

Star Trek: The Next Generation
"A Blast From The Past"
Part I

By

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TEASER

INT. RIKER'S ROOM - ENTERPRISE (DAY 1: 1300)

RIKER enters and approaches his bed. The Computer buzzes, as he reaches it.

COMPUTER (VO)
Commander, there is a subspace
message from Starfleet Research...

RIKER
(Puzzled)
Research? I ...

COMPUTER (VO)
The message is from Lieutenant
Commander T'Pra Ross.

RIKER
(Surprise)
Debra! I haven't ...

COMPUTER (VO)
Would you like to view the message
now, Commander?

RIKER
(Smiles)
Yes. Transfer it to the monitor.

He Walks over to the monitor saying the following line more to himself than to the Computer.

RIKER
I wonder what she's been up to?

He reaches monitor, Sits in front of it, and turns it on.

RIKER
Begin.
The computer runs message tape. Tape: A young woman wearing a Blue Starfleet uniform, sitting behind a desk. The message is, as follows.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Hello Will. It's been a while.

(beat)

I suppose you are wondering why I am calling.

(beat)

Well, it seems that HQ, wants me to lead an investigation.

(beat)

And they've assigned The Enterprise to assist me.

(beat)

There's a lot that needs to be done, before the rendezvous with your ship, so...

(beat)

I'll see you on board Commander, Ross out.

The computer displays the "END TRANSMISSION" prompt.

RIKER leans back, in his chair, and remembers the first time he met Debra Ross.

FADE TO:

EXT. ACADEMY GROUNDS (FLASHBACK: MAY 15, 2353)

ROSS is walking, and talking to two girls. One of the girls is a VULCAN (GIRL #2). RIKER is lounging under a tree, reading a book. The girls sit on a bench. ROSS is sitting in the middle. ROSS looks over at RIKER.

ROSS

I think I just met Mr. Right.

GIRL #1

He is cute, isn't he?

(beat)

I bet you don't have the nerve to go over and say hi.

GIRL #2

I bet she does.

GIRL #1

(Surprise)

You do? I thought that Vulcans didn't gamble?

(CONTINUED)

GIRL #2

We don't.

While GIRL #1 and GIRL #2 are talking, ROSS is staring at RIKER. RIKER looks up from his book and catches her staring. RIKER flashes her a smile, and she smiles back. He returns to his book.

GIRL #2

But in this case, the odds are very much in T'Pra's favour.

(beat)

By my calculations, the odds of her striking out with him, are 345.6 to 1.

GIRL #1

345.6 to 1...?!?!?

GIRL #2

I believe, that is what I said.

GIRL #1

Class starts in 5 minutes, maybe we should get back.

ROSS

You go ahead. I'm going to go over and introduce myself.

(beat)

Wish me luck.

GIRL #1 and GIRL #2 rise from bench.

GIRL #1

Good luck.

GIRL #2

(Rises an eyebrow)

Luck? You don't need luck. I...

GIRL #1

(exasperated)

Come on Points, let's go.

GIRL #1 and GIRL #2 head back to campus. ROSS rises, takes a deep breath, and walks over to RIKER. RIKER, notices a shadow cast over his book, and looks up.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Hi. My name is T'Pra Ross. Friends
call me Debra.

ROSS sits down, under the tree, beside him.

ROSS

Mind if I join you?

RIKER

(Smiles)

Not at all. My name is William
Riker.

ROSS

(Mutters)

I know.

RIKER

What was that?

ROSS

Nothing.

(beat)

What are you reading, Will.

RIKER shows her the cover of the book. THE WONDERFUL

WIZARD OF OZ. ROSS' alarm goes off.

ROSS

(Mutters)

Damn.

(Clearly)

Look, I've got to get to class.

ROSS is about to get up, when she thinks of something.

ROSS

Would you like to get together
tonight, for dinner?

RIKER

(Smiles)

I'd love to.

ROSS

Great.

(beat)

I'll see you tonight then, 1800
hours?

RIKER

(Smiles)

I'll be there.

ROSS smiles back at him, then rises and returns to
campus. RIKER smiles as she walks off, then returns to
reading.

FADE TO:

INT. ROSS' ROOM - STARFLEET ACADEMY

ROSS is setting the table. The door chimes.

ROSS

Who is it?

RIKER (VO)

It's me, Will.

ROSS

Come in.

The door opens, and RIKER enters. He has a bottle of wine
in his hands. He walks over to her, holding up the bottle.

RIKER

Where should I put this?

ROSS looks at RIKER.

ROSS

Um...

(beat)

...on the table. Dinner's almost
ready.

RIKER

Wait, you're cooking? Not using the
replicator?

(CONTINUED)

ROSS
(Teasing)
Have you got something against an
honest to goodness home cooked
meal?

RIKER
(Defensive)
No, I just...
(beat)
...think I'll pour us a glass of
wine.

RIKER goes to the table, and pours two glasses of wine.

The computer timer goes off. ROSS pours the spaghetti into a bowl, and pours the sauce over it. She then brings the bowl to the table.

RIKER
Smells great.

ROSS
Dig in.
RIKER and ROSS put some on their plates. RIKER eats some.

RIKER
Mmm, tastes great too.

ROSS
Thank you.

RIKER
Great sauce.
(beat)
Where'd you get the recipe?

ROSS
It's an old family recipe. It
belonged to my great-grandmother.
She was an excellent cook.

TIME FLIES: They finish dinner, then sit on sofa. They talk for a while, then lounge on floor in front of the fireplace. They talk, laugh, and drink for hours. **TIME RETURNS TO NORMAL.**

(CONTINUED)

COMPUTER (VO)
Wake up call. Rise and Shine. Time
0600. Your first class 0700.

ROSS
Oh my gosh! I can't believe it's so
late. I mean so early.

RIKER
(Smiles)
I can't believe we spent the whole
night talking.
They both rise from the floor, and head to the door.

ROSS
Neither can I.
They reach the door, which opens. RIKER stands in the
doorway, and looks at ROSS.

RIKER
Can I see you tonight?

ROSS
(Smiles)
I'd like that.

RIKER
(Smiles)
See you tonight then...
Their eyes lock, and he kisses her. (Short) She pulls him
back for a longer, deeper kiss. In the background, a
communicator beeps, and PICARD's voice summons RIKER to the
bridge.

FADE TO:

INT. RIKER'S ROOM - ENTERPRISE (1310)

RIKER returns to the present.

PICARD (VO)
Commander Riker, report to the
Bridge.

RIKER jumps to his feet.

(CONTINUED)

RIKER
Acknowledged.
RIKER exits his room.

FADE TO INTRODUCTION

ACT I (DAY 1)

EXT: SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (1400)

Cruising at warp speed.

PICARD (VO)
Captain's Log, Stardate 46837.2:
After completing our mission on
Rigel VII, we are en-route to
Starbase 9 for some minor repairs.
While there, we will pick up
Lieutenant Commander Ross. A
Starfleet Research scientist, who
will lead us into the DRACO SYSTEM.
On a mission, which at this time,
is unclear to me.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

PICARD is flanked by RIKER and TROI. WORF, RO, and DATA, are
at their respective stations. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed.

PICARD
ETA to Starbase 9, Mr. Data?

DATA
1 hour, sir...

PICARD
Thank you.
(beat. Straighten tunic)
Well Number One, I hear the
Commander's an old friend of yours?

RIKER
Yes sir. We met in the Academy.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD
(Surprise)
The Academy? I guess you're looking forward to seeing her again then?

RIKER
Yeh.

WORF
Captain...
(beat)
We are being hailed by Starbase 9.

PICARD
On screen, Mr. Worf.
The Starbase Commander appears on the Main View Screen.
PICARD addresses him

PICARD
This is Enterprise, go ahead.

STARBASE COMMANDER
Good afternoon Captain.
(beat)
We've noticed, that you'll arrive sooner than anticipated. We're a little behind here, so...
(beat)
...feel free to enjoy all that we have to offer, Starbase out.

PICARD
(Quietly to Riker)
Well, let's hope we are not here too long. I hear Command wants the results of our findings yesterday.
RIKER smirks and drifts off into the past again.

FADE TO:

EXT. ACADEMY GRADUATION RECEPTION

ROSS and RIKER are talking. Two Admirals approach.

ADMIRAL #1

Excuse me, may I speak with you for a moment, Mr. Riker.

RIKER

Sure Admiral.

RIKER gives ROSS a "see ya later" look. RIKER and the ADMIRAL, walk over to a nearby table. The other ADMIRAL approaches ROSS.

ADMIRAL #2

And I, you, Ms. Ross.

ROSS

Of course, sir.

ADMIRAL #2 joins ROSS at her table. FOCUS on RIKER and ADMIRAL #1.

ADMIRAL #1

Look, I'll be blunt. Starfleet has just given me an assignment, and I'd like you to be on my team.

RIKER

I'd be honored, sir.

ADMIRAL #1 hands RIKER a Datapad.

ADMIRAL #1

It's all outlined in here. Read it over, and report to me at 0800.

RIKER

Yes sir.

ADMIRAL #1 leaves. RIKER starts to read. ROSS approaches, looking upset/distant. ROSS sits. RIKER looks up from the Datapad.

RIKER

What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Nothing.

(beat)

What'd the Admiral want? Good news
I hope.

RIKER

That depends on how you look at it.

ROSS

What do you mean?

RIKER

It seems he wants me to be part of
a team for an assignment that's
half way across the galaxy.

RIKER continues with only the slightest pause. ROSS says her
line at the same time.

RIKER

I'm thinking of turning it
down.

ROSS

That's great!

RIKER's not sure he heard her right. ROSS says her line at
the same time as RIKER.

RIKER

What?

ROSS

Why?

(beat)

I mean it's what you wanted
right?

RIKER

Yeh, but...

RIKER Takes her hand in his.

RIKER

What about us?

ROSS

Let me tell you my news. Maybe then
you'll understand...

(beat)

I just learned, that my application
to the V.S.A. has been approved.

(CONTINUED)

RIKER

The V.S.A.? You mean, The Vulcan Science Academy?

ROSS

Yes. I applied 2 years ago. Before I met you. They said my application would be on hold. Pending my marks here.

RIKER

But why...

ROSS

Will, it's the best Science Academy in the whole Federation. Besides, it will give me the chance to get to know Vulcan better. Not to mention spending time with my Great-Grandfather, whom I haven't seen in years.

RIKER

(Surprise)

Your Great-Grandfather?

ROSS

Yes. He's a Vulcan.

RIKER

A Vulcan? I didn't know you were Vulcan. I mean, you don't look or sound like a Vulcan.

ROSS

I'm only 1/8th Vulcan.

(beat)

Anyway, going to the V.S.A. will mean at least 5 years on Vulcan.

(beat)

I was wondering how to tell you but... but your assignment has handled that. It should be ending around the same time.

She removes the ring he gave her.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS
If we still feel the same way
then...
(beat)
I'd be the happiest woman alive, to
accept this.

She gives him the ring back.

ROSS
I do love you William. But the best
thing for us to do now, is go our
separate ways.

RIKER
You're right. You're always
right...
(beat)
One last dance?

RIKER gets up from the table, and offers her his hand. ROSS
accepts it.

ROSS
Of course.
They walk to the dance floor, and embrace in a slow
dance. As the dance, we hear PICARD's voice calling RIKER
back to the present.

FADE TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE

PICARD
Right, Number One?
(No answer)
Commander?
(No answer)
Will!

RIKER
(Snaps out of it)
Sorry Captain, What was that?

PICARD
I...

(CONTINUED)

DATA

Captain, we are approaching
Starbase.

PICARD

Thank you, Mr. Data.

(beat)

Mr. Worf, inform Starbase we've
arrived.

WORF

Aye sir.

(beat)

Captain, Starbase informs me that
Lieutenant Commander Ross has
arrived and is ready to transport.

PICARD

(To Worf)

Tell them to stand by.

WORF

Aye sir.

PICARD stands up and motions RIKER to come with him.

PICARD

Number One.

(beat)

Mr. Data, you have the Bridge.

PICARD and RIKER walk to the Turbolift.

DATA

Aye sir.

PICARD and RIKER enter Turbolift.

PICARD

Main Transporter.

Turbolift doors close.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM (1500)

Doors open, and PICARD and RIKER enter. PICARD turns to the Transporter Chief.

PICARD
Inform Starbase that Lieutenant
Commander Ross may transport up.

CHIEF
Aye sir.
CHIEF signals Starbase and prepares the Transporter. ROSS
materializes on the center pad.

PICARD
Welcome aboard Commander. I'm
Jean-Luc Picard, Captain of The
Enterprise. And I believe you
already know my First Officer.
ROSS smiles at RIKER.

ROSS
Yes.
ROSS steps off the Transporter Pad, and goes to RIKER.

ROSS
It's been a while, Will.
RIKER smiles at her. PICARD notices how they are looking
at each other, and calls RIKER. RIKER, breaks eye contact
with ROSS, and looks at PICARD.

PICARD
Number One.
(beat)
Would you care to show Commander
Ross to her quarters?

RIKER
(smiles)
Thank you Captain.

PICARD
(To Ross)
I've scheduled a meeting at 1900,
to introduce you to the members of
my crew who will be available to
assist you.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
Maybe you can talk him...
(indicates Riker)
into giving you a tour of this ship
after you've settled in.
RIKER and ROSS laugh quietly. He offers her his arm.

RIKER
Commander.
ROSS takes RIKER's arm.

ROSS
Commander.
(Turns to Picard)
See you at 1900, Captain.
RIKER and ROSS exit. PICARD turns to the TRANSPORTER
CHIEF, who's been staring the whole time.

PICARD
They're old friends.

CHIEF
Oh, I'll bet they were a lot more
than that. Sir.

PICARD
I'll be on the Bridge. Inform
Starbase that Commander Ross
arrived safely.

CHIEF
Yes sir.
PICARD exits Transporter ROOM. CHIEF signals Starbase.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - ENTERPRISE (1600)

RIKER and ROSS exit the turbolift, laughing. They start
walking down the hall.

ROSS
What about the time we went horse
back riding, and were having so
much fun, that we lost track of the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSS (cont'd)
time, and I was almost late for
my...

ROSS can't remember the name of the class, so RIKER tries
to think of it. After a few seconds, he remembers it.

RIKER
Computer Cybernetics.

ROSS
Right. Computer Cybernetics. Lucky
for me, that Professor Knight was
also running late.

They reach ROSS' quarters.

RIKER
Well, here we are.

INT. ROSS' QUARTERS - ENTERPRISE (1601)

Door opens, and they enter. ROSS looks around, as if looking
for something.

ROSS
I had some stuff directly
transported here. Know where they'd
be?

RIKER
Probably in the other room, around
the corner.

RIKER points.

ROSS
Thanks, be right back.
ROSS disappears around the corner. RIKER sits down. ROSS
addresses the Computer, from the other room.

ROSS (VO)
Computer, what time is it?

COMPUTER (VO)
1601.

ROSS (VO)
The Captain said 1900, right Will?

RIKER
That's right.
ROSS re-enters the room, RIKER doesn't notice, since his
back is to her.

ROSS
Good.
RIKER turns at the sound of her voice so close.

ROSS
That leaves us with three hours.
ROSS puts her arms around his neck, and kisses him. RIKER
puts his arms around her, and pulls her to him.

FADE TO COMMERCIALS.

ACT II (DAY 1)

INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - ENTERPRISE (1910)

PICARD, CRUSHER, TROI, WORF, DATA, and LAFORGE, are sitting
around the table. RIKER and ROSS, are late.

PICARD
How are the repairs coming?

LAFORGE
Almost completed. Should be done
within the hour.
WORF opens his mouth to say something, but the doors open

to reveal RIKER and ROSS laughing. RIKER and ROSS, noticing
that everyone is already there, stop laughing, and remain
standing in the doorway. RIKER looks at PICARD.

RIKER
Sorry we're late Captain. We...
RIKER looks at ROSS, who looks at the floor.

RIKER
...lost track of the time.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD

Please, be seated.

RIKER and ROSS enter, and take their respective seats, at the table. PICARD leans over the table, and addresses ROSS.

PICARD

Has he been showing off this great ship of ours?

ROSS looks at RIKER. She smiles then lies.

ROSS

Well, not all of it, sir.

PICARD realizes he's just stuck his foot in his mouth.

PICARD

Oh, I see.

PICARD straightens his tunic, and clears his throat.

PICARD

Well, let's move on, shall we...

(beat)

Everyone, this is Lieutenant Commander Ross, of Starfleet Research. She will be with us for our mission into the Draco System.

EVERYONE nods hello.

PICARD

Commander Ross, this is everyone. On your left, is Lieutenant Commander Data. On your right, we have Lieutenant Worf, Chief of Security, and next to him, our CMO, Beverly Crusher. On...

ROSS

Wait. Crusher?

She looks at Beverly.

ROSS

Any relation to Wes Crusher?

EVERYONE, including RIKER, gets a look of surprise on their faces.

(CONTINUED)

CRUSHER

Yes. He's my son.

PICARD

He was on The Enterprise for 3 1/2 years, before leaving for the Academy.

ROSS

That's right. I vaguely remember him mentioning that.

DATA

Excuse me Commander, but how do you know Wesley?

ROSS

Well, Wes was the one who, I guess you could say, brings me here.

WORF

(Puzzled)

The boy?

ROSS

He's not a boy anymore, Lieutenant. In fact, he's quite a charming, and brilliant, young man. You should be proud Doctor.

CRUSHER

Thank you, Commander.

PICARD

(Confused)

You mean, the reason we're heading off to the Draco System, is because of Wesley?

ROSS

Well, sort of. But I'll get into that later. Please, continue with your introductions.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD

Yes. Now where was I?

DATA opens his mouth to answer, but ROSS beats him to it.

ROSS

I believe you were on the other side of the table.

PICARD

Right. Across from Lieutenant Worf, we have Lieutenant Commander Geordi LaForge, Chief of Engineering. On his right, is Ship's Counselor, Deanna Troi. And you already know Commander Riker and myself.

LAFORGE

I don't mean to interrupt Captain, but... what exactly is our mission?

PICARD looks to DATA, for a quick, brief, summary.

PICARD

Data.

DATA opens his mouth to speak, but LAFORGE cuts in.

LAFORGE

Wait, Data. Could we have the abridged version. You know, 50 words or less.

DATA

(thinks)

It seems Starfleet has been detecting strange energy readings from within that system, over the last few months. And if what they think, is correct... we could be looking at a new power source.

(beat)

I believe that fit your criteria, Commander.

LAFORGE

Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

DATA

You said, 50 words or less, I believe my description...

LAFORGE

Yes, yes, thanks Data.

(beat)

So, we get to go and see what these readings are. And if...

WORF

I still don't see where Wesley fits into this?

ROSS

Well, I was holding a research seminar at the Academy, and Wes, was one of the Cadets attending.

(beat)

I was discussing the energy readings, and after the seminar, Wes came up to me and asked if he could assist me in further research.

{beat)

Together, we ruled out radio waves, and a few other things. Then Wes started comparing the readings to known power sources. We concluded, that they could very well be one. But for now...

LAFORGE

Everything relies on what we find.

ROSS

Exactly.

LAFORGE

How much do we know about Draco?

ROSS

Not much.

ROSS rises from the table and addresses the Computer.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Screen on.

ROSS walks over to the Screen. EVERYONE faces the Screen.

ROSS

Computer, display map of The Draco System.

Computer displays map

ROSS

This map was made by a 20th Century astronomer, and...

LAFORGE

20th Century? Doesn't Starfleet have anything more... up-to-date?

ROSS

Not that we could find, Commander.

ROSS returns everyone's attention, to the map display.

ROSS

According to this map, the system consists of 22 stars, 3 of which are double stars, and a nebula. The nebula classified as NGC-6543 is believed to be a Planetary Nebula, which should appear as a bright blue disk.

{beat}

The area we are interested in, is here.

She points to the bottom of THE DRAGON'S HEAD.

ROSS

We believe the readings are originating from either Beta or Gamma Draco.

LAFORGE

Could the nebula be causing the energy readings?

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

We don't know very much about the nebula, but, from all we do know, no. We don't believe the nebula is the cause. But, we will further examine the nebula, when we reach it. Any questions?

EVERYONE nods no.

ROSS

Very well, screen off.

The screen goes off. ROSS turns to PICARD.

ROSS

Captain.

With that one word, she returns the meeting to him. ROSS returns to her seat, and RIKER gives her a smile.

PICARD

Thank you, Commander. Well, now that we know what we are in for, let's get to work.

PICARD rises. EVERYONE, except TROI and LAFORGE, head for the door. RIKER waits at the door for ROSS. WORF and DATA exit. ROSS takes RIKER's arm, and they leave. TROI watches them from her seat. The doors close leaving TROI and LAFORGE alone. LAFORGE rises from the table, and looks at TROI.

LAFORGE

I wonder what's between them?

TROI

(Hint of jealousy)

They were close at The Academy.

TROI rises. LAFORGE looks at her, questioningly.

LAFORGE

How do you know?

TROI heads to the door.

TROI

She was the one, he was still trying to get out of his system, when we met on Betazed.

LAFORGE realizes that he's put his foot in his mouth.

(CONTINUED)

LAFORGE

Oh.

TROI exits. The doors close.

LAFORGE

When will I learn to keep my mouth
shut?

LAFORGE shakes his head, and exits.

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (DAY 2: 1200)

Ship leaving Starbase.

PICARD (VO)

Captain's Log, Stardate 46838.3:
Having completed all business at
Starbase 9, we set course for the
Draco System. Mr. Data informs me,
that it will take 5 1/2 days to
reach Draco at Warp 6. I have sent
a request to Command, for
permission to exceed Warp Speed
restrictions. I await a reply.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE

PICARD is flanked by RIKER and TROI. WORF, RO, and DATA,
are at their respective stations. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed.
LAFORGE is talking to WORF.

LAFORGE

I can't wait to get a good look at
that nebula. I hear we'll be the
first ship, to get this close to
it, in...

DATA

Incorrect Commander.

DATA turns around, and addresses LAFORGE.

DATA

The first ship to come into contact
with NGC-6543, now called the Draco
Nebula, was the S.S Excalibur.

LAFORGE leans on the horseshoe railing.

(CONTINUED)

LAFORGE

Yeh Data, but it never came back.

DATA

Incorrect. It did return. Exactly 100 years after it disappeared... in the vicinity of the nebula.

RIKER

I remember reading something about that in The Logs Of The Enterprise. It was during the command of Christopher Pike, wasn't it?

DATA

Correct Commander.

PICARD

Were there any follow up missions, to see where she had been for 100 years?

DATA

(Thinks)

Only one. The U.S.S Quintillus. A Class-1 Scout. She was sent out 16 years later.

RO

16 years, why so long?

DATA

(Shakes his head)

Unknown.

RO

What did she find out?

DATA

Also unknown. She also disappeared. At the same co-ordinates as The Excalibur, ...

RO says her next line as DATA is finishing his.

RO

Great! We could be next

DATA

...and never returned.

(CONTINUED)

RIKER

Not yet anyway.

LAFORGE thinks of something. He starts talking, as he is walking down the ramp.

LAFORGE

Wait Data. When did you say The Quintillus disappeared?

DATA

16 years after...

LAFORGE

(Shakes his head)

No, Data. I mean the date. Old Earth Calendar?

DATA

2269*

LAFORGE

Okay. Now, if you take today's date, O.E.C...

RIKER

2369

LAFORGE

Right. And subtract the date that The Quintillus disappeared...

TROI

2269

LAFORGE

You get...

WORF

100 years.

LAFORGE
Right. Which means...

RO
Which means that she might just
appear at any moment in the
vicinity of the nebula.

LAFORGE
Exactly.

RIKER
And The Enterprise will be there to
see her home.

WORF
Just like last time.

LAFORGE
Coincidence?
(beat)
Or something else?

PICARD
Well, in either case, I think we
should get there ASAP.
(beat)
Mr. Worf, any word from Starfleet
yet on whether or not we can exceed
Warp restrictions?

WORF
No sir, I...

WORF stops talking as his console beeps.

WORF
Wait.

A message comes in. He answers it.

WORF
Starfleet's just approved request
sir.

LAFORGE turns and walks back to his station.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD
ETA, if we increase to Warp 9, Mr.
Data?
DATA consults his panel.

DATA
24 hours, Captain.

PICARD
Increase to Warp 9, Mr. Data.

DATA
Aye Sir. Warp 9.
DATA changes Warp factor from 6 to 9.

PICARD
Engage.

FADE TO COMMERCIALS.

ACT III (DAY 3)

EXT. DRACO SYSTEM - NEBULA (1145)

At first, all that is seen is the nebula (2 sec). Then, there is a flash of blue light and a ship exits the nebula. It's The Quintillus: An MK-VII Class-1 Scout Ship of the Hermes Class. ID NCC-590.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - THE QUINTILLUS

The crew uniforms are circa TOS. The Captain is an Earth female. She is sitting in her chair. Her Science Officer, is a full Vulcan, and is at his station.

CAPTAIN
Helm, where are we?

HELM
According to my instruments sir, we
are...
(beat)(To himself)
...that can't be right?

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

What can't be right?

(beat)

Well, out with it Lieutenant

HELM

Sorry sir. We are...

(beat)

...exactly where we were, before we got pulled off course. Only we are heading in the opposite direction.

CAPTAIN

You mean, we just did a 180 degree turn?

HELM

Yes sir.

SCIENCE

Captain, long rang sensors are detecting an object approaching us at...

(Rise an eyebrow)

Warp 9.

CAPTAIN

(Turns to him)

Warp 9. Are you sure Lieutenant?

SCIENCE

Positive Captain.

CAPTAIN

Computer. Identify approaching vessel.

COMPUTER (VO)

Working.

(beat)

Vessel configuration unknown.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

Red alert.
Ship goes to Red Alert. Klaxons come on.

SCIENCE

Computer. Display results of long
range sensor scan.
Computer displays the results, on his terminal panel. He
looks it over.

SCIENCE

Fascinating.

CAPTAIN

Did you say something Lieutenant?

SCIENCE

It would seem, that even though the
computer failed to recognize the
vessel, it is a Federation Ship.

CAPTAIN

What?

SCIENCE

The call numbers on her hull,
clearly identify her as The
Enterprise.

CAPTAIN

The Enterprise? But...

SCIENCE

I believe the problem could be in
the call numbers themselves. The
sensor scan, lists them as
NCC-1701-D.

CAPTAIN

D? Co...

The CAPTAIN, not being able to hear herself think over the
noise of the Klaxons, yells her next line.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

Will somebody please turn off those annoying Klaxons? I can't even hear myself think.

The Klaxons shut off.

CAPTAIN

Thank you.

The CAPTAIN turns to the SCIENCE Officer.

CAPTAIN

Now Lieutenant where was I? Oh yes. Could the nebula have somehow interfered with our computers?

SCIENCE

Unknown, Captain.

CAPTAIN

(To Helm)

How long were we in there anyway Lieutenant? It felt like years.

HELMSMAN consults the chronometer.

HELM

Exactly 10 seconds, sir.

CAPTAIN

10 seconds, that can't be right! Four Enterprises could not have been built and destroyed, in only 10 seconds. This makes no sense.

The CAPTAIN turns to the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER.

CAPTAIN

Lieutenant send the following message to The Enterprise.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Yes sir.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLODECK THREE - ENTERPRISE (1200)

ROSS is creating a program. We only see her, and the Arch.
We do not see the program that she is creating.

PICARD (VO)
Commander Ross, we have just
entered The Draco System. Please
report to the Bridge.

ROSS
Acknowledged.
(beat)(to Computer)
Computer. Save program.
HOLODECK returns to normal state, and the exit door
opens.

COMPUTER (VO)
Program saved. You may exit when
ready.
ROSS exits.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - THE ENTERPRISE (1215)

PICARD is flanked by RIKER and TROI. WORF, RO, and DATA, are
at their respective stations. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed.

PICARD
Slow to Impulse, Mr. Data.

DATA
Yes, Captain.
DATA enters the command into his console. WORF leans on
the handrail, and addresses PICARD.

WORF
Captain, incoming message from...
(beat)
The Quintillus. Audio only.

PICARD
It appears that Geordi was right
Number One.
(to Worf)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PICARD (cont'd)
Let's hear what they have to say
Lieutenant.

WORF
Aye sir.
WORF plays the message tape.

MESSAGE (AUDIO ONLY)
This is Captain Maria Rosenberg, of
the Scout ship Quintillus. We have
some questions to ask you, and are
awaiting your reply.
(beat)
As you are not within Visual
Communication range yet, an Audio
acknowledgment will suffice, for
now, Quintillus out.

PICARD
Mr. Worf, address the following
message to The Quintillus.

WORF
Yes sir.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - QUINTILLUS (1230)

SCIENCE
Captain. The Enterprise just
entered Visual range. I can see now
why the Computer failed to identify
her. It would seem, that a lot has
changed in her design since the
last...

ROSENBURG
What do you mean? The last time we
saw her was two months ago, when we
delivered some medical supplies to
Kir...

(CONTINUED)

SCIENCE

Captain. I suggest you see for yourself. Computer, display approaching vessel. Magnification 10, and state the dimensions of said vessel.

The Computer displays The Enterprise, on the main view screen. The Bridge crew is amazed at the size of her, and shows it.

COMPUTER (VO)

Approaching vessel is 642.5 meters in length. 467 meter in width. 137.5 meters in height. And weighs 397,805 metric tons.

ROSENBERG

That's "The Enterprise"?

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Captain. Incoming message from The Enterprise.

ROSENBERG

Let's hear it Lieutenant.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER plays message.

MESSAGE: PICARD (VO)

This is Captain Jean-Luc Picard, of the Starship Enterprise. We have received your message, and await visual contact.

(beat)

There is much we must tell you, Enterprise out.

ROSENBERG

Picard eh...

(beat)

Lieutenant, open a channel to The Enterprise. I want to know...

(beat)

..among other things...

(beat)

...just what Starfleet thinks it is trying to prove, with a warship like that. Things couldn't have

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSENBURG (cont'd)
 changed that much, in just 10
 seconds.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
 Yes sir.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE (1245)

PICARD is flanked by RIKER and TROI. WORF, RO, and DATA, are at their respective stations. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed. (NOTE: The Horseshoe has 5 seats, 2 on either side of PICARD. The extra two, are at this moment, empty) The Turbolift doors open. ROSS exits Turbolift and starts to walk down the ramp. She notices The Quintillus on The View Screen, and stops.

ROSS
 Oh my god, he was right!

RIKER
 Who was right?

PICARD
 Right about what?

ROSS
 My... grandfather. About the
 nebula. He said it could be some
 sort of time displacement.

ROSS continues down ramp and heads for her seat. (The empty one beside TROI.)

PICARD
 Why didn't you mention this before?

ROSS
 I never believed it.

ROSS sits.

RO
 How'd your grandfather come up with
 this theory?

ROSS
 It all started when he was a young
 Lieutenant and the ship he was
 serving on, entered this sector.

(CONTINUED)

RO
Your grandfather was on The
Excalibur?

ROSS
No.
(beat)
He was on The Enterprise.

RIKER
(Surprise)
The Enterprise? That would make him
Am...

ROSS
Yes.

RIKER
Why didn't you ever tell me?

ROSS
It's a long story.

WORF
Sorry to interrupt.
(beat)
But we are being hailed by The
Quintillus.

PICARD
On screen, Mr. Worf.

WORF
Yes sir.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - QUINTILLUS (1300)

The bridge of The Enterprise, appears on the Main View
Screen.

(CONTINUED)

ROSENBURG
Well Captain Picard, I...
ROSENBURG notices WORF, and gets defensive.

ROSENBURG
Is this some of trick? Why is there
an Imperial Klingon on the bridge
of a Federation Warship?

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE

The bridge of The Quintillus, is on the Main View Screen.

ROSENBURG
And those uniforms, they're not
like any Starfleet uniforms I've
ever seen. Now you...

PICARD
Wait. If you'll give me a few
minutes, I'm sure...

ROSS
Captain.
(beat)
May I address Captain Rosenberg?
PICARD gives ROSS a "be my guest" look.

PICARD
Certainly.

ROSS
Thank you.
ROSS faces the View Screen.

ROSS
Captain, I'm Lieutenant Commander
Ross. Do you have a young Vulcan on
board, by the name of Sulik?

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - QUINTILLUS

The bridge of The Enterprise, appears on the Main View Screen. ROSENBURG is wondering, just who this woman is. And what her connection to SULIK is.

ROSENBURG

Yes.

ROSS

May I speak with him?

ROSENBURG turns to SULIK.

ROSENBURG

Lieutenant

ROSENBURG motions for SULIK to come over. SULIK walks over, and stands beside ROSENBURG.

ROSS

Lieutenant Sulik?

SULIK nods.

ROSS

I have a message for you from your cousin.

SULIK rises his eyebrow.

ROSS

He says, "I-Chaya runs free."

SULIK recognizes the phrase.

SULIK

May I ask, how you know my cousin?

ROSS

You may ask. But I don't think you will believe the answer.

SULIK rises an eyebrow.

SULIK

Try me.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS
Okay. Your cousin...
(beat)
...is my grandfather?

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE

The bridge of The Quintillus, is on the Main View Screen.
SULIK rises an eyebrow, to what ROSS just said.

SULIK
Grandfather? That is impossible.
Sp...

ROSS cuts SULIK off.

ROSS
I told you you would not believe
me.
(beat)
As you can tell, this ship and her
crew, especially Mr. Worf, do not
resemble and Federation ship and
crew, you know of.
(beat)
There have been several changes
since your ship disappeared. The
most noticeable, and most important
being the Alliance between the
United Federation of Planets and
The Klingon Empire. Just like the
Organians predicated.

ROSENBURG
Alliance? But there weren't even
any talks, at least none that we
were aware of, before that nebula
drew us into it. And that was only
10 seconds ago. At least that's
what our computer tells us. How
could all that have happened, in
only a matter of seconds?

DATA
According to our calculations, what
to you may have appeared as only a
matter of seconds, has in fact been
exactly 100 years.

(CONTINUED)

ROSENBURG

100 years, how can that be?

DATA

Unknown. At this time we have little or no information on the nebula other than the fact that it is there. But, based on the fact that both you and The Excalibur, entered the nebula and exited it exactly 100 years later one could conclude, that it must be some sort of time displacement.

ROSENBURG

So, I guess that means we have a lot to catch up on. A whole century.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - QUINTILLUS

The bridge of The Enterprise, appears on the Main View Screen.

PICARD

Captain, why don't you and Lieutenant Sulik beam over for an, in person welcome, to the 24th Century.

ROSENBURG thinks about it, and is about to agree, when

SULIK whispers something to her.

SULIK

(whispers)

It could be a trap, Captain. They've offered us no concrete proof that we have indeed been transported into our own future.

ROSENBURG

(to Sulik)

You're right.

(to Picard)

Can you offer us any proof that you are who you say you are? And that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSENBURG (cont'd)
we have been transported forward in
time 100 years?

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE

The bridge of The Quintillus, is on the Main View Screen.

PICARD
Well I...
(beat)
No. I guess I can't. You're just
going to have to trust us!

ROSENBURG
Give us some time to think this
over. We'll get back to you.
Quintillus out.
The View Screen image changes to an external shot of The
Quintillus.

FADE TO COMMERCIALS:

ACT IV (DAY 3)

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE (1325)

PICARD is flanked by RIKER and TROI. WORF, RO, and DATA, are
at their respective stations. ROSS is sitting beside TROI.
SUPERNUMERARIES as needed.

TROI
Captain, I believe she truly wants
to believe us, but...

RIKER
Maybe while they decide whether or
not to believe us, we can figure
out a way to make them.

PICARD
Like what, Number One?

(CONTINUED)

RIKER

Allow them access to our computers.

TROI

Computers can be tampered with,
Will. Besides if they won't believe
us, what makes you think they'll
believe our computer?

RIKER

It's worth as try, Counselor!
Unless, you have a better idea?
TROI is about to say something, but ROSS cuts her off.

ROSS

I do.
PICARD looks at her.

PICARD

You do?

ROSS

Yes Captain, I do.
(beat)
Allow me to transport over and,
with Lieutenant Sulik's consent,
I'll submit to a mind meld.

RIKER

A mind meld, you can't be serious?

ROSS

Don't worry. I used to do it all
the time with Sp... my grandfather.
(beat)
Well Captain? What do you think?

PICARD

I think...
(beat)
I think it's a great idea. I was
involved in a mind meld a few years
back, with the late Ambassador
Sarek. It was one of the most
educational and challenging
experiences I've ever had.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)(Turns to Ross)
If Sulik agrees, you have my
permission, Commander.

FADE TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - QUINTILLUS (1330)

ROSENBURG
(To Sulik)
What does "I-Chaya runs free" mean
Lieutenant?

SULIK
My cousin had a pet Sehlat named
I-Chaya. They were inseparable.
(beat)
One day my cousin came to see me,
without I-Chaya. When I asked where
I-Chaya was...
(beat}
...he told me, I-Chaya runs free.
I-Chaya had died earlier that day,
saving my cousin's life.

ROSENBURG
Then they really could be who they
say they are?

SULIK
(rise an eyebrow)
Yes.
(beat}
Not many people know, knew, what
happened that day.

ROSENBURG
So...
(beat)
Do we trust them?

SULIK
Well, we could interface our
computers with theirs, but how can
we be sure they haven't tampered
with their computers! Or ...

Momentary pause before ROSENBURG prompts SULIK to continue.

(CONTINUED)

ROSENBURG
Or what, Lieutenant?

SULIK
I could try a mind meld with
Commander Ross.

ROSENBURG
Your cousin's "grand-daughter"?

SULIK
Yes.
ROSENBURG looks at the rest of the bridge crew.

ROSENBURG
Any other suggestions?
All nod negative. ROSENBURG turns back to SULIK.

ROSENBURG
Very well, Lieutenant If she
agrees, you have my permission.
ROSENBURG turns to The COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER.

ROSENBURG
Hail the Enterprise, Lieutenant

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Yes Captain.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE (1345)

PICARD is flanked by RIKER and TROI. WORF, RO, and DATA, are
at their respective stations. ROSS is sitting beside TROI.
SUPERNUMERARIES as needed.

WORF
Captain, The Quintillus is hailing
us.

PICARD
On screen, Lieutenant
The Main View Screen image change to the bridge of The

(CONTINUED)

Quintillus.

PICARD

Well Captain, what have you decided?

ROSENBURG

With your permission Captain, we request that Commander Ross transport over.

PICARD

For what purpose?

ROSENBURG

With her permission, Lieutenant Sulik would like to mind meld with her. It is the quickest, and most effective, way to determine if you are telling us the truth. If the results are positive, I shall transport over with her, when she returns.

PICARD's trying to determine if he should mention that ROSS has already agreed to a mind meld. RIKER gives him a "don't say anything" look.

PICARD

A mind meld...

PICARD turns to ROSS, and gives her a "play along" look.

PICARD

Well, do you want to do this? It is up to you!

ROSS

Certainly. We've got nothing to hide.

PICARD

Report to Main Transporter Room, and prepare to beam over.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

(Rising)

Yes sir.

ROSS heads for the Turbolift. PICARD turns back to View Screen.

PICARD

Captain, we will need the co-ordinates of your Transporter Room.

ROSENBURG

I'll have our Transporter Chief transmit them. Quintillus out.

ROSS enters the Turbolift, the doors close, and the View screen goes black.

TROI

"We" might not have anything to hide, but Commander Ross does.

PICARD

What do you mean?

TROI

I'm not certain. I just get the feeling, that she's either hiding something from us, or is not being totally honest with us.

RIKER

(defensive)

Look, I've known T'Pra Ross for almost 17 years. I don't think she's hiding anything.

TROI

With all due respect Commander, you haven't seen her in more than 15 years! She might not still be the person you remember. People change.

PICARD

Do you think we should stop her from transporting over?

(CONTINUED)

TROI

I'm...

RIKER

Captain. If we stop her, they will suspect something. Maybe whatever it is Deanna thinks she is hiding, she'll be able to shield from Sulik. Or, maybe he won't consider it important. Either way, I ...

PICARD

(nods)

You're right Number One.

(turns to TROI)

If you want to take this up with her when she returns, go right ahead.

TROI

Yes sir.

FADE TO:

EXT. SPACE - QUINTILLUS (1500)

ROSENBERG (VO)

Captain's Log, Stardate Unknown:
Upon exiting the nebula, over 4
hours ago...

CONTINUE TO:

INT. MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM - QUINTILLUS

ROSS beams over. SULIK is waiting for her.

ROSENBERG (VO)

...ship's scanners picked up an
object, later identified as The
Enterprise...

ROSS and SULIK exit.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - QUINTILLUS

ROSS and SULIK walk down the hallway.

ROSENBERG (VO)
 ...NCC-1701-D, coming towards us.
 We opened communications, and were
 informed by her Captain, that the
 nebula had transported us 100 years
 into the future.
 THEY enter a Turbolift.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. TURBOLIFT - QUINTILLUS

ROSS and SULIK are in the Turbolift.

ROSENBERG (VO)
 Lieutenant Sulik and a Lieutenant
 Commander Ross, from The
 Enterprise, who claims to be his
 cousin's grand-daughter, have
 agreed to a Vulcan Mind Meld.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - QUINTILLUS

ROSS and SULIK exit Turbolift, and start down hall.

ROSENBERG (VO)
 I am awaiting the results to see
 what our next step shall be.

The log entry stops and we focus on SULIK and ROSS.

SULIK
 I hope you don't mind, Commander,
 but I believe the best place to
 conduct this, would be in my
 quarters.

ROSS stops walking, and looks at SULIK. Then, in a
 sarcastic/teasing tone, says following line.

ROSS
 Why Sulik, we've only just met.
 SULIK rises his eyebrow in confusion, and stops.

(CONTINUED)

SULIK
Excuse me, Commander?
They continue down hall.

ROSS
If you weren't a Vulcan, I'd think
you were trying to get me alone.
SULIK is still confused, and rises his eyebrow again.

SULIK
I fail to see...
ROSS stops, says her line, then continues walking.

ROSS
I... Never mind Sulik. Forget it.
SULIK shrugs his shoulders.

SULIK
It's forgotten, Commander.

ROSS
T'Pra, please. I'm sick of everyone
calling me Commander!

SULIK
Very well. T'Pra.
They reach his room. He stops.

SULIK
Here we are.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. SULIK'S QUARTERS - QUINTILLUS

The door opens, and they enter. SULIK motions ROSS to sit
down. They both sit.

SULIK
Shall we begin?

ROSS
Whenever you're ready.
SULIK prepares himself, then places his hands on her

(CONTINUED)

face, in the proper Mind Meld positions.

SULIK
My mind ... to your mind.

FADE OUT:

EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (1800)

Camera zooms into Tenforward.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. TENFORWARD - ENTERPRISE

Camera zooms to RIKER. He's sitting at the bar, talking to GUINAN, and playing with his drink glass. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed.

RIKER
What could be taking so long? She's been over there for almost three hours!

GUINAN
Will, relax.
{beat}
Who knows, maybe the meld was completed an hour ago and they're discussing what has happened to his cousin since they last saw each other. And we all know that a lot has happened to Spo...

RIKER
(looks at her)
Guinan, anything he would have wanted to know... would've been revealed in the meld.
RIKER goes back to staring into his glass. TROI enters and walks over. She stands beside RIKER.

TROI
She'll be okay, Will.

RIKER
I know.
(look at Troi)
It's not like she hasn't done this before.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
It's just... it shouldn't take so
long. We should have...
RIKER's communicator beeps.

PICARD (VO)
Commander Riker, report to Main
Transporter Room.

RIKER rises from his chair, and taps his communicator.

RIKER
Acknowledged.
(to Troi and Guinan)
Well, here goes nothing.
RIKER exits. TROI and GUINAN watch him leave.

GUINAN
I've never seen him this worried
about anyone. He must really care
for her.
GUINAN starts to leave. TROI looks at RIKER's half empty
glass, and says following line. More to herself than GUINAN.

TROI
Yeh.

FADE TO COMMERCIALS:

ACT V (DAY 3)

INT. MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM - ENTERPRISE(1815)

PICARD, DATA, and WORF are present. The doors open, and
RIKER enters.

PICARD
Ah, Number One. I have some good
news. Captain Rosenberg is beaming
over with Commander Ross, and three
of her officers.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF
Captain. They are ready for
transport.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD
Energize, Chief.
The Transporter hums, and five people materialize on the platform.

PICARD
Captain Rosenberg. Welcome aboard.
All step off Transporter Platform. As PICARD introduces them, they nod hello. ROSENBURG et al, nod back.

PICARD
May I introduce my First Officer.
Commander William Riker.
(beat)
And my Chief of Security.
Lieutenant Worf.

Momentary pause.

ROSENBURG
I hope we have a chance to talk
later Lieutenant There's so much
I'd like to know about your people.

WORF
I would be honored, Captain.

PICARD
And, this is Lieutenant Commander
Data.

ROSENBURG
Data? What an unusual name.
ROSENBURG notices his pale complexion, and yellow eyes.

ROSENBURG
You're not human, are you?

DATA
No sir, I am an Android.

ROSENBURG
An Android! Well, I never thought
I'd live to see the day when
Starfleet started recruiting
Androids.

(CONTINUED)

ROSENBURG realizes what she's just said, and smirks.

ROSENBURG

And, I probably wouldn't have. If it wasn't for that nebula out there.

DATA

Actually Captain, I am currently the only Android in Starfleet.

ROSENBURG

I see. Now, let me introduce you to my officers. This is my Science Officer, Lieutenant Sulik.

(beat)

Our CMO, Philip DeMont.

(beat)

And our Ship's Engineer, Lieutenant Commander Colin MacLaughin.

PICARD

(to all)

Welcome aboard.

(beat)

Mr. Data, would you escort Mr. MacLaughin to Engineering, and ask Geordi to show him around.

DATA

Yes Captain.

MACLAUGHIN

Thank you Captain.

PICARD

You're welcome, Commander.

MACLAUGHIN

(to Rosenberg)

See you later sir.

ROSENBURG

Have fun Colin.

(CONTINUED)

MACLAUGHIN

Oh, I will sir.
DATA and MACLAUGHIN exit.

DEMONT

(to Picard)
With your permission sir, I'd love
to see Sickbay.

PICARD

(smiles)
Of course, doctor. We'll let you
off on the way.
PICARD, RIKER, WORF, ROSS, ROSENBERG, and DEMONT, exit.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - ENTERPRISE

PICARD is at the front with ROSENBERG beside him. RIKER, ROSS, and SULIK, are behind them. ROSS is between RIKER and SULIK. WORF and DEMONT, are behind them. They are walking to the Turbolift.

ROSENBERG

Where are we going, Captain?

PICARD

It's a surprise.

They reach the Turbolift, and enter.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. TURBOLIFT - ENTERPRISE

PICARD

Sickbay.
The doors close and the Turbolift starts to move.

ROSENBERG

I see they've removed the handle
grips.
(beat)
How many more changes can we look
forward to?

(CONTINUED)

The Turbolift stops and the doors open.

DEMONT
Thanks Captain.

PICARD
No problem, doctor.
DEMONT exits.

ROSENBURG
See you later, Phil.
DEMONT smiles. Doors close.

PICARD
Tenforward.
Turbolift starts to move.

ROSENBURG
Ten what..?

SULIK
Tenforward. I believe it is some
sort of bar, Captain.
PICARD, RIKER, and WORF, all give him a "How'd you know"
look. ROSENBURG gives him a "WHAT" look. And ROSS just
blushes and looks at the floor. No one notices.

SULIK
T'... Commander Ross "told" me.
EVERYONE gets an "OH" look on their face.

ROSENBURG
A bar, on a Starship? Don't you
worry about your officer's being
intoxicated?

PICARD
Tenforward serves an alcohol
substitute known as Synthehol.

ROSENBURG
Synthehol?

(CONTINUED)

PICARD

Yes. It is a synthetic alcohol.
The Turbolift stops, and the doors open.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - ENTERPRISE

All exit the Turbolift.

PICARD

It simulates the appearance, smell,
and taste of alcohol, but it's
intoxicating effects can be
dismissed in humanoids, with a
mental effort.

(beat)

Therefore, one may drink to one's
heart's content - without suffering
any negative effects.

(beat)

It was originally developed by The
Ferengi.

ROSENBERG

The who?

PICARD

The Ferengi.

ROSENBERG

I've never heard of them. Who are
they?

PICARD

The Ferengi, are intergalactic
traders, whose main motivation is
profit.

WORF

In appearance, they are quite
short, and have very large ears.
They reach Tenforward, and enter.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. TENFORWARD - ENTERPRISE

PICARD spots GUINAN and TROI at the bar, and leads everyone over.

PICARD
Guinan, Deanna, I'd like you to
meet Captain Rosenberg and
Lieutenant Sulik.

TROI
Pleasure to meet you Captain,
Lieutenant.

RIKER
Permission to be excused, sir?

ROSS
Me too? There is a lot...
PICARD realizes that they want to spend some time alone.

PICARD
Permission granted.
TROI gives ROSS a look, that goes unnoticed by everyone.

Except, of course, GUINAN. TROI also picks up on something between ROSS and SULIK, but ignores it, figuring it is probably just a result of the mind meld. RIKER and ROSS leave the group. PICARD turns to TROI.

PICARD
Would you care to join us,
Counselor?

TROI
It would be a pleasure.
The group heads for a nearby table.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - ENTERPRISE

RIKER and ROSS, exit the Turbolift, and walk toward a Holodeck.

(CONTINUED)

RIKER
Where are we going?

ROSS
There's something I want to show
you.

RIKER
Really, like what?

ROSS
A Holo-program I've been working
on.
They reach the Holodeck, and stop.

ROSS
Computer. Run program ROSS-IC-1.
Computer loads program.

COMPUTER (VO)
Program complete. You may enter
when ready.
ROSS looks at RIKER, and smiles.

ROSS
Enter.
The Holodeck doors open. ROSS motions RIKER in.

ROSS
After you...
They enter.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. HOLODECK THREE - ENTERPRISE

RIKER is awed at the beauty. A golden path sparkles in the light of the full moon above. It is snowing. There is no snow on the path. There is a castle, not in view yet, that is made of ice. The sky, is a typical Earth night sky. ROSS grabs RIKER's hand, and they start up the path, to the castle.

(CONTINUED)

RIKER

It's beautiful.

(beat)

It looks like something out of an
Old Earth fairy tale.

They walk on, in silence. When they reach the clearing,

RIKER notices the castle, and stops.

RIKER

I suppose I'll find a wizard in
there?

RIKER point to the castle. ROSS stop, confused.

ROSS

What makes you say that?

RIKER

(smirks)

We are following a yellow brick
road, aren't we?

ROSS

I guess. In a way. So?

RIKER

Didn't you ever read THE WONDERFUL
WIZARD OF OZ?

ROSS

The wizard of what...?

RIKER

OZ!

They continue walking on the path.

RIKER

It was a novel written by L. Frank
Baum, in the late 1800's

ROSS

(shakes her head)

No.

(beat)

But, maybe you told me about it,
because I knew it meant something.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
You always were one for Old Earth
stories.

They reach the castle, and the door opens. They enter.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. CASTLE - HOLODECK THREE

RIKER
I suppose we follow the Red one?
ROSS is surprised that RIKER guessed right. She says her
line, as they are walking down the red path.

ROSS
How'd you know that?

RIKER
Process of elimination.
(beat)
I figured it couldn't be the golden
one, because we just came off a
gold one, and therefore it was too
obvious.
(beat)
That left the red and the blue
ones, which, are the same colour as
our uniforms.
(beat)
Since you designed this program,
the blue path was also obvious.
(beat)
So, I chose the red one.

ROSS puts her arm around his waist, and rests her head
on his shoulder. They follow the path. They pass: paintings,
sculptures, suits of armor, and other things that you might
expect to find in an authentic 13th Century castle.

RIKER
I must say... you certainly made
this place look authentic.

ROSS
Thanks.
They reach the end of the hall. There is one door. They
stop.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS
Actually, the computer assisted in
the decoration.
RIKER looks at her. Short pause.

ROSS
Well, aren't you going to open it?

RIKER
I'm not sure.

ROSS
Go on Will. I promise, it won't
bite.

RIKER
Oh well.
(beat)(turns knob)
It's only a hologram. If I don't
like it, I can always turn it off.

ROSS
That's the spirit.
RIKER slowly opens the door.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. ROOM - HOLODECK THREE

They enter. ROSS closes the door. RIKER spots an ice bucket,
and approaches it. He removes the bottle. He reads the
label.

RIKER
Where'd you get this?

ROSS
Sulik gave it to me.
RIKER pops the cork, and removes the two glasses from the
table.

RIKER
Shall we...
RIKER pours two glasses.

CUT TO:

INT. ENGINEERING - ENTERPRISE (1845)

LAFORGE

Well, that concludes the tour,
Colin.

MACLAUGHIN

I can see there's been a lot of
changes, since my time. I guess our
ship will be but in a museum or
something, when we get back.

Both laugh.

MACLAUGHIN

Thanks again for taking the time to
show me this, Geordi.

LAFORGE

No problem.

MACLAUGHIN

I wonder where my Captain, and
DeMont are?

LAFORGE

I could find out for you.

MACLAUGHIN wonders how, he can't see any Comm panels
around.

MACLAUGHIN

How?

LAFORGE points to his communicator.

LAFORGE

With this.

MACLAUGHIN

What is it?

(CONTINUED)

LAFORGE
It's a communicator.

MACLAUGHIN
Really, how's it work?

LAFORGE
Basically, you simply tap it, then ask for the person you want. The computer then locates that persons comm badge, and it beeps.

MACLAUGHIN
Wow, I bet they really come in handy on Landing Party missions. I mean, they free your hands an...

LAFORGE
(laugh)
Yeh, they do.

MACLAUGHIN
Well, show me how it works.

LAFORGE
Okay.
(taps communicator)
LaForge to Picard.

PICARD (VO)
Picard here, go ahead Geordi.

LAFORGE
I've completed the tour down here, and Mr. MacLaughin would like to know where the rest of his party is.

PICARD (VO)
Last time I saw Captain Rosenberg and Lieutenant Sulik, they were in Tenforward talking to Troi and Worf. And Dr. DeMont, was in Sickbay with Dr. Crusher.

(CONTINUED)

LAFORGE

Thanks Captain. LaForge out.

(beat)(to MacLaughin)

I'll just check and see if they're
still there.

MACLAUGHIN nods. LAFORGE taps communicator again.

LAFORGE

LaForge to Crusher.

CRUSHER (VO)

Crusher here, what can I do for you
Geordi?

LAFORGE

Is Dr. DeMont still with you?

CRUSHER (VO)

Yes, as a matter fact he was....

LAFORGE

Why don't the two of you meet us in
Tenforward?

CRUSHER (VO)

Sounds good, see you there. Crusher
out.

LAFORGE

(beat)

LaForge to Worf.

WORF (VO)

Worf here.

LAFORGE

Are Captain Rosenburg and
Lieutenant Sulik still with you in
Tenforward?

(CONTINUED)

WORF (VO)
Yes Commander.

LAFORGE
Inform them that Mr. MacLaughin,
Dr. DeMont, Dr. Crusher, and
myself, are coming to join you.

WORF (VO)
Yes sir. Worf out.

LAFORGE
(to MacLaughin)
Let's go.
LAFORGE and MACLAUGHIN exit.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - HOLODECK THREE (1900)

RIKER and ROSS are relaxing in front of a fire. They are sitting on a rug. Each have a glass of champagne in their hand.

RIKER
This is a great program.
(beat)
How'd you ever think of it?

ROSS
Well, I remembered your fascination
with Old Earth. So, with the help
of the computer, we came up with
this.

RIKER
Well, I love it.

RIKER kisses her. He breaks the kiss, and gets up off the floor. He walks over to the table. ROSS follows. He picks up the bottle. She puts her hand over his, on the bottle, and

(CONTINUED)

puts the bottle down. He turns around. She puts her arms around his neck, and kisses him. RIKER puts his arms around her, and pulls her to him. She melts in his arms. He swoops her up, and carries her over to the bed.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

FADE TO END CREDITS.