



**STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**

**"Family"**  
(a.k.a. "Crossroads")  
by Ronald D. Moore  
Story Outline  
July 13, 1990

Distribution:

Gene Roddenberry (2)  
Rick Berman (2)  
Michael Piller (2)  
David Livingston (2)  
Lee Sheldon (2)  
Peter Lauritson (2)  
Merri Howard  
Ron Moore  
Joe Menosky  
Hilary Bader  
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BACK STORY & OVERVIEW:

Captain Picard was born and raised in a small village in France and has an older brother, ROBERT. When Picard was very young he developed severe lung problems which, while treatable, required extensive attention and therapy. As the older son, Robert was expected to aid in the care of his younger brother... to grow up a little faster than normal. The attention focused on Jean-luc and the greater responsibilities now expected of Robert began to form a deep resentment in the older brother. As time went on, this resentment manifested itself as Robert began to bully Jean-luc and run roughshod over him. Naturally, Picard began to reciprocate his brother's antipathy.

Because of his early physical problems, Picard was driven to become a success in later life. His achievements gained him even more attention over his brother. Jean-luc became the first boy from his village to be accepted into Starfleet Academy. Robert chose to remain at home and carry on the long family tradition of wine making. Picard never understood his brother's inflexibility and narrow-mindedness. Their parents both died while Picard was away and this only deepened Robert's resentment... as he cared for them in their later years his parents still seemed closer to Jean-luc even though he was a million miles away. The brothers have not spoken in over twenty years.

In this episode, Picard returns home soon after his capture by and subsequent rescue from the Borg. Through the resolution of the conflict with his brother, Picard will also tap into and release the pent-up emotions and internal conflict created by his experience as a prisoner of the Borg, ultimately allowing him to return to his life as a Starfleet captain.

During this show, we will also meet the human parents of Worf. These were the people that adopted the Klingon child found in the wreckage of devastated outpost and raised him as their own. Worf has recently been "dishonored" in the eyes of the Klingons and as a result he has been acting as a "perfect" Klingon in an attempt to prove to himself that he really is worthy of the name. The arrival of his human parents is an uncomfortable reminder of the human heritage that he also shares. Worf will have to confront his human origins and embrace them as part of himself.

STORYTEASER:

EXT. SPACE - Enterprise in spacedock. Picard log tells us that the ship is still orbiting Earth, awaiting repairs sustained in the recent Borg encounter. He is a little off-character here... nothing melodramatic, but we get a feeling that he's wrapping things up on the ship... that there might not be another log entry after this.

RIKER'S QUARTERS - Riker and Worf are going over some routine duty rosters and schedules for the refit. Riker notices that Worf has removed the names of his parents from the visitor schedule and casually asks if there was a problem... illness perhaps? Worf's response makes it clear that he is uncomfortable with this topic. Riker can see that there's a problem and knows that Worf is very sensitive about personal matters. Riker tactfully asks if there is some difficulty related to the "incident" back in the Klingon Empire. Worf has already told his parents of his "dishonor" among the Klingons (Worf is not afraid to say the word that Riker tried to avoid), but that he doubts that they will understand... because they're human. Riker suggests that they might surprise him... offers advice as a friend... think it over. Worf agrees to think about it.

PICARD'S QUARTERS - Picard (in civilian clothes) is packing a few small belongings. Beverly has removed his bandages and pronounced him fully recovered. Although she tries to talk to him like the close friend that she is, Picard resists the familiar intimacy of their conversations. He is returning to his home on Earth for the first time in many years... wants some peace and quiet. Beverly receives call that a private message is waiting in her quarters. Picard leaves for transporter. Does Beverly detect a deeper level of finality in Picard's "good-bye"? Is he ever coming back?

ACT ONE:

MATTE SHOT - The village of Labarre. A small, rural town in Bordeaux. A mix of old and new... part of the town is modern with sleek buildings and equipment, while the rest has remained close to the way it must have looked in the early 21st century... a place whose roots stretch back for a millenia. There are vineyards clearly visible adjacent to some of the homes.

INT. TOWN SQUARE - The 24th century equivalent of the rural train station. There is a transporter pad in the square, and we can see the facades of some small taverns or shops. Picard beams onto the pad... looks around and then walks a short distance, rounds a corner... and is surprised when he finds a small crowd waiting to give him a rousing hero's

welcome home. Picard's sister-in-law MARIE, and his nephew ANDRE (6-7), are also here to meet him. Marie very happy to see him, Andre a little awed by his uncle. The MAYOR and Picard's childhood friend LOUIS have organized quite a celebration in honor of the town's favorite son, but Picard really doesn't want to be part of this and tries to gracefully bow out. He leaves with Marie & Andre. Picard asks about his brother... Marie: "He can't wait to see you" Picard knows better and gives her a dry look.

TRANSPORTER ROOM - Worf arrives to meet his parents. Geordi is there working on some equipment with O'Brien. MR. & MRS. KURENSKI, a human couple of Russian descent beam aboard and greet their adopted son with the warm and affection you would expect from parents separated from their son for a long time... make some comments about his weight... whether he needs a haircut. Worf not really comfortable with all this in front of Geordi and O'Brien and offers to show them to their quarters. Geordi and O'Brien suppress smiles and tactfully look away when he glances at them.

EXT. PICARD'S HOME/VINEYARD - Picard, Marie, Andre walking along the dirt path to the home. The home lacks 24th century accoutrements (made of stone & wood). Picard and Marie have never met face to face, but Marie has taken the responsibility of keeping in touch with Picard on behalf of the family, so they have exchanged messages and letters over the course of the years. Picard commenting on how little things seem to have changed since he left. Andre getting a little braver and more curious about Picard. Marie obliquely refers to the bad blood between Picard and his brother... thinks that it's time to heal old wounds.

EXT. HOME/VINEYARD - Picard's brother ROBERT is working in the field. Picard walks out, says hello. Robert's attitude is civil, but just barely. He is totally uninterested in anything Picard might have to say and he wastes no time in ignoring Picard and returning to his work. Picard also has little sympathy for Robert... their antipathy is mutual. They turn their backs on each other and Picard walks away.

#### ACT TWO:

TURBOLIFT - Beverly and Troi. Beverly has read the "message" in her quarters and is concerned. The message is actually a program disk for Wesley and she isn't sure of the impact it will have on him. Troi being supportive and trying to help with Bev's feelings of ambivalence. They exit and run into Worf and parents. Brief introductions, then Worf/parents get in turbolift. Mom waits a beat then... "so, have you met any nice girls?"

BRIDGE - Worf/parents arrive. They display pride in their son and his accomplishments, and are suitably impressed with

the Enterprise. Awkward and difficult for Worf... he has a certain image and position to maintain. Mom asks Data to take a holograph of them with their son posing at the tactical station.

INT. PICARD HOME - The interior of the home reflects the same preference for an earlier time and way of life as does the exterior. (No replicators, few blinkies, etc.) It's dinner time. Normal mealtime conversation that slowly builds into a major conflict between the brothers. The thread of Picard's status as "hero" and his extreme reluctance to accept this accolade will be touched on here as Andre start to display signs of hero-worship toward his uncle. Marie will keep trying to steer the conversation away from the brothers' conflict, and to be the conciliator. Picard and Robert start by taking minor, almost insignificant, potshots at the other... gets a little more personal... finally escalates into full-blown argument. Each of them seems to relish the opportunity to yell at the other... Picard seems to almost need a fight.

### ACT THREE

TOWN SQUARE - Picard is walking through the square with a childhood friend, LOUIS. They talk over a couple of old stories... Louis is now involved in "re-terraforming". This is the on-going process of returning vast stretches of Earth to their pre-man or "natural" condition. (The industrial city of Marseilles is being converted into a new wildlife park.) The work is challenging and exciting and we can see Picard is very intrigued by it. As they talk, Picard begins to casually inquire into the opportunities in this field... what the qualifications are... the lifestyle involved. Louis gives him a direct look and asks, with some surprise, "Are you asking me about a job?" Picard is noncommittal... he's just asking some questions, but Louis is obviously excited at the possibility that Picard might choose to stay in France and work with him.

TEN FORWARD - Worf's parents are having a grand time. They are naturally social people and Ten Forward is bringing out the best in them. Mrs. Kurenski has taken over the bar (with Guinan's permission) and is busily serving up some of her favorite food and drink. Mr. Kurenski is regaling some crewmen with tall tales. Worf is really not comfortable with all this and when his parents try to get him to participate in a bit of folk dancing, they turn around to find that he has left.

INT. HOME - Marie returns home and finds Picard sitting alone in the dark. They have a brief talk, during which Picard broaches the idea of possibly staying in Labarre. Marie would love to see this happen, but she isn't sure that it's the right thing for Picard. Marie asks him "If this is

such a great idea, then why are you sitting here alone in the dark?" Robert, Louis, and the village Mayor arrive... the Mayor is ecstatic that Picard plans on staying in the village. Picard demurs, he was just talking over a possibility, not a firm decision. But Louis and the Mayor are too enthralled with the idea of having a living legend settle in the town. They go on and on about what an honor it will be, how Picard will love living here again... finally Picard explodes with uncharacteristic anger. He lashes out at the two men and throws them out of the house. Robert watches all this... he may not like his younger brother, but he sure knows that this kind of behavior is not the way Jean-luc acts. Something is wrong.

EXT. HOME/VINEYARD - A short time later. Picard goes to the graves of his parents in the family plot. He seems lost, unsure what to do next.

ACT FOUR:

BEVERLY'S OFFICE - Beverly & Wes. She tells him "I've got a message for you... from your father." She briefly explains that Jack had made a holo-program for Wesley when the boy was less than a year old. He hadn't told Beverly about it, and at first she wasn't sure whether to give it to Wes or not... but ultimately it belonged to him and she didn't have the right to interfere. She gives Wes the disk.

WORF'S QUARTERS - Worf is alone and then his parents enter. They know that something's bothering him... understand that he might have been a little embarrassed... he denies this, of course. They also gently bring up the subject of his dishonor among the Klingons... acknowledge that he couldn't tell them the entire story of what happened. Worf not sure what to expect, but they reach out to him in a human way. They raised him as their son and while they respect his Klingon heritage, he will always be family to them. Alone with his parents, Worf is able to respond to them as their son... in a human way. A warm, intimate moment as the family comes together for comfort.

INT. HOME - Picard is drinking some of the family wine and looking over some re-terraforming plans that Louis dropped off. He's been drinking for a while now... Robert enters and brings a new bottle... they start to drink together. As the wine loosens their tongues, they begin to talk more... the conversation meanders a bit... some debate on wine vs. synthehol... past experiences they shared...but Robert keeps trying to steer the conversation back to what's wrong with Picard. "So what happened to you up there anyway?" Each time Robert brings this up, the tension between them rises another notch. They continue to drink.

\*\*\*\*\*TIME CUT\*\*\*\*\*

EXT. HOME/VINEYARD - Picard and Robert come outside. They're drunk. Picard has loosened up some. The conversation has moved on to "heroes". Picard denies that he is a hero. Robert won't let it go and declares that Picard's always loved the glory of the limelight... says that if Picard were really himself he'd be back in town right now putting up a statue to himself. Picard admits that maybe there is something wrong with him. Robert pounces on the admission: "I still have to take care of you... just like I always did" At that, Picard slugs him and they begin to fight. They get out twenty years of aggression and bitterness as they kick and punch each other with the ferocity that only siblings can muster. Finally, rolling around in the dirt, grappling with each other, they realize they're laughing. The laughter continues and they let go of each other and lie on their backs in the vineyard looking up at the night sky... just as they did when they kids. Picard: "I wanted to do that since I got here" A great weight seems to have lifted from both of them. They pass out next to each other in the vineyard.

ACT FIVE:

INT. HOME - The morning after. The brothers are very hung over. Marie is unsympathetic and chides them for such childish behavior. A brief joke about synthehol & hang overs. Picard announces that he's decided to return to the Enterprise. Robert approves, and manages to get in one last good-natured dig... instead of being offended, Picard laughs.

HOLODECK - Wes meets the father he barely knew. Jack Crusher appears, in the prime of his life... a vibrant charismatic man looking forward to a long life and career, but still conscious of his own mortality. Jack made this program in case he wasn't there to talk to his son in person when Wes turned 18 (which happened only recently). Wes can interact with the program, but only to a limited extent. Jack is here to give Wes some fatherly advice about growing up and becoming an adult... and in doing so he brings together the themes of our episode. He talks about the importance of family... the bond of flesh and blood... how a family comes together in a time of need... and there is a special poignancy here, in that even death has not broken this bond between father and son. Wes is a man now, but that doesn't mean he's outgrown his family... he and Beverly must always look out for the other, care for each other. "No matter what happens... or might have already happened... you are my son... and I will always love you."

VILLAGE SQUARE - Picard (now in uniform) ready to leave. He bids farewell to his family. Andre wants to go along, to join Starfleet. Picard tells the eager boy to wait, that

it's not for everyone, that there's plenty of time to decide. Surprisingly, Robert is supportive of his son's ambitions... "if that's what you want, then that's what you'll do." The brothers have become more accepting of each other and of the other's life. Picard beams up.

TRANSPORTER ROOM - Worf bids his parents farewell just as Picard arrives. Worf proudly introduces them to Picard, all trace of his discomfort now gone. Picard heads for the bridge.

EXT. HOME/VINEYARD - Night. Andre is lying on his back in the vineyard, just as Robert and Picard did long ago... staring up at the night sky. Robert and Marie come outside... Marie wants to bring the boy inside, but Robert decides to leave him for a while... let him dream about the stars.



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