

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"Coming Of Age"  
(fka "Starfleet Academy")  
#40271-119

Written by  
Sandy Fries

Directed by  
Mike Vejar

THE WRITING CREDITS MAY NOT BE FINAL AND SHOULD NOT BE USED  
FOR PUBLICITY OR ADVERTISING PURPOSES WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING  
WITH THE TELEVISION LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

Copyright 1987 Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights  
Reserved. This script is not for publication or  
reproduction. No one is authorized to dispose of same. If  
lost or destroyed, please notify the Script Department.

3RD REV. FINAL DRAFT

DECEMBER 30, 1987

STAR TREK: "Coming Of Age" - 12/30/87 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Coming Of Age"

CAST

|         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| PICARD  | JAKE KURLAND                 |
| RIKER   | ADMIRAL GREGORY QUINN        |
| BEVERLY | LT. COMMANDER DEXTER REMMICK |
| DATA    | MORDOCK                      |
| TROI    | OLIANA MIRREN                |
| TASHA   | T'SHANIK                     |
| WORF    | TAC OFFICER CHANG            |
| GEORDI  | RONDON                       |
| WESLEY  | TECHNICIAN #1                |
|         | TECHNICIAN #2                |
|         | Voice-Over                   |

STAR TREK: "Coming Of Age" - 12/30/87 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Coming Of Age"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

Deck 21 Forward Lounge  
Transporter Room  
Corridor

Captain's Ready Room  
Main bridge

Holodeck

Admiral's Quarters  
Main Engineering

RELVA 7

Classroom  
Corridor  
Testing Room  
Long corridor  
Environmental Lab

SHUTTLECRAFT

Cockpit

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE

RELVA 7 (PLANET)

SHUTTLECRAFT

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION  
"Coming Of Age"

TEASER

FADE IN:

A1 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

orbiting the planet Relva 7.

B1 INT. ENTERPRISE - CORRIDOR

WESLEY is running down the corridor after someone.

WESLEY

Hey, Jake! Wait a second!

JAKE KURLAND, eighteen, dark-haired and intense, stops and waits for Wesley.

WESLEY

(continuing)

How're you doing?

JAKE

(tries to smile)

I'm fine. Really.

WESLEY

I'm real sorry...

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

Acting Ensign Crusher, report to  
Deck Twenty-one Forward Lounge.

Wesley ignores the request.

JAKE

It's not your fault.

WESLEY

Yes, I know, but I wish we were  
both going.

JAKE

(shrugging)

Only thirty-two points...

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE

Acting Ensign Crusher, respond.

B1 CONTINUED:

Wesley touches a com panel.

WESLEY  
I'm on my way.

Wesley looks at Jake.

WESLEY  
(continuing)  
Gotta go.

They shake hands.

JAKE  
Do well for both of us.

Wesley smiles at Jake and HURRIES BACK the other way.  
Jake stares dejectedly after him.

C1 INT. CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE DECK 21 FORWARD LOUNGE

Beverly waits for Wesley just outside the lounge.

WESLEY  
Mom, I can't be late.

BEVERLY  
Don't worry. You have time.

1 INT. DECK 21 FORWARD LOUNGE

A large cake with seventeen BURNING candles is in the center of the table. It says "HAPPY 16TH BIRTHDAY" and "GOOD LUCK, WESLEY." The whole BRIDGE CREW waits around the table as Wesley ENTERS with Beverly. He's touched, embarrassed and -- wants to get out of there.

RIKER  
Happy Birthday, Wesley!

Everyone ECHOES THE SENTIMENT.

WESLEY  
Thanks everybody. But it's not  
until next month.

RIKER  
Close enough.

1 CONTINUED:

TROI

You won't be here next month.  
After you pass the entrance exam,  
you'll be on your way to Starfleet  
Academy.

BEVERLY

Go on, make a wish.

Wesley closes his eyes, thinks a moment, then blows out  
the candles. Everyone CLAPS as he makes the first cut.  
Troi takes over and cuts cake for everyone, handing  
pieces to Riker and Wesley.

RIKER

You'll breeze through those  
tests.

WESLEY

I hope so, sir.

RIKER

I know so. I remember how tough  
it was for me.

He pauses, reliving the fear, then smiles at Wesley.

RIKER

(continuing)

But you've got brains, and family  
tradition, and actual experience.

WESLEY

I wish I felt that sure.

GEORDI

I was scared to death the whole  
time. But it's good for you.  
Keeps your adrenaline going. Not  
that you'll need it, Wes.

1A ANOTHER ANGLE

Troi hands pieces of cake to Data and Worf.

1A CONTINUED:

DATA

Thank you... Humans are  
fascinating. They celebrate the  
passage of time with such joy  
until a certain age, and then it  
becomes a topic of some  
discomfort. I suppose it is  
because each birthday is another  
step towards inevitable death.  
Do Klingons observe birthdays,  
Worf?

WORF

Klingons are born, live as  
warriors, and die.

DATA

Then how do you know how old you  
are?

WORF

I don't. Do you know?

DATA

I have no age.

Data stares at Beverly, who's standing next to Picard.

BEVERLY

Is there something wrong?

DATA

No. I am simply trying to  
understand the celebration of  
aging. And how old were you when  
Wesley was born, Doctor?

Beverly shoves her piece of cake at him.

BEVERLY

Have some cake, Data.

She LEAVES him standing there with Picard.

DATA

I do not understand, sir. Why...

PICARD

You never ask a woman her age,  
Mister Data.

1A CONTINUED: (2)

DATA

I am very confused, sir.

PICARD

Some customs will never change.

TASHA'S COM VOICE

Acting Ensign Crusher, this is  
the Transporter Room. We are  
ready to beam you down to Relva 7.

WESLEY

(to the party)

Thanks for the party, everyone.  
And the good wishes.

They all RESPOND with "Good luck;" "Go get 'em;"  
"You'll do great."

TASHA'S COM VOICE

Captain Picard.

PICARD

(touching his  
communicator)

Picard here.

TASHA'S COM VOICE

We've received communication from  
Relva 7 that Admiral Gregory Quinn  
is about to beam aboard, sir.

PICARD

Admiral Gregory Quinn. Why wasn't  
I informed earlier, Lieutenant  
Yar?

TASHA'S COM VOICE

We just received the request, sir.

Picard gestures to Riker.

PICARD

I'm on my way to the Transporter  
Room, Lieutenant. Number One!

Picard and Riker FOLLOW Wesley and Beverly OUT the  
door.

1B  
thru OMITTED  
1C



2 OMITTED

3 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Riker, Picard and Beverly say good-bye to Wesley. Beverly reaches out to shake his hand, but Wesley leans over and kisses her. He nods and Tasha works the console and Wesley BEAMS DOWN to Relva 7. A beat, then almost immediately, ADMIRAL GREGORY QUINN and LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DEXTER REMMICK BEAM UP. Quinn is a rugged man in his early sixties. He is accompanied by Remmick, a young, blond, dedicated officer. They step off the platform.

PICARD

This is unexpected. Welcome aboard, Admiral.

QUINN

Thank you. Captain Jean-Luc Picard, Lieutenant Commander Dexter Remmick.

REMMICK

Sir.

They shake hands, then Remmick steps back and watches.

PICARD

Allow me to present my staff:  
First Officer William Riker, Chief  
Medical Officer Beverly Crusher,  
chief of security, Lieutenant  
Tasha Yar.

Quinn nods to them.

PICARD

(continuing)

What can we do for you?

QUINN

I need to speak with you.

PICARD

Certainly. This way. Number One.

They turn to leave, as:

QUINN

No. Alone.

PICARD

Is this personal?

3 CONTINUED:

QUINN  
Official business.

PICARD  
Then my first officer...

QUINN  
... Alone, Captain.

This is unheard of. It's as if Riker's in big trouble  
and no one knows why, as WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it orbits Relva 7.

PICARD (V. O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41416. 2.  
We are orbiting Relva 7, one of  
the testing sites where final  
examinations are taking place for  
entrance into Starfleet Academy.  
But with the appearance of my old  
colleague, Admiral Gregory Quinn,  
our stay has taken on another  
meaning.

5 OMITTED

5A INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Picard and Quinn ENTER. Remmick stands off to the  
side.

QUINN

Commander Remmick is with the  
Inspector General's office.

PICARD

Oh?

QUINN

He'll be conducting a complete  
investigation of the Enterprise.

PICARD

What are you looking for?

Quinn turns to especially include Remmick. Remmick  
stands almost at attention.

QUINN

I have reason to believe there  
may be something very wrong on  
this ship... very wrong.

PICARD

Tell me what you suspect.

5A CONTINUED:

QUINN

No. It's... inappropriate to discuss it now. We'll go over it fully when Mister Remmick concludes his investigation.

(turns to Remmick)

You will find out what is wrong on this ship. Starfleet is depending on you.

REMMICK

Yes, sir.

(glances at Picard)

Nothing and no one will stand in my way.

QUINN

And you, Captain, are ordered to cooperate in every way necessary with the investigation. Clear?

PICARD

Yes, sir.

QUINN

Mister Remmick, unless there are further questions...

REMMICK

No questions, sir.

QUINN

Get on with your duties.

REMMICK

Yes, sir!

Remmick purposefully EXITS. When the door CLOSES:

PICARD

Greg, we've known each other for years. If you weren't just motivating young Mister Remmick, tell me what you believe is wrong.

Quinn dodges the question.

QUINN

Captain, it is vitally important that my orders are followed exactly. I'll be staying on the ship.

5A CONTINUED: (2)

PICARD

As you wish, Admiral.

6 EXT. RELVA 7 (OPTICAL)

ESTABLISHING the planet.

7 INT. RELVA 7 - CLASSROOM

Wesley is the first one to ARRIVE in the high-tech classroom. He looks around the room uncomfortably. There's an impressive array of DEVICES, including a special SENSOR UNIT. He reaches down to inspect it, but puts it back guiltily as OLIANA MIRREN ENTERS. She's a gorgeous eighteen-year-old human, a red-head with sparkle and probably a temper.

OLIANA

What is it?

WESLEY

What?

OLIANA

The unit you just put down. Don't worry. I won't tell anybody.

WESLEY

Oh. It's a flux coordinating sensor.

Oliana puts out her hand. Wesley takes it and absentmindedly holds it. He's mesmerized by her.

OLIANA

I'm Oliana Mirren, one of the other finalists. You must be Wesley Crusher.

She gently removes her hand from his.

WESLEY

Yeah! You know me?

OLIANA

I heard there was a very smart, very young man who'd be tough competition.

7 CONTINUED:

WESLEY  
(embarrassed)  
Well, you wouldn't be here if...

OLIANA  
... I weren't smart? I know. But  
there's a lot more to it than  
that. You're lucky - you've had  
practical experience on the  
Enterprise.

As she speaks, the door OPENS and T'SHANIK, a dark young Vulcan woman, who looks as if she's surprised anyone else bothered to show up, ENTERS with MORDOCK, a powerfully built alien with a special suit using circulating gas tubes. Mordock hangs back a little, quietly.

T'SHANIK  
Oliana.  
(to Wesley)  
T'Shanik of Vulcana Regar.

WESLEY  
Wesley Crusher, from the  
Enterprise.

T'SHANIK  
You don't look as if you meet the  
age requirements.

WESLEY  
Uh, I'll be sixteen next month.

OLIANA  
(pats him on the  
shoulder)  
Happy birthday. When this is all  
over, we'll celebrate.

Wesley basks in the thought of celebrating anything with her, then realizes he's being rude. He turns to Mordock.

WESLEY  
Hi. I'm Wesley Crusher.

Mordock nods and moves forward.

MORDOCK  
Mordock.

7 CONTINUED: (2)

WESLEY

Mordock? The Mordock? The  
Benzite who constructed the  
Mordock Strategy? I thought you  
already were in the Academy.

MORDOCK

No. Only a hopeful, like you.

WESLEY

You're a legend in the Galactic  
Computer Network...

TAC OFFICER CHANG ENTERS and walks to the head of the  
classroom.

CHANG

Finalists, please take your  
seats...

The Four take seats at individual computer stations, as  
Chang continues.

CHANG

(continuing)

I'm TAC Officer Chang. Welcome.  
You are here because you are all  
top candidates. Although only  
one student will be chosen for  
the Academy, you have shown from  
the preliminary testing that any  
of you could easily qualify.

(makes eye contact with  
each)

We are looking for the person who  
combines all the important  
qualities necessary to be part  
of Starfleet's future. Integrity,  
intelligence, courage,  
imagination... and that  
indefinable quality of leadership.  
This may be the most difficult,  
exhausting experience of your  
life. And the most exciting  
challenge. Expect the  
unexpected... May you all do your  
best... Now, we'll begin.

Chang LEAVES the room as the computers LIGHT UP. The  
four students immediately start the test. And the  
faster they answer the questions, the faster the  
computer asks them.

7 CONTINUED: (3)

They're all pounding away at extreme high speeds, but with different kinds of energy, and each time they take a test they'll respond with the same kind of energy.

Wesley concentrates completely and works at an incredibly fast, even pace.

T'Shanik works quickly, calmly and methodically.

Mordock, with great intensity.

Oliana, alternates bursts of energy with quiet. The students continue with their answers.

8 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit.

