

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Arsenal Of Freedom"
(fka "Among The Missing")
#40271-121

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2ND REV. FINAL DRAFT

JANUARY 25, 1988

STAR TREK: "The Arsenal Of Freedom" - 1/25/88 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Arsenal Of Freedom"

CAST

PICARD	THE PEDDLER (A HUMANOID)
RIKER	CAPTAIN PAUL RICE
BEVERLY	
DATA	
TROI	
TASHA	
WORF	
GEORDI	
ENSIGN LIAN T'SU	
CHIEF ENGINEER LOGAN	
LIEUTENANT (J. G.) ORFIL SOLIS	

Voice-Over
TRANSPORTER CHIEF

STAR TREK: "The Arsenal of Freedom" - 1/25/88 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Arsenal Of Freedom"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
MAIN BRIDGE
BATTLE BRIDGE

PLANET MINOS
TUNNEL (OR LIMBO SET)
CAVERN

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
SAUCER SECTION
BATTLE CRUISER
IN SPACE
IN ATMOSPHERE

PLANET MINOS
PLANET SURFACE
RUINS
JUNGLE

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"The Arsenal Of Freedom"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

It's moving through sparkling, black velvet space -- a blue-green planet slowly enlarging in the distant background.

PICARD (V. O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41798.2.
We are ordered by Starfleet, to proceed to the Lorenze Cluster and investigate the disappearance of the light cruiser USS Drake, which was in that system trying to unravel a mystery of its own.

2 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

EVERYONE's at station except Riker and Troi. Riker's at the Aft Station going over some computer readouts.

PICARD (V.O.)

(continuing)

Recent long range probes indicate that all intelligent life on the planet Minos has disappeared.

PICARD

Number One?

RIKER

No help from their communications log. The Drake reported arriving at Minos and was never heard from again.

PICARD

Mister Data?

DATA

The citizens of Minos gained fame during the Ersalrope wars as arms merchants. They manufactured sophisticated and highly advanced weaponry.

2 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

For which side?

DATA

Both.

GEORDI

We are nearing the planet Minos.

PICARD

Standard orbit, Mister La Forge.

GEORDI

Aye, sir. Standard orbit.

RIKER

Whatever happened to the Drake,
happened quickly, otherwise
Captain Rice would have sent
another message.

PICARD

You know Captain Rice?

RIKER

We were at the Academy together.

PICARD

Tell me about him.

Troi listens intently.

RIKER

Able. A good officer.

TROI

How would he react under stress?

Riker thinks for a beat, then:

RIKER

Paul Rice is confident almost to
the point of arrogance, but
carries it well because he usually
makes the right choices. He's
a risk taker.

PICARD

Oh.

2 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

I'll give you an example. One of the final tests in advance navigation at the Academy presents the student with three options. When Rice took the test, he rejected all of them and offered one of his own.

PICARD

I'd call that arrogant.

RIKER

But it paid off -- he received the top mark. And now that test has four options. The original three... plus his.

TROI

In a difficult situation a man like that would react aggressively.

RIKER

Agreed.

PICARD

Number One, weren't you offered the Drake?

RIKER

Yes.

TASHA

You turned down your own command to take this assignment?

RIKER

At the time, I thought it was more advantageous for me to do a tour on the Enterprise.

DATA

Captain -- readings correspond with the findings of the probe. No signs of intelligent life-forms. Vegetation and animal life only.

PICARD

None?

DATA

Correct.

2 CONTINUED: (3)

TROI

What happened to all those people?

WORF

War?

DATA

Disease?

GEORDI

A dissatisfied customer?

TASHA

In any war, natural disaster, or
even the most virulent plague,
there are always survivors.

DATA

Captain, we are being hailed.

2A EVERYONE REACTS

The question on their faces.

RIKER

How is that possible from a planet
with no people?

PICARD

Your sensors indicated no
intelligent life?

DATA

Correct.

PICARD

Put it on the Main Viewer.

3 ANGLE TO INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

A humanoid, THE PEDDLER, APPEARS on the Main Viewer.
He has a ROLLING, LILTING VOICE, the confidence of a
master salesman with a touch of the carny thrown in.

3 CONTINUED:

THE PEDDLER'S COM VOICE

Whoever you are -- wherever you're
from -- greetings and welcome to
Minos -- the Arsenal of Freedom...

PICARD

I am Captain Jean-Luc Picard of
the USS Enterprise. To whom am
I speaking?

The Peddler ignores the question and continues with his
pitch.

THE PEDDLER'S COM VOICE

... Where we live by the motto --
peace through superior firepower.
Come -- allow us to meet your
needs. If you need a little
something special, be it for one
target -- or multiple targets -- we
got it, you'll see it... here on
the Arsenal of Freedom. Because
we don't just provide weapons --
we also offer complete weapon
systems.

DATA

It is a recorded message.

THE PEDDLER'S COM VOICE

To be totally armed is to be
totally secure...

PICARD

It must be left over from the time
of the Romulan wars, when the
business of selling arms was
booming.

THE PEDDLER'S COM VOICE

... Remember, the early bird that
hesitates gets wormed. Perfection
in highly-advanced weaponry.
Versatility... flexibility.
And... everything one hundred
percent guaranteed... So lock on
to my signal and beam on down.

PICARD

Screen off.

The screen GOES OFF.

3 CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI

It's a heck of a sales pitch.

PICARD

If an automated message system is still functioning -- other systems on the planet may also be operational.

TASHA

Weapons systems?

PICARD

Possibly.

RIKER

We are going to have to go down there to find it.

PICARD

Prepare your away team, Number One.

RIKER

Lieutenant Yar -- Commander Data.

Data rises from his chair and is immediately replaced by LIEUTENANT (J. G.) ORFIL SOLIS.

TASHA

Commander, I recommend a minimum complement.

RIKER

Oh? I would have thought otherwise.

TASHA

We'll keep the first landing party small and mobile. Until I'm confident that whatever killed the inhabitants of this planet isn't still down there.

Riker nods his agreement. And they head for the turbolift.

