

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

## 9x23 - "The Soul Key."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on the novel

*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: The Soul Key*

by Olivia Woods

**NOTE:** This episode features three different versions of Kira Nerys. For clarity, we will refer to them as follows:

**KIRA** - Captain Kira Nerys of Starfleet, who has transported to the alternate universe to confront Iliana Ghemor.

**ILIANA** - Our Universe's version of Iliana Ghemor. Born Cardassian but surgically altered to look Bajoran. Jailed by Dukat, then escaped, now impersonating the Intendant.

**GHEMOR** - The Mirror Universe's version of Iliana Ghemor. Currently left behind on Deep Space Nine by Kira.

### **TEASER**

FADE IN:

#### **1     CLOSE ON O'BRIEN**

...who is confused, perturbed, and distinctly worried...

O'BRIEN  
Iliana, what the hell are you  
doing over there?

**WIDEN** to reveal...

#### **2     INT. TEROK NOR - MAIN OPS CENTRE**

Smiley O'BRIEN, general of the Terran rebellion, stands at the central ops table, alternate KEIKO and EZRI with him. They are all staying at the main VIEWSCREEN...

...which shows KIRA and GHEMOR at DS9's own Ops table.

(NOTE: this is the same conversation as in ep 9x22. Filmed at the same time, but now seen from Terok Nor's POV.)

GHEMOR (screen)  
I know I should have come to you  
before I crossed over. I let  
myself become emotionally involved  
because of who she is. I thought I  
could stop her on my own. I was  
wrong.

O'BRIEN

Iliana... I'm not sure how much of this I can believe. You're telling me that you didn't manage to kill the Intendant, but she might already be dead, but not really, because an alternate universe version of you is pretending to be her to fulfil some obscure Bajoran prophecy?

GHEMOR (screen)

I realise it's a lot to take in. But you have to understand - if this woman succeeds in doing what she intends, Bajor will follow her like some kind of messiah. She could even start a holy war within the Alliance.

EZRI

Would that be such a bad thing?

KEIKO

It would be. A war like that would devastate the region. People like us would be its first victims.

GHEMOR (screen)

Exactly - the faithful versus the infidels. With a madwoman calling the shots.

KIRA (screen)

You see now why we felt the need to warn you. General O'Brien, I also have a stake in seeing this woman stopped. She's proved herself to be a threat on our side as well as yours. My people and I stand ready to assist you.

O'BRIEN

I appreciate the offer, Captain, and I accept. You can start by explaining exactly where...

Terok Nor's long-range ALARMS begin to blare, and the crew jump into action... O'Brien quickly checks his panels...

O'BRIEN (cont)  
...what the bloody hell?

KEIKO  
Multiple warp signatures on approach vectors. Looks like Klingons. ETA two minutes.

O'BRIEN  
Raise shields. Ezri, prepare for planetary bombardment. I want a torpedo lock on Ashalla in the next thirty seconds.

Ezri works to do as he says - a nod confirms the lock...

KIRA (screen)  
General... what are you doing?

O'BRIEN  
Exactly what I warned them I'd do if they moved against us, Captain.

KIRA (screen)  
You can't attack Bajor! Millions of innocent lives --

Static is beginning to break up the signal from DS9...

O'BRIEN  
Captain, exactly how do you think we've managed to hold Terok Nor all this time? It's by convincing the Alliance that if they pushed me too far, Bajor would suffer the consequences.

KIRA (screen)  
Nog... -do someth...

NOG (screen)  
...rying ...-terfering with...  
-signal lock, over...

The signal is lost in static...

KEIKO  
We've lost their signal...

O'BRIEN  
The Klingons?

KEIKO  
Maybe. You think they picked up  
the transmission?

O'BRIEN  
I think I don't give a damn. Ezri,  
where's that torpedo lock?

EZRI  
Target acquired. Weapons locked  
and ready.

KEIKO  
Enemy ships entering firing range  
in... one minute.

EZRI  
I wish the *Defiant* were here...

O'BRIEN  
How many ships are you reading?

KEIKO  
Twelve, including the *Negh'Var*.

O'BRIEN  
Pretty good odds, then, even  
without the *Defiant*.

KEIKO  
That's not funny, Miles. What if  
they do force you to attack Bajor?

O'BRIEN  
Keiko, trust me. It will never  
come to that.

O'Brien projects a warm reassuring smile for Keiko...

3     **EXT. MYLEA STREETS - DAY**

Cobbled streets, wooden boardwalks, average small-town Bajorans going about their daily business. But they pause, whisper among themselves, as they notice...

...two FIGURES walking into town. Both heavily cloaked, hiding their identities. But everybody knows everybody in this town, so anyone unfamiliar is cause for comment.

The door of the town's government building opens - and MU-OPAKA steps out, watches quietly as the figures approach.

One reaches up to pull back its hood - revealing VAUGHN. He keeps his head down, not making eye contact with anyone. Opaka tries to conceal her reaction...

...then the second figure pulls back its hood too - KIRA. A gasp of surprise goes around the crowd...

KIRA

You know who I am, I take it?

OPAKA

Of course, Intendant. Welcome to Mylea. I am Opaka Sulan. I regret that I was not informed about your visit. I would have prepared a proper reception had I known.

KIRA

Naturally. But you weren't meant to know. My servant and I have been travelling in secret.

OPAKA

May I enquire as to the reason for your visit?

Kira steps closer, lowering her voice...

KIRA

My purpose is not for the ears of the rabble who work under you. Is there some place where we can speak privately?

OPAKA

Of course. Please follow me.

MU-Opaka walks down the steps and onto the street, leading Kira and Vaughn a little further down the streets...

### **CLOSE-UP**

As Opaka walks, she slowly and subtly moves her hand into the folds of her robes. She grabs the handle of a Klingon disruptor that is hidden in a pocket, begins to slowly pull it out, all while trying to appear casual and calm...

### **BACK TO SCENE**

Just as Opaka reaches the door of another building, she JERKS to a stop - there is a Starfleet PHASER touching the back of her neck, held by Kira. Opaka hisses frustration.

While Vaughn tries to subtly block view of the entire affair from the rest of the town, Kira whispers...

KIRA

Drop the weapon.

OPAKA

I think not. Take a good look  
around you.

Kira turns her head - and what she sees makes her pull back the phaser from Opaka's neck.

Every person - every single Bajoran on the street - is pointing a weapon at Kira and Vaughn.

Kira realises she may have made a slight miscalculation...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF TEASER**

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

### **4     EXT. MYLEA STREETS - DAY**

Kira and Vaughn face dozens of disruptors pointed at them. Opaka grabs each of their phasers and confiscates them...

KIRA

Alright, look. We're not who you think we are.

OPAKA

Oh, I know precisely who you are. I knew it the moment I saw him.

(nod towards Vaughn)

What I want to know is why you've come here, and why you're posing as the Intendant.

Opaka jams her own disruptor under Kira's chin. Kira gulps. Vaughn meanwhile is scanning all the faces in the crowd...

KIRA

I came because of Iliana Ghemor.

OPAKA

Where is she? If she's dead, if you've killed her --

KIRA

She's fine. Only two of us could make the journey, but she's safe, I promise you. She told us how to find the religious enclave where she got her... information.

OPAKA

Then why the deception?

KIRA

I didn't know who to trust. Ghemor didn't have time to tell us who we should talk to. I never imagined the entire town was in on it.

Opaka studies Kira a moment, then reaches out and grabs her ear in the style of a vedek. She closes her eyes, reading Kira's *pagh*. Then she relaxes and lets go, steps back...

OPAKA

(to the town)

They mean us no harm. You may all stand down.

Reluctantly, the townspeople put away their weapons. Opaka after-you's for Kira and Vaughn to enter the building.

But before he goes, Vaughn takes a quick scan of the faces in the crowd again...

KIRA

What are you looking for?

VAUGHN

Someone who can help us.

KIRA

Let's hope we've found them.

## 5     **INT. REFECTORY**

A stone meeting room, a mid-sized table. Opaka sits at the head, Kira and Vaughn on either side with cloaks cast off, revealing the Starfleet uniforms underneath. An ND Bajoran stands by the doorway, weapon still drawn just in case...

KIRA

Thank you for letting us speak with you, administrator.

OPAKA

You're not like your counterpart at all, are you? That imperious air you put on earlier - it doesn't come naturally to you.

VAUGHN

Lady Opaka, is it true that the Bajoran religious enclaves are allied with the Terran rebellion?

OPAKA

Yes. In fact, you might say Mylea represents the marriage of the two groups. I was one of the first to rally to Benjamin Sisko's banner. As you've no doubt guessed, Mylea is much more than a simple fishing village - it is both a religious sanctuary, and a training ground for freedom fighters.

KIRA

That must be a huge risk for all of you.

OPAKA

The risk to our *pagh* would be far greater if we did nothing. Let's get to the heart of it, shall we? You're from that other universe. Iliana Ghemor went there weeks ago to stop her counterpart, and we haven't heard from her since. But within the last hour we received word that Terok Nor itself is under attack by Alliance forces, and now here you are. I take this to mean things did not go well.

KIRA

No, they didn't. Ghemor failed, and now her counterpart is over here, impersonating the Intendant. She's the one leading that attack.

OPAKA

And what do you imagine we can do?

KIRA

Expose her. Alert the authorities that the Intendant is a fraud.

OPAKA

It would take a lot more than your word to convince them.

VAUGHN

You don't need our word. She may look Bajoran, but her biology is Cardassian - a medical scan can prove it. Her quantum resonance signature is the same as ours.

OPAKA

No-one will listen.

KIRA

Then what about the people here? You said they're training to fight - well, we need them to fight!

OPAKA

We may train soldiers for the rebellion, but we have no means of staging off-world attacks.

KIRA

But there has to be something we can do!

OPAKA

We must put our faith in the Prophets. And we must trust the rebels of Terok Nor to prevail.

VAUGHN

And if they don't?

OPAKA

We do not live in a world of guarantees, Elias, but rather one of choices. The Prophets gave us free will so that we might light our own way in the darkness.

Kira smiles, almost amused at the florid language...

KIRA

You speak like the vedeks of my world, Lady Opaka. Most Bajorans I've met from your universe seem completely ignorant of --

OPAKA

Most of my people have forgotten the Prophets. It wasn't until I came to Mylea myself, and rediscovered the Shards of Dava, that I realised that the time of the Emissary is upon us.

KIRA

Shards of Dava? You mean Dava Nikende? He was a kai on my world, a religious leader --

OPAKA

On ours too. It was he who foresaw the destruction of the Tears.

Kira is stunned, the breath knocked out of her...

KIRA

The Orbs were destroyed? How is that possible?

OPAKA

The Terran Empire. Our conquerors disapproved of our religion. But Dava foresaw the Orbs' destruction and he took what steps he could to preserve their light. He took a fragment from each, set them in a band of metal, and hid them away.

KIRA

Orb fragments...

OPAKA

Yes. And I believe I can guess your next question, Captain. Yes, the Shard discovered on your world came from ours. Dava's writings say that before he hid the Shards, the Orb of Souls called to him. He describes meeting his reflection, and entrusting the Shard of Souls to this second Dava.

KIRA

My world's Dava. But it was all  
for nothing. The Shard has fallen  
into the hands of a madwoman bent  
on fulfilling Trakor's prophecy.  
None of it makes sense!

OPAKA

Prophecy is often vague, Captain.  
That is why we must test it.

MU-PRYNN (o.s.)

Sulan...

Kira looks up at the new voice. Vaughn does not - he closes  
his eyes and holds his breath. It is MU-PRYNN, bursting  
into the room with tears running down her face...

OPAKA

Prynn, you shouldn't be here. Not  
now. What's wrong, child? What's  
happened?

MU-PRYNN

Ashalla... the news...

Kira winces - she can guess what is coming. Prynn collapses  
in tears on Opaka's shoulder...

KIRA

What about Ashalla?

MU-PRYNN

It's gone. Ashalla's gone. The  
entire city's been destroyed.

Kira and Vaughn both blanch at the news...

## **6     ON MONITOR SCREEN**

A Cardassian monitor, showing a series of faces which click  
over every few seconds. Tekeny Ghemor, Kira Taban, Shakaar  
Edon, Corbin Entek, Dakhana, Ataan... and Skrain Dukat.

ILIANA (o.s.)

They're all dead...

7     INT. HARKOUM PRISON - OFFICE

A small dark room, Cardassian style - the administrator's office. Aside from the screen, most of the room's light is from a big, blue-lit Obsidian Order symbol on one wall.

ILIANA sits at the computer, scanning through its pages, wearing civilian Bajoran clothing. As she clicks to each face in turn, she is hit by loss over and over again...

ILIANA  
They've all been dead for years.

SHING-KUR (o.s.)  
Nerys...?

Iliana quickly changes the screen to hide what she has been looking at. It becomes the VIDEO of Cardassian surgeons experimenting on live Jem'Hadar - the one Ro also watched in 9x21. Iliana subtly wipes away tears, then turns.

SHING-KUR stands in the doorway, not wanting to intrude...

ILIANA  
What is it, Shing-Kur?

Shing-Kur walks gently into the room, looks at the screen. She is not fooled, but she'll pretend for Iliana's sake...

SHING-KUR  
I don't know why you keep watching that over and over again. Dukat's doctors may have been clever, but they were as heartless and brutal as any other Cardassian.  
(realises her mistake)  
I'm sorry, I --

ILIANA  
Then it's a good thing you were able to improve on their work. Thankfully there's no longer a need to strap a Jem'Hadar to a table and pray he doesn't kill us before his head explodes.

SHING-KUR

Speaking of which, I brought you  
the latest information sent by  
Taran'atar.

Shing-Kur hands Iliana a padd, which she immediately starts  
reading - as much for distraction as genuine interest...

SHING-KUR

I have to say, I'm surprised  
you're only using him as a spy.

ILIANA

For now. Have patience, Shing.  
Leading billions of Jem'Hadar  
soldiers back through the wormhole  
and onto Captain Kira's very door-  
step, just before I place her head  
on a pike, is a tempting idea, but  
it lacks a certain --

She breaks off, caught by something she read on the padd...

SHING-KUR

Nerys? What's the matter?

ILIANA

(strangled whisper)  
...another Kira...

SHING-KUR

What?

ILIANA

Another Kira. Another universe.  
(shows her padd)  
Look! A parallel universe, with  
another Kira Nerys!

Shing-Kur takes the padd back and begins to read the file  
for herself. Iliana anxiously paces the room...

SHING-KUR

Alright. But why is this upsetting  
you? This woman had nothing to --

Iliana SMACKS her across the face, blistering with rage...

ILIANA

How can you know me as well as you  
do and still not understand what  
this means to me? Another Kira is  
out there - claiming my identity!

Iliana grabs Shing-Kur by the front of her tunic, SLAMS her  
to the wall, screaming in anger. Shing doesn't resist...

ILIANA

And doesn't that imply there's an  
infinitude of alternate Kiras out  
there, in innumerable parallel  
universes, each of them carrying a  
piece of me?

Iliana launches into a blur of PUNCHES and KICKS and BLOWS,  
taking out all her fury and fear and revenge on Shing-Kur.  
Shing-Kur just takes it, letting herself be pummelled...

**CROSS-FADE to:**

Shing-Kur's bloodied and bruised face, whispering soft  
platitudes and rocking back and forth. PAN DOWN to see that  
Iliana's head is in her kneeling lap, weeping openly...

SHING-KUR

We'll get them. We'll get all of  
them somehow. I promise.

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

### **8     INT. DS9 - HABITAT RING CORRIDOR**

GHEMOR stalks down the corridor, on the hunt, frustrated that her target is evading her. She turns a corner...

...and SISK0 emerges from the shadows behind her.

SISK0

Was there something you wanted  
from me, Agent Ghemor?

Ghemor turns to him, annoyed but grudgingly impressed...

GHEMOR

I'm not an agent anymore. How did  
you do that?

SISK0

I picked up a few tricks over the  
years from a Cardassian who used  
to live here. Now do you mind  
telling me why you've been  
following me around the station?

GHEMOR

I saw the look Vaughn gave you  
before he beamed out. He convinced  
Captain Kira to take him instead  
of me, and he did it on your  
instructions. I want to know why.

SISK0

Well, let me ask you something, Ms  
Ghemor. Why do you care about  
getting back to your universe?

GHEMOR

I only came to your twisted world  
to stop my counterpart before she  
stole the mantle of Emissary in my  
world. I'd think you of all people  
would appreciate that.

SISKO

(smooth, unruffled)

I'm surprised to hear you say that... given that we both know you had the perfect way to stop her while you were still on the other side. And you didn't.

Ghemor is taken aback that Sisko knows her secret. He has successfully ruffled her, but she tries not to show it...

GHEMOR

So you sent Vaughn instead?

SISKO

Someone had to step up, because up to now, too many people have been dropping the ball.

He's said his piece, got under her skin, so he turns to go. Ghemor angrily calls after, not letting him off the hook...

GHEMOR

You're playing a dangerous game, Captain.

SISKO

(over his shoulder)

That's the difference between you and I, Agent Ghemor. This isn't a game to me.

GHEMOR

But it is to Them, isn't it?

That makes Sisko stop and turn back to her. Ghemor is gratified to have finally got a reaction out of him...

GHEMOR

They treat our lives like *kotra* pieces. Tell me, Captain - how do you go along with it? Putting your own people's lives on the line for some abstract concept of fate, abandoning any sense of free will, any sense of choice --

SISKO  
(quietly angry)  
Everyone has a choice, Ms Ghemor.  
Everyone.

Then he turns again and walks away, not looking back.

**CUT TO:**

**9     INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY**

RO screams with effort, forcing one leg to move one small step forwards as she stands inside a support frame. It is her post-injury physical therapy. She hates it, but it has to be done. ETANA stands by her side, encouraging...

RO  
Kol... can I ask you a question?

ETANA  
No, you can't have the wheelchair.

RO  
Not that. Kol, are you religious?  
(off Etana's look)  
We've never really talked about it  
- and I appreciate that. You know  
it makes me uncomfortable. But...  
well, are you?

ETANA  
Well, maybe I'm not as fervent as  
Kira or as serene as Opaka... but  
yeah, I follow the Prophets' path.

RO  
See, that's the thing. If Iliana  
Ghemor's plan really is to become  
the next Emissary, then I need to  
understand what she hopes to gain  
by doing that. So I've been diving  
into all the prophecies I can  
find. But... I'm afraid I might be  
missing some of the subtleties.

ETANA

Every child on Bajor knows the prophecies about the coming of the Emissary, Laren. He is the one who the Prophets will call to Them, the one who will open the Temple gates, and the one to whom They will give back his life.

RO

Is that enough, though? Look at the incident with Akorem Laan. Plenty of people thought he fit the bill better than Sisko, but in the end they insisted Sisko was the one they wanted. Why him?

ETANA

I can't tell you the Prophets' minds, Laren.

RO

That's what's bugging me. Even if the alternate Bajorans accept Iliana as the Emissary, there's no guarantee the Prophets themselves will. So what does she get out of it? Yeah, she has a whole world following her every whim... but how does that solve her problems?

Etana can't answer - these kinds of questions are beyond her. Ro gives her a bashful grin, and pulls herself up...

RO

I need a break.

ETANA

You know the deal. Meals on the Promenade, using the exo-frame.

RO

Yeah, yeah.

Etana hands the bulky metal frame to Ro, who takes it with good-natured grumpiness...

10     INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

TENMEI throws her padd onto the table, groans loudly with frustration. Across the table, BASHIR sits with a drink...

BASHIR

Steady, Ensign. You aren't the first to feel defeated by the wormhole aliens. But the answer won't be found with standard Starfleet methods, I'm afraid. You need to think outside the box.

Tenmei sighs with frustration. DAX approaches the table...

DAX

How's it progressing, Ensign?

TENMEI

I'm sorry, Lieutenant, but there's just no reason why a collapsing warp field or a leaky plasma injector should open up a passage into the alternate universe.

Dax takes a chair and joins them at the table. QUARK sidles up to the table, delivering food for Bashir and Tenmei...

DAX

Prynn, listen to me. I know how hard you've been working on this. I knew it wasn't going to be an easy assignment, but I also knew that if anyone could figure out what happened to the *Rio Grande*, it's you. Stick with it.

QUARK

Stick with it, you say? Curious choice of words, considering the rumour going around that you're thinking of moving on yourself. As in, transferring off the station.

Dax clenches - shame, annoyance, betrayal. Bashir turns to her, quietly upset. Tenmei is just staying out of it all...

BASHIR  
Ezri...? Is that true?

DAX  
Yes, alright! I've been thinking about it. From time to time. As in, not very often. Can we change the subject, please?

BASHIR  
It just seems rather...

QUARK  
Sudden.

BASHIR  
Yes, that's it. It seems sudden.

DAX  
Oh please. Neither of you has any idea how long I've been thinking about this. And I want to stress, I am only thinking about it.

QUARK  
You know, it's widely accepted on Ferenginar that certain places are nexuses of interesting activity. This place is one. Remember Rule of Acquisition one-ninety-nine - "Location, location, location."

Tenmei blinks, the answer coming to her in a flash...

TENMEI  
Location. That's it. Nexuses of interesting activity. Outside the box. Change the subject.

QUARK  
Do you have any idea what she's talking about?

DAX  
Prynn, is this something to do with the *Rio Grande*?

TENMEI

That's just it. I don't think it was ever about the *Rio Grande*.

DAX

Explain it to me.

TENMEI

Maybe the *Rio Grande*'s malfunction didn't force it to cross over to the alternate universe at all. Maybe it was just the precondition for the Prophets allowing it to cross over.

BASHIR

It sounds as if you're saying the Prophets deliberately sent the *Rio Grande* to the alternate universe.

TENMEI

I guess it all comes down to the will of the Prophets. They're the ones calling the shots in there.

DAX

So all we need to do is recreate the malfunction while we're inside the wormhole, and the Prophets should do the rest. I like it.

Dax gets to her feet, re-energised and ready...

BASHIR

You're going in there, aren't you?

DAX

You bet. Nog hasn't made a dent in the scattering field, so this may be our only way to help Kira and Vaughn. And if they keep insisting on leaving me in command, I'm damn sure gonna make the most of it.

APPLAUSE goes up. Confused, they look around and see --

-- Ro stands in the doorway, wearing the metal leg braces, walking stick in one hand and Etana supporting the other. The entire crowd CHEERS - she responds with more good-natured grumbling. Quark grins and gets to his feet...

QUARK

Ah... nothing so gloriously misanthropic as a full-powered Ro Laren. If you'll excuse me...

Quark leaves to greet Ro. Dax turns back to Bashir...

DAX

Any last minute advice?

BASHIR

You're the captain.

She smiles, touched by his support...

## 11    INT. REFECTORY

With MU-Opaka, plus our Kira and Vaughn. MU-Prynn has delivered the news, and the room is now in uproar. Prynn is raging through the tears...

MU-PRYNN

Terran butchers! I knew we should never have trusted them, Sulan.

VAUGHN

But Prynn, you're Terran...

MU-PRYNN

I wish I wasn't! What have the Terran rebels ever done for us?

KIRA

I refuse to believe the rebels did this. I've known O'Brien for years, and he would never --

MU-PRYNN

You know your O'Brien. You have no idea what this one is capable of.

While Kira tries to calmly reason with MU-Prynn in b.g., Vaughn stands and gently takes MU-Opaka by the arm. He guides her to the side, where they can talk privately...

MU-PRYNN

(background)

...they're estimating a death toll as high as two million. Minister Lenaris and at least half the parliament were in the capital.

KIRA

We should have done more. If we had tried harder to turn Bajor against the Alliance...

MU-PRYNN

They'd have just turned their entire fleet against us!

VAUGHN

(foreground)

Lady Opaka, why are we wasting time here? We both know there is one in your group who could fix this entire problem here and now.

OPAKA

(taken aback)

How can you possibly --

VAUGHN

I know Benjamin Sisko is here.

Opaka is surprised all over again. That is not what she expected him to say. On her shocked expression...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT TWO**

### ACT THREE

FADE IN:

#### **12    INT. REFECTORY**

...where we were, as MU-Opaka reacts to Vaughn's claim...

VAUGHN

Well? Lady Opaka, I know Sisko is the one who's supposed to be the Emissary. If you take me to him, I may be able to persuade him to do what he was supposed to have done a long time ago.

OPAKA

You cannot persuade him, Elias.

VAUGHN

Let me try. Please. This is what I was sent here to do.

OPAKA

Sent? By whom?

VAUGHN

By his counterpart. The Emissary of my Bajor.

OPAKA

I see. Very well. Follow me.

Vaughn looks back to the room - Kira is still talking with Prynn. So he turns and follows Opaka out of the door. Kira hasn't noticed him leaving...

#### **13    INT. BASEMENT ROOM**

They emerge into a primitive, underground basement room. Boxes are piled around the walls, except for a bare space at one end. Vaughn frowns, not sure what Opaka is up to.

Then Opaka pulls a small control out of her robes and points it at the bare area. A hologram dissolves, revealing a spiral staircase going further down into the ground...

14     **INT. SPIRAL STAIRCASE**

Opaka leads Vaughn down the staircase, lighting candles placed into alcoves in the old stone walls as she goes...

15     **INT. SANCTUARY ROOM**

...and they emerge into a small underground chamber like the one where the Orbs are kept in Ashalla. Eight stone PLINTHS, where eight BRACELETS sit on plush cushions - all containing coloured stones - plus one empty pillow.

OPAKA

This is where Dava hid the Shards.  
This is the most sacred place we  
have, and therefore is the most  
fitting interment for the bones of  
my friend... the man who should  
have been Emissary.

On the far wall is the shape of a Bajoran burial headstone. Bajoran characters adorn it, but clearly among them are the English words, BENJAMIN SISKO. Vaughn's jaw drops...

16     **EXT. SPACE - THE BADLANDS**

Back to ep 9x10 "Fragments and Omens." The Besinian ship that attacked Sidau village sits among the swirls of the Badlands, showing the damage of its attack by the *Defiant*.

Moving past the *Defiant*, further into the Badlands, we can just barely make out another shape. A tiny cloaked ship, the freighter's shuttle, only visible when the smoke and energy of the Badlands indicates the negative space...

KIRA (comm, v.o.)

Kira to Nog, shut down the restart  
sequence, right now.

17     **INT. SHUTTLE POD**

Iliana, in civilian Bajoran clothing, sits at the controls, listening in to the *Defiant* crew, enormously entertained.

HOVATH is in the back of the shuttle, behind a forcefield. Starting to realise a small portion of what's going on...

NOG (comm)  
Aye sir. Initiating core shutdown.  
(pause)  
Uh-oh.

KIRA (comm)  
What is it?

NOG (comm)  
The injectors aren't responding.  
They're cycling up to overload...

HOVATH  
(foreground)  
You're not her. You're not Kira  
Nerys. Who are you?

Iliana glances over her shoulder at Hovath for a moment, a bit annoyed that he is interrupting her fun...

KIRA (comm)  
*Defiant.* Get us out of here, now!

Iliana grins and looks out of the shuttle's front window...

ILIANA  
Say goodbye to Iniri, Hovath...

On cue, the freighter EXPLODES in a big fireball, knocking the *Defiant* back tumbling. Hovath SCREAMS. Iliana laughs, holding up the *pagh-varam* bracelet victoriously...

**CUT TO:**

**18    EXT. HARKOUM - DAY**

The *pagh-varam* is held in another hand... WIDEN to reveal that Hovath himself is holding it. He is terrified, though. He has clearly been repeatedly beaten and terrorised.

Another small group of people huddle together in the mess of the warehouse. They are of various different species, but all the kind of abject, down-trodden people who would eke out an existence on a dead-end world like this.

Hovath looks over his shoulder - Iliana is there, watching them all. Beside her is TELAL, her Romulan lieutenant...

HOVATH

These people are afraid of you.

ILIANA

With good reason.

HOVATH

What did you do to them?

ILIANA

I made sure their fear would be at your disposal. You told me the Soul Key conjured the *Dal'Rok* out of your villagers' fears. Show me.

Hovath looks to the terrified aliens, down at the bracelet in his hand. He still can't quite bring himself to do it...

ILIANA

Understand this, Hovath... Do as I ask, and I'm willing to let these people return to their lives, such as they were. But if you try any tricks, they die.

Too scared to refuse, Hovath lifts the *pagh-varam* up to the sky... but nothing happens. He frowns, reloads... thrusts his hand to the sky again, brow creased in concentration. Nothing. He looks down at the bracelet wrapped around his palm, genuinely confused. *This should have worked...*

ILIANA

Why isn't it working, Hovath?

HOVATH

I... I don't know! Perhaps I'm no longer worthy.

ILIANA

Then you're useless.

She draws her disruptor and SHOOTS him dead on the spot. He thuds to the ground, a burning hole in his chest.

The aliens YELP in terror. Iliana puts away the weapon...

TELAL  
Are we done here?

ILIANA  
(annoyed)  
Yes, we're done.

TELAL  
(re aliens)  
What do you want me to do with  
them?

ILIANA  
Dump them back in the city.

TELAL  
Are you sure? They know what we  
look like.

Iliana leans down, plucks the bracelet off Hovath's dead  
hand, restores it to her own. She turns and walks away...

ILIANA  
I didn't say they had to be alive.

As Telal draws his weapon with a nasty grin...

**19    INT. HARKOUM PRISON - OFFICE**

The *pagh-varam* is back on Iliana's hand. She sits gazing  
down at the tiny green stone in the bracelet. Across the  
table from her, Shing-Kur is working at various padds...

SHING-KUR  
All my scans are consistent with  
the Orb studies done aboard Deep  
Space Nine. The stone is an Orb  
fragment, but like its larger  
cousins, it defies any more  
meaningful explanation than that.

ILIANA  
So you still can't tell me why it  
won't work?

SHING-KUR

I can tell you one thing with  
absolute certainty - that object  
is not from this universe.

Gazing into the stone, a smile comes over Iliana's face...

ILIANA

It's a construct of the Prophets.  
The Prophets exist outside of  
time. The vedeks would say it  
works when it's fated to work.

SHING-KUR

So we have to wait for it to  
decide for itself when we can get  
any use out of it?

ILIANA

Don't you see? I'm not meant to  
use it here. I'm meant to return  
it to where it belongs. To where  
there's a Bajor still waiting for  
the one who will open the gates of  
the Celestial Temple...

Shing-Kur looks dubious, but Iliana is rapturous. The truth  
has come to her - it's her destiny to be the Emissary...

20    **INT. SANCTUARY ROOM**

...where Vaughn stands staring at Benjamin Sisko's grave.  
He doesn't understand - how can this possibly be?

VAUGHN

When did it happen?

OPAKA

Six years ago. Less than a year  
after he started the rebellion.

VAUGHN

It's a mistake... it has to be.  
He told me... someone has to stop  
Iliana by becoming the Emissary  
before she beats him to it.

OPAKA

Quite. It was our hope from the start that someone would have already done so by now.

VAUGHN

So where is he?

OPAKA

She. As for where... you left her behind in your continuum.

Vaughn's jaw drops all over again as he understands...

VAUGHN

Are you telling me you expected Ghemor to become your Emissary?

OPAKA

I can't say it comes as a surprise that she didn't tell you. Iliana rejected most of the revelation that she received from the Shard of Prophecy. She fixated on what she learned about her counterpart - on the threat she represented.

VAUGHN

But if it was meant to be her... why did Sisko specifically send me? It doesn't make sense.

OPAKA

She already refused. She thought she could stop the other Iliana without embracing the rest of her destiny. But when she came to us from the rebels, I felt her *pagh*. I recognised her for who she is, despite her protests. Ironical... one who did not wish to be among us was to be the Emissary.

Off Vaughn's confusion...

**21     INT. DS9 - SECURITY CELLS**

...to Ghemor, the Cardassian woman, in the middle of the room. Staring pensively at Shing-Kur, who sits in a cell...

SHING-KUR

You have the look of someone lost.  
Something's changed since we last spoke.

GHEMOR

Nothing's changed. She's still out there, and you're still in a cage.

SHING-KUR

Really? Then I dare say that makes two of us.

DAX (o.s.)

Agent Ghemor?

Ghemor turns and sees Dax standing in the short corridor to the office, Bashir at her shoulder...

DAX

A moment of your time, please.

**22     INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

Dax and Bashir walk into the office, followed a moment later by Ghemor. Dax turns and folds her arms...

BASHIR

If I may say, Ms Ghemor, you look a bit drawn. How are you feeling?

GHEMOR

Honest answer? Pretty useless. But thank you for asking.

BASHIR

When was the last time you slept?

GHEMOR

Probably too long ago.

DAX

Then I advise you to get some rest. We have a new theory about the wormhole. We're launching the *Defiant* tomorrow so we can put it to the test. If we're right, we could have you back in your universe before lunchtime.

Ghemor stares at her own reflection in one of the security office monitor screens. Bashir is right - she looks a mess.

GHEMOR

I don't know why you'd want me along. Every decision I make lately turns into a disaster. I ran away from the Obsidian Order, I ran away from the Bajorans, I failed to stop the madwoman... and so I ran away again.

DAX

Well, I'm sorry if you're having problems, Ms Ghemor. But I suggest you find a way to deal with them before your counterpart becomes the new face of the Prophets.

GHEMOR

(on reflection)

New face...

Then inspiration hits. She turns to Dax, newly energised...

GHEMOR

I think I have an idea...

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT THREE**

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

### **23    INT. HARKOUM PRISON - OFFICE**

SHING-KUR sat at the table, working on padds and plans...

SHING-KUR

The more I learn about her, the  
more amazed I am that Intendant  
Kira lasted as long as she has...  
(looks up)  
Aren't you going to touch your  
dinner?

ILIANA sits opposite, gazing deep in the tiny green stone of the *pagh-varam*, not listening, totally ignoring the plate of food in front of her. Shing-Kur tries again...

SHING-KUR

I'll say this for her, though.  
When the Intendant embarks on a  
scheme, she doesn't mess around.

Iliana can't take her eyes off the tiny stone...

...and something MOVES inside the stone, until it appears to be looking right back at her. Iliana flares in alarm...

...then a great wash of colour SWIRLS out of the *pagh-varam* - Orb energy, bright spinning green. It washes us out...

### **24    WHITE SPACE**

...and into the formless environment of the Prophets. Heart beat THUMPS, anxious breaths HISS. We PAN around...

...until we see Iliana, confused and scared. *What is this?*

Then a second BEAT joins it, thumping alongside. Iliana hears it, knows what it means. She turns on the spot...

...and sees GHEMOR, her own alternate self. They stare into each other's eyes, quickly realising who each other is...

From Iliana's POV, looking at Ghemor, zooming to ECU...

**FAST MONTAGE**

- Ghemor slitting her father TEKENY's throat
- O'BRIEN pointing a weapon at Ghemor aboard Terok Nor
- OPAKA grasping Ghemor's ear, Vedek-style
- Ghemor turning away from the Klingon mercenary (9x19)

**BACK TO SCENE**

As Iliana reacts to this knowledge about her counterpart...

...then we PAN quickly around, all in one shot, to being Ghemor's POV, looking at Iliana, and zooming to ECU...

**FAST MONTAGE**

- Iliana draws her blindfold-built phaser on Entek (9x21)
- Dukat looms over Iliana-as-Kira in her Letau cell (9x22)
- Iliana breaks down in Dukat's luxury shower (9x22)
- The secret captor places the *pagh-varam* bracelet on the table in front of the terrorised Hovath (9x10)

**BACK TO SCENE**

Ghemor reacts to this knowledge, eyes creasing with anger and determination to stop her. Iliana is afraid of that look. Ghemor takes a menacing step towards Iliana...

...and green colour WASHES over everything, taking us...

**25    INT. HARKOUM PRISON - OFFICE**

... back to real life. Iliana JERKS back from the table, almost losing her balance. Stares at the bracelet, heart pounding in fear, as she readjusts to existence...

SHING-KUR

Nerys! Nerys, are you okay?

ILIANA

What - what just happened to me?  
Where did I go?

SHING-KUR

You didn't go anywhere. You just  
froze where you were for a moment.  
Not sure you were even breathing.

ILIANA

She's coming for me...

SHING-KUR

Who is?

ILIANA

Put this place on high alert. Now.  
Find the best assassins we've got.  
Tell them there's a Cardassian  
woman on her way here, to Harkoum.  
I want her stopped before she gets  
anywhere near me.

SHING-KUR

I - ...

ILIANA

We have to move. Contact L'Haan,  
tell her to get ready. There's no  
more time.

SHING-KUR

Okay, Nerys, I'll do it. But then  
I want you tell me what's going  
on. Will you do that?

Iliana nods absently. Anything to get things moving...

SHING-KUR

What about Taran'atar?

ILIANA

Activate him. It's time we brought  
him home.

Off Shing-Kur's business-like nod and Iliana's dark grin...

26     **FAST MONTAGE**

-- Taran'atar throws the knife into Kira's chest (9x17)  
-- Ghemor and the Nausicaan fight in the desert (9x20)  
-- Taran'atar beams out from the depths of Harkoum (9x20)  
-- L'Haan helps Iliana don the Intendant's headdress (9x20)

27     **INT. NEGH'VAR - CORRIDOR**

...to Iliana, pretending to be the Intendant, striding through the Klingon flagship with a self-satisfied smirk.

She is being escorted by two bulky Klingon guards towards a large, heavy door at the end of the corridor. It opens --

-- and a Cardassian man turns to face her - ENTEK.

ENTEK

Intendant Kira, I presume. My name is Corbin Entek. I am very pleased to meet you.

Iliana conceals her shocked reaction, and enters...

28     **INT. NEGH'VAR - OFFICE (CONTINUOUS)**

Iliana affects the Intendant's manner, stalking seductively to the desk, slinking into its large seat. She tries to be confident and unruffled - it's not entirely working...

ILIANA

I am a busy woman, Mister Entek,  
And I do not appreciate having my  
time wasted by impertinent  
Obsidian Order agents "demanding"  
an audience with me.

ENTEK

I'll certainly make your concerns  
known to Director Lang when we  
next speak. She has developed a  
keen interest in your thoughts  
lately... as have some others.

ILIANA

(weary sigh)

Kindly dispense with the veiled insinuations, Mister Entek. Or else Director Lang will also develop a keen interest in the whereabouts of your body.

ENTEK

My pleasure, Intendant. Twenty hours ago, you sent an enquiry to the Central Records Office for information about Ataan Rhukal.

Iliana languidly spins the chair until she is facing away from Entek. Trying to project boredom and indifference, but really covering a wince at her own sentimental stupidity...

ENTEK

Perhaps you were unaware that Rhukal is currently being held at the Order's facilities on Kora Two, on charges of conspiracy and murder. He was closely associated with a former Order agent named Iliana Ghemor... an agent who vanished on the very night her own father - the former head of the Order - was mysteriously murdered.

Iliana absorbs all this information about her opposite...

ILIANA

And you believe that my interest in Ataan stems from... what? Complicity in this crime?

ENTEK

If there's one thing life in the Obsidian Order has taught me, Intendant, it's that everyone is guilty of something.

ILIANA

Would you like to see exactly what I'm guilty of, Mister Entek?

Iliana turns to him, a wide grin spreading across her face. Entek is a little thrown by this change...

ILIANA

Taran'atar... show yourself.

A whisper-rush of air - and Entek turns to see TARAN'ATAR standing right behind him. He stumbles backwards into the table, shocked and scared. Taran'atar stares him down...

ENTEK

What - what is that?

ILIANA

The future.

Taran'atar advances threateningly, and Entek SHRIEKS...

**29    EXT. SPACE - NEGH'VAR**

As Entek's SCREAMS echo off into the distance, the massive Klingon flagship warps through space, surrounded by eleven other Klingon vessels of various classes. As they pass us, all the ships ripple and cloak...

**30    EXT. FOUNDERS' WORLD - DAY**

A sweeping shot of the planet-sized lake of changelings, flowing with golden liquid as we have always seen it. The small rocky islet juts above the surface, as it always has.

Looking down into the changeling mass... a FIGURE beneath the waves. It gradually moves closer, gently guided by the tides of the Great Link. The figure breaks the surface...

...and it is TARAN'ATAR. Naked, curled in foetal position. He stretches, legs and arms straightening, eyes opening. Blissful, calm. He is being born - birthed by the Founders.

The tendrils of changeling matter are still wrapped around his throat, his ankles and wrists. He tries to break free of them... but he can't. He begins to struggle...

Then the protoplasm MORPHS, becoming strands of metallic copper, cutting across his throat and limbs, holding him tight, choking him. He struggles, frustrated...

L'HAAN (v.o.)  
(faint whisper)  
My mind to your mind... your  
thoughts to my thoughts.

More strands of copper lash out, strap Taran'atar down...

L'HAAN (v.o.)  
Fight what you see. Fight what you  
feel. Follow my voice.

He continues to struggle, eyes wide. But he has heard this  
voice now, and he feels that someone else is with him...

TARAN'ATAR (v.o.)  
Who are you?

L'HAAN (v.o.)  
I am L'Haan. I believe that I can  
help you. But I need you to help  
me in return. Close your eyes.

TARAN'ATAR (v.o.)  
I cannot.

L'HAAN (v.o.)  
You can. You fail because your  
altered mind will not permit you  
to follow the commands of anyone  
but her. But I do not seek to  
command you. I merely offer an  
idea, and invite you to make the  
choice to close your eyes.

#### **ZOOM IN TO ECU**

Close on Taran'atar's face as he considers her words... and  
then closes his eyes. Then he opens them again...

#### **ZOOM OUT FROM ECU**

...and is standing, dressed, on the Founders' rocky islet.

Opposite stands L'HAAN, the Intendant's Vulcan handmaiden  
who we have seen since 9x07. Aside from the changeling sea  
rolling calmly around them, they are alone...

L'HAAN  
Well done.

TARAN'ATAR  
Where are we?

L'HAAN  
You are asleep in the Intendant's stateroom. I have risked reaching out to you to make a proposal.

TARAN'ATAR  
You betrayed your last master.  
Now you betray your new one.

L'HAAN  
I have no master. My servitude is pretence. I am a member of a secret organisation which seeks a fundamental reordering of this part of the galaxy.

Taran'atar receives flashes of memory...

#### **FAST MONTAGE**

-- Mirror SPOCK, watching as he beams Kirk back to his universe, after the very first crossover (TOS 2x10)

-- Mirror TUVOK, joining the argument among the rebels in a cave with Sisko (3x19)

-- L'Haan places the Intendant's silver headdress onto Iliana's head (9x20)

#### **BACK TO SCENE**

TARAN'ATAR  
And you hope to recruit me into your cause?

L'HAAN  
I seek your help in correcting the mistake I made by bringing both you and the false Intendant into my universe in the first place.

TARAN'ATAR

You misjudged her.

L'HAAN

This new Kira is as malign, if not more so, than the one she killed. I fear that rather than advancing our plan, I have put it at risk.

TARAN'ATAR

What do you wish me to do?

L'HAAN

What I cannot do without risking my organisation - kill her.

TARAN'ATAR

She is my god.

L'HAAN

Is she? Is her claim to your obedience truly any greater than that of your previous masters - these "Founders" of yours?

(gestures around,  
at the Link)

The ones who denied their divinity to you? The beings who banished you into the unknown so that you might learn to redefine your entire state of being?

TARAN'ATAR

My life is hers. That is the new order of things.

L'HAAN

If the old order can be changed, so can the new. That is an axiom we have in common, I think. I offer you an alternative to the order of things.

TARAN'ATAR

What alternative?

L'HAAN

My people have telepathic skills  
which we have concealed from the  
Alliance. I can break the hold she  
has on you. Your choices would  
forever be your own. No-one will  
have a claim on your loyalty or  
your obedience again, unless you  
choose to give it to them. Do you  
understand me, Taran'atar? You  
will be free.

Taran'atar thinks about everything - and makes a decision.

Scrunches his eyes closed again - and pushes forward. The  
background around him MORPHS...

...and we **MATCH CUT** Taran'atar's face...

**31    INT. INTENDANT'S STATEROOM**

...as he forces himself out of his dream and awake by sheer  
force of will.

L'Haan JERKS back, her hand pulling away from its mind-meld  
position on his rocky face. He is leaning against the wall  
in a corner of Kira's elaborate quarters on the *Negh'Var*.

Before L'Haan can recover, he reaches forward, GRABS her,  
spins her, holds her tight with one arm across her chest,  
the other grabs her chin in a rough grip...

TARAN'ATAR

I was not meant to be free.

...and he SNAPS her neck.

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT FOUR**

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

### 32 INT. NEGH'VAR - MAIN BRIDGE

Beginning close on KURN, who stands glaring down at Iliana. The bridge crew around them can clearly hear their angry conversation - they're making no effort to keep it down...

KURN

I want that creature off my ship!

ILIANA

You heard what he told us. L'Haan was going to betray me. Taran'atar may have responded impulsively, but it was the correct response. As long as you and your men remain loyal, you have nothing to fear.

KURN

Don't insult my honour, Intendant. My men and I fear nothing, and our loyalty is --

ILIANA

Your loyalty was negotiated, so shall we drop the posturing? Now you know exactly how dangerous Taran'atar can be when necessary.

KURN

I also know what we have to risk. I've looked into that thing's eyes, Intendant... it's soulless. When it chooses not to obey you anymore --

ILIANA

He can't make that choice, Kurn. And when we find the rest of his kind, I'll control them just as easily. Imagine it - an army of creatures just like Taran'atar, led by you... as you go into battle against Martok and Dukat.

She smiles, taunting and tempting him. He glares at her, battling between greed and his growing worry over the whole thing. Then his first officer KRONA reports...

KRONA  
Entering the Bajoran system,  
General. Slowing to sublight now.

Too late to argue now - they are at the point of no return. Hissing, Kurn throws himself into his grand command chair.

Iliana stands beside him. She does not lounge seductively like the real Intendant would - she is all business.

On the screen, the warp field slows back to the normal star view, and we see the other Klingon ships doing the same. In the distance, Terok Nor hangs in orbit over Bajor...

KURN  
Sound battle alert throughout the  
fleet.

KRONA  
All ships acknowledging. We're  
detecting an unusual transmission  
being received by Terok Nor...

KURN  
What type of transmission?

KRONA  
It appears to be a communication,  
but I cannot isolate the source.

ILIANA  
Can you put it on speakers?

Krona sets to work. A squeal of static slowly clears to reveal a familiar voice...

KIRA (comm)  
...also have a stake in seeing  
this woman stopped. She's proved  
herself to be a threat on our side  
as well as yours. My people and I  
stand ready to assist you.

ILIANA  
(urgent)  
Jam that transmission!

Kurn swivels to her, intrigued and confused...

KURN  
That sounded like you...

KRONA  
Terok Nor has raised shields and is  
arming weapons. No sign of *Defiant*.

ILIANA  
It could be cloaked.

KURN  
Instruct all ships to begin sensor  
sweeps of the Bajor system. If  
that cursed vessel is anywhere  
nearby, I want it found!

ILIANA  
Patch me into that signal. Put it  
on the main viewer.

KURN  
What are you doing, Intendant?

ILIANA  
I'm enjoying myself, General.

The screen changes to show Kira and Ghemor at DS9's Ops  
table. Kira glares, recognising her opposite number with  
surprise and anger. Iliana gives a thin, amused smile...

ILIANA  
Well hello... Captain. What a  
pleasant surprise. And how clever  
of you to have devised a way to  
communicate with Terok Nor. You've  
no idea how pleased I am to see  
you alive.

KIRA (screen)  
I sincerely doubt that.

ILIANA

Oh believe me, I wasn't happy to learn what Taran'atar had done to you. That was a task I'd reserved for myself. It's reassuring to know I get to come back for you... once I'm done here, that is.

KIRA (screen)

You won't succeed.

ILIANA

Of course I will. Haven't you heard? I walk with the Prophets.

Iliana brings up her hand, the *pagh-varam* wrapped around it - and wiggles her fingers in a taunting wave to Kira. Then she nods to Krona, who cuts the transmission...

KURN

Are you finished?

ILIANA

Deploy the scattering field.

KRONA

(hits keys)

It's done. It's expanding... it has already blanketed Terok Nor and should cover the planet within the next few minutes.

ILIANA

Good. Begin scanning Bajor for anomalous quantum resonance signatures, and continue until further notice.

KURN

What do you expect to find?

ILIANA

If the scattering field operates the way your men claim it does, nothing. But I've learned not to underestimate the alternates.

KURN

(grunts agreement)

It's abundantly clear to me that the alternates are in league with the rebels. We'll need to deal with that threat before long.

ILIANA

And we will. Just don't forget that I want Terok Nor captured, not destroyed.

Kurn reluctantly acquiesces, turns to his crew...

KURN

Helmsman, hold position within weapons range of Terok Nor. Weapons, withhold fire until the Intendant gives the order. First officer, relay these instructions to the rest of the fleet.

KRONA

All ships acknowledge, General.

KURN

It's your move now, Intendant.

Iliana leaves Kurn's side and goes to stand by the weapons console. She presses a few buttons, then turns back...

ILIANA

Raise the rebels.

KRONA

Channel open.

ILIANA

Attention, occupants of Terok Nor. This is Intendant Kira Nerys of Bajor. Your unlawful seizure of this space station is at an end. I am placing you all under arrest for assorted acts of terrorism and murder. You have one minute to stand down and surrender.

The screen changes to show alt-O'BRIEN stood at Terok Nor's central Ops table, defiant and hate-filled...

O'BRIEN (screen)

I don't need a minute to tell you and your Klingon lapdogs to go to hell, Intendant. We won't surrender to you or anyone else. I have a torpedo lock on Bajor's capital.

ILIANA

Yes, that gambit has worked well for you up to now, hasn't it, Smiley? Holding an entire planet hostage, threatening billions of lives - it seems so ruthless. A bit too ruthless for the likes of you, I think.

O'BRIEN (screen)

You think I'm bluffing?! Make one move against this station and I promise you Bajor will pay the price. Now back off!

ILIANA

No.

She reaches out to the firing control, and deliberately, so that everyone can see... she presses the BIG RED BUTTON.

The vibration of multiple torpedo launches RUMBLES through the ship. Their instruments register what happened at the same time as O'Brien's do. O'Brien is stunned, eyes wide...

O'BRIEN (screen)

My God, what the bloody hell have you done?

ILIANA

I've taken away your hostage.

KRONA

General, sensors show... massive detonations on the surface of Bajor. In the capital city!

KURN  
(standing)  
What?!

On screen, O'Brien is staring, unable to believe what has happened. He is on the verge of collapse, almost crying.

Iliana ignores Kurn and walks closer to the screen...

ILIANA  
Now before grief turns to rage,  
and you begin pouring out the  
station's entire firepower at my  
fleet in some pathetic attempt at  
revenge, let me point out that  
I've destroyed only a single city.  
If you don't surrender Terok Nor  
to me immediately, I'll destroy  
another, and then another...

Staring at her with hatred, tears spilling over, O'Brien  
sags in defeat. Iliana takes it as her answer...

ILIANA  
General Kurn, have your troops  
prepare to board Terok Nor as  
soon as its shields come down.

Satisfied with her victory, Iliana turns to leave...

**33    EXT. TEROK NOR**

Terok Nor surrounded by twelve Klingon warships, including  
the massive flagship *Negh'Var*. The nearby blue-green orb of  
Bajor is marred by one massive explosion on its surface...

**34    INT. TEROK NOR - PROMENADE**

Klingon warriors stomp down the Promenade, harrying rebels  
at disruptor-point, towards Security. Others are being  
herded out of the bar and the infirmary to join the crowd.

One of the rebels tries to fight back - a Klingon STABS him  
in the gut with his *dk'tahg* and leaves him to die as the  
others trample over the body.

**35     INT. TEROK NOR - SECURITY CELLS**

O'Brien sits on the bunk in one of the cells, emotionally ruined. Keiko is in another cell, Ezri in the third, both a little more defiant but still upset. A Klingon stands and sneers at them through the forcefields...

**36     INT. TEROK NOR - CARGO BAY**

More Klingon warriors herd and force more rebels into a cargo bay. The room is packed full of scared, angry people. As the door is closed, leaving them alone in there, a force field pops up over the door and all the walls...

**37     INT. TEROK NOR - OPS CENTRE**

The turbolift rises slowly into Ops, carrying Iliana and Kurn. The room is already filled with Klingons at the various posts, including Krona at the central ops table.

Iliana and Kurn step off the turbolift, both glowing with victory. They walk down to the Ops table, savouring their conquest with a grin. Then they climb back up the stairs...

**38     INT. TEROK NOR - INTENDANT'S OFFICE (CONTINUOUS)**

...and Iliana strides purposefully into the office, Kurn close behind. She circles the desk, inspecting it...

KURN

It was a bold move. But a bit too lateral as strategies go. Klingons prefer more direct confrontations.

ILIANA

You don't approve of my choice.

KURN

It is not for me to approve or disapprove, Intendant, as you have correctly reminded me more than once since this mission began. It will be interesting to know the Regent's reaction, though, once word of this reaches him...

ILIANA

I've crushed the rebellion in this system in one stroke. I think the Regent will be quite pleased.

KURN

Making him less inclined to look suspiciously at your activities from now on. Freeing you to pursue the overthrow of his rule.

ILIANA

Well said.

Kurn is silent for a moment, regarding her with curiosity. Then they are interrupted by Kurn's comm device...

He steps away to answer it - we hear him mutter something back and forth. He signs off and turns back to Iliana...

KURN

My tactical officer reports that he has detected readings of the type you told him to search for.

ILIANA

(sharp, angry)

Where? How many?

KURN

The northern hemisphere, Kendra province. A coastal village known as Mylea. Two.

ILIANA

Send six *Chutok* attack craft down to the surface, General. Have your men surround the village and go in on foot. The invaders are to be captured. But they are not to be killed. Am I understood?

KURN

But if they are enemies of the Alliance --

ILIANA

I want them alive. And just to  
make sure there are no accidents,  
Taran'atar will lead the assault.

KURN

What?! My men will never --

ILIANA

(smooth)

If your men have a problem with  
following Taran'atar, they can  
take the matter up with him. The  
outcome of that should be quite  
amusing.

She turns away and gazes out of the window, down at Bajor  
nearby. The dark smudge of her attack is clearly visible.

Kurn, still eager to needle her, steps close behind and  
follows her eye line down to the damage...

KURN

As I said, a bold move. But you  
are not the woman I once knew,  
Intendant. You don't even seem to  
care that you murdered millions of  
your own people.

ILIANA

They're not my people.

(beat)

But they soon will be.

Off Iliana's resolute expression...

BLACK OUT:

**THE END**