

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

By

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TEASER (DAY 4)

EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE (0900)

Cruising at Warp 6. Camera zooms into the Main Bridge.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE

PICARD, DATA, and RO, are at their respective stations.
SUPERNUMERARIES as needed. (The horseshoe: 5 chairs, 2 on
either side of PICARD. All are currently empty.)

PICARD
ETA to Beta Draco, Mr. Data?

DATA
At present speed, 6 hours sir.

PICARD
Thank you, Mr. Data.
(beat)
Mr. Worf, report to the Bridge.

WORF (VO)
On my way sir.
(beat)
Captain Rosenberg requests
permission to accompany me.

PICARD
(smiles)
Permission granted, Lieutenant.
Picard out.
(beat)
Well, it looks like Ms. Rosenberg
would like a close up view of our
bridge.

DATA
(Nods)
It would appear that way sir.

Short pause. Turbolift doors open, and WORF and ROSENBURG
exit. WORF takes over his station, and ROSENBURG walks down
the ramp. She looks around the Bridge, then stares out at
the view from the Main View Screen.

(CONTINUED)

ROSENBURG
So, this is the bridge.

ROSENBURG approaches the horseshoe, and sits in TROI's chair.

ROSENBURG
Tell me Captain, where were you headed before you ran into us?
(beat)
I hope we haven't delayed an important mission!

PICARD straightens his tunic.

PICARD
No, you haven't. We used the day to study the nebula.
(beat)
As for where we were headed...
(beat)
Starfleet's been detecting high energy readings from within this System. We've been sent to investigate.

ROSENBURG
Do we... I mean you, have any theories so far?

PICARD
We had two.
(beat)
But now we only have one.

ROSENBURG
Which is?

PICARD
Lieutenant Commander Ross, believes that the readings, are originating from either Beta or Gamma Draco. And, could be some sort of new power source.

ROSENBURG
Mm. What was the other theory?

PICARD
It involved the nebula, but...

ROSENBURG

The nebula, really? Would our records since we entered the system, be of any use to you?

PICARD

Well, it couldn't hurt.

ROSENBURG

I'll notify my ship, and have them send over the necessary information right away.

PICARD

Thank you Cap...

ROSENBURG

Maria, please.

PICARD

Alright, Maria.

(beat)

Mr. Data, would you go over C... Maria's, information when it arrives?

ROSENBURG rises from her chair, and heads for Turbolift.

PICARD

Even if it has nothing on the energy readings, we might just get a better idea of what happened 100 years ago.

(beat)

It will also give us something to work on till we arrive.

DATA

Yes sir.

PICARD

Computer. Locate Commander Riker.

COMPUTER (VO)

Commander Riker is in Holodeck Three.

ROSENBURG is entering the Turbolift. She stops.

ROSENBURG

Holodeck? What's a Holo...

The Turbolift doors close, cutting her off.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - ICE CASTLE - HOLODECK THREE (0930)

RIKER is putting on his boots. ROSS is laying in bed. RIKER goes to her and lays down beside her. She puts her head on his chest. He's running his fingers through her hair when his communicator beeps.

PICARD (VO)
Picard to Riker.

RIKER
Riker here.

PICARD (VO)
Captain Rosenberg, had her computer records transported over, and I'd like you to assist Mr. Data going through them. He's in Observation.

RIKER
On my way.

PICARD (VO)
Picard out.

RIKER kisses ROSS, and gets up.

RIKER
I'll meet you in Tenforward for lunch. Okay?

ROSS
Okay.

RIKER walks over to the door, and opens it. He exits, and closes the door behind him. He doesn't want to waste time by walking all the way out.

RIKER
Computer, exit.

A door appears, and RIKER exits the Holodeck. As RIKER is exiting the HOLODECK we...

FADE TO INTRODUCTION:

ACT I (DAY 4)

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - ENTERPRISE (1000)

The doors open, and RIKER enters. The doors close, and RIKER walks over to DATA. DATA is sorting through record tapes (TOS computer disks). (NOTE: No dialogue is heard. Only the following voice over log entry)

PICARD (VO)

Captain's Log, Stardate 46840.7: It seems the Captain Rosenberg has chosen to believe us.

(beat)

16 hours ago, she beamed over with three of her officers. Science Officer Lieutenant Sulik, who since his arrival, has been talking to Counselor Troi. Her CMO Dr. DeMont, who received a tour of Sickbay from Dr. Crusher. And her Chief Engineer Lieutenant Commander Colin MacLaughin, who received a tour of Engineering from Mr. LaForge.

(beat)

Captain Rosenberg, was discussing the Klingon Empire with Lieutenant Worf, and has just given us all her computer records, since her ship entered this system. Commander Riker, and Mr. Data, are going through them now.

(beat)

We have resumed course for Beta Draco, and should arrive within five hours.

(beat)

I've just been informed, that two of our guests, Dr. DeMont and Mr. MacLaughin, have returned to The Quintillus, and under MacLaughin's command, will be heading to Starbase 9. Captain Rosenberg and Lieutenant Sulik, have requested permission to remain on board, and help us. They will unite with their ship, after this assignment, when we return to Starbase 9.

FADE TO:

INT. TENFORWARD - ENTERPRISE (1300)

ROSS is sitting at a table, playing with her drink glass.
TROI enters, and goes over to her.

TROI
Can I speak with you for a moment?

ROSS
Sure.

TROI sits.

ROSS
What's on your mind, Counselor?
Or... need I ask.

ROSS sips her drink.

TROI
(bluntly)
Commander Riker.

ROSS
Oh? What about Commander Riker?

ROSS takes another sip of her drink.

TROI
Don't think I don't know what
you're up to.

ROSS gets a very innocent, look on her face, and tone in her
voice.

ROSS
What ever do you mean, Counselor?

ROSS takes another sip of her drink.

TROI
I won't let you put him through
that again.

ROSS
Excuse me? I think you must be
mistaken. Last time it was William
who left!

TROI
You made him take that assign...

(CONTINUED)

ROSS
Did he tell you that?
(beat)
He would have been a fool not to.

ROSS sips her drink.

TROI
(beat)
He loves you, you know. Almost as
much as... he loves The Enterprise
and Starfleet.
(beat)
Don't put him in a position where
he'll have to choose. Because...
(beat)
I don't want to have to pick up the
pieces again.

ROSS
Again? What do you mean, again?

TROI senses RIKER enter the room, so she gets up and leaves.
TROI passes RIKER on the way to the door. He looks at her as
she passes, and senses that she is upset about something.
RIKER continues to ROSS. He reaches the table, kisses her,
then sits.

RIKER
What did Deanna want?

ROSS doesn't answer. She just stares blankly into her glass,
while twisting it.

RIKER
Deb?

ROSS says her line, while still staring into glass.

ROSS
Mind if I ask you a personal
question, Will?

RIKER doesn't answer. ROSS takes that as an okay.

ROSS
What exactly is your relationship
with Counselor Troi?

RIKER's not sure how to answer that question. He also,
doesn't really want to get into that with her right now.

(CONTINUED)

RIKER

Well, that's a long story.

ROSS looks at him.

ROSS

We have the time.

RIKER

No, we don't. At least not now. I just came to tell you, that I have to cancel our lunch date.

RIKER rises from the table, and kisses her.

ROSS

We'll continue this discussion later.

RIKER gives her a smile, and heads for the door. ROSS takes another sip of her drink. As RIKER is walking out, SULIK is walking in. SULIK sees ROSS, and goes over to her. GUINAN sees SULIK approach ROSS, and wonders if there is more between them than family.

SULIK

May I join you, T'Pra?

ROSS

Sure, why not. Join the club.

SULIK rises an eyebrow at the phrase, and remains standing. ROSS looks up at him.

ROSS

Have a seat.

ROSS sips her drink, then stares into glass again, only half paying attention to SULIK.

SULIK

(sits)

I just came from the bridge.

SULIK notices she's not paying attention.

SULIK

Is something the matter?

ROSS

No, not really.

(beat)

It's nothing, forget it.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS looks at him, and he rises his eyebrow in an "okay" look.

SULIK
Mind if I ask you some questions?

ROSS
What kind of questions...?

SULIK
Historical.

ROSS drains her glass, which was almost empty anyway, and places it on the table.

ROSS
In that case, why don't we go to my cabin. That way we can use the computer for assistance.

SULIK
(rising from the table)
After you.

ROSS rises. Camera watches them leave, through GUINAN's eyes. SULIK must have said something funny, because as they are exiting, ROSS starts laughing.

FADE TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE (1330)

PICARD, DATA, WORF, and RO, are all at the respective stations. ROSENBERG, has returned to the bridge, and is sitting in TROI's chair. TROI is sitting beside her. The two chairs on the other side of PICARD, are empty. The Turbolift doors open, and RIKER enters the Bridge. RIKER says his line, as he is heading down the ramp.

RIKER
Sorry Captain, I had to make a stop
on the way that...
(look at Troi)
...turned out to be longer than I'd
anticipated.

RIKER takes his seat. PICARD gives him a "that's okay" look.

PICARD
So what did you and Mr. Data
discover?

(CONTINUED)

RIKER
Nothing new really.
(beat)
The only thing they told us was
that, according to all their
instruments, only 10 seconds
elapsed from the time they entered,
to the time they exited.

DATA Turns to face PICARD.

DATA
Which means that for very 1 second
inside, 10 years pass on the
outside.

PICARD
Nothing else...?

RIKER
Nothing sir.
(beat)
Remember, those records are 100
years old.

WORF leans on the rail.

WORF
Captain, incoming subspace message
for Commander Ross.

PICARD
Computer. Locate Commander Ross.

COMPUTER (VO)
Commander Ross, is in her quarters.

PICARD
Picard to Ross.

ROSS (VO)
Ross here.

PICARD
There's a subspace message for you.
Lieutenant Worf will transfer it to
your monitor.

ROSS (VO)
Thank you, Captain, Ross out.

PICARD nods at WORF, who transfers the message.

CUT TO:

INT. ROSS' QUARTERS - ENTERPRISE (1345)

ROSS and SULIK are in the middle of a game of 3-D Chess.
ROSS gets up from the table.

ROSS
Excuse me, Sulik.

SULIK completes a move.

SULIK
Certainly.

SULIK studies the board. ROSS walks over to the monitor, and sits down. She turns it on, and addresses the Computer.

ROSS
Begin.

The UFP logo appears. The message is from Wesley.

WESLEY
Good afternoon Commander Ross.
(beat)
I hope you receive this before you arrive at Beta Draco. I have some new information for you.
(beat)
I'll be waiting for your call, Crusher out.

The monitor displays the END TRANSMISSION prompt. ROSS turns the monitor off, and rises from her chair. ROSS says her line, as she is heading back to SULIK. SULIK is still studying the board.

ROSS
I hope it's not bad news.
(beat)
Computer. Get me Wesley Crusher at Starfleet Academy.

COMPUTER (VO)
Yes Commander.

ROSS sits down, at the table.

ROSS
Sorry about that.

SULIK
That's alright.

ROSS looks at the board.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS
Whose move is it?

SULIK
Yours.

ROSS studies the board and moves.

SULIK
Who is this Wesley Crusher I keep
hearing so much about?

SULIK moves. ROSS contemplates her next move.

ROSS
He is the son of Dr. Crusher.

ROSS moves.

ROSS
When she was assigned to the
Enterprise, he came with her.

SULIK moves. ROSS contemplates her next move. SULIK raises
an eyebrow.

SULIK
Children? On a Starship?

ROSS
That's another thing that's
changed.

ROSS moves. SULIK studies the board.

ROSS
Since missions tend to run anywhere
from 10-20 yrs, an Officer's
immediate family, spouse/kids, may
travel with them.

SULIK
(Rise eyebrow)
Fascinating.

SULIK moves. ROSS laughs quietly.

SULIK
Did I say something funny?

ROSS says her line, while studying the board.

ROSS
No, it's just that Sp... my
grandfather, used to say that all
the time.

ROSS moves. SULIK studies the board.

ROSS
And you sounded just like him.

SULIK looks up from the board.

SULIK
I will take that as a compliment.

ROSS
As it was intended.

SULIK returns to the board.

SULIK
I take it he was a lot more than
just the doctor's son.

SULIK moves. ROSS gets a confused look on her face.

ROSS
What?

SULIK
(look at Ross)
Wesley. I said, I...

ROSS
Oh, yeh right, Wesley.

ROSS looks at the board, and moves.

ROSS
Check.

SULIK rises his eyebrow. He didn't see that move.

SULIK
You are quite good at this game.

ROSS
I learned from two of the best.

SULIK contemplates his next move.

SULIK
So, what about Wesley?

ROSS
Well, while he was on board, he was given the rank of Acting Ensign by Captain Picard, for all his assistance. The rank, allowed him to participate in all ship operations. During his third year, he was promoted to Full Ensign. And early in his fourth year, he was granted late admission into the Academy.

SULIK is still studying the board.

SULIK
Sounds like an interesting young man. I look forward to meeting him.

SULIK finds the perfect move, and moves.

SULIK
Check-mate.

ROSS is stunned. She didn't she that move.

ROSS
How...

COMPUTER (VO)
Commander, I have Wesley Crusher for you.

ROSS
Thank you Computer.
(to Sulik)
Well, here's your chance, Lieutenant.

Both rise from the table, and walk over to the monitor. ROSS sits, and SULIK stands off to one side. ROSS turns monitor on, and WESLEY appears on it.

ROSS
Good afternoon, Wes.

WESLEY
Afternoon Commander.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Before we get down to business,
there's someone here I'd like to
introduce you to.

SULIK stands beside ROSS, and leans one hand on the table,
and one hand on the back of her chair.

ROSS

Wes, this is Lieutenant Sulik of
the Scout Ship Quintillus. Sulik,
this is Wesley Crusher.

SULIK and WESLEY nod hello. WESLEY notices SULIK's uniform.

WESLEY

(jokingly)

Isn't that uniform out of date?

WESLEY and ROSS laugh.

SULIK

(rise eyebrow)

A joke, I take it.

WESLEY and ROSS stop laughing.

ROSS

So Wes, you said you had some news?

WESLEY

It's about the nebula. I was going
over The Excalibur's logs, and...

ROSS

How did you get... never mind. I
don't think I want to know.

WESLEY

(smiles)

It seems that the nebula, has a
strong magnetic pull. But only once
every 116 years.

SULIK

Fascinating.

WESLEY

It also acts something like a
wormhole. But instead of traveling
in distance, it travels in time.

(CONTINUED)

SULIK

I have another piece of information for you.

(beat)

By our calculations, we were only inside for a total of 10 seconds. And, since 100 years elapsed in real time we can conclude that for every 1 second inside, 10 years of real time pass by.

ROSS

(beat)

Anything else Wes?

WESLEY

Those readings have gotten stronger. We've been able to pin point the area. They're definitely coming from Beta Draco.

(beat)

How far away are you right now?

ROSS

Computer. ETA to Beta Draco.

COMPUTER (VO)

77 minutes, Commander.

ROSS

Thank you Computer. Well, it looks like we're almost there. I'll let you get back to your studies.

WESLEY smiles.

ROSS

I'll call you later and let you know what we find. Take care Wes, Ross out.

Monitor goes black. ROSS turns to SULIK.

ROSS

Looks like we have enough time for one more game. Before we have to get to the Bridge.

SULIK nods. ROSS rises from her seat. They return to the table.

FADE TO COMMERCIALS:

ACT II (DAY 4)

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE (1450)

PICARD is flanked by RIKER and ROSENBURG. TROI is on ROSENBURG's left. WORF, DATA, and RO, are at their respective stations. SUPERNUMERARIES as needed. The Turbolift doors open. PICARD turns to see who it is. ROSS and SULIK exit the Turbolift, and enter the Bridge. ROSS heads down the ramp, to the empty seat beside RIKER.

PICARD

I'm glad you're here, Commander. We should be approaching Beta Draco shortly.

ROSS takes her seat. SULIK is walking around the back, looking at the computer consuls.

PICARD

Sulik, would you man the Science Station again?

SULIK

I would be honored.

SULIK heads to the Science Station, and notices something on the panel.

SULIK

Captain?

PICARD/ROSENBURG

Yes.

SULIK

According to the computer, what we are seeing on the monitor now, is only one of three body's that orbit the star we call Beta Draco.

PICARD

One of three...?

SULIK

Yes. As we are the first ship to get this deep into the system, the computer has been updating the star maps of this system.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD

What can you tell us about these three planets?

SULIK consults the computer panels for a few moments, then displays Beta Draco I on the Main View Screen.

SULIK

Beta Draco I, has a diameter of 12000 km, a mass of 4.82×10 to the power of 22, and it's gravity is equal to 0.041 of Earth's. The planet's thin atmosphere consists of frozen methane, and it's surface temperature, varies from -223 degrees Celsius to -213 degrees Celsius. I detect no sign of life.

Beta Draco II is displayed on Main View Screen.

SULIK

Beta Draco II, is similar in many ways to SOL II. It has a diameter of 12102 km, a mass of 4.87×10 to the power of 24, and it's gravity is 0.878 that of Earth's. The surface clouds make a good reflector of sunlight, which contributes to its brightness. The clouds also produce a greenhouse effect on it, so the surface temperature is approximately 500 degrees Celsius. It's atmosphere is 90 times denser than that of Earth's, and is mostly CO₂, with a little nitrogen. The clouds are largely hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acid. The planet is currently geologically active, with volcanoes and lava flows. There are also no signs of life.

Beta Draco III is displayed on Main View Screen.

SULIK

Lastly, we have Beta Draco III, which, from all appearances, is a typical Class M planet. And, it is also the location of the energy readings.

Image on Main View Screen returns to star field.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD

Set course for Beta Draco III, Mr.
Data.

DATA

Yes sir.

SULIK

Captain, sensors detect a vessel
approaching Beta Draco III, from
the opposite direction.

PICARD

On screen, Lieutenant.

Image changes from star field, to a Ferengi Marauder.

ROSENBERG

What, or should I say who, is that?

PICARD

The Ferengi.

RIKER

What are they doing here?

PICARD

Mr. Worf, hail the Ferengi ship.

WORF

Yes sir.

SULIK

From what little I've been told of
these Ferengi, it is possible that
they are here for the same reasons
we are.

WORF

I have the Ferengi, sir.

PICARD

On screen, Mr. Worf.

Main View Screen image changes from an Exterior shot of the
Ferengi ship, to an Interior.

TOG

So, we meet again Pi-Card.

RIKER

What do you want this time, Tog?

(CONTINUED)

TOG

Captain, you should have more control over your officers.

(to Riker)

I hope you are still not upset over our last encounter?

RIKER

Upset! You kidnapped me! You expect me to just forget about it?

TOG notices ROSENBERG.

TOG

Ah, I see you have traded in the fair Lwaxana for this stunning female.

PICARD looks like he is going to explode.

PICARD

Look Tog. We don't have time for games, so...

TOG

I will NOT be addressed in that tone, Hu-Man.

PICARD Takes a deep breath and then address TOG.

PICARD

What are you doing in this System Tog?

TOG

We are investigating...

PICARD

This is Fed...

TOG

Your Federation has not been in this System for 100 of your years. We thought we would do you a favour, and...

PICARD

And naturally, you would report your findings to Starfleet?

TOG

Naturally.

(CONTINUED)

Another Ferengi approaches TOG, and whispers something in his ear. TOG nods then addresses PICARD.

TOG

Since you are here now, we shall
leave the investigation in your
capable hands.

(beat)

Till we meet again, Pi-Card.

Main View Screen image changes back to an External shot of the Ferengi Marauder as it warps out.

SULIK

(raise eyebrow)

Curious creatures.

PICARD places a hand to his head, and mumbles next line.

PICARD

All we need now is for Q to show
up.

RIKER hears that remark and says next line quietly.

RIKER

Don't even joke about that sir.

PICARD gives RIKER a look and then addresses DATA.

PICARD

ETA to Beta Draco III, Mr. Data?

DATA

(consults panel)

5 minutes sir.

