

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

11x22 - "Penitence."

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

and from the post-finale novels
by Pocket Books

incorporating elements from

*Star Trek: Typhon Pact:
Rough Beasts of Empire*

by David R George III

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 MONTAGE FROM PREVIOUS EPS

-- Vaughn disappears from main engineering, and appears in the white space of the wormhole (10x22 "Ascension")

VOICEOVER

This season, on Star Trek: Deep
Space Nine...

-- Rebecca takes Vaughn's hand, begins to lead him out of the white space (11x04 "Separation Manoeuvres Complete")

REBECCA

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

VAUGHN

Okay, Rebecca. Take me home.

-- In the commander's office (11x05 "The New Normal")

VAUGHN

I have been officially promoted to
captain and assigned as the new
commanding officer of Deep Space
Nine. I am officially inviting you
to be first officer.

RO

Thank you, Captain. I accept.

-- Ro introduces Evik to Cenn in the security office. They
shake hands (11x09 "The Laughing Policeman")

VAUGHN

(v.o. from 11x05)
Now, we'll need a new chief
security officer to replace you.

-- Hetik meets Candlewood in the corridor (11x05)

HETIK

I heard you got a promotion. Chief
Science Officer, that's amazing!

CANDLEWOOD

Oh... yeah... thank you.

-- Vaughn talks to Prynn in the office, plus his transfer
approval on the screen (11x05)

VAUGHN

I might not be here all the
time... but I will be here when
you need me.

-- Major Cenn is running Ops, listening to Corporal Renta
over the comm (11x03 "Self Destruct Initiated")

RENTA (comm)

Ascendants, Major. Here. Now. In
the Bajoran system.

-- Raiq opens the door to find Kira waiting (11x03)

KIRA

We need your help.

-- Kira, Raiq, Sisko and Prynn in the runabout, chasing
after Axno (11x03)

KIRA

Why would the Prophets let one of
these people into the Alpha
Quadrant?

-- Kira, Raiq and Axno in the shrine (11x03)

KIRA

Axno... what are you doing?

RAIQ

My sister, please...

AXNO

You are no sister of mine.

- Axno BURSTS into a massive ball of flame. Raiq casts her hands out and forms an instant force field (11x03)
- Vaughn and Ro revealing their secret to Prynn, Nog and Candlewood (11x07 "In Love and War")

RO
We need a mystery solved.

PRYNN
What kind of mystery?

VAUGHN
The kind that's called... an Ascendant ship.

RO
It's Axno's ship.

- Inside the ship, the silver material creeps up Prynn's arm (11x07)

PRYNN
Get it off me!

- The ship fires, blasting a hole in the wall of Empok Nor, air screaming through the hole (11x07)

PRYNN (v.o.)
It's alive, sir. It's a living creature, and it's healing.

CANDLEWOOD (v.o.)
I cracked some of the bio-signals already.

NOG (v.o.)
It turns out that Empok Nor was the perfect place to hide it. With no fusion core on the station, and no pilot, the ship has nothing to feed off.

-- Kira confronts Vaughn in the *Defiant* corridor outside sickbay (11x10 "Gut Feelings")

KIRA

I get why you didn't tell Raiq about the ship. But why couldn't you tell me?

VAUGHN

Why would I? You're not Starfleet anymore. You're not even Militia. You resigned. To put it bluntly, Nerys, you're no longer one of us.

-- Raiq in the grip of the vessel, being healed (11x10)

VAUGHN (v.o.)

You know it only takes one ship and one pilot to destroy an entire star system, and you want me to just hand it over?

KIRA (v.o.)

You don't know her. She's changed.

-- The big argument in the commander's office (11x10)

BASHIR

You're outnumbered, Captain.

VAUGHN

You think this is some kind of democracy? You follow my orders.

RO

Not if the orders are wrong, sir.

-- Vaughn gestures at the *Defiant's* main viewscreen, with its tumbling debris of the holographic Deep Space Nine (11x11 "The Crucible")

VAUGHN

And what about those thousands of dead people?

RO
There are no dead people!

VAUGHN
The day will come. I guarantee it.

RO
Then I'll deal with it my way.

-- Vaughn makes his announcement on stage (11x13 "The Late Show! With Morn")

VAUGHN
This is not going to be easy for me to say. But I will be leaving Deep Space Nine soon.

-- Vaughn transfers command, in Ops (11x14 "No Confidence")

RO
I relieve you, sir.

VAUGHN
I stand relieved.

-- Ro and Cenn in the office (11x15 "Never See It Coming")

RO
I'm going to need an executive officer here. You want the job?

CENN
Yes. Thank you, Commander.

-- Yevir brings Kira and Raiq to Janir (11x06)

YEVIR
Novice Kira, Raiq, welcome to the Oralian Temple at Janir.

MIKA
Nerys, you came. That's wonderful.

RAIQ

You also know this woman, Kira?

KIRA

She used to be with the *pagh-wraith* cult. Last I heard she'd joined the Ohalavaru. Are you an Oralian now, Mika?

MIKA

In fact, I still follow Ohalu. But Vedek Yevir asked for my help, and I saw no reason why we couldn't work together.

-- Kira and Ro talk in the runabout (11x15)

KIRA

I'm not here to take command from you. I'm only here to watch out for Raiq.

RO

Why?

KIRA

I killed her entire race, Laren. That's on me.

-- Ro reveals the secret ship to Raiq (11x14)

RO

We found a message... from another Ascendant. You're not the only one, Raiq.

-- On the Black World, Raiq and Vexh meet (11x15)

VEXH

It is a great relief to see you.

RAIQ

It is good to see you too, my brother. I am Raiq.

VEXH

I am Vexh.

-- The meridian destroys Vexh's ship, he screams (11x15)

-- Jake interviewing Kai Solis (11x14)

JAKE

It's been a difficult time for the church on Bajor.

-- The flashback to the Ohalu protest in the shrine, including Luka and Mika (11x06 "Two Steps Forward")

JAKE

(v.o. from 11x14)

Obviously there's the Ohalu movement...

-- The fistfight in the shrine, with Cenn and Evik (11x09)

JAKE (v.o.)

...but now the Oralian Way...

-- The Bajorans at B'Hala reacting to the arrival of Raiq (11x19 "Gratitude")

JAKE (v.o.)

...and Raiq the Ascendant.

-- Back to the interview (11x14)

SOLIS

We must be wary of turning those passions against each other.

-- Vedek Bellis in the Assembly chamber (11x14)

BELLIS

My followers and I call for a vote of no confidence in Kai Solis's ability to lead Bajor.

-- Evik watches the results of the vote with relief (11x15)

NEWSREADER

It's a landslide result. Almost
eighty per cent of Bajor voted...
in favour of Kai Solis.

-- A mugshot of Luka, clearly taken in DS9 security (11x06)

CENN

(v.o. from 11x06)
His name is Luka Tirem.

VAUGHN

He's an Ohalavar.

CENN

Rather an extreme one.

-- Sisko is introduced to Luka at B'Hala (11x11 "Vigil")

SOOL

Emissary, please meet Luka Tirem.

LUKA

Captain Sisko. A pleasure to meet
you, sir.

-- A phaser shoots at Garak outside the shrine (11x06)

LUKA

(v.o. from 11x11)
The Cardassian ambassador. The
stupidest thing I've ever done.

-- Sisko grabs Luka, Luka freaks out (11x11)

SISKO

Did you kill Prylar Eivos?

LUKA

Please don't hurt me please don't
hurt me please don't hurt me...

-- Sisko and Kasidy's argument, MOS (11x11)

LUKA (v.o.)
You're a good man too, Benjamin.

SISKO (v.o.)
At least one person forgives me.

- Pif and Sett nuzzle romantically (11x08 "Puppy Love")
- Hetik kisses Candlewood in the corridor outside the airlock (11x16 "Unleashed")
- Sisko and Kasidy reconcile with a big hug (11x19)
- Ro kisses Quark in Pif's quarters (11x08)

- Ro punches Quark in security (11x17 "Whistleblower")

CENN
Commander, you have to stop -

RO
He betrayed me, Major! He betrayed all of us... but especially me.

CENN
I'm Quark's contact. I'm the one who gave him the information about the Ascendant ship... It was me.

- Lenaris on the screen with Ro (11x17)

LENARIS (screen)
You have put the lives I protect at risk. And I have no problem embarrassing Starfleet publicly because of it.

RO
So now what? I'm supposed to throw myself on my sword, beg for mercy?

LENARIS (screen)
You're supposed to get rid of the ship, Commander.

- Luka grabs Rebecca and drags her off (11x19)

MIKA

(v.o. from 11x21)
Luka Tirem has kidnapped the
daughter of the Emissary...

-- Luka sits in the pilot's seat of Axno's ship, trying to
get it to work (11x20 "Fugitive")

MIKA (v.o.)
...taken the deadly Ascendant ship
kept in hiding by Starfleet...

-- Luka-Axno fires on the patrol vessels (11x21 "Inferno")

MIKA (v.o.)
...and attacked and killed several
Bajoran officers.

-- Luka-Axno jumps in and fires on Deep Space Nine (11x21)

RO (v.o.)
He's going to attack the station.

-- The runabouts escape. The station EXPLODES... (11x21)

VOICEOVER
And now, the conclusion.

2 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

RO and the rest flinch back, covering their eyes from the
flash. When they look back at the main viewscreen again...

...there's nothing but tumbling debris. Deep Space Nine has
been destroyed.

CONTINUING the scene...

Ro turns to the other officers, watching the screen beside
her... and she GRINS.

RO
Good thing that wasn't the real
Deep Space Nine, huh?

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. SPACE

The *Defiant* and Axno's Ascendant vessel both hold position, in silhouette against the star. We have gone back in time.

4 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

We begin back at the earlier scene. Ro has just figured out Luka-Axno's next move, to her horror. PRYNN, NOG, BOWERS, CANDLEWOOD and MATTHIAS are with her.

RO

He's going to attack the station.
That's his next target.

Continuing the scene. As the others absorb that...

CANDLEWOOD

Well, we obviously can't let that
happen.

PRYNN

So what do we do?

RO

(pacing, thinking)

Attack the station. Attack Deep
Space Nine. How do we get out of
that? Think, people!

BOWERS

Trick him somehow? Make him go
after something else instead?

NOG

But what?

RO

(chuckle)

It was certainly a trick last
time. Just a fake holo-station.

But I don't think holograms are going to fool an Ascendant ship.

Inspiration hits. Ro stops pacing, and grins. She's got it.

RO

But we don't need a hologram. We have something better.

As the others wonder what she's going on about, she starts delivering orders, top speed.

RO

John - that ship absorbs power from everything around it, right?

CANDLEWOOD

Right. In fact, I've been thinking that what looks like a lot of random jumping about might be the ship detecting power sources.

RO

So what would happen if there were no power sources?

CANDLEWOOD

It... wouldn't know where to go.

Ro smiles. That was apparently the right answer.

RO

Nog, how long would it take you to set up Empok Nor to send out a power signature the size of Deep Space Nine's?

NOG

Commander, Empok Nor is dead. No power core, no nothing. It can't be brought back to full power.

CANDLEWOOD

Then fake it.

RO

Exactly. Just enough to lure him in, get him where we want him.

NOG

Umm... I don't know... three hours, maybe?

RO

Take every available body you can spare, and get it done.

MATTHIAS

Commander, no matter where he is, we can't fire on him while he's still got Rebecca.

RO

Don't worry, I've got an idea for that too. Sam - assuming Rebecca is not an issue, do we have the firepower to take this ship out in our current condition?

BOWERS

Just barely. I wouldn't mind a couple dozen more ships, though.

PRYNN

I can think of someone who might be willing to help us.

Prynn looks meaningfully to Ro. A moment... Ro gets it.

RO

I can too.

And we catch back up to STOCK MATERIAL from 11x21. There's an ALARM from Bowers' tactical console. He runs to check it. His eyes flare in alarm, looks back to Ro...

BOWERS

Luka's charging up to jump...

RO

Everyone back to your posts. Red alert, battle stations. Matthias,

contact DS-Nine. Nog, get down to engineering and grab whatever you need. Everyone, move!

The crew rush back to their stations. Nog exits the bridge. The ship goes to RED ALERT. On screen, Luka-Axno turns to a threatening position, the ship's silver tip glowing red...

And he FIRES, right down *Defiant's* throat.

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

Replaying the scene from 11x21. The broadcast from Janir has been playing on the screens. But they all go blank, as RED ALERT lights flash all around the station.

CENN (comm)

Major Cenn to all hands. Level one emergency is in effect. This is not a drill. All hands report to your supervisors for orders.

QUARK looks in fear over towards Lt Cmdr EVIK, who has been standing and watching by the window out onto the Promenade. It's exactly what Quark feared would happen. Evik nods, then turns and heads directly for the security office.

All around the bar, Starfleet officers - ones who didn't already leave for the *Defiant* - immediately head out. In a matter of seconds, only civilians are left, wondering what the hell is going on while the red alert lights flash.

CENN (comm)

I repeat, this is not a drill, all hands report to supervisors. Now.

MORN, TREIR, HETIK and PIF all gather back together at the bar, surrounding Quark. This is it.

6 **INT. DS9 - SECURITY OFFICE**

Evik enters the room, moves with purpose into his seat and immediately calls up a connection to Ops. His personal screen changes to show CENN.

EVIK

Major. What's going on?

CENN (screen)
Commander Ro has a plan to stop
Luka. But she needs our help.

Off Evik's curious reaction to that...

7 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

On the habitat ring of the station, all three runabout pads rise and lock into position. In quick succession, all three runabouts - the *Rio Grande*, the *Brahmaputra*, the *Nile* - launch and head off quickly in the same direction.

The moment they've gone, the station starts shutting down. The main power core goes dark. Lights start going out all over the station. One by one, all the sections of the station turn to powerless darkness.

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

In the bar, Quark looks up in annoyance as the power goes out bit by bit all around him.

QUARK
Oh for... Not this again!

He grabs another FLARE from behind his bar, and CRACKS it open until it burns to life with an eerie green glow. Then he steps out towards the door to the Promenade...

...where Evik is already walking back towards him.

QUARK
Lieutenant Commander Evik! What is going on? I thought we got rid of that damned electronic dog thing!

EVIK
We did, Ambassador. But this is deliberate. We need to shut down the station so we present as small a power signature as possible. I'm assigning my officers to keep the

civilians safe and calm, but these people are your responsibility.

QUARK

I understand, Commander.

Quark grasps that this is clearly serious. As Evik leaves, and the lights continue to die out, Quark turns to his few remaining customers and staff.

QUARK

Everyone - please stay calm. We're going to be without power for a while. So please stay in plain sight, and I'll take care of you.

Morn is about to raise his stein of beer and launch into a rollicking sing-song, but Quark stops him.

QUARK

Morn, I get the feeling this is no time for a Lurian drinking song.

The people begin to gather in the centre of the room...

9 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Major Cenn stands at the central Ops table, in command of a crew of extras, as the station's power dies around him.

CENN

(to self)

Prophets protect us. I hope your plan works, Ro, because without any power or any runabouts... we're completely defenceless.

He breathes deeply as Ops sinks into darkness around him.

10 EXT. SPACE

The *Defiant* is moving at full impulse.

11 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Ro is in the command seat, Prynn at helm, Candlewood at sciences, Bowers at tactical, Matthias at ops.

RO

Tenmei - set a course direct for Empok Nor, a split-second fly-by. Bowers - drop the shields for point-six-two seconds at the apex of Tenmei's flight plan. John, start the beam cycle two-point-three seconds before the apex. Ro to Nog, are you ready?

NOG (comm)

We're ready, Commander.

RO

Good luck. Prynn?

PRYNN

Ready, Commander.

RO

Go.

Prynn hits her controls...

12 EXT. SPACE

The *Defiant* heads straight for Empok Nor at top speed, the dead station in orbit of the blue gas giant Cajara.

13 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Candlewood starts the transport cycle...

Bowers drops the shields...

14 INT. DEFIANT - TRANSPORTER ROOM

Nog and five other engineers including LEISHMAN disappear in transporter beams, carrying heavy boxes of equipment...

15 EXT. EMPOK NOR

The *Defiant* loops around at the last second...

16 **INT. EMPOK NOR - CORRIDOR**

Nog and his engineers TRANSPORT into a corridor.

NOG

Okay, everyone get to work!

They move quickly to do exactly that.

17 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* zooms away again, heading away from Empok Nor.

18 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro sits in the command chair.

RO

Prynn, find me new coordinates. We need to give Nog as much time as we can. I just hope the rest of the plan goes as easily as this.

Off Ro's determined yet worried face...

19 **INT. JANIR MONASTERY - RAIQ'S QUARTERS**

There's a sharp and urgent KNOCK at the door. RAIQ opens it, to find KIRA there in the doorway.

KIRA

Raiq... we need your help.

Off Raiq's uncertain reaction to that...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 EXT. ENDALLA SURFACE

The rocky, scrub-surfaced moon, with its destroyed Bajoran patrol vessels and intact Starfleet shuttlecraft *Cooper*.

21 INT. SHUTTLECRAFT COOPER

As seen in 11x03 and 11x17. Ensign ALECO sits in the pilot seat, wincing from his shrapnel-wounded leg but fighting past it determinedly, preparing the shuttle for launch.

BASHIR appears in the open hatchway and looks in, unhappy.

BASHIR

Ensign Aleco? What the hell do you think you're doing?

ALECO

They need someone to go to Bajor and pick up some passengers. I'm the closest, so I volunteered.

BASHIR

You're still wounded. You're in no shape to go anywhere.

ALECO

Doctor, I let Luka get past me. It's because of me that he has that ship, and Captain Sisko's daughter with him. If they need my help, I'm going to give it.

BASHIR

There's plenty of blame to go around, Ensign. At least let me give you a booster shot.

Bashir fishes in his medical bag, finds a hypo, steps up to Aleco and injects him in the neck. Aleco breathes deeply as the painkiller runs through him.

ALECO
Thanks, Doctor. Now go. Others
need you more than me.

Bashir nods reluctantly, and steps out of the shuttle. The hatch closes, and Aleco makes the final few preparations.

22 EXT. ENDALLA SURFACE

Bashir steps back, and watches as the tiny shuttle lifts off and zooms away into the sky.

23 INT. ENDALLA CAVERNS

SISKO is crouched down, moving rocks one at a time from where they fell. The rocks are blocking the passage, but as he moves them, they reveal more and more of the damaged, crushed body of Corporal RENTA. Finally his head is clear, twisted and glaring with dead eyes. Sisko stares balefully.

SISKO
I don't even know who you are. But
I am so sorry. This is all my
fault. Luka... he was my friend.

24 INT. ASCENDANT SHIP

LUKA sits in the pilot's seat of Axno's ship, cocooned in the silver blood of the Ascendants. The console before him is RED, and he grins manically as the ship FIRES bolts of lightning. Behind him, REBECCA cowers in the corner.

LUKA / AXNO
Watch them run from us, Rebecca.
I'll make them all pay. Bajorans.
Cardassians. Eav'oq. Heretics! And
they will die and burn for it.

He stops firing and pauses, reaching the ship's senses out.

LUKA / AXNO
But the temple to blasphemy, that
monstrous space station... where
is it? I cannot see it.

In frustration, he fires the ship's weapons again.

25 **EXT. SPACE**

Now we see the target of his fire - a Bajoran civilian transport ship. The ship's hull begins to peel away...

26 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro holds tight to her armrests, as the screen shows the attack progressing...

RO
Block that shot!

Prynn drives the ship on, right between the ships...

27 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* swoops into the path of the Ascendant ship, taking the brunt of the lightning bolt. Tiny explosions fill the air around the ship. Bits of the ablative armour peel away, revealing bare hull underneath.

Annoyed, Luka-Axno JUMPS away again.

28 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

STOCK MATERIAL from 11x21. Panels all over the bridge are blasted and burned, wires hanging, cables sparking, gases hissing. Everyone stays at their stations and keeps working, fighting to keep the ship alive.

Continuing the scene. Ro is in the command chair, battered and bloodied. She turns to Matthias...

RO
Do they have life support?

MATTHIAS
Yes! They're alive.

RO
Okay. Prynn, new coordinates!

27 **EXT. SPACE - BAJOR ORBIT**

The shuttlecraft *Cooper* zooms towards the planet's surface.

28 **EXT. BAJOR - JANIR MONASTERY**

The small monastery tucked away in the hills near the winding river. The *Cooper* flies into the valley...

ALECO (comm, v.o.)
Aleco to Kira.

KIRA (comm, v.o.)
Ready when you are, Ensign.

29 **INT. SHUTTLECRAFT COOPER**

TRANSPORTER signals form in the rear of the cramped cabin, depositing Kira and Raiq. Kira immediately moves to take the co-pilot seat while Raiq hovers at the back.

KIRA
Empok Nor, as fast as you can.

ALECO
Aye, sir.

30 **INT. EMPOK NOR - CORRIDOR**

Nog and LEISHMAN are both wrist deep in machines, working side by side as fast as they can move. Other engineers are dotted along the corridor, all working by temporary lights.

NOG
Still think we're all about to die, Lieutenant?

LEISHMAN
More than ever. But I don't get it. We're just setting up lights and sensor shadows. That's not enough to fake a power signature the size of Deep Space Nine.

NOG
Nope, it's not. But somebody else is taking care of that.

31 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Cooper* zooms towards the still-dark Empok Nor...

32 **INT. SHUTTLECRAFT COOPER**

As Empok Nor grows in the front window, Kira turns to Raiq.

KIRA

You're sure you're strong enough
to do this?

RAIQ

I am strong as I have ever been.
Bleat at me no longer, woman.

KIRA

What about your connection to the
ship? You said you couldn't affect
what it did, only watch.

Raiq is unsure about this one, but fakes confidence.

RAIQ

I will complete this Quest, Kira.

ALECO

Approaching Empok Nor now.

Raiq stands straight, moves to the rear of the shuttle, and
casts the FORCEFIELD around herself.

As she stands there surrounded by the bubble of energy,
Kira works her panels.

With one last look of concern to Raiq, Kira presses one
last control. Raiq disappears in a TRANSPORTER beam...

33 **INT. EMPOK NOR**

...and rematerializes inside a dead and blackened area of
Empok Nor, still surrounded by her forcefield. As she
steadies her nerves for the task ahead, we PULL BACK...

She is standing on a platform that opens out onto a huge open space inside the station. What used to house the power core, it is now a vacant chasm inside the station's body.

Raiq is stood on the lowest level of this.

We continue to PULL BACK until we realise that we are...

34 **EXT. EMPOK NOR**

...OPEN TO SPACE, in the very lowest part of the station's central core.

Raiq looks out at the stars and the lower pylons, protected only by her forcefield. She watches as the *Cooper* zooms away, leaving her behind.

35 **INT. EMPOK NOR - CORRIDOR**

Nog slots one last piece into place, and stands up. He looks down both directions of the corridor, shouts out.

 NOG
Everyone ready?

 LEISHMAN
Ready, sir.

 NOG
Okay, here goes nothing. Nog to
Defiant.

36 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro in the centre seat...

 NOG (comm)
We're as ready as we can be here,
Commander.

 RO
Aleco just called - the rest of
the plan is in place. Stand by.
Bowers, any sign of our backup?

 BOWERS

Not yet, sir. But every second we wait is another second Rebecca is in danger.

RO

Alright, then I guess we do this without them. Tenmei - set course for Empok Nor. Nog, set it off and then get the hell out of there.

37 **INT. EMPOK NOR - CORRIDOR**

NOG

Understood, Commander.

(taps combadge)

You heard the lady. Everyone out!

All the other engineers stand, tap their combadges, and TRANSPORT away. Leishman stays with him, and together they move to one last lever, preparing to push it.

38 **RAIQ**

...LEVITATES off her ledge and out into the cavernous space at the bottom of Empok Nor, surrounded by her forcefield.

Hovering in space, Raiq manoeuvres until she is floating directly where the power core should be. She raises her hands, looks up into the open cavity of the station. Her hands burst into FLAMES. She prepares herself...

...and the flames EXPLODE into a massive column of fire, shooting up into the body of the station.

39 **INT. EMPOK NOR - CORRIDOR**

Nog and Leishman press the last lever together. Then they tap their combadges and TRANSPORT away.

40 **EXT. EMPOK NOR**

The formerly dead Empok Nor POWERS UP, lights appearing in all the windows, life bursting into every corner of the station. And Raiq, being the power core.

41 **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

A wash of GREEN floods Luka's console. He reacts with glee.

LUKA / AXNO

Show me!

The mid-air hologram returns, revealing a scratchy image of what looks through static like a powered Deep Space Nine.

A nasty grin grows on his face. The interior of the ship glows WHITE, and he JUMPS away in a flash.

42 **EXT. EMPOK NOR**

STOCK MATERIAL from 11x21. At the top of the station, looking down on the Ops dome and the Promenade...

And Luka-Axno JUMPS into position, right on top of the station. The pointed tip glows an angry red...

And he FIRES. The bolt of lightning hits the Ops dome. Electric charges skitter and fizzle all over the outer hull, dissolving the metal, spreading gradually down.

43 **RAIQ**

Concentrating as hard as she can, casting the flames up into the core of the station. She mutters to herself...

RAIQ

My vessel - I feel you near. Do
you feel me? Bring me home.

44 **EXT. EMPOK NOR**

STOCK MATERIAL from 11x21. Ops disintegrates into chunks. Luka-Axno doesn't stop firing. The crumbling continues down the neck of the station, reaching the Promenade.

All three runabouts launch and escape. Just in time - the crumbling spreads out across the crossover bridges to the habitat ring.

45 **INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT**

Nog and Leishman at the helm of the runabout, with a group of engineers gathered all together at the back.

LEISHMAN

Go! Go!

NOG

I am going...

46 **EXT. EMPOK NOR**

Starting at the core and spreading outward, the entire station DISSOLVES, chunks of metal tumbling away into space. Small EXPLOSIONS swallow up many of the pieces.

47 **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

Inside the ship, Luka-Axno is concentrating on firing, a wash of RED filling the console and spreading to the rest of the ship. He LAUGHS maniacally, fully enjoying the massive destruction he is causing.

Behind him, unnoticed, Rebecca sits by the back wall. By her side, a new Wa patch is forming... BLACK.

Rebecca reaches out to touch it again, thinking maybe it will get her out like the purple patch did. Her fingers swim into the colour, and the entire back wall begins to WAVER, becoming fluid, watery, translucent.

48 **RAIQ**

Focusing hard on her forcefield and the flames, she feels the power of the ship flowing into her...

Suddenly she feels PULLED, yanked backwards. The forcefield dissolves, the flames die, and Raiq DISAPPEARS as if sucked through the fabric of space itself.

49 **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

And Raiq FALLS out of the wavery back wall of the Ascendant ship, staggering onto the deck. Rebecca looks up at the newcomer, recognizing her.

In the pilot seat, Luka-Axno recognizes her too.

Off Luka's manic grin, and Raiq's uncertain reaction...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

54 INT. ASCENDANT SHIP

Picking up where we left off. We have now caught up with real time, as at the end of 11x21. Raiq stands against the back wall, Rebecca cowering by her side, facing a hologram of Luka. Luka's real body remains cocooned in silver.

LUKA / AXNO

Join me, my sister!

RAIQ

I did not come for you. I came for the child.

LUKA / AXNO

I know you better than that. We are the same, you and I. You long to annihilate these sinners and blasphemers by my side. It is what you were born to do!

Raiq hesitates to answer for just that moment too long.

LUKA / AXNO

You see? You do not deny it.

RAIQ

The Quest is over. The Ascension is past.

LUKA / AXNO

The Quest is never over! It is our life! Why else would you come?

RAIQ

I came for Kira. For Sisko.

LUKA

Benjamin... My friend...

RAIQ

Yes, and you have betrayed him.
You took his young.

LUKA / AXNO
She is Ohalu's Avatar! She is the
proof that we are right!

RAIQ
No! I saw as the True see, and
this is not their wish.
(calm, patient)
Listen to me, Luka. Stop this. You
are correct - I do long for the
fire and the glory of the Quest.
But that is past. Though it be
difficult, we must go forward.

LUKA / AXNO
Forward to what? To a world where
heresy is tolerated, celebrated?

RAIQ
I no longer believe it is heresy.
It is only... different.

LUKA / AXNO
Then you have betrayed us. You are
as much a heretic as any of them.
You will die and burn with them.

RAIQ
Perhaps. But the child will not.

Quickly, Raiq scoops up Rebecca, turns and LEAPS back
through the wavery rear wall. They both disappear. Enraged,
Luka bursts into FLAMES, wafting away the hologram image.

In his silver cocoon, Luka-Axno ROARS with fury. The ship's
interior glows WHITE... and he JUMPS.

55 **EXT. SPACE**

Luka JUMPS back into open space, instantly FIRING in jagged
bolts of lightning, not caring who or what at. The ship
tumbles out of control, and then JUMPS away again.

This is Bashir. Go ahead.

RO (comm)
Doctor, did it work? Is Rebecca
there? Is she safe?

BASHIR
Stand by, Commander.

He quickly grabs a tricorder and activates it. Scanning...

BASHIR
Alright, we have two Bajorans and
a human right here... and one
human in the caverns...

KIRA
That's Sisko.

Bashir keeps scanning. He looks back to Kira, worried...

59 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Ro waits anxiously for the results of Bashir's scan,
standing on the half-ruined bridge of the *Defiant*...

60 INT. ENDALLA CAVERNS

The open space where the ship was hidden. The entrance
remains blocked by rockfall. The air splits open...

...and Raiq LEAPS through, carrying Rebecca in her arms.

61 EXT. ENDALLA SURFACE

Bashir picks up the new readings on his tricorder...

BASHIR
Yes! One Ascendant adult and one
human child. She's safe.

62 INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE

Fortified with success, Ro returns to her command seat.

RO

Bowers - weapons free.

BOWERS

Yes sir.

And they get back to work, eager and re-energized.

63 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant*, looking damaged and patchy, nevertheless turns and surges back into battle.

64 **EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE**

Sitting in complete darkness, no power.

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

A CRACK and a FIZZ, and another green FLARE comes to life in Quark's hands. He carries it over from the bar to the small group gathered in the centre, sat huddled together in the dark. Treir, Hetik, Morn, Pif and his puppies.

TREIR

Any news from Evik?

QUARK

Not a word. They can't even turn on the passive sensors.

HETIK

So he could be about to blow us to pieces, and we'd never know.

PIF

Trust me. Not knowing is better.

QUARK

Will you all stop talking so loud?

HETIK

I really don't think he can hear us, Quark.

QUARK

The children can hear you. You'll scare them.

Treir smiles - he called them 'children'. Quark reaches out for TIFF the puppy, picks him up gently, holds him close.

QUARK
You stay safe where I can see you,
little one.

TIFF
I will, uncle Quark.

HETIK
Sorry. I just hope they're safe.

QUARK
You think I don't? I have family
out there. And... and friends.

TREIR
(comforting pat)
We all hope they're safe, Hetik.

Hetik nods, and they go back to silent waiting in the dark.

66 **INT. ENDALLA CAVERNS**

Kira runs through the passage, reaching Sisko at his slowly diminishing wall of rocks. She sees the crushed body of Corporal Renta moved to the side, laid out as respectfully as possible in the circumstances.

KIRA
Benjamin! It worked - she's safe.
Raiq rescued Rebecca. They're in
there right now.

Sisko is relieved, but he still has to get to his daughter.

SISKO
Help me!

Kira digs in, helping Sisko to get the rocks moved faster.

67 INT. BAJORAN MILITIA CENTRAL

The hub of activity of Bajor's planetary police. LENARIS and KASIDY stand together, watching developments on the big incident screen, awaiting news. An ALERT - Lenaris checks.

LENARIS

Starfleet reports that your daughter is safe, ma'am. And in fact, they credit the Ascendant woman Raiq with her rescue.

KASIDY

I guess she really is on our side now, like she said.

LENARIS

It also means that the *Defiant* is now free to attack and destroy that damned ship.

KASIDY

(darkly)

And the man inside it.

LENARIS

Indeed.

KASIDY

Tell them not to show any mercy. I want that bastard dead.

LENARIS

(hesitant)

Ms Yates...

KASIDY

How would you feel, General, if it was your child he'd taken?

LENARIS

My children were killed by the Cardassians.

KASIDY

And didn't you want to punish them?

LENARIS

Perhaps, once. At the time. But we move forward.

KASIDY

I can move forward when he's dead.

This is a new look on Kasidy. A mother defending her child. Intimidated, reluctant, Lenaris nevertheless goes to pass on the message.

68 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* lets loose with its PULSE PHASERS, pummelling at the Ascendant ship.

Only the first punch actually hits, knocking the ship off its axis. After that the ship JUMPS away again, and the rest of the *Defiant's* shots go spare.

69 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Prynn at helm, seeing the ship disappear before her eyes on the main viewscreen.

PRYNN

It's no good being free to shoot if you can't hit the damn thing.

RO

New co-ordinates! Fire again!

CANDLEWOOD

It's no use, sir. He's moving too fast. There's no way to catch up.

PRYNN

Just watch me.

And she turns the ship again, renewing her attack...

70 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* surges forward, pulse phasers firing. Luka-Axno JUMPS away again.

71 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Prynn thumps her burned console in frustration.

PRYNN

Damn it!

Ro sits in her command seat, wondering what she can do. But then there's a new ALERT. Matthias checks it, and grins.

MATTHIAS

Commander - our backup's here.

72 **EXT. SPACE**

Luka-Axno JUMPS into open space again, skidding sideways...

ANGLE

The USS *James T Kirk* comes surging in, phasers blasting.

73 **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

The phasers HIT one of the ship's bladelike wings. The ship CONVULSES in pain, and Luka SCREAMS, panicked.

LUKA / AXNO

Gotta go gotta go gotta go...

And he JUMPS away again.

74 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro in the centre seat, victorious...

RO

On screen!

The viewscreen changes to show Captain VAUGHN in command on an Akira-class bridge, firm and determined.

VAUGHN (screen)

My apologies for the delay,
Commander. A little trouble with
the Tholians.

RO
Just glad you could join the
party, Captain.

VAUGHN (screen)
Is Rebecca safe?

RO
Yes, sir. Raiq saved her, took her
back to Endalla. She's there with
Sisko and Kira now.

VAUGHN (screen)
Raiq? Raiq saved her?

RO
That's right, sir. So we might be
able to finally finish this thing
once and for all.

Vaughn nods, pondering this information.

75 INT. ENDALLA CAVERNS

Sisko and Kira move the last of the fallen rocks, enough
for them both to clamber through the hole and into the
larger open space where the ship was hidden.

Struggling through, they both see Raiq standing there,
holding Rebecca by the arm.

SISKO
Rebecca!

REBECCA
Daddy!

Rebecca tries to immediately run to her daddy... but Raiq
won't let her go. Her lithe silver hand grips tight onto
the tiny brown arm.

KIRA

Raiq, what are you doing? It's
over - you can let her go now.

Raiq pulls Rebecca in tight, wraps a hand around the little
girl's throat. Rebecca struggles against her. Raiq sneers
at Sisko and Kira with anger, and the hand begins to GLOW.

RAIQ
No. I will not.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

76 EXT. SPACE

The Akira-class USS *Kirk* at momentary rest...

77 INT. KIRK - BRIDGE

As seen briefly in 11x14 "No Confidence". Vaughn stands from his command chair, turns to his first officer ROGEIRO - an olive-skinned man with a pronounced Portuguese accent.

ROGEIRO

It is irregular for the captain to leave the bridge during a combat situation, sir.

VAUGHN

I'm afraid this is a personal matter, Commander. I need to be sure it's resolved. Helm - set course for a split-second fly-by of Endalla. Tactical - drop the shields for point-six-two seconds at the apex of the flight plan. Ops, begin transport two-point-three seconds before the apex.

ROGEIRO

An interesting strategy, sir.

VAUGHN

I learned from the best. Commander Rogeiro, you have the bridge. Coordinate with Commander Ro of the *Defiant*, but follow her lead.

ROGEIRO

Sir?

VAUGHN

This is her territory, in more ways than one. Helm - engage.

A VULCAN WOMAN at the helm sets the ship on its course.

78 **EXT. SPACE**

With the moon of Endalla in the distance, the *Kirk* zooms off towards it.

79 **INT. ENDALLA CAVERNS**

Vaughn TRANSPORTS into the caverns, by the side of Kira and Sisko, a happy and welcoming smile on his face...

...which instantly drops when he sees Raiq, her burning hand around Rebecca's throat, Kira and Sisko holding back.

VAUGHN

Ben? Nerys? What's going on?

Raiq recognizes him... and hisses in fury.

RAIQ

You.

VAUGHN

I was told you saved Rebecca.

RAIQ

Kira asked. Demanded. I did as she said, as I thought the True wanted of me. As I have always done.

KIRA

(carefully)

Then what are you doing now?

RAIQ

I am demonstrating the error of your ways.

SISKO

Raiq... please... don't...

Off Raiq, struggling between anger and confusion...

80 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro on the bridge, talking to Cmdr Rogeiro on the *Kirk's* bridge, via the viewscreen. Meanwhile, Candlewood has his head down, working hard at his consoles.

ROGEIRO (screen)
What is your plan, Commander?

RO
Right now, I don't have one. I exhausted my plan-making skills with Empok Nor. I'm hoping two heads are better than one.

Candlewood's hand shoots up, as if he's in school.

CANDLEWOOD
Commanders! I have an idea.

RO
(to Rogeiro, explaining)
Lieutenant Candlewood, my chief science officer.
(to Candlewood)
Go ahead, John.

CANDLEWOOD
We thought the jumping was random before, and it wasn't. And I think it's still not random.

ROGEIRO (screen)
You found a pattern, Lieutenant?

CANDLEWOOD
If I'm right, we can calculate his next jump. And be there waiting.

As Ro and Rogeiro ponder this...

81 INT. ENDALLA CAVERNS

The stand-off continues. Raiq holds Rebecca by the throat. Kira, Sisko and Vaughn stand back, facing her. With one hand holding Rebecca, the other points at Vaughn.

RAIQ

You! And those who wear the same weak cloth. Since I came to this world, you have all treated me as if I were still your enemy.

VAUGHN

How so?

RAIQ

You lied about the vessel. You hid the knowledge that I was not the last of my kind.

VAUGHN

Well, what do you expect? You led the crusade to exterminate these people. I was protecting them.

RAIQ

That is past. The True have shown me we are to be friends now. All brothers and sisters in the True.

KIRA

Be fair, Raiq. How was he supposed to know that?

VAUGHN

Just let Rebecca go. If you want someone to blame, take me. Maybe I even deserve it.

KIRA

(sotto, to Vaughn)

I beg forgiveness.

VAUGHN

What?

KIRA

Say it. It's traditional.

Vaughn takes a deep breath, turns back to Raiq.

VAUGHN

I beg forgiveness.

RAIQ
I do not grant it.

Off everyone's reaction to that...

82 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro conferring with Candlewood, then turning to Rogeiro...

RO
We're sending you the coordinates
now. When he next jumps in, we'll
be there. When he jumps out again,
you'll be there one step ahead.
Then, we'll be two steps ahead.

ROGEIRO (screen)
Understood, Commander.

RO
What's your first name, Commander?

ROGEIRO (screen)
Anxo.

RO
I beg your pardon?

ROGEIRO (screen)
Anxo. It means 'angel' in
Portuguese. Why, does it matter?

RO
No, just... Never mind. Well, Anxo
Rogeiro. I'm Laren. What do you
say we kill this thing?

ROGEIRO
I will follow your lead... Laren.
Kirk out.

The screen returns to the stars, and the crew gets to work.

83 **INT. ENDALLA CAVERNS**

Continuing the stand-off...

VAUGHN

Look, Raiq, I'm sorry for hiding things from you. But you were on a mission from your gods to kill everyone I care about.

RAIQ

You insult my faith! The True want only peace now, and I have worked tirelessly to mould that truth into my life.

VAUGHN

So what was I supposed to do?

RAIQ

You should have trusted me, as Kira did. She understood, as we both struggled to reconcile what we have always known of them with what they want of us now. But you did not want peace. You wanted fear and mistrust.

KIRA

Raiq, listen to me. You're right. We need to move forward. We've come so far, all of us. You saved the Emissary's daughter - that's going to put all of Bajor on your side. Don't spoil it now. Let her go. It's what the Prophets... it's what the True would want.

VAUGHN

Please, Raiq. I'm sorry. Don't let my mistake ruin everything.

Raiq struggles... and with a roar of frustration, lets go of Rebecca. The little girl immediately runs to Sisko, grabbing him around the waist like she'll never let go.

Everyone stands down the tension. Hanging her head in shame, Raiq looks sadly towards Sisko and Rebecca.

RAIQ
I beg forgiveness... Emissary.

SISKO
I grant it, Raiq.

But Sisko's face is still like thunder.

84 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Everyone waits on edge for Luka to appear. Eyes on the screen, fingers on triggers. Prynn hesitates, turns to Ro.

PRYNN
Sir, I'm not sure about this.

MATTHIAS
I know what you mean. Luka, he's almost an innocent in this. He suffered brain damage from being beaten and abused. And now he's under the influence of that ship.

PRYNN
Exactly! I'm not saying he didn't do anything wrong. He kidnapped Rebecca, he killed people. But maybe he wasn't in his right mind.

CANDLEWOOD
But there's no way to know that without getting him out of the ship. From everything I've been able to figure out, that won't happen. He's bonded to it now.

PRYNN
Still, sitting in wait so we can shoot him down, without any trial or defence... it feels like an execution. Is that what we do?

Ro sits back to ponder this for a moment.

RO

It's not our decision to make. Ro
to Bashir. Is Sisko with you?

85 **INT. ENDALLA CAVERNS**

Bashir is just clambering past the rockfall and into the larger cavern. He goes straight to Sisko.

BASHIR
Captain, it's Ro on the *Defiant*.

SISKO
Go ahead, Commander.

RO (comm)
Sir, we're in position to destroy
the Ascendant ship and its pilot.
I believe it's your call as to
whether we take the final shot.

Everyone overhears this. Sisko, cradling a shaken Rebecca. Kira, sitting and comforting Raiq. Vaughn, standing alone.

Sisko hesitates. He looks back and forth between Bashir and Kira and Vaughn, trying to get some sense of what he should do. Then he looks down at Rebecca, trembling in his arms.

RO (comm)
Captain... do we fire first?

SISKO
Yes. Kill him.

RO (comm)
...Understood, sir. *Defiant* out.

Everyone accepts the decision silently, if not happily.

86 **EXT. SPACE**

Luka-Axno JUMPS into space, on the run and panicked...

87 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Seeing this on the viewscreen, Ro is resolute.

RO

Fire.

Bowers presses his controls...

88 **EXT. SPACE**

The *Defiant* lets loose with its punishing pulse-phasers...

The Ascendant ship takes the hits, crumpling from the damage, warping out of shape.

The *Kirk* comes flying in from another angle, joining the attack on Luka-Axno...

89 **INT. ASCENDANT SHIP**

Inside, the ship is going wild. Surfaces are bulging and warping. Electricity shocks across the consoles. The ship takes hit after hit after hit from the Starfleet phasers.

As the ship shrieks in its death throes, the silver blood flows away from Luka's body, releasing him from its hold. When he's finally free, he looks around in a panic.

LUKA

Rebecca! Where are you sweetheart?
Rebecca? Please! I only wanted to
keep you safe...

And the ship finally can't take any more. It OVERLOADS, the surfaces bursting, electricity crackling...

90 **EXT. SPACE**

The Ascendant ship EXPLODES...

91 **INT. DEFIANT - BRIDGE**

Ro and crew watch this on the screen, grim and resigned.

92 **INT. ENDALLA CAVERNS**

Raiq JERKS, gasping in pain as she feels the ship dying. Kira looks after her, Bashir runs to check on her.

Meanwhile Sisko watches, holding Rebecca, face like death.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

93 EXT. DEEP SPACE NINE

The station sits in its usual place, fully powered and lit up. The *Defiant* is docked, the *James T Kirk* is docked, freighters are docked. All is peaceful and normal.

RO (v.o.)
Station log, stardate 56801.0,
Commander Ro Laren recording.
Everything is back to normal.
Mostly.

94 INT. DS9 - MAIN OPS CENTRE

Ro stands outside her office, calmly watching the business of Ops go on. Cenn is at the Ops table, Bowers at tactical, extras elsewhere. She's happy with her lot.

RO (v.o.)
The station returned to full power
without incident, the *Defiant* is
under repair, and the crew are
settling back into their routine.

She strides confidently down to the table, checks something with Cenn MOS, approves, and then heads up the stairs again to the turbolift. It takes her away...

95 INT. DS9 - INFIRMARY

Rebecca sits sideways on a biobed as Bashir scans her all over. Sisko is right with her, not letting go. Kira and Raiq are both watching from a polite distance.

RO (v.o.)
Rebecca Sisko is safe and
perfectly healthy. She and her
father have returned to Bajor,
along with Kira and Raiq.

The results are fine, and Sisko grabs Rebecca tight with relief. The little girl seems to be recovering nicely.

96 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

The door from the Infirmary opens and Sisko, Rebecca, Kira and Raiq exit together, just in time to bump into Ro strolling along. They all exchange pleasantries MOS.

RO (v.o.)

The crew of both the station and the *Defiant* performed admirably under difficult circumstances...

Ro crosses paths with Evik as he exits the security office. They nod acknowledgements, and she turns to enter Quark's.

97 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

At a table in the middle, several junior officers sit together relaxing, including Prynn, Richter and Candlewood.

RO (v.o.)

...and I think they all deserve a little time to rest and relax.

Focusing on the junior officers now...

RICHTER

Are you serious? While the rest of us were in the midst of a battle for our lives?

PRYNN

Cross my heart. She did him right in the Jeffries tube.

Candlewood CHOKES on his drink. Everyone else laughs. Suddenly they all hush though. Candlewood turns to see why... and sees that Nog has just entered the bar.

He sees them all sat together. He sees the smirks on their faces. He knows what they've been talking about. He blushes furiously, and turns and exits again. They all laugh more.

HETIK (o.s.)

John?

Candlewood turns again, and Hetik is standing there. John immediately stands and throws himself into Hetik's arms.

CANDLEWOOD

Hey, boyfriend.

HETIK

Hey yourself. Oh John... thank the Prophets you're safe.

CANDLEWOOD

Um, excuse me - thank me I'm safe. I'm the one who figured out the pattern. I am, after all, awesome.

Hetik just chuckles and holds tight.

Back over at the bar, Ro leans against the bar while Quark and Treir serve. Nearby, Vaughn is just finishing up.

VAUGHN

Well, it's about time I was on my way. This is your station now, not mine.

RO

Thanks again for your help out there, Captain.

VAUGHN

You never need to ask, Commander. I'm always at your disposal.

Meanwhile, Quark works the consoles behind the bar, and a NEWS REPORT appears on all the screens around the room, featuring regular newsreader TIANA FEEN.

TIANA (screen)

...as life in the Federation gets back to normal...

The image on the screen changes to show the older human woman who was a candidate for president, NANIETTA BACCO.

TIANA (v.o.)

...the former governor of Cestus Three and newly elected Federation President Nanietta Bacco settles into her new offices on Earth.

98 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Elsewhere on the Promenade, Kira and Sisko have paused to watch the news report on another screen.

 TIANA (screen)
 Meanwhile, closer to home, the election has been overshadowed by events concerning the Ohalavar extremist Luka Tirem...

Kira looks to Sisko in sympathy. Rebecca seems fine, but Sisko is obviously not over it yet. Tiana continues...

 TIANA (cont)
 ...and the subsequent surprise resignation of Kai Solis Tendren.

Kira's jaw drops in sad shock. A video comes on the screen of Solis standing before the media.

 SOLIS (screen)
 My children, it is with a very heavy heart that I do this.

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

The video also plays in Ops, where Cenn watches gravely.

 SOLIS (screen)
 While the actions of Luka Tirem were his alone, and I reject any attempt to blame them upon my fellow Ohalavaru, those actions have nevertheless made my position untenable. Someone must pay the price, and I would rather that someone be me than my followers.

100 **INT. DS9 - PROMENADE**

Sitting in the replimat, Evik also watches the news report.

SOLIS (screen)

I am deeply grateful to you all
for the confidence you showed in
me during the recent vote.

101 INT. DS9 - PROMENADE

Kira and Sisko. The screen now changes to show an image of Vedek PRALON, Solis's friend and supporter.

SOLIS (v.o.)

And I pray that you will show
similar confidence in my deputy
and friend, Vedek Pralon Onala, as
she takes the Apex Chair in my
place. Though she follows a more
traditional path than my own, I
have faith that she will remain a
powerful advocate for diversity
and open-mindedness on Bajor.

