

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Best of Both Worlds, Part I"  
#40273-174

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FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "Best of Both Worlds" - REV. 4/6/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Best of Both Worlds"

CAST

PICARD	ADMIRAL HANSON
RIKER	LT. COMMANDER SHELBY
DATA	BORG LEADER
BEVERLY	PICARD/BORG
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	
WESLEY	Non-Speaking SEVERAL BORG
GUINAN	
O'BRIEN	
Non-Speaking SUPERNUMERARIES TECHNICIAN	

STAR TREK: "Best of Both Worlds" - REV. 4/6/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Best of Both Worlds"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

OBSERVATION LOUNGE

TURBOLIFT

CORRIDOR

TRANSPORTER ROOM

TEN-FORWARD

MAIN ENGINEERING

PICARD'S QUARTERS

RIKER'S QUARTERS

SHELBY'S QUARTERS

BORG SHIP

INTERIOR CHAMBER

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

JOURET FOUR SURFACE

BORG SHIP

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Best of Both Worlds"  
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Leaving warp as it approaches a planet.

PICARD (V.O.)  
Captain's log, Stardate 43994.1.  
The Enterprise has arrived at  
Jouret Four in response to a  
distress signal from one of the  
Federation's outermost colonies.

2 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Riker enters, meets Geordi, Data and Worf. O'Brien at  
the console.

RIKER  
(to Worf)  
Anything from the surface?

WORF  
Nossir. There have been no  
communications from the colony  
for over twelve hours.

RIKER  
Sensors picking up any signs of  
life?

WORF  
None.

Riker frowns. Anticipating the question --

O'BRIEN  
The surface environment is safe  
for transport, Commander.

Riker acknowledges as they move into transport  
position... he nods to the technician and they  
DEMATERIALIZER.

3 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY

Fairly close so we have no clear bearings yet... the away team reacts to what they see... pulling back slowly.

RIKER

(keying insignia)

Mister O'Brien, verify these are accurate coordinates for New Providence colony.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

Coordinates verified, sir. You're at the center of town.

4 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - WIDE - DAY (MATTE SHOT)

To see the away team is standing on an empty site... where the colony should be, there is now a shallow depression... as though it has been scooped out and taken away.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit. Another starship, transport class, has joined them.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43997.6.  
Admiral Hanson and Lieutenant  
Commander Shelby of Starfleet  
Tactical have arrived to review  
the disappearance of New  
Providence colony. No sign  
remains of the nine hundred  
inhabitants.

6 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM

Picard, Riker, Hanson -- fifties, high ranking, hard driving -- and Shelby. She is late twenties, very beautiful, energetic, extremely motivated and ambitious. The mood is somber.

HANSON

The truth is... hell, we're not ready. We've known they were coming for over a year... we've thrown every resource we've got into this but still...

RIKER

Then, you're convinced it is the Borg... ?

SHELBY

That's what I'm here to find out. The initial descriptions of these surface conditions are almost identical to your reports from system J-two-five.

PICARD

(acknowledges)  
Mister Riker wrote those reports... he agrees with you.

6 CONTINUED:

HANSON

(setting protocol)

Commander Shelby took over Borg tactical analysis six months ago. I've learned to give her a wide latitude when I want to get things done... That's how I intend to operate here.

It is clear that she's in charge as far as the admiral is concerned.

SHELBY

My priority has been to develop some kind, any kind of defense strategy...

RIKER

Obviously nothing we have now can stop them.

SHELBY

(acknowledges)

We've been designing new weapons... but they're still on the drawing board.

HANSON

We expected much more lead time. Your encounter with the Borg was over seven thousand light years away...

PICARD

If this is the Borg, it would indicate they have a source of power far superior to our own...

SHELBY

I'd like to see the colony site as soon as possible, Captain.

RIKER

It'll be night at the site in thirty minutes. We've scheduled an away team for dawn.

PICARD

(to Riker)

Why don't you show the commander to her quarters...

6 CONTINUED: (2)

Riker rises to escort her to the door...

RIKER

It's our poker night, Admiral.  
There's always an open seat for  
you...

HANSON

(would love to, but... )  
Next time, Commander. Your  
captain and I have a lot to cover.  
But rumor has it that Commander  
Shelby's played a hand or two...

Riker reacts, exchanges a look with Shelby who grins  
as they EXIT. Hanson smiles. After the door closes...

HANSON

Keep your eye on her, Jean-Luc.  
One impressive young lady...

Picard grins, obviously has a special affection for  
this particular admiral.

PICARD

You seem rather taken with her,  
J.P.

HANSON

Just an old man's fantasies. When  
Shelby came into tactical, every  
damned admiral's uncle had a take  
on this Borg business... she cut  
through it, put us on track.

Picard moves to a teapot, pouring...

PICARD

Earl Grey?

HANSON

Four sugars.  
(beat)  
She'd make you a hell of a first  
officer.

Picard raises an eyebrow...

PICARD

I already have a hell of a first  
officer.

6 CONTINUED: (3)

HANSON

Don't tell me he's gonna pass up another commission?

PICARD

One's available?

HANSON

The Melbourne. It's his if he wants it. Hasn't he told you?

Picard sighs, shakes his head, no... resigned to the inevitable.

PICARD

Well, I guess I knew this day would have to come... he'll make a fine captain, J.P.

HANSON

You may want to tell him that.

(off Picard's look)

We're still waiting for his decision. Hell, this is the third time we've pulled out the captain's chair for Riker. He just won't sit down. And I'll tell you something -- there are a lot of young hotshots like Shelby on their way up. Riker could suddenly look like he's standing still next to them. He's hurting his career by staying put. If I were you, I'd kick him in the rear end for his own good.

As he drinks again, Picard reacts and...

7 INT. CORRIDOR

Riker moving with Shelby.

SHELBY

We know the Borg have no interest in power or political conquest...

RIKER

(acknowledges)

They identify what's useful to them, then consume it. Or try to at least...

7 CONTINUED:

At her quarters, they pause...

SHELBY

But here's the question -- after they take what they want... what happens to the rest?

(off his look)

There has to be some evidence... residue... something that tells us they've been here.

8 INT. SHELBY'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

As the door slides open and they ENTER.

SHELBY

I don't know exactly what I'm looking for... but we've tested the sections of the Enterprise's hull that were damaged by the Borg. There were some unusual magnetic-resonance traces...

RIKER

A Borg footprint?

SHELBY

That's my theory. I'll see if it holds up tomorrow.