PICARD

Assume standard orbit when we
arrive.

DATA

Yes Captain.

Bridge is quiet for about 1.5 seconds. SULIK's absorbed in whatever's on his station panel.

SULIK

Fascinating!

PICARD

What's fascinating, Lieutenant?

(pause)(no answer)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PICARD (cont'd)

Sulik?

SULIK

Sorry Captain, it's just that those energy readings, appear to be Tridimiptium.

PICARD

Tri... what?

SULIK

Tri-dim-ip-tium.

(beat)

There hasn't been a reported finding of that in more than 5000 years.

ROSS

Five *thousand* years?

RO

The Federation hasn't been around for 5000 years. It hasn't even been around for 1000 years.

SULIK

No it hasn't. But Vulcan has.

ROSS

Vulcan? How'd...

SULIK

There is an old story about a group of space travelers who came to Vulcan in Tridimiptium powered ships. They said the crystal, was abundant in their home system.

DATA puts the ship in Standard Orbit. (Day 4: 1500)

RO

Is it anything like Dilithium?

SULIK

We never found out.

WORF

What do you mean, you never found out? Surely...

(CONTINUED)

SULIK

It might help if I started at the beginning.

SULIK has the complete attention of every bridge member.

SULIK

According to the story, Vulcan was visited by a group of Space Travelers. They were known only as The Travelers. They never said where they were from, or where they were going. All they did tell us, was that two of their three home planets, were no longer suitable for life. And that the third, was not large enough to hold all the people of the others. They were sent into space to find a new world to call home.

RO

And they ran into Vulcan.

SULIK

(Raise eyebrow)

In a matter of speaking. When they left, we searched for their home system, and the mysterious Tridimiptium. But we never found either.

RIKER

Well it looks like we just found both.

SULIK

Yes, it does.

SULIK returns to the computer panel display. PICARD notices that the ship is in Standard Orbit.

PICARD

Can you get a fix on those readings Mr. Sulik?

SULIK

Already computed sir.

PICARD straightens his tunic.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD
Send them to the Trans...

SULIK
Already done sir.

PICARD
In that case, Number One assemble
an Away Team. Let's find out what's
down there.

RIKER rises from his chair, and calls out names. As their
name's called, they rise and follow RIKER up the ramp to the
Turbolift.

RIKER
Worf, Data, Ro, Ross,
(beat)
Sulik, would you like to join us?

SULIK
I would be like that, Commander.

All enter Turbolift and the doors close.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM - ENTERPRISE (1530)

The Away Team enters. ROSS and DATA have Tricorders. All
have Phasers. SULIK is examining his, since it is different
to the ones he is used to. SULIK's also been issued a
communicator, which he is wearing over his Quintillus
emblem. Everyone, except RIKER, heads for the Transporter
Pads. RIKER goes to TRANSPORTER CHIEF. SULIK finishes
examining his Phaser, as he steps up on the platform.

SULIK
(mutter)
Fascinating.

RIKER reaches the TRANSPORTER CHIEF.

RIKER
You got the co-ordinates?

TRANSPORTER CHIEF
All set Commander.

RIKER heads for the TRANSPORTER PAD.

(CONTINUED)

RIKER
Riker to Bridge.

PICARD (VO)
Bridge, go ahead Number One.

RIKER is standing on the Transporter pad.

RIKER
We're ready for transport.

PICARD (VO)
Good luck, Picard out.

RIKER
Whenever you're ready Chief.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF
Ready Commander.

RIKER
Energize.

The AWAY TEAM de-materializes.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF
Transporter Room to Bridge.

PICARD (VO)
Bridge.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF
Transport complete, Captain.

PICARD (VO)
Keep a solid lock on them, Chief. I
want to be able to beam them back at
the first sign of trouble.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF
Yes sir, Transporter Room out.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF sets the Transporter lock.

FADE TO COMMERCIALS:

ACT III (DAY 4)

EXT. SURFACE OF BETA DRACO III (1600)

The Away Team is walking down the main path (Path 1). DATA is taking Tricorder readings on one side, while ROSS is taking Tricorder readings on the other. ROSS is the furthest down the path. DATA is right behind her. RIKER and SULIK, are behind DATA. Worf and RO are the furthest back. ROSS reaches an intersection (Path 1 and Path 2). At the same time, DATA reaches a different intersection (Path 1 and Path 3). ROSS' Tricorder registers something down Path 2. She yells to RIKER.

ROSS
Commander, down here.

ROSS takes off down the path. DATA waits on the main path, till everyone has caught up to him. FOCUS on ROSS. She arrives at a cave entrance full of brightly colored crystals. (Red, yellow, blue, and green.) She places her Tricorder on the ground, and is about to pick up a bright red crystal. SULIK arrives at the entrance to the clearing, and notices something odd about the crystal ROSS is about to pick up. SULIK starts to shout a warning.

SULIK
T'Pra, don't...

But he's too late, ROSS has picked it up. Everyone reaches the clearing on the word don't. A bright flash emanates from the crystal. ROSS is sent flying backwards. ROSS hits the ground, hard. And is knocked out. RIKER cries out.

RIKER
Noooooo.

RIKER runs over to ROSS. DATA follows. RIKER reaches ROSS, and kneels down beside her.

RIKER
Debra?
(beat)(No answer)
Debra!

DATA notices RIKER is too emotionally involved to think straight.

DATA
Data to Enterprise.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD (VO)
Enterprise.

DATA
Two to beam directly to Sickbay.
From Commander Riker's location.

PICARD (VO)
What happened, Mr. Data?

RIKER and ROSS disappear in the Transporter beam. SULIK picks up ROSS' Tricorder, and starts to examine the crystals in the cave entrance.

DATA
I am not quite sure, Captain.
(beat)
All I saw, was a flash of light and
Commander Ross being thrown
backward.

PICARD (VO)
(beat)
You're in charge, Mr. Data.

DATA
Yes Captain, Data out.

DATA hands Worf his tricorder.

DATA
Here Lieutenant.

Worf takes it.

DATA
You and Ensign Ro go back that way.

DATA points to the path they just came off.

DATA
Sulik and I will examine what is
here, then continue in that
direction.

DATA points the other way.

DATA
We shall meet back here at 1800.

Worf/RO
Yes Commander.

RO and Worf walk off. DATA walks over to SULIK.

(CONTINUED)

TIME FLIES: WORF and RO take the path till it meets Path 3. Then they go up path 3. They find stashes of crystals. They examine them, then move on. DATA and SULIK do the same. It starts to get dark. DATA and SULIK reach a clearing.

TIME RETURNS TO NORMAL: In the middle stands a metallic cylinder. It is 3 meters wide, and 3 meters high. SULIK takes a Tricorder scan of it. The readings are different in one spot, as if it is hollow. SULIK approaches the spot. When he is about 20 cm away from it, a door appears. When SULIK steps back, it disappears. Forward, it re-appears. SULIK is hesitant about entering the door. He puts his Tricorder in. It picks up something. SULIK calls to DATA.

SULIK
Commander, I am picking up
something from inside this
cylinder.

DATA
Like what, Lieutenant.

SULIK
I'm not sure sir. Here, look.

SULIK hands DATA the Tricorder. Data enters the cylinder.

DATA
I think we should invest...

SULIK
Should we not call Lieutenant Worf,
or Ensign Ro, and...

DATA
You are correct Lieutenant.

DATA, still inside the cylinder, taps his communicator.

DATA
Data to Worf.
(beat)(no answer)
Data to Ro.
(beat)(no answer)
Data to Enterprise.

DATA and SULIK raise an eyebrow. SULIK tries his communicator, from outside the cylinder.

SULIK
Sulik to Worf.
{beat}(no answer)
Sulik to Ro.

(beat)(no answer)
Sulik to Enterprise.

DATA

There must be something around here
that is interfering with our
communications.

SULIK steps inside, and the door closes.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. METALLIC CYLINDER - BETA DRACO III (1730)

The floor moves. The cylinder is some sort of Elevator.
About five seconds later, it stops, and the door reappears.
They look out and see a downhill path, at about a 45 degree
angle. They exit.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - UNDERGROUND - BETA DRACO III

The door closes. The Elevator automatically returns to the
surface. DATA and SULIK don't notice the door close or hear
the elevator return to surface. DATA and SULIK start down
the path. It is dark. They can see a faint light ahead.
After about five or six seconds, they reach what at first
appears to be a dead end. SULIK approaches the wall, and
again, just like above, a door appears. DATA and SULIK
enter. The door closes behind them.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND CITY - BETA DRACO III

As they start walking down yet another path, SULIK sees WORF
and RO on the other side of the city.

SULIK

Commander, isn't that Lieutenant
Worf and Ensign Ro?

SULIK points to them, and DATA looks over.

DATA

Yes, it is.

(CONTINUED)

DATA is about to call them over, but RO notices them first, and points them out to WORF. DATA/SULIK and WORF/RO, head toward each other. On the way over, SULIK's tricorder registers something down a side street. SULIK follows the reading. DATA meets WORF and RO.

WORF

Commander, we tried calling you
before we entered a...

DATA

(nod)

I believe there is something within
those cylinders, that blocks our
communications.

RO

I bet there are dozens of those
cylinders on the surface, and...

SULIK, who has found something at the end of his side street, calls DATA.

SULIK (VO)

Commander, I found something, over
here.

DATA, WORF, and RO, run to SULIK.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. HISTORY MACHINE - UNDERGROUND CITY - BETA DRACO III

DATA, WORF, and RO, reach SULIK. They see what appears to be some sort of archaic computer.

RO

What is that?

DATA

(approach it)

It would appear to be some sort of
recording/viewing device.

RO

You mean a computer?

WORF

How do we activate it?

SULIK has just completed his tricorder analysis.

(CONTINUED)

SULIK
Commander, if I may...

DATA nods. SULIK approaches the device.

SULIK
I believe if we flip this switch...
(beat)(flip switch)
...and press this button...
(beat)(press button)
...we should...

The center screen comes to life. A beautiful young woman appears on it. The two side screens, also come to life. They display a flag, and under the flag, is the inscription THE DRACONIAN EMPIRE. The woman on the center screen, is sitting at a desk. Behind the desk, is a window. The view from the window, is of the planet's surface during a beautiful sunset. The woman's name, is SELINA.

SELINA
Welcome to Draconia. The heart and soul of what was once the great Draconian Empire.
(beat)
I am Selina, head of the planetary government and heiress to The Empire. This Terminal contains the complete history of this Empire and her people.
(beat)
Today is a sad day. My ship leaves our beloved homeworld. And sets out for parts unknown. My only regret, is that we could not convince everyone to evacuate this planet. Those who remain, will take refuge in the great underground city of our ancestors. Those who may view this, must be warned. This planet is on the verge of disaster.
(beat)
If, by some unknown force or reason, this planet is saved from its fate... the knowledge within this terminal, is available to you also. So ends this transmission. Farewell my fair Draconia, I shall miss you.

The image of SELINA vanishes, and is replaced by a TABLE OF CONTENTS. The Away Team tries to decide which option they should choose. SULIK decides.

(CONTINUED)

SULIK

I believe we should start with #9.
Don't you?

RO

It might explain a few things.

DATA

Agreed.

DATA thinks of something, and turns to SULIK.

DATA

You have been recording this, right
Lieutenant?

SULIK

Of course Commander.

DATA

Very well. We shall begin with #9,
and tape each segment for our
records. Then return to the ship.

DATA presses the #9 key. Center screen returns to SELINA.

SELINA

It began about 1000 years ago.
Scientists from ALTAIR and
DRACONIA, began to notice gradual
shifts in the planetary orbit of
ZIGON. According to The Council of
ZIGON, the atmosphere and weather
conditions were rapidly changing.
Together, we calculated that, if
things progressed at the same pace,
within 50 years ZIGON would no
longer be able to support life. The
three planetary governments, and
the Council of The Empire, begin
building Evac-Ships. These ships,
would be used to evacuate the
population of ZIGON to DRACONIA and
ALTAIR. Five years after the
evacuation was complete, ZIGON's
atmosphere was completely gone. It
is now a frozen iceland.

(beat)

500 years ago our scientists
discovered that ALTAIR was going
through the same geological changes
that affected ZIGON. The Council
resurfaced the Evac-Ships, and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SELINA (cont'd)
 began evacuating ALTAIR's
 population here. To DRACONIA.
 Unfortunately, we could not support
 everyone. The remaining people set
 off in the Evac-Ships to find a new
 home. Not long after, ALTAIR was
 also uninhabitable.

(beat)

The last contact we had with The
 Travelers, as they called
 themselves, was approximately 250
 years ago. They had just left a
 planet named Vulcan.

(beat)

50 years ago, as feared by all, our
 beloved DRACONIA began to display
 the signs of destruction. We all
 knew this day would come. The
 Council never quit building bigger
 and better Evac-Ships, to carry our
 people to our new home. Today, my
 ship, the last ship, leaves what
 was once the heart and soul of the
 Draconian Empire, never to return.

Center screen returns to THE TABLE OF CONTENTS.

SULIK

If that message, was recorded 250
 years after The Travelers' visit to
 Vulcan... which was 5000 years
 ago... it would appear that
 Draconia was evacuated for no
 reason. As it is fine today.

All nod.

RO

Which one shall we view next?

All check out the Table of Contents and think.

FADE TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE (1735)

PICARD is worried, about the status of The Away Team. The
 Transporter Room informed him that the transporter lock on
 them had been lost. PICARD is standing. The FOCUS, is on
 him, the rest of the Bridge, isn't seen.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD
Bridge to Main Transporter Room.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF (VO)
Transporter Room.

PICARD
Have you re-established that
Transporter Lock yet?

TRANSPORTER CHIEF (VO)
Negative Captain. It's like they
just disappeared.

PICARD
Keep trying Chief.

TRANSPORTER CHIEF (VO)
Yes sir.

PICARD
Bridge out.

CUT TO:

INT. SICKBAY - ENTERPRISE (1745)

ROSS is laying, unconscious, on a Sickbay bed. RIKER is sitting in a chair beside her. Holding her hand in his. CRUSHER approaches.

RIKER
I shouldn't have...

CRUSHER
She'll be fine, Will.

RIKER
I know. But still, I...

CRUSHER
Commander, stop blaming yourself.
(beat)
Look, why don't you...

At that exact second, RIKER's communicator beeps.

PICARD (VO)
Picard to Riker.

(CONTINUED)

RIKER

Riker here.

PICARD (VO)

We've lost the fix on the Away
Team. Report to Main Transporter
Room.

RIKER

Yes sir.

RIKER rises from his seat and kisses ROSS on the forehead.

PICARD (VO)

By the way, how is Commander Ross?

PICARD was directing the question at RIKER, but CRUSHER
answers it.

CRUSHER

As I keep telling Commander
Riker...

(beat)

...she'll be fine. It was...

PICARD (VO)

Glad to hear that Doctor, Picard
out.

RIKER exits Sickbay. CRUSHER shakes her head, and continues
what she was doing.

CUT TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND CITY - BETA DRACO III (1830)

DATA, SULIK, WORF, and RO, are still standing around the
HISTORY MACHINE. The Center Screen, is displaying The TABLE
OF CONTENTS.

RO

That was the last one, Commander.
Let's go.

All nod, and walk toward the entrance that DATA and SULIK
used to get in. They get there, but the door doesn't open.

DATA

Interesting. It would seem that
this door can only be used to gain
admittance. And can not be used as
a means of exiting.

(CONTINUED)

RO

Great. Now we have to find an exit.

SULIK

I do not think we will find one.

WORF

What do you mean? Every...

SULIK

Remember, The Draconians came down here, to escape the surface. They were never suppose to return to it.

RO

That means we are trapped down here. With no way to communicate with the ship. We'll be stuck here, until someone comes in.

DATA

While we are waiting, maybe we should look around some more.

All nod in agreement, and the Team splits up. DATA stays by the entrance, because he knows that sooner or later, PICARD will send someone to look for them. And DATA wants to be ready for them.

FADE TO COMMERCIALS:

ACT IV (DAY 4)

EXT. BETA DRACO III - SURFACE (NIGHT)(1845)

RIKER materializes, about 1 meter from the Metallic Cylinder. RIKER decides to see if LAFORGE, who also transported down, sees the same structure at his co-ordinates. (RIKER's at the Cylinder that DATA & SULIK disappeared at and LAFORGE is at the one that WORF & RO disappeared at.) RIKER is about to signal LAFORGE, when his communicator beeps.

LAFORGE (VO)

LaForge to Riker.

RIKER

Riker here.

(CONTINUED)

LAFORGE (VO)
Commander, is there a...

RIKER's communicator goes dead.

RIKER
Geordi, are you there? Geordi?

There is no answer. As RIKER approaches the cylinder, his communicator beeps again.

PICARD (VO)
Enterprise to Riker. What's
happening down there? We just
lost...

RIKER's communicator goes dead again.

RIKER
Captain?
(beat)
Captain?

RIKER concludes that there is something within the cylinders that is blocking communications. RIKER backs away from the cylinder and signals the ship.

RIKER
Riker to Enterprise.

PICARD (VO)
Enterprise. What's going on down
there?

RIKER
I think I know what happened to the
Away Team sir.

CUT TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND CITY - BETA DRACO III (1900)

DATA is standing by the place where the door should be. EVERYONE else is looking around. They are so busy, that they don't notice LAFORGE enter from the other side. Until it's too late. DATA starts to shout a warning.

DATA
Geordi, do not...

Too late, the door closes behind LAFORGE. DATA finishes his line,

(CONTINUED)

DATA
...step away from the door.

LAFORGE
Why not?

RO
It only opens from the outside.

LAFORGE
Oh, so now I'm...

LAFORGE remembers that RIKER is on the surface.

LAFORGE
Did you all come in through that
entrance?

DATA
No. Lieutenant Worf and Ensign Ro
came in that way. Lieutenant Sulik
and myself came in...

DATA points.

LAFORGE
Everyone...
(beat)
...over there.

LAFORGE points to DATA's entrance.

SULIK
Why?

LAFORGE
Commander Riker's up there, and
he'll probably come in that way.

EVERYONE heads to DATA's entrance.

CUT TO:

EXT. SURFACE BETA DRACO III - NIGHT (1915)

RIKER is talking to the Enterprise.

RIKER
I'm going to see where that
cylinder leads. Riker out.

(CONTINUED)

RIKER approaches the cylinder, with a broken tree branch in his hand. The door appears. RIKER takes a deep breath, and enters.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. METALLIC CYLINDER

RIKER enters, and the door closes. The floor moves. About five seconds later, it stops, and the door opens. RIKER steps out, leaving the tree branch in the doorway. That way the Elevator won't automatically close and return to the surface.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND HALLWAY

RIKER starts down the hallway. The elevator doors remain open. RIKER reaches the end of the path, and approaches the solid wall. The door appears, to reveal a very relieved Away Team.

DATA

Thank you, Commander.

All exit the city, and start up the path, back to the elevator. RIKER and DATA are in the lead. WOLF and RO are next. And, SULIK and LAFORGE are at the back.

RIKER

What exactly happened?

RO

It's a long story sir.

DATA

We entered the city, but could not exit. Since all the entrances were just that, entrances. No one was ever supposed to leave so the doors were only one way.

They reach the open elevator, and stop. RIKER realizes that only three of them will fit in it.

RIKER

Data, Ro, Sulik...

(beat)

...you go up first, then send it back down.

(CONTINUED)

DATA/RO/SULIK

Yes sir.

DATA, RO, and SULIK enter the elevator.

JUMP TO:

EXT. SURFACE - BETA DRACO III (1945)

DATA, RO and SULIK, are out of the elevator, and are waiting for it to return with RIKER, LAFORGE and WORF. (DATA put his tricorder in the elevator to make it return.) The elevator opens, to reveal RIKER, WORF, and LAFORGE. They exit the elevator. RIKER leads them to the spot where he beamed down. RIKER then signals the ship.

RIKER

Riker to Enterprise.

(beat)

Six to beam up.

The Away Team de-materializes.

FADE TO:

INT. MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM - ENTERPRISE (1950)

The Away Team materializes. As they step of the Transporter Pads, RIKER addresses the Team.

RIKER

It's been a long day. I suggest you all get some rest. We'll meet with the Captain at 1000 tomorrow in Observation.

EVERYONE nods okay, and exits the Transporter Room.

FADE TO:

INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - ENTERPRISE (DAY 5: 1230)

PICARD, RIKER, WORF, DATA, SULIK, and RO, are sitting around the table. The meeting, is joined in progress.

DATA

...the reason the energy readings have been so high in recent months, and so easily detectable by Starfleet, is due to the geological

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DATA (cont'd)
changes on Beta Draco III, AKA.
Draconia.

SULIK
Which caused the crystals to emit
energy pulses. Also sensors
discovered traces of recent
magnetic and electric storms, which
passed through this system two days
ago. The crystals were then
magnetized, as well as energized.
Which caused the shock pulse that
hit Commander Ross.

WORF
The crystals are in abundance down
there. But they're all the same.

SULIK
By my calculations, those crystals
will need 23.732 years to cool down
enough so that they will be safe to
move.

WORF
(mumbles)
A waste of time.

PICARD
What was that Lieutenant?

WORF
Nothing, sir.

PICARD
Anything else?

All nod negative.

PICARD
Dismissed

All rise from the table, and head for the exit. SULIK calls
RIKER, who turns around. EVERYONE exits.

SULIK
Commander.

RIKER
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

SULIK
How is T'... Commander Ross?

RIKER
Still unconscious, but Dr. Crusher
says she'll be alright.

SULIK
That is good.

RIKER turns to exit.

SULIK
Tell her...

RIKER looks back at SULIK.

SULIK
Tell her, I hope she feels better
soon.

RIKER
(smiles)
I will.

RIKER turns and exits. SULIK stays for about two seconds,
then exits.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE (1400)

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

PICARD (VO)
Captain's Log, Stardate 46842.1: We
have completed our assignment on
Beta Draco III. Instead of
returning with a new power source,
we bring back with us the history
of an ancient race known as The
Draconians.

(beat)
As of yet, Commander Ross has not
regained consciousness.

PICARD
Mr. Data, take us out of orbit. Lay
in a course for Starbase 9, Warp 6.

(CONTINUED)

DATA

Yes sir.

DATA enters the information into his panel.

DATA

Course set and laid in sir.

PICARD

Engage.

(beat)(turn to Rosenberg)

Well, in a few days you will be back with your crew.

ROSENBURG

I wonder what they've been up to?

PICARD

Probably telling all who'll listen about the good ole days.

RIKER

The Base Commander will probably be both relieved and sorry, to see them leave.

ROSENBURG

I guess we still have a lot to learn about this century.

PICARD

Nothing a few months back on Earth won't fix.

ROSENBURG

What do you think Starfleet will do with us?

RIKER

They might try to recruit you to teach 23rd Century History at the Academy. After all, you were there.

EVERYONE on the Bridge, except DATA, laughs.

INT. SICKBAY - ENTERPRISE (DAY 6: 1400)

ROSENBURG, is talking to ROSS, who is sitting up in bed.

ROSENBURG

You know when we get back... we're going to have a lot to catch up on.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)

I was wondering, since Starfleet has agreed to give us a new ship when we are ready... if you would be interested in transferring and coming with us?

ROSS

Trans...

ROSENBURG

I know it won't be The Enterprise, but we will need someone on board, who we know, from this century. I've noticed how easily you get along with Sulik. He really seems to like you.

(beat)

I know it took him months to warm up to me.

(beat)

There would be a promotion in it for you. To Commander. You would also be my First Officer.

(beat)

We'd love to have you with us.

ROSS

Well, for starters, I'm not part of The Enterprise crew.

(beat)(quietly)

Although sometimes I wish I was.

(beat)(normal)

I work at Starfleet Research. I'd really like to be part of your crew. I'll just need some time to...

RIKER enters SICKBAY, and walks over.

ROSS

...think about it.

RIKER reaches ROSS. ROSENBURG looks at RIKER, and nods hello.

ROSENBURG

Commander.

RIKER nods back. ROSENBURG turns back to ROSS.

(CONTINUED)

ROSENBURG
I'll see you later.

ROSENBURG exits.

RIKER
What was that all about?

ROSS motions for RIKER to sit on the edge of the bed. He sits.

ROSS
We have to talk Will.

RIKER
Uh-oh, I don't like the sound of that.

ROSS
When I came on board...
(beat)
I hoped I'd find the same William T. Riker that I fell in love with at The Academy. I hoped we'd still feel the same way about each other. And that we could pick up where we left off. I even considered, that if everything turned out right, that maybe, just maybe, I could get a transfer, here to the Enterprise. So we could be together.

RIKER
(surprised)
And now?

ROSS
I'm not sure anymore.
(beat)(deep breath)
I guess maybe Deanna was right.

RIKER
Deanna? What did she...

ROSS
She said I could be a distraction, and that...

RIKER
Don't listen to Deanna, she's...

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

...right Will. She's right. At first I thought that she was just jealous. But after what happened on Beta Draco III, I realized just how right she was.

(beat)(looks at him)

If I stayed on board, every time the ship would get in danger, or you lead an Away Team... I'd wonder if I'd ever see you again. I'd... we'd... start to treat every time we saw each other, as if it was going to be the last time we'd see each other.

RIKER takes her hand in his.

RIKER

Deb...

ROSS

I love you Will. I really do. But I don't think I could live like that. There is nothing, and I mean nothing... that I'd like more, than to stay here, on the Enterprise, and be by your side. But...

ROSS can't hold the tears anymore. She starts crying. RIKER places her head on his shoulder, and puts his arms around her.

RIKER

I understand.

RIKER just holds her for awhile. ROSS gets control of herself, and sits up. ROSS takes a deep breath, then says her line.

ROSS

Maria just offered me a job. I think I'll take it.

(beat)

Dr. Crusher says I should be out of here in 24 hours. Meet me in Holodeck Three then?

RIKER gets up, and kisses her on the forehead.

RIKER

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

47.

RIKER heads out. ROSS watches him leave. After he is gone, she lays down, and a tear falls from her eye.

FADE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - ENTERPRISE (DAY 7: 1400)

RIKER is walking down the hallway, heading for Holodeck Three. He reaches it and stops. He takes a deep breath, then says line.

RIKER

Enter.

The Computer opens the Holodeck doors. ROSS-IC-1 is running. RIKER enters.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. HOLODECK THREE/EXT. ROSS-IC-1

RIKER starts up the golden path to the castle. The Camera moves to the inside of the Castle.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLODECK THREE - ICE CASTLE - RED ROOM

ROSS is lighting a set of candles.

COMPUTER (VO)

Commander Riker has just entered the Castle.

ROSS

Thank you Computer.

ROSS puts on a 20th Century record, on a 20th Century record player. (The song is a slow love song) RIKER enters the room, but ROSS doesn't notice. He sneaks up behind her, grabs her from behind, and kisses her neck. ROSS turns around and kisses him. They break the kiss, and start to dance to the song.

ROSS

Remember that song?

RIKER

How could I forget? You use to play it non stop for hours.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS
I still remember the day we found
it in that antique store.

RIKER
The dealer said it was almost 400
years old.

ROSS
Today those lyrics really say it
all, don't they?

RIKER
Yeh.
(beat)
Will I ever see you again?

ROSS
Who knows.
(Jokingly)
If you ever become Captain, give me
a call. I'll get a transfer.

RIKER laughs.

ROSS
Until then, don't be a stranger.

ROSS looks at him. Their eyes lock. She kisses him. He pulls
her close, and she melts in his arms.

FADE TO COMMERCIALS:

ACT V (DAY 8)

INT. ROSS' QUARTERS - ENTERPRISE (1800)

ROSS is packing. The door chimes.

ROSS
Enter.

The door opens, and SULIK enters. ROSS is surprised to see
him.

ROSS
Sulik... What a surprise!

SULIK
I came to say goodbye T'Pra.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS
Goodbye? I don't understand.

SULIK
We will be arriving at...

ROSS
Didn't Captain Rosenberg tell you?

SULIK
(Raise an eyebrow)
Tell me, tell me what?

ROSS
I'm going with you.

SULIK
No, she did not tell me.

ROSS stops packing, and looks at him.

ROSS
Sulik, there is something I have to
tell you.
(beat)
I haven't been totally honest with
you.

SULIK rises his eyebrow.

ROSS
I... I don't know how to say this.
(takes a deep breath)
I lied.

SULIK rises his eyebrow.

SULIK
Lied? Lied about what?

ROSS
My relationship with your cousin.
(beat)(looks at him)
He isn't my grandfather.

SULIK rises his eyebrow.

SULIK
But...

ROSS
How did I know so much about him?

SULIK nods. ROSS motions for him to sit. They both sit.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Your cousin is a legend. There are countless stories about him. Besides, I only lied about being related to him. When I attended the V.S.A, I met, and became good friends with him and his... late father.

SULIK

I see.

ROSS

I wasn't lying to you about being Vulcan either. I am, but only 1/8th.

SULIK

Why are you telling me this?

ROSS

Two reasons. One, we're going to be working along side of each other, and you'd be bound to find out sooner or later. And two...

ROSS rises and thinks of how to say what she has to say. While she is thinking, she is moving slowly away from SULIK. He rises.

SULIK

Please, continue.

ROSS turns, and looks at him.

ROSS

I believe there is something happening between us. I don't know how to explain it. But, if it is what I think it is... it would be inappropriate to pursue it, if we were related.

SULIK is confused.

SULIK

I fail to...

ROSS starts to move closer to him.

ROSS

What I'm trying to say, is that I think I am developing feelings for you. And...

(CONTINUED)

SULIK

What about Commander Riker? I thought...

ROSS

Ah yes, Commander Riker.

(beat)

I love Will. I'll always love Will. He was the first man I ever truly loved. But, I'm not in love with him anymore.

SULIK

I see.

ROSS is only a few centimeters away from him.

ROSS

And, if I'm not mistaken...

She takes his hand in a Vulcan embrace.

ROSS

...you feel the same things that I do. I can see it in your eyes.

SULIK

T'Pra, I...

ROSS

Let's not ignore what is happening between us.

SULIK is about to say something, when the Ship's intercom beeps.

ROSENBURG (VO)

Lieutenant Sulik, report to Main Transporter Room.

SULIK let's go of ROSS' hand.

SULIK

I have to go.

ROSS

I'll see you on board Lieutenant.

SULIK

Of course Commander.

SULIK exits. ROSS returns to her packing.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - ENTERPRISE (1830)

PICARD is approaching the Turbolift.

PICARD (VO)
Captain's Log, Stardate
46845.925:...

PICARD enters the Turbolift.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. TURBOLIFT - ENTERPRISE

PICARD (VO)
...We have arrived at Starbase 9,
where Captain Rosenberg, and
Lieutenant Sulik, will rejoin The
Quintillus.

PICARD exits the Turbolift.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - ENTERPRISE

PICARD starts walking down the hallway to the Main
Transporter Room.

PICARD (VO)
...I've just been informed, that
Lieutenant Commander Ross, will be
joining them. As Rosenberg's new
First Officer. I'm heading down to
the Transporter Room now, to see
her off.

PICARD reaches the Transporter Room.

CONTINUE TO:

INT. MAIN TRANSPORTER ROOM - ENTERPRISE

PICARD enters. DATA, WORF, and TROI, are waiting with ROSS.
All are saying their goodbyes.

PICARD
It was nice meeting you, Commander.
Good luck.

(CONTINUED)

ROSS

Thank you Captain. It was a pleasure working with all of you. Maybe I'll be back for a visit one day.

PICARD

(smiles)

Well if I know Commander Riker...

PICARD notices that RIKER isn't here.

PICARD

Where is Commander Riker?

TROI gets a look as if she's just realized RIKER is not here.

PICARD

I was sure he'd...

ROSS

We already said our goodbyes.

TROI turns to leave.

ROSS

Oh, Troi?

TROI stops, and looks at ROSS.

ROSS

Take care of him for me, will you?

TROI turns, and exits.

PICARD

Chief, are we ready?

TRANSPORTER CHIEF

Whenever you are, Captain.

ROSS steps up on the Transporter Pad.

PICARD

Goodbye Commander.

ROSS

(to everyone)

Bye.

(CONTINUED)

PICARD
Energize Chief.

ROSS disappears in the Transporter beam. EVERYONE exits.

CUT TO:

INT. TENFORWARD - ENTERPRISE (1900)

RIKER is sitting at a table, near a window. The window has a view of Starbase and The Quintillus. RIKER rises his glass in a cheers/salute to the window.

RIKER
Good luck, T'Pra.

RIKER takes a drink of his drink, then mutters the next line.

RIKER
Goodbye.

RIKER downs the rest of his drink. TROI enters, and approaches RIKER. GUINAN sees TROI sit down with RIKER. The Camera goes from behind the bar, to a close up of RIKER and TROI. But it doesn't stop there. It continues, and goes straight out the window.

CONTINUE TO:

EXT. SPACE - STARBASE 9 / QUINTILLUS / ENTERPRISE

The Enterprise warps out. Leaving Starbase 9, The Quintillus, and Commander ROSS, behind.

FADE TO END CREDITS.