This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

*In this text various names and terms are quoted. Many of those names and terms are registered trademarks or at least are under copyright notice. These belong to the proprietors of those names and terms. Please follow the rules related to these rights!*

**To Begin With…**

*Spoilers *** Spoilers *** Spoilers *** Spoilers *** Spoilers *** Spoilers *** Spoilers *** Spoilers*

Everyone is a critic. I too. It is a story written during the watching of the show. If you have some time to spare, if you want to read a really critical critics text, then go for it. Have fun! Enjoy! And think if you yet got a brain for doing such critical things! Sorry for any spelling errors, languagewise or rightswise.

# Star Trek Picard

Some point in the spacetime of your life there will be that moment, when you think: „By Gosh! Is it really that late? Am I going to be … the late whoever? No more work to do, no more relationships to take care of (or to be taken care of in), no more royalties to come in…" But then you think, snipping away the lightbulb above your head, wow! Let´s do it the Blake Edwards way! Throw a party for and with all of your friends; let the good times roll, let the cameras roll! Get an awesome location, either CGI or in the Hollywood Hills, and then let the warm spirit of the Method flow around you, and all are having a wonderful time! And the money flows in like a climate change rainsplash in the evening. And the best of it: Show all of that again in those really very fine and excellent made Making Ofs to the audience, just like Liberace in his old Vegas´ days, him driving his Rolls on the stage calling "That´s been paid by you, folks!", and we all were applauding tremendously! And the best of it: All of the directors and Producer-Staff say that, openly and without any regrets again in the Making Ofs.

Prepared now to watch "Picard"? Oh, some spoilers, but really, you have to be much older than 50 or 60 years to just get a basic understanding of the thoughts, dialogues, and volatile relations during the series. And having some underdog problems with free spirit women every now and then, and being a little science-y, that would also be appropriate.

Now, have fun and enjoy the (hopefully) very last party of some P. Stewart aka Admiral "Am I Senile?" Picard! (Don´t be mad, his character has been called "senile" more than once during the show!)

## Season 1

### E01 Remembrance or "I don´t want the game to end"

First of all we meet old King Picard, his court dog, and then, after a wide view over the vineyard of his castle (What? In the future you have to chemically spritz the vinebergs? Ewwww! What kind of vinegar is that Château Picard Juice?), the scene switches to a City at night (Boston), where we meet a boy and a girl. Ok, nowadays the girl is the main character, so be it. But, like in many films of the past years, the girl has the strong chin and the boy has a … let´s say, a more girly type of chin or none at all. Since the Forties of the last century men were shown all weaker than the women. I am ok with that; women have suffered thousands of years since Gilgamesh (ritually) f*cked and (not very ritually) killed the priestess (you recognize the "*" in the f-word? No need to use that in the "kill"-word! Weird world!). But, while I am in my early sixties I may be allowed to say, that

This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

manly chinned girls are not my type. They may be androgyny, fine with me, but I like to have my focus on "-gyny". There are some MWTs (guess, what that could mean), who impress me, like Uma Thurman or Scarlett Johansson. And, no, I don´t want to wake up in the morning with one of those MWTs in the same bed. I rather like real mind- and eyecandy like Myrna Loy, Claire Foy, Jenny Seagrove, Natascha McElhone, Michelle Dockery, Michelle Ryan, Cobie Smulders, or Robin Wright. Oh, yes, and clearly Orla Brady! So, watching the episode, I was waiting for the story evolving.

Now the MWT becomes a RWT or rather AWT. Also fine with me. Modern theme, old participant, and a killybilly girl. Wow! Oh, and I was laughing about ten minutes, listening to the desperate attempts of a Picard speaking a horrible French with an atrocious American accent. Pity, Stewart´s British education didn´t reach the level of an also French speaking noble English house. Oh my! Ok, he is not responsible for his parents, so we are forgiving him there. Back into the show: We learn that he has servants! Picard? Servants? Yes, of course, Romulans, those bastards! Yes, they are friends now, but friends, who serve the vineyard master. Federation philosophy, that. My friends have to serve me. Could you think of a Romulan pair, whom Picard serves for? Oh, and you all know what it means, if a woman is correcting and finalizing the tie´s knot of a male? You don´t? Look it up under "Female signals and signs during a date or relationship during a mating ritual". Shiver!

And yes, press is bad. You cannot trust those shiny female journalists! Ewwww! Who needs them, anyway? Ok, Sisko´s son was an exception! But only him! All others are hell spawn!

Then later, the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge plastered with solar panels on the former traffic lanes? Does no one in the future want to walk hand in hand over the Bridge looking over the water front watching the sun going down in the West? What a bad idea! Who was the guy designing this crap?

In the end the MWT, sorry, the Android woman is killed by Romulans. Picard hears from a scientist in Okinawa about the story of the possibility of Data´s daughters, because they are always created in twins. Why on earth that has to be remains the secret of the producers, but it guarantees the excitement and continuation of the story. In the end a Romulan Secret Agent (because all Romulans are Secret Agents, you know that!) hits on the twin sister and she thinks about unimportant things during some sleepless actionloaded nights with that bushy looking Romulan guy. The End. Of that episode.

What have we learned? That Picard is babbling senile crap to the poor to be killed Android, making her more nervous than the gang of attackers. It is the typical Picard Talk™ making never sense and leave less experienced viewers in the state of "Oh, wow! What a philosopher! But I am not able to decipher what he´s saying!". Have I told you that my answer to the Sheldon Question "Kirk or Picard?" without questioning and hesitation is "Kirk, but in the Enterprise D!" (while the original Enterprise is esthetically more beautiful design, the D has a better interior design). And you knew the secret of the original Enterprise Stories? Not one character is significant in their adventures, it is always "The Enterprise", with the characters being coworking parts of the Enterprise Persona! Bones is the emotional part, Kirk is the territorial part, Spock is the rational (not logical!) part, and so on. Fill in the blanks for yourself. In TOS there are "Enterprise Fans", in TNG there are "Picard Fans", or "Worf Fans", or whatever Fans. No "Enterprise" anymore, only single, separate characters. So the leading question was never "Kirk or Picard?" but "Enterprise or

Picard?" And I choose Enterprise. Similar is the loss of the original idea of IDIC. The newer the show, the less of the IDIC idea. In Picard we have lost it completely! In the next episode observe carefully the dialog between Picard and the Lady Admiral, what she says about "deciding over life and death". The Fed is worse than the Borg: You will be assimilated! You won´t resist! Really, you won´t! There is a very nice little article from Devon Meloney (you´ll find it on the internet) about the "shared mythological framework" (later in the show). Enlightening!

Think about it before we watch Episode 2!

**E02 Maps and Legends or "Request Denied!"**

Now we learn why all cybernetic things ("Synthetics") were banned. And all workers all around the universe in all times are racists. Hilarious! So, Federation is not that Garden Eden or Utopia we were loving so much. Since Kirk was retired, we learned that the future has the same problems we have nowadays. And more of them, too. In *TNG* there were revolutionaries, in *Deep Space Nine* there were terrorists and in *Voyager* we watched organ harvesters, countless dictators, slave slayers and crazy mutineers (ok, that was in the Delta Quadrant, far, far away). Not a nice future, that is.

The language of the characters is level-sinking now into deep gutters. "Fuck", "Fuckers", "Shit", are words you do not expect from Starfleet or equal sophisticated personae. At least, if you are an "I am an forever separated from life"-Nerd with no human contacts whatsoever. But you´ll hear them in the show, increasing in numbers while episodes glimmer before your eyes and go puff through your ears. Yo man! ´Sup, Ese? In the end, all (or most) of the characters you will meet on this journey are simple, ordinary, colorful humans expressing their emotions and feelings. Just that. So chill, Holmes!

Ah, and the bed scenes? There are some. But, alas! No erotic at all. Pity! Just sterile, neutral, nerdy kind of two people in bed discussing that nonsense a harmless Nerd would expect. To the producers: A cleavage is not erotic per se. It has to be presented properly by the owneress. Not many women (or even actresses) have the natural ability to do that. And here… she (or it) failed. You remember? MWT! Not erotic at all. As Westley (the *Dread Pirate Roberts*, not the Crusher) said in *The Princess Bride* to *Buttercup*: "There´s a shortage of perfect breasts in this world." He is so right! Inconceivable!

Now Picard tries to get a ship for a private secret mission. He is experienced, had many adventures survived and with age came wisdom. At least, that is what we want to think. So he goes to the real Admiral and tells her all about his top secret plans. And wonders then why she shouts "Fuck!" and dismissed him in a not so friendly way. Yeah, we saw it coming. Senile! He is acting as dumb as ever, and those are the moments – as every time again and again - his friends, his colleagues, or his employees, where they have to rescue him, repair his relations, fight for him, loose their lives or dignity for him, or apologize for him. As usual. No, he was never a hero, never a philosopher, only a tea drinking Captain (why would someone drink a badly perfumed tea at all?) with people he manipulated. Using ordinary teabags? Seriously?

It is all a little bit like *The Doctor*, but not with so many dead in the end as in *Doctor Who*.

There is something disturbing. Watch the scene at about 23:44 (DVD) on the Artifact! The (white) Android has to explain to a Black Worker how to close her zipper of the overall!

This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

What? Black Women are dumber than Androids? What kind of writer/director/producer gang would do that? Didn´t the Showrunner intervene? Did anyone of the critics condemn that? That´s the kind of crap that is clearly racist! Ugh!

The next thing is Picard calling a (I say) former friend and colleague (yes, Raffi), whom he dumped years ago into the gutter, hoping he could get help from there. That´s kind of a "nice guy" I would close nicely my door in front of his nose, and not saying "Good Bye!" but "Adieu!". Is Picard (ingame) stupid as it gets? Is the writer or is the Showrunner stupid (offgame)? Anyone taken from the street would do so much better than gramps Picard! And the worst: Bringing a bottle of vine to an alcohol addict trying desperately to get sober, that is a very bad attitude! Very, very bad! No fun to watch, really! Fast Forward, please! Up to now Picard is no better than a small time Mafia capo, forcing and blackmailing a gang together to black mail, rob, and mayhem.

To my relieve, Laris says the right words in the right tone to that dumb old senile man: "Have you gone mad? Is it dementia?" I completely agree with her. But why on earth is Picard written so badly by the authors? There would have been many ways to write that story in a better fashion, not making a complete idiot with a bad character of that beloved figure. I just don´t understand the motives of the production team.

If you own the DVDs, look the Story Logs! There you get a good view on how those people think who made that TV-Show. These Story Logs are not as good as those of the early (!) *Stargate Atlantis* Extras (very good ones!) or even *Star Trek Discovery* (some of the best Extras). But after watching them you get the idea what sometimes curly trains of thought generated the storyline. And you can observe, that Stewart is never out of role, even in the interviews. He never stops acting! And talking…[1]

**E03 The End is the Beginning or "Another rabbit hole"**

We see Picard now misusing a former colleague to get a ship, we see a Romulan secret agent in Starfleet misusing a scientist (the Agnes) for sabotaging the planned secret Picard-Mission and an in spacetime misplaced Hispano Pirate Captain (named Rios, sic!) having The Ship. Go Fishing!

Oh, and in Okinawa the Story of Oh begins… No no, not that story…

Back to the Cube. As the producers like to explain (see Extras!), we all wanted for years to know the background history of the Romulans. We knew that they are secretive. We learn now that they are secretive. Not astonishing. What we really learn instead, is the weak spot of the Borg. They are psychological copycats! When they assimilate a crazy as hell Romulan, they go much more crazy as them, and then go BOOM! Funny thing, that! Had the Federation known that years ago, they would have sent Barclay and the Troy Family to the Borgs instead of fighting around Wolf 359, no? So, that specific Cube was overpowered by a bunch of crazy Romulan women, or better, one crazy Romulan woman. Nice! But what does the strong chinned Android (better: Gynid, yes?) want from the Freudian lost Cube? Let´s resume.

[1] Some of Stewart´s adjectives and adverbs used in interviews: Such a delight, wonderful, fearless, brilliant, Incredibly, outstanding, well-prepared, so funny, most extraordinary, enormously, such fine, such rewarding, good – strong – and important, incredibly, always well-prepared, so funny, …

This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

The journey begins with the hard core of the so called “motley crew” on board, and, oh yes, the new control interface of the ship is really cool… (we´ll see that in *Discovery*, too)

The Story Log here is, let´s say, on a high, joint high, level. Chabon (the Pulitzer Prize Winner author script writer exec producer) talks about his excitement: “today, ´tis Monday the … something of May”. Oh, boy, I like to have some of the stuff he just inhaled before making that interview! But, then again, that´s the only state you can shoot those stories, and the same seems to be valid for watching them.

**E04 Absolute Candor or “Behold! The Killer Nuns!”**

Yeah, we get it! Picard only succeeds with women, if the women are bound to anything (like a secret organization) or anyone else (like a personal mission). Like nuns, married women, very different species women, dying women, or women placed on the other end of the universe with no chance to get together with them. With those he is cool and relaxed. So he is naturally good friend with the Romulan worrier nuns. And from them he borrows the only young man they can offer, so that Picard can live his crippled phantasy of a family he never got (and never will have). But, lucky for him (Attention, Spoiler!), the boy dies eventually (but not forever). So, no harm done. But Picard reads (and gives away as a gift) Alexandre Dumas? Seriously? I´d thought Picard had a better taste than that. Chaucer, Shakespeare, or at least Chandler…

Sometimes I live under the impression, that American producers and writers all have family issues, and they try to woody-allan them out in movies of their own. And we have to suffer.

Did you realize that all, yes all movies and TV-Shows made in the US are father-son-stories, or father-daughter-stories, but very seldom mother-child-stories? It´s there in all Star Trek shows, in Star Wars (“Luke, I am your father!”), in Indiana Jones (“Father?”), in NCIS (“Dad…” of at least three characters), even in the *Marvels* (from *Thor* to *Iron Man*…). Just take your pick or find another example. Family business in the USA seems to be a harsh mistress.

Now, resuming, Picard has gathered already two women following him and a lost soul mostly squabbling in Spanish, having not only one split persona but five of them. Wow! That is really the only comical aspect in this season and seriously worth to be watched. Viva el Rios (or whatever, played by a very good actor!). Woman number three will be soon standing on the beaming platform. Wait for it!

Picard now beaming onto the nun planet and greeting strangers on the street is like you, dressed in your Sunday suit, opening the door of a biker gang bar, saying: “High guys, nice day for a coffee today!”. Oh sweet gods of the phaser cannon! What did the authors smoke writing such horse manure? Even a senile Picard wouldn´t do that, would he?

And while Picard is struggling with his past, the handsome Romulan spy works his target, the Gynid, with a Romulan version of a Rubik’s Cube (haha!), disputing with his handler and sister, the Romulan undercover agent in the Fed HQ. Standard movie stuff. Nice talk from *Goldsman*, by the way, in the Story Logs, him saying, “in the first draft they had definitely sex” (the bushy Romulan and his sister) and that that was no real problem, because his grandparents were cousins first grade. Ah, yes! I would´ve wondered…

The underlying story, as the producers tell in the Extras, is the death of Data, which is unfinished business for Picard. He not only misses his positronic pal, but misses deeply the only relationship to an entity he was ever able to maintain (in both senses of the word!). It seems Picard was in love with the Android?

Yeah, good stuff for a story, if, say, Quentin Tarantino would have made the movie. But this shallow nerd level telenovelashow transports nothing interesting, nothing from the psyche, nothing carnal. Ah, but yes, there are topics from the present worked out, like refugee problems, racists problems, AI problems, and other political stuff. But not analyzed in the deep, just mentioned. Yes, I agree: The world has problems. Several.

Again now comes one of the ST-dogfights in space which are poorly planned and practiced. In space, people, there is no air! Hence, you have not lean your spaceship into flying curves like a fighter jet. The only good dogfight in space I saw on a space opera is in *Stargate Atlantis*, season 5, episode 11. Like a beautiful dance in a ballet. Wonderfully made! But even in *SGA* that is a rarely found jewel. Other examples are in one or two episodes of *Babylon 5* with those White Star ships piloted by the Minbari woman. Very fine dynamic there! But, alas! Never found in ST! Ok, once for a second, it is done here properly, also. But just for a second.

And woman number three arrives. Finally, a little bit of eye candy! A worn Seven. I think I like it. I had to giggle listening to Frakes in the Story Log, when his tongue hanging out of his mouth telling about that actress…

Please don´t speak of directing when JF does that! I don´t appreciate his directing (never seen so many shoulders) and acting. EOD.

**E05 Stardust City Rag or "We always wanted to kill Bjayzl."**

"Planet Vergessen"… Ha! Ja, vergessen wir den Planeten! Bloody splatter scenes, over and over. Not my taste. Fast Forward, please!

Now we are "rewarded" by a sort of heist story like in "Trading Places", when Aykroyd´s and Murphy´s characters in the end try to steal a file in a train wearing hilarious costumes and acting like clowns. Exactly this story is presented here. Just sad! Not funny, not creative, nothing to laugh, not worthy to be watched. Fast Forward, please!

And the killing begins. Everybody kills somebody. Ok, there are exactly two killings and one remembered splattery slaughter, but killings there are. Later, much later we will get an explanation, but for now, we are irritated that so much intimate killing in so little time and space is possible in ST. But, modern times, more complicated killings.

And so the fifth episode ends. Oh, and *Bajayzl* (the nearly naked host of the bar) derives from *Big Jim Slade* in *Kentucky Fried Movie*, as *Goldsman* explains in the Story Log. But what he didn´t say is, that there is a Hebrew word *Bajszel* (or, in another variant, *Beisl*), meaning "little tavern" or "little cantina". And that´s where they´re going.

**E06 The Impossible Box or "Give it back. You´ll break it." or "37 months?"**

In the beginning the murderous scientist hits on the Latino Captain for a sterile quickie on the ball court of the ship. Yo, I did not have to see this. It´s difficult to unsee such childish

and unnecessary scenes. But then again, they both may have had to let some steam off (just ingame, I hope).

And again, Picard is exploiting heavily his former colleague, who undoubtedly calls in the last debt she had with an old Starfleet friend, which then she exploits. It seems, being a Fed is being not of a good character, today and in the Future… But who am I to judge?

What we now can observe is analyzing and therapeeing one another: Rios and Raffi, Picard and Soji, Picard and Hugh, MEH and Jurati, The Romulan Spy Brother & Sister, Elnor himself (or not), the handsome Romulan spy Narek & Soji. Wanna take a bet how many of them are dead in the end? Not a surprise, eh? That also reminds me of *The Doctor*…

And it is very bitter to realize, how quick Picard waves his flag in the wind! Back on Rios´ spaceship he barked loudly "Borg don´t change!" and so on. Now, a few hours later, he talks to Hugh like "after all these years you´re showing what the Borg are underneath" and "they are victims". Wow! Is that the same Picard, who has a longtime rock solid moral base against the Borg out of own experiences, as just hours ago? Why now this sissy crap? Yes, it´s progressing age, and dementia, and senility. No other possible possibility possible.

But, there is a wonderful arc here demonstrating how that crappy NLP works at is worst if played against greenhorns and grashoppers. *Rapport* through *Pacing* and *Leading*, Narek does this with elegance. And in the end the client, here poor Soji, is fired. This method is, too, practiced in many, many companies, used by mid management clowns to get rid of competent, but naive employees. I once had an encounter of that sort, but I knew the rules well, and the then very dumb midlevel management clowness was played by me – and didn't realize it before it was too late for her. What fun I had in that firm!

In the end of this episode, Picard and Soji are on the run, Hugh saves them, stays and… guess how he ends… The word "Nepenthe" is spoken. But before we can go there in the next episode, we have to remember what was said in the Extras by the producers: Picard won´t get anything just so, he has to earn it. That is, even the command seat in Rios´ ship is not for him, before he does something significant to earn that right. And this is valid, too, for getting in contact with former team mates. Ok, that was planned, but how could you work as a producer against the romantic and tear driven situation, when not only the characters remember the golden TNG-age but also the actors. Who then all wanted to make a great tearful *Blake-Edwards*-like party (you remember *The Party*?). Don´t be surprised, they are all dropping down on the stage like a warm summer rain over the next two seasons. So guess to whom Picard plus One is coming having a pizza dinner now?

Ah, and guess also, who they all forgot while fleeing the Cube? Eh? Yes, Elnor. Poor kid!

### E07 Nepenthe or "You had it coming!"

And so we meet the (finally) pair of the century: Troi and Riker. Or in modern language, Troiker. Sorry, couldn´t resist! Of the 56 minutes the episodes plays, the starting welcoming, with tears and joy and pizza eating (with a burned tomato!), needs about 23 minutes! No story, just meeting, chatting and eating. Ok, yes, we need at least ten episodes to make a season, but … Ok, no "but".

Now, more a technical question: Rios´s focus is on a ship following his ship. And so he says: "He´s good! Keeping just at or beyond the limit of *Sirena´s* scanners." Now, how does he

then see it? If his scanners could not make the other ship, then how he knows it is there? But, no, I am no nerd asking never nerdy questions and do never wonder why that all can happen in that really real future universe…

And so we leave Nepenthe feeling that there was a reason coming here, but we totally forgot it, and it was probably just for meeting the old comrade characters, who didn't really help beyond baking pizza, and they didn´t it just make it for getting paid a little rent, no? Ok, they found out what home planet the Android has…

I never understood the need for Troiker and Nepenthe, the series would be perfect (ok, would function) without those fifty something minutes. Rios had just to ask his computer to get the Android's home planet coordinates. The space chase itself was only a few minutes, so it could have been integrated in one of the other episodes.

Let´s look, what will come next!

**E08 Broken Pieces or "Shut the fuck up!"**

Oh, it is already late in the series, just three more episodes to go (with the final show would have a third of the time usually the great good-bye-mourning-the-dead-hugging-departing-friends-and-a-really-cool-cliffhanger-part).

Ah! Oh explains the terrible secret! So terrible it is, most of them women (yes, no men there! Too terrible!) viewing those terrible facts would go crazy or shoot themselves or both! Lean back and watch! Nothing really new. Oh, yes, something: the secret cabal in the Romulan Tal Shiar is women only! Wow! The secret itself is some part *2001*, some part *Phase IV*, some part *Army of the Dead* (part whatever), and a star system with eight suns. Now, those with six suns are seldom, but they exist. E.g. *Theta[1] Orionis B*. Try Wikipedia! And *Nu Scorpii* really exists with six or (!) seven suns. Eight suns may be the "fiction" part of "science fiction", or not. Ok! But why? The whole thing works without them suns. It is never explained. Pity! But after all I liked that scene! Really nearly a *Sam Raimi* thing!

At that point a little quiz: Do you recognize the actor playing the whole time Commodore Oh, without eyeing on the cast list? Yes! Yes! It is the sweet and adorable face performing the Okinawa tea ceremony in *Karate Kid II*! Do you remember? I´ll never forget that scene in my life! What an actress! Kudos! Oh, and in *Four Rooms* (part *Misbehavers*; watch it!) she is also playing… in a par force ride with *Antonio Banderas*. Know her name? Tamlyn Tomita! Great actress!

*Cube*. Dark. Enters Seven! Elnor saved, all Romulans dead (at least those in the same room). Big hug!

*Sirena*. Dark. Enter Rios and Soji. Rios goes frenzy. Why? Look for yourself. You have got the whole episode for explanation, pairwise therapy, group therapy and finally racing towards the orchids. What a waste of time!

