

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Outrageous Okona"  
#40272-130

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FINAL DRAFT

OCTOBER 4, 1988

STAR TREK: "The Outrageous Okona" - 10/4/88 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Outrageous Okona"

CAST

PICARD	THADIUN OKONA
RIKER	THE COMIC
DATA	DEBIN
PULASKI	KUSHELL
TROI	BENZAN
GEORDI	YANAR
WORF	
WESLEY	
GUINAN	
TRANSPORTER CHIEF	(B.G. ROBINSON)

Non-Speaking

CREWMEMBERS

TWO SECURITY OFFICERS

AUDIENCE

Voice-Over

COMPUTER VOICE

STAR TREK: "The Outrageous Okona" - 10/4/88 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Outrageous Okona"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE  
MAIN BRIDGE  
AFT STATIONS -  
MISSION CONTROL PANEL  
TRANSPORTER ROOM  
TRANSPORTER PAD  
MAIN ENGINEERING  
JEFFERIES TUBE  
CORRIDOR  
TEN-FORWARD  
CORRIDOR -  
OUTSIDE HOLODECK  
HOLODECK (NIGHTCLUB)  
B.G. ROBINSON'S QUARTERS  
OBSERVATION LOUNGE

DEBIN CRAFT  
MAIN BRIDGE

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE  
ERSTWHILE  
TWO OTHER SPACECRAFT

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Outrageous Okona"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it moves through space at impulse speed

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 42502.7.  
We are traveling in the Omega  
Twelve System traversing between  
a clustering of small planets that  
form the coalition of Madena VI.

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

We see the complement of people who normally make up  
the bridge crew. DATA and WESLEY at the front consoles  
controlling CONN and OPS. RIKER sits on one side of  
PICARD at the Command Area, the opposite seat empty,  
WORF stands near the Science Stations which are manned  
by n.d. crewmembers.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

Each of these planets is populated  
by separate humanoid people who  
co-exist and trade technology and  
minerals under a precarious but  
successful treaty.

3 AFT STATIONS - MISSION CONTROL PANEL

An ALERT SIGNAL FLASHES on the screen. The science  
crewmember looks up to Worf who steps to the panel,  
checks it and then announces.

WORF

We have an unidentified vessel  
approaching.

RIKER

Give me grid markers.

3 CONTINUED:

WORF

Sector three-nine-five-six,  
mark zero-nine-one.

The personnel on the bridge show little emotion but you can sense a little stiffening of their posture, a glint of expectation in Worf's eyes. Picard sits coolly and observes his well-tuned crew handling the situation.

4 ANGLE ON SCIENCE SCREEN - INTERCUTS AS NEEDED

Lines start to form the three dimensions blueprint of a space vehicle, at first very sparse and then filling quickly as more information runs through the computers and information bands run across the lower portion of the screen.

DATA

Sensor readings place overall  
dimension of vehicle an  
interplanetary cargo ship.

WORF

One life sign on board, appears  
to be humanoid.

In the b.g. we see TROI exit the turbolift and take her place quietly beside Picard.

DATA

A vessel of that size usually  
maintains a crew of six.

WORF

Minimum armament present.

DATA

Sensors show cargo holds are  
empty.

WORF

The course is inconsistent with  
normal cargo routes.

RIKER

This could be a primitive method  
to elude detection.

5 SCIENCE SCREEN

The three-dimensional schematic slowly revolves around the screen showing all angles of the unidentified craft. An alert RED DOT BLINKS on the interior of part of the live blueprint and a band of continuing detail specifications rolls across the lower portion of the screen.

DATA

Readout shows a burnout in inertial guidance system...

RIKER

The pilot is attempting to hold his vessel in check manually.

WORF

That could be a pretense.

6 ON PICARD

He speaks calmly.

PICARD

Captain's log, supplemental. We have just encountered and identified an interplanetary cargo vessel which is apparently in need of emergency assistance. We will make every effort to do so.

(beat)

Open hailing frequencies.

WORF

Hailing frequencies open.

PICARD

This is the USS Enterprise. Captain Jean-Luc Picard, over.

A pleasant male voice with the touch of laughter and humor in it comes over the speakers.

OKONA'S COM VOICE

And this is the cargo ship Erstwhile "limping" and "skidding" off course. Captain Okona at your service. As you see, there is no need for phasers, Captain. I'm harmless and not quite ready yet for mercy killing.

6 CONTINUED:

PICARD

You were never considered a danger  
to us, Captain Okona.

OKONA'S COM VOICE

It's a shame. I can remember when  
I was at least considered a  
"risk."

There is a moment of silence, then the sound of Okona's  
laughter, which builds and becomes infectious. At  
first it puzzles the Enterprise crew, then the laughter  
catches hold and slight smiles begin to break the  
tension.

WORF

The ship is in viewer range now,  
Captain.

PICARD

Main Viewer on.

7 ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

We now see the image of the man, his face slightly  
turned from the screen and not clearly showing. His  
joviality continues, and although more subdued, seems  
to be just as contagious.

OKONA

I'm the owner and operator of this  
craft and since we both know you  
scanned my vessel, you know I'm  
alone and empty...

(smile)

... and it's truly a rare occasion  
for a man of my charm, beauty and  
talent.

Okona mocks his own arrogance with his spontaneous  
laughter. His humorous jab at himself takes the bite  
off the remark.

CLOSER ON MAIN VIEWER - OKONA (OPTICAL)

Turns his smile full face to the Main Viewer. He has  
the look of a hero, the twinkle in the steely blue eyes  
softening the rugged handsomeness of the man.

CONTINUED:

OKONA

But then with the condition of  
this vessel I'm glad I have no  
responsibilities except for myself  
till I can get some repairs.

9 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard turns to Troi.

PICARD

Counselor, can you read him?

TROI

His emotions suggest that he is  
mischievous, irreverent and  
somewhat brazen.

(beat)

And some other things...

(unsure)

The word that seems to describe  
him best is "rogue."

DATA

Rogue? Accessing "rogue."

(kicks in)

Cad, knave, rake, rascal,  
scoundrel, villain.

TROI

Yes, all of that, but he shows  
no malevolence, or ill will.

Picard turns back to the viewscreen.

PICARD

What form of assistance can we  
offer you, Captain?

OKONA

I had a burnout on my guidance  
system. I'd appreciate it if I  
could use your facilities to  
repair it.

WESLEY

It would be possible.

PICARD

Estimate, Mister Data.

9 CONTINUED:

DATA

Time for repair would be seven  
hours sixteen minutes.

RIKER

Okona will have to shut down while  
we verify specifications.

Picard holds a few beats, then issues his orders.

PICARD

Lieutenant Worf, prepare security  
procedures.

(to Okona)

We can accommodate you.

WORF

I'll allow him limited access.

RIKER

If you'll prepare to shut down  
your engines we'll lock on  
tractors and beam you aboard.

OKONA

Many thanks, Captain Picard.

RIKER

Transporter Chief, prepare to beam  
aboard from Tractor lock bearing.

The well-modulated female voice of the TRANSPORTER  
CHIEF, B.G. ROBINSON, answers.

B.G. ROBINSON'S COM VOICE

Yes Number One, at your command.

OKONA

Is that a woman's voice I hear?

PICARD

Yes. Now please follow the  
directions of Commander Riker so  
our ship can get back to its  
normal routine.

Riker smiles as he moves away. Picard notices.

PICARD

(continuing)

Something funny, Commander Riker.

9 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

The unexpected, like what's  
happening now, IS our normal  
routine.

Picard muses for a beat, a slight nod shows his  
agreement.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

10 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE / THE ERSTWHILE (OPTICAL)

As the Erstwhile creeps closer and closer to its docking berth, the vastness of the surrounding starfield framing it with brilliance as the two contrasting sized crafts seem to float closer and closer.

RIKER (O.S.)

Hold it steady, Wesley. We're ready to link up. On my command...

WESLEY (O.S.)

Aye Number One.

The Erstwhile reaches the proper point of contact.

RIKER (O.S.)

Easy... easy...

(beat)

Engage. Shut down engines, Captain Okona.

A laser-like RED BEAM shoots from the Enterprise and locks into the nose of the Erstwhile and holds it there in a stationary position. The Erstwhile shuts down.

11 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

With the same crew intact except for Worf. Riker is in his command position. He rises from his position.

RIKER

Transporter Room proceed with Beaming Operation. I'm on my way.

B.G. ROBINSON'S COM VOICE

Yes, Commander.

Riker, Wesley and Data move to the turbolift and enter. The door slides shut behind them.

12 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Worf and TWO SECURITY MEN bracket the very feminine and graciously endowed Transporter Commander B.G. Robinson. Everything she has two of are perfectly matched, coordinated, and move with a wonderful grace that is called "woman." B.G. goes through the procedures of the transfer in her usual professional manner.

13 TRANSPORTER PAD (OPTICAL)

The heroic visage of Okona MATERIALIZES and smiles down at the Group assembled. He is dressed in a loose-fitting, open-necked blouse, wide belt and casual looking pants, his look is in opposition to the well-tailored Enterprise crewmembers. His sidearms are also less sophisticated and are tucked into his waistband. The malfunctioning guidance mechanism swings nonchalantly from the burnt-out wires in his grasp. Riker nods to Worf who steps forward.

WORF

Your weapons, please.

14 CLOSER ANGLE

Okona and Worf study each other openly, that brief moment of tension when two strong men measure each other. Okona, still with a trace of a smile on his face, diminishes some of the apprehension and gives in to Worf's stature without surrendering..

OKONA

You're the tough one on this ship.  
The muscle man.

WORF

Security.

OKONA

That's the usual name for warriors  
nowadays.

Okona unclips a belt and hands over all his weapons... Worf still stands there... Okona's smile broadens and he reaches behind his back and slips out a long heavy knife. He hands that to Worf, hilt first.

14 CONTINUED:

OKONA  
(continuing)  
It's more of a piece of jewelry  
than a weapon. A remembrance.

Worf accepts the excuse and the knife calmly, admires  
its weight, balance, and sharpness.

WORF  
It will be returned when you  
leave.

Riker steps forward away from Data and Wesley, extends  
his hand. Geordi is also in the room.

RIKER  
Welcome aboard, Captain Okona.  
I'm Commander Riker.  
(shakes hands)  
If you turn over the inoperative  
part to Lieutenant La Forge he'll  
begin repairs.

OKONA  
I'd be most happy to do the work  
myself, I'm sort of a "hands on"  
type...

WORF  
That will not be permitted.

OKONA  
Can I at least watch? Maybe offer  
some suggestions?

RIKER  
I think that could be arranged...

Geordi moves closer to Riker to accept the broken part.  
Okona, with a twinkle in his eye, reaches around him  
and hands it to a rather shocked Wesley.

OKONA  
Here you are, Lieutenant. I leave  
it in your capable hands.

WESLEY  
(reacts)  
No, this is Lieutenant La Forge,  
I'm only an ensign.

14 CONTINUED: (2)

OKONA

Well ensigns have names, don't they?

WESLEY

Wesley... Wesley Crusher..

OKONA

(enjoying himself)

Nice to meet you Ensign "Wesley Wesley" Crusher.

Accepts, Wesley smiles and shakes his hand. Geordi nods his greeting to Okona, takes the damaged part from Wesley; but before he can say anything, Okona has moved across the room to face B.G. Robinson.

15 FEATURING OKONA AND B.G.

Okona stands directly in front of her, leans forward and blocks her view of anything but him. He looks her directly in the eyes, gets her full attention, then slowly and with great gentleness takes a few wayward strands of her hair and tucks it back behind her ear as he speaks softly to her.

OKONA

And thank you for beaming me here and inviting me to see a truly beautiful woman.

(touches her chin)

You have the majestic carriage and loveliness that could surely be traced back to the noble families who once ruled romantic lands with benevolent and tender hands.

B.G. smiles openly and knowingly, but plays along... and Okona develops a hurt look. His eyes continue to show his humor.

B.G. ROBINSON

I'm sure you said that to many ladies and it was no more true then, than it is now.

15 CONTINUED:

OKONA

Of course,

(beat)

But it's how I say it that's most important. The feeling, the warmth, the attraction I have for you,

(soft beat)

the attraction that we share.

B.G. stares at him for a few beats, then throws back her head and laughs at his absolute but charming brashness.

B.G. ROBINSON

I haven't heard that approach in years... it is refreshing...

Okona laughs with her. He knows he's got her now.

16 ANGLES ON RIKER, DATA, WORF AND GEORDI

As they watch Okona whispering to B.G., Riker is appreciating the showmanship and charisma of Okona. Geordi, glancing over at the transporter station from time to time and recognizing the situation. Data merely observes all without any reactions. Riker comments:

RIKER

Mister Okona seems to have excellent vision and a healthy libido.

WORF

Which could add to the security problem. I'll supervise him closely.

GEORDI

(aware)

I'm sure you will, Worf.

Riker turns away to cover his smile, tells Okona:

RIKER

If you'll follow Lieutenant La Forge, we'll get right to work.

17 SCENE

Okona reluctantly breaks away from the beautiful B.G. with a laugh and a squeeze of her hand. As he passes Data's inquiring eyes, he comments playfully.

OKONA

Now isn't that a beautifully  
formed picture of sex appeal?

Data glances from B.G. to Okona with a somewhat puzzled expression.

DATA

I do not know what you mean.  
(beat; then explains)  
I am an android.

18 CLOSER ANGLE - WALK AND TALK

For the first time Okona is quiet, but then he quickly recovers with a smile and his usual glibness.

OKONA

Well then... Have you seen any  
great looking computers lately?

Riker, Wesley, Worf, and Geordi break up. Data stares from one to the other with a blank look on his face. Okona eyes Data.

OKONA

(continuing)  
That's a joke.  
(beat)  
It's funny.

DATA

(still oblivious, but  
covering)  
Yes, of course it is.

They continue to walk down the corridor, the look on Data's face showing his insecurity.

19 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING - JEFFERIES TUBE

Geordi and Okona handle the damaged mechanism while Wesley works on something in the lower platform of the tube. Wesley can see and hear the conversation. Okona is quite knowledgeable in this field although limited to his particular spacecraft. Geordi is more interested in how he can improve the navigation tool.

GEORDI

It's the Zelebium contacts that wore down and then fused. Why not replace them with Tricellite?

OKONA

Tricellite isn't available in this system. It wouldn't be available to me if I have to replace it.

GEORDI

I don't think your spacecraft will outlast the part.

Okona glances at Geordi with the usual twinkle in his eye and the trace of a smile on his face that is always ready to broaden.

OKONA

(smiles)

You mean the age of it or the way I fly it?

GEORDI

The stress test shows that you tend to push it beyond its designed capabilities.

OKONA

Lieutenant La Forge, I've never been told that I'm somewhat reckless in a kinder, or more gentlemanly manner; but since the pattern of my life has relegated me to interplanetary speed deliveries rather than universal exploration, I'm forced to add a flamboyancy and a zest to the doldrums of my existence.

Geordi laughs.

20 ANGLE DOWN THE TUBE - TO INCLUDE ALL

Wesley looks up at Okona with some admiration.

WESLEY

Captain Okona, I don't know  
whether I'd rather take a flight  
with you or listen to you talk.

Okona roars.

OKONA

Thank you Ensign Crusher, Crusher.

WESLEY

(getting into it)  
It's Wesley, Wesley.

OKONA

I'll make it easy on both of us.  
I'll just call you Tiger.

21 NEW ANGLE

Data has entered Engineering in time to hear the end  
of the conversation.

DATA

Captain Picard is not fond of  
nicknames.

OKONA

Your gallant Captain Picard. I'd  
like to meet him... I'll stroll  
on the bridge and say hello.

DATA

You are not permitted on the  
bridge. You are restricted to  
your quarters or the Ten-Forward  
lounge unless escorted by a  
crewmember.

OKONA

(shrugs)  
I've broken some small rules  
before.

21 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

You do and besides the bells and lights that will go off, our benevolent and kindly Lieutenant Worf will offer you a new kind of greeting.

OKONA

Well then, would you escort me to C deck?

Geordi studies Okona for a beat, then nods his approval.

GEORDI

I'm busy rebuilding your ship.

Wesley ducks down the Jefferies Tube. Okona glances over to Data, smiles his best.

OKONA

Then Mister Data sir, I would feel privileged if you allow me to be in your company while you escort me to my destination...

Geordi laughs... Data nods. Okona nods, looks a little speculative.

22 INT. CORRIDOR

Okona and the stolid Data walk down the hallway with Data slightly in the lead. Okona keeps peeking at Data but takes a beat or two before he speaks. Then he finally does.

OKONA

You ever been cold?

DATA

No.

OKONA

How about warm?

DATA

The temperature on this vessel is regulated to within a fraction of a degree of the perfect comfort range. I am also able to react to any changes just as a humanoid.

22 CONTINUED:

They continue their silent walk.

OKONA

How about drunk? Ever do that?

DATA

That is not possible. One moment.

Data stops dead in his tracks and runs through his program. Only his eyes show a sort of blinking symbol as he checks out his circuits for the answer.

DATA

(continuing)

I was correct. I am not designed to react to any synthenol intake but apparently it is possible for me to become intoxicated.

OKONA

I don't understand that at all.

DATA

It seems that I have been adapting some human peculiarities over the last three tours of duty.

OKONA

What about love?

DATA

The act or the emotion?

OKONA

They're both the same to me.

DATA

I believe that deduction to be inaccurate.

OKONA

Maybe.

A sudden sadness comes to his eyes, then is quickly replaced as he takes Data by the arm and continues his walk down the corridor in feigned seriousness.

OKONA

(continuing)

Life is like loading twice your cargo weight on your spacecraft... if it's canaries and you can keep half of them flying all the time, you're all right.

23 ON DATA

He stares at Okona with a blank look ignoring the laughter that follows. Okona slowly subsides and stares back at Data.

OKONA

Don't you get it?

DATA

Get what?

OKONA

The punch line... The gag... That was a joke I told you.

DATA

I still do not understand.

OKONA

You don't know what a joke is?

DATA

Of course I do.

(as he computes)

A joke is an antic, a caper, mischief, prank, trick, quip, witticism.

OKONA

(overlapping)

That's the dictionary meaning. I'm talking about humor, fun.

(beat)

Do you know what "funny" is?

Data gives him a bewildered look. Okona gives up, points to one of the doors.

OKONA

Is that C-nine-two-nine?

DATA

The room to the left. Why?

Okona smiles, shrugs..

OKONA

You probably wouldn't understand that either...

Okona presses the entry button on the specific door. It slides open to disclose:

24 CLOSER ANGLE

The attractive and very sensuous B.G. Robinson who has obviously been expecting his arrival. She returns Okona's smile and steps away from the door to allow him in. The door slides shut behind him.

25 ON DATA

His totally confused expression.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

26 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

against the background of serenity and stars.

27 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Riker looks over the shoulder of Wesley and Geordi, and they check and test the contacts of the malfunctioning Okona apparatus.

RIKER

What's the status of the repair?

GEORDI

On schedule. The difficulty is Okona has to be able to repair this part himself next time.

WESLEY

Commander, do you know much about him?

RIKER

Just that he's an interesting man.

WESLEY

He's a lot more than that. He's a capable engineer.

GEORDI

In a practical sense he's excellent.

WESLEY

We've seen him handle his ship, and he certainly knows how to handle people.

RIKER

Everything you say is true.

WESLEY

Then why is he what he is?

27 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Why is he operating a cargo route alone rather than being a member of a large organization like we are?

WESLEY

Yes, that's it.

RIKER

I would say because he chooses to do exactly what he does.

WESLEY

A cargo master?

RIKER

(mimics the tone)  
An ensign in Engineering?

Wesley holds Riker's look, then smiles and nods his understanding. Riker softens a bit.

RIKER

(continuing)  
His choice. Someday you'll make yours.

WESLEY

I already have.

Riker nods.

28 INT. TEN-FORWARD (OPTICAL)

The stars in space zoom past the observation windows which span the front of the lounge. Some n.d. crewmembers are at the small tables at the bar. Data is in conversation with GUINAN who is quite patient but about to become brutally honest with him. It is obvious that the conversation has been going on for some time.

GUINAN

Okona is right.

DATA

You agree that I am missing a very important human factor.

28 CONTINUED:

GUINAN

All I said was I agree with Okona  
that you never smile or laugh.  
At least I've never seen you do  
it.

(beat)

Do you? Ever?

DATA

I never knew I had to.

GUINAN

It's not a "had to." Even Captain  
Picard can't order you to be  
happy.

DATA

But I am not unhappy. I just do  
not seem to break out in laughter  
with everyone else when Okona says  
certain things.

GUINAN

You mean when he tells a joke.

(understanding now)

That's it, isn't it? You don't  
have any idea what a joke is.

DATA

(defensive)

Of course I do.

(his computer kicks in)

It is a witticism, a gag, a bon  
mot, a fluctuation of words which  
concludes with "trick" ending,  
it is...

GUINAN

(overlapping)

Whoa, slow down. Now Data,  
there's just you and me here and  
nobody is going to know what we  
talked about. My job here places  
me under some obligations, like  
a vow of secrecy. I can't repeat  
anything I hear or see. Now the  
obligation of the patron is to  
tell the truth, otherwise I'm  
being placed under a commitment  
to keep a secret about "nothing."  
That's not fair. It's called  
wasted honor. You understand?

28 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

(stolid beat)

I understand better than you think. You just told me a joke and I am not laughing.

GUINAN

(disappointed)

I can see that.

DATA

Maybe it was not funny.

GUINAN

It was funny.

DATA

How can you be sure?

GUINAN

I've used it before. Everybody else at least smiles. It's you, Data.

DATA

I agree. Now what do I do about it?

GUINAN

When most people have trouble, they look to a more intelligent and learned being for assistance.

(thoughtful beat)

In your case, I'd suggest you go to a bigger computer.

That Data understands. He nods his acceptance, moves off.

29 INT. CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE HOLODECK

Data is accessing the Holodeck panel. The panel lights array themselves and the VOICE of the Holodeck COMPUTER assists Data in locating his choices.

DATA

I wish to learn about jokes...

29 CONTINUED:

COMPUTER VOICE

There are books, films, and tapes.  
But the only animate object would  
be a comedian.

DATA

Show me one of those.

COMPUTER VOICE

Specify type, please.

DATA

Humanoid. One who is able to  
understand and tell a joke.

COMPUTER VOICE

Physical or cerebral style.

DATA

Show me both.

COMPUTER VOICE

I will access a list.

A LIST FLASHES ON THE SCREEN that only Data would be  
able to read. He answers unknowingly and randomly.

DATA

That one. RW nine, three, two,  
one, six -- twentieth century.

COMPUTER VOICE

Program installation complete,  
you may enter.

Data steps in front of the door. It slides open.

30 ANGLE THROUGH DOORS

The frozen IMAGE of a COMEDIAN popular today stands  
on a small stage in the center of a spotlight. Data  
enters.

31 INT. HOLODECK

The image comes to life. The Comic takes a bow and  
announces.

31 CONTINUED:

THE COMIC

Thank you ladies and gentlemen.  
And thank you for bringing me  
here.

DATA

I want to know what is funny.

The Comic steps off the stage and takes a seat next to Data. He stares at the blank open expression on Data's face and realizes that he's in for it.

THE COMIC

Things that make you laugh are  
funny?

DATA

Nothing makes me laugh, but I  
still want to do it.

THE COMIC

How much time do we have?

DATA

Time has no meaning in this  
instance. It could be endless.

THE COMIC

I think we're going to need it  
all.

DATA

I assure you, I am completely  
trainable and capable of  
indoctrination. Show me what is  
funny.

THE COMIC

Okay, try this.

The Comic distorts his face and posture, does a piece of "business," a comical imitation, using his clothes, motion, perhaps a prop. He glances over to Data, who stands motionless and passive.

THE COMIC

Well?

DATA

That is considered funny?

31 CONTINUED: (2)

THE COMIC

It was till a few seconds ago.

DATA

You mean if you twist your face,  
bend over at the waist, mess up  
your hair, and cross your eyes  
it is a pretense that would be  
funny.

THE COMIC

(uncomfortable)

I have to admit it's a little  
ridiculous, but that's part of  
being funny. Clowns are  
ridiculous, but they make people  
laugh. Now try it.

Data makes a couple of vain efforts to twist himself  
and imitate the imitator. His attempts are clumsy,  
inept, and bring a troubled look to the Comic's face.

THE COMIC

(continuing)

Can you juggle, whistle, sing?

Data shakes his head.

THE COMIC

(continuing)

How about write or paint? I have  
a house that needs painting. It's  
hard work, but at least you don't  
have to be funny. Just a strong  
wrist, a good eye, and an  
affection for watching water base  
off-white dry slowly.

The Comic laughs at his own humor. Data's sterile look  
causes the Comic to grimace.

DATA

I can do everything else that I  
want to do. I just want to know  
what is funny. I want to be able  
to involve myself in other  
people's laughter.

(quieter beat)

I want to "join in."

The Comic eyes Data, understanding and sympathizing  
with his dilemma.

31 CONTINUED: (3)

THE COMIC

We'll try. You have to remember  
your "body English" and gestures.

(beat)

Now you're going to learn some  
jokes.

DATA

Proceed.

THE COMIC

We'll start with some standards...  
This traveling salesman...

DATA

Access faster...

32 ON THE COMIC (OPTICAL)

As he goes through his routine of jokes, CAMERA SKIP  
FRAMES to:

THE COMIC

... comes up to his farmhouse  
and...

DATA

Faster. Move to maximum speed.

We SPEED UP FRAMES until the Comic is MOVING AT EIGHT  
FRAMES PER and the DIALOGUE SOUNDS LIKE CHIPMUNK  
GIBBERISH. HOLD on this for a few beats.

33 ON DATA

His eyes blinking in the information at the same  
speed... Then:

34 INT. TEN-FORWARD

Data is facing Guinan. He speaks in his usual  
monotone.

34 CONTINUED:

DATA

This gentleman went to see his surgeon and was informed that he needed an operation. The man thought about that and then said, "I would like a second opinion." The doctor said, "Okay, you are ugly too."

Data immediately asks Guinan for her recognition.

DATA

(continuing)

Was I funny?

GUINAN

That joke has been funny for over four hundred years.

(sad beat)

We'll now have a minute's silence for its passing.

DATA

I was not funny...

GUINAN

Forget it. Try another joke.

Data sets himself in a predetermined position and starts.

DATA

Who was that woman I saw you with?

Guinan flinches in expectation but is saved as the voice of Picard is heard over the loudspeakers.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

(filtered)

Lieutenant Commander Data, report to the Main Bridge immediately. I repeat, report to the Main Bridge immediately.

Data moves quickly to the turbolift. As he moves, he informs Guinan:

DATA

I will be back.

GUINAN

(hopeless)

Bring new jokes...

35 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

There is a controlled urgency in the conduct of the bridge as Data enters from the turbolift and moves directly to his station in Ops. Wesley is already in place at Conn and whispers over to Data immediately:

WESLEY

We have an "unidentified" in Sector four.

Data immediately focuses his attention on his necessary functions. All stations are covered. Riker and Troi bracket Picard. PULASKI will also appear on the bridge during this scene. Worf announces from his Tactical Station:

WORF

Unidentified craft Sector four to Sector four two six one. Overtaking us, no response to our hailing.

PICARD

Open hailing frequencies in all languages and on all channels.

WORF

Hailing frequencies open. No response.

DATA

Sensors report a minimum range combat craft of the Squadron Class, twenty-six crew.

WORF

(overlap)  
Captain, they have locked phasers.

PICARD

(somewhat puzzled)  
Phasers?

RIKER

(same look)  
Regulations call for a Yellow Alert.

PICARD

It's too small of a craft to be of any threat to us. Do you agree, Lieutenant Worf?

35 CONTINUED:

WORF

We could blow it out of space  
before it could scratch our hull.

PICARD

And I doubt that they are so  
primitive that they wouldn't know  
it. Ensign Crusher, reduce speed  
to allow them to overtake.

RIKER

May I ask why, sir?

PICARD

They show a great deal of courage.  
Perhaps I would like to show them  
some respect, or perhaps I'm just  
curious.

RIKER

I understand, Captain. Would a  
"courteous" Yellow Alert apply  
at this time?

PICARD

(covers a smile)

That won't be necessary, Number  
One. But continue to hail them  
and prepare for a gentlemanly  
surrender if needed.

The reactions of the crew, especially the pained  
expression of Worf.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

36 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE / THE ERSTWHILE (OPTICAL)

Okona's ship in tow. Another spacecraft even smaller and more outdated than Okona's approaches. In scale it looks like a P.T. Boat pulling next to the USS Missouri.

37 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The business on the bridge continues in a relaxed, but expectant manner.

WORF

Still no response to our hail.

38 ON CREWMEMBERS

A few beats, then Data informs them:

DATA

The "stranger" vessel has slowed and is holding its position.

WORF

Captain, we are being hailed.

PICARD

On screen.

39 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER - INTERCUT AS NEEDED (OPTICAL)

There are a few tense beats, then the face of DEBIN slowly MATERIALIZES on the screen. He is a middle-aged humanoid (perhaps one distinguishing factor to designate him as different). We see a small passenger area, rather than a large bridge.

DEBIN

I am Debin of the planet Atlec.

PICARD

I am Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the USS Enterprise... What is the reason for this aggressive approach?

39 CONTINUED:

DEBIN

You are towing a spacecraft of  
a known criminal.

PICARD

It was in need of emergency  
repairs. It was our obligation  
to assist.

DEBIN

You have a man by the name of  
Okona aboard.

(harsher beat)

I want him.

There are some reactions through the main cabin.

PICARD

On what authority?

Debin reacts to this with a tumultuous roar. He  
explodes his response.

DEBIN

He is guilty of crimes committed  
on the planet Atlec. I expect  
him to be turned over to my  
authority immediately.

PICARD

What crimes?

DEBIN

That is neither important or  
necessary. I want Okona now!

Before Picard can respond.

WESLEY

Captain, we have another Class  
four armed spacecraft approaching,  
from the opposite sector...

PICARD

Another ship from Atlec?

DATA

Similar in specifications and  
capabilities, but a variation in  
markings and hailing language.

39 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD  
(to Debin)  
Hold your position, Mister Debin.  
(to Data)  
Cut off Main Screen.

The viewscreen goes blank.

PICARD  
(continuing)  
Identify approaching craft.

DATA  
Sensors indicate it to be a  
security vessel from the planet  
Straleb.

WORF  
We could swat both mosquitoes  
easily.

Picard gives him a quieting, yet understanding look.

PICARD  
Open hailing frequencies.

WORF  
Hailing frequencies open.

Some beats, then:

WORF  
(continuing)  
They are returning our hail on  
the proper channel.

PICARD  
On screen.

40 MAIN VIEWER - INTERCUT AS NEEDED (OPTICAL)

The screen fills with the picture of another ship's cockpit area, which is a much smaller variation of a bridge. Humanoid personnel pilot the craft. (There could be a characteristic that would also mark them as an individual race and also slightly different than the Atlec race.) KUSHELL, older and more forceful than his younger better-looking companion BENZAN, steps into focus..

40 CONTINUED:

KUSHELL

I am Secretary Kushell from the  
Legation of Unity of the planet  
Straleb.

PICARD

I am Captain Picard.

KUSHELL

(overlapping)

We know who you are, Captain  
Picard. We have been monitoring  
your communications and we know  
of the demands made by Debin of  
the planet Atlec.

PICARD

Then you know that we intend no  
hostile interaction with either  
of you.

KUSHELL

You only have to concede to one  
demand.

PICARD

The word "demand" has the tone  
of finality.

KUSHELL

It is a word I have chosen.

(beat)

We demand you turn Okona over to  
us immediately.

Picard covers his reactions.

PICARD

(to Wesley)

Mute the Main Viewer.

(to Worf)

Lieutenant Worf, Mister Okona to the  
Main Bridge immediately.

WORF

Yes sir.

PICARD

Engage the screen.

(to Kushell)

The same "demand" has been made  
by the Atlec legation.

40 CONTINUED: (2)

KUSHELL

I have no interest in their request. We intend to back up our legal right to Okona.

PICARD

(knowing)

I'd rather you didn't escalate this situation any further.

Benzan tries to guide the older man away from the viewscreen. Kushell pulls away from his grasp.

KUSHELL

You're my son. You obey orders, you do not interfere with them.

(to Picard, enraged)

We are prepared to take Okona by force if we have to. The honor and prestige of this nation are at stake.

(beat)

We are ready to die for that.

PICARD

We do not intend for that to be at our hand. I will respond to your request shortly --

(then:)

Main Viewer off.

41 INT. CORRIDOR

Worf and TWO SECURITY OFFICERS move through the corridor.

42 ANGLE ON DOOR

It slides open to disclose a smiling Okona who is just buttoning up his shirt and preparing to exit. A well-endowed FEMALE CREWMEMBER (not B.G. Robinson) bids him an affectionate farewell. The kiss becomes extended and passion builds again, until interrupted by Worf.

WORF

(to Okona)

I have orders to escort you to the Main Bridge immediately.

42 CONTINUED:

OKONA

I'm sure it can wait a few  
minutes.

WORF

Now!!

43 CLOSER ANGLE

Worf steps face to face with Okona and sets himself. Okona tightens and seems to coil just a bit in preparation. The two of them face in a stand-off understanding each other. Worf accepts the challenge and declines it at the same time.

WORF

I'd like that, but I have orders.

OKONA

(nods)

Some other time then.

The tension is ended. Worf motions to the security officers. They step on either side of Okona and leave him no choice but to step away from his embrace. He offers her a joking farewell as he is led away.

OKONA

(continuing)

Just remember, it took three armed  
men to rip me from your arms.

44 INT. CORRIDOR - MOVING SHOT

Okona keeps pace with Worf as they enter the turbolift.

OKONA

Am I going to meet Captain Picard?

Worf eyes him a beat, then a grunting laugh.

WORF

Definitely.

OKONA

Did I say something funny?

The doors slide shut.

45 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The turbolift door opens and Okona is escorted towards the captain. Worf introduces.

WORF

Captain Picard, this is Thadiun Okona.

Okona steps forward, extends his hand, and prepares himself for his normal overpowering greeting.

46 ON PICARD

He swings around in his chair and holds Okona away with his hard-probing look. The rest of the room waits. Picard controls, points to the captain's Ready Room.

PICARD

In there... We'll talk in there...

Picard gets up and leads the way. The doors slide open and they enter. The crew eyes each other.

47 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Picard turns directly to Okona. His anger is apparent.

PICARD

Mister Okona, you were welcomed on board and given the security of this ship openly and without any undue investigation. In turn the only obligation we placed you under was that you do not come aboard the Enterprise under false pretenses. It seems that you did.

OKONA

If you mean my "socializing" with the members of the crew?

PICARD

No, you are free to interact with the members of the crew. First, I'm talking about a man named Debin. Are you familiar with him?

48 SCENE

Okona becomes somewhat wary, but still faces Picard with no fear or nervousness showing.

OKONA

He's from Atlec. I've had dealings with some of his family.

PICARD

Then perhaps you can explain why his spacecraft is prepared to attack us unless we give him custody of you.

OKONA

I can't explain.

PICARD

Then tell me why Kushell of the planet Straleb is demanding the same thing?

OKONA

Is he here also?

PICARD

And quite adamant. Now answer please. What crimes have you committed?

OKONA

I am not a criminal.

PICARD

Why do these men want you?

OKONA

I can't say.

PICARD

You will say. You're on my ship.

OKONA

(serious now)

It wouldn't be the honorable thing to do. I may be many less than auspicious things, but I am a gentleman. I won't break that code.

PICARD

They are prepared to attack the Enterprise.

48 CONTINUED:

OKONA

(reacts)

That would be crazy. They  
wouldn't stand a chance...

PICARD

Exactly.

(studies Okona)

Then perhaps you could give me  
some reasons as to why I should  
consider destroying these people  
to save you?

49 CLOSER

For the first time Okona is at a loss for words.

OKONA

I can't think of any right now.

PICARD

Neither can I.

Picard turns and exits the Ready Room...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

50 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

facing the two tiny and less formidable looking ships.  
The Erstwhile still in tow and even smaller.

51 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard regards Okona, still is in a no-nonsense mood.  
Picard turns back to the Main Viewer

PICARD

Put Debin on screen.

52 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The Main Bridge of the Debin craft appears on screen.  
Debin standing there gets right down to business.

DEBIN

Have you made your decision yet,  
Captain?

PICARD

No. You've made your requests  
but you haven't told me why.

DEBIN

It's a personal matter.

PICARD

I'm afraid that's not good enough.

Debin visibly explodes. His rage balloons.

DEBIN

Not good enough?? You're forcing  
me to embarrass my family by  
demanding reasons.

Debin steps off screen for a beat, then returns with  
a young tearful woman named YANAR. She is very  
beautiful and also very pregnant.

53 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

All heads turn from the Main Viewer to Okona who attempts to look innocent and therefore looks even more guilty.

DEBIN

It was Okona... He's been bringing Yanar gifts, flowers, and even poetry for the past five months. He took advantage. Then he left her like this. I want him.

Picard feels uncomfortable, but now understands Debin's emotions.

PICARD

I do sympathize with you. If you will allow me just a little more time.

DEBIN

(not to be put off)  
Why, so you can turn him over to Kushell? You do that and I'll blow his ship away and Okona with it.

54 ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Kushell suddenly appears on a SPLIT SCREEN and yells back at Debin.

KUSHELL

You'll be dust before you aim your first missile. I have a perfect right to Okona. He's a thief. He stole the Jewel of Thesia. A national heritage.

DEBIN

(yelling back)  
A "thing." An "item." My case involves the victimization of a human form. My daughter.

Okona steps nearer to Picard and can now obviously be seen by the "split screen" characters. They visibly react.

DEBIN

(continuing)  
That's him!! I'll have him now.

54 CONTINUED:

KUSHELL

He's mine.

OKONA

One at a time. Who accuses me  
of stealing?

KUSHELL

I do, you thief. Me and my son,  
Benzan. Okona was my son's  
friend. He took advantage of that  
friendship to plunder a national  
treasure.

Benzan is standing next to his father silently. We hear some ad lib yelling in the b.g. as Debin responds to Kushell. Picard signals to mute the sound on the screen. (Kushell and Debin will continue their silent argument.) Picard turns to Okona.

PICARD

What do you have to say about that  
Okona?

OKONA

Nothing right now. Let them do  
all the talking.

Picard pauses for a moment. Then interrupts the arguing between Debin and Kushell.

PICARD

Gentlemen if you please!

Debin and Kushell quiet down.

PICARD

(continuing)

You will get my decision as soon  
as I can confer with my advisors  
and in the interest of maintaining  
peace I am jamming communications  
between your two ships. Picard  
out.

Before either of the two fathers can answer the screen goes blank. Picard swings from his control chair.

54 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Okona, Doctor, Counselor,  
Lieutenant Worf, Geordi, the  
conference room if you please.  
Have Doctor Pulaski join us...

The Observation Lounge door slides open and the group  
files in.

55 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

They take seats around the table. Okona takes the  
opportunity to move to the food slot and concoct a  
healthy snack.

PULASKI

Dishonesty, lust, and now hunger.  
You really are extremely basic  
Mister Okona.

OKONA

Last meals always taste the best  
and hunger won't make me a better  
person.

PULASKI

That's probably true.

TROI

Neither one of the allegations  
is considered a capital crime.

OKONA

I'll never reach either of those  
planets alive. They have lost  
too much face over these  
incidents.

PICARD

And yet it provides the  
possibility of even more violence.

OKONA

You're not afraid of those two  
or what they can do to you.

55 CONTINUED:

PICARD

It's what I may have to do to them that concerns me. If I turn you over to Debin, I will have to deal with Kushell. If you go to Kushell, I will have Debin to administer to. Or perhaps both of them would decide to attack us. Fatalities could be total.

OKONA

I hate to have to be the one to say this, but you don't owe me anything.

PICARD

I'm well aware of that, but it doesn't change anything.

(beat)

Are you innocent, Thadiun Okona?

Okona can't resist the glib one liner and the smile.

OKONA

Innocent? Absolutely not, Captain Picard. I'll make no excuses for my lifestyle.

(beat)

But I have not committed the crimes that I've been accused of or any others similar.

Okona turns to give Troi a questioning look. Troi nods to Picard that he's telling the truth.

PICARD

Then my predicament is confirmed.

OKONA

In that case, Captain, I can't make it any easier on you.

PICARD

(reacts)

Apparently you've never been concerned about making it easier on anyone... There are two men out there who do not consider this a joke and are willing to face death as a matter of honor. They should be respected, not laughed at.

55 CONTINUED: (2)

OKONA

You seemed to have reached a decision about me, Captain.

PICARD

Only about what I think you are. What to do about it is still a problem.

OKONA

I'll help you with it.

(beat)

Stall Debin and Kushell. Give me enough time to get the guidance system re-installed and I'll go on my own.

RIKER

Their ships are bigger and faster than yours.

OKONA

You'll still be able to warp away and I'll take care of myself.

PULASKI

How will you get away?

OKONA

(smile)

I'll dazzle them with my brilliance and dexterity.

PICARD

(beat)

I don't like it.

OKONA

You have very little choice.

PICARD

(a few beats)

I know. It will be impossible to stall very long.

OKONA

"Just long enough" is all I need...

PULASKI

What are you going to say to Debin and Kushell?

55 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD  
(shrugging)  
Anything I have to.

OKONA  
Now you're starting to sound like  
me, Captain.

PICARD  
Heaven forbid.

Okona holds Picard's look for a beat, nods, turns and enters the turbolift... Picard moves to the door to the Main bridge. The doors slide open. Picard, Riker et al walk through.

56 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard moves to the command chair; Riker next to him. Picard takes a breath.

PICARD  
Engage Main Viewer.

Screen -- the spilt screen of Debin and Kushell.

PICARD  
(continuing)  
Ah, gentlemen... If you'll just  
bear with me, I have a few  
questions.

57 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Geordi and Wesley are still working on the Okona mechanism. Okona looks over their shoulders, admires it. Okona seems distracted, his mind somewhere else, his conversation not up to its usual pace and humor.

OKONA  
Looks like an excellent job.  
You're quite a craftsman  
Lieutenant La Forge. How soon  
will it be finished?

GEORDI  
What's the rush? I thought you  
liked it here.

57 CONTINUED:

OKONA

I did. It stopped liking me.  
Time for me to disappear.

WESLEY

Where will you go?

OKONA

A new place, if I make it.

WESLEY

Don't you ever stay anywhere?

Okona snaps out of his mood a little, eyes Wesley.

OKONA

Not for a long time.

WESLEY

I know that's the way you want  
to be and it is your choice, but  
I don't understand. You like  
people. Why do you want to be  
alone all the time?

58 ON OKONA

He keeps his gaze on Wesley as his mind works. Geordi  
interrupts, holds out the new part.

GEORDI

It's ready. You should be able  
to install this in less than five  
minutes.

Okona turns his look to Geordi, nods, but makes no move  
to take the part from him.

OKONA

Like you said Geordi, what's the  
rush?

(moving)

I have some friends around here.

Okona moves off. Geordi and Wesley exchange looks.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

59 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The smaller cargo ship Erstwhile is still in tow. The position of the Debin and Kushell vessels, the same...

60 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

All stations are manned. Okona enters from the turbolift and waits there as Picard motions to him. Picard turns back to the screen.

PICARD

One moment please, gentlemen.  
Screen off.

Picard turns to Okona.

PICARD

I've used every pretext I could think of. The result is they've aimed their full ordinance at us and are prepared to attack. I can't delay any longer.

OKONA

I'm not leaving.

PICARD

(reacts)  
We've gone over this before. I thought you made a decision.

OKONA

Don't worry, I'm not staying either.

(long beat)

I've decided to surrender myself to one of them.

Reactions around the bridge...

RIKER

Which one?

OKONA

(laughs)  
Put them on screen and place your bets. The odds are two to one...

60 CONTINUED:

Riker glances over to Picard.

PICARD

On screen.

61 MAIN VIEWER - SPLIT SCREEN (INTERCUT AS NEEDED)

The images of Debin and Yanar on one half, Kushell and Benzan on the other.

KUSHELL

It took long enough. Now when  
can I have Okona?

DEBIN

I registered my complaint before  
you. I have first recourse.

KUSHELL

Do not delay your decision again.  
I'm warning you not to do that,  
Captain Picard.

PICARD

Yes, both of you are most adept  
at issuing warnings.

(beat)

Mister Okona has volunteered to  
deal with this himself.

Okona steps forward to face the screen and also be seen  
by all parties. Kushell and Debin are animated, Benzan  
and the pregnant girl more subdued, waiting.

OKONA

I'll speak my piece before I walk  
to your gallows. As I said before  
I am not a thief. I am also not  
a character of exceptional good  
name and reputation; so, as I  
never chose to become a thief,  
I have never chosen to become a  
father either.

(long beat)

Given the choice between the two  
I must say that marriage to the  
beautiful and affectionate Yanar  
is a much more pleasant sentence.

(MORE)

61 CONTINUED:

OKONA (Cont'd)

(pause)

So my dear Yanar, if you would do me the honor of becoming my wife I will do everything in my power to make our marriage happy and fruitful.

There is a shocked silence on both the Main Bridge and the split screen. Varying emotions start to build.

BENZAN

No! He can't!

HUSHELL

My son is right. Okona will not escape me that way.

BENZAN

No, that's not what I mean.

DEBIN

Send him to me. I'll decide his fate.

Yanar steps to the forefront.

YANAR

Why should you decide? Why don't I? Since everybody knows Okona is the father of this child, why should we not allow him to take his rightful place?

(firmly)

I accept.

BENZAN

You can't accept!

KUSHELL

That's right. Okona is still a thief.

BENZAN

No he's not. Nothing was stolen.

KUSHELL

The Jewel of Thesia!

BENZAN

It was not stolen by my friend Okona.

61 CONTINUED: (2)

KUSHELL

Then where is it?

BENZAN

You could say it was taken into  
"custody" by the rightful heir,  
me.

Picard looks over at Okona who eyes Benzan with a look  
of pride.

62 VARIOUS CUTS AND ANGLES (OPTICAL)

as Debin and Kushell gain knowledge of the incidents  
involved in both the theft and pregnancy. Kushell is  
stunned, Debin glad to have it all settled. Benzan  
is making his statement of fact; Yanar, not pleased  
at the way it is all coming down. Okona, trying to  
make them tell the facts; and, Picard, watching the  
scene unravel to Okona's hopeful design and finding  
himself becoming involved in the event and starting  
to appreciate him a little.

PICARD

(to Okona)

Benzan has a certain flair for  
the language that is similar to  
yours.

OKONA

A little bit of me might have  
rubbed off on the boy. I didn't  
think he would let me hang.

PICARD

You placed great faith in him.

OKONA

He's a friend...

Debin feels the whole thing is settled. He announces.

KUSHELL

(to Benzan)

Why would you steal what would  
eventually become yours?

62 CONTINUED:

BENZAN

To present it to Yanar as my vow  
of marriage.

(beat)

Yanar is carrying my child.

KUSHELL

(stunned)

Yanar said it was Okona's.

DEBIN

(to Yanar)

You were with both these men?

YANAR

No, but that's not what is  
important now. What is important  
is who I marry.

BENZAN

You'll marry me.

YANAR

Why should I?

BENZAN

Because I love you.

YANAR

You waited this long to say that?  
You almost allowed Okona to be  
punished, now suddenly you wish  
to marry me?

BENZAN

I sent the Jewel of Thesia to you  
with Okona to declare us man and  
wife. The politics of our fathers  
would have been settled later.

KUSHELL

So Okona does have the jewel.

BENZAN

I ordered him to deliver it!

YANAR

And waited a little too long to  
do that also. I won't marry you,  
Benzan.

62 CONTINUED: (2)

DEBIN

Then you'll marry Okona.

YANAR

(screams)

I won't marry anyone!

Okona steps forward to the Main Viewer and speaks seriously and with great feeling...

OKONA

Don't Yanar. You're angry about the embarrassment of all this and maybe the timing and approach is not the most romantic, but I know you love Benzan and I don't want to see you throw away that feeling because we adults do not know how to behave properly.

YANAR

If Benzan could speak with the same integrity as you do, maybe it would be different.

OKONA

I carried your messages back and forth for almost six months. I smuggled each of you into the other's homeland. You feel for him the same way he feels for you.  
(frustrated beat)

So for heaven's sake girl, you have to marry the boy because I've finally run out of words.

RIKER

I don't believe that.

DATA

It is mathematically possible.

PICARD

Okona defies even the science of mathematics.

Okona laughs. Data asks Riker.

DATA

Was that funny?

Riker doesn't answer.

62 CONTINUED: (3)

YANAR

(a few beats, then:)

I do love him.

PICARD

(caught up in it)

Then tell him.

Okona and the crew look over to Picard who is just as surprised at himself.

YANAR

I'll marry Benzan. It is his child.

(beat)

It's our child.

KUSHELL

(softer)

Then I'll have to withdraw my charges of theft. By our law Benzan must present the jewel to his wife.

BENZAN

I'll be coming for you shortly Yanar. We'll find a new planet to live on.

KUSHELL

You'll live on Straleb.

DEBIN

No! You'll live here!

PICARD

Gentlemen, this is a matter to be settled between yourselves. I have only two words for both of you.

(long beat)

Picard out.

Picard signals for the transmission to end and the screen goes blank.

63 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

There is a momentary silence as the crew lets its breath out.

63 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(to Riker)

Take over, Will. Mister Okona  
and I are going to drink a toast  
to the newlyweds.

Okona smiles, nods, moves off with Picard. As they  
pass other members of the crew, various comments can  
be heard.

TROI

Weddings bring out emotions in  
me that I never could quite  
understand. I get so sentimental.

PULASKI

Perhaps it's the way they drape  
the flowers over the shotgun that  
makes you cry.

WORF

We could have destroyed both  
crafts without even using our  
photon torpedoes. They were  
totally vulnerable.

GEORDI

(patiently)

Maybe next time, Worf. Maybe next  
time.

Data heads past them into the turbolift. The doors  
close behind him.

64 INT. CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE HOLODECK

Data engages the panel of controls. Guinan is a  
semi-reluctant conspirator.

DATA

I wish to reinstate the same  
program.

GUINAN

(whisper)

Maybe with some new material.

The Holodeck control panel goes through its routine,  
then signals it is ready. The doors open.

65 NEW ANGLE INTO HOLODECK ROOM

The Comic sitting FREEZE FRAME as Data had left him. Data steps inside and the Comic comes to life. Data immediately gets down to business.

DATA

We will continue.

THE COMIC

What, no warm up?

DATA

I told a joke.

THE COMIC

And?

DATA

No one laughed.

THE COMIC

No one? Nobody?

GUINAN

Me, I'm "no one" and "nobody."  
It wasn't funny.

DATA

She said I "killed" the joke.

THE COMIC

(beat)

It's always hard to deal with a solo person. You need a crowd. Laughter is contagious.

GUINAN

A lot of things are contagious. Most of them aren't funny either.

DATA

Perhaps he is right. An audience could be the difference.

(to Holodeck)

Holodeck, give me an audience.

66 ON DATA

He glances over to Guinan for support. She tries to give it to him with a weak nod.

67 NEW ANGLE

A SPOTLIGHT beam glares onto a small stage and the Comic steps up for the intro.

68 REVERSE

There is a small, dark, smoke-filled New York style nightclub with various n.d. audience sitting at dime-sized tables.

69 ANGLE ON STAGE

The SPOTLIGHT glares on and the Comic steps onto the stage for the intro. Guinan stands off to the side at what could be considered the wings.

THE COMIC

And now folks from his record  
breaking tour of Straleb and Atlec  
I bring you the funny man of the  
stars, that comet comedian, the  
sensation of the solar system,  
... DATA!

The Comic backs off the stage to stand next to Guinan and a tuxedo garbed (jacket and tie only) Data enters into the beam of light with an impassive look on his face and a monotone delivery which is accentuated occasionally by the off time waving of one or both of his arms. He keeps adjusting the bow tie, Rodney Dangerfield style.

DATA

Good evening ladies and "germs."

The audience sounds of laughter and applause.

70 AROUND THE HOLODECK NIGHTCLUB - INTERCUT AS NEEDED

The audience laughs at every move and word. Data continues at first confident and then becoming puzzled...

DATA

You know I come from a town so  
small it had a fraction for a zip  
code.

Laughter.

70 CONTINUED:

DATA

(continuing)

... It was so small in fact that  
it didn't have a Godfather of  
Crime... it had a Nephew..

Guinan gives the Comic a whimsical look.

GUINAN

You sure you made a living doing  
this?

DATA

I was so ugly as a child they hung  
a pork chop around my neck so the  
dog would play with me. Then  
there was the gene bank where they  
crossed a lion and a parrot. They  
weren't sure what they got but  
when it spoke, they listened.

Data looks around. His voice is almost a whisper now.

DATA

(continuing)

Or the human cannonball that was  
hired and fired in the same night.

71 ON DATA

He stares down at the audience, still unsure as to what  
they are laughing at. He moves his right hand.

72 THE AUDIENCE

Bellows out its response.

73 DATA

Aware now. He lifts his other arm.

74 THE AUDIENCE

responds with an uproar.

75 DATA

moves one finger... The response... He realizes now, glances over to Guinan who offers him a sympathetic look. Then he announces, as he steps off stage:

DATA

Holodeck off.

The stage lights and nightclub disappear. Data and Guinan are alone in the Holodeck room. They eye each other.

DATA

(continuing)

It was a Holodeck audience. They were programmed to laugh at anything...

GUINAN

Never mind that. Let me tell you one about the traveling salesman.

DATA

I have heard it...

(beat)

I have heard them all.

Data and Guinan walk out of the Holodeck...

76 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The full staff is present as they go through the procedures of disconnecting Okona's craft from the tractor link. Okona is on the Main Viewer.

RIKER

Hold the speed, Captain Okona.  
We'll disengage at my command.

(beat)

Disengage.

WESLEY

Separated.

OKONA

I'm under my own power. Thank you, Enterprise. Thank you, Captain Picard.

PICARD

I think it turned out to be "my pleasure," Mister Okona.

76 CONTINUED:

OKONA

You've got a bizarre sense of humor, Captain.

PICARD

Stretched to the limit with you, but thankfully still present. I think I might miss your presence, but I would like it to remain a fond memory.

OKONA

Well put Captain Picard, and good-bye sir.

PICARD

Good-bye Captain Okona.

OKONA

What about you Data? You can say good-bye, Data.

Data is caught unprepared; his computer mind blinks in and he responds quickly.

DATA

"Good-bye Data."

First a titter of laughter, then building to a louder sound. Data looks around the bridge in pleased surprise. He looks towards Picard.

DATA

Was I funny?

Picard smiles at him, nods. Data looks up at the Main Viewer.

77 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Okona gives Data the thumbs up sign.

78 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it turns to the stars.

DATA (O.S.)

And there is the one about the girl in the nudist colony that nothing looked good on.

78 CONTINUED:

RIKER (O.S.)  
Warp speed Captain?

PICARD (O.S.)  
Please...

The Enterprise warps out.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END