

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**

**"Yellow Alert"**

Story by

James Norris

Teleplay by

James Norris

STAR TREK: "Yellow Alert" - 11/25/88 - CAST

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**

**"Yellow Alert"**

CAST

PICARD

TROI'S ADVISORS  
DR. TIERPA  
LT. O'KALTA

RIKER

KATHERINE

LORI

DATA

DANNY

TROI

LORI'S FATHER

WORF

RELIEF NAVIGATOR

GEORDI

MEDIC

WESLEY

Non-Speaking

STRETCHER CARRIERS

TROI'S ADVISORS

Voice Over

COMPUTER VOICE

STAR TREK: "Yellow Alert" - SETS

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**

**"Yellow Alert"**

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

TROI'S CONFERENCE ROOM

MAIN BRIDGE

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

TURBOLIFT

PARK

CORRIDORS

ENTRANCE TO HOLODECK

HOLODECK

LORI'S FAMILY QUARTERS

TROI'S OFFICE

WESLEY'S QUARTERS

SICKBAY

BATTLE BRIDGE

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**

**"Yellow Alert"**

**TEASER**

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 1

The ENTERPRISE is seen in a SEA OF GLARING WARM COLORS: YELLOWS, REDS, AND ORANGES. In the distance, a fairly well defined BALL OF YELLOW is visible. This is the PROTO-STAR.

TROI'S COMM VOICE

Ship Counselor's Log, Stardate 42121.4, Lt. Commander Deanna Troi recording. The Enterprise is presently monitoring the formation of a new star out of a nebula on the edge of the Galactic Core. The potential danger to the ship inside this very active...

A LIGHTNING BOLT is seen racing by the ENTERPRISE.

TROI'S COMM VOICE

(continuing)

...nebula has prompted Captain Picard to keep the ship at Yellow Alert for the last 96 hours. I am worried about the stress such a prolonged alert is having on the crew and civilians on board the Enterprise.

2 TROI'S OFFICE 2

Troi is sitting at the head of a conference table in a softly lit OFFICE decorated with art of a presumably BETAZOID ORIGIN. Also sitting at the table are her ADVISORS, some in STAR FLEET UNIFORMS and some in CIVILIAN ATTIRE.

TROI

And what about the civilian portion of the crew, Dr. Tierpa?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

A HUMANOID ALIEN IN CIVILIAN ATTIRE answers,

DR. TIERPA

Unfortunately, the civilian portion of the crew does not have the benefit of Starfleet discipline or training to keep their minds off the alert. Without assigned duties, people don't have anything better to do than sit and worry.

TROI

Is there any immediate danger?

DR. TIERPA

(a thoughtful pause)

I don't think so, so long as the alert does not last more than another 4 to 4 and a half days.

TROI

Very well, I will take your recommendation to the Captain when I make my report.

She looks up and down the table inviting response.

TROI

(continuing)

Does anyone have any specific concerns?

An ADVISOR dressed in a STAR FLEET UNIFORM offers:

LT. O'KALTA

I am concerned for Wesley Crusher. He is young, and the rigorous duty and class schedule required by Captain Picard is a great pressure for someone so young.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

TROI

I agree. I've noticed that the Captain has stopped using 'Acting Ensign' where Wesley is concerned and is simply calling him 'Ensign Crusher'. I will speak to him about this. Is there anything else?

DR. TIERPA

We're not sure about the significance of this, but a number of the brighter young people seem to be spending a large part of their time in the Holodecks. Undoubtedly, the adventure of their new lives on the ship has worn off and is now replaced by a certain degree of tedium.

TROI

And they're using the Holodecks to escape the confining nature of ship-board life?

DR. TIERPA

Yes.

TROI

What is the problem with this?

DR. TIERPA

What worries me is the believability with which the Holodecks can imitate reality. A young person, or even an adult for that matter, might find it hard to keep track of which side of the Holodeck door is reality.

TROI

And you fear what?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (3)

2

DR. TIERPA

(a thoughtful pause)

I fear that a form of psychological addiction is possible. If the children are using the Holodecks for healthy entertainment, then there is no problem. But if they need them to function within ship life or to deal with day to day problems, then this could lead to serious addiction.

TROI

I see. Does there seem to be any simulation that is used more than others?

DR. TIERPA

A computer search shows that there is a custom-made simulation in use by some of the children though.

TROI

Have you seen this custom simulation?

DR. TIERPA

No. The simulation has a privacy lock and can only be accessed if you have a special code.

TROI

Then the children must be passing the code around to friends.

DR. TIERPA

It would seem so.

TROI

Do you know how often this simulation is being used?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (4)

2

DR. TIERPA

The use of this particular simulation is not great in comparison with the other simulations, but I do not know the frequency of use by particular children. If a child uses this particular simulation no more often than any of the others, then the problem is more general.

TROI

I sense a particular skepticism, Dr. Tierpa.

DR. TIERPA

(a thoughtful pause)

I have a gut feeling that as this alert continues we will see a surge in the use of this particular simulation.

TROI

Why?

DR. TIERPA

The secret code.

Troi considers this point for a moment, and then

TROI

I fear I agree with you. Talk to some of the children who you feel might be overusing the Holodecks and this 'secret' simulation in particular, and keep me posted of your findings.

(a beat)

Does anyone have anything else?

(a beat)

Very well, I will take your recommendations to the Captain.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 3

The Bridge is manned as usual except that Wesley is at the Conn and Geordi is not present. The YELLOW ALERT LIGHT IS FLASHING and the Bridge Crew is showing small signs of stress as they stare at the Main Viewer. Troi enters from the AFT TURBOLIFT and walks down around the TACTICAL STATION RAILING.

4 MAIN VIEWER(OPTICAL) 4

The PROTO-STAR is in the center of the SCREEN but does not fill it completely and around it the GLARING COLORS OF THE NEBULA can also be seen. The PROTO-STAR is a FEATURELESS BALL OF YELLOW.

5 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 5

Having taken her seat,

TROI

Captain, I am ready to make my report.

PICARD

(a bit startled)

Yes. Very good.

Picard stands and gestures towards the CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM. He glances surreptitiously at the MAIN VIEWER as Troi stands and they walk to his office.

6 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM 6

Troi and Picard walk into the CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM and Troi stops in front of Picard's desk as he continues around and sits down. Picard gestures for her to sit.

PICARD

Yes, Counselor?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

TROI

My staff and I feel that tensions are mounting but are manageable, and will continue to be manageable, so long as the alert does not last more than another 96 to 108 hours.

PICARD

(figuring in his head)

Another 4 and a half days?

(a beat)

I don't see why we should have to stay longer than that. What about the non-crew members of the ship's complement?

TROI

Tensions are higher in the non-crew members, but manageable.

PICARD

Very well, Counselor. Anything else?

TROI

I'd like to speak to you about Wesley, Sir.

Picard makes a 'brushing off' gesture with his hand.