And allow me to tell you a word in between the scenes!

Since decades English (I mean English!) and American filmmakers tend to stereotype some typical characters in their movies and shows. Be it a Western, Phantasy, Science Fiction, or Horror movie, it is always the same and it is annoying! The mechanic is Scottish, the revolutionary or bomb maker is Irish, the one who plots the whatever game is sort of

oxfordian English (women or men), the psychiatrist is a beardy Austrian (you know, Freud was from there), the Latins are the lazy Lover-Fighters, the Asians are the Cook-Fighter-Washers, liars or dumb people speak French (that has to do with the centuries long war and hatred between France and England), the Black are the evil, very dumb people speak Jamaican dialect, blonds (with blue eyes) are Angels, dark hairs (with brown eyes) are mean and deceiving, and so on. Watch *Enterprise*, *Star Wars*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Back to the Future*, *Burn Notice*, even in *High Noon* you can watch that; endless is the list. Yes, there are exceptions, but very, very few. That is annoying! Holy Mother of *Carmen San Diego*! Change that! Darn!

Only once I would like to see an dumb English, a Latin psychiatrist, a Scottish Captain, an Austrian bomb maker, a good hearted dark hair woman with brown eyes, a Jamaican mechanic, a … you got the gist. That´s why I love *Futurama*! A Jamaican bureaucrat! A one eyed emotionally unstable pilot woman! A slutty Asian scientist! An alien crab medical doctor with art history major! Wonderful! I love it!

Why do I tell you that? Because one of Rios´ Holos, the mechanic, speaks in a very bad Scottish accent. Or what the production team thought a Scottish accent is. Pfft! Not funny. And watch further, what accent the other holos speak. Got me?

At last (after much therapy and hugging) they all meet (Picard, Jurati, Raffi, Rios, and the Soji synth) around a table and Rios serves to the synth Soji peppermint ice and French fries (41:29; because he knows she likes it). Ah…just wait a moment! There is something in my head, a thought… Now I remember! *Doctor Who* and *Amy*! Season 5, episode 1, "*The Eleventh Hour*". There the freshly crashed doctor needs fishfingers and custard (timestamp 7:47)! But that is just a coincidence, isn´t it?

And here it is: Orchid Planet. All will assemble, plan, fight, deceive and hug there. We´ll see who prevails! If I were mean, I´d say, we could have gotten this in episode 1: "Gather together, folks, road trip to Synth Planet!" But what would we have missed then! Tears, hugs, depressive dialogues, slaughter, beheadings, a panoramic view, and terrible secrets! Oh yeah, the last one is the secret of a good TV-Show: Terrible Secrets! Go Fish!

BTW, the funniest person in the production team is *Chabon*, the creator/producer. I could laugh for hours when I listen to him. Ah, and could you please tell me, what horrible costume *Pill* wears in the Story Log interview (the blue one)? I think the last time I saw kind of that was with my great-grandmother…

Take a large breath and prepare for the last two rounds!

**E09 Et in Arcadia Ego Part 1 or "¡Puta madre!"**

If nothing comes to mind, Hollywood enters Latin. All becomes esoteric. Sic!

Nice idea, btw, shooting orchids as a planetary defense weapon. Nobody would assume orchids were dangerous. Those had me smile. Brace yourselves!

Crashlanding they have to rescue themselves, they also have to search the crashed Borg for lost mates, and then they have to wander to Synthville.

Enters … who, really? Brent Spiner has told so many times that he won´t give Data again. But in this show we´d seen him in the beginning playing poker with Picard in a dream, now

he steps out in the open as an Altan Inigo Soong whoever (Do the initials embrace the term AI by coincidence? Noooo, the writers´ room is too clever for that). I think money is more powerful than principles. Let him earn his rent. And be surprised of Spiner´s cleverness in the next two seasons. He´s cool, man. Like the scenes he had in *Big Bang Theory* (see: the *Data* Action Figure).

Now I don´t want to talk about a synth giving a Vulcan mind melt. Because of that scene the magical Vulcan ritual had now lost every level of dignity to me. If a robot can do that, what else is left? Fast Forward, please! (In *Discovery* Burnham has a machine for that! Oh, boy!)

Nothing important to say from here. Usually most producers shred their more or less good thread using epic, but unnecessary action, or with boring and endlessly stretched suspense amplifiers like "you do not have to do this – yes, I do – no, you don´t…" (*Ally McBeal* style), while the rest of the team teams up to prepare the ride for the potentially escape from the "higher synthetic beings out there watching us" (what? Like in *Caprica* or *Galactica*?). Same here. The last two episodes could have been compressed in one 55 minute episode in a classy way. But then again…

As *Goldsman* explains in a *Liberace* way in the Story Log, they hadn´t a location built when they had to make e9 and e10. And because of a heat wave they couldn´t make that planned tent on the parking lot. Haha! So someone gave their house on Malibu Hills for production location. Haha! Like Mathew 25:29, if you have money you´ll get more money. I would have done the same, if I´d have had such a villa in the Malibu Hills! "Very difficult shoot days. In a very difficult location. It is like summer camp. My friend Will Smith used to say: 'My dad has a barn, let´s put on a show.'" Yeah, yeah, whatever! And we then pay money for that kind of party? Yo, Fan, be laughed at and pay!

**E10 Et in Arcadia Ego Part 2 or "And the brain abnormality is gone. For good." Or "You didn´t make me immortal?"**

In a pause I considered, why this Synthville-Planet is so cosy and blessed with sunshine and a beautiful view of the land. While a few episodes earlier they found it, because it is constantly dark, and has two red moons, and constantly electric discharging weather (like thunderstorms). Where are those red moons? Where is the thunder? Ah, we are in Malibu! Yes, it never rains in California! It´s so easy when you are looking for explanations!

But, but…? There, at 16:40 (DVD) you can see it! Very shortly, while all sitting in the crashed Rios-ship, there the two red moons are coming out, with an electrical discharging thunderstorm. Just one second long! Oh, am I relieved! And I believe again in the eternal wisdom of the writers´ room.

And the episode goes like: make a heist or attack plan, run like hell, think like Einstein, put the bomb in a soccerball, deceive the deceivers, convince the children, hope for the Feds, kick the Romulans´ asses, don´t love thy enemy, but work with them against the greater enemy, bluff, puff, hug, weep, cry, copy the main mind into plastic and call it "saved him". The End. But nice effects.

Some fans lamented, the hundreds of Fed ships were all the same model, how boring. But I say: Why not? The Romulan Fleet also used their same models all over, and why not use a successful ship type and build it say in 400 equal ships? No problem. It´s not important how

they look, it´s important what firepower they have. The one having most cannons wins the battle, not the prayers (Napoleon said). And not the design (I said). But the Fans complain (as always), the production team ducks and is making more ship models. Also fine with me.

Wait! Chick fight! Between Seven and the mean Romulan sister bitch. Watch! And watch again!

At 29 Minutes in the episode I had a déjà vu! What? Did I change the film during watchtime? A beam goes up in space, opening a whatever portal, a fiery circle, through which dozens of … metal worms are crawling down from the sky? Now I know just out of my head half a dozen films and movies and shows using this … portal theme: *Dark Matter* with the Black Ships, *Andromeda* with the Abyss, *The Avengers* with the Tanos Worms over New York, and *Star Trek Discovery* (the Ten-C), *Star Trek DS9* (The Wormhole), *Stargate SG1* with the Ori, and countless others. Not very creative! And a loose end. We´ll never know who that was or from where they wanted to get here. Pity!

And Oh is giving commands and commands and commands, but no one in her fleet is listening to her. What gives Picard and the Feds enough time to arrive and kick the yet just commanding Oh in the Romulan backside. Time for Riker to grin over the screen and getting rude. And Oh is giving further commands and again no one is listening. And commands. And the Romulans retargeting a third time. And retreat then in the end. Phhh!

One last question in this season. Those Fed ships and those Romulan warships are confronting each other like Napoleon and Wellington/Blücher in Waterloo, open field tactic, front to front. But, isn´t space three-dimensional? Have the ships to stand against each other like in a one-dimensional (or nearly two-dimensional) space? Wouldn´t there be a whole bunch of new tactics? Like a “two crabs grip”, or the “hugging the donkey herd”, or the “confetti parade”, or the “suck in balloon”. Some like the Airforce have in the drawer. And why have phaser rays to be this fathom-like lines? Why not cone shaped? So the intensity would be a little less, but the target could be hit 100%. Or like a moving blade? There was a scene in *DS9*, exercising against the changelings, where phasers combed a whole segment of a room? And aiming with a hand phaser? For what? Just wiggle around a firing phaser in the direction of the target like a drunk. Again, 100% hit! All those one-dimensional approaches…

Ok, battle didn´t happen, Romulans away, Feds happy, Picard… yeah, Picard.

15 Minutes to say good bye? Fast Forward, please!

I do not engage in the discussion, if a “mind transfer” is merely a copy and paste function or really a “soul transfer” of the real ego. In my opinion it is copy & paste, really! But whatever they are doing in the AI Soong laboratory, they “transfercopy” the mind of Picard into that plastic “golem”. Yeah, yeah, do that. Then they tell him, we made you not younger, better or everlasting, but as you were. Hah! I think if the actors´ strike doesn´t work and the studios do produce virtual actors for real (yeah, they do that already), that problem would also be solved. But for now he remains old and wrinkled for the next season. And that will be a very dumb idea for the next plot in season 2. Keep in mind these words from Soji: “And the brain abnormality is gone. For good.” That will be also important in season 3, the worst of them all. This sentence crashes the whole plot of season 3. It is worthless, because the writers´ room made a grave error. The quality of the

franchise is sinking to ground zero. Spoiler: Even if the DNA was corrupted, the transfer in the plastic body would have cured that. Just my two Cents.

Data dies the second time. Raffi and Seven are in seventh heaven. Jurati and Rios are having a first or second affair, not very clear, that. Elnor doesn´t know what to do. Picard doesn´t know either. Soji plans her career as every young Gen Z has to do it, with a big cleavage, a blabbermouth and believing in the incompetence of all others.

## Season 2

Take a deep breath now. And remember: Picard is dead and his mind is copied – sorry, transferred to a positronic plastic body. This is essential to keep in mind, because we now dive psychologically deep in his mind. Mind? What mind, you might say? Is this Picard or is this a copy or … what? Why do they now, after Picard ceased to exist in flesh and mind, dig in his head when he has no natural head anymore? How is that possible? Seriously, I have no answer, whether ingame or offgame. Your only chance is to forget the first season and take season 2 as a standalone. Otherwise all gets confusing. And please ignore, that a French family talks English with a laughable French accent. Hilarious! That is like the *Steve Martin* Version of *Pink Panther* in German, where he speaks German with an atrocious French accent. So, let´s start.

### E01 The Star Gazer or “Intruder Alert!”

If you have no idea how to start a story, just make a time journey, or, better, go into an alternative universe or into another timeline. Why not do all three? So the audience is completely confused, who (remember: Picard is now a plastic people!) is where, when and (how do you ask about a parallel universe?) wherewhenwhere? But, being serious, who could do all that with a finger´s snip? Yes, of course! Q! Ok, then…

It all starts in a ship under attack. We´ll shortly see it´s the Borg. But a strange variant, indeed. Chaos, wild shooting, people shouting, all ignoring all commands. Good start! No chance of winning, so autodestruct on! Yes! Again, good start of an arc! Countdown to Zero! Boom, white light! Very good start! Like a *Douglas Adams* start!

Flashback. Oh no, I hate Flashbacks! Just tell the story, no one needs flashbacks!

