

SCENE T002/TROI AND RYKER

NEXT. NIGHT - THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET - DARK, COLD, WINDY

TROI has just had her life endangered when RYKER chose the starship's safety over her own. She is standing alone, listening to the night as she considers this.

TROI

(senses something)

Imzadi.

Ryker appears in the middle distance, crosses to her.

RYKER

(cautiously)

Troi. I'm sorry. There was no way...  
(starts again)

There was no way I could beam you out of danger without risking the ship.

ANGLE TIGHTENS as they move toward each other. They stop just short of touching. She takes one more step and takes his hand in hers.

TROI

And the danger has passed; I have not been injured.

(hesitates)

And your concern for me is "pleasing."

RYKER

(troubled)

I wanted you to understand... I didn't have the right to make any other decision.

TROI

(she already knows)

You had to consider that nine hundred other lives were more important than mine.

(touching his lips with a finger)

Please. You cannot deny what I already know.

Star Trek

"Finding Joy"

M/W

Ryker-Troi

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START

RYKER  
 (frustrated)  
 Damn it, Deanna! Please stop doing that!  
 Stop reading my thoughts!

TROI  
 - I'm not reading you.  
 (explains)  
 Will, I already know the ship and  
 crew must come first with you.  
 (she touches his cheek)  
 What I do feel, Imzadi, is how  
that troubles you -- how you wish your  
 concern could be only for me.

Ryker hesitates, then:

RYKER  
 It must be hell being married to a  
 Betazoid. There's no way a man could  
 ever cheat on her.

TROI  
 Is it so different with Earth women?  
 I have heard they usually know too.

RYKER  
 (smiles)  
 But not every detail of it.

They are drawing together, enjoying each other.

TROI  
 The most important difference, Imzadi,  
 is that it makes us happy to feel our  
 mate finding joy.

RYKER  
 (nuzzles her cheek)  
 That's rather...unnatural, don't you  
 think?

TROI  
 (nuzzles him)  
 Where is that written?

RYKER  
(shrugs)  
Somewhere on Earth, I suppose...

TROI  
But we're here, aren't we?

She moves into his arms and we

END

FADE OUT: