

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Clues"
#40274-188

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FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "Clues" - REV. 11/16/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Clues"

CAST

PICARD	MADALINE
RIKER	
DATA	ALYSSA OGAWA
BEVERLY	HOLODECK MAN
TROI	
GEORDI	
WORF	
	Non-Speaking
GUINAN	PAXAN ENTITY
O'BRIEN	
ENSIGN McKNIGHT	
COMPUTER VOICE	

Non-Speaking
SUPERNUMERARIES
MEDICAL PERSONNEL

STAR TREK: "Clues" - REV. 11/19/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Clues"

SETS

INTERIORS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM
OBSERVATION LOUNGE
TURBOLIFT
CORRIDOR
TRANSPORTER ROOM
SICKBAY
SICKBAY LAB
MAIN ENGINEERING
TEN-FORWARD
TROI'S QUARTERS
DATA'S QUARTERS
WORKOUT ROOM
HOLODECK (WORLD OF DIXON HILL)
SECRETARY'S OFFICE
HILL'S PRIVATE OFFICE

STAR TREK: "Clues" - REV. 11/28/90 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Clues"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

CYTOSOME	SITE-oh-zohm
ELECTROLYTE	ee-LEC-tro-lite
EVADNE	ee-VAHD-nee
MARA MARU	MAH-ruh muh-ROO
NGAME	n'GOM-aye
TURGOR	TER-jer

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Clues"
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Establish the ship travelling across a background of interstellar dust clouds.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's Log, Stardate 44502.7.
Early completion of our mission at Harrakis Five has allowed me to grant extra personal time for many of the crew.

2 INT. WORKOUT ROOM

WORF, dressed in a Klingon robe is leading several others, including TROI, RIKER and GEORDI in a set of slow exercises, that might be described as Klingon Tai Chi.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

Given our recent tight scheduling, this has come as something of a relief.

3 INT. SICKBAY LAB

At a lab counter, BEVERLY is lining several small incubation bottles along a rack -- obviously an experimental procedure. Her satisfied smile indicates that she's enjoying this.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

Our diplomatic assignment in the Evadne system is a ten day journey past the Ngame Nebula, and I expect it to be uneventful. I personally am using the time to fulfill a promise to a colleague.

4 OMITTED

5 INT. SECRETARY'S OFFICE - CIRCA 1940S - DAY

CLOSE SHOT of the office door, wood with a frosted glass insert in the upper portion. On the glass are printed the words --

DIXON HILL
PRIVATE
INVESTIGATIONS

-- but they are in reverse. We are inside the somewhat dingy, period office. We hear a loud SNAP.

5A INCLUDE MADELINE

A bombshell secretary, sitting behind her desk, typewriter in front of her, but paying more attention to painting her fingernails. She again loudly SNAPS her chewing gum.

The door opens, GUINAN ENTERS, dressed completely in period clothing, chewing gum like an expert.

GUINAN
Dixon Hill around?

MADELINE
(barely looking up)
He's occupied at the present moment.

GUINAN
Tell him Gloria is here.

MADELINE
Can't do that.

Madeline snaps her gum.

MADELINE
(continuing)
He doesn't want to be disturbed.

GUINAN
I'm here from...
(remembering)
Cleveland.

5A CONTINUED:

MADELINE

Doesn't matter if you're from the moon, Hon. Mister Hill is incommuni... incommunica...

GUINAN

Incomunicado.

MADELINE

That's it. Sorry, Hon.

Madeline snaps her gum.

GUINAN

Listen, Hon. Just tell him Gloria's here.

Guinan snaps her gum. Madeline narrows her eyes at the challenge, snaps back.

MADELINE

When the boss doesn't want to be disturbed, the boss doesn't want to be disturbed. Don't take it personal like.

Guinan snaps her gum. Noting a clock on the wall --

GUINAN

Mister Hill is expecting me. I have a two o'clock appointment.

MADELINE

It's two-ten.

GUINAN

Sorry. I had a hard time with the outfit...

(raising her skirt to show off a garter)

It took me awhile to figure out what this thing was supposed to do...

Madeline huffs, picks up the phone, and hits the intercom...

5A CONTINUED: (2)

MADELINE

Sorry, Dix. There's a... "lady"
here to see you, says her name
is...

GUINAN

Gloria...

MADELINE

Gloria...

GUINAN

From Cleveland.

MADELINE

From Cleveland.

(beat)

Okay.

She hangs up.

MADELINE

He never heard of you.

GUINAN

Never heard of me?

MADELINE

That's right.

GUINAN

No, you don't understand... it's
all been set up in advance... I'm
supposed to be Gloria from
Cleveland and I was supposed to
be in Holodeck Four at two o'clock
and you don't have the slightest
idea of what I'm talking about,
do you?

Madeline blinks, dumb. Guinan wheels and heads for
Dixon's inner office door...

MADELINE

Hey, you can't go in there...

But Guinan charges through the door into...

6 INT. DIXON HILL'S OFFICE - DAY

... to find Picard with his hands raised high and a GUNMAN aiming a revolver at him, the gunman holds a valise... She reacts as he motions the gun at her...

GUNMAN

Get inside.

(to Picard)

Who's the doll?

PICARD

She's my cousin.

GUINAN

Gloria. From Cleveland.

PICARD

Sorry, Gloria -- I didn't want to get you involved. She has nothing to do with this, Johnny.

GUNMAN

Yeah, right. What do I look like? A jamoke? You ain't nobody's cousin and you ain't here for a visit. What do you know about my money?

GUINAN

Your money?

GUNMAN

The money he stole.

GUINAN

(to Picard)

You stole his money?

PICARD

He's lying, Gloria -- don't listen to him.

GUINAN

Johnny, why don't you tell me all about it, maybe I can help, I'm a good listener...

6 CONTINUED:

He moves threateningly at Guinan passing in front of the window as he does...

GUNMAN

I'm finished with talking,
sweetheart. Now, I'm gonna get
some action or else...

Outside we can hear a car screech around a corner... Suddenly the window is blasted out by machine gun fire... Guinan and Picard hit the ground... the gunman is hit in the back, groans and falls dead with --

6A ANGLE - FACE PRESSED TO THE FLOOR

GUINAN

(to Picard)

This is what you do for fun?

PICARD

It's a mystery, Guinan... Who was this man? Who killed him? Where's the money he was talking about? A mystery. Now, we begin the search for clues.

GUINAN

And that's fun...

The SCREECH of a car outside. Picard goes to the window.

PICARD

That's fun.

He looks out the window.

PICARD

A forty-eight Packard with whitewalls... I couldn't catch the license plate...

The phone rings in the outer office...

MADELINE (O.S.)

Dixon Hill, Private Investigations.

(answering phone)

Sorry, there's no Captain Picard here. Try down at the docks.

6A CONTINUED:

PICARD
(reacts)
It's all right. I'll take it,
Madeline.

Picard picks up the phone on the desk.

PICARD
(a little ruffled)
What is it?

INTERCUT:

7
thru OMITTED
9

10 INT. BRIDGE

DATA is at the helm.

DATA
Please excuse the unusual
interruption, Captain. I thought
that patching communications
through the holodeck program would
be less obtrusive.

PICARD'S COM VOICE
(a smile)
I appreciate the consideration,
Commander. What can I do for
you?

11 INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The Ngame dust cloud is a diaphanous wave of color
partially obscuring the backdrop of stars.

DATA
Long range sensors have detected
a T-tauri type star within a
pocket of the Ngame cloud.

PICARD'S COM VOICE
Nothing unusual about that.

11 CONTINUED:

DATA

No, Sir. However, the star's single planet falls within the M-Class range. It is capable of supporting life.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Now that is unusual.

DATA

Highly, Sir.

Picard is not covering too well his disappointment at having to interrupt the holodeck fantasy.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Yes, thank you, Data. Procedures require us to investigate. Recall the bridge crew and set a course.

12 OMITTED

13 INT. DIXON HILL'S PRIVATE OFFICE

Picard hangs up the phone. Turns to Guinan.

PICARD

I'm afraid I have a twenty-fourth century mystery to deal with, Gloria. You're welcome to carry on if you'd like.

GUINAN

No, I've had enough "fun" for one day.

They both go out the office door.

14 INT. BRIDGE - LATER

The Bridge now has a full crew (Picard, Riker, Worf, Data, TROI, and ENSIGN MCKNIGHT at CONN).

MCKNIGHT

Entering the T-tauri system, now, Captain.

15 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

Which displays the star we are approaching -- still distant, but close enough to see it as a disc rather than a point of light.

16 RESUME

DATA

Sensors indicate an energy fluctuation directly in our path. Source unknown.

17 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

A shimmering "hole" in space opens up for just a moment -- then disappears.

18 RESUME

Worf looks at his instruments.

WORF

Still picking up energy distortions -- but fading. It seems to be gone.

PICARD

A wormhole?

DATA

Very likely. Small and extremely unstable wormholes have been mapped near thirty-nine T-auri systems in the last one hundred years alone.

RIKER

Captain, I suggest we move to a safer location. It could reappear at any moment.

PICARD

Agreed. Ensign, take us --

Data is glued to his instruments.

DATA

-- Captain!

19 INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

And the worm-hole as it reappears virtually on top of them.

20 RESUME (OPTICAL)

The entire Bridge crew looks towards the screen just as the Enterprise goes into the worm-hole. A dazzling light fills the Bridge, as we stay on Data, who can barely be seen pouring over his sensor readings. Then the light just as suddenly fades to normal.

Data turns from his instruments to survey the Bridge -- everyone else is slumped over in their chairs or fallen to the floor.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

21 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CLOSE SHOT OF PICARD

slumped unconscious in his Command Chair.

DATA (O.S.)

Captain?

22 PULL BACK TO INCLUDE DATA

as he gently shakes Picard, who begins to awaken.

PICARD

Data?

Picard looks around. Seeing the other unconscious crewmen starting to gradually come around, he tries to stand. Still woozy, he staggers, and is caught by Data.

DATA

Careful, Captain. The stun-effect from the wormhole was relatively severe.

Picard rubs his head.

PICARD

Apparently so. How long were we unconscious?

DATA

Approximately thirty seconds. I have scanned the ship and detected no life-threatening injuries to the crew.

A moan from McKnight as she rubs the shoulder she fell upon. Worf rubs his right wrist as he stands. Riker is helping a still dazed looking Troi to her seat.

PICARD

You were not affected?

22 CONTINUED:

DATA

No. My positronic system is immune to the effect. This is the third unstable wormhole I have passed through during my time in Starfleet. The first, on-board the U.S.S. Trieste --

PICARD

-- Thank you, Data.

Picard surveys the Bridge.

PICARD

(continuing)

Well, where the hell are we?

RIKER

(checking instruments)

Point five-four parsecs from our previous position. Almost a day's travel... in just thirty seconds.

DATA

Sir, I should re-align the ship's clock with Starbase Four-ten's subspace signal to adjust for the time distortion.

PICARD

Proceed.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

Captain, Sickbay here.

PICARD

Go ahead, Doctor.

INTERCUT:

22A INT. SICKBAY

BEVERLY

I'm getting scattered reports of minor injuries. What happened?

PICARD'S COM VOICE

The Enterprise just jumped through a wormhole.

(MORE)

22A CONTINUED:

PICARD'S COM VOICE (Cont'd)
We were all unconscious for
about thirty seconds.

BEVERLY
Everybody okay up there?

PICARD'S COM VOICE
(glancing around)
Little or no damage on the Bridge,
Doctor.

BEVERLY
Acknowledged. Crusher out.

22B INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

PICARD
Ship's status?

22B CONTINUED:

Riker looks at his console.

RIKER

Reports coming in now. Nothing serious so far.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Impulse engines and warp drive are unaffected, Captain.

WORF

Shields and weapons systems are fully functional.

Worf rubs his wrist again. Picard glances at Troi, who still seems slightly out of it.

PICARD

Counselor? Are you alright?

TROI

Yes... I think so... Excuse me, Captain, but I feel a bit... unfocused...

(a deep breath)

It will pass.

Picard satisfies himself that the crew is basically back to normal.

PICARD

Not too bad, all things considered.

RIKER

(agreeing)

We're lucky we didn't end up half-way across the galaxy and in the middle of next week.

22B CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

I do not believe that was ever a possibility. The wormhole's small size and extremely short period indicate a relatively local phenomenon.

RIKER

I didn't mean that literally, Data.

PICARD

There's still the anomalous M-Class planet we were going to investigate. Do we go back?

DATA

The unpredictability of the wormhole would make our investigation a hazardous one. A probe from our current position would be more advisable.

Picard weighs the considerations. Nods to Data.

PICARD

Make it so.

23 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship launches a probe, which speeds across space and out of frame.

24 INT. SICKBAY (OPTICAL)

Beverly is treating O'BRIEN, running a hand-held instrument over the Chief's elbow. In the background, ALYSSA OGAWA and another medical assistant are treating two other crew members.

24 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Nothing broken, Chief. But the ligaments around the elbow have been twisted pretty severely.

(a smile)

What in the world were you doing when you fell?

O'BRIEN

Hanging a plant for Keiko. Part of her running project to give me a green thumb.

BEVERLY

How's it working?

O'BRIEN

(shakes his head)

Everything I touch seems to turn brown and wither away.

Beverly laughs.

BEVERLY

Alyssa, would you get me the --

She glances over at her assistant, who is very busy with other patients.

BEVERLY

-- Never mind. I'll do it.

(to O'Brien)

You, don't go away. We'll fix that right up.

25 FOLLOW BEVERLY

as she crosses into a lab on the other side of Sickbay.

25A INT. SICKBAY LAB - CONTINUOUS

Beverly finds the hand-held instrument she's looking for, and in passing, notices the small glass containers we saw her experimenting with earlier. Something stops her dead in her tracks.

26 CLOSE ON THE INCUBATION CONTAINERS

each of which is fuzzy with a bright red, moss-like growth inside.

27 INCLUDE A VERY PUZZLED BEVERLY

as she reaches over and picks one up. She stares at it for a moment.

BEVERLY
(evenly)
This is impossible.

28 INT. SICKBAY - MOMENTS LATER (OPTICAL)

Beverly is walking back towards O'Brien, carrying the instrument she went for, a bemused look still on her face.

She reaches O'Brien and indicates his elbow.

BEVERLY
Straighten your arm.

He does so. She touches the device to one side of the injured joint, holding it there.

BEVERLY
Alyssa?

The other woman glances up.

ALYSSA
Yes, Doctor?

BEVERLY
Did you see anybody near the lab today?

ALYSSA
No, I didn't.

A beat.

BEVERLY
You didn't happen to adjust the environments on the incubation containers?

ALYSSA
I would never touch one of your experiments unless you asked me to, Doctor.

BEVERLY
Of course, I'm sorry, Alyssa.

Beverly wonders to herself what the hell is going on...

29 INT. BRIDGE

Worf looks up from his instruments.

WORF

Probe approaching the T-tauri system, Captain.

PICARD

Readings, Data?

DATA

Coming in now, sir. The probe has moved within visual range of the planet.

PICARD

On screen.

ANGLE TO INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

A big, green, gassy, Neptune-like planet. Data studies the instruments for a couple of beats.

DATA

Sensors indicate a hydrogen-helium composition.

(takes another reading)

With a frozen helium core.

RIKER

Wait a minute, didn't your readings indicate a Class M planet before we went through the wormhole, Data?

DATA

It is very possible that interference from the wormhole affected the sensors, Commander. This is clearly not a Class M planet.

30 CONTINUED:

Picard appears convinced. Riker still a bit doubtful.

PICARD

Data, run a full diagnostic to make sure the wormhole didn't cause any permanent damage to the sensors.

DATA

Aye, Captain.

PICARD

Ensign, set us back on a course for...

(off Riker's doubt)

Number One? A problem?

RIKER

It's awfully strange that a malfunctioning sensor should give such a specific misreading of a planet. I would have thought that a space/time disturbance would cause a lot more confusion than that.

Data jumps in just a little too quickly.

30 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

It is conceivable that the sensors picked up the afterimage of an actual planet that lies on the other side of the wormhole.

(to Picard)

We could survey the nearby stars for such a planet. It would require approximately six weeks.

PICARD

We don't have the time.

Picard has made up his mind.

PICARD

We've encountered a minor mystery, one that has been solved to my satisfaction. Number One, unless there's a major objection, Ensign McKnight will set us a course for Evadne Four.

Riker has good-humoredly backed down from playing devil's advocate.

RIKER

No objection.

PICARD

Ensign.

The Ensign's fingers touch the controls in front of him. OFF Data's unreadable face.

31 OMITTED

32 INT. READY ROOM

Picard is sitting at his desk as Beverly Crusher ENTERS, carrying a small, box-like carrier.

PICARD

You wanted to see me, Beverly.

BEVERLY

I have something of a minor mystery on my hands.

PICARD

A "minor mystery"? That seems to be a recurring phrase around here lately.

(indicating table)

Please.

She sets down the box and opens it, taking out one of the incubation containers, now thriving with red moss.

PICARD

(surprised)

Diomedian scarlet moss. I didn't know you were an enthno-botanist.

BEVERLY

It's a hobby.

PICARD

You've got a good crop going there. As I recall, it's not easy to cultivate.

BEVERLY

That's just it -- I started the spores right before we were all knocked unconscious by the wormhole. You said we were out for thirty seconds?

PICARD

Correct.

BEVERLY

Then how come this shows a full day's growth?

32 CONTINUED:

Picard stares at it for a moment, curious.

PICARD

Perhaps you've got some sort of
fast-growth strain.

She pulls out four more bottle-like containers, lining them up in front of him, each with a similarly luxuriant growth inside.

BEVERLY

Each of these incubators were set with spores from completely different sources in the Diomedian system. I've got a dozen more back at the lab. Perhaps something extraordinary could have happened to one of them, but not to all of them.

Picard continues to stare at the containers.

PICARD

But that would mean we were unconscious for a full day. And yet everything else on board indicates that we were out for only thirty seconds. The ship's chronometer, the computer...

A beat as the implication sinks in.

PICARD

(continuing)

Everything else... including
Commander Data.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

33 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Travelling at impulse speed through space, no longer near a dust cloud.

PICARD (V.O)

Captain's log, supplemental.
Commander Data continues to maintain that we were unconscious for only thirty seconds, despite Doctor Crusher's evidence to the contrary.

34 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Beverly, Data, Geordi, Riker, Worf. On the table in front of them sits one of Beverly's incubation bottles.

DATA

Captain, I have a hypothesis.

Picard nods, and seems to study Data intently as he answers.

DATA

The twenty-second century physicist Pell Underhill conjectured that a major disruption in time-continuity could be compensated for by trillions of counter reactions.

Data indicates the incubation chambers.

DATA

(continuing)

The effect could have allowed Doctor Crusher's mosses to arrive at the other side of the worm hole with the unanticipated growth.

GEORDI

Underhill was talking about energy!

34 CONTINUED:

DATA

True. Nevertheless, it is possible that the phenomenon could occur in matter at much higher levels of organization. Given the proper conditions.

34 CONTINUED: (2)

A beat.

PICARD
Thank you, Data. An intriguing
hypothesis.

Picard considers for a moment, smiles at Data.

PICARD
(continuing)
Perhaps we've got a tempest in
a test tube, after all.

BEVERLY
Captain --

Picard cuts her off with a look.

PICARD
(lightly)
Data, I promised Mister Nelson
in Engineering that you would
assist him on the sensor
diagnostics. You'll find him hard
at work on Deck Thirty-six.

DATA
As you wish, Captain.

Data turns and EXITS the room. Picard waits a moment,
as if this is difficult.

PICARD
(to Geordi)
Did you believe Data's
explanation?

Geordi hesitates.

PICARD
(continuing)
A frank answer, Commander.

GEORDI
Not for a second. I'm honestly
amazed that he even proposed it.

34 CONTINUED: (3)

WORF

What are you suggesting, Captain?

PICARD

I'm not sure. I have never known
Data to lie, and yet...

BEVERLY

If we never went through a
wormhole... then what happened
to us during that missing day...

GEORDI

If we were out for a whole day,
why didn't our beards grow?

No answers.

RIKER

Whatever it was... it seems to
be something Data doesn't want
to tell us about...

PICARD

It could be that whatever caused
this situation affected Data as
well.

(beat)

Or it could be that he's telling
the truth... and this is just...
another minor mystery.

GEORDI

I can check the computer's
chronometer... see if there's
evidence of tampering...

34 CONTINUED: (4)

BEVERLY

A transporter trace analysis might give us another indication of how much time has actually passed.

PICARD

Proceed on both counts. Meanwhile, we'll maintain our present course. If there is something wrong with Data, we don't want him aware of our suspicions.

35 INT. ENGINEERING

Data is helping a SUPERNUMERARY engineer, (NELSON), with standard sensor diagnostics. Geordi enters frame, seemingly buoyant.

GEORDI

(lightly)

Gentlemen, how goes the battle?

35 CONTINUED:

DATA

The long-range, infra-red sensors suffered no apparent damage as a result of the wormhole. We are presently checking the neutrino and heavy particle detectors.

GEORDI

Great. I'll take over, Data. The Captain wants you back on the Bridge.

Just a little puzzled, Data nods, hands a diagnostic instrument over to Geordi and turns to go.

GEORDI

(continuing)

See you later in Ten Forward.

DATA

Yes. I will see you then.

Geordi waits until Data actually goes out the door. Then his smile immediately fades and is replaced by serious intent. He sets down the diagnostic instrument.

GEORDI

Nelson, I need your help with the computer.

36 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Beverly ENTERS, steps up to O'Brien, who is at the transporter controls, entering a report into a small computer peripheral.

BEVERLY

Hello, Chief. How's the elbow?

O'BRIEN

Much better. This isn't a house call, is it?

BEVERLY

No, it's not. Tell me, who was the last one to use the transporter before we went through the wormhole?

36 CONTINUED:

O'Brien touches the control board in front of him, gets the answer.

O'BRIEN
Ensign Locklin. She's one of my technicians.

BEVERLY
Have her report immediately to Sickbay.

37 INT. SICKBAY

Beverly is holding a small instrument over the lower arm of a young woman, ENSIGN LOCKLIN, who is sitting on a diagnostic bed. As she continues to slowly move the device, Beverly and her assistant Alyssa Ogawa monitor the screen behind them.

BEVERLY
Electrolyte concentration.

ALYSSA
Twelve point five deviation from previous.

Beverly and Alyssa share a look.

BEVERLY
Interesting...
(adjusting device)
Let's check the cellular membrane.
I'm willing to bet the internal turgor pressure is off by almost the same amount.

She again holds the instrument over Ensign Locklin's arm. A few beats. Beverly and Alyssa watch the readout behind the bed change slightly.

ALYSSA
Eleven three deviation from the norm.

BEVERLY
(excited)
That's what I wanted to hear.
(to Locklin)
Thank you, Ensign Locklin.
That'll be all.

37 CONTINUED:

Ensign Locklin nods, jumps down from the bed and goes out the door as Beverly touches a companel.

BEVERLY
Crusher to Captain Picard.

37A INT. TURBOLIFT

PICARD
(keying insignia)
What is it, Doctor?

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE
I need to see you immediately.

PICARD
I'm on my way to Engineering.
Join me.

38 INT. CORRIDOR

Picard and Beverly are walking quickly along a corridor.

BEVERLY

Physiologically, each of us is on a daily cycle. Our cells have developed rhythms based on a twenty-four hour period.

PICARD

Our internal clocks.

BEVERLY

Exactly, and I can measure that effect at the molecular level. I took a trace from the last person to use the transporter, and compared her cell function levels to what they are right now. If we were unconscious for only thirty seconds, those cycles would be nearly synchronous.

PICARD

And were they?

BEVERLY

No. We were out for longer than thirty seconds, Captain. A lot longer.

OFF Picard's reaction.

39 OMITTED

40 INT. ENGINEERING - CLOSE ON GEORDI

from inside a ladder well as he climbs down and out.

GEORDI

(loudly)

I've got some good news, and some bad news...

41 NEW ANGLE

On Geordi as he emerges from the tube into the presence of Picard and Dr. Crusher.

GEORDI

The good news is that we were right about the computer's chronometer. There's a security program to prevent tampering. But it looks now like it was disabled, and a new program put in its place. Someone reset the clock.

PICARD

And the bad news?

GEORDI

Data and I are the only ones onboard this ship capable of doing it.

42 INT. READY ROOM

Data is standing in front of Picard.

DATA

A bit of a mystery, Captain.

PICARD

That's an understatement.

(beat)

Is it possible that something or someone affected you -- without your knowledge?

DATA

I am unable to answer that question, Captain.

Picard pauses for a moment.

PICARD

Data, would you consent to being examined by Commander La Forge?

42 CONTINUED:

DATA
As you wish, Captain.

Picard touches a companel.

PICARD
(to com)
Come.

Immediately, the door slides open and a security officer steps inside.

PICARD
Please escort Commander Data to
Engineering.

The officer steps to Data's side.

DATA
(to Picard)
I know the way, Sir.

A beat. Data and the security officer head towards the door.

CLOSE ON Picard's face as the door slides open and shut offscreen.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

43 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Establish heading at impulse through space.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental. It has become clear that everyone aboard the Enterprise has lost an entire day. As the mystery of what actually occurred during those missing hours continues to deepen, so do my doubts about Commander Data.

43A INT. ENGINEERING

The side of Data's head is open and blinking. Geordi has a small, pen-like device in hand. He's trying to keep things light, but it's a cover -- he's clearly uncomfortable with this assignment.

GEORDI

We'll start with the higher functions before we get down to basics.

He moves the pen-like device towards Data's head.

GEORDI

(joking)

Now, this won't hurt a bit...

He touches the device to Data's exposed head.

DATA

Have you forgotten that my sensory inputs are not programmed to experience pain, Geordi?

GEORDI

It's a figure of speech. Bedside manner. I was just trying to make you comfortable.

DATA

I am perfectly comfortable.

43A CONTINUED:

GEORDI

(almost to himself)

Pattern recognition, syntactic
algorithms, heuristic functions
-- all normal.

DATA

However, I cannot help noticing
that you appear a bit
uncomfortable yourself.

Geordi again touches the instrument to Data's head.

GEORDI

I just don't like having to do
this, that's all...

DATA

(puzzled)

The Captain has expressed doubts
about my operational capacities.
Doubts which, given the
circumstances, seem entirely
justified. I do not understand
your reluctance to carry out his
instructions.

Geordi takes down the instrument.

GEORDI

It's not reluctance exactly...
more like concern. I don't want
to find something wrong with you.
On the other hand...

DATA

Yes?

GEORDI

It feels like you're not being
completely... honest with us.
Data, I'm your freind... if
something is wrong, tell me...
maybe I can help you...

DATA

(a beat)

There is nothing I can tell you,
Geordi, beyond what I have already
stated.

Geordi stares at him for a long beat.

43A CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI

Okay.

Data almost looks for a moment as if he wants to go ahead and tell him anyway, but changes his mind.

DATA

Okay...

Off the look between them.

44 INT. BRIDGE

Picard is at the helm; Riker, Worf, the Ensign and Troi are at their respective stations.

The turbolift door opens and Geordi steps onto the Bridge. Picard looks towards him expectantly.

GEORDI

I've finished examining Data, Captain.

PICARD

And?

GEORDI

Nothing's wrong with the technology that I can see. He's in perfect condition.

PICARD

I was almost hoping you'd find a problem.

GEORDI

He could still be malfunctioning beyond my ability to detect it.

Picard pauses, looks around, frustrated.

PICARD

This entire mystery began when our sensors detected that planet. First it was class "M"... now it isn't...

44 CONTINUED:

RIKER

But the sensors were malfunctioning. Our probe clearly established the planet could not support life...

PICARD

Data launched that probe.

They exchange a look.

RIKER

(to Geordi)

If he rigged the probe, could you prove it?

GEORDI

I could try.

He EXITS. The Captain glances around at the rest of the crew.

PICARD

What happened to us in that missing day? Surely clues must exist. Each of you think back to what you were doing right before we blacked out. Reenact it if need be. Look for anything odd or --

WORF

-- Counselor!

Worf rushes to Deanna's side as she nearly faints off her chair.

PICARD

Deanna, are you alright?

TROI

(recovering)

Just a moment... Yes... I'm fine...

RIKER

What happened?

TROI

I suddenly became dizzy... I'd better go to my quarters.

44 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD
Perhaps Sickbay would be a better
idea.

TROI
(standing)
No. Really, I'm alright.

Picard nods to Worf.

PICARD
See the counselor to her quarters.

WORF
Aye, Captain.

45 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE TROI'S QUARTERS

Troi and Worf walk up to Troi's door.

TROI
Thank you for coming with me,
Worf.

WORF
Of course. You're certain you
are well.

TROI
I just need some rest.

Troi ENTERS her quarters, the door closing behind her.
Worf stands doubtfully for a few beats in the corridor,
then starts away.

There is a short, frightened scream from Troi's cabin.
Worf wheels around and dashes back to the door.

WORF
Counselor!

The door remains closed. Worf touches his
communicator.

WORF
Security! Override the lock on
Deanna Troi's quarters! Now!

The door opens, and Worf dashes in.

46 INT. TROI'S QUARTERS

Worf ENTERS, but Troi is not in the main part of her cabin. He dashes towards the washroom.

Troi is inside. She is pale, shaking with fright. She is backed against the wall opposite the mirror, averting her eyes from her reflection.

WORF

What's wrong?

TROI

The mirror... I came in here...
and I looked into the mirror...
It wasn't me, Worf... Not me...
It was my face, but it wasn't me
inside...

TIME CUT:

47 INT. TROI'S BEDROOM

Troi is sitting in bed as Beverly finishes running an instrument around her head. Picard is standing nearby.

PICARD

Is she alright?

TROI

I feel fine...now.

BEVERLY

Signs of stress, adrenaline
by-products higher than baseline.
But that's a normal reaction to
sudden fright. All brain
functions check out okay.

PICARD

Deanna, what happened?

TROI

A hallucination perhaps.

PICARD

What did you see?

47 CONTINUED:

TROI

It wasn't what I saw. It was what
I felt. I looked into the mirror,
and it seemed a stranger was
staring back at me from behind
my own eyes.

She wraps her arms together as if for comfort in
reaction to the memory.

TROI

(continuing)

As if my own face was a mask.

Picard puts a gentle hand on her shoulder.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

La Forge to Captain Picard.

PICARD

Yes, Geordi.

48 INT. ENGINEERING (OPTICAL)

Geordi is standing in front of a monitor displaying
an image of the same Neptune-like planet the probe
relayed earlier back to the Enterprise.

GEORDI

(to Com)

I found something, sir.

49 OMITTED

50 INT. SICKBAY

Beverly returns to see Worf waiting...

 BEVERLY
Hello, Worf.

 WORF
Doctor.

He seems a little hesitant.

 BEVERLY
Can I help you?

50 CONTINUED:

WORF

Perhaps not.

Worf turns to leave --

BEVERLY

-- Worf.

He stops, turns back to her.

BEVERLY

(continuing)

You came in here for something.
You can trust me.

WORF

A warrior does not complain about
physical discomfort.

Dr. Crusher puts a caring hand on his shoulder and
maneuvers him towards a diagnostic bed.

BEVERLY

Are you in pain?

WORF

But the Captain ordered us to
report anything out of the
ordinary.

He holds out the wrist he's been favoring since the
time-jump incident. Beverly takes an instrument and
runs it over the arm. A very surprised look crosses
her face.

BEVERLY

How did this happen?

51 INT. DATA'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

Data, Picard and Geordi are standing around the monitor screen in Data's quarters, staring at the image of the Neptune-like planet, with various numbers and symbols across the screen.

PICARD

Do you recognize the planet, Data?

DATA

Yes, it is the planet our probe detected in the T-tauri system.

GEORDI

No it's not. Actually, it's Tethys Three. I retrieved the image from the ship's library. The geophysical figures have been slightly altered, but it's definitely Tethys Three.

Geordi doesn't look too comfortable about his role here.

PICARD

(to Data)

Strange that an obscure planet several hundred light years from here should be picked up by our probe.

There is a tense beat.

PICARD

Data, did you take this image from the ship's library and then program the probe to send it back to us?

DATA

I cannot verify that hypothesis.

PICARD

But you don't deny it.

DATA

No, Sir.

Picard looks to Geordi.

PICARD

Geordi, send another probe to the T-tauri system.

51 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Yes, Sir.

(as he turns to go)

Sorry, Data.

Geordi goes out the door. Picard waits until he's gone, then turns back to Data.

51 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Counselor Troi just had a very disturbing hallucination.

DATA

Is she alright?

PICARD

For the moment. Can you tell me if Deanna's incident is in any way related to the missing time period?

DATA

No, Sir. I cannot.

PICARD

Data! You're the key to this entire mystery. And you've done nothing but block my attempts to solve it. Why are you fighting me?

DATA

It is not by choice.

PICARD

What does that mean?

DATA

I cannot say.

PICARD

You would rather endanger Deanna Troi, a friend, than tell me what's going on?!

DATA

Which would you place first? The welfare of a single individual? Or that of the entire crew?

Picard is taken aback.

PICARD

Are you saying that by not cooperating, you're actually protecting us?

51 CONTINUED: (3)

DATA

I am not saying that at all. I merely state a possible alternative explanation.

PICARD

Then I'm going to ask you again. And I'm ordering you to respond directly. What really happened to us?

DATA

I cannot answer that, Captain.

Picard is completely frustrated.

PICARD

What would you have me do?! How would you handle this, if our positions were reversed?

DATA

I am apparently guilty of falsifying the Enterprise's records. Of interfering with an investigation. Of disobeying a direct order from my commanding officer. Your duty seems clear.

A beat.

PICARD

Do you know what a court-martial would mean? Your career in Starfleet would be finished.

DATA

I realize that.

PICARD

Do you also realize that you would most likely be stripped down to the wires to find out what the hell went wrong?

DATA

Yes, Sir. I do.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

52 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

53 INT. READY ROOM

Beverly and Worf are with Picard.

BEVERLY

The wrist has been broken.
Broken, reset, and treated with
one of our subcutaneous bone
fusion units.

PICARD

During the missing day?

BEVERLY

It's the only possibility.

Picard starts pacing, almost as if he's talking to himself.

PICARD

You're suggesting he was
conscious?

BEVERLY

I'm suggesting maybe we all were.
I certainly didn't repair a broken
wrist while I was unconscious.

53 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Our memories of that day?

BEVERLY
Blocked. Possibly erased.

PICARD
By whom?

A pause.

WORF
There are very few individuals
on board who could have broken
my wrist.

(pause)
Commander Data is one of those
individuals.

PICARD
I can't accept that explanation.

WORF
He does possess the speed and
strength.

PICARD
Granted. But I am beginning to
suspect that Data is refusing to
cooperate because he believes he
is acting in the best interests
of the Enterprise.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
La Forge to Captain Picard.

PICARD
(to Com)
Yes, Geordi.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
Our probe's approaching the
planet, sir.

PICARD
(to Com)
Acknowledged.

53 CONTINUED: (2)

FOLLOW Picard onto the Bridge, Beverly and Worf close behind.

PICARD

Now maybe we'll get some answers.

54 INT. BRIDGE

Picard strides towards his chair, as Worf and Beverly take their respective positions. Riker, Geordi and McKnight are already at theirs posts.

GEORDI

Visuals available now, Captain.

55 ANGLE TO INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

A sandy-brown planet.

RIKER

M-Class. Nickel-iron core,
nitrogen-oxygen atmosphere.

PICARD

The same planet our sensors picked
up before the so-called
wormhole...

RIKER

Affirmative.

Geordi reads off his instruments.

GEORDI

No indication of any space-time
distortion whatsoever. The probe
should at least be detecting a
residual effect, even if the
wormhole is inactive.

PICARD

That's because there isn't a
wormhole. There never was.

The crew is puzzled.

MCKNIGHT

Sir?

55 CONTINUED:

A hint of Dixon Hill is on him now, as he paces the room.

PICARD

It was a ruse to throw us off the track. Look at the clues. Doctor Crusher's incubation experiment, the computer clock, the transporter trace all indicate the existence of a missing day. Worf's broken wrist suggests that we may have been awake and aware for that day, and possibly in a struggle for our lives.

BEVERLY

The fact that we're alive suggests we must have won.

PICARD

Not necessarily, Doctor. Data's behavior clearly suggests we did not. Why else would he be willing to sacrifice his career rather than tell us the truth?

WORF

But if we didn't win and we didn't lose... ?

PICARD

The only alternative left is a stalemate. A compromise might have been reached... a compromise that could have forced Data into silence.

RIKER

But maybe by uncovering all this, we're in danger of upsetting the stalemate. Maybe it's best to leave well enough alone.

55 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Possibly, Number One. And I would be willing to live with the mystery... but Data's role in this must be ascertained... or he will never be trusted with starship duty again. I cannot live with that.

Picard stares at the viewscreen.

PICARD

(to McKnight)

Ensign, take us back to the scene of the crime. Go to warp two.

56 OMITTED

57 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Speeding through space at warp speed.

58 INT. BRIDGE - LATER

The Ensign glances up from her instruments.

MCKNIGHT

Within sensor range, Captain.

PICARD

Drop to impulse. Lieutenant Worf, maximum shields, ready all weapons.

WORF

Shields up. Photon torpedos armed, phasers standing by.

(a beat)

Captain, an energy field has appeared between our position and the planet.

PICARD

On screen.

59 ANGLE TO INCLUDE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

In front of the ship is a green, rectangular, glowing field.

PICARD

Hold position. Let's see what it does.

WORF

The field has emitted an energy-pulse, approaching the Enterprise.

Riker glances at an instrument panel.

RIKER

Too slow to be a photon torpedo.

WORF

It might be a probe.

59 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Let's see what happens when it
hits the shields.

60 OMITTED

61 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The energy-pulse, a glowing green missile, strikes
the Enterprise shields, spreads in a shower of
fluorescence, and fades.

62 INT. BRIDGE

Worf is staring at his instruments.

WORF

Shields undamaged. The
energy-pulse has dispersed.

63 INT. TROI'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

Troi is asleep in her bed. Suddenly a green glow
suffuses her room, and slowly coalesces around her
head, until it seems to disappear into her. Troi sits
up, her face blank.

64 INT. DATA'S QUARTERS

Data rises from his chair as the door opens and Troi
ENTERS.

DATA

Counselor Troi. What is it?

But when Troi speaks, it is with a very flat tone.

TROI

The plan has failed.

Data reacts with surprise.

DATA

You have returned.

TROI

Your ship is again in our space.

64 CONTINUED:

DATA

I was unable to prevent this.

TROI

Regardless, you are here.

Troi's voice is a threat.

DATA

Please. The Enterprise is not
a threat to you. Give me more
time. Our destruction would only
--

The door slides open and Geordi ENTERS the room.
Surprised to find Troi there.

GEORDI

Data, the Captain wants me to
take you to the Bridge.
(to Troi; puzzled)
Counselor...

DATA

One moment, if you would.

Geordi hesitates, unsure about what's going on, then
steps back out of the room, the door closing behind
him.

DATA

Please. Do nothing. It may yet
be possible to salvage the
situation.

Troi gives no response other than an intense stare.

65 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Data and Geordi ENTER. Geordi goes to his station
while Data approaches Picard. Picard stands. The
planet with a green energy field in front of it is on
the viewscreen.

DATA

Reporting as ordered, Captain.

PICARD

(indicating viewscreen)
As you can see, we're back to
where this all started.

65 CONTINUED:

Data glances at the screen.

DATA

We must leave immediately.

PICARD

Why?

DATA

Any further delay will put all
of our lives at grave risk.

PICARD

Why? What is the source of that
risk?

(indicating screen)

The energy field?

DATA

I cannot say.

PICARD

(temper rising)

Data, you sound like you're stuck
in a feedback loop. You have free
will. You very well can say.
You have a choice.

DATA

My silence is not by choice, Sir.

PICARD

Not by choice?

(indicating screen)

Are you somehow being controlled
by that force? Did Geordi miss
something when he examined you?

DATA

Geordi's examination was
exemplary.

PICARD

Then why are you still compelled
to disobey my orders? How --

65 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard stops in mid-sentence as an inspiration strikes.
He starts again, more calmly.

PICARD

During the missing day. Were you
contacted by Starfleet? Were you
given orders to conceal the truth
from us?

DATA

I cannot answer that question.
We must leave.

PICARD

Dammit, Data! It's the only
explanation that makes sense!
This ship is not going anywhere
until I get an answer. Now who
gave you such an order?

Troi ENTERS the Bridge. Data and her immediately make
eye-contact. There is a look between them. He turns
back to Picard.

DATA

You did, Sir.

OFF Picard's astonished reaction.

66
thru OMITTED
67

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

68 INT. BRIDGE

Picard is still stunned at Data's revelation.

PICARD

I... ordered you to lie?

WORF

(interrupting)

Captain! The energy field is approaching!

69 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The rectangular green field interposed between the Enterprise and the planet is moving steadily towards the ship.

70 INT. BRIDGE

RIKER

Maintain shields at full intens--

DATA

-- No! You must vary shield strength and shape as rapidly as possible. Maximum shields will only speed the ship's takeover.

Picard and Riker exchange glances.

WORF

Contact imminent.

PICARD

Do as Data says. Now!

WORF

(touching controls)

Aye, sir.

71 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The rectangular green glow has draped itself outside and over the invisible shields, and seems to be pulsing and changing its shape -- shrinking, then expanding, over and over, not getting any closer to the ship.

72 INT. BRIDGE

Worf looks up from his instruments.

WORF

The field is shifting amplitude...
trying to match the shield...

DATA

Captain, eventually the field will
be able to penetrate our
shields... There is no way to
counter the Paxans' technology.
We can delay their takeover --
we cannot prevent it.

Picard is taken aback.

PICARD

The Paxans. Who are they?

Data replies with a look towards Troi. Picard turns
to her, puzzled.

TROI

(futzied)

You have invaded our system.

REACTION SHOTS of the Bridge crew. Worf reaches for
his phaser; Data raises a hand towards him.

DATA

You would only harm Counselor
Troi's body.

72 CONTINUED:

PICARD
(to Troi)
We are explorers, not invaders.

Troi's eyes flash with anger.

TROI
Your knowledge of us is
unacceptable.

DATA
They are xenophobes, Sir.
Isolationists. The Paxans
terraformed a protoplanet in this
system to better conceal their
whereabouts. The apparent
wormhole we experienced during
our previous encounter is actually
a trap designed to keep away
intruders.

PICARD
Go on.

DATA
The energy field stuns everyone
on board the intruding ship
putting them in a state of
biochemical stasis.

GEORDI
That explains why our beards
didn't grow.

DATA
Then the Paxans take the ship
out of their territory.

RIKER
The crew wakes up thinking they
just went through a wormhole,
so they count their blessings and
keep going.

DATA
Precisely.

PICARD
What went wrong this time?

72 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

My positronic brain is a
technology unknown to the Paxans.

TROI

Our stun-field had no effect on
him. He remained conscious as
we attempted to take over your
ship.

DATA

When I realized that I alone was
able to act --

EFFECT TO:

73 INT. BRIDGE (FLASHBACK SEQUENCE) (OPTICAL)

The flashback begins immediately after the teaser
scene. Data sees that everyone is slumped or sprawled
on the Bridge.

DATA (V.O.)

(continuing)

-- I initiated emergency
procedures.

Data turns back to his console.

DATA

Computer, the crew is
incapacitated. Engage Emergency
Plan Zed Zed Alpha.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

Automatic defense procedures
initiated. Energy field strength
increasing. Warning, shield
penetration seventeen percent.

Puzzled, Data studies the reading on his instruments.
He comes to a quick decision.

DATA

Computer, begin random fluctuation
of shield frequency and
modulation.

COMPUTER (V.O.)

Executed.

73 CONTINUED:

Data pulls out a tricorder, steps quickly over to Riker and waves it over him.

DATA (V.O.)

With the Enterprise temporarily protected, I revived the crew.

A beat as he studies the readings, then:

DATA

Computer, release compound A-D-T-H into the air flow system; five parts per million.

COMPUTER

Acknowledged. Initiating compound release now.

Immediately, the crew begins to revive... Data helps Picard to his feet. The crew shrugs off the effects of the stun, and resume their posts.

PICARD

Status, Data?

DATA

The energy field is attempting to match shield frequencies, Sir.

PICARD

Options, Mister Worf?

WORF

I do not recommend weapons at this range.

PICARD

Can we go to warp?

DATA

Negative. The field is also acting as a tractor beam.

The lights suddenly dim, brighten, and dim again.

COMPUTER

Warning. Shields have been penetrated.

The lights return to normal.

73 CONTINUED: (2)

WORF

All systems are frozen, Captain.

A green glow suddenly suffuses the entire Bridge. Everyone reacts. Worf pulls his phaser. The green glow shrinks down, coalescing around Troi.

DATA (V.O.)

The Paxans can manipulate energy structures on many levels. They took control of Counselor Troi's body to communicate with us.

The green glow disappears, seemingly into Troi's body. Troi suddenly moves with intent towards Picard.

WORF

Captain!

Worf raises his phaser, and tries to block her way. She grabs hold of his right wrist and casually tosses him aside. Worf lands with a cry of pained surprise, clutching his now broken wrist.

Riker and Data start forward to protect Picard, but he holds out a hand to restrain them.

PICARD

No! Everyone stop!

Data and Riker halt. As does Troi.

PICARD

(to Troi, carefully)

Who are you?

TROI

You know of our existence. We have no choice but to destroy this ship.

PICARD

If you destroy this ship, others will come searching for us. You may not be able to stop them all. Knowledge of your civilization could be spread across half the galaxy.

73 CONTINUED: (3)

Troi's face seems to blanch at that prospect.

TROI

No...

PICARD

Allow us safe passage and we will protect your right to privacy to the best of our ability. We will tell no one of your existence.

TROI

There are over a thousand lifeforms on this vessel. How could you assure their silence?

Picard knows he cannot, thinks quickly.

PICARD

This biochemical stasis. Does it suppress synaptic functions?

TROI

It does.

PICARD

Then you must have the capability of affecting memory. Could you erase the short term memory of everyone on this ship? Remove all knowledge of this event? Allow us to proceed as though it never happened?

The Paxan considers this.

TROI

It would take time. One of your days.

(indicates Data)

And he is immune to our influence.

Picard moves to Data...

73 CONTINUED: (4)

PICARD

Data, I have to give you a most unusual order... I'm not quite sure how well you will be able to integrate it into your program...

DATA

As a Starfleet officer, I am required to follow all of your orders, Captain.

Picard looks to Troi to emphasize what Data just said...

PICARD

Good. Because our survival depends upon it. I am ordering you never to reveal what has happened here today. Not to Starfleet, not even to myself. You will conceal your memory of the Paxans for as long as you live. Is that understood?

DATA

Completely, Captain.

73 CONTINUED: (5)

PICARD
(to Troi)
Satisfactory?

TROI
(a beat)
Agreed.

PICARD
Excellent.
(to everyone)
Now, our task is to eliminate any
information in the ship's records
that might lead to knowledge of
this incident. Let's get to work.

EFFECT BACK TO:

74
thru OMITTED
75

76 INT. BRIDGE (REAL TIME)

Data is telling his story.

DATA
We proceeded to erase all evidence
of our encounter with the Paxans.
I reset the computer's chronometer-and
the crew was again stunned
into unconsciousness and their
short term memories erased. When
they were revived a day later,
the computer adjustments made it
appear that only thirty seconds
had passed.

RIKER
And here we are.

PICARD
(re: Troi)
Here we are again.

76 CONTINUED:

TROI

Your plan failed. This ship must
be destroyed.

PICARD

Wait. Please.

76 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

The plan failed because clues were left behind that suggested a mystery. And to many humans, a mystery must be solved. Doctor Crusher's incubation experiment, Worf's wrist, Troi's hallucinations... little pieces of evidence that led us to even more clues about the clock, the transporter trace, Data's odd behavior... Don't you see... without clues, there would be no mystery! If we were to simply eliminate all the clues and begin again...

TROI

Again?

PICARD

Exactly. Consider the first time a run-through, a rehearsal... to shake out all the flaws. The second time will succeed -- if we leave no clues.

76 CONTINUED: (3)

TROI

(beat)

You are a most unusual species.
Worthy of a second chance.
Proceed.

Troi suddenly shudders and collapses.

RIKER

Deanna?

Riker goes to her side. She nods -- she's okay.

PICARD

Welcome back.

Riker lends support to Troi as Picard directs the rest of the crew.

PICARD

(continuing)

Data, Geordi -- reconfigure the
computer and all records. Number
One, you're to oversee the rest
of the ship.

(to all)

Let's get it right this time.

76A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

at impulse.

77 INT. BRIDGE (ONE DAY LATER)

CLOSE SHOT of Picard, unconscious, beginning to come around... Data goes to assist him as before.

PICARD

Data, what happened... ?

DATA

The effect from the wormhole was rather intense.

PICARD

I should say so...

DATA

Everyone but myself was rendered unconscious. My positronic brain is immune to the effect.

Picard rises as the rest of the Bridge begins to awaken.

PICARD

How long were we out?

DATA

Thirty seconds, Sir.

RIKER

Current position?

MCKNIGHT

Point five-four parsecs from our previous position; bearing two-eight-five mark one-four-seven.

Everyone settles in.

PICARD

It could be worse.

77 CONTINUED:

DATA

Yes, Captain. The wormhole appears to have been a local phenomenon.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

Crusher to Bridge. What happened?

INTERCUT:

77A INT. SICKBAY

PICARD

The ship just went through a wormhole. The entire crew was unconscious for approximately thirty seconds.

BEVERLY

Anyone hurt on the Bridge?

PICARD

(glancing around)
Apparently not.

BEVERLY

Acknowledged. Crusher out.

77B INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

PICARD

Status reports?

RIKER

(checking console)
No damage to Engineering.

WORF

Shields and weapons systems unaffected.

Picard glances at Troi.

PICARD

Counselor?

77B CONTINUED:

TROI

There's a general feeling of disorientation on board. Nothing serious as far as I can tell.

Picard glances around the Bridge one last time to assure himself that all is in order.

PICARD

Well, then. We still have that anomalous M-Class planet to investigate.

(to McKnight)

Ensign, replot a course back to...

DATA

Sir, it is likely that the anomalous readings were caused by the wormhole's effect. It was extremely unstable. I would recommend against returning. It might put the Enterprise at further risk.

RIKER

We could sent a probe...

DATA

(a little too quick)

That would certainly be sufficient, Commander.

Picard stares at Data for a very long moment... Did Data show his hand? Will Picard order them back again? Data's face is like granite. Finally...

PICARD

Make it so. And put out a hazard advisory to Starfleet.

DATA

Aye, sir.

PICARD

Set a course to Evadne Four, Ensign.

MCKNIGHT

Course laid in, sir.

PICARD

Engage.

OFF Data's face --

78 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise at impulse speed.

79

thru OMITTED

80

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END