

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Too Short A Season"
#40271-112

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REV. FINAL DRAFT

OCTOBER 6, 1987

STAR TREK: "Too Short... " - 10/6/87 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Too Short A Season"

CAST

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| PICARD | ADMIRAL MARK JAMESON |
| RIKER | ANNE JAMESON |
| DATA | JAMESON (BOY) |
| TROI | KARNAS |
| BEVERLY | BEVERLY |
| TASHA | TASHA |
| GEORDI | Non-Speaking Roles: |
| WORF | TRANSPORTER CHIEF |
| | MORDANITE SOLDIERS |
| | OLD MORDANITE VETERANS |
| | ENTERPRISE CREW MEMBERS |

STAR TREK: "Too Short... " - 10/6/87 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Too Short A Season"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
MAIN BRIDGE
TRANSPORTER ROOM
SICKBAY
CONFERENCE LOUNGE
PICARD'S READY ROOM
JAMESON QUARTERS
CRUSHER'S OFFICE
OBSERVATION LOUNGE

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
IN SPACE
ORBITING PERSEPHONE V
ORBITING MORDAN IV

MORDAN

TUNNEL #1
TUNNEL #2
TUNNEL #3
KARNAS' OFFICE

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Too Short A Season"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT (OPTICAL)

The great ship circles a reddish planet. Behind both is the backdrop of a sparkling splash of stars against black space.

PICARD (V. O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41309.5.
We are in orbit around Persephone
V where I have been sent to confer
with Admiral Mark Jameson in
regard to an extraordinary
situation....

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON PICARD

All other bridge personnel are in place at their usual stations.

PICARD

Starfleet received this subspace
transmission two days ago,
Admiral.

3 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

REVEALING CLOSE UP OF ADMIRAL MARK JAMESON. The
Admiral is a man of eighty, still crusty and alert,
still a Starfleet warhorse. Jameson nods briskly as:

JAMESON

Let's see it, Captain.

4 ANGLE TOWARD COMMAND AREA

PICARD

On screen and relay to the
admiral, Mister Data.

Data taps his console quickly and:

5 CLOSE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The Screen FLASHES UP a sharp color picture of KARNAS in his OFFICE. There is a desk, several chairs. The wall behind the desk is barren, save for a set of three weapons mounted on it. Two of the weapons are phaser-like, but of old design and of different sizes. One of the weapons is a short pole about two inches in diameter with a wicked-looking blade on either end. Karnas sits at the desk, facing INTO CAMERA. He is in his sixties, with a formal, military bearing, a man with a good many worry lines marking his face, a man without many smiles.

KARNAS

I am Karnas, governor of Mordan IV. A dissident terrorist group has taken Federation Ambassador Hawkins and his staff hostage. They will not discuss terms with me. This is a crisis I cannot resolve without assistance. The terrorists are demanding a Federation negotiator.

6 CLOSE TWO - PICARD AND RIKER

studying the screen as Karnas speaks.

7 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

KARNAS

I feel there is only one negotiator with the skills and understanding to resolve this situation. The hostages' lives will depend on Starfleet delivering this man to Mordan. Commander Mark Jameson.

(corrects himself)

Admiral Jameson. The terrorists have given you six Earth days to arrive here -- or the hostages will die. Please...hurry.

Abruptly, the Screen goes BLANK. A star b.g. appears. It, in turn, is replaced by the IMAGE OF JAMESON.

8 ANGLE ON PICARD

PICARD

Starfleet doesn't understand how
or why this situation developed.
Mordan IV has finally gained peace
after decades of civil war --

9 INTERCUT JAMESON ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN WITH PICARD AS
NEEDED (OPTICAL)

JAMESON

Forty years of civil war, Captain.

PICARD

Yes, sir. Karnas was largely
responsible for the planet's
unification and peace. Why
should he suddenly be unable to
deal with rebellious factions?

Jameson leans back in his chair, looking inward.

JAMESON

Forty-five years ago I negotiated
a hostage situation on Mordan.
Karnas was a young man then....
(light chuckle)
... but so was I. He seems to feel
I can handle the situation again.
Obviously Starfleet feels that
way too, or you wouldn't be here.

PICARD

(nods)

I'm detailed to take you to Mordan
IV as soon as you can be ready,
Admiral.

10 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

JAMESON

My wife and I will beam aboard
at 1500 hours, Captain. Be
prepared to depart this starbase
and proceed immediately to Mordan
IV. Acknowledge.

11 ANGLE ON COMMAND AREA

PICARD

Received and acknowledged, sir.
Picard out.

TROI

Nearly 1500 now, sir.

PICARD

(rising)

Well, Number One. Why don't we
go and welcome the admiral aboard?

12 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - ANGLE ON TRANSPORTER CHIEF,
PICARD AND RIKER

Picard and Riker ENTER, glancing toward the platform.

RIKER

Admiral Jameson, sir. Have you
met him before?

PICARD

Your hero, Number One?

RIKER

Not only mine. My father served
on the Falcon with him. I grew
up on stories about Mark Jameson.

PICARD

(nods)

I've heard all the legends about
him, too. Not only the Falcon's
missions and the Mordan rescue,
but the Gettysburg's explorations,
his command of the old Pegasus
in the Klingon conflicts....

13 ANGLE AT TRANSPORTER

Two Figures are BEGINNING TO MATERIALIZE on the pads.
As the TRANSPORTER EFFECT AND SOUND DIE DOWN Jameson
and his wife, ANNE, FULLY MATERIALIZED. Jameson appears
as he did on the Main Viewscreen -- except WE NOW SEE
he has been confined to a "physical support chair,"
which greatly inhibits the physical movements of his
lower body. The chair is enclosed around his hips and
legs, hiding them from our view.

13 CONTINUED:

Anne Jameson is seventy, slim, one of those especially graced women whose face still shows the looks that made her a beautiful young woman. Picard and Riker exchange a quick glance; the admiral's physical condition is a surprise. Then they move forward as:

PICARD

Welcome aboard, Admiral.
(indicating Riker)
My executive officer, Commander
William Riker.

RIKER

My pleasure, sir.
(a nod to Anne)
Ma'am.

JAMESON

My wife, Anne.

Anne smiles graciously at Picard and Riker.

JAMESON

Captain, there are certain details
of this mission that you should
understand before we begin.

PICARD

Is this the place to be discussing
them, sir?

JAMESON

Why not? You and your first
officer are both here.

PICARD

Yes, sir.

JAMESON

Captain, I am not simply an
advisor. On any assignment I
accompany, Starfleet has
designated me Senior Mission
Officer. I control the Away Team
and all its actions. Is that
understood?

Picard and Riker exchange a surprised look.

14 CLOSE ON JAMESON

He seems quite pleased with himself -- but also concerned for Picard's feelings.

JAMESON

Of course, Captain, you will command the ship -- but the mission is mine. I trust you are in complete agreement.

15 ON PICARD AND RIKER

nonplussed -- but what can Picard do? He puts the best face on it he can and manages another smile.

PICARD

Yes, sir. Of course.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

16 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

underway at warp speed, flashing by on her urgent mission.

17 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE TOWARD GEORDI AND DATA

Geordi sees something on his console, turns in his chair toward Picard.

GEORDI

Response to our message coming in from Mordan, sir.

PICARD

Put it on the screen, Mister Data.

Data nods and tabs the panel quickly.

18 ANGLE ON COMMAND AREA

Picard, Riker and Troi are in their usual positions, with Jameson installed in his support chair on Riker's right. They all respond with interest as:

KARNAS (V.O.)

(filtered)

Mordan IV to Enterprise. This is Karnas. I will speak to the captain.

PICARD

I am Captain Picard, in command of the Enterprise.

19 ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

(KARNAS'S OFFICE) Karnas is seen seated behind his desk.

KARNAS

(abrupt, curt)

Is Admiral Jameson on board?

20 ANGLE AT COMMAND AREA

The others glance over at Jameson, who sits up straighter in his chair.

PICARD

(nods toward Jameson)

He is here, beside my first officer. Do you wish to speak to him now?

21 ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

Karnas nods and squints INTO CAMERA as:

KARNAS

So, Jameson.

(squints again)

I see time has not been kind.

22 WIDER - INCLUDING TROI AND JAMESON

JAMESON

It seldom is, Karnas. However, we could save a good deal of it now if you'll outline the terrorists' demands....

Troi is shifting her attention between Jameson and Karnas (on the screen), taking in the speech and body nuances of both men.

22A ANGLE ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

KARNAS

They insist all discussions will take place here... on Mordan. They refuse to speak to me -- only to you.

JAMESON (V.O.)

They could relay their terms on your communications channels....

22A CONTINUED:

KARNAS

(shakes head)

They insist on speaking face to face when you arrive. They say they will brook no excuses. If there are any offered, your ambassador and his people will die. Unpleasantly. I believe them -- and so should you, Admiral.

JAMESON

(pause, then:)

Tell them I accept the conditions of negotiation.

KARNAS

I will do so immediately. Karnas out.

The IMAGE CUTS OUT, and is replaced by WARP STARS.

24 ANGLE TOWARD COMMAND AREA - EMPHASIZING PICARD AND JAMESON

Jameson navigates his chair a little forward as:

RIKER

For a man in his position, Karnas doesn't seem to know much about the situation.

JAMESON

Wrong, Number One. He told me the terrorists are desperate enough to kill if they're crossed. They're willing to talk one on one, but not to him.

PICARD

(to Troi)

Counselor?

TROI

From his body language as well as his words and tone... I'd judge that what Karnas said was honest, but I sensed a holding back.

24 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Perhaps he knows more about the terrorists than he is willing to admit.

JAMESON

Possible, but I suspect it's closer to the mark if we said he doesn't want to admit failure of his own efforts to negotiate. He is a proud man.

TROI

That could be, sir. Karnas has established himself as a powerful man on Mordan. Suddenly -- in this situation -- his power is useless.

Interrupted by:

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

Sickbay to bridge. I am ready for Admiral Jameson now.

PICARD

He is on his way, Doctor.

JAMESON

On my way to what, Captain?

PICARD

Just a routine medical checkup. Ship's regulations.

25 CLOSE ON JAMESON

His expression flickers just slightly, but he nods toward Picard, acquiescing.

26 ANGLE ON TROI

watching Jameson. She frowns as she senses something behind Jameson's apparent agreement.

27 INT. SICKBAY - CLOSE ON BEVERLY

BEVERLY

Pardon me, sir, but refusing a simple medical check --

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO INCLUDE JAMESON.

JAMESON

I'm sorry, Doctor, but it isn't necessary.

(hands her a tiny disk)

The chief medical officer on Starbase 45 ran a complete battery of tests on me two days ago. Semi-annual exam. You'll find I've been a victim of Iverson's Disease for five years. My "case," as you doctors like to call it, is now chronic. In another year, it will undoubtedly progress to terminal.

BEVERLY

I'm sorry --

JAMESON

No need. I do not accept the prognosis, Doctor. But right now, I don't have time to waste, and there's no point in you wasting your time either.

(indicates disk)

There's your information.

Beverly considers only briefly. Commanders don't win arguments with admirals.

BEVERLY

Thank you, Admiral. I'll look them over.

28 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

traveling at warp speed, as before.

29 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - WIDE SHOT

Gathered around the desk are Picard, Riker, Data, Troi and Jameson.

29 CONTINUED:

RIKER

What I don't understand, sir, is how Karnas knew you were still... available.

JAMESON

Still alive, you mean.

RIKER

(unembarrassed)

So far as Karnas knew, you might have been dead, sir.

JAMESON

Quite right, Commander. But I'm not, and I imagine Ambassador Hawkins told him that. I briefed the ambassador about Mordan before he left to take up residence.

PICARD

All right. Karnas has a problem he feels you can handle. What can the terrorists want that Karnas can't or won't give them?

DATA

Mordan has had peace for five years. They have finally come to a state of productivity that satisfies their planetary needs, but no more than that. Perhaps the dissidents feel the Federation can provide more -- technology, science, agricultural assistance....

JAMESON

I've negotiated many a treaty on many planets, Picard. I've found that peace -- or the appearance of it -- is often a prelude to war.

TROI

Admiral are you suggesting the terrorists want arms and weapons?

29 CONTINUED: (2)

JAMESON

They may. I am suggesting Karnas is the last man to give them such weapons.

PICARD

Karnas worked and fought for years to achieve peace.

JAMESON

And he's not likely to throw it away... even for the lives of the hostages.

TROI

I see. You believe Karnas won't negotiate on that point, so the terrorists demanded an outside negotiator.

JAMESON

I know Karnas. He is a warrior... he lives for challenge. These people have insulted his honor by taking the embassy staff hostage. I'll negotiate -- but I'll have to be very careful in handling Karnas. He'll want revenge for that insult.

He looks around at them challengingly, daring them to debate it. No one cares to argue with the expert, but Troi still studies Jameson with particular interest.

30 INT. JAMESON QUARTERS - ANNE AND JAMESON

Anne is straightening out the final details of their quarters, putting away clothing items, etc. As Jameson ROLLS IN, seated in the support chair:

ANNE

(mildly teasing)

... You're late. Couldn't get away from the bridge?

JAMESON

Didn't want to. It feels good to be on one again.

30 CONTINUED:

ANNE
(going to him)
I'm glad, Mark.
(touches chair)
Do you want me to help you up?

Jameson waves her off, opens the front of the chair, and lifts himself out of it into a regular chair. Anne stares at him, somewhat surprised.

ANNE
You're stronger today...

JAMESON
I'm fine. Feel like a kid again.

Anne touches his face gently, smiling at him. Sure -- there are the good days. She pecks him on the cheek, turns away to put away some final item.

ANNE
This ship is magnificent. Pity we didn't have them twenty, thirty years ago. We could have been together almost all of your career.

31 CLOSE ON JAMESON

as her voice comes OVER, we see he is beginning to feel pain... gradually at first, and then getting worse... and worse.

ANNE (V.O.)
It's so good to be able to be with you now.

32 TWO SHOT

A GASP from Jameson as he can no longer contain the pain. Anne swings around sharply, hurries to him.

ANNE
Mark! I'll call Sickbay --

His hand shoots out and traps her wrist, nailing her in place.

32 CONTINUED:

JAMESON

No! There's no need. It's happened before --

ANNE

When? You haven't said anything --

JAMESON

It'll pass... give me a moment....

She watches him, concerned, caring. And the pain does die away from his face, loosening its grip. His hand on her arm loosens, too; and she absently rubs her wrist where his fingers dug in and left deep red marks. She's more worried about him than herself.

JAMESON

(continuing)

See... I'm better. It's going away.

ANNE

What is it? Do the doctors know?

JAMESON

Just body changes... My last checkup, they said I'd have to expect it.

He notices she is still rubbing her arm, and he reaches out to touch her gently.

ANNE

You're sure? Don't lie to me.

JAMESON

I'm sure.

He holds out his arms, and she bends into his embrace. They hold each other very tightly -- old lovers still in love.

33 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - TWO SHOT - BEVERLY AND PICARD

BEVERLY

... All the medical information the admiral provided is satisfactory, sir....

33 CONTINUED:

PICARD
(it's routine)
Excellent, Doctor --

BEVERLY
(overriding)
Except for one thing.

Picard gives her an inquiring look and waits for it.

BEVERLY
(continuing)
The test results he gave me aren't
two days old, they're two months
old. The medical file coder
always includes the date as part
of the file number. He lied to
me, sir -- and I don't know why.

PICARD
He is eighty years old, Doctor.
For some, the memory begins to
fail....

BEVERLY
He suffers from Iverson's Disease,
sir. It affects the body -- not
the mind. I just have a gut
feeling he's hiding something.

PICARD
I'd expect that observation from
Counselor Troi, but --
(on her sharp look)
I respect your opinion, Doctor.
And I'll want you on the bridge
for the next day or so. The
admiral has to remain in the best
of health for these negotiations.
He might require your services.

The level look he exchanges with her tells her a lot.
Picard respects her judgment -- and he's uneasy about
the situation. She nods to him, she'll go with it.

34 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The great ship travels by at warp speed.

34 CONTINUED:

PICARD (V.O.)

Captain's personal log... I am puzzled and somewhat concerned by the dating error Admiral Jameson made on his medical records.

35 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON COMMAND AREA

All regulars at their stations, Jameson in the support chair surveying information at Science Station 2, near Worf. Beverly is seated on the guest bench near Troi.

PICARD

(rises, turns to Jameson)

Admiral, we're approaching the Idini Star Cluster. Would you like to take the Conn as we make transit?

36 ANGLE ON JAMESON

He turns slightly in the chair and smiles at Picard.

JAMESON

Thank you, Captain. I would.

And then he swings away the enclosing front section of the support chair, rises and walks toward the ramp.

37 INTERCUT REACTIONS - ALL KEY BRIDGE PERSONNEL

staring at Jameson as he moves a little unsteadily but entirely on his own down the ramp. Halfway down, he stumbles slightly, and Riker reaches out a hand to him. Jameson waves him away, regains his balance and MOVES ACROSS to Picard.

38 ANGLE ON BEVERLY

She is frowning deeply, not liking what she sees.

39 AT THE COMMAND CHAIR

Picard reins in his surprise, quickly collects himself. Jameson is grinning, pleased with his feat.

39 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Well, Admiral. Quite a little surprise you've pulled on us.

BEVERLY

Yes. Quite.

Jameson shoots a look at Beverly, nods to her.

JAMESON

Neglected to mention... I began some new therapy before I left. Seems to be working. I haven't felt this good since the last time I was in space. The Gettysburg. All I needed to get me out of that chair was the thought of walking the decks in command of a starship again.

Beverly stares at him, impassive -- and not buying it.

PICARD

Admiral... you only have the Conn temporarily.

JAMESON

(laughs lightly)

Figure of speech. Of course she's your ship.

(takes the chair)

I'll just keep an eye on her for a while.

As he continues to smile genially at Picard:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

40 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

traveling at warp speed.

41 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - PICARD, BEVERLY

Picard has led the doctor into the room; Beverly is still disturbed by what has happened. As the door closes behind them, Picard turns to face her.

PICARD

The admiral displayed a remarkable improvement out there, wouldn't you say?

BEVERLY

Captain, no one recovers from Iverson's Disease. There is no known cure, and there are no cases where it has gone into remission. I haven't heard of any new therapy that would have results like this.

PICARD

Then how do you account for it?

BEVERLY

I can't. All I can tell you is that the admiral has been confined to the support chair for four years by the effects of Iverson's. By all the medical facts we know, he should never have walked again.

Picard considers that, finally looks up at her.

PICARD

I'd like you to look into it, Doctor. Thoroughly.

BEVERLY

Yes, sir.

42 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

traveling at high warp.

43 INT. JAMESON QUARTERS - ANGLE ON JAMESON

He is seated at a desk, studying a personal Viewer.
NOTE: The light is dim here, turned down so he can see
the screen better.

44 CLOSE ON VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Jameson is reviewing the Karnas message seen in the
Teaser.

KARNAS

The terrorists have given you
six Earth days to bring him here
-- or the hostages will die.
Please...hurry.

45 WIDER ANGLE - INCLUDING ANNE

(Viewer o.s.) She comes into the main room from the
bedroom area as:

ANNE

I don't know how much more
information you think you can get
out of that tape.

He rises, walks easily toward her, still in DIM LIGHT.
Anne stops, staring at him.

ANNE

Mark... ? My God... what happened?

JAMESON

It's a new therapy I've been
taking. It's -- working, Anne.

ANNE

(runs to him)

Oh, Mark!

He puts his arms around her, gives her a warm kiss.
In fact, as she responds, his kiss gets warmer. His
hands move toward a more intimate position. Anne pulls
back slightly, surprised by the sudden sensuality from
him.

45 CONTINUED:

ANNE

Mark... ?

JAMESON

I told you I just needed to get
back into space again.

ANNE

(studies him)

You're really looking much
better....

JAMESON

It's the new treatment.

46 EMPHASIZING ANNE

She is frowning a little.

ANNE

No... come here....

JAMESON

(makes another grab for
her)

I hope you're heading for the
bedroom.

ANNE

Stop it, Mark.

She takes his hand, leads him into the brighter area
of the room where a mirror hangs on the wall. As he
COMES INTO BRIGHTER LIGHT, WE SEE far more changes
about him than just the smoother walk. His hair has
darkened, lost some of the gray. Some of the deep
wrinkles in his face have softened. Anne moves
Jameson in front of the mirror and, in this brighter
light, she stares at him in shock.

ANNE

Mark, you look like you did twenty
years ago.

JAMESON

(laughs)

You're flattering me.

47 TWO SHOT

Anne looks up at him, frightened and angry.

ANNE

Mark, what the hell is going on?

JAMESON

I don't know what --

He suddenly breaks off, nearly falls to the floor, wracked with intense pain. As an anguished CRY escapes him, Anne reaches out to him.

ANNE

Mark!

Jameson goes to his knees, then collapses on his side. Anne runs to the companel and activates it, near panic.

ANNE

(continuing)

Sickbay! Medical emergency in the admiral's quarters!

Anne looks back at Jameson, who is curled into an almost fetal position on the floor, still wracked with intense pain. As he CRIES OUT AGAIN:

48 INT. CRUSHER'S OFFICE - BEVERLY AND PICARD

The Captain is looking over her shoulder at the Viewer (o.s.). It is flashing up confirming information as she talks:

BEVERLY

(frowning)

I've found traces of chemical substances in his blood and tissue samples, but none of them are in our pharmacopeia. We're still working on alien references to substances like these. All I can say is that he ingested something that's strongly affecting his body.

PICARD

Specifics, Doctor.

48 CONTINUED:

BEVERLY

Captain, there are so many things going on here, I can't be positive without a lot more tests.

PICARD

Give me what you have now.

BEVERLY

His red cell count is running riot. Then there's the cellular structure of his body tissue. It's -- changing. I can't even begin on that until I see what it's changing to. His DNA is all skewed. I don't know how it's possible, but he even looks younger. And Captain... there is absolutely no sign of Iverson's Disease.

PICARD

You said there is no cure for Iverson's.

BEVERLY

(shakes head)

None we know of. Whatever else these substances are doing to his body, at least they've done that for him. But how or why, I can't say on the information I have now.

PICARD

Get me some answers, Doctor. As soon as possible.

BEVERLY

Yes, sir.

Picard STRIDES OUT, and Beverly looks after him, crinkles her nose slightly. Easy for him to say.

49 INT. JAMESONS' QUARTERS - ANGLE AT THE DOOR

as Picard ENTERS. Anne comes to meet him, concerned and frightened -- more than we'd expect her to be.

ANNE

Captain....

49 CONTINUED:

PICARD

There are some questions I have
to ask the admiral, Mrs. Jameson.

JAMESON (O.S.)

Ask away. There's nothing to hide
now.

Picard looks o.s. at the man standing in the doorway to
the bedroom -- and goes rigid.

50 CLOSE ON JAMESON

He now looks like a man in his fifties -- vital,
strong, still ready to take on the world.

51 WIDER - TO INCLUDE PICARD, ANNE

PICARD

(recovers himself)

Admiral -- in addition to your
rank, you are a particularly
valuable commodity just now.
Starfleet has a right to some
answers.

Jameson shrugs, gestures toward a group of chairs.
Picard and Anne follow him there as:

JAMESON

I'd been planning this for a long
time -- ever since I learned I
had Iverson's Disease. Since it
put me in that chair.

From her expression, this is news to Anne.

ANNE

What did you do, Mark?

52 CLOSER ON THE GROUP

as they sit.

52 CONTINUED:

JAMESON

There's a planet in the Cerberus system -- Cerberus II -- they say the natives have a process that rejuvenates the body... gives you your youth back.

PICARD

I've heard that story, too. It's a myth.

JAMESON

It's true, Picard. I'm the living proof. Oh, it's dangerous -- the mortality rate is high -- and it's painful.

(ruefully)

Very painful. Aliens are seldom allowed to obtain the process, but I managed it. I negotiated a treaty for Cerberus II several years ago, and they felt obligated to honor my request for the process.

PICARD

(studies him)

Obviously it works rapidly. How does it work?

JAMESON

The herb and drug combinations are self-administered... slowly, over a period of two years. Every response is different, depending on a being's DNA.

(to Anne)

I got enough for both of us, Anne -- but I had to test it on myself first. I couldn't risk you. If I died... well, I was half a man anyway, to what did it matter... ?

ANNE

It would matter to me.

52 CONTINUED: (2)

JAMESON

But I was starting to change, Anne. It was almost undetectable, but the improvement was there. Then this hostage situation came up, and I knew I'd have to be at my peak to deal with it. I didn't have time to wait for the drugs to work naturally --

PICARD

You took the whole dose.

JAMESON

I took both of them. And look at me! Annie, look at me. I'm strong, alert, I'm fit. I'm fitter than you are, Picard. And I'm getting younger!

PICARD

The only question I have, Admiral, is why you felt it necessary to be young to negotiate the hostage release. Surely Karnas requested you because of your age and experience.

Jameson stares at him -- then glances away, his face flushing. He doesn't have an answer. Picard sighs, rises.

PICARD

I'll be on the bridge, Admiral, if you wish to talk further.

Picard EXITS.

53 CLOSE ON ANNE

ANNE

Why didn't you tell me, Mark?
We've always been honest with each other -- until now.

CAMERA ANGLE WIDENS TO INCLUDE JAMESON as he faces her bitter anger. The visible difference in their ages is very apparent here.

JAMESON

Annie, I did it for us.

53 CONTINUED:

ANNE

I'm sure you believed that -- until you had a chance to head up a mission... to command again. Then you just upended the bottle -- or whatever it was -- and damn all. Did you think about me at all?

JAMESON

I got enough of the dosage for both of us....

ANNE

But you never asked if I wanted it. It's just like you, Mark, to assume that what you felt was right was the only answer.

JAMESON

It was the right answer for me. It was killing you, having to take care of an invalid. What good was I to you? Annie -- we can be together again....

He takes her in his arms, tries to kiss her passionately. She exerts a strong, angry effort and pushes him away.

ANNE

Let me go!

JAMESON

I can get another supply of the drug for you --

Anne SOBS IN ANGER -- he just doesn't get it -- and she runs into the bedroom. The door slides closed behind her. Jameson is angry at her behavior. He slaps his open palm on a piece of nearby furniture, heads rapidly for the door.

54 INT. CONFERENCE LOUNGE - ANGLE ON JAMESON

He is seated at the table in front of a small Viewer. There is no one else in the room. The lights are DIMMED DOWN, and Jameson's face is largely in shadow.

54 CONTINUED:

JAMESON

Commander Data, I wish to open
a communication frequency to
Karnas.

55 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON PICARD AND DATA

Picard sits up straight as:

DATA

Aye, sir.

PICARD

A moment, Mister Data. Admiral,
this is Picard. May I know the
purpose of this communication?

56 INT. CONFERENCE LOUNGE - ON JAMESON

JAMESON

Karnas must have tried to
negotiate with the terrorists
before he was forced to call on
me. I want all the information
he has access to.

57 INTERCUT BETWEEN PICARD ON BRIDGE AND JAMESON AS
NEEDED

PICARD

You said he was a proud man...
probably sensitive about his
failure to deal with the
situation. Is it wise to press
him on this?

JAMESON

I'm the negotiator, Picard.
Karnas will have to cooperate
with me and the terrorists, and
damn his sensitivities.

PICARD

Then I suggest a secured channel,
Admiral.

57 CONTINUED:

JAMESON

(beat, then:)

A sensible precaution, Picard.
Make it so.

Picard nods to Data, who tabs his console as:

DATA

Aye, sir. Frequency open and
secured.

58 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - ON JAMESON

NOTE: The LIGHTS in the room REMAIN DIM; Jameson is careful to remain back away from the light, so his face is in shadow and cannot be clearly seen.

JAMESON

(to Viewer)

Karnas.

59 ANGLE ON VIEWER (OPTICAL)

WE SEE Karnas, again in his office. His attitude is firm, formal, but with a touch of belligerence.

KARNAS

What is it you want, Admiral?

60 INTERCUT CLOSE ON JAMESON AND KARNAS ON VIEWER AS NEEDED. (OPTICAL)

JAMESON

We're on a secured channel,
Karnas. You can talk freely.
Who's behind this thing? You said
dissidents.

KARNAS

(carefully)

Yes... political opponents who feel
the Federation will disavow me
as governor if they stir up enough
trouble on Mordan.

JAMESON

Then who is it? Ardan? Gilnor?

60 CONTINUED:

KARNAS

They're dead, Jameson. A long time now. For a long time I thought you were dead, too.

JAMESON

I almost died a couple of times on missions, but I always made it through somehow.

KARNAS

(coldly)

Yes. Now you're coming back to Mordan -- to negotiate for hostages again. It's almost as though the forty-five years between never happened....

Jameson stiffens and stares at the image on the viewer, suddenly realizing what this is about.

JAMESON

You've never forgiven me.

KARNAS

Should I have -- after the legacy of war you left us in your last "negotiation?"

JAMESON

There are no dissidents, are there? No terrorists. You have the hostages.

KARNAS

And if I have? You're coming to Mordan, Jameson. You're going to negotiate for their lives, and I'm going to ask a very high price for them.

JAMESON

What if I refuse?

KARNAS

Then the hostages will die. You've seen how my executioners work. They are still as efficient as they were... perhaps even more skilled now. You'll come -- even if you don't have much honor left. Karnas out.

The Viewer GOES BLANK.

61 CLOSE ON JAMESON

angry, determined now on a course of action.

62 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

traveling as before at high warp speed.

63 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - FULL SHOT

All personnel in their accustomed stations. Jameson ENTERS from the Conference Lounge doors, CROSSING to Picard as:

JAMESON

Are we still on schedule to arrive at Mordan in thirty-eight hours?

GEORDI

Yes, sir. We're at warp four now.

JAMESON

Picard, I want a jump to warp eight so we arrive ahead of our announced ETA. It'll throw Karnas off balance, and we can catch him before he's ready.

PICARD

Ready for exactly what, Admiral?

JAMESON

I believe Karnas is planning something new... something that will directly endanger the hostages' lives.

PICARD

What happened in your communication to bring you to that conclusion? It seems a big jump....

JAMESON

I'm not at liberty to say, Picard, but negotiation is not the answer or the issue here. The hostages' lives are at stake.

63 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I agree the most important thing
is saving the lives of the
hostages...

JAMESON

And you agree with that, too,
Riker?

RIKER

I do, sir.

JAMESON

Good. Because I plan to
personally lead an away team on
an armed rescue mission to get
them out of there.

On Picard and Riker's stunned shock and surprise:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

64 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

The ship is traveling at warp speed against a background of streaking stars.

65 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - FULL SHOT

Gathered in the Command area are Picard, Riker, Tasha, Worf, Troi. Jameson presides from the Command Chair. Data and Geordi are at their stations.

JAMESON

Commander Data, will you bring up the plans I requested on the Viewscreen, please.

DATA

Yes, sir.

He begins to work his console. As Data activates the Main Viewscreen, Jameson leans forward.

JAMESON

Most of Mordan's principal city was devastated in the war. What was left consisted of a network of underground tunnels -- a rat's maze. When they rebuilt the city, they simply built over the tunnels.

DATA

I have it, sir.

66 CLOSE ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

Jameson was right. The GRAPHIC seen on the screen depicts what looks like a complicated crochet-work doily, every line indicating a tunnel.

67 BACK TO WIDER ANGLE

RIKER

Admiral, even if you're right about Karnas being behind this, he still wants to negotiate. Or at least to talk. Why not hear what he has to say?

JAMESON

I've heard what he has to say, and I have good reason to believe he's lying.

GEORDI

Pardon me, sir, but where do these come into the picture?

JAMESON

This is where Karnas held his hostages before and where I believe he has them now.

PICARD

Wouldn't that be a little too obvious, Admiral?

JAMESON

Karnas is a dogged strategist, Picard -- not a brilliant one. He sticks to what works.

PICARD

An overt rescue attempt could push Karnas into killing the hostages outright.

JAMESON

I don't think that's what he wants, Picard.

PICARD

Then what does he want?

Troi studies Jameson closely, reacting with a slight frown to his remarks.

TASHA

Maybe his threats are just a way to bargain for what he wants....

67 CONTINUED:

JAMESON

Karnas means exactly what he says, Lieutenant. He will kill the hostages if we don't get them out of there.

PICARD

Therefore you see an armed raid as our only option.

JAMESON

You don't agree.

PICARD

I would point out no one else has heard or considered Karnas's demands but you, Admiral. The Federation might take a different view of them if they knew what they were.

JAMESON

Starfleet gave me command of the away team, Picard. I intend to use them as I see fit.

68 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM - PICARD, TROI, BEVERLY

They are gathered around Picard's desk as WE COME IN:

PICARD

Is Jameson physically able to lead an away mission, Doctor?

BEVERLY

His cells, his tissue, even his bones are still de-aging, but I'd say he was. Generally, I'd call Admiral Jameson a healthy man... about forty-five... in excellent physical condition.

PICARD

What about his mind?

BEVERLY

The same. Brain scan reveals all cells and tissue are changing, but healthy. No loss of memory... excellent grasp of facts.

68 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Counselor?

TROI

Certainly his physical capacities have been restored. I sense that gives him great satisfaction. When he came aboard, he seemed hopeful, eager. Now there seems to be a harder, more forceful attitude... ambition....

PICARD

More of a young man's attitude, I'd say. Aggressive... going right for the throat of a situation instead of considering the alternatives.

TROI

Part of that is ambition too. He wants to be the man he once was. He is the man he once was, but sometimes old memories aren't very accurate. He was able to lead away teams like this once. Now he believes he can do it again.

As Beverly mulls over the implications of that one:

69 INT. CRUSHER'S OFFICE - BEVERLY, TROI, ANNE

Anne is miserable, carrying the signs of her anguish on her face.

ANNE

Our anniversary is next week.
Fifty years....

BEVERLY

In his heart, he's still the same man you married, Anne.

TROI

That's true. He still cares for you, despite the physical changes he's undergoing.

69 CONTINUED:

ANNE

(confused, anguished)

But he's getting younger, and I'm
-- well, look at me. Why did he
do this... ?

TROI

There are lives at stake, Mrs.
Jameson.

ANNE

What about our lives? Mine and
his, together?

BEVERLY

(takes Anne's hand)

Anne... I think I know a little
of what you're feeling. My
husband died on an away mission.
We'd been married two years. So
little time. Look at what you've
had with Mark --

ANNE

Years, yes -- but not together.
I was looking forward to time
together finally -- our
retirement. Now he's young again
and has a life to live over.

Troi and Beverly exchange a worried glance.

TROI

She has to know, Doctor.

ANNE

Know what?

BEVERLY

Anne... he's --

ANNE

What is it?

BEVERLY

He's not stabilizing.

(pause)

He may not have that life to live
over.

Anne looks at her in anguish and despair as we go to:

70 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as before, traveling at high warp speed.

71 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - WIDE ANGLE

as Picard ENTERS. It's dimly lit, indicating it's late -- ship's time. Picard makes his way toward a comfortable chair, then:

JAMESON (O.S.)

We'll be at Mordan in three hours.

72 ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDING JAMESON

He is seated further back from the windows, a drink of some kind in his hand. Picard changes direction and joins him as:

PICARD

I couldn't sleep either.

Jameson indicates the glass in his hand... an offer. Picard shakes his head and sits down opposite him. We can see in this closer look at Jameson that he looks younger still -- mid-thirties, perhaps.

JAMESON

I never could before a mission.
Always wound up in the Observation
Lounge, staring out at the stars.
Thinking.

PICARD

Maybe in this case rethinking?

JAMESON

Perceptive. They always have
given you high marks for that at
Starfleet, Picard.

PICARD

(shrugs it away, then:)
Why is this mission so important
to you? Why did you risk your
life so you could lead it
personally?

JAMESON

I want to save lives, Picard.

72 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Noble sentiment -- but too easy an answer. You've been here before. You negotiated a release of hostages with Karnas before. Why is it now your answer is an armed raid?

Jameson is silent, staring into his glass.

PICARD

(continuing)

It's my away team you're going to send in. There's something you're not telling me, and I have a right to know what it is.

JAMESON

(grunts)

Do you know the background? The Mordanites had some sophistication, but were still ruled by tribal family units. Karnas's father was the ruling chief of one of the families, and another tribe had him assassinated. Karnas seized the passengers of a starliner and held them hostage, demanding that Starfleet provide him with weapons that would enable him to defeat his rivals.

PICARD

That's the official record.

JAMESON

(nods)

Officially the story is that after two other mediators were murdered, I went in and negotiated with Karnas to bring out the hostages safely.

PICARD

Are you saying that's not the truth?

JAMESON

It wasn't my golden oratory that saved them, Picard. I gave Karnas the weapons he wanted.

72 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

You did what?

JAMESON

I gave exactly the same weapons to his rivals. My interpretation of the Prime Directive. Let them solve their problems with those arms on an equal basis.

Picard is staring at him with disbelief and disgust.

PICARD

That decision plunged them into forty years of civil war.

JAMESON

I didn't know that would happen. I thought, a minor war -- it'll be settled in less than a year. How could I know it would be four decades? I falsified the reports to Starfleet, but I've lived with that on my soul, Picard. Sixty-three people came away safe -- but millions died on Mordan because I delivered those weapons.

PICARD

Karnas could have worked for peace all those years instead of continuing the war. It's not all on your head, Admiral.

JAMESON

But I started it. I lit the match. Now, finally, I can vindicate myself, if only in a small way. I came to negotiate, but that isn't what Karnas wants.

PICARD

Revenge. That's why he demanded you when he found out you were still alive.

JAMESON

I'm not going to give it to him, Picard. I'm going to do what I should have done the first time. We're taking the hostages out by force. No deals.

73 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT AROUND MORDAN IV
(OPTICAL)

Mordan is not a very promising looking planet. In fact, it's a mud-brown ball with some hints of blue and green. The Enterprise is in standard orbit.

74 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - WIDE ANGLE

Jameson is standing, facing Picard and Riker. Already on the pad are Tasha, Worf, Data, Geordi. All are equipped with phasers. Data and Tasha also have tricorders. Jameson steps up on the pad.

JAMESON

Prepare to energize, Chief.

PICARD

Belay that.

The chief looks helplessly from one officer to the other. Who's he supposed to obey?

PICARD

(continuing)

Admiral, the correct place for you is on the bridge...

JAMESON

I will remind you one more time, Picard, I am the Senior Mission Commander, and I'm leading this team.

Picard pauses for just a beat, then steps up on the platform himself.

RIKER

Sir?

PICARD

The Admiral is correct, Number One. He has that right. But I'm the captain of this ship, and I have it, too. You have command of the Enterprise, Commander Riker.

(to the Chief)

Energize.

As Riker watches the TRANSPORTER EFFECT BEGIN TO BUILD:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

75 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT AROUND MORDAN
(OPTICAL)

as before, the Enterprise holding standard orbit around the planet.

76 INT. TUNNEL - DAY - ANGLE ON AWAY TEAM

as they MATERIALIZE IN THE TRANSPORTER EFFECT. As soon as the TRANSPORTER EFFECT FADES, the Team is immediately busy, checking phasers, Data taking tricorder readings. Jameson looks around, seems to recognize where he is. The tunnel itself is old, seems unmaintained.

JAMESON

Yes...perfect. We are in the M-4 tunnel directly under the governor's residence. M-4 is a subsidiary tunnel, but it crosses and links with several main ones.

DATA

I am sorry, sir. That does not correspond with the information I have on the tricorder, sir.

JAMESON

Your information is incorrect, Commander. I know these tunnels like the back of my own hand.
(gestures off)

That way. It takes us to the hatch that will let us into M-1 tunnel. Keep scanning for signs of human life forms. Karnas held his hostages in these tunnels before. He'll do it again.

Jameson STARTS OFF down the tunnel. The others FOLLOW, staying alert.

77 CLOSER - PICARD AND DATA

Data drops in beside Picard, staring at the tricorder screen in bewilderment.

DATA

The admiral is definitely incorrect, Captain. The tunnel schematics we have indicate this is a dead end. It was sealed off two years ago....

PICARD

I've no doubt you're right, Mister Data. However, forty-five years ago, I'm sure it linked in with the tunnels Admiral Jameson remembers.

78 INT. TUNNEL #2 - DAY - ANGLE ON THE TEAM (OPTICAL)

They round a corner -- and see the way has been blocked off. There was a hatch of some kind, but this has been cemented over. Geordi scans it with his VISOR.

GEORDI

Steelplast. Fairly recent installation.

JAMESON

Damn. This is the most direct route. Set phasers to cut through it.

Worf and Tasha adjust their phasers and FIRE at the blocked area.

79 ANGLE AT BLOCKED AREA (OPTICAL)

The two PHASER BEAMS slash in and cut a rough square in the blocked area.

80 BACK TO WIDER ANGLE

TASHA

If you have the coordinates for where you think the hostages are, sir, we could just beam in there.

80 CONTINUED:

JAMESON

But Karnas might not have them
in the same place. There is no
substitute for a personal
reconnoiter, Lieutenant.

TASHA

No, sir.

She glances at Picard, decides not to say anything
else. With Jameson leading, they step through the hole
into another tunnel.

81 INT. TUNNEL #3 - ON THE AWAY TEAM

The team moves along this tunnel, toward an
intersection ahead. There is some debris in the way,
as though part of the tunnel had given way at one time
and has been shored up. Geordi is still scanning with
his VISOR.

GEORDI

Admiral, there's an infrared light
signal ahead. Steady beam,
straight across the tunnel, chest
high. Another at hip level.

TASHA

An alarm trigger or --

PICARD

Reset phasers to stun.

Jameson steps forward, and:

WORE

Look out, sir!

82 ANOTHER ANGLE - AT INTERSECTION (OPTICAL)

Ahead of them, a SQUAD OF MORDANITE SOLDIERS has come
around the corner of the intersection, armed and ready
for action. Our team brings phasers up, but the
Mordanites FIRE FIRST. Tasha moves herself in front of
Picard, but he pulls her down flat behind the tunnel
debris as PHASER-LIKE FIRE zips over their heads. The
SOUND OF THE FIRE is different, flat and humming.
Tasha begins to FIRE back.

82 CONTINUED:

Worf, in the meantime, has bodily picked up Jameson and moved him aside, against the wall, using his own big body as a shield for the Admiral. Data ducks down beside Picard.

DATA

Their phasers, sir -- set on
kill.

PICARD

(drily)

Thank you, Mister Data. I have
heard the sound before.

83 ANGLE ON JAMESON AND WORF (OPTICAL)

Jameson has unhitched his phaser and is firing quickly down the tunnel toward the Mordanites. Worf's fire is steady, methodical. Several Mordanites fall stunned as a result of our people's fire. Jameson moves away from the wall and the cover of Worf's body and tries to charge down the tunnel toward the soldiers, who are offering up a steady fire.

84 WIDER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Picard reaches out to try to stop Jameson, but the Admiral suddenly crumples, almost into Data's arms.

TASHA

Is he hit?

DATA

(trying to examine him)
I cannot tell --

PICARD

(tabs communicator)
Enterprise, this is Picard. Five
to beam up -- now!

The five of them cluster together. MORDANITE FIRE is still steady as the soldiers begin to advance toward them. Tasha and Worf maintain a steady covering fire that slows them down. Then the TRANSPORTER EFFECT BEGINS TO BUILD AND COVER OUR PEOPLE.

85 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - ANGLE ON PLATFORM

as the team IS MATERIALIZED. As soon as the EFFECT STOPS, Picard bends down to where Data, supporting Jameson, is lowering him to the platform.

PICARD

How badly is he hurt?

DATA

I do not see any sign of a wound, sir.

86 CLOSER ON THE GROUP

WE DO NOT SEE Jameson's face, which is turned AWAY FROM CAMERA. He is doubled over, shaking violently as though palsied. Data looks up at Picard, frowning.

DATA

It appears to be another attack, sir.

PICARD

(to Tasha)

Call Doctor Crusher here immediately.

TASHA

Sir.

(goes to transporter console)

Transporter Room Three to Sickbay. Doctor Crusher, please report immediately with Medical Support Team.

87 ANGLE ON JAMESON

WE DO NOT SEE his face. He CRIES OUT in agony, and writhes painfully.

88 OMITTED

89 INT. SICKBAY - ANGLE ON JAMESON

He is lying on one of the examination beds, face turned AWAY FROM CAMERA, still shaking in pain. Troi is standing by with Anne as a medtech monitors him closely.

90 INT. CRUSHER'S OFFICE - PICARD AND BEVERLY

BEVERLY

This last attack is the worst one he's suffered, sir. The others were overwith fairly quickly. He hasn't recovered from this one yet, and nothing has been able to relieve his pain.

PICARD

Do you have any answers, Doctor?

BEVERLY

I'm afraid none of it is very hopeful. The compound he took seems to be rejuvenating the DNA, but it's also sloughing off the old cells too fast for his body to cope. His body is trying to grow and die and regenerate all at the same time.

PICARD

(sighs)

You're saying the overdose of the drug he took is working too well.

BEVERLY

Exactly, sir.

PICARD

When will it stop?

BEVERLY

It won't... because it can't. Eventually, he won't be able to stand the strain.

91 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ON PICARD

ENTERING from the aft turbolift. Riker comes out of the Command Chair toward him. NOTE: Data, Worf and Tasha are now back at their regular stations. Troi is not on the bridge.

RIKER

The admiral... ?

PICARD

Sickbay. "Not good" is a galactic understatement.

91 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Karnas again, sir. On the screen.

He activates his console.

92 ANGLE ON PICARD INCLUDING MAIN VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

Karnas's image APPEARS ON SCREEN in the same setting as before.

KARNAS

Enterprise. There has been an armed intrusion in the tunnels beneath the city. That smells of Jameson. Where is he?

PICARD

This is Picard. I am sorry to inform you that the admiral is critically ill, Karnas.

KARNAS

(coming out of the chair)

That is not my concern. Sick or well, you have ten minutes to beam him down, Captain Picard. Otherwise, the hostages die.

The VIEWSCREEN GOES BLANK. Then:

TROI'S COM VOICE

Sickbay to bridge.

PICARD

Picard.

TROI'S COM VOICE

Doctor Crusher requests your presence in Sickbay immediately, sir.

Picard exchanges a worried look with Riker, then:

PICARD

On my way.

As he HURRIES for the turbolift:

93 INT. SICKBAY - ANGLE AT DOOR

as Picard ENTERS. Beverly meets him, her face grim.

PICARD

What is it?

BEVERLY

You'd better see for yourself.

94 ANGLE AT JAMESON'S BED

Troi is trying to comfort Anne, who huddles at the side of the bed in utter despair. Picard approaches, looks down at the body there -- and his jaw drops.

95 CLOSE ON JAMESON

The eyes are alive and intelligent -- but the face and body Picard sees are those of a teen-aged boy. NOTE: Jameson's VOICE remains the same as before.

JAMESON (BOY)

Picard....

96 WIDER - GROUP

JAMESON (BOY)

Picard, I have to get to Karnas.

BEVERLY

I can't allow him out of my care, sir.

JAMESON (BOY)

My last option, Picard. The raid failed... all I have left to bargain with is myself....

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Bridge to Picard.

PICARD

(to companel)

Picard here. What is it, Number One?

97 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ON RIKER

RIKER

A new demand from Karnas, sir.
If we don't deliver Jameson in
five minutes, a hostage will be
executed. Fifteen minutes after
that, another.

98 INT. SICKBAY - ON PICARD, BEVERLY, JAMESON

RIKER'S COM VOICE

He promises the method of
execution will be both slow and
painful.

A beat, as Picard looks from Beverly to Jameson.

JAMESON

Let me go. If I turn myself over
to him, he'll let the hostages
go. It's me he wants.

PICARD

It's certain death for you,
Admiral.

JAMESON

My life for how many hostages,
Picard? Twenty?
(hard)
Let me go.

PICARD

(beat, then:)
Number One, inform Karnas we'll
be beaming down in less than five
minutes.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

"We," sir?

PICARD

You have your orders, Number One.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Aye, sir. Riker out.

99 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - ANGLE ON PLATFORM

as Picard, Beverly (with medical kit) and the boy Jameson are mounting the platform. Jameson's uniform, while still that of an admiral, hangs loosely on him. Riker ENTERS, moves toward them as:

RIKER

Captain, you can't go down there again --

(stops, staring at the boy)

Jameson... ?

PICARD

Yes. Exactly why I have to go, Will. As a Starfleet captain, I have negotiating powers.

(to Transporter Chief)

Energize.

The Transporter Chief works his console. The TRANSPORTER EFFECT BEGINS TO BUILD and cover the figures of Picard, Beverly and the boy Jameson.

100 INT. KARNAS'S OFFICE - DAY

The TRANSPORTER EFFECT MATERIALIZES the three figures directly in front of Karnas's desk. Karnas is waiting, puzzled to see three. There are several Mordanite soldiers in the room, but it will be noticed they are old soldiers -- veterans in their late fifties and sixties.

Karnas gets to his feet as THE MATERIALIZATION EFFECT FADES, and he sees Picard, Beverly and the boy Jameson.

KARNAS

(outraged)

Who are you! I want Jameson!

PICARD

This is Admiral Mark Jameson.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

101 INT. KARNAS'S OFFICE - DAY - PICARD, JAMESON (BOY)

as we left them. Karnas stares at the boy in the Starfleet uniform, dismisses him with a grunt, and turns to Picard.

KARNAS

This charade will accomplish nothing, Picard. Beam Jameson down, and the hostages will be freed. Continue this -- and I promise you they will die -- and you with them.

JAMESON (BOY)

Karnas, if you'll just listen....

KARNAS

(to Picard)

Why have you brought him here? This is no place for children.

JAMESON (BOY)

(interrupting)

Peretor Karnas. You always were a stubborn man. I thought you wanted me. I'm here. Release the hostages. now.

Karnas stares at him, startled for a moment, then:

KARNAS

"Peretor" was my old title. Why do you call me that?

JAMESON (BOY)

Because you're acting like the warrior you were -- not like the planetary governor you are.

KARNAS

Picard, I warn you, this trick is going too far. He has been coached... for some devious reason. If this farce is not stopped immediately, you and the hostages will be put to death.

101 CONTINUED:

Suddenly Jameson doubles over, the intense pain driving him to his knees. Beverly rushes to him as:

PICARD

Admiral!

Beverly is checking him, frowning. She administers a hypospray, which seems to ease him a bit.

102 ANGLE ON KARNAS AND PICARD

KARNAS

I'm waiting for an explanation, Captain.

PICARD

He is the admiral. Before we left on this mission, he administered an overdose of an alien de-aging drug to himself. He wanted to face you with strength again... on even terms. This is what the drug has done to him.

103 ANOTHER ANGLE - INCLUDING BEVERLY AND JAMESON

Beverly has helped Jameson to a chair. He seems to be weak, almost frail. Karnas paces in front of the desk, railing at Picard.

KARNAS

This story you are telling is unbelievable. Jameson is a man of eighty, not --

(points to Jameson)

-- this. I want that old man, Picard. I want to show him this world he helped to make... the scars on old soldiers' bodies... the graveyards of our young dead... the wasted cities we are still rebuilding... and all of it caused by him.

PICARD

As I understand the facts, Karnas, you were the one who demanded weapons to avenge your father's death.

103 CONTINUED:

KARNAS

But Jameson didn't give weapons only to us. If he had, we would have triumphed over our enemies in less than a year, and we would have had peace in all these decades. When Jameson gave weapons to both sides, he gave us forty years of war. I want him to pay for that, Picard.

Jameson is hit by another viciously painful attack, GASPS AND MOANS in pain. Beverly takes a quick reading on her instruments, looks over at Picard.

BEVERLY

Sir, I think Mrs. Jameson should beam down. Now.

PICARD

(nods quickly)

Do it.

As Beverly touches her communicator:

104 ANGLE ON PICARD AND KARNAS

PICARD

Karnas, I've asked Doctor Crusher to bring down the visual records we've made of Admiral Jameson's deterioration. Will you look at them?

KARNAS

You're wasting my time, Picard.

PICARD

Only a few moments.

When Karnas does not reply immediately, Picard nods to Beverly, who hands her medical P.A.D.D. to Picard.

PICARD

(continuing)

You saw Admiral Jameson when he was on board en route to Mordan?

KARNAS

Yes.

104 CONTINUED:

PICARD
You recognized him?

KARNAS
(reluctantly)
Yes.

Picard holds out the medical P.A.D.D. for him to see.

PICARD
And this is the man you saw.

105 CLOSE ON P.A.D.D. SCREEN (OPTICAL)

The screen shows Jameson as he was at the beginning, in the physical support chair.

KARNAS (V.O.)
Yes. This is the man I want.

106 WIDER ANGLE - PICARD AND KARNAS

PICARD
Never again, Karnas.

He holds out the tricorder again. Karnas reluctantly looks.

107 CLOSE ON TRICORDER SCREEN (OPTICAL)

Still shots APPEAR in sequence -- Jameson as he began to de-age, as he became younger and younger.

PICARD (O.S.)
Once he took the compound ... there was no way to stop it.

The final picture is the boy Jameson.

108 WIDER - EMPHASIZING KARNAS, PICARD

Karnas stares across the room at Jameson, who is being tended by Beverly. The boy has begun to shake. Not pain, but a quivering in the body that cannot be stopped.

108 CONTINUED:

THE SOUND OF THE TRANSPORTER BEGINS, and ANNE MATERIALIZES IN THE ROOM. She looks around, sees Jameson's terrible condition and quickly goes to him. She sits beside him, takes his hand, but he is paying no attention to her. His eyes are on Karnas.

PICARD

You'll have to deal with me,
Karnas. Whatever you wanted from
Jameson isn't possible any more.

Karnas leans against his desk, stares around at the old soldiers who had come to share his moment of triumph over their legendary enemy. None of them know what to think, but Karnas clearly is still not convinced.

PICARD

(continuing)

You wanted revenge, Karnas. You blamed your war on Jameson, and there's no doubt he had a lot to do with it. But you had the weapons, and you used them. You could have tried for negotiations for peace on your planet long ago. You chose to fight instead. How many of those forty years of war are on your head?

KARNAS

Jameson has to pay for his crimes... I have sworn it to my people. When I found out he was alive, I gave them my word I would kill him for what he did. A public execution... public retribution for what he did to us.

Picard realizes he may be talking to a wall. But one more time:

PICARD

(points to the boy)

Then there's Jameson. He wanted to atone for what he'd done here. Forty-five years ago, he made the wrong decision, and he wanted to come here to somehow right it. He wanted to negotiate, and when that failed, he decided to fight.

(MORE)

108 CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD (Cont'd)

Your men foiled that, and all he has left now is to give himself up to you. He's brought this retribution on himself.

KARNAS

No. I don't believe you. You are shielding Jameson on the ship and telling me this tale to save his life.

109 ANGLE ON JAMESON (BOY)

He is still shuddering, gets to his feet. Anne tries to hold his hand, but he pulls away from her. Beverly signals to her to let him go, but she keeps a close eye on him herself.

JAMESON (BOY)

Peretor Karnas... there were only two of us in the meeting. You didn't even trust your lieutenants then. You told me old Peretor Sain had ordered your father's assassination. You told me you wanted arms to destroy him. Peace wasn't on your mind. You just wanted revenge. And I gave you the weapons to do it.

KARNAS

Jameson told you all this.

JAMESON (BOY)

I am Jameson. Do you want a list of the weapons I gave you? Only you and I would know what it was, because I erased every trace of them from the records.

KARNAS

Jameson still could have told you this.

(beat)

If you are him, show me the scar.

JAMESON

(rolls up sleeve)

There. The blood cut you gave me to seal our bargain.

109 CONTINUED:

He holds out his arm, and Karnas stares at him.

110 CLOSE ON JAMESON'S (BOY'S) ARM

A curious V-shaped scar arcs across the wrist, almost like a chevron.

111 ANGLE ON KARNAS AND JAMESON

Karnas looks up at Jameson... and he finally believes.

KARNAS

It is you. Somehow... it is you.

Suddenly, Karnas twists away, reaches for the wall behind his desk and the weapons there. He grabs one of the phasers and raises it, aiming it at Jameson's heart.

KARNAS

(continuing)

Then die by one of your own weapons!

Everyone else is frozen by the moment. The boy/man simply stands there, still shuddering from the terrible changes going on in his body, but not afraid. Slowly, Karnas lowers the weapon.

KARNAS

(continuing)

No. My revenge is in letting you live like this.

112 EMPHASIZING JAMESON (BOY)

He holds for a long beat, and then he crumples to the floor with a CRY of agony. Beverly and Anne go to him immediately, Beverly running a quick scan with her instruments.

113 PICARD AND KARNAS

as Karnas moves forward, laying the weapon down on his desk. Jameson CRIES OUT AGAIN, in terrible pain.

KARNAS

Such pain....

113 CONTINUED:

PICARD
Doctor Crusher?

114 ANGLE ON BEVERLY, JAMESON (BOY), ANNE

Beverly looks up, shakes her head.

BEVERLY
His body can't rejuvenate any further. The compound he took is trying to force the organs and tissue to go further, younger, and they can't take the stress. It's like he's -- imploding. I can't do anything to stop it, sir.

Jameson CRIES OUT AGAIN.

PICARD
Can you give him something for the pain?

Slowly, sadly, Beverly shakes her head.

115 CLOSE ON JAMESON (BOY) AND ANNE

Quietly, she moves in beside Beverly, who pulls back out of the way. Anne takes the boy's head in her arms, cradles him against her. No matter that this is just a young teenager now -- this is still the man she loved for fifty years.

ANNE
Mark... can you hear me?

JAMESON (BOY)
Yes.

ANNE
I'll always love you.

JAMESON (BOY)
Annie with the golden hair....

ANNE
(forces a smile)
Flatterer. It's grey now.

JAMESON (BOY)
I only see the gold....

115 CONTINUED:

He convulses in a wave of fierce pain, and she holds on to him tight. Then as it seems to pass, and he looks up at her:

116 CLOSE ON JAMESON'S EYES

They are old eyes, filled with the memories of eighty years. And then they close for the last time.

117 WIDER - EMPHASIZING ANNE, JAMESON (BOY), KARNAS

As the others look on, Anne begins quietly to weep. Karnas moves closer, staring down at the strange body of his old enemy. Finally:

KARNAS

Rest, Jameson. Your long night
-- and mine -- is over.

(up to Picard)

The hostages will be released
immediately, Captain. I am
prepared to be -- cooperative.

118 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT AROUND MORDAN
(OPTICAL)

Enterprise in standard orbit.

119 INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ANGLE ON COMMAND AREA

where Picard is completing the dictation of his log.

PICARD

... The hostages have been freed
by Karnas, unharmed.

(pause)

Personal note. The body of
Admiral Mark Jameson has been
buried on Mordan, at the request
of his widow and with the
permission of Karnas. Log out.

Picard glances across to Riker, shakes his head.

PICARD

The quest for youth, Number One...
so futile. Age and wisdom have
their graces.

119 CONTINUED:

RIKER

I wonder if one doesn't have to have age and wisdom to appreciate that, sir.

PICARD

I hope not, Number One. It would be such a waste of youth.

(beat, then:)

Mister La Forge, prepare to take us out of orbit. Set course for Isis III.

GEORDI

Aye, sir. Leaving orbit.

120 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE AND MORDAN (OPTICAL)

as the sleek starship begins her pull away from the planet and heads for the stars.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END