

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

11x04 - "Separation
Manoeuvres Complete."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

and from the post-finale novels
by Pocket Books

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE WORMHOLE (STOCK FROM 10x22)

Replaying from 10x22 "Ascension". As the beam from the subspace relay hits it dead-centre, the wormhole ERUPTS. Erratic, violent, burning with power.

2 INT. DEFIANT - CORRIDOR (STOCK FROM 10x22)

Jake HAMMERS on the door to engineering. The ship SHUDDERS around them with the force of the wormhole's eruption. Prynn is wrist-deep in a panel of wires and circuits, desperately trying to get the door open...

PRYNN

I'm coming, dad. Just hold on...

3 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN ENGINEERING (STOCK FROM 10x22)

Vaughn hears the THUMPS on the door, but he doesn't answer. He looks around - the warp core is starting to react. Great arcs of power SPARK across the room.

Vaughn fixes the interphasic compensator into its place in the central console. Then he stands tall, eyes closed, ready for what's coming. The ship is shuddering around him, the arcs of power getting bigger and stronger...

...and then the big one finally hits. It SNAPS at Vaughn like a whip, catching him in its power...

...and he begins to flicker in and out of view, fading away, glowing white as the power crackles around him.

Gradually, Vaughn fades from view, completely gone...

WHITE OUT

4 WHITE SPACE (STOCK FROM 10x22)

The warm, shapeless, dimensionless over-exposed white space that is the realm of the Prophets.

The white recedes until we see Vaughn, standing alone. He's calm, a little sad but accepting. He looks around himself, at the utter blankness. This is where he's going to be spending the rest of his existence.

Gradually, his pulsing HEARTBEAT is joined by a second. He frowns, confused. He turns to look...

...and Iliana stands before him. The human man and the Cardassian woman look at each other, surprised.

5 WHITE SPACE (CONTINUOUS)

Continue the scene: VAUGHN and ILIANA stare at each other.

VAUGHN

Ghemor? What the hell are you doing here?

ILIANA

Me? What about you? I was expecting Sisko.

VAUGHN

He wasn't available. I took his place.

ILIANA

But he's the Emissary. It has to be the Emissary - that's the whole point! You've ruined everything, you senile old fool!

Frustrated and angry, Iliana begins to 'pace' around the white space, talking to herself.

ILIANA

It might not work... if it's not Sisko, the Ascendants might not all be killed. This would all be a waste of time...

VAUGHN

Wait - did you know what we were going to do to the Ascendants?

ILIANA

(derisive)

Of course I knew. That was the plan, wasn't it?

VAUGHN

(appalled)

But you were working with them. You planned to kill all your own soldiers?

ILIANA

Well, look who's suddenly all incensed and morally upright. That was the plan from the start, what the Prophets always intended to happen. And now you might have screwed up an entire year of me plotting and pretending and...

VAUGHN

I don't think so. The last few reports I heard from the bridge of the *Defiant* suggested everything was going to plan. And I don't claim to know anything about the Prophets, but surely if they didn't want me here, I wouldn't be here, would I?

ILIANA

(slightly mollified)

Perhaps. But there's no way to know now, is there? We're stuck here, caught in a subspace pocket where time barely moves, and it's not even a real part of the Celestial Temple. It's just you and me forever, old man.

Cue a distant sound, the twinkling bells of a young girl LAUGHING, giggling as she runs around, far in the distance.

Both Vaughn and Iliana look around them, confused - that shouldn't be right. The sound continues, sometimes sounding closer, sometimes further away.

VAUGHN
Did you know about this?

ILIANA
About what? I don't even know
what's happening.

REBECCA (o.s.)
Hi!

They both turn and look in astonishment, as they see that REBECCA has crept up behind them. The little girl looks up at them, innocent and friendly, no fear in her tiny face.

VAUGHN
Rebecca...?

ILIANA
What? Are you telling me this is
Sisko's daughter?

VAUGHN
Yes. Iliana Ghemor, meet Rebecca
Sisko. Rebecca, this is Iliana.

ILIANA
Alright, this was definitely not
part of the plan.

VAUGHN
(amused)
How would you know?

REBECCA
(speaking up)
Do you know my daddy?

VAUGHN
(gently)
Yes, sweetheart, I do. I know your
daddy very well.

Rebecca seems completely satisfied with that. Feeling quite safe, she sits on the 'ground' and gets out her marbles.

REBECCA

Do you want to play with me?

Vaughn shares a look of wonder and amazement with Iliana. He has no idea what's going on here, but it can't be an accident. He gets down on the 'ground' with her.

VAUGHN

That sounds lovely, Rebecca. Thank you, I'd love to play.

Together, Vaughn and Rebecca begin to play marbles, not a care in the world. Iliana is left watching them in complete confusion. She definitely did not expect this.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE - PROMENADE

Close on the Promenade, where we can see the hole blasted through the station's skin by Axno's self-immolation. The flames have died for lack of oxygen, but the edges of the gash still glow red with the heat of it.

7 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Chaos on the Promenade as fire suppression crews rush to help put out the flames inside the Bajoran shrine, and security hold spectators back at a safe distance.

Doctor AYLAM and nurse ETANA wait by as two bodies emerge from the smoke and chaos - RAIQ leading KIRA along. They rush to attend, and guide them off towards the Infirmary.

Around them, SISKO, CENN and PRYNN are all helping out with various tasks, whatever they're needed for.

Across the Promenade, more spectators are gathering in the doorway of Quark's bar to observe the chaos. They include QUARK, TREIR, HETIK, MORN and Vorta ambassador VANNIS. Quark winces sadly at the sight before him.

QUARK

Always something.

Then he makes a decision, and wades into the fray to help however he can. Treir smiles proudly at the sight.

8 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Etana is trying her best to fuss over Kira and Raiq, but neither are having it.

KIRA

Honestly, Etana, I'm fine. I wasn't hurt.

RAIQ

I too am unharmed.

ETANA

If you say so. But you're staying
put until we know for sure.

Etana gives up and leaves. As she goes, Prynn appears,
hesitantly approaching Kira and Raiq.

PRYNN

Captain...

KIRA

(patiently)

I'm not captain anymore, Prynn.
Just call me Nerys.

PRYNN

Fine. But what happened in there?
Where's Axno?

KIRA

Axno killed herself. She tried to
take us with her. But Raiq
protected me. How did you do that,
by the way?

RAIQ

(quiet, withdrawn)

The shield is a natural ability of
the armour. Like the flames.

PRYNN

Well it certainly came in handy.

KIRA

Was anyone else hurt?

PRYNN

No. Major Cenn and his boys were
out of the way already before the
bomb went off. Luckily no one else
was anywhere near.

(beat)

So what do you wanna do now?

Kira looks over to Raiq, who is sitting defeated and remote on a bio-bed beside her. What do they do now?

9 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

As he works to help out, Major Cenn's combadge chirrups.

LEISHMAN (comm)
Ops to Major Cenn.

CENN
Go ahead, Lieutenant.

LEISHMAN (comm)
Is Captain Sisko with you, sir?
There's a message for him from
Bajor.

Sisko was close enough to overhear. He looks worried...

10 INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE

KASIDY appears on one of the screens on the back wall. She's completely distraught, half in tears.

KASIDY
Ben, it's Rebecca... she's...
She's gone!

SISKO
What do you mean, gone?

KASIDY
I don't know! She got down into
the Orb sanctuary here at the
monastery, I only turned my back
for a second...

SISKO
Have you asked Major Rochan for
help?

KASIDY
He's got everybody looking but
she's not here, Ben! I think... I

think she... fell into an Orb
somehow...

Sisko pauses, trying to process that. His mind is racing,
trying to make sense of everything.

SISKO

Okay... you stay where you are,
I'm on my way. I'll be there as
soon as I can. Don't worry, I'm
sure everything will be fine.

Kasidy nods, and Sisko cuts the channel. That done, he
leans against the wall with his face in his hands. He's
absolutely terrified for his daughter. What has happened?

11 **INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

Raiq still gazes emptily down into her lap. Kira still
sympathises with her. Prynn doesn't know what to say, so
she changes the subject.

PRYNN

Major Cenn said the *Defiant* went
to answer a distress call from the
Even Odds. But according to
updates from Bowers, they found
the leftovers of the Jem'Hadar
fleet that fought...

She glances towards Raiq. Kira gets her meaning.

KIRA

Any survivors?

PRYNN

The *Even Odds* was hit pretty bad.
And the Jem'Hadar are trying to
regroup and repair... but they
haven't found any more Ascendant
survivors. Yet.

RAIQ

I want to join them. And search
for myself.

PRYNN

Fine with me.

KIRA

If you're sure. Etana...?

ETANA

If you must. But...

KIRA

...With the usual disclaimer, of course. Thanks.

Kira gently guides Raiq out of the room, with Prynn following. They emerge onto:

12 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE (CONTINUOUS)

...where the chaos is still ongoing, spectators being held back. They bump into Sisko just as he's emerging from the security office. He looks haunted and anxious.

KIRA

Benjamin, I'm taking Raiq back through the wormhole to catch up with Ro and see if there's any survivors from the attack.

SISKO

But Nerys, you know that -

KIRA

(interrupting)

- that this is something she needs to do. Right?

Kira wills Sisko to understand. He hasn't the energy to argue with her.

SISKO

Okay. But I can't go with you. I, uh... I have to go home. Back to Bajor.

PRYNN

Captain...? Is something wrong?

SISKO

(covering badly)

No, nothing. Just a small thing with Kasidy and Rebecca. It's fine. But I do need to go.

PRYNN

Okay then, let's get back to the *Brahamputra*. I suppose I'd better file a flight plan this time. Major Cenn has a bug up his butt about that lately. No idea why.

Prynn moves off, and Raiq follows. But Kira knows Sisko too well to be fooled. She steps close, confidential.

KIRA

Benjamin. Really. What's wrong?

SISKO

It's fine, Nerys. You go. Take Raiq. I'll be fine.

Not convinced but willing to accept it, Kira nods and moves along, catching up with Prynn and Raiq. Sisko walks off. As Kira, Prynn and Raiq walk along, Vannis strides up.

KIRA

Ambassador, we're a little busy here -

VANNIS

(snooty)

I know. Vorta hearing is far superior to humans or Bajorans. And I will be joining you.

KIRA

That's not necessary -

VANNIS

I disagree. Any contact with the Dominion must be conducted through the properly appointed ambassador. That is me.

KIRA
...Fine. Come on.

Unhappy but with no choice, Kira leads the other three on down the Promenade while chaos continues around them.

13 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

A runabout lifts off from its pad, zooms out into space, and dives into the wormhole.

14 EXT. WORMHOLE INTERIOR

The *Brahmaputra* slips through the wormhole currents.

15 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Prynn is at the helm again. Kira sits beside her. Vannis sits to the side, arms folded. Raiq hovers over Kira's shoulder, gazing out at the inside of the wormhole, still struggling to process everything that's happened. Kira and Prynn are both sympathetic to her. Vannis doesn't care.

RAIQ
The Fortress of the True. All my brothers and sisters... they are in here somewhere.

PRYNN
So's my dad.

RAIQ
And now Axno. But I am not welcome in the True's embrace. I am branded "unclean."

KIRA
Well, that's the problem with being a fundamentalist. If you spend your life telling everybody else they're a sinner, it doesn't take much for someone to turn it around on you.

Raiq finally seems to get at least a hint of what Kira is talking about. Then they fly on.

16 **EXT. SPACE**

The Gamma end of the wormhole bursts open, and the runabout emerges. It is immediately confronted with the massive ship graveyard - Jem'Hadar and Ascendant ships blown apart and in pieces everywhere.

17 **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Kira and Prynn look out, daunted at the sight. Raiq gazes with sadness at the dead Ascendant ships. Even Vannis has deigned to give a shit now, and she's not happy.

18 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

BOWERS sits in the command chair. ALECO is at helm.

ALECO

Incoming hail, sir. It's from Kira on the *Brahmaputra*.

BOWERS

On screen.

Kira appears on the main viewscreen, sat in the runabout.

BOWERS

Captain Kira. What can we do for you?

KIRA (screen)

I'm not captain anymore, Sam. I'm just Kira.

(as captain)

What's your status?

BOWERS

Commander Ro is with Taran'atar on the Eav'oq planet. Nog and his team are busy repairing the *Even Odds*. Doctor Bashir is in sickbay patching up the *Even's* crew. And I've been sitting here twiddling

my thumbs for the best part of
three days. Sir.

Aleco gets an alert on his panels. He checks it...

BOWERS
What is it, Ensign?

ALECO
(worried)
Incoming ship, sir...

19 **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Kira reads her own panels.

KIRA
We're reading it too, Lieutenant.
Prynn, can you identify?

PRYNN
I don't think we need to.

Prynn points out of the window. Kira leans to look...

20 **EXT. SPACE**

Another vessel is rumbling its way through the field, a
huge shape pushing the remains out of its way. It's very
threatening, looming over everything, blocking the light.

It's one of the giant Jem'Hadar Battle Cruisers.

21 **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Prynn reacts to an alert on her panels. She looks to Kira
nervously, who nods equally nervously. Kira turns to the
screen at her side ready to be all stern and commanding,
but her face breaks when she sees ODO.

ODO (screen)
Nerys...

KIRA
Odo...

ODO

Can you come aboard? We need to
talk.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

22 EXT. SPACE

The moon at the outskirts of the Idran system. The smaller Jem'Hadar ship, the *Defiant* and the *Even Odds* are already there (the *Even* is looking mostly repaired now).

From one direction, the giant Jem'Hadar cruiser rumbles into the area. From another, the *Brahmaputra*. And from a third, the tiny shuttlecraft *Cooper* is also just arriving, docking into the *Defiant's* underside.

Everybody's back.

23 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

The transporter cycles up and RO LAREN materialises. Prynn is there to greet her, but Ro looks warily at Raiq.

RO

Everything alright, Lieutenant?

PRYNN

Yes, Commander. Raiq came to look for survivors of the attack.

Ro takes a deep breath, prepares to give bad news.

RO

I'm sorry, Raiq. But there are no survivors. Once Lieutenant Nog raised the possibility, we've had the *Defiant* and the Jem'Hadar scanning constantly. There have been no Ascendant life signs. It looks like everyone who could went to the wormhole. And the only ones who couldn't...

RAIQ

...were those already dead. I suspected Kira was protecting me. As I had protected her.

RO
I'm sorry.

RAIQ
(a comfort)
They are with the True.

RO
(turns to Prynn)
As for you -

PRYNN
Commander -

RO
I accept your apology. I just hope
you got what you wanted out of it.

PRYNN
Not really. But I did get what I
needed. What you told me in the
first place.

RO
Good. I'm glad.
(re Dominion ship)
You know what? They're gonna be a
while over there. We have some
time. I think maybe you should
take a trip down to the Eav'oq
planet, go and talk to Opaka. She
has this weird way of making
everything seem alright. And maybe
take Raiq with you.

PRYNN
Thank you, sir.

RO
You're welcome. Right - I should
go catch up with Bowers, I guess.
See you later, Prynn.

Ro returns to the transporter, and beams away.

LAAS is up in Kira's face, sneering at her.

LAAS

Kira. This is all your doing. The chaos that is enveloping the Dominion... it is because of you.

ODO

(breaking in)

Laas, you're being unfair.

LAAS

Am I? You can't see this for what it is, Odo, because of your "feelings" for this monoform. But the truth is that this one woman has managed to bring the Dominion to its knees in a way the war with the Federation never did.

KIRA

(uncowed)

You need to make up your mind, Laas. You didn't used to care what happened to the Dominion or any "monoforms".

LAAS

I don't. Your religious war was none of our concern. But because of you and your wormhole, the Great Link has been sundered, the Jem'Hadar have been slaughtered, and the Dominion's subject races are rebelling. All of which is making my life intolerable.

KIRA

My heart bleeds for you.

Second ILAT'EKAL steps in, pointing his weapon at Kira.

ITAL'EKAL

You should speak to the Founder
with more respect, Bajoran.

In response, Taran'atar grabs Ilat'ekal's neck. MEERA and Vannis are both also in the room, watching tensely.

TARAN'ATAR

Lower your weapon.

ODO

Do as he says, Ilat'ekal.

Reluctantly, Ilat'ekal does as he's told. But not without a quiet threat and deadly sneer at Taran'atar.

ITAL'EKAL

I'll kill you myself, traitor.

ODO

Now, all of you calm down. You're wrong to blame Kira for this, Laas. The decision to ally with the Bajorans was mine.

LAAS

Only because this woman has used your changeable form to mould you to whatever shape she desires. She is everything that is wrong with you, Odo.

MEERA

I agree with Odo. My experience of the solids is nothing like the wild, paranoid accusations you throw at them, Laas.

LAAS

You are young and naive. I am old and experienced. I have seen much more of what these creatures are capable of, and the Dominion should have nothing to do with them. I believe we should cancel this "alliance" at once, while there is still a Dominion left.

On Kira and Odo's reactions that that...

25 INT. DEFIANT - SICKBAY

The door opens and Ro enters, finding every bio-bed filled with crew members from the *Even Odds* and more stood around. BASHIR and RICHTER are doing last checks.

RO

Doctor. How are things going in here?

BASHIR

I'm happy to say, things are going very well indeed. I think I'm just about ready to release my patients.

Captain DEZ, who has been standing around impatiently, steps forward. FACITY, BRAD and GLESSIN are on other beds. PIF is also there, sitting and helping where he can.

DEZ

About time. I'm getting tired of hanging around here.

RO

Forced to agree. More Dominion ships just arrived, and I get the feeling the tension around here could explode any second. You'd be better out of the way before that happens.

FACITY

That might be premature. Think of all the salvage out there, Dez. We could clean up! Make enough money to last us a year.

DEZ

Ascendant salvage? Like the Wa? Like the thing that brought us all this trouble over the last two years? No thanks. There are plenty

of other retrieval ships out there. They're welcome to it. Ro's right, we should go. Come on, all of you.

Everyone but Pif and Glessin is up and ready to follow Dez. At the doorway, Dez looks back to Pif.

DEZ

Come on, Pif. We're going.

PIF

I'm not coming with you, Dez. I only came to say goodbye. I'm staying on Deep Space Nine.

FACITY

What are you talking about? I thought you were only staying there to avoid the battle.

PIF

But your life is always going to be dangerous, Facity. I have a family to think of now. I have to keep them safe. I'm not saying it's forever. Sooner or later the children are going to want to meet other Aarruri. We'll run into you again someday. But for now...

Dez pauses. There's no doubt he's disappointed. But he accepts it. He walks up to Pif and crouches down by him.

DEZ

You keep those babies of yours safe, Pif. I wouldn't want them to ever be without their father. And if any of them grow up to be a runner... you give me a call.

PIF

I will, Dez. Thank you.

Dez nuzzles Pif's snout affectionately, stands and leaves. Facity and Brad give Pif a friendly ruffle of the fur on the way out, then follow Dez. Ro leaves too to escort them.

But Glessin seems hesitant. Bashir goes to him, speaks gently and quietly.

BASHIR

You can stay with us if you want, Glessin. You could even go home to Cardassia.

GLESSIN

They have enough problems. I'm better off staying out here in the middle of nowhere, where I can't hurt anyone I care about.

BASHIR

You're not an albatross, Glessin. You're a valued and important member of the *Even's* crew. I hope one day you're able to see that.

GLESSIN

Maybe. Some day.

Glessin leaves and follows the rest out into the corridor, leaving just Bashir, Richter and Pif.

RICHTER

Poor man. I hope he gets better.

BASHIR

He'll be among friends.

They'll just have to hope that's enough.

26 INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY - ATRIUM

Things are still under repair, with Militia engineers and monks working around. The secret staircase is revealed. Sisko runs in from the gardens, calling out urgently.

SISKO

Kasidy! I'm here! Kasidy?

Kasidy runs in from the other direction, accompanied by Kai SOLIS. They run into each other's arms.

KASIDY

Ben... oh, thank God you're here.

SOLIS

Emissary. I am so sorry, I have no explanation for your daughter's disappearance. Major Rochan's men are searching every inch of the grounds...

KASIDY

I'm telling you, she's fallen into one of those damn Orbs somehow.

SOLIS

Sadly, given the evidence at hand, I am forced to agree. The Orb of Destiny was open when your wife called me to the sanctuary.

KASIDY

Why would the wormhole aliens take Rebecca, Ben? Why would they do that?

Sisko thinks he knows exactly why, but he can't say it.

SISKO

Eminence, could I consult with the Orb of Destiny?

SOLIS

Of course, Emissary. I'll have it brought up at once.

Solis moves away to make arrangements. Kasidy turns to Sisko, in tears.

KASIDY

Ben, I am so sorry, she was just playing, I only turned my back for a second...

SISKO
Kas, it's not your fault. In fact,
I think it might be mine...

Kasidy looks askance at him, wondering what that could possibly mean.

27 **INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY - PRAYER ROOM**

An Orb box has been placed on a podium at the front of the room. Sisko steps up to it, anxious at what he might find inside. With a deep breath, he reaches to open the doors, revealing the Orb itself turning calmly inside. Sisko closes his eyes, waiting for the Orb vision to begin.

But nothing happens. He opens his eyes again, scared.

SISKO
I don't understand. Why won't you
talk to me?

The Prophets refuse to answer. Sisko is on the verge of tears.

SISKO
I was right, wasn't I? It is my
fault. You took Rebecca... because
you couldn't take me.

Ending on Sisko, heartbroken for his daughter...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

28 **WHITE SPACE**

The fog fades until we see Vaughn and Rebecca sitting cross-legged on the 'ground' of the white space, playing with Rebecca's marbles, quite happy and content.

Iliana hunkers down beside them, frustrated and confused. Vaughn and Rebecca continue to play while they talk.

ILIANA

What the hell are you doing?

VAUGHN

You're the one who believes in the Prophets. You honestly don't think she's here for a reason?

ILIANA

If this were the Obsidian Order, I'd say she was here to threaten Sisko into doing what he's told.

VAUGHN

Too late for that. I'm already here, aren't I?

ILIANA

But you weren't supposed to be! This is all wrong. I accepted this fate over a year ago. This is what all the horrors of my life were building to - giving myself to save the galaxy from the Ascendants. But you - it was never supposed to be you.

VAUGHN

Well, you said yourself we have all the time in the world. I refuse to believe the Prophets would condemn an innocent girl to an eternity of nothing. So until

their reason for bringing her here
becomes clear, we may as well...
play their game.

And he gives his full attention back to Rebecca and the
game of marbles. Iliana harrumphs.

ILIANA
Great plan. Except the Prophets
don't seem to be talking.

The white fog obscures them again...

29 INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY - PRAYER ROOM

Sisko stands in front of the open Orb box, the Orb turning
away calmly inside. Sisko pleads with an empty room.

SISKO
That's the truth, isn't it? You're
punishing me because I let Elias
go. Now you've taken my daughter,
and you won't even talk to me!
Please... you have to give her
back, I'm begging you. Take me, do
whatever you want with me but
please don't take my baby...

He breaks down into tears, all alone in front of the Orb.

30 EXT. EAV'OQ CITY - DAY

First, establishing the Eav'oq citadel.

The runabout has landed on the grass, and the hatch opens.
Prynn steps out, gazing in awe at the gorgeous landscape.
More hesitantly, Raiq steps out behind her, wary of what's
about to happen. Prynn is sympathetic and encouraging.

PRYNN
Come on, Raiq. It's okay.

RAIQ
I ought not to be here. This is
the world of the hated Eav'oq.

PRYNN

They won't hurt you.

RAIQ

I am supposed to hurt them. To
kill them for shaming the True.

PRYNN

According to Axno, you shame the
True too. That puts you on even
ground, right? Look.

She points forward, and they see OPAKA approaching, side-
by-side with the Eav'oq ITU. Raiq takes a nervous breath.

RAIQ

Opaka... my nurse.

OPAKA

Hello, Raiq. And Prynn. It is good
to see you both again. I wish it
were under better circumstances.

PRYNN

Thank you for seeing us, Ranjen.
And thank you, Itu. I know this
can't have been easy for you. May
I introduce Raiq, the last Knight
of the Ascendants.

ITU

I need no introduction, my child.
In my memory, it is barely two
years since her kind tried to send
us all back to the Siblings.

RAIQ

Strange. I have never seen an
Eav'oq in the flesh. No Knight in
living memory has. You are legends
almost, the greatest heretics we
ever faced.

ITU

We are no heretics, my sister. I
feel the sight of the Siblings

upon you, just as upon Sulan. We are alike in their eyes. Would you enter the Citadel with us?

Raiq is shocked, almost as if this could be a threat.

RAIQ

Why would you... want me to?

ITU

(why not?)

So that we may learn about our sister in the Siblings.

Raiq looks to Prynn for what to do. Prynn nods positively. Nervous, Raiq steps forward. Itu unfurls his long pink ribbon-like limbs, lays one gently on Raiq's shoulder, and leads the Ascendant woman gently back towards the Citadel.

Opaka stays back with Prynn. As more Eav'oq greet Raiq peacefully on the path, they watch.

PRYNN

If my dad had to go... then I suppose this was a good reason for him to do it.

Sensing Prynn's emotions, Opaka gathers the younger woman into her arms and lets them remember Vaughn together.

31 EXT. SPACE

Re-establishing the *Defiant*, the *Even Odds*, the smaller Jem'Hadar ship and the larger Jem'Hadar ship.

32 INT. JEM'HADAR CRUISER - COMMAND CENTRE

The heated discussion is ongoing. We have Kira, Odo, Meera, Vannis, Laas, Taran'atar and Ilat'ekal in the middle of the bridge, while the ship's regular Jem'Hadar complement work the stations around the bridge and mind their own business.

KIRA

Look, I'm sorry the Jem'Hadar took the brunt of the Ascendant attack. But we needed you. There was no

way we could stand up to them
without you.

LAAS

It was not our concern. You used
the Dominion as cannon fodder.

ODO

The Ascendants were our enemies
too, Laas. It was them who caused
the Link to break up, not Kira.

LAAS

So we take revenge? How can you
still be so blind after so long,
Odo? She used you, that is all.

KIRA

I used the resources I had, to
save as many lives as possible.

ILAT'EKAL

Not Jem'Hadar lives.

MEERA

What do you care about Jem'Hadar
lives? You're all mass-produced in
a laboratory. They'll just pump
out another batch in days.

ILAT'EKAL

We give our lives willingly for
the Founders, of course. But not
for the Federation.

TARAN'ATAR

(threatening)

You will do whatever Odo wants you
to do.

ILAT'EKAL

Odo is not the only Founder.

LAAS

Do you hear what your "alliance"
has created, Odo? The Jem'Hadar

fight over which one of us they will obey, and meanwhile the Dominion falls apart around us.

ODO

I don't see how breaking up the alliance with Bajor helps that, Laas. Nothing is gained by it.

LAAS

Nothing is gained?! This woman alone has caused more Dominion deaths than entire planets of monofoms have. What we gain is to rid ourselves of her before she makes it any worse.

VANNIS

I agree with Laas. This so-called alliance was a mistake from the beginning. The Dominion should be conquering Bajor, not fighting their battles for them.

TARAN'ATAR

You have been clear about that from the start. Now you finally have a Founder willing to agree with you. I killed you once - I can do it again.

ILAT'EKAL

And you wonder why we call you a traitor.

ODO

Stop it, all of you! Laas, this alliance is the right thing for the Dominion, you must see that.

LAAS

No, it is the right thing for you, Odo. Not for us. You are so desperate to keep both Kira and the Great Link in your life, that

you refuse to see what is obvious
to the rest of us.

Laas gestures around himself - Ilat'ekal on one side, and Vannis on the other. One Founder, one Vorta, one Jem'Hadar. Opposite them are Meera, Kira and Taran'atar. One Founder, one "Vorta", one Jem'Hadar. And Odo is caught between.

LAAS

This is over. It should never have begun in the first place. But I see now that you will never be convinced. You cannot break your addiction to this woman. So there is only one solution left.

(shouts out)

Jem'Hadar! Draw your weapons and take aim.

(pointing at Kira)

I want her dead.

At the order from a Founder, the other Jem'Hadar instantly draw their weapons and point them at Kira. As Kira reacts to being at the centre of a circle of Jem'Hadar rifles...

ODO

Laas, no!

LAAS

Stay out of it, Odo. I'm doing this for your own good.

ON TARAN'ATAR, as he makes a fateful decision. He sends a meaningful look towards...

KIRA, who sees the look in his eyes, and her own eyes flare as she understands what he's about to do...

In a blur of movement, Taran'atar is on the attack. He whips sideways, snatching the *kar'takin* off Ilat'ekal and butting him in the head. Ilat'ekal goes down. Taran'atar SHROUDS just in time to avoid numerous rifle SHOTS from the other Jem'Hadar.

Odo urgently pushes Kira out of the way towards the outer rim of the bridge.

VANNIS

Kill him!

Another soldier ERUPTS in amber blood and guts. The other Jem'Hadar turn and FIRE in that direction... But too late. They just hit the already dead soldier.

A half-visible shrouded shape LANDS on a soldier's back, knocking him forwards. The shape UNSHROUDS as it carries on through, revealing Taran'atar bringing down the heavy knife into another soldier's head and dispatching him.

In a second, Taran'atar is on the move again. This is truly an Honoured Elder of the Jem'Hadar in action.

VANNIS

What is the matter with you? Kill him, now!

The remaining Jem'Hadar turn and renew their attack.

ODO

Stop this, all of you!

But the Jem'Hadar are in too much bloodlust to stop now, plus they can barely hear Odo over the shouts and bellows and screams. Meera SNEERS...

MEERA

A firmer hand, indeed.

...and MORPHS. She whips out arms of changeling matter, punching Jem'Hadar soldiers in the head, knocking rifles from their hands. She's a whirling mass of tendrils flailing with deadly purpose.

Meanwhile Taran'atar slashes his knife, taking out another soldier who was coming for him. He grins with satisfaction and the adrenaline of the fight.

A Jem'Hadar sees Kira, and tries to attack. When Odo steps into his way with a glare, he instinctively halts himself.

Kira takes the moment and attacks the soldier herself, PUNCHING him in the stomach, snatching his rifle, and

butting him in the head with it until he falls to the deck. Kira hefts the weapon, about to wade into the fight, but Odo holds her back.

ODO

Nerys, don't... stay back...

Laas has been watching all this with disgust. He finally has had enough, so he MORPHS his arm into a sword (like in 7x14 "Chimera") and steps forwards.

Laas's arm MORPHS out, extending the sword, aiming for Taran'atar's heart...

Taran'atar is busy attacking another soldier. But he intuitively senses the attack coming. He expertly dodges the blade, spins and SLASHES with his own knife...

...and the blade passes right THROUGH Laas's body, the changeling matter unaffected.

Everyone stops and GASPS. Laas and Taran'atar are facing each other, armed. The remaining Jem'Hadar gape, amazed. Kira, Odo, Meera, Vannis. None of them can quite believe what just happened. What do they do now?

KIRA

Taran'atar... you just attacked a Founder.

Taran'atar straightens, stands firm. But underneath it, he's scared. What the hell has he done?

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 EXT. SPACE

The *Defiant*, the *Even Odds*, the smaller Jem'Hadar ship and the larger Jem'Hadar ship. The runabout rejoins the party.

34 INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE

Ro enters the bridge; Bowers immediately vacates the chair.

RO

Did they all get back over to the
Even Odds okay?

BOWERS

Chief Chao reports transport was
successful, Commander. And
Lieutenant Nog reports that the
Even Odds is spaceworthy again,
and his crew is ready to return to
the *Defiant*.

RO

(settles into chair)
Anything else interesting?

BOWERS

Only that we haven't heard from
Captain Kira or Taran'atar on
board the Dominion ship.

RO

And that worries you.

BOWERS

Any loss of communication with a
commanding officer is always cause
for worry.

RO

Kira isn't the captain anymore,
Sam.

BOWERS

With respect, commander, I know she keeps saying that, but I'm not sure she believes it herself. Besides, just because she doesn't wear the uniform is no reason not to worry for her safety.

RO

No... it's not.

Ro shares a moment of mutual concern with Bowers. Then she nods, dismissing him, and he returns to his station.

35 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Prynn is closing down the helm station. She turns towards Raiq, who is stood at the back, insular and withdrawn. Prynn sympathises - she started the same way.

PRYNN

I know how you're feeling, Raiq. I know you miss them. I know you want to save them, or be with them. But they wanted to go, and you have to respect that. And try your best to let them go.

RAIQ

They gave their lives willingly for the True.

PRYNN

Yes, they did.

Prynn finally lets her father go.

36 INT. JEM' HADAR CRUISER - COMMAND CENTRE

Taran'atar stands alone in the middle of the room, isolated as everyone else gazes at him in horror. Laas is opposite, disgusted. The surviving Jem'Hadar soldiers get to their feet, confused, wondering what to do now.

VANNIS

Second - keep your weapons on him.

Ilat'ekal picks up a rifle from one of the dead bodies and points it at Taran'atar. Other Jem'Hadar do the same.

VANNIS

And her.

Ilat'ekal grabs Kira, takes the rifle off her, and drags her into the centre of the room with Taran'atar.

LAAS

(sadly)

A Jem'Hadar attacks a Founder. I know you recall what happened the last time a monoform attacked me, Odo. Is it clear enough to you yet, how foolish you've been, letting a Jem'Hadar think for himself...

VANNIS

First Taran'atar of the Jem'Hadar. You have committed the unfathomable, unpardonable crime of attacking a Founder. There can be only one possible response.

ODO

Laas... please... this isn't necessary.

LAAS

Astonishing! Still you do not see. You set all this in motion, Odo, with your strange need to make the changelings and the solids be "friends."

(beat)

But I am not cruel, Odo. I know you cannot help yourself. So I will offer you a choice. Things have gone too far for someone not to pay in blood. But I will allow you to save one of them.

KIRA

...what?

LAAS

It's up to you, Odo. The soldier you pinned all your hopes on for a new Dominion, or the woman you pinned over every day for years. But only one. And whichever you choose... this alliance is over.

Odo is left on the spot, staring at Kira and Taran'atar. Kira looks peacefully over to Odo.

KIRA

It's okay, Odo. I know I saved the Eav'oq, and I stopped the Ascendants. And if the Prophets want me to give my life in return... that's fine.

TARAN'ATAR

Unacceptable, Captain. My life belongs to the Founders. Whatever else has changed, that is still true. I will die in your place.

KIRA

But Laas was right, Taran'atar. You are the future of the Jem'Hadar. You don't have to be sacrificed. You can choose.

TARAN'ATAR

(w/ feeling)

I have chosen.

Odo looks back and forth between them, his heart breaking. But in the end, there's only one decision he can make.

ODO

Take him.

Sneering, Ilat'ekal shoves Kira back towards Odo, who catches her in his arms. Then the Second turns back to Taran'atar with a gleeful snarl.

ILAT'EKAL

I told you I would be here.

VANNIS

Jem'Hadar - take aim.

Ilat'ekal backs away to join the circle of Jem'Hadar soldiers all pointing their weapons at Taran'atar.

Outside the circle, Odo and Kira watch in tears, while Laas watches with grim satisfaction.

Taran'atar stands tall. He has made his decision.

VANNIS

Fire!

A dozen phaser rifle blasts fire at Taran'atar. Kira covers her eyes at the too-bright light...

WHITE OUT

REBECCA (v.o.)

It's time to go now.

37 WHITE SPACE

Vaughn and Iliana look at Rebecca, confused. The little girl said this completely without artifice, nonchalant.

VAUGHN

I'm sorry, sweetheart. What did you say?

REBECCA

I'm tired. It's time to go home.

Rebecca picks up her marbles, drops them into her pocket, and stands. She reaches out her hand to take Vaughn's.

REBECCA

Come on. Time to go. Daddy's waiting for us.

Vaughn gapes at Iliana - can this mean what he thinks? She looks back, equally as befuddled. He stands on no-longer-creaking bones, and takes Rebecca's hand.

ILIANA

Well? What are you waiting for?
That's why she's here - to take
you home.

VAUGHN

But what about you?

ILIANA

She didn't come for me. She came
for you. Somebody needs to stay
for the plan to work, remember?
I'm supposed to be here.

VAUGHN

But you'll be all alone...

ILIANA

Go. She won't wait forever.
(beat)
Oh, Elias... say hi to Nerys for
me. And tell her to watch out for
Raiq.

That's slightly ominous. Wondering what she means by it,
Vaughn accepts her decision and turns back to Rebecca.

VAUGHN

Okay, Rebecca. Take me home.

Rebecca leads Vaughn by the hand off into the white. Soon
enough they are lost in it. Iliana waves them goodbye...

WHITE OUT

38 INT. JEM' HADAR CRUISER - COMMAND CENTRE

The scorching light of the rifle blasts clears away,
leaving only a wisp of smoke in the middle of the bridge.

Kira winces, holds back her emotions. In a room full of Jem'Hadar, there's nothing she can do. Taran'atar is gone.

LAAS

Vannis - recall all Jem'Hadar in this sector. In fact, recall all Jem'Hadar everywhere. The Dominion is closing its borders. We will have nothing more to do with the Bajorans or the Federation, or anyone from the Alpha Quadrant.

VANNIS

At once, Founder. And thank you.

LAAS

As for you, Odo... Kira must leave immediately. I never want to see or hear from her again. Whether you choose to stay or go... is your concern.

Laas turns and leaves the bridge. Vannis begins directing the Jem'Hadar to clean up the bodies and send the orders. Kira and Odo turn to each other, hurting over Taran'atar.

KIRA

Odo... I'm so sorry...

ODO

Maybe Laas was right. Maybe this is all my fault.

KIRA

He's not right. Not about that, anyway. I asked you to do this.

ODO

I tried, Nerys. I really tried.

KIRA

I know.

ODO

I tried with Taran'atar. I tried with Weyoun. And I failed.

KIRA

You could try again.

ODO

It's pointless. Maybe this was all doomed from the start.

(beat)

You should probably go.

KIRA

You're staying with them?

ODO

I'm sorry.

KIRA

No, I think you should. Meera is already on your side. If you and her work on Laas together... maybe one day he'll come around.

ODO

(derisive grunt)

I doubt it. He's more cynical about 'solids' than I ever was. He resented you from the start.

KIRA

Then what about the rest of the Founders? Or the Hundred? You could search for them, get them to come back to the Link. Meera did, maybe they will too.

ODO

I love you, Nerys. Say hi to everyone for me.

KIRA

I promise. And I love you, Odo. I always will. And I'm so sorry about Taran'atar.

Odo nods acceptance of that. He leans in for a last kiss. They both know this is goodbye, possibly forever. He and Kira smooch for a moment. Then Odo steps back.

ODO
Odo to *Defiant*.

39 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

As Ro and Bowers sit on edge, waiting for news, they react with relief-slash-worry...

RO
Odo! This is Ro - what's going on over there?

ODO (comm)
It's all over. One Bajoran to beam aboard.

Worried at the lack of explanation, Ro nods towards Bowers, who works his panels.

After a moment, Kira appears in a transporter beam on the bridge. Ro stands to greet her, about to welcome her back.

But then Ro sees the look on Kira's face. She's about to crumple. Ro realises what must have happened - Taran'atar. And Odo. She's stunned, unsure how to react.

Without any words, Ro and Kira walk towards each other, and hug in full view of the bridge, comforting each other.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

40 EXT. SPACE

The small Jem'Hadar ship carefully undocks from the *Even Odds*, and begins to slowly move away. The giant Jem'Hadar ship lumbers around and follows it, both moving away and out of the shadow of the Eav'oq moon. They're gone.

The *Defiant*, the *Brahmaputra*, and the *Even Odds* remain.

41 INT. EVEN ODDS - CORRIDOR

Dez, Meera and Nog walk along the corridor, which is looking much more repaired than in 11x02. Walls have been patched up, panels replaced, lights fixed, power humming smoothly. Things have a slightly more Starfleet-mixed-with-Dominion look to them now than they did originally.

Also, Meera is carrying a container, small and cylindrical, something that looks like part of a machine or computer.

DEZ

Thank you again for fixing up my ship, Nog.

(light)

Even though it kinda was your fault it nearly got destroyed in the first place...

NOG

Happy to help, Captain. But it was the Jem'Hadar who provided a lot of the materials and labour.

DEZ

(looking around)

Yeah... flying about surrounded by Dominion technology is going to take some getting used to.

MEERA

You may find it more useful than you realise, Dez.

NOG
And certainly less trouble than
Ascendant tech turned to be.

DEZ
Amen to that.

They pause at a particular door.

NOG
Time to go home. Goodbye, Dez.

DEZ
Bye, Nog. Say hi to Jake. And look
after Pif for me, will you?

NOG
(awkward)
I'm sure he'll be fine. And I'm
sorry about Prees.
(turns to Meera)
It was good to see you again too,
Meera. I wish there was a hope in
Destitution we'd ever see each
other again.

MEERA
Unexpected things happen, Nog.

They smile at each other, and actually touch hands for a
brief second. Then Nog steps back and taps his combadge.

NOG
Nog to *Defiant* - one to beam
aboard.

Nog disappears in a Starfleet transporter beam.

DEZ
Did you two just have a moment?

MEERA
Don't be ridiculous.

But as she turns to enter the door, there's a little smirk on her face. The door opens, onto:

42 INT. EVEN ODDS - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Dez and Meera enter the room together, and Meera hauls up the container she was carrying onto a panel. She opens the top of it, and pours a silver liquid out onto the console.

The liquid flows and searches around, finds an open bit of circuitry and slides into it, disappearing into the guts of the machinery. The console powers up, lights blinking and coming to life.

DEZ

Srral? Can you hear me?

SRRAL (comm)

Affirmative, Captain.

DEZ

(sigh of relief)

Welcome home, Srral.

SRRAL (comm)

Thank you, Dez. And thank you too, Meera, for looking after me.

MEERA

You are welcome, my friend. You will find a process on hold in the transporter's buffer system. Would you complete the cycle, please?

SRRAL (comm)

Working. Stand by.

They wait for a while, After a moment, the transporter cycles up with a Dominion-style signature.

And then Taran'atar materialises on the platform. He looks around at his surroundings, confused.

TARAN'ATAR

I don't understand. How -

MEERA

I saved you, Taran'atar.

FLASHBACK

The Jem'Hadar bridge. All of the soldiers are pointing their weapons at Taran'atar...

At the back of the bridge, behind the soldiers' backs and unseen by anyone else, Meera stands at a console, her small hands flying over the controls at warp speed.

VANNIS (o.s.)

Fire!

Meera hits one last control, a bare split second before all the Jem'Hadar fire.

BACK TO SCENE

Meera continues to explain...

MEERA

Nog repaired the *Even Odds* using Dominion technology, so this ship now has our transporters. Srral has been recuperating on my ship all this time, so he has the skills to operate them. And everyone else was blinded by the glare of the weapons... so they have no idea I snatched you away at the last instant and hid you until they were gone.

DEZ

You're welcome to stay here if you want, Taran'atar. We could use some new crew members, and I'm happy for it to be you.

MEERA

But decide soon. Dez and I are the only ones who know you're alive. So I'd stay out of the Dominion's way if I were you.

TARAN'ATAR

Founder... you saved my life. I cannot express...

MEERA

That's alright. You don't have to. Have a good, long life, Taran'atar. You deserve it.

Meera then disappears in a spontaneous Dominion transporter beam. Dez gestures towards the door...

TARAN'ATAR

What will I do here?

DEZ

Whatever you want. Isn't that the point? Your knowledge of where to go to avoid the Dominion will be very handy. And having somebody around to intimidate strangers is always good business policy.

TARAN'ATAR

But... Kira. Odo. Ro Laren. The crew of Deep Space Nine...

DEZ

They all think you're dead. Best to let them keep thinking that, for your own safety.

After a moment's hesitation, Taran'atar steps off the pad and follows Dez out of the room. Dez casually throws out...

DEZ

Might be a good idea to stay out of Glessin's way too for a while...

Then the door closes.

43 **EXT. SPACE**

The last ship to leave, the repaired *Even Odds* moves out of the shadow of the moon, sets a course and gets underway.

44 **EXT. SPACE**

The Alpha exit of the wormhole bursts open, and the *Defiant* and the *Brahmaputra* both emerge. The runabout immediately turns and heads off in the other direction.

45 **INT. DEFIANT - MAIN BRIDGE**

Ro is back in the command chair, with Bowers at tactical, Aleco at helm. Nog stands nearby.

RO

Sam, make sure Prynn knows I want that runabout back on the station where it belongs the moment she's finished dropping Kira and Raiq back off home.

BOWERS

Aye, Commander.

Bowers works his panels. Ro is looking rather downcast and sad. Nog steps close and speaks confidentially.

NOG

Ro? Are you okay?

RO

I said goodbye to him so many times. And we always found a way to meet up again. This time he's gone for good, and I never got a chance to say goodbye.

Nog and Ro - the two people who have had most reason to hate Taran'atar over the years - bond over missing him.

Then Aleco suddenly shouts:

ALECO

Commander! Look...

Everyone looks at the screen, and their jaws drop. It shows the station...

RO

Increase magnification.

The screen zooms in on the Promenade, and everyone can see the massive hole that's been blown in the station by Axno's death. Open to space, red and smoking at the edges.

They all stand and gawp... what the hell happened?

46 EXT. BAJOR - ESTABLISHING

The usual warm and sunny shot of Bajor's capital city.

47 INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY - ATRIUM

Kira, Raiq and Prynn enter from one side.

RAIQ

I will go to my rooms. I wish to be alone. To think.

Without another word, Raiq moves off into the depths of the monastery. As she does, Sisko and Kasidy enter. They're both in tears, but this time it's happy tears. They're both beaming ecstatically through them, grinning wide.

SISKO

Nerys! Prynn! Oh it's so good you're here...

KIRA

Benjamin - did you sort out your problem? Is everything okay?

KASIDY

It's better than okay. You have to come with us. Right now!

Sisko grabs Kira and Kasidy grabs Prynn, and drag them both by the arms to the secret staircase, and down the steps.

Sisko and Kasidy are super-excited as they work their way down the spiral steps. Kira and Prynn are being dragged along in their wake, totally mystified but amused by the uncharacteristic enthusiasm.

KIRA

Kas, what is going on? What's the big -

KASIDY

Just come on!

They reach the bottom of the stairs, turn the corner into the sanctuary itself, see the nine Orb boxes laid out in a circle on the ground...

...and in the middle of the circle, Vaughn and Rebecca sit cross-legged, playing with Rebecca's marbles.

PRYNN

(thunderstruck)

Dad...?

VAUGHN

Prynn! Hi, baby!

PRYNN

But... how...

VAUGHN

Seems I got me my own personal saviour.

He reaches out and ruffles Rebecca's hair. Having suffered through that, Rebecca gets up and runs to her daddy, grabs him hard for a fierce hug. Kasidy beams happily to see it.

Vaughn also gets to his feet and dusts off his uniform. Prynn takes a few staggering steps forward, and then she's in his arms too. They hug like their lives depend on it...

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW