**STAR TREK: "Lonely Among Us" - 8/21/87 - CAST**

**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**
"Lonely Among Us"

**CAST**

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**Non-Speaking Roles:**

- GEORDI
- WORF 4 SELAY
- WESLEY 1 ANTICAN

**Enterprise Crew Members:**

- ENTERPRISE CREW MEMBERS
- SECOND SECURITY GUARD
STAR TREK: "Lonely Among Us" - 8/21/87 - SETS

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"Lonely Among Us"

SETS

INTERIORS            EXTERIORS

ENTERPRISE             USS ENTERPRISE
Transporter Room 4
Main bridge                 ENERGY "CLOUD"
Sensor Maintenance Room
Ready Room
Sickbay
Crusher's Office
Badar N'D'D's Quarters
Crushers' Quarters
Observation Lounge
Engineer's Office/Engineering
Captain's Ready Room
Guest Quarters
Riker's Quarters
Corridors
Turbolift
EXT. SPACE - USS ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT (OPTICAL)

The great ship orbits a blue-green planet softly cloaked in a swirl of cloud cover.

PICARD (V.O.)
Captain's log, stardate 41249.3.
We have orbited the two major planets of the Beta Renner system taking aboard delegates from those two worlds. Since achieving space flight, their major life forms, the Anticans and the Selay...

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM 4 - ANGLE ON PICARD

in full dress uniform, waiting impatiently near the platform. O.S. TRANSPORTER SOUND IS BUILDING.

ANGLE ON TRANSPORTER

as FIVE FIGURES begin to form in the sparkling TRANSPORTER EFFECT. As they solidify, they are revealed as FIVE ALIENS (Selay). The Chief Delegate is SSESTAR. All Selay are tall and two axhandles across the shoulders. Their reptilian heads are sinister -- sleek scaled skin, lipless mouths, and beady eyes. The markings on their heads are cobra-like, and folds of skin at the neck imply a cobra hood.

PICARD (V.O.)
(continuing)
... have become deadly enemies.
But both have also applied for admission into our Federation.
We are to deliver these delegates to this sector's neutral Conference Planet called "Parliament" in the hope their dispute can be resolved.
Picard gestures the Selay off the platform with a somewhat strained smile.

PICARD
I am Captain Picard. We hope to make this journey pleasant and comfortable. Arranging that will be my first officer, Commander Riker.

REVERSE ANGLE - ON RIKER AND TASHA
also in dress uniform, waiting near the Transporter control console. TASHA concentrates on the Selay delegates as RIKER steps forward formally.

RIKER
Welcome aboard. If you'll follow me...

(starts MOVING OFF)

... I'll show you the accommodations we've...

WIDER ANGLE
The Selay leader, Ssestar, interrupts:

SSESTAR
We can already smell the Anticans. They were taken aboard first?

PICARD
Only because their world was the first on our heading to Parliament.

SSESTAR
Will our quarters be near the Anticans?

PICARD
About one hundred meters apart. Is that all right?

SSESTAR
No. Unsatisfactory.

Picard starts to frown, but Riker nods to the captain -- he'll handle it.
CONTINUED

RIKER
I believe we can accommodate their wishes, Captain.
(to Ssestar)
We'll rearrange suite assignments.
If you'll follow me?

Ssestar hesitates, then grunts an assent and motions his people to follow as he moves toward the door.

SSESTAR
And we must be upwind from the Anticans.

RIKER
Of course, sir...

The delegation EXITS with Riker. As they leave and the DOORS CLOSE:

TASHA
Neither seem very promising Federation candidates.

Picard nods, begins EXITING with Tasha.

PICARD
Even Parliament's peacemakers may find this case difficult.

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship moves majestically out of orbit, goes into the WARP SPEED EFFECT.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

All the regular crew at their stations, except for Geordi and Worf, who are absent. A replacement CONN OFFICER is at that panel, next to DATA at Ops.

PICARD
(to Riker)
Do you understand the basis of all that nonsense between them?

RIKER
No sir. I didn't understand that kind of hostility even when I studied Earth history.
PICARD
Oh? Well, yes, but these life forms feel such passionate hatred over differences in customs, God concepts, and even strangely enough, economic systems...

ANOTHER ANGLE
Data has frowned at something on his panel, looks around at Picard.

DATA
Sir, my sensors are picking up an unusual energy object ahead.

PICARD
On screen.

Data punches up the command.

ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)
A strange ENERGY PATTERN moving at warp speed.

TASHA
Confirmed, sir. My sensors read nothing solid but considerable energy in...
   (puzzles over reading)
   ... in changing patterns.

DATA
Traveling at warp speed, too. Intriguing.
   (tabs panel, looks up)
I can find no match with anything in our records, sir.

PICARD
(eyes viewer; then)
Change course for a close sensor pass... we'll then increase warp speed to reach Parliament on schedule.

DATA
Aye, sir.
INT. SENSOR MAINTENANCE ROOM - ON GEORDI AND WORF

The room is small, busy with equipment, including one key console. GEORDI is leaning over the complicated console and talking to WORF as he runs a pattern on the panel.

GEORDI
Why the interest in this, Worf? It is just routine maintenance on the sensor assemblies.

WORF
Simple, Geordi. Our captain wants his junior officers to learn, learn, learn...

GEORDI
(grins)
Not just the junior ones.
(indicates)
Okay, hold this relay off-line while...

Worf moves in and takes over as indicated, while:

TASHA'S COM VOICE
Security to Sensor Maintenance.

GEORDI
La Forge here.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

TASHA
We're making a close sensor pass on an unusual object, Geordi. Any problems?

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
None, Lieutenant. All equipment on line and functioning.

TASHA
(turns to Captain)
Sensors ready, sir.

PICARD
(to Data)
Life form reading?

DATA
No life form reading, sir.

PICARD
Begin the pass.
12 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND ENERGY "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)

as the Enterprise changes course slightly to intercept the "cloud."

13 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE INCLUDING VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

as they close rapidly with the object.

DATA
Sir, it is changing shape... !

14 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)

The "cloud" bulging out slightly, putting the bulge in the Enterprise's path.

15 ANGLE ON COMMAND AREA

PICARD
Any readings indicating matter there?

DATA
Negative, Captain. Energy only.

16 EXT. SPACE - CLOSE ON ENTERPRISE AND "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise begins passing just through the wispy edge of it.

17 INT. SENSOR MAINTENANCE ROOM - ON WORF AND GEORDI (OPTICAL)

Worf is where he moved in at the console relay. Geordi is standing to one side. Suddenly there is a BRIEF GLOW (OPTICAL) from the key console to Worf. The big Klingon jerks as though something has struck him, and he convulses spasmodically and collapses. Geordi tabs his communicator instantly.

GEORDI
La Forge to Sickbay. Medical emergency in Sensor Maintenance Room!
MOVE IN CLOSE ON GEORDI as he bends over the crumpled Klingon.

GEORDI
(continuing)
Repeat -- medical emergency!

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER
FADE IN:

18 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

plunging through space at warp speed, leaving the "cloud" behind.

19 INT. SENSOR MAINTENANCE ROOM - ON WORF AND GEORDI

Worf still lies in a heap on the floor, Geordi leaning over him and checking for life signs. Worf begins to stir, slowly at first, as the doors SLIDE OPEN and Beverly and ASSISTANT ENTER at a dead run, medical devices in hand. They quickly kneel at Worf, begin checking him.

BEVERLY
What happened?

GEORDI
Don't know. It seemed like he was hit by...

(shakes head)

... some sensor feedback, maybe.

Worf suddenly starts to powerfully flail his arms and legs around, struggling against something we can't see. The assistant tries to hang on, but Worf's Klingon strength sends him across the room. Then, as Worf flails at furniture in his way, easily splitting it, Beverly has opened the medical kit with quick efficiency, pulls out a hypospray, and administers it.

BEVERLY
Lieutenant Worf?

(no response)

Lieutenant, can you hear what I'm saying?

Worf manages a sort of grunt, holds up a hand and stares at it. Then he moves his body, trying to get his feet under him. He is at first unable to get the right coordination down, as though this simple act is as foreign to him as it is to a newborn.
CONTINUED:

BEVERLY
(continuing)
Let's get him up.

They rise. Worf watches and sees how they do it. As they both reach down to boost him by the arms, he manages to get to his knees and start to push to his feet. Beverly is studying him closely. He does not seem violent now; he stares around more like a young and bewildered child. Beverly nods to Geordi, picks up her medical kit, and they start to lead Worf OUT. He moves with them, slowly and carefully putting one foot ahead of the other.

INT. READY ROOM - ANGLE ON GEORDI AND PICARD

Picard is at his desk, Geordi standing before it. Picard looks up at him, frowning as:

GEORDI
He was just monitoring the sensor console when he jerked as though something hit him. What my sensors showed...
  (frowns)
... It was kind of a... glow... just for a second. I can't explain it.

PICARD
Could your VISOR device have malfunctioned?

GEORDI
Doubt it, sir. It seemed what I was seeing was something real.

INT. SICKBAY - ANGLE ON BEVERLY, TROI, WORF

Worf lies on an examination table, Beverly and assistant working over him with her medical scanners. Troi looks up at the o.s. medical viewscreen, then back at Worf. The Klingon is quiet now, his eyes moving around the room and to the women. His attitude is one of quiet and deep curiosity. Beverly finishes, smiles down at Worf.

BEVERLY
I'm going to give you something to help you rest. Just relax.
Worf's expression remains unchanged. Beverly brings out a hypospray and activates it on his arm. His eyelids begin to sag closed almost immediately. Beverly puts away the hypospray, motions Troi into her office.

INT. CRUSHER'S OFFICE - BEVERLY AND TROI

on their ENTRY:

BEVERLY
Fortunately, he's stronger than an orbital tug. There's nothing physically wrong with him. What have you sensed?

TROI
Nothing... which bothers me. He has never shielded his feelings from me. I can't understand why he is suddenly doing it now.

BEVERLY
Are you able to perceive anything at all, Counselor? It may be important.

TROI
(beat; concentrating)
Perhaps... very faintly. Almost... like a frightened child.

BEVERLY
Worf "frightened?"

TROI
It doesn't make much sense but...
(beat; concentrating)
Yes, it's fear. Definitely there.

They exchange puzzled looks.

OMITTED
BADAR N'D'D is wraith-thin, pale, with glittering lupine eyes; and when he curls his mouth in what looks like a smile, some extremely long, sharp canines are revealed. His clothing can only be described as disreputable -- dark and loose, somehow lumpy (as though it hides body parts we don't want to know about). Tasha's tremulous smile is offset by a twitch of her nose that indicates Anticans don't smell too nice. Riker ENTERS.

TASHA
Sorry to call you, sir, not strictly security, it's about the dietary requirements of the Antican delegates.

RIKER
I thought that had been taken care of in advance, Tasha.

TASHA
So did we, sir. Their live animals were beamed aboard -- We were going to preserve the meat for them, but .... (squeamishly)
... they say we must bring it to them alive.

RIKER
(beat)
Then do so!
(to the Antican)
Lieutenant Yar was... confused. We no longer enslave animals for food purposes.

BADAR N'D'D
But we have seen humans eat meat!

The Antican grins -- a terrifying display of long, sharp fangs.

RIKER
You've seen something as fresh and tasty as living meat, but inorganically materialized out of patterns used by our transporters.

BADAR N'D'D
(in revulsion)
How sickening! How barbaric!
INT. SICKBAY - ANGLE ON BEVERLY AND WORF (OPTICAL)

Worf lies sedated on one of the beds, being automatically monitored by the medical computers. Beverly approaches with a medical instrument in hand to take some samples. She leans over the bed, using the instrument on his arm. As she does, there is a SUDDEN SPLIT-SECOND BURST OF ELECTRIC-LIKE ENERGY BETWEEN THEM. Beverly is highlighted briefly by a BLUE GLOW (OPTICAL). She steps back away from the bed, blinking as if trying to assimilate some new information.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Troi ENTERS from the Corridor. Beverly looks around at her, puzzled, as Troi moves closer, looking up at the medical viewscreen.

TROI
He's reading normal? How did you manage that?

BEVERLY
(dazed)
Yes... normal, now.

TROI
(looks up quickly)
Are you all right?

BEVERLY
Yes... perfectly.

Beverly looks at the medical instrument in her hand, seems to remember.

BEVERLY
(continuing)
Yes... both of us quite normal.

Beverly ministers to Worf. Worf starts to stir, shaking his head and blinking as if clearing his head of something.

WORF
Where... where am I?

TROI
Don't you remember? You were in the Sensor Maintenance Room ---

WORF
I remember monitoring the sensor console -- and that's all. What am I doing here?
CONTINUED:

TROI
That's a story the doctor will
tell you.

She starts to smile over at Beverly, and the smile slips
a little. Beverly is staring at the medical viewer
again, deep in thought, paying no attention to Troi and
Worf.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON DATA AND PICARD (OPTICAL)

at Science Station 1. Data is replaying visual of
"cloud" on the screen for Picard's observation.

DATA
I called it a "cloud" for lack
of a better term at the time.
But the sensor pass shows it as
much more. Combinations very
complex, precise energy
patterns...

PICARD
Constantly interacting on each
other?

DATA
Yes, sir... But whether
individually or as a whole, it
is difficult to say.

PICARD
Obviously, you seem to feel it
should be inspected more closely.

DATA
A mystery is only a mystery as
long as it remains uninvestigated, sir.

PICARD
Ah. I love a mystery, Mister
Data, but this one has to wait
until we deliver the delegates
to their peace conference on
Parliament.

He walks down the ramp toward his command chair.
30 INT. CRUSHERS' QUARTERS - ON WESLEY

Wesley is in the living area, working with a P.A.D.D. and a Viewscreen, quickly tapping commands into the P.A.D.D. and watching figures or diagrams change on the o.s. viewer. The quarters doors are HEARD to SLIDE OPEN, and Wesley looks around.

31 WESLEY'S P.O.V. - BEVERLY

Beverly comes in, looks around apparently startled as Wesley speaks, but she seems to recover composure quickly. (NOTE: Throughout, Beverly appears remote, not displaying her normal warmth toward her son, views him almost as though he is an interesting stranger.)

WESLEY
Hi Mom. You're back early.

