

STAR TREK- THE NEXT GENERATION

"To Thine Own Self Be True"

Teleplay by

Julie King

Story by

Karen King & Julie King

(Agent's name)
(address)
(phone)
(email)

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. CORRIDOR - MORNING, DAY ONE

where DATA is walking through, passing by CREW persons. He turns the corner and is confronted by a crowd of CHILDREN coming from the other end. They are keeping a ball aloft among them.

The CHILDREN stop in the middle of the CORRIDOR, still playing and totally ignoring DATA. He knows they are not supposed to be here, but decides it's not his place to reprimand them as he fights his way through.

DATA

Excuse me... I need to get by... excuse me... I am wanted on the Bridge... excuse me...

DATA gets to the other end and turns the corner to the TURBOLIFT. As he approaches, PICARD steps out in his riding clothes.

PICARD acknowledges DATA as he goes by.

Suddenly, DATA stops and realizes that PICARD is about to enter the CORRIDOR full of CHILDREN. He dashes back to the corner expecting to see a very rankled PICARD admonishing scampering CHILDREN.

DATA peers around the corner and is shocked to see PICARD'S retreating form down an empty and quiet hall.

DATA waits a few seconds and then looks again. PICARD is gone and the CHILDREN are back out. Puzzled, he approaches the nearest one in the CORRIDOR.

DATA

Eddie?

EDDIE

Yes, sir, Mister Data, sir?

DATA

(nodding towards where Picard had gone)
How did you know that-

EDDIE

(interrupting)
Oh, him. Easy. I asked the computer to let us know when the Captain was comin'.

DATA

So, you are aware that you are not supposed to be here.

EDDIE

Yeah, sure! That's what makes it fun!

DATA

I see. Your adaptation to adverse circumstances of entertainment is rather clever...

EDDIE glances around and sees he has been left alone with DATA.

DATA (CONT'D)

...By utilizing the resources available to you, in this case, the ship's computer, you have-

EDDIE

Mister Data, aren't you suppose ta be on the Bridge, or somethin'? Can I go now...?

INT. TEN FORWARD - MORNING, DAY ONE

TROI enters, looking for someone. Then she spots LT. SAMANTHA QUINN standing at the front window and goes to her.

QUINN is in casual clothes on crutches with her left leg in a cast.

TROI

Samantha? Today's the big day isn't it?

QUINN

Hello, Counselor. Yes, if everything checks out, I should be back on duty tonight.

TROI

And yet you are still troubled. The cast is more of formality, but I believe Dr. Crusher told you that the regeneration treatment had been successful?

QUINN

So she told me. I can't wait to get back on duty. There's a limit to how much "enforced leisure" (slapping the crutches) I can take.

TROI

Then you feel you were being punished with the "enforced leisure".

QUINN nods.

TROI (CONT'D)

May I remind you that the Captain has acknowledged the mission being a no-win situation? You salvaged what you could.

QUINN

Yes, but I can't help feeling that I fell short—should have been more in control. This (slapping the crutches again) should not have happened.

TROI

I know that it is important for you to prove yourself, I just hope it is not an unrealistic goal you feel you will never meet.

QUINN just shrugs her shoulders as she turns back to the window.

INT. HOLODECK CORRIDOR - MORNING, DAY ONE

showing PICARD approach the access panel.

PICARD

Computer, access "Bridle Path" program.

PICARD moves in front of the door, looking forward to a nice brisk ride.

COMPUTER

Program complete. Enter when-

RIKER (COMMLINK)

Captain Picard.

PICARD

Yes, Number One, what is it?

RIKER (COMMLINK)

Sorry to interrupt your ride, but there is a priority communication from Starfleet.

PICARD

I'm on my way. Computer, save program and discontinue.

COMPUTER

Program saved.

PICARD sighs again and shrugs ruefully at the still closed holodeck doors. Then he turns and goes back the way he had come.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY ONE

of the ENTERPRISE traveling through warp space.

INT. CONFERENCE LOUNGE - MORNING, DAY ONE

where CRUSHER, TROI, LA FORGE, WORF, WESLEY, RIKER and DATA are seated waiting for PICARD. DATA is telling them about his experience with the children, to everyone's amusement.

LT. CMDR. DERRICK is seated near the head of the table and across from RIKER. He is in a command-red uniform.

DATA

...which is the ship's computer, they have increased their entertainment factor

considerably. A most intriguing means of adaptation. I believe-

DATA stops as PICARD enters and puts his finger to his lips, indicating silence. ALL nod in agreement to keep the secret.

Unaware of the exchange, PICARD begins as he takes the seat at the head of the table.

PICARD

...Starfleet has confirmed the directive: strengthen the tenuous diplomatic ties while giving aid to the disaster on Tusic. Mr. Derrick is joining this mission as a native. Mr. Derrick, will now brief us on what to expect.

DERRICK

Yes, sir. It's going to be difficult. The People are very self sufficient and independent. They have a lot of pride, even if there's absolutely nothing left when we get there... (pauses for punch line) they'll still have their pride.

RIKER

We've dealt with difficult people before, Derrick.

DERRICK

As you're still trying to convince me with tales of your heroic adventures.

ALL smile at the jib.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Seriously, The People don't like outside interference. They don't like outsiders, period.

LA FORGE

Can you tell us more about what happened? What could cause such a global disaster?

DERRICK

I wish I could, but I know as much as you do. I've been trying to contact my family, but I can't get through.

