FADE IN:

1  EXT. SPACE SHUTTLECRAFT (OPTICAL)

A lonely craft against a starry background.

PICARD (V.O.)
Captain's log, stardate (TECH).
Ensign Ro, Botanical Specialist
Keiko O'Brien, Guinan and I are
returning to the Enterprise after
a brief tour of the planet
Mediternesia.

2  INT. SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT

PICARD, GUINAN, KEIKO and RO, who is at the controls.
The atmosphere is very informal. (We note Keiko has
bagged and seed samples on her person.)

PICARD
Guinan, I'm grateful you suggested
this visit.

GUINAN
We were in the same star system.
And the ship doesn't get to this
part of the quadrant very often.

PICARD
Studying the Mediterneian
Catacombs doesn't prepare you for
the experience of being down
there, inside of them.

KEIKO
The subterranean flora was so
beautiful, I almost forgot to
collect any specimens.

Guinan looks at Ro who is conspicuously silent on all
this.

(Contiued)
CONTINUED:

RO
(trapped; blunt)
It's a nice place to visit... but
I wouldn't want to be buried
there.

Their conversation is cut short as...

WORF'S COM VOICE
Enterprise to Shuttle...

PICARD
Picard here.

WORF'S COM VOICE
Captain, Starfleet Command has
ordered the Enterprise to Ligos
Seven.

PICARD
To what purpose.

WORF'S COM VOICE
A distress signal was received
from the Starfleet science team
on mission to the planet.

PICARD
Any indication as to the nature
of the emergency?

WORF'S COM VOICE
No sir. The call was cut off
mid-transmission.

PICARD
On our way.
The transition to 'business' is immediate and absolute.

RO
Final docking approach...
one-point-two meters per second...

EXT. SPACE SHUTTLECRAFT (OPTICAL)

Coming out of warp, the shuttle is confronted by a
bright FLASH that erupts directly in the craft's path.
The light quickly fades leaving only an incandescent
CLOUD-LIKE ANOMALY in its wake.

As the shuttle approaches the anomaly, its vapors
quickly enveloping the craft...
INT. SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT

There's a sudden JOLT. And the craft begins to SHAKE, caught in the grip of some phenomenon.

RO
(reading instruments)
Sir, our power is dropping.

PICARD
Hard about, full impulse.

RO
Aye, sir.

EXT. SPACE - THE SHUTTLECRAFT (OPTICAL)

As the craft is buffeted back and forth, caught in the currents of the vaporous tidepool...

INT. SHUTTLECRAFT - IN FLIGHT

Ro works the controls as the craft shakes.

RO
Helm's not responding, Captain...

The SHAKING escalates. It's VIOLENT now.

PICARD
Hang on...

Picard, Keiko, Guinan and Ro, buffeted about. WHIRR, the power goes down. Red warning LIGHTS flash, a KLAXON sounds.

PICARD
(where the hell are you)
Enterprise...?

INT. ENTERPRISE - MAIN BRIDGE

RIKER at command. DATA at Ops. WORF, TROI, ENSIGN at Conn, various SUPERNUMERARIES.

WORF
Sir? The shuttle's impulse generators have shut down...

RIKER
(to Com)
O'Brien, get them out of there.
Emergency transport!
INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

O'Brien at the console.

O'BRIEN
Sir, the beam is being disrupted by a severe (TECH) field. The computer is scanning their patterns. But I've only got a piece of them...

RIKER'S COM VOICE
Can you boost the containment beam?

O'BRIEN
(to Com)
Affirmative...

The Transporter snaps, crackles, fritzes.

RIKER'S COM VOICE
Do it, Mister O'Brien.

INT. SHUTTLE

Red alert... all power gone...

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Outer hull breach imminent.

As our people begin to DEMATERIALIZE...

O'BRIEN
(to Com)
There's a forty percent drop in mass. I may have lost one of them...

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

ANGLE - TRANSPORTER PAD - ON PICARD (OPTICAL)

He MATERIALIZES... and suddenly, he's twelve years old. He's a boy, wearing a slightly oversized Captain's uniform. For a split second, he doesn't notice, driven forward by adrenaline...

YOUNG PICARD
Thank you, Mister O'Brien. Another moment and...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

He stops, reacting to O'Brien who is staring at him with a strange expression.

ANGLE WIDENS

As Picard turns to see Keiko, Guinan and Ro. They are all eleven or twelve years old. OFF the astonished face of the boy Captain...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER
FADE IN:

(NOTE: Episode credits fall over opening scenes.)

INT. SICKBAY

BEVERLY, medical tricorder in hand, finishes her examination of Young Picard. Riker and Troi are with her. In the b.g., Young Ro, Guinan and Keiko sit on biobeds while OGAWA conducts tests. (NOTE: "child" version now wear smaller, replicated clothes and insignias.)

Throughout the scene Young Picard gradually grows impatient with the 'grown ups' who talk above and about him, as if he weren’t even there.

BEVERLY

According to the bio-scans, their DNA structure has been radically altered. Their present genetic structure is consistent with that of a pre-adolescent youth.

TROI

But the individual intelligence and behavioral responses are all exactly the same to those they exhibited before.

BEVERLY

As far as we can tell, all that’s changed is their physical form.

RIKER

(beat; that’s all?) Engineering’s still running a diagnostic on the Transporter. We’ve got what’s left of the shuttle in tow. Maybe it can tell us something.

BEVERLY

Going back to find out the exact nature of the (TECH/anomaly) the shuttle passed through might tell us more.

RIKER

That would mean delaying our arrival to Ligos Seven.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

YOUNG PICARD
A probe should prove sufficient, Doctor. Number One, you’re with me.

BEVERLY
Captain... there are some additional tests...

YOUNG PICARD
Of course...
(to other 'children')
The three of you will remain as needed to assist Doctor Crusher.

Young Picard EXITS with Riker. As Troi and Beverly turn their attention to Keiko...

ANGLE - RO AND GUINAN
Ro sits on her biobed obviously not pleased with any of this. As Guinan gets up to study her reflection. (She improvises, using a piece of reflective scientific equipment for a mirror.)

YOUNG GUINAN
(mischievously)
This is going to be fun.

YOUNG RO
"Fun" is being back at work, on the Bridge... in my own uniform. (beat)
I just hope they find the cure for this thing soon.

YOUNG GUINAN
Were you in this big of a hurry to grow up last time you were a kid?

YOUNG RO
(without hesitation)
Travelling through it at warp ten wouldn’t have been fast enough for me.

On Young Guinan’s reaction...
INT. TURBOLIFT

Riker and Young Picard.

YOUNG PICARD
Bridge.

They stand side by side, an awkward and silent for both of them.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Young Picard barrels off the Turbolift with Riker and sits -- sinks -- into the Captain's chair. He struggles to sit tall.

YOUNG PICARD
Mister Data...

Data's head swivels around.

YOUNG PICARD
Prepare...

Suddenly, Picard is aware of every highly disciplined head -- from Geordi at aft science -- to Worf and various Supernumeraries in between -- trying not to stare at their captain.

YOUNG PICARD
I realize how unusual this must seem...

(just the facts)
My appearance is the result of an incident, involving myself and three other crew members... the effects of which Doctor Crusher is currently working to remedy. (in charge)
Until then, I assure you, I am Captain Picard.

Riker nods his assent.

YOUNG PICARD
Launch a class two probe to the coordinates where we encountered the (Tech/anomaly).

DATA
Probe launched, Sir.

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

YOUNG PICARD
Mister Data... notify Starfleet
Command of those same coordinates.

DATA
Aye, Sir.

YOUNG PICARD
Establish continuous hails, all
channels, to Ligos Seven...
(to Conn)
Ensign, set course two-two-three
mark three-five-seven...

Picard's young voice cracks. Worf reacts. Mortified,
Picard clears his voice and yanks down his shirt.

Troi sits beside him.

TROI
Captain, may I see you privately
for a few moments?

INT. READY ROOM

Troi and the young Captain.

YOUNG PICARD
(all business)
Are you and Doctor Crusher
thinking of relieving me?

TROI
No. You seem perfectly capable
of carrying out your duties.

YOUNG PICARD
(assuring her)
I am.

TROI
But you may experience some
unexpected reactions as a result
of this phenomenon.
(frank, but gentle)
At your age... your biological
age... the body experiences many
chemical changes that can
precipitate emotional responses...

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

YOUNG PICARD
(beat; recalling with
mixed emotions)
Puberty...
(beat)
If I experience anything unusual,
I'll let you know, Counselor.

As Troi EXITS, on Young Picard's reaction...

INT. CORRIDOR

As Young Ro walks down the hallway, eyes straight
ahead, Young Guinan twirls on an imaginary tightrope.

YOUNG GUINAN
I haven't been young for a long,
long time... and I intend to enjoy
every minute of it.

YOUNG RO
It feels so strange, being an
adult trapped in a child's body.

YOUNG GUINAN
You ought to be used to it...
(off Ro's look)
Well, that's how you went through
childhood the first time around.

YOUNG RO
(stung by the truth)
I didn't have much of a choice.
Being a Bajoran refugee, there
wasn't any time for games.

YOUNG GUINAN
(understands, but....)
You have a choice now.

As they turn down another hallway, Guinan twirls around
the corner, bumping hard into TWO ADULT CREWS MEMBERS.

YOUNG GUINAN
(smiles disarmingly)
Oops... sorry...

As the Crew Members smile back at her and move on...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

YOUNG GUINAN
You'll be amazed... with the right smile, a kid can get away with almost anything.

Young Ro isn't smiling, clearly disapproving of the misbehavior.

YOUNG GUINAN
We're going to have to work on it.

INT. THE O'BRIEN QUARTERS

Keiko sits with a stunned O'Brien...

YOUNG KEIKO
Miles, I really am alright. It's just I'm... different.

He reacts to her understatement but says nothing. As the conversation falls into an uncomfortable silence... a moment... then...

O'BRIEN
(beat; awkward)
I could use a cup of coffee. How about you?

It's obvious O'Brien's more in need of a distraction than any beverage. As Keiko gestures him back into his chair and walks over to the replicator...

YOUNG KEIKO
I'll get it.
(to computer)
Two cups of coffee... one with cream...

O'BRIEN
(interjects)
Black... double sweet...

YOUNG KEIKO
(beat; I know, Miles)
One black, double sweet.

Keiko picks up the two cups of steaming coffee and starts toward O'Brien.
O'BRIEN
Careful, that's hot. Better let me help you...

Keiko reacts as Miles takes the cups from her and carries them to the table. As they both sit down at the table, Keiko seems somehow even smaller.

O'Brien takes a sip of coffee and reacts as Keiko takes his hand.

YOUNG KEIKO
Miles, we need to talk.

O'BRIEN
(pats her hand)
I know that... it's just I don't know what to say.

YOUNG KEIKO
(tries to joke)
In all the time we've been together, that's never happened before.

Neither one of them is able to laugh.

O'BRIEN
(full of emotion)
It feels like I've lost my wife... my best friend...

Keiko moves to hold O'Brien.

YOUNG KEIKO
You haven't, Miles. I'm exactly the same person I was before...

O'Brien pulls away from her, awkward at her embrace. The look on his face makes it clear things aren't the same... not for him.

YOUNG KEIKO
I know this isn't easy... not for either one of us. But I love you. And I know you love me. That much hasn't changed.

O'BRIEN
No... but everything else has...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

O'Brien doesn't have the words. But his body language is very articulate... this is a man clearly more comfortable with action than conversation.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE
Chief, this is Commander LaForge. We just towed the craft to shuttlebay.

O'BRIEN
(to Com)
O'Brien to LaForge... on my way.

O'Brien gets up and starts to leave...

YOUNG KEIKO
(beat; gently)
Miles... you can't walk away from this.

O'BRIEN
I'm not trying to. But I know there's a way to get you back. There has to be...!

The fearful urgency in O'Brien's voice is clear to both of them.

YOUNG KEIKO
What if there isn't? Then what...?

O'Brien can't bring himself to even think about the possibility.

O'BRIEN
I promise you, we'll find it.

As he EXITS, on Keiko...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

YOUNG PICARD'S VOICE
Starship log, supplemental. We are proceeding to Ligos Seven, as the ship's Probe returns to the site of the (TECH/anomaly).

21 INT. READY ROOM

Young Picard and Riker...

RIKER
Geordi's with O'Brien going over the shuttlecraft. He couldn't find any evidence of Transporter malfunction.

(beat)
I'd like to pick Data's brain on this.

YOUNG PICARD
It's possible even Mister Data won't be able to find the answers we're looking for.

RIKER
I'm just hoping maybe he'll come up with the right questions.

DATA'S COM VOICE
Captain... Subspace transmission from Starfleet... Secured channel...

YOUNG PICARD
(over com)
On screen, Mister Data.

22 INTERCUT WITH SCREEN (OPTICAL)

Starfleet ADMIRAL WENKOS, though slightly older than Picard, but still vital and handsome... a bit of the silver fox visible behind the Starfleet uniform. His manner suggests he and Picard have a friendship of long-standing.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

WENKOS
Greetings, Jean-Luc...
(stares into his screen; reacts)
This transmission is for Captain Picard.

YOUNG PICARD
(much to his chagrin)
Yes, Wenkos... it is Captain Picard.

WENKOS
(very uncomfortable)
Jean-Luc... I'd heard about what happened. Naturally, I assumed the situation had been exaggerated. But I can see it wasn't...
(reacts; then back to business)
There is some information about the science team's mission to Ligos Seven that wasn't included in our initial transmission to your crew.

Young Picard exchanges a look with Riker.

WENKOS
(continuing)
Sensors have detected an E.M. field around the planet that indicates the presence of Vanadrite.
(beat)
As you know, the Romulans would be very interested in that information.

YOUNG PICARD
(reacts; not good news)
We'll be prepared for any contingency.

WENKOS
Good luck.

The conversation seems over, but...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

WENKOS
Jean-Luc... You know that saying about youth being wasted on the young...
(beat)
Not the worst thing, having to live all those years over again.
(many to man)
Only this time, with the knowledge and experience of a grown man.

As Wenkos smiles a good-bye and the Starfleet insignia comes up on the screen...

INT. SICKBAY

Beverly, Data and Riker listen as Young Keiko shows them her seed specimens. Next to them, a 24th century terrarium filled with exotic sprouted seedlings

YOUNG KEIKO
(re: marked bag)
These are the Draebidium Frotus seeds I was carrying on the shuttle.
(in terrarium)
When we got back, I began accelerated germination, as I do with all my specimens.

DATA
(stares into Terrarium)
These plants do not appear to be Draebidium Frotus.

YOUNG KEIKO
They're not. And neither are the seeds. Not anymore...
(beat)
Somehow during transport their molecular structure was changed... re-arranged into a whole different species.

INT. SHUTTLEBAY THREE

Geordi sits at the shuttle's controls as O'Brien inspects the shuttle's exterior, examining where the hull collapsed.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

The Chief reacts... the area around the edge has turned a peculiar greenish hue.

O'BRIEN
Geordi... what do you make of this?

Geordi exits the shuttle and walks over to where O'Brien stands.

O'BRIEN
(pointing at it)
There... around the edge...

GEORDI
(sees, reacts, then...)
Computer... analysis of sensor readings from the hull of the shuttlecraft.

COMPUTER VOICE
Extensive electromotive oxidation.

Geordi and O'Brien react...

GEORDI
Computer, list possible causes.

COMPUTER VOICE
None. Tritanium-duranium alloys have no known corrosive agents.

On O'Brien and Geordi... what the hell?!

INT. CORRIDOR

Ro continues down the hallway; in the B.G. we see Guinan disappear into a small vent. As she crawls inside...

YOUNG GUINAN
Ro...

Ro turns around... she reacts... no Guinan.

YOUNG RO
Guinan...

She runs back down the hallway. As she sees the open vent and peers inside the crawl space.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

YOUNG RO
(loud whisper)
Guinan, are you in there?
(beat, again)
Guinan...?
(still no answer)

Ro looks down the hallway... all clear. As she climbs into the vent...

INT. TUBE WAY

Ro crawls through the tunnel...

YOUNG RO
Guinan... I know you're in here...

As Ro continues down the tunnel, Guinan crawls up from behind her.

YOUNG RO
Guinan... Where are you?

YOUNG GUINAN
Right here.

Ro spins around... still not smiling. Guinan crawls past her further down the tunnel. (As the scene goes on, the distance between them gets bigger and bigger.)

YOUNG GUINAN
I've always wondered about where all these tubes went.

YOUNG RO
I'm going back.

Guinan shrugs... suit yourself... then crawls further down the tunnel.

Ro turns and starts to crawl back toward the vent. She turns back one more time...

HER POINT OF VIEW

Guinan's gone.

YOUNG RO
Guinan...

No answer... a beat... then Ro turns back around. As she continues down the tunnel...
28 ANGLE - GUINAN

She is hiding... waiting for her...

As Ro gets closer and closer, Guinan pops out of her hiding place.

When Ro reels around in surprise, she falls back into an intersecting access tube...

29 ANGLE - THE TUBE

Ro slides down the tube, disappearing from sight. The shrieks we hear clearly aren’t those of fear, but excitement. As Guinan smiles, then slides down after her...

INT. TEN FORWARD

We hear shrieks and giggling from behind the wall vent cover. As it opens, Ro and Guinan come somersaulting out of the tube into the "adults only" area. As they are confronted by a MALE SUPERNUMERARY...

MALE SUPERNUMERARY
(typical "grown-up")
You’re not supposed to be in here.

YOUNG RO
(her old adult self)
Oh, really. And why not...?

It’s clear this "Grown Up" isn’t thrilled with Young Ro’s attitude.

Guinan gives her a look that says "now we’re in trouble". A beat... then Ro manages a smile more disarming than any we would have imagined possible.

As the Supernumerary’s stern expression melts...

31 INT. SHUTTLEBAY THREE

Riker, Geordi and O’Brien watch as Data examines the blue-green material on the shuttle’s hull.

DATA
These portions of the shuttle’s hull indicate extensive electromotive oxidation.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

O'BRIEN
That's what it looks like to me.

GEORDI
According to the computer that's not possible.

DATA
The computer gave a completely accurate response to what was an erroneous inquiry.

RIKER
Data, are you saying we asked the wrong question?

DATA
Exactly.

Off Data's android air of certainty, Riker, Geordi and O'Brien react...

INT. CORRIDOR
As Ro and Guinan exit Ten Forward with 24th Century sodas in hand...

YOUNG GUINAN
Good work, Ensign.

YOUNG RO
Thanks.

As they walk down the hallway...

INT. RO'S QUARTERS
As the doors open, Ro sits on her bed while Guinan walks directly to the food slot.

YOUNG GUINAN
We need something to go with these sodas...
(to replicator)
A bowl of Parolie chew balls.

As Guinan walks back with a bowl full of the strange looking snack...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

YOUNG GUINAN
(off Ro's take)
You'll love them. When I was a kid and my best friend came over, we always had some.

YOUNG RO
(beat; then)
Would you go through it again?

YOUNG GUINAN
Being a kid?
(beat)
Looks like we are, whether we want to or not.

YOUNG RO
I guess it doesn't matter how old you are... life always seems to have one more surprise.

YOUNG GUINAN
You make it sound like that's a bad thing.

YOUNG RO
It is if your whole life's been controlled by other people. Grown up people.
(beat)
I hated being small... I hated being so helpless...

Guinan reacts to Ro's raw, child-like honesty. A beat, then she changes the subject to some work-in-progress on Ro's desk-top COMPUTER.

ANGLE - THE MONITOR SCREEN

Computer-drawn, all straight lines and angles. Very advanced.

YOUNG GUINAN
What's this?

YOUNG RO
(matter of factly)
Just some navigational trajectory analysis I was playing with.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

YOUNG GUINAN
(reacts; playing?)
Sounds like fun...
(beat)
But I was talking about this...

On the SCREEN... a computer-drawn "doodle"... simple but distinctive.

ANGLES - RO

She looks over Guinan's shoulder to look at it. At first, she's not sure... a moment... then...

YOUNG RO
(beat; an old memory)
It looks a little like a Darlinia.

YOUNG GUINAN
A what...?

YOUNG RO
It's a flower. They grow wild all over the Bajoran star system. Darlinias have thorns all over them until they bloom. Then the thorns all just fall away...
(stops; a memory)
Again used to give them to me.

YOUNG GUINAN
Again... a boyfriend?

YOUNG RO
(nods; wistful)
My first. He said Darlinias reminded him of me.
(mixed emotions)
I haven't thought of those flowers... or him... not in all these years...
(another memory)
There is one night I remember...

Ro hesitates... is she blushing?

YOUNG GUINAN
Ro Laren, don't you dare stop now!

PULL BACK as Ro begins to tell the juicy details to a very attentive Guinan, leaving both girls munching on their snacks.

(Continued)
YOUNG RO
Well, we were both living on
Corso... at the refugee
settlement there. And that night,
all three moons were full...

INT. SICKBAY
Young Picard goes over the test results with Beverly,
O'Brien and Data. (On display is a piece of the
shuttle's hull along with Keiko's terrarium.)

DATA
The Probe found the (TECH/anomaly)
created an energy disruption
strong enough to destabilize the
sub-atomic structure of Keiko's
Draebidium Frotus seeds and the
shuttle's Tritanium/duranium
alloy.

YOUNG PICARD
(goes with the theory)
And our DNA...

Beverly indicates an Okudagram... a diagram of three
distinct patterns.

BEVERLY
(indicates first one)
These are medical records I
requested from Starfleet
headquarters. It's the pattern
of your DNA from a medical exam
you were given at the age of ten.
(indicates second)
This is the DNA pattern recorded
after rematerialization on board
the ship.

YOUNG PICARD
They're almost identical.

BEVERLY
Except the genetic coding has been
reordered. The new pattern seems
to have 'cancelled' the trigger
necessary for the transition into
adulthood.

(CONTINUED)
DATA
Once the (TECH/anomaly) had destabilized your Deoxyribonucleic Acid, the Transporter’s rephasing system had to process free floating nucleotides and proteins.

YOUNG PICARD
Rephasing them incorrectly.

DATA
Yes... But considering the two million possible combinations, I think the Transporter performed well beyond technical parameters.

YOUNG PICARD
Can this ‘cancellation’ be corrected?

BEVERLY
(indicates the third)
This is the computer record of the transmission during dematerialization aboard the shuttle. The DNA code of an adult male... identical to the results of your last medical exam conducted on you.

O’BRIEN
We can override the Transporter’s automatic rephasing by transmitting your adult DNA pattern through a separate, unaffected Heisenberg Compensator.

YOUNG PICARD
Then it is possible...?

DATA
Theoretically. Your current DNA pattern could be destabilized by duplicating and integrating the energy disruption into the Transporter’s matrix.

YOUNG PICARD
Recreate the (TECH/anomaly)?

(CONTINUED)
DATA
Of the one thousand four hundred thirty-three individual component factors detected, The Probe was able to identify one thousand four hundred thirty-two.

BEVERLY
It doesn't matter what that one element is. As long as it can be isolated, then combined with the other replicated elements.

O'BRIEN
We have to go back and get a piece of that (TECH/anomaly).

DATA
According to long range sensors, the vapor-dispersal rate is presently five point five-two-seventy percent per hour.

RIKER'S COM VOICE
(over Com)
Captain, we're approaching orbit perimeters for Ligos Seven.

YOUNG PICARD
(over Com)
On our way, Number One.
(exiting)
Mister Data...

As Picard and Data start to leave for the Bridge...

BEVERLY
Captain, the (TECH/anomaly) is disappearing.

YOUNG PICARD
Make the necessary preparations.

O'BRIEN
(his urgency is clear)
Leaving now, we still might not get back to the coordinates in time.

YOUNG PICARD
(an instant; then)
We'll return as soon as our mission is accomplished.

On Picard and Data's EXIT...
STAR TREK: "Rascals" - 8/12/92 - ACT TWO

37 INT. CORRIDOR
Picard and Data, enroute to the Turbolift...

DATA
Captain, there is an earth legend about the fifteenth century explorer Juan Ponce de Leon. He searched for a spring whose waters had the power of restoring adolescence.

YOUNG PICARD
The Fountain of Youth. Your records should include the fact that he was unsuccessful.

As they enter the Turbolift...

38 INT. TURBOLIFT

YOUNG PICARD
(to Com)

Bridge

As the Turbolift takes them there...

DATA
Yet the persistence of the myth indicates eternal youth was much sought after by humans. So your current situation might be... in human terms... an enviable one.

Clearly Picard's not so sure...

39 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)
The Enterprise slows to orbital velocity around Ligos Seven, a planet shrouded in a gaseous atmosphere, wrapped in mystery.

40 THE BRIDGE
The Turbolift's doors open and Young Picard and Data exit. Young Picard goes to his command chair, Riker beside him. Worf on Tactical, Data at Ops, Supernumerary at Conn.

CONN
Slowing to orbital velocity...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

YOUNG PICARD
Scan the coordinates of the science team's last broadcast transmission.

DATA
Scanning... Sir, the bio-scan readings are being disrupted...

RIKER
Cause.

DATA
Extreme fluctuations in the E.M. field.

Picard and Riker share a look...

WORF
No evidence of relevant stellar or seismic activity.

YOUNG PICARD
Mister Data, put us into synchronous orbit.

WORF
Captain, ships decloaking at bearing two-two-one mark three-five-seven.

Picard leans forward in his chair, interested.

RIKER
Warbirds?

WORF
Klingon battlecruisers.

YOUNG PICARD
(reacts; then)
On screen.

ANGLE - MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

Two E't'inga Class battlecruisers DECLOAK.

YOUNG PICARD
Open a hailing frequency, Mister Worf.
CONTINUED:

A tremendous BLAST rips through the Enterprise. Emergency SIRENS begin to scream.

YOUNG PICARD
(continuing)

RIKER
(on the move)
Maximum shields. Get us out of here...

And the ship SHUDDERS from another direct HIT...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

42 INT. MAIN BRIDGE (CONTINUOUS)

Young Picard, Riker, Worf. Supernumeraries at Ops and Conn. The ship is ROCKED by another blast.

          YOUNG PICARD
           Damage report.

          RIKER  
     (reading aft science
           console)
          We've lost primary life-support.
          Switching to secondary systems.

          YOUNG PICARD
           Hailing, Mister Worf...?

          WORF
           Yes, sir... no response.

          YOUNG PICARD
           (to Conn)
           Launch aft torpedoes. Widest array.

43 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

          A burst of TORPEDO fire spreads out, hitting the
          Klingon vessels.

44 INT. BRIDGE

          On the VIEWSCREEN, the Klingon vessels are hit by
          another burst of fire.

          RIKER
           They're firing again!

          YOUNG PICARD
           Evasive action!

45 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

          The Enterprise is struck by the torpedoes from all
          three ships.
INT. BRIDGE

As the Enterprise recoils from the impact...

RIKER
Their shields appear to be holding.

WORF
These are not Klingons. These are cowards.

OPS
Minor injuries reported on decks twenty-six and twenty-seven... no fatalities.

WORF
Sensors and field generators off-line... deflectors down to sixty-seven percent...

YOUNG PICARD
(to Com)
Engineering, status report.

Intercut as needed with:

INT. ENGINEERING

Geordi at the computer consoles...

GEORDI
I'm picking up (TECH) surges in the anti matter tank. Transferring warp system to antimatter generator.

INT. BRIDGE

Another furious blast from the Klingon ships...

WORF
Shields down to fifty-four percent.

RIKER
If we can't run, maybe we can hide... use the planet for cover. That class of Klingon ships is no match for the Enterprise.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

WORF
Shields down to forty-seven percent... thirty-eight percent...

YOUNG PICARD
(to Conn)
Plot a new heading: zero-zero point seven-five.

CONN
Aye, Sir.

The Enterprise banks sharply toward the planet; as the Klingon vessels DISAPPEAR from the VIEWSCREEN.

EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)
As the Enterprise whips around the planet, the Klingon battlecruisers, caught by surprise, fall behind.

INT. BRIDGE
As before...
DATA
Sir, Klingon battlecruisers (TECH).

YOUNG PICARD
On screen...

On the VIEWSCREEN... two more Klingon battlecruisers de-cloaking as they emerge from over the planet's horizon.

RIKER
Full about!

YOUNG PICARD
(over Com)
Engineering...?

INT. ENGINEERING
Geordi...

GEORDI
Completing warp transfer. (TECH) seconds to full quantum charge reversal.
INT. BRIDGE

As before...

YOUNG PICARD

On my command...

A silent countdown begins. But too late... as the Enterprise is hit by another blast...

WORF

Shields down to twenty-eight percent...

RIKER

The ship won't be able to withstand another attack.

YOUNG PICARD

(over Com)

Full power to forward shields.

WORF

(reacts; off console)

Registering Transporter transmissions, all aft cargo bays.

(beat)

Captain... We're being boarded.

As Picard and Riker react...

YOUNG PICARD

Computer, de-activate command control. Authorization:

Picard-Delta-Seven.

COMPUTER VOICE

Picard-Delta-Seven... Voice authorization denied.

YOUNG PICARD

It doesn't recognize my voice.

ANGLE

Four FERENGI MATERIALIZE with phaser rifles drawn...
RIKER
(yells; to computer)
Computer, deactivate command
control... authorization,
Riker-Omega-Three...

One of the FERENGI (#1) shoves a phaser to Riker’s
head, but too late. As all Bridge consoles
DE-ACTIVATE...

COMPUTER VOICE
All command functions suspended.

Picard moves to Riker’s aid...

YOUNG PICARD
(incensed)
What is the meaning of this? We
are not at war with the FERENGI.

Phaser still drawn, FERENGI #1 steps back from Riker
and swats this angry little uniformed annoyance aside.

FERENGI #1
Remove the child and put him with
any others you find on the ship.

As one of the FERENGI grabs Young Picard...

ANGLE - WORF
Reacts, ready to defend his Captain, another FERENGI
raises his phaser rifle at the Klingon.

ANGLE - YOUNG PICARD
Refusing to leave, he yanks his arm free from the
Ferengi’s grasp, again confronting FERENGI #1.

YOUNG PICARD
I demand an explanation...!

FERENGI #1
(contemptuously)
You, little thing, demand nothing!

As Riker puts himself between Young Picard and the
bullying FERENGI #1...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIKER
As Captain of this vessel, I demand it!

Riker looks down at Picard. The young Captain's trust and confidence in his Number One has not changed... he falls silent.

As the FERENGI again grabs his arm and starts to lead the seemingly compliant boy off the Bridge, Young Picard reacts to what he hears...

FERENGI #1
Begin transport of all able-bodied adults down to the planet.

RIKER
The crew will remain on board the Enterprise and under my command.

FERENGI #1
In the mines, their orders will come from Ferengi overseers.

INT. CORRIDOR
As a FERENGI 'escorts' Picard, they pass FERENGI guards marching a group of ADULT CREW MEMBERS down the Hallway.

INT. THE O'BRIEN QUARTERS
Keiko reacts as the doors open to reveal FERENGI. As they ENTER, taking her from the room...

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM
A FERENGI stands at the Transporter controls. O'Brien waits, a prisoner. As the doors open, FERENGI Guards herd more Adult Crew Members (among them, Geordi)...

INT. CORRIDOR
Ro and Guinan... surprised by the sight of the FERENGI at the end of the Hallway... turn and run the other way. But their escape is cut off by yet more FERENGI. As both 'girls' are dragged away...
INT. SCHOOL ROOM

Troi (holding little MOLLY O'BRIEN) and A TEACHER are trying to comfort the frightened SCHOOL CHILDREN when the doors open to reveal Picard, Keiko, Guinan and Ro.

As Troi walks over to them, handing Molly to Young Keiko...

TROI

Captain...

Before he can reply, the FERENGI march over to her and the Teacher, taking them into custody, then hustling them out of the school room.

Troi manages one last look at the Young Captain and Crew before the FERENGI GUARD posted outside closes the door between them. As Young Picard, Keiko, Guinan and Ro take over, trying to comfort the Children...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL ROOM

As Young Guinan, Keiko (with Molly) and Ro walks comfort the younger children, Young Picard climbs atop one of the desk. As he faces the roomful of noisy, frightened kids...

YOUNG PICARD

Everyone calm down. We’re going to take care of you...

(noisier still)

Please... listen to me...

KID #1

Why should we listen to you?

KID #2

You’re not a grown-up. You’re just a kid, like us.

YOUNG PICARD

Considering my appearance, I understand why you might not believe me... but I am Captain Picard.

As some of the School Children react to this declaration, some with LAUGHTER.

KID #1

(reacts; no way...)

You’re not the Captain.

Worf’s son, ALEXANDER, speaks out from the back of the classroom.

ALEXANDER

Yes, he is.

KID #2

You believe him?

ALEXANDER

(not quite sure)

He acts like Captain Picard...

(convinces himself)

Besides, if he says he’s the Captain... then I guess it’s my duty to believe him.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

The other children react as the young Klingon warrior steps forward, proving himself every bit as loyal as his Dad.

As a few of the children follow Alexander's lead... then a few more... then the rest...

YOUNG PICARD
I need a team to keep quiet and order in all areas of the ship we still control... at the present, that area being this room...

(with a nod)
Alexander Worf will be team commander until further notice.

As Alexander organizes his young troops, Picard walks over as Ro and Guinan who watch Keiko handing Molly over to a couple of the older children for safekeeping.

YOUNG KEIKO
As long as I'm like this, they can protect her as well as I can.

As Molly settles down with a toy culled from one of the shelves lined with other 24th Century toys...

ANGLE - YOUNG PICARD
He leads Keiko, Guinan and Ro to a corner of the class room.

YOUNG PICARD
(understanding but...)
The sooner we regain control of the ship from the Ferengi, the better our chances of returning to the (TECH/anomaly) in time.

YOUNG KEIKO
We could flood the Bridge and key decks with anesthizine gas.

YOUNG RO
It's no use taking over the Bridge if we end up sleeping right along side the Ferengi.

YOUNG PICARD
We'll have to subdue and restrain them.

(CONTINUED)
YOUNG GUINAN
Subdue and restrain...?
(beat)
Captain, I've always known you
to see situations clearly... with
no illusions. Except for now.

She turns Picard toward the class room's 24th century
aquarium, its glass-like enclosure reflecting his
twelve-year-old image.

YOUNG GUINAN
You're a kid. We all are.

As the young Captain reacts to reflection...

YOUNG KEIKO
Guinan's right. There's nothing
we can do.

YOUNG RO
No... there's plenty of things
we can do. Different things...
things a grown-up could never get
away with. Like getting in and
out of places we're not supposed
to...

YOUNG PICARD
(reacts; no illusions)
Ensign Ro is right. Being
overlooked and ignored provides
us with a definite tactical
advantage.

YOUNG KEIKO
But we still have to get the
Ferengi off the ship.

YOUNG PICARD
Or we can simply isolate them.

YOUNG RO
(on his wave length)
Site to site transport...

YOUNG PICARD
We'll have to bypass Commander
Riker's computer lock-out in order
complete the transport.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

YOUNG RO
I'll go to Engineering and try a manual override using your personal command code.

YOUNG PICARD
(agreed; then...)
We'll need enough isolinear chips to reprogram the Transporter's computer and security system.

YOUNG RO
And extra Communicators.

YOUNG GUINAN
But there's no way of knowing how many Ferengi are on-board the ship.

YOUNG PICARD
Our targets will be those Ferengi stationed at key positions on the ship...

As Young Picard sits down at one of the school desks...

ANGLE - INCLUDING THE MONITOR
Picard pulls up a SCHEMATIC of the Enterprise to map out their plan...

YOUNG PICARD
(continuing)
The Transporter Room...
Engineering... Security...

YOUNG RO
And the Weapons Locker. We might get hold of a phaser or two.

YOUNG PICARD
(reacts; he agrees)
We'll meet back here.

As they start to move toward the door, REVEALING the Ferengi posted there...

YOUNG GUINAN
Too bad we're not set up to beam him away.

YOUNG PICARD
Since we have an advantage, we might as well start using it.
INT. READY ROOM

The Ferengi DAIMON waits impatiently in Picard’s chair, as Riker ENTERS. (We see a Ferengi guard just outside the door).

RIKER
The Romulans must be paying a lot for that Vandarite if you’re willing to risk war with the Federation.

DAIMON
We would trade with a Kratonic trilogort if the price were right. Take our battlecruisers... the Klingon’s sold us those ships as salvage. The cost was very attractive.

(beat)
And they performed well enough to get us here before you were able to stake a claim for the Federation.

RIKER
We were ordered here to answer a distress call from a science team stationed on Ligos Seven.

The Daimon reacts.

RIKER
(continuing)
My guess is they discovered your mines.

DAIMON
(to business)
The addition of those scientists and your crew has greatly increased our labor force. A ship this size ought to have a hundred or so extra boranite drills on board.

RIKER
(adamant)
You won’t get a single piece of equipment off the Enterprise.

DAIMON
We will once the ship’s computer provides us with your inventories.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIKER
(real sorry, but...)
The computer's been damaged.

DAIMON
(reacts; no jokes)
Without that equipment, your crew
will be useless to us... and
expendable.

The door opens and a Ferengi Guard ENTERS...

DAIMON
(dissing Riker)
I'll give you some time to repair
your computer.

RIKER
Our shields were down... your
weapons knocked out the main
core...

DAIMON
(a threat)
We Ferengi are not known for our
patience, Commander.

As Riker EXITS...

INT. SCHOOL ROOM

The door is open and Alexander stands guard over the
Ferengi Guard, now bound and gagged.

As Young Picard, Keiko, Guinan and Ro EXIT...

INT. CORRIDOR

Picard and Keiko stealth down the hallway to a
Com-panel. They yank it open and pull out its
Isolinear Chip. As they run further down the corridor
to the next Com-Panel, repeating the entire routine...

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR

As Ro and Guinan remove the vent cover off an access
tube and disappear into the vent...
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INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

The door opens and an automated/animated 24th Century TOY makes its way into the Transporter Room right past the FERENGI on duty.

TRACKING with him as he moves from behind the console and walks over to the play thing.

As the Ferengi inspects it, the toy suddenly makes a strange noise and reverses itself, quickly disappearing back though the Transporter Room door.

ANGLE - PICARD AND KEIKO

Peering up from behind the console, they watch as the Ferengi follows it out into the corridor. As soon as he is outside the chamber, Picard triggers the console controls.

ANGLE - THE FERENGI

React as the door closes and locks behind him.

ANGLE - PICARD AND KEIKO

As they work, quickly reprogramming the Transporter's isohyperinlinear chips with chips from their stacks.

INT. ACCESS TUBE

Ro, this time intentionally sliding down the tube...

INT. ENGINEERING

Ro peeks through the vent cover to see Guinan as she runs inside.

Once the FERENGI on duty goes to chase Guinan, Ro slips out the access tube and into the room.

Ro runs to the computer, manually reprogramming it with Picard's security access code, then hides as we catch glimpses of Guinan leading the Ferengi away in a maddening, manic game of tag.

Tired of the game, the Ferengi pulls his phaser. As Guinan runs, only to find herself face to face with another Ferengi and another phaser...
INT. CORRIDOR

As Picard and Keiko stealth back down through the hallway to the school room, they react...

ANGLE - GUINAN AND RO

Being marched to school room at phaser point by the angry Ferengi from Engineering...

YOUNG GUINAN
It was just a game...

When the school room doors open, the Ferengi quickly pushes Ro and Guinan inside.

Once the doors close and the Ferengi disappears back down the hallway, Keiko and Picard run across the hallway toward the school room.

INT. SCHOOL ROOM

The doors open. Picard and Keiko ENTER, relieved to see Ro and Guinan.

YOUNG PICARD
Where's the Guard?

Alexander smiles as he reveals where the kids have hidden the Ferengi, still bound and gagged, looking as helpless as a potted plant.

YOUNG PICARD
Good work, Mister Worf. Everyone...

ALEXANDER
Thank you, Sir.

As Ro sits down at the school desk top computer...

YOUNG RO
(reacts; then)
Something's wrong. The computer's not responding. The emergency security mode is still in place.

YOUNG PICARD
Commander Riker must have rerouted the command sequence.
(no choice)
Somehow I have to get onto the Bridge.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Guinan pulls a Ferengi phaser from beneath her garb.

YOUNG GUINAN
You better take this.

Surprised reactions from Picard and Keiko... and especially Ro.

YOUNG GUINAN
(shrugs it off)
The Ferengi have always found me very disarming.

INT. CORRIDOR

Picard sneaks down the corridor, managing to evade one Ferengi, then another. But with the Turbolift in sight, a Ferengi surprises him. Caught off guard as he is intercepted, Picard reacts with adult indignation.

YOUNG PICARD
I must get to the Bridge...

As the Ferengi drags him down the hallway back toward the class room, Picard reacts... deciding on a new strategy, he starts to cry.

YOUNG PICARD
(suddenly sobbing)
Please... please... I want to see my Dad.

The Ferengi stares down at the Young Captain with a disdain that would do W.C Fields proud. As he grabs Picard's arm and hauls him into Turbolift...

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Riker 'works' at an aft station console, the Daimon staring over his shoulder. As The Turbolift opens to reveal the red-eyed Young Picard...

DAIMON
What's this doing back here?

Picard runs down ramp past a Ferengi guard and Daimon...

YOUNG PICARD
I have to see my Dad...

(CONTINUED)
As he runs directly into Riker's arms, on Number One's astonished reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR
ACT FIVE

80 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

In the clutches of the Klingon battlecruisers.

81 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Young Picard and "Dad" Riker sit together at an observation window while a nearby Ferengi keeps a watchful eyes on them. As Picard stares up at Riker...

YOUNG PICARD

Father...

RIKER (reacts; awkward)
Yes... son...

YOUNG PICARD

I was with my friends... Guinan, Keiko and Ro...

Riker reacts.

YOUNG PICARD

(continuing)
And we wanted to play our favorite game.

RIKER

I'm not sure which game you're talking about...

YOUNG PICARD

(intently)
The one we were playing before... when I was up here on the Bridge...

A look between them...

YOUNG PICARD

(continuing; nods at the Ferengi)
Right before they showed up.

Riker reacts.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Riker waits for some reaction to make sure he's on the right track... the look on Young Picard's face tells him he is.

YOUNG PICARD
(Confirming)
Then it was your turn, and you won.

They catch the Ferengi looking at them... there's something very strange about these two.

As Picard works harder on his "kid" act...

YOUNG PICARD
(Continuing)
Well... Dad... I wanted to play it again.

Riker
(testing)
That same exact game...

YOUNG PICARD
Yes... Except now I can't find it.

(his eyes urgent)
I already checked everywhere I thought it might be, but it's not there.

Before Riker has a chance to confirm Picard's coded message, the Ferengi Daimon enters...

Riker
You can see, your old man has his hands pretty full right now...

Daimon
(re: Young Picard)
Put him back with the other children.

(to Riker)
Commander... we have work to do.

As Riker returns to the Bridge with the Daimon, the Ferengi guard escorts Picard back to the school room.
INT. SCHOOL ROOM

Alexander and the other Children wait with Young Keiko, Guinan and Ro.

Suddenly the doors open. As Young Picard ENTERS, nodding to Ro, she re-checks the computer, reacts and shakes her head... "negative".

YOUNG PICARD
We'll just have to wait a little longer.

INT. BRIDGE

Riker is again sitting at the aft console as the Ferengi Daimon paces behind him.

DAIMON
Unlike your son, I am tired of games. You will provide us full and complete access to your computer now.

RIKER
I've already tried a dozen times...

DAIMON
Find a way.

RIKER
You wouldn't kill my crew. You Ferengi don't have the guts.

The Daimon doesn't blink. Riker reacts... a beat... then he turns and shrugs... it seems he's not willing to call the Ferengi's bluff.

RIKER
(reacts; surrender)
Okay. I guess you win...

INSERT - RIKER'S FINGERS
running rapidly over the keys.

INT. SCHOOL ROOM

As Picard, Guinan and Keiko wait, Ro suddenly reacts...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

YOUNG RO
Security mode released.

Picard moves behind her, double checking the computer monitor. Satisfied they're 'in'...

YOUNG PICARD
(to them all)
Proceed.

Alexander and the other children watch as Young Picard leads Keiko, Guinan and Ro out of the school room...

INT. CORRIDOR

Instead of teams of two, this time each of them goes in a different direction... fanning out... taking their positions...

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

The doors open. The Ferengi on duty react to the sight of Young Picard standing just outside the chamber.

After the last experience, the Ferengi at the console moves to grab him. But Young Picard pulls out the phaser Guinan gave him and fires it.

When both Ferengi hit the floor stunned into unconsciousness, Picard reaches up to a panel near the door, opens it, working the mechanism.

As he puts his hand through the open Transporter Room door, testing the force field that's now visibly in place...

INT. SECURITY

Two Ferengi are manning the post. Keiko stealths up to them from behind. As she places a communicator next to one Ferengi's foot... then quickly and carefully places one next to the other's foot...

As the Communicators CHIRP and BOTH FERENGI DEMATERIALIZE...

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

As the CONFUSED FERENGI MATERIALIZE near their stunned Comrades, Picard reacts...
INT. ENGINEERING

As the SAME TWO FERENGI as before, working.

Guinan waits just outside the doorway... looking for just the right moment... picking her spot...

But one of the Ferengi spots her first...

YOUNG GUINAN

Catch...

She tosses a Combadge to each of the Ferengi. As they catch them, we hear the CHIRP of the Communicators.

AS BOTH FERENGI DEMATERIALIZE....

INT. WEAPONS BAY

Ro stealths down the corridor, tucking a communicator in the on-duty Ferengi's belt... then ducks, hiding, about to trigger her Insignia.

But ANOTHER FERENGI spots her. As he calls out to the first Ferengi, Ro puts a communicator on the floor, near where she stands.

She stands in the clear, the bait to keep the Ferengi heading straight toward her AND straight toward where the spot on the floor where the communicator sits.

Just when it looks like they're going to grab her, Ro runs clear of their reach.

The instant the Communicators CHIRP and the Ferengi start to DEMATERIALIZE, Ro runs to the weapons locker and opens it. As she reaches for the phasers...

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

The last Ferengi MATERIALIZE into the room, already filled with confused, angry captives.

As Young Picard leaves, both the new arrivals run toward the open door, bouncing back off the invisible force field...

INT. BRIDGE

A Ferengi at the Tactical console looks up in alarm.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BRIDGE FERENGI
Daimon, we've lost contact with Engineering.

DAIMON
Notify Security.

BRIDGE FERENGI
I tried. There's no answer.

As the Daimon rises to his feet... so does Riker...
WHOOSH...

ANGLE - TURBOLIFTS
As all three open simultaneously. Young Picard, Ro, Guinan and Keiko charge out, phasers FIRING.


PICARD
As Young Picard and Ro quickly move to their positions...

YOUNG PICARD
I'll take Tactical...

In the B.G., Keiko holds a phaser on the unconscious Ferengi. Guinan tends to Riker.

YOUNG PICARD
(to Ro)
Ready photon torpedoes. Target engines on all four Klingon ships.

YOUNG RO
With pleasure, Sir.

As she works the console...

EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)
The Enterprise launches torpedoes. They explode into the Klingon ships.
97 INT. BRIDGE

YOUNG PICARD
Raise shields.

YOUNG RO
Up.

The ship is rocked by an explosion.

YOUNG RO
Deflectors holding.

YOUNG PICARD
Full about. Bearing one-oh-four mark twelve.

98 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise neatly outflanks the four Klingon cruisers.

99 INT. BRIDGE

YOUNG RO
Sir, the Ferengi are hailing us.

On screen.

MAIN VIEWER (OPTICAL)

The Ferengi Captain comes on, sputtering mad.

FERENGI CAPTAIN

I warn you...

As he reacts to this boy sitting in the Captain's chair...

YOUNG PICARD

I am Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the Federation Starship Enterprise. And I warn you...

(in total command)

Your vessels will be destroyed unless you immediately release every member of my crew and the Federation science team.

As The Ferengi reacts, incredulous that he's been defeated by this boy Captain...
101 EXT. SPACE (OPTICAL)

The Enterprise, alone in space.

YOUNG PICARD'S VOICE
Captain's log, stardate (TECH).
The science team will remain on
Ligos Seven to assist the
Federation close down the Ferengi
mining operation. With the entire
crew back on board, the ship is
returning to the site where our
shuttlecraft collided with the
(TECH/anomaly.)

102 INT. BRIDGE

Young Picard is in the Captain chair, Riker and Beverly
sit by his side... Data and Worf in their regular
positions... Troi standing with Young Keiko...

DATA
We're arriving at the designated
coordinates.

YOUNG PICARD
On Screen...

THE VIEW SCREEN (OPTICAL)
No sign of the (TECH/anomaly).

RESUME BRIDGE

Everyone's disappointment is obvious...

YOUNG PICARD
Mister Data...

DATA
Sensors picking up trace amounts
of (TECH).

YOUNG PICARD
Launch probe.

DATA
Aye, Sir.

ON SCREEN we see the PROBE hit its 'invisible' target.

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

RIKER
(over Com)
O’Brien...

O’BRIEN’S COM VOICE
I’ve got a tractor beam on it.

ON SCREEN as we see the probe being ‘towed’ back to the ship...

DATA
The sensor readings indicated the (TECH/anomaly) sufficient density to induce DNA instability.

BEVERLY
(to Picard)
We won’t know until we attempt transmission.

YOUNG PICARD
Number One...

As Riker takes command of the Bridge, Young Picard and Young Keiko EXIT with Beverly.

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

With Beverly and O’Brien are at the console as Young Picard takes his position on the Transporter pad.

O’BRIEN
Sample fully integrated into the Transporter matrix.

A moment, then Young Picard gives the order...

YOUNG PICARD
Energize...

O’Brien works the console and Young Picard DEMATERIALIZES.

A moment of tension for Beverly and O’Brien as he REMATERIALIZES... it’s the ADULT Picard.

BEVERLY
Welcome back Captain.

He nods and steps off the pad.

STAY WITH PICARD as he walks a few steps and holds out his hand to Young Guinan...
ADULT Guinan and Picard watch as Young Keiko stands on the Transporter. She and O'Brien share a tense smile before he activates the console DEMATERIALIZING her...

O'Brien reacts as the ADULT Keiko REMATERIALIZES. As she steps down from pad and into his arms...

Ro sits at a child-sized desk, drawing with crayons. A sad, lonely portrait. As she savors the last moments of childhood REVEAL Guinan is watching her...

Guinan ENTERS, sitting at the desk next to Ro's. As she leans over to see Young Ro's drawing... it's a much richer, more detailed and colorful version of the "doodle" we saw on the computer in her quarters.

GUINAN
Looks like a Darlinia...

YOUNG RO
Thorns and all.
(looks up at Guinan)
My turn...

GUINAN
(nods; then)
When you're ready.

YOUNG RO
(reacts; then...)
There were good memories. Again...
the Darlinias... It's just I'd lost them...

(beat)
Guinan... I'm so afraid that I'll lose them again.

GUINAN
They've always been there, waiting to be remembered. They always will be.

A moment... Young Ro hands Guinan the drawing of the flower. Guinan takes it, smiling her thanks.

YOUNG RO
(a beat)
I'm ready.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

As Young Ro gets up from the desk, Guinan picks up the crayons from off the desk...

GUINAN
To a child, a simple crayon can take us on voyages we've never dreamed of.

Guinan hands the crayons to Young Ro...

GUINAN
Just in case you ever want to come back.

As walk out together, Young Ro reaches up and takes Guinan's hand.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END