

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

8x01 - "Avatar, pt 1."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on the novel

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Avatar, Book 1

by SD Perry

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. B'HALA CAVES

The B'Hala dig site on Bajor. A few monks working, lots of equipment strewn about, lights hung on the stone walls. We move slowly through the caves until we find JAKE, quietly working at digging something out of a wall. Beside him, an elderly Prylar EIVOS is chatting away obliviously. Jake is not really paying attention, continuing his work...

EIVOS

...But there was one figurine among the rest that was carved out of jevonite, which is nothing short of extraordinary. It has long been thought that jevonite could be found only on Cardassia. But quantum dating confirms that it predates even the First Hebitian civilisation...

JAKE

I think I've found it.

EIVOS shuffles over to check the piece of pottery that Jake has extricated. He takes it, inspects it lovingly...

EIVOS

Ah yes! Very good, Jake! It's kejelious, one of the most vital materials of the Sh'Dama Age. Have I ever told you about kejelious? I don't know if anyone appreciates how truly versatile it can be...

Jake has heard this all before, but politely nods along.

2 INT. ANOTHER CAVE

Jake's personal space at B'Hala. He is working at a small computer console, cataloguing the pottery piece, muttering specs to himself without much interest. He remembers...

3 INT. DS9 - SISKO'S QUARTERS

KASIDY and Jake sit together in her quarters. Kasidy is reading a padd screen, unimpressed...

KASIDY
Yet another invitation to bless
somebody's crops.

JAKE
That's what, the eighth today?

KASIDY
I know! It's like they think I'm
some miracle worker just 'cause
I'm pregnant with the Emissary's
baby. Ugh. If I tried blessing
anybody's crops, I'd probably just
end up vomiting over them.

They laugh quietly. Not much of a joke, but it helps.

JAKE
I... got my own invitation today,
actually. To go and visit the
archaeological dig at B'Hala.
(beat)
I'm thinking of going.

KASIDY
That's good, Jake. I hear it's
fascinating. It'll do you good to
get away for a couple of days.

JAKE
Actually, it'll be a few weeks.
They have a program for monks to
help out with the digging. I asked
if they'd let me join them for a
while. Keep myself busy.

Kasidy nods thoughtfully...

4 BACK TO SCENE

Jake continues tapping away at his console...

5 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

Jake and DAX are walking solemnly towards an airlock. Jake is carrying his travelling bag...

DAX
Don't expect too much, Jake. Just
let whatever happens happen.

JAKE
Thanks, Dax. I'll see you soon.

They hug goodbye, and Jake steps through the airlock...

6 BACK TO SCENE

As Jake continues to work quietly...

ISTANI (o.s.)
Jake Sisko?

Jake turns, surprised. Another prylar stands in the entry. This is ISTANI - older, female, nervous and reverent...

JAKE
Yes?

ISTANI
My name is Istani Reyla. I am...
(correction)
... I was one of the overseers
with Site Extension.

JAKE
(bemused)
Nice to meet you. What can I help
you with?

Istani approaches, hands Jake a package. She seems nervous, glancing over her shoulder as if fearing being caught...

ISTANI
It's a... document. Of sorts.
Very old. I believe... it's
important that you... I'm sorry,
it's been a long week.

JAKE

I understand. I have these dishes
to go through, but I can run it
through the translator after that.

ISTANI

No, it's for you. It was written
for you, the son of the Emissary.
Don't share it with anyone until
after you've read it. Whatever you
decide to do after that...

Jake takes the scroll, curious, passes a tricorder over it.

ISTANI

Read it. Trust your heart. You'll
know what to do.

Jake looks down to read the tricorder display, frowning.

JAKE

"Very old" is an understatement.
This is more than 23 millennia -

He looks up - Istani is gone.

7 INT. CAVE - SOME TIME LATER

Jake has been working on his translation for some time. He
rubs his shoulders, easing the tension of being hunched,
reads out loud to make sure this really is what it seems...

JAKE

"Battles fall and fail, and there
is a time of waiting, the space
between breaths as the land heals
and its children retire from war.
The Temple welcomes many home, the
faithful and the chosen.

(beat)

"A Herald, unforgotten but lost to
time, a Seer of Visions to whom
the Teacher Prophets sing, will
return from the Temple at the end
of this time to attend the birth
of Hope, the Infant Avatar.

JAKE (cont)

"The welcomed Herald shares a new understanding of the Temple with all the land's children. Conceived by lights of war, the alien Avatar opens its eyes upon a waxing tide of awareness.

(beat)

"The journey to the land hides. Prophecies are revealed and hidden. The first child, a son, enters the Temple alone. With the Herald he returns, and soon after, the Avatar is born. A new breath is drawn and the land rejoices in clarity and change."

Jake tries to take in what he has read. Can this really say what he thinks it does? He checks the computer again...

JAKE

Herald... Another word for "herald" is... "Emissary." A son enters the Temple. And returns with the Herald.

(realises)

Dad... I'm coming to get you.
I'm coming to bring you home.

On his amazed, hopeful expression...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

8 INT. CARDASSIAN FREIGHTER

Vapours, emergency lights, electrical sparks. Dead BODIES, Cardassian soldiers and Bajoran prisoners, outfits clearly saying "Occupation." A dreamlike haze covers the scene.

A brighter light grows, bluish-white, its source obscured, too bright to look at. As we MOVE CLOSER, the silhouette of a familiar figure hovers somewhere behind the light...

SISKO (v.o.)

Nerys...

9 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S QUARTERS

KIRA jerks awake in bed to her dark room, awakened by --

MALE VOICE (comm)

...is Security. Colonel?

KIRA

Go ahead.

MALE VOICE (comm)

Sorry to wake you, Colonel, but there's been an attack on board the station.

KIRA

What happened?

MALE VOICE (comm)

I don't have the details, but at least one person was killed, possibly two. The Lieutenant said she'd meet you in the infirmary.

KIRA

On my way.

Kira is filled with a strange foreboding from her dream...

10 **INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

Kira enters, uniform hastily thrown on. Another Bajoran Militia officer in grey turns at her arrival, revealing...

...RO LAREN, Deep Space Nine's new chief of security. The air between Kira and Ro is professional if a little cold...

KIRA
Report, Lieutenant.

RO
At this point, it appears to be a botched robbery attempt. Two dead, the victim and perpetrator, both Bajoran civilians. Doctor Bashir is conducting the autopsies -

KIRA
Where did it happen?

RO
Promenade, in front of Quark's.
(off Kira's reaction)
There was a strong security presence as you... suggested... but it didn't matter. He stabbed the woman in front of a crowd, took her bag and ran. My deputies chased him to the second level. He jumped, he fell badly, he died.

KIRA
Who was he?

RO
No ID yet. He came to the station under a false name. The woman was a monk, a Prylar Istani Reyla. She'd only been here a couple of days. Makes me wonder if he came after her specifically...

KIRA
Reyla? Istani Reyla?

RO

Colonel... are you all right?

Kira stumbles shell-shocked towards the autopsy room, where BASHIR is working over the body. Ro follows...

Kira gazes down at ISTANI's body, barely hearing Bashir's b.g. report. She reaches out, touches Istani's face...

BASHIR

Nerys... did you know her?

KIRA

At the camps, when I was a child.
At Singha. After my mother left...
she was a good friend. She looked
out for us.

BASHIR

I'm so sorry. If it helps, I don't
believe she suffered.

KIRA

I've been meaning to contact her.
It's been... five years? The last
time we spoke, she was on her way
to an archaeological dig.

RO

Did you know she was coming to the
station?

Kira shakes her head, then pulls herself together, her face
full of determination...

KIRA

I expect a full investigation,
Lieutenant. And I want to know
what you find as soon as you find
it. I'll expect your initial
report by the end of the day.

RO

Yes, sir.

BASHIR
If there's anything I can do...

KIRA
Thank you, Julian. I'll be fine.

Kira walks out without looking back. Bashir watches her go, concerned for her. Ro watches her go too, resentful...

11 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Starfleet and Bajoran WORK CREWS are performing repairs and upgrades to station systems all over the place, plus Ro's SECURITY FORCES keeping watch outside the bar. Kira walks quickly across and into the nearest turbolift...

KIRA
Ops.

As the doors close, Kira's face begins to crumble...

12 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

QUARK is in his customary place behind the bar, which is not busy. RO enters and approaches...

QUARK
How about you tell your people to stop scaring my customers away? If I recall, the incident took place outside, not in my bar.

RO
And a good morning to you, Quark.
Do me a favour and look at this.

Ro drops a slip of paper onto the counter. Quark ignores it for a moment and studies her instead, before picking it up.

QUARK
Anything for you, Lieutenant -
 (reads paper;
 smiles freezes)
Doesn't mean a thing to me. Where did you say you found it?

RO

I didn't.

They wait each other out.

QUARK

I really have no idea. Maybe she was going to meet someone here, that's why it says my name. And these numbers could mean a time...

Ro smiles, and Quark realises his mistake.

QUARK

(stutters)

I mean, I assume this is about that murdered woman, right?

RO

Give it up, Quark. I found it in her bag and you know it, and you also know what it means. You owe me for not telling Kira about that shipment of phaser scopes...

QUARK

What phaser scopes? Really, Lieutenant, I don't know what -

Sharp as a whip, Ro reaches across the bar and GRABS Quark's lapels, YANKS him close.

RO

Listen carefully, Quark. I don't have a problem with your petty schemes. I'm not Kira and I'm not Starfleet, and a victimless crime is just that, right? But if you don't tell me what I want to know when I want to know it, I'll teach you whole new meanings of the word "sorry." And what I want to know right now is what you know about Istani Reyla. Make no mistake - this is not open to negotiation.

QUARK
Okay, okay!

He reaches under the bar, and produces an isolinear rod.

RO
Thank you.

She takes the rod and stalks out of the bar. Quark watches her go, half terrified and half in love...

13 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

KASIDY, pregnancy slightly visible, sits on a biobed. She is talking to Bashir as he enters the room from behind, still thinking about Kira and Istani...

KASIDY
I've been thinking I should take up cooking. I set up the kitchen at the house just like he wanted. Be a shame to let it go to waste.

BASHIR
It's finished already?

KASIDY
You'd be surprised how quickly things go when everybody on the planet wants to help you move in.

BASHIR
That's alright with you, isn't it?

KASIDY
Most of the time.
(beat)
The station seems different now. There's just so many strangers here lately. I really think this move will be good for me. For us.

BASHIR
I think anything that makes you happy will be good for you. And the baby.

KASIDY

Me too. We'll be visiting a lot -
I'm still part-time with the
Commerce Ministry - but Bajor will
be home.

(change subject)

So... how are things with Ezri?

BASHIR

Fine. Well... I think.

(off Kasidy's
questioning look)

I just want her to be happy. I
don't want things to become dull
for her. Or for me.

Kasidy looks on sympathetically at Bashir's turmoil...

14 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

...to DAX holding back a smirk as Lt NOG rabbits on next to her. They are on a tour of the bridge stations, all half dismantled for repairs. Being young and new at the job, Nog is trying to impress. Re the PADD in Dax's hand...

NOG

But you think it'll work?

DAX

(patiently)

I don't see a problem with your
numbers. You should write it up
and show it to Kira at the next -

NOG

You're right, that would give me
a chance to iron out the details.
I still haven't calculated the
density of the subsequent particle
cloud, which could interfere with
shield harmonics...

They continue to stroll the bridge, Dax becoming more and more exhausted by Nog's energy...

15 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING**

The *Defiant* is docked, as are numerous freighters and other ships. Work crews dot the exterior of the station, working on repairs and upgrades. Hanging nearby is a Nebula-class Starfleet vessel, the *Aldebaran*.

16 **INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE**

A tangle of CABLES and OPEN PANELS in the Ops pit, with a young male (though somewhat androgynous) Andorian Starfleet ensign sat on the deck among the chaos. This is SHAR, the new chief science officer. He looks off, distracted...

JAST (o.s.)
Taking a break from your troubles,
Ensign ch'Thane?

Shar looks up -- to see TIRIS JAST, a Bolian female in a Starfleet Commander's uniform, peering down over the railing. Tall and elegant, friendly but professional...

SHAR
Commander Jast, no sir. Just a
little tired. But my shift is
nearly over.

JAST
Your second, I imagine. What have
I said about working doubles?

SHAR
That I'll end up freeze-dried if
I don't get back to my quarters
occasionally. Sir.

JAST
That's right. I know things are in
disarray, but I think you could
probably slip away if you hurry.
No-one's looking.

SHAR
If it's alright, sir, I think I'll
stay. The colonel wanted to get as
much finished today as possible.

JAST
Carry on, Ensign. But no more
extra shifts for while, alright?

SHAR
Yes, Commander. Thank you, sir.

Jast heads off. Shar returns to work...

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

The door opens and JAST strides in, finding Kira behind her desk. The Bolian takes the guest seat. The two women have already developed a friendly working relationship...

JAST
Good morning, Colonel. Sorry I
didn't get here sooner, I spent
the last few hours dealing with
the *Defiant's* computer refit.

(beat)
I haven't yet had a chance to read
any reports on what happened this
morning. Terrible thing. Is there
anything Starfleet should know, or
was it a civilian matter?

KIRA
Ro's looking into it. At this
point there doesn't seem to be any
motive beyond robbery.

JAST
Good. With things as they are we
don't need another complication.
I've already worn out my welcome
with Starfleet on our behalf. They
keep telling me we'll just have to
wait for more techs, and that with
the *Aldebaran* out there keeping
watch we're in no hurry with the
weapons arrays...

Kira looks uncomfortable. Jast trails off as she notices...

JAST
Colonel? What is it? What's wrong?

KIRA
I don't know if Ro can handle the investigation. She hasn't even been able to identify the killer.

JAST
She is new... but maybe you should see how things progress before replacing her.

KIRA
(surprised)
You're in Starfleet!

JAST
Yes, and I know her history. Her Starfleet file makes interesting reading, especially once you realise what's missing from it. For all of Ro's "mis-steps", she's not afraid to cause a disturbance. It would seem to me you'd want a security chief to be headstrong.

KIRA
I do want to be fair. And it's not like we have anyone to replace her.

JAST
Well, it's your choice, of course. As for our ongoing upgrade issues, why don't we take an early lunch and go through a new schedule?

KIRA
Maybe we can have Quark make us a couple of Black Holes. Just to enhance our creativity, of course.

Jast smiles - it's a plan. They get up and head for the door. But as they do, the RED ALERT sounds. Appalled, they rush out onto Ops...

18 INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE

SHAR is now at the master Ops table. He looks up as Kira and Jast exit the office in a rush...

SHAR
Colonel, Commander. The wormhole
is opening...

JAST
On screen, Ensign.

SHAR
I've been trying, sir, but it was
disconnected for the upgrades.
I'm just getting it back now...

They all turn as the VIEWSCREEN splutters to life...

...revealing three JEM'HADAR FIGHTERS surging out of the
open wormhole.

Kira's jaw drops in horror...

19 EXT. SPACE - WORMHOLE

The three Jem'Hadar ships come barrelling out...

...and FIRE their weapons straight at us.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 EXT. SPACE

The Jem'Hadar ships ZOOM across camera towards the station.

The *Aldebaran* starts to react, slow and lumbering...

...and the Jem'Hadar turn their attack on the Starfleet ship, biting for its vulnerable underbelly.

One FIRES, then loops away. The next FIRES, then loops away avoiding the return shots, and so on, so that the *Aldebaran* never gets a break. EXPLOSIONS rack its lower portions...

21 INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE

Kira steps up to the Ops table, just as it loses power...

SHAR

We've lost contact with the
Aldebaran.

KIRA

Tactical, can we get targeting for
quantum torpedoes?

Over to the tactical station, manned by a beefy dark-skinned human male, Lt SAM BOWERS...

BOWERS

Negative. Launchers three, four
and seven are down, and the locks
on the rest are unreliable.

KIRA

Shar, get me the *Defiant*, and try
to get the *Aldebaran* back. If we
can get them close enough to a
docking pylon -

A blinding FLASH from the viewscreen. Everyone shields their eyes... and when it clears...

22 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Aldebaran* has been obliterated. Pieces fly outward, the Jem'Hadar ships swerving to avoid them...

23 **INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE**

Stunned expressions all around, only the computer sounds and the view on the screen. Eventually...

SHAR

Sir, we're receiving a response to
our distress call from the IKS --

KIRA

How far away?

SHAR

Ah... twenty-two minutes.

KIRA

Too late.

(taps combadge)

Commander Jast. The *Aldebaran* has
been destroyed. The *Defiant* is the
station's best hope for defence.
Are you ready?

24 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

JAST steps out of the doorway and heads straight for the centre chair. Others rush in behind her, taking up their stations alongside Dax and Nog...

JAST

We're ready.

KIRA (comm)

Do what you can.

JAST is projecting calm command as best she can. DAX trying to get communications working. NOG rushing between tactical and engineering. A young Japanese woman, Ensign PRYNN TENMEI, is running the helm station...

JAST

Ensign, take us out. The armour over the warp nacelles is still temp, so try to keep the targets below and in front of us. Nog, what can we do about the lag on beam launch?

NOG

Not much, sir. Point-six-five seconds minimum.

JAST

We'll just have to fire early, then. Shields up. Stay with tactical, Lieutenant.

The screen stays blank for a moment... until it SWERVES around to see the Jem'Hadar score HITS against the station. All three ships are focusing on the lower fusion core...

JAST

Positions, Lieutenant. Run course probabilities - without targeting it may be the best we can do. Dax, how's the station doing?

DAX

Their shields are down by at least forty percent.

JAST

Let's see if we can tempt them away. Ensign Tenmei, get as close as you can, full impulse. Dax, when we're twenty kilometres out of range, lay down a phaser spread in front of the lead ship.

Dax and Tenmei set to work, scared but resolute...

25 **EXT. SPACE - THE BATTLE**

Defiant turns towards the attackers... the Jem'Hadar FIRE on DS9... the station shudders under the impact...

26 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

As Nog's panel goes wild, and he reads it urgently...

 NOG
The RCS thrusters are bleeding
power from the electrical system!

 JAST
Compensate! Cut impulse to half
and run a tap.

 NOG
Sir, if we boost it from here
without checking the source -

 JAST
I know, we risk an overload, but
we don't have a choice.
 (steps towards
 engineering)
Never mind, stay at your post,
Lieutenant. I'm on it.
 (to Tenmei)
Ensign, report.

 TENMEI
Intercept in eleven seconds.

Nog watches his panel until they are in optimal position...

...then FIRES. The pulse phasers drift wide for a moment...

...until they hit a Jem'Hadar fighter, and it EXPLODES.

 NOG
Yes! Got one!

 TENMEI
Sir, the lead ship is changing
course, heading straight for us -

27 EXT. SPACE - THE BATTLE

The lead Jem'Hadar ship fires again...

28 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

And the engineering station EXPLODES, throwing Jast back with a YELP. She lands hard on the deck, silent. Dax crouches over her, touches the ridge on her face to feel her pulse. Jast's eyes are wide and glassy - she is dead.

A moment to steel herself... and then Dax steps towards the centre chair, command instinct taking over.

DAX
Nog, report!

NOG
Shields down to eighty percent.
There was an electrical charge
through the ship's superstructure.
Warp injectors are down, and we've
lost comms with the station.

DAX
Tenmei, evasive pattern Theta
Sixteen. Nog, kill the engineering
console. Is ship-wide working?

NOG
Negative.

DAX
Then comm them directly. Tell them
to put everything into phasers.
Tenmei, get ready - we're about to
go on the offensive.

29 EXT. SPACE

The *Defiant* swings back towards the station. The two remaining Jem'Hadar ships are continuing to attack...

30 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

CLOSE on Dax in the centre chair, all business.

DAX
Hard to port, close in, and fire
as soon as we're in range.

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

QUARK quickly turns the lock on his floor vault. The entire station is SHUDDERING under the Jem'Hadar attack, and Quark is cowering in fear. Ro enters on an upper level...

RO

Quark! What the hell are you still doing here?

QUARK

Lieutenant Ro! I was just making sure everything is secured here. You know, it's my responsibility to maintain safety standards during all emergency procedures...

RO

Fine, don't tell me. But whatever it is, it's not worth risking your life over. Now if you don't mind, I think we should get --

BOOM - the biggest SHUDDER yet knocks them both off their feet. Quark pulls himself up by his bar, looks around...

...and there's no sign of Ro. Then he hears a GROAN from the floor. With the station still rocking, he struggles across the deck towards her...

QUARK

Lieutenant? Can you hear me?

RO

(muddled)

Quark? Fell... hit my head... on the stairs...

QUARK

Yeah, I figured. Come on, we've got to get out of here.

He slips his arm around her, helps to her feet and they hobble out of the bar.

32 **EXT. SPACE - THE BATTLE**

Defiant chases one of the raiders, phasers pummelling...

The second raider comes up behind and FIRES on *Defiant*...

...but *Defiant* maintains attack until the first raider EXPLODES. Then it angles up and over the last raider...

...but that ship breaks off and returns to the station.

Defiant tries to follow, but suddenly LOSES ALL POWER...

33 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Dax stands behind Tenmei, nothing to do but watch on the screen as the last Jem'Hadar raider approaches the station in the distance. Behind them, Nog reads off his console...

NOG

The impulse fusion reactors blew,
everything's dead. Except for the
viewscreen, of course.

Dax says nothing. Just reaches out and takes Nog's hand...

34 **INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE**

On DS9's own screen, they all see *Defiant* adrift, coasting along completely dark. This is it - no defence left.

KIRA

Evacuate the station. Civilian
priority for runabouts and escape
pods. Seal off everything else.

BOWERS

Colonel, we've lost shields. It
can't be more than a few minutes -
Sir! The wormhole's opening again!

KIRA

On screen!

The screen sputters but shows the wormhole opening...

35 **EXT. SPACE - WORMHOLE**

...and another JEM'HADAR FIGHTER comes out. It is badly scarred and damaged, but still prepared to fight.

36 **INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE**

Seeing this, Kira speaks quietly...

KIRA
Shar... anything on sensors?

SHAR
Negative, external banks are down.
We can attempt to transfer power -

KIRA
No, we have to evacuate right now.
Everyone stand down and get to the transporter -

BOWERS
Colonel, the second ship!

37 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Nog pulls closer to the viewscreen, gaping in amazement...

NOG
...It's fighting them!

DAX
Nog, I have an idea.

Nog and Tenmei turn and see Dax's grin of inspiration...

38 **EXT. SPACE - THE BATTLE**

The two Jem'Hadar ships dart around, dog-fighting each other, equally matched...

39 **INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE**

Kira gapes at the screen, unable to process what she is seeing. Quietly, under her breath, she begins to pray...

40 **INT. DEFIANT - JEFFRIES TUBE**

Dax and Nog clamber through a Jeffries tube, exit into a small below-decks control room...

41 **EXT. SPACE - THE BATTLE**

The damaged newcomer's warp nacelle is blown off under enemy fire. The ship veers, sputters... and EXPLODES.

42 **INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE**

Kira hangs her head in defeat. Until something else catches her eye - a small light heading away from the *Defiant*.

43 **EXT. STATION - THE BATTLE**

The small light is a TORPEDO, streaking towards the final Jem'Hadar ship. It finds a target... and the ship EXPLODES.

44 **INT. DEFIANT - AUXILIARY CONTROL JUNCTION**

Nog and Dax watch a small screen...

 NOG
 Got it! We got it!

45 **INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE**

 KIRA
 Hold on!

As the final shockwave from the nearby explosion ROCKS the unshielded station. Once the shaking stops, no-one says anything for a while, hardly daring to believe it's over. Looking around at her people, Kira catches her breath...

 KIRA
 Ensign ch'Thane, status report.

 SHAR
 The hull is breached in several places in the lower and mid cores. Two of the fusion reactors are shut down.
 (more)

SHAR (cont)

At least thirty-four people are confirmed dead, many more still unaccounted for.

(beat)

Colonel, I should report that the internal sensor array suggested a transfer of energy to the station as the last ships were destroyed.

KIRA

"Suggested"?

SHAR

I can't verify the readings. It's possible they were false, created by the power surge. But I felt it was my duty to tell you.

KIRA

Thank you, Ensign.

DAX (comm)

Colonel, this is Dax on *Defiant*.

KIRA

Good to hear from you, Dax. How's everyone on the ship?

DAX (comm)

(awkward pause)

Two people were killed, three others were wounded. Commander Jast is dead. I'm sorry, Nerys.

As Shar and Kira react, we...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

46 EXT. BAJOR CAPITAL CITY - ESTABLISHING

The usual pleasant greenery, elegant buildings, calm feel.

47 INT. VEDEK ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

Seven VEDEKS are seated at a unnecessarily large table; of varied genders and races, but all older. It's an emergency meeting, to which the entire Assembly are not invited. At the head of the table sits ERAN - male, meek, portly...

ERAN

I thank you for coming at short notice. I'm sure you understand why I've called this session. Before we discuss our options, I would ask your impressions of the crisis before us.

The oldest and most hardcore woman speaks up - FRELAN...

FRELAN

Early this morning, Deep Space Nine was attacked. The last report I received told of sixty-one dead in all, not including the crew of the starship *Aldebaran*, making it, I believe, the deadliest offensive yet waged against the station. Even in the war there were not so many lives lost. My firm conviction is that the heresy was destroyed during the battle, and therefore that the battle itself was sanctioned by the Prophets. After all, did the attackers not travel through the Temple gates? I believe that we should now await further guidance from the Prophets.

This generates the expected flurry of overlapping voices - Vedeks SCIO, KYLI, SINCHANTE, BELLIS...

SCIO

I believe the matter should be opened to the entire Assembly.

KYLI

We should consult the Orb of Contemplation.

SINCHANTE

No, the Orb of Wisdom.

BELLIS

We should send a covert team to the station to gather more data.

ERAN

Perhaps we should bring Kira Nerys into our confidence.

BELLIS

Absolutely not. We all know how difficult Kira has been for this Assembly in the past.

FRELAN

We mustn't trust any information we don't collect ourselves. Kira knew Istani, from Singha. For all we know they were in it together.

ERAN

You think she wouldn't come to us if she had talked with Istani? We need Kira. She runs the station. People trust her. Granted she can be obstinate, but her faith and loyalty aren't in question...

KYLI

Faith perhaps, but loyalty? You know the stories of her and Winn.

FRELAN

Forget about Kira, and Istani. The Prophets will show us the way!

As voices continue to clamour, the final Vedek places his hands calmly on the table, waiting to be noticed.

This is YEVIR, male, 40s, projecting a tangible air of peace and self-assurance. A clear and charismatic leader.

ERAN

(respectfully)

Vedek Yevir, you wish to speak?

YEVIR

Thank you, I do. We all want to do what we think is right. Because we love the Prophets, and we love the people of Bajor.

Yevir now has the entire room's attention.

YEVIR

As we have all agreed, the heresy must be contained. But our course so far has not been worthy of us, and I feel regret for what has happened. I grieve, I feel shame. But I know too that the Prophets forgive us, because They know our hearts, and They know we meant only to express our love for Them.

ERAN

What would you propose?

YEVIR

As you all know, I once served on the station during my days in the Militia. I could approach Kira as a friend, discreetly. I wouldn't reveal so much that she would face the kinds of decisions we face, of course. But if the book is on board, and she has knowledge of it, I'm certain she would tell me.

Bellis, Frelan and Kyli are not happy. Yevir placates...

YEVIR

I know it's asking a lot, but if you would all place your trust in me, I believe I could further our interests here, and thus all of Bajor's interests.

Eventually, they all back down. Yevir has it under control, and they are glad to have the matter out of their hands...

48 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

A Klingon ship and a few Bajoran vessels are in the area. Lights on the lower half of the station are dead. Debris from the *Aldebaran* and Jem'Hadar ships drifts about...

49 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

It's quiet. Bashir walks sadly among the busy biobeds in the surgery ward, looking rumpled and tired. There's nothing more he can do for these people.

In the main room, Shar stands holding a large bunch of FLOWERS and talking with a female Bajoran doctor, GIRANI.

SHAR

...Then perhaps I should come back another time. How long will she be here?

GIRANI

I really can't say. Doctor Bashir wanted her to wake up on her own. The concussion wasn't severe, but we don't take chances with head injuries.

SHAR

I understand. Would it be alright if I left these with you?

From a nearby bio-bed, RO comes to fuzzy consciousness, recognises the voices.

RO

Shar? What happened?

GIRANI

There was an attack on the station, and you were brought in with a head injury. But your readings suggest a full recovery. I'll get the doctor.

Girani moves away. Shar passes the flowers to Ro as if he doesn't really know why they should be of any interest.

SHAR

These are from Quark. He insisted I deliver them. He says that flowers are a customary gift for the ill or deceased. These are Argelian, I think.

RO

I'll be sure to thank him. Shar, what happened to the station? What happened to me?

Bashir finishes what he was doing and approaches.

BASHIR

Lieutenant, Ensign. I have a few questions, if you don't mind.

RO

So do I. Like for one, why is Quark sending me flowers?

BASHIR

(chuckle)

Oh, I can imagine. Tell me, what's the last thing you remember before waking up?

RO

There was the murder on the Promenade. I remember meeting with you and Kira. And then I... talked to Quark about it. I remember that. I don't know what else.

BASHIR

I'd say you've lost less than an hour of your memory. It's normal with this type of injury, nothing to worry about. Blood pressure is stable and your neurographic scan shows no disruptions. You can return to duty, but if you find yourself feeling nauseous or dizzy, you're to report back here immediately, all right?

RO

(nodding)

How did I get hurt?

BASHIR

You fell from the stairs in Quark's. He brought you here. Good thing, too. The way the station was bouncing around, you could have been seriously injured. But I'll let the Ensign fill you in on all that. If you'll excuse me...

RO

Thank you, Doctor.

Bashir steps away, and Shar helps Ro off the biobed and out of the infirmary...

50 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

As Shar and Ro walk slowly together towards Security...

SHAR

So with incoming comms basically inoperative, the only messages from the Federation have been relayed through Bajor, telling us to wait. Colonel Kira has all the senior officers on standby for a briefing as soon as she gets word.

RO

What are we doing for defences?

SHAR

The IKS *Tcha'voth* got here just after the attack, and six Bajoran assault vessels arrived a few hours ago. But there's tension on the station. It doesn't help that the wormhole has opened three times in the last hour, triggered by fragments from the *Aldebaran*. There's to be a service at 0700 tomorrow for all those lost.

They reach the security office, and pause...

SHAR

I should return to Ops. The sensor arrays are operational, but Kira wants them at peak efficiency now they're focused on the wormhole.

RO

I'm glad you came to see me, Shar.

SHAR

And I hope you will continue to mend properly.

They part, the worry clear on both their faces...

51 **INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY**

JAST lies in an open-faced casket, line bisecting her face the wrong way, her blue Bolian skin ashen and grey. Kira stands over her, gazing down. She looks up...

...at the rows of coffins, urns and other death markers that fill the cargo bay. Low lighting, appropriate to the sombre mood. She moves on, inspecting the labels blankly, row after row of them. It has not been a good day.

She reaches TENMEI, perched on a stool beside another open coffin that shows a BENZITE male body. Tenmei reacts...

TENMEI

Colonel...

KIRA

At ease, Ensign Tenmei. We're all here for the same reason.

(beat)

Were you and crewman Monyodin... involved?

TENMEI

I barely knew him. We chatted a few times in Quark's. He was in the core when the Jem'Hadar attacked. Took a cloud of polymer gas in the face. Liquefied his lungs. Nothing Bashir could do.

And nothing Kira can say. She places a comforting hand on Tenmei's shoulder, and moves on.

Walking among the coffins and dead bodies...

52 FLASHBACK - DREAM SEQUENCE

As Kira walks among the bodies in her dream, the Bajorans and Cardassians on the freighter's deck, equal in death...

53 BACK TO SCENE

She frowns, confused at the memory. Did the dream mean something? Was it somehow foretelling this disaster? Kira steps carefully up to the coffin of Istani Reyla...

KIRA

(softly)

Why did you come here, Reyla?

BOWERS (comm)

Colonel Kira, there's an incoming message from Bajor, routed from the USS Cerberus. Should I send it to your office?

KIRA

Yes, I'm on my way.

Hardening, Kira turns and walks away. She has work to do.

Kira enters - to find the senior staff all gathered round the table. DAX, RO, BASHIR, NOG, BOWERS, SHAR and TENMEI. They won't like what she has to say. She takes her seat.

KIRA

I've just come from speaking with Admiral Ross. Starfleet forces are currently on full alert throughout the quadrant, in response to the Jem'Hadar attack. Members of the Klingon and Romulan governments are joining a Federation task force to investigate, and everyone is sending military back-up.

DAX

Back-up for what? What are they going to do?

KIRA

The plan... is to send a well-armed fleet through the wormhole, into the Gamma Quadrant... and confront any Dominion forces that may be massing there. And if necessary... to fight them.

Off everyone's horror at that prospect...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

55 INT. DS9 - WARD ROOM

Reactions around the table are generally not good...

SHAR

(worried)

Do they really think the Dominion
is about to wage another war?

BOWERS

Ridiculous. If they really wanted
to start something, they would
have sent more than three ships.
It was a rogue attack. We've seen
that before with the Jem'Hadar.

TENMEI

And there was that fourth ship
that tried to stop them. None of
it makes sense.

DAX

(taking charge)

Alright, that's enough. Colonel,
when is the task force due to
arrive?

NOG

And what does this mean for us?
What are we supposed to be doing?

KIRA

Three days from now, and because
of our status, we're not expected
to do anything beyond continue
repairs and relief to Cardassia,
and cleaning up the mess. Bajor is
sending several teams of Militia
engineers to help.

DAX

I'll draw up a schedule.

KIRA

You should also know that there is currently a motion before the Federation Council to establish a permanent peace-keeping force in the Gamma Quadrant.

BASHIR

They can't be serious! They can't believe the Dominion will tolerate an armed force that close to their borders for even a single day. It could spark another war.

DAX

It's certainly not going to ease diplomatic relations. They already don't trust us.

BOWERS

And can Starfleet even field a permanent force right now?

KIRA

I made all these points to the Admiral, but the situation stands. He has his orders. I've registered my protest, I'll urge the Bajoran government to do the same, but there's nothing we can do.

(to Ro)

Anything yet on the investigation into the Promenade deaths?

RO

It's ongoing. I'll file a report as soon as there's any progress.

KIRA

Do you have any leads? Anything?

RO

(more firmly)

Colonel, as soon as there's any progress, I'll file a report.

KIRA
(irritated)
Fine. Let's move on.
(clears her head)
Before I forget - commendations
are pending for Lieutenant Nog and
Ensign Tenmei, and Lieutenant Dax's
name has been submitted for - let's
see if I can get this right - the
Starfleet Citation for Gallantry.

BASHIR
(to Dax, teasing)
I assume you'll be switching to
command now, Captain.

KIRA
Listen... This is a difficult
time, but we'll get through it.
We've come through worse. I just
wanted you to know that I'm glad
you're all here.

Nodding, she dismisses them. From Kira's heavy mood...

56 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

...to her looking no better as she gazes forlornly into her
drink, sat at one of the quieter tables on an upper level.

KIRA
...but other than that, things are
looking up. The Militia techs will
stay at least a week, maybe more.

Opposite her, KASIDY tries to lighten the mood...

KASIDY
Things will go much faster with
all the help. And by the time the
task force gets here, everything
will be different. They'll have to
reconsider once they cool down.

Kasidy sees that Kira is not cheered, tries again...

KASIDY

Look at the bright side - at least there'll be a few more Starfleet engineers running around while the brass sorts everything out. Then maybe you can finally get away for a few days, like we talked about.

KIRA

I don't know, Kas. It sounds wonderful, it really does. But you'll be getting settled in, and there's just so much for me to do now that Jast is gone...

KASIDY

Forget about getting settled in, you know I'd love the company. Really, you deserve to come down and just spend a few days sitting.

But Kira has drifted away again, still thinking...

KIRA

I hadn't seen Istani Reyla in years. I didn't even know she was here until after she was killed.

KASIDY

That must have been terrible.

KIRA

And she was such an amazing woman. She was a prylar then, and she must have known what I was doing with the Resistance, but she didn't care. I mean, here was this woman who truly believed that all life was sacred, and I was just a child, and I'd already killed. She taught me how to braid my hair, of all things... she encouraged me to be a child, in spite of what my life was. Maybe because of it.

KASIDY

(changing subject)

So, are you going to be godmother
to this baby, or am I going to
have to find someone else 'cause
you're too busy?

KIRA

Don't you dare. I promise I'll
take a vacation, okay?

(beat)

I should probably get back to Ops.
But thank you, Kas. Really.

Kira finishes her drink and stands to go. She walks down
the steps to the lower level, and Kasidy watches her go...

From the HIGH ANGLE of Kasidy's table, we watch Kira reach
the doorway out to the Promenade... and STOP.

She turns, looks around. She heard something, or felt it.

Then she realises what she must look like to everyone else,
pulls herself together, and carries on out the door.

At her table, Kasidy has been watching this. And she is
definitely worried for Kira now...

57 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

RO sits at her desk working. There are no personalising
effects around the office at all. QUARK enters, not used to
seeing anyone but Odo behind that desk. He looks nervous.

RO

Quark! Come in, have a seat. I was
going to come and see you later.

Quark gives her his most winning smile.

QUARK

I can't stay long. I just wanted
to stop by and see how you were
doing... and to see if you got the
tube orchids.

RO

I did. And I'm feeling fine,
thanks to you. Doctor Bashir said
you rescued me after I fell.

QUARK

It was a considerable risk, of
course. But even with the station
falling to pieces all around us, I
couldn't just leave you to die...

(gauges her, decides
to go for it)

...Because that would have been a
tragedy beyond all measure, Laren.
May I call you Laren?

RO

(still smiling)

I believe you just did. Seriously
Quark, thank you. You may have
saved my life, and I'm grateful.
Of course, I'm not going to let
you get away with anything because
of it. In fact, I may just have to
watch you even closer.

Quark scrambles to recover, performing for all he's worth.

QUARK

You're probably right. I know the
Colonel would love nothing more
than to catch us both falling
short of her high moral standards.

RO

(wary)

I suppose I don't know her well
enough to say. Is there a point to
all this, Quark?

QUARK

No no, of course not. Just making
conversation, I suppose. If it's
not too personal, may I ask why
you wear your earring on the left?

RO
May I ask why you're asking?

QUARK
Honestly, because I've noticed
that it seems to bother some of
the other Bajorans on board.

RO
I've never been very religious. Not
all Bajorans are, you know. Wearing
my earring on the left was the best
way to discourage the occasional
Vedek from wandering up to feel my
pagh. For different reasons, of
course, the practice was also taken
up by the *pagh*-Wraith cultists...

QUARK
(nodding)
...which explains why people don't
like it.

RO
Right.

QUARK
Well, I suppose I'd better let you
get back to work. Drop by the bar
later, if you like... I'll buy you
a drink.

RO
Thank you, I'll do that.

And Quark leaves, excited about this woman, daunted at
everything that could possibly go wrong for him here...

58 INT. DS9 - DAX'S QUARTERS

It's late. Bashir and Dax are cuddled up in bed. Bashir is
daydreaming, Dax begins tickling his arm playfully...

BASHIR
And what do you want?

DAX
What do you got?

BASHIR
I hope that's a rhetorical question.

They KISS deeply, and begin to get more intimate. Just as they are getting into it, Dax's eyes open, and somehow it is no longer Ezri there, but JADZIA.

JADZIA (v.o.)
Julian...

Bashir GASPS and pulls away. He sits up, pulling the bed-clothes about him as if to protect himself...

DAX
Julian? Are you okay?

BASHIR
What just happened? The way you looked at me, I - what happened?

DAX
I was... I'm not sure.

Dax does the same, pulling herself inwards. Suddenly they are very far apart.

DAX
I was thinking about that time you let Jadzia sleep in your cabin, on the *Defiant*. Remember? When you gave up the top bunk for her. She thought about that later, and I was... I felt like Jadzia would have felt, just for a few seconds. I mean, it was me, but she was... it was different... it was...

BASHIR
"Different."

DAX
I'm sorry.

BASHIR

I was making love to you. Can you understand that I might not want to change partners in the middle of it?

DAX

You didn't, Julian. I'm Ezri Dax. Can you understand that?

BASHIR

Right, got it. Why don't you bring Tobin along next time, see how he feels.

DAX

(getting frustrated)

Why don't you grow up, and try to see past yourself? I'm a joined Trill, and that's not ever going to change. Why can't you see that I don't have to limit myself to some species-specific concept of individuality?

BASHIR

Sorry to be so simplistic, Dax.

DAX

You should leave.

BASHIR

My thoughts exactly.

As he gets out of bed and starts to gather his clothes, and Ezri huddles into the bedclothes...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

59 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

Favouring the Lower Core area, still dark.

60 INT. DS9 - LOWER CORE AREA

NOG and SHAR sit on the deck, smooth and companionable, dirty with oil among a mess of cables and broken stuff...

SHAR

Sir, may I ask you a question?

NOG

I thought we agreed you'd call me
Nog, Shar. I'll never get used to
being called "sir", especially by
someone who was in the same year at
the Academy. What's your question?

SHAR

Were you a witness to Commander
Jast's death?

This is not what Nog was expecting. He pauses for a while.

SHAR

Nog... are you okay?

(no response)

I only meant to ask if you thought
she died without pain. But I see
that I have upset you. I'm sorry.
Were you and she close?

NOG

No, we weren't, but it's my fault
she's dead.

SHAR

How is that possible? I thought
she was killed by an electrical
surge when the *Defiant* --

(realises)

SHAR (cont)

Ah. You're attempting to assume responsibility for her death as the upgrades were incomplete. I believe Colonel Kira feels the same way. Also Lieutenant Bowers, judging by his behaviour.

NOG

Why do they feel guilty?

SHAR

Why do you? It was the Jem'Hadar who attacked us.

Nog has no answer for that. After another while...

NOG

Have you ever dealt with the Jem'Hadar, face to face?

SHAR

Not directly. I know something about their chemical and genetic make-up, through the Vorta research we did on the *Tamberlaine* during the war. But I've only ever seen them from a distance.

NOG

If you're lucky, you'll never have to get any closer. They shouldn't even exist, anyway, they're not a real species, they're... they're abominations. They're bred to be merciless killers, murderers.

Shar looks around suddenly, and Nog also hears something. An awkward pause as they both train their senses...

SHAR

That's the third time today. But it's gone now, whatever it was.

NOG

You heard something too?

Shar clears his head, SCRATCHES at one twitching antenna...

SHAR

No, felt it. Andorian antennae can detect electrical fields, changes in air density and temperature. But it's not exactly reliable... strong emotions, adrenaline, even overheated equipment can register. Twice yesterday I felt something, and there wasn't anything close enough to have caused it.

NOG

Maybe you're just getting old.

Another pause, and then Shar attempts to make small talk...

SHAR

I've read that in popular Ferengi culture, attaining material wealth is one of life's predominant goals - is that correct?

NOG

(chuckle)

Yes, I'd say that's correct.

SHAR

Would you mind if I ask, then, why you chose to join Starfleet?

NOG

It's kind of a long story. But it isn't an easy choice to make when, for the most part, you're going against your culture. What they expect of you, you know?

(sigh)

My uncle says it's just a phase. "Many a young entrepreneur has to face destitution before he grasps the necessity of expansion." But I'm betting he's wrong.

SHAR
Because you feel it's important,
what Starfleet and the Federation
are doing.

NOG
Right, exactly!

SHAR
I'd like to hear the long story,
if you want to tell it. I was
going to take a meal break soon at
your Uncle Quark's establishment.
Would you like to join me?

NOG
You're on, Shar!

They carry on working for the moment...

61 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Kira walks determinedly. Then suddenly she STOPS, and again looks around her, as if feeling someone watching her or breathing down her neck. Then, again worried of looking crazy in public, she pulls herself together...

KIRA
Kas is right, I need a vacation.

She heads on down the Promenade...

62 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

BASHIR sits at a table on the lower level, reading a PADD over a simple vegetarian lunch. Nog and Shar enter...

NOG
Doctor! May we join you?

BASHIR
Of course. Have a seat.

SHAR
What are you reading, Doctor?

BASHIR
Call me Julian, Shar, please. And
this is a letter from a friend.

Nog peers across the table at Bashir's padd...

NOG
You're on page 256 of a letter?
Who wrote it?

BASHIR
Garak.

Bashir enjoys Nog's reaction...

63 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

Kira enters, trying to start on a friendly footing. But as
Ro looks up from her desk, her defences visibly go up...

KIRA
I thought I'd stop by, see if
you have a few minutes to talk.

RO
By all means.

KIRA
I'm going to be honest with you,
Lieutenant. I'm not happy with how
your posting is working out, and I
think a few changes are in order.

RO
I see. You're relieving me of duty.
Any specific reason?

Kira struggles not to react...

KIRA
Why do you have to make things so
difficult, Ro? Is it me? Or are
you just absolutely determined to
make everything impossible?

As the two Bajoran women glare daggers into each other...

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

Bashir continuing to eat and read, Nog and Shar waiting to get a waiter's attention...

BASHIR

So, what are you two up to today?

NOG

Still ear-deep in repairs. We were dealing with the mess in the lower core when Shar suggested lunch.

BASHIR

Shar, if you don't mind me asking, how old are you?

SHAR

Twenty-three.

BASHIR

Are you married, then?

SHAR

No... I'm not.

Shar turns away, scratches an antenna, looks around the room again. Bashir thinks his question made the ensign uneasy, so he backs off. But Nog watches his new friend...

...and wonders if he's sensed something again?

65 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

Ro stands from her seat, hands on the desk...

RO

Oh no, of course it's not you.
It's me, I'm the one with the problem because I don't look to you for approval whenever I need to make the most basic decision.

KIRA

What are you talking about?

RO

I understood when I took this job that how I conduct day-to-day operations would be up to me. But the way you've been acting, you seem to think I'm some kind of complete incompetent.

KIRA

I know you have the skills. But you have to understand, we live in a community, and it's important that everyone at least tries to work together. Especially senior staff. But if you've made any effort to fit in, I haven't seen it. And you act like I'm some sort of monstrous authority figure who's out to oppress you.

RO

Maybe if I was human, it wouldn't be a problem.

KIRA

Human? I don't see how that...

RO

Yes you do. Without accepting the Prophets as divine, I'm not a real Bajoran, isn't that right?

That's it. Kira *snaps*.

KIRA

That's right, Ro! That's it exactly, I can't work with anyone who doesn't believe exactly the same as I do, and it has nothing to do with your constant, obvious disrespect for me as commanding officer of this station!

They're practically on the verge of blows...

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

As Shar continues trying to get a handle on his sensations, and Nog worries for what's going on with him, QUARK finally arrives, carrying a tray with glasses...

QUARK

How would you boys like to try a little *fa'ntar*? It's an exotic blend of fruits and spices from -

NOG

From a vat in the storeroom, yes we know. Last week you called it *tar'fan*, but it's still what you make from rotten fruit shipments.

QUARK

(hissing)

Keep your voice down, will you? What's wrong with you? Starfleet! They are sucking the Ferengi right out of you, Nog, you know that?

On SHAR as the sensations get worse and worse, more intense and distracting... Meanwhile Quark continues to rant...

QUARK (cont)

And do you think they've given any thought to how another war would affect the tourist trade in this area? No, of course not...

Shar LEAPS to his feet, GRABS a pitcher off Quark's tray, THROWS the drink into the centre of the room...

As Quark, Nog and Bashir all wonder what is going on...

...the liquid splashes onto an invisible SHAPE standing in their midst. The shape begins to shimmer and DECLOAK...

67 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

Kira backs off, clenches her fists, tries to catch her breath before this goes any further off the rails...

KIRA

Look, this obviously isn't working out. I think it would be best if you put in for a transfer.

RO

I couldn't do my job, so I put in for a transfer. That's ironic, when if you would stop second-guessing my every move I could actually get something done.

Kira is about to boil over with frustration...

...when she stops to think, and realises - Ro is passive-aggressively trying to get herself fired. But why?

KIRA

Why are you here, Ro? Why did you take this job? What do you want? What did you expect?

Ro sees that Kira has rumbled her, but tries to keep the anger going. The confusion is clear on her face...

KIRA

Part of this job means that you will have to work with people, me included. And it means that you aren't always going to have things the way you want them. I've been there, I know it's not easy.

RO

Colonel, I don't need your advice.

KIRA

Lieutenant... I think you do.

NOG (comm)

Nog to Security! Emergency in the bar. We need help! Right now!

The panicked alert breaks their tension. After a moment of shock, both Kira and Ro are on their way out the door...

68 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE (CONTINUOUS)**

...and rushing across the Promenade, towards the sound of SCREAMS and SHOUTS and SCRAPING CHAIRS as the bar-goers react to whatever is going on...

69 **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR (CONTINUOUS)**

...and into the bar. Ro places herself in front of Kira, pulls a phaser, pushes civilians out of her way...

...to reveal a JEM'HADAR SOLDIER standing calmly, making no move to attack, only observing dispassionately.

BASHIR is on his feet, tense but refraining for now.

SHAR has dropped into an attack posture, hands raised.

NOG is desperately trying to pull his new friend back.

QUARK cowers behind his nephew, never taking his eyes off.

The Jem'Hadar notices Kira's arrival, turns to her...

JEM'HADAR

Colonel Kira, I presume. I am
Third Kitana'klan, here on an
errand of peace. I was sent as
an emissary to you... by Odo.

And off Kira's stunned reaction to that, we...

BLACK OUT:

THE END