

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Neutral Zone"  
#40271-126

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2ND REV. FINAL DRAFT

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STAR TREK: "The Neutral Zone" - REV. 3/18/88 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Neutral Zone"

CAST

PICARD	THREE HUMANS
RIKER	CLARE RAYMOND
BEVERLY	RALPH OFFENHOUSE
DATA	SONNY CLEMONDS
TROI	
WORF	ROMULANS
GEORDI	COMMANDER TEBOK
WESLEY	(pronounced TAY-bok)
	SUB-COMMANDER THEI
	(pronounced TIE)
Non-Speaking	
SECURITY GUARD	
NURSE WRIGHT	
Voice-Over	
COMPUTER	

STAR TREK: "The Neutral Zone" - REV. 3/18/88 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Neutral Zone"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE

CONFERENCE ROOM

SICKBAY

GUEST LOUNGE

CLARE'S QUARTERS

SONNY'S QUARTERS

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

CORRIDOR

OBSERVATION LOUNGE

DERELICT

CONTROL AREA

SECOND ROOM

ROMULAN CRUISER

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

DERELICT (MODULE)

ROMULAN CRUISER

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"The Neutral Zone"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 OMITTED

2 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The great ship is motionless as it awaits the return of its captain. A short distance off, and APPEARING very small, is another vehicle - also drifting.

RIKER (V.O.)

First officer's log, stardate 41986.0.  
The captain has left the ship for a conference and we are awaiting his return. It is unusual for us to be motionless, and a unique experience for everyone concerned.

3 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

GEORDI is at Conn - WORF at Tactical - DATA at Science One, RIKER is in the Command position. Troi is off the bridge in her office. Everyone is looking at the viewscreen.

DATA

This is quite intriguing. It is transmitting a carrier signal on a frequency which has not been used for centuries.

RIKER

Is there a message?

DATA

None. Just the carrier, possibly intended for encoded computer or telemetry information.

WORF

I have never seen a space vehicle like it.

3 CONTINUED:

DATA

Strictly speaking, it is not a "space vehicle." It appears to be a satellite, similar in its rudimentary design to those which orbited Earth in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

RIKER

Three hundred years ago.  
(mostly as a joke)  
Then there probably aren't any life signs?

DATA

None.

Data continues studying the readout.

DATA

(continuing)

The power is solar... quite primitive. There is however minimum life support.

GEORDI

I wonder how it got out here. If it was in orbit around Earth, even at maximum impulse -- and there's no way it could travel any faster, it would have taken a dozen centuries to get here.

WORF

At its present speed and heading, the vehicle will eventually enter the Kazis Binary system and will certainly be destroyed.

Worf turns to face Riker.

WORF

(continuing)

Sir, I could attach a tractor beam and adjust its heading.

RIKER

I think not, Mister Worf. It's just a piece of space debris. If we weren't sitting here waiting for the captain, we wouldn't have even noticed it. Leave it be. Let nature take its course. How long until Captain Picard returns?

3 CONTINUED: (2)

WORF

The last communication indicated  
it would be several hours.

DATA

Commander, request permission to  
investigate this vehicle.

RIKER

Why, Data? It's just a derelict.

DATA

It is a piece of history. The  
opportunity to examine such an  
ancient vehicle does not come  
around very often, and as you  
pointed out, we do have the time.

RIKER

All right, Data. But be ready  
to beam back before the captain  
returns.

DATA

Thank you, sir.

RIKER

Lieutenant Worf -- go with him.

WORF

Aye, sir.

The two EXIT the bridge.

4  
thru OMITTED  
6

A7 EXT. SPACE - A MODULE (OPTICAL)

drifts.

7 INT. DERELICT - SMALL CONTROL AREA (OPTICAL)

as they BEAM IN. They are in a small control area.  
The equipment we see is late twentieth century in  
design. Worf is tense -- ready for the unexpected.  
Data scans the area with his tricorder.

7 CONTINUED:

DATA

Minimal oxygen atmosphere.  
(indicates)  
An ancient solar generator,  
still operating.

WORF

Computer -- status report.

Nothing happens.

WORF

(continuing)  
Computer...

Data interrupts.

DATA

In the late twentieth century,  
computers were not voice activated,  
Worf.

Data examines the keyboard.

DATA

(continuing)  
Notice the readouts -- dials,  
needle machines, gauges.  
Remarkable what they used three  
centuries ago. The on-board  
computers have ceased functioning.  
I may be able to download this old  
style disk drive back to the  
Enterprise.

8 Worf

APPROACHES the door, clearly expecting it to slide open.  
He waves a hand in front of it.

WORF

It must be sealed -- probably  
with age. I will blast it open.

DATA

Not necessary.

He reaches down and turns a handle, physically slides  
the door OPEN.

9 INT. DERELICT - THE SECOND ROOM

They move forward.

10 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT AS NEEDED)

Riker is sitting at the Command Chair.

RIKER

Data, this is Riker. What  
have you found?

DATA

Very little so far.

GEORDI

I have picked up the captain's  
shuttle.

RIKER

E.T.A.?

GEORDI

Twelve minutes, sir.

RIKER

Alert Main Shuttle Bay.

GEORDI

Aye, sir.

11 INT. DERELICT - THE SECOND ROOM

As Worf and Data ENTER the other compartment they see a series of crypts, lining both sides of the room. Each glass-covered and coffin-like in design, with a computerized panel above it. The panel both monitors and controls the crypt.

12 CRYPT

As Data clears away the frost TO REVEAL a shriveled human form. It's all BLACKENED AND HIDEOUS. Data REACTS.

DATA

The seal was broken and the  
environment has been corrupted.

Data moves to the next crypt. Beside him, Worf wipes the frost from a third crypt. He has found another shriveled form.

WORF

Here's another.

12 CONTINUED:

Data wipes away the frost from the crypt by him.

DATA

This one is empty.

He easily lifts the cover.

DATA

(continuing)

It has been forced open and the  
occupant removed.

In the b.g. Worf is wiping the frost from another  
crypt.

WORF

Commander. Look at this.

Data steps over.

12A ANOTHER ANGLE

Through the hole which Worf has wiped in the frost,  
WE CAN SEE a human -- a WOMAN. About thirty-five,  
attractive and unconscious.

OFF Worf and Data's REACTIONS, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

12B INT. DERELICT - THE SECOND ROOM

Worf and Data are still beside the frozen woman.

WORF

Has she been frozen for an  
extended journey?

DATA

If that were the purpose, there  
would be evidence of a more  
sophisticated monitoring system.  
This container is designed solely  
for refrigeration.

WORF

What is the destination?

DATA

I do not believe they were going  
anywhere. This vehicle should  
still be in Earth orbit.

WORF

There is no way it could break  
orbit and travel this distance  
on its own power. Not in three  
hundred years -- not in three  
thousand. Some intelligent lifeform  
must have brought it to  
this section of the galaxy.

DATA

(indicating the crypts  
with the shriveled  
forms)

These crypts were opened.

(indicating the empty  
crypts)

The occupants in those were taken.

WORF

Why take some of them, destroy  
others, and leave her apparently  
untouched?

DATA

Perhaps they learned all they  
could from the others. We may  
never know.

12B CONTINUED:

Data moves down the line of crypts, wipes another To REVEAL the perfectly preserved face of a forty-seven-year-old MALE.

OFF Data's REACTION:

13 OMITTED

14 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

Data and Worf have for the moment been forgotten.

GEORDI

The captain's shuttle is approaching Main Shuttle Bay.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Enterprise, this is the captain. Number One, I want to get underway as soon as the shuttle is secure.

RIKER

Aye, sir. We will make all preparations.

(to the Away Team)

Commander Data, return to the Enterprise -- immediately.

DATA'S COM VOICE

We have run into an unusual situation here. There are people on-board. Frozen.

RIKER

Frozen. How many?

15 INT. DERELICT - THE SECOND ROOM (INTERCUT AS NEEDED)

Data and Worf in the middle of the room.

DATA

Three. What should I do? The vehicle has suffered severe damage. Most of the systems have failed.

RIKER

Are you recommending they be transferred to the Enterprise?

15 CONTINUED:

DATA

I do not think we should leave them here. With your permission, sir, we will be returning with three containers.

RIKER

Whatever you do, do it quickly.

16 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

traveling at impulse speed.

17 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Captain Picard STRIDES ONTO the bridge.

PICARD

Number One, I want a meeting on the Observation Deck. Mister La Forge, set course zero-five-eight, mark nine-seven-three.

GEORDI

Aye -- laying in the course now.

(pause)

Captain, those coordinates will take us to the Neutral Zone.

REACTIONS from the others to the destination.

PICARD

That's correct Mister La Forge, warp factor eight.

GEORDI

Warp eight.

PICARD

Engage. Mister La Forge, you have the bridge.

He leads them OFF the bridge.

18 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it accelerates to warp speed.

19 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

The regulars are at their positions, except Beverly.

PICARD

Two Federation outposts in Sector three-zero have been destroyed. There has been no communication with any Federation starbases in Sector three-one since stardate 41903.2.

WORF

Romulans.

PICARD

That is the assumption.

RIKER

There's been no direct contact with the Romulans since the Tomed Incident.

PICARD

The question is: Why here? Why now? What's their objective, if indeed they have one? For half a century there's barely a whisper about them and now for no apparent reason they seem to be back with a roar. Why?

RIKER

Almost everything we know about them is based on rumor and conjecture.

PICARD

The strategic decision is to send one ship.

RIKER

The Enterprise.

PICARD

Yes.

WORF

There is a risk. We could get out there and find ourselves greatly over-matched.

PICARD

True enough -- it is a gamble.

19 CONTINUED:

RIKER

This first encounter... coming so suddenly after all this time. There's a very good chance it's a setup.

DATA

Perhaps the Romulans are probing. They want to see how we react.

WORF

Captain, we should expect hostilities.

PICARD

Prepare as always. If force is needed we will use it, but that will mean we have failed. Our goal here is to establish some kind of relations with the Romulans -- failing that -- to convince them of our resolve and to do this without resorting to force. Right now, the general feeling is that they are seeking a confrontation. They may want to test themselves in battle against a Federation starship to gauge how much we have advanced. Personally, I think it is possible they have different motives altogether based on needs which we have not identified. If that's the case... I must know it.

(to Troi)

Counselor -- I will need a complete profile on them.

TROI

There is limited information, but I will prepare something.

PICARD

Data. Extrapolate for me the logical progression of their technical advancement; specifically, but not restricted to -- weapons.

DATA

Aye, sir.

19 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

(to everybody)

I want this thought through completely. Anticipate, as much as you can, all the possible permutations.

He looks around the room.

PICARD

(continuing)

Computer, how long before we arrive at the Neutral Zone?

COMPUTER VOICE

Nineteen hours, twenty-eight minutes.

PICARD

We will reassemble in six hours. Let's be smart. No surprises. I would much rather outthink them, than outfight them. Questions?

There are none. The meeting breaks up.

20 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

As Picard, Riker and the others COME ON to the bridge. Geordi is in the Command seat.

GEORDI

(as he gets up)

Captain.

(then:)

Doctor Crusher said she would like to talk with you, when you finished your meeting.

PICARD

Thank you.

(on Com)

Doctor Crusher, this is the captain.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

Oh, good. Captain, could you possibly join me in Sickbay?

Picard hesitates.

20 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

(continuing)

I would not ask you if it wasn't important.

PICARD

I will be right there.

(to Riker)

Take the Conn, Number One. I won't be long.

Picard EXITS THE SHOT as Riker takes his position.

21 INT. SICKBAY

Picard ENTERS.

PICARD

What is it, Doctor?

BEVERLY

It's the people from the capsule.

PICARD

Capsule? People? What people?

BEVERLY

The people Data beamed over.

PICARD

I wasn't aware he had.

On the medical tables behind her are THREE HUMANS covered with sheets.

BEVERLY

Well, he did and they were frozen. I thawed them.

PICARD

You what?

BEVERLY

I didn't know what else to do. The crypts in which they had been frozen were literally falling apart. It was either that... or...

PICARD

What's their condition?

21 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Right now they are all sleeping. Each of them needed minor medical attention... minor "now", but "then" their conditions were obviously terminal. One had a heart problem, another had an advanced case of emphysema and extensive liver damage. But the most surprising thing, is that each of them had been frozen after they died.

PICARD

After they died?

BEVERLY

Exactly. Cryonics. It was a kind of fad in the late twentieth century. People feared dying. It terrified them. At the moment of death, they would be frozen, so that later... some time in the future, when presumably medical science had a cure for whatever killed them, they would be thawed back to life, healed and sent on about their business.

PICARD

Well, for this group, apparently it worked.

Picard STEPS OVER to the com panel.

PICARD

(continuing)

Lieutenant Commander Data, please report to Sickbay -- immediately.

22 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Data is a Science Station Two. He looks up.

DATA

Permission to leave the bridge.

RIKER

Granted.

Data walks toward the turbolift.

23 INT. SICKBAY

ON Picard.

PICARD

I am never critical of any member of my staff being curious, but... the timing is just so...

DATA

I could not leave them there, Captain. The condition of the vehicle was deteriorating.

PICARD

But, Data -- they were already dead. I mean... what more could have happened to them?

DATA

I see your point, Captain, but at the time...

Picard nods.

PICARD

You're right -- under the circumstances I would have done exactly the same.

Picard turns to Beverly.

BEVERLY

When they arrived... what was I supposed to do? Not help them?

Again Picard has no answer.

BEVERLY

(continuing)

My question is: What do we do with them now?

PICARD

What are the options?

DATA

We cannot go back and return them to their ship.

BEVERLY

We can't refreeze them.

23 CONTINUED:

PICARD

They are alive now, so we have to treat them as living human beings.

BEVERLY

Alive and well, just waiting to be awakened.

Picard is perplexed.

BEVERLY

(continuing)

I have them sedated but they should be up and about as soon as possible.

Picard takes a deep breath.

PICARD

Well...

He looks around for a moment.

PICARD

(continuing)

Then, there really is no choice.

BEVERLY

None that I can see.

PICARD

Before you wake them, I want Security here.

(touching com)

Mister Worf, report to Sickbay.

24 BEVERLY

She goes to the first one in the line and touches the hypospray to her neck.

25 WOMAN

Slowly she wakes up. Looks around. At Sickbay. At the equipment, then at Beverly and Picard. She swallows. Worf ENTERS Sickbay. The woman takes one look at them and her head falls back on the table. Out "cold" again.

PICARD

... Welcome to the twenty-fourth century.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

26 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moving at warp speed.

27 INT. SICKBAY

It is as we left it. Picard, Data and Worf watch as Beverly wakes them all up, we get to "meet" each of the guests. They are still covered only in sheets.

DATA

I was able to retrieve some information from the ancient disk I removed from the module's computer. Based on that...

28 NUMBER ONE

She re-awakens the woman.

DATA

Her name is Clare Raymond, age thirty-five; occupation, homemaker... must be some kind of construction work.

BEVERLY

She died of an embolism. It probably happened very suddenly, otherwise her physical condition was excellent.

CLARE RAYMOND is handsome, not pretty. A solid, no-nonsense person. This time she stays awake, as she takes in the room, everything and everyone in it. They move to:

29 NUMBER TWO

As the nurse (Nurse Wright) awakens him:

DATA

His name is Ralph Offenhouse, age sixty-three; occupation, financier.

29 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Advanced cardiomyopathy,  
inoperable at the time, but easily  
correctable now. He must have  
known for some time his condition  
was terminal.

RALPH OFFENHOUSE was a power broker on both coasts  
who came up hard -- is used to being absolutely in  
charge. He too, is disoriented -- confused -- unsure.  
They MOVE to the last:

30 NUMBER THREE

DATA

Much of his file could not be  
retrieved. His name is L. Q.  
"Sonny" Clemonds. Apparently his  
occupation had something to do  
with music.

BEVERLY

There was marked deterioration  
of every system in his body.  
Probably due to massive chemical  
abuse. Unbelievable.

L. Q. "SONNY" CLEMONDS has a lot of miles on his  
forty-seven years. He's passed his time with booze  
and drugs, and covered up the wear and tear with  
cosmetic surgery. His attention span is about  
twenty-eight seconds.

PICARD

That sounds like someone who hated  
life -- yet he had himself frozen  
so presumably he could go through  
it all again.

BEVERLY

Fear. Too afraid to live... too  
scared to die.

PICARD

Doctor, this seems to be a  
situation more suited to your  
talents. I will leave it in your  
hands.

With a nod to Data to join him:

PICARD

(continuing)

I'll be on the bridge.

30 CONTINUED:

He is satisfied that they do not represent a clear and present danger to the Enterprise.

Picard and Data EXIT.

A31 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE

a flyby.

31 INT. SICKBAY

The three humans are finishing dressing.

BEVERLY

I know you have a lot of questions, but I would like you to wait. You are feeling a certain amount of disorientation. In a little while it should pass; then we can fully discuss what has happened. Nurse Wright will furnish you with anything you need.

RALPH

Not so fast. Is this part of the service or is it extra?

BEVERLY

I think it would be best if...

RALPH

I demand to know the cost of anything you do before the procedure is approved.

BEVERLY

I have no idea what you're talking about.

(then, mostly for the others)

Just take it slowly. Everything is fine. Worf, would you show them to the guest quarters.

WORF

This way.

32 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and Data ENTER and CROSS to the Command Position.

32 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(to Riker)

Number One, kindly take charge of our guests until we have time to decide what we are going to do with them.

RIKER

Aye, sir.

PICARD

... and keep them out of my way.

Riker rises to leave.

DATA

(requesting to join Riker)

Sir?

Picard nods as Data EXITS with Riker.

33 INT. GUEST LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

They are all sitting -- unsure of themselves.

RIKER

I know this is all very confusing to you so I'll attempt to explain. First -- you are on the starship -- USS Enterprise.

RALPH

American?

RIKER

No -- we are a vessel of the United Federation of Planets. Earth is a member.

RALPH

What year is this?

DATA

By your calendar... two thousand three hundred sixty-four.

33 CONTINUED:

RALPH

(very excited)

What?

(then, holding back)

My heart? Is it...

BEVERLY

It's perfectly fine. In fact,  
you are all now in excellent  
health.

RALPH

I made it... It worked. I never  
believed this was...

SONNY

(pointing to Data)

What's that?

RIKER

An android.

SONNY

You mean a robot?

DATA

Actually there is a distinct  
difference between a robot and  
an android.

CLARE

And him? The one I saw before  
with the... head.

Riker is confused.

BEVERLY

She means Worf.

RIKER

Oh, he's a Klingon, and that  
requires a little more  
explanation.

SONNY

Guys... listen. I paid some idiot  
a lot of money to freeze me when  
I died. I need to hear the  
words... Am I alive?

RIKER

Oh, yes... absolutely.

33 CONTINUED: (2)

SONNY

And the liver that was about to  
explode in my face.

BEVERLY

Perfectly sound.

SONNY

Great...

CLARE

(who has remained  
confused through it  
all)

Excuse me. Would someone tell  
me what's going on?

BEVERLY

Well... About three hundred and  
seventy years ago you died of a  
massive embolism.

CLARE

I don't remember anything about  
it.

BEVERLY

You and the others were frozen.

SONNY

Cryonics -- you know... freeze you  
now... heal you later.

CLARE

I've heard about it; I just never  
paid it much mind. How did we  
get here?

DATA

Why were you in a module?

SONNY

The whacko who sold me this scam  
said that by putting us in orbit  
there would be no chance of brown  
out.

33 CONTINUED: (3)

RALPH

Several cryonics companies had fallen into disrepute because of power failures which adversely affected their refrigeration system. Their stocks were severely depressed.

SONNY

The whole deal was a long shot... but I figured... what the hell, might as well give them the dough instead of leaving it to my ex-wives.

(to Data)

But you know, son, I figured it was just so much hooley.

DATA

Hooley? Accessing.

(pause)

Ah, as in malarkey... jive... bull... hogwash... an intentional fabrication.

SONNY

There you go, now you got it.

RIKER

(to Clare)

If you didn't contract for this, who did?

CLARE

It must have been Donald -- my husband. If it was new and foolish, he'd have popped for it. Well, I'll say this. It's the first thing he ever bought into that worked.

RALPH

I, for one, never had a doubt. My stock in this company must have split a dozen times by now.

DATA

Actually the process of cryonics was never more than a fad, and did not continue much beyond the mid-twenty-first century.

33 CONTINUED: (4)

RALPH

I need to make a phone call as soon as possible.

RIKER

A phone call?

RALPH

I have provided for myself. I have a substantial portfolio. It's critical I check on it. Let the bank know that I am alive and well.

RIKER

That's ah... going to be a little difficult right at the moment.

RALPH

Do you at least have a copy of The Wall Street Journal?

RIKER

I think we should take the doctor's advice and go slowly. Get adjusted to your new... ah... whatever, and then we'll talk to the captain.

33A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Troi takes her seat beside Picard.

TROI

As you know, there is very little available on the Romulans

PICARD

Anything will help.

33A CONTINUED:

TROI

They seem to be creatures of extremes. One moment violent beyond description, the next -- tender. They're related to the Vulcans but as each developed, their differences grew wider. They are intensely curious. Their belief in their own superiority is beyond arrogance. For some reason they have exhibited a fascination with humans and that fascination, more than anything else, has kept the peace. One other thing, they will not initiate. They will wait for you to commit yourself.

PICARD

(to himself)

Counterpunches...

(to Troi)

Thank you, Counselor. This is quite helpful.

OFF Picard's pensiveness:

33B INT. GUEST LOUNGE

Sonny, feeling more at ease by the moment, rises, stretches muscles unused for centuries.

SONNY

I don't know about you all... but me -- I'm going to find the bar. After all of this -- I need me a drink.

RIKER

There is nothing of that nature on board the Enterprise.

SONNY

No bars?! Don't tell me that, son. Well, where's the restaurant? I'm so hungry.

RIKER

We have food stations.

(he indicates the computer)

Simply tell the computer what you want and it will be provided.

33B CONTINUED:

SONNY

Where do you eat it?

RIKER

Why... here... or anywhere. We're not that structured.

Sonny walks over to the computer.

SONNY

Now what?

DATA

Talk.

SONNY

I'd like me a thick Kansas City steak - country fried potatoes -- a mess of greens -- and... Oh, hell... forget all of that. Let me have a martini - -straight up... two olives.

(he winks at Data)

... for the vitamins.

The drink is provided. He takes a sip and rears back surprised.

DATA

Is there something wrong?

SONNY

Wrong? Only that your computer here fixed just about the best martini I have ever had.

(with a nod to Data)

I just might get to like this place. Let's see if the Braves are on. How do you turn on this here teevee?

33B CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

Teevee?

SONNY

Yeah, boob-tube... you know. I'd like to find out how the Braves are doin' after all this time. Probably still finding ways to lose.

DATA

(to Riker)

Oh -- I think he means television, sir.

SONNY

Or maybe catch up on the soaps.

DATA

(to Sonny)

That particular form of entertainment did not last much beyond the year Two Thousand Forty.

SONNY

So, what do you guys do? I mean, you don't drink -- no teevee -- kind of boring, isn't it?

Data is at a loss of words

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Number One.

Riker steps over to the com panel.

RIKER

Riker here.

PICARD

Would you and Mister Data report to the bridge?

RIKER

On the way.

RALPH

With whom were you speaking?

RIKER

The captain.

RALPH

Ah... good. Tell him I would like to see him as soon as it's convenient.

33B CONTINUED: (3)

CLARE

What is going to happen to us?  
Do we stay here with you? Do we  
go back to Earth?

Riker does not have an immediate answer.

RIKER

That will be up to the captain.

RALPH

Well, get him in here. I have  
to phone Geneva right away about  
my accounts. The interest alone  
could be enough to buy even this  
ship.

SONNY

The Yankee's right. Let's get  
the big boy in here.

RIKER

(smiles)

I'll pass on your request. Now,  
if you'll excuse us.

SONNY

Duty calls -- hey, I understand...  
(then, to Data)  
... come back later -- you and me  
can find us a couple of  
low-mileage pit woffies, and help  
them build a memory.

Riker and Data EXIT.

34 INT. CORRIDOR

as they walk away.

DATA

What is to be done with them?

RIKER

I don't know.

DATA

Commander. What is a  
"low-mileage-pit-woffie"?

RIKER

This time you have me, Data. I  
haven't a clue.

34 CONTINUED:

DATA

These are not like any other  
humans I have ever encountered.  
I find them fascinating.

RIKER

From what I have already seen  
of our "guests", there is very  
little to redeem them. In fact,  
it makes me wonder, how our  
species ever survived the  
twenty-first century.

OFF Data's REACTION:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

35 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

The staff meeting is reassembled.

PICARD

Report.

WORF

We are six hours from the Neutral Zone. I have been unable to establish communications with any Federation colony or station in this vicinity.

PICARD

How many outposts are there in this sector?

WORF

Nine.

RIKER

I think we should go on the presumption that they've all been destroyed.

GEORDI

By the Romulans?

RIKER

It fits their historical pattern.

Picard is very thoughtful.

DATA

Since there has been no contact with the Romulans for fifty-three years, seven months, eighteen days, we must consider that the information we do have, is out of date.

35 CONTINUED:

RIKER

The positive side of that is their information about us is also out of date. Captain, I believe that lack of information is what this is all about.

PICARD

Continue, Number One.

RIKER

In my opinion, the Romulans want a confrontation... specifically against us.

PICARD

The Enterprise?

RIKER

Not by name; but yes, against us. They know the Federation will send their best -- this will be a perfect chance for them to learn firsthand, how much we have advanced in both technology, and technique.

PICARD

And your recommendation.

RIKER

I don't know if I have a specific recommendation. Perhaps we should consider taking the initiative.

WORF

I agree with Commander Riker. We may only have one opportunity; we should seize it.

PICARD

Data.

DATA

That strategy is built on a single premise. The hostile intent of the Romulans. If the premise is sound, so is the proposal.

GEORDI

If their intention isn't hostile, what is it?

RALPH'S COM VOICE

Captain Picard?

35 CONTINUED: (2)

Surprised at the interruption.

PICARD

This is the captain, to whom am  
I speaking?

RALPH'S COM VOICE

Ralph Offenhouse. Captain, I need  
to talk to you.

PICARD

What's going on here, Number One?  
Did you give him permission to  
contact me?

RIKER

No, sir. He must have seen me  
use the com panel.

Picard nods his understanding.

PICARD

Listen, Mister Offenhouse. We  
are in a very important conference  
right now and...

RALPH'S COM VOICE

I am sick and tired of being put  
off by you and your staff. This  
is the worst run ship I have ever  
been on. You could take some  
lessons from the Q-E Two. Now  
that's an efficient operation.

Picard mutes the intercom.

PICARD

Data -- identify -- what's the  
Q-E-Two?

DATA

It was a passenger liner which  
mostly traveled Earth's Atlantic  
Ocean during the late twentieth  
and early twenty-first centuries.

PICARD

He's comparing the Enterprise to  
a cruise ship.

RALPH'S COM VOICE

I demand you see me.

Picard is nonplussed.

36 INT. GUEST LOUNGE

Ralph by the com panel, still going on. The other two, Clare and Sonny are off to one side, watching. Sonny is slightly amused -- Clare still appears to be disoriented.

RALPH

... I think I have been very, very patient, especially under the circumstances and considering what I paid for this procedure, but frankly enough is enough. I demand a phone, or a radio whatever you have. I must contact my...

The doors OPEN and Picard STRIDES IN.

RALPH

(continuing; off balance for a beat)

...lawyers.

PICARD

I am Captain Picard.

Ralph composes himself quickly.

RALPH

Excellent.

He steps forward with his hand out.

RALPH

(continuing)

Now, we'll be able to get some things straight.

PICARD

Indeed we will. Those com panels are for official ship business.

RALPH

If they are so important, why don't they need an "executive key"?

PICARD

Aboard a starship, that is not necessary. We are all capable of exercising self-control. You will refrain from using them.

36 CONTINUED:

RALPH

Now just a minute.

PICARD

We are involved in a very serious and potentially dangerous situation.

RALPH

I'm sure that whatever it is seems very important to you. My situation is far more critical.

PICARD

I do not think you are fully aware of your situation, or the time which has passed.

RALPH

Believe me, I'm fully cognizant of where I am, and when. It is simply that I have more to protect than a man in your position could possibly imagine. No offense, but a military career has never been considered upwardly mobile. I must contact my lawyer.

PICARD

Your lawyer has been dead for centuries.

RALPH

Yes, of course I know that, but he was a full partner with a very important firm. Rest assured the firm is still operating.

PICARD

That's what this is all about... A lot has changed in three hundred years. People are no longer obsessed with the accumulation of "things". We have eliminated hunger, want, the need for possessions. We have grown out of our infancy.

RALPH

You've got it wrong. It's never been about "possessions" - it's about power.

36 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD  
Power to do what?

RALPH  
To control your life, your  
destiny.

PICARD  
That kind of control is an  
illusion.

RALPH  
Really -- I'm here aren't I? I  
should be dead and I'm not.  
That's what money did for me.  
That's the kind of power I'm  
talking about.

Off to the side, Clare begins softly weeping.

PICARD  
(turning to her)  
What is it?

CLARE  
I don't know. It just started  
and I can't stop. I keep  
thinking about my boys.

He steps over to the com panel.

PICARD  
Counselor Troi, report to the  
guest lounge.

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
Captain, we are approaching  
Science Station Delta Zero-Five.

PICARD  
Slow to impulse... I'm on my way.

Picard moves toward the exit.

SONNY  
Say, Captain -- I need to see that  
pretty Doctor of yours.

PICARD  
I will inform her.

36 CONTINUED: (3)

Ralph puts his hand on Picard's arm. (His way to control the situation.)

RALPH

Captain. I didn't mean to come on so strong. I've built my life on knowing what's going on. For the first time -- I'm completely out of touch -- it makes me crazy. Can you understand?

PICARD

It's the first thing you've said that I do understand. I'll see what I can do. But please... stay off the com panel.

Ralph nods as Picard EXITS.

37 INT. CORRIDOR

as Picard and Troi meet.

PICARD

Counselor, get those people under control. We cannot afford this continuing distraction.

TROI

Yes, sir.

38 INT. CLARE'S QUARTERS

Troi ENTERS.

TROI

Hello -- my name is Deanna.

CLARE

They sent you here to settle me down.

TROI

I'm the ship's counselor and I thought you might want to talk.

CLARE

The local shrink.

38 CONTINUED:

TROI

I'm sorry, I do not know that term.

CLARE

It doesn't matter.

TROI

You are feeling profoundly sad.

CLARE

Can't stop crying. I miss my sons, and then I think... I'm here, but they are gone. Donald -- he's my husband. I love that man but, good intentions aside, he'd mess up a free lunch. Why in the world he ever decided to do this...

TROI

He must have thought you would have wanted it.

CLARE

I can tell you exactly what happened. He couldn't think about going on alone. I died, but he couldn't face it. So he figured if he had me frozen, then in his mind I wasn't really gone. Crazy, huh? But you have to know Donald.

She pauses a minute -- turns away and fights back the tears that will not stop.

CLARE

(continuing)

I'm in a world of strangers. I wish I knew what happened to my children. Did they get married, did they have kids...

TROI

Let's see if we can find out.

Troi goes to a computer screen.

38 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

(continuing)

Computer - this is Counselor Troi.  
Request personal history on...  
What are their names?

CLARE

Tommy -- he's eight, and Eddie's  
five.

COMPUTER VOICE

Full names -- Date and place of  
birth.

CLARE

They were born in Secaucus -  
that's in Jersey.

(to Troi)

Can this really work? Can this  
tell me what happened to them?

TROI

There has to be a record  
somewhere. There is a good chance  
we can find it.

CLARE

Whether we do or not, thank you  
for... trying.

(then, to computer)

Date of birth. Tommy was born  
February seventeenth...

39 INT. SICKBAY

Beverly is there with Sonny.

SONNY

I just got to have a little  
something to jump start the  
morning -- and a little something  
else to shut down the night.

BEVERLY

You have no medical need.

SONNY

It's not a question of "need,"  
darlin'. It's a matter of  
survival.

39 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Sorry.

SONNY

Not to worry -- ol' Watosh will  
scuffle along the best way he can.

He turns to leave, then:

SONNY

(continuing)

How do I get a hold of the ol'  
boy with the marine face?

BEVERLY

I beg your pardon?

SONNY

What's his name... that android  
fella.

BEVERLY

Lieutenant Commander Data?

SONNY

That's the one.

BEVERLY

I'll let him know you want to see  
him.

He gets up to leave.

SONNY

Much obliged. You sure are the  
prettiest little doctor I ever  
saw.

And he walks toward the door.

BEVERLY

Much obliged.

40 INT. CLARE'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

Troi and Clare.

CLARE

Amazing. It's all right there.

40 CONTINUED:

TROI

Yes, ten generations of your  
progeny.

CLARE

Everyone I ever knew is dead.  
Would you mind... I'd like to be  
alone.

40 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

No, not at all.

WE HOLD on Clare as Troi moves toward the exit.

40A INT. SONNY'S QUARTERS

Sonny looks up as Data ENTERS.

DATA

You asked to see me.

SONNY

I'm about to go out of my mind  
for something to do. Sittin'  
alone drinkin' don't get it. What  
say you and me put together a  
little party.

DATA

A celebration?

SONNY

Naw... nothin' that fancy -- just  
some folks, some suds, and some  
sounds. Hell it ain't nothin'  
but somethin' to do. Whatdeya  
think?

DATA

I will ask the captain.

SONNY

Great -- you do that...

DATA

Query. You do not seem to be  
having as much difficulty  
adjusting to your current  
circumstances as are the others.

SONNY

You mean being here -- on this tub  
-- four hundred years from where  
I started? Heck -- it's the same  
dance, just a different tune.  
You think anyone 'round here's  
got a guitar I could borrow?

40A CONTINUED:

DATA

No, but the computer can replicate  
such an instrument.

SONNY

I was kind of hopin' to get one  
while I still remember the chords.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Commander Data -- we are  
approaching the Neutral Zone.  
Report to the bridge.

DATA

I must leave.

Data walks toward the door.

SONNY

What's this "Neutral Zone?"

DATA

A buffer between the Romulan  
Empire and the Federation.

SONNY

Why does that make me nervous?

DATA

I do not know.

SONNY

We won't be inviting these  
Romulans to our party, will we?

DATA

No, it would not be appropriate.

OFF Sonny's REACTION:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

travelling at impulse speed.

PICARD

Captain's log, supplemental. We have arrived at the edge of the Neutral Zone. We will now have an opportunity to learn firsthand what happened to our distant outposts.

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Data is at Science One.

DATA

There is nothing left of Outpost Delta Zero-Five.

GEORDI

It must have been one hell of an explosion.

DATA

Sensors indicate no evidence of a conventional attack.

He turns to face Picard.

DATA

(continuing)

There is nothing left.

PICARD

Can you determine what happened?

OFF Picard's REACTION.

WORF

The outpost was not just destroyed, it is as though some great force just scooped it off the face of the planet.

42 CONTINUED:

They continue scanning.

PICARD

Could it have been a natural  
phenomenon?

DATA

Insufficient information.

PICARD

Geordi, set a course for the next  
closest station.

GEORDI

Aye, sir.

43 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it files by.

43A INT. SONNY'S QUARTERS

WESLEY and Sonny. Sonny sits picking his guitar.  
Wesley sits across from him, staring.

SONNY

I just can't believe this. When  
that android fella said you could  
duplicate this baby, I didn't  
dream you'd do such a bang-up  
job... You like country?

WESLEY

Excuse me?

SONNY

Picking and strummin', son. What  
about rock?

WESLEY

What about rock?

SONNY

What's the matter, kid? You look  
like you're staring at a ghost.

WESLEY

Well, sir, you were dead for over  
three-hundred years...

43A CONTINUED:

SONNY

How 'bout rhythm and blues? That comes back every decade or so.

Wesley continues to stare. He could just as soon be looking at a dinosaur.

WESLEY

What was it like?... I mean, can you remember...

SONNY

What? Bein' dead? Not really, but then again there wasn't a whole lot happening.

WESLEY

Why did you do it? Was there something left undone... something you have to finish?

SONNY

Nope. Just curiosity... Another adventure... Simply wanted to see what was going on.

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

as they wait.

GEORDI

We are approaching Tarod Nine.

DATA

The condition is identical, Captain.

WORF

Everyone and everything is gone.

RIKER

Captain, I strongly recommend that we go to Red Alert. If the Romulans have improved their cloaking device, and we'd be fools to think they haven't, we should assume a more defensive posture.

WORF

I agree, Captain. I recommend we go immediately to battle stations.

Picard will not be pushed.

44 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I appreciate your concern and advice, but this is not the time for rash actions. We are still investigating.

He moves away from the Aft Station.

PICARD

(continuing)

There are three other stations in this sector which we need to visit. Let's proceed in a calm and orderly manner.

RIKER

If not "battle stations," may I at least bring the ship to Yellow Alert?

Picard considers for a moment.

PICARD

Yes, Number One. That would be prudent.

RIKER

Thank you.

And Riker initiates the necessary procedure to raise the alert level of the Enterprise.

45 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it continues on.

46 INT. GUEST LOUNGE

Ralph, Sonny and Clare are together.

SONNY

So, what is it that you want?

RALPH

I've spent my career being able to tell when the other guy's mouth is dry. There is something going on. Something serious. The tension level on this ship has jumped up.

46 CONTINUED:

SONNY

Even if you're right, what can we do about it? And besides, these old boys don't need us to tell them where the bear sits.

He reaches down beside him and lifts up an acoustic guitar...

SONNY

(continuing)

Lookie here what that young fella made for me.

CLARE

How did he do that?

SONNY

He called it a pattern replication. It plays real good, too.

And he hits a couple of chords.

RALPH

I'm trying to tell you that there is a situation developing on this vessel which affects us, and all you can talk about is that stupid guitar!

SONNY

These folks don't need us swimming in their soup, so why don't you just relax and let them do their jobs?

RALPH

That may be all right for you, but I am not willing to allow my fate to be decided by others. I at least want to know what is going on.

SONNY

How are you planning to do that?

47 ANOTHER ANGLE - DOOR

Ralph gives Sonny a look and goes to the door. It OPENS. There is a security guard standing there.

RALPH

He needs help. I think he's dying.

As the security guard ENTERS the room and MOVES toward Sonny, Ralph SLIPS UP behind him and hits him on the head, knocking him unconscious.

SONNY

What the hell are you doing?

RALPH

I'm going to find out what's going on.

47A INT. CORRIDOR (FORMERLY SCENE 48)

as Ralph moves along. Other crewmembers are moving quickly about their business. Ralph is able to move along unnoticed.

A48 ANOTHER ANGLE

As Ralph continues moving forward, he notices the turbolift door OPEN and some Enterprise personnel EXIT. He STEPS ONTO the turbolift. For a moment he is confused; he knows it's an elevator, but he sees no buttons. He looks around, then to himself:

RALPH

Ah... let's see.  
(to computer)  
Ah... I want to go to a... the...  
ah...  
(he shrugs; then to himself:)  
Where would the captain be?

To his astonishment, the computer answers:

COMPUTER VOICE

Captain Picard is located on the Main Bridge.

RALPH

Then, take me to the Main Bridge.

The doors CLOSE. The turbolift streaks off.

B48 OMITTED

48 OMITTED

48A INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

at Yellow Alert.

WORF

Captain, my sensors indicate a disturbance. It is large and moving, but I cannot get a positive lock nor can I get it on the viewscreen.

RIKER

Shields up.

WORF

Aye, sir.

RIKER

Captain, I recommend we transfer all power to phasers, and arm the photon torpedos.

PICARD

Wait. If that is a Romulan ship, it will read our intent. We will be forcing them to take a similar posture. We are not out here to engage in battles; we are explorers.

RIKER

Captain, there is sufficient evidence. Outposts have been destroyed... Countless lives have been lost.

48A CONTINUED:

WORF

I have a positive lock... It's disengaging its cloaking device.

RIKER

They are vulnerable for an instant as they become visible.

WORF

Captain, this may be our only chance.

While they are all intent on the Main Viewer, the turbolift doors OPEN and Ralph STEPS ONTO the bridge. The size of the room and the near visible tension stops him momentarily in his tracks.

WORF

(continuing)

I've lost them.

PICARD

(to Data)

Are your sensors picking up anything? You should be detecting a disturbance.

DATA

Negative.

GEORDI

We wanted to know if they have improved their cloaking device -- I guess we have our answer.

PICARD

(to Riker)

They were trying to determine our intent... They wanted to see if we would fire.

RALPH

Who the hell are they?

Everyone turns.

RIKER

Get that man off the bridge... now.

Security moves toward him.

48A CONTINUED: (2)

RALPH  
I'm not going anywhere.

WORF  
Captain, they're back.

Everyone is looking at Picard.

PICARD  
On screen.

49  
thru OMITTED  
51

51A ANOTHER ANGLE FAVORING SCREEN

as a disturbance becomes a Romulan cruiser.

REACTIONS:

51B EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)  
(FORMERLY SC. 50)

in proximity to the Romulan cruiser.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

52 EXT. SPACE - THE ROMULAN CRUISER (OPTICAL)

as it closes in on the Enterprise.

53 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

It's as it was. Worf and a couple of other crewmembers move toward Ralph.

RIKER

Amazing. I never thought I would ever see a Romulan ship -- not this close.

GEORDI

The last encounter was decades ago and cost thousands of lives.

A REACTION from Ralph.

RALPH

(awed)

I can believe that.

It's said so quietly, and the thought is so much on everyone's mind, that no one notices it was Ralph who said it.

PICARD

Stay calm, everyone.

WORF

Captain, these are Romulans -- they are without honor. They killed my parents in an attack on Khitomer at a time when they were supposed to be our allies. They believe humans and Klingons are a waste of skin, so inferior as to be unworthy of any consideration.

PICARD

Lieutenant, keep your emotions under control. Open hailing frequencies.

53 CONTINUED:

WORF

Hailing frequencies open.

PICARD

Romulan vessel, this is Captain  
Jean-Luc Picard of the USS  
Enterprise.

There is no response.

53 CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

Sensors indicate all of their  
systems are armed.

PICARD

But they have not fired.

Picard thinks for a beat.

PICARD

(continuing)

Let's try them again.

WORF

Hailing frequencies are still  
open.

PICARD

Romulan vessel, this is Captain  
Jean-Luc Picard of the USS  
Enterprise.

There is a pause.

54 MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL) (INTERCUT AS NECESSARY)

Then the interior of the Romulan vessel COMES ON the  
viewscreen.

54 CONTINUED:

There are TWO ROMULAN OFFICERS in the Control area.  
COMMANDER TEBOK (pronounced "TAY-bok") and  
SUB-COMMANDER THEI (pronounced "TIE").

TEBOK

I am Commander Tebok.

PICARD

You have crossed the Neutral Zone.  
This is Federation territory.

THEI

It was necessary.

PICARD

It could be viewed as an act of  
aggression.

THEI

If our intent was aggression,  
you would not now be here.

TEBOK

If we go to war, let us be sure  
it is for the right reason. We  
are here because our outposts,  
which border the Neutral Zone,  
were also attacked.

THEI

Destroyed in the exact same manner  
as your own.

WORF

(to Picard)

What right did they have to enter  
Federation space?

TEBOK

Silence your dog, Captain.

PICARD

Lieutenant Worf's question is  
valid.

THEI

Even to ask such a question  
implies that we need permission;  
we do not.

PICARD

Do you think we attacked your  
outposts?

54 CONTINUED: (2)

TEBOK

(with disdain)

Once we realized the level of  
destruction, we knew it could not  
have been you.

PICARD

Who is responsible?

There is a pause.

RALPH

They haven't a clue.

Picard shoots Ralph a look.

RALPH

(continuing)

They're hoping you know, but  
they're too arrogant to ask.

RIKER

You're out of line, Mister.

PICARD

Yes, but correct in his  
assessment.

TEBOK

We do not know who is  
responsible... Why entire  
outposts on both sides were  
carried off.

PICARD

I would like to offer a proposal.

THEI

(with a smile)

An alliance? Between the  
Romulans and the Federation?

PICARD

Nothing so grandiose -- just this.  
Cooperation... whoever or whatever  
did this is more powerful than  
either of us.

54 CONTINUED: (3)

The two Romulans ponder for a moment.

THEI

Agreed.

54 CONTINUED: (4)

THEI

On this one issue, and only if it is convenient and something we consider appropriate at the time.

TEBOK

Captain Picard, because your actions are those of a thoughtful man who is neither rash nor easily provoked, I tell you this. More urgent matters have caused our absence, and witness the results. Outposts destroyed, evidence of the Federation everywhere. We have been negligent, but no more.

PICARD

We have made some progress in our relations... let's not ruin that with unnecessary posturing.

TEBOK

Your presence is not wanted. Do you understand my meaning? We are back!

The Romulans study Picard for a beat; then -- without a signal or a sign, they CLICK OFF. The image on the Main Viewer is REPLACED with a SHOT of the Romulan cruiser.

PICARD

I think our lives just became a lot more complicated.

55 ANOTHER ANGLE

as the members of the bridge crew breath a collective sigh of relief.

56 EXT. SPACE - THE ROMULAN CRUISER (OPTICAL)

as it TURNS and LEAVES at high speed.

56A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

as before. Picard turns slowly to Worf.

PICARD

Get him off my bridge.

56B INT. CLARE'S QUARTERS (FORMERLY SC. 58) (OPTICAL)

Troi and Clare are there.

TROI

I have found something.

Clare comes over to the computer next to Troi. On the screen is the biographical information of:

TROI

(continuing)

I have been able to locate a family living outside of Indianapolis. The man's name is Thomas Raymond.

Clare looks at the Screen.

CLARE

That's my son's name. My son's name is Tommy.

56B CONTINUED: (2)

The READOUT on the screen indicates that Thomas Raymond is married and has two children, ages four and seven.

TROI

Computer -- let us see Thomas Raymond.

And the screen REPAINTS with a semi-line drawing of a man around thirty.

CLARE

Oh, my God... It's Donald... that's my husband.

TROI

Actually, it's your great, great, great, great, great grandson.

CLARE

He's the spitting image.

TROI

I have his address. When you get back to Earth, you could go and see him.

CLARE

But... I will still be out of time. A relic.

TROI

Perhaps. But it's a place to start. He is after all, family.

Clare looks at the picture on the Screen.

CLARE

There's no denying that.

For the first time since she was thawed, her attitude brightens.

57 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard and other members of the crew are with the "guests."

PICARD

Here is what I propose. You can't remain on the Enterprise. We have arranged to rendezvous with the USS Charleston, bound for Earth. You will be delivered there.

57 CONTINUED:

RALPH

And then what will happen to us?  
There's no trace of my money -- my  
office is gone -- what will I do?  
How will I live?

PICARD

(amused)

This is the twenty-fourth century.  
Those material needs no longer  
exist.

RALPH

Then what's the challenge?

PICARD

To improve yourself... enrich  
yourself. Enjoy it, Mister Offenhouse.

SONNY

Well, one good thing -- since  
everybody's forgotten everything  
I ever did... it'll all be brand  
spankin' new. Hell, I'll be a  
bigger hit than I ever was.

PICARD

Perhaps so, anything is possible.

SONNY

(to Data)

What say, son -- you'd make a hell  
of a sideman.

DATA

That offer does present a certain  
fascination.

58 OMITTED

59 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and Riker EXIT from the turbolift.

GEORDI

I have plotted a course to  
intercept the Charleston, sir,  
but they have informed me that  
they will be making an extended  
stop at Arloff Nine.

59 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Your point, Lieutenant?

GEORDI

At warp eight, we could have our guests at Starbase Thirty-Nine Sierra in five days. It would cut months off their journey.

PICARD

They will benefit from the extended time. It will allow them to acclimate before arriving at Earth.

RIKER

It's a pity we can't take them ourselves. Having them on board has been like a visit from the past.

PICARD

That would take us in the wrong direction. Our mission is to go forward and it has just begun. Set velocity at warp six, Mister La Forge.

GEORDI

Aye, sir... warp six.

PICARD

There is still much to do... and still so much to learn.

(pause)

Mister La Forge... Engage.

60 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it heads off.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END