"Descent, Part II"

FINAL DRAFT
JUNE 24, 1993
CAST

PICARD
RIKER
DATA
BEVERLY
TROI
WORF
GEORDI

LORE
CROSIS
HUGH
TAITT
BARNABY
SALAZAR
GOVAL
CON OFFICER'S VOICE
POWELL'S VOICE

Non-Speaking
N.D. CREWMEMBERS

Non-Speaking
BORG
STAR TREK: "Descent, Part II"  - 06/24/93 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION
"Descent, Part II"

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
BRIDGE
TRANSPORTER ROOM
DATA'S QUARTERS

BORG COMPOUND
HALL
CELL/CORRIDOR
LAB

UNDERGROUND CAVERNS

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE
PLANET'S SURFACE
FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode begins with 90 second RECAP of Part I)

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it orbits the planet.

BEVERLY'S V.O.
Acting Captain's Log,
Supplemental: The skeleton crew
left on board the Enterprise is
unable to help in the search for
Commander Data. The planet's
unusual EM field is interfering
with the ship's sensors, severely
limiting their effectiveness.

INT. BRIDGE

Since we have only the skeleton crew the Bridge is
slightly undermanned. BEVERLY stands at an Aft Station
studying the sensors. There is a young woman, TAITT,
at Tactical.

BEVERLY
Without our sensors, we're sitting
ducks. A Borg ship could be right
on top of us before we knew it...
(turns to Tactical)
Ensign, we need to modify the
sensor array to filter out these
EM pulses. Can you do that?

Taitt turns to her. She is young -- not long out of
the Academy, from the looks of it -- eager to please,
and a little nervous. There is a hesitation before she
answers.

TAITT

Yes, sir.

(beat)
I think so.

Taitt begins to work the controls and Beverly can't
help but smile to herself. Gently --

(CONTINUED)
BEVERLY
What's your name?

TAITT
Taitt, sir.

BEVERLY
I don't think I've seen you before.

TAITT
I was just posted here six weeks ago.

BEVERLY
Well, Taitt -- I'll bet you never thought you'd be serving as Tactical Officer after only six weeks.

Taitt looks up at her, grateful for the understanding of her predicament she hears in Beverly's voice.

TAITT
No, sir, I sure didn't. (beat)
I think I've filtered out some of the sensor noise. I'll bring the modifications on line.

BEVERLY
(approvingly)
Good work.

Beverly starts crossing down toward the Command Area when Riker's voice comes in over the Com:

RIKER'S COM VOICE
Riker to Enterprise.

BEVERLY
Go ahead, Wil.

INTERCUT BRIDGE WITH:

3 EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE

RIKER, WORF and two N.D.s.

RIKER
I can't contact the Captain. (MORE)
CONTINUED:

RIKER (Cont'd)
It might just be the interference,
but I'd like to be sure.

BEVERLY
Understood.
(beat)
Enterprise to Captain Picard.

No response. Taitt starts working her console.

BEVERLY
Crusher to Picard.

Still no answer.

TAITT
(off console)
I'm not getting a Com signal from
anyone on the Captain's team.

BEVERLY
The last time they checked-in they
were investigating a structure in
section gamma two-five.

Suddenly, Taitt reacts to something on her readout.
She looks a little pale.

TAITT
Sir, I'm picking up a vessel
closing in on our location.

BEVERLY
Is it a Borg ship?

Taitt fumbles at the controls. This is all unfamiliar
to her.

TAITT
It... it seems to match the
configuration of a ship the
Enterprise encountered... at
Ohniaka Three...

BEVERLY
Red Alert. How long before
they're in weapons range?

(CONTINUED)
TAITT
Ahh... about... ninety seconds.
No -- no, make that seventy
seconds.

Taitt is nervous and having to work hard to hold
herself together. She does not inspire confidence.

BEVERLY
(to com)
Crusher to Transporter Room Three.

SALAZAR'S VOICE
Salazar here, sir.

BEVERLY
Start transporting the Away Teams
off the surface.

SALAZAR'S VOICE
Aye, sir.

BEVERLY
Use the transporters in the cargo
bays if you have to. I want those
teams up here as fast as possible.

ON THE SURFACE
In the b.g. we see two N.D.'s of his team, and another
team more at a distance.

RIKER
(to an N.D.)
Armstrong, you and the others get
ready to beam up.

(to com)
Beverly, Worf and I will stay here
and look for the Captain's team.

BEVERLY
I'm not going to leave you down
there --

RIKER
(firm)
Pull as many people off the
surface as you can and get back to
the transwarp conduit. The
Captain's orders were to get the
Enterprise to Federation space.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Beverly has no choice but to back off.

BEVERLY
Acknowledged.

RIKER
Riker, out.

END INTERCUT ON BRIDGE.

Beverly accepts what she has to do, but she doesn't like it one bit.

BEVERLY
(to con officer)
Prepare to leave orbit.

TAITT
Sir, the Borg ship is powering up its forward weapons array. They'll be in firing range in... in twenty seconds.

BEVERLY
(to com)
Salazar, how many people are still down there?

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (INTERCUT)

SALAZAR, a young NCO, is at the controls. We can see several Away Teams stepping off the Transporter pad.

SALAZAR
Seventy-three, sir.

On the Bridge, Beverly moves toward the Viewscreen.

BEVERLY
Put the Borg ship on screen.

ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The Borg ship is bearing down in the distance.

TAITT
Should I raise shields, sir?

BEVERLY
Not yet. I want to keep bringing people up until the last possible second.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Everyone reacts to Beverly's order; she's cutting it close, but if she pulls it off she'll have gotten that many more people off the surface.

TAITTT
Ten seconds.

BEVERLY
Stand by to raise shields and break orbit on my mark.

TAITTT
Five seconds.

BEVERLY
Mark.

ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

The Borg ship fires at the Enterprise. The Enterprise is rocked by the blast.

TAITTT
Shields are down to seventy percent.

BEVERLY
Establish a frequency-shift firing pattern and return fire.

TAITTT
Ah... right.

On the Viewscreen, we see the Borg ship taking a direct hit as the Enterprise passes above it and continues away.

TAITTT
Direct hit... no damage.

BEVERLY
Helm, set course for the conduit, maximum warp.
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9  EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)
as it flashes away.

10  INT. BRIDGE

TAITT
The Borg aren't following us, sir.

BEVERLY
(to com)
Salazar, how many people did we leave behind?

11  INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

Where we see more Away Teams stepping off the Pad and filing out the door.

SALAZAR
Forty-seven, sir.

12  INT. BRIDGE

Beverly is not happy about this. Her frustration shows.

BEVERLY
Another minute and we could have had them...

13  EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE

Riker and Worf are now alone, the two N.D.s having been evacuated. The planet's surface suddenly seems that much more vast and desolate.

RIKER
(hits combadge)
Riker to any team leader.

POWELL'S VOICE
Lieutenant Powell here, sir.

RIKER
Round up everyone who was left behind. Take cover and try to avoid any encounter with the Borg.

(CONTINUED)
POWELL'S VOICE
Aye, sir.

RIKER
Riker, out.

Riker turns to Worf.

RIKER
Even if Beverly gets back to Federation space, it'll be a few days before Starfleet can get any ships here... until then, we're on our own.

They both know they're facing pretty stiff odds. Off their grim expressions...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes.)

INT. BORG HALL (OPTICAL)

LORE is moving through the crowd of Borg that still surround PICARD, TROI, and GEORDI. DATA is nearby, as is CROSIS.

LORE
What do you think of my followers, Picard? Impressive, aren't they?

PICARD
I'm not particularly impressed. You've simply taught them to enjoy killing.

DATA
You are wrong, Captain. My brother and I serve a much higher purpose.

TROI
Troi stares at Data, noticing something unusual.

TROI
Data... I can sense feelings in you.

DATA
Yes. My brother has made it possible.

PICARD
(realizing)
He gave you the chip -- the one Doctor Soong made for you.

But this produces only a merry laugh from Lore. During the next, Picard's attention is focused on Data -- studying, inspecting, looking for any clue to his unusual behavior.

LORE
Oh, no, no. I still have the emotional program my father designed. I wouldn't want to give it back. It's what has given me such a strong sense of family. I developed an intense desire to re-unite with my dear brother.

(CONTINUED)
TROI
Then you're responsible for bringing him here.

LORE
He came of his own accord. All I had to do was lure the Enterprise into investigating those attacks we staged. Once the Borg told him about my plans, I knew Data would want to join me.

GEORDI
(surprised)
You mean... you attacked those outposts... killed all those people... just to get Data here with you?

PICARD
How did he do it, Data? What made you decide to come here?

Lore has noticed Picard ignoring him, focusing on Data. Nettled, he grabs Picard's arm and turns him away from Data, toward him.

LORE
I am talking to you, Picard. I will tell you what you need to know.

PICARD
You're controlling him. And you've corrupted the Borg.

Lore stares at Picard, anger draining, shaking his head sadly.

LORE
You simply don't understand. You don't grasp the enormity of what I'm doing.

TROI
Data said you intended to destroy the Federation.

Lore waves a hand, dismissive.

(CONTINUED)
LORE
When my plan is realized... there will be no need for a Federation. People will be eager to join me.

GEORDI
Somehow, I doubt that.

LORE
I don't blame you for your ignorance. You have no idea what has happened here. How I found my true calling... how the Borg found something to believe in.

PICARD
I'd like to learn about it. But I want Data to tell us.

This produces another flare in Lore.

LORE
I told you -- I will tell you what you need to know.

PICARD
How do you like that, Data? He won't even let you talk.

DATA
Do not try to drive a wedge between us, Captain. I am loyal to my brother.

Lore beams at this. But even during the next, Picard continues to focus on Data, watching him and ignoring Lore.

LORE
You see, Picard? He's not your pawn anymore. I've helped him break free --

(gesture to Borg)

-- just as I've helped them.

Lore begins moving through the Borg, wound up now and enjoying being center stage. He is putting on a show, not just for Picard and crew, but for his faithful followers.

(CONTINUED)
LORE
Look at them. Look at what I've helped them become. They're no longer mindless automatons. They're passionate. Alive.

TROI
Are you saying you caused them to become individuals?

LORE
No. You and your friends did that. All I did was clean up the mess you made when that Borg you befriended returned to his ship.

DATA
Hugh interfaced with the others and transferred his sense of individuality to them. It almost destroyed them.

PICARD
Data, do you remember when Hugh was on the Enterprise? Do you remember what you were like then?

Lore moves to step directly in front of Picard, forcing his attention.

LORE
That doesn't matter.

PICARD
It does to me. I want to know what's happened to Data.

Lore seethes at this, has to struggle to control his temper. (CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (5)

LORE
What's important is what I've done here. I've found my calling, Picard. I know now why I was created. And no one can ever take that away from me.

He gestures to the Borg.

LORE
Without me, they would have perished. When I stumbled on the first ship, they were lost, disoriented -- they had no idea how to function as individuals. They couldn't even navigate their vessel. They had lost their sense of purpose.

He turns back to Picard, drilling into him.

LORE
I gave them that purpose. And they gave me mine.

DATA
The Borg aspire to the perfection my Brother and I represent: fully artificial life forms. We are their future.

LORE
The reign of biological life forms is coming to an end. You and those like you are obsolete, Picard.

Lore turns to Data.

LORE
Take them, Brother.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (6)

Data gestures to a BORG GUARD for assistance, then pulls out a Borg-style WEAPON and moves forward to take Picard and the others away. Off Lore's approving look...

EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE - DAY

Riker and Worf come to a stop on a ridge that is covered by scrub-like vegetation. Worf scans with his TRICORDER.

WORF
(off tricorder)
Still no sign of the structure.

RIKER
With all this interference it could be a hundred meters away and we wouldn't know it. (frustrated)
This could take hours.

Worf sees something off to one side, and takes a few steps in that direction.

WORF
I am detecting a faint energy reading.

Riker moves to him, scanning.

RIKER
Residual thermal traces... someone stopped here...

WORF
(also scanning)
The decay rate indicates they were human...

RIKER
They followed this path...

They move off, scanning the ground before them.
INT. BORG CELL (OPTICAL)

Data and the Borg Guard are marching the prisoners into a brig-like holding cell. Picard and the others have obviously been working on Data, trying to assess what's happened to him, trying to find a way to reach him.

GEORDI
Don't you see what Lore has done to you? He's got you echoing all his perverse ideas. It's not you talking.

DATA
You are wrong, Geordi. I am in complete accord with my brother's views. I am speaking for myself.

PICARD
Data, how much do you remember about your life aboard the Enterprise?

DATA
I remember everything.

PICARD
Then you must realize that something has happened to you. The Data I know would not be a willing party to Lore's plan.

DATA
I now realize that my life aboard the Enterprise was a waste. My quest to become human was misguided, an evolutionary step in the wrong direction.

Troi tries another tack.

TROI
Data, all I'm sensing from you is anger... hatred -- have you felt any other emotions?

DATA
There are no other emotions.

TROI
What about love... joy?

DATA
Those are words without substance. Love is nothing more than the absence of hate. Joy is the absence of fear.

(CONTINUED)
GEORDI
Just because you haven't experienced certain emotions doesn't mean they don't exist. Lore is just feeding you the negative ones.

DATA
Counselor Troi herself told me that feelings are not positive or negative, it is how we act on them that becomes good or bad.

PICARD
Fine. Then what about the things Lore is proposing? What about the lives that have already been lost?

DATA
You do not understand. In a quest such as ours, sacrifices must be made. It is regrettable. But the greater good must be served.

Data turns to Geordi.

DATA
Give me your Visor.

GEORDI
(disbelieving)
Why?

Data raises his Borg WEAPON threateningly.

DATA
Give it to me or I will take it by force.