BEVERLY
Yes.

She moves closer to him and looks at the viewer as he indicates it and the P.A.D.D.

WESLEY
Physical sciences class. We're studying Doctor Channing's theory on dilithium crystals.

BEVERLY
Tell me about it.

Wesley looks up at her, slightly puzzled. She never was interested before -- now her eyes glitter with an unaccustomed curiosity.

WESLEY
Really? You never seemed that interested in warp theory before.

(indicates)
Doctor Channing thinks it's possible to force dilithium into even more useful crystals. If as shown here, matter and antimatter could be aligned even more efficiently...

BEVERLY
(interrupting)
Would that affect navigation?

WESLEY
This is engineering, not helm control.
CONTINUED:

**BEVERLY**

Oh yes, the helm's located on the bridge.

**WESLEY**

(stares, concerned)

Mom, is something wrong?

Without answering, turns and heads for the door. Wesley stares after her, frowning, as she EXITS.

**INT. MAIN BRIDGE - EMPHASIZING PICARD**

He glances around as the turbolift doors OPEN, and Beverly ENTERS and advances down the ramp toward Geordi, back at his helm position. (NOTE: She is still not acting in her usual manner. Everything about the bridge seems to be of interest to her, as though she's never seen it before. She responds with darting, curious little looks when spoken to, not quite able to focus long on the person whom she addresses. Her speech patterns have become very formal, also not like her. Also notice she does not call the captain by his rank or address him as "sir.")

**BEVERLY**

(to herself)

This... is the helm.

Geordi looks up surprised, then grins, nods.

**GEORDI**

Unless there have been some changes I don't know about.

**PICARD**

Doctor Crusher?

**BEVERLY**

You will wish to know Lieutenant Worf is much improved. Ready to report back on duty.

**PICARD**

What was the diagnosis?

Beverly heads for the upper bridge.

**BEVERLY**

A temporary mental abberation.

**PICARD**

When it concerns a bridge officer, I expect a better explanation, Doctor.
CONTINUED:

Beverly nods, moves toward the Science Stations.

BEVERLY
Then I must first run some
crosschecks in the
library-computer. Klingons are
so unusual in their reactions,
aren't they?

PICARD
(still puzzled, but:)
Take Science Station Two, Doctor.

ANGLING ON BEVERLY (OPTICAL)

moving to where Data is in view too. She begins calling
up information. Innocently, Data glances to her
Viewscreens. What he sees there puzzles but does not
alarm him.

DATA
Intriguing, Doctor. What does
helm control have to do with
medical crosschecks?

She ignores him, then seems satisfied over what she
views. Data has turned back to his own panel -- Beverly
appears to carefully pick out a place in which to touch
her panel again... and as she does so, a blue electronic
EFFECT APPEARS BRIEFLY ON THE PANEL, then quickly
DISAPPEARS. Beverly blinks, then looks around as if
awaking from a dream.

BEVERLY
I... I don't know why I'm...

DATA
(looks up)
Is something wrong, Doctor?

ANGLING ON PICARD AND UPPER BRIDGE

Picard looks around, concerned over Beverly seeming to
be disoriented.

PICARD
Doctor, are you all right?
BEVERLY
Yes... yes. I -- I'll do my work
from my office. That's where I
should be...

She MOVES OFF quickly toward the turbolift. Picard
watches her, still concerned.

PICARD
Do you want someone to accompany
you?

She EXITS into the turbolift. And the doors CLOSE.
Picard turns to Troi.

PICARD
Counselor, what's happening to
my people?

Interrupted by Data at Science Station 1. He suddenly
straightens, frowning.

DATA
Captain? There is a malfunction
in this station. I cannot bring
any information up on it.

He moves quickly to Science Station 2, WE SEE that
console go dead.

DATA
(continuing)
Science Two does not function
either, sir.

35 WIDER ANGLE

Then, quickly, from the communications panel:

SINGH'S COM VOICE
Engineering to Captain Picard.
We have something wrong with warp
drive circuitry, sir.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF'S COM VOICE
Transporter Room Six to bridge.
Reporting transporter console
malfunction, sir.

PICARD
Mister Data, this ship is less
than a year out of spacedock.
What are the chances of all this
occurring?
DATA
It is a virtual impossibility, sir.

PICARD
So what the hell is going on here?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
FADE IN:

36 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

sweeping along at warp speed - nothing to indicate there's trouble aboard this magnificent machine.

37 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - EMPHASIZING PICARD (OPTICAL)

He is irritated, pacing, snapping off his comments with a certain amount of acid etching his words. Through the window WE CAN SEE warp stars flashing past.

PICARD

... I don't understand it, Gentlemen. I need information. You're telling me there is no explanation for any of these malfunctions?

As he speaks, CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL he has on the carpet before him Singh, Data, several other Department Heads. Riker sits beside him feeling no less on the carpet himself.

RIKER

At least, sir, all department heads report the damage repaired.

PICARD

That was not the question, Number One. What caused the malfunctions?

SINGH

I believe it was a rampant electronic short that jumped from system to system, sir. The only thing is --

PICARD

Yes, Mister Singh?

SINGH

That shouldn't be possible. The affected systems don't generally interact with each other -- and where they do, it wasn't the interlink that was malfunctioning.

PICARD

Have you spoken with Chief Engineer Argyle about the problem?
CONTINUED

SINGH
With all the engineering staff, sir. They're just as puzzled.

PICARD
I am not satisfied with that.
(to the others)
I want explanations of this by the time we get to Parliament.

SINGH
But...

PICARD
By the time we get to Parliament, Mr. Singh.

INT. BADAR N'D'D'S QUARTERS - ANGLE ON RIKER

This is a "Basic Quarters Suite," without special wall decorations, fairly simple solid-color furniture. The Main Room seen here is very low-lit, with dark corners and shadows prevailing. Riker is speaking firmly as we COME IN:

RIKER
These weapons were removed from two of your people who were loitering out of sight in the vicinity of the Selay delegation quarters. Would you care to explain, sir?

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Riker holding out two tubes, somewhat resembling Allen wrenches, but with several curiously shaped buttons along the top of the "barrel." Riker and Tasha are facing Badar N'D'D, who glances at the tubes and lifts a disdainful eyebrow.

BADAR N'D'D
Those are not weapons, First Officer. They are tools we use to dispatch the animals we consume.

TASHA
Your food supply is not on the same deck as the Selay delegation, sir.

RIKER
And you will admit these "tools" can kill.
CONTINUED

BADAR N'D'D
(shrugs)
Some of my people are impulsive. and we all have reason to hate the Selay.

TASHA
They appear to have the same feelings about you, sir.

BADAR N'D'D
(shrugs again)
That is the nature of politics.

RIKER
Nonetheless, Chief Delegate, I'm putting you on notice that all weapons -- no matter what their basic function -- are being confiscated. Violence will not be tolerated on the Enterprise.

BADAR N'D'D
Of course not. And if any does occur, I can assure you it will not be we Anticans who start it.

RIKER AND TASHA
Thank you, sir.

They turn and EXIT, taking the two tube weapons with them. As the DOOR CLOSES behind them:

BADAR N'D'D
(ominously)
But we will finish it.

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

blasting along at warp speed.

INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON SINGH, GEORDI, WESLEY

They are at one of the consoles, Singh doing something complex at a panel, with Geordi and Wesley looking over his shoulder.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - EMPHASIZING WORF

Worf is at Conn, routinely monitoring his panel and appearing to be no worse for wear after his ordeal. Suddenly, he straightens, tabs in a command, frowns, tabs it again.
CONTINUED:

Worf
Sir, warp power is fading!

Picard
Picard to Engineering. What is our problem?

Worf
Warp five... four... three... two...

Ext. Space - The Enterprise (optical)
Effect shot of going from warp speed to sub-warp.

Int. Engineer's Office - Emphasizing Singh
The assistant chief engineer is working the panel, shaking his head.

Singh
We've lost the warp engine computer tie!

Wesley
And we just dropped below warp one, sir.

Geordi
Go to impulse power!

Int. Main Bridge - Emphasizing Picard
He frowns, not happy, but he's just the boss around here. He doesn't make the damned thing go.

Picard
State of the art vessel? Hah. Commander Data, signal Parliament that we will be delayed. We will send the new arrival time as soon as determined.

Data
Yes, sir.

He turns to his Ops panel, inspecting it.

Data
(continuing)
Sir, subspace radio is out.
Riker and Data sit opposite Picard at the desk. Picard finishes a review of reports on his viewscreen, snaps it off irritably.

PICARD
Your theories on the sudden vulnerability of these systems, gentlemen?

DATA
If the Enterprise were really this fragile, sir, she never would have gotten out of spacedock. Therefore, her systems failures are not endemic to the ship, but are more likely the result of the actions of an unknown adversary.

RIKER
We have a saboteur aboard.

DATA
I believe I said that.

PICARD
(firmly)
Gentlemen. The question now is, who. I can't believe it's one of our people.

RIKER
Agreed. Which leaves someone in either alien delegation. If the Ferengi bribed or bought even one of them, that's all that would be needed.

DATA
Ferengi contacts have been detected on both Selay and Antica, sir.

PICARD
Can any of you suggest another solution?

RIKER
(amused)
You're sounding like a private eye, sir.

DATA
Query: private eye?
PICARD
A private consulting investigator who solves crimes.

DATA
A most interesting occupation.

PICARD
In the world of fact, it is, Data. However in literature, criminal detection becomes a fascinating exercise.
   (a glance to Riker)
The immortal Sherlock Holmes would have an interesting view of our mystery, I believe.

Data cocks an eyebrow; WE CAN SEE him mentally making a note to remember that name. Meanwhile:

RIKER
I'm sure, sir -- but I'm afraid we have to find our solution without History's Greatest Consulting Detective.

INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON SINGH AND WESLEY

conferring over a panel. Wesley suddenly points to a pertinent display.

WESLEY
Is it there, Mister Singh? If the control network breaks at that point...

SINGH
(nods)
... it bleeds warp engine command off into dead ends.
   (to Wesley)
Excellent. I believe I can handle it from there, Mister Crusher.

Wesley looks up, disappointed. Now that he's spotted the problem, he wants to stay for the solution.

WESLEY
But, sir --
CONTINUED

SINGH
Your schedule shows classwork now.
Sorry.

WESLEY
Yes, sir.
(heads for door; turns)
But I don't learn nearly this much
in school.

SINGH
(smiles)
I tend to agree. But the captain's
orders on this are very clear.

INT. CRUSHERS' QUARTERS - ANGLE ON BEVERLY

She is dressed casually, relaxing in a chair, reading.
She glances up and smiles as Wesley ENTERS.

BEVERLY
Solve any new problems today?

WESLEY
I was starting to, maybe, but
Mister Singh sent me off to class.

BEVERLY
Wes -- you're only an acting
ensign.
(slight smile)
You have to let the commissioned
officers do some of the work.

WESLEY
Mom, listen. I've learned more
than they understand. For
example, on Channing's dilithium
crystals theory I was telling you
about...

BEVERLY
(frowns; puzzled)
When did you tell me about that?

WESLEY
This morning. Don't you remember?

Beverly stares at him, starting to grow a little
concerned.
CONTINUED

BEVERLY
Honestly, I don't, Wes.

WESLEY
You asked if the warp engines had
to do with navigation, and I said --

BEVERLY
Why would I have said that?

The two of them look at each other. Why, indeed?

INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON SINGH (OPTICAL)

working at the console where we saw him earlier. He
is busy, digging into the problem, checking his results
on a viewscreen that pulls up different schematics as
he works the board. He reviews the schematic currently
on the screen, nods to himself, reaches for the panel
again. Suddenly, a BLUE GLOW SURROUNDS HIM (OPTICAL),
and he stiffens, shaking convulsively. A SCREAM is
choked off as the power racks his body -- and he
plummets off the chair to the deck. The BLUE GLOW
FADES... leaving him lying motionless on the floor.
A beat, Worf ENTERS from the Corridor outside
Engineering.

WORF
Mister Singh, the Captain wants --

He pauses a short beat as he sees Singh's body, then
he quickly rushes in to check for heartbeat and pulse.
Nothing.

WORF
(continuing)
Engineering to bridge. Security
alert!

PICARD'S COM VOICE
Picard.

WORF
Lieutenant Worf, sir. I just found
Mister Singh.... he's dead.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
FADE IN:

49 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moving through space on IMPULSE POWER.

PICARD (V.O.)
Captain's log, stardate 41249.4.
Assistant Chief Engineer Singh
has been found dead in the Engine
Room Office, cause unknown. We
continue to run on impulse power.

50 INT. READY ROOM - PICARD, RIKER, CRUSHER, TASHA

Tasha is very upset over Singh's death.

PICARD
(to Beverly)
I want the autopsy as soon as
possible, Doctor.

TASHA
Captain, I'm so sorry. To have
one of our people die like this...

PICARD
First, let's find out how he died.
Doctor?

BEVERLY
The autopsy is underway, sir.

PICARD
(to Riker)
It could be... a word you're not
to use...
(leans in; low voice)
...murder. Status of
investigation?

TASHA
Underway.

RIKER
Our best people.
51 INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE - ANGLE ON WORF, WESLEY, GEORDI

They are clustered around the console where Singh died. Geordi is examining the panels there; Wesley steps up from behind, indicates a place on the panel.

WESLEY
Sir, he may have been working there on restoring warp power.

GEORDI
(eyes panel; then)
According to these readings, we could go back to warp speed now.

Wesley examines the board, looks up, surprised:

WESLEY
But that wasn't the reading when I left.

WORF
Singh probably repaired it just before he was killed.

WESLEY
But he couldn't have fixed it from here, sir! The problems we saw were inside the engines!

GEORDI
Who else could have corrected it, Wes?

(to Worf)
Inform the bridge of engine status.

52 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON PICARD

WORF'S COM VOICE
We now have warp capacity, sir. All power on line.

PICARD
Well done. Warp engines ready.

(to conn)
On previous heading, warp factor six.

53 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship leaps into warp, the stars blurring as she makes the jump.
INT. GUEST QUARTERS - ANGLE ON TASHA, BADAR N'D'D

The quarters are still low-lit, mysterious. Badar N'D'D reclines on a low couch, looking up at Tasha with complete disinterest.

BADAR N'D'D
I tolerate these questions, Lieutenant Yar, because I need this vessel to get us to Parliament. Your shipboard problems do not concern me.

TASHA
They should. Our delays are your delays.

BADAR N'D'D
(waves it away)
The peace conference will wait for us.

TASHA
I must ask where you were during this vessel's Earth hours of 1800 last night and 0700 this morning.

BADAR N'D'D
Eating.

TASHA
Sir, I'm talking about hours here...

BADAR N'D'D
It was a large meal.
(smiles, revealing sharp canines)
And an interesting animal.

Tasha grimaces at the idea.

INT. CRUSHER'S OFFICE - TROI, BEVERLY, WORF

as Worf APPEARS at the door of Beverly's office where Troi and Beverly wait.

WORF
You wanted me, Doctor?

BEVERLY
Yes, concerning your memory blackout.
WORF
(nods)
I still don't remember having one.

BEVERLY
The same thing happened to me.

TROI
I want to try hypnosis on both of you. It may restore your memory as to what happened.

Beverly nods immediately. They turn to Worf who has hesitated.

WORF
I fear such things, but...

BEVERLY
Fear from you, Worf?

Worf nods.

INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS - DATA, RIKER, TASHA (OPTICAL)

They are gathered in chairs near the windows. (Warp speed.) Riker and Tasha compare notes on a portable viewer pad. Data is watching... and smoking a "Sherlock Holmes" style pipe. Tasha is more troubled by this than Riker.

TASHA
One thing is clear... Almost all the "peace" delegates answered our questions with lies.

DATA
Imprecise, Lieutenant. They omitted certain truths, which in itself tells us something.

TASHA
We can learn something from non-disclosure?

DATA
Oh, indubitably, my good woman.

Tasha gives Riker a puzzled look. Indubitably? My good woman? During which, Data puffs on the pipe and Tasha pulls back as he exhales.
CONTINUED:

RIKER
It's something the Captain mentioned. Sherlock Holmes, which Data is obviously studying...

DATA
(interrupting)
Has studied, sir - every case.
(indicates)
As Holmes would have pointed out... during the time in question, something was afoot!

TASHA
(uncertain of the word)
"Afoot?"

Riker is becoming amused at Data's playing the "great detective" role ... and at Tasha's reaction to it. Meanwhile, Data has ignored Tasha's puzzlement over the word afoot.

DATA
While both sets of delegates say they were in their quarters, our crew locator sensed them passing here...
   (indicates)
   ... and here.

TASHA
But since they don't show where they went, we're still in the dark.

DATA
On the contrary, dear colleague - on their return they drew medical supplies appropriate to the treatment of minor wounds and abrasions on these life forms.

RIKER
Which, leaves you with only one conclusion.

DATA
Exactly. That they were too engaged in their own affairs to have disabled our ship and murdered the engineer. Given a choice, they'd rather kill each other than any of us. It's elementary my dear Riker...sir.
CONTINUED: (2)

Tasha has been looking from one to the other during this. She hesitates now, clearly uncomfortable.

TASHA
Speaking of aberrant behavior...

She isn't joking.

INT. SICKBAY - ANGLE ON TROI, BEVERLY AND WORF

Troi has a small machine before her which emits a resonant, melodic HUM and on which LIGHTS FLASH in a systematic pattern. She has just finished a "pass" with it in front of Beverly's face. Beverly sits in the desk chair in a light hypnotic trance. Worf watches intently; he has just gone through this himself.

TROI
Beverly... can you hear me?

BEVERLY
Yes.

TROI
I want you to go back in your mind to the moment when you first recall this sensation of memory loss. Please picture it exactly as it occurred.

BEVERLY

(pause; then:)

He's lying on the hospital bed sedated. I'm walking up to him... I---

(distressed)
I -- I -- I --

TROI
Gently...gently. How do you feel at this moment -- as you lean over him to take the specimen?

BEVERLY
I... feel... someone else... something else there too...

TROI
(waits; then:)

Go on.
CONTINUED:

BEVERLY
(frowns, shakes head)
I feel crowded. Not alone...
get out. Get out of my mind!

Beverly is tossing her head, as if to shake free of something. Troi turns to Worf and nods, indicating Beverly.

TROI
You said almost exactly the same thing -- as though there were something else inside you.

INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - ANGLE ON PICARD, OFFICERS (OPTICAL)

Picard is at his desk, facing Troi, Beverly, Riker, Data (with pipe), and Tasha; we're at warp speed as WE COME IN:

TROI
-- Which confirms the feeling of duality that I sensed earlier in both of them.

PICARD
Why didn't you report it?

TROI
Because, sir, I assumed at first it was the kind of duality we Betazoids feel in all of you.
(see Picard's expression harden)
Even you, sir. When you approach a decision and ask yourself which way to go... who are you talking to?

PICARD
(beat; his expression still saying "nonsense")
Your hypnotism revealed another form of duality?

TROI
Yes, sir. I believe something invaded them.
CONTINUED:

BEVERLY
(nods)
It seems the only possible conclusion.

Picard stands, paces behind his desk irritably, catches sight of Data and pipe.

PICARD
Data, let's proceed without the pipe.

DATA
If you wish, sir...
(set pipe down)
... but I ask if you take it as incontrovertible that it cannot be a family member or one of our crew?

PICARD
(beat, considering; then:)
Yes. Very unlikely.

DATA
Then our investigation was worthwhile, sir. We have eliminated both the delegates and all our regular ship's complement.

PICARD
What are you suggesting?

Data is inclined to pick up the pipe again, but remembers that Picard just issued an order about it.

DATA
I am referring to the Great Detective's credo, sir. I quote... "We must fall back on the old axiom that when other contingencies fail, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

OMITTED

Riker and Picard exchange looks.
INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

Geordi is at his usual Conn station; Wesley sits beside him at Ops. Worf is seated in Riker's chair. Supernumeraries are at aft stations.

CLOSER ON GEORDI AND WESLEY

Wesley is quiet, faintly depressed. Geordi looks over at him, grins.

GEORDI
Wes, everything's fixed now.

WESLEY
That engine computer net wasn't repaired, sir. It just suddenly became all right.

GEORDI
It's the result that counts. (glances down at panel) What --- ?

WIDER ANGLE - ON COMMAND STATIONS

WORF
What is it?

GEORDI
Helm control just went down. (works panel - nothing) She won't respond.

WORF
Bridge to Captain. You're needed here immediately.

Geordi works the panel controls, without result.

GEORDI
Wes, alert Engineering from your panel.

WESLEY
(works panel) Trying...

ANGLE AT READY ROOM DOOR

Picard ENTERS bridge fast, Riker, Troi, Tasha, Data FOLLOWING, moving toward their stations. Beverly follows them out onto the bridge, as:
PICARD
Report.

WORF
Helm is down, sir. The ship's running wild ---

ANGLE ON PICARD
moving to Geordi at Conn. Picard stands by Geordi.

ANGLE ON GEORDI, DATA, WESLEY
Wesley swiftly rises, makes room for Data to take over the panel. Geordi turns in his seat to look up at Picard as:

GEORDI
Sir, we dropped to impulse power ---

CLOSE ON PICARD
He bends over Geordi. His left hand rests near the small control panel at Conn.

OMITTED

CLOSE ON PICARD (OPTICAL)
The strange BLUE GLOW FLASHES around Picard for a split second, then FADES.

INCLUDING GEORDI
staring at Picard.

GEORDI
Sir... ? Are you all right? I thought I just saw ---

ON PICARD
Picard remains sitting stiffly for a beat as though frozen by what has happened, and then his face takes on a slightly different expression.
CONTINUED:

PICARD

I'm fine.

(beat)

Everything is fine now.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN:

71 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)
traveling on impulse power, unguided by any human hand.

72 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - EMPHASIZING PICARD

Geordi is concerned at something happening at his position.

PICARD
Why the drop to impulse power, Lieutenant?

GEORDI
(turns to Picard)
The helm is suddenly malfunctioning, sir.

PICARD
Malfunctioning? You're wrong -- Look again.

GEORDI
(turning to console)
Sir, I ---

He breaks off, staring at the panel.

RIKER
Mister La Forge?

GEORDI
(a beat; puzzled)
There's nothing wrong with the helm now. Everything is -- just as it should be, sir.

PICARD
In that case, make our heading two-nine-five mark three-seven.

GEORDI
Sir... ?

PICARD
You have a problem with that heading, Lieutenant?
CONTINUED:

GEORDI
Do you want to double back on our course, sir?

PICARD
That is what I've ordered.

A puzzled Geordi begins touching helm controls.

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

going into a graceful turn which will take her in the opposite direction. As it finishes the turn, the ship jumps into warp speed.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE ANGLE

The bridge crew still at their positions.

ANGLE ON TROI

concentrating her mind on Picard, uncertain. Picard has appeared lucid; his order to reverse course is not contrary to Starfleet policy or out-of-line for a starship captain.

EMPHASIZING PICARD AND RIKER

Picard looks entirely normal, but with a very alert quality.

RIKER
Captain... I'm puzzled about your reversing our course.

ANGLE ON DATA, RIKER, TROI

exchanging looks of puzzlement. Why double back on course?

INCLUDING PICARD AND GEORDI

PICARD
The energy "cloud," Commander -- I believe it important to have another look at it.
CONTINUED:

RIKER
Sir, we’re behind schedule to Parliament already ---

PICARD
I believe a very important scientific discovery awaits us on this heading.

TROI
(looks up; beat)
Perhaps you’ll share your reasoning on that, sir?

DATA
Yes, since we obtained only minimal information on our sensor pass of it.

PICARD
We must go back to learn more.
(to Troi; thin smile)
Counselor... do you believe a ship captain should explain every order?

TROI
(beat; shakes her head)
Of course not, sir.

EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

now heading the opposite direction, going back the way she came at warp speed.

INT. CORRIDOR

Badar N'D'D is being chased down the Corridor by a SECURITY GUARD.

BADAR N'D'D
I demand to see the captain.

FIRST SECURITY GUARD
Stop, return to your quarters...!

A stateroom door OPENS to REVEAL Ssestar trying to edge outside past a SECOND SECURITY GUARD there. First security guard has managed to stop Badar N'D'D who whirls toward the Selay delegate in revulsion.
CONTINUED:

(indicating Badar N'D'D)

What is that doing on our deck?

(to Security Guard)

I demand to know why this starship has changed course!

FIRST SECURITY GUARD

Please return to your quarters, delegates!

INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS

Riker, Data, Troi and Geordi as Beverly ENTERS.

RIKER

You're late and you asked for this confidential meeting.

BEVERLY

Sorry. I was just so troubled by my talk with the captain. Something seems wrong... terribly wrong.

TROI

(hesitant)

I believe I sense something... different in the Captain... not much and maybe I'm incorrect.

(indicates Riker, Data and Geordi)

They think I may be.

RIKER

(to Troi)

You could be reacting to the reverse course order.

GEORDI

But that's our captain. It's not the first time he's done something unusual.

DATA

A mere change of direction hardly justifies mutiny.
BEVERLY
(to Troi)
Exactly what do you believe you're sensing?

TROI
Exactly?
(shakes head)
It's difficult to put into words... just a feeling that he's, well... closed part of his mind to me.

GEORDI
How can you tell there's something there that you can't feel?

TROI
As I said... it's hard to say. I just feel the captain's become... perhaps dangerous.

RIKER
If he's dangerous... if...

GEORDI
... he'd have to be relieved from command.
(to Beverly)
Which you're allowed to do... but it's beaucoup trouble if you're wrong.

DATA
And at this moment it is all pure speculation. He has done nothing to subject the Enterprise to danger.

BEVERLY
Besides, I'd need a medical log giving clear evidence of incapacity.
(to Riker)
You could do it without that problem...

RIKER
Only if all command officers agreed it vital to do so. But he's not showing overt unusual behavior.
CONTINUED: (2)

TROI
Ultimately he will, I believe...

BEVERLY
Commander, as second in command, it's still in your corner. I'll order medical and psychiatric exams... You'll have to back me up somehow.

EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)
traveling through space at warp speed. Direction should be the same as PREVIOUS SHOT.

RIKER (V.O.)
First Officer's log, stardate 41249.5. As I believed, the senior command officers refused to relieve the captain from duty on such slender evidence.

INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - ANGLE ON PICARD
He looks up as Riker and Beverly ENTER the room and CROSS to face him over the desk. Picard looks up:

PICARD
Yes?

BEVERLY
I'd like you to come to Sickbay for some examinations, Captain.

PICARD
Oh?
(nods)
I'll be glad to do that when I'm free.

BEVERLY
I'd like to conduct them now, sir.

PICARD
Why?
(to Riker)
What can I do for you, Number One?

RIKER
Sir, Counselor Troi has recommended the examinations.
CONTINUED:

PICARD
(thin smile)
Same question. Why?

CLOSER SHOT

Riker firms up.

RIKER
It is my duty to inform the captain that we believe it possible that he is under some kind of alien influence which... may constitute a danger to this ship.

Another flicker of a smile from Picard. It never gets to his eyes, and there's no humor in it.

PICARD
I consider it equally possible that you two and the counselor are overworked, and possibly suffering hallucinations.
(to Beverly)
This is an order... you're to arrange medical and psychiatric exams of both yourself and them. Doctor, you realize you're all acting strangely?

BEVERLY
I'm concerned that you've suddenly turned the ship away from...

PICARD
(interrupting; hard)
What's happened to your mind, Doctor? The search for knowledge is always our primary mission.
(stands)
I'm sorry but I'm too busy for this kind of nonsense. Must I call security to force you to report to Sickbay?

On his cold, penetrating stare, Riker and Beverly EXIT.

EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

proceeding on her way back to the "Cloud" at warp speed.
INT. CORRIDOR NEAR ENGINEERING - ANGLE ON TURBOLIFT

The corridor is oddly low lit. As the turbolift DOORS OPEN and Riker STEPS OUT, he glances around, frowning at the lack of light. He starts toward Engineering, and a SPARKLING LOOP suddenly whips over his head and around his neck. He lurches back, yanked by the garrotes; then it is abruptly loosened. Riker regains his balance as the garrote is whipped away from his neck, and he turns to see:

ANOTHER ANGLE - SSESTAR AND RIKER

RIKER

What in hell... ?

The large Reptilian manages what appears to be an apologetic smile.

SSESTAR

Sorry. Wrong species.

He backs away, still offering the smile, then turns and HURRIES DOWN the corridor to huddle with four other Selays. Riker fingers his throat ruefully, goes to a computer interface on a nearby wall and touches it.

RIKER

Riker to security chief.

TASHA'S COM VOICE

Yar here.

RIKER

Security squad to the Engineering Deck. The Selays are playing hide and seek down here -- obviously with the Anticans -- (rubs throat) -- and it's a lethal game. I want them returned to their quarters under guard.

TASHA'S COM VOICE

Right away, sir. (hesitantly) And are you... aware sir, the captain expects you to take a medical exam?

RIKER

I'll do it later.
88 INT. READY ROOM - ANGLE ON PICARD

He is working feverishly at an o.s. personal Viewscreen, absorbing the information at an intense rate. A CHIME SOUNDS, and he looks up as though he is not sure at first what it means. Then he registers and:

    PICARD
    Come.

89 ANGLE TO INCLUDE BEVERLY

The doors slide OPEN, and Beverly ENTERS. She is in medical "blues." She is trying to appear relaxed and confident, but nagging thoughts run around her mind asking about why she is really here.

    PICARD
    What do you want?

    BEVERLY
    I have the results of the exams you ordered.

She offers a record tape, he tosses it aside and leans back in his chair... content and confident.

90 OMITTED

91 TWO SHOT - BEVERLY AND PICARD

    BEVERLY
    You don't care to inspect them?

Picard ignores her, she picks up her courage, moves closer.

    BEVERLY
    Please, are you Jean-Luc?

Slowly, Picard looks up, aware of both her and her physical closeness. He touches her hand. A long hesitation, then gently:

    PICARD
    He is here.

    BEVERLY
    The Jean-Luc I know?
CONTINUED:

     PICARD
         (nods)
     And more.

     BEVERLY
     The "more" frightens me...

     PICARD
     And elates us. We wish you could
     understand the glorious adventures
     ahead.

     BEVERLY
     You and...?

     PICARD
     Soon we'll both be home.

     FADE OUT.

     END OF ACT FOUR
FADE IN:

92 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise slows to impulse power as it heads for the large energy pattern "Cloud" which can be seen in far b.g.

RIKER (V.O.)
(troubled)
First officer's log, supplemental. On the orders of... Captain Picard, we have returned to the vicinity of the energy pattern "cloud." I am personally convinced that something from this "cloud" now shares...

93 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - WIDE SHOT

All officers at their regular duty stations, except for Picard, who is not present. Riker is in the command chair.

RIKER (V.O.)
(continuing)
... the captain's mind. But there seems to be nothing we can do... at least within regulations. There have been no actions warranting relieving Captain Picard. And our medical personnel, while dubious about his condition, are not prepared to certify the captain's incapacity.

At the Conn position, Geordi turns to look back at Riker.

GEORDI
Approaching the "cloud," sir.

RIKER
Very well, Mister La Forge. Bring us to within ten thousand kilometers and hold us there.

GEORDI
Aye, sir.
CONTINUED:

Picard ENTERS from his Ready Room. Riker gets out of the command chair.

RIKER
Shall we begin the scientific tests that you wanted, sir?

PICARD
(smiles)
They are already underway.

ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The energy pattern "shape" spreads out across the reach of space, as we saw it earlier.

EMPHASIZING PICARD

as he looks at the viewscreen. His face is transformed, showing longing and even a kind of love. Then he turns to the bridge.

PICARD
I have an announcement for the entire bridge.

PICARD AND VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Reaction and concern from all on the bridge as Picard moves to stand in front of the viewscreen.

PICARD
As many of you suspected...
(indicating "cloud" image)
... when our ship passed through the edge of this, it accidentally carried off a sentient being... one much like these energy patterns we're seeing here.

Picard moves toward Worf.

VARIOUS ANGLE ON PRINCIPALS

as Picard moves to the helm.
PICARD
A frightening experience for any intelligent being. As if a great claw reached down and scooped up any of you from your home world. Drawn into the energy pathways of this vessel...
(to Worf)
... it found its way to you, Worf, frantic at being carried from its home. Recognizing you as sentient beings, it pleaded for help.

SHOT OF COMMAND AREA
Picard moving toward where Beverly stands nearby.

PICARD
... but in ways you could not understand... going desperately from one to another of you... then discovering the computer intelligence in the ship's memory circuits.
(nods)
Simplistic intelligence, but it furnished a way to slow this Enterprise thing that had captured it.
(toward Riker)
And it very much regrets the accidental death of Engineer Singh during this...

TROI
(interrupting)
Captain, do you exist in combination with the entity?

RIKER)
Is it in control of you, sir?

PICARD)
(that smile again)
By the time we combined...
as the bridge crew hears him admit the entity is now part of him.

PICARD
... We had learned much about each other... our passion for exploration... for the unknown. We found we had similar dreams... and it offered your captain a way to realize them beyond any human expectation.

RIKER
Captain, I must speak to you privately...now.

DATA
I understand. As an energy pattern free of the limitations of matter... it might travel anywhere, at any velocity...

RIKER
(angry)
Captain, did you hear me?

DATA
(intent on Picard)
Sir, I see no way for you to journey with an energy form.

PICARD
(ignoring Riker)
Isn't there?

TROI
(reacting to a thought)
Maybe... just maybe...
(to Riker)
He's planning to beam both the entity and himself into that "cloud."

PICARD
(nods)
The transporter need not pattern your captain back into matter... we'll beam energy only...
reacting in some disgust and anger at his words and expression now.

PICARD
(ecstatic)
... and we will become...
(pleased look)
... a combined energy pattern of that life form.

as Picard turns to Riker.

PICARD
A resignation from this command and from Starfleet has been appropriately recorded...

RIKER
(moving in; firmly)
I refuse to allow this, sir.

PICARD
Oh? Under what Fleet regulation? Does this resignation threaten the ship and its company in any way?

BEVERLY
(moving in)
Captain Picard, you are now relieved from duty. I judge you disabled...

moving his hand toward a nearby panel.

BEVERLY (O.S.)
... mentally incapacitated...

Picard's hand touches the panel and WE SEE the familiar BLUE GLOW, at which the panel becomes a BRILLIANT DISPLAY OF LIGHT on a darkened bridge. Surprised VOICES and GROANS, all matched to:

RIKER (O.S.)
Security! Help me restrain the Captain...
102 CONTINUED:

TROI (O.S.)
This is blinding me...

TASHA (O.S.)
... Where is he? These light flashes...

103 FULL ON BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

BLINDING BLUE LIGHT from all panels, ENERGY FORMS (lightning-like) flings some of the bridge crew to the floor...

WORF
Captain! I'll help you if you'll let me...

104 ANGLE AT TURBOLIFT (OPTICAL)

as in the darkness WE MAKE OUT a Figure ENTERING the turbolift, the door CLOSING.

105 ANGLE ON RIKER (OPTICAL)

Intermittently ILLUMINATED BY THE BRILLIANT FLASHES as he gets zapped again, then again, struggling to reach the captain's panel.

RIKER
Hang on to the captain, someone!

He makes it, hits the RED ALERT switch... which SOUNDS THE KLAXON and begins the RED ALARM LIGHTS BLINKING.

106 INT. CORRIDOR

Darkened too, but the FLASHING RED LIGHTS illuminate Picard turning into the Transporter Room.

107 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

where a crewman lies unconscious. Picard, relieved to see the crewman stirring somewhat, makes a setting on the transporter panel, jumps to the platform as WE HEAR the TRANSPORTER SOUND begin.
as the TRANSPORTER EFFECT takes Picard away from the Enterprise.

The Enterprise hovers even closer to the "cloud," waiting.

Riker is in the command chair -- all others at their usual stations except Tasha who ENTERS very concerned and upset. Riker glances around the bridge, then:

TASHA
The Transporter Chief has no idea of what the coordinates were, sir.

GEORDI
He's just out there "somewhere?"
How can we settle for that?

RIKER
Give me a choice, then.

DATA
Still no readings, no sign of anything.

Long hesitation; then, Riker sighs.

RIKER
Mister La Forge, it's time to set a course for Parliament. Warp eight.

GEORDI
We're really leaving him... ?

RIKER
I've waited as long as possible, Lieutenant.

She stiffens suddenly in her seat, reaching out to grab Riker's arm.
111 CONTINUED:

TROI
Wait! I'm feeling... yes, it's the captain!
(concentrating)
The captain only. He's out there alone!

RIKER
The entity... has it abandoned him?

TROI
Aban... ? No, the combination just wasn't possible out there.
(intently; fast)
The Captain's in trouble, sir; we must beam him back!

RIKER
Beam him back as what? He's nothing but energy now.

112 ANGLE INCLUDING GEORDI

turning to Riker, matching his pace. Time may be important to the Captain now.

DATA
Sir, the entity was caught by the ship's circuitry -- the captain might try to get in the same way if he's in trouble!

RIKER
(to Geordi)
Move the ship in closer!

As Geordi turns, hurriedly doing so.

GEORDI
Moving in, sir. But where?

RIKER
No way to know. Let's hope he can come part way himself.

113 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND "CLOUD" (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise moving close, then closer.
INT. MAIN BRIDGE - MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

showing Enterprise coming even closer -- the "cloud's" energy patterns becoming visible.

REACTION SHOT

The helm officers, intent, hoping.

REACTION SHOT

The Command Area with Riker and Troi -- then Beverly ENTERS with Wesley. She indicates her son to Riker, questioningly. Riker nods, goes back to his intent examination of the viewer.

RIKER
Troi, is there any way you can... "get" a message to him?

TROI
(shakes head sadly)
I wish I could.

SHOT INCLUDING DATA

as he swivels toward Riker.

GEORDI
Sensors are monitoring our perimeter, the ship's circuitry...
(shakes head)
Nothing, sir.

RIKER
(interrupting)
Take us into the edge of it, La Forge.

As he looks toward the Main Viewer:

FULL ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The "cloud" moving toward us -- then we're into it.

COMMAND AREA

Riker still intent on the viewer.
CONTINUED:

WESLEY
Mom, is he gone for good?

Beverly shushes her son. He tries almost a whisper:

WESLEY)
(continuing)
The funny thing is, I... I sort of liked him...

INCLUDING TASHA AND WORF (OPTICAL)

Worf is suddenly startled by a reading on his panel.

WORF
Sir! On my sensor controls...

A sudden BLUE GLOW APPEARS, like that which earlier indicated the entity's presence. Followed by a CRACKLE OF ENERGY which sees Worf stepping back, alarmed.

TROI
Something's here. I can feel it!

DATA
Just as before! Going to you first, Worf...

GEORDI
(interrupting)
Something crazy on my viewer circuits...
(looking toward Viewer)
Commander Riker!

Riker leaps toward Geordi's station.

FULL ON GEORDI'S VIEWER (OPTICAL)

An area of static is APPEARING. The STATIC IMAGE is undefined at first but is becoming a "shape," although not yet recognizeable.

INCLUDING COMMAND AND HELM AREAS

Very curious.

GEORDI
"Static?"
The STATIC IMAGE as if with great effort, slowly forms itself into a lop-sided IMAGE of the letter "P."

Riker coming to his feet.

**RIKER**

"P" for Picard!

Data moves quickly toward Riker.

**DATA**

He's in the ship's circuitry!
Come to the Transporter Room.
Please!

Data HURRIES toward the turbolift. Then he turns.

**DATA**

(continuing)
There might be a way, sir! Hurry!

Riker decides to HURRY to the turbolift himself. He joins Data and the turbolift doors CLOSE.

**RIKER**
This is a wild theory Data!

**DATA**
I knew we had to have the captain's physical pattern here,
He was the last one beamed out.

**RIKER**
Is what you're thinking possible?
124 CONTINUED:

DATA
Unknown at this time, sir. I hope the captain remembers his pattern is here.
   (steps back)
If he has, his energy has moved into the transporter relays by now...

RIKER
   (nods)
Wish we had some sign he's there.
   (waits; then)
We've no choice but to risk it.

DATA
   (nodding)
Energizing, sir!

125 SHOT INCLUDING TRANSPORTER PLATFORM

   as Data engages the transporter. Riker waits...waits.

126 TWO SHOT OF RIKER AND DATA

   watching anxiously, their disappointment building. They exchange a worried look.

127 TRANSPORTER PLATFORM (OPTICAL)

   The TRANSPORTER EFFECT builds slowly, a bit unevenly... then firms up, finally MATERIALIZING PICARD. He looks around, surprised.

PICARD
What the devil am I doing here?!

RIKER
   (quietly)
Sounds like our Captain...

Picard begins MOVING OFF the platform.

DATA
But confused. This Picard-pattern was formed before he went out there...
CONTINUED:

PICARD
(to Riker)
What's happening to me, Number One? I was ready to beam away... somewhere... I remember talk of an... an entity? But all that seems so vague...

DATA
(to Riker)
I believe the Captain is now his separate self, sir. A lot of what happened is naturally missing...

PICARD
(interrupting)
Data, what nonsense are you talking now? Is it still "Sherlock Holmes?"

Data hesitates, exchanging a look with Riker who gives an almost imperceptible nod.

DATA
Ah, yes. Indubitably, sir, indubitably.

PICARD
(beginning to EXIT)
Well, at least get rid of that damned pipe. It smells.

As the captain ALMOST EXITS, Riker intercepts him.

RIKER
Doctor Crusher asked me to steer you past Sickbay. She says you've looked very tired.

Tasha ENTERS hurriedly.

TASHA
Sorry Commander, but Security Team Two reports they've discovered a puddle of blood outside the Selay Quarters and they can't find one of the delegates and...
RIKER
(interrupting; annoyed)
Lieutenant, couldn't this have waited a moment? We've got the captain back.

TASHA
(to Picard)
Good to see you, sir. The problem is that one of the cooks has just been asked to broil Reptile for the Anticans... and it looks like the Selay delegate...

PICARD
Riker, with these "peace" delegates and all, I do need some rest. Take charge, Number One.

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The "cloud" in far b.g. as WE SEE the Enterprise go into WARP SPEED EFFECT.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END