

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Night Terrors"
#40274-191

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REVISED FINAL DRAFT

DECEMBER 17, 1990

STAR TREK: "Night Terrors" - 1/4/91 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Night Terrors"

CAST

PICARD	CAPTAIN ZAHEVA
RIKER	COUNSELOR ANDRUS HAGAN
DATA	
BEVERLY	
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	

Non-Speaking

GUINAN	VARIOUS DEAD BODIES
O'BRIEN	ALIEN (in Troi's dream)
KEIKO	
ENSIGN PETER LIN	
ENSIGN PEEPLES	
ENSIGN RAGER	
CHIEF GILLESPIE	
SIGHING VOICE	

Non-Speaking

SECURITY GUARDS
N.D. MEDICAL PERSONNEL
SUPERNUMERARIES

STAR TREK: "Night Terrors" - 12/17/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Night Terrors"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
OBSERVATION LOUNGE
TURBOLIFT
SICKBAY
TEN-FORWARD
ENGINEERING
CARGO AREA/MORGUE
TROI'S QUARTERS
WORF'S QUARTERS
RIKER'S QUARTERS
GUINAN'S QUARTERS
O'BRIENS' QUARTERS
CORRIDORS
DOOR TO TROI'S OFFICE

TROI'S MURKY NIGHTMARE VOID

USS BRATTAIN
BRIDGE

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
USS BRATTAIN

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Night Terrors"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ANICIUM	an-EE-see-m
BELA	bay-luh
BRATTAIN	bruh-TAYN
BUSSARD	buh-SARD
CALENDENIUM	kal-en-DEN-ee-um
CARDILIA	kar-DILL-ya
ENTORHINAL	en-toe-RYE-nl
ISOZYME	ICE-oh-zime
KALADIAN	kuh-LAY-dee-un
LATICIFER	lah-TIH-si-fer
MELTHUSIAN	mel-THOO-zee-n
ONTOGENY	on-TAH-jn-ee
POLYMORPHIC	pohl-ih-MOR-fik
TYKEN	TIE-ken
YURIUM	YOUR-ee-m

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Night Terrors"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moving through space. The binary star system is visible.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 44631.2.
We are proceeding through the uncharted rim of a binary star system, where we may have located the U.S.S. Brattain. The missing science vessel failed to arrive at its destination and has not been heard from since a distress call twenty-nine days ago.

2 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

PICARD, RIKER, DATA, WORF, TROI at their stations;
ENSIGN RAGER at Conn. On the viewscreen at a distance, a space craft floats adrift.

PICARD

Magnify.

The craft springs into the foreground.

RIKER

It's the Brattain, all right.

2 CONTINUED:

DATA

The ship is intact, sir, with no indications of structural damage.

RIKER

Engines?

DATA

All propulsion systems are shut down. The ship is drifting.

PICARD

Life form readings?

DATA

(beat)

Inconclusive, sir.

Troi is uneasy, leans forward, as though to catch some feeling...

PICARD

Counselor?

TROI

There is life on board... but...

PICARD

What is it?

TROI

I don't know... something...

She shakes her head slightly, as though to rid it of something getting in the way.

PICARD

Number One, assemble your team.

RIKER

(keys insignia)

Doctor Crusher, report to Transporter Room Three.

(to them)

Data, Worf...

Troi rises.

2 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

Commander... I need to go, also...

Riker looks at her... need to go? Then he nods at her, and he, Data, and Worf head for the turbolift. Troi stares out at the drifting space craft for a second, troubled, as though hearing some unuttered thought. Then she turns and follows the others toward the turbolift.

3 PICARD

notes her strange demeanor.

4 INT. BRATTAIN - BRIDGE - MINUTES LATER (OPTICAL)

The small Bridge is, on first sight, empty. BEVERLY, Riker, Worf, Data, and Troi MATERIALIZE at the rear of the Bridge. They look around the quiet room, getting their bearings. Data heads for a computer station, keys information.

DATA

There is no indication of malfunction in any of the main systems.

Riker moves toward the Command Chairs. The Captain's seat has a high back which, as he turns it, reveals --

5 CAPTAIN ZAHEVA

The woman is dead, eyes frozen open in a horrified stare. Camera PANS down to reveal a long tool plunged straight into her heart.

6 ON THE GROUP

as Riker, Troi, and Data react to this grim discovery.

WORF (V.O.)

Here's another one.

They turn to see that --

7 Worf

has found a second body, underneath a computer console, huddled tight to the wall as if in terror. Worf tugs the corpse out and it tumbles onto the deck, face and chest charred black.

Worf

This was done by a phaser... at a setting of six or seven...

Riker

There are more over here...

Now the team realizes that the seemingly empty Bridge is a tomb, with bodies having taken refuge under consoles, seats, etc.

Beverly

The entire Bridge crew...

Riker

Whoever did this... may still be on board.

Troi

There's someone alive... but he didn't kill these people...

She moves toward the turbolift, as though drawn by an unseen thread.

Troi

Here...

She nears it and the turbolift door opens.

8 A MAN

HAGAN sits cross-legged on the floor of the turbolift, staring straight ahead. Beverly moves toward him, scans him. Riker and Worf, taking no chances, keep their phasers on him.

Beverly

He's alive...

Troi

I think he is Betazoid...

She kneels down close to him, trying to make contact.

8 CONTINUED:

TROI
It's all right. We're going to
help you.

The man offers one soft, shuddering intake of air...
but no more.

9 TROI

holds his shoulders, looking into his eyes.

TROI
What happened here? Who did this
to you?

But there is no answer. The man stares past them, lost
in a catatonic void.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

10 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY - SOME TIME LATER

Picard watches with Beverly as a SUPERNUMERARY wheels away a form in a body bag.

BEVERLY

We're almost finished with the autopsies, Captain.

PICARD

How long will it take you to compile the data?

BEVERLY

It's complicated -- the dead were found everywhere... some locked in their rooms -- barricaded, with weapons piled around them... some in corridors where they'd obviously had hand-to-hand combat... I'll have to sort through and analyze the details.

Picard glances toward a bio-bed, where Troi sits with the Betazoid man.

BEVERLY

We've identified him as Andrus Hagan, from Betazed, science advisor. He's in a profound catatonic state.

Picard walks toward Troi.

TROI

I'm not getting much, Captain... a few words, disconnected phrases. I can feel his terror... but I can't seem to reach him.

PICARD

Don't give up on him, Counselor. We're examining the Brattain for clues -- but this man is the only one left who knows what happened there.

Picard turns and EXITS, and Troi turns back to Hagan. She is trying to engage his mind telepathically.

10 CONTINUED:

TROI (V.O.)
I'm here. I'm right here.
There's nothing to be afraid of
anymore.

HAGAN (V.O.)
... out there... voices...

TROI (V.O.)
You hear voices? What do they
say?

HAGAN (V.O.)
... both things... no... no...

TROI (V.O.)
Keep talking to me... I'll try
to understand...

11 OMITTED

12 EXT. SPACE - BRATTAIN (OPTICAL)

The small ship hangs in space.

13 INT. BRATTAIN - BRIDGE

Data and Riker at the computers. GEORDI ENTERS from
the turbolift.

13 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

All engines check out perfectly,
Commander. Once we get them
started up, the Brattain can get
back to Starbase under her own
power.

RIKER

Let's give it a try.

Geordi takes his place at a science station near Data.

GEORDI

Pre-heating injectors... Data,
fuel flow?

DATA

Matter valves are open and
operating. Magnetic containment
on the anti-matter pods is
constant.

GEORDI

Okay, open injectors.

DATA

Injectors open.

They wait. There's nothing.

13 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

There is no engine activity at all.

RIKER

What's wrong, Geordi?

GEORDI

Nothing's wrong. I don't understand it.

Off his puzzlement...

14 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM

Picard working at his desk. The door CHIMES.

PICARD

Come.

Beverly ENTERS carrying a Padd.

BEVERLY

I've been studying the autopsy reports... the conclusion is appalling.

Picard gives her a look -- strong words from this dispassionate scientist.

BEVERLY

There was no outside source... no alien presence... The crew of the Brattain, all thirty-four of them -- appear to have killed each other.

Picard is taken aback by this conclusion.

PICARD

What could have caused such an event? Drugs? A virus? Poison...

BEVERLY

Toxicological tests showed no unusual substances in their systems. And they were in good health.

(MORE)

14 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY (Cont'd)

(beat)

But for whatever reason, they seem to have turned against each other, using phasers, knives -- and bare hands.

Beverly programs information into the Captain's computer.

BEVERLY

I'd like you to see this, Captain. It's from the logs of the Brattain. Captain Zaheva's mental condition deteriorated steadily after they became stranded... she began talking of plots and mutinies...

She activates the computer.

BEVERLY

This is the last entry... made after they had been adrift for over three weeks.

They turn toward the monitor.

15 ANGLE - MONITOR - INTERCUTTING (OPTICAL)

Captain Zaheva, sitting in the same chair where she was found, is a wreck... eyes red-rimmed, voice hoarse, endlessly brushing the side of her head in a compulsive gesture.

CAPTAIN ZAHEVA

First Officer Brink and his men were behind it... they got to the engines... don't work anymore... had to eliminate Brink... the ship is out of... out of... we're running out... too dangerous... out of Brink... and his men...

Her eyes flick upward, there is a brief moment of terror, and then the screen goes blank. Mystery upon mystery. Picard stares at Beverly, perplexed, mind churning to understand what happened on the stricken science vessel.

16 INT. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE SICKBAY

Troi is leaving Sickbay, speaks to a SUPERNUMERARY.
(PRODUCTION NOTE: This is the beginning of the dream sequence, but should seem perfectly normal.)

TROI

Be sure to call me if there's any
change in his condition. I'll
be in my office.

She turns and proceeds down the corridor. She passes a turbolift; the door opens and several CREW MEMBERS spill out, going their way. She smiles, greeting them, and passes through the bustling activity. DOLLY with her as she proceeds down the corridor to --

17 TROI'S OFFICE DOOR

As it opens, she ENTERS.

18 INT. NIGHTMARE ROOM (OPTICAL)

Suddenly Troi steps into a bizarre surreality. She spins to find the door she entered. It is gone. She turns back to see she is in...

19 A MURKY VOID (OPTICAL)

A strange, empty cavity where everything is fuzzy, smoky, gaseous. Vague shapes seem to loom in the distance but have no substance. At a great distance, there are two pinpoints of light... the mists swirl in front of them, obscuring them. A RUSTLING SOUND, maybe wind, maybe a cry, seems to come from within the shadowy depths. It is an ominous, menacing sound, suggesting a demon lurking in the mists. Troi finds herself floating... drifting helplessly in the clouds. It is frightening to be so out of control.

TROI

Where are you?

She reaches out both arms in front of her, fearful, like a sightless person feeling her way through unfamiliar territory. The rustling SOUND becomes a low, throaty voice... sighing, raspy, foreboding.

20 ANOTHER ANGLE ON TROI (OPTICAL)

as she is drawn toward the sinister sound, unable to resist. She drifts further into the vaporous landscape, seeking the source. But she cannot control her direction.

TROI
I'm coming. Where are you?

Struggling forward, Troi tries to free herself. The throaty sound becomes louder... takes shape...

SIGHING VOICE
Eyes... in the dark... one moon...
circles...

Troi is swimming in space, frantically trying to move forward as the voice becomes louder...

SIGHING VOICE
See the eyes... in the dark...
one moon...

TROI
Where are you?!

21 INT. ENTERPRISE - TROI'S QUARTERS

Troi, in her bed, sits up with a start. She is moist with perspiration, breathing hard in terror from the bizarre nightmare.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22 EXT. SPACE - BRATTAIN (OPTICAL)

hanging motionless in space.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 44635.8:
Four days have passed, but we have
made little progress in solving
the mystery of the Brattain. I
have decided we will return to
Starbase Two-twenty...

23 INT. BRATTAIN - BRIDGE

Geordi and ENSIGN PEEPLES at a work station.

PICARD (V.O.)

... and to that end, Commander La
Forge is rigging the Brattain for
towing.

GEORDI

(rising)

I'm going to try re-calibrating
the field generators. I still
don't see why we can't get the
engines going... it just doesn't
make any sense.

24 CLOSE ON PEEPLES

as he concentrates on his task, tapping out
instructions. As he does, we begin to hear a SOUND...
a hollow, deadened CLUNG... as though something were
hitting a pipe somewhere far below.

24 CONTINUED:

It hits once, twice... only now does Peeples seem to hear it. He lifts his head, straining to hear better. The sound increases in volume, and he stands in alarm.

PEEPLS
Someone's still here...

The sound gets louder still, a chilling, insistent cry. Peeples looks panicked.

PEEPLS
They're alive!

25 ANGLE - GEORDI AND PEEPLS

As soon as Geordi is included in the shot, the SOUND disappears. Geordi is staring at the Ensign.

GEORDI
Ensign... what is it?

26 ON PEEPLS

Now, the sound is loud and clear.

PEEPLS
Can't you hear it? There's
someone left alive on the ship!

27 ANGLE - GEORDI AND PEEPLS

Geordi's stare catches Peeples' attention, and then he realizes he's not hearing anything.

PEEPLS
I heard... I mean, I thought I
heard something.

GEORDI
The ship was searched thoroughly.
There's no one left aboard.

Geordi's look of concern embarrasses the young Ensign.

PEEPLS
Sorry, sir. My mistake.

27 CONTINUED:

GEORDI
(gently)
Thirty-four people were found dead
on this ship. That could make
anyone uneasy.

PEEPLS
Thank you, sir.

And he bends again to his task.

28 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

Troi sits by the bio-bed where Hagan lies.

TROI (V.O.)
I'm here... can you hear me?

Hagan stirs vaguely.

TROI (V.O.)
Tell me about the voices you
hear...

HAGAN (V.O.)
Bright... one pole... two
poles...

TROI (V.O.)
I don't understand... tell me more
about the poles...

But he just stares out at nothing.

29 INT. ENTERPRISE - O'BRIEN'S QUARTERS

O'Brien paces in the front room, disquieted. Presently
the door opens and Keiko comes bustling in, happy to
see him.

29 CONTINUED:

KEIKO

Boy, what a day this was... I'm doing an isozyme study on some populations of Cardilia... but they're turning out to have some really weird polymorphisms. What a headache!

She is breathless, full of her day, chattering.
O'Brien eyes her, speaks with ominous quietness.

O'BRIEN

Is that why you were late?

KEIKO

Oh, no, I had a conference with Doctor Balthus... she wants to do a study on the laticifer ontogeny of the Kaladian Thorn Flower... but I don't have the time to oversee another project...

O'BRIEN

Was Tom Corbin there?

She stops, stares at him, for the first time aware of his strange mood.

KEIKO

What?

O'BRIEN

Tom Corbin. From the science lab.
(beat)
Remember him?

KEIKO

Of course I remember him, but --

O'BRIEN

You use any excuse to pay him a visit...

KEIKO

(nonplussed)
Miles... what are you saying--?

O'BRIEN

I think you know exactly what I'm saying.

29 CONTINUED: (2)

She regards him a minute, then smiles, walks toward him. This is unlike Miles to be so grumpy, but that's okay... she can tweak him out of it.

KEIKO

If I didn't know better... I'd say you're jealous.

She puts her arms around him, starts to kiss him, but he takes her wrists and holds her away. She is amazed.

O'BRIEN

(quietly)

You take me for a fool?

And with that he turns and EXITS. She stares after him, astonished.

30 INT. ENTERPRISE - TEN-FORWARD - LATER

O'Brien ENTERS, spots his friend CHIEF GILLESPIE sitting at the bar. Gillespie is older than O'Brien, weathered and salty. O'Brien walks over and joins him. GUINAN is behind the bar.

GILLESPIE

Hello, Chief... have some coffee?

O'BRIEN

I've been drinking too much coffee... maybe some hot tea, Guinan?

GUINAN

Coming up.

She moves away and Gillespie looks at O'Brien, grins.

GILLESPIE

Kind of a surprise to see you in here at this hour.

O'BRIEN

How's that?

GILLESPIE

You're not out of the honeymoon yet... usually newlyweds can't keep their hands off each other...

30 CONTINUED:

O'Brien gives a shrug. Guinan brings his tea.

O'BRIEN

She has work to do. She heads
up the plant biology lab, you
know.

GILLESPIE

Any strange things going on down
there?

O'Brien gives him a quick look -- what strange things?

O'BRIEN

Like what?

Gillespie leans in to him.

GILLESPIE

I've been hearing things...
Kenicki, in Engineering... told
me he saw a man in an old
Starfleet uniform... riding the
lift near the engine core... but
when the lift got to the top...
there was no one on it...

O'Brien shakes his head scornfully.

O'BRIEN

Ghost stories...

GILLESPIE

There's more... lots more.
Strange things are happening on
this ship, O'Brien...

O'Brien gulps his tea, rises.

O'BRIEN

I'm surprised at you, Gillespie...
a Starfleet officer...
(leans in to him)
I have more to worry about than
shades and spirits...

And he leaves.

31 OMITTED

32 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM

Picard is at his desk, working. The door CHIMES.

PICARD

Come.

He glances up, but the doors don't open. He's involved in his monitor, doesn't give it a thought. Then the CHIME again.

PICARD

(a bit more forcefully)

Come.

He looks at the door. It is shut. He rises, and the CHIME sounds again. He goes to the door, it opens; there's no one there. He shakes his head in annoyance, goes back to his desk, sits. The CHIME sounds. He ignores it. It SOUNDS again; he is getting irritated but doesn't respond. Finally, there is a KNOCK at the door. He looks up, surprised.

PICARD

Come...

The door opens and Beverly and Troi are there. They ENTER.

BEVERLY

Captain, do you have a moment?

TROI

We're concerned... whatever happened on the Brattain -- may be starting here.

Picard immediately takes notice.

PICARD

Explain...

TROI

Beverly and I have both gotten unusual reports... people behaving strangely... others hearing sounds that aren't there...

Picard gives her a sharp look at this.

32 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Are we talking about
hallucinations?

BEVERLY

In some cases. In others -- just
erratic behavior.

32 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

We can't track down any common element that might be responsible.

PICARD

But everything started when we found the Brattain...

BEVERLY

Yes. Captain -- we have to get the Enterprise away from here... before it gets worse...

Picard glances at her... it's a bit of a panicky response for this usually stoic scientist.

PICARD

We are preparing to take the Brattain in tow. We'll be on our way within the hour.

33 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - LATER

Picard, Riker, Data, Worf, Ensign Rager at Conn.

PICARD

Ensign, maneuver us into position within tractor beam range.

RAGER

Aye, sir...

Ensign Rager starts to tap instructions, then hesitates. Data glances over. She stares at her console. Picard rises, approaches to see what's wrong.

DATA

Is there a problem, Ensign?

RAGER

I... can't seem to remember how to enter the coordinates, sir...

33 CONTINUED:

Data punches instructions on his console.

DATA
Ready now, Captain.

He glances back at Picard, who gestures toward another Ensign, PETER LIN, on the Bridge.

PICARD
Ensign Rager, report to Sickbay.

Rager, shamed, glances around at Picard.

RAGER
Yes, sir...

Rager stands and heads for the turbolift. Ensign Lin takes her place.

PICARD
Ensign Lin, put us into position to engage the tractor beam.

LIN
Aye, sir.

34 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND BRATTAIN (OPTICAL)

as the Enterprise moves toward the stranded ship -- still at quite a distance.

35 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

PICARD
Mister Worf, ready tractor beam.

DATA
Ensign... we are losing maneuverability. Did you throttle down by mistake?

LIN
No, sir.

DATA
Captain... thrusters are losing power.

Puzzled, Picard steps forward.

35 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Impulse engines... ahead minimum
power.

LIN

Impulse engines are not
responding, sir.

RIKER

Riker to Engineering... what's
going on down there?

36 INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING - INTERCUTTING

GEORDI

I don't know, sir... nothing's
responding...

PICARD

Ensign, go to warp engines --
factor one. Engage.

A beat. They wait.

36 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Captain, we don't have warp drive
either!

PICARD

Data, do we have any propulsion
system that is functional?

DATA

No, sir. Apparently we do not.

LIN

We're adrift...

RIKER

Just like the Brattain.

There is a moment as they absorb this news.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

37 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND BRATTAIN (OPTICAL)

still floating in space.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 44639.9.
We have now been adrift for a
total of ten days. We have sent
sub-space distress calls, but
because of our distant location,
we cannot expect a response for
at least another two weeks.

38 INT. ENTERPRISE - OBSERVATION LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

At the table sit Picard, Riker, Troi, Beverly, and Geordi. Data stands at the monitor. The staff is looking a little ragged... mildly disheveled, slightly on edge. Riker drums his fingers on the table. Picard tugs at his collar in an unconscious, compulsive gesture. Troi looks more exhausted than ever. Data, of course, is unchanged.

DATA

After analyzing the sensor logs
from the Brattain and the
Enterprise, as well as the data
from our last series of probes,
I have concluded that...

He activates the monitor, which shows an OKUDAGRAM. It (very) roughly resembles two funnels, tipped on their sides, with narrow lips together.

38 CONTINUED:

Small figures indicating the Brattain and the Enterprise are placed in the left-hand funnel, the Brattain nearer the mouth.

DATA

(continuing)

... we have become trapped in a massive rupture in space... undetectable by normal means... into which energy is absorbed.

PICARD

You mean... a Tyken's Rift...

BEVERLY

A what?

DATA

A rare anomaly named for Bela Tyken, the Melthusian Captain who first encountered it.

GEORDI

A Tyken's Rift -- of course... that would explain why we don't have engine power.

DATA

(acknowledges)

The ship's energy is being drained into the fissure before we can utilize it.

At this point, Worf walks in, uncharacteristically late. He makes his way to his seat as Picard gives him a searching look.

WORF

(tight-lipped)

I was detained.

Nothing else.

38 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

When Tyken was trapped in a Rift, his analysis determined that a massive energy release might overload and dislocate the anomaly. Fortunately, his cargo included anicium and yurium, which he used to detonate a massive explosion. He then escaped through the ruptured center of the Rift.

GEORDI

(acknowledges)

But we aren't carrying anything that could produce that kind of explosion. Even our photon torpedoes wouldn't be enough.

RIKER

Can't we replicate the elements Tyken used?

DATA

We no longer have the power to reproduce complex elements with our replicators. We must find a way to generate a violent energy release without relying on conventional means.

BEVERLY

Data... in Tyken's experience... did the crew exhibit behavioral changes?

38 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA

No. There were no reports of
unusual conduct among the crew.

TROI

What about nightmares?

DATA

There was no record of sleep
disturbances of any kind,
Counselor.

Beverly takes note of this... ponders it...

BEVERLY

Then -- what is it? What's
happening to us?

The grey faces around her stare. But there are no
answers.

39 OMITTED

40 INT. ENTERPRISE - TURBOLIFT

Picard and Riker ENTER. Picard tugs at his collar.

RIKER

So far, the only one who doesn't
seem affected by all this is
Data...

(beat)

Bridge.

There is a brief beat as Picard struggles to
concentrate, focus his thoughts.

PICARD

Number One... how... are you?

RIKER

Sir?

PICARD

Any hallucinations? Nightmares?

Riker also has to work to keep his ideas coherent.

RIKER

No... but I'd be a liar if I said
I felt like myself... I bite my
tongue to keep from snapping at
people... and a couple of times,
when I've gone into my quarters...

(MORE)

40 CONTINUED:

RIKER (Cont'd)
(beat; this is hard for
him)
... I've felt as though... there's
someone in there... waiting for
me...

Picard nods, sympathetic.

PICARD
It's affecting all of us. I've
-- had similar feelings...

He strains to maintain control and not give in to
whatever it is that grips them.

PICARD
With everyone around us
succumbing... it's even more
important that at least one of
us stay in control of his
faculties. I want you to turn
in... take a nap. I'll be on the
Bridge and you can relieve me in
four hours.

Riker hates being sent off like a tired child, but
acknowledges the Captain's wisdom.

RIKER
All right, sir. Deck Eight.

They proceed in silence, Picard tugging again at his
collar, and then the turbolift stops and the doors
open. Riker nods briefly at Picard and EXITS. The
doors close again. Picard closes his eyes briefly and
leans against the side of the turbolift... as though
he's dizzy but didn't want to show it in front of
Riker... then he glances upward. He sees --

41

thru OMITTED

42

43 THE TURBOLIFT CEILING -- HIS POV

descending toward him.

44 PICARD

stares upward in shock.

45 INT. ENTERPRISE - RIKER'S QUARTERS

Riker ENTERS, then stops and listens warily, as though hearing something. He scans the room. Then he shakes it off, proceeds toward the bedroom.

46 INT. ENTERPRISE - TURBOLIFT

Picard stares upward in horror, backing to a wall, holding up a hand as though to ward off the ceiling.

47 TURBOLIFT CEILING - HIS POV

continues its downward plunge.

48 PICARD

sinks to his knees.

49 INT. ENTERPRISE - RIKER'S QUARTERS - BEDROOM

Riker ENTERS, studies the room, moves through it cautiously. He turns and looks back at the door he just entered.

50 INT. ENTERPRISE - TURBOLIFT

Picard looks upward, shielding his head as --

51 THE CEILING

rushes down at him, threatening to crush him...

52 PICARD

PICARD

No! No!

53 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

The turbolift door opens. Worf, at his station, looks over to see --

54 PICARD

huddled on the floor in terror, hands protectively over his head.

PICARD

No... stop... no...

55 ANGLE ON WORF

as he moves toward the Captain, staring in amazement.

WORF

Sir... ?

Picard gradually looks around, sees the others staring at him. He pulls himself up, glances up at the ceiling of the turbolift -- safely in its place. He rises and EXITS, struggling to maintain his dignity.

PICARD

As you were.

Worf watches as the Captain proceeds to his chair. Worf registers nothing. Then, Picard hesitates, addresses Data.

PICARD

Mister Data... in my Ready Room,
please...

56 INT. ENTERPRISE - RIKER'S QUARTERS - BEDROOM

Dressed in a sleep robe, he goes to his bed, takes the cover and starts to flip it back. Then he whirls suddenly, looking behind him.

57 THE ROOM - HIS POV

Quiet, still -- empty.

58 BACK TO RIKER

as he slides into bed under the cover. Then he reacts in surprise. He reaches down, flips off the cover and sees --

59 THE BED

is a writhing nest of snakes, dozens of them, squirming and churning, covering the bed, slithering off onto the floor.

60 RIKER

yells in alarm, leaps out of bed. He looks down again.

61 THE BED - HIS POV

is empty of snakes.

62 RIKER

Heart pounding, he stands there for a moment, catching his breath.

63 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM

Picard with Data. The Captain has been profoundly shaken by his experience in the turbolift.

DATA

Sir, Commander La Forge and I have come up with a potential solution to our predicament. Perhaps the modifications we used to increase firepower against the Borg might be effective here.

PICARD

Channeling power into the main deflector dish...

DATA

I believe within six hours we can generate a concentrated burst of energy which might disrupt the Tyken's Rift.

63 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Very well. Proceed.

Data starts toward the door, but Picard stops him.

PICARD
Mister Data...

DATA
(turning back)
Sir?

Picard speaks with difficulty.

PICARD
Apparently... I am not immune...
to the strange forces at work on
this ship...

DATA
Yes, sir.

This is painful for Picard, to whom control is so important.

PICARD
It's a frightening prospect...
to lose control of your mind...
(beat)
When I was young, I saw my
grandfather deteriorate... from
a powerful, robust figure... to
a -- a frail wisp of a man, who
couldn't even remember how to make
his way home...

He draws a breath, shakes off this dire memory.

PICARD
It is my responsibility...
somehow... to see that this ship
is guided to safety. I will have
to rely on you, from now on...
(beat)
We may need to count on you for
our very survival.

DATA
Yes, sir. I will do my best.

64 INT. ENTERPRISE - CARGO AREA/MORGUE

Beverly speaks to a SUPERNUMERARY. They are in a hold which contains the covered bodies of the Brattain crew.

BEVERLY

I want to do more cross-sections on the brain tissue of some of these bodies. Set up the positron emission sensors in Sickbay... I'll decide which ones I want to study.

The assistant nods and EXITS. Beverly approaches a corpse, lifts the attached autopsy report, reads it. A sudden sound... a thunk behind her... makes her look around.

65 THE MORGUE

has an eerie look... bodies in translucent bags, held in stasis by (invisible) force fields, casting shadows on the floor and walls... but nothing is apparent which caused the noise.

66 BEVERLY

returns to her study. She moves to another corpse,
reads the report. Then, a rustling noise... she looks
up and sees --

67 A BODY

sitting up, as if staring at her.

68 BEVERLY

gasps, then turns to see that the body next to her has
sat up, also. She backs up, turns -- sees another
upright... turns again... sees several of them...
spins... and now...

69 THE BODIES

have all sat upright, as though staring at her...

70 BEVERLY

closes her eyes. This is a hallucination. Nothing
more. She speaks firmly, but calmly.

BEVERLY

Go away.

She opens her eyes.

71 THE ROOM

is as it was, bodies shrouded on their pads.

72 BEVERLY

fighters for control... quiets her pounding heart.

73 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM

Beverly is with Picard and Data.

73 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Captain, let me ask you this:
since we located the Brattain...
can you remember any of your
dreams?

Picard stares at her, perplexed. It's hard enough to
concentrate... but what does this have to do with
anything?

PICARD

I hardly ever remember dreams...

BEVERLY

A lot of people don't... but
think... have you had a dream in
the last ten days?

PICARD

(struggles with it)
I... don't recall...

BEVERLY

I'm betting you haven't. What's
more, neither has anyone else on
board this ship -- except Troi.
I began to realize it when she
talked about her nightmares.

Picard stares at her, trying to stay with her.
Beverly, too, is ragged, faltering.

BEVERLY

I've done additional brain tissue
tests on some of the bodies from
the... the...

DATA

The Brattain...

BEVERLY

... and scans on a random
cross-section of our crew. They
all show the same result... a
unique chemical imbalance.

PICARD

Caused by -- ?

BEVERLY

Dream deprivation.

73 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard looks at her quizzically.

BEVERLY

Every night... we... we enter
into... sleep...

73 CONTINUED: (3)

Beverly is losing it, not able to concentrate on what she was saying. Data fills the gap.

DATA

I believe the Doctor means to say that humans enter what is known as REM sleep... rapid eye movement. It is the level of brain-wave activity at which you dream.

BEVERLY

We need dreams to survive... if we don't get REM sleep, we don't dream, and we begin to lose our -- cognitive abilities... it becomes hard to concentrate... we forget... how to do the most ordinary task.

Picard is listening intently. It's becoming clear.

BEVERLY

Then... we become irritable... paranoid... some people experience hallucinations...

PICARD

You're describing the situation on this ship... But Counselor Troi has reported nightmares...

BEVERLY

Maybe it's because she's Betazoid. I don't know... but there's something more going on here than being stuck in a Tyken's Rift... and I don't know how or why it's happening...

She draws a breath, fixes him with a steady look.

73 CONTINUED: (3)

BEVERLY

But I do know this. There is an inevitable conclusion to this pattern. If I can't find a way to reverse it -- we are all going to go insane.

Picard's look reflects the enormity of the statement. His gaze swings to Data: he, of course, would survive. Data is imperturbed by the implications.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

74 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

Troi sits by the bio-bed where Hagan lies. Her head rests against the wall and her eyes are fluttering closed. CAMERA DRIFTS in toward her as:

75 SERIES OF CUTS - INTERCUTTING (OPTICAL)

from Troi's first nightmare... the void... the hazy, murky cavity... the lights, the sighing sound, Troi floating, calling...

TROI

Where are you... ?

76 NOW IN THE NIGHTMARE (OPTICAL)

Troi drifts toward the lights, discerning something in the distance... an indistinct shape...

SIGHING VOICE

Eyes... in the dark... one moon circles...

77 BACK IN SICKBAY

Troi's eyes blink open and she sits up, looking around fuzzily, realizes she was dreaming. She turns to Hagan.

TROI (V.O.)

I'm still here... I haven't gone anywhere...

Hagan stirs vaguely.

TROI (V.O.)

Do you remember anything more?

HAGAN (V.O.)

...double... double...

TROI (V.O.)

What does that mean? Is something doubled?

But Hagan is silent. Troi rises and walks over to Beverly.

77A ANGLE - ANOTHER PART OF SICKBAY

Beverly is with a patient on a bio-bed, to whom is attached neurotransmitter monitors. Beverly is pale and shaky, trying hard to hold it all together, but discouraged.

BEVERLY

Deanna... Nothing's working...
I've tried somatic drugs, I've
tried inducing theta waves in the
entorhinal cortex... no matter
what I do, no one can reach REM
sleep. No one can dream... except
you...

Troi, exhausted, absorbs this.

TROI

(ironic)

Except me... And all I have is
nightmares... I can barely sleep
at all anymore.

She shakes her head... her gaze is drawn back toward Hagan...

TROI

In the end... I'll be like him.
Just like him.

She turns away in despair, not wanting to see her own destiny.

78 INT. ENTERPRISE - TEN-FORWARD

A few desultory souls... the mood is nervous, somber -- not a happy place. Guinan circulates; you sense she's keeping tensions under control. Gillespie is there, and not in good shape... irritable, impulsive. He's trying to garner support.

GILLESPIE

I think... it's some kind of experiment... Captain Picard wants to see how we'll take it, stuck here like rats...

GUINAN

You couldn't be more wrong...

GILLESPIE

It's like we're laboratory animals... I don't want to sit and wait for death to sneak up behind me...

GUINAN

What's that supposed to mean?

Gillespie glances around, leans in.

GILLESPIE

You heard about them on the Brattain... shut in their rooms... dying alone... that's not for me. I'd rather go out fighting...

79 GUINAN

Guinan shakes her head in disdain and moves off.

80 INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING

Data ENTERS to find Geordi. Geordi is not in good shape... shaky and ragged. It's costing him effort to hang in there. Peeples is working in the background.

GEORDI

Okay... all power has been channelled to the... the...

80 CONTINUED:

He looks at Data, losing his thought.

GEORDI

I can't remember what it's called.

DATA

The main deflector dish...

GEORDI

Yes... so, now what do we do?

Data gives him a look; he's gone over and over this and Geordi isn't retaining it.

DATA

We must coordinate our effort with the Bridge.

Geordi stares blankly; Data keys his com badge.

DATA

Data to Bridge...

81 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - INTERCUTTING

Picard, Riker, Worf, Troi, and Lin. Again, everyone reflects their diminished circumstances.

PICARD

Yes...

DATA'S COM VOICE

We are ready to discharge the main deflector, Captain.

PICARD

All right...

He looks around the Bridge at his crew -- haggard, edgy, desperate. He can barely remember what he has to do.

DATA'S COM VOICE

Mister Worf -- activate the deflector.

82 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The main deflector dish begins to glow.

83 INT. ENTERPRISE - ENGINEERING

Geordi and Data are intent upon their monitors, and do not see Peeples approaching Geordi from behind.

GEORDI
Deflector power coils
charging...

Suddenly Peeples leaps toward Geordi. Data has seen the movement and springs quickly to his feet, parrying the blow and seizing Peeples' arm. Geordi is nonplussed.

GEORDI
Peeples...

DATA
(touches com)
Security to Engineering.

PEEPLS
You've been changing the reactant
mix... that's why we're stuck
here...

WORF'S COM VOICE
Deflector powerbanks approaching
maximum. Discharge in fifteen
seconds.

Two SECURITY GUARDS ENTER.

DATA
Confine Ensign Peeples to
Sickbay.

The guards take Peeples out, still ranting.

PEEPLS
I'll tell everyone what you're
doing, Commander...

The guards haul him out and Geordi turns to Data, dazed.

GEORDI
Data... this detonation better
work... we aren't gonna last much
longer...

84 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

WORF
Discharge in three seconds...
two... one...

85 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

A thin, reedy beam flicks out from the deflector...
and then sputters and snuffs out like a defective
firecracker.

86 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE/ENGINEERING

RIKER
Nothing... it just fizzled out...

DATA
The energy output was absorbed
into the Rift.

87 ANGLE ON WORF

as he stands, tight-lipped, in reaction to this
failure.

PICARD
Data... can we try again?

88 ON THE GROUP

DATA
No, sir. If we draw more power,
we risk losing life-support
systems.

Picard does not respond. He is unable to think beyond
this point and come up with options for the next step.

89 ON WORF

as, unseen by most, he turns and walks off the Bridge.

90 TROI

sees him go, however, and looks puzzled.

97 CONTINUED:

TROI
Why, Worf? What is it?

Worf hesitates... half turns to her...

WORF
I am no longer a warrior... I am
no longer strong... I feel...

He stops, unable to go on. Troi moves toward him,
nurturing, gentle.

TROI
What is it you feel?

Worf stares at her, agonizing. The admission is almost
too overwhelming for him.

WORF
I feel... fear.

TROI
Worf... to admit that you are
afraid... gives you strength.

Worf looks at her, allows her to grip his hand.

WORF
Something is waiting for us...
I am not strong enough to fight
it...

TROI
No, Worf. It is just an illusion.
It is not real.
(beat)
Please... put down the knife.

He hesitates, stares at her, wrestles with his proud
warrior's sensibility. But Troi's compassion has
inspired trust. He holds for a beat... then lowers
the knife... puts it on a table. Then, the SECURITY
GUARDS hurry in.

TROI
It's all right. Everything is
fine. Thank you.

Puzzled and uncertain, they retreat. Worf never takes
his eyes off Troi. She holds out her hand to him.

97 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

Let me take you to Sickbay.

He takes her hand. She leads him out the door.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

98 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND BRATTAIN (OPTICAL)

DATA (V.O.)

Acting Captain's log, stardate
44642.1. I have assumed command
of the Enterprise at the request
of Captain Picard. Our situation
is deteriorating; many of the crew
are unable to function and our
life support systems are beginning
to falter.

99 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

Troi with Hagan.

TROI (V.O.)

Once before... you said
"double"... what did you mean?
What is double?

HAGAN (V.O.)

...mates... too bright... a --
twin... cannot leave the twin...
one moon circling...

TROI (V.O.)

... what do you mean... you can't
leave?

Hagan tenses slightly, as though hearing something...

HAGAN (V.O.)

No, no... please... can't...

TROI (V.O.)

You want to leave? Why can't you?

HAGAN (V.O.)

Can't go... help... one moon
circling... eyes... that's it...
eyes... in the dark... can't
leave...

Troi stares at him, stunned.

99 CONTINUED:

TROI

(aloud)

Eyes in the dark... that's what
the voice said in my dream.

She leans closer to him.

TROI

Is that where you heard it? In
a dream? Over and over... ?

Hagan does not acknowledge directly... but tears roll
from his eyes down his cheeks... Deanna rises, hurries
to a wan and bedraggled Beverly.

100 ANGLE - BEVERLY AND TROI (CONTINUOUS)

TROI

Beverly... I know what it is...
I know what's happening...

BEVERLY

What... ?

TROI

My nightmare... it's not a dream.
It's not a dream at all... it's
a message.

101 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

Data, Troi, Beverly, and Picard. The others are noticeable by their absence. The group that is there, except for Data, is in bad shape. They are unkempt, hair in disarray and eyes red-rimmed. They are on the edge of an emotional abyss, all struggling mightily to keep from toppling over. Beverly is unable to sit still, and keeps jumping up to pace. Picard is straining to remain cogent, but keeps his hands tightly clasped, as though to hold onto sanity. Troi is possessed of an urgency that threatens to overwhelm her.

TROI

REM sleep occurs at a different frequency for Betazoids than other humanoids... I believe these beings are using that frequency to communicate telepathically...

DATA

It is conceivable that this telepathic communication is creating an interference that prevents REM sleep in other species -- that would be an explanation for why the rest of the crew is not dreaming.

PICARD

Counselor... what are these -- beings -- trying to tell us?

TROI

They're calling for help. I think they're trapped just like we are. "Eyes in the dark"... could mean this twin star system...

101 CONTINUED:

DATA

Your hypothesis is certainly plausible.

Data goes to the monitor and snaps on the same OKUDAGRAM he used in describing the Tyken's Rift.

DATA

It may well be that there is another ship... on the other side of the fissure... where we cannot detect it.

BEVERLY

Is there any way... to block their signals?

DATA

We have no technology to block telepathic transmissions, Doctor.

TROI

Maybe... communication through dreams can work both ways... I could try to get them to stop...

DATA

Perhaps we can accomplish more than that. If we could coordinate our efforts with these beings... we might work together to free ourselves.

TROI

It is conceivable... in working with patients who have debilitating nightmares, I have often used a therapeutuc treatment known as "directed dreaming"...

The others look at her, trying to hang on to what she's saying. It's all they can do to comprehend it.

101 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

Dreamers can learn to take control of their dreams... retain a conscious memory... even while they're in REM sleep. I should be able to remember a short message.

PICARD

If it's... possible... what would you say... ?

That's not so easy to answer. Troi looks to Data, who muses thoughtfully and we...

CUT TO:

101A INT. BRIDGE - SCIENCE STATION - MONITOR (OPTICAL)

Widen to reveal Troi sitting with Data as he taps more instructions into the console. A SERIES OF GRAPHICS scrolls on the monitor -- atomic diagrams of elements accompany the text. Troi stares at them, intrigued.

DATA

What we must discover is a means by which, working together with the aliens, we can produce an explosion more intense than either of us could achieve alone.

TROI

What is it you're looking for?

DATA

These are the elements we have available. Some of them could be used in the creation of an explosive reaction. If we can communicate this inventory to the other ship, perhaps they will be able to --

TROI

No, Data... that's too complex. This has to be a simple, clear message...

101A CONTINUED:

DATA

I am uncertain if a simple
transmission will be adequate...

But Troi isn't listening -- she's noticed something.

TROI

Stop... go back...

Data hits a control.

101B INSERT - MONITOR (OPTICAL)

as it scrolls backwards. The material is text,
accompanied by atomic diagrams.

TROI (O.C.)

Further back... there. Stop.

The monitor stops on a readout describing a hydrogen
atom; next to it is the diagram -- one electron
circling one proton.

101C RESUME TWO SHOT

TROI

"One... moon... circles... "

DATA

(curious)

Yes, Counselor, one electron
circles one proton... this is a
hydrogen atom.

TROI

"One moon circles"... that's what
they have been telling me... over
and over...

DATA

Perhaps the aliens are thinking
as we are... to collaborate in
producing an explosion. If
hydrogen is combined with certain
elements... calendenium, for
example, it is extremely volatile.

(beat)

But... would the message mean they
have hydrogen... or want
hydrogen?

TROI

If it is a distress call, they'd
be asking for what they need...
not what they already have.

DATA

Then a proper course of action
would be for us to release
hydrogen into the Rift and hope
that they have a substance which
could detonate it.

TROI

How do I tell them what to do?

101C CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

If you are correct, Counselor,
I believe they have already told
us what to do... and are waiting
for us to do it. When we are
ready the only message you should
try to convey is, "Now!"

102 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

Troi with Beverly. Beverly is shaky, keeps brushing
at her hair, but gamely hanging on to her
concentration.

BEVERLY

I can help keep you in REM sleep
for a while with this cortical
scanner... it will maintain
electrical activity in your brain
at the proper frequencies...

Troi lies back on the bed and Beverly begins attaching
electrodes.

INTERCUT:

103 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard at command, struggling to stay focused. Data is
at Ops. No one else is on the Bridge.

DATA

Counselor. You will have to
communicate with the other ship
within two minutes of entering
REM sleep.

TROI

(reacts)

Two minutes, is that all, Data?

DATA

Unfortunately, yes. We have only
enough power to emit a hydrogen
stream for that period of time.
They must understand that they
have to detonate it immediately.

(MORE)

103 CONTINUED:

DATA (Cont'd)
(to Picard)
Sir, we are ready to implement
the plan.

PICARD
Proceed.

DATA
We will need to draw power from
the life support systems in order
to discharge the collectors.
(a beat, Picard doesn't
respond, so Data
activates a companel)
This is Acting Captain Data. All
personnel will report to
designated shelter areas
immediately...

104 INT. ENTERPRISE - TEN FORWARD - CONTINUOUS

as the group hears Data's announcement. O'Brien and
Gillespie are among them.

DATA'S COM VOICE
... life support systems will
continue only in emergency shelter
areas...

This announcement turns the crowd's dark mood nasty.
The crowd is standing, milling about.

104 CONTINUED:

GILLESPIE

Hear that? ... get us jammed into shelter areas... we sit and wait to die... nobody'll ever find us...

GUINAN

(trying to calm them)
You can all relax... Ten Forward is a designated shelter area.

GILLESPIE

Do we want to die here... like helpless children?

There are rumbles of response.

105 ANGLE - GUINAN

She quietly touches a com panel.

GUINAN

Security to Ten-Forward... right away.

106 ON THE GROUP

GILLESPIE

We don't even know what we're dying for...

O'BRIEN

Gillespie, sit down... you're not helping matters any...

GILLESPIE

What's wrong with... standing up for ourselves?

A cheer goes up. Gillespie turns, brushes past O'Brien's effort to stop him, and leads a sizeable group toward the portal... as TWO SECURITY GUARDS come in... but they're not in much better shape...

107 ANGLE - GUARDS AND GROUP

There is a brief scuffle. The guards are disarmed. Gillespie and his group push to the front.

108 GILLESPIE AND CROWD

GILLESPIE

I say... Captain owes us some
answers... let's go...

They surge again toward the door, but this time, they
see --

109 GUINAN (OPTICAL)

standing in front of the door... holding a massive
weapon in her hands -- the 24th Century equivalent of
a shot gun.

GUINAN

Hold it.

The group slows but keeps coming.

GILLESPIE

What's that... ?

GUINAN

It's a little souvenir I picked
up on Magus Three...

GILLESPIE

Stand aside, Guinan... I'm not
feeling so good and I don't have
much patience...

He steps forward and Guinan raises the weapon, fires
over their heads... a huge FLARE blossoms out,
suggesting massive firepower.

GUINAN

That's setting number one.

(beat, while they absorb
this)

Now...

(adjusts the setting)

... anybody want to see number two?

The group is at a dead halt, staring at her.

109 CONTINUED:

GUINAN

I'm not feeling so good myself...
in fact, I'm real irritable...
so I hope nobody's got the idea
they're going through this door.
Because they'll have to go through
me first.

Gillespie and the others glare at her. But they don't
move.

110 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

Beverly with Troi, who is asleep on the bio-bed,
electrodes attached. A NURSE attends.

BEVERLY

PGO signals steady... visual
cortex is showing increased
activity... rapid eye movements
commencing...

Troi's breathing is deep and steady. Beverly stares a
beat at the read-out... seems to lose focus, then
remembers what she's to do... touches her insignia.

BEVERLY

Crusher to Bridge... she's in REM
sleep...

111 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - INTERCUTTING

DATA

Thank you, Doctor.
(to Picard)
Activating the Bussard collectors.

112 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The collectors on the engine nacelles begin to emit
a thin stream of red gas.

113 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

Camera DRIFTS into Troi's face as she sleeps.

114 INT. NIGHTMARE VOID (OPTICAL)

Troi is floating in the mists... the twin lights glow through the fog... the sighing voice calls from beyond... Troi drifts deeper into the foggy emptiness...

TROI
Where are you?

SIGHING VOICE
Eyes... in the dark...

Troi turns and looks back, as though searching for a way out. She is uncertain, fearful....

115 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The streams of hydrogen are reaching further into space.

116 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

DATA
We have ninety seconds remaining.

117 IN THE NIGHTMARE (OPTICAL)

Troi turns back toward the lights, floats on through the swirling vapors... the blurred and indistinct shapes seem a long way off.

TROI
Where are you... ?

118 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

Beverly tries to concentrate on the brain scanner monitor.

DATA'S COM VOICE
How is she, Doctor?

BEVERLY
(touches com)
Still in REM sleep...

DATA'S COM VOICE
And how are you?

118 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY
...I'm... fine...

119 INT. NIGHTMARE ROOM (OPTICAL)

Troi drifts on, pushing at the clouds as though they had substance.

TROI
Where are you? I have to
find you... I have to tell
you...

The sighing voice grows louder, eerier. Troi looks frightened... the voice swirls louder, like wind before a thunderstorm.

120 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The streams of hydrogen now reach deep into space.

121 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

DATA
Forty-five seconds remaining.

122 IN THE NIGHTMARE

The voice is louder now, deafening... a wind has swirled the fog into grotesque shapes and patterns... it's hard going... Troi falls to the ground...

TROI
Please... I must find you... tell
you...

Then, suddenly, she looks up, startled by something in front of her.

123 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

DATA
Thirty seconds...

124 IN THE NIGHTMARE (OPTICAL)

Troi looks up to see --

125 A SHAPE - HER POV (OPTICAL)

A dark figure, no more than a shadow, moving toward her from the gloom.

126 TROI (OPTICAL)

stares at him, startled.

127 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

DATA

Ten seconds.

128 OMITTED

129 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

From the collectors, the last of the hydrogen stretches into space... a long, long way...

130 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

as Data and Picard watch... the beam knives through the darkness... disappears in the distance... they wait... wait... The lights dim further...

PICARD

Nothing... no explosion...

DATA

The Counselor was unsuccessful.

A beat... and then they see --

131 EXT. SPACE - HUGE EXPLOSIONS (OPTICAL)

A brilliant pyrotechnical display... an explosion, which illuminates the funnel-shaped "Frift" in which they have been trapped.

132 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

as Picard and Data see the explosion, roiling and raging. There is a hum as power is restored and lights snap on. Picard rises... instinctively knowing what to do...

132 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Activate impulse engines...

DATA
Engines activated, sir...

Data presses several panels on his Ops pad.

133 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

grabs power, accelerates, skims through the last sparks of the diminishing explosion... directly into the center of the rift...

And passing it, going the opposite direction... a shapeless mass... a sparkling energy field... the other ship.

134 INT. ENTERPRISE - SICKBAY

Troi smiles... then her eyes flutter open as she comes awake.

135 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise clears the event and emerges into the quiet starfield once more.

DATA
We have cleared the rift, sir.
Warp engines are coming back on line.

PICARD
Set a course...

135 CONTINUED:

DATA

Setting a course for Starbase
Two-twenty. Sir, as my final
duty as Acting Captain, I order
you to bed. I shall do the same
for all personnel.

PICARD

Very well, Mister Data...

He rises, pauses.

PICARD

And... thank you.

DATA

Yes, sir. Pleasant dreams.

Picard EXITS the Bridge, and Data, alone, implacably
pilots the ship toward safe harbor.

136 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as the ship streaks away.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END