STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Symbiosis" #40271-123

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REVISED FINAL DRAFT

FEBRUARY 17, 1988

STAR TREK: "Symbiosis" - 2/17/88 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION "Symbiosis"

CAST

PICARD ORNARANS
RIKER T'JON
BEVERLY ROMAS
DATA MARGAN

TROI

TASHA BREKKANS WORF SOBI GEORDI LANGOR

GEORDI WESLEY NURSE

Non-Speaking SECURITY GUARDS SCIENCE OFFICERS

Voice-Over COMPUTER VOICE STAR TREK: "Symbiosis" - 2/17/88 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION "Symbiosis"

SETS

INTERIORS EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

MAIN BRIDGE

TRANSPORTER ROOM

SICKBAY

CARGO BAY

CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

CORRIDORS

ENTRANCE TO CARGO BAY

OBSERVATION LOUNGE

TURBOLIFT

BREKKIANS' GUEST QUARTERS

MAIN ENGINEERING

STAR TREK: "Symbiosis" - 2/17/88 - PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION "Symbiosis"

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Ornara ore-NAHR-un
Ornarans ore-NAHR-uns
Brekka BRECK-ah
Brekkians BRECK-ee-ans
Delos DELL-ose
Felicium fell-EE-see-um
Langor LANG-orr

Langor LANG-orr
Margan MAR-gun
Romas ROW-muss
Sobi SOW-bee
T'Jon tuh-ZHON

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION "Symbiosis"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moving toward a brilliant sun. Even from here the TURBULENCE on the surface of the sun is evident.

PICARD'S COM VOICE All hands, this is the captain. The sun in the Delos system is undergoing large-scale magnetic field changes, producing violent, gigantic flares.

2 INT. ENTERPRISE - VARIOUS SHOTS

in corridors, Engineering, and so on as the ship's company listens to their captain.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

(continuing)

We will be studying this star at close range. Even though we will be running with full deflectors, the closeness of the event and its severity are going to create problems.

3 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The bridge is manned as usual. WESLEY is at the ${\tt Aft}$ Science Station.

PICARD

Intense magnetic fields have a disruptive effect on electrical systems. We can therefore expect an interruption of communications, and potential temporary loss of other systems. As a precaution, we are now going to Yellow Alert...

He signals Tasha with a nod of his head and she ${\tt ACTIVATES}$ the system.

PICARD

(continuing)

Stay sharp, everyone.

- 4 OMITTED
- 5 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

As technicians keep close watch on their stations.

DATA'S COM VOICE

Engineering, this is Ops. Bring all systems on line and direct full power to the shields.

The technicians carry out Data's order.

6 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard takes his seat.

DATA

All sections secure.

PICARD

Lieutenant La Forge?

GEORDI

Course set.

PICARD

Half impulse.

GEORDI

Half impulse, aye.

7 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it MOVES PAST CAMERA toward the dazzling sun.

8 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Everyone is intent:

PICARD

On Main Viewer.

9 SCREEN (OPTICAL)

The great sun FILLS THE SCREEN WITH LIGHT. WE CAN SEE no definition -- only intensity.

PICARD

Mask out the photosphere.

While we watch, the intensity of the sun itself is MATTED OUT, LEAVING ONLY THE RIM which is erupting.

PICARD

Magnify. Quadrant one-seven, sector four-zero-three.

And now WE can clearly SEE on the surface. Great, powerful FLARES extend out above the rim.

10 REACTIONS

As they watch the wondrous eruptions on the surface of the \sup .

RIKER

I've never seen anything like this before. The violence of these eruptions is awesome.

PICARD

And humbling, Number One.

DATA

Reading an unusual number of sunspots and eruptive prominences, sir. The magnetic field is extremely irregular.

11 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it moves in closer to the Delos sun.

12 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Wesley makes an adjustment at his Science Station.

WESLEY

Captain, deflectors are being hit by a huge burst of X-rays.

And all at once, Wesley's console is BATHED WITH A BLUE AURORA; we HEAR STATIC SOUNDS. Wesley pulls back, more delighted than alarmed.

WESLEY

(continuing)

Wow -- look!

(getting professional)

Sir, my console seems to be overloading.

WORF

The X-ray burst is disrupting systems, Captain. I'm adjusting deflectors to compensate.

13 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

They are also having difficulty. The intensity of the radiation is affecting control systems.

WORF'S COM VOICE

Increase power to forward deflectors.

14 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The AURORA EFFECT on the Science Station DIES OUT.

PICARD

Status report.

WORF

All systems operational, sir.

TROI

Captain. The level of tension on the ship is mounting.

PICARD

Understandable. Data?

DATA

If we are to investigate this unusual solar activity -- we must get closer.

Picard thinks for just a beat.

PICARD

Mister La Forge, move us closer.

Picard studies the viewscreen.

PICARD

(continuing)

We'll be pushing our deflectors to the limit, but we'll get a good look at this phenomenon.

WORF

Captain, I have intercepted what seems to be a distress signal.

Everyone's attention turns to this new emergency.

PICARD

Let me hear it.

VOICE (V.O.)

This... (garbled) -- this is
... (garbled) -- on the freighter
Sanction... (garbled) ... and
unable to... (garbled) ... Need
help.

DATA

The transmission is from a freighter in orbit around the fourth planet of the system. However, the receiving station is on the third planet.

PICARD

Open hailing frequency.

TASHA

Hailing frequencies open.

PICARD

Unidentified freighter, this is the USS Enterprise. May we be of assistance?

On the viewscreen the IMAGE IS CLUTTERED WITH STATIC.

T'JON (V.O)

(a garbled response)

Whoever you are, YES!

(garbled) cannot maintain...

(garbled) ... if you can help...

Picard listening.

14 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

Can't you enhance the image?

TASHA

Too much interference.

PICARD

Set a course to intersect with the freighter. Warp two.