DATA

Thus, we have only the report of the scout vessel which picked up their planetary distress call. Further assessment will have to wait until we are in the vicinity.

DERRICK

It is good for Tusic to remain in the Federation. They need new ideas, exposure to new cultures, maybe a sense of humor...

RIKER

In other words, they're not anything like you.

TROI

Will!

DERRICK

It's all right, Deanna. He hasn't changed much over the years.

PICARD

May we stay on the discussion at hand? Knowing your people, how do you suggest we proceed?

DERRICK

If they allow anyone, I suggest you keep your numbers small. They also haven't been exposed to a lot of different races, (looking pointedly at Worf) so I would suggest...

RIKER

I already have a team in mind, sir. I think Lt. Quinn, an Emergency Medical Technician from Security will do nicely. That is, (looking at Crusher) if she'll be ready?

RIKER glances at TROI, who beams with approval at the choice but says nothing.

WORF

I agree.

CRUSHER

That is a very competent choice. She'll be able to appraise the medical situation. And yes, she will be ready- even if she has to take the cast off herself to go!

PICARD

Very well. Prepare yourselves for the task at hand. It doesn't appear to be an easy one.

INT. SICKBAY - AFTERNOON, DAY ONE

showing CRUSHER examine QUINN's leg on an exam bed using both instruments and touch.

CRUSHER

Well, Lieutenant, your leg is fully recovered.

QUINN

(rising from bed, flexing leg)

So I can return to duty?

CRUSHER

Yes, but will you let the leader make the first move on your next Away Team. I don't think you realize how lucky you were, Sam.

QUINN cautiously stands on the leg.

QUINN

I've had this conversation before with Captain-

CRUSHER

I know, but-

QUINN

Somebody had to do something quick. I just don't think it could have been any different...(pause, then resigned) everyone else got back okay.

CRUSHER

Yes, carrying you. Look, speaking as the one who has to put you back together again, don't be so impulsive. Look before you leap. Getting yourself killed isn't going to get something done.

QUINN nods in acquiescence and walks out as CRUSHER looks on and sighs with a touch of sadness. TROI enters from her office.

TROI

Yes, I am reminded of Tasha as well.

CRUSHER

She doesn't look anything like her, but the attitude- that same-

TROI

-Headstrong determination to succeed.

CRUSHER

We buried one security officer, I just hope...

TROI

Me too.

INT. HOLODECK - MORNING, DAY TWO

of a smoky jazz bar, one of RIKER'S favorite programs.

RIKER is playing his trombone and DERRICK is playing a saxophone. The camaraderie from their long association is evident. The ALL FEMALE audience is very attentive.

DERRICK

You've got it made here, old man. You're guaranteed an appreciative audience.

RIKER

I can program it differently, if you'd like. We don't have to have an audience.

DERRICK

Oh no you don't! This is a dream come true! (pauses, reflecting) I never could play back home. They didn't appreciate earth jazz music-a little to wild for them, I think.

RIKER

Thank you for that gift, by the way. So... do I need to put a containment field around it before opening it? Remember, fair warning was part of the rules.

DERRICK

Oh yes, I remember the rules. And I also remember how vague and ambiguous your warnings were. Seriously, you can only blame your "self" for what comes out. It's-

DATA (COMMLINK)

Cmdr. Riker and Lt. Cmdr. Derrick, please report to the bridge. We are approaching Tusic.

RIKER

Acknowledged. Computer, end program. Well let's go see what we're up against.

DERRICK

Yes... I hope everyone's alright.

RIKER doesn't know what to say. He just puts his arm around his friend as they head for the exit.

INT. BRIDGE - MORNING, DAY TWO

PICARD is seated in the COMMAND AREA with TROI and CRUSHER. WOLF is at TACTICAL, with LA FORGE at ENGINEERING, DATA at OPS, and WESLEY at the CONN.

RIKER and DERRICK enter from the AFT TURBOLIFT.

DERRICK

Oh no...

INSERT - MAINSCREEN

showing an orbital shot of Tusic with an unnatural amount of cloud cover.

BACK TO SCENE

DERRICK (CONT'D)

The cloud cover... the planet's completely covered.

LA FORGE

(indicating screen)

You mean that's not natural?

DERRICK

(in shock, slowly going down ramp)

My God, no! What could have... covered... the whole planet...?

PICARD

Data?

DATA goes to SCIENCE ONE and everyone waits as he works. When he has the answer, he turns and addresses the BRIDGE.

DATA

What you see is the result of an asteroid collision. I will soon have more information.

WORF

Contact established, sir.

LA FORGE

(approaching rail)

I always thought the chances of an asteroid hit were, I don't know, a million to one...

CRUSHER

(going to Mission Ops)

The casualties could easily be in the millions.

DATA

(turning to La Forge)

Correction, Geordi, the chances-

PICARD

Data, I want a complete assessment of the damage done. Doctor, contact Starfleet Command for a planetary-relief convoy and tell them we will keep them apprised of developments.

DATA and CRUSHER nod and turn to their stations.

PICARD (CONT'D)

(stands and moves to center)

Put them on the mainscreen, Mr Worf. This is Captain Jean-Luc Picard from the United Federation of Planets. We have come in response to your distress.

INSERT - MAINSCREEN

showing LEADER ENDER, looking worn and haggard.

ENDER

It is too late! We don't want your help! The Federation is useless to us...

BACK TO SCENE

showing mixed reactions from RIKER, DERRICK and PICARD.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT - ENTERPRISE

in orbit around Tusic shrouded in thick clouds.

PICARD (VO)

Captain's log; stardate 43320.2. Having arrived at Tusic, we find damage of catastrophic proportions and yet they will not accept aid.

INT. BRIDGE - MORNING, DAY TWO

where ALL are still in their places facing ENDER on the mainscreen.

ENDER

We can take care of ourselves. (spotting Derrick) Derrick? So, you have joined with the out-worlders. Have you given up the People's Ethics as well?

DERRICK

(stepping forward)

The essence of our Ethics is to be true to who you are. They also say you are the People's Servant. The loyalty the People have given to you demands you get the help they need, whether they accept it or not.

ENDER

And where does your loyalty lie?

DERRICK

I was not aware there is conflict between Tusic and the Federation.

LA FORGE comes between DATA and CRUSHER to look at all the information.

LA FORGE

This is incredible... how do you triage a whole planet?

CRUSHER

As best we can so that the convoy can take right over as soon as they get here.

DATA

In this case, we will have to prioritize the priorities.

Both LA FORGE and CRUSHER look askance at DATA before turning to the mainscreen.

ENDER

There is too much destruction. Your people could be of no help.

PICARD

Let us determine that. One of our purposes is to offer aid when needed.

ENDER

It's not our way to have others among us. (tensely and tired) We help ourselves- each other. We can take care of ourselves- I have much to do- so much has happened-

TROI

Captain?

PICARD turns to TROI.

TROI (CONT'D)

A moment, please.

PICARD moves back to her while DERRICK continues to speak to ENDER.

PICARD

What is it, Counselor?

TROI

Sir, obviously he is defensive, but I sense a fear for an obligation that can not be repaid.

PICARD

Thank you, Counselor, a different approach is needed...

PICARD goes back to the center next to DERRICK.

PICARD (CONT'D)

(to Ender on the mainscreen)

Our intention is to extend to you the same courtesy the Federation would ask of you if our circumstances were reversed.

A flicker of surprise and approval shows on ENDER'S face.

PICARD (CONT'D)

May I send a small party to assist your experts?

ENDER

Very well, but they will find resistance. Derrick, I should tell you, there is still no word from your family.

DERRICK

Thank you for the information. We will be there shortly.

INSERT - MAINSCREEN

as the image of ENDER fades out.

BACK TO SCENE

TROI goes to DERRICK as PICARD addresses AFT.

PICARD

Mr. Data, report.

DATA approaches the RAIL with LA FORGE and CRUSHER.

DATA

Analysis indicates the asteroid was approximately 50 kilometers in diameter.

RIKER

50 kilometers!?

DATA

Yes, sir. The impact site is in the western oceanic basin, 500 kilometers from the coastline of the inhabited continent.

DERRICK is speechless and can only gape at the screen.

DATA (CONT'D)

In addition to this there have been tectonic and oceanic phenomena as well.

PICARD

Earthquakes and tsunamis...what about the inhabitants?

DATA

Given the impact location relative to the population, the casualties should be limited.

LA FORGE

In other words, the Tusicans were lucky.

CRUSHER

Lucky?! We're still talking about 100s, if not 1,000s of people dead or injured! How can you-

LA FORGE

(interrupting)

But at least the majority of them are alive and we can help them.

DATA

Sir, without intervention, this event will alter the climate considerably and will eventually make Tusic uninhabitable.

DERRICK

And then leave? No, not without a fight. This is our home...

PICARD

(turning on him)

And to save it, will your people do anything, even accept our assistance?

DERRICK

Yes, Captain. Once they understand the outcome, I'm positive they will.

PICARD

(to RIKER and DERRICK)

Good. Lead your Away Team, Number One and report back with an assessment.

INT. GOVERNMENT CENTER - LATE MORNING, DAY TWO

where RIKER, DERRICK and QUINN materialize.

The surrounding buildings are in shambles and the square is CROWDED with wounded people and families. Activity slows as the people watch the AWAY TEAM.

QUINN gets her medic kit out and ready, determined to succeed on this mission.

DERRICK is shocked from the sight, then sees ENDER approaches them with other leaders.

DERRICK

This is Cmdr. Riker and Lt. Quinn.

ENDER

Ah, yes... I am Leader Ender. Derrick, we still don't know about your family. (then, with a sweep of the hand) The People do not want to accept your help.

DERRICK

But I am also one of the People.

A MAN takes an aggressive stance as a CROWD gathers around.

MAN

It is not our way to except help from others! Go away! We don't want you here!

The CROWD makes their agreement known.

DERRICK

People, it's me! I am still one of you. We, together, can prevent The People from dying!

A FATHER makes his way through the crowd to ENDER. Near by, the MOTHER lays an unconscious injured BOY down on the ground.

FATHER

Please, please, my son. We're in from the country- There isn't any help out there.

DERRICK

(coming from behind Ender)

Help is here. Give us a chance.

FATHER

(backing up shields family)

No. No out-worlders.

RIKER nods to QUINN who moves closer with a scanner running.

QUINN

Commander, the child is critical with extensive internal injuries. We need to get him to Sickbay now.

RIKER

Can't you do anything for him here?

QUINN shakes her head as she approaches the BOY.

MOTHER

Don't you touch her! You are not one of us!

QUINN

Ma'am, I understand and I'm sure you could go with her, but we've got to do something fast or he will die.

DERRICK

Your upset, let us help you.

RIKER sees the situation is becoming tense.

RIKER

(addressing the leaders)

I'm sorry we weren't here when it happened. (directly to Ender) We are not the enemy. Right now your fear and distrust is your greatest enemy. People are dying—this boy is dying, but we can help him, and all of you.

QUINN

Commander, we're losing her.

MOTHER cradles the BOY to her heart.

MOTHER

My baby, he is so cold!

RIKER

Enterprise, this is Riker.

INT. BRIDGE - LATE MORNING, DAY TWO

showing PICARD and TROI in the COMMAND AREA. CRUSHER is at MISSION OPS.

PICARD

Report, Number One.

RIKER (COMMLINK)

Have a Medical Team standing by. The situation here is critical, Riker out.

CRUSHER moves up to the RAIL, ready to report.

PICARD

Understood, Number One, keep me posted. Doctor, have your Medical Team stand by.

CRUSHER

They are already on their way, sir.

PICARD smiles at her efficiency.

INT. GOVERNMENT CENTER - LATE MORNING, DAY TWO

Everyone watches RIKER and DERRICK go to QUINN, MOTHER and the BOY.

QUINN

We're loosing him, Commander.

RIKER

Then, we've got to take her now. Your daughter's life depends on it. (turning back to Ender) You initially asked for our help when you sent the distress call.

ENDER nods, relenting as he doesn't want to lose any People.

ENDER

Yes, yes. Do whatever is necessary.

RIKER

(turning to mother)

We are going to take him to our medical facilities. You can stay with him.

The FATHER is enraged. MOTHER ignores him as she clutches the BOY and nods.

RIKER (CONT'D)

Good. (hitting combadge) Riker to Enterprise.

PICARD (COMMLINK)

Go ahead, Number One.

RIKER

We have a medical emergency. Three to beam up at Lt. Quinn's-

FATHER

Wait! Where is this medical place? You're not takin' my family off Tusic!

RIKER

It's on the Enterprise. You can come as too, but if we don't go now, he will die.

RIKER glances at ENDER.

QUINN

(looks at instruments then at Riker, pleading)
Commander...!?

FATHER

I'm warning you, stay away from my family!

ENDER nods again. RIKER then turns his back on the FATHER and motions for QUINN to take the child.

Suddenly, FATHER produces a gun.

FATHER
(pointing gun at Riker's back)
Don't you touch her!

DERRICK sees the FATHER is about to pull the trigger.

DERRICK
No! Will!

RIKER spins around as DERRICK throw himself in front of him.

INT. COMMAND AREA - LATE MORNING, DAY TWO

showing PICARD and TROI still in the COMMAND AREA.
CRUSHER is at the RAIL.

RIKER (COMMLINK)
Beam us up now!

PICARD, TROI, and CRUSHER are stunned as they hear a gun shot.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - LATE MORNING, DAY TWO

showing RIKER, holding DERRICK in his arms, MOTHER holding her BOY and QUINN materializing on the PLATFORM. RIKER puts him down as QUINN starts working on him.

The MEDIC TEAM dash on to the PLATFORM as PICARD, CRUSHER and TROI rush in. As soon as the TEAM is on the platform, QUINN backs away feeling she has failed.

When CRUSHER gets on the PLATFORM the MEDIC shakes his head. CRUSHER has to be sure herself and checks him.

CRUSHER

(after a brief exam)

There is nothing we can do for him. I'm sorry
Commander.

(turns to BOY)

We need to get them sickbay immediately.

TROI sees that RIKER looks shocked and how QUINN looks like she wishes the deck would swallow her up.

TROI turns back to RIKER. His face turns into an unreadable mask as he goes past her and leaves.

INT. BRIDGE - AFTERNOON, DAY TWO

RIKER, PICARD, and TROI are in the COMMAND AREA. WORF is at TACTICAL.

ENDER is on the MAINSCREEN.

ENDER

I am calling to see how Derrick is and the
child.

RIKER

(stonily)

He's dead.

ENDER

That is... most unfortunate. He was a good
man... (then, as an afterthought) he'd be
surprised to hear me say that.

RIKER

(cold as ice)

It's too late now isn't it?

PICARD

(quietly mortified)

Number One, get yourself under control. (raised
voice to screen) The child is being taken care
of. Leader Ender, we are prepared to render aid.

ENDER

I am trying to convince The People-

PICARD

We have Trauma Teams- experts in emergency rescue. We can set up aid stations down there, however, the longer the delay-

ENDER

I realize that, it will be on our conscience. It is the best I can do.

PICARD

Very well, we await your decision. Picard out.

The mainscreen fades out. PICARD turns to TROI.

PICARD

Counselor, assemble the Trauma Teams.

WORF

Sir, with the outbreak of hostilities...

PICARD

I understand your concern Mr. Worf. However, I am still acting on the advice of Mr. Derrick and the presence of force might be unsettling.

RIKER

Captain, permission to lead the Trauma Team.

PICARD

Denied, Number One. Counselor, a-

RIKER

(interrupting, getting irritated)
May I ask why, sir?

PICARD

(bristling, then softening)
I need you here. Counselor Troi, (motioning toward Ready Room) a word with you please.

INT. READY ROOM - AFTERNOON, DAY TWO

TROI enters behind PICARD.

TROI

You are concerned about Will.

PICARD

Do I have cause for worry?

TROI

He is experiencing extreme emotions—sadness, anger, conflict... he is trying to ignore these feelings but considering the circumstances and his rudeness to Leader Ender, I support your decision to keep him on the *Enterprise*.

PICARD

Hopefully, that will be the end of the matter.

TROI nods in agreement.

INT. TROI'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON, DAY TWO

where TROI is at her desk waiting for QUINN to finish venting as she paces back and forth.

QUINN

...bungled again! My job is to prevent loss of life. If I had been in control—the child would have gone Sickbay and I would have seen that man pull a weapon-

TROI

You don't know that.

QUINN

(stopping in front of her)
What do you mean? The kid would have been out of there and then I would have seen the weapon. Why didn't he let me get the child out of there?!

TROI gets up and comes around the desk to her.

TROI

The actions you have described could have caused more complications. You were not in control and you had not been fully briefed as Cmdr. Riker had been. He was in command, not you.

QUINN

Wait, what? Are you saying it's not my responsibility?

TROI

Exactly. Part of your duty is to defer to authority above you and let their responsibilities be their own.

QUINN looks relieved as TROI puts a hand on her shoulder.

TROI (CONT'D)

You didn't "bungle".

INT. BRIDGE - LATE AFTERNOON, DAY TWO

RIKER is alone in the COMMAND AREA, emotions smoldering beneath the surface. WORF is at TACTICAL.

LA FORGE and WESLEY are working at the ENGINEERING STATION.

WESLEY

(glancing at Riker)

Geordi, he just lost a close friend- shouldn't he taking some time off or something?

LA FORGE

Sometimes duty doesn't allow that in a crisis.
You have to put aside your feelings to get the
job done. It's-

PICARD enters from the READY ROOM.

WORF

Leader Ender is standing by, sir.

PICARD

(moving to center of Command Area)
Excellent, put him on the main viewer.

ENDER

Captain Picard, I realize time is of the
essence-

RIKER

Isn't that what we've been telling you all
along?

TROI enters from the AFT-TURBOLIFT in time to hear RIKER'S remark.
She notices WESLEY and LA FORGE exchange glances, then proceeds to
her seat in the COMMAND AREA. She watches RIKER closely through the
proceedings.

ENDER

(trying to maintain diplomacy)
It has been a struggle to get where we are.

RIKER

Stop making excuses and let us save lives!

PICARD turns around, no longer able to ignore RIKER.

PICARD

(gestures to Worf for audio off)
Commander you are dismissed to my Ready Room.

RIKER

(standing, frustrated)
Captain, I can be of more use either on the
planet or here on the Bridge.

PICARD

I will not repeat myself.

EVERYONE watches as RIKER storms off. WESLEY is mortified.

PICARD (CONT'D)

(turning back to screen)
Resume audio... my apologies for the delay,
Leader Ender. How can we be of assistance?

ENDER

I need information about the environment- is the
drinking water is safe and such. Can someone
give me that? My plan is if The People see me
accepting your help then they may consider it.

PICARD

An excellent idea. I have just the person to assist you.

ENDER

You are very generous, Captain Picard. I apologize for the resistance....

PICARD

No apologies necessary. Change comes slowly. We don't want to take away your people's integrity and independence.

INSERT - MAINSCREEN

as ENDER nods, pleased and fades out.

BACK TO SCENE

as TROI stands up to join PICARD.

PICARD

Data, relay the information they need.

DATA

Yes, sir.

DATA goes back to SCIENCE ONE.

PICARD

Counselor?

TROI nods and follows PICARD to the Ready Room.

INT. READY ROOM - EVENING, DAY TWO

where PICARD and TROI confront RIKER.

PICARD

What the devil is going on, Number One?

RIKER

Sir?

PICARD

You were insufferably rude! You were-

RIKER

I was simply pointing out...

PICARD

You were blaming. You were-

TROI

(calmly interjecting)
Captain.

TROI waits until she has both of their attentions. PICARD realizes this is her job and backs away to the window.

TROI (CONT'D)

(coming up close to Riker)

Will, you are experiencing intense feelings of anger and grief. You are blaming the people on the planet for the death of your friend and it has affected your ability to be objective.

RIKER

They killed him. (starts pacing) His own people! We-he-was there to help-

TROI

Because of these intense feelings you are having difficulty performing effectively.

RIKER

(stops)

What? What are you saying?

PICARD comes back to them, having calmed down.

PICARD

Will, I understand what you are going through. I have lost-

RIKER

(personalizing and exploding again)

How!? He was my friend! How can you-

PICARD

(adapts intolerant formal tone)

Enough! Commander, you are relieved of your duties and confined to quarters until further notice.

RIKER

What?! I have never-

PICARD

Do not make it necessary to call security.

RIKER looks once at TROI, who looks neutral, then back at PICARD. He snaps to attention and storms out.

PICARD sighs deeply.

TROI

I know that was difficult for you, sir.

PICARD

But what about him? His career?

TROI

The forced confinement will allow him to process his feelings instead of ignoring them. I believe it is best for now.

PICARD

I hope you're right. Otherwise, he may need more of your counseling skills.

TROI

At this point, I don't know if he would accept
it from me.

PICARD

He will have no choice if he wishes to stay in
command.

TROI smiles ruefully as PICARD goes to his desk.

INT. OUTSIDE READY ROOM & BRIDGE - EVENING, DAY TWO

as the door to the READY ROOM closes behind her, TROI glances
around to see if she is needed.

The CREW is busy going about their tasks.

TROI goes to the FORWARD TURBOLIFT and enters it.

INT. FORWARD TURBOLIFT - EVENING, DAY TWO

As soon as the doors close, she collapses against the wall,
reacting to the backwash of the intense emotions.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS - EVENING, DAY TWO

showing RIKER enter very angry and high strung. Restlessly, he paces about almost running from his feelings. Finally he sits down.

On the TABLE is a small, ornate BOX- Derrick's gift.

RIKER picks it up with a half-smile and cautiously opens it.

INSIDE, at the bottom of the box is a small mirror embedded in a prismatic crystal inlay. His tiny reflection scowls back at him.

RIKER slams the box shut. He tosses it aside as he buries his face in his hands.

RIKER

I have got to get a hold of myself...

RIKER runs his hands back through his hair as he opens his eyes. Sitting right across from him is his duplicate, (SAME ACTOR) SELF, in a multi-colored prismatic outfit.

SELF is patiently watching RIKER who shakes his head and rubs his eyes.

SELF

No, Will, you are not dreaming. This is very real.

RIKER jumps up.

RIKER

Intruder alert...Q! What the hell do you-

SELF

(laughing)
Oh, no. No, I am not Q.

RIKER

Who- or what- are you then?

SELF

Remember what your friend said? "You only have yourself to blame..."

RIKER

My self? How...? (smug realization) Oh, I get it. This is Deanna's doing. Somehow she set-

SELF

(interrupting)
I have nothing to do with Deanna. While you do like females, you do not really share your true self with them. In fact, you use them for diversions.

RIKER

(getting defensive at the personalness)
Now wait a minute-

SELF

But I speak the truth of you. You do not easily confide your deepest feelings to others.

RIKER

What are you? Some kind of holo-?

SELF

(interrupting again)
I am as you are and what you hope to be. Think of me as your ally, here to protect you from your worst enemy-

RIKER

And that is?

SELF

Yourself, of course.

RIKER

I am my own worst enemy? I'm hardly suicidal-

SELF

No, you are doing worse. Let us go back to, as you would say, "the scene of the crime".

INT. TEN FORWARD - EVENING, DAY TWO

showing a distressed WESLEY with LA FORGE and O'BRIEN.

WESLEY

...I'm telling you, he dismissed him from the Bridge. I just can't believe it.

O'BRIEN

(signaling waitperson)
Another round here, please.

LA FORGE

I know I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes.

WESLEY didn't notice, but O'BRIEN looks askance at LA FORGE. LA FORGE shrugs with a smile, knowing exactly what he had said.

WESLEY

I just don't think it was fair, especially in front of everybody like that.

LA FORGE

Wes, he was out of line- almost blew all the diplomacy Capt. Picard had set up.

WESLEY slumps back at the thought of his fallen hero.

WESLEY

I always thought Cmdr. Riker was...

O'BRIEN

Perfect? Too perfect, if you ask me. Don't get me wrong, he's a great officer and all, but he thinks he's always right.

LA FORGE

You've got that right. Look, Wes, he's as human as the rest of us and that's all there is to it.

WESLEY

It still doesn't seem fair.

O'BRIEN

(signaling again and pointing directly to Wesley)
Definitely another round here, please.

INT. READY ROOM - EVENING, DAY TWO

PICARD is sitting at his desk as the door chimes.

PICARD

Come.

TROI enters.

PICARD (CONT'D)

Yes, Counselor? What is it?

TROI

Sir, I need to advise you on something. I have been trying to examine the feelings I sense from the People and Leader Ender. The best way to describe it is a feeling of shame behind a wall of pride- as well as the fear of obligation I mentioned before.

PICARD

(standing, and going around desk to her)
Shame? Can you be more explicit?

TROI

It's... it's as if they are blaming the Federation for what happened and believe we should have been able to prevent it. But now that we're here, they do not want our help.

PICARD

(thinks a moment, then speaks)
Being a member of the Federation does not mean one's technology is automatically going to be advanced.

TROI

Exactly! They feel that the Federation has been, shall we say, "holding out"?

PICARD

Thank you, Counselor. That is very helpful.

INT. GOVERNMENT CENTER - EVENING, DAY TWO

where RIKER and SELF appear at the Away Team's location. The place looks the same, but it is deserted.

RIKER

What are we doing here?

SELF

We are here to reach an understanding about yourself and how you're coping with what happened.

RIKER

One of The People killed Derrick here. (becoming bitter) They killed him. The stubborn, ungrateful-

SELF

So, it is the People's fault?

RIKER

Yes! We're trying to help them. They were angry because we didn't get here on time.

SELF

And it's hard for you now to help the very people you blame for your friend's death.

RIKER

I am a starfleet officer.... I can put aside my own personal feelings to perform my duties.

SELF

However, Captain Picard and Counselor Troi disagreed with that conclusion. You don't even recall the events here correctly.

RIKER

I remember exactly what happened.

SELF

But you haven't mentioned one important fact. The People here were trying to kill you, not Derrick. He purposely got in the line of fire to save you.

RIKER

(looks astonished, then pained)
Why?

SELF

Because he loved you like a brother. He valued your life more than his own. It is rare to be valued so much by another living being.

RIKER

It shouldn't have happened... I should have been in control... there's no reason for it.

SELF

Ahhhh, now you are getting to the real questions. There is a range of possibilities. One possibility is this....

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GOVERNMENT CENTER, NEGATIVE FUTURE

showing broken down buildings on the verge of collapse. The cloud cover has completely blotted out the sun, creating a permanent winter.

People appear including some that were in the CROWD. RIKER and SELF stand to the side unnoticed.

The CROWD is cold, starving and are talking that the end is near. There are no children about and they regret not accepting the Federation's help.

BACK TO SCENE

RIKER

We've got to warn them! We've got to help them!

SELF

Even after they tried to kill you and killed your friend instead?

RIKER

Is that what is going to happen to them? Has it already been decided?

SELF

That is only one extreme possibility on a continuum of many. Here is the other...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GOVERNMENT CENTER, POSITIVE FUTURE

where the buildings become futuristic in appearance and very beautiful. The sky is clear and warm. RIKER and SELF are again unnoticed.

The CROWD is filled with more youth and vigor and talk about how glad they are to be leading contributors in the Federation.

A YOUNG MAN appears. He is a grown up version of the child RIKER tried to save. They call him Doctor and he wears a starfleet uniform with high rank.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS - EVENING, DAY TWO

where they appear in the same positions.

RIKER

All of that happens because we help them?

SELF

Again, it is an extreme possibility of what may happen.

RIKER

(becoming angry)

Well, which one is it then? What's going to happen?

SELF merely smiles benignly neutral.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. BRIDGE - EVENING, DAY TWO

where PICARD turns away from the mainscreen, frustrated as ENDER'S image fades.

WORF is at TACTICAL and TROI is in her seat in the COMMAND AREA. They watch him as he sits down.

PICARD

Damn, all of this diplomacy should be done in person.

TROI

I agree, sir. From what we have learned now of their culture, they do prefer to deal with matters face to face. Perhaps I-

PICARD

(coming to a decision and standing)
Mr. Worf, inform Leader Ender that I will be there shortly.

WORF and TROI react at the same time.

WORF

Captain, considering the violence shown, that is not a wise-

TROI

(standing)
Sir, that is not what I meant. Part of my job-

PICARD

(holds up a hand to still protest)
Of course I am not going alone. Lt. Quinn will accompany me.

WORF and TROI glance at each other relieved.

INT. GOVERNMENT CENTER - EVENING, DAY TWO

showing PICARD and QUINN materialize. He looks around and sees ENDER waiting for him.

PICARD

Leader Ender, it is good to meet you in person. You remember Lt. Quinn?

ENDER

Yes indeed, Capt. Picard. (gestures) This way, please.

They start walking toward one of the buildings.

ENDER (CONT'D)

I must apologize to what happened to your team.
We do not go around killing-

PICARD

(holding up a hand to stop apology)
Please, you all have been through a terrible
ordeal. I must apologize for my First Officer.
I've been informed that Mr. Derrick had been a
close friend from the Academy.

ENDER

A true tragedy. Kin was trying to protect his
family... didn't understand...

ENDER shrugs sorrowfully as he opens the door PICARD and motions
him in. PICARD glances at QUINN, indicating for her to wait
outside.

INT. ENDER'S OFFICE - EVENING, DAY TWO

PICARD and ENDER are seated in comfortable chairs.

ENDER

It is hard to find privacy now but we can speak
openly here, Captain. What is it that you wanted
to talk to me about?

PICARD

I wanted to tell you in person- you need to
understand that the Federation respects the
cultural integrity of its new members.
Technological advances-

ENDER gets up, goes to the window to see the darkening cloud cover.

ENDER

You must understand, we are used to being in
control and having an orderly World. Such an
illusion... our technology- we didn't know it
was coming. And to know the Federation...

PICARD

I respect that, Leader Ender. But you must
understand, even with higher technology, it may
not have been preventable.

ENDER comes back and sits down, thinking.

ENDER

I... see.

PICARD

Nevertheless, you've been appraised as to the
state of Tusic-

ENDER

Yes. Your Mr... Data? was quite thorough. So
much damage...

PICARD

So you understand that without intervention,
Tusic will eventually become uninhabitable.

ENDER

What!? Are you sure? No, I had no idea. I guess
I wasn't really listening... Intervention, you
say?

PICARD

Yes. Technology may not have been able to
prevent this disaster, but it can rectify the
results- if you will accept it.

ENDER

(standing up with resolve)
Yes, Captain, we will not loose Tusic. The
People will accept your help. There is no choice
now.

PICARD also stands, ready to leave.

PICARD

Excellent! There is much work to be done.

ENDER

Captain, what will happen to Derrick's remains?

PICARD

I'm not sure if he made any requests. I
certainly will be contacting his family. How can
that best be done properly?

ENDER

You have done it properly. I am his father.

PICARD

(surprised)
I didn't know. He never said you-

ENDER

(turning away ashamed)
We were not- our relationship- I did not want
him to go. But he accomplished so much... how
proud I am of him. I will inform his mother and
her family.

PICARD

And I will personally see that his wishes are
carried out.

INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS - EVENING, DAY TWO

RIKER and SELF are still in the same position.

SELF

The future is not for you to know nor is it the
purpose of my showing you.

RIKER

Then what is? Why did you show me all this?

SELF

Because you need to know that no matter what happens, Derrick's death has value and meaning because he chose it. Does Derrick's sacrifice become the good choice if Tusic accepts your help? Or is it because of what he valued and chose?

RIKER

It would make it easier to live with to know the end result was good.

SELF

And what if that which he set out to accomplish was already achieved?

RIKER

Which was what? To save me? There has to be more to it than that!

SELF

Why? Aren't you worth it?

RIKER turns away, unable to answer. He goes to the window and looks out. SELF is seen in the reflection, waiting patiently.

INT. TEN FORWARD - EVENING, DAY TWO

where QUINN enters and gets a drink from the bar. She turns then and spots WESLEY at the front window. She approaches him.

QUINN

Trying to jump my claim, Ensign?

WESLEY

(turns to her confused)

Huh? Oh, I'm sorry, Lieutenant... (starts to move away).

QUINN

No, no, stay here. It's a joke. I just spent so much time here the last few weeks, Guinan thought I'd moved in.

WESLEY responds with a weak grin.

Quinn gestures to an empty table and they both sit down.

QUINN (CONT'D)

I'm not Counselor Troi, but sometimes it helps to talk about it...?

WESLEY

What happened to Commander Riker on the Away Team?

QUINN

Well...are you familiar with "no-win"
situations?

WESLEY nods tentatively. QUINN takes a sip from her drink and then
a deep breath.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Well, this was a classic. And it took me a while
to figure that out...

INT. RIKER'S QUARTERS - EVENING, DAY TWO

RIKER looks out the window while SELF waits patiently.

RIKER

I don't know if I am worth it. Is my life more
important than his? I don't know.

RIKER turns back to face SELF.

RIKER (CONT'D)

Can I accomplish more and do more good than he
would have? I don't know. I almost wish he
hadn't saved me, not on these terms. I feel like
I owe something somehow and I'll never be able
to pay it.

SELF

Most Beings do not earn the right to life when
they are first born. Did you ever question your
worth or what you owed for life before this? Did
you ever feel like you had to pay back something
because you were created?

RIKER

No. I just always enjoyed life, tried to do my
best.

SELF

You mean driven to be your best.

RIKER

Yes, well, maybe too hard.

SELF

Maybe you paid Derrick back by who you are, the
person who became his friend, his brother.

RIKER turns back to the window.

RIKER

I'll miss him. Very few people ever have friends
like him... what about The People-?

Suddenly, RIKER notices SELF is not reflected in the glass. He
whirls around to see he is alone.

INT. BRIDGE - EVENING, DAY TWO

PICARD and TROI are in the COMMAND AREA. WORF is at TACTICAL, LA FORGE is at ENGINEERING, CRUSHER is at MISSION OPS, and DATA is at OPS.

WESLEY enters from the FORWARD TURBOLIFT and goes to CONN.

RIKER (COMMLINK)

Riker to Bridge.

WESLEY half turns in his seat, anxious to see what PICARD is going to do.

PICARD

Yes, Number one?

RIKER (COMMLINK)

Requesting permission to return to duty, sir.

PICARD looks at TROI questioningly. TROI nods, pleased.

TROI

I sense he is at peace and is calm. I don't understand it, but he does seem to be in a better place.

PICARD

Good. (To commlink) You may take your post, Number One.

WORF

The convoy from Starfleet is arriving, sir.

Immediately the AFT TURBOLIFT doors open and RIKER walks out.

RIKER

I was hoping you would say that.

LA FORGE

Ahhh, the calvary has arrived.

RIKER looks askance to LA FORGE and smiles, then proceeds down the ramp to the COMMAND AREA.

WESLEY turns back to his post with a big grin on his face.

RIKER

(standing formally before Picard)
Permission to talk to Leader Ender, sir. I have an apology to make. I would also like to plan a memorial service for Derrick.

PICARD

Permission granted. Those were, in fact, his wishes.

TROI watches RIKER closely curious as he takes his seat.

CRUSHER goes to the rail to address PICARD.

CRUSHER

The convoy has been updated on the status of Tusic. They are set to take over.

PICARD

Excellent. Mr. Worf, contact Leader Ender. Tell him...(with a smile) the "cavalry" has arrived.

LA FORGE smiles at his station.

Finally, TROI'S curiosity finally gets the better of her.

TROI

(low voice leaning across Picard)
Will? May I ask what has happened to you? The difference...

PICARD leans a little closer, interested in the answer as well.

Thinking hard, RIKER realizes he can't explain it himself. Finally, he just shrugs it off.

RIKER

(casually)
Shakespeare.

Incredulous, PICARD and TROI exchange glances.

TROI

Shakespeare?

RIKER

Yes, you know, Shakespeare...

Suddenly PICARD smiles, thinking he understands and whispers to TROI knowingly.

PICARD

I've been encouraging him to study the classics. He must have taken my advice and learned something from the Bard's valuable insight into the lessons of life...

RIKER smiles and nods in agreement.

INT. GOVERNMENT CENTER - EVENING, SEVERAL DAYS LATER

PICARD and ENDER flank a statue of Derrick.

The SENIOR OFFICERS (except Riker) and QUINN are standing at attention in front of it. They are all in dress uniforms.

Behind them and all around, the CROWD has gathered, including the grateful FATHER and MOTHER with a healthy BOY.

PICARD looks to the side and nods.

RIKER steps forward with his trombone.

STAR TREK:"Self", King - ACT FIVE 37.

Everyone reflects on what happened as the tune of "Amazing Grace"
fills the air...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE