

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Galaxy's Child"

#40274-190

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REVISED FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "Galaxy's Child" - 12/10/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Galaxy's Child"

SETS

INTERIORS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

OBSERVATION LOUNGE

MAIN ENGINEERING

TRANSPORTER ROOM

TEN FORWARD

CORRIDOR

HOLODECK

(SET FROM: "Booby Trap")

GEORDI'S QUARTERS

SHUTTLEBAY

SHUTTLEBAY CONTROL BOOTH

CRAWLSPACE

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Galaxy's Child"  
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

At impulse power.

PICARD (V.O.)  
Captain's Log, Stardate 44614.6:  
We are approaching Starbase  
Three-One-Three, where we will  
pick up a shipment of scientific  
equipment for a Federation outpost  
in the Guernica System. At the  
same time --

2 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM

as the door opens and GEORDI ENTERS; PICARD is at his  
desk.

PICARD (V.O.)  
-- we will be hosting a special  
guest.

GEORDI  
You wanted to see me, Captain?

PICARD  
Yes, Mister La Forge. It seems  
that the exemplary nature of your  
work has caught the attention of  
Starfleet Command.

Geordi isn't quite sure what this means, but it sounds  
good.

GEORDI  
Well... that's very flattering.  
Thank you, sir.

PICARD  
In fact, someone is coming on  
board just to see some of the  
engine modifications you have  
made.

2 CONTINUED:

Better yet... Geordi's feeling very pleased.

GEORDI  
Who's that, Captain?

PICARD  
The Senior Design Engineer of the  
Theoretical Propulsion Group --  
Doctor Leah Brahms.

Leah Brahms... Geordi can't believe it. His smile  
grows even wider.

GEORDI  
Leah's coming here? That's  
terrific!

Picard is a little surprised at the familiarity.

PICARD  
You know Doctor Brahms?

GEORDI  
Well, of course I do! I --

Suddenly he stops, realizes what he's about to say,  
swiftly regroups.

GEORDI  
I mean, I've studied her -- her  
schematics for years. She was  
responsible for a lot of the  
engine design on the Enterprise.

PICARD  
Well, it should be an enjoyable  
visit, then. She'll be  
transporting on board as soon as  
we arrive at the Starbase. Would  
you like to greet her on our  
behalf?

Would he... !

GEORDI  
(restrained)  
Why... yes, Captain. I'd be happy  
to serve that function.

Then, smiling like a kid anticipating Christmas, he  
EXITS. Picard is mildly amused by his exuberance, but  
attributes it to scholarly enthusiasm.

3 INT. ENTERPRISE - TEN-FORWARD

Geordi sits at the bar, drinking juice and trying to stay calm. But he's clearly a little hyper... keeps brushing invisible lint from his uniform. GUINAN is behind the bar, eyeing all this.

GUINAN

You're gonna wear that uniform  
out if you keep swatting at it...

GEORDI

I guess I'm a little nervous...  
it's not every day a man comes  
face to face with a dream...

She looks at him quizzically.

GEORDI

Remember... about a year ago...  
when we were caught in that  
booby-trap the Menthars set?

GUINAN

Yes...

GEORDI

While we were trying to get out  
of it, I went to the holodeck to  
study an engine prototype that  
was built when the Enterprise was  
first designed...

GUINAN

Uh-huh...

GEORDI

And the computer... well, it gave  
me an image of the engine... but  
it also created a hologram of the  
designer. Doctor Leah Brahms.

GUINAN

So... you met a computer-simulated  
female...

GEORDI

But what a computer-simulated  
female... She was brilliant, of  
course... but warm, friendly...

(MORE)

3 CONTINUED:

GEORDI (Cont'd)

We worked like one person... what I didn't think of, she did... I'd start sentences, she'd finish them. It was just so -- comfortable...

He looks up at her in the midst of the paeon and sees her skeptical look.

GEORDI

Okay, I know it was just a holographic image... but the computer was able to incorporate personality traits from her Starfleet record.

GUINAN

We all fall in love with our fantasies, from time to time, La Forge...

But Geordi's in no mood for cold water. He smiles, slips off the bar stool.

GEORDI

You've got it wrong, Guinan. I'm not necessarily expecting anything romantic. I just know that, whatever else, Leah Brahms and I will be good friends.

And he saunters out, leaving Guinan gazing after him.

4 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - LATER

Geordi waits with TRANSPORTER TECHNICIAN.

TRANSPORTER TECHNICIAN

Doctor Brahms is ready to transport, sir.

Geordi can't wait.

GEORDI

Okay. Bring her over.

4A ANGLE - TRANSPORTER PAD (OPTICAL)

as the shimmering effect occurs and LEAH BRAHMS MATERIALIZES. She looks a little different than she did in "Booby Trap"... her hair is styled differently, fuller... she's a few years older but the maturity looks good on her. She has the same kind face and intelligent eyes... but there's something off about her... a set to the mouth, a sharpness. The softness and vulnerability aren't as evident. She gazes around the room, getting her bearings. Geordi approaches her, smiling broadly.

GEORDI

Hi!

She looks at him, puzzled by the familiarity. Geordi catches himself, starts over.

GEORDI

I mean... welcome aboard, Doctor Brahms. I'm Lieutenant Commander Geordi La Forge. Chief Engineer.

Her eyes narrow... her gaze burrows into him like a laser.

LEAH

La Forge. So you're the one who's fouled up my engine design.

And with that, she strides off the pad and past Geordi, who stares after her in astonishment.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

at warp speed.

6 INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING - LATER

Leah is stalking the engine room like a panther, checking everything, registering her finds on a Padd. Geordi follows her, well able to stay up with her barrage of questions, but feeling inescapably on the defensive. ENSIGN PAVLIK can be seen working in the b.g.

LEAH

... the matter/anti-matter ratio has been changed... the mixture isn't as rich as regulations dictate.

GEORDI

Experience has shown me that too high a ratio diminishes efficiency. I worked with the mixture until I got the right balance.

She makes no response, continues. If she were the old hologram, you might guess her personality wasn't installed yet.

LEAH

The magnetic plasma transfer to the warp field generators doesn't correspond to the recommended specs.

GEORDI

Right. Again, I adjusted the flow... sometimes in space things work a little differently than they do on the drawing board.

She shoots him a glance at this, registering a dig.

LEAH

Is that a criticism, Commander?

6 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

No, of course not. It's just...  
a well-known fact. There's  
theory... and there's  
application. They don't always  
jibe.

Her cool gaze assesses him. It feels like being probed  
by an ice cube.

LEAH

You've charted a completely new  
swap-out schedule for main  
component replacement...

GEORDI

You bet. I found the Starfleet  
estimates of MTBF units were  
unrealistic. I determined my own  
schedule based on observation and  
experience.

Geordi faces her squarely. He doesn't like the feeling  
of being called on the carpet... he's a professional  
and a good one; he shouldn't have to make excuses to  
anyone. A faint smile -- sardonic, not warm -- plays  
on Leah's lips.

LEAH

Is that going to be your only  
defense, Commander? That same  
tired rhetoric...

(mimicking)

"Out here in the field we learn  
things you designers couldn't  
possibly understand... "

GEORDI

In the first place, Doctor, I'm  
not aware of needing any  
defense... in the second place  
--

COM VOICE

Doctor Brahms... you have an  
incoming message on subspace...

She turns to him.

LEAH

I'd like to hear this message  
privately.

6 CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI  
(gesturing)  
In my office. Be my guest.

She hurries off camera, leaving Geordi alone.  
Mystified. He turns glumly to the engine room... his  
pride and joy... that he'd hoped to share with its  
creator.

CUT TO:

7 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

RIKER, DATA, and WORF at their stations. ENSIGN RAGER  
at Con.

DATA  
Commander, I am picking up some  
unusual readings from the Alpha  
Omicron system.

Riker moves over to Ops.

DATA  
(continuing)  
At this range, all I can discern  
is that it is an asymmetrical  
field of intense energy.

RIKER  
What type of radiation  
signature?

DATA  
Unknown, sir.  
(beat)  
Commander, the Alpha Omicron  
system has not yet been charted.  
I recommend that we take this  
opportunity for further research.

Riker thinks for a beat.

RIKER  
We're way ahead of schedule...  
(to Rager)  
Alter course for Alpha Omicron.

8 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship drops out of warp in a star system.

9 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard is now standing near Ops with Riker.

DATA

The anomaly is orbiting the seventh planet. It is a mass of plasma energy contained within discrete boundaries by an outer covering of silicates, actinides, and carbonaceous chondrites.

PICARD

On screen.

10 VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) - INTERCUT AS NEEDED

The viewer shows a large gas giant planet with a barely perceptible smudge of energy near the horizon.

PICARD

Magnify.

Data works his console and the object on the viewer gets bigger. We can now see the object is pulsing and moving fluidly... it looks like a water balloon filled with glowing liquid that changes color frequently.

PICARD

Is it a ship?

WORF

(reading console)

It does not conform to any known design.

RIKER

Any records of similar phenomena in Starfleet listings?

DATA

(processes for a moment)

None, sir. This has never been seen before.

Picard smiles... he and Riker exchange a look of pleasure. This is why they're on the Enterprise. Picard goes to his station, and there is a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation in his attitude toward this discovery.

10 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Ensign Rager, ahead one quarter impulse. Bring us into orbit around the seventh planet. Maintain a relative distance of ten kilometers from the object.

RIKER

(to Worf)

Alert all science labs to standby. They should be coordinating their efforts with Commander Data.

WORF

Aye, sir.

CUT TO:

11 INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING - CONTINUOUS

Leah returns, icy as ever. But Geordi has had a few minutes to assess the situation, and has decided to take another tack. He smiles at her... warm... poised... confident.

GEORDI

Doctor Brahms... there's no reason for us to argue... we're both on the same side, here...

LEAH

I'm aware of that...

GEORDI

So, why don't I take you on a little tour... show you the adjustments I've made... why I think they work... and... we can start pulling together on this.

She inclines her head, makes a little gesture for him to proceed. Geordi's feeling much better... now they're off on the right foot.

GEORDI

Okay... for instance, here in the dilithium chamber...

She peers in, reacts sharply, accusing.

11 CONTINUED:

LEAH

What happened here? Who did this?

GEORDI

You remember, the crystal's been reoriented to adjust the direction of the lattice structure.

She turns, looks at him.

LEAH

Remember? Why would I remember?

Oops.

GEORDI

Right, why would you? The ship was having some difficulties, so we made the modification. Hoping it would work. And... it did.

LEAH

So it was your idea?

GEORDI

Well, not exclusively...

LEAH

It's curious... this modification was actually due to be introduced...

GEORDI

(nodding, finishing her sentence)

... in the next class starship.

LEAH

(surprised)

Yes... how did you know?

GEORDI

(faltering)

I didn't... It was the next logical step.

(off her look)

Doctor, sometimes we have to fly by the seat of our pants out here... and it stands to reason that now and then we're gonna come up with the same solutions you do...

11 CONTINUED: (2)

She's dubious, but it makes sense... He draws a breath, tries to keep it warm and light.

GEORDI

Listen. I've got a personnel review scheduled to start in about five minutes, and it's been a long day for you. How about we... we get together later. Sort of... plan our agenda for the next day or two.

LEAH

Agenda?

GEORDI

What it is we want to accomplish... the best way to go about it... and -- get to know each other. It might make things easier.

She gives him a searching look, and for a moment she loosens a little, as though realizing she's been pretty testy.

LEAH

Maybe you're right...

GEORDI

Okay -- nineteen hundred hours... my quarters. Maybe we'll even have a bite to eat... I make great fungilli.

She smiles in surprise.

LEAH

I love fungilli.

GEORDI

Is that right... ?

Geordi smiles at her as Leah EXITS, a look of mild puzzlement and curiosity on her face.

12 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE & ENERGY BEING (OPTICAL))

The ship and energy being are in orbit around the planet. The energy being is almost the size of the saucer section of the Enterprise.

13 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Everyone still at their stations. There are a few more SCIENCE SUPERNUMERARIES at the aft stations.

DATA

Sensors are having difficulty penetrating the interior. However, the pattern of radiated output suggests a coherent system of energy storage and utilization.

RIKER

Then it was constructed by someone?

DATA

It is a possibility, sir. However, sensor data gathered thus far suggests this is a naturally occurring phenomenon with biological properties.

PICARD

A lifeform?

DATA

Yes, Captain.

Picard stands and moves closer to the viewscreen. There is a sense of awe in his attitude.

PICARD

(almost to himself)

"Asked the child of the stranger without any name... whither you go... and whence you came?"

Worf picks up the next verse almost without even thinking about it.

WORF

"To the child's delight the answer came clear... To the end I go for it all starts here."

Surprised looks from everyone. Worf is a little embarrassed.

PICARD

It seems we were bread and buttered on the same nursery rhymes, Mister Worf.

13 CONTINUED:

Worf acknowledges.

RIKER

Mister Data, prepare three class  
five probes for launch. Mister  
Worf, begin compiling readings  
for transmission to Starfleet  
Headquarters.

(beat)

Ensign... aft thrusters. Standard  
observation posture.

14 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship and the energy being.

15 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard watching the energy being on the screen as it  
gets bigger. Troi has come to the Bridge... joins  
Picard to watch with him.

PICARD

(to Troi)

What would it be like,  
Counselor... no ship, no bulky  
spacesuit... just to live between  
the stars... and know that the  
entire galaxy was your home... ?

A very thin, wavy line is emitted from the entity  
toward the ship.

WORF

We are being probed. Recommend  
we raise shields, sir...

PICARD

Negative. If we're curious about  
it, it has a right to be curious  
about us...

(to Troi)

Counselor, is this "curiosity"  
motivated by instinct or  
intelligence?

TROI

It's impossible to tell, Captain.

Suddenly, the color of the being turns bright GREEN.

15 CONTINUED:

DATA

Change in readings, Captain. The  
lifeform has increased its energy  
output by fifty percent.

WORF

It is moving toward us, sir!

PICARD

(to Rager)

Reverse course, Ensign, easily...  
three hundred k.p.h. Nothing to  
alarm or provoke it...

RAGER

Aye, sir...

16 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The creature suddenly sends out large energy tendrils  
which fasten onto the Enterprise and hold it.

17 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before. The ship ROCKS as the being latches on.

17A INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Geordi and a couple of ENGINEERS are shaken up as the  
ship ROCKS. They react and move quickly to their  
stations.

17B INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

DATA

We are being held, in an energy  
damping field, sir.

PICARD

(to Worf)

Raise shields.

17B CONTINUED:

Worf works his console.

WORF  
No effect, Captain.

PICARD  
Reverse power, full impulse.

RAGER  
Impulse engines at full power.

DATA  
No change in our position.

RIKER  
Red Alert!

The lights come on.

PICARD  
(to com)  
Commander La Forge, prepare to  
initiate the warp drive.

17C INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Geordi at one of the monitors.

GEORDI  
(to com)  
Sorry, Captain... there's too much  
inteference to form a warp field.

17D INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Radiation levels at  
sixty-five millirads per minute  
and rising.

RIKER  
(to com)  
Riker to Doctor Crusher.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE  
Go ahead, Commander.

17D CONTINUED:

RIKER

All decks are to begin radiation protocol.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

Acknowledged. Crusher out.

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Radiation levels at three hundred millirads per minute and rising. Lethal exposure in one minute.

Beat.

PICARD

Mister Worf... ready main phasers... minimum power.

WORF

Ready.

Beat.

PICARD

Fire.

18 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

There is a sudden burst of color from within the creature as the phasers rip into it. The effect is crushing. The colors within the creature begin to mute.

19 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

There is no joy of victory on this Bridge. Nothing's been won.

DATA

Radiation levels dropping back to normal, Captain.

19 CONTINUED:

Picard watches the screen silently. The creature is fading fast... the colors dissipate.

DATA

The energy patterns are breaking down... the lifeform's radiation signature is no longer stable.

A silent beat as the creature's color finally winks out, leaving only a gray/black hulk floating in space.

DATA

Energy output is negligible... radiation patterns are no longer coherent.

(beat)

I believe it is dead, sir.

Everyone is stunned. Picard is devastated. Off his reaction.

20  
thru OMITTED  
21

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise near the now lifeless form of the creature.

23 OMITTED

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

as before. Picard sits quietly watching the screen... and then drops his eyes... almost to himself...

PICARD

We are out here to explore, to make contact with other lifeforms, to establish peaceful relations, but not to interfere and absolutely not to destroy. And yet look what we have just done -- what I have just done.

TROI

Captain, everything you did was consistent with established Starfleet procedures... what happened was an accident... unavoidable...

Picard glances at her... barely acknowledges... rises to go to his Ready Room...

PICARD

The Bridge is yours, Number One.

But as he starts to exit...

24 CONTINUED:

DATA

Captain, sensors are picking up  
a new energy reading from the  
lifeform.

Picard reacts, stops...

PICARD

Elaborate, Mister Data...

DATA

There is a new concentration of  
ionizing radiation growing in the  
center of its body.

PICARD

(hoping)

Then -- perhaps it's still  
alive...

As they study this new development...

CUT TO:

25 INT. ENTERPRISE - GEORDI'S QUARTERS - LATER

Geordi is putting the finishing touches on a table setting... flowers, all the spiffy stuff. He inspects it, then glances around the room. Geordi is wearing a very casual outfit.

GEORDI

Computer... subdued lighting.

The room plunges into murky darkness.

GEORDI

No, no, too much. I just want it -- nice. You know. Cozy.

COMPUTER VOICE

Please state your request in precise candlepower.

GEORDI

It's not a matter of precision, it's a matter of... mood.

(beat)

Brighter than this.

The lights sneak up slightly.

GEORDI

More... more... a little more -- there! That's perfect. Now, music... maybe a little soft jazz...

A jazz combo drifts in... Geordi frowns.

GEORDI

No... not right... maybe -- oh, I got it! Of course -- Brahms! A piano etude...

Brahms piano wafts in... he frowns again.

GEORDI

No, that's corny. Probably everybody tries that... computer... how about... guitar. Classical guitar. Anybody.

Soft, melodious guitar music... Geordi smiles. It's just right... the door CHIMES.

GEORDI

Come on in!

25 CONTINUED:

The door opens and Leah ENTERS. Leah is still wearing her work clothes. Geordi suddenly feels very awkward, but he tries to recover.

LEAH  
(reacts)  
Oh, you changed...

GEORDI  
Well, you know the uniform is  
so... formal...

LEAH  
(an observation, not  
a compliment)  
You're less formal than any  
Starfleet officer I've ever met,  
Lieutenant.

GEORDI  
Am I? I just wanted to make  
you... feel more comfortable.

LEAH  
I'm fine. Thank you.

An awkward silence... Geordi tries to get the conversation going again.

GEORDI  
You know... your hair is  
different...

LEAH  
Different than a few hours ago?

GEORDI  
No, no... I mean... different  
than... I expected. From your  
Starfleet records...

LEAH  
Oh. Yes... I used to wear it  
up...  
(beat)  
Why would you need to see my  
personnel file... ?

GEORDI  
It's just... standard procedure  
for guests coming aboard...  
protocol.

(MORE)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI (Cont'd)  
Nothing specific... actually.

She finds this a little odd, but seems to have something else on her mind. She's not at ease. Geordi gestures to a chair.

GEORDI  
(continuing)  
Please. Sit down. Would you like anything to drink?

LEAH  
No, thank you.

She sits, takes a breath as though about to plunge into an uncomfortable subject.

25 CONTINUED: (3)

LEAH

Commander La Forge... if I seem  
to you somewhat... unyielding...  
in my views -- it's because I care  
so very much about my work.

GEORDI

I know that.

She gives him a puzzled look, but continues.

LEAH

Well, to be honest, some people  
find me cold, cerebral, lacking  
in humor...

GEORDI

I'm sure they're wrong.

Again, a puzzlement... but she's too involved in what  
she's trying to say to respond to his peculiar  
statements.

LEAH

Well, I... try... not to be that  
way. But when it comes to my  
designs, to my engines...  
especially the ones on the  
Enterprise...

GEORDI

... they're like your children.

She gives him a look of sheer amazement. How did he  
know what she was going to say?

LEAH

Yes... exactly...

GEORDI

So naturally you're a little  
possessive about them.

LEAH

You -- understand that?

GEORDI

Sure. I feel a little like that  
myself.

25 CONTINUED: (4)

He doesn't say, "I'm the father," but that's there. She is utterly taken aback by his understanding. She lets her guard down just a little...

LEAH

That's amazing. I don't think anyone has ever...

She hesitates, not comfortably able to discuss her feelings.

LEAH

Sometimes I'm more comfortable with engine schematics than with people.

GEORDI

Maybe you just haven't met the right people.

She gives him a quick glance, a half-smile... and it's all Geordi can do to keep from taking her in his arms. But better not move too fast... just build on this beginning... he rises.

GEORDI

I'm starving... why don't we have some dinner.

LEAH

Commander --

GEORDI

Please. Call me Geordi.

LEAH

I'm sorry, I hope you didn't go to a lot of trouble, but I can't stay.

GEORDI

(dashed)

You can't --?

LEAH

(rising)

I just don't feel it's appropriate.

25 CONTINUED: (5)

She holds out her hand to him, brusque, all business again.

LEAH

I'll meet you at oh-eight-hundred tomorrow. I'm preparing a list of the discrepancies I've identified in your modifications. I hope -- now that we've reached an understanding -- that you'll be prepared to discuss them with me in a more objective fashion.

They shake hands, Geordi taken aback by this sudden and unforeseen turn.

GEORDI

Well, sure...

LEAH

Thank you. Good night, Commander.

And she is gone. Geordi stands alone in his mood-lighted room, wondering if she was even there, or if he dreamed the whole thing.

GEORDI

Computer -- turn up the damn lights. And get rid of that stupid guitar.

CUT TO:

26 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard joins Riker and Data at Science Station One. They are studying the remains of the creature, specifically the one little spot of energy within the body of the creature.

27 INSERT (OPTICAL)

On the Science station monitor, the glob of new energy pushes itself against the inner wall of the dead being.

28 RETURN TO SCENE

DATA

This new concentration of energy  
was detected only after the  
surrounding material became  
inert.

RIKER

Could this be some sort of...  
tissue regeneration?

DATA

The radiation signature is similar  
to the original pattern, but there  
are significant differences.

PICARD

Some kind of reaction to our  
phaser fire, perhaps...

DATA

I believe this is separate and  
self-contained within the body  
of the dead lifeform.

RIKER

Another entity... ?

DATA

Yessir. It appears to be a  
smaller, less developed version  
of the original creature.

Picard and Riker are both surprised. Picard leans  
closer to the terminal screen and peers at the image  
with hope and wonder.

PICARD

No wonder it attacked us. It  
was about to give birth.

Off Picard...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

29 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Some twelve hours have passed. The offspring is still unable to push its way out of its parent's body.

30 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

BEVERLY, Picard, Riker, Worf, and Troi.

BEVERLY

It's dangerous to generalize about new lifeforms... but based on my experience with other beings that bear their young in this manner, I'd say the offspring is still premature. Otherwise, it would be able to break through the outer body shell of the parent.

PICARD

Will this... child be able to survive on its own without the parent?

BEVERLY

There's no way to tell. We don't have enough information about the bio-functions of the adult, much less the child.

TROI

Is there something we can do to help?

BEVERLY

If we were in Sickbay, I'd try a Cesarean section... the first priority is to free it from the parent's body.

RIKER

(thinks)

We could use our phasers like a scalpel...

BEVERLY

(nods)

Yes... that might work...

30 CONTINUED:

WORF

I advise against this, Captain.  
The parent proved to be a threat  
to the ship... we do not know how  
the offspring will react.

Picard thinks about this for a moment... exchanges a  
look with Troi.

PICARD

Your objection is noted... but  
we are directly responsible for  
the death of the parent. We  
cannot simply walk away now.

(to Beverly)

We'll proceed at your discretion,  
Doctor.

CUT TO:

31 INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING

Geordi's at a monitor, working. His attitude --  
developed after much tossing and turning all night --  
is professional and detached. He barely looks up as  
Leah ENTERS. She, on the other hand, seems friendlier  
than before. Or maybe just more rested. (NOTE:  
Neither of them should be in jumpsuits yet.)

LEAH

Good morning!

GEORDI

Morning.

LEAH

The first thing I'd like to do  
is inspect the power transfer  
conduits.

This catches Geordi off guard. Leah... theoretical  
physicist, prim and dignified, inching her way through  
a narrow tube? He can't help a query.

GEORDI

You realize the only way to  
inspect them is to crawl inside...

Bad reaction. She fixes those sub-zero eyes on him  
again.

31 CONTINUED:

LEAH

I designed them, Commander... I know what's involved.

And she brushes past him toward the engine compartments.

