

CONTINUED:

Next to the nightstand, a Samorilan shivers violently, his body equally pale -- not cold, but scared...

TROI
(muffled, like she's
underwater)
What's wrong--?

The Samorilan turns slowly to the door... Troi follows his stare...

A tortured humanlike wail resonates from the hall... A light brightens and passes under the crack of the door... Troi catches her breath...

TROI
(keys insignia)
Troi to bridge...

She waits... No response...

TROI
(keys insignia harder)
Troi to anyone on the bridge...

Again, nothing... She takes a deep breath, slowly steps to the door...

The Samorilan grunts his disapproval...

TROI
(unconvincing)
It's alright...

The Samorilan screams violently as the door opens and Troi steps into --

THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE HER ROOM

At the opposite end of the hallway, a swirling aura of

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

light lingers with energy-charged tentacles that slither passively around its formless body... A storm cloud embodied within a gelatinous membrane... A spirit... A soul...

Troi reacts... The Samorilan curls up beside her...

The swirling aura glides ominously toward them both...

The Samorilan shrieks in terror, sprints away in the opposite direction... The aura pulsates after him and past Troi, nearly knocking her over with the fierce gust of wind it leaves in its wake...

Troi cringes in horror as the Samorilan disappears around the bend, the aura hot on its tail... A crescendo of popping electricity echoes from around the bend... A pathetic scream, followed by an overpowering wail...

Troi squeezes her palms to her ears in agonizing protest... She makes a sudden dash to

THE BEND AT THE ADJACENT HALLWAY

to see the swirling aura of light fervently attack the Samorilan against the end wall -- overpowering it, draining every ounce of its energy, its life force, from its body...

TROI

STOP IT!

Silence... The wind ceases as the aura of light drops the Samorilan and turns its attention to Troi...

The Samorilan staggers off screaming...

The aura moves toward Troi, slowly picks up speed... The wind becomes fiercer...

Troi screams as the Entity crashes into her --

INT. ENTERPRISE - TROI'S PRIVATE QUARTERS

Troi awakens, shivering and drenched in sweat...

TROI
(relieved)
A dream...

A comforting silence for a beat, then...

A muffled scream echoes from somewhere in the room... Troi spins around, comes face-to-face with a human form mutating passively from the wall... A bright aura of light flares from the image, becoming clearer and more defined: first the body, then the face... As the VISOR appears, Troi realizes who it is...

TROI
(horror-stricken)
Geordi--?

Geordi desperately reaches for her... Energy tentacles unfold from the wall and reabsorb him... A gelatinous membrane covers him... He screams in pain...

GEORDI
Help me...Deanna...

Troi shakes her head in agony...

TROI
(frantic)
How, Geordi!? How!?

Before Geordi can answer, he is sucked back into the wall...

On Troi's horror-stricken reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE