

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Lonely Among Us"
#40271-108

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2ND REV. FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "Lonely Among Us" - 8/21/87 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Lonely Among Us"

CAST

PICARD	SINGH (ASST. CHIEF ENGINEER)
RIKER	SSESTAR (SELAY LEADER)
DATA	BADAR N'D'D (ANTICAN)
TROI	FIRST SECURITY GUARD
BEVERLY	TRANSPORTER CHIEF
TASHA	TASHA

GEORDI	Non-Speaking Roles:
WORF	4 SELAY
WESLEY	1 ANTICAN
	ENTERPRISE CREW MEMBERS
	SECOND SECURITY GUARD

STAR TREK: "Lonely Among Us" - 8/21/87 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Lonely Among Us"

SETS

INTERIORS

ENTERPRISE

Transporter Room 4
Main bridge
Sensor Maintenance Room
Ready Room
Sickbay
Crusher's Office
Badar N'D'D's Quarters
Crushers' Quarters
Observation Lounge
Engineer's Office/Engineering
Captain's Ready Room
Guest Quarters
Riker's Quarters
Corridors
Turbolift

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

ENERGY "CLOUD"

STAR TREK: "Lonely Among Us" - 8/21/87 - TEASER

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Lonely Among Us"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT (OPTICAL)

The great ship orbits a blue-green planet softly cloaked
in a swirl of cloud cover.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41249.3.
We have orbited the two major
planets of the Beta Renner system
taking aboard delegates from
those two worlds. Since achieving
space flight, their major life
forms, the Anticans and the
Selay...

2 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM 4 - ANGLE ON PICARD

in full dress uniform, waiting impatiently near the
platform. O.S. TRANSPORTER SOUND IS BUILDING.

3 ANGLE ON TRANSPORTER

as FIVE FIGURES begin to form in the sparkling
TRANSPORTER EFFECT. As they solidify, they are revealed
as FIVE ALIENS (Selay). The Chief Delegate is SSESTAR.
All Selay are tall and two axhandles across the
shoulders. Their reptilian heads are sinister -- sleek
scaled skin, lipless mouths, and beady eyes. The
markings on their heads are cobra-like, and folds of
skin at the neck imply a cobra hood.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

... have become deadly enemies.
But both have also applied for
admission into our Federation.
We are to deliver these
delegates to this sector's neutral
Conference Planet called
"Parliament" in the hope their
dispute can be resolved.

3 CONTINUED

Picard gestures the Selay off the platform with a somewhat strained smile.

PICARD

I am Captain Picard. We hope to make this journey pleasant and comfortable. Arranging that will be my first officer, Commander Riker.

4 REVERSE ANGLE - ON RIKER AND TASHA

also in dress uniform, waiting near the Transporter control console. TASHA concentrates on the Selay delegates as RIKER steps forward formally.

RIKER

Welcome aboard. If you'll follow me...

(starts MOVING OFF)

... I'll show you the accommodations we've...

5 WIDER ANGLE

The Selay leader, Ssestar, interrupts:

SSESTAR

We can already smell the Anticans. They were taken aboard first?

PICARD

Only because their world was the first on our heading to Parliament.

SSESTAR

Will our quarters be near the Anticans?

PICARD

About one hundred meters apart. Is that all right?

SSESTAR

No. Unsatisfactory.

Picard starts to frown, but Riker nods to the captain -- he'll handle it.

5 CONTINUED

RIKER

I believe we can accommodate their wishes, Captain.

(to Ssestar)

We'll rearrange suite assignments. If you'll follow me?

Ssestar hesitates, then grunts an assent and motions his people to follow as he moves toward the door.

SSESTAR

And we must be upwind from the Anticans.

RIKER

Of course, sir...

The delegation EXITS with Riker. As they leave and the DOORS CLOSE:

TASHA

Neither seem very promising Federation candidates.

Picard nods, begins EXITING with Tasha.

PICARD

Even Parliament's peacemakers may find this case difficult.

6 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship moves majestically out of orbit, goes into the WARP SPEED EFFECT.

7 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

All the regular crew at their stations, except for Geordi and Worf, who are absent. A replacement CONN OFFICER is at that panel, next to DATA at Ops.

PICARD

(to Riker)

Do you understand the basis of all that nonsense between them?

RIKER

No sir. I didn't understand that kind of hostility even when I studied Earth history.

7 CONTINUED

PICARD

Oh? Well, yes, but these life forms feel such passionate hatred over differences in customs, God concepts, and even strangely enough, economic systems...

8 ANOTHER ANGLE

Data has frowned at something on his panel, looks around at Picard.

DATA

Sir, my sensors are picking up an unusual energy object ahead.

PICARD

On screen.

Data punches up the command.

9 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

A strange ENERGY PATTERN moving at warp speed.

TASHA

Confirmed, sir. My sensors read nothing solid but considerable energy in...
(puzzles over reading)
... in changing patterns.

DATA

Traveling at warp speed, too.
Intriguing.
(tabs panel, looks up)
I can find no match with anything in our records, sir.

PICARD

(eyes viewer; then)
Change course for a close sensor pass... we'll then increase warp speed to reach Parliament on schedule.

DATA

Aye, sir.

10 INT. SENSOR MAINTENANCE ROOM - ON GEORDI AND WORF

The room is small, busy with equipment, including one key console. GEORDI is leaning over the complicated console and talking to WORF as he runs a pattern on the panel.

GEORDI

Why the interest in this, Worf?
It is just routine maintenance
on the sensor assemblies.

WORF

Simple, Geordi. Our captain
wants his junior officers to
learn, learn, learn...

GEORDI

(grins)
Not just the junior ones.
(indicates)
Okay, hold this relay off-line
while...

Worf moves in and takes over as indicated, while:

TASHA'S COM VOICE

Security to Sensor Maintenance.

GEORDI

La Forge here.

11 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

TASHA

We're making a close sensor pass
on an unusual object, Geordi.
Any problems?

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

None, Lieutenant. All equipment
on line and functioning.

TASHA

(turns to Captain)
Sensors ready, sir.

PICARD

(to Data)
Life form reading?

DATA

No life form reading, sir.

PICARD

Begin the pass.

12 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND ENERGY "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)
as the Enterprise changes course slightly to intercept the "cloud."

13 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)
as they close rapidly with the object.

DATA
Sir, it is changing shape... !

14 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)
The "cloud" bulging out slightly, putting the bulge in the Enterprise's path.

15 ANGLE ON COMMAND AREA
PICARD
Any readings indicating matter there?

DATA
Negative, Captain. Energy only.

16 EXT. SPACE - CLOSE ON ENTERPRISE AND "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)
The Enterprise begins passing just through the wispy edge of it.

17 INT. SENSOR MAINTENANCE ROOM - ON WORF AND GEORDI (OPTICAL)
Worf is where he moved in at the console relay. Geordi is standing to one side. Suddenly there is a BRIEF GLOW (OPTICAL) from the key console to Worf. The big Klingon jerks as though something has struck him, and he convulses spasmodically and collapses. Geordi tabs his communicator instantly.

GEORDI
La Forge to Sickbay. Medical emergency in Sensor Maintenance Room!

17 CONTINUED

MOVE IN CLOSE ON GEORDI as he bends over the crumpled Klingon.

GEORDI
(continuing)
Repeat -- medical emergency!

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

18 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

plunging through space at warp speed, leaving the "cloud" behind.

