

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Ensigns of Command"

#40273-149

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STAR TREK: "The Ensigns of Command" - 7/3/89 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Ensigns of Command"

CAST

PICARD

HRATHAN

RIKER

DATA

ARD'RIAN

BEVERLY

GOSHEVEN

TROI

HARITATH

GEORDI

NOE

*

WORF

WESLEY

Non-Speaking

COUNCILMEN (2)

*

O'BRIEN

OTHER LOCALS (15)

*

HARITATH'S WIFE

Non-Speaking

*

WOMAN VIOLINIST

*

YOUNG BOY (age 12)

WOMAN VIOLIST

*

BOY'S MOTHER

N.D. CREWMEMBERS (10)

SUPERNUMERARIES (CONN & OPS)

STAR TREK: "The Ensigns of Command" - 7/3/89 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Ensigns of Command"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
 MAIN BRIDGE
 TEN FORWARD
 OBSERVATION LOUNGE
 TRANSPORTER ROOM
 CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

CYGNA TAU CETI
 ARD'RIAN'S FRONT ROOM

HRATHAN WARSHIP

DATA'S SHUTTLE

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

CYGNA TAU CETI
 FRONTIER TOWN
 MAINSTREET
 TOWN SQUARE
 AQUEDUCT
 WATER PLANT
 DATA'S SHUTTLE

HRATHAN WARSHIP

*

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Ensigns of Command"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

1

Moving at warp speed.

*

2 INT. TEN-FORWARD

2

Present are PICARD, BEVERLY, and TEN N.D. CREWMEMBERS. TWO WOMEN are seated, holding their instruments -- a violin and a viola. O'BRIEN tunes his cello. DATA ENTERS carrying a violin. He checks at the door, startled to see the Captain. Picard beckons, and Data crosses to him.

*

*

DATA

Captain, Doctor, I am honored by your presence, but may I suggest you attend the second concert.

BEVERLY

Why, Data?

DATA

Ensign Ortiz will perform the violin part. My rendition will be less enjoyable.

*

PICARD

Oh?

DATA

While I am quite proficient technically; according to my fellow performers, I lack soul.

BEVERLY

Data, telling us why you're going to fail before you make the attempt is never wise.

DATA

But is not honesty always the preferred choice?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

PICARD

Not necessarily. And in a commander it can cripple you.

DATA

(very intrigued)
Indeed?

PICARD

Knowing your limitations is one thing. Admitting them to a crew can damage your ability to lead.

*

DATA

Because you lose their respect?

PICARD

By admitting them you begin to believe in those limitations yourself.

*

*

DATA

Thank you for your honesty, Captain. But I am still puzzled, how do music and command correspond?

BEVERLY

(amused and impatient)
Later, Data. Go and play.

Data takes his place with the other performers. Begins to tune his instrument. There is the SOUND of the communicator hail.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Captain Picard to the bridge.
We're receiving a message from the Hrathan Corporate.

Picard reacts with surprise, stands and EXITS. As he leaves we hear but do not see the trio begin to play.

*

*

CUT TO:

3 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

3

Picard ENTERS. RIKER, TROI, and Worf at their usual stations. Supernumeraries at CONN and OPS.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

RIKER

Eighty-two years of silence and
they still don't want to talk to
us. It's a pre-recorded message.

*
*
*

PICARD

(to Worf)

There's no mistake?

*
*
*

WORF

The origin point is Hratha.

*

PICARD

On screen.

4 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

4

What appears is the text of a treaty. English on one
side, Hrathan on the other. Hrathan is not symbols as
we know them, but rather a pattern of lights. A
recorded message begins.

HRATHAN

Federation creatures, there are
humans on the fifth planet of
Cygna Tau Ceti. This planet was
ceded to the Corporate in section
one hundred and thirty-three,
paragraph seventy-seven of the
Treaty of Armens. We will begin
settlement of this world in four
days. Remove the humans.

Troi is up, and heading for Science One to pull the
treaty.

PICARD

What the devil --

HRATHAN

Federation creatures, there are
humans on the fifth planet --

PICARD

Cancel message.

Inquiring look to Riker.

RIKER

I didn't think humans could
survive on Hrathan worlds.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

TROI

They can't. Hyperonic radiation
is essential to support Hrathan
life.

PICARD

And deadly to human life.

RIKER

Then we're chasing ghosts.

PICARD

No, Number One. The Hrathan
haven't broken their long silence
to send us after phantoms. An
investigation is in order. Set
course for Cygna Tau Ceti.

Off Picard's expression:

FADE OUT.

END OF THE TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 5
entering orbit around a planet.

6 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 6

Picard, Riker, Data, Beverly and Worf. Supernumerary
at CONN.

DATA
Human life form readings from
the planet.

RIKER
So, the Hrathan weren't
hallucinating.

PICARD
Numbers?

WORF
Difficult to get an accurate
reading, Captain. The high levels
of hyperonic radiation are
affecting our sensors.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
Transporters are now unavailable,
Captain. We can transport, but
we won't like what comes back.

PICARD
Understood, Mr. La Forge.

RIKER
How can humans survive here?

BEVERLY
Milan's work in radiation sensitivity suggests that some humans can adapt to hyperonic radiation over a period of years. The process can be accelerated in the lab. Give me two weeks and after complete blood replacement and virotherapy injections I can have an Away Team ready to beam down.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

PICARD

Unfortunately we have only three days. And I need facts now. Who's down there, how many are there?

RIKER

And will they leave?

PICARD

They have to. This is a treaty violation. The Hrathan are within their rights to demand removal.

RIKER

(to Worf and Data)
Environment suits, gentlemen. And with these radiation levels it's going to take some pretty piloting to get that shuttle down safely.

DATA

May I offer an alternative?

PICARD

Yes, Mister Data?

DATA

I am unaffected by the radiation, and my skills as a shuttle pilot are superior to any other officer aboard the Enterprise.

RIKER

(a little miffed)
Oh?

DATA

Have I given offense?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

RIKER
(teasing now)
Close.

PICARD
The point, Mister Data?

DATA
This is mere reconnaissance.
Perhaps I should go alone?

PICARD
Agreed. You will handle the away
mission.

Without a word wasted the Android is out of his chair,
and EXITS the Bridge.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V

7

Mainstreet of a 24th century frontier town. Because of its distance from the sun an eternal twilight grips Cygna Five. The sun is a tiny jewel which hangs purple and brilliant on the horizon. Streetlights throw light across the dirt road. In the distance are mountains. A thin white line descends from the mountains, and as it comes closer we realize it is an aqueduct. It culminates in a strange cubistic shaped purifying station. A complex pump is churning the water into a white froth.

*

A FEW PEOPLE stroll the street. A tiny, lovely woman, ARD'RIAN is struggling to muscle a large 24th century plow into the farm equipment store. One of the blades is broken. She is dressed in the twenty-fourth century equivalent of blue jeans, work shirt, boots. Her hair is pulled back in a no-nonsense pony tail, and a battered hat is crammed onto her head.

*

Data comes around the corner. He is busy absorbing everything. Glancing from tricorder to the buildings, the people, etc. The locals freeze and stare at him.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Ard'rian continues to mutter under her breath, and fight with the unwieldy plow. Data notices, crosses to her, and easily hefts the equipment. She stares up at him in surprise.

DATA

Where do you wish this placed?

ARD'RIAN

Just inside the door.

Data does so.

ARD'RIAN

Thanks that was very nice of you.
It seems like I spend my life
repairing things.

(she extends a hand)

Ard'rian McKenzie.

*

*

They shake.

DATA

I am Lieutenant Commander Data.

Ardy studies him.

ARD'RIAN

(frankly)

I've never seen anybody who looks
like you.

DATA

That is because I am an android.

ARD'RIAN

Amazing. Are there any more like
you at home?

DATA

No, I am unique.

GOSHEVEN

(amused)

So, where are you from, Mister
Unique?

GOSHEVEN slips an arm around Ardy's waist and gives her a proprietary kiss. She shrugs him off, and pulls out of the circle of his arm. He is an imposing, handsome man who towers over the slender Android. He is flanked by TWO MEN.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

All three of them carry weighted short staffs, similar to a billy club -- symbols of their office as councilmen.

*
*

DATA

The Federation Starship Enterprise currently in orbit around your world.

*
*

GOSHEVEN

Well, I'll be damned. You finally found us.

DATA

Excuse me?

GOSHEVEN

We're the descendants of the colony aboard the Artemis. We were forced to make an emergency landing eighty years ago.

All right! A way out of the problem!

DATA

Then you would welcome a rescue?

GOSHEVEN

Hell no. This planet damn near killed our grandparents, but it's home now.

*
*
*

Dashed hopes.

DATA

Could you direct me to your local equivalent of mayor, president, prime minister --

GOSHEVEN

You found him.

*

DATA

Excellent. How many individuals currently live on Cygna Five?

GOSHEVEN

Why?

DATA

So I may inform my captain.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

GOSHEVEN
For the census, something like
that?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (4)

7

DATA
(cautiously)
Not precisely.

GOSHEVEN
(suddenly suspicious)
I don't think I want your captain
to know.

DATA
Why would you not?

GOSHEVEN
You ignored us for eighty years.
You can just go right on ignoring
us.

*
*
*

DATA
It is imperative that I determine
the number of inhabitants --

Gosheven taps the tricorder.

GOSHEVEN
Can't your little box tell you?

DATA
Its range is limited.

*

GOSHEVEN
Then I guess you're out of luck,
(a beat)
So, you can be on your way.

ARD'RIAN
Gosheven! I don't think it's
necessary to be rude.

Gosheven and the two councilmen walk away. Ardy is
feeling sorry for Data

*

ARD'RIAN
(continuing)
I can tell you everything you
need to know.

*
*

CUT TO:

8 INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE 8

Picard, Troi, Worf and WESLEY in their usual places.
Riker at Science One. Supernumerary at Ops.

RIKER
Got it. The Artemis, launch
point Mars, destination Septimis
Minor. When they failed to check
in StarFleet began an extensive
search.

DATA'S COM VOICE
They are rather resentful of
Starfleet's failure to locate
them.

PICARD
What carried them so far off
course?

9 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V - TWILIGHT 9

Data sits on the steps of the shuttle. Light spills
from the door. Tumbled boulders, patchy bushes, and
sand surround the shuttle.

DATA
My local informant does not know.
In the early days survival on
Cygna V was more important than
history.

10 INTERCUTS 10

PICARD
Understood. How many are there?

DATA
Approximately fifteen thousand.

Reactions from the bridge crew. Now they really have
got a problem.

RIKER
(to Picard)
We've only got three days. Even
with transporters we couldn't have
them out in time.

PICARD
Shuttles?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

Worf does some figuring on his console.

WORF
Estimated time for evacuation --
four weeks, four days.

Wesley in a soft aside to the crewmember at Ops.

*

WESLEY
And where would we put them all?

DATA
Captain, I do not think these
people will leave.

PICARD
One problem at a time. Hold your
position, Mister Data.

*

Picard closes the com line.

PICARD
(continuing)
Mister Worf, get me the Hrathan.

WORF
Their home world is quite
distant, Captain. This will take
some time.

*
*
*

CUT TO:

11 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V - NIGHT

11

Data hears a SOUND, and rises searching for the source
of the noise. Ard'rian, carrying a covered basket,
steps out of the shadows.

ARD'RIAN
Do androids eat dinner?

DATA
I do not require the ingestion
of food to maintain function.

Ardy reacts.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

ARD'RIAN

(startled)

All right. Well, can I offer you
a bed? That'll be more
comfortable than this.

DATA

I do not require sleep.

Ardy is a little miffed at having her hospitality so
callously rejected.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

ARD'RIAN

So you don't eat and you don't
sleep. Must save a lot of time.

DATA

I realize there are subtleties
of experience for humans beyond
the obvious necessity for food
and rest, but the concepts still
elude me.

She reads sadness into this speech, and instantly her
attitude softens.

ARD'RIAN

How about company?

DATA

(accessing)

Ah, the friendly exchange of
experiences and information. That
is a concept I understand.

ARD'RIAN

Then please be a guest in my home.

Data takes the basket from her, and they walk away
together.

CUT TO:

12 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

12

Picard, Riker and Troi are seated as GEORDI, O'Brien
ENTER.

RIKER

Gentlemen, in the Captain's
estimation and mine, you are the
finest engineers in Starfleet.

*

GEORDI

Thank you, sir.

Wary glance to O'Brien. Both of them cast wary glances
at the impassive Picard. Now what the hell is he going
to want?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

RIKER

We're giving you an assignment,
and the one thing I don't want
to hear is that it is impossible.

*
*

PICARD

I need the transporters to
function despite the hyperonic
radiation.

*

GEORDI

Impossi -- Yes, sir.

Geordi and O'Brien EXIT. Riker, Troi and Picard study
each other seriously.

RIKER

I know they have the right, but
will the Hrathan demand the
removal of the colony?

*
*
*

PICARD

Probably, but I'm going to
attempt to forestall that.

*

RIKER

How?

PICARD

By parleying with them.

*

TROI

Captain, when the treaty was
negotiated the Federation sent
three hundred and seventy-two
legal experts. What have we got?

PICARD

Thee . . . and me.

Off Troi's very dubious expression as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 13

in orbit around Cygna V.

14 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 14

Picard pacing nervously. Troi seated, serene but tense, as they wait for the call. Worf at his station. Supernumeraries at Conn and Ops.

WORF

No response.

PICARD

Try again. Boost signal strength.

Worf makes adjustments.

WORF

Hrathan Corporate. This is the
Starship Enterprise. Respond
please.

15 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN - (OPTICAL) 15

as it changes from a view of stars to ? someplace?
Wherever the HRATHAN are calling from it is a
disturbing place for humans. Darkness, mirrored
surfaces, and hidden in the shadows a creature who is
decidedly unsettling for the crew. Its shape is
constantly shifting like oozing sludge, and there is a
hint of flickering eyes -- too many eyes.

HRATHAN

Conversation is neither required
nor desired.

Picard is furious, but he schools his features into an
expression of polite interest.

PICARD

Very necessary if we are to find
a solution to our mutual problem.

*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

HRATHAN
Involvement in Federation
illegality is not indicated. *

PICARD
Both parties are involved, sir.
There is a colony on a Hrathan
world. We need to work together
to solve the problem.

HRATHAN
You admit fault?

PICARD
No! And assigning blame is
pointless. The colony exists.
Let us seek a solution. *

HRATHAN
Remove them. Three Earth days
remain. *

Troi leans in, and whispers:

TROI
Their culture is extremely formal,
almost ritualistic. An apology
might smooth matters.

PICARD
I apologize for our inadvertent
violation of the treaty.

HRATHAN
Acknowledged and accepted. Remove
them.

PICARD
You are not negotiating! You are
issuing ultimatums!

HRATHAN
To what purpose negotiation? The
treaty is signed.

PICARD
There is a thriving colony on the
planet. Rather than uproot these
people may I suggest a compromise?
The Federation will offer a
similar world in trade.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

HRATHAN
Unacceptable.

PICARD
Why?!

HRATHAN
The law is paramount. We are
entitled.

PICARD
This is not a law. It is a
treaty. It is designed to smooth
relations between peoples. Not
to act as a strait . . .

But Picard's talking to a blank screen. The Hrathan
have hung up on him.

PICARD
... jacket.

Off Picard's outraged expression.

CUT TO:

16 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

16

Geordi, O'Brien and Wesley have the panels removed from
the wall behind the transporter console. Geordi's tool
box is nearby. Sophisticated tools litter the floor.
Off to the left side of the transporter are six test
objects. They look a lot like crash dummies. The trio
is watching tensely as O'Brien touches the console. A
test dummy MATERIALIZES looking like swiss cheese.
Geordi picks it up. Riker ENTERS. *

RIKER
Gentlemen, how are you coming?
(spots the dummy)
What the hell is that?

Geordi sets aside the mutilated dummy.

GEORDI
Our first attempt.

O'BRIEN
We recalibrated the transporter
setting for the tightest possible
beam.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

WESLEY

But we've got plenty of things
left to try.

Geordi is studying the test object again.

GEORDI

There's some really interesting
residue . . . reminds me of --

(a beat)

There's that damn pulsar in the
neighborhood.

*
*
*

WESLEY

Higgs-bosons.

*

O'BRIEN

This just got a lot harder.

*

WESLEY

They're one of the most massive
sub-atomic particles known, and
they really shred a transporter
signal.

RIKER

Thank you, Ensign, I passed
physics.

(to Geordi)

Keep at it. We need those
transporters.

Riker EXITS.

GEORDI

Back to the oars, men. This is
going to be a fun one to crack.

CUT TO:

17 INT. ARD'RIAN'S FRONT ROOM - DAY

17

A comfortable room constructed of stone with a heavy
beamed ceiling. A fireplace dominates one wall. There
are two doors at opposite ends of the room leading to
the kitchen and the bedrooms. The furniture is hand
hewn, durable but comfortable.

18 ANGLE ON DATA

18

as he wipes his dirty hands on a cloth. A small generator sits on the coffee table, a few tools are strewn about. O.S. is the sound of energetic if tuneless whistling.

*

19 ANGLE ON KITCHEN DOOR

19

Ard'rian ENTERS. She is dressed in her usual jeans and boots, but her hair is down, floating softly on her shoulders.

DATA

I have completed the repairs on the generator.

*

ARD'RIAN

Is there anything you can't do?

DATA

Whistle, dance, sneeze.

(a beat)

A great many things.

ARD'RIAN

I can't help with the whistling, Dancing is overrated, and sneezing you can do without. I can't see that you're missing a thing.

*
*
*
*

Data has been studying Ardy, and he likes her. He doesn't want any misunderstandings. In typical straightforward Data fashion he says what's on his mind.

DATA

Are you developing a "crush" on me?

ARD'RIAN

What!

DATA

A crush, an infatuation, puppy love, a fascination or beguilement

--

*
*

ARD'RIAN

You don't have to define it!
(aggressively)

What makes you think that?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

DATA

I am not unobservant, and there are cues. Your invitation. Your hair.

Her hands fly to her hair, and she yanks it back into its tight pony tail, and secures it with a clip from the mantle. She is angry, confused and embarrassed because Data's blunt question has brought to light feelings of which even she was unaware.

ARD'RIAN

Men! You think every damn thing we do is for you! No, I do not have a crush on you.

DATA

I have angered you. If I was in error I apologize.

ARD'RIAN

Fine.

She busies herself with some little clean-up task in another part of the room. There is tension in every line of her body. Suddenly she turns back to Data.

ARD'RIAN

(continuing)

If I were... if I did have... feelings for you; would that bother you?

DATA

I have no opinion one way or the other.

ARD'RIAN

So you really don't like me.

DATA

I did not say that.

ARD'RIAN

What are you saying?

DATA

Perhaps my use of the word crush was not specific enough. I am inquiring if you find me attractive? Emotionally, intellectually, sexually?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

Ardy is gaping like a carp over this. She chuckles.

ARD'RIAN
You're nothing if not honest.

DATA
Yes.

ARD'RIAN
Data, people don't say things like
that.

DATA
Why not?

ARD'RIAN
Because . . .
(a beat)
Well, damned if I know.

DATA
It helps to avoid
misunderstandings.

Ardy crosses to him. Her hands are thrust into her pockets as if to keep from touching him. She looks up at him.

ARD'RIAN
So you like people to say what's
on their minds?

DATA
Yes.

They are standing very close. Ardy is staring up at Data, and we see her realize that yes she is developing a crush on him. Suddenly Data's communicator trills. He touches the insignia.

DATA
Data, here.

PICARD'S COM VOICE
The Hrathan won't bargain.

DATA
Understood.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

PICARD'S COM VOICE
I'm contacting Starfleet to
arrange for transport. Get those
people prepared for evacuation.
We may have to move very quickly.

DATA
Yes, sir.

Data cuts the communication.

ARD'RIAN
Evacuation? What's going on?

DATA
I must speak with Gosheven and
the counselors. Do you wish to
accompany me?

ARD'RIAN
Don't be an idiot. Of course I'm
coming.

Ard'rian grabs a coat, and they EXIT.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

20

In orbit around Cygna V.

21 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

21

Picard is pacing furiously about the office. Troi is
seated on the couch watching him. Her expression is
grim. Riker ENTERS.

RIKER
Yes, sir?

PICARD
Three weeks. Starfleet is
profuse in their apologies, but
it will still be three weeks.

*
*

RIKER
For?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

PICARD
A colony transport ship equipped
with dedicated personnel shuttles
to arrive.

RIKER
We're down to two days.

PICARD
Oh, and they're quite certain I
will handle the situation with
my usual skill.

RIKER
Nice of them.

Picard sits in silence for a beat.

RIKER
(continuing)
So what are we going to do?

PICARD
Extend Data's deadline by three
weeks. Lay in a course for
Hratha.

TROI
Sir, no Federation ship has ever
approached the Hrathan home world.

PICARD
We have to take the risk.

Off Picard's determined expression as we:

CUT TO:

22 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - MAIN STREET

22

Data blinks and reacts as water hits him in the face.
Pull back to reveal Gosheven who has just flipped a
handful of water from the aqueduct pool into the
Android's face.

The man and the machine are surrounded by the two
members of the city council and Ard'rian. A few other
interested on-lookers hang about in the background.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

GOSHEVEN

Feel that? Do you have any idea
what it is? What it means?

DATA

It is water, a substance composed
of two atoms of hydrogen --

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

GOSHEVEN

My grandfather's buried on that mountain.

(points to the distant line of hills)

He died in a rock slide surveying the route for this aqueduct. This town exists because of his sacrifice, and the sacrifice of hundreds of other people. No, we're not leaving.

Gosheven whirls and heads for the door to the government building. Data follows.

DATA

The Hrathan are within their rights. You are on this planet illegally.

GOSHEVEN

Whose side are you on, anyway? We crashed here. It wasn't our fault, but we're here now, and we're staying.

*

Data turns back to appeal to the counselors.

DATA

Surely you have no desire to rob a sentient race of their property?

GOSHEVEN

(spinning on him)

Now you're calling us thieves.

DATA

Inadvertent ones, yes. This world belongs to the Hrathan.

GOSHEVEN

They aren't here. They weren't here eighty years ago.

DATA

They are on their way.

GOSHEVEN

Let 'em come.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (3)

22

DATA

I am certain the Federation will
offer you a new world.

GOSHEVEN

That's pretty damn ironic. For
eighty years we don't hear a peep
out of the Federation. Thousands
of us die acclimating to the
radiation, but we survive, and
we make a home. And now you turn
up trying to throw us off our
land.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

DATA

I must urge you to begin preparing
for evacuation.

GOSHEVEN

No.

DATA

Let us consider the points in
favor of relocation.

Gosheven starts back toward city hall.

DATA

(continuing)

The Hrathan are unwilling to dwell
with humanoid life forms.

The councilors also walk away.

DATA

(continuing)

Their reaction may be...
extremely....

Data's voice trails away. He is talking only to
Ard'rian. She steps up to him, and dries his face with
a handkerchief.

ARD'RIAN

Don't you see. You're asking us
to give up everything.

DATA

My concern is that the Hrathan
will not ask.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (4)

22

Off her suddenly concerned expression, we:

*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE 23

Riker pacing slowly, looking out at the stars.

RIKER

The Captain is taking the
Enterprise to Hratha. Your job
... well, you know your job.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V - DAY 24

Data is also pacing beside the shuttle.

DATA

Commander, in human parlance,
I do not believe I can "get the
job done." My training has
prepared me for starship command
duties. As a cultural contact
person I am proving to be less
than exemplary.

25 INTERCUTS 25

RIKER

Data, I don't have time for
this.

DATA

I believe I should return to the
ship. I have tried everything,
and the leadership has rejected
my counsel.

RIKER

Then go back to them, and try
something else.

DATA

I do not know what to try. They
completely deny the logic of my
arguments. They confuse me with
talk of structures they have
built, and I do not understand
how this is relevant.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

RIKER

There's something visceral about land.

DATA

There are an estimated three point seven million habitable worlds in the nineteen percent of the galaxy we have explored. Could they not become viscerally attached to another plot of ground?

Ard'rian walks up to join the Android. He gives her a distracted nod, and she sits on the steps of the shuttle.

RIKER

It's not that simple.

Riker catches himself, irritated he's been drawn into this discussion.

RIKER

(continuing)

Look, Data, dammit, you've got this fancy positronic brain, and years of Starfleet education. Use the one, and prove to me the other hasn't been time wasted.

DATA

If I do not succeed, how violent is the Hrathan reaction likely to be?

RIKER

The treaty is the only thing which kept them from eradicating the colony to begin with.

DATA

Oh.

RIKER

Yeah, "oh" is right. The lives of fifteen thousand people are riding on you. You better get creative. Riker out.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

Data 's face is a study in confusion. Ard'rian
stands, and gives his shoulders a squeeze.

*

ARD'RIAN
Would these Hrathan really use
force?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (3)

25

DATA

Yes, and your people will lose.

ARD'RIAN

Some things are worth dying for.

DATA

This is not one of them.

ARD'RIAN

How do you know? How can you
presume to tell us what this place
means to us?

DATA

I am not denying your emotional
attachment. I am merely
questioning your reckless pursuit
of death. *

ARD'RIAN

You don't want to see me fight?

DATA

I do not wish to see any of you
die. *

Ard'rian moves away. Stares down at the ground, and
scuffs thoughtfully with a booted toe.

ARD'RIAN

I'm so confused; I don't know what
to do.

DATA

Prepare to leave.

ARD'RIAN

Is that an order?

DATA

I lack the authority to issue an
order in this circumstance, but
consider it a strongly worded
request.

ARD'RIAN

This is such a hard decision.
I don't know... I'll think
about it, okay? *

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (4)

25

DATA

That is fair. I only hope the
rest of your people will "think
about it."

ARD'RIAN

You're a Starfleet officer; you
have a better chance of convincing
them than anyone.

DATA

I wonder.

ARD'RIAN

What?

This is not whining, this is Data calmly assessing the
facts.

DATA

I have hypothesized that my
commission is an elaborate
experiment on Starfleet's part.
But do they really plan to have
me command a vessel?

ARD'RIAN

Why wouldn't they?

DATA

Would you take orders from a
machine?

A beat then Ard'rian suddenly gives Data a quick kiss
on the lips.

DATA

(continuing)

Why did you do that?

ARD'RIAN

You looked like you needed it.

DATA

Ah, a human custom sealing
friendship or indicating support,
attraction, affection.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (5)

25

ARD'RIAN
(saddened)
But it didn't mean anything to
you, did it? You didn't feel
anything.

DATA
I understand the motivation behind
the action, and I thank you.

Ardy is confused, disappointed, sorry for Data, unable
to ever understand the grand passion, but damn it she's
still attracted.

ARD'RIAN
You're welcome... I guess.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

26

Travelling at warp speed.

27 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

27

As before, except there are more high tech tools and
equipment lying about. Geordi is lifting yet another
trashed test object off the platform. He holds it
mutely out to Wesley and O'Brien who stare dully at
this latest failure. There are now three intact
objects, and four blasted ones. Picard ENTERS.

PICARD
(you will get it done)
How are we progressing, Mister
La Forge?

*

GEORDI
(it's impossible)
About like you'd expect.

*

PICARD
(get it done)
Splendid.

*

Picard EXITS.

WESLEY
(wearily)
He wants the impossible.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

GEORDI
(with a grin)
That's the short definition for
"captain."

Geordi and O'Brien have already returned to work. Wes
looks at them bemused, then shrugs and pitches in.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V

28

*

A large horseshoe shaped amphitheater with a place
for the councilors and Gosheven. A number of citizens
have turned out for the debate so the benches are
filled. In the B.G. is the aqueduct purifying plant.
Data and Ard'rian ENTER. There is some shifting and
murmuring. Gosheven strides over to square off with
Data.

*

*

*

GOSHEVEN
I thought you'd left.

DATA
I wish to speak at this meeting.

GOSHEVEN
No. And where have you been
hiding?

DATA
I have been staying with Miss
McKenzie.

*

GOSHEVEN
Why?!

ARD'RIAN
(resenting the tone)
I invited him.

GOSHEVEN
(to Ardy)
Well, you shouldn't have.
(to Data)
And I'm warning you, stay away
from her.

DATA
Your interest does not translate
into ownership.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

GOSHEVEN
So you want her?

DATA
No.

GOSHEVEN
(outraged)
Not good enough for you, Mister
Starfleet officer, Commander, sir?

ARD'RIAN
(angry and embarrassed)
Oh, Gosheven, shut up!

DATA
I did not say that. And I believe
we have exhausted the
possibilities for this topic of
conversation.

Data turns his back on Gosheven and says loudly:

DATA
(continuing)
I wish to address the assemblage.

GOSHEVEN
(furious)
And I said no.

DATA
Do you consider your position so
weak that it cannot withstand
debate?

A man, HARITATH, calls out.

HARITATH
Let him talk.

Gosheven gives a terse nod. In a sense Data's called him a coward and he has to stand up to this city slicker, this outsider.

Data steps front and center. The Android is no fool and he knows he's no charismatic public speaker. In an effort to pull this off, to seem more commanding and persuasive he tries to imitate Picard and Riker at their commanding best. And it comes off as expected -- awkward and a little uncomfortable.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

DATA

You know why I have come. You know of the Hrathan threat, and of Starfleet's desire to evacuate you for your own protection. You know of your leaders' response -- no, here we stand. That is your right. We cannot force you to leave. And during the past day I have come to understand and admire your position. As a Starfleet officer I have sworn an oath to serve. To that end I will give you any help I can.

Ard'rian is staring at him, confused and bewildered.

DATA

(continuing)

It is urgent that you prepare for the Hrathan arrival. Arms and ammunition must be gathered, a plan for your defense prepared. Our effort will be valiant, but doomed. We will die, but we will die for land and honor.

29 ANGLE ON

29

The crowd. Data's starting to get a reaction. People are beginning to eye each other nervously. It's one thing to thumb your nose at a distant enemy, quite another to talk about guns and dying.

30 ANGLE ON DATA

30

As he reaches down, and takes a YOUNG BOY (twelve or so) by the arm, and pulls the child up next to him.

DATA

Your children will understand that they are dying for a worthy cause. And the sight of their burned and blackened bodies...

Big crowd reaction here. Murmurs from various people. Mothers pull their children closer to them.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

DATA
(continuing)
...will only serve to make us
fight harder. We will not regret
the sacrifice, and our courage
will be remembered and extolled
for... oh, possibly two or three
years.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

Ard'rian catches his game, and tries to support him.

ARD'RIAN
(continuing)
And that's something I'm ready
to die for -- a mention in the
history books.

31 ANGLE ON GOSHEVEN

31

as he begins to applaud slowly.

GOSHEVEN
A valiant try, Commander, but what
a low opinion you must have of
us.

The boy's MOTHER snatches her son back from Data, and
pulls him down in her lap.

DATA
No, I was attempting to describe
your inevitable destruction.

HARITATH
(standing)
And he describes it pretty damn
well.

Murmurs of agreement from the crowd.

GOSHEVEN
You ready to follow this stranger
out the door, Haritath? Give up
everything? Without a fight?
He says we're going to lose, I
think that's his own cowardice
talking!

A man, NOE, leaps to his feet.

NOE
Yeah, and what if he's right,
and you're wrong?!

More crowd reaction. Sympathy is swinging away from
Gosheven.

HARITATH
I don't want to find out the hard
way that the price was too high.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

GOSHEVEN

Last winter we buried your little
girl -- laid her to rest next
to your mother, and you whine
to me about price?

*
*
*
*

Gosheven whirls and nails Noe with a look.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

GOSHEVEN

(continuing)

And you, Noe, we built you a new house after the fire wiped you out. You gonna walk away from that?

NOE

I'd be happy just to know I'm still gonna be walking after these Hrathan show up.

GOSHEVEN

(addressing them all)

This town exists because we all gave our blood and sweat to bring water to the desert. My father
--

ARD'RIAN

(interrupting.

Impatient and
sarcastic)

Is buried on that mountain. Well, who's going to be left to bury you?

A vote of confidence is about to take place, and Gosheven realizes he's about to lose it. He falls back on the innate authority of an elected leader.

GOSHEVEN

Have you considered what this evacuation means? We'll be a displaced people, beggars at the door, supplicants pleading for a new home. And we've all seen what the Federation's word is worth. "We'll help you if you're ever in trouble." Well, we were in trouble, and thousands of us died adapting to the radiation. Where was the Federation? And now we're in trouble again, and all they can say is give up everything! Well, I say NO! You elected me to be your leader -- follow me now! I don't think our chances are as hopeless as he says. And I'm willing to stake our lives on it. Any objections?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

He rakes the crowd with a look. Some mutterings, but nobody's quite ready to lead the revolution.

GOSHVEN
(continuing)
Good, because here... we...
stand.

A few people, and the goons step up to pound Gosheven on the back, but most of the crowd remains huddled on the benches glancing from Data to Gosheven and back again. Haritath and Noe stand, and step away to talk in private.

32 ANGLE ON DATA

32

standing with Ard'rian.

DATA
(almost to himself)
And here you die.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL) 33

Wesley, Geordi and O'Brien. There is now one intact test dummy, and three trashed ones. These are three exhausted people. They've been working round the clock. Maybe a day's growth of beard on O'Brien. *

WESLEY

Maybe if we try by-passing the auto-sequence, and decompile the pattern buffer?

GEORDI

(shrugs)

Okay, do it. It's no crazier than anything else we've tried. *

Wesley drops down by the panel, and begins to tinker while Geordi places the last test dummy on the platform. Suddenly the transporter console blows a fuse. Electricity races across the panel, and the console goes dark. O'Brien is not a happy man. Wesley slowly stands up. O'Brien struggles with himself, but can't master it.

O'BRIEN

Ensign Crusher.

WESLEY

Yes, sir.

O'BRIEN

If you ever touch my transporter again... I'll kill you.

WESLEY

Sorry, sir.

CUT TO:

34 INT. ARD'RIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 34

Data is seated on the couch staring intently at the far wall. Ardy is staring out a window. Suddenly she turns and crosses to Data. Stands directly in front of him.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

It takes him a moment to pull himself back from his contemplations. He looks up at her.

ARD'RIAN
I've made my decision.

A beat as they regard one another.

ARD'RIAN
(continuing)
I'm going to leave.

Data remains silent. Ardy turns, and crossing to the coat rack pulls down a battered old jacket.

ARD'RIAN
(continuing)
How much can I take?

DATA
Not much.

ARD'RIAN
(needing reassurance)
I hope I'm doing the right thing.

Data, filled with doubt after his defeat at the meeting.

DATA
I hope so too.

She clutches the jacket, her expression is stricken.

ARD'RIAN
No! You have to be sure for both
of us. You can't have doubts...
when I'm... leaving... everything.

And then she's crying, tears run down her face. Data crosses to her, studies this phenomenon, tries to understand the woman's emotional response.

(CONTINUED)

*

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

Then taking her by the shoulders he turns her to face him, and gives her a kiss on the lips.

ARD'RIAN
What was that for?

DATA
You appeared to require it.

ARD'RIAN
I didn't think you could respond
this way.

DATA
My intent was to make you feel
better. Did I succeed?

ARD'RIAN
(calculating)
Yeah... a little.

Seduction time, but the usual signals between a man and a woman are not applicable here. Ardy is counting on Data's logic. It doesn't fail her.

DATA
Would a continuation of this
behavior increase the level of
comfort?

ARD'RIAN
(shyly)
Yes.

Data agains leans in and kisses her. His arms hang at his sides.

ARD'RIAN
If you... put your arms...
around me, it would help.

DATA
Like this?

ARD'RIAN
Yes.

They kiss again. Ardy's hand is on the back of his head, pulling him in for another kiss, and another. She's increasing the heat with each embrace. Things are becoming rather passionate.

35 ANGLE ON ARD'RIAN

35

as she comes up for air, and mutters faintly.

ARD'RIAN

It's working. Don't stop.

DATA

This behavior usually ends with
--

ARD'RIAN

Yes!, I know.

DATA

Do you wish to --

ARD'RIAN

Yes.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

36

Travelling at warp speed.

37 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

37

Picard has brought Troi in for consultation.

TROI

In our dealings with other
non-humanoid races there has been
some point of reference; not so
with the Hrathan.

PICARD

We must have something in common.
We communicate.

TROI

Barely. The Hrathans have learned
several Federation languages, but
theirs continues to elude us.

PICARD

(have we tried?)
Telepaths?

TROI

Attempted and failed.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37 *

PICARD
This is ludicrous!

*
*

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

TROI
No, sir, the fact that any alien
race communicates with another
is quite remarkable.

She lifts Picard's tea cup from the desk.

TROI
(continuing)
We are stranded on a planet. No
language in common, but I want
to teach you mine.

Troi points to the cup.

TROI
(continuing)
S'smarith. What did I just say?

PICARD
Cup? Glass?

TROI
Are you sure? I might have meant
liquid, clear, brown, hot. And
we conceptualize the universe in
relatively the same way.

PICARD
Point taken.

TROI
During your talks you must be
extremely accurate. The treaty
is 500,000 words. The length
was to accommodate the Hrathan.
They consider our language
irrational, and demanded this
level of complexity to avoid any
future misunderstandings. They
are also extremely time conscious.
Each moment in a Hrathan's life
is planned to the minutest detail.

PICARD
Then their timetable for the
settlement of Cygna V --

TROI
Will be equally as rigid, yes.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (3)

37

RIKER'S COM VOICE
Captain, Hrathan warship on
visual.

PICARD
On my way.
(to Troi)
So it begins.

They EXIT onto:

*

38 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

38

The tension on the Bridge is palpable. Picard moves
swiftly to the command station. Riker relinquishes
the command chair.

39 ANGLE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

39

Where a Hrathan ship hangs ominously.

PICARD
Open hailing frequencies. This
is Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the
Starship Enterprise.

*

We again have a vision of the mirrored, shadowed,
shifting place. A hint of a watcher in the shadows.

HRATHAN
Your purpose, Enterprise?

PICARD
We desire face-to-face negotiation
to settle the crises on Cygna Tau
Ceti.

Troi hands him a PADD.

PICARD
(continuing)
We are entitled to consultation
under paragraph five hundred and
sixty-three subparagraph nine.

A beat as the Hrathan look it up.

*

HRATHAN
Granted.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

The screen again shows the Hrathan vessel.

*

RIKER
Was that an invitation?

PICARD
I'm going to take it as such.
Number One, you have the Bridge.

Troi and Picard EXIT.

CUT TO:

40 ARD'RIAN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (OPTICAL)

40

Ardy's handing around coffee cups to a gathering of grim faced people. Data is standing by the fireplace. Haritath is seated on the couch with his wife. Noe, and SIX other colonists are present.

*

HARITATH
It's one thing for Gosheven to say he's staying. It's another for him to make that decision for all of us -- especially when our lives may be in danger.

*

DATA
What do you wish to know?

HARITATH
The Federation will resettle us?

DATA
Yes.

ARD'RIAN
I don't know about the rest of you, but I've made up my mind -- I'm leaving.

*

*

*

HARITATH
(impressed)
I know how much you love this place.

*

ARD'RIAN
More than I can express, but not enough to die for it.

(CONTINUED).

40 CONTINUED:

40

Haritath glances around at the other colonists. There
are nods of agreement.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

HARITATH

All right, that's it then --

The front door opens, and Gosheven, and the two council/goons ENTER armed with their fascisti. Gosheven is startled to see the gathering.

GOSHEVEN

(to Data)

Still stirring up trouble?

ARD'RIAN

Since when is talk trouble?

Gosheven ignores her.

GOSHEVEN

It's over. Don't you get it?
You lost.

DATA

I appear to be reversing that defeat.

Gosheven is infuriated by Data's remark.

GOSHEVEN

Final warning; keep your damn mouth shut and stay away from my people!

DATA

They are not your people. They belong only to themselves.

Ardy grins "you tell 'em, Data!", and slips her arm around the Android's waist.

Gosheven's hand snakes out, catches her by the upper arm, and spins her away from Data. Gosheven releases her. Ardy is spitting like an angry cat, and starts to wade back in. Data wards her off with a hand.

DATA

No! They cannot harm me.

GOSHEVEN

Watch me!

The human gives Data two punishing blows to the face. The Android's head snaps from side to side, but there is no obvious damage and he remains on his feet.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (3)

40

Murmurs from the crowd.

Gosheven kicks Data's feet out from under him. The Android falls. Goon One gives Data a hard kick. Data gets up.

ARD'RIAN

HIT THEM!

DATA

No.

GOSHEVEN

You damn coward! Fight me!

Blows continue to rain down on the Android from all three men. Some of them connect. Others he dodges with a display of martial arts. One of the goons slams a chair across Data's back. The Android whirls, snatches it away from the man, and flings the chair across the room.

DATA

I have the power to do you all
grave bodily harm, but this
violence is unnecessary.

Gosheven suddenly yanks his taser from his belt, and lands a powerful blow to Data's head. There is an effect like BLUE LIGHTENING about the Android's body. Skin tears back, and circuitry is revealed. The crowd reacts. Ardy screams, and Haritath grabs her before she can join the fight. Data is knocked off his feet.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (4)

40

Okay, something that works. The goons unlimber their staffs, and the three men proceed to beat the snot out of Data. EFFECTS as the tasers hit. The instinct for self-preservation is strong. Data wards off a hit by Gosheven, and lunging off the floor seizes the human by the throat.

40A ANGLE ON GOSHEVEN

40A

The Android's hand about his throat as Gosheven realizes the inhuman strength of the creature, and we see fear for the first time.

Data forces himself to release the human, and turning onto his side he curls into a ball, and folds his arms over his head. A few more blows from the goons, but it's hard to hit a man when he's down, and refuses to fight back. The crowd's sympathy is with Data.

Ardy is crying with fear and fury; still trying to free herself and come to Data's aid. At last it ends. Gosheven has vented his rage against this sexual and political rival. He is panting, his face damp with sweat.

GOSHEVEN

You people get on home!

A couple of people bolt for the door. The other four remain stubbornly in place. Gosheven steps up to Ardy. She bares her teeth, and slaps him over and over until he catches her wrist.

GOSHEVEN

You'll see I'm right.

(CONTINUED)

40A CONTINUED:

40A *

He drops her wrist, and he and the goons EXIT. Ardy
runs to Data and drops to her knees beside him.

*
*

CUT TO:

41 INT. HRATHAN SHIP (OPTICAL)

41

Picard and Troi MATERIALIZE. What surrounds them bears
little resemblance to a ship. Darkness hangs like bats
in the corners. What little light there is filters
through swirling mist. As they look down the effect
is as if they are walking on black ice, and tiny
lights, like flickering eyes twinkle beneath the
floor's surface.

*

HRATHAN
Advance and speak.

Troi and Picard exchange glances for they can see no
sign of the creature they are speaking with. They
step forward, and are pinned in a bright light.

*
*

PICARD
Director, we will comply with your
request to remove the colony on
Cygna V, but we need three weeks.

HRATHAN
I do not comprehend? What is it
you seek?

PICARD
More time.

HRATHAN
The time is upon us. We carry
the membership.

PICARD
You can begin your debarkation.
We won't interfere with one
another.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

HRATHAN

Remove the humanoids.

PICARD

I'm trying! But a ship won't be available for three weeks.

HRATHAN

You are in violation.

PICARD

I have admitted that! I'm only asking for a little tolerance.

HRATHAN

Section five hundred and one, paragraph seven hundred and sixteen, subparagraph five -- unwanted lifeforms inhabiting H class worlds may be removed at the discretion of the Hrathan corporate.

PICARD

You offer your ship for transport?

HRATHAN

No. We will remove. It is our right.

Now it's Picard's turn to be bemused by the Hrathan.

PICARD

I'm sorry, I don't understand.

HRATHAN

You need time, Picard of the Enterprise, we will save time. We will eradicate the human infestation.

PICARD

(outraged)

They are not vermin! They are citizens of the Federation and I will not permit this travesty!

HRATHAN

Intelligent converse is impossible. You do not discuss, you gibber.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

PICARD
Between intelligent species of
good will --

Suddenly the Hrathan transporter kicks in, and slams
Picard and Troi back to the Enterprise. They have been
rudely thrown out on their ears.

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

42

The startling EFFECT of the Hrathan transporter and
Picard and Troi APPEAR. Riker, Worf, Beverly and the
Supernumeraries at Conn and Ops react. Beverly whips
out a tricorder and checks them out.

*
*

Picard and Troi are both very disoriented, staggering
slightly. Riker steadies them both.

RIKER
I think the Hrathan just hung up
on us. Again.

*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

42A INT. ARD'RIAN'S LIVING ROOM (FORMERLY SCENE 45)

42A

Data is stretched out of the sofa. Ardy is seated at his side, laying a damp cloth on his forehead. Noe, and FIFTEEN colonists watch.

Data pushes her hand away, and sits up slowly.

ARD'RIAN
(concerned but scolding)
Lie down! You're in no shape --

DATA
Do not fuss. I will manage.

ARD'RIAN
Men! You think you're made out of steel.

Data gets to his feet.

HARITATH
(relieved laugh)
This one is.
(to Data)
The word is spreading. People are mad as hell and ready to break with Gosheven.

DATA
Excellent. Haritath, go to Gosheven, tell him I am coming into town, and I am going to destroy the aqueduct.

HARITATH
They'll be waiting for you!

DATA
I certainly hope so.

Haritath and Ardy exchange glances. Off Data's expression.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 43

The Enterprise hanging motionless in space with the
Hrathan warship.

44 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 44

As before.

PICARD
(to Worf)
Go to yellow alert. Shields up.

WORF
Aye, sir.

PICARD
Mister Riker, put us nose to nose
with the Hrathan ship. If she
makes a move, echo it.

RIKER
Aye, sir.

PICARD
Open a hailing frequency.

WORF
They're not responding, sir.

PICARD
(in a white rage)
They don't have to answer. They
just have to listen! Hrathan
vessel, you will have to crawl
over me to get at the colony on
Cygna V!

45	OMITTED	45
46	OMITTED	46
47	INT. MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS	47

WORF

No response.

PICARD

Get me that damn treaty! They've
been beating me over the head
with it for three days. Let's
see if we can't find something
which can be turned to our
advantage.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

RIKER

We're going to try and beat them
at their own game?

BEVERLY

(aghast)

The treaty contains five hundred
thousand words!

PICARD

Then there must be a few which
will favor us.

WORF

(glumly)

We are going to regret Data's
absence.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V (OPTICAL)

48

The town square. The streetlights touch the purifying
plant with a stark white light. Gosheven and his goons
stand shoulder to shoulder in front of the plant and
aqueduct. Their staffs are out. They are ready.
Behind them are a number of colonists, they nervously
await the outcome.

At the far end of the street Data comes walking toward
Gosheven. Behind him are Ardy, Haritath, Noe, and
FIFTEEN colonists. Data's expression is set, almost
grim. He has a phaser.

Gosheven and the goons shift, preparing for the fight.
Data swings up his phaser, and stuns the two goons.
They drop like puppets with cut strings. Startled
reaction from Gosheven. Murmurs from the colonists.

Data paces in a wide circle, addressing all of them.

DATA

I hope you were all paying close
attention. Because I am one man
with a phaser, and you see the
result.

GOSHEVEN

GET HIM!

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

Several men break from the group of colonists behind Gosheven and rush Data. He sweeps his phaser across them, and they collapse.

DATA

This phaser is set on stun. When the Hrathan arrive there will be hundreds of them, and their setting will be for kill.

Data switches the setting on the phaser, whirls, and blasts the pump on the aqueduct. It grinds to a halt, and a stiny stream of water trickles into the dirt.

DATA

(continuing)

Are you still eager to fight?

Data rakes the crowd with a glance.

DATA

(continuing)

And the Hrathan may not offer you a target. They could irradiate the entire planet from orbit. You will die never having seen the face of your killers.

Data walks deliberately to Gosheven. This is it, the two stags squaring off for leadership of the herd. Gosheven is still ready to fight. He takes a swing with his staff. Data catches it, breaks it across his knee, and flings it aside. The Android turns his back on Gosheven -- the ultimate contemptuous snub. Faces the colonists.

DATA

(continuing)

Now all of you . . . get packing.

The colonists meekly disperse. The mantle of leadership has passed.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (2)

48

Gosheven, slump shouldered, bends and scoops up a handful of mud at the base of the silent pump. All that's left of his dream. Data moves to join him.

DATA
(quietly)
If you bleed into the dirt it remains dirt. It does not care, and it will not remember.

GOSHEVEN
I really was willing to stay and die.

DATA
I know that, but it is just a thing, and things can be replaced. Lives cannot. Live, rebuild and be remembered.

GOSHEVEN
You could have killed me tonight at Ardy's house.

DATA
Killing was always the thing I wished to avoid.
(a beat)
And now, your people need you.

GOSHEVEN
They've got you.

DATA
I am not their leader.

For a long moment it hangs in the balance. Then Gosheven wipes his hand on his pants, and walks back to assist his groggy goons to their feet. They move off.

49 OMITTED

49

50 ANGLE ON DATA

50

Relief. He pulled it off. He looks down at the phaser. With an expression of distaste he holsters it. He looks up to find Ardy gazing at him with an expression of pride and love.

51 OMITTED 51 *

52 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL) 52

Troi is seated at Science One with Picard hanging over her shoulder. Riker and Worf are at Science Two. Pages of treaty crawl past on both screens.

WORF
This is hopeless. Fighting would be preferable.

A look from Riker.

PICARD
That's it.

He indicates a clause.

TROI
I don't follow you, sir.

PICARD
Worf, get me the Hrathan.

WORF
(just heard the
reprieve)
Yes, sir!

Picard, Riker and Troi return to the command station. The strange Hrathan scene replaces a view of the ship.

PICARD
Pursuant to paragraph one thousand two hundred and ninety I formally request third party arbitration of our dispute.

A beat while they look it up.

HRATHAN
Agreed.

PICARD
And further, pursuant to subsection D, three, I name the Grizzelas to arbitrate.

HRATHAN
Grizzelas?

Riker glances, puzzled, at Troi.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

RIKER
(mouths)
Grizzelas?

*

Troi quells him with a look.

*

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: (2)

52

PICARD

Unfortunately they are currently
in their hibernation cycle, but
they'll awaken in six months, and
then we'll get this matter
settled. Now, do you want to
wait... or give me my three weeks?

*

*

HRATHAN

Absurd. We carry the membership!
We brook no delay!

PICARD

Then I declare the treaty in
abeyance!

HRATHAN

Wait! Negotiation is --

Picard gestures to Worf -- cut the transmission. Worf
obeys. A long beat.

*

*

RIKER

(smiling)
You enjoyed that.

PICARD

You're damn right.

WORF

Captain, they are hailing us.

Picard studies his nails. Takes a turn around the
Bridge. Settles himself back in the command chair.

WORF

(continuing)
Sir?

PICARD

Let them sweat.

(a beat)
On screen.

HRATHAN

You may have your three weeks,
Picard of the Enterprise.

*

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: (3)

52

PICARD
(with careful
enunciation)
Thank you.

The screen returns to a view of the Hrathan ship pulling away. Instant release of tension. Suddenly the Turbolift doors open, and Geordi ENTERS. He is looking frazzled. People's expressions reflect the thought that "dear God, he did it."

GEORDI
Captain, we can do it! We can
fix the transporters.

*

PICARD
Excellent.

*

GEORDI
It'll take fifteen years, and
a research team of a hundred --

*

PICARD
(dryly)
Mister La Forge, I believe we
will postpone.

*

GEORDI
(with a grin)
Yes, sir.

Geordi EXITS.

CUT TO:

53 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - CYGNA V - DAY

53

Data and Ardy standing awkwardly at the steps of the shuttle. This is goodbye and it hurts, and she doesn't want him to see that it hurts.

ARD'RIAN
My father told me to find a man
who was good with his hands. But
he didn't warn me that after I'd
found him he might not stick
around.

*
*
*

DATA
But you are also leaving.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

ARD'RIAN

Yeah.

Jam the hands deeper into the pockets. Dig out another
inch of dirt with a boot toe.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (2)

53

DATA

I shall remember you.

ARD'RIAN

Oh sure.

DATA

Ardy, I am incapable of forgetting anything. I shall remember our time together exactly; each word spoken, each action replayed with perfect clarity.

This is a little embarrassing. And now Data's really wound up -- better to talk piffle than have to deal with this uncomfortable situation.

DATA

(continuing)

My neural filaments process memories --

ARD'RIAN

Data! I don't care how. I want to know why. Why will you remember me?

DATA

Your support aided me in my understanding of the qualities of leadership.

Swell, what every woman wants to hear.

ARD'RIAN

(distant)

Glad I could help.

Data senses he's supposed to do more. But what? And how? And for him, a little bit why?

DATA

I will remember your beauty -- both of face and spirit.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (3)

53

ARD'RIAN
(brave smile)
Well... it's not much, but it's
something.
(a beat)
And from you that's the most I
can have, isn't it?

*
*

A little hopeful, but Data stares at her mutely. For a long moment their eyes are locked. She gives herself a shake.

ARD'RIAN
(continuing)
At least I didn't cry. I promised
myself I wasn't going to cry.
(with a grin)
Well, if you're ever in my part
of the galaxy look me up.

For her this was the break. She turns to walk away.

DATA
(softly)
For company?

Ardy turns back. Her heart's in her eyes, grin firmly in place.

ARD'RIAN
For company.

Data holds out a hand to her. She steps forward and lays her hand in his. The tiniest squeeze from Data. He climbs into the shuttle, and the door closes. Off her expression.

CUT TO:

54 INT. SHUTTLE (OPTICAL)

54

Through the port we can see the bulge of the planet.

DATA
Shuttle craft Onizuka requesting
landing clearance.

*
*
*

55 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

55 *

Picard pacing thoughtfully.

*

PICARD

Welcome home, Mister Data.
Mission accomplished?

56 INTERCUTS

56 *

DATA

Mission accomplished, Captain.
When the transport ship arrives
they will find the colony ready.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

PICARD

Well done, Commander.

DATA

I am reluctant to accept your
praise, sir.

PICARD

Oh?

DATA

My ultimate solution had very
little to do with sound command
procedure. It was neither
logical nor rational.

PICARD

Did you achieve your purpose?

DATA

Yes.

PICARD

Then it was a sound decision.

DATA

But I succeeded only because I
was more intimidating than my
opponent.

PICARD

And that makes you uneasy.

DATA

Yes, sir.

PICARD

(thoughtful)

No captain ever sleeps easy.
The decisions that we make live
on to haunt us.

DATA

I do not welcome this knowledge.

PICARD

Data, fifteen thousand people
have been saved by your action.
You can take comfort in that.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56 *

DATA

I do. I only regret that a little
part of me was lost in the
process.

*
*
*

Picard reacts. He understands. Sometimes command is
an ugly business. In Data's case innocence has been
tarnished.

*
*
*

Data stares thoughtfully out the port of the shuttle
at the receding planet.

Off Data's expression as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END