

= Angel One =

This article is for the Star Trek : The Next Generation episode . For the cable channel known as " Angel One " , see Sky Angel .

" Angel One " is the 14th episode of the first season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek : The Next Generation . It was first broadcast on January 25 , 1988 , in the United States in broadcast syndication . It was written by Patrick Barry and was directed by Michael Ray Rhodes .

Set in the 24th century , the series follows the adventures of the crew of the Starfleet starship Enterprise @-@ D. In this episode , an away team visits a world dominated by women to search for survivors of a downed freighter , while the crew of the Enterprise suffer from the effects of a debilitating virus .

The episode was intended to be commentary on Apartheid in South Africa , using gender role reversal . However , there were problems between the cast and director during filming , and Patrick Stewart sought to have the sexist nature of the episode changed . The resulting episode was not well liked by members of the production team , and the response from reviewers was negative .

= = Plot = =

The Enterprise arrives at the planet Angel One , where its native population is run as an oligarchy , with women in the dominant position of power . The ship is looking for survivors from the shipwrecked freighter Odin , 7 + years after having been evacuated . The freighter was missing 3 escape pods and the only planet in range was Angel One . An away team consisting of Commander William Riker ( Jonathan Frakes ) , Lt. Commander Data ( Brent Spiner ) , Lt. Tasha Yar ( Denise Crosby ) , and Counselor Deanna Troi ( Marina Sirtis ) beam down to the surface . They attempt to negotiate with Beata ( Karen Montgomery ) , the " Elected One " of the native inhabitants , to let them search for the survivors . Time is of the essence however , as the Enterprise must travel to a Federation outpost near the Romulan Neutral Zone ( where a group of Romulan Battlecruisers has been detected ) as soon as they resolve their investigation into the Odin survivors .

Beata reveals that they are aware of four male survivors of the Odin who have caused disruption in their society , and are considered fugitives . Beata requests Riker stay with her ( and later requests that he orders Troy , Data , and Yar to track down the survivors ' camp and their leader Ramsey ( Sam Hennings ) , while he stay and dine with her ) . After some back and forth the Data concludes Ramsey and the survivors of the Odin would have Platinum with them , and Angel One is naturally devoid of Platinum , allowing the Enterprise to easily detect them . Meanwhile , Riker dresses in the garb given to him for his dinner with Beata , Troy and Yar taunt him for dressing in clothes that sexualize him and in some ways demean him , and he is only doing it to win favor with Beata . He responds by saying he is honoring the local customs , and acknowledges Beata 's beauty , and that the garb is rather comfortable .

The Enterprise searches while in orbit of Angel One . Doctor Beverly Crusher ( Gates McFadden ) relieves Captain Jean @-@ Luc Picard ( Patrick Stewart ) of duty after he and most of the crew have fallen ill to a random virus on board , that gives the sense of an odd smell to its victims at the time of infection . The Captain leaves Lieutenant Geordi La Forge ( Levar Burton ) in command ( Geordi 's first time in Acting Command of a Starship ) . Shortly after , they find Ramsey and transmit his location to the Away Team , who beam directly to there .

When confronted by Data , Yar , and Troy , Ramsey and his men , having taken wives and started families during the seven years , refuse to leave , Geordi informs Yar of the medical situation on board , and that more Romulan ships have been detected near the Neutral Zone . Riker learns from Beata that their society structure has already been collapsing , but Ramsey and his men have served to accelerate its decline . Riker argues that it may just be the course of evolution taking place . On the Enterprise , systems are becoming harder to maintain with more crew succumbing the virus . Geordi ( after a friendly reminder from a sniffing Worf ( Michael Dorn ) ) remembers that in command , he must delegate others perform tasks so he can stay on the Bridge . Dr. Crusher finds that the virus is an airborne organism that produces a sweet smell , to encourage inhalation , after

which becomes viral inside the body .

Riker gets up to date with the situation , and decides that while Ramsey and his group are at large and refusing to leave the planet , there is little they can do . Before leaving they find that one of Beata 's assistants , Ariel ( Patricia McPherson ) , has married Ramsey , and was followed by Beata 's men to their camp , where they arrested the survivors and their families . The Away Team attempt to explain to Beata the reason for Ramsey 's refusal to leave . Beata and her council reject his reasoning , and threatens to execute them the following day . After failing to convince Ramsey and his group to leave with them , Riker contacts the Enterprise , in hopes to transport Ramsey and his group without their consent ( despite it being a violation of the Prime Directive , and almost certainly an end to his career ) , but Dr. Crusher ( while treating an incapacitated Geordi in the Captain 's chair ) refuses to allow anyone to beam aboard for fear of being infected , but allows Data , as an android , to return . Riker orders Data to take command and get the Enterprise to the Neutral Zone before it 's too late .

The following morning the Away Team is invited to witness the execution of Ramsey and his followers . Moments after Riker rejects their invitation Data makes contact and informs them that there is a 48 @-@ minute window for which Dr. Crusher has to find a cure , and for Riker to defuse the situation on the planet before the ship must leave to the Neutral Zone . On the planet , Ramsey and his men are prepared to be executed by disintegration despite Ariel 's pleas , while Dr. Crusher discovers a cure for the virus . Riker is prepared to have the away team and the Odin survivors beamed to the Enterprise , but Beata announces that she will stay the execution and banish Ramsey , his men , their families , and any others that support them to the far side of the planet . She explains that their banishment will not stop the fall of the oligarchy , but will slow it down enough that Beata will not be around to see its end . The away team return to the ship and Picard , already recovering from the virus but hardly having a voice , orders the ship to the Neutral Zone at high warp .

= = Production = =

Producer Herbert Wright explained that the episode was to be a commentary on Apartheid in South Africa , with men on the planet representing black people . The original plot by Patrick Berry would have seen Riker and Data travel to the surface with an otherwise all female away team , which offended the planet 's leader to the extent that Yar stuns him with a phaser as a show of strength in order to prevent his immediate execution . Riker is imprisoned as one of the marooned men , named Lucas Jones , begins an uprising . Jones is killed , but his death inspires his followers to assault the government . In that version , Picard is the only one to fall ill on board the Enterprise . The reverse role society had already been included in Gene Roddenberry 's 1974 TV pilot / movie Planet Earth , and Wright described it as " being done a thousand times already " . In her book Sexual Generations : " Star Trek , the Next Generation " and Gender ( University of Illinois Press , 1999 ) , Robin Roberts points out that a similar plot was used by Walter Besant in his 1882 anti @-@ feminist dystopia , The Revolt of Man . " Angel One " featured the first mention of the Romulans , who would appear later in the season one finale , " The Neutral Zone " .

Michael Ray Rhodes directed the episode as part of a deal with The Bronx Zoo , another television show filmed at Paramount Studios . Rhodes had previously won Emmy Awards on four occasions for his work on the television series Insights between 1981 and 1984 . Wil Wheaton later recalled that there were some issues between the main cast and the director , but didn 't know what they were about as he only worked for one day of the shoot . Gates McFadden described it as " one of the most sexist episodes we ever had " , and Patrick Stewart sought to have the episode changed to reduce those elements . Some of the production crew subsequently thought poorly of " Angel One " . Executive producer Maurice Hurley described it as " Terrible . Just terrible . One of the ones you 'd just as soon erase " . Producer Herbert Wright felt that the " sexual places it was dragged to were absurd " .

= = Reception = =

" Angel One " first aired in the United States in broadcast syndication on January 25 , 1988 . It received an 11 @.@ 4 rating , meaning that it was seen by 11 @.@ 4 percent of all households . This was an increase from the previous week 's " Datalore " which received a rating of 10 @.@ 3 .

Several reviewers re @-@ watched the episode following the end of the series . Keith DeCandido reviewed the episode for Tor.com. He described the episode as being " one of the most sexist episodes of Star Trek ever produced under the veneer of feminism " , and that the virus subplot was " filler , and boring filler at that " . Overall , he said that it was " one of the absolute low points of the show " , giving it a score of two out of ten . Cast member Wil Wheaton watched it for AOL TV , and thought that it started well but soon descended into the appearance of an episode from The Original Series with Riker in the Kirk role . He also noted that if the speech that Riker gave towards the end of the episode had been given to Yar or Troi then the overall message would have been more subtle . He gave it a grade of D overall .

James Hunt for Den of Geek said that the episode was not as bad as " Code of Honor " , but that it contained " almost every terrible cliché about seen in TNG 's first season in one episode " . He summed it up , saying " We 've seen all of this before , and it was barely interesting the first time around . The second time , it 's just tedious . A horrible episode on so many levels . " Zack Handlen watched the episode for The A.V. Club and said that he " expected more from TNG " , saying that he was not sure what the reversal of gender roles in the episode was meant to achieve . He described the virus subplot as " absurd " and gave the episode an F grade . The episode was included in a couple of worst episode lists , including in one compiled by Scott Thrill for Wired magazine , and it was ranked the fourth worst episode by Jay Garmon at the website TechRepublic .

= = Home media release = =

The first home media release of " Angel One " was on VHS cassette , appearing on August 26 , 1992 in the United States and Canada . The episode was later included on the Star Trek : The Next Generation season one DVD box set , released in March 2002 , and then released as part of the season one Blu @-@ ray set on July 24 , 2012 .