

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

CAST (both episodes)

The Enterprise

Captain Picard
Commander Riker
Commander Data
Lieutenant LaForge
Lieutenant Worf
Chief O'Brien
Ensign Crusher
Dr. Pulaski
Counselor Troi
Security Team (3)
Forward Station Backup Crew (2)
Patient (child)
Assembly of Crew Members (10)

Star Fleet Command

Admiral Scone (A Vulcan)

Orions

Captain Nis-Kator
Orion Crew (6)

Romulans

Commander Karliss
Romulan Crew (2)

Others

Arbet Leal (a Sybok)
A Dog
Voice of the Captain of the passenger
vessel *Ghartbus*

Notes:

1. Description of the Orions from the novel *Star Trek the Next Generation- Survivors*, by Jean Lorrh; published by Pocket Books, January 1989.

DAVID GOLDSMITH
7054 SURREY DRIVE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215
(301)764-8836

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

EPISODE 1 OF 2

ACT 1; SCENE 1

THE EPISODE OPENS WITH AN EXTERIOR SHOT OF THE ENTERPRISE PULLING AWAY FROM A REVOLVING SPACE STATION.

ACT 1; SCENE 2

THE SCENE SWITCHES TO CAPTAIN PICARD SITTING IN THE READY ROOM OF THE ENTERPRISE, REVIEWING DATA ON A TERMINAL. THE VOICE-OVER IS PICARD'S MOST RECENT LOG ENTRY: "STAR DATE ____L__ . ____, THE ENTERPRISE IS LEAVING STARBASE 556 AFTER ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AND PERSONNEL REASSIGNMENT. WE ARE CURRENTLY ON A HEADING THAT WILL TAKE US TO THE AEGIS STAR SYSTEM WHERE ORION SLAVE TRADER SHIPS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. IT IS HOPED THAT OUR PRESENCE THERE WILL DETER THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES".

LIEUTENANT WORF'S VOICE IS PIPED INTO THE READY ROOM.

Worf: Captain, there is a priority transmission from Starbase 556 coming in. It is coded for your eyes only.

Picard: (Looking skeptical, enters a code prefix at the terminal.) Relay it here, Mr. Worf.

Worf: Aye, aye, sir.

THE TERMINAL SCREEN GOES BLANK AND IS INSTANTLY REPLACED BY THE STAR FLEET INSIGNIA. A MOMENT LATER THAT IS REPLACED BY THE IMAGE OF A SENIOR STAR FLEET OFFICER. IT IS ADMIRAL SCONE, A VULCAN. PICARD STIFFENS IN HIS SEAT.

Admiral Scone: Captain Picard, I am informing you of an urgent change of assignment. The *Enterprise* will immediately make for the Siretus star system at best possible speed where it will rendezvous with the Federation science vessel *Nomeny*. Your closest approach to the *Nomeny* will be that of maximum transporter range. Make no attempt to hail or board the *Nomeny*. Once in transporter range you will beam over a single passenger, in stasis, from the *Nomeny's* sick bay. Once aboard the *Enterprise*, make no attempt to revive or identify your passenger. The *Enterprise* will then proceed to Delta-Siretus and transport the passenger down to the settlement there. You will maintain complete radio silence throughout. The *Enterprise* will then leave the quadrant at best speed and resume its former assignment. Do you understand your instructions Captain Picard?

Picard: Admiral Scone, if there is a danger to my ship I should be made aware-

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Admiral Scone: Captain Picard, if you follow your instructions precisely as given the *Enterprise* will not be at risk. It is imperative that you proceed at once to fulfill your mission. Do you understand your instructions Captain Picard?

Picard: Yes.

Admiral Scone: Excellent. And Captain, I am authorized to inform you that this assignment is of the utmost import. Speed is of the essence.

Picard: I acknowledge your orders and will carry them out immediately. Picard out. (Picard rises).

END OF ACT ONE

ACT 2; SCENE 1

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ENTERPRISE. CRUSHER AND DATA ARE AT THE FORWARD STATIONS. RIKER AND TROI ARE SEATED AT THE CENTER WELL, WITH WORF BEHIND AND ABOVE THEM. PICARD IS PACING NERVOUSLY. THE OPENING CREDITS ARE RUNNING.

Riker: I wish we knew what this was all about, Captain.

Picard: (Still pacing.) You already know as much as I do, number one. (Speaking to the com.) Mr. LaForge, can't we get any more speed?

LaForge: (Voice over the com.) Captain, we're doing warp 9 now-

Picard: I need best possible speed, Mr. LaForge, and I need it now!

LaForge: (Over the com.) Aye, sir.

Crusher: (After a pause.) Warp 9.2, sir, and climbing.

Picard: Very good Ensign. What is our ETA on the Siretian system, Mr. Crusher?

Crusher: Four hours, fourteen minutes at present speed, sir.

Picard: (Speaking to the com.) Dr. Pulaski, is the containment field in place yet?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Pulaski: (Voice over the com.) Not yet, Captain. And I'm still not clear about the hazard we are facing.

Picard: Neither am I Doctor. We will be beaming our "passenger" aboard in four hours and fourteen minutes. Will you be prepared?

Pulaski: The containment field will be in place.

Picard: Mr. Data. Have your long-range scanners located any vessels near Siretus?

Data: Not yet, sir.

Picard: Inform me the moment you locate the *Nomeny* or any other vessel in the Siretian system. Also, Mr. Data, find out what you can about the nature and mission of the *Nomeny*, and the settlement at Delta-Siretus. We will be in the ready room. (Turning to the center well and gesturing towards the ready room.) Number one, Counselor Troi... (They stand and the three walk off the bridge.)

ACT 2; SCENE 2

IN THE READY ROOM. PICARD, RIKER AND TROI ARE SEATED AROUND THE TABLE.

Picard: I've called you here for your opinions, speculations, however wild or improbable. I realize that there is a dearth of information, and little time before we rendezvous with the *Nomeny*, but please let your imaginations range.

Riker: From what you've told us I can only speculate that there must be a serious problem on board the *Nomeny*. Your orders from Star Fleet Command have the effect of quarantining her which reasonably suggests a medical emergency.

Picard: That still doesn't explain the need for radio silence between the *Nomeny* and ourselves.

Troi: Perhaps their emergency is not known to the *Nomeny*'s crew, at least not their entire personnel. Perhaps it is for *their* protection that we are prohibited from communicating with them.

Riker: How could remaining ignorant of their emergency serve to protect them?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Troi: I do not know. One thing seems clear, however: the passenger we are to transport on board the *Enterprise* is in some significant way an exception to the rule.

Picard: Yes, the passenger. What do you make of that, number one?

Riker: He, or she, must be either the only one who is or the only one who's not contaminated.

Picard: Which still presupposes a medical emergency-

COMMANDER DATA'S VOICE IS PIPED INTO THE READY ROOM.

Data: Captain, I have located the *Nomeny*. She appears, from this distance, to be proceeding under normal operating configuration.

Picard: Very good, Mr. Data. Are you prepared to give us your report?

Data: Of course, sir.

Picard: If she has completed installation of the containment field, ask Dr. Pulaski to join us for your briefing.

Data: Aye, aye, Captain.

Picard: Any other speculations, number one?

Riker: I would only suggest caution, Captain. I think we should raise our shields when we enter the Siretian system and lower them only as long as it takes to beam our guest aboard.

Picard: Make it so.

Riker: (Speaking to the com.) Mr. Worf, I want shields at maximum when we enter the star system.

WORF'S VOICE IS PIPED INTO THE READY ROOM.

Worf: Yes sir!

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

DATA AND DR. PULASKI ENTER THE READY ROOM. THEY SIT AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE TABLE.

Picard: I assume preparations have been completed for our passenger, Doctor?

Pulaski: They have, Captain.

Picard: Good. Now, Commander Data, what can you tell us about the *Nomeny*?

Data: The *Nomeny* was commissioned .8 solar years ago. She is a small science vessel with a normal compliment of 21, including technicians, geologists, geophysicists, engineers, medical personnel, astro—

Picard: Mr. Data, we have little time. Do try to be brief.

Data: Sorry sir. The *Nomeny*'s mission is to explore anomalous astrological phenomena. Her current assignment involves charting the Siretus asteroid belt. She has no weapons and operates at impulse speed. Her Captain is Patrice Noubai, and her science director is—

Riker: 'Anomalous astrological phenomena'- Data, what is anomalous about the Siretus asteroid belt?

Data: Well, sir, many things. For one, while the belt appears approximately where Bode's law and the Kardan corollary would anticipate, the various asteroids have markedly different compositions and the combined mass of the asteroids is greater than the mass of all the Siretian planets. Further, one asteroid, designated Gamma-Siretus-1 is a powerful natural radio source of unusual and intermittent intensity and frequency. Additionally—

Picard: Data, tell us about Delta-Siretus.

Data: Delta-Siretus is the fifth planet, class M, the only body capable of supporting life in the star system. Indigenous life forms somewhat resemble lower orders on Earth: plants and insects.

Picard: What do you know about the settlement?

Data: Settlement? There is nothing I would call a 'settlement' on Delta-Siretus.

Picard: We have been instructed to transport our passenger to the settlement on that planet.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: Sir, there is a small outpost, more of a cache, actually, moored on a lake.

Riker: A cache?

Data: (Quizzically.) Yes, a cache. A storehouse of provisions, a concealed place of storage—

Picard: Is that the only Federation structure on the planet?

Data: Unquestionably, Captain, it is the only alien structure of any kind on Delta-Siretus. It must be where the passenger is to be transported to. However, my information indicates that the cache is unmanned. If our passenger is in need of assistance he will not receive it on Delta-Siretus.

Riker: Stranger and stranger.

Data: Sir?

Pulaski: Captain, if I may...

Picard: Please.

Pulaski: From my research I have been unable to discover any record of disease associated with the Siretian system. Do we know what other systems or ships the *Nomeny* has been in contact with?

Picard: Data?

Data: The *Nomeny* was brought to Siretus aboard the *Suleiman*, an old Destroyer class ship refitted for transportation duties. The *Nomeny* has been in this star system for .62 solar years. There is no record of another ship having made contact with the *Nomeny* and it is impossible for her to have reached another star system, let alone return to Siretus, in that period of time. The last recorded transmission from the *Nomeny* was 4 solar days ago. At that time there was no indication of any trouble.

Picard: I believe that we must proceed under the assumption that the *Nomeny* is a quarantine ship. Doctor, it is your responsibility to maintain the isolation our passenger for the brief period of time he or she is on the *Enterprise*.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Pulaski: My first responsibility is, as always, to the health and safety of the ship. Although prudence requires the use of the containment field, I suspect that it is really unnecessary.

Riker: How do you come to that conclusion?

Pulaski: Point one: the passenger will be beaming over in stasis which should protect us—

Riker: *Should!*

Pulaski: -and point two: it is inconceivable that Star Fleet Command would have failed to warn us to initiate containment if they had the slightest doubt as to the effectiveness of stasis in this case.

Data: Point three, if I may, is that there are no indications of medical, or any other kinds of emergency on board the *Nomeny* at this time.

Riker: Star Fleet Command is not in the habit of sending starships across the galaxy to pluck individuals off of ships for deposit on uninhabited planets for no reason at all, Mr. Data.

Picard: No they are not, Number 1. They are not indeed.

ACT 2; SCENE 3

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ENTERPRISE. CRUSHER AND DATA ARE AT THE FORWARD STATIONS. PICARD, RIKER AND TROI ARE SEATED AT THE CENTER WELL, WITH WORF BEHIND AND ABOVE THEM.

Data: Captain, we are in visual range of the *Nomeny*.

Picard: Put her on the main viewer, Mr. Data.

Data: Aye, sir.

THE SCIENCE VESSEL APPEARS ON THE MAIN SCREEN.

Riker: Magnification factor 3.

THE SCIENCE VESSEL FILLS THE SCREEN.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Riker: There doesn't seem to be anything wrong with her.

Picard: (Shaking his head & speaking to the com.) Dr. Pulaski, are you ready to receive our guest?

ACT 2; SCENE 4

IN THE SICK BAY DR. PULASKI IS STANDING BY A BIO-BED, WITH THE CONTAINMENT FIELD EQUIPMENT BEHIND HER.

Pulaski: I'm ready, Captain.

ACT 2; SCENE 5

BACK TO THE BRIDGE.

Picard: (Stands, and speaking to the com.) Mr. O'Brien, have you locked onto our passenger?

O'Brien: (Voice over the com.) I have one body in stasis from their sick bay, sir.

Picard: Mr. Worf, lower shields.

Worf: Shields down, sir.

Picard: (Looking at Riker, speaking to the com.) Mr. O'Brien, beam our passenger directly to our sick bay.

O'Brien: (Voice over the com.) Transporting now.

ACT 2; SCENE 6

IN THE SICK BAY. A BODY IN STASIS MATERIALIZES ON THE BIO-BED. DR. PULASKI SWITCHES ON THE CONTAINMENT FIELD.

Pulaski: Our passenger has arrived, Captain.

ACT 2; SCENE 7

BACK ON THE BRIDGE.

Riker: Raise the shields.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Worf: Shields up, Commander.

Picard: Mr. Crusher, best speed to Delta-Siretus.

Crusher: Aye sir. ETA 1 minute, 20 seconds.

Riker: Mr. Worf, any signs of trouble?

Worf: There are no other ships in the area, sir. The *Nomeny* doesn't seem to have taken any notice of the *Enterprise*.

Picard: (Speaking to the com.) Dr. Pulaski, how is our guest?

ACT 2; SCENE 8

IN THE SICK BAY. DR. PULASKI, ARMS FOLDED ACROSS HER CHEST, SLIGHT SMILE ON HER FACE.

Pulaski: Captain, our guest is alive, and the containment field doesn't register any harmful contaminants. But, Captain, the life readings, while humanoid, are definitely not Terran.

ACT 2; SCENE 9

BACK TO THE BRIDGE.

Picard: Doctor. We have explicit orders not to investigate the identity of our guest.

ACT 2; SCENE 10

IN THE SICK BAY. DR. PULASKI, LEANING TOWARDS A MONITOR, ABSORBED IN THE READINGS.

Pulaski: Understood, Captain.

ACT 2; SCENE 11

BACK TO THE BRIDGE.

Riker: Mr. Crusher, how long now?

Crusher: We will be in transporter range of Delta-Siretus in under a minute, sir.

Riker: Do we have a visual yet, Mr. Data?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: Aye, sir. On main viewer now.

THE MAIN VIEWER SHOWS AN EARTH-LIKE PLANET.

Riker: (Standing, moves towards Picard.) She's beautiful, isn't she, sir?

Picard: (Nodding agreement.) Lovely. Imagine, a whole world with no creature larger than your hand.

Data: That is not exactly true, Captain. There is a species of dragonfly-like insects that are over a 2 meters long. Additionally-

Picard: Mr. Data, have you located the 'cache' yet?

Data: It is coming into view now sir.

Picard: Full magnification.

THE MAIN SCREEN SHOWS A WHITE GEODESIC DOME FLOATING IN THE MIDDLE OF A LAKE.

Picard: Mr. Data, relay the coordinates of the cache to the transporter chief.

Data: Aye, sir.

Picard: (Speaking to the com.) Dr. Pulaski, we are about to beam our guest down to the planet. Any problems?

ACT 2; SCENE 12

IN THE SICK BAY. DR. PULASKI IS REVIEWING DATA ON HER MONITORS. SHE MOVES TOWARDS THE CONTAINMENT FIELD EQUIPMENT.

Pulaski: No, Captain. We're ready here.

ACT 2; SCENE 13

BACK TO THE BRIDGE.

Picard: (Speaking to the com.) Mr. O'Brien, have you received the beam-down coordinates?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

O'Brien: (Voice over the com.) Aye, sir.

Picard: Lower the shields, Mr. Worf.

Worf: Shields are down, sir.

Picard: (Speaking to the com.) Transport our passenger down, Mr. O'Brien.

O'Brien: (Voice over the com.) Transporting, sir.

ACT 2; SCENE 14

IN THE SICK BAY. DR. PULASKI WATCHES AS THE PASSENGER IN STASIS DE-MATERIALIZES ON THE BIO-BED.

ACT 2; SCENE 15

BACK ON THE BRIDGE.

Picard: (Speaking to the com.) Dr. Pulaski?

Pulaski: (Voice over the com.) Our guest is gone, Captain.

Picard: Mr. Data, can you confirm transportation down to the cache?

Data: Yes sir.

Picard: (Sits, turns to Riker.) Let's get out of here quickly, number one.

Riker: Aye, sir. Mr. Worf, shields back up. Mr. Crusher, lay in a heading for the Aegis star system, best speed.

Crusher: Best speed, aye, sir.

ACT 2; SCENE 16

EXTERIOR SHOT OF THE ENTERPRISE WARPING OUT OF THE STAR SYSTEM.

END OF ACT TWO

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

ACT 3; SCENE 1

EXTERIOR SHOT OF THE ENTERPRISE, ON ROUTE TO THE AEGIS STAR SYSTEM.

ACT 3; SCENE 2

SWITCHES TO THE 10-FORWARD LOUNGE WHERE RIKER AND TROI ARE SEATED AT A TABLE, DRINKING.

Troi: (Taking his hand in hers). I sense that you are uneasy, Will.

Riker: What do you sense in our Captain?

Troi: (At first puzzled, then, releasing his hand, she concentrates.) I sense concern, and frustration.

Riker: About what?

Troi: I can only speculate that it involves our unusual diversion to the Siretus star group.

Riker: That was very... (Searches for word.)

Troi: (Holding his hand again.) Unsettling?

Riker: (Smiling and patting her hand in his.) Yes. The shroud of secrecy is disturbing. The whole damn situation doesn't add up.

Troi: And...

Riker: And we should have stayed to help. What did you sense from the crew of the *Nomeny*?

Troi: Not very much from that distance. I could sense life forms, but how many and what they were feeling, not a thing. But, Will, I'm sure –

CRUSHER AND LaFORGE APPROACH THE TABLE. CRUSHER'S CONVERSATION INTERRUPTS TROI.

Crusher: I'm just saying that it is almost trivial from the programming end, at it may have practical applications as well.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

CRUSHER AND LaFORGE STAND BEFORE THE TABLE.

LaForge: Mind some company?

CRUSHER AND LaFORGE BEGIN TO SIT.

Riker: (Smiling.) It doesn't look like we have any choice.

Crusher: (To LaForge.) So what do you think?

LaForge: (Shaking his head warily.) Wes here wants to program a Holodeck simulation of the Holodeck.

Troi: Why?

Crusher: Because I don't think anyone has done it before. And there may be something to learn from it. And it has practical benefits... I think.

Riker: What benefits?

Crusher: Well, by adding extra layers of depth you could generate multiple environments in a nested loop.

Riker: I know I'm going to be sorry I asked, but, what is the benefit in that?

Crusher: (A little dejected.) I don't know. (Brightening up.) I mean, I don't know what the results would be like, but there might be refraction patterns, maybe spatial displacements that we could trace and learn from.

LaForge: I think it's pretty weird. And it could be dangerous. Since you asked, I'd say you'd better do a lot more thinking before you actually try it.

Crusher: What do you think, Commander Riker?

Riker: I think you should take our Chief Engineer's advice. I don't want to dampen your enthusiasm or initiative, but- I expect you to demonstrate the caution and good judgement of a Star Fleet ensign.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

CRUSHER SITS UP VERY STRAIGHT.

Riker: And Wes, you are to get Geordi's approval before you attempt any actual simulations.

Crusher: OK.

Riker: That was an order, mister!

Crusher: (Smartly/ cheerfully.) Yes, sir!

ACT 3; SCENE 3

IN THE SICK BAY. PULASKI IS WORKING AT HER MEDICAL LIBRARY COMPUTER. SHE ENTERS A REQUEST AND THE COMPUTER RESPONDS: "REQUEST FOR ACCESS DENIED". PULASKI FROWNS, THEN BEGINS TO RE-ENTER A REQUEST.

ACT 3; SCENE 4

IN THE READY ROOM. PICARD IS SEATED AT THE TABLE, FACING THE MONITOR.

Picard: Admiral Scone, I am still completely in the dark about the reason behind the Enterprise's diversion to Siretus. It would aid in the preparation of my log entry if you could shed some light on the nature of our mission there.

IMAGE OF ADMIRAL SCONE ON THE MONITOR.

Scone: Captain Picard, I appreciate the position you are in, and you may know that I am not sanguine about having to order you not to make any mention of your encounter with the *Nomeny* in your log. I am additionally instructing you to direct your senior officers similarly.

Picard: (Amazed.) Admiral, I needn't apprise you of what a breach of regulations that would be. I simply cannot understand what circumstances would compel you to issue such orders.

Scone: You are correct on both counts: I am absolutely familiar with all Star Fleet regulations, and you are not privy to the situation which necessitates that these orders be followed. You *are*, Captain Picard, required to acknowledge and carry out your orders, as am I.

Picard: (Stiffening.) Your orders are acknowledged and will be implemented. (Pause.) Admiral, may I enquire at what future time an explanation of these irregular activities will be forthcoming?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Score: I do not know. Starbase 556 out.

THE MONITOR SCREEN GOES BLANK. PICARD LOOKS DEEPLY TROUBLED.

ACT 3; SCENE 5

SHOT OF THE ENTERPRISE ON ROUTE TO AEGIS.

ACT 3; SCENE 6

SWITCHES TO THE BRIDGE. PICARD IS SEATED AT THE CENTER WELL WITH WORF ABOVE AND BEHIND HIM. CRUSHER AND DATA ARE AT THEIR STATIONS.

Picard: What is our ETA on the Aegis star system, Mr. Crusher?

Crusher: Thirty-two hours, seventeen minutes, sir.

Picard: Mr. Worf, are there any other Star Fleet ships in this quadrant?

Worf: No, sir!

Picard: Do you have readings on any other vessels in this area?

Worf: Yes, sir. I currently detect two interplanetary vessels in the Dolm-Zeii star system and an interstellar ship at the extreme edge of our sensors.

Worf: (working at the controls) I am receiving confirmation on our request to identify. She is... the *Ghartbuse*, a passenger vessel from Tau-Ceti on route to Organia.

Picard: Mr. Crusher, will the *Ghartbuse* pass within sensor range of the *Nomeny*?

Crusher: Calculating... Yes, sir.

Picard: (Standing and walking towards the ready room.) Mr. Worf, I wish to speak with the captain of the *Ghartbuse*. Please relay the transmission into the ready room.

Worf: (Curious.) Aye, aye, sir.

PICARD LEAVES THE BRIDGE. THE BRIDGE CREW LOOK AT EACH OTHER WITH SURPRISE.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

ACT 3; SCENE 7

IN THE READY ROOM. PICARD IS STANDING BY A WINDOW, LOOKING OUT INTO SPACE. THE CAMERA MOVES TO A CLOSE-UP OF HIS FACE. HE LOOKS APPREHENSIVE.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT 4: SCENE 1

SHOT OF THE ENTERPRISE BRIDGE. PICARD AND RIKER SEATED AT CENTER WELL WITH WORF ABOVE AND BEHIND. BACKUP PERSONNEL AT FORWARD STATIONS. THE VOICE-OVER IS PICARD'S MOST RECENT LOG ENTRY: "CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE , THE *ENTERPRISE* IS TEN HOURS FROM THE AEGIS STAR SYSTEM. OUR LONG-RANGE SENSORS HAVE AS YET FAILED TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF ORION SHIPS IN THE AREA. CONTACT WITH SARIA, THE FEDERATION OUTPOST IN THE AEGIS SYSTEM, INDICATES THAT ORION SLAVE SHIPS WERE LAST SIGHTED .4 SOLAR DAYS AGO. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO GIVE PURSUIT."

ACT 4: SCENE 2

SWITCHES TO ENSIGN CRUSHER'S QUARTERS. CRUSHER IS BUSY AT A COMPUTER CONSOLE, A REFLECTIVE BALL, ABOUT THE SIZE OF A TENNIS BALL, IS WHIZZING ABOUT THE ROOM OVERHEAD. THE DOORCHIME SOUNDS.

Crusher: (Without breaking his attention from the computer terminal.) Come in.

THE DOOR OPENS AND DATA ENTERS. THE BALL IMMEDIATELY WHIZZES PAST HIS HEAD AS HE DUCKS AWAY JUST IN TIME.

Data: (Following the movements of the ball.) You wanted to see me, Wesley?

Crusher: (Slowly turning away from the computer.) Yeah, Data, I need your help. I'm trying to write vector arrays to coordinate the optimum movements for targeting... (Watching Data.)
Data, what are you doing?

DATA, HIS ATTENTION STILL RIVETTED TO THE FLYING BALL, HAS BEEN JERKING HIS HEAD AROUND TO FOLLOW ITS PATH.

Data: I am endeavoring to stay clear of your projectile.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

CRUSHER, SMILING, PRESSES A KEY AT THE TERMINAL AND THE BALL FALLS HARMLESSLY TO THE FLOOR. DATA, RETRIEVING AND TURNING IT IN HIS HAND, ADMIRES THE BALL WITH A FAINT SMILE.

Crusher: Data, I need help in developing these arrays.

DATA, APPROACHING CRUSHER, LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER TO THE MONITOR WHERE LINES OF CODE ARE SCROLLING UP THE SCREEN.

Data: These seem in order.

Crusher: But they're too slow. I want extremely precise measurements and that requires speed.

Data: (Looking at the ball in his hand.) Is this going to be the tracer?

Crusher: (Nodding.) Yes.

Data: (Hefting its weight.) If it was a great deal smaller and lighter you could target it faster and much more precisely.

Crusher: (Smiling broadly.) I knew I called the right android!

DATA FLIPS THE BALL UP AND MAKES IT LAND, PERFECTLY BALANCED, ON TOP OF HIS HEAD. HE OFFERS A BEMUSED GRIN.

ACT 4; SCENE 3

BACK ON THE BRIDGE. PICARD AND RIKER ARE SEATED THE CENTER WELL, WORF ABOVE AND BEHIND HIM. BACKUP CREW STILL AT FORWARD STATIONS.

Worf: Captain. A message is coming in from the *Ghartbuse*.

Picard: (Surprised, looks at Riker and rises, heading toward the ready room door.) Number one. (Looking towards Worf.) Mr. Worf, you have the bridge. Hold the message. Continue the search pattern and alert us the moment an Orion ship is sighted.

Worf: Yes, sir!

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

ACT 4; SCENE 4

PICARD AND RIKER EXIT THE BRIDGE AND ENTER THE READY ROOM.

ACT 4; SCENE 5

PICARD AND RIKER SIT ACROSS THE TABLE FROM ONE ANOTHER.

Picard: I want you to hear this. Did you know about my communications with the *Ghartbuse*?

Riker: (Stiffly.) I knew you had some contact, yes, sir.

Picard: (Leaning back.) Will, I am troubled by this *Nomeny* affair. I indicated to the Captain of the *Ghartbuse* that we had encountered some unusual readings emanating from the Siretian asteroid belt, but because of urgent business elsewhere we were unable to investigate. I suggested that he might train his ship's sensors on the asteroid belt as the *Ghartbuse* made their nearest approach to Siretus. Frankly, I did not expect to be hearing back from the *Ghartbuse*.

Riker: Did that request violate your orders from Star Fleet?

Picard: (Serious.) To the *letter* of my orders, no. To the *spirit*- it quite probably did. In any event, the burden of responsibility rests entirely with me. (Speaking to the com.) Mr. Worf, relay the message now.

THE MESSAGE, VOICE ONLY, IS PIPED INTO THE READY ROOM: "TO JEAN-LUC PICARD, CAPTAIN OF FEDERATION STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE. WAS ABLE TO COMPLY WITH REQUEST. DETECTED METALLIC DEBRIS AND LOCALIZED CONCENTRATION OF RADIATION IN THE ASTEROID BELT. IT IS AS IF A VESSEL OR AN ORBITING STATION HAD BEEN DESTROYED. DOES THIS CORRELATE WITH YOUR FINDINGS? HOPE WE WERE OF HELP. COMMANDER EITORD, GHARTBUSE".

THERE IS A LONG PAUSE DURING WHICH PICARD AND RIKER GAZE SOLEMNLY AT EACH OTHER.

Picard: (Shaking his head.) Unbelievable.

Riker: What can we do?

Picard: (Still shaking his head.) I don't know, Will.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Riker: Sir, I feel personally responsible for her destruction, if she has ... We were there when she was in trouble and we didn't even try to help her... I'd like to return to the Siretus system and look for the *Nomeny* and our passenger.

Picard: (Ironically/wistfully.) As would I, but then we'd both be making career changes...? (Shaking his head.) No, Will. We have explicit orders that render that option untenable. Besides, there are bigger issues at stake, issues we know nothing about-

Riker: (Level.) *Bigger* issues, sir? Bigger than the lives of the crew of the *Nomeny*? What issues? What are we party to? Captain...

Picard: (Frustrated.) I don't know what any of this means either. (Firm.) But to disobey Star Fleet Command would not only be criminal, it could turn out to be stupid. And very costly.

Riker: I think the cost has already been paid: in the blood of the *Nomeny*'s crew.

Picard: (Agitated.) Damn-it, Will! (More settled.) Will, we have our mission, here. (Settled tone.) Our first responsibility lies here. I will contact Admiral Scone and –

Riker: (Standing, composed.) With all respect, sir. Admiral Scone can go to hell. (Leaves abruptly).

TIGHT SHOT OF PICARD.

ACT 4; SCENE 6

IN THE SICK BAY. PULASKI IS TENDING TO A PATIENT, A CHILD, LYING ON A BIO-BED. RIKER INDICATES HE WANTS A PRIVATE WORD SO PULASKI SIGNALS AN ATTENDANT. RIKER AND PULASKI WALK A DISCREET DISTANCE AWAY.

Riker: What can you tell me about the passenger we beamed over in stasis?

Pulaski: (Smiling.) Why, Commander Riker, you know that I was forbidden to make any detailed examination of our 'guest'.

Riker: (Grinning.) And I also know that you are incapable of curbing your curiosity- especially if you can justify it under the guise of shipboard safety.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Pulaski: (Trying to look serious.) I'm sure I don't know what you mean. Besides, (Getting more serious.) did the Captain ask you to find out what I know?

Riker: Kate, this is between the two of us. Captain Picard didn't send me. If you don't feel that you can help- (Turning to go.)

Pulaski: (Reaching out, she grabs his arm.) There's not much I can tell you. The passenger was male, a Sybok, age unknown, health status unknown. Is that any help to you?

Riker: Maybe. Why don't you know more about his health?

Pulaski: For one thing, there was very little time to study him. For another, stasis masks some readings. Both the transporter and the containment field detected no active contaminants, but as for the health of the patient, the real problem is: I don't know what normal Sybok physiographs look like.

Riker: The computer—

Pulaski: (Sheepish.) I already checked the medical banks. The Federation has only recently made contact with the Syboks and, apparently, their medical data isn't available, or else it hasn't yet caught up with the *Enterprise* computer. Some of my requests for data were refused, as well.

Riker: Then how do you know he was a Sybok?

Pulaski: The only thing that *is* commonly known about Syboks is their unique adaptation.

Riker: Which is?

Pulaski: Apparently, their genetic science is a great deal more advanced than anything the Federation is capable of. Through the millennium they have perfected the ability to retain an enhanced form of their normal embryonic gill-vestigis. Syboks are now born with gills which allow them to remain submerged in liquids indefinitely- drawing oxygen through their gills like fish.

THE RED ALERT LIGHT FLASHES ON WALL BEHIND THEM. RIKER LOOKS AT PULASKI FOR A SPLIT SECOND AND RACES TOWARD THE DOOR, GLANCING TOWARDS THE PATIENT AS THE DOOR OPENS ONTO THE CORRIDOR WITH THE ALERT LIGHTS AND WARNING KLAXXON.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

ACT 4; SCENE 7

RIKER RUNS DOWN THE CORRIDOR TO THE TURBOLIFT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT 5: SCENE 1

ON THE BRIDGE. PICARD ABOVE CENTER WELL, NEXT TO WORF. TROI SEATED AT CENTER WELL. DATA AND CRUSHER AT FORWARD STATIONS.

Picard: How close?

Worf: Two hundred thousand kilometers, and pulling away, sir.

PICARD WALKS DOWN TO THE CENTER WELL. THE TURBOLIFT DOOR OPENS AND RIKER STRIDES ONTO THE BRIDGE. THEY MEET IN FRONT OF THE CENTER WELL. THEIR EYES MEET MEANINGFULLY.

Picard: (Still looking at Riker.) Speed of the Orion ship, Mr. Crusher. (Breaks glance and sits.)

RIKER SITS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF TROI.

Crusher: Warp 6... warp 7... 7.5...

Picard: Overtake them, Mr. Crusher, but no closer than 100 thousand kilometers.

Crusher: Aye, sir... we're closing.

Picard: Put them on the screen, Mr. Data.

Data: On screen, sir.

THE ORION SLAVE SHIP APPEARS ON THE SCREEN. SMALL AND SLEEK, SHE IS OBVIOUSLY BUILT FOR SPEED AND MANEUVERABILITY.

Picard: Mr. Worf, they likely have prisoners on board. Lay a pattern of phaser blasts across her bow.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Worf: Yes, sir! Firing phasers now!

ACT 5; SCENE 2

PANORAMIC VIEW OF PHASER BEAMS DISCHARGED FROM THE ENTERPRISE SLICING SPACE JUST AHEAD OF THE ORION SHIP WHICH CONTINUES FLEEING.

ACT 5; SCENE 3

Picard: (Deadpan.) Not wholly effective, number one.

Riker: (Calmly.) No sir. If they have prisoners aboard, they certainly won't put about.

Picard: (Nodding agreement.) Options, number one?

Riker: Mr. Worf, can their shields withstand a direct phaser strike?

Worf: If we widen our beam and target their engineering section it would reduce the likelihood of injury to any passengers.

Riker: Captain?

Picard: Make it so. Worf: Firing now, sir!

ON THE SCREEN A WIDE SWATH OF SPACE SURROUNDING THE ORION SHIP IS ILLUMINATED. THE SHIP BEGINS TO VEER ERRATICALLY.

Worf: A hit, sir!

Picard: Are they slowing, Mr. Crusher?

Crusher: No, sir. Changing course to 433 mark 8.

Picard: Continue pursuit.

Crusher: Pursuing, sir.

Worf: Another shot, sir?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Crusher: Changing course again, Captain. 113 mark 2.

Picard: (Standing, walking towards Crusher.) Keep on her tail, Mr. Crusher. (Holds onto the back of Crusher's headrest as the *Enterprise* banks sharply, which it does at each of the subsequent radical course changes.)

Crusher: Turning again. 008 mark 9. She's coming around, sir!

Picard: Mr. Worf, target her engineering section again, wide phaser disbursement.

Crusher: She's turning again, sir. 323 mark 6... mark 4...

Worf: Captain, her erratic movements make pinpoint targeting impossible!

Riker: I think her Commander knows we won't take the chance of destroying her with prisoners on board.

Picard: Agreed, number one. Mr. Data, can we hold them in a tractor beam?

Data: We should be able to slow them down, sir.

Picard: Mr. Worf, initiate tractor beam.

Worf: Aye sir! Tractor beam on.

ACT 5: SCENE 4

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE ENTERPRISE'S TRACTOR BEAM ATTEMPTING TO CATCH THE DODGING ORION SHIP. FINALLY, IT IS CAUGHT.

ACT 5; SCENE 5

BACK ON THE BRIDGE.

Worf: We've caught her sir!

Crusher: Slowing, sir. Warp 6... warp 5... wa- she's turning about sir!

Picard: Match her speed. Deflector shields on maximum, Mr. Worf!

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Worf: Shields on maximum. She's firing sir!

ON THE SCREEN A SMALL BALL OF LIGHT AT THE CENTER RAPIDLY FILLS THE SCREEN AS A SHOCK WAVE HITS THE SHIP.

Worf: No damage, Captain. Shields holding. Tractor beam holding... She's firing again!

ANOTHER BLAST IMPACTS THE SHIP.

Worf: No damage, sir. Should we return fire?

Picard: Negative. Mr. Worf, attempt to put us in communication with her bridge.

Worf: We have visual, sir.

RIKER STANDS AND WALKS UP, JUST BEHIND AND TO THE RIGHT OF PICARD AT THE CENTER OF THE BRIDGE. THE SCREEN CHANGES TO THE ORION'S BRIDGE. AN ORION, HUMANOID WITH REPTILIAN-LIKE FACE, LARGE YELLOW EYES AND FLAT HEADGEAR, APPEARS. HE IS NIS-KATOR, MASTER OF THE ORION SLAVE SHIP. HE IS HISSING, SEETHING WITH ANGER.

Picard: This is Jean-Luc Picard, Captain of the Federation starship *Enterprise*. We believe that you have been engaging in slave trading and that there are prisoners on board your ship.

Nis-Kator: (Hissing as he speaks.) I am Master Nis-Kator. Why have you fired on my ship? Is the Federation (Spitting after he speaks the word "Federation.") declaring war on the invincible Orion Realm?

Picard: (Glances at Riker.) Nis-Kator-

Nis-Kator: (Hissing.) *Master* Nis-Kator!

SHOT OF WORF GROWLING.

Picard: Master Nis-Kator, it is our intention to board your ship to search for prisoners. If there are no prisoners on board your ship you will be free to go, with our apologies. If, however, we discover that you have been engaging in the illegal abduction of persons for the purpose of-

Nis-Kator: (Hissing.) *Illegal!*? Illegal by Federation (Spits.) rules, not Orion rules!

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: (Continuing.) -for the purpose of furthering the trade in slaves, you and your crew will be taken into custody of the Federation, and your ship will be seized. You are now ordered to come to a halt, disarm your weaponry and lower your defensive shields. Prepare to be boarded.

Nis-Kator: (Hissing.) I would sooner twist your head off! (Great amount of hissing.)

WORF GLOWERS MALIGNANTLY.

Picard: (Turning to Worf, indicates he wants the channel closed.) Counselor?

Troi: He is, (Searching for a word.) *honest*. He feels real revulsion towards all of us, especially you, Captain. He has no sense of remorse over (Grinning.) *spitting* on our rule book and I doubt if Orion law, such as it is, means any more to him.

Picard: Are there prisoners on board?

Troi: I would say yes. There is a sense of terror on the ship which seems completely out character from Nis-Kator.

Picard: How would you describe his way of thinking, his mental development, abilities?

Troi: Make no mistake, he is neither an intellectual nor is he ashamed of it. He is quite cunning, and absolutely ruthless. He expects to win. I would say he is a formidable opponent.

PICARD SIGNALS WORF TO OPEN COMMUNICATIONS, TURNS TO SCREEN. NIS-KATOR GLOWERS.

Picard: As you have failed to carry out my directives I have no choice but to cripple your ship. (Turning to Worf.) Lock onto their engineering section, normal disbursement.

Nis-Kator: Wait!

Picard: Hold, Mr. Worf.

Worf: (Reluctant.) Holding fire, sir.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Nis-Kator: I have cargo that is easily damaged. That would be bad for both of us.

Picard: The fortunes of trade, Nis-Kator. (Turns to Worf.) F-

Nis-Kator: You win!! I like you better now Picard. But I will still twist your head off and eat it. (Hisses.) Another day. (Turns away, issues a command in Orioneese.)

Crusher: Slowing ... going sublight, sir.

Picard: Very good, Ensign. Maintain distance. Keep phasers locked on target Mr. Worf. Maintain tractor beam.

Worf: Aye, sir.

Crusher: Stopping sir.

Picard: Orion vessel, lower your shields now.

Nis-Kator: (On screen.) Terms, first, Picard.

Picard: No terms. You will obey my instruction to lower your shields now.

Nis-Kator: A trade: my cargo for our freedom.

Picard: (Turning to Worf.) Mr. Worf, -

Nis-Kator: (Turning away, issues command in Orioneese.)

Worf: Their shields are down.

Picard: Prepare to be boarded and searched, Nis-Kator.

URNS AND MOTIONS FOR THE COM CHANNEL TO BE CLOSED.

Picard: Data, how many Orions and others?

Data: I have readings on 7 Orions, no other lifeform readings, sir.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: Counselor?

Troi: I sense the same terror, only stronger. I do not believe it is a member of the Orion crew, Captain, there is a sense of something like claustrophobia.

Riker: They may have confined their prisoners some place small, someplace that shields them from our sensors.

Picard: And, presumably, from an onboard search. Nis-Kator all but admitted having prisoners; what is the point of trying to hide what you say you have?

Riker: Data, where could they be hidden on the Orion ship?

Data: Working... Stasis field, perhaps, although unlikely, or-

LaFORGE'S VOICE IS PIPED INTO THE BRIDGE.

LaForge: (Over the com.) Captain, the tractor beam is beginning to tax our systems.

Picard: (To the com.) Time, Mr. LaForge?

LaForge: (Over the com.) At this rate, 42 minutes.

Picard: (To the com.) Prepare to redirect non-essential power to the tractor beam.

LaForge: (Over the com.) Aye, sir.

Picard: Where else, Mr. Data?

Data: Next to their fuel cells, sir.

Worf: Captain! Something is happening... the Orion ship has jettisoned an object...

Riker: Oh, no, not... magnification 3, Mr. Data.

Data: Magnification 3.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

THE MAIN VIEWER SHOWS A TINY ROUNDISH OBJECT MOVING AWAY FROM THE ORION SHIP TOWARDS THE ENTERPRISE.

Picard: What is it, Data?

Worf: (Interrupts.) Captain- it contains high-energy plasma.

Picard: Data?

Data: Agreed, sir. It appears to be an- Captain, it is an exploding mine.

Riker: Effect of detonation on the *Enterprise*?

Worf: Negligible. Our defensive shields can absorb the blast. Orion shields still down.

Crusher: Not plasma-- not with the tractor beam on, sir!

Picard: Ensign?

Data: Ensign Crusher is correct. Captain, we must discontinue the tractor beam. When exploded, the plasma effect will backflow through the tractor beam into the *Enterprise's* circuits!

Crusher: If we strobe the tractor beam—

Worf: Their shields are up! Its detonating sir!

Picard: Drop tractor beam now!

THE MAIN VIEWER COMES ALIVE WITH BLINDING LIGHT. THERE IS A BLAST WHICH ROCKS THE SHIP. WHEN THE SCREEN CLEARS THE ORION SHIP IS GONE.

Crusher: The Orion ship is moving out of sensor range, sir. 321 mark 9.

Picard: Damn. Warp 5, Mr. Crusher, pursue them.

Crusher: Warp 5, sir... The Orion ship is still pulling away, sir. They're at warp 8.8. Now bearing 305 mark 4.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: Overtake them. No closer than 100 thousand kilometers.

Crusher: Aye, sir... changing course: 236 mark 6.

Riker: It seems Nis-Kator has some experience playing hit-and-run with a starship.

Picard: (Nodding.) Mr. Worf, target phasers on her engineering section, normal disbursement. (Turning to Riker.) Let's put her out of commission, number one.

Worf: Sir, their defensive shields are still down!

Riker: He knows we won't fire on them with their shields down.

Picard: Excellent. Mr. Worf, detail a security team to the main hold on the brig!

Worf: (Puzzled.) Aye, sir.

Riker: Beam the Orions over?

Picard: (Smiling.) Exactly, number one. (To the com.) Transporter chief.

O'Brien: (Over the com.) O'Brien, sir.

Picard: (To the com.) There are 7 Orions on the ship we are pursuing. I want them all beamed up, simultaneously, directly into the main hold of our brig.

O'Brien: (Over the com.) That will entail linking remote transporters to the central console, sir. It will take a little time to target the Orions as well.

Picard: (To the com.) Do it, Mr. O'Brien. Signal me when you're ready to transport.

O'Brien: (Over the com.) Aye, aye, sir.

Picard: Is the security team ready, Mr. Worf?

Worf: Yes, sir! Standing by to initiate force field in the main holding area!

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: Very good. Mr. Crusher?

Crusher: Closing sir. Will be in transporter range in 30 seconds.

Picard: Number one, prepare an away team to the Orion ship. Stop her and search for the prisoners.

Riker: Aye, sir. (Stands and walks off the bridge to the turbolift.)

O'Brien: (Voice over the com.) Targeted 7 Orions, sir. Ready to transport to our brig.

Picard: (To the com.) Good work, Mr. O'Brien. (To the com.) Security team, prepare to activate force field. (To the com.) Mr. O'Brien- energize!

ACT 5; SCENE 6

THE MAIN HOLD IN THE ENTERPRISE BRIG. SEVEN ORIONS MATERIALIZE IN VARIOUS POSTURES, INDICATING THAT THEIR BEAMING TOOK THEM BY COMPLETE SURPRISE. SECURITY PERSONNEL ACTIVATES FORCE FIELD. TIGHT SHOT OF NIS-KATOR, SPITTING AND HISSING VEHEMENTLY, HE QUICK-DRAWES HIS CLENCHED, GLOVED AND SPIKED RIGHT FIST, AIMING A RING-LIKE DEVICE AT THE SECURITY TEAM AND FIRING A BLAST. IT REFLECTS OFF OF THE FORCE-FIELD, RENDERING THE ORIONS UNCONSCIOUS.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT 6; SCENE 1

SHOT OF THE *ENTERPRISE* ORBITING SARIA, THE FEDERATION COLONY IN THE AGEIS SYSTEM.

ACT 6; SCENE 2

SHOT OF *ENTERPRISE* TRANSPORTER ROOM. RIKER AND O'BRIEN AND TWO ASSISTANTS. SIX ORIONS, UNCONSCIOUS, ON STRETCHERS ARE BEAMING DOWN. ASSISTANTS MOVE THE LAST UNCONSCIOUS ORION TO THE PLATFORM AND HE ALSO BEAMS DOWN. RIKER WALKS OUT.

ACT 6: SCENE 3

SHOT OF CORRIDOR. RIKER MEETS PULASKI. THEY WALK TOGETHER.

Riker: How are the Orion's "cargo?"

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Pulaski: They're stable. I want to let them rest before returning them to Saria. It's good that we saved them when we did- prolonged exposure to those energy cells would have caused irreversible tissue damage. Are the Orions gone?

Riker: They were just transported to the Sarian holding facility. (Ironic.) Nice group of guys, wouldn't you say?

THEIR PATHS BEGIN TO DIVERGE, THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES.

Pulaski: They're not too bad unconscious. The only problem with that is: it takes a triple-dose to keep them down! What do you get if you cross an Orion with a Klingon?

Riker: (Grinning.) What?

Pulaski: (Almost shouting.) I don't know- but I wouldn't want to be there at the delivery!

ACT 6: SCENE 4

RIKER IS AT THE TURBOLIFT. THE DOOR OPENS. WORF IS INSIDE. RIKER ENTERS, THE DOOR CLOSES AND THEY MOVE ON TOWARD THE BRIDGE. INSIDE TURBOLIFT.

Worf: Why were you laughing, sir?

Riker: Dr. Pulaski told me a joke.

Worf: (Scowling.) A joke?

Riker: Yes, Worf, a joke. Perhaps you'd like to hear it... on second thought, I'd better not.

WORF GLOWERS.

ACT 6; SCENE 5

TURBOLIFT DOORS OPEN ON THE BRIDGE. WORF RESUMES HIS STATION. RIKER SITS ALONE AT CENTER WELL. BACKUP PERSONNEL AT FORWARD STATIONS.

Riker: (To the com.) Mr. LaForge?

ACT 6; SCENE 6

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

LaFORGE AND CRUSHER ARE IN ENGINEERING, LOOKING AT A COMPUTER MODEL OF CRUSHER'S PROPOSED MULTI-LAYERED HOLODECK SIMULATION. THE MONITOR SCREEN SHOWS THREE-DIMENSIONAL MULTI-COLORED RECTANGLES FOLDING AND MERGING AND PARTING, WITH A CROSS HAIR AT THE CENTER AND NUMBERS RUNNING IN A WINDOW AT THE CORNER. CRUSHER'S HAND MOVES TO THE FOREGROUND OF THE MONITOR DISPLAY. THERE IS A TINY BALL, THE SIZE OF A B-B, IN HIS OPENED PALM.

LaForge: (To the com.) LaForge here.

Riker: (Over the com.) Geordi, what is the condition of the Orion ship?

LaForge: She's fine, sir. Some minor buckling in her hull. We removed the leaking energy cell, which leaves her with no spares. The results of all systems diagnostics were nominal.

Riker: (Over the com.) So she can proceed under her own power?

LaForge: No problem. How's your Orioneese?

ACT 6; SCENE 7

BACK ON THE BRIDGE AS BEFORE.

Riker: (Smiling.) Riker out.

RIKER GOES TO AN UNOCCUPIED COMPUTER STATION AND BEGINS TO TYPE.

Worf: Message coming in from Star Fleet Command, (Looking up.) for Captain Picard.

CLOSE-UP OF RIKER.

ACT 6; SCENE 8

IN THE READY ROOM. PICARD IS ALONE AT THE TABLE, REVIEWING DATA ON THE MONITOR. WORF'S VOICE IS PIPED INTO THE ROOM.

Worf: (Over the com.) Sir, there is a message from Star Fleet Command, your eyes only.

Picard: (Enters a code prefix at the terminal, speaks to the com.) Relay it here.

Worf: (Over the com.) Aye, sir.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

THE TERMINAL SCREEN GOES BLANK AND IS INSTANTLY REPLACED BY THE STAR FLEET INSIGNIA. A MOMENT LATER THAT IS REPLACED BY THE IMAGE OF A SENIOR STAR FLEET OFFICER. IT IS ADMIRAL SCONE.

Score: Captain Picard. What is the status of the Orion crew and ship?

Picard: (Puzzled.) The crew, Admiral, is interned on Saria, awaiting disposition by Star Fleet Command. The ship is in geo-stationary orbit above Saria, alongside the *Enterprise*.

Score: What is the condition of the Orion ship?

Picard: A team lead by my chief engineer has surveyed the vessel. A leaking energy cell was disposed of. Onboard diagnostics were ran and the ship's condition was declared "nominal".

Score: Captain Picard, please summons your second in command, Commander Riker, and await further communications from Star Fleet Command. Admiral Scone, out.

THE SCREEN GOES BLANK. PICARD LOOKS DISTURBED.

Picard: (To the com.) Commander Riker to the ready room.

PICARD SITS, RUBBING HIS CHIN IN CONTEMPLATION. RIKER ENTERS AND REMAINS STANDING.

Picard: Sit down, Will.

Riker: (Still standing.) Sir, we haven't had an opportunity to speak before now. I want to apologize for my comments regarding the Admiral. My behavior was inappropriate, and the fact that it was born out of frustration and a sense of guilt doesn't justify such insubordination.

Picard: (Kindly.) Please sit down, Will.

RIKER SITS ACROSS THE TABLE FROM PICARD.

Picard: Will, I'm glad you feel that way. Now let's put that behind us. The reason I called you is that Admiral Scone requires your presence for an upcoming communication.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Riker: Do you know what it's about?

Picard: Believe me, Will, I'm as much in the dark about this as you are. When we just spoke the Admiral requested information about the Orion ship; no mention of the *Nomeny* was made.

Riker: The *Orion ship*, sir?

Picard: (Nodding.) I am at a loss, too.

Riker: Do you think that there's a connection- I mean between the events here at Aegis and earlier at Siretus?

Picard: We may soon find out.

THERE IS A PAUSE DURING WHICH TIME BOTH MEN APPEAR DEEP IN THOUGHT.

Riker: Captain, how was it that the *Enterprise* came upon the Orion ship so suddenly?

Picard: She was on the far side of Saria, shielded from our sensors, when we approached. When she came around- we were right on top of her. That was lucky.

Riker: It almost proved fatal.

Picard: (Nodding.) Agreed. (Dismayed.) To think that an Orion slave ship could go toe-to-toe with a Galaxy-class starship and nearly win!

WORF'S VOICE IS PIPED INTO THE READY ROOM.

Worf: (Over the com.) Captain, message from Star Fleet Command.

Picard: (Enters a code prefix at the terminal.) Relay it, Mr. Worf.

Worf: (Over the com.) Message relayed, sir!

THE TERMINAL SCREEN GOES BLANK AND IS INSTANTLY REPLACED BY THE STAR FLEET INSIGNIA. A MOMENT LATER THAT IS REPLACED BY THE IMAGE OF A SENIOR STAR FLEET OFFICER. IT IS ADMIRAL SCENE.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Scone: Captain Picard. Is Commander Riker with you?

Riker: (Moving in front of the screen, next to Picard.) I am present, sir.

Scone: Captain Picard. Star Fleet Command is aware of your unauthorized communication with the passenger vessel *Ghartbuse*. That action was reckless and showed a wanton disregard for authority. As you have displayed an inability to accept the obedience dictated by the institution of chain of command- Captain Picard you are hereby relieved of your command of the *Enterprise*. You are stripped of any and all rights, responsibilities, uniform and rank of a member of Star Fleet until such time as you are called to show cause why you should not be court-martialed and dismissed from the corps. Do you understand, *Mr. Picard*?

Picard: (Glassy-eyed and numb.) I... I understand.

Riker: (To Picard.) Captain-

Picard: (Shaking his head.) No, Will.

Scone: Commander Riker. You are hereby to assume the rank of acting-Captain of the Federation Starship *Enterprise*. Your mission is to continue reconnaissance of the Aegis star group for Orion slave trading vessels. Do you accept your new command?

Riker: (Glancing at Picard, who nods affirmation.) I accept command of the *Enterprise*, sir, but under protest.

Scone: Your protest is so noted.

Picard: Admiral Scone, if I may. Regarding the situation which precipitated my dismissal: it has not, as yet, been resolved. Has it?

Scone: Any interests or involvements which you may have had as a Star Fleet officer are over, Mr. Picard. Any subsequent activities you may choose to be involved in, will be those conducted by a private citizen without approval of, or standing with, Star Fleet.

Picard: (Deadpan.) Thank you, Admiral.

Scone: Captain Riker. Do you have any questions?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Riker: (Glancing at Picard.) No, sir.

Scone: Admiral Scone, out.

THE SCREEN GOES BLANK.

ACT 6; SCENE 9

IN PICARD'S QUARTERS. PICARD REMOVES HIS STAR FLEET INSIGNIA AND PLACES IT ON TOP OF HIS COPY OF THE STAR FLEET REGULATIONS MANUAL. HE SITS BY THE WINDOW, WATCHING THE STARS.

ACT 6; SCENE 10

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ENTERPRISE. A FEW BACKUP PERSONNEL ARE TENDING THE STATIONS. IT IS QUIET. RIKER SITS ALONE AT THE CENTER WELL. THE TURBOLIFT DOORS OPEN. PICARD, IN CIVVIES, STANDS IN THE TURBOLIFT.

Picard: Permission to come onto the bridge, Captain.

Riker: Permission granted, Jean-Luc.

PICARD SITS BY RIKER.

Riker: I would feel easier about this if you'd call me Will.

Picard: (Smiling.) Alright, Will. There are some things that I need to talk to you about, Will, and some things that we cannot discuss.

Riker: I understand. That is, I think I understand.

Picard: (Sympathetically.) It boggles the mind... Will, has Star Fleet Command given you any orders regarding the disposition of the Orion vessel?

Riker: They have been deadly silent on that matter.

Picard: (Nodding.) Will, isn't Commander Data due for some R&R?

Riker: (Smiling.) I don't believe he has used up half of his accumulated leave time.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: I was hoping that I might persuade him to take a trip with me. Do you think a leave of absence could be secured for Mr. Data, should he consent?

Riker: (Still smiling.) I think that could be arranged.

Picard: I should like to discuss this further with Mr. Data.

Riker: Make it so.

PICARD, ALREADY STANDING, DOES A DOUBLE-TAKE. THEY SMILE WARMLY. PICARD STEPS INTO THE TURBOLIFT. RIKER SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISBELIEF.

ACT 6: SCENE 11
IN THE TURBOLIFT.

Picard: (To the computer.) Whereabouts of Commander Data.

Computer: Commander Data is currently in the Holodeck.

ACT 6: SCENE 12
IN THE HOLODECK. DATA IS SITTING, BLINDFOLDED ON A STOOL, SURROUNDED BY A DOZEN TRADITIONAL (ONE DIMENSIONAL) CHESSBOARDS, EACH WITH A SIMULATED HUMAN OPPONENT. DATA MAKES MOVE AFTER MOVE, BARELY PAUSING BETWEEN THEM. THE HOLODECK DOOR OPENS AND PICARD WALKS IN.

Data: Is someone there?

Picard: I am sorry to disturb you Data, but I have a very difficult and important favor to ask of you.

Data: (Standing and removing the blindfold.) Certainly, sir.

Picard: Mr. Data, are you aware of the recent events?

Data: Query, sir. What specific events?

Picard: Star Fleet's order relieving me of command of the *Enterprise*.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: Is that a joke, Captain?

Picard: No it is not Data. Commander Riker is now acting Captain of the *Enterprise*.

Data: Why, sir?

Picard: Data, we will have the opportunity to talk about all of that at length, and very soon, but first I have a proposition to offer you. Initially, let me emphasize that what I am about to ask of you, I ask as Jean-Luc Picard, not as Captain Picard. Further, while I have some notion that Star Fleet Command would not frown upon my proposed course of action, and in fact have all but forced it upon me, that action may very well, nevertheless, cost us both our careers. If not our lives.

Data: I confess that I am not following your train of thought very well, Captain.

Picard: That is because I am being intentionally vague, and because the situation I am dancing around is exceedingly ambiguous. And, Data, stop calling me 'Captain'.

Data: What should I call you?

Picard: Call me Jean-Luc.

Data: Alright, Jean-Luc, what are you "*dancing around?*"

Picard: Data. I would like you to ask for a leave of absence from the *Enterprise*. I am assured that Captain Riker will grant it. I want you to join me, on the Orion ship, to return to Siretus.

Data: Ah, the *Nomeny* incident. That has been bothering me as well.

Picard: Data, this trip, let me reiterate, will be without Star Fleet Command's approval, and any trouble we get into will be on our heads-- yours and mine.

Data: I understand, Jean-Luc. (Pausing a moment, he grins and loops an arm over Picard's shoulder.) When do we leave, partner?

PICARD'S COUNTENANCE IS ONE OF FOREBODING.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

END OF ACT 6

END OF EPISODE 1

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

EPISODE 2 OF 2

ACT 1; SCENE 1

EXTERIOR SHOT OF THE ORION SHIP ORBITING SARIA.

ACT 1; SCENE 2

ON BOARD THE BRIDGE OF THE ORION SHIP. THE SHIP IS SMALL AND CRAMPED, THE TOPS OF CONSOLES ARE REMOVED AND STACKED ON THE FLOOR. DATA, WEARING CIWIES, IS RE-WIRING CIRCUIT BOARDS AT CONSOLES ALONG THE WALLS. DATA IS WEARING A COMMUNICATOR, BUT IT IS IN THE SHAPE OF A BLACK CIRCLE-THE STAR FLEET INSIGNIA BEZEL HAS BEEN REMOVED. HE IS WEARING AN ORION HAND PHASER.

ACT 1; SCENE 3

IN THE ENGINEERING SECTION OF THE ORION SHIP. PICARD, ALSO IN CIWIES, IS CHECKING READINGS, REVIEWING A WRITTEN CHECKLIST, COMPILING AN INVENTORY. PICARD IS WEARING AN INSIGNIA AND PHASER LIKE DATA'S.

ACT 1; SCENE 4

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE ENTERPRISE WARPING THROUGH SPACE.

ACT 1; SCENE 5

IN THE READY ROOM OF THE ENTERPRISE. RIKER, TROI, WORF, LaFORGE AND PULASKI SIT AT THE TABLE.

Riker: To summarize, Jean-Luc and Data are acting on their own initiative in investigating the *Nomeny* incident. While they hope that Star Fleet Command approves, their actions are without official sanction. Our orders are to remain in the Aegis system to search for additional Orion slave traders. Any questions?

Worf: Captain, do you think they have Star Fleet's approval?

Riker: Mr. Worf, I don't know. This is a complex situation whose elements are largely unknown. I hope Jean-Luc has correctly divined Star Fleet Command's intentions. Any further questions? (Pause.) As there are no questions, before we end the briefing... Jean-Luc has asked that this be played.

RIKER SWITCHES THE MONITOR ON. AN IMAGE OF PICARD APPEARS. HE IS NOT IN UNIFORM.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: (A recording, on the monitor.) Gentlemen. Captain Riker has informed you of the uncertainties and ambiguities of the present situation Data and I find ourselves in. We are grateful for all of your assistance in preparing our ship. Now you all must turn your complete attention to your task at hand. As we have recently witnessed, tangling with Orion slave ships presents very real dangers, even for a Galaxy-class starship. I have every confidence in Captain Riker's ability to command the *Enterprise*, but only in so far as he has the fullest support from each of you. You must not let your attention wander from your mission. You must give Captain Riker the same unequalled loyalty that has always made me so proud, so honored to have been the Captain of the *Enterprise*: the flagship of the Federation fleet. Good luck, and good hunting, to you all!

THERE IS SILENCE AROUND THE TABLE. RIKER STANDS.

Riker: Gentlemen, we have work to do.

THEY RISE AND BEGIN TO LEAVE THE READY ROOM.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2; SCENE 1

ON BOARD THE ORION SHIP. DATA IS TESTING EQUIPMENT AT THE CENTER CONSOLE. PICARD ENTERS. OPENING CREDITS ARE RUNNING.

Picard: Status report, Data.

Data: (Still working.) Navigation and weapons are wired to the central console, Jean-Luc. Communications will be linked in 30 minutes.

Picard: You are truly amazing, Data. Now about engineering?

Data: That is problematic. It may be more feasible to move the engineering console adjacent to the central console.

Picard: Can you do that?

Data: Yes, but it will take quite a bit of time.

Picard: What is the alternative, Data?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: The alternative would require each of us to man one station- or for me to alternate between them.

Picard: I don't favor either situation, Data. We would be at a great disadvantage in a tactical situation.

Data: Agreed, Jean-Luc. Therefore, I suggest physically moving the engineering station.

Picard: How long will that take?

Data: (Looking at both consoles.) Perhaps 10 hours.

Picard: (Shaking his head) Alright, Data, do it. But slow us to warp 7.5; we need time to run a shake-down before we reach Siretus.

ACT 2; SCENE 2

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ENTERPRISE. RIKER AND TROI AT CENTER WELL, WORF ABOVE AND BEHIND THEM. CRUSHER AND BACK-UP PERSONNEL AT FORWARD STATIONS.

Crusher: Expanding search pattern 2 degrees, Captain.

Riker: Mr. Worf?

Worf: Still nothing, Captain. No Orion ships, no ships at all.

Riker: Has the Federation outpost on Saria reported in?

Worf: Yes, sir. They have nothing new to report- no sightings of Orion vessels.

Riker: (Quietly to Troi.) What do you sense?

Troi: I... I feel a sense of unease.

Riker: Where? About what?

Troi: Here, on the *Enterprise*. A sense of- expectation. Like waiting for the other shoe to drop.

Riker: What else?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Troi: (Smiling.) Will, the entire crew is upset about Captain Picard losing his command. But no one blames you. You have the crew's complete confidence and support.

Riker: (Leaning back.) I'm glad of that... I'll need it.

ACT 2; SCENE 3

ON THE ORION SHIP. PICARD IS IN THE GALLEY, IN FRONT OF A FOOD-PROCESSOR. HE PRESSES A BUTTON AND A SERVING DRAWER PULLS OUT. HE REMOVES THE BOWL AND THE DRAWER SLIDES BACK IN. HOLDING THE BOWL UNDER HIS NOSE HE SMELLS THE FOOD AND GRIMACES. HE TAPS HIS COMMUNICATOR.

Picard: (Over the com.) Data, I thought the food processor had been reprogrammed.

ACT 2; SCENE 4

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ORION SHIP. DATA IS UNDER A CONSOLE, WIRES AND CIRCUIT BOARDS AND TEST EQUIPMENT SURROUNDING HIM.

Data: (Over the com.) That is my understanding, too, Jean-Luc.

ACT 2; SCENE 5

BACK TO THE GALLEY.

Picard: Well, who did the programming of the (Looking at the bowl with distaste.) food?

Data: (Over the com.) I believe that Mr. Worf supervised the reprogramming of the food processor.

Picard: Mr. Worf?!

ACT 2: SCENE 6

Data: (Over the com.) Yes, Jean-Luc. I believe he ordered that fargen, the Klingon warrior meal, be programmed. Apparently it helps to give them the strength to go into battle and face their death with courage.

ACT 2; SCENE 7

Picard: (Under his breath.) I'd rather face death in battle than this fargen!

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: (Over the com.) Sir?

Picard: Nothing, Data. Would you like me to bring you some food?

Data: (Over the com.) Yes, thank you.

PICARD SPEARS THE FOOD WITH A KNIFE-LIKE INSTRUMENT AND TASTES THE FARGEN. HE SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS IN A RESIGNED ATTITUDE.

ACT 2; SCENE 8

IN THE ENGINEERING SECTION OF THE ENTERPRISE. LaFORGE AND CRUSHER ARE AT A CONSOLE. THE MONITOR SHOWS MULTICOLORED WAVE FORMS TRACING RIGHT-TO-LEFT ACROSS THE SCREEN.

Crusher: The oscillations are regular and predictable, see.

LaForge: I see. How many layers did you say?

Crusher: This simulation is only two layers deep. But, in theory, the actual number could be much higher. I have calculated arrays for eight layers, using reserves to supplement the Holodeck's power.

LaForge: (Standing.) What's your next step?

Crusher: I propose targeting the tracer (Holding the B-B up, twix forefinger and thumb.) through a normal, one-layer Holodeck simulation of empty space. Mapping the vectors and confirming the trajectory.

LaForge: Fine, go ahead.

CRUSHER TURNS TO LEAVE.

LaForge: But Wes, only that much, no more.

Crusher: (Turning back, with a smile.) Aye, aye, sir.

ACT 2; SCENE 9

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ORION SHIP. IT IS MORE NEARLY IN ORDER NOW: NORMAL LIGHTING, MOST OF THE DEBRIS IS CLEARED AWAY, AND THE EQUIPMENT IS ALMOST ALL PUT TO RIGHT. PICARD SITS AT THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR IN THE CENTER AND DATA MAN'S THE FORWARD CONSOLE WHICH IS NOW A DOUBLE-CONSOLE, WITH THE ENGINEERING STATION HAVING BEEN MOVED ALONG SIDE IT.

Data: All systems are linked to the main, Jean-Luc.

Picard: Are we ready for a shake-down, Data?

Data: (Double-checking indicators.) Yes. All systems appear nominal.

Picard: Bring us to 433 mark 1, speed warp 9, deflector shields up, meuon torpedoes armed.

Data: 433 ma-

THE LIGHTS GO OUT ON THE BRIDGE, THE SHIP'S ENGINES WIND DOWN. IN THE DARKNESS, A PREGNANT PAUSE ENSUES.

Picard: Data?

Data: Yes?

Picard: What went wrong?

Data: As nearly as I can ascertain, -everything.

ANOTHER PAUSE.

Picard: Data.

Data: Yes?

Picard: Can we at least have emergency light on the bridge?

Data: No problem. I'll just switch to manual—

SPARKS FLY FROM THE MAIN CONSOLE.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: Data, are you alright?

Data: Jean-Luc, I think I now know what pride feels like.

Picard: How is that?

Data: Because mine feels wounded.

ACT 2; SCENE 10

IN THE READY ROOM OF THE ENTERPRISE. RIKER IS SPEAKING TO STAR FLEET COMMAND OVER THE MONITOR.

Riker: Sir, there are no signs of further Orion ships in the Aegis star group. Planetary surveys have been checked and re-checked.

Scone: (On the monitor.) Very well, Captain Riker. Your assignment at Aegis has ended. Your next mission involves rendezvousing with the star ship *Huygens* at Gamma-Trianguli-

Riker: Admiral that will take us pretty close to the Siretian star system.

Scone: Captain Riker, I am, as you must know, well aware of the location of both Gamma-Trianguli and Siretus.

Riker: What I meant, sir, is, well, does this reassignment have anything to do with—

Scone: Captain Riker, it is your mission to make for Gamma-Trianguli at best speed. There to rendezvous with the star ship *Huygens* and await further instruction. Are your orders clear?

Riker: They are, sir.

Scone: Then carry them out at once. Scone out.

THE SCREEN GOES BLANK. RIKER IS WORRIED.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT 3; SCENE 1

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

ON BOARD THE ORION SHIP. PICARD TYPING AT A CONSOLE. DATA IS FINISHING UP HIS WORK, REPLACING THE TOP PANELS OF THE VARIOUS CONSOLES.

Picard: These Orion databases are unbelievable. (Turning to Data.) Incredible.

Data: (Still working.) How so, Jean-Luc?

Picard: They've cataloged the most minute detail about weaponry as well as detailed astronomic charting; but no medicine, no linguistics banks, no historical data, no records of communications. Nis-Kator doesn't even seem to have kept a ship's log. For the life of me- I don't even know what they called their ship!

Data: (Pauses.) Intriguing. Perhaps they simply referred to her as 'ship'. (Back to work.) What should we call her, Jean-Luc?

Picard: I'd like to call her *fit*, Data.

Data: I'm almost finished. (Pausing.) I'm getting better at non sequiturs, aren't I? (Back to work.)

PICARD MOVES OVER TO DATA AT THE CENTRAL CONSOLE.

Picard: (Smiling.) You are, indeed, Data. Data, speaking of non sequiturs, why were you playing single-level chess, back on the Enterprise? I should think the tri-dimensional variant would be more challenging for you.

Data: It is, Jean-Luc. But there is something about the traditional game: I find the symmetry and elegance of it more appealing.

Picard: (Putting his arm on Data's shoulder.) Data, I believe you are developing a sense of esthetics!

Data: (Pausing to reflect, he smiles.) I think you are right Jean-Luc! (Replacing the top of the last console.) All done. Shall we take her for a spin?

Picard: (Tentatively.) Do you think she's ready?

Data: Yes.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

PICARD WALKS TO THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR AND SITS.

Picard: (Sitting stiffly, warily.) Ready, Data?

Data: Jean-Luc, I have thought of a name.

Picard: A what?

Data: A name- for our ship.

Picard: Yes?

Data: Let us call her *Tasha*.

Picard: (Melts a little.) Data... let her prove worthy of the name. (Briskly.) Let's put her through her paces. Data, bearing of 430 mark 2, warp 9.

THE SHIP RESPONDS, BANKING SHARPLY, AS IT DOES DURING EACH OF THE RADICAL COURSE CHANGES THAT FOLLOW.

Data: Responding. On our mark.

Picard: Defensive screens up.

Data: Screens on full, no problems, all instrumentation reads nominal.

Picard: Excellent, Data. Arm mevon torpedoes, fore and aft.

Data: Armed. Fore and aft.

Picard: (Briskly.) Hard about, Data, bearing 111 mark 6.

Data: Coming about. Systems nominal, warp speed, screens, holding.

Picard: Reduce engines by two thirds ... fire fore and aft torpedoes, warp 7 now, open hailing frequency.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: (Hands flying across the console.) Two thirds, (Lurches with the ship.) torpedoes firing (Lurching with the ship.) warp 6... warp 7, hailing frequencies open.

Picard: Bring her about, 636 mark 1.

Data: 636 mark 1... now. Shields holding, frequency still open.

Picard: Close hailing frequency. Arm plasma mines. 828 mark 5, slow to sub-light.

Data: Channel closed. Mines slow to arm- mines armed and ready. New heading, 828 mark 5. Going sublight.

Picard: Lay out a linear pattern, Data, 10 mines, perpendicular to our present heading, 50 meters apart.

ACT 3; SCENE 2

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE OUTSIDE OF THE SHIP. SMALL ROUND MINES ARE JETTISONED, FORMING A STRAIGHT LINE PERPENDICULAR TO THE SHIP.

ACT 3: SCENE 3

BACK ON THE *TASHA'S* BRIDGE.

Picard: Is the pattern confirmed?

Data: Ten mines, perpendicular to our heading, 50 meters between each.

Picard: (Standing.) Excellent, Data. The first shake-down trial is concluded. We will retrieve the mines and then... best speed for Siretus.

ACT 3; SCENE 4

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE *ENTERPRISE*. CRUSHER AND BACKUP PERSONNEL AT FORWARD STATIONS. RIKER AND TROI AT CENTER WELL. WORF ABOVE AND BEHIND THEM.

Riker: Mr. Worf, are we within long range sensors of Trianguli?

Worf: Not yet, sir.

Riker: What is our ETA on Gamma-Trianguli, Mr. Crusher?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Crusher: ETA 15 hours, 18 minutes, Captain.

Riker: Are we in sensor contact with any Federation vessels Mr. Worf?

Worf: No, sir.

Riker: (To Troi.) Damn. I hate this- being jerked about like a puppet.

Troi: (Consoling.) Will, I think we'll soon know what this is all about.

Riker: I hope you're right. Mr. Worf, what can you tell me about the *Huygens*? Where was her most recent assignment?

Worf: Checking, sir. (Pause.) The *Huygens*, commanded by Captain Enver Brucedek, is a Galaxy-class starship. Last report had her... (Puzzled expression.) she was last reported at Vega colony.

Riker: Vega colony? That's half-way across the galaxy! How old is that report?

Worf: Sir, that information is three days old.

Riker: There is no possible way that the *Huygens* can rendezvous with us at Gamma-Trianguli... At best speed, Mr. Crusher, how long would it take the *Huygens* to reach rendezvous point from Vega colony?

Crusher: Nine point six days, at warp 9, sir.

Riker: Another riddle. (To Troi.) I hope Star Fleet Command doesn't expect us to wait... what can they be thinking? They move us within proximity of Siretus, and then, what? Put us on indefinite hold? Nothing makes any sense...

TROI PATS HIS HAND SYMPATHETICALLY.

ACT 3; SCENE 5

ON THE TASHA'S BRIDGE. PICARD SEATED AT CAPTAIN'S CHAIR, DATA AT CENTER CONSOLE.

Picard: ETA on Siretus, Data?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: Just under 2 hours, now.

Picard: Still no sign of company?

Data: No ships within range yet, Jean-Luc.

Picard: Data- it is time for some strategic thinking. Given the available facts, postulate theories and speculate on what we might expect to find at Siretus.

Data: I have narrowed my analysis to five possibilities.

Picard: Let's hear them, Data.

Data: The first possibility is that there was, as we originally suspected, a medical emergency on board the *Nomeny*. An infection, perhaps an infestation by an alien lifeform, caused the crew of the *Nomeny* to destroy their ship, intentionally or by accident. This assumes, of course, that the *Nomeny* really has been destroyed.

Picard: How does that possibility reconcile with the orders I received on board the *Enterprise*?

Data: By transporting our mysterious passenger off of the *Nomeny* it may have been hoped that the ship would be saved. Alternatively, it may have been Star Fleet Command's intention to save the mystery passenger from the infection, and perhaps even the subsequent destruction of the *Nomeny*, again, assuming she was destroyed.

Picard: How do you explain Star Fleet Command's lack of warning to the *Enterprise* to initiate the containment field when we brought the passenger on board? And why were we hurried away from Siretus instead of staying to offer her assistance?

Data: I cannot reconcile those facts with this theory of the events.

Picard: Nor can I. I no longer accept medical emergency as the leading candidate. What is your second hypothesis?

Data: Possibility number two: the *Nomeny* was destroyed with the consent, or at least the knowledge of, Star Fleet Command hierarchy. In this scheme, a collusion of senior Star Fleet officers-

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: A conspiracy at Star Fleet Command. I've thought of that. I'd sooner think *you* capable of conspiring against the Federation than Admiral Scone.

Data: There is, however, a precedent.

Picard: I find it hard to square that likelihood with the ease with which we were able to commandeer this ship. No attempt has been made to stop us, either before or since we left Aegis. What is the next possibility?

Data: The third possibility is that we are being manipulated for the amusement of Q.

Picard: (Reflecting.) That would be an enormous extension of power-involving countless numbers of Star Fleet personnel, and over great distances.

Data: Do we really know the extent of Q's powers? We have seen him do things that leave me with the impression that his abilities are virtually limitless.

Picard: Agreed. But his weakness has always been one of excessive egotism. If he was causing our troubles, I suspect he would have made himself know by now, to gloat over our predicament, our sense of frustration.

Data: He may have learned to curtail his instinct for quick gratification. He may, Jean-Luc, be waiting for us now, at Siretus; in fact, Q may have been our "mysterious passenger"!

Picard: In which case logistics are insufficient. What contingencies could we hope to devise for what Q might do? What is the fourth possibility, Data?

Data: Possibility number four is that this is all part of an elaborate loyalty test. Star Fleet Command may be instituting novel procedures—

Picard: You have a gift of understatement, Data. *Novel procedures*, indeed. Like the destruction of the *Nomeny* for the sake of a loyalty test!

Data: We do not yet know that the *Nomeny* has been destroyed, Jean-Luc.

Picard: Are you suggesting that two non-Federation vessels would be incorporated by Star Fleet Command into this loyalty test? That I would be stripped of my command and allowed to embark on this dubious adventure with you, as a test of loyalty to my, ah, former service?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: It does seem unlikely.

Picard: What is your last possible explanation?

Data: An invasion scenario, or a prelude to invasion.

Picard: Are you talking about a shift in the strategic balance of power?

Data: Precisely.

Picard: I have considered this possibility, and I hold it to be the most credible hypothesis. Why do you suspect it, Data?

Data: I have no firm basis to support the hypothesis. I think it is more what you would call a "hunch."

Picard: Most hunches have some foundation in fact. What information do you have would tend to corroborate an invasion hypothesis?

Data: (Pauses, while collecting his thoughts.) The shroud of secrecy; the orders regarding radio silence; the draconian measures taken by Star Fleet Command against your actions, actions that otherwise would be small offenses, if they were seen to be offenses at all; the direct involvement of Admiral Scone, where less senior officers might have been employed to relay Star Fleet Command messages; the exclusive use of coded messages and Captain's-eyes-only communications.

Picard: Good, Data. Now, what is our next step? How can we attempt to pinpoint the threat?

Data: We need more information about the *Nomeny*; information about the mysterious passenger we transported down to Delta-Siretus; and information about the relative state of affairs with known enemies of the Federation.

Picard: And how do we get this information?

Data: As we are limited to the data we have on board the *Tasha-*

Picard: We have exhausted our internal resources, Data. We have to look elsewhere.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: Elsewhere?

Picard: Elsewhere, Data. I suggest we try the computer banks on Starbase 556.

Data: We have no authority to access Federation computer banks, Jean-Luc.

Picard: (Standing, walks over to Data, puts his hand on his shoulder.) In for a penny, Data. Let's give it a try.

Data: Alright, Jean-Luc. But, what are we.

Picard: How do you mean?

Data: Well, I know *who* we are: the *Tasha*. But *what* are we?

Picard: I see. For the sake of accessing Starbase 556, we had better be the *Enterprise*. Can you modulate transmission to duplicate the *Enterprise's* transmission protocol?

Data: I believe I can. But our position will give us away.

Picard: (Rubbing his chin.) I suspect- Data, this is an opportunity to test my premise... if we are denied access it might still prove nothing... but if we are allowed- it would indicate Star Fleet Command's intention that we follow our present course of action.

ACT 3; SCENE 6

ON BOARD THE ENTERPRISE. IN THE WAITING ROOM, RIKER IS SITTING ALONE.

Riker: (To the com.) Star date _____. Acting-Captain William Riker, commanding the starship *Enterprise*. We are heading to Gamma-Trianguli, ostensibly to rendezvous with the Federation starship *Huygens*. The *Enterprise* will reach rendezvous point in under 16 hours. I have reason to suspect that the real purpose of our mission is in fact not to rendezvous with the *Huygens*, but, our placement at Gamma-Trianguli, being near Siretus, is in some respect connected with the presumed destruction of the Federation science vessel *Nomeny*.

THE DOORCHIME SOUNDS.

Riker: Enter.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

DR. PULASKI ENTERS THE READY ROOM.

Pulaski: Captain, I have completed my unofficial investigation, using a, shall we say, unorthodox use of the emergency medical link.

Riker: (Smiling.) Sit down, Kate.

SHE SITS OPPOSITE RIKER AT THE TABLE.

Riker: What have you found?

Pulaski: I have nothing new to add about our passenger, but some interesting facts have come to my attention. I have been able to piece together only fragments of a chronology, but this much is clear: the Federation has only recently made contact with Sybok, although their existence has been known for quite some time. Also, there have been intensive negotiations involving no less than 5 very senior officers in the past 60 days.

Riker: (To the computer.) Display relative position of the planet Sybok.

THE SCREEN DISPLAYS A STAR CHART OF SYBOK AND VARIOUS OTHER PLANETS AND STARS. THE MOST NOTICEABLE FEATURE OF THE CHART IS THE LARGE BAND THAT RUNS ACROSS THE SCREEN WHICH READS "ROMULAN NEUTRAL ZONE".

Riker: They are adjacent to the Romulan Neutral Zone!

Pulaski: And that's not all. Apparently, the negotiations have been quite tense, and the outcome is by no means assured.

Riker: (Contemplative.) Very good, Kate. What else?

Pulaski: Isn't that enough?

Riker: It may be. It just may be...

ACT 3; SCENE 7

ON THE TASHA'S BRIDGE. PICARD AND DATA ARE AT THE CENTRAL CONSOLE. DATA IS TYPING AT THE TERMINAL.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: It's no good, Jean-Luc, we are being refused access to Starbase 556's computers.

Picard: (Standing up, thinking.) Alright, Data... The message that we downloaded from the *Enterprise* computer, the one from the passenger vessel *Ghartbuse*; is their transmission protocol embedded?

Data: I believe so. Checking- yes.

Picard: (Leaning over Data's shoulder, again.) Try to access Starbase 556 computers as the *Ghartbuse*.

Data: But, Jean-Luc, a passenger vessel would not be allowed access to Star Fleet Command data banks.

Picard: Normally, no, they wouldn't. But give it a try anyway, please.

DATA ADJUSTS THE CONTROLS AND TRANSMITS ANOTHER MESSAGE.

Data: (Surprised.) We-- we seem to be... Jean-Luc, we have access. No, it is coded. Wait- (Typing in commands.) there, it is in current code, we are receiving now.

Picard: (Standing up, smiling.) I think we have just been given a sign, Data. Quickly now, download everything on the *Nomeny* incident, especially all references to the mystery passenger, and any relevant information about the current state of affairs with Federation enemies.

Data: Working. Receiving information now.

THE SCREEN FLIPS THROUGH PAGE AFTER PAGE OF TEXT, MOST OF THE PAGES HAVE THE STAR FLEET COMMAND INSIGNIA ON TOP, SOME HAVE "TOP SECRET" OR "CLASSIFIED" STENCILED ACROSS THEM. DATA IS READING THE INFORMATION IN REAL TIME AS THE DOCUMENTS ARE DOWNLOADED FROM STARBASE 556. AFTER SOME 15 SECONDS THE SCREEN GOES BLANK.

Data: Transmission ended. (Turning to Picard.) They seem to have given us everything they had that met our search criterion. Quite remarkable, wouldn't you say?

Picard: Perhaps, Data. Have you assimilated the information?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: Of course, Jean-Luc.

Picard: What is our ETA on Siretus?

Data: We will be in the solar system in 18 minutes.

Picard: And still no other vessels in range?

Data: (Glancing at his sensor) Correct. No contact with vessels, friendly or otherwise. No sign of the *Nomeny*, only the localized distribution of metallic fragments sighted in the asteroid belt.

Picard: Which tends to support the *Ghartbuse's* account. I think we must presume that the *Nomeny* has been destroyed. Are you scanning for lifeforms?

Data: Continued negative reading on lifeform sweeps.

Picard: Data, brief me on the salient aspects of the information from Starbase 556.

Data: (Collecting his thoughts.) The *Nomeny* appears to have been a science vessel on a routine science survey. The passenger we transported down to Delta-Siretus is one Arbet Leal, a Sybok, assigned to the *Nomeny* in the capacity of astro-physicist, as a good-will gesture between the Federation and the Syboks.

Picard: A Sybok?

Data: Yes.

Picard: Go on, Data.

Data: The status between the Federation and know enemies, including the Ferengi, Orion, Harada and Momokate appears to be static. There have been no reports on the Borg since the *Enterprise's* initial encounter with them. The situation regarding the Romulans is, however, fluid.

Picard: Explain.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: There is an apparent urgency on the Federation's part to secure sensing stations along the gaps in our coverage of the Romulan Neutral Zone. Sensing equipment has recently been installed in various new locations; there has been a general retrofit of sensing equipment at existing outposts; and negotiations are currently underway for the rights to a sensor station at Sybok.

Picard: Again, Data.

Data: Negotiations for a sensor station at Sybok-

Picard: At Sybok! Data, the gears have just clicked together!

Data: (Looking at the console.) Gears, Jean-Luc?

Picard: Think, Data: the passenger is Sybok; the Federation is interested in Sybok from an urgent, strategic vantage. It must be the connection we've been looking for!

Data: If we reformulate our theory with a prelude to Romulan invasion as causality- a number of facts would fall into place.

Picard: Elaborate.

Data: One: if the Romulan's have finally overcome their inability to fire their weapons while remaining cloaked, they would likely preface an invasion with a test of their newfound capabilities against a Federation vessel. Two: if they wished to conceal their test from the Federation they would likely choose a target far away from the Neutral Zone, so that whatever the outcome, the Romulans would not immediately be suspected. Three: the choice of the *Nomeny* as target for their test is perfectly consistent with this scheme- it is, or was, a late-model science vessel outfitted for work in an asteroid belt, with state-of-the-art defensive shields. And it was unarmed, and far from the Neutral Zone.

Picard: (Shaking his head in agreement.) And, unarmed, the *Nomeny* would have proven no threat to the Romulans, if their test failed. They could simply return home, still cloaked, and the Federation would likely be none the wiser.

Data: The indications are, Jean-Luc, that their test did *not* fail.

Picard: (Troubled.) Quite the contrary, it seems to have been a devastating Romulan success.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

END OF ACT 3

ACT 4; SCENE 1

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ROMULAN SHIP. KARLISS, THE ROMULAN CAPTAIN, IS SEATED AT HER CENTER POSITION. ROMULAN OFFICERS ATTEND THEIR STATIONS SURROUNDING HER. ALL OF THE DIALOGUE IS IN ROMULAN, WITH ENGLISH SUB-TITLES.

Romulan 1: Commander, the Orion ship continues to close. It is definitely heading into this system. Its defensive screens are lowered.

Karliss: Hold our position. Alert me when it is in range of our destructor beam.

Romulan 1: Affirmative!

ACT 4; SCENE 2

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE *TASHA* ENTERING THE SIRETIAN SOLAR SYSTEM. THE ASTEROID BELT IS PARTIALLY VISIBLE, AS ARE A NUMBER OF PLANETS.

ACT 4; SCENE 3

ON THE *TASHA*'S BRIDGE. PICARD IS IN THE CAPTAIN'S SEAT, DATA IS AT THE CENTRAL CONSOLE.

Picard: The question is, Data, presuming we are correct, where is the Romulan ship now?

Data: With their test completed, and the outcome proven successful, I would venture that they are on their way back, to cross the Neutral Zone and report their triumph.

Picard: Perhaps... I do not believe they would risk breaking radio silence to report back, that would tip their hand; although, they may feel themselves to be invincible, regardless of the Federation's state of preparedness.

Data: Then should we not alert Star Fleet Command, in order to intercept the Romulans before they cross back into the Neutral Zone?

Picard: No. I do not want to break our radio silence, just in case the Romulan ship is nearby. If we are walking into a trap, I don't want the Romulans to know what we suspect. Furthermore, Star Fleet Command already knows as much as we do- probably a great deal more, in fact. Besides, how would they find the ship?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: A trap? Do you think the Romulan ship is still at Siretus?

Picard: Perhaps, yes... I think so.

Data: Why?

Picard: It is my guess that there's is a two-stage test. First against an unarmed opponent, then, if successful, against the starship the Federation would send to determine the disposition of the *Nomeny*. Only after defeating a starship would the Romulans be able to return home with certain knowledge of their supremacy over the Federation.

Data: Then we are in grave danger, Jean-Luc.

Picard: Perhaps. In the guise of an Orion slave ship we may be spared Romulan attack. Data, establish orbit around Delta-Siretus. We will beam our Sybok friend aboard- he may be able to help us clarify the situation.

ACT 4; SCENE 4

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE ENTERPRISE WARPING THROUGH SPACE.

ACT 4; SCENE 5

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ENTERPRISE. RIKER AND TROI AT CENTER WELL; WORF ABOVE AND BEHIND; CRUSHER AND BACKUP PERSONNEL AT FORWARD STATIONS.

Riker: How long until we reach rendezvous point, Mr. Crusher?

Crusher: Another 3.2 hours, sir.

Riker: Mr. Worf- status report.

Worf: Shields down, no vessels within sensor range, no communication from Star Fleet Command, or the *Huygens*, sir.

Riker: Mr. Worf, raise shields, have all stations go to yellow alert.

Worf: Yellow alert! Shields raised, Captain!

Troi: Do you expect trouble at the rendezvous point?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Riker: I've been expecting trouble since Jean-Luc and Data left.

ACT 4; SCENE 6

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ROMULAN SHIP. KARLISS AT CAPTAIN'S CHAIR IN CENTER; ROMULANS MANNING STATIONS SURROUNDING HER.

Romulan 1: Commander, the Orion ship is within range.

Karliss: Long range sensor sweep- are we alone?

Romulan 1: We are alone: the Orion ship is ours!

Karliss: Arm destructor beam. Lock onto the Orion ship.

Romulan 2: Destructor beam armed. Orion ship targeted.

Karliss: Prepare to fire at my signal.

Romulan 1: Commander- we have a reading now, just coming into range, at the edge of our sensors: another vessel.

Karliss: (Standing abruptly.) Hold fire!

Romulan 1: Holding, Commander.

Karliss: Who is it?

Romulan 1: It is a Federation starship. And, Captain, her defensive screens are engaged! Could they be detecting us?

Karliss: Impossible! At this range they couldn't detect us even with our cloaking switched off! (Sitting.) But, to be safe, allow the Orion ship to pass. (Aside.) We can take care of it after the Federation ship is destroyed.

ACT 4; SCENE 7

ON THE TASHA'S BRIDGE, DATA IS ALONE AT THE CENTRAL CONSOLE.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Data: (To the com.) We are in geostationary orbit above the cache, Jean-Luc.

ACT 4; SCENE 8

IN THE TASHA'S TRANSPORTER ROOM. PICARD IS WORKING THE TRANSPORTER'S CONTROLS.

Picard: (To the com.) Excellent, Data. Am beaming our passenger aboard now.

Data: (Over the com.) Jean-Luc, I must reiterate: the Orion transporter will not screen out contamination like the Enterprise's transporter. It is a risk to remove the stasis field.

Picard: (To the com.) I believe it is a greater risk not to.

THE TRANSPORTER BEAMS ENGAGES. A BODY IN STASIS APPEARS ON THE TRANSPORTER'S FLOOR. PICARD WALKS OVER TO IT AND, AFTER REMOVING HIS ORION PHASER GUN AND SETTING IT ON STUN, HE HOLDS A MEDICAL DEVICE TO THE PASSENGER'S HEAD, MOVES HIS ARM DOWN THE LENGTH OF ITS BODY, PEELING AWAY THE STASIS COVERING. THE SYBOK AWAKENS. HE IS HUMAN-LIKE, WITH LONG DARK HAIR, DEEP PIERCING EYES AND GILL SLITS ON EACH SIDE OF HIS NECK. HE IS DRESSED SIMPLY, IN A MULTICOLORED, WRAP-AROUND ROBE. HE LOOKS PUZZLED.

Picard: (Running a medical scan over Leal.) Relax, Arbet Leal, you are among friends. How do you feel?

Leal: Who are you? (Looking around.) Where am I?

Picard: It is a long story to tell. Please believe me, we are your friends, and we have many questions to ask of you. But there is very little time. Will you help us?

Leal: (Sitting up.) I will cooperate, certainly.

Picard: (Helping Leal to stand.) Good. Do you feel up to walking to the bridge?

LEAL, A LITTLE WOBBLY, WITH PICARD HELPING HIM, WALK OUT OF THE TRANSPORTER ROOM.

ACT 4: SCENE 9

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE *ENTERPRISE*- AS BEFORE.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Worf: Captain, we are in long range contact with the Siretian system. There is a ship orbiting Delta-Siretus.

Riker: Picard and Data?

Worf: Unknown at this time.

Riker: (To Troi.) Do you sense anything?

Troi: Not at this distance. But there is a great deal of tension on *this* ship.

Riker: Good. I want the ship tense and alert.

Troi: You suspect-- something, some specific threat.

Riker: (Nodding.) Yes.

ACT 4; SCENE 10

ON BOARD THE ROMULAN SHIP- AS BEFORE.

Karliss: Is the Federation ship still approaching?

Romulan 1: Yes, Commander.

Karliss: Excellent. And the Orion ship- where is it?

Romulan 1: They have activated their transporter beam above the forth planet.

Karliss: I see... perhaps that explains the structure on that planet. It may be a storehouse. I wonder what they are storing... we will have time to find out after...

ACT 4; SCENE 11

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE TASHA. DATA IS AT THE CENTRAL CONSOLE. THE DOOR OPENS AND PICARD AND LEAL ENTER THE BRIDGE.

Picard: Arbet Leal, I would like to introduce you to my friend Data.

DATA RISES. LEAL APPROACHES HIM.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Leal: You are not human?

Data: No. I am an android.

Leal: An android? (Looking him over, inquisitively.) I have never met an android before.

Data: And I have never met a Sybok before.

Leal: (To Picard) Are there many like him?

Picard: (Smiling.) No, Arbet Leal, there is no one else like him in the galaxy!

DATA SMILES AND SITS BACK DOWN. PICARD MOVES WITH LEAL TO THE CENTER SEAT.
PICARD SITS, LEAL STANDS BESIDE HIM.

Picard: Now, Arbet Leal-

Leal: Jean-Luc, please call me "*Arbet*".

Picard: Arbet, there are a number of questions we need to have answered. To begin: what is the last thing you remember about the *Nomeny*?

Leal: (Thinking.) I remember that we received a message from Star Fleet Command. Something very urgent. Then I remember being taken to sickbay- I don't know why. And then- well, then I woke up (Looking around.) here.

Data: He was rendered unconscious before being placed in stasis. That is normal procedure.

Leal: Where are we? What is this ship?

Picard: Arbet, why would you have been transported off of the *Nomeny*?

Leal: Was I? Yes, of course, I must have been. Why? I don't know why.

Picard: Think, Arbet, was there any emergency on board the *Nomeny*? A medical emergency, perhaps?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Leal: Medical- no, not to my knowledge. Why do you ask?

Picard: Was there anything out of the ordinary- did the *Nomeny* discover anything unusual, an alien lifeform?

Leal: Alien lifeform? We are an astrological survey vessel. We do have a biologist on board, but we are mainly interested in geologic and other physical phenomena in the asteroid belt. I am studying the natural radio source Gamma-Siretus-1. We made no contact with any lifeforms.

Data: What about the lifeforms on Delta-Siretus?

Leal: The emergency settlement? We never actually landed on the planet-the shelter was beamed down from the cargo hold of the transportation ship that also brought the *Nomeny* to Siretus.

Picard: (Standing.) Please sit, Arbet.

Leal: I think I should stand, Jean-Luc, get the feeling back in my legs.

Picard: (Gesturing.) Please...

Leal: Alright, if you insist. (He sits.)

Picard: Arbet, what I am about to say will no doubt be very painful for you-- but there is no easy way to say it and there is very little time. (Drawing a deep breath.) Arbet, the *Nomeny* has, apparently, been destroyed. There are no signs of survivors.

Leal: (Saddened.) Destroyed? But... how?

Picard: We were hoping you might know.

Leal: (Looking around.) Who are you? What is this ship?

Picard: Arbet, we are here to find out what happened to the *Nomeny*.

Leal: Are you with the Federation?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: Ah, yes and no.

Leal: What does that mean?

Picard: Please, Arbet, trust us. There is little time and we may be in danger even now.

Leal: Danger? From what?

Data: From whom, you mean.

Picard: What Data means is that we suspect that the destruction of the *Nomeny* was no accident. We believe that Star Fleet Command knew the *Nomeny* was in danger and that is why you were transported off of her. The question is- why?

Leal: Are you saying... saying that I alone was spared?

Picard: (Nodding.) Why?

Leal: (Trying to collect his thoughts.) I... who do you suspect cause the destruction.

Picard: (Hesitant, then relenting.) The Romulans.

Leal: Romulans? Why? Our research was not--

Picard: It was not your research that caused the destruction of the *Nomeny*, it was your location. If we are correct in our assumptions, the *Nomeny* was destroyed because it was the right ship in the right place for a test of a new weapon system. It was, if we are correct, a prelude to invasion. And, again, if we are correct, the Romulan ship is even now here, in this system, cloaked from our sensors, ready to strike again. The urgent question for us now, the key to the riddle as it were, is: why were you spared?

Leal: There is much to consider... And I still don't know who you are.

Picard: Please help us, Arbet. Why you?

Leal: (Thinking.) I honestly do not know why. I am worth the same as anyone.

Picard: On Sybok, then, who are you there?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Leal: On Sybok? On Sybok I am a student of astro-physics.

Data: Why were *you* chosen to join the *Nomeny's* team?

Leal: The Federation is negotiating with Sybok for a treaty. I was chosen as a gesture of friendship between our peoples.

Picard: At random?

Leal: Well, one of the men speaking with the Federation is my father.

PICARD AND DATA STARE AT EACH OTHER.

Picard: Your father? You didn't think that was of importance?

Leal: Not to us, Jean-Luc. On Sybok all life is precious. Any Sybok would give his own to save another life- even an alien life. Kinship ties do not make my life any more or any less precious in the eyes of my father.

Data: But the Federation did not know that—

Picard: -- The Federation assumed that your death would be damaging, perhaps even fatal, to the negotiations.

Leal: Why?

Picard: Your race and our's evidently have different attitudes... the important thing is, this confirms our suspicions. (To Data.) I believe that our Romulan scenario is correct.

Data: I calculate a high order of probability, as well, Jean-Luc. Should we raise our shields?

Picard: If they are here, and wanted to destroy the *Tasha*, they could easily have done so by now. No, Data, let's not provoke them.

Leal: Please, who are you?

Picard: Yes, yes, of course...

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

ACT 4; SCENE 12

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE *ENTERPRISE* WARPING THROUGH SPACE.

ACT 4; SCENE 13

ON THE *ENTERPRISE*, AS BEFORE.

Riker: Mr. Worf, can you confirm the ship at Delta-Siretus as Jean-Luc's?

Worf: No, sir, not at this range.

Riker: Damn. It *must* be them... (Standing.) Mr. Crusher-how long now?

Crusher: We will reach rendezvous point in 54 minutes, sir.

Riker: Mr. Worf, call all senior staff to the ready room immediately. Keep the ship on yellow alert, defensive shields at maximum.

Worf: Aye, aye, sir.

RIKER AND TROI LEAVE THE BRIDGE.

ACT 4; SCENE 14

IN THE *ENTERPRISE* READY ROOM. RIKER, TROI, WORF, LaFORGE AND PULASKI SIT AROUND THE TABLE.

Riker: I have called you here to discuss our situation. I believe that we are not going to rendezvous with the *Huygens*, and that the *Nomeny* was destroyed by Romulans.

THERE IS A GENERAL STIRRING, A SENSE OF ALARM.

Riker: I believe that we are being positioned in proximity to the Siretian system in order to engage the Romulan vessel when she shows itself.

LaForge: If a Romulan vessel is out there- why would she show itself?

Riker: When she takes the bait, her relative position may become clear.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Worf: You mean Captain Picard and Commander Data's ship.

Riker: Exactly.

Troi: Why do you suspect a Romulan ship?

Riker: I may be wrong, but that is my best guess, and, I think, it is what we should prepare for.

LaForge: But *how* do we prepare for that?

Worf: You suspect they have mastered the ability to fire while cloaked?

Riker: I do, Mr. Worf. The question is: can we stop her?

LaForge: (Shaking his head.) I don't see how.

Worf: I believe that we should initiate separation before we reach rendezvous point.

Riker: I've thought of that- and normally I would concur. But there are two reasons that make me hesitate: if we are destroyed, the Romulans will certainly find the saucer section an inviting target. Secondly, if we initiate separation we will be signaling to the Romulans that we know they are out there.

Worf: Does not having our shields raised signal that as well?

Riker: Maybe. I am open to discussion on the question of separation. But, foremost, we must develop tactics to allow us to engage the Romulans with a chance of success, given their technological edge.

Worf: *Edge?!* It is an overwhelming advantage!

Riker: Such as it is. Suggestions?

Worf: *If* we could locate her we might be able to fool her sensors, as we did to the *Enterprise* in our war games maneuvers.

LaForge: *If* we could locate her- then we would stand a chance almost regardless of our strategy. The point is we *can't* locate her.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Riker: Can we broadcast misleading sensor data in a wide field?

LaForge: You mean, blanket the entire solar system?

Worf: We could, perhaps, blanket an area- a few hundred kilometers.

LaForge: That would entail linking communications directly to the warp drive for power. (To Riker.) It would be a sizeable drain on the system. We might lose quite a bit of speed, unless we tapped into reserves. But then, as you know, our shields would fail sooner.

Riker: Other approaches? (To the computer.) Screen on.

THE SCREEN DISPLAYS A CHART OF THE SIRETIAN SYSTEM.

Riker: What about the Siretian system, itself. Can we take advantage of the asteroid belt's "anomalous phenomena", which Data mentioned?

LaForge: The natural radio source?

Worf: Perhaps we could hide ourselves behind it.

LaForge: Assuming we knew where "behind" was- relative to the Romulan ship. For all we know, that may be where *they* are hiding!

Pulaski: Captain, what about Jean-Luc and Data?

Riker: What about them?

Pulaski: Do they suspect what you suspect?

Riker: What are you getting at?

Troi: I think I see... If we can guess what Jean-Luc and Data will do, perhaps we can work in a cooperative fashion against the Romulans.

Riker: Good point. Mr. Worf, if you were commanding the Orion ship, how would you approach the situation?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Worf: I would head for the asteroid belt, the densest part. There my superior maneuverability could be used to the best advantage. I would lay out a path of plasma mines and hope my opponent stumbled into one.

Riker: Geordi?

LaForge: I agree with Worf. Speed and maneuverability, and the hiding places that the asteroid belt offers, would be my tact. Cat-and-mouse with the Romulans.

Riker: If that is what Jean-Luc will do, how can we best compliment it?

Troi: Captain, do Jean-Luc and Data even know we are here?

Worf: At the rendezvous point range- no. But as we enter the Siretian system-

LaForge: So we can't assume that they are making plans with us in mind.

Riker: No we can't. But that still doesn't mean that we shouldn't try to anticipate *their* thinking.

Worf: I would rather try to anticipate the *Romulan's* thinking!

Riker: Alright, Worf- what is the Romulan game plan?

Worf: Sit still. Wait until we are in range- then blast us apart!

LaForge: That's helpful.

Troi: Perhaps it is. What if we stay out of the system altogether?

Pulaski: For that matter: what if Star Fleet Command doesn't give us permission to enter the system?

LaForge: (Aside.) We should be so lucky!

Riker: Aren't you forgetting something?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

LaForge: No, sir. (Serious.) I want to see Jean-Luc and Data again, too.

Riker: We will be at rendezvous point in (Looking at the screen.) 51 minutes. At that time I want another meeting. (Rising.) And gentlemen, I expect some firm options.

LaFORGE AND WORF LOOK WARILY AT EACH OTHER.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT 5: SCENE 1

ON THE ROMULAN BRIDGE, AS BEFORE.

Romulan 1: They continue to just sit there. Their shields are still engaged. It appears that they are not in normal operating configuration, Commander: their "saucer section" is missing.

Karliss: (To herself.) Deployed for combat... Why don't they approach? Are they waiting for reinforcement? Are you sure there are no other ships in range?

Romulan 1: Only the Orion ship- it is still orbiting the forth planet. What should we do?

Karliss: *Do?* We will do nothing. Time is on our side. If they send two or ten starships- we will prove victorious! But it is troubling that they do not approach. There may have been a breach of security. The presence of the Orion ship is also suspicious.

Romulan 1: Shouldn't we go after the Federation starship, Commander?

Karliss: I will give them some time. It is important to find out what they know- before we destroy them!

ACT 5: SCENE 2

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE *TASHA* ORBITING DELTA-SIRETUS.

ACT 5; SCENE 3

ON THE *TASHA*'S BRIDGE. PICARD IS SEATED IN THE CENTER SEAT, DATA AT THE CENTRAL CONSOLE, LEAL IS SEATED AT A CONSOLE NEAR DATA.

Data: If we only knew for sure that the Romulan ship is out there.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: Finding *that* out could cost us our lives. Arbet, are you familiar with the theory behind invisibility screens?

Leal: The selective bending of light, yes.

Picard: Your civilization is very advanced: do you know of any way to defeat such technology?

Leal: All light waves can be occulted. If a cloaked ship passed through a specific frequency, some occultation will take place. That is the basis for all of your sensing equipment. Defeating an invisibility screen requires determining the correct frequencies and viewing location relative to the occultation. And *that*, requires knowing where to target your frequencies. Further, it is conceivable that the necessary power to force an occultation is greater than that provided by the present generation of Federation starships. It may even require more power than Sybok technology has yet developed.

Data: How would one determine the correct frequency and location?

Leal: (Shrugging.) Trial and error?

Picard: The first error, I'm afraid, would be our last. Is there no other way?

Leal: I will have to think about that. (Turns to a console.)

Data: I have another question, Jean-Luc. If she is out there, why hasn't the Romulan ship attacked us yet?

Picard: I don't know, Data. Perhaps she has limited reserves, only enough to defeat one starship, in addition to the *Nomeny*. Perhaps she senses other ships and doesn't want to reveal her position. Perhaps the Romulan Federation has signed a pact with the Orions, with the intention of fighting only one enemy at a time. (Pause.) As we seem relatively safe here... (Yawning, he rises.) Data- you have the bridge.

Data: What are you going to do?

Picard: I propose to get some sleep! I've been up for... almost 40 hours, I want to be fresh for what awaits us.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

DATA LOOKS ASTONISHED. HE PAUSES, THEN RESUMES HIS WORK AS PICARD APPROACHES THE THRESHOLD OF THE DOORWAY OFF THE BRIDGE.

Data: (Turning.) Jean-Luc, do you know what awaits us?

Picard: No, Data, you know as much as I do. But I have a- feeling. I think our hunch is correct.

ACT 5: SCENE 4

PANORAMIC SHOT OF THE *ENTERPRISE*, STATIONARY, AT RENDEZVOUS POINT.

ACT 5; SCENE 5

IN THE READY ROOM OF THE *ENTERPRISE*, AS BEFORE, WITHOUT LaFORGE.

Riker: What have you come up with, Mr. Worf?

Worf: Lieutenant LaForge and Ensign Crusher are working on a plan that has some promise, Captain.

Riker: Explain.

Worf: As you know, Ensign Crusher has been working on a spatial- displacement project.

Riker: The holodeck simulation? What does that have to do with our situation?

Worf: Sir, it may be the key to defeating the Romulans!

ACT 5; SCENE 6

ON BOARD THE *TASHA*. IN THE SLEEPING QUARTERS- A ROOM WITH HAMMOCKS STRUNG FROM THE WALLS. PICARD IS ASLEEP IN ONE. THE CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON HIS FACE. THE IMAGE BLURS. WE ARE SEEING HIS DREAM. IT IS AN OPERATING THEATRE. ADMIRAL SCONE IS DISSECTING A LIVE DOG.

Scone: As you can see, the movements can be controlled by an application of force at these points. It is regrettable that the loss of life... (The voice trails off into a reverberation.) THERE IS A CLOSE-UP OF THE DOG'S HEAD. SADLY, YET LOVINGLY, HE LICKS THE HAND THAT IS DISSECTING HIM. THE CAMERA PANS UP THE ADMIRAL'S BODY. IT RESTS ON THE FACE- WHICH IS NOW PICARD'S.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

BACK TO REAL LIFE: PICARD AWAKENS, IN A COLD SWEAT. DATA'S VOICE IS PIPING INTO THE ROOM.

Data: (Over the com.) Jean-Luc, please come to the bridge immediately. Jean-Luc!

ACT 5; SCENE 7

PANORAMIC SHOT OF THREE ENTERPRISES, MINUS THE SAUCER SECTION, ENTERING THE SIRETIAN SYSTEM. THE ASTEROID BELT AND VARIOUS PLANETS ARE IN VIEW.

ACT 5; SCENE 8

ON BOARD THE ROMULAN SHIP. THE BRIDGE IS AWASH IN RED.

Romulan 1: (Panicky.) It is as though they just... multiplied! ... There are three starships now- where there was only one-

Karliss: (Standing.) Three! Impossible!

Romulan 1: There *are* three-

Karliss: Are they in range?

Romulan 1: (Composing himself.) Coming into range in 35 seconds, Commander!

ACT 5; SCENE 9

ON THE *TASHA'S* BRIDGE. DATA AND LEAL ARE SEATED AT THE CENTRAL CONSOLE. THE DOOR OPENS, PICARD RUSHES ONTO THE BRIDGE. HE GLANCES AT THE SCREEN AND STOPS SHORT AT THE IMAGE OF THREE *ENTERPRISES*.

Data: It is the *Enterprise*, she's entered the system!

Picard: (Staring at the screen.) How is that being done?

Data: Unknown. All three images are registering on my sensors- no differences.

Picard: Prepare for warp jump into the asteroid belt.

Data: Sir?

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: Do it Data- now! Prepare to get us into the asteroid belt at best speed.

Data: Aye, sir.

ACT 5; SCENE 10

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE ENTERPRISES CLOSING.

ACT 5; SCENE 11

ON THE ROMULAN SHIP, AS BEFORE.

Romulan 1: The Federation ship- ships are in range, Commander!

Karliss: Target all three! Plot course to 361, mark 7. Engage warp drive as soon as we've fired. Status of the Orion ship?

Romulan 1: No change, their shields are down. Course plotted. Ready for warp drive.

Karliss: (Musing.) Still down...

Romulan 2: Targeting. We have all three, Commander!

Karliss: Fire destructor beams!

ACT 5; SCENE 12

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THREE ENTERPRISES BEING HIT BY THE DESTRUCTOR BEAMS. THE BEAMS PASS THROUGH THE TWO SHIPS ON THE RIGHT, BUT BLAST THE REAL ENTERPRISE.

ACT 5; SCENE 13

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ENTERPRISE. RIKER AND TROI AT THE CENTER WELL, WORF AND LaFORGE AT THEIR STATIONS ABOVE AND BEHIND, CRUSHER AND BACKUP PERSONNEL AT FORWARD STATIONS. THE BRIDGE ROCKS TO THE BLAST.

Worf: It worked! They had to target all three images!

Riker: A few more successes like that... Is automatic firing control responding?

Worf: It is! But we had no fix to fire on.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Riker: Damn! Target the angle of the incoming blast- fire phasers!

Worf: Phasers firing.

ACT 5; SCENE 14

ON THE ROMULAN BRIDGE, AS BEFORE.

Romulan 1: Commander-- we register a hit on only the ship at bearing 624 mark 9, warp 1.

Karliss: An illusion! Target the real ship and fire destructor beams!

Romulan 2: Firing!

Romulan 1: They are returning fire- at our previous position!

Karliss: (Smiling.) 212 mark 7- now!

ACT 5; SCENE 15

PANORAMIC VIEW OF DESTRUCTOR BEAMS SLICING THROUGH A FALSE IMAGE OF THE *ENTERPRISE*.

ACT 5; SCENE 16

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE *ENTERPRISES*, RETURNING FIRE. THE PHASER BEAMS SLICE THROUGH EMPTY SPACE.

ACT 5; SCENE 17

ON THE ENTERPRISE BRIDGE, AS BEFORE.

Worf: Clean misses, sir, both incoming and outgoing. Retargeting... firing!

ACT 5; SCENE 18

ON THE *TASHA*, AS BEFORE. ON THE SCREEN THE ENTERPRISES ARE DODGING ABOUT, SHOOTING AT EMPTY SPACE. DESTRUCTOR BEAMS STREAK ACROSS SPACE, TARGETING ALL THREE *ENTERPRISES* AND HITTING THE REAL ONE, FIRST AS THE CENTER, AND THEN AS AN END IMAGE. PICARD WATCHES THE ONGOING BATTLE.

Data: They are helpless. Jean-Luc. The *Enterprise's* shields will weaken soon-

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: Arm meun torpedoes and plasma mines.

Data: Arming... armed, Sir.

Picard: Data- (Turning to him.) on my mark: raise shields and get us to the asteroid belt!

