

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**

**"A Sense of Purpose"**

Story by

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Teleplay by

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STAR TREK: "A Sense of Purpose" - 12/24/93 - CAST

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**

**"A Sense of Purpose"**

CAST

PICARD

COURAGEOUS' CREW

RIKER

CAPTAIN O'SULLIVAN

BEVERLY

COMMANDER DARE

DATA

ENGINEER'S MATE RASHIVE

TROI

NURSE

WORF

ASTROGATOR WIMBATTA

GEORDI

HELMSMAN

NURSE

ENSIGN McKNIGHT

LIEUTENANT PARKER

TRANSPORTER TECH

Non-Speaking

COURAGEOUS BODY

Voice-Over

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE

COURAGEOUS' CREW

ENERGY BEING

SCIENCE OFFICER

ENGINEER

STAR TREK: "A Sense of Purpose" - 2/14/94 - SETS

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**

**"A Sense of Purpose"**

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE  
MAIN BRIDGE  
OBSERVATION LOUNGE  
SICKBAY  
TRANSPORTER ROOM  
CORRIDOR  
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

USS COURAGEOUS  
BRIDGE  
SICKBAY  
ENGINEERING  
CORRIDOR  
CAPTAIN O'SULLIVAN'S QUARTERS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

USS COURAGEOUS

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**

**"A Sense of Purpose"**

**TEASER**

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 1

The ENTERPRISE is moving at SUBLIGHT SPEED through a normal STARFIELD.

PICARD

Captain's Log, Stardate 49121.4.  
While surveying the remote Santile sector, the long range sensors have detected a ship moving at very low warp. As the ship has not responded to repeated hails, we are moving to investigate.

2 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 2

The BRIDGE CREW are at their normal positions: Worf at TACTICAL, Data at OPS, a Helmsman at CONN, and Riker, Picard, and Troi are sitting in their seats.

PICARD

Mr. Worf, are we close enough yet to identify the ship?

WORF

No, sir. And they still do not respond to our hails. However, if they maintain their present course, we should be in visual range in one minute, twenty seconds.

(a pause)

Sir, their warp field emissions are very odd. They closely resemble those of Federation ships in service 250 years ago.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

Picard and Riker exchange a glance. Riker stands, and walks up around to stand next to Worf. He makes some adjustments to TACTICAL.

PICARD  
(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Geordi, this is Captain Picard. Could you join us on the Bridge?

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
Yes, sir.

RIKER  
It's true, the readings could be a modified Federation design, or someone trying to make us think that's the case.

DATA  
This sector is far outside the range of any recorded exploration from that era. The first Federation vessel did not enter this sector until 2195.

PICARD  
Mr. Worf, give us a visual of the ship as soon as we're in range.

WORF  
Aye, sir.

Riker is working at TACTICAL when Geordi emerges from the AFT TURBOLIFT and walks up to TACTICAL.

GEORDI  
What do we have, Captain?

PICARD  
An unidentified vessel that may not be what it appears to be.

After considering this for a moment, Geordi turns and moves back to the ENGINEERING STATION.

(CONTINUED)

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2 CONTINUED: (2) 2

WORF

Sir, we are now within visual range.

3 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 3

The STARFIELD shifts and a DAEDALUS CLASS STARSHIP can be seen at an oblique angle.

4 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 4

Picard comes to his feet as,

RIKER

That's a Daedalus class starship!

PICARD

Maximum magnification. Adjust image for visual of the ship's name.

5 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 5

The IMAGE of the COURAGEOUS rotates so that she is seen from the FORE. The registry NCC-515 and the name USS COURAGEOUS are clearly visible.

PICARD

The Courageous.

(a beat)

She was lost almost 250 years ago.

6 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN BRIDGE 6

DATA

The Courageous' last report was received in 2135. The Captain reported that they had encountered an "interspatial rift" which they were investigating. No other communication was ever received from the Courageous.

Geordi is standing at TACTICAL as,

GEORDI

Sir, it's possible that the "rift" they encountered was a wormhole.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

Picard turns toward Geordi.

PICARD  
(to Worf)  
Are there any life signs?

WORF  
No, sir. But their shields are up and are interfering with our scans.

GEORDI  
Sir, the Daedalus class was the last class of ship not to have navigational deflectors. At warp speeds they had to run with shields on minimum setting for protection against micro-meteors.

PICARD  
What is our distance from the Courageous?

WORF  
3.8 million kilometers and closing.

PICARD  
Try hailing them again.

WORF  
(after manipulating TACTICAL)  
No, response.

PICARD  
Helm, what is our present course?

HELMSMAN  
Our heading is 340 mark 35.

PICARD  
What is their course and speed?

WORF  
The ship's heading is 210 mark 35 and her speed is warp 1.5.

Picard turns to regard the MAIN VIEWER.

(CONTINUED)

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6 CONTINUED: (2) 6

PICARD

Let's see if we can get them to respond another way. Helm, bring us to a complete stop in their flight path. Prepare for evasive maneuvers if they don't change course.

HELMSMAN

Aye, sir. Complete stop in ten seconds.

Riker walks down around TACTICAL and stops next to Picard.

HELMSMAN

Complete stop.

7 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 7

THE COURAGEOUS, SEEN FROM THE FORE, GROWS QUICKLY LARGER.

PICARD

Distance to Courageous?

WORF

3.1 million kilometers.

8 CLOSE UP ON WORF 8

WORF

Sir, the Courageous has reduced speed. It is now moving at one half impulse. They are scanning us.

(pause)

The ship is now changing course. Coming to 220 mark 15. It will pass within 200 kilometers of us in 3 seconds.

9 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 9

THE COURAGEOUS CONTINUES TO GROW LARGER, BUT ALSO MAKES A SLOW TURN TO LEFT.

(CONTINUED)

10 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

10

RIKER

There must be someone on board.

DATA

Sir, I have adjusted sensors for the  
Courageous' shields.

(Data pivots in his seat to face Picard)  
It is confirmed. There are no life signs  
from the Courageous.

11 ANGLE ON RIKER AND PICARD

11

RIKER

Are you suggesting it's a ghost ship?

On Riker's look of incredulity, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

12 EXT. ENTERPRISE AND COURAGEOUS (OPTICAL)12

The ENTERPRISE and COURAGEOUS are running parallel to one another at WARP SPEED. One can see how much larger the ENTERPRISE is than the COURAGEOUS.

13 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

13

Picard, Riker, Troi, Beverly, and Worf, are seated at the CONFERENCE TABLE. Geordi is standing in front of the DISPLAY SCREEN which depicts a SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE COURAGEOUS AND TECHNICAL DATA.

