

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

## 13x03 - "Troublemaker"

Screenplay by Martyn Dunn

Based on characters from the series

*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*

and on the *Star Trek* tie-in novels  
by Pocket Books

### TNG 18x03 - "KINDRED"

*Enterprise* fights off Ferengi scavengers at the Azure Nebula alongside the SCE ship *T'Pora*, which is carrying Sylix - father of *Enterprise* contact specialist T'Ryssa Chen. Sylix was badly injured in the Borg attack on Vulcan, and wonders what happened to T'Ryssa's human mother. T'Ryssa has never known her father and has no interest in reconnecting now. She distracts herself by helping in engineering and indulging in a mutual practical joke war against science officer Dina Elfiki, which only annoys assistant chief engineer Taurik. He has been working himself to exhaustion, refusing to take leave. T'Ryssa learns that Taurik's wife and child died on Vulcan, helping her to realise the grief he must be going through, and they begin to bond. When T'Ryssa learns that her mother also died in the attacks, she contacts her father Sylix again, informing him. She also leaves open the possibility of them speaking again in future.

### TTN 2x03 - "TIME OUT"

While an away team goes undercover exploring the pre-warp world Lumbu, the rest of *Titan* follows up on the *Da Vinci's* previous visit to Elysia (SCE "Where Time Stands Still"), a pocket dimension where time barely moves. They meet the crews of many ships trapped there over the centuries, but these "prisoners" have created a peaceful society and feel no need to leave it. *Titan's* crew admire the same multicultural cooperation to which they themselves aspire. DTI trainee Garcia bonds with chief engineer Ra-Havreii as they explore the history of starship design. He hits on her, but she politely turns him down. Instead Garcia tries to seduce Ranjea, but he politely turns her down. All this perturbs science officer Pazlar, who thought she and Ra-Havreii were a couple. Pazlar discovers there are no special temporal effects here, but actions require less energy, causing slower aging and faster healing. Could this be turned into a practical benefit for the post-invasion Federation?

### VOY 11x03 - "SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH IRENE"

On Earth, Seven's aunt Irene is dying. They visit Janeway's memorial in Presidio Park, but Irene wavers between offering Seven sympathy, and having no clue who Janeway even is. Seven

is constantly distracted by nightmares of the Caeliar cityship, and the voice in her head insisting "Your name is Annika". When Chakotay arrives, she rejects his help, angry that he has not been around for months. She grudgingly admits that the Caeliar transformation (DES "Welcome Home") left her in this state - for a moment, she was part of a collective again, the Caeliar gestalt, only for it all to be ripped away, leaving her feeling more alone than ever. She has not told anyone of her condition because Starfleet is paranoid about the Caeliar and would want to examine her. When aunt Irene finally dies, Seven suffers a complete breakdown, becoming catatonic. Calling in Cadet Icheb for help, Chakotay prepares to conduct a vision quest...

## TEASER

FADE IN:

### 1 KIRA

...waiting, simultaneously impatient to get on with this, and nervous about it now that its time has come.

She worries at her EARRING - it resembles the one she has always worn but is much more elaborate, fit for a Vedek. She smoothes out non-existent wrinkles in her new golden robes, straightens the rich lilac sash across them, adjusts the hat perched atop her shoulder-length red tresses.

The DOUBLE DOORS in front of her open. She takes a breath, steadies herself, and walks through...

### 2 INT. VEDEK ASSEMBLY CHAMBER - DAY

...entering the Vedek Assembly chamber. She glances at the back wall, where she has stood before as a lowly prylar. But now she is entitled to walk down the central aisle, as more than a hundred Bajoran faces turn to look at her.

Familiar faces are present - YEVIR, SOLIS, BELLIS. Standing next to the APEX CHAIR at the front of the room is the current Kai, PRALON. She smiles warmly and directs Kira to a spare seat a couple of rows back from the front. Pralon hits the GONG at her side to bring the room to order.

PRALON

Please take your seats.

(they do)

Today we welcome our sister in the Prophets, Kira Nerys, as she joins this assembly as a Vedek for the first time. A familiar figure to many of us, Kira has fought for Bajor all her life and faced many changes and challenges with the fiercest of determination. We are glad to welcome such a *pagh*.

MUTTERS flit around the room - some positive and welcoming, others less so. Kira bashfully accepts them all.

PRALON

Now, let us begin the session. As is traditional, the new arrival has the honour of speaking first.

Her first words as a vedek in the assembly. Kira clears her throat as she gets to her feet, the SCRAPING of her chair on the stone floor seeming shockingly loud in the silence.

KIRA

Yes, thank you, Eminence. Brothers and sisters, Bajor faces a crisis. On my way here this morning from the transporter station, I saw the dignity of sentient beings being assaulted. The recent influx of refugees from worlds attacked by the Borg, living in what amounted to little more than canvas tents and washing in public fountains. As a new member of this house, I seek the Assembly's guidance on how best to help these people.

Kira sits back down again. A much older woman, FRELAN, staggers to her own feet and places hands on table.

PRALON

Vedek Frelan.

FRELAN

I believe the matter of the refugees is best left to the politicians and local governors. This house should remain focused on spiritual matters, not seek to encroach on the responsibilities of Bajor's secular authorities.

As Frelan slips back into her seat, the mood of the room seems to be with her. BELLIS stands for his turn.

PRALON

Vedek Bellis.

BELLIS

I agree with the vedek from Ilvia. I welcome Kira to this house, and indeed I supported her ascension to Vedek. But I think perhaps her rapid rise through the religious ranks has left her unprepared for the true function of the Vedek Assembly in Bajoran society.

Holding her tongue at Bellis's condescending tone, Kira is already on her feet before Bellis has sat down again.

PRALON

Vedek Kira...?

KIRA

(gritted teeth)

I thank the vedek for his support. But I believe I understand the function of this house just fine. We have a moral obligation to help whoever and however we can.

FRELAN

Young lady, I have been a fixture of our world's religious hierarchy since before you learned to read. I do not require any lectures from you on my moral obligations.

Now SOLIS, the former kai and leader of the Ohalavaru sect, stands and places his own hands on table. Pralon is already starting to feel like this might devolve into anarchy...

PRALON

Vedek Solis...

SOLIS

Thank you, Eminence. With respect to Vedek Frelan, perhaps a new perspective is exactly what this house needs if it is to face a crisis of the like it has never faced before.

BELLIS

Yes, we are well aware of your penchant for new perspectives, Vedek Solis. But the fact remains this is not our crisis to face.

KIRA

You're wrong.

FRELAN

I suggest we move on to discuss other matters. I have faith in First Minister Asarem's government to manage the refugees. Vedek Kira's enthusiasm aside, we have other, more pressing concerns.

KIRA

But -

PRALON

(interrupting)

Vedek Kira. Given the strength of feeling on this matter, I think perhaps we will return to your question at another time.

Annoyed but unwilling to get kicked out on her first day, Kira grudgingly takes her hands off the table and sits.

PRALON

Now, I believe Vedek Scio wanted to discuss preparations for this year's Gratitude Festival...?

As Kira seethes in her seat...

FADE OUT

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

**3 EXT. BAJOR SURFACE - ASHALLA - DAY**

Establishing the central monastery in the capital city...

**4 INT. SHIKINA MONASTERY - KAI'S OFFICE - DAY**

Pralon is sat behind her desk, welcoming. The door opens, and Kira enters, standing to attention like a soldier.

KIRA

You wanted to see me, Eminence?

PRALON

(smile)

Vedek Kira, while I appreciate the respect, you are no longer in the Militia, and I am not the Over-General. At ease.

Smirking at her own unconscious habit, Kira relaxes.

KIRA

Sorry.

PRALON

I have good news. Vedek Sorva of Vanadwan Monastery recently retired - he'll still sit in the assembly, of course, but the strain of running a monastery was getting to be too much. So...

KIRA

You're sending me? I've never even heard of Vanadwan. Where is it?

PRALON

It's, ah... on Angorseer Peak.

KIRA

In the Releketh Mountains? That's a bit remote. Why send me?



PRALON

You're a vedek without a monastery  
- Vanadwan is a monastery without  
a vedek. The equation is fairly  
straightforward, Nerys.

KIRA

Yes, Eminence. But what I mean is,  
I don't know anyone in Releketh.  
Will the congregation want me?

PRALON

There is no congregation, not as  
such. Vanadwan houses a hospice of  
sorts. The nurses there look after  
terminally ill patients. I'm told  
the views are some of the most  
spectacular in the province.

KIRA

All due respect, but I'm no nurse  
either -

PRALON

Nerys, I may not be the General  
but I am still your Kai. I would  
appreciate it if you didn't argue  
with every little thing I say.

KIRA

(gulp)

I apologise, your Eminence.

PRALON

On that topic, your performance in  
yesterday's assembly session could  
have used a little more subtlety,  
don't you think?

KIRA

I'm not going to let Bellis look  
down his nose at me, Eminence.  
He may not have objected to my  
position but he doesn't seem to  
have changed all that much.

PRALON

Regardless of Bellis's feelings about you, I think you would be wise to spend a little more time learning how we do things before you start throwing your weight around. Remember that a hungry hara cat will eat old moba fruit before it will eat a grass viper.

KIRA

Alright, understood. I just hope the refugees have time for me to charm Bellis and Frelan.

PRALON

I suggest you return to Janir, Nerys, and make your arrangements. I've already told the nurses at Vanadwan to expect you.

KIRA

Thank you, Eminence.

Kira backs away a step, then turns and leaves.

**5     EXT. BAJOR SURFACE - JANIR - DAY**

The small Oralian temple nestled in the valley...

**6     INT. JANIR MONASTERY - KIRA'S ROOM - DAY**

Kira moves around her small and basic room, collecting her few belongings. Books of prophecy, her prayer mandala, plus photo frames of Ziyal, Kirayoshi, Odo, Furel and Lupaza, the DS9 senior staff - they all go gently into a crate.

From the open doorway, Yevir watches her work. Over this:

YEVIR

I'm surprised you didn't put up more of a fight.

KIRA

Not worth it. Pralon did have a point - I need to start small and earn their respect. I can't expect them to do what I want just 'cause I want them to do it.

YEVIR

I hope you'll allow a little pride in your accomplishment. Only one person ever became vedek quicker.

She turns to look at him, and he smiles back rakishly - that person was him. She smirks back a warning.

KIRA

The humans say pride is one of their deadliest sins.

YEVIR

And that it goeth before a fall. But I believe that a moment's pleasure in the success of a task is no more than we deserve. The Prophets want us to work hard, yes, but also to enjoy our work.

KIRA

Take joy from profit, and profit from joy. Rule of Acquisition number fifty-five.

YEVIR

Ha! Well said, Nerys. I'm actually going to miss you around here.

KIRA

Can't believe I'm saying this but I'm going to miss you too.

YEVIR

(sobering)

And what of your friend Raiq, and her companion?

KIRA

I still need to talk to them. I'm sure Raiq will come with me, and Vexh will go with Raiq. But neither of them really handles change well. Could be tricky.

By now Kira has finished her packing, and closes the crate. Both are actually sad to separate, after everything.

YEVIR

Whatever happens, you have my support, Nerys.

KIRA

That's not what you used to say.

YEVIR

I didn't used to handle change well either. You... changed that.

A small smile of pride, and then Kira hefts up her crate and carries it out of the room. Yevir follows her.

7 **EXT. BAJOR SURFACE - RELEKETH MOUNTAINS - DAY**

A never-before-seen part of Bajor - the RELEKETH MOUNTAIN RANGE. High and forbidding peaks, stony ground, bright sun.

KIRA is now out of her robes and into a hardier climbing outfit, with her crate of possessions strapped to her back. She trudges along a deliberate but rarely used path up the mountain side, shading her eyes against the sun.

RAIQ (o.s.)

Is this some kind of symbolic quest in your culture? A trial of faith and endurance?

Kira stops briefly and looks behind her, to see two silver figures following her up the mountain - RAIQ and VEXH.

Kira smiles - although the two last Ascendants clearly disapprove of this particular adventure, she has come to enjoy Raiq's acerbic attitude. She gets moving again.

KIRA

Not exactly. It's just the only way up the mountain. You didn't have to come with me.

RAIQ

Of course we did. Our presence on Bajor is only tolerated because of your control and oversight.

KIRA

You're still judging them by your own standards. The people at Janir grew to trust you, didn't they?

RAIQ

Nevertheless, it is best that we remain at your side.

Kira is touched by the other woman's trust and support. Just as the small party takes a turn on the path...

VEXH

Are we there yet?

KIRA

Nearly. Look...

Kira pauses again, and points further up the mountain at...

**8 EST. VANADWAN MONASTERY**

A complex of ancient buildings wrapped around the highest peak, connected by long winding staircases and walkways. One central building rises above all the rest, with nine SPIRES on it reaching to the sky, looking like a crown.

**9 KIRA**

...gazing at this sight in awe and delight.

KIRA

Isn't it beautiful? Come on, let's get moving.

They head on up the path, buoyed that the end is in sight.

KIRA

You see those nine spires? They symbolise the nine Orbs - what you call the Eyes of Fire.

RAIQ

They look newer than the rest.

KIRA

Good eye. There used to only be seven spires, for the seven Orbs they knew about at the time it was built. It survived for millennia - until the Cardassians came. When they realised they could be seen from the river, they deliberately toppled their own spires so the Cardassians wouldn't even know the place was here. Once the Occupation was over and the monks rebuilt the spires, they added two more for the new Orbs that had been discovered in the meantime.

VEXH

I care not.

KIRA

You have your own stories, don't you, Vexh? Your own doctrine. This is just our version of the same. I've certainly learned from things Raiq told me about your culture.

RAIQ

(touched)

You have?

KIRA

Absolutely. I was always a fighter in one way or another. So when the Borg were coming, my instinct was to fight. As much as I trust the

Prophets, just sitting there and praying didn't seem like I was doing enough to help. It was your words that changed my mind.

RAIQ

My words? I don't understand.

KIRA

"To pray is to fight, and to fight is to pray." Isn't that one of your sayings? Ascendant doctrine? That's what made me realise - there was no difference. I was still helping people either way. So I went out... and I prayed.

RAIQ

And the True saved your world.

KIRA

And that's why I'm here.

Kira strides on up the path...

10 **EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - TRANSPORTER PLAZA - DAY**

The trio finally reaches the end of the path, emerging onto a circular PLAZA surrounded by a waist-high stone wall. Kira sets down her crate and stretches out her back.

Raiq inspects the smaller circles set into the plaza - one in the centre and eight more arrayed around it equally.

RAIQ

These things are matter transfer devices! We need not have climbed the mountain at all.

KIRA

Yeah, their transporter system broke down a few months ago, and with everything that's going on they haven't been able to get a technician out here to fix it. It's fine, I don't mind.

RAIQ

Kira, you have told me tales of your life before the Ascension. You said that when you first joined your military force, they considered you an irritant and sent you far away, to the Gateway of the Fortress.

(Kira nods)

It seems to me that by assigning you to such a place of neglect and isolation as this, your spiritual leaders have done the same.

KIRA

Oh, I know. I know exactly what they're trying to do. I don't blame Pralon - I'm sure she's under pressure from the older members of the Assembly.

RAIQ

And this does not offend you?

KIRA

Honestly, it makes me laugh. I mean, it kind of amazes me that after all this time... they still don't have the faintest idea who they're dealing with.

As Kira looks out across the spectacular view, a devilish and determined grin filling her face. She has a plan...

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT ONE**



**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

**11     EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - WALKWAY / COURTYARD - DAY**

Another day. We follow a COVERED WALKWAY snaking along the mountain's edge between the buildings. The walkway leads us to another open COURTYARD, where deck chairs and tables are set out so that residents can enjoy the view.

Here stands Kira, back in her vedek's robes, talking to RANSEL, the lead ranjen-turned-nurse at Vanadwan.

KIRA

And you're sure the kitchens can handle it?

RANSEL

With a little time to clean and prepare, yes.

KIRA

And it can be done without short-changing your patients?

RANSEL

Unquestionably. I think the cooks are even looking forward to it.

They both hear the sound of a SHUTTLE flying nearby - Kira reacts with an excited grin. Time to wrap this up.

KIRA

Thank you, Ransel - you've been an absolute godsend.

Leaving Ransel blushing at the compliment, Kira dashes away, down the walkway...

**12     EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - SHUTTLE PORT - DAY**

...and exits onto another large plaza outside the complex, this one set up as a SHUTTLE PORT. She looks up...

...and sees a Starfleet RUNABOUT approaching the platform. It comes in to land, settles onto the platform with a slight puff of dust. A few moments, the hatch OPENS...

...and NOG and BASHIR emerge. Kira jogs to HUG them both.

KIRA

Nog! Julian! Thanks so much for coming. No problems?

BASHIR

Once you explained your idea, Ro practically shoved us into the runabout herself.

KIRA

Perfect. I heard about Elias - has there been any improvement?

BASHIR

I'm afraid not.

KIRA

And how's Prynn handling it?

NOG

She's hurt, but she'll make it.

Kira turns and beckons Ransel over to meet her friends. The bashful, deferent nurse scuttles over...

KIRA

Ransel, this is Lieutenant Nog and Doctor Bashir from Deep Space Nine. Guys, this is Ranjen Ransel, she leads the nurses here.

BASHIR

A pleasure to meet you, Ranjen.

KIRA

Ransel, could you take Nog to get to work on the transporters - we'll need them - and then show Julian whatever you need for the hospice. No time to waste!

RANSEL

At once, Vedek.

With smiles of thanks, Ransel leads Nog and Bashir back into the building. Kira turns back to the runabout...

...to see KASIDY, OPAKA and finally Major CENN emerging, letting the runabout's hatch close behind them. More hugs.

KASIDY

Well, look at you - Vedek Kira.  
Who would have ever thought?

CENN

(warm teasing)  
Certainly not me.

KIRA

I'm glad you're all here. I think  
I'm going to need to call in all  
my favours to pull this one off.

OPAKA

Nonsense, Nerys. It's a wonderful  
notion, and we're proud to be a  
part of it. Shall we get to work?

Smiling again, Kira leads them all back into the monastery.

**13    INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - BEDROOM - DAY**

Opaka and Ransel are making a bed - fast and efficient, as if they have done it many times already.

RANSEL

Ranjen Opaka, please, I assure you  
I can manage alone. Such menial  
tasks are beneath a former kai.

OPAKA

Oh, don't worry about me, I'm no  
stranger to changing beds. In  
fact, I've been a nurse several  
times before...

She glances over to RAIQ, who has just entered the room from the corridor, carrying a new pile of fresh towels.

OPAKA  
...isn't that so, Raiq?

RAIQ  
That was my very first encounter with Bajorans. But no prophecy could have foretold that meeting leading to...  
(re towels)  
...this.

Unimpressed, Raiq places down the towels on a sideboard and leaves the room. Ransel looks worried, Opaka just chuckles.

**14 INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - KITCHEN - DAY**

A large kitchen to serve hordes, like in a hotel or an old country house. Among half a dozen NURSES, Kira and Kasidy are helping to clear out old cupboards, then scanning them with disinfecting beams, and finally restocking them with new boxes, cartons and ingredients from another crate.

KASIDY  
I take one day off from being a freighter captain, and you've got me doing housework.

KIRA  
You know that's not the real reason I asked you here...

KASIDY  
Oh, it's fine. I am a Sisko now, after all - the kitchen has become my domain.

KIRA  
Have you heard from Benjamin?

KASIDY  
Not since he headed to Earth to check in on his father.

KIRA  
I'm sure he'll be home soon.

Kasidy nods absently, and goes back to scrubbing...

15 **INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - INFIRMARY - DAY**

VEXH carries another heavy crate into the room, places it down on a counter, then stands sternly.

Bashir enters a code on the crate's SECURITY PANEL to open it, begins lifting out the contents - vials and canisters and small medical machines - and handing them to Vexh.

BASHIR  
Here we go - put those in that cupboard over there, please.

Vexh obeys Bashir's instructions without comment. As they move back and forth, Bashir setting up the machines and Vexh filling the cupboards...

BASHIR  
I must admit I was surprised to see you here, Vexh. I wouldn't have thought you'd care.

VEXH  
I don't. But Raiq follows Kira in all things. If the True wish me to remain here with these Bajorans, I may as well do the same.

BASHIR  
So you're only helping because you've got nothing better to do?

Vexh does not answer, just carries on filling shelves.

BASHIR  
Well... it's better than nothing, I suppose.

Still no response, so Bashir just keeps working.

16 EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - TRANSPORTER PLAZA - DAY

The waist-high stone wall circling the plaza is now OPEN, revealing that it is actually just a disguise for all the technology required to run the transporter platform. NOG is on his belly, wrist-deep in the gubbins and gadgetry.

NOG

Okay, I think that's it. Ready?

He turns his big head and looks to the centre of the plaza, where CENN is holding a TEST CANISTER steady.

NOG

You might want to move, Major.

CENN

Right, probably a good idea.

Cenn steadies the canister one last time, then quickly moves to the edge, away from the transporter coils. Nog works the controls inside his panel, and...

...the canister DEMATERIALISES. A moment later, the cycle repeats and the canister REMATERIALISES again. NOG checks the readings from his technology, and is satisfied. While he gets up and brushes down his uniform...

NOG

Easy! Guess you Bajorans build things to last, huh, Major?

Cenn is gazing enchanted up at the nine spires atop the highest building of the monastery complex.

CENN

I've read about the Crown of Bajor, but I've never seen it before. Just... magnificent.

NOG

If by magnificent you mean terrifying, then I agree.

CENN

You don't find this invigorating?

NOG

We're on top of a mountain. The tallest building in the entire Ferengi Alliance is the Tower of Commerce - and that's only forty floors above swamp level. Rule number two-thirty-five clearly states, "Duck - death is tall."

Cenn smirks at that. Nog turns back to the control panel, presses a control in it, and a STONE SURFACE rematerialises over the technology, re-completing the illusion.

Kira and Kasidy exit from the monastery out onto the plaza.

KIRA

How's it going, Nog?

NOG

All good, Captain.

(hangs head)

Vedek. I swear I'll get that right one day.

Bashir now follows them out, with Vexh at his side.

BASHIR

And I can report that the monastery's infirmary is fully restocked and ready to go.

KASIDY

Likewise the kitchens, enough to feed the five-thousand.

RANSEL (o.s.)

I hope that's just a figure of speech, Captain Yates.

They turn to see the last of them - Ransel, Opaka and Raiq - joining them out on the plaza. Vexh immediately moves to stand with Raiq; safety in numbers.

KASIDY

It is, don't worry.

RANSEL

Good, because we've only set up eighty beds in there.

OPAKA

Raiq was a great help in that.

KIRA

Thank you, Raiq - and Vexh.

BASHIR

Nerys, now that we've gone to all this effort I have to ask - are you sure about this? None of us want to get you in trouble with the Vedek Assembly.

KIRA

(smile)

You let me worry about them.

BRATHAW (comm)

Xhosa to Captain Yates.

Kasidy pulls her comm unit from her pocket, thumbs it...

KASIDY

Go ahead, Brathaw.

BRATHAW (comm)

We've entered orbit and we're ready to begin transport.

KASIDY

Perfect timing. Stand by, Xhosa. Vedek? It's your decision.

KIRA

Positions, everyone.

They all move off the transporter coils again, except for Nog, who presses a hidden control to REVEAL a new, more standard transporter control panel hidden in the wall.



NOG

Tying in with the *Xhosa*... locking  
coordinates... and energising.

All nine transporter coils power up...

...and REFUGEES from Deep Space Nine materialise onto each  
of them. Men, women and children, all races and colours.  
They all look a little bewildered.

KIRA

Hello! I'm Vedek Kira, and this is  
Vanadwan Monastery. You are safe  
and very welcome here, I promise  
we'll take care of you. Please go  
with Ranjen Ransel, and she'll  
guide you to your rooms. Dinner  
will be served at twenty-hundred  
in the commissary.

Ransel gestures for them all to follow her - hesitantly,  
they do. They still have a look of shell-shocked survivors,  
tired and confused, but Kira's open and welcoming face  
helps them to trust her.

As Ransel leads them off, Kira turns back to Nog, nods...

...and nine more refugees TRANSPORT into the plaza.

KIRA

Hello! I'm Vedek Kira, and this is  
Vanadwan Monastery...

As Kira continues to welcome these strangers...

FADE OUT

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**17 KIRA**

Sitting and talking casually, as if to a friend...

KIRA

I know some people will wonder if I'm doing all this just to get attention... and in a way they're right.

OPEN OUT to reveal...

**18 INT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - COMMISSARY**

...that Kira is sat at a table in the monastery's dining room, the largest room available. The room is quiet...

KIRA

But the attention isn't the goal, that's not the reason I started down this path.

Also at the table are KASIDY and OPAKA, both listening to Kira talk...

...as are all the many refugees filling every other table in the room. They have all eaten heartily and happily, but now have all turned their ears towards Kira.

KIRA

I may be a vedek now, but I'm not here to preach at you. Most of you don't believe the Prophets are gods, maybe you haven't even heard of them. And that's okay.

Around the edges of the room, the hospice's nurses stand and listen, Ransel among them. Also here are Bashir, Cenn and Nog, plus Raiq and Vexh. All listen closely, since Kira is not orating, only talking.

KIRA

We have ended up thrust together,  
all of us, because of the greatest  
tragedy this galaxy has ever  
known. In a time like this, it's  
natural to question... everything.  
To contemplate the nature of a  
universe that can be so cruel.

Raiq ponders this, relating it to her own history...

KIRA

My own faith grew out of a time  
when Bajor was not an equal member  
of the Federation, but a subject  
world of the Cardassian Union. I  
fought in the resistance, running  
from ditch to cave to tunnel, and  
losing friends and family became a  
daily occurrence. My faith in the  
Prophets kept me going when it  
would have been easy to give up.

Kira looks adoringly to Opaka sat by her side...

KIRA

It certainly helped to have people  
I could look up to... people who  
seemed to embody that faith as an  
active thing in your life. A call  
to get up and do something.

She looks out across the gathered refugees listening.

KIRA

As for why I brought you all here  
- well, that's how I express my  
faith. Not just by praying, but by  
fighting. These days, it seems as  
if we're all like I was back then  
- running, surrounded by death,  
looking for answers. So I'm going  
to fight for us all. I'm going to  
get up and do something.

She relaxes a bit, chuckles to herself...

KIRA

I'm not here to tell you to have faith in the Prophets. I am here to tell you to embrace your faith, and to embrace each other. That's what will lead us all out of those tunnels, and into a new life.

Some of the refugees take it literally, and turn to actually embrace each other. Kira smiles bashfully.

KIRA

Okay, enough talking. These nurses are here to heal wounds, and so am I. If you need anything, even just somebody to scream and yell and rage at, we're here for you.

Off Kira's smile...

**CUT TO:**

**19**    **INT. NEWS STUDIO**

The same Bajoran News Network set-up we have seen before. A screen in the studio shows a low-res SCREEN-CAP of Kira at the table in the commissary, everyone listening enraptured.

On one side of the screen, regular newsreader TIANA FEEN moderates a discussion. The same two Bajoran COMMENTATORS 1 and 2 we saw in 10x02 "Brave New World" sit opposite her.

COMMENTATOR 1

Seriously, who does this woman think she is? She already styled herself the saviour of Bajor with that silly prayers-across-the-world stunt during the invasion, and now this? Unbelievable.

COMMENTATOR 2

I think that's pure cynicism. Is it so difficult to believe someone might actually mean what they say?

COMMENTATOR 1

If she didn't want attention, as she claims, then why was there a camera to catch these images?

TIANA

Ah, there I must correct you - the images are not from any official media channel. They were captured by one of the nurses at Vanadwan. There's no evidence Vedek Kira even knew she was being recorded.

COMMENTATOR 2

Plus, look at the people she has there supporting her.

Commentator 2 manipulates controls on the desk, and the image on the studio screen ZOOMS in, SHIFTS to the side... refocusing on Kira with Opaka and Kasidy at either side.

COMMENTATOR 2 (cont)

Opaka Sulan, former kai. Kasidy Yates, wife of the Emissary.

COMMENTATOR 1

Oh yes, two of her best friends, who happen to be two of the most influential people on the planet. Perfect way to avoid attention.

**CUT TO:**

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

The news report is being played on Ops' main VIEWSCREEN, with Commander RO, Major CENN and all of Ops watching. On the screen, Commentator 2 refocuses the image again...

COMMENTATOR 2 (screen)

She also has Starfleet officers, a major in the Militia, and the two Ascendants there with her. If all those people can agree this was the right thing, why can't you?

TIANA (screen)  
It does seem reasonable that if  
Vedek Kira wanted to accomplish  
something, she would call on her  
friends to help.

**CUT TO:**

**21 INT. SHIKINA MONASTERY - KAI'S OFFICE**

Pralon is sat behind her desk, also watching the news  
report on her desk screen - not entirely happily.

COMMENTATOR 2 (screen)  
Exactly. Kira was in the Militia,  
she was in Starfleet, she was the  
right hand of the Emissary, she's  
respected by humans and Klingons  
and Cardassians and Ferengi. I see  
nothing wrong with her using all  
the resources at her disposal.

COMMENTATOR 1 (screen)  
Look, I'm not saying she's wrong  
to want to help the refugees. I'm  
just saying it's naive to think  
this entire thing wasn't perfectly  
calculated for maximum publicity.

This entire discussion is hitting home for Pralon - she has  
basically had the same argument in her head already.

COMMENTATOR 2 (screen)  
And I'm saying, so what if it was?  
She shouldn't let worrying about  
what people might think stop her  
from doing the right thing.

COMMENTATOR 1 (screen)  
You don't think it renders her  
motives questionable?

COMMENTATOR 2 (screen)  
She's not Winn. Or Yevir.

**CUT TO:**

**22**    **INT. JANIR MONASTERY**

Yevir reacts to this comment - is that really what people think of him? It's not how he would wish to be remembered.

Tiana is now re-centred in the image of the news report...

TIANA (screen)

Okay, moving on from that issue, we were able to get a few moments with Second Minister Ledahn Muri earlier today, and we asked him why Kira's idea of opening up the monasteries to house the incoming refugees was not being embraced more widely.

**CUT TO:**

**23**    **LEDAHN**

Second minister LEDAHN (last seen 11x17 "Whistleblower") has had a microphone shoved into his face - he looks caught off guard and distinctly uncomfortable.

LEDAHN

I really think that's a question for the Vedek Assembly to answer. Minister Asarem's administration is doing everything it can to find permanent accommodations for our guests. But the monasteries are the Assembly's responsibility, and it wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment on decisions regarding their use... or lack thereof.

**24**    **INT. DS9 - QUARK'S BAR**

The news reports are also being played on the screens in here, with the many other refugees who still remain on DS9 watching with great interest. QUARK is behind the bar...

COMMENTATOR 1 (screen)  
He's right, of course. It's not  
the government's role to tell the  
church what to do, or vice versa.

COMMENTATOR 2 (screen)  
Maybe not. But shouldn't they be  
working together? There are a lot  
of people still in limbo, who need  
solid ground beneath their feet  
and a place to rest their heads.

Some of the gathered crowd CHEER at this.

**CUT TO:**

**25    INT. NEWS STUDIO**

The in-studio screen now features SCROLLING TEXT in Bajoran  
script - 24th-century social media. Kira has gone viral.

TIANA (o.s.)  
Many members of the public would  
seem to agree with you. The video  
recording of Vedek Kira's speech  
to the refugees has been shared  
via media networks all over the  
planet, and as you can see, many  
of the comments are strongly in  
favour of Kira's actions.

Returning to the two commentators, Statler and Waldorf...

COMMENTATOR 1  
That doesn't necessarily make them  
the right actions. Honestly I see  
this as the same kind of reckless,  
ill-considered, snap judgement  
Kira has built her career on.

COMMENTATOR 2  
You can't deny those judgements  
inevitably get results.



COMMENTATOR 1

No, I cannot. But are they the right results? Time will tell.

TIANA

Time will tell indeed. Thank you both for your insights, we'll have more on this developing story in the hours to come, but first -

**CUT TO:**

**26 EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - TRANSPORTER PLAZA - DAY**

Kira stands at the waist-high stone wall, gazing out across the amazing view that slopes down the side of the mountain.

A moment, then Ransel scurries up, excited and daunted.

RANSEL

Vedek?

(Kira turns)

A message for you from Shikina Monastery. Kai Pralon wishes to see you... immediately.

Kira takes a deep breath. Time to face the music...

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

**27 INT. SHIKINA MONASTERY - KAI'S OFFICE - DAY**

Pralon stands behind her desk, angrily demonstrating the news reports on her desk screen, and confronting Kira.

PRALON

How in fire did you manage to create this much chaos in less than a week?

KIRA

Years of practise.

PRALON

Do you really think this is the time for jokes, Nerys?

KIRA

I wasn't joking.

PRALON

You have put me in an incredibly difficult position. The vedeks are demanding that you answer questions in the Assembly.

KIRA

Then what are we waiting for? Let's give them their answers.

Pralon is thrown - she was expecting Kira to try to placate her, but Kira is confident and calm. How will this go?

**28 INT. VEDEK ASSEMBLY CHAMBER - DAY**

Vedek BELLIS is on his feet, hands on table and thundering.

BELLIS

You disobeyed our instructions!

KIRA

No I didn't.

FRELAN

(calmer, seated)

You acted without authorisation.

KIRA

You gave me no instructions. And I don't need your authorisation. As the Kai herself recently reminded me, this isn't the Militia, and there's only one person in this room with any authority over me.

All look to Pralon, who sits calmly observing, neither confirming nor denying. This frustrates Bellis.

BELLIS

This is ridiculous! This woman -

PRALON

(loud but calm)

We will conduct ourselves with dignity and restraint, Vedek. We will also refrain from personal attacks. You had questions - ask.

BELLIS

(deep breath)

Very well. Vedek Kira - you have been told that the refugee problem is the government's to solve. Why is that not enough for you?

KIRA

Because it's not just a problem to be solved. They're people, not an abstract mathematical equation.

FRELAN

There is no question of that, and it offends me that you think we need to be reminded. I may remind you once again that we have been here a lot longer than you, and we do not need to be condescended to.

KIRA

It's not my intention to condescend, Vedek. But there are refugee camps on the streets of Bajor - once again. Didn't we beg others to help us when we were in that situation?

FRELAN

And they didn't!

KIRA

Then let's be better than them! If we're so morally superior, let's prove it and help Asarem's people.

SOLIS

(leading question)

What exactly would you have us do, Vedek Kira?

KIRA

Simple - open up your monasteries and temples and give the refugees a roof over their heads.

FRELAN

(calm, patient)

These are sacred buildings, Kira. Dedicated to the worship of the Prophets. They are not hotels.

KIRA

The point is, they're buildings, with roofs and walls and floors. I know some of you have gone out to help feed people, and that's good. But how much better to bring them inside, where it's warm and safe?

FRELAN

Bajor's most precious relics are in those buildings. You have no idea who you're asking us to let in. What if they steal from us?

KIRA

Everyone entering the system is processed through Deep Space Nine. If there's anyone with a criminal record, they'll be spotted there.

(sigh)

Look - these people, they're not asking for much. They just need the space to grieve, and then try to get on with their lives. Having a safe place to stay will help.

Kira turns to find Vedek ERAN in the crowd - a plump and balding man who is pleasant but unused to being noticed.

KIRA

Vedek Eran - you were in charge of our efforts to house people when we evacuated the Europa Nova colony. We'd only just come out of the war then, but we were happy to help. How is this any different?

On the spot, Eran struggles to his feet, clears his throat.

ERAN

With respect, Vedek, the Europani only needed short-term lodgings while Starfleet cleaned their ecosystem. Then they could go home. These poor souls have no home to return to. I'm not sure we have the resources to support such a population growth permanently.

SOLIS

What exactly do they need that we can't provide, Eran? Beds, food, simple kindness - surely we have those things in abundance.

BELLIS

Our responsibility is to our own people first. To spread our own resources among so many could lead to resentment among the public.

KIRA

If the practical argument and the moral argument won't convince you, then how about the legal argument? We're members of the Federation now - we are required by law to render aid in a time of disaster.

BELLIS

And again I say, we are doing. The government is handling it! There is no need for us to get involved!

SOLIS

Does there need to be a need, Bellis? Can you not understand someone simply wanting to help?

FRELAN

We are a religious institution, Solis. Our business is to lead the Bajoran people to find the light of the Prophets. They do not want or expect us to get involved in political matters.

KIRA

Have you asked them? Seems to me they've made their feelings clear that they want this to happen.

BELLIS

Oh yes, your new career as a media darling. Perhaps this is purely about feeding your ego after all.

The room BRAYS its disgust, until Pralon hits her GONG.

PRALON

Vedek Bellis, you reveal yourself with that comment, and I am fast reaching the end of my patience with you. Make any such remark again and you will be removed.

Bellis sits down with arms folded, a petulant child. Yevir calmly stands instead - Pralon nods permission to speak.

YEVIR

I saw the same media presentations to which Vedek Bellis refers, and all I can say is that anyone who questions Vedek Kira's motives in this matter clearly has spent no significant amount of time with her. As my colleague Vedek Solis wisely saw long before I did, Kira Nerys is one of the best of us.

Yevir sits again, his piece said. Kira calmly starts over.

KIRA

Vedek Eran, you're concerned about the pressure on our resources. Bajor is legally obligated to take care of refugees regardless of what we do. But if you leave it all to the government, then you're making that pressure worse. A coordinated response between the political, religious and military authorities has the best chance of making it easier on all of us.

Eran is forced to consider that. Kira turns to Frelan.

KIRA

Vedek Frelan, you're worried about maintaining the centuries-old traditions our world is built on. The monks of Vanadwan once toppled their own monastery to make sure no-one else could do it first. If I'm forced to choose between those two options, then I simply cannot accept holding tradition up higher than people's lives. Plus, what better way to show our love for the Prophets than to take the gifts They've given us and pass them on to those who need them?

Frelan sits quietly pondering these things. Now Bellis...

KIRA

Vedek Bellis... if nothing else I've said is enough, then think about this. Do you really want to be known as the only one of us who didn't help when it was needed?

BELLIS

I will not be shamed into going along with the majority by you.

KIRA

Why does it take being shamed into it? Why is opening your doors to people who lost everything they ever had a matter of embarrassment to you? You may doubt my motives, but what does that say about you?

BELLIS

(mutter)

You are twisting my words.

Kira sits back down, restraining herself from arguing any further. Solis calmly stands, hands on table. Pralon nods.

SOLIS

I would like to raise a motion - that all members of this Assembly open their houses of worship immediately to serve the needs of the refugee population. I can think of no better use for those houses than to shelter the needy.

YEVIR

I second that motion.

PRALON

Very well - the motion has been raised, and this Assembly must vote on it. We will adjourn while the arrangements are made.



The whole room stands, files towards the exit. Yevir and Solis move to support Kira.

SOLIS

I remember the last time I raised  
a motion in this chamber regarding  
Kira Nerys.

(to Yevir, pointed)

To lift her Attainder.

YEVIR

Let us hope this vote goes more in  
her favour.

Kira smiles at this banter of old enemies turned friends.  
Then she looks across the hall and notices...

BELLIS, as he reaches the exit and pauses, looks back  
across at Kira. He is unreadable, thinking.

Kira can only hope she has done enough to persuade him...