PICARD

Ensign Crusher is doing just fine, Counselor.

TROI

(after a pause)

Sir, I think...

Troi is interrupted by Data over the intercom:

DATA'S COM VOICE

Captain Picard?

PICARD

This is Picard.

(CONTINUED)

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6 CONTINUED: (2) 6

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Sir, the star is beginning its  
gravitational collapse.

PICARD  
(to the intercom)  
I'll be right there.  
(to Troi)  
Duty calls, Counselor. I will keep your  
recommendations in mind.

Picard stands and walks toward the door. Troi stands and follows  
him after a slight pause.

7 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 7

As Picard strides onto the Bridge,

PICARD  
What is the situation, Lieutenant?

Picard looks toward the MAIN VIEWER.

8 MAIN VIEWER(OPTICAL) 8

The PROTO-STAR is now seen to be RIPPLING slightly.

DATA  
Sir, the proto-star has begun to under  
violent gravitational collapse. This will  
produce unpredictable turbulence  
within the nebula.

9 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 9

Picard goes to his seat and sits as he addresses Data again:

PICARD  
Does this present a danger to the ship?

DATA  
No sir. It will make station keeping  
harder. But there is...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

Data pauses as Geordi enters the Bridge from the AFT TURBOLIFT.

GEORDI

Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

Data is confused by the reference, and pauses to consider it but is prompted by Picard.

PICARD

Lieutenant Commander?

DATA

Yes sir. As the proto-star collapses, its temperature will rise. This will in turn warm the nebula itself.

PICARD

The ship's shields will be able protect us from this rise in temperature won't they?

DATA

Yes sir, they will. The danger lies in that when the proto-star collapses sufficiently, it will ignite. When it does, there is a good chance the entire nebula will ignite.

PICARD

Can you predict when the proto-star will ignite?

DATA

As this is the first time this phenomenon has been observed from this range, I can not calculate exactly when the star will ignite.

Picard turns to Geordi, who is now standing behind Wesley at the CONN STATION.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

PICARD

Conn, if there is any doubt or question,  
get the ship out of here.

GEORDI

Aye, aye sir.  
(putting a hand on Wesley's shoulder)  
You're relieved Wesley.

WESLEY

Thanks Geordi.

Wesley practically jumps up out of his seat and walks quickly to the AFT TURBOLIFT. As he passes Troi, she stands and walks beside him,

TROI

Do you mind if I join you?

WESLEY  
(Uncertainly)

Uh, sure.

10 INT. TURBOLIFT

10

Troi follows Wesley into the TURBOLIFT, and after the door closes,

WESLEY  
(eyeing Troi)

Uh, Deck 6.

TROI

How are you Wesley?

WESLEY

Uh, o.k.

TROI

(worried about Wesley's manner)  
Is everything all right, Wesley?

WESLEY

Well, it's just, I was, uh...

TROI

Oh, what's her name?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

Wesley almost jumps out of embarrassment and ducks his head.

TROI

(somewhat embarrassed herself)  
I'm sorry, Wesley. I didn't mean to  
embarrass you.

Wesley looks up, but is still embarrassed.

WESLEY

Uh, it's all right, I guess.

TROI

(smiling)

Thank you. I just wanted to tell you  
that if you ever feel like talking about  
things that are troubling you, I'd very  
much like to talk with you.

WESLEY

(a little guardedly)  
Thanks Deanna. But I'm, uh, sort of  
meeting someone now.

11 INT. CORRIDOR

11

The TURBOLIFT DOORS open and standing just in the  
CORRIDOR is a young girl, Wesley's age, dressed in civilian  
clothes. At first she does not see Troi.

LORI

(excitedly)

Hi Wesley! Let's go!

(noticing Troi)

Oh, excuse me.

WESLEY

Uh, hi Lori. Deanna this is Lori.

(taking a more grave air)

Lori, this is Lieutenant Commander  
Troi. She's the Ship's Counselor.

(CONTINUED)

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11 CONTINUED: 11

TROI

(to Lori)

It's a pleasure to meet you, Lori.

(to Wesley)

Have a good time Wesley, and remember what I said.

WESLEY

Sure Deanna. 'Bye.

Wesley steps out of the TURBOLIFT and Lori 'grabs' his hand and practically drags him down the CORRIDOR at a half-run.

12 INT. CORRIDOR 12

As Wesley and Lori run down the CORRIDOR, Troi is framed in the TURBOLIFT DOORWAY as the DOORS close.

13 INT. PARK 13

At first the CAMERA PANS across a scene of people in all varieties of dress playing and picnicking in a WOODDED AND GRASSY PARK. No walls can be seen as the CAMERA PANS. The CAMERA will pick up a COBBLESTONE PATH on which Lori and Wesley are walking.

WESLEY

This was a great idea Lori. I really needed to get away from things.

LORI

Are you under a lot of pressure?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

WESLEY

Are you kidding? Between duty shifts, and all the classes Captain Picard is making me take? And now this Alert! Captain Picard's making all the Bridge Crew take extra shifts. It's incredible. When I go home everyday I'm exhausted.

(a beat)

I don't know. I'm always tired these days, and I don't seem to have anytime to do anything fun. I mean I like my classes, except for Exobiology, and being on the Bridge makes me feel...

(a beat)

I don't know, older, like an adult. But its hard.

(a short pause)

Sometimes I just wish I could get away from it all.

(wistfully)

To forget it all.

Lori pulls him to a stop, and looks at Wesley for a moment.

LORI

(uncertainly)

How'd you like to try something different?

WESLEY

Like what?

LORI

Oh, something in the Holodeck.

WESLEY

You mean one of the simulations?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

LORI

Yeah, it's something that a lot of the kids have been doing lately.

WESLEY

(considering it)

Sure, why not?

LORI

(smiling and laughing)

Let's go!

Lori takes Wesley's hand and they start at a run toward the other end of the PATH. Lori goes into a skip and they both laugh.

14 INT. CORRIDOR

14

Lori and Wesley emerge from a TURBOLIFT and walk a few meters down the CORRIDOR to a HOLODECK DOOR. At the HOLODECK DOORWAY, Lori pauses in front of the CONTROL PANEL, and addresses the COMPANEL.

LORI

Computer, request simulation 4-18, 21-7-19.

COMPUTER VOICE

Simulation ready. Access code please?

WESLEY

What's the Access Code for?

LORI

It's to keep just anybody from using this simulation.

WESLEY

I know that. I mean, why?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

LORI

Well, it's sort of a secret.

WESLEY

Oh. Well what's so secret about it?  
What does it simulate anyway?

LORI

You'll see.

(to the COMPANEL)

Access code: 18-5-19-20

COMPUTER VOICE

Code acknowledged. Enter Holodeck  
when ready.

LORI

Ready?

WESLEY

(looking at the HOLODECK DOOR)  
I don't know. What's gonna be in  
there?

LORI

Oh, come on, Wesley. It's not  
dangerous. The Holodeck is  
programmed not let anything happen  
that could hurt you.

(a beat)

All the kids are doing it.

Lori takes Wesley's hand and leads him to the DOORWAY. As they approach, the DOORS slide open to reveal an empty and dark deck.

(CONTINUED)

15 INT. HOLODECK

15

From inside the HOLODECK, we watch Lori and Wesley enter the HOLODECK. It is dark in the HOLODECK, the only illumination coming in through the HOLODECK DOORWAY. When Lori and Wesley are inside, the HOLODECK DOORS begin to close. When the lights do not come on at first,

WESLEY

Hey! What about the lights?

LORI

Don't worry.

Even as she speaks, the lights come up to reveal an empty and featureless HOLODECK.

WESLEY

(looking around)

What the...

(to Lori)

Lori, what kind of...

Wesley stops talking as he begins to slowly rise off the floor. Lori grabs his hand as she begins to float as well.

WESLEY

Zero gravity?

LORI

(nodding)

Yeah, isn't it great?

They have stopped rising now, and are floating some two or three meters above the deck. The lighting is beginning to modulate, and SOFT SWIRLS OF SOOTHING COOL GREENS, BLUES, AND MUTED PURPLES appear around them.

WESLEY

I never thought of zero-gravity. And these colors, they're...

(a beat)

They're kinda like the nebula, but they're softer. They're not glaring.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

The floor and walls of the HOLODECK are no longer visible through the SEA OF SOOTHING COOL COLORS around Wesley and Lori.

LORI

(expectantly)

What do you think?

WESLEY

(a beat)

It's great! I could really get to like this.  
It's so peaceful.

(a beat)

I could forget everything here.

Wesley looks at Lori with a dreamy sort of look on his face, and then looks away from her to stare off into "space" as we,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 INT. CORRIDOR

16

Lori is walking down a CORRIDOR in something of a daze. She approaches a DOORWAY. A PLAQUE next to the DOOR identifies this as "PRIVATE RESIDENCE 312." Lori places her hand on the COMPANEL next to the PLAQUE and the DOOR opens. She walks into HER FAMILY'S HOME.

17A INT. LORI'S FAMILY QUARTERS

17A

Lori's Family dwelling is a typical family apartment. Her MOTHER is a STARFLEET OFFICER, and her FATHER is a TEACHER. She has a LITTLE BROTHER NAMED DANNY who is four or five. They are all pictured in a PICTURE ON THE COFFEE TABLE in front of a SOFA that Lori drops into as the DOOR to the APARTMENT closes. After just a moment, the DOOR opens again to reveal her FATHER and LITTLE BROTHER. Lori does not react as her FATHER and LITTLE BROTHER, and she is startled when they greet her.

DANNY

Hi Lori!

LORI'S FATHER

Hi, how was your day? Did you and Wesley have a good time?

LORI

(somewhat dazedly)

Oh, yeah. We had a great time.

Lori's attention seems to drift away, and there is an uneasy silence as her FATHER regards his daughter.

LORI'S FATHER

(to Danny)

Danny, why don't you go to your room and get ready for your nap.

DANNY

But Dad...

(CONTINUED)

17A CONTINUED:

17A

LORI'S FATHER

(cutting DANNY off)

Daniel, your mother won't be home for an hour, and you need a rest. I'll wake you up just before Mom gets home. O.K.?

DANNY

(after considering it)

O.K.

DANNY giggles as he swats Lori's outstretched foot as he passes her on his way to his room. She jumps but relaxes again immediately. Lori's FATHER comes around the SOFA and sits in a chair on the other side of the COFFEE TABLE.

17B INT. LORI'S FAMILY QUARTERS

17B

LORI'S FATHER

Lori, there is something I've been wanting to talk to you about.

Lori looks toward him when he says her name, but there is no understanding in her face.

LORI'S FATHER

(continuing)

Lori, you've seemed, I don't know, distracted lately.

(a pause)

I mean, sort of, off in a world of your own. Is there something wrong?

Lori's attention drifts away again after the mention of her name, and she seems unaware that a question has been asked.

LORI'S FATHER

Lori?

LORI

(startled)

Yes. I'm sorry. What did you say?

(CONTINUED)

17B CONTINUED:

17B

LORI'S FATHER

I asked if anything was wrong?

LORI

No, nothing's wrong.

(a pause)

I'm just a little sleepy. I think I'll go to my room and take a nap.

Lori stands a little unsteadily and,

LORI'S FATHER

Actually, that's one of the things I wanted to talk to you about. You seem to have been sleepy a lot here lately.

Lori looks at her father uncomprehendingly. Lori's FATHER notices this and he grows worried.

LORI'S FATHER

(continuing)

And you haven't been eating much.

(with a worried tone)

And one of your teachers called me yesterday and told me you haven't been turning in your homework.

(putting a hand on her arm)

Lori, is there something wrong?

Her name gets her attention and the hand on her arm seems to startle her. Her angry response is so sudden that it takes her father by surprise. He takes a step back as,

LORI

No, there's nothing wrong! I'm just a little tired! O.K.!?

LORI'S FATHER

Honey, what's wrong?

LORI

Nothing's wrong!!

(CONTINUED)

17C INT. LORI'S FAMILY QUARTERS

17C

Lori brushes past her FATHER and huffs off to her room. With a look of defeat, her FATHER watches her go. He thinks for a moment about what just happened, and then goes over to a TABLE with a COMPANEL built into its surface. He pauses for a moment, and then,

LORI'S FATHER

Computer, get me Dr. Tierpa's office please.

18 TROI'S OFFICE

18

In Troi's OFFICE Troi is meeting with two of her ADVISORS, Lieutenant O'Kalta and Dr. Tierpa. Troi is sitting behind a DESK, and O'Kalta and Tierpa are sitting in chairs facing her. Her OFFICE is decorated in the same BETAZOID nature as her CONFERENCE ROOM.

DR. TIERPA

In just the last 24 hours I have been contacted by 5 parents concerned with odd behavior in their children. In each case, the behavior described would be consistent with a person who was suffering from a psychological addiction.

TROI

Have you spoken with any of the children in question?

DR. TIERPA

Not as yet, but I have appointments to see 3 of them tomorrow. It will take a few meetings with each child to determine the nature and extent of the addiction though.

TROI

And what about our "secret" Holodeck simulation?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED

18

DR. TIERPA

As I feared, there has been a marked increase in the use of that particular simulation.

(a pause)

I think it would help considerably if I could have access to that simulation, and to set up a monitoring program to determine which children are using that simulation and how often.

TROI

This is a serious request. The children's right to privacy must be considered an important factor.

DR. TIERPA

I agree completely. The program I am asking for would not monitor what goes on in the Holodeck, only who uses this particular simulation and how often. And I would like an opportunity to experience the simulation myself.

TROI

You have my authorization for the monitoring program and I'll have the "secret code" sent to you.

Troi pauses for a moment, giving Dr. Tierpa a chance to voice other concerns. When he does not,

TROI

(continuing)

And what about Wesley Crusher, Counselor O'Kalta?

O'KALTA

I have noticed behavior in Wesley that might be consistent with drug use of some kind.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

TROI

I sense a problem though. Have you spoken with Wesley?

O'KALTA

I am unsure of my authority where Wesley is concerned. His rank of "Acting Ensign" makes me uncertain if I have the authority to order him to see me.

TROI

I understand your position. If you feel there is reason for concern, then I will speak to him myself.

O'KALTA

One of his teachers tells that he has started skipping his Exobiology class. Further I have noticed sudden mood swings from surliness to depression. I think there is certainly justification for counseling.

TROI

Very well, I will speak to him.

19 INT. CORRIDOR

19

Troi is seen walking down a CORRIDOR, and the CAMERA remains a few meters ahead of her. She is not speaking now, we're hearing a LOG ENTRY she has made earlier.

TROI (V.O.)

Ship Counselor's Supplemental Log, Lieutenant Commander Deanna Troi recording. It has been three days since I made my report to Captain Picard. Tension is mounting throughout the ship, but it is still manageable.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

TROI (V.O.)  
(continuing)

The Bridge crew is suffering the most, but with the exception of Wesley, they seem to be managing. Wesley on the other hand, is exhibiting rapid and extreme mood swings. I am going to talk to Wesley to see if there something I can do to help.

As the LOG ENTRY is completed, Deanna approaches a DOOR which is identified by a NAMEPLATE on the CORRIDOR WALL that says "CRUSHER, WESLEY."

20 WESLEY'S QUARTERS

20

In WESLEY'S QUARTER the lights are dim and Wesley is sitting behind a DESK resting his head in his hands. There is a DOOR CHIME that goes unnoticed, and at the SECOND DOOR CHIME, he lifts his head up and says,

WESLEY

Come.

The DOOR opens and Troi enters.

WESLEY

Oh, hi Deanna.

(a pause)

Lights, normal level please.

(after the lights come up)

Uh, would you like to sit down?

Troi accepts the offer and sits down.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

TROI

I wanted to stop by and see how you were doing. You have two shifts off today don't you?

WESLEY

(somewhat bitterly)

Yeah, but I have to go to classes soon.

TROI

Oh. How are your classes?

Wesley simply shrugs.

TROI

(continuing)

How are you feeling with this extended Alert?

WESLEY

(brushing it off)

Oh, its o.k. I'll be glad when it's over though.

TROI

Yes, we all will.

(a pause)

Wesley, I am concerned for you. You are under a great deal of pressure. I understand you've not been going to your Exobiology class.

WESLEY

(defensively)

But I hate Exobiology.

TROI

I can understand that. But there's more to it than that, isn't there?

WESLEY

(guarded)

I don't understand.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

TROI

I've noticed that you seem exhausted  
and moody lately.

WESLEY

(a bit hotly)

I can handle it. When the Alert is over,  
everything'll be all right. I just need to  
be left alone.

TROI

Perhaps if we talked about it together...

Wesley comes to his feet and is suddenly angry,

WESLEY

(heating up even more)

I don't need to talk about it! I just need  
to get away from things once in a while!

TROI

And you've been using the Holodecks  
to get "away from things?"

WESLEY

(suspiciously)

How do you...

(angrily)

So what!? That doesn't mean anything.  
Everyone's doing it!

TROI

It is all right as long as you don't use the  
decks to avoid your problems. As long  
as you don't need the Holodecks to  
function.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (3)

20

WESLEY

(yelling)

I don't need the Holodecks, I just need  
to be left alone!

Wesley realizes he was just yelling and pauses to regain his  
breath and control.

WESLEY

(more reasonably)

Look Deanna, I have to go to my  
classes now.

Troi comes to her feet as Wesley picks up some things off his  
DESK. Wesley walks out of his QUARTERS leaving Troi standing  
there.

21 INT. CORRIDOR/HOLODECK

21

Wesley comes out of the TURBOLIFT and looks warily up and  
down the CORRIDOR. He then walks a short distance down the  
CORRIDOR to the HOLODECK CONTROLS/DOOR. He stops at  
the CONTROLS and says,

WESLEY

Computer, request simulation 4-18, 21-  
7-19.

COMPUTER VOICE

Simulation ready, access code please.

Wesley sighs and slumps slightly as we,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

22

The ENTERPRISE is again seen in a SEA OF GLARING WARM COLORS with the PROTO-STAR in the distance. This time however, small RIPPLES can be seen in the PROTO-STAR.

PICARD'S COMM VOICE

(with an edge to his voice)

Captain's Log, Stardate 42121.7. We have been monitoring the formation of the proto-star for the past 7 solar days. Data warns me now that as the star continues to collapse, there will be unpredictable fluctuations in the star's gravity. The danger is that we of course will not know of the gravity fluctuations until their effect reaches the ship. And since they are unpredictable in occurrence and strength, there is a clear possibility of danger to the ship.

22A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

22A

As Picard finishes his Log Entry, we go to the MAIN BRIDGE where the crew is showing signs of even greater stress. The exception is Data, who because of his "androidness," is not showing any signs of stress. Geordi is absent, and again, Wesley is at the CONN STATION.

RIKER

(with irritation)

Data, with all the tension, why is it that you don't even seem to be the least bit nervous?

Data turns in his seat to address Riker,

(CONTINUED)

22A CONTINUED:

22A

DATA

(with real contrition)

I am sorry if it causes you additional stress, but as an android, I am immune to the stress and tension that set humans so on edge.

Data turns back to his station after Riker snorts.

RIKER

(muttering to himself)

Maybe just a little sweat...

Data cocks his head, hearing Riker's comment, much to Riker's surprise and seizes upon the idea,

DATA

(to Riker)

Certainly I am capable of sweating, and I could add a stressful tone to my voice, if this would help.

Everyone turns to look at Data, and Riker has a look of guarded disbelief on his face, not sure if he is being made the brunt of a joke. But the look of eager contrition on Data's face makes it clear that his offer is real. Riker shakes his head and laughs, as does everyone else. The sole exception is Wesley, who seems not to have noticed any of the exchange between Riker and Data. He is simply sitting at the CONN, staring off "into space."

RIKER

No, Data. That won't be necessary.

Data looks a little crestfallen, but turns back to his station.

(CONTINUED)

22B INT. MAIN BRIDGE

22B

While the tension is momentarily broken, Picard asks Data,

PICARD

Mr. Data, will the ship's internal gravity be able to compensate for the changes in the star's gravity?

DATA

That would depend on the strength and rapidity of the fluctuations, sir.

PICARD

(exasperated)

And once again, we won't know the answer to that until after it happens.

DATA

Yes sir, that is essentially correct.

PICARD

Do these "unpredictable" fluctuations present any other dangers?

DATA

(a beat)

Indirectly, yes. The fluctuations will not be uniform, and therefore maintaining the ship's position will be more difficult.

PICARD

Very well. Ensign Crusher, be very careful. I don't want us drifting any closer to the star. Maintain our present distance.

Wesley is daydreaming though, and does not hear Picard. After a moment,

PICARD

Ensign Crusher!

(CONTINUED)

22B INT. MAIN BRIDGE

22B

Wesley snaps out of his daydream, and spins to face Picard. Picard, Troi, and Riker come to their feet.

PICARD

Ensign Crusher, inattention on the Bridge is inexcusable. You are confined to your quarters until further notice.

22C REACTIONS

22C

Riker is disappointed and angry. Troi is shocked by Picard's harsh reaction. Wesley looks like a cornered and frightened animal. Picard is glaring in indignation.

22D INT. MAIN BRIDGE

22D

As Wesley moves toward the AFT TURBOLIFT, another Bridge Crew member moves to take the CONN STATION. Picard turns to his seat and pushes a button on the right armrest. Troi is torn between Picard and Wesley. Riker simply glares at Wesley as he rounds the TACTICAL STATION RAILING.

PICARD

(to the intercom)

Lieutenant LaForge report to the Bridge immediately!

Once Wesley is in the TURBOLIFT, Troi turns to Picard and,

TROI

Captain, as Ship's Counselor, I must inform you...

PICARD

(cutting her off)

The boy was daydreaming on the Bridge!

TROI

Yes, he was. And yes he is, just a boy. Not a Starfleet officer!

(CONTINUED)

22D CONTINUED:

22D

RIKER

Wesley is an Acting Ensign.

TROI

Exactly, something that seems to have been forgotten by the Captain.

PICARD

I will not tolerate this bickering on my Bridge! Counselor you are dismissed!

Troi acts as though she has been slapped. She takes a step back,

TROI

(disbelieving)

Dismissed!?

Picard does not back down, and so,

TROI

Yes sir.

Troi turns on her heel, and starts around the SECURITY STATION RAILING. But just as she reaches a section about as high as her knees, the BRIDGE is VIOLENTLY ROCKED. Troi goes to her knees, catching herself on the SECURITY STATION RAILING.

PICARD

What the hell!? Data, what was that!?

DATA

What we just felt was a major gravity fluctuation. The proto-star just underwent a major collapse and I now read a 20% rise in its temperature and a 15% rise in the temperature of the nebula.

Troi has picked herself up, but THERE IS ANOTHER TREMOR, not as violent this time, and she steadies herself against the SECURITY STATION RAILING.

(CONTINUED)

22D CONTINUED: (2)

22D

PICARD

Why isn't the ship's internal gravity compensating!?

Troi has steadied herself and started back toward the AFT TURBOLIFT.

DATA

The fluctuations are happening too rapidly for the system to compensate effectively.

As Troi approaches the AFT TURBOLIFT, the DOORS open to reveal Geordi. As they pass each other,

GEORDI

Leaving? Feels like the fun's just beginning.

TROI

(disgusted)

I've had enough.

Geordi is sort of shocked, and stops and turns to watch the TURBOLIFT DOORS close. There is another slight tremor.

DATA

I read another 15% rise in the proto-star's temperature and a 10% rise in the nebula's.

PICARD

(to Geordi)

Lieutenant, get to your station!

GEORDI

(surprised)

Yes sir!

PICARD

(to Data)

At what temperature will the nebula ignite?

At a quick pace, Geordi rounds the SECURITY STATION RAILING and approaches the CONN.

(CONTINUED)

22D CONTINUED: (3)

22D

DATA

Impossible to predict as...

PICARD

That isn't good enough, Lieutenant!

Data turns to look at Picard,

DATA

(a beat)

I will endeavor to make an accurate prediction.

Geordi is just arriving at the CONN as Data turns back to his STATION. Data glances at his board for just a moment when he spins in his seat and nearly yells,

DATA

The proto-star has just ignited! Brace yourselves, the nebula is about to...

He is cut off by a VIOLENT EXPLOSION AND ROARING as the nebula ignites. Riker and Picard are thrown to the floor. Worf catches himself on the SECURITY STATION RAILING. Geordi, who had just put his hand on the shoulder of the RELIEF NAVIGATOR, is thrown against the back of the CONN SEAT. He stumbles around it and falls to the floor between CONN and OPS, hitting his head against the corner of the OPS STATION BOARD.

COMPUTER VOICE

Red Alert! Collision Alert! Red Alert!

The computer raises a Red Alert and Collision Alert that can be heard as the ROARING dies down. Data jumps to Geordi's aid as Riker helps Picard off the floor. They both rush to where Geordi has fallen as,

PICARD

(to Worf)

Shut that noise off!

(to Data)

Get back to your station.

(to the Navigator)

Get us out of here!

(CONTINUED)

23 ANGLE ON GEORDI 23

Riker and Picard kneel over Geordi and we have a close-up of Geordi's face. He is lying on his back, and has lost his VISOR, which is lying on the floor by his head. Picard turns GEORDI'S HEAD slightly, and we see blood running down from the little SENSOR at his temple where his VISOR attaches.

24 ANGLE ON PICARD 24

PICARD  
(slapping his COMMUNICATOR)  
Medical Emergency! Dr. Pulaski to the  
Bridge immediately.  
(a beat)  
And bring a stretcher.

25 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 25

He looks at Riker as,

RELIEF NAVIGATOR  
Sir, the helm is unresponsive.

PICARD  
Number one, take over!

Riker practically pushes the RELIEF NAVIGATOR out of the chair, and starts working on the CONN.

DATA  
The nebula is gone and the proto-star  
has ignited fully. I also read...

RIKER  
(cutting off Data)  
Captain, the Helm has been locked out  
by the Main Computer!

PICARD  
(to Riker)  
What!?  
(to Worf)  
Why!?

(CONTINUED)

26 ANGLE ON WORF

26

WORF

The computer has interpreted the explosion of the nebula as a collision. However, the impact was evenly distributed over the entire surface of the ship. Being hit from all directions at once, the computer can not determine a safe direction for the ship to move in.

27 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

27

PICARD

So we can't move. Did the shields hold?

WORF

Yes, but power is down by over 85%.

PICARD

Very well, Number One, override the lock-out.

RIKER

I'm working on it, but it'll take time.

DATA

(indicating the MAIN VIEWER)  
Sir, the ignition of the proto-star has given off a shell of radiation and hard particles that is expanding at the speed of light.

(CONTINUED)

28 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 28

The SEA OF GLARING WARM COLORS is now gone, and a normal STAR FIELD can be seen surrounding the PROTO-STAR, which is now a well defined ball of yellow light. Surrounding the PROTO-STAR is a EXPANDING SHELL OF LIGHT.

DATA

I estimate we have 10 minutes and 34 seconds until the shock wave reaches our present position.

PICARD

Mr. Worf, will the shields be able to withstand the impact?

29 ANGLE ON WORF 29

WORF

Even at maximum power, no.

30 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 30

PICARD  
(to Riker)

Number One?

RIKER

I don't think so, the computer has got it locked up too tightly.

At the same time, Troi enters the BRIDGE from the AFT TURBOLIFT and Pulaski and two Medical Assistants with a stretcher enter the BRIDGE from the FORWARD TURBOLIFT.

PICARD

Here Doctor.

Pulaski, the medics, and Troi rush to Geordi. Picard turns to Riker as Pulaski examines Geordi.

PICARD

Well, Number One?

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

RIKER

The computer has it locked up too tightly. The controls will have to be rerouted completely.

PICARD

Who can do it?

RIKER  
(helplessly)

Geordi.

PICARD

Dr. Pulaski, what is Lieutenant LaForge's condition?

31 ANGLE ON DR. PULASKI

31

KATHERINE

There is a concussion but it is not bad. His neural implants were nearly ripped out though. He needs immediate surgery.

32 ANGLE ON PICARD

32

PICARD

I need him as soon as possible, Dr.

PULASKI

I'll do what I can.

Dr. Pulaski turns to follow the Medics who are already carrying Geordi toward the FORWARD TURBOLIFT.

(CONTINUED)

33 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

33

The FORWARD TURBOLIFT DOORS are closing behind Dr. Pulaski as Picard turns back to Riker.

PICARD  
(to Riker)

Who else?

RIKER  
(a beat)

Wesley.

PICARD  
(with a nod)

Right.

(to Worf)

Have the boy report to the Bridge immediately.

(turning to the MAIN VIEWER)

How long until impact, Mr. Data?

DATA

9 minutes, 12 seconds.

34 ANGLE ON WORF

34

WORF

Sir, Wesley is not responding, and he is not in his cabin.

35 ANGLE ON PICARD

35

PICARD

Not in his cabin!?

(slapping his COMMUNICATOR)

Wesley Crusher, come in! Wesley Crusher, respond!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

36 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

36

Picard is facing Worf at the SECURITY STATION, as is Troi. Riker and Data are working at their stations.

PICARD

If he's not in his cabin as ordered, then where is he?

WORF

Since he is not in uniform, and therefore not wearing a communicator, there is no way to determine his location on the ship.

PICARD

(to Data)

Data, how long until impact?

DATA

8 minutes, 39 seconds.

TROI

I believe Wesley may be in one of the Holodecks.

PICARD

How do you know this?

(quickly to Worf)

Try there

(back to Troi)

Counselor?

TROI

(considering how to respond)

Just a hunch.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

Picard is about to question her again when,

WORF

One of the holodecks is in use now, but there is a privacy lock preventing me from hailing whoever is using it.

Picard turns to Troi for confirmation, and she nods. He turns back to Worf,

PICARD

(to Worf)

Go get the boy and bring him here. On the double!

WORF

Aye sir!

Worf spins and starts for the AFT TURBOLIFT at a run. But before he reaches the DOORS, Troi steps toward Picard and,

TROI

Captain, as Ship's Counselor I protest!

The tone of her voice is such that it commands everyone's attention, even Worf's, who stops just shy of the AFT TURBOLIFT DOOR.

PICARD

(startled)

How so Counselor?

TROI

Wesley's state of mind may not be equal to the demand. I will go to him and help him to the Bridge.

RIKER

Troi, you're out of line!

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2) 36

TROI  
(to Riker)  
As Ship's Counselor,  
(back to Picard)  
the mental health of the crew is my  
"line." I will go to Wesley.

Picard considers this, and the way he dismissed her earlier.

PICARD  
Very well, Counselor. Go get the boy.  
But remember, the survival of this ship  
may ride on his "state of mind."

Troi nods and turns on her heel and walks quickly to the FOWARD  
TURBOLIFT.

PICARD  
(to Data)  
How long until impact, Mr. Data?

37 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL) 37

The PROTO-STAR is still visible through the EXPANDING SHELL  
OF LIGHT which is growing to almost fill the MAIN VIEWER. Only  
a BACKGROUND STARS are visible.

DATA  
7 minutes, 21 seconds.

38 INT. CORRIDOR/HOLODECK DOORS 38

The TURBOLIFT DOORS open and Troi comes out at a run. Down  
a short length of CORRIDOR are the HOLODECK DOORS. She  
runs up to them, but knowing that there is a privacy lock she stops  
just short of the DOORS. They do not open and,

TROI  
Computer, open the Holodeck doors.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 38

COMPUTER VOICE

This Holodeck is currently in use and has a privacy lock. Holodecks 1 through 5 are currently available for use, however.

39 INT. CORRIDOR/HOLODECK CONTROLS 39

Troi turns from the DOORS to regard the CONTROLS.

TROI

Computer, what are the conditions in the Holodeck at the present time?

COMPUTER VOICE

The deck is currently under zero-gravity and there are purely visual holograms in use.

TROI

Computer, please display the holodeck interior.

COMPUTER VOICE

This holodeck is presently under a privacy lock. Display and entry are not allowed unless privacy lock is removed by user.

TROI

Computer, this is Lieutenant Commander Deanna Troi, Ship's Counselor. I hereby override any privacy locks on my authority as Ship's Counselor. Please display the Holodeck's interior.

COMPUTER

Understood and acknowledged, Counselor Troi. Display ready.

(CONTINUED)

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40 ANGLE ON COMPANEL (OPTICAL) 40

An image forms in a BASICALLY SQUARE AREA of the COMPANEL showing WESLEY FLOATING in a SEA OF SOOTHING COLORS. Wesley appears to be asleep.

41 INT. CORRIDOR/HOLODECK CONTROLS 41

TROI

Computer, open the intercom to the Holodeck.

COMPUTER VOICE

Intercom open.

42 ANGLE ON COMPANEL (OPTICAL) 42

TROI

Wesley?

Wesley jumps at the sudden loud noise, but does not respond.

43 INT. CORRIDOR/HOLODECK CONTROLS 43

TROI (V.O.)

Wesley Crusher.

Wesley jumps again, and stirs slightly as,

WESLEY'S COM VOICE

(weakly)

Go away. Leave me alone.

TROI

Wesley, you must come out.

Wesley does not respond.

TROI

Wesley Crusher, hear me. I am about to cancel the simulation.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

Troi moves toward the HOLODECK DOORS, and glancing over her shoulder at the COMPANEL DISPLAY says,

TROI  
Computer, this is Ship's Counselor Troi.  
I hereby order you to open the  
Holodeck Doors.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Acknowledged.

44 INT. CORRIDOR/HOLODECK

44

The HOLODECK DOORS open to reveal WESLEY FLOATING in a SEA OF SOOTHING COLORS. Wesley does not move.

TROI  
Wesley, I am now going to cancel the  
simulation.

WESLEY  
(weakly)  
No. Leave me alone.

TROI  
(to the COMPANEL)  
Computer, cancel simulation.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Acknowledged.

Wesley begins to drop slowly to the floor and the SEA OF SOOTHING COLORS begins to FADE. When the DECK has returned to NORMAL LIGHTING and Wesley is resting on the floor,

COMPUTER VOICE  
Simulation ended, normal conditions  
and environment restored.

Troi begins walking toward Wesley who is gently shaking his head.

TROI  
Wesley, I am coming to you now.

(CONTINUED)

45 INT. SICKBAY

45

In the SICKBAY, Dr. Pulaski has Geordi on the EXAMINATION TABLE. As the DISPLAY COVER is closed over Geordi's chest,

KATHERINE  
(to Medic)

Administer 25 milligrams  
tetracycline.

MEDIC

Yes doctor.

The Medic approaches Geordi and presses a hypo to his neck. We hear the HISSING of the injection and, as the Medic steps away, Geordi begins to rouse. Dr. Pulaski steps closer and says,

KATHERINE  
(gently)

Geordi, don't open your eyes. Can you  
hear me?

46 ANGLE ON GEORDI

46

GEORDI  
(weakly)

Yes, where am I?

47 INT. SICKBAY

47

KATHERINE

You're in Sickbay. You took a fall on  
the Bridge. Everything will be all right,  
but there was some damage to your  
neural connectors. You need surgery,  
and I needed you awake to help. Do  
you feel up to it?

GEORDI

Yeah, but what about the ship? Is it out  
of danger?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

KATHERINE

Don't worry about the ship right now.  
Everything will be all right.

GEORDI

No, you don't understand, the Helm  
would have locked up. If they don't get  
it unlocked...

KATHERINE

(cutting him off)

You're right, I don't understand "locked  
up helms." But if you don't help me  
there is a good chance you'll lose your  
vision permanently.

GEORDI

(urgently)

Doctor, if they don't manage to unlock  
the helm in time, the ship'll be  
destroyed. Myself, I'd rather be a live  
blind man than a dead sighted one.

48 ANGLE ON DR. PULASKI

48

Dr. Pulaski is torn by the decision she must make. After a moment,  
she acquiesces.

49 INT. SICKBAY

49

KATHERINE

Bridge, this is Dr. Pulaski.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Yes Doctor, what is Lieutenant  
LaForge's condition?

KATHERINE

Geordi refuses to let me...

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

GEORDI

(cutting her off)

Captain, this is Geordi. What is the ship's status?

PICARD'S COM VOICE

The Helm is locked-up and unresponsive.

GEORDI

Captain, I am going to the Battle Bridge and I'll need someone who can see to help me with rerouting the Helm Controls.

KATHERINE

Captain, if I don't operate soon...

PICARD'S COM VOICE

(cutting her off)

Doctor, the ship is in danger of being destroyed. Make it so.

(a beat)

Lieutenant LaForge, someone will meet you at the Battle Bridge.

(a beat)

And Doctor, go with him.

50 ANGLE ON DR. PULASKI

50

Dr. Pulaski is torn, but she submits.

KATHERINE

Yes sir.

(CONTINUED)

51 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

51

Data and Worf are at their normal stations. Riker is still at the CONN, working hard to unlock the Helm. Picard is standing at his left shoulder.

PICARD  
Any luck, Number One?

RIKER  
(turning to Picard)  
I won't make it in time.

PICARD  
Who should be sent to help Geordi?

RIKER  
(no hesitation)  
Wesley.

PICARD  
(slapping his COMMUNICATOR)  
Counselor Troi?

TROI'S COM VOICE  
This is Troi.

PICARD  
Have you found the boy?

TROI'S COM VOICE  
Yes sir, but...

PICARD  
(cutting her off)  
Very good. Take him to the Battle Bridge to help Lieutenant LaForge restore Helm control.

TROI'S COM VOICE  
Sir, I don't think he is...

PICARD  
(cutting her off)  
Is the boy injured?

TROI'S COM VOICE  
No sir, but he is not well.

(CONTINUED)



51 CONTINUED:

51

PICARD

Is his life in danger?

TROI'S COM VOICE

No, but his mental state is precarious.

PICARD

If his life is not in danger then take him  
to the Battle Bridge immediately.

(a beat)

That's an order, Lieutenant  
Commander.

TROI'S COM VOICE

Aye sir.

52 INT. HOLODECK

52

In the FEATURELESS HOLODECK, Troi is kneeling next to Wesley. Wesley is still lying on his back with his eyes closed as,

TROI

Wesley Crusher, hear me. You must  
return to reality.

WESLEY

(weakly)

No. I... Leave me alone.

TROI

You must. The ship is in danger and  
you are needed.

WESLEY

(a little stronger)

No, it's too much. I can't handle it. I just  
need to get away from it all for a while.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

Troi puts her hands on Wesley's shoulders and in a commanding tone,

TROI

Wesley Crusher, you must hear my words. The ship faces destruction and you are needed. You must return to reality and take action.

Wesley opens his eyes, and with tears,

WESLEY

I don't care!

TROI

I don't believe you mean that. Come, we must go to the Battle Bridge.

Wesley tries to stand, but is too disoriented.

WESLEY

I can't. It's not fair. He expects too much.

Troi moves to help him to his feet. She gets him standing.

TROI

Yes, I know. But you are equal to this. And I will help as you need.

WESLEY(weakly)

He might as well have said, "Go to your room, boy!"

TROI

Yes, I know. Everything will be all right, but now we must go.

Troi puts her arm around him to steady him, and they walk toward the HOLODECK DOORS as we,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

53 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

53

The DOORS to the BATTLE BRIDGE open to reveal Wesley and Troi. Troi is still helping Wesley walk as they start toward the Helm. Geordi is sitting at the Helm and Dr. Pulaski is examining his neural sockets. Geordi turns toward the sound and,

GEORDI

Who's there?

TROI

It's Wesley and Counselor Troi, Geordi.

GEORDI

Heck Wesley, you could do this by yourself.

Wesley does not respond, and,

GEORDI

Wesley, what's up?

TROI

Wesley is not feeling well right now.

As Troi and Wesley reach the Helm, Geordi stands, with Dr. Pulaski's help, so that Wesley can sit down at the Helm.

GEORDI

Well, let's see what we've got here, Wesley. Call up the "Warp Command and Guidance Routing," and tell me where the locks are.

(CONTINUED)

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53 CONTINUED 53

Wesley works slowly, but after a moment,

WESLEY  
They're all over the place.

Geordi reaches out to put a hand on Wesley's shoulder.

GEORDI  
I was afraid of that. Let's forget the  
Warp Drive for now and buy some time  
with the Impulse Engines.

54 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 54

An external view of the ENTERPRISE moving against a background of STARRY SPACE. The STARS are not moving as the ENTERPRISE is moving at SUB-LIGHT SPEED. The ENTERPRISE is moving away from the PROTO-STAR about which is an EXPANDING SHELL OF LIGHT which is gaining on the ENTERPRISE.

TROI'S COM VOICE  
Supplemental Log, Deanna Troi  
recording. Wesley and Geordi have  
rerouted the Impulse Engine Controls  
and we are now moving away from the  
proto-star. Without the Warp Engines,  
the shell of radiation given off by the  
proto-star will still overtake us.  
Wesley's control is beginning to  
weaken, and I fear he will break down  
before he and Geordi manage to unlock  
the Warp Drive Controls.

55 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE 55

Wesley is still seated at the Helm, with Geordi at his left shoulder, Troi at his right, and Dr. Pulaski behind Geordi and Wesley. Tempers fray as,

GEORDI  
Come on, Wesley! You've got to move  
a little faster or we're not going to make  
it!

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

Wesley bows his head and shudders,

WESLEY

(weakly)

I can't, its too much.

GEORDI

Great! Let's just...

TROI

(cutting Geordi off)

Geordi!

(to Wesley)

Wesley, look at me. Listen to me. You can do this. You are capable. Breathe deeply and think of this as an interesting homework problem.

Wesley shudders again and is about to speak when,

GEORDI

Hey Wesley, sorry about that. Troi's right though, let's just take it easy and see what we can come up with.

(a beat)

Now let's see, we got around the lock at the Impulse Sequencer Trigger by routing through...

(a beat)

Now what if we routed the Warp Sequencer through Impulse Sequencer Trigger!?

WESLEY

(haltingly)

But the Warp Engines would fire in pulses.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED: (2) 55

GEORDI

Yeah, but who cares!? We just want to get out of here. Who cares if it's smooth or not.

(a beat)

And maybe we could disable the Trigger.

Wesley's hands start moving across the board.

56 ANGLE ON HELM 56

As Wesley's hands move across the HELM, we see a complicated CIRCUIT DIAGRAM. There are many BRANCHES and LABELED NODES. There is a BRIGHTLY LIT TRACE that winds from the RIGHT SIDE OF THE DIAGRAM almost all the way to the LEFT SIDE OF THE DIAGRAM. Wesley will push a few buttons, and suddenly the TRACE will run unbroken from the RIGHT SIDE TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE DIAGRAM. This TRACE will start FLASHING and there will be a BEEP that BEEPS IN TIME WITH THE FLASHING TRACE.

57 ANGLE ON GEORDI 57

When Geordi hears the beeping,

GEORDI

(slapping his COMMUNICATOR)  
Bridge, this is Lieutenant LaForge.

58 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 58

Riker is still at the CONN following Geordi and Wesley's progress on his board. Picard stands behind him,

RIKER

They've got all the locks except this one at the Warp Sequencer, but I don't see how they can get around that one.

(a beat)

I can't believe they've made it this far. It would have never occurred to me to use the Battle Bridge Helm.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

PICARD

(to Riker)

Using the greater flexibility of the Battle Bridge systems was brilliant. Let's just hope it's enough.

(to Data)

How much time until impact?

DATA

20 seconds.

Picard looks at the MAIN VIEWER.

59 MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

59

The MAIN VIEWER shows a YELLOW HAZE through which can be seen the SMALL PROTO-STAR IN THE CENTER and a FEW BRIGHTER BACKGROUND STARS. The lower right-hand corner of the MAIN VIEWER has a TACTICAL DISPLAY which shows a small OUTBOARD OUTLINE DRAWING OF THE ENTERPRISE and a vertical line, which is barely distinguishable as an arc, moving toward the ENTERPRISE. There is a timer along the bottom of the TACTICAL DISPLAY that reads:

TIME UNTIL IMPACT: 18 sec

The timer counts down to 10 sec when,

60 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

60

Everyone's attention is snatched to the ceiling as,

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Bridge, this is Lieutenant LaForge.  
We'll be going to Warp Speed in...

(a beat)

3, 2, 1...

(CONTINUED)

61 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 61

The ENTERPRISE is seen from the side and the SHELL OF LIGHT is a straight line mere centimeters from the end of the WARP NACELLES. When Geordi says,

GEORDI (V.O.)

Now!

The ENTERPRISE goes to WARP SPEED.

62 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 62

The ENTERPRISE is seen in its original position in relationship to the PROTO-STAR, which is now a WELL DEFINED BALL OF YELLOW in the distance. The ENTERPRISE is stationary against BACKGROUND STARS.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Captain's Log, Stardate 42121.9. We have returned to sensor range of the new star and are now monitoring its continuing collapse. Data informs me that a number of unexpected and previously unknown processes have been detected. All systems are repaired, and all are working at normal efficiencies. All crew members seem recovered from the stress of the past few days, with one possible exception: Wesley Crusher.

63 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM 63

Picard is sitting at his desk, when the DOOR CHIME is heard.

PICARD

Come.

The door slides open and Troi and Wesley enter. Picard offers them seats, and obviously uncomfortable, stands to look out his WINDOW.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

PICARD  
(looking out the window)  
Wesley, Counselor Troi has already  
briefed me as to what has happened in  
the last few days.

64 ANGLE ON WESLEY

64

Wesley comes to his feet,

WESLEY  
Sir, I...

65 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

65

PICARD  
(cutting him off)  
Wesley, please. Sit.  
(a beat)  
Wesley, this is somewhat hard for me to  
say. I am a Starfleet officer, and this is  
quite out of my past experiences. I am  
used to having officers, men and  
women, who...  
(a beat)  
Counselor Troi feels that I have, well,  
forgotten that you are not yet the man  
and officer I am sure you will one day  
be. That I have forgotten, from time to  
time, that there is a reason for your rank  
of "Acting Ensign." This is unfair to you  
and inappropriate on my part.

Picard walks over and sits on the edge of his desk in front of  
Wesley and Troi.

PICARD  
(continuing)  
I want to apologize for putting you in a  
position for which you were not ready.  
(a beat)  
For the time being, I am relieving you of  
duties.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

Wesley comes to his feet,

WESLEY

But sir...

Picard stands and faces him, raising his hand,

PICARD

Only until such time as you and  
Counselor Troi have had time to work  
through what has happened in the last  
few days.

(a beat)

When you and she have had a chance  
to discuss the past few days, I want you  
to come to me, and we'll discuss your  
returning to active, but acting duties.

Picard reaches out and puts his hands on Wesley's shoulders.

66 ANGLE ON PICARD

66

PICARD

Wesley, I meant what I said about you  
growing into a superb officer and man.  
But I have called you "boy" from time to  
time out of anger, and forgotten that you  
really are, still a boy.

67 ANGLE ON WESLEY

67

Wesley looks crestfallen and ducks his head.

68 ANGLE ON WESLEY AND PICARD

68

PICARD

Wesley, there is a time for all things.  
And for now, it is your time to be a boy.

Troi stands, and between Picard and Wesley, we can see her put  
a hand on Wesley's shoulder as we,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

