

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Defector"
(f.k.a. "A Question of Trust")
#40273-158

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REVISED FINAL DRAFT

OCTOBER 16, 1989

STAR TREK: "The Defector" - 10/16/89 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Defector"

CAST

PICARD	Romulans
RIKER	SETAL/ADMIRAL JAROK
DATA	TOMALAK
BEVERLY	
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	

COMPUTER VOICE
JOHN BATES
MICHAEL WILLIAMS
ADMIRAL HADEN (STARFLEET)

Non-Speaking
TWO SECURITY OFFICERS
SUPERNUMERARIES

STAR TREK: "The Defector" - 10/16/89 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Defector"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
 MAIN BRIDGE
 CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
 OBSERVATION LOUNGE
 ENGINEERING
 TRANSPORTER ROOM
 GUEST QUARTERS
 DEBRIEFING ROOM
 RELAXATION CENTER
 SICKBAY
 TEN-FORWARD
 CORRIDOR (NEAR HOLODECK)
 HOLODECK
 ENGLISH CAMP
 ROMULAN PLANET
 EMPTY HOLODECK

ROMULAN SCOUT SHIP

ROMULAN WARBLIND
 CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
ROMULAN SCOUT SHIP
3 ROMULAN WARBLINDS
3 KLINGON SHIPS

STAR TREK: "The Defector" - 10/16/89 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Defector"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

SETAL	see-TALL
JAROK	JAH-rock
TOMALAK	TOM-uh-lack

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Defector"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. THE ENGLISH CAMP AT AGINCOURT - NIGHT
(HOLODECK)

Two soldiers: JOHN BATES and MICHAEL WILLIAMS..

WILLIAMS

Brother John Bates, is not that
the morning which breaks yonder?

BATES

I think it be. But we have no
great cause to desire the approach
of the day.

WILLIAMS

Who goes there?

King Henry ENTERS... his back to us... so we cannot
see who is playing him...

DATA (KING HENRY)

A friend.

WILLIAMS

Under what captain serve you?

DATA (KING HENRY)

Under Sir Thomas Erpingham.

WILLIAMS

I pray you, what thinks he of
our estate?

Reveal DATA...

DATA (KING HENRY)

Even as men wrecked upon a sand,
that look to be washed off the
next tide.

BATES

He hath not told his thought to
the king?

1 CONTINUED:

DATA (KING HENRY)

No, nor it is not meet he should.
For though I speak it to you, I
think the king is but a man, as
I am. The violet smells to him
as it doth to me, in his
nakedness he appears but a man.
Therefore, his fears, out of
doubt, be of the same relish as
ours are. Yet, no man should
possess him with any appearance
of fear, lest he, by showing it,
should dishearten his army.

2 ANGLE PICARD (OPTICAL)

observing... delighted...

BATES

He may show what outward courage
he will, but I believe, as cold
a night as 'tis, he could wish
himself in Thames up to the neck.

DATA (KING HENRY)

Methinks I could not die anywhere
so contented as in the king's
company, his cause being just and
his quarrel honorable.

WILLIAMS

That's more than we know.

BATES

Aye, or more than we should seek
after. If his cause be wrong,
our obedience to the king wipes
the crime of it out of us.

2 CONTINUED:

WILLIAMS

But if the cause be not good, the king himself hath a heavy reckoning to make when all those legs and arms and heads chopped off in a battle shall join together at the latter day and cry all "We died at such a place" -- some swearing, some crying for a surgeon, some upon their wives left poor behind them. I am afeared there are few die well that die in a battle.

DATA (KING HENRY)

The king is not bound to answer the particular endings of his soldiers, the father of his son, nor the master of his servant.

PICARD

Delightful... you're getting better and better, Data...

Stepping out of character...

DATA

Freeze program.

The characters freeze.

DATA

(continuing)

Thank you, sir. I plan to study the performances of Olivier, Branagh, Shapiro, Kullnark...

PICARD

(frowns)

Data, you are here to learn about the human condition... and there's no better way than embracing Shakespeare... but you must discover it through your own performance, not by imitating...

2 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER'S COM VOICE
Riker to Picard...

PICARD
Yes, Number One.

RIKER'S COM VOICE
Sensors are picking up an
unidentified craft in the Neutral
Zone... It's heading toward
Federation space...

PICARD
On our way... Picard out. We'll
get to the next act later, Data...
computer, end program.

The other characters DISAPPEAR and shortly thereafter,
the set disappears, too... Data begins to take off his
costume.

DATA
It is interesting that a king
could pass as a commoner, but why
should he wish to? If he is
the leader... should he not be
leading... ?

3 ANGLE

The door slides open and they EXIT...

PICARD
But listen to what Shakespeare
is telling you about the man,
Data... a king who has a true
feeling for his soldiers must
share their fears on the day of
battle.

3A INT. CORRIDOR

Walking... perhaps a passerby reacts to Data's
costume...

DATA
Sir, will I be able to schedule
a performance for the crew in
the near future?

3A CONTINUED:

PICARD

Let's... not rush it, shall we... ?

As they move away...

4 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

RIKER at an aft station. WORF at tactical.
SUPERNUMERARIES at Ops and Conn. Picard ENTERS the
bridge. Monitors at the stations show a SCHEMATIC
DISPLAY of the Neutral Zone.

RIKER

Outpost Sierra Six confirms our
readings, sir. They identify it
as a Romulan scout ship... bearing
two-seven-zero mark one-four.

5 CLOSER ON ONE MONITOR (OPTICAL)

As Picard, Riker and Data huddle over it... The Enterprise is clearly labeled and shown as a steady dot, and a flashing point of light in the Zone shows the Romulan vessel.

PICARD
A scout ship? Curious. What
would bring a scout ship into the
Neutral Zone?

WORF
Shall we transmit a warning to
withdraw, sir... ?

A beat. Picard studies the...

6 FLASHING DOT - CU (OPTICAL)

7 RESUME MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

PICARD
Open hailing frequencies.

WORF
Aye, sir.
(stops and looks up in
surprise)
Captain, the Romulan is hailing
us.

PICARD
Visual... ?

WORF
Not within range yet...

PICARD
Open channel...

Much interference, static...

SETAL'S COM VOICE
Federation ship... do you read...
I require urgent assistance...

PICARD
This is Captain Jean-Luc Picard
of the...

7 CONTINUED:

SETAL'S COM VOICE
(interrupting)
Federation ship... please help
me... requesting asylum... under
pursuit...

RIKER
Pursuit... ?

WORF
Visual contact. On screen,
Captain...

They turn to see...

8 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER - (OPTICAL)

A ROMULAN SCOUT SHIP is moving toward us. In the b.g.
a ROMULAN WARSHIP suddenly DECLOAKS.

9 REACTIONS

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

10 EXT. SPACE - ROMULAN SHIPS (OPTICAL)

The Romulan scout ship is overmatched... the warship is relentless and it FIRES TORPEDOES at the smaller craft. One of the torpedoes finds its mark.

11 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

As before... watching the viewscreen. Data has moved to ops.

PICARD

Red Alert. Open a channel to the warship.

RIKER

(to conn)

Come to intercept course. Keep us out of the Neutral Zone.

WORF

Channel is open.

RIKER

(to Data)

When will the scout cross into Federation territory?

DATA

Forty-one seconds...

PICARD

Romulan warbird, you have crossed into the Neutral Zone, and are engaged in hostile action. Explain yourself and your intent.

Beat.

WORF

No reply, sir.

11 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Hail the scout.

WORF
Responding.

PICARD
On screen.

12 ANGLE - THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

SETAL, a Romulan male of about fifty (human) years of age is sitting at the controls of his small ship. There is evident damage in his bridge.

SETAL
Please, you must help me...

PICARD
We are moving to intercept...
maintain your course and power...

Suddenly, a muffled EXPLOSION and Setal's ship is rocked violently. The transmission is abruptly cut off and replaced with the starfield. The damaged scout ship is clearly visible.

DATA
Scout ship is severely damaged,
Captain. Engines inoperative,
shields down.

RIKER
Position?

DATA
(works)
Coordinates one-four-zero by
two-zero-five.

RIKER
(quietly to Picard)
Federation space.

PICARD
Bring us to within five kilometers
of the scout. Mister La Forge,
prepare to extend our shields
around that ship.

INTERCUT:

13 INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi at the console... supernumeraries in the b.g.

GEORDI

Captain, at that range, the shields won't be able to take much punishment.

DATA

Five kilometers, Commander.

RIKER

All stop.

PICARD

Extend shields.

GEORDI

Shields in place... we've got the scout ship, Captain...

14 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND ROMULANS (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise is near the scout ship, which is drifting.

15 ANOTHER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

The Romulan warship slows as it approaches the Enterprise and the scout ship, and then stops. The ships face each other.

16 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - (OPTICAL)

On the viewscreen, the Romulan warship sits facing the Enterprise.

WORF

Weapons on the warbird are fully powered, sir.

RIKER

Lock phasers...

PICARD

Open a channel.

WORF

Ready.

16 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Romulan warbird, you are now in
Federation territory... if you
do not immediately withdraw...

Picard stops as he sees something on viewscreen.

17 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The Romulan warship turns and goes back the way it
came... CLOAKING as it goes...

RIKER

No argument?

WORF

Warbird has re-entered the Neutral
Zone, Captain. Heading for
Romulan territory.
(under his breath)
Cowards.

DATA

Massive power failure on the scout
ship, sir. All systems are going
off-line.
(beat)
Including life-support.

PICARD

(to Com)

Transporter Room Two, prepare to
beam the occupant of the Romulan
ship aboard.

Riker heads toward the turbolift.

RIKER

(indicating he should
follow)

Mister Worf.

Riker and Worf then EXIT bridge.

PICARD

Data, lock onto the scout ship
and take it in tow... cancel Red
Alert.

18 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

A supernumerary is at the controls as Riker and Worf arrive.

RIKER
Energize.

Worf stands with his hand on his phaser. The supernumerary manipulates the controls.

19 ANGLE ON TRANSPORTER STAGE - (OPTICAL)

The figure of Setal MATERIALIZES on the platform. He wears a Romulan uniform with no insignia. His neck is injured, but he appears otherwise unhurt. Setal looks about for a second.

SETAL
I must see your captain
immediately.

Riker steps forward. Worf, behind Riker, watches Setal with great distrust.

RIKER
(notices injured arm)
We'll take you to Sickbay, after
that...

SETAL
(urgently)
This cannot wait. I have
information vital to your
survival.

On their reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE WITH SCOUT SHIP IN TOW

The two crafts in space.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43462.5.
We have beamed aboard an apparent
Romulan defector. He claims to
be a low ranking logistics officer
with extraordinary information
about a new secret offensive.

21 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

A guard stands behind Setal as he tells his story to Picard, Riker, Data, Worf, Geordi. The Romulan is nearing the end of his account. He speaks with great fervency. A man demanding to be heard. Picard listens with a decidedly even expression.

SETAL

The humiliating defeat at the
Battle of Cheron has not been
forgotten. The new leaders have
vowed to discard the treaty and
claim the Neutral Zone. Nelvana
Three is only the first step.

RIKER

(skeptical)

And you're saying a whole base
is already established there... ?

SETAL

(acknowledges)

In forty-eight hours, the reactor
core will be on line.

RIKER

(impossible)

The Federation sensors that
monitor the Neutral Zone just...
missed it... ?

21 CONTINUED:

Setal looks straight at Riker... eye to eye, doesn't blink.

In a way, there's almost pride, a hint of smile, as he says --

SETAL
It would seem so.

WORF
Unlikely.

Setal glances at Worf with distaste. Then back to Picard...

SETAL
In two days, you will have a fleet of Romulan warbirds... within striking distance of fifteen Federation sectors...

WORF
The Federation will not permit it...

SETAL
(sharp)
Then it is war we're talking about, isn't it?
(beat, to Picard)
Destroy the base now and the threat is over.

Picard takes a long beat to study him... and nods.

PICARD
I'm sure you're tired from your ordeal... and could use some medical attention. Mister Worf, accompany Sublieutenant Setal to sickbay. We'll arrange for your quarters.

SETAL
(to Picard)
No doubt you will wish to question me further.

PICARD
No doubt.

21 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard nods, that's all. Setal looks at him, frustrated, that's not what he wanted to hear. Picard looks back evenly. After a beat, Setal leaves. The tension level drops considerably as the officers lean back in their chairs, glance at each other.

21 CONTINUED: (3)

RIKER

He tells a hell of a story.

PICARD

You don't believe it...

RIKER

The empire knows we'd never allow them to maintain a base within the Neutral Zone.

DATA

Commander, it would not be an atypical Romulan ploy. In their long history of war, the Romulans have rarely attacked first... they prefer to test their enemy's resolve.

RIKER

And how many times in their history has there been a Romulan defector?

DATA

(beat, checking his files)

Never, sir.

RIKER

(point made)

Because loyalty is fundamental to their culture.

GEORDI

(unconvinced)

You really think he's a spy, Commander?

RIKER

(nods)

I think he's been planted to draw us into the Neutral Zone... we'd look like the aggressors...

PICARD

... and the Romulans would have a legitimate excuse to respond with force.

RIKER

Exactly.

21 CONTINUED: (4)

DATA

That would also not be an atypical
Romulan ploy, sir.

PICARD

(thoughtful)

It is always a chess game with
them, isn't it?

Geordi looks out the viewport at the craft.

GEORDI

Well at least he's given us the
chance to get a look at some
Romulan technology.

PICARD

(acknowledges)

Mister La Forge, you will head
the away team over to the scout.

(to Riker)

Commander, you and Counselor Troi
will conduct Setal's
interrogation.

DATA

Permission to observe the
interrogation, sir...

PICARD

No, I need you with me on the
bridge, Data... there's much to
be done.

(beat)

We have less than forty-eight
hours to prevent a war... or
perhaps start one. That depends
on establishing the truth of...

Suddenly the Scout Ship EXPLODES. As all react:

22 INT. SICKBAY

BEVERLY administers to Setal's neck as Riker questions
him. Worf and the security guard stand nearby.

22 CONTINUED:

SETAL
(of course)
I set the auto-destruct sequencer
before I left the ship.

RIKER
Why?

SETAL
(smiles, incredulous)
Wouldn't you? To prevent your
ship from being captured?

RIKER
Excuse me for being a little
confused, Setal, but I thought
you were defecting...

SETAL
I am not a traitor.
(beat)
All you can see is the opportunity
to exploit me. The Federation
credo, exploitation. You couldn't
get aboard my ship fast enough
-- strip it down, "what secrets
might it reveal that we can
use... ?" You are a short sighted
people... can't you understand
I came to stop a war.

Setal winces with pain...

BEVERLY
If you could just hold still for
a moment...

She sprays something on his wound that clearly brings
relief...

BEVERLY
With your metabolism, it will take
a couple of days to heal...

SETAL
Thank you, Doctor... I am
fortunate that you know something
of Romulan medicine.

22 CONTINUED: (2)

BEVERLY

(glancing at Worf)

I've had a chance to gain some
experience recently.

SETAL

Ah yes... the incident at
Galorndon Core, our two
officers...

WORF

(instantly suspicious)

You are aware of a great deal for
a logistics clerk.

SETAL

It was common knowledge.

(weary, to Riker)

I can show you my rating code.

WORF

Forged credentials are a simple
matter for a spy.

SETAL

(eyes never leaving
Riker)

How can you allow Klingon Pahtk
to walk around in a Starfleet
uniform?

Worf steps forward... rising confrontation...

WORF

You are lucky this is not a
Klingon ship. We know how to deal
with spies...

SETAL

Remove this tohzah from my
sight...

Riker freezes Worf with a look and then replies to
Setal calmly.

RIKER

(calmly, to Setal)

Your knowledge of Klingon curses
is impressive.

(MORE)

22 CONTINUED: (3)

RIKER (Cont'd)

(beat)

But, as the Romulans might say,
only a Veruul would use such
language in public.

Setal is surprised by Riker's use of the Romulan word.
He gives him a grudging smile of respect. Riker
doesn't return the smile, but is determined to avoid
a confrontation, looking at Setal --

RIKER

Mister Worf, please see to the
security arrangements for our
guest's stay...

Worf takes a beat, glances at Riker who doesn't look
back and then EXITS.

A beat and then Setal erupts in LAUGHTER.

RIKER

You find something amusing?

SETAL

(nodding)

Lieutenant Worf, I like him. Or,
to be more accurate, I understand
him. He's a warrior. Proud,
fearless, living only for combat.

(the smile fading)

Exactly the type who will get us
all killed if we're not careful.

As Riker reacts to this:

23 INT. GUEST QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

The doors open and Setal is escorted in by Riker...
an n.d. security guard remains outside the door. Setal
looks over his new home, unimpressed by what he sees.
Riker shows him the food slot.

RIKER

This is the food station... you
can reach me through the
com panel.

(at the door)

Later, there are a few more
questions we'd like to ask you...

23 CONTINUED:

Setal sighs in frustration. Riker gives him a look and EXITS. Setal looks out the window and thinks about what he's doing. The look on his face is tortured.

SETAL
Computer, water.

COMPUTER
Temperature?

SETAL
Twelve onkians.

COMPUTER
This system is calibrated to the
Celsius metric system.

Setal frowns, what the hell is that? Frustrated, he can't even order a glass of water in this new environment. Finally...

SETAL
Any temperature at all. On the
cold side of your system, whatever
that is.

The water MATERIALIZES. He takes it. Drinks. He sits down on his bed. He pulls off his boot, removes his wristband, flips it open to reveal a...

24 TINY COMPARTMENT

containing a thin blue chip -- (NOTE: Not obviously for ingestion, we shouldn't know what the hell it is... something that could destroy the Enterprise? What is his plot?)

25 SETAL

stares at it, then snaps the wristband closed.

26 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CLOSE ON MONITOR

Graphic. A look at the scanners' interpretation of the Neutral Zone...

DATA (O.C.)
There is no unusual activity in
the Nelvana System...

26 CONTINUED:

Pulling back to reveal Picard standing behind Data at an aft station...

PICARD
Isolate and magnify the Nelvana
star system.

Data does so... and we get a computer graphic look at the focus of this mystery.

DATA
Nothing on the sensors, sir.

PICARD
It is hard to believe what we
cannot see, Data. And yet, with
their cloaking technology, a fleet
of Romulan warships could
conceivably be passing right
before our eyes.
(thoughtfully)
There must be a way we can
neutralize that advantage...

COMPUTER
Captain Picard, priority one
message from Starfleet coming
in on secured channel.

On the move --

PICARD
In my Ready Room. Delay time,
computer... ?

COMPUTER
Two hours, twenty-two minute delay
from time of transmission at
Starfleet Command on Lya Three.

27 INT. READY ROOM

He ENTERS. On his viewer, a series of colors...
virtually a rainbow of lines intersecting like some
kind of computer art...

27 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Computer, key access four-one-two
mark eight-zero. Picard. Jean-
Luc. Starfleet priority code
Gamma. Decode.

As he sits, the colors zip around and form a Federation logo with the text: EYES ONLY - CAPTAIN J.L. PICARD emblazoned across it. In the corner of the screen: a digital time of transmission as well as the real time... is indicated throughout the message...

28 ANGLE - VIEWER

PICARD

Begin message.

The logo fades out to be replaced by ADMIRAL HADEN, a stocky command officer. Because of the distance between the Enterprise and Starfleet, static both visual and auditory interfere with the playback.

ADMIRAL HADEN

Captain, we have received an official protest from the Romulan Empire demanding the return of your defector. We are obviously refusing to comply. I join in your skepticism, but if it is a deception, the Romulans are certainly going all out to make a good show of it. The Federation Council has convened in emergency session.

(more personal)

There's no doubt in my mind this will eventually fall on your shoulders, Jean-Luc. You've got him. You must decide if he's telling the truth. For now, I suggest you proceed along the Neutral Zone border toward a Federation position proximate to Nelvana Three.

The admiral's picture disappears, leaving only the real time clock running on the blank screen.

28A PICARD

considers thoughtfully for a long beat. To com panel
--

PICARD
Picard to Lieutenant Worf. Please
come to my Ready Room.

29 INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM

The debriefing takes place on a raised platform in the middle of the room. Setal sits across from Riker and Troi. An n.d. security guard (the same one we've seen before) stands nearby.

A flashing light on his chair indicates the conversation is being recorded. Riker has a PADD with notes that he refers to occasionally.

RIKER

You've never actually stepped foot on Nelvana Three.

SETAL

That's right.

RIKER

(referring to PADD)

You were a logistics officer assigned to sector eight-one-five...

SETAL

(recognizing ploy)

Eight-one-four.

RIKER

Eight-one-four, yes. So your conclusions about the secret base are solely based on a few files you happened to see in a computer.

SETAL

Massive files, Commander... transport schedules, troop movements... construction reports...

RIKER

And where are they?

(off his look)

All these files? Why not bring the files to prove what you're saying?

29 CONTINUED:

SETAL

It was not a simple matter of just taking them... Romulan security is unmatched...

RIKER

Yet you managed to get all the way across the Neutral Zone in a one man ship... quite an achievement...

SETAL

I saw an opportunity... I took it... by the time they realized I had the scout ship... it was too late...

RIKER

Are all logistics officers taught to pilot scout ships?

SETAL

I depended a great deal on the computer to navigate. I have rudimentary knowledge, that's all...

TROI

Do you expect anything out of this for yourself?

SETAL

(reacts)

The idea of a Romulan pursuing a noble cause is impossible, I suppose.

29 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

It was only a question.

SETAL

(getting angry)

Do you realize I have given up my life for this? I can never go back. Do you think I did this for wealth, a new home, what?

RIKER

We're trying to get to the truth here, Sublieutenant.

SETAL

You have the truth before you. You are too blind to see it.

(softly)

I have seen enough bloodshed for one lifetime.

RIKER

(still not buying it)

So have we all.

SETAL

(with sudden passion)

Then do as I ask! I know how difficult it is for you to believe me. I feel the same suspicions toward you. But we must look beyond our long-standing animosity and work toward the good of both our people.

He reaches out with both hands, palms upward in a gesture of supplication.

30 THE ROMULAN WARBIRD CHASING THE SCOUT SHIP
(OPTICAL)

With time code.

GEORDI (V.O.)

Slow playback... display engine logs and power data of both vessels...

30 CONTINUED:

The picture slows... the computer adds a graphic overlay that identifies the speed and power of both Romulan vessels... the camera pulls back to reveal it's a monitor at...

31 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENGINEERING STATION

Geordi with Picard, Data and Beverly at a monitor.

GEORDI

Now... look what happens at zero-nine-five-four-three-three on the clock...

32 THE MONITOR (OPTICAL)

GEORDI (O.S.)

The scout has sustained engine damage... forcing it to drop to point-six-one-five impulse power... for all intents and purposes he's finished, dead... the warship should overtake him... only it doesn't. Point two-six seconds later, the warbird slows to precisely the same speed...

33 RESUME - ENGINEERING STATION

GEORDI

Three times... three speed fluctuations... the warship always kept its distance... I don't think they wanted to catch up.

BEVERLY

And yet they fired at the scout ship... they could have killed him...

DATA

Not necessarily, Doctor... the Romulans have the same capability to direct the impact of their weapons as we do.

33 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Doctor, is there any possibility
his wound was self-inflicted?

BEVERLY

It was a bad burn... I hardly
think...

PICARD

A possibility...

Beverly sighs, forced to acknowledge the possibility.
Looking at the monitor again... on Picard, realizing
the import of this...

34 OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

35 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Holding position.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 43463.7.
We are holding a position at the
Neutral Zone border proximate to
Nelvana Three.

36 INT. SETAL'S GUEST QUARTERS

Feeling trapped, Setal paces around the room.

PICARD (V.O.)

There are twenty one hours left
before the Romulan base becomes
functional, if our guest is
telling the truth. Counselor
Troi, however, feels Sublieutenant
Setal is being deliberately
deceptive.

37 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Picard is drinking tea as he plays back another
communique from Starfleet. (It is likely that Picard
got little rest the night before and he looks a bit
tired.)

38 ANGLE THE COMPUTER SCREEN

A grim-faced Admiral Haden.

ADMIRAL HADEN

The Monitor and the Hood are
headed in your direction though
they will arrive too late to be
of assistance. Warnings have gone
out to all outposts along the
border... as well as several
independent vessels in nearby
sectors.

(a beat)

No one here wants a war, Captain.

(MORE)

38 CONTINUED:

ADMIRAL HADEN (Cont'd)
But we're prepared to take them
on if that's what they want. All
Federation starships have been
placed on Yellow Alert.

39 ANGLE PICARD

HOLD a beat on his reaction, aware the Enterprise has moved closer to war. There is a chime.

PICARD

Come.

The door opens and Data ENTERS.

DATA

You wanted to see me, Captain?

PICARD

Data, prepare a class one probe.
Set sensors for maximum scan.
I want every meter of Nelvana
Three monitored.

DATA

I will start my calibrations, sir.

He turns to leave.

PICARD

One moment.

Data stops, waits patiently to hear what Picard has to say. The captain points to a chair.

PICARD

(continuing)

Sit down.

DATA

Do you require something else from me, sir?

PICARD

Yes. Your clarity of thought,
your objectivity... as always...

(a beat)

We're very possibly about to go to war, Data. The repercussions of what we do during the next twenty-four hours may be felt for years to come. I'd like you to keep the official record of these events, so we may give history the benefit of a dispassionate view.

39 CONTINUED:

DATA

I will begin immediately, sir.
Is that all?

No. Picard looks at him thoughtfully.

PICARD

How are the crew's spirits?

DATA

They are concerned, Captain, of course. But confident. Can you not see that yourself?

PICARD

Unlike King Henry, it's not so easy for me to disguise myself and walk among my troops.

(beat)

That's all, Data.

Data EXITS. Picard sits there a beat... to himself --

PICARD

"Now if these men do not die well, it will be a black matter for the King that led them to it."

40 INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM

Setal is tired of answering questions.

SETAL
Why must we waste time playing
this ridiculous game?

TROI
(ignoring the insult)
I sense there is more here you
wish to tell us, yet you force
yourself to hold back.

SETAL
I've told you all you need to know
about Nelvana Three.

TROI
I am not speaking of the base.

Setal definitely doesn't like the turn the conversation
has taken.

SETAL
The base is all that matters.

RIKER
You're lying, Setal.

SETAL
If you'll go to Nelvana Three,
you will see...

RIKER
We're not going anywhere til we
get to the truth...

Setal glares at Riker....

RIKER
You're a spy, aren't you?

40 CONTINUED:

SETAL

No.

RIKER

Then prove it. You can start by telling me something about the location and strength of the Romulan fleet...

SETAL

I don't know it...

Quick --

RIKER

(why not?)

You're a logistics officer...

SETAL

For only one sector...

RIKER

Who's your commanding officer?

SETAL

Admiral Alidar Jarok.

RIKER

The position of Romulan bases along the Neutral Zone...

Setal slams the table with his palm.

SETAL

I don't know...

RIKER

In your sector then...

Setal pounds the table again.

SETAL

Irrelevant.

RIKER

Strength of troops under your admiral's command...

40 CONTINUED: (2)

SETAL
(pounding)
Irrelevant.
(pounding)
Irrelevant.

Riker continues on the attack.

RIKER
I agree with you... it's not worth
playing this game.

Setal slumps back in his seat. Tired and defeated.

SETAL
What a fool I've been. To have
come looking for courage in a lair
of cowards.

On Riker and Troi's reaction.

41 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Which is now at full crew. Picard standing at command,
Data at Ops, Worf at Tactical and supernumeraries at
Conn and other stations. The atmosphere is tense.

COMPUTER
Captain Picard, priority message
from security officer, Klingon
vessel Patakt...

41 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Lieutenant Worf, handle this at
security station, deck nine...

WORF
Aye, sir...

Picard watches Worf EXIT into turbolift then moves
closer to ops.

DATA
Sensors are configured for
planetary probe, sir... ready for
launch.

PICARD
Proceed.

42 EXT. ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Stock shot of probe being fired off.

43 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The probe moving away on the Main Viewer. Data checks
panel.

DATA
Probe on course. Sensors are
functioning...

Picard moves toward his Ready Room...

PICARD
Coordinate your analysis with
Mister La Forge... I want your
report with dispatch...

He EXITS.

44 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Data and Geordi. Geordi is working at the console as if the first readings from the probe are sent back and analyzed. We see a computerized rendering of Nelvana Three, a grid is placed over it, graphs of raw data appear and disappear... as they work...

GEORDI

I don't know, Data... my gut tells me we oughta believe what this guy is trying to tell us...

DATA

Your gut?

GEORDI

It's just a... a feeling, you know? Instinct, emotions...

DATA

It seems to me those qualities interfere with rational judgment.

GEORDI

You're right. They do sometimes.

44 CONTINUED:

DATA

Then why not rely strictly on
fact?

GEORDI

You can't always trust the plain
and simple facts... they lie
sometimes...

DATA

They can lead to wrong
conclusions, but they cannot lie.

Geordi doesn't know exactly how to explain.

GEORDI

What do you think? Is he a
defector or not?

DATA

The facts to date would lead to
an objective conclusion that he
is not.

GEORDI

(shakes his head)

Somehow I think we're gonna catch
the Romulans with their pants down
on Nelvana Three... Just like he
says.

Data blinks. Almost impossible to accept this.
Processing.

DATA

"With their pants down." A
metaphor, catching them in the
act... because your "gut" tells
you so...

GEORDI

But of course you can't just go
with your gut either. It's a
combination, Data... let me put
it this way... all these feelings
that get in the way of human
judgment... that confuse the hell
out of us... that make us second
guess ourselves. We need them.
We need them to help fill in the
missing pieces... because we
almost never have all the facts.

44 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

So a person fills in missing pieces of the puzzle with his own personality... resulting in a conclusion based as much on instinct and emotion as on fact.

GEORDI

Now you're getting it.

DATA

What does one do if he has no instinct and emotion?

Geordi reacts a beat, then, noticing on his console...

GEORDI

Data... look at this... the facts just took a left turn...

45 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Picard, Geordi, Data. They are revealing the surprising results of their probe analysis.

DATA

As the probe went into orbit around Nelvana Three, it began to pick up low level subspace radio emissions...

PICARD

Could they be naturally occurring?

DATA

The patterns are clearly artificial, Captain...

GEORDI

The signal is so faint our ship sensors can't read it from this distance.

PICARD

Can we decode it?

GEORDI

(shakes his head)
We've tried. It's probably Romulan... but we can't be sure.
(MORE)

45 CONTINUED:

DATA

Cloaked Romulan ships could
produce this effect.

PICARD

What about the planet surface?

GEORDI

Reading nothing but barren rock.
They might be able to hide a base
from the probe... its capabilities
are limited. The only way we'll
know for sure is if we go and take
a look for ourselves.

PICARD

(acknowledges)

That will be all, gentlemen.

Data and Geordi EXIT. Picard weighs his options.

46 INT. TEN-FORWARD

Setal, alone at a table nursing some exotic alien
concoction and mournfully contemplating the starfield
out the viewport. The n.d. security guard sits nearby.
Setal feels himself being stared at. Looks up to find:

47 DATA

observing him from the next table.

SETAL

I take it you've never seen a
Romulan before.

DATA

That would be an incorrect
assumption.

SETAL

Then why do you invade my privacy?

DATA

I am attempting to ascertain what
my guts tell me about you.

SETAL

(a beat)

You're the android.

47 CONTINUED:

SETAL

(continuing)

I know a host of Romulan
cyberneticists who would love to
be this close to you.

DATA

I do not find the concept
particularly appealing.

SETAL

Nor should you.

Setal goes back to brooding. Data is determined to reach a deeper understanding of this man. He notices Setal has gone back to studying the view.

DATA

I am told by various crewmembers
that this viewport is their
favorite on the ship.

SETAL

I thought it would bring me
comfort. But these are not my
stars. Even the heavens are
denied to me here.

Setal takes a sip of his drink.

SETAL

(makes a face)

Synthetic swill...

He pushes it away.

SETAL

(continuing)

I don't suppose your food
terminals are capable of preparing
a Romulan ale.

DATA

I am afraid they would require the
molecular structure of the beverage
in question. And, as you are no
doubt aware, our knowledge of your
planet is quite limited.

47 CONTINUED: (2)

SETAL

The loss is yours. For I have visited over a hundred different worlds and none possessed the awesome beauty of Romulus.

DATA

Am I correct in assuming you regret your decision to come here?

Setal shakes his head.

SETAL

No, what I did had to be done.

(melancholy)

But to never again see the firefalls of Gath Gal'thong, or the spires of my home rising above the Apex Sea. To be exiled from your home is a bitter thing.

DATA

It does appear unlikely that you will ever be allowed to return to your world again.

Data's seeming indifference is a blow to Setal.

SETAL

The cold reaction of an android.

DATA

But perhaps we can bring Romulus to you.

Off Setal's surprised reaction.

48 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE HOLODECK

Data is rapidly keying a program into the Holodeck's Com panel. A skeptical Setal watches closely. The security guard remains in the b.g. He steps away from the com panel.

COMPUTER VOICE

Program complete.

DATA

Run program.

48 CONTINUED:

The door slides open. Data gestures Setal inside.

DATA
(continuing)
After you.

Setal hesitates a moment before his curiosity gets the better of him. He ENTERS.

49 INT. HOLODECK (OPTICAL)

CLOSE ON Setal and Data as they stare at the Holodeck's recreation of Romulus. (An exotic vision to be determined later.) Setal reacts, pleased with what he sees.

SETAL
The valley of Chula. I know it well.

For a moment, Setal is almost convinced he's back on Romulus. Then slowly the smile fades from his face as a grim realization takes hold.

DATA
You are free to stay here as long as you wish.

SETAL
Turn it off. I no longer live here.

Data realizes Setal is in no mood to be contradicted.

DATA
Cancel program.

The landscape disappears. We are now inside the bare set of the Holodeck. A huge empty place.

SETAL
(looking around)
This is my home now. My future.

Setal comes to a decision.

49 CONTINUED:

SETAL

(continuing)

I've sacrificed everything. It
must not be in vain.

He appears to stand a little taller as he turns to
Data.

SETAL

(continuing; an order)

Arrange a meeting between myself
and Captain Picard.

(a beat)

Tell him Admiral Jarok wants to
see him.

And as Jarok (Setal) stares defiantly at Data, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

50 INT. CAPT. READY ROOM - CLOSEUP - COMPUTER SCREEN

Federation logo. "EYES ONLY, CAPTAIN J.L. PICARD."
The clock ticking in digital display. The image of
Admiral Haden appears...

ADMIRAL HADEN

Captain, we have confirmed that
you are holding Admiral Alidar
Jarok...

INTERCUTTING:

51 CLOSEUPS OF PICARD WATCHING

ADMIRAL HADEN

He's been identified as the
commander at the massacre of the
Norkan outposts. The council
strongly advises you to consider
Jarok an unreliable source of
information.

His picture fades away... the clock continues.

52 WIDE

Keying his insignia --

PICARD

Show him in.

Picard deliberately makes himself busy, does not look
up when a security ensign escorts Jarok (Setal) in.

PICARD

Wait outside, Ensign. Have a
seat... Admiral Jarok.

The guard EXITS. Jarok doesn't sit, waits impatiently
for the captain to finish what he's doing.

JAROK

Captain... there is no more
time...

52 CONTINUED:

PICARD
(casual, you do not give
orders here)
Have a seat, Admiral.

Jarok sits, frustrated. Picard finally looks up.

PICARD
I am not convinced you are
telling the truth.

JAROK
(extreme frustration)
What must I do...

PICARD
(shrugs)
You must convince me.

Picard stands... moves around the room...

PICARD
If I had irrefutable evidence...
(beat)
... but you did not bring
irrefutable evidence. You brought
no evidence at all. In fact, this
entire escape stretched your
credibility beyond belief. Now
we hear that you are not even who
you claimed to be.
(beat)
A Romulan defector is virtually
a contradiction in terms. But
Admiral Jarok crossing the
lines...

JAROK
I have explained my motives to
your interrogators...

PICARD
Yes, peace in our galaxy.
(beat)
Except you are not a man of peace,
Admiral. Your military record,
what we know of it, is clear...

JAROK
(overlapping)
... which is precisely why I chose
an alternate identity here...

52 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

(overlapping)

... the massacre at the Norkan
Outposts, for example...

JAROK

(beat, quietly)

Your "massacre" was called the
Norkan Campaign on my world,
Captain. One world's hero is
another world's madman. Perhaps
I am neither one.

52 CONTINUED: (3)

Picard is willing to acknowledge that.

PICARD

On what basis shall I decide, Admiral? Your good word? Are you willing to reveal ways to overpower the Romulan B-type warbirds we may encounter? Are you prepared to help us detect them through their cloaking shields?

A long beat. Jarok does not want to answer. Picard uses it...

PICARD

You see my problem, Admiral. You ask us for faith in circumstances not only difficult to believe but compounded by your own lies, and your own reluctance to tell us all you know...

JAROK

I cannot betray my people...

PICARD

You have already betrayed your people. You have made your choices. You are a traitor, sir. If the bitter taste of it disagrees with you, I am truly sorry. But I will not risk the lives of my crew because you think you can dance on the edge of the Neutral Zone. You have crossed over, Admiral. I suggest you make yourself comfortable.

Jarok swallows hard, he knows he cannot ride the fence much longer. He jumps off it in an odd direction...

JAROK

Do you have children, Captain Picard? A family?

PICARD

No.

JAROK

Then you have sacrificed too much for your career.

52 CONTINUED: (4)

PICARD

(no interest in this)

Yes, this is all very interesting,
but...

52 CONTINUED: (5)

But Jarok continues...

JAROK

There's a moment in a man's life,
Captain, that you cannot know...
when he looks down at the first
smile of his baby girl and he
knows that he must change the
world for her... for all children.
It is for her that I am here.
Not to betray the Romulan Empire,
but to save it.

He grows silent, downcast, shakes his head.

JAROK

For months, I tried to persuade
the high command that another war
would destroy the empire. They
grew tired of my arguments, and
finally censored me, sent me off
to command a distant sector. This
was my only recourse. I will
never see my child smile again,
Captain. She will grow up
believing her father was a
traitor. But she will grow up.

(beat)

If you act, Picard. If we stop
the war before it begins...

Picard studies him a beat, unmoved...

PICARD

(softly, the obvious)

I cannot. And will not. Unless
I have your unequivocal
assistance.

Off Jarok's look...

53 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

All principals except Wesley and Picard.
PICARD ENTERS.

53 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Admiral Jarok has provided me with the strength, location and tactical plans for the Romulan fleet.

(reactions)

Mister La Forge, he is prepared to give you data regarding engines, weapons and cloaking systems on the warbird class starship. But I believe we'll find his experience as a field commander more valuable in a strategic sense than in the technical areas.

GEORDI

(blown away)

Any edge'll help, Captain.

PICARD

Don't depend on it. For all we know, he may still be lying.

(beat)

We'll find out soon enough. Number One, set a course for Nelvana Three.

54
thru OMITTED
56

57 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

 Holding at the Neutral Zone border.

 DATA (V.O.)
 Second officer's log,
 supplemental. We are prepared
 to enter the Neutral Zone in
 direct violation of the Treaty
 of Algeron.

58 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

 Picard in command... Data at Ops... Worf at Tactical...
 Riker is conferring with supernumerary at Conn...

 DATA (V.O.)
 We must presume Romulan warships
 are cloaked and monitoring us.
 We expect swift and heavy
 resistance as we approach Nelvana
 Three.

59 RIKER - ECU

 RIKER
 Course plotted and laid in.

60 DATA - ECU

 DATA
 All decks showing condition red.

61 INT. ENGINEERING - GEORDI ECU

 GEORDI
 Engineering ready, sir.

62 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WORF ECU

 WORF
 Defensive systems standing by.

STAR TREK: "The Defector" - REV. 10/20/89 - ACT FOUR 46-49.

63 PICARD - ECU

A beat.

PICARD

Engage.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

64 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship at warp speed.

65 INT. GUEST QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

Jarok, sitting on his bed, lost in his personal agony... glances out his window...

66 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

RIKER

Tactical?

WORF

Nothing on sensors.

Riker reacts surprised, concerned... moves to Picard...

RIKER

I don't like it... I would have expected a greeting party...

PICARD

Number One, you echo another noteworthy commander in a similar circumstance. One of your countrymen...

(off his look)

George Armstrong Custer when his Seventh Cavalry arrived at the Little Big Horn.

RIKER

May we have better luck.

DATA

Approaching Nelvana system.

RIKER

Engage impulse engines.

67 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Entering the Nelvana system, the ship drops out of warp... a stellar light revealed from a planet crossing in front of the star suggests a dawning to this day of battle... and the thoughtful viewer may remember Shakespeare's words from the teaser.

68 INT. GUEST QUARTERS

Jarok waits and wonders.

69 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker moves to look over Worf's shoulder as he continues to monitor the tactical sensors.

RIKER

Nelvana Three on screen.

70 ANGLE - MAIN VIEW SCREEN - NELVANA THREE

a dull, uninteresting rock... slowly approaches. Riker moves back to Picard...

RIKER

Still no sign of them on sensors...

(beat, trace of discomfort)

In a way, I'd rather be fighting my way there... it's too damned easy.

PICARD

Prepare to enter standard orbit.

71 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship moves into orbit Nelvana Three.

72 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard and Riker on their feet now, standing between conn and ops studying Nelvana III.

72 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Data?

DATA

Scanning the planet. No life forms. No power sources. No weapons systems.

RIKER

No indication of a base at all?

DATA

No sir.

PICARD

The subspace signal the probe detected? The ionization disturbances?

DATA

I am picking them up, sir... but I cannot identify the source... They... seem to be moving in an orbital path with an eight hundred kilometer apogee.

PICARD

(to Worf)

Have Jarok brought to the bridge.

RIKER

It's possible they abandoned the base after he defected.

DATA

There is no scarring on the planet surface that would denote heavy construction of any kind.

RIKER

A cloaking device, perhaps... something to hide the whole base...

DATA

A cloaking device operating on the surface would be given away by visible distortion effects.

72 CONTINUED: (2)

A security guard arrives with Jarok. They look at him a beat as he ENTERS... as though he will now reveal the truth. He doesn't.

PICARD

Perhaps you'd like to tell us why we're here, Admiral.

Off his reaction...

RIKER

There doesn't seem to be a base.

72 CONTINUED: (3)

JAROK
(honestly confused)
I don't understand...

Motioning to the viewscreen --

PICARD
Nelvana Three, Admiral... no base,
no weapons, no sign of life at
all.

Stunned, moving toward the screen...

JAROK
But I saw the tactical
communiques... records...
timetables for completion... an
entire legion was assigned to the
mission...

Picard studies the face of the Romulan.

PICARD
Could they have been feeding you
disinformation?

Slow push to Jarok.

PICARD
(continuing)
You said you had been censored.
Reassigned four months ago. They
knew of your dissatisfaction...
could this have been a test of
your loyalty?

JAROK
(uncertain)
No... no, that's impossible...

PICARD
They let you escape with an
arsenal of worthless secrets...
what other explanation is there?

RIKER
Captain, permission to withdraw
from the Neutral Zone.

PICARD
Proceed.

72 CONTINUED: (4)

RIKER

Helm a hundred eighty degrees about.
Get us out of here, Geordi...

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

I hear you, Commander...

As Jarok continues to stare at the planet with his
mouth open in confusion...

73 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Turning course... but as it turns suddenly three
Romulan warbirds UNCLOAK...

74 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

WORF

Three Romulan warships
uncloaking... coordinates...
(no time for that)
They're firing photon torpedoes...

75 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise is struck by the torpedoes from all
three ships....

76 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Shaking from the impact...

WORF

Shields holding...

RIKER

Damage...

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Minor damage in the secondary
hull... power transfer fields may
be pinched off... working on it...

More hits rock them...

WORF

Captain... ?

76 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Not yet, Mister Worf.

(beat)

This is just a tap on the shoulder. Or we wouldn't be here talking about it.

And we may wonder for the moment what that is about... then the assault ends and...

WORF

They're hailing us, Captain...

PICARD

On screen...

77 ANGLE - THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

Reveals the same Romulan commander (TOMALAK), the smug bastard who confronted Picard at Galorndon Core.

TOMALAK

Captain Picard, I hardly expected to see you again so soon. It seems this time you are the one who has made an aggressive move across the Neutral Zone...

PICARD

Commander Tomalak, as I suspect you already know, we have responded to a warning of a Romulan incursion on Nelvana Three...

TOMALAK

But, Captain, as you can see, there is no incursion...

PICARD

There is the matter of an unidentified subspace radio emission... and ionization disturbances...

TOMALAK

Ah, you must mean our orbiting probe... we are studying Nelvana Three for...

(lying)

archaeological research...

77 CONTINUED:

PICARD

With a cloaked satellite...

TOMALAK

Really, Captain, would you have us believe this satellite is an excuse for your aggressive charge across the Neutral Zone?

PICARD

Believe whatever you wish, Tomalak. We will be on our way.

TOMALAK

Without even an apology, Captain?

Picard is furious.

PICARD

If an apology will do, I will offer it.

77 CONTINUED: (2)

TOMALAK

I'm afraid it won't. So I will
save you the humiliation.

PICARD

Get to it, Tomalak.

TOMALAK

You see, Picard, after we dissect
your Enterprise for every precious
bit of information, I plan to
display its broken hull in the
center of the Romulan capitol as
a symbol of our victory. It will
inspire our armies for generations
to come and serve as a warning to
any other traitor who would create
ripples of disloyalty.

Jarok now understands what has happened... cannot hold
it in any longer... moving forward to confront
Tomalak...

JAROK

All the communiques, the records,
the timetables... they were
fiction, written for my benefit...
it was all a... a test... a test
of my loyalty... and you used me
to lure the Enterprise into the
Neutral Zone.

TOMALAK

(bored, interrupting)

First, Captain, you will return
the traitor, Jarok... then you
will surrender as prisoners of
war...

PICARD

Do you seriously expect me to
agree to those terms?

TOMALAK

No, Captain Picard, I expect you
won't.

(beat)

You have thirty seconds to decide.

PICARD

I do not require one second.

77 CONTINUED: (3)

TOMALAK

Captain Picard, I urge you.
Surrender. Consider the men and
women you would lead into a lost
cause.

PICARD

If the cause is just and
honorable, they are prepared to
give their lives. Are you
prepared to die today, Tomalak?

TOMALAK

I expected more from you than an
idle threat, Picard.

PICARD

And so you shall have it. Now,
Mister Worf.

Prearranged signal --

WORF

Aye, Captain...

Worf presses a panel on the tactical command sending
a signal that results in --

78 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Surrounded by the three Romulan ships... and suddenly
the Romulan ships are surrounded as three Klingon Birds
of Prey MATERIALIZE.

79 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

WORF

Klingon vessels are armed and
ready, Captain.

Tomalak blinks.

PICARD

What shall it be, Tomalak?

Tomalak looks long and hard at Picard...

TOMALAK

You will still not survive our
assault...

79 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Nor will you survive ours,
Commander. Shall we die
together... ?

A long look at Picard and then Tomalak slowly grins.

TOMALAK

I look forward to our next
meeting, Captain.

He nods a nod of respect a la the Red Baron... and the
transmission disappears, returns to starfield, showing
the six ships.

WORF

Romulan disruptors powering down,
Captain.

80 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Romulan warships DISAPPEAR. Klingon ships
remain.

81 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

PICARD

Mister Worf, extend the
appreciation of the Federation...
and my personal gratitude... to
the Klingons.

WORF

Aye, sir.

PICARD

Take us home, Number One.

Riker acknowledges, pausing to note Jarok, the man who
cannot go home again. Slow push to him...

JAROK

I did it... for nothing. My home,
my family. For nothing.

HARD CUT TO:

82 INT. CORRIDOR

Data and Picard urgently on the move... reaching an doorway where a guard stands... several medical technicians, Beverly and Riker are already inside....

83 INT. GUEST QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS (OPTICAL)

Jarok is on the bed, dead, lying face up, eyes closed at peace. To Picard as he ENTERS --

BEVERLY

He ingested a Felodesine chip.
He must have brought it with him.
I'm sorry, Captain... there was
no antidote.

Riker hands him a letter on a PADD.

RIKER

A letter to his wife and
daughter.

DATA

Sir, he must have known it would
be impossible for us to deliver
this.

Picard gives it to him, nods. A last look as they take him away.

PICARD

Today, perhaps... but if there
are others as courageous as
Admiral Jarok... there is hope
for a day of peace when we can
take his letter home.

As they EXIT...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END