

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Devil's Due"
#40274-187

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FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "Devil's Due" - REV. 11/7/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Devil's Due"

CAST

PICARD	ARDRA
RIKER	KLINGON FEK'LHR
DATA	HUMAN DEVIL
BEVERLY	ACOST JARED
TROI	DOCTOR HOWARD CLARK
GEORDI	MARLEY (GHOST)
WORF	
	Non-Speaking
	VENTAXIANS
	THREE AIDES
COM VOICE	TWO SENTRIES
	3 SCIENCE STATION WORKERS
Non-Speaking	
SUPERNUMERARIES	
N. D. SECURITY GUARDS	

STAR TREK: "Devil's Due" - REV. 11/02/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Devil's Due"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
OBSERVATION LOUNGE
PICARD'S QUARTERS
TRANSPORTER ROOM
CORRIDOR
HOLODECK
VICTORIAN BEDROOM

VENTAX TWO

SCIENCE STATION
ATHENEUM
VAULT

SHUTTLE

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

SHUTTLE

VENTAX TWO

AGRARIAN CITY

STAR TREK: "Devil's Due" - REV. 11/6/90 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Devil's Due"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ACOST JARED	AH-kohst JAH-red
AKUL K'TON	ah-KUHL K-TON
ARDRA	AR-druh
ATHENEUM	a-THEE-n-eeum
BERUSSIAN	behr-RUH-seean
DRELLIANS	DRELL-ee-ans
FEK'LHR	FECK-luhr
GARV ETES	GAHRV ETT-ess
GRE'THOR	GRAY-thor
LIGILLIUM	ly-JIL-lee-um
MENDORA	mehn-DOHR-uh
TORAK	TORE-ack
TAU VELOR	TAU vell-OR
VENTAXIANS	vehn-TAHX-ee-ahns
ZATARL	zah-TARL

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Devil's Due"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

At impulse.

2 CLOSEUP ON A GHASTLY TRANSPARENT WHITE FIGURE IN
CHAINS (OPTICAL)

MARLEY

You don't believe in me.

Pulling back to see DATA dressed in Dickensian clothes
as the terrified Ebenezer Scrooge... the set is
Scrooge's classic Victorian bedroom.

DATA/SCROOGE

I don't.

MARLEY

What evidence would you have of
my reality beyond that of your
senses?

DATA/SCROOGE

I don't know.

MARLEY

Why do you doubt your senses?

DATA/SCROOGE

Because a little thing affects
them. A slight disorder of the
stomach makes them cheats. You
may be an undigested bit of beef,
a blot of mustard, a crumb of
cheese, a fragment of an underdone
potato. There's more of gravy
than of grave about you, whatever
you are. Humbug, I tell you
humbug!

3 INT. HOLODECK - ANOTHER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

to reveal PICARD observing... The spirit raises a frightful cry and shakes its chain making an appalling noise and Data/Scrooge falls upon his knees, clasps his hands in fear before his face.

PICARD
Freeze program.

As Marley freezes...

PICARD
Very nicely done, Data... your performance skills really are improving...

Data shakes his head, doesn't agree... is dubious about his performance. He stands... turns to Picard...

DATA
I have taken your advice, Captain. This time I have not imitated another actor's rendition. It was my own interpretation...

PICARD
And a very interesting one... you should be congratulated...

DATA
Your courtesy is appreciated. But I am aware that I do not effectively convey the fear called for in this scene.

PICARD
Well, you've never known fear. But as an acute observer of behavior, you certainly should be able to approximate...

DATA
(interrupting)
Sir... That would not be an appropriate basis for an effective performance. Not by the standards set by my mentors.

3 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Your mentors... ?

DATA

Yessir. I have studied the philosophies of virtually every known acting master, but I find myself particularly attracted to Stanislavsky, Adler, Gernav... proponents of a performance technique known as "The Method."

Off Picard's reaction, they EXIT the holodeck...

4 OMITTED

5 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

As they exit, Data still in costume, pushes a few holodeck computer buttons to end the program, then walks with Picard... a few supernumeraries glance at them as they pass...

PICARD

"Method acting?" Yes, I'm vaguely familiar with it... why would you choose such an old-fashioned approach...

DATA

Perhaps because the technique requires an actor to seek his own emotional awareness to understand the character he plays...

PICARD

But that would seem an impossible task for you, Data.

DATA

I have modified the method for my own use, sir. Since I have no emotional awareness to create a performance, I am attempting to use performance to create an emotional awareness. I believe if I can learn to duplicate the fear of Ebenezer Scrooge, then I will be one step closer to being truly human.

5 CONTINUED:

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Captain Picard, please report to
the Bridge...

PICARD

On my way, Number One...

(to Data)

Data, the moment you decided to
stop imitating other actors and
to create your own
interpretation... you were
already one step closer to being
truly human.

He EXITS, leaving Data to ponder this.

6 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

WORF, RIKER at their positions. As Picard ENTERS...

RIKER

We've received an emergency
transmission from the Ventax Two
science station...

PICARD

Nature of the emergency...

RIKER

Uncertain... the signal was
interrupted by...

WORF

(interrupting, adjusting
his controls)

Contact reestablished with Ventax
Two, Commander.

RIKER

On screen.

The viewscreen shifts from the starfield to the image of a wispy-haired, nervous and extremely harried man, DR. HOWARD CLARK. He is standing in a small, equipment-filled room; behind him are several TECHNICIANS, who are racing about frantically, gathering books, ledgers and other effects. The picture on the screen is filled periodically with bursts of static; every now and then the screen goes blank and then flickers back to life.

6 CONTINUED:

Continually in the background we HEAR a distant roar,
and an incessant pounding noise outside the door.

PICARD
(continuing)
I am Captain Jean-Luc Picard of
the U.S.S. Enterprise. Please
identify yourself.

DR. CLARK (ON SCREEN)
I am Doctor Howard Clark, director
of the science station here on
Ventax Two. Thank you for
responding.

As he speaks, the picture blurs, trembles and fades.

PICARD
Lieutenant Worf, can you improve
our reception?

WORF
The trouble is at the transmission
source, sir.

The viewscreen image comes back to life uncertainly.

PICARD
Doctor Clark, we can barely
maintain communication with you.
Can you boost the level of your
power source?

DR. CLARK (ON SCREEN)
I'm afraid not, Captain. It's
under attack.

PICARD
Under attack?

DR. CLARK (ON SCREEN)
There is a mob outside, trying
to break into the station. The
planet is in chaos. Looting.
Fires...

Again, the picture breaks up momentarily.

PICARD
Ensign, set a new course for
Ventax Two...

6 CONTINUED: (2)

The Conn operator acknowledges... When the picture returns, the image is even fuzzier than before.

PICARD

Doctor Clark, what has caused the riots... ?

DR. CLARK (ON SCREEN)

Mass hysteria... it's impossible to explain... these people are all convinced their world is coming to an end... tomorrow. Please, we must have your immediate...

The picture breaks apart and is lost for good. And on Picard's reaction, we

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit around a bluish planet, Ventax Two.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate 44474.5.
We have reached Ventax Two and
are attempting to contact the
Federation science station, which
at last report was under siege
by a mob.

8 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard is seated in the Command Chair. Riker, Worf
and Data are at their stations. Supernumerary at Conn.

WORF

They are transmitting again.

PICARD

On screen, before we lose contact.

The viewscreen flickers to life. Again we see Dr.
Clark on screen. The situation on the planet has
obviously deteriorated. The roar of the mob outside
and the pounding on the door practically drowns out
all else. Smoke fills the room; the people inside are
in a panic. The reception is terrible; we can hardly
make out any details in the blur and snow of the
picture. Dr. Clark is leaning in towards our
viewpoint, yelling frantically.

DR. CLARK (ON SCREEN)

Enterprise, Enterprise! Do you
read me? Emergency! We need
help!

PICARD

Doctor Clark, this is Captain
Picard. We are ready to beam you
and your staff on board the...

There is a CRASH, a sudden influx of light and a
deafening roar. The door has collapsed off screen.

8 CONTINUED:

There is pandemonium, an impressionistic blur of chaos and confusion barely decipherable as the snowy picture dissolves into visual static. The last words we hear over the broken picture --

DR. CLARK (O.C.)
(crying out)
They're in! They're in!

PICARD
Transporter Room Three! Lock onto
the station team and beam them
aboard.

TRANSPORTER OFFICER'S COM VOICE
I've locked onto Doctor Clark.
I can't pick out the others. It's
a mess down there.

9 OMITTED

10 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

PICARD
Beam up Doctor Clark by himself...
Mister Worf, escort him to my
ready room...

WORF
(exiting)
Aye, sir.

Picard gets up to leave.

PICARD
Number One, try to make some sense
of this "mess."

As Picard EXITS the Bridge...

11 OMITTED

12 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM

Dr. Clark, still shaky, is seated as Picard fetches two cups of tea...

DR. CLARK

The people of Ventax Two live
in an agrarian society. At least,
they do now.

12 CONTINUED:

PICARD

What do you mean, "now?"

DR. CLARK

It's an interesting anthropological question. One we were studying before the... trouble began. In their distant past the Ventaxian culture had achieved an extremely advanced scientific level, but a millennium ago they turned their backs on technology.

Picard delivers a cup of tea... the doctor's hand is still unsteady...

PICARD

Be careful, it's hot...

The doctor takes a sip trying to calm down...

PICARD

So they reverted to a simpler existence... ?

DR. CLARK

And have remained that way for centuries. First contact was made by a Klingon expedition seventy years ago. Since then, new technology has been available to the Ventaxians. They simply have no interest in it. There have been virtually no social problems to be found on this planet... in fact, I would have described their society as idyllic until...

A beat as he searches to reasonably explain it... almost embarrassed to say so...

PICARD

Until what, doctor?

12 CONTINUED: (2)

DR. CLARK

It's hard to believe...

(beat)

Several years ago, Acost Jared, the Ventaxian head of state, began to grow increasingly obsessed with the legend of "Ardra." With each passing day, he grew more anxious, until he talked about little else. "Ardra is coming back. Ardra will be here soon. We must all leave before Ardra returns."

PICARD

And who is Ardra?

DR. CLARK

(shakes his head in disbelief)

For all intents and purposes...

(beat, sighs)

... the devil.

(off Picard's look)

Captain, these people actually believe they've sold their souls to the devil.

Before Picard can respond...

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Riker to Captain Picard.

PICARD

Have you located the science team, Number One?

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Evidently they're being held hostage.

DR. CLARK

(horrified)

Hostage...

RIKER'S COM VOICE

(continuing)

We have a Ventaxian leader on the viewscreen, name of Acost Jared.

Picard is on his feet already on his way to the Bridge... Clark follows...

13 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard and Clark ENTER. Data, Worf, Riker, TROI present. On the viewscreen: JARED, a dignified man, dressed in contemporary 24th century clothes, paces with a handful of aides in the Atheneum.

DR. CLARK

Jared, you must secure the release
of my people. I can't believe
you would allow this.

Jared shakes his head and smiles sadly.

JARED

Howard, my friend, you know how
I abhor all acts of violence.
But events are out of my control.

Picard approaches the viewscreen...

PICARD

I am Captain Jean-Luc Picard.
Is there nothing you can do... ?

JARED

(shakes his head)

As the hour of Ardra's return
approaches, fear has overwhelmed
my people...

DR. CLARK

(to Picard)

I've tried to explain to them that
there is no evidence, no proof
this... this mythic creature ever
existed... let alone was about
to return to enslave them...

JARED

It has been a thousand years.
The prophecies have come true...

PICARD

(to Clark)

Prophecies?

13 CONTINUED:

DR. CLARK

Ardra's arrival is supposed to be heralded by the "shaking of the cities"... there have been a series of geological tremors on the planet... minor quakes... nothing extraordinary...

PICARD

But poorly timed...

JARED

There is more. For several nights there have been visions of Ardra... again, just as the contract said would occur before her return.

PICARD

Visions? Do you mean dreams?

JARED

No. She has appeared. I myself have seen her.

PICARD

Jared, tell your people if our hostages are released, I am prepared to offer you Federation assistance should this Ardra return.

JARED

I am afraid it will not matter. They know your weapons are useless against her, Captain. I will make inquiries concerning the hostages. The innocent should not suffer for our sins... But I can make no promises...

He ends the transmission. The planet returns to the viewscreen. Off Picard's reaction...

14 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - ENTERPRISE

Picard, Riker, Troi, Worf, GEORDI, BEVERLY, Data and Dr. Clark are seated around the conference table.

