

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

9x24 - "Ha'mara."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on the novel

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: The Soul Key

by Olivia Woods

NOTE: This episode features three different versions of Kira Nerys. For clarity, we will refer to them as follows:

KIRA - Captain Kira Nerys of Starfleet, who has transported to the alternate universe to confront Iliana Ghemor.

ILIANA - Our universe's version of Iliana Ghemor, who has gained control of the alternate Terok Nor while impersonating the Intendant.

GHEMOR - The Mirror Universe's version of Iliana Ghemor. Currently left behind on Deep Space Nine by Kira.

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 MONTAGE FROM PREVIOUS EPS

Silent images flash before us, emotional moments that fade in and out, coming gradually faster and faster, building...

-- Dukat first notices Iliana at the party (9x21)

-- Bashir and Dax drop their hands, as they break up on the runabout trip back from Trill (9x02)

-- Ro and Taran'atar sit together at a table in Quark's, as Kira and Sisko walk by (9x04)

-- Prynn watches tearfully as Shar embraces his bondmates at Thriss's funeral (9x09)

-- General Lenaris runs the ashes of Sidau village through his fingers (9x10)

-- Iliana looks at her new Bajoran face in a mirror (9x21)

-- Sisko looks a little confused as something occurs to him, under the tree with Kasidy and Rebecca (9x10)

-- Quark's face falls as Ro breaks up with him in the security office (9x12)

-- Vaughn slams his hand on the biobed, arguing with Doctor Girani (9x10)

-- Dukat looms over Iliana-as-Kira in her jail cell (9x21)

-- Nog stares angry up at Taran'atar in engineering (9x13)

-- Vaughn reaches out to hold Opaka's hand (9x10)

-- Iliana huddles into the cold water of the shower (9x22)

-- Ro holds her phaser on Taran'atar, who has just killed the Vorta Luaran (9x13)

-- Taran'atar throws his knife into Kira's chest (9x17)

-- Bashir urgently working on Kira in the infirmary (9x18)

-- Kira first finds herself in a Prophet vision (9x18)

-- Quark squeezes Ro's hand as she lies on a biobed (9x18)

-- General Kira charges out the gates of Parek Tonn (9x20)

-- Bashir and Nog's faces drop as they first discover the image of the Intendant in Taran'atar's comm logs (9x18)

-- Odo watches an Ascendant walk out of the Link (9x16)

-- Kira in her Prophet vision, with the burning Bajorans, Eav'oq and Ascendants (9x19)

-- Sisko and Quark share a look in the infirmary (9x19)

-- Iliana and Ghemor face each other via Orb vision (9x23)

-- Vaughn arguing with Bowers in the ready room (9x19)

-- The Nausicaan assassin collapses forward, killed by Ghemor's sword (9x20)

-- Kira first faces MU-Ghemor, the Cardassian Woman (9x21)

-- Taran'atar backhands Prynn in the *Euphrates* (9x19)
-- Vaughn crumbling in grief in the ready room (9x18)
-- Taran'atar smashes the neuropulse device to bits (9x20)
-- Taran'atar disappears in a transporter beam (9x20)
-- Prynn and Vaughn cling desperately to each other as the prison self-destructs around them (9x20)
-- Iliana slits the Intendant's throat (9x20)
-- Sisko faces all his alternates in the Orb vision (9x21)
-- Vaughn reacts as Kira relieves him of duty (9x21)
-- Ro rages at Etana from her wheelchair (9x22)
-- Iliana dons the Intendant's headdress (9x20)
-- Vaughn and Sisko shake on their secret pact (9x22)
-- Taran'atar snaps L'Haan's neck (9x23)
-- Vaughn is confused to find MU-Sisko's grave (9x23)
-- Iliana presses the firing control on the *Negh'Var* (9x23)
-- Kira aims a punch at Ghemor's face (9x22)
-- Kira and Vaughn transport to the Mirror Universe (9x22)
-- MU-Prynn rushes in crying to the meeting (9x23)
-- Ghemor looks at her haggard reflection, lost (9x23)
-- Bashir takes Dax's hands in the bar, encouraging (9x23)

And one final, extended sample...

-- Iliana and Kurn walk into Ops. Iliana grins, flushed with success and victory (9x23)

And **WHITE OUT**. Blending into...

2 **EXT. MYLEA STREETS - DAY**

Begin on the bright light of a warm sun in a blue sky. PAN down to the streets of this small Bajoran coastal village. The townsfolk are going about their business - there is a tension in the air, but nothing too overt. Hold a moment...

3 **INT. CORRIDOR**

MU-OPAKA leads our universe's VAUGHN down the corridor. He walks slowly, still trying to process all he has learned.

VAUGHN

It's a mistake... it has to be.
Sisko can't be dead. It's all a
misunderstanding. Benny wouldn't
lie to me... it's just a mistake,
that's all.

Opaka pauses, seeing his distress. Once he realises she has stopped, she reaches out her hand towards his left ear.

MU-OPAKA

Commander, would I be presuming
too much if I...

He wants to refuse, but he has his history with Opaka. He trusts her. So he nods and lets her reach up. She grasps his ear, pinching the lobe, closing her eyes as she concentrates. He winces at the slight pain.

MU-OPAKA

Breathe... breathe...

He tries his best. After a moment, she lets go and steps back. She nods with wise understanding.

MU-OPAKA

I think I understand, Commander.

VAUGHN

Understand what?

MU-OPAKA

Why you're here.

VAUGHN

I told you - I came because my Benjamin Sisko asked me to find his opposite number here.

MU-OPAKA

That may be why you came... but it's not why you're here. Please, come with me.

She leads him back down the corridor, with him following, more confused than ever.

4 EXT. MYLEA STREETS - DAY

Opaka leads Vaughn through the streets, until they reach the bakery - the one where Jake's wife Rena works and lives in our universe. Opaka opens the door and enters...

5 INT. BAKERY (CONTINUOUS)

MU-RENA herself is working behind the bakery counter. She turns, at first confused that Opaka is here. Then she notices Vaughn, and is flat-out alarmed.

MU-RENA

Sulan? I'd heard we had visitors.

MU-OPAKA

Rena, I need you to begin packing up the reliquary.

MU-RENA

I thought you might, after that news about Ashalla. I'll get a team together and get started right away.

Closing her ovens with a final slam, MU-Rena pulls off her cooking pinny and rushes out of the bakery into the street.

MU-OPAKA

This way.

Opaka leads Vaughn to the back door...

6 INT. BEDROOM

An old, decrepit human man is lying in the bed - MU-VAUGHN. He is very different from in 9x07 - his body is withered, his skin grey and papery, his eyes white and unseeing.

Sitting on the bed beside him is the MU-PRYNN, singing gently to calm him after the bad news. It is the same song which Prynn sang for her mother in 8x22 "Greater Good."

The door gently opens with a creak, and Prynn looks up. When she sees who it is, she stops singing, taken aback.

MU-VAUGHN
(thin, croaky)
Prynn? What's wrong?

Vaughn doesn't know how to act here. A dying version of himself, and his daughter by his side. Prynn keeps her eyes on Vaughn, still a little wary.

MU-PRYNN
You have a visitor, Dad.

MU-VAUGHN
Who?

MU-PRYNN
I'm not really sure. I just know he comes from a long way away. I think he's a friend. I'll let the two of you talk.

MU-Prynn stands and walks to the door. Her eyes give Vaughn a silent warning not to cause trouble, then she is gone. Vaughn can only stand silently, not sure what to do here.

MU-VAUGHN
Hello...? Are you there?

VAUGHN
Yes, I'm here.

While Vaughn moves quietly to the bed and takes an empty chair, MU-Vaughn reacts silently to the familiar voice.

MU-VAUGHN

Who are you?

VAUGHN

My name is Elias. Like yours.

MU-VAUGHN

I think I understand. I've heard stories... Why did you come here?

Vaughn hesitates - that is the question, isn't it?

VAUGHN

Someone sent me. But it hasn't gone the way it was supposed to.

MU-VAUGHN

What in life does?

VAUGHN

(awed whisper)

What happened to you? Why are you on Bajor, in Mylea?

MU-VAUGHN

Where else should I be? I was one of the last generation of Imperial Terrans. I watched our society transform and weaken, until it was too weak to defend itself from the wolves at the door. Overnight, I went from prince to slave, sold to the Opaka family.

VAUGHN

You're her servant?

MU-VAUGHN

I'm her friend. Sulan protected my family. I knew she was with the religious enclaves, and she hated the Alliance. When Sisko began the rebellion, I was an obvious choice to help unite the two groups. Prynn acted as our messenger.

(rasping cough)

But one last mission, one last battle... and this ancient body just couldn't spring back anymore. Sulan says it's sheer damned stubbornness that's kept me alive this long. I'm not sure what I'm waiting for. You, perhaps.

VAUGHN

Me?

MU-VAUGHN

You think it's an accident that we're here together, now?

VAUGHN

I told you - someone sent me.

MU-VAUGHN

And it hasn't gone the way you thought it would. And now... here you are.

The withered, blind old man COUGHS violently. Vaughn grabs a glass of water from a table and guides his other self's hands to it, helping to drip a few drops of water into his crinkly old mouth. Vaughn can only think about everything.

A RUMBLING sound filters through, shaking the bed.

MU-VAUGHN

I hear thunder.

VAUGHN

That isn't thunder.

Vaughn gets up from the chair and looks out of the room's small window. MU-Vaughn struggles to try to turn towards it too, but can't make it very far.

The door opens, and Prynn and Opaka rush back in. Prynn immediately goes to her father, while Opaka goes to Vaughn.

MU-OPAKA

My friends in Singha can arrange off-world transport for a small

number of us. We can head there as soon as we relocate the artefacts.

VAUGHN

We may not have time for that.
Keep everyone away from the windows - I'll be back soon.

And he rushes from the room, very worried, as the rumbling sound increases outside.

7 **EXT. MYLEA - ROOFTOP - DAY**

Vaughn opens a hatch and clambers out of it onto the stone roof of one of the higher buildings in Mylea village. He looks up into the sky.

8 **EXT. VAUGHN'S POV**

All around the village, six Klingon-design troop carrier ships are lowering to the ground on puffs of gas and exhaust. Heavily armed, clearly threatening, and packed with Klingon warriors ready to kill.

KIRA (comm)

Kira to Vaughn.

VAUGHN

(tap to receive)

I see them, Captain. We've screwed these people good.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

9 INT. BEDROOM

Vaughn rushes into the room, a handful of other Bajorans with him, including PARSH and KAIL, MU-Rena's friends. On the bed, MU-Prynn is still fussing over MU-Vaughn.

VAUGHN

You two need to evacuate. Now.

MU-PRYNN

My father can't walk.

KAIL

We can carry him.

Kail and friends move to the bed, ready to help MU-Vaughn stand up. But MU-Vaughn pushes them away.

MU-VAUGHN

Get off me.

MU-PRYNN

Dad, we don't have time for this.

MU-VAUGHN

I said no. I can't do this, Prynn.
I'd only slow you down. You have
to go. Elias, tell her.

Vaughn looks down at the crippled old man, and swallows.

VAUGHN

He's right. He won't make it.

MU-PRYNN

Shut up! I'm not leaving my father
here to be slaughtered!

MU-VAUGHN

Prynn, look at me! I'm dying! I've
had enough. I love you with all my
heart, but you have to let me go.

PRYNN
I can't! Dad, please, get up!

MU-VAUGHN
Elias... she'll never be safe
while I'm alive.

What he is asking is clear. Prynn turns to Vaughn, and sees him drawing his Starfleet phaser. Prynn shrieks.

VAUGHN
Get her out of here.

Kail and friends grab Prynn and drag her towards the door.

MU-PRYNN
Dad! No!

Vaughn leans in close, grabs MU-Vaughn's arm gently. Presses the muzzle of the phaser to the old man's temple.

VAUGHN
I'll make it quick.

MU-VAUGHN
Thank you.

Vaughn closes his eyes, and presses the trigger. The FLASH reflects on his face, and the body beneath him jerks.

Prynn SHRIEKS and breaks free, rushing back into the room to attack Vaughn. He lets her punch him and batter at him.

PRYNN
Damn you damn you damn you!

Kail and friends grab her and drag her away, screaming and crying all the way. Drained empty of emotion, Vaughn turns back to MU-Vaughn and draws a sheet over the body.

10 **EXT. MYLEA STREETS - DAY**

KIRA ducks down to the ground, just missing the SLASH of a Klingon *bat'leth*. She raises her phaser and SHOOTs down the soldier attacking her, and his two friends a step behind.

As the three Klingons drop dead, Kira struggles back to her feet. The sounds of fighting continue, but a different kind of SCREAMS grow over them.

Kira raises her phaser again, but then sees Kail and Parsh dragging a wailing, fighting MU-Prynn away from the bakery. Meanwhile, another Klingon approaches - Kira raises her weapons and SHOOTs him. He goes down.

Finally, after a long tense moment with more SOUNDS of fighting in the background, Vaughn finally jogs around a corner and towards her. Kira sighs with relief.

But then Kira glares as six Klingons turn the corner after him. And in front of them TARAN'ATAR is leading the charge.

KIRA

Down!

Vaughn wisely doesn't argue, but throws himself forward to the ground. He twists and brings up his own phaser, FIRING at the Klingons pursuing him. Kira joins him to shoot down the last few. But Taran'atar has already disappeared.

Kira grabs Vaughn off the ground and hauls him quickly towards the refectory door and inside, slamming the door.

11 **INT. REFECTORY**

Kira and Vaughn grab the large meeting table, up-end it and push it against the door to block it. While they do...

VAUGHN

Thanks for the assist.

KIRA

Did you see him? Taran'atar.

VAUGHN

He must have shrouded.

The table in place, the two retreat behind meagre cover. They crouch, phasers drawn, listening to the SOUNDS of rampaging Klingons and screaming Bajorans outside.

KIRA

We're going to have to kill him,
Elias. Taran'atar, I mean.

VAUGHN

I understand.

KIRA

Do you? Because I want you to know
I'm not talking about taking
revenge, or exacting justice. Or
even self-defence.

VAUGHN

What are you talking about, then?

KIRA

If we can't cure his brainwashing,
then we should at least set him
free. Snap his chains.

VAUGHN

Put him out of his misery.

KIRA

I think he'd want that. Wouldn't
you? If you had no control over
your life?

VAUGHN

...Maybe.

KIRA

I didn't see Opaka out there.

VAUGHN

I made sure she got away with the
Orb shards.

KIRA

Thank you, Elias. Truly. Look...
about my relieving you of duty...

VAUGHN

Captain, you don't have to -

A BLAST of phaser fire, worryingly close outside the room. Rafters creak and dust falls from the ceiling. They tense.

KIRA

I don't think we have a lot of time left, Elias. So please shut up and listen. I think maybe I was feeling a lot like Taran'atar - as if nothing was in my control. I felt like everything was going to hell, and it was all my fault because I wasn't a strong enough captain. I was wrong to take my frustrations out on you.

VAUGHN

For whatever it's worth, Nerys, you may just be the strongest captain I've ever known.

KIRA

That's worth a great deal to me. I wish we weren't in this mess, but I'm glad you've got my back.

They pause again, listening to the sounds from outside.

VAUGHN

Captain, I need to ask you something. It's about Ben Sisko.

KIRA

What is it?

VAUGHN

Have you ever known him to lie?

KIRA

Why would you ask me that?

Vaughn starts again, trying to put his confused thoughts into words.

VAUGHN

Has he changed much over the years you've known him?

KIRA

Of course. Everyone changes.

VAUGHN

What I guess I mean is, since he returned from living among the Prophets... Is he still the same man you used to know?

KIRA

The honest answer is... yes and no. In some ways he's exactly the same. In others... well, I suppose being among Them changes you.

VAUGHN

Have you been among them? The Prophets?

KIRA

I'm not really comfortable talking about this, Elias.

VAUGHN

I'm sorry. I realise that was an inappropriate question. I'm just trying to wrap my head around something, and the more I try -

A heavy THUD interrupts them, and the ceiling above them creaks and groans... and then BREAKS altogether. Wooden beams and chunks of stone plummet down on them, and the room fills with billows of dust.

Rubble knocks Vaughn to the floor. An angry ROAR precedes Klingons jumping through the hole in the ceiling, landing with weapons drawn. Kira dives for cover, firing aimlessly through the dust. She scores a few hits, but not enough.

Kira looks to Vaughn, who is bleeding from his forehead, dazed but conscious. They silently agree - if this is the end, they're going down fighting.

Vaughn gets up to fight, but something invisible SWIPES his legs out from under him, sending him back to the ground.

A Klingon takes aim. But a fast-moving SHADOW flashes past, and the Klingon ERUPTS in his own guts and blood. Another Klingon reacts to the surprise, raising his weapon, but then his chest BURSTS open and he falls dead too.

Kira panics, realising what is happening. She desperately scans the dusty air for any sign... and there he is, barely a metre in front of them, unshrouding in the dust.

Taran'atar stares them down. Kira brings up her phaser - he SLAPS it out of her hand. He GRABS her by the throat, lifts her off the ground. She chokes as he cuts off her windpipe.

KIRA

You saved us from the Klingons.

TARAN'ATAR

They would have killed you. We were ordered to capture you alive. Obedience brings victory.

She struggles, slowly losing consciousness, fighting it.

KIRA

It doesn't have to be that way. You're stronger than that. You're stronger than her. You can break the cycle. You can choose. Finish your battle once and for all, Taran'atar... reclaim your life.

Taran'atar pulls her close, as she is fading out...

TARAN'ATAR

I already have.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 INT. TEROK NOR - SECURITY CELLS

Kira GASPS back to consciousness. Her wrists and ankles are held in restraints that have been welded to the back wall of one of the security cells. Her combadge is gone.

She looks up, and realises that ILIANA is with her, staring straight at her as if at a specimen. She is dressed as the Intendant, but without the sadistic sensuality, just cold.

ILIANA

I really have to hand it to you, Captain. Beaming to the alternate universe before the static field could envelop Bajor was a crafty piece of quick thinking. Seems I wasn't being paranoid after all. But honestly, what did you think you were going to accomplish?

Kira refuses to reply. Iliana shrugs.

ILIANA

That's okay. It was more of a rhetorical question anyway. And it's not that I mind you being here - just the opposite. It saves me having to go back for you.

KIRA

Why? So you can talk me to death?

ILIANA

Oh, good. There's still a little fight left in you. I can't wait to see your face when Bajor names me its Emissary.

KIRA

So that's why I'm still alive? To give you an audience?

ILIANA

Of course not. I have an audience. Klingons, rebels, your geriatric friend... best of all, one of the leaders of the Bajoran dissident movement. So no. You're not here to be an audience. You're here to suffer what I'm about to do.

Kira gazes into Iliana's face, this face that is identical to hers. She is just as much sad for her as angry.

KIRA

What happened to you?

Iliana darkens. The demons that drive her are coming clear.

ILIANA

What happened? Shall I tell you? Are you sure you want to hear? All about how the man I trusted used you to kill the man I loved, all to get me into his clutches, so that he could then have me replace you? About how the only living things I saw for fifteen years were the monster who came to rape me whenever he needed a pick-me-up, and the man who opened the door to let him in? About how the only thing I had to hold on to that whole time was the knowledge that I was Kira Nerys, Bajoran resistance fighter, and nothing they ever did to me could change that? How about, when I finally clawed my way out of that hole, the entire universe had forgotten I ever existed? Everyone I ever loved - everyone I ever hated - had gone, and taken any hope of comfort or revenge with them? How even my father, even he had given up on me and chosen you to replace me? How am I supposed to get on with my life after that?

Kira is troubled to have finally heard the whole story. She doesn't know how to answer. Iliana waves it away.

ILIANA

Another rhetorical question,
because I'll tell you exactly how
- Trakor's first prophecy. Not to
mention a dozen other visions
about the coming of the Emissary,
all of which cite the same three
criteria. The one called by the
Prophets, the one who opens the
Temple Gates, and the one to whom
the Prophets give back her life.

KIRA

And how does killing the Kira
Nerys of one universe after
another fit into you getting your
life back?

ILIANA

I can't fault you for not seeing
the big picture, Captain. After
what was done to me, it took a
while for me to understand what I
needed to do. But when I meet the
Prophets, they'll see inside me,
just like they did your Emissary.
And they'll understand what I need
to be whole again.

Iliana brings up her hand, with the *pagh-varam* wrapped
around the palm.

ILIANA

And I'll use the Soul Key to find
every other Kira that has laid
claim to a piece of my soul.

KIRA

What about Iliana Ghemor's soul?

Iliana is startled. She looks away, unable to answer.

ILIANA

You don't understand. I'm going to be whole. For the first time in my life I'll finally be whole!

KIRA

Who are you trying to convince, me or you?

Iliana snaps and grabs Kira by the hair, SLAMS her head back against the wall, hissing into her face.

ILIANA

Don't push me, Captain. There are others here I could make suffer.

KIRA

Yeah, you could. You could do the same to everyone I care about, and to every Kira in creation. But none of it will make you whole, Iliana. And in the end, you're going to crash and burn.

ILIANA

Bravely spoken, Captain. But a lot has happened since you were taken. You see, after I took control of Terok Nor, I borrowed a page from your book. I coerced Smiley into doing the very thing you commanded of your O'Brien, on the day your wormhole was discovered - propel the entire station towards the Denorios Belt. It has a nice symmetry, don't you think?

Iliana turns to leave, assured of her victory. The force field pops back into place over the threshold of the cell.

ILIANA

Don't worry - I'll be sure to give the Prophets your warmest regards.

And she's gone.

13 INT. TEROK NOR - CARGO BAY

Currently being used as a larger holding cell for rebels. In foreground, MU-Opaka and MU-Prynn comfort each other. In the background, Vaughn tests the limits of their prison, pushing at the force fields and tinkering with door locks.

Then the door opens, and Klingon warriors shove more people into the room. More rebels, including MU-O'BRIEN, MU-KEIKO and MU-EZRI.

MU-Prynn immediately goes berserk, launching herself at O'Brien and pushing him around. O'Brien doesn't fight.

MU-PRYNN

Murderer! Terran monster! Two million people are dead because of you, you bloodthirsty bastard!

Keiko gets in the way, pushing Prynn back.

MU-KEIKO

Back off! It wasn't him!

MU-EZRI

He didn't do it!

MU-PRYNN

Who was it, then? Which one of you is a mass murderer?

MU-KEIKO

None of us! It was the Intendant!

Prynn finally breaks into tears, collapsing into grief. Opaka catches her and leads her away. Keiko explains.

MU-KEIKO

She called our bluff and bombed the planet herself. She said she'd keep going unless we surrendered. We had no choice.

MU-O'BRIEN

I'm sorry. I'm so very sorry. I never meant for any of this...

Opaka approaches O'Brien, controlling her emotions. She reaches up and grasps his ear, vedek-style. They stare into each other's eyes for a moment, then Opaka lets go and stands back. She nods quietly, accepting the truth. Vaughn steps up and turns to O'Brien.

VAUGHN

Mister O'Brien... what's going on?
I felt the station vibrate a short
while before you arrived.

MU-O'BRIEN

The Intendant. She had us make
some insane modifications to the
deflectors and the thrusters. The
whole station is moving towards
the Denorios Belt.

MU-OPAKA

Is that where she intends to open
the Temple Gates?

MU-EZRI

Temple gates? That's that crazy
thing Ghemor warned us about,
right? That religious thing? She
was serious about that?

VAUGHN

I'm afraid so. Think of it as a
dangerous hazard the Intendant
wants to exploit. It's imperative
we stop her.

MU-O'BRIEN

You'll get no argument from me,
Commander. But this station is
swarming with Klingons, and most
of my people are penned up in
rooms like this.

VAUGHN

Then we'll just have to be ready
to act when the opportunity
finally presents itself.

MU-O'BRIEN
Opportunity? What opportunity?
Look, Commander, with all respect,
if we have a hope in hell, I'm not
seeing it.

VAUGHN
(enigmatic smile)
We have one.

Before O'Brien can ask more, the doors open and Klingons barge back in. They go straight for Opaka, grab her roughly and drag them towards the door.

MU-OPAKA
What do you want with me?

The Klingons don't answer. Vaughn tries to interject, grabbing one of the warriors and pulling on his arm.

VAUGHN
Hey, leave her alone!

The Klingon pauses long enough to PUNCH Vaughn in the face and then they leave, dragging Opaka with them.

14 **EXT. SPACE**

Terok Nor is encased in a visible shield bubble with its manoeuvring thrusters firing hard. The station is gliding through space, just as Deep Space Nine did in "Emissary."

15 **INT. TEROK NOR - OPS CENTRE**

Iliana stands outside the office, gazing rapturously as the stars zoom by on the main view screen. Other positions are staffed by Klingons, including KURN at the central table.

MU-KURN
We have arrived.

ILIANA
All stop. Hold this position.

Kurn nods to his officers, who work their panels, and the engines die out. The starfield on the screen stabilises.

MU-KURN

There's nothing out here but
charged plasma and cometary ice.

ILIANA

Open your mind, Kurn. Some of the
greatest treasures of the universe
are those we can't even see.

Kurn grunts, showing her a mocking, sharp-toothed smile. He is getting to the end of his patience with the Intendant.

MU-KURN

Very poetic, Intendant. But I
prefer the tangible. You assured
me that the effort of moving this
station would be worthwhile.

ILIANA

It will be. We've come this far
together. Surely you wouldn't turn
back now, so close to the prize?

MU-KURN

(sneer)

Very well. How do we proceed?

ILIANA

The next part is for me alone.

MU-KURN

We should not have left the fleet
in orbit of Bajor. They might have
been able to better pinpoint -

ILIANA

The fleet is providing needed
assistance while Bajor recovers.
Don't underestimate the value of
such good will. The Bajoran people
will remember who came to their
aid in a time of crisis.

MU-OPAKA (o.s.)
Bajor will remember who is
responsible for that atrocity!

Iliana and Kurn turn to see that a defiant Opaka has been
bustled into the room by her Klingon escorts.

MU-OPAKA
I know exactly what you did,
"Intendant." Just I we know who
you really are.

Kurn frowns at the odd statement. Unconcerned, Iliana
brings up the *pagh-varam*, wrapped around her palm.

ILIANA
Do you also know what this is? And
what I'm about to do with it?

MU-OPAKA
Yes.

ILIANA
Then you should be happy! The hour
for which your movement has waited
all these years is finally upon
you. You'll witness the opening of
the Temple Gates. And you'll
affirm the coming of the Emissary.

MU-OPAKA
You will never be Emissary.

ILIANA
There's no-one left to block my
path, Opaka.

A KLINGON OFFICER, working the science station, suddenly
reacts with shock.

KLINGON OFFICER
General! I'm picking up unusually
high proton concentrations, and a
localised rise in verteron
particles.

Iliana's head snaps towards the view screen - she knows what that means. But she is confused...

ILIANA

Already? We shouldn't be close
enough to trigger -

But on the screen, the big blue flower of the WORMHOLE blossoms open. Iliana is stunned, amazed, in awe.

ILIANA

I've done it...

KURN

Sensor contact, dead ahead!
(looks at her,
shocked)
Intendant... it's the *Defiant*!

As Iliana's jaw drops in horror...

16 **EXT. SPACE - THE WORMHOLE**

With the wormhole open and shining, a shape leaps out of its maw, zooming straight into camera. The *Defiant* - our *Defiant* - lets loose with its deadly pulse phasers, firing right down our throats.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

DAX leans forward in the command chair, urgently giving orders to her crew.

DAX
Attack pattern delta! Give it all
you've got, Prynn! Sam - target
their shield emitters and fire.

At helm, TENMEI works her panels like second nature. BOWERS does the same at tactical. On screen, Terok Nor's frame swerves around as the *Defiant* banks and fires again.

DAX
Sam, what's the word on hostiles?

The ship SHUDDERS under a return strike from the station's multiple weapons arrays.

BOWERS
Other than the station? I read a
dozen Klingon warships in orbit of
Bajor. Too far away to be trouble
right now, but they're already
breaking orbit. ETA one hour.

DAX
We need to get those shields down.
Arm a quantum torpedo - target the
zenith of their shield bubble,
right over the upper pylons.

BOWERS
Aye, sir. Arming... targeting...
firing!

On screen, a torpedo fires towards the centre point over the pylons. It EXPLODES, starting a chain reaction of LIGHTNING BOLTS all across the shield bubble, which then sparks out altogether. Dax shares a satisfied grin.

18 **INT. TEROK NOR - OPS CENTRE**

Iliana stands at the top of the stairs outside the office, while Kurn is at the Ops table, other Klingons elsewhere. The room is in chaos as they try to handle the attack.

MU-KURN

We've lost shields! Intendant,
what are your orders?

ILIANA

(amazed, to self)

This can't be happening. My path
leads here... I'm fated to be -

KLINGON OFFICER

Fire reported in Upper Pylon Two,
near the emergency oxygen tanks.
Suppression system is offline.

MU-KURN

Blow the emergency ports! Vent the
pylon, before those tanks explode!

KLINGON OFFICER

But sir, there are still warriors
in that section -

MU-KURN

Do as I command!

19 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

On screen, we see the station swerving away again. Part of an upper pylon blasts open, with GASES escaping and BODIES flying into space. Ens T'RB at sciences pipes up...

T'RB

Approximately seven-hundred life
signs, mostly human and Klingon.
The Klingons are scattered about
all over the station. The others
are confined to the docking ring.

DAX

Prisoners?

T'RB

That would be my guess, sir. I'm also picking up the signals from Captain Kira and Commander Vaughn's combadges.

DAX

Can you confirm their location?

T'RB

Ops... commander's office.

(sags)

But there are no Bajoran or human life signs anywhere near there.

DAX

Keep trying. Dax to Bashir.

20 INT. DEFIANT - TRANSPORTER BAY

Looking out at the room from the platform itself, we see CHAO working the transporter console and BASHIR up close.

BASHIR

Go ahead.

DAX (comm)

How's our guest doing, Julian?

BASHIR

We're ready to go whenever you give the word.

DAX (comm)

Stand by.

Bashir hands an object to the person whose POV we are inhabiting - a pale-skinned hand accepts it.

BASHIR

Now remember - hit this clasp like a combadge, and it will release the neuro-pulse. His reaction should be immediate. Good luck.

21 **EXT. TEROK NOR**

The *Defiant* swerves, ducks and dives to avoid fire from the station. It suddenly executes a new move, ROLLing under the station and heading straight towards the red fusion core.

At the last second the ship TWISTS upwards, slipping up in between the docking ring and the habitat ring. It twists again to just barely miss the crossover bridge.

Defiant's forward phasers FIRE at the upper defence sail, while rear phasers aim for the lower sail. The lower sail is hit and EXPLODES, but the shots miss the upper sail.

The *Defiant* takes a punishing blow from the upper sail, but curves around and flies to a safe distance for the moment.

22 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

DAX

Bowers, drop shields and fire!
Chao, you're on - energise!

23 **INT. TEROK NOR - PROMENADE**

The Promenade is jammed with Klingon warriors, swarming all over as they rush to try to control the damage from the attack. We go close to a dark corner under a staircase...

... and a Starfleet transporter signal forms. It deposits GHEMOR, the Cardassian Woman... except that she has been changed. She now looks like Kira - a Bajoran woman dressed in the Intendant's black bodysuit and silver headdress.

24 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

DAX

Raise shields! Chao, report!

CHAO (comm)

Transport successful, Captain.

DAX

(relieved sigh)
Easy peasy.

25 INT. TEROK NOR - OPS CENTRE

The station rocks hard under assault from the *Defiant*. The Klingon posted at the engineering station is THROWN against a bulkhead, cracking his skull and sending him to the deck.

KRONA

Lower defence sail one has been disabled. Turbolifts are offline, habitat ring has sustained heavy damage. Several compartments have opened to space.

(surprised)

General - thrusters have fired!
The station is moving again!

MU-KURN

What?! On whose authority?

He looks to Iliana, who has hauled the dead Klingon out of the way and is working the engineering panels.

MU-KURN

What are you doing?

ILIANA

They aren't going to stop us now.

KLINGON OFFICER

General... she's set us on a course for the wormhole!

MU-KURN

Are you insane?

ILIANA

Keep your place, General!

MU-KURN

No! I've had enough of your madness. This farce ends now!

Furious, Kurn draws his dagger and advances up the steps towards Iliana. She backs away, into the computer alcove behind engineering. Kurn advances on her, trapping her in there. He THRUSTS his dagger towards her.

She catches his wrist in her hand. He presses forward against her strength, pushing the dagger towards her neck.

With her other hand, Iliana reaches for the disruptor at her waist. Kurn catches that wrist with his spare hand. He leans in, savouring the death about to come. Faces close, his dagger and her struggling hand right by her neck.

Then she subtly TWISTS her wrist, and a long blade pops out of her sleeve and right into his neck. Blood SPURTS out over her arm, and he jerks, surprised.

The other Klingons draw their own disruptors. Iliana hides behind Kurn's larger body, using him as a shield against their fire, while she raises her disruptor and SHOOTs every one of them dead. In seconds, she is the only one alive.

She throws Kurn's roasted body away, tears the silver headdress off and throws it away. She rips open the black bodysuit at the neck, giving her room to catch her breath.

She looks across the room, and sees Opaka huddled into a corner, sheltering from the battle. She sneers at her with contempt. She taps the communicator band on her wrist.

ILIANA

Kira to Taran'atar.

26 INT. TEROK NOR - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

A Klingon warrior ERUPTS in his own blood and guts thanks to an invisible force.

ILIANA (comm)

Taran'atar, this is the Intendant.
Come in.

The Klingon slumps to the ground, dead. Another Klingon, a few steps further down the corridor, reacts and turns in surprise, only for his throat to be RIPPED open.

ILIANA (comm)

Taran'atar, this is a direct command. Go to airlock one, on the docking ring. Wait for me there.

Taran'atar's head turns, UNSHROUDing as it does. He sneers, hissing his hatred. His hand grips into a trembling fist.

QUICK FLASH

-- Taran'atar's dream of being born in the Great Link. The copper strands hold him down, pulling tight. He struggles against them - one SNAPS under the force. Then another...

BACK TO SCENE

He turns away, ignoring the voice. He quickly and smoothly leans down to grab the fallen Klingons' disruptors, then moves to keep stalking down the corridor.

27 INT. TEROK NOR - OPS CENTRE

Frustrated, Iliana runs to the sciences station, programs a few commands. While she does, she looks across at Opaka.

ILIANA

Be sure to keep watching the
screen. This is far from over.

Then she jogs across to the transporter platform. It powers up - she disappears in the transporter signal.

28 INT. TEROK NOR - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

Taran'atar turns a corner - more Klingons are waiting. He instantly SHOOTs them all dead before they can react.

Without missing a beat, Taran'atar moves to the door the Klingons were guarding. He SHOOTs the keypad, rips off the cover, pulls the lever. The door creaks open by an inch. He reaches in with his fingers and PULLS it by sheer strength.

The door opens to reveal the cargo bay, where O'Brien, Ezri, Keiko and the other rebels are held. At the head of them, Vaughn turns to Taran'atar and smiles with relief.

VAUGHN

It's good to see you, Taran'atar.
Thanks for keeping your promise.

29 **INT. REFECTORY**

The earlier scene, as Taran'atar leads the Klingon attack on Mylea village, but now we see it from Vaughn's POV. He has been knocked to the ground, dazed but conscious. He sees Taran'atar holding Kira off the ground by the throat.

KIRA
Reclaim your life.

TARAN'ATAR
I already have.

Kira loses consciousness, and Taran'atar drops her to the ground. Then he walks over to Vaughn, still on the ground. Vaughn backs away as far as he can, tries a weak punch. Taran'atar holds him down with a firm palm on the chest.

TARAN'ATAR
Commander, listen. I'm trying to help. Klingons will be here soon to take you and Kira prisoner. Don't resist. They'll take you to Terok Nor. I'll find you there.

VAUGHN
How can I possibly trust you?

TARAN'ATAR
You can't. Nevertheless, I give you my word.

Taran'atar shrouds and turns away.

30 **INT. TEROK NOR - CARGO BAY**

Back to scene. Taran'atar hands out the Klingon disruptors he has collected to the gathered rebels. To Vaughn...

TARAN'ATAR
I surrender to your authority.

VAUGHN
Good to know. What's the tactical situation on board the station?

31 **INT. TEROK NOR - PROMENADE**

Still in chaos as Klingons run around. Ghemor, disguised as Intendant Kira, runs through the melée. Seeing her coming, Klingons get out of her way and let her through.

She reaches the doors to the Security office. They open...

32 **INT. TEROK NOR - SECURITY OFFICE (CONTINUOUS)**

Ghemor enters the room, and the Klingon officer behind the desk quickly JERKS to his feet in surprise. She pulls up a Starfleet phaser and SHOOTs him dead in an instant, then quickly proceeds to the doors to the security cells.

33 **INT. TEROK NOR - SECURITY CELLS**

Ghemor marches in and SHOOTs the two Klingon guards dead. Kira is manacled to the wall of the cell, understandably confused to see "the Intendant" rescuing her.

Ghemor slaps the panels to deactivate the force field, then another device to snap open the manacles. As she does...

GHEMOR

Sorry that took so long, Captain.
We got here as soon as we could.

KIRA

Ghemor? Is that really you?

GHEMOR

It is. I know you'd probably like a long explanation, but we just don't have the time. The *Defiant* has taken out most of Terok Nor's defences -

KIRA

Defiant? My *Defiant?*

GHEMOR

(nodding)

There's a fleet of Klingon ships due here any moment, so if we -

A WHISPER-RUSH of air behind her. Kira's eyes flare, and Ghemor turns, raising her phaser. Taran'atar BATS it out of her hand, grabs Ghemor's wrist and twists her, SLAMming her against the bulkhead and holding her there.

KIRA

Taran'atar - stop!

Taran'atar lets go. Ghemor turns back around, and the Jem'Hadar looks at her closer, intrigued.

TARAN'ATAR

You are not her.

Still afraid, Ghemor quickly brings up her hand and SLAPS the clasp at the centre of her chest. It chitters like a combadge, and Ghemor looks up, hoping for some response. Nothing happens. Taran'atar smiles indulgently at Ghemor, then turns directly to Kira.

TARAN'ATAR

I came to help.

KIRA

What are you telling me? You're no longer under her control?

TARAN'ATAR

I am not under anyone's control.

GHEMOR

I don't understand. How?

TARAN'ATAR

The Intendant's Vulcan servant.

QUICK FLASH

-- Taran'atar pulls himself out of the dream, and L'HAAN jerks back in surprise from her mind-meld.

BACK TO SCENE

TARAN'ATAR (cont)

I do not understand exactly what she did to me, but I have found

myself more able to assert my own will with each hour. I have freed Commander Vaughn and the rebels.

KIRA

How do I know that anything you're telling me is true?

TARAN'ATAR

In the event that you doubted me, Commander Vaughn gave me a brief message. He says that he still has your back.

Kira blinks, surprised, but then relaxes. She trusts him.

KIRA

Where is she, Taran'atar?

TARAN'ATAR

Docking ring, airlock one. She is positioning herself at the leading edge of the station - that will reach the event horizon first.

KIRA

(realising)

She's still bent on fulfilling the prophecy, even if she has to destroy the station to do it.

GHEMOR

So what do we do now?

KIRA

We go after her.

34 **INT. TEROK NOR - PROMENADE**

Chaotic with running Klingons. The security office door opens and Ghemor, dressed as the Intendant, exits. She is dragging Kira by the arm - Kira pretends to struggle.

Klingons get out of their way again, assuming the Intendant is simply taking Kira for torture or something.

35 INT. TEROK NOR - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

Now alone in the corridor, they drop the pretence.

KIRA

So, were you ever going to tell me that you're the one who was supposed to be the Emissary?

GHEMOR

Let's be clear about something, Captain. I'm doing what I was trained to do - neutralise a threat, nothing more. And no offence, but I'm not even overly fond of Bajor. Let someone else usher in a new age.

KIRA

I'm not sure it's possible to accept one part of a prophecy while denying the rest, Ghemor. It tends to be all or nothing.

GHEMOR

Great. Now you tell me.

They reach the airlock, and the circular door is already open. Kira takes point, peeking around the edge.

Iliana stands there, back to them, gazing out into space. She has a disruptor in one hand, the *pagh-varam* wrapped around the other. Kira and Ghemor enter, weapons drawn.

Now all three women who look like Kira are together - our Kira in Starfleet uniform, Ghemor in the Intendant's black bodysuit and silver headdress, Iliana in the bodysuit but torn open at the neck and without the headdress.

KIRA

It's over, Iliana. The station's course is being altered as we speak. Drop your weapon and step out of the airlock. Now.

Iliana doesn't answer. She raises the *pagh-varam*, and the tiny stone releases a SWIRL of green energy, like that of an Orb.

In response, the wormhole BURSTS into life right outside the window. The station SHUDDERS with the force of it. For once in her life, Kira gazes at it, and is scared of the sheer power of the thing.

ILIANA
(over shoulder)
You're too late.

Iliana lifts the disruptor, and FIRES at the glass of the airlock window. The window BLASTS apart, ripping the metal of the door with it.

Atmosphere rushes out into the vacuum, and all three women are SWEPT off their feet, out into space, and right down the open mouth of the wormhole.

On Kira's silently screaming face...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

36 EXT. SPACE

The wormhole is open, streaming with light and energy. Terok Nor is barely metres away from its event horizon. Atmosphere bursting out of the smashed airlock, carrying bits of broken glass and metal, plus three bodies.

Kira, Iliana and Ghemor tumble weightlessly through space, right into the embrace of the wormhole...

WHITE OUT:

37 WHITE SPACE

Quick, anxious breaths, thumping heart beat. Pale-skinned fingers feel out their existence. Iliana is in the white space, calling out insistently to the Prophets.

ILIANA

I'm here! Can you hear me? I've opened the Temple Gates! I've fulfilled the prophecy of the Emissary! Show yourselves!

ENTEK looks curiously at Iliana - but it is a Prophet.

ENTEK PROPHET

Corporeal entities. They come to us from the Broken Line.

TEKENY frowns. He too is a Prophet.

TEKENY PROPHET

No. Only one is from the Broken Line. The others are from the Penitent.

Iliana frowns, confused. She looks to her side, and sees that Kira is there. To the other side, Ghemor stands. They make up a rough circle, which the Prophets weave and cross back and forth through as they speak.

KIRA

Broken? Penitent? What does that mean? Is that how you refer to our two universes?

DUKAT weaves into the circle, then SHAKAAR from a different angle. They are talking about the three Kiras, not to them.

DUKAT PROPHET

They are intrusive. Aggressive. Adversarial.

SHAKAAR PROPHET

One is the Hand. One is the Voice. One is the Fire.

TEKENY PROPHET

Only one was meant to come to us.

ILIANA

Then send these others away! You don't need them! I'm the one! I can fill the vacuum that Sisko left when he died.

Entek walks up to Iliana and gazes into her face. He frowns, inspecting her, curious and confused.

ENTEK PROPHET

This one is confused. It speaks with two voices.

ILIANA

I opened the gates! Please! I'm the Emissary! You must help me...

SHAKAAR PROPHET

Help? What is this?

ILIANA

Give me back my life!

Unmoved, all the various Prophets look at each other. Are they discussing Iliana silently between themselves, or simply confused? Then they look back to Iliana.

TEKENY PROPHET
Which life?

Stunned, Iliana can't answer. The Prophets are starting to crowd in on her, inspecting her as Entek did.

ENTEK PROPHET
Conflicted. Broken.

SHAKAAR PROPHET
Its existence is entwined with our
Hand. It is no longer linear.

DUKAT PROPHET
An anomaly. We should examine it
more closely.

Zooming in close to ECU on Iliana, as she feels the Prophets opening up her mind for all to see...

38 **MONTAGE**

Lightning-fast clips of Iliana's life story, intercut with clips of Iliana crying with anguish at reliving it all...

WHITE OUT:

39 **EXT. SPACE**

Match the white with a diamond ring effect, as the gigantic Klingon flagship *Negh'Var* streaks towards us with Bajor's sun at its back and its massive weapons firing.

40 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

As Dax and the bridge crew react...

DAX
Here she comes! Helm, hard to port!
Weapons, target the impulse drive!

BOWERS
Incoming! Ahead one-ten mark two!

DAX
All hands - brace for impact!

She grips the arms of the command chair, just in time for the ship to ROCK hard from the Klingons' attack. Other crew are not as fortunate - they are tossed from their seats, consoles EXPLODING in sparks and flames, screens cracking.

Fire suppression kicks in. Tenmei claws back to her seat, tries to bring it under control.

DAX
Damage report!

BOWERS
Power outage on deck two, section three. Hull breach on deck four, section three. Force fields are holding. Several injuries - Doctor Bashir is on it.

DAX
(slaps panel)
Nog, how's it going down there?

41 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN ENGINEERING

Chaos as a room full of engineers run about trying to contain damage. NOG is at a master ops display.

NOG
Do you want the good news or the bad news?

DAX (comm)
Give me the bad.

NOG
You're about to lose fifteen percent of impulse efficiency.

DAX (comm)
What's the good news?

NOG
You're only going to lose ten percent of shield power.

DAX

(wry grin)

Your way of looking on the bright side of things never ceases to amaze me, Nog. How long to crank those numbers up?

NOG (comm)

Ten minutes, minimum.

DAX

Take your time, no rush.

BOWERS

Negh'Var coming about.

DAX

Rest of the fleet?

BOWERS

Nineteen minutes.

Dax gets up out of her seat and goes to the helm, leaning over Prynn's shoulder and showing her something on screen.

DAX

Prynn... this is where you earn your bonus this month. Think you can handle it?

TENMEI

(daunted)

I'll need a few extra seconds to plot that.

DAX

Get started.

(turns to Bowers)

Sam, I want pulse phasers and shields at full strength for this. Get the power wherever you have to, but get it done.

(turns back)

Prynn?

TENMEI
(triumphant)
Done!

Dax walks back to her chair and grabs on for dear life.

DAX
On my mark... execute!

43 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* turns directly towards the approaching Klingon behemoth. It shakes off multiple shots from disruptors. As it gets almost to collision point it TWISTS, slipping under the huge, bulbous command module at the front of the ship.

Its belly now showing up, the *Defiant* zig-zags to avoid disruptor fire, but still gets absolutely pummelled. Shields spark and fizzle, but hold for now.

At about the mid point of the ship, *Defiant* TWISTS again until its nose is pointing right up at the Klingon's ship's underside. *Defiant* lets loose with pulse phasers at full power, reversing away, flying backwards and upside-down.

The phasers hit the *Negh'Var's* massive fuel tanks. After a few long moments of intense phaser fire, the tanks finally buckle, and the ship ERUPTS in massive gouts of flame.

The ship is just about broken in two, the entire back half exploding in consecutive percussive blasts. The Klingon flagship is dead.

44 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

But the *Defiant* bridge is in ruins. More screens out, more sparks flying, smoke gushing, and pipes and girders hanging like vines from the ceiling.

BOWERS
Klingon attack fleet closing in.
ETA now three minutes.

DAX
Nog, can you give me shields?

NOG (comm)
Not in three minutes, I can't.
Sorry, Captain.

DAX
Prynn, how long can we evade?

Tenmei turns to her, and just shakes her head.

DAX
Damn. Status of warp drive?

TENMEI
Online.

Dax grits her teeth. She hates to do this.

DAX
Prepare to withdraw. We'll return
and re-engage as soon as -

BOWERS
(interrupting,
amazed)
Klingon fleet is veering off. All
of them! They're now taking a
heading of two-nine-three mark
fourteen.

T'RB
I have multiple contacts coming
out of warp. Thirty - no, forty
ships, heading two-nine-three mark
fourteen.

DAX
More Alliance forces?

T'RB
No, sir. They're Orion. And now
there's another ship decloaking in
front of them, taking point...
(turns to her)
It's the *Defiant*!

45 **EXT. SPACE**

A second *Defiant* - the Mirror *Defiant* - ROARS past our *Defiant* and on towards the approaching Klingons.

Angling slightly to look behind them, there is a massive fleet of ships of various designs (some Vulcan, like the one in 8x11 / 8x12, others like the one in ENT 4x17), but all dangerous-looking and heading for the Klingons.

46 **INT. MU-DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

SHAR sits at helm, his Andorian antennae tense and pointing as he drives the *Defiant* forward. He is a rebel soldier, and he is ready for battle.

SHAR

The Klingons are heading straight for us. They've forgotten the other *Defiant* completely - just as you guessed, Leeta. They'll be in firing range in six minutes.

Panning around, we see LEETA, comfortable in the command chair. Leeta turns to her side, where TREIR stands - a scantily clad but not-to-be-messed-with Orion war mistress.

LEETA

Once again, I'd like to thank you for your assistance during this crisis, Madam Treir.

TREIR

You can thank me after the battle is won, Captain. The Alliance has threatened my people long enough. We are eager to join our swords with anyone who shares our hatred of them.

LEETA

Shar - begin attack run. Weapons, target the lead ships and fire on my mark. Send word throughout the fleet... it's showtime.

CUT TO:

47 **MONTAGE**

The blasting retrospective of Iliana's terrible life rushes past us, as we hear Iliana herself screaming...

KIRA (v.o.)

Stop!

48 **WHITE SPACE**

It is Kira (identifiable by her Starfleet uniform) who is pleading with the Prophets. Iliana is weeping openly, Ghemor is observing and feeling like an intruder here.

KIRA

Stop it! Can't you see she can't
take any more? Let her go!

Iliana's crying and screaming carry on for a few more moments as the mental onslaught continues. Then the Prophets gathered around seem to relent, and she calms down slightly, the anguished wails coming under control.

As Iliana sniffles, the Prophets turn to each other again, discussing things silently among themselves. They seem satisfied with a decision made. They look back to Iliana.

The WHITE SPACE seems to bleed slowly over Iliana's shape. She begins to fade out from existence, but as she goes, her expression changes. A new look creeps over her face...

Clarity. Rapture. Understanding. And then she is gone.

KIRA

What happened to her?

OPAKA PROPHET

She is the Fire.

GHEMOR

(frustrated)

What does that mean? What does
any of this have to do with my
universe? What is the Voice?

TEKENY PROPHEAT

You are the Voice.

GHEMOR

Does that mean I'm the Emissary?

DUKAT PROPHEAT

You are not the Sisko. But you
will do.

And then Ghemor begins to disappear into the white as well. She raises her hand, and the *pagh-varam* is now wrapped around it. She makes eye contact with Kira, understanding dawning for her too. And then she is gone.

Kira is left alone with the Prophets. They all turn to look at her - it is her turn now. She is nervous about what they will do or say to her...

...and then she begins to fade away into the white. The last expression on her face is one of awe and worry for what she now knows is to come.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

49 EXT. SPACE

Terok Nor sits calmly in space, with our *Defiant* holding position nearby. Both remain clearly damaged. The Mirror *Defiant* is docked at the station, and the Orion fleet hovers in the distance. But we're focusing on our *Defiant*.

50 INT. DEFIANT - BRIG

Vaughn and a trio of Starfleet security lead Taran'atar into the room. The Jem'Hadar steps calmly into the cell, and allows the security to activate the force field. He has made his decision and he is sticking with it, no questions.

51 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

The door opens and Vaughn steps onto the ruined bridge. Pryn timer spots him and runs to him for a hug - he hugs back tight, still haunted by what he did in Mylea.

That done, he approaches Dax, coughing from the smoke and looking around with a wryly amused eye. She is sheepish.

VAUGHN

You throw a party in here,
Lieutenant?

DAX

It was quite a show. Clean up's a
bitch, though.

VAUGHN

Oh, I wouldn't worry about it. You
haven't really captained a ship
until you've wrecked the bridge at
least once. What's our status?

DAX

Nog's holding things together for
now. Terok Nor has settled into a
stable position near the wormhole,
that just happens to match with

Deep Space Nine's position on our side perfectly. Can't quite decide if that's a coincidence or not.

VAUGHN

Best not to think about it.

(awkward pause)

Any news?

Dax sags. She knows what he is asking.

DAX

No. If they really were in the airlock when it exploded, then I don't see how any of them could have survived.

ALERTS go off on the few functioning panels. The crew turns in surprise, ready for the worst, and see the wormhole BURST into life on the screen.

52 EXT. SPACE

Two small objects shoot out of the opening - ORBS, floating in space, moving towards the station and the *Defiant*. The wormhole closes again, and then the two Orbs are swept up in swirls of the usual Orb-type energy and disappear.

53 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

A blinding FLASH of swirling Orb energy forms on the bridge, between the helm and the screen. There is a brief glimpse of the shape of an Orb at the centre, and then Kira is standing there. Dax grins, thrilled.

DAX

Captain on the bridge!

Relief, hugs and celebrations all around. Kira is happy to be welcomed back, but exhausted.

KIRA

Later, later, later. I'll tell you everything, just later. Right now I just want to get home.

BOWERS
(off panels)
Captain, we're getting a hail from
Terok Nor.

KIRA
On screen.

The screen changes to show Terok Nor's central Ops table. A Cardassian Woman is at the forefront - Ghemor. She looks calm, centred, serene, and she is wearing the *pagh-varam*.

With her are O'Brien, Keiko, Prynne, Ezri, Leeta and Treir. Opaka is gazing worshipfully at Ghemor. Ezri subtly pushes herself in between Leeta and Treir... just in case.

GHEMOR (screen)
We just wanted to thank you and
your crew for everything you've
done, Captain. But if you don't
mind, everybody here has agreed
that it's time the people of this
universe got back to handling
their own affairs.

KIRA
So what happens next?

GHEMOR (screen)
(grin)
What happens is that things really
start to change around here.

KIRA
For the better?

GHEMOR (screen)
We'll see.

The screen changes back to the star field, with Terok Nor hanging there. Kira sighs, and goes to the centre seat.

59 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* powers up, zooms away and into the wormhole.

60 **EXT. SISKO'S HOUSE**

A calm, panning shot around the beautiful sunny landscape. SISKO stands by the big tree, holding a baseball bat. He tosses a ball into the air, lifts the bat and WHACKS the ball out into the fields. The ball flies way off course.

He bends down to grab another ball, and when he comes back up, he sees a figure walking towards him across the fields. Vaughn is in civilian attire, tense and confrontational.

Sisko drops the bat, takes a deep breath. Vaughn comes up and throws a hard PUNCH at Sisko's chin. Sisko stumbles back, but doesn't fight back. He knew this was coming.

VAUGHN

You son of a bitch. I trusted you.

SISKO

I know. I'm sorry.

VAUGHN

You're sorry? Do you have any idea what I did over there? Do you?

SISKO

Yes. But I didn't have a choice.

VAUGHN

The hell you didn't! You played on my trust, you told me everything you knew I'd need to hear to get me to play your game. You planned all of that very deliberately, so don't you dare stand there and tell me you didn't have a choice. Everyone has a choice!

SISKO

It was necessary.

VAUGHN

Was it supposed to be me? Is that what this was about? You sent me to be your back-up replacement, because Ghemor chickened out?

SISKO

It was never about you, Elias. It was about making sure that all the right players are on the field, exactly where they need to be in order to win.

VAUGHN

Are you listening to yourself?
What the hell happened to you?

Sisko turns away, evasive, hiding his expression. He reaches down to pick up his bat.

SISKO

You really haven't known me long enough to ask that.

Vaughn angrily SNATCHES the bat out of his hand.

VAUGHN

Maybe not. But I know what the people who served under Captain Benjamin Sisko think about him. I know he earned their respect and their loyalty. That man would never have manipulated me as callously as you did.

SISKO

Maybe I'm just not deserving of my sterling reputation.

VAUGHN

Or maybe you've simply gotten in too deep with this whole Emissary thing. You aren't living by your own rules any more. You're living by theirs.

Sisko is stung by the accusation. Vaughn HEFTS the bat in his hands. For a moment, Sisko is worried that Vaughn might actually hit him with it. But Vaughn turns and SMASHES it to pieces against the tree.

VAUGHN

Find someone else to play your games, Ben. I'm done with them.

Then Vaughn turns and walks away across the field. Sisko watches him go, wondering if he is right.

61 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

Close on Kira's face. She is sat in a chair, gazing down at the deck, trying to figure out how to start.

KIRA

I think...

She pauses, looks up at Taran'atar, who is sat calmly on the bench in one of the cells, behind a force field.

KIRA

I think I've finally come to terms with the fact that what happened - the things you've done - weren't your fault.

TARAN'ATAR

But they were. I'm guilty.

KIRA

Of what?

TARAN'ATAR

Of being weak. Vulnerable. Of being a liability to you and those for whom you are responsible. In the Dominion, such crimes are irredeemable.

KIRA

That doesn't surprise me. But we aren't in the Dominion now. Life in the Federation has far more shades of grey.

TARAN'ATAR

So I have seen.

KIRA

I can appreciate your preference for a simpler life. Black or white, live or die. The problem, I think, is that you've already crossed over into a world that's more complicated than that. And I honestly don't know if there's any going back for you.

Taran'atar does not respond. He only stares back.

KIRA

There are two things I want you to know. The first is that there's a decommissioned Bajoran scout ship at port four. It's been disarmed and it won't do better than warp five. The second is that we've repaired the damage to your room. Everything is as it was before. What I'm saying is, you have a choice. Return to the life you had before you were compromised, try to rebuild what you had here. Or you can leave. Go where you want. The choice is yours. I'm setting you free. What you do with your freedom is up to you.

She stands, walks to the panel, and turns off the force field. She turns to leave, but Taran'atar calls after her.

TARAN'ATAR

I was not meant to be free.

KIRA

Maybe. But I'm afraid you're going to have to find a way to deal with freedom anyway. The strings have been cut, Taran'atar, all of them. For better or worse, you have to make your own choices now.

She turns and leaves. Taran'atar watches her go.

62 INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR

RO hobbles down the corridor, using her mechanical armature and a heavy cane to help her walk. It is hard work, but she refuses to give in to her infirmity.

She approaches the door to her quarters, and notices that a small paper note has been attached to the keypad.

RO

Oh, Quark. You never give up, do you? What is it this time - a drink? Dinner? Naked surfing in the holosuite?

She snatches the paper up, taps the keypad. The door opens and she enters her room.

63 INT. DS9 - RO'S QUARTERS (CONTINUOUS)

The big computers have been removed now. Ro hobbles into the room, throws the walking stick onto the couch and then lowers herself gingerly with a sigh onto the couch. She opens the paper and reads what it says.

INSERT - THE PAPER

A very brief handwritten note, made up of a few Bajoran characters.

TARAN'ATAR (v.o.)

I'm sorry. Taran'atar.

BACK TO SCENE

Caught by surprise, Ro is unsure how to process. Her breath catches, her emotions begin to surge. She closes her eyes against it, crumples the paper in her hand.

RO

Computer... locate Taran'atar.

COMPUTER

Taran'atar is not onboard the station.

RO

Repeat.

COMPUTER

Taran'atar is not onboard the station.

Confused at her own emotions, Ro tries not to give in. But she is overwhelmed, and the tears she has been holding in for weeks now come, hard and fast.

64 **EXT. SPACE**

The Gamma terminus of the wormhole opens, and a small weak-looking Bajoran ship exits into normal space. It trundles along at impulse, as we see the Idran star in the distance.

65 **INT. BAJORAN VESSEL**

The cockpit of the tiny Bajoran ship - like the one Jake used for his own trip. Taran'atar sits at the controls. He is confident in his decision, has no qualms.

TARAN'ATAR

First Taran'atar, personal log. I am returning home to report on my activities and receive punishment. I anticipate a swift death - it is the only appropriate response to my many deficiencies. I do not expect that even Odo will have any further use for me after what I did. But that is... acceptable. Setting course for Dominion space.

An alert flashes on his console. He looks at it, not sure whether to even bother checking. But curiosity wins out, and he taps the panel. A highly static-laden transmission sounds over the cabin's speakers.

VOICE

(static)

.... anyone

Taran'atar works the panels, refining the signal.

VOICE
... attack... please...

Taran'atar works the panels further, clarifying things. Sounds rattle and wave through the transmission until a clearer message comes through.

VOICE
This is the independent courier
Even Odds, to anyone within range.
Our ship is under attack. Repeat,
we are under attack. Please, if
anyone is receiving this, we
request immediate assistance...

The message dissolves back into static, and Taran'atar switches the console off. He turns back to the controls.

TARAN'ATAR
Setting course for Dominion space.

He reaches for the controls, but hesitates, unable to activate the final control. He frowns, confused at himself. Finally, he makes a decision. He works the controls.

TARAN'ATAR
Altering course. Setting intercept
for the courier, *Even Odds*.

66 **EXT. SPACE**

The tiny Bajoran craft turns in space and jumps to warp.

MATCH CUT TO:

67 **EXT. PLANET SURFACE - NIGHT**

Crackling flames, filling a ceremonial dais. We pull back and see that the dais sits at the bottom of a large natural amphitheatre-type formation. Black stone leads up canted surfaces to an edge, and then to black, star-filled space.

The fire echoes in the eyes of RAIQ, the Ascendant warrior from 9x23 "Rising Son." She gazes into the flames, excited and proud to be here. Around her, hundreds of other Ascendants, male and female, are gathered likewise.

Finally, one figure steps forward, and the crowd hushes in anticipation. The lead Ascendant is ESSK, a priest dressed in ceremonial robes, religious but still threatening.

He waves a silver hand over the flames, and they die down, revealing an object at their centre - an Orb, but one that is completely black. Essk turns to orate for the crowd.

ESSK

Not for millennia have the Knights of the Quest gathered so. Not since the great crusade against the heretical Eav'oq, when Knight fought against Knight and the Eyes of Fire fell dim. In our quest to achieve the Final Ascension, we have become a lost people, roaming the stars, searching for signs of the True. Generations have passed, each believing they would see the True and their children reunited at last. But troubling signs have lately appeared - that a new breed of heretics has also risen to claim kinship with Them. One Knight reported an encounter with these false worshippers.

Raiq silently preens - that was her.

ESSK

Word of further omens, such as the realignment of space itself and the rumoured return of the Eav'oq, have come to us. Yet we remain divided by doubt and distraction.

(re the Orb)

We gather now, in the sight of the last remaining Eye of Fire, to debate these signs once and for all. Unity is the only way, lest all Knights be held back from the Fortress of the True.

Essk turns and kneels before the Orb, praying before it.

ESSK

Divine Unnameable Ones, we pray
that you will reveal yourselves to
us, and sanctify this gathering of
your faithful soldiers. Guide us
to your Truth, that we might burn
out all heresy against You.

As Essk stands and turns back to the crowd, the gathered Ascendants GASP in surprise. Confused, Essk turns back to the Orb. A blood-red LIGHT has begun to burn deep inside.

The priest is stunned - his prayers have been answered. The light grows quickly, so bright that the Ascendants must shield their eyes, and the priest is knocked to his knees.

When it dies down again, Essk looks up and sees that the Orb itself is gone, replaced with a humanoid figure. Grey skin, prominent ridges, long dark hair.

ESSK

Who... are... you...?

Iliana smiles a smile of certainty and understanding.

ILIANA

I am the Fire.

BLACK OUT:

THE END