GEORDI

The USS Courageous is of the Daedalus class, which was retired from service in 2196. It is an extremely primitive ship by today's standards, using second generation warp technology. The speed of the ship was given in terms of a "time warp factor," and was equal to the square of this factor times the speed of light.

(as Geordi takes a seat)

At her maximum speed of factor 8, it would have taken the Courageous 15.6 years just to get here from her last reported position.

PICARD

Mr. Worf?

WORF

After passing us, the ship returned to her original heading of 210 mark 35 and original speed of...

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

WORF

(continuing after a pause)  
..."time warp factor" 2. We are now running parallel to the Courageous at a distance of 100 kilometers.

PICARD

And yet the sensors detect no life forms?

DATA

No, sir. Furthermore, I have been able to determine that the Courageous' life support systems are operational, but not functioning at present.

RIKER

Not functioning? Then there's no crew. How can a ship with no crew make course changes?

DATA

It is impossible to know without examining the ship's computers. It is possible that the ship has been programmed with a flight path and is capable of dealing with unexpected obstacles.

PICARD

We have several questions which we will not be able to answer without access to the Courageous. Geordi, is there any way we can board the Courageous with her shields up?

GEORDI

Yes, sir. By today's standards her shields are very porous. With a little extra power, I believe we can punch through her shields with our Transporters. It might be a little tricky at warp, but I think I can manage it.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

PICARD

Counselor, can you sense anything from the Courageous?

TROI

(with a little hesitation)

I don't sense individual psyches, but there is a sense of....

(a pause)

...determination, maybe.

PICARD

Number One?

RIKER

I suggest an away team of myself, Data, Geordi and Dr. Crusher. Life support belts will be enough to sustain us while Geordi and Data re-activate life support. Data can then examine the computer, Geordi can take a look at Engineering, and Dr. Crusher can try to determine what happened to the crew, if there is a crew to examine.

PICARD

Very well. Geordi, I'll want a demonstration that we can circumvent their shields before we try to send an Away Team over.

GEORDI

I'll get right on it.

PICARD

That is all.

Everyone stands and begins to file out.

(CONTINUED)

14 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

14

Geordi and a Transporter Technician stand behind the TRANSPORTER CONTROLS as Picard, Riker, Data, and Beverly watch the TRANSPORTER PAD. THREE TRANSPORTER SIGNAL ENHANCERS lean up against the TRANSPORTER CONTROL CONSOLE.

GEORDI

OK, now I'll bring it back.

The TRANSPORTER EFFECT begins, and when it is finished, a TEST OBJECT rests on the PAD.

GEORDI

(continuing)

No problem, Captain. Of course we'll take signal enhancers with us, but we shouldn't have any problems even without them.

A Transporter Technician walks up to the TRANSPORTER PAD and removes the TEST OBJECT.

PICARD

Very well. If there is any sign of trouble, the Away Team is to return immediately. Understood, Number One?

RIKER

Yes, sir.

Riker, Data, and Geordi each pick up a TRANSPORTER SIGNAL ENHANCER, and together with Beverly, mount the TRANSPORTER PAD. The Transporter Technician steps up to the TRANSPORTER CONTROLS.

15 ANGLE ON THE AWAY TEAM (OPTICAL)

15

Except for Data, each of them is wearing a BELT WITH A LARGE BUCKLE. As each of them touches the BUCKLE, A GLOW ENVELOPES them. THE GLOW IS BODY-TIGHT, and does not extend to the TRANSPORTER SIGNAL ENHANCERS. All members of the Away Team have A PHASER, A TRICORDER AND A HAND-HELD LIGHT attached to their BELTS.

(CONTINUED)

16 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL) 16

PICARD  
(at Riker's nod)  
Energize.

The Transporter Technician manipulates the TRANSPORTER CONTROLS, and the Away Team DEMATERIALIZES.

17 INT. COURAGEOUS' BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 17

The Away Team MATERIALIZES on the BRIDGE OF THE COURAGEOUS. It is very dark, as the MAIN LIGHTS ARE OFF. However, all the VARIOUS STATION LIGHTS ARE ON AND BLINKING. In this limited light, the general outlines of the BRIDGE are visible. Riker, Data, and Geordi ACTIVATE THE TRANSPORTER SIGNAL ENHANCERS. After doing so, Geordi, Data, and Beverly activate THEIR HAND-HELD LIGHTS.

RIKER  
(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Enterprise, this is Riker. Transport successful.

Riker takes out his HAND-HELD LIGHT, and shines it on the COMMAND CHAIR. In the light from the others' LIGHTS, COMMANDER DARE'S BODY can be seen on the floor next to the COMMAND CHAIR. Riker directs his light to the BODY, and,

RIKER  
The Bridge Crew is still here.

The rest of the AWAY TEAM moves about the BRIDGE, shining their LIGHTS ON DIFFERENT THINGS. Beverly walks up to COMMANDER DARE'S BODY, and kneels next to it.

RIKER  
(continuing)  
But they're all dead.

Data walks up to SHINE HIS LIGHT ON DARE'S BODY AND FACE.

PICARD'S COM VOICE  
Is there any evidence of what killed them?

(CONTINUED)

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18 CONTINUED: 18

BEVERLY

No, there doesn't appear to be any wounds or signs of violence.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Very well, Doctor. I'll want a report on what killed the crew as soon as possible.

BEVERLY

Yes, sir.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Number One, I'll want a report every fifteen minutes.

RIKER

Aye. sir. Away Team out.

19 ANGLE ON DARE'S FACE 19

DATA

This would appear to be Commander Dare, the Courageous' First Officer.

20 INT. COURAGEOUS' BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 20

Riker stands up, and turns toward Geordi who is standing at the LIFE SUPPORT STATION.

RIKER

Geordi, how about the life support?

GEORDI

The Bridge Stations all have power. I think I can activate life support from here.

Geordi holds his LIGHT on the LIFE SUPPORT CONTROL PANEL as he PUSHES A FEW BUTTONS. The MAIN LIGHTS COME ON.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

GEORDI

(continuing)

Well, there are the lights. Life support is also coming back on line.

(pause)

I would suggest keeping our life support belts on for a few minutes until we're sure everything is working properly.

Beverly has her TRICORDER OUT as is scanning the BRIDGE.

BEVERLY

Life support appears to be working fine. I detect no air-borne contagions or poisons.

(a beat)

The temperature is up to 20 degrees Celsius, and rising.

She reaches down to her LIFE SUPPORT BELT BUCKLE and pushes it. THE ENVELOPING GLOW DISAPPEARS. Beverly sniffs the air, and,

BEVERLY

Everything appears to be fine. The temperature's now holding steady at 25 degrees Celsius.

(a beat)

I don't see any reason to keep our life support belts on.

Riker and Geordi touch their LIFE SUPPORT BELT BUCKLES, and the GLOW ENVELOPING THEM DISAPPEARS.

RIKER

All right. Data, see if you can access the ship's logs from the Main Computer. Geordi, head down to Engineering and see what the situation is there. Dr. Crusher, these bodies don't look like they died from sudden life support failure.

(CONTINUED)

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20 CONTINUED: (2) 20

BEVERLY

I'd have to agree. I'll go down to Sickbay. Hopefully their Chief Medical Officer had time to start an analysis of what killed the crew.

RIKER

Good. I'm going to look around the rest of the ship. Everyone check in with me every 15 minutes.

Data moves to the SCIENCE STATION, as the others depart the BRIDGE.

21 INT. COURAGEOUS' CORRIDOR 21

Riker walks down a CORRIDOR, and stops to examine TWO BODIES WHICH ARE LYING ON THE FLOOR. THE BODIES APPEAR TO FALLEN WHERE THEY HAD BEEN STANDING OR WALKING.

RIKER

(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Geordi, this is Riker.

22 INT. COURAGEOUS' ENGINEERING ROOM 22

Geordi is examining the BODY OF ENGINEER'S MATE RASHIVE, WHICH IS LYING ON THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF THE ENGINEERING CONSOLE. THE BODY SEEMS TO HAVE SIMPLY FALLEN WHERE THE ENGINEER'S MATE HAD BEEN STANDING WHEN HE DIED.

GEORDI

(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Yes, Commander?

RIKER'S COM VOICE

What's the situation down there?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

GEORDI

Just like it was on the Bridge: people  
just seem to have dropped dead.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

What about the engines?

Geordi stands and looks around.

GEORDI

Well, I just got here, but it's clear that  
some pretty serious modifications have  
been made. I'll let you know when I've  
got something.

(a beat)

You know, Commander, this is just a  
little spooky.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Yeah, I know what you mean.

(a beat)

Riker out.

Geordi moves away from RASHIVE'S BODY and toward the  
ENGINEERING CONSOLE.

23 INT. COURAGEOUS' SICK BAY

23

Beverly enters the SICK BAY, and stops to examine A NURSE'S  
BODY, WHICH IS LYING ON THE FLOOR JUST INSIDE THE  
SICKBAY ENTRANCE.

BEVERLY

(touching her COMMUNICATOR)  
Will, this is Crusher.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Yes, Doctor?

BEVERLY

I'm in Sickbay, and every crew member  
I've come across is just like the ones we  
saw on the Bridge.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

BEVERLY  
(continuing)

I'll need to transport a few bodies, from different places on the ship, over to the Enterprise and perform autopsies.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

I'll have the others call over and have bodies transported from where they are directly to Sickbay.

BEVERLY

Very good, Commander. I'll be beaming back to the Enterprise in a few minutes. I'll let you know before I go.  
Crusher out.

Beverly walks around looking at the rest of the SICKBAY. After scanning the SICKBAY with her TRICORDER,

BEVERLY  
(to herself)

Even though nothing shows up on my tricorder, I suppose some sort of dormant air-born agent may be in the life support system.

(a beat)

I need a full scan of the entire ship for any sort of organic or inorganic agent which might of caused these people to die.

24 INT. NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

24

Behind Beverly is a MEDICAL CONSOLE and THE NURSE whose body she was just examining. THE NURSE IS SURROUNDED BY AN INTERESTING "GHOST EFFECT." THE NURSE'S BODY is still lying on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

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24 CONTINUED: 24

COURAGEOUS NURSE  
I'll have those scans for you in a just a  
moment, Doctor.

Beverly spins toward the unexpected voice. The COURAGEOUS  
NURSE turns toward the MEDICAL CONSOLE, and PUSHES  
SOME BUTTONS.

25 ANGLE ON BEVERLY 25

Beverly looks down at the NURSE'S BODY, WHICH IS STILL  
LYING ON THE FLOOR.

26 INT. COURAGEOUS SICKBAY (OPTICAL) 26

The MEDICAL CONSOLE makes a BEEPING NOISE, and the  
Courageous Nurse PUSHES ANOTHER BUTTON ON THE  
CONSOLE. He turns back to Beverly, and,

COURAGEOUS NURSE  
There you go, Doctor.

27 CLOSE UP ON BEVERLY 27

On Beverly's look of amazement, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

28 INT. ENTERPRISE'S SICKBAY

28

Beverly enters the SICKBAY where a NURSE is examining ONE OF THE BODIES BROUGHT OVER FROM THE COURAGEOUS.

BEVERLY

Nurse, I'd like to run full autopsies on each of these bodies.

ENTERPRISE NURSE

Yes, Doctor. I've already taken some preliminary readings.

Beverly crosses over to the DIAGNOSTIC BED where the COURAGEOUS' NURSE'S BODY RESTS.

BEVERLY

I'd like to start with this one.

ENTERPRISE NURSE

Yes, Doctor.

(a pause)

Any particular reason?

Beverly doesn't answer for a moment as she looks intently at the BODY.

BEVERLY

No. Not really.

(CONTINUED)

29 INT. COURAGEOUS' ENGINE ROOM

29

Geordi is looking around the COURAGEOUS' ENGINE ROOM. He stops and bends over to scan with HIS TRICORDER a PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN OBVIOUSLY AND HEAVILY MODIFIED.

GEORDI  
(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
LaForge to Riker.

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
Yes, Geordi?

GEORDI  
It's absolutely amazing down here.  
There isn't a piece of equipment that  
hasn't been modified, and some of  
these modifications are sheer genius.

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
Genius enough to have kept this ship  
going all this time?

GEORDI  
I don't know, but I'm beginning to  
believe it might just be possible.

Geordi straightens up and turns toward the ENGINEERING CONSOLE.

GEORDI  
Since all ship systems seem to be  
functioning, I may be able to get the  
engineering logs out of the computer. If  
so, we'll know then.

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
OK, let me know when you've got  
something.

GEORDI  
Right.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

Geordi turns back to look at the MODIFIED PIECE OF EQUIPMENT. He shakes his head, and,

GEORDI  
Absolutely incredible. I have to get schematics of these modifications.

Geordi spins toward RASHIVE WHO HAS THE "GHOST EFFECT" AND IS SITTING IN A CHAIR IN FRONT OF THE ENGINEERING COMPUTER as,

RASHIVE  
All modifications have been recorded in the engineering computer, sir.

Geordi tilts and turns his head, appearing to be trying to focus his VISOR on the ENGINEER'S MATE. After a moment,

GEORDI  
(obviously taken aback)  
Really?

RASHIVE turns toward the ENGINEERING COMPUTER, and pushes a COUPLE OF BUTTONS. LIGHTS ON THE COMPUTER CHANGE IN RESPONSE.

RASHIVE  
Yes, sir. In engineering files 65725 through 68528.

GEORDI  
Great. Thanks.

RASHIVE VANISHES.

30 ANGLE ON GEORDI

30

Geordi walks up to the CHAIR IN FRONT OF THE ENGINEERING CONSOLE. He scans it with his TRICORDER, and then gingerly turns the CHAIR, just a bit. Geordi takes a step back from the CHAIR, and,

GEORDI  
(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Uh, Data?

(CONTINUED)

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30 CONTINUED: 30

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Yes, Geordi?

GEORDI  
Data, I think we need to take a look at  
my VISOR.

31 INT. ENTERPRISE'S SICKBAY 31

Beverly and the Enterprise Nurse are examining a  
COURAGEOUS BODY on the MAIN DIAGNOSTIC BED as Picard  
strides in.

PICARD  
Doctor, have you determined what  
killed the Courageous' crew yet?

BEVERLY  
No. Of the bodies brought over so far, I  
cannot identify any cause of death.  
(a pause)  
It appears that they simply died.

PICARD  
There must be something.

BEVERLY  
I agree. But I haven't been able to find  
anything yet.

Beverly turns back to the COURAGEOUS BODY after Picard  
focuses on IT himself.

TRANSPORTER TECH'S COM VOICE  
Captain, the rest of the Away Team has  
returned.

PICARD  
Thank you, Ensign.

Picard turns back to Beverly, and,

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

PICARD  
(continuing)

I asked the Away Team to return so that we could have a briefing. Perhaps they've come across something that could help.

BEVERLY

Yes, sir.

(to the Enterprise Nurse)

Finish with this one, and then run a gamma sequence on all of the bodies. Maybe there is some sort of dormant chameloid retro-virus.

ENTERPRISE NURSE

Yes, doctor.

Picard and Beverly turn and leave the Sickbay.

32 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

32

Riker, Geordi, Data, and Worf are already sitting at the CONFERENCE TABLE as Picard and Beverly enter together. Picard and Beverly take their seats, and,

PICARD

What do we have?

WORF

I have plotted the Courageous' course, assuming a constant heading and speed. Nothing of apparent interest lies along the path previous to where we encountered it. However, if it maintains it's present course, it will pass through the Sol system in approximately 6.25 years.

PICARD

Earth.

(a pause)

Number One?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

RIKER

I've searched the ship, and the entire crew is accounted for. They all appear to have died suddenly, and from what I can tell, all at the same time.

BEVERLY

That's consistent with what I've seen, but I haven't be able to determine a cause of death yet. I detect no organic or inorganic agents. There's no evidence of systemic shock. There's nothing.

(a beat)

I do know that they did not die of life support failure. Life support must have failed within hours of their deaths, because the bodies have been almost perfectly preserved.

Both Geordi and Data react Beverly's statement.

PICARD

Gentlemen?

DATA

Sir, Life Support did not fail. It was turned off. Obviously some time after the crew died.

There is general consternation at this pronouncement.

WORF

Perhaps Life Support was shut down by whatever killed the crew.

PICARD

(shaking his head)

I don't think we have enough information to even speculate at this point.

(a beat)

What else?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

GEORDI

The Courageous is in immaculate shape. Furthermore, the ship's engines have been thoroughly and brilliantly modified. I'm now convinced that without Life Support, the ship could have easily maintained her present speed since she disappeared.

PICARD

Mr. Data, have you reviewed the ship's logs?

DATA

No, sir. The ship's computers employ antique, pre-duotronic storage techniques. I was concerned that there might be degradation of the system. However, I have determined that the ship's computer systems, like the rest of the ship, are in perfect working order.

PICARD

If that's the case, why haven't you reviewed the logs?

33 ANGLE ON DATA

33

Data is uncharacteristically uncomfortable.

DATA

Sir, for lack of a better word, I believe I have seen a ghost.

34 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

34

PICARD

(with some surprise)

Indeed?

DATA

Yes, sir. While trying to access the ship's logs, I was informed by the Courageous' Science Officer that the ship's logs are restricted.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

WORF

How do you know it was the Science Officer?

DATA

The apparition was identical in appearance to the hologram of the Courageous' Science Officer contained in our records.

(to Picard)

Sir, I believe Commander LaForge had a similar experience.

GEORDI

(with exasperation)

Data!

PICARD

Mr. LaForge?

GEORDI

Sir, it's more than a little spooky over there, and I thought my VISOR had malfunctioned.

(a beat)

An Engineer's Mate told me that all the modifications made to the engines have been catalogued in the Engineering Computers.

PICARD

And were they?

GEORDI

Yes, sir.

PICARD

I see. Anyone else have any visitations?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

BEVERLY

(with some reluctance)

A Nurse volunteered to get a full environmental scan of the Courageous for me. He did so using one of the Sickbay computers. The scan showed no evidence of contagions or poisons anywhere in the ship.

PICARD

Number One?

RIKER

No, sir. I guess ghosts don't much like me.

Picard considers what he's heard for a moment, and then,

PICARD

Very well. Even though the Courageous avoided us readily enough, I'm concerned that once it enters more densely traveled regions of Federation space, that it will present a navigational hazard. Data, Geordi, and a security team will return to the Courageous. Data, I want you to make a full copy of the computer's memory and bring it back to the Enterprise for analysis. Geordi, I want you to bring the Courageous out of warp. That's all.

On this, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

35 INT. COURAGEOUS' BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

35

Data, Geordi, Worf, and McKnight MATERIALIZE on the COURAGEOUS' BRIDGE WITHIN THE AREA OF THE TRANSPORTER ENHANCERS, WHICH ARE STILL ON. Data is carrying a MEMORY UNIT, and Geordi has his TOOL KIT.

WORF

Ensign McKnight, you will accompany  
Commander LaForge.

ENSIGN McKNIGHT

Aye, sir.

GEORDI

(to Data)

I think I can handle this by myself, but I'll  
call you if I need help .

DATA

Very well, Geordi.

Geordi and McKnight leave the COURAGEOUS' BRIDGE as Data and Worf move to the SCIENCE STATION. Data takes the MEMORY UNIT, and connects it to the SCIENCE STATION. He manipulates BOTH THE MEMORY UNIT AND THE SCIENCE STATION. LIGHTS ON BOTH THE MEMORY UNIT AND THE SCIENCE STATION BEGIN TO FLASH AND PULSE.

DATA

This memory unit has several times the  
capacity of the Courageous' entire  
computer system.

(CONTINUED)

36 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN BRIDGE 36

Picard, Riker, and Troi are sitting in their seats. The other BRIDGE STATIONS are manned by Relief Crew.

LIEUTENANT PARKER  
Sir, the sensors indicate that the Courageous is preparing to drop out of warp.

Riker and Picard are surprised.

RIKER  
That was quick.

PICARD  
Too quick, I think.  
(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Picard to Commander LaForge.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
Yes, sir?

PICARD  
Our sensors indicate the Courageous is dropping out of warp.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
That's interesting, because I'm not even in Engineering yet.

LIEUTENANT PARKER  
Sir, the Courageous has reduced speed to one-half impulse.

37 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 37

THE COURAGEOUS, WHICH IS SEEN FROM THE SIDE, begins to MOVE TO THE RIGHT.

38 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 38

Picard stands and strides toward the HELM.

PICARD  
Helm, maintain our distance to the Courageous.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

HELMSMAN

Aye, sir.  
(after TOUCHING A FEW CONTROLS)  
We are now at one-half impulse.

Riker stands and comes up behind Picard, when,

DATA'S COM VOICE

Data to Enterprise.

PICARD

Yes, Commander?

DATA'S COM VOICE

Sir, instruments indicate that the  
Courageous has dropped out of warp.

PICARD

Yes, Commander, we know that. Do  
you know why?

DATA'S COM VOICE

Sir, ships of this era had to drop out of  
warp periodically to re-establish  
heading and perform a gravimetric  
scan. Bridge systems appear to be  
performing these functions as we  
speak.

(a beat)

The pre-duotronic computers could not  
process information from the sensors at  
warp quickly enough to maintain  
continuous warp.

(a beat)

However, I see no evidence of pre-  
programmed flight instructions. The  
ship appears to be functioning without  
human direction of any sort.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

RIKER

Data, how long will the Courageous remain at sublight?

DATA'S COM VOICE

The gravimetric scan appears to be complete. The Courageous could return to warp at any time.

PICARD

Helm, don't let them get away from us.

HELMSMAN

No, sir.

(a beat)

The Courageous is accelerating. We are matching.

(a beat)

Sir, we are back to our original speed. Courageous is 100 kilometers off the starboard.

PICARD

Very good.

RIKER

Damn. Who or what is controlling that ship?

PICARD

Yes, that is the question, isn't it?

39 INT. COURAGEOUS' BRIDGE

39

Data sits at the SCIENCE CONSOLE and PUSHES SOME BUTTONS. The COMPUTER'S FIRST RESPONSE does not satisfy him, so he PUSHES MORE BUTTONS. Worf is standing next to him, and noticing this,

WORF

Is something wrong, Commander?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

DATA

Yes, the ship's logs are no longer in the Main Computer. They appear to have been moved to some other node.

(a beat)

The move was made 11 minutes, 12 seconds ago. No destination is recorded.

(a beat)

We must determine where the logs have been moved.

40 INT. NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

40

COMMANDER DARE APPEARS (WITH "GHOST" EFFECT) behind Data and Worf. As Dare speaks, Data and Worf spin to face him. Worf draws his PHASER, and,

COMMANDER DARE

I'm sorry, gentlemen, but the logs have been transferred and restricted to the Captain's Computer.

DATA

Why have the logs been restricted?

COMMANDER DARE

I'm afraid you'll have to ask Captain O'Sullivan about that.

Data is about ask another question when an INTERCOM BUZZES. Dare walks over to the INTERCOM, and PUSHES ITS BUTTON.

COMMANDER DARE

This is Dare.

RASHIVE'S' COM VOICE

Commander, this is Rashive, in Engineering. There are two men down here who say they're going to take the ship out of warp.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

Commander Dare turns to Data and Worf.

COMMANDER DARE  
You must tell your men to stop what they are doing. We must remain at our present course and speed.

Data starts to answer, but Worf cuts him off.

WORF  
Impossible. Captain Picard has ordered this ship brought to a stop.

DATA  
(to Worf)  
Lieutenant.  
(to Commander Dare)  
Commander, why must the Courageous maintain course and speed?

COMMANDER DARE  
I'm not at liberty to discuss that. You'll have to ask Captain O'Sullivan. Will you order your men stop what they're doing?

DATA  
No.

COMMANDER DARE  
Very well.

Commander Dare turns back to the INTERCOM and,

COMMANDER DARE  
Rashive, do what you must to prevent the ship from being taken out of warp.

RASHIVE'S COM VOICE  
Aye, sir.

(CONTINUED)

41 INT. COURAGEOUS' ENGINEERING ROOM (OPTICAL) 41

Geordi and McKnight are both facing the ENGINEERING CONSOLE WITH GEORDI'S TOOL KIT OPENED AND ON THE CONSOLE. Geordi is DOING SOMETHING TO SOMETHING IN THE CONSOLE WITH ONE OF HIS TOOLS when RASHIVE APPEARS (WITH "GHOST EFFECT") BEHIND THEM. When the RASHIVE SPEAKS, Geordi and McKnight spin to face him.

RASHIVE

(stepping forward)

You gentlemen will have to stop what you're doing.

McKnight pulls his PHASER. The Engineer's Mate smiles at the PHASER, and takes another step toward Geordi and McKnight. McKnight freaks and FIRES HIS PHASER AT THE ENGINEER'S MATE.

42 ANGLE ON RASHIVE (OPTICAL) 42

The PHASER BEAM PASSES RIGHT THROUGH RASHIVE. THERE IS THE SOUND OF THE PHASER BEAM HITTING SOMETHING SOLID BEHIND THE ENGINEER'S MATE. Rashive turns to look back at THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE WALL BY THE PHASER BEAM. He spins back to McKnight and knocks THE PHASER OUT OF McKNIGHT'S HAND. McKnight attempts to strike the Rashive with his fist, but IT PASSES RIGHT THROUGH RASHIVE. Rashive grabs McKnight, and throws him up against the wall. Geordi steps forward, and,

GEORDI

Ensign, that's enough!

McKnight is obviously terrified, but looks at Geordi. After a moment, he regains control and looks at the Engineer's Mate, who is still holding him up against the wall. McKnight raises his hands in an 'I give up'. The Engineer's Mate releases him, and takes a step back.

GEORDI

(touching his COMMUNICATOR)

Data, this is Geordi. We've got a problem down here.

(CONTINUED)

43 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN BRIDGE

43

Picard, Riker, and Troi are sitting in their seats. The other Bridge Stations are manned by the Relief Crew.

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Commander Data to the Enterprise.

PICARD  
Yes, Commander?

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Sir, we have encountered resistance  
from the Courageous' crew.

RIKER  
What?!?

PICARD  
(gesturing to Riker)  
Number One.  
(back to the 'ceiling')  
Explain, Commander.

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Sir, the Courageous' First Officer has  
told me ship's logs have been moved  
from the Main Computer to Captain  
O'Sullivan's personal computer. In  
addition, Commander LaForge has  
been prevented from taking the  
Courageous out of warp by one of the  
Courageous' crew.

(a beat)  
The First officer says that if we want an  
explanation, we will have to speak with  
Captain O'Sullivan.

Picard considers this for a moment, and then,

PICARD  
Commander, you will instruct  
Commander LaForge to take no further  
provocative action. I will be joining you  
on the Courageous' Bridge shortly.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Understood. Data out.

Picard stands and Riker does as well.

RIKER  
Sir...

PICARD  
(cutting Riker off)  
Number One, if any of the Away Team had been injured, Data would have mentioned it. We have been offered a way to get the answers we want. Counselor Troi and I will beam over to the Courageous, and do as her First Officer suggested.

RIKER  
Speak to Captain O'Sullivan?

Picard simply nods and turns to Troi.

PICARD  
(gesturing to Troi)  
Counselor?

Troi stands, and precedes the Captain to the FORWARD TURBOLIFT. On the way,

PICARD  
Number One, you have the Con.

Picard and Troi enter the FORWARD TURBOLIFT.

44 ANGLE ON RIKER

44

Riker looks pensive as he sits down in the Captain's Seat, and on his expression, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

45 EXT. ENTERPRISE AND COURAGEOUS (OPTICAL) 45

The ENTERPRISE and COURAGEOUS are moving at WARP SPEED.

46 INT. COURAGEOUS' BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 46

Picard and Troi MATERIALIZE WITHIN THE AREA OF THE TRANSPORTER SIGNAL ENHANCERS, WHICH ARE ON. Data and Worf turn to them as they step out of the TRANSPORTER SIGNAL ENHANCERS' AREA. Data starts to report, but is silenced by a gesture from Picard.

PICARD

Counselor?

TROI

Sir, I still don't sense individual psyches.

(a pause)

Just a strong sense a determination. A sense of purpose.

PICARD

A determination to do what? A purpose to what end?

TROI

I'm sorry, sir. I don't know.

Picard is clearly frustrated by this, but he turns to Data.

PICARD

Commander, tell me exactly what was said before the Courageous' First Officer appeared.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

DATA

I had said, "We must determine where  
the logs have been moved."

Picard looks as though his suspicions have been confirmed.

PICARD

(more to himself than anyone else)  
Well, that completes the pattern, doesn't  
it?

Everyone else is puzzled by Picard's assertion.

DATA

I do not...

PICARD

(cutting Data off)  
Data, take out your tricorder.

Data is puzzled but complies.

PICARD

Now, tell me where I can find Captain  
O'Sullivan.

47 INT. NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

47

COMMANDER DARE APPEARS (WITH "GHOST "EFFECT"), and,

DATA

Sir, I don't...

COMMANDER DARE

(cutting Data off)  
Sir, Captain O'Sullivan is in his  
quarters.

Everyone but Picard spins toward Commander Dare. Picard turns slowly toward Commander Dare. Data looks at Commander Dare, then Picard, and then back at Commander Dare. He then raises his TRICORDER to scan Commander Dare.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

PICARD

I see. And where are his quarters,  
Commander?

COMMANDER DARE

Deck 3, Corridor 5, Cabin 1.

PICARD

Very good, Commander. Dismissed.

Commander Dare stiffens as though coming to attention, and then  
DISAPPEARS. Picard turns to Data, and,

PICARD

Commander, did your tricorder detect  
anything?

DATA

There were two small bursts of  
neutrinos.

(touching some BUTTONS ON HIS  
TRICORDER)

They coincided precisely with  
Commander Dare's appearance and  
disappearance.

PICARD

Commander, finish copying the ship's  
memory, and then you and Lieutenant  
Worf return to the Enterprise.  
Counselor Troi and I are going to  
speak with Captain O'Sullivan.

DATA

Aye, sir.

Picard turns and strides off the Courageous' Bridge, followed by  
Troi.

(CONTINUED)

48 INT. COURAGEOUS' CORRIDOR

48

Troi has caught up and is walking beside Picard.

TROI

You've figured it out, haven't you?

PICARD

Members of the Courageous' crew have appeared every time one of us has said something that could be interpreted as an order or request which they can fulfill.

(a beat)

I don't know how it is possible, or what it is they hope to accomplish. I am sure the only way we'll learn "how" or "what" is to speak with Captain O'Sullivan.

49 INT. COURAGEOUS - OUTSIDE O'SULLIVAN'S QUARTERS

49

Picard and Troi walk up to a DOORWAY, AND NEXT TO IT IS A PLAQUE THAT READS: "Cabin 1 - Capt. O'Sullivan"

PICARD

Before we go in, do you sense anything different now, Counselor?

Troi concentrates a moment, and then,

TROI

Not different, but definitely more intense. The focus of the sense of determination or purpose is in there.

PICARD

Yes, that is, in part, what a Captain is supposed to supply for the crew. A sense of purpose, and the determination to complete the mission.

Picard steps toward the DOOR, AND IT OPENS. He walks in and is followed by Troi.

(CONTINUED)

50 INT. COURAGEOUS - CAPTAIN O'SULLIVAN'S QUARTERS

50

The ROOM IS DARK when Picard and Troi enter. But before the DOOR CLOSES, the LIGHTS COME ON. O'Sullivan's quarters are comfortably appointed, and there is a desk in the corner. The desk has an INTERCOM/VIEWER MOUNTED ON IT. SLUMPED OVER THE DESK IS CAPTAIN O'SULLIVAN'S BODY. Picard and Troi take a moment to study the room, and then,

PICARD

Captain O'Sullivan, I need to talk with you.

51 ANGLE ON O'SULLIVAN'S DESK (OPTICAL)

51

CAPTAIN O'SULLIVAN (WITH "GHOST" EFFECT) APPEARS IN FRONT OF HIS DESK. He leans back against the desk, and,

O'SULLIVAN

It's a pleasure to meet you, Captain...

PICARD

(stepping forward)

Captain Jean-Luc Picard, of the Federation starship Enterprise.

The two men consider each other for a moment, and then,

O'SULLIVAN

Well, what can I do for you, Captain?

PICARD

I must know what happened to your ship and crew.

O'SULLIVAN

I'm afraid I can't tell you that.

PICARD

Why not?

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

O'SULLIVAN

Because, Captain, it might very well be that the only thing holding my crew together, the only thing keeping them alive, is their sense of purpose, their determination to complete our mission.

(with some regret)

If I were to tell you what has happened to us in these last 235 years...

(a beat)

Well, let's just say it might destroy that sense of purpose.

PICARD

Captain, your crew is dead.

O'Sullivan smiles slightly, and turns to look at his own body.

O'SULLIVAN

(turning back to Picard)

Captain Picard, is that what you see when you look about my fine ship?

PICARD

I'm afraid so, Captain.

52 ANGLE ON O'SULLIVAN (OPTICAL)

52

O'Sullivan considers this for a moment, and then turns to the VIEWER ON HIS DESK. He TURNS THE VIEWER so Picard can see it. O'Sullivan pushes the INTERCOM BUTTON, and,

O'SULLIVAN

(to the INTERCOM)

Greg, this is O'Sullivan.

(CONTINUED)

53 CLOSE UP ON VIEWER (OPTICAL)

53

THE VIEWER COMES ON, AND COMMANDER DARE'S FACE CAN BE SEEN.

COMMANDER DARE (V.O.)  
Yes, sir?

O'SULLIVAN  
What is the ship's status?

Dare turns to speak over his shoulder.

COMMANDER DARE (V.O.)  
Station by Station report, please.

Dare turns his head to follow the voices as the different stations report.

ASTROGATOR WIMBATTA (V.O.)  
Ship's course: 210 mark 35. Speed:  
time warp factor 2. Next bearing and  
gravimetric scan at 1300 hours.

SCIENCE OFFICER (V.O.)  
Sensors and scanners at 100% We  
still have a glitch in the UV telescope,  
but I'm working on it.

ENGINEER (V.O.)  
(an Asian accent)  
The engines are fine. Of course a lot of  
power is being wasted by the damn life  
support.

COMMANDER DARE (V.O.)  
All decks check in fine, Captain.

54 ANGLE ON O'SULLIVAN AND VIEWER (OPTICAL)

54

O'Sullivan turns to look at Picard.

O'SULLIVAN  
Thanks, Greg. O'Sullivan out.

O'Sullivan THUMBS THE INTERCOM SWITCH AND THE  
VIEWER TURNS OFF.

(CONTINUED)

55 ANGLE ON O'SULLIVAN AND PICARD (OPTICAL)

55

O'SULLIVAN

You see, Captain? As long as we have a mission to complete, we'll go on. Speaking of which, I understand that you took four of my crew over to your ship, I'd appreciate it if you could return them.

PICARD

What, exactly, is your mission?

O'SULLIVAN

Why to return to Earth and give our mission report to Starfleet, of course.

Picard considers this for a moment, and then,

PICARD

(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Commander LaForge, this is Picard. I want you and your Security Guard to go to the Courageous' Bridge and wait there for Counselor Troi and I.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Yes, sir.

PICARD

(to O'Sullivan)

Very well, Captain. I'll see that your crew members are returned to you. Good luck.

O'Sullivan stands up and reaches out to shake Picard's hand. Picard hesitates a moment, but then reaches out his hand. The two men shake hands.

O'SULLIVAN

Thanks, and good luck to you and your crew as well.

On this, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

56 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

56

Data and Worf are standing next to the TRANSPORTER CONSOLE as Picard, Troi, Geordi and McKnight MATERIALIZE. As they step off the TRANSPORTER PAD,

PICARD  
(to the Transporter Tech)  
Retrieve the signal enhancers, Ensign.

TRANSPORTER TECH  
Aye, sir.

PICARD  
(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Picard to Crusher.

The SIGNAL ENHANCERS MATERIALIZE ON THE TRANSPORTER PAD, and the Transporter Tech moves to DEACTIVATE THEM and carry them off the TRANSPORTER PAD.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE  
Yes, Captain.

PICARD  
Doctor, I want the bodies of the Courageous crew returned to their ship.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE  
But Captain, I still haven't determined what killed them.

PICARD  
I understand Doctor, but that's not important now. Make sure the Transporter Tech has the coordinates from which each body was taken. Understood?

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

(with some reluctance)

Yes, sir.

PICARD

Let the Transporter Tech know when the bodies are ready for direct transport from Sickbay to the Courageous. Picard out.

PICARD

Mr. Data?

DATA

Copy of the Courageous' Main Computer memory was successful. Furthermore, I believe that recovery of the ship's logs may be possible.

PICARD

How so?

DATA

When the ship's logs were transferred to the Captain's computer, they were simply deleted from the Main Computer's memory. They were not over-written. Because of this, I believe I will be able to reconstruct the Courageous' logs.

PICARD

Excellent. Make it so.

DATA

Yes, sir.

Everyone but the Transporter Tech files out of the Transporter Room.

(CONTINUED)

57 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM (OPTICAL)

57

Picard is sitting at his desk, with the chair turned so that he can see the COURAGEOUS THROUGH THE WINDOW BEHIND HIS DESK. THE DOOR CHIME RINGS, and it takes Picard a moment to respond.

PICARD  
(turning in his CHAIR)  
Come.

THE DOOR OPENS, and Data enters.

PICARD  
Yes, Mr. Data?

DATA  
Recovery of the Courageous' logs was successful and reconstruction is complete.

PICARD  
(standing)  
Excellent. Are you prepared to present your findings?

DATA  
Yes, sir.

Picard steps out from behind his desk, and walks toward the Bridge. Data falls in behind him.

58 INT. ENTERPRISE'S MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

58

The Bridge is manned as usual, with Riker at the Conn and Worf at Tactical. As Picard strides to the center of the Bridge,

PICARD  
(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Senior Officers to the Observation Lounge.

Picard turns to regard the MAIN VIEWER ON WHICH CAN BE SEEN THE COURAGEOUS.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

RIKER

Sir?

PICARD

Mr. Data has determined what happened to the Courageous and her crew.

Picard turns toward the Observation Lounge, and Riker gestures to Data and Worf and they follow him to the Observation Lounge. As they leave,

RIKER

Lieutenant Parker, you have the Bridge.

PARKER

Aye, sir.

59 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

59

Picard, Riker, Data, and Worf takes their seats. After a moment, Troi and Beverly enter, closely followed by Geordi. THE COURAGEOUS CAN BE SEEN THROUGH THE LOUNGE'S WINDOW. When everyone is seated,

PICARD

Commander Data has completed his recovery and review of the Courageous' logs. Commander?

DATA

The Courageous' logs have confirmed everything we knew to be the case from our records. They were in the Hapsine sector where they discovered what Captain O'Sullivan referred to as an "interspatial rift" in his last communication with Star Fleet. My analysis indicates it was a wormhole, similar in nature to the one recently discovered near Bajor, which leads to the Gamma Quadrant.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

RIKER

(with some excitement)

You mean artificial and stable?

DATA

That cannot be determined from the Courageous' logs. Passage through the wormhole damaged the ship's sensor and computer systems. After emerging from the wormhole, they were unable to determine the location of the wormhole's mouth.

(reaching out to touch a CONTROL PANEL ON THE CONFERENCE TABLE)

This is an excerpt from Captain O'Sullivan's next log entry.

Data pushes a BUTTON ON THE TABLES CONTROL PANEL.

O'SULLIVAN'S COM VOICE

It has been seven days since we passed through the rift. All damage to the ship has been repaired, but after all this time, we have been unable to find the rift again. Astrogator Wimbatta tells me that we are, in fact, in the Delta Quadrant.

60 REACTIONS

60

Everyone is stunned.

RIKER

The Delta Quadrant is over 1,000 light years from here.

O'SULLIVAN'S COM VOICE

(continuing after a pause)

Even at the ship's best sustainable speed of factor 6, it would take us over 26 years to get back to other end of the rift.

(CONTINUED)

61 ANGLE ON DATA

61

Data pushes another BUTTON ON THE CONTROL PANEL, and,

DATA

Captain O'Sullivan continues that they will set a course for Earth, and maintain a speed of time warp factor 2 to conserve fuel.

(a beat)

For the next month, they continued in this manner. They transmitted a continual distress signal, but were not answered.

(a beat)

47 days after emerging in the Delta Quadrant, they discovered a system with a planet rich in easily accessible dilithium crystal deposits. They stopped at this planet and mined enough of the crystal to complete their return to Earth.

RIKER

Data, this all very interesting but how did they die?

DATA

Yes, Commander.

Data stands, and moves toward the OBSERVATION LOUNGE VIEW SCREEN.

DATA

(continuing)

One year and fifty six days after arriving in the Delta Quadrant, their distress signal was finally answered.

Data turns to stand in front of the VIEW SCREEN and faces everyone.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

DATA  
(continuing)

The Courageous was answered by an energy being, of a species unknown to us. Captain O'Sullivan explained their predicament to this being, and asked if there was any way in which it could help them. It took the entity some time to decide how to respond, and when the entity did reply, Captain O'Sullivan was in his quarters and Commander Dare was on the Bridge. This is what happened next.

Data turns slightly to activate the VIEW SCREEN.

62 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE VIEW SCREEN (OPTICAL)

62

THE SCENE WHICH APPEARS IS THAT OF THE COURAGEOUS' MAIN VIEWER AS SEEN FROM JUST BEHIND THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR. The HELM AND CONN STATIONS can be seen in front of the CAPTAIN'S CHAIR AND ARE MANNED. Commander Dare can be seen getting up from the CAPTAIN'S CHAIR, AS THE ENERGY BEING COALESCES ON THE MAIN VIEWER.

ENERGY BEING (V.O.)

We once had physical bodies such as yours. They were impediments to us as well, and we transcended them. I will free you from your bodies as we freed ourselves.

A moment later, Dare and the men at the HELM AND CONN DROP DEAD INTO THE POSITIONS SEEN BY THE AWAY TEAM WHEN THEY ARRIVED ON THE COURAGEOUS' BRIDGE.

63 REACTIONS

63

Everyone, to one extent or another, is dismayed.

(CONTINUED)

64 ANGLE ON DATA (OPTICAL)

64

Data reaches over and pushes A VIEW SCREEN BUTTON, and THE VIEW SCREEN GOES BLANK. Data walks over to retake his seat.

DATA

Captain O'Sullivan ordered that Life Support be shut off to preserve their bodies. Over the next several days, he pleaded with the energy being to return his crew to their previous state.

(sitting down)

This is Captain O'Sullivan's next log entry.

Data pushes A BUTTON ON THE CONTROL PANEL ON THE CONFERENCE TABLE.

O'SULLIVAN

We have pleaded with the energy being to return us to our...

(a pause)

...previous state. But it says reviving our bodies is beyond its experience. Chief Engineer Ching and Astrogator Wimbatta tell me that if we leave Life Support shut off and make "certain modifications to the engines," we ought to be able to maintain time warp factor 2 for the 240 years it will take us to travel the 965 light-years back to Earth.

Data pushes A BUTTON ON THE CONTROL PANEL ON THE CONFERENCE TABLE.

65 REACTIONS

65

Everyone contemplates the magnitude of dedication the crew of the Courageous has demonstrated.

66 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

66

PARKER'S COM VOICE  
Lieutenant Parker to Captain Picard.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

PICARD  
(touching his COMMUNICATOR)  
Yes, Lieutenant?

PARKER'S COM VOICE  
Sir, the Courageous has dropped out of  
warp again. She appears to be  
changing course and pulling away from  
us. Should I have her tractored?

PICARD  
No, let her and her crew continue on  
their mission.

LIEUTENANT PARKER'S COM VOICE  
(somewhat carefully)  
Sir, I thought the Courageous' crew  
was dead.

PICARD  
In this case, that is not relevant,  
Lieutenant.

PARKER'S COM VOICE  
Aye, sir.

PICARD  
It is clear that the crew of the  
Courageous is still in full and complete  
control of their ship. As this is the case,  
I've decided that they pose no threat to  
space-faring vessels and should be  
allowed to complete their mission.

Picard turns to look at the COURAGEOUS WHICH CAN BE SEEN  
MOVING AWAY FROM THE THROUGH THE LOUNGE'S  
WINDOW. Everyone's gaze follows Picard's.

(CONTINUED)

67 INT. COURAGEOUS' BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

67

O'Sullivan takes the Captain's Chair from Dare. ON THE MAIN VIEWER, THE ENTERPRISE CAN BE SEEN GETTING SMALLER AS THE COURAGEOUS MOVES AWAY FROM HER.

DARE

We are moving away from the Enterprise, sir.

O'SULLIVAN

Picard is a good man.

(a beat)

Helm?

ASTROGATOR WIMBATTA

We have a made a course correction to 215 mark 35. Time Factor 2. On course for Earth, sir.

68 INT. COURAGEOUS' MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

68

As the ENTERPRISE GROWS SMALLER, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END