

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

13x16 - "The Little People"

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 18x16 - "PEACEFUL PROTEST"

Security chief Choudhury invites contact specialist Chen to join her on an undercover mission. They will be disguised as Romulans, joining a group visiting the new Kinshaya homeworld. This will give the Federation intelligence about the mysterious Kinshaya, and an opportunity to support a more liberal movement among the theocratic alien culture, in the hopes of influencing them towards a more peaceful stance within the Typhon Pact. Once there, Choudhury bonds with the leader of the liberal Kinshaya faction, while Chen flirts with a handsome young Romulan. When the Kinshaya government uses Breen mercenaries to brutally crack down on the protesters, Chen's Romulan friend is killed. Choudhury tries to persuade Chen not to fight back; it would only be stooping to their level and giving them an excuse to crack down more. Instead, peaceful non-violent protest would show the Kinshaya their moral failings and inspire others to their cause. The tactic works and the group inspire a full-scale peaceful revolution among the Kinshaya.

TTN 2x16 - "PRIMEVAL"

Gorn science officer S'syrixx sabotages the ecosculptor to stop it being used on Hranrar. In response, Captain Krassrr executes S'syrixx by throwing him out of an airlock, but *Titan* is able to save him. S'syrixx requests asylum with Starfleet, so Riker lets the reptilian Dr Ree do the talking, thanks to Gorn's natural discomfort with mammals. S'syrixx thinks the ecosculptor may be a manifestation of their "egg-bringer" god S'Yahazah, creator and destroyer combined. S'syrixx knows the warrior caste is desperate to replace their destroyed creche world, but he cannot allow them to destroy another planet to do it. Just then the stolen warship arrives - Gog'resssh has been following *Titan* for weeks, and they have led him straight to the ecosculptor. The radiation-crazed warrior wants to take the device for his own purposes, and use it to raise the warrior caste to a divinely ordained dominance over the entire Gorn Hegemony...

VOY 11x16 - "MOTHER"

After weeks of seeding the Children of the Storm's system with plants, Fife and O'Donnell have mended fences - to Eden's

amazement. With Seven's research, Cambridge's insights and Lasren's telepathy, *Voyager* has located the Children's mother. The planet-sized gaseous entity gives "birth" to the Children as disembodied thoughts, but after millennia of destruction by the Borg, she feels only despair. When Children and Mother meet again, she explodes in a dazzling display of joy. "You are strange creatures," the Children say. "We met you with deadly force, and you responded with two great gifts." B'Elanna has learned that *Achilles'* Cmdr Drafar is a Landrin - a species whose women physically cannot leave their children or they die. To prove to Drafar that she can be a working mother, she brings Miral along with her to *Achilles*. As *Quirinal* returns to space, Captain Farkas has also recovered. Eden confides in Chakotay her struggles with the difficult decisions of command, and reveals what little she knows of her mysterious origins...

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. DS9 - CANDLEWOOD'S QUARTERS

Bare FEET hanging off the edge of the sofa... then TRAVEL up the legs in their soft relaxing pants, finally revealing CANDLEWOOD out of uniform and lying lengthways along the sofa. His head rests in HETIK's lap while he reads one of the numerous real-paper books from the coffee table. Hetik reads from a padd in one hand as the other absently twirls in his boyfriend's curly hair. It's just a quiet night in.

CANDLEWOOD

(low-stakes,
while he's reading)

You never said what the deal was
with Broik...

HETIK

Oh, it was nothing. He just tried
to show some initiative by tidying
up the store room. Quark doesn't
like employees taking initiative.

CANDLEWOOD

He yelled at him for denying him
the opportunity to yell at him?

HETIK

That about covers it.

CANDLEWOOD

You, my beloved, are an angel for
working in that place. Don't know
how Nog survived it for so long.

HETIK

I've gotten used to dealing with
irrational alien men.

CANDLEWOOD

Careful - I know exactly where you
don't like my cold toes inserted.

In retaliation, Hetik winds his fingers into John's hair tighter, uses them to play-yank his head back... then bends down to KISS him tenderly. As they smooch...

RO (comm)

Ro to all senior staff - report to Ops in fifteen minutes for a mission briefing.

Annoyed but with no choice, Candlewood closes his book, sits up and turns back to face his boyfriend...

CANDLEWOOD

I know, I'm sorry. This was meant to be our quiet night at home.

HETIK

Can't be helped, I guess. Although I did have to swap with Treir for us to get time off together...

Nothing Candlewood can say, he has to go, it's his job. He gets up and heads to the bedroom to change clothes, leaving it on an unhappy but resigned note...

2 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

Establishing, focusing on the Ops dome...

3 **INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE**

The turbolift brings Candlewood into Ops, and he quickly jogs down to the central table, where the rest of the senior staff are already gathered - RO, CENN, EVIK, CHAO, BASHIR, ALECO and TENMEI (no need for Matthias today).

TENMEI

Always the last to arrive. Glad to see you could tear yourself away from your boyfriend for once.

CANDLEWOOD

At least I have a boyfriend.

TENMEI

Oh! We're playing it like that -

RO

(cut it out!)

Enough - we don't have time for your hilarious banter today. The *Defiant* is leaving in the morning, and myself, Commander Evik and Major Cenn will all be onboard.

CANDLEWOOD

Then... who's in charge here?

RO

You are, Lieutenant. Or you and Tenmei, anyway. Doctor Bashir may outrank you both, but he's not a command officer, and you both are. Aleco can handle liaison officer.

BASHIR

What's the mission?

EVIK

Convoy duty - we're escorting the refugee transports from the Valo colonies to the Solarion system...

ALECO

(wary)

...in Cardassian space.

CENN

That's the deal we made with them, Lieutenant. It gives our refugees somewhere to settle, and gives the Cardassians someone to work the land and make use of resources.

CHAO

If we're all friends now, why do they need the *Defiant*?

RO

Who knows how the Typhon Pact will react? Solarion is not that far from Tzenkethi space.

EVIK
(cheery)
Plus, Valo Two is where Commander
Ro and I both grew up. I'm quite
looking forward to revisiting it.

A gentle ALERT - a message coming in. Candlewood jogs up
the stairs to his science station, checks the panels...

CANDLEWOOD
Speaking of... we're getting a
signal from the *Laweya*, in orbit
of Valo Two.

RO
(shrug)
Okay, put him through.

Ro turns to the main viewscreen, which reveals...

4 VIEWSCREEN

...the SKIPPER of the *Laweya*, a non-Starfleet human male
last seen in 13x01 "The Recovery Position". We will now
call him EINARR, and he looks distinctly agitated.

EINARR (screen)
DS-Nine? This is Captain Einarr on
the *Laweya*.

5 BACK TO SCENE

On Ro, although both Evik and Tenmei recognise Einarr...

RO
Yes, I remember you, Captain. How
can we help?

EINARR (screen)
How soon are you getting to Valo?

RO
We haven't even left DS-Nine yet.
Why, is there a problem?

EINARR (screen)

Damn right there's a problem. I tried to load these refugees onto my ship to take them to Solarion, like you hired me to do. But they started fighting with my crew. One of them even fired a phaser at me!

EVIK

Why would they do that?

EINARR (screen)

You'd have to ask them. But I can tell you one thing for sure - these people do not want to go to Solarion. They don't want to leave Valo at all, and they'll fight anyone who tries to force them.

Reactions...

EINARR (screen)

The *Laweya* is a passenger liner, Commander. We're not equipped to deal with this.

RO

Just hold on, Captain. We're on our way. DS-Nine out.

The signal drops, and Ro turns to Evik...

RO

Still looking forward to it?

Off Evik's daunted reaction...

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Focusing on the *Defiant* in its usual docking position...

7 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Action and urgency as the door opens and Ro ENTERS, Evik and Cenn close behind her. They hover back out of the way, but Ro strides purposefully to her command seat, already calling out orders to the crew (all last seen 13x12)...

RO

Minnar, push us back as soon as you get clearance.

Ensign MINNAR, Betazoid male pilot, responds from helm...

MINNAR

Aye, Commander, I'm in contact with Ops now.

RO

Chao, I'll need warp as soon as we clear the system, I want to get there as soon as possible.

Lt jg Chao, newly promoted human female chief engineer...

CHAO

Not a problem, sir. Warp power ready at your command.

RO

Richter, be ready for casualties just in case, we don't know how bad it is down there.

RICHTER, human nurse at the (repaired) science station...

RICHTER

Sickbay is all ready to go, sir.

MINNAR
Docking clamps released, pushing
back now, Commander. And setting
course for the Valo system...

RO
(grinning)
You read my mind, Ensign.

MINNAR
(going along
with the joke)
Aye, sir.

Minnar happily works the helm controls...

8 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

Defiant pulls back from its docking port, turns quickly but
smoothly, and SURGES out into open space...

9 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

As the ship gets underway, NARAN (Thallonian male) gets up
from the tactical station and approaches Evik...

NARAN
Commander? You're welcome to take
the tactical station if you'd
prefer. It is your right.

EVIK
Oh no no, that's fine, Ensign.
Please, carry on.

Naran nods and heads back to his station, reads a panel...

NARAN
We've cleared the Bajor system.

RO
Alright - Minnar, maximum warp.

MINNAR
Aye, sir.

We feel the ship build power and jump to WARP, but Ro is already up and moving. She beckons Evik and Cenn to join her in the discussion area towards the back of the bridge.

RO
You two alright?

EVIK
Perfectly fine, Commander. It's just a long time since I've been on an actual starship.

CENN
It's the first time you've ever asked me to join you on a mission. I don't think I've ever even been on the *Defiant* in flight before.

RO
Well, I need you both now. Nath, give me a tactical report...

Evik turns to the computers at his side and brings up a report labelled VALO COLONIES. He demonstrates...

EVIK
Valo is one of several systems in what is now known as the Bajoran Diaspora - those who left the homeworld during the Cardassian Occupation and settled elsewhere in the neighbouring sectors...

RO
(impatient)
I know this part, Nath.

EVIK
I realise that, Commander, but Major Cenn might not. I'm aware he is less familiar with the details of the off-world colonies...

Evik didn't mean that as an insult - it's simple fact - but it makes Cenn feel a bit ashamed. Evik is continuing... he points to various parts of the system map on the screen...

EVIK

There are settlements on several planets throughout the system, but after the end of the Occupation, the population mostly consolidated around the settlement on Valo Two.

(zooms in on the second planet)

As a consequence, that world has developed substantially and is now a thriving colony in its own right - although still under Bajoran homeworld administration and with its own contingent of Militia.

RO

(turns to Cenn)

Which is where you come in.

Cenn blanches a bit, now the centre of attention, but he pushes through. He is quietly nervous about this visit.

CENN

The Valo authorities were happy to accommodate several thousand refugees after the Borg, but that was months ago, and they don't have the resources that even Bajor has to look after them long-term.

RO

That's exactly why we're taking them off their hands and moving them to Solarion, Major.

CENN

What I mean is, the Valo Militia are suddenly having to keep the peace not just among their own colonists, but for those thousands of refugees as well. Thousands of traumatised, angry people from a dozen different cultures. It's no surprise tensions would boil over.

EVIK

But that still doesn't explain why they'd attack the very people who are trying to solve that problem. Surely everyone would welcome the opportunity to spread out and build a new life of their own.

RO

Not according to Captain Einarr.
(turns, calls)
Ensign Minnar, time to reach the Valo system?

MINNAR

(off panels)
Just over five hours, Commander.

RO

(back to Cenn and Evik)
May as well try and get a couple hours' rest. I did rob you both of a good night's sleep.

CENN

Thanks, Commander.

Cenn EXITS out into the corridor, but Evik hovers back...

EVIK

Everything okay? You seem tense.

RO

Just that I'm the one who helped sell this deal to the Cardassians in the first place. Now the very first people we try to move, and it's already going wrong.

EVIK

Don't worry, I'm sure it's nowhere near as bad as you're assuming.

Evik also EXITS. Ro watches him go, glad of his counsel. Then she turns back to the bridge...

10 **EXT. SPACE - DEFIANT**

The ship flies through open space at high warp...

11 **EXT. SPACE - VALO II ORBIT**

A brown-purple world as seen in TNG "Ensign Ro". Several freighters and passenger liners like those seen in 13x01 are already holding position...

The *Defiant* slips into orbit and joins them...

12 **EXT. VALO II SURFACE - SPACE PORT - DAY**

A serviceably modern open-air spaceport, with several small shuttles parked and facilities to beam travellers to bigger ships in orbit. Bajoran styled, nowhere near as advanced as your average Federation planet, but light years ahead of the pitiful camp of tents and shacks seen in "Ensign Ro".

A large crowd of CIVILIANS of several different humanoid races, such as KLAESTRON (1x08 "Dax"), XEPOLITES (2x21 "The Maquis, pt 2"), KOBLIAD (1x09 "The Passenger") and KRESSARI (2x02 "The Circle"), wait almost-patiently with travelling bags and/or cases in a cordoned area, while wary Bajoran MILITIA officers stand watch between them and the ships.

Into an open space nearby, Starfleet transporters deliver RO, EVIK and CENN. The two men have holstered sidearms, Ro does not. They look around for a moment - Evik especially taking in the local changes with satisfaction and pride.

At their arrival, one of the Bajoran officers, a woman in her 40s named GHYEL, strides to formally greet them. The civilians, meanwhile, seem to get more agitated.

GHYEL

Commander Ro, welcome to Valo Two.
I'm Major Ghyel.

RO

Nice to meet you, Major. Although it's actually "welcome back" - I spent some time here during my mis-spent youth. It didn't look like this, though.

GHYEL

We're very proud of what Valo has achieved in the last decade.

RO

You should be. This is my security chief, Commander Evik, who is also a Valo native. My first officer Major Cenn, who's... not.

Polite acknowledgements all round, although Cenn feels a little targeted again. Ro nods towards the civilians...

RO

They don't look like much trouble.

GHYEL

Right now, no. But who knows what will set them off again - I don't really know what set them off the first time.

RO

Let's find out.

Taking command, Ro strides towards the civilians. Cenn, Evik and Ghyel all go with her. CROWD WALLA intensifies, and doesn't sound very happy - Ro has to shout to be heard.

RO

Hi everyone, I'm Commander -

KARZA

Get lost, Starfleet!

KARZA is one of the refugees, a KLAESTRON woman in her 30s, and the ringleader of the most agitated group of civilians.

RO

I'm sorry?

KARZA

We know this was your idea!

Ro pauses, thrown by that. It was her idea, kind of.

RO
In a manner of speaking -

KARZA
We won't go! You can't make us!

Karza steps up close to Ro, threatening, right in her face.
Ro tenses, Cenn tries to get between them...

CENN
Karza, just calm down -

KARZA
Get off me!

The Klaestron woman spins on Cenn and PUNCHES him.

Cenn staggers back with an OOF, and the dam breaks - the crowd SURGES forwards.

Cenn reaches for his sidearm... Evik sees it...

EVIK
(soft mutter)
Major, don't you dare.

The four Bajorans back up against each other, surrounded by jostling, shoving, shouting civilians.

Off Evik's troubled reaction - what are they going to do?

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 EXT. VALO II SURFACE - SPACE PORT - DAY

The four Bajorans are surrounded. Ghyel is about to pull her weapon. Cenn gives her a look - don't, let me handle it. He raises his empty hands and SHOUTS over the crowd.

CENN

Wait! Please stop!

The crowd do calm a bit, enough to at least hear what Cenn has to say. He finds Karza, the one who just punched him...

CENN

Karza, you know me.

(louder)

You all know me. You all met me when you came through DS-Nine.

14 MAJOR GHYEL

Ghyel makes eye contact past the crowd with her soldiers...

CENN (o.s.)

(continuing)

If it helps, I'm not Starfleet.

15 THROUGH THE CROWD

The other officers nod at Ghyel's silent summons...

CENN (o.s.)

(continuing)

My main responsibility is to civilians like you, to make sure you all have a safe place to go. Please, there's no need for this.

16 BACK TO SCENE

The crowd is listening to Cenn. It is becoming clear that Karza does not speak for all of them, she is just loudest. Seeing this, Ro steps forward and tries again...

RO
Karza, is it?
(she nods)
Please tell me - why are you so
against leaving Valo?

KARZA
We're not against leaving here.
We're against going there.

RO
Why, what's wrong with Solarion?

KARZA
(are you stupid?)
It's a Cardassian world. You want
us to live on a Cardassian world.

Ro steps back - she gets it now. Speaks louder, wider...

RO
Okay, I understand. We're Bajoran,
we understand about Cardassians.
(gestures to Evik)
Nath and I, we grew up on this
world because of Cardassians. But
they're not like that anymore. I'm
on good terms with the governor of
Solarion and he assures me you'll
be safe. There are barely even any
Cardassians there! So please trust
us. We wouldn't leave Federation
citizens anywhere that's not safe.

By now, the CROWD WALLA has turned in Ro's favour - they
just want to get on with it. Karza can feel the atmosphere
turning, so after a moment's griping, she backs down.

KARZA
Fine - take us to Solarion then.

It's a last petulant tantrum - the crowd is already moving
away, the decision made. While Ghyel's soldiers guide the
civilians back into the waiting area, Ghyel turns to Ro.

GHYEL

Thanks, Commander. I have good people, but they're overwhelmed as it is - we don't need a riot.

RO

No problem, Major. You should be okay to contact the *Laweya* and start beaming them aboard now.

Ro turns to Cenn, who is rubbing at where he got punched...

RO

You need me to call Richter down?

CENN

Oh, I've had worse. You and Evik go on with the convoy - I'll stay here. Like I said, they know me - I can help keep them calm.

Ro nods and heads off with Ghyel. But like before, Evik hovers back to offer counsel in good will...

EVIK

It's not Bajor, but it's still a beautiful world. Take a moment to look around while you're here.

Cenn takes the suggestion as it was intended. Evik follows Ro, while Cenn heads towards the milling civilians...

17 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Re-establishing, focusing on the habitat ring...

18 INT. DS9 - CANDLEWOOD'S QUARTERS

Candlewood ENTERS, absently tapping the *mezuzah* at the door even as he spots Hetik standing in the traditional pose, meditating before his own prayer *mandala*. Hetik stops and turns, happy to see his boyfriend...

HETIK

Hey you. Tough day?

CANDLEWOOD

It is so stressful having to be responsible all the time. Whose idea was this promotion anyway?

Candlewood slumps off-screen to the bedroom, still talking. Hetik goes to the replicator, prepares dinner...

HETIK

Anything interesting happen?

CANDLEWOOD (o.s.)

The *Defiant* left Valo and they're on their way to Solarion. Turns out that kerfuffle they rushed off to handle, it was just because the refugees were skittish about moving to a Cardassian planet.

Hetik pauses - he doesn't like the sound of that. But as Candlewood returns to the living room now in his relaxing pants, Hetik covers it and carries on preparing dinner, carrying plates to the small dining table.

HETIK

Are you allowed to be telling me all this?

CANDLEWOOD

(shrug)

It's hardly classified. Anyway, it's all sorted out now.

As Candlewood sits at the table, Hetik brings the last few plates and continues the discussion John thought was over.

HETIK

What do you mean, sorted out?

CANDLEWOOD

Well, Ro and Cenn just told them to stop being silly and worrying about nothing. And now they're on their way. Sorted.

Candlewood takes a mouthful of food, and swoons.

CANDLEWOOD

Mmm. He cooks, he cleans, he looks like a Greek god... how did I ever get so lucky?

Candlewood smiles and tucks in enthusiastically. Hetik sits and picks at the food. He is disturbed by Candlewood's news, not to mention his nonchalance in delivering it.

HETIK

I don't think it's silly, John. I can certainly understand why some one wouldn't want to live under Cardassian jurisdiction.

CANDLEWOOD

(dismissive,
busy eating)

Well, yeah, during the occupation or the war, obviously. But we're friends with Cardassia now.

HETIK

John, you can't just dismiss this. If those people don't want to live under Cardassian rule, you can't force them to do it.

CANDLEWOOD

Nobody's being forced, just... persuaded. Besides, what choice have they got? The refugees have gotta go somewhere, and this is the best of a bad set of options.

Hetik drops his fork with a CLANG, gets up from the table and paces a few steps away, trying to keep his temper.

HETIK

I can't believe how... callous you're being about this.

Candlewood finally realises there is a problem, so he also gets up, approaches Hetik...

CANDLEWOOD

Whoa whoa whoa, what's going on?
Are you upset? Are we fighting?

HETIK

(shouts)

Of course I'm upset! Prophets, I
know you're no good at reading
people, John, but yes, I'm upset.

CANDLEWOOD

(genuinely confused)

Okay... why?

HETIK

(as if to a moron)

Because they're Federation
citizens, and they shouldn't have
to live on a Cardassian planet.

Candlewood chuckles, heads back to the table, sits, eats.

CANDLEWOOD

Wow - I had no idea I was living
with such a massive racist.

HETIK

(jaw drops)

I beg your pardon?

CANDLEWOOD

Alright, maybe racist was a bit
far. But come on, Hetik - this is
all just because you're a Bajoran
and you don't like Cardassians.

Hetik stands in stunned silence for a moment...

HETIK

Enjoy your dinner. I have to get
ready for my shift.

Hetik heads off-screen to the bedroom, clearly *pissed*.
Candlewood drops his own fork with another CLANG, sighs.
That obviously didn't go well.

19 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* is at low warp...

OPEN UP to reveal the convoy of freighters, transports and liners seen in orbit of Valo II, *Laweya* recognisable among them. They are all travelling in formation at the same low warp factor, with the *Defiant* keeping guard as they go.

20 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro confidently in command, the junior officers (Richter, Chao, Minnar, Naran) at their stations, and Evik standing alone at the rear alcove console. Everything is running as normal, no issues. Ro turns her chair to Evik...

RO

So... how was it? You knew the old place better than I did.

EVIK

I was glad to see how well they've developed... if a little jealous. I wish I could have stayed longer.

RO

You could take some leave. We have to go back to pick up Cenn anyway.

EVIK

That would be nice.

Satisfied, Ro turns back to the bridge...

21 **INT. LAWEYA - BRIDGE**

A basic passenger liner flight deck, small but functional. Captain EINARR in one seat, his FIRST MATE in the other. Their fellow convoy ships are visible through the window.

FIRST MATE

(off panels)

No issues reported, all systems within normal parameters. Should be at Solarion within four hours.

EINARR

Good to know.

(head tilt)

Take a break if you want.

FIRST MATE

Yeah, I might do. Thanks, Skipper.

The first mate gets up and heads to the flight deck door - and in doing so we see that he is armed, a small civilian weapon attached at his hip. He EXITS, closes the door.

A few moments, as Einarr contentedly runs his ship.

A muffled THUMP from the other side of the door, followed by an OOF. Einarr hears it, but isn't too concerned.

A few moments, and we HEAR the door open and close again. Einarr keeps his eyes on his controls, untroubled.

EINARR

What d'you do this time - stub
your toe again?

(head tilt)

First aid kit's in that closet.

He glances up at the windows - and the REFLECTION does not show his first mate. Einarr SPINS urgently in his seat...

...and finds KARZA the Klaestron refugee woman holding his first mate's weapon and pointing it right into his face.

KARZA

He didn't stub his toe.

Off Einarr's alarm...

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22 DEFIANT HELM CONSOLE

An insistent ALERT - Minnar checks it, and is worried.

MINNAR

Commander... *Laweya* is changing
course, breaking formation.

OPEN out to...

23 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Ro reacts, intrigued...

RO

Naran - hail them.

Naran works his panels - the usual "hailing frequencies
open" CHIME plays. He nods to Ro.

RO

Defiant to *Laweya* - Captain,
please remain in formation.

She looks to Naran - he shakes his head. No response. Evik
steps forward, now engaged in the mystery.

EVIK

He did the same at DS-Nine - I had
to throw him in the brig for it.

RO

Naran - anything on sensors? Any
sign of Typhon Pact vessels?

NARAN

No, sir. Unless they're cloaked.

Ro considers her options, and reluctantly decides.

RO

Dammit. Minnar, pursuit course.

MINNAR

Aye, sir.

RO

Mister Evik, contact the other ships and tell them to maintain course and formation while we figure out what's going on.

EVIK

Yes, Commander.

Evik returns to the rear alcove console, starts working it. Ro wonders - what is going on here?

24 **EXT. SPACE**

While the other convoy ships carry on at low warp, *Defiant* peels away to follow the errant *Laweya*...

25 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

As we were...

NARAN

Laweya is now hailing us, sir.

Ro nods, Naran works panels, and the viewscreen changes...

26 **VIEWSCREEN**

A tight face shot on EINARR so that we don't see the rest of his bridge. Tense but forcing a false smile.

EINARR (screen)

Sorry to startle you, Commander.
Just having a spot of engine trouble, best if we drop out of formation while we fix it.

27 **MINNAR**

His dark eyes narrow, reading something in Einarr with his Betazoid senses. Begins to type quickly on his console.

28 **RO**

Wary but diplomatic...

RO
Anything we can help you with?

A silent ALERT on her command chair arm panel. While Einarr replies, Ro looks down at it without drawing attention...

29 **ARM PANEL**

Just three words - SCARED. LYING. TROUBLE.

EINARR (o.s.)
Oh no, we're fine. You should stay
with the convoy, they need you
more than we do.

30 **RO**

Looks back up at Einarr on the screen, smiles warmly.

RO
Understood, Captain. Best of luck
with your repairs. *Defiant* out.

31 **BACK TO SCENE**

The line drops, and Ro's smile drops with it. She gets up, lays a hand of thanks on Minnar's shoulder, then moves to the tactical station, begins entering commands into it at light speed over Naran's shoulder, talking all the while.

RO
Minnar, maintain pursuit. Naran,
get ready to fire on the *Laweya*.

Evik pushes forwards, alarmed...

EVIK
Commander...?

RO
The *Laweya*'s been hijacked, Nath.
We have to stop it.

Evik gently takes Ro's arm, guides her over to the rear alcove. He is effectively serving as her XO right now, and doesn't want to question her orders in front of the crew.

EVIK

There are civilians on the *Laweya*,
Commander. A lot of civilians.

RO

That's why I gave Naran the firing
pattern to take out engines and
shields without damaging anything
else. It's a basic passenger
liner, *Nath* - shouldn't take more
than a couple of low-power shots.

(turns)

Naran - fire.

Evik is very worried about this, but holds his tongue...

32 **EXT. SPACE**

Defiant FIRES - a series of low-power precision shots from
the phaser array...

...that hit *Laweya* at several strategic points. The liner
SHUDDERS, its shield bubble visibly flickering...

33 **INT. LAWEYA - PASSENGER CABIN**

As the ship SHAKES, the varied civilians SCREAM. A handful
of non-essential systems EXPLODE in showers of sparks...

34 **INT. LAWEYA - BRIDGE**

ALARMS sound. KARZA is knocked off balance. Einarr takes
his chance, jumps up and WRESTLES her for the weapon...

They struggle back and forth, each getting the upper hand
in turn as the alarms screech around them...

...until another small BURST of SPARKS catches Einarr off
guard, giving Karza the chance to PUSH him back into his
command chair. He slumps into it unhappily, defeated. Karza
holds the gun on him again with shaking hand...

35 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Naran reads the tactical console...

NARAN

Direct hit - shields are down and they're dropping out of warp.

RICHTER

No change in life signs. We didn't kill anybody.

Ro is already striding to the WEAPONS CABINET, opens it and hands a phaser to Evik, keeps one for herself. Over this:

RO

Minnar - match course and speed.
Chao - beam me and Evik to the Laweya's bridge.

CHAO

I can't do that, sir - some kind of extra shielding around the bridge. I can't get through.

RO

Probably precisely to stop people from hijacking them. Okay then - beam us as close as you can get.

CHAO

Aye, sir. Energising...

Ro checks the settings on her phaser, all business. Evik does likewise, not liking the direction this is going. Then they both DEMATERIALISE...

36 **INT. LAWEYA - CORRIDOR**

...and REMATERIALISE just outside the flight deck door. The Laweya's FIRST MATE is there, JUMPS at their arrival. Ro and Evik quickly scan the territory, take up positions...

RO

You're the first officer?

FIRST MATE

Yeah - it's that Klaestron woman.
She hit me, took my weapon. She's
in there now with the skipper.

He rubs his chin - he has been punched just like Cenn was.
Off-screen comes the SOUND of whimpering civilians...

RO

You should go take care of your
passengers. We'll handle this.

FIRST MATE

Happily.

The first mate heads off down the corridor, towards the
sounds of civilians. Ro and Evik prepare...

RO

You ready? I'll phaser the lock,
you kick the door down, I'll rush
her in the confusion, you stun her
with your phaser.

EVIK

We're not even going to try to
talk to her?

RO

Starfleet doesn't negotiate with
terrorists, Nath. You know that.

EVIK

I think terrorist is overstating
it, Commander. We don't even know
what she wants yet. Let me at
least talk to her first - please.

Ro again considers her options, and grudgingly decides. She
finds a control by the door, presses it...

37 **INT. LAWEYA - BRIDGE**

With Karza still holding her gun on Einarr, and the alarms
still sounding, Evik's voice filters through the comm...

EVIK (comm)
Karza? This is Commander Evik from
the *Defiant*. We met on Valo Two.
I'm outside the door right now.

Karza flinches at the unexpected but gentle voice. Einarr
keeps his eyes on her, alert for any opportunity...

KARZA
What do you want?

EVIK (comm)
That's my question to you. What is
it that you hope to achieve here?

Karza steadies herself, strengthens her hold on the gun...

KARZA
I'm stopping this ship from going
to the Solarion system, and saving
all these people from having to
live under the Cardassians.

INTERCUT WITH:

38 INT. LAWEYA - CORRIDOR

...where Ro and Evik talk into the comm system. Evik stays
calm, his rich and soothing voice keeping the peace...

EVIK
That seems a little short-sighted,
if I may say so. Where else will
you take them? And how exactly do
you expect to get there? We've
already disabled this vessel.

KARZA (comm)
Maybe so. But I'm the one with the
phaser to this guy's head. So if
you want him back safe and sound,
I suggest you repair the ship and
let us go. It's none of your
business where.

39 INT. LAWEYA - BRIDGE

Einarr sneers at the increasingly tense hijacker...

EINARR

Of course it's their business, you idiot. They're Starfleet. They'll hunt you down wherever you go.

EVIK (comm)

I appreciate the support, Captain Einarr. But it's probably best if you let me handle this.

Einarr seethes in his seat. Karza keeps the gun trained...

EVIK (comm)

To an extent, Mister Einarr is right. We have the ability, not to mention the authority, to resolve this situation by force. But that ends badly for everyone, so I'd much rather keep talking.

(beat)

Additionally, I'm not sure you have the support for this action that you assume. You're the only one who expressed any reservations about settling on Solarion.

KARZA

(bark of laughter)

No I'm not!

40 INT. LAWEYA - CORRIDOR

Ro and Evik where they were...

KARZA (comm)

They all feel the same, you just don't know 'cause you haven't bothered asking. Did you actually talk to any of these people? No, you just herded them like animals onto this ship and told them "You live here now, deal with it."

Ro and Evik are both taken aback - is she right? They look down the corridor towards the civilians whose off-screen cries and whimpers they can still hear...

EVIK

If that's so, why didn't they say anything?

KARZA (comm)

Because they're tired. Tired of fighting, tired of running.

41 **INT. LAWEYA - BRIDGE**

Karza tightens her grip on the gun again, even as she moves around the bridge with agitation, explaining herself. Einarrr keeps his eyes on her wherever she moves...

KARZA

I'm not tired. So I'm going to do their fighting for them.

EVIK (comm)

Okay. I can understand that. But I'm not sure I understand your objection to Solarion. It's a good world, full of natural resources.

KARZA

And who owns those resources? The Cardassians. You expect us to farm crops, build homes, and then hand over the fruits of our labour to the Cardassians. That's slavery.

42 **INT. LAWEYA - CORRIDOR**

Ro lowers her phaser, rubs her brow - Karza is bringing up good points. Evik sees the look on Ro's face, offers a warm hand of consolation. He feels the same way.

KARZA (comm)

Anyway, aren't you a Bajoran? Why are you defending Cardassians?

Evik keeps his eyes on Ro, who has been affected by this...

EVIK

I am a Bajoran, but I'm one who believes in peace. Nevertheless, I cannot allow this to continue. You've made some valid points, and if you will hand over your weapon to Captain Einarr and end this peacefully, I promise to speak to the colonists, discuss the issues you've raised, and abide by their democratic decision.

43 INT. LAWEYA - BRIDGE

Karza is considering it, however reluctantly...

EVIK (comm)

I'm afraid the only other option is that we come in firing, and then nothing gets any better.

(beat)

Karza? Can you agree to that?

Einarr stands slowly from his seat, holds out his hand hopefully... Another tense moment... and then Karza gives in at last. She hands the phaser over to Einarr.

EINARR

Thank you.

Einarr adjusts the phaser's settings, then calmly SHOOTS Karza at point blank range. She YELPS, falls to the deck.

Off Einarr's perfectly calm satisfaction at this...

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

44 INT. LAWEYA - CORRIDOR

Ro and Evik in the corridor, unaware of what's happening on the other side of the door. Things are curiously quiet...

EVIK

Karza? What's going on? Karza?

The door UNLOCKS. Ro and Evik tense, ready phasers...

...but it is only Einarr who appears in the doorway, phaser loosely in hand.

EINARR

You can come in now. It's over.

Wary, Ro and Evik follow him back into...

45 INT. LAWEYA - BRIDGE

...where they see Karza unconscious on the deck. Evik quickly runs to check on her...

EVIK

What the -

EINARR

(re phaser)

It was on the lowest possible stun setting. She'll be fine.

EVIK

You didn't have to shoot at all.

EINARR

She hijacked my ship, Commander. I think I was remarkably restrained.

Ro sighs, unhappy. Taps her combadge...

RO

Ro to *Defiant*.

CHAO (comm)
Lieutenant Chao here, Commander.

RO
Jeanette, the situation's under control here. Beam the Klaestron female near me straight to the *Defiant* brig, and post a guard.

CHAO (comm)
Aye, sir.

RO
Then beam me and Evik back to the bridge, then you and Richter pack your stuff and beam over here to the *Laweya*. They'll need our help getting back on their feet.

CHAO (comm)
Understood. Energising...

Karza's prone form DEMATERIALISES. A moment later Evik and Ro go too, the last thing on Evik's face a look of distinct disdain for Einarr, who doesn't really care what he thinks.

A moment later, Einarr's first mate returns to the bridge and starts rummaging in the storage closet.

EINARR
All finished?

FIRST MATE
I just came for the first aid kit.
Somebody stubbed their toe.

EINARR
It was you, wasn't it?

FIRST MATE
...No.

Einarr shakes his head in long-suffering exasperation and returns to his command chair...

46 **EXT. SPACE - VALO II ORBIT**

Re-establishing the brown-purple world, now without the cloud of transport ships in orbit...

47 **EXT. VALO II SURFACE - TOWN - DAY**

Major CENN strolls across a high stone bridge, high enough to offer a nice view of the small town below. He pauses at the brow of the bridge, looks out over the town...

It is all mostly Bajoran styled, but with a few individual quirks. The landscape beyond is brown scrubble rather than the lush green of Bajor, but the town has still flourished anyway. Cenn breathes the open air, taking it all in.

GHYEL (o.s.)
Not a bad view, is it?

Cenn turns to see Major Ghyel, his Valo counterpart, a few steps away. She joins him at the edge, looks out with him.

CENN
It's not Bajor, but... it has its own appeal.

GHYEL
You're from the homeworld?

CENN
(nods)
Born and raised, small village in Jo'kala. Had barely ever even left the planet's surface before I was assigned to Deep Space Nine.

GHYEL
So you're probably not familiar with the Diaspora colonies, then.

CENN
(sigh)
No... and that's been a source of some tension with Commander Evik in the past, since he's from here.

GHYEL

Really? You two didn't seem to be overly acrimonious before.

CENN

(smile)

He's a very... calming influence.

GHYEL

Well, let me show you the sights.

Ghyel points, proudly drawing Cenn's attention to the far edges of the town in the distance...

GHYEL

I was born and raised in a small village too, just over there. Only it wasn't really a village, more a collection of wood huts and tents. Spent most of my life scrabbling in the dirt, just trying to get through another day with enough to eat and keep my family safe.

Cenn can relate - it sounds very much like his own life on Bajor. Ghyel continues...

GHYEL

That is, until the day a certain Starfleet Ensign Ro Laren showed up with her crewmates...

Cenn reacts...

GHYEL

(continuing)

...took off her jacket, and gave it to my daughter. That's when I started working to make my world a better place, instead of just somewhere to exist and survive.

Cenn is touched by this story. He points as well...

CENN

Is that your local shrine?

GHYEL

Certainly is. You're welcome to join me for afternoon services, if you like. I can't promise it'll be exactly what you're used to -

CENN

I'd love to. Thank you.

Ghyel smiles, and the two Majors walk off together...

48 EXT. SPACE

The refugee convoy still underway at low warp, with *Laweya* now back among them and *Defiant* keeping watch...

49 INT. DEFIANT - MESS HALL

Ro sits alone at a table, cup in her hands. Evik enters...

EVIK

Ensign Richter confirms Miss Karza has suffered no long-term injuries from Captain Einarr's phaser shot. She's resting safely in the brig.

No response from Ro. Evik joins her at the table...

EVIK

I do have to wonder just who has jurisdiction in this case, though. There is no Klaestron judiciary to remand her to anymore - that's the whole reason she's here.

RO

(absently)

She's still a Federation citizen. I'll hand her over to Starfleet.

EVIK

Is everything alright, Commander?

Ro doesn't respond directly. Just sits back with a sigh, her eyes still on her coffee cup.

RO
"Don't negotiate with terrorists."
I said that earlier, didn't I?

EVIK
You did.

RO
(sad chuckle)
Me. I was a Maquis, Nath. I spent
five years terrorising people -
Cardassians, Vorta, Jem'Hadar.

EVIK
I thought the Maquis preferred to
think of themselves as freedom
fighters, not terrorists.

RO
That's probably just what Karza is
thinking right now too. And I put
her in that brig, with my uniform
and my... Starfleet authority.

EVIK
Time passes. Things change.

RO
Do they, though? This is the
Maquis all over again, isn't it?
And I'm on the other side now.

EVIK
The details aren't identical...

RO
Close enough. Two governments make
an agreement, and suddenly entire
planets' worth of innocent people
find themselves uprooted or living
under an authority they never
agreed to, because nobody asked.

EVIK
Cardassia isn't an enemy anymore -

RO

That's not the point! I used to be the one fighting for the people who didn't have a voice. Now I'm the one silencing that voice. Karza may be the one who took it too far, but she's not the only one feeling powerless right now.

EVIK

What can we do? The whole point of making this deal was to bring us closer to alliance with Cardassia. If we interfere, we'll risk what little alliance there already is. The Federation can't afford that.

RO

(deep breath)

I know. But I can't let it happen again, Nath. I just can't.

As Ro slumps, Evik watches her and ponders. He feels for the bind she is in, but what can he do to help?

50 EXT. SPACE - SOLARION IV ORBIT

A different world, more blue-green. The refugee convoy slowly moves into orbit, the *Defiant* leading the way...

51 INT. SOLARION IV SPACE PORT - DAY

An internal space for transport to and from the planet, but open to the outside world so that we can see the pleasant local environment. Things are a bit basic and unfinished, since not much has been made of this colony yet.

A handful of Cardassian civilians - construction workers, manual labourers, space port administrators - go on about their everyday lives, moving in and out of the space.

Into this MATERIALISE Ro, Evik, and the first hopeful batch of Federation colonists - Klaestron, Xepolites, Kressari, Kobliad and others. Ro quickly gets the lay of the land and politely approaches one of the administrators, RAKEE...

RO
Excuse me, I'm Commander Ro Laren,
I'm with Starfleet -

RAKEE
(blank)
Yes, I can see that.

RO
(push on through)
Can you point me towards Legate
Macet, please? He's expecting us.
I've brought the first wave of
colonists, you see, and -

RAKEE
I know why you're here, Commander.
And I can tell you right now, we
don't want your colonists, and we
don't want you.

Ro glances around at the other Cardassian civilians - they
are all staring at her and her own group of civilians with
open contempt. It would seem they agree with Rakee.

Sensitive to the moment, Evik steps forward, placating...

EVIK
I understand it's a difficult
transition, ma'am. We've faced
similar sentiments among our own
people already. But I'm afraid the
decision is out of either of our
hands. We're only here to fulfil
an agreement already made by our
respective governments.

RAKEE
We don't care about any agreement.
This is our planet, your president
gave it to us, and you don't just
get to turn up here now and take
it over again.

Rakee gestures around at the other Cardassians watching...

RAKEE

We moved here to start new lives.
Now you want to bring these people
to start their new lives, and take
ours away. Our jobs, our homes. We
can't let you do that, Commander.

RO

Now look - it's a big planet out
there, there's room for everyone.
If you'll just call Legate Macet -

RAKEE

No!

One of the builders THROWS a piece of debris at the crowd
of refugees - it HITS someone on the head and they go down
with a SHOUT of pain.

RO

Hey!

While Evik runs to check on the injured refugee, Ro pulls
her weapon...

...but ALL the Cardassians are now throwing things - pens,
bricks, bits of plasteel sheet. The refugees are besieged,
cowering and whimpering as they are hit from all sides.

Ro dodges a projectile and grimaces. Is she going to have
to fire on these people?

Ending on Evik, as he sees the situation unraveling...

BLACK OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

52 INT. SOLARION IV SPACE PORT - DAY

Where we were, with the Cardassian civilians throwing things and yelling, the Federation colonists whimpering in fear as they are targeted, Evik trying his best to protect his charges, and Ro wondering how long she can let this go on until someone gets shot with a phaser...

MACET (o.s.)
That's enough!

Ro turns to see...

Legate MACET striding authoritatively into the room, a handful of Cardassian soldiers backing him up. His roaring bellow has the desired effect - the Cardassian civilians stop throwing and yelling, although we can still hear the Federation colonists whimpering as they recover.

MACET
(to the Cardassian
civilian workers)
You've made your feelings clear,
but these people are here under my
protection. I suggest you all take
a break from your work and allow
your tempers to cool.

It is clear this is *not* optional. The various Cardassians all look to their ringleader Rakee, who pointedly puts down what she was holding and walks out of the room with her head held high. The other Cardassians follow her lead.

Macet nods for one of his soldiers to accompany them, and then turns to the frightened Federation colonists.

MACET
Welcome to Solarion Four. Please
accept my personal apologies for
this rather unpleasant reception.
I assure you it was an aberration
that will not be repeated.

RO

Thank you, Legate - good timing.

MACET

Sorry I wasn't here to greet you,
but as you can see, things are not
exactly up and running here yet.

He gestures around at the unfinished building work. Ro gets it, isn't mad at him. Macet turns back to the colonists...

MACET

If you'll all go with my soldiers,
they'll lead you to the temporary
lodgings we've prepared for you. I
understand other Starfleet ships
will be arriving soon with the
supplies to help you settle in...?

He looks to Ro for confirmation - she nods.

MACET

Very well. If you would...?

But the colonists don't move, still intimidated by these
uniformed Cardassian soldiers. Ro can see why...

RO

It's okay. Legate Macet is one of
the best Cardassians I know, and
I say that as a Bajoran. He's not
Dukat. If he says he'll keep you
safe, you can believe him. I
promise. You're home now.

Finally the colonists head towards the door, escorted by
the remaining soldiers. Macet is touched by Ro's faith...

MACET

Thank you, Commander. Truly. I
promise I'll do well by them.

RO

I appreciate that, Legate.

Macet EXITS, leaving Ro and Evik alone in the room. Evik has been watching everything with a keen eye - all the problems and perspectives. Ro turns to him...

RO
Right - back to the *Defiant*?

EVIK
Not just yet, Commander.

RO
Why, what's wrong?

Evik rolls it around in his head for a moment, but finally makes his decision, and straightens his uniform.

EVIK
I think I should stay here.

RO
What? Why?

EVIK
Because I made a promise. To the Prophets, to Karza... to myself. I told her I would listen to these colonists, and I can't do that from DS-Nine. I have to be here.

RO
But -

EVIK
You were right, Laren - these people need someone to speak for them, to be their voice when no-one's listening. It can't be you, you have responsibilities. So it might as well be me.

Evik can see that Ro is struggling to let him go...

EVIK
I'm not saying forever, just until they resolve their differences.

RO

That could be a long time, Nath.

EVIK

Perhaps. Clearly there are strong feelings, on both sides. The Cardassians already living here have good reason to feel the way they do - they've been blind-sided by this decision as much as our own people. Perhaps that parallel will be our path to peace.

RO

Well... if you're sure... I can't think of anyone better suited to the job. I'll have Chao beam down your travelling bag.

EVIK

That's okay. I've managed without before, and I can hardly be these people's advocate if I don't share their hardships. But please do say goodbye to everyone for me.

RO

I'll say goodbye for now. Because you'll be back, right?

EVIK

Count on it. Oh, and you should probably take these too...

He unfastens the pips from his collar, takes the badge off his chest, unholsters his weapon, and hands them all to Ro. She takes them, still stunned... and reaches in for a warm hug. Then she pulls herself together, taps her combadge...

RO

Ro to *Defiant* - one to beam up.

Evik watches Ro DEMATERIALISE with a smile... then likewise pulls himself together and heads off in the direction Macet and the colonists went. He has a new mission, a new group of people to look after - might as well get on with it.

53 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

Bringing us back home...

54 INT. DS9 - CANDLEWOOD'S QUARTERS

Candlewood ENTERS, aware that there will be tension inside. He taps the *mezuzah* at the door, calls out...

CANDLEWOOD
Hetik...? I'm home.

Hetik emerges from the bedroom. He takes his spare *dabo* outfit off the hangar, folds it over his arm. Candlewood stays by the door - it's a distinctly chilly reception.

HETIK
Hello. Good day in Ops?

CANDLEWOOD
Not bad. The *Defiant's* on its way back from Solarion to Valo. Should be back here by tomorrow.

HETIK
Good. Dinner's in the replicator. I'll get out of your way - I have to be at Quark's in an hour and I haven't showered or shaved yet.

Hetik begins to head back into the bedroom, but Candlewood can't let this go on any longer. He calls after him...

CANDLEWOOD
Hetik, wait... please...

Hetik pauses in the doorway, turns back, still blank...

CANDLEWOOD
I'm sorry. Really. I shouldn't have dismissed your feelings like that. I shouldn't have called you a racist. I don't actually believe you are a racist, by the way. Just to clarify.

HETIK

I should hope not.

CANDLEWOOD

Ro's report said that Evik stayed behind on Solarion, to help them all get settled in, smooth over any rough edges. And I thought, if he can do that, if he can moderate between the Cardassians and the colonists, I should be able to apologise to my own boyfriend.

HETIK

Is that the only reason you're apologising - because you think it's what Commander Evik would want you to do?

CANDLEWOOD

(frustrated)

No! It's just... look, I've told you my people's history. I know about people being displaced from their homes, forced to wander, not being welcome wherever they go. I want them to have their promised land, okay? This isn't perfect... but it's better than nothing.

(beat)

So... are we okay?

Hetik considers it. Finally he kisses his boyfriend...

HETIK

We're okay. I accept your apology.

CANDLEWOOD

Great.

HETIK

But don't think that just because we're not fighting anymore, the problem's solved.

CANDLEWOOD

What do you mean?

HETIK

I mean... I can see where you're coming from, but that doesn't mean I agree. I still think it's a bad idea to have Federation citizens living under Cardassian rule. And not because I'm a massive racist.

CANDLEWOOD

Alright. But I still think that these people's need for a home overrides any political concerns. Anything else, we'll figure out.

Hetik can only hope that's true...

55 EXT. SPACE - VALO II ORBIT

Back to the brown-purple world of Valo II. The *Defiant* slips into orbit...

56 EXT. VALO II SURFACE - SPACE PORT - DAY

Cenn and Ghyel are chatting comfortably MOS, standing in the now much quieter open air spaceport.

RO (o.s.)

Major Cenn?

They turn to see Ro striding towards them across the open shuttle parking area. As she reaches them...

RO

Come on, the *Defiant's* waiting.

(to Ghyel)

Thanks for looking after him for me, Major. I hope he wasn't too much trouble.

GHYEL

Not at all. It's been nice getting to know each other. And it's been nice to meet you at last, too.

Ro isn't entirely sure what that means, but she accepts it graciously and shakes Ghyel's hand. Cenn waves a friendly goodbye to his Valo counterpart, then he and Ro walk off.

RO

Seems like you were getting along pretty well. I don't have to worry about you transferring, do I?

CENN

No, I'd still rather stay as close to Bajor as I can. But Nath said I should look around, so I did.

RO

And?

CENN

They're... different. But they're still Bajorans. If you can broaden your perspective, why shouldn't I?

RO

You've been following my example? Prophets help us all.

They stop at the beam-up point. Cenn looks around...

CENN

Where is Nath, anyway?

RO

He, ah... he stayed behind on Solarion. You're gonna have to manage security on the Promenade without him for a while.

CENN

How come?

RO

He thought the colonists needed him more than we do. They need somebody to speak for them. And I guess... I guess I agree with him.

CENN

But isn't that a big conflict of interest? As a Starfleet officer he represents the Federation. He would have to argue their case, not the colonists'.

RO

Guess that's why he gave me this.

Ro reaches into her pocket and brings out Evik's combadge. She and Cenn both take in the sight of it in Ro's hand... it seems oddly... *final*.

CENN

Wow. I didn't give him the warmest welcome when he first arrived... but I'm not ready for him to go.

Ro isn't ready for that either, but she has to push through it as the commander with responsibilities.

RO

He'll be back. But for now, this is the best thing for everyone.
(taps combadge)
Ro to *Defiant* - two to beam up.

Ro and Cenn both DEMATERIALISE, leaving us on the pleasant open space of the Valo spaceport...

FADE OUT

END OF SHOW