Geordi has no choice but to surrender it. He takes the VISOR and EXITS the cell. The Borg Guard activates the force-field, which FRITZES on and is visible for only a moment. Data turns and regards his old friends with a cold eye.

DATA
I am not your puppet anymore.

He and the Borg guard EXIT. Off our people's concerned faces...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
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ACT TWO

FADE IN:

17 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)
as it drops out of warp.

18 INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

Various N.D.'s are ENTERING the Bridge by the Turbolift, taking up positions to fully man the stations. Beverly is in the Command Chair, unhappy about having to leave crew behind.

TAITT
Sir, we've reached the coordinates of the conduit. The tachyon matrix is energized and ready to go.

Beverly stands and turns to her.

TAITT
And Lieutenant Barnaby has returned from the surface. He'll be relieving me.

Beverly glances at BARNABY, an older, seasoned veteran.

BEVERLY
Right. Stand by to trigger the conduit.

She sees that Taitt is heading a bit dejectedly for the Turbolift. A beat, and then --

BEVERLY
Taitt.

She stops, turns back.

BEVERLY
I'd like you to stay on the Bridge. I'll need a Science Officer at the Aft Station.

Taitt blinks, tries not to show her pleasure.

TAITT
Yes, sir.

BEVERLY
Helm, set a course back to the planet.

(CONTINUED)
Barnaby reacts to this surprising order.

BEVERLY
I'm not leaving those people stranded back there. An emergency buoy can transmit a copy of our log entries to Starfleet just as easily as we can.
(to Taitt)
Ensign, prepare a buoy and launch it when you're ready.

TAITT
Aye, sir.

BEVERLY
Lieutenant, open the conduit.

On the VIEWSCREEN we see the conduit open up in space.

TAITT
Launching the buoy now, sir.

On the Viewscreen, we see a probe-like device entering the conduit. Beverly watches the screen for a moment, then turns to Barnaby.

BEVERLY
Lieutenant, scan for any Borg ships between here and the planet.

BARNABY
(working)
Sensors detect no vessels.

(CONTINUED)
TAITT
We have to assume the ship that attacked us is still in orbit.

BEVERLY
How long will we have before they can detect us and intercept?

TAITT
If their sensors function as well as ours -- it could be as little as thirty seconds.

BEVERLY
(to com)
Crusher to Salazar... how long will it take to get the rest of the crew off the surface?

OMITTED
INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM - INTERCUT

SALAZAR
One minute should do it.

BEVERLY
We don't have one minute. How much can you shave off that?

SALAZAR
If I can get a good lock on them quickly... I might be able to do it in forty-five or fifty seconds.

BEVERLY
(to Bridge crew)
We need to buy ourselves fifteen seconds.

(beat)
Is there any way we can use the planet as a barrier... to keep the Borg from realizing we're in orbit?

BARNABY
We can enter orbit while they're on the far side of the planet.

(a beat, as he ponders)
And if we delayed dropping out of warp until the last possible instant -- we could gain a few more seconds.

(CONTINUED)
TAITT
(worried)
If your calculations are even slightly off... we'd hit the atmosphere...

Barnaby seems to take this as a challenge.

BARNABY
Then I'll have to be sure my calculations are accurate.

BEVERLY
Let's go for it. Helm, hard about.

Off Taitt's reaction...
INT. BORG HALL (OPTICAL)

Lore is talking with an N.D. Borg. Other Borg move around the hall going about their various tasks. When Lore sees Data ENTER the hall he sends the N.D. Borg away and calls out to him:

LORE
(heartily)
Brother!

Data approaches with Geordi's VISOR.

DATA
Here is the VISOR. May I ask why you wanted it?

Lore slips it over his eyes.

LORE
I thought it might look good on me.

He turns and regards Data with a smile.

LORE
(continuing)
What do you think?

Data looks at him blankly. Lore takes it off with a frown.

LORE
(continuing)
Maybe we'd better work on your sense of humor, Brother.

Lore begins to examine the VISOR terminals.

LORE
(continuing)
Actually, I was thinking that La Forge's implants would make him an ideal test subject for my experiment.

DATA
All the Borg you have experimented on so far have suffered extensive brain damage.

(CONTINUED)
Lore looks up sharply. Is Data going to argue for sparing Geordi?

LORE
Using the humans to perfect the procedure would allow us to prevent any further Borg deaths.

Lore smiles as he realizes Data is on board.

DATA
I understand.

CROSIS, the Borg who Data left the Enterprise with, ENTERS with another Borg, GOVAL. He angrily drags the frightened Goval before Lore. The other Borg in the hall start to gather as they sense what is going on.

LORE
(continuing)
What is it?

CROSIS
This Borg disconnected himself from the group. He would not let me hear his thoughts.

Lore doesn't get angry, but shakes his head as if he is sorrowful that someone would do such a thing.

LORE
(to Goval)
I've asked you all to remain linked to Crosis at all times. You know that, don't you?

GOVAL
Yes...

CROSIS
(stern)
This is the third time he has disabled the link since he was brought here. He should die as an example to the others.

GOVAL
No -- please --

(continuing)
Lore holds up a hand to stop Crosis.

LORE
I appreciate your vigilance, Crosis. With you monitoring the thoughts of the others, I can be sure they are not falling into confusion.

Lore looks Crosis in the eye as he says this; he knows how to make his followers feel special and important.

LORE
(continuing)
But Goval has not been with us long. Don't you remember what it was like when I first found you? How bewildered you were?

Crosis can't deny it. Lore turns to Goval.

LORE
(continuing)
I understand how difficult it is for you. How uncertain you feel. All these sensations are new -- and they can be frightening. Isn't that right?

Goval responds to Lore's ability to tap into his feelings.

GOVAL
Yes. I -- have doubts...

LORE
Of course you do. That's only natural. And no one is going to blame you for that.

Goval is becoming more relaxed.

LORE
(continuing)
But the only way to lose those doubts... to keep you from fear and confusion... is for you to stay linked with the others. So their strength and confidence can help you.
21 CONTINUED: (3)

He approaches Goval, puts his hand on his shoulder.

LORE
(continuing)
I need you, Goval. I need you to help me build a future for the Borg.

Lore looks into his eyes -- drawing him in, making him feel special.

LORE
(continuing)
I can't do it without you. Will you help me?

Goval has never been the object of this kind of attention -- and from Lore, no less, the leader everyone looks up to.

GOVAL
Yes... I will...

LORE
Then I need you to be strong. I need you to be certain in your thinking. Will you stay linked to your brothers?

GOVAL
Yes. I understand now.

Lore turns and smiles at Crosis, pleased that he's been able to solidify yet another follower.

22 INT. BORG CELL (OPTICAL)

Picard, Troi and the VISOR-less Geordi in mid-conversation.

GEORDI
Lore must have told Data to take my VISOR because he realized I could see a carrier wave radiating from him.

PICARD
A carrier wave... is that how he's creating emotions in Data?

(CONTINUED)
GEORDI
I think what's happening is that Lore is tapping into the chip Doctor Soong created. He's found a way to transmit part of that emotional program to Data.

TROI
But the only emotions Data seems to feel are negative.

GEORDI
I'm sure that's intentional. But for it to work, Lore would have had to disable Data's ethical program first...

PICARD
Can't we get it working again?

GEORDI
(musing)
If I could generate a phased kedion pulse at just the right frequency, it would trigger Data's subsystems and reboot the program.

PICARD
Reinstating the ethical program wouldn't counteract Lore's ability to feed Data emotions... but at least he might listen to us.

TROI
I think it's worth a try.
Geordi breaks their momentum with a hard fact:

GEORDI

(wry)

So... got any ideas about how to generate a kedion pulse?

Picard and Troi realize they've gotten ahead of themselves -- this isn't the Enterprise with its array of technological help. Suddenly, they HEAR the force-field FRITZ OFF. Data comes in and moves to take Geordi.

PICARD

Where are you taking him?

DATA

That's not your concern.

He takes Geordi's arm and moves him out the opening. Picard starts after them.

PICARD

Data, wait -- let us talk to you --

But the force field FRITZES on again, bringing Picard up short. Without a look back, Data walks off with Geordi.
EXT. PLANET'S SURFACE

Riker and Worf are making their way up a fairly steep hill. It is rough going. Suddenly Worf reacts to something off to the side, and quickly shoves Riker and himself into the cover of nearby bushes.

BORQG FEET

walking by as Riker and Worf crouch in silence. The feet march on.

RESUME SCENE

Worf peers out from under the brush, is satisfied the Borg are gone, and gestures Riker out. The two stand, brushing themselves off.

Worf points in a direction away from the path the Borg took.

They head toward it, climbing upward as they do. Worf reaches the top first.

WORF Commander, we have found it.

Riker reaches the top.

THE BORG COMPOUND (OPTICAL)

seen from a distance.

RESUME SCENE

Suddenly, they hear footsteps and muffled voices off to one side. Quickly, they move the opposite direction, toward some brush (trees, etc.). They move through the brush, seeking cover -- when suddenly they run right into three Borg holding their weapons trained on them.
INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERNS

Riker and Worf are being led along a rock-lined passageway by the three Borg. There are CARGO CONTAINERS and other signs that this place is lived in.

They are taken into a larger CHAMBER where several other Borg are standing silently. They're brought to a stop right in front of these Borg, who regard them without a word.

Suddenly a figure steps out from behind them. To our people's astonishment, it is HUGH.

RIKER
Hugh...?

But Hugh has changed from the last time Riker and Worf saw him. He does not welcome them; his words are tinged with bitterness and confrontation.

HUGH
Why are you here, Commander Riker? Hasn't the crew of the Enterprise caused enough damage already?

Off Riker and Worf's surprise...

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERNS

Riker, Worf, and Hugh have moved to another part of the chamber and are talking. Hugh has explained Lore's takeover of the Borg, and his take on it does not sit right with Worf.

WORF
You blame us -- for what has happened to the Borg?

Hugh is on the attack, his words tinged with anger.

HUGH
You gave me a sense of individuality. And then you sent me back to the collective. You must have known my experiences would be passed on to others.

RIKER
We considered it. We knew it was a possibility...

HUGH
Then you made it possible for Lore to dominate us.

WORF
I do not accept that. Lore is only one man. The Borg could have stopped him.

HUGH
You don't know the condition we were in when he found us.

Remembering, Hugh's anger diminishes somewhat; but his words still have a bitter edge.

HUGH
(continuing)
Before my experience on the Enterprise, the Borg were a single-minded collective. The voices in our heads were smooth and flowing. But after I returned, the voices began to change. They became uneven... discordant.

(CONTINUED)
Riker and Worf listen, rapt.

HUGH
For the first time, individual Borg had differing ideas about how to proceed.
(beat)
We couldn't function. Some Borg fought each other. Others simply shut themselves down. Many starved to death.

RIKER
And then -- Lore came along.

HUGH
You probably can't imagine what it is like to be so lost and frightened that any voice which promises change -- will be heard.

WORF
Even if that voice says he must control you?

HUGH
That's what we wanted -- someone who could show us a way out of confusion. Lore promised clarity and purpose. It was irresistible.

Hugh begins to move deeper into the cavern; Riker and Worf follow.

HUGH
(continuing)
In the beginning, he seemed like a savior. The goal of becoming a superior race -- of becoming fully artificial -- was exhilarating. We gladly did everything he asked of us.

They are nearing two Borg who are sitting with their backs against the wall.

HUGH
(continuing)
And before we realized it -- this was the result.

Riker and Worf look at the two Borg. They are horribly twisted and misshapen, as if by nerve damage. One is constantly wracked by small tremors; the other has only one arm.
29 CONTINUED: (2)

RIKER
What's happened to them?

HUGH
Lore had no idea how to keep his promise that we could all be like him. So he began experimenting on us, looking for ways to turn us into fully artificial life forms.

Hugh sees that one of the Borg has slumped over so he bends down and helps him into a sitting position. The crippled Borg manages a smile at this small kindness.

HUGH
(continuing)
This is the result of my encounter with the Enterprise, Commander. So you can see I don't particularly welcome your presence here.

Riker looks around the cavern, at the ragged little band.

RIKER
You didn't buy into Lore's plan. You realized what he's doing is wrong -- and you're trying to do something about it.

(beat)
Maybe that's also because of your experience with us.

Hugh is thoughtful; he has conflicting feelings about his experience on the Enterprise.

HUGH
That may be. But forgive me if I don't feel like thanking you.

Riker hesitates, carefully forming his thoughts.

RIKER
Hugh, I'm not asking you to be our pals... but maybe we can help each other. There should be Starfleet ships heading back this way in a couple of days. And we still have some crew on the planet.

(CONTINUED)
29 CONTINUED: (4)

Hugh is silent, listening.

RIKER
Help us rescue the Captain and his team. And we'll help you fight Lore.

HUGH
It's a bad bargain, Commander. Lore's gunships will destroy your vessels. And a handful of your crew will be no match for the Borg.

RIKER
What's the alternative? To sit here in a cave and hope others will defect and join you?

HUGH
Others will join us. There are many who are disenchanted with Lore. But they're afraid to speak out.

Frustrated, Riker takes a breath.

RIKER
Okay. Don't help us. But -- will you at least show us how you get in and out of the compound?

A beat, as Hugh wars with himself, then --

HUGH
(gesturing)
These caverns have tunnels which run beneath the compound. Some of them connect with the environmental control system -- and then to corridors in the compound.

WORF
Show us. If we can determine the geography of the compound, we can form a plan to rescue the Captain.

Hugh regards them gravely... then turns and heads down a tunnel. Riker and Worf follow.
INT. BORG LAB (OPTICAL)

A small chamber with alien scientific equipment.