8A INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker commands the bridge, with Data and Geordi, Tasha and Worf at their regular stations. Remmick stands over Data, just watching him sit there. Remmick HOLDS A HAND DEVICE which he will carry with him everywhere -- A MINIATURE PERSONAL COMPUTER where he punches in every observation. Riker watches him without saying a word.

DATA

May I help you, Mister Remmick?

REMMICK

Just keep on doing whatever it is you're doing, Commander Data.

DATA

Yes, sir.

Data continues staring, as Remmick moves over to Geordi.. and stands over him, making entries in his computer.

GEORDI

There's nothing much to see here, Commander. We're in standard orbit. And, uh, the station has to be manned, even if it's routine...



8A CONTINUED:

RIKER

Is there something I can help you  
with, Mister Remmick?

Remmick whips around to Riker.

REMMICK

When I'm ready, Mister Riker, I'll  
want to speak with you.  
Privately.

Remmick moves aft, to stand next to Worf. Remmick  
watches Worf work at his console and makes more notes.  
Worf pretends he's not there. Geordi turns to Data.

GEORDI

Just having that guy around makes  
me feel guilty.  
(to Riker)  
Commander, what's this guy after?

RIKER

I don't know, Geordi. But I'm  
going to find out. Now.

He gets up and heads purposefully for the Captain's  
Ready Room.

9  
thru OMITTED  
10

11 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Picard is at his desk, star window at his shoulder.  
The doorbell CHIMES.

PICARD

Come.

Riker ENTERS, and sits down as the Captain motions him.

RIKER

Captain, may I speak frankly?

PICARD

Always, Number One.

RIKER

As executive officer, I should  
be informed. I should know  
everything you know.

11 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I agree. You should.

RIKER

What's this about? Remmick is going to turn this ship upside down.

PICARD

That is his job.

RIKER

And mine is to make sure the ship runs smoothly.

PICARD

Which you do very well.

RIKER

Sir, am I under investigation?

PICARD

I don't know.

RIKER

And if you did?

PICARD

I couldn't tell you.

RIKER

I don't understand, sir. This is extremely frustrating.

PICARD

No less so for me. But I have promised full cooperation. And we shall give it.

Riker tries not to lose his temper.

RIKER

Sir.

He EXITS the Ready Room as Picard looks after him unhappily.

12 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Remmick is waiting for Riker outside the captain's Ready Room.

12 CONTINUED:

REMMICK

I want some answers from you now,  
Commander Riker.

RIKER

Later.

REMMICK

You were ordered to cooperate...

RIKER

When it doesn't interfere with  
my duty. Not now, Remmick!

The crew watches the furious Riker head for the  
turbolift.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 EXT. RELVA 7 (OPTICAL)

ESTABLISHING.

14 INT. RELVA 7 - CLASSROOM

The four students sit in front of computer readout screens set apart from each other. T'Shanik is the only one who appears calm.

COMPUTER VOICE

Last question on the Hyper Space  
Physics test: If the matter and  
antimatter tanks on a Galaxy Class  
starship are nine-tenths depleted,  
calculate the intermix ratio  
necessary to reach a starbase a  
hundred light years away at warp  
factor eight...

All the students begin to use the calculators attached to the computer, except Wesley, who immediately punches in the answer. T'Shanik reaches the answer almost immediately. Mordock, driven and intense, is startled at their speed, then pushes in his answer. Oliana finishes last.

COMPUTER VOICE

(continuing)

Thank you, students. You now have  
one hour free before the next  
test.

The computer shuts down, its lights FADE OUT. T'Shanik EXITS the classroom immediately as Wesley, Oliana and Mordock relax.

MORDOCK

I admit, Wesley, you have a very  
fast mind.

WESLEY

As soon as I realized it was a  
trick question, there was only  
one answer.

14 CONTINUED:

MORDOCK

Yes. There is only one "ratio"  
with matter-antimatter. One to  
one.

Wesley sneaks a look at Oliana. Her jaw is set, then  
she shrugs and smiles her bright smile at the two of  
the them.

OLIANA

You're both very lucky. I can't  
imagine what it feels like to have  
things come so easily. I have  
to push every step of the way.

WESLEY

Oh, no, Oliana, it doesn't come  
easily. I have to study all the  
time. Mordock's the one who's  
brilliant.

OLIANA

You really don't know, do you?  
It's a good thing you're cute,  
Wesley, or you could really be  
obnoxious.

She pushes her chair back and gets up.

OLIANA

(continuing)  
See you later.

She LEAVES the room.

WESLEY

Did you hear that Mordock? She  
said I was cute!

MORDOCK

Is that good, Wesley?

WESLEY

I don't know. I think so. Maybe.  
I don't know.

MORDOCK

Perhaps I was incorrect about the  
speed of your thought processes,  
Wesley.

15 OMITTED

16 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

orbiting Relva 7. ESTABLISHING.

16A OMITTED

17 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker STEPS OFF the turbolift and APPROACHES Picard.

RIKER  
Captain, I think I should  
apologize.

PICARD  
No need, Number One. Mister  
Remmick's presence is unnerving,  
to say the least.

RIKER  
Regardless, sir, I should realize  
that whatever your reasons are,  
they're valid. Whether or not  
I understand them.

Remmick ENTERS the bridge.

REMMICK  
Are you available now, Mister Riker?  
Or do you still have duties to  
perform?

RIKER  
I'm available, Mister Remmick.

REMMICK  
Any problem with using your Ready  
Room, Captain?

The crew considers this an intrusion.

TASHA  
I'll find him a comfortable place  
on Deck Fifteen, sir.

REMMICK  
It's more convenient here. Is  
there a problem, Captain?

17 CONTINUED:

PICARD

No, Mister Remmick. Be my guest.

Remmick ENTERS the Ready Room and motions for Riker to FOLLOW.

18 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Remmick sits at Picard's desk, Riker in front of him.

REMMICK

There are several seeming  
discrepancies in the captain's  
log. Let's go over them, one by  
one, shall we?

Riker is surprised -- he thought he was the one on the  
hot seat, but it's Picard.

RIKER

The captain's log?

REMMICK

Yes. To your knowledge, has the  
captain ever falsified a log?

RIKER

Have you discussed this with him?

REMMICK

Right now, I'm asking you.

RIKER

If you want to discuss anything  
about Captain Picard, bring him  
in here and ask him face to face.

REMMICK

You are required to answer my  
questions, Mister Riker. Unless  
you're trying to cover something  
up? Now, there are several  
discrepancies in the captain's  
log. Shall we go over them, one  
by one?

RIKER

Proceed.

19 OMITTED

19A INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM (FORMERLY SCENE 16A)

Troi calmly faces Remmick.

REMMICK

Do you believe the captain is emotionally and psychologically fit for command of this starship? There is nothing in his history or his personality that might suggest... mental lapses?

TROI

Nothing.

REMMICK

Not even the Ferengi incident with his old ship, the Stargazer?

TROI

He was being controlled by a mind-altering machine, Commander. Without his knowledge.

REMMICK

I would say that was a mental lapse.

20 INT. MAIN ENGINEERING

Geordi is working on a panel as Remmick questions him.

REMMICK

So, you are saying Captain Picard had no control over this vessel. He handed it over to Kosinski, who took the entire crew to some sort of "alternate" universe.

GEORDI

No, sir. That's not what I'm saying. Kosinski was sent by Starfleet to improve our warp drive. The captain was ordered to take him aboard.

REMMICK

According to his own logs, the bridge crew didn't think highly of Mister Kosinski's theories, yet the captain allowed him access to the engines anyway. Is that true, La Forge?



20 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Not exactly, sir.

REMMICK

One way or the other, La Forge,  
Picard lost control of this ship.  
Is that true?

GEORDI

Yes, but that's not how it  
happened.

REMMICK

So, the answer is yes.

Geordi is completely frustrated as Remmick makes  
notes.

21 OMITTED

22 INT. HOLODECK (OPTICAL)

It's empty and SILENT. Wesley stares off into the  
distance, frowning. Worf ENTERS, startling Wesley.

WORF

Ensign Crusher... What are you  
doing on the Holodeck? I thought  
you were still on Relva 7.

WESLEY

I'm through testing for the day.

WORF

I'm sorry if I disturbed you.  
I'll leave.

WESLEY

No! Stay. I thought I wanted  
to be by myself, but I guess I  
didn't really.

WORF

How is the testing?

22 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

Okay. So far. It's not the ones I've studied for I'm worried about. It's the Psych Test, facing my deepest fear and living through it. I don't even know what it is. I'm trying to figure out what images to bring up.

Worf

Why?

WESLEY

I wanna scare myself. What do you think -- Bulgallian rats? Lightning storm?

Worf

Do those things frighten you?

WESLEY

Kinda. But's it's exciting, too. You know, that rolling feeling in your stomach?

Worf

No. I don't know. Wesley... The Psych Test is no more or less important than the rest of the process.

WESLEY

That's what they said, but it's all I can think about.

Worf

Thinking about what you can't control simply wastes your energy and creates its own fear.

WESLEY

(angry)

How can they know what my deepest fear is when I don't?

Worf

(shrugs)

By analyzing your psychological profile. They were right about everyone I tested with. Including myself.

22 CONTINUED: (2)

WESLEY

You? I didn't think there was anything that could frighten a Klingon warrior.

WORF

Only fools have no fear.

WESLEY

I'm sorry, Lieutenant Worf. I shouldn't ask so many personal questions.

Worf stares at Wesley for a moment.

WORF

It is very... difficult for me to depend on anyone else. For anything. But especially for my life.

WESLEY

But on the Enterprise you do that every day. Everyone depends on everyone else to protect them.

WORF

Yes.

WESLEY

Then you got over it.

WORF

No. It is still my enemy.

Wesley looks at Worf with intense admiration.

23 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard and Riker are at the Aft Station reviewing supply choices. Remmick stands, watching and making entries.

RIKER

... With this new extricator, sir, we could eliminate three other bulky machines from cargo space.

PICARD

Excellent, Number One.

23 CONTINUED:

TASHA

Captain, there's an unauthorized  
entry in Main Shuttlebay.

Remmick becomes intensely interested.

REMMICK

"Unauthorized?"

PICARD

Who is it, Lieutenant?

TASHA

The computer reads the I.D.  
number of... Jake Kurland.

PICARD

Bridge to Main Shuttlebay.  
Mister Kurland... This is Captain  
Picard. Respond.

REMMICK

Isn't the area secured? I want  
answers.

RIKER

Not now, Remmick... Captain, he's  
going to take her out.

PICARD

Lock off the bay launch doors.

WORF

Too late, sir. He's using the  
flight emergency override...

GEORDI

Smart kid.

Remmick's taking notes.

TASHA

... He's launching!

PICARD

Enterprise to shuttlecraft.  
Mister Kurland.

23A EXT. SPACE - THE SHUTTLECRAFT (OPTICAL)

It LAUNCHES.

24 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - COCKPIT

Jake's at the controls.

JAKE

Captain Picard. I'm going to  
Beltane Nine to sign onto a  
freighter. Tell my father I'm  
sorry.

PICARD (V.O.)

Tell him in person. Bring the  
ship back. Now.

Jake shakes his head and WHISPERS:

JAKE

No. I can't face him. I'm  
leaving.

Jake works the controls, and the shuttle LURCHES, the  
LIGHTS DIM, the ENGINE NOISE DIES. His face shows  
panic as he frantically recomputes, and works the  
controls again.

JAKE

(continuing)

I've lost power!

25 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The crew is shocked by Jake's mistake.

RIKER

All he's got left are his  
maneuvering jets.

GEORDI

At that trajectory, he'll hit the  
atmosphere and melt at two hundred  
kilometers.

PICARD

Probable impact?

DATA

Atmospheric entry... seventy-eight  
seconds.

PICARD

Options?

25 CONTINUED:

TASHA

He's out of transporter range.

WORF

Tractor beam?

RIKER

Won't work. He's too far away  
for a positive lock.

REMMICK

You're completely responsible for  
that boy's life, Captain.

PICARD

(to Remmick)

Either get out of my way and be  
quiet, or I will have you escorted  
from the bridge... Visual on  
shuttle cockpit.

TASHA

Visual on Main Viewer.

Jake's face APPEARS on the Main Viewer. He's  
terrified.

JAKE (V.O.)

The engine's dead. What am I  
gonna do?

PICARD

Stay calm, Jake. We'll get you  
back.

The crew looks anxiously at Jake on the Viewer, then  
at Picard, who is grim.

25A INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - COCKPIT (HIS P.O.V.) (OPTICAL)

As Jake watches Relva 7 looming closer by the second.

JAKE

Please help me!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

26 EXT. SPACE - SHUTTLECRAFT (OPTICAL)

as it hurtles towards Relva 7.

27 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - COCKPIT (CONTINUOUS ACTION)  
(OPTICAL)

Jake's futilely fighting the useless controls. Relva 7  
looms even CLOSER on his Viewer.

PICARD (V.O.)

Jake!

JAKE

It's no use, Captain. I'm going  
to die out here.

28 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

ON the Main Viewer, Jake is desolate.

PICARD

Mister Kurland! You are not going  
to die out there. Do exactly  
as I tell you. Take the nose of  
the shuttle and aim it directly  
at Relva 7.

Riker and the others REACT to this, startled.

29 OMITTED

30 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - COCKPIT (OPTICAL)

The planet's COMING CLOSER.

JAKE

Aim it at Relva? I can't do  
that. It's crazy.

31 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

The crew watches grimly.

DATA

Twenty-eight seconds to impact...

PICARD

Jake, listen carefully. I'm the captain and I'm giving you an order. Aim the shuttle at Relva. Now.

32 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - COCKPIT (OPTICAL)

Jake hesitates, then maneuvers the nose of the craft directly at Relva.

JAKE

Okay. It's done.

33 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard is monitoring Data's console.

PICARD

Good. Monitor your speed exactly. When it hits point zero-two-zero, I want you to restart the engine and pull up, hard!

33A INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - COCKPIT

ON Jake's face.

JAKE

Point zero-two-zero speed... Captain, I sure hope you're right.

PICARD (V.O.)

You'll just have to trust me.

JAKE

(nodding)

Point zero-zero-three; zero-zero-nine; zero-one-two...



33B INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Picard, Riker and the others tensely watch Jake's face.  
He's pouring sweat.

PICARD  
Hang on tight. It's going to be  
bumpy.

JAKE (V.O.)  
Zero-one-five, zero-one-nine.

PICARD  
Now! Start the engine!

33C INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - COCKPIT (OPTICAL)

Jake starts the engine. WE HEAR IT CATCH as he pulls  
the shuttle up.

33D EXT. SPACE - SHUTTLECRAFT (OPTICAL)

WE SEE the shuttle angle off the planet's atmosphere.

34 OMITTED

35 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

CHEERS all around, including Remmick, who's standing  
over the console.

RIKER  
Incredible, Captain!

REMMICK  
He bounced her off the atmosphere!

PICARD  
Mister Kurland, can you maneuver the  
shuttle home?

JAKE (V.O.)  
Yes, sir.

PICARD  
Do so. Then report to Mister Riker.

Jake is so relieved, he doesn't care he's in deep  
trouble.

35 CONTINUED:

JAKE (V.O.)

Yes, sir!

RIKER

Main Shuttle Bay, prepare to  
receive shuttle.

Remmick stops smiling.

REMMICK

Very... original, Captain. But  
how did this child gain access  
to a Shuttlecraft?

RIKER

Kurland is a highly qualified  
Enterprise Academy candidate and  
fully trained in many areas ...  
including shuttles.

REMMICK

And did this "full" training  
include discipline?

PICARD

Young men sometimes make rash  
choices, Mister Remmick. Which is  
why Mister Kurland will receive a  
strong refresher specifically in  
discipline...

REMMICK

I'll note that in my report.

Picard turns away from Remmick as Riker starts to  
protest:

PICARD

Full cooperation, Number One.

36 EXT. RELVA 7 (OPTICAL)

ESTABLISHING.

37 INT. RELVA 7 - CORRIDOR

Wesley walks down the hall as Oliana is having an  
intense M.O.S. discussion with Chang outside his  
office. He's telling her what her point standing is  
in relation to the other candidates. Chang ENTERS  
his office, leaving her there looking dejected.

37 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

Oliana!

OLIANA

Oh. Hi, Wes.

WESLEY

I, um, thought you might want to have lunch... together.

OLIANA

Thanks, but I'm not very hungry.

WESLEY

Oh... okay.

She pats him on the hand.

OLIANA

It's not you... it's just that Mordock and you are so far ahead in points, I'll never catch up.

WESLEY

Oh. Sorry.

(worried)

You're not leaving., are you?

OLIANA

And give up? Never. Besides, it'll be good practice for next year. See you later.

She's almost back to her cheerful self. Wesley stares after her thoughtfully, then turns around, almost bumping into Mordock.

MORDOCK

Ah, Wesley. Distracted by the female human again. No matter. It does not seem to diminish your mental faculties. You do good work.

WESLEY

Me? No, you're the one. I've studied the Mordock Strategy...

MORDOCK

Are you a player of Benzite chess?

37 CONTINUED: (2)

WESLEY

Sure!

MORDOCK

If you like, we can discuss this  
at lunch... I am hungry.

Wesley cheers up.

WESLEY

Me too!

They start towards the Mess Hall. RONDON, an  
irritable, powerful-looking Alien, WALKS TOWARDS them  
with a package under his arm.

RONDON

(to Wesley)

You. I have a package for  
Operations. Where is it?

WESLEY

End of the corridor on your right.  
Room 406...

As Rondon walks away, he BUMPS right into Wesley.

RONDON

You blocked my path... you  
Bulgallian sludge rat!

TAC Officer Chang LEAVES his office and HEADS their  
way.

WESLEY

I apologize. An honest mistake,  
okay? I'm sorry.

CHANG

Is there a problem here,  
gentlemen?

WESLEY

No, sir... I, he...

RONDON

(shouting)

How dare you! I am Rondon, you  
despicable Melanoid slimeworm!

(raises fist)

Liar!

37 CONTINUED: (3)

Wesley sees the fist and suddenly becomes tough and straightforward. He advances towards Rondon.

WESLEY

Who do you think you're bullying?  
You bumped into me. It was your  
mistake. You were rude.  
(assuming defense  
posture)  
Do you want this to become  
violent?

Mordock moves to separate them, but Chang motions him back, as Wesley holds his ground. Abruptly, Rondon warmly pats Wesley on the Back.

RONDON

Friend. I like you.

He turns and is GONE. Mordock is confused.

MORDOCK

A very strange reaction.

WESLEY

Not really. When he held up his  
hand, I could see it was  
webbed... the sign of a Zaldan.

CHANG

But you became hostile.

WESLEY

Zaldans are infuriated by  
courtesy. They see it as a form  
of phony social behavior, designed  
to hide real feelings.

CHANG

Congratulations, Mister Crusher.  
You handled that particular  
incident very well.

Mordock is alerted.

MORDOCK

Was that "incident" deliberate?

CHANG

It's important to know how you  
candidates deal with other  
cultures, other species.

37 CONTINUED: (4)

MORDOCK

Then it was a test.

CHANG

Yes. Not all tests are  
announced. Or what they appear  
to be.

He smiles and LEAVES.

MORDOCK

Zaldans have webbed fingers?  
I wouldn't have passed.

They share a look. They can't relax for a second.

38 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

still in orbit.

39 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - MONTAGE

Remmick holds court as he interviews the bridge  
Officers, one by one. First is Data:

REMMICK

Commander Data, I'm getting very  
little cooperation from the bridge  
crew. You're an android, correct?

DATA

Yes, sir.

REMMICK

And as an android, you are  
programmed to tell the entire  
truth?

DATA

Yes, sir.

REMMICK

There is a problem with this ship,  
Mister Data. It's in the records,  
somewhere. I need your help to  
find it.

DATA

All the ship's records are  
available to you, sir.

39 CONTINUED:

REMMICK

This information is very cleverly hidden. Your captain is not what he appears to be. Do not forget you have loyalty to Starfleet above all else.

DATA

Loyalty is not the issue, Commander. There is nothing wrong with Captain Picard -- or the ship's logs. Therefore there must be something wrong with your original assumption.

REMMICK

That is not acceptable, Mister Data.

DATA

Acceptable or not, sir, it is the truth.

CUT TO:

Remmick interviewing Worf:

REMMICK

(looking at some notes)

Just how did this contaminant come on board?

WORF

By accident, sir.

REMMICK

Meaning Captain Picard has no standing procedure for this type of situation?

WORF

No. Meaning "by accident" sir.

REMMICK

You don't like me very much, do you?

WORF

Is it required, sir?

CUT TO:

Remmick interviewing Beverly:

39 CONTINUED: (2)

REMMICK

How would you characterize your  
relationship with Captain Picard?

BEVERLY

We're officers of Starfleet who  
have known each other for many  
years.

Remmick leans in towards her.

REMMICK

Everything said here is  
confidential, Doctor. You can  
be completely open with me.

BEVERLY

About what?

REMMICK

About how you feel serving with  
a man who was responsible for the  
death of your husband.

BEVERLY

My personal feelings about  
Captain Picard are irrelevant  
to this investigation. And none  
of your business.

CUT TO:

Remmick with Picard.

REMMICK

Then you confirm the logs are  
accurate: you violated the Prime  
Directive with the Edo? You  
deliberately interfered with their  
laws?

PICARD

Yes. It's exactly as I explained  
it in the log records.

REMMICK

All to save Doctor Crusher's son?

PICARD

One of my crew was held unjustly.  
I stand by my decision.



39 CONTINUED: (3)

Remmick fumbles around, looking for something else to ask.

PICARD

(continuing)

Mister Remmick, you have talked to everyone on this ship. I think you've had enough time to find out whatever it is you need to know.

REMMICK

Are you worried that if I keep looking I'll find what you're guilty of?

PICARD

The only thing I'm guilty of is allowing this charade to go on too long.

He gets up, as WE:

40 OMITTED

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

41 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

in orbit around Relva 7.

42 INT. ENTERPRISE - ADMIRAL'S QUARTERS

The admiral looks weary as Picard and he watch each other carefully.

PICARD

If it's me you're after, Admiral,  
ask me directly what you want to  
know. Then tell me exactly what's  
going on.

QUINN

I need a little more time,  
Jean-Luc.

PICARD

How much time? I won't tolerate  
my crew being harassed any longer.

QUINN

Remmick's full report is almost  
ready.

PICARD

I want to be here when he presents  
it.

QUINN

That has always been my intention.

Quinn pushes a com button near his hand.

QUINN

(continuing)

Commander Remmick, report to  
Admiral Quinn.

REMMICK'S COM VOICE

On my way, sir.

Picard looks at Quinn sadly.

42 CONTINUED:

PICARD

This has been a strain on our  
friendship.

QUINN

I know. Believe me, Jean-Luc,  
I regret that, but it has been  
necessary.

43 EXT. RELVA 7 (OPTICAL)

ESTABLISHING.

44 INT. RELVA 7 - CLASSROOM

The four finalists are again in front of their separate  
computer screens. Chang is at the front of the room.

CHANG

This test will be graded as to  
the number of problems you  
complete within the allotted time.

As the computers LIGHT UP, he LEAVES the room.

COMPUTER VOICE

The Carlundrum I.Q. Test will now  
appear. The task is to predict  
the variable patterns of Platonic  
Solids. Your responses will be  
timed. Begin.

The four students stare at their separate screens as  
images APPEAR. Wesley watches the screen as various  
SHAPES (triangles, squares, etc.) APPEAR in various  
COLORS and PATTERNS, SPINNING in a space, ROTATING  
along their axes, and REAPPEARING with DIFFERENT  
markings. The PICTURE CHANGES rapidly from one to  
another in seemingly meaningless combinations. Wesley  
watches, then begins his move.

45 ANGLE ON WESLEY AND MORDOCK

as they continue to predict the patterns and program  
the shapes and colors onto the screen before the  
computer does. Wesley is really having a good time.  
Mordock, on the other hand, is tense and misses one  
or two sequences, then has to go back.

46 ACROSS THE ROOM

T'Shanik moves methodically and calmly through the problems. Oliana moves with great bursts of energy, then pauses.

47 WESLEY

pushes the console with ease. The time is rapidly diminishing. Mordock begins to struggle.

MORDOCK

I... I can't get... it.

WESLEY

Don't fight it. Relax into it and just do it automatically.

MORDOCK

No... it's going too fast!

Mordock jabs at the controls, but his fingers trip over one another. Wesley glances over to Mordock's screen.

WESLEY

You're doing all right...

Wesley looks back to his screen, and keeps up, but has lost a few seconds.

MORDOCK

No... no. Wesley, I can't do it.

Wesley glances away again, points at Mordock's screen.

WESLEY

(DIALOGUE TO BE WRITTEN)

Mordock realizes he's right, and punches the combination in, finishing the test. The last set of SHAPES FLASH different COLORS. Wesley finishes his test a beat later.

COMPUTER VOICE

Test completed.

Mordock is very upset as Chang COMES BACK INTO the room.

MORDOCK

Mister Chang...

47 CONTINUED:

CHANG

Congratulations, Mordock. That was the second fastest time recorded on this test. You all did well.

MORDOCK

It should not have been that way. Mister Crusher helped me.

CHANG

Yes. I know. An interesting choice, Mister Crusher. Especially considering how close you and Mister Mordock are in overall score.

WESLEY

Yes, sir.

CHANG

You all have an hour to prepare for your last test.

WESLEY

The Psych Test, sir?

CHANG

We prefer to think of it as a psychological evaluation based on reactions to various individual problems.

(smiles)

But the Psych Test will do.

48 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

orbiting Relva 7.

49 INT. ENTERPRISE - ADMIRAL'S QUARTERS

Remmick ENTERS.

REMMICK

Sir.

QUINN

Please sit down, Mister Remmick. Proceed with your report.

49 CONTINUED:

Picard is intent, ready and willing to hear Remmick's findings. Remmick is very uncomfortable.

REMMICK

Admiral, I've done my best to be objective during this investigation. And yet, I feel a sense of failure.

He hesitates.

QUINN

Continue.

REMMICK

I couldn't find what you asked, sir. I spoke with officer after officer, at length. I probed the log reports. And I have found nothing wrong. Except, perhaps, a casual familiarity among the bridge crew, but... mostly that comes from a sense of teamwork.

(beat)

I'm sorry, sir. I did my best.

QUINN

Quite. You're dismissed, Commander.

REMMICK

Yes, sir.

He gets up to leave, and pauses at the door.

REMMICK

(continuing)

Captain Picard, my tour in the Inspector General's office will be up in six months. When I'm finished, this is where I'd like to serve, sir.

He nods and LEAVES. Picard looks at Quinn.

QUINN

Don't judge the young man too harshly. He's a good officer.

PICARD

It's not him I'm judging.

49 CONTINUED: (2)

QUINN

Don't judge me too harshly,  
either. Not until I'm finished.  
We had to be very sure about you.

(beat)

Some time ago, a few of us in  
Starfleet Command became  
suspicious of problems within  
the Federation.

PICARD

What kind of problems?

QUINN

Something or someone is trying  
to destroy the fabric of all we've  
built over the last two hundred  
years.

PICARD

What's your evidence?

QUINN

I can't go into that. Too many  
other people are involved. But  
if we're right, this is the most  
critical time in the history of  
the Federation.

PICARD

What do you want from me?

QUINN

I don't know if the threat is  
coming from within or from the  
outside. I need people I can trust  
in strong positions throughout  
the Federation.

PICARD

You have my complete support.  
You know that.

QUINN

Not enough. I want to promote  
you to admiral, Jean-Luc. I want  
you to take over as Commandant  
of Starfleet Academy.

PICARD

The Academy?

49 CONTINUED: (3)

QUINN

Yes. I need you close.

PICARD

Then there was never a problem  
with the Enterprise.

QUINN

No. I had to be sure you hadn't  
been co-opted.

PICARD

Greg, the real issue is politics.  
I'm no good at politics. Surely  
there are others more suited.

Picard isn't sure how to take all of this.

QUINN

I sense you're doubtful about  
this. All right. Suppose it's  
the rambling paranoia of an old  
man. Even if I am wrong, and I  
hope I am, you're still the best  
man for the job.

PICARD

I appreciate the value of what  
you're offering. It's not  
something I can decide quickly.

Quinn pushes him.

QUINN

I need your answer soon, Captain.

PICARD

All right. You'll have it  
tonight, Admiral.

As they shake hands, WE

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR



ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

50 EXT. RELVA 7 (OPTICAL)

ESTABLISHING.

51 INT. RELVA 7 - CORRIDOR

Wesley sits nervously waiting outside the Testing Room. He closes his eyes and tries to do breathing exercises to keep himself calm. Chang COMES OUT of the Testing Room.

CHANG

Mister Mordock will be finished with his Psych Test momentarily.

Wesley watches the door, waiting. It slides OPEN, but no one is there. Then... Mordock EMERGES, badly shaken, his face covered with sweat. He looks down at his hands.

WESLEY

Mordock? Are you... all right?

Mordock tries not to scare Wesley.

MORDOCK

I will be...

CHANG

Mister Crusher... you're next. Good luck.

Chang gestures for Wesley to enter. Wesley hesitates, then STEPS THROUGH. The door slides SHUT behind him.

52 OMITTED

53 INT. RELVA 7 - TESTING ROOM

An ordinary room. White walls, two or three chairs, no windows. Wesley looks around for some guidance as to the next step. He waits a beat, then looks around and decides to sit down. Still nothing.

53 CONTINUED:

WESLEY

Hello?

He gets up and starts to pace.

WESLEY

(continuing)

I'm here. I'm, uh, ready.

Nothing. He sits down again.

WESLEY

(continuing; muttering)

Maybe they forgot.

Wesley jumps up again and resumes pacing.

WESLEY

(continuing)

Breathe. Gotta remember to  
breathe.

He's startled by something -- a sound, a sense of something wrong. He becomes alert, checking out the room. He takes another deep breath, then realizes he hears something in the distance -- MUFFLED THUD. He moves towards the door he entered. He listens intently near the door, and hears a LOUDER NOISE. Wesley opens the door manually and ENTERS the corridor.

54 INT. RELVA 7 - LONG CORRIDOR

Several more O.S. EXPLOSIONS. Wesley runs towards its source. He reaches a door and hears ALARMS RINGING and another EXPLOSION. The door says: "ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE LABORATORY." He runs down the empty corridor and YELLS.

WESLEY

Somebody help! Something's wrong  
in the lab!

There is no response. Then he hears:

TECHNICIAN #1 (V.O.)

Help! We're trapped. Help!  
We're gonna die.

COMPUTER VOICE (V.O.)

Evacuate immediately. Sixty-five  
seconds to life-support seal-off.

Wesley presses the wallplate and the door GLIDES OPEN.

55 INT. RELVA 7 - ENVIRONMENTAL LAB

Wesley ENTERS cautiously. The door CLOSES behind him. WIND HOWLS through the room, which has been partially trashed by the explosions. It's FREEZING. A large pipe has fractured, allowing fumes of liquid hydrogen (or another gas) and a vortex of wind to act as a barrier between Wesley and the TWO TECHNICIANS.

TECHNICIAN #1 is cowered in a corner, uninjured, YELLING, on the other side of the wind tunnel. His pathway out is partially blocked by debris, so he must cross the vortex to get to the door.

TECHNICIAN #2, is trapped, under a piece of equipment on the far side of the vortex, not far from Technician #1.

Wesley hesitates, then makes his way ACROSS the HOWLING WIND to the injured Technician. The WIND and COLD continue to batter the two of them.

COMPUTER VOICE  
Evacuate immediately. Forty-five  
seconds to life-support seal-off.

Wesley tries to move the equipment off the trapped man.

WESLEY  
(to Technician #1)  
Help me move this!

The Technician remains cowered in the corner, shaking his head. Wesley keeps pushing the equipment.

WESLEY  
(continuing)  
You have to help me!

TECHNICIAN #1  
I can't! It's too late. We're  
going to die! The liquid  
hydrogen's gonna blow!

TECHNICIAN #2  
Please don't leave me! The  
shut-off valve ruptured. If we  
don't get out of here fast,  
they'll seal us off to contain  
the explosion!

55 CONTINUED:

COMPUTER VOICE

Evacuate immediately. Twenty-five  
seconds to seal-off.

Wesley finds something to use as a lever. The  
equipment begins to move slightly. Beads of sweat pour  
off Wesley's face as he makes a Herculean last effort.  
Technician #2's leg is free. Wesley drags him out.  
He turns to Technician #1.

WESLEY

Come on!

TECHNICIAN #1

There's no way out! I can't move  
through that!

WESLEY

You have to. I can't carry you  
both! You can walk. Come on.

COMPUTER VOICE

Evacuate immediately. Five  
seconds to seal-off.

Technician #1 remains terrified in the corner. Wesley  
hesitates a moment, then half-carries, half-drags  
Technician #2 through the vortex towards the exit.  
He looks back:

WESLEY

I'm sorry.

Wesley pulls Technician #2 THROUGH THE DOOR to the  
corridor.

56 INT. RELVA 7 - CORRIDOR

Wesley pulls Technician #2 THROUGH THE DOOR INTO the  
corridor. The door SNAPS SHUT behind him. Chang is  
standing there, waiting. Wesley's heart is pounding,  
his adrenaline up.

WESLEY

Officer Chang! There's been an...

CHANG

It's all right, Wesley.

The "injured" Technician gets up, brushes himself off,  
and shakes Wesley's hand. Wesley's shocked.

56 CONTINUED:

TECHNICIAN #2

Thanks.

He WALKS down the corridor, leaving Wesley with Chang. Wesley's still pale and breathing shallowly, when Technician #1 EXITS the Lab, nods to them both, and FOLLOWS the other Technician.

CHANG.

Excellent performance, Mister Crusher.

WESLEY

Performance?!... That was the test.

CHANG

Yes.

WESLEY

But a man died!

CHANG

Theoretically, yes. You had to make a choice. And you did. There's no right or wrong about it. Your greatest fear has been that you couldn't make that decision.

Wesley just looks at him, and nods his head slowly.

WESLEY

Because of my father? Because Cap... someone made that choice and my father died.

Chang smiles and pats Wesley on the shoulder.

57 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

orbiting Relva 7.

58 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Picard is standing as Riker ENTERS.

RIKER

Sir?

58 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Yes, Number One?

RIKER

Mister Remmick has left the ship.

PICARD

Yes. He found nothing wrong on the Enterprise. You may inform the crew that Admiral Quinn is most impressed.

RIKER

Thank you. They'll be pleased... Can you explain now what he was after?

PICARD

They were after me, Number One. They want me to take over as Commandant of Starfleet Academy.

RIKER

Congratulations! What a wonderful choice, sir! You'll be able to shape the minds of the future leaders of Starfleet.

He looks at Picard, realizes his ambivalence.

RIKER

(continuing)

You haven't decided what you're going to do.

PICARD

Yes I have, Number One. I'm going for a walk.

59 EXT. RELVA 7 (OPTICAL)

ESTABLISHING.

60 INT. RELVA 7 - CLASSROOM

Chang is at the front of the class as the four students await his decision. Wesley, Oliana and Mordock are nervous, T'Shanik impassive.

60 CONTINUED:

CHANG

I'm proud of all of you. You've done a superb job. Each of you would make a fine Starfleet officer. It's unfair that only one candidate from Relva will attend the Academy this year -- and a loss to the Federation if the rest of you do not return to test again... Mister Mordock will be the candidate. His results were slightly higher than Mister Crusher's. Congratulations, Mister Mordock. You are the first Benzite in Starfleet.

Wesley slumps in his seat. Mordock looks at all of them, then turns to Chang.

MORDOCK

Thank you, sir, but it's not right. It shouldn't be me. Wesley lost points because he helped me. He shouldn't be punished for his generosity.

CHANG

He wasn't. He lost time, but it wasn't only that... Candidates, thank you and good luck.

They all stand as Chang EXITS.

MORDOCK

I am sorry, Wesley.

WESLEY

It's okay. You deserved to win. Besides, you would've done the same thing for me.

They all look questioningly at Mordock, who hesitates. Then he looks at his comrades:

MORDOCK

Yes. I believe I would.

T'Shanik APPROACHES Mordock.

T'SHANIK

Congratulations.

60 CONTINUED: (2)

She nods to the others and LEAVES the room as Oliana and Wesley shake hands with Mordock.

OLIANA

Well, personally, I hate losing.  
So you'd better be ready next  
year, Wesley. I won't be easy  
to beat.

Wesley smiles at the thought of seeing her again,  
whatever the circumstances.

61 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

ESTABLISHING.

62  
thru OMITTED  
63

64 INT. CORRIDOR

Picard strides down the corridor when he runs into  
Jake Kurland, who takes one look at him and would like  
to be anywhere else on the Enterprise.

PICARD

Mister Kurland!

JAKE

Yes, sir.

Picard is uncomfortable around him.

PICARD

Are you... feeling better?

JAKE

Yes, sir... I'm sorry I damaged  
the shuttle. But Mister Riker says  
I can work on fixing it as part  
of my "discipline" training.

PICARD

Good idea. I hope you learned  
that running away doesn't solve  
anything, young man.

JAKE

Yes, sir. I'm sorry I messed up.



64 CONTINUED:

PICARD

I know. But you did keep your  
wits about you out there... don't  
forget that.

JAKE

No, sir. And... thank you for  
saving my life.

Now Picard would rather be anywhere else on the ship.

PICARD

You're welcome.

He turns and WALKS BACK the other way.

64A OMITTED

65 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Wesley stands there, alone and melancholy, staring at  
the starfield outside the window. Picard ENTERS.

PICARD

Mister Crusher? Why aren't you in  
your dress uniform for Admiral  
Quinn's farewell dinner?

WESLEY

I... I didn't think it would be  
appropriate.

PICARD

Why not?

WESLEY

I failed, Captain. I didn't get  
into the Academy. I failed you...  
and the Enterprise.

PICARD

Ridiculous. Did you do your best?

A beat. Wesley nods.

65 CONTINUED:

PICARD

(continuing)

When you test next year -- and  
you will test again -- do you  
think your performance will  
improve?

WESLEY

Well, yes...

PICARD

Good. The only person you're  
truly competing against is  
yourself.

WESLEY

Then you're not disappointed?

PICARD

Your failures and successes have  
to be measured within, Wesley.  
Not by me or anyone else... But  
if it helps you to know this, I  
failed my first time. And you  
may not tell anyone!

WESLEY

You? You failed?

PICARD

Yes. But not the second time.  
Now, do me the honor of sitting  
next to me at dinner. I'm going  
to have to disappoint an old  
friend.

Picard smiles at Wesley as they walk to the door.

65A INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

Picard and Quinn stand next to the platform. The only  
other person in the room is Tasha, at the controls.

QUINN

I wish I could convince you to  
change your mind.

PICARD

I'll serve you better here.

Quinn gives up.

65A CONTINUED:

QUINN

This is where you belong.

PICARD

If you need me...

Quinn brushes aside Picard's concern.

QUINN

I've been playing politics too long. Perhaps I see conspiracy everywhere. Don't worry.

Quinn shakes Picard's hand and then steps onto the platform.

QUINN

(continuing)

Safe travels, my friend.

Quinn nods to Tasha, who works the console. Picard stares at Quinn for a long time, as if memorizing what he looks like. The admiral is BEAMED DOWN.

65B INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard STEPS OFF the turbolift. He walks to where Wesley sits at the Conn, and stands between Wesley and Data.

PICARD

Set course to Algeron 4, Mister Crusher.

WESLEY

Course plotted and laid in, sir.

PICARD

You know, we're really alike, you and I. Both explorers to the core... Engage, Mister Crusher.

Wesley smiles happily at Picard's praise.

66 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

moves off to its next destination, as WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE  
THE END