Kira nods sadly but resignedly at this news. If Solis has to go, then Pralon is a good choice to replace him. She takes Sisko's arm and they walk on down the Promenade, Rebecca and Raiq with them.

102 INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR

As Tiana continues her news report in the background, Ro turns back to Vaughn.

RO

Damn it, that's a shame.

VAUGHN

Yes. He's right, though. Mistakes
were definitely made, and someone
has to take responsibility.

Subtext established - he's talking about himself. Ro stands, straightens herself.

RO

Safe journey, Captain.

VAUGHN

To us all, Commander.

Goodbyes said, he turns to leave. He catches up with Prynn at the door, and they walk off arm in arm. Ro watches them go, then turns back to Quark. She stretches across the bar towards him, leaning seductively close.

RO

You know, Quark... Treir told me what you said about the puppies while I was away on the *Defiant*. Calling them 'children' for a change, instead of 'those filthy animals'. Thank you for that.

QUARK

I wish you'd stop passing around these rumours about me. I can't have people thinking I'm a soft touch. Then where would I be?

RO

I was wondering... do you think Treir could handle the bar on her own for a while?

He looks at her askance, and twigs what she's getting at.

QUARK

Really? Me being nice to animals is what it takes to get you hot?

RO

(playful)

Well, that... and it's been a stressful few days. I must have a lot of tension to burn off...

QUARK

Treir! You've got the bar.

No more said - Quark throws down his towel, rounds the bar in a flash, and he and Ro are on their way out.

103 EXT. SPACE - BAJOR ORBIT

A runabout flies down towards the planet's surface.

104 EXT. SSKO'S HOUSE - DAY

Bringing us back home to the Sisko domicile in the Kendra Valley countryside.

105 INT. SSKO'S HOUSE

Kasidy, JAKE, RENA and Jasmine Tey are all present as Sisko opens the door and enters, holding Rebecca's hand. The girl runs to grab her mother in a fierce hug as Kasidy tries to stop herself from bursting into tears in sheer relief.

In the doorway, Kira hovers and watches, smiling to see it. Hugs are exchanged as they all express their happiness that everyone is safe and sound. Finally...

SISKO

Kas, sweetheart, is it okay if I leave Rebecca with you and Jake and Rena for a while? I should take Kira and Raiq back to Janir, and I thought I'd go to Ashalla and pay my respects to the kai.

KASIDY

Of course it's alright, Ben. But thank you for asking.

106 EXT. BAJOR ATMOSPHERE

On the runabout, as it travels through the Bajoran sky.

107 INT. RUNABOUT - COCKPIT

Sisko and Kira in the pilot's seats, with blue sky out the windows. Raiq is presumably in the rear cabin. Sisko is silent, brooding. Kira delicately tries to get him to talk.

KIRA

Benjamin...? How are you doing?

SISKO

I'm fine, Nerys. Everything worked out for the best. I'm fine.

Kira knows him too well to be fooled by that.

KIRA

When Iliana and the other Iliana and I were all in the wormhole together a couple of years back, we spoke to the Prophets.

SISKO

I know, you told me.

KIRA

They recognised that we were all from different universes. That one - the Intendant's universe - they called it the Broken Line. And I think that was after you.

SISKO

Me?

KIRA

In that universe, you were dead. The Prophets' connection to linear time... was broken.

SISKO

What did they call this universe?

KIRA

Penitent.

SISKO

That's how they saw me?

KIRA

That's how you were when you first met them. And you know, I think you're a lot like Luka.

SISKO

What?!

KIRA

I do. Raiq was just like me - angry, always fighting, but with an enormous faith in her gods. And Luka was just like you. Been through a lot, lost everything, worked hard to come back from that, but always questioning.

(beat)

Do you remember when we fought Axno, before Vaughn came back?

SISKO

Of course.

KIRA

I asked then... why would the Prophets let one of these people into the Alpha Quadrant, after everything they'd done?

SISKO

Nerys, where are you going with this?

KIRA

I think this was why. You and Kasidy are solid. And Rebecca... it turns out she is the Avatar of Peace after all. Just like Ohalu predicted. All four religions - all of Bajor - came together around her. Because of her.

SISKO

(bitter)

And all it took was my friend being driven insane and killed. And my three-year-old daughter traumatised in ways she might never get over.

KIRA

I know. But you have to focus on the positive, Benjamin. You have to move forward. It's how I've always gotten through.

As the ship flies, it doesn't look like Sisko is going to be able to do that. Off his thunderous, glowering face...

108 EXT. BAJOR ATMOSPHERE

On the runabout, as it travels on through the Bajoran sky.

109 EXT. SPACE

The USS *James T Kirk* zooms through open space at warp.

110 INT. KIRK - READY ROOM

Vaughn sits at his desk in his private ready room aboard the *Kirk*. The comm sounds...

ROGEIRO (comm)
Captain? You have a private communiqué from Starfleet Command.

VAUGHN
In here please, Commander.

Vaughn turns to his personal screen, taps the controls. The Federation seal appears, followed by the image of Admiral BATANIDES (last seen 10x22 "Ascension").

BATANIDES (screen)
Captain Vaughn. My name is Marta Batanides. We met once before, on Deep Space Nine.

VAUGHN
Of course, Admiral, I remember. What can I do for you?

BATANIDES (screen)
I was hoping to speak with you, if you have a moment... about the new Federation president.

Vaughn's face hardens. For his anti-Section 31 contact to call him directly like this... what the hell is going on?

111 EXT. BAJOR - ESTABLISHING

Back to the central monastery in Ashalla, Bajor's capital.

112 INT. ASHALLA MONASTERY - PRAYER ROOM

The infrequently seen Prylar HAIM opens the door to the prayer room, allowing Sisko to enter.

SISKO

Thank you, Prylar. I promise I
won't be long.

The prylar bows obsequiously, and leaves the room.

Alone now, Sisko steps further into the room. An ORB BOX is in its usual place on the plinth at the head of the room. Slowly, carefully, keeping himself tight, Sisko approaches.

SISKO

All of this, everything that's
happened... Nerys thinks it was
all so that the four religions
could learn to work together. And
that's fine for her - it reaffirms
her faith, the idea that it was
all a part of your plan. She
thinks I should be grateful. But
you know what I think?

The anger boils over. Sisko picks up the heavy Orb box off its plinth, hefts it up, and HURLS it against the wall. It CRUNCHES and splinters against the stone.

Sisko advances on the damaged box, blind with fury. He KICKS at the box, KICKING and KICKING and KICKING again. JUMP CUTS as Sisko unleashes his towering rage on the box, breaking the wood and smashing the jewels.

Finally the ORB itself sits among the smashed remains of the box. Sisko GLARES down at it with a sneer of hatred. He

slowly reaches down, picks up the Orb in his hands. The light THROBS as he raises the Orb over his head...

...and SMASHES the Orb into a million pieces on the ground.

FLASH

Sisko stands where he was, glaring in anger at the intact Orb box, still where it belongs on its plinth.

With the hatred strong as ever, Sisko turns away to leave.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW