

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

10x13 - "The Case of the
Flamping Flurble."

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. DEEP SPACE NINE - ESTABLISHING**

The *Defiant* at rest, plus at least one Bajoran shuttle...

2 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

The airlocks rolls open, and a procession of new arrivals emerge. Among them is JAKE, holding the hand of RENA. She steps over the threshold, looking around in amazement...

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

NOG and SHAR sit side-by-side at the bar, both with small plates of food and padds - a working lunch. Jake and Rena approach - Nog turns at the sound of their footfalls...

NOG

Jake!

Nog jumps off his stool and hugs Jake in welcome. Then he does the same to Rena. Under all that...

JAKE

Hey, Nog.

NOG

You guys! It's great to see you.
What are you doing here?

JAKE

It's Rena's first trip to the
station. I wanted to show her
where I used to live.

RENA

(bashful)

First trip off planet altogether.

Rena looks past Nog to Shar, who is politely waiting to be acknowledged. She gazes a little bemused at his blue skin and antennae. She's never seen an Andorian before...

NOG

Oh! Jake, you remember Shar?

JAKE

Of course - we met at the Federation signing ceremony, right? How are you?

SHAR

I am well, thank you. A pleasure to see you again, Mr Sisko.

JAKE

It's Jake, please. And this is Rena, my wife.

SHAR

Thirishar ch'Thane. Welcome to Deep Space Nine, Mrs Sisko.

NOG

How long are you staying?

JAKE

Oh, we don't know yet. There's a lot of things I want to show her, a lot of people to catch up with.

RENA

It's all he's talked about for weeks.

JAKE

Why, are you in a rush?

NOG

Kind of, yeah. Shar and I were just finalising our plans for a little mission. We're supposed to leave this afternoon.

SHAR

In fact, if you'll pardon me, I must complete some tasks in Ops before we leave.

NOG

Thanks, Shar. We'll catch up later.

Shar is a little uncomfortable, feeling like the odd one out. But he's not unpleasant about it. He grabs his padd off the counter, nods his acknowledgements, then leaves.

RENA

Nice to meet you...

With Shar gone, Nog returns to his seat and beckons Jake and Rena to join him. He tucks into his food. Rena is still looking around, bemused at all the colourful aliens.

TREIR is working - Rena gazes in wonder at a bright green woman. Sat at the bar is MORN, guzzling his ale as usual. The barfly BELCHES loudly, and Rena JUMPS in shock...

RENA

Ah!

NOG

(amused)

You okay?

RENA

Just never seen so many different types of people in one place. It takes a little getting used to.

NOG

You've seen aliens before though, right?

RENA

Well, humans, of course. Although they're barely any different. The occasional Cardassian when I was younger, during the Occupation. Although they didn't bother with Mylea all that much, they pretty much left us to ourselves. And I've seen lots of different faces on the Bajoran news nets since we joined the Federation. But...

JAKE

But seeing them in the flesh is another matter.

RENA

Yeah... I thought Bajorans came in all the colours. But we don't have blue, or green, or orange, or purple, or... whatever you call that colour. It's... well, it's wonderful! So much life.

Jake smiles, clearly charmed. He gives Rena a kiss, which she receives bashfully. Nog smiles - they're cute together.

JAKE

So what's this mission?

NOG

Oh, nothing major. Just a quick trip through the wormhole to run a check on the subspace relay.

JAKE

Doesn't sound too bad. We might still be here when you get back.

RENA

Why don't we just come with you?

Nog and Jake are both pleasantly surprised by the idea...

JAKE

Would Kira let us?

NOG

Probably. I'd have to ask. But honestly, it's not all that interesting. We're going through the wormhole, do some tech stuff, and then straight back.

RENA

So let's make it interesting. Why don't we visit a few places while we're out there?

JAKE

Are you sure you want to do that?
The Gamma Quadrant seems like an
awfully big step for your first
time off-world.

RENA

If I'm going on an adventure, I
might as well go all the way.

NOG

(grin)

Oh, those are dangerous words.

RENA

With you two around, it's almost
guaranteed.

JAKE

Okay then. I guess it's decided.

Treir drifts over to them...

TREIR

How are you pretty young things
doing over here? Can I get you
anything?

NOG

No need, thanks, Treir. We've got
to start packing. We're going on a
road trip!

Ending on Nog's grinning, excited face...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. DS9 - KIRA'S OFFICE

On KIRA herself, looking somewhat confused...

KIRA
A road trip?

WIDEN to reveal... NOG stands hopefully in front of her.

NOG
Yes, sir. I'll make sure the
subspace relay is good and solid
first, but once that's done... it
might be good for morale.

KIRA
Nog... are you sure this is a good
time to be wandering around the
Gamma Quadrant? It's pretty
dangerous out there right now.

NOG
Why do you think I'm taking the
Rio Grande? The only runabout
that's always brought everyone
home safe.

KIRA
Well, okay, I guess. But you're in
command, alright? It's up to you
to take good care of everyone. And
the ship.

NOG
I promise. Trust me, nothing's
going to go wrong.

5 INT. DS9 - TENMEI'S QUARTERS

On TENMEI, excited as she wears a fluffy pink robe and
drying her hair with a towel, post-shower...

TENMEI

A road trip?

NOG

Yep. Chance to stretch your legs,
grab some fun and excitement.
Never know what you'll find.

TENMEI

Sounds like a great idea. Just let
me pack my party clothes and I'll
meet you there.

NOG

Great!

6 INT. DS9 - OPS CENTRE

On Shar, sat at the science console, while Nog leans over
it to talk to him. Shar reacts as if to foreign words...

SHAR

A road trip?

NOG

(hangs head)

Don't tell me I have to convince
you as well, now. Yes, a road
trip. We just get in the runabout
and see where it takes us.

SHAR

And this was Rena's idea?

NOG

Yes, and it's a good one. Fun,
Shar! You enjoyed the *Defiant's*
trip through the Gamma Quadrant,
didn't you? Just think of the new
discoveries waiting for you.

Shar allows a small smile. He knows Nog is just telling him
what he wants to hear, but it does sound good...

SHAR

Very well, Nog. A road trip.

NOG
Excellent! We'll be like the DS-
Nine Junior Heroes! Fifteen-
thirty-hours at the *Rio Grande*,
alright? Prynn's meeting us there.

Shar's smile drops...

SHAR
You invited Prynn?

NOG
Yeah. We'll need a professional
pilot. Why, is it a problem?

Shar's face reflects his uncertainty on that question...

7 **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Tenmei sits in the pilot's seat. Nog, Jake and Rena enter,
all carrying small bags. A few steps behind, Shar enters.

Tenmei turns to greet them all, but her smile freezes as
she and Shar make eye contact. He nods, uncomfortable...

NOG
Right, everyone throw your bags in
the back. There's a private bed
area for the happy couple, and the
rest of us... we'll figure
something out.

Jake and Rena bustle into the back, followed by Nog. Shar
hesitantly approaches Tenmei, not sure how to act...

SHAR
Prynn... you may take the second
bunk if you wish.

TENMEI
No, that's fine. Somebody's got to
drive.
(beat; genuinely)
But thank you.

Shar nods and turns away towards the back...

8 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

The runabout powers up and lifts off its pad, turns towards the wormhole, swoops around and dives into the opening.

9 **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Tenmei piloting, Nog beside her, Shar at a rear console. Jake and Rena stand behind the front seats, gazing out the window at the wormhole interior. Jake reaches out to hold Rena's hand - she turns to him, happy tears in her eyes...

10 **EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT**

The runabout holds position next to an unpowered subspace relay, as seen in 3x15 "Destiny" and 8x23 "Rising Son."

11 **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Shar and Nog work diligently at panels, displays showing schematics of the subspace relay and other technical stuff. Rena still gazes out of the window, enchanted...

RENA

The stars, they're all different.

Jake brings her a drink. She takes it with a smile, and he drapes an arm around her shoulder, joining her in looking out of the window. Tenmei sits with arms folded, bored...

TENMEI

I'm bored. When do we get the fun
I was so faithfully promised?

RENA

I would think you got plenty of
excitement, Prynn. Aren't you the
Defiant's pilot?

TENMEI

Which would be great if the *Defiant*
ever went anywhere.

(beat)

Okay, that's not fair. It's actually
a pretty sweet gig. I mean, the
Defiant's a legend.

TENMEI (cont)
Everything it did during the
war... how could I not want to be
a part of that?

NOG
(stops, turns)
You do realise it's not the same
ship, right?

TENMEI
Yeah, I know. But there are other
reasons to be there.

NOG
...although I never did understand
how it ended up with the exact
same registry number.

TENMEI
Ah, well, I asked my dad about
that. He says it's actually a
deliberate ploy to strike fear
into the hearts of our enemies.

NOG
(dubious)
Really? How so?

TENMEI
The first *Defiant* was destroyed at
Chin'toka, right? How much
propaganda play do you think the
Dominion got out of that?

Nog allows that it was probably a lot...

TENMEI (cont)
So what does Starfleet do? It
fields an identical ship with the
same name, same number, even the
same crew. And it carries on.

NOG
...which makes the *Defiant* look
more indestructible than ever.

TENMEI

Not only do Starfleet's officers
come back from the dead, so do its
ships. Plus it makes the Dominion
look pathetic for having claimed
to destroy it in the first place.
Pretty cool, if you think about it.

Under all this, Shar has been studiously working, keeping
out of the conversation. Now he calls out...

SHAR

Nog? Your assistance, please?

Nog goes back to paying attention to the job...

RENA

But somebody will know the truth.

TENMEI

(shrug)

Doesn't matter what the truth
actually is. Only matters what
enough people think the truth is.
That's another lesson I learned
from my dad, for good or ill.

(beat)

Anyway, my point was that there
are other reasons I like being at
DS-Nine than just the *Defiant*.

Her eyes flick over to Shar, whose back is turned again,
working. She covers quickly, continues...

TENMEI (cont)

Reconnecting with my dad has been
great, once I gave my shoulder a
thorough chipectomy.

Jake chuckles at the term - no-one else understands it.

TENMEI (cont)

But yeah, I still like to get out
there and burn plasma every now and
then. Like somebody promised me.

NOG
(sing-song)
The more you complain, the longer
it'll take me...

TENMEI
I know, I know. Just busting your
chops, Captain.

NOG
Well, as it happens...

Nog looks to Shar, who nods back to him. Nog taps one last control - and his various panels LIGHT UP with readings...

12 EXT. SPACE - SUBSPACE RELAY

The relay POWERS UP, manoeuvring into position...

13 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Shar and Nog are closely watching their panels, while the other three politely stay out of their way...

NOG
Power readings are steady...

SHAR
Beginning test signal.

One of Shar's panels changes to show a WAVE FORM, with the associated sound. They all wait a little nervously for the return signal...and it comes in with an affirmative BEEP.

NOG
Yes!

Nog and Shar high-five each other in satisfaction. Jake is amused at the gesture. Nog and Shar put away their tools...

JAKE
Congratulations, you two. I
remember when my dad set up the
first relay to the Gamma Quadrant
- it almost blew up the *Defiant*.

NOG

Thankfully we've ironed out a few details since then. We've done this three times now.

SHAR

It is becoming something of a tradition.

TENMEI

Well, good for you. Can we go now?

RENA

We still have to decide where we're going. You've all been out here more than me. Any ideas?

JAKE

How about Ee? It's an entire planet dedicated to shopping.

NOG

Nah, too far away.

(thinks a moment)

Oh, I've got it! Prynn, check the navigational charts - the Wadi homeworld has to be near here.

RENA

Wadi? Who are they?

JAKE

One of the first people to visit the station after we discovered the wormhole. Sorry - the Temple.

NOG

They're crazy about games and gambling. They must know how to show tourists a good time.

Tenmei spins back to her console, starts hitting buttons...

TENMEI

Sounds like a plan. Wadi home world, here we come!

14 **EXT. SPACE - RUNABOUT**

The runabout moves away from the subspace relay and, at a suitable distance, ramps up and jumps to WARP.

15 **EXT. SPACE - WADI HOMEWORLD**

A blue-green, lightly cloudy world as seen from the night side, the tell-tale lights of well-lit cities and networks of connections between them. Numerous ships and shuttles move in orbit - some freighters, some pleasure cruisers.

The *Rio Grande* hoves into view, joining the procession...

16 **EXT. WADI HOMEWORLD SURFACE - EARLY EVENING**

The runabout's hatch HISSES open. First out are Jake and Nog in nice smart outfits, chattering excitedly together...

JAKE

You've got a limit, okay? Don't go crazy with the gambling.

NOG

Stop heckling me. I'm not the one who married you.

Followed by Rena and Tenmei, wearing slinky party dresses and talking girl talk...

TENMEI

Ooh, cute purse!

RENA

Isn't it? My friend Halar works in a dress shop - she made it for me for my *ih'tanu* ceremony.

And last is Shar, wriggling uncomfortably in something like the traditional *chan* party outfit from 9x09 "Paradigm". He is vaguely ashamed to be wearing something so garish.

As the hatch closes and they walk off, we PULL BACK and see that the runabout is parked in a giant PARKING LOT filled with various other small shuttles and personal vehicles.

NOG

Everyone remember where we parked!

They walk on, and we TILT UP to see just what this is the parking lot of - a massive ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX, like a fun fair, Vegas casino and multiplex cinema all combined.

Strobes and lasers flash, transport tubes rush vacationers back and forth, big neon signs advertise things in various languages, and the sound of happy partiers reaches us...

DISSOLVE INTO:

17 EXT. WADI HOMEWORLD SURFACE - LATE NIGHT

...the same shot, but now much later at night. Quieter, fewer shuttles parked, the transport tubes fewer between.

TILT DOWN - the gang walks back through the parked shuttles towards us. They're all slightly tipsy but very happy...

JAKE

Nog, you were amazing! You cleaned that place out!

NOG

I've got enough pegs here to make us all rich!

He jangles the money-filled pockets in the thighs of his trousers for emphasis. Following are Tenmei and Rena...

RENA

Oh, I'm looking forward to getting these heels off.

TENMEI

I gotta apologise - I really did not see this coming...

She turns to look behind her - and there is Shar, well and truly trashed. He's draped with streamers and leis, wearing huge oversized sunglasses, and holding an enormous tropical drink with fruit and sparklers and more streamers.

His antennae have balls of tinsel stuck onto each end, so they look like flesh-and-blood beeny-boppers. He dances and sings along to non-existent music, drink sloshing unnoticed all over the place. But he's having a whale of a time...

SHAR

(in between
dance moves)

Why are we leaving? The party's
only just started!

Nog pauses to wait for him. He's happy that Shar's having fun, but feels responsible for taking care of him...

NOG

Come on, Shar. Let's get you back
to the runabout and get you a nice
cup of coffee.

The group walks a few more steps together -- and then they stop, all looking the same direction, all shocked. Except for Shar, who is still in his own world.

JAKE

Ummm...

We PULL BACK, and now we see what they are staring at. An empty space in the parking lot.

TENMEI

Where's the runabout?

As they all stare at the empty space...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

18 EXT. WADI HOMEWORLD SURFACE - LATE NIGHT

Nog freaking out, pacing back and forth, head in hands...

NOG

Oh no, oh no, oh no, oh no...

JAKE

Nog, calm down...

NOG

Calm down?! Kira's gonna kill me!

JAKE

We'll figure it out...

NOG (cont)

You're in charge, she said. Look
after the ship, she said.

JAKE

Are we sure this is even the right
parking space?

TENMEI

(sad nod)

Yeah. *Flim* twenty-seven *pag*.

NOG (cont)

All our clothes are in there, our
uniforms, our phasers, vital
tactical information...

(sudden thought)

My favourite tooth sharpener!

RENA

How could someone have taken the
ship? Aren't there any security...
things?

TENMEI

Dozens of them.

JAKE

But apparently somebody can get
around them.

TENMEI

Shar, can you sense anything?

Shar stops and bobs on the spot for a moment, listening...

RENA

(*sotto*)

What's he doing?

TENMEI

Andorians can sense electrical
fields. Their antennae.

Shar shakes his head, unconcerned...

SHAR

Nope. Not a thing.

With an amused sigh, Tenmei reaches up, removes the balls
of tinsel from Shar's antennae...

TENMEI

There. Better?

SHAR

Nope. Music's too loud.

JAKE

(suddenly realises)

We've still got our combadges.

Jake pulls out his combadge and taps it - it makes a dull
squittering noise. Tenmei does the same, then Rena. No luck
on either. Nog is still freaking, pacing back and forth...

NOG

No no no no no no...

SHAR

Wait a minute!

They all turn to Shar in hope that he has the solution...

SHAR (cont)
Where's the runabout?

Slightly annoyed blank stares.

CUT TO:

19 **INT. WADI POLICE STATION**

On the Wadi Chief of Police, MUNAD...

MUNAD
A road trip?

Nog face palms. Deep breath. Stay calm.

NOG
Yes, a road trip. We're from the
Alpha Quadrant, the Federation. We
came here just to have some fun at
the casino for the night. When we
came out, our ship was missing.

Nog sits across the desk from Munad. The trim, middle-aged,
uniformed Wadi male is rather harassed, trying to be nice
to these strangers, but really doesn't have time for this.

Jake, Rena and Tenmei sit elsewhere, all feeling very out
of place in their party clothes. Also embarrassed...

...that Shar is still dancing away to non-existent music.

MUNAD
Your ship...
(checks notes)
A "runabout," you called it?

NOG
Yes. That's the type of ship. Its
name is the *Rio Grande*.

MUNAD
I see. And... what exactly do you
think I can help you with?

NOG

You're the Chief of Police, aren't you? I assumed you would help us find our ship!

MUNAD

Mister Nog, I am the Chief of Police - of the largest and most popular gaming complex on Wadek. I get about a million people from all over the quadrant -

(re Nog)

- and beyond, coming through my town every hour. Not all of them are reputable. Do you have any idea how many ships get stolen every day around here?

JAKE

You're just going to do nothing?

MUNAD

(indignant)

My officers and I work every hour of the day and night to ensure that this complex's customers even wake up in the morning. There are some very unsavoury characters lurking in this town. In fact, we just got a rumour that one of the most notorious criminal gangs in the sector is on their way here. So forgive me, but a little petty theft is never going to be my highest priority. I'm sorry.

NOG

So what are we supposed to do?

MUNAD

I'll take your report, and I'll do everything I can. But I can't promise much success. My advice would be to try and find somewhere to sleep for the night.

20 **EXT. WADI STREETS - LATE NIGHT**

Jake walks hand-in-hand with Rena, worried for her. The lights and sounds of the casino are far away. Hard metal shutters and graffiti imply not the nicest part of town.

JAKE

I'm so sorry about this, Rena...

RENA

Hey, I knew what I was getting into. Not your fault.

JAKE

Are you okay, though?

RENA

Well, I am currently stuck on the other side of the galaxy with no way to get home, and no belongings except for a skimpy party dress and a cute purse. But on the plus side, I don't think I could have any better companions in that situation than three Starfleet officers and the son of the Emissary.

Jake looks to Nog, who leads the group with paper in hand, following directions. Tenmei keeps an eye out for ne'er-do-wells. Shar is still in his own world, but starting to sag.

JAKE

We're all gonna die.

NOG

Guys - I think this is it.

The gang stops with Nog, and together, they all look up at the building before them...

21 **EXT. HOTEL - LATE NIGHT**

Like an alien Bates Motel, or the house from *Rocky Horror* - large and imposing and gothic, but shabby and rundown. One can almost imagine the bats swooping between the gargoyles.

A nervous FINGER reaches in, presses a DOORBELL. A warbly, ominous CHIME sounds. Nothing happens for a while.

Then finally, slowly, the door CREAKS open on protesting hinges and a puff of dust. A face emerges in the gap...

...and BELCHES right in their faces. Far from being ominous or creepy, LEBIKOW is fat, greasy, tattooed and unwashed. Wadi trailer trash in a stained vest and sweatpants...

LEBIKOW

What is this, some kind of circus troupe? Y'expect me to pay you to sing, or summin'?

Five nervous, hopeful faces look back hiding a grimace...

NOG

Umm... no... sir. I'm sorry, are you Farns Lebikow?

LEBIKOW

Who wants to know?

NOG

Umm... my name is Nog, sir. My friends and I need a room for the night, and Inspector Munad at the casino gave us your information. He said you might be able to help us.

LEBIKOW

(suspicious)

Munad, eh?

NOG

Yes, sir. Do you have a room?

LEBIKOW

Yeah, I got a room. You got money?

Awkward pause. Jake turns and looks at Nog, expectantly...

NOG

(reluctant)

I have money.

Lebikow thinks it over. Snorts his nose. Is gross.

LEBIKOW

Awright. S'pose I could use the
pegs. But it's cash up front. And
I don't want any messin' about,
awright?

NOG

Absolutely, sir. You'll barely
know we're here.

Lebikow turns around (revealing his stained sweatpants
hiked up into his crack) and plods back into the hotel.

Making the best of a bad situation, Nog leads the uncertain
gang into the hotel. The door creaks shut behind them.

22 INT. HOTEL - FOYER

Nog looks around - this was probably once a nice building.
A grand elaborate STAIRCASE, magnificent CHANDELIERS. But
it has all fallen into disrepair, scuffed and dusty. Half
the lights are broken, leaving the place shadowy and dim.

Rena grips tight onto Jake's hand. He smiles back, trying
to be encouraging. Tenmei plasters on a big false smile to
cover her discomfort. Shar is barely aware of where he is.

Lebikow schlubs across the foyer, scratching his ass...

23 INT. HOTEL - OFFICE

...and into his office. It's just as messy as you'd expect,
piles of PAPERS and half-eaten FOOD. A decrepit COMM SCREEN
on the filthy desk, a big stein of BEER next to it. Lebikow
collapses into a creaky old chair with another BELCH.

Then there is a low and dangerous GROWL. Worried, the gang
looks into a corner of the room...

...and sees an ANIMAL, a gigantic alien dog, dark and
slavering. It SNARLS at the strangers, curled up on its
pile of filthy rags in the corner.

Tenmei stretches the big false smile...

TENMEI

Well... aren't you cute?

RENA

I'd keep your distance if I were you, Prynn.

TENMEI

Oh, I'm sure he's a loveable, harmless furball... right?

She looks at Lebikow, hopeful. He snorts in derision...

LEBIKOW

What did you call him? A "flurble"?

TENMEI

Furball.

LEBIKOW

You call him a flurble all you want, darlin'. But you get on the wrong side of 'im, and he'll flamp yer good an' proper.

JAKE

We'll keep that in mind, sir. Wouldn't want to get... flamped.

LEBIKOW

So... show me the pegs.

Nog reaches into his pockets and reluctantly hauls out a handful of WOODEN PEGS. He places them on the filthy desk.

Lebikow looks down at the pegs, then back up at Nog. Waits. Sighing, Nog pulls out more pegs, drops them on the table.

Lebikow gets up, takes a deep belly-full breath, and HAWKS up a great wad of phlegm. He yanks up his dirty vest to SPIT it into, then just lets it lie, staining the fabric.

LEBIKOW

That's better. Follow me.

Our heroes are simply stunned.

24 INT. HOTEL - FOYER

Lebikow STOMPS up the stairs, stained trousers at eye-level for lucky Jake and Rena right behind. Nog follows, peering at the broken fittings and decayed woodwork. Tenmei gently guides Shar along, as the Andorian is distinctly unsteady.

25 INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR

A long and creepy corridor, with many DOORS to rooms on either side, but no signs of other residents. Lebikow leads the gang past the doors, Shar wobbling along at the back.

26 INT. HOTEL - BEDROOM

Lebikow THROWS the door open. The gang file in one by one, taking in the sight of the room less than enthusiastically. It's just as run down as the rest of the hotel, with ratty and unhygienic twin BEDS, and a single moth-eaten ARMCHAIR.

TENMEI

There's only two beds. There's
five of us.

LEBIKOW

This is the best room I got. For
that many pegs.

Tenmei turns and looks pointedly at Nog...

NOG

This'll do fine.

Lebikow gestures dismissively at an auxiliary door...

LEBIKOW

Bathroom's in there.

...and leaves, SLAMming the door behind him. Tenmei and Jake turn to look at Nog. He stands his ground...

NOG

During the war, I spent a week on
a Jem'Hadar fighter that didn't
even have beds. By comparison this
is luxury.

TENMEI

(sigh)

Fine. I guess we'll try and get some rest. And in the morning, assuming we haven't all been eaten alive by bedbugs, we start trying to figure out what happened to the runabout.

JAKE

Who's going to sleep where? I don't really like the look of that carpet.

RENA

We can squeeze into one bed.

(bashful smirk)

We've done it before.

JAKE

If I must. Just try to control yourself.

Rena jokingly slaps Jake on the arm.

TENMEI

Okay. So that leaves the three of us to figure out who gets the other bed. Shar, do you --

Tenmei turns... and finds that Shar has already passed out, totally unconscious in the armchair, his giant sunglasses skewed on his head, dribbling out the corner of his mouth.

TENMEI

Lovely.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

27 INT. HOTEL - BEDROOM

NOG - curled up, eyes closed and semi-conscious. Still in his party outfit, he rolls over in bed and instinctively cuddles up closer to Tenmei, still in her own party dress.

TENMEI - mumbling in her sleep, cuddles up to Nog too. They nuzzle closer together, enjoying each other's body warmth. Until they slowly open their eyes... and see each other.

NOG / TENMEI

Aah!

They LEAP apart from each other. Nog leaps back so far that he tumbles off his side of the bed with a CRASH. Jake, who had been spooned up with Rena, JERKS awake at the noise...

JAKE

Wha...? What happened?

Nog's head appears from behind the bed...

NOG / TENMEI

(awkward)

Nothing.

Tenmei struggles to consciousness. She sits up in the bed, looks around the room. It looks just as bad in the dreary daylight as it did in darkness. But the armchair is empty.

TENMEI

Where's Shar?

An almighty RETCH from behind the bathroom door, followed by a SPLAT and a HISS - the sounds of something we really don't want to know about. Again, worse than before... Tenmei's face contorts in mixed sympathy and revulsion.

The bathroom door opens, and SHAR crawls out on all fours. Wisps of noxious green GAS leak out from the bathroom. The sunglasses dangling off one antenna, strewn with streamers, Shar makes it one lurch at a time, back to his armchair.

JAKE

Okay, so first thing we gotta do
is find some food.

RENA

And some new clothes.

TENMEI

Nog, how much money do you have
left?

NOG

Oh come on! I won that money fair
and square.

SHAR

(background,
half-hearted)

Please stop shouting...

TENMEI

(stern)

Nog...

NOG

(pout)

Fine. Wouldn't dream of trying to
make a profit out of our misery.

He digs in his pocket, hands a fistful of pegs to Prynn...

TENMEI

You're too kind. Rena, you wanna
come with me? Let the boys gripe
in private?

RENA

Okay, I guess. Just let me freshen
up a bit first.

Rena heads to the bathroom, opens the door...

RENA

OH!

...and COUGHS and CHOKES as clouds of the bilious green GAS billow out of the bathroom. She immediately pulls back and yanks the door closed, heaving, horrified at the smell...

RENA (cont)
What happened in there?

Shar is curled up in a ball in his armchair, his blue skin looking distinctly grey. He pulls a thin and ratty blanket up over his shivering body and croaks out a response...

SHAR
Apparently Wadi food and drink
does not agree with Andorian
physiology.

Tenmei is half amused, half sympathetic. She goes to Shar, lays an affectionate hand on his clammy head...

TENMEI
Well, your world turned my body
inside out. I guess now the Wadi
have returned the favour on my
behalf.
(back to Rena)
Come on. We'll find somewhere
else. See you in a few, boys.

The girls leave.

28 INT. HOTEL - FOYER

Tenmei and Rena creep down the staircase, avoiding patches of rotten wood. The steps CREAK a little as they go. As they reach the bottom, they overhear a VOICE talking...

LEBIKOW (o.s.)
That's not what we agreed, and yer
know it.

Curious, Tenmei shushes Rena, and they creep closer to the door to Lebirow's office. They pause at the edge of the doorway, listening in.

Tenmei pokes her head around the doorway just a bit...

29 **INT. HOTEL - OFFICE (INTERCUT)**

Inside the office, LEBIKOW is sitting at his desk, talking into the grimy old comm screen. His flabby, sweaty back is turned to us, blocking the view of who he's talking to...

LEBIKOW

I need the money, awright? So if y'aint gonna pay me what we agreed, I s'pose I'll just go to somebody else.

COMM VOICE

(female, w/ static)

Calm down, Lebigow. We're on our way. I'm simply pointing out that we're working off your say-so here. How do we know the merchandise is what you say it is?

LEBIKOW

Yer callin' me untrustworthy?

COMM VOICE

If you weren't, we wouldn't be having this conversation.

30 **INT. HOTEL - FOYER (INTERCUT)**

Tenmei and Rena are becoming more concerned by the word...

LEBIKOW (o.s.)

Look, just get here, awright? I've gotta get rid of these damn kids as it is. I don't need you lot messin' me about on top of it, awright?

They exchange alarmed looks - he's talking about them. And then there's a GROWL. Scared, the girls turn and see...

...the FLURBLE, looming out of the darkness under the stairs, eyes burning and jaws drooling like some classic horror movie monster. Tenmei and Rena squeak in fear...

LEBIKOW

Who's there?

Lebikow appears in the doorway, anxious he might have been overheard. He sees the girls cowering from the creature...

TENMEI

Sorry, just us. We were heading out to get some food. Looks like we disturbed your friend here.

Lebikow's chuckle is both relieved and yet sinister...

LEBIKOW

I told yer not to upset him.

TENMEI

Or we'll get flamped, yes, we know. We'll just be on our way.

Tenmei and Rena skitter to the front door, avoiding the snarling flurble, and get out of there quick as they can.

Lebikow watches them go, scowling...

31 INT. HOTEL - BEDROOM

Shar huddles in the armchair, blanket pulled right over his head. Nog moves around the room, tidying the beds, opening the curtains, chatting away cheerily...

NOG

I was trying to impress the older cadets, convince them I could do anything they could. So I agreed to go drinking with them at the 602 Club. Boy, was that a mistake.

SHAR

(under blanket)

Nog...?

NOG

Yes?

SHAR

I appreciate you trying to take my mind off things, but please... shut up.

Tenmei and Rena ENTER, carrying armfuls of shopping. Jake emerges from the bathroom, having freshened up a little...

RENA

Prophets, how could you stand it in there?

JAKE

Nog went in first to open the window.

NOG

When you work for my uncle, you get used to bad smells.

TENMEI

I think we have a problem. Here, put these on...

As they talk, the four change their clothes into bland and shapeless SWEATSUITS like Lebikow wears, moving back and forth to the bathroom as needed. Rena also sets up packages of Wadi FAST FOOD and drink on the table, to Nog's delight.

NOG

Ooh, snacks!

TENMEI

On the way out, we overheard Lebikow talking to someone. He was trying to sell them something over the comm. Something that sounded like it was worth a lot of money.

RENA

We think it's the runabout.

JAKE

That seems a bit far-fetched. There must be all kinds of shady deals going on in a town like this. But we just happen to end up in the hotel of the guy who stole our ship? I don't know. You only need to look at him to see he's hardly a criminal mastermind.

NOG

(around food)

Don't be so sure. Never mistake a soft shell for a soft centre. Rule of Acquisition two-oh-seven.

TENMEI

Exactly. Besides, he said he was going to "get rid" of us.

That certainly gets attention. Even Nog stops chewing...

NOG

"Get rid"? As in... kill?

TENMEI

Well it sure didn't sound like he was sending us off with a basket of puppies.

JAKE

(realising)

We're in his way. This deal, whatever it is... it's going down soon, and we're a complication he doesn't need.

Tenmei and Rena nod anxiously. They agree.

NOG

So if he's selling the runabout, he must be keeping it somewhere nearby. Maybe even right here at the hotel.

Tenmei turns to Shar, still buried under his blanket...

TENMEI

Shar, can you feel anything? Any power signatures, subspace signals?

SHAR

Prynn, please... I can barely feel my face.

They sag, disappointed. By now, the four of them have got dressed in their grey sweatsuits...

RENA
So what do we do?

TENMEI
We need help. I think we need to
go back to the police.

NOG
Okay... Good idea. Let's go.

SHAR
(under blanket)
I'll just stay here and die.

Nog shoves in a last mouthful of food, and the four exit
the room, leaving Shar behind...

32 INT. WADI POLICE STATION

Inspector Munad sits at his desk again. Tenmei, Jake, Rena
and Nog are across from him, in their grey sweatsuits...

MUNAD
(unimpressed)
That's your evidence? That you
overheard a conversation?

TENMEI
He's clearly up to something
illegal, Inspector.

MUNAD
And you just assume it's to do
with your missing ship.

JAKE
Don't you think it's too much of a
coincidence that he was trying to
sell something big and expensive
just as our runabout gets stolen?

MUNAD
I've already told you, things get
stolen here all the time. I also
told you I don't have time for this.

NOG

You don't have time to do your
job? Inspector --

MUNAD

Listen to me. Farns Lebigow is
nothing. He's a greasy lowlife who
lucked into that hotel on a bet,
and he's spent every day since
then running it into the ground.
He's not worth my time or yours,
and he's certainly not involved in
any conspiracy to steal ships from
gullible foreigners. So please
stay out of what doesn't concern
you. Now if you'll kindly get out
of my office, I have work to do.

He puts his head down and gets back to work, ignoring them.
Off the gang's astonished faces...

33 INT. HOTEL - BEDROOM

Shar remains in his armchair, alone, covered by the ratty
blanket. He GROANS, suffering the galaxy's worst hangover.

Then his ANTENNAE perk up, moving about under the blanket.
Turn one way then the other, as if searching for something.

Concerned, he slowly drags the blanket from his head. And
instantly recoils from the not-even-that-bright daylight.

SHAR

Ohhhh... by Uzaveh...

But he's definitely sensed something. He slowly manoeuvres
himself upright, trying to clarify. Then his EYES WIDEN...

34 INT. HOTEL - FOYER

Tenmei, Rena, Jake and Nog re-enter the hotel, frustrated.

TENMEI

Alright, so that plan's a bust.

Nog stops, listens...

NOG
You guys hear that?

RENA
I don't hear anything.

NOG
Exactly. Nobody's here. Lebikow
must be out. I can't even hear
that stupid flurble monster thing.

JAKE
This is our chance.

RENA
Chance to what?

JAKE
Snoop.

He starts creeping towards the office...

35 INT. HOTEL - OFFICE

Jake creeps into the office, which is deserted. There's a
half-drunk BEER and a half-eaten alien BURGER equivalent on
the desk. The flurble's pile of filthy RAGS is empty.

JAKE
Come on, guys. There must be some-
thing here that'll give us a clue.

He begins hunting through the loose papers...

RENA
I don't like this, Jake. It feels
wrong.

TENMEI
Not as wrong as being killed.
(re paper)
Hey - here's something. This looks
like financial records...

NOG
Gimme that.

He takes the pages off Tenmei, begins to inspect them...

JAKE

You can't possibly know how to
read Wadi.

NOG

Financial records are basically
the same the galaxy over. All I
need is the grand total... here!
This shows his account over the
last year. He's in huge debt...
(checks; realises)
...to the casino.

TENMEI

He's a gambler.

NOG

Yup. And not a very good one,
apparently.

JAKE

That explains why he needs the
money so bad.

RENA

Bad enough to kill for it?

And then the GROWL comes again. They tense, turn...

...and there's the FLURBLE, filling the doorway, hackles
raised and teeth bared.

TENMEI

Ruh-oh.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

36 INT. HOTEL - OFFICE

The FLURBLE prowls into the room, closing in. Jake drops the papers, the gang back away, hit the desk behind them...

RENA
What do we do?

JAKE
I've got it. Get ready to run.

Jake reaches slowly to the desk, careful not to startle it. GRABS the half-eaten burger, LOBS it across the room to the pile of rags. The flurble is torn - burger or strangers?

At last its flaring nostrils win, and it RUSHES to its bed to eat the burger. Our gang get the frinx out of there...

37 INT. HOTEL - BEDROOM

Jake, Nog, Tenmei and Rena rush into the room and slam the door behind them. Tenmei checks the armchair - it's empty.

TENMEI
(worried)
Shar?

Shar emerges from the bathroom, wearing his grey sweatsuit. He's looking a little better, but still pretty rough...

NOG
Hey, you're up!

SHAR
Yes, I am. But I still have a warp core breach going on inside my skull, so please try not to shout. Or eat anything.

TENMEI
Okay, so we know Lebirow's in debt. That gives him motive.

JAKE

But we still don't know for sure
he even stole the ship.

SHAR

Actually, yes we do. While you
were out, my antennae finally
cleared up enough for me to start
sensing energy fields again.

NOG

And you sensed something?

SHAR

A very large something. Down in the
basement. It's a little muddy, but
it certainly feels big enough to be
the runabout.

JAKE

I don't doubt your senses, Shar.
But I still think it's a pretty
big coincidence that we end up
staying at this exact hotel.

RENA

Maybe it's not a coincidence.

TENMEI

Yes!

(clarifies)

No!

(confused)

What?

RENA

Munad sent us to this hotel, right?
He gave Nog the directions. And he
flat out refused to help us find
the ship, or to listen to what we
overheard about Lebikow.

JAKE

Are you saying the Inspector's in
on it?

NOG

It makes sense. Somebody had to get through the security on the runabout. A policeman would know how to do that.

TENMEI

And then when we started asking questions, he sent us here and told Lebikow to "get rid" of us.

JAKE

Oh, hell. Munad's the brains, Lebikow's the hatchet man.

TENMEI

Uh-huh. So what do we do?

Jake stops to think it all through in his mind...

JAKE

Okay - here's the plan.

CUT TO:

38 INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR

Shar, Tenmei and Nog CREEP down the corridor...

JAKE (v.o.)

Shar, we need to pinpoint exactly where this sensation that you're sensing is. And we need to do it now, before Lebikow comes home.

Shar pauses, senses, then beckons Tenmei and Nog on...

39 INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR

Jake and Rena CREEP down a different corridor...

RENA (v.o.)

But that animal's still out there. The flurble, or whatever...

NOG (v.o.)
Right. He's probably guarding the
runabout while his daddy's out of
the house.

JAKE (v.o.)
So some of us need to distract it,
while the others find the ship.

TENMEI (v.o.)
I'll take that job.

40 INT. HOTEL - FOYER

Tenmei, Shar and Nog creep down the stairs...

SHAR (v.o.)
Prynn, are you sure? You could get
hurt.

TENMEI (v.o.)
I faced down a crazy Jem'Hadar and
I'm still standing. I'll be fine.

They reach the bottom of the stairs...

NOG (v.o.)
So how do we distract it?

41 INT. HOTEL - BEDROOM

Jake smiles victoriously...

JAKE
The same way I did.

Jake goes to the table, grabs the last remaining burger
there, brandishes it victoriously. Shar flinches away...

JAKE
Shar couldn't eat his burger. He's
still too hung over. But the
flurble? He loves them.

NOG
Aww. I was gonna eat that.

42 INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR

Nog holds the burger in front of him, wafting it around...

NOG
Heeeeere, flurble flurble! Come
get the tasty... stuff!

Tenmei and Shar hover back, keeping watch...

SHAR
Prynn... my behaviour last night.

TENMEI
You sure weren't the usual shy and
sheepish Shar.

SHAR
No, and there is a reason for it.

TENMEI
We don't need to talk about that,
Shar. Certainly not right now.

SHAR
No, I want to. I came back to the
station... for you, Prynn. You
rejected me. But my feelings
didn't go away...

TENMEI
Shar, please... not now.

SHAR
And then on the *Defiant* - you risked
your life to save mine. That proved
to me that you had feelings for me
too. But as much as I wanted to be
with you, it felt like betraying --

Before he can finish, there is a GROWL. All three of them
stop, worried. The flurble is somewhere nearby.

Nog TOSSES the burger - it lands just at the edge of the
weak lighting. The GROWL comes again, and the flurble
STALKS out of the darkness, SNIFFS at the burger....

NOG
Go on... eat it, you mangy --

The flurble's head SNAPS up, its EYES pinpoint Nog...

CLOSE-UP

NOG
Eep.

The flurble GROWLS louder... and then it BURSTS forwards, ignoring the burger. Tenmei grabs Nog and Shar's arms...

TENMEI
Let's skedaddle!

...and they set off RUNNING back down the corridor...
...the SNARLING flurble hot on their heels.

43 INT. HOTEL - FOYER

Nog, Shar and Tenmei DASH back in, SPRINT up the stairs...

The flurble comes pounding after them, taking two or three steps at a time, BARKing furiously...

Jake and Rena poke their heads round the doorway of the office, seeing the flurble chasing their friends...

JAKE
Go!

Jake and Rena BOLT out from cover...

44 INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR

Nog, Tenmei and Shar pelt down the corridor...

ALL
Aaaaaaaaahhhhh!

The flurble comes galloping after them...

FLURBLE
Rraaaaarrrrr!

45 INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR

A set of steps heading down, much simpler than the grand staircase. Jake and Rena head down into the darkness...

46 INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR

Nog has stretched ahead of the others, emitting the ear-piercing Ferengi SQUEAL as he runs...

 NOG
 Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

Shar is lagging, out of breath, grey as his sweatsuit...

 TENMEI
 Shar, come on!

 SHAR
 I can't... I don't...

The flurble rounds a corner and comes after them again, GROWLing and BARKing, saliva flying from its toothy jaws...

47 INT. HOTEL - FOYER

Nog, Tenmei and Shar rush down the stairs, the flurble in hot pursuit. At the bottom they swerve left...

48 INT. HOTEL - BASEMENT

Dark stone passages, none of the fancy woodwork or lighting of upstairs. Jake and Rena rush down the passage...

 JAKE
 Just like when we were stealing
 from the Drang...

 RENA
 The what?

49 INT. HOTEL - FOYER

Nog, Tenmei and Shar circle back on themselves, head back up the stairs again. Nog SQUEALing, Shar GROANing. The flurble comes galloping after, barking and slavering...

50 **INT. HOTEL - BASEMENT**

Jake and Rena stop at a pair of large doors, tied together with a heavy iron chain and a large padlock...

 RENA
Is this it?

 JAKE
I don't know. I think so. Why else
have such a big lock?

 RENA
How do we get in?

Jake takes a deep breath, and KICKS hard at the doors, to break the chain by sheer force. KICK. And KICK. And KICK.

51 **INT. HOTEL - CORRIDOR**

Nog, Tenmei and Shar turn another corner, keep running...

The flurble turns the corner too and keeps chasing...

But as they run, they realise something with horror...

 NOG
Uh-oh.

 TENMEI
Dead end.

They run, the end of the corridor approaching. Finally, that's it. No further to go. They stop, and look back...

The flurble is at the other end of the corridor, waiting, enjoying. It knows they're trapped.

Shar - breathing hard, holding his head and stomach. Tenmei - standing her ground. Nog - terrified of the rabid animal.

 NOG
Can we fight it?

 SHAR
Nog... I don't feel...

NOG
We're completely frinxed.

TENMEI
We're not just frinxed.
(beat)
We're flamped.

The flurble launches off, charges straight for them...

SHAR

begins to retch, his stomach revolting...

FLURBLE

pounds down the corridor towards them...

TENMEI AND NOG

tense, scared but preparing to fight...

FLURBLE

is nearly on top of them...

SHAR

unable to control his stomach any more... and he LURCHES
forwards and VOMITS hard.

Streams of foul green material pour out of him, land with a
SPLAT and HISS on the floor. Noxious green gas billows off
the piles of vomit...

...and the running flurble SCREECHES to a halt, barely
inches away from the pile, its rear legs catching up to its
front legs. It instantly turns and PELTS down the corridor
the other way, MEWLing and SQUEAKing pathetically...

FLURBLE
Meep! Meep! Meep!

The flurble runs and runs until it disappears back around
the corner, its horrified SQUEAL audible as it retreats.

Tenmei and Nog are thrilled to have been saved...

NOG

Shar! You saved us! With vomit!

Yay! Until the smell hits them too. Oh, that's bad.

52 INT. HOTEL - BASEMENT

Jake KICKS and KICKS at the door...

...until the chain finally SNAPS, the doors swing open...

...and inside, there it is - the RUNABOUT. Powered up and lights twinkling. A gorgeous technological marvel. The most beautiful sight in the galaxy right now.

JAKE

Yes!

RENA

Oh, thank the Prophets.

BONK

Jake and Rena both stop, stunned, and collapse forwards to the ground. Revealing behind them...

...Lebikow, holding a metal pipe in each hand, having just knocked them both on the heads.

As he glowers down at their unconscious bodies...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

53 INT. HOTEL - BASEMENT

Jake and Rena sit on the ground, back to back, wrists tied, struggling against the ropes. The runabout stands nearby in the dark. Lebirow LOOMS over them, oddly nervous...

LEBIKOW

You damn meddlin' kids had to mess
me about, di'nt yer? All I was
trynna do was make a bit o' money...

JAKE

By stealing our ship?

LEBIKOW

What yer on about?

RENA

This is our ship, you idiot!

LEBIKOW

It just looked like a good'n.

JAKE

So you didn't even know whose ship
you'd stolen? And you were going
to kill us anyway?

LEBIKOW

What? No! I ain't gonna kill no-
one! I just wanted to sell t'ship,
awright? And I would'a got away
wi' it, too, if you damn kids
hadn't kept messin' me about.

RENA

I heard you say you were going to
"get rid of us."

LEBIKOW

Yeah, by kicking you out o' hotel!
I don't kill people!

JAKE

Oh. Well. Okay then.

LEBIKOW

But I can't letcha go either. At least not until me fence gets here. If I don't sell this ship, I'll lose th'hotel. And then me baby won't have a home.

RENA

Your baby?

LEBIKOW

Aye. The flurble, or wh'ever you call 'im. He's my baby.

Lebikow sniffles with sentiment over his pet. Rena and Jake would almost be touched... if they weren't tied up.

CRASH

The large double doors at the far end of the basement BURST open and half a dozen Wadi POLICE rush in, weapons drawn. Leading the way is none other than Munad himself.

Lebikow SQUEAKS in shock and drops the metal pipes with a CLANG, hands flying up. Munad strolls smugly up to him...

MUNAD

Farns Lebikow. By the authority of the Wadi Inspectorate, I, Sherbic Munad, hereby place you under arrest, on charges of theft, handling of stolen goods, and colluding with known criminal elements. You have the right to argue in your own defence, and if you choose not to do so, it may be taken as an admission of guilt.

(to officers)

Untie them.

The officers move to untie Jake and Rena...

CRASH

The first set of doors BURST open again - Nog, Tenmei and Shar rush in. Jake and Rena are untied and standing now...

NOG

Get away from them, "Inspector."
We know you were in on this whole
plot from the start.

LEBIKOW

What? No he weren't.

TENMEI

He wasn't?

LEBIKOW

Course not. He's the Inspector,
in't he? You kids have some
strange ideas.

RENA

But if you're not part of the
plan, then why did you send us to
this hotel?

MUNAD

As my spies.

54 EXT. WADI HOMEWORLD SURFACE - LATE NIGHT

The casino complex car park. LEBIKOW creeps between the shuttles, hiding in their shadows, trying to decide...

As he gets to *Rio Grande*, he likes what he sees. Pulls out a device, furtively holds it up to the hatch. BLEEPs and flashing LIGHTS, and the hatch disengages. Over the above:

MUNAD (v.o.)

I knew Lebigow was in debt to the
casino. I am the Chief of Police
there. I also knew he had friends
in the criminal underground.
Eventually, the two were bound to
connect. And then I got my chance.

55 **INT. WADI POLICE STATION (REPLAY OF sc 19)**

Our gang's first meeting with Munad. The scene plays MOS:

MUNAD (v.o.)

I know who you are. I've heard all about Starfleet. I needed a plant inside the hotel, and I knew the best way to get you to investigate for me was to tell you exactly not to do it. And it worked.

56 **INT. HOTEL - FOYER (REPLAY OF sc 28)**

Tenmei and Rena overhear Lebikow on the comm...

MUNAD (v.o.)

You told me Lebikow had been chasing up his contacts, eager to sell the ship. That meant the rendezvous was soon. And he would lead us right to them.

57 **INT. HOTEL - BASEMENT**

Where Munad is explaining the whole plot. Jake realises...

JAKE

Lebikow's not the one you want. He's just a middle man. It's the gang you're really after.

MUNAD

Correct. And now we've got them. Their ship entered orbit half an hour ago. Take him away, boys.

RENA

Hold on. There's something I want to say to him first.

LEBIKOW

What's that, darlin'?

Rena stands, looks him in the face... then KICKS him square in the groin. He crumples over, gasping and groaning...

RENA

I hope I made myself clear.

Jake beams at her, completely in love. The Wadi police drag the groaning Lebikow away in handcuffs...

MUNAD

I suppose I should thank you for your help. Your tenacity was very useful in my investigation.

TENMEI

Whatever. The important thing is we've got the ship back.

They move towards the ship... but Munad blocks their way.

MUNAD

Not so fast. This ship is a key piece of evidence in a criminal case. I can't let you just fly it out of here.

RENA

What is the matter with you?! It's our ship!

MUNAD

(amused)

You need anger management classes, young lady.

RENA

I don't need any classes. You do. You need shut-the-hell-up classes.

NOG

Hold on, you guys. I think I know what's going on here. He wants us to negotiate.

MUNAD

I said you were smart kids...

They all turn to look at Nog. He grits his teeth...

Shar and Tenmei check the systems. There's an awkward tension between them. Tenmei isn't sure what to say...

TENMEI

Shar... if you want to talk about things... now that the crisis is over... I'd be okay with that.

SHAR

(halting)

Very well. What you said the other day, at the subspace relay... Do you really believe people can come back from the dead?

Tenmei stops, realising this is a delicate subject...

TENMEI

Do you want me to be honest? Or comforting?

SHAR

I would prefer honesty. Even if it is not easy for me.

She approaches him, but keeps a polite distance for now...

TENMEI

Honestly, Shar... no I don't. Oh, I know, Starfleet reports are full of tales of people supposedly coming back from the beyond after all hope had been lost. Ambassador Spock, Captain Scott, even Captain Sisko. But in every one of those cases, there was some fantastical scientific loophole for the dead person to escape through. Regenerating radiation, transporter tricks, wormhole aliens... they were never really dead.

She takes a gentle step closer. He's very aware of her. He doesn't look at her... can't quite handle it yet.

TENMEI

But if a person has really, truly
died... no ifs, ands or buts...
then no. I don't believe they'll
ever come back. I'm sorry.

He finally looks up at her. Tenmei takes a step closer...

TENMEI

That's part of why I live my life
the way I do. If you don't grab an
opportunity when it's given to you,
you may not get a second shot.

Shar takes a hesitant step. Now they're in each other's
space. Shar is not sure whether he can go through with
this. Tenmei wants to comfort him, take care of him...

SHAR

Then you believe in taking chances?

TENMEI

I do.

Finally they are close enough...

...and they KISS. Gently and tentatively at first, getting
gradually more intense.

Then Shar pulls back suddenly with a worried look...

SHAR

Urp.

He puts his hand to his mouth, his eyes flare, and DASHes
off screen towards the rear cabin. Tenmei sighs...

59 EXT. WADI STREETS - EARLY EVENING

Nog, Jake and Rena walk. All have their combadges back on.

JAKE

Nog, look at it like this. You
came with no money, and you left
with no money. You broke even.
That's fine.

NOG

(harrumph)

Only a hew-mon would call giving
away all your profit "fine."

RENA

Well, I certainly appreciate it,
Nog. With the ship back, we can
finally head home and I can never
leave again.

JAKE

(worried)

Was it really that bad?

RENA

Oh, I'm only kidding. Mostly. I
did ask for an adventure, and I
guess I got one.

The sound of a POLICE SIREN breaks out, echoing somewhere
in the distance. They hear it and raise their eyebrows...

JAKE

Sounds like Inspector Munad is on
the trail of another dastardly
evil-doer.

NOG

Yeah, with a pocket full of my
money.

The sound of shouting, hurried VOICES somewhere nearby...
Rena frowns. Maybe it's a bigger deal than they thought.

RENA

Maybe it's this criminal gang he
was talking about. Do you think
it's safe?

NOG

It's none of our business, like
Munad said. Let's just get back to
the ship and head home.

They turn a corner into another adjoining street...

And see three figures running towards them, fast. They're being chased by something or someone, we don't see what.

The three strangers almost run right into our heroes. And as they screech to a halt, the leader gapes in surprise...

DEZ

Jake?

JAKE

Dez?

And it is - it's DEZ, the captain of the *Even Odds*.

With him are his scantily clad Wadi first officer FACITY, and a human-looking teenage girl of about 16, named MEERA (who we haven't seen before). Dez is so surprised to see Jake that he pretty much forgets why they were running...

DEZ

Jake, what are you doing here?

But before Jake can answer, more figures arrive - the ones chasing after Dez. Wadi police, half a dozen of them, led by none other than Munad. They surround Dez's group and Jake's group alike, all armed and ready to use it.

The Inspector has his gun out, pointing it right at Dez...

MUNAD

Zin Dezovrim, Facity Sleedow...
You're under arrest.

Dez and Facity grit their teeth - caught.

Ending on Jake, Nog and Rena's shocked faces...

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW