

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Offspring"
(f.k.a. "Bloodlines")
#40273-164

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REVISED FINAL DRAFT

DECEMBER 19, 1989

STAR TREK: "The Offspring" - 12/19/89 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Offspring"

CAST

PICARD	LAL
RIKER	LIEUTENANT BALLARD
DATA	ADMIRAL ANTHONY HAFTEL
BEVERLY	
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	
WESLEY	

GUINAN

Non-Speaking
VARIOUS SUPERNUMERARIES
ANDORIAN FEMALE
MUSCLEBOUND MALE HUNK
A KLINGON WARRIOR

STAR TREK: "The Offspring" - REV. 12/20/89 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Offspring"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE
READY ROOM
OBSERVATION LOUNGE
TURBOLIFT
CORRIDOR
TEN FORWARD
LABORATORY
TEACHER'S OFFICE
HOLODECK
DATA'S QUARTERS
TROI'S QUARTERS
PICARD'S QUARTERS
BEVERLY'S OFFICE

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Offspring"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

standing stationary in space.

PICARD (V.O.)
Captain's log, Stardate 43657.0
We have arrived at sector four-eight-seven
to begin charting this
region of the galaxy. Commander
Riker has been spared this
sometimes tedious duty by virtue
of a long overdue personal leave.

2 INT. CORRIDOR

GEORDI and WESLEY walking swiftly down the corridor.
At a connecting juncture TROI joins them. They are
surprised when they realize they are all headed in the
same direction.

GEORDI
Did he send for you too?

TROI
Yes... he was very mysterious
about it.

WESLEY
Does anyone have any idea what
this is all about?

They all exchange a long look, "nope, not a clue", and
continue walking.

GEORDI
Something happened at that
cybernetics conference. Since
he's come back he's spent every
off duty minute in that lab.

TROI
It is very unlike Data to be
secretive.

2 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

And cautious. He kept the lab
locked.

GEORDI

Now how would you know that?

Wesley reacts with a shrug and a grin. He's been caught. They continue walking until they reach the door to Data's lab. Ring the chime. After a beat, the door slides open and Data stands there, holding a "human" foot in his hand...

3 INT. LABORATORY - REVERSE ANGLE

The trio react to the foot...

DATA

Oh, you are early. Just a moment
please.

And the door slides closed in their faces... moving with Data as he takes his foot... and without ever going wide enough to see exactly what he's doing...

3A ANGLE

Data kneels down and attaches the foot to the bottom of a leg. The toes begin to wiggle. Data's face is satisfied. He stands.

DATA

You may enter now.

The door slides open and Data's curious crewmates
ENTER.

3B NEW ANGLE

(and the lab must be arranged so we can have a reveal here... we don't want them to see it as soon as they walk in -- perhaps the biobed set-up is faced away from the door, allows us to screen off line of sight to Lal as they enter.)

GEORDI

C'mon, Data, what is this...

3B CONTINUED:

WESLEY

Yeah, what's going on?

DATA

I have invited you here to meet someone.

And now he reveals... an android, but it has no face, metallic eyes, and no hair. It is a primitive mannequin. When it speaks, its voice is computer-like, neither male nor female.

DATA

This is Lal. Lal, say hello to Counselor Deanna Troi...

LAL

Hello... Counselor Deanna Troi...

TROI

How do you do, Lal.

LAL

I am functioning... within normal parameters.

DATA

And this is Geordi La Forge and Wesley Crusher.

Lal examines them.

LAL

Purpose for... exterior drapings, Father?

WESLEY

(sotto, to Geordi)

Father?

3B CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

It is the custom that we wear
clothing.

WESLEY

It called you "Father", Data.

DATA

Yes, Wesley. Lal is my child.

On reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. LABORATORY

Picard, has joined them, slowly circles the android while Troi, Geordi, Wesley and Data watch. The android shows nothing. It stands ramrod straight and perfectly still, and it displays no curiosity about the human which is inspecting it.

DATA

It has a positronic brain... one very similar to my own... I began to program it at the cybernetics conference...

GEORDI

But nobody's ever been able to do that... at least not since you were programmed Data...

DATA

There was a new submicron matrix-transfer technology introduced at the conference which I discovered could be used to lay down complex neural net pathways...

WESLEY

(understanding)

You mean a transfer... from your your brain to Lal's...

DATA

Exactly, Wesley. I realized for the very first time it was possible to continue Doctor Soong's work. My initial transfers have produced very encouraging results... so I brought Lal's brain back with me to continue.

PICARD

(unhappy)

Data...

He pauses as he realizes this is not the time and place to confront him. Suppresses his anger...

4 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I would like to have been
consulted.

DATA

I have not observed anyone else
on board consult with you about
their procreation, Captain.

4 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

No, but...

He exchanges a look with Troi...

PICARD

... in your case... it's not quite the same.

DATA

The intention is the same.

A beat... he sees Picard is not convinced.

DATA

Lal's creation is entirely dependent on me. I am giving it knowledge and skills that are stored in my brain... its programming reflects mine in the same way a human child's genes reflect its parent's genes...

GEORDI

It's true, Captain, this technology requires another positronic brain that's fully programmed...

WESLEY

And Data's the only person around who has one. That does kind of makes him Lal's dad.

Picard looks around... this is obviously a popular decision. But not with him.

DATA

Of course, it is not complete. We have only made two transfers.

TROI

Why didn't you give it a more human look, Data?

DATA

I decided to allow Lal to choose its own appearance and sex.

4 CONTINUED: (3)

Picard acknowledges, but has had enough...

PICARD
Mister Data, at your convenience,
I'd like to talk to you in my
Ready Room. Counselor...
(please join me)

Troi and Picard start to leave...

DATA
Captain... Have a cigar.

He picks up a box of cigars and holds it out... Picard reacts.

DATA
I believe it is customary.

Picard takes a cigar, EXITS, so does Troi as she follows Picard, the others follow suit...

4A OMITTED

4B INT. CORRIDOR

Picard and Troi as they leave the lab. Picard is obviously disturbed.

PICARD
I would suggest we do whatever
we can to discourage this
perception of the new android as
a "child"...

4B CONTINUED:

Waits for Troi's concurrence which doesn't come. Looks at her --

PICARD

Counselor, it is not a child.
It is an invention, albeit an
extraordinary one.

TROI

Why should biology or technology
determine whether it is a child?
I see a man who has created an
offspring... a new life out of
his own being. That suggests a
child to me. If Data wishes to
call Lal his child, who are we to
argue?

PICARD

(frowns)

If he must, fine. But I don't
understand how he can call a five
foot android, with heuristic
learning systems and the strength
of a ten men a "child".

TROI

You've never been a parent.

Picard does a take as they turn a corner.

5 INT. READY ROOM

Data sits on the sofa... pull back to reveal Picard.

PICARD

Data, what you have done has very
serious ramifications and I am
dismayed that you did not inform
anyone of what you were doing.

5 CONTINUED:

DATA

I am sorry I did not anticipate your objections, Captain. Do you wish me to deactivate Lal?

PICARD

It is a life, Data. It cannot be activated or de-activated simply. It is a stupendous undertaking. Have you any idea what will happen when Starfleet learns of this?

DATA

I have followed all Starfleet regulations to the best of my ability, Captain... I expected they would be pleased...

PICARD

We'll see.

(beat)

My foremost concern is for the safety of this ship and crew. You are faster, stronger, and far more knowledgeable than any human...

DATA

I can assure you Lal's programming includes psychological inhibitor safeguards to prevent any threat to the Enterprise.

5 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

And in the event of a malfunction?

DATA

A malfunction is of course a possibility, Captain. But Lal's program is equipped like mine -- it will shut down before deleterious behavior can begin.

Picard shakes his head, still fuming...

PICARD

You've taken on quite a responsibility, Mister Data...

DATA

(acknowledges)

To prepare, I have scanned all the available literature on parenting. There seems to be much confusion on the issue. One traditional doctrine insists "spare the rod and spoil the child", suggesting a punitive approach... another more liberal attitude would allow a child enormous freedom...

PICARD

(trying to interrupt)

Data...

DATA

And what the Klingons do to their children...

PICARD

(interrupting)

I'm not talking about parenting.

(beat)

I'm talking about the extraordinary consequences of creating new life.

DATA

(confused)

Does that not describe becoming a parent, sir?

Not wanting to get into this --

5 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

You are seeking to achieve what no one, other than your own creator, has been able to achieve -- to make another sentient, functional android. To make another Data.

DATA

That is why I must attempt this, Captain. I have observed that in most species, there is a primal instinct to perpetuate themselves. And while I have not been programmed with instinctive behavior patterns, I do understand that I have been, until now, the last of my kind. If I were damaged or destroyed, I would be lost forever. But if I am successful with the creation of Lal, my continuance is assured. I believe I understand the consequences. And I am prepared to accept the responsibility.

On Picard's reaction...

5A
thru OMITTED
7

8 INT. CORRIDOR

Moving slowly down the hallway, passers-by react at the sight of the naked android... as a woman walks by, Lal studies her...

LAL
Gender female.

8 CONTINUED:

TROI

That's right, Lal. Just like me.

As a pair of men walk by...

LAL

Gender male.

DATA

Correct.

LAL

I am... gender neuter.
Inadequate.

DATA

That is why you must choose a
gender, Lal. And complete your
appearance.

LAL

What are... criteria?

DATA

Access your data bank on
sexuality, level two. That will
define the parameters.

TROI

Whatever you choose will be yours
for your lifetime, Lal... It is
a decision that will affect how
people interrelate with you.

LAL

(turning to Troi)

I choose... your sex... and
appearance.

Troi reacts.

8 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

No, Lal... that would be confusing. We are taking you to the Holodeck to show you several thousand composites which I have programmed. You may choose from them.

TROI

Several thousand... ?

DATA

This is a big decision...

9 INT. HOLODECK

Starting on Troi who has fallen asleep, sitting on the floor against a wall...

DATA

Counselor...

(her eyes open)

Lal has narrowed the choices to four... would you like to see?

TROI

Yes... yes, of course, Data...

9A ANGLE (OPTICAL)

to see Data has created a modest set with a mirror... in front of which stands Lal...

DATA

Computer, Lal -- gender sequence finalists... begin...

Superimposing with a wipe (necessary I think to distinguish that she is not actually changing into these beings)...

9B AN ANDORIAN FEMALE (OPTICAL)

DATA

An Andorian female...

9B CONTINUED:

TROI

Interesting. You'd be the only
one on board the Enterprise,
Lal...

DATA

That could make socialization more
difficult.

Wiping back to Lal and then wiping into --

9C A MUSCLEBOUND HUMAN MALE HUNK (OPTICAL)

DATA

A human male...

TROI

Very attractive... no problem with
socialization here...

Wiping back to Lal and then wiping into --

9D AN ATTRACTIVE HUMAN WOMAN (OPTICAL)

DATA

The human female.

TROI

I like her.

Wiping back to Lal and then wiping into --

9E A KLINGON WARRIOR (OPTICAL)

DATA

A Klingon male.

TROI

A friend for Worf.

Wiping back to:

10 OMITTED

10 OMITTED

11 LAL (OPTICAL)

TROI
They are all very interesting,
Lal. Do you have a favorite?

LAL
(beat)
Yes. I have... chosen.

As Data and Troi react...

11A INT. LABORATORY

As Data puts the finishing touches on Lal... unseen in
the biobed... studies his work... Troi ENTERS.

DATA
Come in, Counselor. I have
completed the assembly of the
replicated anatomy. I was able
to provide Lal with even more
realistic skin and eye color than
my own.

He helps Lal out of the tube... she's the human female,
dressed in a flattering outfit. Troi reacts.

TROI
(softly)
Congratulations, Data, it's a
girl.

As we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Holding stationary in space.

13 INT. DATA'S QUARTERS

Data escorts Lal.

DATA

This is home.

LAL

Home. Place of residence. Social unit formed by a family living together.

DATA

Correct, Lal. We are a family.

She moves cautiously around the room... examining... as she looks at things for the first time...

DATA

A chair... to sit in.

Moving to a painting on the wall...

DATA

A painting.

LAL

Painting. Colors produced on a surface by applying a pigment.

DATA

I will teach you how to recognize the artistry of paintings.

A short attention span... she is already moving onto something else... she runs her fingers across it...

LAL

Soft.

DATA

Yes, very good, Lal. You have correctly processed the sense of touch.

13 CONTINUED:

Data leads her to a flower in a vase.

DATA (cont'd)

There are many fascinating
experiences I wish to share with
you.

LAL

Painting.

DATA

No, Lal, this is a flower.

He lifts it, holds it to Lal's nose.

DATA

Inhale.

LAL

(reacts)

Smell.

DATA

Yes.

LAL

Show me more, Father.

And Data nods approvingly, pleased by her curiosity and eagerness.

13A
thru OMITTED
17

18 INT. TEN-FORWARD

Data and Lal seated at a table. Food is put in front of her... she picks it up with her hands... pauses as Data shakes his head no, shows her the fork in his hand... she imitates it.

DATA (V.O.)

Second officer, science log
supplemental, copy: Starfleet
research, Daystrom Institute,
Galor Four annex. Reference:
development, android designate
Lal.

18 CONTINUED:

Data lifts a glass, and takes a large swallow. Lal quickly imitates but the beverage seeps out through the sides of her mouth...

DATA (V.O.)

Training in social skills at the most elementary level has begun. Lal is progressing very slowly but is not deterred by early setbacks.

18A INT. HOLODECK (OR ANY GENERAL AREA)

Wesley and Data throw and catch a ball as Lal observes. Data hands the ball to Lal who throws it gently to Wesley. He catches it and everybody is pleased...

DATA (V.O.)

Motor coordination has improved by twelve-point-four percent... this reflects the adaptation of second level neural transfers...

... and Wesley throws the ball back... she doesn't move as the ball bounces off the wall behind her and then she reacts to try and catch it...

DATA (V.O.)

Reflexes still need to develop. The integration of hand/eye coordination seems to be proceeding at a slower developmental rate.

19 INT. DATA'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

Lal studies the desk top viewer... her eyes staring at it... as Data points out words and pictures flashing quickly by.

DATA (V.O.)

Visual comprehension is especially difficult for Lal. Translating her vast data banks into recognizable applications may improve with additional transfers.

19 CONTINUED:

He stops as he notices Lal is not blinking... he points to his own eyes, watch my eyes... he blinks... she imitates... good and then he orchestrates another blink at another time interval... nods.

19 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA (V.O.)

She is also learning to supplement innate android behavior with human responses.

19A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Worf, Wesley, Troi... Data is at Ops, doesn't see as Lal ENTERS...

DATA (V.O.)

Most encouraging is her commitment to master the skills necessary to live successfully among humans. Her curiosity is insatiable... although it sometimes creates inappropriate behavior...

Reactions to her arrival prompt Data to turn and react with concern... especially when she sits in the captain's Command Chair... Data exchanges a look with Picard and escorts her out...

19B INT. TEN FORWARD

A similar setting to their first time here... she eats with a fork carefully but successfully and drinks without the beverage spilling out. Data observes and nods in satisfaction.

DATA (V.O.)

And I have been interested to note that as I observe Lal learning about her world... I share in her experience, almost as though I am learning things over again...

19C INT. LABORATORY

Starting on Lal who is in the apparatus... pulling back to see that she is attached by the neural transfer equipment to Data. Wesley is observing.

DATA

(to Wesley)

The transfer itself is fairly simple.

(MORE)

19C CONTINUED:

DATA (Cont'd)

Each neural pathway in my brain
has been duplicated precisely in
hers...

WESLEY

One advantage of a brain like
yours, Data is that we can
replicate it.

DATA

(acknowledges)

Theoretically, the duplicate
brains should be able to store
and process the same
information... but until all the
transfers are complete, we will
not know for certain.

This transfer is complete. Data begins to disconnect
it.

WESLEY

What does Lal do while you're on
duty?

DATA

She studies in our quarters. She
does not require much supervision,
Wesley. Lal is quite
self-sufficient.

WESLEY

You could send her to school.

DATA

Lal already has access to the sum
of human knowledge.

WESLEY

There are a lot of things you can
learn just by being with kids your
own age, Data.

DATA

She is only two weeks old.

WESLEY

Well, closer to her own age.

19C CONTINUED: (2)

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

Doctor Crusher to Ensign Crusher.
Aren't you supposed to be getting
a hair cut, Wesley?

WESLEY

Yes, Mom. I'm on my way.
(frowns)
Parents.
(beat)
Nothing personal.

He EXITS. Data moves to Lal, completes his work...

DATA

Lal, the third crosslink transfer
series is complete.

She becomes animated. And there is a more active brain
at work now...

LAL

Father, what is my purpose?

DATA

Purpose?

LAL

My function, my reason for being?

DATA

It is a complex question, Lal.
I can only begin to answer it by
telling you that our function is
to contribute in a positive way
to the world in which we live.

LAL

Why am I me instead of someone
else?

DATA

Because you are my child.

LAL

Where did I come from?

19C CONTINUED: (3)

DATA

Your questions suggest we have made a successful transfer of the heuristic associative pathways. You will now begin to process information on logic, aesthetics, metaphysics, and epistemology. You are truly becoming sentient, Lal.

LAL

How?

DATA

By developing the awareness to examine and question your perceptions.

LAL

Why do we have two hands... why not three or four... Why is the sky black... why do...

DATA

(interrupting)

Lal, did you know that tomorrow will be your first day of school?

19D INT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

Picard is speaking to ADMIRAL ANTHONY HAFTEL on the viewscreen...

PICARD

I assure you, Admiral, there's no better guide into this life for Lal than Data... He's doing an excellent job with her...

19D CONTINUED:

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

We all have enormous admiration for what Commander Data has achieved already. But we have superior facilities and personnel here at Galor Four. And a starship is hardly a proper setting...

PICARD

This starship's mission is to seek out new life and that is what Commander Data is doing. Under my direction.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

We only want what's best for the new android.

PICARD

As do I.

(beat, conciliatory)

I would be willing to consider releasing Lal and Data to join you... so he may continue his work with her.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

I anticipated this suggestion. Frankly, as extraordinary as he is, Data's an imperfect role model. In many ways, he's still developing.

PICARD

(dry)

Aren't we all, Admiral...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

His presence would undoubtedly retard the the new android's progress.

PICARD

Admiral, to you Lal is a new android. But to Data, she is his child.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

His child.

19D CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Yes, Admiral. It may not be easy
for you and I to see her that way.
But he does. And I respect that.
They will remain here for now.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

(reacts, beat)

Starfleet's policy on research
is clear... you're making your
stand on very uncertain ground...
I do hope it doesn't fall out from
under you... Haftel out.

The screen returns to starfield. Picard frowns.

19E OMITTED

20 INT. TEACHER'S OFFICE

Data and LIEUTENANT BALLARD. Ballard is seated behind her desk, there is a window with a twenty-fourth century shutter closed behind her.

BALLARD

She achieved a very high score
on a test of academic
achievement...

DATA

A perfect score.

BALLARD

Yes. Which is why we started her
with the older children. But Lal
couldn't understand the nuances
of how they related to each other.

DATA

I see.

BALLARD

We decided the best thing to do
would be to put her with younger
children.

20 CONTINUED:

DATA

That would seem to be reasonable.

BALLARD

It isn't working out that way.

She presses a panel and the shutter slides open to reveal an adjacent classroom. A group of toddlers are playing together with some sort of geometric building blocks. Lal is playing by herself in a corner.

BALLARD

The children are afraid of her.

20A INT. TURBOLIFT

Data and Lal ENTER. After a beat...

LAL

Father, what is the significance of laughter?

DATA

It is a human physiological response to humor.

LAL

Then judging from their laughter the children at school found my remarks humorous.

(thoughtful)

So without understanding humor I have somehow mastered it.

Data realizes she doesn't understand what has happened. To the computer --

DATA

Deck fifteen.

The door closes. After a beat.

DATA

Lal...

LAL

Yes, Father?

20A CONTINUED:

DATA

The children were not laughing
with you... they were laughing
at you.

LAL

Explain.

20A CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

One is meant kindly... the other
is not.

LAL

Why did they wish to be unkind?

DATA

Because you are different. And
sometimes differences scare
people. I have learned that some
of them use humor to hide their
fears.

LAL

(beat)

I do not want to be different,
Father.

And Data's face reflects the helplessness that has
afflicted millions of parents as they try to solve
their children's most difficult problems.

21
thru OMITTED
25

25A INT. BEVERLY'S OFFICE

BEVERLY is at her desk, working. Data ENTERS.

DATA

Doctor, I require your advice as
a successful parent.

BEVERLY

(reacts)

Well, thank you, Data. I'd like
to think I am. Sit down. How's
Lal?

DATA

Lal is realizing that she is not
the same as the other children.

BEVERLY

Is it lonely for her?

25A CONTINUED:

DATA

She does not feel the emotion of loneliness, but she can observe how isolated she is from the others. She wants to be more like them.

Beverly looks at Data...

BEVERLY

Sounds familiar.

DATA

Yes, Doctor. It is an experience I know too well. But I do not know how to help her. Lal is passing into sentience. It is perhaps the most difficult stage of development for her.

BEVERLY

It's also a very human development, Data. As our minds and bodies grow, sometimes quite rapidly, we get confused too... we look around and try to see how we fit in...

(a beat)

When Wesley was growing up, he was an extraordinarily bright boy... but he had a hard time making friends. The other children were a little intimidated by him.

DATA

(interested)

That is precisely what happened to Lal at school. How did you help him?

BEVERLY

Well, first I had to go back into my own childhood and remember how painful it was for me. Because there was a time when I didn't feel very popular either. When I told that to Wesley, it made him feel a little better. He knew I understood what he was going through.

25A CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

(beat)

I have not told Lal how difficult it was for me to assimilate. I did not want it to discourage her. Perhaps this was an error of judgement.

BEVERLY

You had no one with experience to help you through sentience. At least, she has you. Just help her realize that she's not alone. Be there to nurture her when she needs love and attention.

DATA

I can give her attention, doctor. But I am incapable of giving her love.

BEVERLY

(smiles)

Why do I find that so hard to believe?

26
thru OMITTED
30

30A INT. PICARD'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

The lights are out... Picard is in bed... a signal wakes him up...

WORF'S COM VOICE

Captain, incoming signal.
Starfleet priority one. Admiral
Haftel.

PICARD

On my monitor, Lieutenant.

30A CONTINUED:

Picard puts on a robe, turns on his monitor to reveal the admiral.

PICARD

Admiral.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

(lying)

Captain, I hope I didn't disturb you.

PICARD

Not at all.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

I've discussed my concerns with Starfleet Command. You are to hold your position until I join you. Then I shall personally review the android's development.

PICARD

Understood.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Good. I should advise you, Captain, that if I am not satisfied with what I see... I am empowered to take the android back with me. Haftel out.

And off Picard's concerned expression we,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

31 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Holding stationary in space.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental: We are holding position pending the arrival of Admiral Haftel from Starfleet Research.

31A INT. LABORATORY

Data and Lal. Lal is back in the transfer device. They each wear small patches on their foreheads. LED's blink as the transfer is made. Over this the captain's log continues.

PICARD (V.O.)

Commander Data is completing his final neural transfers to the android he has named Lal... Which I have learned, in the language of Hindi, means "beloved".

31B INT. TEN-FORWARD

Guinan is behind the bar. A few couples scattered around the tables. Data and Lal ENTER. Cross to the bar.

GUINAN

Hello, Commander. Lal, how are you?

LAL

I am functioning within normal

--

(stops herself)

I am fine, thank you...

Lal looks to Data. A nod of approval from the older android.

DATA

Guinan, Lal needs to observe human behavior.

31B CONTINUED:

GUINAN

You've come to the right place,
Lal. There are all sorts of human
behavior in here.

DATA

In return for this opportunity,
Lal is willing to provide services
to assist you.

GUINAN

Sort of a work-study program...

LAL

Father says I would learn a great
deal from working with someone
as old as you.

Guinan reacts, looks at Data, who realizes the faux
pas.

DATA

I believe what I said was that
Guinan had much life experience,
Lal...

LAL

No, the exact words you used
were...

GUINAN

(interrupting, to Lal)

You're hired. The most important
part of this job is listening...
People need a friendly ear to talk
to... Happens to be my
specialty... There's an art to it
and I'll teach it to you, Lal.

DATA

That would be very beneficial.

GUINAN

How much do you know about food
and beverages?

31B CONTINUED: (2)

LAL

I've been programmed with a listing of fourteen hundred and twelve known beverages as well as recipes for...

Data and Guinan react...

GUINAN

What'd did you just say...

LAL

I've been programmed with...

GUINAN

"I've"... ?

DATA

Lal, you used a verbal contraction.

GUINAN

You said I've instead of I have.

DATA

It is a skill my program has never mastered.

LAL

Then I will desist.

DATA

No. You have exceeded my abilities. I do not object. I just do not understand why it has happened.

But Data remains curious.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Picard to Data. Please report to my Ready Room.

31B CONTINUED: (3)

DATA
(to comm)
Yes, Captain.

Data EXITS.

32 INT. READY ROOM

Picard is seated at his desk. Data on the sofa.

DATA
I am sure the admiral is anxious
to meet Lal... I have been sending
him regular status reports on her
development...

PICARD
His visit, Data, is not just an
inspection of Lal's progress.
He has expressed a concern for
her environment.

DATA
Her environment, sir?

PICARD
He believes the Daystrom annex
on Galor Four would be more
suitable.

DATA
He wishes to relocate us?

PICARD
Not you, Data. Just Lal.

And now Data understands. A beat.

32 CONTINUED:

DATA
I would not be in favor of that,
Captain.
(MORE)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA (Cont'd)

There are many things she can learn only from me. My lifetime of experiences, the mistakes I have made and what I have learned from them...

WORF'S COM VOICE

Captain, Commander Riker's shuttle has just returned.

PICARD

(to comm)

Acknowledged, Lieutenant. Advise Mister Riker I'll want to meet with him in one hour. Picard out.

(to Data)

The admiral is taking the position that Lal's development should be overseen by the most experienced personnel available.

DATA

Then he is questioning my ability as a parent.

PICARD

In a manner of speaking...

DATA

Does the admiral have children, sir?

PICARD

I believe he does... why?

DATA

I am forced to wonder how much experience he had as a parent when his first child was born.

Off Picard's look...

33
thru OMITTED
34

35 INT. TEN-FORWARD

A scene that has taken place thousands of times in thousands of bars in the galaxy... a YOUNG ENSIGN is talking to SOME BUDDIES at the bar... he looks over the shoulder of one of the men at...

35A A TABLE

with TWO ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMEN... one of them, a blonde catches him looking, smiles at him...

GUINAN (O.S.)

There, you see?

35B ANGLE - INCLUDING GUINAN AND LAL

watching from behind the bar...

LAL

Visual reconnaissance.

GUINAN

It's called flirting.

LAL

They seem to be communicating telepathically.

GUINAN

Well, they're both thinking the same thing if that's what you mean.

The ensign excuses himself from his friends, goes to join her.

35C ANGLE - ANOTHER YOUNG COUPLE

holding hands... Lal sees it...

LAL

Guinan, is the joining of hands
a symbolic act for humans?

GUINAN

It shows affection. Humans like
to touch each other. They start
with the hands and move on from
there.

As this second couple kiss...

LAL

(reacts)

He's biting that female.

GUINAN

No, they're touching lips.
Kissing.

The second couple get up and leave...

LAL

Why are they leaving?

GUINAN

Lal, there are some things your
dad'll have to tell you... when
he thinks you're ready.

Down the bar, some people sit down and Guinan goes off
to serve them... Lal watches the couple in love with
curiosity...

35D ANGLE - RIKER

ENTERS. He checks the room for any friends. Spots Lal, takes a second look, and likes what he sees. Lal notices his interest. It parallels what we just saw. She glances at the flirting couple at their table, we see the decision made, and when she looks back to Riker it is with the same encouragement she saw the girl at the table give the ensign. He is drawn across the room like iron to a magnet.

Riker slides onto a stool at the bar.

RIKER

You're new around here, aren't you?

LAL

Yes.

She looks up, and as she takes his hand...

35E ANGLE - INCLUDE DATA

entering... reacts as he sees Lal pull Riker sharply toward her and kisses him to his great shock. Guinan sees it at the same time as Data does... they exchange a look... as Guinan moves to them...

GUINAN

Lal, put him down...

Lal reacts, puts down Riker... as Data arrives...

DATA

Commander, what are your intentions toward my daughter?

RIKER

I'm not... what... who... your daughter?

As Riker looks from one to the other to see if this is a gag... realizing it isn't... to Lal, sheepishly

--

RIKER

Nice to meet'cha...

36 OMITTED

37 INT. DATA'S QUARTERS

Data and Lal ENTER.

LAL

I watch them and I can do the things they do... but I'll never feel the emotions. I'll never know love.

DATA

That is a limitation we must learn to accept, Lal.

LAL

Then why do you still try to emulate humans? What purpose does it serve except to remind you that you are incomplete?

DATA

I have asked myself that many times as I have struggled to be more human, Lal. Until I finally realized that it is the struggle itself that is most important. We must strive to be better than we are. It does not matter that we will never reach our ultimate goal. The effort yields its own rewards.

37 CONTINUED:

She looks at him with a better understanding.

LAL

You are wise, Father.

DATA

It is only the difference between
knowledge and experience.

Lal studies her father, slowly reaches out her hand.

LAL

I learned today that humans like
to hold hands. It is a symbolic
gesture of affection.

Data considers this and knows it is impossible to
"feel" affection but holds out his hand anyway and as
they hold hands, awkwardly, without feeling anything...

37A
thru OMITTED
38

33A INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CLOSE ON THE MAIN VIEWER

Admiral Haftel on his ship.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Prepare to beam me aboard,
Captain.

38B ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

As it the image of the admiral is replaced by a view
of his ship.

38C ANGLE ON - PICARD

His face in CU, before he orders transport...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

40
thru OMITTED
42

43 INT. READY ROOM

Haftel, seated on the sofa, is accepting a cup of tea from Picard. His duties as host met, Picard settles on the corner of his desk. Haftel will surprise us, by his charm and by the strength of his arguments.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

No objective viewpoint could see
it any other way...

PICARD

I beg your pardon, Admiral, but
I thought you were sent here to
form an opinion... not to justify
one.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Captain, do not make this more
difficult than it needs to be.

And Picard is at his most conciliatory here, seeking
a solution that satisfies all.

PICARD

It need not be difficult at all.
I understand your concerns. What
I'm asking for is time, patience.
If you keep an open mind, I know
you'll see it is imperative to
keep Data and Lal together. At
least for the formative stages
of her development. After that,
I'm sure that Commander Data will
be delighted to deliver her to
Starfleet Research.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Not satisfactory. If mistakes
are made during the formative
stages, the damage might be
irreparable.

43 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I'm convinced the damage would be irreparable if you separate them.

Cordially, the swords are drawn.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Really, Captain... is this about breaking up a family... Rather a sentimental attitude to take toward androids, isn't it?

And now Picard begins to put an edge into his voice.

PICARD

They are living, sentient beings. Their rights and privileges in our society have been defined. I helped define them.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Yes, yes... I'm more than willing to acknowledge that. And you must acknowledge that Lal may be a technological step forward in the development of artificial intelligence.

PICARD

A most significant step.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

And work like this demands strictly controlled procedures.

PICARD

Which Commander Data is following.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

In effective isolation. And that is unacceptable to Starfleet Research.

43 CONTINUED: (2)

A beat as they study each other. Haftel stands, moves off the conflict back into reason.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

This is not personal, Captain.
There are very real dangers here.
Without peer review, Starfleet
feels we're risking another M-5
catastrophe.

PICARD

That is a forced parallel, Admiral.
M-5 was a battle computer.

HAFTEL

With an artificial intelligence,
that led to disaster.

(MORE)

43 CONTINUED: (3)

ADMIRAL HAFTEL (Cont'd)

Does this new android have the same dangerous potential? I don't know. And that is my point. The blame of the M-5 catastrophe can be laid entirely on the fact that Doctor Daystrom was working in effective isolation. And that cannot be permitted to happen again.

It is a strong argument. Picard is willing to acknowledge that.

PICARD

I respect the need for peer review and control precautions. I would submit that you will find them here aboard the Enterprise. My crew has served for years with Data. Unlike your research people, we have enough such experience to reliably judge what is "normal" and "abnormal" behavior for Soong-type androids. We are uniquely qualified to assist in guiding Lal's development.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

(beat)

That is what I'm here to decide, Captain.

On Picard's look...

43A INT. LABORATORY

Picard, Data and Haftel. Data is demonstrating the transfer device. As he sets it aside he concludes,

DATA

So Lal now possesses the sum of my programming.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Her neural nets are laid down identically to yours?

Data hesitates for a moment.

43A CONTINUED:

DATA

There do seem to be variations
on the quantum level. Lal can use
contractions... I cannot.

Haftel throws Picard a look...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

An aberration... what have you
done about it?

DATA

I have maintained records on
positronic matrix activity,
behavioral norms, and all verbal
patterns... I have seen no
evidence of other aberrations...

PICARD

It would seem that you have
actually improved upon yourself,
Data.

DATA

Is that not the goal of every
parent, sir?

Data's reference to himself as a parent obviously
throws the admiral.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

But... as a good... father...
don't you think it would be
better, especially in light of
this aberration, if Lal could be
close to the best possible
equipment and the best-trained
minds to perform diagnostic,
evaluative and repair procedures?

43A CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

I have been programmed with all the procedures you have mentioned. And in any meaningful evaluation of Lal, you would require a model for a basis of comparison. I am the only model available, Admiral.

Picard reacts, nice try, Admiral.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

You haven't mastered human cultural and behavioral norms yourself yet, have you?

DATA

Nosir.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Then, if the object of Lal's existence is for her to understand human behavior, wouldn't you admit that you are an imperfect teacher... in fact, she may choose to emulate you rather than humans... even if you instruct her otherwise.

PICARD

(cutting off a chance
for Data to reply)

On the other hand, Admiral, how many of your researchers are androids? None. And I would suggest that many aspects of Lal's existence and development may be so alien to human experience that your people simply could not be made to comprehend them.

43A CONTINUED: (3)

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Where is Lal now?

44 OMITTED

44A INT. TEN-FORWARD

Guinan is behind the bar, while Lal serves customers. Picard, Data and the Admiral ENTER. The Admiral is obviously taken aback by their location.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
This is your idea of appropriate guidance...

DATA
It is an opportunity for her to observe human behavior and more importantly to interact with her crewmates.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
She's capable of running over sixty trillion calculations per second and you have her working as a cocktail waitress.

PICARD
Admiral, she is working under the strict guidance of a woman in whom I have absolute trust. Ten-Forward is the center of the ship's social activity. Everyone on board comes here...

44A CONTINUED:

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

I'm not convinced the sort of behavior she observes here will be a positive influence.

GUINAN (O.S.)

My customers usually behave themselves... if not, they're asked to leave. There's something to learn from that as well, wouldn't you say?

44B ANGLE

to reveal Guinan.

PICARD

Admiral Haftel, Guinan. She runs Ten-Forward.

He nods to her.

PICARD

How is Lal doing, Guinan?

GUINAN

She spills a few drinks like the rest of us. But she's learning a lot.

Some raucous laughter from a table that Lal is serving...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

(to Picard)

I'm sorry, this is just outrageous.

GUINAN

Come now, Admiral, I'm sure you've been in a few bars in your day...

The admiral looks cooly to Picard...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

I want the android out of here... have her report to me immediately for an interview.

44B CONTINUED:

Data acknowledges, crosses the room to Lal as Haftel EXITS... Picard gives Guinan a look... she shrugs, what can you do... he finally shakes his head and EXITS.

45 OMITTED

45A INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Lal and Haftel. Haftel deceptively cordial. He smiles warmly to Lal. Lal is uncomfortable... this is rather like being called to the principal's office.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Well, I've been looking forward to meeting you, Lal.

LAL

Why?

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

You're very important to us at Starfleet Research. We've got quite a facility at Galor Four. I'd like to show it to you.

PICARD

The Admiral is in fact suggesting you be moved to Galor Four, Lal.

LAL

Have I done something wrong?

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Not at all. But it is important to broaden your experiences. And there's just so much you can learn aboard a starship, wouldn't you agree?

LAL

Yes, I'd agree.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Good.

LAL

Thus, the natural conclusion would be when I have learned all there is to learn aboard the starship, I would relocate to Galor Four.

45A CONTINUED:

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

I don't agree. That is not the natural conclusion here.

LAL

I believe it is.

Turning to Picard as though she were not in the room.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

You see, she resists alternative suggestions to her own father's wishes. That's not a good sign.

LAL

Excuse me, sir, I do not know my father's wishes.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

He did not "warn" you about this conversation?

LAL

Warn me? No, Admiral. He told me to answer your questions.

PICARD

The admiral is concerned that you need more guidance than your father can provide here on the Enterprise.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Do not misunderstand. I have great respect for your... father.

LAL

You do not speak with respect.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

(to Picard)

I find her very adversarial.

45A CONTINUED: (2)

LAL

I am only stating a fact, Admiral.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Apparently, your father has not taught you about selective judgment in verbalizing your thoughts. This is a skill we can help you develop.

LAL

My father is already helping me, sir.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Yes, well, the question is whether he's helping you enough.

LAL

Are you asking me, sir?

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

No, I didn't mean...

PICARD

Why don't we, Admiral? In all these discussions, we've never once mentioned Lal's wishes. She's a free, sentient being. What are your wishes, Lal?

LAL

I wish to remain here, Captain Picard.

PICARD

Thank you. You're excused.

The admiral glances sternly at Picard and then nods, fine, the interview is over. Lal looks quite concerned as she EXITS.

46

thru OMITTED

47

47A INT. TROI'S QUARTERS

Troi is working. A chime.

47A CONTINUED:

TROI

Come in.

Lal ENTERS. Her movements are subtly but noticeably a little hyper. A little extra head movement. Some additional eye jumps.

TROI

Hello, Lal. How are you?

LAL

An admiral from Starfleet has come to take me away, Troi. I'm scared.

A beat... as Troi reacts and stands... realizing --

TROI

You are scared, aren't you?

And it takes Lal a beat to realize too... she exchanges a look with Troi, stunned to realize --

LAL

I... feel it. How is that possible?

TROI

I don't know.

Lal sits. A little shaky. Troi moves to her... puts a calming hand on her shoulder.

LAL

This is what it means to feel.

(beat)

This is what it means to feel.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

48
thru OMITTED
48B

48C INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Data has joined Picard and Haftel.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Commander, you have Lal off to a wonderful start in life. And that's what being a parent is all about. But I have decided I must ask you to release her to me.

DATA

May I know why, sir?

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

All the other arguments aside, there is one that is irrefutable. There are only two Soong-type androids in existence. It is far too dangerous to have the two of you in one place. Especially on a starship. One lucky shot by some Romulan and we lose you both.

PICARD

That's a fine argument, Admiral. But it doesn't change my feeling that the proper place for Lal to develop is by Data's side.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

You're not a parent, Captain. I am. I've learned, with difficulty, that there's a time when...

(including himself with
Data)

... all parents have to let go of our children... for their own good.

48C CONTINUED:

PICARD

This is not that time. The umbilical cord is virtually uncut. The child...

(and this is the first time that Picard uses the word "child" comfortably, and he realizes it).

... the child depends on him.

Haftel looks at Picard -- the decision has been made.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Mister Data, it would be much better for Lal if she left knowing you had voluntarily decided this was the best course of action.

He looks expectantly to Data.

DATA

Admiral, when I created Lal, it was with the hope that someday she would choose to enter the Academy and become a member of Starfleet. I wanted to give something back in return for all Starfleet has given me. I still do. But Lal is my child. You ask that I volunteer to give her up. I cannot. That would violate every lesson I have learned about human parenting.

(beat)

As Captain Picard told me after he first met her, I have taken on "quite a responsibility." I have brought a new life into this world. It is my duty, not Starfleet's, to guide her through these first difficult steps to maturity, to support her as she learns, to prepare her to be a contributing member of society. No one can relieve me of that obligation. And I cannot ignore it. I am her father.

Picard looks at Data with extraordinary respect.

48C CONTINUED: (2)

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Then, Mister Data, I regret that
I must order you to transport Lal
aboard my ship.

Data rises to comply.

48C CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

Belay that order, Commander.

Haftel reacts, turns to Picard...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

(icy)

I beg... your pardon?

PICARD

I'll take the matter to Starfleet myself.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

I am Starfleet, Captain... and this is an order. Proceed, Commander.

PICARD

Hold your ground, Mister Data.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Do you understand you're risking your command and your career, Captain?

PICARD

There are times, sir, when men of good conscience cannot blindly follow orders. You acknowledge they are sentient, but ignore their personal liberty and freedom. Order a man to turn his child over to the state? Not while I am his captain. If you wish, the Enterprise is prepared to accompany you to Starfleet Command and then we'll see what...

He is interrupted by a hail.

TROI'S COM VOICE

Troi to Commander Data. Report to your lab at once.

Data reacts... looks to his two superiors. Picard nods to Data who EXITS, answers for him...

PICARD

Acknowledged, Counselor. He's on his way. Is there a problem?

48C CONTINUED: (4)

TROI

Yes, Captain, something is
terribly wrong with Lal.

As they react...

49 INT. LABORATORY

Starting on Lal's face who has regressed dramatically... she is more like the first mannequin we saw... slow, measured movements, loss of comprehension...

TROI (O.S.)

It lasted barely a moment. She experienced an extraordinary range of feelings... fear, excitement, pleasure... she could barely catch her breath... and then...

Pulling back to see Data and Haftel are beginning to examine her as Picard stands with Troi.

TROI

For no apparent reason she got up and walked out of my quarters... she didn't say another word, she just started walking here... and each step became more and more difficult...

DATA

Lal is programmed to return to the lab in the event of a malfunction.

Only now, at the sound of his voice, does Lal show recognition.

LAL

Father.

DATA

Yes, Lal. I am here.

PICARD

(reacts, to Troi with sad irony)

A malfunction. Emotional awareness.

DATA

(to Haftel)

It would appear to be a symptom of cascade failure. It will require reinitializing the base matrix without wiping out the higher functions.

49 CONTINUED:

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

I agree.

(beat)

May I assist, Commander?

DATA

Thank you, Admiral.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

(to Picard and Troi)

If you'll excuse us, Commander

Data and I have much to do.

Picard and Troi acknowledge... EXIT... and all arguments are on hold as the two men, both of whom care greatly about Lal, prepare to "operate" (TECH: DESCRIBE APPROPRIATE INITIAL ACTIVITY).

49A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Haftel's ship nearby.

49B INT. CORRIDOR

Outside the lab. Wesley, Geordi, Troi, have been waiting a long time for news. Idle conversation has long ago ended. They react as the door slides open and Haftel comes out of the lab. His face is weary... he looks at the others and shakes his head.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

(softly)

She won't survive much longer. There was nothing anyone could have done. We'd repolarize one pathway and another would collapse. And then another. And his hands started moving faster than I could see, trying to stay ahead of each breakdown. He refused to give up. He was remarkable.

(beat)

It just wasn't meant to be.

He EXITS.

50 OMITTED

51 INT. LABORATORY

Data looks at Lal with an impassive face... and yet we must sense the extraordinary weight of his failure on his shoulders... she looks as beautiful as ever, standing here before him. And yet she barely can move or talk. There is very little left of her. After a beat...

DATA

Lal, I am unable to correct the system failure.

LAL

I... know.

DATA

We must say good-bye now.

With great difficulty, slowly her hand rises and he sees it, takes it.

LAL

I... feel...

DATA

What do you feel, Lal?

LAL

I... love... you... Father.

And Data just stares at her... unable to say it back.

DATA

I wish I could feel it with you.

LAL

I... will... feel... it... for... both... of... us.

With great urgency in her eyes... she clutches his hand harder... as though clutching to life itself.

LAL

Thank you... for... my... life.

On Data's face... the sound of her voice edging slowly into the voice of the mannequin, not male, not female (but do not slow speed down) --

51 CONTINUED:

LAL (O.S.)
Flirt-ing... laugh-ter... fam-ily...
paint-ing... fe-male...
hu-man.

And there is no more. A beat.

52 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Troi, Worf, Beverly, Geordi, Wesley.
Data ENTERS from the forward turbolift.

DATA
Lal suffered complete neural system
failure at thirteen hundred hours.
I have deactivated the unit.

PICARD
The crew grieves for your loss,
Mister Data.

Data studies the sad faces of his "family", never has,
never will entirely understand "grieving".

DATA
I thank you for your sympathy.
But she is here.
(indicates his
head)
Her presence so enriched my life
that I could not allow her to pass
into oblivion. So I incorporated
her programs back into my own...
I transferred her memories to me.

Picard acknowledges.

PICARD
Mister Data, take your position.

He does. And we stay on Data's face as we hear...

PICARD (O.S.)
Mister Crusher, set course for
the starbase on Otar Two.

WESLEY (O.S.)
Course set, sir.

PICARD (O.S.)
Engage.

53 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)
warping out.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END