

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

10x09 - "Blank Slate."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

and from the post-finale novels
by Pocket Books

incorporating elements from

Star Trek: Terok Nor: Night of the Wolves
by SD Perry & Britta Dennison

and "The Choice"
by Michael Jan Friedman, appearing in
Star Trek: The Next Generation,
DC Comics Special #2

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Morning. RO is in her yellow uniform undershirt, jacket not yet on. She makes the bed, straightens the pillows. Picks up her earring off the bedside table and clips it on. She is cheerful, happy, looking forward to the day.

She heads into...

BATHROOM

She looks at herself in the mirror, grabs a hairbrush and brushes her hair a bit. Stretches her neck - it works fine. She opens the mirror cabinet on the wall, grabs toothbrush and toothpaste, brushes her teeth, spits it out.

Putting the brush and paste back in the cabinet, she notices a hypospray sitting there on a shelf. She is surprised to find it. She grabs it, looks at it...

RO

Ah. Don't need you anymore.

With a smile, she tosses it to the side, where it lands in a rubbish bin. Satisfied, she turns to leave.

2 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

She walks down the corridor, now in full uniform. The corridor is middling busy with other people heading to work or just going about their business. She nods hello and smiles at the ones she recognises.

She turns a corner, and in this section of corridor there is an engineering crew hard at work.

One figure is up on a ladder, working on the upper bulkhead with the sci-fi equivalent of an acetylene torch, wearing a spark mask. Two EXTRAS work on the lower areas of the wall with various other tools. Barriers have been set up to guide the public around the area and protect them.

Ro approaches this group, slightly bemused. This is a lot of activity for this time in the morning.

RO

You guys are up early.

The blow-torcher stops work and removes his mask, revealing himself to be NOG. He greets Ro cheerily.

NOG

Oh, hi, Ro. Yeah, sorry. It was an emergency - this section of bulkhead decided to spontaneously dissolve into rust overnight. River knows why. Between you and me, I think it was that Yalosian family that stayed over last week.

RO

Ah, the ones with the benzene atmosphere. Yep, that'll do it.

NOG

Whatever it was, we have to remove this section and destroy it, then run over to Empok Nor, grab a spare, bring it back and rebuild the whole thing.

RO

(better you than me)
Well... have fun!

Amused and happy to leave Nog to it, she moves off. Nog replaces his mask and goes back to work.

Further along the corridor, Ro spots TARAN'ATAR stepping out of his own quarters. She makes a decision with herself, and heads over towards him.

RO

(calls out)
Taran'atar!

The Jem'Hadar turns to her, stern and stony as ever. Ro walks up to him...

TARAN'ATAR

Lieutenant. How are you today?

Ro smirks a little - this friendly phrase feels absolutely foreign in Taran'atar's mouth.

RO

I'm actually good, thank you. In fact, that's what I wanted to talk to you about.

She pauses, because this is a fairly big thing to say.

RO

(continuing)

I guess it's no secret that things have been uncomfortable between us, considering...

(what to say?)

...what happened. But things are getting better. My back is healing great. Nog took the anti-grav supports off my legs a couple of days ago. I don't have to keep a supply of pain killers around all the time.

TARAN'ATAR

I am glad.

RO

And I've had time. To process everything. I mean, I always knew it wasn't your fault. You didn't mean me any harm.

From immediately behind Ro, L'HAAN steps into view.

L'HAAN

She's lying.

Taran'atar's eyes flare and his body tenses at the sight of L'Haan. Ro doesn't notice for now - she is concentrating on what she wants to say.

RO

(background)

Of course, knowing something intellectually and trying to convince your automatic stress response of it are two different things.

L'HAAN

Observe her. She stands outside of your reach, placing a protective distance between you.

L'Haan circles the two of them. Taran'atar's gaze darts back and forth between L'Haan and Ro, trying unsuccessfully to conceal his reaction.

RO

(background)

It took me a while, but I got there eventually. You were as much of a victim as I was.

L'HAAN

Her eyes are aware of your every movement. Her legs are tense, ready to run at any moment. Her fingers jitter, as if preparing to fight.

Taran'atar's eyes shift, looking at Ro's legs - they are tense, just like L'Haan said. He checks her hands - the fingers are fidgeting, uncomfortable.

RO

(background)

I think I can genuinely say... that I'm over it.

(beat)

Taran'atar? Are you okay?

Taran'atar jerks; he realises Ro has asked him a question.

TARAN'ATAR

I am... fine, Lieutenant.

RO
I guess what I'm trying to say
is... we're okay. You and me.

Taran'atar looks confused, not understanding the phrase...

RO
(clarification)
I forgive you.

TARAN'ATAR
I appreciate that, Lieutenant.

RO
Okay. Good.

Ro relaxes a little, relieved. But Taran'atar's eyes are still scanning nervously. L'Haan has disappeared for now.

RO
Are you sure you're alright?

TARAN'ATAR
I am. Thank you for your concern.

RO
I'll... see you later. Bye.

She turns and walks back down the corridor. Taran'atar watches her go... and then L'Haan is there.

L'HAAN
If she truly forgave you, she
would not be so tense in your
company. Rather, I think she lies
to comfort you.

Taran'atar replies in a low hiss, keeping his voice down.

TARAN'ATAR
I told you not to speak to me in
public.

L'HAAN
If you cannot control your own
mind, I can hardly be blamed.

Taran'atar growls under his breath...

Elsewhere in the corridor, Ro walks along, reassured, pleased with herself for making up with Taran'atar. She approaches Nog's engineering work site again...

Having cut it free from the bulkhead, Nog and his two assistants are now manoeuvring the large, discoloured slab of heavy metal wall away from its moorings.

NOG

Steady... steady...

RO

You need a hand there?

NOG

Oh, um, actually, yeah, if you don't mind, Lieutenant. If you could grab that corner next to Teermok there...

Ro moves quickly to grab the offending corner. It's big enough that even with four of them, they're struggling.

NOG

It's slipping... watch out! Watch out!

The wall suddenly crumbles, shattering into two large pieces and a rain of fragments. The largest piece is heading straight for Ro...

RO

...tries to get out of the way, but she is not fast enough. The falling piece of wall plummets towards her and catches her full-force. It knocks her flat to the ground, with a hard BONK of skull against deck plates. Nog panics...

NOG

Lieutenant! Lieutenant!

CLOSE on Ro, her head trapped between deck and fallen wall, knocked unconscious...

3 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Normal morning, as everyone goes to work and tourists peruse. QUARK is just opening the bar for the morning.

KIRA comes running down the Promenade, heading directly to the Infirmary. The doors open and she runs in...

4 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY (CONTINUOUS)

...to find BASHIR hovering nervously near the doorway, obviously having been waiting for Kira. Nog is also there, looking very worried. In background, we hear the CRASH of a large piece of equipment being overturned and sent flying.

KIRA

What is it? What's going on?

Now we hear Ro's voice from the other room - a desperate SHRIEK of terror and anger.

RO (o.s.)

Get away from me! Don't touch me!

BASHIR

See for yourself.

He leads Kira towards the surgical suite...

SURGICAL SUITE

A bio-bed has been overturned, creating a makeshift barrier across the room. Medical consoles and trays of instruments have also been thrown. Nurse RICHTER is in the room, her hands up in a calming gesture...

Pinned into the far corner, behind all the thrown machines, is Ro. Stripped down to undershirt again, eyes wild, her head bandaged where it was hit. She is terrified out of her wits, sweating and panting, and holding a plasma scalpel out in front of her in defence.

RO

Any closer and I'll kill you.

Kira steps into the room, and can instantly see that something is very wrong here...

KIRA
(delicate)
Laren? What's going on?

Ro holds the scalpel out towards Kira and eyes her warily.

RO
Who are you?

Kira looks at Bashir, confused. He shrugs, "Yeah, I know."

KIRA
What do you mean, who am I?

RO
I mean, I don't know who any of you people are. But I know a Cardassian torture chamber when I see it. So if one of you people doesn't start talking about a way out of here right now, I'm gonna start cutting.

Kira takes a small step forward. Ro immediately flinches, her eyes sharp and desperate.

KIRA
Laren, you're not a prisoner. You hit your head, and we're just trying to help you.

Ro looks at her a bit closer...

RO
You're Bajoran.

KIRA
Yes. So are you.

RO
(hiss)
I know that! I'm not an idiot!

KIRA
I know you're not. I'm sorry.

RO
What uniform is that?

KIRA
It's Starfleet. You're wearing one too.

Ro looks down at herself, and sees that she is. It only confuses her more. She is really scared now.

RO
Who are you?

KIRA
I'm Kira Nerys. You know me. You know all of us. That's Julian, and that Kristen, and that's Nog.

RO
Okay... if that's who you are...
(beat)
...then who am I?

Kira looks to Bashir again. It's worse than they thought.

Finishing on Ro, afraid and confused...

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

A PADD shows Ro's Starfleet record, with a clear headshot.

KIRA

This is you.

The bio-bed has been righted, and Ro now sits on it, calmer than before. Kira stands by, close and comforting, showing Ro the padd screen. Richter is working on various panels, checking readings. Nog hovers nervously at the periphery.

KIRA (cont)

Lieutenant Ro Laren, chief of security on Deep Space Nine.

RO

Starfleet.

KIRA

Yes. Do you know what that is?

RO

I know what Starfleet is. I know what a Bajoran and a Cardassian and a human are.

(re padd)

Just... her. She's a complete stranger to me. You all are.

Bashir enters carefully from the main Infirmary room - Ro instinctively flinches and pulls back from him.

KIRA

It's okay. He won't hurt you.

BASHIR

I have the test results. It's a minor concussion. Thank you for letting me do the tests, by the way. I realise that can't have been easy.

Ro nods awkward acknowledgement.

KIRA

So what are we dealing with?

BASHIR

There's no permanent injury, thankfully. Your brain isn't damaged, as such. Just sort of scrambled, like it's rebooting itself. And in the meantime it's lost track of bits and pieces.

NOG

Like a computer that's lost its content management system. The files are still there, it just can't find them.

BASHIR

Exactly. It will heal and rebuild the neural pathways -
(off Ro's
confusion)
- find the memories again. It'll just take a little time.

RO

What do I do until then?

BASHIR

Well, first of all, you're off duty until further notice. Get lots of rest, and no strenuous activity. We do not take chances with head injuries.

RO

Okay.

BASHIR

I would also suggest that you keep reading your official records and personal logs - it might help to jog your memory.

KIRA

Thank you, Doctor. Come on, Ro.
I'll take you to your quarters.

Kira gently guides Ro off the bio-bed and towards the door.
Ro is still unsure and wary. Nog hovers by the doorway...

NOG

Lieutenant, I want to apologise.

RO

Okay. ...Why?

NOG

I was in charge of the work team
when you got hurt. I feel like
it's my fault. I'm sorry.

RO

Thanks, I guess. Nog, is it?
(he nods)

I'm sorry... I don't even know
what species you are.

NOG

I'm a Ferengi. I don't think your
people had met my people yet at
this point.

RO

And you're in Starfleet?

NOG

Not all of us. Just me.

Ro nods - this is neutral information to her. Kira leads Ro
on, but she makes sure to give a warm and forgiving pat on
the shoulder to Nog on the way past.

6 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Ro and Kira emerge from the Infirmary. Ro looks around in
quiet shock at all the colourful sights. Kira stays close.
Further down the corridor, walking along and minding his
own business, is Taran'atar. Ro sees him, flinches again.

RO
What is that?

KIRA
His name's Taran'atar. He's a
Jem'Hadar soldier.

RO
Is he in Starfleet too?

KIRA
Oh no, definitely not.

RO
He looks like he's designed to
hurt you.

KIRA
Let's get you home.

Kira pointedly leads her away, towards a turbolift. Quark stands in the doorway of his bar, wiping the windows. He sees Kira guiding Ro away, and stops. Something must be wrong. But then he is distracted as Taran'atar approaches.

QUARK
Is it disembowelling time again
already?

TARAN'ATAR
Your jokes only irritate me. One
diplomat should speak to another
more diplomatically.

QUARK
Yeah... well... shut up.

Quark pouts, and turns back to his cleaning, distracted by worries about Ro. Taran'atar enters the bar.

7 **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

Taran'atar heads towards the stairs to the upper level, and begins to climb. Everyone gives him a wide berth. On the stairs, L'Haan climbs demurely behind him.

L'HAAN

It amuses me that you think
yourself a better diplomat than
the Ferengi.

TARAN'ATAR

Do not speak to me. I am tired of
your jabbering.

ANGLE

Now L'Haan is waiting for him at the top of the stairs.

L'HAAN

You have been grateful for my
assistance in the past.

TARAN'ATAR

You promised to help me in my
mission. Instead you have only
annoyed me at every turn.

In his frustration, Taran'atar is forgetting to keep his
voice down. He walks past L'Haan, on down the corridor.

ANGLE

(In the background, we can see crewman SEVAK sat at an
upper level table, eating breakfast.)

L'Haan now waits outside the door of the holosuite.

L'HAAN

I am trying to teach you to
control your emotions.

Taran'atar gets in L'Haan's face, growling threateningly.

TARAN'ATAR

You are failing.

SEVAK

...can't help but overhear thanks to his Vulcan hearing.

SEVAK' s POV

In the distance, Taran'atar sneers and growls at thin air.

TARAN'ATAR
I warn you. Leave me alone.

TARAN' ATAR

...grits his teeth at L'Haan...

L'HAAN
How do you hope to threaten a
figment of your own imagination?

TARAN'ATAR
Be silent!

His hand shoots out to throttle L'Haan...

SEVAK' s POV

Taran'atar with his hand out, attacking nothing...

TARAN' ATAR

...realising the pointlessness of it, frustrated. L'Haan is now stood behind him...

L'HAAN
You disappoint me, Taran'atar.

Taran'atar tries to get his anger under control. He turns to the holosuite door, determined to ignore her. The door opens, and he enters. L'Haan calmly follows him inside...

SEVAK

...can't help but cock an eyebrow in curiosity.

8 INT. DS9 - RO' S QUARTERS

Where we were barely an hour before, but now Ro enters the room as a stranger, not recognising any of it. Kira is still with her, being the considerate guide. Ro wanders around, tentatively exploring.

RO

If it's a Federation starbase, why does it look Cardassian?

KIRA

It was designed by Cardassians, during the Occupation. This was their base of operations in the Bajoran system.

RO

(realises,
surprised)

This is Terok Nor?

KIRA

You remember Terok Nor?

RO

I guess so.

KIRA

(turns away)

I'll let you rest.

RO

(urgent)

Don't go.

(bashful)

I don't know anybody here... but I feel like I can trust you.

Kira chuckles slightly.

RO

Is that funny?

KIRA

No... it's just that you and I haven't always been the best of friends.

RO

Why not?

KIRA

Not sure, really. I think we're probably just too much alike.

Ro nods, just absorbing all the information.

RO

So the Occupation's over?

KIRA

Yes. Nearly ten years ago now.

RO

Were you in the Resistance?

KIRA

Yes.

RO

Was I?

KIRA

...I don't think so.

RO

Why not?

KIRA

I don't know. You never really seemed to want to talk about it. And there aren't a lot of records from those days.

RO

But... I would have fought, wouldn't I? I wouldn't just run away.

KIRA

(awkward)

Ro... I really don't know.

RO

(determined)

No. I was in the Resistance. I must have been.

(beat;
looks around)
And this place... Terok Nor...

Close on Ro, and she grasps for memories that are just out of reach, and we go into...

9 **INT. RAIDER COCKPIT**

A rickety, dead-end raider ship, held together with stembolts and hope. Beginning on YOUNG RO, approx 17, at helm.

YOUNG RO
There it is. Terok Nor.

Looking out of the front window with Ro, we see Terok Nor in the distance and gradually growing closer. The station is surrounded by Cardassian *Galor* and *Hideki*-class ships, connecting and disconnecting from its many docking ports.

Intense and determined, Young Ro turns to her companion, a Bajoran boy of about the same age, called BIS. He crouches in the cramped space at the back, working makeshift panels.

Now he looks up and out of the window, with an excited grin of victory. This is the culmination of all their plans.

BIS
We haven't been detected?

YOUNG RO
No. The freighter's thorium signature is blocking their sensors. We're in its shadow.

BIS
(points)
Here comes the Ferengi ship.

They look out of the window, and see a Ferengi Marauder vessel manoeuvring slowly towards the station.

BIS
You're sure you set the device properly?

YOUNG RO

(sharp)

Of course I did. This isn't my first time, Bis.

BIS

And no-one saw you.

YOUNG RO

There was one ugly troll in the cargo bay. He didn't see me. He was too busy whining to himself about being the ship's cook, and how he'd have his own moon by now if he'd only stuck to the rules and stayed away from the boss's sister, and how he should just quit and open a bar somewhere.

BIS

Good. So, as soon as the spoon-heads have loaded the big-ears up with as much unrefined uridium ore as they can carry, we send the signal.

(beat; grin)

And they'll see the explosion all the way to Cardassia.

Bis grins with satisfaction. Ro isn't so sure...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

...Except that it's Terok Nor. Cardassian ships sit at most of the docking ports. The Ferengi vessel is at a lower pylon. Bajor itself hangs bright and blue-green nearby.

Pulling back and away from the station, we eventually find a large freighter vessel hovering at a distance. Moving under the freighter into its shadow, we can now see a small two-person raider ship, like in 2x03 "The Siege."

11 INT. RAIDER COCKPIT

Young Ro and Bis wait tensely in their tiny, decrepit ship. They watch out of the window, waiting for the perfect time. Ro turns to Bis, worry on her face...

YOUNG RO

Bis, I'm not sure this is right.
I'm not sure we should be doing
this.

BIS

I've been planning this for over a
year, Laren. It's a little late
for second thoughts.

YOUNG RO

(points)

But look at that! There must be
hundreds of Ferengi on that ship.
And what about all the Bajorans on
the station? There's more of them
than there are Cardassians. They
can't all be collaborators.

BIS

They're collateral damage. Come
on, Laren. Just think - we're
about to kill Gul Dukat! Do you
have any idea of the significance
of that?

YOUNG RO

Yes, I know. But Keeve Falor told me -

BIS

(angry)

Forget Keeve Falor! Just wait. Once Terok Nor is gone, once the prefect is dead, Keeve and the others will see I was right!

YOUNG RO

But what if the Cardassians just send another prefect? What if they build another station? We'd be killing all those Bajorans for nothing.

BIS

They'll walk with the Prophets soon, can't you see that?

YOUNG RO

(derisive)

How comforting for you! To have something to believe in, something to justify what we just did! What I just did!

BIS

Exactly! What you just did! You're the one who stole the Ferengi codes. You're the one who planted the bomb. You're in too deep to pull out now.

Ro pauses, comes to a decision. She turns to her panel, begins urgently pressing buttons.

YOUNG RO

No I'm not.

BIS

(jerks forward)

What are you doing?

YOUNG RO

I'm using those codes to warn the
Ferengi they've got a bomb on
their ship. Before it's too late.

BIS

You can't do that!

Bis pushes forward, planning on stopping Ro... but she
raises a phaser and points it at him. He starts to get that
she is serious. Tears in her eyes, but she is determined.

BIS

Laren... please...

It's done. She turns back to Bis, crying openly now.

BIS

Laren, if you weren't sure... why
did you do it?

YOUNG RO

For you! To impress you, to make
you think I was strong...

Bis hardens. He doesn't think she's strong anymore.

BIS

Now what?

YOUNG RO

Go home. I'll transport you to the
freighter. Just hide. With luck
it'll get you back to Valo Two in
a week or so.

BIS

Their shields are up.

YOUNG RO

(scoff)

Please.

She turns back to her panels and starts work again.

BIS
Where will you go?

YOUNG RO
I don't know. Keeve won't want me back after this. And Bram... the moment he died, the rest of them kicked me out of the cell. I guess I'll just go... somewhere else.

BIS
But I thought... you and me...

YOUNG RO
I thought so too. I guess I was wrong. Goodbye, Bis.

Ro hits a panel, and with a distraught look, knowing he'll never see her again, Bis disappears in a transporter beam. Crying, Ro works the panels and gets the ship underway.

12 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Under the shadow of the freighter, Ro's tiny raider ship pulls slowly away, and heads in the opposite direction from Terok Nor. They never even knew she was there.

13 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Now, adult Ro sits curled into the cushions of the sofa. Kira sits nearby, having just heard the story.

KIRA
Ro... I had no idea. I'm so sorry.

VAUGHN (comm)
Vaughn to Kira.

KIRA
(taps combadge)
Go ahead, Commander.

VAUGHN (comm)
Captain, could I speak to you in your office, please? Mister Sevak

has brought something interesting
to my attention.

Kira glances to Ro, worried to leave her alone. But she has
a job to do.

KIRA

On my way. Kira out.

(back to Ro)

You'll be okay. Just read your
files, keep trying to remember.
I'll send Julian to check on you
in a little while.

Kira gets up to leave. Ro calls after her...

RO

Nerys... thank you.

KIRA

You're welcome.

Kira leaves. Ro sits back, and looks around, feeling lost.

14 **INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE**

Taran'atar stands at attention in front of Kira's desk,
nervous, as if being dressed down. Kira sits behind her
desk, sympathetic and trying to understand. VAUGHN stays
quiet, sitting way over in the lounge area, observing.

KIRA

It's not my intention to pry,
Taran'atar. But... are you feeling
okay?

TARAN'ATAR

Why do you ask?

KIRA

Crewman Sevak saw you talking to
yourself in Quark's. Arguing with
yourself, actually.

TARAN'ATAR

I thought I was the spy.

KIRA

He wasn't spying on you. He just happened to be there. And from the way he described it, you weren't exactly trying to hide. If there's something going on, Taran'atar, we want to help.

Taran'atar looks past Kira, and tightens, because...

L'HAAN is sitting sideways in the windowsill. She turns to look at him, almost daring him to say anything. Taran'atar growls under his breath. He looks back to Kira, admits it.

TARAN'ATAR

The dreams.

KIRA

I assumed you'd got them under control. I know you followed Commander Matthias's advice.

He looks to L'Haan in the window - she seems quite unhappy that Taran'atar is speaking out.

TARAN'ATAR

I did. It made them worse. Now I see the Vulcan wherever I go. Asleep or awake.

Disquieted, Kira exchanges a worried glance with Vaughn. Looking back to Taran'atar, she sees his tense stance, his anxious, darting eyes...

KIRA

(cautious)

Do you see her right now?

ANGLE

Taran'atar, stood facing Kira's desk, and now L'Haan is stood behind him. Taran'atar knows she is there.

TARAN'ATAR

I do.

Kira again looks to Vaughn. Is he ill? Insane? Dangerous? What do they do? She turns back, treading on eggshells.

KIRA

Do you want to see Matthias again?
Or Bashir? Would that help?

TARAN'ATAR

I don't know what would help. This kind of defect would lead to execution in the Dominion. But that option is no longer open to me.

KIRA

Should I contact Vannis?

TARAN'ATAR

No. She already resents this assignment. I will not appear weak in front of her.

L'Haan steps between Taran'atar and Kira, stares at him with Vulcan-cloaked disgust.

L'HAAN

You are weak.

Taran'atar flinches again, his anger growing. Kira tenses, worried. Is he going to snap?

KIRA

Taran'atar, answer me honestly now. Could this... condition... present a danger? To you or to other residents of the station?

TARAN'ATAR

I do not know, Captain. But I have sworn not to hurt anyone here. And I will hold to that promise... if I am able.

KIRA

Alright. I can't order you to do anything. But I "suggest" that you go to the Infirmary for a full medical scan.

TARAN'ATAR

Understood, Captain.

VAUGHN

I also want to make it clear, Ambassador, that I will assign a security detail to escort you at all times, at least until we know what we're dealing with.

Taran'atar nods, not offended. Then he turns and leaves the office, walking out across Ops. Kira turns back to Vaughn.

KIRA

What do you think?

VAUGHN

No idea. His mind was clearly altered by contact with this Vulcan woman, the Intendant's servant. Perhaps it just couldn't handle the change.

Worried and lost for answers, Vaughn gets up and heads to the door. He exits onto Ops...

15 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE (CONTINUOUS)

...Poking his head out of the door, he looks to the right and sees Taran'atar just stepping aboard the turbolift. Vaughn looks to his left, where Sevak works the tactical console while also keeping an eye on the Jem'Hadar.

Vaughn nods significantly to Sevak: Follow him. Sevak nods his understanding, locks out his console, and heads off.

TURBOLIFT

Taran'atar stands silently in the lift as it takes him away... with L'Haan stood equally silently behind him.

16 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro is curled up on the couch, reading a padd. What she has read has put tears in her eyes. The door alarm CHIMES.

RO

Come in.

The door opens, and Bashir enters tentatively.

BASHIR

Ro? Can I come in? It's me, Doctor Bashir.

Ro nods, still downcast. He steps further in, approaches.

BASHIR

Do you mind if I scan you? Just to see how you're healing.

RO

(still on padd)

Go ahead.

While she continues to read the padd, he opens a tricorder and scans her head. After a few moments, he reads the results, nods approvingly, and closes the tricorder.

BASHIR

Things are progressing nicely. Your memories should be back by the end of the day.

Ro finally looks up at him, stricken.

RO

I don't want them back.

BASHIR

What do you mean?

Ro gets up, tears still in her eyes, brandishing the padd.

RO

The woman in those records and logs - she's horrible! I don't want to be her!

BASHIR

Ro, don't be silly. Of course you're not a horrible person.

She shoves the padd at him, beginning to cry.

RO

Really? Look at the things I've done. Look at the life I've lived. I've betrayed everyone I've ever known. So much war and death and anger... and that's only the official records. I'm remembering stuff that isn't even in there! I don't want to go back to that life!

BASHIR

Ro, I'm sorry. There's nothing I can do.

RO

(tearful shriek)

But I don't want to remember!
Please... you have to make it stop!

She collapses into tears. Bashir goes to her and hugs her, lets her cry it out. He has no idea what else to do.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Taran'atar walks down the corridor, alone. He turns a corner...

...and sees Sevak standing at attention at the far end of the corridor, watching him approach. Taran'atar tenses, a little indignant, but doesn't comment.

He stops at the door to his quarters, opens the door...

18 INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

...and walks into his quarters, alone. Once he is inside and the door has closed, he jerks to a stop, surprised...

ANGLE

...because L'Haan is stood right in front of him.

L'HAAN

I was under the impression that
Jem'Hadar were strong. You should
be ashamed of yourself.

Taran'atar turns away, trying to ignore her. She follows.

L'HAAN (cont)

Do you now run to Starfleet for
help with every problem? Is that
the new order of things?

He spins on her and aims a fatal PUNCH for her chest...

ANGLE

...except that now she is behind him.

L'HAAN

I am curious. Jem'Hadar are not by
nature an emotional race. They are
disciplined, focused on a mission

above all else. And yet you...
your emotions appear to be in
great need of a Vulcan's control.

TARAN'ATAR

Because of you! You constantly
whisper in my ear and drive me to
distraction!

L'HAAN

And is that how you wish to appear
to the entire station? Unable to
control yourself? Because that is
what will happen if you go to the
Infirmary. Everyone will know.

TARAN'ATAR

I must go. Kira told me to.

L'HAAN

You don't have to do anything she
says. Your only loyalty is to the
Founder, isn't that so?

ANGLE

Stood alone, panting hard with frustration... he considers
her words. Is she right?

19 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

The door slides open. Ro stands in the doorway, having got
herself under control from earlier. She is blocking the way
for Vaughn, who stands out in the hall.

RO

(wary)

Who are you?

VAUGHN

Elias Vaughn. I'm the First
Officer here.

RO

Are you my "friend" too?

VAUGHN

I prefer to think of myself as a mentor. But to be honest we haven't spent much time together.

RO

Well, at least you're honest. Come on in. Everyone else has.

She slouches back into the room, letting him enter.

VAUGHN

Do you need anything?

RO

A new brain would be nice. Or maybe a new face. I've been staring at myself in the mirror, trying to figure out when the teenager I remember got so old.

Vaughn laughs out loud, which only annoys Ro.

VAUGHN

Old? Please... You're not even forty yet.

(beat)

So things are coming back?

RO

Yeah. I wish they weren't, but I've been told there's not much I can do about that.

She picks up the padd, stares balefully at its screen.

RO (cont)

According to this, I'm just at the point where I screw it all up. Which is something I seem to do a lot, apparently.

Vaughn takes a seat, making sure to give Ro her space.

VAUGHN

I've followed your career with some interest, Lieutenant. I'm willing to help if I can.

RO

Really. Then maybe you can explain why I had a promising career as a Starfleet officer and threw it away by disobeying orders and getting eight of my away team killed on Garon Two.

(re padd)

Because this sure as fire doesn't explain it.

She slumps down. Vaughn is careful not to say too much.

VAUGHN

I know some things. But I'd be more interested to hear your perspective. The official record is rather one-sided.

RO

I'm not even sure how I ended up in Starfleet at all. How does a runaway scrat like me get into the academy?

VAUGHN

As I recall, that was down to LJ Akaar. Bajor wasn't a Federation world at the time, you see, so you would have needed a good word from a command-level officer. He was passing on the favour, after Hikaru Sulu did the same for him. He must have been very impressed with you to have done that.

RO

Akaar... the name does sound familiar...

She racks her brain for memories again, and we go into...

20 **INT. STARFLEET JAG OFFICE**

Beginning on AKAAR, as a newly minted admiral. He sits at the centre of a row of three Starfleet judges, staring at the accused with loathing and very personal disappointment.

That accused being Ro, 10 years previously. She wears a red TNG season 1 era Starfleet uniform, accessorised with the red headband she always wore and a pair of handcuffs.

AKAAR

Does the accused have anything
further to say in her defence?

Ro stares into the middle distance, a million miles away. She pulls her eyes up to meet his...

WADE (v.o.)

(ghostly, distant)

Ro! Get down!

CUT TO:

21 **EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY**

Ro is pushed sideways, out of the way of a screaming PHASER SHOT, by a leaping Commander WADE (male human, red uniform, in his 40s). The pair of them land hard on stony ground as the phaser shot goes over their heads.

From the ground, they watch another officer in blue catch another phaser shot full in the chest. He goes down dead.

WADE

Connors!

Wade grabs his own phaser and fires back at the assailant - a SERAPHAMI, a mostly humanoid alien with grey-blue skin and a face that is a blend of dinosaur and gorilla.

WADE

Everyone fall back! Head for the
med facility!

Wade and Ro scramble to their feet, dodging more phasers...

WIDE ANGLE

A rocky canyon, deep but narrow. A dozen Starfleet officers (early TNG uniforms, various colours) dash along the base of it as fast as they can, avoiding shots from above. Alien snipers shoot from ridges high above. Ro and Wade shoot back as they run. A security female - CAPUTO - shouts out.

CAPUTO

Where did they come from? There were no life signs!

A second officer is unlucky - he goes down.

22 INT. STARFLEET BASECAMP - DAY

Little more than the shattered shell of an old building. Walls and roof crumbling, barely any coverage at all. The remaining Starfleet officers rush in and dive for cover.

Ro looks carefully back out at the canyon. She can see the two dead Starfleet bodies on the ground. She looks up to the ridges where the Seraphami are hiding. One of them fires - the phaser beam comes dangerously close.

WADE

(taps combadge)

Commander Wade to the *Wellington*.
We need a beam-up right now!

No response. The rest of the away team begin to fire from concealment. As they continue urgently exchanging fire...

WADE

Repeat - Wade to *Wellington*! Do you hear me? Damn it!

RO

We're surrounded, outnumbered too probably. Given time, they have the power to kill us all.

WADE

Ro's right. So we need to do something they won't expect.

CAPUTO

Like what?

WADE

A flanking manoeuvre. Oldest trick in the book, but I doubt the Seraphami have too many military historians.

RO

What's to stop them taking this position, and the colonists?

WADE

You are, Ensign. You and Caputo stay here, and give them the impression that we're all still holed up. Think you can do it?

RO

Do you have any doubt?

WADE

Good answer. Let's go!

Wade scrambles towards a rear exit out of the camp, and all but Ro and Caputo follow him. Both women dash back and forth, keeping up a constant fire.

23 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY

Some of the Seraphami are moving down into the canyon now, firing more directly at the Starfleet hiding place. Phaser shots come back from that direction, hitting a couple.

24 INT. STARFLEET BASECAMP - DAY

Suddenly the shots from the Seraphami stop. After a few more shots of their own, Ro and Caputo notice the quiet.

RO

Huh. They're awfully quiet all of a sudden.

Wary, Caputo pulls out a tricorder, takes readings...

CAPUTO

Unless this tricorder's haywire,
I'd say they've gone into their
hibernation mode.

RO

That healing trance thing? We
didn't hit them that bad.

CAPUTO

I guess we did better than we
thought. Pretty fragile for
terrorists, if you ask me.

Ro reacts uncomfortably to the T word...

CAPUTO (cont)

But in that state, they're even
more vulnerable. Even just a
glancing blow from a phaser on
stun could kill them.

Ro realises the problem. She looks out at the canyon, sees
the Seraphami slumped over as if asleep...

RO

And Wade won't hesitate to shoot
first and ask questions later.

CAPUTO

He could slaughter them all.

They turn back into the hideout, crouch against the walls.

RO

What can we do? The combadges
aren't working.

Still racking their brains for a solution... Ro looks back
out onto the canyon...

25 EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY

Up on an even higher ridge than the Seraphami, Wade creeps
into place. He nods right and left - at other crew - and
takes aim at the aliens further down.

26 **INT. STARFLEET BASECAMP - DAY**

Ro watches this...

RO

I can't let him do it...

And she makes her decision. She runs out of the shelter...

27 **EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY**

...She raises her phaser... and shoots.

WADE takes the shot in the chest and oomphs in pain. He tumbles forward, down the ravine...

CAPUTO

No!

Instantly, the Seraphami, who had been slumped over as if asleep, jerk back awake again and shoot at Ro. Caputo runs out of the shelter, grabs for Ro, pulls her down, saving her from the shot...

CAPUTO

Damn it, Ensign! It was a trick!

But the Seraphami have already got Wade. One grabs his broken body and lifts it over his head, roaring with satisfaction. The rest turn to where Wade had been and begin firing. It's a bloodbath for the Starfleet team.

Caputo grabs Ro and drags her back to the shelter...

28 **INT. STARFLEET BASECAMP**

Caputo throws Ro to the ground, furious.

CAPUTO

They were faking it to lure us out of hiding! And now we're all dead, thanks to you!

Ro stares, dumbfounded. She knows Caputo is right.

29 **INT. STARFLEET JAG OFFICE**

As Akaar glares down at Ro, in the docks...

RO
(quiet, withdrawn)
No. I have nothing to say.

AKAAR
Very well. Since the accused has chosen not to defend herself, I have no hesitation in passing sentence.

RO (v.o.)
What could I say? I was guilty.

30 **INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS**

As Ro relates this tale to Vaughn...

RO
Akaar didn't want to hear it anyway. He was merciless.

VAUGHN
(quiet, gentle)
You broke his heart.

RO
He doesn't have one.

VAUGHN
(encouraging)
But you came through it. If not Akaar, you found other people willing to believe in you. Kira, Picard... me.

Ro looks up at him, grateful. But it doesn't really help all that much.

VAUGHN
If nothing else, it's good that you're getting more of your memory back.

RO
Doesn't even feel like my memory.

VAUGHN
(curious)
What do you mean?

RO
I mean, it's not me. It's like
it's a whole different person
forcing her way into my head. And
I'm not sure I even know who she
is.

Something about that strikes Vaughn as... interesting. He
stops to ponder it for a moment, frowning, an idea slowly
forming in his mind...

VAUGHN
Lieutenant... excuse me, please.
I have some research to do.

And he gets up from the couch and exits without another
word. Ro is left wondering what just happened...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

31 INT. DS9 - TARAN'ATAR'S QUARTERS

Taran'atar sits at his desk, studying alone. Then L'Haan comes and perches on the edge of the desk, musing out loud.

L'HAAN

I suppose there is something to be said for the strength that emotions can bring. My former mistress indulged her emotions as a matter of course.

Taran'atar seethes, but ignores her. Keeps studying.

L'HAAN

My life in her service required so much self-discipline. It was a difficult task, without doubt. It must be similarly difficult for you. Keeping secrets from Kira, from your own people. I understand the temptation to divest yourself of the burden.

Taran'atar changes the screen, and tries to concentrate.

L'HAAN

Of course, the opportunity to release my burden was denied to me... thanks to you.

FLASHBACK - 9x21 "THE SOUL KEY"

Taran'atar snaps the real L'Haan's neck.

BACK TO SCENE

Unable to take any more, Taran'atar snaps and launches a PUNCH into the screen, exploding it in a shower of sparks.

CUT TO:

32 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro LAUGHing, as she sits alone in her room. Not reading the padd, just sitting there and laughing in slight amazement as a certain memory comes back to her. She shakes her head, pleasantly surprised that she can laugh.

The doorbell CHIMES again. She gets up to answer the door, still chuckling a little to herself. The door opens, and Quark stands there. Ro reacts with shock and a little fear.

RO

Aah! You! Prophets, how did you find me?

QUARK

I beg your pardon?

RO

(backs away)

Look, it wasn't my fault, okay? I only set the bomb because Bis told me to, and then I changed my mind and warned your DaiMon, and I know it meant spacing all your cargo, but if you think about it, I saved your life!

QUARK

(hands up)

Whoa whoa whoa whoa! Laren, I'm not going to hurt you. I just overheard Bashir and the rest of them talking. And I thought you might like something to eat.

He reaches off screen, and comes back with a large platter of foods of all kinds.

QUARK

I realise you may not know who I am right now. So allow me to introduce myself. My name is Quark, and I run the local drinking, dining and gambling establishment.

RO
You got your bar!

QUARK
(blank)
Umm... yeah.
(cheerful)
I should also inform you that we
are the best of friends!

RO
Hah! I know all about Ferengi and
how they treat women. You're just
here for the chance to take
advantage of a vulnerable female.

QUARK
(hurt)
What? No! Laren, I mean it...
we're friends. I just wanted to
make sure you were okay.

Ro is confused, but he seems nice enough. She lets him in.

QUARK
This is actually the first time
I've ever been in your quarters.

RO
So we're not that close friends.

QUARK
Hey - I may be a gentleman, but
I'm still a male. It wasn't for
lack of trying.

Ro chuckles. She finds him quite charming really.

QUARK
Did I hear you laughing before?

RO
How could you hear that?

He points to his ear, like, "duh." She concedes the point. She leads him back to the sofa, and they sit together.

RO

I just got back the memory of this time on the *Enterprise*. Some stupid technobabble field turned us all into children. The ship's bartender convinced me to try jumping up and down on the bed.

(chuckle)

Me! Jumping on the bed! I never jumped on a bed in my life!

QUARK

(grin)

I guess you just have a good relationship with us bartenders.

RO

I guess so. It's a nice memory. Doesn't feel like Ro Laren gets to have fun all that often.

QUARK

(laughs)

You are one of the most bad-tempered people I've ever met! That's part of what I love about you.

Ro's head snaps around to stare at him. He is horrified by his slip of the tongue and desperately changes the subject.

QUARK

Umm... so I know you fought with the Maquis against the Dominion. Surely you were happy when the war ended?

RO

I didn't even know when the war ended. I was hiding in a cave. As usual.

And we go into...

33 INT. CAVE

The usual kind of cave set, hard and jagged, with dripping water here and there, tree roots poking through the earth.

A figure dashes into the cave through a narrow passage, huddled into heavy clothing and holding a cloth over her head, dripping with water. It's been raining *hard* outside. The figure shakes off the excess water, peels off some of the layers, revealing a TRILL female called TEFF.

TEFF

Still nothing. I don't know what's going on.

Ro sits huddled against the rocky wall, shivering against the damp and cold. With her are other aliens of various species - a BOSLIC male, a human female, a couple more.

RO

Nothing in three days. We're just sitting in here waiting for the Jem'Hadar to come and kill us once and for all. So where the hell are they?

BOSLIC

Do you think the rumours are true? About the Cardassians switching sides?

RO

I'm not sure I care anymore.

TEFF

Ro... you're not giving up. I won't let you. You're the only one who's kept us all alive these last two years. You're a hero of the Maquis!

RO

There is no more Maquis, Teff! Everyone's dead. Eddington... Hudson... Kaz... Chakotay...

Macias. We're all that's left. It doesn't matter anymore.

Suddenly another figure runs in, also cloaked against the rain - a CYGNIAN male (golden skin, delicately pointed ears, catlike eyes). He shouts with glee...

CYGNIAN

It's over!

RO

What is?

CYGNIAN

Everything! We just got the word from our people in the Badlands... the Dominion's laid down arms. They're signing a treaty with the Federation!

BOSLIC

When did this happen?

CYGNIAN

A few days ago. The Jem'Hadar were in the middle of burning Cardassia to the ground, and then they just... stopped. No-one knows why.

RO

Certainly wasn't anything we did.

TEFF

Don't talk like that, Ro. You killed more Jem'Hadar than the rest of us put together.

RO

And what good did it do us? They just made more.

BOSLIC

We should celebrate!

RO

You go ahead. I'm not in the mood.

TEFF

Ro...

RO

Seriously, Teff. I can't. I've had enough. Enough fighting, enough hiding out in caves... I just want to go home.

The others look awkwardly between each other.

TEFF

Ro... there's nowhere left to go home to.

RO

Yes there is. There always has been.

A wistful smile starts to grow on her face, as she imagines going home to Bajor...

34 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Quark smiles warmly, having heard the story.

QUARK

Well, I'm thrilled you did come home. Otherwise you'd never have met me!

His good humour makes her chuckle through her gloominess. She shakes her head, dismissing such a ridiculous notion.

QUARK

I'm serious! Having you around makes this station a brighter place.

RO

Quark... why are you being so nice to me?

QUARK

Shouldn't I be?

RO

In my experience, the only time someone's being friendly for no reason is when they're about to stab you in the back.

QUARK

Exactly! See, this right here is why we're friends. That's a Ferengi Rule of Acquisition you just said, number forty-eight. "The bigger the smile, the sharper the knife."

RO

(laugh)

So you trust me because we're both incapable of trusting anyone else?

QUARK

I trust you because you don't pretend to be anything you're not. The galaxy is filled with people trying to convince you they're this thing or that thing. But you have no problem telling it like it is. That's a very attractive quality in a woman.

She smiles. Leans a little closer to him.

RO

It's a long time since anyone called me attractive.

She leans closer still... could they be maybe on their way to kiss? But then her expression changes. Horror, fear... a new memory returning to her.

RO

There's a Jem'Hadar on the station...

CUT TO:

35 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Turbolift doors open, and Taran'atar and Sevak emerge onto the Promenade. Taran'atar is already on edge. His breathing is heavy with the effort of holding his temper.

ANGLE

...and of course L'Haan is right there.

L'HAAN
If you insist on taking this
path... everyone will know.

TARAN'ATAR
Be silent.

ANGLE

Just Sevak and Taran'atar. Sevak is confused...

SEVAK
Ambassador?

Taran'atar stops, his fury bubbling over...

TARAN'ATAR
Escort me to the Infirmary.

Sevak nods. They begin to walk again, but...

ANGLE

...L'Haan is right in his face.

L'HAAN
No!

TARAN'ATAR
Get out of my way!

He reaches out to shove her aside...

ANGLE

...but there is no-one there. The other pedestrians on the Promenade are starting to look at him funny...

He turns... and she's standing there. The background extras are very aware there is an angry Jem'Hadar in their midst.

L'HAAN

You must not go to the Infirmary.

Taran'atar turns away again...

ANGLE

...and she is there again.

L'HAAN

I cannot allow it.

Roaring with anger, losing control, he aims a PUNCH at L'Haan's face. Just as his fist makes contact...

ANGLE

...we see that he has actually hit Sevak right in the face. Sevak goes down, there is a GASP from the crowd...

Taran'atar spins back and forth... everywhere he looks, L'Haan is there... he is losing control...

L'HAAN

You cannot silence me. I am inside you. I am part of you.

On the ground, Sevak taps his combadge once...

Taran'atar roars and begins to swing his fists at nothing, fighting thin air. Everywhere he turns L'Haan taunts him...

Desperately fighting an invisible phantom, Taran'atar is suddenly hit by a PHASER SHOT... he is barely affected... he turns and GROWLS...

...at Sevak, who has his phaser out, pointing at him. Infuriated, Taran'atar starts to loom upon him...

Sevak FIRES again... No effect. Adrenaline and fury are keeping Taran'atar going... Sevak is starting to worry.

Another shot hits Taran'atar from the side... he turns and sees CENN emerging from the Security office...

...and another shot from the other side, where BOWERS is striding purposefully out of Quark's bar, weapon drawn...

...and yet still Taran'atar keeps coming, roaring with rage, ferocious, a wild animal caged and cornered...

With a nod of agreement, Sevak, Bowers and Cenn all fire simultaneously...

...Taran'atar takes all three phaser shots at once. It's finally enough to knock him to the ground.

As he lies on the floor, with security closing in on him from every angle, he looks up...

ANGLE

...and sees L'Haan staring down at him, smug and pitying.

L'HAAN
I warned you what would happen.

...and then he falls unconscious.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

36 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

Ro SCREAMS... on the floor, having fallen off the sofa in her panic and all-consuming fear, screaming and crying at the memory going through her mind...

Quark is with her, trying his best to hold her and comfort her - a hopeless task, as she SHRIEKS in absolute terror...

She collapses back onto the floor, where the food tray has been toppled and strewn on the floor in her thrashing... her back arches and she WAILS to the heavens...

FLASHBACK - 10x05 "DEEP DOWN"

Ro is barrelled down by an invisible force, throwing her backwards down the length of the corridor...

BACK TO SCENE

Ro shrieks in pain... Quark flutters desperately...

QUARK

Laren... Laren... Oh frinx... What
is it, what's wrong?

FLASHBACK - 10x05 "DEEP DOWN"

Ro lands hard against the bulkhead, her back CRACKs, she slumps to the ground, her neck at an unnatural angle, her eyes look up and flare in horror...

BACK TO SCENE

And she SCREAMS louder than ever, paralytic with terror... Quark is almost as terrified for her, no idea what to do. He jumps up and runs to the comm panel, hits it urgently.

QUARK

Computer! Call the Infirmary! I
need somebody in Lieutenant Ro's
quarters on the double!

Scared, he looks back to Ro, still on the floor...

RO' s POV

As she imagines Taran'atar looming over her on the floor of her quarters, his face twisted in rage...

CUT TO:

37 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS AREA

Taran'atar rages inside one of the cells, thrashing in incoherent fury, battering his arms against the inside of the force field, bellowing like a trapped beast...

Bowers and Cenn stand in the centre, watching warily as the raging Jem'Hadar turns and GRABS an imaginary figure by the throat, raises the invisible form up and SLAMS it against a wall.

Nearby, Nurse Richter runs a dermal regenerator over Sevak's green-bruised face...

RICHTER

You should be in the Infirmary.

SEVAK

The Ambassador is in my charge.
I must remain here.

BASHIR (comm)

(urgent)

Kristen! I need you in here!

RICHTER

(taps combadge)

On my way, Doctor!

Making sure Sevak's face is okay, she runs off to the exit.

Sevak joins Bowers and Cenn, watching Taran'atar...

TARAN' ATAR

Holding the invisible figure up by the throat...

FLASHBACK - 9x21 "THE SOUL KEY"

Taran'atar snaps the real L'Haan's neck.

BACK TO SCENE

He is thrown back by the force of the memory, crashing into the force field - he is too distracted and maddened to even notice. He spins and continues to fight nothing...

38 INT. DS9 - VAUGHN'S QUARTERS

Vaughn sits at his desk, alone in his darkened quarters. He is concentrating hard on the screen, which we don't need to see at first. Whatever it is, it worries him.

He flicks to another page...

COMPUTER

This file is restricted to level seven security and above. Please enter authorisation code.

Vaughn taps some entries into the computer.

COMPUTER

Code confirmed. Download authorised.

Vaughn reads the classified page... everything he reads is only confirming his worst fears.

During this, we gradually PAN around until the screen and what is upon it come into view...

It is an official Starfleet record, showing the face of T'PRYNN, Vaughn's old Vulcan colleague from Intelligence (8x22 "Greater Good") in a red TOS-era uniform. The text with the headshot says LT CMDR T'PRYNN, DECEASED 2349.

He flicks to another page. This one's title says KNOWN CASES OF KATRIC POSSESSION. He reads...

VAUGHN (v.o.)

Captain...

39 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Vaughn stands in front of Kira's desk, as she sits behind.

VAUGHN

...I think I know what's wrong
with Mister Taran'atar... and it's
definitely not good.

Off Kira's worried reaction...

40 INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS AREA

Having exhausted himself somewhat from all the thrashing,
Taran'atar is now on the floor, slumped into a corner of
his cell. He looks up...

...and L'Haan is staring down at him. He stares back...

41 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Ro sits on the bio-bed again. Tears drying on her face as
she stares into the middle distance. Bashir is with her...

BASHIR

(delicately)

It was just an emotional reaction
to the memory of your past trauma
suddenly reasserting itself.
Physically, you're fine. Any pain
is purely psychosomatic.

Quark pushes forward protectively to Ro's side.

QUARK

(snide)

That's a real comfort, Doctor.

BASHIR

All I mean is, you'll recover.

Ro hops off the bio-bed onto tentative feet. She pulls
herself together, lifts her head, looks him in the eye.

RO
You're right. All my memories are
back. I'm fine now. Everything's
fine. Thank you, Doctor.

BASHIR
You're welcome, Lieutenant.

Ro moves to take Quark's hands, gently and warmly...

RO
Quark... I remember you now. You
were there the first time, and you
were there when I went through it
all again. You're always there for
me. That's...
(sweet smile)
...a very attractive quality in a
man.

She leans down, and kisses him gently on the lips. Nothing
too intense, but enough to let him know it's for real.

Then she turns and walks out of the Infirmary. Bashir
exchanges a look of sideswiped surprise with the nearby
Richter. Quark is happily stunned...

42 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

Ro walks along the corridor, alone. She smiles and nods at
the passers-by she recognises. But the moment they are
gone, the smile drops from her face. She comes to the door
to her quarters, presses the control to open the door...

43 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS

...and walks into her quarters. She is calm, under control
now. Everything is back to normal.

She looks down at the spilled food from Quark's tray,
covering the floor in front of the sofa, squashed and
ground into the carpet from where she landed on it.

She turns away from it and heads to the bathroom.

BATHROOM

She walks in... stops at the sink and looks at herself in the mirror. And stares.

The smooth façade is starting to crack. Her bottom lip quivers. Her eyes wrinkle. She turns to the side...

...to the rubbish bin. She goes to it, pushes open the flap, dives her hand inside, and begins rummaging around.

After a moment of rummaging without success, she pulls out the thing she was looking for... the hypospray.

With a blank expression, she goes back to the mirror, looks at herself, looks at the hypospray...

...and then slowly and deliberately PRESSES it to her neck. She SIGHS with relief as the painkiller hisses into her system. And she stares at her own reflection...

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW