

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Wounded"
#40274-186

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FINAL DRAFT

OCTOBER 23, 1990

STAR TREK: "The Wounded" - REV. 10/29/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Wounded"

CAST

PICARD	Starfleet
RIKER	ADMIRAL HADEN
DATA	CAPTAIN BENJAMIN MAXWELL
TROI	
	Cardassians
GEORDI	GUL MACET
WORF	GLINN DARO
	GLINN TELLE
O'BRIEN	
KEIKO	
COMPUTER VOICE	
Non-Speaking	
SUPERNUMERARIES	

STAR TREK: "The Wounded" - REV. 10/29/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Wounded"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
 MAIN BRIDGE
 CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
 OBSERVATION LOUNGE
 TEN-FORWARD
 TRANSPORTER ROOM
 CORRIDOR
 TURBOLIFT
 O'BRIENS' QUARTERS

USS PHOENIX
 CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

STARFLEET
 ADMIRAL HADEN'S OFFICE
 (ON VIEWSCREEN ONLY)

CARDASSIAN WARSHIP TRAGER
 MACET'S BRIDGE
 (ON VIEWSCREEN ONLY)

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

USS PHOENIX

CARDASSIAN WARSHIP

CARDASSIAN CARGO SHIP

STAR TREK: "The Wounded" - REV. 10/29/90 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Wounded"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

CARDASSIAN	car-DASS-ee-en
CUELLAR	KWAY-yar
DARO	DAR-oh
GUL MACET	gull mah-SETT
KANAR	KAY-nahr
TELLE	TELL-eh

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Wounded"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

travelling through space.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log: Stardate 44429.6.
We are on a mapping survey near
the Cardassian sector. It has
been nearly a year since a peace
treaty ended the long conflict
between the Federation and
Cardassia.

2 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

PICARD, WORF, DATA, RIKER, TROI, SUPERNUMERARIES as
needed.

DATA

Captain, we are nearing the
periphery of Sector
twenty-one-five-oh-three.

PICARD

Be on the lookout for a Cardassian
patrol vessel, Mister Worf.
They should be hailing us soon.

RIKER

Even with a treaty, they're
skittish about protecting their
borders.

Picard is on his feet, walks toward the viewscreen,
gazing at the field of stars.

PICARD

Last time I was in this sector,
I was on the Stargazer, running
at warp speed ahead of a
Cardassian warship.

2 CONTINUED:

TROI

(amused)

Running, Captain? You? That's hard to believe...

PICARD

Believe it. I'd been sent to make preliminary overtures to a truce... I lowered my shields as a gesture of good will. But the Cardassians weren't impressed. They took out most of my weapons and damaged the impulse engines before I could regroup and run.

WORF

The Cardassians have no honor. I do not trust them.

TROI

They're our allies now, Worf. We have to trust them.

WORF

Trust is earned, not given away.

Picard smiles wryly at his outspoken Security Officer.

PICARD

Well, I hope their scout vessel makes contact soon. It's not a good idea to stay too long on a Cardassian border without making your intentions known.

3 CLOSE ON A PLATE OF FOOD (OPTICAL)

which MATERIALIZES in the replicator -- largely unrecognizable, of skimpy portions, and not particularly appealing.

CUT TO:

4 INT. O'BRIEN'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

O'Brien sits at a table, staring down at the plate of food. Keiko is just bringing her own plate, sits and joins him.

4 CONTINUED:

O'BRIEN
(re: food)
What is it?

KEIKO
Kelp buds... plankton loaf... and
sea berries.

O'Brien stirs the food dispiritedly.

O'BRIEN
Sweetheart... I'm not a fish.

She smiles brightly, unoffended.

KEIKO
It's very healthy. I had this
for breakfast every morning when
I was growing up.

O'BRIEN
No oatmeal -- or muffins? How
about corned beef and eggs?

KEIKO
For breakfast?

She continues to eat heartily.

4 CONTINUED: (2)

O'BRIEN

(carefully)

Keiko, I've been thinking...
You've introduced me to all the
wonderful foods you're accustomed
to... I'd like to do the same.

(beat)

Isn't that what marriage is about?
Sharing?

She eyes him somewhat cautiously.

KEIKO

Like what kind of food?

O'BRIEN

Scalloped potatoes... mutton
shanks... oxtails and cabbage...

KEIKO

Kind of... heavy...

O'BRIEN

No, you'll love it, I promise.

(a deep breath)

I can still remember the aromas
when my mother was cooking...

KEIKO

She cooked?

O'BRIEN

She didn't believe in a
replicator. She thought real food
was more nutritious.

KEIKO

(with mild distaste)

She handled... real meat...
touched it and cut it?

O'BRIEN

Like a chef. She was fantastic.
Of course, I'll have to use the
replicator... but I'll make
something special for you tonight.
You'll love it, I promise.

She smiles, swings her arms around his neck, pulls him
close.

4 CONTINUED: (3)

KEIKO

Okay. Maybe I'll have something
special for you, tonight, too...

She kisses him gently... then there is a muffled
explosion and a tremor in the room. Keiko pulls back,
startled. O'Brien gets to his feet, alert.

O'BRIEN

Something's wrong...

COMPUTER VOICE

Red alert. Take emergency
stations.

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

under attack by a Cardassian warship.

6 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Everyone on the Bridge at their stations and
functioning.

WORF

Cardassian ship preparing to fire
again, sir!

PICARD

Increase power to forward shields!

Another explosion jolts the Enterprise.

PICARD

Hail them again, Mister Worf.

RIKER

What is he doing? Damage report!

WORF

Minor damage to secondary hull
before we put our shields up, sir.
No casualties, structural
integrity intact.

6 CONTINUED:

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
Engineering to Bridge... starboard
power coupling is down...

And another, bigger explosion rips at the reeling
Enterprise, causing the Bridge to shudder, lights play
off and on. In the midst of this chaos --

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND CARDASSIAN SHIP (OPTICAL)

The Cardassian ship firing on the Enterprise.

8 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE

Still in upheaval.

PICARD

Evasive action -- Delta Sequence.
Mister Worf, ready phasers.

DATA

Delta Evasion Plan initiated...

PICARD

Mister Worf, limit targets to
engines and shields...

WORF

Aye sir... ready...

PICARD

Fire.

9 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND CARDASSIAN SHIP (OPTICAL)

Phaser fire rips from the Enterprise toward the
Cardassian ship.

10 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

DATA

Direct hit, sir. Moderate damage
to their aft shield generators...

PICARD

Continue phaser fire.

DATA

Multiple hits. Power failure
in forward shields...

10 CONTINUED:

WORF

Cardassian ship is standing down,
sir.

PICARD

Let's see if they'll answer our
hail now, Mister Worf.

10 CONTINUED: (2)

WORF
Frequency open, sir.

PICARD
(stepping forward)
This is Captain Jean-Luc Picard,
of the Federation Starship
Enterprise.

11 ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

A Cardassian Gul (Captain) appears. These are humanoid
aliens -- sleek, handsome, intense.

MACET
I am Gul Macet of the Cardassian
ship Trager.

PICARD
Why have you fired on us?

MACET
A curious question. In war, one
attacks one's enemies.

PICARD
(perplexed)
There is a treaty between our
people...

MACET
Perhaps that fact was unknown to
the Federation starship which
destroyed our space station in
the Cuellar System two days ago.

Picard is taken aback -- this is news to him.

PICARD
A Federation starship... ?

MACET
Attacked an unarmed science
station. They had barely enough
time to send an emergency
signal... before they were
incinerated.

Picard reacts.

11 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Gul Macet... the Federation and
the Cardassians have struggled
too hard for peace to abandon it
so easily...

MACET

We are not the ones who
abandoned it, Captain.

PICARD

Let me talk to my superiors...
find out what's behind this.
Give me one hour. The alternative
is for us to continue firing at
each other. In such a contest,
you would be at a disadvantage.

MACET

Very well. One hour.

His image is replaced with that of the ship. On
Picard's troubled expression....

12 OMITTED

13 INT. READY ROOM - CLOSE ON MONITOR - INTERCUTTING
WITH PICARD (OPTICAL)

and the image of Admiral Haden.

ADMIRAL HADEN

We've confirmed the report,
Captain. It was the starship
Phoenix... under the command of
Benjamin Maxwell.

PICARD

Ben Maxwell... he's one of
Starfleet's finest Captains...
he must have had provocation.

ADMIRAL HADEN

I wish we knew. He's gone on
silent running... doesn't answer
our communique.

PICARD

Then he's still in Cardassian
space.

ADMIRAL HADEN

(acknowledges)

The station he destroyed was in
sector twenty-one-five-oh-five
-- you're the nearest starship.
We want you to go in and find
him.

PICARD

Will the Cardassians
cooperate... ?

ADMIRAL HADEN

They've granted you safe
passage... We've agreed that
you'll take along a delegation
of observers as a show of good
faith.

(beat)

Jean-Luc... I don't have to tell
you the Federation is not prepared
for a new sustained conflict. You
must preserve the peace... no
matter what the cost. Haden out.

13 CONTINUED:

The screen goes blank and Picard sits for a moment, reflecting on the precariousness of the situation.

14 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND CARDASSIAN VESSEL (OPTICAL)

head-to-head.

15 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - MINUTES LATER.

Picard briefs the crew.

PICARD

... there will be three Cardassians transporting on board... Their Captain, Gul Macet and two of his aides.

(beat)

My intention is to be as open as possible with them... allow them to share in our search for the Phoenix.

15 CONTINUED:

WORF

Sir, it is necessary to assign them a security detail.

PICARD

They will be our guests, Mister Worf. I don't want them to feel like prisoners.

Worf is silent, but his look is eloquent.

RIKER

I'm inclined to agree with Worf, Captain. I would limit their access while they're on board. They don't need the run of the ship.

A minor rebellion here. Picard faces them.

PICARD

I understand your concerns. And I realize... that we have had a long and difficult history with the Cardassians.

He paces, formulating his thoughts.

PICARD

However... it is not an exaggeration to say that the difference between peace... and war... is up to us. And the way we treat the Cardassians may make the difference.

WORF

At least let me post guards at some of the sensitive areas of the ship.

PICARD

(considers)

Very well, we will limit their access. But instruct your people... they are guests.

He turns to Troi.

15 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Counselor, stay close to the crew. Some of them might be uncomfortable with the Cardassians on board. I want no incidents.

TROI

Yes, Captain.

PICARD

Mister Data, is there anyone on board who served previously with Captain Benjamin Maxwell?

DATA

Accessing...

(beat)

Chief O'Brien served under his command aboard the Rutledge.

PICARD

Very well. Mister Riker... Counselor... you will greet our guests in Transporter Room Three. And advise Chief O'Brien that I will be calling on him.

RIKER

(rising)

Yes, sir.

He and Troi head for the Turbolift.

16 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - MINUTES LATER (OPTICAL)

Riker and Troi ENTER; O'Brien is there.

O'BRIEN

The delegation is ready to come aboard, sir.

RIKER

I believe you served under Benjamin Maxwell?

At the mention of this name, O'Brien brightens.

O'BRIEN

Captain Maxwell? I'm proud to say I did.

16 CONTINUED:

RIKER

It seems Maxwell has taken it upon himself to destroy a Cardassian space station.

O'Brien is taken aback, but there is no flickering in his loyalty.

O'BRIEN

If that's true, sir, there was a reason for it. I'd bank my life on that.

Riker and Troi both take note of the fervent defense.

RIKER

The Captain may want to talk to you about him.

(re: Transport)

Bring them aboard.

He manipulates his controls, there is the shimmering EFFECT, and three Cardassians -- Gul Macet and two aides -- MATERIALIZE on the pad. Riker steps forward as they descend.

RIKER

Welcome to the Enterprise. I am First Officer William Riker... this is Counselor Deanna Troi.

MACET

I am Gul Macet... my aides, Glinn Daro and Glinn Telle.

There are murmured greetings. Riker guides them toward the door. The Cardassians see O'Brien, who cannot entirely disguise his discomfort around his former enemies.

RIKER

Our Transporter Chief, Mister O'Brien.

The Cardassians nod politely. O'Brien inclines his head only enough to have acknowledged them. He stares straight ahead, not making eye contact. The others start out the door.

17 CLOSE ON O'BRIEN

as he turns his head to follow their progress. In his eyes there is a look of strange and puzzling intensity.

18 CLOSE ON TROI

the last out the door, as she turns back to look at O'Brien. She has seen his reaction to the Cardassians, and is troubled. She meets his eye.

19 O'BRIEN

looks away, his face an impervious mask once more.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moving through space.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's Log, supplemental: We have entered Cardassian territory, and are proceeding in our quest to locate the Phoenix.

21 INT. ENTERPRISE - OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Riker, Geordi, O'Brien, and the three Cardassians.

GEORDI

... and with long-range sensors, we've been scanning a radius of ten light years. We can effectively scan one sector in a day.

RIKER

We are scanning Sector twenty-one-five-oh-five now. So far... no sign of the Phoenix.

MACET

(challenging)

In fact, you have no assurance that the ship is still in Sector twenty-one-five-oh-five.

RIKER

(right back at him)

In fact, we don't have any idea where it is. But the last known co-ordinates seemed like a reasonably good place to start.

21 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(jumping in to keep it
smooth)

We would welcome any additional
intelligence your forces could
provide.

MACET

Captain Picard... you can
understand that we are skeptical.
Do you expect us to believe that
you are using every means at your
disposal -- to track down one of
your own?

PICARD

Of course you would have concerns,
Gul Macet. It is precisely
because of that fact that I am
including you in every aspect of
our effort.

(gesturing)

You are here, with my staff,
hearing reports as I hear them.
Nothing is edited... nothing
withheld.

This is Picard at his most charming and persuasive. He
waves his hand toward Macet's chair.

21 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Please. Let us continue.

Macet hesitates a second, lest he appear too acquiescent. Then --

MACET

Very well.

He sits.

PICARD

Our Transporter Chief, Mister O'Brien, has served with Benjamin Maxwell. I thought he might provide some insights.

All heads turn toward O'Brien.

21 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

Mister O'Brien... I believe
Captain Maxwell lost his family...
during a raid on an outpost.

O'BRIEN

More like sabotage, sir. It was
on Setlik Three. A squad of
Cardassian militia made a sneak
attack on an outpost... wiped out
close to a hundred civilians.

MACET

Then it's vengeance he's after.

O'BRIEN

That's not what I meant --

MACET

Maxwell's taking retribution for
his own loss.

O'BRIEN

(half-rising)

Captain Maxwell would never --

PICARD

Gentlemen, please. Let us avoid
speculation, and confine this
discussion to facts. Now, Mister
O'Brien --

WORF'S COM VOICE

Worf to Captain Picard.

PICARD

(keys insignia)

Yes, Lieutenant.

WORF'S COM VOICE

Captain -- long range sensors have
located the Phoenix.

21 CONTINUED: (4)

Macet is already on his feet. Picard rises also.

PICARD

Will you join me on the Bridge?

He and Picard EXIT toward the Bridge; the others,
toward the corridor.

22 INT. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TURBOLIFT

O'Brien waits as a Turbolift door slides open, enters
-- and turns as the Cardassian aides enter.

23 INT. ENTERPRISE - INSIDE TURBOLIFT

as the doors close.

O'BRIEN

Deck six.

DARO

Deck ten.

The Turbolift takes off. There is a moment's strained
silence, then --

DARO

Your Captain is most impressive.

O'Brien is a little startled at being addressed.

O'BRIEN

Yes. He is.

More silence.

DARO

Chief O'Brien... our Transporting
system is still operating with
active feed pattern buffers. I
would like to talk with you about
your technology.

23 CONTINUED:

O'BRIEN

I'll have to get Commander
La Forge's approval on that.

DARO

I understand. In the meantime...
we're going to your Ten-Forward.
Will you join us?

The Turbolift has arrived at Deck seventeen. O'Brien
starts for the door, turns back.

O'BRIEN

If my commander tells me to
discuss the Transporter with you,
I will. If Captain Picard orders
me to tell you everything I know
about Ben Maxwell, I will.

He moves closer, speaks with a quiet intensity.

O'BRIEN

But who I choose to spend my free
time with... that's my business.

He turns and steps off the Turbolift. The doors close,
and there is an embarrassed silence.

24 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - SIMULTANEOUS

Picard, Riker, Data, Worf.

DATA

We have located the Phoenix in
Sector twenty-one-five-oh-five.

PICARD

Ensign, set a course -- warp six.
Mister Worf, send a message by
sub-space. Tell them to prepare
to rendezvous with us.

WORF

Yes, Captain.

24 CONTINUED:

MACET

Captain... a suggestion.

Sensing something coming, Picard turns toward him.

PICARD

Yes?

MACET

We have a number of ships in sector twenty-one-five-oh-five. If you give us more precise coordinates... and the ship's coded transponder frequency... we could intercept Maxwell much more quickly than you.

A barely perceptible pause.

PICARD

I'm sure that's true. However, given the circumstances, I'd prefer to make the initial contact myself. As I'm sure you would if the situation were reversed.

These are two shrewd masters of verbal fencing. Macet makes one last exploratory thrust.

MACET

Time is crucial. You have a dangerous man out there, with a huge arsenal at his command. If he's bent on revenge against my people... he must be stopped before he can do more damage.

PICARD

At the moment, we have an isolated incident. If I reach him first, diplomatic efforts can still prevail.

(beat)

But if one of your ships decides to retaliate against the Phoenix... we risk losing control of the situation.

MACET

Then you won't give us the means of finding his exact location?

24 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
No. I will not.

Picard turns away from him. Macet glares at him.

25 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

warping through space.

26 INT. O'BRIEN'S QUARTERS - LATER (OPTICAL)

O'Brien, humming a little tune, carries a steaming casserole from the replicator, puts it on the table, where Keiko sits.

O'BRIEN
There you are... potato casserole
-- a dish fit for kings.

He turns back and gathers napkins, flatware, and a candle. As Keiko inspects the casserole, he arranges the table. He is still half-humming, half-singing the song.

O'BRIEN
... minstrel boy to the war is gone...
(hums)

Keiko looks up at him curiously.

KEIKO
What's that you're singing?

O'BRIEN
What? Oh... just an old song...

He hadn't even realized he'd been singing. He tries to explain.

O'BRIEN
A bunch of us used to sing it
together... on the Rutledge.
I haven't thought about it for
years...

KEIKO
What's it about?

26 CONTINUED:

O'BRIEN

Oh... about war, and glory...

(sings softly)

"The minstrel boy to the war is gone;
In the ranks of death you'll find him;
His father's sword he hath girded on;
And his wild harp slung behind him."

(speaking)

... Captain Maxwell always liked
that song...

(beat)

I guess all this business with
him and the Cardassians... brought
it back.

He sits, starts slowly to eat. He's trying to figure a
way to bring something up... something he doesn't quite
feel comfortable discussing head on.

O'BRIEN

You know... sitting with the
staff this morning, I could
tell there were people in that
room who still don't like the
Cardassians.

KEIKO

I imagine that's to be expected...

O'BRIEN

You do?

26 CONTINUED: (2)

KEIKO

The war lasted a long time. That takes its toll on people. What are these little black things?

O'BRIEN

Capers. But the fighting is over now. Why would anyone still feel... however they feel?

KEIKO

Maybe it's not that easy for some people to forget.

She eyes him, knowing him well enough to know there's more going on here than he's admitting to.

O'BRIEN

I'm... trying to understand. The people who hang onto -- grudges. Seems to me they ought to be able to put those feelings aside... once the fighting's done with.

KEIKO

That may be harder to do than to say.

(beat)

You fought the Cardassians, didn't you?

O'BRIEN

There were some skirmishes... when I was with Captain Maxwell.

KEIKO

Well... how do you feel about them?

O'BRIEN

Me? I feel... fine. I mean... the war's over now.

She gives him a look: Is it? Disconcerted, he takes refuge in his food.

26 CONTINUED: (3)

O'BRIEN
Tomorrow night... kidney pie.
And then maybe pot roast... beef
tongue...

Keiko regards him quietly. Something's going on with him... she'll be patient, it will work itself out.

27 OMITTED

28 CLOSE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

It shows an Okudagram: the grid of a sector with two flashing figures indicating starships; one is red, the other, blue. The red one is moving slowly; the blue, larger, still a ways away, is moving faster, headed right for the other.

28A INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard, Riker, Data, Worf, Conn, and Macet. They are gazing intently at the screen.

PICARD
The pursuing ship is the Phoenix.

MACET
And the other?

There is a hesitation, and some looks are exchanged.

DATA
We believe it to be a Cardassian
supply ship.

MACET
How would you know that?

PICARD
We... are able to make that
determination.

Macet looks from one to the other.

28A CONTINUED:

MACET

You can read our transponder codes!

PICARD

What is important at the moment is that your ship may be in jeopardy. Mister Worf -- any answer to our communications?

WORF

No, Captain.

PICARD

Put a repeating message on all sub-space channels. Make it a Priority One communique -- break off pursuit immediately.

(turns to Macet)

Gul Macet... as you can see, we are doing everything in our power to reach the Phoenix.

MACET

And accomplishing nothing.

(looks at screen)

Can you show me the location of our other ships?

PICARD

Mister Data.

Data manipulates controls, and other red blips appear on the screen... one of them within striking distance of the Phoenix.

MACET

You see... we have a warship which could intercept the Phoenix before it's too late. If you will give us the transponder frequency.

29 ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

as the Phoenix moves inexorably closer to the supply ship.

MACET (V.O.)

Or are you going to stand and watch while our ship is destroyed?

30 FULL SHOT - THE GROUP

PICARD

Mister Worf -- has there been any response to our hails?

WORF

No, sir.

Picard makes a tough decision.

PICARD

Very well... prepare to relay the transponder code of the Phoenix to the Cardassian warship.

Worf doesn't like this idea. A lot.

WORF

Sir -- ?

PICARD

And then send a message to Captain Maxwell... advise him that we have relayed his location to the Cardassians.

Worf turns to his task. Riker is upset enough that he risks questioning the Captain in front of Macet.

RIKER

Begging your pardon, Captain... the transponder code will allow them to track all our ships.

30 CONTINUED:

PICARD
I'm aware of that. Mister Worf
-- any response from the Phoenix?

WORF
No, Captain.

PICARD
Mister Data, any change in their
their course?

DATA
Nossir. The Phoenix is
continuing on its bearing
toward the supply ship.

There is a long, tense moment. Then --

PICARD
Mister Worf... relay the prefix
codes of the Phoenix to the
Cardassian warship.

WORF
(stunned)
Sir, they'll be able to dismantle
its shields! The Phoenix won't
have a chance.

PICARD
I cannot allow Maxwell to
ambush that supply ship. Mister
Worf -- now.

Worf stares down at him, almost trembling in his
distress. Finally --

WORF
Yes, Captain.

He begins working the controls. Gul Macet's expression
is enigmatic, Riker's distressed. On Picard --
nothing, except perhaps, deep in his eyes, the anguish
of hard choices.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

31 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

warping through space.

32 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard, Riker, Macet, Data and Worf -- all watching the viewscreen.

DATA

Sir, the Cardassian warship is moving on the Phoenix.

33 ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) - INTERCUTTING

The Okudagram shows that the Cardassian ship has turned toward the Phoenix and is rapidly bearing down on it.

34 FULL SHOT - THE GROUP (OPTICAL)

PICARD

Mister Data, overlay weapon ranges of the two ships...

On the screen, two circles appear around the flashing blips. They are just beginning to touch.

DATA

The warship is three hundred thousand kilometers from the Phoenix. It is opening fire. The Phoenix has taken a direct hit.

The men stare at the screen as Data, in his emotionless way, narrates the grim battle.

34 CONTINUED:

DATA

The Phoenix is beginning evasive maneuvers.

(beat)

It has positioned itself outside the weapons range of the opposing ship.

(beat)

The Phoenix has powered up with both phasers and photon torpedoes.

(beat)

The Phoenix is firing photon torpedoes.

On the screen, the Phoenix has turned and is engaged with the warship. The blips flutter a moment on the screen... and then the Cardassian ship simply disappears.

MACET

(unbelieving)

He has destroyed our warship...

There is a moment's silence as Picard's mind races.

PICARD

(to Macet)

Does the supply ship carry any weapons?

MACET

Limited. Not enough to defeat a Nebula Class Starship.

DATA

Sir...

He looks up at the screen... as the smaller blip of the supply ship flashes and then vanishes. The men watching are grimly silent. Finally --

MACET

The warship carried a crew of six hundred... the supply ship... fifty...

There is a silent, awful moment as they all absorb the enormity of this act. Picard glances at Macet, mind racing.

34 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Mister Data... estimated time
until we intercept the Phoenix.

DATA

At our present speed of warp four,
sixteen hours, forty-four minutes.

PICARD

Ensign, increase to warp nine.

Gul Macet looks at him, overwhelmed by the events they
have just witnessed. Then he turns and strides toward
the Turbolift.

35 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

O'Brien doing routine maintenance at his console. The
doors slide open and Picard ENTERS. O'Brien
straightens up, surprised.

O'BRIEN

Captain... ?

PICARD

I wanted to... chat with you.

O'BRIEN

Anything I can do, sir, you know
that.

PICARD

Ben Maxwell must be quite a man.

O'BRIEN

He's a rare one, all right.

(sincerely)

I count myself lucky, sir -- I've
served with the two finest
Captains in Starfleet.

Picard nods in acknowledgement of the compliment.

PICARD

Then... from your knowledge of
the man... what has gone wrong?

35 CONTINUED:

O'BRIEN
(vehemently)
There's a reason for what he's
doing. Those Cardassians were
up to something, I'm sure of it.

Picard paces, searching for the questions that will
help him understand this rogue Captain.

PICARD
How did he take it... when his
family was killed?

O'Brien pauses, considers. He clearly wants to present
Maxwell in the best light.

O'BRIEN
I'd say he took it well. Oh, I
know he was broken up inside...
who wouldn't be? But you'd never
know it to see him. He never
missed a minute's duty, always
had a smile and a joke...

O'Brien says it as validation, but Picard hears
something rather more damning in this tale of the man
who never grieved.

PICARD
I see...

O'BRIEN
And Captain Maxwell, he'd never
retaliate out of vengeance, no
matter what that Cardassian says.
They're up to something...
they're the ones you should be
investigating, sir, not Captain
Maxwell.

PICARD
You don't care for the
Cardassians...

O'BRIEN
I like them fine. It's just...
well, I know them. You learn to
watch your back around those
people.

35 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Within the last hour... Benjamin Maxwell has sent over six hundred of them to their deaths.

O'Brien is stunned.

O'BRIEN

I don't know what to say, sir... he must've had his reasons...

PICARD

I think... when one has been angry for a very long time... one gets used to it. Then it becomes comfortable... like old leather.

(beat)

And finally, it is so familiar that one can hardly remember feeling any other way.

(beat)

But in the long run, we are the ones who are damaged by that kind of anger. We are. Not them.

Picard EXITS, and O'Brien is left with feelings stirred and unresolved. Just whom was Picard talking about?

36 INT. ENTERPRISE - TEN-FORWARD - LATER (OPTICAL)

O'Brien sits at the bar, nursing a synthetic beer. Presently, the Cardassian, Daro, ENTERS, looks around, sits at the bar at a remove from O'Brien.

DARO

(to bartender)

Kanar?

The bartender nods, retreats. O'Brien shifts his eyes toward the Cardassian, catches him doing the same; both look away. O'Brien takes a drink to finish off the beer. He sets it down. He thinks.

36 CONTINUED:

Then he rises, moves toward the Cardassian.

O'BRIEN
Mind if I join you?

Daro gestures toward the stool next to him. O'Brien sits; the bartender brings Daro's drink.

DARO
You want another?
(off O'Brien's nod)
And an ale.

O'Brien is trying to find his opening gambit. Daro drinks.

O'BRIEN
Kantar... never could develop a
taste for it.

DARO
(smiles)
It takes some getting used to.

Things ease a bit. O'Brien takes a breath. This isn't easy.

O'BRIEN
I wanted to say... I... I owe you
an apology.

Daro makes no response. O'Brien presses on, gingerly.

O'BRIEN
Shouldn't have... popped off like
that. In the Turbolift.

DARO
(carefully)
I think... this is hard on all
of us. I know I'll be happy when
I'm back on my own ship.

O'Brien regards him. This hadn't occurred to him.

O'BRIEN
I guess that's true.
(simply)
I hadn't thought of it like that.

36 CONTINUED: (2)

The bartender arrives with O'Brien's beer and he takes a swallow. Then a breath.

O'BRIEN
I was on Setlik Three.

Daro looks at him, wary, not sure where this is going.

O'BRIEN
With Captain Maxwell, the morning after the massacre. We got there too late, of course... almost everyone was dead...

DARO
(jumping in)
It was a terrible mistake... we were told the outpost was to be the launching place for a massive attack against us...

O'Brien stares into his beer, talking as though playing a tape in his mind.

O'BRIEN
The only people left alive were in an outlying district of the settlement... I was sent there, with a squad, to reinforce them.

He seems to go into an almost dream-like state, re-living the incident.

O'BRIEN
Cardassians were advancing on us, moving through the streets, destroying, killing... I was with a group of women and children when two Cardassian soldiers burst in... I stunned the one, but the other jumped me... we struggled... one of the women threw me a phaser and I fired...

O'Brien takes a sip of beer.

O'BRIEN
The phaser was set at maximum. The man just... incinerated... there, before my eyes.
(MORE)

36 CONTINUED: (3)

O'BRIEN (Cont'd)

(beat)

I'd never killed anything before.
When I was a kid I would worry
about having to swat a mosquito.

O'Brien shoves his beer away, stands.

O'BRIEN

It's not you I hate, Cardassian.
I hate what I became... because
of you.

He walks out, leaving Daro staring into his drink.

37 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - LATER

Picard, Riker, Data, and Macet. The Turbolift door
opens and Worf ENTERS, holding the Cardassian Glinn
Telle in a strong grip.

TELLE

I will protest this, Klingon!

WORF

Captain Picard.

Picard and Macet have risen, are staring at the two in
surprise.

PICARD

Mister Worf, you may release the
man.

WORF

(letting go)

He was found at a computer station
on Deck thirty-five, attempting
to access information on our
weapon systems.

TELLE

(to Macet)

A lie, Gul Macet. I was studying
the terminal interface systems...
they are more efficient than
ours. I have no idea what was in
the files.

37 CONTINUED:

MACET

What business did you have going
near one of their computers?

Telle is startled that his Captain does not support
him.

TELLE

But... Gul Macet... I meant
nothing... there has been no harm
done.

MACET

(grimly)

Go to your quarters. You are
confined there for the duration
of this expedition.

A charged hesitation, and then Telle inclines his head.

TELLE

As you wish, sir.

PICARD

Mister Worf, please accompany him.

WORF

Gladly.

He leads the Cardassian into the Turbolift. Macet
turns to Picard.

MACET

Captain... may we speak in
private?

Picard nods toward his Ready Room.

PICARD

You have the Bridge, Number One.

38 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM - CONTINUOUS (OPTICAL)

Macet and Picard ENTER. Macet begins.

MACET

Captain, I deeply regret what
my aide has done. You have my
word that he will be
disciplined upon my return.

38 CONTINUED:

PICARD
(conciliatory)
You may take whatever action
against him you feel is
appropriate. I consider the
matter closed.

Macet studies Picard closely...

MACET
I'm not sure I would be so
generous in your place, Captain.
Thank you.

PICARD
If there is to be a lasting peace,
Gul Macet, neither you nor I must
allow any one man to undermine
our efforts...

A beat. Macet nods, understanding...

MACET
There have always been those who
crave war. Who need it.
(beat)
I am not one of them, Captain.
I am beginning to see neither are
you. We have had our full measure.
The lasting peace begins here...
with the two of us.

But before Picard can respond...

38 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA'S COM VOICE
Bridge to Captain.

PICARD
Picard here.

DATA'S COM VOICE
We have located the Phoenix,
Sir. We will intercept in
twenty-two minutes.

Picard and Macet exchange looks. What the future
brings will surely depend on the unknown factor of
Captain Benjamin Maxwell.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

39 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND PHOENIX (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise with a slightly smaller, Nebula-class ship.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 44431.7.
We have established communication
with Captain Maxwell, and he has
agreed to come on board.

40 INT. ENTERPRISE - TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Riker and O'Brien wait as a figure MATERIALIZES on the pad. Seconds later, CAPTAIN BENJAMIN MAXWELL steps off. He is not at all what one might have expected. Slight of build, short greying hair, chiseled, angular face -- he could be Lenin. Or Lennon.

But in the eyes there is warmth -- and humor. Creases at the edges testify to a lifetime of smiles and laughter. He is genuinely at ease with himself, and consequently puts others at ease. Riker steps forward.

RIKER

Welcome aboard, sir. I'm
Commander Riker, First Officer.

MAXWELL

I know all about you, Commander.
Fine work you did with the Borg.
We all owe you on that one.

RIKER

Thank you, sir.

Maxwell's eye falls on O'Brien, who stands to the side, like a child awaiting the notice of a favorite uncle.

MAXWELL

O'Brien? Miles O'Brien?

O'BRIEN

Hello, Captain. Good to see you
again.

40 CONTINUED:

Maxwell strides toward him, arm extended, shakes O'Brien's hand, claps him on the shoulder. Maxwell's smile is so ingenuous that he seems like a neighbor hanging over the back fence.

MAXWELL

How are you? I had no idea you were on the Enterprise.

(turning, to Riker)

This was my Tactical Officer on the Rutledge. Best I ever had.

O'BRIEN

Thank you, sir.

MAXWELL

O'Brien has the ability to size up a situation instantly, then come up with options to fit all contingencies. Remarkable.

The specificity of the compliment gives it impact.

O'BRIEN

If that's true, I learned it from you, sir.

MAXWELL

(grins)

But you got that silver tongue by kissing the stone, right?

(to Riker)

Well, Commander. Best I see your Captain straight away. We have a lot to talk about.

RIKER

Yes, sir.

Riker leads him out. O'Brien looks after them, a play of emotions on his face. Is this revered man a saint or a sinner? Or some of both?

41 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - MINUTES LATER

as the Turbolift opens and Maxwell walks out, followed by Riker. His entrance electrifies everyone on the Bridge.

41 CONTINUED:

MAXWELL

What a sweet ship this is... I'll
admit, I've always wanted a Galaxy
class vessel...

He comes face to face with Gul Macet, who stands
straight, steely, looking him in the eye.

RIKER

Captain... Gul Macet. He and his
aides are guests on the ship.

MAXWELL

I see.

Neither man offers his hand. The warmth is gone from
Maxwell's eyes. There is a silence before Riker steps
in again.

RIKER

Captain Picard is waiting in his
Ready Room. This way.

He gestures, leads toward the Ready Room. Maxwell
turns, and Gul Macet follows him with his eyes until
he is gone.

42 INT. ENTERPRISE - READY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

RIKER

Captain Picard... Captain Benjamin
Maxwell.

Picard rises, extends his hand. Each man is appraising
the other, swiftly and carefully.

PICARD

Captain...

MAXWELL

A pleasure. I've heard about
you.

Picard makes no effort to return Maxwell's bonhomie.

PICARD

Sit down, please.
(to Riker)
That will be all, Commander.

42 CONTINUED:

Riker EXITS. Maxwell looks up at Picard, smiling easily.

MAXWELL

You must think I've gone mad.

PICARD

The thought has occurred.

MAXWELL

Picard, I have to tell you... I was grateful when I realized it was you Starfleet sent after me. Somebody who knows what it's really like out here.

PICARD

I know of nothing out here that could justify what you've done.

Maxwell presses his fingers together like a professor calmly explaining a difficult theorem to a student.

MAXWELL

Then listen to this -- the Cardassians are arming again. That so-called science station? A military supply port.

PICARD

How do you know this?

MAXWELL

Information comes my way.

PICARD

From whom? Where is your documentation?

Maxwell flashes him a look; he doesn't like being challenged.

MAXWELL

You know how these things work... you see things, you hear things... you add them up and you know damn well what's going on.

PICARD

In other words, you have no documentation...

42 CONTINUED: (2)

MAXWELL

I know what they're doing. I can smell it. There's no good reason for a science station in the Cuellar System... but it's a hell of a strategic site for a military transport station... a jumping off point into three Federation sectors. They're running supply ships back and forth... and nobody's gonna tell me it's for scientific research...

PICARD

Whatever circumstances you believed you encountered, why didn't you notify Starfleet?

MAXWELL

And wait six months while the bureaucrats sit around reading reports, trying to figure out what to do? They don't know what's going on out here... but you should, Picard, you know what it's like to be under fire...

PICARD

You weren't under fire.

MAXWELL

Lives were at stake...

PICARD

Whose lives?

MAXWELL

We had to act now...

PICARD

Why?

A beat as Maxwell stares at him, the good-buddy, out here in trenches together bull-stuff is gone.

MAXWELL

It smells musty in here... like a bureaucrat's office.

42 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

You have killed nearly seven
hundred people... taken us to the
brink of war...

MAXWELL

I have prevented war... or at the
very least delayed it a good long
time. The peace treaty was a
ruse, to give them breathing room,
time to regroup...

PICARD

And so you alone simply decided
to dispose of the treaty...

MAXWELL

I took the initiative... I did
what had to be done...

PICARD

'What had to be done'? For whom,
Maxwell?

(beat)

Why does a man with your long,
brilliant service suddenly abandon
the fundamental principles that
he has believed in, even fought
for, all his life... ? I'll tell
you what I believe... it was
because of what they did to your
wife... and your children...

MAXWELL

... Not true. Not true...

PICARD

... to avenge their deaths.

Maxwell is wounded, frustrated, realizing he cannot
win this confrontation...

MAXWELL

You're a fool, Picard. History
will look at you and say 'this
man was a fool'.

PICARD

I'll accept the judgement of
history.

42 CONTINUED: (4)

MAXWELL

When it becomes clear what the Cardassians have done, I will be vindicated.

PICARD

What the Cardassians have or haven't done is irrelevant...

MAXWELL

Irrelevant... come with me and find one of their supply ships and we'll see how irrelevant it is...

PICARD

We are not going after any more Cardassian ships, Captain Maxwell... you are going to return to your bridge and set a course for Starbase Two-one-one... the Phoenix and the Enterprise will return to Federation space together. I will permit you the dignity of retaining your command during our voyage. My only alternative would be to put you in our brig, while we tow your ship back to starbase in disgrace.

42 CONTINUED: (5)

There's not much choice and Maxwell knows that. When he speaks, he is broken, lost.

MAXWELL

I will return to my ship.

PICARD

You understand your orders?

MAXWELL

Yes, Captain.

Picard touches his insignia.

PICARD

Mister Worf, report to my Ready Room. Our guest is departing.

Maxwell stares straight ahead; Picard does not try to meet his eyes. It is a difficult moment for both.

43
thru OMITTED
44

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

45 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND PHOENIX (OPTICAL)

travelling through space.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental: With the Phoenix in close formation, we are proceeding directly to Starbase Two-one-one.

46 INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Picard, Riker, Macet, Data, Worf, crew.

PICARD

Mister Data, how long before we clear Cardassian space?

DATA

At our present speed, three hours and twenty minutes.

PICARD

Mister Worf, send a message to Admiral Haden at Starfleet. Inform him of our projected time of arrival.

WORF

Yes, sir.

46 CONTINUED:

DATA

Captain... the Phoenix is changing
course.

Concerned, Picard steps back toward the viewscreen.

46A ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

showing the Phoenix veering away from the Enterprise.

MACET

What is he doing?!

46B ANGLE ON THE OTHERS

PICARD

(to Conn)

Ensign, change course to pursue.
Mister Worf, hail Captain Maxwell.

Worf tries, but --

WORF

No response, sir.

RIKER

Data, project his new course.

DATA

Sir, the Phoenix is heading
directly for a Cardassian
vessel... point-one-two light
years from our location.

MACET

He'll attack that ship -- just
as he did the others.

PICARD

Continue your hail, Lieutenant,
Priority One message.

(to Macet)

Do you know what that vessel might
be?

46B CONTINUED:

MACET

I imagine it's a supply ship,
headed for the research station
in the Kelrabi system. The
destruction of our primary science
outpost has put an added burden
on the others.

WORF

The Phoenix still does not
respond.

PICARD

Ensign, warp eight. Overtake
him.

DATA

Sir, the Phoenix has accelerated
to warp nine. We will not be able
to reach him before he
intercepts the Cardassian ship.

PICARD

Warp nine, Ensign. Mister Worf,
arm phasers... continue hails...

WORF

Aye, sir.

RIKER

Captain, Chief O'Brien was
Maxwell's Tactical officer...

PICARD

Get him up here.

46C EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

streaking through space.

46D INT. ENTERPRISE - BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

O'Brien emerges from the Turbolift during --

DATA

Sir, the Phoenix has dropped out of warp. They have reached the Cardassian vessel.

RIKER

Slow to impulse.

WORF

Vessels are in visual range.

PICARD

On screen.

The viewscreen shows the Phoenix moving next to a huge Cardassian freighter.

RIKER

(to Data)

Has the Phoenix activated its weapon systems?

DATA

Negative, sir. Phaser banks are not armed...

RIKER

What about the Cardassians?

DATA

(checking)

Our sensors are unable to determine status of the Cardassian defensive systems... Their ship is running with a high-powered subspace field.

Picard raises only the slightest eyebrow to this exchange, files it away for later as O'Brien reports to him.

46D CONTINUED:

PICARD

Mister O'Brien... your former
Commander is about to place me
in the unenviable position of
having to fire upon another
Federation ship. I will need
to draw upon your knowledge of
the man... how he thinks... what
he is capable of doing...

O'BRIEN

Aye, sir.

WORF

Sir, Captain Maxwell is hailing
us.

PICARD

On screen.

47 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

Maxwell's image appears in his darkened Ready Room.

MAXWELL

All right, Picard, you need
proof... you've got it now...

PICARD

Captain Maxwell, you have
disobeyed a direct order...

MAXWELL

Board the ship, you'll see that
everything I've been saying is
true --

PICARD

The Cardassian ship will not be
boarded. You will transport
yourself aboard the Enterprise...

MAXWELL

Picard, if you don't board that
ship, I'll destroy it.

PICARD

And I will use whatever force
is necessary to prevent you from
taking that action, Captain.

Maxwell studies Picard incredulously for a beat, then
hits a panel and ends the transmission. The screen
goes back to the Phoenix and the Cardassian ship.

O'BRIEN

Sir, Captain Maxwell... if he
feels his back is to the wall,
he'll strike...

DATA

Captain, the Phoenix is
transferring power to its
shields...

WORF

They're arming phasers... loading
forward torpedo bays...

47 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Red alert. It appears you are
correct, Mister O'Brien.

The lights begin to flash...

PICARD
Ready phasers... load torpedoes...

WORF
Phasers ready... loading forward
and aft torpedo bays...

A long beat as Picard takes a step toward the
viewscreen... waiting to see what Maxwell does now...

O'BRIEN
Sir? Let me beam over... try to
talk to him.

All heads turn toward O'Brien.

O'BRIEN
We served together a long time...
after you've been through what
we have... you kind of get inside
a person. He might listen.

Picard hesitates, considering it.

RIKER
He'll never drop his shields to
let you transport on board.

O'BRIEN
The Phoenix is using a high-energy
sensor sweep. It cycles every
five-point-five minutes. Between
those cycles there's a window of
a fiftieth of a second.

(beat)
Trust me. I can get through.

PICARD
Make it so.

O'Brien heads for the Turbolift.

47A INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - MINUTES LATER

O'Brien and Geordi at the console.

O'BRIEN

It's good we're trying this with another Federation ship. It would never work with an alien vessel.

GEORDI

I'm not so sure it's going to work this time. Can you get an accurate enough fix on his shield modulation to get through?

O'BRIEN

I think so. The Phoenix should be following standard Starfleet protocols. They have to align their shields at the start of every sweep.

GEORDI

So you'll sync up the beam...

O'BRIEN

And slip right through...

He holds up both hands... slips the fingers of his left hand through the separated fingers of his right.

GEORDI

But if there's any phase error... you could materialize outside the ship... we'd never have a chance to correct.

O'BRIEN

I've been monitoring his sweep patterns... I'm telling you, I can compensate...

GEORDI

And I guess we could increase the pattern buffer cycle to give us a little more margin for error...

O'BRIEN

The current cycle is almost finished, sir... they'll be phase aligning in twenty seconds...

GEORDI

Okay, Chief -- let's do it.

47A CONTINUED:

O'Brien goes to the Transporter pad. Geordi keeps his eye on the console.

GEORDI
Stand by... five seconds... here
we go... two... one...

He hits the controls, and O'Brien DEMATERIALIZES from the pad.

GEORDI
Good luck, Chief.

47A INT. PHOENIX - CORRIDOR - MINUTES LATER (OPTICAL)

O'Brien MATERIALIZES in the corridor. There is no one around. He glances up and down the corridor, turns a corner.

48 INT. PHOENIX - CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - CONTINUOUS (OPTICAL)

The room is darkly lit... a subdued, murky mood. Maxwell sits at his desk, hands carefully folded, staring at nothing. The bell CHIMES.

MAXWELL
Not now!

The doors open and O'Brien enters. Maxwell reacts, leaps to his feet, reaches for a phaser.

48 CONTINUED:

O'BRIEN

I'm not armed.

MAXWELL

How the devil did you get over here?

O'BRIEN

I had the thought that if I talked to you... we could figure a way out of this mess.

Maxwell replaces the phaser.

MAXWELL

The way out of this is clear, O'Brien. Talk to Picard... get him to board that damned ship...

O'BRIEN

He won't do that, sir...

MAXWELL

But he'd turn his weapons on a Federation Starship to protect the enemy? I don't believe it...

O'BRIEN

He will, you can count on it.

MAXWELL

(frustrated)

What the hell has happened to this war...

O'BRIEN

Sir, there is no war... the war is over.

Maxwell stares at him.

MAXWELL

You're wrong. The Cardassians live to make war.

O'BRIEN

That's what everybody thinks about the enemy. That's probably what they think about us.

48 CONTINUED: (2)

MAXWELL

We're not the same at all. We do not start wars. We do not make surprise attacks on manned outposts. We do not butcher women and children in their homes... children who never got the chance to grow up...

His eyes glisten... seeing the family that he lost... a long beat... O'Brien studies him. Maxwell is drifting back in time... a time when camaraderie, and glory, stood for something...

MAXWELL

You were on Setlick with me... you saw what they did...

O'BRIEN

Yes, sir.

MAXWELL

What was the name of the fellow who hung on to you like a puppy?

O'BRIEN

Will Kayden...
(Maxwell doesn't recognize it)
Stompie.

MAXWELL

(now he does)
Stompie. As cool under fire as a mountain lake...

O'BRIEN

Yessir.

MAXWELL

He died at Setlick, didn't he...

O'BRIEN

Yessir.

MAXWELL

What was that song of his... the one he always sang... the one I liked...

48 CONTINUED: (3)

O'BRIEN

(softly)

"The minstrel boy to the war is gone...
In the ranks of death you'll find him... "

And Maxwell joins in... two old friends, singing about
a world in the past...

MAXWELL AND O'BRIEN

"His father's sword he hath girded on,
And his wild harp slung behind him...
Land of song, said the warrior bard,
Tho all the world betrays thee,
One sword at least thy rights shall guard,
One faithful harp shall praise thee."

A long beat.

MAXWELL

(soft)

I'm not gonna win this one, am
I Chief?

O'BRIEN

Nossir.

MAXWELL

(nods, keys insignia)

Maxwell to Bridge. Stand down
all weapons.

COM VOICE

Aye, sir.

O'Brien and Maxwell look at each other... Maxwell
almost grins in defeat.

49 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND PHOENIX (OPTICAL)

The two ships in tandem, proceeding toward home.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental:
Captain Maxwell has turned his
ship over to his First Officer and
transported aboard the Enterprise.
I have confined him to quarters
for the return voyage.

50 INT. ENTERPRISE - OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Macet, and O'Brien.

O'BRIEN

I'd just like to say... he's a good man, sir... What he did was terribly wrong, I know that now... but I'm still proud to have served with him.

PICARD

(acknowledges)

Thank you, Mister O'Brien. Well done. That'll be all.

And O'Brien turns and EXITS.

MACET

His loyalty is admirable... even if it is misplaced.

Picard turns toward him. He speaks quietly... but his words are steel.

PICARD

The loyalty you would so quickly dismiss does not come easily to my people, Gul Macet. You have much to learn about us. Benjamin Maxwell earned the loyalty of those who served with him. In war, he was twice honored with the Federation's highest citation for his courage and valor. And if he could not find a role for himself in peace, we can pity him, but we shall not dismiss him.

Macet shrugs, stands to exit...

MACET

You are welcome to your opinion, Captain. I for one am grateful he is under lock and key.

Macet moves to the door.

50 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Oh, one more thing, Macet.
Maxwell was right. Those ships
weren't carrying scientific
equipment, were they?

Macet stops at the door, doesn't turn.

PICARD

A 'research' station within arm's
reach of three Federation
sectors... ? Cargo ships running
with high energy subspace fields
that jam sensors?

A beat. Macet studies him curiously.

MACET

If you believed the transport ship
carried weapons, why didn't you
board it as Maxwell requested?

PICARD

I was here to protect the peace,
a peace I firmly believe is in
the interests of both our peoples.
But if I had attempted to board
that ship... I am quite certain
that you and I would not be
sitting here now. And that ships
on both sides would be arming for
war.

MACET

Captain, I assure you...

PICARD

(interrupting)

Take a message to your leaders,
Gul Macet. We know. We'll be
watching. We'll be ready.

50 CONTINUED: (2)

Macet blinks, nods and EXITS. On Picard's last
look...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END