

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

8x06 - "Fallout."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on elements from the novels

*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Abyss*  
by David Weddle & Jeffrey Lang

*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Twilight*  
by David R George III

*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Cathedral*  
by Michael A Martin & Andy Mangels

and

*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Lesser Evil*  
by Robert Simpson

**TEASER**

FADE IN:

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

The station hangs in space, without its lower core. *Defiant* is moored at the docking ring. As we watch, lights on the station go off, starting at the extremities and moving in.

**2     INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

JULIAN BASHIR and a Bajoran nurse are packing equipment and closing up lockers as lights continue to go off throughout the Infirmary. He looks around sadly and heads out.

**3     INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

KIRA NERYS approaches from one end of the Promenade as Bashir emerges with a case. Shopkeepers are also closing down business and locking doors as lights go out in sequence and the station darkens.

RO LAREN stands outside the Security office doors to check everyone is doing what they should. The three officers converge outside Quark's bar.

KIRA  
Everything under control,  
Lieutenant?

RO  
Yes, Colonel. All non-essential  
personnel evacuated to Bajor, and  
all security lockdowns in place.

BASHIR  
And since when is the Chief  
Medical Officer considered  
unnecessary personnel?

KIRA  
Since I have an Akira-class  
starship nearby with a fully  
staffed and equipped sickbay.

BASHIR

But you're letting Quark stay.

KIRA

This is going to be just as delicate a bit of surgery as you've ever done, Doctor.

RO

And all the techs and engineers who are staying on board to do it are going to need downtime over the next few days.

KIRA

As much as I hate to admit it, Quark's function on this station can't be minimised. I need him. I don't need you. Have a nice time.

She pats him on the shoulder and he walks off with a grumble. QUARK approaches from inside his bar. He smiles shyly at Ro, but only scowls at Kira.

QUARK

Colonel, will you please get that Jem'Hadar monster out of my holosuite? If we have to shut down the station, then that means the holosuites too, and I am not going to be the one to tell him.

She sighs. Ro gives her a "better you than me" look, so she reluctantly follows Quark into his bar and up the stairs. As she does, EZRI DAX is coming down in the cocktail dress she was wearing last episode. Quark gives her a leer, Kira scowls at him, and they head up to the holosuite corridor.

Quark gives Kira a wide berth as she taps at the panel of one of the suites and the doors open.

**4     EXT. BATTLE AMPHITHEATRE**

Inside she sees what looks like a Roman amphitheatre made of dark, broken rock. She steps inside.

Kira stands at the top level of the bowl-like structure, and looks down to the bottom level, where TARAN'ATAR battles a nightmarish vicious creature, all claws and teeth and dripping saliva. The creature aims a club at his head.

He dodges, and as the creature loses balance, he leaps up, lands on its back and STABS it in the neck with his knife. Purplish blood spurts out. The creature wails and flails but can't get to Taran'atar as he continues to stab at it.

Finally, the creature curls up into a ball and a dozen or so spikes SHOOT out in a circle around it. Kira flinches back, but Taran'atar is unconcerned - he jumps up high enough to avoid them, and the creature collapses, dead.

TARAN'ATAR

End program.

The environment dissolves into the standard holosuite array, and Kira and Taran'atar are now on the same level.

TARAN'ATAR

Good day, Colonel.

KIRA

Good day, Taran'atar. I hope I didn't interrupt your exercise.

TARAN'ATAR

The battle was won.

KIRA

Well, yes, that was obvious. What was that thing, anyway?

TARAN'ATAR

Those on the world where they lived called them something that translates to "Comes in the night, kills many." They would tunnel up underneath their prey, pull them down, and consume them.

KIRA

Did you create that simulation yourself from memory?

TARAN'ATAR

I knew the parameters, and was able to encode them onto a data rod.

Kira is suitably impressed with that.

KIRA

That one was using a weapon. It seemed to possess some rudimentary intelligence.

TARAN'ATAR

Perhaps. That was not my concern. My orders were to kill them, not study them. They were decimating the population of a Dominion farming settlement. My unit was assigned to eradicate them.

KIRA

So you wiped out a native species to establish this farming community?

TARAN'ATAR

(shrug)

It is the Founders' practice to assign races who are known to be superior farmers to worlds where they may best serve the needs of the Dominion. The Skreeans were transplanted from another world that the Dominion had conquered.

Kira reacts to the familiar name, but Taran'atar continues.

TARAN'ATAR (cont)

They were poorly equipped for combat, so my unit was sent in to secure the settlement.

KIRA

You mean commit genocide.

TARAN'ATAR

Our goal was to eradicate the species, yes. This disturbs you?

KIRA

It would disturb any of my people. We were enslaved by invaders too.

TARAN'ATAR

We did not enslave these creatures. We destroyed them.

KIRA

Can you tell me which is worse?

TARAN'ATAR

Is it your wish to debate this issue, Colonel?

KIRA

No. In fact, I came here to ask you to finish your exercise. The station needs to shut down to its lowest possible power levels for the core transfer from Empok Nor. So we need to shut down the holosuite. How much did Quark charge you to use it, anyway?

TARAN'ATAR

Charge? When I learned of this facility, I told the Ferengi I would be using it today. He did not mention a charge.

KIRA

Yeah, no surprise there. Come on.

Kira walks out of the holosuite, and Taran'atar follows.

**5 EXT. BAJOR - ESTABLISHING**

A large rustic house sits in the midst of beautiful, sun-drenched countryside. Rolling hills, waving trees, birds fluttering, babbling brook, wide stony path away from the house. It is the house Sisko designed in 7x16 - "Penumbra."

6 INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Things are a bit cluttered, only half moved-in. Crates of belongings are here and there, but it's starting to look like a home. A slightly pregnant KASIDY YATES sits at a com-panel, which shows JOSEPH SISKO. It's a patchy signal.

KASIDY

We don't have much time to talk, Joseph. They're taking the subspace net down all across the province later this afternoon to put in some new equipment.

JOSEPH (screen)

Well, they can just wait until we're finished. I've been trying to get through all day.

KASIDY

I know. It's harder here than it was on the station. Sometimes it's easy to take for granted how efficient the Federation is.

JOSEPH (screen)

All right, all right. I guess I just thought that all this 'wife of the Emissary' business would have given you some sort of... I don't know, special status.

