

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

14x15 - "Odysseus' Scar"

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*

and on the *Star Trek* tie-in novels  
by Pocket Books

### **TNG 19x15 - "THE BODY ELECTRIC"**

On *Enterprise*, Chen figures out that, aside from whatever its purpose with the black hole at the galaxy's core, the Machine also wants to make contact with other AIs. LaForge contacts Data, but he is a prisoner of the Fellowship of Artificial Intelligences and cannot help. Picard reluctantly authorises force, using a shuttle to plant explosives. But the Machine attacks using lots of smaller machines. It is already a conglomeration of smaller AIs, which it calls the Body Electric, and it wants every other AI to join it. Wesley locates Data aboard the Fellowship's vessel, and makes a deal with their leader Gatt - he will talk the Machine into stopping on their behalf, if *Enterprise* will promise not to try to rescue Data. Wesley moves the ship to meet *Enterprise*, where Picard rankles against negotiating under duress, but has no choice. Gatt travels to the Machine, where it shows him all of its plans... and converts him to its cause.

### **VOY 12x15 - "I THINK I'M PARANOID"**

Seven faces the mysterious "Commander" of Starfleet Medical, real name Dr Jefferson Briggs. The plague is real, but he is using it as cover. He wants to decode the Caeliar's catoms to use as a weapon in case they come back, but he has already killed dozens in his futile attempts. Seven bargains that if he releases his subjects, she will stay and help... While *Voyager* returns to the First World, the EMH is becoming increasingly erratic - Chakotay is forced to shut him down until Barclay can fix him. B'Elanna is overseeing repairs when Miral appears - Kula, her holographic nanny, has vanished. She finds Kim and Conlon investigating a holo-massacre in Holodeck 1. Are the two mysteries connected? Janeway tells Presider Cin that they will not be enemies, but there are too many cultural differences for a real alliance. What if Janeway helped Cin to open diplomacy with the invaders? Maybe there is a way forward after all...

**TEASER**

FADE IN:

**1 MONTAGE FROM PREVIOUS EPS**

-- Colonel Kira of the Bajoran Militia introduces Cmdr Elias Vaughn to Lt Ezri Dax (8x02 "Avatar, pt 2")

VAUGHN

Dax... It's been a while.

KIRA

You two know each other?

VOICEOVER

Previously, on Star Trek: Deep Space Nine...

-- Vaughn shoots a Romulan officer dead (8x02 "Avatar 2")

-- Walking thru a field of Romulan bodies (8x15 "Haunted")

VAUGHN

God... I've seen so many dead.

-- Vaughn and Dax argue on Yrythny world (8x17 "Empathy")

DAX

I am not Curzon.

VAUGHN

Try to remember that.

-- Kira yells at Vaughn (9x21 "Fearful Symmetry")

-- Bashir rages at Vaughn (11x10 "Gut Feelings")

-- Tenmei screams at Vaughn (8x22 "Greater Good")

-- Ro hisses angrily at Vaughn (11x11 "The Crucible")

-- Vaughn punches Sisko in the face (9x24 "Ha'mara")

-- Vaughn gently kisses Opaka (10x21 "Into the Fire")

-- Bacco and Kamemor sit and talk (14x07 "The Summit")

KAMEMOR

I've had several dealings with the Federation. I came away from them with the sense that your people are honourable, and willing to do the hard work to maintain peace.

-- Over the big battle scenes from 14x13 and 14x14...

BACCO (v.o.)

The Typhon Pact committed an act of war. Why did they do this?

-- Back to Bacco and Kamemor (14x07)

KAMEMOR

I know what you did on Salavat. And I assure you, Nan Bacco... I am capable of fighting.

-- Vaughn drives the *Kirk* onward (12x21 "Friendly Fire")

VAUGHN

All I ever wanted was to explore. Instead I've faced a century of war, thanks to bastards like you.

-- Lightning fast clips of various battle scenes - against the Borg in 12x21, the MU-Klingons in 9x24, the Ascendants in 10x12, the Jem'Hadar in 6x06, the Romulans in 14x13...

And finally, on the destruction of DS9 itself in 14x14...

**CROSS-FADE TO:**

**2    INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - HOSPICE ROOM - MORNING**

Soft beeps and burbles from the life support machinery. A gentle breeze and tweeting birds in the background.

PAN to the machinery's patient - VAUGHN. A HAND reaches in and gently scrapes the last of the shaving foam off his cheek, leaving a neat, trimmed beard of white whiskers.

TENMEI pulls back and rinses the razor in a bowl of water, then softly pads her father's face clean with a damp cloth. Gazes at her completed task with satisfaction.

TENMEI

That's better. Can't have you looking all scruffy and unkempt for your big party, can we?

The old man has been tidied up - a new haircut, fresh bed clothes, pillow fluffed to perfection. Glass windows reveal the beautiful Bajoran mountain view outside this private room. But the wistfulness soon overtakes Tenmei's pride...

TENMEI

Somehow I thought he'd be around forever. I mean, he's a hundred and seven, I get that. But I never really saw him as old, you know? He was just... dad.

OPAKA reaches out and holds the insensate old man's hand.

OPAKA

It's not the time one is given.  
It's what one does with it. And  
Elias used his time well.

(beat)

Shall I bring them in?

Tenmei steels her courage, takes a deep breath... and nods.

Opaka stands from her seat and heads to the door, revealing that there are actually SIX chairs arrayed around the bed.

Meanwhile Tenmei takes her shaving bowl and cloth, stashes them out of sight in a bedside vanity cabinet. Opaka opens the creaking wooden door, smiles in welcome...

...and KIRA, SISKO, RO and BASHIR enter, all sensitive to the delicacy of the occasion. They all gently hug Tenmei in turn. Meanwhile Opaka quietly closes the door. Over this:

TENMEI

Hi, everyone. Thanks for coming - I know dad would have appreciated it.

KIRA

Hi, Prynn. How are you feeling?

TENMEI

I think... reconciled. I've fought against this for so long, it's almost a relief to have finally reached the point where I know this is the right thing to do.

(sad chuckle)

Plus, I thought, given what just happened... he'd be so mad at me if I ended up dying before him. So... now's the time.

RO

Have there been many messages?

OPAKA

Oh yes, he's been quite popular.

SISKO

I'm not surprised. Your father touched many lives, Prynn.

BASHIR

That's certainly true of everyone in this room.

All sitting now, Ro reaches into the small bag she brought with her, pulls out a BOTTLE, presents it to Tenmei.

RO

I hope you don't mind, I brought this.

TENMEI

Berengarian whisky? Oh my god, how did you even get hold of this?

RO

Actually it was Quark's idea. I was dreading the idea of a two-hour death chant...

Kira and Opaka chuckle softly. The general atmosphere in the room is quiet and respectful, but good-humoured.

RO

(continuing)

...and he suggested we might all appreciate this more. Of course, he also suggested selling off your father's vacuum desiccated body parts, but I shut that down fast.

TENMEI

(chuckle)

Well, my father and I thank you for both of those things.

SISKO

I actually brought a gift too...

Sisko reaches into his own bag, brings out a small palm-sized BALL of crumpled paper. Over this:

OPAKA

Are such gifts a human custom?

SISKO

In some cultures. But I brought this because it represents what he did, and how people remember him.

Sisko hands the paper ball to Tenmei, who smiles...

TENMEI

I know this. My father has one.

SISKO

I know - it was a gift from the Vahni Valtupali. I visited their world in the Gamma Quadrant, and they asked about your father.

TENMEI

He saved their world.

SISKO

And they haven't forgotten it.

Sisko gently reaches out, TAPS a spot on the ball...

...and the paper UNRAVELS into a circular MODEL in Tenmei's hand - a 3D representation of the Vahni central city as seen in 14x10 "In Circles." In the middle is the tower that Sisko himself stood on, and the statue of Vaughn upon it.

SISKO

This tower is at the centre of their capital. Elias was there the day it fell. But they rebuilt, and now there's a statue of him, and a plaque telling the story of how he and his crew saved their world. When they heard about your father, they wanted you to have this.

TENMEI

Captain... thank you so much for this. I'll treasure it.

Suddenly a KNOCK at the door. Confusion and mild annoyance - who would interrupt such a delicate moment? Opaka gets up and opens the door again...

...revealing EZRI DAX, looking hesitant and apologetic.

DAX

Hello, Ranjen Opaka - I'm sorry to interrupt, I was told I could find Prynn Tenmei here?

Bashir recognises the voice, gets to his feet...

BASHIR

Ezri...?

Dax sees Bashir, smiles a little tensely...

DAX

Hi, Julian...

TENMEI

Dax, you made it! I'm so glad.

Clearly Dax is welcome, so Opaka lets her in, closes the door again. Another round of hugs...

DAX

Hi, Prynn. Hi, everyone. I wasn't sure I was going to be able to, but Akaar gave special dispensation for the *Aventine* to drop me off on its way to the Tzenkethi border. He asked me to tell you he wishes he could be here himself, but -

TENMEI

Oh please, I would never expect it. I'm just thrilled you could come. I know my dad would be too.

DAX

(wry smile)  
Well, I'm not so sure about that.  
(looks around)  
Oh, of course you weren't expecting me. I'll go grab another chair.

OPAKA

Oh no, please, take mine. I'll go.

Opaka heads for the door, but Tenmei protests...

TENMEI

Sulan... I know my father would want you here...

OPAKA

It's okay. You all have so much in common, and I'm sure there'll be ribald tales aplenty. Besides... I've had my time to say goodbye. Don't worry, I won't go far.

With that, Opaka gently leaves the room. Dax looks around, sees the bottle and paper ball...

DAX

Oh no, I didn't bring a gift...

TENMEI

It's fine, Ezri.

DAX

No, I should give you something.  
But I don't know what...?

SISKO

Why not one of those ribald tales?  
The Dax I know always has another  
story from her past lives...

TENMEI

Perfect! How about... when you and  
my father first met? He never told  
me that one.

BASHIR

(playful, at Dax)  
And you never told me.

This is a little more than Dax bargained for when she came  
in... but alright, if that's what they want.

DAX

When Dax met Vaughn... If you're  
sure you wanna know. Just don't  
say I didn't warn you.

As Dax stares at Vaughn's old, lined, unconscious face...

BLACK OUT

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

**3     VAUGHN**

Unconscious and on the edge of death in his hospice bed,  
the sense of his six visitors sitting around him...

DAX (o.s.)

It must have been... seventy years  
ago. The Khitomer Accords were  
young and fragile, and nobody had  
ever heard of the Dominion, the  
Borg... or the Typhon Pact...

**CUT TO:**

**4     INT. ENTERPRISE-B - CONFERENCE ROOM**

DAX (v.o.)

(continuing)

...when I first met Elias Vaughn.

The door opens, revealing YOUNG VAUGHN - a fully alive man in his mid-30s, strong and vibrant but intense. Much as he looked in the brief alt-universe flashback from 10x21 "Into the Fire" (sc 55). He wears a TOS movie-era uniform with black trim and under-collar - Starfleet Intelligence.

HARRIMAN (o.s.)

Lieutenant Vaughn. Commander  
T'Prynn. Please, take a seat.

Nodding acknowledgements, Vaughn enters the room, followed by the similarly uniformed Cmdr T'PRYNN, previously seen in 8x22 "Greater Good" and 10x10 "In Two Minds". She is over 100 now, but still in the prime of life for a Vulcan woman.

Captain JOHN HARRIMAN stands welcoming the two Intelligence agents. He is mid-50s, a much more experienced and seasoned man than the green and untested newbie of *ST: Generations*.

CURZON DAX takes the measure of them all from across the room. The male Trill is also mid-50s, in a smart diplomat's suit. A younger version of the man seen in 1x01 "Emissary".

All four take seats around the conference table. Out of the conference room windows, the ship is clearly at WARP.

HARRIMAN

First, welcome aboard the *Enterprise*. Agents, you may recognise Ambassador Curzon Dax of the Federation Diplomatic Corps by reputation...

Vaughn nods politely, T'Prynn cocks an eyebrow.

HARRIMAN

Ambassador, please meet Commander T'Prynn and Lieutenant Elias Vaughn of Starfleet Intelligence.

CURZON

A true pleasure, agents. Although I would like to start by saying that I am against your involvement in this mission altogether.

T'PRYNN

Ambassador... this mission is only taking place because of us. You are involved in our mission, not the other way around.

It's already going badly. Harriman tries to keep the peace.

HARRIMAN

The *Enterprise* and its crew have often served at the pleasure of Intelligence, Ambassador.

CURZON

Yes, well. In my long experience, intelligence and pleasure have very little to do with each other. Let's get on with it, shall we, since we're here?

Harriman taps controls, and they all turn to look at the SCREEN - with an image of a Romulan officer, ADM VOKAR.

HARRIMAN

The *Enterprise* is en route to the Sierra sector, along the Romulan border, to rendezvous with Admiral Aventeer Vokar and his ship.

T'PRYNN

Our records reveal the Admiral as a staunch nationalist with a long history of antagonism towards us.

HARRIMAN

In fact, I'd say he's one of the biggest threats to peace there is right now. The biggest, maybe.

T'PRYNN

That is why he is our target.

CURZON

(w/ disgust)

"Target". I'm a diplomat. I'm here to make friends, not target people. I negotiated the Khitomer Accords, I can handle a few Romulans.

T'PRYNN

Your myriad charms may have swayed the Klingons, Ambassador. They do admire drunken debauchery, after all.

Vaughn's stern mien struggles to hide a smirk.

T'PRYNN

(continuing)

But the Romulans will be quite a different matter.

CURZON

I've met their ambassador a few times. We get along fine.

T'PRYNN

A fact I do not deny - and one that will be very useful.

Curzon purses - he doesn't like being used this way. In order to shift the attention, he peers towards Vaughn...

CURZON

Doesn't say much, does he?

Not taking the bait, Vaughn just smiles calmly back.

T'PRYNN

In fact this is Lieutenant Vaughn's first official mission as a fully trained field agent. He has spent much of the last decade analysing data and writing reports.

CURZON

Reports?! Nothing you can learn from a report that you can't learn better by looking your opposite number right in the eye.

(to Vaughn directly)

So what's your role on this mission then, eh? Official note-taker?

Vaughn finally speaks - calm and dignified, but leaving no doubt that this is an intense man to be reckoned with.

VAUGHN

Whatever serves the greater good.

CURZON

Spoken like a true neophyte. The galaxy is a lot more complex once you step out from behind your desk, my young Lieutenant friend.

HARRIMAN

(getting impatient)

Dax.

(beat)

You're right, the galaxy is a complicated place right now. The Cardassians are annexing left and right, the Tholians just tried to invade Qo'noS, and your Khitomer Accords are wobbly at best.

(beat)

I spent most of my life studying and dealing with Romulans, ever since my grandfather used to tell me stories about fighting in the Earth-Romulan war. And I promise you they are just waiting for the first sign of weakness -

(re screen)

- Vokar especially. He'd love to top his career with a nice war. It would be his crowning achievement. We cannot allow that to happen.

T'PRYNN

Hence our presence here today.

As Curzon seethes in his seat...

DAX (v.o.)

I wasn't happy about it. But they had made a convincing case...

**CUT TO:**

**5 INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - HOSPICE ROOM - DAY**

EZRI DAX, relating her tale around Vaughn's bed...

DAX

(continuing)

So... I went along with it. Not that I had much say in the matter. Starfleet had made their plans, Vaughn and T'Prynn were there to carry them out, and I was just along for the ride.

SISKO breaks in...

SISKO

Wait... I think I know where this is heading. The *Enterprise-B*... meeting a Romulan warbird in the Sierra sector, seventy years ago, so that would be... 2311?

Dax nods, confirming Sisko's estimate. And now Bashir gets it too, realising with horror which story is being told...

BASHIR

The Tomed Incident.

SISKO

A Romulan terrorist attack on the Starfleet border base at Algeron Three, using an isolytic weapon, destroying the entire planet and costing thousands of lives...

**6 FLASHFORWARD - ALGERON III**

In orbit of the planet Algeron III, a massive EXPLOSION rocks the surface as the result of a devastating impact...

...and sets off a CHAIN REACTION across the entire planet, creating fault lines and volcanoes as the world is torn apart from the inside out...

**7 FLASHBACK - 14x05 "INSECURITY"**

Sisko stood at the window, gazing down at this shattered planet from the new Starbase now in orbit of it...

**8 BACK TO SCENE**

...Bashir finishes off the reference, haunted...

BASHIR

...and leading the Romulans to cut themselves off from all contact with the wider galaxy for more than fifty years.

TENMEI

I had no idea my dad was involved in the Tomed Incident.

KIRA

If it was that bad, he probably didn't like to talk about it.

DAX

It was that bad.

Off Dax, looking haunted but determined to keep going...

9 **EXT. PALAIS DE LA CONCORDE - DAY**

The centre of Federation government...

10 **INT. PALAIS - CORRIDOR**

The new black-clad security agent STINSON leads President BACCO and her recently promoted chief of staff Z4 BLUE (Nasat male) down the corridor...

Z4 BLUE

Well! That wasn't so bad, was it?  
I think it went rather well.

BACCO

(grumpy)

About time something did. But we should never even have had to make that argument to the Council.

(sigh)

I'm sorry, Z4. You're right, I should be glad they finally signed off on a timescale for a new space station in the Bajoran system.

Z4 BLUE

Finally, ma'am? With all respect, it's only been three weeks since Deep Space Nine was destroyed. The Council usually can't clear their collective throats in that amount of time. As far as I'm concerned, the meeting went very well.

BACCO

I already said you were right.

Z4 BLUE

I know, ma'am. But I like hearing it anyway.

11 INT. PALAIS - PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

The trio emerge into Bacco's office through the back door. Stinson holds them back until he can visually scan the area - it's clear. But as they enter, an ALERT goes off on Z4's padd. He quickly checks, tapping away with his pincers...

Z4 BLUE  
Madam President... you have a visitor.

BACCO  
Where? Here? In the Palais?

Z4 BLUE  
Yes, ma'am - he's waiting outside your office right now. It's Slask.

BACCO  
Slask... from S'snagor?

Z4 BLUE  
The very same.

BACCO  
Do we know what he wants?

Z4 BLUE  
He refuses to say. According to Sivak, he'll speak only to you.

Bacco considers this... something's not right here.

BACCO  
Z4, you and Agent Stinson go out there first. Try and determine how important it is. Not that I don't trust my old friend... just that I am busy and I have to prioritise.

Bacco is clearly giving them the party line to present to her visitor - in fact she is very much worried about this.

Stinson nods economically and heads to the door. Z4 Blue TINKLES nervously and skitters after him. They both exit.

While she waits, Bacco sits behind her desk, tries to look as presidential as possible. What on Earth could be going on that her old friend is here to see her, now?

After a few more moments, the door opens and Z4 trundles in on all eights. Reaching the desk, he stretches up, his insectile antenna stiff with tension...

Z4 BLUE

It's definitely Slask. He passed every security verification and checkpoint we have, or he'd have never made it inside the building, let alone to the fifteenth floor.

BACCO

Alright, then.

(taps desk)

Sivak, I'm told I have a visitor.  
Please show him in.

SIVAK (comm)

At once, Madam President.

Another moment, and the door opens once again...

...and a gigantic GORN stands in the door. As the hulking reptilian bares his teeth and HISSES threateningly...

...Bacco tries her best not to react.

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

**12 INT. PALAIS - PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY**

SLASK now sits squeezed into the guest chair. Bacco keeps her own seat, the desk between them as protection. The Gorn issues hisses and growls, ENGLISH TRANSLATION overlaid.

SLASK

I apologise for coming. I know our friendship has been useful to us both, largely because it is not widely known. By coming here now, I have put that secrecy at risk.

BACCO

I trust you enough to know you wouldn't have done that lightly.

SLASK

I am of course aware of the attack within the Bajoran system. I don't know if this will mean much, but I do know that Emperor Sozzerosz never approved such an action, nor is he pleased that it took place.

BACCO

I appreciate that. I'd appreciate it more if he were to issue a public statement to that effect.

SLASK

The Emperor may have no interest in attacking the Federation... but neither does he wish to antagonise those Typhon Pact members who do.

BACCO

Members like who?

SLASK

The Tzenkethi. Breen. Tholians.

Bacco waits for the rest. He says nothing more. Finally...

BACCO

Not the Romulans?

Slask holds up a small data chip...

SLASK

I hope this will speak to that.

BACCO

You hope? You don't know?

SLASK

I am content to deliver messages.  
I do not examine their contents.

BACCO

Who's the message from?

SLASK

Gell Kamemor.

Instantly on her feet, hands SLAMMED on desk, *blazing*.

BACCO

What? Why would the praetor send me  
a message? To gloat? To fob me off  
with another apology? Oh I'm sorry,  
I didn't mean to fake the crash of  
one of our ships, then send it to  
attack you? There were civilians  
on that station, Slask. Children.

Unruffled, Slask just calmly places the data chip on the  
desk, then slowly stands up, careful not to startle anyone.

SLASK

I do not know the contents of the  
praetor's message. I only hope it  
is something you wish to hear.

(beat)

Moreover, I hope it is something  
you are able to hear.

The Gorn bows stiffly, then turns to leave. Bacco calls...

BACCO

Slask.

(he turns)

Thank you. On behalf of my people  
and my government, thank you.

(beat)

And I personally thank you.

SLASK

You are welcome, Nan.

The door opens, and Slask EXITS. Z4 immediately skitters in  
and heads to Bacco's desk. She hands him the chip.

BACCO

Get this to Akaar immediately. It  
gets every test Starfleet security  
can throw at it. I want to know  
what's on it, how authentic it is -

Z4 BLUE

And where it came from.

BACCO

It came from Gell Kamemor.

Z4 BLUE

Are you sure? Slask may have spent  
time in Romulan space, but to get  
anywhere near the praetor, never  
mind carry messages for her... and  
even if it's true, can you believe  
anything a Romulan praetor says?

BACCO

Kamemor wasn't always the praetor.  
She's been a teacher, a regional  
governor, a grieving widow...  
she's made a life out of fighting  
for her people. In fact, for a  
while she was actually the Romulan  
ambassador to the Federation...

Torn between anger and hope, Bacco tries to work it out...

**13**    **INT. ENTERPRISE-B - VIEWSCREEN**

KAMEMOR appears on the *Enterprise* viewscreen - mid-50s, the Romulan ambassador to the Federation, dignified and upright but with a friendly edge rare to see in Romulans.

Adm VOKAR stands next to her, both of them on the Romulan ship's bridge. He is professional but distinctly cool.

VOKAR (screen)  
Captain Harriman. May I present  
Ambassador Gell Kamemor of the  
Romulan Star Empire.

OPEN OUT to reveal...

**14**    **INT. ENTERPRISE-B - BRIDGE (CONTINUOUS)**

...HARRIMAN standing on his bridge, CURZON DAX next to him, offering formal greetings to their opposite numbers.

HARRIMAN  
*Jolan tru*, Ambassador. I believe  
you already know Ambassador Dax?

KAMEMOR (screen)  
(smile)  
I do indeed.

VOKAR (screen)  
As I already know you, Captain.

A fact, but the Romulan's tone clearly describes a history there. Harriman chooses not to react. Dax steps forward...

CURZON  
We are prepared to receive your  
party aboard the *Enterprise* at  
your leisure, Ambassador.

KAMEMOR (screen)  
I look forward to it.

HARRIMAN  
Will you be joining us, Admiral?

VOKAR (screen)  
Sadly, my duties aboard the *Tomed*  
preclude me from accepting such a  
gracious invitation.

HARRIMAN  
I understand.

Light and unpointed, Harriman turns to the woman sat at  
helm - DEMORA SULU (also from *Generations*)...

HARRIMAN  
(continuing)  
Commander, you'll have the bridge  
while I'm with the ambassadors.  
(back to screen)  
I'll have our transporter chief  
coordinate with yours, Admiral.  
*Enterprise* out.

The signal drops on Vokar's annoyed face. Back to Sulu...

HARRIMAN  
Drop shields only for the split  
second it takes to beam her  
aboard, Demora.

SULU  
Understood, Captain.

Harriman cocks his head to Dax, beckoning him towards the  
turbolift. As they enter the lift together...

CURZON  
I might admire your facility with  
a cutting line, Captain, if there  
weren't a Romulan warbird pointing  
all its weapons at us right now.

The doors close on stern Harriman and concerned Curzon...

15 **EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE-B AND TOMED**

The Excelsior-class *Enterprise-B* and the comparably sized  
Romulan warbird *Tomed* hold position in open space...

16 INT. ENTERPRISE-B - CREW LOUNGE

The doors open allowing CURZON and KAMEMOR to enter, one Starfleet security and one Romulan *uhlan* tailing them. The room is semi-busy with Starfleet officers off duty, sitting at tables with drinks and food, chatting or enjoying the view out of the window of the *Tomed* against the stars.

KAMEMOR

(playful)

Is this a standard Federation negotiating technique, Curzon?

CURZON

I think we've spent long enough in that stuffy room, thank you. I'm sure we could both use a break. I don't know about you, but for me that means a good stiff drink.

They both nod for their guards to stay where they are, by the door. Reluctantly, they do.

Then the ambassadors proceed towards the window, where Dax pulls out a chair for Kamemor. She takes a moment to figure out what the unfamiliar gesture means, then takes the seat. He moves around to sit opposite her, calls for a waiter.

CURZON

If it were up to me I'd take you to a proper restaurant on Risa, where they serve actual drinks, not this replicated rubbish.

KAMEMOR

I'd enjoy that. I'm not sure my wife would approve, however.

Curzon smirks - he wasn't really flirting, but it seems his reputation does in fact precede him. The waiter arrives...

VAUGHN (o.s.)

What can I get for you?

Kamemor looks up, and it's VAUGHN, dressed as a waiter.

CURZON

Two synthales, please.

Vaughn nods politely, and heads off. Curzon gulps, nerves fighting through now at being in the midst of the game.

CURZON

I do have an ulterior motive for bringing you here, Gell. It's because what I'm about to say is strictly off the record.

KAMEMOR

(intrigued)

And there's safety in numbers?

CURZON

Something like that. The truth is I'm worried. Very, very worried.

KAMEMOR

About what?

CURZON

About Vokar.

Kamemor controls her reaction. Curzon is not alone in this.

CURZON

You saw how he reacted to the captain. Harriman and Vokar have tussled before, and Vokar came off the worse for it, if I recall. And I'm afraid Vokar wants revenge.

KAMEMOR

(evasive)

For Vokar to initiate hostilities would be foolish. The Klingons have promised to ally against whoever makes the first strike.

CURZON

I know that and you know that, but does Vokar? Or is he under the impression Romulus would win?

Vaughn comes back with the synthales - Dax and Kamemor both pull back, separating so as not to look suspicious...

**BY THE DOOR**

The Starfleet and Romulan guards observe their charges, too far away to hear what they have been saying over the noise. All they can see is Vaughn placing the drinks on the table.

**BACK TO THE TABLE**

Last glass on the table, Curzon looks up at Vaughn...

CURZON

Thank you.

Vaughn nods back, sharing an intense look with Curzon that Kamemor doesn't see - *remember the plan*. Then he's gone.

The waiter's presence has given Kamemor the moment she needs to regather. She actually agrees with Curzon, but what can she say that isn't a betrayal of her people?

KAMEMOR

When Nanclus was arrested after the Khitomer Conference, I swore as his successor... that I would never allow nationalism to bring us to the brink of war again. I would instead fight for peace... for the sake of my wife and son.

CURZON

I think that's why we get along so well. But Vokar...

KAMEMOR

(hesitant)

He has... expressed some opinions that might lead one to believe he holds a different perspective.

CURZON

Then you do agree with me.

Kamemor takes a sip of her synthale, considering its taste as a way to delay and prepare her words again.

CURZON

I do not believe Vokar is beyond redemption. He is a loyal man, he must understand that any violence would backfire on his own people.

KAMEMOR

One would hope.

CURZON

Then I beg you, to use whatever influence you have to steer him back from the brink of disaster. Before he makes a mistake that would have terrible consequences for us all.

A long pause as Kamemor considers what to do...

KAMEMOR

I will do what I can.

Off Curzon's relieved expression...

**17    INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - HOSPICE ROOM - DAY**

...to Ezri staring at the faces of her friends.

DAX

Yep. I had drinks with the future praetor of the Romulan Empire... and I lied right to her face.

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**18 INT. TOMED - READY ROOM**

The Romulan admiral's private office. Frustrated VOKAR and placating KAMEMOR sit opposite each other across his desk.

VOKAR

With greatest respect, Ambassador, you are naive. The Federation is already developing a first strike capability against us as we speak.

KAMEMOR

What first strike capability?

VOKAR

Isolytic weapons! You saw the same sensor readings I did.

KAMEMOR

Those were open to interpretation. Besides, when have you ever known Starfleet to strike first?

VOKAR

I do not intend to hand them that opportunity.

KAMEMOR

But don't you see, Admiral? That's exactly what you're doing. The more you provoke them, the more likely they are to react.

VOKAR

They are not to be trusted!

KAMEMOR

Are we?

VOKAR

(beat, then dark)

I beg your pardon, Ambassador?

KAMEMOR

What reason have we given them to believe we are not the ones about to strike first? One of us must take the first step. Why not us?

Suddenly a voice, LINAVAL, sounds urgently on the comm...

LINAVAL (comm)

Admiral to the bridge.

Alarmed, Vokar and Kamemor both stand and head out to...

**19 INT. TOMED - BRIDGE (CONTINUOUS)**

...as seen previously on the *Enterprise's* viewscreen. The XO, Subcommander LINAVAL, relinquishes the command chair.

VOKAR

Subcommander Linavil - report.

LINAVAL

Admiral. Sublieutenant Akeev has detected unusual radiation readings from the Starfleet vessel. And they are hailing us.

Vokar, still distrustful, exchanges a look with Kamemor. He settles into his chair, determined to appear commanding.

VOKAR

On screen, Subcommander.

Linavil relays the order, and the screen changes...

...to show the *Enterprise's* bridge in crisis, crew rushing about, RED ALERT lights flashing. Harriman stands, while Curzon can be seen sitting out of the way at the back...

VOKAR

Is there a problem, Captain?

HARRIMAN (screen)

Our impulse drive is overloading, Vokar. Don't suppose you know why?

Kamemor gulps - Harriman suspects Vokar of sabotage. Could he be right? Vokar looks to her, then back to Harriman...

VOKAR

I'm sure I don't know what you mean, Captain.

HARRIMAN (screen)

If this ship is destroyed, that'll be nearly eight hundred lives.

VOKAR

(grinds teeth)  
Stand by, Captain.

A gesture to Linavil, the screen cuts. Turns to Kamemor...

KAMEMOR

The Starfleet flagship being destroyed inside Romulan space, even by accident? No-one would believe we weren't to blame.

Angry at the logic of that, Vokar turns back to Linavil...

VOKAR

Subcommander, is there anything we can do to help the *Enterprise*?

LINAVIL

I... don't know, Admiral. I'm not familiar...

KAMEMOR

(*sotto*, pleading)  
Admiral, please. They can't have much time....

VOKAR

(grudging)  
Subcommander... lower shields, then reactivate viewscreen.

Confused but under orders, Linavil relays the command. The viewscreen changes back to the view of *Enterprise's* bridge.

VOKAR

Captain Harriman, I have lowered the *Tomed's* shields. We are ready to beam your crew aboard... if you are unable to repair your engines.

HARRIMAN (screen)

Oh, so that's your game? Destroy my ship and take my crew home as prisoners of war?

Vokar looks to Kamemor - she was right, Harriman has no reason to trust them. How to rescue this?

VOKAR

Not at all, Captain. I believe there is a Starfleet border base in the Algeron system? The *Tomed* will take you there in safety.

On screen, Harriman seems to fight his worst instincts...

HARRIMAN (screen)

Very well, Admiral. If we can't fix the engines... I'll take you up on that offer. And thank you.

Another gesture, and the signal drops. Turns to Kamemor...

KAMEMOR

And I thank you too, Admiral.

**20    EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE-B AND TOMED**

The *Enterprise-B* and the *Tomed* still holding position, but now we focus on the Romulan ship. Time passing...

**21    INT. TOMED - BRIDGE**

Vokar waits in his chair, nervous that this may be a trap of some kind, but hiding it under command resolve.

VOKAR

Any news from the *Enterprise*?

LINAVIL

Negative, Admiral. Their engine temperature continues to rise.

(off panels)

Wait - their core temperature is now returning to normal.

VOKAR

(shifts forward, wary)

Are they charging weapons? Raising shields?

LINAVIL

Negative, Admiral. But they are hailing us again.

VOKAR

On screen.

The viewscreen shows Harriman and Dax again, both looking relieved. The bridge behind them is no longer at red alert.

HARRIMAN (screen)

The crisis is over, Admiral. Seems there was a manufacturing fault in the port deuterium injector. We've replaced the defective part.

VOKAR

I see. And you are satisfied there will be no additional... mishaps?

HARRIMAN (screen)

For now. But I suggest we withdraw to Algeron for a full inspection.

VOKAR

I couldn't agree more, Captain. Ambassador Kamemor?

KAMEMOR

I also agree. I think we can call this encounter, however brief, a success. Until our next meeting, then, Ambassador Dax.

CURZON (screen)  
Until then. And let it be on Risa.

The signal drops. Vokar turns to Linavil...

VOKAR  
Track *Enterprise* to the border,  
just to ensure there are no more  
"accidents". Once they are out of  
our space, set course for home.

LINAVIL  
It will be done, Admiral.

Vokar now turns to Kamemor, still not entirely convinced...

VOKAR  
A successful encounter, Ambassador?

KAMEMOR  
Starfleet does not think we tried  
to sabotage their flagship, we  
demonstrated we can be trusted in  
times of crisis, and no lives were  
lost. That is very much a success.

And they settle in to watch, just in case...

**22 EXT. SPACE - ENTERPRISE-B AND TOMED**

*Enterprise-B* turns away from *Tomed* and jumps to WARP...

**23 INT. ENTERPRISE-B - BRIDGE**

Harriman takes his command chair, looks at Curzon beside him, who glares back unhappily. They speak *sotto*...

HARRIMAN  
Transport was successful?

CURZON  
I performed it myself.

HARRIMAN  
And the radiation from the engines  
completely masked the signal?

Curzon simply nods, too unhappy to respond verbally.

HARRIMAN

Maintain course, Commander Sulu.

Sulu follows her orders. Harriman sits back and waits...

**24**    **INT. TOMED - CORRIDOR**

A corridor in the unpopulated depths of the Romulan ship, where two low-level Romulan technicians work at panels. Their work complete, they stand and turn...

...revealing VAUGHN and T'PRYNN, both dressed as Romulans. It suits T'Prynn perfectly, but the young and inexperienced Vaughn looks uncomfortable in the alien uniform, pointed ears, bowl haircut and green skin. T'Prynn observes this...

T'PRYNN

Nervousness is only to be expected, Lieutenant. Accept that, and it will lose its power over you. You have a mission - focus on that.

VAUGHN

Understood. I have a mission.

T'PRYNN

Then proceed, Lieutenant.

They turn opposite ways down the corridor, and head off on their missions. Staying with Vaughn as he strides away...

VAUGHN

You have a mission, Vaughn. You have a mission.

But the nerves are not entirely under control...

**25**    **EXT. SPACE - TOMED**

Some time later, *Tomed* turns, ready to jump to warp...

...and instead grinds to a crippling halt, dead in space.

26 **INT. TOMED - BRIDGE**

Vokar is *furious* as Linavil reports...

LINAVIL

The engineer cannot stop it. She may be able to delay it, but the singularity will lose containment.

VOKAR

Delay it for how long?

LINAVIL

Minutes, perhaps hours. But they may not have time to determine if they even can delay it at all.

Vokar tries not to show, but he is *vibrating* with rage...

VOKAR

(to self)

Damn you, Harriman.

(louder)

Subcommander... sound evacuation.

We are abandoning the *Tomed*.

Linavil works the controls, and RED ALERT begins to sound through the ship. Vokar turns to Kamemor...

VOKAR

Ambassador, I suggest you find an available escape pod, and use it.

KAMEMOR

Thank you, Admiral. I will.

Kamemor turns and leaves the bridge. We go with her...

27 **INT. TOMED - CORRIDOR (CONTINUOUS)**

...into the corridors of the Romulan ship, which are busy with Romulan officers, evacuating with urgency but dignity.

Kamemor pushes her way through them, alarmed and confused at the way this mission has gone so horribly wrong...

28 **EXT. SPACE - TOMED**

Dozens of shuttles and escape pods launch from the *Tomed*...

29 **INT. TOMED - SHUTTLE BAY**

A door opens and Kamemor enters. But she stops in horror...

...at the sight of half a dozen dead Romulan bodies strewn across the deck between the door and the shuttle itself. Then a figure steps out of the shuttle's open door...

It is VAUGHN, disguised as a Romulan, disruptor in hand. He too stops in horror at being caught green-handed, glances nervously at the bodies on the deck. He killed them all.

On Kamemor as she stares at him, at the familiar eyes...

**FLASHBACK - ENTERPRISE CREW LOUNGE**

Kamemor glances up casually at Vaughn the waiter...

**BACK TO SCENE**

...and realises what has been going on.

KAMEMOR

So... Vokar was right about you  
after all.

Hating every second of it, but with no other choice...

...Vaughn raises his disruptor and points it at Kamemor.

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

**30 INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - HOSPICE ROOM - AFTERNOON**

TENMEI on her feet beside her father's bed, incensed...

TENMEI

How dare you. I invite you here to  
celebrate my father's memory, and  
you accuse him of murder?

DAX

(hands up, placating)  
That's not what I'm saying -

KIRA gently reaches out and takes Tenmei's hand, tries to  
calm her. BASHIR stands as well, heads to join Dax...

BASHIR

Prynn, I'm sure Ezri never meant  
to accuse your father of any such  
thing. We didn't always get along,  
but I know what your father went  
through on that mission...

RO

(gentle warning)  
Doctor...

BASHIR

We're all Starfleet, you can keep  
a secret. But on my first job for  
Intelligence... I was forced to  
kill for the sake of the mission.

DAX

(quietly horrified)  
Julian...

BASHIR

I hated it. I'm sure your father  
did as well. But it was necessary.

Tenmei begins to settle, sits back down again...

KIRA  
They're right, Prynn. Sometimes  
good people have to do bad things.  
It doesn't make them bad people.

Tenmei considers Kira's gentle words... and silently nods.

RO  
So... he obviously didn't kill  
Kamemor...

DAX  
No... he didn't.

**31    INT. TOMED - SHUTTLE BAY**

Young Vaughn holding his disruptor on Kamemor...

VAUGHN  
I'm sorry. I don't want to do any  
of this. But I have a mission.

Before Vaughn can fire, or Kamemor can respond...

...a hand reaches in and PINCHES her neck, and she drops to  
the deck. The disguised Cmdr T'Prynn stands behind her...

T'PRYNN  
It is inadvisable to discuss the  
details of a secret mission with  
the mission's target, Lieutenant.  
Perhaps they neglected to teach  
you that at Advanced Tactical?

VAUGHN  
I killed them...

T'PRYNN  
I understand. But focus on your  
mission - to secure our escape  
once the *Tomed* is under control.

VAUGHN  
Yes... yes. This shuttle is ours.  
Everyone else is gone.

T'PRYNN

Sadly not. The admiral and his top advisors chose not to evacuate.

(re Kamemor)

Help me with the Ambassador. There is an unused escape pod nearby, we will send her to safety.

VAUGHN

But she recognised me.

T'PRYNN

If Ambassador Dax is correct, that may yet work to our favour.

VAUGHN

(deep breath)

Thank you, T'Prynn.

T'PRYNN

Do not mistake me, Elias. These are unlikely to be the last enemy soldiers whose lives you will take in the course of our missions.

VAUGHN

(hardening)

Whatever serves the greater good.

T'Prynn nods, and they move to lift Kamemor's body...

**32 EXT. SPACE - TOMED**

One last escape pod ejects from the *Tomed*...

...then the Romulan warbird powers back up again and JUMPS to warp, disappearing into the distance.

**33 INT. TOMED - BRIDGE**

Vokar reacts to the reports of LINAVID and AKEEV...

AKEEV

We have entered warp, Admiral.  
Course is set for the Federation.

LINAVIL

The singularity is now stabilised,  
and self-destruct is unavailable.

VOKAR

Clearly they intend to capture the  
*Tomed* and present it as a gift.

(thinking)

Surely that would also be seen by  
the Klingons as an act of war...

(realises, sly)

...if it were to get out.

AKEEV

But our external communications  
are locked out as thoroughly as  
helm control, Admiral.

Sudden inspiration - Linavil runs to a panel and checks it.

LINAVIL

There is one shuttle still in the  
bay. Its comm may be operational.

VOKAR

Take that shuttle, Subcommander.  
Make sure the whole galaxy knows  
who's responsible for this.

With a vengeful grin, Linavil dashes to a weapons cabinet,  
grabs a disruptor, and EXITS. Vokar taps a comm panel...

VOKAR

All remaining crew, this is the  
Admiral. Locate these Starfleet  
saboteurs now - and kill them.

(to Akeev)

Sublieutenant - assist me.

Vokar starts dismantling the helm console...

**34**    **INT. TOMED - CORRIDOR**

Vaughn dodges behind a bulkhead - a DISRUPTOR SHOT blasts  
the bulkhead only inches from his head.

He peeks around - and FIRES his own disruptor. A YELP and a THUD - the weapon hit its target. He looks sideways at...

...T'PRYNN, who calmly hides behind the opposite bulkhead as more weapons fire SCREECHES out, missing them both.

T'PRYNN

Only one remains here. Return to the shuttle bay and prepare for launch. I will join you shortly.

Vaughn nods and turns away. Steps over another Romulan body - the soldier he stole his weapon from - and heads down the corridor. T'Prynn steps out to cover his escape, firing her own disruptor and advancing with terrifying composure...

**35**    **INT. TOMED - SHUTTLE BAY**

Vaughn runs back in, heading straight for the control panel along the bay's side wall. He reaches it, spends a moment scanning it visually, to be sure he knows what does what...

...he takes a few quick deep breaths, preparing himself...

...then hits the button. LIGHTS begin to flash, the HATCH begins to RUMBLE slowly open, and the air in the bay begins to HISS out into open space, the stars at warp outside.

Vaughn knows he only has moments until the air is gone - he dashes as quick as he can across the bay, into the one last shuttle whose door he left open before they left...

**36**    **INT. ROMULAN SHUTTLE (CONTINUOUS)**

...and comes up short at the sight of LINAVAL with one hand on the front console, and the other pointing her disruptor right at him. They glare as the air runs out around them...

...and she FIRES. But the disruptor MISFIRES in the near-vacuum, allowing him to dodge...

...and RUSH her, head and shoulders low to dive under the disruptor. BARREL into her waist, KNOCK the air out of her, disruptor goes flying, FLIP her up over his back...

...and out of the open shuttle door. Vaughn quickly works the controls, and the door begins to close...

...but before it can close all the way, Linavil LEAPS back in through the gap and tackles Vaughn down...

**37**    **INT. TOMED - BRIDGE**

The door opens and T'PRYNN strides in. Vokar and Akeev look up, briefly caught off guard by this unfamiliar Romulan...

VOKAR

Who are you? Are you on my crew?

T'PRYNN

No, Admiral, I am not.

And she raises her disruptor and SHOOTs Akeev on the spot. He tumbles to the deck, dead. Vokar steps back, seething with rage as T'Prynn adjusts the disruptor settings...

VOKAR

Harriman sent you, didn't he?

T'PRYNN

We gave you the chance to abandon ship. You should have taken it.

VOKAR

I will never abandon the *Tomed*!

T'PRYNN

As you wish, Admiral.

And she SHOOTs him too.

**38**    **INT. ROMULAN SHUTTLE**

Vaughn is RAMMED against the shuttle's bulkhead, Linavil's grip around his throat. Her other hand pulls back to punch him right in the face....

...and he drops like a stone, letting the PUNCH go right into the bulkhead. He RAMS through her middle, unbalancing her again. She CRUMPLES in an uncoordinated tangle...

...he SCRAMBLES to the other end of the cabin. The door is closed, air is replenished, but a fight against a pissed off Romulan with three times your strength is no time to recover from oxygen deprivation. He needs a moment...

...but he's not going to get it. Linavil rights herself, reaches into her boot, pulls out a KNIFE, and charges...

**39**    **INT. TOMED - BRIDGE**

Vokar JERKS awake, struggles to right himself... but his limbs are tied to his command chair with strips of plastic.

T'Prynn glances at him dismissively while she works to dismantle a bridge console...

T'PRYNN

Welcome back, Admiral. I thought perhaps you might sleep all day.

VOKAR

You've sealed your people's fate, Vulcan. Everyone will know what you've done, the Klingons will ally with us against you... and there will finally be war.

T'Prynn completes her work and hefts a large DEVICE out of its housing. She turns to face him, quite calm.

T'PRYNN

You misunderstand our intentions, Admiral. You are about to prevent a war, not start one. Be proud.

She heads for the door, carrying the device, and EXITS. He ROARS his frustration, struggling against his bonds...

**40**    **INT. ROMULAN SHUTTLE**

Vaughn ROLLS onto his back... Linavil LEAPS into the air...

...and LANDS right on top of him, straddling his midsection and pinning his forearms with her knees. Reaches down, RIPS the false points off his ears, throws them away in disgust.

VAUGHN

Do it! Kill me!

Linavil grins - *gladly*. Raises the knife above her head...

...he YANKS one arm free, raises it lightning fast...

...and the plunging knife SLICES right through his palm, out the other side. He swipes the hand sideways, she loses grip on the knife, scrambles to reach for it again...

...he YANKS the other arm free, grabs the handle before she can reach it, draws the knife out of his own hand...

...and PLUNGES it into her ribs. She SCREAMS, more out of rage than pain... he draws the knife back, and STABS again. She falls back off him, to the deck... and goes limp.

Catching his breath, he reaches for her pulse - she's dead. The briefest flash of a grin - *Good!* - before he pulls back with horror at himself and what he has done.

He staggers to his feet, pins his bleeding hand under the other arm, uses the free hand to work the consoles. Checks something, nods with relief. Presses a button - the shuttle door rumbles open. Drags Linavil's dead body to the door...

...only to find T'PRYNN approaching the shuttle across the airless bay deck, carrying the stolen device. She helps him haul the body out onto the deck, then calmly steps inside.

Vaughn works to close the shuttle door again. He is about to speak, but she holds up a single finger - *wait*. The door closes, air whooshes back in, and she finally breathes...

T'PRYNN

Was she able to send a message?

VAUGHN

No. I'd locked out the controls already, she didn't break them.

T'PRYNN

(re hand)

You are wounded.

VAUGHN  
I'll be fine.

T'PRYNN  
Then help me install the cloaking  
device.

They get to work...

**41    EXT. SPACE - ALGERON SYSTEM**

The planet of Algeron III in the middle distance, with the glittering lights of a starbase and its surrounding colony across part of its surface. *Enterprise-B* hoves into view...

**42    INT. ENTERPRISE-B - BRIDGE**

SULU reacts to her console with surprise and horror...

SULU  
Captain! Long-range sensors detect  
a ship entering the sector at high  
warp - it's the *Tomed*!

Harriman glances to Curzon sat beside him, then fakes it...

HARRIMAN  
Hail them - warn Vokar that he is  
not authorised to enter our space.

SULU  
No response.

HARRIMAN  
Can we intercept?

SULU  
No time - they're heading straight  
for the border station on Algeron.  
And these readings... oh my God...  
they've got an isolytic weapon!

HARRIMAN  
Contact the border station - tell  
them to get out of there now.

SULU  
No response! My God, there are  
thousands of people down there...  
*Tomed* is entering the system...

HARRIMAN  
Sulu - maximum warp, now!

**43    EXT. SPACE - ALGERON SYSTEM**

With the planet still in the background, *Enterprise* jumps  
to WARP out of the system...

**44    EXT. SPACE - TOMED**

The Romulan ship warps past us... and as it passes, we see  
that its rear shuttle bay is open to space, and empty...

**45    INT. TOMED - BRIDGE**

VOKAR, still tied to his chair - he ROARS in futile fury...

**46    EXT. SPACE - ALGERON SYSTEM**

...and the ship SLAMS into the planet, targeted perfectly  
for the colony. A massive EXPLOSION rocks the surface...

...and sets off a CHAIN REACTION across the entire planet,  
creating fault lines and volcanoes as the world is torn  
apart from the inside out...

**47    INT. ENTERPRISE-B - BRIDGE**

As the *Enterprise* crew watch this on the viewscreen...

Harriman looks again at Curzon. They both look sick...

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT FOUR**

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

**48** INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - HOSPICE ROOM - EVENING

Ezri Dax looks at the stunned faces arrayed around Vaughn's hospice bed. None of them can quite believe it...

SISKO

Dax... are you saying that you and Vaughn framed the Romulans for the murder of thousands of people?

DAX

No. Starfleet had been planning this for months. Algeron Three was emptied out long before Vokar got there - the records show thousands of names, yes, but fewer than a dozen people actually died. And they were all Romulans.

RO

So there was no terrorist attack on Algeron. You just made it look like there was...

BASHIR

...to help solidify the alliance with the Klingons...

KIRA

...and force the Romulans to back down from a war they couldn't win.

DAX

That's what your father did, Prynn. He stopped a war before it started. He saved lives - the Federation's, the Klingons' and the Romulans'.

TENMEI

(quiet)

But he had to kill to do it.

DAX

Yes. He took his wounds, bore his scars... for the greater good.

KIRA

And you know Elias. If anybody had to do the hard work... he'd rather it be him than the ones he loved.

RO

But Kamemor still knew the truth...

DAX

Yes. And two months later, when she presented me and the Klingons with the non-negotiable Treaty of Algeron... she asked to speak with me in private first.

Off Ezri...

**49    INT. KHITOMER CONFERENCE ROOM**

...to Curzon, sitting across a table from KAMEMOR. He is nervous what she will say, if she will blow it all open...

KAMEMOR

So, Dax... was any of it true?

CURZON

All of it. You know as well as I do that Vokar couldn't be allowed to start the war he'd longed for.

KAMEMOR

So your wish that I pull him back from the edge was never meant to succeed. It was merely so that he would lower the *Tomed's* shields...

CURZON

You did it in good conscience. And many lives were saved as a result. Including your wife and son's.

Kamemor carefully considers Curzon's words...

50 **INT. KHITOMER CONFERENCE ROOM**

Later. Curzon, Kamemor and the KLINGON AMBASSADOR stand equally around a table, each in turn pressing their thumbs to the padd in the centre, observed by aides. Over this:

DAX (v.o.)

So she went ahead and did it. Even knowing what we'd done, she signed the treaty that isolated her people to keep them safe, in return for us banning isolytic weapons or cloaks, neither of which we ever seriously considered developing anyway.

Signatures all placed, Kamemor draws herself up...

KAMEMOR

It seems we will not be enjoying that drink on Risa after all.

...then she turns and walks out.

KAMEMOR (v.o.)

The admiral has served in the Imperial Fleet for a long time...

51 **SCREEN**

KAMEMOR, now older and wearing her praetor's robes, appears on the screen, talking directly to camera.

KAMEMOR (screen)

(continuing)

As its leader, he has commanded ably. But he believes it is time to take responsibility for these failures and step down.

52 **INT. PALAIS - PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

BACCO and AKAAR stand watching this screen on the wall of her office - she with arms folded unimpressed, he ramrod straight as always and paying rapt attention.

KAMEMOR (screen)

The choice of successor to Admiral Devix is an important one. I have a number of candidates in mind already, but I'd appreciate your opinion. To that end, we should meet. You know how to contact me.

With that, the Praetor signs off. Bacco harrumphs...

BACCO

That's it? After all that fuss, the damn thing wasn't even meant for me.

AKAAR

I believe the message was very much intended for you, ma'am.

BACCO

She didn't mention my name once.

AKAAR

She mentioned the Federation and events in the Bajor system in her very first sentence. Perhaps she avoided saying your name only in case the message was intercepted.

Bacco paces away, considering that...

BACCO

So it's like Slask said. She wants to talk, but without upsetting her friends who'd rather fight.

AKAAR

And she informed us of a change at the very top of the Imperial Fleet - intelligence it might otherwise have taken us months to acquire - to demonstrate her good faith.

BACCO

You could be right. She's been playing the game for a long time - she knows how to play it well.

AKAAR

Then the only remaining question  
is... what is your next move?

Bacco smiles tightly, appreciating what passes for humour  
with Akaar. She considers her response...

BACCO

Send a message to Tezrene. Tell  
her we have Proconsul Tomalak...  
and we intend to prosecute him to  
the fullest extent of the law.

Akaar pauses, absorbing that - a risky strategy. But...

AKAAR

Thank you, Madam President.

...and EXITS. Bacco stares at the Romulan logo on screen...

SISKO (v.o.)

...and though we are not now that  
strength that in old days moved  
Heaven and Earth...

**53    INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - HOSPICE ROOM - NIGHT**

On SISKO, as he stands and reads from a book of poetry...

SISKO

(continuing)

...that which we are, we are.

Kira and Ro each holding tight to Tenmei's hands, steadying  
her in support as she watches...

...Bashir and Dax silently working on her father's life  
support machines, powering them down one by one.

SISKO

(continuing)

One equal temper of heroic hearts,  
made weak by time and fate, but  
strong in will. To strive, to seek,  
to find... and not to yield.

Bashir turns off the last machine, its gentle beep silenced at last. Tenmei quivers, wipes a tear, holds it together.

KIRA

That was a beautiful poem. Thank you for reading it, Benjamin.

DAX

Ulysses, by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

BASHIR

Don't tell me - you knew him.

DAX

(smile)

No. But I've been around the block enough to hear it once or twice.

TENMEI

It's a bit of a cliché, I know. But it just seemed to fit him so well. The old hero, been through some stuff... but longing for one last adventure before he goes.

Bashir steps out from behind the machines, approaches...

BASHIR

It won't be long now, Prynn. I've administered an anodyne, so his last few days will be peaceful.

TENMEI

Thank you, Julian. That was your gift - like Ro's whisky or Sisko's model or Dax's story. You brought him peace. I'll treasure that too.

Bashir pauses, moved to tears by her perception of his actions... then moves on, gripping Dax's hand for comfort.

TENMEI

Thank you, all of you, for coming. You all meant a lot to him.

RO

And he meant a lot to us, Prynn. He could be difficult, no doubt. But he loved his family, he loved his friends, he loved the Federation... and he was willing to do the work to protect them. He'll be missed.

KIRA

We'll leave you alone now.

Tenmei grabs Kira's hand before she can go...

TENMEI

Nerys... please don't think I'm not grateful for your gift as well. You took him in, looked after him when he needed it... and I don't just mean since the invasion. Thank you.

KIRA

You're welcome, Prynn.

Quietly, they start to withdraw. First Kira, then Ro...

RO

Take a few days off, Prynn. The *Defiant* can manage without you.

Tenmei nods, grateful. Next go Bashir and Dax, muttering between themselves...

BASHIR

How did you know all that stuff? You weren't there for half of it.

DAX

(shrug)

Debriefings. That last talk with Kamemor. And that was hardly the last time Curzon dealt with Vaughn or T'Prynn. You should remind me to tell you about the Betreka Nebula Incident some time...

And finally Sisko, who pauses to connect with Tenmei...

SISKO

Your father was very important to me, Prynn. He was there for me, during some difficult times. And I feel... I feel like his spirit will always be with me.

TENMEI

Thank you, Captain. Good night.

...and they've all gone. Tenmei is alone now.

She sits, takes her father's hand. Feels the skin, the scar on his palm where the Romulan stabbed him with her knife.

TENMEI

He bore his scars... for the greater good.

The door CREAKS open again, Tenmei looks up...

...and OPAKA is gently re-entering the room.

OPAKA

Good evening, Prynn. Nerys told me it was done...?

TENMEI

Yes. It's done. Please, Sulan - sit.

Opaka gently takes the other seat, as they were at the top of the episode. Opaka strokes the hair from his forehead...

TENMEI

You know he cared for you a lot.

OPAKA

And I care for him. A lot.

TENMEI

(no accusation)

So why haven't you said anything? I mean... you haven't raised any objections this whole time.

OPAKA

It's not my place. You're his next  
of kin.

TENMEI

But... you're the one who told me  
he was still in there. That the  
Prophets still had work for him.

OPAKA

Prynn... to those of us who serve,  
there is no limit on that service  
- and we do not seek one. Helping  
others is how we find meaning,  
even virtue in our lives.

(beat)

I do believe the Prophets will call  
for your father when they're ready,  
not before. I have no doubt he will  
find a way to help us, to save us  
all one last time, before the end.

Tenmei absorbs that... and finds she quite likes the idea.

OPAKA

I'll leave you be.

TENMEI

No, please... stay.

Smiling quietly, Opaka settles back down...

...and they watch over Vaughn together.

FADE OUT

**END OF SHOW**