

# STAR TREK<sup>®</sup> WAYPOINT



AN ANTHOLOGY SERIES SPANNING 50 YEARS OF STAR TREK

## PUZZLES

A *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION* STORY

WRITER: DONNY CATES

ARTIST: MACK CHATER

COLORISTS: JASON LEWIS AND DEE CUNIFFE

LETTERER: ANDWORLD DESIGNS

## DAYLILY

A *STAR TREK* STORY

WRITER/ARTIST: SANDRA LANZ

LETTERER: ANDWORLD DESIGNS

## THE MENACE OF THE MECHANITRONS

A *STAR TREK: GOLD KEY* STORY

WRITERS: DAYTON WARD AND KEVIN DILMORE

ARTIST: GORDON PURCELL

COLORIST: JASON LEWIS

LETTERER: ANDWORLD DESIGNS

## LEGACY

A *STAR TREK* STORY

WRITER: SAM MAGGS

ARTIST: RACHAEL STOTT

COLORIST: MARK ROBERTS

LETTERER: ANDWORLD DESIGNS

## THE WILDMAN MANEUVER

A *STAR TREK: VOYAGER* STORY

WRITER: MAIRGHREAD SCOTT

ARTIST: CORIN HOWELL

COLORIST: JASON LEWIS

LETTERER: ANDWORLD DESIGNS

## MOTHER'S WALK

A *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* STORY

WRITER: CECIL CASTELLUCCI

ARTIST: MEGAN LEVENS

COLORIST: SARAH STERN

LETTERER: ANDWORLD DESIGNS

# PUZZLES

*CAPTAIN'S LOG: HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW: ROUTINE STARFLEET SCANS HAVE PINGED THE LOCATION OF THIS UNKNOWN VESSEL. INITIAL READINGS HAVE SUGGESTED IT IS INCREDIBLY ADVANCED, THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD...*

*...AND IT HAS JUST ARRIVED.*

*ONE SECOND TO THE NEXT, THERE WAS NOTHING IN THIS SECTOR, AND NOW...THIS. THE READINGS ALSO SUGGEST A CREW OF ALMOST TWO HUNDRED LIFE FORMS ON BOARD.*

*THOSE LIVING APPEAR TO BE DYING, OF WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW. SOME SORT OF RADIATION LEAK, PERHAPS. EITHER WAY, TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE.*

*ANY AND ALL ATTEMPTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE UNIDENTIFIED SHIP HAVE BEEN MET WITH THE SAME REPEATING CODED TRANSMISSION.*

*SO FAR NO ONE AT STARFLEET COMMAND HAS BEEN ABLE TO TRANSLATE THE MESSAGE. THEIR BEST GUESS IS IT'S SOME SORT OF EMERGENCY BEACON.*

*IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THAT THEORY, HOWEVER, THE SHIP, WHILE NOT OVERTLY HOSTILE IN NATURE, APPEARS TO HAVE RAISED ITS SHIELDS, EFFECTIVELY NEGATING ANY SORT OF PHYSICAL RESCUE.*

*NOTHING IN. NOTHING OUT. A DYING CREW, A TICKING CLOCK AND A MESSAGE NO ONE CAN READ.*

*IT'S QUITE THE PUZZLE, BUT, I SUPPOSE THAT IS WHY THEY CALLED US IN TO INVESTIGATE...*



...MY CREW AND I  
QUITE LIKE PUZZLES.

DATA, REPORT?  
ANY PROGRESS ON  
THIS MYSTERIOUS  
SIGNAL?

SINCE HIS PHYSICAL FORM  
DETERIORATED AND WE  
UPLOADED HIS POSITRONIC  
BRAIN INTO THE ENTERPRISE  
MAINFRAME, DATA'S POWER  
HAS GROWN IMMENSELY.

WE STILL CARRY A FULL  
COMPLEMENT OF STAFF  
ELSEWHERE ABOARD THE  
ENTERPRISE, OF COURSE.  
BUT TRUTH BE TOLD, IF HE  
WANTED IT, DATA COULD  
RUN THIS SHIP HIMSELF.



I AM  
TRANSLATING  
THE MESSAGE  
AS I SPEAK,  
CAPTAIN.

WITHIN A MONTH OF BEING  
UPLOADED, DATA BEGAN TO  
PROJECT HOLOGRAMS OF  
HIMSELF PERFORMING TASKS ON  
THE BRIDGE AND ELSEWHERE.



IT IS A MOST  
INTRIGUING LANGUAGE,  
CAPTAIN. I UNDERSTAND  
NOW WHY STARFLEET  
COMMAND HAD A  
DIFFICULT TIME  
WITH IT.

IN HIS ROLE AS SHIP'S  
COMPUTER, DATA HAS NO  
REAL NEED FOR THESE  
PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS.

THOUGH HE HAS NEVER STATED SO, I BELIEVE IT IS MORE FOR MY BENEFIT THAN FOR HIS. PERHAPS KNOWING THAT THE SIMPLE ACT OF BEING PRESENT WOULD BE OF COMFORT TO ME. A SMALL GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP.



WHY IS THAT, NUMBER ONE?



NO MATTER THE REASON, I HAVE TO SAY IT IS VERY WELCOME.

BECAUSE THEY ARE HUMAN.

MOST OF THE TIME.



HILARIOUS.

YES, HOWEVER, WHILE THE JOKE WAS INTENTIONAL, CAPTAIN, THE SENTIMENT IS CORRECT. THE MESSAGE WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE RECEIVED BY HUMANS OF ANY KIND.

THE SHIP IS ENTIRELY CONTROLLED VIA AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, DESIGNED TO INTERACT ONLY WITH ITS OWN KIND.



AN ENTIRE STARSHIP CONTROLLED BY AN ARTIFICIAL BRAIN, WELL, THAT CERTAINLY SOUNDS--

IF YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO FORM A HUMOROUS CONNECTION BASED ON THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE SHIP AND MYSELF, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT, THOUGH SIMILAR IN SOME SUPERFICIAL WAYS, THAT SHIP AND I ARE LIGHT YEARS APART.

SO TO SPEAK.



THERE ARE SIMILAR ASPECTS IN THE CODE, HOWEVER. AND IF I CAN JUST--AH, THERE WE ARE, ALMOST COMPLETE AND--

OH DEAR. THE MESSAGE...IT IS...NOT AN EMERGENCY BEACON AT ALL...



SIR, THE MESSAGE IS THE PRIME DIRECTIVE.



WHAT?

