"Bloodlines"

#40273-164

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PRELIMINARY
DECEMBER 14, 1989
FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE – THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Standing stationary in space.

PICARD (V.O.)
Captain's log, Stardate 43657.0
We have arrived at sector
four-eight-seven to begin charting
this area of the galaxy. Commander
Riker has been spared this tedious
mission by virtue of a long overdue
personal leave.

INT. CORRIDOR

GEORDI and WESLEY walking swiftly down the corridor. At a connecting juncture TROI joins them. They are surprised when they realize they are all headed in the same direction.

GEORDI
Did he send for you too?

TROI
Yes... he was very mysterious
about it.

WESLEY
Does anyone have any idea what
this is all about?

They all exchange a long look, "nope, not a clue", and
continue walking.

GEORDI
Something happened at that
cybernetics conference. Since
he's come back he's spent every
off duty minute locked in that
lab.

TROI
It is very unlike Data to be
secretive.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

WESLEY
And cautious. He kept the lab locked.

GEORDI
Now how would you know that?

Wesley reacts with a shrug and a grin. He's been caught. They continue walking until they reach the door to Data's lab. Ring the chime. After a beat, the door slides open and Data stands there, holding a 'human' foot in his hand...

INT. LABORATORY - REVERSE ANGLE

The trio react to the foot...

DATA
Oh, you are early. Just a moment please.

And the door slides closed in their faces... moving with Data as he takes his foot... and without ever going wide enough to see exactly what he's doing...

ANGLE

Data kneels down and attaches the foot to the bottom of a leg. The toes begin to wiggle. Data's face is satisfied. He stands.

DATA
You may enter now.

The door slides open and Data's curious crewmates ENTER.

NEW ANGLE

(and the lab must be arranged so we can have a reveal here... we don't want them to see it as soon as they walk in -- perhaps the blobed set-up is faced away from the door, allows us to screen off line of sight to Lal as they enter.)

GEORDI
C'mon, Data, what is this...

WESLEY
Yeah, what's going on?

(CONTINUED)
DATA
I've invited you here to meet someone.

And now he reveals... an android, but it has no face, yellow eyes, and no hair. It is a primitive mannequin. When it speaks, its voice is computer-like, neither male nor female.

DATA
This is Lal. Lal, say hello to Counselor Deanna Troi...

LAL
Which... human... is... Counselor Deanna Troi... father?

WESLEY
(to Geordi; sotto)
Father?

DATA
The one in the middle. Counselor is her title. Deanna Troi is her name. You may select one of the three as a designation.

LAL
Hello... Troi.

TROI
How do you do, Lal.

LAL
I am functioning... within normal parameters.

DATA
And this is Geordi la Forge and Wesley Crusher.

Lal examines them.

WESLEY
It called you 'father', Data.

DATA
Yes, Wesley. Lal is my child.

On reactions...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER
FADE IN:

INT. LABORATORY

Picard is slowly circling the android while Troi, Geordi, Wesley and Data watch. Data is satisfied with his accomplishment, and the humans are very happy, celebrating with him -- except Picard.

The android shows nothing. It stands ramrod straight and perfectly still, and it displays no curiosity about the human which is inspecting it.

PICARD
Remarkable. Data, I don't know what to say... I suppose congratulations are in order.

DATA
Thank you, sir.
(remembering)
Oh, we must observe the traditions.

He crosses to a console, and takes a box of cigars. Offers them to the humans. They awkwardly accept.

DATA (cont'd)
I would like permission to continue the experiment, Captain.

PICARD
Isn't it a little late to be asking?

DATA
You are angry with me?

PICARD
Concerned, but we'll talk further... in private.

Wesley can't contain himself any longer.

WESLEY
Can Lal speak?

DATA
Naturally, but a direct question or command is required.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

PICARD

No, but...

He exchanges a look with Troi...

PICARD

...in your case... it's not quite the same.

DATA

The intention is the same.

A beat... he sees Picard is not convinced.

DATA

Lal's creation is entirely dependent on me. I am giving it knowledge and skills that are stored in my brain... its programming reflects mine in the same way biological genes reflect a parent's genes...

GEORDI

It's true, Captain, the technology doesn't work without a positronic brain that's fully programmed...

WESLEY

And Data's the only person around who has one. That does kind of makes him Lal's dad.

Picard looks around... this is obviously a popular decision.

PICARD

(Okay, why not)

I guess it does.

DATA

Of course, it is not complete. We have only made two transfers, giving Lal the bulk of my technical knowledge. There is much to do.

TROI

Why didn't you give it a more human look, Data?

(CONTINUED)
DATA
I decided to allow Lal to choose its own appearance and sexuality.

GEORDI
Something you never had the chance to do, eh?

DATA
I am satisfied with the choices of my creator. But I wish to give Lal more than I had. I have observed this is a hope of many human parents. Like them, I intend for Lal to surpass me... to experience more, achieve more, to have an effect upon the future.

Picard is touched, but there are issues to discuss...

PICARD
Mister Data, at your convenience, I'd like to talk to you in my ready room.

Starts to leave... pauses...

PICARD
Congratulations.

DATA
Thank-you, sir. Oh, yes. Have a cigar.

He picks up a box of cigars and holds it out...

DATA
I believe it is customary when a baby is born.

Picard takes a cigar, EXITS, and as the others follow suit...

4A OMITTED

5 INT. READY ROOM

Picard is behind his desk. The chime.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

TROI
I'll stay with Lal. No one should be alone five minutes after their birth.

DATA
Thank you.

Data and Picard EXIT. Off Troi's expression as she approaches Lal.

CUT TO:

INT. READY ROOM

Data is seated on the sofa. Picard is behind his desk. The mood is serious. The joy, pride and pleasure of the previous scene is gone.

PICARD
What you have done has very serious ramifications. You should have discussed it with me first.

DATA
Do you wish me to deactivate Lal?

PICARD
It's not that simple, Data. You've created life. Lal exists now, and must be dealt with.

DATA
It did not occur to me to discuss the matter.

PICARD
Starfleet has stringent requirements in this area. There are questions of science and safety which must be addressed.

DATA
All species perpetuate themselves. Why must I have permission to procreate?

That rocks Picard back a bit.

(CONTINUED)
DATA
Of course, sir...

PICARD
(understatement, anticipating the reaction)
I'm quite sure they'll be interested...

(beat)
You've taken on quite a responsibility...

DATA
(acknowledges)
To prepare, I have scanned all the available literature on parenting. There seems to be much confusion on the issue.

PICARD
An understatement, to be sure.

DATA
One traditional doctrine insists 'spare the rod and spoil the child', suggesting a punitive approach... another more liberal attitude would allow a child enormous freedom...

PICARD
(trying to interrupt)
Yes...

DATA
And what the Klingons do to their children...

PICARD
(interrupting)
Data, I'd like to give you some advice...

(beat)
...but to be honest I haven't the faintest idea what to tell you about raising your child. But if you need assistance, I can recommend one very good parent, in my opinion, Beverly Crusher.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

DATA
A good idea, sir.

(CONTINUED)
PICARD

(beat)
I'm pleased for you, Data. I dearly hope it is a successful venture. But I am concerned about your level of expectation. You are seeking to achieve what no one, other than your own creator, has been able to achieve -- to make another Data.

DATA
That is why I must attempt this, Captain. I have observed that in all species, there is a primal instinct to perpetuate themselves. And while I have not been programmed with instinctive behavior patterns, I do understand that I am the first, and until now, the last of my kind. If I were damaged or destroyed something unique would be lost, and perhaps, in some small way, the substance of the universe would be diminished.

PICARD
Certainly for us.

DATA
Thank you, sir... that is gracious. But if I am successful with the creation of Lal, my continuance is assured.

Picard pours from a bottle of brandy into two glasses... hands one to Data... toasts the new father.

PICARD
L'acheim.

As they drink...

5A
INT. CORRIDOR

Outside the lab, Troi comes out first... waiting for Lal to follow...

TROI
Here let me help...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

She reaches out her hand to take Lal's hand as the android unsteadily moves out... from the lab —

DATA (O.C.)
Counselor, no.

But it is too late. Lal's fingers have closed around Troi's and we see from the Betazoid's reaction that it hurts.

Data and Lal have now moved out into the corridor... they move slowly.

DATA (cont'd)
Lal, release Troi.

Lal drops Troi's hand. The woman begins to massage her mangled hand. Her look of confusion says it all.

DATA
Lal is unaware of its strength. It must be trained.

Data holds out his hand. Lal has learned quickly. It takes its father's hand.

OMITTED

C.U.

Of the two metallic hands. Lal's closing tightly about Data's.

BACK TO SCENE

DATA
You are exerting unnecessary amounts of pressure. It can be harmful.
(re the grip)
Less... less... good.

They drop hands. Moving slowly down the hallway, passers-by react at the sight of the naked android... as a woman walks by, Lal studies her...

LAL
Gender female.

(CONTINUED)
TROI
That's right, Lal. Just like me.

LAL
Purpose for exterior drapings?

TROI
In our culture it is the custom that we wear clothing.

As a pair of men walk by...

LAL
Gender male.

DATA
Correct.

LAL
And you, father, are gender facsimile male.

DATA
(a little taken aback)
Ah... yes.

LAL
I am gender neuter. Inadequate.

DATA
That is why you must choose a new one, Lal. And complete your appearance.

LAL
What are... criteria... of choice?

DATA
Access your data bank on sexuality, level two. That will help you understand.

LAL
Yes, father.

TROI
Whatever you choose will be yours for your lifetime, Lal... It is a decision that will affect how people interrelate with you.
8 CONTINUED: (2)

LAL
(turning to Troi)
I choose... your sex... and appearance.

Troi reacts.

DATA
No, Lal... that would be confusing. We are taking you to the Holodeck to show you several thousand composites which I have programmed. You may choose from them.

TROI
Several thousand...?

DATA
This is a big decision...

9 INT. HOLODECK

Starting on Troi who has fallen asleep, sitting on the floor against a wall...

DATA
Counselor...

(her eyes open)

Lal has narrowed the choices to four... would you like to see?

TROI
Yes... yes, of course, Data...

9A ANGLE (OPTICAL)

to see Data has created a modest set with a mirror... in front of which stands Lal...

DATA
Computer, Lal-gender sequence finalists... begin...

Superimposing with a wipe (necessary I think to distinguish that she is not actually changing into these beings)...
CONTINUED:

GEORDI
You're asking me?

An EFFECT and three figures appear. A Vulcan male, an Andorian female, and a Human female.

There are appreciative reactions from Geordi and Wesley to the woman. Troi withers them with a look.

TROI
You're giving Lal a very distorted message.

GEORDI
(a shrug)
We're just a couple of red-blooded Starfleet males. Show a little more appreciation for the Vulcan Adonis.

TROI
Men.

While they talk Lal has moved to the three motionless figures. The Android inspects them closely, steps behind them, and tries to ape their positions. Repositions their arms, etc.

LAL
Decision is reached.

DATA
Yes?

LAL
Construct fifty-seven.

Confusion from the humans: Which one is it?

DATA
Upon what do you base this decision?

LAL
You are male, you exist. I select female, and a balance is established.

Data nods, and moves to a clear tube. The top has been thrown back revealing soft cushions contoured to received a humanoid form.

(CONTINUED)
TROI
They are all very interesting,
Lal. Do you have a favorite?

LAL
(beat)
Yes. I have... chosen.

As Data and Troi react...

INT. LABORATORY

As Data puts the finishing touches on Lal... unseen in the biobed... studies his work...

DATA
I was able to provide Lal with even more realistic skin texture than my own. Do you think the replicated features fit well, Counselor?

TROI
Beautifully.

He helps Lal out of the tube... she's the human female. Still naked.

LAL
(to Data)
You are male. I am female. A balance is established.

TROI
(softly)
Congratulations, Data, it's a girl.

As we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
FADE IN:

12 EXT. SPACE – THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Holding stationary in space.

13 INT. DATA’S QUARTERS

Data escorts Lal, who is now dressed in an outfit that Troi must have recommended (not a stock jumpsuit).

DATA
This is home.

LAL
Home. Place of residence. Social unit formed by a family living together.

DATA
Yes, Lal. You are correct. We are a family.

She moves cautiously around the room... examining... as she looks at things for the first time...

DATA
A chair... to sit in.