So, we learn that in the future you beam the grapes from the vineyard directly to production trolley hovering near by! Hey, funny idea. Why, then, are there so many people around? Ah! They have problems deciding the right label for the bottles, which, itself, is sent from the tablet computer onto the bottle. Hmm. No fun anymore making vine…

And we see Laris looking in a romantic way at Picard, several dozen feet away. Where is … what was the name of Laris´ husband? He seems to have vanished. Died, or something. So, she has a thing for Picard, the plastic pal now. Then, in the evening. Oh gosh! The talk! Both sitting nearby a fireplace, she is talking like an adult woman, he is babbling nonsense like a teenager. What is normal for all of us inferior male human bipeds and nobrainies. In the end she decides: “Oops, such a child! A mother´s boy! No chance! Go away!” As always this is our (the male) fate in those situations. I like Laris in this scene. At least one intelligent human being! Dear fellow males: Never talk, just nod, look her in the eyes, and then again, just shut up! But then the episode would have been shorter and the finale would have been less … romantic. So, we go on.

This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

Now the flashbacks really begin (within flashbacks!). Oh my (as *George* always says)! Did Picard really looked like that boy in the flashbacks…?

Now is the time to recall our suppressed question from season 1: Dear producing and writing team: Why do we now, when Picard´s mind is "copytransferred" into a plastic robot, look deeper in his (or his former human) subconscious? Is there any of it left? Or has it changed? What did you smoke? In my opinion that had better be done in the time before he was plastified. The whole Freudian thing in this context is kind of lame funny at best. So I decided (again) that I´d watch season 2 as a standalone TV-Show. You have to forget the plastic! Then and only then there is some fun in watching it. And only then season 2 maybe the best of all three. Because it´s not so heavy, not so very deep, and full of very nice ideas. Or not. And Q is… uh, just watch it and him.

Oh, and Picard´s mother speaks just now a very good English with her family, not French! Wasn´t she from France and the family living in France? But…but…, yes, there are universal translators everywhere, or all living beings in all galaxies speak English (like in *Stargate*). Whatever.

While the flashback of the second level ends we now end up in the flashback first level, far, far away from earth and Picard´s sub-c, watching a green flash in the darkness of space.

And we meet again Laris and Picard. Discussing their failed romantic attempt. Seriously, what is there to "discuss"? You might want to listen to what Orla Brady tells in an interview in the Extras (DVD). Very enlightening, indeed! What an intelligent, mature, adult woman!

Hah! And then, while he just left Laris, stuttering nonsense, now he makes a Picard-Speech before a big audience in the Academy, telling all those wise words he has no knowledge of. Oh, boy! That is Picard. Like a child telling adults of life, and that, quoting his mother! That is why I like Kirk better. He knows about the things he talks of and acts. Then there comes Elnor, fresh bathed, uniformed and… alive? Ok…

Then we meet Seven, fighting, not unexpected. And she arrives at the green flash, too! Yeah, what a coincidence! Space is so small.

Oh, now we meet the Robot, Soji, wearing a deep cleavage for the nerd audience, as a host to a PR-party, just to send Dr. Jurati drunk to the bridge of the *Stargazer*, captained by Rios.

Cut.

Dispatch of new recruits from Academy to their ships. Nice.

Cut.

All assembling at the green flash somewhere in space.

Uh, the flash is talking, calling "Help us, Picard!". Now, is that funny, or what?

Cut.

This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

Oh my, Picard now city touring in L.A., beaming to “10 Forward Ave.”. Do we know that? Yes, we do! You know “10 Forward”, don´t you? You know who is there to meet? And you know where and with whom Picard now has his “I have problems with women, mother!” session, begging for counseling, drinking Saurian brandy? The only “mother” left alive is Guinan. He is not even man enough to ask a man-friend, it has to be a mother figure. Shame on you, JL! And some guidelines on etiquette: If you visit a dear friend, you must never ever bring “gifts” from your own company, only if your host has explicitly asked for them. Think about it! Your own products cost you nothing, they are worthless as gifts. And if you are CEO of a dog food company, you would never bring a can of dog food for a visit, now, would you? And during the whole show, no one wants to have his vinegar, did you notice that? Raffi wanted it, because she is a drug addict and alcoholic. Not very empathic of JL! Guinan has a bar with most exquisite and expensive beverages not only from earth! So she doesn´t really need it. Seven likes Bourbon better. And even he himself would not drink it; ok, he has no taste at all: He is drinking Earl Grey (Ewwww!), in tea bags (Ewwww!$^{2}$), with milk (Ewwww$^{3}$!), decaf (Ewwww$^{4}$!). And so forth.

Oh, another etiquette rule: If you are friends, you don´t want to be addressed with your rank. E.g., “Hello Captain!” – “Just Jean-Luc, please!”, and not an “Admiral, now!” with eyebrows raised. He is a real mother´s boy here, insecure and immature. What people sat there in the writers´ room? They all don´t have friends, do they?

Cut.

Already back on the vinegar Vineberg, Starfleet calls him to duty, to the green flash. And, Flashward Ho! He flies in an instant, leaving Laris behind without explaining and what not.

Cut.

On the *Stargazer* they wonder, why the green flash wants to join Starfleet. And the journey begins…

Question: Why is the interior of the Star Gazer like a dark mirror cabinet? In deep black, and so shiny that you can see your face reflecting on every surface, vertical or horizontal. Like from an ad of a horror kitchen cleaner. Hey, General? Who wants that? Earlier star ships were more… livable and brighter.

Ah, did you realize the relation between *Babylon V* and *ST Picard*? No? In a few minutes Seven explains, that the Star Gazer Class is an amalgamation of Borg and Starfleet technology. Remember? Shadow and Earth Alliance Tec? The same idea, I wonder. But this time on the right side… er…

But, can anyone explain, please, why Rios is in command of the technically most advanced ship in the Starfleet? Because he piloted Picard in the last season? Are there not more experienced Captains, who earned that more, in whole of Starfleet? I don´t get the logic in that. You have to have at least one very good reason to promote him such high even in a fictive story.

Back to the beginning of this episode: We are at the green flash. On the bridge, Picard meets Seven, meets Chris Rios (as Captain), meets drunk Jurati. Picard greets the green flash.

Then red alert sirens, chaos, tremor, near panic, Rios´s cigar nearly falling out of his mouth. The Borg arrive! Greenish!

Ah, and other Starfleet Ships arrive, and No. 5, Musicker, on one of them.

Now we are watching astonished a democratic discussion on the bridge? What? Danger is just ahead and they start a business meeting on the bridge? Oh, by Kirk´s Phaser! Starfleet commanders are now boring team leaders, listening to boring team members? But without the coffee and the cookies? I just missed someone weeping. Oh, wait! There is another ST-Show full of tears and tears and tears. But not here, *discover i*t for yourself. Thank you, whatever goddess there is!

The Borg take action, our heroes go to confusion. Ground rule #1: If you draw a phaser, firearm or longbow, don´t talk, ask, or discuss, just shoot. Or as *Tuco* says: "If you have to shoot, shoot. Don´t talk!" (You know *Tuco*? The "*Ugly*" – "il brutto" in the original – of the three gunslingers, remember?) Because, why on earth did you draw? Just to show the beauty in your hand? There is no standoff, just shoot, by golly. Or did I just misunderstand higher diplomatic processes? Talk, if you think you have to talk. Then you don´t draw. And shoot, if you think you have to shoot. Then you don´t talk. But never draw and talk and talk and talk. Ah, a very good example was in *Firefly* (the series, E01, *Serenity*, timestamp 1:12:10). Watch it! Learn from it!

And now the dialog of the century follows:

Rios: "What do you require?"

Borg Queen: "Power!"

Why didn´t I think of that! Difficult riddle, indeed. Yo, you writers! Have you downsmoked your brain to ground zero? There are better dialogs in *Jabberwocky*. Ugh! And those *Matrix*-like tentacles…

Now Chris Rios shows real command spirit, Seven begins shooting without command, all other also are shooting (because all the other others are shooting somewhere, too), and Chris neither did command "Shoot!" nor "Hold fire!" What a Captain! They all are just shooting in that direction all others are shooting. Ok, about 20 seconds later Chris seems to take control again and says: "Cease fire!" Ok, good man! But no one listens. Three seconds later: "Stop firing". Ten seconds later, again "Stop firing!", because no one listens. At this point in time nearly all firing Starfleet officers are on the ground, ok, not dead, but incapacitated, the computer babbling some data nonsense. New officers arrive on the bridge, leaving the elevator firing, falling, being unconscious, and therefore being useless. Nobody knows what´s happening, or who is commanding, the only clear thing is, the Borg queen is grabbing all command capacity from the dumb computer. Yeah! Now, several minutes in the firing chaos, Chris has an idea! To tell all other ships to fire on the Queen vessel. Oh yeah? The several dozen ships were just watching a game or what? But, alas, the comms are fried, bad Queen! And you know what Picard does now? Yes, he starts the self-destruct. As always. Why does this seem to be familiar to me? Ah, *Galaxy Quest*! Nice "Self Destruct" scene! But, ok, since Rios as Captain of this ship seems to have no commanding power over his bridge crew, the senile Admiral wishes to interfere and starts auto destruct. Oh my! Some French song flies irritating through the flashing and bursting air of

the bridge (remember the song for later!) and after a “zero-zero-zero-destruct-zero” (Didn´t Picard took a password security class in the Academy?) … BOOOM!

Conclusion: Quite the leadership on the bridge: Rios is helpless, without any authority, just having an unlit cigar in his mouth, and Picard not knowing anything, also helpless. Rios doing nothing, Picard does self-destructing. Where is Kirk when you need him? Or at least Sisko?

Ok, I would have been satisfied with that ending of the show. Nothing more to say or tell. All that is to come would be another timeline, which would be totally scrambled by our heroes. End of story. Fine by me.

But! Yes, we seem to be now in a *Marvel*-like universe – or better – *Multiverse*, and so we are digging happily in Picard´s subconscious, while the whole bunch of “crew mates” mixing all time lines together in a subspacetimegordian knot. And, because nerds would ask: “How?”

We need two things: 1. Another, or parallel or timesplit or whatever universe, or a mean looking glass universe and 2. Q!

All party guests are now present and we can now make a whole bunch of episodes, securing a nice pension for all the geezers on stage. Nice idea! This is way better than Beach Bingo in Miami, FL!

**E02 Penance or “Bad Picard! Meow!”**

Now, take all you believe to know about Picard, pick the exact opposite and you have the now nearly Bad Picard, but with the emotions of a four year old, not knowing why this all happens to him. So, almost normal Picard. And because Picard is in every universe an Admiral, Chieftain or whatever wannabe dictator, all of earth suffers under him and his gang here.

Even the environment.

Oh! That´s new! After a short intense dispute Q hits Picard, Picard´s nose bleeding! What? Violence is the last resort of a coward, but Q? Coward? It doesn´t fit. Even in Kirks universe that would not have happened. Or, when it would have, Kirk (and even Sisko) would have blasted Q so fast out of the whatever universe, Q would have never seen it coming. But, yes, this is Picard and he weeps now, just a little bit. The writers must have been young ones, because, guys and dolls, the older ones are older and have more wrinkles (or “lines”), but are far more fucked up than you, not the weepy geezers you are phantasizing of.

What follows is a standard “where are we? When are we? How do we get out?” scenery. Ok, not bad made, sometimes even fun to watch. Not really bad that those characters not invited to earn this fun pension, being presented as their skeleton heads in Picard´s “showroom” of fame, explained by curator Q. Nice! But the funniest idea is to make Seven a female, good looking, bossy, domina like dictatress of the enslaved world-galaxy-universe. What have I laughed! Fits.

Now there is underlying an interesting problem: How does an external cruel dictator can cope with the inner conscious of an ethical good person?

This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

Ah, dear producers, a remark between the scenes: A 110 seconds intro is far too long, especially with a score with nothing to tell.

All actors, I have heard, love to play bad characters, because they are much more colorful than the good ones. But am I the only one, who says, that Stewart never could do a full good character (it was always a little stiff), and more of it, he could never give a really bad character? As you see in this episode, while Picard is watching Bad Picard´s speech. Dear Mr. Stewart, this is not a bad character! You give an actor student on his first day, first lesson in an actor school, trying to get into the system or the method, or whatever. Pity.

And again, those youngster writers! “Eradication Day”? What self-respecting authoritarian regime would call such a day in such a lame manner? It would be called “Clearances Day” or “Empeacement Day” or “Integration Day” or (even badder German word) “Befriedungstag”. Even bad administrations want to be seen in a “good” way. PR, it is called.

And, Annika, you **can** smell in dreams! At least I can. But maybe xBs can´t.

Now, let´s Seven be an impressive and intelligent Dominatrix, let´s Picard be a helpless child, and let the others be some gang doing whatever, whatfor, and whynot. Ah, and the best scenes are those between Seven and Jurati. Very funny.

Behold! Under M-5-10 you see: Her Majesty, the glorious Borg Queen…ok, just head and shoulders (and arms), flake free, sort of jarhead…

Lean back and let the kind waves of light pass your brain. You see: She´s the key. And the answer to all riddles ´til the end… of the show. So keep your weather eye on the Queen!

Awe! The truest love story of the century! The fragile teacup and this torso in the jar! Romance over space and time!

Oh, and dear nerds: Please tell me now the difference between broken time universe, another timeline universe, a divergence in time, a corruption in timeline, another parallel universe, an alternate reality, and a select universe of the multiverse. I remember there was a similar effect in *Dr. Strange* part II. But yes, I am waiting for you now scribbling loops and curved lines on a big piece of paper! Yeah, that´s important!

“Ten Hut”? A Hollywood invention, eh? Isn´t that, called out loud, “Atten---tion!” in reality? Oh, whatever.

But now, back in the scene, the crew needs support, brainy and calculatory support, and that can be brought to them by… the Queen! Yeah! New crew member, ho!

Now our heroes have to find a way out of a stage event, through scrambled beam paths, out of a lynch mob audience, and trick their way through security guards and loyal management slaves. But, oh wonder! They get out eventually. Episode ends, exeunt omnes. To Rios´s ship. Bravo! But for the suspense: Shooting, someone dies, some other die, many tears, emotional chaos.

This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

## E03 Assimilation or “Enjoy L.A. in 2024!”

They are fleeing, the Queen helps shooting, they do a Kirk maneuver around a sun with Warp 9? Oh dear, do the writers think while writing such nonsense? Please read in the ST Tec Manual, what the original writers have thought to be Warp 9! And Plop! Now we have 2024! Super!

Yes, we need more suspense. So, navigation is failing, ships falling to earth, but Picard knows where to crash land while no one is watching! Aiming, just looking out of the windshield, he targets Picard Vineyard. As easy as that! Why did the Space Shuttle have such a complicated navigation system on board? And Boom – Crash – we land, mowing a few trees. Good! Now we have an operational base in no man´s land. The fun begins! Really! What now follows is real fun, except it has nothing to do with any of the Star Trek themes! We have police car hunts, prison breaks, ah!, and Seven knows how to drive an SUV and…

No, I don´t want to spoil all the fun! Lean back, enjoy, and expect to laugh without any pause!

One thing to mention: In Star Trek Universe we learn now (finally!) that they use in everybody some “ID Implants” and “Vaccination Chips”, as Jurati mentions (at timestamp 17:48 of the DVD). Would you have thought that? Star Trek Universe is itself an authoritarian system, just short of a dictator figure? All the years we accepted, that anybody is in a database with genetic fingerprints, so people missing, found or killed could be identified, galaxy wide. But this? And I promise you, it will be much better in just a few moments! Think of a big gala party, where every guest has to be biometrically identifiable, is permanently subject of surveillance while dancing or drinking. Wow! Similar to the slavery world of *Harry Potter*! I know why I like *Hitch Hiker´s Guide to the Galaxy* much better!

But this all will happen later, now we have to dispatch the teams to get the job of home coming done. We watch the romantic entanglement between a female super-nerd with big social defects (Jurati) and a sciency, folkless Queen. Love can happen in weird and dark green places.

Ah, and Raffi is suddenly an expert for 2024 L.A.! She knows it all and can do it all, especially how to handle a 9 mm semi-automatic! Kudos! All are working and thinking, just Picard is commandeering, doing nothing else. Bravo!

“All the leaves are brown…”, wonderful upbeat, now we are in sort of *L.A. Story* and *E.R.* combined in one show. Just relax and let the city air (and Rios´s blood) flow through your hair and thoughts… Meanwhile Jurati is mind dueling the Queen. Nice actor act! Worth watching!

Rios is hunted. A smart little fun, but seriously: That telenovela is Star Trek? Are we hunting whales again? “I just work in outer space…”?

End of episode.

## E04 Watcher or “What watcher watches the supervisor?”

Now, what? In his first memory of this episode he (ok, the plastic pal) “remembers” his youth in the castle, running around, calling out “Maman!” – in French, because they are

French – and his mother answers in perfect English. Hmm, it might be a bilingual family, one speaks French for a few minutes, the other speaks English. Might be. But, why? And why does the plastic man now remember and explore "his" subconscious?

Ah, guess who the watcher-contact is? Ok, just the young one, but naturally working in *10 Forward*.

Now we get to the part, where real life problems are discussed. We had a clinic for the poor a few minutes ago, now we have to suffer with the people caught by ICE, we visit a prison for immigrants, we see poor people living on the streets beneath million Dollar apartments, and we have a standard street hunt with police cars. The nerd audience has to learn at least a little bit of reality while watching (like in the movie with that whale!). This is that episode! But, it is not wrong to show those situations. Watch, think, react in reality!

*[Breaking Update: Now it is mid 2025 in reality, the era of the orange horrors. And all that shown in this show is now more than reality, it is what happens every single day to every one of us! Think of it! Did we all sleep? Are we awake now? Back to the critics text…]*

Where on what earth did Seven learn to drive an SUV? I know for fact that learned drivers here are driving much worse than Seven. But, what the heck, it´s fun to watch her drifting through L.A. And Raffi knows what traffic lights, safety belts, busses, and trucks are. Wow!

To speak of busses: The scenes, where Rios sits in a transport of immigrants (prison bus), were filmed on a highway. But it was just an about five miles long rest of an old highway (you see the new one in the background in a scene). And the place for camera equipment was only possible on the wrong side. So the bus drives in one scene on the correct right side, in another scene on the wrong left side. And even a third option: They just inverted the scene mirrorwise. Not very professional. Ah, yes, look, who the director of this episode was. No further questions. I don´t like his working style.

Q starts to lose his power, so at least it seems. But who understands the Q?

And I like the "brick like beaming"…

**E05 Fly me to the moon or "That bitch!"**

Again, that bus! Right side, wrong side, inverted. That is nerve wrecking! Bad director, bad! You don´t believe it? Go to 8:11 (DVD) and try to read the inscription on the bus! It´s inverted! What a baloney director/postproduction team! Bad location, bad shots, bad post production. If you have not enough street length, go to another one. Your land is full of streets and highways. And it looks partly like it is shot in the UK, driving on the "wrong" side of the street.

Tallinn (no, not Laris, and not the city) asks the most important question in this episode (time stamp 22:53, DVD): "Why on earth does Q develop such a sophisticated plan instead just snipping his finger and erase all the elements that bother him (or it)?" Funny, even Picard (ingame) has no answer. And my question: Why does Q has the very same face all the time when he (or it) can snip his (or its) finger and be another person? Ok, actors are expensive.

But, then again, we would not have a multi episodes show.

Brent Spiner appears. Why? Remember? It is 2024. Another Soong family member, it seems. And that Soji-Not-Soji-But-Another-Home-Made-Walking-Corpse. The show is really a pension fund raising party for elder actors (and some younger). As the *Goldsmith* says, too (in the Extras).

But, hey, I like the Laris character! And Tallin. And, ok, you need a gangster, and Spiner does gangsters really good. This time a genetic robot builder, not a positronic robot builder. The Q and Soong pair really nice! Don´t miss the deleted scene here (DVD)! Much fun in there! And Agnes is a real bitch. By the way, this Soong is named Adam. Like the father of all the robot daughters.

What follows is an identity heist at a gala party. Not very elaborate, Agnes with a big and not very nice looking balloon cleavage (and singing! Why?), Rios smoking cigar, Picard sacrificing another colleague, ah, don´t bother.

And that party? Party surveillance at its best! Just watch! Not very pleasant!

**E06 Two of One or "Does a *Tesla* really overrun a pedestrian?"**

Picard is no heist material! It is more a comic adaption of a heist. And Agnes breasts wave with her every move. Again: Why? And that party? Boring! So, I am not writing much here.

We end up in the clinic after Picard was hit by Soong in his *Tesla* (is that even possible?) and can watch a chaotic sort of operation or first and second aid or whatsoever. Soong on the other hand is crying, hating his life, his work, his failed attempt to kill Picard, and his home made daughter. Soongs "daughter" does an expedition in the computer archive of her "father/maker", realizing for the first time that she was made, but not in the nice way. So she, too, builds up hate. Now we can prepare for the episode finale. The ghost story begins!

And Jurati floats over the streets in her red, queeny dress…

Again: Why do we poke in Plastic-Picard´s subconscious, while we ignored that when he was more fleshy? And how do we know that this plastic subconscious is the same as in the former Picard and not artificial constructed by the mean and incompetent Soong (who blew his artificial daughter project)? Or is there a subconscious at all (and no memory garbage)?

Executive summary: Bad story, if watched in context of the first season. Partly nice story, if watched as standalone season without knowledge of the "I became plastic and positronic"-Picard-Character.

The temp end.

**E07 Monsters or "What? What?"**

Another participant in that pension fund raising (guess, from what TV-show? It begins with a "G" and ends with an "a") in a "Frasier"-like scene, just babbling nonsense (it is James Callis, indeed, The "Baltar"), then a flash-dream-back of a little boy dressed as prince and a woman dressed as whatever woman, a hilarious scene. Without big spoilering, Plastic-Picard seems to be a Mother´s Boy in the worst meaning. But, ok, this Picard has no mother, only an engineer-father. So subconscious problems come naturally. And both

speaking a wonderful English (while being French and living there; why?). This is why I love *SG Atlanis*! In that show all people on all planets in all Galaxies (at least in the Local Group) whatsoever are speaking modern English without any universal translator, so no one wonders, why they do understand each other during first contact. Or look at the Babel Fish! Genius! But this? French people in France speak Oxford like at home. It would have been more realistic, if English people of the higher society levels would speak French. That really happens in the real universe, indeed.

Now we are falling deep down into the cheapest monster movie I have ever seen. Tallin dives deep in Plastic-Picard´s "mind". Have fun!

Callis as Picard´s father in this nightmarish dream is babbling on, Tallin wanders through the dungeons of Plastic-Picard´s sub-c. Then I laughed until the milk came out of my nose! Tallin said: "So, this is your mind, sober. I bet five-drink Picard is a blast.", while a deep growling sound comes from wherever out of the dungeon. I like Tallin´s black humor.

At that point you may have guessed, where all this leads to. And you are right! But we have to wait and suffer along senseless dialogs and not very horrific cellars and "monsters". Boring! So I will pause writing and take a sip from my glass of tasty alcoholic beverage to prepare for more nonsense.

(Pause ends)

Tallin now as a female Freudian, the little Picard (that boy with a crown) always calling his mother, and now the flash backs to the Callis/Plastic-Picard session, both babbling nonsense. Yeah, and we all assume, the Callis-psychiatrist is the manifestation of the weak father of our Plastic Pal.

Now, back in the present/past, we follow the scene in the clinic of the nice looking woman doctor (yes, yes, later growing with Rios, yeah, yeah) in a sort of ER scene combined with future tech. Plastic-Picard convulses. Again: boring!

And, ok, they are stealing ideas from their own franchise, as Rios is asked by the nice doctor woman, if he works in space. Guess what he replies (think of the whale catching Kirk)? Right (but not "Iowa"): "I´m from Chile, I just work in outer space." Laugh, laugh, LOL, whatever, cough, cough. Oh, what does "outer space" really mean? There is no "inner" or "outer" in space, there is only space, isn´t it? But I digress…

And Raffi and Seven are now going hunting Jurati, the Queen.

And the plot thickens like gravy (from what show is that string of wordly pearls?), the Picard family meets the sub-C of Plastic-Picard. What an emphatic chaos that is! It seems to me, that the actor, Stewart, works on his own problems (read his bio!) in a Woody Allen like style (but without sex) on rebound with that *Futurama* worthy mind transfer nonsense. But then again, in that topic I like Woody better, or much better *Futurama* (there the chaos is hilariously funny, including the sex part)!

And at the end of that episode we see again the culmination of two or more father/son problems outed in one breath. Oh my! Does that have to occur in every American movie franchise? Isn´t there one interesting topic without lecturing of family problem solutions?

At least Tallinn shows a nice pointed ear, making Plastic-Picard smiling again.

Now I am really confused. Suddenly Plastic-Picard wants to summon Q? What? Like "summon" in "You filthy demon, I summon you!"? We are not watching *Dresden Files*, are we? And that can only be done by Guinan? With a bottle? What? I really want that smoke the writers had when writing that stuff. Or the mushrooms. Or both. And Guinan goes on with "We El-Aurians believe food and drink unite us. So the truce [with the Qs] was made over a bottle." Yeah, all became drunk, no? How can someone write this stuff and think it will be a script for a TV-Show? And what brainless producers then make a TV-Show from that garbled nonsense? And what dimwitted audience would watch that TV-Show and pay money for it? "Every word has resonance"? What? Spoken words have always resonance, that is a basic principle of physics and the reason we can hear. "Metal and liquid can capture the half-life of a moment"? I think I have to be far more drunk as I am right now, just to survive hearing those strings of letters!

The sound Guinan makes after a big sip from the bottle contents is like the one I make with my head over a loo just before I have a great hangover. That sound! Yes! So, summoning a Q is like a cheerful drinking game? Seems so. But Q doesn´t appear, yes, there are a few more minutes (like as much as are in a whole other episode) to fill.

And, people, now (at about 41:00 in the DVD) something happens, I haven´t understand even after watching it some half a dozen times. Firstly, Jay Karnes comes into the bar as FBI Agent. Why? Another pension fund participant? Secondly, what subplot is here evolving? This does nothing significant to the whole show. If it would be missing, we would be short of another episode, but we wouldn´t be missing anything. So I will ignore it. Completely. That bad story of an FBI-Agent going rogue just to heal (or not heal) his PTSD from whatever Vulcan encounter in his youth. Whatever, whenever, whoever. Not interesting, not story enhancing, not worth watching. Except Jay Karnes is a good actor. I liked him as Mr. Evil in *Burn Notice* (very nice work!), and he is the little star in this otherwise boring (and the following) episode. But other than seeing a few Vulcans, an irritated Plastic-Picard, and a weird Guinan (ok, she is always weird), we see nothing of interest but Plastic-Picard in cuffs.

Oh my!

**E08 Mercy or "…?"**

Nono, ignore this episode! Just Raffi and Seven hunting Jurati, Rios tries to convince the nice doctor lady that he is important luring her and her son in his ship at the castle, and the Soong-made woman tries to free itself. Finally Soong and Jurati-Queen make a pact against our Plastic Pal. The Karnes is out again (me asking, what he did contribute to the story?), and all are summoning at the ship at last.

The only thing keeping me up in that episode besides from Karnes is the young Guinan character, again wonderfully played by Ito Akhayere.

**E09 Hide and Seek or "…?"**

Another jEwwwl of dialog: "*Maman*, what game shall we play?", says "young" Picard to his Mum. The "*Maman*" now in very bright French accent, the rest in nearly Oxfordian English. The only thing that comes in my mind is "Shall we play a game?" (but that is a completely other story…). I´m asking again: Why should a French family speak at home in perfect English, but the son speaks one word in French with an English accent? What …? What???

A little bit shooting at O.K. Corral … no, Picard Castle, nothing serious then. Soong gang hunting (with a brilliant Spiner), Picard-Team fleeing. In flashbacks we learn that Picard´s mother had a deranged personality, again nothing serious (and the solution to the whole plot), and some small talks.

Ok, then a Kill Bill like scene, Jurati and Seven sword fighting, Seven gets wounded, a key to the finale in the last episode. There is a nice catch in that scene, so just watch it yourself. This short bit is worth it.

Nothing else significant.

**E10 FarEwwwll or "Good Bye"**

Now we have to hunt Soong. Because he wants to kill the Picard ancestor to manipulate the timeline or whatever. So all are hunting. This episode is rather nice plotted. Spiner is more evil, Tallinn is more convincing, the Rios-Raffi-Seven-Trio is more problem solving and the story more evolving than in every other episode.

Why does plastic-Picard kisses Tallinn on her forehead in her last moment? Can he not distinguish Tallinn from Laris? Is he immaturely projecting? Or could even the actor not see the different characters Orla Brady played? This scene doesn´t fit in any context, if we want to see an at least moderately intelligent and experienced Picard/Stewart. Holding her in his arms – ok! But kissing wherever? That is not Laris, he has no intimate relation to Tallinn in any way! It simply isn´t appropriate! Bad directing style.

Uh, and why on earth do all the Starfleeteers gobbledigooking with "subroutines" (like Raffi with the drones)? The term and the programming dogma "subroutine" is from the earliest eras of software engineering: Assembler, FORTRAN, BASIC have "subroutines", a pardigma of the 1950ies. But as early as ALGOL, PASCAL, or C came to life in the 1970ies, the time of "procedures" and "functions" began. And it is today (long before Starfleet Tec) that at that point themes like "classes" and "methods" arose. Nobody, at least no one, who wants to be taken seriously, is working with "subroutines" anymore! Really!

And… did we not miss one actor in this pension fund raising? Ok, the one who is too young to get a pension really, but there must have been a small role for him, no?

YES! There he is, helping the Soong-homemade-daughter to become – a traveller! Wesley! Yeah, not bad written in. Better and more convincing as in *Dark Matter*. So, Wesley gets his mate, Seven and Raffi… oh, that kiss! Watch for yourself! And Q and Plastic-Picard doing a final talk with hugging, Rios stays and gets the nice doctor woman with kid, Q repairs the rest, and:

We are at the first scene of episode one (ok, not the "very" first), where the self-destruct counts down. Where we hear Edith Piaf singing, Plastic-Picard recognizing and stopping the sequence. And now the Borg Queen takes off her hood and we see… Jurati! Yes! That was hard, wasn´t it?

Now we reach the point, where I get very angry (after watching season three, of course!). Because the Borg are here to help the galaxy against something very bad. But this comes later.

In the meantime the Borg want to lead on a ballet of all Fed ships to contain a massive energy spike from wherever. A big yellow flash. Fine. All saved. From that transwarp tunnel, made by unknown forces, even unknown to the Borg. Ok, cliffhanger. Bad move in a TV-show in its last episode, very bad manners. You do not do that, ever! Ok, will we wait for the next season? Yes, I suppose we´ll wait.

Final drinking of Plastic-Picard and Guinan in her bar.

Final hugging of Plastic-Picard and Laris.

Wonderful!

Wait for the next season, then you will know, why I am as angry as it gets!

See you later! And don´t forget viewing the Special Features! Much explaining and much more fun as in the original show!

## Season 3

Now we all are waiting for the conclusion of the cliffhanger thread in season 2, aren´t we all? Ok, waiting, waiting, waiting…

### E01 Next Generation or "Old friends are… old and have to pee a lot."

A woman running in a dark starship. A woman, don´t I know her? She looks familiar. A little bit rattled, a little bit older, a little bit harder, but familiar! Ah, Dr. Crusher! The former Enterprise Doctor and Picard flame. Where is the conclusion of season 2? Where are the Borg? Ok, waiting…

While waiting, Dr. Crusher uses a new word, never heard in ST: "Codec"! Yes, very modern type of word. But we will see, that the writers didn´t understand the underlying principle, and the use of this fine term will be scattered through the dialogs like spaghetti on the floor. But it is a very fine and modern word, yes.

Oh, wait! While I am waiting, I am seeing Laris with Plastic-Picard (PP from now on) in his study. Again he babbles nonsense like a teenager just to please his (projected) mother figure. She declines that in her own, mature and charming way. Fine, Laris again in the new season? I´m really looking forward to it! Oh! In a rare moment of clarity PP speaks against this ominous "shared mythical framework". He says: "…these things from my past they are so dear to me. They are mementos… But they are memories. I am not a man who needs a legacy." Laris mocks him with that a little, but he resists. As I said, a rare moment of clarity and back to the original, the TOS IDIC philosophy. This is very subtle done by (here: writer) Matalas, who replaced Chabon, the author of that framework-model. I like that development.

But, … but where is a hint of grabbing the loose end from season 2? I feel I am getting very angry.

PP now writing invitation cards? Ah, forget it. There is no sense in all of it. The old communicator burping, PP asking the computer about it, the answer is resulting in a nice definition of "codec". But the writers got it wrong, because they mixed-up "encoded" and "encrypted". The computer speaks of "encrypted message… unknown codec". A *codec*

does coding, compressing, it does not and never encrypt something. Maybe the encrypted message is compressed with a codec. And a missing codec is – as every "I got me a movie from the internet" fan knows – a very annoying situation. But it never solves a encryption/decryption problem.

I think we are living in a very mindless world now. Nobody seems to know anything anymore, even the writers, who are meant to be a little bit more intelligent and have to know more, are now dumber as a doorknob. There were times with really good scripts in really good shows. These times are over. Everybody with the slightest IT knowledge knows the difference between "code" and "encryption". In the ST universe it seems, even the admiral doesn´t know crap. Pity! Please, dear writers: If you have to use scientific language, then, pretty please!, use them in a correct way! Or hire a sciency consultant. Or don´t try it at all! Or call 844-NEED-SCI. Please! Some tips: a microphone doesn´t record, a recorder does that (sometimes with the help of a microphone). A receiver doesn´t transmit (ok, it does a little bit), a transmitter does that. A pager doesn´t send something, it receives only. A computer doesn´t calculate, a program does that. And an algorithm is nothing special, it is just a recipe (and every, yes every program is an algorithm; even the cookbook of your Mum is a collection of algorithms).

And it seems, after a short discussion with Laris and PP leaving, that would be the last encounter of Laris in this season? Shame! Now I am expecting just the elderly wrinkled TNG crew, putting the whole season one or two quality levels down. Nothing new, just crumbled same old same old. Pity! Oh Gosh!

After babbling "I´ll be back soon!" (wasn´t there another franchise, where those words were spoken much cooler?), he leaves Laris (how many men did say that and vanished for the rest of their lovers life?). Now PP is running to – guess whom – yes, Riker (remember? Father figure! But who is which?). Both drinking their brains down (while endless boring music weeps through the room) and having an idea to steal a Fed ship from the fleet with a drunken child´s plan that goes boom right from the start, obviously. PP doesn´t know what to do, and Riker´s women don´t obviously know what to do with that immature Riker-daddy-husband. So both are bored. Thus… Bar, idiots´ notion, Boom! Nice writing, Matalas!

A question outside the story: All are speaking always of "territory" or "federation space". Now, on earth that is naturally given. Draw a line and call it border (as done in many countries). But space is volatile. Everything changes every second. All is circling, wandering, revolving. So, the "influential space" between two fighting groups has to be very precisely defined. Not so much with drawn lines, but with differential equations and pulsar coordinates, no? That would be a wonderful story arc for a next next generation movie, yes?

Back to the story. Raffi wanders through a *Blade Runner* like environment (aren´t we in clean ST?), searching for drugs. Drugs? After a lifetime of synthehol there are heavy drugs, again? People, if I want to watch an ST show, I don´t want to watch a "*Galactica* in *Blade Runners´* hell". What do you think you are producing? Getting the younglings to watch ST is not done via curry favor with them but to write a very good, competent, and convincing story. But that costs competence, time and money. And the producing companies don´t have any of those.

This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

And what is *Frontier Day*? *Firefly*? What reality are we in now? No spoiler intended, but in the end we get a mix up of *Galactica* episode 1, a little bit of *NCIS*, and – as said – *Blade Runner*. A sad context for a once great franchise. And all that crap just for pension fund raising. Ugh!

I like Captain Shaw, the chieftain of the soon to be captured Fed spaceship. But as you expect, no cunning, straight, and strong character can survive at the cost of "our heroes". Pity! And PP has nothing better to do than to adjust badges of subordinates? That is his sick phantasy of authority?

To the writers, even to Matalas: Clearing out of spacedock on "quarter impulse power" (that should be 25% of lightspeed) is as idiotic as it gets. For clear-out maneuver the maneuvering thrusters are more than sufficient. BTW, Asimov made a very good assumption about FTL-engines. Because they manipulate spacetime, they cannot be used in a star system otherwise disturbing the planets orbits. So you have to go down to sublight at the "border" of the star system and then fly further on with sublight to your destined target (< 0.1 lightspeed is said to be non-relativistic; you don´t want to arrive at all the "older" people…). But then again, you can calculate for yourself, how long a journey then would be… a star system like ours goes as far as 1.6 light years for gravitational pull.

But Shaw makes my day, after watching so much boring speeches, bad notions, and PP and Riker babbling more nonsense than ever. He is sharp as a razor, his precise remarks cut deep, and he is stone cold with our both "I like to be important" guys. Really refreshing! And he also doesn't like "Château Picard"… I had to watch that scene multiple times!

Meanwhile Raffi communicates with a hidden spy contact, her Fed handler. What for, remains a secret for now. She tries to prevent a terrorist attack on a Starfleet recruitment center, but fails. Oh! The shown effect, house sinks in sort of portal, then reappears upon the hole and crashes on the floor, is known already from another franchise, no, two franchises: One similar effect takes place in *Dr. Strange Universe of madness*, when Chang is cage fighting with his acolyte monster using portals, the other is in *Futurama* (find the episodes for yourself). Yeah, nice!

After all, PP and Riker make it to the stranded Beverly cruiser (clearly in a … nebula! Where else?), with Seven´s career crashing help of course, finding a young man, who seems to know it all. Ah, don´t this remind us of another guy present in the room? If you don´t guess it, just wait for it. He calls out, they were doing "a piss-poor job of rescuing anything". Hah! Another bright guy amongst the old and nearly rotten, wrinkled old wanna-do-gooders!

Ok, episode closes with an arriving enemy ship (looking like enemy fighter from Babylon 5, tststs!) resulting in a cliffhanger.

**E02 Disengage or "My son, your son, smoke gets in their eyes from a stinking cigarillo."**

Just by the way, why do those star ships blinken all over? Even German express trains (ICE) do not run with optical signals anymore because the trains run too fast (up to 270 km/h). So, why are the ships blinking like an Xmas tree on Dec 25? No one can see this under Warp! But ok, the fans like that! To watchen astonishing the flackerlightens.

Next, the score! I remember, when Charlie in *Two and a Half Men* talks to his brother on the deck, saying that the jingle scene is dead, because in every film they use nowadays rock songs or "borrowed" music from former films instead of buying music from composers. Yes, that seems to be right, because in this show of the ST franchise I am hearing mostly more of the bad rock songs of my past than the good ones or even hand composed music, harmonizing with the story and the visual effects. Pity! But we start a quiz here: If you´re hearing a music fragment, simple guess, from what film, show, or rock band it is! Back to the story…

And we meet now "Jack Crusher", the mere opposite of Wesley. Hard core street gang teenager. At least he behaves like one.

Whilst on the Titan Captain Shaw is again at its best.

Now we meet actor Amanda Plummer as very heavy packed bounty hunter Vadic ("afternoon in the sol system"? Vadic is really dumb, isn't she? Or the writer pack.). Like Stewart she just plays herself. That sort of lazy "actor". But at least it is recreational to meet someone not bending to communication or social rules. And she is smoking! In ST! Smoking! What a hideous crime, that is! But, well, we watch, we learn. For example, we learn, that a very proper method to hit another ship is to use the tractor beam and sling shoot a third incapacitated ship onto the other ship. Wow! The writers´ desk party must had gone crazy! Throwing ships in the future is like throwing rocks in the past. The circle closes! What for are lasers, phasers, disruptors, or whatever beams. They are green, red, blue, flickering, waving, humming, but all in all always the same and boring in the long run. Throwing ships on ships is a new old idea, very refreshing! But, isn´t there an action-reaction-rule? In space you have no anchor, so why is the throwing ship steady and the thrown moving? Ah, forget about it! I´m not a real Nerd…

But again we have a jam of family businesses, like father/son (oh, and including mother, this time!), pair relationships, mother/son, and a few lost souls. I am so sick of it! A good movie provides a good story, providing recreational laughing, some (but not too many) tears and a glorious or at least a little bit of a happy end. Life is mean enough, so we don´t need heavy and sad stories. If some problems (with solutions) are woven in, so be it, fine. But we don´t need teaching films for daily problems disguised as SciFi-Shows! Those films (like *Home Improvement*, Ugh!) you have to watch in school, not here, and surely not buyable for those mucho dollares by poor people, making other people with the real bad habits rich! Sorry for that outburst, but if a tiny little singer earns billions with the piggy bank money of kids and teenies, while other people are dying of hunger even in her homeland, then the world is somewhat on the wrong path. No, not showing a heart symbol!

Back to the game.

Raffi is again on the streets, *Burn Notice* style, meeting a bad *Ferengi*, fighting, and being saved by… Wow! Him? Here? Yeah, ok, it is a pension fund raiser party! So he must be here! Whorf, white bearded, sword flinging, heads cutting, Raffi saving, ethics and pacifism preaching.

And on the Titan? Boring stand-off, the Feds are not able to flee, the bounty hunter doesn´t shoot, because they want PP´s son alive, some kind of whatever standoff. So as in

every ST episode with a desperate stand-off Feds fly into the nebula. What nebula? There is always a nebula when you need one. And… cliffhanger.

Another quiz question here: What bad guys are there remaining, that we haven´t met yet? I am counting two (but I am cheating, I know…).

**E03 Seventeen Seconds or "Who´s afraid of wobbling marshmellows?"**

You remember the nebula? Remember what most nebulas in former ST movies or episodes of the franchise were? Right! They live! And this nebula is not just alive, but is very pregnant! What a fun we have watching this! And all on the bridge are swearing while poking through the womb of the nebula, even the Captain. The first "Shit" is being heard at 8:24 (timestamp DVD).

Nothing really happens, Picard is complaining (that´s what he always does, complaining, or sending others on a heavy guilt trip) to Beverly, why she hasn´t given him a ping. Again a family conflict. Boring! Ah, but Jack says finally the core problem of this and the last season: "I heard he´s positronic." Yes! That´s it. And Riker is wrong in every way (in my opinion), replying "He´s still the same man." How is that? He looks like a duck, he smells like duck, he quacks like a duck, but no, he tastes not like duck, and so he is no duck, especially not that duck! It´s not, not, not the same man! He´s a bad copy!

A new attack of Vadic incapacitates Shaw (the best are hit first, as ever!), because we cannot have a two man team on the bridge, now can we? So command changes to same old same old, the gramps ducks. What had we thought? Wounded Shaw transfers command to Riker: "You got us into this!"

Oh my!

We learn, that Worf is on a self-finding trip. A Klingon going esoteric? Ugh! Not funny! Violence is bad, peace is good. Yeah, allright! But Worf? Holy Tribble!

On board the Titan a saboteur lays a trail of bread crumbs for the enemy ship. Nothing new, boring. And changelings? We had this in *DS9* more than enough. But hey, better than boring. Let´s hunt changelings to get out of that pregnant nebula. Ok, they will appear more often from now on, and yes, they are them! The evil ones or the raging good ones. You never know this in reality and you never can decide in this story. As always life is complex and one side killing the other makes bad ones of us all. Listen to Worf. They kill their captive changeling nevertheless.

And at this point on the Titan with Riker Captain and PP as No. 1 after all this years and decades finally the argument between both burning in them for a long time breaks out eruptively.

Now it´s becoming hilarious funny! Riker is not and never was Captain material, PP is not and was never a tactical specialist. So PP shouts fire, Riker does not know what else to do, and both are forgetting the portal weapon. Hah! So the whole salvo goes through the portal back to the firing Titan! What a mess! I laughed until the whisky I was slurping during the show came out of my nose! That burned! Riker kicks PP out of the bridge (for his own error, he is the Captain now, but was only ever used to listen to commands). No more friendship there…

At the end of this episode two question arise: 1. Have we all forgotten Laris? Seems so, even PP does not remember, and 2. There is yet a loose end from season 2, the imminent danger for the quadrant. Answers: 1. Yes 2. With some good will, we can assume that all the things happening in season 3 are indeed that danger for the quadrant. But it is never mentioned, and Jurati-Queen is not here, just other bad guys. People, that is very, very disappointing and very, very bad style. *Berry, berry bad*!

**E04 No Win Scenario or "Holodecks and Jellyfish"**

A helpless Riker. What an idea! And what will a helpless child do? Running to Papa. Riker runs to PP for a talk session. Wonderful! Riker is not even able to dictate a goodbye letter to Deanna. The writers must have a deep and dark hate of the TNG crew. And are needy nerdies! At the moment the Titan has no power, core breaking is imminent, and PP goes with son Jack in the holodeck, decorating it with 10 Forward. What??? How? No energy, life support cut, only the common areas work, no weapons, nothing, and the Plastic Man enters the fully working Holodeck? There must be an explanation! Yes, there is! Jack asking PP, and: The Holodeck works on its own "small independent power cell" (small?), to calm the crew in case of emergencies and provide a fake sanctuary. Reminds me of the *Joo Janta 200 Super-Chromatic Peril Sensitive Sunglasses* (you know those from *Douglas Adams*?). With what type of crew try the Feds to master emergencies? In case of danger, hide in the holodeck? My, you writers must smoke really bad granola! Maybe that´s what we get with those Gen Z buddies…

So, the last energy of the ship is pumped in a sort of movie theatre? Really deep silly and dark humor! The only good thing: Even here nobody wants to drink the virtual PP-vineyard-vinegar, not even Jack.

And again, talking, talking, talking, boring.

Product placement is fine, but showing a *Jameson Whiskey* in the bar, when Jack says "cheap and on the rocks"? Holy Pattrick! That´s not fair! *Jameson* is a fine whiskey with really no need for "on the rocks". But because Jack studied in London, it may be a bad influence from there to disgrace a good Irish whiskey.

And we learn, that Vadic is not the superior bad ass, but only a small smoking wheel in a bad ass machine with superiors much badder then her/it, because she is real inferior to her/its clan chief or CO or whatever is commanding her. A typical "Radfahrer", as it is called in German: to kick downwards and to buckle under upwards. Spineless in more than one sense of the word, purest middle management, that changeling.

And Shaw tells his past with PP, that was Locutus and him meeting at Wolf 359. Ah, yes, that´s why Shaw is sharp as a shark when in PP´s zone.

Beverly finds out that the white light flashes from the nebula are contractions! What else? Hey! Soon newborns swarm the quadrant! Let´s surf! Did you find out in what TV-Show the same idea was realized? Not? Guess again, *discover i*t!

And Riker now is rock throwing against Vadic´s ship. Ok, she threw a ship, Riker an asteroid. Now they are even. And the nebula bore jellyfish like creatures. HiTech is now Stone Age. Space is weird and big.

Hmm. Picard sits in command seat, giving orders to La Forge how to turn round those rock "asteroids". Why does he do that? La Forge is the pilot, the expert. She knows how to fly. The Captain, if really competent, has just to give the order "bring us around those rocks!", and then she does that, because that´s what a pilot has learned in pilot school and that´s what she does. So, why is Picard micromanaging the Pilot? Bad leadership style, isn´t it? And the time delay between his commands and her reaction then again is too long to be really efficient. Finally, when hitting the last wave, he commands "La Forge, keep us inside!". Yes, that´s the right style. Finally!

**E05 Imposters or "Ro has changed"**

Brigde, someone comes in, suddenly shooting all Bridge Officers. Oh, isnt´t that familiar? So many times seen, last I think in *Galaxy Quest*. Oh, boy!

Titan is home now, but the story is not over. The question remains unsolved: What was the evil plan? And why, with what, where, when, and whom? They use now earlier scripts from TNG to prolong this pension fund raiser show? Very lame! We had that multiple times, at least with the neck wiggling worms (TNG) and with species 8472 (STV).

And another participant of the pension fund raiser party: You remember Ro? She has a short presence in this show. Too short for my taste. And what does PP do? What he always does: he complains and puts her on a guilt trip instead of listening.

This episode is more compact, has a good story and the characters are babbling a bit less. Ro is a win, but she is just in here, then she sacrifices herself (not at all willingly). I wished the other episodes were more like this one.

**E06 The Bounty or "The Secret of Irumodic Syndrome"**

And again in the holo-bar. Yeah, a bar set is cheaper than a bridge set. Yes, you need a bottle episode every now and then. And it is a nice bar, very comfy. Worf tells a joke: He tried the "sour mead" from Château Picard. All are grinning. I, too. Nobody likes the vinegar from the Admiral.

Now we have another heist movie at hand. PP wants to "burgle" an inventory out of the virtual hands of a highly sophisticated AI. You have a thought? Say it! Yes! He was not in this season up to now! And he is one of the oldtimers, for whom this pension fund raiser party is. We wonder in what disguise he shows himself!

Now one other is missing from the crew. He had a visor in front of his eyes, in former days. And his daughter on board, Geordi would be a nice addendum. We wait for it. Oh, yes, he is the curator of the … ship museum.

Didn´t we forget, that Jack is a young man with needs? And on board the ship there are nice young crewmembers? E.g. the Geordi daughters, at least one of them? Have fun!

And since when does Riker recognize music notes from hearing? C-sharp, A-flat, what? Riker? To my knowledge (ok, not very deep) that would be a more PP thing. Ja, ok, he is not here at the moment. But Riker? Tststs! And now we meet Data, at least sort of. It is Android M-5-10 (You remember? That was the number of the Borg Queen earlier in the Q-broken universe Jurati had to input into the head-in-jars-archive interface!)

Again and again family babble. You can get tired of this much. This I don´t want to view and listen to, I want just a good story. Is that too much to wish?

Ok, after retrieving the sort of Data, they try to find out, what was stolen from the Daystrom Institute. And this is exactly the point, where it becomes important, that PP is now P! You will find out soon! Spiner masters the diverse personae he is playing in a great way! Very good work!

And Worf goes rescuing Riker, who got lost in rescuing (sort of) Data, mumbling: "…and fearful be the god, or man, or beast, that stands in my way!" Oh, that reminds me of a *Fatal Glass of Beer*, where W.C. Fields speaks several times the words: "And it ain´t a fit night out for man or beast!" Yes! That´s the spirit!

**E07 Dominion or "Things go physical"**

Ok, that we see now Tuvok on screen is not very helpful, but you remember: party!

Hmm, no one explains how Vadic communicates with this "ghost in bowl", that comes out of her/it and commands her/it like the king of the barrio. But, yes, nice visual effect.

And on the ship: boarding party. And separation party in sort of Data. And we learn of the Fed´s dark spot in the history of the Dominion War. A very dark spot it seems. Ah, suddenly Jack can remote control anybody. Nice trick indeed! But: Nothing more. To little story for about 50 minutes. Next, please!

**E08 Surrender or "Fight of the Codex, data and Datas"**

Beginning with a couple talk between Deanna and Will, the start of the episode is boring. But action is coming. On the bridge they are talking and talking and talking. Also boring.

The funny thing is, I love watching the show with subtitles. And there you can find jEwwwls of incompetence from the subtitle writers. E.g., at 15:51 (DVD) they write "codex". And the spoken text is not better: "How did you know Jean-Luc Picard´s overwrite codecs?".

What a nonsense! They mean "code", but some idiot has learned of some very important word "codec", didn´t get the meaning of it, but used it anyway in the script. And the subtitle department missed the correct writing. Not funny, just pitiful.

In this episode is a nice little scene, where Data and Lore fight a duel of brains in the "whatever that is" Data body. A fine work, very rarely to be observed in this TV-Show. But beware! The brain battle of the Datas violates the IDIC principle! The "good" Data achieves victory over Lore with his "shared mythical framework" of memories. So in this case the success of the trauma therapy reframing the patient´s identity, weirdly applied, is really achieved that way.

Sure, "good" Data wins. But how he achieves that, that is – let *The Doctor* speak – in the end brilliant! Like winning a chess game by telling all your plans to your opponent. And again Spiner does a wonderful job. Funny, I won such a game a long time ago. I have never seen my opponent from then again.

This text is edited every now and then, because I discovered errors, I had a new idea, or I changed my mind. Enjoy it anyway.
Version of October 2026 · © 2026, claus@schoenleber.com · noncommercial copies are allowed, if text is unchanged and this note is preserved.

Ah, Geordi changeling-tests Picard, and Picard tells, that Geordi, too, disliked a wine gift from the Château: “A Château Picard Bordeaux, which you said was too dry, because your taste in Wine is pedestrian at best.” Uh, I think the writers meant that as a running gag, aren´t they? Ja, very funny. “Definitely Picard!” But I say again, bringing a bottle from the own Vineberg as a gift is bad style from Picard. And that is the real running gag.

A little breeze of fresh air… oh, space! No fresh air, but nevertheless, an open window and a tricky force field solves the thread. The “evacuation hatch”! Not bad! A window behind the main screen, just to open and let the fresh air … get out! And Vadic goes to little pieces.

Yes, just a question in between: Because in space there are almost no molecules, you would not freeze but overheat. There is no cooling mechanism, transporting your body´s heat away from you. Wasn´t that the problem of the first astronauts? But ok, if you hit the only atom in your vicinity burning with a few million degrees, that would burn a hole in you. Are there any scientists out there able to clear that up for me?

Finally a round table chatting and planning. Searching a door.

Hallelujah!

**E09 Vox or “Analog, or what?“**

Borg? Borg! At last! Changelings and Borg, what a combination. But not very likely. Let´s see, what comes. Now, Deanna says: “No one has seen or heard from the Borg in a decade.” Weren´t the Borg not the main theme in the previous season? Remember Jurati? In which time, timeline, universe, multiverse or sick brain does this season reside? We are at least in the ST franchise, are we not? Ah, but in season 2 our heroes went forth and back and forth through several time lines, so maybe season 3 is just an alternate reality time line unimultiverse? The whole production team is as senile as P and PP, those idiots can go where Mrs. Miller-Jones puts her old underpants. What a nightmare, this script!

Dr. Crusher mumbles something about “…some transceivers and receivers are organic…” Dear Lady (and writers), a “transceiver” can do both, transmitting (that is outgoing signals) and receiving (that is incoming signals), as Geordi gets it right short time after! So the correct expression is “…some transmitters and receivers are organic…”

And we learn now the secret of … whatever! PP and P never had Irumodic Syndrome, that was a sophisticated bio virus from the Borg planted in the Picard genes in his time as Locutus. Ok, that is probable. Why not? The Borg could have, should have, would have done that, yes. Jack escapes, reaches a transwarp conduit. Ok, is that the same conduit as created in end of season 2? Not very good told. And a cube there, a queen, too (but not Jurati! Why not?). That might be the loose end from season 2, but why has Jurati seemingly failed? Where is she? Anyway, the other queen here is somewhat alone and lost in her cube… babbling nonsense. And Jack is assimilated. That we didn´t see coming!

The others follow. It is Frontier Day! Fireworks and speeches! And interconnected ships. Isn´t that a theme from another franchise, *Galactica* (pilot episode). Networked battle gimmicks, always a bad idea!

Now it is crystal clear: The implanted code is a code for the transporters, assimilating in a strange "new" way, just by beaming. But only the young ones. Hah! And they did that for a long time now. As I say for years now: Transporter Technology is crap. And the younglings attack now. And that is when Shaw dies! Pity!

It is really shitty to interconnect all ships remotely and control them by the young assimilated youth. What do we learn? Never let youngsters on the wheel and never drive interconnected cars. That ends badly! So we drive the "analog" (!) Abacus-Enterprise D. Ok, when all the people are Oldies, why not the ship? And – as Stewart said in one of the Making Ofs – on the D-Type is a carpet on the floor, not those glancy tiles. Like a living room. Look for yourself!

But let us pause for a moment and think about the idea of interconnecting ships (in the future) or interconnected cars and planes (present). To equally interconnect all participants of one traffic sphere is not a good idea, as we know for at least several years. As the game "Life" showed (and research of fish and bird swarms), the more intelligent way is to fly/drive independent, but observing the immediate neighbor and react to its movements accordingly. That would be a most intelligent strategy, as e.g. fish swarms show, defending themselves against a small number of bigger predators. I wonder if (ingame argument) the future scientists are less intelligent than the present ones or (offgame) if the writers were not really prepared to write such a demanding script. Ok, now Nerd Mode off again.

**E10 The Last Generation or "Take a nap, gramps!"**

Attack on Earth. And the Borg Transwarp Conduit inside of Jupiter? That reminds me of *Jupiter Ascending*. And that run for the Cube center, that is *Star Wars Epidode IV*, isn´t it ("Data, listen to your feelings!")? But along a complicated way, like the *M****soft* tube screensaver of old. Always the same notions…

Yeah, the notion of "rerouting (they always do that!) transporter field through phasers" is old stuff, like in *Futurama´s Lrrreconcilable Ndndifferences*, no?

What PP does in the cube discussing with his son, just watch. I find it boring. Family business…

Data driving through the cube reminded me of… Ah, the older ones of you should remember that crazy good game *Descent* from 1995, one of the first multiplayer games playable over a primitive *MS-DOS* local network, and the first full 3-D-labyrintine closed environment. It was mighty fun to fly at high speed through a 3-D-labyrinth lacking the feeling for what´s up and what´s down. The cube explodes, all is good again, all are happy and taking a nap. Except the Borg queen, who screams.

All is well that ends well. And 19 Minutes finale!

My last question: Was it really impossible to put – with all those hugs and tears and sentimental blabber – Laris and PP just (let´s say) 30 seconds into a meeting in the bar on Chaltok IV Laris suggested in episode 1? Smiling at one another and let them have the same good ending as in season 2? No? A 19 minutes finale and not 10 or 20 or 30 seconds for the main character pair? What spirit of incompetence hung over the writers´ desk, ignoring at

least a good finale to a very chaotic story line? Or had Orla Brady lost interest of the role? I say: A good ending makes a story perfect. This story is far from that.

## Epilog

My conclusion: The whole show was good during the first couple of episodes, and then the story became inconclusive, full of illogical holes, and simple errors. But if you watch this season (like season 2) as a single event, independent from the others, you might enjoy it.

And I really find the broken time line and the loose end of season 2 sad. A really *Dark Matter*!