

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Data's Day"
#40274-185

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FINAL DRAFT

OCTOBER 10, 1990

STAR TREK: "Data's Day" - REV. 10/17/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Data's Day"

CAST

PICARD	T'PEL
RIKER	MENDAK
DATA	KEIKO ISHIKAWA
BEVERLY	V'SAL
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	
	Non-Speaking
O'BRIEN	ALFREDO JUAREZ
TRANSPORTER TECHNICIAN	FRANCISCA JUAREZ
	JUAREZ BABY
Non-Speaking	
NURSE	
MEDICAL TECHNICIAN	
FEMALE DANCER	
SUPERNUMERARIES	
DATA'S CAT	

STAR TREK: "Data's Day" - REV. 10/11/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Data's Day"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
MAIN BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
OBSERVATION LOUNGE
SICKBAY
BEVERLY'S OFFICE
TRANSPORTER ROOM
CORRIDOR
ARBORETUM
BARBERSHOP
TEN FORWARD
DATA'S QUARTERS
TURBOLIFT
T'PEL'S QUARTERS
KEIKO'S QUARTERS
NURSERY
DANCE STUDIO
TROI'S OFFICE
REPLICATING CENTER

ROMULAN WARBLIND

MENDAK'S READY ROOM
(ON VIEWSCREEN ONLY)

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
USS ZHUKOV
2 ROMULAN WARBLINDS

STAR TREK: "Data's Day" - REV. 10/17/90 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Data's Day"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

KEIKO ISHIKAWA
T'PEL

KAY-co EE-she-cow-wa
TA-PELL

STAR TREK: The Next Generation
"Data's Day"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship stopped in space.

DATA (V.O.)

Second Officer's Personal Log:
Stardate 44390.1 Record entry
for transmission to Commander
Bruce Maddox, Cybernetics
Division, Daystrom Institute.
Dear Commander Maddox,...

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

SUPERNUMERARIES at Con, Ops, and Tactical. Data is near the aft stations, making a visual check of the consoles. This is the "nightshift" and so lighting on the Bridge should be SLIGHTLY DARKER than we're used to seeing..

DATA (V.O.)

(continuing)

In reference to your most recent letter, I agree that your study lacks sufficient primary source information on my programming. Therefore in response to your request, this correspondence will include a complete record of my activities during a normal day, focusing on my perceptions of friendship.

Data moves to Command, sits down and checks a few readings on the small monitors on the command chair.

2 CONTINUED:

RIKER, and THREE SUPERNUMERARIES ENTER from Turbolift.
Data stands.

DATA

Good morning, Commander. You are
fifteen minutes early.

Riker smiles... he's in a very good mood.

RIKER

Well, it's a special day. I
thought the... father of the bride
would enjoy being relieved a
little early on the wedding day.

DATA

Thank you, sir.

RIKER

Nervous?

DATA

I cannot become nervous. However,
I do sense a certain...
anticipation regarding my role
in the wedding.

(beat)

All systems normal, sir. Sickbay
reported that Lieutenant Juarez
went into labor at zero four
hundred hours. We remain on
station awaiting the arrival of
the starship Zhukov and guest
quarters have been prepared for
Ambassador T'Pel.

RIKER

Very well. I have the Bridge.

DATA

Aye, sir.

RIKER

(to com)

Begin day watch.

In response to his command, the LIGHTS begin to
BRIGHTEN, signalling the beginning of "day" on the
ship.

2 CONTINUED: (2)

Data's people leave their positions and Riker's people take the vacant stations.

DATA (V.O.)
(over above action)
Initially Commander Maddox, I found it difficult to maintain friendships since human emotions are often puzzling to me.

CUT TO:

2A INT. CORRIDOR

Data ENTERS from Turbolift and moves to Keiko's Quarters.

DATA (V.O.)
(continuing over above action)
Eventually, I developed a program enabling me to predict human emotional responses to specific actions.

Data has arrived at the door.

2B INT. KEIKO'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

KEIKO ISHIKAWA, a slender young woman of Japanese descent and wearing civilian clothes, is walking from the bedroom to the living area. She seems serene... calm. The door CHIMES.

KEIKO
Come in.

Data ENTERS.

DATA
It is time for the wedding rehearsal.

KEIKO
(flat)
I know...
(beat)
I've decided not to go through with it, Data.

2B CONTINUED:

Keiko says this with a detached air... she's intentionally distancing herself from her emotions right now. As a way of dealing with the pain of the situation, she's opted to take the 'super-rational' approach.

2B CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

You do not wish to rehearse?

KEIKO

No, I'm... calling off the wedding.

DATA

May I ask why?

KEIKO

It's just the right thing to do.

DATA

Have your feelings for Chief O'Brien changed?

KEIKO

(beat, calm)

I'm supposed to be getting married, Data. I should be happy... but I'm not. I just feel this weight pressing down on me.

DATA

Will cancelling the wedding make you happy?

She hesitates for a second... and although she tries to say it with conviction, she's not really sure...

KEIKO

Yes.

(beat)

He'll probably be just as relieved as I am.

(beat)

Data, you introduced us, you mean a lot to both of us... I'd really appreciate it if... you would tell Miles for me.

DATA

If you wish.

Data turns to leave... on Keiko's expression...

CUT TO:

3 OMITTED

4 INT. CORRIDOR

Data moving toward Ten Forward.

DATA (V.O.)

I have often heard my friend Chief O'Brien say that above all else, he wants to make Keiko happy. Since cancelling the wedding will make her happy, I must conclude the Chief will be pleased at her decision.

He EXITS to Ten Forward.

5 INT. TEN FORWARD - CONTINUOUS

GEORDI, O'BRIEN, and SUPERNUMERARIES. The Supernumeraries are putting up Japanese lanterns, decorations, etc. Geordi and O'Brien are standing around, waiting for the rehearsal. (The lounge is closed, no regular patrons.) Data ENTERS and goes directly to O'Brien.

DATA

I have good news.

O'BRIEN

Oh?

DATA

Yes. Keiko has made a decision designed to increase her happiness.

(beat)

She has cancelled the wedding.

It takes a moment for this to sink in, and O'Brien just stares at Data for a few seconds.

O'BRIEN

(shocked)

She what?

(beat, then getting angry)

Cancelled the wedding? Today? Without even a word... of all the childish, selfish... !

5 CONTINUED:

O'Brien EXITS. Everyone is shocked, no one more so than Data. Geordi comes over and gives him a look of reproach.

GEORDI

Next time, maybe I should break
the... good news.

Geordi moves away and we PUSH IN on Data.

DATA (V.O.)

Commander Maddox, it would appear
that my program designed to
predict emotional responses
needs... adjustment.

On Data's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE & ZHUKOV (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise and another starship running side by side.

DATA (V.O.)

Personal Log: Supplemental. This is the one thousand five hundred fiftieth day since the Enterprise was commissioned.

7 INT. CORRIDOR

Data moving toward Transporter Room. The Corridor should be filled with SUPERNUMERARIES in Starfleet uniforms, civilian clothes, sports wear... a feeling of many cultures, activities and traditions aboard our ship.

DATA (V.O.)

(continuing)

Besides the arrival of Ambassador T'Pol, other events occurring today include four birthdays, two personnel transfers, a celebration of the Hindu Festival of Lights, two chess tournaments, one secondary school play, and four promotions.

He has arrived at Transporter Room.

8 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS (OPTICAL)

Data ENTERS. TRANSPORTER TECHNICIAN at console.

DATA (V.O.)

Overall... an ordinary day.

TECHNICIAN

The Zhukov is ready for transport, sir.

DATA

Energize.

8 CONTINUED:

AMBASSADOR T'PEL MATERIALIZES on the platform. She is Vulcan, middle-aged, and has the cool, regal bearing common to her species.

DATA

Welcome aboard the Enterprise,
Ambassador.

T'PEL

I would meet with your Captain.

Data gestures to the door and they EXIT together.

CUT TO:

9 INT. TURBOLIFT

Data and T'Pel. Her face is impassive, unreadable... Data's shows the innate curiosity and innocence which is such an intrinsic part of his personality. The Turbolift is MOVING.

DATA (V.O.)

Unlike my human friends, I am not affected by feelings or emotional considerations. In that sense, I am closer to being Vulcan than human, but I am not attracted to Vulcan philosophy. Their devotion to logic does have a certain appeal in its simple purity...

The Turbolift STOPS and they EXIT.

9A INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Data and T'Pel ENTER from Turbolift and walk to Ready Room. Riker's shift is on duty (Riker not on Bridge).

DATA (V.O.)

(continuing)

... but I find theirs to be a somewhat... stark philosophy, lacking beauty... and joy.

10 INT. READY ROOM

PICARD and Riker standing near the desk. T'Pel and Data ENTER.

10 CONTINUED:

Picard lifts his hand in the Vulcan salute.

PICARD
Ambassador T'Pel...

T'PEL
(returning salute)
I come to serve.

10 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
Your service honors us.
(gestures)
My first officer, Commander
William Riker.

T'PEL
(to Riker. Polite, yet
curt)
Leave us, please.

Riker glances at Picard, plainly irritated at this peremptory dismissal. Picard gives a small nod of agreement and then Data and Riker EXIT.

11 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Data and Riker ENTER from Ready Room.

RIKER
(annoyed, to Data)
Charming woman.

Riker is still irritated as he moves to Command. Data studies him for a moment and then heads for Turbolift.

DATA (V.O.)
The tone of Commander Riker's voice makes me suspect that he is not serious about finding Ambassador T'Pel charming. My experience suggests that in fact he may mean the exact opposite of what he says. This is a form of expression I have not yet been able to master.

Data EXITS.

CUT TO:

12 INT. BARBERSHOP (OPTICAL)

Barbershops haven't changed much and there is still a mirror, two barberchairs, and a sink, along with 24th century combs, scissors, shaving cubes, etc. Geordi has just sat down in one of the chairs and an alien barber named V'SAL comes over to look at his hair.

12 CONTINUED:

A FEMALE ALIEN CREWMEMBER is sitting in the other chair while a HUMAN BARBER works on her large expanse of hair.

12 CONTINUED: (2)

Geordi and V'Sal are joking around. Their verbal jabs at each other are definitely good-natured and they've thrust and parried this way many times before.

V'SAL
(looking at Geordi's
hair)
You don't need a haircut. You
were just in here last week.

GEORDI
(joking)
Hey, I wouldn't be back here so
soon if you'd done it right the
first time...

Data ENTERS as V'Sal goes to the counter to get a sheet and some scissors. (V'Sal's action must be long enough for the following Data voice-over to be heard.)

DATA (V.O.)
(over above action)
When I have difficulty
understanding human behavior I
often turn to Commander Geordi
La Forge. I consider him to be...
my best friend.

V'Sal begins trimming Geordi's hair.

V'SAL
I know you want to be beautiful...
I'm just a barber, not a miracle
worker.

GEORDI
Just try to keep my ears on
straight today, all right?

They both chuckle a little and Data realizes they're joking.

DATA (V.O.)
Friendly insults and jibes...
another form of human speech
that I am attempting to master.

12 CONTINUED: (3)

GEORDI
(to Data)
Hi... here for a trim?

DATA
My hair does not require
trimming... you peabrain.

Geordi almost falls out of the chair in shock, but a smile still forms on his face.

GEORDI
What?

DATA
My hair...

GEORDI
'Peabrain'?

DATA
I am experimenting with friendly
insults and jibes. It was not
meant as a serious disparagement.

GEORDI
(laughs)
Well... I wouldn't try it out on
the Captain.

Data nods in understanding.

DATA
Geordi, I am still confused about
Chief O'Brien's reaction this
morning.

GEORDI
He was just surprised, Data. He
didn't mean to blow up like that.
He knows Keiko probably doesn't
want to call off the marriage.
(off Data's look)
She's just getting cold feet.

Data processes this for a moment, then finds the reference.

DATA
Cold feet... jitters... a nervous
reaction to an impending event
of great importance.

12 CONTINUED: (4)

GEORDI
Right. Don't worry,
everything'll be fine. She'll
change her mind again.

DATA
(surprised)
She will?

GEORDI
Absolutely.

DATA
Then you believe the wedding will
still proceed?

GEORDI
Trust me, they'll get married...
so you better find a gift.

On Data's expression...

CUT TO:

13 INT. REPLICATING CENTER (OPTICAL)

The 24th century equivalent of a ship's store. There are several computer terminals showing images of objects ranging from clothing to furniture. Patrons select the desired item from one of the displays, then take an encoded padd to one of the large replicator consoles in the b.g. TWO ADULTS are perusing one of the displays with a CHILD.

13A NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

The parents are making a few final adjustments to the image of a stuffed rabbit (or toy sailboat) on one of the screens. The child seems happy with the choice. They press a button, and the item MATERIALIZES on one of the replicator stages. They take the toy.

14 ON DATA (OPTICAL)

The computer screen is showing a shovel and Data seems unsure what to do. He taps a key and the display now shows a chair.

15 NEW ANGLE

as Data sees WORF ENTER. Worf goes over to one of the terminals and begins to tap in commands. Data goes over to him.

DATA (V.O.)

(over above action)

I find Lieutenant Worf to be what is called a kindred spirit. We were both orphans and were both rescued by Starfleet officers. In many ways, we are both still outsiders in Human society. I do not fully understand why, but I find it... comforting to think that I am not alone in that regard.

DATA

(to Worf)

Are you here to find a wedding gift?

WORF

Yes.

DATA

I would appreciate your help in selecting an appropriate item.

WORF

(a little proudly)

Of course. I have attended human weddings before.

Worf taps in a couple commands on the display.

16 INSERT (OPTICAL)

The terminal screen shows a set of crystal wine glasses.

17 RETURN TO SCENE - INTERCUT AS NEEDED (OPTICAL)

DATA

This is a traditional gift?

WORF

My adoptive parents often give these... things at family weddings. A human custom.

17 CONTINUED:

Worf works the display again and now the image of a delicate glass swan is shown.

DATA

It was my understanding that the item selected should reflect the personality of whoever is giving the gift.

(looks at screen)

This does not remind me of you.

Worf frowns a little... he's never thought of it quite that way before.

DATA

Have you ever been an actual participant in a human wedding?

WORF

(with distaste)

No.

DATA

You would not consider it to be an honor?

WORF

An honor, perhaps. But human bonding rituals involve a great deal of talking, dancing, and crying.

Worf is still concerned with the gift and now he taps in another command and the display screen shows a vicious-looking Klingon weapon. Worf smiles to himself... that's more like it! However, Data is no longer watching him.

DATA

(concerned)

Dancing...

CUT TO:

18 OMITTED

19 INT. SICKBAY

BEVERLY is talking to a NURSE. They are in the 'birthing area' of Sickbay, a semi-private area where a very PREGNANT WOMAN is lying on one of the biobeds, while her HUSBAND (non-Starfleet) sits next to her. Data's V.O. can be heard over the following...

BEVERLY

Continue to monitor the contractions. I'd say she still has a couple hours to go.

The Nurse nods and Beverly moves over to the pregnant woman.

BEVERLY

(to woman)

You're going to be just fine.

Beverly turns to go to her office.

DATA (V.O.)

(over above action)

I am rarely in need of Doctor Beverly Crusher's professional services as my biomechanical maintenance program (tech) is self-sufficient. But I often observe as she practices medicine on others and have learned a great deal about the human condition from her.

19A NEW ANGLE

Data is waiting for Beverly in the vestibule outside her office.

DATA

Doctor, may I ask a favor of you?

BEVERLY

Of course.

DATA

Will you teach me how to dance?

19A CONTINUED:

A passing SECOND NURSE overhears this and looks at Beverly with surprise. Beverly is embarrassed at the mention of this subject and she pulls Data into her office.

20 INT. BEVERLY'S OFFICE

BEVERLY

What?

DATA

I would like to learn how to dance.

BEVERLY

Why me?

DATA

It is in your service record.
'Awarded first prize in tap and
jazz competition, Saint Louis
Academy---

BEVERLY

(trying to quiet him)

Okay, okay.

She glances out the windows to see if anyone heard him.

20 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

(puzzled)

Have I said something to upset
you?

BEVERLY

It's just... that was a long time
ago.

(off his look)

I'd rather not be known as... as
the dancing doctor. Again.

DATA

Then your answer is no?

Beverly struggles for a second... looks out into the
hall again to make sure no one's listening.

BEVERLY

(quietly)

All right. But let's keep this
between us.

DATA

Of course, Doctor.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Commander Data, please report to
the Bridge.

DATA

(hits communicator)

Acknowledged.

CUT TO:

21 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and T'Pol are standing near aft science station.
Riker and his shift are still on duty. Data ENTERS.

PICARD

Mister Data... I need a tactical
projection of possible future
Romulan deployments along the
Neutral Zone. Access all
Federation records on the subject
and then report to my Ready Room.

21 CONTINUED:

DATA

That is a very general request,
Captain. Is there a more specific
area you wish me to study?

Picard glances at T'Pel and she shakes her head.

PICARD

No.

Data sits down at the station and begins to work.
Picard and T'Pel head for Ready Room.

PICARD

(to Riker)

Set course one-three-zero mark
two-four-six. Warp seven.

Data turns around at this command and Riker is a little
surprised.

RIKER

That course will take us very
close to the Neutral Zone,
Captain.

PICARD

I'm aware of that. Proceed.

Picard and T'Pel EXIT to Ready Room. Riker is fairly
itching with questions, but he knows his duty.

RIKER

Lay in the course.

The Supernumerary at Con works the console. Data turns
back to the console and begins working.

DATA (V.O.)

It is fortunate that I am able
to perform my duties without
emotional distractions. If that
were not the case, a sudden course
correction toward the Neutral Zone
would make me very... nervous.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Moving at warp speed.

DATA (V.O.)

Personal Log: Supplemental.
Commander Maddox, there are still
many dynamics of social
interaction which I do not
understand.

22A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker and his shift still on duty. Data is working at
the aft science station... after a few seconds, he
stands and goes over to the Ready Room door.

DATA (V.O.)

(continuing over above
action)

The belief among humans that a
captain must remain distant from
his crew is puzzling. Captain
Picard and I have worked together
closely for over three years...

Data has arrived at the Ready Room.

23 INT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

Picard and T'Pol are seated. The door CHIMES.

PICARD

Come.

Data ENTERS.

DATA (V.O.)

(continuing over above
action)

... and yet I cannot truthfully
refer to him as my friend. I find
that thought to be...
disappointing.

23 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Based on your analysis, what is the current Romulan strategy behind the deployment of their ships in this sector?

DATA

Their ships are deployed to support a policy of confrontation designed to test Federation defenses along the Neutral Zone.

PICARD

Do you predict any change in the near future?

DATA

I project a ninety percent probability that they will continue to pursue this policy.

PICARD

Are there any indications of a more conciliatory attitude on their part?

DATA

(beat)

No, sir.

Picard looks at T'Pel. She is unperturbed by this information.

T'PEL

Caution is clearly called for, Captain. However, the mission must proceed as planned.

PICARD

Starfleet Command agrees with you, Ambassador. But I would feel better if you would consent to an escort or...

T'Pel pointedly looks away from Picard toward Data. Picard understands her concern.

PICARD

(reluctant)

Thank you, Mister Data.

23 CONTINUED: (2)

Data EXITS.

CUT TO:

24 OMITTED

25 INT. DATA'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

Data ENTERS. He crosses to the food replicator.

DATA

Feline supplement seventy-four.

A small dish of food MATERIALIZES and Data takes it. He sets the dish down near a wall and then goes over to the desk unit.

26 NEW ANGLE

as a CAT walks over to the dish of food and begins eating.

27 ON DATA

as he sits at the desk. He places his hand on the console and a small series of LIGHTS COME ON in response.

DATA

Computer, run fluidic sensor diagnostic.

LIGHTS BLINK on the console and Data waits patiently. His cat jumps up into his lap and Data automatically begins to pet him.

COMPUTER VOICE

Diagnostic complete. All systems functioning within normal parameters.

The door CHIMES.

DATA

Come in.

28 NEW ANGLE

as O'Brien ENTERS. He's upset, but somewhat apologetic.

O'BRIEN
Am I intruding, Commander?

DATA
No.
(beat)
Would you care to sit down?

O'Brien sits... he's very agitated, having trouble saying what's on his mind... he gets up again... starts to say something... changes his mind... moves about uncomfortably.

DATA (V.O.)
(over above action)
When one of my friends is distraught, I know that I should attempt to make him more comfortable.

Data stands and goes over to the food replicator.

DATA
May I offer you some refreshment, chief?

O'BRIEN
No, thank you, sir. First of all... I'd like to apologize for this morning in Ten Forward...

DATA
There is no need to apologize. I was not offended.
(beat)
Perhaps you would like a pillow or a more comfortable chair to sit upon.

O'BRIEN
Uh... no sir. Thank you, sir.

DATA
Would you care to listen to music? Brahms? Aurelia? Mexler?

28 CONTINUED:

O'BRIEN

No, sir... really... I'm fine.
I came here to... to ask for your
help.

(beat)

It's about Keiko... I'd like you
to talk to her... convince her
to go through with the wedding.

DATA

Would Counselor Troi not be a more
appropriate choice to speak with
Keiko?

O'BRIEN

She already has... it didn't
help.

(beat)

You've known her longer than I
have... I just thought she might
listen to you.

O'Brien's really having a hard time with this... a man
very much in love and feeling powerless to do anything.

O'BRIEN

(continuing)

She won't even talk to me...

DATA

I do not know what to say to her.

O'BRIEN

Just talk with her... try to make
her see reason. She's going off
half-cocked and not thinking this
through. You've worked with her
for a long time... she respects
your opinion.

Data thinks for a second... decides to do it.

28 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

Perhaps she has not fully analyzed
her decision.

O'BRIEN

(relieved)

Thank you, sir. I won't forget
this.

As O'Brien EXITS, Data thinks for a beat... then stands
and heads for the door.

28 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA (V.O.)
(over above action)
Commander Maddox, I noted that
Keiko was quite calm and rational
when she informed me of her
decision this morning.

CUT TO:

28A INT. CORRIDOR

Data walking to the Arboretum.

DATA (V.O.)
(continuing)
Therefore, I can predict that
she will respond to an objective
analysis of the situation based
on the available facts.

29 INT. ARBORETUM

Data ENTERS. The Arboretum is a large, well-kept
nursery... lots of trees, bushes, flowers, etc. Keiko
(in lab coat) is staring at a flowering plant, lost
in thought.

DATA (V.O.)
(continuing over above
action)
It is fortunate that she has not
let emotional considerations cloud
her judgement. It should make
my task much simpler.

Keiko notices Data. She's not as sure of herself as
earlier in the day. The decision is starting to weigh
heavily upon her and she's a little emotionally fragile
right now.

KEIKO
Hi.

DATA
Am I disturbing you?

KEIKO
No...

29 CONTINUED:

DATA

There is a high likelihood that
your decision to cancel the
wedding was an error.

29 CONTINUED: (2)

KEIKO
(startled)
What?

DATA
I believe you made an incorrect
analysis of the facts at hand.

Keiko didn't expect this from Data and it takes her a few seconds to get her bearings.

KEIKO
What do you mean?

DATA
You do not seem happy.

KEIKO
Well, no...

DATA
Your decision was based on the
assumption that cancelling the
wedding would bring you happiness.
That has proved to be incorrect.

KEIKO
Data... it's not that simple.

DATA
Since your action did not produce
the desired results, the most
advisable solution is to
re-examine the decision-making
process and look for errors.

Keiko feels pressured, boxed in... her feelings of pain and guilt start to get closer to the surface... she's defensive.

KEIKO
I knew what I was doing. It's
my decision.

DATA
That fact is not in dispute.
However, you may have acted with
undue haste... and in doing so,
you have unintentionally hurt
Chief O'Brien's feelings.

29 CONTINUED: (3)

KEIKO

(suddenly angry)

I did what I had to! Why are you
doing this? I thought you were
my friend.

DATA

I am your friend.

KEIKO

Then leave me alone.

DATA

If I have offended---

She backs away from him... tears mixing with the anger.

KEIKO

Just... leave me alone.

She EXITS. On Data's troubled reaction...

DATA (V.O.)

It is clear that I need guidance
to resolve this situation.
Counselor Troi's advice should
be useful.

CUT TO:

30
thru OMITTED
31

31A INT. TROI'S OFFICE

CLOSE ON a cup, as TROI pours tea into it. MOVE WITH HER as she picks up the cup, crosses the room and sits down on the couch with Data. (This action must be long enough for Data's voice-over to be heard.)

DATA (V.O.)
(continuing over above
action)

In many ways, she is the friend that I understand the least. Her life and her duties are predicated on her understanding and perception of emotions. Since I have none, no doubt she finds me as much of a mystery as I find her.

DATA
Chief O'Brien talks to me... Keiko talks to you... why do they not talk to each other?

TROI
(smiles)
That's a good question, Data. I wish I had a good answer for you. Perhaps when they're ready, they will.

DATA
Many aspects of this situation are puzzling. I have been studying relevant texts on the subject of marriage, but I have not found a suitable guide.

31A CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

A suitable guide for what?

DATA

In an effort to be helpful, I am trying to calculate the variables involved in a successful marriage.

TROI

Good luck.

DATA

There are many different opinions. On Galvin Five, a marriage is considered successful only if children are produced within a year of the wedding. Andorian marriages require groups of four people unless two---

TROI

Data... would you like my advice on how to help them?

(off his nod)

Don't. This is something they need to work out for themselves now.

DATA

But I am their friend. Should I not stand with them in a time of difficulty?

TROI

There are many ways of helping a friend... sometimes the best way is to leave them alone.

Data thinks about that for a second.

31A CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

Do you believe marriage to be the right decision for them?

TROI

I don't know. They are very much in love, but sometimes that isn't enough. Marriage is an agreement to share who you are with someone else... to spend your lives together... to grow old together.

Beat as Data thinks about this.

DATA

(concerned)

'To grow old together?' Is that an integral component of marriage?

TROI

(cautious)

Why do you ask?

DATA

Although I am an android, I have not excluded the possibility that I too may someday marry.

TROI

There's nothing wrong with that.

DATA

I believe I have much to offer a potential mate, however we cannot grow old together, Counselor, because I will not grow old.

TROI

(smiles)

You do have a lot to offer, Data...

T'PEL'S COM VOICE

Commander Data, this is Ambassador T'Pel. Please report to my quarters.

DATA

(hits communicator)

Acknowledged.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship at warp.

33 INT. T'PEL'S QUARTERS

(No windows... similar to the quarters in "Sarek")
T'Pel is pacing, a little restless for a Vulcan, but
not nervous. The door CHIMES.

33 CONTINUED:

T'PEL

Enter.

Data ENTERS. T'Pel sits at the table... an impassive look on her face.

T'PEL

You have a priority three clearance aboard the Enterprise?

DATA

That is correct, Ambassador.

T'PEL

I require information on this ship's defense and navigational systems. Access code kappa alpha four-six-zero-one-seven-zero-four.

DATA

(processes for a second)
That code is valid.

T'PEL

What is the field strength of the ship's deflector shields at maximum output?

DATA

May I ask what is the purpose for this request?

T'PEL

I require the information.

DATA

I have the same safeguards as the ship's computer. Therefore, I must report any inquiry regarding restricted information to the Captain along with a report stating the nature and purpose of the inquiry.

T'Pel's eyes narrow a bit as she reconsiders for a moment. Data frowns in puzzlement.

DATA

Your reaction suggests that you do not wish the Captain to be informed of your inquiry.

33 CONTINUED: (2)

T'PEL

(cool)

No. I was not interested in the information. I was curious as to your security safeguards. They appear to be adequate.

(beat)

Cancel request. You may leave.

Data EXITS.

34 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Data ENTERS from T'Pel's quarters. He heads for a Turbolift.

DATA (V.O.)

Commander Maddox, I have often wished for the sense that humans call intuition or instinct. Since Vulcans do not lie, I must accept the Ambassador's explanation... but I still wish I could have a... gut feeling to back up this conclusion.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

35 OMITTED

35A INT. CORRIDOR

Data steps up to the keypad outside the Holodeck doors and presses a button.

COMPUTER VOICE

Program Crusher Four in progress.

Data EXITS to the Holodeck.

36 INT. HOLODECK/DANCE STUDIO

The Studio is plain: wood floor, mirror, practice beam. Data ENTERS. Beverly is already here warming up. She sees Data and comes over... she's excited to be dancing again.

BEVERLY

Hi.

(re: the room)

Whatta ya think? It's a recreation of the studio where I took my first dance lesson.

She says it with affectionate nostalgia... Data can't appreciate the emotional attachment.

DATA

It appears to be quite suitable, Doctor.

36 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

All right, then. Let's start with something real simple.

She taps out a very rudimentary step.

BEVERLY

Go ahead, try it.

Data repeats the move smoothly.

BEVERLY

(surprised)

Good! Now try this...

A slightly more complex step... again Data picks it up without trouble, but he keeps his arms stiffly at his sides.

BEVERLY

Wait a minute...

(Data stops)

Try it again, but watch my arms...

She repeats the step using her arms... Data tries again... uses his arms in exact imitation of Beverly.

BEVERLY

(shocked at his skill)

And... you say you're never done this... ?!

DATA

That is correct. Perhaps it would be beneficial to show me the final lesson.

BEVERLY

Okay...

She does a more complex dance routine. Data looks for a moment... then joins her, matching her step for step. As they finish with a quick flourish...

36 CONTINUED: (2)

BEVERLY

That was the easiest lesson I've ever given.

DATA

Then I have succeeded in learning how to dance?

BEVERLY

You seem to have... picked up the basics.

DATA

Thank you, Doctor. I am now ready to dance at the wedding.

BEVERLY

(reacts)

Wedding?

DATA

Keiko's wedding.

BEVERLY

But you never... you didn't say it was for the wedding.

DATA

Is that important?

BEVERLY

Well... yes. They don't do a lot of tap dancing at weddings...

DATA

Why not?

BEVERLY

Because... well... actually I'm not exactly sure, Data. But we'd better try a style of dancing they will do at the wedding... Computer, run "Blue Moon".

The MUSIC STARTS. (Other songs: "My Romance," "Night & Day," "Constantly," "Moon Glow," or "Dancing in the Dark.")

36 CONTINUED: (3)

Beverly positions his arms correctly and then starts to dance...

BEVERLY

Compared to what we were just doing, it's very simple. Just follow me. One, two, three, four---

Data doesn't get this at all... he quickly makes a wrong move and steps on her foot.

BEVERLY

No, no... you're trying to---Ow! Move more slowly... that's it... no, now you're--Ow! Stop music.

MUSIC STOPS.

DATA

I am sorry.

BEVERLY

I don't get it... you picked up tap dancing so quickly...

DATA

I cannot reproduce your performance if I cannot see your feet.

BEVERLY

(now she understands)
You need something to copy. You can't just... dance?

DATA

No, Doctor.

She looks at him with wonder and compassion... amazed at this simple inability by someone so incredibly gifted. Her heart warms... she finally takes his arms again.

BEVERLY

All right... this time, watch my feet. Computer, start music.

(the music starts)

Don't try to imitate me. You have to lead.

36 CONTINUED: (4)

DATA

Lead where?

BEVERLY

Indicate to your partner where
you're going to step.

DATA

How is this accomplished... ?

BEVERLY

Watch me, I'll lead...

(they switch arms)

Notice I don't repeat the same
pattern over and over... I
improvise... Good... Now you
lead...

(they switch positions
again)

Look up... into my eyes...
Good... You're holding me too
tight, Data...

DATA

This is a very complex set of
variables to coordinate.

BEVERLY

You're doing fine... now smile,
like you're enjoying yourself...

He puts on a pleasant face...

36 CONTINUED: (5)

NURSE'S COM VOICE
Doctor Crusher please report to
Sickbay.

The interruption breaks their rhythm and Data steps on
her toes again.

BEVERLY
(wincing, hits
communicator)
Is it Lieutenant Juarez?

NURSE'S COM VOICE
Yes, Doctor. Her contractions
are now one minute apart.

BEVERLY
I'm on my way.
(to Data)
Why don't you try it with an...
artificial partner for a little
while? Don't be afraid to
experiment.

DATA
I will. Thank you, Doctor.

She EXITS with a slight limp.

37 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

DATA
Computer, create dance partner,
female.

A FEMALE DANCER APPEARS. She smiles sweetly at Data
and he takes her in his arms.

DATA
Begin music.

The MUSIC STARTS and as Data tries to dance we...

CUT TO:

38 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship at warp.

39 OMITTED

40 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Data ENTERS. Riker's shift still on duty. Riker is telling a joke to the Supernumeraries at Tactical and the Aft Science station. Data watches Riker as he moves to Ops and takes his station. Data's V.O. can be heard over Riker's joke.

RIKER

... he still won't talk... so they put the Count's head on the chopping block... 'one more chance' says the Queen. 'No' says the Count. The headsman swings his axe and just as the blade falls, the Count says 'Wait, wait, I'll talk!' but it was too late. And the moral to the story is don't hatchet your counts before they chicken.

DATA (V.O.)

(over the above)

Commander Riker's easy-going manner and sense of humor is fascinating. It is one reason why he is so popular among the crew. I believe it may also be partly responsible for his success in matters of love. There may be a possible correlation between humor and sex... the need for more research is indicated.

The Supernumeraries groan at the joke, but Riker is pleased with himself and moves back to Command. Data notices something on his console.

40 CONTINUED:

DATA

Commander, we have reached the
designated coordinates.

RIKER

All stop.
(to com)
Captain Picard to the Bridge.

Picard and T'Pol ENTER from Ready Room. Picard is
grim.

PICARD

Hold position. Long range scan.

Picard looks at the viewscreen for a tense beat...
everyone waiting, unsure what's coming next.

DATA

I have detected a ship in the
Neutral Zone, Captain.
Configuration... Romulan Warbird.

Picard looks to T'Pol... she's pleased by the news.
Picard's grim expression doesn't alter and he does not
look away from her...

PICARD

Yellow Alert.

T'Pol disapproves, but neither of them say anything...
they stare at each other in a silent battle of wills as
the Bridge goes to condition yellow. Worf ENTERS and
goes to his station. Picard finally turns away from
T'Pol and back toward the viewer.

PICARD

Mister Worf, hail the Warbird.

WOLF

(works console)
Aye, sir.
(beat)
They are responding... text only
Captain.
(reads message)
We are to proceed to the agreed
coordinates.

Picard takes another beat to think this over.

40 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Set course zero three seven mark
zero zero five, warp four. Take
us into the Neutral Zone, Ensign.

There are reactions around the Bridge the Supernumerary
at Con carries out the order.

41 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship goes into warp.

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

WORF

(reading console)

Captain, the Warbird is holding
position. In three minutes we
will be within phaser range.

PICARD

Red Alert.

T'Pel reacts... she gives Picard a warning look.

PICARD

My crew knows their duty,
Ambassador. They will take no
provocative action... without my
order.

There is something close to anger on T'Pel's face, but
she maintains her cool Vulcan reserve. She taps in
some numbers at one of the Command terminals.

T'PEL

Hold position at these
coordinates.

RIKER

(glances at his
terminal)

Slow to half impulse.

42 CONTINUED:

T'PEL
(to Worf)
Open a channel.

Worf looks to Picard and he nods agreement.

WORF
(works console)
Open.

T'PEL
This is Ambassador T'Pel. I have
arrived.

43
thru OMITTED
44

45 ON VIEWER (OPTICAL) - INTERCUT AS NEEDED

The image of MENDAK, a Romulan Admiral, comes on the screen. His attitude is neutral... a shrewd negotiator careful not to give anything away.

MENDAK
I am Admiral Mendak.

T'PEL
There is no established protocol
for a meeting of this nature.
The logical course is for me to
transport aboard your ship and
begin the negotiations.

MENDAK
(noncommittal)
Yes...
(looks at Picard)
Captain, I note your defensive
systems have been activated.

Picard glances at Worf and receives a quick nod in return.

PICARD
As are yours, Admiral.

MENDAK
(smiles)
It was not meant as an
accusation...
(MORE)

45 CONTINUED:

MENDAK (Cont'd)

(to T'Pel)

Indeed, I salute your show of strength. Ambassador, we are honored by your presence. You may transport aboard at your convenience.

T'PEL

The honor is mine.

The view screen returns to a shot of the Romulan ship. T'Pel turns to Picard... more than a trace of arrogance in her attitude.

T'PEL

Instruct your Transporter Room to stand-by. I will beam to their ship without further delay.

Picard is reluctant... he makes one last attempt.

PICARD

(quiet)

Ambassador, I must once again urge you to reconsider. The Enterprise can accommodate a Romulan delegation without sacrificing security or---

T'PEL

(withering)

Captain Picard, I find your arguments illogical. Please carry out my instructions.

She EXITS to Turbolift. Riker and Picard exchange a look of exasperation with the Ambassador.

PICARD

(to com)

Bridge to Transporter Room Three.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

O'Brien here.

PICARD

Prepare to beam Ambassador T'Pel to the Romulan ship.

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

Aye, sir.

45 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

(to Worf)

Maintain a lock on her signal
once she's aboard their vessel.
At the first sign of trouble I
want to be able to bring her
back.

WORF

Understood.

46 NEW ANGLE

as Worf reads his console.

WORF

Transporter activated...

Worf reacts with alarm at something on the console just
as O'Brien's voice comes over the com...

WORF

Captain---!

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

Transporter emergency! I'm
losing her signal!

WORF

Boosting power to autosequencers.

DATA

Engaging computer override.

RIKER

(to com, urgent)

O'Brien what's happening down
there?

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE

I'm losing the pattern... trying
to re-establish...

An ominous silence... everyone on the Bridge waits for
a long, tense beat...

46 CONTINUED:

O'BRIEN'S COM VOICE
(defeated)
I'm sorry, sir... I wasn't able
to retrieve the signal... the
Ambassador's dead.

On Picard's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

47 OMITTED

47A INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Picard, Data, and Riker are listening to O'Brien's report. Geordi, Beverly and a MEDICAL TECHNICIAN are examining the Transporter pad in the b.g. with a couple of tricorders. The Technician has a carrying case into which residual samples from the Transporter pad are being placed. Data's V.O. can be heard over the following...

O'BRIEN

The signal lock wasn't broken, sir. I had just entered the transfer sequence when the Ambassador's pattern began to break up. I tried to go to emergency manual control, but the pattern deteriorated too rapidly and...

(shakes his head)

DATA (V.O.)

(over the above)

Personal Log: Supplemental. The risks aboard a starship are accepted by all who serve, but I have never failed to observe a deep emotional response to the loss of a comrade. It is at times like this that I greatly miss the ability to share human feelings.

DATA

(to Picard)

Captain, there is no prior record of this type of accident occurring on a starship. Back-up systems and safeguards are designed to prevent just such an occurrence.

Geordi comes over from the Transporter pad.

47A CONTINUED:

GEORDI

I can't find any system flaws in the unit, sir. All the Engineering status reports were normal. None of the backups were activated and the autosequencers all functioned normally.

PICARD

Any prior malfunctions with this Transporter unit?

O'BRIEN

No, sir. In fact, we replaced the transition coils only a week ago.

RIKER

Could there have been some kind of interference from the Romulans?

O'BRIEN

Nothing that I could see... their shields were down... there was no power interruption... no subspace bias.

PICARD

(to Geordi)

I want that unit pulled and its systems checked again. I also want a level one diagnostic performed on all Transporters.

GEORDI

Aye, Captain.

Geordi EXITS. Beverly has finished her work. The Technician EXITS carrying the medical case.

BEVERLY

Her molecular structure dissipated instantly once the pattern was lost. There were a few organic compounds left on the pad, but there's not enough material for an autopsy.

47A CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

To die in a Transporter
accident... Hardly a fitting end
for one of the Federation's most
honored diplomats.

A quiet moment as they contemplate the death of the
Ambassador.

WORF'S COM VOICE

Bridge to Captain. Admiral Mendak
wishes to speak with you.

Picard knows what's coming and he's not looking forward
to it. On Picard...

CUT TO:

48
thru OMITTED
49

49A INT. MAIN BRIDGE - INTERCUT WITH VIEWSCREEN (OPTICALL)

Picard, Data, Riker, and Worf. Mendak is on the
viewscreen.

MENDAK

We're still waiting, Captain.
Is there a problem?

Picard hesitates for only a moment... but there's no
way to hide this.

PICARD

There's been... an accident.
Ambassador T'Pel... was killed
in a Transporter malfunction.

Mendak is surprised... takes a second to digest this
information... then his eyes narrow and he looks at
Picard with suspicion.

MENDAK

What kind of malfunction?

PICARD

We're investigating that right
now. I'm sure that---

49A CONTINUED:

MENDAK

I should have known the Federation wasn't serious about this conference.

PICARD

Admiral, I can assure you that the Federation places the highest priority on this mission and its goal.

Mendak isn't buying this... but his attitude shows grudging admiration.

MENDAK

Well played, Captain... well played. Starfleet opposes normalization of relations with the Romulan Empire and so you are ordered to create... an accident.

PICARD

You're mistaken. I am ready and willing to discuss the establishment of full diplomatic relations under the same terms as Ambassador T'Pel.

MENDAK

(derisive laugh)

A generous offer, since you know that we were only willing to negotiate with T'Pel.

(shakes head)

I salute you again, Captain. It was a maneuver worthy of a Romulan. I suggest we both leave the Neutral Zone before there is... another accident.

The image goes blank. Ominous silence fills the Bridge. Finally...

PICARD

Set course for Federation territory, warp two.

The Supernumerary at Con works the console.

49A CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
(continuing)
Engage.
(to Data)
Mister Data, take charge of the investigation. Study computer logs, sensor information... everything. I refuse to believe this was a simple malfunction.

DATA
Yes, sir.

Data EXITS to Turbolift.

CUT TO:

50 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Data working at the pool table.

DATA (V.O.)
Captain Picard was the person who first interested me in the works of Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle.

51 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

A short time later. Data and Geordi running some tests on a console... Geordi getting frustrated.

DATA (V.O.)
(continuing)
I have subsequently become a great admirer of the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes and his ability to solve mysteries by careful examination of the available evidence.

52 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Data and O'Brien running tests on the Transporter... objects DEMATERIALIZE and REMATERIALIZE.

52 CONTINUED:

DATA (V.O.)

(continuing)

I have found Holmes' methodology of deductive reasoning to be quite useful in performing my duties. One of his adages is that once you have eliminated the impossible...

53 INT. SICKBAY

Data ENTERS. Beverly is working at a lab table with a large scanning/analysis device with a single computer screen and keypad built into it.

DATA (V.O.)

(continuing)

... whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

BEVERLY

I'm afraid I can't give you another lesson right now, Data.

DATA

That is not my purpose. I wish to examine the remains of Ambassador T'Pol found on the Transporter pad.

BEVERLY

I'm working on my report right now.

DATA

Have you compared the genetic code with the Ambassador's last recorded Transporter ID trace?

BEVERLY

No... that's not part of the standard procedure. Why?

53 CONTINUED:

DATA

(hesitates)

I could be pursuing an untamed
ornithoid without cause.

She looks at him blankly for a moment.

BEVERLY

A wild goose chase?

Data nods.

53 CONTINUED: (2)

BEVERLY

Okay... let's see what happens...
Computer, access Transporter ID
trace of Ambassador T'Pol.

53A INSERT (OPTICAL)

Transporter information comes up on the terminal
screen.

53B RETURN TO SCENE - INTERCUT AS NEEDED (OPTICAL)

BEVERLY

All right... there's the genetic
record of the Ambassador when she
beamed aboard the Enterprise.

Beverly takes a small disk containing some organic
material and sets it into a slot in the machine. She
begins to work the console and now genetic information
from the material comes up on the other side of the
screen. Beverly begins to run both sets of information
through a test... the information on both sides should
be virtually identical.

BEVERLY

Now, the breakdown of the
organic material found on the
Transporter pad should be
identical.

(beat as she reads
screen)

Mitochondrial structure fits all
general parameters... no change
in the nucleotide bases...

The test STOPS and the two screens highlight sections
of the genetic code that are DIFFERENT.

BEVERLY

(frowns)

There's a slight discrepancy in
the base pair sequence.

She runs another test... the screens then STOP on
another section of code that's DIFFERENT.

53B CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

(to Data)

Chemically, these are identical...
however, the organic sample from
the Transporter is showing
numerous single-bit errors... like
replicated material.

53B CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

Can you postulate an explanation
for the discrepancy?

BEVERLY

I'd say the DNA was either mutated
by the Transporter during the
rematerialization process...

DATA

(he expected this)
A supposition not supported by
the Transporter records.

BEVERLY

Or these aren't the remains of
the Ambassador.

On their reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

54 INT. READY ROOM

Data, Geordi, Riker, and Picard.

DATA

(to Picard)

The only abnormality found during my investigation was a temporary increase in the matter to energy signal ratio. This fluctuation was well within operating parameters and would normally not invite further consideration. However, due to the circumstances, I decided to investigate the possibility that a second Transporter signal had caused the fluctuation. Although this was highly improbable, it was the only remaining theory.

RIKER

A second transporter signal?
From where?

DATA

From the Devoras.

GEORDI

Romulan transporters operate on similar subspace frequencies to our own. With minor adjustments they could be made to simulate our own transporter carrier wave.

PICARD

So they beamed the Ambassador off
our own pad.

DATA

While simultaneously a small
amount of genetically similar
material was left in the
Ambassador's place.

RIKER

To make us believe she died as
a result of the 'malfunction.'

DATA

Yes, sir.

PICARD

(hits communicator)

Mister Worf, where is the Devoras?

WORF'S COM VOICE

The ship is still in the Neutral
Zone...

(BEGIN DATA V.O.)

... on course zero seven nine mark
one two five... speed warp two.

RIKER

Heading for home.

DATA (V.O.)

(over above action)

The safest and most logical
decision in this situation is to
contact Starfleet and await
further instructions. However,
based on past experience, I
project only a seventeen percent
chance Captain Picard will choose
that alternative.

Picard thinks for a few seconds... gets up, moves to
the window and looks out for a few moments before
making the decision. (His action must be long enough
to cover Data's voice-over.)

PICARD

Red Alert. All hands stand to
battlestations.

They all EXIT.

55 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Riker, Geordi, Data, and Picard ENTER from Ready Room and take their positions.

PICARD

Lay in an intercept course to the Romulan ship.

RIKER

Shields up, load all torpedo bays, stand-by phasers.

55 CONTINUED:

DATA
Course laid in, Captain.

PICARD
Warp factor eight. Engage.

56 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship at warp.

57 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before.

PICARD
Open a channel to the Devoras.

WORF
Aye, sir.
(works console)
No response.

DATA
The Devoras is dropping out of
warp... their weapon systems are
powering up.

PICARD
Go to impulse power.

DATA
Aye, sir.

Worf sees something on his console.

WORF
Message coming in, sir.

PICARD
On screen.

58 ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) - INTERCUT AS NEEDED

Mendak's image appears.

MENDAK
Captain Picard, you agreed to
leave the Neutral Zone without---

58 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(firm)

Admiral Mendak, you are holding
our Ambassador captive.

A wisp of a smile plays about Mendak's lips... he seems
to enjoy this a little.

MENDAK

I can assure you... there is no
one being held captive aboard this
ship.

PICARD

We know about the Transporter
'malfunction' and that you are
holding Ambassador T'Pel.

Mendak waits for a beat... then nods to someone o.s.

WORF

Captain, Romulan Warbird
decloaking to starboard!

59 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE & ROMULANS (OPTICAL)

Another Romulan ship DECLOAKS and now two Romulans are
facing the Enterprise.

60 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

As before. (Intercut with Viewscreen)

MENDAK

I suggest you leave... now.

Picard will not be moved.

PICARD

It is my responsibility to protect
the lives of Federation citizens.
I will not permit this abduction
to succeed..

Mendak isn't taking him seriously yet.

MENDAK

Captain, you're not going to start
an incident which might---

60 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(final)

I am prepared to take whatever
action is necessary to obtain the
Ambassador's return.

Mendak takes Picard's measure for a moment... as we
CUT BETWEEN Picard and Mendak, we hear Data's V.O...

DATA (V.O.)

(over above action)

In poker, there is a moment when
a player must decide if an
opponent is being deceptive or
actually holds a winning hand.
This decision is based not only
on the odds, but also on an
appraisal of the man. Is he
bluffing or does he have the
cards?

Mendak finally sees that Picard means business.

MENDAK

Fortunately... I'm not ready to
start a war today...

Mendak gestures to someone o.s. and Ambassador T'Pel
moves into view, wearing a ROMULAN UNIFORM. There are
shocked reactions around the Bridge.

RIKER

T'Pel?

T'PEL

Sub-Commander Selok, actually.

It's all clear to Picard now.

PICARD

A spy.

MENDAK

A patriot, Captain... she has
performed her service to the
Empire with distinction.

T'PEL/SELOK

(smiles)

Thank you for your... help,
Captain.

60 CONTINUED: (2)

MENDAK

You can see now that we are not holding one of your citizens... and we thank you for returning our sister to us.

(voice hardens)

But my patience has limits... the game is over. I expect you to leave peacefully. Now.

The transmission ENDS.

WORF

Sir, long-range scanners show three more Romulan ships moving into this sector.

Picard takes that in... looks at Riker.

RIKER

(quiet)

Some days you get the bear, some days the bear gets you.

Picard sees the only rational course of action.

PICARD

Reverse course... take us back to Federation territory, warp six. Engage.

61 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE & ROMULANS (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise turns and moves away.

62 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As before... PUSH IN on Data.

DATA (V.O.)

Captain Picard once drew an analogy between life and a chess game... he said that the loss of a single piece does not concede the game itself.

Data glances over his shoulder at the others on the Bridge. People are returning to normal business. The Red Alert indicators turn OFF.

62 CONTINUED:

DATA (V.O.)

The Captain has also said that
out of the ashes of defeat rise
the victorious dreams of men.
I find that to be a worthy
philosophy and I have incorporated
it into my programming.

CUT TO:

63 INT. ARBORETUM

Keiko is scanning a tree with a tricorder. In contrast
to her earlier attitude, she is bright and cheerful.
Data ENTERS.

DATA

Keiko, I need your help.
(off her surprised look)
I have offended you and need to
find a way to rectify my mistake.
I am not sure what to do.

KEIKO

You didn't offend me.

DATA

I should not have interfered.
It would be best if I apologized.

KEIKO

It would be best if you got
dressed.

(off his reaction)

For the wedding?

DATA

But...

63 CONTINUED:

KEIKO

Oh, come here... I have a
beautiful carnation for the
father of the bride... don't be
nervous now...

As she goes off to get it...

DATA

(to Keiko, as she
leaves)

I am not nervous.

(beat, to himself)

I am just... confused.

CUT TO:

64 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship stopped in space.

65 INT. TEN FORWARD - ON DATA

He is looking at something o.s.... Japanese wedding MUSIC (called gagaku) is playing in the b.g. After a few seconds, MOVE TO reveal Data (dress uniform, with a boutonniere) standing in Ten Forward, which is decorated for the wedding. This is a celebration of two cultures (Japanese & Irish) and there should be fixtures from both.

66 NEW ANGLE

Picard is standing in front of the center window with O'Brien before him and Geordi standing in place as best man. (All three in dress uniforms) A white, earthenware goblet sits on a table next to O'Brien. Riker and Troi (in standard uniforms) are standing to one side and there are SUPERNUMERARIES gathered around.

67 ON KEIKO

She is kneeling in prayer off to one side of the room. She is wearing a semi-traditional Japanese wedding kimono of black silk, with a few modern touches.

Data waits just behind her. Keiko finishes her silent prayer to her ancestors and stands. Data takes her arm and they walk toward O'Brien.

68 NEW ANGLE

as Data and Keiko move to O'Brien. Data hands the bride to him and then he takes the goblet from the table and hands it to Keiko. She drinks from it in three quick sips and then hands it to O'Brien. He also drinks in three sips. Data takes the goblet and sets it back on the table. Everyone now looks to Picard

PICARD

Since the time of the first wooden sailing ships, all captains have enjoyed the happy privilege of joining two people in the bonds of matrimony. And so now it is my honor to unite you Keiko Ishikawa, and you Miles Edward O'Brien together in marriage here in the sight of your friends and family.

MOVE TO Data as he watches the ceremony.

DATA (V.O.)

(over part of the above)

There are still many human emotions I do not fully comprehend... anger, hatred, revenge...

69 ON O'BRIEN & KEIKO

as O'Brien kisses Keiko... and everyone CHEERS. The Japanese music is replaced by a bright, lively, IRISH TUNE and people gather round to congratulate the happy couple.

DATA (V.O.)

(continuing)

But I am not mystified by the desire to be loved...

70 ON DATA & KEIKO

a short time later as Data dances gracefully with the new bride.

DATA (V.O.)
(continuing)
... the need for friendship...
these are things I do understand.

As they dance...

CUT TO:

71 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship moving at warp speed.

72 INT. NURSERY

Data ENTERS (now in standard uniform). The room is quiet and dark. Picard (still in dress uniform) and the Nurse are near a small cradle... the Nurse gesture to the cradle and then walks away from Picard as if she had just showed him the way over there. Picard looks down for a beat and then notices Data.

DATA
(quietly)
I was looking for Doctor Crusher.
I wished to thank her for my...

He trails off, not wanting to give away her secret.

PICARD
(softly)
She just left.

He looks back into the cradle and Data moves over for a better view.

DATA
The Juarez child?

PICARD
(nods)
A boy.
(beat)
At the same time we were facing
destruction... this small miracle
was taking place.

73 NEW ANGLE

now including the JUAREZ BABY sleeping in the cradle.
Picard leans forward.

PICARD
(softly)
Welcome aboard.

CUT TO:

74 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Worf in Command and SUPERNUMERARIES (different from Riker's shift) at the other stations. Data and his shift ENTER from Turbolifts. This is night again, so the Bridge lighting is DARK.

WORF
(stands)
All systems normal, sir. We are on course for Adelpous Four. Engineering is realigning the main deflector dish, Sickbay reports Lieutenant Umbato broke two ribs during a Holodeck exercise, and sensors continue to gather long range information on the Murasaki Quasar.

DATA
Very well. I have the Bridge.

WORF
Aye, sir.

DATA
(to com)
Begin night watch.

The LIGHTS DARKEN to signal the end of the 'day'. Data's people smoothly take their positions and Worf EXITS along with his shift. Data sits in Command and contemplates the stars on the main viewer.

74 CONTINUED:

DATA (V.O.)

If being human is not simply a matter of being born flesh and blood... if it is instead a way of thinking, acting... and feeling... then I am hopeful that one day I will discover my own humanity. Until then Commander Maddox, I will continue... learning, changing, growing... and trying to become more than what I am.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END