Moving to a painting on the wall...

DATA
A painting.

LAL
Painting. Lines and colors produced on a surface by applying a pigment.

DATA
I will teach you how to appreciate the artistry of paintings.

A short attention span... she is already moving onto something else... she runs her fingers across it...

LAL
Soft.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

DATA
Yes, very good, Lal. You have correctly processed the human sense of touch.

DATA
There are many fascinating experiences I wish to share with you.

Data leads her to the wall unit.

DATA
Rose, red, designation Talgurian Beauty.

CLOSER (OPTICAL)
The rose APPEARS.

OMITTED

RESUME - DATA
lifts it...

Painting.

LAL

DATA
No, Lal, this is a flower.

He holds it to Lal's nose.

DATA
Inhale.

LAL
(reacts)
Smell.

DATA
Yes.

LAL
Show me more, father.

And Data nods approvingly, pleased by her curiosity and eagerness.
13A thru 16

INT. TEN-FORWARD

Data and Lal seated at a table. Food is put in front of her... she picks it up with her hands... pauses as Data shakes his head no, shows her the fork in his hand... she imitates it.

DATA (V.O.)
Second officer, science log, copy:
Starfleet research, Daystrom Institute, Galor-four annex.
Reference: development, android designate Lal.

Data lifts a glass, and takes a large swallow. Lal quickly imitates but the beverage seeps out through the sides of her mouth...

DATA (V.O.)
Training in social skills at the most elementary level has begun. Lal is progressing very slowly but is not deterred by early setbacks.

INT. HOLODECK (OR ANY GENERAL AREA)

Wesley and Data throw and catch a ball as Lal observes. Data hands the ball to Lal who throws it gently to Wesley. He catches it and everybody is pleased...

DATA (V.O.)
Motor coordination has improved by twelve-point-four percent... this reflects the adaptation of second level neural transfers...

...and Wesley throws the ball back... she doesn't move as the ball bounces off the wall behind her and then she reacts to try and catch it...

DATA (V.O.)
Reflexes still need to develop.

INT. DATA'S QUARTERS

Lal reads a book... her eyes staring at it... as Data points out words and pictures...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

DATA (V.O.)
Verbal comprehension is especially difficult for Lal, translating her vast data banks into meaningful application may improve with additional transfers.

He stops as he notices Lal is not blinking... he points to his own eyes, watch my eyes... he blinks... she imitates... good and then he orchestrates another blink at another time interval... nods.

DATA (V.O.)
She is also learning to supplement innate android behavior with human touches.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Worf, Wesley, Troi... Data is at ops, doesn't see as Lal ENTERS...

DATA (V.O.)
Most encouraging is her commitment to master the skills necessary to live successfully among humans. Her curiosity is insatiable... although sometimes it creates inappropriate behavior...

Reactions to her arrival prompt Data to turn and react with concern... especially when she sits in the Captain's command chair... Data exchanges a look with Picard and escorts her out...

INT. TEN FORWARD

A similar setting to their first time here... she eats with a fork carefully but successfully and drinks without the beverage spilling out. Data observes and nods in satisfaction.

DATA (V.O.)
And I have been quite interested to note that as I observe Lal learning about her world... that I share in her experience, almost as though I am learning everything over again -- this time through her eyes.
INT. LABORATORY

Starting on Lal who has lines connected to a head panel... pulling back to see that she is attached by the neural transfer equipment to Data. Wesley is observing.

DATA
(to Wesley)
The transfer itself is fairly simple. Each neural pathway in the brain has been replicated precisely...

WESLEY
That's one advantage of a positronic brain... we can duplicate it.

DATA
(acknowledges)
If any part of my brain were biological, this would be impossible. Theoretically, the duplicate brains should be able to store and process the same information... but until all the transfers are complete, we will not know for certain.

The transfer is complete. Data begins to disconnect it.

WESLEY
What does Lal do while you're on duty?

DATA
She studies in our cabin. She does not require much supervision, Wesley. Lal is quite self-sufficient.

WESLEY
You could send her to the ship's school.

DATA
Lal already has access to the sum of human knowledge from me.

(CONTINUED)
WESLEY
There are lot of things you can learn just by being with kids your own age, Data.

DATA
She is only two weeks old.

WESLEY
Well, closer to her own age.

BEVERLY'S COM VOICE
Doctor Crusher to Ensign Crusher. I believe you have homework to do, young man.

WESLEY
Yes, Mom. I'm coming.
(frowns)
Parents.
(beat)
Nothing personal.

He EXITS. Data moves to Lal, completes his work...

DATA
Lal, the level three transfer is complete.

She becomes animated. And there is a more active brain at work now...

LAL
Father, what is my purpose?

DATA
Purpose?

LAL
My function, my reason for being here.

DATA
It is a complex question, Lal. I can only begin to answer it by telling you that our function is to contribute in a positive way to the world in which we live.

LAL
Why am I me instead of someone else?

(CONTINUED)
DATA
Because you are my child.

LAL
Where did I come from?

DATA
Your questions suggest we have made a successful transfer of the (TECH) pathways of the brain. You will now begin to process information on logic, aesthetics, metaphysics, and epistemology. You are truly becoming sentient, Lal.

LAL
Why?

DATA
Because you are developing the awareness to examine and question your perceptions.

LAL
Why do we have two hands... why not three or four... why do...

DATA
(interrupting)
Lal, did you know that tomorrow will be your first day of school?

19D INT. CAPT. READY ROOM (OPTICAL)
Picard is speaking to ADMIRAL HAFTEL on the viewscreen...

PICARD
I assure you, Admiral, everything I've seen suggests Data's doing a marvelous job with the new android...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Captain, I'm sure you'd be the first to admit that you're not qualified to judge...

(CONTINUED)
PICARD
(reacts)
My knowledge of the science of
cybernetics may be limited but...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
(interrupting)
Which is exactly why all of us
here at Starfleet research are
concerned...

PICARD
(frowns, continuing)
But I have had a great deal of
experience with the one sentient
android in existence, Admiral... and
frankly, I cannot imagine a
better guide into this life for
Lal than Data.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
I have enormous respect for
Commander Data. If he is
successful in this venture, it
will be a major achievement for
Starfleet. We only want what's
best for the new android.

PICARD
As do I, sir.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
We have the facilities and the
personnel at Daystrom...

PICARD
We have adequate facilities aboard
the Enterprise...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
A starship is not a proper
setting...

PICARD
Admiral, this starship's
continuing mission is to explore,
to seek out new life... and that
is exactly what Commander Data
is doing. Under my direction.

(beat)
I will take full responsibility.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
PICARD (Cont'd)
Or are you questioning my authority?

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
(a beat, cool)
I am not in a position to question your authority, Captain. But I know those who are. Haftel out.

The screen returns to starfield. Picard frowns.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard ENTERS. Data is at Ops. Wes at Conn. Worf at tactical. Picard moves by Data... thinks about discussing this with him...

PICARD
Mister Data...

BALLARD'S COM VOICE
Lieutenant Ballard to Commander Data.

DATA
(reacts)
This is Data. Is something wrong with Lal, Lieutenant?

BALLARD'S COM VOICE
I didn't mean to alarm you. No, not really... but if you could just stop by the school at your convenience.

DATA
(concerned)
Of course. Data out.

He looks at Picard but his mind is at school. Picard waves him off duty... Data EXITS.

INT. TEACHER'S OFFICE

Data and LIEUTENANT BALLARD. Ballard is seated behind her desk, there is a window with a 24th century shutter closed behind her.

(CONTINUED)
BALLARD
We just don’t know quite what to do with her. She achieved a very high score on a test of academic achievement...

DATA
A perfect score.

BALLARD
Yes. Which is why we started her with the older children. But Lal couldn’t understand the nuances of how they related to each other and ended up withdrawing in confusion.

DATA
I see.

BALLARD
We decided the best thing to do would be to put her with younger children.

DATA
That would seem to be reasonable.

BALLARD
It isn’t working out that way.

She presses a panel and the shutter slides open to reveal an adjacent classroom. A group of toddlers are playing together with some sort of geometric building blocks. Lal is playing by herself in a corner. Data’s face falls when he sees her.

BALLARD
The children are afraid of her.

20A INT. TURBOLIFT

Data and Lal ENTER. After a beat...

LAL
Father, what is the significance of laughter?

DATA
It is a human physiological response to humor.

(CONTINUED)
LAL
Then judging from their laughter
the children at school found my
remarks humorous.
(thoughtful)
So without understanding humor
I have somehow mastered it.

Data realizes she doesn't understand what has happened.

DATA
Lal...

LAL
Yes, Father?

DATA
They were not laughing with you...
they were laughing at you.

LAL
Explain.

DATA
One is meant kindly... the other
is not.

LAL
Why did they wish to be unkind?

DATA
Because you are different. And
sometimes differences scare
people. I have learned that some
of them make jokes to hide their
fears.

LAL
(beat)
I don't want to be different,
father.

And Data's face reflects the helplessness that has
afflicted millions of parents as they try to solve
their children's most difficult problems.
STAR TREK: "Bloodlines" - Prelim. 12/18/89 - ACT TWO

21 thru 25

OMITTED

25A

INT. BEVERLY'S OFFICE

BEVERLY is at her desk, working. Data ENTERS.

DATA
Doctor, I require your advice as a successful parent.

BEVERLY
(reacts)
Well, thank-you, Data. I'd like to think I am. Sit down. How's Lal?

DATA
Lal is realizing that she is not the same as other children.

BEVERLY
(understands)
It must be lonely for her.

DATA
Although she does not feel the emotions of loneliness, she can observe how isolated she is from the others. She wants to be more like them.

Beverly looks at Data...

BEVERLY
Sounds familiar.

(CONTINUED)
DATA
Yes, Doctor. It is an experience
I know too well. Lal is passing
into sentience. It is perhaps
the most difficult stage of
android development.

BEVERLY
Believe it or not, it's a very
human experience as well, Data.
As our minds and bodies develop,
sometimes quite rapidly, we get
confused too... we look around
and try to see how we fit in...
(a beat)
When Wesley was growing up, he
was an extraordinarily bright
little boy... but he had hard time
making friends. The other
children were a little intimidated
by him.

DATA
(interested)
That is precisely what happened
to Lal at school. How did you
help him?

BEVERLY
Well, first I had to go back into
my own childhood and remember how
painful it was for me. Because
I'd been a bookworm, too...

DATA
A bookworm... as in one who
studies much...

BEVERLY
Yes. And very isolated. In a
way, I guess I was like Lal. I
didn't have many friends either.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
BEVERLY (Cont'd)
And when I shared that with
Wesley, it helped him just by
knowing it. And from some of the
lessons I'd learned, I helped him
find more appropriate friends.

DATA
And now he has many.

(beat)
I have not told Lal how difficult
it was for me to assimilate. I
did not want it to discourage her.
Perhaps this was an error of
judgement.

BEVERLY
You had no one with experience
to help you through sentence.
At least, she has you. Just help
her realize that she's not alone.
Be there for her when she needs
love and attention.

DATA
I can give her attention, doctor.
But I am incapable of giving her
love.

BEVERLY
(smiles)
Why do I find that so hard to
believe?

WORF'S COM VOICE
Captain, Incoming signal.
Starfleet priority one. Admiral
Haftel.

PICARD
On my monitor, Lieutenant.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Picard puts on a robe, turns on his monitor to reveal the Admiral.

PICARD

Admiral.

ADmiral HAFTEL

(lying)

Captain, I hope I didn't disturb you.

Picard doesn't respond, lets his silence be the answer.

ADmiral HAFTEL

I've discussed my concerns with Starfleet command. You are to proceed to the Bechtel system. I will meet you there to personally review the android's development. Clear?

PICARD

(to com)

Mister Worf, set a course for the Bechtel system.

ADmiral HAFTEL

Good. I should advise you, Captain, that if I am not satisfied with what I see... I am empowered to take her back with me. Haftel out.

And off Picard's concerned expression we,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

31  EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Moving at impulse speed.

PICARD (V.O.)
Captain's Log Supplemental: We are en route for the Bechtel system... and have advised Commander Riker of our new course as he begins his return journey.

31A  INT. LABORATORY

Data and Lal seated at the small table. The transfer device is between them. They each wear small patches on their foreheads. LED's blink as the transfer is made. Over this the Captain's Log continues.

PICARD (V.O.)
Commander Data is completing his final neural transfers to the android daughter he has named Lal... which I have learned means 'beloved' in Hindi. I cannot imagine handing her over to Admiral Haftel.

31B  INT. TEN-FORWARD

Guinan is behind the bar. A few couples scattered around the tables. Data and Lal ENTER. Cross to the bar.

GUINAN
Hello, Commander. Lal, how are you?

LAL
I am functioning within normal --

(stop herself)
I am fine, thank you...

Lal looks to Data. A nod of approval from the older

(continued)
DATA
Guinan, Lal needs to observe human behavior.

GUINAN
You've come to the right place, Lal. There are all sorts of human behavior in here.

DATA
In return for this opportunity, Lal is willing to provide services to assist you.

GUINAN
Sort of a work-study program...

LAL
Father says I would learn a great deal from working with someone as old as you.

Guinan reacts, looks at Data, who realizes the faux pas.

DATA
I believe what I said was that Guinan had much life experience, Lal...

LAL
No, the exact words you used were...

GUINAN
(interrupting, to Lal)
You're hired. Now, the most important part of tending bar is listening... People need a friendly ear to talk to... Happens to be my specialty... There's an art to it and I'll teach it to you, Lal.

DATA
That would be very beneficial, Guinan.

(continued)
GUINAN
How much do you know about food
and beverages?

LAL
I've been programmed with a
listing of fourteen hundred and
twelve known beverages as well
as recipes for...

Data and Guinan react...

GUINAN
What'd did you just say...

LAL
I've been programmed with...

GUINAN
'I've'...?

DATA
Lal, you used a verbal
contraction.

LAL
Shouldn't I?

GUINAN
She did it again.

DATA
It is a skill my program has never
mastered.

LAL
Then I will desist.

DATA
No. You have exceeded my
abilities. I do not object. I
just do not understand why.

LAL
It's only a matter of
assimilating a human speech
pattern.

But Data remains curious.

(continued)
PICARD'S COM VOICE
Picard to Data. Please report
to my ready room.

DATA
(to comm)
Yes, Captain.

GUINAN
She's in good hands.

DATA
Thank you, Guinan.

And EXITS.

INT. READY ROOM

Picard is seated at his desk. Data on the sofa.

DATA
I am sure the Admiral is anxious
to meet Lal... I have been sending
him regular status reports on her
development...

PICARD
His visit, Data, is not just an
inspection of Lal's progress.
He has expressed a concern for
her environment.

DATA
Her environment, sir?

PICARD
He believes the Daystrom annex
on Andras-two would be more
suitable.

DATA
But I cannot relocate to
Andras-two.

(CONTINUED)
32 CONTINUED:

PICARD
He's not suggesting you do. Just Lal.

And now Data understands. A beat.

DATA
I would not be in favor of that, Captain.

PICARD
Nor would I.

DATA
Lal still has much to learn from me. My lifetime of experiences, the mistakes I have made and what I have learned from them, I have barely begun with music and art...

PICARD
You have my complete support, Data. But the Admiral...

WORF'S COM VOICE
Captain, Commander Riker's shuttle has just returned.

PICARD
(to comm)
Acknowledged, Lieutenant. Advise Mister Riker I'll want a briefing with him later. Picard out.
(to Data)
...But the Admiral is taking the position that Lal's development should be overseen by the most experienced personnel available.

DATA
Then, he is questioning my ability as a parent.

PICARD
In a manner of speaking... yes.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

DATA
Does the Admiral have children, sir?

PICARD
I believe he does... why?

DATA
I am forced to wonder how much experience he had as a parent when his first child was born.

Off Picard's look...

OMITTED

INT. TEN-FORWARD

A scene that has taken place thousands of times in thousands of bars in the galaxy... a YOUNG ENSIGN is talking to SOME BUDDIES at the bar... he looks over the shoulder of one of the men at...

A TABLE

with TWO ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMEN... one of them, a blonde catches him looking, smiles at him...

GUINAN (O.C.)
There, you see?

ANGLE - INCLUDING GUINAN AND LAL

watching from behind the bar...

LAL
Visual reconnaissance.

GUINAN
It's called flirting.

LAL
Flirting. Playing at love.

GUINAN
It's been going on since Adam lost a rib.

(CONTINUED)
LAL
They seem to be communicating telepathically.

GUINAN
Well, they're both thinking the same thing if that's what you mean.

LAL
(some frustration)
I can think about it, but I can't feel it.

The ensign excuses himself from his friends, goes to join her.

GUINAN
There he goes... sensors locked on and target in sight.

LAL
The male takes the aggressive action?

GUINAN
Well, it depends on your taste in these matters. Some women like to let their men chase them a few blocks before they let them catch up. Personally, I like to take charge. Anything goes.

35C
ANGLE - ANOTHER YOUNG COUPLE

holding hands... Lal sees it...

LAL
Guinan, is the joining of hands a symbolic act for humans?

GUINAN
It shows affection. Humans like to touch each other. They start with the hands and move on from there.

As this second couple kiss...

(Continued)
LAL
(reacts)
He's biting her.

GUINAN
No, they're touching lips.
Kissing.

The second couple get up and leave...

LAL
Why are they leaving?

GUINAN
Lal, there are some things your
dad'll have to tell you... when
he thinks you're ready.

Down the bar, some people sit down and Guinan goes off
to serve them... Lal watches the couple in love with.curiosity...

ANGLE - RIKER

ENTERS well across the room (he must not be able
tell the color of her eyes from this distance)... He
checks the room for any friends. Spots Lal, takes a
second look, and likes what he sees. Lal notices his
interest. It parallels what we just saw. She glances
at the flirting couple at their table, we see the
decision made, and when she looks back to Riker it is
with the same encouragement she saw the girl at the
table give the ensign. He is drawn across the room
like iron to a magnet.

Riker slides onto a stool at the bar. Lal's eyes are
down, wiping the bar with a cloth, so he can't see her
eyes.

RIKER
You're new around here, aren't
you?

LAL
Yes.

She looks up, revealing her yellow eyes... he reacts...
and as she takes his hand...

LAL
Anything goes.
ANGEL - INCLUDE DATA

entering... reacts as he sees Lal pull Riker sharply toward her and kisses him to his great shock. Guinan sees it at the same time as Data does... they exchange a look... as Guinan moves to them...

GUINAN
Lal, put him down...

Lal reacts, puts down Riker... as Data arrives...

DATA
Commander, what are your intentions toward my daughter?

RIKER
I'm not... what... who... your daughter?

As Riker looks from one to the other to see if this is a gag... realizing it isn't... to Lal, sheepishly --

RIKER
Nice to meet'cha...

OMITTED

INT. DATA'S QUARTERS
Data and Lal ENTER.

LAL
I watch them and I can do the things they do... but I'll never feel the emotions. I'll never know love.

DATA
Your grandfather, my creator, Doctor Soong, decided it was best this way.

LAL
He played a cruel trick on you. And now on me.

DATA
No, Lal. His decision came from many years of failed experiments. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
DATA (Cont’d)
One was my brother who was given emotions but could not control them. And he had to be destroyed.

LAL
And yet we still try to emulate humans. Why? What purpose does it serve except to remind us that we are incomplete.

DATA
I have asked myself that many times as I have struggled to be more human, Lal. Until I finally realized that it is the struggle itself that is most important. We must strive to be better than we are. It does not matter that we will never reach our ultimate goal. The effort yields its own rewards.

She looks at him with a better understanding.

LAL
You are wise, father.

DATA
It is only the difference between knowledge and experience.

Lal studies her father, slowly reaches out her hand.

LAL
I learned today that humans like to hold hands. It is a symbolic gesture of affection.

Data considers this and knows it is impossible to ’feel’ affection but holds out his hand anyway and as they hold hands, awkwardly, without feeling anything...

37A thru 38
OMITTED

38A INT. MAIN BRIDGE – CLOSE ON THE MAIN VIEWER
Admiral Haftel on his ship.

(CONTINUED)
STAR TREK: "Bloodlines" - Prelim. 12/18/89 - ACT THREE 38-40.

38A CONTINUED:

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Prepare to beam me aboard,
Captain.

And as we pull back to include Picard's face in CU, before he orders transport...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN:

INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

Haftel, seated on the sofa, is accepting a cup of tea from Picard. His duties as host met, Picard settles on the corner of his desk. Haftel will surprise us, by his charm and by the strength of his arguments.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

No objective viewpoint could see it any other way...

PICARD

I beg your pardon, Admiral, but I thought you were sent here to form an opinion... not to justify one.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Captain, do not make this more difficult than it needs to be.

PICARD

Oh, I intend to make this as difficult as possible, Admiral. I strongly believe Lal and Data should not be separated.

Cordially, the swords are drawn.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Starfleet's policy on research is clear... you're making your stand on very uncertain ground... I do hope it doesn't fall away from under you...

PICARD

Starfleet's policy on families is clear as well... that's why we have so many wives and children aboard the Enterprise...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL

Really, Captain... is this about breaking up a family...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
Continued:

ADMIRAL HAFTEL (Cont'd)
Rather a sentimental attitude to
take toward androids, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

And now Picard begins to put an edge into his voice.

PICARD
They are living, sentient beings.

ADmirAL HAFTEL
Yes, yes... I'm more than willing to acknowledge that. And you must acknowledge that Lal is also a technological step forward in the development of artificial intelligence.

PICARD
A most significant one.

ADmirAL HAFTEL
And work like this demands strictly controlled procedures.

PICARD
Which Commander Data is following.

ADmirAL HAFTEL
In effective isolation. And that is unacceptable to Starfleet.

PICARD
Unacceptable to you.

ADmirAL HAFTEL
I speak for Starfleet now. Keep that in mind.

A beat as they study each other. Haftel stands, moves off the conflict back into reason.

ADmirAL HAFTEL
This is not personal, Captain. There are very real dangers here. Without peer review, Starfleet feels we're risking another M-5 debacle. The M-5 unit, with its own artificial intelligence, was designed to be the perfect battle computer. Instead it was a disaster with lethal consequences. Does this new android have the same dangerous potential? I don't know. That is my point.

(MORE)
ADIMIRAL HAFTEL (Cont'd)
But the blame of the M-5
catastrophe can be laid entirely
on the fact that Doctor Daystrom
was working in effective
isolation. And that cannot be
permitted to happen again.

It is a strong argument. Picard is willing to
acknowledge that.

PICARD
I respect the need for peer review
and control precautions. I would
submit that you will find them
here aboard the Enterprise. My
crew has served for years with
Data. Unlike your research
people, we have enough such
experience to reliably judge what
is 'normal' and 'abnormal'
behavior for Soong androids. We
are uniquely qualified to assist
in guiding Lal's development.

ADMRAL HAFTEL
(beat)
That is what I'm here to decide,
Captain.

On Picard's look...

Picard, Data and Haftel. Data is demonstrating the
transfer device. As he sets it aside he concludes,

DATA
So Lal now possesses the sum of
my programming.

ADIMIRAL HAFTEL
Her neural nets are laid down
identically to yours?

Data hesitates for a moment.

DATA
There do seem to be variations
on the quantum level.

(Continued)
STAR TREK: "Bloodlines" - Prelim. 12/18/89 - ACT FOUR

43A CONTINUED:

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
How do you know this?

DATA
From observing the results. Lal can say contractions... I cannot.

Haftel throws Picard a look...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
An aberration... what have you done about it?

DATA
As I have reflected in my status reports to Starfleet Research, I have closely monitored all verbal patterns as well as behavioural norms (TECH)... I have seen no evidence of other aberrations...

PICARD
It would seem that you have actually improved upon yourself, Data.

DATA
Is that not the goal of every parent, sir?

Data's reference to himself as a parent obviously throws the Admiral.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
But... as a good... father... don't you think it would be better, especially in light of this aberration, if Lal could be close by the best possible equipment and the best-trained minds to perform any kind of diagnostic, evaluative and repair procedures?

DATA
I have been programmed with all diagnostic and repair procedures. In any meaningful evaluation of Lal, you would require a model for a basis of comparison.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
DATA (Cont'd)
I am the only model available, Admiral.

Picard reacts, nice try, Admiral.
ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Can you be honest with me for a moment, Mister Data?

DATA
I am programmed to be honest at all times, Admiral, as is Lal.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Good. And please don't take any offense at this, but you haven't mastered human cultural and behavioral norms yourself yet, have you?

DATA
Nosir.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Then, if the object of Lal's existence is for her to understand human behavior, wouldn't you admit that you are a necessarily imperfect teacher... in fact, she may choose to emulate you rather than humans even if you instruct her otherwise.

PICARD
(cutting off a chance for Data to reply)
On the other hand, Admiral, how many of your researchers are androids? None. And I would suggest that many aspects of Lal's existence and development may be so alien to human experience that your people simply cannot be made to comprehend them.

(CONTINUED)
DATA
I agree, Captain. There are many processes unique to androids -- the conscious control of our internal-repair systems; the sensation of having a vast memory by human standards; the awareness of dealing with experiences at far different rates of comprehension...

The Admiral glances at Picard, enough...

PICARD
I think we've made the point, Data...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Where is Lal now?

OMITTED

INT. TEN-FORWARD

Guinan is behind the bar, while Lal serves customers. Picard, Data and the Admiral ENTER. The Admiral is obviously taken aback by their location.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
This is your idea of appropriate guidance...

DATA
It is an opportunity for her to observe human behavior and more importantly to interact with her crewmates.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
And the only place she can do this is in a bar...?

PICARD
What better place could there be... everyone on board comes here... she'll be exposed to people from all walks of life...

(CONTINUED)
ADMIRAL HAFTEL
I’m not convinced the sort of behavior she observes here will be a positive influence.

GUINAN (O.C.)
My customers usually behave themselves... if not, they’re asked to leave. There’s something to learn from that as well, wouldn’t you say?
to reveal Guinan.

PICARD
Admiral Haftel, Guinan. She manages Ten-Forward.

DATA
And supervises Lal.

He nods to her.

PICARD
How is Lal doing, Guinan?

GUINAN
She's spilled a few drinks like the rest of us. But she's learning a lot.

Some raucous laughter from a table that Lal is serving...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
(to Picard)
I'm sorry, this is just outrageous.

GUINAN
Come now, Admiral, I'm sure you've been in a few bars in your day...

The Admiral looks coolly to Picard...

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
I want the android out of here... have her report to me immediately for an interview.

Data acknowledges, crosses the room to Lal as Haftel EXITS... Picard gives Guinan a look... she shrugs, what can you do... he finally shakes his head and EXITS.
Picard, Lal and Haftel. Lal and the Admiral are seated on the same side of the table, chairs positioned so he can lean in to her. Picard sits slightly away from the couple. A physical indication that he will continue to remain an observer, and not Lal's champion.

HAFTEL
Yes, I understand your work in Ten-Forward is an attempt to socialize you into human society, but there were earlier attempts, weren't there?

LAL
Yes.

HAFTEL
And were they successful?

LAL
Lal hesitates, and glances at Picard. He nods to her encouragingly.

LAL
In evaluating an experiment it seems pointless to examine past failures.

HAFTEL
Now, you can't believe that, and if you do someone's done a very bad job training you in the scientific method.

LAL
I was enrolled in school.

HAFTEL
And how did that work out?

LAL
Not well.

PICARD
Lal, if you went back to school now...

(CONTINUED)
OMITTED

INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Picard, Lal and Haftel. Haftel deceptively cordial. He smiles warmly to Lal. Lal is uncomfortable... this is rather like being called to the principal's office.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Well, I've been looking forward to meeting you, Lal.

LAL
Why?

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
You're very important to us at Starfleet research. We've got quite a facility at Andras-two. I'd like to show it to you.

PICARD
The Admiral is in fact suggesting you be moved to Andras-two, Lal.

LAL
Have I done something wrong?

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Not at all. But it is important to broaden your experiences. And there's just so much you can learn aboard a starship, wouldn't you agree?

LAL
Yes, I'd agree.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Good.

LAL
Thus, the natural conclusion would be when I have learned all there is to learn aboard the starship, I would move to Andras-Two.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Well, in some cases, yes, but that is not the natural conclusion here.

(CONTINUED)
LAL
I believe I would succeed. I have learned a great deal since those early days.

Haftel refers to a PADD.

(Continued)
LAL
I believe it is.

Turning to Picard as though she were not in the room.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
You see, she resists alternative suggestions to her own father's wishes. That's not a good sign.

LAL
Excuse me, sir, I do not know my father's wishes.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
He did not 'warn' you about this conversation?

LAL
Warn me? No, Admiral.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Prepare you, then... tell you what to say to me.

LAL
He told me to answer your questions. I don't understand why you are asking.

PICARD
The Admiral is concerned that you need more guidance than your father can provide here on the Enterprise.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Do not misunderstand. I have great respect for your father.

LAL
You do not speak with respect.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
(to Picard)
I find her very adversarial.

LAL
I am only stating a fact, Admiral.

(CONTINUED)
ADIMIRAL HAFTEN

Apparently, your father has not taught you about selective judgement in verbalizing your thoughts. This is a skill we can help you develop.

LAL

It's true that I have not fully integrated all the information that my father has downloaded to me. I am in the process of developing a conceptual framework for it all.

ADIMIRAL HAFTEN

We can help you with that too.

LAL

My father is already helping me, sir.

ADIMIRAL HAFTEN

Yes, well, the question is whether he's helping you enough.

LAL

Are you asking me, sir?

ADIMIRAL HAFTEN

No, I didn't mean...

PICARD

Why don't we, Admiral? In all these discussions, we've never once mentioned Lal's wishes. She's a free, sentient being. What are your wishes, Lal?

LAL

I wish to remain here, Captain Picard.

PICARD

Thank-you. You're excused.

She looks quite concerned as she EXITS. The Admiral looks at Picard...

(CONTINUED)
ADMIRAL HAFTEL
All the other arguments aside, there is one that is irrefutable, Captain. There are only two Soong-type androids in existence. It is far too dangerous to have them in one place. One lucky shot by some Romulan and we lose them both.

PICARD
The proper place for Lal to develop is by Data's side.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Your exception is noted, Captain. You will now turn her over to me. Have her ready to transport to my ship in one hour.

PICARD
I respectfully decline, Admiral.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
(icy)
I beg... your pardon?

PICARD
I'll take the matter to Starfleet myself.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
I am Starfleet, Captain... and this is an order.

PICARD
That I cannot and will not obey.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Then, Captain, you're relieved of your command.

He EXITS. Off Picard's expression,

OMMITTED

INT. TROI'S OFFICE

Troi is working. A chime.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

TROI

Come in.

Lal ENTERS.

TROI

Hello, Lal. How are you?

LAL

An Admiral from Starfleet has come to take me away, Troi. I'm scared.

A beat... as Troi reacts and stands... realizing --

TROI

You are scared, aren't you?

And it takes Lal a beat to realize too... she exchanges a look with Troi, stunned to realize --

LAL

I... feel it. How is it possible?

TROI

I don't know.

Lal sits. A little shaky. Troi moves to her... Lal hangs on to her hand.

LAL

This is what it means to feel. (beat)

This is what it means to feel.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR
FADE IN:

48 OMITTED

48A EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Holding stationary with the other ship near-by.

48B INT. MAIN BRIDGE


ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Commander Riker, you are now in command of this ship.

Reactions from the listeners.

RIKER
May I ask why, sir?

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
You may not. Your orders are to transport the female android to my ship.

Data barely turns. Riker reacts... exchanges a long look with Picard... understands. Decides for himself —

RIKER
I won't do that, Admiral.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Your careers mean so little to you both? Who is the next senior officer...?

BEVERLY
I am. Chief Medical Officer Beverly Crusher.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Arrange the transfer, Doctor.

BEVERLY
I'm sorry, sir.

(CONTINUED)
He reacts, glances at Data, skips him... points at La Forge.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Lieutenant.

GEORDI
Not me, sir.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
(to Worf)
A Klingon knows how to carry out
an order.

WORF
I would dishonor myself by doing
so now, Admiral.

Haftel even glances at Wesley... whose eyes open wide
and he turns away.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
I see. All right.

He turns around to confront Data whose back is to him.

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
There is one officer who I am sure
will obey an order... because he
has been properly trained and
programmed. Mister Data...

Data rises.

DATA
Yes, Admiral?

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
You are in command of the
Enterprise. You will see to it
that Lal is transported to my
ship.

A long beat as the others wait to hear what he will
do.
DATA
Admiral, when I created Lal, it was with the hope that someday she would choose to enter the Academy and become a member of Starfleet. I wanted to give something back in return for all Starfleet has given me. I still do. But Lal is my child. To give her up now would violate every lesson I have learned about human parenting. As Captain Picard told me after he first met her, I have taken on ‘quite a responsibility.’ I have brought a new life into this world. It is my duty, not Starfleet’s, to make a safe home for her; to support her as she learns; to help her become a contributing member of society. No one can relieve me of the obligation. And I cannot ignore it. I am her father.

Haftel looks to them all... finally, softly --

ADMIRAL HAFTEL
Captain Picard, may I see you alone in your...

He is interrupted by a hail.

TROI’S COM VOICE
Data, report to the lab at once. Something is wrong with Lal.

Data doesn’t wait for permission he’s heading for a Turbolift with Picard and the Admiral in hot pursuit.

CUT TO:

49 INT. LABORATORY

Picard, Data, Troi, Lal and Haftel. Lal is back on the diagnostic bed where she was first brought to life. She is in very bad shape. Data is with Lal. The others are gathered about Troi.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

TROI
She came to me for help. She believed the Admiral was a threat to her and her father... She said she was afraid, and that's when I realized she was frightened.

PICARD
Emotions.

TROI
All of them... and then she collapsed.

HAFTEL
You can't claim I'm responsible.

TROI
Not directly, no, but you were the catalyst.

Haftel starts toward Lal. His prize is about to be taken from him. Data steps forward to block his way.

HAFTEL
What's the problem? Can you repair it?

DATA
I do not as yet know. Initial scans indicate that the problem is in the transfer of data. During the process single bite errors crept in.
CONTINUED:

PICARD
Then her emotions...

DATA
Are symptoms of the cascade failure. Now, I must request that you all leave.

HAFTEL
I'm a cybernetics expert... I can help --

PICARD
I think you've done enough.

The humans EXIT. Data crosses back to Lal. She stretches out a hand to him. He takes it.

DATA
I am here.

LAL
I know... I know your step.

DATA
I am going to deactivate you so I may make a full diagnostic --

LAL
Not yet, please.

DATA
The longer we delay the less chance I have of correcting the malfunction...

LAL
...Just so much to... experience... the emotion.

Her expression is transcendent. Data stares at her, puzzled and concerned.

DATA
(awkwardly)
What are you... feeling?

Slowly she turns her head toward him.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

LAL
How very much I love you.

DATA
I cannot return that, love.

She smiles and squeezes his hand.

LAL
What do you think you're doing now?

DATA
But I cannot feel it.

LAL
I will feel for both of us.
(a beat)
Hold me, Father.

And for the first time Data takes her in his arms.
Rests his head briefly on the top of her head.

LAL (cont'd)
What ever happens... thank you for my life.

Data nods. Shuts her off. She slumps, and he lays her back on the bed. Opens a panel on her head, picks up an instrument, and sets to work.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Picard, Riker, Troi, Worf, Beverly, Geordi, Wesley and the Admiral. Data ENTERS from the forward Turbolift.

DATA
Lal suffered complete system failure at thirteen hundred hours. I have deactivated the unit.

PICARD
You have our sympathy, Mister Data.

Hafkel stirs. Shakes his head sadly.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

HAFTEL
So it ends... what a terrible waste. I'll be returning to my ship, Captain.

Picard nods to an N.D. crewmember.

PICARD
Ensign, escort the Admiral to the Transporter Room.

The ensign and Haftel EXIT.

WESLEY
He never did understand... did he?

PICARD
No, he did not.

BEVERLY
So Lal is gone.

DATA
(from ops)
Not entirely, Doctor. As I worked on Lal I realized how very much her presence had enriched my life. I could not allow her to pass into oblivion. Before I shut down her systems I transferred all of Lal's memories to me.

TROI
Including her memory of emotion?

DATA
Yes. They are but pale shadows of themselves, but I now have at least a taste of the wonder she experienced.

Everyone reflects on this for a beat, and on Lal.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)
warping out.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END