

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"To Better the Instruction"

Story by

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and
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Teleplay by

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STAR TREK: "To Better the Instruction" - 8/29/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"To Better the Instruction"

CAST

PICARD

COLONISTS

RIKER

KRANAR

BEVERLY

LOTAR

DATA

HAFTAR

TROI

WORF

GEORDI

WESLEY

TRANSPORTER TECHNICIAN

ENGINEER THOMPSON

HELMSMAN

Non-Speaking

SECURITY GUARDS

SICKBAY MEDICS

COLONISTS

CHILDREN

Voice Over

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE

COLONISTS' COMPUTER VOICE

STAR TREK: "Yellow Alert" - 8/29/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"To Better the Instruction"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE

SICKBAY

OBSERVATION LOUNGE

TRANSPORTER ROOM

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

TURBOLIFT

CORRIDORS

MAIN ENGINEERING

MAIN ENGINEERING CONTROL AREA

GUEST QUARTERS

BATTLE BRIDGE

BATTLE SLED SICKBAY

DR CRUSHER'S BATTLE SLED OFFICE

JEFFERIES TUBE #1

BRIDGE CONFERENCE LOUNGE

COLONISTS' BASE

SUSPENDED ANIMATION TANK ROOM

CORRIDOR

COMPUTER ROOM

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

WOODED PARK

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"To Better the Instruction"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Kranar

KRAW-nahr

Lotar

LOW-tahr

Haftar

HAWF-tahr

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"To Better the Instruction"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 1

The ENTERPRISE is traveling through starry space at warp speed.

PICARD'S COMM VOICE
Captain's Log, Jean-Luc Picard,
reording, Stardate 42121.2. The
Enterprise is presently responding to a
distress call we intercepted roughly 3
solar hours ago. We are in a region of
space visited last by the Federation
some 10 and half years ago. Our
knowledge of this area is scanty at best.

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 2

The Bridge is manned as usual. Picard is sitting in the command seat as,

PICARD
Data, how long until we reach the
source of the distress signal?

DATA
We will be in the system in 1 hour 23
minutes.

PICARD
The distress signal said they were on
the second planet, what do we know
about this planet?

DATA
The Federation survey vessel Far
Reaches mapped this system 10.3
years ago. Captain Richards reported
that they found no planets capable of
supporting life.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

DATA

(continuing)

They did note, however, that the second planet in the system was within the star's life zone and had gravity only slightly greater than Earth's. The atmosphere contained certain toxic trace gasses though. The Far Reaches' Science Officer commented that the second planet was ideal for terraforming.

PICARD

Very well. Please replay the distress signal.

3 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

3

The image of passing stars is replaced by a static-distorted image of a HUMANOID ALIEN. The static clears quickly and we hear,

KRANAR (V.O.)

(pleadingly)

To anyone who might hear. We are under attack from an unidentified ship.

As if to underscore what KRANAR is saying, wherever he's transmitting from is ROCKED and there is a BOOMING SOUND. He's obviously scared as he braces himself. When it's over, he continues,

KRANAR (V.O.)

(continuing)

We are a small unarmed colony on the second planet of the Quadra Lupae star system. We can not defend ourselves from this unprovoked attack. Please help us if you can. We are putting ourselves in to suspended animation in hopes of riding out the attack. This message will repeat.

(CONTINUED)

4 REACTIONS

4

PICARD

Reactions? Recommendations?

Picard first looks to Troi.

TROI

He is not lying: to the best of his knowledge, the attack is unprovoked. Further, he is not military in training. He is terrified and holding himself together by main force of will.

Picard looks to Data.

DATA

On the basis on the Far Reaches' report, I conjecture that these people are civilian colonists, quite possibly attempting to terraform the planet.

Picard glances up to Worf.

WORF

Recommend going in battle ready. It is possible the raiders are still in the system, waiting in ambush for whoever responds to the distress signal.

Picard considers this and then looks at Riker.

PICARD

Number One?

RIKER

I agree with Worf. Until we know the raider has left the system, it is better to assume it's still here.

(CONTINUED)

STAR TREK: "To Better the Instruction" - 8/29/90 - TEASER 4.

4 CONTINUED: 4

PICARD
Very well, make it so.

RIKER
Mr. Worf, takes us to Yellow Alert.

5 EXT. ENTERPRISE - THE ENTERPRISE AND PLANET (OPTICAL) 5

The ENTERPRISE is entering orbit around a DARK BLUE WORLD,
no lights or other evidence of habitation visible.

6 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 6

Picard and Riker come to their feet,

WESLEY (V.O.)
Captain, we are entering a standard
orbit of Quadra Lupae II.

PICARD
Where are we in relation to the
colonists' base?

DATA
The base is crossing the horizon line
now.

PICARD
Full scan.

DATA
Scanning.

PICARD
(to Worf)
Your sensors detect no ships?

WORF
No sir. Not in the immediate vicinity
and at no time during our approach.

(CONTINUED)

STAR TREK: "To Better the Instruction" - 8/29/90 - TEASER 5.

6 CONTINUED: 6

PICARD

Very well, stay alert Lieutenant. I don't want any surprises.

(back to Data)

Data, put the base on the screen.

DATA

Aye sir.

(a beat)

Sir, transmission of the distress signal has just ceased.

PICARD

(to Riker)

Someone knows we're here.

7 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 7

The image of the PLANET is replaced by a DOMED ENCLOSURE surrounded by a RING OF SIX OTHER STRUCTURES. These SIX STRUCTURES are heavily damaged. The central DOME appears much less damaged, but the SURROUNDING TERRAIN also shows evidence of WEAPON IMPACTS.

8 REACTIONS 8

RIKER

Who ever they were, they were thorough.

PICARD

Yes indeed. Data, what do your sensors show?

DATA

I detect no life readings, the level of destruction would...

(a beat)

Sir, we are being scanned by a very powerful computer on the planet's surface.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED

8

PICARD

They want to know who we are.

(to Worf)

Lieutenant, open a hailing frequency.

(after Worf nods)

This is the USS Enterprise, Captain Jean-Luc Picard commanding. We have come in response to your distress signal. How may we be of assistance?

9 CLOSE UP ON TROI

9

There is a look of concentration or perhaps pain on Troi's face as she comes to her feet,

TROI

Captain, I sense... No, it is... Sir, I don't understand.

Suddenly she gasps and puts a hand to her head.

10 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

10

Riker rushes to her as she staggers. He lowers her to her seat, but stumbles a bit as he does. He seems dizzy as he turns to Picard,

RIKER

Captain, I...

Riker's knees buckle and he collapses to the deck. Picard rushes to him, feels for a pulse, looks at Troi, who is sprawled unconscious in her seat. He slaps his communicator.

11 CLOSE UP ON PICARD

11

PICARD

(urgently)

Medical Emergency! Dr. Crusher to the Bridge immediately.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

12 INT. SICKBAY

12

SICKBAY is overflowing with people, both young and old, in both CIVILIAN AND STARFLEET ATTIRE. All are shaking their heads as if to clear them, or rubbing their temples, or something of the like. Beverly and Riker are standing next to a DIAGNOSTIC BED where Troi is lying unconscious.

BEVERLY

How is your head now, Commander?

RIKER

It still hurts a little, but it's better than it was. How is that all these people developed headaches or fainted at the same time?

BEVERLY

I have no idea. All I did was give everyone mild painkillers. The headaches seem to have gone away on their own. Except for Counsellor Troi, everyone who fainted has recovered.

RIKER

Then what is wrong with Deanna?

BEVERLY

From the symptoms everyone has described to me, I would say the same thing has happened to her as everyone else. For some reason though, she isn't recovering as quickly. I'll need to run some more tests before I know anything.

Riker looks at Troi, obviously worried. They both look up when they hear,

PICARD'S COMM VOICE

Sickbay, this Picard. What is the situation down there?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

BEVERLY

Everyone seems to be recovering fully with the exception of Counsellor Troi.

PICARD'S COMM VOICE

Commander Riker has recovered?

RIKER

Yes sir, I have.

PICARD'S COMM VOICE

Good. Report to the Bridge immediately.

RIKER

On my way.

Riker turns to leave, after glancing at Troi.

PICARD'S COMM VOICE

Doctor, can you tell me what caused the headaches and fainting spells? And all at the same time?

BEVERLY

No, I can not. However, everyone affected scored a 70 or above on the S'Talin test.

PICARD'S COMM VOICE

What does this test measure?

BEVERLY

It's a standard test for telepathic ability. A 50 or above indicates a sensitivity to emotional output in others. Counsellor Troi, the only true empath on board, has the highest score, an 85.

PICARD'S COMM VOICE

Can her high score be why she still hasn't recovered.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

BEVERLY

That would seem a reasonable assumption, but as I told Number One, I won't have anything definite until I run some more tests.

PICARD'S COMM VOICE

Very well, Doctor. Mysteries are fine so long as they don't hurt us, but this one has hurt us. Get some answers. Picard out.

Beverly turns back to Troi, obviously puzzled.

13 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

13

As Riker strides onto the BRIDGE from the FOWARD TURBOLIFT, Picard turns to him and,

PICARD

How is your head, Number One?

RIKER

The pain is almost gone. What is the ship's status?

PICARD

Mr. Data?

Data turns from the OPS BOARD to address Riker.

DATA

Damage to the Sensors and Library Computer is almost repaired. All other systems are functioning at normal levels.

RIKER

(suprised)

The Sensors and Library computer were damaged?!?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

DATA

After you and Counsellor Troi collapsed, the planetary computer continued scanning the Enterprise's systems for approximately 3.5 minutes. It's communication speed is much greater than the Library Computer's, and several relays were overloaded. The Sensors were likewise damaged.

RIKER

What was it after?

DATA

To learn our intent, possibly.

RIKER

Anything else?

DATA

Yes sir. Shortly after the scan of our systems ended, I began scanning life form readings on the planet's surface. The readings indicate humanoid life forms in suspended animation.

RIKER

So they did make it into suspended animation. But why didn't you detect this earlier?

DATA

The planetary computer may have been masking the readings until it knew our intent.

RIKER

(to Picard)

This computer sounds pretty advanced.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

PICARD

Yes, perhaps more so than our own. I want you to assemble an away team. Take a Computer Specialist to investigate this computer of theirs, and a Medical Specialist for the colonists.

RIKER

Sickbay, this is Commander Riker. Dr. Crusher, I need someone for an away team, someone familiar with suspended animation.

BEVERLY'S COMM VOICE

I want to stay here and look after Counsellor Troi. Lieutenant Sarla is familiar with suspended animation.

RIKER

Good, have her meet me in Transporter Room 5 immediately.

(to Data)

Data, who would you recommend for the Computer Specialist?

DATA

Lieutenant Johanson.

RIKER

Lieutenant Johanson, report to Transporter Room 5 immediately. Worf, you and Data are with me.

Data and Worf move toward the FORWARD TURBOLIFT.

PICARD

Number One, our duty is to those colonists, but I want to learn everything we can about that computer.

RIKER

Aye sir.

Riker follows Worf and Data into the FORWARD TURBOLIFT.

(CONTINUED)

14 COLONISTS' BASE - SUSPENDED ANIMATION TANK ROOM 14

The AWAY TEAM MATERIALIZES. Data, Johanson and Sarla pull out their TRICORDERS. Worf pulls his PHASER. The room is lined on both walls with SUSPENDED ANIMATION TANKS - large upright tanks with CLEAR DOORS through which can be seen the COLONISTS. The ROOM HAS TAKEN DAMAGE, AND SOME OF THE TANKS ARE CLEARLY DAMAGED. Riker touches his COMMUNICATOR and,

RIKER

Enterprise, this is the away team. We are in a room where the colonists appear to be in suspended animation. There is significant damage.

PICARD'S COMM VOICE

Very good, Number One. Keep this channel open.

RIKER

Aye sir.

(to Data and Johanson)

Data and Johanson, you two find the computer room. Report when you do.

DATA

Aye sir.

Data and Johanson move toward a DOOR which opens as they approach.

15 INT. COLONIST'S BASE - CORRIDOR (OPTICAL) 15

BROKEN BEAMS AND STRUCTURAL MEMBERS span the CORRIDOR and there is DUST FLOATING IN THE AIR.

JOHANSON

(pointing to his left)

My readings indicate just a few meters that way.

Data and Johanson go a short distance down the CORRIDOR. Johanson stops in front of a DOOR.

JOHANSON

Should be right this door.

(CONTINUED)

STAR TREK: "To Better the Instruction" - 8/29/90 - TEASER 13.

15 CONTINUED: 15

Johanson approaches the DOOR, and it opens. Johanson and Data enter the COMPUTER ROOM.

16 COLONISTS' BASE - COMPUTER ROOM 16

On the FAR WALL is a very IMPRESSIVE COMPUTER. With his TRICORDER held out before him, Johanson approaches the COMPUTER. He turns to Data,

JOHANSON

This is the source of scan on the Enterprise.

DATA

(touching his COMMUNICATOR)
Commander Riker, this Commander Data. We have located the colonists' computer.

RIKER'S COMM VOICE

Very good, learn what you can. I'll contact you when we're ready to return the ship.

DATA

Yes sir.

(to Johanson)

This is a most impressive machine. I read duotronic typ memeory structure, but the processing routes are different anything I have ever seen.

JOHANSON

Yeah, it looks like whoever built this thing could teach us a thing or two.

17 COLONISTS' BASE - SUSPENDED ANIMATION TANK ROOM 17

Worf, Riker, Sarla are standing in front of a TANK. Sarla points her TRICORDER at the TANK, and,

SARLA

Commander, this one also has lost integrity and power. The occupant is dead.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

RIKER

Damn.

(slapping his communicator)
Bridge, this is Riker. We've found what's left of the colonists. Of the 40 in suspended animation, Lieutenant Sarla says only 8 are still alive. The dead died when their tanks lost integrity, power, or both. Sir, there were almost two dozen children. Only five are still alive.

PICARD

Very well, Number One. Have Lieutenant Sarla make whatever arrangements are necessary with Sickbay and then return to the ship. What have you learned about the colonists' computer?

RIKER

Data and Johanson say they'll be ready to make a full report when we return to the Enterprise.

PICARD

Very good. Picard out.

18 INT. SICKBAY

18

Riker and Beverly are standing next to a DIAGNOSTIC BED on which is lying KRANAR. Picard strides up to them and,

PICARD

How are they, Doctor?

BEVERLY

I've revived all the ones that were alive when the away team found them. Any injuries have been treated.

PICARD

How long until they're conscious?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

BEVERLY

Since this was the one from the Distress Signal, Number One felt that he might be their leader. He should be coming around in a moment or two. I'd like to recommend treating them with kid gloves until they've had time to deal with their losses.

PICARD

I understand, Doctor.

Kranar starts to rouse. He opens his eyes and looks at Picard. He tries to speak, but he is very hoarse. He raises his hand to his throat and tries again,

KRANAR

Where... Where am I?

PICARD

(reassuringly)

You're on board the USS Enterprise. I am Captain Picard. We answered your distress signal.

KRANAR

(nodding but still hoarse)

How many... Did we all make it?

PICARD

I'm sorry, but of the forty we found, only eight could be revived.

KRANAR

(becoming agitated)

The children? How many made it?

PICARD

I'm very sorry, only 5.

(quickly)

You should rest.

(waving to Beverly)

Doctor.

(back to Kranar)

We'll talk again when you've rested.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

Beverly presses a HYPO against Kranar's neck, and he drifts off.
She looks back to Picard,

BEVERLY

It's going to be very hard for them.

PICARD

Yes, it is.

(a beat)

How is Counsellor Troi? She would be
a great help right now.

BEVERLY

Physically, there is nothing wrong with
her. I can't explain it.

RIKER

(somewhat hotly)

Then why isn't she awake yet?

Beverly is surprised by the intensity of Riker's reaction, and she
glances at Picard who is looking askance at Riker.

BEVERLY

I don't know.

Riker turns and walks over to Troi's DIAGNOSTIC BED. Beverly
and Picard exchange inquiring glances.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19A INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

19A

Picard, Riker, Worf, and Johanson sit at the CONFERENCE TABLE, awaiting the arrival of Dr. Crusher and the colonists. The doors open, and Kranar, Lotar, and Haftar enter, followed by Dr. Crusher. Picard rises to his feet, gestures for the others to do the same and,

PICARD

I would like to begin by offering my most profound sympathies. You have suffered a great loss, all the more so for its apparent lack of reason.

KRANAR

Thank you.

(a beat)

My name is Kranar.

(indicating to his left)

This Haftar.

(indicating to his right)

And this is Lotar, my wife.

PICARD

Please sit. I am Captain Jean-Luc Picard.

(indicating people in turn)

This is Commander Riker, my first officer. This is Lieutenant Worf, my Chief of Security. You already know Dr. Crusher, and this is Lieutenant Johanson, Computer Specialist. We have several questions for you, as I'm sure you do for us. Please be seated, and ask you questions.

After everyone is seated,

KRANAR

On behalf of my people, I would like to thank you for answering our distress signal, and for saving as many of us as you could.

(CONTINUED)

19A CONTINUED:

19A

KRANAR

(continuing)

But what is to happen to us now? What was the extent of the damage to our colony?

Picard indicates that Worf should answer the question.

WORF

The central living quarters took no direct hits, but there is still considerable structural damage. All other structures were destroyed.

LOTAR

The atmosphere processors... Destroyed. Kranar, we can't rebuild the atmosphere processors.

PICARD

We feared as much. We found wreckage of a spacecraft in orbit.

HAFTAR

Our transport. It was the first thing the raiders destroyed.

PICARD

Do you know who the raiders were? Or why they attacked you?

KRANAR

No. We scanned their ship. We had never seen a ship like that before. It wasn't one of ours.

(he seems lost for a moment)

Our people. 32 dead. 18 Children.

Kranar seems to be going into shock. Picard looks to Beverly for guidance. Everyone is surprised by Kranar's sudden, angry outburst.

KRANAR

It's not right!!!

(CONTINUED)

19A CONTINUED: (2)

19A

KRANAR

(continuing)

They must pay!!! Captain Picard, you must help us avenge ourselves! Our murdered children!

PICARD

(choosing his words carefully)

Kranar, I am sorry, but that is not possible. I am not allowed to...

(a beat)

The Federation I represent does not involve itself in the settling of personal vendettas. Nor can I help you pursue vengeance against your attackers. I can transport you and your people back to your homeworld, but that is all.

KRANAR

But what of justice?!?

Picard begins to respond, but is interrupted by Lotar.

LOTAR

Captain Picard is right, Kranar. It is our problem, not his.

(looking to Picard)

And he has been most generous in his help already.

PICARD

(to Lotar in particular)

Thank you.

(to all three colonists)

Perhaps there still personal items on the planet that you would like to collect before we leave.

KRANAR

Yes, Captain. You are most generous. Please forgive my outburst. Yes, there are things that my people would like to take with them. And it would give us a chance to re-link to our computer.

(CONTINUED)

19A CONTINUED: (3)

19A

PICARD

Good. About your computer, I would like to ask a few questions. When we initiated communications, your computer began scanning our computer's memory at a rate faster than our computer could handle. There was some damage to our computer. We have repaired the damage, but I was wondering if you could tell us what your computer was looking for.

KARANAR

I must apologize for any damage. Our computer is very advanced and capable of self-initiated action. We feared that it might be our computer that the raiders were after. Our computer was simply making sure that you were not more raiders bent on unprovoked attacks.

PICARD

That's what we thought. Lieutenant Johanson examined your computer, and I think he might have more questions for you, if you don't mind. I'm sure they can wait until you've fetched whatever possessions you want to take with you back to your homeworld.

KARANAR

Haftar knows more about our computer than I do, but I'm sure he'd be happy to answer any questions Lieutenant Johanson might have. In fact, the Lieutenant is welcome to join us. I think he might be interested by our re-linking procedure.

Picard looks to Johanson, and Johanson nods eagerly.

(CONTINUED)

19A CONTINUED: (4)

19A

PICARD

Yes, that is very kind of you. I will send Commander Riker and Lieutenant Worf to assist you, but perhaps you would like to talk to the children before you leave.

KRANAR

Yes, indeed. And again, thank you for everything you've done, Captain Picard.

PICARD

I'm glad we could be of assistance. Dr. Crusher can show you the way back to Sickbay.

Beverly stands, and the three colonists stand as well. Beverly beckons for them to follow her. The four of them leave the OBSERVATION LOUNGE.

19B INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

19B

Picard waits for Beverly and the colonists to leave, and after a pause, turns to Riker.

PICARD

Comments?

RIKER

They seemed straight forward enough. They've suffered a tremendous, and baffling loss, and haven't really had time to adjust to the situation.

PICARD

But that outburst. And the demand for retribution.

WORF

It seemed a reasonable request to me.

(CONTINUED)

19B CONTINUED:

19B

PICARD

(not exactly to Worf)

Yes, of course.

(now to Worf)

But it would have been very inappropriate for me to agree to it. Of course, when we've the colonists to their homeworld, we'll return and learn everything we can about these raiders. No what bothers me is how easily Kranar gave up. That doesn't ring true to me. I wish Counselor Troi had been here.

(to Riker's questioning look)

I'm sure it's nothing. But I want you and Worf to keep an eye on things while you're down there. And Lieutenant Johanson, learn what you can. This "re-linking" of theirs sounds unusual.

(Picard stands)

That's all, gentlemen.

20 COLONISTS' BASE - COMPUTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

20

Riker, Worf, Johanson, and the colonists, Kranar, Lotar, and Haftar materialize the COLONISTS' COMPUTER ROOM.

KRANAR

Re-linking to our computer will only take a moment, and then we can collect our things.

RIKER

Please, take your time.

All three colonists turn to face the computer. Kranar's lips do not move, but we hear him say,

CLOSE ANGLE ON KRANAR (V.O.)

(without his lips moving)

Computer, this is Kranar. Please re-establish my link.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Riker, Worf, and Johanson are surprised to hear,

COLONISTS' COMPUTER (V.O.)
Kranar recognized and linked.

CLOSE ANGLE ON LOTAR (V.O.)
(without her lips moving)
Computer, this is Lotar. Please re-
establish my link.

Once again, Riker, *et al*, are surprised when,

COLONISTS' COMPUTER (V.O.)
Lotar recognized and linked.

CLOSE ANGLE ON HAFTAR (V.O.)
(without his lips moving)
Computer, this is Haftar. Please re-
establish my link.

COLONISTS' COMPUTER (V.O.)
Haftar recognized and linked.

Kranar turns back to Riker and,

KRANAR
Commander Riker, we've re-
established communication with our
computer, if you'd care to wait for a
moment, I'll have the computer brief me
on what happened after we went into
suspended animation.

RIKER
That would be good. But I don't
understand. I can hear the computer
respond as though you've given it
orders, but...

HAFTAR
But you don't hear us giving the orders.
Well, the computer knows what we want
it to do, because it can read our minds.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

JOHANSON

Your computer is telepathic?!?

HAFTAR

Not exactly. Telepathy is biologically impossible for our race. Our machine function by...

LOTAR

(interrupting Haftar)

Maybe it would be better to go into long, drawn out explanations when we were back on the Enterprise.

KRANAR

You're absolutely right. But if I might have just a moment more, I'll have our computer brief me on what happened after we went into suspended animation.

RIKER

Yes, that would be good.

KRANAR

Because of the volume of data I'm requesting, I'm going to have our computer do a 'direct implant.' It's much faster that way.

RIKER

Please do whatever is best.

Kranar nods, and turning back to the COMPUTER,

KRANAR (V.O.)

(without his lips moving)

Computer, please give a full account of what happened after the suspended animation tanks were activated. Use direct implant mode.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (3)

20

COLONISTS' COMPUTER
Acknowledged. Proceeding.

THE LIGHTS ON THE COMPUTER START FLASHING RAPIDLY,
and we hear computer-like BEEPINGS AND CLICKS. They
continue until,

CLOSE ANGLE ON KRANAR (V.O.)
(without his lips moving)
Hold! You're still in communication with
the Enterprise's computer?

COLONISTS' COMPUTER
Affirmative. Continued covert
monitoring was deemed appropriate
under the circumstances. However,
there is a unit that resists
communication which cannot be
identified. This unit...

RIKER
What does that mean?

HAFTAR (V.O.)
(without his lips moving)
Cancel audio reply and initiate inter-
personnel communications.

HAFTAR (V.O.)
Can you control the Enterprise's
systems?

RIKER
(urgently)
Wait a second, what did it mean by
'covert monitoring'?!?

COLONISTS' COMPUTER (V.O.)
(there is an ECHOED quality)
Affirmative. Control of the Enterprise
systems is possible. The unidentified
unit...

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (4)

20

Haftar and Kranar turn to face one another.

HAFTAR (V.O.)
(without his lips moving)
We can commandeer the Enterprise!

KRANAR (V.O.)
(without his lips moving)
Computer, can the Enterprise destroy
the raider's ship?

COLONISTS' COMPUTER (V.O.)
(there is an ECHOED quality)
Affirmative. The Enterprise has more
than sufficient firepower to destroy the
raider's ship.

21 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

21

Kranar turns back to the COMPUTER and,

KRANAR (V.O.)
(without his lips moving)
Computer, beam us back up to the
Enterprise!

RIKER
Kranar! What did it mean by...

Riker is interrupted as he, Worf, Johanson, and the colonists
DEMATERIALIZE.

22 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

22

Riker is still working on his last question when the
MATERIALIZATION PROCESS ends and leaves all six of them
standing in the TRANSPORTER ROOM. The Transporter
Technician is surprised and quickly pushing buttons on the
CONTROL BOARD.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

RIKER
(continuing)

...covert...

(looking around)

What!?! How did we...

(to the Transporter Technician)

Who ordered us beamed back up?!?

TRANSPORTER TECHNICIAN

(surprised)

I don't know, sir. The system just
activated itself.

Kranar steps off the TRANSPORTER PLATFORM, but turns back to
Riker.

KRANAR

I ordered us beamed back up,
Commander Riker. Even now, we're
warping out of orbit. You see, our
computer has complete control over
your ship. And using your ship, we are
going to hunt down and destroy those
who attacked us!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

23

The BRIDGE is obviously in a state of confusion. Picard is standing behind Wesley, looking at the CONN BOARD.

WESLEY

Sir, the Conn is unresponsive. Speed is now Warp 7.

PICARD

Engineering, this is Picard. What's going on down there?!?

GEORDI COM VOICE (V.O.)

I don't know, sir. I've lost control over all systems. The main computer is receiving orders from some other source, and override is having no effect.

PICARD

(to Wesley)

What's our new heading, Ensign?

WESLEY

210 by 135, Warp 7.

Riker, followed by Kranar, Lotar, and Haftar, with Worf in the rear, emerge from the AFT TURBOLIFT.

PICARD

Where will that take us?

RIKER

(interrupting Wesley)

Captain, I can answer that.

(glancing at Kranar)

In your Ready Room.

Picard isn't sure what to make of that, but looking at Riker he decides to acquiesce. He waves toward his READY ROOM, and starts walking. Riker gestures toward the colonists, and follows them toward the CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

He gestures discretely with his arm to Worf and,

RIKER

(in a low voice)

Worf, take your station.

Worf pauses, and then goes to his station at the SECURITY RAILING as Riker follows the colonists into the CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM.

22 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

22

Picard is standing behind his desk when the colonists, followed by Riker, comes into the room.

PICARD

All right, Number One. What's going on?

RIKER

Captain, the colonists' computer is telepathic.

PICARD

Telepathic?

RIKER

It can communicate directly with their minds. While we were on the planet, they re-linked to it and learned that it was still in covert communication with our main computer.

PICARD

How is that possible? Why didn't Data detect it?

RIKER

I don't know, and I don't think the colonists know either.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

KRANAR

Commander Riker is right, I don't how our computer did it. And in a way I'm sorry to do this, but we must avenge ourselves.

PICARD

You're sorry?

HAFTAR

We have used our computer to seize control of the Enterprise.

PICARD

You're planning to risk my ship and people to hunt down and kill the raiders! I will not allow my ship to be used in this manner.

(a beat)

Security to Captain's Ready Room, on the double! If you do not return control of this ship to me, I will destroy the ship.

KRANAR

Our computer will not allow you to destroy the Enterprise.

Two SECURITY GUARDS come into the CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM.

PICARD

(to the guards)

Hold these people here until further orders. Number One, come with me.

Picard leads the way out of the CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM.

(CONTINUED)

23 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

23

Picard pauses outside the CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM to say,

PICARD

Lieutenant Worf, have a Security detail report to the Sickbay. Have them move all of the colonists out of Sickbay and confine them to one of the Guest Lounges on Level 6.

WORF

Aye sir.

24 INT. TURBOLIFT

24

Picard and Riker enter the FOWARD TURBOLIFT.

PICARD

Main Engineering.

RIKER

What if Kranar is right about his computer's control of our systems?

PICARD

If the computer doesn't allow me auto-destruct access, I'll use security override. If that doesn't work, then we'll find something else. I will not allow my ship to be used in this manner.

(a beat)

Did you hear or see anything else while you were down there that might help us?

RIKER

Haftar claimed that telepathy was biologically impossible for their people. That means they know what telepathy is, or might suspect what it is, but wouldn't design their computer to take into account the possibility of a telepathic user.

The TURBOLIFT comes to a stop, and Riker follows Picard into a COORIDOR leading to ENGINEERING.

(CONTINUED)

25 INT. CORRIDOR

25

Picard and Riker do not run, but they do walk briskly.

PICARD

You think this might have something to do with the fainting spells and headaches?

RIKER

I don't know. Their computer said something about an 'unidentified unit that resisted communication'. Troi isn't really telepathic, but maybe she is sensitive enough to pick up the computer's transmissions.

PICARD

I see. It's a theory. Maybe it will give Dr. Crusher a place to start, and us a possible handle on the colonists' computer.

26 INT. ENGINEERING

26

Picard and Riker enter ENGINEERING, and proceed immediately to the MAIN CONTROL AREA. They take Geordi in tow on the way.

GEORDI

What's happening, Captain?

PICARD

It would seem that the colonists have taken control of the Enterprise using their computer. They intend to use the Enterprise to hunt down and destroy the raiders.

27 INT. MAIN CONTROL AREA - ENGINEERING

27

Picard walks up to one side of the COMPUTER ACCESS CONSOLE and Riker up to the other. Picard and Riker reach out to put their hands on the PALM/PRINT READER and,

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

COMPUTER VOICE

Recognize: Picard, Jean-Luc.
Recognize: Riker, William T.

PICARD

Computer, initiate auto-destruct
sequence.

COMPUTER VOICE

That function is not available at this
time.

PICARD

Computer, request security over-ride.

COMPUTER VOICE

That function is not available at this
time.

Riker pulls away from the COMPUTER ACCESS CONSOLE in
disgust.

RIKER

Captain, if their computer has this
degree of control, then it can control all
ship board functions. Including life
support.

PICARD

Yes, Number One. That has occurred
to me as well.

Picard seems lost in thought for a moment.

PICARD

Geordi, is there some other way in
which we could disable the ship?

GEORDI

You mean aside from firing a phaser at
the Dilithium Crystal Chamber?

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

GEORDI
(continuing)

I could interrupt Warp and Computer Control at the Jefferies Tube.

PICARD

How long would it take?

GEORDI

About two minutes. The last thirty seconds of which I can't do without the Main Computer noticing.

PICARD

Make whatever preparations you need, but wait for my order. Let's go, Number One.

Riker follows Picard out of the MAIN CONTROL AREA.

28 INT. CORRIDOR

28

Both men are silent until in the CORRIDOR.

PICARD

This is how I see the situation. We are dealing with distraught people who are acting irrationally out of immense grief and bitterness. Not professional hijackers or pirates.

RIKER

For amateurs they've done a hell of a job of it so far. Eventually though, they'll realize they can't command a space battle. When that happens, they may try to force Bridge Crew cooperation by threatening to shut off life support in various areas of the ship. Seems to me they have more than enough leverage already.

Picard stops them in front of the TURBOLIFT.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED

28

PICARD

Exactly. So while I'm trying to convince Kranar to allow us to detach the saucer section, you're going to take your theory about Counsellor Troi to Dr. Crusher and see if there some way in which we develop some leverage of our own. Make it so, Number One.

RIKER

Aye sir.

Picard enters the TURBOLIFT, and Riker turns and strides down the CORRIDOR.

29A INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

29A

Kranar, Haftar, and Lotar are in the middle of a heated argument. The two SECURITY GUARDS are standing by the DOOR.

LOTAR

(to Kranar)

You saw the children. They have hundreds of children on this ship. Children just like ours.

HAFTAR

Lotar, this is our only chance to catch that ship. Nothing we have can move as fast, much less has that kind of firepower. We must...

LOTAR

(interrupting Haftar)

Must what? Be responsible for the deaths of more children? Haftar, Kranar and I lost son and daughter. I know the pain you feel, but we must not be responsible for the deaths of more children.

(CONTINUED)

29A CONTINUED:

29A

LOTAR

(continuing and to Kranar)
Kranar, please. Please end this
madness before more children die.
Children like our little Jonar and Tanar.

At first Kranar seemed to be weakening, but the mention of his
dead children seems to galvanize something within him.

KRANAR

No. It is for their sake that we must do
this. To avenge their deaths!

29B NEW ANGLE

29B

The DOORS open and Picard strides into the room. He walks up
to Kranar and says,

PICARD

It would appear that you are indeed in
complete control of my ship. I am
helpless to interfere.

PICARD

(continuing)

I would like to ask, however, that you
allow me to separate the saucer section
of the ship. This section contains all the
civilian quarters. If I must go into battle,
I would like not to risk the lives of my
crew's families.

HAFTAR

What about the ship's firepower?

PICARD

This ship is designed so that separating
the saucer would not drastically reduce
firepower.

HAFTAR

It is some sort of trick, don't trust him,
Kranar.

(CONTINUED)

29B CONTINUED:

29B

KRANAR (V.O.)
(without his lips moving)
Computer, what portion of the ship's
firepower would be lost if the saucer
were detached.

COLONISTS' COMPUTER (V.O.)
(echoed)
Approximately 13 percent.

KRANAR
No, he's telling the truth.

Kranar looks at Picard for a moment, and then at his wife, Lotar.

KRANAR
(continuing)
Very well, Captain Picard. You may
detach the saucer section.

PICARD
Thank you, we will detach in 5 minutes.
You will probably want to accompany
me to the Battle Bridge.

LOTAR
I will stay with the rest of our people.

KRANAR
(suprised)
But Lotar...

LOTAR
(interrupting Kranar)
You know how I feel about this. When
you are done, come back to me.

Picard watches the exchange carefully, and then says,

PICARD
(to Lotar)
One of the guards will show you to the
children.

(CONTINUED)

29B CONTINUED: (2)

29B

LOTAR

Thank you, Captain.

Lotar turns and walks toward the DOOR. Picard gestures to one of the GUARDS and he steps to the side to allow Lotar to pass. He follows her out. Picard turns back to Kranar and Haftar, measuring them with his gaze. Haftar glowers at him, but Kranar seems abashed by the abandonment of his wife.

PICARD

Right. If you gentlemen will follow me.

He strides past them and the remaining GUARD, onto the MAIN BRIDGE.

30 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

30

Picard strides to the CENTER OF THE BRIDGE, and,

PICARD

All stations, prepare for saucer separation. Commander Data, you will have command of the saucer section. Sickbay, this is Captain Picard.

31 INT. SICKBAY

31

Riker and Beverly are standing at the foot of Troi's DIAGNOSTIC BED. Troi is still unconscious and shaking her head and mumbling as though she's having a nightmare.

BEVERLY

(toward the ceiling)

This is Crusher.

PICARD (V.O.)

Dr. Crusher, I'll want you and Dr. Troi on the Battle Sled.

BEVERLY

(glancing at Riker)

Understood, Captain.

RIKER

This is Riker. I'll meet you in the Battle Bridge, Captain.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD (V.O.)

All stations, saucer separation in three minutes.

BEVERLY

That's a good sign at least. But I'm sorry, Commander. If your theory is correct, then it removes Troi's problem from the medical arena completely. If Troi is under the influence of the colonists' computer, then it is a problem for someone like Lieutenant Johanson, not me.

RIKER

Damn!

Riker stalks over to Troi's side. Troi is tossing and turning as though she's having a bad dream. Riker grips her shoulders and shakes her. Beverly watches him with a puzzled look on her face.

RIKER

Come on Troi, wake up!

The shaking seems to have some effect on Troi. She goes rigid, as though she's fighting something terrible. She speaks, and it's clearly a struggle,

TROI

No! It's not right! Closer... Slaughter...
Raise Shields... No!

Riker turns to Beverly, both are shocked. Riker looks back at Troi as she mumbles. Looking for a moment at Beverly, he says,

RIKER

Call the Captain.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

34 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE 34

Everyone is at their normal stations, and the two colonists, Kranar and Haftar, are standing to Worf's left, next to the BRIDGE RAIL. Everyone is looking intently at the MAIN VIEWER. Kranar turns his head as though listening to something that no one else can hear. When he speaks, Picard turns to look at him.

KLANAR

Our computer has informed me we have picked evidence of the raider's ship on the long range sensors.

35 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 35

The STARFIELD IMAGE on the MAIN VIEWER shifts, as Kranar as Kranar says,

KLANAR (V.O.)
(continuing)

I am having our computer put their ship on the Viewer and magnify the image.

The IMAGE magnifies on a small star in the center of the VIEWER. As it does, the small star becomes three GLOWING EXHAUST PORTS.

36 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE 36

Everyone studies the MAIN VIEWER for a moment, and then,

HAFTAR

We're catching them!

KLANAR

Yes. Computer, please display a schematic and tactical evaluation of the raiders' ship.

37 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL) 37

The STARFIELD IMAGE on the MAIN VIEWER is replaced by a LINE DRAWING OF THE RAIDERS' SHIP on the left of the VIEWER, AND TEXT DESCRIBING THE SHIP on the right side. Picard stands to read the material.

(CONTINUED)

38 NEW ANGLE

38

Having digested the information, Picard turns to face the colonists.

PICARD

It will be a slaughter. We out gun that ship ten to one.

KRANAR

And it was a slaughter when they
attacked us. Raise the shields. We will
catch them in less than an hour.

Picard glances at Worf, who has looked down at his BOARD, Worf
looks back up at Picard, and nods. With something of a growl,

WORF

Shields have been raised.

Picard sets his jaw and turns back to the MAIN VIEWER, which
shows the STARFIELD AND RAIDERS' EXHAUST PORTS. A
moment passes and then everyone's attention is called to the
ceiling as,

BEVERLY (V.O.)

Captain, this is Dr. Crusher. I need to
see you in the Sickbay, please.

PICARD

On my way, doctor.

(to KRANAR)

If you have no need of me at the
moment.

Kranar misses the sarcasm, so intent is he on the MAIN VIEWER.

KRANAR

Of course.

Picard turns and walks to the FORWARD TURBOLIFT.

(CONTINUED)

39 INT. BATTLE SLED SICKBAY

39

Picard strides up to Crusher and Riker who are standing next to Troi. Troi is back to tossing and turning, but now she mumbles audibly. Most of it denial of an unwanted sleeping dream, but everyone in a while there is a technical term or phrase.

PICARD

Have you learned something Dr.?

BEVERLY

There's no doubt about it, she's still in communication with the colonists' computer.

PICARD

She seems to be struggling against it.

BEVERLY

Yes sir, brain wave patterns would indicate that she is putting a great deal of energy into it.

PICARD

But evidently, it's not enough.

(a beat)

Number One, I would like to speak to you for a moment.

Picard gestures toward Crusher's office, and then follows Riker into the office.

40 INT. BEVERLY'S BATTLE SLED OFFICE

40

Picard seems nervous but urgent.

PICARD

Number One, it is not generally my policy to pry into the private lives of my crew. And I do not mean to pry now, but the current situation does not allow for too much tact. It doesn't take Counselor Troi's special abilities to recognize that you and she have known in, more than a professional level. True?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

RIKER

We knew each other on Zandeen. We weren't lovers, I was re-assigned before it went that far. But got to know each other well. Very well.

(a beat)

There was a time when, well, we could hear one another's thoughts.

PICARD

And now?

RIKER

If Deanna wants, she can make it so I can hear what she's thinking. I'm sure she can still read me.

PICARD

That is what I thought. And hoped.

(a beat)

This is a very personal request, I know. But if there is anyway you can, well, get inside Troi's thoughts and help her against the colonists' computer...

There is an uncomfortable silence as Picard let's the request hang. After a moment,

RIKER

I'll do what I can.

PICARD

(clasping Riker's shoulder)

Grand. If you make any progress, have Dr. Crusher come inform me in person. We can not afford for this to reach the colonists attention by using the intercom. Understood?

RIKER

Aye sir.

Picard squeezes Riker's shoulder once more and leaves. Riker waits a moment, and then leaves as well.

(CONTINUED)

41 INT. BATTLE SLED ENGINEERING

41

Picard strides into ENGINEERING and calls to Geordi.

PICARD

Lieutenant LaForge, are you ready to attempt disabling Warp and Computer Control.

GEORDI

Yes sir.

PICARD

Very good. Give me enough time to get to the Battle Bridge and then begin.

GEORDI

Yes sir.

Geordi watches Picard leave, and then turns to one of his Engineers, and says,

GEORDI

O.K., Thompson. Let's go wreak some havoc.

42 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE JEFFERIES TUBE

42

As Geordi and Thompson walk down a CORRIDOR, they check utility belts worn around their waists which hold a number of different tools. The CORRIDOR dead ends in a wall that has a LARGE, CIRCULAR HATCHWAY labeled "JEFFERIES TUBE." Next to the HATCHWAY is a COMPANEL which Geordi touches and then says,

GEORDI

Computer, this is Chief Engineer LaForge. Request Jefferies Tube access.

COMPUTER VOICE

Acknowledged. Proceeding.

(CONTINUED)

43 INT. JEFFERIES TUBE (OPTICAL)

43

The HATCHWAY OPENS to reveal an UPWARD SLOPING TUNNEL. In the floor of the TUNNEL are STEPS. Geordi starts up the TUNNEL, followed by Thompson. About ten steps into the TUNNEL, the TUNNEL is blocked by a SAFETY HATCH.

GEORDI

Computer, please open the safety hatch.

COMPUTER VOICE

Acknowledged. Proceeding.

The SAFETY HATCH SLIDES OPEN, to reveal a COMPLICATED COMPUTER-LIKE PANEL SET IN THE FLOOR OF THE TUNNEL. Further into the TUNNEL, there is a WALL OF ENERGY that CRACKLES AUDIBLY WITH POWER. Geordi begins touching the COMPUTER-LIKE PANEL, and CIRCUITS RISE UP OUT OF THE PANEL. Geordi flips a FEW SWITCHES and takes out one of his tools. He touches the tool to one of the UPRAISED CIRCUITS. He does this to a FEW OTHER CIRCUITS. Geordi twists so that he is looking at Thompson, and reaching out his hand,

GEORDI

O.K., that's done. Do you have the Bridger?

Thompson takes something off his belt and handing it to Geordi,

THOMPSON

Yeah. Here it is.

GEORDI

O.K., now it gets tricky. If the Bridger stabilizes quickly enough, they won't notice anything. Be ready with that T'Gist probe.

Geordi reaches up with the BRIDGER in his hands and places it in BETWEEN TWO OF THE CIRCUITS. With one hand on A SWITCH ON THE BRIDGER, and one hand on A SWITCH ON THE COMPUTER-LIKE PANEL, he throws BOTH SWITCHES AT THE SAME TIME. He quickly pushes a few of the UPRAISED CIRCUITS BACK DOWN, AND FLIPS ANOTHER SWITCH ON THE COMPUTER-LIKE PANEL. He turns back to Thompson, and starts to reach out his hand,

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: 43

GEORDI
O.K., let me have the...

He pauses in mid sentence, and sniffs the air.

44 NEW ANGLE 44

Looking down the TUNNEL PAST THOMPSON, there is a GREEN GAS SEEPING FROM A VENT IN THE TUNNEL WALL.

GEORDI
Security Gas.

45 INT. JEFFERIES TUBE 45

Geordi and Thompson are both sprawled unconscious on the FLOOR OF THE TUNNEL.

46 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE 46

The Bridge Crew is staring morbidly at the MAIN VIEWER. Picard's attention is called to Worf as,

WORF
Captain, I show that Security Gas has been released in Jefferies Tube One.

HAFTAR
Picard, our computer detected someone tampering with Computer Control.

Picard does not respond. This seems to anger Haftar.

KRANAR
Captain, we used your Security Gas, so whoever it was is simply unconscious. We don't want to kill anyone but...

PICARD
(interrupting Kranar and pointing to the MAIN VIEWER)
You want to kill them.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

KRANAR

Very well, Picard! I do want to kill them. And I will. This time I used your 'Security Gas' on the saboteurs. But if any of your people try anything else, I'll simply shut down Life Support where ever they are, and they will die. Do you understand?

PICARD

(to Worf)

Inform Sickbay.

(to Kranar)

Yes, I understand.

47 INT. BATTLE SLED SICK BAY - INSIDE THE BLINDS

47

Troi still lies on the EXAMINATION BED. She occasionally mutters something about the coming battle. Riker sits on a stool and holds Troi's hands in his.

RIKER

Troi, you must let me in. Let me help you.

This has no effect. Riker thinks for a moment, and then more to himself than Troi,

RIKER

I can remember the first time I felt you in my mind.

49 OUTDOORS - A WOODED PARK

49

Riker and Troi are sitting on a BLANKET having a PICNIC in a PARK ON BETAZED. Riker is in a STAR FLEET UNIFORM. Troi is in TRADITIONAL BETAZED GARB. They are holding hands.

TROI

Are you sure you want to try this?

(CONTINUED)

50 ANGLE ON TROI AND RIKER

50

Riker hesitates slightly, but is certain when he says,

RIKER

Yes.

TROI

(smiling)

OK. Just relax and feel my hand.
Concentrate on the feel of my finger
against yours.

(a beat)

Our bodies are merely shells for our
inner selves.

(a beat)

Feel the pulse in my hand. Blood
driven by my heart and mind.

(a beat)

The heat between our hands is the
same heat. Through the heat feel my
pulse. Through my pulse feel my mind.

(a beat)

Our minds are as close as the blood
flowing in our hands.

TROI (V.O.)

(without her lips moving)

And hear my mind within yours.

Riker is amazed, and it shows in his face.

RIKER (V.O.)

(without his lips moving)

I can hear you.

(delightedly)

In my mind.

(CONTINUED)

51 INT. BATTLE SLED SICK BAY - INSIDE THE BLINDS

51

Riker is still holding Troi's hand, but she is noticeably less agitated. Riker is staring off into space as,

RIKER
(without his lips moving)
Now I need you to hear me in your
mind.

Though her voice is weak and she sounds distracted, Riker's attention snaps to Troi as,

TROI (V.O.)
(without her lips moving)
I do, Bill. I do.

Troi's eyes are open now, but she remains lying on the DIAGNOSTIC BED.

52 EXT. SPACE - THE BATTLE SLED (OPTICAL)

52

The ENTERPRISE'S BATTLE SLED is traveling through STARRY SPACE at warp speed.

PICARD'S COM VOICE
Captain's Personal Log, Stardate
42121.6, Captain Jean-Luc Picard
recording.