KASIDY

Oh, it does, more than I know what to do with. Do you have any idea how many people have come to my door over the past couple of days just asking if they can help out. And they're all so earnest and polite, I can't turn them away. I've had furniture movers, kitchen cleaners, garden weeders...

JOSEPH (screen)

Sounds alright to me. The kitchen cleaning part, anyway. Besides, you should take it easy.

KASIDY

Joseph, I'm in the middle of my second trimester - the best part of being pregnant according to my doctor - and I've never felt better. I want to do things.

JOSEPH (screen)

I remember that. When my second wife got to that phase, there weren't enough hours in the day to do everything she wanted. I was grateful to go to the restaurant every day where I didn't have to work so damn hard.

KASIDY

Well, things will be better when Jake gets back. He's good at handling the visitors. He has a gift for putting people at ease.

JOSEPH (screen)

Ah, he gets that from me. Never was one of his father's strengths. Well, where is Jake? Not back on the station again, I hope. I'd much rather he stayed there with you on Bajor.

KASIDY

What do you mean? He's there with you, isn't he?

JOSEPH (screen)

What? No, of course not. What made you think he was here?

KASIDY

He told me he was going there.

Kasidy pauses, trying not to get upset. Deep breaths.

KASIDY (cont)  
Wait, maybe we're talking about  
the same thing, getting confused.  
Two weeks ago, Jake took a ship  
from DS-Nine straight to Earth.

Joseph opens his mouth, but can't find the words. He grasps  
his chest and collapses back into a chair. Kasidy panics,  
thinking he is having a heart attack, but he comes around.

JOSEPH (screen)  
I swear to you, Kasidy, Jake never  
called, never told me that he was  
coming here. Two weeks ago?

KASIDY  
But if he didn't go there, then  
where could he have gone? And why  
would he have lied?

JOSEPH (screen)  
He wouldn't have. Jake would never  
lie to you. Unless...

KASIDY  
Unless what?

JOSEPH (screen)  
Unless he was doing something he  
knew we wouldn't want him to.

KASIDY  
Joseph... Where can he be?

As they both stare at each other, scared and worried...

FADE OUT:

**END OF TEASER**

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

### 7 EST. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING

DS9 hangs mostly dark; Empok Nor hangs totally dark nearby. A fleet of tiny work bees buzz around both of the enormous structures, and engineers in space-suits are crawling all over the surface doing various repairs.

### 8 INT. DS9 - DOCKING RING CORRIDOR

Kira stands alone, peering through an observation window in a quiet, darkened corridor, watching as the crews do their work. She's sad, wistful. She turns and walks away.

### 9 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Kira walks again through the quiet Promenade. As she nears the Bajoran Temple, she stops and looks sadly at the dark doorway. She's not allowed in any more. Reflexively, her hand goes to her ear, feels the lack of earring.

A civilian Bajoran woman steps out of the doorway, carrying cleaning equipment. She catches Kira's eye and immediately looks away. The two women walk away in opposite directions without looking at each other. Kira's combadge chirps.

SHAR (comm)  
Ops to Colonel Kira.

KIRA  
Go ahead, Shar.

SHAR (comm)  
I have First Minister Shakaar on subspace, waiting to speak with you, Colonel.

KIRA  
Route the call to my office. It'll take me a few minutes.

SHAR (comm)  
Yes, Colonel. ch'Thane Out.

10 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Kira steps out of one of the auxiliary doors around the lower level of Ops and heads up to her office. She nods hello to Shar on the way - he is the only officer in Ops, keeping an eye on the master operations table.

11 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

Kira settles in at her desk, takes a deep breath and taps the comm controls. First Minister SHAKAAR appears on the screen. His manner is fairly stiff and formal, not the warm relationship you'd expect two ex-lovers to have.

KIRA

First Minister, thank you for waiting. We're experiencing some technical difficulties until the station's new core is online.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Hello Nerys. Yes, I know all about your core - I've been receiving regular reports from my staff. I'm on my way back to Bajor even as we speak.

KIRA

That's good news, sir. I trust your tour went well.

SHAKAAR (screen)

I think I made a good case to have Bajor's application for Federation membership revisited. We should hear something in the coming days. Although between you and me, all this politicking gives me a headache. Speaking of politics, how is the Jem'Hadar ambassador?

KIRA

He's old. By Jem'Hadar standards at least. I suppose you could even say he's wise, after a fashion.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Well, perhaps I'll get to meet him before too long.

(pause)

So... the situation with Vedek Yevir went badly, don't you think?

KIRA

It's my problem, First Minister. I'll deal with it.

SHAKAAR (screen)

I'm afraid I don't agree, Nerys. This isn't just your problem. This will affect how every Bajoran on and off the station will deal with you in the future.

KIRA

I've earned the right to work this out for myself, First Minister.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Earned? This has nothing to do with what you've earned, Colonel. This has to do with what you owe. What you should be doing to bring the continuing chaos on Deep Space Nine under control.

KIRA

First Minister, my station was attacked only weeks ago by rogue Jem'Hadar who managed to destroy a Nebula-class starship and sabotage the power core. Since then we've spent twenty-six hours every day working to restore the station.

SHAKAAR (screen)

This attack, Colonel. Isn't it true that during it your first officer, close to seventy station personnel and residents, and over nine-hundred people aboard the USS

*Aldebaran* were killed, due in large part to your allowing your upgrade schedule to fall behind, leaving DS-Nine vulnerable?

KIRA

We were understaffed and inadequately protected. Neither Starfleet nor the Militia took my complaints seriously -

SHAKAAR (screen)

- And afterward, two Jem'Hadar soldiers successfully infiltrated the station. Correct?

KIRA

Jem'Hadar are difficult to detect while shrouded -

SHAKAAR (screen)

- But not impossible. You had just been attacked by them. Surely infiltration was foreseeable?

KIRA

Their ships were all destroyed -

SHAKAAR (screen)

And just prior to the attack, a prylar was murdered on the Promenade.

KIRA

She was assassinated -

SHAKAAR (screen)

- And then your people withheld a priceless historical document containing potentially explosive information -

KIRA

Evidence in the ongoing murder investigation -

SHAKAAR (screen)

Which you uploaded to the Bajoran  
comnet on your own authority -

KIRA

- Because the Vedek Assembly was  
trying to suppress -

SHAKAAR (screen)

- And meanwhile, the one Jem'Hadar  
you did manage to detect escaped  
and tried to destroy the station.  
And your solution was to eject the  
entire power core, which led  
directly to the station's current  
woes. Am I up to speed, Colonel?

KIRA

Your information seems decidedly  
one-sided, First Minister. These  
reports you've been getting - were  
any of them from me? Or anyone  
else who actually witnessed the  
events? If not, may I respectfully  
request that you, your staff and  
the Vedek Assembly all just keep  
your comments to yourself.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Do you understand now why this  
isn't just your problem, Nerys? Of  
course the reports are one-sided.  
Do you think I'm an idiot that I  
don't see that? But you've made  
enemies, Nerys. In the Assembly,  
in the Militia, even in my own  
government. And they will do  
whatever they can to destroy you,  
especially now that you've been...

KIRA

Attainted. You can say it, Edon.  
I've been attainted.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Do you feel that you're capable of commanding the station, Colonel? Not your station, the station. The Bajoran people's station.

KIRA

Yes, First Minister. I believe I'm still capable.

SHAKAAR (screen)

Because nothing can be allowed to interfere with Bajor's admission to the Federation. Bajor needs Deep Space Nine, Colonel. Bajor might not need you in command of Deep Space Nine. Am I clear?

KIRA

Yes, First Minister.

SHAKAAR (screen)

I'd rather keep you there, Nerys. You know the job, you know the people. But you could stand to learn some diplomacy. You do have this tendency to make enemies...

KIRA

(quietly)

Are you one of them, Edon?

SHAKAAR (screen)

This is a very delicate time for me, for all of Bajor. Everything we've been working towards is coming to a head, and it won't take much to make it all unravel. Especially if your enemies decide I'm on your side. Do you understand what I'm saying?

KIRA

Yes, I think I do. Will there be anything else, First Minister?

SHAKAAR (screen)

(frustrated)  
Why do you always have to be  
damned impossible?

KIRA  
(firmly)  
I'm the commanding officer of Deep  
Space Nine. It comes with the job.

SHAKAAR (screen)  
Yes, that will be all. Be well,  
Nerys. We'll talk again soon.

Shakaar signs off, and Kira sits back with an angry sigh.  
She looks out of the window again at the repair work. After  
a moment, the comm chirps again.

SHAR (comm)  
Sorry Colonel, another call for  
you. It's Captain Yates on Bajor.

KIRA  
(sigh)  
Doesn't anyone see the "Closed for  
Repairs" sign? Alright, Shar, put  
her through.

Kasidy's face appears on the screen.

KIRA  
Kasidy. Tell me you're calling to  
cheer me up. I could use it.

Then she sees the sadness and fear on Kasidy's face. Kasidy  
doesn't even answer Kira, just looks at her, crying, as if  
she can't bring herself to speak. Kira's face slowly drops  
as she realises something must be horribly wrong.

**12    EST. SISKO'S CREOLE KITCHEN - DAY**

Earth, New Orleans. Just enough to establish.

**13    INT. SISKO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY**

Joseph Sisko walks slowly through the restaurant, just  
starting to get things ready for the day. Sun shines in

through the mesh curtains. He is trying to get on with things as best he can, but he's obviously been hit hard.

He goes to the kitchen, puts on a pot of coffee to brew, looks around at all the old pictures on the walls. He looks to one of the kitchen counters - there is a small tub of tablets, his heart medicine. He doesn't take one.

He pours his coffee, stands at the back window looking out onto the garden. His hand shakes - his coffee spills over his hand. He jumps at the burn and runs his hand under a cold water tap.

He catches his reflection in the window, and he looks dreadful. Stares at it for a moment.

JOSEPH

Enough of this.

Trying to rally himself, Joseph grabs some garden shears off a hook and heads out the back into the garden.

**14**    **EXT. VEGETABLE GARDEN**

Joseph walks among rows of home-grown vegetables, decides on one particular patch, and grimacing at his aching joints, slowly kneels down to start tending to them.

He grouses for a while, struggles with the plants. An arm COLLAPSES under him, and he falls to the soil. And stays there, unconscious and unmoving.

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

### **15 EST. BAJOR - ESTABLISHING**

A different angle on the Siskos' house, if possible.

### **16 INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Kasidy stands at a window, looking out over the pleasant countryside. It's sunny, birds fluttering, stream trickling, but she has tears in her eyes. She looks around the room - it looks empty.

She goes to a dresser and picks up a picture of the three Sisko men - Ben, Jake and Joseph, from 7x02 "Shadows and Symbols." She touches it lovingly. Are they all gone now?

She steps out of the house onto a veranda, takes a rocking chair and looks out over the countryside again. She's still cradling the picture, and pulls a shawl around herself.

**DISSOLVE INTO:**

### **17 INT. SSKO'S RESTAURANT - KITCHEN**

The restaurant is closed. Blinds are drawn at the windows, chairs are up on the tables, the kitchen is quiet. JUDITH SSKO, Ben's younger sister, stands alone in the kitchen.

She looks around slowly. There is nothing to look at - everything is put away. It looks lonely, empty.

She takes her coffee out through the dining room, pausing at the bottom of the stairs to give another mournful look over the quiet room, before climbing the stairs slowly.

### **18 INT. SSKO'S - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY AND BEDROOM**

Judith walks down the hallway - the house is silent around her. She comes to a bedroom door and opens it tentatively.

Inside the room, Joseph is sat slumped in a chair, looking out of the window over the vegetable plot outside. He looks weak, shrivelled, old and beaten.

JUDITH

Dad?

(no answer)

Dad?

JOSEPH

The Crenshaws ain't gonna make it. Some kind of grubs been chewing at the roots. Gaby tries hard, but she can't stay ahead of them.

JUDITH

Grubs need to eat too.

He gives a small bark of a laugh, but doesn't turn to her.

JUDITH

Nice to hear you laugh.

JOSEPH

It's just strange to hear someone not nag at me about getting out of this room.

JUDITH

I would if I thought it'd do any good. But you've always known your own mind.

JOSEPH

Finally, one of my children shows some sense.

JUDITH

You're still thinking about Ben.

JOSEPH

I've always worked that garden with my hands, since before you were born. All the technology in the world, that was the one place where nothing but sun, water and time made a difference. When Ben was a little boy, he used to go out there and wiggle his toes in

the dirt. You too. It seemed like those days would never end.

JUDITH

Ben knew the risks that came with his job, Dad. We all did. We've knew had to face the possibility he might not come home one day.

JOSEPH

Don't talk to me about risks! He wasn't killed by the Tzenkethi or vaporised by the Borg or blown to hell by the Dominion. Even that I could accept. I could make peace with it and move on. But he was taken from us, Judith. That damn planet and its so-called Prophets took him away from everything he loves, and everyone who loves him. And still they weren't satisfied. They had to take my grandson too.

JUDITH

We don't know that, Dad. Whatever happened to Jake, wherever he is, it may have nothing to do with Ben.

JOSEPH

Maybe you can convince yourself of that. I can't. The boy disappears the moment he leaves for Earth, and you want me to believe it has nothing to do with that damned thing... that wormhole. I told him not to take that assignment. Seven years ago, I told him. Stay on Mars. Build ships. At least you'll be close to Earth. Or forget the fleet and just come home. He still wasn't over Jennifer's death. He needed more time. But he went. And what's worse is he took Jake with him to that floating junkyard. And now they're both gone.

A pause, as the tears begin to fight their way out.

JOSEPH

God forgive me, sometimes I wish  
Ben had never been born.

JUDITH

Dad, you don't mean that...

JOSEPH

I do. I know I shouldn't, but I  
can't help it. They made him,  
Judith. Used me and Sarah both  
just so we'd bring Ben into the  
world, so that they could use him.  
Like they've used all of us.

Joseph is openly crying now. Judith holds his head against  
her, lets him cry. Eventually, he pushes her away.

JOSEPH

Go. Just go. I want to be alone.

Reluctantly, she leaves him. Before she closes the door  
though, she give him one last glance in his chair by the  
window, and he's looking even more diminished than ever.

**19 EXT. DS9 STATION - ESTABLISHING**

Focusing on the *Defiant* as it sits docked at the docking  
ring. It is likewise crawling with repair engineers.

**20 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

ELIAS VAUGHN sits in the centre seat. PRYNN TENMEI is on  
her back under the pilot's console, rummaging inside and  
fixing stuff. SAM BOWERS works a console on the rear wall.

BOWERS

A call for you, sir. Colonel Kira.

VAUGHN

Put it through, Lieutenant.

BOWERS

You'll... have to use the controls on the arm of your chair, sir. I can still only transmit text from this console.

Vaughn peers at the controls, unsure which one is which.

BOWERS  
Channel three-eight-five, sir.

VAUGHN  
(presses the control)  
Vaughn here.  
(nothing happens)  
Nothing's happening.

BOWERS  
You have to hold it down until the connection is made, sir.

VAUGHN  
(muttering)  
We're going to do something about this later.

Kira's face pops up on the main viewscreen.

KIRA (screen)  
About what?

VAUGHN  
About the whole ship, Colonel. I'm beginning to think it doesn't care much for me.

KIRA (screen)  
Sorry to hear that. I hope you can work it out - I'd hate to have to choose between the two of you.

VAUGHN  
Ouch. Duly noted.

KIRA (screen)  
*Defiant* isn't much like the last few ships you served on, I bet.

VAUGHN

Not much, no. She reminds me of the ships of the old days - all engine and weapons.

KIRA (screen)

Those were the days, eh? So how's it coming? Admiral Ross is expecting a progress report.

Vaughn presses a few more controls till a schematic appears in the corner of the screen, carrying tech information.

VAUGHN

Fairly well, all things considered. The *Defiant* seems to occasionally...

(word?)

...resist refitting. She warmed right up to the new bio-chem lab, but she's being positively cranky about the new stellar cartography equipment. We think we've got the problem sorted out, although we blew a main when we tried to connect the new navigational controls earlier.

(calls out)

How's that coming, Tenmei?

Tenmei comes out from under the console and takes her seat, checks the controls, all without looking at Vaughn.

TENMEI

Repair team estimates three hours fifty minutes, sir.

VAUGHN

It'll be fixed by the end of the day, Colonel. And we've swapped out one of the old short-range probe launchers for a long-range tube. That seems to have gone alright. No worries on the weapons systems, of course.

KIRA (screen)  
You should also know that we received a revised ETA for the new warhead module. The *Gryphon* should be arriving with it within seventy-eight hours.

VAUGHN  
Thank you Colonel, excellent news.

KIRA (screen)  
Oh, and Ensign? I've manned that station. Be good to her.

TENMEI  
(grinning)  
Of course, Colonel. Although we're still only getting acquainted.

KIRA (screen)  
(jokey)  
Maybe you should give the commander a few lessons. He seems to make a bad first impression.

TENMEI  
(suddenly cold)  
Yes, Colonel.

Tenmei's face shuts down cold. Kira wonders what she did wrong. Vaughn, who knows well what went wrong, rescues her.

VAUGHN  
After I finish here, I'm going to get some dinner. Are you free?

KIRA (screen)  
No, not tonight. I don't think I'd be very good company. Tomorrow?

VAUGHN  
Tomorrow.

Kira signs off. Bowers calls from the rear of the room.

BOWERS

Commander, I've gotten as far as I can with this until the new units arrive. If you've no objection, I'm going below to check on the industrial replicator.

VAUGHN

No, let's call it a day. We're making good time. Go relax, Sam. You can worry about the replicator tomorrow.

BOWERS

Thank you sir. I'll be sure to get on it first thing.

Bowers packs his tools and leaves. Tenmei is still at the conn station, trying to lift a panel out of the housing and struggling with it. Vaughn approaches - she ignores him.

VAUGHN

Can I help you there, Ensign?

TENMEI

No sir. Thank you, sir.

VAUGHN

No really, that looks heavy.

TENMEI

It's not, sir. I'm fine.

VAUGHN

Are you sure? If you need help...

TENMEI

I'm fine, Commander. Thank you.  
Dammit!

She yanks her fingers out from the edge of the panel, shakes them, sucks on them.

VAUGHN

Are you hurt?

TENMEI

I'm fine. I don't need any help.

VAUGHN

Ensign, show me your fingers.

She grudgingly does - they are bruised and bleeding.

VAUGHN

Report to Nurse Richter in  
sickbay, Ensign.

TENMEI

Yes sir.

She starts to leave. Vaughn wants to say something, isn't  
sure if he should, but decides to go for it.

VAUGHN

Prynn?

She freezes in the doorway, doesn't turn to him.

TENMEI

Yes, Commander?

VAUGHN

Would you care to have dinner with  
me?

Now she does turn, and her face is as icy as possible.

TENMEI

Permission to speak freely, sir?

VAUGHN

(knows what's coming)  
By all means.

TENMEI

I accept the reality that you're  
my CO on this ship, and the first  
officer of the station. I respect  
and honour your rank, and I'll  
follow your orders without  
question. I'll even carry on the

pretence in mixed company that I can stomach being in the same room with you. But beyond that... you can go to hell. Sir.

She turns sharply and EXITS. Vaughn can only sigh sadly.

VAUGHN

I'll take that as a no.

**21 EXT. BAJOR SURFACE - ESTABLISHING**

Just enough to establish again.

**22 INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Kasidy sits at the comm unit again - Judith Sisko is on the screen, which still pops and fizzles with static.

JUDITH (screen)

I don't know what to do, Kasidy. I knew Ben's disappearance hurt him, obviously. But then Jake vanishing without a trace so soon after... He hasn't been in his kitchen in days. He just sits in that chair staring out the window. I think... I think he's waiting to die.

KASIDY

It's going to be hard on everyone. But Joseph... he loves his boys so much. I wish I knew what to say, Judith. I've tried calling him myself, but I think hearing from me is only making his pain worse.

JUDITH (screen)

He loves you, Kasidy. Don't doubt that.

KASIDY

I don't, not for an instant. I just wish there was some way we could get through to him. Show him that no matter what else, he's

going to have another grandchild  
soon who's going to need a  
grandfather...

She drifts off, an idea just occurring to her.

JUDITH  
Kasidy? What is it?

KASIDY  
I just realised... maybe there is  
someone who can get through to  
him.

**23    INT. SSKO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM**

The room is still deserted. There is a knock at the door,  
hushed voices and the giggling of little children. Judith  
goes to the door and opens it.

It's MILES O'BRIEN and his family.

O'BRIEN  
Ms Sisko?

JUDITH  
Yes?

O'BRIEN  
We're the O'Briens. Kasidy Yates  
asked us to come.

On Judith's relieved and hopeful response...

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**24 INT. SISCO'S RESTAURANT - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM**

Joseph sits where we left him. Knock at the door - it squeaks open a little and Miles O'Brien's head appears.

O'BRIEN  
Mister Sisko?

JOSEPH  
What the hell do you want?

O'BRIEN  
Uh... I'm Miles O'Brien, sir. Your son was my commanding -

JOSEPH  
I know who you are. I also know you're trespassing. I didn't invite you here.

O'BRIEN  
No sir, but Kasidy Yates -

JOSEPH  
(worried)  
Is she alright?

O'BRIEN  
She's fine, sir. She contacted me in San Francisco and asked me to pay a call. And your daughter -

JOSEPH  
Why can't people just mind their own damn business? A man has a right to mourn his son, and his grandson, in his own way. You tell my daughter I don't need somebody from Starfleet coming into my home to talk to me about my grief.

O'BRIEN

But sir, if I could just -

In a flash, Joseph is up out of his chair and closing on Miles, shaking his fist and almost in tears of rage.

JOSEPH

Didn't you hear what I said?  
You're not welcome here! Get out  
and leave me the hell alone!

O'Brien backs away, and the door slams in his face.

**25 INT. SISCO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM**

Miles comes back down the stairs where Judith and Keiko are waiting for him.

KEIKO

No luck?

O'BRIEN

I don't think I've ever seen  
anyone so angry. Is he like this  
all the time?

JUDITH

Usually he just withdraws into  
himself. You saw how he looks, Mr  
O'Brien. He isn't eating much.  
He's wasting away. It's like his  
bitterness is eating him from the  
inside out.

(begins to cry)

I'm sorry you were brought into  
this. But I was desperate, and  
Kasidy said...

KEIKO

Shh, Judith, it's okay. We're glad  
to have been asked to help. Aren't  
we, Miles?

O'BRIEN

Mmm? Oh, absolutely.

He's watching little Molly and Yoshi - she is playing with toys with him on the other side of the room.

O'BRIEN

Ms Sisko...

JUDITH

Judith, please.

O'BRIEN

All right, but you have to call me Miles. Do you have a replicator?

JUDITH

In this house? Wash your mouth out. To listen to Dad, you'd think they were the biggest threat to human creativity ever devised, especially to the art of cooking. But I know there's a replimat a few blocks from here.

O'BRIEN

Perfect.

KEIKO

Miles Edward O'Brien, what scheme are you cooking up now?

O'BRIEN

Funny you should put it that way.

**26    INT. SISKO'S RESTAURANT - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM**

Joseph is back in his chair. Gradually the noises of clanking and clattering pots and pans filter up from downstairs. Joseph looks around, sniffs the air and hauls himself out of his chair with murder in his eyes.

JOSEPH

Burned food? In my kitchen?

He brings himself to the door, opens it - the sounds of family and laughter come through.

**27    INT. SISKO'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM**

Joseph staggers down the stairs, clutching the banister, his depression forgotten in the anger. Miles is in the kitchen stirring some noxious potion in a giant pot on the stove. Miles, Keiko and Judith all look caught in the act. Silence as Joseph surveys them all with his death-vision.

JOSEPH

What in the name of all that's  
holy do you people think you're  
doing?

O'BRIEN

Uh... well... I...

YOSHI

Hi!

Joseph looks down to see Yoshi, the O'Briens' two-year-old son, tugging at his trouser leg and grinning up at him. Molly is nearby quietly drawing with crayons. Joseph tries to ignore him and maintain his anger.

YOSHI

Hi!

KEIKO

I don't know if you remember me,  
I'm Keiko O'Brien. We met a couple  
of years ago when you visited Deep  
Space Nine. These are my children.  
That's Molly on the floor, and  
this one's Kirayoshi...

JOSEPH

Well, of course I remember. What  
do you think I am, senile?

YOSHI

Hi!

Yoshi tugs on Joseph's pants again, and Joseph almost lets a smile slip out. Then he sniffs the air and looks towards Miles, who is now a dead man standing.

Joseph stalks towards him as the pot starts to boil and rattle. Joseph steels himself against the horror, lifts off the lid and looks in.

JOSEPH

Do you mind telling me, what in the name of heaven this is?

O'BRIEN

Uhh... corned beef and cabbage.

JOSEPH

(shudder)

And this... is what you feed your family?

O'BRIEN

(offended)

What's wrong with corned beef and cabbage?

Joseph sighs, turns off the stove, grabs the pot and hands it to O'Brien. He washes his hands and puts on an apron. Starts grabbing ingredients and getting chopping boards.

JOSEPH

Judith, go to the cellar and get me some andouille right away. Then head down to the fish market and pick up some jumbo shrimp - about two dozen.

JUDITH

Right away, Dad.

JOSEPH

Mrs O'Brien, would you mind going into the garden and picking two large red bell peppers? They're on the far left. We're gonna make sure these children of yours get a proper meal.

KEIKO

I'd be happy to. And please, call me Keiko.

She heads out the back, stopping to give Miles a "well done" peck on the cheek. He's still holding the pot.

O'BRIEN

Wait a minute. What am I supposed to do with this?

JOSEPH

Did you bring a phaser?

**28**    **EXT. DS9 - REPAIR CREWS**

The repair crews continue to work all over the station. Using work bees, grapplers and other stuff, one team is in the midst of gingerly manoeuvring the replacement power core away from Empok Nor and towards DS9.

**29**    **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

A crowd of engineers, Bajoran and Starfleet, are relaxing and enjoying themselves. Quark bustles about in the usual way. Some customers are paying close attention to the screens in the walls and behind the bar, which show various angles on the repair work going on outside.

**30**    **INT. DS9 - LOWER CORE AREA**

The core has reached the entry to the area, and space-suited figures begin to delicately guide it into place.

**31**    **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

Vaughn sits alone at a table on the upper level, nursing a beer and looking down on the crowd. Prynne is among the crowd, enjoying some flirty attention, but again pointedly ignoring Vaughn. He raises his glass.

VAUGHN

Good luck, lads. You're going to need it.

He downs the last of his beer, and Quark is immediately there with a refill.

VAUGHN

Hello, Quark. I didn't ask for another drink.

QUARK

I know, but you looked like you were about ready. A good host knows these things.

VAUGHN

Thanks. Put it on my tab.

QUARK

Oh, it's there already.

Quark notices Vaughn's preoccupied stare, and follows it to see Prynn in the crowd. He smiles knowingly.

QUARK

Come on, Commander. Don't do this to yourself. I sympathise, but it's not worth it. Not that I fault your taste. I've had a chance to observe Ensign Tenmei myself and there's definitely something special there.

VAUGHN

Quark... that's enough.

QUARK

No really, I understand. And she's your conn officer too - that's gotta be hard. But if you start obsessing, it leads to nothing but trouble. The sleepless nights, the grey days, the restraining orders...

VAUGHN

Please, Quark. I'm asking you to stop now.

QUARK

But I have an idea - a visit to a holosuite. I can make a reservation right now for when

they reopen. I don't think you've had a chance to peruse my wide selection of lonely nights programs...

Vaughn slams down his mug, spilling beer onto the table.

VAUGHN

Quark. Prynn is my daughter.

Quark goes silent for a second, then picks up Vaughn's mug, mops up the spill, and gives it him back.

QUARK

On the house, Commander.

VAUGHN

Thank you, Quark.

Quark quickly walks away.

QUARK

(to self)

Well, that's going to cost me.

On the screens, the engineers finally lock the new power core into place (although it doesn't power up yet). The watching engineers, including Prynn, send up a cheer. But Vaughn looks miserable.

**32    INT. SISKOS' RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM**

The Siskos and O'Briens sit together around the table, enjoying their food. The children laugh at some unlikely story Joseph just told. He has cheered up immensely.

JOSEPH

What do you do in San Francisco, Molly? Lotta playing outdoors with your friends, I bet. Riding your bike down those amazing hills?

MOLLY

I don't know how to ride a bike.

Joseph stops and blinks, completely baffled.

JOSEPH

Excuse me?

MOLLY

(quiet)

I don't know how to ride a bike.

KEIKO

(embarrassed)

You have to understand, she grew up on a space station...

JOSEPH

Well, I have a solution for that. I have an old bicycle in the basement that my son used to ride when he was your age. How would you like to have it?

MOLLY

Can I, Mommy?

KEIKO

I don't see how we can refuse.

MOLLY

Yes!

JOSEPH

That's just fine. You and your parents can try it out in the park tomorrow. After a good night's sleep and a good breakfast.

O'BRIEN

Sir, we wouldn't dream of imposing any more than we already have.

JOSEPH

So what are you saying, Chief? Are you going to deprive an old man of the company of these children?

O'BRIEN

No, sir, I just meant -

JOSEPH

Never mind, I'm not taking no for an answer. You'll all stay the night, at least. We'll have a fine time! And in the morning, Molly can try her new bicycle.

KEIKO

What do you say, Molly?

MOLLY

Thank you, Mr Sisko.

Joseph laughs, properly and heartily this time. Judith is thrilled to see it. The mood is so much brighter than before. Keiko blows Miles a kiss.

JOSEPH

You're welcome, Molly. Of course, you'll need to take off that pretty necklace first. Wouldn't want anything to happen to it.

We see that Molly is wearing an unusual green necklace - the one given to her in 1x13 "Battle Lines."

JUDITH

May I ask where she got it? It's very unusual. Is it Vulcan...?

O'BRIEN

Actually, it's Bajoran.

Joseph darkens again at the mention of that world. But looking at the children, he pulls himself out of it easily.

JOSEPH

Well, on your Molly, it's positively beautiful. She obviously takes after her mother.

JUDITH

Dad, enough.

Joseph slaps Miles on the back jovially, making him sputter his drink.

JOSEPH

Oh, I'm just kidding. Anyone with children like these is welcome in my home any time.

(warning)

As long as he stays out of my kitchen.

O'BRIEN

Noted, sir. Actually, the necklace was a gift... from Kai Opaka. She was the religious leader of Bajor at the time. But she was lost in the Gamma Quadrant right after.

(pause)

I talked to Major Kira about it afterward. Opaka had been a force for peace and unity on Bajor for a long time. Her loss was a blow to everyone. But the thing is, she never doubted for a second that everything that happened to her was happening for a reason. She really believed she was serving a higher purpose, some thing bigger than herself.

JOSEPH

I understand what you're trying to say, Chief. But my son...

O'BRIEN

Sir, with all due respect, I knew your son as a father, a soldier, a diplomat, a shipwright, an explorer, a religious icon, a baseball fan, not to mention an exceptional cook.

Joseph smiles at the reflected compliment.

O'BRIEN (cont)

None of those were responsible for what happened to him. From what I know, he sacrificed himself for a world he'd grown to love more than himself. During his life, he saved countless other lives. You should be proud of him.

JOSEPH

And my grandson? For what was he sacrificed?

JUDITH

Dad, I know you don't want to hear this, but Jake was a grown man. He was taking responsibility for his own life. Wherever he is, whatever happened to him, he chose it.

JOSEPH

How can I know that, Judith? How can anyone know?

JUDITH

I don't pretend to know anything. None of us do. But are you so determined to assume the worst that you're afraid to have any hope at all?

On Joseph's thoughtful consideration of that, we...

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

**33 EXT. DS9 - REPAIR CREWS**

Focusing on the crews working on the lower core area.

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

Kira sits at her desk, looking into her comm unit. A random Bajoran Militia GENERAL is on the screen.

KIRA

Please, General. Make a full search of Bajor, the whole system. Whatever resources you can spare. You know what Jake Sisko means to Bajor, and whatever your feelings may be about me, this isn't about me. Do whatever you can to find him, please.

GENERAL (screen)

I understand, Colonel. I'll keep you apprised. Hedrik out.

**35 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Kira walks alone through the darkened Promenade. GROANS and CLANGS of machinery echo through the bulkheads, indicating the repair work going on. She feels the vibrations, looks wistfully at the empty storefronts.

A Bajoran security Corporal appears nearby. Doesn't really acknowledge Kira, keeps his eyes straight ahead as he goes. Kira sees this - she's had a day, and it's the last straw.

KIRA

Do you have a problem, Corporal?

CORPORAL

(deer in the headlights)

No sir.

KIRA

I thought perhaps you'd forgotten how to show proper respect to your commanding officer.

CORPORAL

Sir, no sir!

KIRA

Because if there's something causing you to forget who commands this station, I'm sure I can find someone else with a better memory.

CORPORAL

That won't be necessary, sir!

Kira stands and stares for a while, making the Corporal suffer as much as possible. Finally she lets him go.

KIRA

Carry on.

CORPORAL

Yes sir! Thank you, Colonel!

He scuttles off, tail between his legs. Kira continues to pace the Promenade, sad and angry. An older Bajoran male, Sergeant SHUL, calls down to her from the upper level.

SHUL

Evening, Colonel.

KIRA

Good evening, Shul.

SHUL

Thought that was you I heard.

KIRA

(laughing)

How could you tell?

SHUL

Sorry about Corporal Hava there. I'll give him a stern talking to.

KIRA

I'd appreciate that. Quiet tonight, otherwise?

SHUL

When they're not down there banging away on whatever it is they're banging on.

KIRA

They should be done soon. Then we'll be busy again.

SHUL

It could stay this way from the beginning of one week to the end of the next and I'd be happy. Fewer people, fewer problems.

KIRA

If that's how you feel, why not stay down on Bajor? I'm sure there are plenty of jobs where you don't have to see anyone. A farm, maybe.

SHUL

I've done my share of farming, thanks. Besides, if I lived dirt-side, I'd have to be shuttling up here all the time to see the wife.

KIRA

Oh, you're married?

SHUL

Thirty-two years, last month.

KIRA

Congratulations.

SHUL

Doesn't take much skill to stay married. Just some patience and the common sense to know when to shut up and listen.

KIRA

(laughing)

I'll have to remember that. So your wife works here on the station? What does she do?

SHUL

She's over at the Temple, Colonel. You know her - Aba. Cleans up after the services, keeps the candles lit. Cooks breakfast for the vedeks.

KIRA

Sure, I know her.

(gestures)

About this tall, laughs a lot.

SHUL

That's her.

KIRA

Well, please give her my regards.

(awkward pause)

Well, good evening then.

(and another)

You know I was attainted, Shul?

SHUL

Yes, Colonel.

KIRA

Aba probably wouldn't like it if she knew you were talking to me.

SHUL

I won't tell her if you won't.

KIRA

But doesn't it bother you?

SHUL

Bother me? Course it bothers me. Seems that the Vedeks sometimes use an awfully big stick to keep

people in line. Doesn't seem very prudent to me. When I was a boy, I used to help take care of a herd of *batos*. You know *batos*? Big smelly creatures, they are.

KIRA

Sure, I know *batos*.

SHUL

They're the kind of animals you have to poke to keep 'em moving. Thing is though, if you poke 'em too hard, they seem to wake up, like they're not so much dumb as just not paying attention. That's when you're really in trouble.

(pause)

In my opinion, what the vedeks did to you was pretty much the same as hitting a *batos* just that bit too hard. You know what I mean?

KIRA

Yes, I think I do. Thank you, Shul. It's been a pleasure.

SHUL

Pleasure's mine, Colonel. Oh... the word around the station is that you heard from the Constable not too long ago. Is he well?

KIRA

I think so, yes.

SHUL

If you see him again, please say hello for me.

KIRA

Sure thing.

They go their ways, Kira feeling more buoyed than before.

Just enough to establish again.

**37 INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Kasidy sits in an armchair, opposite PRYLAR EIVOS, the man who was teaching Jake at B'Hala. The fire is crackling, and they're sharing tea and cakes. He is kindly but a bit dull and droning - Kasidy is politely humouring him.

EIVOS

The excavation is advancing faster than any of us expected it to. We may even be able to begin a new dig in the north-west section of the city by springtime. There is some fragmentary evidence that we may find the city's main shrine in the north-west section. Of course, the timetable for moving into the other sections of the ruins hasn't been completely determined yet.

KASIDY

Of course. Can I get you some more tea, Prylar?

EIVOS

Nonsense. If my wife ever found out I allowed a pregnant woman to wait on me, she'd never let me back in the house. And quite right too. Herbal tea, were you having?

KASIDY

Yes, apple-cinnamon.

Eivos gets up and heads to the kitchen. He says something into the replicator, it whirs, and he returns to the living room. Meanwhile, Kasidy just continues to sit and look out of the windows.

EIVOS

While I'm up, may I make you something to eat?

KASIDY

Oh no, thank you. You didn't come here to spend the evening serving me either.

EIVOS

Even if that's so, I did come here for a reason. Actually, I brought you something.

He goes to a coat rack by the door, rummages in his cloak, and brings out a small package, about six inches long, wrapped in paper. He comes back and hands it to Kasidy.

KASIDY

Is it a gift?

EIVOS

It is. A gift for a very specific purpose.

Intrigued, she unwraps the package. Inside is a humanoid FIGURINE made of a golden-amber crystal. The figure has Bajoran nose-ridges, but its shoulders slope outward like a Cardassian's. It catches the light from the fire, and the figure's eyes seem to glow. Kasidy is quite captivated.

KASIDY

This is beautiful.

EIVOS

I'm glad you think so.

KASIDY

What is it made of?

EIVOS

A material called jevonite. The piece was discovered at B'Hala, and we -

KASIDY

B'Hala?

EIVOS

Yes. Actually, that's one of the reasons I brought it. I was going to ask the Bajoran Archaeological Authority and the Vedek Assembly if we might make a gift of the figurine to Jake, as a token of the work he himself did at B'Hala, but primarily as a keepsake of his father.

(Kasidy smiles)

But then with this dreadful news of Jake going missing, and knowing how close the two of you are... well, I just thought this might be a nice keepsake of Jake for you.

KASIDY

I... I'm... Thank you. This means a great deal to me.

EIVOS

I'm so glad.

KASIDY

Prylar, I have to tell you, you're the only member of the Bajoran religious order who doesn't make me feel uncomfortable.

EIVOS

Kind of you to say. I certainly understand. With the unrest these days in the Assembly, I sometimes find it difficult myself not to feel ill at ease among my peers.

KASIDY

There's unrest?

EIVOS

Yes, I'm afraid so. When the translation of the ancient Ohalu text was posted to the comnet, it initiated a major division within the Assembly.

KASIDY

How bad is it?

EIVOS

It is not good. The divide seems to grow wider every day. I'm worried the very unity of the Bajoran religion may be at risk.

KASIDY

I'm sorry to hear that. Is there anything you can do?

EIVOS

I do what I can. Who knows? Maybe we'll find another text at B'Hala that will repair the damage done by the first one.

KASIDY

Maybe.

Kasidy has had enough of depressing conversation. She deliberately changes the subject.

KASIDY (cont)

You were telling me about excavating the north-west section at B'Hala?

EIVOS

Yes!

He immediately launches back into his droning, and Kasidy looks down at the figurine in her lap. She's sad, happy, grateful, all at once.

FADE OUT:

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

FADE IN:

**38 EXT. EARTH - NEW ORLEANS**

A leafy and pleasant public park area near Sisko's Creole Kitchen. Molly O'Brien is riding a bike, wobbling a bit. Miles is holding onto the back, guiding and protecting her.

KEIKO

That's it Molly - keep pedalling!

Molly is having a great time, giggling and getting the hang of it. That is until she looks around and sees that Miles is no longer holding her. She shrieks and loses control, and the bike goes skidding away from her. She falls and scrapes her arm. Keiko and Miles both run after her.

KEIKO

Molly! Are you all right?

MOLLY

Wow! That was great!

KEIKO

I'll get a dermal regenerator.

But Molly is already up and on her bike again.

O'BRIEN

Scrape already forgotten. She's a natural.

KEIKO

She could never do this on DS-Nine. Or the *Enterprise*, for that matter. Can you imagine Captain Picard's reaction to a child on a bike in his corridors?

O'BRIEN

Picard? What about Odo? I can hear him now.

(Odo impression)

"No pedalling on my promenade!"

KEIKO

He always tried so hard to come across as stern, but you know deep down he probably wanted to turn into a bicycle himself just to see what the fascination was.

They laugh, and turn to see Joseph walking towards them.

JOSEPH

How's the bike working out?

KEIKO

It's been wonderful, sir. Molly's having the time of her life. We want to thank you again for your generosity, and your hospitality.

JOSEPH

No need to thank me, Keiko. This visit helped me to realise there's a lot more I need to be thinking about right now than my own feelings. Actually, that was what I came out here to discuss with you. I have a request to make.

O'BRIEN

Well, of course, sir. Anything.

JOSEPH

I think you may regret saying that when you hear me out. I want you to take me to Bajor.

O'BRIEN

It may take me a while to arrange the leave time. But yes, of course we will.

JOSEPH

I can wait a little longer. Thank you.

They all turn to watch Molly again on her bike.

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

Still dark for the moment.

40 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Kira sits alone on the spiral staircase, looking around at the still-dark Promenade and empty shop fronts. Her combadge chirps. She taps to answer.

NOG (comm)  
Nog to Colonel Kira.

KIRA  
Go ahead, Nog.

NOG (comm)  
I think we're about ready, sir.  
The new core is in place, all the  
connections are stable, and the  
simulations show good. We're ready  
whenever you give the word.

KIRA  
Good work, Lieutenant. Flip the  
switch.

41 **INT. DS9 - LOWER CORE AREA**

Nog, in a pressure suit but with the helmet off, stands at a console with one massive pulley-switch. The core is visible, but not yet powered. Many other Bajoran and Starfleet techs in suits are at various other consoles.

NOG  
All right everyone. You heard the  
lady. Three... two... one!

He cranks the switch, and the core hums to life. The noise and the light grow to a loud but harmonious pitch, and other lights begin to come on around the area.

42 **EXT. DS9**

The station gradually comes back to life, starting at the central core and moving out to the docking ring and pylons.

**43**    **INT. DS9 - OPS**

Ensign ch'Thane stands at the master Ops console as the room pulses back to life, the lights in the walls and panels responding. He looks around pleased.

**44**    **INT. KASIDY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM**

Kasidy places the jevonite figurine on the mantelpiece next to the photo of the three Siskos. She seems happier. She steps onto the veranda again and watches the new morning.

**45**    **EXT. EARTH - NEW ORLEANS**

Joseph Sisko watches the O'Briens happily playing like a family in the park, while Judith bobs Kirayoshi in her lap on a nearby bench.

**46**    **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Vaughn is sat in the centre chair again, with Bowers and Tenmei working at various consoles.

BOWERS

Station reports no problems, sir.  
The new core is working just fine.

Vaughn nods and smiles at the news, glances over to Tenmei and lets the sadness through for a second, but returns his attention to the screen.

**47**    **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Kira stands up and smiles as the Promenade lights up and the station hums back to life around her.

As lights come on around the entrance to the Temple, she looks over to it, and another flash of sadness. But she steels herself. She can handle it. She taps her combadge.

KIRA

Kira to Ops.

SHAR (comm)  
Ensign ch'Thane here, sir.

KIRA  
Ensign, please send out the message that repairs have been successful, and all residents of Deep Space Nine are welcome to return at their leisure. Recall all staff and crew as well. We've got work to do.

**48    EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

Finally, the station is back at full power.

FADE OUT:

**THE END**