4
thru OMITTED
5

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. PLANET SURFACE (OPTICAL)

It's a small clearing in a verdant, overgrown area. Riker, Data and Tasha BEAM IN, and stand apprehensively looking around. The SOUNDS OF LIFE -- BIRDS, INSECTS -- surround them. The away team stands quietly, looking around tensely, and then slowly turning on their tricorders and scanning the periphery, protecting each other with their backs together.

RIKER

Spooky.

(touches com)

Riker.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Bridge. Captain speaking.

RIKER

We'll start a pattern search
from this point.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Keep this channel open.

RIKER

Aye, sir.

DATA

Commander, our communications are
being monitored.

RIKER

By whom?

DATA

Sir, since there is no intelligent
life, the question is "by what?"

RIKER

Captain.

7 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard in his Command position listening to the away
team.

7 CONTINUED:

PICARD

Yes, I heard, Number One. We'll
try to track it down from here.

Worf and the others strain over their instruments.

8 EXT. PLANET SURFACE

The team moves slowly down the clearing, very alert,
and OUT OF SHOT.

9 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - RUINS

Crumbled high-tech ruins, aged and rusted in spots.
The team ENTERS SHOT, Tasha leading. Near the base
of a ruin she pulls away some foliage and a melted rod
and plank of tritanium ARE SEEN.

TASHA

Tritanium. It's been melted.

RIKER

What could do that?

TASHA

Whatever it was, it's beyond our
technology.

DATA

Over here.

Data has found something. Its shape is clearly that
of a weapon: a super-high-tech RIFLE, gimbals-mounted,
with laser rheostats and sighting. Riker kneels,
scans, and examines it.

RIKER

We've never even seen anything
like this.

TASHA

It's undamaged.

RIKER

Maybe a demonstration model for
some potential buyer.

TASHA

Maybe. Let's spread out a
little.

10 INTERCUT

The away team as it SPREADS OUT.

11 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard listening to the SOUNDS OF THEM MOVING THROUGH THE UNDERBRUSH.

SOLIS

Commander Riker. This is Lieutenant Solis. I am monitoring a slight energy buildup near your position. I am not able to pinpoint the source.

RIKER'S COM VOICE

Give me a direction.

SOLIS

East of your position -- ten meters. I will continue monitoring.

12 EXT. PLANET SURFACE

ON Riker -- as he looks through the foliage.

RIKER

I can't see anything from here. The underbrush is very thick.

He goes behind the ruin to examine the back side of it. Suddenly he tenses, sensing something.

RICE (O.S.)

Hello... Commander Riker.

Riker turns at the sound of the voice. CAPTAIN PAUL RICE STEPS INTO SHOT. He is dressed in a Starfleet Captain's uniform, trim and neat, a man of Riker's age with a military bearing. He is businesslike and calm, and acts as if this kind of meeting, under these circumstances, is perfectly normal. Riker, on the other hand, is stunned.

12 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Rice! Where did you come from?

RICE

I was over there.

RIKER

You had us worried. But, I should have known you'd pop up.

RICE

How are you, Commander Riker?

RIKER

Me -- never mind me. How are you? No word, no message... nothing.

RICE

How many are with you?

RIKER

Two others. Where's the Drake? Where's your crew?

13 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (INTERCUT WITH PLANET AS NEEDED)

Picard is as surprised as Riker.

PICARD

What's going on Number One?

Riker STEPS AWAY, so the following conversation is confidential.

RIKER

It's Paul Rice from the Drake.

PICARD

(confused by the apparent contradiction)

Lieutenant Solis?

SOLIS

Sensors indicate low level energy readings, but the only life signs are the away team.

PICARD

Careful, Number One.

13 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Understood.

13A EXT. PLANET SURFACE

Riker MOVES BACK TO Rice.

RIKER

(to Rice)

You look strange, Paul...

RICE

I was injured getting here.

RIKER

Do you need medical help?

Riker is very suspicious and ready for anything. He knows this image in front of him is NOT Captain Paul Rice, but in order to find out the purpose of this replica he will play along.

RICE

No. What is your purpose here?

Tasha and Data join Riker. They stare at Rice, who hardly notices them.

RIKER

This is Commander Data and
Lieutenant Yar.

Data looks down at his tricorder, then back to the figure.

DATA

Other than ourselves, sir, I am
picking up no other life signs
here.

RIKER

Yes. I know.

RICE

Riker, you didn't answer me. Who
sent you here to look for me?

RIKER

Your mother.

13A CONTINUED:

Both Tasha and Data REACT to this obvious lie.

RIKER
(continuing)
She's worried about you.

RICE
Tell me about your ship -- the
Enterprise, isn't it?

RIKER
No... The name of my ship is the
Lollipop.

RICE
I have no knowledge of that ship.

RIKER
It's just been commissioned. It's
a good ship.

RICE
Riker, refresh me, would you?
What's its size and complement?

RIKER
Who's here with you?

RICE
(puzzled)
What's the armament on the
Lollipop?

RIKER
Paul -- I will only answer your
questions if you answer mine.
Why do you want to know so much
about my ship?

RICE
We're friends, aren't we?

RIKER
Old friends.

RICE
Our top speed is warp three.
What's yours?

13A CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER

"Is?" Then the Drake has not
been destroyed.

RICE

The Drake?

RIKER

Yes, your ship?

RICE

Of course -- my ship is the
Drake.

RIKER

Where is it?

RICE

Classified.

RIKER

Classified?

RICE

Please -- it's important. Our
survival depends on knowing.
What's the armament on your ship?

RIKER

Ten.

RICE

Ten? I don't understand. Ten
what?

RIKER

Six.

RICE

Commander Riker, those answers
make no sense.

RIKER

You haven't used my first name
once, Paul.

There is a slight hesitation.

RIKER

(continuing)

You remember it, don't you?

13A CONTINUED: (3)

No response. Rice looks confused.

RIKER

(continuing)

Because you don't even exist.
You're a fake -- an image of the
original! Aren't you?... Answer me!

Rice twitches -- a slight REACTION, then SUDDENLY:

14 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

The Image of Captain Rice DISAPPEARS and is REPLACED
BY A WEAPON-LIKE OBJECT. IT QUICKLY MOVES several
meters away.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Report, Number One.

RIKER

The image of Rice has been
replaced by something which
is hovering several meters away.

15 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard is very concerned.

PICARD

Number One, get your team back
here.

16 EXT. PLANET SURFACE (OPTICAL)

Riker and the others set to beam up.

RIKER

Prepare to beam up.

TASHA

Commander.

He looks as she indicates a direction. The WEAPON IS
MOVING toward them. Before anyone can answer, THE
WEAPON FIRES.

17 CLOSE ON RIKER (OPTICAL)

The BEAM HITS HIM. He STIFFENS -- and BECOMES ENCASED
IN A clear, transparent CUBE of material.

18 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

They all HEAR, and REACT to, the SOUND OF THE PHASER
BLAST.

19 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - ANGLE ON TASHA (OPTICAL)

She FIRES ON THE WEAPON AND DESTROYS IT.

20 FULL SHOT - AWAY TEAM

Picard's VOICE is heard.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

(tense, tight)

What just happened down there?
Number One! Report!

21 OMITTED

22 EXT. PLANET SURFACE

Tasha and Data APPROACH him. They touch the cube.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Report! Report!

Tasha and Data examine the cube.

TASHA

He can't answer you, Captain.
Commander Riker has been encased
is a cube of complex lucinium
compound.

PICARD'S COM VOICE

Is he alive?

22 CONTINUED:

Data and Tasha examine the cube containing the inert form of Commander William T. Riker.

DATA

Unknown.

23
thru OMITTED
25

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

26 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

manned as before. The bridge crew is stunned by what has happened to Riker. Picard is on his feet.

PICARD

Transporter Room Three - have you locked on to the away team?

TRANSPORTER CHIEF'S COM VOICE

I am unable to lock on to Commander Riker.

26A REACTIONS

From all those involved.

PICARD

(crisply)

Lieutenant Solis, situation report.

SOLIS

The previous energy readings are gone.

PICARD

Data, have you been able to assess Commander Riker's condition?

DATA

He appears to be in a kind of stasis.

PICARD

Theorize. What's the purpose of the encasement?

DATA

Typically, the purpose of such an enclosure is for storage.

PICARD

Which would suggest what?

26A CONTINUED:

TASHA'S COM VOICE

That sooner or later someone or something will be along to collect him.

PICARD

Stand by. I'm coming down.

Eyebrows are raised.

TROI

You, sir?

PICARD

Yes.

(into Com)

Doctor Crusher, this is the Captain. Meet me in Transporter Room Three.

(to Geordi)

Mister La Forge, you have command of the bridge.

GEORDI

Aye, sir.

26B ANGLE ON GEORDI

He leaves his position and is immediately replaced by ENSIGN LIAN T'SU.

26C MAIN BRIDGE

as Geordi takes the command position.

PICARD

Whatever happens below, your prime responsibility is to the ship.

GEORDI

Understood.

27 ANGLE ON PICARD

as he starts for the turbolift. Troi springs to her feet, steps into his path.

27 CONTINUED:

TROI

Captain! I must take exception
to your decision to beam down.

PICARD

Noted.

Picard moves around her.

28 EXT. PLANET SURFACE (OPTICAL)

Picard and Beverly MATERIALIZE. Data is scanning Riker
and the material encasing him with his tricorder.
Tasha, ever security-conscious, keeps a lookout, her
phaser in hand. Picard and Beverly APPROACH the cube.

PICARD

What is it?

DATA

The encasing material appears to
be solid...

BEVERLY

I am getting no life signs.

PICARD

He's alive. What he ran into is
an intelligence gathering device
used during the Ersalrope Wars.

TASHA

Probably developed here.

PICARD

It projects an image of someone
the subject will trust -- gets as
much information as possible.

TASHA

If it's found out -- it encases
the subject to await a more
detailed interrogation later.
Clever.

PICARD

Can you remove it?

DATA

Yes -- but I cannot predict the
risk to Commander Riker.

28 CONTINUED:

PICARD

We have little choice. Whatever
has him is interrupting the
transporter beam. Remove it.

29 ANOTHER ANGLE

as Data examines the cube like a diamond cutter
looking for the place to make his cut.

30 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Worf at the Aft station.

WORF

I am picking up energy readings.

GEORDI

Captain, this is Lieutenant La
Forge. Sensors indicate energy
readings in your area.

31 EXT. PLANET SURFACE (OPTICAL)

As Data continues working... Tasha scans the area.
SUDDENLY, MINOS WEAPON 2 BURSTS THROUGH the jungle
foliage. It makes a close pass. It comes closest to
Beverly who is startled. She stumbles backward. Data
calmly continues working. Tasha takes aim, as Picard
moves over next to Beverly. All this happens very
quickly -- the reaction instinctive. The team BECOMES
SEPARATED.

32 ANOTHER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as MINOS WEAPON 2 STARTS FIRING. Picard pushes
Beverly out of the way.

33 ON PICARD AND BEVERLY

As THEY DIVE TO THE SIDE, the ground suddenly gives way
under her feet. Beverly FALLS, BEGINS TO SLIDE --

PICARD

Doctor!

Picard makes a grab for her, catches her hand, but only
succeeds in being pulled into the sinkhole -- the sandy
GROUND SWALLOWS THEM UP.

34 OMITTED

35 INT. CAVERN

Beverly and a half ton of sand FALL into a large subterranean cavern. She LANDS HARD AND IS immediately BURIED in rocks, sand, and dust.

36 NEW ANGLE

as Picard also FALLS through into the cavern, but manages to land more or less on his feet atop a pile of sand.

37 ON PICARD

rushing to Beverly's side and frantically digging sand away with his hands to keep her from suffocating.

PICARD

Beverly!

38
thru OMITTED
39

40 EXT. PLANET SURFACE (OPTICAL)

The WEAPON darts through the heavy foliage. Tasha has difficulty getting a clean shot. Everything is happening so fast that neither she nor Data have noticed the disappearance of Picard and Beverly.

TASHA

This one is different.

41 ANGLE ON TASHA (OPTICAL)

She FIRES.

42 ANGLE ON THE WEAPON (OPTICAL)

It anticipates and DODGES OUT OF THE WAY.

43 ANOTHER ANGLE

The area.

43 CONTINUED:

TASHA

It's evasive. Data -- I need you.
Set your phaser on kill. I'll
fire so that it will move left,
and you get it.

Data adjusts the setting on his phaser.

44 WIDER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as the WEAPON STARTS FIRING from behind some trees.

45 ON DATA AND TASHA (OPTICAL)

She FIRES.

46 OMITTED

47 ANGLE ON WEAPON (OPTICAL)

As it DODGES TASHA'S BLAST, DATA GETS IT. The
combined effect works. The WEAPON EXPLODES.

48 DATA AND TASHA

Data calmly returns to his examination of the
casement.

TASHA

Captain!

No response.

TASHA

(continuing)

Doctor Crusher.

Still no response. Data has stopped cutting. He
touches his communicator.

DATA

Captain Picard.

He looks down at his chest.

48 CONTINUED:

DATA
(continuing)
I have a malfunction.

Tasha touches her communicator.

TASHA
Enterprise, this is Lieutenant
Yar.

Nothing.

TASHA
(continuing)
Mine's out too.

DATA
The close pass by the weapon must
have disrupted our communicators.

TASHA
Keep working. I'll look for
Captain Picard and Doctor Crusher.

Data nods and resumes working. Tasha MOVES OFF in the
direction she last saw Captain Picard.

48A INT. CAVERN (FORMERLY SCENE 38)

Picard is beside Beverly. She's nearly unconscious,
and in very bad shape, with multiple lacerations. She
fights to speak through the intense pain:

PICARD
How bad is it?

BEVERLY
Bad... It's my arm.

PICARD
Hold on. We'll get you out of
here.
(he touches his
communicator)
Enterprise, this is the Captain.
Two to beam up.

No response. He touches Beverly's communicator.

48A CONTINUED:

PICARD
(continuing)
Enterprise.

Nothing.

PICARD
(continuing; he touches
it again)
Data... Lieutenant Yar.

BEVERLY
What's wrong? Why don't they
work?

PICARD
I don't know. But it's all right
because once they realize our
communicators are out, the
sensors will locate us and Geordi
will beam us up.

48B ON PICARD (FORMERLY SCENE 39)

He rips a piece from her smock, finds some sticks and
fashions a crude splint.

PICARD
(reassuring)
Hold on. It won't be long.

Beverly is hit by a wave of pain; her eyes close.
Picard fights his own sense of helplessness.

49 EXT. PLANET SURFACE

Tasha RETURNS.

TASHA
I can't find them.

DATA
Step back.

Data has solved the puzzle. He makes a slight adjustment
on his phaser, then holds it against a specific
point on the encasement. He points the muzzle up.
And FIRES. The vibration of the phaser against the
casement causes it to disintegrate in a SHOWER OF
LIGHT. Riker collapses in a heap.

49 CONTINUED:

RIKER

Data.

50 NEW ANGLE

Riker has been all but freed from his encasement. He stirs. Data and Tasha are visibly relieved. Data scans him with the tricorder.

DATA

All vital signs returning to normal.

TASHA

Good. Now Geordi can get us out of here.

51 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Worf is at Tactical, using everything at his command to scan the planet.

SOLIS

(to Geordi)

Sir, I'm reading life-forms on the planet. All five members of the away team.

GEORDI

Good. They have freed Riker.

(into com)

Transporter Room. Get a lock on the away team, and beam them up.

The insistent SOUND OF a BRIDGE ALARM fills the room.

WORF

Shields just came on! Deflectors also up --

(a beat)

I'm picking up an object off our port bow -- It's firing!

52 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as the ENTERPRISE IS HIT by something quite unlike a phaser beam. The weapon -- call it an INTERRUPTER -- plays havoc with the ship: WE HEAR A SCREECH as LIGHTS DIM, CONSOLES GO CRAZY, and the BRIDGE VIBRATES as if the ship's shaking itself apart. After a beat, the INTERRUPTER EFFECT ENDS, and bridge systems slowly return to normal.

GEORDI

Red Alert! Battle stations!

More BRIDGE ALARMS as Red Alert is SOUNDED.

WORF

Shields holding.

GEORDI

(grimly)

But we can't beam up the away team with our shields in place.

53 ANOTHER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as more BRIDGE PERSONNEL ENTER and take up Battle Stations.

WORF

Phasers ready. Photon torpedoes standing by. Locking on target...

(then, surprised)

Correction: target has disappeared!

GEORDI

Full scan!

WORF

Scanning...

(shakes head)

No readings. Wait -- something dead astern --

GEORDI

Emergency power to shields!

WORF

Object is firing --

And again the INTERRUPTER EFFECT SHAKES THE BRIDGE, more severely. Geordi SHOUTS over the DIN:

53 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Return fire!

The EFFECT ENDS.

SOLIS

Aft shields weakened.

(a beat)

Whatever they're using, our
shields can't stand up to it much
longer.

54 ON GEORDI

As he grimly ponders his options, WE:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

55 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

still in orbit above Minos, performing an escape maneuver.

GEORDI (V. O.)

Captain's log, stardate 41798.25.
Lieutenant J.G. Geordi La Forge
in temporary command.

56 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Geordi's in the Command Chair, Troi next to him, Worf at Tactical, Lian at Conn, Solis at Ops.

GEORDI (V.O.)

(continuing)

Orbiting the planet Minos, we are
under attack.

The turbolift doors OPEN and CHIEF ENGINEER LOGAN ENTERS. Logan is young, intelligent, competent, and sure of himself.

LOGAN

Why are we still in orbit? We're
taking a beating!