(beat)

I've reviewed your personnel... I'll be assigning Mister La Forge and Mister Data to accompany me on the away team...

Riker barely reacts... isn't prepared to allow her to make crew assignments...

RIKER

I've... already assigned them to the away team, Commander. And I'll be with you as well.

A quick awkwardness.

SHELBY

(smiles)

Of course. I appreciate any assistance you can offer.

She measures him for a beat. Examining the quarters---

8 CONTINUED:

SHELBY

Tell me, something, Commander...  
is serving aboard the Enterprise  
as extraordinary an experience  
as I've heard?

RIKER

Every bit of it.

SHELBY

Good.  
(intimately sharing a  
secret)  
Because I intend to convince  
Captain Picard that I'm the right  
choice for the job.

RIKER

(beat)  
Job? Which job... ?

SHELBY

Yours, of course.  
(off his look,  
"embarrassed")  
I'm sorry... I heard you were  
leaving.

And she's very good -- it could be taken as an innocent  
faux pas by a lesser man, but Riker knows a fishing  
expedition when he sees one... their eyes connect, he  
won't bite...

RIKER

If I am... I'm sure you'll be the  
first to know, Commander.  
(beat)  
Poker's at seventeen hundred  
hours, my quarters, deck eight...

He EXITS. Hold just a beat on her reaction and...

8A INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS - POKER TABLE

Troi is the dealer, Wesley, Geordi, Riker, Data,  
Shelby... five card stud... four cards have been dealt.

DATA

I will buy another card,  
Counselor.

8A CONTINUED:

Throws a pair of chips in...

WESLEY

Got another king in the hole,  
Data?

DATA

I am afraid I cannot answer that  
Wesley. And as you are a newcomer  
to the game, may I say it is  
inappropriate to ask.

Troi deals Data his last card.

TROI

No help there.

GEORDI

(bad night)  
Fold. Again.

WESLEY

I'm in.

Throws in his chips. His card is a third jack.

TROI

Three jacks looking back for the  
handsome young ensign.

Reactions around the table. Data folds.

GEORDI

Beginner's luck.

Shelby puts her chips out... gets a worthless card.

TROI

Pair of deuces stands.

Riker throws in his chips... gets a card that continues  
his straight flush... reactions.

TROI

Possible flush, possible straight  
flush. The bet is yours, Mister  
Crusher.

Wes looks nervously at Riker.

WESLEY

I'm in for ten...

8A CONTINUED: (2)

He throws in a pair of chips. Shelby studies Wesley carefully... and then throws in her two chips to stay in. But the tension is clearly between Riker and Wesley. Riker gives him his best poker face.

RIKER

(to Wesley)

Time to put on the long pants,  
Wes. I'll see your ten. And  
raise you a hundred.

GEORDI

He's got the straight flush.

DATA

Not necessarily. Commander Riker  
may be bluffing, Wesley.

Wes studies Riker's face. Breaks...

WESLEY

I don't think so. I fold.

GEORDI

(groans)

With three jacks?

(shakes his head)

Wesley, you may get straight A's  
in school, but you've still got  
a little to learn about poker...

And so the attention turns to Shelby... who looks at Riker and they look at each other and after a long look beat...

SHELBY

I've only got two pair, Commander.  
But I've got to see that blind  
card. I'll call.

She puts in her chips. Riker blinks... looks down at his card... turns it over. It busts his straight flush. He's bluffing. Reactions. Wesley groans, hangs his head.

GEORDI

(delighted)

You got him!

Riker and Shelby's eyes meet. She collects the winnings.

9 OMITTED

10 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit. The other ship alongside.

11 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

O'Brien at the controls as Riker and Geordi arrive together... Geordi carrying a work kit...

RIKER

Mister Data and our guest appear to be tardy...

O'BRIEN

Sir, Commander Shelby and Data beamed down to the planet surface an hour ago...

RIKER

(reacts, angry)  
On whose authority?

O'BRIEN

(blinks)  
On... hers, sir.

Riker exchanges a look with Geordi as they get in position on the transporter...

12 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAWN (OPTICAL)

Shelby and Data are examining exposed rock strata with their tricorders as Riker and Geordi MATERIALIZE.

SHELBY

Morning. Early bird gets the worm, eh? We've had some interesting results...

RIKER

(interrupting, burning)  
Commander Shelby...  
(he pauses, will not do this in front of the other officers)  
Walk with me, Commander.

It is an order. She obeys. Geordi and Data exchange a look...

12 CONTINUED:

DATA

I believe Commander Shelby erred... there are no known avifaunal or crawling vermicular lifeforms on Jouret Four.

GEORDI

That's... not what she meant, Data... but, uh, you're right, she erred...

On Data's reaction...

13 ANGLE - MOVING WITH RIKER AND SHELBY

SHELBY

(responding)

I'm sorry... I woke up early and I saw a weather system was moving in... it could have affected the soil readings...

RIKER

So without any regard to the risk of coming down alone...

SHELBY

Really, Commander... if we ran into the Borg, two extra bodies wouldn't've made a hell of a difference, would they? We had three hours before the storm front hit, less than two hours now. Data was available. I took him. We came. I don't see your problem...

RIKER

My problem, Commander, is I expect to be notified before there's a change in my orders...

SHELBY

(tight)

Noted for future reference. Do you wish to hear my report, sir?

RIKER

Go ahead.

13 CONTINUED:

SHELBY

The soil contains the same  
magnetic-resonance traces...  
That's our footprint. There's  
no doubt any more. It's the Borg.

On Riker's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

14 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit. The transport ship is gone.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43998.5.  
With confirmation of the Borg's  
presence in Federation space,  
Admiral Hanson has returned to  
Starbase three two four to discuss  
strategy with Starfleet Command.  
Lieutenant Commander Shelby  
remains on board to continue  
tactical preparations.

15 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM

Riker and Picard.

RIKER

... a standing Yellow Alert...  
all Federation and allied outposts  
have been warned... Ops will  
continue to monitor long range  
sensors... I've assigned Data,  
La Forge and Mister Crusher to  
work with Commander Shelby.

Picard nods... a beat.

PICARD

Very good, Number One. You've  
covered all the bases. As usual.  
(beat)  
What's your impression of Shelby?

RIKER

She knows her stuff, Captain.

Picard notes a vague hesitation in his attitude.

PICARD

She has your full confidence...

RIKER

Well, I think she needs...  
supervision.

(MORE)

15 CONTINUED:

RIKER (Cont'd)

She takes the initiative a little too... easily. Sometimes with risks.

Picard nods, smiles slightly...

PICARD

Sounds a little like a young lieutenant commander I once recruited as my first officer.

RIKER

(returns smile)

Perhaps.

And all this is played with great warmth and personal connection...

PICARD

You're the best officer I've ever served with, Will.

Riker crinkles his forehead, nods, thanks.

PICARD

(most gentle)

But what are you still doing here?

RIKER

(reacts)

Sir?

PICARD

I hear you've been offered the Melbourne.

Riker acknowledges, believes the captain will be pleased when he says --

RIKER

I've decided not to pursue the commission at this time.

But Picard surprises him by not showing pleasure, but rather discomfort with the decision.

PICARD

She's a fine ship, Will.

15 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

She's not the Enterprise.

(beat)

With all due respect, sir, you  
need me. Particularly now.

PICARD

Starfleet needs good captains.  
Particularly now. I cannot keep  
you to myself forever.

Picard takes a long beat... this is most difficult.

PICARD

I want you to reconsider your  
decision.

RIKER

(reacts)

Are you asking me to leave,  
Captain?

PICARD

I'm asking you to look at your  
career objectively and make the  
best decision.

(beat)

I know it's hard to walk away.  
But you're ready to work without  
a net, my friend. You're ready  
to make the life and death  
decisions a captain must make.  
And, hard as it is to accept, if  
you choose to leave, the  
Enterprise will go on just fine  
without you.

Riker looks hard at Picard and on that look...

15A INT. TEN-FORWARD

Troi and Riker at a table. Riker is troubled,  
confused.

RIKER

What am I still doing here,  
Deanna? I've pushed myself hard  
to get this far...

(glancing at her)

... sacrificed a lot.

(MORE)

15A CONTINUED:

RIKER (Cont'd)

I've always said I wanted my own command. And yet something's holding me back. Is it wrong to want to stay... ?

TROI

What do you think?

RIKER

(shakes his head,  
doesn't know)

Maybe I'm just afraid of the big chair.

TROI

I don't think so.

RIKER

(unconvinced)

The captain says Shelby reminds him of the way I used to be. And he's right. She comes in here, full of drive and ambition, impatient, taking risks... I look at her and I wonder whatever happened to those things in me? I liked those things in me.

(shakes his head)

I've lost something.

TROI

(suppressing a smile)

You mean you're older, more experienced... a little more seasoned...

RIKER

(grins)

"Seasoned". What a horrible thing to say to a man.

TROI

I don't think you've lost a thing... and you've gained a lot more than you realize. You're much more comfortable with yourself than you used to be...

15A CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

Maybe that's the problem. Could  
be I'm too comfortable here.

TROI

I'm not sure I know what that  
means.

(But I do know that.. )

You're happy here... happier than  
I've ever known you to be. It  
really comes down to a simple  
question -- what do you want, Will  
Riker?

Riker laughs to himself.

TROI

What?

RIKER

Stupid. An old song I heard when  
I was a kid. Keeps running  
through my mind...

(off her look, he begins  
to sing)

"Didja ever have the feeling that  
you wanted to go... still had the  
feeling that you wanted to stay...  
You knew it was right... wasn't  
wrong... still you knew you  
wouldn't be very long... it's  
tough to have the feeling that  
you wanted to go... "

15B ANGLE - GUINAN

moving by with a tray of drinks reacts as she hears  
Riker...

RIKER

(continuing)

"... still had the feeling that  
you wanted to stay... start to  
go... change your mind... "

He stops as he realizes Guinan is looking at him...

GUINAN

You start on Friday -- two shows  
a night, matinee on Wednesday.

15B CONTINUED:

RIKER

I play the trombone too...

She nods, and walks on...

16 INT. ENGINEERING - CLOSE ON MONITOR

shows an Okudagram, a graphic representation of the Borg ship...

SHELBY (O.S.)

... a manipulation effect in the Borg ship's subspace field... a definite pattern -- at four-point-eight minute intervals during your first confrontation with them.

17 ANGLE - AT THE POOL TABLE (OPTICAL)

Shelby, Riker, Geordi, Wesley, Data and three other supernumeraries, at least one other woman in the group. It's been a long day... fatigue is clear on all faces...

GEORDI

Might indicate high-output auxiliary generators kicking in.

SHELBY

(acknowledges)

One theory is that their systems are decentralized with redundant power sources located throughout the ship.

DATA

It is a reasonable conclusion. Borg technology has given each member of their society the ability to interface and function collectively. It is likely they would construct their ship with the same philosophy.

WESLEY

(shakes his head)

Knock out one generator and another takes over without interruption.

17 CONTINUED:

RIKER

What kind of damage would we have to do to shut them down... ?

SHELBY

Projections suggest a Borg ship like this one could continue to function effectively even if seventy-eight percent of it was inoperable.

Reactions.

WESLEY

(grim)

And our best shot barely scratched the surface.

Geordi in particular is stumped... moves to a monitor, presses panels that put up several design schemes...

GEORDI

From what I've seen, I can't believe any of your new weapons systems can be ready in less than eighteen months, Commander.

SHELBY

(acknowledges)

We've been projecting twenty-four.

RIKER

(looking at the designs)

Is there anything here we can try to adapt to our current defense systems... ?

GEORDI

(studying them intently)

We'll have to look through the specs again.

(sighs, tired)

I don't know. My mind's turned to clay.

WESLEY

Mine too.

He inadvertently looks at Data... there's a beat of visual humor -- obviously Data's mind could run all night. Shelby intends to push them until they fall... moving to the computer, calling up specs...

17 CONTINUED: (2)

SHELBY

I think we should look at  
modifying the plasma phaser  
design...

Riker notices the excessive fatigue on everyone's  
faces...

RIKER

Commander, I think we should call  
it a night.

A beat. Shelby reacts without eye contact... there's  
a crisis, how can he think about breaking for the  
night? She keeps on working at the computer... eyes  
on the screen. Restrained --

SHELBY

All right. Anyone who's really  
that tired... if you want to  
leave...

Overlapping --

WESLEY

No, that's okay...

GEORDI

Go ahead, Commander...

SHELBY

(quickly back to work)  
What would happen if we take the  
frequency klystron from the  
existing unit...

Riker interrupts, firm, but none of this ever gets loud  
--

RIKER

We'll break here. That's an  
order. We'll reconvene at oh five  
hundred...

SHELBY

Sir, if you'll allow me to  
continue with Mister Data, who  
does not require rest...

RIKER

You need rest, Commander.

17 CONTINUED: (3)

SHELBY

If we have a confrontation with  
the Borg without improving our  
defense systems...

RIKER

If we have a confrontation, I  
don't want a crew fighting the  
Borg at the same time they're  
fighting their own fatigue...  
Dismissed.

Their eyes meet in conflict. She EXITS.

18  
thru OMITTED  
19

20 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit.

21 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

Picard, Riker, Shelby, Data, Geordi, Worf, Beverly.  
On the monitor Admiral Hanson is addressing them.

HANSON (MONITOR)

At nineteen hundred hours  
yesterday, the USS Lalo  
departed Zeta Alpha Two on a  
freight run to Sentinel Minor  
Four. At twenty-two hundred hours  
and twelve minutes, a distress  
signal was received at Starbase  
one five seven. The Lalo reported  
contact with an alien vessel...

(with emphasis)

... described as cube-shaped. The  
distress signal ended abruptly.  
She has not been heard from since.

Reactions.

PICARD

How long to get there at warp  
nine, Mister Data?

DATA

One hour, seventeen minutes, sir.

21 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Make it so.

Data acknowledges, rises and EXITS.

HANSON

We're coming with every available starship to assist, Captain. But the closest help is six days away.

PICARD

(dry)

We'll try to occupy them pending your arrival, Admiral.

HANSON

I know you will. Hanson out.

RIKER

All hands will stand to battle stations...

PICARD

Commander Shelby, status of defense preparations?

SHELBY

Mister La Forge has a plan to modulate shield nutation... hopefully, that'll hold them off for awhile.

GEORDI

At the same time, we're retuning phasers to higher EM-base emitting frequencies -- we'll try to disrupt their subspace field.

PICARD

Your assessment of our potential effectiveness?

GEORDI

Shot in the dark, Captain. Best we can do for now.

PICARD

(acknowledges)

Dismissed.

22 OMITTED

22A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

at warp.

23 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Worf, Data, Wesley at their positions...  
Shelby is also on the bridge...

WORF

Sir, reading an unidentified  
vessel just entering sensor range,  
bearing two-one-zero mark  
one-five-one...

PICARD

Hail them, Mister Worf...

WORF

No response, sir...

PICARD

Move to intercept.

WORF

(beat, reacting to  
console)

Sir, the vessel has already  
changed course to intercept us.  
Approaching at... warp nine point  
three... Entering visual  
range...

PICARD

On screen.

24 ANGLE - VIEW SCREEN (OPTICAL)

Long range... a small dot...

PICARD

Magnify.

The shot changes to a closer angle -- it is the Borg  
ship.

PICARD

Mister Worf, dispatch a subspace  
message to Admiral Hanson -- we  
have engaged the Borg.

24 CONTINUED:

And on reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise and the Borg ship face each other. Both ships have dropped out of warp.

26 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

We are now at Red Alert.

WORF

Captain, you are being hailed.

PICARD

I am?

WORF

Yes, Captain. By name.

RIKER

Data, is it the same ship we faced at J-two-five?

DATA

Uncertain, Commander. However, dimensions are precisely the same.

PICARD

On screen.

He takes a defiant pose. The interior of the Borg ship appears on the viewscreen -- a great chamber with stacks and stacks of thousands of slots in which are individual Borg.

PICARD

I am Jean-Luc...

Speaking with a hundred voices --

BORG

Jean-Luc Picard, captain of the Starship Enterprise, registry NCC-1701D, you will lower shields and prepare to transport yourself aboard our vessel. If you do not cooperate, we will destroy your ship.

26 CONTINUED:

Picard reacts, does not respond to the demand.

PICARD

You have committed acts of aggression against the United Federation of Planets. If you do not immediately withdraw...

BORG

You will surrender yourself or we will destroy your ship. Your defensive capabilities are unable to withstand us.

Riker signals Worf to mute transmission.

RIKER

(to Picard)

What the hell could they want with you?

SHELBY

I thought they weren't interested in human lifeforms... only our technology.

PICARD

Their priorities seem to have changed. Open channel.

(to the viewscreen)

We have developed new defense capabilities since our last meeting and we are prepared to use them if you do not withdraw from Federation space. If you do so immediately, I will agree to arrange a conference of our peoples at a neutral location.

27 INT. ENGINEERING

On Geordi taking readings...

GEORDI

(to comm)

Shields are being probed... I'm modulating nutation...

28 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

As the Borg ship sends out their tractor beam... the shields deflect it...

29 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF

Sir, the Borg are attempting to lock on to us with their tractor beam...

PICARD

Load all torpedo bays... ready phasers... target coordinates on the source of the tractor beam...

RIKER

Status of shields...

DATA

Holding...

SHELBY

(encouraged)

The nutation modulation has them confused...

RIKER

(cautious)

They have the ability to analyze and adapt, Commander...

Suddenly the ship shakes violently...

INTERCUT:

29A INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi scurrying around trying to make adjustments in vain...

GEORDI

Shield modulation has failed... they've locked on...

WORF

Shields are being drained... ninety per cent... eighty...

29A CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Trying to recalibrate nutation...  
damn...

WORF

Shields have failed.

PICARD

Fire all weapons...

30 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

An extraordinary sequence... as the Enterprise is  
grabbed by the tractor beam... we give them everything  
we've got... the Borg ship takes full impact and still  
the beam has us...

31 INT. ENGINEERING

GEORDI

Their subspace field is intact...  
new phaser frequencies had no  
impact...

INTERCUT:

32 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

RIKER

Reverse engines...

GEORDI

Full reverse... we're not  
moving...

PICARD

Fire at will...

WORF

Launching torpedos... phaser  
spread continuing...

DATA

Still no damage to the Borg  
vessel, sir...

33 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The second Borg beam reaches out to the Enterprise...

34 INT. ENGINEERING

A deafening crack of thunder... the ship shakes...  
Geordi looks up...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Outer hull breach.

INTERCUT:

35 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF  
They're cutting into the hull...  
Engineering section...

RIKER  
Geordi... evacuate Engineering...

36 INT. ENGINEERING

People running... the thunder continuing... on the move  
--

GEORDI  
Computer. Evacuation sequence...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Redirecting Engineering control  
to bridge. Sealing doors to core  
chamber...

GEORDI  
Move it people!

The door is sliding down... and as he runs the hell out  
of there...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Inner hull failing.  
Decompression danger, deck  
thirty-six, section four.  
Sealing Main Engineering.

36A OMITTED

37 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

SHELBY

Data, fluctuate phaser resonance  
frequencies... random settings...  
keep changing them... don't give  
them time to adapt...

38 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise fires another furious round... this time  
with fluctuating laser frequencies... unlike our usual.  
Unbroken beam, the beam is divided into "dots and  
Dashes" with slight color changes... and finally the  
Borg tractor breaks off...

38A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The ship shakes with the release.

WORF

The tractor beam has been  
released.

PICARD

Warp nine. Course one-five-one  
mark three-three-zero... engage...

39 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

warps away... the Borg ship follows quickly...

40 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF

They are in pursuit, Captain.

PICARD

Maintain course.

Geordi ENTERS from the turbolift...

RIKER

Damage report, Geordi.

GEORDI

(still in shock)  
Hull rupture in Main  
Engineering... damage is heavy...  
(MORE)

40 CONTINUED:

GEORDI (Cont'd)

We lost a lot of good people down  
there.

DATA

Eleven dead... eight more  
unaccounted for, Captain.

Moving to the Engineering station, taking readings...

RIKER

(to com)

Repair teams to Engineering...  
seal hull breach...

GEORDI

They didn't get to the core...  
I can control functions from  
here...

WESLEY

Approaching the Paulson Nebula,  
sir...

PICARD

Drop to impulse... take us in,  
Ensign...

41 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Moving at impulse into the solar nebula, swirling  
clouds...

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

as we whiz by large rocks and clumpy material...

43 ANGLE - WESLEY

drawing on all of his navigational talents... Picard  
moves up next to him...

WESLEY

The field is getting too dense,  
sir...

PICARD

Steady... Mister Data, analysis  
of the nebula cloud...

43 CONTINUED:

DATA

Eighty-two percent Dilithium hydroxyls... manganese, chromium. It should provide an effective screen against their sensors, sir...

44 PICARD

PICARD

Prepare to take us in, Mister Crusher. Now. Mister La Forge, prepare to reverse engines, full stop.

45 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise moves into the spiral cloud and disappearing from view.

45A EXT. SPACE - THE BORG (OPTICAL)

slows at the cloud's periphery, does not go in.

46 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF

The Borg ship is continuing scans... attempting to locate us...

PICARD

Good. As long as they're looking for us... they can't hurt anyone else.

RIKER

Shut down all active sensors, passive scanners only. Deflectors to minimum emissions.

PICARD

We'll maintain position.  
(looks at Riker and Shelby)  
Until we have a better idea.

47 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Barely visible through the dense cloud.

48 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - CLOSE ON MONITOR (OPTICAL)

Showing a silent replay of the Borg ship as seen from the Enterprise...

SHELBY (O.S.)

Time index five-one-four... Data started to fluctuate phaser resonance frequencies... the Borg's beam breaks contact... Freeze picture.

49 ANGLE

Riker is at the head of the table, Wesley, Geordi and Data are with Shelby. They are reporting progress to him.

SHELBY

Take a close look, Commander...  
Mister La Forge?  
(please narrate)

50 MONITOR - FREEZE FRAME (OPTICAL)

The same shot in slow motion... there is a slight wobble in the entire Borg power system.

GEORDI (O.S.)

There's a two percent power drop, just for an instant... but it's system-wide... The phaser frequency spread was in a high narrow band.

51 ANGLE - WIDE

DATA

Conceivably, the ship's power distribution nodes are vulnerable to those frequencies.

51 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

If we can generate a concentrated burst of energy with that same frequency distribution... I mean a lot more than anything our phasers or photon torpedos could provide...

RIKER

How do we do that?

WESLEY

The main deflector dish.

GEORDI

It's the only component of the Enterprise designed to channel that much power at controlled frequencies.

SHELBY

Unfortunately, there is one slight detail -- in the process, the blast completely destroys the Enterprise as well.

RIKER

(muses)

But if we could get far enough away... increase the deflector range...

SHELBY

(nods)

It could work. In the meantime, we should retune all phasers, including hand units, to the same frequency.

RIKER

(acknowledges)

Proceed. I'll inform the Captain...

SHELBY

There's one other recommendation I'd like to make, Commander. Separate the saucer section... assign a skeleton crew to create a diversion...

51 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

(shakes his head)

We may need power from the saucer  
impulse engines...

SHELBY

But it would give them more than  
one target to worry about.

RIKER

(beat)

No, it's too great a risk...

SHELBY

I'd like the captain to make that  
decision, sir.

RIKER

(cool)

I bring all alternatives to the  
captain's attention, Commander.

(dismissing them)

That'll be all.

As the others EXIT, Geordi lingers a moment...

GEORDI

I'll need to install  
higher-capacity power transfers  
to the deflector dish,  
Commander...

RIKER

How long...

GEORDI

Better part of a day.

Riker acknowledges, stands, still bristling about  
Shelby...

RIKER

She gets a full head of steam up,  
doesn't she...

GEORDI

Yessir... she's... a formidable  
presence to say the least. But  
I'm convinced she can help us  
here, Commander...

51 CONTINUED: (3)

RIKER

I am too, Geordi. Don't worry  
about it. I can handle Shelby.

Riker nods and they EXIT.

52 INT. BRIDGE

Riker walks to the Ready Room door and rings the  
chime... Worf in command.

PICARD'S VOICE

Come.

53 ANGLE - THE DOOR

slides open and as Riker steps forward, he reacts as  
he sees Shelby with Picard.

54 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PICARD

Come in, Number One... Commander  
Shelby was just telling me of your  
concerns about her plan...

RIKER

I'm sorry that she troubled you,  
sir... I already informed her...

PICARD

Yes, I entirely agree with you.  
It's not the time. But I am  
afraid the time may eventually  
come when greater risks are  
required. I'd like you to  
consider her plan as a fall-back  
position and make the necessary  
preparations.

RIKER

Very good, sir.

55 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker and Shelby EXIT the Ready Room and you can cut  
the tension with a knife... she moves to the turbolift  
and he's on her heels.

56 INT. TURBOLIFT

As they ENTER...

SHELBY

Deck eight. Battle bridge.

The doors close. Shelby avoids his eyes. No guilt from her. Just unstoppable.

RIKER

(to comm)

Halt.

(to Shelby)

You and I have to talk, Commander.

SHELBY

You never ordered me not to discuss this with the captain...

RIKER

You disagree with me, fine. You want to take it to the captain, fine. Through me. You do an end run around me again, I'll snap you back so hard, you'll think you're a first year cadet again.

SHELBY

May I speak frankly, sir?

RIKER

By all means.

SHELBY

You're in my way.

RIKER

Really? How terrible for you.

SHELBY

All you know how to do is play it safe... I guess that's why someone like you sits in the shadow of a great man for as long as you have, passing up one command after another.

(to comm)

Proceed to deck eight.

RIKER

When it comes to this ship, to this crew, you're damned right I'll play it safe.

56 CONTINUED:

SHELBY

If you can't make the big  
decisions, Commander, I suggest  
you make room for someone who can.

The door opens and she EXITS. On Riker's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

57 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

hiding in the dust cloud in the nebula... moving back to find the Borg ship hovering over the swirl.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. The Enterprise remains concealed in the dust cloud. And to my surprise, the Borg have maintained their position, waiting for us to come out of hiding. I have no explanation for their special interest in me or this ship.

57A INT. ENGINEERING

Much activity. Repairs are continuing... supernumeraries working at the last patches in the breach area... at consoles, Geordi, Wesley, Shelby and Data huddle and compare notes... as Picard ENTERS, taking a slow, respectful inspection. The crew members look up to acknowledge Picard, who just nods, "carry-on" as he passes through...

PICARD (V.O.)

We continue to prepare our defenses for the inevitable confrontation. But, I must admit, on this night I contemplate the distinct possibility that no defense may be adequate against this enemy...

57B INT. TEN-FORWARD (OPTICAL)

Dark and deserted. The view out the windows blinded by the nebula fog. Picard ENTERS, walking slowly... takes a long look...

GUINAN (O.S.)

Trouble sleeping?

Picard turns...

57C ANGLE - GUINAN

at the bar

PICARD

Something of a tradition,  
Guinan... touring the ship before  
a battle...

GUINAN

Before a hopeless battle, if I  
remember the tradition correctly.

Picard moves to the bar.

PICARD

Not necessarily. Nelson toured  
the HMS Victory before  
Trafalgar...

GUINAN

But Nelson didn't come home from  
Trafalgar, did he?

PICARD

No, but the battle was won.

GUINAN

And you, Picard, do you expect  
this battle to be won?

PICARD

We may yet prevail. It is a  
conceit but a healthy one.

(beat)

I wonder if the Emperor Honourious  
watching the Visigoths coming over  
the seventh hill could truly  
realize that the Roman Empire was  
about to fall. This is really  
just another page of history,  
isn't it? Will this be the end  
of our civilization?

(shrugs)

... Turn the page.

GUINAN

It is not the end.

PICARD

You say that with remarkable  
assuredness.

57C CONTINUED:

GUINAN

With experience. When the Borg destroyed my world, my people scattered throughout the universe. But we survived. And so will humanity. As long as there is a handful left to keep the spirit alive. You will prevail. Even if it takes a millennium.

Picard nods with appreciation for her... and then the ship shakes and they react, turn to see --

57D ANGLE - THE WINDOWS (OPTICAL)

somewhere beyond the fog, bright explosions are visible...

WORF'S COM VOICE

Captain Picard, report to the bridge.

On the move...

PICARD

(keys insignia)  
On my way, Lieutenant.

And EXITS.

58 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard ENTERS... Riker, Worf watch the viewscreen as the explosions continue periodically. Supernumeraries at conn and ops.

RIKER

They're some kind of magnetometric-guided charges.

As one "depth charge" explodes perilously close by...

PICARD

Status of shields.

WORF

Back to forty-eight percent, Captain.

58 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(to comm)

Mister La Forge, I may have to  
take us out of the nebula... I'll  
need all the power you can give  
me.

Another huge explosion rattles us...

59 INT. ENGINEERING

Data, Wesley, Shelby working at stations in the  
background.

GEORDI

Engines are ready, Captain.  
Recommend you adjust shield  
harmonics to favor the upper EM  
band when you proceed...

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Acknowledged.

And this time a direct hit...

60 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF

Direct hit... deck nine...

RIKER

Damage report...

WORF

Structural latching system  
integrity breached...

PICARD

Take us out of here, Number One...

RIKER

Fire up the engines... half  
impulse until we clear the  
nebula... then punch it to warp  
nine.

PICARD

Ready phasers... load forward  
torpedo bays...

RIKER

Engage.

61 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moves out of the cloud... immediately the Borg ship follows...

62 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

WORF

Borg tractor beam is attempting to lock on...

PICARD

Fire at will. Continue rotating shield frequ...

WORF

Shields are failing...

The ship is rocked as the tractor beam locks on... people are almost knocked down...

WORF

Tractor beam has locked on.

RIKER

They're holding us...

A Borg MATERIALIZES...

Borg #1 looks around, identifies Picard, moves calmly toward him... Worf fires his phaser... the Borg's force field is ineffective... it breaks down and the Borg is blown down... immediately two more Borg MATERIALIZE... one by the fallen Borg, another behind Picard... Worf fires at the Borg (#2) near Picard. But this time the Borg's force field has changed color and repels the phasers...

RIKER

It's no use... they've already adapted to the new frequencies...

Riker charges Borg #2 going for Picard but the Borg easily sends Riker crashing against a far wall, and grabs Picard. Worf moves toward Picard as...

62A OMITTED

62B BORG #3

removes parts of the dead Borg #1...

62C ANGLE - PICARD (OPTICAL)

Worf reaches him just as he DEMATERIALIZES along with Borg #2 and Borg #3... a beat later, dead Borg#1 withers away into dust... and...

62D WORF

quickly moves back to Tactical...

WORF

The Borg ship is disengaging...  
leaving at warp speed...

RIKER

(to conn)  
Maintain pursuit...

WORF

Borg vessel has reached warp  
nine... nine-point-four...  
nine-point-six...

RIKER

Stay with them.  
(to comm)  
Riker to O'Brien. Can you get  
a fix on the captain?

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

Negative, sir. There's some kind  
of interference. I can't lock  
in on his signal.

RIKER

Senior officers report to the  
bridge.

WORF

Sir, the coordinates they've  
set... they're on a direct  
course... to sector zero-zero-one.  
The Terran system.

RIKER

(reacts)  
Earth.

On Riker's reaction...

63 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in pursuit of the Borg ship.

64 INT. BORG SHIP

Picard is escorted by two Borgs... he reacts as he sees  
--

65 OMITTED

66 INT. BORG SHIP (MATTE SHOT)

The same massive chamber we saw on the Main Viewer earlier... thousands of Borg lined up... as Picard ENTERS. They speak with a thousand deafening voices:

BORG

Captain Jean-Luc Picard, you lead  
the strongest ship of the  
Federation Starfleet. You speak  
for your people.

PICARD

I have nothing to say to you, and  
I will resist you with my last  
ounce of strength.

BORG

Strength is irrelevant.  
Resistance is futile. We wish to  
improve ourselves. We will add  
your biological and technological  
distinctiveness to our own. Your  
culture will adapt to service ours.

PICARD

Impossible. My culture is based  
on freedom and self-determination.

BORG

Freedom is irrelevant. Self-determination  
is irrelevant. You must comply.

PICARD

We would rather die.

BORG

Death is irrelevant.

66 CONTINUED:

PICARD

What is it you wish of me?

BORG

Your archaic cultures are authority driven. To facilitate our introduction into your societies, it has been decided that a human voice will speak for us in all communications. You have been chosen to be that voice.

On Picard's reaction...

67 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in pursuit of the Borg vessel.

68 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker, Shelby, Geordi, Data, Troi, Worf, Beverly, Wesley. Supernumeraries are at Conn and Ops.

WORF

They're leading us into the heart of our own defenses...

GEORDI

So far, they haven't had any reason to worry about our defenses...

WESLEY

Commander, if the Borg stay at warp nine-point-six, we'll be forced to discontinue pursuit and power down in less than three hours.

DATA

Two hours, forty minutes and three seconds.

RIKER

(to Geordi)

How soon before the deflector is ready?

68 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

We're close. Few hours maybe...  
(before Riker has to  
tell him)

I know I'll get it done in two...  
somehow... but Commander, I need  
serious power from the warp  
engines to make this weapon work.  
We're using all we've got just  
to keep up with them...

SHELBY

We've got to get that ship down  
to impulse.

RIKER

I'm leading an away team over  
there to get the captain back.  
We'll find a way to bring them  
out of warp...

(orders)

Ensign Crusher... continue to  
assist Mister La Forge...  
Commander Shelby, you will take  
the bridge and coordinate with  
Starfleet... Data, Worf, Doctor  
Crusher, you're with me...

SHELBY

(protesting)

Excuse me, sir... with my  
knowledge of the Borg...

RIKER

(not now)

Those are my orders, Commander.

Shelby blinks. Troi fills the breach.

TROI

Commander Riker...

(beat)

It is inappropriate for you to  
lead the away team. Until the  
return of Captain Picard, you are  
in command of the Enterprise.  
We are in a state of war. Your  
place is on the bridge.

68 CONTINUED: (2)

Riker frowns... every bit of his soul wants to lead the charge to the rescue... and suddenly he feels what it takes to command... to delegate authority, to think of the greater needs... but it's frustrating as hell.

RIKER

(softer)

Commander Shelby, you will lead  
the away team.

And he sinks into the big chair...

RIKER

Make it so.

The others scramble and...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

69 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Still at warp... pursuing the Borg ship.

RIKER (V.O.)

First officer's log, supplemental.  
Our pursuit of the Borg continues  
at high warp on a course that  
will take us to the very core of  
the Federation. The devastation  
they could bring is beyond  
imagination.

70 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Shelby, Data and Beverly wait with O'Brien as Worf  
arrives, hands out phasers...

WORF

These phasers have been retuned.  
Each has a different frequency  
spanning the upper EM band.

SHELBY

All right... a reminder... we only  
get to use each of these once,  
maybe twice before the Borg learn  
to adapt. Don't fire until you  
have to...

BEVERLY

What kind of resistance can we  
expect?

(Beverly wasn't around for the Borg last year.)

DATA

At our last encounter, the Borg  
virtually ignored us when we  
beamed aboard their vessel,  
Doctor. They clearly did not  
consider our being there a  
threat.

SHELBY

That could very well change,  
however, if we start interfering  
with their plans.

70 CONTINUED:

They move to the transporter...

SHELBY

Shelby to bridge. Away team ready.

INTERCUT:

71 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker, Troi and supernumeraries.

RIKER

(to com)

We've got fifty-eight minutes before we have to power down and disengage.

SHELBY

Understood.

RIKER

Proceed.

(quick)

Commander, no unnecessary risks. If it becomes clear you can't succeed, I want you back here, alive... I don't want any dead heroes. Clear?

SHELBY

Very clear, sir. Shelby out.

O'BRIEN

We've matched warp velocity for transport, Commander.

SHELBY

Energize.

72 INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

Shelby, Data, Worf and Beverly MATERIALIZE...

73 CLOSER

assume a defensive posture. There is no resistance. Many of the Borg are in stasis. Occasionally, one walks by and ignores the away team.

73 CONTINUED:

WORF  
(checking tricorder)  
Tricorder functions are minimal.

SHELBY  
Any signs of human life?

WORF  
Inconclusive.

He continues to make adjustments on the tricorder.  
Beverly gets her first look at the Borg up close and  
personal... studying the gridwork structures...

BEVERLY  
(awe)  
Look at this... this is  
extraordinary.

DATA  
(acknowledges)  
These appear to be some kind of  
power waveguide conduits which  
allow them to work collectively  
as they perform ship functions.

SHELBY  
There's no way to take out enough  
of these to slow them down.

DATA  
(agreeing)  
The decentralized power system  
makes it virtually impossible.

Cautiously moving forward...

BEVERLY  
(studying the  
configuration)  
What about looking at it... from  
the mosquito's point of view.

DATA  
(puzzled)  
An interesting metaphor, Doctor.  
What is your idea?

BEVERLY  
If we sting them in a tender  
spot... at least we might get them  
to stop a minute to scratch.

73 CONTINUED: (2)

Data and Shelby exchange a glance... not a bad plan.  
As they move into an intersection to see the awesome  
conduit box...

DATA

Distribution nodes.

SHELBY

If we take out a few of these,  
it just might make them scratch...

Data acknowledges as Worf picks up something on his  
tricorder.

WORF

The captain's communicator...  
it is still activated.

BEVERLY

(keying insignia)  
Crusher to Picard, can you hear  
me, Captain...

No response.

SHELBY

Can you locate it, Worf?

WORF

(checking)  
This way...

He leads them down a corridor...

73A INT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

Admiral Hanson on the monitor... Riker notably  
standing, not sitting in the captain's chair...

RIKER

I strongly recommend redeploying  
all available defenses to protect  
sector zero-zero-one, Admiral...

HANSON

(acknowledges)  
We're moving to intercept at Wolf  
three five nine. We'll make our  
stand there. How much longer can  
you maintain pursuit?

73A CONTINUED:

RIKER

Twenty-two minutes if they stay at current speed. If we can't bring them out of warp, we'll do as much damage as we can before we have to disengage.