14 CONTINUED:

TROI

This situation is deteriorating, Captain... people are approaching levels of anxiety that could lead to suicide...

PICARD

Mister Data, what do we know about this Ardra figure?

DATA

She is a cornerstone of Ventaxian theology. It seems that Ardra came to Ventax Two and promised one thousand years of peace and prosperity. As her price, she would return and enslave the entire population. In the Ventaxian culture, it is considered bad luck to speak her name out loud. The threat "may Ardra come to your door" is considered a most insulting epithet.

DR. CLARK

I've often puzzled over this dark legend. It simply doesn't fit in with the rest of Ventaxian mythology... which is sunny and joyous.

BEVERLY

Perhaps the Ardra myth is a result of their contact with the Klingons.

Geordi glances at Worf...

GEORDI

(joking)

Are you implying Klingons are not sunny and joyous?

Worf grunts.

DATA

Ardra predates the Klingon influence on Ventax Two.

14 CONTINUED: (2)

DR. CLARK

There are ancient scrolls
concerning Ardra that are stored
in the Atheneum vaults...
scholars study them... they have
been of little public interest
until recently...

Picard takes a beat to consider his options...

PICARD

I think I should meet with Acost
Jared... he's still our best hope
for the release of the hostages.

14 CONTINUED: (3)

RIKER
(rising)
I'll arrange to have him
transported aboard...

PICARD
No... I'm going down to the
planet...

WORF
Sir, you risk being taken as an
additional hostage...

PICARD
(interrupting)
Mister O'Brien can stay locked
on our communicators and pull us
out, if necessary. Mister Worf
and Mister Data, you will
accompany me... I'm hoping the
hostages have not been moved
far... if the opportunity
presents itself we will move
quickly...

WORF
Yes, sir.

Rising...

PICARD
Counselor, I'll want you with me
too...

As they begin to EXIT...

14A EXT. VENTAX CITY (MATTE SHOT) - ESTABLISHING

A large agrarian city with evidence of turmoil...
smoke from fires... an alien siren blares... some
burned out structures.

15 INT. ATHENEUM (OPTICAL)

Picard, Worf, Troi and Data MATERIALIZE... the
sentries are posted at the door... Jared and his small
circle of aides move toward Picard.

15 CONTINUED:

JARED

Captain Picard! You shouldn't
have come. Your life is in danger
here...

PICARD

Jared, you must attempt to calm
your people. There is no reason
for panic.

JARED

No reason... !

PICARD

If the tremors have frightened
people... leading to this
hysteria over Ardra... allow us
to reassure them...

(looking to Data)

DATA

We have scanned the tectonic
stress patterns of your planet's
crust... there is no evidence
that the quakes pose any kind of
threat...

JARED

(overlapping)

No, no, the threat is from
Ardra... you cannot understand...

PICARD

If you can at least help us locate
our people...

His words are interrupted by a tremor... the shaking
increases in intensity... a few things fall and
break...

15 CONTINUED: (2)

JARED
(whispering)
She is here.

PICARD
Nonsense... it is only...

But as the tremor continues, a sharp, spinning light suddenly appears, so intense, that they are all forced to shield their eyes... and as Data and Worf pull phasers... the spinning light fades to reveal ARDRA, a stunning woman, dressed in black. The Ventaxians cower and murmur "Ardra" as she looks at Jared and smiles.

ARDRA
Time's up.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 INT. ATHENEUM (OPTICAL)

Ardra walks gingerly through the fallen debris. She is by no means overly-dramatic in an anti-Christ sort of way, in fact she underplays the role entirely... she's much more the William Morris agent than the classic devil. When she approaches one of the Ventaxians, they cower and back away in fear.

ARDRA

I am disappointed. I expected my tenants to take better care of my property.

She stops before Jared... who summons every last bit of his courage to confront her.

JARED

Ardra, most powerful one, I am Jared, Leader of Ventax Two. I take responsibility for all that displeases you. Please do not punish my people.

ARDRA

Punish? Who said anything about punishing? I merely expect your end of our contract to be upheld.

JARED

Thank you, Ardra.

Picard watches this exchange, carefully sizing the woman up.

ARDRA

And don't talk like some ancient prophet around me, with "thees" and "thous" and "most powerful ones"... it was appealing for a few centuries but I bore easily. And stop cowering! When I want you on your knees, I'll let you know...

(noticing Picard)

Much better... a fine example for the others; who would you be?

16 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I am Jean-Luc Picard of the
Federation Starship Enterprise.

ARDRA

(barely acknowledges)

Keep up the good work.

(turning back to Jared)

Now, the first thing we'll need
is an accounting of all you've
been accumulating for me...

With a magician's flourish, she waves a hand and a
small scroll appears in her hand...

ARDRA

(continuing)

This form will provide guidelines
for a full census of the
population with emphasis on
productivity and economic
forecasts...

Picard blocks her path... demanding her attention...

PICARD

Who are you?

ARDRA

My, you are forceful, aren't you?
Good. I like my men to be
forceful. At least at the start.

PICARD

If your intent is intimidation,
madame, you are not succeeding.

16 CONTINUED: (2)

ARDRA

(studies him with
growing interest)

That's all right. I like a
challenge.

TROI

An entire planet has been
terrorized because of the
suggestion that you are going to
enslave the population...

ARDRA

(shrugs)

Well, it's true. Of course, I
wouldn't put it so melodramatically.
It's just a standard contract with
an unusually long term.

DATA

So, you do purport to be the
mythic figure Ardra?

16 CONTINUED: (3)

ARDRA

I have many names my pale friend.
I'm Mendora in the Berussian
Cluster. Torak to the Drellians.

Glancing at Worf --

ARDRA

The Klingons call me Fek'lhur.

WORF

You are not Fek'lhur.

17 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

She smiles at him and the twisting energy EFFECT spins
her into a giant Klingon beast...

ARDRA/FEK'LHR

Ah, but I am... I am the Guardian
of Gre'thor. Where the dishonored
go when they die.

18 PICARD, WORF, TROI AND DATA

react.

19 ARDRA (OPTICAL)

returning back to normal. (In essence, this is a brief
holographic effect). She looks to Picard for a
reaction - how'd you like that one?

ARDRA

(stepping to Jared)

But here on Ventax Two, I am
called Ardra. The same Ardra who
negotiated a contract with these
people... ten centuries ago today.

Picard studies her dubiously. She reacts off his
look.

19 CONTINUED:

ARDRA

Ah, you doubt me. A non-believer. Really, Jean-Luc Picard of the Federation Starship Enterprise, no doubt you have travelled the galaxy, encountered a diverse universe of creatures... Is there no room for the likes of me?

PICARD

I have encountered many with a more credible claim to being the devil than you, madame.

ARDRA

The devil! Now there's one I haven't heard in a long time.

(beat)

You are an interesting one. In your soul, there is an insatiable quest for new experience and exploration. You will discover that I touch that need in you, Picard... that I can satisfy it in a way no woman has for you before...

(she eyes Troi competitively on that line; continuing to Picard)

... and you will believe.

Picard's steady eye never wavers...

PICARD

You claim you were here a thousand years ago and negotiated a contract... ?

ARDRA

That's correct.

PICARD

I'd like to see that contract...

20 INT. ATHENEUM VAULT

Several Ventaxians carry a stack of scrolls and thick volumes to Picard, Data, Worf, Troi and Jared.

JARED

The scrolls of Ardra...

ARDRA

A longwinded description of a very simple business arrangement. I did away with their wars, famine and economic ruin, and provided them a thousand years of paradise. My terms were clearly stated. They went into this with their eyes open. I'm sure you'll find everything is in order...

PICARD

(challenging)

You won't mind if we don't take your word for it... ? Jared, with Your permission, Mister Data will review the documents... thoroughly.

JARED

(Ardra's in charge now)

It is no longer my decision.

At first Ardra's eyes flash at the thought of Picard's interference, but then the sly grin of one who appreciates playing the game comes to her lips.

ARDRA

I have intrigued you, haven't I, Picard?

PICARD

I only remain here to secure the release of Federation hostages.

She snaps her head toward Jared.

ARDRA

(angry)

Hostages? Is this true?

20 CONTINUED:

JARED

(shuddering)

Yes, Ardra. Panic gripped the people as the time of your return grew closer...

ARDRA

(smiles)

Yes, I do have that effect on people. See that the hostages are released... Now!

JARED

Immediately.

He scurries off. Picard studies her.

ARDRA

Let us not cloud this with bit players, Picard. You will not leave because you find me irresistible.

She smiles. The energy effect spins and she disappears. After a beat, Picard keys his insignia--

PICARD

Enterprise, advise Doctor Clark that the hostages are being released...

DR. CLARK'S COM VOICE

This is Clark. You did it, Captain, thank goodness...

Picard reacts, glances at his team...

PICARD

(mostly to himself)

Goodness... had nothing to do with it.

(to Com)

Enterprise, three to beam up. Mister Data will remain on the surface...

(to Data)

I want a complete report on the contents of these scrolls. I will not abandon this planet to that woman.

(MORE)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

As they DEMATERIALIZE, Data moves to the volumes and begins to read through the pages at incredible speed...

21 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit.

22 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Riker, Troi, Beverly, Geordi, Clark and Worf are assembled around the table.

RIKER

Could she be another refugee from the "Q" continuum?

BEVERLY

For that matter could she be Q?

PICARD

Q would never bother with contracts.

TROI

Or be interested in economic forecasts...

PICARD

Yes, I noticed that too, Counselor... I had the distinct feeling we were in the presence of a flim-flam artist...

WORF

But her powers...

22 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Her powers are at best unclear.
Think about it, Worf...
Transporter technology can make
things appear and disappear...
the illusion of turning into a
Klingon creature could be
accomplished by a holographic
projection...

DR. CLARK

And creating a minor tremor could
be the result of a low-frequency
tractor beam projected against the
tectonic plates.

PICARD

We're capable of recreating any
of these events but she dresses
them up and delivers them with
a dramatic flair...

22 CONTINUED: (2)

BEVERLY
Like a magician.

PICARD
Exactly.

TROI
She has an incredibly focused
mind... it was virtually
impossible to sense any
deception... or anything else for
that matter...

GEORDI
The best magicians won't ever let
you see what's up their sleeve,
Counselor...

RIKER
There must be a power source she's
tapping into to produce all these
effects... she's not hiding that
up her sleeve...

PICARD
(acknowledges)
Number One, you and Worf will run
high-resolution scans of this
star system. Look for a ship or
a base of operations -- anything
large enough to generate that
power... Mister La Forge,
accompany Doctor Clark back to
the science station... see if
you can trace the origin of the
tremors...

COM VOICE
Security to Bridge. Intruder on
board.

Reactions and...

23 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

everyone from the Observation Lounge ENTERS. Ardra is
sitting in the Captain's chair...

23 CONTINUED:

ARDRA

Your chair offers a lovely view
of my planet, Picard... come sit
with me...

PICARD

Madame, you will either leave my
Bridge or I will remove you by
force...

ARDRA

By force... ? I'm disappointed.
You didn't strike me as that sort,
Picard... But by all means,
try.

PICARD

Mister Worf...

Worf moves in but she turns with a magician's flourish
hands up... and Worf bounces off a blue forcefield that
flashes when he hits it... she walks over and takes
Picard's arm and it is clear that the forcefield has
disappeared.

ARDRA

I was really hoping you'd try
it yourself.

He discards her arm.

PICARD

Transporter Room Three, lock on
to the intruder and transport her
to the planet surface...

COM VOICE

Aye, sir...

24 ANGLE - NOT INCLUDING CONN AND OPS (OPTICAL)

The transporter effect begins... she disappears... all
eyes are on her. Picard moves to the Ops officer whose
back is to us.

PICARD

Ensign, I want shields up until
further notice.

24 CONTINUED:

The ensign turns and it is Ardra in an Ensign's uniform who now sits at Ops...

ARDRA
Yessir, Captain. Whatever you say.

She rises...

RIKER
We're not impressed by your magic tricks.

ARDRA
I pity you. We live in a universe of magic, which evidently you cannot see.

Data ENTERS from the turbolift... reacts to the scene...

ARDRA
Ah, my pale friend has returned... have you finished examining the contract?

DATA
(to Picard)
I have, sir.

PICARD
Report, Data.

24 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

The contract does agree to deliver the people of Ventax Two into the personal servitude of Ardra at the end of one thousand years of peace. I have compared the terms to the body of laws which govern the planet. The language of the agreement is correct in every detail.

ARDRA

Such speed and accuracy. You're much too talented to be human...

DATA

I am an android.

ARDRA

Android. Of course. How wonderful. An unexpected bonus.

RIKER

Bonus?

ARDRA

When the contract came to term, I gained clear title to the planet, anything on the surface, in the air or in orbit. You see, the Enterprise belongs to me now as well.

Picard looks at Data.

DATA

I'm afraid one could interpret the contract that way, sir.

Picard shoots a look at Ardra, who smiles... disappears and back in the Ops chair is a very confused Ensign...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

25 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In orbit.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. The claim this woman, who calls herself Ardra, has made upon my ship is clearly an empty threat. But she has further inspired my determination to expose her for the fraud she is.

26 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM

Picard at his desk... working on a computer. The bell chimes.

PICARD

Come.

Data ENTERS.

DATA

You asked to see me, sir?

PICARD

(acknowledges)

Mister Data... A wise man once said there's a sucker born every minute.

DATA

Barnum, P.T., sir.

He sits.

PICARD

I have been examining the dynamics of what used to be called the confidence game... it is really quite fascinating and worthy of your study...

DATA

Do you believe Ardra is, to use the vernacular, a "con artist", sir... ?

26 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I do, Mister Data... and our job
is to find a way to out con the
con artist...

DATA

Sir, if I may point out, the
Ventaxians did have a thousand
years of peace and tranquility...
as Ardra promised...

Picard stands, takes a thoughtful beat...

PICARD

We can only speculate about what
occurred on this planet a thousand
years ago, Data... Maybe a
Ventaxian leader saw the
destruction of his society at hand
and conceived this Contract of
Ardra to motivate change. Or
maybe there really was an Ardra
of some sort who was the basis
of this myth.

(shrugs)

Who knows? The point is --
somehow a fundamental theology was
created that transformed this
society.

(MORE)

26 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD (Cont'd)

But along with all the benefits of change, came a latent fear that has been passed down through generations...

DATA

A fear that someday Ardra would return for remuneration.

PICARD

(nods)

And now we are asked to believe she has.

(beat)

As you may recollect from your performance as Ebenezer Scrooge, Data, "fear" can be a powerful motivator.

DATA

Indeed, Captain, in the story, the spirits used fear to motivate Scrooge to reform his character.

PICARD

In the hands of a con artist, fear can be used to motivate obedience, capitulation... to exploit innocent people. That is what I believe is happening here.

DATA

Is there no possibility at all she is the same Ardra who was here a millenium ago?

PICARD

I appreciate the fact that we have encountered species that live that long... so I will admit the possibility. But I do not believe this woman is the devil or had the powers to create harmony on this world. These people made massive changes that improved their quality of life... they did this on their own. And I intend to prove it. But I need a loophole... something I can use to challenge the validity of the contract...

26 CONTINUED: (4)

DATA

The language seems carefully
chosen to avoid any loopholes,
sir...

PICARD

Check it again... and check every
Ventaxian legal precedent for
the last thousand years...

Data acknowledges, rises to leave.

PICARD

(continuing)

We'll talk first thing in the
morning.

26 CONTINUED: (5)

Data pauses at the door...

DATA

Sir, I feel I should point out
one possibly incongruous aspect
of your Scrooge analogy.

PICARD

What's that, Data?

DATA

The spirits that frightened
Scrooge turned out to be quite
real...

Picard acknowledges and Data leaves and Picard starts
to turn back to his studies, but pauses long enough
to say to himself --

PICARD

Bah. Humbug.

27 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

28 INT. PICARD'S QUARTERS - CLOSE ON PICARD

asleep on his bed... a book open on his chest where it
lay when he fell asleep... his face suddenly bathed in
a mysterious blue light... a blowing wind rolls through
the room... his eyes open...

ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Ardra stands before him bathed in blue light... her
veils blowing gently in the breeze, revealing inviting
glimpses of her skin beneath... her hair blowing in
the breeze... Picard sits up...

PICARD

(to com)

Security to Captain's quarters...

There is no response...

PICARD

Picard to Lieutenant Worf!

29 CONTINUED:

ARDRA

I've arranged for a bit of
privacy... just the two of us.

PICARD

I'm growing tired of your games,
madame...

ARDRA

Oh, come now, Picard, you know
you find me tantalizing... give
in to your desires...

He goes to the door... it does not open...

PICARD

I find nothing tantalizing in your
garish display... on the contrary,
I find it obvious and common...

ARDRA

Easily fixed.

An effect and suddenly she is dressed demure, prim and
proper...

ARDRA

I can be your ideal woman,
Picard... prim and proper and
chaste... until I succumb to your
charms... Or would your fantasies
turn more toward a professional
woman, perhaps one in a Starfleet
uniform... perhaps I could even
be...

Another effect and now, Troi is sitting there speaking
with Ardra's voice...

TROI/ARDRA

(continuing)

... someone close at hand and yet
unattainable... I can do anything
for you, Captain. Anything you
could ever imagine.

PICARD

You shallow, pathetic woman.

29 CONTINUED: (2)

Ardra returns to normal.

ARDRA

I could give you a night that
would light fire in your dreams
until you die... and you would
reject me?

29 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

Easily.

ARDRA

You shall regret it.

PICARD

I think not.

ARDRA

Oh, you will...

And with a flourish, she waves her arm at Picard and he vanishes...

30
thru OMITTED
31

32 INT. SCIENCE STATION (OPTICAL)

Picard APPEARS in the science station in his bedclothes. Most of the debris has been cleared away and some of the equipment is back in working order. Several SCIENCE STATION WORKERS are huddled over various machine components. Geordi and Dr. Clark are conferring in one corner, look up in surprise at Picard.

GEORDI

Captain, we weren't expecting you here.

PICARD

Neither was I.

GEORDI

(to communicator)

La Forge to Enterprise.

WORF'S COM VOICE

Go ahead.

GEORDI

Worf, the Captain's here... You better beam him back on board...

WORF'S COM VOICE

The Captain! But I have no...

Picard moves into Geordi's comm range.

32 CONTINUED:

PICARD
(interrupting)
It's all right Worf. Ardra
somehow transported me down here.
Beam me directly to my quarters.

WORF'S COM VOICE
We've locked on to you.
(pause)
Transporters are malfunctioning,
Captain... some sort of
interference... checking...

Clark arrives with a labcoat to cover Picard...

PICARD
Just have Mister Data fetch me
in a shuttle and have him bring
along a uniform...

WORF'S COM VOICE
Did you say a uniform?

PICARD
I did.

WORF'S COM VOICE
(beat)
Aye, sir...

33 EXT. SPACE - THE SHUTTLE (OPTICAL)

34 INT. SHUTTLE (OPTICAL)

Data is at the helm, piloting Picard back to the
Enterprise, which is visible in the distance. Picard
is adjusting the top of the uniform...

PICARD
(frustrated)
La Forge and Doctor Clark have
made no headway... Worf and
Commander Riker have not picked
up anything on their scans...

34 CONTINUED:

DATA

Sir, I have found one obscure precedent in Ventaxian law that might be of interest.

PICARD

Yes?

DATA

It is noted as Akul K'Ton versus Garv Etes... dated Ventaxian year nine-three-one, A.A.... a dispute was registered in the township of Tau Velor...

PICARD

Summarize the pertinent points, Data...

DATA

In effect, it was a contract dispute over services rendered by a Klingon craftsman on the construction of a Ventaxian home. Because the dispute involved an alien culture, the parties decided that arbitration rather than the courts would resolve the issue. Both sides were required to agree on an arbiter and the case was decided in favor of the Ventaxian. It is the only known case involving an alien claimant.

PICARD

That's exactly what I needed... good work, Data...

DATA

But, sir, why would Ardra agree to an arbitration in this matter...

PICARD

I intend to play a confidence game of my own on our new landlord...

DATA

(reacts)

How, sir?

34 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

The same way any confidence game
is run... by making her believe
she is getting something for
nothing...

DATA

(to communicator)

Shuttle One to Enterprise...
prepare for docking sequence...

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Proceed, Shuttle One.

35 ANGLE ON ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as the shuttle nears the shuttle bay. But suddenly,
the Enterprise vanishes. The shuttle is alone in
space.

36 INT. SHUTTLE

Picard leans forward and speaks into the communicator.

PICARD

Enterprise. Enterprise. Do you
read me? Enterprise, come in.

There is no reply.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

36A EXT. VENTAX - DAY (MATTE SHOT)

37 INT. SCIENCE STATION

Data is at a monitor, with Picard close by. Geordi and Dr. Clark are working at nearby equipment.

DATA

I cannot locate the Enterprise anywhere within one lightyear of the planet.

PICARD

I don't believe Ardra is capable of transporting the Enterprise a lightyear away. Continue hailing them, Mister Data... repeat on all frequencies...

Geordi straightens up from his monitor.

GEORDI

Hey, I think we've found something.

Picard moves over to Geordi.

GEORDI

A sudden jump in Z particle readings, right around the time the Enterprise disappeared.

PICARD

Where did it originate?

DR. CLARK

It was too brief to pinpoint.

GEORDI

But it could suggest a hidden power source...

37 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Gentlemen, I need to find that source in order to defeat this woman...

GEORDI

Well, if you can get her to perform a few more magic tricks like that one we might be able to track it down...

38 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

As Ardra appears...

ARDRA

So, I trust you have a bit more respect for me now.

PICARD

What have you done with my ship, Ardra?

ARDRA

I've done nothing with your ship. My ship is safely in my possession.

PICARD

I do not recognize your claim on the Enterprise or on this world for that matter... and in accordance with Ventaxian legal precedent I call for an arbitration...

ARDRA

An arbitration? There is nothing to arbitrate here...

PICARD

But there is, madame, for you are a fraud and I intend to prove you could not have affected the changes that took place on this planet...

ARDRA

Do you not believe what you see with your own eyes... your ship is gone...

38 CONTINUED:

PICARD

An illusion. Magicians have been
making all sorts of things
disappear for ages.

ARDRA

(smiles)

You underestimate me... but then
most people do... until it's too
late.

38 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

If you are who you say you are,
you have nothing to lose in an
arbitration.

Ardra raises an eyebrow, too smart to fall easily into
the trap.

ARDRA

I also have nothing to gain. I
already have possession of this
planet and your ship...

PICARD

I am prepared to offer you a
further incentive... if you win,
I will take you to the ruins of
Ligillium...

ARDRA

(reacts)

The Zaterl Emerald? You know
where it is?

PICARD

I do.

She seriously considers it, smiles...

ARDRA

You're clever.

(beat)

But I have enough jewels.

Picard is disappointed, he thought he had her and now
she turns away... and then after a beat, she turns
back...

ARDRA

If you wish this foolish
arbitration, I will choose my own
prize...

PICARD

And what would that be?

She moves closer to Picard.

ARDRA

You.

Picard reacts.

38 CONTINUED: (3)

ARDRA

By all rights, your body is
already mine... but I want more...
I want your heart, your mind, your
soul... And I want you to give
them to me without resistance,
of your own free will.

(a beat)

So, do you still wish to pursue
this most dangerous game?

PICARD

I agree to your terms.

ARDRA

(smiles)

Picard, I will enjoy you morning
noon and night.

PICARD

We must agree on an arbiter.

ARDRA

Very well. I choose Mister Data.
Any objections?

Picard didn't expect this. He fumbles for a response.

PICARD

Mister Data? He is a member of
my crew.

ARDRA

Of my crew. And he's an android.
He is incapable of deceit or bias.
He has no feelings to get in the
way of his judgment.

DATA

Ardra, before he responds, may
I have a word in private with
Captain Picard?

She nods. Data takes Picard aside.

DATA

Sir, I request that you reject
me as arbiter.

PICARD

Why?

38 CONTINUED: (4)

DATA

Ardra is right. If I am chosen,
I will perform my duties without
bias or sentiment. I cannot
guarantee that I will deliver a
verdict in your favor.

PICARD

Data, where else on this planet
will I find someone that she
cannot intimidate. You are
incapable of fear... in this play,
you are the perfect choice for
the role.

DATA

Sir, I will have to precisely
follow the rules of conduct for
a ventaxian jurist.

PICARD

I understand. You'll make a fine
judge.

Picard moves back to Ardra.

PICARD

I accept Data as arbiter.

ARDRA

Then let the hearing begin.

39 INT. ATHENEUM

The hearing is held in the round, distinctly different
than our own courtroom experience. The questioner (at
the moment, Ardra) is in the center, moving around at
will, asking questions of any witness she chooses.
Data is in a neutral position between Picard and
Ardra's chair. Also present is Jared. There are no
spectators. Ardra addresses Jared --

ARDRA

Could you describe the state of
your planet when I first visited
a thousand years ago?

Picard rises.

39 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Objection. The witness has no personal knowledge.

DATA

Overruled. He is qualified to present an historical view. Answer the question.

Disgruntled, Picard sits back down.

JARED

A thousand years ago our planet was dying. Overcrowded and dangerous city-states warred unceasingly with each other. The air and water were polluted with industrial waste. There was a constant threat of starvation and epidemic.

ARDRA

And then what happened?

JARED

And then you came.

Picard rises again.

PICARD

Objection. There is no conclusive evidence that this woman visited the planet a thousand years ago...

39 CONTINUED: (2)

ARDRA
(to Picard)
I suppose you want a thousand year
old witness?

PICARD
(dry, to Ardra)
That would be quite acceptable.

ARDRA
Jared. In the contract, does it
specify how you would know me when
I return?

JARED
Yes... by the date...

ARDRA
Anything else... ?

JARED
... by the shaking of the cities...
and by the visions...

ARDRA
And all of these occurred on
schedule.

JARED
Yes.

ARDRA
Your honor, I submit I have
established my identity as stated
by the contract.

39 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA

(a beat,
considering)

Captain Picard, my interpretation
of Ventaxian law suggests under
these circumstances, this is
acceptable... your objection is
overruled.

39 CONTINUED: (4)

PICARD
(rising, aghast)
But your honor... !

DATA
Sir, I have ruled. Sit down.

Picard blinks, sits down.

DATA
(to Ardra)
You may proceed.

ARDRA
Thank-you, your honor.
(to Jared)
When I first set foot on Ventax
Two, what did I offer your people?

JARED
According to the scrolls, you
offered to give us a thousand
years of peace and prosperity,
if we would promise to surrender
ourselves to you at the end of
the term.

ARDRA
Now why do you think they would
strike such a bargain...

PICARD
I must object! The answer would
be pure speculation.

DATA
The question is phrased correctly.
Please answer.

39 CONTINUED: (5)

JARED

We had nothing to lose. There was no hope in sight.

ARDRA

Until I came along.

PICARD

Objection!

ARDRA

I withdraw the observation. No further questions.

PICARD

Your honor, nothing in this testimony proves that Ardra herself had any power to affect the lives of the Ventaxians. My opponent has failed to prove her case and I therefore move that her claim be summarily dismissed.

DATA

I find no cause to invalidate the contract at this time. The arbitration will continue.

ARDRA

Your honor, Captain Picard as a new visitor to my planet has been a consistent doubter of my abilities... I'd like to ask him a few questions if I may...

DATA

It is highly irregular to question the opposing advocate but I see no reason to deny it. Proceed...

ARDRA

Please don't take any offense at these questions, you know how fond I am of you...

39 CONTINUED: (6)

PICARD

Objection.

DATA

Sustained. The advocate will refrain from expressing personal affections for her opponent.

ARDRA

You don't believe my powers are real, do you.

PICARD

No, I don't.

ARDRA

Then, sir, may I ask you to explain... this...

As she waves her hand... a tremor shakes the room...
Data pounds the gavel...

DATA

You are out of order...

40 OMITTED

41 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

ARDRA

(ignoring Data)

Or this?

And she waves her hand and Picard disappears... Data bangs the gavel...

DATA

The advocate will refrain from making her opponent disappear.

Picard reappears...

ARDRA

Or this?

And she is replaced by a larger than life horrific image of the human devil, red, with horns and a tail...

ARDRA/DEVIL

Can you explain it, Picard?

41 CONTINUED:

DATA

Any further disruption and I will
rule you in contempt of court.
Is that understood?

42 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Ardra returns to normal.

ARDRA

I'm sorry, your honor.

(to Picard)

Yes or no, can you explain any
of this?

PICARD

(beat)

No.

ARDRA

I rest my case, your honor.

She flashes a smile at Picard... and on his
expression...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

43 INT. SCIENCE STATION

Geordi is closely monitoring the instrument in the reconstructed science station. Dr. Clark is nearby on another monitor... his assistants are also working nearby.

DR. CLARK

The decay rate of these Z particles makes it almost impossible to trace the source...

Geordi works at his console. Calm, cool, concentrating.

GEORDI

I'm correlating particle trajectories... they're starting to align... wait a minute...
(reacting)

I have coordinates... thirty-four degrees north, sixty-two degrees east, at an altitude of two hundred ten kilometers.

DR. CLARK

That would put it in orbit...
(checking)
... above the western magnetic pole... running visual scan...

44 ON THE MONITOR (OPTICAL)

A starfield appears.

DR. CLARK (O.C.)

Nothing.

45 GEORDI

examines it closely.

45 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Uh uh... this time, I don't buy
the magic... something's gotta
be there...

(thinks a beat)

Let's run a wavelength stretchout
and bring it down into the
ultraviolet... check intervals
of half an angstrom...

As they begin...

46 INT. ATHENEUM

Picard is now at the center of the room.

PICARD

Jared, you have described quite thoroughly the history of your people before and after Ardra's first visit. But I am a little unclear on the change itself. Did Ardra simply snap her fingers, transforming Ventax Two into paradise?

ARDRA

Objection. Picard is mocking me.

DATA

Overruled. The opposing advocate's job is to mock your argument.

Picard smiles as Data turns back to Jared.

DATA

Please answer the question.

JARED

The changes occurred gradually, over a long period of time.

PICARD

Did she personally form the government that has peacefully ruled Ventax Two for a millennium?

JARED

No, historical records indicate a council was convened to assess our options. They drew up a new constitution which the population later ratified.

PICARD

I see. So Ardra advised this council...

JARED

No.

PICARD

Well, then she must have destroyed all weapons on the planet...

46 CONTINUED:

JARED

No, our leaders did that. And
they signed a treaty of
non-aggression.

PICARD

Which Ardra wrote, I assume.

46 CONTINUED: (2)

JARED

There is no indication she had anything at all to do with the treaty.

PICARD

Well then, let's move on to the environmental gains made on Ventax Two. How were those accomplished...

JARED

We shifted our economy from an industrial to an agrarian base... it was more ecologically sound.

PICARD

But Ardra must have at least purified the polluted water and air...

JARED

No, the record shows there were a series of initiatives covering everything from atmospheric contaminants to waste disposal.

PICARD

Did Ardra pick up even one piece of trash?

ARDRA

Objection!

DATA

To what?

ARDRA

To the tone of voice.

DATA

Overruled.

JARED

Ardra had left Ventax Two before the environmental reforms began.

46 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

Excuse me, but it sounds as though
with a great deal of hard work
and courage, your ancestors
changed this world all by
themselves.

46 CONTINUED: (4)

Ardra stands up again.

ARDRA

Objection. The advocate is drawing conclusions.

DATA

Sustained.

(to Picard)

I will draw my own conclusions, if you do not mind.

PICARD

No further questions.

DATA

(to Ardra)

Rebuttal?

ARDRA

Just two questions. Is there any doubt in your mind, any doubt at all, that if I had not intervened, the terrible conditions here would have continued?

A long beat.

ARDRA

I remind you that you're under oath.

JARED

No doubt at all.

ARDRA

Then, as "former" head of state for the Ventaxian people, you are satisfied that I fulfilled my part of the bargain.

JARED

(head down, defeated)

Yes, Ardra.

ARDRA

Thank-you. Your honor, what more can be said. Both sides agree the terms of the contract have been fulfilled.

46 CONTINUED: (5)

DATA

Captain Picard, do you have any
further evidence to present before
I render judgment?

At that moment, Geordi ENTERS the room...

PICARD

I believe my associate, Mister
La Forge is bringing me that very
information... If I may have a
recess...

GEORDI

Hi, Data.

DATA

Hi, Geordi. A one hour recess
is granted.

47 ANGLE

Picard moves to join Geordi in the back of the room out of earshot...

PICARD
Mister La Forge, my reputation as a litigator, not to mention my soul, is in serious jeopardy...

GEORDI
Well, whatever's been going on over here gave us exactly what we needed...

PICARD
You've identified her source of power... ?

GEORDI
(nods)
It's a cloaked ship...

PICARD
She has a Romulan cloaking device?

GEORDI
More likely, a bad copy of one. We picked it up through a wavelength stretchout...

PICARD
And the Enterprise?

GEORDI
Exactly where it's supposed to be. Ardra extended her cloaking shields around it... set up a subspace damping field to interfere with normal operations. I've isolated the frequency spread and penetrated the field.

PICARD
Can you make contact?

GEORDI
Already have...

PICARD
Good... here's what I want to do... but we have less than an hour...

48 ANGLE FAVORING ARDRA

as she observes Picard and Geordi talking animatedly.

49 EXT. VENTAX - DAY (MATTE SHOT)

favoring the Atheneum. (This is to present a time passage.)

50 INT. ATHENEUM (OPTICAL)

Picard back in the middle asking the questions.

PICARD

Jared, you are a wise and experienced leader, I would guess you trust your senses...

JARED

Yes... I would say so...

PICARD

And all your senses tell you this woman here is the most powerful force on this planet, don't they...

JARED

Yes...

PICARD

Jared, what would you say if I told you that Ardra has no powers whatsoever?

JARED

But... we have seen her powers right here...

50 CONTINUED:

ARDRA

That's right, and you will again.

PICARD

Ah yes, Ardra's magic. Jared, would you believe me if I told you that I could steal Ardra's powers and perform the same magical acts as she?

JARED

I am sorry, Captain Picard, but you are not Ardra.

PICARD

That is true. I am not Ardra. And yet, I can create a tremor just as she did.

Picard airily waves his hand... and the tremor rolls across the room... Ardra reacts, stunned...

ARDRA

Objection, your honor...

DATA

I think he deserves some leeway... overruled... but we have seen enough, Captain.

PICARD

Agreed. Ardra, if you would do the honors and stop the tremors...

ARDRA

Uh... of... of course...

Nothing happens.

PICARD

What's the matter?

ARDRA

I like the tremors.

PICARD

Well, I don't.

He snaps his fingers and the tremors instantly stop.

50 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
(continuing)
Recognize the old bag of tricks?
How about this one?

He gestures towards Ardra. She disappears.

PICARD
Come back if you can, Ardra.
No... ? Fine, allow me...

She reappears...

ARDRA
Of all the impudence.

PICARD
Impudence?

51 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as he turns into the Klingon monster...

PICARD/FEK'LHR
Impudence is pretending to be
Fek'lhur of Klingon...

52 REACTIONS

DATA
Captain, your leeway has run out.

53 PICARD (OPTICAL)

back to normal...

PICARD
Your honor, I appreciate the
court's indulgence... allow me
to explain. A team from the
Enterprise has taken control of
this woman's ship in orbit around
Ventax Two. Thank you for your
help, Number One.

53 CONTINUED:

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Glad to be of service, sir.

PICARD

They have been monitoring me on my communicator... and executing a prearranged program on her ship's computer... a fairly ingenious combination of force field projection, holography, and transporter effects. Ardra controls her magic literally by the blink of an eye... centuries old technology -- an implant that allows her eye movements to choose and activate each illusion.

(beat)

She once told us she is known by many names. At least she was honest about that. Her crew has admitted that she has in fact used twenty-three aliases in this sector alone...

ARDRA

(overlapping)

You had no right...

53 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
(continuing)
... deceiving innocent people in
petty schemes for years.

He turns to Jared.

PICARD
Ventax Two offered her the
greatest opportunity of her
nefarious career. She learned
about the myth of Ardra, studied
it... and expertly played on your
fears until your people were ready
to virtually surrender to her.

ARDRA
(standing)
Your Honor, under the
circumstances, I believe it is
only fair that I release the
Ventaxians from their
obligation... and I'll even let
them keep the peace they have...
and I'll just be on my way...

But Jared touches a panel, signaling TWO SENTRIES to
ENTER. As Ardra starts to leave, the sentries block
her way.

DATA
With the advocate's withdrawal,
the contract is hereby dissolved.

He slams down the gavel.

DATA
This arbitration is adjourned.

All rise.

JARED
Thank you, Captain... you saved
our lives...

PICARD
No, Jared... as I've tried to tell
you, you saved your own lives a
long time ago...

Data approaches... the 'old' Data...

53 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA
Congratulations, sir.

PICARD
(nods)
Your honor.

But as they turn to leave, they find themselves facing Ardra... She raises an eyebrow....

ARDRA
You would have had more fun if
you lost.
(beat)
Until we meet again, Jean-Luc
Picard of the Starship
Enterprise.

With that, the sentries take her away... as Data and Picard exchange looks and begin to exit...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END