GEORDI

We've got to hold out as long as
we can. If we can disable our
attacker, even for a few seconds,
we can drop our shields and beam
the away team back aboard.

LOGAN

If we follow that plan, we'll lose
the Enterprise! In view of the
present crisis... I believe you
should relinquish command to me.

GEORDI

No.

LOGAN

I outrank you.

56 CONTINUED:

GEORDI

Mister Logan -- Captain Picard put
me in command.

LOGAN

The Captain did not anticipate
that the Enterprise would come
under attack. If he had, would
he have left the bridge to you?

GEORDI

If he had, he would not have left
the ship.

57 OMITTED

58 WIDER ANGLE

Lian has picked up a reading:

LIAN

Picking up an object to starboard,
sir -- heading toward us.

GEORDI

Lock phasers and fire the moment
it's in range.

WORF

Aye, sir. Locking and --
(scanning)
Object has vanished.

59 NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

The INTERRUPTER EFFECT SHAKES THE BRIDGE as the ship
takes another hit.

WORF

Phaser lock lost.

The EFFECT ENDS.

LIAN

Starboard shields weakened.

WORF

It's cloaked itself.

59 CONTINUED:

LOGAN

You can't fight this thing and win. We've got to break orbit -- now.

Geordi ignores Logan, ponders the problem.

GEORDI

Worf -- analyze its firing pattern. Maybe we can anticipate its location.

WORF

Aye.

(to Solis)

Correlate the trajectory of the energy bolts with the attack path. I'll compute the optimum spread of phasers and photon torpedoes to hit it.

Solis programs that into the computer as Worf sets up the weaponry.

LOGAN

(protesting)

Lieutenant La Forge.

Logan stops himself, tries another tack.

LOGAN

(continuing; softer)

Geordi -- I know you want to do what's best for the Enterprise. So do I. Now... the best thing...

GEORDI

The best thing is for this discussion to end and for you to get on with your duties. I am in charge until relieved by Commander Riker or Captain Picard.

LOGAN

You are ignoring my greater rank and experience.

59 CONTINUED: (2)

GEORDI

Not at all, I'm counting on it.
Get back to Engineering and find
me every scrap of extra power you
can. The more we can channel to
the shields, the longer we can
hold out.

LOGAN

All right.

Logan EXITS into a turbolift.

GEORDI

Have you got a lock on it?

WORF

Impossible to be sure.

60
thru OMITTED
68

69 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - JUNGLE (OPTICAL)

Tasha steps up to Riker.

TASHA

Maybe you should wait here while
Data and I search for Doctor
Crusher and Captain Picard.

RIKER

I'm a little groggy, but I'll
be all right.

DATA

I am getting energy readings.

Another WEAPON WHISTLES PASSED them. THEY SCATTER.

70 ANOTHER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Tasha looks over at Data.

TASHA

We'll do it just like before.

They try their little "I-make-it-go-to-the-left-and-you-pick-it-off" trick. Tasha FIRES - then Data FIRES.
This time the Weapon doesn't dodge out of the way.

70 CONTINUED:

TASHA

It's got a deflector shield.

DATA

The product continues to upgrade and improve.

TASHA

Spread out. We'll concentrate our fire and try to collapse its shield.

Data, Tasha and Riker SPREAD OUT. Then as the WEAPON MOVES toward Tasha, THEY all FIRE - HITTING THE WEAPON from different angles and putting the most possible drain on its deflectors. The combination works. The WEAPON EXPLODES.

TASHA

(continuing)

You're right, they keep getting better.

DATA

Commander, the weapons are appearing at intervals of precisely twelve minutes.

TASHA

That one took everything we had. I don't know how we'll handle the next one.

RIKER

Then let's try and not be here. Come on, let's find the rest of our team.

The Trio SPREADS OUT and MOVES into the dense jungle foliage.

71 INT. CAVERN

Beverly is half buried under a ton of debris. Picard tries to pull her out. He can't. But he clears away more of the rubble.

72 ANGLE ON BEVERLY

drifting into unconsciousness; she's in very bad shape, with multiple lacerations.

73 ON PICARD

shaking her and talking to her -- desperately to keep her awake.

PICARD

Oh, no you don't -- no time to sleep.

But Beverly is falling rapidly --

BEVERLY

(barely audible)

I'm tired. Very tired.

PICARD

Come on, stay with me, Doctor.

She's very weak, and though she tries -- she can't keep her eyes open. Picard's frustration builds --

PICARD

(continuing)

Stay alert, Doctor! That's an order, damn it!

BEVERLY

I must have lost a lot of blood.

PICARD

I've stopped the bleeding --

Beverly makes an effort to shake her head.

BEVERLY

There's another wound. My leg.

Picard frantically digs away the rubble and mush around her legs -- the DIRT IS A DEEP RED MUD from the blood.

74 NEW ANGLE

Picard can't get to her wounds -- he must lift and pull her legs from under the rubble.

PICARD

This is going to hurt a bit, Doctor.

BEVERLY

(with the faintest of smiles)

I heard that before.

74 CONTINUED:

Picard then lifts her legs -- and Beverly does everything to hold in a scream. But her expression tells us just how much pain she's going through. This is a woman of great courage! Picard then rips a piece her smock into a makeshift bandage and strap for a tourniquet. When that's done, Picard turns to Beverly:

PICARD

Doctor -- you have to stay awake
-- you have to help me! Tell me
what to do.

Beverly nods -- she'll try.

PICARD

(continuing)

What else can I do?

Beverly makes an effort to point at something -- but she is too weak to lift her hand.

BEVERLY

The wound needs a clotting agent.

PICARD

I can't find your medical kit.

She forces herself to look around.

BEVERLY

Those roots. What are they?

PICARD

These?

She nods. Picard pulls at a long root, breaking it off and showing it to her.

PICARD

(continuing)

I don't know.

BEVERLY

Break off a piece and taste it.
Don't swallow.

Picard breaks open the root and pops a piece into his mouth, and spits it out.

PICARD

It's very bitter --

74 CONTINUED: (2)

She nods.

BEVERLY

Good. Pound it into a paste and
spread in onto the wound.

PICARD

I understand.

75 ON PICARD

as he SQUEEZES THE ROOT, making a sort of ointment.
When he has enough, he smears it on her wounds. Again,
Beverly begins to drift away.

PICARD

What do we do next, Doctor?

But Beverly is so tired --

PICARD

(continuing)

Help me -- you've got to help me!

Beverly opens her eyes -- fighting the sleep with all
her fading strength. Picard gets an idea -- he appeals
to her professionalism:

PICARD

(continuing)

The patient has lost a great deal
of blood from multiple
lacerations. What's your
diagnosis, Doctor?

BEVERLY

Your patient is going into shock.

PICARD

What do I do?

BEVERLY

Elevate the legs and keep her
warm.

PICARD

All right. Stay with me, Doctor.
Keep talking...

75 CONTINUED:

Picard gently lifts her legs -- resting them on top of some rubble in an effort to keep the blood flowing to her brain.

BEVERLY

Did you happen to bring a blanket?

Beverly is shivering and sweating profusely.

76 ON PICARD

anxiously looking at Beverly and then scanning the area for something -- anything! -- to keep her warm.

PICARD

No, but I'll find something.

He gets up and begins looking around for something.

PICARD

(continuing)

Keep up your end. Stay awake.
That's an order, Doctor.

77 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

still in orbit around the planet.

78 OMITTED

78A INT. MAIN BRIDGE (FORMERLY SCENE 60)

Everyone is very tense.

GEORDI

A shot in the dark is better than nothing. Let's see if we can get lucky.

SOLIS

I can't seem to pin down the pattern...

Geordi STEPS TO Solis's position, looks over Solis' shoulder, and makes an adjustment on the console.

78A CONTINUED:

SOLIS

Sorry, sir. I should have seen that.

GEORDI

It's all right. You are doing fine.

Worf completes his own adjustments.

WORF

Program laid in, sir. Phasers and photon torpedoes ready.

78B ANOTHER ANGLE (FORMERLY SCENE 61)

Geordi RETURNS to the Command position.

GEORDI

Bring her about to two-three mark one-eight-five.

LIAN

Aye, sir.

78C NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL) (FORMERLY SCENE 62)

as the INTERRUPTER EFFECT HITS them again. The moment the EFFECT ENDS --

GEORDI

Fire!

WORF

Phasers and photons firing.

78D EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) (FORMERLY SC. 63)

FIRING main PHASERS and a spread of PHOTONS simultaneously.

78E INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Worf SLAMS the console in frustration.

WORF

We missed.

79 ANOTHER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

as the BRIDGE IS SHAKEN BY another INTERRUPTER EFFECT,
taking the crew by surprise. The EFFECT ENDS.

SOLIS

Number four shield buckling.

80 ON GEORDI (OPTICAL)

as he sits back down in the Command Chair. He's
stunned. How do you fight this thing? What should he
do next?

The INTERRUPTER EFFECT HITS again. BRIDGE LIGHTS DIM
ALMOST TO BLACK -- power systems can no longer
compensate. The EFFECT ENDS.

SOLIS

Number three shield nearing
failure.

LOGAN'S COM VOICE

Bridge, this is Engineering. I
can't hold this power level much
longer.

SOLIS

Backup systems are overloaded.

Worf looks to Geordi.

81 OMITTED

82 WIDER ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Geordi is silent, desperately trying to come up with a
plan. The INTERRUPTER EFFECT HITS again, then ENDS.

SOLIS

Backup systems failing.

There's a touch of urgency in Solis's voice. Geordi
becomes aware that Worf, Lian, Troi, and the rest of
the bridge crew are looking at him. Nothing obvious,
not a cold stare -- just a simple expectation.

83 ON GEORDI

as it dawns on him: they're waiting for orders. The entire crew is looking to him for their next move... and he hasn't got one.

LOGAN'S COM VOICE

Bridge, this is Engineering. Tell me something.

As we PUSH IN on his look of pain and indecision, we:

GEORDI

(into com)

Mister Logan, report to the bridge.

LOGAN'S COM VOICE

On my way.

83A REACTIONS

Everyone on the bridge believes Geordi is about to relinquish his command.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

84 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

It's BEING HAMMERED by something which we cannot see.

85 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Geordi is in the Command position.

WORF

Deflectors are breaking down.
We have less than one minute of
reserve.

Logan STEPS ONTO the bridge and STRIDES OVER TO
Geordi.

GEORDI

We are getting out of here.

Worf REACTS to the thought of retreat.

GEORDI

(continuing)

Ensign T'su - set course. Three-one-five...
mark zero-seven.

LIAN

Course set.

LOGAN

You are leaving them on that
planet?

GEORDI

Speed warp five.

LIAN

Warp five - aye.

GEORDI

Engage.

86 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it WARPS AWAY from the planet.

87 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Those around Geordi are surprised by this apparent retreat.

GEORDI

Hold course and speed for twenty-eight seconds, then come to a full stop.

Geordi stands so that everyone on the bridge can see him.

GEORDI

If we stay, we'll be destroyed. There are over a thousand people on the ship -- I have a responsibility to them.

LOGAN

What about your responsibility to Captain Picard and the members of the away team?

GEORDI

We have a responsibility to them as well. Mister Logan, you are going to take command...

Logan REACTS.

GEORDI

(continuing)

... of the Saucer Section. Bridge crew - prepare to move to the Battle Bridge.

LOGAN

You're going to separate?

GEORDI

Yes. I want you to take the Saucer Section and proceed immediately for Starbase One-zero-three.

LOGAN

You still won't be able to see that device.

GEORDI

There are ways.

87 CONTINUED:

LOGAN
(with a little envy)
Risky.

GEORDI
That's why we are going to
separate.

Geordi rises and moves toward the turbolift which goes
to the Battle Bridge.

GEORDI
(continuing)
Worf, Solis, T'su. You're with
me on the Battle Bridge. Good
luck, Mister Logan.

The key members of the bridge crew FOLLOW Geordi to
the turbolift.

88 INT. CAVERN

Picard is in the pit looking for something which will
provide warmth.

{Picard will continue talking to Beverly as he searches
the cavern. Pages to come.}

Roots have come in and tightened the passageway making
it difficult for him to move around. He sees something -
a little FLICKERING GLOW. He moves toward it.

89 ANOTHER ANGLE

He clears away roots and earthen debris from around the
GLOW. It's a viewscreen -- OFF Picard's REACTION.

90 EXT. PLANET SURFACE

Tasha, Data, and a more revived Riker are searching
close to the spot where Picard and Beverly disappeared.

DATA
Commander -- here. There seem
to be air shafts overgrown with
vegetation. Perhaps they somehow
fell through one of them.

RIKER
Clear some of that away.

90 CONTINUED:

TASHA

If Data's calculations are correct, the next sphere should show itself in two minutes.

They work faster.

91 INT. CAVERN (OPTICAL)

Picard moves closer to the viewscreen. SUDDENLY, a figure MATERIALIZES beside him. Picard nearly jumps out of his skin.

92 ON PICARD AND THE FIGURE

It's the Peddler from the opening.

THE PEDDLER

{He starts to give a sales pitch to Picard. It tells Picard about the machine. Picard realizes that these people have created a nearly perfect killing system. The spy at the beginning, and all of these devices which are capable of learning and improving.}

PICARD

You poor fools. The first time you tested it, or demonstrated it... something went wrong and your creation destroyed you.

Picard hears a NOISE... a GURGLING from somewhere behind the screen.

PICARD

What was that noise?

THE PEDDLER

{Another (something from the model number...) is about to clear. Something about the demonstration. that it is another one of the devices going to the surface.}

PICARD

Can you stop it?

92 CONTINUED:

THE PEDDLER

Why would I want to do that? It
can't demonstrate its abilities
unless it leaves the nest.

Picard looks at the Peddler. A VOICE calls out.

RIKER (O.S.)

Captain... can you hear me?

93 ON PICARD

He steps back and looks up.

PICARD

Yes -- we're here.

94 INTERCUT AS NEEDED

Riker YELLING down the hole and Picard YELLING back.

RIKER

Are you all right?

PICARD

Doctor Crusher has been seriously
injured. Our communicators are
out and I haven't been able to
contact the Enterprise.

RIKER

Yes, we are in the same fix. Is
there a way to get down to you?

PICARD

None that I know of. Number One,
those devices are part of a system
which is located down here.
Another is about to be released.

95 EXT. PLANET SURFACE

Riker, Data and Tasha as they look down the hole.

TASHA

We know, Captain.

Riker stares down into the cavern.

95 CONTINUED:

RIKER

It's too far. There is nothing
to hold onto... no way to climb
down.

TASHA

I'm surprised either of them
survived.

DATA

Commander, I can do it.

RIKER

How?

DATA

Jump.

RIKER

It's over ten meters.

DATA

Eleven point seven five.

TASHA

Data, you're sturdy, but you're
not indestructible.

DATA

I believe I can safely traverse
the distance.

RIKER

(yelling)

Captain -- Data is coming down to
join you.

With a little look, Riker takes a STEP BACKWARD.

RIKER

(continuing)

Be my guest.

And without further discussion or hesitation, Data
STEPS FORWARD AND DISAPPEARS.

96 INT. CAVERN

as Data FALLS IN, lands on his feet with great force.
His android legs absorb the impact.

96 CONTINUED:

PICARD
(concerned)

Data!

DATA
At your service, Captain.

97 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

Worf and other BRIDGE PERSONNEL take their stations and fire up their consoles. After a beat, Geordi takes the Command position.

GEORDI
Prepare to initiate separation sequence.

SOLIS
All decks report ready.

GEORDI
(with a pause, because
it's such a big
decision)
Begin separation.

98 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL - STOCK)

VARIOUS ANGLES of the separation process, ending with the TWO SECTIONS APART.

99 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

WORF
Separation complete, sir.

GEORDI
Lian -- lay in a course for Minos --
warp five.

LIAN
Course set.

GEORDI
Engage.

100
thru OMITTED
102

103 EXT. SPACE - BATTLE CRUISER (OPTICAL - STOCK)

It BLASTS INTO WARP EIGHT AND VANISHES.

103A EXT. PLANET SURFACE

Tasha and Riker by the hole through which Data has disappeared.

TASHA

We had better find a defensive position. If Data's right --

RIKER

And he usually is.

TASHA

We're going to have company in thirty seconds. And this time... I don't know how we're going to stop it.

OFF their REACTION, WE:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

104 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE BATTLE CRUISER (OPTICAL) 104

as it COMES OUT OF WARP SPEED near the planet Minos.

105 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

Everyone is tense.

SOLIS

Shields and deflectors are up.

GEORDI

(to Lian)

When I order the shields down,
you have one responsibility.
Locate the away team and get them
up here. You may only have a few
seconds.

LIAN

Approaching the planet, sir.

Geordi has picked up on Lian and Solis's look of
apprehension. He gets up from the Command chair,
CROSSES to them.

GEORDI

The ride's going to get a little
bumpy. Things are going to happen
fast.

Although he's looking at both of them, his concerns are
more for the younger Ensign T'su.

GEORDI

(continuing)

Just keep alert... stay calm...
and focus on the task at hand.
You know your jobs.

105A REACTIONS

as Lian and Solis listen and draw courage from Geordi's
words. Even Worf pays respectful attention.

105A CONTINUED:

GEORDI

You've been trained, you've been tested, and you've earned the right to sit in those chairs.

105B OMITTED

106 INT. CAVERN

Data is with Picard inspecting the computer. There is a NOISE.

DATA

Another weapon has been launched.

PICARD

We have to find a way to stop this system.

DATA

I need to see the program schematic.

Data expects Picard to answer, but it's the Peddler who says:

THE PEDDLER

You got it.

107 ON VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The DIAGRAM OF THE WORKINGS of the system.

107A BACK TO SHOT (OPTICAL)

PICARD

Is it possible to re-adjust the targeting sequence?

THE PEDDLER

Absolutely. They wouldn't be much good if you couldn't.

PICARD

Data, assign it a neutral target.

DATA

The target must be specific.

107A CONTINUED:

PICARD

Itself, then. Have it track
itself or the power source that
manufactures it.

DATA

The force of that explosion would
destroy this chamber and everyone
near by.

PEDDLER

Watch now - the Echo-Papa, Series
Six-oh-seven is about to complete
this phase of its mission.

ON the Screen, the DOTS representing Tasha and Riker
are ABOUT TO INTERSECT WITH THE DOT representing the
weapons.

107B EXT. PLANET SURFACE

Tasha and Riker SCRAMBLE to find cover in the foliage.

RIKER

Got any ideas?

TASHA

None.

107C INT. CAVERN

Picard knows the clock is running out.

PICARD

Give me some options, Data...
Quickly.

BEVERLY

Why don't you just shut it off?

Picard REACTS.

PICARD

(to Data)

Is that possible?

BEVERLY

Why not -- it's a machine, isn't
it?

107C CONTINUED:

PICARD
(to the Peddler)
Shut it off.

THE PEDDLER
But, you haven't seen half of
what this beauty can do.

PICARD
We've seen enough.

THE PEDDLER
Does that mean you are going to
buy it?

PICARD
If that's what it takes to shut
it off. Yes... I've seen enough --
you've made a sale.

THE PEDDLER
You won't be sorry.

PICARD
Now... end the demonstration.

THE PEDDLER
Done.

And the Peddler DISAPPEARS, and the screen goes DARK.
There is the SOUND OF SERVOS SHUTTING DOWN.

108 EXT. PLANET SURFACE (FORMERLY "INTERCUT")

Riker and Tasha see the weapon MOVING through the
foliage and they know there's nothing they can do about
it. Riker gives Tasha a look, they both turn to face
the weapon. Suddenly, IT STOPS. Right where it is -
HANGS in the air for a moment, then DISSOLVES (or if
you like... just DROPS to the ground). Riker and Tasha
REACT with relief.

PICARD'S COM VOICE
Number One!

Riker is surprised to have his communicator working.

RIKER
Here, sir. That was close.

108A INT. CAVERN

Picard and Data. The Peddler HAS GONE.

PICARD
(into com)
Lieutenant La Forge.

109 OMITTED

110 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

manned as before.

GEORDI
It's great to hear your voice,
Captain. We're a little busy
right now. I'll get right back
to you.

WORF
Phasers at full readiness.

GEORDI
Keep those shields at full power.
It'll be on us any moment.

And without warning, the INTERRUPTER EFFECT HITS,
shaking the ship. The moment it ENDS:

WORF
Shields holding.

GEORDI
Ahead one-quarter, heading
two-five mark three-zero-zero.

LIAN
That heading will take us further
into the planet's atmosphere.

GEORDI
That's correct.
(to Lian)
We're going to lose some
maneuverability, so keep a firm
hand on the helm.

LIAN
(can do)
Aye, sir.

110 CONTINUED:

WORF

(catching on)

You want our attacker to follow
us into the atmosphere...

GEORDI

(nods)

That's what I'm hoping.

(to Solis)

Scan for any air disruption or
vortex -- cloak or no cloak,
we'll spot it by its turbulence.

All around the Battle bridge, faces light up with
enthusiasm. Geordi's plan will work.

GEORDI

(to Worf)

How fast will you be able to get
a phaser lock?

WORF

Just watch me.

SOLIS

Hull temperature one thousand
degrees and rising.

GEORDI

Emergency power to deflectors.

111 ANGLE TO INCLUDE MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Minos fills the Main Viewer. The image begins to
SHIMMER and BLUR as the atmospheric turbulence worsens.

LIAN

Velocity increasing, sir.

GEORDI

Steady as she goes.

112 EXT. SPACE - BATTLE CRUISER IN ATMOSPHERE (OPTICAL)

The STARS ARE STILL VISIBLE, BUT THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE
IS DEFINITELY GRAYISH AND OBSCURED. A RED HALO
SURROUNDS THE BATTLE CRUISER, the result of air
friction upon the ship's shields.

113 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The Main Viewer shows nothing but a BLUR of motion. The bridge itself is beginning to SHAKE from the TURBULENCE. Geordi MOVES from station to station, brimming with controlled energy.

SOLIS

Hull temperature twenty-five hundred degrees.

WORF

Deflectors nearing overload.

LIAN

Helm is growing unresponsive, sir.

GEORDI

Can you compensate?

LIAN

Yes, sir, I can.

SOLIS

Hull three thousand degrees.

GEORDI

Maintain heading.

SOLIS

Thirty-three hundred degrees.

WORF

Number four deflector inoperative.

SOLIS

Turbulence to starboard!

113A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

WE SEE the OUTLINE OF THE CLAW.

113B INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

SOLIS

Scanners locked --

WORF

Weapons locked!

GEORDI

(overlapping)

Fire!

114 EXT. SPACE - BATTLE CRUISER IN ATMOSPHERE (OPTICAL)

FIRING FULL PHASERS to starboard.

115 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

as a splendiferous TECHNICOLOR EXPLOSION fills the Main Viewer.

WORF

Got him!

The bridge crew is jubilant.

GEORDI

Come to four-zero mark six-five,
ahead one-third, and assume
standard orbit.

LIAN

Locked onto life-forms and ready
to beam them up.

GEORDI

Excellent. Energize.

116
thru OMITTED
119

120 ANOTHER ANGLE - BATTLE BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

as Riker, Tasha, Data, Picard, and Beverly MATERIALIZE
on the bridge.

GEORDI

Ensign T'su -- lay in a course
to rendezvous with the Saucer
Section.

{There will be an exchange between Picard and Geordi.}

121 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE BATTLE CRUISER (OPTICAL))

as it WARPS OFF.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END