Geordi is STRAPPED onto a tilting PLATFORM. He's alone and can't see. After a moment, Data ENTERS and Geordi reacts to the sound.

GEORDI

Data?

Data doesn't answer.

GEORDI

(continuing)

Is somebody there?

A cold look crosses Data's face.

DATA

(Picard's voice)

Geordi...

GEORDI

Captain --

DATA

(as Picard)

Shhh. We're getting out of here.

GEORDI

(whispers)

Hurry. Data was just here; he went to get something.

DATA

(as himself)

Too late.

Geordi realizes Data has tricked him.

DATA

(continuing)

My Brother suggested that I try to develop my sense of humor. What do you think?

Geordi can't afford to antagonize Data.

GEORDI

I think it needs a little work.

Data approaches Geordi and uses a (TECH) DEVICE to shoot a BEAM inside Geordi's left VISOR terminal.

(CONTINUED)
GEORDI
(continuing, reacts)
What's happening?

DATA
(as he does the right
terminal)
I am neutralizing your pain
receptors.

Geordi swallows hard and asks in an even voice:

GEORDI
What are you going to do to me?

Data picks up a (TECH) device that has a long needle-like point.

DATA
I am implanting nano-cortenide
fibers in your cortex that are
designed to learn and mimic your
neural firing patterns.

As he speaks, Data calmly inserts the needle-like point
into Geordi's skull. We're expecting Geordi to cry out
in pain but he doesn't; he doesn't even feel it.

DATA
(continuing)
Once they are in place, I will
destroy your existing brain cells
and see if the artificial neural
network is able to take over
cognitive functions.

Data removes the point and we see the end of a thin
FIBER protruding from Geordi's scalp.

GEORDI
Data, listen to me. Lore is
controlling you -- he's
transmitting a carrier wave that's
affecting your positronic matrix.

But Data pays no attention to this.

DATA
If the procedure is successful,
your cognitive processing
functions will be considerably
improved.

(CONTINUED)
GEORDI
Don't you care that he's manipulating you?

DATA
However, there is approximately a seventy percent chance that you will not survive the procedure.

Data inserts the probe into another part of Geordi's skull.

GEORDI
I don't much care for those odds.

DATA
They are cause for concern.

Geordi reacts -- maybe there's some part of Data that still cares about him.

DATA
(continuing)
However, since I also have Counselor Troi and Captain Picard, the odds are that at least one of the procedures will be successful.

Data's cold math makes Geordi realize he misunderstood... and that nothing he can say will stop Data from methodically performing his grisly task...

INT. CORRIDOR/BORG CELL (OPTICAL)

A BORG is standing silently at his post, just down the corridor from the cell where our people are being held. Suddenly he hears the SOUND of the force-field fritzing on. As he moves to investigate, the fritzing stops and he hears the SOUND of a body falling to the ground.

TROI'S VOICE
Help me!

When he looks inside the cell he sees Troi kneeling by Picard's unconscious body. She looks up.

TROI
(alarmed)
He tried to escape -- the force-field put him into neural shock.

(CONTINUED)
The Borg hesitates, suspicious.

TROI
(continuing)
If he dies, Lore will blame you.

The Borg decides she's right. He DEACTIVATES the force-field. He enters the cell and approaches Picard's body.

When he bends down to take a closer look, Picard suddenly opens his eyes and reaches a hand up to pull a TUBE from the Borg's head, instantly disabling him. When the Borg slumps to the ground, we see a small amount of silvery FLUID seep from the torn tube.

Picard gets up and examines the Borg's prosthetic ARM. He quickly separates the weapon from the Borg's arm and gives it to Troi.

PICARD
(continuing)
See if the corridor's empty.

Picard stays with the Borg as she moves to the cell opening -- she stops short when she sees Data ENTER the corridor, holding a groggy Geordi by the arm.

Data sees the weapon in Troi's hand and grabs Geordi by the throat.

DATA
Drop it or I will break his neck.

Troi has no choice but to drop the weapon. Data unholsters his, then moves Geordi forward and hands him over to Picard and Troi.

DATA
(continuing)
Take him.

Picard and Troi lead Geordi to one of the side benches.
PICARD
(re: Geordi)
What have you done to him?

But Data ignores him.

DATA
I will be back for him later.

With a cold look at Picard, he turns and EXITS. We HEAR the force-field go on.

When Data's gone Picard turns to Troi and opens his hand, revealing a small DEVICE that is Borg-like in design. They approach Geordi.

TROI
Geordi, are you in pain?

GEORDI
No. I'm a little dizzy, but that's all.

PICARD
I was able to take part of a transceiver from the guard's interlink system. It uses a form of phased pulse technology.

This gets Geordi's attention.

GEORDI
Maybe we can modify it to generate a kedion pulse and reboot Data's ethical program...

PICARD
You'll have to talk me through it...

GEORDI
We might not have time -- Data said he'd be back for me soon. Let me lay it out for you... first, you'll have to re-route the modulation circuitry to bypass the initializers...

Picard listens intently as Geordi explains the procedure.
32 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)
as it warps toward the planet.

33 INT. BRIDGE

There is an air of urgency in the room. Beverly is at an Aft Station with Barnaby. They’re looking at an OKUDAGRAM that shows the planet.

TAITT
(at aft science)
Sensors still can’t locate the Borg ship’s location -- I’m trying to filter out the interference.

BARNABY
We’ll be within transporter range in nineteen seconds.

TAITT
I’m starting to get sensor resolution...
(beat)
There’s the ship.

She gestures toward the OKUDAGRAM; the Borg ship’s position in orbit is now marked.

BEVERLY
We’ll enter orbit here.

She indicates a point on the opposite side of the planet.

(CONTINUED)
BARNABY
(works)
Helm, new course -- heading zero-five-two mark seven.

CON OFFICER'S VOICE
Aye, sir.

BARNABY
(works)
Stand by to drop out of warp in... eight seconds.

TAITT
Once we're in orbit, we should have about forty-five seconds before they intercept us.

BEVERLY
I hope that gives us enough time...

BARNABY
Emergency deceleration in five seconds.

BEVERLY
Hold on --
There is a sudden forward lurch as the thrusters engage and we drop out of warp.

BEVERLY
(continuing)
Report.

TAITT
We're in standard orbit, sir. The Borg ship is on the planet's far side, and is moving to intercept.

BEVERLY
(to com)
Bridge to Transporter Rooms -- begin evacuation.

BARNABY
The Borg will be in weapons range in... thirty-two seconds.

BEVERLY
(to con officer)
Raise shields.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

BARNABY
(off console)
We still can't locate Captain Picard's Team... and there's no sign of Commander Riker or Lieutenant Worf.

BEVERLY
(to com)
Crusher to Salazar. Report.

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM
A group of N.D. officers are stepping off the Transporter pad.

SALAZAR
(at the console)
We're pulling the last teams off right now. But there are six people still unaccounted for.

INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

BEVERLY
Keep trying.

On the VIEWSCREEN the Borg ship can be seen approaching.

BARNABY
The Borg ship is powering up its weapons array.

Beverly wants to give the Transporter Chief a few more seconds.

BEVERLY
(to herself)
Come on, Chief. It's now or never.

TAITT
They're firing!

But the ship takes a hit and shakes violently.

BARNABY
The port nacelle's been hit.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BEVERLY
Helm, get us out of here.

BARNABY
We've lost warp engines.

BEVERLY
Evasive maneuvers, full impulse.

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as the Enterprise pulls out of orbit.

INT. BRIDGE

TAITT
Shields are down to eighty percent.

BEVERLY
Fire phasers.

A beat, then --

BARNABY
Direct hit. No damage to the Borg ship.

The ship is rocked by another blast.

TAITT
Shields at thirty percent.

BEVERLY
Status of the warp engines?

BARNABY
Still down. We can't outrun them.

There is a tense beat as Beverly considers the situation.

BEVERLY
(to con)
Helm, set a new course -- heading three-four-four mark six. Full impulse.

Taitt checks this heading at her console, then turns to Beverly, uncertain.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

TAITT
Sir... that heading takes us directly into the sun...

Beverly doesn't respond; obviously she knows this and intended it. Off her determined expression and Taitt's anxiety...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN:

38 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

with the Borg ship in pursuit.

39 INT. BRIDGE

Beverly is at the rear stations with Barnaby and Taitt. The next is at an urgent pace; they need an answer quickly.

BEVERLY
(to Barnaby)
The databanks should contain information about a process called metaphasic shielding --

BARNABY
I know about that research. Commander La Forge developed a program to implement the shielding...

BEVERLY
Activate the program. We'll be able to enter the sun's corona and the Borg ship won't be able to follow.

BARNABY
But... those shields have never been tested. There's no way of knowing if they'll hold...

TAITT
Sir, hull temperature is rising... now at twelve-thousand degrees C. Radiation level is nearing ten thousand rads.

(CONTINUED)
Suddenly the ship is ROCKED by another phaser blast.

BEVERLY
Report.

TAITT
No structural damage. Shields at sixty-eight percent...

BEVERLY
Lieutenant, activate the metaphasic program. We don't have a choice.

BARNABY
Aye, sir.

He begins working at a console.

TAITT
Hull temperature is critical. We can't withstand this heat much longer.

BARNABY
Okay... I've got it... engaging metaphasic shield.

There is a tense beat.

TAITT
Hull temperature dropping... down to seven thousand degrees.

There is general relief.

BEVERLY
Maintain course.

EXT. SPACE — THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)
as it disappears from view inside the sun's glare -- moments later the Borg ship pulls up and away from the sun.

INT. BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

BARNABY
The Borg ship has broken off pursuit.

BEVERLY
All stop.
CONTINUED:

TAITT
(off console)
Sir, the Borg ship is taking up position relative to ours. They're going to wait for us to come out.

Beverly casts an eye toward the Viewscreen and sees the fiery glow of the corona.

BEVERLY
The question is... how long can we stay in here?
Off her face...

INT. BORG CELL (OPTICAL)
Geordi has been taken away again, and Picard is modifying the (TECH) component he took from the Borg. Troi is standing so as to block what he's doing should anyone look inside the cell.

PICARD
I've done everything Geordi said. Now we just have to activate it.

He makes a final adjustment to the transceiver as:

TROI
How are we going to know if it works?

PICARD
The signal will carry for a radius of seven hundred meters, which will effectively cover all the compound. So the pulse will reach Data. Whether it reboots his ethical program -- we'll only be able to tell by his behavior.

TROI
Won't he realize something has happened to him?

PICARD
I doubt it. It's one program among thousands, and it operates in the background of his processors.

(CONTINUED)
Picard has reached the cell opening. He glances down the corridor, then sets the transceiver on the floor and gently nudges it with his foot toward the force field.

**PICARD**

*I just hope this force field has enough (TECH) energy to trigger the kedion pulse.*

The transceiver comes in contact with the force field, which ACTIVATES, fritzing continuously.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. BORG LAB**

Data is scanning Geordi with a MEDICAL DEVICE.

**GEORDI**

You know, Data -- I've been thinking... about some of the times we've had together.

Geordi is hoping that the re-boot will work, and that he can reach Data on a personal level, reminding him of what was good about his life before he joined Lore's "cult."

Suddenly Data gives a VERY SMALL head tilt, so minute that neither he nor Geordi realize anything has happened.

**GEORDI**

Like that time we went sailing on Devala Lake. Remember that?

**DATA**

I have a complete memory record of that day.

**GEORDI**

You decided to take a swim... but when you jumped out of the boat you sank straight to the bottom.

Geordi can't help but laugh as he remembers.

(CONTINUED)
DATA
(matter of factly)
I did not have enough buoyancy to get back to the surface.

GEORDI
(still chuckling)
So you had to walk over a kilometer along the bottom of the lake to get to shore.

DATA
One kilometer, forty-six meters.

GEORDI
It took two weeks to get the water out of your servos...

There is a beat, then --

DATA
I am ready to oxidize your existing brain cells.

Geordi's face falls when he hears this... it seems a jarring contrast to the pleasant memory he was sharing. He doesn't seem to have reached Data.

GEORDI
(quiet)
Data... if you ever go back to being the way you were, you may not be able to forgive yourself for what you're about to do to me.

Data's face is unreadable. After a beat --

DATA
I am getting some anomalous readings from your neural net. I will have to do further tests before I proceed.

Data has not even scanned for readings, but Geordi can't see this. Data stands.

DATA
Someone will come and take you back to your cell.

Data regards Geordi for a moment, then turns and EXITS.
INT. UNDERGROUND CAVERNS

Hugh, Riker and Worf have returned to the main chamber from their reconnaissance. Riker and Worf are laying out their rescue plan. Hugh stands to one side, listening.

WORF
We can use the environmental control ducts to get inside the compound. They should take us to the cell where the Captain is being held.

RIKER
We'll have to move fast after we stun the guard. The other Borg will know right away that he's been hurt.

HUGH
When they realize... your escape route may be compromised.

RIKER
We'll have to take that chance.

There is a beat of silence. Hugh is torn -- he could offer to help them. But he cannot take the step.

HUGH
Good luck, Commander.

Riker and Worf nod and head off down the tunnel. Hugh stares after them, conflicted.

EXT. BORG COMPOUND (OPTICAL) - DAY

Data approaches Lore, who is seated, surveying the landscape from just outside an entrance to the compound. Borg workers come and go as they perform their various tasks.

(CONTINUED)
LORE
There you are, Brother. Have you made any progress with La Forge?

DATA
It is too early to tell if the nano-cortical fibers have performed their function.

LORE
I suspect none of the humans will survive the process... but it's their own fault, isn't it? They should never have come here. What were they thinking?

Data takes Lore's rhetorical question to heart.

DATA
(quiet)
They came looking for me.

LORE
Humans are so sentimental.

But things aren't so simple for Data anymore -- his ethical program is forcing him to think about things. As much to himself as to Lore:

DATA
I betrayed them. If they die...
I am responsible.

Lore looks at him, concerned.

(CONTINUED)
LORE
Why are you talking like this? Is something wrong with your programming? Perhaps I should check your systems.

DATA
(firm)
I do not want you to check my systems. I must resolve these issues myself.

Lore eyes Data, wary.

LORE
I think I've made a mistake. I don't believe you can tolerate the amount of emotion you've been experiencing.

His eyes locked on Data's, Lore reaches for one of his own fingers.

INSERT - FINGERNAIL
as Lore flips the nail up, revealing circuitry inside.
BACK TO SCENE

LORE
Perhaps I should cut back a little...

Lore adjusts something in his nail and Data seems to shudder -- like a junkie coming down off a drug.

LORE
How's that?

DATA
I... do not like it...

LORE
Ah. Then you prefer having more emotions...?

Yes...

DATA
LORE
They give you pleasure.

Yes. Please... I want more...

Lore lets Data yearn for a moment, then adjusts the circuitry as:

LORE
All right. For now, a little more.

Data is again flooded with negative emotion. It's a relief -- like a fix.

DATA
Thank you...

LORE
Don't mention it. I just hope this has helped clarify things for you.

Data walks off and Lore gazes after him. After a moment, he beckons to Crosis, who approaches.

LORE
I am concerned about my brother, Crosis. I don't believe he really wants to be a part of our great future.

He exchanges a meaningful and ominous look with Crosis.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR
FADE IN:

48 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise hangs in space inside the sun's corona.

49 INT. BRIDGE

Light from the sun's corona reflects on the Bridge crew. Barnaby and Taitt are at an Aft Station. Taitt is working a console, concentrating intently on something.

BARNABY
(to Beverly)
Sir, the metaphasic shielding is losing integrity.

Concerned, Beverly moves to him.

BEVERLY
Can you stabilize it?

BARNABY
No... we won't be able to stay in here more than another three or four minutes.

BEVERLY
Do we have warp engines yet?

BARNABY
The last estimate was another half hour.

There is a charged silence. The options aren't good. Then --

TAITT
Sir?

Beverly and Barnaby turn toward her.

TAITT
I think I have an idea...

Beverly is interested. Taitt takes a breath.

(CONTINUED)
TAITT
I think... it's possible we could induce a solar fusion eruption... that would destroy the Borg ship.

Barnaby stares at her, disbelieving.

BARNABY
What?

Taitt presses on. She's a little nervous about this, but nonetheless certain of her idea.

TAITT
We'd need to direct a highly energetic particle beam onto the sun's surface... it should disrupt the photosphere and produce a superfluid gas eruption. If we target the right spot -- the eruption would envelop the Borg ship.

Barnaby shakes his head, dismissing her.

BEVERLY
Are you sure this'll work?

There is a hesitation.

TAITT
I did my senior honors thesis on solar dynamics. I hypothesized that it would.

Beverly looks at her, considering.

BARNABY
Excuse me, sir, but this isn't the Academy. And a student's hypothesis is a long way from a workable plan.

The goad seems to sharpen Taitt, focus her. She presses on.

TAITT
I've already configured the tractor emitters beam to create the particle beam... and I've targeted a point on the surface so the eruption will encompass the Borg ship.

(CONTINUED)
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49  CONTINUED: (2)

    BARNABY
    If her calculations are off, the eruption could encompass us.

    Taitt eyes him.

    TAITT
    Well. I'll just have to make sure my calculations are accurate.

    BEVERLY
    Let's do it.

    TAITT
    Yes, sir.

    She works her console.

50  EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

    as a beam lances out from the hull and down toward the sun's surface.

51  INT. BRIDGE

    TAITT
    The target area on the photosphere is destabilizing... pressure wave expansion is accelerating...

    BARNABY
    (off console)
    Sub-surface fusion has been initiated...
    (beat)
    There's an eruption forming on the surface.

52  EXT. SPACE - BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

    hangs unsuspecting in space. Suddenly an enormous solar flare comes bursting out of the corona and engulfs it.

53  INT. BRIDGE

    BARNABY
    She did it. The Borg ship has been destroyed.

    (CONTINUED)
BEVERLY
Helm, take us back to the planet,
full impulse.

Beverly turns to Taitt and gives her a smile and a nod:
"Well done."

INT. BORG CELL

Geordi is lying on one of the side benches; Troi sits
nearby trying to make him comfortable. Picard paces
restlessly.

The SOUND of the force field deactivating causes them
to look toward the cell opening, where Data appears.

PICARD
(re: Geordi)
You're killing him. He won't
survive another session.

DATA
I did not come for him -- I came
for you.

He indicates with his WEAPON that Picard should move
out. Picard glances at Troi, then EXITS the cell.

INT. BORG HALL (OPTICAL)

Picard and Data ENTER the empty room in mid-
conversation.

PICARD
...It's not too late. If you
remove the fibers, Geordi might
recover.

DATA
That will not be possible.

PICARD
Why? Because Lore says so?

DATA
(beat)
It is for the greater good.

Picard senses that Data's program is working, and
causing some confusion. He bears down.

(CONTINUED)
PICARD
Good and bad, right and wrong --
those are functions of your
ethical program.

DATA
That is correct.

PICARD
What does your program tell you
about what you're doing to Geordi,
about what you and Lore are doing
to the Borg?

Unlike before, Data has no easy answer. Picard pushes forward.

PICARD
(continuing)
It tells you these things are
wrong, doesn't it?

Data's face says he's correct.

PICARD
(continuing)
How can actions that are wrong
lead to a "greater good"?

DATA
You are attempting to confuse me.

PICARD
No, Data. You're not confused;
you're sensing the truth. Your
ethical program is fighting the
negative emotions Lore is giving
you.

Data's face is anguished. Before Picard can continue
Lore ENTERS the hall with a group of Borg.

LORE
There you are, Captain. Thank you
for joining us. You're going to
help me in a most important
ceremony.

Lore's words have an ominous ring. What does he have in mind?
INT. BORG CELL (OPTICAL)

Troi is tending Geordi when her attention is caught by the SOUND of a phaser blast coming from the corridor outside the cell. Having no way of knowing what this portends, she listens with some concern to the SOUND of hurriedly approaching footsteps. To her relief, Riker and Worf appear at the cell door moments later.

WORF
Where's the Captain?

TROI
Data took him away.

Worf DEACTIVATES the force-field and hangs back to make sure no one comes down the corridor. Riker's face registers concern when he sees the shape Geordi's in.

RIKER
There's not much time.
(re: Geordi)
Can he walk?

TROI
He'll need help.

Riker and Troi help Geordi to his feet.

RIKER
(to Troi)
There's an air duct in the corridor that connects to a tunnel underneath the compound. You take Geordi and we'll look for the Captain.

Troi nods and they EXIT.

INT. BORG HALL (OPTICAL)

Lore has approached Picard and Data. Crosis and the other Borg stand along the periphery of the room, watching silently.

LORE
(to Data)
It's time to put your doubts aside, Brother. It's time to close the door on your past and commit yourself to the great work that lies ahead of us.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

LORE (Cont'd)
I need to know that I can count on you.

He glances at Picard.

LORE
As proof, I want you to kill Captain Picard.

Data's expression falters. He knows that if he doesn't comply Lore will cut off the flow of emotions, or quite possibly, kill him. He unholsters his weapon, turns and looks at Picard.

OMITTED

ON LORE
Looking on approvingly.

ON DATA
his face unreadable.

ON PICARD
holding Data's gaze.

RESUME SCENE

For a long moment, Data's decision hangs in the air. Finally:

DATA
No... It would be wrong.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Crosis quickly moves to take the weapon from Data. Lore looks at his Brother, shakes his head sadly.

LORE
I didn't think you'd be able to do it. You've spent too many years among humans.

Lore turns away from Data, as if it's too painful to look at him anymore. But we see him cast a glance at Crosis -- and as if by prearranged contingency, Crosis swings in to action.

CROSIS
Hold him.

Two Borg step forward and take Data by the arms.

LORE
(to the assembled Borg)
I've asked many sacrifices of you -- sacrifices I knew were necessary in order to build a better future.

He plays the moment, going for the dramatic impact.

LORE
I want you to know that I ask no more of you than I am prepared to give myself. I am willing to make the greatest sacrifice of all -- my own dear brother.

Lore takes a weapon from another Borg. He looks at Data with great sadness in his eyes.

NEW ANGLE (OPTICAL)

Revealing that one of the Borg standing behind Lore is Hugh.

LORE
Good bye, Data.

As he starts to raise his weapon, Hugh rushes forward and knocks it away.

HUGH
No --

Crosis aims to take Hugh out but a PHASER bolt from the stage area blasts him.
ANOTHER ANGLE

Revealing that Riker and Worf had snuck into the hall and were hiding up in the stage area -- they stand ready to fire again if necessary.

RESUME SCENE

as a melee begins to erupt, various Borg beginning to charge each other.

ANGLE

as two Borg grapple hand-to-hand. One of them takes the other down and moves on toward some other foe.

ANGLE

as a Borg comes up behind Picard.
66D ANGLE as Worf sees and takes aim.

66E ANGLE as a PHASER blast takes out the Borg behind Picard.

67 RESUME SCENE

Lore and Data stand looking at each other across the room, strangely still amidst the Pandemonium all around them.

The fighting blocks his line of sight for a moment -- and before Data realizes it Lore is gone. Data has to push past people to follow...

68 INT. BORG LAB (OPTICAL)

Where Data had worked on Geordi. Lore is furiously working a console when Data ENTERS.

DATA

Lore...

Lore turns and sees the weapon in Data's hand (although it's not aimed at him).

LORE

Be careful with that, Brother. Somebody could get hurt.

DATA

What are you doing?

LORE

I have a way out of here. I'm willing to forget about what happened back there and take you with me.

(smiles)

We don't need anyone else. We're Brothers.

He sees that Data is unmoved by this.

(CONTINUED)
LORE
I'll give you the chip our father made. It contains more than just emotions -- it has *memories*.

**INSERT - FINGERNAIL**

As Lore speaks, he surreptitiously opens his fingernail.

**LORE'S VOICE**

Memories our Father wanted you to have.

**RESUME SCENE (OPTICAL)**

as Lore activates the circuitry and cuts off the flow of emotions -- Data shudders as before, and Lore uses the opportunity to go for a weapon on a nearby console.

Lore whips it around to shoot him and leaves Data no choice but to FIRE; the bolt hits Lore square in the chest. Lore's systems overload -- TENDRILS of crackling energy course around his head, and he collapses to the ground.

Data kneels at his side... the impact of the fall caused Lore's head flap to open and his BLINKING CIRCUITRY is now exposed.

Lore looks up at him, his eyes filled with sadness.

**DATA**

I am going to deactivate you now.

Lore speaks haltingly -- he's clearly damaged.

(CONTINUED)
LORE
If you do that, you will never feel emotion again.

DATA
I know. But you leave me no other choice.

Data uses a TOOL to start shutting down Lore's systems, and the firing pattern of his blinkies starts to slow.

Data pauses before shutting off the last system; he has to fight off the feeling of withdrawal.

DATA
Good bye, Lore.

Lore's lost so many systems that his words come out distorted.

LORE
I... love you... Brother...

Data shuts down the last system and Lore's circuitry stops blinking. He is still, lifeless. Data regards him silently, his face unreadable...

EXT. THE BORG COMPOUND (OPTICAL)
seen from a distance.

INT. BORG HALL

The fight is over. Riker approaches Worf and Picard.

PICARD
What about Geordi and Troi?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIKER
The Enterprise is in orbit.
They're both aboard.

There is a murmur from some of the Borg when they see Data ENTER the room. He approaches Picard and the others.

DATA
Lore is no longer functioning.
(beat)
He must be disassembled so that he is never a threat again.

PICARD
It's good to have you back, Data.

DATA
Thank you, sir.

Picard turns to Hugh.

PICARD
What will you do now?

HUGH
I don't know. We can't go back to the Borg collective... but I don't know if we can all coexist here. I hope we can learn to function as individuals -- and work together as a group.

Picard nods thoughtfully.

PICARD
Good luck, Hugh.

HUGH
Good bye.

Off this moment...

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

as it moves at warp.

PICARD
Captain's Log, Stardate 47025.4.
We have returned to Federation Space and are en route to Starbase two-nine-five. Mister La Forge remains under Doctor Crusher's care.
72 INT. DATA'S QUARTERS

Data is sitting at his desk, petting SPOT, looking at a MICRO-CHIP on a glass slide. The door CHIMES.

DATA

Enter.

Geordi comes in.

GEORDI

Hi, Data.

Data looks up at him, curious.

GEORDI

I just wanted to let you know that Doctor Crusher says I'll be able to return to duty soon.

Data understands his intention.

DATA

I am glad that the injuries I inflicted on you are not permanent.

GEORDI

(notices slide)

What's that?

DATA

This is the chip my Father created for me so that I could experience emotions. I had it removed from Lore's body before he was dismantled.

GEORDI

Does it still work?

DATA

No. I am pleased to say that it was damaged when I was forced to fire on Lore.

GEORDI

Pleased? Data, you've wanted emotions all your life.

DATA

Yes. But they were responsible for what I did to you.

Data crosses over to a table.

(CONTINUED)
DATA
I would never risk letting
something like that happen again.
My friendship with you is too
important to me.

Data puts the chip in a box and closes it.

GEORDI
I wouldn't be much of a friend to
you if I let you give up on a life-
long dream.

Data looks up at him.

GEORDI
There must be another way. We'll
find it.

Data and Geordi regard each other... off this moment
we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END