53 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

53

Kranar and Haftar stand together to the left of Worf at the SECURITY RAILING. The BRIDGE CREW are at their normal positions.

PICARD'S COM VOICE
(continuing)
We will be within weapon's range of the raiders ship in a matter of moments. It appears that I will be unable to prevent Haftar and Kranar from using my ship to exact their vengeance, but I will not allow my crew to be forced to participate.

(CONTINUED)

54 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 54

The MAIN VIEWER shows the RAIDER'S SHIP from the rear, still at quite some distance, THREE GLOWING EXHAUST PORTS being all that is really visible.

KRANAR (V.O.)
Increase magnification.

The image of the RAIDER'S SHIP enlarges, and it is now clearly recognizable as the ship from the earlier DIAGRAM.

55 ANGLE ON KRANAR AND HAFTAR 55

HAFTAR
Kranar, we've almost caught them!

56 CLOSE UP ON WORF 56

WORF
Captain, the alien vessel is slowing and turning.

57 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE 57

Picard stands and turns to face Worf.

WORF
The alien vessel is readying itself for an attack run. All weapons are armed, and locked on the Enterprise.

HAFTAR
Arm our weapons and lock them on the Raiders.

Picard looks at the colonists and then to Worf for confirmation that the order has been carried out.

WORF
Computer has armed all weapons and locked them on the alien vessel.

Picard turns back toward the MAIN VIEWER.

PICARD
All hands, clear the Bridge.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

Everyone's attention snaps to Picard.

KRANAR
(shocked)
Picard, what do you think....

PICARD
(interrupting KRANAR)
That's an order!

Picard jerks his thumb toward the CONFERENCE ROOM, and after a moment, each of the BRIDGE CREW make adjustments to their stations, and except for Worf, stand, and start toward the CONFERENCE ROOM. Worf remains at his post.

58 ANGLE ON KRANAR AND HAFTAR

58

KRANAR
Picard, what do you think you're
doing?!?

59 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

59

PICARD
Your computer may control my ship, but
you do not control my crew!

HAFTAR
Picard, order your people back to their
stations or we'll start shutting down life
support.

PICARD
Tell me, have either of you have
commanded a space battle before?

60 ANGLE ON KRANAR AND HAFTAR

60

Both men look at Picard as the implication of Picard's question sink in.

(CONTINUED)

61 CLOSE UP ON PICARD

61

PICARD
(to the Colonists)

Grand.

(to Worf)

Mr. Worf.

62 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

62

Picard turns and starts toward the CONFERENCE ROOM. Worf follows him. Halfway to the CONFERENCE ROOM.

KRANAR

Picard, we're not bluffing. We'll shut down life support.

Picard stops, and after a moment, turns to face the Colonists.

63 CLOSE UP ON PICARD

63

PICARD

If I were you, gentlemen,
(raising his hand and pointing to the
MAIN VIEWER.)

I'd be worried about the captain of that
ship, doing that for you.

Picard fixes them both with his gaze, and then TURNS back toward the CONFERENCE ROOM. Picard gestures to Worf as he passes him and both men proceed into the CONFERENCE ROOM.

64 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

64

The BATTLE BRIDGE looks very empty, except for Kranar and Haftar, who are left standing next one another at the SECURITY RAIL as we,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

65 EXT. SPACE - BATTLE SLED (OPTICAL) 65

The BATTLE SLED is seen hurtling through space at WARP SPEED as,

PICARD'S COM VOICE
Captain's Personal Log, Stardate
42112.7. Under the control of Haftar
and Kranar, the Enterprise is about to
engage the raiders' vessel.

66 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE 66

Kranar and Haftar stand at the SECURITY RAIL, staring hungrily at the Main Viewer. The BATTLE BRIDGE looks very empty.

KRANAR
Computer, fire all weapons the moment
they enter optimum range.

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE
All weapons will fire at 3,000
kilometers.

67 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 67

The RAIDER SHIP appears to be coming straight towards the Enterprise.

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE
Firing all weapons.

PHASERS AND PHOTON TORPEDOES lance toward the RAIDER SHIP, obscuring it from view.

68 ANGLE ON KRANAR AND HAFTAR 68

HAFTAR
Computer, how much damage was
done to the Raiders?

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE
One phaser hit doing minimal damage
to their #5 shield, all other weapons
missed.

(CONTINUED)

STAR TREK: "To Better the Instruction" - 8/29/90 - TEASER 56.

68 CONTINUED: 68

HAFTAR

What?!?

KRANAR

(pointing at the MAIN VIEWER)

Haftar, look, they're gone!

69 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 69

The MAIN VIEWER shows an EMPTY STARFIELD -- the RAIDER SHIP cannot be seen.

70 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE 70

Kranar and Haftar are stunned.

KRANAR

Computer, what happened?!? Where are they?!?

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE
Enemy vessel made a snap turn just as weapons fired. The vessel is now 2,400 km from the Enterprise at 340 mark 015.

HAFTAR

Get them on the viewer and keep them there.

71 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 71

Haftar and Kranar are staring at the MAIN VIEWER in disbelief. The RAIDER SHIP is seen from IT'S STARBOARD SIDE, and it now appears to be running parallel to the Enterprise.

KRANAR

Fire all weapons!

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE
The enemy vessel is out the Photon Torpedoes' firing arcs will Phasers will not be recharged for another 5.2 seconds.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

HAFTAR

Then turn the ship so that the Photon
Torpedoes can hit them!

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE
turning to 195...

As the ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER SPEAKS, THE RAIDER
SHIP'S WEAPONS FIRE AT THE ENTERPRISE.

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE
(continuing)
...mark 020.

The BATTLE BRIDGE IS ROCKED as the RAIDER SHIP'S
WEAPONS IMPACT. Kranar and Haftar are almost thrown to the
floor.

72 INT. BATTLE SLED'S CONFERENCE ROOM (OPTICAL)

72

The BRIDGE CREW IS ROCKED AS THEY SIT AROUND THE
CONFERENCE TABLE. They are looking at the VIEW SCREEN
on the OPPOSITE WALL. THE STARFIELD AND A RAIDER SHIP
CAN BE SEEN.

PICARD

Damage report, Mr. Worf.

73 NEW ANGLE

73

Worf consults a VIEW SCREEN MOUNTED ON THE TABLE TOP.

WORF

Significant damage to the #4 and #5
shields. Structural damage to port-side
engineering. The captain of the Raider
hip is a formidable opponent. He
turned just before entering our optimal
firing range and used the detonation of
our weapons as cover for his turn. He
then hit us in our most critical areas.

(CONTINUED)

74 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

74

Kranar and Haftar are holding onto the SECURITY RAILING AS THE BRIDGE IS AGAIN ROCKED BY THE RAIDER SHIP'S WEAPONS.

KRANAR

Fire all weapons!

The ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER seems to HESITATE A MOMENT BEFORE ANSWERING, AND WHEN IT DOES, IT HESITATES BETWEEN WORDS.

ENTERPRISE'S COMPUTER VOICE

(haltingly)

The enemy vessel has turned again.

Photons cannot be targeted.

Phasers firing now.

(a pause)

Enemy vessel has turned again.

Enemy vessel suffered no damage.

The BRIDGE IS ROCKED AGAIN, and KRANAR AND HAFTAR CLING TO THE SECURITY RAIL.

HAFTAR

Kranar, they are destroying us!

75 INT. BATTLE SLED SICK BAY - INSIDE THE BLINDS

75

Troi seems perfectly relaxed.

TROI (V.O.)

(without her lips moving)

Do you hear the computer's hesitation,
Will?

Riker cocks his head as though he listening to something he can just barely hear.

RIKER

Yes. do you think we can distract the colonist' computer enough to break its link to the Enterprise's computer?

TROI

For a short time, I think so.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75

Riker turns to call over his shoulder.

RIKER
Doctor Crusher!

76 NEW ANGLE

76

The BLINDS PART, and Beverly stick her head in.

BEVERLY
Yes?
(surprised)
Deanna, are you all right?

RIKER
(cutting off Troi)
Doctor, I need you to go to the Bridge
and tell the Captain that we will
interrupt the colonist's computer control
of the Enterprise in five minutes.
Deanna doesn't think we'll be able to
maintain the interrupt for more than a
few moments, so he'll have to act
quickly. If the colonists are
unconscious when their computer
regains control, it will be unable to re-
establish its link to the,.

BEVERLY
But what about Deanna? Shouldn't I
stay here...

RIKER
(cutting her off)
No! We'll be all right. go now!

Beverly hesitates a moment, and then takes off at a run.

(CONTINUED)

77 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

77

The BATTLE BRIDGE is rocked again as BEVERLY EMERGES FROM THE TURBOLIFT. She is surprised to find only Kranar and Haftar on the BRIDGE. Haftar and Kranar are clutching the SECURITY RAIL.

BEVERLY

Where's the Captain?!?

KRANAR

(spinning to BEVERLY)

They're destroying us!

Beverly looks at the MAIN VIEWER as the BRIDGE ROCKS AGAIN.

BEVERLY

Where is Captain Picard?

HAFTAR

They're the conference room! They won't come out!

Beverly looks toward the Main Viewer again, and she runs toward the CONFERENCE ROOM.

78 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE CONFERENCE ROOM

78

Picard comes to his feet as Beverly rushes into the CONFERENCE ROOM.

PICARD

Doctor! Has Number One succeeded in getting through to Counselor Troi?

BEVERLY

Yes. And he told me to tell you that they're going to interrupt the colonists' control over the ship in 3 minutes. Will said if the colonists are unconscious when their computer regains control, it won't be able to re-link to them.

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

78

PICARD

Excellent! On my command, everyone get to your posts. Worf, you knock out Kranar and Haftar, and then get me a damage report. Data, you find out anything you can on the Raiders that might help. Be ready people, in 2 minutes, 30 seconds.

79 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

79

Picard, Worf, Data, Beverly and the rest of the Bridge Crew rush into the BATTLE BRIDGE from the CONFERENCE ROOM. Worf runs straight to Kranar and Haftar, who are still standing by the SECURITY RAILING. Kranar and Haftar are surprised by the Bridge Crew's sudden appearance.

HAFTAR

Picard, you must save us...

Haftar is cut off as Worf back-hands him, sending him flying over the SECURITY RAILING. Kranar, too stunned to even move, is knocked unconscious as Worf throws him against the TURBOLIFT DOOR. As the Bridge Crew takes their positions,

PICARD

Doctor, see that they stay out. helm, put tactical on the viewer and get some distance between us and the Raiders.

HELMSMAN

Damage report!

80 ANGLE ON WORF

80

WORF

Shields 2,3,5, and 6 are down. Forward and rear shields at 25%. Raiders have concentrated their fire on Engineering. both Warp Drive and Impulse are off line. All ship systems operating on battery or reverse power. Photon Torpedoes are inoperable, and Phasers do not have enough power to get through the enemy's shields.

(CONTINUED)

81 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

81

Picard turns back toward the Main Viewer.

PICARD

How much damage has the Raider ship taken?

WORF

At present, their forward shield is down to 75%.

(a beat)

I read no other significant damage.

The Bridge Crew is stunned.

PICARD

Data, do you have anything on the Raiders?

82 NEW ANGLE

82

Data looks at his board for a moment, and then spins to face Picard.

DATA

Captain, the ship design is not in our records, but the next system in line with the Raider's course before they turned to attack us was the Beta Lupae system. The Federation had contact with the race inhabiting that system a little more than 10 years ago. Life form readings on the enemy vessel appear to conform with the records of the life form readings of the Beta Lupaeans.

PICARD

What do you mean "appear to?"

DATA

The records of the encounter are incomplete. At the time of contact, the Beta Lupaeans were at war with a race from the Alpha Lupae system. The war was over territorial claims, and it would appear the Quadra Lupae system was part of the contested territory.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED:

82

PICARD

Ah ha. now we have a possible motive for their attack. Did the contact vessel learn anything that might help us now?

DATA

I believe so. A full contact study was not made. The Beta Lupaeans asked Captain Richards to leave the system because they could not guarantee the ship or crew's safety. Captain Richards reported that honor was very important to the Beta Lupaeans, and it would greatly damage the Beta Lupaeans' honor if harm were to befall his ship while it was in the Beta Lupaeans' system.

PICARD

How can this help us?

DATA

Captain Richards reports witnessing a battle in which a damaged Alpha Lupaeon vessel asked for "quarter." The report says when the vessel dropped its shields, and I quote, "The Beta Lupaeon commander was honor bound to break off the attack and offer whatever aid the Alpha Lupaeon vessel needed."

PICARD

You're suggesting we surrender and be quarter?

DATA

(thoughtfully)

In light of our damage, and the Raider's lack thereof, it would not seem an unreasonable course of action.

83 REACTIONS

83

The Bridge Crew is somewhat taken aback, but they see Data's point.

(CONTINUED)

STAR TREK: "To Better the Instruction" - 8/29/90 - TEASER 64.

84 ANGLE ON PICARD 84

PICARD

Mr. Worf, open a hailing frequency.

WORF

Hailing frequency open.

PICARD

This Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the United Federation of Planets. I am dropping our shields and beg quarter.

Mr. Worf, drop all shields.

85 INT. CORRIDOR 85

Picard is walking down the CORRIDOR TOWARD SICKBAY.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Captain's Log, Supplemental. Stardate 42122.9. Unbelievably, my ship is still in one piece. My crew suffered 13 casualties and several dozen injuries, however. Fortunately, Commander Data's analysis of the situation was correct. After requesting quarter, the Raiders identified themselves as Beta Lupaeans, and indeed offered any aid we required.

86 INT. BATTLE SLED SICK BAY 86

Picard enters the BATTLE SLED SICK BAY as,

PICARD'S COM VOICE

(continuing)

Troi and Riker were more successful than we could hope: between the battle and their interference, the colonists' computer completely lost contact with both Counselor Troi and the Enterprise' systems. As a precaution, we are keeping Kranar and Haftar sedated until we learn of the saucer section's status.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

As Picard approaches the Troi's EXAMINATION BED, Beverly is running a MEDICAL SCANNER over Troi. Riker stands next to the BED as well.

PICARD

How is she, doctor?

BEVERLY

Tired, but otherwise I can detect no other lasting effects.

PICARD

Excellent.

RIKER

how goes the negotiations with the Raiders?

PICARD

Contact Specialist Rodriguez and her team have beamed over to the Beta Lupaeon ship. As hard to believe as it might be, the Beta Lupaeon ship was en route to Star Base 387 with a diplomatic envoy when they detected the colonists' base of Quadra Lupae 2. Thinking the colonists were their old enemies the Alpha Lupaeans, they attacked the base. When they realized their mistake, they broke off the attack. They offered aid, but the colonists' computer tried to seize control of their ship. They were returning home to report a new enemy when we began chasing the.

(a beat)

Captain Richards was right about them, they really are a highly principled and honorable people. The captain simply assumed the colonists were the Alpha Lupaeans encroaching once again. It is a terrible shame.

(a beat)

How are you two doing?

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

RIKER

We're fine now.

PICARD

Counselor?

TROI

(a little weakly)

I'll be fine, Captain, as soon as I've had a little more rest.

PICARD
(to Beverly)

Doctor?

BEVERLY

I detect no damage whatsoever, so the prescription is just a day or two of bed rest.

87 NEW ANGLE

87

PICARD

Very well. Good work you two. And get well soon, Counselor. We missed you. Picard turns to walk away and then turns back.

Picard turns to walk away and then turns back.

PICARD

Are you coming, Number One?

RIKER

Yes, sir. In just a moment.

PICARD

Very well.

Picard turns and leaves.

(CONTINUED)

88 ANGLE ON TROI AND RIKER

88

Riker takes Troi's hand.

RIKER
I, uh...

TROI
I know.

RIKER
Well, get plenty of rest.

Riker turns to leave, but Troi grips his hand tighter, and he turns back to her. With a tear in her eye and a smile,

TROI (V.O.)
(without her lips moving)
Thank you, Will.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END