GEORDI

Aye, sir.

PICARD

Maintain Yellow Alert.

T'JON (V.O.)

Can't control... (garbled) ... ship is losing orbit... (garbled) ... heading into atmosphere... without help, we'll burn up.

As Picard and Riker exchange a concerned glance:

15 OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

16 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

coming out of warp.

17 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Everyone is alert.

WORF

It is a freighter -- very old.

DATA

Captain, our sensors are being severely affected by the sun flares.

PICARD

Helm -- get us in as close as possible to the freighter's orbit.

GEORDI

Aye, sir.

DATA

There are six life forms aboard the freighter.

WORF

Captain, the freighter's orbit is decaying.

PICARD

How long until it loses integrity?

WORF

A matter of minutes.

PICARD

(he touches his

arm-panel)

Unidentified freighter, this is the USS Enterprise.

There is a moment of hesitation where all that is heard is STATIC, then:

VOICE (V.O.)

Enterprise, this is the Aurelian freighter... Sanction.

PICARD

Put this on the Main Viewer.

18 MAIN VIEWER - (OPTICAL)

The Screen is a clutter of LINES and SWIRLS.

TASHA

The visual transmission is still breaking up.

The viewscreen REPAINTS WITH THE FREIGHTER IN ORBIT.

PICARD

Freighter, this is the Enterprise. What is your situation?

T'JON (V.O.)

... (garbled) ... We are...

Several OTHER VOICES call out:

SOBI (V.O.)

Get us off here.

LANGOR (V.O.)

(female)

Please -- help us.

These desperate pleas are mixed with the OTHER VOICES and added to the STATIC making this transmission unintelligible.

PICARD

This is the Enterprise -- with all this interference it is difficult to copy your transmission -- if you all talk at once... it is impossible. Now -- please -- say again. What is your situation?

Again there is a lot of STATIC -- then some shouting in the background and finally ONE MALE VOICE.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

I am T'Jon -- the captain of the Sanction.

Picard is pleased that T'Jon's voice is calm and under control.

PICARD

(to himself)

At last.

(to T'Jon)

How can we help?

There are raised VOICES SHOUTING to get them off. Then T'Jon again restores order.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

We have lost -- I don't know... something -- and I am no longer able to maintain this orbit, nor am I able to use main thrusters. Everything's just kind of... you know... dead, I guess. It's all... you know... shut down.

PICARD

That's very vague. What's the computer analysis?

T'JON'S COM VOICE

The computer's not working very well.

PICARD

Data... can you tap into their computer and clarify the situation?

DATA

I will attempt it.

TASHA

Captain, the tractor beam is available, if you want it.

RIKER

At least we can pull them out of orbit before they enter the atmosphere.

PICARD

Yes. Captain T'Jon -- we are going to lock on our tractor beam and pull you out of orbit.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

Hey -- that's great.

In the background there are two excited VOICES to counterpoint T'Jon's matter of fact response.

19 ANGLE ON TASHA

as she enters the information to set and lock the tractor beams.

20 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND FREIGHTER (OPTICAL)

as the TRACTOR BEAM reaches out. It's TORN AND RAGGEDY.

21 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Tasha re-enters the information. Her panel indicates a malfunction.

TASHA

The solar flares are interfering with the tractor beam, Captain. I am unable to lock on.

WORF

Captain, the freighter's orbit continues to deteriorate.

PICARD

Captain T'Jon, we are unable to attach our tractor beam because of the intense solar activity.

T'JON (V.O.)

(calmly)

I understand.

(giving up)

Thanks for trying.

Again in the background there are panicky CRIES.

DATA

Captain, I have determined what is malfunctioning on the freighter.

PICARD

Enterprise to Sanction. We have analyzed your problem.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

Great.

Picard gestures to Data to go ahead.

DATA

Your ship's design uses an electromagnetic coil to constrict the exhaust flow. That coil is misaligned.

PICARD

Have you the necessary tools to realign the coil?

T'JON'S COM VOICE

I don't think so.

DATA

Captain, I believe we can provide the freighter with a temporary substitute. Ship's stores contain a coil of the proper type.

RIKER

(to Tasha)

Can we beam it over?

TASHA

Yes.

PICARD

Captain T'Jon, we will beam over a replacement coil.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

That's great... and that will fix us up?

PICARD

Well, once it's installed.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

Right.

(a beat)

... And how do we do that?

Picard is dumbfounded. He glances over at Riker. Both men are amazed.

PICARD

What's the matter with these people? How can he be the captain of the vessel and be ignorant of its simplest functions?

21 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

If this weren't so serious it would make you laugh.

PICARD

Captain T'Jon -- how long have you been in command of the freighter?

 $\label{total composition} {\tt T'JON'S} \ {\tt COM} \ {\tt VOICE}$ Seven years. This is my

twenty-sixth voyage to Brekka.

PICARD

And you don't know how to align a control coil?

T'JON'S COM VOICE

It's never come up.

RIKER

Is there anyone on board who can do it?

T'JON'S COM VOICE

Hold on a minute... I'll ask.

There is a pause.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

(continuing)

Sorry -- nobody here knows
anything about it.

RIKER

I'll beam over with a team.

TASHA

Captain -- I strongly recommend against anyone from this ship beaming over. The solar interference is too great.

WORF

The freighter has entered the planet's atmosphere. Disintegration is imminent.

RIKER

We are running out of options.

21 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

(nods to Tasha and

Riker)

Let's get them off there.

Riker and Tasha are on their feet and heading for the turbolift.

PICARD

Captain T'Jon. Prepare to beam over.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

If you think that's best.

Picard is getting more than a little impatient with T'Jon and his lack of concern.

PICARD

Unless you have another option
-- yes, I "think that's best."

T'JON'S COM VOICE

(amiable)

Whatever you say.

Off Picard's REACTION.

22 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Riker and Tasha ENTER. Tasha goes directly to the console, takes over from a Transporter Chief, and begins trying to lock on to the life forms on the freighter.

TASHA

I can't maintain a positive lock.

23 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Wesley checks a readout.

WESLEY

An unusual E-M burst. Readings off scale.

Another AURORA EFFECT, this time on Propulsion Station.

24 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Riker and Tasha are working together.

RIKER

Freighter Sanction, this is the Enterprise. We are having difficulty getting a fix.

TASHA

(to Riker)

Have them go to their own Transporter Room. It will be tricky, but perhaps I can link the two transporters in series and get them over with the increased power.

RIKER

It's worth a try.

(to intercom)

Captain T'Jon -- go immediately to your Transporter Room.
Contact me from there.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

(still very calm)

Right, Enterprise -- we'll call you from there... but, if you can't get us with your transporter, what makes you think ours will do the job?

TASHA

I'm going to interconnect them.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

I didn't know you could do that.

TASHA

Hurry -- we're running out of time.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

We're on the way.

Tasha shoots a look at Riker.

TASHA

I don't think they're going to make it.

RIKER

Captain T'Jon doesn't seem to care one way or the other.

TASHA

(touches the com)

Worf -- how much time do we have?

WORF'S COM VOICE

One minute, twenty-eight seconds.

Tasha taps the console.

TASHA

Captain T'Jon -- are you there?

T'JON'S COM VOICE

Yeah. We're in the transporter room.

TASHA

Great. Activate your transporter.
Set coordinates nine -- seven -zero -- three... mark two...
six... eight.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

Did you say... two -- eight -- six... or eight -- eight -- six.

TASHA

(frustrated almost to
 the point of anger)
TWO -- SIX -- EIGHT.

T'JON'S COM VOICE

Got it.

25 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and the others.

WORF

The hull temperature of the freighter is passing three thousand degrees.

PICARD

What's the holdup, Number One?

26 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Riker touches his communicator.

RIKER

We are establishing the link now.

There is a pause, then:

T'JON'S COM VOICE

We are ready.

Tasha at the console.

TASHA

Then all six of you get on the transporter platform -- on my signal, energize.

She exchanges a look of exasperation with Riker.

TASHA

(continuing; to Riker)

I've got their initial transporter signal. Interlock complete.

(intercom)

Energize on my mark. Four -three -- two -- one -- energize.

27 TRANSPORT PLATFORM (OPTICAL)

As the MATERIALIZATION BEGINS -- AND FADES OUT -- AND BEGINS AGAIN.

28 ANGLE ON TASHA

working the console.

29 TRANSPORTER PLATFORM (OPTICAL)

What MATERIALIZES is not the people -- but a large cargo barrel.

30 ANGLE ON RIKER AND TASHA

Both very surprised.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Did you get them off?

RIKER

No. They stayed on the freighter -- and sent their cargo.

31 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard is astounded.

PICARD

Cargo!? Are those people crazy? (a beat) What could possibly be that important?

WORF

Sir -- the freighter is disintegrating.

Off Picard's REACTION.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

32 EXT. SPACE - THE FREIGHTER (OPTICAL)

The Ornaran freighter drifts further away toward the planet Brekka.

33 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Manned as before. Picard can't believe his ears.

GEORDI

Captain, the freighter is entering the atmosphere. Her hull temperature is building.

PICARD

Number One -- I don't understand these people. Their lives are in danger and they're sending over cargo?

34 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

The barrel sits innocently on the transporter pad. Riker and Tasha are astounded.

RIKER

Unbelievable.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

We're losing the freighter. You've got to beam those people over now.

RIKER

(to Tasha)

Clear that cargo. Beam it to a hold.

TASHA

Aye, sir.

Tasha hits a control. The barrel DEMATERIALIZES.

RIKER

(to Sanction)

Freighter Sanction... this is the Enterprise, get on the transporter pad and...

(to Tasha)

Forget it. Just lock on to any life forms you can find and get them over.

TASHA

Trying, sir.

35 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

as Geordi checks a readout.

GEORDI

The freighter is going down.

PICARD

Transporter Room! You're out of time.

36 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Tasha feverishly works the controls.

TASHA

Reading six life forms...
(shakes her head)
But I can't get a solid lock.

RIKER

We've no choice. Energize.

37 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as the MATERIALIZATION EFFECT starts on the pad, then FADES. Tasha fights the controls, trying to bring in the signal. Finally, FOUR HUMANOIDS MATERIALIZE on the pad.

RIKER

You said SIX - where are... (fearing the worst) ... the other two?

TASHA

(shakes her head)
The lock didn't hold, sir.

RIKER

Re-establish.

TASHA

It's too late.

37A INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

On the viewscreen, the freighter Sanction HITS THE ${\tt ATMOSPHERE}$.

38 ANGLE ON PICARD

PICARD

Number One!?

39 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

as the BEAM IN BECOMES COMPLETE. Riker and Tasha look over the new arrivals.

RIKER

Two are lost, \sin . But we saved four.

On the transporter pad are the four humanoids: T'JON, ROMAS, and SOBI (three males) as well as LANGOR (a female). They are instantly divided into pairs - because of the physical differences, clothing and manner

T'Jon and Romas, of the planet Ornara, are scruffy, unclean, and almost wild in appearance. Their manner is nervous, belligerent, somewhat high-strung. In contrast, Sobi and Langor, of the planet Brekka, are attractive, well-dressed, well-groomed, intelligent, and genteel.

Riker STEPS FORWARD.

RIKER

I am Commander William Riker of the USS Enterprise.

(solemnly)

I'm sorry. We were unable to rescue the other two.

The four aliens REACT with indifference.

RIKER

Were they with you...
(then indicating the other pair)

... or with you?

Something else is on their minds.

T'JON

(nearly frantic)

With us.

RIKER

We did everything we could, if you had come instead of the cargo, you could have all made it.

T'Jon looks around - near panic.

T'JON

The cargo... Where is it?

ROMAS

(also panicking)
You did save it, didn't you?

RIKER

(mystified)

Yes, we did. It's in one of our cargo holds. You act like it's more important than your comrades.

Judging by their reactions, Riker's right.

T'JON

May we see it?

39A INT. CARGO BAY (OPTICAL)

The alien cargo is in the cargo bay. The DOORS OPEN and Riker, Tasha, T'Jon, Romas, Sobi, and Langor ENTER.

As they catch sight of the cargo, Sobi and Langor are gratified; T'Jon and Romas are ecstatic.

T'JON

Thank you. It's just we thought we had lost it.

SOBI

(casually)

Careful with your choice of words, T'Jon. It's ours, not yours.

T'JON

(heating up)

We paid a fair price for it!

LANGOR

You offered a fair price, but we have not received it.

ROMAS

You accepted our goods in trade!

SOBI

Then where are they? Tell me!

T'JON

That's not our problem!

LANGOR

No more than the barrel is your property. It's as simple as this. The goods were never delivered; they were destroyed with your ship.

SOBI

Hence the deal was incomplete; hence possession of the Felicium remains ours!

ROMAS

(a plea)

We need it.

SOBI

(to Riker)

Commander, I request you transport
my associate --

(nods to Langor)

-- and myself down to our planet, with our merchandise.

39A CONTINUED: (2)

T'JON

Yes, get them out of here! But the barrel stays.

LANGOR

(to Sobi)

There's no reasoning with you.

SOBI

(to her)

Langor, you expect too much from them. You always have and you are always disappointed.

(then to T'Jon with a

hard edge)

You didn't pay -- so it's not yours.

T'JON

Damn you, Sobi --

T'Jon grabs Sobi's arm -- and there is a FLASH OF SPARKS as the bodies touch. Sobi grimaces in pain, grabs back at T'Jon. Another FLASH OF SPARKS, this time hurting T'Jon.

TASHA

(drawing her phaser)

Stop this! Now!

40 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as a free-for-all continues. Sobi and T'Jon grapple, and we HEAR SPARKING NOISES as their electrical fields try to cancel each other out. Romas tries to rush to T'Jon's aid; Langor grabs Romas's arm. More SPARKS. Riker touches a com panel:

RIKER

Security to Cargo Bay Eleven!

Tasha makes and adjustment on her phaser and fires. T'Jon and Sobi are SLIGHTLY stunned by the blast.

TASHA

Behave yourselves, Gentlemen.

They both "brush themselves off," shoot each other hostile looks, but the physical part of their dispute is, for the moment, resolved.

Security Personnel ENTER, phasers drawn.

TASHA

(re the aliens)

Escort our "visitors" to the Observation Lounge.

The visitors LEAVE.

TASHA

(eyeing the aliens)

A natural electrical charge... ?

RIKER

Formidable.

TASHA

Yes, and a difficult weapon to confiscate.

41 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Sobi and Langor are seated at one side of a table, glaring sullenly at T'Jon and Romas who are sitting opposite them. Two security personnel are standing a few feet away. T'Jon and Romas are changing -- they are becoming slightly more frantic; their condition will continue to deteriorate.

T'JON

We have to resolve this. There isn't much time.

SOBI

What can you offer?

T'JON

Everything we had went down with the Sanction.

SOBI

Then it is going to be difficult to accommodate you.

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Geordi, Data, Troi.

GEORDI

Solar flares are increasing in magnitude, sir. Deflectors are shaky, but holding.

PICARD

Maintain.

(to Riker)

And our rather combative guests, Number One?

RIKER

Waiting for you in the Observation Lounge, sir.

PICARD

Data, what can you tell me about the inhabitants of this system?

DATA

Not very much, sir. The only recorded contact with the Delos system was over two hundred years ago. A scout ship reported two inhabited planets, both technologically just on the edge of acquiring space travel.

GEORDI

Odd that in two centuries, neither civilization advanced further.

TROI

Sir, I find it strange that none of our visitors feel much remorse about the two freighter passengers who perished... yet their barrel of cargo is a source of great anxiety to them.

PICARD

Yes, let us pay a call and get some answers. Counselor, Number One, Mister Data...

Riker, Picard, Data, and Troi EXIT into the Observation Lounge.

43 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

As before. Riker, Picard, Troi, and Data ENTER. Riker performs introductions:

RIKER

Captain, may I present Sobi and Langor from the planet Brekka, which we are now orbiting. And T'Jon and Romas... from the neighboring planet, Ornara.

PICARD

I am sorry we could not save your ship.

T'JON

You could have repaired it.

PICARD

Yes.

T'JON

We have only two left. Neither works. They are critical to our survival. Could you fix them?

PICARD

Mister Data?

DATA

Our computer downloaded the specifications for the magnetic coils the freighters depend on, sir. Assuming the malfunction is similar... suitable replacements can be fabricated.

All the visitors are relieved. It's the first time they have had similar reactions to an event.

PICARD

(to Data)

Instruct Engineering to proceed.

DATA

Aye, sir.

T'JON

Now, as for our cargo...

SOBI

Our cargo, Captain.

ROMAS

Wrong, Sobi --

Picard jumps in to forestall the argument.

PICARD

My first officer has said ownership of the cargo is in dispute. This is a question which must be settled by whatever legal mechanisms exist between your societies.

T'JON

Captain Picard, you don't understand. This is a matter of life and death.

PICARD

Why is that? What is the cargo?

T'JON

Medicine.

PICARD

Indeed.

ROMAS

Our home planet is in desperate need, Captain. Ornara suffers from a lethal plague.

T'JON

The cargo you have impounded represents the only hope of life for our people.

Picard turns to Sobi and Langor.

PICARD

Is that right?

SOBI

Yes.

LANGOR

You must think us heartless brutes, Captain, but look at our side of it. The plant which yields the medicine Felicium grows only in remote areas of our home planet Brekka.

43 CONTINUED: (2)

SOBI

It must be painstakingly cultivated, harvested, and purified... a complex and expensive process.

LANGOR

That single shipment of Felicium represents an enormous investment. We can't just give it away!

T'JON

We paid for it.

(to Picard)

We are asking only for what is ours.

LANGOR

That is your viewpoint. Ours, of course, differs.

ROMAS

You are going to hold to that position.

Sobi spreads his hands helplessly.

SOBI

I am constrained to abide by the terms of our agreement.

ROMAS

(with quiet intensity)
Then you condemn us to death!

T'Jon tries to calm his companion:

T'JON

Romas --

ROMAS

(to Sobi and Langor)
You disgust me! If you saw the
suffering the plague has brought,
would you still be so heartless?

He makes a small gesture.

43 CONTINUED: (3)

ROMAS

(continuing)

We are going to get to find out, when you see what the plague does to us.

Picard is stunned.

PICARD

Romas -- you and T'Jon carry the disease?

ROMAS

(bitterly)

Yes. Every Ornaran does.

PICARD

Then you may have brought it aboard my ship!

(to Riker)

Was there a medical scan during transport?

RIKER

Unverified -- the solar flares may have caused a malfunction in the biofilters --

An alarmed Picard doesn't wait for the rest. He slaps a com panel.

PICARD

Red Alert! Medical emergency -decks twelve and thirteen. Doctor Crusher to the Observation Lounge immediately!

On the concerned expressions of our bridge crew, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

44 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The solar flares continue to dance around the ${\tt Enterprise.}$

45 INT. SICKBAY

With a security team guarding the doorway, Beverly scans the four visitors. The Brekkians, Sobi and Langor, seem perfectly healthy. They are relaxed and smiling.

SOBI

You find us well, I trust?

BEVERLY

As far as I can tell. Your physiology is somewhat different but I detect no dangerous virus or bacteria.

LANGOR

I assure you we are in perfect health.

Beverly moves over to examine the Ornarans. In contrast to the Brekkians, T'Jon and Romas look quite sickly -- they are both antsy and sweaty.

T'JON

(impatient)

We're not! We need our medicine.

SOBI

(correcting)

Our medicine.

T'JON

We paid for it -- it's ours now!

BEVERLY

Enough!

The visitors glare at each other.

SOBI

(smiling)

Of course you are right, Doctor. Could we leave now?

BEVERLY

I see no reason why not.
(to the security guard)
Escort them to their quarters.

Picard ENTERS. Beverly leaves her four "patients" and goes to her office. The visitors all look apprehensive. Each realizes that Captain Picard holds their future in his hands.

LANGOR

Captain, could I talk with you please... in private.

PICARD

Not right now.

And he FOLLOWS Beverly INTO her office.

45A INT. DR. CRUSHER'S OFFICE

Picard ENTERS and closes the door behind him.

PICARD

What have you learned?

BEVERLY

The Brekkians are free of infection. The Ornarans have all the symptoms of a disease -- but I can't find a cause.

PICARD

Perhaps the transporter filtered it out when they were beamed aboard?

BEVERLY

(shaking her head)
There's no record of it. Then
again, the solar flare activity
may have caused a transporter
malfunction.

PICARD

Are they going to die?

BEVERLY

The physiology is somewhat different from ours, so I need to check further, but... my instinct says no.

PICARD

Do you think we are in danger from this plague?

BEVERLY

Again, I don't think so, but I need more time to know for sure.

PICARD

There are some missing pieces to the puzzle, don't you feel that too?

BEVERLY

What's missing here is a little humanity.

Picard gives her a little look of surprise.

PICARD

(lightly)

Are we losing our professional detachment, Doctor?

BEVERLY

Perhaps. As Captain, I think you should know that I am developing a very active dislike of the Brekkians.

PICARD

Understandable.

Hold on Beverly as Picard EXITS.

45B INT. SICKBAY

Picard STEPS OVER TO the aliens. T'Jon is very nervous and anxious.

T'JON

Captain, you must give us back our cargo.

PICARD

I can't do that.

T'JON

Why not? It belongs to us.

PICARD

And the Brekkians insist it is theirs.

ROMAS

They lie!

PICARD

Maybe so, but it's not for me to decide.

ROMAS

(losing his composure)
We need some now... NOW! I don't care if it's your 'decision' or not... get us some!

T'JON silences Romas with a gesture; T'Jon attempts to speak calmly.

T'JON

Captain, what's happening to us, is happening to thousands more on Ornara. Please understand the magnitude of the problem.

ROMAS

(angry)

Your people don't need it -(indicating the
Brekkians)

-- they don't need it... our people do!

T'JON

If you don't give it to us, you will be party to murder... not only us, but an entire civilization!

Instantly, T'Jon realizes he's gone too far:

T'JON

(continuing)

Sorry, I did not mean to insult you. I'm feeling very shaky.

ROMAS

We cannot hold out much longer!

45B CONTINUED: (2)

Picard looks to Beverly.

BEVERLY

No, Captain -- I think they should have it. They believe it will help them. That in itself might control their symptoms.

Picard turns back to the Ornarans.

PICARD

I'll talk with the Brekkians.

T'JON

Thank you, Captain. I appreciate anything you can do.

Picard nods and EXITS.

INT. BREKKIAN'S GUEST QUARTERS 46

> Sobi and Langor are relaxing in their quarters. They have adapted quickly to the creature comforts the Enterprise has to offer. Picard ENTERS.

> > SOBI

May I say, Captain, how impressed we are with your ship and its facilities.

PICARD

Thank you.

LANGOR

And its crew. Everyone is so efficient and professional.

PICARD

I am glad you are comfortable. I've come to seek your agreement to an Ornaran request.

SOBI

We cannot --

LANGOR

(interrupting)

Wait. Let the Captain speak. We want to be reasonable.

Langor's control of the situation does not go unnoticed by Picard.

PICARD

The Ornarans are quite ill and are insistent that they need Felicium.

SOBI

That is not surprising.

PICARD

Then would you object to allowing them enough Felicium for their immediate needs?

SOBI

Captain, we Brekkians are in business -- we are not in the habit of giving away what has not been paid for.

PICARD

You would let them die rather than share the medicine?

Sobi and Langor exchange a look.

LANGOR

We want to be fair, Captain. We agree to permitting them two dosages for immediate use.

SOBI

(magnanimous)

No charge.

PICARD

I'll have our medical officer handle it.

LANGOR

I trust you won't mind if we are present while you open the cargo, Captain.

The Captain gestures politely to come along.

47 INT. CARGO BAY

Picard, Beverly, Data, Sobi, Langor, two science officers, and a security team are gathered around the barrel of Felicium. Using a strange set of contraptions, a minuscule amount of Felicium is extracted from the barrel.

LANGOR

Point-zero-one milliliters is the proper individual dosage.

PICARD

(impressed)

A very potent substance.

SOBI

We've perfected our distillation process over the years. In my grandfather's day, the same amount of Felicium would have filled five rooms this size, Captain.

DATA

No doubt you have applied your technology from other industries to the refinement of this product.

SOBI

We have no other industry.

PICARD

None at all?

LANGOR

We don't need any. The Ornarans provide us everything we need -- in exchange for this.

DATA

Fascinating. Your society dedicated exclusively to the production of a single product.

PICARD

A product for which you have no use for, but which the Ornarans can't live without.

LANGOR

One of the little ironies of life, Captain.

SOBI

But one we'd be fools not to take advantage of. It is mutually beneficial.

LANGOR

The Ornarans provide us with the necessities of life and we provide them with the necessities of living. It is a fair exchange.

PICARD

(interrupting)

A most interesting relationship.

BEVERLY

Excuse me... I'll take this to Sickbay.

48 INT. SICKBAY

T'Jon and Romas prepare to dose themselves as Beverly watches. Each person on Ornara has a device for administering the drug. It's a small cylinder which converts the Felicium into something which is then injected into the fat part of the hand just below the thumb.

BEVERLY

Can I help?

T'Jon

No.

ROMAS

(to his friend)

Hurry up!

T'Jon takes the dosage devise (NOTE: it should not look like something currently used by doctors or dopers) and presses it against Romas hand. Romas immediately REACTS. He relaxes -- the tension leaves him -- then slowly he smiles.

T'Jon doses himself. Instantly, his former edginess vanishes; a wave of calm comes over him.

BEVERLY

You are feeling better?

T'JON

Yes. Thank you. I'm fine now.

T'Jon and Romas are totally blissed out. We HOLD on Beverly's look of concern.

49 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The turbolift doors OPEN and Beverly ENTERS.

PICARD

Report, Doctor Crusher.

BEVERLY

I may not know Felicium's full effect on Ornaran physiology. But I know how to interpret physical reactions.

PICARD

Are the Ornarans recovering?

BEVERLY

Both T'Jon and Romas are fine... in fact, too fine.

(a beat)

Felicium is a narcotic.

PICARD

Then T'Jon, Romas -- indeed every Ornaran --

BEVERLY

-- is a drug addict.

ON the Captain's expression of concern, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

50 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit around Brekka as before.

51 thru OMITTED 52

53 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Data is seated working at a computer screen. Picard ENTERS, immediately FOLLOWED BY Riker and Troi.

RIKER

It's a fascinating little tale
we've run into of disease -- rescue
-- commerce -- and interdependence
between two worlds.

PICARD

You have piqued my interest, Number One -- please continue.

RIKER

Mister Data.

DATA

Beginning several thousand years ago, the two worlds took different paths. Ornara became technically sophisticated, Brekka did not. Then two hundred years ago Ornara was stricken by a devastating plague.

RIKER

Their advanced technology could offer no solution.

DATA

Somehow, and there is limited information on this point, the cure was found in a plant which is indigenous to only Brekka, and which resisted all attempts at cultivation on Ornara.

RIKER

In any case a trading situation quickly developed, which still exists.

DATA

The Ornarans acquire the Felicium from the Brekkians, and in exchange, the Ornarans provide the Brekkians with foods and staples.

BEVERLY (O.S.)

A nice arrangement for the Brekkians.

RIKER

And for the Ornarans -- without the medicine they would all die.

Beverly JOINS the others. She has her diagnostic device in her hand.

BEVERLY

No they wouldn't. Captain, here are the results of my analysis. Felicium is definitely a powerful and addictive narcotic. What's more, despite what the Ornarans have been saying, it's not a medicine. It was a medicine, and it did cure the plague, two hundred years ago.

PICARD

And they no longer need it.

BEVERLY

The plague is irrelevant now: it doesn't exist... and it's not going to recur.

Off their REACTIONS.

PICARD

The Ornarans have no medical need for Felicium.

BEVERLY

No, but their physical and psychological need is very real.

CONTINUED: (2) 53

There is a long pause. Everyone slowly looks toward Picard, and for a beat, Picard is pensive.

BEVERLY

What are you going to do?

PICARD

Based on what we know so far... there is nothing I can do.

BEVERLY

And you don't think drug addiction and exploitation is sufficient cause?

PICARD

This situation has existed for a very long time. Those two societies are intertwined in a symbiotic relationship.

BEVERLY

With one society profiting at the expense of the other.

PICARD

That's how you see it.

BEVERLY

I can synthesize a non-addictive substitute which will ease their withdrawal symptoms.

PICARD

No. We can't do that either.

BEVERLY

I know this. You can't let them have the Felicium.

PICARD

Why? Because it goes against our moral sensibilities? Our mission is not to force Federation or Earth values on others in the galaxy.

53 CONTINUED: (3)

BEVERLY

In this case... you're wrong, Captain. One hundred percent wrong.

TASHA'S COM VOICE Captain, I am receiving a call from Ornara.

PICARD

Patch it in here.

TASHA'S COM VOICE
The signal's ragged, but I think
I can put it on the Viewscreen.

Picard turns the viewscreen so the others in the room can see. The SCREEN LIGHTS UP with a less than perfect picture of MARGAN.

MARGAN

I am Margan. Are my people on board your ship?

PICARD

Some of them, yes.

MARGAN

May I speak with them?

PICARD

Yes.

(touching his com panel)
Lieutenant Yar, have the Ornarans
brought in... no, wait, I don't
want them to have access to the
bridge.

(then, to Margan)

We will contact you in a few minutes.

(then to Yar)

I will take this in the guest quarters.

Picard EXITS.

53A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Data joins Wesley at the Aft Science Stations.

WESLEY

(amazed)

I can understand how this could happen to the Ornarans... What I can't understand is why anyone would voluntarily become dependent upon a chemical.

DATA

(checking readouts)

Yet, the voluntary addiction to drugs is a recurrent theme in many cultures.

WESLEY

(nods)

As in the twenty-first century... when Earth governments used narcotics to control the military.

DATA

Or look at the twentieth century. The dangers of drug abuse were well known, yet their use was commonplace.

WESLEY

Why?

DATA

That is what I do not understand.

Tasha overhears, STEPS UP.

TASHA

No one wants to become dependent. That happens later.

WESLEY

But it does happen. So why do people even start?

TASHA

Oh, lots of reasons... My home planet was a place of great poverty and violence. For some, the only escape was through drugs.

DATA

I fail to comprehend how a chemical substance can provide an escape.

53A CONTINUED: (2)

TASHA

It doesn't. But it makes you think it does.

(a beat)

You have to understand -- drugs can make you feel good.

Wesley and Data listen intently.

TASHA

(continuing)

They put you on top of the world. You're happy... Sure of yourself. In control. A lot of people never feel that otherwise.

DATA

But it is artificial.

TASHA

It doesn't feel artificial. It feels natural, good, and mind expanding.

(a beat)

Until the drug wears off. Then you pay the price. Once you come down, you're lower than when you started. So you take the drug again -- and it kicks you back up. But not as high this time.

WESLEY

(catching on)

So you take more.

TASHA

But each peak gets lower and the valleys get deeper. Before you know it -- you're taking the drug not to feel good but to keep from feeling bad.

WESLEY

And that's the trap.

TASHA

You think the drug expands your universe -- but it actually shrinks it. Shrinks it to where you and the drug are all that's left.

(MORE)

53A CONTINUED: (3)

TASHA (Cont'd)

(a beat)

Pretty soon, all you care about is getting your next dosage. You'll lie, cheat, steal -anything to get that fix.

DATA

Certainly by then you would realize the danger.

TASHA

That's the worst of it. You don't care. The drug is your salvation -- your survival. Nothing else is important.

Wesley thinks it over and, after a beat, shakes his head.

WESLEY

I guess I just don't understand.

Tasha smiles and puts a hand on his shoulder.

TASHA

Wesley, I hope you never do.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Lieutenant Yar, we are ready in the guest quarters.

54 thru OMITTED

56

56A INT. GUEST QUARTERS (OPTICAL)

Picard, Beverly and Riker are there with the Ornarans. The TRANSMISSION FADES IN AND OUT.

MARGAN

T'Jon. Have you got it?

T'JON

Well, it's here, but...

MARGAN

You've got to get it to us. T'Jon... please... We're dying here. You don't know... this is the worst it's ever been.

T'Jon is visibly moved by what he is hearing.

T'JON

I'm doing everything I can. See... what happened was...

56B REACTIONS

From Picard and T'Jon.

MARGAN

(cuts him off)

Stop. I can't listen. T'Jon... we need the medicine. So, many people... so much suffering. You've got to get it to us. I can't... I can't go on. Help, T'Jon... please.

The SCREEN SHUTS OFF. For a beat everyone is quiet. The strain on T'Jon is very evident. The pressure is enormous.

PICARD

I'm sorry.

T'Jon then turns and puts a death grip on the person nearest to him. Commander Riker.

T'JON

Take us to our planet - leave us there with our medicine or this person dies.

Picard takes a STEP FORWARD, then STOPS.

T'JON

(continuing)

Don't you see -- I have no choice. We were sent to bring back the Felicium. The suffering on my planet is too great. People are dying. It doesn't matter any more whether we are entitled to the Felicium... we have to have it.

PICARD

Let him go.

T'JON

Take us there now -- or give us a shuttle -- but we must have the medicine... if you refuse, this person dies.

PICARD

I will not be coerced.

T'JON

I'll do it. I'll kill him.

The strain of the pressure is all over T'Jon.

PICARD

(calmly)

No you won't. You're not a killer and neither am I.

T'Jon releases Riker, who sags a little, then catches his balance.

T'JON

Help us... please... help us.

PICARD

I'm not sure that I can.

There is anguish on Beverly's face from those words.

57

thru OMITTED

58

59 CLOSE SHOT ON PICARD

His face is serious, intent, introspective.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

60

thru OMITTED

62

62A INT. ORNARAN GUEST QUARTERS

As they all stand and consider what to do. Langor APPEARS AT THE DOOR.

LANGOR

Captain Picard, we couldn't help overhearing. Could I see you for a moment?

Picard is almost relieved by the distraction.

PICARD

Come with me, Doctor. This could be interesting.

63 INT. BREKKIAN GUEST QUARTERS

Picard and Beverly are there with Langor and Sobi.

LANGOR

We have thought about this a great deal.

SOBI

Both of us feel deeply about what is happening on Ornara.

LANGOR

Although this is going to cause hardship to us and to our people, we have decided to give the Felicium to them.

A slow smile plays at the corners of Picard's mouth. Beverly's expression is harsh.

SOBI

They can pay for it when they are able.

LANGOR

We don't want to cause any suffering.

For a beat Picard doesn't answer. Both Beverly and Picard make the connection at the same time.

PICARD

(to Beverly)

I wonder why I expected this.

LANGOR

Pardon?

PICARD

It's the other shoe.

BEVERLY

(to Langor)

The Ornarans are not aware, are they?

LANGOR

Of what?

BEVERLY

That the plague which nearly destroyed Ornara... infected your world as well.

LANGOR

You don't know that for sure.

BEVERLY

It had to.

PICARD

But somehow, one of your ancestors realized that your desire for the drug continued after the disease had been cured. They made the connection and were able to end their addiction.

BEVERLY

(scornful)

But these same wonderful people also realized that their neighbors never found out. Their need for the drug grew to the point it is now. Your sole source of support comes from providing the narcotic.

63 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

And the refinement process of which you are so proud was a way to make Felicium even more addicting... and tighten your grip on the Ornarans even further.

LANGOR

Are you going to tell them?

PICARD

No. I can't tell them. You see, I am bound by the rules of the United Federation of Planets, which say I am not to interfere in other worlds, other cultures. To tell them any of this would be interfering and would violate the Prime Directive.

SOBI

(suspicious)

You're talking to us about it...

PICARD

Telling you things you already know... which changes nothing.

BEVERLY

Jean-Luc. I can synthesize something which will alleviate their suffering and make withdrawal painless.

LANGOR

That won't be necessary, because if I understand the captain, he is going to allow the Ornarans to have the Felicium.

PICARD

Yes, I am.

BEVERLY

You can't do that. Some things go beyond words on a page. These Brekkians have knowingly enslaved others. They have caused untold suffering and hardship, just so their pitiful lives could be easier. At least don't give the Ornarans more drugs.

63 CONTINUED: (3)

PICARD

It is not for me to make any of these decisions.

LANGOR

You are absolutely right, Captain.

Sobi and Langor are smug.

64

thru OMITTED

67

67A INT. CARGO HOLD

Sobi, Langor, T'Jon, Romas, Beverly, and Picard are present. The barrel of Felicium is the centerpiece for this gathering, along with the parts which have been fabricated for the Ornaran freighters.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE

Captain, we've arrived at Ornara and assumed standard orbit.

PICARD

(to intercom)

Acknowledged. Thank you.

Picard CROSSES to stand in front of the four aliens.

PICARD

(continuing)

Forgive me for doing what I must.

(to T'Jon and Romas)

I'm beaming you down to your world... with your Felicium.

T'Jon and Romas are delighted.

Good. I knew it would work out this way.

ROMAS

You've made the only humanitarian decision, Captain.

Picard nods joylessly.

SOBI

(to T'Jon)

Langor and I will beam down to Ornara with you.

LANGOR

We'll work out payment terms for the Felicium.

T'JON

On behalf of my people, I extend thanks for your benevolent attitude.

Sobi and Langor smile proudly. Beverly is fuming at the hypocrisy, but keeps it hidden.

T'JON

(continuing)

And I also thank you, Captain, for doing the right thing.

Romas indicates the coils.

ROMAS

Your gift of these coils will ensure that our freighters will continue to work.

PICARD

(firmly)

No.

T'JON

(confused)

No.

PICARD

I will not supply you with spare parts for your freighters. If you want them repaired, you'll have to do that yourself.

The four aliens are stunned.

ROMAS

In a short time our freighters will be inoperable.

PICARD

Quite possibly.

67A CONTINUED: (2)

T'JON

But we depend on those freighters! We must have those parts.

SOBI

If you withhold those coils, you're disrupting the stability of both our planets --

LANGOR

-- and interfering with a trade arrangement that has lasted for generations! What of this Prime Directive of yours?

PICARD

Nothing in the Prime Directive compels me to help you.

ROMAS

You're an executioner, Captain. You want our world to perish.

PICARD

No. That's not what I want.

T'JON

But without our freighters, there will be no more shipments of Felicium! We will die!

Picard doesn't respond. Beverly is empathetic:

BEVERLY

You must trust in yourselves. There are... other options.

PICARD

And you must understand that my oath as a Starfleet officer gives me no choice in the matter.

The four aliens stare at him, unable to comprehend how Picard can do this to them. Picard touches a com panel.

PICARD

(continuing)

Transporter Room. Lock onto our guests and their cargo and beam them down to Ornara.

67A CONTINUED: (3)

T'JON

(stiffly)

Captain, I hope you realize what you've done to us.

PICARD

Of that, you can be sure.

(a beat)

Good luck.

68 OMITTED

68A NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as the four aliens and the cargo DEMATERIALIZE, leaving Picard and Beverly alone in the cargo bay. Without a word, Picard turns and EXITS. Beverly FOLLOWS.

68B INT. TURBOLIFT

as Picard ENTERS. Before the doors close, Beverly also ENTERS. A long beat, then:

BEVERLY

When the Felicium runs out, the people of Ornara will suffer horrible withdrawal pains.

PICARD

No doubt.

BEVERLY

We could have made their burden easier.

PICARD

Only in the short run. Painful as it will be, the people of Ornara -- and the people of Brekka -- must shape their own destinies.

BEVERLY

It sounds so... heartless.

PICARD

Doctor, it was not an easy decision.

BEVERLY

I just hope it was the right one.

68C INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Manned as before. The turbolift doors OPEN; Picard and Beverly STEP OUT ONTO the bridge. Picard takes his chair:

PICARD

Mister La Forge, take us out of orbit.

GEORDI

Aye, sir. Course laid in.

PICARD

Engage.

69 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it leaves orbit.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE THE END