to a monitor displaying
very low peaks, widely separated...

37 A MATCHING MONITOR

at a station in a corridor... manned by Tava and
Nilrem, a few medical personnel around, reacting...

TAVA

(urgent)

Life signs failing on one...

Nilrem just looks at her... rushing past him...

TAVA

... he's dying, Nilrem... you
can't just stand here... or can
you... ?

She runs down the hall, Nilrem finally follows along
with two others...

38 INT. RIKER'S ROOM

As they ENTER... react to the scene before them...

TAVA

What... ?

NILREM

(adding it up)

He shot him. The alien shot
Krola...

Tava goes to Riker as Nilrem goes down to see if Krola is alive... everybody moving with expert efficiency, controlled chaos...

TAVA

Get me three octares
of adrulmine... high
frequency E-M charge
unit... now!

NILREM

I have a circulation
pattern, very weak...
we need to get him
on vital buffers right
now...

They turn and react frozen in terror to the sound of...

39 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Beverly, a MALE STARFLEET NURSE and Worf
MATERIALIZING... she goes directly to Riker and uses
the tricorder to assess his condition... Tava and
Nilrem back away in fear...

BEVERLY

I'm a physician... don't be
frightened...

(seeing Krola)

What happened?

NILREM

(terrified)

The... he shot him...

(re: phaser)

with that thing...

The nurse goes to Krola. Beverly gives Riker an air
hypo...

BEVERLY

(keys insignia)

Crusher to Picard.

INTERCUT:

39A INT. DURKEN'S OFFICE

Picard is with Durken and Mirasta.

PICARD
Go ahead, Doctor.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE
Commander Riker is near death.
But there is still brain
activity... I've got to take
him back to the ship...

PICARD
Acknowledged.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE
Minister Krola has a phaser wound
in his upper chest.

Reactions from Picard, Mirasta, Durken.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE
I should take him with us.

PICARD
(tacit approval)
We'll meet you on the
Enterprise.

39B INT. RIKER'S ROOM (OPTICAL)

BEVERLY
Enterprise, five to beam up...
directly to Sickbay...
energize...

They DEMATERIALIZE. On Tava and Nilrem's reaction...

40 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit.

41 INT. SICKBAY

Picard escorts Mirasta and Durken in... Beverly greets them...

BEVERLY
They're both going to be okay...
we were able to stabilize Will...
if we'd been any later...

The ending is obvious...

DURKEN
Krola?

BEVERLY
He was never in any real danger...
the phaser was on stun...

MIRASTA
Stun?

PICARD
It is a defensive weapon. We do
not use it to kill.
(to Beverly)
Have you been able to ascertain
what happened?

BEVERLY
I have a good idea. Based on the
angle of impact... it suggests
that Krola had his right hand on
the phaser when it went off...

41 CONTINUED:

DURKEN

They were struggling for the
weapon?

BEVERLY

(shakes her head)

Commander Riker was in no position
to offer any kind of struggle,
Chancellor.

MIRASTA

Krola was trying to be a
martyr... ?

Durken takes a deep breath... moves over to Krola...
who opens his eyes... sees where he is. Durken takes
his hand, holds it in his two hands.

KROLA

Where is this?

DURKEN

(gently, with a sad
smile)

You are aboard the starship, my
foolish old friend.

KROLA

No. Chancellor... you must not...
you must not pursue relations with
them... you must not...

Durken pats his hand... nods...

DURKEN

(softly)

I know. I know.

42 INT. READY ROOM

Mirasta, Durken, Picard.

MIRASTA

But Chancellor...

DURKEN

Mirasta, it goes against every
instinct in my being...

(MORE)

42 CONTINUED:

DURKEN (Cont'd)

(to Picard)

... but my people are not ready to accept what you represent. Everything that happened at the hospital proves it. Krola is the best evidence of all. We must slow down and allow all those like him to join us in the present before we move into the future.

MIRASTA

But when we encounter other beings in space, our people must be ready...

DURKEN

The warp program will have to be delayed... we will divert more resources into education and social development to prepare for the day when we are ready.

MIRASTA

Chancellor, I strongly disagree.

DURKEN

(nods, sadly)

I know.

(beat)

Captain Picard, you once said that if I ask you to leave, you would without hesitation. I'm afraid I must ask you to do just that.

PICARD

It is your decision, Chancellor. But I must say I regret that we won't have the opportunity of knowing your people better.

DURKEN

(acknowledges)

We are a good people, Captain. A society with much potential. Once we cross this threshold of space, we will have to give up the self-importance, the conceit that we are the center of the universe.

(MORE)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

DURKEN (Cont'd)

But this is not the time. For now, it is better that we continue to enjoy that sweet innocence.

PICARD

But how can you keep us a secret... when so many have seen and heard so much?

DURKEN

The stories will be told for many years, I have no doubt... of the ship that made contact... of an alien who was held prisoner in a medical facility... there will be charges of a government cover-up... some of the witnesses will tell their tales and most people will laugh at them and go back and watch more interesting fiction on the daily broadcasts. It will pass.

MIRASTA

I'm sorry to say... he's probably right.

Picard rises.

MIRASTA

Captain, I have one last request... take me with you.

Picard reacts, glances at Durken.

DURKEN

(tacit approval)

She will be unhappy with the restrictions I must place on her at home, Captain.

PICARD

(to Mirasta)

We may not be back in your lifetime. And I have to believe that you are not fully prepared for the risks of space, Mirasta...

42 CONTINUED: (3)

MIRASTA

I have been prepared for the risks
of space since I was nine years
old sitting in a planetarium.

PICARD

Mister Worf, to my Ready Room...

Worf ENTERS.

PICARD

Escort Chancellor Durken to the
transporter room, Lieutenant...
and then assign quarters to
Minister Yale. She'll be staying
on board.

WORF

Aye, sir.

PICARD

Until we return then...

DURKEN

With luck, we will both still
be around to renew our friendship,
Captain.

As they EXIT...

43 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

As the ship slowly moves out of orbit, leaving the
planet behind.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END