

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Suddenly Human"  
#40274-176

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FINAL DRAFT

JULY 9, 1990

STAR TREK: "Suddenly Human" - REV. 7/18/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Suddenly Human"

CAST

PICARD	JONO
RIKER	CAPTAIN ENDAR
DATA	
BEVERLY	Starfleet Personnel
TROI	ADMIRAL CONNAUGHT ROSSA
GEORDI	
WORF	
WESLEY	Non-Speaking
	FOUR TALARIAN YOUTHS
	TALARIAN MILITIA
TRANSPORTER OFFICER'S VOICE	Still Photos on Monitor
	CONNOR & MOIRA ROSSA
Non-Speaking SUPERNUMERARIES MEDICAL PERSONNEL	WITH INFANT CHILD
TWO SECURITY MEN	Voices
	CONNOR & MOIRA ROSSA
	JEREMIAH ROSSA (INFANT)

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Suddenly Human"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE  
MAIN BRIDGE  
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM  
TRANSPORTER ROOM  
OBSERVATION LOUNGE  
TEN FORWARD  
SICKBAY  
BEVERLY'S OFFICE  
CORRIDORS (VARIOUS)  
N.D. QUARTERS  
PICARD'S QUARTERS  
RACQUETBALL COURT

TALARIAN OBSERVATION CRAFT

TALARIAN WARSHIP Q'MAIRE  
ENDAR'S READY ROOM (ON MAIN VIEWER)

STARFLEET  
ADMIRAL ROSSA'S ROOM (ON MONITOR)

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE  
TALARIAN SHIPS  
OBSERVATION CRAFT  
WARSHIP Q'MAIRE  
TWO ADDT'L WARSHIPS

STAR TREK: "Suddenly Human" - 7/18/90 - PRONUNCIATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Suddenly Human"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

CONNAUGHT	cn-NAWT
ENDAR	EN-dar
JONO	JOHN-oh
MOIRA	MORE-ah
Q'MAIRE	kuh-MARE
TALARIAN	tah-LARE-ian
ROSSA	ROW-sa
WODEN	WOH-den

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Suddenly Human"  
TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship approaches a small Talarian vessel, adrift.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, Stardate 44085.7.  
We have moved into Sector  
Two-One-Nine-Four-Seven in  
response to a distress call from  
a Talarian observation craft.  
The alien vessel appears adrift,  
and our initial probe has detected  
a life-threatening radiation leak  
within its propulsion system.

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

To include MAIN VIEWER. PICARD, TROI, and RIKER in  
the Command Chairs. DATA at Ops, WORF at Tactical,  
WESLEY at Conn.

WORF

Sir, I get no further response  
from the vessel.

PICARD

Maintain an open channel.

RIKER

Doctor Crusher and her assistants  
are waiting in Transporter Room  
Three, Captain.

2 CONTINUED:

DATA

Sir, I must remind you that during the Galen border conflicts a common tactic of the Talarians was to abandon their observation craft, rig them to self-destruct...

PICARD

(nods)

... and issue a general distress call, yes, I know...

DATA

This particular guerilla maneuver resulted in two hundred and nineteen fatalities over a three-year period.

Picard is silent, pondering his options.

RIKER

Data, is there any way to detect their self-destruct device?

DATA

Negative, Commander. The Talarians employ a subspace proximity detonator. It would not be detectable to our scans...

RIKER

(joining in)

... or the Away Team's tricorders. Right.

WORF

Captain, the Talarian warship Q'Maire is responding to the distress call.

PICARD

Position?

WORF

Halfway through the Woden sector.

WESLEY

It'll take them hours to get here, sir, even at maximum warp.

2 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard turns to Troi, who has been quiet during all this, concentrating on what forces might be emanating from the stricken vessel.

PICARD  
Counselor?

TROI  
There is life on board... but it's fading.

That's it. Picard makes his decision.

PICARD  
Number One, assemble the rest of your away team and prepare for immediate rescue operations.

RIKER  
Yes, sir.

They lock eyes for a moment. Picard doesn't need to add, "Be careful." Riker knows all too well what he may be heading into.

3 INT. TALARIAN OBSERVATION CRAFT (OPTICAL)

Gaseous, dark, flickering neon lights accent the area as Riker, Worf and BEVERLY MATERIALIZE with TWO MEDICAL SUPERNUMERARIES carrying equipment. Riker, tricorder in hand, steps forward, wary and alert. They move into the interior of the ship, scanning constantly with his tricorder, the others following.

WORF  
(checking tricorder)  
Ancillary power is failing,  
Commander.

They move through the cabin, and then spot --

4 THEIR POV - AN ADJACENT AREA

revealing FIVE TALARIANS, some with radiation burns, most too weak to stand. They wear a helmet-like head covering that is decidedly war-like in appearance, and all wear gloves.

4 CONTINUED:

They all look young -- like our teen-agers.

BEVERLY

They're nothing more than  
children!

And they are broken and wounded. Riker steps forward.

RIKER

I am Commander Riker of the  
Federation Starship Enterprise.  
We will evacuate you and give you  
medical care. You will not be  
harmed.

There is no resistance, and Beverly springs into  
action, scanning the victims with a medical tricorder.  
Worf move into an adjacent corridor to reconnoiter.

BEVERLY

(keying insignia)

Enterprise, prepping five Talarian  
males for transport directly to  
Sickbay... Trauma Team, stand  
by to receive injured... we have  
radiation burns, possible  
respiratory distress...

TRANSPORTER OFFICER'S COM VOICE

Transport locked in and ready,  
Doctor.

BEVERLY

Stand by for my order.

As she and the medical assistants continue triage,  
Riker keys his insignia.

RIKER

Captain, it looks like this was  
a basic training ship. Five  
boys... in their teens... all  
in uniform...

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Proceed with the evacuation,  
Number One.

Worf returns from his inspection.



4 CONTINUED: (2)

WORF

No other life signs on board, sir.

BEVERLY'S (O.C.)

Commander! Quickly!

Riker rushes to Beverly's side: she's aiming her tricorder at a TALARIAN YOUTH, free hand removing his helmet.

RIKER

What is it?

The helmet is removed, revealing a handsome young man of about fourteen -- looking not at all Talarian.

BEVERLY (O.C.)

Look... this boy... he's human!

And on their stunned reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 INT. SICKBAY

One critical-status Talarian is being treated for radiation damage. Other survivors are whisked into the ward by MEDICAL SUPERNUMERARIES.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental: We have completed emergency evacuation of four Talarians -- and one human. How this young man found himself in the custody of these aliens remains a mystery.

Across the ward, sitting cross-legged on a diagnostic bed, is JONO -- the human. He is ramrod straight, eyes fixed ahead, jaw clenched. With steely determination, he avoids any effort by Beverly to make contact with him. Troi observes.

BEVERLY

It's Jono, right? Is that what I heard them call you?

She speaks casually, warmly, as she scans him with her tricorder. Jono ignores her.

BEVERLY

I'm Doctor Crusher. I'm examining you for radiation injuries. It won't hurt.

(beat)

I have a son not much older than you. Maybe you'd like to meet him.

No response.

BEVERLY

(gamely)

Well, Jono... you seem to have escaped radiation damage. Pretty lucky.

(reacting to something on the tricorder)

How did this happen -- ?

5 CONTINUED:

Suddenly, Jono covers his face and emits a high-pitched shriek -- a keening -- and begins rocking back and forth. Other Talarians, like babies responding with sympathetic crying, take up the awful screech. Startled, Beverly moves away from the boy. Instinctively, Troi moves forward, toward him.

BEVERLY

What is it?

TROI

He's -- terrified.

6 OMITTED

6A INT. SICKBAY - CONTINUOUS

Picard and Riker ENTER; Beverly approaches them.

BEVERLY

They all just started up,  
Captain.

6A CONTINUED:

A roomful of shrieking teenagers does not sit well with Picard.

PICARD  
May I have your attention, please?

They continue the keening sound.

PICARD  
Please -- may I have your  
attention?

No response. Finally, frustrated, Picard walks toward Jono.

PICARD  
Stop that immediately!

The unmistakable voice of authority gets Jono's attention instantly. He breaks off in mid-cry, turns and stares at Picard in a mixture of awe and respect. The others stop the screech as soon as Jono does.

PICARD  
Well. That's better. Now, what's  
your name, young man?

Jono blinks, but doesn't answer.

TROI  
He won't talk, Captain. We  
haven't been able to get through  
to him.

JONO  
Captain -- ?

Electrified by that word, Jono jumps off the bed and crosses to Picard, bows his head.

JONO  
Captain... I am Jono. Take me  
home, to my Captain. Take me home  
to Endar!

Picard stares awkwardly down at the young man at his feet. Then he looks up at Troi, who has observed this little scene. She is smiling slightly. Picard has made an instant connection with this troubled boy.

7 INT. BEVERLY'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Picard ENTERS with Beverly.

BEVERLY

He managed to escape radiation trauma... but his scans showed something else...

PICARD

What?

Beverly rises, paces. She is disturbed by what she has to say.

BEVERLY

Two previously fractured ribs... a broken arm... a low-grade concussion. There may be neurological impairment... I'll have to examine him further. Jean Luc -- the Talarians have always been ruthless to their enemies... I think there's a real possibility they may have brutalized the child.

Picard is appalled, but wants, as always, to consider all possibilities.

PICARD

Isn't it possible he was injured prior to his captivity?

BEVERLY

Not likely. He's been with them a long time... long enough to assimilate their cultural traits... and calcium trace patterns indicate the injuries occurred during the past seven years.

PICARD

(frowns)

But if they have... abused the boy... why would he devoutly wish to return to them?

BEVERLY

That's not uncommon. It was identified centuries ago as the "Stockholm syndrome."

7 CONTINUED:

Suddenly, there is commotion from the Sickbay and as Picard and Beverly react...

8 INT. SICKBAY - JONO - THEIR POV

He is thrashing on the bed, resisting the efforts of two medical SUPERNUMERARIES and Troi to restrain him. Then, he bursts into that dreadful shriek. The other Talarians follow suit.

9 ON PICARD AND BEVERLY

as they rush from the office.

PICARD

Now what?

Jono has leapt from the table and is tearing around the room, shrieking.

TROI

I suggested he take off his gloves... Suddenly he went out of control.

The medical personnel are still scrambling to grab Jono.

BEVERLY

(hits insignia)

Security, we need some assistance in Sickbay...

WORF'S COM VOICE

Acknowledged, Doctor.

PICARD

Jono -- !

Seeing Picard, Jono stops shrieking, but keeps dancing away from his pursuers, agitated and hyperventilating.

JONO

She won't leave me alone! She keeps trying to dissect me!

PICARD

She was trying to help you!

9 CONTINUED:

JONO

I don't want her help! All I want  
is to be with my brothers! Send  
us back to Captain Endar!

Jono may be confused, and he may have suffered, but at  
the moment he's a child throwing a tantrum. Worf  
ENTERS, takes in the scene... begins to move at Jono...  
Picard wants to de-escalate the incident...

9 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Jono -- I want you to stop this  
immediately!

Jono stops short, responding almost involuntarily to  
the voice of authority. He lifts his head, then bows  
it again to Picard.

JONO

Yes, Captain.

PICARD

That's better. Now, if we're to  
accomplish anything --

DATA'S COM VOICE

(interrupting)

Data to Picard.

PICARD

Go ahead.

DATA'S COM VOICE

We have received a subspace  
communique from Starfleet Command,  
regarding the young human, sir.

Jono's eyes flicker at this, but he does not move.

PICARD

Very well. Doctor, Counselor...  
(join me)

Moving with Picard --

BEVERLY

Mister Worf, escort this young  
man to quarters... he's to be  
confined there until further  
notice.



9 CONTINUED: (3)

WORF

Yes, Doctor.

Jono has listened to this interchange with interest. A beat as the boy and the Klingon measure one another.

10 OMITTED

10A INT. N.D. QUARTERS

Worf and Jono ENTER.

JONO

Why are you here, Klingon -- with them? Did they capture you, too?

WORF

They are not my captors. They are my comrades.

Jono snorts derisively, then --

10A CONTINUED:

JONO

Why do you take orders from a  
female?

WORE

(reacts)

Doctor Crusher? She is my  
superior officer.

10A CONTINUED: (2)

JONO

(a snort of contempt)

Among my people, a female could  
never outrank a man.

WORF

You are human, and among humans,  
females can achieve anything  
males can.

Jono stares at him, clear-eyed and sure.

JONO

I am not human any more than you  
are. I am Talarian.

Worf regards the boy with sadness, understanding his  
plight perhaps better than anyone.

WORF

You are confused...

Suddenly, the boy launches into that ear-splitting wail  
again, jarring Worf from his sympathy.

WORF

Stop that!

10A CONTINUED: (3)

JONO

I will make the B'Nar -- the  
mourning -- until I am back with  
my brothers!

He starts up again and Worf backs away, covering his  
ears, then EXITS, shaking his head.

11  
thru OMITTED  
13

13A INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

Picard, Riker, Beverly, Troi and Data.

DATA

By matching DNA gene types,  
Starfleet was able to identify  
the young man as Jeremiah Rossa...

RIKER

(recognizing the name)  
Rossa...

PICARD

... as in Admiral Rossa, Data?

DATA

She is his grandmother, Captain.

Riker whistles softly. Data calls up a still picture  
of the child with his parents on the monitor.

DATA

He was born fourteen years ago  
on the Federation Colony, Galen  
Four. His parents, Connor and  
Moira Rossa, were killed in a  
border skirmish three years, nine  
months later when the colony was  
overrun by Talarian forces.

PICARD

I remember. There were no  
survivors.

DATA

The child was listed as missing  
and presumed dead.

13A CONTINUED:

RIKER

I knew another one of the Rossas who was killed in action at the Krasner outpost...

PICARD

(nods)

Tragedy, it seems, follows the Rossa Family... the Admiral has lost both her sons...

BEVERLY

She'll have something to celebrate now...

TROI

Captain... if Jeremiah were returned to his family in his present condition... it would be a wrenching experience for everyone. Especially for him. He needs to re-discover his identity. He has to make some connection with his roots.

PICARD

I agree. Please take whatever means you need to accomplish that, Counselor.

TROI

I don't think I can do anything, Captain.

PICARD

Why not?

BEVERLY

Troi's right. It's very clear that the boy does not respond well to women.

DATA

The Talarians are a rigidly patriarchal society.

13A CONTINUED: (2)

TROI

Jeremiah needs to build a relationship with a man... a father figure... with whom he can explore his origins... and I think it should be you, Captain.

PICARD

(over my dead body)

Oh, no, Counselor! I don't think so. He needs someone who is -- trained in these things.

TROI

But you are the only person on board to whom he has shown any connection. If Jeremiah is to find his -- humanity -- then you are the only one who can help him. It's up to you, Captain.

Picard stares at her, reflecting on both the enormity and the sheer awfulness of this responsibility.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

14 INT. N.D. LIVING QUARTERS - A LITTLE LATER

Jono sits cross-legged, his high-pitched wail now having achieved a ritualistic, mournful rhythm. He keeps at it, indefatigably, then suddenly breaks off as he sees --

15 PICARD

who stands at the door, observing him.

PICARD

Jono... why do you make that noise?

JONO

It is the custom of my people when they are in distress.

PICARD

Is it not also the custom of your people to listen to the wishes of their Captain?

JONO

Yes.

PICARD

Then, as Captain of the Starship Enterprise, I ask you not to make that sound.

JONO

(nodding, obedient)  
Yes, sir.

PICARD

Good. Well. Now that we have that cleared up...  
(tries to look cheerful)  
Let's... get acquainted, shall we?

Jono stares up at him, puzzled, and Picard smiles with what he hopes is sincerity.

15 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(looking around)

What do you think of your quarters? I know it's a bit -- sterile. But if there's anything you'd like... pictures, perhaps, or games...

He trails off as Jono looks around the room, silently inspecting it. Then he turns to Picard.

JONO

This is a cage. I am still your captive.

PICARD

Not at all. I thought you would be comfortable here --

JONO

Are you going to return me to my Captain?

PICARD

(temporizing)

We will rendezvous with the warship Q'maire at Oh-seven-forty. We are preparing to transfer the Talarions to Captain Endar.

JONO

Including me?

PICARD

We will... discuss... your situation with Captain Endar.

Jono eyes him briefly, then swings around to look at the living quarters.

JONO

I don't like this place.

PICARD

Well, we can find other quarters.

JONO

I have always lived with my Captain.



15 CONTINUED: (2)

He turns to look in Picard's eyes, challenging.

15 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD  
Ah. Yes, well... that won't work,  
here.

16 OMITTED

17 INT. PICARD'S QUARTERS - MINUTES LATER

The door opens and Picard and Jono ENTER.

PICARD  
I'm sure you'll see... there's  
nothing here that would appeal  
to a young person.

Picard watches as Jono wanders the room, picking up things and putting them down in typical teen-age fashion. He picks up a Klingon dagger, inspects it curiously, turning it in his gloved hands.

PICARD  
Put that down, please.

JONO  
It's Klingon.

PICARD  
Yes. Put it back where you got  
it.

Jono flips the dagger onto the desk, flops down into a chair, sprawling. Picard places it exactly as it was before. Then he turns toward the boy.

PICARD  
Well. Here we are, eh, Jono?

Jono stares at him, not replying. Picard sits, trying to make conversation.

PICARD  
I notice you haven't taken off  
your gloves...

Jono sits straight, protectively puts his hands to his sides.

JONO  
Not here.

17 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Why not?

JONO

So that I don't have to touch an alien.

Picard reacts. A beat. He leans toward the boy.

PICARD

Jono... your Captain, Endar? Has he ever hurt you?

(off Jono)

Inflicted pain?

JONO

(proudly)

Pain is not a consideration.

PICARD

Then he has.

JONO

I did not say that. Can't you understand? Pain is not what matters. Passing the tests is everything.

PICARD

Is that what they are? Tests of pain?

JONO

(scornful)

You don't understand anything.

PICARD

It's true I don't fully understand Talarians. But... you are not Talarian.

At this, Jono stiffens and jumps to his feet.

JONO

I will not listen to this! I will not listen to your lies! Take me back to my cell! I'd rather be in prison than have you try to poison my mind!

Picard sighs. This task is impossible.

18 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - LATER

Picard sits, musing, distressed. The SOUND OF A CHIME.

PICARD

Come.

The door opens and Troi stands there.

TROI

You wanted to see me, Captain?

PICARD

Ah, yes, Counselor. Please --  
sit down.

Troi sits opposite him.

PICARD

You may not be aware of this, but  
I have never been particularly  
comfortable around children.

To Troi's credit, she does not laugh.

TROI

Really?

PICARD

For some reason, they just don't  
seem to respond to me.

TROI

I see...

PICARD

Frankly, I think my time is best  
served carrying out the duties  
and responsibilities of a  
Starfleet Captain.

TROI

Seldom have I heard an explanation  
so well rehearsed.

He shoots her a look; she smiles.

PICARD

All right, Counselor... I just  
don't think I'm the right person  
for this job.

18 CONTINUED:

TROI

Strange, isn't it? You'll travel  
light years, dodge asteroid  
storms, brave hostile aliens...  
but when asked to assume a  
parental role, you cringe. Why  
do you suppose that is?

PICARD

I'm not cringing... I am simply  
acknowledging my limitations.

TROI

(musing)

When you were a child, did you  
have many friends? Other children  
you played with?

Picard shifts; he's not entirely comfortable being  
probed.

PICARD

No, but I don't think that has  
anything to do with anything...

(beat, pondering)

Perhaps it's because... no, this  
is foolish. What does it matter?

TROI

What were you going to say?

Picard hesitates; this is not easy territory for him.

PICARD

Just that... ever since I was a  
child... I knew exactly what I  
wanted -- to be a member of  
Starfleet. Nothing else mattered  
to me. Virtually my entire youth  
was spent pursuing that goal.  
In fact...

(beat)

I think... that I may have skipped  
my childhood.

Touched, she gazes at him, knowing this  
self-exploration is difficult.

TROI

You know, Captain, almost no one  
is born being a good parent.

(MORE)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

TROI (Cont'd)

Most people simply have to muddle  
through it, doing the best job  
they can.

18 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

And... that's what I'm going to  
have to do?

TROI

Yes. And you might be surprised  
at how good you could be.

Picard sighs. No getting off the hook here.

19 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE PICARD'S QUARTERS

Picard approaches his quarters, carrying a portable  
visual monitor; as he does, he hears the muffled sound  
of noise from within: a maelstrom of electronic sound,  
discordant and unstructured. Puzzled, he opens his  
door. The sound blasts forth, deafening.

20 INT. PICARD'S QUARTERS

The volume of the noise is truly frightening. Picard  
looks around his room, noting that the furniture has  
been completely re-arranged.

PICARD

Computer, turn off that noise!

Instantly, there is blissful silence.

PICARD

Computer, what was that?

COMPUTER'S VOICE

The "Alba Ra"... a contemporary  
Talarian musical form.

PICARD

Jono? Where are you?

JONO'S VOICE

Here.

Drawn by the voice, Picard looks up, and discovers Jono  
suspended from the ceiling in a spider-web hammock.

JONO

You turned off my music.

20 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Yes, I certainly did, and I expect  
it to stay turned off. Jono,  
would you come down from there?

With graceful twists and turns, Jono unravels himself,  
and descends like a bat from the ceiling.

PICARD

(indicating room)

I see you've made yourself at  
home.

JONO

(shrugs)

I cannot rest on your beds. They  
hurt my back.

Exasperated, Picard starts to reply, then stops  
himself. Nothing to be served by antagonizing him. He's  
going to try to do this thing as best he can.

PICARD

Right... Jono, I want to show you  
something.

He beckons the boy toward the monitor, which he  
activates.

21 INTERCUTTING WITH VISUAL MONITOR (OPTICAL)

The photographs of the Rossa family on Galen IV --  
including the infant and child Jeremiah, seen earlier  
in the Observation Lounge.

PICARD

Those are Connor and Moira Rossa  
-- your parents. That baby is  
you... Jeremiah Rossa.

JONO

(frowns)

My name is Jono.

PICARD

You were born Jeremiah, on Galen  
Four. Your colony was  
destroyed, later, during a border  
skirmish.



21 CONTINUED:

A chubby-cheeked child gazes into camera, laughing merrily -- a happy boy.

21 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

You knew how to laugh once.

Jono shoots him a dark look, doesn't reply.

PICARD

Do you remember any of that? Your parents, your home?

JONO

No. I know that Endar rescued me. He told me so.

PICARD

Jono, your parents were killed by Talarians...

JONO

(shrugs)

It was war. Death is part of war.

Picard knows all about war, and yet he is shocked at the boy's absolute lack of emotion. Then --

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Captain?

PICARD

What is it, Number One?

RIKER'S COM VOICE

We have visual contact with the warship Q'Maire.

Jono rises.

JONO

Endar...

PICARD

(warning hand)

You stay put.

(to Riker)

I'm on my way.

He EXITS. Jono watches him leave, and then, almost against his will, as though being drawn by unseen forces, he turns back to the monitor. He moves to it, stares at a picture of his parents. His hand reaches toward the image of his mother. Softly, SOUNDS begin building in his head -- the zap of phaser fire, and then a woman's voice, calling.

21 CONTINUED: (3)

MOIRA'S VOICE  
Jeremiah... Jeremiah!

The boy withdraws his hand, closes his eyes, and by dint of sheer effort, wills the sounds away. They fade, and he opens his eyes again.

22 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

to include MAIN VIEWER. Data, Worf, and Wesley are at stations. Picard ENTERS, sits.

PICARD  
Status, Mister Data.

DATA  
Q'maire at station, holding steady at bearing zero-one-three, mark zero-one-five. Distance five-zero-six kilometers.

PICARD  
Are its weapons systems active?

DATA  
Negative.

WORF  
Captain Endar requests an open channel.

PICARD  
On screen.

CAPTAIN ENDAR, a fierce but dignified presence, appears on the Main Viewer.

ENDAR  
I am Captain Endar of the warship Q'Maire. To whom am I speaking?

PICARD  
Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the Federation Starship Enterprise. We have rescued four crew members from your observation craft. They have received medical attention and are ready for transport.

22 CONTINUED:

ENDAR

Your actions are duly noted. We  
will forward coordinates for  
immediate transport.

RIKER

(sotto)

You're welcome, I'm sure.

22 CONTINUED:

PICARD

One moment, Captain. We have also discovered a human among your crew.

ENDAR

(visibly relieved)

Jono!

PICARD

Actually, his name is Jeremiah -- Jeremiah Rossa.

ENDAR

What is his condition? Is he injured?

PICARD

He was not wounded in the mishap...

ENDAR

A blessing...

PICARD

But as a representative of the Federation I demand an explanation. Why has this child been held in your custody all these years?

ENDAR

No explanation is warranted, Captain. He is my son!

Off Picard and Riker's astonishment:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND Q'MAIRE (OPTICAL)

Both ships hold positions facing one another.

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's log, supplemental:  
Endar's claim that Jeremiah Rossa  
is his son is clearly  
unacceptable.

24 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Endar and TWO TALARIAN MILITIA MATERIALIZE, and greet  
Riker and Worf.

PICARD (V.O.)

However, to avoid escalating  
tensions, I have extended an  
invitation to the Talarian leader  
to come aboard the Enterprise so  
that we may address the issue  
face-to-face.

25 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Picard with Endar.

