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STAR TREK[®]



WAYPOINT



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WAYPOINT



PUZZLES

A "Star Trek: The Next Generation" Story

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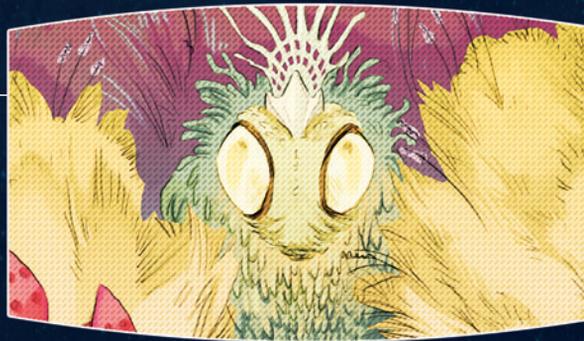
LETTERS ANDWORLD DESIGNS

DAYLILY

A "Star Trek" Story

WRITER/ARTIST SANDRA LANZ

LETTERS ANDWORLD DESIGNS



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A "waypoint" is a stopping place on a long journey. Over the past 50 years, some of the most exciting journeys in all of entertainment have taken place in *Star Trek* films, TV series, novels, and of course -- comics. *Star Trek: Waypoint*, IDW Publishing's new anthology series, offers us a stopping point on this wonderful 50 year journey. A place to stop and reflect on what's come before, and look ahead to the NEXT 50 years of *Trek*. Join us!

- Group Editor Sarah Gaydos



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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 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...





DATA, WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DEALING WITH?



A SHIPWRECK, SIR.

IF YOU HAVE A THEORY...

NOT A THEORY, CAPTAIN. USING THE TRANSLATION FROM THE DIRECTIVE I WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY SEVERAL STANDARDS ON THE SHIP'S EXTERIOR THAT MATCH WITH THE--



DATA...

YES, CAPTAIN, WHAT WE ARE LOOKING AT IS UNDOUBTEDLY A FEDERATION SHIP...



...FROM OUR OWN DISTANT FUTURE.

SO, YOU ARE SAYING THAT THIS SHIP...SOMEHOW MALFUNCTIONED AND-- AND, HAS COME...WHAT, UNSTUCK IN TIME? DATA...THAT'S...

FASCINATING.



INDEED. BUT, IF WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS CORRECT...IT WON'T LET US INTERFERE BECAUSE OF THE PRIME DIRECTIVE?

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE... THE DIRECTIVE ONLY APPLIES TO PRE-WARP DRIVE CIVILIZATIONS. PRIMITIVE PEOPLES.