HANSON

(nods)

Picard?

RIKER

Nothing yet, sir.

74 OMITTED

74A INT. BORG SHIP

Down another corridor, Worf leading the way with his tricorder... he stops... a series of large drawers line one wall... it might almost remind us of a morgue...

WORF

In here.

An exchange of concerned glances... Data moves forward and pulls out the heavy drawer... they react as they see inside --

75 ANGLE - PICARD'S UNIFORM

folded neatly, the communicator is visible. His empty boots.

75A RESUME - SHELBY

SHELBY

Shelby to Enterprise.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Go ahead.

SHELBY

We've found the captain's uniform. And his communicator.

75B INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker frowns... exchanges a worried look with Troi...

SHELBY'S COM VOICE

We're resuming our search.

Behind him Wesley and Geordi ENTER from the turbolift... as Riker sees them --

RIKER

(to com)

Stand by, Commander.

WESLEY

We're in business.

GEORDI

It'll burn out the main deflector... but it'll be one hell of a bang.

RIKER

Radiation danger?

WESLEY

We'll need to evacuate the entire forward half of the secondary hull. And the lower three decks of the saucer.

TROI

I'll see to that.

She moves off the bridge.

RIKER

(to com)

Commander Shelby... we have only seventeen minutes of warp power left. Do what you can to get them out of warp.

75C INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

The away team continues to move cautiously into an intersection.

75C CONTINUED:

SHELBY

(to comm)

Acknowledged. Shelby out.

(to the team)

Let's take out some of these  
distribution nodes and see what  
happens...

(beat)

Get ready. This may rile up our  
friends.

Data fires his phaser at the top of the conduit box...  
nothing... then Worf and Data fire together... this  
time, the conduit box shorts out and sparks fly...  
they move quickly out...

76 INT. BORG SHIP

The Borg are stirring.

77

thru OMITTED

79

80 ANGLE - THE AWAY TEAM

reacts as the Borg begin to exit their shelves... as  
many as we can muster... they see our guys... and move  
calmly toward them... we retreat...

80A INTO ANOTHER INTERSECTION (OPTICAL)

and Worf and Data shoot out another conduit box... more  
sparks...

81 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

As more Borgs exit their shelves... see us... come at  
us...

SHELBY

Ready phasers...

They raise their weapons... the Borg move in on them...

SHELBY

Fire.

Shelby and Data fire one direction... Worf and Beverly  
the other...

82 ONE SET OF BORGS (OPTICAL)

go down...

83 ANOTHER SET OF BORGS (OPTICAL)

go down... but more come right behind, climbing over them...

84 THE AWAY TEAM (OPTICAL)

moves down a clear corridor...

SHELBY

Enterprise, encountering  
resistance, prepare to beam us  
back on my signal...

... into another intersection... Data and Worf fire  
and destroy a third conduit box.

85  
thru OMITTED  
87

88 INT. BORG SHIP

A portion of the lights fail...

89 THE AWAY TEAM (OPTICAL)

is cloaked in shadows... the sparks creating almost a  
strobe effect...

89A ANGLE - MORE BORGS (OPTICAL)

coming... the away team fire phasers... the Borg have  
adapted... none of the phasers affect them this time...  
we retreat again.

SHELBY

Enterprise... beam us...

WORF

Wait! Look --

He points... and

90  
thru OMITTED  
92

93 ANGLE - ANOTHER ROW OF BORGS EMERGING FROM THEIR SLOTS

in the strobe effect... and one of them at the far end... is Picard... seen in profile, he looks normal.

94 THE AWAY TEAM

WORF

Captain!

95 PICARD

turns slowly, calmly... and push in as he does to see he has been turned into a Borg. Half his face is gone... replaced with machinery.

96 REACTIONS - CLOSEUPS

of the away team... stunned.

97 PICARD

moves toward them... with the Borg as they surround...

98 THE AWAY TEAM (OPTICAL)

Worf bursts forward trying to get to his captain... is repelled violently by a Borg aura around Picard... falls to the floor.

SHELBY

Enterprise, get us out of here.

As sparking effects continue from the damage to the distribution nodes, they DEMATERIALIZE.

99 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker, Troi, Wes at Conn... Geordi at Engineering station.

WESLEY

Sir, they did it... the Borg ship is dropping out of warp...

RIKER

Go to impulse.

99 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Diverting warp energy to main deflector...

RIKER

Move us to within forty thousand kilometers, match velocity. Commence arming sequence... Increase deflector modulation to upper frequency band...

The away team ENTERS from the turbolift... Worf moves to Tactical...

RIKER

The captain?

DATA

Sir, Captain Picard has been altered by the Borg. We were unable to retrieve him...

RIKER

Altered... ?

WORF

He is a Borg, sir.

Riker reacts, stunned.

SHELBY

We'll go back... I need more people... we need to retune the phasers again... we'll get him out of there...

GEORDI

Commander, reading subspace field fluctuations within the Borg ship. Looks like they're regenerating... restoring power. They could be capable of warp any minute.

Riker's mind working... covering the options...

RIKER

Is the deflector ready?

GEORDI

(registering import of the pending decision)  
Ready, sir.

99 CONTINUED: (2)

BEVERLY

Will, he's alive... if we get him  
back, I might be able to  
restore...

Push in to Riker...

RIKER

This is our only chance to destroy  
them... if they get back into warp,  
our weapon becomes useless.

SHELBY

We'll go back... we'll sabotage  
them again if we have to...

RIKER

(shakes his head)

We can't maintain pursuit. We  
don't have the power.

(beat)

Prepare to fire.

SHELBY

At least consult with Starfleet  
Command.

(to Worf)

Get Admiral Hanson on subspace...

RIKER

Belay that order, Lieutenant.  
There's no time...

WORF

Sir, we are being hailed by the  
Borg...

RIKER

On screen.

100  
thru OMITTED  
101

102 ANGLE (OPTICAL) - VIEWSCREEN

Picard-Borg appears... he speaks with a single but  
metallic Borg voice... a version of his own... and  
during the speech we

INTERCUT:

103 MATCHING PUSHES TO CLOSEUPS OF RIKER AND PICARD  
(OPTICAL)

PICARD/BORG

I am Locutus of Borg. Resistance  
is futile. Your life as it has  
been is over. From this time  
forward, you will service... us.

And on an extreme closeup of Riker... a deep breath,  
then firm without raising his voice...

RIKER

Mister Worf... fire.

FREEZE FRAME

SUPER: TO BE CONTINUED

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END