Data: Aye, sir... ready.

Picard: (Watching the screen.)... Now!!

ACT 5: SCENE 19

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE TASHA JUMPING INTO WARP SPEED. IT IS IMMEDIATELY REPLACED BY A RIVER OF ASTEROID: BOULDERS, ROCKS, HUGE CHUCKS HURL PAST THEM AS THE TASHA DODGES THROUGH THE ASTEROID BELT AT SUBLIGHT SPEED.

ACT 6: SCENE 20

ON THE TASHA, AS BEFORE. THE SCREEN SHOWS ASTEROIDS CAREENING PAST. THE BRIDGE IS NUDGED AS AN ASTEROID STRIKES THE SHIP'S SHIELD. DATA IS PILOTING THE SHIP ON MANUAL WHILE WORKING OTHER EQUIPMENT. THE BRIDGE IS ROCKED AS AN ASTEROID STRIKES THEIR SHIELD.

Picard: (Moves to Data.) I'll take navigation controls- raise the *Enterprise*. Prepare to lay out a pattern of 5 mines, in a non-linear formation.

DATA SLIDES OVER, MAKING ROOM FOR PICARD WHO SITS. PICARD TAKES CONTROL OF NAVIGATION AND IS ABSORBED IN THE TASK OF DODGING THE ASTEROIDS.

Data: Mine pattern is set. We have the *Enterprise*.

Riker: (Voice only, over the com.) Jea-- (Sound of blast impacting the *Enterprise* in the background.)

Picard: (Interrupting, speaking to the com, as he dodges the asteroids.) This is the Orion ship *Tasha*. Why are you firing? Break off your attack. We have weapons that can defeat your tractor beams and will deploy them in (Pausing, looking at the screen.) 1.4 minutes. Leave the star system then and we will not pursue you. Orion ship out.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

PICARD SIGNALS DATA TO CLOSE THE CHANNEL. DATA DOES SO AND LOOKS QUIZZICALLY AT PICARD.

ACT 6; SCENE 21

ON THE ROMULAN SHIP, AS BEFORE.

Romulan 1: The Orion ship has entered the asteroid belt. They have communicated with the starship- a warning not to use their tractor beams and to leave the system or be attacked.

Karliss: Bold talk! Continue the attack on the Federation ship!

Romulan 2: Firing, Commander!

ACT 6; SCENE 22

ON THE ENTERPRISE, AS BEFORE. THE SHIP IS ROCKED BY ROMULAN DESTRUCTOR BEAMS AT REGULAR INTERVALS THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING SCENE.

Worf: Shields down 23%. What did the message mean?

Riker: Mr. Crusher, at present speed and heading, calculate the location of the *Tasha* in 1.4 minutes from the time of their communication.

Crusher: Calculating... Sir that would put them directly in the center of the *Nomeny* debris field!

Riker: (Smiling.) Ensign, signal me when the *Tasha* leaves the debris field! Commence evasive maneuvers. Mr. Worf, continue automatic firing sequence.

Crusher: Aye sir, evasive maneuvers commencing.

Worf: Firing sequence on automatic- we have not registered a hit on the Romulan ship yet!

Riker: Mr. LaForge, prepare for maximum warp.

LaForge: Captain, with our present drain, maximum will only be warp 5.

Riker: Understood, Mr. LaForge. Mr. Crusher- lay in a course that will take us as close to the debris field as possible, without entering it.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Crusher: Aye, sir. Course plotted.

Worf: (After another impact.) Sir- shields are continuing to weaken- down another 11%!

Riker: Keep the shields up! We have to buy some time. Redirect nonessential power to the shields!

Worf: Aye, sir!

Troi: Did you understand the message?

Riker: (Aside.) I hope so! Mr. Crusher, time.

Crusher: The Orio- the *Tasha* is about to enter the debris field, sir. She'll be leaving it in 16 seconds.

Worf: Sir, the... *Tasha* is jettison... sir- they're laying out plasma mines.

Riker: Understood. Ready on my mark to leave the star system at maximum warp! Prepare to switch to aft view screen.

Worf: Aye, aye, sir!

Crusher: The *Tasha* is nearly out... sir, coming on 1.4 minute mark... now!

Riker: Go!

ACT 6: SCENE 23

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE *ENTERPRISES* WARPING THROUGH THE ASTEROID BELT, PASSING THE DEBRIS FIELD AND THE *TASHA* AS IT GOES INTO DEEP SPACE.

ACT 6; SCENE 24

ON THE ROMULAN SHIP, AS BEFORE.

Romulan 1: Commander, the Federation ship is leaving the star system at warp 5!

Karliss: (Standing.) Pursue them! Target the Orion ship as we pass!

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Romulan 2: Orion ship targeted.

Karliss: Fire!

ACT 6; SCENE 25

PANORAMIC VIEW OF A DESTRUCTOR BEAM, ORIGINATING ABOVE THE DEBRIS FIELD, SLAMMING INTO THE *TASHA*.

ACT 6; SCENE 26

ON THE *TASHA*, AS BEFORE. THE SHIP IS ROCKED BY THE DESTRUCTOR BEAMS BLAST. SPARKS FLY FROM A CONSOLE IN THE REAR.

Data: Shields down 48%! Outer hull buckling increased by 7%. Bypassing burned-out circuits. (Turning to Picard.) Their weapons have enormous power, Jean-Luc.

Picard: Have the Romulans missed the mines?

ACT 6; SCENE 27

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE *TASHA* DODGING ASTEROIDS, MOVING IN A ZIG-ZAG FASHION.

ACT 6; SCENE 28

ON THE *ENTERPRISE*, AS BEFORE. THE AFT VIEW SCREEN SHOWS A PINPOINT OF LIGHT OVERTAKING THE SHIP, FOLLOWED BY A CRASHING AND ROCKING OF THE BRIDGE.

Worf: Shields down 56% now! Damage reports coming in-

Riker: Belay that. Fire photon torpedoes aft, wide dispersion, now!

Worf: Firing...

ACT 6; SCENE 29

PANORAMIC VIEW OF PHOTON TORPEDOES FIRING FROM THE AFT OF THE *ENTERPRISES*.

ACT 6; SCENE 30

ON THE ROMULAN SHIP, AS BEFORE. THE SHIP IS ROCKED BY A PHOTON TORPEDO BLAST.

Karliss: Change course to 411 mark 5, warp 7.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Romulan 1: Changing course.

Karliss: Continue firing! Course: 435 mark 9!

Romulan 2: Firing, Commander!

Romulan 1: New heading, 435 mark 3!

ACT 6; SCENE 31

ON THE *ENTERPRISE*, AS BEFORE. SHE TAKES MORE HITS DURING THE SCENE.

Worf: We registered a hit! 216 mark 2, sir!

Riker: Hard about, Mr. Crusher- evasive course back to the debris field. Forward view, magnification 10.

Crusher: Aye, sir, coming about.

Riker: Mr. LaForge, override automatic image switching. Put the false images to port.

LaForge: Overriding sir.

Riker: Mr. Crusher- take the false images through the debris field as we pass.

ON THE FORWARD SCREEN. THE DEBRIS FIELD EMERGES QUICKLY, THE MINES ARE CLEARLY SEEDED IN THE MASS OF METALLIC FRAGMENTS.

ACT 6; SCENE 32

PANORAMIC VIEW OF TWO *ENTERPRISES* PASSING THROUGH THE DEBRIS FIELD, THE REAL *ENTERPRISE* BARELY SKIRTING IT. A MOMENT LATER THERE IS A HUGE EXPLOSION IN THE DEBRIS FIELD.

ACT 6; SCENE 33

ON BOARD THE ROMULAN SHIP, AS BEFORE, RECOVERING FROM THE BLAST.

Romulan 1: Some kind of plasma device- our shields are down 26%!

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Karliss: Clever of them. Continue pursuit of the Federation ship- fire at will.

Romulan 2: Firing, Commander!

ACT 6; SCENE 34

ON BOARD THE *ENTERPRISE*, AS BEFORE. BLASTS CONTINUE TO ROCK THE BRIDGE DURING THIS SCENE.

Worf: Plasma mines detonated!

Riker: Continue evasive maneuvers, Mr. Crusher!

ACT 6; SCENE 35

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE THREE *ENTERPRISES* BEING STRUCK BY DESTRUCTOR BEAMS. AS THE BEAM PASSES THROUGH ONE OF THE FALSE IMAGES IT STRIKES A LARGE ASTEROID- THE NATURAL RADIO SOURCE. THE ASTEROID BEGINS TO WOBBLE ABOUT ON ITS AXIS OF ROTATION.

ACT 6; SCENE 36

ON BOARD THE *TASHA*, AS BEFORE.

Data: Jean-Luc- the Romulan ship- I had a reading for a second-

Picard: Target reading and fire meun torpedoes!

Data: Firing!

ACT 6; SCENE 37

PANORAMIC VIEW OF MEUN TORPEDOES FIRING FROM THE *TASHA*. THEY DETONATE IN EMPTY SPACE.

ACT 6; SCENE 38

ON BOARD THE *ENTERPRISE*, WITH BLASTS ROCKING THE BRIDGE, AS BEFORE.

Worf: I had a reading on the Romulan ship- there, again, automatic firing sequence engaged.

ACT 6: SCENE 39

ON BOARD THE ROMULAN SHIP, AS BEFORE. THE BRIDGE IS ROCKED BY A PHASER BLAST.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Karliss: (Standing.) Whats happened to our shields?

Romulan 1: Readings indicate the cloaking device is functioning properly! The Orion ship is also firing at us!

ACT 6; SCENE 40

ON THE *TASHA*, AS BEFORE. SHE IS HIT BY A BLAST.

Data: We continue to get intermittent readings on the Romulan ship. Our shields will give out from another hit of that force!

Picard: Understood, Data. Did the plasma mines damage their ability to remain cloaked?

Data: Uncertain.

Leal: (Turning from the console he was typing at.) Jean-Luc- it is Gamma- Siretus-1, the radio source!

Picard: What?

Leal: Its rotation has become unstable and it is sending out signals of enormous range and dynamics! One of the frequencies must be causing the occultation that Data is sensing! This may be a temporary phenomenon- I am attempting to isolate the frequency.

THE SHIP IS ROCKED BY A TREMENDOUS HIT, ALMOST KNOCKING PICARD TO HIS FEET.

Data: The shields are down. Hull buckling critical. Pressure leakage occurring in engineering section.

Picard: Continue firing!

ACT 6; SCENE 41

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE *ENTERPRISE*, AS BEFORE.

Worf: Scoring regular hits, now, Captain- their cloaking protection is breaking down! The *Tasha* is also bringing tubes to bear!

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Riker: Excellent, target photon torpedoes.

ACT 6; SCENE 42

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE *ENTERPRISE* AND THE *TASHA* FIRING TORPEDOES AT THE SAME SPOT IN EMPTY SPACE. AFTER A MOMENT, THE ROMULAN SHIP BEGINS TO WINK INTO VIEW, THEN STABILIZES, SHOWING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE, SHE IS BEGINNING TO DISINTEGRATE.

ACT 6; SCENE 43

ON BOARD THE *TASHA*. PICARD AND LEAL ARE STANDING BEFORE THE MAIN VIEWER, WATCHING THE ROMULAN SHIP AS IT LISTS, DEVASTATED BY AN ONGOING SERIES OF INTERNAL EXPLOSIONS. PICARD LOOKS RELIEVED, LEAL LOOKS VERY SAD.

Picard: Stop firing.

ACT 6; SCENE 44

ON BOARD THE *ENTERPRISE*, AS BEFORE.

Riker: Hold your fire, Worf.

Worf: Discontinuing, sir. Captain- transportation beam engaging on the Romulan ship!

ACT 6; SCENE 45

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE ROMULAN SHIP EXPLODING. WHEN THE LIGHT DIMS, ONLY A LARGE CHUNK REMAINS.

ACT 6; SCENE 46

ON THE *TASHA*, AS BEFORE. KARLISS MATERIALIZES WITH A PHASER WEAPON TRAINED ON PICARD. PICARD AND LEAL TURN, PICARD MOVES TOWARDS HER. BEFORE DATA CAN REACT SHE FIRES TOWARDS PICARD. LEAL STEPS IN FRONT OF THE BLAST AND IS VAPORIZED. DATA AND PICARD STAND STOCK STILL.

Karliss: You are not Orions! You are with the Federation! Call that ship to transport us to their bridge! If you warn them I will kill both of you!

Picard: Open hailing frequency, Data.

Data: Open, Jean-Luc.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

Picard: Federation starship, this is Captain Riker of the *Tasha*. We request three to beam to the bridge immediately.

ACT 6; SCENE 47

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE ENTERPRISE, AS BEFORE.

Riker: (To the com.) Understood Captain Riker. Beaming now.

RIKER TURNS TO WORF AND SIGNALS FOR HIM TO CLOSE THE CHANNEL.

Riker: Mr. O'Brien- lock onto three on the Orion ship's bridge. Dematerialize, but do not rematerialize until I arrive. Scan for Romulans.

O'Brien: (Over the com.) Yes, sir!

TROI WALKS UP BESIDE RIKER. THEY SMILE. CRUSHER IS TURNED TO FACE THEM, OBVIOUSLY HAPPY.

Riker: Mr. Worf, lead a security team to transporter room one.

Worf: Aye, aye, sir!

END OF ACT SIX

ACT 7; SCENE 1

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE *ENTERPRISE* ORBITING SIRETUS AT THE ASTEROID BELT.

ACT 7; SCENE 2

(IN THE HOLODECK) SCONE, PICARD (STILL IN CIVVIES), AND RIKER ARE STROLLING ACROSS A PEACEFUL MEADOW.

Scone: Men of good conscience cannot blindly obey authority with impunity. Although I know more of this affair than I was able to relate, even I have to rely on a certain amount of trust in the good judgement of Star Fleet Command. But that trust is there. You, Captain Picard, and you as well, Commander Riker, must decide for yourselves.

NOMENY

A Screenplay for the TV Series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
By David Goldsmith 10/10/89

THEY WALK FURTHER AS THE CAMERA PULLS BACK. THE HOLODECK DOOR APPEARS IN THE DISTANCE AND SCONE WALKS THROUGH IT. IT CLOSES, LEAVING PICARD AND RIKER STANDING ALONE IN THE FIELD, FACING EACH OTHER.

ACT 7; SCENE 2

IN THE SHUTTLECRAFT BAY. AN ASSEMBLAGE OF CREW MEMBERS FACE THE SENIOR STAFF, INCLUDING PICARD IN UNIFORM, AND SCONE. PICARD MOVES TO THE CENTER, IN FRONT OF THE SENIOR STAFF, TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY. THE BACKGROUND MUSIC FILTERS IN SUBTLY, BUT RISES TO A SWELL AT THE END OF PICARD'S EULOGY.

Picard: We are here today to pay tribute to the brave men and women of the vessel *Nomeny*. The terrible cost of their loyalty and courage will long be remembered. I had met only one member of the *Nomeny's* personnel- and he for but a few short hours. I owe my life to Arbet Leal as certainly as we, the United Federation of Planets, owe our security to the battle fought here at Siretus, a battle paid for in the lives of the *Nomeny's* crew. This was a great and terrible victory. We have gained a reprieve from inter-galactic war. We have also lost our innocence. You may, as I have, find some solace in Shakespeare's words that it may "*require the bait of falsehood to catch the carp of truth*".

PICARD TURNS AND SIGNALS DATA. DATA MOVES TO A CONSOLE AND PUNCHES IN A CODE THAT OPENS THE HANGER BAY, RELEASING A SERIES OF SMALL ROUND PODS.

ACT 7; SCENE 3

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE PODS TAKING UP EQUIDISTANT POSITIONS IN THE ASTEROID BELT. THEY BEGIN TO TWINKLE LIKE COLORED CHRISTMAS BULBS, FLASHING ON AND OFF RHYTHMICALLY. THE VOICE- OVER IS PICARD. "THERE ARE 21 BEACONS, ONE FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE *NOMENY*. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PULSE TO THE BEAT OF THE FREQUENCIES EMITTED BY GAMMA-SIRETUS 1, AS AN ETERNAL LIGHT IN THE DEPTHS OF SPACE, SO THAT WE SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE *NOMENY*."

THE MUSIC SWELLS, THE CLOSING CREDITS ARE RUN.

END OF STORY