ENDAR

Yes... I was in charge of the  
force that repelled the  
trespassers on Galen Four.

(beat)

I must say your Federation troops  
fought tenaciously.

PICARD

Among them Connor and Moira Rossa.

ENDAR

I suppose. After the battle, I  
found this squalling child,  
huddled by the body of a young  
woman. His mother, presumably.

An awful image. Picard is stirred.

25 CONTINUED:

PICARD

And so, you -- kidnapped him.

ENDAR

A harsh term, Captain. I rescued the child. There was almost no one left alive on Galen Four... was I to leave him screaming by his mother's body?

PICARD

You should have notified Federation authorities. To conceal him was a clear violation of our agreement.

ENDAR

I took him in accordance with my peoples' traditions.

PICARD

What... tradition... is it that empowered you to capture a helpless child?

ENDAR

I lost my son at the hands of humans during the conflict over Castal One. Talarian custom allows me to claim the son of a slain enemy.

PICARD

(weighing this)

I understand your tradition, Endar. May I ask... does it extend also to brutalizing the surrogate son?

ENDAR

What are you talking about?

PICARD

Our medical officer found evidence of injuries so severe that they might even be considered torture...

25 CONTINUED: (2)

ENDAR

No! I have never harmed Jono!



25 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

Then explain the fractured ribs!  
The concussion... the broken  
arm...

ENDAR

Youth.

The simplicity of this answer catches Picard.

ENDAR

Have you ever been a father,  
Picard? Have you ever had a son  
desperately try to win your  
approval? Your respect?

Picard ponders this.

ENDAR

Jono broke his ribs riding a  
T'stayan -- six hooves, a very  
powerful animal. The arm? In  
a contest with other youths. He  
endured the pain -- and won the  
competition.

(beat)

He will be a great warrior one  
day.

PICARD

Doesn't he deserve to become more  
than that?

Picard rises, pacing.

PICARD

His heritage is human, Endar.

ENDAR

A heritage long since forgotten.

PICARD

(an inner decision made)

Captain Endar, while on board,  
you are welcome to supervise the  
return of your crew. But I cannot  
allow Jeremiah Rossa to be  
returned to your custody. His  
true family is waiting for him  
on Earth.

25 CONTINUED: (4)

Endar rises, too, a buried rage burning from his eyes.

ENDAR

Then under no circumstances will  
I allow your ship to leave our  
territory.

PICARD

I have already reported our  
position and the nature of this  
violation to Starfleet.

ENDAR

And I have already called our  
reserved forces into the sector.

PICARD

(amazed)

Are you saying you would be  
willing to go to war over the boy?

ENDAR

Would you not for your only son?

Picard stares at him. He realizes they are on the  
brink of catastrophe.

PICARD

We have been at peace for years.  
Let us not rush headlong toward  
war.

ENDAR

Then help me to avoid it!

(beat)

If you will allow me to see Jono,  
it will be clear to you -- I have  
been a good father. He has grown  
up happy in my keeping.

Picard turns away, his mind roiling. What is the right  
decision? Is there a right decision?

26 INT. PICARD'S QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

Jono still sits in front of the monitor, flipping  
through the various photographs, over and over. Troi  
is with him.

26 CONTINUED:

TROI

Those were your parents. Do you  
remember them?

26 CONTINUED: (2)

JONO

That was long ago. Endar is my father.

TROI

And who is your mother?

JONO

We don't have mothers. Females are only for mating. And work.

TROI

And the men? What is their purpose?

JONO

Passing the tests. Becoming strong.

TROI

The tests... endurance, pain, determination... all so that you can excel at making war?

JONO

(scornful)

Females understand nothing.  
(puts his face in hers)  
Life is not easy on our planet.  
If we do not test ourselves constantly, we become weak -- and the weak die quickly!

TROI

And the females? Surely they are weak.

JONO

Of course. But we protect them.

He looks at her, fierce male pride burning in his eyes.

TROI

I see.

Her gaze shifts toward the monitor, and Jono's look follows.

TROI

And when you look at this picture... of you and the human female who was your mother... how do you feel about her?

27 OMITTED

28 INSERT - MONITOR SCREEN (OPTICAL)

Moira Rossa holds her infant son, who snuggles securely at her breast. His tiny fingers are clasped around one of her fingers, and she is smiling at him with unashamed adoration. His baby smile returns that unqualified love.

29 JONO

tears his eyes from the screen, agitated and disturbed.

30 OMITTED

31 INT. BEVERLY'S OFFICE

Picard is with Beverly and Troi.

PICARD

Then you think it would be unwise to let Endar see Jono.

BEVERLY

I think it's dangerous. Abusers can have subtle but powerful influence over their victims.

PICARD

(a beat)

I'm not convinced he was abused, Doctor. I've talked to the man, and if I am any judge of character... I'd say he deeply cares about the boy's welfare.

BEVERLY

Captain, we learned long ago always to err on the side of protecting the child. I think Endar should be kept away from Jono.

TROI

I'm not sure I agree, Captain.

31 CONTINUED: (2)

Picard looks to her...

TROI

I sense... awakening memories in the boy... this is a very fragile time for Jono, and if we send away the man he calls "father" without even letting them see each other -- how will we ever gain his trust?

PICARD

Yes... There is also something else we should keep in mind. We are deep in Talarian territory. A semblance of diplomacy is called for.

(beat)

I shall allow the visit.

Beverly doesn't agree, but she understands.

BEVERLY

All I ask... is that the visit be supervised. Don't let them be alone together.

Picard considers, nods.

PICARD

Agreed.

He EXITS toward Endar.

32 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - LATER

Troi sits with Endar; they look up as the doors slide open. Picard ENTERS with Jono, who spots his "father" and rushes forward.

JONO

Endar!

He bows his head to the Talarian Captain, just as he did with Picard. Endar extends his arms and Jono comes to him; then the two gently press their foreheads together.

ENDAR

Jono... my son...

32 CONTINUED:

Their eyes close as they rock gently, heads pressed together.

33 PICARD AND TROI

silently observing this moment of alien affection. They withdraw to a corner of the room so as not to intrude. They cannot hear Endar and Jono clearly.

34 RESUME ENDAR AND JONO

They separate, Endar finding it difficult to hide concern. They sit, and speak in hushed voices, huddled together.

ENDAR

Have they treated you well?

JONO

Yes, Captain. Except...

His eyes flicker over toward Picard.

ENDAR

Except?

JONO

I was forbidden to make the B'Nar.

Endar's gaze darts toward Picard, also, but he doesn't seem too distressed by this "atrociousness."

ENDAR

It's all right. I know that you mourned in your heart.

(eyeing Jono)

Well, Jono... what do you think of these humans?

It's a charged question, and Jono hesitates, glances down, lifts his eyes again.

JONO

They... they look like me.

This troubles Endar, and he leans forward.

ENDAR

They want to keep you, you know.

34 CONTINUED:

JONO

I know.

ENDAR

You are of the age of decision.  
What is your choice?

Jono hesitates again, and Endar frowns. The boy is having a surprisingly difficult time with this.

ENDAR

Well? Do you want to stay?

All children tend to tell their parents what they want to hear, and Jono is no exception.

JONO

No, of course not.

And all parents want to believe their children when they say the comfortable thing.

ENDAR

Then you shall not.  
(rising)  
I am going back to the Q'Maire.  
I will leave the humans with a  
choice. If they do not make the  
one we know is right... it may  
lead to war.

Endar again presses his forehead to Jono's.

ENDAR

You may die.

Again, the slightest hesitation, before --

JONO

I am ready to die.

And as Endar and Jono stand together in the fleeting comfort of a shared lie --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE



ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

35 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, with Riker, Troi, Beverly, Worf and Data.

WORF

Captain, sensors indicate two warships approaching from opposite directions along the border.

PICARD

Their offensive potential?

DATA

Talarian warships are limited to neutral particle weapons, high-energy X-ray lasers and mercurite rockets. No match for the Enterprise, Captain.

PICARD

The last thing I want is to be forced into destroying one of their ships.

RIKER

They won't back off. They've been willing to fight to the death in past encounters.

PICARD

(somber)

The lines are being drawn... all this for a chosen son.

WORF

Is it worth it, Captain? To go to war -- over a child?

Picard shoots him a glance.

35 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

You might not ask that,  
Lieutenant, if he were your  
child.

PICARD

There must be a way to avoid  
this...

He ponders a moment, then --

TROI

If we can just reach Jono... help  
him to make some connection with  
his origins... then he may choose  
to come with us.

RIKER

Do you really think Endar would  
go along with that?

DATA

If Endar respects Talarian custom,  
he may have to.

(off reactions)

According to their tradition, a  
male child of fourteen has reached  
the age of decision. They undergo  
a ceremony of initiation and after  
that have the freedom to make  
their own choices.

PICARD

(with hope)

Endar's entire claim on Jono is  
based on Talarian custom... he'd  
have a hard time backing away from  
it now...

35 CONTINUED: (2)

WORF

Captain -- there's a subspace  
communication from Starfleet  
Command.

PICARD

On screen.

WORF

Sir, the message is for Jeremiah  
Rossa.

Curious, Picard rises.

PICARD

Have the boy brought to my Ready  
Room.

And he EXITS to his Ready Room.

36 INT. READY ROOM - MINUTES LATER (OPTICAL)

Picard sits with Jono as they view the visual monitor.  
Addressing them is CONNAUGHT ROSSA, a woman in her  
60's, of regal bearing and gracious manner. She wears  
a Starfleet uniform.

CONNAUGHT

Jeremiah... my name is Connaught  
Rossa. I am your father's mother.  
I wish we could talk in person,  
but that will have to wait. When  
I heard the miracle that you were  
alive, I wanted to reach out to  
you as soon as possible.

(beat)

I find myself wondering what you  
look like... and all I can do is  
imagine your father at your age.

(MORE)

36 CONTINUED:

CONNAUGHT (Cont'd)

You come from a family that would make you proud. Many of them have given their lives to bring peace to the galaxy. You are the last of the Rossas. I am so very thankful that you have been given back to us, to carry on the line.

(beat)

Your grandfather and I will greet you with all the love in our hearts. Have a safe journey home, Jeremiah.

The screen goes blank. Jono stares at it. Then --

JONO

She wears a Starfleet uniform.

PICARD

Yes.

JONO

What is her rank?

PICARD

She is an Admiral.

Jono turns toward Picard.

JONO

She outranks you.

PICARD

Yes.

Jono, overwhelmed, rises and begins pacing, agitated.

JONO

If I were home now, I would go to the brae, and run along the river... run as fast as I could!

Picard lifts a hand, wanting to settle the frenzied young man.

PICARD

Jono...

36 CONTINUED: (2)

JONO

I can't do any of the things that  
calm me here! You won't let me  
have my music, you won't let me  
make the B'Nar! I feel if I have  
to hold still much longer I will  
die!

PICARD

Jono -- let me show you what I  
do when I get those feelings.

Jono looks at him, curiosity aroused.

37 INT. RACQUETBALL COURT - LATER (OPTICAL)

Picard is with Jono, giving him basic instruction in the game. It has changed over the centuries in about the way that tennis, say, changed from Henry VIII's day to the present. The basic principles are the same; the racquet is different -- sleeker, more streamlined -- and the ball is electronic: perhaps it glows from within. Most important, when it is hit, or hits a wall, there is an ELECTRONIC SOUND -- something that will begin to sound not unlike a phaser.

PICARD

(demonstrating)

I serve from here... like this...

(serves)

And you must hit it back before  
it bounces twice. Let's try it.

Picard lobs an easy serve into Jono's forehand; the boy with unerring instinct hits a kill shot about a foot off the ground. Picard turns to look at him.

PICARD

Not bad.

JONO

I win at all the games.

PICARD

I can believe it. Well, shall  
we give this a try?

38 SERIES OF SHOTS (OPTICAL)

as Picard and Jono ENTER into a rousing and surprisingly close game. Jono has natural ability and the resilience of youth, and gives Picard a run for it. The electronic ZAP of the ball as it ricochets around the court becomes louder and louder, and gradually its presence changes, sounding more and more like a weapon.

39 JONO (OPTICAL)

reacts to this, shaking his head as though to clear it.

PICARD

Jono? You all right?

JONO

Fine.

He serves and they ENTER into a long rally... the SOUNDS becoming louder, now mixed with more sounds of WARFARE -- muffled explosions, people shouting, the rapid sound of phaser fire. Then, the sound of voices --

CONNOR'S VOICE

Take him and get to cover!

MOIRA'S VOICE

I can't leave you!

Jono stops, face twisted in anguish. He covers his ears, tries to blot out the sound. He will murmur, "No, no..." softly through the rest. Picard's voice will echo as though it's coming from far away.

PICARD

Jono -- what is it?!

Jono flails on the ground as the vortex of sound increases.

CONNOR'S VOICE

Take Jeremiah... get to the forest! I'll hold them off!

MOIRA'S VOICE

No, come with us!

CONNOR'S VOICE

Go!

39 CONTINUED:

Rapid sound of PHASERS, now, and many shouting voices, explosions. We hear a child's voice... "Mama... mama... "

JONO  
(barely audible)  
Mama...

MOIRA'S VOICE  
Jeremiah... Jeremiah... This way!

A sudden explosion, louder than the rest, and a woman's dreadful scream. Jono sinks to the ground, head buried in his hands. The child's voice begins to cry in terror, calling out, "Mama... mama... mama... "

40 PICARD AND JONO

as the sounds begin to fade. Picard kneels with him, puts his arm around the shaking boy's shoulders. Jono looks up at him, his face wet with tears.

JONO  
She was... all red. I cried...  
but she didn't answer me...

The boy breaks into sobs again and buries his head. Picard rubs his shoulder. He's not sure just what he should be doing, but he does know that an important breakthrough has been made.

41 INT. PICARD'S QUARTERS - LATER

Jono sits talking with Picard. They are still in racquetball clothes. Jono is subdued, but talks freely.

JONO  
... she used to sing to me... I  
don't remember the melody, just  
the sound of her voice...

He stops, shakes his head.

JONO  
Before I remembered these things,  
I was strong. Now...  
(touches his chest)

41 CONTINUED:

The boy draws a deep breath.

JONO

I have endured much pain. But  
this... I do not like.

PICARD

It is part of being human, Jono.  
But as deeply as you can feel hurt  
-- you can also feel joy.

Jono looks up at him, sadly.

JONO

I do not think so. I think I will  
always feel like this.

Picard is not sure where to go from here.

PICARD

Jono -- are you tired?

JONO

Yes. But I do not want to rest.  
I think --  
(looks up, almost  
surprised)  
-- I think I am hungry.

42 INT. TEN FORWARD - MINUTES LATER

Picard ENTERS with Jono, now both showered and  
dressed. Picard spots Riker at a table with Wesley  
and Data, steers the boy toward them.

RIKER

Well, how was racquetball?

PICARD

He gave me quite a game for his  
first time out.

The flicker of a smile -- the first we've seen -- plays  
on Jono's lips. He is much more relaxed now, as though  
a great burden has fallen away.

JONO

I look forward to the next time,  
Captain.



42 CONTINUED:

Picard grins, glad that Jono's cockiness is returning.

PICARD

I'm sure you do. sit down, Jono.  
What would you like?

Jono and Picard sit. Jono looks around at the table,  
points to Wesley's banana split.

JONO

What's that?

WESLEY

That's called a banana split and  
it's maybe the best thing there  
is in the universe.

(pushes it forward)

Here -- give it a try.

Jono stares at it for a second, unsure how to attack  
it. Riker slides a spoon toward him. Jono looks  
puzzled.

DATA

It is called a spoon.

Jono nods, grabs the spoon, looks up at them  
questioningly.

WESLEY

Go ahead.

Jono is holding the spoon in his fist, like a knife.  
Having received permission, he holds it over the banana  
split "boat" -- and then jabs down into it with all  
his force! This flips the opposite end of the "boat"  
up, flinging the contents out and right toward Wesley!

42A WESLEY

has a spattering of whipped cream on his face and  
chest.

43 OMITTED

44 FULL SHOT

Jono stares at him, at first shocked at what he has  
done.

44 CONTINUED:

JONO

Forgive me --

He glances around the table and sees Picard smiling -- and Riker trying to hold in a laugh. Finally Riker can't help it and he snorts with laughter. Wesley starts laughing. Then Jono looks back at Wesley and then he bursts into laughter.

DATA

I fail to see why this is amusing.

RIKER

(still chuckling)

Check your data banks on humor...  
subheading "Slapstick"...

DATA

(inspecting Wesley)

Comedy stressing farce and  
horseplay... ah, this no doubt  
is a variation on... "Pie in the  
Face"...

RIKER

Now do you see why it's funny?

DATA

No, I do not. But I will take  
your word. It is very amusing.

Jono is still giggling. Wesley summons a waitress.

WESLEY

Let's start over. A fresh banana  
split for me, one for my friend  
here.

44A ON PICARD AND RIKER

as they move off to the side, Jono, Wesley, and Data remain at the table.

PICARD

Look at him. He's like a different person.

RIKER

Who would ever have thought he could laugh out loud like that?

PICARD

And half an hour ago he was crying in my arms like a baby.

Riker, not having realized this, looks at Picard in surprise and awe. Picard smiles, feeling content that things are going to work out just fine.

45 OMITTED

45A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE AND Q'MAIRE (OPTICAL)

46 INT. PICARD'S QUARTERS - LATER

The rooms are darkened, but we can see Jono, resting in his ceiling hammock. His eyes are open. He stares into the darkness for a few beats, and then he lifts up, descends from the ceiling.

47 INT. CAPTAIN'S BEDROOM

Picard is asleep. Jono ENTERS, approaches Picard like a thief in the night. He gazes down at the sleeping Captain, struggling with his emotions.

48 CLOSE ON PICARD AND JONO

Picard is groggy, but recognizing Jono, gives him a smile. Jono returns the smile -- then loses the smile to a terror within.

48 CONTINUED:

Suddenly his gloved hand appears, raising the Klingon dagger! He sounds an anguished cry, then plunges the dagger down, straight into Picard's chest.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

49 INT. SICKBAY

Picard is on a bed with Beverly scanning him. Picard is unconscious and pale.

BEVERLY

Two bleeders... single-plane penetration...

(calling out)

I need the autosuture over here!

Assistants move swiftly as she keeps scanning.

BEVERLY

(continuing)

It looks like the blade hit the sternum and was deflected... it could have been a lot worse.

50 ON PICARD

as he stirs, eyes fluttering open and sees Beverly, who has the autosuture and is using it on him. Picard looks around as though coming out of a fog, trying to get his bearings.

PICARD

Then it wasn't a dream...

BEVERLY

I'm afraid not...

Beverly is using the autosuture to stop the bleeding and repair damaged tissue.

BEVERLY

No vital organs were pierced... no major arteries...

PICARD

Where is the boy now?

BEVERLY

Worf has him in security. Hold still...

50 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I want to see him. Here, now.

BEVERLY

(firmly)

He'll wait until I'm finished.

Picard acquiesces, puts his head back down and winces in pain.

51 OMITTED

52 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker in command, Worf at Tactical, Data at Ops, Wesley on the Conn.

WORF

Talarian warships converging,  
Commander, range five hundred  
kilometers.

RIKER

On screen.

53

thru OMITTED

54

55 ANGLE - MAIN VIEW (OPTICAL)

The main viewer now shows the Q'Maire; two other warships are behind it, moving toward the Enterprise.

RIKER

Any communication, Lieutenant  
Worf?

WORF

No, sir. We have an open channel.

WESLEY

Commander, the warships' closing  
velocities are decreasing...  
staggered approach vectors  
bearing zero, one hundred twenty,  
and two hundred forty degrees.

RIKER

(to com)

Riker to La Forge.

55A INT. ENGINEERING - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUTTING

GEORDI

La Forge here, sir.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Geordi, the Talarians are moving into attack posture. Classic triangular envelopment.

GEORDI

I've tapped the impulse engines for additional power to shields, Commander. We're ready.

55B INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS (OPTICAL)

WORF

Commander, Captain of the Q'Maire requests communication.

RIKER

Well, here we go. On screen.

As Captain Endar looms on the viewer.

ENDAR

Captain Picard... have you made your decision?

RIKER

This is Commander Riker. What are your intentions, Captain Endar?

ENDAR

(puzzled, cautious)  
Where is Captain Picard?

RIKER

(beat)  
He has been injured. I am in command now.

ENDAR

Very well. Please prepare my son for immediate transport.

RIKER

I'm afraid that's not possible. Last night, Jono attacked Captain Picard and tried to murder him. We are holding him in custody.

55B CONTINUED:

Endar is clearly taken aback by this, but swiftly re-groups.

ENDAR

If you had returned him with the others, this would never have happened! I hold you responsible for this incident.

RIKER

He'll have to come back with us now, Endar. It will be up to Starfleet to decide the consequences.

Endar glowers darkly, rage building.

ENDAR

I do not accept that decision. I repeat, you will prepare my son for transport. If he is not on board in five minutes, you will suffer the consequences.

The screen goes dark.

RIKER

Red alert.

The red alert warning sounds.

WORF

Talarian vessels routing power to forward rockets...

RIKER

(frowns, sighs)

Ready all weapons, Mister Worf...

56 INT. SICKBAY

Two SECURITY MEN escort Jono into Picard's Sickbay cubicle. The boy stands before Picard, taut as a wire, staring straight ahead.

PICARD

Jono... why did you do it?

JONO

That doesn't matter.



56 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I think it does. It matters to me.

JONO

What matters is that I have attacked a Captain. I am ready to be put to death.

Picard stares at him. Does he believe that?

PICARD

You think you are to be killed?

Jono's eyes flicker toward him, briefly.

JONO

To attack a superior is the worst offense. I will die at your hands.

PICARD

Jono, you aren't going to die at my hands or anyone else's.

JONO

But... I committed a terrible crime...

PICARD

What I want to know is why? You seemed so happy just a few hours ago...

The memories of happiness seem to bring Jono renewed anguish.

JONO

I was.

The boys turn away, overwhelmed by the emotions that are battling within him.

JONO

But then... I thought about my father. I felt like I was betraying him.

Picard studies the boy... sees his pain...

CONTINUED: (2)

JONO

(continuing)

I'd be throwing away all that  
he's given me... all that I  
learned from him... my home...  
running along the river... playing  
in the games... sharing victory  
with my brothers...

(a pause)

... all the things that are part  
of my life.

The boy draws a breath, looks at Picard with infinite  
sadness.

JONO

As I grew closer to... you... I  
knew it meant leaving more and  
more of that life behind.  
Forgive me, Captain -- I could  
not allow myself to do that.

Picard absorbs this.

57 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Things are very tense.

WORF

Q'Maire is requesting  
communication on a secure  
channel, Commander.

RIKER

On screen.

58 ANGLE TO INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Endar appears.

ENDAR

Commander Riker, you have failed  
to transport my son aboard the  
Q'Maire.

RIKER

Our position has not changed.  
We are returning him to Starfleet.

ENDAR

I regret your stubbornness. Much  
will be lost.

PICARD (O.S.)

One moment, Captain...

59 ANGLE - PICARD AND JONO (OPTICAL)

ENTERING, the Captain, assisted by Jono into his chair.

PICARD

Captain Endar, last night Jono  
attacked me with a dagger.

ENDAR

Which he could not have done had  
he been returned to me with the  
others!

59 CONTINUED:

PICARD  
(silencing hand)  
There was a crime committed on  
board this ship... but it was not  
Jono's -- it was mine.

Puzzled, Endar waits to hear what Picard means.

PICARD  
(continuing)  
When we found Jono, it seemed  
so clear what had to be done.  
We knew if he could only be  
persuaded to make the decision  
to stay... you would most likely  
let him. So with the best of  
intentions, we tried to convince  
him... and, in so doing,  
thoroughly failed to listen...  
to his feelings, his needs.

Jono is staring at Picard, hanging on his every word.

PICARD  
(continuing)  
That was the crime, and it has  
taken a huge toll on a strong  
and noble young man. It must be  
rectified.

Picard looks around the bridge, where he has everyone's  
rapt attention.

PICARD  
(continuing)  
Jono will return home -- to the  
only home he has ever known. To  
the father that he loves. To you,  
Endar.

Endar is astonished, stupefied -- and achingly  
grateful.

ENDAR  
Thank you, Captain...

PICARD  
Please transmit coordinates for  
his immediate transport.

60 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - LATER (OPTICAL)

Supernumerary at the controls. Picard motions Jono toward the transporter platform.

PICARD  
Goodbye, Jono.

JONO  
Goodbye, Captain.

Jono starts for the platform, stops, turns, walks back to Picard. He hesitates, then removes his gloves. Stepping forward, he takes gentle hold of Picard's head, tilting it down until their foreheads are pressed together in affection and solidarity.

JONO  
(softly)  
Thank you.

He breaks the embrace and moves to the transporter platform. In seconds, he is gone.

61 CLOSE ON PICARD

eyes on the empty pad, sure the right thing has been done.

DISSOLVE TO:

62 INT. PICARD'S QUARTERS - LATER

Picard ENTERS, finds the room still disheveled, his furniture still disarranged. He looks up, sees the hammock dangling from the ceiling. He smiles, remembering the antic child, but then feels a chill, realizing how empty the room now seems. He reaches up, plucks the hammock from its hooks, and cradles it in his hands. He knows he has been given something by knowing this boy. He begins to put his room back to its former orderliness.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END