19 INT. SENSOR MAINTENANCE ROOM - ON WORF AND GEORDI

Worf still lies in a heap on the floor, Geordi leaning over him and checking for life signs. Worf begins to stir, slowly at first, as the doors SLIDE OPEN and Beverly and ASSISTANT ENTER at a dead run, medical devices in hand. They quickly kneel at Worf, begin checking him.

BEVERLY

What happened?

GEORDI

Don't know. It seemed like he was hit by...

(shakes head)

... some sensor feedback, maybe.

Worf suddenly starts to powerfully flail his arms and legs around, struggling against something we can't see. The assistant tries to hang on, but Worf's Klingon strength sends him across the room. Then, as Worf flails at furniture in his way, easily splitting it, Beverly has opened the medical kit with quick efficiency, pulls out a hypospray, and administers it.

20 CLOSER - EMPHASIZING WORF

He stops struggling, looks around with eyes that seem to be seeing for the first time. An expression of wonder and amazement crosses his face. Beverly and Geordi exchange a glance, both clearly concerned.

BEVERLY

Lieutenant Worf?

(no response)

Lieutenant, can you hear what I'm saying?

Worf manages a sort of grunt, holds up a hand and stares at it. Then he moves his body, trying to get his feet under him. He is at first unable to get the right coordination down, as though this simple act is as foreign to him as it is to a newborn.

20 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

(continuing)

Let's get him up.

They rise. Worf watches and sees how they do it. As they both reach down to boost him by the arms, he manages to get to his knees and start to push to his feet. Beverly is studying him closely. He does not seem violent now; he stares around more like a young and bewildered child. Beverly nods to Geordi, picks up her medical kit, and they start to lead Worf OUT. He moves with them, slowly and carefully putting one foot ahead of the other.

21 INT. READY ROOM - ANGLE ON GEORDI AND PICARD

Picard is at his desk, Geordi standing before it. Picard looks up at him, frowning as:

GEORDI

He was just monitoring the sensor console when he jerked as though something hit him. What my sensors showed...

(frowns)

... It was kind of a... glow... just for a second. I can't explain it.

PICARD

Could your VISOR device have malfunctioned?

GEORDI

Doubt it, sir. It seemed what I was seeing was something real.

22 INT. SICKBAY - ANGLE ON BEVERLY, TROI, WORF

Worf lies on an examination table, Beverly and assistant working over him with her medical scanners. Troi looks up at the o.s. medical viewscreen, then back at Worf. The Klingon is quiet now, his eyes moving around the room and to the women. His attitude is one of quiet and deep curiosity. Beverly finishes, smiles down at Worf.

BEVERLY

I'm going to give you something to help you rest. Just relax.

22 CONTINUED:

Worf's expression remains unchanged. Beverly brings out a hypospray and activates it on his arm. His eyelids begin to sag closed almost immediately. Beverly puts away the hypospray, motions Troi into her office.

23 INT. CRUSHER'S OFFICE - BEVERLY AND TROI

on their ENTRY:

BEVERLY

Fortunately, he's stronger than an orbital tug. There's nothing physically wrong with him. What have you sensed?

TROI

Nothing... which bothers me. He has never shielded his feelings from me. I can't understand why he is suddenly doing it now.

BEVERLY

Are you able to perceive anything at all, Counselor? It may be important.

TROI

(beat; concentrating)
Perhaps... very faintly.
Almost... like a frightened child.

BEVERLY

Worf "frightened?"

TROI

It doesn't make much sense but...
(beat; concentrating)
Yes, it's fear. Definitely there.

They exchange puzzled looks.

24 OMITTED

25 INT. BADAR N'D'D'S QUARTERS - ON TASHA AND
BADAR N'D'D

BADAR N'D'D is wraith-thin, pale, with glittering lupine eyes; and when he curls his mouth in what looks like a smile, some extremely long, sharp canines are revealed. His clothing can only be described as disreputable -- dark and loose, somehow lumpy (as though it hides body parts we don't want to know about). Tasha's tremulous smile is offset by a twitch of her nose that indicates Anticans don't smell too nice. Riker ENTERS.

TASHA

Sorry to call you, sir, not strictly security, it's about the dietary requirements of the Antican delegates.

26 INTERCUT RIKER AND TASHA

RIKER

I thought that had been taken care of in advance, Tasha.

TASHA

So did we, sir. Their live animals were beamed aboard -- We were going to preserve the meat for them, but

(squeamishly)

... they say we must bring it to them alive.

RIKER

(beat)

Then do so!

(to the Antican)

Lieutenant Yar was... confused. We no longer enslave animals for food purposes.

BADAR N'D'D

But we have seen humans eat meat!

The Antican grins -- a terrifying display of long, sharp fangs.

RIKER

You've seen something as fresh and tasty as living meat, but inorganically materialized out of patterns used by our transporters.

BADAR N'D'D

(in revulsion)

How sickening! How barbaric!

27 INT. SICKBAY - ANGLE ON BEVERLY AND WORF (OPTICAL)

Worf lies sedated on one of the beds, being automatically monitored by the medical computers. Beverly approaches with a medical instrument in hand to take some samples. She leans over the bed, using the instrument on his arm. As she does, there is a SUDDEN SPLIT-SECOND BURST OF ELECTRIC-LIKE ENERGY BETWEEN THEM. Beverly is highlighted briefly by a BLUE GLOW (OPTICAL). She steps back away from the bed, blinking as if trying to assimilate some new information.

28 ANOTHER ANGLE

Troi ENTERS from the Corridor. Beverly looks around at her, puzzled, as Troi moves closer, looking up at the medical viewscreen.

TROI

He's reading normal? How did you manage that?

BEVERLY

(dazed)

Yes... normal, now.

TROI

(looks up quickly)

Are you all right?

BEVERLY

Yes... perfectly.

Beverly looks at the medical instrument in her hand, seems to remember.

BEVERLY

(continuing)

Yes... both of us quite normal.

Beverly ministers to Worf. Worf starts to stir, shaking his head and blinking as if clearing his head of something.

WORF

Where... where am I?

TROI

Don't you remember? You were in the Sensor Maintenance Room ---

WORF

I remember monitoring the sensor console -- and that's all. What am I doing here?

28 CONTINUED:

TROI

That's a story the doctor will
tell you.

She starts to smile over at Beverly, and the smile slips a little. Beverly is staring at the medical viewer again, deep in thought, paying no attention to Troi and Worf.

29 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON DATA AND PICARD (OPTICAL)

at Science Station 1. Data is replaying visual of "cloud" on the screen for Picard's observation.

DATA

I called it a "cloud" for lack of a better term at the time. But the sensor pass shows it as much more. Combinations very complex, precise energy patterns...

PICARD

Constantly interacting on each other?

DATA

Yes, sir... But whether individually or as a whole, it is difficult to say.

PICARD

Obviously, you seem to feel it should be inspected more closely.

DATA

A mystery is only a mystery as long as it remains uninvestigated, sir.

PICARD

Ah. I love a mystery, Mister Data, but this one has to wait until we deliver the delegates to their peace conference on Parliament.

He walks down the ramp toward his command chair.

30 INT. CRUSHERS' QUARTERS - ON WESLEY

Wesley is in the living area, working with a P.A.D.D. and a Viewscreen, quickly tapping commands into the P.A.D.D. and watching figures or diagrams change on the o.s. viewer. The quarters doors are HEARD to SLIDE OPEN, and Wesley looks around.

31 WESLEY'S P.O.V. - BEVERLY

Beverly comes in, looks around apparently startled as Wesley speaks, but she seems to recover composure quickly. (NOTE: Throughout, Beverly appears remote, not displaying her normal warmth toward her son, views him almost as though he is an interesting stranger.)

WESLEY

Hi Mom. You're back early.

BEVERLY

Yes.

She moves closer to him and looks at the viewer as he indicates it and the P.A.D.D.

WESLEY

Physical sciences class. We're studying Doctor Channing's theory on dilithium crystals.

BEVERLY

Tell me about it.

Wesley looks up at her, slightly puzzled. She never was interested before -- now her eyes glitter with an unaccustomed curiosity.

WESLEY

Really? You never seemed that interested in warp theory before.

(indicates)

Doctor Channing thinks it's possible to force dilithium into even more useful crystals. If as shown here, matter and antimatter could be aligned even more efficiently...

BEVERLY

(interrupting)

Would that affect navigation?

WESLEY

This is engineering, not helm control.

31 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Oh yes, the helm's located on the bridge.

WESLEY

(stares, concerned)

Mom, is something wrong?

Without answering, turns and heads for the door. Wesley stares after her, frowning, as she EXITS.

32 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - EMPHASIZING PICARD

He glances around as the turbolift doors OPEN, and Beverly ENTERS and advances down the ramp toward Geordi, back at his helm position. (NOTE: She is still not acting in her usual manner. Everything about the bridge seems to be of interest to her, as though she's never seen it before. She responds with darting, curious little looks when spoken to, not quite able to focus long on the person whom she addresses. Her speech patterns have become very formal, also not like her. Also notice she does not call the captain by his rank or address him as "sir.")

BEVERLY

(to herself)

This... is the helm.

Geordi looks up surprised, then grins, nods.

GEORDI

Unless there have been some changes I don't know about.

PICARD

Doctor Crusher?

BEVERLY

You will wish to know Lieutenant Worf is much improved. Ready to report back on duty.

PICARD

What was the diagnosis?

Beverly heads for the upper bridge.

BEVERLY

A temporary mental aberration.

PICARD

When it concerns a bridge officer, I expect a better explanation, Doctor.

32 CONTINUED:

Beverly nods, moves toward the Science Stations.

BEVERLY

Then I must first run some
crosschecks in the
library-computer. Klingons are
so unusual in their reactions,
aren't they?

PICARD

(still puzzled, but:)
Take Science Station Two, Doctor.

33 ANGLE ON BEVERLY (OPTICAL)

moving to where Data is in view too. She begins calling
up information. Innocently, Data glances to her
Viewscreen. What he sees there puzzles but does not
alarm him.

DATA

Intriguing, Doctor. What does
helm control have to do with
medical crosschecks?

She ignores him, then seems satisfied over what she
views. Data has turned back to his own panel -- Beverly
appears to carefully pick out a place in which to touch
her panel again... and as she does so, a blue electronic
EFFECT APPEARS BRIEFLY ON THE PANEL, then quickly
DISAPPEARS. Beverly blinks, then looks around as if
awaking from a dream.

BEVERLY

I... I don't know why I'm...

DATA

(looks up)
Is something wrong, Doctor?

34 ANGLING ON PICARD AND UPPER BRIDGE

Picard looks around, concerned over Beverly seeming to
be disoriented.

PICARD

Doctor, are you all right?

34 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Yes... yes. I -- I'll do my work
from my office. That's where I
should be...

She MOVES OFF quickly toward the turbolift. Picard
watches her, still concerned.

PICARD

Do you want someone to accompany
you?

She EXITS into the turbolift. And the doors CLOSE.
Picard turns to Troi.

PICARD

Counselor, what's happening to
my people?

Interrupted by Data at Science Station 1. He suddenly
straightens, frowning.

DATA

Captain? There is a malfunction
in this station. I cannot bring
any information up on it.

He moves quickly to Science Station 2, WE SEE that
console go dead.

DATA

(continuing)

Science Two does not function
either, sir.

35 WIDER ANGLE

Then, quickly, from the communications panel:

SINGH'S COM VOICE

Engineering to Captain Picard.
We have something wrong with warp
drive circuitry, sir.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF'S COM VOICE

Transporter Room Six to bridge.
Reporting transporter console
malfunction, sir.

PICARD

Mister Data, this ship is less
than a year out of spacedock.
What are the chances of all this
occurring?

35 CONTINUED:

DATA

It is a virtual impossibility,
sir.

PICARD

So what the hell is going on
here?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

36 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

sweeping along at warp speed - nothing to indicate there's trouble aboard this magnificent machine.

37 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - EMPHASIZING PICARD (OPTICAL)

He is irritated, pacing, snapping off his comments with a certain amount of acid etching his words. Through the window WE CAN SEE warp stars flashing past.

PICARD

... I don't understand it,
Gentlemen. I need information.
You're telling me there is no
explanation for any of these
malfunctions?

As he speaks, CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL he has on the carpet before him Singh, Data, several other Department Heads. Riker sits beside him feeling no less on the carpet himself.

RIKER

At least, sir, all department
heads report the damage repaired.

PICARD

That was not the question, Number
One. What caused the
malfunctions?

SINGH

I believe it was a rampant
electronic short that jumped from
system to system, sir. The only
thing is --

PICARD

Yes, Mister Singh?

SINGH

That shouldn't be possible. The
affected systems don't generally
interact with each other -- and
where they do, it wasn't the
interlink that was malfunctioning.

PICARD

Have you spoken with Chief
Engineer Argyle about the problem?

37 CONTINUED

SINGH

With all the engineering staff,
sir. They're just as puzzled.

PICARD

I am not satisfied with that.
(to the others)
I want explanations of this by
the time we get to Parliament.

SINGH

But...

PICARD

By the time we get to
Parliament, Mr. Singh.

38 INT. BADAR N'D'D'S QUARTERS - ANGLE ON RIKER

This is a "Basic Quarters Suite," without special wall decorations, fairly simple solid-color furniture. The Main Room seen here is very low-lit, with dark corners and shadows prevailing. Riker is speaking firmly as we COME IN:

RIKER

These weapons were removed
from two of your people who were
loitering out of sight in the
vicinity of the Selay delegation
quarters. Would you care to
explain, sir?

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Riker holding out two tubes, somewhat resembling Allen wrenches, but with several curiously shaped buttons along the top of the "barrel." Riker and Tasha are facing Badar N'D'D, who glances at the tubes and lifts a disdainful eyebrow.

BADAR N'D'D

Those are not weapons, First
Officer. They are tools we use
to dispatch the animals we consume.

TASHA

Your food supply is not on the
same deck as the Selay delegation,
sir.

RIKER

And you will admit these "tools"
can kill.

38 CONTINUED

BADAR N'D'D

(shrugs)

Some of my people are impulsive.
and we all have reason to hate
the Selay.

TASHA

They appear to have the same
feelings about you, sir.

BADAR N'D'D

(shrugs again)

That is the nature of politics.

RIKER

Nonetheless, Chief Delegate, I'm
putting you on notice that all
weapons -- no matter what their
basic function -- are being
confiscated. Violence will not
be tolerated on the Enterprise.

BADAR N'D'D

Of course not. And if any does
occur, I can assure you it will
not be we Anticans who start it.

RIKER AND TASHA

Thank you, sir.

They turn and EXIT, taking the two tube weapons with
them. As the DOOR CLOSES behind them:

BADAR N'D'D

(ominously)

But we will finish it.

39 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

blasting along at warp speed.

40 INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON SINGH, GEORDI, WESLEY

They are at one of the consoles, Singh doing something
complex at a panel, with Geordi and Wesley looking over
his shoulder.

41 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - EMPHASIZING WORF

Worf is at Conn, routinely monitoring his panel and
appearing to be no worse for wear after his ordeal.
Suddenly, he straightens, tabs in a command, frowns,
tabs it again.

41 CONTINUED:

WORF

Sir, warp power is fading!

PICARD

Picard to Engineering. What is our problem?

WORF

Warp five... four... three... two...

42 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

EFFECT SHOT of going from WARP SPEED to SUB-WARP.

43 INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE - EMPHASIZING SINGH

The assistant chief engineer is working the panel, shaking his head.

SINGH

We've lost the warp engine computer tie!

WESLEY

And we just dropped below warp one, sir.

GEORDI

Go to impulse power!

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - EMPHASIZING PICARD

He frowns, not happy, but he's just the boss around here. He doesn't make the damned thing go.

PICARD

State of the art vessel? Hah. Commander Data, signal Parliament that we will be delayed. We will send the new arrival time as soon as determined.

DATA

Yes, sir.

He turns to his Ops panel, inspecting it.

DATA

(continuing)

Sir, subspace radio is out.

45 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - PICARD, RIKER, DATA

Riker and Data sit opposite Picard at the desk. Picard finishes a review of reports on his viewscreen, snaps it off irritably.

PICARD

Your theories on the sudden vulnerability of these systems, gentlemen?

DATA

If the Enterprise were really this fragile, sir, she never would have gotten out of spacedock. Therefore, her systems failures are not endemic to the ship, but are more likely the result of the actions of an unknown adversary.

RIKER

We have a saboteur aboard.

DATA

I believe I said that.

PICARD

(firmly)

Gentlemen. The question now is, who. I can't believe it's one of our people.

RIKER

Agreed. Which leaves someone in either alien delegation. If the Ferengi bribed or bought even one of them, that's all that would be needed.

DATA

Ferengi contacts have been detected on both Selay and Antica, sir.

PICARD

Can any of you suggest another solution?

RIKER

(amused)

You're sounding like a private eye, sir.

DATA

Query: private eye?

45 CONTINUED

PICARD

A private consulting investigator
who solves crimes.

DATA

A most interesting occupation.

PICARD

In the world of fact, it is, Data.
However in literature, criminal
detection becomes a fascinating
exercise.

(a glance to Riker)

The immortal Sherlock Holmes would
have an interesting view of our
mystery, I believe.

Data cocks an eyebrow; WE CAN SEE him mentally making
a note to remember that name. Meanwhile:

RIKER

I'm sure, sir -- but I'm afraid
we have to find our solution
without History's Greatest
Consulting Detective.

46 INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON SINGH AND WESLEY

conferring over a panel. Wesley suddenly points to a
pertinent display.

WESLEY

Is it there, Mister Singh? If
the control network breaks at that
point...

SINGH

(nods)

... it bleeds warp engine command
off into dead ends.

(to Wesley)

Excellent. I believe I can
handle it from there, Mister Crusher.

Wesley looks up, disappointed. Now that he's spotted
the problem, he wants to stay for the solution.

WESLEY

But, sir --

46 CONTINUED

SINGH

Your schedule shows classwork now.
Sorry.

WESLEY

Yes, sir.

(heads for door; turns)

But I don't learn nearly this much
in school.

SINGH

(smiles)

I tend to agree. But the captain's
orders on this are very clear.

47 INT. CRUSHERS' QUARTERS - ANGLE ON BEVERLY

She is dressed casually, relaxing in a chair, reading.
She glances up and smiles as Wesley ENTERS.

BEVERLY

Solve any new problems today?

WESLEY

I was starting to, maybe, but
Mister Singh sent me off to class.

BEVERLY

Wes -- you're only an acting
ensign.

(slight smile)

You have to let the commissioned
officers do some of the work.

WESLEY

Mom, listen. I've learned more
than they understand. For
example, on Channing's dilithium
crystals theory I was telling you
about...

BEVERLY

(frowns; puzzled)

When did you tell me about that?

WESLEY

This morning. Don't you remember?

Beverly stares at him, starting to grow a little
concerned.

47 CONTINUED

BEVERLY

Honestly, I don't, Wes.

WESLEY

You asked if the warp engines had
to do with navigation, and I said --

BEVERLY

Why would I have said that?

The two of them look at each other. Why, indeed?

48 INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON SINGH (OPTICAL)

working at the console where we saw him earlier. He is busy, digging into the problem, checking his results on a viewscreen that pulls up different schematics as he works the board. He reviews the schematic currently on the screen, nods to himself, reaches for the panel again. Suddenly, a BLUE GLOW SURROUNDS HIM (OPTICAL), and he stiffens, shaking convulsively. A SCREAM is choked off as the power racks his body -- and he plummets off the chair to the deck. The BLUE GLOW FADES... leaving him lying motionless on the floor. A beat, Worf ENTERS from the Corridor outside Engineering.

WORF

Mister Singh, the Captain wants --

He pauses a short beat as he sees Singh's body, then he quickly rushes in to check for heartbeat and pulse. Nothing.

WORF

(continuing)

Engineering to bridge. Security
alert!

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Picard.

WORF

Lieutenant Worf, sir. I just found
Mister Singh.... he's dead.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

49 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moving through space on IMPULSE POWER.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41249.4.
Assistant Chief Engineer Singh
has been found dead in the Engine
Room Office, cause unknown. We
continue to run on impulse power.

50 INT. READY ROOM - PICARD, RIKER, CRUSHER, TASHA

Tasha is very upset over Singh's death.

PICARD

(to Beverly)

I want the autopsy as soon as
possible, Doctor.

TASHA

Captain, I'm so sorry. To have
one of our people die like this...

PICARD

First, let's find out how he died.
Doctor?

BEVERLY

The autopsy is underway, sir.

PICARD

(to Riker)

It could be... a word you're not
to use...

(leans in; low voice)

...murder. Status of
investigation?

TASHA

Underway.

RIKER

Our best people.

51 INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON WORF, WESLEY, GEORDI

They are clustered around the console where Singh died. Geordi is examining the panels there; Wesley steps up from behind, indicates a place on the panel.

WESLEY

Sir, he may have been working there on restoring warp power.

GEORDI

(eyes panel; then)

According to these readings, we could go back to warp speed now.

Wesley examines the board, looks up, surprised:

WESLEY

But that wasn't the reading when I left.

WORF

Singh probably repaired it just before he was killed.

WESLEY

But he couldn't have fixed it from here, sir! The problems we saw were inside the engines!

GEORDI

Who else could have corrected it, Wes?

(to Worf)

Inform the bridge of engine status.

52 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON PICARD

WORF'S COM VOICE

We now have warp capacity, sir. All power on line.

PICARD

Well done. Warp engines ready.

(to conn)

On previous heading, warp factor six.

53 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship leaps into warp, the stars blurring as she makes the jump.

54 INT. GUEST QUARTERS - ANGLE ON TASHA, BADAR N'D'D

The quarters are still low-lit, mysterious. Badar N'D'D reclines on a low couch, looking up at Tasha with complete disinterest.

BADAR N'D'D

I tolerate these questions,
Lieutenant Yar, because I need
this vessel to get us to
Parliament. Your shipboard
problems do not concern me.

TASHA

They should. Our delays are your
delays.

BADAR N'D'D

(waves it away)

The peace conference will wait
for us.

TASHA

I must ask where you were during
this vessel's Earth hours of 1800
last night and 0700 this morning.

BADAR N'D'D

Eating.

TASHA

Sir, I'm talking about hours
here...

BADAR N'D'D

It was a large meal.
(smiles, revealing sharp
canines)
And an interesting animal.

Tasha grimaces at the idea.

55 INT. CRUSHER'S OFFICE - TROI, BEVERLY, WORF

as Worf APPEARS at the door of Beverly's office where
Troi and Beverly wait.

WORF

You wanted me, Doctor?

BEVERLY

Yes, concerning your memory
blackout.

55 CONTINUED:

WORF

(nods)

I still don't remember having one.

BEVERLY

The same thing happened to me.

TROI

I want to try hypnosis on both of you. It may restore your memory as to what happened.

Beverly nods immediately. They turn to Worf who has hesitated.

WORF

I fear such things, but...

BEVERLY

Fear from you, Worf?

Worf nods.

56 INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS - DATA, RIKER, TASHA (OPTICAL)

They are gathered in chairs near the windows. (Warp speed.) Riker and Tasha compare notes on a portable viewer pad. Data is watching... and smoking a "Sherlock Holmes" style pipe. Tasha is more troubled by this than Riker.

TASHA

One thing is clear... Almost all the "peace" delegates answered our questions with lies.

DATA

Imprecise, Lieutenant. They omitted certain truths, which in itself tells us something.

TASHA

We can learn something from non-disclosure?

DATA

Oh, indubitably, my good woman.

Tasha gives Riker a puzzled look. Indubitably? My good woman? During which, Data puffs on the pipe and Tasha pulls back as he exhales.

56 CONTINUED:

RIKER

It's something the Captain mentioned. Sherlock Holmes, which Data is obviously studying...

DATA

(interrupting)

Has studied, sir - every case.

(indicates)

As Holmes would have pointed out... during the time in question, something was afoot!

TASHA

(uncertain of the word)

"Afoot?"

Riker is becoming amused at Data's playing the "great detective" role ... and at Tasha's reaction to it. Meanwhile, Data has ignored Tasha's puzzlement over the word afoot.

DATA

While both sets of delegates say they were in their quarters, our crew locator sensed them passing here...

(indicates)

... and here.

TASHA

But since they don't show where they went, we're still in the dark.

DATA

On the contrary, dear colleague - on their return they drew medical supplies appropriate to the treatment of minor wounds and abrasions on these life forms.

RIKER

Which, leaves you with only one conclusion.

DATA

Exactly. That they were too engaged in their own affairs to have disabled our ship and murdered the engineer. Given a choice, they'd rather kill each other than any of us. It's elementary my dear Riker...sir.

56 CONTINUED: (2)

Tasha has been looking from one to the other during this. She hesitates now, clearly uncomfortable.

TASHA

Speaking of aberrant behavior...

She isn't joking.

57 INT. SICKBAY - ANGLE ON TROI, BEVERLY AND WORF

Troi has a small machine before her which emits a resonant, melodic HUM and on which LIGHTS FLASH in a systematic pattern. She has just finished a "pass" with it in front of Beverly's face. Beverly sits in the desk chair in a light hypnotic trance. Worf watches intently; he has just gone through this himself.

TROI

Beverly... can you hear me?

BEVERLY

Yes.

TROI

I want you to go back in your mind to the moment when you first recall this sensation of memory loss. Please picture it exactly as it occurred.

BEVERLY

(pause; then:)

He's lying on the hospital bed sedated. I'm walking up to him... I---

(distressed)

I -- I -- I --

TROI

Gently...gently. How do you feel at this moment -- as you lean over him to take the specimen?

BEVERLY

I... feel... someone else... something else there too...

TROI

(waits; then:)

Go on.

57 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

(frowns, shakes head)

I feel crowded. Not alone...
get out. Get out of my mind!

Beverly is tossing her head, as if to shake free of something. Troi turns to Worf and nods, indicating Beverly.

TROI

You said almost exactly the same thing -- as though there were something else inside you.

58 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - ANGLE ON PICARD, OFFICERS (OPTICAL)

Picard is at his desk, facing Troi, Beverly, Riker, Data (with pipe), and Tasha; we're at warp speed as WE COME IN:

TROI

-- Which confirms the feeling of duality that I sensed earlier in both of them.

PICARD

Why didn't you report it?

TROI

Because, sir, I assumed at first it was the kind of duality we Betazoids feel in all of you.

(sees Picard's
expression harden)

Even you, sir. When you approach a decision and ask yourself which way to go... who are you talking to?

PICARD

(beat; his expression
still saying
"nonsense")

Your hypnotism revealed another form of duality?

TROI

Yes, sir. I believe something invaded them.

58 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

(nods)

It seems the only possible
conclusion.

Picard stands, paces behind his desk irritably, catches
sight of Data and pipe.

PICARD

Data, let's proceed without the
pipe.

DATA

If you wish, sir...

(sets pipe down)

... but I ask if you take it as
incontrovertible that it cannot
be a family member or one of our
crew?

PICARD

(beat, considering;
then:)

Yes. Very unlikely.

DATA

Then our investigation was
worthwhile, sir. We have eliminated
both the delegates and all our
regular ship's complement.

PICARD

What are you suggesting?

Data is inclined to pick up the pipe again, but
remembers that Picard just issued an order about it.

DATA

I am referring to the Great
Detective's credo, sir. I
quote... "We must fall back on
the old axiom that when other
contingencies fail, whatever
remains, however improbable, must
be the truth."

59 OMITTED

Riker and Picard exchange looks.

60 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Geordi is at his usual Conn station; Wesley sits beside him at Ops. Worf is seated in Riker's chair. Supernumeraries are at aft stations.

61 CLOSER ON GEORDI AND WESLEY

Wesley is quiet, faintly depressed. Geordi looks over at him, grins.

GEORDI

Wes, everything's fixed now.

WESLEY

That engine computer net wasn't repaired, sir. It just suddenly became all right.

GEORDI

It's the result that counts.
(glances down at panel)
What --- ?

62 WIDER ANGLE - ON COMMAND STATIONS

WORF

What is it?

GEORDI

Helm control just went down.
(works panel - nothing)
She won't respond.

WORF

Bridge to Captain. You're needed here immediately.

Geordi works the panel controls, without result.

GEORDI

Wes, alert Engineering from your panel.

WESLEY

(works panel)
Trying...

63 ANGLE AT READY ROOM DOOR

Picard ENTERS bridge fast, Riker, Troi, Tasha, Data FOLLOWING, moving toward their stations. Beverly FOLLOWS them out onto the bridge, as:

63 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Report.

WORF

Helm is down, sir. The ship's
running wild ---

64 ANGLE ON PICARD

moving to Geordi at Conn. Picard stands by Geordi.

65 ANGLE ON GEORDI, DATA, WESLEY

Wesley swiftly rises, makes room for Data to take over
the panel. Geordi turns in his seat to look up at
Picard as:

GEORDI

Sir, we dropped to impulse
power --

66 CLOSE ON PICARD

He bends over Geordi. His left hand rests near the
small control panel at Conn.

67 OMITTED

68 CLOSE ON PICARD (OPTICAL)

The strange BLUE GLOW FLASHES around Picard for a split
second, then FADES.

69 INCLUDING GEORDI

staring at Picard.

GEORDI

Sir... ? Are you all right? I
thought I just saw ---

70 ON PICARD

Picard remains sitting stiffly for a beat as though
frozen by what has happened, and then his face takes
on a slightly different expression.

70 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I'm fine.

(beat)

Everything is fine now.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

71 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

traveling on impulse power, unguided by any human hand.

72 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - EMPHASIZING PICARD

Geordi is concerned at something happening at his position.

PICARD

Why the drop to impulse power,
Lieutenant?

GEORDI

(turns to Picard)

The helm is suddenly
malfunctioning, sir.

PICARD

Malfunctioning? You're wrong --
Look again.

GEORDI

(turning to console)

Sir, I ---

He breaks off, staring at the panel.

RIKER

Mister La Forge?

GEORDI

(a beat; puzzled)

There's nothing wrong with the
helm now. Everything is -- just
as it should be, sir.

PICARD

In that case, make our heading
two-nine-five mark three-seven.

GEORDI

Sir... ?

PICARD

You have a problem with that
heading, Lieutenant?

72 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Do you want to double back on our
course, sir?

PICARD

That is what I've ordered.

A puzzled Geordi begins touching helm controls.

73 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

going into a graceful turn which will take her in the
opposite direction. As it finishes the turn, the ship
jumps into warp speed.

74 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

The bridge crew still at their positions.

75 ANGLE ON TROI

concentrating her mind on Picard, uncertain. Picard has
appeared lucid; his order to reverse course is not
contrary to Starfleet policy or out-of-line for a
starship captain.

76 EMPHASIZING PICARD AND RIKER

Picard looks entirely normal, but with a very alert
quality.

RIKER

Captain... I'm puzzled about your
reversing our course.

77 ANGLE ON DATA, RIKER, TROI

exchanging looks of puzzlement. Why double back on
course?

78 INCLUDING PICARD AND GEORDI

PICARD

The energy "cloud," Commander --
I believe it important to have
another look at it.

78 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Sir, we're behind schedule to
Parliament already ---

PICARD

I believe a very important
scientific discovery awaits us
on this heading.

TROI

(looks up; beat)

Perhaps you'll share your
reasoning on that, sir?

DATA

Yes, since we obtained only
minimal information on our sensor
pass of it.

PICARD

We must go back to learn more.

(to Troi; thin smile)

Counselor... do you believe a ship
captain should explain every
order?

TROI

(beat; shakes her head)

Of course not, sir.

79 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

now heading the opposite direction, going back the way
she came at warp speed.

79A INT. CORRIDOR

Badar N'D'D is being chased down the Corridor by a
SECURITY GUARD.

BADAR N'D'D

I demand to see the captain.

FIRST SECURITY GUARD

Stop, return to your quarters... !

A stateroom door OPENS to REVEAL Ssestar trying to edge
outside past a SECOND SECURITY GUARD there. First
security guard has managed to stop Badar N'D'D who
whirls toward the Selay delegate in revulsion.

79A CONTINUED:

SSESTAR
(indicating Badar N'D'D)
What is that doing on our deck?

BADAR N'D'D
(to Security Guard)
I demand to know why this starship
has changed course!

FIRST SECURITY GUARD
Please return to your quarters,
delegates!

80 INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS

Riker, Data, Troi and Geordi as Beverly ENTERS.

RIKER
You're late and you asked for this
confidential meeting.

BEVERLY
Sorry. I was just so troubled
by my talk with the captain.
Something seems wrong... terribly
wrong.

TROI
(hesitant)
I believe I sense something
... different in the Captain ... not
much and maybe I'm incorrect.
(indicates Riker, Data
and Geordi)
They think I may be.

RIKER
(to Troi)
You could be reacting to the
reverse course order.

GEORDI
But that's our captain. It's not
the first time he's done something
unusual.

DATA
A mere change of direction hardly
justifies mutiny.

80 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

(to Troi)

Exactly what do you believe you're sensing?

TROI

Exactly?

(shakes head)

It's difficult to put into words... just a feeling that he's, well... closed part of his mind to me.

GEORDI

How can you tell there's something there that you can't feel?

TROI

As I said... it's hard to say. I just feel the captain's become ... perhaps dangerous.

RIKER

If he's dangerous...if...

GEORDI

... he'd have to be relieved from command.

(to Beverly)

Which you're allowed to do... but it's beaucoup trouble if you're wrong.

DATA

And at this moment it is all pure speculation. He has done nothing to subject the Enterprise to danger.

BEVERLY

Besides, I'd need a medical log giving clear evidence of incapacity.

(to Riker)

You could do it without that problem...

RIKER

Only if all command officers agreed it vital to do so. But he's not showing overt unusual behavior.

80 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

Ultimately he will, I believe...

BEVERLY

Commander, as second in command,
it's still in your corner. I'll
order medical and psychiatric
exams... You'll have to back me
up somehow.

81 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

traveling through space at warp speed. Direction should
be the same as PREVIOUS SHOT.

RIKER (V.O.)

First Officer's log, stardate
41249.5. As I believed, the
senior command officers refused
to relieve the captain from duty
on such slender evidence.

82 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - ANGLE ON PICARD

He looks up as Riker and Beverly ENTER the room and
CROSS to face him over the desk. Picard looks up:

PICARD

Yes?

BEVERLY

I'd like you to come to Sickbay
for some examinations, Captain.

PICARD

Oh?

(nods)

I'll be glad to do that when I'm
free.

BEVERLY

I'd like to conduct them now, sir.

PICARD

Why?

(to Riker)

What can I do for you, Number One?

RIKER

Sir, Counselor Troi has
recommended the examinations.

82 CONTINUED:

PICARD
(thin smile)
Same question. Why?

83 CLOSER SHOT

Riker firms up.

RIKER
It is my duty to inform the
captain that we believe it
possible that he is under some
kind of alien influence
which... may constitute a danger
to this ship.

Another flicker of a smile from Picard. It never gets
to his eyes, and there's no humor in it.

PICARD
I consider it equally possible
that you two and the counselor
are overworked, and possibly
suffering hallucinations.
(to Beverly)
This is an order... you're to
arrange medical and psychiatric
exams of both yourself and them.
Doctor, you realize you're all
acting strangely?

BEVERLY
I'm concerned that you've suddenly
turned the ship away from...

PICARD
(interrupting; hard)
What's happened to your mind,
Doctor? The search for knowledge
is always our primary mission.
(stands)
I'm sorry but I'm too busy for
this kind of nonsense. Must I
call security to force you to
report to Sickbay?

On his cold, penetrating stare, Riker and Beverly EXIT.

84 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

proceeding on her way back to the "Cloud" at warp
speed.

85 INT. CORRIDOR NEAR ENGINEERING - ANGLE ON TURBOLIFT

The corridor is oddly low lit. As the turbolift DOORS OPEN and Riker STEPS OUT, he glances around, frowning at the lack of light. He starts toward Engineering, and a SPARKLING LOOP suddenly whips over his head and around his neck. He lurches back, yanked by the garrote; then it is abruptly loosened. Riker regains his balance as the garrote is whipped away from his neck, and he turns to see:

86 ANOTHER ANGLE - SSESTAR AND RIKER

RIKER

What in hell... ?

The large Reptilian manages what appears to be an apologetic smile.

SSESTAR

Sorry. Wrong species.

He backs away, still offering the smile, then turns and HURRIES DOWN the corridor to huddle with four other Selay. Riker fingers his throat ruefully, goes to a computer interface on a nearby wall and touches it.

RIKER

Riker to security chief.

TASHA'S COM VOICE

Yar here.

RIKER

Security squad to the Engineering Deck. The Selay are playing hide and seek down here -- obviously with the Anticans --

(rubs throat)

-- and it's a lethal game. I want them returned to their quarters under guard.

TASHA'S COM VOICE

Right away, sir.

(hesitantly)

And are you... aware sir, the captain expects you to take a medical exam?

RIKER

I'll do it later.

87 OMITTED

88 INT. READY ROOM - ANGLE ON PICARD

He is working feverishly at an o.s. personal Viewscreen, absorbing the information at an intense rate. A CHIME SOUNDS, and he looks up as though he is not sure at first what it means. Then he registers and:

PICARD

Come.

89 ANGLE TO INCLUDE BEVERLY

The doors slide OPEN, and Beverly ENTERS. She is in medical "blues." She is trying to appear relaxed and confident, but nagging thoughts run around her mind asking about why she is really here.

PICARD

What do you want?

BEVERLY

I have the results of the exams you ordered.

She offers a record tape, he tosses it aside and leans back in his chair... content and confident.

90 OMITTED

91 TWO SHOT - BEVERLY AND PICARD

BEVERLY

You don't care to inspect them?

Picard ignores her, she picks up her courage, moves closer.

BEVERLY

Please, are you Jean-Luc?

Slowly, Picard looks up, aware of both her and her physical closeness. He touches her hand. A long hesitation, then gently:

PICARD

He is here.

BEVERLY

The Jean-Luc I know?

91 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(nods)

And more.

BEVERLY

The "more" frightens me...

PICARD

And elates us. We wish you could understand the glorious adventures ahead.

BEVERLY

You and... ?

PICARD

Soon we'll both be home.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

92 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise slows to impulse power as it heads for the large energy pattern "Cloud" which can be seen in far b.g.

RIKER (V.O.)

(troubled)

First officer's log, supplemental.
On the orders of... Captain
Picard, we have returned to the
vicinity of the energy pattern
"cloud." I am personally
convinced that something from this
"cloud" now shares...

93 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE SHOT

All officers at their regular duty stations, except for Picard, who is not present. Riker is in the command chair.

RIKER (V.O.)

(continuing)

... the captain's mind. But there
seems to be nothing we can do...
at least within regulations.
There have been no actions
warranting relieving Captain
Picard. And our medical
personnel, while dubious about
his condition, are not prepared
to certify the captain's
incapacity.

At the Conn position, Geordi turns to look back at Riker.

GEORDI

Approaching the "cloud," sir.

RIKER

Very well, Mister La Forge. Bring
us to within ten thousand
kilometers and hold us there.

GEORDI

Aye, sir.

93 CONTINUED:

Picard ENTERS from his Ready Room. Riker gets out of the command chair.

RIKER

Shall we begin the scientific tests that you wanted, sir?

PICARD

(smiles)

They are already underway.

94 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The energy pattern "shape" spreads out across the reach of space, as we saw it earlier.

95 EMPHASIZING PICARD

as he looks at the viewscreen. His face is transformed, showing longing and even a kind of love. Then he turns to the bridge.

PICARD

I have an announcement for the entire bridge.

96 PICARD AND VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Reaction and concern from all on the bridge as Picard moves to stand in front of the viewscreen.

PICARD

As many of you suspected...

(indicating "cloud" image)

... when our ship passed through the edge of this, it accidentally carried off a sentient being... one much like these energy patterns we're seeing here.

Picard moves toward Worf.

97 VARIOUS ANGLE ON PRINCIPALS

as Picard moves to the helm.

97 CONTINUED:

PICARD

A frightening experience for any intelligent being. As if a great claw reached down and scooped up any of you from your home world. Drawn into the energy pathways of this vessel...

(to Worf)

... it found its way to you, Worf, frantic at being carried from its home. Recognizing you as sentient beings, it pleaded for help.

98 SHOT OF COMMAND AREA

Picard moving toward where Beverly stands nearby.

PICARD

... but in ways you could not understand... going desperately from one to another of you... then discovering the computer intelligence in the ship's memory circuits.

(nods)

Simplistic intelligence, but it furnished a way to slow this Enterprise thing that had captured it.

(toward Riker)

And it very much regrets the accidental death of Engineer Singh during this...

TROI

(interrupting)

Captain, do you exist in combination with the entity?

RIKER)

Is it in control of you, sir?

PICARD)

(that smile again)

By the time we combined...

99 REACTION ANGLES

as the bridge crew hears him admit the entity is now part of him.

PICARD

... We had learned much about each other... our passion for exploration... for the unknown. We found we had similar dreams... and it offered your captain a way to realize them beyond any human expectation.

RIKER

Captain, I must speak to you privately...now.

DATA

I understand. As an energy pattern free of the limitations of matter... it might travel anywhere, at any velocity...

RIKER

(angry)

Captain, did you hear me?

DATA

(intent on Picard)

Sir, I see no way for you to journey with an energy form.

PICARD

(ignoring Riker)

Isn't there?

TROI

(reacting to a thought)

Maybe... just maybe...

(to Riker)

He's planning to beam both the entity and himself into that "cloud."

PICARD

(nods)

The transporter need not pattern your captain back into matter... we'll beam energy only...

100 ANGLE INCLUDING BEVERLY

reacting in some disgust and anger at his words and expression now.

PICARD

(ecstatic)

... and we will become...

(pleased look)

... a combined energy pattern of that life form.

101 ANGLE ON COMMAND AREA - INCLUDING BEVERLY

as Picard turns to Riker.

PICARD

A resignation from this command and from Starfleet has been appropriately recorded...

RIKER

(moving in; firmly)

I refuse to allow this, sir.

PICARD

Oh? Under what Fleet regulation? Does this resignation threaten the ship and its company in any way?

BEVERLY

(moving in)

Captain Picard, you are now relieved from duty. I judge you disabled...

102 ANGLE ON PICARD (OPTICAL)

moving his hand toward a nearby panel.

BEVERLY (O.S.)

... mentally incapacitated...

Picard's hand touches the panel and WE SEE the familiar BLUE GLOW, at which the panel becomes a BRILLIANT DISPLAY OF LIGHT on a darkened bridge. Surprised VOICES and GROANS, all matched to:

RIKER (O.S.)

Security! Help me restrain the Captain...

102 CONTINUED:

TROI (O.S.)
This is blinding me...

TASHA (O.S.)
... Where is he? These light
flashes...

103 FULL ON BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

BLINDING BLUE LIGHT from all panels, ENERGY FORMS
(lightning-like) flings some of the bridge crew to the
floor...

WORF
Captain! I'll help you if you'll
let me...

104 ANGLE AT TURBOLIFT (OPTICAL)

as in the darkness WE MAKE OUT a Figure ENTERING the
turbolift, the door CLOSING.

105 ANGLE ON RIKER (OPTICAL)

Intermittently ILLUMINATED BY THE BRILLIANT FLASHES as
he gets zapped again, then again, struggling to reach
the captain's panel.

RIKER
Hang on to the captain, someone!

He makes it, hits the RED ALERT switch... which SOUNDS
THE KLAXON and begins the RED ALARM LIGHTS BLINKING.

106 INT. CORRIDOR

Darkened too, but the FLASHING RED LIGHTS illuminate
Picard turning into the Transporter Room.

107 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

where a crewman lies unconscious. Picard, relieved to
see the crewman stirring somewhat, makes a setting on
the transporter panel, jumps to the platform as WE HEAR
the TRANSPORTER SOUND begin.

108 FULL ON TRANSPORTER PLATFORM

as the TRANSPORTER EFFECT takes Picard away from the Enterprise.

109 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise hovers even closer to the "cloud," waiting.

110 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Riker is in the command chair -- all others at their usual stations except Tasha who ENTERS very concerned and upset. Riker glances around the bridge, then:

TASHA

The Transporter Chief has no idea of what the coordinates were, sir.

GEORDI

He's just out there "somewhere?" How can we settle for that?

RIKER

Give me a choice, then.

DATA

Still no readings, no sign of anything.

Long hesitation; then, Riker sighs.

RIKER

Mister La Forge, it's time to set a course for Parliament. Warp eight.

GEORDI

We're really leaving him... ?

RIKER

I've waited as long as possible, Lieutenant.

111 EMPHASIZING TROI

She stiffens suddenly in her seat, reaching out to grab Riker's arm.

111 CONTINUED:

TROI

Wait! I'm feeling... yes, it's
the captain!

(concentrating)

The captain only. He's out there
alone!

RIKER

The entity... has it abandoned him?

TROI

Aban... ? No, the combination just
wasn't possible out there.

(intently; fast)

The Captain's in trouble, sir;
we must beam him back!

RIKER

Beam him back as what? He's
nothing but energy now.

112 ANGLE INCLUDING GEORDI

turning to Riker, matching his pace. Time may be
important to the Captain now.

DATA

Sir, the entity was caught by
the ship's circuitry -- the
captain might try to get in the
same way if he's in trouble!

RIKER

(to Geordi)

Move the ship in closer!

As Geordi turns, hurriedly doing so.

GEORDI

Moving in, sir. But where?

RIKER

No way to know. Let's hope he
can come part way himself.

113 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise moving close, then closer.

114 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

showing Enterprise coming even closer -- the "cloud's" energy patterns becoming visible.

115 REACTION SHOT

The helm officers, intent, hoping.

116 REACTION SHOT

The Command Area with Riker and Troi -- then Beverly ENTERS with Wesley. She indicates her son to Riker, questioningly. Riker nods, goes back to his intent examination of the viewer.

RIKER

Troi, is there any way you can...
"get" a message to him?

TROI

(shakes head sadly)
I wish I could.

117 SHOT INCLUDING DATA

as he swivels toward Riker.

GEORDI

Sensors are monitoring our
perimeter, the ship's circuitry...
(shakes head)
Nothing, sir.

RIKER

(interrupting)
Take us into the edge of it, La
Forge.

As he looks toward the Main Viewer:

118 FULL ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The "cloud" moving toward us -- then we're into it.

119 COMMAND AREA

Riker still intent on the viewer.

119 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

Mom, is he gone for good?

Beverly shushes her son. He tries almost a whisper:

WESLEY)

(continuing)

The funny thing is, I... I sort
of liked him...

120 INCLUDING TASHA AND WORF (OPTICAL)

Worf is suddenly startled by a reading on his panel.

WORF

Sir! On my sensor controls...

A sudden BLUE GLOW APPEARS, like that which earlier
indicated the entity's presence. Followed by a CRACKLE
OF ENERGY which sees Worf stepping back, alarmed.

TROI

Something's here. I can feel it!

DATA

Just as before! Going to you
first, Worf...

GEORDI

(interrupting)

Something crazy on my viewer
circuits...

(looking toward Viewer)

Commander Riker!

Riker leaps toward Geordi's station.

121 FULL ON GEORDI'S VIEWER (OPTICAL)

An area of static is APPEARING. The STATIC IMAGE is
undefined at first but is becoming a "shape," although
not yet recognizable.

121A INCLUDING COMMAND AND HELM AREAS

Very curious.

GEORDI

"Static?"

121B FULL ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The STATIC IMAGE as if with great effort, slowly forms itself into a lop-sided IMAGE of the letter "P."

122 INCLUDING COMMAND AND HELM AREAS

Riker coming to his feet.

RIKER

"P" for Picard!

Data moves quickly toward Riker.

DATA

He's in the ship's circuitry!
Come to the Transporter Room.
Please!

Data HURRIES toward the turbolift. Then he turns.

DATA

(continuing)

There might be a way, sir! Hurry!

Riker decides to HURRY to the turbolift himself. He joins Data and the turbolift doors CLOSE.

123 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moving away, the "cloud" now in b.g.

124 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

where Data makes quick adjustments at the control panel.

RIKER

This is a wild theory Data!

DATA

I knew we had to have the
captain's physical pattern here,
He was the last one beamed out.

RIKER

Is what you're thinking possible?

124 CONTINUED:

DATA

Unknown at this time, sir. I hope the captain remembers his pattern is here.

(steps back)

If he has, his energy has moved into the transporter relays by now...

RIKER

(nods)

Wish we had some sign he's there.

(waits; then)

We've no choice but to risk it.

DATA

(nodding)

Energizing, sir!

125 SHOT INCLUDING TRANSPORTER PLATFORM

as Data engages the transporter. Riker waits...waits.

126 TWO SHOT OF RIKER AND DATA

watching anxiously, their disappointment building. They exchange a worried look.

127 TRANSPORTER PLATFORM (OPTICAL)

The TRANSPORTER EFFECT builds slowly, a bit unevenly... then firms up, finally MATERIALIZING PICARD. He looks around, surprised.

PICARD

What the devil am I doing here?!

RIKER

(quietly)

Sounds like our Captain...

Picard begins MOVING OFF the platform.

DATA

But confused. This Picard-pattern was formed before he went out there...

127 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(to Riker)

What's happening to me, Number One? I was ready to beam away... somewhere... I remember talk of an... an entity? But all that seems so vague...

DATA

(to Riker)

I believe the Captain is now his separate self, sir. A lot of what happened is naturally missing...

PICARD

(interrupting)

Data, what nonsense are you talking now? Is it still "Sherlock Holmes?"

Data hesitates, exchanging a look with Riker who gives an almost imperceptible nod.

DATA

Ah, yes. Indubitably, sir, indubitably.

PICARD

(beginning to EXIT)

Well, at least get rid of that damned pipe. It smells.

As the captain ALMOST EXITS, Riker intercepts him.

RIKER

Doctor Crusher asked me to steer you past Sickbay. She says you've looked very tired.

Tasha ENTERS hurriedly.

TASHA

Sorry Commander, but Security Team Two reports they've discovered a puddle of blood outside the Selay Quarters and they can't find one of the delegates and...

127 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

(interrupting; annoyed)

Lieutenant, couldn't this have waited a moment? We've got the captain back.

TASHA

(to Picard)

Good to see you, sir. The problem is that one of the cooks has just been asked to broil Reptile for the Anticans... and it looks like the Selay delegate...

PICARD

Riker, with these "peace" delegates and all, I do need some rest. Take charge, Number One.

128 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The "cloud" in far b.g. as WE SEE the Enterprise go into WARP SPEED EFFECT.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END