32 INT. ENTERPRISE - INSIDE CRAWLSPACE

(NOTE: Now their jumpsuits are on.) Some kind of cramped, narrow tube they're crawling through... with almost no room to maneuver... and very, very close. Leah's face is smudged with grease, her hair is messed... and she looks adorable. The characteristic THRUM of the engines can be heard in the b.g.

GEORDI

Watch out for the power taps.

LEAH

(listening)

The acoustic signature doesn't sound right.

GEORDI

You're probably the only other person in the galaxy who could pick that up.

LEAH

What's causing it?

GEORDI

It's right up here.

They stop flat on their sides, facing each other with almost no room to maneuver... and very, very close. Geordi points out a small piece of equipment.

LEAH

I've never seen anything like this... what is it?

GEORDI

A mid-range phase adjuster... it puts the plasma back into phase after inertial distortion.

32 CONTINUED:

LEAH

This has never been done before.  
I don't think it's ever been  
conceived of before. You should  
write a scientific paper.

GEORDI

That's not my strong suit,  
Doctor...

LEAH

But this kind of refinement should  
be shared... and you deserve the  
credit for it...

Geordi is buoyed by her praise.

GEORDI

Maybe we could collaborate.  
Writing is one of your strong  
points.

She hesitates, looks away... considers bringing this  
up, and finally gives in to the curiosity.

32 CONTINUED: (2)

LEAH

Commander La Forge... ever since I came on board, there's been something a little peculiar in your attitude. You seem to know things about me even though we've never met.

The choice is there for Geordi to level with her... but it's too scary and he backs off.

GEORDI

I... studied you. Your writings, your Starfleet file. I've admired you. Your work.

LEAH

I'm flattered, but...

GEORDI

I've looked forward to meeting you for a long time...

She's looking right at him with those grave, intelligent eyes... they're awfully close... right on top of each other... Geordi gets a dose of courage...

GEORDI

(continuing)

And I'd like to think -- that we could get to be friends. Good friends.

Something gentle happens behind her eyes... a wash of tenderness floods her... She looks at Geordi with sweetness and compassion... seeming for a moment like the Leah of his holodeck experience.

LEAH

I thought you knew... you seem to know everything else about me... but Commander... if I'm hearing what I think I am, then you should know... I'm married.

Geordi stares at her, rocked by the revelation of the one thing that had never occurred to him.

33

thru OMITTED

34

34A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Beverly is standing at the Tactical station with Worf. Picard, Riker, Troi at Command. Data at an aft station.

BEVERLY

Set phaser power to three percent,  
narrow beam.

WORF

(works console)  
Three percent.

BEVERLY

(deep breath)  
All right... here we go.

Beverly steps forward and manipulates the console as Worf looks on.

35 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise emits a thin phaser beam, which gently touches the edge of the creature near the offspring and makes an incision.

36 OMITTED

36A INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Beverly and Data study the information on their respective consoles.

DATA

First incision is complete.

BEVERLY

Ideally, the offspring should be  
able to push through the outer  
shell on its own now.

They turn their attention to the main viewer. The offspring efforts against the shell of its parent. It pushes and pushes again. Still it is unable to break through.

36A CONTINUED:

RIKER

It needs a little more help.

BEVERLY

(shakes her head)

We've done all we can. I don't  
want to risk hitting the child  
by accident.

37 EXT. SPACE - THE CREATURE (OPTICAL)

The offspring pushes against the inner edge. A rent  
appears. The offspring slowly emerges through the  
incision.

38

thru OMITTED

40

40A INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

As before. Everyone watching the child emerging on  
the viewer. It is about a tenth of the size of the  
parent.

TROI

Come on... you can do it...

After a beat, the child finally emerges completely  
from the parent. Beverly reacts with pleasure.

BEVERLY

Captain, I'd like to announce the  
birth of a large baby...  
something.

Picard is very pleased as he looks at this newly born  
life.

PICARD

Well done, Doctor. Well done.

41 INT. ENTERPRISE - TEN FORWARD

Close on Geordi, looking dejected, at the bar. Tearing a napkin into little tiny shreds, focusing intently on this process as though it were of life-saving importance. As he continues, pull back to reveal Guinan listening...

GEORDI

A glitch, a malfunction in the holodeck... it's the only explanation I can think of... it's a miracle we ever got out of that booby-trap alive... how could it have been so far off? It was based on every piece of information on record about Leah Brahms... okay, with an admitted margin for error... but this is an error that's a light year wide...

GUINAN

Not what you hoped for, huh?

GEORDI

Hoped for... ? She's about as friendly as a Circassian Plague Cat... all she cares about is her work... she hates what I've done to her engines... and to top it off -- she's married! The computer never even told me she was married...

GUINAN

Computer problem, huh...

GEORDI

Must've been...

GUINAN

Maybe it was your old VISOR...

GEORDI

What are you talking about?

GUINAN

The VISOR you wore on the holodeck with her.

41 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

This is the same VISOR.

GUINAN

Really? I figured you were wearing the one that lets you see what you want to see.

GEORDI

What's that supposed to mean?

GUINAN

(shrugs)

You saw exactly what you wanted to see in the holodeck... Sure, the computer made it look like her, added personality... but when it came to your relationship together, you filled in the blanks...

That really hits home and Geordi suddenly starts to rethink things.

GUINAN

(continuing)

Here you had this perfectly wonderful fantasy... and now the real Leah comes along and ruins it.

(MORE)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

GUINAN (Cont'd)

(beat)

She's done the most heartless,  
despicable thing one person can  
do to another -- she didn't live  
up to your expectations.

Geordi regards her, feeling a little sheepish.

GUINAN

(points to VISOR)

Take a hard look through your  
VISOR, La Forge... see her for  
who she really is... not what you  
want her to be.

Off his reaction.

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard, Riker, Data, Troi, and Worf at their stations. Everyone watching the image of the creature on the viewscreen.

DATA

The lifeform's patterns are stable, Captain. It seems able to withstand the solar radiation without difficulty.

PICARD

Good.

(to Conn)

Ensign Rager, set course for the Guernica system.

RAGER

Aye, sir...

RIKER

We're not staying?

PICARD

No. We've done what we can to help... now it's time to move on. This... child will live the rest of its life without any further interference from us.

RIKER

It might be wise to put some distance between us before initiating the warp drive.

PICARD

Very well.

(to Rager)

Five hundred k.p.h., Ensign. Engage.

43 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship starts to move away from the creature... but the small being quickly follows the ship.

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

44 CONTINUED:

WORF

Captain, it's following us...  
maintaining a distance of four  
kilometers directly astern.

Riker and Picard exchange surprised looks.

PICARD

(to Rager)

Seventeen degrees to port, Ensign  
Rager.

RAGER

Aye, sir.

WORF

It's turning with us, sir.

RIKER

Increase to one half impulse.

Beat.

WORF

It is matching our velocity.

TROI

(with sudden  
understanding)

It's imprinted on us.

(off Picard's look)

It thinks the Enterprise is...  
its mother.

Picard and Riker exchange a look... there is a hint of  
humor in Riker's expression.

DATA

(reads console)

A change in energy readings, sir.  
I am reading an internal buildup  
of gamma particles in---

WORF

Its velocity is increasing... it's  
moving directly toward the ship!

PICARD

Evasive maneuvers, full...

The ship is ROCKED and the lighting FLICKERS.

44 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

Report...

WORF

Minor damage...

DATA

Sir, the creature is now in direct contact with the hull.

PICARD

On screen.

45 ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The view changes to a shot of the creature attached to the secondary hull between the warp nacelles.

46 RETURN TO SCENE

Suddenly the lights dim, come up and dim again in a rhythmic pulse.

PICARD

Data?

DATA

Sir, the lifeform is draining energy directly from the fusion reactors.

TROI

(realizing)

Feeding off the energy of the Enterprise as it would from its mother.

WORF

What action should we take, Captain?

PICARD

(a beat)

None, Lieutenant. None at all.

On Picard's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

47 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship slowly moving on impulse power with the energy being still attached to the hull.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental.  
Since the newborn has attached itself to the hull, it has been making greater and greater demands on the ship's energy, but we have been able to temporarily stabilize our power systems.

48 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Riker, Data, Beverly, Geordi, and Leah.

PICARD

How long before the power drain becomes critical, Mister La Forge?

GEORDI

If it continues to increase at the current rate, six, seven hours, maybe...

LEAH

We may be able to modify the engines to extend that a little longer, Captain.

PICARD

(to Leah)

Your help would be appreciated, Doctor.

GEORDI

By then, maybe Junior won't need us any more.

PICARD

(a thoughtful beat)

Data, is there any way to determine what the destination of the parent might have been?

48 CONTINUED:

DATA

I can attempt to extrapolate from the heading it was on when we encountered it, sir.

BEVERLY

(understanding what Picard is thinking)

Perhaps it was on the way to a safe and supportive environment for its newborn.

PICARD

(acknowledges)

We might be able to deliver it to the same destination.

RIKER

Which raises the question of how to get Junior off the hull when we get there...

LEAH

(thinking)

It's almost completely covering the door of shuttlebay two. If we open the door and deactivate the atmospheric force field...

GEORDI

... the pressure from inside the ship might push it away from the hull.

PICARD

Make it so.

As they rise...

DATA

(puzzled)

Is the appellation "Junior" to be the lifeform's official name from now on?

PICARD

No. It's not.

They all begin moving toward the exits...

49 INT. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR

as Geordi and Leah exit the Observation Lounge, both thinking out loud about the problem at hand. There's no strain between them now... they're two professionals working out a problem.

LEAH

We can save a lot of energy just by improving engine efficiency...

GEORDI

We've run into similar problems before... that's actually why I reoriented the dilithium crystal...

LEAH

And why you added that mid-range phase adjuster...

GEORDI

Right.

LEAH

Commander... it seems you've made more modifications than I'm aware of. Do you have a file on all the work you've done?

GEORDI

Sure. It's in the computer --

But they are interrupted by --

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Picard to La Forge...

GEORDI

(keying com)

La Forge here...

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Commander, I need to see you on the Bridge.

GEORDI

Yes, sir, be right there.

(to Leah)

You go ahead, Doctor... Ensign Pavlik can show you the file on the engine modifications.

49 CONTINUED:

She nods and gets on the turbolift; Geordi hurries off toward the Bridge.

49A INT. ENGINEERING

Leah working at a console. Pavlik working at a station nearby.

49B CLOSE ON MONITOR (OPTICAL)

The screen shows a display of engine modifications.

49C RETURN TO SCENE

Leah still working.

LEAH

(to herself)

Phase coils upgraded to fifty-five field densities... plasma inducers interlinked with generator...

(to Pavlik)

Ensign, would there be any other files with data on the original engine specifications?

PAVLIK

I believe so, Doctor...

Pavlik keys in and hits some panels...

CLOSE ON MONITOR (OPTICAL)

A menu of files. Leah's finger winds down the screen as she traces them. Then the finger stops.

50A WIDER ANGLE - LEAH AND PAVLIK

LEAH

This file utilizes the prototype engine schematic...

50A CONTINUED:

PAVLIK  
(nods, interpreting  
the information on the  
screen for her)  
It's a holographic program set  
in the drafting room at Utopia  
Planitia.

LEAH  
(rising)  
Perfect. I'll run it on  
Holodeck Three.

She EXITS the room.

51 INT. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TURBOLIFT

as Leah emerges from the turbolift, heads toward the  
holodeck, punches the console.

LEAH  
Computer... replay program  
Nine-One-Four-Zero... engine  
schematic at Utopia Planitia...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Program loaded and ready.

Leah enters the holodeck.

CUT TO:

51A INT. ENGINEERING - ANGLE ON GEORDI

GEORDI  
She went where?

PAVLIK  
Holodeck Three, sir... I didn't  
think there was anything wrong  
with her seeing the file...

GEORDI  
Of course not... nothing at all...

Geordi sprints for the door, leaving Pavlik staring  
after him.

52 INT. ENTERPRISE - HOLODECK/DRAFTING ROOM (OPTICAL)

Leah stands, rapt, watching herself in the set of  
drafting room five, Utopia Planitia.

HOLO-LEAH  
I'm with you every day, Geordi.  
Every time you look at this  
engine, you're looking at me.  
Every time you touch it, it's me.

At this point, Geordi hurries in.

GEORDI  
Computer, freeze program.

Leah whirls to see him. She is ashen.

LEAH  
Now... I understand...

GEORDI  
No, you don't... it wasn't the  
way it might look...

LEAH  
(ignoring him)  
I called up a replay of the  
program file. I was all ready  
to compliment you again,  
Commander... for constructing a  
program which contained the  
prototype engine... so you'd  
always have a base-line reference  
point for your modifications...

She walks toward Holo-Leah, gestures.

52 CONTINUED:

LEAH

And then I find... it's all about  
a -- fantasy plaything...

GEORDI

It's not like that, I swear --

LEAH

I am outraged by this. I have  
been -- invaded. Violated. How  
dare you use me like this? How  
far did it go, anyway? Was it  
good for you?

She's plenty mad, but Geordi's beginning to get angry,  
too. She's been on him since she got here, and he's  
getting fed up.

GEORDI

Nothing like that happened. It  
was a professional collaboration.

LEAH

Oh, I can tell -- "Every time you  
touch the engine, it's me... " Real  
professional.

GEORDI

If you watched the whole program,  
you saw what it was... we worked  
together to solve a problem. In  
a crisis situation --

LEAH

How do I know that's all there  
was? What other programs did you  
create? You could have dozens  
of them, one for every day of the  
week, one for every mood --

That's enough. Geordi's had it.

GEORDI

Ever since you came on board,  
you've been badgering me... and  
I've taken it. I've shown you  
courtesy, and respect, and a hell  
of a lot of patience. I've tried  
to understand you and I've tried  
to get along with you...

52 CONTINUED: (2)

The words come pouring out of Geordi... all the pent-up frustration, the buried anger...

GEORDI

And in return, you've accused me,  
tried and convicted me without  
bothering to hear my side of it.  
So -- I'm guilty, okay? But not  
of what you think... of something  
much worse...

She stares at him, silenced by this passionate outpouring.

GEORDI

I'm guilty of reaching out to  
you... of hoping we could  
connect... I'm guilty of a  
terrible crime, Doctor -- I  
offered you friendship.

He heads for the door, EXITS. She stands utterly still, two bright spots flushing the cheeks of an otherwise pale face.

53 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The energy being is still attached to the hull.

54 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Data is at one of the aft science stations. Picard and Riker are nearby, Worf at his station.

WORF

Its total volume has increased  
by eight point five percent in  
the last three hours. I am now  
reading it as forty-six million  
cubic meters. (TECH)

DATA

Captain, I have completed the  
analysis of the parent's course  
through this system.

Picard and Riker move to the science station and look at the console.

54 CONTINUED:

RIKER

It was heading for an asteroid  
belt...

PICARD

Ensign Rager, set course two five  
nine mark three one eight, one  
half impulse.

RAGER

Aye, sir.

Data, Picard, and Riker head for their stations.

55 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship moves on impulse power toward the asteroid  
belt.

56 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

PICARD

Hold position five hundred  
kilometers from the periphery of  
the asteroid field...

RAGER

Aye, sir.

WORF

(works console)

Difficulty getting a clear sensor  
reading beyond four thousand  
kilometers.

DATA

The asteroids contain large  
quantities of meklinite, which  
is interfering with our scanners.

(beat)

I am also detecting traces of  
Kefnium, a compound which was  
found in the parent being's outer  
shell. It is likely that the  
asteroids provide sustenance for  
this lifeform.

56 CONTINUED:

RIKER

We could leave the child here.  
If Data's right, it would have  
an ample supply of food.

PICARD

(thinks)

Agreed.

(to com)

Mister La Forge, are you ready  
to separate our guest from the  
hull?

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Ready, Captain.

PICARD

Proceed.

56A INT. SHUTTLEBAY CONTROL BOOTH

Geordi is at the controls... he works the console.

56B ANGLE ON SHUTTLEBAY DOOR (OPTICAL)

The door OPENS, revealing the creature's body covering  
about 3/4 of the opening.

57 OMITTED

57A ON GEORDI

GEORDI

(to com)

I'm deactivating the atmospheric  
force field now, Captain.

57B NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

There is an optical EFFECT at the bay door as the force  
field is shut down. A WHOOSHING sound can be heard  
as the air in the bay rushes toward the opening. The  
creature's body ruffles and shakes violently as it  
tries to hang on despite the fierce pressure.

58 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The ship SHAKES and the lights begin to flicker.

PICARD  
(to com)  
Engineering, report!

PAVLIK'S COM VOICE  
The power drain just jumped to  
ninety-three percent, sir.

DATA  
Captain, the offspring is emitting  
a high frequency radio  
transmission.

RIKER  
Is it trying to communicate?

PAVLIK'S COM VOICE  
The power drain is increasing...  
approaching auto-shutdown.

RIKER  
Take the engines off-line.  
Supplement with auxiliary power.

The lights come back up to full.

RIKER  
(continuing; to Worf)  
All decks go to emergency  
condition seven. Life support  
and critical operations only.

PICARD  
(to com)  
Mister La Forge, what is your  
status?

58A INT. SHUTTLEBAY CONTROL BOOTH (OPTICAL)

Geordi is looking out at the bay. The air has stopped  
rushing out, but the creature is still attached to the  
ship.

GEORDI  
I'm sorry, Captain... the bay's  
been completely depressurized,  
but... it's still hanging on.

59 OMITTED

59A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

DATA

I am detecting other radio transmissions, Captain.

WORF

Sensors detecting movement within the asteroid field... distance, two million kilometers, bearing two-five-seven mark one-six-one.

PICARD

On screen.

60 ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The screen shows a large field of asteroids. Slowly, several other creatures like the parent can be seen moving toward the ship.

61 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

DATA

(to Picard)

At their current speed, the entities will intercept us in ten minutes, thirty-one seconds.

RIKER

(to Worf)

Weapons status?

WORF

(reads console)

Auxiliary power only... two seconds phaser fire available.

62 ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The creatures are getting closer.

63 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before. On Picard's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

64 OMITTED

64A EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND CREATURES

as they advance toward the ship.

65 INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING

Pavlik is there as Geordi comes in.

GEORDI

Ensign... power readings.

PAVLIK

We're on auxiliary generators...  
life support is functioning,  
that's about all...

GEORDI

Keep your eye on the generator  
console. We've got less than  
six minutes to get that baby off  
our back before his relatives  
get here...

Pavlik EXITS and Geordi turns to the pool table.

GEORDI

(to himself)

Whatever we try, junior responds  
by sucking up more energy...

LEAH'S VOICE

I have a thought, Commander...

Geordi turns to see her entering. She is cool,  
professional... no hint of their earlier conflict.

LEAH

If you're interested...

GEORDI

(just as cool)

Of course. What is it?

65 CONTINUED:

LEAH

If the baby is nursing, perhaps  
what we need -- is to find a way  
to sour the milk.

Geordi eyes her with grudging interest.

GEORDI

I'm listening.

LEAH

If we could contaminate the energy  
he's feeding on...

GEORDI

... make it unpalatable somehow...

Geordi takes this idea, works it over in his mind.  
He's pacing the room now, absorbed in trying to solve  
the problem.

GEORDI

(continuing)

... but the emergency generators  
are all we've got...

LEAH

(nods)

... and how do we modify them  
without losing life support?

GEORDI

Exactly... unless...

He comes to a halt. Leah takes a step toward him.

LEAH

What?

He gives a little laugh. She's drawn in, curious...  
she's lost her icy demeanor.

GEORDI

This is a space baby, right? I  
mean, these creatures are born,  
live, and die in interstellar  
space?

LEAH

Apparently...

65 CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI

Okay. All matter in space vibrates in a specific radiation band...

LEAH

Twenty-one centimeters...

Suddenly she gasps involuntarily, lifts her hands to her cheeks, breaks into a big smile.

LEAH

That's good, Commander, that's very good. We could alter the power frequency so it's completely foreign to the lifeform's natural vibrations...

GEORDI

And that might be just enough to pour a little vinegar in baby's milk.

LEAH

We'll have to be careful... if we upset it this time, we might lose auxiliary power too.

GEORDI

If we're gradual enough, it won't be a shock. Hopefully it'll just lose interest.

Geordi regards her for a moment, smiling fondly. At this moment she seems almost like her old "holodeck" self.

GEORDI

(keys com)

La Forge to Bridge...

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Go ahead.

GEORDI

Doctor Brahms and I have a plan, Captain.

65A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as the creatures continue to approach.

66  
thru OMITTED  
67

68 INT. ENTERPRISE - INTERCUTTING

Picard, Riker, Data, Worf.

WORF

Two minutes until the creatures  
intercept, sir.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Captain, we're ready down here.

PICARD

Proceed.

69 OMITTED

70 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

Geordi and Leah entering commands at the pool table.

GEORDI

Lowering wavelength in the energy  
system, now...

LEAH

Reading eighteen... fifteen...  
thirteen... eleven... eight...  
five... three... now at the two  
centimeter level...

GEORDI

Any reaction, Bridge?

70A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

DATA

Negative. I detect no reduction  
in the lifeform's rate of energy  
consumption.

WORF

One minute thirty seconds to  
intercept.

70B INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

GEORDI

Okay... not sour enough. Leah,  
take it down further.

LEAH

Reading one... point eight...  
point four... point two...

Suddenly the ship begins SHAKING, as though rocked  
by a giant hand. The shaking continues as...

GEORDI

I guess it noticed what we're  
doing.

71 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

DATA

The lifeform is emitting its high  
frequency transmission... energy  
consumption is rising...

WORF

Captain -- the creatures are  
accelerating their approach...  
they're changing color!

And indeed, as they approach, they are becoming green  
-- just as the mother did before she attacked.

7171A INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Mister La Forge --

GEORDI

Just a little more time,  
Captain--!

(to Leah)

Nudge it down... toward  
point-oh-two...

Leah looks pale, but she is cool and composed under  
fire. She manipulates her controls.

71B INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

WORF

Intercept in thirty seconds.

71B CONTINUED:

The creatures look now as though they're almost on top of the ship. They are a brilliant green.

71C INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

LEAH

Point oh-eight... oh-five...  
oh-three... now at point oh-two  
centimeters...

71D INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The ship continues to ROCK and lights flicker wildly.

DATA

Auxiliary generators are losing  
power, Captain...

But suddenly -- the rocking stops and the lights grab  
hold.

72 OMITTED

73 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

DATA

The entity has disengaged, sir.

They watch on the viewscreen as the small being drifts  
toward its larger relatives. They return to their  
normal colors... envelop the small being as though  
in greeting, and they all float off together. There  
is a collective release of tension on the Bridge.

DATA

Power returning to normal levels,  
Captain.

RIKER

Bring the engines on line. And  
take us out of here.

PICARD

Mister La Forge... Doctor  
Brahms... congratulations. You  
have weaned the baby.

74 INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING

Geordi and Leah react to this good news...

74 CONTINUED:

                  GEORDI  
                  (to Leah)  
                  Good work.

                  LEAH  
                  You, too.

                  It's all very proper... but there was a lot of  
                  communication in those four words.

74A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

                  warps away.

75 INT. ENTERPRISE - TEN-FORWARD - LATER

Leah and Geordi at a table. They're laughing about the holodeck business now.

GEORDI

Yeah... yeah, I'll admit... I did get a little... attached to that lady in the holodeck...

LEAH

The computer never told you that I was married...

GEORDI

I never asked... and the computer is notorious for not volunteering information... tell me about him...

LEAH

My husband? His name is Michael... he's an engineer on Garran-four...

(beat)

... you'd like him.

GEORDI

I'm sure...

LEAH

You remind me of him actually.

GEORDI

I do?

LEAH

(beat)

I really owe you an apology, Geordi.

GEORDI

No you don't. I should have told you straight out...

LEAH

(disagreeing)

But if you had, I never would've seen the look on your face when you walked in on me... and me... in the holodeck...

75 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

The look on my face... ? The look on your face, I'll remember that a long time.

LEAH

I wouldn't change a thing...

(beat)

Except the way I behaved... I guess I came here with my own set of preconceptions about you...

GEORDI

I'm just glad I finally got the chance to know you... the real you.

LEAH

Me too.

(long beat)

Tell me... am I... really that different than my image in the holodeck?

GEORDI

(warm smile)

Not so different... not so different at all.

And here in space, far away from everything and everyone, it isn't hard for intimacies to grow quickly... and as they look at each other in a new way, who knows what might happen... and then they're interrupted by --

WORF'S COM VOICE

Worf to La Forge... there's an incoming message on subspace for Doctor Brahms...

And that breaks the mood real quick... as she rises...

LEAH

My husband...

75 CONTINUED: (2)

She nods to Geordi and EXITS...

GEORDI  
Acknowledged, Worf. La Forge  
out.

Geordi looks out into space and drinks from his  
glass... and that's life as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END