BLACK OUT

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

FADE IN:

**29    EXT. BAJOR - ASHALLA STREETS - DAY**

Kira sits upon the ground, at the corner of a crossroads.  
In one direction, the outside of the central monastery.  
In the other, a shanty town of tents and homeless refugees.

BELLIS (o.s.)  
May I sit with you?

She looks up, surprised to see Bellis there. Unsure of him, she nods warily. He sweeps his robes aside and sits down. He looks across at the refugees, ponders their presence.

BELLIS  
The voting has begun.

KIRA  
Thank you for letting me know.

They go back to silence for a moment.

KIRA  
Vedek, I have to ask... why do you fight me so hard? Is it personal?

BELLIS  
Personal in what way?

KIRA  
Well, at least with Yevir, I could believe that all the things he did to hurt me were because he thought he was doing the right thing, even if I thought it was misguided. But you... you've been just vicious to me. And I don't understand why.

BELLIS  
(sad smile)  
And you claim it's not about ego.

KIRA

I beg your pardon?

BELLIS

(calm, peaceful)

I dislike your arrogance, Kira. Your unshakable certainty that you alone know the right thing to do. The fact that you believe the only reason I could disagree with you is out of some personal grudge is exactly what I'm talking about.

KIRA

Alright. I think it's a criticism that can be laid against a lot of people in that room, but okay. I just don't see how it's a reason not to help those people.

BELLIS

(sigh; looks out  
at refugees)

So much has changed. I used to know how the world worked... and I don't just mean Bajor.

KIRA

So that's why you've persecuted and insulted thousands of people for the last five years? You're afraid of change?

(no answer)

Do you understand that even Raiq, a woman who believed that she was chosen by her gods to exterminate the entire Bajoran species, is more accepting than you? She's helping right now, while you're coming up with every reason you can think of not to help.

BELLIS

As you say, stubbornness is hardly an uncommon failing.

KIRA

Neither is ego. But it's not about that. I don't care if nobody ever knows my name. But they do, and what's the point of that if I'm not going to do some good with it?

BELLIS

As it turns out... I agree. That's why I already cast my vote in favour of Vedek Solis's motion.

KIRA

(genuinely stunned)

...You did?

BELLIS

We don't have to like each other to work together. You were right that Bajor needed unity in a time of crisis, not division. And you are right that I can hardly claim moral leadership if I leave people to suffer when I could help them.

(stands, brushes  
down robes)

But don't imagine I will now hang on your every word like all your other devoted sycophants. I have little doubt we will find many things to argue over in future.

KIRA

(shrug)

To pray is to fight, Vedek. And to fight is to pray.

Confused by that, Bellis sweeps away back towards the monastery. Kira turns back to look at the refugee camp...

GONG. The ringing sound heralds the large ornate doors to the monastery CREAKING open. Kira turns to look...

...and sees PRALON herself emerging, followed by Yevir, Solis, Frelan, Eran, and dozens of others.

Yevir catches Kira's eye... and NODS, smiling.

Kira jumps to her feet, absolutely thrilled, and heads towards the refugee camp. The other vedeks follow her.

A WOMAN looks up at Kira's approach...

KIRA  
Hello. I'd like to help...

**CUT TO:**

**30**    **INT. NEWS STUDIO**

The SCREEN at Tiana's side now shows an IMAGE of refugees being welcomed into the monastery by the vedeks, KIRA visible among them. She speaks into camera...

TIANA  
Similar scenes are now being seen all across Bajor, as monasteries and temples in every province are being opened up as shelters for the refugee population.

**CUT TO:**

**31**    **INT. DS9 - DOCKING BAY**

REFUGEES line up to climb the ramp and re-enter the docked freighter, all looking hopeful and happy.

EVIK observes as his SECURITY officers corral the civilians gently along. Some of the officers wave smiley goodbyes or even exchange hugs of thanks with the departing refugees.

KASIDY stands by the freighter's hatch, proudly welcoming them on board MOS. Over this:

TIANA (v.o.)  
More refugees are already being shuttled down from Deep Space Nine...

**32**    **INT. DS9 - CARGO BAY**

The temporary residents of the semi-private rooms are now excitedly gathering their few belongings, and heading out to join the throngs filling the corridors. BASHIR and NOG are helping them with relieved smiles.

TIANA

(v.o., continuing)

...where they have been living in less than ideal conditions since arriving in the system.

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

CENN works his central Ops table from one side, while RO works it from the other side. Both busy - they have a lot of ships to keep track of - but happy.

TIANA

(v.o., continuing)

The station Militia liaison, Major Cenn, said that, while Starfleet has made every effort to house the influx on the station, they are a little overwhelmed, and he is glad that more permanent accommodations are now available on the surface. He also said of the few remaining refugees on the station, and I quote, "at least they'll have proper quarters to sleep in now."

**34**    **EXT. VANADWAN MONASTERY - TRANSPORTER PLAZA - DAY**

Another set of refugees BEAM onto the transporter platform. Ransel, Opaka, Raiq and even Vexh are there to guide them helpfully into the building.

TIANA

(v.o., continuing)

As for Vedek Kira, she continues to decline any requests to appear on this programme.

35     **INT. SHIKINA MONASTERY - KAI'S OFFICE - DAY**

Kira herself stands in front of the Kai's desk again. The atmosphere is somewhat less confrontational than last time, but Pralon still wants it to be clear who is in charge.

PRALON

Well, Nerys... it seems you're more persuasive than I gave you credit for. I won't underestimate you again.

KIRA

Eminence, I hope you don't think that undermining you was in any way my goal here. I would never.

PRALON

I'm not that insecure, Nerys, but thank you for saying so at least. But I do have to warn you... you may have won this one vote, but by doing so, you have made enemies in the Assembly. You may well have a fight on your hands.

KIRA

To pray is to fight, Eminence. And I've never backed down from a fight yet.

Off Kira's determination...

FADE OUT

**END OF SHOW**