

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"A Matter of Honor"
#40272-134

Story by
Wanda M. Haight & Gregory W. Amos
and
Burton Armus

Teleplay by
Burton Armus

Directed by
Rob Bowman

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STAR TREK: "A Matter of Honor" - 12/02/88 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"A Matter of Honor"

CAST

PICARD	CAPTAIN KARGAN
RIKER	SECOND OFFICER KLAG
DATA	VEKMA
PULASKI	TACTICS OFFICER
WORF	
WESLEY	Non-Speaking
	KLINGON CREWMEMBERS
TRANSPORTER CHIEF O'BRIEN	ZEGOV
ENSIGN MENDON	
Non-Speaking	
CREWMEMBERS	
REPLACEMENT CREWMEMBERS	
WAITER	
Voice-Over	
STARBASE COM VOICE	

STAR TREK: "A Matter of Honor" - 12/02/88 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"A Matter of Honor"

SETS

INTERIORS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE

TRANSPORTER ROOM

KLINGON VESSEL "PAGH"

PHASER RANGE

CORRIDORS

OUTSIDE TRANSPORTER ROOM

TEN-FORWARD

KLINGON VESSEL "PAGH"

CORRIDORS

MAIN BRIDGE

TACTICS STATION

MESS HALL

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"A Matter of Honor"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it travels through space at warp speed.

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WESLEY is at the Conn. WORF is at Tactical. DATA is at Ops, RIKER has the Command Chair. All other stations are staffed by n.d. crewmembers.

DATA

We are approaching Starbase
one-seven-nine.

RIKER

Half impulse, Mister Crusher.

WESLEY

Going to half impulse.

3 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as the Enterprise comes out of warp, slows to the proper impulse speed.

4 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

as before.

RIKER

Captain, this is the bridge. We have arrived at Starbase one-seven-nine.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Acknowledged, Number One.

4 CONTINUED:

RIKER

(to Wesley)

Establish position -- zero-nine-zero mark
three-seven-five -- at
twenty-seven thousand
kilometers.

WESLEY

Aye, sir.

RIKER

Open hailing frequencies,
Lieutenant.

WORF

Hailing frequencies open.

RIKER

Starbase one-seven-nine, this is
the USS Enterprise.

STARBASE COM VOICE

Enterprise, this is Starbase
one-seven-nine. We are ready for
transfer on your mark.

RIKER

Thank you.

Riker gets to his feet.

RIKER

(continuing)

Commander Data, you have the
bridge. Ensign Crusher, you will
accompany me.

As Riker and Wesley exit, Data takes the Command
position.

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as the Enterprise establishes its position near the
starbase. The starbase is located on a misty, shrouded
planet.

6 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Data has the Command Chair.

6 CONTINUED:

DATA

Starbase one-seven-nine. We are ready to commence transfer.

STARBASE COM VOICE

Acknowledge Enterprise. Begin transfer.

7 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

FIVE MEMBERS of the Enterprise crew (three men, two women) stand on the transporter pads. Riker and the TRANSPORTER CHIEF O'BRIEN at the control panel. Wesley is off to one side. Riker eyes them with a warmth and with a sense of humor.

RIKER

This is my last chance to say that it has been a pleasure to serve with you and to wish you luck on your new assignment. You have served the Enterprise well.

(slight smile)

No tears, please.

Before the members on the pad can cover their smiles to answer:

RIKER

(continuing)

Energize.

The five crewmembers DEMATERIALIZE. Wesley and Riker laugh.

Transporter Chief O'Brien responds to a signal on the panel, announces in response.

CHIEF O'BRIEN

Enterprise ready. Beam aboard.

8 ON PADS (OPTICAL)

FOUR REPLACEMENTS MATERIALIZE on the pads, among them is ENSIGN MENDON, a large, blue-skinned officer from the planet Benzar. He breathes through a special device at his chest which converts the oxygen level to his use. He is young, alert, quick moving and as the nature of Benzites, he is always ready to please and demonstrate his abilities.

9 SCENE

The new members step off the pad and file through the doorway with nods and smiles. Wesley spots Mendon and reacts.

RIKER

Welcome aboard the Enterprise.
I'm Commander William Riker, your
first officer. Those of you who
are here as replacements will step
outside and Lieutenant Lewis will
assign you to crew quarters.

(to Mendon)

Ensign, you are here on the
exchange program, you'll follow
Mister Crusher.

Wesley steps forward anxiously. He addresses Mendon in
a friendly manner.

WESLEY

Mordoc, what are you doing here?
You couldn't have graduated from
the Academy already.

Mendon eyes Wesley oddly.

MENDON

I am not Mordoc. I am Mendon.
Ensign Mendon of the planet
Benzar.

10 ON WESLEY

He is slightly flustered, embarrassed. He explains:

WESLEY

I'm sorry sir. I thought you were
a friend... Mordoc...

(beat)

... You look just like him.

MENDON

We are from the same
geostructure. Naturally we look
alike.

WESLEY

How do you tell each other apart?

MENDON

We just do.

11 SCENE

Riker steps in to save Wesley any further embarrassment.

RIKER

Well, nice to have you here
Ensign. There will be a
briefing and indoctrination
session as soon as you settle in.

12 SCENE

Mendon stops next to Riker to announce.

MENDON

I want to tell you how happy I
am to be assigned to the
Enterprise. It wasn't just luck.
I requested it. I know I can
be of great help to the ship.

RIKER

(surprised)

Yes, of course. Now if you'll
just follow Ensign Crusher.

MENDON

Yes sir.

As Mendon exits the room Riker gives a quick "God save us" glance to Transporter Chief O'Brien. Picard's com voice is heard.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Commander Riker, report to the
Phaser Range, please...

Riker touches his communicator.

RIKER

On the way.

Riker exits the room.

12A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in position near the starbase.

13 INT. PHASER RANGE - CLOSE ON TARGET (OPTICAL)

as it is zapped by a phaser beam and flashes a burst of light and a change of color. Then another one next to it. The CAMERA PULLS BACK to show Riker and Picard at the firing station, almost back to back and firing at light targets that appear in an arc around them. Picard fires off two blasts of his own phaser. The targets are HIT.

PICARD

I was wondering if you had any feelings about the Officer Exchange Program that has been initiated by Starfleet Command.

RIKER

Just positive ones sir. I've already welcomed Ensign Mendon on board and he certainly seems eager to please.

PICARD

That's a Benzite trait.

(beat)

It's been suggested that one of the officers on the Enterprise might like to participate in this exchange program.

RIKER

Probably a good idea.

Picard takes a moment to fire off three quick blasts and then to remark offhandedly.

PICARD

There's a Klingon vessel in the vicinity.

Riker covers any reaction by firing his own phaser at the target. Both men continue to fire in order, both of them covering any reaction and attempting to act nonchalant about this assignment

RIKER

I don't recall ever hearing of a Federation officer serving on a Klingon vessel.

PICARD

Neither have I.

13 CONTINUED:

RIKER

It could be beneficial.

PICARD

Having Worf on board certainly has been.

RIKER

Yes sir, that's true.

(a shot)

Who did you intend to send?

PICARD

I was going to ask for a volunteer.

As Picard fires his phaser:

RIKER

I wouldn't mind, sir.

PICARD

What was that, Number One?

Picard covers his smile. Riker spots it, knows he's been played with.

RIKER

I said I wouldn't mind the assignment.

PICARD

Any particular reason?

RIKER

(broad grin)

Because nobody has ever done it before.

Riker opens up with a series of three blasts at the target which light it up like a Christmas tree.

PICARD

I'll notify starbase of your acceptance... They'll contact the Klingon vessel and make the arrangements.

13 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard fires at his target, hits it, turns to Riker to smile, then walks away.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

14 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it continues its solo, steady and effortless impulse flight.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate 42606.5.
I have informed the staff of
Commander Riker's temporary duty
assignment and we have departed
from Starbase one-seven-nine and
are headed for a rendezvous with
the Klingon vessel, the Pagh.

15 INT. CORRIDOR

Worf and Riker walk and talk. Worf is more animated than usual as he speaks of the Klingon ship and his heritage with a certain pride.

WORF

I have studied and know everything
about my heritage.

RIKER

Then you are the one to fill me
in on something that I'm not
clear about.

(beat)

It's my understanding that one
of the duties of the first officer
on a Klingon ship is to
assassinate the captain.

WORF

Yes sir.

RIKER

(reacts)

Wouldn't that bring about chaos?

15 CONTINUED:

WORF

Of course not. When and if the captain becomes weak and unable to perform, it is expected that his honorable retirement should be assisted by his "first."

(beat)

The second officer would assassinate you for the same reasons.

RIKER

(beat)

This method of attrition could take a little getting used to.

WORF

The Klingon system has operated successfully for centuries.

RIKER

It is different.

16 CLOSE ON WORF

He looks at Riker, nods solemnly.

WORF

Many things will be different.

17 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Wesley at his Forward Station of Conn. Data is in Command. All other stations are covered by n.d. crewmembers except for Science One, which is manned by Ensign Mendon.

Ensign Mendon steps from his station to look over the shoulder of the crewmember at the Tactical Station. He watches for a beat, then comments:

MENDON

That's a wonderful method of maintaining a constant control factor over defensive shields, but I'm sure there's a way to improve response time.

The crewmember turns to give Mendon a look. Mendon reads it.

17 CONTINUED:

MENDON

Oh, sorry, didn't mean to interrupt you... Just thought I could be of some help, however I am correct in what I said.

Mendon continues his studying walk and ends up next to Wesley at Conn. He peers over Wesley's shoulder in the same overseeing manner.

MENDON

That is superb designing, absolutely first rate.

Wesley remains courteous to a ranking officer even if he has the annoying Benzite trait of aggressiveness of an over-achiever.

WESLEY

Yes it is. Would you care to be more specific?

MENDON

The input sampling. It's simple yet efficient enough. Of course a minor change of the helm readout would be much more helpful in emergency situations.

WESLEY

We've never had any trouble with it. Have you seen it work?

MENDON

Not in a practical exercise, but in theory... my theory... it would be more than a marginal improvement. I'll have to mention this to the captain.

WESLEY

You're going to advise Captain Picard?

MENDON

Captain Picard... I'll have to discuss these improvements with him.

(beat)

He is open to some astute observations, isn't he?

17 CONTINUED: (2)

WESLEY

Well, I've never heard Captain Picard refuse to listen to his officers.

MENDON

Outstanding! Pretty soon we'll get things running perfectly.

Mendon walks away. Wesley's look follows him.

18 INT. TEN-FORWARD LOUNGE

Riker sits at a table surrounded by an assortment of dishes. Each one is a little more disgusting than the other. If they are edible it is the surprise of the space age. Riker grimaces as he tests each one in order. Pulaski steps over to look down on his feast. She reaches over to lift something ugly.

PULASKI

What is this?

RIKER

A Klingon delicacy. That's heart of targ -- this is pipius claw. And this is stewed "gagh."

PULASKI

"Gagh"?

RIKER

Serpent worms... would you like to know how they're prepared?

Pulaski sits down at the table. A waiter arrives with about six different drinks. Riker moves some plates around to make room.

PULASKI

No thanks. I've never heard of a Klingon starving to death on one of their own vessels, but you might.

RIKER

Not if I weaken first.

18 CONTINUED:

PULASKI

I know all about that. Their beliefs may be somewhat brutal but usually what kills us, kills them.

RIKER

(sniffing an awful drink)

That's something to look forward to. Would you like a drink, Doctor?

PULASKI

I'm abstaining in honor of your last hour on board.

RIKER

(mock serious)

Your sacrifice will not go unnoticed.

Picard approaches the table from the turbolift.

19 NEW ANGLE

as Picard looks down at the table full of food and covers his reaction. Riker is about to get to his feet. Picard puts a restraining hand on his shoulder.

PICARD

I understand the theory of the feast before the transfer. I've done the same thing dozens of times. However, I usually made more civil choices.

Pulaski covers her grin. A tray of desserts arrives and Pulaski starts to arrange them in whatever space is left.

RIKER

These are the most civil choices.

PICARD

I see... Well, their food may be somewhat backward but the Klingons are efficient, loyal to their beliefs, and are regulated by a strict code of ethics.

19 CONTINUED:

PULASKI

True enough. They tend to lean towards a Samurai civilization that is thousands of years old.

PICARD

But they are pure in that tradition.

Picard turns back to Riker.

PICARD

This is a great opportunity, Number One. We really know so little about them. We have so much to learn.

(beat, smile)

I think I envy you, Will Riker.

Riker eyes him, nods, almost takes another bite of food accidentally, then drops it as he becomes aware...

20 INT. CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE TRANSPORTER ROOM

Riker moves down the corridor towards the Transporter Room. Worf approaches him. He carefully hands Riker a small electronic device about the size of a Bic lighter. Riker studies it.

RIKER

An emergency transponder?

WORF

Slightly altered to transmit an omnidirectional signal and an emergency call.

RIKER

(examining)

Are you sensing some trouble that I don't?

WORF

(embarrassed)

Simply a security precaution. I want to insure your return to this ship.

20 CONTINUED:

RIKER
(surprise)
Sentiment, Lieutenant Worf?

WORF
Efficiency, Commander.

RIKER
(smile)
I understand. Thank you,
Lieutenant.

He tucks the transponder into his boot and walks away.

21 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Wesley and an n.d. crewmember at the Forward Stations, the Aft Stations are covered by n.d. crewmembers. Science One is covered by Ensign Mendon, Worf stationed at Tactical. Picard and Data in the Command Area.

WORF
We have a Klingon vessel
approaching.

PICARD
Hailing frequencies open.

WORF
They are returning our hail in
proper language. It is the Pagh.

PICARD
On viewscreen.

22 MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

We see the Klingon vessel on viewscreen. Then the fierce and unmerciful face of CAPTAIN KARGAN fills the viewscreen.

PICARD
I am Jean-Luc Picard, captain of
the Enterprise.

KARGAN
And I am Captain Kargan of the
Pagh. Beam your first officer
on board immediately.

22 CONTINUED:

PICARD

We are preparing to do so.
You're getting a good man,
Captain Kargan.

KARGAN

Thank you for your opinion but
I will judge that for myself.
Screen off.

The viewscreen goes blank. Mendon comments to Worf.

MENDON

Not very hospitable are they?

Worf responds to him immediately.

WORF

That is not your concern. Observe
your station, Ensign Mendon.

MENDON

(realizing)
Didn't mean to offend you.

WORF

You didn't...
(beat)
... Yet.

22A ANGLE ON SCIENCE SCREEN

Mendon turns back to his screen, adjusts a knob so that the schematic on screen starts to turn. It is a skeleton version of the Klingon vessel. Various technical information scrolls across the screen below the blueprint.

Then the faint glimmer of a red smear appears on the hull of the ship.

23 CLOSER ON SCREEN

Mendon magnifies the screen and brings the red smear to the forefront. Then he punches in an informational request DIRECT SENSOR BEAM. The screen blinks with SUBSTANCE REQUEST then after a beat answers NOT DETERMINED. Mendon types in an additional request, CATEGORY. The scrolled response appears MICROBIOTIC COLONY... BACTERIAL ANALOG... SUBATOMIC...

23 CONTINUED:

Then DIAGNOSIS, the answer TO BE DETERMINED. Mendon's concentration is interrupted by Captain Picard's orders.

PICARD

Transporter Room, prepare to beam
Commander Riker aboard the Pagh.

Picard exits.

24 OMITTED

25 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Transporter Chief O'Brien behind the control panel.
Riker is already standing on the pad. Picard enters.

CHIEF O'BRIEN

Ready, Captain.

PICARD

Good Luck, Commander.

RIKER

Thank you sir.

PICARD

On your command, Will.

26 ON RIKER (OPTICAL)

He nods.

RIKER

Energize.

He DEMATERIALIZES... Hold on the empty pad for a beat,
then:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

27 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Klingon vessel Pagh slowly moving away from the Enterprise.

28 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard eyes the main viewscreen. We see the Pagh diminishing in size as it puts more distance between itself and the Enterprise. Data acting as first officer issues the orders.

DATA

Viewscreen off. Resume course.

WESLEY

Aye sir.

The viewscreen returns to its original pattern.

PICARD

Take over Commander Data, I'll be in my quarters.

DATA

Yes sir.

Picard moves away from his Command position. He passes the Science One station, nods to Mendon who seizes this opportunity to attempt to ingratiate himself to his new commander, much to the annoyance of Worf.

MENDON

Sir, I'm Ensign Mendon. I just wanted to tell you how pleased I am to be aboard the Enterprise.

PICARD

(distracted)

Yes, of course. Nice to have you on board.

Picard continues on the move. Mendon takes a few steps with him.

28 CONTINUED:

MENDON

If you have a few minutes I've noted a few procedural items that could speed up operations on the bridge.

Picard understanding his Benzite traits, is patient with him.

MENDON

(continuing)

I pick things up very quickly.

PICARD

I'm sure you do Ensign, you have an excellent record. However, on the Enterprise we use the chain of command. You may report your observations to Lieutenant Worf.

MENDON

I didn't mean to challenge your authority...

(trailing off)

... I just wanted to impress upon you...

PICARD

No need to apologize Ensign... we should have explained it better during indoctrination.

Picard continues on to the turbolift.

28A ANGLE ON WORF

He turns to Mendon with a look that could burn holes in your chest.

WORF

Ensign Mendon... You may impress me.

On Mendon's look.

29 EXT. SPACE - THE KLINGON VESSEL "PAGH" (OPTICAL)

alone in space. Its harsher angles and look almost scary against the stillness.

30 INT. PAGH - CORRIDOR

Everything about this ship is utilitarian and lacks the smooth free-flowing lines and coloring of the Enterprise.

Riker and a KLINGON OFFICER, who is the TACTICS OFFICER, turn a corner and walk down the corridor. They are both wary but open. The Klingon studies Riker in a speculating manner.

Crewmembers also eye Riker in passing. Some with the same reaction as the tactics officer, others simply interested... They all acknowledge Riker with a courteous nod.

Riker returns the look.

RIKER
Something wrong?

TACTICS OFFICER
No, Commander.
(beat)
It's just I have never seen anyone
of your species before...

RIKER
(smile)
I'm just your average everyday
human who happens to be a
commander. Now what are your
orders?

TACTICS OFFICER
I am to escort you to the captain.

RIKER
Proceed.

Riker falls in behind the Klingon.

31
thru OMITTED
32

33 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE

Riker and his escort enter onto the bridge.

33 CONTINUED:

The same sparse but functional look. The bridge is manned by FIVE CREWMEMBERS at varying stations. Captain Kargan is seated in the Command Chair. SECOND OFFICER KLAG stands next to him. They are businesslike in their appraisal of Riker. Firm but not harsh. Riker steps forward.

RIKER

I am Commander William Riker of the Starship Enterprise.

KARGAN

That is incorrect.

RIKER

(beat)

I don't understand.

KARGAN

You are Commander Riker, first officer of the Klingon Cruiser Pagh, or do you intend to disobey Federation orders?

RIKER

I have no such intentions, Captain.

KARGAN

Exactly where are your loyalties, Commander?

RIKER

I'm afraid I still don't understand.

Kargan explains carefully in a low, calm voice.

KARGAN

This ship is equipped with our best weapons and our finest warriors. Although we are on a peaceful mission we are prepared to go into battle instantly. I know I can count on every Klingon warrior in this crew to serve and die in that battle. So I ask again Commander Riker,

(beat)

where are your loyalties?

33 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

I have been assigned here to serve
this ship and to obey your orders.
I will do exactly that.

KARGAN

Will you take an oath to that
effect?

RIKER

(meets his gaze)

I just did.

Klag interjects firmly to Captain Kargan.

KLAG

yI-Har-Qo! nep-we' ghaH! (Do
not believe him! He lies!)

KARGAN

(to Klag)

Hol-chaj yI-jatlh. (Speak in
their language.)

(to Riker)

This is your second officer,
Lieutenant Klag.

RIKER

Was there something you wanted
to say to me, Lieutenant?

KLAG

Yes sir.

(beat)

I don't believe you.

RIKER

Then I take it you challenge my
authority over you.

KLAG

Correct.

RIKER

(to Kargan)

And your position in this,
Captain?

KARGAN

(with disdain)

I would call it your first command
decision.

33 CONTINUED: (3)

Riker looks around the Main Bridge at the other crewmembers.

33A RIKER'S POV

The Klingon crewmembers watch him, waiting to see his reaction to this challenge.

33B SCENE

Riker eyes the arrogant stance and size of Klag who gives him an insubordinate snort. Riker realizes he has no choice. He deftly, with no advance warning or aggressive motion, swings a two-handed blow with his full strength and lands a monstrous blow across the chest of Klag.

33C SERIES OF CUTS

The sound of the blow against Klag's chest armor echoes through the bridge and is followed by the roar of his breath leaving his body, and then his bulk smashing against the bulkhead and slipping to the ground.

Riker calmly steps around the still-seated captain and steps in front of Klag who is struggling to his feet.

Klag is almost to his feet when Riker swings again, this time taking the legs out from under Klag who drops to the ground again.

The crewmembers are animated and watch the fight with relish, not caring who wins or loses but that there is combat.

Riker looks over to the captain.

Captain Kargan simply sits back and allows it to continue.

Riker turns back to the dazed but still active Klag who is once more attempting to get to his feet.

Riker eyes the combatant with a calculated but astonished eye. Klag can barely stand but bravely fights for balance. Riker shrugs, and rams his fist into Klag's stomach, then drops him with another double-handed blow over the head.

33D SCENE

Kargan applauds with a grunt and a motion of his head.

Klag is awake but prone. He struggles to his feet, manages to prop himself against the wall. Klag gives Riker as much a look of respect as he is able...

33E ON RIKER

RIKER

My oath is between Captain Kargan and myself. Your only concern is how to obey my orders.

(beat)

Or do you prefer the rank of prisoner over that of lieutenant?

Klag calculates Riker carefully, then:

KLAG

I will take your orders.

Riker nods his acceptance. Klag returns it. Kargan interjects:

KARGAN

And you, Commander Riker, will obey my orders.

RIKER

Agreed, Captain Kargan.

Riker turns away from the captain, and when no one can see him he lets his breath out.

34 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

continuing on its solo run at impulse.

35 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and Data at Command. Worf at Tactical and Mendon at Science One. All other crew personnel are n.d.

WORF

Sir, the automatic scan has registered some unknown substance on the aft quarter of the exterior skin of the dorsal fin.

35 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Zero in on that location and
define.

36 ANGLE ON SCIENCE STATION SCREEN (OPTICAL)

Mendon punches in the various components needed. His
screen picks up the schematic of the Enterprise and the
designated location of the "unknown substance."

MENDON

I've located it sir. The dorsal
of the Engineering Section.

DATA

On viewscreen. Focus on area.
Magnification factor ten.

The matter appears as a sort of haze on the viewscreen.
Data walks over to the Science Station.

DATA

(continuing)
Increase magnification to
twenty.

The viewscreen now shows a more detailed picture of
the mass.

PICARD

Analyze.

DATA

The substance appears to be a rare
form of subatomic "bacteria,"
capable of doubling every fifteen
minutes. It seems to be reacting
with two of the compounds present
in the Enterprise structure.

PICARD

Determine origin.

Mendon feels that he has his opportunity now.

MENDON

I noticed it when I did an
intensive scan of the Pagh,
the Klingon ship.

36 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(reacts)

And you informed no one?

MENDON

I have not yet completed my full analysis.

PICARD

You are supposed to report whatever is out of the ordinary. This falls into that category.

MENDON

But sir, as I said I have not yet completed my analysis. It would be improper to report it until then.

DATA

How did you come by that decision?

MENDON

It is a Benzite regulation. No officer on the deck of one of our ships would report an occurrence like this until he had a full analysis and a resolution.

(beat)

I have simply followed proper procedures.

On Picard -- he holds for a beat then instructs Mendon calmly but firmly.

PICARD

It is our procedure for you to bring to the attention of command any possibility of danger. You will not make those decisions.

(beat)

Is that clear, Ensign Mendon?

Mendon is somewhat deflated.

MENDON

Yes sir.

36 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Fine. Now I want you to complete the analysis and determine the danger not only to this ship but the Klingon vessel as well.

MENDON

Yes Captain... That will take a couple of hours.

PICARD

You'll remain at your station until it is complete, then report to me. Lieutenant Worf will supervise you.

WORF

Yes sir.

Picard turns and walks to the turbolift. Worf eyes Mendon, whispers to him.

WORF

(continuing)

... and then I will instruct you in Enterprise etiquette.

On Mendon's look:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

37
thru OMITTED
38

38A EXT. SPACE - THE PAGH (OPTICAL)

traveling alone.

RIKER (V.O.)

Commander's log, supplemental,
Stardate 42607.8. I have been
on the Pagh a short time but long
enough to be impressed with the
abilities and singlemindedness
of the Klingons. I can now see
why they have gained the respect
of Captain Picard.

39 INT. PAGH - MESS HALL

Klingons line the long bench-like table, Riker among
them. They are not unfriendly to Riker but they watch
him eat like he were on display. A COUPLE OF THE
FEMALES, VEKMA one of them, are a little more outgoing
and interested. They mumble to each other as they eye
Riker. They match Riker in size, maybe even a little
bigger.

40 ON RIKER

He is aware of the attention he is getting and tries
to ignore it and simply fall in unnoticed with the rest
of the Klingon personnel. His look alone makes that
impossible.

The Klingons keep pushing plates in front of him and he
takes each one in turn and tries to eat as little as
possible while not showing any reaction.

TACTICS OFFICER

You're not eating very much.

RIKER

Well, I'm not that hungry.

KLAG

Is the food all right, Commander?

40 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Fine. The "pipius" was excellent,
and I also liked the "Bregit
lungs."

VEKMA

And the Rokeg blood pie?

RIKER

Excellent.

KLAG

Then you'll also like this.

Klag pushes another bowl in front of him.

40A ON RIKER

His face as he examines it.

RIKER

This is "gagh," isn't it?

KLAG

Very good. You did some research
on our nutritional choices.

RIKER

Yes... but this is still moving.

KLAG

"Gagh" is always best when served
live.

(covering smile)

Would you like something "easier"?

RIKER

Easier?

KLAG

If Klingon food is too strong for
you, perhaps I could get one of
the females to breast feed you.

Vekma and the other female laugh. The men at the table
eye Riker with careful but joking looks. Riker goes
along with the mood.

40A CONTINUED:

RIKER

Don't tell me you're still
concerned about my not
weakening?

Klag bellows out in laughter.

KLAG

Look around. You'll see that
there are no old warriors.

RIKER

Of course, I'm sure they all died
with honor.

KLAG

(slaps him on the back)
Exactly. You may live long enough
to learn about us.

Vekma reaches over to poke Riker in the arm and then
the ribs, then comments to ZEGOV and they both break
up with laughter.

VEKMA

He's not very attractive, but
I will have him.

Riker gives Klag a pleading look.

TACTICS OFFICER

They are inquisitive. They would
like to know how you would endure.

RIKER

Endure what?

KLAG

Them.

40B RIKER'S POV

The two enormous and violent Klingon women as they
stare at him and dwarf him with their size and
strength. Riker looks at them innocently.

RIKER

One or both?

40B CONTINUED:

Klag holds for a beat then breaks out laughing. The women join in, Vekma smacking Riker across the back in good will and almost dislodging a rib. She moves closer to Riker.

On Riker's look...

41
thru OMITTED
47

48 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

At impulse. To establish.

49 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - SCIENCE ONE

A worried looking Ensign Mendon is explaining to Captain Picard and Data as he points to the science screen in front of him which shows the molecular spectroscopic breakdown of the bacteria.

MENDON

It is confirmed that the organisms feed on some of the compounds that make up the Enterprise hull.

PICARD

And the Klingon ship, the Pagh?

MENDON

(hesitates)

They are much more susceptible. Their hull contains all of the compounds.

PICARD

Project your calculations.

Mendon depresses a couple of keys and his work screen is filled with a scrolling set of mathematical computations. Data stares at the screen, then hits another button so they project faster. They reach an end. Data looks up.

DATA

According to the rate of reproduction there should be a twelve centimeter hole in the Klingon hull at this time.

50 NEW ANGLE

Picard issues orders as he moves to his Command Chair.
Data is right behind him.

PICARD

Signal them at once and advise them. Change our course to attempt an intercept. We will make every attempt to cleanse the vessel and assist with repairs.

DATA

It will take some time to locate them. They are on undesigned maneuvers in the Pheben solar system.

PICARD

Then start immediately. Alert Engineering of this situation. Ensign Crusher, adjust course toward the proper sector.

WESLEY

Aye sir. Shall we prepare for warp speed?

PICARD

Yes...
(beat)
... and hope that we get there in time.

51 EXT. SPACE - THE PAGH (OPTICAL)

To establish. The CAMERA MOVING IN to show a hole forming on the hull.

52 INT. PAGH - A CORRIDOR

Riker moves down the corridor with an n.d. crewmember. The VOICE of Captain Kargan comes over the ship's speakers.

CAPTAIN KARGAN'S COM VOICE

Commander Riker to the bridge.

Riker and the crewmember stop. Riker changes direction and moves off.

53 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE

Captain Kargan waits with Klag and the rest of the bridge crew who are functioning in a normal manner. Riker steps onto the bridge. Captain Kargan motions him over.

KARGAN

On monitor. Tell me Commander Riker, what do you make of this?

54 ANGLE MONITOR (OPTICAL)

Showing the section of the Klingon hull where an apparent haze (and/or bacterial look) surrounds a small hole in the hull.

55 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE

Captain Kargan calls out his orders to the crewmembers present.

RIKER

I felt no collision. Were we hit by a small meteor?

KARGAN

There was no collision.

RIKER

Corrosion then.

KARGAN

No, not corrosion.

RIKER

(orders)

Science Station, analyze.

KARGAN

We already have and fortunately the cavity opened into a section that could withstand the change in pressure.

RIKER

Then what is it?

55 CONTINUED:

KLAG

A space organism eating away at our hull. Our estimate is that in less than eight hours we will have lost too much of our shell to remain intact.

RIKER

You must have a way to repair it.

KARGAN

I'm afraid not.

RIKER

There has to be. Where did this come from?

KARGAN

"Where" might be the answer.
(harsher beat)
The only contact we had was with the Enterprise.

RIKER

There was no direct contact with the Enterprise.

KARGAN

Tactics Officer, report to Commander Riker.

56 TACTICS STATION

The Tactics Officer runs the check on his board. Various information pops up on the screen.

TACTICS OFFICER

The Enterprise did conduct an intensive scan of this vessel.

RIKER

It's normal procedure.

The other bridge members turn angry looks at Riker.

KARGAN

What type of beam did the Enterprise use to create this damage in our hull?

56 CONTINUED:

RIKER

None! Why would they do that?
We are allies.

TACTICS OFFICER

My logs indicate that the
Enterprise directed an intense
scanning beam at this specific
area for a duration of two
minutes.

KARGAN

Explain that.

RIKER

I can't.

TACTICS OFFICER

It could be a weapon.

RIKER

Wait a minute. Why? There's
no new weapon. The Enterprise
has no reason to do this,
especially not with me on board.
It makes no sense.

KARGAN

"Why" is no longer important.
What is important is our response
to this attack.

(beat)

Engage cloaking device. Change
course to intercept the
Enterprise.

RIKER

Captain, what do you intend to
do?

57 ON KARGAN

His face a mask of fury. He screams out.

KARGAN

Intend? There is only one
response. We intend to attack
the Enterprise and destroy it!!

57 CONTINUED:

On Riker's reaction:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

58 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

at warp speed. The signs of the organism still present on the hull.

59 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Ensign Mendon works at the Science Station along with another n.d. officer. Mendon is efficient and intent on his assignment. It is obvious that he knows what he's doing. Wesley is relieved from his station and before he leaves he steps over to stand next to Mendon.

60 CLOSER ANGLE

Wesley watches for a beat, then seeing Mendon's growing frustration, he comments:

WESLEY

You seem to be making progress.
You've already eliminated half
the possibilities.

Mendon looks up at Wesley, realizes that the youth is trying to offer him some support. He nods.

MENDON

Thank you, but I seem to have become efficient a little later than was needed. It was my responsibility to learn and adapt to the Enterprise's regulations. I didn't do that.

WESLEY

Not really, it was an error. Captain Picard may not like them, but he does know they can happen from time to time.

MENDON

I failed, I had an opportunity to show the captain my superior abilities and I failed. I can never recover from that.

60 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

It was a mistake... That's all.
You didn't put the organism on
the hull. You discovered it and
you were attempting to analyze
it. All you did was mess up a
little on the ship's protocol.

Mendon studies Wesley for a few beats. He steps away
from the console to confer with Wesley in a more
private fashion.

MENDON

I know you're trying to be nice
to me and I appreciate it. What
I don't understand is why?

WESLEY

Why not? I thought you could use
a friend.

Mendon eyes Wesley a few beats, then nods his
acceptance.

MENDON

Thank you. I only hope I can
learn your ways before I "mess" up
again. I imagine my methods seem
foolish to you.

WESLEY

They are different. But that's
what this exchange program is all
about... You learn the way we
do things and bring that
information back to your command.
It's up to you to decide which
way is better for you.

(beat)

It's easy. All you have to do
is learn.

61 ANGLE ON MENDON

He holds for a few beats, confirms seriously:

61 CONTINUED:

MENDON

You're right. I'll try your way...

(turns back to Science Station)

I'll work even harder than before. I'll succeed brilliantly.

On Wesley's look:

62 EXT. SPACE - THE KLINGON VESSEL THE PAGH (OPTICAL)

The organism's growth is expanding on the hull.

63 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE

Captain Kargan and Klag maintain the bridge Command Area.

KARGAN

What is the status?

TACTICS OFFICER

Unchanged. The rate of increase continues.

Kargan contemplates for a beat.

KARGAN

Commander Riker, check the organism growth with Engineering.

Riker seems about to respond but decides the better of it. He exits the bridge. After Riker leaves, Kargan turns to Klag.

KARGAN

Keep him under scrutiny. I'm not sure I trust him.

KLAG

I'm not totally convinced that Riker knew of any plot against us. If he did then why would he have come on board?

KARGAN

Because he was ordered to.

63 CONTINUED:

KLAG

To die?

KARGAN

To be ordered to die is an expectation for any officer at any time.

KLAG

For a Klingon perhaps, but Riker's people do not volunteer for death so easily. Even so, Riker may be a spy, but he's no coward.

KARGAN

That only proves that he is intelligent and that you may not be as strong as you used to be.

64 ANGLE ON TACTICS OFFICER

He becomes more alert, announces:

TACTICS OFFICER

Captain, we have picked up the Enterprise.

KARGAN

So soon?

TACTICS OFFICER

The Enterprise is on an intercept course with us.

Kargan and Klag react. Riker re-enters the bridge. Kargan turns on him in anger.

KARGAN

You almost had me believing that perhaps this was a misunderstanding.

RIKER

Yes... So?

KARGAN

The Enterprise has changed course and is following us. Why?

RIKER

I don't know. Let's ask them.

64 CONTINUED:

KARGAN

The reason is obvious. Their intent is clear. How long before we have contact?

TACTICS OFFICER

Less than fifteen minutes, sir.

KARGAN

Put the ship on battle alert. Arm all photon torpedoes and put phasers on full power. Let them charge into their destruction.

65
thru OMITTED
66

67 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moving through at warp. The organism still present.

68 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and Data at Command. Wesley and an n.d. at forward positions; Worf, Ensign Mendon, and n.d. crewmembers at the aft command positions.

WESLEY

Sir, bearings show that we should be in contact with the Klingon ship.

DATA

Slow to impulse speed. Continue on course.

WESLEY

Aye sir, impulse speed.

WORF

Hailing frequencies open. There is no response.

PICARD

Continue to transmit.

DATA

The Pagh is either destroyed or cloaked.

68 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Begin intensive scan for debris.
Conduct a thorough search of the
area.

69 OMITTED

70 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE

staffed as previously. Riker is on the bridge facing
Kargan. There is an obvious tension present.

TACTICS OFFICER

The Enterprise has slowed to
impulse speed and is making an
intensive sweep.

KARGAN

Hold your position. Let them come
to us.

RIKER

They may be here to help you...
Don't be a fool!

KARGAN

(rages)

Do not forget my rank.

RIKER

I haven't. I am simply trying
to get you to understand.

KARGAN

I fully understand... Now you
understand.

(beat)

I am still the captain of this
vessel and you are still crew and
sworn to obey me. You gave me
your oath.

RIKER

Yes sir, I did.

70 CONTINUED:

KARGAN

Then fulfill that oath and serve
this ship as you swore to.

(beat)

Tell me of the surest method of
attack against the Enterprise.

71 ON RIKER

He eyes the captain a few beats.

RIKER

I can't.

KARGAN

You must tell me. It is a matter
of honor and loyalty.

RIKER

I cannot surrender the secrets
of Starfleet and the Enterprise
to you.

KARGAN

Then if your word is no good, how
can we trust any of your people?

RIKER

(strong)

I won't break any vow I took in
the past. I also swore a loyalty
to your ship and I will keep that.

KARGAN

(yelling back)

They are in conflict!

RIKER

No sir, they are not! I will obey
your orders. I will serve this
ship as first officer, and in an
attack against the Enterprise I
will die along with this crew...
but I will not dishonor my oath
to the Enterprise.

Riker glares at Kargan who holds his stare a beat, then
nods in agreement.

71 CONTINUED:

KARGAN

If you had agreed to disclose
those facts about the Enterprise
I would have labelled you a
traitor and killed you on the
spot...

(beat)

Instead you will die with us.
You will die like a Klingon.

On Riker -- he nods his acceptance of his fate.

RIKER

So be it.

72 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

continuing on its orbit at impulse.

73 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - SCIENCE ONE STATION

Ensign Mendon studies his screen and then reacts. He
punches in one more code, seems satisfied and then
moves from his station towards the captain.

74 AT COMMAND

Mendon stands in front of the captain. He is ill at
ease but trying to maintain what he thinks is the
proper protocol.

MENDON

Sir, I have something to report
to you immediately.

Worf seems like he's about to reach over the railings
and snatch Mendon by the skull. Picard restrains his
actions with a glance.

PICARD

Go ahead, Ensign.

MENDON

I have managed to isolate the
organism on our hull.

PICARD

Spare me the technical details...
just the results.

74 CONTINUED:

MENDON

They are of a sub-micron form.
They are controllable and can
be removed from the hulls of both
ships.

PICARD

(relieved, but covers)
Thank you Ensign, well done.
Prepare whatever procedures are
necessary.
(to Worf)
Lieutenant Worf, add this
information to hailing messages.

WORF

Aye sir. Still no response.

Picard's concerned look.

75 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE

The tactics officer motions Klag to his station. Klag
observes the screen for a few beats then announces:

KLAG

The Enterprise has changed hailing
messages. They now include a
promise of cleaning the organisms
and assisting in repairs.

RIKER

They mean it... They will help.

KARGAN

And I mean what I say.
(stronger)
Arm all weapons... Prepare for
attack...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

76 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

We see only the Enterprise on screen.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental,
Stardate 42608.2. Although our
search has been extensive, we are
still unable to locate the
Klingon ship or any debris. The
absence of both leaves us puzzled
and somewhat tentative.

77 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

staffed as in the previous scene. The atmosphere on
the bridge is tense, all members waiting for Picard's
decision.

DATA

Considering the absence of debris,
it is reasonable to assume the
Klingon vessel is in the vicinity
and cloaked.

PICARD

Agreed.

DATA

Since we do not know their intent
I recommend we go to Red Alert.

PICARD

(thoughtful for a beat)
Make it so.

Picard shows the tension of the situation.

78 INT. PUGH - MAIN BRIDGE

Captain Kargan is intent on his own plan of attack.

TACTICS OFFICER

The Enterprise has raised its
shields.

78 CONTINUED:

RIKER

It is normal procedure when entering into a suspicious situation. The act is not aggressive. The Enterprise will not fire first.

KARGAN

Then they are fools, for we will.

RIKER

(a beat, then)
You'll get only one shot.

KARGAN

We will only need one. Arm all phasers and torpedoes. Prepare to fire them simultaneously.

RIKER

Then I recommend you do not fire until you are within forty thousand kilometers.

KLAG

Why?

RIKER

It will reduce their response time.

Both Klag and the captain give Riker a grudging nod of admiration.

KLAG

You are honoring your promise to serve us.

RIKER

Would you do less?

The Klingons nod their acceptance of this.

KARGAN

No.

(beat)

You will give the order to fire, Commander Riker.

(to Klag)

Call out distances.

(beat)

Any questions, Mister Riker?

79 ON RIKER

his face a mask, the skin drawn tight.

RIKER

Just something I have to say...

(beat)

... I dispute your judgment. Your reasons for forcing this confrontation are not valid.

KARGAN

Are you finished?

RIKER

Yes sir.

KARGAN

Then commence with attack as ordered.

Klag begins his countdown...

KLAG

Fifty-five thousand kilometers and closing.

Riker removes the small transponder device supplied by Worf, looks at it carefully, then glances over to Kargan.

80 KARGAN

returns his look and then observes the apparatus in Riker's hand.

KARGAN

Is that a weapon?

RIKER

No sir, it is a signaling device.

KARGAN

Hand it to me, Commander.

81 SCENE

As Riker steps over to hand it to him, he flips it on.

Only a small signal light appears on the apparatus... He hands it to Kargan who starts to examine it.

82 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

Worf at his station suddenly becomes alert. He adjusts a switch and then quickly announces:

WORF

We are getting an emergency signal from a command transponder. Location nine-three-five mark six-one-three... Frequency and code designate it as Commander Riker.

The members on the bridge become more alert. Troi averts her eyes to hide her emotion.

PICARD

(touches com link)
Chief O'Brien, align with emergency transponder signal.

83 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - INTERCUT AS NEEDED

Empty except for Chief O'Brien.

CHIEF O'BRIEN

Yes Captain. We are not yet in safe range for a transfer and defensive shields are still in place.

PICARD

We may have to stretch it a little. On my command.

WORF

Forty-eight thousand.

DATA

Lieutenant Worf to the Transporter Room. Doctor Pulaski will accompany you. Mendon take over the count.

MENDON

Yes sir. Forty-five thousand and still closing.

Worf gives Mendon one last warning look, then moves from his station.

MENDON

Forty-four thousand.

83 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Transporter Room, ready. You will
control defensive shields...

84 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Worf and Pulaski have just entered.

CHIEF O'BRIEN
Ready sir.

MENDON
Forty thousand...

85 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE

KLAG
Forty thousand.

KARGAN
Prepare to drop cloaking shields
and fire. Steady...

86 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

PICARD
Transporter Room, energize.

87 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

The Transporter Chief throws the necessary switches.

88 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Captain Kargan DEMATERIALIZES in front of the crew.
Klag is stunned, then reacts.

Riker has a slight smile on his face, he turns and
tenses.

Klag with a growl, advances on Riker.

88 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Hold where you are Klag. I have relieved Captain Kargan. He was acting in an irrational manner. I am now your captain!!

(beat)

Serve this ship as I have!

Klag falters a beat, unsure... then slowly stands upright in acceptance. Riker nods.

89 INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Uncertain, Captain Kargan on the pad. He spins his head around unsure. Then he spots Worf and crouches. Pulaski backs away.

CHIEF O'BRIEN

Defensive shields back in place.

KARGAN

Who are you?

WORF

I am Lieutenant Worf of the Starship Enterprise.

Kargan reacts, screaming out as he reaches for his sidearm.

KARGAN

Riker has no honor... He tricked me!!

As Kargan starts to aim his weapon, Worf fires his hand phaser. It hits Kargan and he drops. Worf lets out a celebration call then:

90 ANOTHER ANGLE

Pulaski moves forward quickly, shoves Worf aside to examine the prone Captain.

PULASKI

He's barely stunned.

WORF

(with pride)

Of course, he is a Klingon captain.

90 CONTINUED:

PULASKI

That's great, but where's Will
Riker?

Worf reacts for a beat, then helps Kargan to his feet.

91 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE

Klag is still tense.

Riker turns to the Tactics Officer.

RIKER

Cloaking shields off.

The Tactics Officer stalls for a beat, not sure what to
do.

92 CLOSER SHOT

Riker steps forward and blocks his view of any of the
crew and faces him down.

RIKER

Obey my orders.

TACTICS OFFICER

We will be destroyed.

RIKER

If we are, it will be in battle
and I will die with you.

(harder)

Now, cloaking shields off!

93 ANGLE

The Tactics Officer throws the switch.

94 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Enterprise in its orbit... The Klingon ship Pagh
suddenly appears from nowhere.

95 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The Pagh appears on the main viewscreen. The bridge crew reacts but still remains professional. Captain Kargan is also present.

DATA

It is the Pagh sir. It has all armament locked on us and ready to fire.

PICARD

Hold position. Hailing frequencies open.

(beat)

Calling the Pagh. This is the Enterprise. We are here to assist you. Do not fire.

KARGAN

They will not believe you.

96 INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Riker has heard the Enterprise call. It continues:

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Pagh... Do you read me??

Riker looks around at the Klingon bridge crew. He then sounds very much like a Klingon as he bellows out:

RIKER

Enterprise, this is Captain William Riker of the Klingon vessel, the Pagh.

(pause)

I order you to lower your shields and surrender.

96A INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

The reactions of the crew.

96B ON PICARD

A tense look slowly becomes a slight smile.

96B CONTINUED:

PICARD

Lower shields.
(beat)
Surrender as ordered.

Kargan steps forward in a rage.

KARGAN

I demand to be beamed back aboard
my vessel.

PICARD

(nods)
Transporter Chief, prepare to beam
Captain Kargan aboard the Pagh.
(to Riker, who has
heard)
Captain Riker, preparations are
ready for immediate repairs to
your ship.

RIKER

Thank you, Captain Picard.

Picard's reaction.

97 OMITTED

97A INT. PAGH - MAIN BRIDGE

Captain Kargan steps onto the bridge. He is tentative,
unsure. Kargan looks around at the bridge crew who
eye him with a kind of disapproval and
uncomfortableness that Kargan recognizes. He turns to
Riker.

KARGAN

You should have killed me.

RIKER

I don't want your command.

KARGAN

You tricked me so you could have
it.

RIKER

And I give it back to you now.

97B ON KARGAN

His confidence returns slightly, the force of his personality taking over.

KARGAN

Then return to your position.

97C ON RIKER

He also senses that he must do something more to return Kargan to his proper status. He feels the responsibility for placing Kargan in this situation. He and Klag exchange a look, a very slight nod passes between them, then Riker's look and attitude change to one of open insubordination. He almost sneers at Kargan.

97D NEW ANGLE

Kargan recognizes it, roars out in fury, charges at Riker, and swings a devastating blow with his fist.

97E SCENE

Riker is sent skidding across the bridge floor and up against the bulkhead where he lies stunned but aware. Klag steps next to Riker, then turns to face Kargan... Klag's hand reaches down towards his weapon...

97F CLOSER

Riker grabs his wrist to restrain him. Klag looks down at bruised but alert Riker who gives Klag an eye signal.

RIKER

No more, Captain Kargan...

97G SCENE

Kargan fills his chest, glares around the ship, and then at Riker... He holds a beat, then orders Klag:

KARGAN

Get him off my ship!

KLAG

Yes, Captain.

97G CONTINUED:

Klag reaches down to assist Riker to his feet. Their eyes meet. Klag whispers to him.

KLAG

(continuing)

You understand the Klingons better than I thought.

RIKER

(nods)

Thank you, my friend.

Klag assists a battered Riker past a triumphant Captain Kargan.

98 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE/THE PAGH (OPTICAL)

the Enterprise assisting the Pagh in repairs.

99 INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Worf and Picard are present to see Riker MATERIALIZE on the pad, bruised but healthy.

100

thru OMITTED

101

102 SCENE

Picard turns to Riker.

RIKER

That might be one of the shortest assignments in the history of Starfleet.

PICARD

You're wrong, Number One... it was almost the longest.

(beat)

You did well.

RIKER

Thank you. I learned quite a bit.

PICARD

Apparently not how to duck.

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RIKER

When not to duck would be more accurate.

Picard eyes him a few beats, then smiles...

PICARD

If that was the intention...
Welcome aboard.

They both smile. Worf stands in the b.g., hiding all emotions and trying to look bored by it all. Riker steps over to him...

RIKER

Thank you. Your little toy worked.

WORF

I'm glad it did, sir.

RIKER

You come from a very brave and unique race. I'm glad you're here on the Enterprise.

Worf swells slightly, covers his reaction.

WORF

Thank you, Commander...
(beat)
... and welcome home.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END